

Thyroid Uptake and Scan

What is a Thyroid Uptake and Scan?

A thyroid uptake measures overall thyroid gland function. A thyroid scan shows the structure, size, and location of your thyroid and the function of various portions of your gland.

What Does a Thyroid Uptake and Scan Entail?

On the first day, you will be asked to swallow a small amount of radioactive iodine in a capsule.

About six hours later you will return for the first measurement of uptake and the scan which will take about fifteen minutes.

The next day you will return for the remainder of the uptake procedures.

The uptake procedure measures the absorption of the radioactive iodine by your thyroid gland.

Is Any Special Preparation Required Before Having a Thyroid Scan and Uptake?

If you are taking thyroid medications or preparations that contain iodine, you may be asked to stop them for a time before this test.

Propylthiouracil (PTU), Methimazole.....	1 week prior
Levothyroxine.....	4 weeks prior
Antihistamines/Decongestants.....	1 week prior
Seafood of any kind.....	2 weeks prior
Vitamins.....	2 weeks prior
Contrast agents (i.e. MRI, CT scans, etc.).....	6 weeks prior

Please do not eat anything after midnight on the night before you are scheduled to take the radioactive iodine capsule. If you are diabetic, please consult with your doctor before you change your diet or medication. You may otherwise drink clear liquids for breakfast and take any medications prescribed by your doctor.

**If you are or suspect you might be pregnant, please tell your doctor, nurse, or technician.*