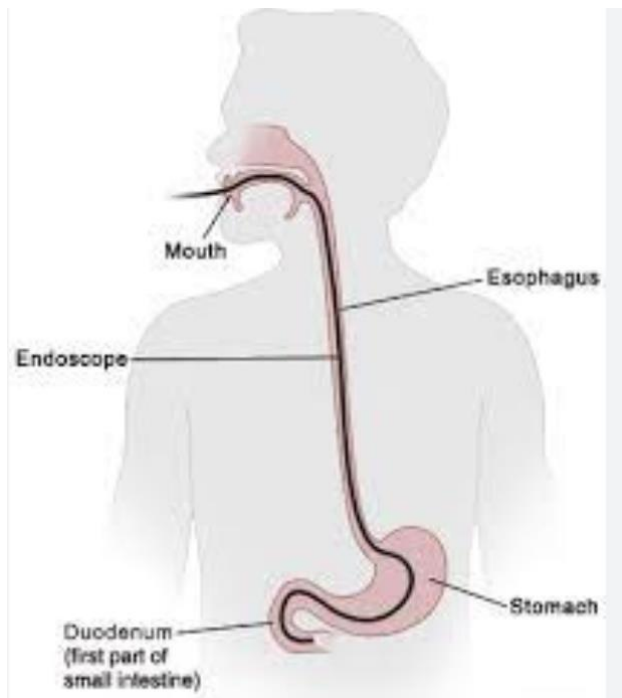# Gastroscopy

Gastroscopy is a medical procedure that involves evaluating the upper gastrointestinal tract with a gastroscope. A gastroscope is a long slender, flexible tube with a camera at the end.

Careful evaluation of oesophagus (food pipe), stomach and small intestine is performed during gastroscopy. The patient is anaesthetized and therefore does not experience any pain or discomfort during the procedure. Small samples of tissue (biopsies) are obtained from oesophagus (food pipe), stomach and small intestine. Blood tests and iron infusion can occasionally be performed at the time of the procedure if discussed previously.

Gastroscopy is a day procedure performed at the Epworth Hospital, Richmond.

Reasons-

Abdominal pain, nausea, iron deficiency, vomiting, growth concerns, removal of foreign body.

Duration-

Approx. 15 mins

Possible Complications-

Gastroscopy is a very safe procedure when performed by doctors with specialised training and experience. A pediatric anesthetist performs the anesthetic to ensure that the patient does not experience any pain or discomfort during the procedure. Although every effort is made to ensure that there are no complications related to the procedure, in rare circumstances some patients may experience certain complications including bleeding, perforation and infection. The Epworth hospital is well equipped to assist in the management of any such issues should they arise.

Preparation

The patient needs to come fasting to the hospital. The anesthetist will advise the families regarding the duration of fasting prior to the procedure. Medications can be taken as usual unless advised otherwise.

Post procedure-

The child is taken to recovery room after the procedure where they are monitored until fully awake. They will be discharged home once they are fully awake and able to eat and drink. The doctor will discuss the findings with the child's guardians following the procedure. Results from biopsy and possible diagnoses will be discussed in the clinic 2 weeks following the procedure.