

Thyroid Uptake- A thyroid scan is used to determine the size, shape and position of the thyroid gland. The test provides information about the structure and function of the thyroid. The thyroid is a gland in the neck that controls metabolism, a chemical process that regulates the rate at which the body converts food to energy.

If you are a female patient between the ages of 9 and 55 you are required to either consent to a pregnancy test or sign a Pregnancy Test Waiver form prior to your exam. The only exception will be for females with a history of total hysterectomy. If you are breastfeeding please inform the technologist before your exam.

Please bring your current home medications or a list of your medications with you the day of the test. You may be asked to remove some or all of your clothes and wear a gown during the test. You may also be asked to remove jewelry, removable dental hardware, eye glasses, and any metal objects or clothing that might interfere with the images.

A nurse or technologist will insert an intravenous (IV) line into a vein in your hand or arm. A radioactive tracer is then injected into your arm. Your bloodstream filters this tracer to the area of your thyroid. Imaging will start 10 to 15 minutes after the injection. Images of your thyroid will be taken for 15 minutes.

The test will require you to lie flat. Multiple images of your anatomy will be taken using a nuclear medicine camera. The images will be taken at timed intervals during the exam. The images will be reviewed by a Radiologist (a doctor that reads x-rays) and a report will be sent to your ordering physician in 48 hours. Unless your physician tells you otherwise, you may resume your normal activities after your nuclear medicine scan. If any special instructions are necessary, you will be informed by a technologist, nurse or physician before you leave the nuclear medicine department.