

THYROID SCANS

What are they used for?

The thyroid is a butterfly-shaped gland in the base of your neck which regulates a lot of hormones in your body. Thyroid scans are used to assess whether your thyroid gland is over or under active. It is a useful scan for diagnosing conditions such as Graves' Disease, Hyperthyroidism, Hashimoto's Disease and Thyroid Cancer.

What is involved?

There are two parts to a Thyroid Scan and a short waiting period in between. After injection of the radiotracer, images are immediately taken to assess blood flow to your thyroid. After waiting for 15 minutes to allow the radiotracer to be taken up by your thyroid, a second set of images are taken of your thyroid from different angles. This set of images usually takes 20 minutes. Areas where there may be over functioning tissue take up more radiotracer and appear darker in the images, whilst areas that are under active, such as 'cold' nodules, appear lighter.

How should I prepare?

There is no preparation for a thyroid scan, however, it is very important that you tell us if you have had a CT scan with iodine in the past 6 weeks as it can affect thyroid function. Like all nuclear medicine scans at TeleMed, Thyroid Scans are bulk billed and so it is important that you bring your Medicare card with you on the day.