NUCLEAR MEDICINE
TAGGED RBC BLEEDING STUDY

OVERVIEW: A nuclear medicine procedure is sometimes described as an “inside-out” x-ray, because it records radiation emitting from the patient’s body, rather than radiation that is directed through the patient’s body. Nuclear medicine procedures use small amounts of radioactive materials, called radiopharmaceuticals, to create images of anatomy. Radiopharmaceuticals are substances that are attracted to specific organs, bones or tissues. They are introduced into the patient’s body by injection, swallowing or inhalation. As the radiopharmaceutical travels through the body, it produces radioactive emissions. A special type of camera detects these emissions in the organ, bone or tissue being imaged and then records the information on a computer screen and on film.

TAGGED RBC BLEEDING STUDY: This study is done to detect areas of focal or diffuse gastrointestinal bleeding.

PREP: You will remain fasting during the procedure.

PROCEDURE: You will have a small amount of blood drawn and it will be tagged with Tc-99m/04. This tagging process takes approximately 20 minutes. You will be placed on the exam table beneath the imaging camera and the “tagged” red blood cells will be injected. Imaging begins immediately and continues for one hour. Delayed images are taken 2 hours post injection. Those images take approximately 10 minutes. Additional delayed images may be taken at the radiologist’s discretion.

RESULTS: These images will be reviewed by a radiologist and your ordering physician will contact you with the results in approximately 3 days. Your physician will advise you of the results and discuss what further procedures, if any, are needed.