



Nuclear Medicine Thyroid Scan

Exam scheduling

(218)249-5593

St. Luke's

(218)249-5555

Diagnostic Imaging

(218)249-5222

www.slhduluth.com/hospital/imaging/

Exam Information

Diagnostic Imaging

What is a Nuclear Thyroid Scan?

Thyroid imaging uses a small amount of radioactive material (no side effects) to image the thyroid gland. It is performed to evaluate the structure, function and size of the thyroid as well as any possible nodules or masses in the neck.

How is the exam performed?

A small amount of radioactive material is injected into a vein in your arm. You'll be asked to sit quietly and drink a glass of water for about 15 minutes. For imaging you will lie on your back on a narrow imaging table and a special camera will be positioned close to your neck. The technologist will take four images of your thyroid in different positions. Each image takes approximately 3-5 minutes.

This exam takes approximately 45 minutes.

How should I prepare for the exam?

- Bring a current list of all medications.
- Consult your doctor before this test if you are on any thyroid medications.

What will I feel during the exam?

There are no side effects to this test.

Who interprets the exam and when will I get my results?

After the exam, a radiologist who is specially trained to interpret thyroid scans will review your images and send a written report to the physician that ordered the exam for you. That physician will then contact you with your results.