



SmartPill[®] Motility Monitoring: Frequently Asked Questions

It is always important to have as much information as possible when making health decisions. Listed below are some of the most commonly asked questions about SmartPill[®] motility monitoring.

Q: What is SmartPill?

A: SmartPill is an ingestible capsule that offers a unique way to assess motility by measuring pressure, pH and temperature throughout the entire GI tract. The SmartPill motility monitoring test can be performed at a clinic or physician's office to evaluate motility disorders like gastroparesis and chronic constipation without the use of radiation.

Q: Why is measuring transit time important?

A: GI transit abnormalities such as gastroparesis and chronic constipation are possible explanations for unexplained GI symptoms. When these unexplained GI symptoms of nausea, bloating, constipation, abdominal pain and vomiting occur, it is important to directly measure GI transit time to establish an accurate diagnosis.

Q: Can you describe the SmartPill motility monitoring test step-by-step?

A: Day 1

Because SmartPill measures gastric emptying time, when a patient arrives at the physician's office they will be provided with a SmartBar[®] meal to eat prior to swallowing the SmartPill capsule. The patient will be given the SmartPill recorder that can be worn on a lanyard or belt clip for optimal mobility. The recorder should be within two feet of the patient at all times. After ingesting the capsule at the physician's office, the patient will be able to return to most normal activities while avoiding excessive exercise.

Day 1-5

The recorder is worn at all times throughout the test except during bathing and sleeping. As the SmartPill capsule passes through the GI tract, it will wirelessly transmit data to the recorder. The SmartPill capsule is typically passed within a few days.

Day 3-5

The patient will return the recorder to the physician's office and the test data are downloaded within a few minutes.

Interpretation and Consultation

Once the data has been downloaded, the physician will analyze and interpret the test data. The doctor will then discuss the test results with the patient.

Q: What is the SmartBar?

A: The SmartBar is a standardized meal replacement (similar to a granola bar) which is eaten just prior to swallowing the capsule. Its specific nutritional make-up and calorie content are important for a valid test result. While low in gluten, the SmartBar is not gluten-free.

Q: Why do physicians recommend SmartPill?

A: For patients with unexplained GI symptoms such as nausea, bloating, constipation, abdominal pain and vomiting, the SmartPill offers a convenient and radiation-free way to measure pressure, pH and temperature throughout the entire GI tract. This data provides physicians with valuable information to evaluate symptoms related to gastroparesis and chronic constipation.

Q: Does the SmartPill capsule take pictures?

A: SmartPill does not take pictures. The test measures gastric emptying and regional and total GI transit times and is a logical complement to endoscopy.

Q: What is the size of the SmartPill capsule?

A: The SmartPill capsule measures 26 mm x 13 mm and is slightly larger than a multi-vitamin.

Q: Can SmartPill replace any currently used procedures?

A: SmartPill can replace gastric emptying scintigraphy (GES), Sitzmarks[®] (ROM) and whole gut scintigraphy.

Q: Is SmartPill reimbursed by insurance?

A: Effective January 2013, a Category 1 CPT code (91112) was assigned to the SmartPill procedure. Physicians in the U.S. may contact the Given Imaging Reimbursement Help Line at 1-888-389-5200 for questions about coverage.

Q: Is SmartPill approved for children?

A: No. SmartPill is not approved for children under the age of 18 years.

Q: Are any latex materials used in the SmartPill capsule?

A: No. Latex materials are not used in the SmartPill capsule.

Q: How is the SmartPill eliminated and does it cause any discomfort?

A: Patients should not feel any pain or discomfort when swallowing the capsule or while the capsule moves through the GI tract. It is naturally passed during a bowel movement, usually within a few days.



Q: How long is the recovery?

A: Recovery is immediate. The test requires no preparation or sedation.

Q: Are there any side effects?

A: Patients should not experience any side effects related to the SmartPill motility monitoring test. The capsule passes with a regular bowel movement within a few days.

Q: Is SmartPill cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and how long has it been on the market?

A: Yes. SmartPill has been on the market since clearance in 2006.

Q: Is SmartPill motility monitoring right for everyone?

A: No. Before ingesting the SmartPill capsule, physicians should rule out physiological and/or mechanical GI obstruction as a cause of the patient's symptoms. SmartPill is not intended for use in children under the age of 18 years. Significant data dropout can occur in severely obese patients (>40 BMI). Patients should not undergo an MRI until capsule passage is confirmed by physician review of the MotiliGI[®] graph or an x-ray of the kidneys, ureter and bladder (KUB). The risks of SmartPill motility monitoring include capsule retention or aspiration. If a SmartPill capsule is in the body during an MRI test, there is a risk of damage to the GI tract.

This information should not be used as a substitute for consulting with a physician. Patients should always talk with a physician about diagnosis and treatment information.