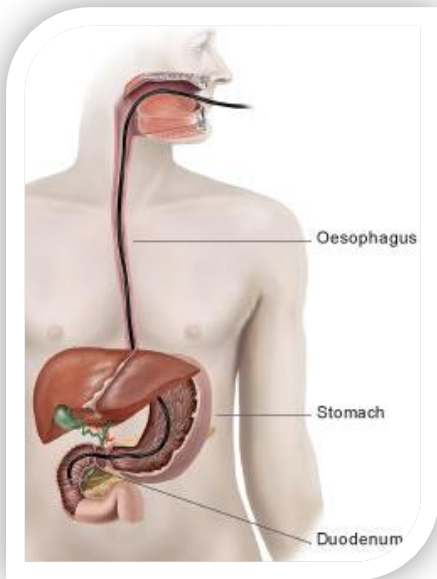




**EXPLANATION ON THE ERCP
TEST -
ENDOSCOPIC RETROGRADE
CHOLANGIOPANCREATOGRAPHY**

*The Gastroenterology Institute
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WHAT IS THE ERCP TEST?



- This test is performed for diagnosing and treating diseases of the bile or pancreatic ducts and is done by combining endoscopy with x-ray imaging.
- A flexible instrument (an endoscope) is inserted through the mouth into the duodenum and reaches the opening of the bile and pancreatic duct ("papilla"). Through the endoscope, a tube is inserted into the papilla and an iodine based contrast agent is injected through it.
- Under x-ray imaging, the bile and/or pancreatic ducts are demonstrated.
- Therapeutic procedures, such as cutting the papilla and extracting stones, inserting a stent for draining the bile duct or pancreatic duct, dilating stenoses and taking a biopsy sample may be performed.

HOW IS THE TEST DONE?



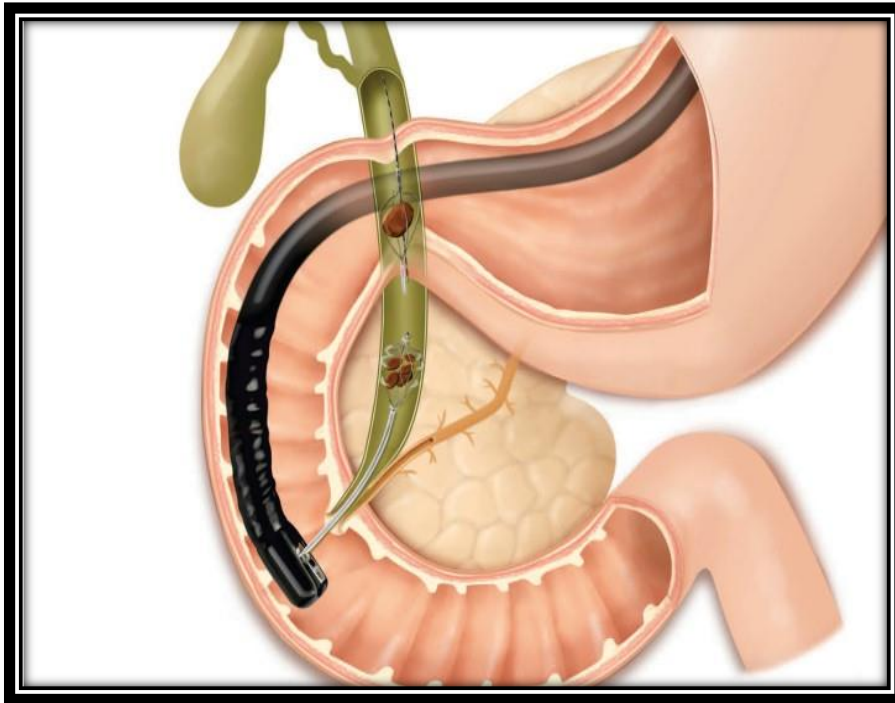
- Before the test, a sedative that causes a brief sleep is injected intravenously.
- The scan is performed with the patient lying on his or her left side.
- A plastic device is placed between the teeth for keeping the patient's mouth open and teeth protected.
- The endoscope is gently inserted through the mouth into the duodenum, where the bile and pancreatic ducts will be catheterized.
- The test requires signing of an informed consent form.
- The endoscopic instrumentation is cleaned and disinfected between uses.

COURSE OF THE ERCP TEST

- The test takes about 30-60 minutes.
- The patient's breathing and pulse rate are monitored during the test.
- After catheterization and imaging, treatments are done as necessary using special instrumentation (such as extracting stones using a plastic balloon or metal basket).
- If necessary, a tube will be inserted for drainage.
- The procedures are done under anesthesia and without pain.
- Sometimes it is necessary to repeat the test in the future.



PROCEDURES THAT MAY BE PERFORMED DURING THE TEST



- Diagnosing the disease.
- Extraction of stones.
- Insertion of tube - stent.
- Dilation of stenoses.
- Taking biopsies.

COMPLICATIONS RELATED TO THE TEST

ERCP complications may result from the invasive procedure:

- **Damage to loose teeth**
- **Asphyxia and aspiration of saliva**
- **Sore throat after the procedure**
- **Allergic reaction to the anesthetic**
- **Bleeding (after cutting the papilla) - usually stopped by local treatment during the test.(Occurs in less 2% of procedures).**
- **Infection - requires antibiotic therapy.(Occurs in less than 5% of procedures)**
- **Pancreatitis - usually requires additional inpatient care in a surgery department (3-10%)**
- **Intestinal perforation - rare, necessitates surgery.**

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE TEST

- ✓ The patient must fast, abstaining from eating for 8 hours before the test, and abstaining from water for 3 hours before it.
- ✓ A patient under the age of 18 or a patient who is unable to sign for informed consent must have a parent / guardian involved.
- ✓ The test involves radiation exposure, so the medical staff must be informed if you are pregnant.
- ✓ Patients suffering from hypertension or heart disease must take their regular drugs as usual.
For diabetic patients: insulin must not be injected on the morning of the test, but patients must bring their insulin to the gastro institute.
- ✓ Patients taking anticoagulants (such as aspirin, Plavix, Coumadin..) should consult their attending physician and the gastroenterologist whether and how to stop their medication before the test.
- ✓ Bring the results of blood count and coagulation function (INR/PT) tests taken before this test and relevant medical documents.
- ✓ Persons with pacemakers should consult the gastro institute and a cardiologist in advance.
- ✓ You should with a companion who will stay with you after you are discharged from the institute.
- ✓ Because of the sedation, driving is prohibited for 12 hours after the test.

THE COURSE AFTER THE TEST



- **Supervision in the recovery room under monitoring.**
- **Eating and drinking of lukewarm substances is usually permitted about 60 minutes after the test, unless otherwise decided by the executing physician.**
- **After recovering from the test, a report detailing the results is provided.**
- **The results of a biopsy (if taken) will be given to you 2-3 weeks later.**
- **If after being discharged from the institute, you have signs of fever, swallowing disorders, chest or abdominal pain, you must present to the executing physician or the emergency room immediately.**

The gastroenterology institute staff
wishes you the best of health and
success!