What is Thyroglobulin?
Thyroglobulin is a protein found in the blood. It is produced by the normal thyroid and by thyroid cancer. In patients with a history of thyroid cancer, the blood level of thyroglobulin can be used as a test for cancer recurrence, as long as the normal thyroid gland has been completely removed.

What is Thyrogen?
Thyrogen is a synthetic form of the natural hormone called TSH. Thyrogen stimulates thyroid cancer cells to produce thyroglobulin.

What is the purpose of a Thyrogen-stimulated thyroglobulin test?
Patients with low levels of thyroid cancer may have an undetectable level of thyroglobulin in their blood. After receiving Thyrogen, the thyroglobulin may rise to a detectable level. This means that a Thyrogen-stimulated thyroglobulin is a more sensitive way to test for low levels of thyroid cancer (as long as the thyroid gland has been completely removed).

How is the Thyrogen-stimulated thyroglobulin test performed?
1. On days 1 and 2, you will receive an intramuscular injection of Thyrogen. These will be given in the Cancer Center Infusion Center on a Monday and Tuesday, or a Thursday and Friday. The two injections will be scheduled approximately 24 hours apart.

2. On day 5, you will have a blood test for thyroglobulin.
   - If the Thyrogen injections were on a Monday and Tuesday, the blood test will be on that Friday.
• If the Thyrogen injections were on a Thursday and Friday, the blood test will be on the following Monday.

Please note:

If the blood test is being drawn at a UofM lab, your physician will have placed the order electronically and there will be no paperwork to bring to the lab.

If the blood test will be drawn at a non-UofM lab, you will be given a paper requisition to bring to the lab, and this will include two tests: thyroglobulin, and anti-thyroglobulin antibodies.

Frequently Asked Questions

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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<td>Can I have the blood test any time of day?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Do I need an appointment for the blood draw?</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Do I need to fast or have any other preparation?</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Do I continue to take my thyroid hormone and other medications as I normally would?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Are there any side effects?</td>
<td>Usually not, but occasionally there can be slight nausea, headache, dizziness or fatigue shortly after the Thyrogen test. In rare cases, patients have temporary flu-like symptoms.</td>
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<td>Who should I call with questions or problems?</td>
<td>The UM Endocrine Oncology Clinic: 734-647-8906.</td>
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This document is not intended to take the place of the care and attention of your personal physician or other professional medical services. Our aim is to promote active participation in your care and treatment by providing information and education. Questions about individual health concerns or specific treatment options should be discussed with your physician.

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