

SeHCAT (tauroselcholic [75 selenium] acid) (and other technologies identified during scoping) for the investigation of chronic diarrhoea due to bile acid malabsorption (provisional title)

SeHCAT is a diagnostic radiopharmaceutical capsule used to measure how well the body absorbs bile acids. The capsule contains ⁷⁵Selenium (a gamma-emitter) and a synthetic version of bile acid (tauroselcholic acid). When swallowed, SeHCAT is absorbed by the body like a natural bile acid and it can be detected in the body using a gamma camera.

Poor absorption of bile acids in the small bowel (bile acid malabsorption) is one of many causes of chronic diarrhoea. When bile acids are not absorbed properly, they travel to the colon. Excess bile in the colon stimulates salt and water secretion and results in diarrhoea. Bile acid malabsorption can have a considerable impact on lifestyle and quality of life. The condition often limits the ability to travel or leave the house.

When identified as the cause of chronic diarrhoea, bile acid malabsorption can be treated. But it is often difficult to ascertain the cause of chronic diarrhoea and people may go through several investigations before a definitive cause is found. SeHCAT is proposed to be useful in diagnosing bile acid malabsorption. The NICE Diagnostics Assessment Programme will assess the clinical and cost-effectiveness of SeHCAT and other technologies identified during scoping in order to make recommendations on their use in the NHS. This assessment is a guidance update. The [original guidance](#) was issued in November 2012.