

Tc99m Ceretec Tagged WBC(white blood cell) Scan

What to expect at arrival:

Please arrive 30 minutes prior to the appointment. The first place to go after arriving is admissions. The physician's office should have provided a written order to the patient. Please take the order to admissions for registration. After checking in, the next stop will be the Radiology desk. The exam should start quickly from the scheduled time. Since Northeast Georgia is a major medical center there are emergencies that could arise that might extend wait time. Please try to be patient and be assured that we will begin your procedure as quickly as possible.

What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear Medicine is a radiology modality that uses radiopharmaceuticals to image the body's anatomy and physiology. The images are obtained after an intravenous injection or an oral administration of the radioactive pharmaceutical. Depending on the study, the images can take 20 to 30 minutes or could take a few hours or multiple days, depending on the study. The radiation from the pharmaceuticals is minimal.

Patient Prep:

There are no restrictions or preparations prior to a Ceretec WBC study. The patient can eat, drink, and take medications prior to the injection and afterward. **Please let the technologist know if there is any possibility that you may be pregnant.**

Your Tc99m Ceretec Tagged WBC Scan:

When you are brought to the Nuclear Medicine department, a technologist will verify the orders and patient identification. A technologist will ask a series of questions and explain the procedure. An IV will be started in the arm and a syringe of blood will be drawn from the IV. The blood has to be packaged and sent to a pharmacy in Atlanta to be tagged. The blood will be returned in about 4 hours from the time it was drawn. Due to Atlanta traffic the time that we receive the blood back can change and we will let you know of any delays. The tagged white blood cells from the Atlanta pharmacy will be injected back through the IV that was placed and images will be taken at three hours post injection. Imaging will take about one hour and will include a whole body scan. The camera does not release any radiation and is nearly silent while taking the pictures.

Recovery/Home:

There are no restrictions after the exam. Continue normal activity. The radiologist will interpret the exam and send the results to your physician's office.

Patient Information



Northeast Georgia Health System • Imaging Services • www.nghs.com/Imaging

Imaging Center Gainesville
770-219-8035

Imaging Center Braselton
770-848-6150

NGMC Main Campus
770-219-1300