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# Thyroid Tests

**Also called:** Thyroid panel

Your thyroid is a small, butterfly-shaped gland in the front of your neck. It makes hormones [<https://medlineplus.gov/hormones.html>] that control the way the body uses energy. These hormones affect nearly every organ in your body and control many of your body's most important functions. For example, they affect your breathing, heart rate, weight, digestion, and moods.

Thyroid tests check how well your thyroid is working. They are also used to diagnose and help find the cause of thyroid diseases [<https://medlineplus.gov/thyroiddiseases.html>] such as hyperthyroidism [<https://medlineplus.gov/hyperthyroidism.html>] and hypothyroidism [<https://medlineplus.gov/hypothyroidism.html>]. Thyroid tests include blood tests and imaging tests.

Blood tests for your thyroid include:



- TSH [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/tsh-thyroid-stimulating-hormone-test/>]. It measures thyroid-stimulating hormone. This is usually the first test your healthcare provider will order.
- T3 [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/triiodothyronine-t3-tests/>] and T4 [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/thyroxine-t4-test/>]. They measure the level of the different thyroid hormones in your blood.
- Thyroid antibodies test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/thyroid-antibodies/>]. It measures certain thyroid antibodies (markers in the blood). This test may help diagnose autoimmune thyroid disorders.

Imaging tests include:

- CT scans [<https://medlineplus.gov/ctscans.html>]
- Ultrasound [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/sonogram/>]
- Nuclear medicine tests [<https://medlineplus.gov/nuclearscans.html>], including:
  - **Thyroid scan.** It uses small amounts of radioactive material to create a picture of the thyroid, showing its size, shape, and position. It can help find the cause of hyperthyroidism and check for thyroid nodules (lumps in the thyroid).
  - **Radioactive iodine uptake test**, or thyroid uptake test. It checks how well your thyroid is working and can help find the cause of hyperthyroidism.

NIH: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

## Learn More

- **Calcitonin Test** [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/calcitonin-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-calcitonina/>]
- **Thyroid Antibodies** [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/thyroid-antibodies/>]  (National Library of Medicine)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/anticuerpos-antitiroideos/>]
- **Thyroid Function Tests** [<https://www.thyroid.org/thyroid-function-tests/>] (American Thyroid Association)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.thyroid.org/las-pruebas-de-funcion-tiroidea/>]

Thyroid Scan and Uptake [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/thyroiduptake>]

 (American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/thyroiduptake>]

- Thyroid Tests [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diagnostic-tests/thyroid>]

 (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/pruebas-diagnosticas/pruebas-tiroides>]

- Thyroid Tests (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/thyroid-tests.html>] (Nemours Foundation)

Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/thyroid-tests.html>]

- Thyroxine (T4) Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/thyroxine-t4-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-tiroxina-t4/>]

- Triiodothyronine (T3) Tests [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/triiodothyronine-t3-tests/>]  (National Library of Medicine)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/pruebas-de-triiodotironina-t3/>]

- TSH (Thyroid-stimulating hormone) test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/tsh-thyroid-stimulating-hormone-test/>]

 (National Library of Medicine)


Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-tsh/>]

- Ultrasound - Thyroid [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/us-thyroid>]

(American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/us-thyroid>]

## Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Thyroid Function Tests [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Thyroid+Function+Tests%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

## Journal Articles

### References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Thyroid testing in primary hypothyroidism. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40599024>]
- Article: Thyroid function test profile in patients who have thyroid nodule and... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40596642>]
- Article: Association between vitamin D levels and thyroid function tests in euthyroid... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40457860>]
- Thyroid Tests -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Thyroid+Function+Tests%22%5Bmajr%3A%20exp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

## Patient Handouts

- Antithyroglobulin antibody test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003557.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003557.htm>]
- Fine needle aspiration of the thyroid [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003899.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003899.htm>]
- Free T4 test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003517.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003517.htm>]
- Radioactive iodine uptake [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003689.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003689.htm>]
- T3 test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003687.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003687.htm>]
- T3RU test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003688.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003688.htm>]

- TBG blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003374.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003374.htm>]

- Thyroid peroxidase antibody [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003556.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003556.htm>]
- Thyroid scan [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003829.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003829.htm>]
- Thyroid ultrasound [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003776.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003776.htm>]
- TSH test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003684.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003684.htm>]
- TSI test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003685.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003685.htm>]



## National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Thyroid Tests* is the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov>]

## Other Languages

Find health information in languages other than English [<https://medlineplus.gov/languages/thyroidtests.html>] on *Thyroid Tests*

## NIH MedlinePlus Magazine

Why the Internet Can't Diagnose Your Thyroid Problem [<https://magazine.medlineplus.gov/article/why-the-internet-cant-diagnose-your-thyroid-problem>]

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