



PACIFIC SHORES MEDICAL GROUP

A Hematology/Oncology Private Practice

Member, UCLA Affiliated Translational Oncology Research Network

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PET SCAN Test Information

What is a PET scan?

A PET (Positron Emission Tomography) scan is a state of the art diagnostic test that looks at metabolic activity inside the body. Your doctor uses this information to help diagnose and manage your disease.

How do I prepare for a PET scan?

- Please be on time for your appointment; the materials used for the scan will not work if there is a delay.
- You should not have any food for at least 6 hours before your appointment. You may drink water but no other type of liquid is allowed. Please do not chew gum.
- You may take your medications.
- Avoid strenuous exercise/activity for 24 hours before your scan.
- Do not smoke for at least 6 hours before the scan.
- If you have diabetes, you need to regulate your blood sugar (glucose) as closely as possible.
- Dress in warm, comfortable clothes. Avoid clothes with metal in them such as buttons or underwire. Do not wear jewelry.
- Discuss with your doctor if you are claustrophobic or have problems lying still during the scan. Your doctor may order medication to help you relax during the procedure.
- Bring medicines for pain, anxiety or claustrophobia if you are already taking them.
- Plan to have someone take you home if you will be taking medications that may cause impairment of your ability to go home on your own.

What does a PET scan involve?

You will be given an intravenous radiotracer and will be asked to rest in a dark room for 50-60 minutes. You will then lie flat on an examination table during the scan for about 30-60 minutes depending on what body part needs to be examined as ordered by your doctor.

What should I bring for a PET scan?

- Please bring a copy of the CD's and report of any recent PET scan done elsewhere or CT scans if applicable.
- Please bring medications you need to take before the time you get back home.

When will I receive the results of the PET scan?

Written results will be available in 2-3 days. Your doctor will discuss the results with you.

Please call 562-590-0345 at least 24 hours in advance to cancel or reschedule your appointment. If we do not know about a change in your schedule, we may not be able to do the test, we will have to discard valuable materials reserved for your test, and you may be responsible for the costs of the materials.