

DALJIT S. BAL, M.D.

What are the risks with a colonoscopy and esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD)?

In general, these procedures are very safe exams. Overall, complications appear in fewer than 1% of patients. Most complications during the procedure are not potentially fatal. If a problem occurs, it may involve hospitalization and surgery. Before the exam, a consent form will be discussed with the patient by the support staff. If any issues or problems arise, these will be reviewed with our provider prior to starting the procedure. Possible but rare risks may include:

- Infection
- Bleeding
- Perforation
- In rare cases, death

Medicine reactions connected with the IV medication can occur. These can involve, but are not limited to, allergic reactions, difficulty breathing, impacts on the heart and blood pressure, and irritation of the vein used to deliver the medication.

Perforation can occur. This could be recognized at the time of the procedure, or it may not be noticeable until later in the evening. In the majority of instances, a puncture will need surgery and hospitalization. This is an unusual problem, even when growths are removed.

If you start to experience symptoms such as worsening abdominal pain or fever, it is crucial that you contact our office immediately at 623-773-1161.

Just as with most procedures, these are not perfect. There is a tiny, recognized risk that deformities, such as tumors and cancers, can be missed at the time of the procedure. It is essential to maintain appointments with our office as advised and notify Dr. Bal of any recent or lasting symptoms.