Taking other medicine
Tell your nuclear medicine physician or specialist if you are taking any other medicines including medicines that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food store.
Your medication’s constituents may affect the results of this treatment. Your nuclear medicine physician or specialist will advise you of what to do.

How Sodium Iodide (\(^{131}I\)) therapy capsules are used

How it is given
Sodium Iodide (\(^{131}I\)) therapy capsules can only be administered by qualified staff with specific training in the safe use and handling of radiopharmaceuticals.
A Sodium Iodide (\(^{131}I\)) therapy capsule is given with a drink. It must be swallowed whole - do not chew the capsule. You may be asked to take food and drink to aid digestion of the capsule.
If you have any questions as to why you have been prescribed a Sodium Iodide (\(^{131}I\)) Therapy Capsule, ask your nuclear medicine specialist or doctor.

Test procedure
After taking your capsule you may be asked to stay in hospital for a period (spanning from few hours to few days) to monitor the treatment.
After your treatment you may be asked to have another scan, similar to your original diagnostic scan, at a later date.

After you go home
Continue your day-to-day activities. However, it is IMPORTANT to observe the following for one week after the treatment as the Iodine-131 (\(^{131}I\)) leaves your body:
- avoid being closer than 1 metre to other persons for an extended duration.
- drink plenty of fluids.
- avoid close physical contact with children and pregnant women.
- sleep in a single bed.
- shower daily and frequently wash of excess perspiration.

Side effects
Tell your nuclear medicine specialist or technologist as soon as possible if you do not feel well after taking your Sodium Iodine (\(^{131}I\)) therapy capsule.
Rare minor reactions such as nausea, vomiting, increased heartbeat, itching and rash have been reported with the use of Sodium Iodide (\(^{131}I\)) therapy capsules. It is unlikely that these effects are caused by very small amounts of Iodine-131 in the capsule.
When larger doses of Iodine-131 are used, reported side effects include radiation thyroiditis, sialitis and transient worsening of hyperthyroidism.
Potential effects of a high dose of Iodine-131 include nausea, pulmonary fibrosis, bone marrow depression, leukaemia and acute thyroid crisis.

NOTE: Adequate long term studies have not been performed in animals to determine whether this drug affects fertility, or has teratogenic or mutagenic potential. Safety and efficacy in children have not been established.

Storage and Expiry
Sodium Iodide (\(^{131}I\)) therapy capsules are stored by the hospital or clinic. The capsules are stored in a dry place below 25°C.
Your nuclear medicine physician or technologist will check the expiry date before giving you a Sodium Iodide (\(^{131}I\)) therapy capsule.

Product description
What looks like
A Sodium Iodide (\(^{131}I\)) therapy capsule is a pale yellow gelatine capsule. It comes in a 10 mL vial.

Ingredients
Active ingredient:
- Sodium Iodide (\(^{131}I\))

Inactive ingredients:
- Sodium phosphate - dibasic (anhydrous)
- Sodium bicarbonate
- Water for Injection
- Gelatine (animal origin) capsule shells with the following food grade colours:
  - Iron Oxide Yellow (C177492)
  - Titanium Oxide (C177891)
  - Erythrosine Red No.3 (C145430)
  - Carbon Black (C177266)

Aust R 22808
Supplier
ANSTO Health
Locked Bag 2001
Kirrawee DC, NSW 2232
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Facsimile: 02 9543 6511

ANSTO Health is a commercial enterprise of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), which is located at Lucas Heights in Sydney, NSW.

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Sodium Iodide (\(^{131}I\)) Therapy Capsule