



DEPARTMENT OF THERANOSTICS & NUCLEAR MEDICINE PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

(TECHNETIUM) THYROID UPTAKE SCAN

WHAT IS IT FOR?

A Technetium (99m-Tc) thyroid uptake scan is used to determine the relative uptake of the thyroid gland and can be used to evaluate hyperthyroidism and the functional status of thyroid nodules.

99mTc pertechnetate (99m-TcO₄⁻) is accumulated within thyroid tissue by the active transport mechanism that normally accumulates iodide ion (iodide trapping). This means that a 99m-Tc uptake scan can also be useful for planning radioactive Iodine (I-131) therapy doses.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

When undergoing a Thyroid Uptake Scan, you can expect the following to occur:-

- You will be first interviewed with doctor to obtain your medical history.
- You will be injected with the radiopharmaceutical.
- You will be asked to wait at least 20mins.
- You will spent half an hour or so on the scanner being imaged.
- Once imaging has been complete, you have finished the procedure. The report will be automatically provided to your doctor in the next few days.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

The procedure will take approximately 1 hour in total. However, it is advised that you allocate additional time for potential delays.

HOW DO I PREPARE?

To prepare for thyroid uptake scan, you are advised to:-

- Bring any information such as previous imaging/reports, blood results, medication list etc. with you.
- You may eat and drink before the scan. Please ensure you are hydrated.
- Please inform imaging staff prior to your appointment if you are on any thyroid medication; medications containing iodine or have had a CT scan with iodine contrast in the last 6 weeks.
- For patients being considered for I-131 therapy a special diet prior to the appointment may be required. Please contact us for your personalized preparation.

PLEASE LET US KNOW

- If you are pregnant and/or breastfeeding.
- If you are feeling unwell (i.e. cold, flu etc.) and/or if you are claustrophobic.
- Likely to be delayed more than fifteen minutes from your appointment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Nuclear Medicine or your test, please call the department on : (02) 8382 1830 or alternatively you can email on: svhs.nm@svha.org.au