

Procedures/Diagnostic Tests

Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) study

You are scheduled for a glomerular filtration rate (GFR) study. This test measures how well your kidneys work to filter waste products from your body. It uses a small amount of radioactive material (less than that of a chest x-ray). This material helps measure the kidney's filtering ability. The test will take place in the Nuclear Medicine Department.

Preparation

- You will be asked not to take any medications that may interfere with this test. Your nurse or doctor will inform you which medications should not be taken.
- I.V. (intravenous) lines will be inserted: one in each arm. One will be used to give you the radioactive drug and the other will be used to take blood samples. The line from which blood samples will be taken is called a heparin lock. This device allows blood samples to be taken without repeated needle sticks.
- Your weight will be measured before the test.

Procedure

- A small amount of radioactive material will be injected into your blood through one of the I.V. lines already in place.
- Two blood specimens will be drawn: 1 hour after the injection and 3 hours after the injection.
- After the second blood sample is drawn, the I.V. lines will be removed.

After the procedure

Most patients feel the same before and after the test. They may return to their rooms or go home (if they are outpatients).

If you have questions about the procedure, please ask. Your nurse and doctor are ready to assist you at all times.

Special instructions

- Because it uses radioactivity, this test is not performed in pregnant women. *If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, please inform your doctor immediately so that a decision can be made about this test.*
- *Also, please inform your doctor immediately if you are breast-feeding.* Some tests can be performed in breast-feeding women if they are willing to stop breast-feeding for a while.

This information is prepared specifically for persons taking part in clinical research at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and may not apply to patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your health care team.

Products/resources named serve as examples and do not imply endorsement by NIH. The fact that a certain product/resource is not named does not imply that such product/resource is unsatisfactory.

National Institutes of Health Clinical Center
Bethesda, MD 20892

Questions about the Clinical Center?
<http://www.cc.nih.gov/comments.shtml>

