

CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY (Pillcam) Patient Information and Consent Form



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Small bowel capsule enteroscopy is a new and exciting way to view the small bowel. In the past it has been difficult to obtain information about this area of the gut.

The **pill-like capsule** contains a battery, which powers a light source and enables 2 photographs per second to be taken for approximately 8-13 hours. The capsule is swallowed orally and travels, just like a bolus of food, through the gullet, stomach, small bowel and finally into the large bowel. At some stage the capsule will be excreted into the toilet and can be flushed into the sewerage system. The capsule is single-use only and does not need to be retrieved.

The **images** that are obtained from the capsule are transmitted digitally to a recording device that is worn in a harness around the waist. Recording probes are also taped onto the abdomen to help track the device as it tumbles its way through the gastrointestinal system.

You must be fasting when you swallow the capsule and don't eat or drink for the 2 hours following. Usually no special bowel preparation is needed prior to the procedure. I do ask that you have a liquid diet the day before the procedure and no solid food on the morning of the procedure. I ask you to drink 2 litres of water 2 hours before you present.

It is a safe procedure and most patients notice no ill effects after swallowing the device. A very small number of sensitive patients find the capsule difficult to swallow and it may be possible to place the capsule in the stomach at endoscopy if necessary. Less than 1% of patients have an unexpected narrowing in their gut or other unusual anatomy and this may cause the capsule to be retained inside the body. Abdominal pain or extreme nausea after swallowing the capsule is very rare and should be reported. If the capsule is retained inside the body it is not dangerous in the short term but open surgery may be needed to remove it finally. In some patients transit time through the bowel may be so fast that inadequate information is obtained from the procedure. Lesions may be missed with any imaging modality.

At the current time there is a restricted Medicare rebate allowed for patients who have obscure gastrointestinal bleeding and those with small bowel hereditary polyposis syndrome (Peutz-Jeghers syndrome). Patients with other indications for small bowel endoscopy are not covered by this item number and you will need to discuss costs with me. If you have any questions about the procedure or need clarification please ask me. Otherwise please sign and date below to indicate that you are willing to undergo small bowel capsule enteroscopy.

Signature:.....

Date:..... **Witness:**.....