



Hypurrcat
A Treatment Center for Cats
with Hyperthyroidism

 **animalendocrineclinic**
Dr. Mark E. Peterson

*Where science and compassion cure
endocrinology | hypurrcat | nuclear imaging*

Recommended Monitoring and Follow-up for Cats Treated with Radioiodine

Now that your cat has been treated with radioiodine at Hypurrcat, we know that you have questions about future follow-up, which may include one or more of the following:

- Does the radioiodine treatment always work? What's the cure rate?
- When are recommended times for follow-up testing?
- What type of follow-up monitoring is recommended?
- Does follow-up require repeat thyroid hormone testing or should the thyroid scan also be repeated to ensure that the thyroid tumor is gone?
- Is this monitoring and follow-up done by Dr. Peterson or my regular veterinarian?
- How do we know that the treatment worked to destroy my cat's thyroid tumor(s) and cure the hyperthyroidism? How do we know that hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid) has not developed?

What's the cure rate after radioiodine?

Serum thyroid hormone (T4) values normalized within 4 weeks of treatment in approximately 85% of cats and in 95% of cats by 3 months. Although cats appear to feel better within days after treatment, you should notice gradual clinical improvement and resolution of the signs of hyperthyroidism during this period.

When are the recommend follow-up times for monitoring after radioiodine?

In general, your cat should be monitored at 1, 3, and 6 months after discharge from our Hypurrcat facility. Of course, if your cat isn't doing well at any time (this is not expected), an earlier recheck is always recommended.

What follow-up monitoring is recommended? What tests should be done?

At both the 1-month and 3-month recheck times, we recommend that your cat have a complete physical examination, as well as blood tests.

The laboratory testing to do at these times include a serum chemistry panel (this must include creatinine and urea nitrogen, two kidney function tests). A serum T4 concentration must be repeated to test your cat's thyroid function to ensure that it has normalized (more thyroid tests can be done, but T4 is the most important).

At the 6-month recheck time, we recommend that your cat again have a complete physical examination, laboratory testing for kidney and thyroid function, and a repeat thyroid scan.

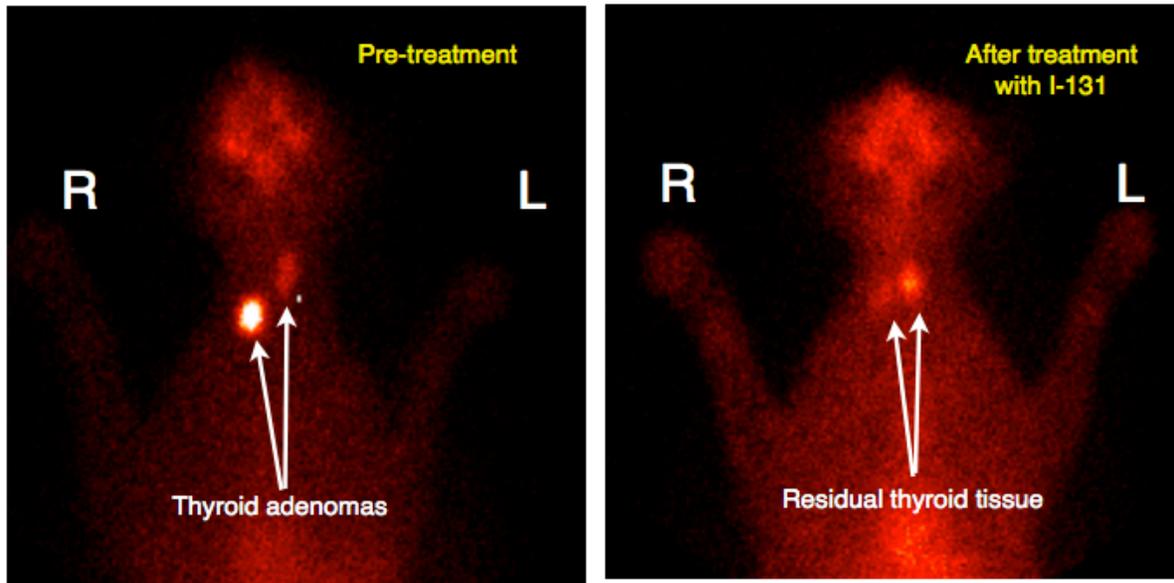
At this visit, a complete thyroid profile (total and free T4, T3, cTSH concentrations) should be done to fully evaluate the body's entire thyroid axis. At the 6-month recheck time, we also advise a follow-up thyroid scan for your cat to ensure that the thyroid tumor has been completely destroyed (see scan at the top of next page).



Hypurrcat
A Treatment Center for Cats
with Hyperthyroidism

 **animallengrocline**
Dr. Mark E. Peterson

*Where science and compassion cure
endocrinology | hypurrcat | nuclear imaging*



Thyroid scintigraphy (thyroid scan) performed on a hyperthyroid cat before and after successful treatment with radioiodine (I-131). Note the large bright right-sided tumor (left), which has been destroyed (right panel). The results of the serum thyroid panel were completely normal on this cat, showing cure of the hyperthyroidism without the development of hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid).

Is this monitoring and follow-up done by Dr. Peterson or my regular veterinarian?

At the 1- and 3-month recheck times, your regular veterinarian can easily do monitoring. However, we recommend returning to Dr. Peterson at the 6-month recheck in order to repeat the thyroid scan (your regular veterinarian will not have the equipment to do the scan). We will also collect blood for the complete thyroid panel, as we did on the day of admission, when the original thyroid scan was done.

Does follow-up testing require only blood tests or should a thyroid scan also be repeated to ensure that the thyroid tumor is gone?

Again, we recommend a repeat thyroid scan done at 6 months after treatment to ensure that the tumor has been destroyed and that adequate thyroid tissue remains to maintain normal thyroid function.

If you cannot return to the Animal Endocrine Clinic for the 6-month recheck, then your regular veterinarian should run the complete thyroid panel (total and free T4, T3, cTSH concentrations) on your cat. Please send the results are sent to Dr. Peterson so he can provide his interpretation and recommendations for your cat.