

Information for patients and carers

Gastrointestinal (GI) Bleed Scan

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of three overlapping, wavy horizontal bands in shades of blue, transitioning from a lighter blue at the top to a darker blue at the bottom.

What is a GI Bleed Scan?

This is a test to demonstrate any potential bleeding from the intestines.

Please inform us before you attend:

- If you are or think you may be pregnant
- If you are breast/chest feeding
- If you weigh over 25 stone (158 Kilograms)
- If you are unable to lie on your back for 45 minutes
- If you have problems standing or need a hoist to transfer

Preparation for the scan

There are no special preparations for a GI Bleed scan so you can eat, drink and take any medication as normal.

The procedure involves 2 injections followed by a scan.

A radiographer will give you the first injection into a vein in your hand or arm. The injection contains a material that attaches itself to your red blood cells.

The radiographer will then wait for approximately 20 to 30 minutes for this to take effect and then give you the second injection of a small amount of radioactive tracer (in a liquid form). This will then attach to the tagged red blood cells.

The images are taken straight after this second injection.

Can you bring a relative or friend with you?

A relative or friend can accompany you to the hospital but usually they will not be allowed into the room when you have your examination.

Please note that we have limited seating and do not have childcare facilities, therefore small children should not attend your appointment.

Your scan

You will be asked to go to the toilet to empty your bladder so that better images are produced. You will be asked to empty your pockets and remove any metal objects such as belts, braces and jewellery. Your scan will be taken using a gamma camera similar to the one shown in the image below.



Special cameras, which are about the size of a large suitcase, will come very close to you during the scan but you will not be enclosed in a tunnel.

The images will take approximately 45 minutes. It may be necessary to take more images for up to 4 hours following these images. We will tell you as soon as we have completed the first set of images if we think we need you to have more images during the day.

You should drink extra fluids for the rest of the day to help reduce the radiation in your body. We will tell you how much to drink when you come and if you are on restricted fluids, we will give you further advice.

Are there any risks?

All medical procedures and tests carry both risks and benefits. Your doctor has requested this scan as they feel the information that we will gain is a greater benefit than the risk from being exposed to radiation. Our injections contain a small amount of radioactivity that emits gamma rays (these are similar to x-rays). In line with national regulations, we use the smallest dose possible to provide us with the information we need about your condition. The results of your scan will give your doctor useful information about your condition and will help to plan your treatment.

After your scan

After your scan, you must continue to follow the advice about drinking that you were given after the injection. You are free to go home or go back to work. Please avoid spending a long time in close contact with young children or pregnant women for the rest of the day. You should aim to spend no more than 15 minutes each hour cuddling or sitting next to them. It is also best if you don't share a bed with a child or a pregnant woman on the evening of your scan.

Travel abroad

Please inform the Radiographer on arrival if you intend to travel abroad within 7 days of your scan. Radiation monitoring at security in airports or ports may detect some of the radiation you have received during your scan. We will give you a letter that will state what test you have had and this can be used when travelling.

Your results

The images will be reviewed after your visit. You will be advised when and how you will receive your results at this time. You will not receive any results on the day of the scan.

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact Nuclear Medicine 01772 522381.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.gov.uk/government/collections/medical-radiation-uses-dose-measurements-and-safety-advice

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www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone 08081962638

**Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.
This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.**

Department: Radiology/Nuclear Medicine
Division: Diagnostics and Clinical Support
Production date: February 2024
Review date: February 2027
JR 1105 v1