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General Comment

I have received two Radioactive Iodine (RAI) treatments (1995 and 2003). My first treatment was followed by a 24-hour hospital stay, and I was discharged immediately after receiving the second treatment. My mental state was much better being in my own home; however, I do not believe this should be an option for all patients. As a former Radiologic Technologist I understood the ramifications of radiation exposure to others and was careful to take the appropriate precautions. I lived in a house that allowed me the separate space needed to fulfill these requirements. I had a supportive husband and no children or pets at home. Our nearly acre property helped ensure that even if I went outside, I would not expose neighbors. I believe each case should be evaluated on the individual patient's circumstances, such as:

1. Is there separate space within the home for the patient
2. Is there a responsible adult available to assist when needed
3. Do the patient and assistant fully understand the requirements needed to protect others from unintentional exposure such as separate eating utensils, sleeping and bathing space, trash disposal, etc.
4. Actually the first question should be, "Is the patient likely to comply with the regulations?" Through ThyCA I met someone who thoughtless wanted to stay at a hotel after receiving her dose.
5. Today's doses are lower. Maybe if the treatment is given early in the morning (7 a.m.) a person could be discharged in the evening having cleared the dangerous to others threshold.

SUNSI Review Complete

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