

Follow-up Testing for Thyroid Cancer Patients

To assess whether all thyroid cells have been destroyed, two principal diagnostic tests are used, a whole 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 As it can take a few days for the test results to become available, patients who have been withdrawn from thyroid hormone may go back on T3 (Cytomel) while waiting for the all results to come back whereas patients who received recombinant TSH simply continue on their thyroxine.

Withdrawal Protocol

Discontinue thyroxine at least 6 weeks prior to test
Stop Cytomel (liothyronine or T3) 2 weeks before test
Radioactive iodine is administered
Total body scan done several days later
Thyroglobulin blood test done day of scan

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): Whole body scan is performed and **repeat blood test for thyroglobulin is done**

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