

## ABOUT YOUR PET/CT EXAM

What is a PET/CT scan? PET is an acronym for Positron Emission Tomography. PET is a test that uses special imaging cameras and a radioactive type of sugar to produce pictures of the function and metabolism of the cells in the body. CT stands for Computed Tomography. CT is an x-ray test that generates a detailed view of the anatomy or structure of organs and tissues in the body. The CT scan can show the dimension of vessels, lymph nodes and organ systems. A PET/CT scan merges both technologies into a single machine. It provides a picture of function (PET), a picture of anatomy (CT) and a merged picture of both the body's metabolism and structure. PET/CT is able to capture chemical and physiological changes related to metabolism, as opposed to gross anatomy and structure, which are obtained by CT and MRI. This is important because functional changes are often present before structural changes in tissues, PET/CT images may therefore demonstrate pathological changes long before they would be evident in CT or MRI.

### FOR YOUR EXAM:

- On arrival walk through the lobby to your left. Our office will be the first door on the right.
- Total appointment time is approximately 2 hours
- Once you arrive you will be given a radioactive isotope injection, which will take a minimum of 1 hour to circulate through your system. You will sit and relax for that hour.
- You will then be placed in the scanner. The scanner is very similar to the CT scan.
- No strenuous exercise 12 hours before your scan.
- You should dress in metal free clothing (no zippers, snaps, or buttons that are metal).
- The room is kept between 60-65 degrees, please dress accordingly.
- Please bring your insurance cards and the order/script from the doctor who ordered your PET scan.
- Please bring any prior CT films and reports that you may have had at a different facility if available.
- Please make sure you are well hydrated the day before and the day of your scan.
- Absolutely no food or drink, except for water for 4-6 hours before your scan.
- Please take all your prescribed medications as normal. (Except cough drops, cough syrups, Liquid Mylanta, Tums, Boost, etc.)
- After scan please refrain from close contact to pregnant women and small children for 6 hours

### DIABETICS:

- Absolutely no food or drink, except for water 4-6 hours before your scan.
- Do take your prescribed medications as normal, including diabetes medication.
- If you take insulin:
  - Please take Short Acting Insulin at least 1 hour prior to appointment.
  - Please take Long Acting Insulin at least 3 hours prior to appointment.
- Test your blood sugar one hour before your arrival time, if it is higher than 200 you must call and let us know (716-558-5140).
- Bring your glucometer with you.

The following items may exclude you from having PET/CT exam. Please call the PET/CT Imaging Center at 558-5140 if any of these apply to you or if you have any questions.

- Weight over 350 pounds
- Diabetic or elevated blood sugars
- Pregnant

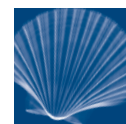
- **Please bring any previous X-rays, CT, MRI or any other test results with you on the day of your exam.**
- **Bring you I.D. cards or insurance forms.**

**An appointment time has been specially reserved for you. Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your exam to allow for registration, consultation, glucose reading and radioactive injection. The radioisotope is created specially for you and is therefore quite expensive. Should you miss your appointment time without giving 48-hour advance notice, you will be billed for the missed exam.**



#### PET/CT Procedure Ordered - Non-Medicare Program

Pregnant:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Diabetes:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Previous CT/MRI:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>



**Southtowns  
Radiology**

Our experience matters. And so does yours.