

CONSENT FOR UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL ENDOSCOPY

This document helps us inform you about this procedure. Please read it carefully and address any questions or concerns you may have personally with the doctor prior to signing it.

Dr. Patrick D. Gerstenberger, Dr. Steven R. Christensen, or Dr. Stuart B. Saslow and his assistants are authorized to perform:

Upper Gastrointestinal Endoscopy - Examination of the esophagus, stomach and duodenum with a flexible tube passed through the mouth.

Biopsy - Remove small pieces of tissue for analysis

Polypectomy - Remove small growths

Dilation - Enlarge a narrowed area

Cautery/injection/sclerotherapy/band ligation/clip application - Use specialized instruments to apply heat, medication, small rubber bands or metal clips applied internally to stop or prevent bleeding

Removal of foreign body

Placement of tubes or stent

Moderate sedation – Administration of medication into a vein by a registered nurse under your doctor’s supervision, prior to and during the procedure, to make the procedure more comfortable. Some patients may experience partial or total amnesia for their procedure with this form of sedation, but others may have limited or full recall. During moderate sedation you will not be “put to sleep,” though you will be relaxed and groggy. Moderate sedation affords adequate sedation for endoscopy in many cases, but it may not allow successful completion of the procedure in your particular case. You should request moderate sedation only if you are confident that you can complete your procedure under this form of sedation, are willing to bear discomfort, and are willing to accept the risk, inconvenience and expenses related to a failed procedure should your endoscopy be unsuccessful (including the costs of a rescheduled second procedure to allow for anesthesia). Moderate sedation will only be offered if your endoscopist is willing to attempt a procedure under moderate sedation in your case.

Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy is frequently performed for: evaluation of symptoms (such as heartburn, swallowing problems, abdominal pain, bleeding, diarrhea and weight loss), screening for and follow-up of Barrett’s esophagus, treatment of a narrowing (stricture), follow-up of gastric ulcer, evaluation of anemia, placement of tubes or stents and removal of foreign bodies.

ALTERNATIVES: Imaging tests ("upper GI series," CT scan, MRI, ultrasound, nuclear scans) are sometimes recommended as alternatives. Imaging tests are less likely to cause a complication, but are less accurate for diagnosis of some conditions, and do not allow treatment, such as dilation of a narrowing. No test at all is an alternative, but no testing carries risks of failing to diagnose a problem at an early and more treatable stage. In most cases we perform upper endoscopy using moderate-deep propofol-based procedural sedation, under the endoscopy doctor’s supervision. It is possible to perform this procedure in some cases without sedation. Anesthesia administered by an anesthesiologist may be used in some cases, and is an alternative available at Mercy Regional Medical Center.

RISKS: These procedures involve some risks. Major complications include: **perforation** (<1/3000), **bleeding** requiring blood transfusion or surgery (<1/3000), **heart or lung problems** (major problems are rare), infection (rare), allergic reactions (rare), nerve injury (rare) and death (rare). Minor complications (needle site irritation, dental injury, internal burns or bruises, minor medication reactions, temporary bowel distention or prolonged sleepiness) occur infrequently. Complications occur more frequently when polyps are removed, bleeding is treated, or foreign bodies are removed. These are highly accurate procedures, but with any medical test there is a small chance of missing something.

Complications may occur even when a procedure is properly performed. Treatment of major complications may require hospitalization, surgery, and blood transfusion.

SEDATION/ANESTHESIA: Moderate sedation involves a risk of heart, lung, allergic or other drug reaction problems (<1/200), which rarely can be fatal. Sedation/anesthesia administered by a nurse anesthetist is the form of sedation recommended at the Southwest Endoscopy Center. Anesthesiologist (a specialist physician providing sedation/anesthesia) services are not available at the Southwest Endoscopy Center but are available at Mercy Regional Medical Center and can be arranged at the request of either the patient or the physician performing your procedure, at an additional cost.

MEDICATIONS THAT AFFECT BLOOD CLOTTING: Your doctor may recommend that these drugs (such as Coumadin, Plavix, Effient, aspirin, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents and others) be discontinued before upper endoscopy to reduce possible bleeding risk. Stopping and restarting these drugs however carries some risk of blood clot related problems, including stroke and heart attack. In some cases we may advise you to undergo endoscopy without stopping these medications, in the belief that possible bleeding is less of a risk to your health than the risk of possible heart attack or stroke.

RECUPERATION: Recuperation from endoscopy is generally complete within a few hours following the procedure. Most individuals can return to typical activities and diet at that time. Because the effects of sedation on memory, coordination and judgment may linger however, activities such as driving, operation of machinery, vigorous physical exertion or activities requiring full mental attention, coordination or recall should not be resumed until the following day. **Increasing throat, chest or abdominal**

pain, bleeding, fever, chills or other signs of illness could be signs of complication of endoscopy or of your sedation, and should be reported promptly to the on call Digestive Health physician. You will be provided with written instructions on discharge telling you how to contact us in the event of a problem after the procedure.

TRANSFUSION: Blood transfusions are not administered at the Southwest Endoscopy Center. Transfusions are occasionally administered at Mercy Medical Center during endoscopy if a patient has lost a large amount of blood prior to the procedure. A separate written consent prior to transfusion is obtained if transfusion is needed.

SUCCESS: Complete examination of the upper gastrointestinal tract is nearly always achieved. Most areas of narrowing (strictures) we detect are dilated at the time of the examination. Some strictures may require additional endoscopy procedures or surgery to allow complete dilation. Most swallowed foreign bodies can be removed successfully, though surgery may occasionally be necessary.

ASSISTANTS: Registered nurses and/or technicians who are employees of the facility providing your procedure will assist the physician. Students, industry representatives or other observers will not be permitted to be present without your written permission. Other physicians or assistants are rarely necessary during endoscopy, though occasionally the physician may request an opinion regarding a finding or technique from another physician during a procedure.

PATIENT CONSENT

I have had sufficient opportunity to discuss my condition and treatment with my physicians and/or their associates, and all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I believe that I have adequate knowledge upon which to base an informed consent to the proposed procedure.

I have read and fully understand this form and I voluntarily authorize and consent to this procedure. I understand that I should not sign this form until all my questions have been answered to my satisfaction and until I understand all the words or terms on this form.

I am aware that the practice of medicine is not an exact science, and I acknowledge that no guarantees have been made to me concerning the results of the procedure. I have been advised that the proposed procedure may not improve my condition and may, in fact, worsen it.

X _____ Date: _____ Time: _____
Signature of Patient or Authorized Agent

Printed Patient Name

PHYSICIAN/PROVIDER DECLARATION

I have explained the contents of this document to the patient and have answered all the patient's questions, and to the best of my knowledge, I feel the patient has been adequately informed and has consented.

_____ Date: _____ Time: _____
Physician Assistant (if applicable)

_____ Date: _____ Time: _____
Physician performing procedure