



**Camera Pill Helps Local Doctor Detect GI Diseases  
Skagit Valley Medical Center Uses PillCam Capsule Endoscopy and Improves  
Patient Care**

**MOUNT VERNON, WA** – Skagit Valley Medical Center’s Dr. Kalyan Wadwa is now providing PillCam® capsule endoscopy, an innovative, non-invasive procedure, to diagnose and treat patients with gastrointestinal disorders of the small intestine such as Crohn’s disease, celiac disease, gastrointestinal bleeding, vascular malformations, small bowel tumors and NSAID-related injuries.

PillCam SB video capsules contain miniature cameras that enable physicians to visualize the small intestine. This non-invasive diagnostic procedure has become a complementary procedure to traditional endoscopy. “PillCam capsule endoscopy is a safe, proven diagnostic procedure,” says Dr. Wadwa. Over 500,000 people around the world are benefiting from the capsule endoscopy procedure.

“Capsule endoscopy enables gastroenterology specialists to more accurately detect and diagnose small bowel disorders in our patients,” said Dr. Wadwa at Skagit Valley Medical Center. “We are pleased that we can now offer a painless, patient-friendly diagnostic modality for patients experiencing persistent gastrointestinal symptoms.”

During the PillCam SB procedure the patient swallows the vitamin-sized capsule which passes through the digestive tract transmitting more than 50,000 images to a data recording device attached to a belt worn by the patient for an eight-hour period. The small bowel images are then downloaded to a computer and reviewed by the gastroenterologist to identify potential problems. PillCam SB received U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) clearance in 2001.

Approximately 70 million Americans currently suffer from gastrointestinal disorders. Inflammatory bowel disease impacts as many as one million individuals, with Crohn’s disease affecting 500,000 Americans. “I believe that bringing this state-of-the-art, innovative technology to our area will make a positive impact on the health of our community. Until recently, this technology was only available in major medical centers,” says Dr. Wadwa.

Skagit Valley Medical Center is a multi-specialty medical group that has served area residents since 1971. Today the medical staff has expanded to include more than ninety physicians and allied healthcare professionals caring for patients in Skagit and North

Snohomish counties. For more information about the Skagit Valley Medical Center, please visit [www.svmc.net](http://www.svmc.net) or call (360) 428-2500.

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