

Patient information

Discharge following Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)

Endoscopy Unit - Aintree Hospital

You have had an endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP). This is an examination of the tubes (ducts) that drain bile from your liver and gallbladder and digestive juices from the pancreas. Prior to your admission you should have received and read the ERCP patient information leaflet.

What happens after the procedure?

- You will be taken to the recovery room where you will be observed by the nursing team.
- You will be recovered on the endoscopy department after your procedure for around four hours.
- You may feel drowsy due to the sedation.
- You may experience a sore throat which usually passes after a couple of hours but can last for a few days.
- You may feel bloated. This is due to the introduction of air during the procedure.
- A light meal will be provided for you.
- The nurse, endoscopist or ward doctor will go over the immediate findings of the examination with you when you are ready to go home.
- If you wish, a relative or friend can be present at this time.
- Due to the sedation many people find that they do not remember all of the information given to them.
- You can take your normal prescription medicines as soon as you are able to drink safely, however please discuss this with the nursing staff first.
- Your nurse will discharge you into the care of a relative or friend who has come to take you home.
- The sedation you have been given will remain in your body for several hours; you will need to have someone with you for the rest of the day and overnight.

As you have had sedation you should not work, drive a car, operate machinery, drink alcohol or sign legal documents for 24 hours.

What should I do when I go home?

Once at home you are advised to rest for the remainder of the day.

It is advisable to keep meals simple for 48 hours after your procedure. This will avoid any unnecessary pain that rich food may cause. After 48 hours, you may eat and drink normally.

Are there any possible complications after an ERCP?

- While every precaution is taken to prevent any problems, complications can occur and sometimes these may not be evident for several hours.
- Pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas gland) is painful and requires admission to the hospital for treatment. The severity of this condition is variable. The risk of pancreatitis is 5%.
- Sepsis (infection in the bile ducts) requires admission to the hospital for treatment with fluids and antibiotics. The risk of infection is 2%.
- Bleeding may occur at the time of the ERCP which can usually be controlled. A blood transfusion may occasionally be required. The risk of bleeding is 2%.
- Perforation (a tear) of the lining of the digestive tract would require admission into the hospital for treatment with fluids and antibiotics.
- An operation is sometimes required to repair the tear. The risk of perforation is 1%.

If, in the next 24 hours, you experience any of the following contact Aintree Hospital Tel.0151 525 5980 and ask to bleep the endoscopy co-ordinator on bleep 5092 (Mon – Fri 09.00 – 17.00) or outside of these hours contact the nurse clinician bleep 5147 or bleep 2076:

- Severe abdominal pain (not just gas cramps).
- A firm, distended abdomen.
- Vomiting.
- Sweating, severe nausea or high fever.
- Difficulty swallowing or a severe sore throat.
- A crunching feeling under the skin.
- Difficulty breathing or development of a cough.
- Passage of a large amount of blood or black stools.
- Patients should seek urgent advice if eye symptoms (painful red eye) develop following administration of buscopan.

These symptoms may indicate a complication of the procedure; your doctor will want to discuss these symptoms with you.

If your symptoms cause concern, persist or if the pain is severe, you must seek help immediately from your GP, the Endoscopy unit or go to your nearest Accident and Emergency department.

Will I need a follow up appointment?

You will be contacted by telephone 30 days after your ERCP procedure by a member of the administration team.

If you require an appointment in the outpatient's department, this will be sent out in the post.

What should I do if I have any concerns about the procedure?

We welcome your feedback and act on it. Therefore, if you have any comments, concerns or queries about your visit to the endoscopy unit at Aintree Hospital please do not hesitate to speak to the:

- Nurse in charge of the unit.
- Customer Services
Tel: 0151 529 3287

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further Information:

**If you need any further information, please contact the Endoscopy unit, Elective Care Centre Aintree Hospital
Telephone: 0151 525 5980.**

Useful websites

- www.aboutmyhealth.org.uk – for support and information you can trust.
- www.gutscharity.org.uk

NHS 111

For health advice and reassurance, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Tel: 111(Text phone: 18001 111)

Note: This document is intended for information purposes only and you should read it either together with, or depending on any advice given by your doctor or relevant health professional.

**Author: Endoscopy Unit Aintree
Review date: August 2026**

All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

يمكن توفير جميع المعلومات المتعلقة بالمرضى الموافق عليهم من قبل انتمان المستشفى عند الطلب بصيغ أخرى، بما في ذلك لغات أخرى وبطرق تسهل قراءتها وبالحروف الطباعة الكبيرة وبالصوت وبطريقة برايل للمكفوفين وبطريقة مون والإلكترونية.

所有經信托基金批准的患者資訊均可以其它格式提供，包括其它語言、易讀閱讀軟件、大字體、音頻、盲文、穆恩體 (Moon) 盲文和電子格式，敬請索取。

در صورت تمایل می‌توانید کلیه اطلاعات تصویب شده توسط اتحادیه در رابطه با بیماران را به اشکال مختلف در دسترس داشته باشید، از جمله به زبانهای دیگر، به زبان ساده، چاپ درشت، صوت، خط مخصوص کوران، مون و بصورت روی خطی موجود است.

زانیاری پیوهندیار بهو نهخوشانهی له‌لایسن تراستهوه پسمند کراون، ئمگمر داوا بکرنیت له فورماته‌کانی تردا بریتی له زمانه‌کانی تر، ئیزی رید (هاسان خویندنهوه)، چاپی گهوره، شریتی دهنگ، هیئلی موون و ئهلیکترۆنیکی ههیه.

所有经信托基金批准的患者信息均可以其它格式提供，包括其它语言、易读阅读软件、大字体、音频、盲文、穆恩体 (Moon) 盲文和电子格式，敬请索取。

Dhammaan warbixinta bukaanleyda ee Ururka ee la oggol yahay waxaa marka la codsado lagu heli karaa nuskhado kale, sida luqado kale, akhris fudud, far waaweyn, dhegeysi, farta braille ee dadka indhaha la', Moon iyo nidaam eletaroonig ah.