



CLINICAL STUDY: INFORMATION FOR VETERINARIANS

Use of a Complete Thyroid Panel (T4, T3, Free T4, TSH) and Thyroid Scintigraphy to Diagnose Iatrogenic Hypothyroidism in Cats

At the Animal Endocrine Clinic, we are enrolling cats into a study investigating the usefulness of a complete thyroid panel to help diagnose iatrogenic hypothyroidism in cats following radioiodine treatment. This diagnosis will be confirmed by thyroid imaging (thyroid scintigraphy), considered the “gold standard” diagnostic technique.

As you probably know, the finding of a low to low-normal serum T4 concentration alone after I-131 treatment is not diagnostic for hypothyroidism because many other nonthyroidal diseases and many drugs can also “falsely” lower the total T4 concentration. We are hoping that use of a complete thyroid panel of 4 tests (serum T4, T3, free T4, and TSH) will increase our ability to properly and accurately diagnose this disorder.

To be eligible to enroll in this study, the cat must have been treated with radioiodine. I’d recommend doing this complete thyroid panel on any cat that develops a low or low-normal serum T4 (<1.5 µg/dl) that remains below this range after 3 months of treatment. This is especially true if the cat has new or worsening azotemia.

If you use either Antech or IDEXX labs, we will pay for this testing so you or your client will have the **test results at no charge**. If you do not have the Animal Endocrine Clinic account number for the lab that you normally use, please call or email our office to get our account number so that you can submit the samples to the laboratory. Once we get the results, we will forward the results onto you, along with my interpretation.

If this thyroid panel is suggestive of hypothyroidism, we also will perform thyroid imaging (scintigraphy) as a means of confirming the diagnosis (the scan is considered the “gold standard” test). As part of this study, we will also do the **thyroid scan at no cost to you or the owner**.

Please do not hesitate to call (212-362-2650; 914-864-1631) or email us (info@animalendocrine.com) if you have any questions regarding this study.

Thank you for helping us all learn more about this important feline endocrine disorder.

Best regards,

Mark E. Peterson, DVM, Dip. ACVIM