



ENDOSCOPY PROCEDURES

A RESOURCE GUIDE

Endoscopy Procedures

Endoscopy in general.

- Endoscopy procedures in the pediatric population involve the use of a flexible tube with a camera (endoscope) to visualize and examine the interior of the gastrointestinal tract. These procedures can diagnose and sometimes treat conditions affecting the esophagus, stomach, intestines, and other digestive organs.

What are common endoscopic procedures in pediatrics?

- **Gastrointestinal Symptoms:** Persistent abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, or gastrointestinal bleeding.
- **Suspected Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD):** To diagnose conditions such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.
- **Esophageal Conditions:** Such as gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) or eosinophilic esophagitis.
- **Infections:** To identify pathogens causing gastrointestinal infections.
- **Celiac Disease:** To confirm a diagnosis through biopsy of the small intestine.
- **Foreign Body Retrieval:** To remove swallowed objects.
- **Polyp Removal:** To remove polyps or other abnormal growths.

What are some signs and symptoms that may need an endoscopic procedure in pediatrics?

- Chronic or severe abdominal pain
- Persistent nausea or vomiting
- Unexplained weight loss
- Difficulty swallowing (dysphagia)
- Gastrointestinal bleeding (e.g., blood in vomit or stool)
- Chronic diarrhea or constipation
- Suspected foreign body ingestion
- Signs of malabsorption or nutritional deficiencies

What is an Esophagogastroduodenoscopy (also known as an EGD, upper endoscopy, or gastroscopy)?

- An Esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) is a procedure where a flexible tube with a camera (endoscope) is inserted through the mouth to examine the lining of the esophagus, stomach, and upper part of the small intestine (duodenum). It is used to diagnose and sometimes treat conditions like GERD, ulcers, and inflammation.

What is a colonoscopy?

- A colonoscopy is a procedure where a flexible tube with a camera (endoscope) is inserted through the rectum to examine the interior lining of the colon and rectum. It is used to detect changes or abnormalities such as polyps, tumors, or inflammation.

What is a capsule endoscopy?

- A capsule endoscopy involves swallowing a small capsule with a camera inside that takes thousands of pictures of the digestive tract as it passes through. It is particularly useful for examining the small intestine, which is harder to reach with traditional endoscopy.

What is a sigmoidoscopy?

- A sigmoidoscopy is a procedure where a flexible tube with a camera (sigmoidoscope) is inserted through the rectum to examine the sigmoid colon and rectum. It is often used to screen for colorectal cancer, investigate gastrointestinal symptoms, and monitor inflammatory bowel disease.

What is a pH Monitoring or impedance testing?

- pH Monitoring or impedance testing involves placing a small, flexible tube through the nose into the esophagus to measure acid levels (pH) and reflux of stomach contents into the esophagus over 24 hours. It helps diagnose gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and other conditions related to acid reflux.

What are biopsies?

- Biopsies involve taking small samples of tissue from the gastrointestinal tract during an endoscopy procedure. These samples are examined under a microscope to diagnose conditions such as inflammation, infection, celiac disease, or cancer.

What is a polypectomy?

- A polypectomy is the removal of polyps (abnormal tissue growths) from the lining of the colon or other parts of the gastrointestinal tract during a colonoscopy or endoscopy. Polyps are often removed to prevent them from becoming cancerous.

What is esophageal banding?

- Esophageal banding is a procedure used to treat esophageal varices (enlarged veins in the esophagus) by placing small rubber bands around the base of the varices to cut off blood flow, causing them to shrink and reduce the risk of bleeding.

What is sclerotherapy?

- Sclerotherapy is a procedure used to treat varices (enlarged or dilated blood vessels in the esophagus) or other abnormal blood vessels by injecting a sclerosing solution that causes the vessels to collapse and close. It is commonly used for esophageal varices to prevent or stop bleeding.

What is a balloon dilatation?

- Balloon dilatation is a procedure where a balloon is inflated within a narrowed area of the gastrointestinal tract to widen it. This is often used to treat strictures (narrowed areas) in the esophagus, pylorus, or intestines caused by conditions like GERD, scarring, or Crohn's disease.

What is a foreign body removal?

- Foreign body removal is the extraction of objects that have been swallowed and are lodged in the gastrointestinal tract. This procedure is typically performed using an endoscope to locate and safely remove the foreign object, preventing potential complications.

Resources

BC Children's Hospital

- Provides detailed information on what to expect during endoscopy and colonoscopy procedures at BC Children's Hospital.

BC Children's Hospital

- Explains the process, preparation, and aftercare for upper endoscopy procedures at BC Children's Hospital.

BC Children's Hospital

- Offers strategies and tips to help children cope with medical and surgical procedures, including endoscopy.

BC Children's Hospital

- An educational video that explains the endoscopy procedure at BC Children's Hospital, aimed at helping children and parents understand the process.

BC Children's Hospital

- Answers common questions parents may have about their child's endoscopy procedure, from preparation to recovery.

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

- A comprehensive video guide covering both upper and lower endoscopy procedures for children.

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

- Detailed guide on upper endoscopy for pediatric patients, covering preparation, the procedure itself, and post-procedure care.

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

- A video guide detailing the lower endoscopy procedure for children, including preparation, what to expect, and aftercare.

GIKids

- A resource providing comprehensive information on gastrointestinal conditions and procedures for children, including endoscopy.

GIKids

- Information on colonoscopy procedures specifically tailored for pediatric patients, including preparation and recovery.

GIKids

- General information on the upper endoscopy procedure, its purpose, and what to expect during and after the procedure.