Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

About Your Barrx™ Ablation

This information will help you get ready for your Barrx ablation procedure at MSK.

Barrx ablation is a procedure used to treat Barrett's esophagus. Your esophagus is the tube that carries food and liquids from your mouth to your stomach. Barrett's esophagus is caused by years of damage to the lining of your esophagus. Barrett's esophagus can develop if you have gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). This is a disorder where stomach acid flows back into your esophagus, causing heartburn, redness, and swelling.

In Barrett's esophagus, the cells lining your esophagus become abnormal (not normal). These abnormal cells can turn into cancer. Your healthcare provider can stop these cells from turning into cancer by destroying them with a Barrx ablation procedure.

Read *Barrett's Esophagus* (www.mskcc.org/pe/barretts-esophagus) to learn more about this condition.

About your Barrx ablation

You will have your Barrx ablation during an upper endoscopy procedure. For the upper endoscopy, your healthcare provider will use a flexible tube called a gastroscope to look at the inside of your esophagus on a television monitor. Barrx ablation uses radiofrequency energy (heat) to kill the abnormal cells. Killing these cells can prevent the tissue from turning into cancer. Once the abnormal cells are gone, new, healthy cells can replace them.

1 week before your Barrx ablation

Ask about your medicines

You may need to stop taking some of your usual medicines before your procedure. Or, you may need to take a different dose (amount) than usual. Talk with your healthcare provider about how to take your medicines before your procedure. Do not change how you take your medicines without talking with a healthcare provider.

This section lists some examples of medicines, but there are many others. **Make sure your care team knows all the prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, and dietary supplements you take.** A prescription medicine is one you can only get with a prescription from a healthcare provider. An over-the-counter medicine is one you can buy without a prescription.



It's very important to take your medicines and supplements the right way in the days before your procedure. If you don't, we may need to reschedule your procedure.

Anticoagulants (blood thinners)

A blood thinner is a medicine that changes the way your blood clots. Blood thinners are often prescribed to help prevent a heart attack, stroke, or other problems caused by blood clots.

If you take a blood thinner, ask your healthcare provider what to do before your procedure. They may tell you to stop taking the medicine a certain number of days before your procedure. This will depend on the type of procedure you're having and the reason you're taking a blood thinner.

Here are some examples of blood thinners. There are others, so be sure your care team knows all the medicines you take. **Do not stop taking your blood thinner without talking with a member of your care team.**

• Apixaban (Eliquis®) • Aspirin • Celecoxib (Celebrex®) • Cilostazol (Pletal®) • Clopidogrel (Plavix®) • Dabigatran (Pradaxa®) • Dalteparin (Fragmin®) • Dipyridamole (Persantine®) • Edoxaban (Savaysa®) • Enoxaparin (Lovenox®) • Fondaparinux (Arixtra®) • Heparin injection (shot)	• Meloxicam (Mobic®) • Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®) and naproxen (Aleve®) • Pentoxifylline (Trental®) • Prasugrel (Effient®) • Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®) • Sulfasalazine (Azulfidine®, Sulfazine®) • Ticagrelor (Brilinta®) • Tinzaparin (Innohep®) • Warfarin (Jantoven®, Coumadin®)

Other medicines and supplements can change how your blood clots. Examples include vitamin E, fish oil, and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). Ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®) and naproxen (Aleve®) are examples of NSAIDs, but there are many others.

Read *How To Check if a Medicine or Supplement Has Aspirin, Other NSAIDs, Vitamin E, or Fish Oil* (www.mskcc.org/pe/check-med-supplement). It will help you know which medicines and supplements you may need to avoid before your procedure.

Diabetes medicines

You may be taking insulin or other diabetes medicines. If so, talk with your MSK healthcare provider and the healthcare provider who prescribes it. Ask them what to do before your surgery or procedure. You may need to stop taking the medicine or take a different dose (amount) than usual. You may also need to follow different eating and drinking instructions before your surgery or procedure. Follow your healthcare provider's instructions.

Your care team will check your blood sugar levels during your surgery or procedure.

GLP-1 medicines for weight loss

It's important to tell your healthcare provider if you take a GLP-1 medicine. You must follow special eating and drinking instructions before your surgery or procedure. **It is very important to follow these instructions if you have taken a GLP-1 medicine at any time in the last 30 days. If you do not follow them, your surgery or procedure may be delayed or canceled.**

- **Start following a clear liquid diet at 6 a.m. the day before your surgery or procedure.** Do not eat any solid food. Read *Clear Liquid Diet* (www.mskcc.org/pe/clear-liquid-diet) to learn more.
- **Stop drinking 8 hours before your arrival time.** Do not eat or drink anything after this time, including clear liquids. You can have small sips of water with your medicines.

To learn more, read *Eating and Drinking Before Your Surgery or Procedure When Taking GLP-1 Medicines* (www.mskcc.org/pe/eat-drink-glp1).

Here are some examples of GLP-1 medicines. There are others, so be sure your care team knows all the medicines you take. Sometimes, these are prescribed to help manage diabetes or other conditions. Other times, they're prescribed for weight loss.

• Semaglutide (Wegovy®, Ozempic®, Rybelsus®) • Dulaglutide (Trulicity®)	• Tirzepatide (Zepbound®, Mounjaro®) • Liraglutide (Saxenda®, Victoza®)

Get a letter from your healthcare provider, if needed

If you have an automatic implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (AICD), have had recent chest pain, or have recently fainted, you will need to get a letter from your cardiologist (heart doctor) before you have this procedure.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a recent stroke or seizure or if you can't walk up 1 flight of stairs without having trouble breathing.

Arrange for someone to take you home

You must have a responsible care partner take you home after your procedure. A responsible care partner is someone who can help you get home safely. They should be able to contact your care team if they have any concerns. Make sure to plan this before the day of your procedure.

If you don't have a responsible care partner to take you home, call one of the agencies below. They'll send someone to go home with you. There's a charge for this service, and you'll need to provide transportation. It's OK to use a taxi or car service, but you still need a responsible care partner with you.

Agencies in New York

VNS Health: 888-735-8913

Caring People: 877-227-4649

Agencies in New Jersey

Caring People: 877-227-4649

3 days before your Barrx ablation

You will get a call from an endoscopy nurse. They will review the instructions in this guide with you and ask you questions about your medical history. The nurse will also review your medicines and tell you which ones to take the morning of your procedure.

The day before your Barrx ablation

Note the time of your procedure

A staff member will call you after noon (12 p.m.) the day before your procedure. If your procedure is scheduled for a Monday, they'll call you on the Friday before. If you do not get a call by 7 p.m., call 212-639-5014.

The staff member will tell you what time to get to the hospital for your procedure. They'll also remind you where to go.

Instructions for eating

Important: If you take a GLP-1 medicine, do not follow these instructions. Follow the instructions in *Eating and Drinking Before Your Surgery or Procedure When Taking GLP-1 Medicines* (www.mskcc.org/pe/eat-drink-glp1) instead.



Stop eating at midnight (12 a.m.) the night before your surgery or procedure. This includes hard candy and gum.

Your healthcare provider may have given you different instructions for when to stop eating. If so, follow their instructions. Some people need to fast (not eat) for longer before their surgery or procedure.

The day of your Barrx ablation

Instructions for drinking

Important: If you take a GLP-1 medicine, do not follow these instructions. Follow the instructions in *Eating and Drinking Before Your Surgery or Procedure When Taking GLP-1 Medicines* (www.mskcc.org/pe/eat-drink-glp1) instead.

Between midnight (12 a.m.) and 2 hours before your arrival time, only drink the liquids on the list below. Do not eat or drink anything else. Stop drinking 2 hours before your arrival time.

- Water.
- Clear apple juice, clear grape juice, or clear cranberry juice.
- Gatorade or Powerade.
- Black coffee or plain tea. It's OK to add sugar. Do not add anything else.
    - Do not add any amount of any type of milk or creamer. This includes plant-based milks and creamers.
    - Do not add flavored syrup.

If you have diabetes, pay attention to the amount of sugar in your drinks. It's easier to control your blood sugar levels if you include sugar-free, low-sugar, or no added sugar versions of these drinks.

It's helpful to stay hydrated before surgeries and procedures, so drink if you're thirsty. Do not drink more than you need. You'll get intravenous (IV) fluids during your surgery or procedure.



Stop drinking 2 hours before your arrival time. This includes water.

Your healthcare provider may have given you different instructions for when to stop drinking. If so, follow their instructions.

Things to remember

- If you wear contact lenses, wear your glasses instead. Wearing contact lenses during this procedure can damage your eyes. You can't wear your contact lenses in the procedure room.
- Don't put on any lotion or cream on your chest or arms. This could stop the EKG electrodes from sticking to your body properly.
- Leave valuable items (such as credit cards, jewelry, and your checkbook) at home.

What to bring

- ☐ A list of the medicines you take at home, including the dose.
- ☐ Your rescue inhaler (such as albuterol for asthma), if you have one.
- ☐ A case for your glasses.
- ☐ Your Health Care Proxy form and other advance directives, if you have completed them.

Where to go

Your procedure will take place at one of these locations:

- **David H. Koch Center**
  530 East 74th Street
  New York, NY 10021
  Take the elevator to the 8th floor.
- **Endoscopy Suite at Memorial Hospital (MSK's main hospital)**
  1275 York Avenue (between East 67th and East 68th Streets)

New York, NY 10065
Take the B elevator to the 2nd floor. Turn right and enter the Endoscopy/Surgical Day Hospital Suite through the glass doors.

Visit www.msk.org/parking for parking information and directions to all MSK locations.

Once you're in the hospital

You will be asked to say and spell your name and birth date many times. This is for your safety. People with the same or a similar name may be having surgery on the same day.

Get dressed for surgery

When it's time to change for your procedure, you will be taken into a private room, and you will get a hospital gown, robe, and nonskid socks to wear.

Meet with your healthcare team

You will meet with a nurse before your procedure who will review your medical history with you. You will also meet the anesthesiologist (the doctor who will give you anesthesia). Then you will sign the consent form with the healthcare provider who will be doing the procedure. The healthcare provider will explain the procedure to you and answer all your questions.

Get ready for your procedure

When it's time for your procedure, you will be brought into the procedure room. Then you will be attached to equipment that monitors your heart, breathing, and blood pressure. You will receive oxygen through your nose. A mouth guard will be placed over your teeth to protect them.

Once you are comfortable, you will get anesthesia through your IV, and you will fall asleep.

During your procedure

Once you're asleep, your healthcare provider will pass the endoscope through your mouth and down your esophagus. While looking through the endoscope, your healthcare provider will treat the abnormal cells in your esophagus with radiofrequency ablation.

The procedure takes 30 to 60 minutes, depending on the size of the area being treated.

After your Barrx ablation

In the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU)

When you wake up after your surgery, you will be in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU). A nurse will be monitoring your body temperature, pulse, blood pressure, and oxygen levels.

Your nurse will take out your IV. If there's someone waiting with you, your nurse will explain your discharge instructions to both of you before you go home.

Managing your symptoms

After your Barrx ablation, you may have:

- A sore throat.
- Chest discomfort.
- Trouble or pain with swallowing.
- Nausea (feeling like you might throw up).
- Vomiting (throwing up).

These symptoms should get better each day.

Let your nurse know if you have any of these symptoms. They can help you manage them. If you take anticoagulant, diabetes medicine, or both, your healthcare provider will let you know when you can start taking them again.

At home

Eating and drinking

It's important to follow these guidelines for eating and drinking after your procedure:

- Don't drink alcohol for 24 hours after your procedure.
- For the first 2 days after your procedure, you can drink liquids and eat soft foods, as tolerated. If you don't have trouble eating soft foods, you can start eating everything you would normally eat starting 3 days after your procedure.
    - Some examples of soft foods are liquids, mashed potatoes, pasta, oatmeal, applesauce, scrambled eggs, yogurt, pudding, and ice cream.

When to call your healthcare provider

Call your healthcare provider if you:

- Have a fever of 101 °F (38.3 °C) or higher.
- Have chest pain.
- Have pain or trouble swallowing that's severe, getting worse, or lasts more than 24 hours.
- Have nausea or vomiting.
- Feel like food is stuck in your throat after you swallow it.
- Feel weak, like you're going to faint, or both.
- Have any other questions or concerns.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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