

Patient Information

Your Exam Explained

CARDIAC PET

Cardiac PET imaging provides diagnostic accuracy, excellent quality, and the ability to detect disease before symptoms are present. This extremely effective imaging tool is used to diagnose cardiac disease with higher accuracy and lower radiation exposure than traditional stress testing.

Most cardiac PET exams take less than one hour; however, a longer exam should not be cause for concern. Our team will ask questions about your medical history. Please be sure to report all medications you are taking. You will be asked to lie down on a scanning table developed especially for the PET camera.

Medication is administered through an IV line in a vein in your arm. Small pads called electrodes will be placed on your chest to monitor the electrical activity of your heart throughout the study.

A small amount of radiopharmaceutical is given through your IV line, enabling the PET camera to capture images of your heart.

ELECTRODES

Small, flat, sticky patches which are placed on your chest. The electrodes are attached to an EKG monitor that charts your heart's electrical activity during the test. Your blood pressure, heart rate, and electrocardiogram will be monitored before, during, and after the test.

LEXISCAN

Replaces the physical act of exercise and elicits the same response from your body that would occur if you were exercising. Images are taken before and after the Lexiscan injection and then compared for differences.

RUBIDIUM 82

This is the radiopharmaceutical that is used during your cardiac PET scan. The tracer is not a dye or contrast. The short half-life of Rb-82 results in minimal radiation exposure and enables a far briefer test, reducing the scan time to only 25-35 minutes.

PET CAMERA

During your PET scan, the majority of your body is outside the scanner: this is not a full body scan like a CT or MRI. If you're claustrophobic, please arrange to have a driver and take your medication 30 minutes prior to your scan. Please let your provider know if you are unable to lie on your back or hold your arms above your head.



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603-537-1363 (P)
603-537-3046 (F)

Pre-Test Information

48-HOURS PRIOR

Do not take any of the following medications unless instructed by your provider

Cialis (Tadalafil)

Dipyridamole (Persantine, Aggrenox)*

Levitra (Vardenafil)

Viagra (Sildenafil)

**Verify with your provider that this medication may be held.*

12-HOURS PRIOR

Do not take the following medications unless instructed by your provider:

Trental (Pentoxifylline)

Theophylline (Aminophylline, Theo-Dur, Theo 24, Slo Bid)

6-HOURS PRIOR

Do not eat or drink for six hours before your appointment, but drinking plain water is okay. Insulin diabetics may have toast four hours prior to the test.

24-HOURS PRIOR

You are required to notify our office the Friday before your appointment if you cannot keep your scheduled appointment..

Caffeine will interfere with the results of the test. Do not eat or drink anything that has caffeine including coffee, tea, decaffeinated products, Excedrin, chocolate, cocoa, herbal teas, or soda for **24 hours prior to your exam.**

THE EVENING PRIOR

If you take long-acting insulin, take only a half dose the evening before your appointment. If you take short-acting insulin, a regular dose may be taken.

THE DAY OF

Please allow two hours for your appointment. Bring **all** medications with you. **Hold oral diabetic medication and short-acting insulin on the morning of your exam. If you take a morning dose of long-acting insulin, take a half dose.** If you use an inhaler, please bring it with you. Wear a comfortable two-piece outfit and do not wear jewelry the day of your test.



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