

Cold Stimulation

A cold stimulation test checks how well the blood flows through the arteries to the fingers. The test consists of exposing your fingers to ice water, then checking the temperature in the fingers. The test is done in the Vascular Lab. It takes about 60 to 90 minutes.

*If you have
any questions,
please ask your
physician.*

Before the test

There is no special preparation for this test.

On the day of the exam, plan to arrive 15 minutes before your test time. Be sure to bring:

- Your physician's written order for the test, if you have one
- A list of your allergies
- A list of all your current medications (prescription, over-the-counter and herbal)
- Photo ID
- Medical insurance information and card
- Medicare card (Medicare patients only)

For their own safety, children under the age of 16 may not visit in the testing area. They may stay in the waiting room with a responsible adult.

Please come to Galter Pavilion, 201 East Huron Street, and check in at the reception desk on the 8th floor. Parking is available for patients and visitors in the garage at 222 East Huron Street, across from Feinberg and Galter pavilions.

For a discounted rate, bring your parking ticket with you. You can validate your ticket at the Customer Services Desks on the 1st and 2nd floor of Feinberg and Galter pavilions, and on the 1st floor of Prentice Women's Hospital.

During the test

The technologist (tech) will help you sit on the edge of a bed. They will put small thermometers on each of your fingertips. The tech will check the temperature of your fingertips before the test. They will put both of your hands in ice water for 20 seconds and then onto a dry towel. The tech will record the temperature of your fingers. They will check the temperature about every 5 minutes for up to 20 minutes.

Most patients report little or no discomfort during the test.

After the test

The tech will give you towels to dry your hands.

Most often, the vascular surgeon who reads the test sends written results to your physician in about 5 business days.

If you have questions about this test, please call the Vascular Lab at 312.926.5809 (TTY: 711).