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RADIOACTIVE IODINE (¹³¹I) THERAPY

INFORMATION FOR VETERINARIANS

Dear Referring Veterinarian:

Thank you for inquiring about ¹³¹I therapy at FVARC. We hope this document will help answer any questions you may have. We have also attached copies of our client information sheets on feline hyperthyroidism, ¹³¹I therapy, and radioiodine therapy at FVARC. Please share these handouts with any interested clients.

How are appointments scheduled for ¹³¹I therapy?

You or your client should call the FVARC (at 920-993-9193) to schedule an appointment. This appointment will be scheduled through Judy Freeman CVT, VTS (ECC). Judy is the head technician for ¹³¹I therapy and will be responsible for handling most of the enquiries and scheduling. Dr. Terri Cole DACVIM and Dr. Elizabeth Breuhl DACVIM will be doing the initial evaluations and administering the ¹³¹I.

When are appointments available?

Most patients will be evaluated on a Monday or Tuesday. The client will be contacted 1-2 days later if diagnostics are performed at FVARC and if they decide on ¹³¹I therapy, the medication will be ordered, and the arrangements made to present the cat for therapy on the following Monday. It is very important that ¹³¹I therapy is performed soon after the relevant diagnostics to prevent having to repeat testing.

What should the client bring to the initial appointment?

Please ensure that your client has copies of their cat's medical record and relevant test results. Recent radiographs if performed, should be provided. If the patient has been treated with Tapazole or Felimazole, it is very helpful for us to see the results of concurrent T4 and BUN/creatinine tests while on this therapy.

Should Tapazole or Felimazole be started before ¹³¹I therapy?

This is not required, but you may choose to try medical therapy if there is a long period before the patient can receive ¹³¹I therapy, and the clinical signs warrant therapy. You may also elect to try medical therapy first in a patient with questionable renal function.

PLEASE NOTE: TAPAZOLE THERAPY MUST BE STOPPED AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE THE INITIAL ¹³¹I EVALUATION APPOINTMENT, AND MUST NOT BE RESTARTED PRIOR TO ¹³¹I THERAPY.

What should I do if I feel a cat cannot be taken off medical therapy for as long as 14 days?

Please contact Judy Freeman CVT, VTS (ECC) to discuss alternate arrangements for these patients, prior to scheduling an appointment. She will discuss any individual concerns with Dr. Terri Cole, DACVIM, Dr. Elizabeth Breuhl DACVIM, or Dr. Lisa Peters (Radiation Safety Officer).

What is the total cost of therapy?

The total cost of ¹³¹I therapy is \$1850.00-2100.00. There are many factors that are involved with this estimate and it may be refined further after the initial evaluation and consult. The initial exam and consult with an internal medicine doctor is \$160.00

Are echocardiography or ultrasound included in the initial evaluation?

No, these tests will not be performed at the initial evaluation. If your patient has signs of cardiac failure, echocardiography performed by a specialist is recommended before the initial ¹³¹I appointment.

How is the dose of ¹³¹I calculated?

The dose is based on clinical signs, chemistry results, size of thyroid nodule, and T4 value at the time of evaluation. Because we use test results from our own initial evaluation to determine the dose of ¹³¹I, we need to repeat these tests, even if they have recently been performed at your clinic. **Please note that the T4 must be sent to a reference lab as we will not accept in house T4 testing.** You may perform the required work up at your hospital.

**Chemistry, Urinalysis, T4 and blood pressure within 7-to 10 days of the initial exam and consult and
CBC and 2 view thorax radiographs within 1 month of the initial exam and consult.**

Who will be evaluating and treating my patients?

Dr. Terri Cole DVM, DACVIM and Dr. Elizabeth Breuhl DVM, MS, DACVIM with the assistance of their specially trained staff, will perform all evaluations and treatments of hyperthyroid cats.

Please do not hesitate to contact Judy Freeman CVT, VTS (ECC), Dr. Terri Cole DACVIM, Dr. Elizabeth Breuhl, or Dr. Lisa Peters (Radiation Safety Officer) with any questions about ¹³¹I therapy, or to discuss the options for your hyperthyroid patients at 920-993-9193, or email Judy at jfreeman@fvarc1.com