

Having a colonic transit study

Information for patients



What is a colonic transit study?

It is an x-ray examination that helps us to see how long it takes for food to travel through the digestive system.

What does it involve?

You will be asked to lie on your back on the x-ray table. The radiographer will move the x-ray camera so that it shines a light on your tummy.

Who performs the examination?

The test is performed by a radiographer.

How do I prepare for the examination?

Please follow the instructions in this leaflet and the appointment letter. Do not follow the instructions in the manufacturers leaflet in the capsule box.

At the date and time *handwritten* on your appointment letter you need to swallow the capsule we have sent you with some water.

You will then come for your x-ray four days later at the date and time *printed* on your appointment letter.

You can continue to eat and drink as normal.

Continue to take all of your usual medications, including any laxatives that you have been prescribed.

The capsule you swallow does not interact with the body so you will not feel any different after you have taken it.

In the Radiology Department

You will be given a gown to change into. Please do not bring large sums of money or items of value with you.

How long will I be in the department?

Allow up to an hour for your visit. Although we try to keep to your appointment time, there may be a delay due to emergency patients.

We are unable to provide any childcare so please make alternative arrangements.

Are there any risks?

This examination involves x-rays. Patients who are, or might be pregnant **must** inform a member of staff in advance.

The amount of radiation used is the same as an ordinary x-ray of the chest or body. It is less than the natural radiation we receive from the atmosphere over a period of approximately one year.

The risk from this radiation dose is very low.

Despite this small risk your doctor believes it is beneficial for you to have this examination.

Do you ever fail to complete the examination?

This examination is usually successful. If, for any reason, we are unable to perform the examination we will inform your doctor who will discuss the alternatives with you.

Following the examination

You will be able to continue to eat and drink and continue normal activities.

Are there any side effects?

There are no side effects or after effects of the capsule or the x-ray.

How will I get my results?

You will not be given your results on the day. They will be sent to your hospital consultant and they will contact you.



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