

I-131 Whole Body Scan

Department of the test: Nuclear Medicine (NM)

Purpose of the test:

To determine the presence and extent of residual functioning thyroid tissue and the presence and location of functioning thyroid cancer.

Notes before the test:

1. You will receive some radiation in the test.
2. Some medications and food will interfere with the uptake result. Thyroid hormones (eg, thyroxine/T4), antithyroid drugs, iodine-containing food (eg, kelp, seaweed, multivitamin) and medications (eg, iodinated contrast, amiodarone, betadine) should be avoided for 4 weeks.
3. Nothing to eat or drink 3 hours before the test.

On the day of the test:

1. Please check in first at NM service counter.
2. NM physician will ask you a few questions of medical history.
3. You will be given a capsule of radioactive iodine tracer by NM pharmacist. Please don't eat or drink for 3 hours after taking medication.
4. You will be asked to return for imaging 3 days later.
5. Pictures will be taken by NM technologists. Please don't move during these pictures.
6. Followed pictures are needed if clinically indicated.

Total duration of the test:

1. About 30 minutes for history taking and tracer prescription.
2. About 30-60 minutes for pictures.

Adverse drug effect of the test: very rare.