

THYROID SCAN (WITHOUT UPTAKE)

PATIENT PREPARATION:

No fasting is required for Technetium scanning of the thyroid gland.

Patients must be off iodine-containing drugs, including **radiographic contrast (x-ray dye)**. The minimum time interval between prior iodine administration and scanning varies from one week (e.g. iodine solution) to 4 weeks (Synthroid) to 2-10 years (oil-based Myelogram). If the patient has had an IVP or a CT with IV contrast, a thyroid scan should not be attempted for 4-6 weeks. Many other medications interfere with scanning (PCN, antihistamines, Amiodarone, etc.). Make sure that all medications that the patient is taking are listed on the requisition.

PROCEDURE

The patient will receive an injection into a vein in their arm. Imaging will start approximately 15 minutes post-injection. The patient will lie on their back on an imaging table with the camera positioned above them. The image takes approximately five minutes. After imaging, a nuclear medicine physician may examine the gland. We may then take additional images to look at a certain part of the gland in detail. The exam may take up to 30 minutes.