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ERCP (Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography)

NAME: _____ PHYSICIAN: _____

DAY AND DATE: _____ TIME: _____ ARRIVE AT: _____

PLACE: _____ REPORT TO: _____

Description

ERCP is a type of endoscopy performed in the hospital. It is generally done to diagnose and treat patients suffering from disorders of the liver, bile duct, pancreas and gallbladder. The procedure is performed under anesthesia with the patient lying on their stomach. When the patient is asleep an endoscope is inserted via the mouth into the stomach and upper intestines. The entrance of the bile duct or pancreatic duct can then be identified and accessed with a wire and a small plastic tube. A dye is then injected into the ducts and images are obtained under an X-Ray machine. A small internal incision is often made, called a sphincterotomy, to allow for improved access and drainage. If applicable to you, stones can be removed, biopsies or cytology brushings can be obtained and stents can be placed to relieve obstruction to bile flow. The procedure can take 30 minutes to over an hour.

Preparation BEFORE the ERCP

- Please do not eat or drink the day of the test. If your procedure is scheduled late in the day, you may be able to have clear liquids up to 4 hours prior to the exam.
- Please inform your doctor if you have any allergies – particularly to contrast dyes such as iodine.
- The procedure is performed in an ambulatory setting, but it is sometimes necessary to stay overnight. It is generally a good idea to pack an overnight bag just in case.
- Please have a friend or relative drive you home. You will not be able to drive for 24 hours after the procedure.
- If you are on any blood thinners such as aspirin, Coumadin, Pradaxa, Xarelto, Plavix or Eliquis, these medications will need to be stopped before the procedure. Please discuss this with your physician prior to making arrangements.
- The procedure is done with X-ray imaging. If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant, please notify your doctor immediately. It is routine practice that urine pregnancy tests are done immediately prior to the procedure for all women of child bearing age.

After the ERCP

Please notify us if you have any severe pain or discomfort after the procedure.