

Answers to Your GI Questions

Q: What is Gastroenterology?

A: Gastroenterology (gās-tro-in'tě-rol-uh-jē) (GI) is the medical study of the digestive system. Gastroenterology focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of various problems of the esophagus, stomach, small bowel, liver, pancreas, gallbladder and colon.

Q: What is Gastrointestinal (GI) Endoscopy?

A: Gastrointestinal endoscopy is the visualization of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract by using a long, thin, flexible scope.

Q: If I have to have an endoscopy procedure, will it hurt?

A: Patients having endoscopy procedures receive I.V. sedation. The amount and type of sedation used varies with each individual and is based on age, weight, history and the person's tolerance to pain. While you may feel some cramping, bloating or minor discomfort, you should not experience any pain. Many patients have no recollection of their procedure afterward.

Q: Are Galen's gastroenterologists board-certified physicians?

A: Yes. All Galen Gastroenterology physicians are Diplomates of the American Board of Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology.

Q: What insurance programs do you accept?

A: Galen accepts most major insurance plans. A Galen staff member will discuss insurance

coverage with you when your appointment is scheduled.

Q: How long does it take to get an appointment with you?

A: Appointments are scheduled through your gastroenterologist's office. Appointments can usually be scheduled within one to two weeks. If your problem is of an urgent nature, we will offer an appointment as soon as possible.

You will receive a phone call from our office regarding your procedure. We will need to obtain a brief medical history, including any allergies, medications that you currently take and any previous surgeries you have had. If you do not receive a call from us two to three days prior to your procedure, please call us at 423-308-0390 Monday through Friday from 7 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Q: When will I receive the results of my procedure?

A: Immediately. Your doctor will speak with you before you go home and in many cases can give you a preliminary result before you leave. If biopsies were taken or polyps removed, you will receive results from your physician in about two weeks.

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