

THYROID SCINTIGRAPHY (THYROID SCAN)

Purpose of the study

This study investigates thyroid gland functioning and nodules.

Preparing for the study

- Discuss your medications with the referring doctor.
 - You will need to pause your thyroxine medication for 1 month before the study.
- Substances that contain iodine may prevent the study tracer from accumulating in your thyroid gland. These include some medicines as well as radiographic contrast agents and seaweed products. For example there must be a six-week break from receiving an iodinated x-ray contrast agent before thyroid scan can be done.
- There is no need to pause thyrostatic medicines.
- You may eat and drink normally.
- Dentures and prosthetic joints will not interfere with a nuclear medicine study.
- The study is not done in pregnant women.

What to expect at the study

You will receive a small amount of radioactive tracer through a vein in your forearm. Afterwards we will wait 15 minutes for the tracer to make its way into your thyroid gland. You will not sense the tracer.

Your thyroid gland will be scanned while you lie on your back. You must stay still during the scan.

Duration of the study

The study will take less than an hour in total.

Study results

The study results will be provided later by a doctor at the ward or clinic that referred you.

After the study

You will emit a small amount of radioactivity into your immediate environment after receiving the tracer. After the scan, you should drink plenty of fluids and empty your bladder more often than usual so that radioactivity will leave your body through your urine.

Avoid close contact with pregnant women on the day of the study. You should also avoid holding children or being next to them for more than half an hour. Anyone will be completely safe at a distance of two metres. The radiation will dissipate spontaneously by the following day.

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