

**PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET**

An **EGD** involves the insertion of a lighted flexible tube, called an upper endoscope, into the mouth. The tube is guided by direct vision into the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum so that the lining of the upper gastrointestinal tract is visualized. Any area of the lining that appears abnormal may be biopsied; that is, a piece of tissue may be removed for analysis. Areas that are bleeding may be cauterized to stop active bleeding or to prevent future bleeding. An EGD is a generally safe procedure but carries several risks that include, but are not limited to, perforation and bleeding. Serious complications of EGD, such as perforation or bleeding, may require hospitalization, blood transfusions, or surgery.

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A **colonoscopy** involves the insertion of a lighted flexible tube, called a colonoscope, into the rectum. The tube is inserted so that the lining of the colon is visualized. Any area of the lining that appears abnormal may be biopsied; that is, a piece of tissue may be removed for analysis. In addition, growths of the colon, called polyps, may be removed (polypectomy) by the use of an electrified wire, called a snare. A colonoscopy is generally a safe procedure but carries several risks that include, but are not limited to, the following: bleeding from biopsy or polypectomy; perforation or puncture of the colon which would likely require a surgical operation to repair; and, contact colitis; that is, irritation of the lining of the colon from contact with the colonoscope. Serious complications of colonoscopy, such as perforation or bleeding, may require hospitalization, blood transfusions, or surgery.

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The reason(s) why this procedure(s) is necessary has already been explained to me. Risks of the sedative medications include, but are not limited to, allergic reactions and respiratory depression. I understand that in addition to the risks described to me about this procedure there are risks that may occur with any surgical or medical procedure.

I understand that there are no guarantees regarding the results of this procedure. Although endoscopic procedures are sensitive for the presence of gastrointestinal abnormalities, there is a risk that significant abnormalities of the gastrointestinal tract may not be detected by this procedure; this is especially true if the preparation of the gastrointestinal tract is not ideal.

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