

CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY

Your doctor may determine that a capsule endoscopy of the small bowel is necessary for further evaluation of your condition. Capsule endoscopy enables your doctor to examine your entire small intestine.

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- An empty stomach allows optimal viewing conditions and as a result you must start a liquid diet after a light lunch the day prior to the examination and have nothing to eat or drink (including water) for approximately 10 hours prior to the test.
- You will ingest a video capsule that has its own camera and light source.
- If you have a pacemaker or other electro-medical devices you must inform the doctor.
- You must advise the doctor of any previous abdominal surgery, swallowing problems or a previous history of obstructions in the gastrointestinal tract.
- The doctor will place sensors on your abdomen.
- The video capsule is swallowed with water and passes naturally through your digestive tract while transmitting video images to a data recorder that you will wear close to your waist.
- You will be able to drink liquids two hours after ingesting the capsule.
- You may eat four hours after ingesting the capsule.
- You must wear the data recorder for approximately eight hours.
- The data recorder must be returned to the reception area of the hospital either the evening of ingesting the capsule or first thing the following morning.
- Once the data recorder is returned to the G.I. Laboratory the doctor will process the information from it and will view the colour video of the pictures taken by the capsule. A report will then be written and sent to your referring doctor.
- The capsule is disposable and will pass naturally with your bowel movements. You should not feel any pain or discomfort.
- Although complications may occur, they are rare. A potential risk could be the retention of the capsule. It is important to recognise early signs of possible complications. If you have a fever after the test, trouble swallowing or increased chest or abdominal pain, you should contact your doctor immediately.

The results of your capsule endoscopy will be sent to your referring doctor.