

PET/CT-Oncologic Procedure

To Schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about Procedure: (319) 398-6050

What is a PET/CT-Oncologic procedure?

PET is the abbreviation used for Positron Emission Tomography. It is a physiological exam in which Fluorine-18 (Positron emitting radiotracer) is coupled to glucose, making the radiopharmaceutical FDG. This will be recognized by the body as glucose. Glucose is taken up in tumors in large quantities to support their high metabolism. The radiotracer, Fluorine-18, enables the tumors to be detected by specialized imaging equipment.

CT images are taken at the same time as the PET scan. Once the PET and CT images are fused together, it provides a complete picture for a physician to observe metabolism and anatomic structure.

Preparation:

These preparations are:

- No food or fluids except for water for 4 hours prior to appointment
- Avoid all caffeine and sugar 24 hours prior to appointment
- The night before and morning of the exam, eat high protein, low carbohydrate meal if not contraindicated due to pre-existing health condition.
- No insulin for 4 hours prior to appointment
- No strenuous or repetitive activity for 24 hours prior to the exam (i.e. Occupational or Physical Therapy, gum chewing)
- Drink approximately 2-8 oz. glasses of water 2 hours prior to exam
- All medications (except meds for Diabetes) may be given with water on their usual schedule.
- Patient should wear loose comfortable clothing such as sweatpants and a pullover top that does not have zippers, snaps, or buttons. If that is not possible, the patient will be asked to remove clothing containing such items and a pair of surgical scrubs or hospital gown will be provided. Patients who wear a bra will be asked to remove them prior to the exam.
- Patients will be asked to remove such items as glasses, hearing aids, dentures, and jewelry prior to the exam. **It is strongly suggested that patients leave valuable items such as jewelry or watches at home.**

Additional Prep for Patients with Diabetes:

- Plan to eat a usual portion breakfast prior to the four (4) hour fasting time
- Plan to administer insulin, oral hypoglycemic agents at or before the mealtime

**PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:
A PHOTO ID TO VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY
A LIST OF CURRENT MEDICATIONS YOU ARE TAKING**

Procedure:

- Be sure to bring a least one form of identification such as a drivers license.
- Once you arrive at the Mercy Medical Center Radiology Department Check-In desk, you will be taken to the PET/CT imaging area.
- An IV will be started, your blood glucose will be measured.
- The Nuclear Medicine Technologist will inject the FDG into the IV port.
- You will be asked to remain in the recliner refraining from repetitive movement or conversation for 60 minutes. This allows the FDG to concentrate in your body. Visitors will be prohibited during this time.
- You will be placed on the camera with the scan time of 10-20 minutes.

Parking/Registration:

Park in the Mercy Medical Center 10th Street Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 10th Street and 8th Ave. SE. You will be pre-registered, so you can proceed to **Ground (G)** level and follow the signs to “Radiology (X-Ray),” also located on Ground (G) level.

Procedure Results (Who interprets the results):

A radiologist will review the images shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss the results with you. Please allow your physician time to review these results, usually 2 business days after the exam.

Your appointment date and time:

Procedure date: _____

Procedure time: _____ (Please arrive 30 minutes early)