

If there is a chance you could be pregnant, please tell the tech.

Thyroid Scan With Technetium

A thyroid scan is a test that shows the size and shape of your thyroid using a radioactive tracer (technetium). The amount of radiation used in this test is small and well within limits that are not harmful to you. The test is done in the Nuclear Medicine Department and lasts about 2 hours.

Before the test

There is no special preparation you need to do for this test.

On the day of the test, plan to arrive 15 minutes before your test is scheduled to begin. Be sure to bring:

- Your physician's written order for the test if you received one
- A list of your allergies
- A list of all your current medications (prescription, over-the-counter and herbal)
- Photo ID
- Medical insurance information
- Medicare card (Medicare patients only)

Please come to the 8th floor Reception Desk in Galter Pavilion, 201 East Huron Street.

Parking is available for patients and visitors in the garage at 222 East Huron Street, across from Feinberg and Galter pavilions. For a discounted rate, please bring your parking ticket with you. Your ticket can be validated at the Customer Services Desks on the 1st, 2nd and 8th floors of Feinberg and Galter pavilions, and on the 1st floor of Prentice Women's Hospital.

During the test

When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine Department, a nurse or technologist (tech) will ask you questions about your medical history. *If you think you might be pregnant or are breastfeeding, please tell the tech before the start of the test and before you are given an injection.*

A radioactive tracer will be injected by an IV (intravenous) line into a vein in your arm or hand. You will wait 20 minutes to allow the tracer to get into your thyroid gland. After you drink an 8-ounce glass of water, the tech will help you lie on your back on an imaging table under a special camera. The camera will be close to your neck while 4 pictures of your thyroid are taken. A physician will review your pictures.

After the test

You may resume your normal activities and diet after the test as directed by your physician. The radioactive tracer you were given is not harmful and will become nonradioactive within a few days.

Talk with your physician about your test results. You may obtain a copy of your test results about a week after the test from the Medical Records Department, which is located on the 2nd floor of Galter Pavilion.

If you have any questions about this test, please call the Nuclear Medicine Department at 312.926.2350 (TTY: 711), Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.