

PATIENT

Information Fact Sheets

DIAGNOSTIC ENDOSCOPY CENTRE

GASTRIC & DUODENAL ULCERS

Gastric and Duodenal Ulcers | Peptic Ulcers

Almost all gastric and duodenal ulcers are due to the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori* or aspirin and other anti-inflammatory agents such as Naprosyn, Brufen, Feldene, Voltaren, etc.

What is an ulcer?

An ulcer is an area where the surface lining has been lost. For example, a leg ulcer, corneal ulcer, and peptic ulcers. The latter occur in areas subject to digestion by the enzyme “pepsin”. These areas include the duodenum, stomach, and oesophagus.

How do I know if I might have a peptic ulcer?

Most patients with peptic ulcers experience “hunger” pain high in the abdomen. These pains usually occur on a daily basis and usually come on between meals and sometimes at night. The pain tends to be relieved by milk, food, or antacids. Twenty percent of patients with ulcers do not have pain but are still at risk from complications. Symptoms of ulcers tend to run in cycles with pain occurring for a few weeks followed by months of no pain. The average patient has two attacks per year.