

Thyroid Uptake and Scan

You have been referred for thyroid uptake and scan. This test evaluates the amount and appearance of iodine taken up by the thyroid and is used to diagnose and evaluate hyperthyroidism (or over-active thyroid).

This test takes two days to complete. The first day you will swallow a capsule containing a very small amount of radioactive iodine. 24 hours later images of your neck (where your thyroid is located) will be taken as you lie on your back. Measurements of iodine activity will also be obtained while you sit in front of a measuring device called a probe. Some patients may also have measurements taken on the first day. Occasionally a small amount of a different radiotracer may be injected, followed by additional thyroid imaging.

Depending on the exact type of renogram ordered by your doctor a diuretic (Lasix) or blood pressure medication (Enalapril) may be given as part of the renogram.

The whole test can take up to 4 hours when completed in one day.

The test is long and has several parts so bring some reading material with you.

Before the renogram scan, tell your ordering physician if:

- You are, or may be pregnant.
- You are breast-feeding.
- You have severe claustrophobia.
- You have difficulty lying flat.
- Take any medications regularly. Be sure your doctor knows the names and doses of all your medications, including: over the counter medications that contain iodine, including kelp, cough syrups, multivitamins, or the heart medication amiodarone (Cordarone, Pacerone).
- If you have had any tests or X-ray studies using iodine dye in the past 3 months including a CT scan or IVP which can interfere with the accuracy of this test.

How to prepare:

- THYROID MEDICATIONS including methimazole (Tapazole) or propylthiouracil (PTU) SHOULD BE STOPPED 5 DAYS BEFORE THIS TEST or as instructed by your physician.
- It is OK to continue any beta-blocking medication (including propranolol, atenolol, metoprolol). If you have questions regarding your medication please contact your ordering provider BEFORE your appointment.
- Have nothing to eat or drink for 4 hours before your first thyroid imaging appointment
- Please wear loose comfortable clothing and minimal jewelry.

If you are unable to keep your appointment please call to cancel. Give at least 24 hours notice when possible.