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A guide to...

After care for ERCP
(Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangio-Pancreatography)

Patient information
For patients who have had sedation
Because of the lingering effects of the drugs used it is important that you rest for the remainder of the day and that you have someone to stay with you overnight.

It is also important that you do not drive, return to work, operate machinery, sign legal documents, work at heights (including climbing ladders or onto a chair), take sleeping tablets or drink alcohol for 24 hours afterwards.

For patients who have had an ERCP
You may have a sore throat for a short time after the test. This is normal and should pass within the day. Drinking or sucking a boiled sweet can ease this.

You may now eat and drink normally
If after the test you experience severe tummy pain, develop a temperature and / or become unwell you should seek medical advice.

If you have had a stent inserted and you find that after sometime your urine becomes darker, you develop a temperature, have tummy pain or feel unwell it is possible that your stent may have blocked. You should then seek medical advice.

If you have had a cut made (sphincterotomy) and you notice jet-black stools, fresh blood passing from your back passage, or tummy pain you must seek urgent advice by attending the Accident and Emergency department in Watford General Hospital bringing with you a copy of this leaflet and a copy of your endoscopy report. You must contact:

- Accident and Emergency at Watford on 01923 217256 or your nearest Accident and Emergency.
- Please note: there is no Accident and Emergency at Hemel Hempstead or St Albans Hospitals.

Follow up care
The following arrangements have been made for you:

- You are being discharged back to your GP.
- You need another ERCP in ____________________________
  You will be contacted nearer the time to arrange.
- You require another test (please state).

This appointment will be sent to you in the post.

- You need to be seen in outpatients. This appointment will be sent to you in the post.
- You have been given details of the SOS service by your discharging nurse.

Please note that a copy of your endoscopy report and any specimens taken will be sent directly to the doctor who requested the test and your own GP.

Who can I contact if I have any questions?
If you have any other queries please contact the endoscopy unit on 01923 244366, ext: 3134 (9am – 5pm Monday to Friday).