



UNDERSTANDING ENDOSCOPIC RETROGRADE CHOLANGIOPANCREATOGRAPHY (ERCP)

What is ERCP?

Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) is an endoscopic test that is done to examine the bile ducts, gallbladder and pancreatic duct by passing X-ray material (dye) through a tube in the small intestine. This test also allows the doctor to see the upper small intestine and the opening of ducts into the small intestine.

Why is ERCP done?

The ERCP is done for a number of reasons that can include jaundice (yellowness of the skin and eyes), abnormal liver tests or abdominal X-ray tests, unexplained abdominal pain or weight loss. These symptoms may be due to blockage or inflammation or leakage in the bile and pancreatic ducts (for example, stones, tumour, inflammation or postoperative problems).

How is ERCP done?

The ERCP may be done as an inpatient or as an outpatient (day care) procedure. An intravenous is usually started to allow drugs to be given. After sedation, a flexible tube with a camera on the end (endoscope) is passed down the swallowing tube and through the stomach into the upper small intestine. The opening of the ducts is identified and X-ray material is pushed into the ducts through a catheter

(small plastic tube) within the scope. After the X-ray material is injected into the ducts, X-rays are taken to identify areas of abnormality. If stones are present, these can usually be removed at the same time by cutting open the lower portion of the bile duct (sphincterotomy) and pulling them out with different instruments. If there is an abnormal narrowing, tubes (stents) can be left in place to relieve the blockage. This procedure is technically difficult and is occasionally not successful. Sometimes one or more repeat procedures are necessary to achieve the desired outcome.

After the procedure, most patients are still sleepy and are observed to be sure that their blood pressure, pulse and temperature remain stable and that they do not develop pain. Most patients do not remember their test. Some discomfort may be present when sedation wears off. Severe pain is uncommon. Patients are usually discharged once they are fully awake unless there are other reasons for which the patient needs to be in hospital.

More information

For more information about protecting and enhancing your digestive health, please visit www.CDHF.ca

DONATE

ABOUT US

YES! I want to donate to the Canadian Digestive Health Foundation

Please accept my donation to support:

- Canadian Digestive Health Foundation Programs as needed
- Canadian Digestive Health Foundation Endowment Fund

My donation is:

- Personal In honour of In memory of _____ (person's name)

- Yes, please send notification of my gift to:

Full name: _____

Email: _____

Mailing address: _____

Personal message: _____

Donate by Cheque:

- I have enclosed a cheque for \$ _____
- I have enclosed a blank cheque marked VOID and authorize the Canadian Digestive Health Foundation to deduct \$ _____ from my account on the 28th day of each month

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____ (dd/mm/yy)

Donate by Credit Card:

I would like to make a donation using my credit card. Please charge my

- VISA MasterCard
- \$ 100 \$ 250 \$ 500 \$ 1000 Other \$ _____.

I want to support the Canadian Digestive Health Foundation with a monthly donation charged to my credit card on the 28th day of each month. My signature below is authorization for this transaction.

- \$ 250 \$ 100 \$ 75 Other \$ _____ per month

Card #: _____

CCV2 _____ Exp. ____ / ____ mm/yy

Signature: _____

Tel: (_____) _____ — _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: ____ PC: _____


- Please send me information about protecting and improving my digestive health.

Over 20 million Canadians suffer from digestive disorders every year. The Canadian Digestive Health Foundation believes this is unnecessary and unacceptable.

We reduce suffering and improve quality of life by empowering Canadians with trusted, up to date, science-based information about digestive health and disease.

As the Foundation of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology, we work directly with leading physicians, scientists, and other health care professionals to help you understand and take control of your digestive health with confidence and optimism.

Through research and public education, we aim to:

 <p>REDUCE the incidence and prevalence of digestive disorders</p>	 <p>IMPROVE understanding of digestive health issues</p>
 <p>SUPPORT those suffering from digestive disorders</p>	 <p>ENHANCE quality of life for those living with digestive disorders</p>

Request for support

The Canadian Digestive Health Foundation is a national charity governed by a volunteer board of directors. We rely on donations from the public and the generosity of our partners to develop and deliver our programs. Please consider including our Foundation as one of your chosen charities.

Contact us/Donate to

Canadian Digestive Health Foundation
1500 Upper Middle Road, Unit 3,
PO Box 76059, Oakville, ON L6M 1G0
Tel and Fax: 905-829-3949
info@CDHF.ca