

PATIENT INFORMATION

Patient's Name: _____

You have an appointment in the Nuclear Medicine Department on:

Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Please arrive 10 minutes early. This gives you time to check in. Please bring with you photo identification and your BC CareCard (personal health number).

Please do not bring your children with you unless you bring someone to care for them while you are having the test.

If you are not able to keep your appointment, please call **604-806-8008** as soon as possible. Please give us at least 24 hours notice so we can use your time for someone else. When you call, we will give you another date and time for your test.

Things you need to know

Why am I having this test?

Your doctor wants to check for infection somewhere in your body. One example would be infection in the abdomen (stomach area). Another example would be infection in the bone.

When you have an infection, your body fights the infection using white blood cells. This test helps us to pinpoint where an infection is located through the white blood cells.

What do I need to do before the test?

★ Are you allergic to latex? Pregnant? Breastfeeding? Please tell us★

You do not need to do anything special to prepare for this test. You may eat and drink as usual and take your medicines.

What happens during the test?

We take about 60 ml (4 Tbsp) of your blood from your arm vein. This takes 5-10 minutes.

We ask you to return to our department in 2-3 hours. We give you a time when to return.

In our laboratory, we separate out the white blood cells. We then mix your white blood cells with a radioactive material called 'tracer'. The tracer attaches itself to your white blood cells.

When you return to the department, we take the white blood cells with the tracer and inject it into your bloodstream using again a vein in one of your hands or arms.

Depending on the area of infection, we either take pictures or images on this day or the next day. We give you a time when to return.

Same Day: You return to the department in 4-6 hours.

Next Day: You return to the department the next day at the specified time.



How you want to be treated.

It takes about 1 hour to take the images.

How long does the test take?

If we do the test in one day, the test from beginning to end is about 7-9 hours. You can leave the hospital in between each part of the test.

If we do the test over two days, plan on being here for about 3 hours the first day and 1 hour the next.

What can I expect after my test?

There are no side effects.

We send your test results to your doctor within 5 working days after the test is completed. If your doctor does not have your results within two weeks, please ask your doctor to contact us.

If you are planning to travel within 72 hours of this test, please tell the Nuclear Medicine receptionist. We will give you a letter that says you have been given a small amount of radioactivity for this test.