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NAGASE & CO., LTD.

**Distribution Begins for CapsoCam Plus®,
Small-Bowel Capsule Endoscope Made in the US:
360° Panoramic Imaging Technology Provides Clear Picture
of the Complicated Small Bowel**

- NAGASE begins distribution for CapsoCam Plus, capsule endoscopes for the small bowel made by CapsoVision
- Four cameras are contained in a capsule with a length of approximately 3 cm. High-resolution 360° panoramic imaging, an industry first (*1), reduces the number of blind spots
- Onboard memory not requiring signals to be sent reduces the amount of power necessary, allowing longer operation time

NAGASE & Co., Ltd. (Chuo-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director and President: Kenji Asakura) has received approval under the Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products Including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices for the CapsoCam Plus capsule endoscope made by medical equipment manufacturer CapsoVision, Inc. (Head Office: Saratoga, CA, USA), with whom NAGASE has an exclusive distribution agreement with for Japan (*2). Beginning in January, it will also be covered by insurance for patients with specific conditions (*3), and therefore full distribution will begin.



CapsoCam Plus capsule endoscope

Tube endoscopes are the most common type of endoscope used to examine the esophagus, stomach, large bowel, and small bowel, but development and use of capsule endoscopes which can be swallowed has been spreading due to their lower mental and physical burden, depending on the symptoms of the patient. The CapsoCam Plus has a diameter of 1.1 cm and a length of 3.1 cm and includes four cameras allowing for 360° high-resolution panoramic imaging in an industry first, LEDs for illumination, flash memory to store the data, and batteries. It has a battery life of 15 hours (typical), with three to five frames captured per camera per second. The production of the CapsoCam Plus began in 2010, and it is currently distributed in about 50 countries and regions, including in the United States, LATAM and Europe, Middle East and Asia Pacific.

Earlier capsule endoscopes for the small bowel would usually include one camera, but as the capsule tumbles and the small bowel has many torturous folds creating a complicated shape many blind spots

would occur during imaging. It is anticipated that the 360° panoramic imaging made possible by CapsoVision's high-precision optics design and image processing techniques will allow for accurate diagnosis. Those earlier types of capsule endoscopes also sent image data via radio-frequency signals that limits the duration of the recording, but since CapsoCam Plus has onboard memory to store the images it has an extended battery life, making it more likely that a complete image of the small bowel can be obtained due to longer imaging time. There is also no need for the patient to wear a receiver, no contraindications for implantable electronic devices, no loss of image data due to signal interference, and no need for the patient to stay put during the process, thus improving the patient experience.

NAGASE has had an exclusive distribution agreement with CapsoVision since 2018, and is working towards receiving approval for the capsule endoscope for the large bowel which CapsoVision is developing as well.

NAGASE will continue expanding its business, with a particular focus on new technologies for medical image processing. Through the development of innovation using cutting-edge technology in the medical industry, NAGASE will continue to contribute to a sustainable world where people live with peace of mind.



Image taken by CapsoCam Plus

- *1: A first for “capsule imaging and tracking device (JMDN)” approved for sale in Japan.
- *2: NAGASE is the third company in Japan to receive approval for capsule endoscopes for the small bowel.
- *3: Covered by insurance for examinations when there is bleeding for which the cause cannot be determined using gastroscopes or colonoscopes.

■ Inquiries

NAGASE & CO., LTD. URL: <https://www.nagase.co.jp/english/>

<Inquiries about business>

Business Acceleration Office, Life & Healthcare Products Department

Tel.: +81-3-3665-3161

<Inquiries about press release>

Corporate Administration Office, Corporate Planning Department Tel.: +81-3-3665-3640