

Brain PET/CT or PET/MR Scan with FET (F-Ethyl-Tyrosine)

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 Ethyl-Tyrosine) -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 Brain PET/CT or PET/MR

Stop intake of fluids and food for at least 4 hours (unsweetened mineral water ok, NO chewing gum, NO candies)

Take medications as prescribed

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

Attention Diabetics

Oral antidiabetic medications may take them as prescribed, observing rules above.

Patients on long/short acting Insulin:

The evening prior to the examination you should inject the prescribed long acting Insulin dose. In the morning of the examination take a small breakfast 4 hours prior to the exam and inject only short acting Insulin.

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Insulin pump: these patients leave it on "night setting" (base dose of Insulin) without additional bolus injections during at least 4 hours prior to the examination.

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 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.

FET-PET/CT or PET/MR examination

In the PET-Center, our technicians await you.

Total examination time is one hour. First, you will receive an injection of radioactive tracer (FET in this case, see above, an amino acid). FET has no side effects. After this, you are placed in a quiet darkened room for approximately 20 minutes or directly into the scanner. Thus the tracer can distribute throughout your brain.

Imaging time is around 20-60 minutes. Depending on the requested information, an additional exam with MR contrast medium will be performed, which is injected into your arm. If you have a known allergy against contrast medium, please let us know in advance.

After the FET-PET/CT or PET/MR exam

Note that 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 35 55.