

PET/CT Scan

How do I prepare for my PET/CT scan?

- Before the day of your scan, a technologist will call you. Please provide all medications, including dosage, especially insulin or other diabetes medications.
- If you are diabetic, tell us ahead of time so we can work with your doctor to best determine how you should prepare and when you should take your medications.
- Do not eat or drink anything, except unflavored water, for 6 hours before your scan, as it may interfere with the results. Do not eat candy, gum, mints or cough drops (sweetened or unsweetened).
- Wear loose-fitting, comfortable clothing with little metal. Leave all valuables at home.
- If you are pregnant or think you might be, or if you are breastfeeding, tell your doctor before your exam.
- If you've ever had an allergic reaction to an enhancing agent or iodine, tell your doctor or nurse. He or she may prescribe special medicine for you to take before the exam.
- Plan to spend about 2–3 hours with us. Please arrive 30 minutes early for registration.
- Bring a copy of your test order/prescription with you.

What happens before the scan?

For the PET portion of the scan, you will receive an injection of radioactive glucose, which will take about 60 minutes to circulate through your body. This must be done before the scan can begin.

What happens during the scan?

Before the scan, you'll have the chance to empty your bladder. Then you will lie on a padded table on the PET/CT scanner, which will move slowly through a tube-shaped scanner as it acquires information needed for diagnostic images.

Next, you may receive a contrast enhancing agent through your IV, which helps produce a clearer CT scan. A brief sensation may move up your arm; you may get a warm, flushed feeling; experience a taste of salt or metal in your mouth; or nausea for a few minutes. This is normal, but you should tell the technologist about these or other reactions. You also may have shortness of breath, itching or sneezing. If any of these occur, tell your technician right away.

You will be able to talk to your technologist through an intercom during your scan. However, lie as quietly as possible. The scan is painless and you will not feel anything. The PET/CT scan should take about 30 minutes.

What happens after the exam?

You may leave as soon as your scan is completed. Unless you have received special instructions, you may eat and drink immediately. Be sure to drink plenty of water to help remove any of the glucose tracer or IV contrast that may still be in your system. You may drive, resume normal activities and exercise, and take your prescribed medications.

Will it hurt?

Except for the pinprick associated with the injection, a PET/CT scan is a painless procedure. People who are claustrophobic (uncomfortable in closed or tight spaces) may experience some anxiety and should speak with their doctor before their appointment.

Possible Complications

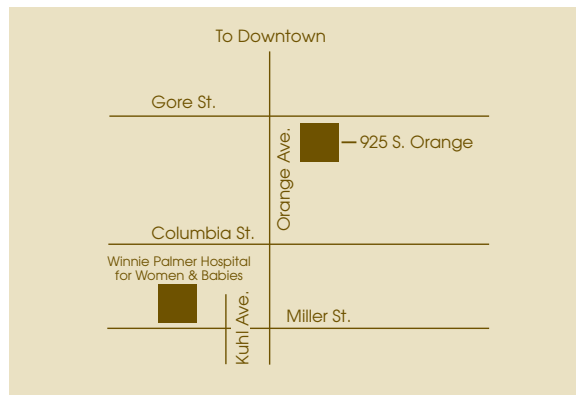
The only possible complication is an allergic reaction to the CT contrast. Call your doctor if you experience any unusual symptoms, such as a rash, itching or difficulty breathing.

How do I get my results?

Your scan will be reviewed by our Nuclear Medicine radiologist, and the results will be given to your doctor. Once your doctor has reviewed the results, he or she will inform you of your results.

Location

The PET/CT scanner is located in the Radiation Oncology Department on the first floor of M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Orlando in downtown Orlando. Self-parking is available in the parking garage on Underwood Street. Valet parking is available for a nominal fee at the main entrance of M. D. Anderson – Orlando.



M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Orlando
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1400 S. Orange Avenue
Orlando, FL 32806
Phone: 321 843-4125
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E-mail: petctcenter@orhs.org

For help in finding a doctor or health service that meets your needs, call M. D. Anderson – Orlando’s Referral Service at 321 841-1869 or 800 648-7899.

My Appointment

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

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CANCER CENTER
ORLANDO

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3392-102035 12/06

