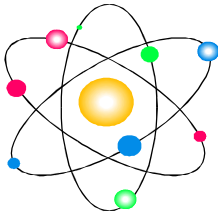


Whole Body Radioiodine Scan



UHN

Information for Patients



How Nuclear Medicine Works

Nuclear medicine exams assess how your organs work. This is different from other areas of radiology, which create images based on your anatomy.

During a Nuclear Medicine procedure, you will swallow, inhale, or receive an injection of a radioactive material called a **radiopharmaceutical**. When the radiopharmaceutical reaches the right area, a technologist will take pictures of you with a special machine called a gamma camera.

What is Whole Body Radioiodine scan?

A whole body radioiodine scan is done to find out where your remaining thyroid tissue is located.

What happens after the test?

There are no known side effects from the test. You may go back to your normal activities once the examination is over. The report will be sent to your doctor.

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What is the test like?

- We will give you a pill to swallow which has radioactive iodine.
- Two days later, you will return to the Nuclear Medicine department for whole body imaging. You will be asked to lie on a bed while the camera passes above and below you. This can take up to one hour. After the whole body images, you may or may not need more pictures.
- The radioiodine will come out through your urine, saliva and perspiration over the next few days. We will give you instructions to follow for 24 hours after swallowing the capsule to avoid radioactive contamination and to decrease exposing yourself or others around you to radiation.
- Females should wait 6 months before starting a pregnancy, and males 2 months before fathering a child. Please talk with your technologist if you are breastfeeding for more instructions.

Immediately after swallowing the Capsule

After swallowing the capsule do NOT have anything to eat for 30 minutes. Drinking clear fluids is okay. After the first hour, drink extra fluids and empty your bladder often.

What happens after the test?

There are no known side effects from the test. You may go back to your normal activities once the examination is over. The report will be sent to your doctor.

Preparing for the test

- Have a light meal 1½-2 hours before your appointment.
- If you are female between 10 and 55 years of age, a pregnancy test may be performed because of the risk of possible side effects on a fetus.
- Please take a mild laxative (for example, dulcolax, pronounced **dull-col-axe**) **2 days before your scan.**
- If you do not have a blue card from University Health Network, please come 30 minutes before your appointment time and go to Patient Registration, located on the ground floor near the Elizabeth Street entrance or at the desk of the main University Avenue entrance.



For female patients

If there is any chance that you are pregnant, tell the technologist **before** you are injected with the radioactive tracer. You will need to stop breastfeeding completely for this test, so tell the technologist if you are nursing a baby.

You are scheduled to receive your capsule on _____

at _____

and have your whole body scan on _____

at _____.

If you have any questions or concerns about the test, or if you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment, please contact the Toronto General Hospital Nuclear Medicine department at 416-340-3311.

At Toronto General Hospital, the Nuclear Medicine department is located on the first floor of the hospital, ES1-408, near the east elevators.

Check in at the Medical Imaging reception area (University Avenue entrance, across from the pharmacy) **15 minutes before your appointment.**