

Patency Capsule

You have been referred by your consultant for a diagnostic capsule test. There are few risks associated with a diagnostic capsule test but the most important one to know about is if it gets stuck along the way.

Your medical history indicates to us that you fall into the group where the diagnostic capsule may indeed get stuck. Because of this we would like you to have a patency capsule test first. Consider it a dummy run, and If the patency capsule test goes well you will be recalled for the diagnostic capsule test.

Please read the rest of the leaflet to find out more about a patency capsule and what you need to do.

What is a patency capsule?

A patency capsule tests whether there is a stricture or narrowing in your intestine. It is swallowed and an x-ray taken the next day will determine whether or not it has passed through your stomach and bowels.

Preparation

At midnight prior to your procedure do not drink any more fluids apart from a small amount of water for any medicines that you normally take.

The day of your patency capsule

When you arrive in the Endoscopy unit the staff will explain what will happen and give you the opportunity to ask any questions. You will also be asked to sign a consent form.

After swallowing the capsule you will be free to leave the department.

The day after your patency capsule

Please attend the X-ray department at 1pm where an x-ray will be taken to determine if the patency capsule has moved through your bowel.

Results

The results of your patency capsule will usually be communicated to you within 1-2 weeks.

Risks

There are no significant risks associated with the patency capsule.

If the patency capsule gets stuck it will degrade after 30 hours and cause you no further harm.

Endoscopy helpline

If you have any further questions about any aspect of the patency capsule please contact the helpline on **01392 402400**. The opening hours are Monday- Saturday form 8am-6pm.

If you have an urgent query outside of these hours please ring your GP or 111.

The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by Royal Devon staff undertaking procedures at the Royal Devon hospitals.

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