



For more information or an appointment, contact our office.

LEESBURG | THE VILLAGES | TAVARES | CLERMONT

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Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)

Procedure Allows Imaging and Treatment of Many Liver, Bile Duct and Pancreas Problems

Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP), is an excellent test to diagnose and treat disorders of the liver, bile ducts, and pancreas. This minimally-invasive, outpatient test is available at Professional Gastroenterology & Surgery Associates.

Following IV sedation, a small, thin tube with a videocamera (endoscope) is passed through the mouth and guided down the foodpipe.

Using a special ERCP videoscope (monitor), your doctor can locate the small opening for your liver and pancreas. A small catheter is then placed through this opening and dye is carefully injected so that X-rays can be taken.

For many patients, a disorder may be treated at the same time, helping them avoid major abdominal surgery. For example, if stones are found in the bile duct they can be removed, narrowed strictures can be dilated, and tumors can be biopsied and bypassed with a stent to relieve obstruction. The test takes 30 to 90 minutes to perform and is usually painless to the patient who is sedated.

And while there are risks associated with all medical procedures, ERCP can be performed in most patients without complications. When they do occur, complications are most often mild and resolve quickly. Your doctor will explain all risks, including those associated with anesthesia, to you.

Preparing For ERCP

Patients are asked:

- Not to eat or drink anything after midnight the night before the test, or a minimum of eight hours prior if the test is scheduled late in the day.
- To tell your doctor about all allergies, especially those to shellfish, iodine, IVP dye, and X-ray contrast dye.
- To take regular medications with a sip of water on the morning of your exam - EXCEPT diabetic medications. Patients who are diabetic will be given special instructions. Those who are on blood-thinning medications should be off those medications at least three days prior to their exams.
- To alert your physician if you have heart problems and have been told you need antibiotics before procedures.
- To make prior arrangements to have someone drive them home (preferably a family member).

Patients are usually told the results of the exam right in the office. For those who remain groggy from the anesthesia, or who have more complicated needs, a follow up visit may be made to discuss the results.