

Follow-up Testing for Thyroid Cancer Patients

To assess whether all thyroid cells have been destroyed, two principal diagnostic tests are used, a total body scan, and a thyroglobulin blood test. These tests need to be done periodically, and it is necessary to have the levels of TSH (thyroid stimulating hormone) elevated during the test, which can be achieved either by withdrawing a patient from thyroid hormone, or with the use of recombinant TSH. On the day that the scan is done, a **blood test** for **TSH** and the **thyroglobulin** protein should also be obtained. As it can take a few days for the test results to become available, patients who have been withdrawn from thyroid hormone may go back on their thyroxine after the scan is completed while waiting for the all results to come back, whereas patients who received recombinant TSH simply continue on their thyroxine. Some patients may wish to take ½ or one Cytomel tablet a day as well as their thyroxine for the first one to two weeks after the test, to help them feel a bit better as they wait for thyroid hormone levels to slowly return to normal.

The **thyroglobulin** and **TSH** blood tests will be ordered in the hospital computer system, therefore you will not need a laboratory requisition if the test is done at TGH. **YOU MUST DO THE THYROGLOBULIN BLOOD TEST-THIS IS CRITICAL**

Withdrawal Protocol

Stop thyroxine ~ 6 weeks before the test. You may consider using Cytomel twice daily for several weeks while off thyroxine.

Stop Cytomel (liothyronine or T3) 2 weeks before test

DAY 1: Radioactive iodine tracer dose is administered

DAY 2: Total body scan is performed and **a blood test for thyroglobulin is done the same day**

Thyrogen Protocol

DAY 1 (Monday): Thyrogen® injected intramuscularly (0.9 mg).

DAY 2 (Tuesday): Thyrogen® injected intramuscularly (0.9 mg)

DAY 3 (Wednesday): Radioactive iodine tracer dose is administered

DAY 4 (Thursday):

DAY 5 (Friday): Total body scan is performed and **repeat blood test for thyroglobulin is done Friday morning**

The critical part of both these protocols is the Thyroglobulin blood test

DO NOT FORGET TO GET THIS TEST DONE

The Drug Information number for Thyrogen is 02246016

Once you have made an informed decision about which testing modality you would like to proceed with, please sign and date the attached agreement form and return it to Dr. Drucker's office by fax to (416) 361-2669. Once we receive this form, your follow up testing will be scheduled.

For more information about these tests, see www.mythyroid.com

FOLLOW-UP TESTING FOR THYROID CANCER PATIENTS AGREEMENT

I, the undersigned, understand and assume responsibility for completing the two components of the diagnostic testing scheduled for follow up of my thyroid cancer.

The two parts of the diagnostic tests are 1) **the Thyroglobulin blood test done on the same day as the total body scan** and 2) A total body nuclear medicine scan.

Please indicate which protocol you wish to use:

- Withdrawal protocol
- Thyrogen protocol

Patient's Name (please print)

Patient's Signature

Date

Fax this form to (416) 361-2669 when completed. Dr. Drucker's office will contact you thereafter with the dates and instructions for your follow up testing.