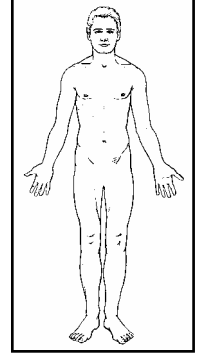


POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY (PET SCAN) *Patient Education*

What is the purpose of this test?

A Positron Emission Tomography (PET Scan) is performed to detect the function and activity of the cells in your body. It can be used to evaluate diseases in which there is a change in the cells such as cancer.



How should I prepare for this test?

- Avoid strenuous activity for 24 hours before your exam.
- Do not eat or drink anything except water (don't even chew gum) six (6) hours before the exam.
- If you take medicines, take them as usual.
- Wear comfortable clothing with no metal (such as sweat suit).
- You may wear hearing aids, glasses and dentures.
- If you are a diabetic, your scan should be scheduled for the middle of the day. Have a light breakfast with your normal diabetes medicine early in the morning. During the four (4) hours before your appointment time, do not have anything else except water---not even insulin.
- Your blood sugar level will be tested prior to the injection of the radiopharmaceutical. If your blood sugar is elevated, your scan will be rescheduled.

How is this test performed?

When you arrive, we will take a review of your history and past exams. A small IV will be started and your glucose level will be checked, before a very small amount of a radioactive tracer is administered. The drug has no side effects and will be eliminated quickly from your system. After the injection, you will rest comfortably in a "quiet room" for 60 minutes before the scan to allow the glucose-radioactive tracer to be taken up by your body. During the scan, you will be asked to lie very still on a comfortable table. You will be asked to breathe normally. You might hear a humming noise, but you will not feel anything unusual. You may feel the table move while the images are being acquired at certain locations in your body. The technologist will monitor you during the exam. The scanning process takes approximately 20 minutes. However, plan on spending two to three hours with us as our radiologist may request delayed imaging.

What about radiation?

Only a small amount of radiation is used in this procedure. The dose for each patient is carefully selected to give the least possible exposure while still allowing for an accurate exam. The radiologist and technologists are trained in radiation safety. CAUTION: This test should not be done during pregnancy or breast-feeding.

After the test...

Your PET scan will be analyzed by a radiologist and he will send the report to your physician.

CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS