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# **GUIDE**

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## **Gallium scan**



The Ottawa Hospital | L'Hôpital  
d'Ottawa



***Disclaimer***

*This is general information developed by The Ottawa Hospital. It is not intended to replace the advice of a qualified healthcare provider. Please consult your healthcare provider who will be able to determine the appropriateness of the information for your specific situation.*

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Your physician has requested an examination called a “gallium scan”. This is a simple and painless way of taking pictures of various parts of the body using a radioactive tracer. You do not need to be fasting for this examination. The procedure is:

1. There, a technologist will inject a radioactive tracer into a vein in the arm. The amount of radioactivity is very small and will have no adverse effect on you. You will receive no more radiation than for an ordinary x-ray. If you are hospitalized the technologist will come to your room to perform the injection.
2. It takes at least 2 days for the tracer to accumulate in the organs to be imaged. Therefore, after the injection, you will be asked to return to the department 2 days later or, if the injection was given on a Friday, you will return on the following Monday. You are under no restrictions during this time and you will experience no reaction to the tracer.
3. When you return you will be asked to lie down on a table and a special detector, called a gamma camera, will be positioned close to the parts of your body being studied. Images may be taken from different angles in order to obtain the maximum information. The procedure takes about 30 minutes. The camera does not produce radiation; it simply picks up signals (gamma rays) from the radioactive tracer which was injected. Therefore, even though several pictures are taken, you will not be exposed to any further radiation.
4. You may then return home or, if you are hospitalized, return to your room feeling no ill effects from the examination. The results of your scan will be sent directly to your physician.
5. The technologist may ask you to return for more images 1 or 2 days later. This will not require another injection.

**Important:**

If you think you may be pregnant or if you are breast feeding, please inform the technologist before you receive your injection.

If you have any questions regarding these instructions, please call the Nuclear Medicine Division at 613-761-4831 ext. 8.

**Notes**