

Steps to be taken to prevent contamination and reduce exposure of staff during administration of I-131 via gastric tube

1. Order 3-way stopcocks from radiopharmacy for use with their syringe containing I-131, and verify leak-free operation.
2. Give the stopcock's connector specifications to the referring physician's office to verify that it can connect to the current standard gastric feeding tube. Obtain a sample tube to verify connectivity.
3. Request short gastric tube with lesser number of connections for the patient, to reduce the chance for accumulation of activity in the connections and to reduce malfunction (leakage) of the connection.
4. Investigate possibility of shielding for the tubing
5. Nursing staff will check residual volume in the stomach and make sure there are no signs of any leakage prior to administration of I-131 by the Nuclear Medicine Technologist.
6. Obtain syringe shield, or ask radiopharmacy to supply syringe shield
7. Staff to wear hair covering, lab coat, and shoe covers. These should be waterproof or water-resistant.
8. Make sure the patient, bed and floor directly beneath the patient is covered with an absorbent material during the administration process
9. Have 2 staff available during injection
10. At the end of procedure, survey the staff head to toe, including front and back, outside the patient's room.
11. If any contamination observed, change hair cover, lab coat, and shoe cover(s) prior to returning to the NM department
12. Immediate assay of all tubing, gauze, syringes, etc to assure all the activity was administered
13. Survey the staff again to assure contamination did not occur during the removal of any contaminated clothing or during the assay procedure.
14. If significant leakage of radioactive material is detected, consider administering Potassium Iodide to exposed staff as soon as possible according to the established policy.
15. Bioassay of staff 24 hours, 48 and 72 hours after administration. If indicated- perform additional bioassays
16. If significant staff exposure is suspected, send radiation badges (whole body and ring) for processing expeditiously

Adopted: 12/2/09