

What is ERCP?

Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography, or ERCP, is a specialized technique used to study the ducts of the gallbladder, pancreas and liver. Ducts are drainage routes; the drainage channels from the liver are called bile or biliary ducts.



During ERCP, Dr. Rodriguez will pass an endoscope through your mouth, esophagus and stomach into the duodenum (first part of the small intestine). An endoscope is a thin, flexible tube that lets Dr. Rodriguez see inside your bowels. After the doctor sees the common opening to ducts from the liver and pancreas, the doctor will pass a narrow plastic tube called a catheter through the endoscope and into the ducts. Dr. Rodriguez will inject a contrast material (dye) into the pancreatic or biliary ducts and will take X-rays.

What Preparation is Required?

You should fast for at least six hours (and preferably overnight) before the procedure to make sure you have an empty stomach, which is necessary for the best examination and results.

You should talk to your doctor about medications you take regularly and any allergies you have to medications. Tell your doctor if you have an allergy to iodine-containing drugs, which include contrast material. Although an allergy doesn't prevent you from having ERCP, it's important to discuss it with Dr. Rodriguez prior to the procedure.

Also, be sure to tell Dr. Rodriguez if you have heart or lung conditions, or other major diseases.

What Can Be Expected During ERCP?

Dr. Rodriguez might apply a local anesthetic to your throat or give you a sedative to make you more comfortable. Some patients also receive antibiotics before the procedure. You will lie on your left side on an X-ray table. Dr. Rodriguez will pass the endoscope through your mouth, esophagus, stomach and into the duodenum. The instrument does not interfere with breathing, but you might feel a bloating sensation because of the air introduced through the instrument.

What Are Possible Complications of ERCP?

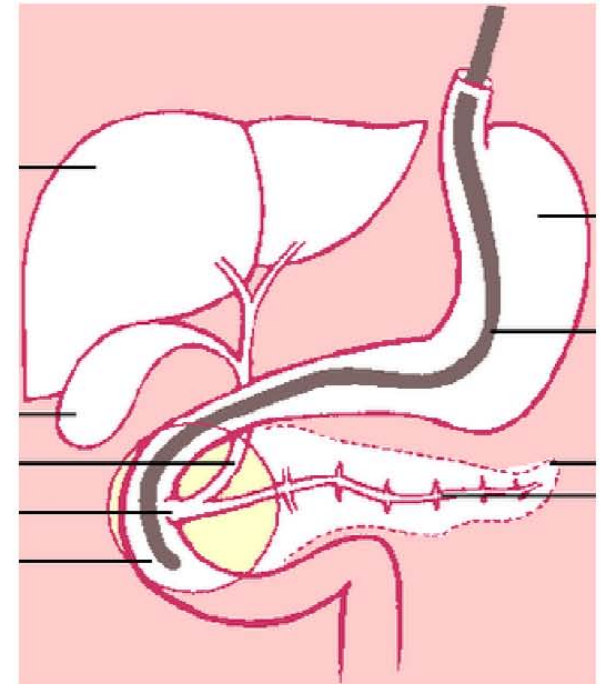
ERCP is a well-tolerated procedure when performed by doctors who are specially trained and experienced in the technique. Dr. Rodriguez is an expert in performing ERCP procedures. Although complications requiring hospitalization can occur, they are uncommon. Complications can include pancreatitis (an inflammation or infection of the pancreas), infections, bowel perforation and bleeding. Some patients can have an adverse reaction to the sedative used. Complications are often managed without surgery.

Risks vary, depending on why the test is performed, what is found during the procedure, what therapeutic intervention is undertaken, and whether a patient has major medical problems. Patients undergoing therapeutic ERCP, such as for stone removal, or patients with recurrent bouts of pancreatitis, face a higher risk of complications than patients undergoing diagnostic ERCP. Dr. Rodriguez will discuss this with you prior to the exam.

What Can I Expect After ERCP?

If you have ERCP as an outpatient, you will be observed for complications until most of the effects of the medications have worn off. You might experience bloating or pass gas because of the air introduced during the examination. You can resume your usual diet unless you are instructed otherwise.

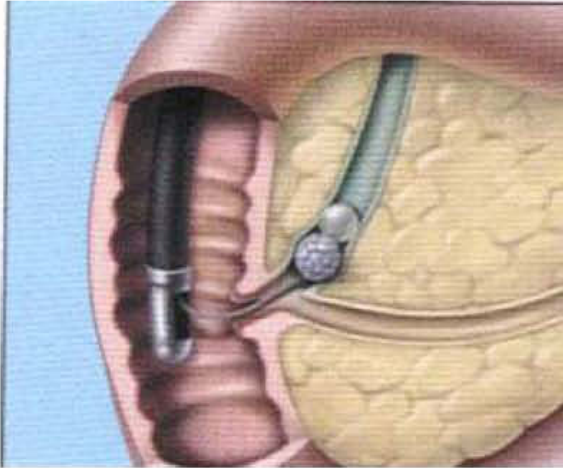
Someone must accompany you home from the procedure because of the sedatives used during the examination. Even if you feel alert after the procedure, the sedatives can affect your judgment and reflexes for the rest of the day.



What Happens If I Have A Complication?

The most common complication of ERCP is post-ERCP pancreatitis. It can occur in as many as 5% of patients undergoing the procedure. You may need to be admitted to the hospital for pain control and IV fluids. Most cases of pancreatitis after ERCP will subside over the next

few days, however, some cases can be very severe. Most complications can be managed conservatively. Dr. Rodriguez will discuss this and other options with you prior to the procedure.



ERCP

To The Patient

Because education is an important part of comprehensive medical care, you have been provided with this information to prepare you for this procedure. If you have questions about your need for ERCP, alternative tests, the cost of the procedure, methods of billing, or insurance coverage, do not hesitate to speak to your doctor or your doctor's office staff. Most endoscopists are highly trained specialists and welcome your questions regarding their credentials and training. If you have question that have not been answered, please discuss them with the endoscopy nurse or Dr. Rodriguez before the examination begins.



801 E. Nolana Ave, Ste 4
McAllen, Texas 78501

Phone: (956) 686-2626

www.texasgidocs.com



**American Society for
Gastrointestinal Endoscopy**