



GUIDE



Gastro-Intestinal Bleed Study



The Ottawa | L'Hôpital
Hospital d'Ottawa

Disclaimer

This is general information developed by The Ottawa Hospital. It is not intended to replace the advice of a qualified health-care provider. Please consult your health-care 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 “Gastro-Intestinal Bleed Study”.

What is a Gastro-Intestinal Bleed study?

This is a simple and painless way of taking pictures of your abdomen, to detect a possible internal bleeding, using a radioactive tracer.

Do I need to prepare for the scan?

There is no preparation required for this test. If you are taking blood thinners for any reason, please advise the technologist before starting your procedure.

What is involved?

A technologist will take a small sample of your blood. The technologist will then label your blood with a small amount of radioactivity. This labeling process will take approximately one hour to perform. The technologist will then ask you to lie down on an imaging table and place you under a special detector, called a gamma camera. The technologist will then re-inject your blood into a vein in your arm. The amount of radioactivity in your blood is very small and you will experience no side effects.

The technologist will then take a series of pictures of your abdomen. The procedure takes about 1 hour. The camera does not produce radiation; it simply picks up signals (gamma rays) from the radioactive material which you received. In some cases, it may be necessary to perform additional delayed images later in the day or the next morning.

Will it hurt?

Only the 'pinprick' of the injection needle may hurt a bit. You may have had a blood test in the past. This is much the same.

Is the radiation dangerous?

The amount of radioactivity used for this test is quite small and will disappear by itself soon after the scan is finished. Most of the radioactivity disappears within one day and any remaining traces disappear within one week.

Do I need to do anything after the scan?

No special precautions are needed after the scan. If you are travelling across any borders in the seven days after your scan, please ask us for further advice. Ports and airports have very sensitive radiation detectors which may pick up tiny amounts of radioactivity remaining after your scan. We will give you a letter that you can show to customs officials at ports or airports.

What happens to the results of the scan?

Once your procedure has been completed, a specially trained technologist will process your images. A Nuclear Medicine specialist will then review this analysis and create a report. This report is then sent to the doctor who asked us to do the study.

Is there anything I should tell the staff before the scan?

Yes, if you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant, please telephone us to let us know. Also, please telephone us if you are breastfeeding.

What if I have more questions?

We want your visit to be as pleasant as possible. If you have any questions, please ask the staff in the nuclear medicine department. You can telephone before your test day, or ask before the scan starts. **Our telephone number is 613-761-4831 ext 8.**

Notes