

When your symptoms or diagnostic tests suggest a problem in your upper or lower gastrointestinal tract, you may need an endoscopic ultrasound (EUS). The experienced gastroenterologists at Pioneer GI Clinic frequently perform EUS because ultrasound creates images revealing details that don't show up in other types of imaging. EUS allows the team to diagnose diseases and evaluate cancer tumors. If you have questions or need to schedule an appointment, call our Pioneer GI Clinic in Anchorage, Alaska.

What is EUS?

EUS combines endoscopy with ultrasound to create detailed images of your gastrointestinal tract and nearby organs. During EUS, your provider uses an endoscope that contains an ultrasound probe.

After guiding the slim, narrow scope through your GI tract, your provider positions the scope near the targeted area. The probe sends out high-frequency sound waves that bounce off structures and return to the probe. Then the probe sends the information to a computer that produces images.

What structures does a EUS target?

You may have an upper or lower EUS.

Upper EUS

This procedure examines your upper GI tract, including your esophagus, stomach, and the upper part of your small intestine (the duodenum). An upper EUS also creates images of your gallbladder, pancreas, and lungs.

Lower EUS

This EUS produces images of your rectum and large intestine, or colon.

When would I need EUS?

Your provider performs EUS to diagnose the cause of symptoms such as abdominal pain, nausea, and unexplained weight loss. They also recommend EUS to evaluate the extent of an existing disease and to verify the results of other diagnostic tests.

A few examples of the conditions diagnosed during EUS include:

- Barrett's esophagus
- Pancreatitis
- Pancreatic cysts
- Bile and pancreatic duct stones
- Lymphoma
- Neuroendocrine tumors
- Liver masses
- Cancer

The team at Pioneer GI Clinic often performs EUS to diagnose cancer in your esophagus, pancreas, lungs, stomach, rectum, and colon. EUS creates such detailed images that your provider can precisely grade cancerous tumors.

What happens during EUS?

Before your EUS, you need to stop eating and drinking. If you need a lower EUS, you must also cleanse your colon. Pioneer GI Clinic gives you instructions about how to prepare for your procedure.

Upper EUS procedure

During an upper EUS, you receive a sedative, and your provider sprays a local anesthetic in your throat. Then they guide the scope through your mouth, down your esophagus, through your stomach, and into your small intestine. Your provider stops the scope anywhere along the way to take ultrasound images.

Lower EUS procedure

You receive a sedative for a lower EUS, then your provider guides the scope through your anus, rectum, and colon. Like an upper EUS, they stop the scope when needed to get images of specific structures.

If you have questions about EUS or need to schedule an appointment, call Pioneer GI Clinic or book an appointment online today.