

Tip Sheet: Upper and Lower Endoscopy

What is an endoscope?

An endoscope is a tube-like camera that is passed through an opening of your gastrointestinal tract (mouth or anus). It allows a gastroenterologist to take pictures, take biopsies, stop bleeding and even remove foreign objects.

Will my child be asleep?

We work closely with pediatric anesthesiologists to determine the best method for your child to undergo the procedure. Whether your child will need general anesthesia or conscious sedation will be determined by the anesthesiologist. In either case, your child will not experience pain during the procedure.

Will the endoscopy hurt?

We take the most care to ensure that your child will not experience any pain during the procedure.

How long does the procedure take?

A colonoscopy can take 30-60 minutes. An endoscopy can take 15-30 minutes. The procedure time is typically longer depending on the amount of time it takes for your child to fall asleep and wake up.

Does my child have to stay in the hospital overnight?

No. This is typically an outpatient procedure.

When will my child be able to eat?

Most patients are fully awake and drinking clear liquids 30 minutes after the procedure. Although many patients may be able to tolerate full meals, we recommend a light lunch and dinner for the rest of the day.

When can my child go back to school/work?

Your child should be able to return to school the next day.

What are the complications of an endoscopy?

Your physician can best explain any potential risks of an endoscopy for your child. Potential risks should be discussed with your physician before you sign a consent form.

When we will have the results of the biopsies?

We ask that you give our office a call about one week after the procedure to obtain results. We may also recommend an adjustment or initiation of medication during that discussion.

Contact Us:

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