

This information as well as the online tools referenced can be found at coloradoanimalspecialty.com/for-veterinarians

HOW TO REFER A CAT FOR I-131

Please note that all specialty services are not available 24 hours a day or 7 days a week, while our emergency services are open 24/7/365. We will do our best to meet the needs of your patient and client.

Referral Guidelines

1. Pre-treatment diagnostics must be performed prior to I-131 therapy. These diagnostics can be performed at CASE during the initial screen or at your primary practice. Diagnostics requested are a **CBC**, **chemistry panel**, **urinalysis** (ideally but not required), and a **total T4**. These diagnostics must be performed within **1-2 months** of the scheduled I-131 treatment.
2. Pending results of the diagnostics, a 4-week methimazole trial may be warranted to ensure kidney values remain stable once the thyroid disease is treated. Recheck bloodwork (CBC, chemistry panel) will be required on the methimazole trial to monitor kidney health and to make sure there have been no adverse reactions to the methimazole before I-131 treatment.
3. Candidate cats for I-131 therapy should have stable, well-defined hyperthyroidism and should be free of conditions that could interfere with the efficacy of I-131 therapy, such as cardiac, renal, or other concurrent illness. After therapy, cats must remain healthy enough to survive the mandatory hospitalization (isolation) period that follows I-131 therapy (typically 4 days)
4. Not all cats are ideal candidates for I-131 therapy. Some cats may have laboratory evidence of hyperthyroidism but clinical symptoms that are incompatible with the diagnosis; I-131 may fail to provide symptomatic relief in these cases. Furthermore, predicting the long-term prognosis for cats with concurrent illnesses or clinically significant cardiac or renal disease can be challenging.
5. If the cat is already on methimazole (or y/d diet), they must be off the methimazole and the y/d diet for 1-2 weeks prior to treatment. If you believe your patient cannot discontinue the methimazole, please contact Dr. Brown with CASE Internal Medicine for recommendations.
6. If your patient is a candidate for I-131, please contact CASE to schedule an initial I-131 **Internal Medicine consult with Dr. Brown**. I-131 initial consults are scheduled on **Wednesdays**. The I-131 will administered the following Monday and most cats will be discharged on Friday. Dr. Brown will look over the bloodwork and your records and alert you if there are any concerns over I-131 candidacy.
7. Accommodations can be made for out of town clients. Please contact the Internal Medicine service for more information at internalmeds@coloradoanimalspecialty.com

Please encourage your referred clients to call us to schedule an appointment. Although we will follow up on all referrals received, we do not want to delay the patient's care in the event of a lapse in communication.