



Radioactive Iodine (^{131}I)

Owner Information Sheet

UCD Veterinary Hospital, Belfield Campus, Dublin 4

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RADIOACTIVE IODINE (^{131}I) THERAPY FOR TREATMENT OF HYPERTHYROIDISM IN CATS

Your veterinary surgeon may have recommended radioactive iodine therapy for your hyperthyroid cat. Radioactive iodine is taken up by thyroid tissue and treats hyperthyroidism by destroying the abnormal cells. It has a success rate of >90% and eliminates the need for daily tablet administration or surgical removal of the thyroid glands.

Please note that cats on long-term daily medical therapy for other illnesses (not including Thyronorm, Felimazole or Vidalta) are not suitable candidates for ^{131}I .

HOW ARE CASES EVALUATED PRIOR TO ^{131}I TREATMENT?

Prior to administration of ^{131}I , all cats must be individually assessed at the UCD Veterinary Hospital to ensure that this form of therapy is suitable. The following investigations will be carried out;

- A complete history and physical examination
- Collection of blood for routine clinicopathological analyses including haematology, biochemistry, SDMA (a marker of kidney function) and urine for routine analysis and culture
- Blood pressure measurement
- Heart scan (and chest Xrays if necessary)
- Measurement of thyroid hormone (total T4).

These tests can all be carried out on an outpatient basis and once all the results are available a decision will be made as to whether or not your cat is suitable for radioactive iodine therapy.

An appointment will then be made for treatment. ^{131}I must be ordered approximately 2 weeks prior to the treatment date and at that time you will be contacted again to confirm further details.

If medical therapy with Felimazole or Vidalta has already been started, you will be instructed to stop this between 5 and 9 days prior to the treatment date.

You will be required to bring your cat to the UCD Veterinary Hospital approximately 2 days prior to the scheduled treatment date.

WHAT DOES TREATMENT WITH ¹³¹I INVOLVE?

Assessment day

Owners will be provided with a suitable appointment for assessment and most, if not all, required investigations will be carried out on the same day without the need for overnight hospitalisation. Payment for this assessment will be required before the cat is discharged.

Order day

The ¹³¹I will be ordered approximately two weeks before the due injection day. You will be requested to pay a 50% deposit on this day, which is non-refundable.

Admission day

Cats will be admitted to the UCD Veterinary Hospital early in the week allowing for an approximate two-day acclimatisation period, during which any remaining or incomplete tests will be performed. The final 50% payment for the treatment is due on this day.

Injection day

¹³¹I will be injected mid-week following appropriate sedation.

Hospitalisation period

Your cat will remain hospitalised for a non-negotiable two-week period. During this two-week period visiting your pet is unfortunately not possible. Any handling of your cat will be minimal.

Two weeks later the following tests are performed

- Collection of blood for repeat clinicopathological analyses including haematology, biochemistry, SDMA and urinalysis
- Repeat blood pressure measurement
- Repeat thyroid hormone measurements (including total T4 and TSH to assess for potential overtreatment).

Discharge of your cat back to you

If your cat is discharged after two weeks, certain restrictions will apply. These relate to curtailing contact time, storing waste (purchase of flushable cat litter advised to avoid storage), keeping the cat indoors and avoiding contact with children or pregnant women. Alternatively, your cat can remain hospitalised for a further two weeks. After this time the risk of radiation exposure is minimal allowing you to handle your cat without restriction and to dispose of your cat's urine and faeces as before.

HOW DO I BOOK MY CAT FOR THIS TREATMENT?

Your veterinarian can arrange your first appointment during which your cat is assessed. We will then provide you with a return appointment for radioactive iodine treatment. Two weeks prior to this appointment (on the day that the ^{131}I order is placed) a 50% deposit will be requested, which is non-refundable. The remaining costs must be paid on the day of admission for the ^{131}I injection.



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