

**Appointment
Date:**

Time:

Patient Preparation:
Need to cease some Thyroid medications. Important to check all medications at time of appointment

Time For Examination:
15 minutes

Please Bring:
Any related previous imaging including Nuclear Medicine Studies, X-Rays, Ultrasounds, CT and MRI scans.

Locations:
Gold Coast Radiology,
Suite 1 & 2 Harbour Point
10 Santa Barbara Road,
Hope Island, QLD 4212
Phone: 07 55142555
Fax: 07 55142511
www.gcradiology.com.au

**Undercover parking is
available.**

NUCLEAR MEDICINE IODINE 131 Therapy

Your doctor has asked that you have a Nuclear Medicine Iodine 131 Therapy Capsule for the treatment of an overactive thyroid (hyperthyroidism) gland. This is the easiest and safest way to cure an overactive thyroid which is due to Graves' disease or an overactive thyroid nodule.

Some thyroid medications that you may be taking can interfere with the effectiveness of the Iodine treatment, and thus will need to be ceased prior to having this treatment. For this reason it is important that you check all medications at the time of making your appointment. The specialist Nuclear Medicine Physician in conjunction with your referring doctor will decide what medications need to be ceased if any, and for what duration.

The therapy dose is a simple capsule the size of a standard antibiotic tablet. You will be asked to swallow this capsule with some water. The radioactive capsule emits two main types of radiation: gamma radiation that can travel out of the patient's body up to several meters away and beta radiation that travels only a few millimeters. It is the beta radiation that will selectively kill the most overactive cells of the thyroid gland.

All relevant aspects of radiation safety will be explained to the patient by the specialist Nuclear Medicine Physician at the time of appointment.

This treatment is very well tolerated and provides simple, safe and effective treatment for hyperthyroidism. There is a small possibility of changing an over-active thyroid gland into an under-active thyroid gland by giving too much iodine-131. Occasionally, where hyperthyroidism is more severe, the patient may experience a slight worsening of symptoms during the first few weeks following treatment. This is due to the release of extra thyroid hormone into the blood stream as thyroid cells are killed. If the symptoms become troublesome the patient can resume anti-thyroid tablets and continue taking them until the iodine-131 therapy becomes effective. This usually occurs three to four months after therapy.

This study is not suitable for pregnant women

For more information please contact:

07 55142555