

ESOPHAGEAL pH TEST

What is an esophageal pH test?

An esophageal pH test measures how often stomach acid enters the <u>esophagus</u>, the tube that connects your throat to your stomach. It also measures how long the acid stays there. The test involves placing a catheter (a thin tube), or a special device called a pH probe, into your esophagus. The catheter or device will measure your acid level (known as pH level) for 24 to 96 hours. A pH test helps determine how acidic a patient's mucus is in their sinuses and nasal passages.

Why do I need an esophageal pH test?

You may need this test if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Heartburn
- Swallowed food coming back into your mouth (regurgitation)
- Trouble swallowing
- Feeling a lump in your throat
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Frequent burping

What to Expect?

- Your health care provider will insert a small, thin tube through your mouth or nose. One end of the tube will extend down to your esophagus. The tube has a sensor that measures your acid level.
- The other end of the tube will be connected to a small monitor that you wear around your waist or over your shoulder.
- The monitor will measure your acid levels overnight.
- You will keep a diary of your symptoms and the food you eat during this test.
- The next day our office will remove the device and take your diary.
- You will schedule a follow up for your results once you've completed all your ordered tests.

If the pH levels of your mucus are abnormal, your ENT specialist may recommend further testing or treatment for your symptoms. This diagnostic tool is crucial for providing your ENT specialist with valuable information to inform and guide your treatment plan.

