

Bowel motility study

What does the test involve?

The test involves swallowing a capsule, and attending for an X-ray after five days. It will give us information about the length of time it takes for food to travel through your gut. Please read the following information carefully and follow the instructions.

You will be given the following:

- a) a capsule containing different shapes which, when swallowed, can be seen on an X-ray
- b) a letter confirming that you have had the X-ray, to be returned to the Louise Ryan Unit

What preparation is required?

There will be no side effects from the capsule. You can eat normally and take all your other medication as usual. If you have not got an out-patient appointment, you will need to make an appointment with your consultant to get the results of the test.

Day 0 (eg Sunday morning)

Swallow capsule by mouth, with some water. Do not use laxatives, enemas or suppositories for next five days.

Day 5 (ie Friday morning)

Take this letter to the X-ray department on the ground floor at the Royal Free Hospital, where an abdominal X-ray will be taken. An appointment is not necessary, provided you attend within one month of being given the capsules and letter. The X-ray department is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Where is the test carried out?

The X-ray department is located on the ground floor of the Royal Free Hospital. An electronic request will have been lodged with the X-ray department and is valid for one month from the date of you being given your letter.

After your X-ray, please complete the confirmation letter and bring it to the Louise Ryan Unit on the lower ground floor. Alternatively you can post it to us – our address is on the website.

Hospital transport

If you need transport for medical reasons, please ring 020 7510 4228 and you will be assessed for suitability.

Further information

If you would like to speak to someone personally, please contact us on 020 7830 2923 and the staff in the unit will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Note: *Female patients – if there is any possibility you may be pregnant, please contact us as soon as possible.*