2.9 Measurement of the pH value of gastric juice

In rare cases neither with gastrointestinal passage X-ray examination, with administration of contrast medium, for visualizing the oesophagus, stomach and small intestine, nor coloscopy examination of the intestinal mucosa by means of a movable tube containing an optical system and small biopsy forceps for taking tissue samples, is it possible to reliably diagnose hiatal hernia, Diaphragmatic hernia protruding through the oesophageal hiatus. with reflux, Backflow of gastric juice into the oesophagus. of acidic stomach contents into the oesophagus Gullet. (reflux disease, In the presence of an axial sliding hernia, backflow of acidic gastric juice into the oesophagus with onset of heartburn as well as swallowing disorders.). In such cases, the pH value of the stomach juice must be measured over a period of 24 hours (24-hour pH metry). This measurement is conducted via a probe that is inserted into the oesophagus during coloscopy and left there for 24 hours. In this way, the quantity of gastric juice flowing back into the oesophagus can be determined. Under normal conditions, only in isolated cases are acidity values below pH 4 measured. Any values below that reading persisting over a long period of time are deemed abnormal.

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