

# Thyroid Uptake and Scan

---

Your doctor recommended you for a thyroid uptake and pinhole scan. These studies use 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. These studies will take 2 days to complete.

## How do I prepare for my thyroid uptake and scan appointments?

- If you take methimazole (Tapazole®) or propylthiouracil (PTU), you must stop taking it for **1 week** before your first appointment.
- If you take amiodarone (Pacerone® or Cordarone®), 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 on Day 1?

At your first appointment, you will do the first part of your uptake study and the pinhole scan.

- For the first part of your **uptake study**, we will take measurements of your neck with a radiation-sensitive probe (a medical tool that detects radiation). This probe is placed up to your neck while you are sitting in a chair. Then, you will drink a small amount of radioactive iodine.

- For your **scan**, we will inject a small amount of a different 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.

## What happens on Day 2?

At your second appointment, you will do the second and final part of your uptake study.

- We will take measurements of your neck using the same tool and process as we did on Day 1. We are measuring the amount of radioactive iodine that your thyroid absorbed from the day before, which will let us know how well your thyroid is functioning. This appointment will take about 5 minutes.
- Once we complete this measurement, you can leave.

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.

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by University of Michigan (U-M) Health for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by U-M Health and for which U-M Health does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition, or your treatment plan.

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

Edited by: Brittany Batell, MPH MSW

Patient Education by [U-M Health](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International Public License](#). Last reviewed 01/2024