

ENDOSCOPIC RETROGRADE CHOLANGIOPANCREATOGRAPHY (ERCP)

What is the Purpose of an ERCP?

ERCP is an endoscopic procedure used to dye into the bile and pancreas ducts. X-ray pictures are then taken.

- ERCP **can see if there is a blockage or narrowing in your biliary or pancreatic ducts** caused by stones, tumors or scarring.
- ERCP is frequently performed to find the cause of abnormal liver-chemistry tests and to follow up on an abnormal ultrasound, CT scan or MRI exam.
- During an ERCP, if any blocks are found, **tools can be passed through to relieve the block**. Stones can be removed from the common bile duct or pancreatic duct and blocks can be dilated, biopsied and/or stented.
- ERCP can relieve jaundice (when your skin and/or the whites of your eyes turn yellow) caused by blocked bile ducts.
- ERCP can help find the cause of pancreatitis, inflammation (swelling and redness) of the pancreas, and prevent future attacks.
- ERCP may help you avoid surgery in some cases.

