

Patency Capsule Test

What to expect during your Patency Capsule Test

The PillCam is a capsule you will swallow that contains a miniature video camera. It is a procedure that allows the doctor to look inside the small intestine. If you have a history of conditions that put you at risk for the capsule becoming lodged in the small bowel such as small bowel obstructions or small bowel resections, a patency capsule is performed first. This test allows the doctor to determine if an object the exact size of the PillCam can pass through your small intestine. You will have an abdominal X-ray done close to 24-30 hours after you swallow the capsule to test whether the capsule is still in your small intestine. If the capsule leaves your small intestine and enters the colon, this confirms that the PillCam can pass through the small intestine as well. If the capsule is still inside your small intestine after 24-30 hours, it will eventually dissolve and pass into your colon, but unfortunately the PillCam will not be administered.

Your procedure is scheduled at
Christus St Vincent Digestive Health Center
455 St Michael's Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

- Arrive 30 minutes prior to your scheduled procedure time.
- You **CAN** drive yourself home after the procedure.
- If you arrive more than 15 minutes late, your procedure may be rescheduled or delayed.
- Nursing staff will call you to review preparing instructions, medications, and confirm procedure details the week prior to your procedure appointment.
- If you have questions about preparing for your procedure, please call 505-913-5368.

Billing Notice:

You will receive multiple billings for services rendered associated with your procedure. The service categories are as follows:

- Physician Fee: Northern New Mexico Gastroenterology Associates
- Facility Fee: Christus St Vincent

If you have questions about your benefits and coverage, please contact your insurance carrier.

Sign Up for NNMGA Patient Portal

You can request appointments, check your results, send your physician a message and update your medical record. For access call 505-983-5631.

For more information about our providers and instructions go to www.nnmgastro.com

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Patency Capsule Preparation Instructions

Review the appointment documents received from Northern New Mexico Gastroenterology Associates office.

THE DAY BEFORE THE PROCEDURE

- At 12:00 pm (Noon) start a clear liquid diet. This includes fruit juices, broth, popsicles, jello, plain coffee, tea, etc. Avoid blue red, and purple dyes.
- Starting at 10:00 pm, please do not eat or drink anything.

THE DAY OF THE PROCEDURE

- You should take all essential prescription medications with a sip of water either 2 hours before the procedure or after the study is complete.
- If you are diabetic, only take 1/2 your usual dose of long acting insulin and do not take oral diabetic medications the day of the procedure.
- Please check in at Registration and they will guide you to the Digestive Health Center (DHC) for your procedure.

AFTER THE PROCEDURE

- You may drink liquids starting 2 hours after swallowing the Patency Capsule.
- You may have a light snack after 4 hours.
- At 8 hours, you may resume normal daily activities, diet, and medications following the procedure.
- Northern NM Gastroenterology will order an abdominal X-ray. Return to Radiology no later than 30 hours after you swallowed the Patency Capsule to get the abdominal X-ray.

If you develop unexplained nausea, abdominal pain or vomiting, contact NNMG and your doctor right away at 505-983-5631.