

## Grading the Gastroesophageal Flap Valve

- To grade the presence and significant of a gastroesophageal flap valve at the gastroesophageal junction by retroflexed endoscopy
- Grades I and II are graded as “normal” appearance and grade III and IV as “reflux” appearance

Criteria	Grade
Prominent fold of tissue along the lesser curvature, closely opposed to the endoscope	1
Fold present but periods of opening and rapid closing around the endoscope	2
Fold not prominent and the endoscope is not tightly gripped by the tissue	3
No fold recognizable and the lumen of the esophagus gaped open, allowing the squamous epithelium to be viewed from below; hiatal hernia	4

### Reference:

Hill LD, Kozarek RA, Kraemer SJ et al. The gastroesophageal flap valve: in vitro and in vivo observations. *Gastrointest Endosc.*1996;44:541-547.