

Procedure information:

Feline hyperthyroidism is one of the most common endocrine disorders in middle-aged and geriatric cats. Symptoms of hyperthyroidism can include behavioral changes, hyperactivity, weight loss, increased appetite, PU\PD, vomiting, diarrhea, and tachycardia. A diagnosis of hyperthyroidism is often made through clinical and physical examination findings as well as routine laboratory analysis. Thyroid scintigraphy is performed to confirm the diagnosis of hyperthyroidism, evaluate the pattern of uptake of the nuclear isotope within the thyroid tissue and evaluate for ectopic disease. Once a diagnosis of hyperthyroidism is made, options for treatment include medical management, surgery and/or radioactive iodine therapy.

A therapeutic option involves the administration of radioactive I-131, which selectively targets the hyperactive thyroid tissue. Radioactive iodine is an effective and safe treatment for hyperthyroidism. Patients are administered I-131 on Monday and hospitalized/boarded until discharge on Friday. There are precautions that the client will need to take afterward for the safety of both the client and the patient that will be discussed thoroughly prior to discharge. Follow-up care includes determining thyroid levels ~8 weeks from discharge date to ensure that the blood levels have returned to normal. A one-time I-131 treatment is over 95% effective in cats with hyperthyroidism.

Animal Imaging is one of a few practices in the state of Texas that provides care for hyperthyroid felines utilizing nuclear medicine. Patient care is under the direction of well-trained board certified veterinary radiologists which include Dr. Rita Echandi, Dr. Dana Neelis, and Dr. Beth Biscoe and the referring veterinarian.

Scheduling an appointment:

To provide the best diagnosis possible, a completed Nuclear medicine referral form is required from the referring veterinarian, including any pertinent history related to the exam. This form is available on our website at www.animalimaging.net. A recent CBC, chemistry panel, urinalysis and T4 level are required prior to the appointment.

- **A calibrated dose of the radionuclide is ordered the day before the exam for both the thyroid scan and I-131 therapy. If the appointment needs to be canceled for any reason, please notify our staff the day prior to the study, or the unused dose will be billed to the client.**

As a new client/patient, we will have a hospital admission consent form for the owner to complete upon arrival. A thorough physical exam will be performed, followed by screening thoracic and abdominal radiographs and thyroid scintigraphy. The majority of patients require mild sedation for the procedures. For the thyroid scintigraphy, the patient is administered a small, radioactive dose of technetium intravenously. Approximately 30 minutes post injection, the patient is imaged on a gamma camera. Four views in three different positions are acquired. Once the images are obtained, the radiologist will review them along with the clinical history and lab work provided. Once the exam is complete, a radiologist will meet with the owner to discuss all findings and further recommendations. A report of the exam is generated and sent to the owner and referring veterinarian within 24 hours. If the patient is determined to be a good candidate for I-131 treatment, an appointment will be made for the above-mentioned treatment.

Patient preparation for appointment:

***It is very important that the patient is not fed after midnight the night before their appointment and that they have nothing to eat the morning of their exam. They can have access to water and any medications that they are currently taking.**