

SMALL BOWEL CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY

What is a Small Bowel Capsule Endoscopy?

- ▶ Capsule endoscopy is a way for your doctor to see inside part of your digestive system. A small bowel capsule endoscopy looks at the lining of the small intestine.
- ▶ Unlike a traditional endoscopic exam, which uses a camera at the end of a thin, flexible tube (click here for more on upper GI endoscopy tests), capsule endoscopy uses a camera inside a pill-like capsule.
- ▶ You will swallow the capsule at your doctor's office and be given all the information you need for the test.
- ▶ The capsule is the size of a large pill — just over 1-inch long and less than ½-inch wide.
- ▶ Once swallowed, **it travels through the digestive system, sending images to a device worn around your waist that saves them.**
- ▶ The capsule will not be absorbed or digested, but it will move through your digestive system and leave through a bowel movement. You may or may not see it in the toilet bowl. You do not need to retrieve or return the capsule to your doctor.
- ▶ Each capsule is designed for a single use and will not harm the environment or your household plumbing.
- ▶ **You will be awake and active during this test** as the capsule moves through your digestive system, though you will not feel it.



All rights reserved. Used with the permission of Medtronic.



The information provided by the AGA Institute is not medical advice and should not be considered a replacement for seeing a medical professional.