

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Patency capsule test

This information sheet contains details about the patency capsule test you are due to take. It explains what a patency capsule is and what the test involves so you know what to expect.

What is a patency capsule test?

A patency capsule test is a method of checking the small bowel for possible strictures (narrowing) which could prevent the passage of a video capsule, and it becomes retained (stuck). You will be asked to swallow a dissolvable capsule coated in barium; this is the size of a large pill or cod liver oil capsule which shows up on x-ray and is designed to pass down your small bowel. We will then arrange for you to have an x-ray of your abdomen (tummy) the following day. This is to make sure the capsule has passed through the small bowel safely.

The day before your procedure

Have a breakfast and light lunch then commence a clear fluid diet, you may continue to drink clear fluids (water, cordial but not blackcurrant, tea and coffee without milk, soup/broth strained without bits) until your appointment time. Take your normal prescribed medications two hours before the test.

Diabetic patients should maintain a clear fluid diet and monitor BMs. For symptoms of low blood sugar please eat a light meal (clear soup and bread) and inform the department in the morning.

On the day of your procedure

Take your normal prescribed medications two hours before the test. You will be asked to attend the department for **8am** and after a discussion with the nurse you will swallow the patency capsule with water. You will then be allowed home to carry on your normal activities, continue taking clear fluids and after four hours you may eat as normal.

At **9pm** you may be instructed to take two senna tablets.

The day after you have swallowed the capsule

The capsule begins to dissolve after 30 hours so you will need to attend the x-ray department at King's Mill Hospital at approximately 1pm for an x-ray of your abdomen; this is to identify the position of the capsule. If you have seen the capsule pass already, please call the Endoscopy department on 01623 622525, extension 4076 to inform staff.

Follow-up

After the x-ray has been reviewed and reported we will contact you to discuss the findings and potentially book your capsule video test. This can take several days.

Potential complications and when to seek help

The capsule is normally passed from your body naturally, but rarely it can get stuck if there is a blockage in your bowel.

If you have severe abdominal (tummy) pain or begin to vomit, please contact the Endoscopy department on 01623 622515, extension 4076. Outside of normal working hours, please call NHS 111 or go to your nearest Emergency Department.

If the capsule doesn't pass on its own?

You may have a narrowing of your bowel, and the capsule may not pass on its own accord and may cause a temporary obstruction. However, the interior of the capsule is designed to absorb liquid from the bowel and will melt or dissolve by itself. The outer cover will then flatten, and it will then pass through the narrowing.

What will the results mean?

If this test shows us that your GI tract lets an object the size of the real capsule through, then we will go ahead with your video capsule test and will be in touch with a date.

If the patency capsule shows that a real capsule would have been retained, then you will not have a further capsule test and will be referred back to your doctor.

Contact information

If you need any further information, please contact the Endoscopy department on telephone 01623 622515, extension 4076, between 8am and 6pm.

Patency capsule ingestion time:

Senna tablets – time taken:

Time to attend x-ray:

Patency capsule passed? Yes/No (please circle answer)

Book for small bowel capsule or colon capsule: Yes/No (please circle answer)

If the capsule is passed (up to 10am the following day), please contact the Endoscopy department on 01623 622515, extension 4420.

If the capsule is not seen to be passed, please attend for your abdominal x-ray at 1pm the following day.

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service:

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references (if relevant) for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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