

Upper GI Endoscopy

National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse



U.S. Department
of Health and
Human Services

NATIONAL
INSTITUTES
OF HEALTH

NIDDK
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
DIGESTIVE AND RESPIRATORY
AND ALLERGY DISEASES

What is upper gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy?

Upper GI endoscopy is a procedure that uses a lighted, flexible endoscope to see inside the upper GI tract. The upper GI tract includes the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum—the first part of the small intestine.

What problems can upper GI endoscopy detect?

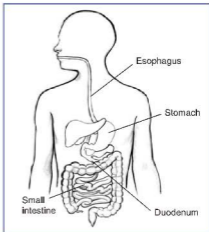
Upper GI endoscopy can detect

- ulcers
- abnormal growths
- precancerous conditions
- bowel obstruction
- inflammation
- hiatal hernia

When is upper GI endoscopy used?

Upper GI endoscopy can be used to determine the cause of

- abdominal pain
- nausea
- vomiting
- swallowing difficulties
- gastric reflux



Upper GI endoscopy is a procedure that uses a lighted, flexible endoscope to see inside the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum.

- unexplained weight loss
- anemia
- bleeding in the upper GI tract

Upper GI endoscopy can be used to remove stuck objects, including food, and to treat conditions such as bleeding ulcers. It can also be used to biopsy tissue in the upper GI tract. During a biopsy, a small piece of tissue is removed for later examination with a microscope.