

# UNDERSTANDING ENDOSCOPY FOR INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

## Endoscopy

This procedure is used to see how badly your child's bowel is inflamed and how much of the bowel is involved.

## Gastroscopy

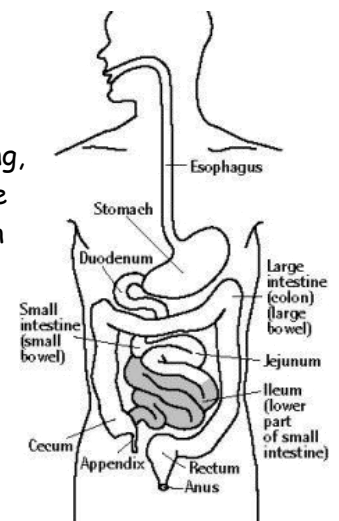
A gastroscopy is a procedure that allows us to look at the esophagus (swallowing tube), stomach and duodenum (the first part of the small bowel). A gastroscope, which is a long, thin, flexible tube about the thickness of your baby finger, is passed through the mouth. Through the tube, the doctor can look at the lining of the esophagus, stomach and duodenum. Small instruments can be passed through the tube to take tiny, painless biopsies (samples of tissue) for study in the lab. Pictures and video can be taken for further study. Polyps (tiny growths) can be removed. Narrow sections (strictures) can be stretched.

Some children have a sore throat for a few days after gastroscopy. Your child may also feel a bit bloated after the procedure. This will go away as your child passes gas.

## Colonoscopy

A colonoscopy is a procedure that allows the doctor to look at the lining of the colon (large bowel). To do this, the doctor uses a colonoscope which is a long, flexible tube slightly larger than your baby finger. The doctor passes this tube through the rectum and into the large bowel. Through the tube, the doctor can pass instruments to take tiny, painless biopsies (samples of tissue) for study in the lab. Pictures and video can be taken for further study. Polyps (tiny growths) can be removed.

The child's large bowel must be empty before this procedure. There is a clean-out routine that must be strictly followed. You will get directions on how to do this.



Both gastroscopy and colonoscopy are done in the Operating Room under general anesthetic. The child will sleep through both procedures. Usually you can take your child home the same day.

## Sigmoidoscopy

A sigmoidoscopy is a procedure that allows us to look at the lining of the rectum and a part of the colon (large bowel). To do this, the doctor uses a sigmoidoscope which is a flexible tube about the thickness of your baby finger. The doctor passes this tube through the anus (the opening of the rectum) and moves it very slowly into the rectum and lower part of the colon. Through the tube, the doctor can pass instruments to take tiny, painless biopsies (samples of tissue) for study in the lab. Pictures and video can be taken for further study. Polyps (tiny growths) can be removed.

The lower part of your child's colon must be empty of stool before we can do this procedure. Your child will be given a Fleet Enema to clean out the colon.

This procedure is done in the GI Lab and takes only about 15 minutes to complete.

