

# HAMPSHIRE GASTROENTEROLOGY ASSOCIATES, LLC

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Practice Limited to Gastroenterology and Liver Disease

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## ***BRAVO CAPSULE Ph TEST***

What is a Bravo pH capsule test?

The Bravo pH capsule test places a small device in the esophagus, or swallowing tube, to measure what happens when a patient feels the symptoms of heartburn. It may be more comfortable for some patients, and provide better data, than an esophageal manometry 24 hour pH study.

Why would a doctor recommend a Bravo capsule pH test?

A doctor may recommend this test when a patient has chronic heartburn that might be caused by acid reflux, or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). It is used to confirm or rule out a diagnosis of GERD.

What does a Bravo capsule pH test involve?

You will be given medication to make you feel relaxed and drowsy during the procedure. The doctor uses an endoscope-a thin, flexible tube with an image sensor and a light at its tip-to place the Bravo capsule in your esophagus. First, the doctor guides the endoscope through your mouth to a location about two inches above where the esophagus meets the stomach. The doctor then removes the endoscope and uses a special catheter to place the Bravo capsule in your esophagus.

The capsule is held in place against the lining of the esophagus with a tiny pin. The capsule-about the size of a gel cap pain reliever-contains a radio transmitter that sends data to a small receiver worn on your belt, or carried in your pocket.

Over the next 24-48 hours, the capsule and recorder will note what happens in your esophagus as you eat, digest, and go about your daily activities. You will also write down when you feel the symptoms of heartburn, and press a button on the receiver at those moments, also to document meals and lying down periods. After 48 hours the device is returned along with the diary.

The capsule sloughs off in 5-10 days and is excreted via a bowel movement. The data is then uploaded to a computer program, which provides a comprehensive report. The physician analyzes the information, determining whether or not acid reflux is a diagnosis in correlation with the patient's symptoms.

Patients with pacemakers, cardiac defibrillators or diagnosed gastrointestinal strictures are not candidates for this procedure.

Because you will be drowsy from the sedation, you will need to have someone drive you home after the test.

To schedule a BRAVO Capsule, the patient should be:

- Off Proton Pump inhibitors for 7 days prior to the placement
- Off Proton Pump inhibitors during the procedure
- Off H2 blockers 1 day prior to the placement (procedure)
- Off Coumadin, Plavix and or Aspirin for 3 days prior to the exam.

The patient should be NPO (nothing by mouth) for a minimum of 6 hours.

During the 48 hours of the test, the patient will resume normal diet and activities. The patient will be asked to keep a diary of certain events during the 48 hour test.

As with any GI procedure where the patient receives sedation, they must have a responsible adult with them, for their safety, if they do not have a responsible adult with them, we will cancel the procedure and reschedule.

Patients are restricted from undergoing an MRI study within 30 days of the BRAVO pH study.

**PH PROBE Test Is Performed at our  
Valley Medical Endoscopy Unit  
31 Hall Drive, Amherst, Ma 01002**