

Doctor Discussion Guide

THE HEIDELBERG pH CAPSULE TEST

This guide is for patients who want to discuss gastric acid assessment with their physician. Print this page and bring it to your next appointment. The Heidelberg pH Capsule Test has been used clinically for over 60 years and is supported by more than 150 peer-reviewed publications.

What is the Heidelberg pH Capsule Test?

The Heidelberg pH Capsule is a Class I medical device that measures gastric acid secretion and reacidification capacity in real time. The patient swallows a small wireless capsule containing a pH sensor and radio transmitter. A standardised bicarbonate challenge is administered at timed intervals. The capsule transmits pH data continuously, revealing how the stomach produces acid and how it recovers after each challenge. The test takes approximately one hour. No sedation, no endoscopy, no recovery time.

Who should consider this test?

Patients presenting with any of the following may benefit from a direct assessment of gastric acid function:

Symptom / Presentation	Why acid assessment may help
Persistent reflux despite PPI therapy	Differentiate acid excess from acid insufficiency
Recurrent SIBO after successful treatment	Assess whether gastric acid barrier is intact
Chronic B12, iron, or mineral deficiencies unresponsive to supplementation	Determine whether low acid is impairing absorption
Bloating, gas, undigested food in stool	Evaluate whether inadequate acid is impairing digestion
Known or suspected atrophic gastritis	Quantify degree of secretory impairment
Long-term PPI use with interest in deprescribing	Provide data to guide tapering decisions

Questions to ask your doctor

- "Could my symptoms be caused by low stomach acid rather than high acid?"
- "Would a direct measurement of my gastric acid production help clarify my diagnosis?"
- "I have been on a PPI for [duration]. Is there a way to assess whether I still need it?"
- "My SIBO/nutrient deficiency keeps recurring. Could inadequate stomach acid be a contributing factor?"
- "Are you familiar with the Heidelberg pH Capsule Test? If not, would you be open to reviewing the clinical literature?"

About the device

The Heidelberg pH Capsule is a Class I medical device, 510(k)-exempt, legally marketed in the United States since before May 28, 1976. Heidelberg Medical, Inc. is a registered medical device establishment with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The device is listed with the FDA. It has no FDA recalls, no Warning Letters, and no adverse events in the MAUDE database across 60+ years of clinical use.

Find a trained practitioner

If your doctor does not currently offer the Heidelberg test, trained practitioners can be found at heidelbergtest.com/find-a-provider. You can also ask your doctor to contact Heidelberg Medical directly at hello@heidelbergmed.com for information about adding the test to their practice.

Heidelberg Medical, Inc. | heidelbergtest.com | hello@heidelbergmed.com

Registration of a device establishment or listing of a device does not denote FDA approval, clearance, or endorsement of the establishment or its products (21 CFR §807.39).

This document is for educational purposes only and does not constitute medical advice.