

Capsule Endoscopy Information

What is a Capsule Endoscopy? (*PillCam™, Endocapsule™ or MiroCam™*)

Capsule endoscopy is a pill/capsule that is swallowed and then takes photos of the lining of the small bowel. The capsule is the size of a large pill and contains a camera, battery, light source and transmitter. After swallowing the capsule (with a glass of water), it travels throughout the gastrointestinal tract like a piece of food. It takes 2 images per second during its travels which can take up to 8 hours – taking over 50,000 pictures! The images are transmitted to sensors and then to a data recorder placed around your waist. Once it has travelled through the gastro-intestinal tract, the capsule passes into your faeces within 24 – 48 hours. The capsule is single use and does not need to be retrieved.

What are the Risks of Capsule Endoscopy?

Capsule endoscopy is a very safe procedure. There is a small risk that the capsule can become stuck in the bowel as a result of a narrowing due to previous surgery, disease or abnormal anatomy. Usually the capsule eventually passes. Rarely an operation or procedure is required to remove the retained capsule. Although the capsule is big, most patients do not have a problem with swallowing the capsule. Occasionally an x-ray is needed to check that the capsule has passed in the event that the capsule is not seen to go all the way through the small bowel on the images.

What is the Cost of Capsule Endoscopy?

There is an out of pocket of \$150 for non-pensioners and \$50 for pensioners. The cost of the pill camera will be sent to Medicare (\$1000).

What is the Preparation for Capsule Endoscopy?

Day before the procedure:

- After midday- only drink clear fluids (water, clear fruit juices and cordials, clear broth/soup)
- 7pm- mix sachet of PICOPREP with 250ml of water, stir until dissolved. Drink the whole solution, and then a full glass of water. Drink only water after this point. Do not drink after midnight.

Day of the procedure:

- 6am- take your normal medications with a small sip of water
- 9.30 - 10.00 am arrive for appointment (no anaesthetic/sedation is used so you can drive) Please wear loose clothing with no metal buttons or zippers. Do not wear jewellery. Whilst the belt is in place do not have your mobile phone near the belt. Do not go through scanning equipment (eg shopping centre). It is advisable not to use a computer.
- After swallowing the capsule- fast for 1 hour then drink a glass of water every hour for the next 3 hours. After four hours you can eat and drink normally again.
- You will discuss with the office staff when the equipment needs to be returned.