

Thyroid Scans



Radiology Department

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Nuclear Medicine Supplement:

Please read the pamphlet: **Nuclear Medicine Scans BCCH1097** before this sheet.

Why is the test done?

- To study the size, shape, and position of the thyroid gland.
- To find out how well it is working.

There are two different types of thyroid scans. Your doctor will decide which of these is best for your child. Your child will have a:

- Technetium Thyroid Scan
- Iodine Thyroid Scan

What happens during the test?

Technetium Scan: Your child will have radioactive material injected into a vein. After 20 minutes, s/he will be scanned. The scan takes 30 - 45 minutes.

After the scan, your child will be given a cherry drink called potassium perchlorate. This helps protect the thyroid gland from the radiation.

Iodine Scan: In the Nuclear Medicine Department, your child will drink a cup of water. In it is a small dose of radioactive iodine. S/he must not eat or drink for 30 minutes after the iodine. After this, you and your child can leave the department. Your child will be scanned 4 hours later. The scans take about one hour. Your child must return the next morning for a second set of scans. These take about 15 minutes.

How to prepare for the test:

Certain foods and medicines blur the scan pictures.

- If the child is taking medicine for a thyroid disorder, please speak with the radiologist in the Nuclear Medicine Department before booking the scan.
- Your child must not eat sushi for two weeks before the scan.
- On the Booking Form, list all the medicines that your child is taking.

Iodine Thyroid Scan

If your child is having this type of scan, s/he must not eat or drink anything, even water, on the first day of scans. Make sure your child fasts for the following amount of time before the scan:

- Infants under 2 months: **3 hours** (miss 1 feeding)
- Babies 2-6 months old: **3-4 hours**
- Babies 7-12 months old: **4-6 hours**
- Children over 1 year: **8 hours**

Note: Your child can eat 30 minutes after the iodine drink. If your child vomits in the hour after the iodine, please tell the Nuclear Medicine Technologist at once. We may need to postpone the scans.

Technetium Thyroid Scan

There is no special preparation.

What are the side effects?

Technetium Scan: Your child's blood and urine will be radioactive for 24 hours. Use gloves and wash hands well if you have contact with these fluids, for example, when changing a diaper.

Encourage your child to drink plenty of fluid and empty his/her bladder often. Flush the toilet at once.