



## BUX-MONT GI ANNOUNCES THE BRAVO pH MONITOR FOR EVALUATION OF GERD

Bux-Mont GI is proud to announce the availability of the Bravo pH probe to diagnose acid reflux. As you know endoscopy is only one of the methods available for the diagnosis of acid reflux. The test looks for evidence of mucosal damage, namely inflammation and ulcers that occur as a result of chronic acid reflux. Endoscopy is also the gold standard for the diagnosis of Barrett's esophagus, a precancerous change to the esophageal mucosa that results from chronic exposure to refluxed gastric acid. There are many individuals however, who have significant reflux with no evidence of mucosal damage. Some of these patients also have atypical symptoms such as chest pain, hoarseness, sore throat or sleep disturbances, which fail to respond or respond only partially to anti reflux medications. In these individuals diagnosis by endoscopy is often impossible or imprecise. The Bravo pH monitor is a small chip that is attached to the lining of the distal esophagus during endoscopy where it measures acid reflux over a 48-hour period. The chip transmits data to a small beeper-like device worn by the patient and falls off spontaneously in days. Patients record their symptoms on the device while monitored. The data is then downloaded into a computer and analyzed by the Bravo software. The information helps us as Gastroenterologists to arrive at a more accurate diagnosis and allows us to adjust medications based on objective signs of reflux rather than simply subjective symptoms. It is particularly useful in the diagnosis of atypical chest pain that does not respond to empiric PPI therapy. The test can be arranged by any of our physicians at Bux-Mont GI.



## Bux-Mont Endoscopy Center receives approval to treat pediatric patients!

The Bux-Mont Endoscopy Center has received approval from the PA Department of Health to perform endoscopy on pediatric patients. We have found that the anxiety often experienced by younger patients undergoing endoscopy is more easily allayed in the personal setting of an outpatient center. We have also found younger patients are more comfortable in an outpatient setting. This removes them from the higher intensity of care reserved for more ill, usually older patients treated at the hospital.

Penny Jacobs, Nurse Administrator of Bux-Mont Endoscopy Center, reminds referring doctors that only pediatric patients age 14 thru 17 and who are seen by Bux-Mont GI physicians are eligible to be done at the center. The office will notify the patient's primary care physician to ensure that the patients are in good general health, meeting the health requirements already in place for outpatient procedures performed at our center.

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