NUCLEAR MEDICINE
I-131 WHOLE BODY SCAN

OVERVIEW: A nuclear medicine procedure is sometimes described as an “inside-out” x-ray, because it records radiation emitting from the patient’s body, rather than radiation that is directed through the patient’s body. Nuclear medicine procedures use small amounts of radioactive materials, called radiopharmaceuticals, to create images of anatomy. Radiopharmaceuticals are substances that are attracted to specific organs, bones or tissues. They are introduced into the patient’s body by injection, swallowing or inhalation. As the radiopharmaceutical travels through the body, it produces radioactive emissions. A special type of camera detects these emissions in the organ, bone or tissue being imaged and then records the information on a computer screen and on film.

I-131 WHOLE BODY SCAN: This study is done to detect areas of thyroid cancer metastasis.

PREP: You will need to be off thyroid hormone replacement therapy for 14 days.

PROCEDURE: You will receive an oral dose of I-131 radioiodine. You then return at 48 hours and possibly 72 hours for imaging after the oral dose. Imaging takes approximately 30-45 minutes each time.

RESULTS: These images will be reviewed by a radiologist and your ordering physician will contact you with the results in approximately 3 days. Your physician will advise you of the results and discuss what further procedures, if any, are needed.