

## PREPARATION PRIOR TO ERCP

The main aim for preparation for gastroscopy is to ensure the stomach is empty to both maximise visibility and prevent complications. There is also a risk of bleeding during ERCP, and it is important for Dr. Nel to be aware of any “blood-thinning” medications that you are using, such as anti-coagulant or anti-platelet medications.

### Week before:

- If you use one of the following medications, please consult with Dr. Nel as to how you should take the drug beforehand:
  - Anti-coagulant drugs, such as warfarin or rivaroxaban (Xarelto).
  - Anti-platelet drugs, such as aspirin, Ecotrin or clopidogrel (Plavix).

### Day before your procedure:

- You will need blood tests done before your ERCP. This can be done on the day of the ERCP, but it is usually more convenient to do so the day before. The doctor performing the procedure must arrange with you to have these tests done.
- You should not eat or drink anything from midnight (0h00) before your procedure.

### Day of your procedure:

- You may take your regular medications up to 2 hours before the procedure, except for iron containing tablets, anti-coagulant and diabetic medications.
- You will not be allowed to drive after your procedure so you must make arrangements for transport home.