

## Scoping out the possibilities ...

**ERCP (Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangio-Pancreatography)** is a mouthful... but to Dr. Appleby and Dr. Wankling it is so much more. Qualified and trained in these procedures at UHNBC, they were delighted with the purchase of a new Duodenoscope. ERCP is most commonly performed to diagnose conditions of the pancreas or bile ducts, and is also used to treat those conditions. It is used to evaluate symptoms suggestive of disease in these organs, or to further clarify abnormal results from blood tests or imaging tests such as ultrasound or CT scan. The most common reasons to do ERCP include abdominal pain, weight loss, jaundice (yellowing of the skin), or an ultrasound or CT scan that shows stones or a mass in these organs.

ERCP may be used before or after gallbladder surgery to assist in the performance of that operation. Bile duct stones can be diagnosed and removed with an ERCP. Tumors, both cancerous and noncancerous, can be diagnosed and then treated with indwelling plastic tubes that are used to bypass a blockage of the bile duct. Complications from gallbladder surgery can also sometimes be diagnosed and treated with ERCP.

In patients with suspected or known pancreatic disease, ERCP will help determine the need for surgery or the best type of surgical procedure to be performed. Occasionally, pancreatic stones can be removed by ERCP. A bendable, lighted tube (endoscope) about the thickness of your index finger is placed through your mouth and into your stomach and first part of the small intestine (duodenum).

Duodenoscopes are used in more than 200 procedures each year at UHNBC as a less invasive way than traditional surgery to drain fluids from pancreatic and biliary ducts blocked by cancerous tumors, gallstones or other gastrointestinal conditions. The eye sees out the sides as opposed to the end of the unit to provide a more detailed assessment and enables more accuracy during abdominal procedures. Dr. Appleby and Dr. Wankling are thankful for a new piece of equipment, the duodenoscope that will complement the endoscopic suite of equipment used daily in Ambulatory Care at UHNBC. The scope came with a price tag of close to \$38,000 made available through the valued donors and supporters to the Spirit of the North Healthcare Foundation.

We are thankful to the many individuals who generously give to see that this piece of equipment was purchased.

# Thank you!



Dr. Jamie Appleby holds the new duodenoscope while preparing to perform a procedure in Ambulatory Care at UHNBC.

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