

Estimates listed below are valid until 3/31/25

Iodine 131 Pre-Treatment Information and Estimate

We have a limited number of hyperthyroid appointments available and they are often booked several weeks in advance. You may call and schedule the appointment for your client any time during the initial stages of treatment. This will ensure getting an appointment at the desired time. All patients must be up-to-date on vaccinations.

Once the cat is diagnosed as hyperthyroid, start a methimazole trial. This trial allows for better assessment for renal and cardiac function with alleviation of thyrotoxicosis. After 2 weeks, check a urinalysis, CBC, chemistry and T4. The methimazole dose should be titrated every 2 weeks until a euthyroid state is achieved (T4 within lower half of the reference range). A 3-month methimazole trial is recommended, but not required. This is because increases in serum creatine concentrations do not stabilize until a euthyroid state has been maintained for 2-3 months. The aforementioned blood work, including urinalysis, should be rechecked before methimazole discontinuation. Nonazotemic euthyroid cats can proceed with I131 pre-treatment screening. Although early signs of renal disease are not a contraindication for I131, cats that become azotemic with return to a euthyroid state may warrant further discussion of the risks and benefits of I131 specific to that individual cat.

Discontinue the methimazole (or Hills y/d diet) two weeks prior to the appointment at UTCVM Veterinary Medical Center. Please contact the Internal Medicine Service to discuss cases that may not tolerate discontinuation of methimazole. If you have specific questions regarding the case, please call and ask for a Internal Medicine consult (865-974-8387).

Keep in mind we cannot handle the patients once they are admitted to radiation isolation. They are checked daily by the radiologist or nuclear medicine technician. We will provide the patient with fresh food and water and clean their litter box. If the patient is receiving oral medication, we will attempt to hide it in their food or in a treat; however, if the patient does not consume the medication we cannot attempt manual administration.

Estimated length of stay: 8-14 days

Estimate: \$3,000.00 - \$4,200.00

The Referral Fee/Exam is \$178.50. The estimated cost depends on the total number of days the patient is in the hospital. This estimate includes the **work up cost (\$1,100.00 - \$1,800.00)**, referral exam, blood work, urinalysis, blood pressure, thoracic radiographs, cardiology consult including echocardiogram, Technetium Scan, and hospitalization. Not all testing may be necessary.

Hospital Payment Policy: <https://tiny.utk.edu/utcvmclientpayment>

Client information about Iodine 131: tiny.utk.edu/UTCVM_Iodine131-FAQ

UTCVM Visit Information for Clients: <https://tiny.utk.edu/UTCVMVisitInfo>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR REFERRAL!

**Please send copies of all radiographs, lab test results, etc. Digital images/radiographs may be sent in DICOM format to vetclientservices@utk.edu

2407 River Drive – Room C247
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Clients and/or Veterinarians
865-974-8387
vetclientservices@utk.edu

Referring Veterinarians ONLY
Referral Coordinators:
865-974-3939
utvetref@utk.edu