

New England PET Imaging System

What Is PET?

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is a non-invasive form of medical imaging approved by Medicare for diagnosis and management of several forms of cancer including:

- Lung Cancer
- Colorectal Cancer
- Melanoma
- Head and Neck Cancer
- Thyroid Cancer
- Breast Cancer
- Esophageal Cancer
- Lymphoma
- Cervical Cancer

PET is also approved by Medicare for use in Alzheimer's Disease, refractory seizures, and cardiac studies.

What Is PET/CT?

PET/CT combines in one single study the functional information of PET with the anatomical information provided by a CT scan. This PET/CT information will enable your physician to pinpoint the exact location of interest and helps in making an accurate diagnosis.

What Will Happen During Your PET/CT Scan?

On the day of your scan, you will receive a small injection of a radioactive tracer called FDG. The FDG is not a dye and will not produce any sensations or reactions. The FDG will then circulate through the body and be absorbed by both normal and abnormal tissues. The PET/CT scanner will identify this distribution. You will relax for up to 90 minutes while the material circulates through your system and gets absorbed by your body's cells. During this waiting time, you may read and listen to music but should refrain from any other activity. Feel free to bring your own music such as an iPod or MP3 for this period.

The second part of the PET/CT scan is the actual imaging procedure. You will be positioned by a technologist on a cushioned scan table that moves through the scanner at regular intervals. Generally the scanner will image the area from mid-thigh to eyebrows and will take from 20 to 30 minutes. The technologist will be present for your scan and able to communicate with you throughout the PET/CT study. You may also listen to music during this part of the exam.



New England PET Imaging System's PET/CT scanner

Patient Preparation

Fasting for four hours prior to the scan is necessary. Water is allowed, but other liquids or foods are not—not even chewing gum or cough drops. All metal will need to be removed for scanning including clothing with zippers, jewelry, and underwire bras. The scan room may seem cold, so it is recommended to dress simply and warmly with elastic-waist clothing. If you are a diabetic who is insulin dependent, you will need to check with our office staff for specific instructions. Likewise, if you are a chemotherapy or radiation therapy patient, we will need to discuss your appointment date with you.

Test Results

The images from the PET/CT study will be interpreted by a physician with special training in PET/CT. The PET/CT report will be sent to your referring doctor as soon as it is available—usually within 24 hours of the exam. Your doctor will then discuss the results with you.

What Happens After the Scan?

You have no restrictions after a PET/CT scan and can go about your normal activities. To help eliminate the FDG tracer from your body, drink plenty of fluids. Because you will have fasted for four hours, you should eat something right after the scan.

Reimbursement for PET/CT Scans

Medicare now covers PET/CT scans for many types of cancer and certain types of cardiac and neurologic studies. Most private insurers also provide reimbursement for PET/CT studies. New England PET's office staff are well versed in insurance guidelines and will work to get any required approvals.

Financial Arrangements

Prior to the exam, New England PET will need your complete medical insurance coverage information. You must be sure to bring your medical insurance card(s) and all other pertinent insurance coverage information to your exam.

New England PET is an independent facility. Insurance coverage for our services may be different from coverage for other services at the various hospitals where we are located. For questions about insurance policy coverage, please consult your insurance carrier directly.

Cancellations

Please notify us at least 24 hours in advance to reschedule an appointment. Thank you.

For PET/CT Scheduling and Other Information

If you have questions about your appointment or the PET/CT scan, please call the phone number listed on the back page of this brochure. For general information, please go to our web site: www.nepetimaging.com and click on PET/CT.