



You are scheduled for a **patency capsule** at UNC Hospital. Please read the following information carefully.

What is a Patency Capsule?

The patency capsule is an ingestible and dissolvable capsule intended to ensure that things move normally through the GI tract (i.e., it is “patent”). It is typically used to determine if it is safe to proceed to a capsule endoscopy test (a procedure that is used to look at your small intestine for conditions such as chronic gastrointestinal bleeding, anemia, small bowel polyps, and suspected Crohn’s disease).

One day before the patency capsule:

You may eat a normal breakfast and a normal lunch. After lunch you may consume liquids only (no solid food). After 11:59PM do not eat any food or drink any liquids, except for sips of water for necessary medications.

Day of procedure:

You will report to UNC GI Procedures (basement, UNC Memorial Hospital) at the time of your scheduled appointment **at least 60 minutes before your scheduled appointment**. After you check in you will meet with a nurse who will go over instructions, obtain your consent, and give you the small patency capsule to swallow. After you swallow the patency capsule you will leave the hospital and return to normal activities. The nurse will tell you when you can start drinking liquids (typically 2 hours after swallowing the capsule) and when you can start eating food typically 4 hours afterwards). You will then wait and see if the patency capsule passes in your stool. If you see it pass within 30 hours of swallowing it then your GI tract is considered patent, in which case your doctor may arrange for a capsule endoscopy. If you do not see the patency capsule pass then you will have an x-ray to see if the capsule is still retained, or if it passed and you did not see it. If the capsule is retained it will dissolve on its own, but this may be a reason not to have a capsule endoscopy.

The nurse will review all of this and give you a printed instruction sheet at your visit.

If you have any questions or need to reschedule your exam please call 919-966-5563.

If you have an urgent question after hours please page the GI fellow on call at 919-966-4131.