

The Oregon Clinic, West Hills Gastroenterology division is now using the latest technology to perform testing of esophageal function.

High resolution esophageal impedance manometry is a test that evaluates the strength and function of the muscles in the esophagus (otherwise known as the "food pipe"). This test can determine the cause of swallowing difficulties, and is used to evaluate patients with chest pain or gastroesophageal reflux disease. The addition of high resolution monitoring has greatly shortened the time needed to perform the exam while gathering very detailed information. The addition of impedance to manometry now allows for the evaluation of the passage of solids or liquids through the esophagus in "real time" without the use of barium x-rays. The test takes about 15 minutes and most patients tolerate this very well, or may experience only minimal discomfort.

West Hills Gastroenterology also is performing esophageal pH impedance monitoring. This test is used to evaluate gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and other symptoms associated with GERD. Esophageal pH Monitoring can be used to determine the effectiveness of medications used for treatment of GERD. The addition of impedance to this test now allows for the detection of both acid reflux and non acid reflux. Side effects are very mild and most patients tolerate this with ease.

Please contact The Oregon Clinic, West Hills Gastroenterology division for more information on Esophageal Manometry or Esophageal pH Monitoring, or visit www.theoregonclinic.com/clinic/WestHillsGastroenterology.