



Welcome to the OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Nuclear Medicine Department.

This information will help you understand the test that has been scheduled.  
Thank you for trusting OSF for your medical imaging needs.

**When to come:**

Please arrive 15 minutes before your appointment time to check in.

**What to bring with you:**

Nothing.

**Preparation:**

You cannot eat or drink 4 hours prior to taking the radioactive pill.

If you have had a CT scan or X-ray in which they gave you IV contrast media, you need to wait 6 weeks before you can have your nuclear thyroid exam. An IV is a needle stick that is used to inject contrast media in to a vein.

**Family:**

Family or friends are asked to stay in the waiting area during the test.

**Pregnancy testing:**

Pregnancy testing will now be performed on females receiving diagnostics between the ages of 10 and 55 years old if you have not had your tubes tied or a hysterectomy. Home pregnancy tests are not acceptable. If you know that you are pregnant, please notify your doctor.

**Medications:**

Follow instructions given by your doctor's office.

You may take some medications with 2-3 sips of water only.

Certain medications will interfere with the thyroid nuclear medicine test results. Here is a list of those

medications that need to be stopped before having the test.

Tapazole, Prophylthiouracil, Perchlorate, Thiocyanate, Pentothal, Antihistamines and some others need to stop 1 week before exam.

Vitamins with Kelp or Iodine, Lugol's solution, some cough medicines should be stopped 2 weeks prior to your exam date.

Cytomel, Synthroid, Proloid stopped 4 weeks prior to your exam date.

**DO NOT STOP** taking any medications, unless you have prior approval from your doctor.

**Test instructions:**

A registered nuclear medicine technologist will have you swallow a radioactive iodine pill. There are no side effects from the radioactive iodine. It is not a drug or a dye.

You may need to return to OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center for more pictures.

After test instructions:

You may resume your day as normal.

**Test results:**

Your study will be read by a nuclear radiologist – a doctor specializing in nuclear medicine – and a report will be sent to your ordering doctor. You can make plans with your ordering doctor on how to receive your test results