

Heart PET/CT or PET/MR Scan with FDG (Fluorodeoxyglucose)

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 FDG) -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 Heart PET/CT or PET/MR

- Stop intake of fluids and food for at least 6 hours (unsweetened mineral water ok, NO gum, NO candies)
- Stop intake of fluids and food containing caffeine for 12 hours (no coffee, no black tea, no chocolate, no energy drinks, no Colas)
- Take medications as prescribed (please bring list of medications you are taking on a regular basis)
- 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 technicians know. If you have any questions prior to the examination, contact us at +41 (0) 44 255 1818 (option 3).

Please bring a 2 CHF coin with you to securely place your belongings in one of our safety lockers.

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

Heart FDG-PET/CT or PET/MR examination

In the PET-Center, our technicians await you. Total examination time is two hours, of which you have to spend 30 minutes lying still on the examination table. Prior to the examination we will give you sugar water to drink and will measure your blood sugar repeatedly. Depending on these measurements, we may have to give you a small dose of Insulin in order to optimize exam image quality. After measuring your blood sugar, you will receive an injection of radioactive tracer (FDG in this case, see above). FDG has no side effects.

After the FDG-PET/CT or a PET/MR exam

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

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 1818 (option 3).

