



**Birmingham Children's Hospital
NHS Trust**

ERCp

Parents Information Leaflet

This information leaflet is available in large print and on computer Disk (it is also available in Braille, other languages and on audio tape on request). Please contact the Child and Family Information Centre on 0121 333 8505

ERCP

What is an ERCP (Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography)?

This is a test carried out under general anaesthetic. A thin flexible tube with a bright light on the end called an endoscope is passed into the mouth, down the oesophagus (food tube) and into the stomach and on into the first part of the intestine (duodenum) where the bile and pancreatic ducts enter the intestine. The doctor can look down the tube; see the ducts and inject the ducts with contrast medium via a side arm in order to take x-ray like pictures.

What are the risks of an endoscopy?

The doctor will usually discuss with you the reasons why your child needs an ERCP, in an out-patient clinic. They will also discuss with you any risks to your child which are very small.

Anaesthetics carry a risk, but these are very small. The anaesthetist is a specialist doctor who is able to deal with any complication that happens under the anaesthetic. A child may feel sick and vomit afterwards, but this is very rare nowadays. Children may have a headache, sore throat or feel dizzy or may be upset after the anaesthetic, but these are usually short lived and can be easily treated. There is a risk of pain in the abdomen requiring painkillers. There is a risk of infection, which is treated with antibiotics.

What is the preparation for an endoscopy?

When admitted to the ward your child will be seen by a doctor and a nurse. They will give you detailed explanations, note any allergies and if your consent has not been taken prior to this it will be taken at this time. If a blood test is needed before the ERCP it will be taken from a cannula (a thin plastic tube in a vein). Your

child may be given a sedative medicine to help them relax. This will be discussed with you.

What happens next?

The procedure takes place in the anaesthetic theatre. You will be allowed to accompany your child to the room, but parents do not stay during the actual ERCP. When your child is under the anaesthetic the endoscope will be passed down through the mouth into the oesophagus, onward into the stomach and finally into the first part of the intestines. Once the test is finished the scope is removed.

What happens after the endoscopy?

Once your child has returned to the ward the nurse will check your child's pulse, breathing rate and blood pressure. When your child is fully awake they can start to eat and drink small amounts.

When will we know the results of the ERCP?

The consultant who performed the procedure will usually come and inform you of the findings and discuss the implications with you. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

When can your child go home?

Children may be able to go home on the same day if no other tests are needed and the child has no complications.

What care will my child need at home?

- ◆ Eat and drink normally
- ◆ Normal activities can be resumed the day after the procedure.
- ◆ Some children have wind for a day or so. This is normal.

- ◆ Some children have a sore throat; simple painkillers like paracetamol can be used in dosages as stated on the packaging.
- ◆ Some children have discomfort over the chest area. Again this usually settles within two days and responds to paracetamol.
- ◆ Any concerns after you go home should be reported to Liver Direct on 0121 333 8989 in office hours. Any messages left on voicemail will be answered the same day. Otherwise for more urgent contact ring 0121 333 9999 and ask to speak to the Liver Unit Registrar.

If you have any questions or need to make any notes please write them here: