



Information for
patients and
carers

Colon Capsule Endoscopy

What is a Colon Capsule Endoscopy?

The process of internally examining the colon is called a colon capsule endoscopy. The PillCam™ COLON capsule is an easy to swallow pill with two cameras inside. It provides clear images to help your doctor detect polyps, which can progress to colon cancer, along with other abnormalities. This allows your doctor to plan further procedures, treatments or operations if needed. The PillCam™ COLON capsule endoscopy does not require sedation or a stay in hospital and it can help your doctor determine if a colonoscopy is necessary.

Preparation for the Colon Capsule Endoscopy

Your colon needs to be completely emptied prior to your procedure. You will be asked to drink a laxative solution to clean your colon so the camera can capture clear images to ensure an accurate diagnosis from your doctor.

Please see the pre-procedure colon capsule information leaflet for more details.

The procedure

Once you have arrived at the outpatient department you will be shown to a clinic room. We will then obtain informed consent and ask you to take a medication called Prucalopride (1mg) to wake your bowel up, as we want the capsule to go through the large bowel relatively quickly. You will then have a seat in reception for 45 minutes to allow the medication time to work. You will then be called back into the clinic room. We will then attach the recorder belt and recorder and ask for you

to swallow the capsule with water mixed with Infacol to disperse any bubbles, so we can get really clear views.



The colon capsule and your results

It can take up to 10 hours to complete the procedure and you can go about your normal day, but will need to take extra laxatives and perhaps a suppository to help the capsule move quickly through your bowel before the recorder battery runs out.

The capsule captures images as it travels naturally through your colon. It's best to remain active and walk around if possible, to encourage natural movement through your bowel. Avoid lying down or sleeping during the procedure.

Please see the separate Alert Guidance information leaflet.

The capsule transmits images to the data recorder you will be wearing in a pouch and strap around your shoulder. After the procedure is complete, you will need to return the recorder so that the images of your colon will be transferred to a computer in the form of a video for your doctor to analyse.

After analysis of the report, you may need a further appointment for follow-up treatment, or your consultant will send a letter with your results.



Is it safe to have colon capsule?

PillCam™ COLON capsule endoscopy is a suitable minimally invasive option if there is evidence of lower gastrointestinal bleeding following a stool test. It is comfortable, safe, and patient friendly. It avoids the potential risks of sedation and radiation.

	PillCam COLON	Directly visualise with scope	Radiological imaging	Biomarker exams
High Accuracy	X	X	X	
Minimally Invasive	X			X
No sedation	X		X	X
Bowel Prep not required				X
No radiation exposure	X	X		X
Ability to remove polyps		X		

Your results

Following the procedure, the images of your colon will be transferred from the recorder to a computer. They will be organised into a video for the reader to carefully review. Once reviewed, either your consultant will contact you via a letter with your results, or the endoscopy booking team will contact you with a further appointment.

FAQs

How long does the procedure take?

It can take up to 10 hours to complete the procedure. During this time, you are fully awake and can go about your normal day.

How big is the capsule, will I feel any pain or discomfort?

It is about the size of a vitamin pill and easy to swallow. It has a smooth texture like some tablets. You should not feel any pain or discomfort when swallowing it, or while it moves through your colon.

How long is the recovery?

Recovery is immediate because there is no sedation required. While the capsule transmits images, you will be able to continue with your normal routine and perform daily tasks such as driving.

Do I need to retrieve the capsule?

No. The capsule is disposable and passes through your body naturally during a bowel movement. It is flushed away in the toilet.

Can I take my regular medication?

Every patient is different, so it is important to speak to your doctor about continuing your regular medications during the procedure.

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact clinical endoscopist team on 01257247108 or 07784 225603.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

Please scan for further information:



If you are unable to scan the QR code, please ask a member of staff for the leaflet information.

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**

Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.

This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

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