

GI BLEED (Tagged Red Blood Cells)

Purpose:

To determine the location of active bleeding of the Gastrointestinal (GI) Tract.

How long will this procedure take?

Allow 2 hours initially, with delayed films as needed (up to 24 hours).

Preparation:

You should be actively bleeding at the time of the scan.

Procedure:

Some of your blood will be drawn in order to tag it to a radioactive “tracer”, which will then be re-injected back into your vein. You will lie on a table with the camera over your abdominal and pelvic area. Sequential 5-minute images are taken for 1 hour. The films are reviewed with the radiologist who determines if the bleeding site is indicated or if imaging needs to be continued later.

After the examination:

The radiologist will study your films and dictate a report which will be sent to your physician within 24 hours.