

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.



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