



CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY (PILLCAM)

What is a capsule endoscopy?

It is a small capsule that contains a very small camera which can take up to 4 images per second for 8 to 9 hours. It is used to investigate the small bowel. The capsule endoscopy is used to help view if there is any suspicious bleeding occurring in the small bowel. It can also be used to track small bowel tumours and unknown causes of abdominal pain.

The capsule endoscopy is a very simple procedure which involves swallowing the small pill and travels through the digestive system whilst taking many pictures of the small bowel.

You will have 8 or 9 sensors placed on your abdomen, and during the day you will wear a small belt around your waist to hold it all in place. The pictures that are taken will then be transmitted from the pill to the sensors and recorded. There is no anaesthetic required, and you can drive a car and perform light duties at work.

What preparation is needed?

You can find the preparation instructions in <http://segsydney.com.au/preparations/>

What happens on the day of the procedure?

You arrive at the consulting rooms and the doctor will inform you in detail of the procedure and the associated risks. You will sign a consent form and the equipment will be placed on you and you will swallow the pill.

After you have swallowed the pill you cannot drink for 2 hours. Most foods will be ok to eat except for heavy and fatty foods after 4 hours. You will have the harness on for approximately 8-9 hours and will need to return it back to the rooms.

What happens to the capsule?

The capsule will exit the body in a bowel movement and is small enough that you will not experience any discomfort when this happens.

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