

Future of capsule endoscopy (small bowel, colon, gastric)

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Small Bowel Capsule (SBE) has been introduced 10 years ago by Given Imaging and is becoming a gold standard for small bowel exploration. It was a major step in digestive field and it opened promising non-invasive explorations for esophagus, stomach and colon.

SBE is challenging especially enteroscopy in the West, as capsule is available since 2001. Obscure GI bleeding remains the most important indication after normal upper and lower endoscopies. Suspected Crohn's disease is also a well accepted indication of course in case of findings therapeutic endoscopy is requested but SBE avoids in many cases this useful but time consuming endoscopy.

Colon capsule is under clinical trial for colorectal cancer screening when traditional colonoscopy is contraindicated or impossible. The preparation remains the most important drawback. First results seem promising but control of colonic motility is still cumbersome.

Finally, gastric guided capsule, as we have performed the 1st clinical trial on humans, offers possibilities of capsule exploration with a guidance system. Today we have performed more than 400 patients or volunteers with interesting results compared to high definition gastroscopy.

Even if endoscopy remains the most important tool in the GI field, capsules offer promising new possibilities.