

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL & HEALTH NETWORK

Endoscopy F.A.Q.

What should I expect when I arrive?

You will first need to be registered, so please bring:

- your insurance card(s),
- your physician referral if you have been given one,
- a list of medications you are taking, and
- a list of any allergies you may have.

You may also be asked to complete an Outpatient Admission Summary (if you have not already done so).

By having these prepared, we will be able to expedite your registration and clinical processes in a more timely manner.

Following registration, then what?

You will then be interviewed by a nurse who will review your medical history, medications and allergies. You will be asked to remove all of your jewelry, which you may give to your family, or a small container will be provided for you. You will be asked to change into a hospital scrub suit and then be asked to sit in a small waiting area. A nurse will then walk you to a stretcher and an IV line will be placed to allow administration of sedatives during your procedure. After all pre-procedure preparations are completed, you will be taken by stretcher to a procedure room where you will have a variety of monitoring equipment placed on you. You will see your physician who will talk with you, review your procedure(s) with you and answer any questions you may have. After your procedure, you will be taken to the Observation area for a one-hour recovery.

How will I feel after my procedure?

You will probably have a slightly dry mouth and feel drowsy, gassy and hungry. The dry mouth and drowsiness are from the sedation and will gradually wear off. The gassiness is from the air that is put into the digestive tract during the endoscopic procedure, which helps your doctor see inside your stomach or colon. Most of the air is removed before the procedure ends, but some of it just has to pass naturally.

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Will I need a ride home?

If you have been given IV sedation, you will need a ride home. If your family chooses to stay in the hospital, they may wait in our waiting room, or go to the cafeteria or gift shops. If they choose to leave, please make sure that they provide a phone number at which they can be reached. If your procedure is being done later in the day, please make sure to remind them that they must return by 4:30 PM.

How long will I be at the facility?

From time of arrival to end of recovery will vary according to the procedures performed. An approximate length of time is 2 to 3 hours.

How soon will I be able to eat after my test?

Your physician will advise you what type of diet to resume following your procedure. First meals may need to be light, but this is determined by what was done during your procedure and physician preference. You will be given a light snack before you leave the Endoscopy unit.

How soon can I return to work after my test?

Most patients can return to work the following morning.

How soon will I know the results of the test?

Before you leave the Endoscopy unit you will know what was found during your procedure and if any biopsies were done. Biopsy results usually will be reported in one week. You will be told whether you need to call for the results or if the results will be called to you.