

ENDOSCOPIC ULTRASOUND

What is EUS?

EUS allows your doctor to examine the lining and the walls of your upper gut including the oesophagus, stomach and duodenum. EUS is also used to study internal organs that lie next to the gastrointestinal tract, such as the gall bladder, bile duct and pancreas. Your endoscopist will use a thin, flexible tube called an endoscope. Your doctor will pass the endoscope through your mouth to the area to be examined. Your doctor then will turn on the ultrasound component to produce sound waves that create images of the digestive tract.

EUS provides your doctor more detailed pictures of your digestive tract anatomy. Your doctor can use EUS to diagnose the cause of conditions such as abdominal pain or abnormal weight loss. Or, if your doctor has ruled out certain conditions, EUS can confirm your diagnosis and give you a clean bill of health.

EUS is also used to evaluate an abnormality, such as a growth, that was detected at a prior endoscopy or by x-ray. EUS provides a detailed picture of the growth, which can help your doctor determine its nature and decide upon the best treatment. In addition, EUS can be used to diagnose diseases of the pancreas, bile duct and gallbladder when other tests are inconclusive.

Practices vary among doctors, but for a EUS examination of the upper gastrointestinal tract, your endoscopist might spray your throat with a local anaesthetic before the test begins. Most often you will receive sedatives intravenously to help you relax. You will most likely begin by lying on your left side. After you receive sedatives, your endoscopist will pass the ultrasound endoscope through your mouth, oesophagus and stomach into the duodenum. The instrument does not interfere with your ability to breathe. The actual examination generally takes between 15 to 45 minutes. Most patients are very comfortable with a few who consider it only slightly uncomfortable.

How should I prepare for EUS?

For EUS of the upper gastrointestinal tract, you should have nothing to eat or drink, not even water, usually six hours before the examination. You will be advised when to start this fasting.

Tell your doctor in advance of the procedure about all medications that you're taking and about any allergies you have to medication. He or she will tell you whether or not you can continue to take your medication as usual before the EUS examination. In general, you occur at a biopsy site, but it's usually minimal and rarely can safely take aspirin and similar blood thinning medications before an EUS examination, but it's always best to discuss their use with your with



only a small cup of water. doctor. Usually, essential medications can be taken on the procedure morning. If you have an allergy to latex you should inform your doctor prior to your test. Patients with latex allergies often require special equipment and may not be able to have an EUS examination.

What are the possible complications of EUS?

Although complications can occur, they are rare when doctors with specialized training and experience perform the EUS examination. Bleeding might require follow-up. You might have a sore throat for a day or more. Other potential, but uncommon, risks of EUS include a reaction to the sedatives used; backwash of stomach contents into your lungs; infection; and complications from heart or lung diseases. One major, but very rare, complication of EUS is perforation. This is a tear through the lining of the intestine that might require surgery to repair.

FNA is generally very safe but in rare circumstances pain, bleeding or infection could occur after the biopsy is taken. Every precaution is taken to prevent these problems but they may still occur.

Suite 7C Level 7
66 High St
RANDWICK

Ph: 93980200

Suite 704 Level 7
3 Waverley St
BONDI JUNCTION

Ph: 83050000

Suite 18 Level 3
193 Macquarie St
SYDNEY

Ph: 92372500

Suite 8 Level 3
19 Kensington St
KOGARAH

Ph: 83050000

Suite 311 Level 3
100 Carillon Ave
NEWTOWN

Ph: 83050000