



ERCP

Testing Locations	
Columbia St. Mary's Milwaukee 2301 N Lake Drive Milwaukee, WI 53211	Columbia St. Mary's Ozaukee 13111 N Port Washington Road Mequon, WI 53097

What is an Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)?

A procedure done to study the biliary ducts, drainage routes of the gallbladder, liver and pancreas with the assistance of X-Ray. An ERCP can be used to take biopsies, remove gallstones inside a duct, dilate a duct and/or place stents to help drain the ducts.

What happens during the ERCP?

- You will be taken to a procedure room where you will talk with the GI doctor.
- Your vital signs will be monitored, and you will receive oxygen.
- The anesthesiologist or sedation nurse will administer medications to sedate you.
- A bite block will be placed in your mouth to protect your teeth and prevent you from accidentally biting the scope.
- The doctor will use a specialized catheter, contrast dye and X-Ray to visualize the ducts that come from the liver and pancreas.
- A cut may be made to widen the opening to the ducts, then stones can be removed, biopsies taken, the duct can be dilated and/or a stent can be placed as needed.

How do I prepare for the test?

- Do not eat any solid food or drink fluids for 8 hours prior to your ERCP.
- Please arrive 90 minutes to 2 hours prior to your procedure time.
- Completely undress and wear provided hospital gown.
- You may need to have blood work drawn prior to the procedure.
- You will have an IV placed and possibly an antibiotic given during the admission process.
- Remove all jewelry, especially tongue and naval piercings.
- Remove dentures or partials. Inform nurse and anesthesiologist of loose teeth.

Do I need to have someone drive me to and from the testing location?

Yes, you will need to have someone drive you to and from the testing location on the day of your exam. The medication that you will receive during your procedure will impair your ability to drive. If you plan to take a taxi, someone must accompany you.

Should I take my medications on the day of the test?

Please notify your doctor of all medications you take both prescribed and over the counter. Your doctor will instruct you on which medications you should take on the day of the test.

How long does the test take and how long will I be at the testing location?

The average procedure time is 60 to 90 minutes. You may need to stay overnight at the hospital.

Are there any instructions I need to have or follow after the test?

- Notify your doctor if you have uncontrolled pain
- No driving the day of the procedure
- You may resume your regular diet and activity unless specified by your doctor the next day

How do I get my test results?

The doctor will tell you the preliminary findings before you leave the facility. However, due to sedation you are going to be forgetful and may not remember. You may choose to have the person driving you home hear the findings and discharge instructions. You will have written discharge instructions. Specimens sent to the lab take about 3-5 days to get results. Your doctor will send you a letter in the mail, and/or ask you to return for a follow up appointment in the clinic.

On the day of your test, please let your caregiver know about:

- Allergies
- Medications that you are taking
- Possibility of pregnancy
- Any metal implants, pacemaker or defibrillator you have implanted
- Diabetes
- Blood thinners
- Cardiac/Respiratory disease.
- Sleep apnea
- Mobility issues
- Recreational drug use
- Use of medications for pain, anxiety, or depression.

Other Information I need to know:

- Notify your doctor if you are having:
 - abdominal pain, tightness or distention in your abdomen after your procedure
 - fever or chills
 - dark or tarry stools
- Questions or concerns please contact you gastroenterologist

- **Please follow all the test instructions to ensure that your test can be done as scheduled and with optimum results.**
- **Your appointment is very important to us. If you need to cancel, please notify us the day before your test or as soon as possible.**
- **If you have questions about the information in this guide or not sure which patient information guide is right for you, please call your doctor.**