

Thyroid (Pinhole) Scan

Your doctor recommended you for a thyroid (pinhole) scan. This scan uses a small amount of radioactive material and will show the function of your thyroid. The level of radioactivity used is extremely low and has no side effects.

How do I prepare for my thyroid scan appointment?

- If you take methimazole (Tapazole®) or propylthiouracil (PTU), you must stop taking it for **1 week** before your first appointment.
- If you are currently taking amiodarone (Pacerone® or Cordarone®) or if you have taken it in the last 3-12 months, please tell your scheduler immediately by calling (734) 232-6072.
- If you take a thyroid hormone medication like levothyroxine (Synthroid® or Levoxyl®), please contact our office at (734) 232-6072 for special instructions.
- Avoid any extra iodine, including x-rays or CT scans done with injections, for **at least 4 weeks** before your first appointment.
- Please tell your scheduler immediately if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

What happens during my scan?

We will inject a small amount of radioactive material into a vein in your arm. About 15 minutes later, we will scan your thyroid with a gamma camera. You will lie flat on a table and part of the camera, called a **pinhole**, will come close to your neck. This should take about 30 minutes. Once we complete the scan, you can leave.

When will I get the scan results?

Your doctor who ordered these studies will usually get the results of this test within a few days. The results should also be available to you through your online patient portal at MyUofMHealth.org. Your doctor should follow-up with you to go over the results.

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Authors: Meghan Doyle, RN BSN, Ka Kit Wong, MBBS, Margherita Vicari, FNP-BC, Pete Siekierski, BS CNMT

Edited by: Brittany Batell, MPH MSW

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