

Medical Department
Gastroenterology Division, Santa Clara

**ADVICE AND CONSENT FOR UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL
ENDOSCOPY WITH SCLEROSIS OR LIGATION OF
ESOPHAGEAL VARICES**

IMPRINT AREA

UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL ENDOSCOPY

In order to try to get a definite diagnosis of your problem and to determine treatment an upper gastrointestinal endoscopy has been requested by your physician. This procedure involves placing a tube in your mouth and passing it down your esophagus (tube that connects the mouth and stomach) under direct vision into your stomach and the upper part of your small intestine. The doctor can examine these portions of your gastrointestinal tract by looking through a tube. The examination is painless and usually takes about 10 minutes.

To keep you relaxed and comfortable during the procedure an injection is usually given before the procedure to make you drowsy. You may also be given a medication which numbs the back of your throat.

Although this procedure is safe there are potential complications. Complications of upper gastrointestinal endoscopy are very infrequent but include the following:

1. Perforation of (making a hole) in the lining of the esophagus or stomach.
2. A tear in the throat when the instrument is swallowed.
3. Pneumonia from stomach contents that regurgitate into the lung during the procedure.
4. Inflammation of the veins into which the relaxing medicine is given.
5. The most severe problems are heart and breathing difficulties which generally occur as a result of over-sedation and occur most often in the elderly. Medicines and breathing aids are available in the room should this occur.

SCLEROSIS AND VARICEAL LIGATION

Sclerosis and variceal ligation are done as part of upper gastrointestinal endoscopy if there is strong evidence of internal hemorrhage which has been caused by bleeding from large veins (varices) in the esophagus. Generally, these varices develop in the setting of severe liver disease. Each time they bleed, there is a 25% chance that death will occur. If they bleed once, there is a 50 to 80% chance of re-bleeding and this increases with each subsequent hemorrhage.

Sclerosis and esophageal variceal ligation (banding) are now considered to be the most effective nonoperative treatment options in stopping and preventing further bleeding. However, they must be repeated on several occasions.

The sclerotherapy procedure involves injecting the varices with a special solution that causes them to clot. The variceal ligation procedure involves putting a small rubber band around the blood vessel causing the vein inside the rubber band to clot and slough off in several days. Both the sclerotherapy and banding procedures are painless since there are no nerves in the esophagus. However, a small amount of chest pain is sometimes encountered after the procedure. Both procedures take approximately 30 to 45 minutes. Afterwards you will be taken to an area where your blood pressure and pulse will be checked frequently. If everything goes well, you will be discharged several hours later.

Complications of sclerosis and variceal ligation are uncommon, but include:

1. Causing bleeding from a tear in the varices. This can be caused by the needle used in sclerotherapy or when the band comes off after variceal ligation.
2. Infection of the wall of the esophagus or bloodstream (seen in sclerotherapy).
3. Chest pain or fever after the procedure.
4. Narrowing of the esophagus making it difficult to swallow.
5. Ulcer in the lining of the esophagus.
6. Perforation of the esophagus (a hole that may need to be repaired by surgery).

At the time of endoscopy, the physician will determine which procedure will be best suited to your particular need, and that procedure will be performed.

If you have any further questions about the procedure, one of the doctors will be happy to answer them.

Your signature below indicates that you have read and understand the above information, and you want the doctors to do the procedure.

DATE	SIGNATURE OF PATIENT
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS	SIGNATURE OF RELATIVE
SIGNATURE OF PHYSICIAN	