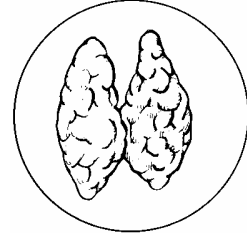


THYROID SCAN WITH UPTAKE

Patient Education

What is the purpose of this test?

A thyroid scan is used to assess the thyroid function and to evaluate any neck nodule(s) that may be present. This helps your doctor make treatment recommendations.



How should I prepare for this test?

Follow your normal diet and activity. Be aware, however, that x-ray tests involving the use of dyes, called contrast media, will interfere with this test for up to six weeks. Telepaque, a medication for x-ray gallbladder studies, interferes with this study for up to six months. Thyroid medications (i.e., Synthroid, PTU) should be stopped prior to the test. Please let your doctor know if you are taking any of these medicines.

How is the test performed?

When you arrive, we will take a review of your history and past exams. A Nuclear Medicine technologist will give you a radioactive pill and ask that you return four (4) hours later for an uptake exam to measure how well your thyroid picked up the tracer. Next, a set of pictures will be taken with a special camera to evaluate the size and shape of the thyroid gland. This will take approximately 45 minutes. You will be asked to return the next day to perform another uptake exam. This will take approximately five (5) minutes.

How long does the test take?

The thyroid scan is done over two days.

What about radiation?

Only a small amount of radiation is used in this procedure. The dose for each patient is carefully selected to give the least possible exposure while still allowing for an accurate exam. The radiologist and technologists are trained in radiation safety. **CAUTION:** This test should not be done during pregnancy or breast feeding.

After the test...

Your thyroid scan will be analyzed by a radiologist who specializes in interpreting this kind of test. He will report the findings to your doctor, who will then discuss the results with you and explain any treatment you may require. Unless your doctor gives you special instructions, you may resume your regular diet, medications, and activities.

CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS