

What happens during my BVA?

- After registering you will be asked to empty your bladder. Then your height and weight will be measured. Your blood pressure will also be measured.
- Next you will be asked to sit in a reclining chair where a technologist will insert a small intravenous (IV) line into your arm. A small blood sample will be taken through the IV line and you will be asked to sit quietly for 10-12 minutes.
- Then, through the IV line a small amount of radioactive Volumex® will be injected. Again, you will be asked to sit quietly for 10-12 minutes following the injection.
- Next the technologist will begin taking small blood samples every 5-6 minutes through the IV line. About 3-5 blood samples are taken in total.

- Following a BVA your normal activity is not restricted, unless advised otherwise by your physician. You may want to take extra care of your arm where the IV was located. However, you may drive, exercise, eat, drink, etc. after a BVA.
- You may experience slight bruising or discomfort at the IV site, which is normal. If you experience any prolonged discomfort, swelling or bruising, contact your physician.



How do I get my results?

- A physician will review your BVA and the results will be sent directly to your physician.
- Your physician will contact you with the results.

What happens after my BVA?

- After your last blood sample the technologist will remove the IV line and place a bandage at the IV site. You may leave immediately after your BVA.

My BVA Appointment:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Notes: _____

Blood Volume Analysis



A Patient and Physician Guide



For more information
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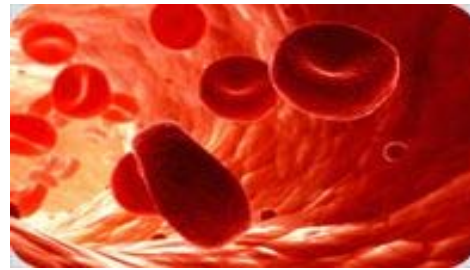
What is a Blood Volume Analysis?

- A Blood Volume Analysis (BVA) is a simple test used by physicians to measure how much blood is in a patient.
- A BVA helps a physician determine the best treatment options for a patient.

Why is Blood Volume Important?

- Blood is primarily made up of Red Blood Cells (RBCs) and Plasma. Red Blood Cells float in Plasma. Plasma is 90% water.
- Blood provides oxygen (RBCs); helps to control blood pressure (along with the heart and blood vessels); transports life sustaining nutrients and hormones; carries waste to excretory glands.

- Blood is the fluid of life and a proper amount of blood (blood volume) is the keystone to the body's ability to regulate the proper function of all vital organs and cells throughout the body.



Why do I need a BVA?

- There are many medical conditions and medications which alter your blood volume.
- A BVA helps a physician to diagnose blood volume abnormalities that may not be apparent from a physical exam or other lab tests, and it may help to clarify the optimal treatment for:
 - Congestive Heart Failure
 - Hypertension
 - Anemia
 - Syncope/Orthostatic Hypotension
 - Dialysis
 - Chronic Fatigue
 - Pre/Post Surgical Testing
 - Septic Shock

How does a BVA work?

- A BVA utilizes the “tracer dilution technique” and a specialized instrument (BVA-100®) to precisely measure blood volume.
- Volumex®, which is a low-level radioactive tracer, is injected into a patient.
- After the tracer mixes in the blood, small blood samples are taken at specific time intervals.
- The blood samples are then analyzed to determine how much and at what rate the tracer has been diluted within the blood volume.
- The amount and rate of dilution results in the patient's measured blood volume.

How are the BVA results reported?

- A BVA result reports the total amount of blood volume, red blood cell volume and plasma volume in milliliters.
- The measured results are compared to a calculated “ideal” blood volume, based upon a patient's height, weight, gender and deviation from ideal weight.

- The deviations between the measured and ideal values are reported both in milliliters and a % from the ideal values.
- Additional data such as rate of capillary leak (how much blood volume is moving into the space outside of your blood vessels) and the “normalized hematocrit” (what your hematocrit is after adjusted for plasma volume abnormalities) is also reported.



How do I prepare for my BVA?

- There are no specific things you need to do or to avoid prior to a BVA. The entire test takes about one hour.
- Prior to your BVA you may be asked to supply your medical insurance information, your medical history, and a listing of any medications you are currently taking.
- Plan to arrive 15 minutes prior to your appointment and wear comfortable warm clothing. If you need to cancel or change your appointment, please do so at least 24 hours before your scheduled appointment.