

RISKS

Complications are very rare (less than 1:10,000 examinations). Complications that may occur are as follows:

1. Bleeding.

This is a rare complication following upper endoscopy and biopsy. There is a slightly higher risk of this occurring if you require oesophageal dilatation or polypectomy.

2. Perforation (Hole in the Gut wall).

Damage to the oesophagus and stomach very rarely occurs with a routine endoscopy (1:50,000 normal upper endoscopies). There is a higher risk if there is a narrowing of the oesophagus. The risk of perforation with a tight stricture is approximately 1:500. This life threatening complication will require a prolonged hospital stay and usually an operation.

3. Reaction to anaesthetic.

1. pain in the arm at the injection site; 2. bruising or infection where the cannula is inserted; 3. nausea and vomiting; 4. altered heart rates; 5. dizziness or fainting; 6. allergic reaction; 7. aspiration of vomit from the stomach into the lungs; 8. heart attack; 9. stroke and death (extremely rare).

4. Teeth damage – to decayed, loose teeth or dental bridges rarely can occur.