

Frequently Asked Questions

Is PET/CT safe?

The risks associated with a PET/CT scan are very minimal. The quantity of radiation is low and the FDG degrades quickly so no detectable radioactivity is present after several hours. In addition to the radioactive decomposition, the remaining FDG is eliminated from the body through urine. Family members are not at risk for exposure because more than 90% of the radioactivity has left the body or decomposed before the patient has left the hospital.

What is a radiopharmaceutical?

A radiopharmaceutical is a radioactive drug. The most commonly used PET radiopharmaceutical is FDG, which is a radioactive form of glucose (sugar). Radiopharmaceuticals are produced by physicists and chemists.

What is FDG?

2-Deoxy-2-[18F]fluoro-D-Glucose, or FDG, is a type of glucose (sugar) and is the most common radiopharmaceutical used in PET. To begin the PET procedure, a small amount of glucose is injected into your bloodstream. There is no danger to you from this injection. Glucose is a common substance that every cell in your body needs in order to function. Diabetic patients do not need to worry; it would take 1,000,000 doses of FDG to equal the glucose in 1 teaspoon of sugar. FDG has a half-life of approximately 110 minutes, so it is quickly expelled from your body. FDG must pass multiple quality control measures before it is used for any patient injection.

What happens after my scan?

After your scan, you will get up from the scanner bed and check out with the receptionist. You will be notified when your results will be available to your physician.

Are there potential side effects to a PET/CT scan?

No, there are no side effects to having a PET/CT scan performed.

When will I get my results?

After the radioactive tracer is processed by the organ being studied and the scanner records the information, the images are interpreted by a trained radiologist. Your PET/CT scan results will be sent to your physician generally within 24-48 hours of your PET/CT scan.

How often should I have a PET/CT scan?

If you are under a physician's care, you should follow your physician's recommendations for the frequency of having a PET/CT scan.

Can I see my results?

Yes, your physician will have the PET/CT scan results usually within 1-2 business days of your PET/CT scan, and you may request a review of the PET/CT scan results with your physician.

For more information regarding the PET/CT scan call (970) 256-6445 or visit YourCommunityHospital.com.



Your PET/CT scan appointment is on _____

at _____.

Community Hospital

PET/CT

Positron Emission Tomography and Computerized Tomography





PET (Positron Emission Tomography)

is an advanced molecular imaging procedure that provides a way to diagnose disease through the measurement of metabolic activity. PET/CT can

- determine whether a tumor is benign or malignant,
- show the progression of disease,
- accurately track the effectiveness of cancer treatment, and
- reveal dysfunctional cognitive patterns, making it a valuable tool for assessing patients with various forms of dementia.

A PET/CT scan is completely painless. After 4 hours of fasting at home, you'll receive an intravenous injection of radioactive tracer. Before your scan, you'll sit in a comfortable, secluded area at the hospital for approximately 45 - 60 minutes. During the scan you'll lie on a table for about 20 - 30 minutes.

Preparing for a PET/CT Scan

For most patients, the PET/CT scan takes about two hours to complete.

Patients should bring:

- All previous studies, including CT and/or MR films and reports.
- Any chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy history (including date of most recent treatment).
- Insurance information.

Preparing for the test:

- Patients should not eat or drink (other than water) 4 hours prior to the exam.
- Patients are encouraged to drink plenty of water prior to the exam.
- Patients should refrain from strenuous exercise for two days prior to the exam (including the day of the exam).
- Diabetic patients may require special preparation and should call the radiology department for instructions.

PET/CT scans cannot be performed on pregnant or nursing mothers.

Patients involved in post-therapy studies need to consult with their physician.

The majority of PET/CT scans are covered by Medicare and insurance companies. Please contact your insurance company or check with the billing office prior to scheduling a scan.

For more information regarding the PET/CT scan call (970) 256-6445 or visit YourCommunityHospital.com.



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