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(54) Abstract Title: **Apparatus and method for detecting gastroesophageal reflux disease (gerd)**

(57) A method and an apparatus are disclosed for detecting gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) in the esophagus of a patient. A capsule with pH-sensitive dissolving properties is placed in the lower portion of the esophagus of the patient. The capsule is removed after a period of time, such as about 24 hours. The change in weight or volume of the capsule, or both, allows detection of acid reflux, i.e., the presence of acid in the esophagus for even a relatively short duration during the period of time. If the weight or volume change is significant, the capsule allows diagnosis of GERD. Alternatively, an amount of time during which the capsule was exposed to acid in the esophagus may be determined by dissolving the capsule remaining and using a solution property, such as conductivity, pH, color, or turbidity.

