

WESTSIDE GASTROENTEROLOGY

CONSULTANTS

Patency Test with PillCam® Patency Capsule

A patency test with the PillCam® patency capsule safely determines whether an object the size of the PillCam® patency capsule can pass through your intestine. For this procedure, you will swallow a capsule made of dissolvable material surrounding a tiny Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag that can be detected by X-ray or the PillCam® patency scanner. If the capsule leaves your body before it dissolves, this confirms that your intestine is passable or “patent” for an object the size of the capsule. If, as often happens, the capsule is still inside your body after 30 hours, it will dissolve into small pieces that can pass naturally through your intestine. A return visit to your doctor will be scheduled for the day after you swallow the capsule to test whether it is still inside your body.

Note: If you have a narrowing of your small bowel, the PillCam® capsule can get stuck and obstruct your bowel. While the capsule disintegrates, you may need to be admitted to the hospital for management of your symptoms and you may require surgery.

To enable your physician to get the most accurate information for this test, carefully follow these instructions:

During the Week Before Your Patency Test

1. Note the frequency of your bowel movements. “(Do you have a bowel movement at least once a day? Once every two days? Once every three or more days?)”
2. Note any irregularity in your bowel movements during the week prior to the examination and prepare a list of all medications you are currently taking.
3. On the day before the test, start the prescribed liquid diet after lunch. Do not eat or drink except for necessary medication with a sip of water, 10 hours before your capsule endoscopy.

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Day of Your Patency Test

Continue fasting and arrive promptly for your appointment.

After Ingesting the PillCam® Patency Capsule

- After ingestion, do not eat or drink for two hours. Four hours after ingestion, you may have a light snack. Eight hours after ingestion, you may continue with your normal diet.
- During the test, record the frequency of your daily bowel movements.
- If you suffer from an abdominal pain, nausea or vomiting during the patency test with the PillCam® patency capsule, contact your physician immediately.
- After ingesting the PillCam® patency capsule and until it leaves your body, avoid being near any source of powerful electromagnetic fields such as one created near an MRI device.
- Return for your next appointment at the scheduled time.

After Completing Your Patency Test

- The physician will discuss with you the outcome of the test and any further course of action.
- In case the capsule is retained in your body, the physician may recommend additional tests to verify capsule location and tracking.