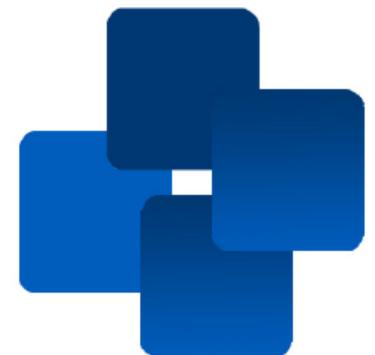


Endoscopy Unit

Gastroenterology Directorate

Capsule Endoscopy (Pill Cam)



How long does the test take?

The test takes eight to nine hours from the time the capsule is swallowed. You will need to return to the unit eight hours later usually between 4.00 to 4:30pm to have the data recorder and sensor arrays disconnected. You are then free to go home and continue your normal activities. The images recorded during your exam will be downloaded to a computer and evaluated.

When will I know the results of the Capsule Endoscopy?

A report will be put in your medical notes ready for your next appointment. If earlier action is required you will be contacted by the hospital.

What are the possible complications?

Complications may occur, but they are rare.

If you experience nausea, vomiting or increasing abdominal pain after the test, call our unit immediately if it is in working hours or go to A & E out of hours.

If there is any narrowing or blockage in the bowel the Capsule may become stuck, this is rare and may require a surgical operation to remove it.

If the capsule has not passed completely through the small bowel, it may mean a second test is required.

It is also possible to inhale the Capsule into

the lungs when swallowing it but this is extremely rare.

If the Video Capsule is not excreted naturally, it may need to be removed endoscopically or surgically.

After ingesting the capsule and until it is passed, you should not have Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) a scan that uses magnetic and radio waves for imaging.

Further information

www.givenimaging.com

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www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk

You can request this information in a different format or another language.

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What is a Capsule Endoscopy?

A Capsule Endoscopy is a procedure that requires the patient to swallow a small capsule that will take photos of the small bowel as it naturally passes through.

Why do I need to have Capsule Endoscopy?

You have been advised to undergo this investigation to help find the cause of your symptoms and if necessary, to decide on further investigations and treatment.

What are the benefits of the Capsule Endoscopy?

The Capsule is a less invasive method of providing images of the small intestine, a part of the bowel that is difficult to reach by conventional methods.

Nurse Assessment

You will be contacted by a Specialist Nurse to take a full medical history they will explain the procedure and answer any questions you may have. You should inform the nurse of your medications and of the presence of any pacemaker, previous abdominal surgery, swallowing problems or previous history of obstructions in the bowel.

Let us know if you are diabetic at least a week in advance of your appointment.

How do I prepare for the procedure?

Bowel Prep will need to be taken the day before the procedure to allow the best possible views of the small bowel. This may be a combination of liquid and tablets. It is important that the full amount of bowel preparation is taken to allow good views of the small bowel.

You are also required to have nothing to eat just before starting the bowel preparation however clear fluids may be taken freely until midnight (i.e water or apple juice). After this you will be asked to have nothing at all. The Nurse will provide you with step by step instructions to follow.

The Procedure

On your arrival to the unit the nurse will ensure you understand the procedure and discuss any outstanding concerns or questions you may have. You will be asked to sign a consent form at this point for the procedure to go ahead.

You will need to expose your stomach, so please ensure you wear loose fitting two-piece clothing.

The Nurse will stick sensors around your abdomen and attach them to a small data recorder which you will have for the duration of the test. Once this is attached you will be asked to swallow the Capsule with a small glass of water.



You are normally free to leave the hospital and will be given instructions of what you can and cannot do throughout the test. You will be able to have a clear drink two hours after swallowing the capsule and you will be able to eat four hours following the capsule ingestion unless your nurse instructs you otherwise.

The capsule moves naturally through the digestive tract while you carry out your normal activities, it will be excreted naturally in your bowel movement and can be flushed away. You should not feel any pain or discomfort.

