

# Thyrogen® Stimulated Nuclear Medicine Scan

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## **What is a Thyrogen® Stimulated Scan?**

Thyrogen Stimulated Scans check your body for the return of thyroid cancer. The scans are most efficient when your body is in a hypothyroid state. Hypothyroid state means your thyroid gland is underactive, and there is too little thyroid hormone in the blood. You will receive Thyrogen injections to make your body hypothyroid so that you do not have to stop taking your thyroid medication.

## **How do I prepare for a Thyrogen Stimulated Scan?**

- You must eat a low iodine diet for two weeks before your Thyrogen Stimulated scan. The low iodine diet will remove any iodine from remaining thyroid tissue so that any remaining thyroid tissue will uptake the Thyrogen as well as the radioactive tracer. If you do not follow the diet, the uptake may not be satisfactory for the scans.
- Continue taking your thyroid medicine.
- Avoid any excess iodine, including X-rays or CT scans that are done with injections for 4 weeks prior to your scan.

Depending on your insurance, Thyrogen is sometimes ordered through a third party specialty pharmacy. If the Thyrogen is ordered through a specialty pharmacy, you will get a phone call from that pharmacy to confirm the order before the Thyrogen is shipped to Michigan Medicine Nuclear Medicine Department. It is important that you speak with the specialty pharmacy to ensure your injections arrive to the Nuclear Medicine Department on time for your appointment.

## **What happens the day of scanning?**

You will not be treated with Radioactive iodine (RAI). You will receive a diagnostic amount of Radioactive iodine for the uptake measurement and scan. The dose of Radioactive iodine is small enough that you will not have any restrictions and will not be considered radioactive. You will be able to return to work or school after your scan.

You will meet with the doctor the Thursday after your Thyroid Cancer Scan. The doctor will have a plan in the event there is a positive result on the scan, but you will not be treated that same day.

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

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

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