



Nu-Cat Pre-Treatment Requirements

Nu-Cat offers radioactive iodine therapy for the treatment of hyperthyroid cats. This form of treatment has a success rate approaching 95%, without the risks associated with surgery and methimazole treatment. Surgery risks include anesthetic risks and hypocalcemia while methimazole risks include bone marrow suppression, liver toxicity, GI side effects and pruritis. Approximately 2.5% of patients require a second treatment and 2.5% of patients develop hypothyroidism necessitating supplementation.

The purpose of this letter is to outline our pretreatment requirements. Exceptions may be made on certain cases at the doctor's discretion. All cats referred for radioactive iodine treatment must make an appointment (specifically for I¹³¹) to discuss the risks and benefits of radio-therapy. Provided that all pretreatment requirements have been met and the clients sign off on the release and consent forms, we may begin the I¹³¹ treatment at the conclusion of this appointment. All cats must have the following within one month of their referral appointment:

- CBC
- Full chemistry profile (chem. 12 or more)
- Urinalysis
- T4 (+/- free T4)

Cats with murmurs or other findings on the physical exam may require additional diagnostics, including chest radiographs, blood pressure, echocardiogram, etc. Pre-treatment and post treatment diagnostics are not included in the cost of treatment.

In addition, a 2 week methimazole trial is strongly recommended to uncover any renal insufficiency that may be masked by the cat's hyperthyroidism. Following the 2 week (or longer) trial, renal values and urine specific gravity should be checked. Exceptions can be made on an individual basis in case of methimazole hypersensitivity or fractious behavior, though the owner must be made aware of the risk of possible renal disease. All cats must be off methimazole for at least 2 weeks prior to I¹³¹ therapy. Owners must realize that cats are kept in isolation in accordance with the Tennessee state requirements for radioactive materials for anywhere from 4-24 days after treatment. Visitation is NOT permitted during that time.

The cost of I¹³¹ treatment at **Nu-Cat** is **\$850**. The cost of I¹³¹ includes the hospitalization, treatment, medications, monitoring and radioactive waste storage and decay. Extended hospitalizations or other treatments will be additional.

A follow-up exam should be performed 4-6 weeks post treatment and a T4, UA and renal values should be rechecked.