



ASHEVILLE GASTROENTEROLOGY ASSOCIATES, P.A.

PRACTICE LIMITED TO GASTROINTESTINAL AND LIVER DISEASES
Main Location: 191 BILTMORE AVENUE • ASHEVILLE, NC 28801
PHONE: 828-254-0881 • FAX: 828-258-1614

CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY

Information sheet

Capsule endoscopy enables examination of the small intestine and is performed most often to evaluate anemia or bleeding. You will swallow a vitamin-pill sized capsule which acts as an endoscope which has its own camera and light source. While the video capsule travels through the intestine, images are sent to a data recorder which is worn on a waist belt. Afterwards the images are viewed on a monitor.

You will receive detailed preparation instructions before the examination. An empty stomach allows optimal viewing conditions so you should have nothing to eat or drink including water for approximately 10 hours before the examination. You may also need to adjust medications you take and this will be reviewed with you before the examination. Your doctor must know of any history of swallowing problems or obstructions in the intestine, previous abdominal surgeries or the presence of a pacemaker, defibrillator or insulin pump.

The exam also consists of applying a sensor array to the abdomen with adhesive pads. The capsule endoscope is then ingested and will pass naturally through the digestive tract while transmitting video images to the video recorder which is worn on a belt for approximately 8 hours. At the end of the procedure you will need to return to the office to return the data recorder and sensor array. At that time the images will be downloaded to a computer which will be viewed by the physician. After ingesting the capsule and until it is excreted with a bowel movement you should not have a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) examination or be near a MRI device.

The main risk of capsule endoscopy is retention of the capsule and/or possible blockage of the intestine by the capsule. If this occurs, you may require surgery to relieve the blockage and retrieve the capsule. This is a very rare complication of the procedure. Alternative procedures instead of capsule endoscopy include x-rays of the small intestine known as a small bowel follow through or endoscopy which is called enteroscopy.

Your signature below indicates that you have read the above, understand, and agree to proceed with the capsule endoscopy examination.

Signature: _____

Date: _____