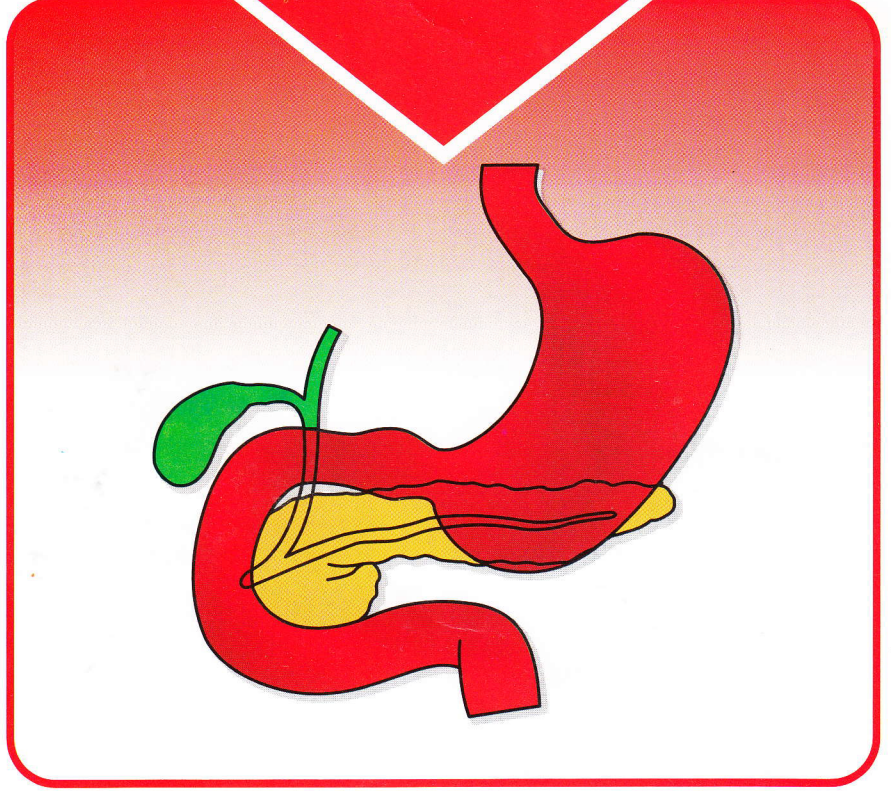


Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangio Pancreatography

A Guide for Patients/Families



This brochure provides information about Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangio Pancreatography. It is designed to respond to the questions most frequently asked by patients and their families.



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What Is An ERCP?

The pancreas is a gland behind your stomach and next to the duodenum, the first part of the small intestine. The pancreas makes fluid containing enzymes that help to digest food as it passes through the bowels. The pancreas also makes insulin that helps the body to use sugar. ERCP is a procedure that allows the doctor to take detailed X-rays of the bile duct and pancreas. The test is carried out in the Radiology Department.

What Happens in This Test?

- A long thin flexible tube with a light at its tip (endoscope) is passed through your mouth into the stomach and the upper part of your small intestine (duodenum).
- A contrast agent (X-ray dye) is injected down the endoscope so that these organs can be seen on the X-ray films.
- If necessary, the doctor may be able to remove gallstones through the endoscope, from the bile duct, enlarge a narrow bile duct or drain the bile by inserting a small plastic tube.
- Your doctor and the radiologist work together.



How Do I Prepare For The Test?

- You will be admitted to the ward a day before the test or on the same day as the test.
- If ordered by the doctor, the following blood tests must be done and the results available before the test: Prothrombin Time (PT), Haemoglobin (Hb), Platelet count.
- Do not eat or drink after midnight on the date of the examination.



- The nurse will insert an intravenous cannula for sedations and antibiotics.
- Arrange for someone to drive you home after the test.
- Any jewellery, including nose-pin or metal objects, must be removed because they interfere with X-rays and a special instrument called a diathermy.
- Do not wear contact lenses, dentures and other prosthesis.
- Bring all your X-rays and reports with you.

What Happens in The Radiology Department?

- On the day of the test, you will be evaluated by an anaesthetist for anaesthesia fitness. He may be present during ERCP to monitor medications given to you that make you sleep.
- The doctor will explain the test and ask you to sign a consent form.
- If you have any concerns, please ask. Also, tell the doctor if you have had any allergies or bad reactions to other tests.
- The doctor may order antibiotics to be given by injection before the procedure and intravenous fluids started in a vein.
- You will be asked to wear a hospital gown and to remove any false teeth.

What happens during the test?

- The doctor will explain the procedure to you.
- You will be asked to lie down on the X-ray table and the doctor will tell you briefly what is going to happen.
- The doctor will spray the back of your throat with a local anaesthetic.
- A small soft tube will be placed in one nostril to give you a little oxygen to breathe during the test.
- You will be given an injection into your vein that will make you very sleepy. The endoscope will then be passed and the examination carried out.
- It will take about one hour before the tube is removed quickly and easily.



What Happens After The Test?

- You will feel sleepy. Rest quietly.
- You will not be allowed to eat, drink until your swallowing reflex is back to normal.
- Your throat may feel sore for the rest of the day.

What are The Risks and Complications?

This procedure is very safe; this is why it is used instead of surgery. However, bleeding and perforation are infrequent complications.

How Long do I Have to Stay in The Hospital?

The average length of stay is 1-3 days, but it may be longer if several procedures are necessary or if complications arise.

Going Home After The Test

- If you are going home, it is essential that someone comes to pick you up.
- Take rest for the whole day. If sedation is given, it takes longer to wear off than you think, so if you were given an injection during the test:
 - Do not drive for at least six hours;
 - Do not operate any machinery for the rest of the day of the procedure;
 - Refrain from smoking, tobacco and alcohol.

By the next day, you should be able to resume your normal activities. If you cannot keep your appointment, please call the Endoscopy Suite to reschedule it.

For Further Information, Please Call:

Endoscopy Suite
(Monday to Friday
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM)
Aga Khan University Hospital
Karachi.
Phone : 4930051, Ext : 1422-23

Emergency Room
24 Hours
Aga Khan University Hospital
Karachi.
Phone : 4930051, Ext : 1090-91