

POWER SPIRAL ENTEROSCOPY

Enteroscopy is both a diagnostic and interventional tool that helps medical experts to assess internal functioning of digestive tract besides treating problems. In this procedure, an endoscope -- a thin, flexible tube with a camera at the end – is inserted, which inflates one or two balloons for providing a clearer view of the oesophagus, stomach and small intestine. However, in some cases only a section of small intestine can be seen, making diagnosis and treatment a tough challenge. This is also a time-consuming procedure which may take up to 3 hours, thereby causing discomfort to patients.

Enteroscopy makes it possible to diagnose or evaluate diseases within the body without making an incision. It's commonly used to detect problems in the small intestine or stomach.

In order to make the entire procedure easy for the patients and to aid doctors, Apollo Multispeciality Hospitals, Kolkata, has recently introduced Power Spiral Enteroscopy, a motorised type of endoscope equipped with a special motor which goes into the 22-ft long small intestine and inspects the insides of the intestine. It not only aids in treating complex conditions in the small intestine but also improves diagnosis and patient outcomes for chronic and complex conditions.

A Power Spiral Enteroscopy can access internal parts of the small intestine, enabling surgeons to manoeuvre deeper, thereby, providing a clearer picture of the functioning of the organ. It also facilitates exact positioning of the endoscope during interventions and is easy to use with other endotherapeutic devices. It also helps surgeons reach lesions more accurately and the entire procedure can be completed within 45 minutes. With Power Spiral Enteroscopy, surgeons are able to arrest bleeding in the small bowel quickly and can even remove foreign bodies, if any.

A Power Spiral Enteroscopy should be done to evaluate medical conditions by getting to look at the gastrointestinal tract and examine the small intestine. Enteroscopy is, therefore, a form of endoscopy that uses a thin, flexible scope to capture video images of the small intestine and is used to treat conditions on the spot.

The procedure

The procedure is performed with the patient lying on the left side. The physician administers something to help the patient relax and remain comfortable throughout the procedure and medication is administered through an intravenous line. The endoscopist advances the scope to the small intestine to inspect the area. The enteroscope has a lens and a light source that allows the endoscopist to get video images of the intestinal lining. The image on the monitor is highly magnified so that the endoscopist can see minuscule changes in the tissue. The enteroscope contains channels that allow the endoscopist to obtain biopsies, remove polyps and treat any bleeding.

None of these activities are painful since the lining of the intestine does not experience pain. There is little discomfort after the procedure and most people experience fatigue.

Benefits

- To quickly reach far into the intestine to examine, and where possible, treat the condition with precise control.
- Doctors can perform a biopsy, remove small tumours and polyps, treat bleeding and dilate (open) intestinal narrowing. Spiral enteroscopies can be performed in as little as twenty minutes but may require more time depending on the condition.
- The small bowel- a site for critical diseases such as Crohn's Disease, tuberculosis, ulcers, arteriovenous malformations to name a few- has been difficult to access until recently, and treatments in the area have traditionally been surgical. With a small bowel enteroscopy, the first (duodenum) and second (jejunum) parts of the small bowel can be seen. Spiral enteroscopy is a minimally invasive technique to perform therapeutic procedures in the small bowel without invasive surgery.