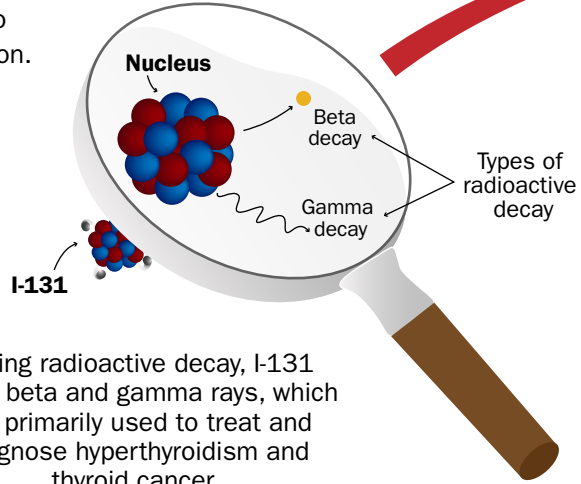


Why is Iodine-131 used?

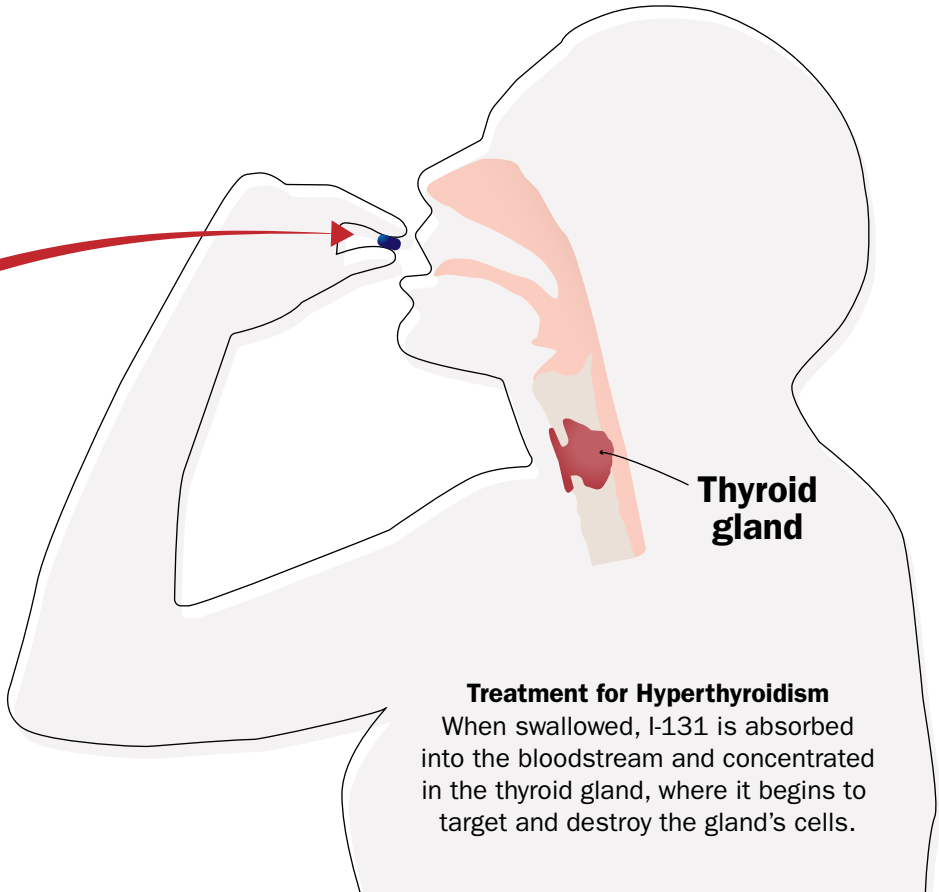
The thyroid is the only tissue in the body that intakes and holds onto iodine. Iodine is essential for the thyroid gland to properly function.

How is Iodine-131 used?

I-131 is useful for therapeutic and diagnostic purposes as it goes through radioactive decay — a process in which a nucleus with an imbalance of protons and neutrons attempts to stabilize again by emitting radiation.



During radioactive decay, I-131 emits beta and gamma rays, which are primarily used to treat and diagnose hyperthyroidism and thyroid cancer.



Treatment for Hyperthyroidism

When swallowed, I-131 is absorbed into the bloodstream and concentrated in the thyroid gland, where it begins to target and destroy the gland's cells.