

Total Blood Volume Analysis

General Information

Your health care provider wants you to have a total blood volume analysis. This test will measure how much blood is in your body and if you have the right amount of plasma and red blood cells.

Blood is mostly made up of plasma, a straw-colored fluid. Plasma carries red blood cells throughout your body. Red blood cells bring oxygen to all of your tissues, help control blood pressure and remove waste products from your tissues. If the amount of plasma and red blood cells is too high or too low, your body may not work well.

The test will take about 1 ½ hours. It does not use X-ray contrast.

Before the Test

- You may be asked not to take any diuretic medicines (water pill) for 4 hours before the test.
- Wear comfortable clothing.
- Please bring:
 - your insurance card
 - a photo ID (such as a driver's license)
 - a list of your current medicines. Be sure to include prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbals.
- Tell the technologist if you:
 - are breastfeeding, pregnant or think you may be pregnant
 - have any allergies.

Your Appointment

Date: _____

Time: _____ a.m. / p.m.

Location: _____

Phone number: _____

If you need to cancel or reschedule, please call at least 24 hours before your scheduled appointment.

- You will be asked to empty your bladder before starting the test.

During the Test

- A technologist will measure your height and weight.
- You will be asked to sit in a recliner or lie on a special table.
- The technologist will insert an intravenous (IV) line into your arm.
- You will be asked to lie quietly during the test. Once it has started, it's important that you don't get up until the test is done. Please follow any instructions the technologist gives you during the test.
- The technologist will take a small blood sample through the IV line.

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- You will then be given a small amount of radioactive tracer through the IV.
- Then, the technologist will start taking small blood samples every 5 to 6 minutes through the IV line. About 3 to 6 blood samples total will be taken.
- After the blood samples have been drawn, the IV will be removed and a bandage will be placed at the IV site.

After the Test

- You may return to normal activities, unless your health care provider gives you other instructions.
- You may have slight bruising or discomfort at the IV site. This is normal.

Your Results

- A cardiologist will review the analysis and your health history to create a report.
- This report will be given to your health care provider. He or she will notify you of the results.