



## Gastroscopy

### **What is a gastroscopy?**

Gastroscopy or upper endoscopy is an endoscopic procedure that enables your physician to examine the lining of the upper part of your gastrointestinal tract including the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum (the first portion of the small intestine) using a thin flexible tube with a camera called an endoscope.

### **Why is a gastroscopy done?**

Gastroscopy is done to diagnose and sometimes treat issues affecting the upper gastrointestinal tract such as, nausea, vomiting, difficulty swallowing or to find the cause of bleeding. Gastroscopy is more accurate than x-ray for detecting inflammation, ulcers, or tumors of the esophagus, stomach and duodenum. Gastroscopy is also used to treat upper gastrointestinal issues such as stretching narrowed areas and removing polyps.

### **What preparation is required for a gastroscopy?**

For the best and safest examination, the stomach must be completely empty for your gastroscopy procedure. Ensure that you follow the gastroscopy preparation instructions given to you by your physician. Please make sure that you bring a current list of your medications with you to your endoscopy appointment.

### **What can be expected during the gastroscopy procedure?**

Practices vary amongst physicians, but you may have your throat sprayed with a local anesthetic and you may be given sedation through an intravenous needle. The procedure will start with the endoscope put through the mouth and then passed on to the esophagus, stomach and duodenum.

The image from the camera is displayed on a monitor during the procedure. During the gastroscopy, your physician might remove small tissue samples (called biopsies) by passing small instruments through the endoscope. Results from tissue samples are usually available in 10-14 days.