

About Your Glomerular Filtration Rate (GFR) Study

What You Need to Know and Do

A glomerular filtration rate (GFR) study measures how well your kidneys work to filter waste products from your body.

You will be given a small amount of radioactive material (called a tracer). The radioactive material is safe and helps measure the kidney's ability to filter waste.

What should I do before my GFR study?

- Make sure your doctor knows if you are (or could be) pregnant, or are breastfeeding.
- Let your doctor know of any medicines you are taking, including vitamins, herbs, and over-the-counter medicine. Some of them may need to be stopped in the days before the test.

Let your technologist know if you are:

- taking any medicines
- had recent X-rays or tests that use any substances, such as barium
- have had recent surgery
- have other health problems, such as diabetes, or any allergies.

What will happen during my test?

- Intravenous (IV) tubes will be inserted: one in each of your arms. One IV will be used to give you the radioactive drug. The other will be used to take samples of your blood.
- A small amount of the radioactive material will be injected into your blood through one of the IVs.
- You will have a total of 5 blood samples drawn over a 4-hour period of time.

What should I do after my test?

- You can go home shortly after the test.
- You can return to your normal activities right after the test.
- Your doctor will contact you and discuss the test results with you. This will probably happen a few days after the test.