

Following your gastroscopy and colonoscopy with sedation

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio tape or computer disk, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please telephone the PALS desk on 01271 314090.

After your procedures a responsible adult must collect you and stay with you for 12 hours post procedures, because you will be drowsy from the medication you have been given. Small amounts of sedation will remain in your body for up to 24 hours. During this period, although you may feel wide-awake you will still be under the influence of the sedation. Your concentration and co-ordination may be impaired and you may feel light-headed or faint.

Sedation can impair your reflexes and judgement

It is for these reasons that **for 24 hours after your procedure** you:

- Go home and take complete rest for the remainder of the day and have a quiet day tomorrow
- Must not drive a car (your car insurance is invalid for the 24 hour period)
- Must not ride a motorbike or bicycle
- Must not operate any machinery or electrical items, e.g. kitchen appliances
- Must not drink alcohol
- Must not take any sleeping tablets
- Must not sign any legally binding documents
- Do not bath or shower
- Must not work

What will happen after my test?

Part of having a Gastroscopy and Colonoscopy usually involves having some biopsies taken. These will be sent to the laboratory to be analysed by a pathologist. The results will either be sent to your GP or you will have an appointment in outpatients to discuss your results with a hospital doctor.

When can I eat and drink again?

As already advised, you must not drink alcohol for 24 hours after your procedure. Alcohol in combination with any sedation is likely to have a more sedative effect. Otherwise you can eat and drink as normal, unless advised with specific instructions. Normal food can be taken after the examination, though you may prefer light meals initially.

When I am at home, what if I feel unwell after the procedure?

After the procedure you may or may not encounter any of the following conditions:

Sore throat – hoarse voice: You may experience a sore throat or hoarse voice. This is not unusual, and should ease within a day or so.

Bloating and excess wind: Abdominal discomfort is fairly common after a gastroscopy. Some patients have discomfort due to air that is put into the stomach during the test, but this will subside rapidly. In order to visualize the bowel properly and make a thorough investigation it is necessary to inflate your bowel with air. This may give you some abdominal discomfort due to flatulence and “wind” type pain for a day or so. To help to relieve this it is advisable, to walk around and drink warm drinks. This will help you pass the wind. You may also find that lying on your left hand side, with your knees up, hot water bottle on your tummy, may also help to pass wind. Wind type pain is often relieved the instant it is passed.

Bleeding: During your procedure, you may have had some biopsies taken or some polyps removed. You may notice some traces of blood coming from your back passage, particularly when you open your bowels for the first time. It is normal to cough up small amounts of blood in your sputum particularly if you had lots of biopsies. This is fairly rare and should settle within a day. If any bleeding persists for more than 24 hours, and is getting heavier, please consult your doctor for immediate medical advice.

Fever: A temperature greater than 38 degrees is a sign that you could have developed an infection after your procedure. This is extremely rare but you should seek immediate medical advice for treatment.

Localised infection: For your colonoscopy you will have had your medications administered through a special intravenous cannula. Sometimes the area can get sore and infected after the procedure. This may need a topical cream or some antibiotics to treat this. If this happens, please visit your GP for advice and treatment.

Medications

You may resume normal medications after your procedure, unless advised otherwise. If a polyp was removed, do not take aspirin for a week afterwards.

If you take blood thinning medications please restart them on.....

You may take stool softeners and fibre/bran but do not take strong laxatives.

Please ask if you are not sure that a medication will be safe.

When will I get the results?

A Nurse will speak to you before you leave the Gemini Endoscopy Suite and explain:

- what was seen and done during your procedure
- if you will need any further follow up
- that a copy of your report will be sent to your GP today and any results should be with your GP within 2 weeks

What if I need further advice and assistance?

If any of the above symptoms persist or worsen after your test – such as bleeding, pain, temperature and shortness of breath, please follow the instructions below:

- In normal working hours Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm, telephone the Gemini Endoscopy Suite on **01271 349180**
- Outside these hours contact your GP surgery or if in an emergency come to the North Devon District Hospital A&E
- Alternatively telephone NHS Direct on **111**

References

www.bsg.org.uk – British Society of Gastroenterology

www.modern.nhs.uk – NHS Modernisation Agency National Endoscopy Programme

www.grs.nhs.uk – Endoscopy Global Rating Scale

Endoscopy Unit – Gateshead Health NHS Trust

Endoscopy Unit – St George’s Healthcare NHS Trust

Endoscopy Department – North West London Hospitals NHS Trust

Endoscopy Suite – Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust

Hypnovel (Midazolam) information literature

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or e-mail ndht.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at www.careopinion.org.uk.

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