

Capsule Endoscopy (PillCam)

Capsule Endoscopy uses a pill sized video camera, called the PillCam, to view images of the small intestine. The small intestine cannot be viewed with traditional upper endoscopy or colonoscopy. The PillCam is able to image the small intestine by taking multiple pictures as it passes through the bowel. The most common reason for doing a PillCam study is to search for causes of bleeding from the small intestine. It can also be used to test for Crohn's Disease and small bowel tumors. On the day prior to the procedure you will need to drink a laxative solution to cleanse your small intestine. The PillCam is then swallowed and passes through your digestive tract while transmitting video images to a recorder worn on your belt. The test is painless, requires no sedatives, and takes approximately 8 hours to complete. The PillCam test is a very safe procedure.

After 8 hours, you bring the data recording equipment back to the endoscopy center and the data is downloaded into a computer. Later, our physicians will review the images on a computer. We will contact you within a few days with results after our physicians have viewed the images.