

Dr. Ashley Miller MBBS, PhD, FRACP
Gastroenterologist and Endoscopist

Referral

All correspondance:

Freemasons Medical Centre
Suite 104, 320 Victoria Parade
East Melbourne 3002
Consulting & Endoscopy

Also at:

Hobsons Bay Endoscopy
179 Princes Highway
Werribee 3030
Consulting & Endoscopy

Williamstown Specialist Centre, Williamstown
Hobsons Bay Endoscopy Centre, Altona

All appointments: Phone 9417 1811 Fax 9415 7419

Request please tick box(es): **Gastroscopy** **Colonoscopy** **Consultation** **Capsule Endoscopy (Pillcam)**

Patient details

Name
Address
.....
DOB Telephone

Referring doctor details/stamp

Name
Address
.....
Provider no. Date

Clinical notes

Patient is (circle): diabetic yes/no on aspirin yes/no on warfarin yes/no

Referrals for open access gastroscopy and colonoscopy welcomed.

Information and instructions will be forwarded to the patient. Patients over 80 years of age or those with serious medical illnesses including those on warfarin should be referred for consultation before colonoscopy or discussed with Dr. Miller on 9387 1000.

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Information for patients

Gastroscopy

Gastroscopy involves the use of a flexible tube to examine the upper gastrointestinal tract. The procedure is commonly undertaken if your doctor suspects that you have an ulcer, inflammation or other abnormalities of the oesophagus (gullet), stomach or duodenum. Tissue samples (biopsies) may be taken during the procedure. **You must not eat or drink for at least 6 hours before the test.** Just before the test you will be given sedation by injection into a vein to make you sleepy. The procedure will take about 15 minutes and you will be sleepy for about half an hour afterwards. Gastroscopy is not painful and it is uncommon for patients to recall having the test. You will need a relative or friend to accompany you home. Do not drive or operate dangerous machinery for 24 hours. **Safety and risks:** Gastroscopy is usually simple and safe. Rare complications such as damage to the oesophagus (perforation) or reactions to sedation occur in approximately 1 in 10,000 cases. If you have any questions concerning the risks of the procedure please contact Dr Miller prior to the test.

Colonoscopy

Colonoscopy involves the use of a flexible tube to examine the large intestine. Tissue samples (biopsies) may be taken or polyps removed during the procedure. The day before the procedure you will need to take a special preparation to clean out the bowel. This will enable the lining of the bowel to be clearly seen. The bowel preparation will induce diarrhoea for a short time. Full instructions concerning the bowel preparation will be provided when your appointment is made. **You must not eat or drink for at least 6 hours before the test.** Just before the test you will be given sedation by injection into a vein to make you sleepy and you will be sleepy for about half an hour afterwards. It is uncommon for patients to recall having the test. You will need a relative or friend to accompany you home. **Safety and risks:** Complications with colonoscopy are uncommon. Most surveys report serious complications of about 1 in 1,000 examinations or less. These usually include intolerance to the bowel preparation or reaction to sedatives. Perforation (making a hole in the bowel) or major bleeding is extremely rare, but if it occurs may require surgery. In the unlikely event of major bleeding, a blood transfusion may be required. The risk of these complications is slightly higher if polyps are removed. A complete examination of the colon may be limited in some patients (usually less than 5%) including those with poor bowel preparation, patients with long colons, patients with tight bends in their colon, patients with severe inflammation or other pathology. It is possible that a barium enema may be recommended to complete examination of the colon. Whilst colonoscopy is an excellent procedure to examine the colon, there is a small risk that a polyp, cancer or other pathology is not detected by the procedure. If you have any questions concerning the risks of the procedure please contact Dr Miller prior to the test. After the procedure there may be a mild, temporary abdominal discomfort and you may pass a small amount of blood. If you have severe pain or pass a large amount of blood you should contact your local doctor, Dr. Miller, or go to the nearest hospital emergency department.

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