



POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY

Technology: Seimens Mobile PET Scanner

Overview

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is a state-of-the-art nuclear medicine imaging study that shows the body’s metabolization of sugar. Unlike anatomic imaging, such as Computed Tomography (CT) or Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), that show organ structure and size, PET shows physiologic or functional information in regards to tissue metabolism. Tissue metabolism is particularly useful in diagnosing malignant tumors from benign cells, monitoring response to chemotherapy in cancer patients, and helping differentiate Alzheimer’s from other forms of dementia.

Experience

Inside the PET clinic, you will find a comfortable recliner for which to relax prior to your study. A technologist trained in Nuclear Medicine and PET will conduct a brief patient interview and provide you with an explanation of the PET study, as well as answer your questions about the test. Once you are comfortable, the technologist will start an IV. Once the IV has been started, a radiotracer is injected. (A radiotracer is a safe, radioactive form of sugar also known as FDG or 18F-Fluorodeoxyglucose.) Afterward, the IV port is flushed with saline, then removed. After the injection you will be asked to sit back in a comfortable relaxing environment for 45-60 minutes; this is called the uptake period. After the uptake period is complete, you will be asked to empty your bladder and start the scan. The scan may last from 45 minutes up to two hours, but usually can be completed in about an hour. The PET scanner has a round gantry similar to a CT scanner, which many patients describe as a big ‘doughnut.’ You will lie on a bed that will automatically move you through the scanner’s gantry or ‘doughnut hole.’

Questions?

**Call our scheduling line
(541) 334-7555**

Your questions are important, and we are here along with your physician or healthcare provider to answer them.

Your Appointment

Date _____

Time _____

Location:

1200 Hilyard St., S330, Eugene

520 Country Club Rd., Eugene

1046 Sixth Ave., SW Albany

Notes

Prep & Safety

- Patients need to be on a low carbohydrate diet with minimal exercise the day prior to exam.
- Do not eat for six hours before the exam.
- Please refrain from nicotine and caffeine for at least four hours prior to your exam.
- Drink plenty of water prior to your appointment. You will be asked to drink three to four eight-ounce glasses of water prior to the exam; there is no need to hold your bladder.
- Wear comfortable, warm clothing.
- If you are, or might be pregnant, you must inform technical staff.
- If you are diabetic, you will be contacted on the day prior to your exam.

After Your Study

- A radiologist specially trained in interpreting PET scans will read the study.
- A diagnostic report will be sent to your physician(s).
- Because of the short half-life of the radiotracer, no particular limitations are required after the study, except that patients should drink plenty of fluids to flush the tracer from their system.

