



FOREST
Veterinary Centre

www.forestvets.com

RADIOIODINE TREATMENT **INFORMATION FOR REFERRING VETS**

Radioiodine is the treatment of choice in veterinary and human medicine but its use has been hampered by the limited number of centres that can offer the service. We are delighted that here at Forest Veterinary Centre we can now offer radioiodine treatment at our Radioiodine Unit based our Eastwick Lodge, Harlow surgery. The post treatment stay is 14 days with no visiting or early discharge possible. There are strict post treatment instructions that must be followed at home which will be fully explained at discharge (information sheets are available from our website).

Radioiodine (radioactive I131) is given after sedation by injection under the skin. It is then taken up by the abnormal thyroid tissue only, which it destroys. It does not affect the rest of the body and offers a cure rate of approximately 92% (the full benefit can take six months). To minimise the risk of complications every effort needs to be made to ensure that the cases are suitable. Below is a timeline of suggested investigations that can be done with yourselves (or us if desired). Please use the [fax back\email radioiodine referral form](#) and ensure all results are available before the admit appointment. All patients are admitted and discharged on a Tuesday morning. We have radioiodine and feline hyperthyroidism client information sheets available from our website.

CASE REQUIREMENTS: - up-to-date flu and enteritis vaccination

- **1-2 MONTHS BEFORE RADIOIODINE:** - Diagnosis based on external laboratory total T4
 - Assessment for concurrent disease (investigated as deemed necessary, especially for heart disease)
 - Blood test for renal parameters when total T4 in low normal reference range (with oral or dietary medication) with **creatinine < 250umol/L (IRIS stage <=2)**. Recent studies have suggested that post treatment hypothyroidism is likely to play a significant role in post treatment morbidity so patients with slight azotaemia are still likely to be suitable candidates for treatment.
- **2 WEEKS BEFORE RADIOIODINE** – STOP hyperthyroid treatment
- **1 WEEK BEFORE RADIOIODINE** – Blood test for Total T4 (external laboratory)
- **3 MONTHS POST RADIOIODINE** – Blood test for renal parameters and total T4 (external laboratory). TT4 may be transiently low at this point but usually no action is needed.
- **6 MONTHS POST RADIOIODINE** – Blood test for renal parameters and total T4 (external laboratory). If TT4 is low and the patient is showing clinical signs of hypothyroidism then test canine TSH levels. If cTSH is elevated then start Levothyroxine supplementation.

A non refundable deposit (£500) is needed two weeks before the treatment as the radioiodine is ordered on an individual basis and there is usually a waiting list for treatment. The treatment costs £1500 (incl. VAT, but excluding any pre or post treatment tests), the balance of which is payable at the discharge appointment.

Radioiodine is not suitable for all patients such as those with significant concurrent disease, those needing daily medication (we cannot tablet cats when in the centre, only place medication in food), or cats which are too wild to handle in a safe manner. Cats with suspected thyroid carcinomas need higher dosages and may be treated at the University of Bristol.

If you would like more information, or think your patient is suitable for radioiodine treatment please contact a radioiodine unit nurse 01279 437433 or email radioiodine@forestvets.com.

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