

Glossary of terms used in Gastroenterology

Balloon Dilation – During an esophageal balloon dilation procedure, the endoscope is gently inserted through the mouth and into the esophagus until the stricture is located. A balloon dilator is then advanced through the endoscope and into the middle of the stricture. The balloon device is inflated by injecting sterile saline. The inflated balloon exerts a large amount of pressure outward thereby stretching (dilating) the narrowed area of the esophagus.

Biopsy – A biopsy is a sample of tissue taken from the body in order to examine it more closely. A biopsy helps your doctor distinguish between benign and malignant (cancerous), or abnormal tissues. Your doctor might order one even if he or she does not suspect cancer.

Bravo pH monitoring – Bravo® pH monitoring is a capsule-based test for identifying the presence of acid reflux. Information is collected over multiple days, which allows the doctor to evaluate reflux symptoms by determining the frequency and duration of acid flowing back up into the esophagus. The test is used to confirm if the patient's symptoms are caused by gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).

Colonic Polypectomy – During a colonoscopy, a doctor can find and remove any polyps in the large intestine. The removal of polyps causes no pain, and keeps cancer from developing. Tiny forceps are used to take a biopsy, or tissue sample, of anything that looks out of the ordinary.

Colonic Stent Placement – For stent placement in the gastrointestinal tract a therapeutic endoscope with a wide channel is used so that the stent can pass through the scope. A colonic stent is a self-expanding wire mesh tube that is designed to hold open a blockage in the bowel.

Colonoscopy – A thin scope used to examine the rectum, and entire large intestine and a small portion of the small intestine. This scope is used to screen for colon cancer. Able to remove polyps and perform other interventions as needed, depending on patient needs.

Diverticulum/Diverticula – Bulging sacs or small pouches that can appear in the lining of your large intestine. The condition is often referred to as diverticulosis. Diverticulitis occurs when these sacs get acutely infected or inflamed.

EGD – Esophagogastroduodenoscopy – A thin scope used to examine the esophagus, stomach and first portion of the small intestine.

ERCP – Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography - Looking with a special side viewing scope into the common bile duct, usually for retrieval of gallstones.

Esophageal manometry studies – Manometry measures the pressures and the pattern of muscle contractions in your esophagus. Abnormalities in the contractions and strength of the muscle or in the sphincter at the lower end of the esophagus can result in pain, heartburn, and/or difficulty swallowing. Esophageal manometry is used to diagnose the conditions that can cause these symptoms.

Esophageal stent placement – An esophageal stent is a hollow tube that can be placed in the area of the tumor. It makes it easier to swallow. During stent placement, a balloon will be used to expand the part of your esophagus narrowed by a tumor. The stent will then hold it open.

Esophagitis – Esophagitis is any inflammation or irritation of the esophagus. The esophagus is the tube that sends food from your throat down to your stomach. Common causes include acid reflux, side effects of certain medications, and bacterial or viral infections. Reflux is when the stomach contents and acids back up into the esophagus.

Flexible Sigmoidoscopy – Flexible sigmoidoscopy is a test that uses a flexible, narrow tube with a light and tiny camera on one end, called a sigmoidoscope or scope, to look inside the rectum and the lower, or sigmoid, colon. Flexible sigmoidoscopy can show irritated or swollen tissue, ulcers, and polyps—extra pieces of tissue that grow on the inner lining of the intestine.

GERD – Gastro esophageal reflux disease – a condition where stomach acids repeatedly regurgitate into the esophagus causing a burning pain in the chest. This condition may lead to Barrett’s Esophagus, which is a risk factor for esophageal cancer.

H-Pylori (Clo-Test) – Infection with *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) is the cause of most stomach and duodenal ulcers. *H. pylori* also causes some cases of non-ulcer dyspepsia. Infection with *H. pylori* can be confirmed by a test done from a biopsy sample taken during a gastroscopy (endoscopy).

PEG tube placement – PEG stands for percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy, a procedure in which a flexible feeding tube is placed through the abdominal wall and into the stomach. PEG allows nutrition, fluids and/or medications to be put directly into the stomach, bypassing the mouth and esophagus.

Polyp - Polyps are abnormal growths of tissue that can be found in any organ that has blood vessels. Most polyps are noncancerous (benign). However, because polyps are due to abnormal cell growth, they can eventually become cancerous (malignant). Whether or not a polyp is cancerous can be determined with a biopsy.

Reflux – Acid reflux is when some of the acid content of the stomach flows up into the esophagus - into the gullet, which moves food down from the mouth.

Savary Dilation – Similar to balloon dilation, but instead of a balloon, a series of three long plastic dilators are introduced over a guidewire that has been placed endoscopically in gradually larger sizes. The pressure exerted from the dilators stretches the esophagus to allow easier swallowing.

Schatzki Rings (esophageal rings) – A thin band of tissue that encircles the lining of the esophagus. Sometimes, this band of tissue is thicker and more fibrous, but narrower than a ring.

Small Bowel Enteroscopy – A small bowel enteroscopy allows a physician to navigate the entire small bowel from either an oral or rectal approach, enabling them to perform both diagnostic and therapeutic techniques within the small bowel without the need of an open surgical procedure.

Spyglass DS – The SpyGlass DS System, used for cholangiopancreatography allows a single operator to perform procedures, as well as, guide devices to examine, diagnose and treat pancreaticobiliary conditions.

Ulcer – A peptic ulcer is an open sore in the upper digestive tract. There are two types of peptic ulcers, a gastric ulcer, which forms in the lining of the stomach, and a duodenal ulcer, which forms in the upper part of the small intestine.