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Video Pill

An Israeli company named Given Imaging, with offices in Yokneam, has developed a special video camera. This invention is being used by doctors all over the world. It is a Camera small enough to be swallowed by a patient. It is, in fact, the size of a vitamin tablet!

How it works

Even though the camera is tiny, inside it are: a lens, an antenna diodes* which give off light, a transmitter and a battery. The patient swallows the camera, which travels through the patient's body like a pill. As it travels, the video camera takes pictures of the patient's body from the inside. These pictures are then sent to a computer. Once the computer receives all the pictures taken by the tiny video camera, the doctor examines them. Then the doctor is able to decide on the best treatment for the patient. For example, if a patient is suffering from stomach pains, the camera will be able to "see" if the person has a problem inside his stomach or near the stomach. By using a video pill, the doctor may not have to perform surgery in order to discover the problem.

Advantages

Why choose to have this kind of treatment?

To begin with, the video pill is the most advanced form of health care. Medical researchers, technicians, computer engineers and doctors have work together to develop it. In addition, the video pill is so tiny that it travels through the body just like a piece of food. The patient doesn't feel any pain. In fact, the day the patient takes the pill, he/ she can return to work and move around normally.

Dr. Buchman, a doctor at Northwestern University, states, "We're now able to find things using the video pills that were not found before". He says that the video pill will help doctors plan the best treatment for the patient.

Disadvantages

The main disadvantage of this treatment is that it is very expensive. It costs about \$2000.

Conclusion

This video pill has been tested in clinics and hospitals throughout the world. These tests have been so successful the doctors hope the video pill will be used regularly in the near future.

* diodes: electronic devices

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Answer the following questions.

1. What TWO things are compared in line 1-5?

2. Which word(s) can replace "for example" in line 14?

- a. However
- b. For instance
- c. On the one hand
- d. On the other hand

3. How does the video pill work? Number the stages in the correct order.

- a. The patient swallows the pill. _____
- b. A doctor receives information transmitted by the pill. _____
- c. The pill takes pictures of specific parts of the body. _____
- d. The pill begin to travel through the body. _____
- e. The doctor sees what treatment the patient needs. _____

4. Complete the chart to show the advantages of the video pill. (line 18-27)

ADVANTAGES FOR PATIENTS	ADVANTAGES FOR DOCTORS
a.	a.
b.	b.

5. Which words describe the video pill as a very modern and improved medical tool? (line 18-24)

6. Complete the sentence.

The only disadvantage of the video pill is _____

7. a. Circle the correct answer, Yes or No.

The video pill is used by many doctors today. YES/NO

- b. Copy the words from the text that helped you answer.

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8. The purpose of this article is to...
 - a. Advertise
 - b. Frighten
 - c. Inform
 - d. Convince
9. The word "it" in line 19 refers to _____.
10. Which word in paragraph 2 means "analyze" _____.