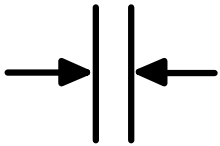


Having oesophageal dilatation



Your digestive (said: dy-jess-tiv) system is a long tube that goes from the back of your mouth all the way to your bottom. When you eat or drink something, it travels through this tube and all the goodness is taken out so your body can use it. Anything left over comes out of your bottom as poo.



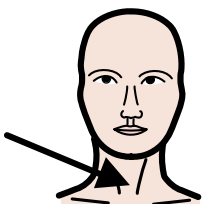
The part of the tube between your mouth and your tummy is called your oesophagus (said ee-sof-a-gus) or foodpipe. Sometimes this can get smaller, either following an operation or because of your illness.



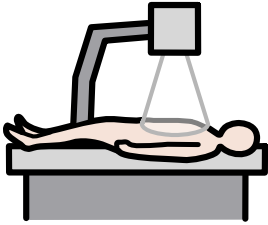
This means that your foodpipe can become blocked so food and drink does not get to your tummy very easily. If this happens, you might need an operation to get better. This is called oesophageal dilatation (said: ee-sof-a-jee-all dy-lar-tay-shun).



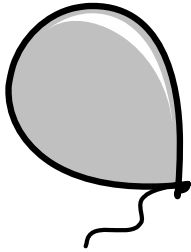
You will have an anaesthetic (said an-ess-thet-ick) for the operation. You will not be able to feel anything or know what is happening.



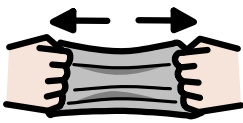
The doctor will put a thin tube into your mouth and down your throat.



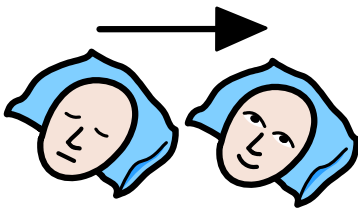
The doctor will check how far the tube has gone by taking lots of pictures to check it is in the right place.



There is a tiny balloon inside the tube. When the doctor has reached the right area with the tube, they will blow up the balloon to make it a bit larger.



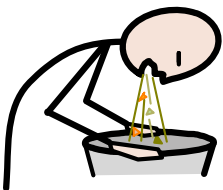
The balloon stretches this bit of your foodpipe. The doctor checks this again with a picture and lets the balloon go down.



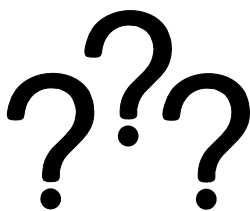
At the end, the doctor will pull the tube and balloon up your foodpipe and out of your mouth. You will then start to wake up from the anaesthetic.



The nurses will check you regularly to make sure you are getting better. You can then go home.



You might feel a bit sick afterwards. Tell your parents if your sick is red or brown colour. This might mean you need to go back to hospital.



Please ask us if you have any questions.