


EXAM: NUC. MED. GI BLOOD LOSS Imaging Department 330-596-7700 Scheduling 330-596-7187	 ALLIANCE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL <i>Experience Health Caring</i>
INDICATIONS:	If the patient has specific questions the patient should contact their physician. This exam is helpful in assessing intermittent and active blood loss within the abdominal cavity. Blood loss can be due to many different factors and you should talk to your physician about any history of ulcers, cancer, diverticula and aspirin consumption.
CONTRA-INDICATIONS:	A barium study cannot be done prior to this exam. If one is done, then 72 hours needs to pass before scheduling this exam. Patient who has recently (48 hours) had a technetium based nuclear scan performed. The table weight limit is 400-500lbs.
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?	Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment for registration and insurance purposes. The exam will take approximately 2 ½ to 25 hours to complete.
PREPARATION:	Foley catheter would be beneficial. Empty bowel and bladder prior to just before the exam.
PRECAUTIONS:	If you think you may be pregnant or if you are breastfeeding, make sure the doctor is aware and risks are explained. Mothers that are breastfeeding should consider pumping enough to be used for two days.
MEDICATION ISSUES:	None
WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED:	<p>The patient will arrive at the hospital and enter at the main entrance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the patient is not pre-registered, the patient will need to stop in the first office on the right, just pass the waterfalls, to complete the required paperwork. The patient should have a copy of the doctor's order. - If the patient is pre-registered, the patient will go pass the waterfall, down the hall, pass the second circle on the floor, to the imaging comfort area. The patient will report in to register and review insurance. The patient should have a copy of the doctor's orders as a precaution. <p>The patient will be brought back to the department where we will confirm the patient's identity, explain the procedure, and review their history. An IV will be started and a small amount of blood will be drawn from the IV. For the next 30 minutes, the blood will be mixed with technetium (radioisotope). The patient will be placed on the imaging table and a gamma camera will be placed above the abdomen. The blood will be re-injected through the IV and a series of images will be taken for a minimum of 90 minutes. 6 hour and/or 24 hour images may be requested by the radiologist based on the status of the images at the 90 minute mark. The study is completed after the images have been taken. At this time the patient will be allowed to leave. No precautions need to be taken other than limiting contact with children less than 3 years of age for the next 24 hours.</p> <p>NOTE. This material will be out of their systems within 48 hours. The material will not cause any side effects. A written report will be sent and usually takes 1-2 working days.</p>