

**Your Procedure:**

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Location: Cobb Hospital**  
3950 Austell Rd  
Austell GA 30106**North Fulton Hospital**  
3000 Hospital Blvd  
Roswell GA 30076**Kennestone Hospital**  
677 Church St.  
Marietta, GA 30060

What is an ERCP? Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) is a procedure that uses an endoscope (flexible tube, with a light and camera) and x-ray images to diagnose and treat diseases of the pancreas, bile ducts, liver, and gallbladder. During this procedure, a gastroenterologist will insert the scope into the mouth, esophagus, stomach, and the first part of the small intestine (duodenum). Instruments will then be passed through the scope, which will allow the gastroenterologist to inject dye into the pancreatic ducts, pancreas, and bile ducts. The physician will then use video x-rays (fluoroscopy) to see if there are any blockages or abnormalities. An ERCP can diagnose and treat problems such as:

- Bile ducts, including cancer, stones, and strictures.
- Gallbladder, including gallstones and cholecystitis (inflamed gallbladder).
- Pancreas, including pancreatitis (inflamed, swollen pancreas), pancreatic cancer, and pancreatic cysts and pseudocysts.

How will I prepare for an ERCP?

- Diet restrictions: **Nothing by mouth after midnight, except for small sips of water with medications, up to 2 hours before procedure.**
- During the procedure, an anesthesia provider will give you medication to keep you comfortable. It is not safe to drive after receiving these medications, so you will need to find a driver that is 18 years of age or older, to drive you to your procedure, be onsite during the procedure, and stay with you for 24 hours after your procedure. **\*If you do not have a driver, you will not be able to have your procedure.**
- If you are diabetic on insulin, take it as instructed by your prescribing provider.
- If you are on any blood thinning medications, contact your prescribing provider for directions. Examples include Aspirin, Plavix, Coumadin, Warfarin, Jantoven, Xarelto, Eliquis, Brilinta, Effient, & Pradaxa. If you have not received instructions on the use of these medications or if you have any questions, please call our office at **the phone number listed at the bottom of this document.**
- If you use an inhaler, bring it with you to your procedure.
- If you wear contacts, please be prepared to remove them, or wear glasses.
- Please do not wear any jewelry, including body piercings.

Is the procedure safe? While serious complications are rare, all procedures have potential risks. Risks include (but, are not limited to):

- Perforation- tear in the lining of the esophagus, stomach or small intestines
- Bleeding- from a biopsy removal site
- Reaction to the sedation medication or IV dye used during the procedure
- Infection
- Dental or eye injuries
- Inflamed, swollen pancreas (pancreatitis)

What Can I Expect During the Procedure? When you arrive at the hospital, a staff member will go over your medical history, further discuss the procedure, answer your questions, and start an IV. You will then be taken back to the procedure room. An anesthesia provider will administer medications and monitor your vital signs throughout the entire procedure. Your anesthesia provider will determine the amount and types of medications needed to keep you comfortable. If your gastroenterologist finds any abnormalities, they will be removed, managed, or biopsied as needed. Any tissue removed during the procedure will be sent to the lab for further evaluation. A typical ERCP procedure lasts between 30-90 minutes but expect to be at the procedure center for up to 3 hours.

What Can I Expect After the Procedure? After the procedure, you will go to the recovery room for about 30 minutes. Then your provider will talk with you about the initial results of the procedure. Your driver will then be able to take you home. You can return to normal activities as able, except **NO DRIVING** for 24 hours. The medications used for ERCP can also make you drowsy, so refrain from making important decisions the day of your procedure.

If you experience any symptoms that warrant concern such as: chest pain, bleeding, fever, or severe abdominal pain, notify your physician immediately at the number listed below:

- **Roswell, North Fulton, East Cobb Health Park offices:** 470-267-1520
- **Vinings Health Park, Cobb, Marietta, Acworth Health Park offices:** 470-267-1760