Department Of Nuclear Medicine
314-205-6518

I-131 Whole Body Scan

Appointment: Date and Time: _____, _____, 20____ at _____ AM   PM

Register: in Radiology Registration Area on the second floor or in Radiation Oncology on the first floor according to your doctor's instructions.

Park in the East Parking Garage for Radiology or, if you prefer, you may use the valet parking services.

What information will this give my doctor? This study, if it is after I-131 treatment, will tell your doctor where the I-131 is concentrated in your body. But if this is a follow up scan, it will tell your doctor if there is any left over thyroid tissue that is still active in your body.

What do I need to know before I get there? You should not eat four hours prior to receiving the pill (treatment). Patient should not be pregnant or breastfeeding.

How long will it take? If this scan is after I-131 treatment, you will be given the pill (treatment) in Radiation Oncology and told when to return for the actual scan.
***In some cases you may be asked to return for a second scan the following day.

If this is a follow up scan, this test actually takes 3 days. On the first day you will come to the Nuclear Medicine department and swallow a capsule containing radioactive I-131. You will be given instructions for a bowel preparation and diet to follow for the next two days. You will then be instructed when to return for your whole body scan. On the day of the scan you will return to the Nuclear Medicine department. While lying on the scanning table, our camera will start over your head and slowly scan all the way down your body to your knees. This usually takes about 45 minutes.

If you have any further questions please feel free to call and speak with one of the nuclear medicine technologists at 314-205-6518. Thank you.

This information is not intended to replace an informed discussion between you and your physician, but is intended to give you a general idea of what the testing involves.