

ENDOSCOPIC MUCOSAL RESECTION (EMR)

Gastrointestinal endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR) is a procedure to remove cancerous or other abnormal lesions from the digestive tract.

Endoscopic mucosal resection is performed with an endoscope, which is a long, thin, flexible tube equipped with a light, video camera and other instruments. The procedure can be performed during an upper endoscopy (EGD) or colonoscopy, depending on where the lesion is located.

During EMR of the upper digestive tract, the endoscope is passed through the mouth and esophagus to reach the abnormality, which may be located in any of the upper GI organs: the esophagus, the stomach or the duodenum (upper part of the small intestine).

When endoscopic mucosal resection is used to remove lesions from the colon, the endoscope is guided through the anus to the area of the colon with the abnormality.

In many cases, an endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) may also be used in conjunction with EMR in order to determine the depth of the lesion in the intestinal wall. Ask your physician if this is necessary.

Although endoscopic mucosal resection is primarily a treatment procedure, it is also used to retrieve tissues for use in diagnosis. If cancer is present, EMR can help determine if the cancer has invaded tissues beneath the digestive tract lining.