

Patient information

Patency Capsule Test

You have been referred by your doctor to have a patency capsule test. This leaflet has been written to explain the procedure and to help you make an informed decision before consenting to the procedure. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to a member of staff. If you are unable to attend your appointment, please inform us as soon as possible on **01284 713038**.

What is a patency capsule test?

A patency capsule test is an examination done prior a capsule endoscopy to determine whether an object the size of a capsule used for capsule endoscopy can safely pass through your intestines. This procedure makes use of an ingestible and dissolvable non-video capsule which is about the same size of a large vitamin pill (2.6 cm x 1.1 cm).

What happens during a patency capsule test?

You will be asked to swallow a small capsule with a glass of water. The capsule is comprised of a dissolvable body that surrounds a tiny Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag which can be detected by an X-ray. The capsule has timer plugs on both ends which erode to allow penetration of intestinal fluids to enable slow and timed disintegration of the capsule's body. On the following day, you would be asked to return to the hospital for an abdominal X-ray close to but not later than 30 hours after ingestion of the capsule. This is to check whether the capsule is still in your body.

If you have excreted the capsule prior to 30 hours after ingestion or if it is not detected by the X-ray, this confirms that your intestines are patent or passable for an object the size of the real video capsule. This means that it is safe for you to undergo capsule endoscopy. However, if the capsule is still inside your body after 30 hours, it will automatically dissolve into small fragments to enable natural passage through

your intestines. Should this occur, it means that the real video capsule, which is not dissolvable, may not be able to pass through your intestines so your doctor will decide the way forward.

What are the risks or possible complications involved in patency capsule test?

If the capsule stays in your body for more than 30 hours, it will automatically dissolve into small fragments which should pass through your intestines naturally. However, if you have severe narrowing or stricture in your intestines, the capsule can get stuck which can lead to bowel obstruction. Should this occur, a further endoscopic or surgical intervention may be necessary.

IMPORTANT: Preparing for your Patency Capsule Test

How should I prepare for a patency capsule test?

Important reminders before your test:

- If you are a **diabetic**, please contact your diabetic provider or GP regarding your medication or insulin intake the day prior and the day of your patency capsule test.
- Please let us know if you are or suspect to be **pregnant** as this procedure should not be performed during pregnancy.
- Please inform us if you have any **pacemakers or implanted cardiac devices (ICD)**.
- Please let us know if you have **ingested any radiopaque material** such as oral contrast for radiography within **a month prior** your patency capsule procedure.

The day before your appointment:

Please start a **clear liquid diet from 12 noon**.

A clear liquid diet includes Coffee/Tea (**No** cream/milk), Carbonated or non-carbonated soft drinks, Lucozade, water, strained fruit juices without pulp, jelly and popsicles.

Please do not eat or drink anything after 10 pm. However, you can take necessary medications after 10 pm but only with sips of water.

On the day of your appointment:

Please **do not eat or drink anything**, except for necessary medications with sips of water only until **2 hours before the test**.

Please be in **Martin Corke Day Surgery Unit** by your appointment time and bring a list of your medications with you.

The following **medications should be omitted on the day of the procedure** as these may affect the digestive tract. If instructions are not carefully followed, it may affect the procedure and results. Please seek consult from your GP if needed or if you are worried about stopping any of these medications:

- Buscopan/ Mebeverine/ Colofac
- Imodium/ Loperamide
- Codeine
- Morphine

During the admission process, the nurse will talk you through what is going to happen and instructions will be given about what you would be expected to do for the rest of the day.

Discharge advice

- After 2 hours, you can drink fluids and necessary medications can be taken with sips of water
- After 4 hours, you can have a light snack
- After 8 hours, you can resume your regular diet
- It is prohibited for you to undergo an MRI scan while the capsule is still inside your body as this could result to serious damage to your intestinal tract or abdominal cavity.
- Please be in the **Radiology Department the next day** for your abdominal X-ray.
PLEASE REFER TO THE TIME AND DATE ON YOUR APPOINTMENT LETTER.

Is there anything that I should look out for after the procedure?

Please watch out for any abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and abdominal distention. Should this occur, please call the Endoscopy Department at 01284713952.

Results

One of our consultants will review your X-ray result as soon as it is available. After that, the nurse practitioner will contact you to discuss with you the result of the patency capsule test. If it is successful, they will then book the capsule endoscopy procedure for you.

Contact us

You can contact the Endoscopy Nurse Practitioner from Monday to Friday (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) at 01284713952 or 01284713038 for any queries or concerns.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo)
<https://www.accessable.co.uk>



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