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Gastroscopy

You have an appointment with Doctor Benhamron for a gastroscopy on the:

If you are unable to attend your appointment, please let us know **at least 72 business hours before** at this number: **514 769-7198**.

You may also call this number for any complementary information.

Gastroscopy is a test performed with a long, flexible, tubular instrument which allows the direct exploration of the lining of the esophagus, the stomach as well as a part of the duodenum. This procedure usually takes between 10 to 15 minutes.

Samples are usually taken during this exploration. Polyps can also be removed, if present.

A sedative injection is given before the test to help relieve apprehension and fear.

A local anesthetic in the form of a spray in the throat is always given a few seconds before the test. This inhibits the normal gag reflex during the introduction of the instrument.

You will be able to return to a regular diet within 40 minutes after the procedure.

Gastroscopy is a very safe procedure. Complications are extremely rare:

- Esophageal perforation or stomach perforation is extremely rare. The consequence is a leak of digestive fluids. These complications are generally treated by aspiration of the fluids until the leak closes completely. Antibiotics or a surgery could be sometimes needed in this situation.

- Bleeding always happens after a biopsy and sometimes after polypectomy. Nevertheless, it is minor and in the majority of cases stops spontaneously. Cauterization is rarely necessary. It is extremely rare that a transfusion be needed.
- Adverse reactions or allergic reactions to the sedative medications can happen rarely.
- A local irritation at the site of the venous puncture for sedative administration can also happen. It generally disappears after a few days or, more rarely, a few weeks.

Some medications should be stopped before the gastroscopy, unless otherwise recommended by your physician:

- Medications containing aspirin (aspirin, asaphen, rivasa, entrophen): **to be stopped 7 days before**
- Plavix (clodiprogel): **to be stopped 7 days before**
- Ticlid (ticlopidine): **to be stopped 7 days before**
- Xarelto, Coumadin or Synthron: **to be stopped 5 days before**
- Eliquis, Pradax, Pradaxa (Dabigatran) : **to be stopped 4 days before**
- Efient (Prasugrel) : **to be stopped 8 days before**
- Brilinta (Ticagrelor) : **to be stopped 3 days before**

You should absolutely always consult your cardiologist to have permission before stopping Plavix, Efient or Brilinta.

There is no specific preparation for the gastroscopy except for fasting 9 hours before the test if it is done in the afternoon. You can drink clear liquids until 4 hours before the test.

Please make sure not to drive a car for 6 hours after the procedure.

Have a good test.