



Tallaght  
University  
Hospital

Ospidéal  
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Thamhlachta

An Academic Partner of Trinity College Dublin

PATIENT  
INFORMATION  
LEAFLET

## Endoscopic ultrasound



**You must contact the nurse** at least 1 week in advance of your procedure if any of the following applies to you:

- You are diabetic.
- You take medication to thin your blood (aspirin, warfarin or plavix).
- You had this procedure previously and it could not be completed for some reason.
- You have any chronic medical condition that may affect your ability to fast or to have sedation for this procedure.

**Do not stop taking medication before your procedure unless told to do so by the doctor or nurse.**

### Contact Details

Confirm/Cancel appointment:

01 414 4143  
(8.30am-4.00pm)

All other clerical queries:

01 414 4185  
(10-12 & 2-4pm)

If the telephone is unattended leave your name & contact details & your call will be returned.

You will be asked to lie on your left side with your knees drawn up towards your chest. You will be asked to hold a small doughnut shaped plastic 'mouthguard' in your mouth. This protects your teeth and gums and allows the doctor to pass the scope easily.

During the E.U.S. a painless probe placed on your finger will monitor your pulse and oxygen levels. You will receive oxygen through a mask or short prongs placed in your nostrils.

The procedure can take between 30 mins to 1 hour. It may take longer if biopsies are necessary.

### Does it hurt?

E.U.S. is not painful. The sedation is very effective for most people. It is given a few minutes before the procedure begins through the needle in your arm. Sedation works very quickly and helps to make you sleepy and relaxed. It does not make you unconscious. The sedation makes it unlikely that you will remember the procedure.

A pain-killing drug is given at the same time as the sedation to make sure that you are as comfortable as possible.

### When will I know the results?

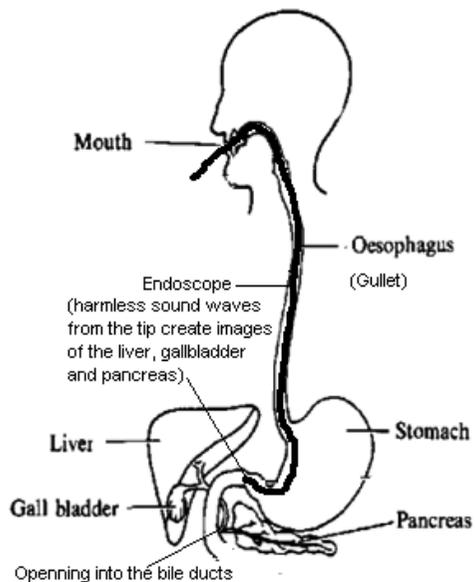
When you are awake a doctor will speak to you about the outcome of your test. The results of any biopsies may not be available for several days. A follow up appointment will be arranged for you prior to your discharge.

# What is an endoscopic ultrasound (E.U.S.)?



An E.U.S. allows the doctor to view images of the upper gastrointestinal tract, the liver, pancreas and bile ducts. The upper gastrointestinal tract refers to the oesophagus (gullet), the stomach and the duodenum (part of the small bowel connected to the stomach).

The doctor inserts a slim, flexible, tube called an ultrasound scope over the tongue and guides it down the oesophagus into the stomach and duodenum. Sound waves from the tip of the scope build an image which the doctor can view on a screen. Specialised E.U.S. can also allow the doctor to take tissue samples (biopsies) through the walls of the gastrointestinal tract. This is done using specially designed needles.



E.U.S. is done while you are sedated. You will not need an anaesthetic.

**All patients receiving sedation must have someone to drive them home from the hospital. Someone should stay with them overnight.**

## Why do I need an E.U.S.?

In some cases an E.U.S. is used to find a cause for jaundice and/or severe right sided pain. It can also help your doctor make a diagnosis when blood tests or x-rays of the gullet, stomach, pancreas or liver are not normal.

An E.U.S. can also be used to get a deeper and more complete image of an abnormality that is seen during Gastroscopy (the camera test for the gullet and stomach).

## What are the risks?

All medical procedures carry a risk of complications. There is a small risk of damage to teeth or bridgework. Serious risks are severe bleeding (if tissue samples are taken) and a perforation (tear) in the stomach or gullet. Serious complications would require a hospital admission and perhaps surgery.

Sedation can affect breathing, heart rate and blood pressure but close monitoring allows problems to be seen and treated quickly. Drugs are available to reverse the effects of the sedative.

**Serious complications are very rare.**

We make you aware of them so that you have all the information you need when deciding if you wish to have a E.U.S. done or not.

## How do I prepare for an endoscopic ultrasound?

You must fast from food and fluids from midnight on the day before your procedure.

## Day of E.U.S.

On the day of your procedure, if tissue samples are required a blood sample will be taken to check clotting before the procedure begins.

A doctor will discuss the procedure and the risks with you. He/she will ask you to sign a consent form. Your consent shows that you understand the procedure and risks.

A local anaesthetic (numbing liquid) is sprayed onto the back of your throat. This is similar to the drug used by dentists to numb the gums and can make the scope pass more comfortably.

Intravenous sedation, is given immediately prior to the procedure. The sedation works very quickly and helps to make you sleepy and relaxed.