

Nuclear Medicine – Iodine-131 Metastatic Survey



701 10th Street SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403-1292
319 398-6011

To Schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about your procedure: (319) 398-6050

What is a Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear medicine uses radioactive materials to help diagnose and treat a wide variety of diseases and disorders. Nuclear medicine provides unique information about the human body and its function. Nuclear medicine helps providers diagnose diseases to make treatment more effective. It is one of the best diagnostic tests for the early detection of certain types of heart disease, thyroid disease, tumors, bone changes, etc.

An Iodine-131 Metastatic Survey is performed to assess for new or recurrent thyroid cancer.

Preparation:

Your provider will determine if you need to discontinue your Levothyroxine (Synthroid) for 4 weeks or if you can receive 2 Thyrogen injections (and then remain on Synthroid). No imaging procedures which require oral contrast (X-Ray, CT, etc.) 6 weeks prior to the nuclear medicine exam. No multivitamins with iodine within 1 week prior to the exam. No kelp/seaweed, Boost® or Ensure® for 1 week prior to exam. Do not eat or drink for 4 hours prior and 2 hours after initial appointment (you may have water during this time). Women of child-bearing age (between the ages of 10 to 55 years) will be required to have a pregnancy test (performed at the hospital lab) 1 hour prior to the nuclear medicine appointment.

Procedure:

Patients who have received Thyrogen injections will swallow a capsule of radioactive iodine, and return to nuclear medicine for imaging in 48 hrs.

The imaging will take at least 1-1 ½ hours while lying on your back on the imaging table.

For patients who do not receive Thyrogen and have discontinued Levothyroxine for 4 weeks, you will swallow a capsule of radioactive iodine, and return to nuclear medicine for imaging in 72 hrs (3 days). The imaging will take 1 -1 ½ hrs.

If you are claustrophobic and require oral sedation prior to the scan, please contact your physician and discuss the use of medication that can be taken for this exam. Be aware you must have someone drive you to and from the hospital if you take medications for claustrophobia.

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:
A PHOTO ID TO VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY
A LIST OF CURRENT MEDICATIONS YOU ARE TAKING

Parking:

Park in the Mercy Medical Center 10th Street Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 10th Street and 8th Ave. SE. Proceed to **Ground (G)** level and follow the signs to “Radiology (X-Ray),” also located on **Ground (G)** level.

Procedure Results:

A radiologist will review the images shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to the provider who ordered your exam. Your provider will discuss the results with you. Results will typically be available for your provider within two business days of the exam. Results will also be sent to your MyChart account.