GI bleed scan

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET NM08

Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Location: .....

Please see our website for more clinic details.

Duration of examination

This examination takes between one and a half and three hours in total.

Please bring with you:

- Your request form
- Medicare and any
- Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:

bensonradiology.com.au

What is a GI bleed scan?

A Gastro-Intestinal (GI) Bleed Scan is performed to locate the site of bleeding within the gastro-intestinal tract (small and large bowel) at the time when patients are believed to be actively bleeding. This procedure is usually performed with a degree of urgency.

Patient preparation

No preparation is required, you may take medication as normal.

What will happen during the examination?

The test requires a sample of your blood to be "labelled" with a radioactive tracer.

A small cannula is inserted into a vein in your arm. A sample of your blood is collected into a syringe and then mixed with a radioactive tracer. This "labelled" sample is then reinjected into your arm via the same cannula. The tracer allows your blood to be visualised as it passes through your gastro-intestinal tract.

You will be positioned on a scanning bed under a special machine called a gamma camera. A continuous series of images will be taken for up to one hour. You will be able to breathe normally, however you will need to keep as still as possible.

At the end of the hour your images will be reviewed to determine if further imaging is required. Active bleeding needs to be occurring at the time of scanning for the bleeding site to be localised. If the bleeding is intermittent, this may take several hours.

Once the bleeding site is identified your doctors will discuss the management you require.

Are there any risks?

This examination has no associated side effects.

Pregnant, breast-feeding patients and carers of infants

This examination is not suitable for pregnant women.

Breastfeeding mothers may undergo the procedure, but will need to cease breast feeding for 6 hours after the scan. Breast milk should be expressed and discarded during this period. Breast feeding may resume after the 6 hours.

After the examination

The images will be reviewed and reported by our nuclear medicine specialist. These will then be sent to your referring clinician.

For details on reporting timeframes, please speak with our reception staff.

It is important that you follow up the results of your examination with your referring clinician.

It is important you understand why and how we will be assisting you. If you have any questions, please call one of our clinics or speak to our staff on the day of your visit.

Benson radiology

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