



## UNDERSTANDING CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY

### *What is capsule endoscopy?*

Capsule endoscopy is a painless procedure which involves swallowing a disposable capsule. The capsule contains a miniature video camera with a light, transmitter and batteries. This safe, minimally invasive examination provides the doctor with images of your digestive system.

As the capsule travels through the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, it captures approximately 2 – 4 images every second. These images are transmitted through sensor leads or a sensor belt which transmits to a recording device.

The actual endoscopy takes several hours but once the capsule is swallowed, it is possible to carry on with normal day-to-day activities. Later the same day, you return to the office to return the recording device and have the sensors removed.

Your doctor will download the images to a computer and review them carefully. The results will be shared with you. If the images reveal any serious problems along the digestive tract, additional tests to confirm a diagnosis and determine treatment are likely.

The capsule is expelled through a normal bowel movement after about 2 – 3 days. It is important to confirm that the capsule has been excreted. If it is not, there may be an

obstruction or other complication that your doctor will need to investigate. You should not undergo a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) examination or be near any powerful magnetic fields while the capsule is in your system. Doing so could result in serious harm to your intestinal tract and abdominal cavity.

Presently, the most common reasons for this test are suspected recurrent bleeding from the small intestine and diseases of the small bowel that cannot be found by standard techniques. Capsule endoscopy is not designed to assess patients with chronic abdominal pain or constipation and should not replace a colonoscopy.

### *More information*

For more information about protecting and enhancing your digestive health, please visit [www.CDHF.ca](http://www.CDHF.ca)

## DONATE

## ABOUT US

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**Donate by Credit Card:**

I would like to make a donation using my credit card. Please charge my

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I want to support the Canadian Digestive Health Foundation with a monthly donation charged to my credit card on the 28th day of each month. My signature below is authorization for this transaction.

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- Please send me information about protecting and improving my digestive health.

Over 20 million Canadians suffer from digestive disorders every year. The Canadian Digestive Health Foundation believes this is unnecessary and unacceptable.

We reduce suffering and improve quality of life by empowering Canadians with trusted, up to date, science-based information about digestive health and disease.

As the Foundation of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology, we work directly with leading physicians, scientists, and other health care professionals to help you understand and take control of your digestive health with confidence and optimism.

Through research and public education, we aim to:

 <p><b>REDUCE</b> the incidence and prevalence of digestive disorders</p>	 <p><b>IMPROVE</b> understanding of digestive health issues</p>
 <p><b>SUPPORT</b> those suffering from digestive disorders</p>	 <p><b>ENHANCE</b> quality of life for those living with digestive disorders</p>

### Request for support

The Canadian Digestive Health Foundation is a national charity governed by a volunteer board of directors. We rely on donations from the public and the generosity of our partners to develop and deliver our programs. Please consider including our Foundation as one of your chosen charities.

### Contact us/Donate to

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