

UAB MEDICAL WEST

Location: UAB Medical West Hospital - GI Lab
5000 Medical West Way, Bessemer, AL 35022
Medical Office Building (MOB)
Take the MOB elevators to the 2nd Floor / Wild Hyacinth Level
Please check-in at Surgery Registration

ENDOSCOPY

*** Please be advised ***

You must notify our office by phone if you are unable to attend your procedure appointment. No shows will be required to attend a visit to our clinic in order to be rescheduled.

To reschedule or cancel your procedure, we request that you call our GI Scheduling line (205) 481-8424 at least 72 hours in advance.

Medication Instructions:

- Discontinue Blood Thinners
- You will likely need to stop the following blood thinner/anticoagulants prior to your procedure. Contact your prescribing physician for approval before stopping any of these medication:
 - Stop 7 days before procedure - Effient
 - Stop 5 days before procedure - Aspirin, Coumadin (Warfarin), Aggrenox, Brilinta, Plavix
 - Stop 3 days before procedure - Eliquis, Pradaxa, Xarelto, Savaysa
 - ****Call our office ahead of time if you have been advised by the prescribing physician not to stop your blood thinner.****
- Discontinue Iron-Containing Medications 7 days before the test.
- Discontinue GLP-1 injections (not oral) for diabetes or weight loss 7 days before test. (Semaglutide, Tirzepatide, Dulaglutide, Albiglutide, Trulicity, Ozempic, Wegovy, Mounjaro, Zepbound)
- Notify our office if you:
 - Have kidney disease
 - Are on diabetes medication
 - Have an internal defibrillator

Day Before Your Procedure

****DO NOT EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING AFTER MIDNIGHT THE NIGHT BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE.****

DAY OF PROCEDURE:

- DO NOT EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING UNTIL AFTER YOUR ENDOSCOPY
- No tobacco products including cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, vapes or smokeless tobacco.
- No chewing gum or hard candy the day of the test.

If you take blood pressure, heart, or breathing medications, you may take them with a small sip of water at least 2 hours before your appointment time.

Diabetics: Please check your blood sugar the morning of your procedure. Diabetes

medications, including insulin, may not be needed until your procedure is over. If our blood sugar is over 220 the morning of your procedure, please call the GI Lab at (205)481-7325.

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU:

- Current driver's license or other photo ID.
- Insurance card.
- Any copayment required by your insurance.
- Copy of any living will or advance directive. (Optional)
- Bring a LIST of all your medications with dosages.(We are not responsible for any medications brought to appointment.)
- List of any known allergies to medications, etc.
- If you wear dentures, bridges, contact lenses, hearing aids, you may wear them to the hospital. Leave all valuables (jewelry,etc.) at home.

IMPORTANT:

You must have a responsible adult accompany you to the GI Lab, wait there during the procedure, and drive you home after you are discharged.

Your procedure will be cancelled if you do not have someone present in the waiting room to drive you home.

At the Hospital:

- You will need to arrive at the hospital 30 minutes prior to your procedure time.
- Check in for your GI Lab procedure at Surgery Registration on the 2nd floor / While Hyacinth Level of the Medical Office Building (MOB).
- The nurse will admit you to a holding room to prepare you for the procedure. This includes taking a detailed history, providing a gown for your procedure, and starting an IV.
- You will be transported to the procedure room where your gastroenterologist will speak with you before endoscopy is performed. Please tell the doctor before your procedure if you do not want your driver to know the results.
- After your endoscopy, you will be taken to the recovery area where your driver and/or family will join you as you wake up from sedation.
- Unless you have requested otherwise before your endoscopy, your gastroenterologist will talk with you and your driver together about the results of your test.
- Once you have recovered enough to be safely transported home, you will be discharged in the care of your driver.

What is an Endoscopy?

Endoscopy is a test allowing the physician to examine the lining of the esophagus, stomach and upper portion of the small intestine. Patients are routinely sedated for this exam.

The endoscope is a lighted, flexible tube about 1/4" in diameter that is passed through the mouth looking for inflammation, ulcers, tumors, etc. Biopsies (small pieces of tissue) can be obtained during this procedure. These are examined by a pathologist and a written report is sent to our office in 2-5 days. Biopsies are taken for many reasons and do not necessarily mean cancer is suspected.

Why do I need this test?

Endoscopy is an important tool for detecting and evaluating inflammation, ulcers, bleeding, reflux, and other digestive issues.

What are the risks?

Complications of this examination are infrequent but may include bleeding, perforation, reaction to medications, heart/lung complications, and other unpredictable events.