

*If there is a
chance you could
be pregnant,
please tell
the tech.*

Gated Blood Pool Study

A gated blood pool study tests how well your heart pumps blood. The test uses a small amount of a radioactive tracer to show the amount of blood left in the heart after it contracts (blood pool). The amount of radiation used in this test is small and well within limits that are not harmful to you. You will have the test in the Nuclear Medicine Department. It takes about 2 hours.

Before the test

There is no special preparation you need to do for this test.

On the day of the test, plan to arrive 15 minutes before it is scheduled to start. Be sure to bring your:

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

Come to the 8th floor Reception Desk in Galter Pavilion, 201 East Huron Street.

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 Desk on the 1st, 2nd or 8th floor of Feinberg and Galter pavilions, and the 1st floor of Prentice Women's Hospital.

During the test

When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine Department, a nurse or technologist (tech) may ask you questions about your medical history.

If you think you might be pregnant or are breastfeeding, please tell the tech before the start of the test and before you are given an injection.

The tech will insert an intravenous (IV) line into a vein in your arm or hand. They will use it to inject pyrophosphate, which is a medication that prepares your blood for the test. The medication needs to circulate in your bloodstream for about 20 minutes.

Next, the tech will ask you to lie on your back on an imaging table. You will have 3 small electrodes (sticky patches) placed on your chest to check your heart rate. The tech will draw a small amount of your blood into a syringe. This blood will be mixed with a radioactive tracer in the syringe. After about 10 minutes, the tech will inject your blood back into your IV line.

The tech will take 3 pictures showing 3 different views of your heart. Each view will take about 8 minutes. It is important that you do not move while the tech takes the pictures. The tech will remove the IV line when the test is finished.

After the test

You may go back to your normal activities and diet after the test. The radioactive tracer you were given is not harmful and becomes nonradioactive within hours.

Talk with your physician about your test results. You can get a copy of your results a week after the test from the Medical Records Department on the 2nd floor of Galter Pavilion.

If you have any questions about this test, please call the Nuclear Medicine Department at 312.926.2340 (TTY: 711) Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.