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# Capsule Endoscopy during COVID-19 Pandemic Period: readjustment of *PillCam Crohn* protocol in a tertiary centre

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# INTRODUCTION

- This study aims to compare performance measures and patient satisfaction between two different protocols (pre-pandemic protocol *versus* post-pandemic protocol) of *PillCam Crohn* capsule endoscopy (CE).

## METHODS

All **elective PillCam Crohn CE** performed in outpatients between February 2018 and September 2020 in a Portuguese tertiary centre were included.

### Two protocols were compared:

- **Protocol-A (Pre-pandemic)**: exam was fully taken inside the Gastroenterology department, with the supervision of a nurse.
- **Protocol-B (Post-pandemic)**: After the capsule swallowing and verbal and written delivery of the instructions, the patient was sent home and the rest of the exam was performed outside the hospital.

Comparison of performance measures and patient satisfaction between both protocols.

# RESULTS

43 CE were included	
Protocol-A	33 (76.7%)
Protocol-B	10 (23.3%)



Median age: 41.5 years (IQR 14.2)

	Protocol-A	Protocol-B	p value
LESIONS DETECTION RATE	78.8%	80.0%	p=1.000
RATE OF ADEQUATELY PREPARED EXAMS	97.0%	90.0%	p=0.415
COMPLICATIONS RATE	0%	0%	NA
RATE OF SATISFIED PATIENTS	87.9%	100%	0.558
RATE OF COMPLETE EXAMS	84.8	50.0	P=0.036



statistically significant difference

## DISCUSSION

- Most of the performance measures and patient satisfaction were similar between both protocols.
- The rate of complete exams was significantly inferior in the protocol adapted to the pandemic era (Protocol-B), **disfavoring** its maintenance in the clinical practice.