



***NEW*** from the  
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

**I-131**  
**EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS**



NATIONAL  
CANCER  
INSTITUTE

NIH Publication No. 03-5302  
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
National Institutes of Health

The National Cancer Institute announces new publications addressing radioactive iodine (I-131) from fallout. The materials are designed to address the concerns of Americans who were exposed to I-131 from above-ground nuclear testing in the 1950s and early 1960s. People exposed to I-131, especially during childhood, may have an increased risk of thyroid disease, including thyroid cancer. Thyroid cancer is uncommon and usually curable.

The materials are for people who have increased risk of exposure to I-131 based on three key factors:

1. **Age** – People who are now 40 years of age or older, particularly those born between 1936 and 1963 and who were children at the time of testing, are at higher risk.
2. **Milk drinking** – Childhood milk drinkers, particularly those who drank large amounts of milk or those who drank unprocessed milk from farm or backyard cows and goats, have increased risk.
3. **Childhood residence** – The Mountain West, Midwest, East, and Northeast areas of the United States generally were more affected by I-131 fallout from nuclear testing.

### Available Publications

- Get the Facts About Exposure to I-131 Radiation (brochure)
- Making Choices: Screening for Thyroid Disease (workbook)
- Radioactive Iodine (I-131) and Thyroid Cancer (flip chart designed to address concerns specific to Native Americans)

### For More Information

- To order publications, call the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service at **1-800-4-CANCER** (1-800-422-6237). Persons with TTY equipment, dial 1-800-332-8615.
- To download publications, visit the National Cancer Institute's Web site at [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov) (search term I-131). A PowerPoint presentation designed for health care professionals is also available online.