

Imaging/Biopsies

- Photographs/videos of the stomach and samples of the lining of the stomach/intestine (biopsies) may be taken as part of your care, in order to diagnose or exclude particular diseases.
- Images-samples taken may be used in further testing and/or education and research in accordance with hospital procedures. In any such event, patient confidentiality will be maintained at all times.

Special Requirements

If you use a wheelchair or have a physical or any other disability please contact us to let us know so that we can ensure you receive appropriate supports. If you need an interpreter please let us know in advance.

Following the Examination:

- You will be observed in the recovery area until the effects of the sedation have worn off.
- The intravenous cannula will be removed from your arm before you go home.
- Further tests may be requested by the consultant.
- When you have recovered you will receive a light snack.
- Following sedation you must not drive, operate machinery, sign legal documents or drink alcohol for 24 hours.
- If you have not had sedation you may drive home unaccompanied.
- A nurse will provide the information on the results of your procedure before you leave the department.

If you request to reschedule or cancel your appointment, please contact the number on your appointment letter.

Complaints / Compliments /Comments

Please contact nursing staff if you wish to make a complaint, compliment or comment. A comments box is also situated in the endoscopy unit.

Hospital Facilities

- Coffee Dock
- Prayer Room

For your day procedure you will be attending a mixed day ward. If you have any concerns, please contact the relevant department. If you have any complications after your procedure please contact your GP/DOC or your nearest emergency department.

Other important points to note:

As the RCSI Louth Hospitals are teaching hospitals, a person other than a consultant, such as a registrar (senior trainee) or advanced nurse practitioner (ANP), may perform the procedure.



**Louth County Hospital,
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital**

Patient information on:

**Oesophago-Gastro
Duodenoscopy (OGD)
GASTROSCOPY**

**Please read this leaflet carefully
and contact us before your
procedure date if you have
questions or concerns**

Contact details:

Louth County Hospital (LCH):

Endoscopy Department
(042) 93 34 701

Monday to Friday, 8.00am - 6.00pm

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital (LOL):

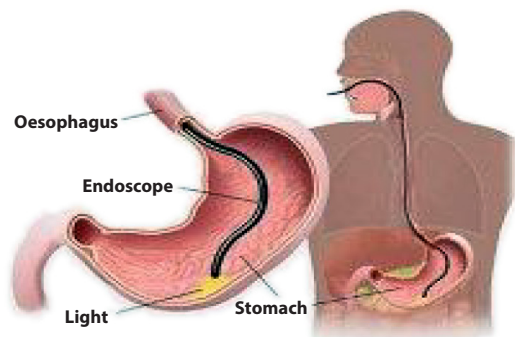
(041) 983 7601

Consent

Please read the information contained in this leaflet. You will be asked to sign a consent form on the day of your procedure. The doctor or nurse performing the test will answer any questions you may have and you may change your mind at any time.

What is a gastroscopy (OGD)?

Gastroscopy (also called OGD) is a test which allows the doctor to look at the lining of the oesophagus (gullet), the stomach and the first part of your intestine. It is performed by passing a thin flexible tube (gastroscope) through your mouth. During the course of the examination samples of the intestines (biopsies) may be taken.



Preparation

- Your stomach needs to be empty so you will need to fast before the test. Please fast from food for 6 hours from food and 4 hours from fluids.
- Please have a telephone number of a relative or friend who may be contacted to collect you.
- The scheduling of your tests is an estimate only and unfortunately there can be unforeseen delays, therefore plan to be in the department as a day case.
- If you have a referral from your doctor, please bring this with you.
- Bring a list of current medication.

- You are advised not to bring jewellery, valuables or large sums of money.
- If you have sedation for this procedure you must be collected on discharge. Do not drive or travel unaccompanied and you will need someone to stay with you for 24 hours.

Medications (tablets)

- You may continue to take essential medication but if you are taking **blood thinning** medication you should contact the nurse in the Endoscopy Unit where you are having your procedure as soon as possible.
- There is no need to stop taking blood pressure medication.
- **Iron** tablets must be stopped one week before examination.
- If you have **diabetes** you should contact the Endoscopy Unit for advice before you attend for your test.

Risks?

- **Risk of perforation** (Tear) in approximately 1 in every 2000 patients.
- **Bleeding** may occur during or after procedure, if this happens at home please contact your emergency department.
- Damage caused by Endoscope to **teeth and bridgework** can happen but this is rare.
- You may experience a **sore throat** or feel some wind in your stomach after the procedure.
- There is a risk that some abnormalities may be missed during this procedure (1 in every 100).
- If a complication occurs during your procedure in Louth County Hospital you may need to be transferred by ambulance to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital for overnight observation or further treatment

Benefits?

- Gastroscopy is the best test to check the gullet, stomach and intestines and will allow a biopsy to be taken of any abnormality detected.
- The results will help us decide on the best treatment for your problem or whether we need to carry out any further examinations.
- If you have sedation, you will still be awake and may remember things about the test. Every effort will be made to keep you comfortable throughout.

Will I be Sedated?

- Many patients choose to have the test performed without sedation, with a local anaesthetic spray to the throat used instead. This is safer and has the advantage that you can go home almost immediately after the test. If you have had throat spray do not eat or drink anything for at least one hour after this scope.
- If you have sedation, you will still be awake and may remember things about the test.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

- A nurse will stay with you throughout the examination.
- A throat spray may be given to numb your throat. You will lie on your left side.
- A plastic mouth guard will be placed between your teeth - this helps to keep your mouth slightly open to enable the tube to be passed.
- During the test air will be put into your stomach which enables a better view and is removed at completion of the test.
- The gastroscope does not interfere with your breathing and you can breathe normally.
- The test usually takes approximately 10 minutes.
- You may feel some retching and belching as the tube is inserted. This is normal and will pass quickly.