

Pediatric Thyroid Scan

What is a thyroid scan?

A thyroid scan (thyroid scintigraphy) is a diagnostic nuclear medicine test that provides information about the structure and function of the thyroid. The nuclear medicine physician is able to see the size, shape, function, and position of the thyroid gland.

Your child will swallow a capsule or liquid containing radioactive iodine. A special camera, called a gamma camera, is used to take pictures of the thyroid at 24 hours after the radiopharmaceutical has been ingested.

When might a thyroid scan be needed?

A thyroid scan can help assess:

- neck masses
- hypothyroidism
- hyperthyroidism
- ectopic thyroid
- thyroid malignancy
- thyroglossal duct cyst
- benign diffuse goiter
- thyroiditis

How should I prepare my child for a thyroid scan?

- Your child cannot have anything to eat or drink one hour prior to administration of the radiopharmaceutical and for 30 minutes afterward.
- The referring physician may ask that your child stop certain medications prior to having a thyroid scan.
- It is helpful to give your child a simple explanation as to why a thyroid scan is needed and assure him/her that you will be there for the entire time.
- You may want to bring your child's favorite book, toy or comforting object to use while you wait.

Typically, imaging takes place in the afternoons and 24 hours after radiopharmaceutical administration, so please plan accordingly.

What should I expect when I bring my child to the clinic for a thyroid scan?

When you arrive, please go to the front desk. A clinic coordinator will check in your child and verify his/her registration information.

What happens during a thyroid scan?

A thyroid scan involves three steps: ingestion of the radiopharmaceutical, a waiting period and the thyroid scan.

Ingestion of the radiopharmaceutical:

- You will be greeted by one of our nuclear medicine technologists who will explain to you and your child what will happen during the study.
- Your child will be asked to swallow a capsule or liquid containing the radiopharmaceutical.

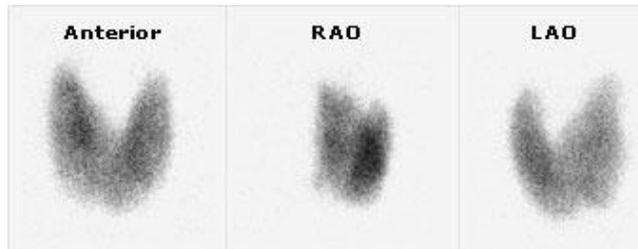
Waiting period:

- Once the administration of the radiopharmaceutical is complete, you are free to leave the department.
- The technologist will give you and your child an exact time to return for the actual imaging.
- Typically, imaging takes place 24 hours after radiopharmaceutical administration.

The thyroid scan:

- The camera comes very close to your child's neck.
- Three images of the thyroid gland are taken, each approximately 5 minutes in length.
- It is important that your child remain as still as possible during imaging to obtain the best quality images.

A thyroid scan picture:



Will my child feel anything during a thyroid scan?

Although the camera may appear large and intimidating, it does not touch your child.

Is a thyroid scan safe?

We are committed to ensuring that your child receives the smallest radiation dose needed to obtain the desired result.

- Nuclear medicine has been used on babies and children for more than 40 years with no known adverse effects from the low doses employed.
- The radiopharmaceutical contains a very tiny amount of radioactive molecules. We believe that the benefit to your child's health outweighs potential radiation risk.
- The camera used to obtain the images does not produce any radiation.
- It is safe for you to be in the room with your child if you are pregnant or nursing

What happens after the thyroid scan?

Once the scan is complete, the images will be evaluated for quality. If the scan is adequate, your child will be free to leave and resume normal activity.

One of Brampton Nuclear medicine physicians will review your child's images and create a report of the findings and diagnosis.

How do I learn the results of the thyroid scan?

The nuclear medicine physician will provide a report to the doctor who ordered your child's thyroid scan. Your child's doctor will then discuss the results with you.

Brampton Nuclear Services

Diagnostic Nuclear & Cardiology Services

28-470 Chrysler Drive, Brampton, ON,
L6S 0C1

Phone: **905-791-3458** Fax: **905-791-3460**

www.bramptonnuclear.com