

When can I have the results of my PET scan?

Ordinarily, your scan will be read by the radiologist on the same day and the results sent to your doctor. Except for unusual circumstances, we prefer that the doctor who ordered your test discuss the results with you because your doctor is the one who will choose the next step in your diagnosis or treatment.

Will the PET scan be covered by my insurance?

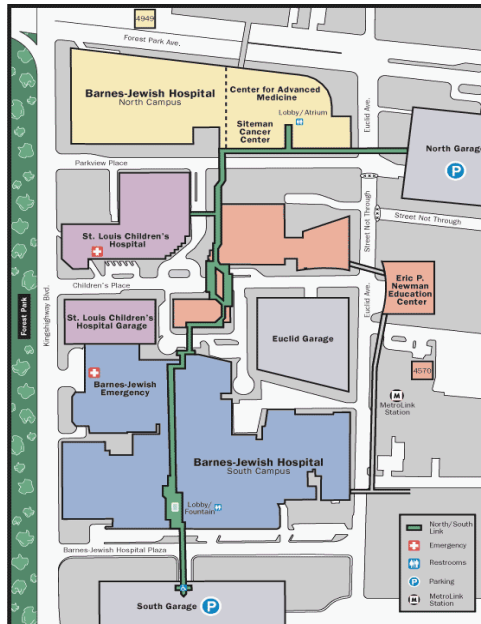
Coverage for PET scans varies by insurance carrier. Please check with your doctor or directly with your insurance carrier if you are concerned about the cost of the test.

Will the PET scan be covered by Medicare?

Please discuss with your doctor whether or not Medicare will pay for your PET scan.

Where is the PET Facility located?

The Clinical PET Facility is located on the 2nd floor of the Center for Advanced Medicine. Valet and garage parking are available at the corner of Parkview Place and Euclid Avenue.



DIRECTIONS:

From Interstate 64/US 40: Exit at Kingshighway North and turn right onto Parkview Place.

From Interstate 44: Eastbound—exit at Kingshighway and turn left. Westbound—exit at McRee and turn right on Kingshighway. Approximately 1 mile North, turn right onto Parkview Place.

From Interstate 55 or 70: Exit to Interstate 44 and follow the directions above.



Information About Your Whole-Body or Brain PET Scan



Clinical PET Facility

Center For Advanced Medicine

Phone: 314-362-4PET (362-4738)

Toll-Free: 888-362-4738

Fax: 314-362-1032

Appointment

Date: _____

Time: _____

What is PET?

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is a unique non-invasive test that provides information about the body's function not available through any other type of imaging test. PET images functional processes, such as tumor metabolic activity, rather than imaging anatomy, as is done with computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

PET imaging is usually accomplished by injecting a radioactive sugar (FDG), which is similar to glucose, the sugar in your diet. The FDG is taken up in cells that are using sugar and is detected by the PET scanner, which creates images of the metabolism of the cells of the body.

How is PET imaging used?

PET of the brain is used to help find the area of the brain causing seizures and to diagnose the cause of memory loss and other neurologic symptoms. PET of the body is most commonly used to diagnose cancer or to help plan the best type of treatment for cancer. PET provides information about whether a mass is likely to be cancerous or whether it has spread to other areas in the body. The information from PET can help your doctor to plan the best course of treatment for you or could prevent unnecessary surgery. PET is also used to determine the effectiveness of cancer treatment and to detect recurrent cancer.

How should I prepare for a PET scan?

- As with any radiology test, please let us know before your appointment if you are pregnant or nursing.
- Maintain a low-carbohydrate diet on the day before your test. Limit the amount of bread, pasta, potatoes, cereals, rice, deserts, candy and sugar you eat. Instead you should eat items that are high in protein or fat.
- **Do not eat anything for at least 6 hours prior to your test.** This includes hard candy, chewing gum, or beverages containing sugar. However, you should drink liberal amounts of plain (not flavored) water on the day of your test.
- **If you take medicine for diabetes, please contact us for special instructions.** Otherwise, you may take your usual medications with water on the day of your test.
- Wear comfortable clothing and, if possible, avoid clothing with metal snaps, buttons and zippers.
- Please leave all jewelry and valuables at home or with a friend or family member who may accompany you.
- It is important that you arrive on time. The test will take 2-3 hours. The radioactive tracer, FDG, is ordered especially for your appointment and may not be useable if you are late.

What should I expect?

A small i.v. line will be started in a vein of your arm or hand. This i.v. line will be used to draw a sample of blood so we can check your blood sugar. Next, you will receive an injection of FDG into the i.v. line. You will be asked to rest quietly for 30-60 minutes while the FDG circulates in your body.

Because FDG is similar to sugar there are no side effects and you will not feel any differently after the injection. After the waiting period, you will use the restroom to empty your bladder and then will move into the scanning room. If you are wearing clothing with a lot of metal (snaps, buttons, zippers, etc.) you may be asked to change into hospital attire.

The PET scanner is similar to a CT scanner. For most patients, the scanner used actually includes a CT scanner in the same device, and both PET and CT images will be taken. You will lie on your back for 20-50 minutes while the images are taken. Body imaging usually will start at your eyebrows and extend down to your upper thighs. You will be asked to remain as still as possible during your pictures.

After your scan, you should empty your bladder again and can resume all your normal activities. The FDG leaves your body through the kidneys and urine, so you should drink plenty of liquids after the scan.