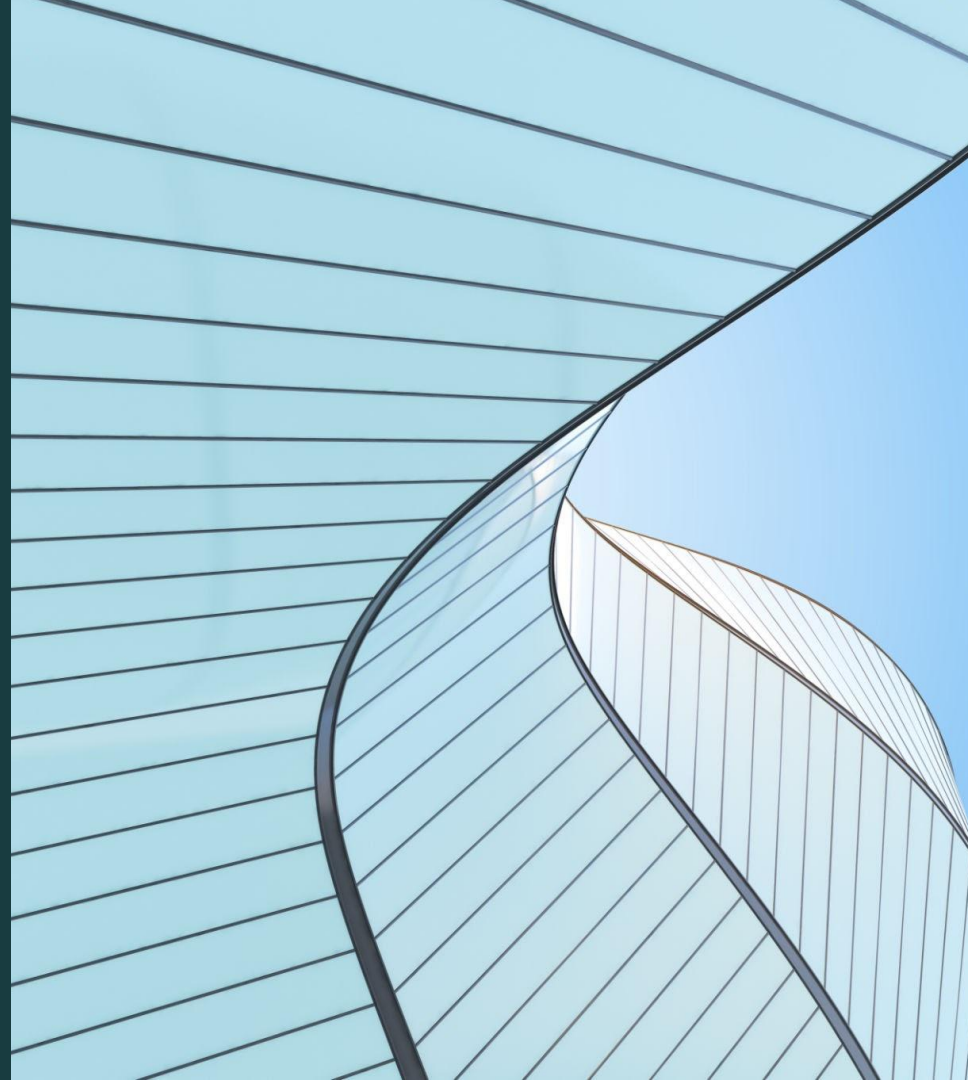


January 25, 2026

# Barrett's Esophagus

## *Nursing Focused*

Mandy Durant RN BScN



# Disclosures

- I have no financial relationships including receipt of honoraria
- I have no Membership on advisory boards or speaker's bureaus
- I have no patents for drugs or devices
- I have no other disclosures

# Objectives:

- Identify Barrett's Esophagus with the endoscopist
- Prepare for and help the endoscopist retrieve subsequent biopsies as per the endoscopist request
- Understand the therapies used to treat Barrett's Esophagus and be able to educate patients on them upon discharge.

# What is Barrett's Esophagus?

- Occurs when the normal lining of the esophagus changes due to chronic exposure to stomach acid, creating tissue that resembles the lining of the small intestine.
- This can increase the risk of developing esophageal adenocarcinoma
- Pathology reports classify this as: Non-Dysplastic Barrett's, Barrett's with Low Grade Dysplasia(LGD), or Barrett's with High Grade Dysplasia (HGD)
- Patients with non-Dysplastic Barrett's need monitoring via biopsies
- Patients with Dysplasia usually need treatment for example RFA or Cryo therapy

# Barrett's esophagus Pathophysiology Pathway

- GERD, acute then chronic esophagitis



- Barrett's esophagus  
(Non dysplastic)



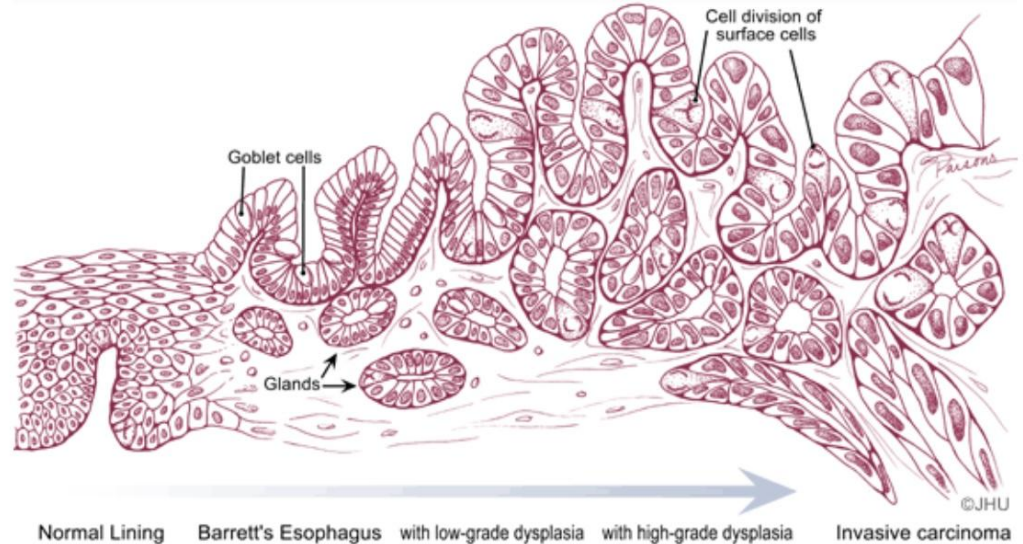
- Low Grade dysplasia



- High Grade dysplasia



- Adenocarcinoma



## Management of Patients with Early Esophageal Cancer, Dysplastic, and Non-Dysplastic Barrett's Esophagus

Effective Date: February, 2024



<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/cancer/if-hp-cancer-guide-gi011-barretts-esophagus.pdf>

# How to help your endoscopist identify Barrett's

- Use acetic acid or Lugols/iodine for chromoendoscopy
- Recognize normal vs Barrett's tissue endoscopically with NBI
- Barrett's can appear circumferentially, in tongues, or in islands or any combination of the three

# Chromoendoscopy what is it and why do we use it?

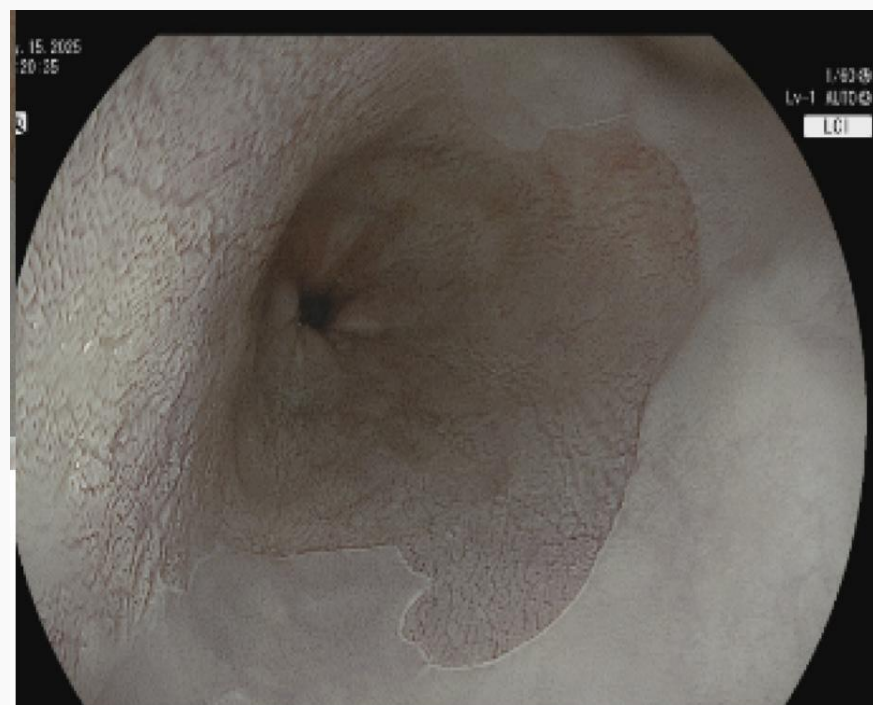
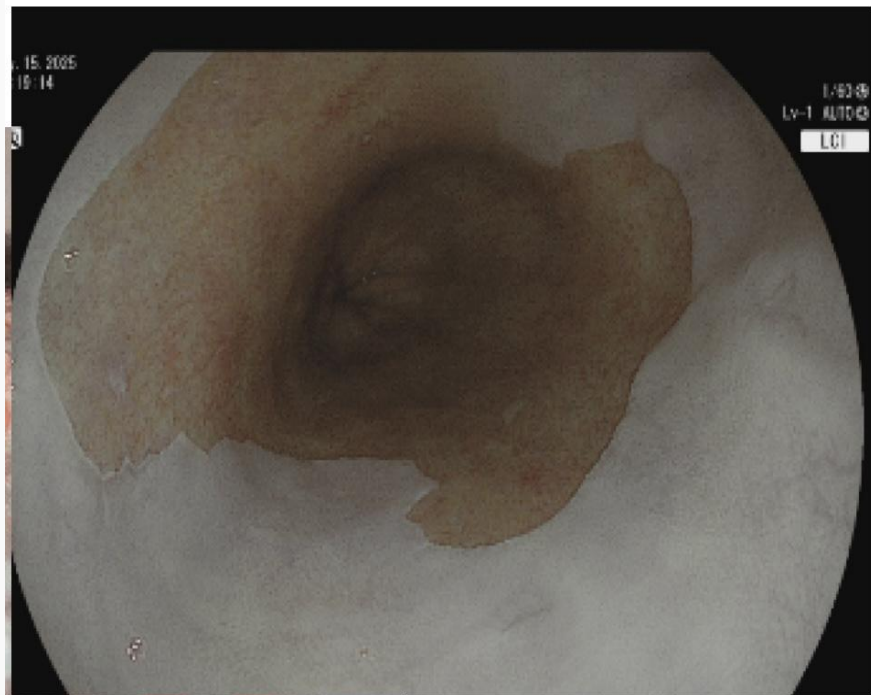
- Chromoendoscopy is used to assist in identifying abnormal or dysplastic tissue
- For Barrett's acetic acid or iodine/Lugols is commonly used
- acetic acid needs to be at 2-3%. We use 2.5% (20 ml SW and 20 ml Acetic acid 5%)
- iodine/ Lugols needs to be diluted (4 ml iodine to 16 ml SW)
- Either formula causes abnormal tissue to be more pronounced
- When performing chromoendoscopy ensure it is before biopsies or your patient will be very uncomfortable



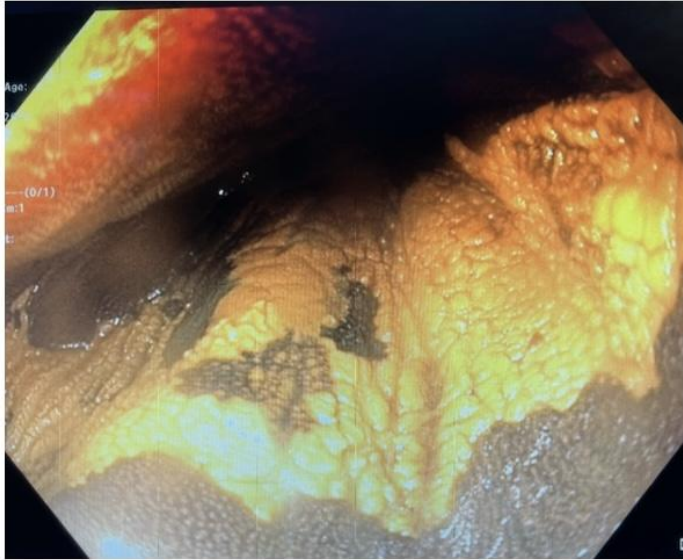
# Nurse's role in chromoendoscopy

- HOB > 30 degrees
- mix either acetic acid or iodine in syringe
- using a spray catheter slowly instill down the esophagus thru the working channel
- document amount used in chart

## Pre and post acetic acid



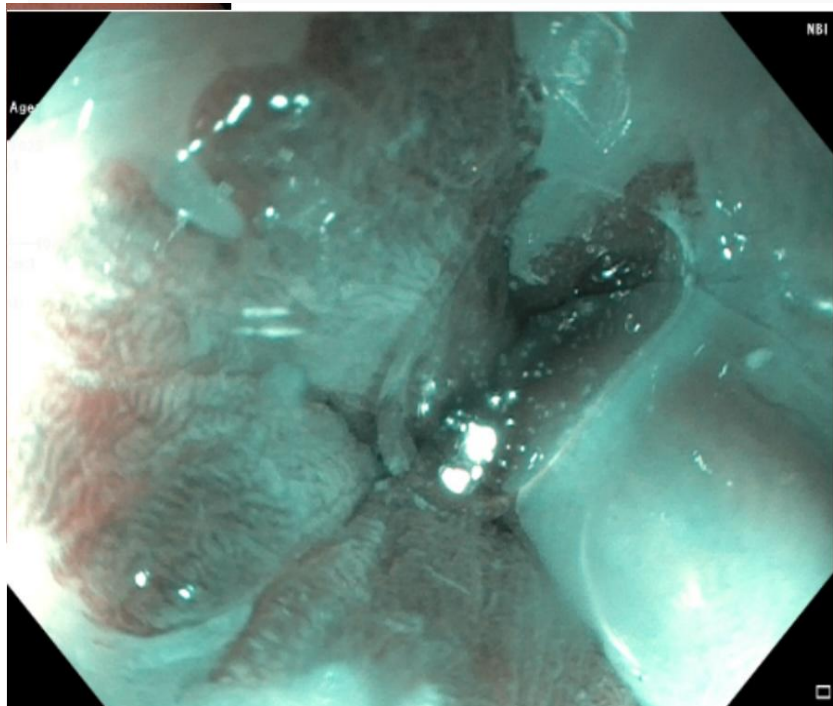
- Lugol's



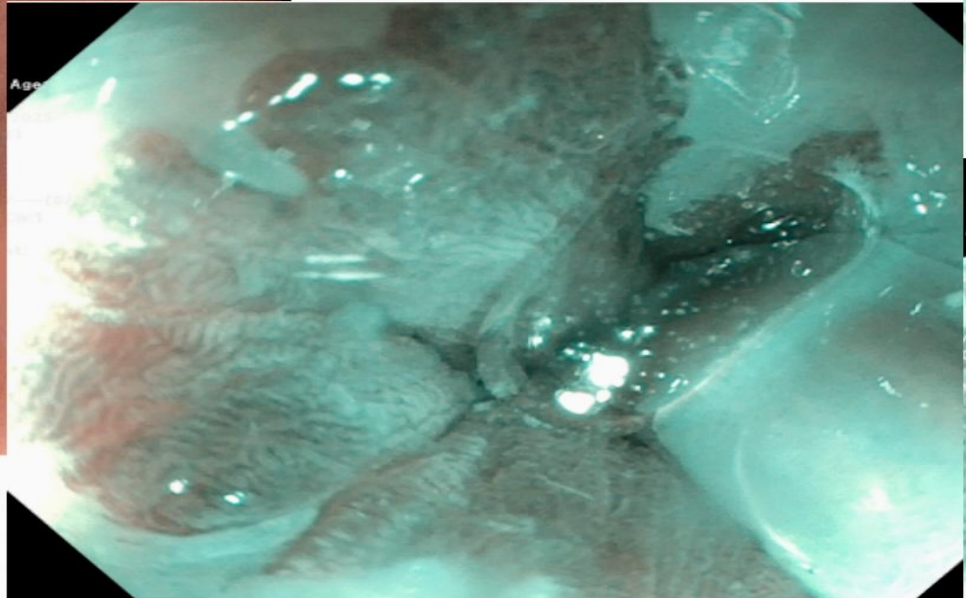
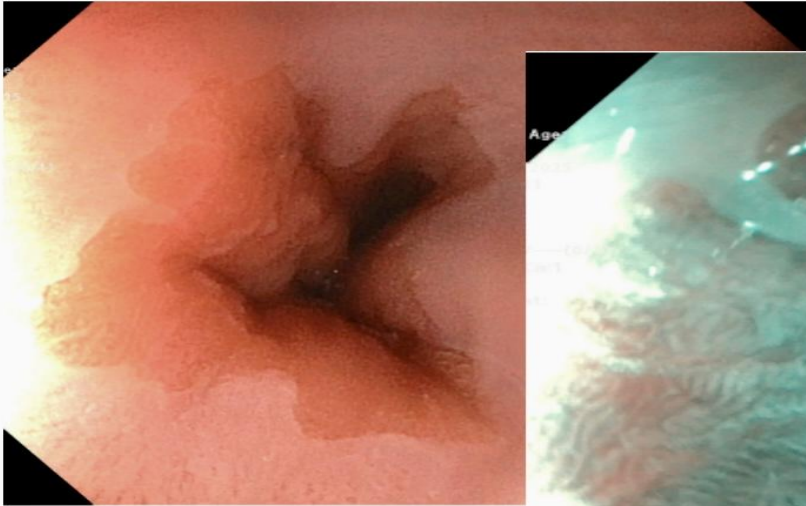
- Acetic acid



## Pre and post using Acetic acid and NBI



# NBI





# Common terms used to describe Barrett's in charting

- LGD- low grade dysplasia
- HGD- High Grade dysplasia
- DP- Diaphragmatic pinch
- TGF- Top of the Gastric Folds
- C- Circumferential height of Barrett's from TGF
- M- Maximal height of Barrett's (also referred to as the tongue) from TGF
- I- Island of Barrett's from TGF
- Both M & I can have an o'clock for location

A Pt with C2M5I7 has circumferential Barrett's from TGF for 2 cm a maximal tongue for 3 cm more and an Island 7 cm from TGF

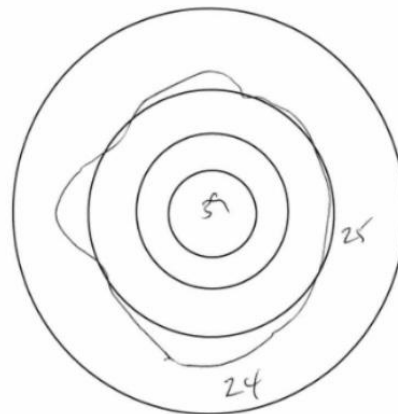
Diaphragmatic Pinch	Top of the Gastric Folds	Circumferential extent	Maximal extent	Islands
40 cm	37 cm	25 cm	24 cm	cm
			6 0'clock	0'clock
			cm	cm
			0'clock	0'clock
			cm	cm
			0'clock	0'clock
Length of Hiatus Hernia	TGF is at	C 12	M 13	I
cm	cm			

Hill Grade Classification: I II III IV

Inlet patch 17

AFS Hiatus Grade: L 3 D 2 F +

Today's Pathology			
Bottle	Level cm	0'clock position	Pathology results
1	37		
2	35		
3	33		
4	31		
5	29		
6	27		
7	25		
8	24		
9	20		
10			



# Preparing for and documenting Biopsies

- Biopsies will be targeted to areas that showed signs of Barrett's
- these can be numerous if your C,M, & I numbers are high
- often 4 quadrants/o'clocks every 1 cm
- these need to be documented the same way in the specimens
- for example 36cm esophagus at 3 o'clock or 3603 esophagus
- this allows all staff to know exactly where dysplasia is located in pathology



# My patient has dysplasia now what?

- There are several therapies used to treat LGD/HGD in Barrett's
- RFA, Cryogenic and EMR/ ESD
- RFA– Radiofrequency Ablation (hot)
- Cryotherapy– Freezing the tissue (cold)
- EMR– Endoscopic Mucosal Resection (cut)
- ESD–Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection (cut)
- currently done in major centres and under anesthesia

# RFA- Radiofrequency Ablation

Various catheters are used either thru or on the scope to use heat to ablate the dysplasia



*HALO 360+ catheter is introduced over a guidewire*



*Ablation Effect*



*HALO 90 catheter is mounted on the endoscope*

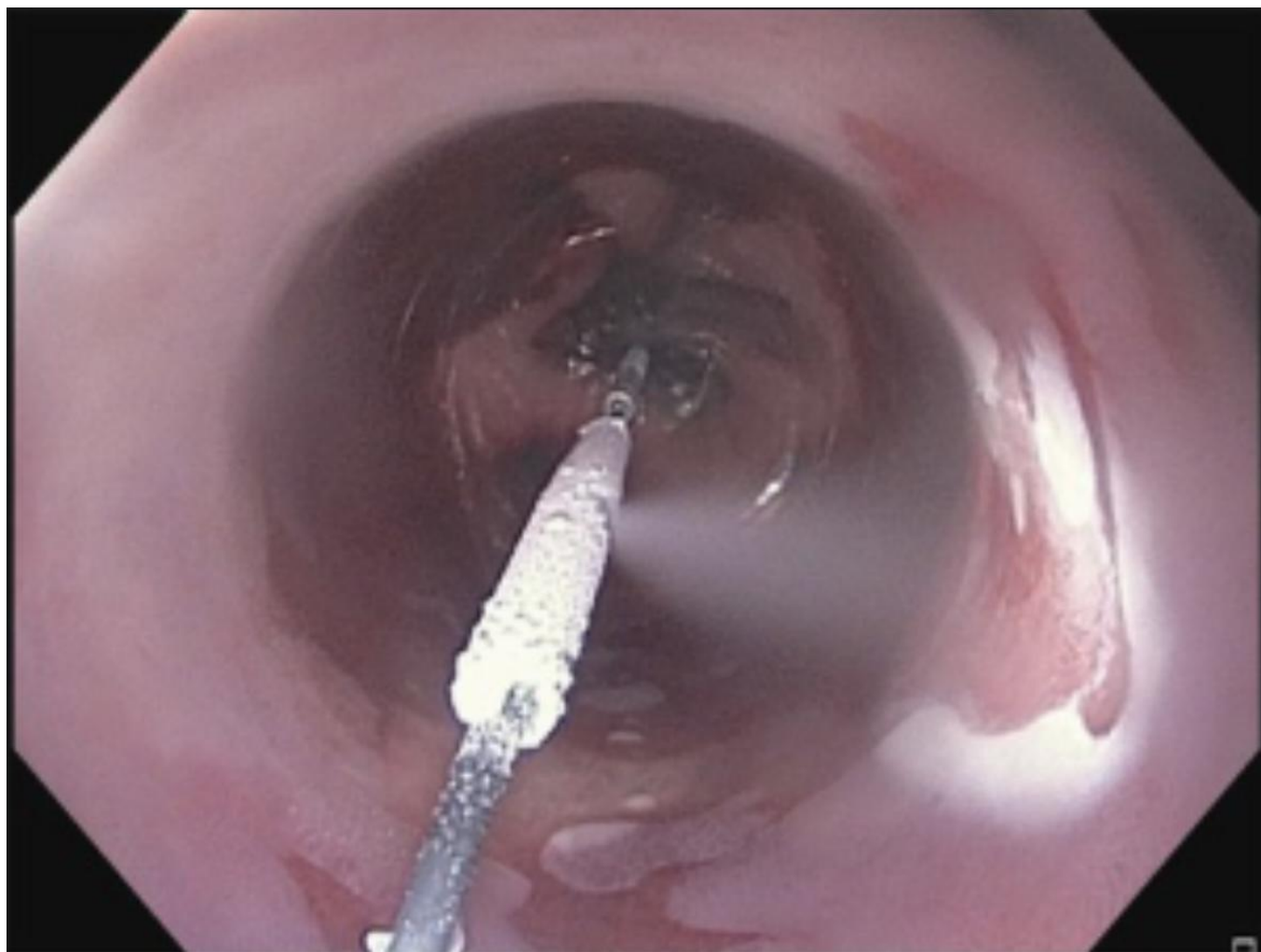


*Ablation Effect*

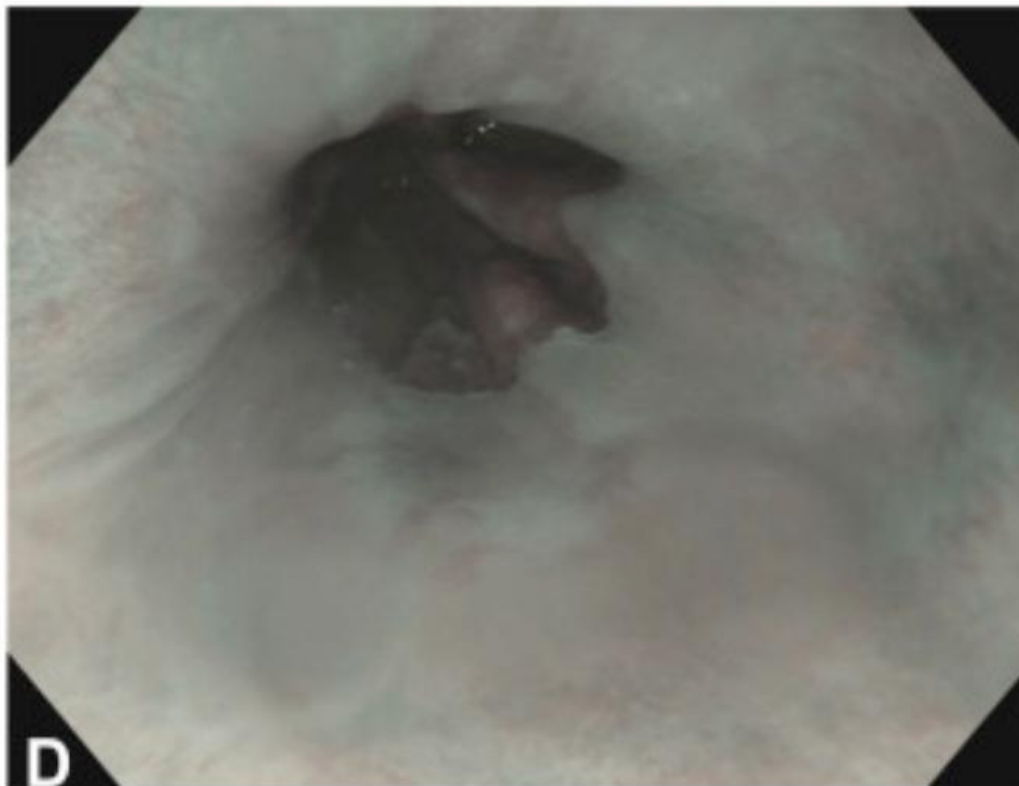
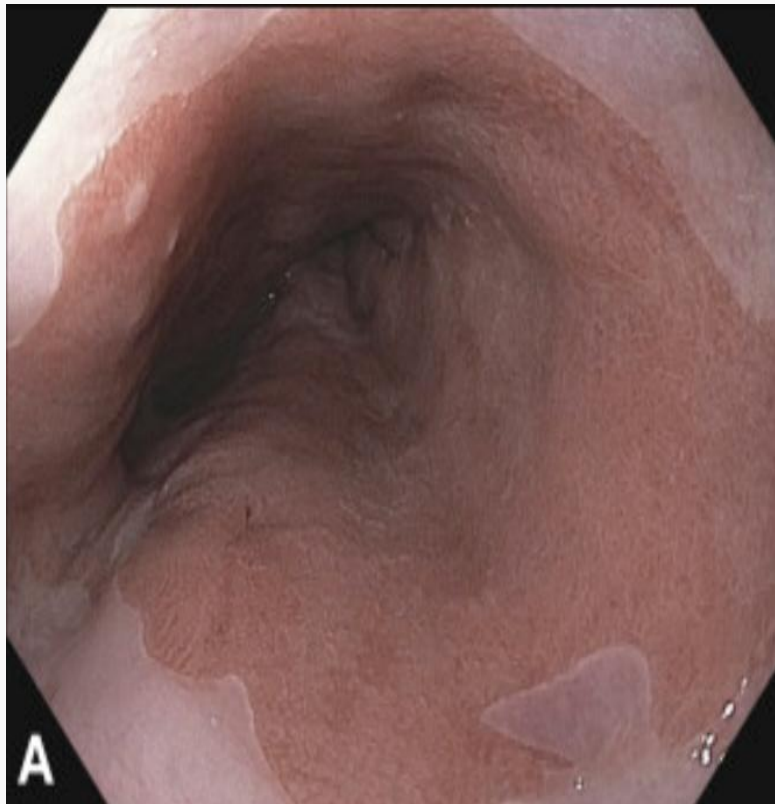


# Cryotherapy

Cryotherapy uses a catheter inside a balloon to deliver cold to ablate the dysplasia

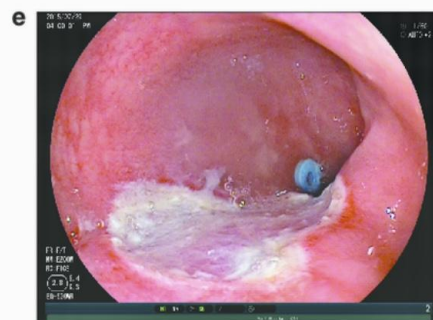
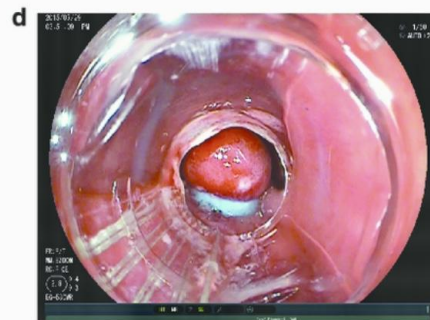
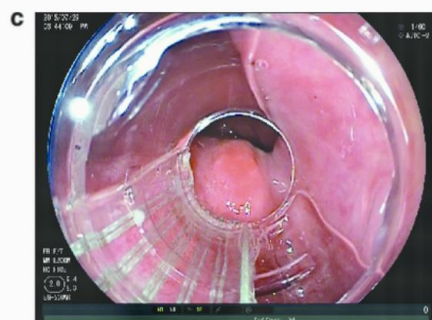
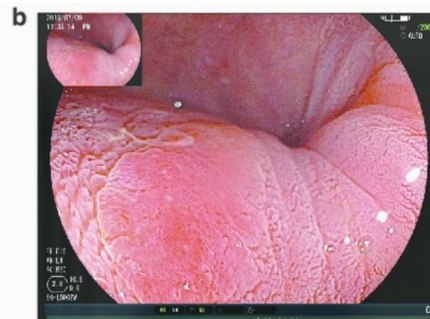


## Barrett's esophagus pre and post cryotherapy

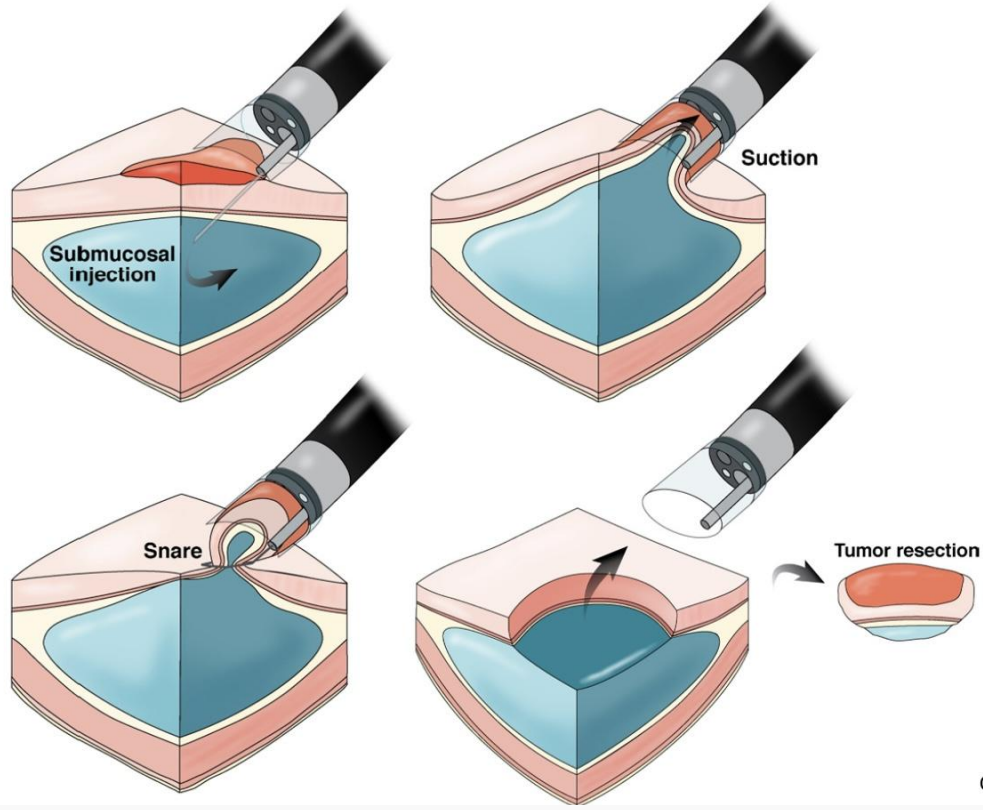


# EMR- Endoscopic Mucosal resection

Mucosa is pulled up and resected in areas of dysplasia.







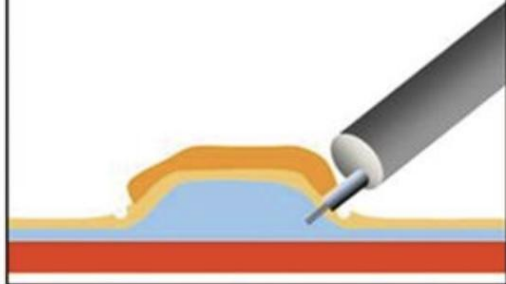
# ESD- Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection

Similar to EMR but goes deeper than the mucosal layer, often larger in size and removed in one piece.

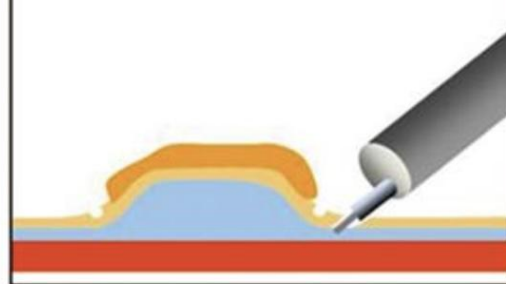
Marking



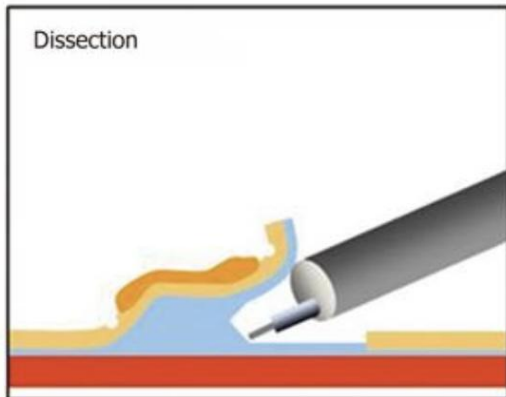
Injection



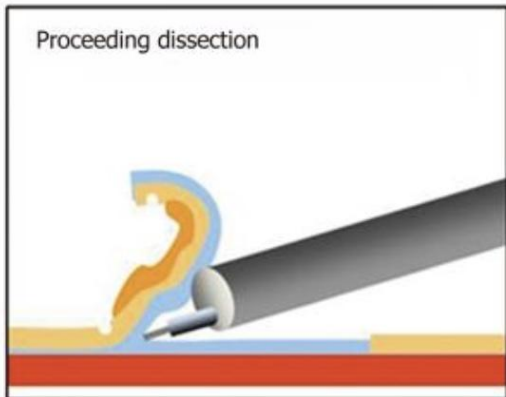
Cutting mucosa



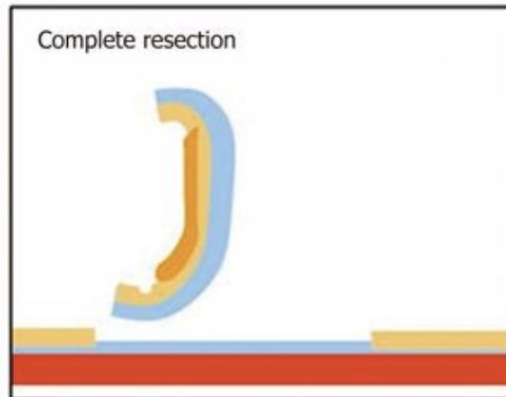
Dissection

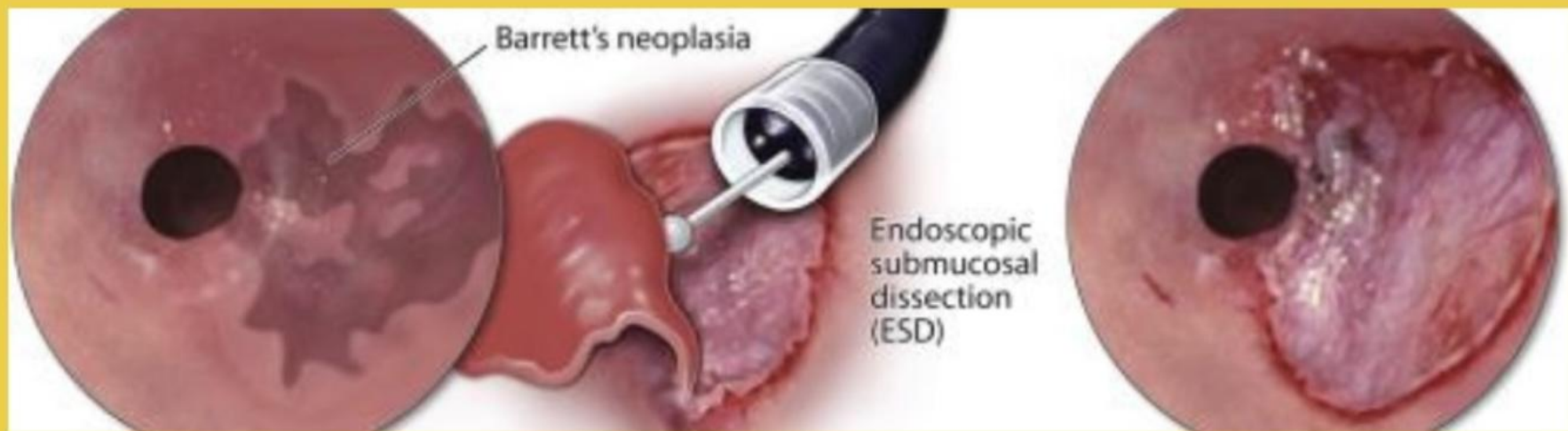


Proceeding dissection

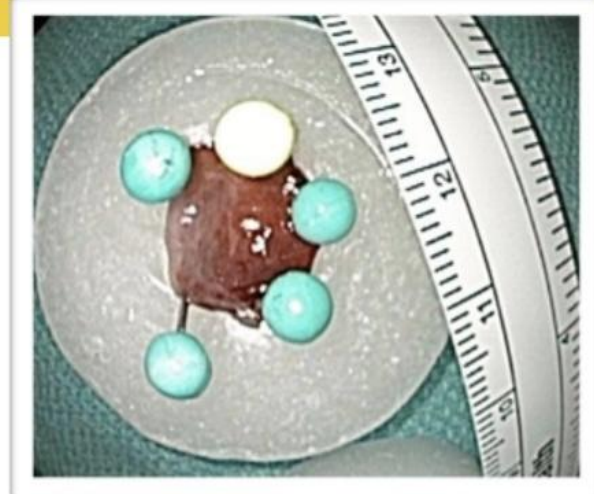


Complete resection





## Method of pining large specimens for pathology





## ENDOSCOPIC ABLATION PROGRAM DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

☐ Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA)

☐ Endoscopic Mucosal Resection (EMR)

### MEDICATIONS

The following medications are taken by mouth as ordered by the physician. Take your medication while sitting. Remain in a sitting position for at least 30 minutes after taking your medication.

- ☐ Proton pump inhibitor \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Almagel and 2% Xylocaine mixture which is a freezing medication. It will numb the esophagus temporarily to relieve pain.
- ☐ Sulcrate suspension 1 gram, 4 times a day (after each meal and at bedtime) or as prescribed to coat the esophageal wall to protect it from gastric acid.
- ☐ If you are taking anticoagulant/antiplatelet medication restart \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Avoid non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications (such as Advil, Motrin, Celebrex) for 7 days following treatment.
- ☐ Oral Viscous Budesonide take as prescribed by physician. Please take this medication every morning and every evening for 2 weeks. Please do not eat or drink anything for 30 minutes after taking this medication.
- ☐ Acetaminophen extra strength (with or without codeine) every 4 hours for pain.
- ☐ Anti-emetic (anti-nausea) medication such as Gravol for nausea as needed.
- ☐ Milk of Magnesia 30 mL twice a day as needed for constipation.

# Post treatment diet and instructions

- Clear fluids for the rest of that day
- Full Fluids for the next 24 hours
- Soft diet for the next 7-14 days
- no carbonated drinks, no acidic food or drinks, moderately temperature for all food or drink

# Risks and what to watch for post treatment

Out of town Patients are advised to stay in the major city for 24- 48 hrs post procedure

Pain can be common post ablation or EMR treatment usually relieved with acetaminophen and pink lady

Perforation is a risk of these procedures so patients are advised to attend to local ER if the post treatment medications have not provided relief, have become sharp in nature or have SOB

Bleeding is another potential complication- patients are advised to go to the local ER if any signs of melena or weakness/dizziness



# Thank you

Questions? Comments?

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