



About the Institute

Allegheny General Hospital has long been renowned for its visionary approach to treating cardiovascular disease. Now, with the creation of the Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute, the hospital brings its heart and vascular specialists and services together — in one convenient location. This state-of-the-art facility includes customized areas for patient examinations, consultations, laboratory testing and diagnostic procedures, as well as scheduling, registration, nursing support and lifestyle management programs.

Allegheny General Hospital is a 724-bed academic medical center serving Pittsburgh and the surrounding five-state area.

Founded in 1885 on Pittsburgh's historic North Side, the hospital has earned an international reputation for excellence and innovation in the care of patients, medical education and research. Allegheny General has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report magazine as one of "America's Best Hospitals" for nine clinical specialties. The hospital has also been lauded as one of America's top 25 medical centers by the AARP's Modern Maturity magazine.

Allegheny General Hospital — and its Suburban Campus in nearby Bellevue — annually admits 31,500 patients and logs about 60,000 emergency visits and more than 26,000 surgical procedures. Nearly 1,000 physicians and approximately 4,500 employees share the hospital's commitment to excellence.

A member of the West Penn Allegheny Health System, Allegheny General Hospital is a western Pennsylvania campus for the Philadelphia-based Drexel University College of Medicine; third- and fourth-year medical students receive clinical training at the hospital.



The Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute

at Allegheny General Hospital

A part of the West Penn Allegheny Health System

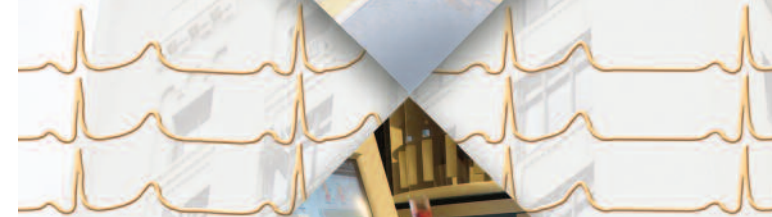
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Blood Volume Analysis

The Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute
Allegheny General Hospital



The blood volume analysis helps physicians develop a more precise treatment plan for many medical conditions.

A new, more accurate method for measuring blood volume is now available at Allegheny General Hospital's Nuclear Cardiology Laboratory.

What is Blood Volume?

Blood — which is mostly made up of red blood cells and plasma — is essential for the health of the body. It provides oxygen and vital nutrients to organs and cells throughout the body, helps regulate blood pressure, and carries waste to excretory organs. The blood volume affects the body's ability to function normally. However, certain diseases and conditions can disrupt the body's ability to maintain an adequate volume of blood — causing further medical problems.

Why is Blood Volume Analysis a Better Diagnostic Tool?

Results of this test can help your physician determine the cause of symptoms, abnormal laboratory results or certain other circulatory problems since it provides information that may not be apparent with a physical examination or other laboratory testing. Treatment of your disease or condition will be improved when more precise blood volume measurements are available.

Who Should Have a Blood Volume Analysis?

A number of medical conditions can affect the volume of blood in a patient, such as:

- Congestive heart failure
- Hypertension
- Anemia
- Polycythemia (overproduction of red blood cells)
- Syncope (fainting)
- Orthostatic hypotension (low blood pressure when standing)
- Renal dialysis — evaluate the need to increase hemoglobin by using the medications epoetin or darbepoetin
- Pre- and post-operative evaluation of fluid status.

If you have any of these conditions, ask your doctor if blood volume analysis is right for you.

What Should I Do to Prepare for a Blood Volume Analysis?

There is no special preparation for a blood volume analysis. You are permitted to eat, drink and take your

usual medications prior to your appointment. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring the following information with you: your medical insurance cards, a list of your allergies and a list of your current medications with dosages.

What Happens During a Blood Volume Analysis?

Volumex[®] — a small amount of radioactive tracer — is injected intravenously and blood samples are then taken and analyzed with special equipment to determine your blood volume. During the procedure, you will be awake and in a comfortable position, lying as flat as possible. A nurse or technologist will be with you during the procedure. The entire test can be completed within two hours and results are usually sent to your physician the same day.

What Will My Physician Do with the Blood Volume Analysis Results?

Your physician will review the blood volume analysis results and determine if any changes are needed in your medications or treatment plan.

AGH — A Trusted Name in Health Care

Nationally renowned for its clinical expertise and diagnostic imaging capabilities, Allegheny General Hospital offers state-of-the-art blood volume analysis and patient-focused care. Our experienced specialists and clinical staff deliver comprehensive services with personalized attention — helping your physician to make a quicker and more accurate diagnosis and treatment plan. We offer our patients convenient parking and we accept most forms of insurance.

Call Us Today

To schedule an appointment or for more information about blood volume analysis, call Allegheny General Hospital's Section of Nuclear Cardiology at 412-359-6674.