CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY

What is a Capsule Endoscopy?

Capsule Endoscopy enables your doctor to evaluate the small intestine. This part of the gastrointestinal tract cannot be reached by traditional upper endoscopy or by colonoscopy. Capsule Endoscopy will provide your doctor with pictures of your small intestine by utilizing a wireless video camera, small enough to swallow, to perform painless imaging of the small intestine. While the video capsule travels through the intestinal tract, images (about two images per second) are sent to a data recorder that is worn around your waist. These images are stored on the recording device, and later downloaded onto a computer for viewing by the physician. If you have any questions about this procedure, please call the GI Lab at (708) 216-3392.

Why is Capsule Endoscopy Performed?

The most common reason for doing the capsule endoscopy is to search for a cause of bleeding, anemia, or Inflammatory Bowel Disease where other diagnostic procedures failed to determine the reason for your symptoms. Capsule Endoscopy does NOT replace standard diagnostic endoscopy and therefore a negative EGD and Colonoscopy should be performed prior to the Capsule Endoscopy.

What can I expect?

Before the Test:

- Five days prior to procedure: stop taking any iron supplements or vitamins with iron.

- Tell your doctor and the GI Lab staff of the presence of a pacemaker, defibrillator, Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD), previous abdominal surgery, swallowing problems, previous obstructions in the bowel, and/or diabetes. These conditions require additional arrangements.

- The day before the procedure you may have a regular breakfast and lunch then clear liquids from 12:00 noon until bedtime. (Avoid red liquids.) Then nothing to eat or drink after midnight.
If you are taking Insulin or medication to lower your blood sugar this will need to be adjusted the day before the procedure.

The Day of the Procedure:

- Arrive at the GI Lab at your scheduled time.
- Wear loose fitting clothes.

During The Procedure:

- A physician will review the procedure with you and ask you to sign a consent.
- Sensors are attached to your chest and abdomen. A belt which holds the data recorder is placed around your waist. Alternately, a pouch may be carried over your shoulder. You will wear the belt/pouch with the recorder for the entire length of the test.
- The capsule is swallowed with a glass of water.
- You may leave the GI Lab and perform your regular daily activities.
- 2 hours after the capsule is swallowed you may have clear liquids.
- 4 hours after the capsule is swallowed you may have a light meal.
- You will return to the GI Lab in 8 hours to have the recording equipment removed.

After the Procedure:

- You may resume your regular diet after the equipment is removed. The capsule is excreted with a normal bowel movement. You do not need to retrieve the capsule. You should avoid having a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) during or immediately after having a capsule endoscopy (usually 24-72 hours).
- You should report any new symptoms such as pain, vomiting or fever to your physician.

How Do I Get Results?

- The pictures will be viewed by one of the Gastroenterologists and a copy of the results will be given to the physician that ordered the test. (usually within 2 weeks)

If you should have any questions regarding your appointment please call 708-216-3392.
The GI Lab is located in the main hospital, Room 1134.

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