

THE MOST IMPORTANT
QUESTIONS YOU
MAY EVER ASK.



COMMUNITY
CANCER CENTER
NORTH FLORIDA • LAKE CITY

ANSWERED.

WHAT IS A PET/CT SCAN?

An integrated PET/CT scan is the most advanced imaging technology for the detection and evaluation of cancer. The whole-body scan generates high-resolution images of abnormal activity and its location.

Abnormal biological activity often takes place before physical changes can be identified by other imaging exams such as MRI, CT, x-ray and ultrasound. A PET/CT scan provides images of the entire body, detecting primary and secondary disease earlier and more accurately than any other imaging technology.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A PET/CT SCAN?

- PET/CT often replaces multiple medical testing procedures with a single exam.
- PET/CT frequently identifies disease before it shows up on other exams.
- PET/CT evaluates all organ systems of the body in a single exam, indicating whether or not cancer has spread.
- PET/CT shows the progress of disease and how the body responds to treatment.
- PET/CT reduces or eliminates ineffective or unnecessary surgical or medical treatments.

Physicians use PET/CT images to determine the extent of disease and the effectiveness of chemotherapy, radiation therapy or surgery. PET/CT scanning can provide early detection of the recurrence of cancer, revealing tumors that might otherwise be obscured by scar tissue resulting from surgery and radiation therapy.

HOW IS THE PET/CT SCAN CONDUCTED?

A small amount of radioactive sugar is injected into your bloodstream. The radioactive sugar circulates in your body while you relax for approximately one hour. You then lie on a bed that slowly passes through the scanner. The PET/CT scan takes approximately 30 minutes. After the scan, you will be on your way.



IS A PET/CT SCAN SAFE?

Yes. The risks associated with PET/CT scanning are minimal. Radioactive sugar, also known as glucose, is short-lived and leaves your body quickly. The radioactive sugar is not a contrast agent. The radiation exposure associated with a PET/CT scan is similar to that associated with conventional imaging exams.

WHAT WILL I HAVE TO PAY?

You may be required to pay a co-payment or deductible at the time of service.

WILL MY INSURANCE COVER A PET/CT SCAN?

Insurance companies and Medicare generally cover a portion or all of the cost of a PET/CT scan for cancer. A patient care coordinator will verify your insurance coverage.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE INSURANCE?

A patient care coordinator will work with you individually to create a payment plan based on your ability to pay.

WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT MY FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY?

Please feel free to call us to discuss your financial responsibility or to ask any questions about your PET/CT scan.

HOW DO I PREPARE?

A patient care coordinator will contact you prior to your appointment to discuss preparation instructions and any prescription medications you may be taking.

WHEN WILL MY RESULTS BE READY?

The images generated by the PET/CT scan combined with a written report from an interpreting physician will be communicated to your physician within 48 hours of your scan. Your physician will share the results with you.





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