

# Therapeutic Ercp

## What Is Therapeutic Ercp?

Therapeutic ERCP (endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography) is a specialised procedure that combines endoscopy and X-ray imaging to treat conditions affecting the bile ducts, pancreatic ducts, and gallbladder. Unlike diagnostic ERCP, which is used to identify problems, therapeutic ERCP focuses on performing treatments during the same session.

## Why Is Therapeutic Ercp Performed?

Therapeutic ERCP is commonly used to treat conditions such as:

- **Gallstones** blocking the bile ducts
- **Biliary strictures** (narrowing of the bile ducts)
- **Chronic pancreatitis**
- **Bile duct tumours**
- **Obstructions** causing symptoms like jaundice or abdominal pain

## What Procedures Can Be Performed During Therapeutic Ercp?

Therapeutic ERCP allows doctors to carry out a range of treatments, including:

- **Removing gallstones** from the bile ducts to restore normal bile flow
- **Placing stents** to relieve obstructions in the bile or pancreatic ducts
- **Dilating strictures** to improve bile or pancreatic flow
- **Draining abscesses** or cysts
- **Taking biopsies** of abnormal tissue for further analysis

## What To Expect During Therapeutic Ercp

- **Preparation:** You will need to fast for 6-8 hours before the procedure. Inform your doctor of any allergies, especially to contrast dye or anaesthesia, and discuss any medications you are taking.
- **Sedation or Anaesthesia:** The procedure is usually performed under conscious sedation or general anaesthesia to keep you comfortable.
- **Procedure:** A flexible endoscope is passed through your mouth, oesophagus, stomach, and into

the duodenum. A contrast dye is injected to visualise the ducts on X-ray, and the necessary treatment is performed.

- **Duration and Recovery:** The procedure typically takes 30-90 minutes, depending on the complexity of the treatment. Afterward, you will be monitored for a short period to ensure there are no immediate complications.

## Benefits Of Therapeutic Ercp

Therapeutic ERCP provides a minimally invasive solution to treat many conditions in the bile ducts and pancreas. It can often reduce or eliminate the need for more invasive surgeries, leading to quicker recovery and symptom relief.

## Risks And Complications

While therapeutic ERCP is generally safe, there are some potential risks, including:

- **Pancreatitis** (inflammation of the pancreas)
  - **Bleeding** or infection
  - **Perforation** (a small tear in the digestive tract)
- Your doctor will explain these risks and take precautions to minimise them.

## Why Choose Birmingham Liver Clinic?

At Birmingham Liver Clinic, our experienced team of gastroenterologists and hepatologists specialise in advanced therapeutic procedures like ERCP. With state-of-the-art facilities and a patient-centred approach, we provide expert care tailored to your needs.

## Contact Us

If you've been advised to undergo therapeutic ERCP or have concerns about your digestive health, contact Birmingham Liver Clinic today. Our team is here to help you achieve better health and wellbeing through expert diagnosis and treatment.