



**Exam Duration:** Approximately 2 hours

**IV Required?** Yes

**Exam Preparation:** Other nuclear exams performed within 2-3 days may interfere  
Imaging studies using oral barium performed within 2-3 days may decrease exam sensitivity

The G.I. Bleed Localization is an exam designed to locate the source of active bleeding within the gastrointestinal tract.

**Exam Procedure:** Upon your arrival, a nuclear medicine technologist will explain the exam in detail and ask questions about your relevant medical history. As this procedure is generally performed on patients already in the hospital, IV access will likely already be available. If not, an IV will need to be started. The exam requires that a radioactive tracer be tagged to red blood cells, and there are two methods:

In the first method, the technologist will draw blood from your IV and tag that blood to a radioactive tracer. The tagging process takes approximately 25-30 minutes, after which you will be re-injected with your blood.

Alternatively, the technologist will give you an injection through your IV rather than draw blood; a second injection follows approximately 20-25 minutes later.

Regardless of the blood tagging method, you will be positioned on a bed with a camera placed over your abdomen. In most cases, it is not required that you move to the imaging table; you may remain on a stretcher instead. Imaging starts at the time of blood reinjection (or at the time of the second injection if the alternative blood tagging method is used). Imaging may take up to 90 minutes.

Depending on the results of the initial set of images, delayed images may be necessary. These images generally require 10-20 minutes and may be acquired at various times (standard delay imaging, if needed, takes place at 4 and 24 hours after the start of the exam).

There are no side effects to be concerned about with this exam.

**Notes:** If you are unable to lie flat for 2 hours, please notify the technologist performing your exam so that alternative positioning may be used.

Wear comfortable clothing to your appointment. You will not be required to change into a gown for this exam.

**Please feel free to contact the Nuclear Medicine department with any questions at (405) 307-1655.**