HDR endosophageal implant is a type of radiation therapy used to treat cancer that has either started or has spread (metastasized) to the esophagus. This therapy is given through an implant of radioactive material that is placed in the esophagus close to the tumor. To best control your tumor, your doctor may prescribe both an esophageal implant and radiation therapy delivered through beams from a machine outside the body.

An endosophageal implant begins with an endoscopy. This involves a flexible tube (scope) being passed through the mouth to view the inside of the esophagus. You will be an outpatient for this treatment.

Plan to be in the hospital several hours each time you have a treatment. You will need to have a family member present throughout this procedure. Talk with the doctor or staff members about any questions or concerns.

Endoscopy
An endoscopy takes about 30 to 60 minutes during which time:

- An IV (intravenous) needle is inserted and you are given medicine to sedate you.
- Your throat and nasal passages are sprayed with a numbing medicine.
- The gastroenterologist is the doctor who performs the endoscopy – passing a flexible scope through the mouth to the esophagus.
- The radiation oncologist (doctor who treats cancer with radiation) inserts a thin catheter (hollow tube) through the mouth or nose down to the site that will be treated.
- The scope is removed and the thin catheter tube remains in place.
- The placement of the thin tube is checked and more X-rays may be taken.
- Once you have recovered from the sedation, you will be brought to Radiation Oncology.

HDR Treatments
- Next you will receive the radiation treatment, which takes about 10 to 20 minutes.
- The planning and preparation for the treatment takes 1 to 2 hours. The catheter will remain in place throughout this time.
- The catheter will then be removed and you will be sent home with normal activity.
- The number of treatments needed varies and will be determined by the radiation oncologist.

Some side effects of this therapy include a sore throat, loss of appetite, feeling more tired than usual, and some increased difficulty in swallowing. Tell your doctor or nurse about any of these or any other symptoms that are of concern to you.