This procedure evaluates thyroid nodules, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism and goiter.

**What to expect**

- **Before the exam:**
  - Thyroid medication may not be taken (Thyroxine for at least six weeks and Synthroid for at least three weeks). The physician should be consulted prior to discontinuation of any thyroid medication.
  - Antithyroid medications (PTU & Tapazole) may not be taken for at least three days. Patient must consult with the doctor before stopping medications.
  - No iodinated contrast material may have been given (IVP, CT with contrast, myelogram and angiogram) for at least six weeks.

- **During the exam:**
The procedure takes three visits. On the first visit, the patient is given a small radioactive iodine capsule. On the second visit (four hours after taking the capsule), the nuclear medicine physician will do an uptake measurement, take pictures of the thyroid gland and examine the thyroid gland. The patient sits up for the uptake measurement procedure and lies flat while pictures of the thyroid gland are taken. The uptake probe used to perform the uptake measurement and the camera used to take pictures of the thyroid do not produce any radiation. Each instrument simply detects and records the distribution of radioactive material in the thyroid. Measuring the uptake and taking pictures of the thyroid takes approximately one hour. On the third visit (24 hours after taking the capsule), a follow-up uptake measurement of the thyroid gland is taken. This final visit takes only about five minutes.

- **After the exam:**
  Patients who have stopped taking thyroid medication should call the doctor for instructions before resuming the medication.