

# Frequently Asked Questions



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**My cat is on Tapazole, can she still be given radioiodine?**

Cats need to be off any anti-thyroid drug for at least two weeks before receiving I-131. Otherwise, the radioiodine will not be absorbed.

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**My cat is 17, can she stand the hospitalization?**

Yes, while disconcerting, cats quickly adjust especially after they are no longer hyperthyroid. Cats as old as 21 have been successfully treated.

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**Can I visit?**

No, this is not permitted, but you may leave blankets, toys or special diets for your cat.

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**Are some cats not able to receive radioiodine?**

Yes, some cats have too many other illnesses which require intensive nursing and too much handling to allow radioiodine therapy. Personnel could receive excessive radiation exposure from the cat.

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**What happens if my cat becomes critically ill while hospitalized for radioiodine therapy?**

Full care is given with special arrangements made to minimize radiation exposures. No needed treatment is denied.

## Directions



**GSVS is centrally located in Tinton Falls, New Jersey, approximately 1/2 mile east of the Garden State Parkway.**

### From Northern New Jersey:

Take the Garden State Parkway south (or the New Jersey Turnpike south to Exit 11 to the Garden State Parkway south). Continue on the GSP (either the local or express lanes) to Exit 102. After exiting the parkway bear right off the exit ramp onto Asbury Avenue. Approximately 1/2 mile from the exit ramp make a left onto Pine Street. The Hospital will be directly in front of you.

### From Southern New Jersey:

Take the Garden State Parkway north to Exit 100A. Upon exiting the Parkway you will be on Route 66. Take Route 66 to the first light, make a left at the light (Jumping Brook Road). After the left turn, bear to left onto Essex Road. Take Essex Road to the end, then make a left onto Asbury Avenue. Make the next right, which will be Pine Street. The Hospital will be directly in front of you.

### From New York City:

Take the Holland or Lincoln Tunnel to the New Jersey Turnpike, south. Follow the Turnpike to Exit 11, Garden State Parkway south. Continue on the GSP (either the local or express lanes) to Exit 102. After exiting the parkway bear right off the exit ramp onto Asbury Avenue. Approximately 1/2 mile from the exit ramp make a left onto Pine Street. The Hospital will be directly in front of you.

### From Brooklyn, Long Island, Staten Island:

Take the Verrazano Bridge to the Staten Island Expressway. Follow the SI Expressway to the Outerbridge Crossing. After the Outerbridge Crossing take the Garden State Parkway south (either the local or express lanes) to Exit 102. After exiting the parkway bear right off the exit ramp onto Asbury Avenue. Approximately 1/2 mile from the exit ramp make a left onto Pine Street. The Hospital will be directly in front of you.



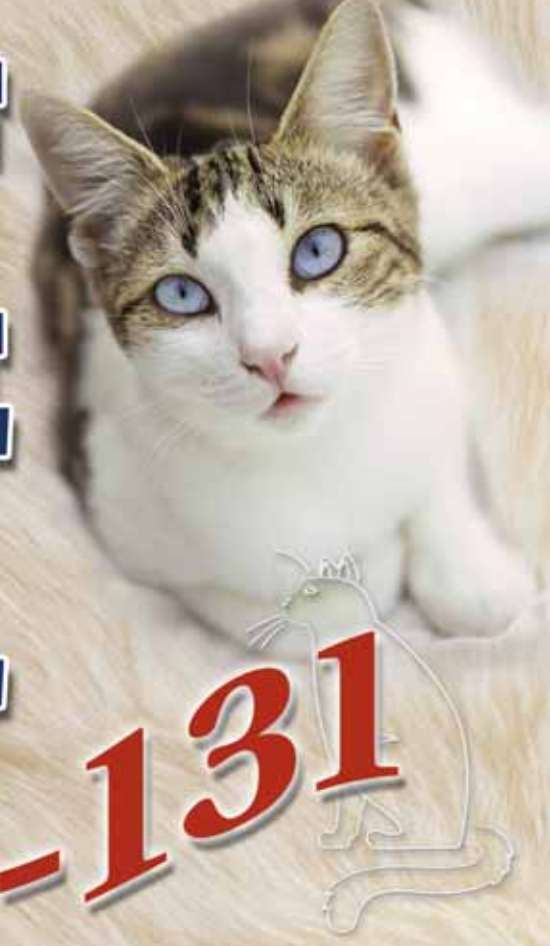
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# F E L I-131 N E



## Radioiodine Therapy for Hyperthyroidism



GARDEN STATE VETERINARY SPECIALISTS

Tinton Falls, NJ • [www.gsvs.org](http://www.gsvs.org)

# What is HYPERTHYROIDISM?



Feline hyperthyroidism is a disorder resulting from excessive thyroid hormone. The disease occurs in middle to older cats without sex or breed predilection. Though functional benign enlargement (adenoma) is most common (98%), thyroid carcinoma (cancer) is another cause (2%). The cat's thyroid gland has two lobes - about 70% of cats have both lobes affected.

## SYMPTOMS

May include - Weight loss, poor haircoat, rapid heart rate, voracious appetite or thirst, anxiety or nervousness, diarrhea or vomiting.

## DIAGNOSIS

Lump or mass in the neck detected on a physical exam; elevated levels of thyroid hormone in the blood; isotope imaging test that shows the size, shape and location of the thyroid glands.

## TREATMENT

There are three options - anti-thyroid medication, surgery, or radioiodine therapy.

## PROGNOSIS

Generally good. Cats with severe disease involving many organ systems may not survive. However, most cats, even teenagers, respond very well to treatment.

# TREATMENT OPTIONS



Our veterinarians are fully qualified to treat cats diagnosed with feline hyperthyroidism. We can suggest the best treatment for your cat and help you manage the problem. We have extensive experience with medical, surgical and radioiodine treatments, complications and follow up management.

## MEDICAL Treatment

Anti-thyroid drugs inhibit the production of thyroxine by blocking the biochemical reactions that produce the hormone. These drugs are usually effective but may be needed for lifetime. As with any drug, there can be reactions. These include loss of appetite, vomiting, depression, bleeding tendencies, skin rashes, facial swelling and itching. Pills are given two or three times a day. Periodic checkups are needed to check hormone levels and adjust the dosage.

## SURGICAL Treatment

Removal of the thyroid gland is a relatively straightforward surgical procedure with a good success rate. There are added risks because general anesthesia is needed and older cats may have heart, kidney or other problems that cause complications. Loss of the parathyroid gland can cause disorders of calcium metabolism.

## RADIOIODINE *Radioactive Iodine-131* Treatment

While this is the preferred treatment for people with the same disease, the availability of radioiodine for cats is limited to specialty hospitals with strict radioisotope permits. We are pleased to offer this treatment option at GSVS. Radioiodine is safe and effective with cure rates of approximately 95-98% with one treatment. Cats can receive a second treatment if necessary. This treatment avoids surgery, anesthesia, and anti-thyroid drugs. The major disadvantage is required hospitalization until most of the radioactivity dissipates. A single injection is given (under the skin, like a vaccine) and the radioactive iodine is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream. The iodine is taken into the thyroid gland and incorporated into thyroxine. The majority of cats have normal hormone levels within a week or two of treatment. Hospitalization is required under the radioisotope permit issued by the NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission). You can expect that your cat will remain at the Hospital for 96 hours. There will be additional minor precautions after discharge but they are not difficult and will be thoroughly explained to you.

***Garden State Veterinary Specialists*** is a multi-disciplinary referral only practice whose goal is to provide progressive, state-of-the-art veterinary care in the fields of surgery, internal medicine, cardiology, neurology, oncology, acupuncture, ophthalmology, dermatology, nuclear medicine and emergency/critical care. The support staff is a team of receptionists and animal health care technicians who understand the close bond that exists between a client and their pet. We are committed to making the referral experience one of personal service for the client and the referring veterinarian with specialized individualized care for the patient.

