

What you need to know about PET/CT Scans



What is PET/CT?

PET stands for Positron Emission Tomography. A PET/CT scanner is an integrated device containing both a CT scanner and a PET scanner with a single patient table. PET images are created after intravenous injection of a tiny amount radioactive glucose called FDG. Glucose is taken up by all cells in the body, but is taken up to a greater degree by tissue with high metabolic activity such as cancer. FDG PET is also useful in the evaluation of certain neurologic conditions in the brain by identifying specific areas of decreased metabolism, and in the heart by evaluating the viability of heart muscle tissue.

CT is a tomographic imaging technique that uses an x-ray beam to produce detailed anatomic images. The anatomic information provided by CT is combined with the metabolic information provided by FDG PET into a single imaging examination. The PET/CT exam is interpreted by a highly skilled radiologist with training and expertise using state-of-the-art computer technologies.

Why do I need a PET/CT Scan?

Your PET/CT exam results may have a major impact on your physician's diagnosis of a potential health problem—and, should a disease be detected, how your healthcare is managed.

A PET/CT study not only helps your physician diagnose a problem, it also helps predict the likely outcome of various therapeutic alternatives, pinpoint the best approach to treatment, and monitor your progress. If you're not responding as well as expected, you can be switched to a more effective therapy immediately.

What happens when I get there?

After reviewing your history and prior to the exam, you'll receive a radiopharmaceutical injection. This is a radioactive tracer that must pass multiple quality control measures before it is used for any patient injection.

For most studies, you'll have to wait for the tracer to distribute itself—typically 30 minutes to an hour. We will ask you to wait in a quiet, dimly lit room, without stimulating your brain by reading or talking.

What will the PET/CT scans be like?

You'll lie on a comfortable table that moves slowly through the ring-like PET/CT scanner as it acquires the information it needs to generate diagnostic images. We'll ask you to lie very still, because movement can interfere with the results.

How long will the exam take?

Your exam procedure will vary depending on what we are looking for and what we discover along the way.



Patient Information

PRIOR TO EXAM

Please call to confirm your appointment 24 hours ahead of time.

FOOD & FASTING REQUIREMENT

If your appointment time is 9:30 am or earlier, do not eat or drink after midnight the day before. If your appointment time is after 9:30 am, do not eat or drink for 6 hours prior to your arrival time.

No gum, mints, or cough drops on the day of the exam.

ARRIVAL TIME

Please arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment.

Bring all pertinent previous studies (Pathology Reports, Ultrasound, CT, MR, and Nuclear Medicine) for comparison.

DURATION OF STUDY

Allow 1-2 hours for your PET/CT study. There will be 30-45 minutes waiting time after FDG injection, before the actual scan. Depending on which type of scan you are undergoing, the actual scan time will be 30-60 minutes.

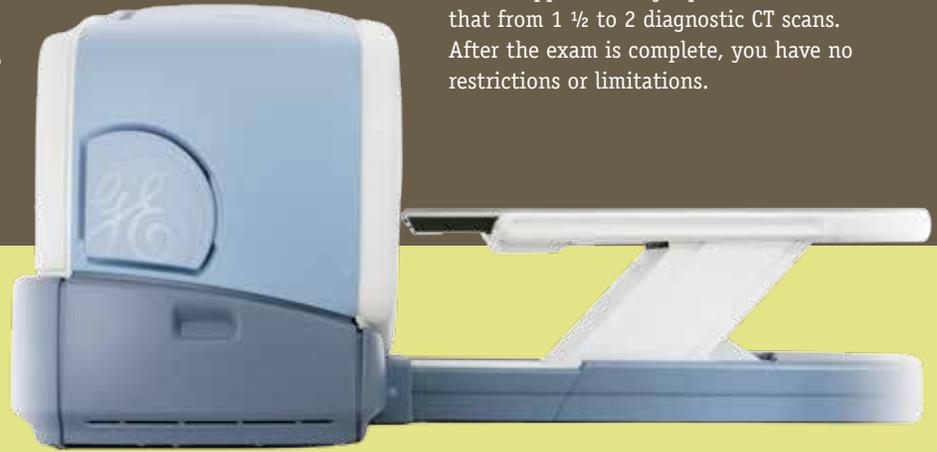
Radiological Expertise

At IHS, PET/CT are invaluable tools that enable our radiologists to increase diagnostic efficiencies and improve outcomes.

With over 80 years of combined experience, our radiologists lend insight and expertise to each patient. Ongoing physician training combined with state-of-the-art technologies has positioned IHS as a leader in diagnostic imaging.

Are there risks associated with PET/CT?

There are no known risks of the injected radiopharmaceutical. Like some other diagnostic imaging tests, there is a small amount of ionizing radiation. The amount of radiation from a PET/CT scan is approximately equivalent to that from 1 ½ to 2 diagnostic CT scans. After the exam is complete, you have no restrictions or limitations.



PET/CT Locations

Temecula Valley
25150 Hancock Avenue, Suite 105
Murrieta, CA 92562

Tri-City
3601 Vista Way, Bldg A, Suite 101
Oceanside, CA 92056

ENCINITAS
477 N. El Camino Real, Suite A 102
Encinitas, CA 92024

Poway
12620 Monte Vista Road, Suite A
Poway, CA 92064

Golden Triangle
4150 Regents Park Row, Suite 195
La Jolla, CA 92037

HILLCREST
150 W. Washington Street
San Diego, CA 92103

Alvarado
6386 Alvarado Court, Suite 121
San Diego, CA 92120

South Bay
333 H Street, Suite 1095
Chula Vista, CA 91910



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