Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Recombinant Human TSH Stimulation Test

This information explains your recombinant human thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) stimulation test.

Thyroglobulin is a protein in your blood that is made only by your thyroid cells. We measure your thyroglobulin level to help us monitor your cancer after treatment. If your thyroglobulin level goes up, it could mean that you need more tests and follow-up care to be sure your cancer hasn't returned.

You will get an injection (shot) of recombinant human TSH to stimulate any potentially remaining thyroid cancer cells. This will cause your thyroglobulin levels to go up if there are any thyroid cells left in your body.

For more information on blood tests that measure how your thyroid is working, read the resource *Thyroid Function Tests (TFTs)* (www.mskcc.org/pe/thyroid-function-tests).

Testing schedule

- On day 1, you will have your blood taken to measure the amount of thyroglobulin in your blood at baseline (the starting point that your thyroglobulin will be compared to after the test).
- Also on day 1, you will get an injection of recombinant human TSH.
- On day 2, you will get another injection of recombinant human TSH.
- On day 5, you will have your blood taken again. This is done to measure the amount of thyroglobulin in your blood after taking the recombinant human TSH.

The testing schedule generally looks like this:

Option 1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
• Blood work • Recombinant human TSH injection	• Recombinant human TSH injection			• Blood Work

Option 2

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
• Blood work • Recombinant human TSH injection	• Recombinant human TSH injection			• Blood Work

Test results

You can write down test results below.

Baseline results

Date_____

Baseline thyroglobulin is: _____

TSH is: _____

Stimulated results

Previous stimulated thyroglobulin was: _____ Date _____

Current stimulated thyroglobulin is: _____ Date _____

You can also record your results in the following table:

Date	TSH	Free T4	Thyroglobulin	Thyroglobulin AB

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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