

Capsule Endoscopy Being Used in Capital to Diagnose Diseases of Digestive System

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ABU DHABI -- The Medical Services Department (MSD) at the Abu Dhabi Police has started using capsule endoscopy in diagnosing diseases of the digestive system and treating them.

The move is part of a plan to improve the standard of the medical services it has been providing to the employees of the law-enforcement authority.

Capsule endoscopy is the latest cutting-edge technology allowing viewing of the small intestines previously seen via surgical techniques.

The capsule is a small camera about the size of a vitamin capsule. It emits light and takes two pictures per second as it traverses the intestinal tract.

The pill is easily swallowed and transmits the images to a recording device worn around the waist. The images are then downloaded to a computer where they are viewed by the physician.

"The department provides latest services in the field of medicine to its employees, whether these are hi-tech medical devices or the highly efficient and competent doctors and medical personnel in different fields," Brigadier Salem saleh Al Junaibi, Director of MSD, recently.

Dr Sameh Mohammed Fakhri, Consultant, digestive system, liver and endoscopies at the department, said capsule endoscope, one of the latest medical diagnostic apparatus, has been used in taking many images since it was introduced. "It takes many images within a span of eight to 10 hours by passing it through the digestive system of the patient," he said.

The capsule, however, is not a replacement for the endoscope, which is used at present in diagnosing stomach and colon diseases, but its importance lies in detecting problems in the small intestines which, if examined by the endoscope, would take a longer time.

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