

# PET/CT



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# What is PET/CT?

**Positron Emission Tomography (PET) and Computerized Tomography (CT) are both standard imaging tools that allow physicians to pinpoint the location of cancer within the body before making treatment recommendations.**

The highly sensitive PET scan detects the metabolic signal of actively growing cancer cells in the body and the CT scan provides a detailed picture of the internal anatomy that reveals the location, size and shape of abnormal cancerous growths.

Alone, each imaging test has particular benefits and limitations but when the results of PET and CT scans are “fused” together, the combined image provides complete information on cancer location and metabolism.

In one continuous full-body scan (usually about 30 minutes), PET captures images of miniscule changes in the body’s metabolism caused by the growth of abnormal cells, while CT images simultaneously allow physicians to pinpoint the exact location, size and shape of the diseased tissue or tumor.

Essentially, small lesions or tumors are detected with PET and then precisely located with CT.

While a CT scan provides anatomical detail (size and location of the tumor, mass, etc.), a PET scan provides metabolic detail (cellular activity of the tumor, mass, etc.). Combined PET/CT is more accurate than PET and CT alone!

## CHRISTIAN T. SCHMITT, M.D.

Dr. Schmitt is one of the leading experts of PET/CT interpretation in the state of Florida. He is board-certified and was trained at Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, one of the leading Nuclear Medicine training facilities.





## WHAT TO EXPECT

You will be asked to arrive 30 minutes before your scan for injection of a radiotracer.

It will take approximately 60 minutes for the radiotracer to travel through your body. You will be asked to rest quietly, avoiding movement and talking.

You will then be moved into the PET/CT scanner and the imaging will begin. You will need to remain still during imaging. The CT exam will be done first, followed by the PET scan. The actual CT scanning takes less than two minutes. The PET scan takes 20-30 minutes.

You may leave after the scan is complete and drive yourself home. You may resume eating and drinking, unless otherwise instructed. Drinking plenty of fluids will help you excrete the radiotracer from your system.

After being injected it is advisable that you stay at least 10 feet away from children 18 years of age or younger and/or those who are pregnant for a period of 24 hours.

When your healthcare depends on the latest technology and expert interpretation *you can trust* RIS PET/CT Imaging.

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