

THYROID SCINTIGRAPHY

Thyroid scintigraphy is a simple examination based on the endovenous injection of Tc-99m pertechnetate (Tc-99m O₄⁻), a radiotracer which is electively uptaken by the thyroid cells because it behaves similarly to iodine. The examination provides important information concerning the functional behaviour of both the thyroid and the thyroid nodules.

Main indications:

- Assessment of location, size and morphology of the thyroid;
- Measurement of thyroid radiotracer uptake in the functional alterations of the gland;
- Study of nodular thyroid disease for the purpose of ascertaining the functional characteristics of the nodules.

To be noted

1. No preparation is necessary;
2. The patient must not take drugs or iodised substances (especially L-Tiroxina: Eutirox) for at least three weeks prior to the examination;
3. No known counterindications (except in the case of presumed or verified pregnancy), nor side-effects.

Duration of the examination

The examination, which involves a preliminary visit and an interval of around twenty minutes between administration of the radiotracer and the scintigraphy, lasts approximately ninety minutes.