

Sedation:

The surgical procedures provided at the Centre for Digestive Diseases do not require a general anaesthetic, intravenous Sedation is given for these procedures. The Sedationist will insert a small needle into a vein in the back of your hand or in your arm through which the sedative will be injected. The injection may cause a local reaction. Bruising under the skin may occur, but should not cause permanent damage and is usually not painful. If you are having a gastroscopy procedure, your throat may be sprayed with an anaesthetic agent and may feel numb for a short time.

It is important that you read the information below regarding your procedure(s) and any possible complications that may occur.

Colonoscopy:

This procedure allows the Gastroenterologist to comprehensively examine your large intestine (colon). An endoscope equipped with a video camera is passed via the rectum through the full length of the colon. Biopsies (tissue samples) can be taken for pathology testing and polyps can also be removed during the procedure.

Panendoscopy:

Also known as a Gastroscopy, Panendoscopy allows the Gastroenterologist to comprehensively examine your oesophagus, stomach and duodenum using an endoscope equipped with a video camera. Panendoscopy also allows the Gastroenterologist to take biopsies (tissue samples) for pathology testing and polyps can also be removed during the procedure.

Oesophageal Dilatation:

This procedure is performed to open up a stricture (narrowing) of the oesophagus. A guidewire is passed through the stricture with the flexible tube and then a dilator is passed over the guidewire to open up the stricture. An endoscope is used for examination during this procedure.

Argon Plasma Coagulation (APC):

This procedure allows the Gastroenterologist to seal irregular tissue. It is performed during a panendoscopy or colonoscopy while the patient is sedated. This procedure involves using argon gas and electrical current to seal irregular tissue without any direct contact.

Infrared Coagulation (IRC):

Infrared Coagulation is a widely used method for treating haemorrhoids. This procedure is performed usually after undergoing a colonoscopy while you are still sedated. This procedure involves applying infrared light through the anus to compress and seal haemorrhoid veins.

Complications:

The procedures described above are considered to be safe. However, temporary discomfort or pain may occur following introduction of air into the stomach or bowel. Major complications are rare but can occur. These complications include perforation (puncture) of the oesophagus, stomach, duodenum, small bowel or colon. Haemorrhage (bleeding) following removal of polyps, infection, cardiac or respiratory arrest related to sedation / anaesthesia. If you wish to discuss the potential risks or any issues regarding your procedure(s) in more detail, please ask to speak with the Gastroenterologist.

