

Achalasia



Achalasia is a relatively rare disorder of the esophagus (the passageway from the mouth to the stomach) that makes it difficult for food and liquid to pass into the stomach. Achalasia is caused by a malfunction in the nerves controlling the esophagus muscles and the valve (sphincter) between the esophagus and stomach. Achalasia symptoms develop gradually and people often wait years before seeking medical treatment. Achalasia is diagnosed with the combination of upper endoscopy (EGD) and High Definition Esophageal Manometry at the Heartland Center for Motility within Gastroenterology Consultants. Balloon-dilation may be able to treat Achalasia, but often surgery is required to correct this problem.

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