



Parathyroid Scan

PATIENT INFORMATION

What is a Nuclear Medicine Parathyroid Scan?

A Nuclear Medicine Parathyroid Scan is an imaging test that uses a radioactive tracer to detect overactive or abnormal parathyroid glands. It helps diagnose conditions like parathyroid adenomas by highlighting areas of increased tracer uptake.

What will happen during the examination?

Some medications may interfere with the Parathyroid Scan. Prior to your study they may need to be withdrawn. This will be discussed with you and your doctor at the time of your booking. The following can be used as a guideline:

TYPE OF MEDICATION

- Intravenous contrast/dye (used for CT scans)
- Iodine – kelp, some multivitamin preparations
- Anti thyroid drugs: carbimazole, propylthiuracil
- Cardiac medication: amiodarone (cordarone X, aratac)
- T4 (Thyroxine /oroxine) / Thyroid extract
- T3 (Tertroxine)

WITHDRAWAL PERIOD

- With recent exposure wait 6 weeks
- 4 weeks
- Do not withdraw, but please let us know
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- 4 weeks
- 1 week

The Parathyroid Scan involves a small injection of a radioactive medication into a vein (usually in your arm). There are no side effects to the injection.

A scan of your neck area will be taken approximately 10 minutes after the injection. For the scan you will be lying on a bed with your neck extended. A large camera is positioned above your neck. This is a painless procedure and, it will take approximately 40 minutes to complete. You will then return approximately 1.5 hours later for another 40 minute scan. After the scan you can resume all medications.

Pregnant and/or breastfeeding

This examination is not suitable for pregnant women.

Breastfeeding mothers should contact our department before their appointment to discuss any specific preparation. You will need to express and discard milk but can resume feeding after your appointment.

After the examination

Our radiologist will review and report on your images and we will deliver them electronically to your doctor.



07 5489 0800



07 5489 0888



info@gympieradiology.com.au



0428 034 722



**gympie
radiology**

www.gympieradiology.com.au