

GASTROENTEROLOGY UNIT



Gastroenterology is a branch of medicine focused on the digestive system and its disorders.

EQUIPMENT

- X-rays
- Ultrasound
- CAT scans
- MRI

PERSONNEL

- Gastroenterologists (doctors)
- Radiographers
- Gastroenterology Unit Nurses

CONVERSATION IN THE GASTROENTEROLOGY UNIT

Nurse: Hello, Mr. Walsh. I understand that you are here to undergo endoscopy. Are you ready?

Patient: I'm not sure. I'm a bit apprehensive. It wasn't explained to me properly and I wasn't able to ask the details as well because I was in a hurry. Do you mind telling me what's it all about? What are the things I'm supposed to do while undergoing this procedure?

Nurse: Certainly, Mr. Walsh. First off, there is nothing you should be worried about. The majority of endoscopic procedures are just performed in an outpatient setting. Patients can be discharged home after the procedure is completed. Of course as with any other medical procedure, there are some small risks associated with endoscopy but in general, it is very safe. Endoscopy is merely "looking inside". It typically refers to looking inside the body for medical reasons using an endoscope. An endoscope is an instrument used to examine the interior of a hollow organ or cavity of the body. In your case, it would be the lining of your digestive tract that we will be looking.

Patient: That's it?

Nurse: Yes. That's it so there is really nothing to be anxious about. It is just one of the diagnostic tests that you will be having though. Dr. Ang, your gastroenterologist, would like to make sure that he's got all the diagnostic tests applicable on your symptoms covered. In that way, he would be able to find out what's really wrong and at the same time due medical treatment would be given to your condition whatever case it may be.

Patient: Alright then. Let's get started.

Nurse: Mr. Walsh, I'd like to inform you ahead that you will be sedated for the procedure so it would be best if there's someone else who could probably drive you home.

Patient: Oh nothing to worry. My wife's with me. She'll drive on the way home.

Nurse: Great. Later after the sedation has worn off on you, before you'll be discharged here, you will be given instructions and will be told to call your doctor if complications should develop. And there should be no drinking of alcohol for at least a day.

Patient: I'll bear that in mind. Thank you.