White Blood Cell Study

You have been scheduled for a White Blood Cell Scan, which involves the use of a small amount of radioactive material. The level of radioactivity used is extremely low and has no side effects.

You will be positioned next to a special detector called a Gamma Camera. The camera does not produce any radiation. It will be placed close to your body during the test.

Patient Information:

You will have 3 to 4 visits to the department. The waiting time between the injection and scan allows the tracer to concentrate in specific parts of your body.

1. Please report to *Goshen Hospital* **15 minutes** prior to your scheduled test time. This time is to allow for the registration process. Please bring your insurance cards.
2. After you are registered, a Nuclear Medicine Technologist will obtain your pertinent medical history, start an IV, and a blood sample will be drawn from a vein in your arm or hand.
3. This blood sample will be sent away to a Nuclear Pharmacy where it will be made radioactive. This process takes approximately 3-4 hours. You may leave the facility during this waiting period.
4. You will be asked to return to the Nuclear Medicine Department three to four hours after your blood was drawn. At this time, your now radioactive white blood cells will be re-injected through a vein in your arm or hand.
5. You may be given a time to return 3-4 hrs later that same day, but will definitely be given a time to return the following day and plan on being here for 1-2 hours.
6. You will be asked to empty your bladder and to remove any metal from your pockets. You will then be positioned on your back on an imaging table, and to lie very still while the camera obtains the images. The table or camera may then be adjusted to take more pictures *(extra pictures will not expose you to more radiation)*. The pictures take between **1-2 hours**.
7. After your images are complete, all of your information will be presented to the attending Radiologist for his/her review. He or she will determine whether the test is complete or if delayed images will need to be taken. Sometimes additional or delayed views or x-rays are necessary to complete your test.

Patient Preparation:

- None.
- You may eat and drink before the test.
- You may take whatever medications you normally take.

Let the Technologist Know:

For the success of the scan and for your safety, tell the technologist if you:

- Are pregnant or breastfeeding *(or if there is any chance of pregnancy).*
- Have had a White Blood Cell Scan before *(or other tests pertaining to your symptoms like a CAT Scan or Ultrasound).*
- Have had a recent Barium Study or x-rays using contrast.
- Have had chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

You may be asked about your overall health to aid in assessing your images.

For Best Results:

Relax and remain as still as you can. This will help ensure that the images taken will be clear and will not have to be repeated.

Scan Tips:

- Prepare for the test as instructed.
- Ask how long the test will take.

My Appointment:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: ***Goshen Hospital***
200 High Park Ave.
Goshen, Indiana 46526
574-364-2605

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO KEEP THIS APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CONTACT THE NUCLEAR MEDICINE DEPARTMENT AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR APPOINTMENT AT 574-364-2605.

Notes:

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After Your Scan:

Before leaving, you may have to wait briefly while your images are reviewed by a Radiologist. Sometimes additional views or x-rays are necessary to complete your test. You may then return to your normal routine. The tracer will leave your body within a few days. To hasten this process, drink extra water and urinate frequently for 24 hours after your scan. Your referring physician will receive a written report from the White Blood Cell Scan 24 – 48 hours after your test is complete.

What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear Medicine is a medical specialty which uses safe, painless and cost-effective techniques both to image the body and treat disease. Nuclear Medicine imaging is unique in that it documents organ function and structure in contrast to Diagnostic Radiology which is based on anatomy. Nuclear Medicine allows your physician to gather medical information which may otherwise be unavailable, require surgery, or necessitate more expensive diagnostic tests.

Nuclear Medicine uses very small amounts of radioactive materials or radiopharmaceuticals to diagnose and treat disease.

Radiopharmaceuticals are substances that are attracted to specific organs, bones or tissues. The radiopharmaceuticals used in Nuclear Medicine emit gamma rays which can be detected externally by special types of cameras called Gamma Cameras. These cameras work in conjunction with computers and are used to create images which provide data and information about the area of the body being imaged.

This patient information sheet was provided to you courtesy of the IU Health Goshen Hospital Nuclear Medicine Department as part of our commitment to superior healthcare. This is for informational purposes only and is not intended as a substitute for discussion between you and your physician. Please consult with your physician or a member of our Nuclear Medicine Department staff if you would like more information about specific procedures.

01/2017

Goshen Hospital

200 High Park Ave.
Goshen, IN 46526

Nuclear Medicine Department

Phone: 574-364-2605
Fax: 574-364-2843

Information for our Nuclear Medicine Patients

Inform your physician if you are pregnant or breast feeding

WHITE BLOOD CELL STUDY

What is a White Blood Cell Scan?

A White Blood Cell Scan *(or Leukocyte Scan)* is a specialized imaging test. It is used to find infections and abscesses in you body. A White Blood Cell Scan uses a small amount of injected radioactive matter (tracer) and a camera to form an image. It is a type of Nuclear Medicine scan. Your doctor has decided that the value of this test outweighs any risk.