



What is a PET Scan?

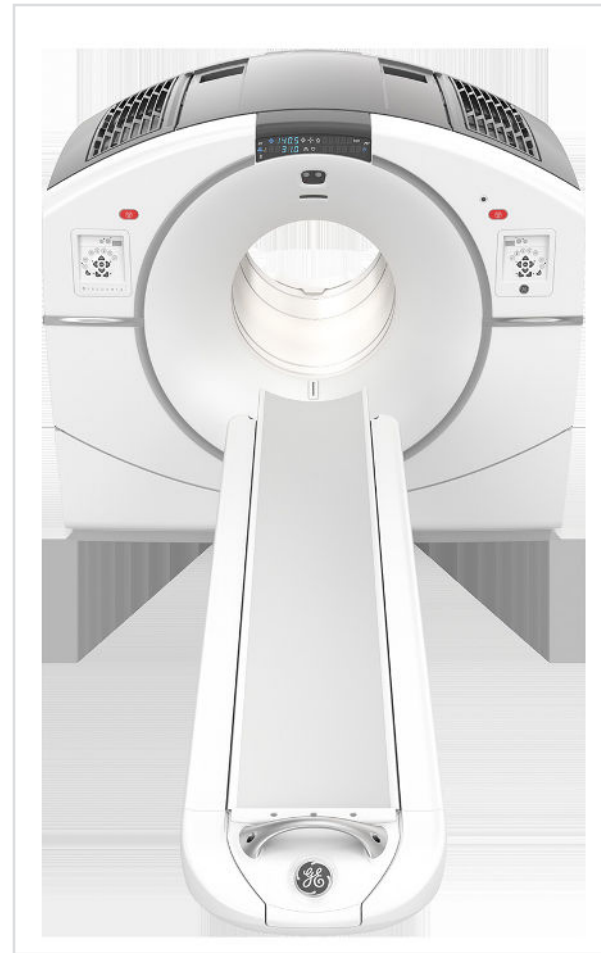
Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is an advanced diagnostic procedure that can detect the presence of disease that often cannot be obtained with other imaging tests.

A PET scan is a painless procedure that may minimize the need for further, more invasive testing. Rather than just taking a picture of a tumor or mass, the PET scan measures the living chemistry of the growth and tells your doctor with some degree of certainty, if a malignancy exists.

The scan uses a radioactive tracer. Certain organs and tissues then absorb the tracer. When detected by a PET scanner, the tracers help your doctor to see how well your organs and tissues are working.

The tracer will collect in areas of higher metabolic activity, which is helpful because certain tissues of the body, and certain diseases, have a higher metabolism. These areas of disease will show up as bright spots on the PET scan.

A PET scan offers potential for earlier detection of a problem or disease and has greater accuracy in staging cancer. PET offers more precise treatment planning and is effective in tracking the response to regimens.



The PET/CT Center Navicent Health is the only fixed-site PET/CT scanner in the region. The PET/CT Center is staffed by a team of highly trained board-certified radiologists. Whether initial staging, treatment restaging or evaluating a recurrence, The PET/CT Center provides accurate and timely results.

Average Exam Time

Approximately 2 to 3 hours total

What to expect during your exam

After a careful review of your history and any prior treatments (ie. chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and current medication), an IV will be started and you will receive an injection of a small amount of radioactive glucose “tracer” solution that enables evaluation of glucose metabolism (function) in the body. You will then wait 60-90 minutes for the radiopharmaceutical tracer to distribute itself throughout your body. Movement, reading, or any other activity during that time is restricted. You will relax in one of our uptake suites. After that you will be escorted to the imaging camera. A brief scan will be taken using the CT part of the scanner to provide a picture of your anatomy. Then, the PET scan pictures will be taken. This will last anywhere from 20-45 minutes depending on the type of scan that is right for you. If diagnostic CT images are needed, these pictures will be taken following the PET scan.

Lying down, the table will move you through a gantry (opening shaped like a large ring) which houses the x-ray tube and a set of detectors acquire image data. The computer processes this information to form an image that the board-certified radiologists at PET/CT Center Navicent Health will review and interpret.

The results are sent to your referring physician, typically within 24-48 hours.