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?

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?

After discharge from our Hypurrcat facility, your cat should be monitored at 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, and then every 6 months thereafter. 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 the 1 and 3-month recheck times, we recommend that your cat have a complete physical examination (including a blood pressure reading) and blood tests performed. This recheck(s) should be done by your regular veterinarian. In general, the laboratory testing to perform at these times include a serum chemistry panel, including creatinine and urea nitrogen (two kidney function tests) and a serum thyroid testing (T4 and TSH concentrations).

If your veterinarian emails your cat’s recheck laboratory results and brief clinical history, Dr. Peterson will provide you and your veterinarian an interpretation of these test results, as well as his recommendations.

At the 6-month recheck (most important follow-up time), you have two options: you can either return to Dr. Peterson for an exam and testing, or you can again return to your regular veterinarian for recheck.

At this recheck period, we will provide you with an Animal Endocrine Clinic lab form to cover the cost of these blood and urine tests. Although we cover the cost of the 6-month lab tests, we do not pay for your vet’s examination fee, blood draw fee, or other testing. If you return to the Animal Endocrine Clinic for this recheck, there will not be an additional charge for the exam or blood pressure monitoring.

In either case, Dr. Peterson will write an evaluation letter to your veterinarian with his comments and recommendations for further monitoring or treatment, if needed.