

Body PET/CT or PET/MR Scan with F18 – DOPA (a neurotransmitter)

Dear patient,

We welcome you to your appointment in our service, taking place in the near future. Please bring your insurance document or a copy of your insurance certificate with you.

What is a PET/CT or PET/MR?

(Positron Emission Tomography), CT (Computed Tomography and MR (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) all produce cross-sectional images of your body. In PET/CT and PET/MR, two of the examinations are combined within one scanner.

PET: a small dose of radioactive tracer (here F-18-DOPA) -given to the patient - sends rays from within the body. The PET scanner localizes the tracers' whereabouts and represents it in cross-sectional images of the patient.

CT: X-rays travel through the patient and are weakened. The weakening is a measure of the densities of various body tissues. The reconstructed cross-sectional CT-images depict these densities throughout the patient.

MR: the patient - placed in the scanner - is exposed to one strong and weak variable additional magnetic fields. Radio waves are sent into the patient, interact with body tissues and produce other radio waves. As they characterize tissues of the patient, the waves are recorded and reconstructed into cross-sectional images.

Preparation for a Body PET/CT or PET/MR

You do not have to abstain from food or drink
You may take all medications

In case of existing/possible pregnancy or if you breast-feed, please contact staff.

If you have experienced claustrophobia in the past, please let our medical staff know. If you have any questions prior to the examination, contact us at +41 (0) 44 255 35 55.

It is important, that you arrive on time for the examination. Tracers are ready-made and will decay, if not used on time.

F-DOPA PET/CT or PET/MR examination

In the PET-Center, our technicians await you. Total examination time is 1.5 hours. You will receive an injection of radioactive tracer (in this case a small amount of radioactively labelled F-DOPA, a neurotransmitter substance) into an arm vein. During a waiting time of about 45 minutes in a quiet and darkened room, the substance enters the relevant body structures. The substance has no side effects.

At the end of the waiting period, you are placed in the scanner for a scan time totaling approximating 20 minutes.

Depending on the requested information, an additional exam with CT or MR contrast media is performed which is injected into your arm. If you have a known allergy, particularly to **iodine**, let us know and do not come with your own car. This will allow us to pre-medicate you against side effects.

After the F-DOPA-PET/CT or PET/MR exam

You should not be accompanied to the exam by children or adolescents.

Reporting

Evaluating your PET/CT or PET/MR exam takes time. Thus, no results can be given right after the exam. A report will be sent to your physician usually by the end of the examination day.

Please note

If you need to cancel or delay your appointment, contact us the latest one working day prior to the exam. Else, we need to charge you for costs generated. Contact: +41 44 255 35 55.