

Useful Contact Details

Endoscopy booking office,
Lister Hospital, Stevenage

☎ 01438 284062

Additional Information

Every effort is made to provide you with a choice of appointment. If you are unable to attend the appointment that is offered to you, please contact the Endoscopy booking office to either change or cancel the appointment.

If you decide that you do not wish to attend your appointment, please let the booking office know. If you do not attend your appointment, and have not let us know, there is a chance you will be removed from the waiting list.

Patient Information

ERCP

An investigation of the bile duct, gall bladder
and pancreas

Endoscopy Centre

www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk

You can request this
information in a different
format or another language.

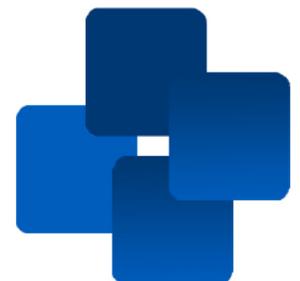
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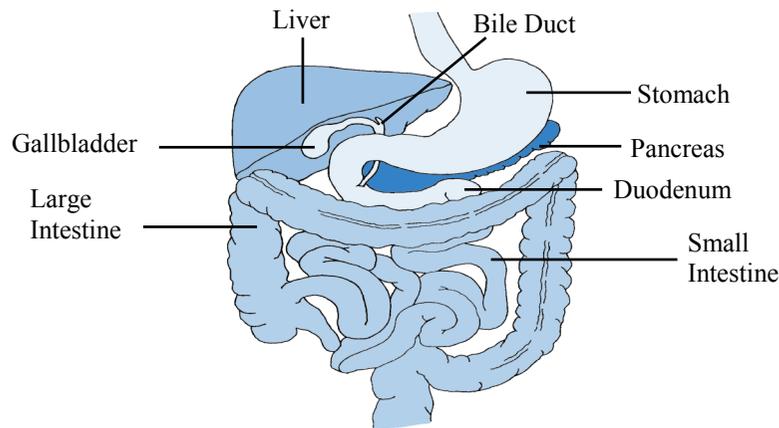


Introduction

You have been advised to have an upper gastrointestinal endoscopy to help find the cause of your symptoms. The procedure is called an **ERCP**. This leaflet has been designed to give you an idea of what the procedure is, the risks, the benefits, and the alternative procedures.

What is an ERCP?

ERCP (Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography) is a procedure that allows the endoscopist (the person performing the procedure) to look at the bile duct, gallbladder and pancreas with a flexible video endoscope.



The endoscope is passed through your mouth into the stomach and the beginning of the small bowel (duodenum). The endoscopist can see the opening (ampulla), where the bile and pancreatic ducts empty into the duodenum. During the procedure the endoscopist will also take detailed X-ray pictures. This is done by passing a small plastic tube down the endoscope and into the ampulla, through which dye is injected into the ducts. Sometimes patients need to stay in hospital following ERCP depending on the treatment they have had.

Reasons for having an ERCP

An ERCP may be advised for a number of reasons, such as to

- aid diagnosis
- relieve jaundice
- remove gallstones
- insert a stent to aid bile drainage
- clear a blockage to allow bile to flow

Risks

All procedures of this nature carry a small risk of bleeding or perforation to the mucosal lining, inflammation of the pancreas, infection, pain and a reaction to sedation. There is also a slight risk to crowned teeth or dental bridgework from the endoscope. There is also a risk of not being able to access the ampulla making it impossible to carry out the procedure.

Benefits

The benefit of having an endoscopy is to avoid surgery and it can relieve symptoms.

What are the alternatives?

Ultrasound scans can give us some information but an ERCP is more accurate. A technique called MRCP (Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography, which is a type of X-ray, can also diagnose these conditions. However, unlike ERCP, neither of these tests allows your doctor to treat a condition at the same time.