What is an EGD/Endoscopy?

EGD stands for esophagogastroduodenoscopy. It is also called an *endoscopy* or “getting scoped.” In this procedure, a doctor uses a camera to look in the mouth, down the esophagus (the tube connecting our mouth to our stomach) and into the stomach.

“But why would you need to look down my mouth to understand the health of my liver?”

Over many years, hepatitis C can cause scarring – damage to the liver that makes it stiffer – called *cirrhosis*. If your doctor told you that you may need an endoscopy, she/he may be concerned about cirrhosis of the liver.

![Healthy Liver](image1)

![Liver with Cirrhosis](image2)

With cirrhosis, the blood that travels through the liver can back up and cause the veins to bulge. These bulging veins (called *varices*) can be seen in our esophagus and our stomach. If you have varices but do not treat them, the varices can bleed. If the doctor finds varices, she/he can intervene to reduce the risk of bleeding.

“What is the procedure like?”

Before the procedure, you will take a medication that will make you fall asleep. While you are asleep, the doctor will put a thin, flexible tube with a light and camera into your mouth towards your stomach. If the doctor finds varices, she/he might treat them immediately or recommend a medicine for you to take. You will not wake up until the entire procedure is over and will usually not remember it happening.

“What now?”

Please let your doctor know if you need any help scheduling your procedure.