

Thyroid Uptake and Scan

A Thyroid Uptake and Scan is used to detect an overactive or under-active thyroid. It further helps to evaluate thyroid nodules by telling whether they are "hot" or "cold" which can indicate thyroid cancer and more.

Patient Preparation

Stop all thyroid medications, your doctor will advise.

Procedure

This is a three part exam. On your first visit, you will be given a capsule containing a small amount of radiopharmaceutical. Six hours later, on your second visit, images will be obtained along with measurement of your thyroid gland which takes about 45 minutes. Finally, you will return 24 hours later and a measurement of your thyroid gland will be taken which takes about 15 minutes.

The amount of radiation needed for the exam is minimal and the body eliminates the tracer material typically within twenty-four hours.

Tell the technologist if you have any allergies and if you are undergoing radiation therapy because these factors may require adjustments in how the examination is performed. Also, let the technologist know if you are pregnant or breastfeeding as nuclear medicine tests are usually not recommended for pregnant women.