

Pursuing a Diagnosis of Celiac Disease

Blood Test The doctor orders a special blood test called the 'Celiac Panel' which looks for signs that your body is reacting to gluten that has slipped into the bloodstream. The blood test looks for IgA, IgG and tTg antigens (markers in the blood), which ***most but not all*** untreated celiacs have.

Positive Blood test and no more symptoms after being on the gluten free diet means a ***diagnosis of celiac disease***.

MED LAB



Negative Blood test?

Endoscopy with small bowel biopsy is the next step if the blood test is negative. Many doctors like to do this step even ***if*** the blood test is positive. The gastroenterologist will put a small, lighted tube through the mouth to snip bits of the lining from the first part of the small intestine. He or she will also take photos of the linings. The bits of tissue are examined under a microscope to see if the villi are damaged.



Biopsy is positive and shows damage to the villi characteristic of cd which means a ***diagnosis of celiac disease*** even though the blood test was negative.



Your doctor may want to order a special **DNA** test to tell him/her if you are genetically predisposed to developing celiac disease.

Negative Biopsy?

PILLCAM® or 'Capsule Endoscopy' is the final step if both the blood test and biopsy are negative. This is very important to rule out possible other causes of your symptoms. Since a negative biopsy might be due to an error in reading the tissue samples or just mean the samples were taken from undamaged parts of your intestine, it is important to scan the ***entire*** length of the small intestine (about 18—24 feet) to see if celiac damage might be anywhere along that segment or if some other potentially serious condition is present. The PillCam® requires no sedation, no bowel preparation and no hospital visit. A tiny, disposable camera is swallowed which takes and transmits pictures of your complete small intestine.

The PillCam® shows damage consistent with cd which means a ***diagnosis of celiac disease*** even though the blood test and biopsy were negative. This procedure can also diagnose many other gastrointestinal diseases.



*Remember: Every celiac will have a different set of symptoms from every other celiac and his or her body will show a different pattern of damage. Every celiac is unique. Some have Dermatitis Herpetiformis, a skin rash, as the only symptom. Celiac disease can then be diagnosed by a simple skin biopsy. Celiac disease is ***not*** easy to diagnose. **Be persistent; it's your health and it's your life at stake.***