

What is PET/CT?

PET/CT combines the functional information from a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) exam with the anatomical information from a Computed Tomography (CT) exam into one single exam.

PET detects changes in cellular metabolism and provides information on how your cells are utilizing nutrients like sugar and water. Cancer is a disease that first produces metabolic changes in the body before structural and anatomical abnormalities present themselves. PET provides valuable information on these abnormalities that will help your physician detect disease earlier or determine if your current treatment is working effectively.

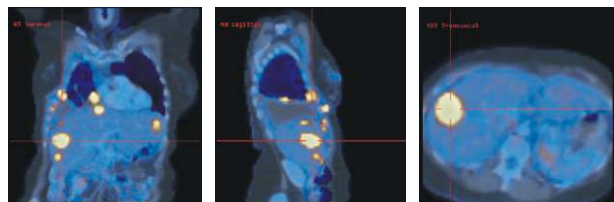


CT uses a combination of X-rays and computers to give physicians a non-invasive way to see the

structures inside of the human body. CT has the ability to rapidly acquire 2 dimensional images inside the body.

Using PET allows physicians to see what the level of metabolic activity is in certain cells while the CT provides anatomical details. When PET and CT studies are fused together on a PET/CT system your physician can then view metabolic changes (if present) in the proper anatomical context of your body.

PET/CT will not only help your doctor diagnose a potential problem, but also helps predict possible outcomes of various therapies, pinpoint the best approach to treatment, and monitor your progress. Also, PET/CT will help to determine the most appropriate treatment option for each patient and will have a significant impact on how treatment plans are developed and managed.



Why PET/CT?

- Accurately pinpoints metabolic abnormalities within anatomic structures
- Aids in monitoring treatment regimens
- Convenience of two exams done concurrently on one system

What are the Benefits of PET/CT?

- The exam is safe, painless, and non-invasive
- Differentiates between benign and malignant tumors
- Provides earlier detection of recurrent cancer
- Accurate diagnosis and staging of disease
- Improved accuracy in radiation treatment planning
- Fewer repeated CT and MRI procedures

How Should I Prepare for My Exam?

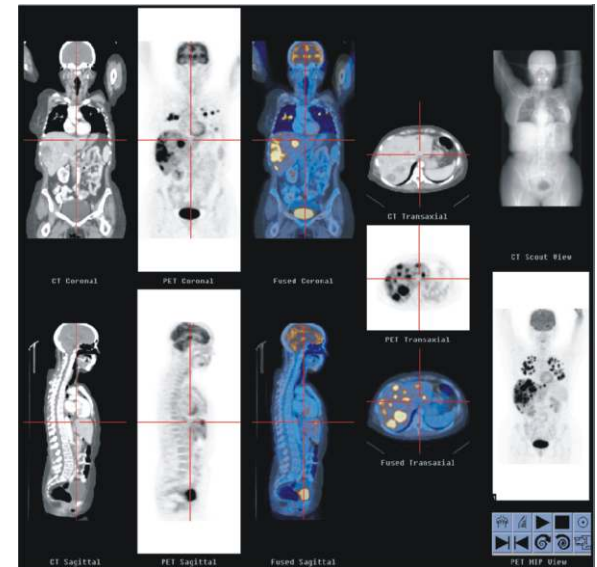
- Wear comfortable shoes and clothing, no jewelry or metal
- Do not eat or drink anything other than water for up to 4 hours prior to your exam
- Continue to take prescribed medication unless instructed not to do so by your physician
- Avoid strenuous activity prior to your exam
- Notify our scheduling team if you are diabetic
- Leave all valuables at home
- Arrive on time
- Relax and know that you will be cared for by licensed and highly trained professionals who care about your well-being.

What Can I Expect During My Exam?

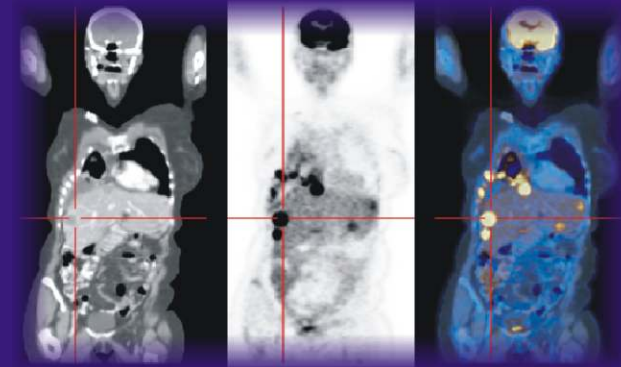
The actual length of the PET/CT procedure varies with the type of study being performed but is typically from 30 to 60 minutes. Patients should arrive 20 minutes prior to their exam time to fill out the necessary paperwork. After filling out the paperwork, the patient will be taken into a private room and injected with a radioactive tracer (FDG). The body will need approximately 30-60 minutes to metabolize the FDG. Once the injection and uptake are complete, the patient is ready to be imaged. PET/CT is a safe procedure. Because of the short half-life of the PET isotope and the fact that some of it is eliminated rapidly from the body, the radiation dose is quite low compared with other diagnostic procedures. The isotopes themselves have no noticeable side effects. Patients should expect to spend approximately 1½ hours at the center.

How Will I Feel After My Exam?

You should feel fine. There are no known side effects from the injected tracer. Unless you've received special instructions from your physician or staff at the center, you will be able to eat and drink immediately. You should drink plenty of water to hydrate yourself which will also flush any remaining isotope from your system.



Positron Emission Tomography/ Computed Tomography



Patient Information



Medical Imaging Excellence — Comprehensive Care

Is PET/CT Covered by Insurance?

Many private insurance companies cover PET/CT studies for multiple indications with whole body applications.

CMS/Medicare covers PET for the diagnosis, staging and restaging of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer, Lymphoma, Colorectal Cancer, Breast*, Head and Neck Cancer, Thyroid**, Esophageal Cancer, and Melanoma (excluding the evaluation of regional nodes). CMS/Medicare also indicated that it will cover Myocardial Viability for Cardiology and the pre-surgical evaluation of refractory seizures in the area of Neurology.

* CMS/Medicare has recently expanded the coverage policy for PET imaging to include the staging/restaging of local regional recurrence or distant metastases and for the evaluation of response to treatment (during treatment) in Breast Cancer.

** Effective October 1, 2003 CMS/Medicare now covers the use of FDG PET for the restaging of recurrent or residual thyroid cancers of follicular origin. Patients that have undergone thyroidectomy and radioiodine ablation and have an elevated serum thyroglobulin and negative I-131 whole body scan are eligible for PET.

- Facts**
- Established in 1991
 - Highly respected board certified and fellowship trained interpreting physicians with a combined experience of over 40 years utilizing PET
 - First outpatient PET center on the Pacific Coast and the first in Orange County to perform whole-body oncology studies (1991)
 - First center in Orange County to offer Dedicated PET/CT (2002)
 - Offers and utilizes the latest technology for superior patient treatment and care



NDC Services

In addition to a full complement of routine exams for Oncological, Neurological and Musculoskeletal indications, NDC also offers a comprehensive program of specialized exams including, but not limited to:

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

- MR Angiography
- Perfusion/Diffusion for acute stroke imaging
- MR Cardiac Imaging
- MR Spectroscopy
- MRCP

Computed Tomography (CT)

- Calcium Scoring
- Virtual Colonoscopy
- CT Angiography
- Cardiac and Coronary Artery Imaging

Nuclear Medicine

- PET/CT
- SPECT/CT
- Tumor Localization
- Thyroid and Parathyroid Evaluation
- Myocardial Perfusion and Viability
- Bone Imaging

Women's Center

- Breast MRI
- MRI Guided Breast Biopsies
- Stereotactic Breast Biopsies
- Digital Mammography
- Bone Densitometry (DEXA)
- Complete Ultrasound Capabilities

Radiology

- Digital X-Ray
- Myelogram
- Arthrogram
- Fluoroscopy

Cardiology

- Echocardiogram
- Treadmill Stress Test
- Holter Monitor
- Nuclear Cardiology

CyberKnife – Stereotactic Radiosurgery

- Treatment of Malignant Tumors
- Treatment of Benign Tumors
- Functional Disorders (Trigeminal Neuralgia)
- Vascular Malformations
- Ability to Treat in the Brain and Spine

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