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## “Missy” - Scintigraphy of Hyperthyroid Adenomas in Cats

"Missy", a spayed ten year old Domestic Shorthair cat, was presented to the hospital for chronic weight loss and occasional vomiting. On physical examination the only abnormalities were a dull hair coat and a rapid heart rate (tachycardia). A tentative diagnosis of hyperthyroidism was made.

Other symptoms of hyperthyroidism are large odiferous stools, temporary blindness due to retinal changes resulting from high blood pressure, and palpable thyroid masses in the ventral cervical (bottom neck) region. A complete blood panel was drawn to confirm the tentative diagnosis. Missy had a very high T4 (thyroid hormone) level.

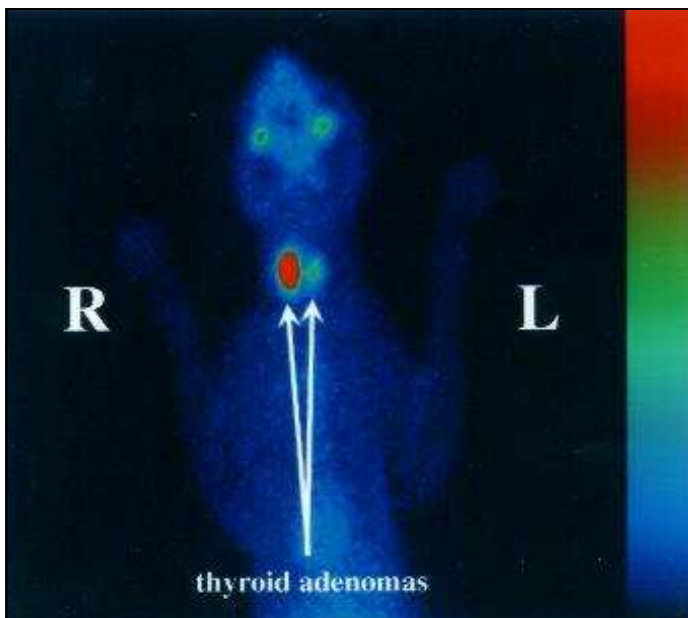
We immediately put Missy on the drug Tapazole (methimazole) to inhibit the synthesis of thyroid hormone. Unfortunately, she

could not tolerate the medicine. This left two options: surgery, which is invasive and risky, or a non-invasive, less risky radioisotope I131 treatment. The latter was chosen for Missy.

Missy was referred for nuclear imaging. A Scintiscan was done one month later and showed thyroid lobe enlargement.

Missy was treated a month later and remained hospitalized for six days. Since her release, Missy has done very well clinically. She is definitely a happy camper.

A word of warning: decreased renal function may occur after therapy for hyperthyroidism in cats, so regular checks for renal function should be recommended.



**Figure 1.**  
Scintiscan showing thyroid adenomas