



1515 Lake Pointe Parkway
Sugarland, TX 77478
Ph: 281-491-7800
Fax: 281-491-7803

Guidelines for Referral for Radioiodine Therapy (I-131)

When referring a hyperthyroid cat to Sugar Land Veterinary Specialists, please note the guidelines listed below. Radioiodine treatment of hyperthyroid cats is safe and very effective in treating hyperthyroidism in 98% of cats.

- Diagnosing hyperthyroidism
 - Hyperthyroidism should be suspected in cats with an elevation in the total T4 (TT4) level **in conjunction** with supportive clinical signs (weight loss, good appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, palpable nodule, etc.).
 - Total T4 levels are elevated in more than 90% of hyperthyroid cats. In those cats with both equivocal clinical signs and normal TT4 levels, we recommend repeating the TT4 level or measurement of a FREE T4 by equilibrium dialysis.
 - Abnormal in-house total T4 levels should be confirmed using an outside reference laboratory
- Our recommended pre-radioiodine work-up:
 - Complete blood count with differential
 - Serum biochemistry panel (to include SDMA biomarker)
 - Serum quantitative total T4 level (in house T4 results should be verified with a commercial lab)
 - Urinalysis
 - Thoracic radiographs
 - Cardiac workup to include electrocardiogram and echocardiogram may be recommended for patients with arrhythmia, cardiomegaly, or evidence of congestive heart failure

****Prior to I-131 therapy, all cats should be treated with methimazole and have no evidence of azotemia once they achieve euthyroid status (serum total T4 at or below the middle of the reference range). If there are individual cases in which this cannot be achieved (e.g., unable to medicate the cat, pre-existing renal disease), we would be happy to discuss these with you on a case by case basis.**

- In hyperthyroid cats being treated with methimazole, we recommend discontinuing the medication 7-10 days prior to radioiodine treatment.

Updated October 2015



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- Treated cats must remain isolated in our nuclear isolation ward until radiation levels in the cat are within state-approved guidelines. This usually takes 3 to 5 days. **The owner is not permitted to visit the cat during this time.**
- It may be necessary to regulate/stabilize any existing, non-thyroidal disease(s) prior to radioiodine therapy so treatment of these diseases can be suspended during the period of isolation. **State regulations prohibit our staff from administering treatments for other diseases during the isolation period.**

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Dr. Charles Quick, Dr. Emily Medici, Dr. Jennifer Garcia, or myself.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Carpenter
Radiation Technologist