

BARRETT'S ESOPHAGUS

Endoscopic Eradication: Details

If you have highly abnormal cells in your tissue sample, or **high-grade dysplasia**, your doctor may suggest an endoscopic eradication therapy. **These therapies not only kill the cells that are not normal but can also cause your body to start making normal esophageal cells.**

- ▶ *These therapies can be more intense than just taking daily medication and are done at a hospital or an outpatient endoscopy center by a gastroenterologist.*
- ▶ *You will get medicine to numb your throat*
- ▶ *You will get medicine to help you relax, so you should not feel pain during the procedure.*
- ▶ *If you have any questions about these therapies, be sure to bring them up with your doctor.*

Common forms of endoscopic eradication therapies are:

Radiofrequency ablation (RFA)

- This therapy **uses radio waves to kill pre-cancer and cancerous cells** in the Barrett's tissue.
- An electrode mounted on a balloon or an endoscope makes heat to kill the Barrett's tissue and pre-cancer and cancerous cells.
- **Complications may include:**
 - Chest pain.
 - Cuts in the lining of your esophagus.
 - Strictures (narrowing of the esophagus).



The information provided by the AGA Institute is not medical advice and should not be considered a replacement for seeing a medical professional.

Endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR)

- Your doctor will lift the Barrett's tissue, inject a solution underneath or apply suction to the tissue, and then **cut the tissue off**. The doctor then removes the tissue with an endoscope.
- Gastroenterologists do this procedure at certain hospitals and outpatient centers.
- Before doing an endoscopic mucosal resection for cancer, your doctor will do an **endoscopic ultrasound**.
- Doctors sometimes combine endoscopic mucosal resection with radiofrequency ablation or photodynamic therapy.
- **Complications may include:**
 - Bleeding or tearing of your esophagus.

Photodynamic therapy (PDT)

- This therapy **uses a light-activated chemical, an endoscope and a laser to kill pre-cancer cells** in your esophagus.
- A doctor injects the chemical into a vein in your arm, and you return 24 to 72 hours later to finish the procedure.
- **Complications may include:**
 - Sensitivity of your skin and eyes to light for about six weeks after the procedure.
 - Burns, swelling, pain and scarring in nearby healthy tissue.
 - Coughing, trouble swallowing, stomach pain, painful breathing and trouble breathing.

