



# 1

## What is a PET/CT scan?

PET/CT combines the functional information from a Positron Emission Tomography (PET), scan with the anatomical information from a Computed Tomography (CT), scan into one single exam.

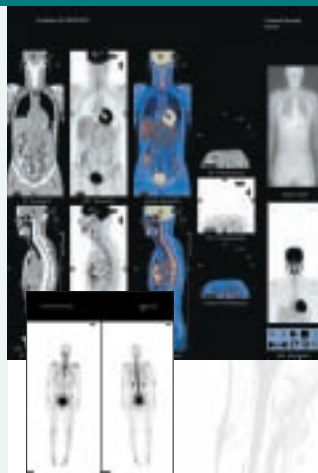
A PET scan detects changes in cellular function—how your cells are utilizing nutrients like sugar and oxygen to see if there is increased activity in the cells.

A CT scan captures multidimensional images using a computer to give the radiologist a way to see inside your body.

Because the PET scan pinpoints increased activity in the cells, and the CT scan provides an anatomical reference, combining the two scans gives the radiologist information to make a diagnosis.

CT scan is a valuable tool for radiologists in detecting tumors, infections and blood vessel blockages.

While the CT unit is in operation, X-ray beams pass through the body. This process is recorded by computers and translated into images in varying shades of gray which are displayed on computer monitors and reviewed by the radiologist.



# 2

## Preparing for a PET/CT scan

Patients who are over the age of 65, and are having a diagnostic CT in addition to a PET scan, must have creatinine level blood work drawn within 30 days of their appointment.

Please do not eat or drink anything for five hours before your appointment.

You may take any medications that do not need to be taken with food, and can be taken with only a sip of water. Any medication that needs to be taken with food should wait until after the PET/CT Scan is finished.

**Diabetics and patients taking steroids need to call for more specific instructions at (860) 545-2839.**

# 3

## What happens during a PET/CT scan?

When you arrive, we will review your medical history including allergies and any past imaging procedures with you.

About an hour prior to the beginning of your exam you will receive a small amount of a radiopharmaceutical injection which is an integral part of the PET scan. You will also be asked to drink a contrast agent for the CT scan.

Our technologist will help position you on a comfortable, padded table. During the exam you may feel the table moving slowly while the PET/CT scanner records information. You may hear humming noises, but you will not feel anything unusual and our technologists will be monitoring you throughout your exam.

The exam may vary depending on what was ordered by your physician, please plan to spend 2 to 3 hours with us.

# 4

## Precautions and key information

Be assured that PET/CT scans are safe and effective diagnostic procedures. The radiopharmaceuticals used do not remain in your system long. To be extra safe, wait for a few hours before getting too close to an infant or anyone who is or may be pregnant.

**Please let us know if you are pregnant or may be pregnant.**