

Capsule Endoscopy

Gemini Endoscopy Suite
Tel: 01271 349180

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please telephone the PALS desk on 01271 314090.

What does Capsule Endoscopy involve?

Capsule Endoscopy involves ingesting a capsule about the size of a large vitamin pill.

The capsule will pass naturally through your digestive system while taking pictures of the intestine.

The pictures from the capsule are sent to a series of electrodes taped to the abdomen and attached to a data recorder similar to a walkman. The data recorder is placed in a special belt that is worn across the upper body and adjusted for your comfort.

After 8 hours the electrodes and harness with the data recorder and battery are removed. The capsule will be expelled naturally in your bowel movement.

The day before the Capsule Endoscopy

- The entire day before the procedure you will be on a clear liquid diet.
- This includes only black tea, black coffee, apple juice, grape juice, clear soup, Lucozade, soda and clear jelly (not red jelly).
- Do not eat or drink anything after midnight.
- If you are diabetic and taking insulin, take only half of your regular dose and drink regular sugar containing liquids rather than sugar free.
- If you are taking iron or iron containing supplements, stop taking them one week prior to your procedure.

The day of the Capsule Endoscopy

- Do not take medications on the morning of your procedure. You may bring them with you and will be able to take them 2 hours after swallowing the capsule.
- Have nothing to eat or drink prior to the procedure.

- If you are diabetic and taking insulin, do not take your insulin until you are able to start drinking again and then only have half your normal dose.

After taking the capsule

- Do not eat or drink anything for 2 hours after swallowing the capsule.
- After 2 hours you will be able to drink clear liquids.
- After 4 hours you may have a light lunch and continue drinking clear liquids.
- After taking the capsule and until it is excreted, you should not be near any powerful electromagnetic fields such as one created by an MRI scanner or amateur radio transmitter.
- Capsule Endoscopy lasts approximately 8 hour. You do not have to remain in the hospital during this time.

Do not disconnect the equipment or remove the harness at any time during this period.

- The data recorder is a small computer and should be treated with the utmost care and protection. Avoid sudden movement and banging of the data recorder.
- You need to return to the Gemini Suite 8 hours after ingesting the capsule to have the equipment removed. This is a quick process and should only take a few minutes.
- After the equipment has been removed you may return to your normal diet.
- **It is important to contact the unit immediately if you suffer from any abdominal pain, nausea or vomiting during or after Capsule Endoscopy.**

Contact number: **01271 349180**

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or e-mail ndht.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at www.careopinion.org.uk.

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