



What is Endoscopic Mucosal Resection (EMR)?

EMR is a procedure to remove large or flat polyps from the large bowel. The procedure is carried out using a colonoscope (long flexible camera). The colonoscope is passed around the bowel to locate the polyp, which is then raised away from the bowel wall using an injection of fluid. This injection makes it easier for the polyp to be removed with the use of a diathermy; you will not feel it being removed.

Why am I having an EMR?

During your previous investigation, it has been discovered that there is a polyp in your large bowel, which the doctor advises that you should have removed by this method. For more information about polyps, please refer to the information given previously.

What is involved?

The EMR procedure is performed during a colonoscopy or flexible sigmoidoscopy. Please see the separate information about these tests. It may take longer than the standard test, but this will depend on the size and position of the polyp. You will need to empty the bowel of stool before the procedure, with bowel preparation. You will need full bowel preparation even if you are only having a sigmoidoscopy, because it is important to ensure the bowel is as clean as possible when removing large polyps. Please follow the instructions given to you by the nursing staff. Occasionally it may be necessary to stay in hospital overnight for observation.

What are the risks?

The EMR carries the same risks as a standard colonoscopy or flexible sigmoidoscopy, which are explained in the separate information sheets. However, because of the technical nature of an EMR, the risk of perforation or bleeding is slightly higher.

- Perforation – this is a tear in the bowel wall, it can happen in 1% of patients, with the highest risk when removing large polyps from the right side of the colon. Some perforations may heal without the need for surgery, but sometimes an emergency operation is required.
- Bleeding – bleeding can occur in up to 5% of patients. This may be immediately during the procedure or up to 14 days afterwards. It may stop of its own accord, without any intervention, but sometimes a blood transfusion or a repeat colonoscopy is required. On occasions, an operation is needed to remove that part of the bowel.
- Incomplete Removal- sometimes the Endoscopist may not be able to remove the entire polyp, in this case another colonoscopy or an operation may be advised.
- We recommend you do not fly for at least two weeks after the procedure, due to potential complications and insurance cover.

Information for Patients

Are there any alternatives?

There are two main alternatives.

- To do nothing and leave the polyp in place, however there is a high risk of a cancer developing from the polyp.
- The polyp could be removed by an operation, by removing the involved part of the bowel. This would carry the risks of a general anaesthetic and surgical complications and the level of these would depend on other medical conditions you may have.

Consent

You will be required to sign a consent form to give permission to have the EMR. The Endoscopist performing the procedure, or a specialist nurse, will go through your consent with you, either in clinic or prior to the procedure.

Contact details:

Solihull Endoscopy Unit

Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm

Excluding Bank holidays

0121 424 5394

An answer phone is available for you to leave your name, telephone number and message. We will return your call.

Heartlands Endoscopy Unit

Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5.30pm - Excluding Bank holidays

Nursing/Medical enquiries

0121 424 0438

Good Hope Hospital - Scoping Suite Treatment Centre

Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5.30pm

Excluding Bank holidays

0121 424 0596

Queen Elizabeth Endoscopy Unit

Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5.30pm

Excluding Bank holidays

0121 371 3833

Our commitment to confidentiality

We keep personal and clinical information about you to ensure you receive appropriate care and treatment. Everyone working in the NHS has a legal duty to keep information about you confidential.

We will share information with other parts of the NHS to support your healthcare needs, and we will inform your GP of your progress unless you ask us not to. If we need to share information that identifies you with other organisations we will ask for your consent. You can help us by pointing out any information in your records which is wrong or needs updating.

Additional Sources of Information:

Go online and view NHS Choices website for more information about a wide range of health topics <http://www.nhs.uk/Pages/HomePage.aspx>

Information for Patients

You may want to visit one of our Health Information Centres located in:

- Main Entrance at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital Tel: 0121 424 2280
 - Treatment Centre at Good Hope Hospital Tel: 0121 424 9946
 - Clinic Entrance Solihull Hospital Tel: 0121 424 5616
- or contact us by email: healthinfo.centre@heartofengland.nhs.uk.

PATIENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Your Feedback is important to us. Please use the QR code below to complete our patient feedback survey, and let us know how we can improve our services for you.



If you require this information in another format, such as a different language, large print, braille or audio version please ask a member of staff or email: interpreting.service@uhb.nhs.uk