



For the Patient: Thyrotropin alfa
Other names: THYROGEN®

BC Cancer Agency

- **Thyrotropin alfa** (thye-roe-TROE-pin AL-fah) is a drug that is used to investigate the status of thyroid cancer. It is a clear liquid that is injected into a muscle.
- **Store** thyrotropin alfa injections in the refrigerator, out of the reach of children. Do not shake thyrotropin alfa vigorously, as it may be damaged. Do not freeze.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had **heart problems** or an unusual or **allergic reaction** to thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) before starting thyrotropin alfa.
- **Blood tests** may be taken to help locate any remaining thyroid tissue or cancer.
- Thyrotropin alfa can be used **with or without a radioiodine scan** or a **PET scan**. You may be given two or three injections of thyrotropin alfa. If you are receiving a **radioiodine scan**, radioiodine may be given 24 hours after your last thyrotropin alfa injection, followed by a radioiodine scan 48 hours later (72 hours after your last thyrotropin alfa injection). If you are receiving a **PET scan**, fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) may be given 24 hours after your last thyrotropin alfa injection, followed by a PET scan on that day.
- **Continue** to take your thyroid pills while receiving thyrotropin alfa.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of thyrotropin alfa.

Side effects are uncommon and usually mild with thyrotropin alfa. Tips to help manage side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<p>Nausea does not usually occur with thyrotropin alfa.</p>	
<p>A flu-like illness may occur. You may have headache, fever, chills and/or fatigue. Flu-like symptoms usually disappear on their own.</p>	<p>Take acetaminophen (e.g., TYLENOL®) every 4-6 hours if needed, to a maximum of 4 g (4000 mg) per day.</p>

