

*If there is a
chance you may
be pregnant,
please tell us
before the test.*

Breath Test: Nuclear Medicine

A breath test shows if there is bacteria in your stomach. It gives your physician helpful information for treating stomach ulcers and inflammation. The test uses a radioactive tracer. The amount of radiation used in this test is small and well within limits that are not harmful to you. You will have the test in the Nuclear Medicine Department. It takes about 1 hour.

Before the test

For 30 days before the test, do not take any antibiotics or Pepto Bismol®.

For 14 days before the test, do not take sucralfate (Carafate®) or any medications that reduce acid in your stomach, such as:

- Esomeprazole (Nexium®)
- Lansoprazole (Prevacid®)
- Omeprazole (Prilosec®)
- Pantoprazole (Protonix®)

Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your test.

On the day of the test, plan to arrive 15 minutes before it is scheduled to start. Be sure to bring your:

- Physician's written order for the test if you have one
- List of your allergies
- List of all your current medications (prescription, over-the-counter and herbal)
- Photo ID
- Medical insurance information
- Medicare card (Medicare patients only)

Come to the 8th floor Reception Desk in Galter Pavilion, 201 East Huron Street.

Parking is available for patients and visitors in the garage at 222 East Huron Street, across from Feinberg and Galter pavilions. For a discounted rate, bring your parking ticket with you. You can validate your ticket at the Customer Services Desk on the 1st, 2nd or 8th floor in Feinberg and Galter pavilions, and the 1st floor of Prentice Women's Hospital.

During the test

When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine Department, a nurse or technologist (tech) will ask you questions about your medical history.

If you think you might be pregnant or are breastfeeding, please tell the tech before the start of the test and before you are given an injection.

The technologist (tech) will ask you to swallow a small capsule with a glass of warm water. Then, they will ask you to drink a 2nd glass of warm water 3 minutes after swallowing the capsule. Then, 7 minutes after drinking the 2nd glass of water, they will ask you to hold your breath for 10 seconds. You will breathe out into 2 balloons through a straw. The test is done after you fill the 2nd balloon.

After the test

You may go back to your normal activities, diet and medication after the test. The radioactive tracer you were given is not harmful. It becomes nonradioactive within hours.

Talk with your physician about your test results. You can get a copy of your results 1 week after the test from the Medical Records Department on the 2nd floor of Galter Pavilion.

If you have any questions about this test, please call the Nuclear Medicine Department at 312.926.2340 (TTY:711) Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.