PET Scan (Prostate, PSMA)

Patient Instructions

How to Prepare
- You should be well hydrated for this examination.
- If you will be taking Valium, Ativan, or any medication that may impair your ability to drive, you MUST have a plan to get home without driving.

What to Expect
- A nuclear medicine technologist will explain the scan, take your height and weight, and answer any questions you may have about the exam.
- A small IV (intravenous needle) will be placed in an arm vein and a small amount of radioactive material (tracer) will be injected. The injection of the radioactive tracer has no side effects and is painless.
- You will be asked to rest quietly in a private room for 60 minutes. After the resting period, you will be asked to empty your bladder before the scan.
- The PET/CT scan itself takes 20-30 minutes to complete, depending on your height and weight.
- Friends and family members are welcome to wait in our waiting area during your scan.

Pregnant Women and New Mothers
- Generally, PET/CT scans are NOT performed on pregnant women. If you are pregnant or think you could be pregnant, discuss this with your physician.
- If you are breastfeeding, you should not breastfeed for 24 hours after the scan. Nursing mothers are encouraged to pump and store milk before being injected with the radioactive tracer.

After the PET/CT Scan
- For 24 hours after your scan, limit the amount of time you are in close contact with children and with pregnant or potentially pregnant women.
- Drink plenty of fluids and empty your bladder often after the scan.
How to Find Us
Longwood Campus (Boston)
Nuclear Medicine is located on level L2 of the Dana building. To get to Nuclear Medicine from Dana-Farber’s parking garage or any floor of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care, please use one of these route options.

A. From level P2 of the parking garage:
   1. Walk through the Tomsich Family Gallery (gene display) to reach the Dana building.
   2. Turn left after the Tomsich Family Gallery to find the Nuclear Medicine reception desk.

B. From the 3rd floor of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care:
   1. Cross the PMC Bridge to reach the Dana building.
   2. Take a Dana building elevator down to level L2, where you’ll find the Nuclear Medicine reception desk.

Chestnut Hill Campus (Newton)
Nuclear Medicine is located on the 3rd floor. Enter the parking garage on Boylston Street and park on level P3. Take the Boylston elevators to the 3rd floor and check in at the desk.

For driving directions to Dana-Farber, visit www.dana-farber.org/directions or call 617-632-3400.

Questions?
A staff member will call you to review these instructions and answer any questions about 1-3 days before your scan. If you need to reschedule your appointment, call Nuclear Medicine at 617-632-3223.