

MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT ENDOSCOPIC ULTRASONOGRAPHY BEFORE EXAMINATION

Dear Sir or Madam,

Endoscopic ultrasonography is a surgical exploration combining ultrasonography with endoscopy; an ultrasonic transducer (probe) is inserted with an endoscope into your body near the organ to be examined. It is used for the detection and exploration of digestive tract injuries or nearby injuries.

We ask you to read this document very carefully in order for you to be informed about this medical intervention. Your doctor is at your disposal to provide you with any further details you may require.

WHY CHOOSE ENDOSCOPIC ULTRASONOGRAPHY?

It allows us to get information we cannot have with other explorations. In some cases, it also enables us to take some tissue samples for microscope examination.

HOW TO GET PREPARED FOR ENDOSCOPIC ULTRASONOGRAPHY?

You must go on a strict fast (no eating, no drinking and no smoking) for 6 hours before the examination.

HOW IS ENDOSCOPIC ULTRASONOGRAPHY PERFORMED?

A flexible ultrasonic probe is used during the examination. General anaesthesia is often proposed and scheduled to improve examination tolerability. The anaesthetist-resuscitator will answer your questions concerning his specialty.

According to the current rules, the endoscope is disinfected after each patient, and the devices are sterilized or thrown away if single-use. These procedures are indispensable to prevent any possible infections.

You may be asked to remain hospitalized after the examination for monitoring purposes, especially if samples were taken or complications should arise.

WHAT COMPLICATIONS MAY ARISE DURING THE EXAMINATION?

Each medical or surgical intervention, exploration or examination in the human body presents risks, even when proficiency and security conditions are met, consistently with the current rules and scientific knowledge.

Endoscopic ultrasonography complications are exceptional:

- Perforations, of the oesophagus in particular, may arise. They are often increased by underlying injuries such as tumours. Surgical intervention can then be required (with its own risks);
- Other complications may also arise such as cardiovascular or respiratory disorders and infections;
- Rare cases of infections or haemorrhages have been reported after sample taking. Surgery and blood or blood-derived product transfusions may therefore be required.

These complications may be increased by your medical and surgical history or some of the drugs you may take. All of them usually arise during endoscopic ultrasonography but they can also appear a few days after the examination (abdominal or chest pains, fever, shivers, etc.).

If these complications arise, you must immediately call your practitioner and/or anaesthetist at:



Should it be impossible to do so, you must absolutely contact your referring doctor as soon as possible.

