

THYROID SCAN & UPTAKE

Information for our Nuclear Medicine Patients:

Inform your physician if you are pregnant or breast feeding.

What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear Medicine is a medical specialty which uses safe, painless and cost-effective techniques both to image the body and treat disease. Nuclear Medicine imaging is unique in that it documents organ function and structure in contrast to diagnostic radiology which is based on anatomy. Nuclear Medicine allows your physician to gather medical information which may otherwise be unavailable.

Nuclear Medicine uses very small amounts of radioactive materials, or radio-pharmaceuticals, to diagnose and treat disease. Radiopharmaceuticals are substances that are attracted to specific organs, bones or tissues. The radiopharmaceuticals used in Nuclear Medicine emit gamma rays which can be detected externally by special types of cameras called gamma cameras. These cameras work in conjunction with computers, and are used to create images which provide data and information about the area of the body being imaged.

Thyroid Uptake and Scan:

You have been scheduled for a Thyroid Uptake study which involves the use of a small amount of radioactive material. The level of radioactivity used is extremely low and has no side effects.

You will be required to fill out a questionnaire concerning all medications you take, both prescription and non prescription including herbal.

You will be positioned next to a special detector called a gamma camera. The camera does not produce any radiation. It will be placed close to the part of your body being imaged.

Patient Preparation:

Stop all thyroid medications. Your physician will advise you.

Procedure:

This is a two day, 3 part study. On your first visit, you will be given a capsule containing a small amount of radioactive material. One your second visit (4-6 hrs later), painless images will be obtained along with a measurement of your thyroid gland. This takes about forty-five minutes to one hour.

On the second day, your third visit, measurements of your thyroid glad will be taken. This takes approximately 15 min.

Appointment Information:

If you are unable to keep this appointment, please contact the Nuclear Medicine Department at 618-847-8221 or Radiology Department at 618-847-8249 at least 24 hours in advance of your appointment.

Patient Name: _____ Appointment Date: _____ & Time: _____

This Patient Information sheet was provided to you courtesy of (Facility Name) and Numed, Inc. as part of our commitment to superior healthcare. This is for informational purposes and is not intended as a substitute for discussion between you and your physician. Please consult with your physician or a member of our nuclear medicine department staff if you would like more information about specific procedures.