

Gated Blood Pool Study

A gated blood pool study is a test that checks how well blood is pumped from your heart. 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. The test is done in the Nuclear Medicine Department and takes about 2 hours.

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

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 begin. Be sure to bring:

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

Please 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, please bring your parking ticket with you. Your ticket can be validated at the Customer Services Desks on the 1st, 2nd and 8th floors 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 and 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 pictures are being taken. The IV line will be removed when the test is finished.

After the test

You may resume 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 may obtain a copy of your results a week after the test from the Medical Records Department, which is located on the 2nd floor of Galter Pavilion.

If you have any questions about this test, please call the Nuclear Medicine Department at 312.926.2320, TTY 312.926.6363, Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.