

**Mercy Medical Center**

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**ENDOSCOPIC RETROGRADE CHOLANGIOPANCREATOGRAPHY**

**(E.R.C.P.)**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

It is essential that you call your insurance company today and ask if this procedure needs precertification. Record the name of the person you spoke with and the date. After you call your insurance company/companies, please call our office at 330-305-2020 and let us know whether or not precertification is necessary. We will ask for the name and date to be documented in your chart. If needed, we will then call and get the authorization.

**STOP** all of these medications **THREE DAYS** before procedure:

Celebrex, Ticlid, Lodene, Relafen, or any other anti-inflammatory medication.

**STOP** all of these medications **ONE WEEK** before procedure:

Aspirin, Aleve, Advil, Ibuprofen, Motrin or Plavix (Note: you can use Tylenol if you have pain.) Also all herbs should be discontinued because many of them cause blood thinning.

**COUMADIN** needs to be **STOPPED FOUR OR FIVE DAYS** before procedure.

You will need to check with the doctor who prescribed this medication to see if it is OK to do this.

**The only medication you will take the morning of your procedure is your heart, blood pressure and seizure disorder medication with a sip of water. You can also use any of your inhalers.**

**E.R.C.P.**

Your doctor has requested that you have a procedure known as an E.R.C.P. This involves the examination of the pancreatic duct (the tube connecting the small intestine and the pancreas), and the common bile duct (the connecting tube between the small intestine and the gallbladder). A specially trained physician known as a gastroenterologist performs the exam by means of a flexible, lighted scope and fluoroscopy (X-ray visualization). An E.R.C.P. may help discover or clarify an abnormality seen on X-rays.

**BEFORE THE PROCEDURE**

1. All patients are requested to sign a diagnostic consent form prior to the E.R.C.P. to authorize the doctor to perform the exam.
2. It is important that you have nothing to eat or drink after midnight the day before the test.
3. An intravenous needle with a solution will be started in your arm prior to the test to

- keep a vein open for giving medication before and during the test. It may be necessary for some patients to receive an intravenous dose of antibiotic prior to the exam to prevent an infection in the ducts afterward; likewise for 48 hours after the exam.
4. Just prior to the examination, the doctor will spray your throat with a local anesthetic to ease the passage of the instrument into the esophagus and to prevent you from gagging.

### **DURING THE PROCEDURE**

1. The examination is begun with you lying on your left side on the X-ray table in a darkened room.
2. The flexible tube (endoscope) will be placed in your mouth and you will be asked to swallow it. This will be done with surprising ease due to the relaxing effect of the medication. It will not interfere with your breathing.
3. The doctor will advance the scope into your stomach and then into the first portion of your small intestine, known as the duodenum. At this point the doctor locates a small opening known as the ampulla of Vater or the papilla. This is the opening into your pancreatic and common bile ducts. When this is located, a small tube is passed through the endoscope and into the papilla. A small amount of radiopaque (dye which can be seen under X-ray) is injected through the tube. This will illustrate the pancreatic and/or common bile ducts under X-ray, thus enabling the physician to examine them more closely for abnormalities. During the procedure, you will be asked to turn onto your stomach to help the doctor visualize the ducts better.
4. During the procedure, several X-rays will be taken.
5. You will be very drowsy during the test, which takes approximately 30 minutes to 1 hour, depending on how difficult it is for your doctor to locate the papilla or thread the polyethylene tube through it. Occasionally, the test is unsuccessful because of difficulties with threading the tubing.

### **AFTER THE PROCEDURE**

1. After the procedure, your stomach may be slightly distended or “gassy”, or your throat may be sore.
2. You will be taken to another room to rest for at least an hour until the effects of the medications wear off. You will then be able to leave, **but you must have someone drive you home.** You should not plan to do anything that requires concentration for the rest of the day. If you brought X-ray films with you, these will usually be given back to you to return to the appropriate department at your convenience.
3. The examining doctor will tell you what he found and send a report to your physician giving all the details of the examination.
4. Please call your doctor if you develop severe pain or any temperature elevation (101° or more), or vomiting.