

If there is a chance you could be pregnant, please tell the technologist.

Gallium Scan

A gallium scan is an exam to help identify tumors or infection in soft tissue using a radioactive tracer. The amount of radiation used in this test is small and well within limits that are not considered harmful. The exam is done in the Nuclear Medicine department and lasts about 2½ hours, involving 1 to 2 follow-up appointments.

Before the Test

There is no special preparation for the test.

On the day of the test, please come to the 8th floor reception desk in the Galter Pavilion, 201 E. Huron St., at your scheduled appointment time.

Be sure to bring:

- Your doctor's written order
- Medical Insurance Information
- Medicare Card (Medicare Patients only)

Parking is available for patients and visitors in the garage at 222 E. Huron, across from the Feinberg and Galter pavilions. For discounted rates, please bring your parking ticket with you. Tickets can be validated at the Customer Services Desks on the 1st and 2nd floor of the Feinberg and Galter pavilions; and the 1st floor of Prentice (including the Prentice 24 hour desk near the Superior entrance).

During the Test

When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine department, a doctor will ask you questions about your medical history. If you think you might be pregnant, please tell the technologist (tech) before you are given any injection.

You will then be given an IV (into the vein) injection of a radioactive tracer. Depending on the reason for the test, the

gallium scans may be done at:

- 24 and 72 hours after injection
- 72 hours after injection

The tech will ask you to return to the Nuclear Medicine department either 24 or 72 hours later.

When you return to the department you will be asked to lie down on a table so a total body image can be done. A doctor will review your gallium scan. In most cases, extra images will be done to obtain more detailed information.

After the Test

You may resume your normal activities and diet both after the injection and when the scan is complete. The IV injection you were given is not harmful and becomes nonradioactive within a few days. The test results are faxed to your doctor within 48 hours of the exam.

If you have any questions about this test, please call the Nuclear Medicine department at 312-926-2514, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Health Information Resources

For more information, visit one of Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Health Learning Centers. These state-of-the-art health libraries are located on the third floor of the Galter Pavilion and on the first floor of the Prentice Women's Hospital. Health information professionals are available to help you find the information you need and provide you with personalized support at no charge. You may contact the Health Learning Centers by calling 312-926-LINK (5465) or by sending an e-mail to hlc@nmh.org.

For additional information about Northwestern Memorial Hospital, please visit our Web site at www.nmh.org.

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Developed by: Department of Nuclear Medicine

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For more information about Northwestern Memorial Hospital, please visit www.nmh.org.

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