

# Thyrogen® Stimulated PET CT Scan

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## What is a Thyrogen® stimulated PET CT scan?

Thyrogen® stimulated PET CT scans check your body for the return of thyroid cancer. This scan process happens over 3-4 days. The scans work best when you have high TSH (Thyroid-Stimulating Hormone) levels. You will receive Thyrogen® injections (shots) to increase your TSH levels. If you are getting a Thyrogen® stimulated scan, you do not have to stop taking your thyroid medication while you are having scans done to check for thyroid cancer.

## How do I prepare for a Thyrogen® stimulated PET CT scan?

- Continue taking your thyroid medicine, even during the days of your scan.
- If you have diabetes or if you take diabetic medications, you will receive special instructions in your online patient portal at [MyUofMHealth.org](https://myuofmhealth.org). If you have not received these instructions the week before your scan appointments, please call us at (734) 232-6072.
- Remember to stay well hydrated by drinking plenty of water. It is important to increase your fluid intake (drink more) for several days before, during, and after your scan appointments.
- You should not engage in any strenuous activity (activity that increases your heart rate and makes you breathe hard) for 48 hours before your scan appointment.
- You must stop eating solid food and stop drinking anything but water for 6 hours before your Thyrogen® stimulated PET CT scan. The Nuclear Medicine department will tell you what time to stop eating and stop drinking fluids other than water before your scan.

- Try to keep your body temperature warm during the scan. Dress in warm clothes and ask us for a blanket if you need one while you wait to go into the scanner.

### **What happens on Day 1?**

Before coming to the Nuclear Medicine department, you will need to stop at the lab in the hospital for extra blood tests.

- The blood tests will measure your thyroid levels.
- If you are old enough to have children, we will ask you to take a pregnancy test.

Once you arrive at the Nuclear Medicine department, we will give you your first Thyrogen® injection (usually into the muscle of your butt or arm). You can leave immediately after receiving your injection.

### **What happens on Day 2?**

Once you arrive at the Nuclear Medicine department, we will give you your second Thyrogen® injection into your muscle. You can leave immediately after receiving your injection.

### **What happens on Day 3?**

You will have your PET CT scan.

- For your scan, we will have you drink oral contrast (fluid that helps highlight certain areas for the scan) and then wait about 30 minutes.
- 30 minutes after drinking the oral contrast, we will inject a small amount of a radioactive sugar into a vein in your arm. You need to wait for an hour to allow this injection to circulate (spread) through your body.
- An hour after your injection, we will position you on a table inside a special machine called a PET scanner to take images of different parts of your body. The images will take about 30 minutes to complete.

- The radiologist may decide to also have you injected with IV contrast.

### **What happens after my PET CT scan on Day 3?**

You will meet with the doctor either the same day (Day 3) or the day after your scan (Day 4). The doctor will review the scan results with you and talk with you about any follow-up you may need.

### **Who do I call if I have questions?**

If you have any questions, please call the Michigan Medicine Nuclear Medicine Department at (734) 232-6072.

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