

Scintigraphy is an imaging technique used to evaluate the metabolic processes in the tissues and lesions of the human body. A small amount of radiolabelled substance involved in the metabolism is injected into the patient's body to obtain an image. In the present case, it is a technetium-99m-labelled substance that binds to red blood cells and reveals the bleeding site. At the same time, computed tomography (CT) will be performed.

The test is indicated for patients with suspected bleeding.

The test does not require special preparation.

The procedure

The duration of the procedure, including preparation, is about 2 hours. Before the test, a nurse will speak to you, insert an intravenous cannula and give two injections of a radioactive tracer 30 minutes apart. Before the second injection, you will be asked to lie on your back on the examination table. Then, the first recording will be performed, which may be sufficient to fulfil the purpose of test. During the recording, you will be asked to lie still to ensure a high-quality result. If necessary, additional recordings lasting from 40 to 50 minutes will be performed in the next 24 hours.

After the test:

- eat normally; it is advisable to drink plenty of fluids to accelerate the excretion of the tracer through the kidneys;
- breastfeeding should usually be discontinued for 24 hours; removed breast milk should be discarded. Detailed instructions will be given to you by the personnel in the department;
- on the study day try to avoid close (less than 1 metre) and long lasting (over quarter an hour) contact with children and pregnant women;
- study results will be sent to referring physician within a week. If you have a doctor's appointment on the same day or the following day, please inform the study personnel.

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