

Gastroenterology Associates

Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Informed Consent Disclosure for Gastroscopy

You and your doctor are planning a gastroscopy, an examination of your esophagus, stomach, and upper part of the small intestine. The purpose of this document is to explain potential complications of the planned procedure so you can make an informed decision as you agree to this exam. While gastroscopy is considered a low risk procedure, complications are possible. Below is a discussion of the more common complications that can occur, recognizing that not all complications can be anticipated.

Risks and Possible Complications:

1. **BLEEDING:** Bleeding may occur as a complication of biopsy, tissue removal, or dilation. This will usually stop on its own but at times requires endoscopic treatment, transfusion, or surgery. You should call your gastroenterologist if you vomit blood or have bloody or black stools.
2. **PERFORATION:** A tear or hole through the wall of the gastrointestinal tract may occur as the instrument is advanced through it or dilation of a narrowed segment is done. Significant pain after the procedure is the usual sign. This complication is rare but surgery might be required if it occurs. Again, you should call your gastroenterologist if you should have significant pain after the procedure.
3. **MEDICATION PHLEBITIS:** Medications used for sedation may irritate the vein used for your IV. This causes a red, painful swelling of the vein and surrounding tissue. Contact your gastroenterologist if this occurs.
4. **OTHER RISKS:** There is a very small risk (about 1 in 10,000) for a reaction to the medications given for the procedure or complications from heart or lung disease including respiratory depression, heart attack, or even death. These events, however, are extremely rare and our staff is trained in responding to them.

Alternatives to Gastroscopy:

Although gastroscopy is an extremely safe and effective means of examining the upper digestive tract, other diagnostic or therapeutic procedures are available, such as x-ray studies. You may also choose no diagnostic studies understanding a significant lesion, even cancer, may be overlooked if no tests are done.

YOU MUST ASK YOUR PHYSICIAN IF YOU HAVE ANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR PROCEDURE.

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