

If you have unexplained abdominal pain, throat pain, or other gastrointestinal issues, you may need a capsule endoscopy. The board-certified physicians at Pioneer GI Clinic offer capsule endoscopy services in-office to diagnose underlying conditions like celiac disease and Crohn's disease. The providers also create individual treatment plans to relieve your symptoms and protect your gastrointestinal health.

What is capsule endoscopy?

Capsule endoscopy uses a wireless camera to take pictures of your digestive tract. The camera fits inside a small capsule that you swallow. As the capsule moves through your digestive tract, the camera captures thousands of color images of your upper digestive tract to identify damage or disease.

You may need a capsule endoscopy as part of your diagnostic testing for:

- Cancer
- Polyps
- Crohn's disease and other forms of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)
- Celiac disease
- Gastrointestinal bleeding

Capsule endoscopy can also provide detailed information about the inside of your small intestine, an area not always accessible with traditional endoscopy procedures.

What happens during capsule endoscopy?

During your capsule endoscopy procedure, the Pioneer GI Clinic team connects the wireless camera to a recorder that you wear on a belt. The camera sends the images it captures to the recorder for later retrieval.

Once the providers connect the camera and recorder, you swallow the capsule with a glass of water.

You shouldn't feel the capsule after swallowing, and you can return to most of your usual activities right away. The physicians may ask you to avoid strenuous activity until your test is complete.

How long does a capsule endoscopy take?

In general, capsule endoscopy is considered complete after eight hours. You may see the camera capsule in a bowel movement.

Once your test is over, the Pioneer GI Clinic providers need the recorder back to analyze your results. You can flush the capsule down the toilet when you see it. If you don't find the capsule within a few days, you should contact the office to find out if you need an X-ray.

The physicians download the images of your upper digestive tract from the recorder to a computer in video format. They check the pictures for any abnormalities that require additional testing or treatment.

If you have inflammation or damage in the soft tissue of your digestive tract, the providers can discuss your options for treatment. They offer customized treatment plans for acid reflux, celiac disease, and other conditions that affect the health and function of your gastrointestinal tract.

To learn more about the diagnostic benefits of capsule endoscopy, call Pioneer GI Clinic today.