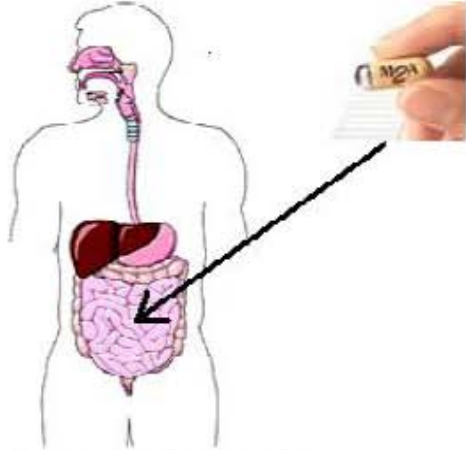


What is Capsule Endoscopy?

Capsule endoscopy was developed by the Israeli missile defense scientists and is now used by doctors to study the digestive tract. It involves swallowing a tiny camera in the form of a capsule which then travels down your intestines taking many pictures along the way.



What Preparation Is Required?

The preparation is very easy. You must be fasting after midnight. Dr. Rodriguez and his staff will give you detailed instructions regarding the dietary restrictions to be followed and any medications you may need to take before the exam. Follow your doctor's instructions carefully. If you do not, the procedure may have to be cancelled and repeated later.

What About My Current Medications?

Most medications may be continued as usual, but some medications can interfere with the preparation or the examination. It is therefore best to inform Dr. Rodriguez of your current medications as well as any allergies to medications several days prior to the examination. Aspirin products, arthritis medications, anticoagulants (blood thinners), insulin, and iron products are examples of medications whose use should be discussed with your physician prior to the examinations.

What Can Be Expected During Capsule endoscopy?

Capsule endoscopy should be the easiest endoscopy you will ever undergo. You will simply be asked to swallow the pill camera and you will be wired up with a recording device that you will wear while the camera is passing through your gastrointestinal system. You will be allowed to leave the office and return later to turn in the recording device. The camera is allowed to travel through your system for 5 to 8 hours. The nurse will download the images onto a computer for later viewing. There should be between 50,000 and 65,000 images to study so the interpretation may take several days to process.

What If The Capsule Endoscopy Shows Something Abnormal?

Dr. Rodriguez will schedule a return appointment for you in the office to discuss the details of your examination and findings. Of course, as with any medical examination, the diagnosis may not be apparent after the careful examination of your intestines. Dr. Rodriguez will suggest what the next best examination or procedure is indicated in your particular situation. This technology is truly amazing and gives Dr. Rodriguez a very accurate look at the inside of your gastrointestinal tract. He will give you detailed information about your results when you return for follow up.



What Happens After Capsule Endoscopy?

After the capsule study has been completed, you will be asked to return to the office at a later date to discuss the results with Dr. Rodriguez. You will not need someone to drive you home after the procedure since there is no need for sedation during this examination.

You should be able to eat after leaving the office, but Dr. Rodriguez may restrict your diet and activities.



What Are Possible Complication Of Capsule Endoscopy?

One possible complication is a bowel obstruction and may require surgery. The capsule is very small, but it can still get stuck in a narrowed area of the bowel that would make it necessary to consider surgical removal. Usually, if there is a narrowing that would cause the pill camera to not pass, it means that you probably would have needed surgery for this blockage anyways. It is not necessary to take antibiotics prior to the procedure as it is a non-invasive imaging technique.

Although complications after capsule endoscopy are uncommon, it is important for you to recognize early signs of any possible complication. Contact Dr. Rodriguez if you notice any of the following symptoms: severe abdominal pain, fever and chills, or rectal bleeding of more than one-half cup. Capsule endoscopy is generally a very safe and highly effective procedure when performed by physicians, such as Dr. Rodriguez, who have been specially trained and are experienced.



CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY

To The Patient

Because education is an important part of comprehensive medical care, you have been provided with this information to prepare you for this procedure. If you have questions about your need for capsule endoscopy, alternative tests, the cost of the procedure, methods of billing, or insurance coverage, do not hesitate to speak to your doctor or your doctor's office staff. Most endoscopists are highly trained specialists and welcome your questions regarding their credentials and training. If you have question that have not been answered, please discuss them with the endoscopy nurse or Dr. Rodriguez before the examination begins.



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