

Information to patient concerning intravenous contrast media

If you are given contrast medium intravenously, you may notice a metallic taste in your mouth and a warm sensation throughout your body. These sensations are normal and will subside within a few moments.

Some patients may have an allergic reaction to the contrast medium, which is iodine-based. Patients who are allergic to the contrast medium may experience itching, sneezing or other allergic symptoms. Anyone experiencing such a reaction will be treated before being released home.

In rare cases, the contrast medium may trigger anaphylaxis, a life-threatening allergic reaction in which the tissues of the airway become swollen and restrict breathing. In such cases, emergency treatment will be given immediately.

If you have asthma or history of allergy to contrast / medication / any food or substance, please inform your doctor and our staff before examination, you may be required to take steroid prior to the examination.

For patients who are diabetic or having disease affecting renal or liver function, they are required to have the Creatinine level checked within one month before the examination. If Creatinine level is abnormal, re-test 2 weeks before CT scan is preferable.

For patients who are taking Metformin, we suggest patient not to take Metformin on the day of intravenous contrast injection. Patients with normal renal function can resume Metformin 2 days (48 hours) after contrast administration. Patients with impaired renal function should withhold Metformin and go back to your doctor for reassessment of renal function before resumption of the drug as advised. For any query, please contact our staff.

Is there any side effects or complications ?

Because the radioisotope used in a PET-CT scan is short-lived, the amount of radiation exposure to the patient is minimal. The procedure is safe and all patients will not experience any side effect. After the examination, patient can perform their usual work. Patient is encouraged to drink plenty of water after the examination to facilitate the excretion of radioactivity. Breast-feeding mother is requested to stop breast-feeding within 48 hours after the exam.

How will I find out the exam results?

After patient finished the PET-CT scan, radiologist will interpret your PET-CT scan and issue an imaging report to your physician who will then discuss the findings and diagnosis with you.



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Positron Emission Tomography -
Computed Tomography (PET -CT)

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What is Positron Emission Tomography - Computed Tomography (PET-CT)?

Positron Emission Tomography - Computed Tomography (PET-CT) is an advanced imaging technique that allows the visualization of human metabolic activity by using radiopharmaceuticals containing small amount of short-lived positron emitting isotopes. A special camera called PET-CT Scanner is used to measure the radioactivity distributed throughout the body and creates three dimensional pictures of tissue function. It is a non-invasive technology that can routinely examine the whole body in one single examination.

PET-CT is playing a major role in oncology. In particular, it helps doctors to detect, grade and stage tumors, to follow-up treatment response and detect recurrent cancer.



PET-CT Scan

Preparation

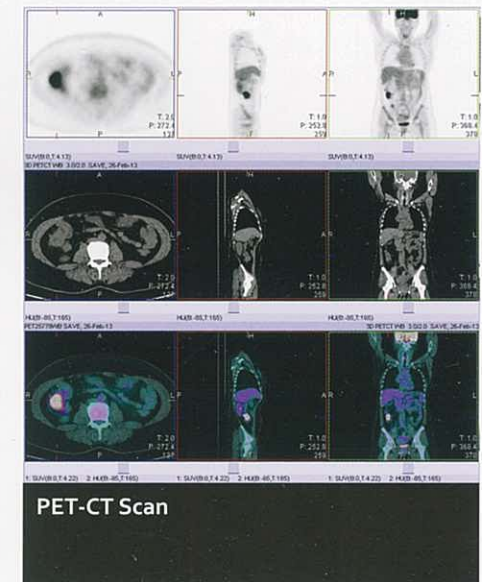
1. Fasting over-night before examination. (except plain water)
2. Female patient should not be pregnant
3. No dextrose drip 6 hours before scan.
4. Bring along relevant PET, CT, MRI or Ultrasound films and reports.
5. Patient should keep well hydrated with plain water.
6. No vigorous exercise the day before examination.
7. Patients with diabetes should inform our staff before the examination. Outpatient should stop their diabetes medications in the morning of examination and bring their medications while in-patients should have the blood glucose level controlled within normal range. The optimal blood glucose level for this examination should be 8 mmol/l or below.
8. Please stop taking chinese medicine (e.g. Lingzhi, Yunzhi) for at least 3 days before the exam.
9. Remove personal possession such as hearing aid, spectacles, removable dentures, hair pins, jewellery, watch, wallet, keys, and mobile phone before entering the scan room because these metallic objects can affect the image quality.

Procedures

After the administration of radiopharmaceutical intravenously, patient will rest comfortably in a room for about 1 - 2 hours. He/She should relax completely and avoid talking or excessive body movement. Afterwards, the patient will lie still on an imaging table for about 15 - 30 minutes. During the examination, patient must keep still and relaxed. The whole procedure last for about 2 - 3 hours, and delayed scan may sometimes be required.

Procedures

1. Check blood glucose test to ensure patient's blood glucose level is under 8.0 mmol/l.
2. Injection of Isotope.
3. 60 - 120 minutes uptake time.
4. About 15 - 30 minutes scan time.
5. Delayed scan may be required.



PET-CT Scan