Double Balloon Assisted Enteroscopy

What is a Double Balloon Assisted Enteroscopy?
A Double Balloon Assisted Enteroscopy (DBE) is a procedure that lets your doctor look inside your body and examine your small intestine using a scope. A balloon alternately inflates and deflates the scope to help move it forward through your small intestine. The scope is inserted either through the mouth or through the colon depending on the area of the small bowel that needs to be examined.

This procedure requires sedation and can take several hours.

How Do I Prepare?
- On the day before your procedure, eat a regular breakfast, a light lunch, and a light dinner. For light meals, eat foods low in protein and carbohydrates. Avoid fatty, greasy and fried foods.
- You must not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before procedure.
- You must have someone to drive you home after your test, because the medication used to help you relax or sleep will keep you from being able to drive for a day.

What Can I Expect During the Procedure?
- DBE is usually done in an endoscopy suite or operating room.
- After your vital signs are taken, an IV (intravenous) line will be placed in your arm. This allows your doctor to give medications to relax you during the procedure.
- A nurse or doctor may spray your throat or ask you to gargle with some medicine and swallow it. The medicine numbs your throat, and it may taste bitter.
- The scope does not enter your airway and it will not interfere with your ability to breathe.
If necessary, small pieces of tissue (biopsy) or a sample of cells (cytology) will be taken through the instrument. This will not hurt.

How Long Will the Procedure Take?
The procedure usually lasts a few hours.

What Can I Expect After the Procedure?
• After the procedure, you will be in recovery for about 90 minutes.
• You may experience a sore throat after the procedure if the scope is introduced through the mouth.
• Most patients are able to go home and able to eat that day. Some patients who experience any difficulties in recovery may need to stay overnight in the hospital for observation.
• You may also feel drowsy from the sedative, so you should sit up slowly.
• You must have a responsible adult to drive you home. Do not drive, operate dangerous machinery, or drink alcohol for 24 hours after your procedure.

What are the Risks?
Complications are uncommon, particularly when highly trained and experienced physicians perform the procedure. Possible complications include:
• bleeding (at the site of a biopsy or polyp removal)
• reaction to the sedative medication
• complications from pre-existing heart or lung disease
• a tear in the lining of the digestive tract (perforation)
• infection

What if I Have Questions or Concerns?
If you have questions, please call the GI center at 716-845-4010. The center is open Monday - Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm. Your call will be answered even if the center is closed. You can also reach Roswell Park 24/7 at 716-845-2300. If it is determined you need to be seen, we may ask you to come to our Assessment and Treatment Center (ATC), which is open 24/7. You need a referral from a provider (MD, NP, PA) to be seen; the ATC is not a walk-in clinic.

When Should I Call the Doctor?
Call your doctor immediately if you have:
• a fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher or fever with chills
• trouble swallowing
• increasing throat, chest, or abdominal pain
• unusual blood in your stool
• coughing or spitting up blood
• difficulty breathing (If you feel like you cannot get any air, call 911, or go to the nearest Emergency Department.)