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Summary

FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING A REMOTE SMALL BOWEL CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY SERVICE IN AN IRISH TERTIARY REFERRAL CENTRE

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At-home small bowel capsule endoscopy using the Medtronic PillCam Genius kit delivered via national postal service proved feasible and highly accepted, with 100% of 23 completed studies successfully returned and downloaded, and all surveyed patients willing to repeat the home-based procedure.

KEY POINTS

- During a single month, 24.2% (n=8) of 33 small bowel capsule endoscopies were completed at home; 25 kits were mailed, 96% (n=24) were delivered, and all recipients independently applied the recorder and ingested the capsule.
- All 23 completed at-home studies (one failed due to device malfunction) were returned by post and successfully downloaded, with only 16.7% (n=4) of patients contacting the office on procedure day for support.
- All survey respondents (n=9, 45% response rate) reported sufficient information, feeling safe, having adequate support, and willingness to choose the home option again; 100% found instructions easy or very easy to understand.
- Patients were selected via telephone pre-assessment; those with dysphagia, risk of capsule retention, delayed gastric transit risk, or mobility issues were excluded, limiting eligibility to approximately 8% of the waiting list.
- This Irish tertiary centre was the first in Europe to use the PillCam Genius technology; the service reduces patient travel burden in a country with only 10 capsule endoscopy centres and is undergoing prospective roll-out.

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