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Fact Sheet - ERCP

What preparation is required?

The only preparation required is fasting (no food or drink) for eight hours prior to the procedure.

What happens during the ERCP?

Your doctor will discuss why an ERCP is being performed, potential complications and alternative diagnostic or therapeutic tests that are available. A local anaesthetic will be sprayed to your throat and an intravenous anaesthetic/sedative will be given to make you more comfortable during the test. Most patients also receive antibiotics before the procedure.

The test begins with you lying on your left side on an x-ray table. The endoscope is passed through the mouth, oesophagus and stomach into the duodenum. The instrument does not interfere with your breathing. Some air is introduced and may cause temporary bloating during and after the procedure. The injection of contrast dye into the ducts rarely causes discomfort.

LOCATIONS FOR ENDOSCOPY