

# GI Bleed, Tagged RBC Study

# Patient Information

## What to expect at arrival:

Please arrive 15-30 minutes prior to the appointment. The first place to go after arriving is admissions. The physician's office should have provided a written order to the patient. Please take the order to admissions for registration. After checking in, the next stop will be the Radiology desk. The exam should start quickly from the scheduled time. Since Northeast Georgia is a major medical center there are emergencies that could arise that might extend wait time. Please try to be patient and be assured that we will begin your procedure as quickly as possible.

## What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear Medicine is a radiology modality that uses radiopharmaceuticals to image the body's anatomy and physiology. The images are obtained after an intravenous injection or an oral administration of the radioactive pharmaceutical. Depending on the study, the images can take 20 to 30 minutes or could take a few hours or multiple days, depending on the study. The radiation from the pharmaceuticals is minimal, similar to an x-ray.

## Patient Prep:

There are no restrictions or preparations prior to the GI Bleed study. The patient can eat, drink, and take medications prior to the exam. **Please let the technologist know if there is any possibility that you may be pregnant.**

## Your GI Bleeding exam:

When you are brought to the Nuclear Medicine department, a technologist will verify the orders and patient identification. A technologist will ask a series of questions and explain the procedure. An IV will be started in the arm and blood will be drawn from the IV. The blood will be prepared in the hot lab, taking approximately thirty minutes. After the blood is prepared, the patient will be positioned on the camera, the blood will be re-injected through the IV, and images will be taken for the next hour. The blood will have a small amount of radiation tagged onto it allowing images to be taken. The camera will be positioned over the abdomen and will be silent while pictures are taken.

## Recovery/Home:

There are no restrictions after the GI Bleed study. Continue normal activity. The radiologist will interpret the exam and send the results to your physician's office.



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