PURPOSE
This exam is useful in providing information regarding thyroid size, shape and any potential nodular involvement. In addition, this exam is the preferred method for evaluating thyroglossal duct cysts.

PREPARATION

- The Tc-99mm Pertechnetate thyroid scan may be complete in one appointment visit, and routinely takes approximately 1 hour. No dietary restrictions are required for the pertechnetate thyroid scan.
- Your doctor will forward any recent thyroid lab work results to the nuclear medicine department or review.
- If you are pregnant, have had recent nuclear medicine and/or radiology contrast procedures; you should postpone this exam.

*The following medications could interfere with the exam. If you take any of the medications listed below, you should be off of them for the listed number of days before you have this exam. Your doctor should talk with you about this before scheduling the exam.

Off thyroid medications prior to exam:

Perchlorate 3 Days
PTU 7 Days
Synthroid (thyroxine) 3 Weeks
Cytomel (triiodothyronine) 2 Weeks

No X-ray contrast agents 6 Weeks prior to exam.
Off any iodide containing agents 3 Weeks prior to exam.

PROCEDURE
A nuclear medicine technologist will explain the procedure to you, and answer any questions you may have regarding the exam. The technologist will give you an intravenous injection of a radioactive compound that will localize in the thyroid glands. The radioactive compound should NOT present any side effects to you. Approximately 20-30 minutes later, images of the thyroid gland will be taken by positioning a camera over your neck area. You will be asked to lie motionless on an imaging table during the
imaging sequence. Upon scan completion, a radiologist may wish to feel your neck to check for a thyroid nodule.

**AFTERWARDS**
Upon exam completion, you may resume your normal activities.

**RESULTS**
Once the exam is complete, the radiologist will review the images and dictate a report. After reviewing your films, a written report will be sent to your doctor (the one who ordered your exam). Please allow a few days for your doctor’s office to contact you with the results.