Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) is a procedure used to visualize the gut and surrounding organs using sound waves. EUS is similar to regular ultrasound procedures, however EUS has the advantage of allowing us to visualize the bowel and surrounding organs from the inside.

**WHY DO I NEED IT?**

EUS will aid your doctor in the evaluation of abnormalities of your bowel lining and the surrounding organs. It is used in the staging of cancers of the esophagus, stomach, pancreas and rectum. Such staging will allow oncologists and surgeons to determine the most appropriate way to treat these tumors. Stones in the gallbladder and common bile duct can also be visualized using EUS when they are not well seen on normal ultrasound examinations. Cysts of the pancreas which occur after an episode of pancreatitis can also be drained under EUS guidance. EUS guided celiac plexus blocks (CPN) are done to control the pain associated with chronic pancreatitis and abdominal malignancies.

**PREPARATION**

The examination requires that you have an empty stomach. You should not take any food or drink after midnight if you have a morning examination, or after a clear liquid breakfast (but finish by 9a.m.) if you are scheduled in the afternoon. Essential medications such as insulin or heart pills should be taken, but please call your physician for dosage adjustments prior to the examination. You should also inform the secretary if you are taking Coumadin, as this may interfere with the performance of this test.

**THE PROCEDURE**

You will be given intravenous sedation for this test and will not be able to drive for the rest of the day, therefore you must bring someone with you to drive you home. That driver should stay in our waiting area during your exam.

The ultrasound device is placed at the tip of a flexible tube equipped with a television camera at its end (endoscope) which is passed through your mouth or rectum. This allows us to place the ultrasound device next to the bowel and surrounding organs which allows us to obtain a very detailed picture of the structures in question.

Lesions and surrounding lymph nodes may be biopsied during EUS.

**THE RISKS**

Complications from EUS are rare, but can include bleeding, medication reactions and perforation (hole in bowel).

**AFTER THE EXAM**

After the examination is completed you will be taken to our recovery area until the effects of the intravenous medications have worn off. Your physician will meet with you and your designated driver in order to discuss the results of the test. After you are discharged, you can ordinarily resume your usual diet and normal activities except for driving and operating heavy machinery. The examining physician will send a report to your doctor giving the details of your test.

**WHEN WILL I FIND OUT ABOUT BIOPSY RESULT**

If a piece of tissue is sampled during the procedure, (a biopsy), you will receive a letter or call with the results of the biopsy within 10 to 14 days after the procedure. If the biopsy shows a serious finding we will attempt to contact you by phone as soon as we find out the result.