

THYROID UPTAKE AND SCAN

Purpose:

To evaluate gland size, cysts, nodules, and function of the thyroid gland.

How long will this procedure take?

Three separate visits are necessary for this exam:

- (1) An oral dose of radioactive iodine capsules and the initial screening-10 minutes.
- (2) Return 6 hours later for an uptake and scan, which will take 1 hour.
- (3) Return 24 hours after the initial dose for a second uptake-10 minutes.

Preparation:

Preparation:

You must:

- (1) not have taken thyroid medication for the past 2 weeks,
- (2) not have had iodinated contrast (as used for IVP, some CT Scans, etc.) in the past 6 weeks, and
- (3) not have taken multivitamins which contain iodine (such as Centrum) in the past 2 weeks.

Procedure:

A technologist will screen you and give you radioactive iodine capsules. You will be asked not to eat for 20 to 30 minutes following this oral dose, and will return 6 hours later. An uptake is performed using a special probe which is placed against the thyroid gland and measures the percentage of the radioactive capsule the thyroid has absorbed. The probe will also be placed above the knee for a "background" reading.

Four views of the thyroid, taking 5 to 7 minutes each, are acquired as you lie on the table. The images and uptake results are reviewed by the radiologist who then may need to examine your thyroid to better evaluate any nodules or cysts seen on the scan.

You will return 24 hours after the initial dose for a second uptake using the same procedure as the first day.

After the examination:

The radiologist will study your films and dictate a report which will be sent to your physician within 24 hours.