

Cardiac PET Scan

Your doctor has ordered a PET scan for you to better determine the function of blood flow in and around your heart. It is a nuclear medicine imaging technique in which pictures of the heart are taken after an injection of a radioisotope. It is very similar to a nuclear stress test, but the pictures are much more comprehensive. Your doctor will be able to determine the function of your heart (ejection fraction) and blood flow to the heart.

The first step is the placement of an IV, and a set of electrodes will be placed on your chest, so many it is **helpful to wear a loose fitting shirt or blouse**. You will then be placed on the scanner, feet first, and a baseline set of pictures which check your position under the camera will be taken this takes about 5-10 minutes to be sure your heart is in the field of view. You will then be injected with an imaging agent to look at the blood flow to your heart at rest these images take about 10 minutes. A medication is then administered via the IV, and a second set of pictures are being taken immediately after the medication is administered. The entire test only takes about an hour from start to finish.

The pictures are then compared to allow the physician to evaluate the results. You should hear from your doctor in about a week.

PLEASE FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY TO AVOID ANY DELAY IN YOUR TEST:

1. No caffeine is allowed 24 hours prior to the test. This includes coffee (even decaf), tea, colas, chocolate and over-the-counter medications that contain caffeine (ex: Excedrin).
2. No solid food 6 hours prior to your appointment time.
3. Take all of your prescribed medications as usual ***WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:***

48 hours prior:

NO AGGRENOX
NO DIPYRIDAMOLE
NO PERSANTINE
NO THEOPHYLLINE

24 hours prior unless otherwise instructed by your physician:

NO ISOSORBIDE (IDMUR)
NO FIORICET
NO VIAGRA OR OTHER ED MEDICATIONS

You will receive a call from the PET team the day before your scheduled test as a reminder of your appointment time, to discuss instructions again, and to answer any questions. If you have any concerns, please call the office as soon as possible, and if you need to cancel or reschedule your test, it must be done at least 24 hours in advance to avoid a missed appointment fee.

