

## Patient information

# Pharyngoscopy and Oesophagoscopy (examination of the Oesophagus)

Your Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon has recommended that you have a pharyngoscopy and oesophagoscopy. This means an examination of the oesophagus (the tube connecting your throat to your stomach) which allows the doctor to examine your nose, throat, voice box and upper gullet. A long thin tube about the thickness of a straw with a mini video camera built into its tip, called an endoscope, is used for this procedure.

These two areas are both very sensitive to touch. Therefore, the examination will be carried out with you asleep under a general anaesthetic.

There are many reasons for the examination of the area. The most common one being difficulty with swallowing.

On the day of your procedure you must not have anything to eat or drink for six hours prior to you going to the operating theatre. The pharyngoscopy and oesophagoscopy takes approximately 10 to 20 minutes. On some occasions very small samples may be taken for analysis.

Your examination will be performed through the mouth with you asleep under general anaesthetic. You will wake up after the procedure either in the recovery room or on the ward.

You will not be permitted to eat or drink immediately after your examination until a chest x-ray is performed. Following a satisfactory chest x-ray you will be given water only for several hours before returning to a normal diet.

You may get to go home the day following your procedure, after your surgical team has seen you.

**If you require any further advice or information, please contact the ENT ward via the Hospital Switchboard on 01284 713000.**