

Imaging test to be performed:

Red Blood Cell Scan



Patient's name: _____

Test date: _____

Test time: _____

See other side for test location and registration instructions

What You Need To Know

How to prepare for your test:

There are no special preparations for this test.

How long will the test take?

About 3 hours.

What is the purpose of the test?

Most often this test is used to evaluate blood-flow patterns or to locate the site of gastrointestinal bleeding. It may also be used to look for hemangioma within the liver (a non-cancerous tumor consisting of dilated blood vessels). Occasionally, the test is used to evaluate the rate of blood loss in some anemias, or to evaluate blood-vessel obstructions.

How is the test performed?

You will come to the Medical Imaging Department for two injections. First you will receive a medication that will "sensitize" the red blood cells in your body – a complex chemical reaction that will permit your red blood cells to "accept" a radioisotope (attach the isotope to the cell membrane). The sensitization process will take about 30 minutes. Then the radioisotope will be injected into a vein.

With your red blood cells "tagged" by the radioisotope, you will then be placed under the scanner to detect the location and flow of these cells. You will be scanned for about 2 hours. You must lie as still as possible during the scan.

Required before test:

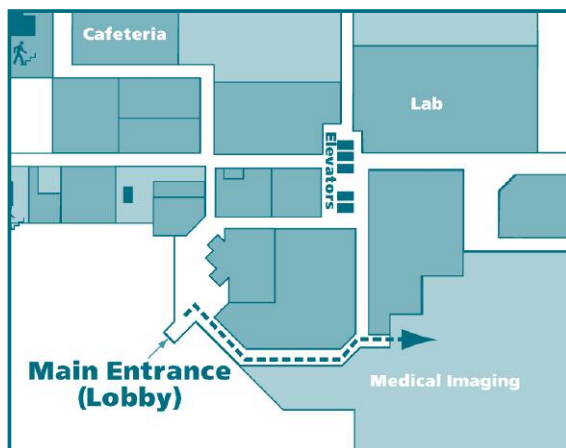
Please provide a signed physician order to perform the exam.

Results will be sent to your ordering physician after a radiologist's review.

Your test will be conducted at:

EIRMC (main campus)

Medical Imaging Department
3100 Channing Way
Idaho Falls
208-227-2600



What is nuclear medicine?

Your doctor has ordered for you a body imaging test of a type known as nuclear medicine. This test involves the introduction into the body of a radioisotope for the purpose of imaging, evaluating organ function, or localizing disease or tumors. A radioisotope (also known as a radionuclide, radiopharmaceutical, or tracer) is a compound containing a radioactive form of atoms. The radioisotope emits gamma rays that are detected by special detector cameras, and a computer creates pictures of the body areas of interest. The doses of radionuclide are very small. Most of the radioactivity passes out of your body in urine or stool, and the rest simply disappears through natural loss of radioactivity over time.

How to register:

Please arrive 10 – 15 minutes early to register (unless you are instructed differently). See the following schedule for guidance on where to register. You will need to show a copy of your insurance card and driver's license each time you register.

Where to register:

Day/Time	EIRMC Location
<i>Mon.- Fri.</i>	
12 - 6:30 a.m.	Emergency Dept. (as outpatient)
6:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Medical Imaging Dept.
4:30 - 7 p.m.	Main Admissions (front of hospital)
7 p.m. - midnight	Emergency Dept. (as outpatient)
<i>Saturday</i>	
12 - 7:30 a.m.	Emergency Dept. (as outpatient)
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Main Admissions (front of hospital)
4 p.m. - midnight	Emergency Dept. (as outpatient)
<i>Sunday</i>	
All day	Emergency Dept. (as outpatient)