

# Patient information sheet

# Patency Capsule

NHS

Bolton

NHS Foundation Trust

## What is a patency capsule?

A patency capsule endoscopy is performed prior to Small Bowel Capsule Endoscopy, it is required for patients who are known to have inflammatory bowel disease or a suspected narrowing of the small bowel. The procedure is carried out to determine whether an object the size of the capsule can pass through your small bowel.

If the capsule is still inside your body after 30 hours it will dissolve into small pieces that can pass naturally through your intestine.

You will be asked to swallow the patency capsule with a small glass of water. The procedure is not painful. The patency capsule is similar to a large pill and may cause minor discomfort whilst being swallowed. Having swallowed the capsule, you will be provided with an x-ray card and allowed to leave the department.

John Smith 132 Bradley st, Bolton	Abdominal x-ray	
Patency capsule prior to small bowel capsule endoscopy		Has patency capsule progressed to the colon?
SCo	Dr. Cook	22.1.2023

You will be asked to return to the hospital the following day to attend for an abdominal x-ray, you must bring the x-ray card with you for this to be carried out. You should attend the Radiology department on F block, ground floor in the afternoon between 2pm – 3pm, this is to check that the capsule has passed through your digestive system and is no longer in your small bowel.

You will not need to attend for x-ray if you see clearly that you have passed the capsule before 3pm the next day.

## Preparation for your test

- The day before your appointment
- After 4pm do not eat anything and drink only clear fluids, eg water, tea or coffee without milk
- Take any necessary medications with a sip of water.

## On the day of your appointment

- Do not eat or drink anything, except for necessary medication with a sip of water.
- Bring in a list of all the medications that you take.

## Swallowing the capsule

- On arrival at the endoscopy unit (1<sup>st</sup> floor E block), please present at reception.
- A member of staff will discuss the procedure with you and give you the opportunity to ask questions.
- You will be given an x-ray card which must be brought with you when you attend for your abdominal x-ray the following day.
- You should expect to be in the hospital for approximately one hour.

## After swallowing the capsule

- You may drink water straight away.
- After four hours you may have a light snack at around 2pm.
- After 5 pm you may return to your normal diet.

## The day after your appointment

- Attend the x-ray department for an abdominal x-ray between 2 and 3pm. The x-ray is to ensure that the capsule has progressed through the small bowel into the large bowel or has left your body clearly indicating that it is safe to progress to the Small Bowel Capsule Endoscopy.
- You do not need to have an x-ray if you have clearly seen that you have passed the patency capsule prior to the x-ray appointment. Most patients will not see the patency capsule in the toilet. Please telephone us on the contact numbers below if you have passed the capsule.
- A doctor will review the x-ray within the next few days, we will only contact you about the result of the x-ray if we have identified a problem that would prevent the Small Bowel Capsule Endoscopy going ahead.

## The week after your appointment

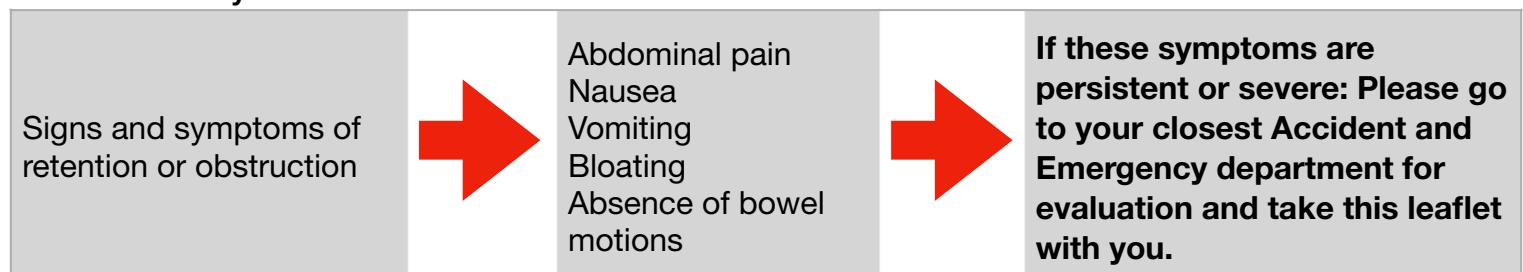
You will be given a further appointment to attend for Small Bowel Capsule Endoscopy. Please follow the advice leaflet "Small Bowel Capsule Endoscopy", which explains this appointment.

## Cautions

- You should not have ingested any radiopaque solutions within the four week period before this procedure. If you have, or have an appointment where this will be necessary please contact the department for advice.
- During the study avoid strong electromagnetic fields, such as MRI scans after swallowing the capsule.
- Normal daily living activities can be resumed immediately.

## Risks

Whilst in most cases the capsule will pass out of your body over the next few days, the main risk associated with this test is capsule retention. This occurs in approximately 0.75% of cases but would not occur in anyone with a normal small bowel.



The patency capsule is designed to dissolve between 30 and 100 hours, however, you should attend an Accident and Emergency department for evaluation if the symptoms are consistent or severe. Please be aware that in some cases when obstruction and retention occurs surgical intervention may become necessary.

## Results

Your abdominal x-ray will be reviewed by a doctor to ensure it is safe to proceed with your Small Bowel Capsule Endoscopy. You should attend for your planned appointment for this procedure unless you are contacted and advised otherwise.

Please phone us on 01204 390273 if you *cannot* keep this appointment.

If you require any further information please ring the Clinical Endoscopist team on 01204 390 390, extension numbers 143422 or 141805.