

PET/CT Cardiac Inflammation Scan

How to prepare and what to expect

*This handout gives special instructions for patients who are having a cardiac PET/CT scan.
You must follow these instructions before your scan.*

What is a PET/CT scan?

PET stands for *positron emission tomography*. CT stands for computed tomography. This cardiac inflammation scan will use both PET and CT scans to give your doctor information about your heart. This scan will show if areas of your heart are inflamed. One of the many causes of heart inflammation is sarcoidosis.

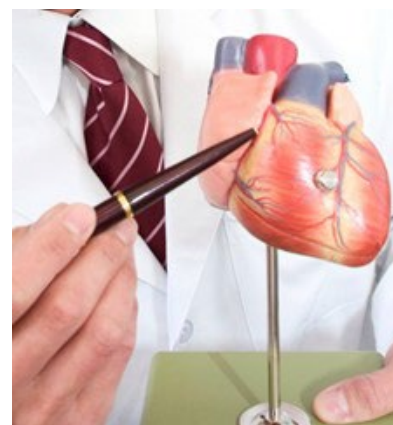
Tracer Injections

You will receive 2 injections of a radioactive tracer for this scan:

- The 1st injection will show the blood flow to your heart muscle and help us take clear pictures of your heart.
- The 2nd injection will show inflamed areas. It is very rare to have allergic reactions to these tracers.

A PET/CT camera will take 2 types of pictures:

- The PET scan shows where the tracer has collected in your body.
- The CT scan takes detailed pictures of your heart tissues and structures.



Your scan will show if there is inflammation in your heart muscle.

How do I prepare for the scan?

- Call the Nuclear Medicine Clinic at 206.598.4240 before the day of your scan if:
 - You feel you cannot lie flat on your back for 2 hours. (You will need to do this for this scan.)
 - It is hard to place an intravenous (IV) line in your arm.
- Starting 2 days before your scan: Do not take any liquid, chewable, or lollipop medicines. You may take all other non-liquid medicines. Call us if you have any questions.
- Do not exercise for 24 hours before your scan.
- You **MUST** follow the important food and drink instructions on page 2 of this handout starting the day before your scan.
- Tell your provider if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or if there is any chance you could be pregnant.



*Scan for a digital
copy of this handout.*

Food and Drink Before Your Scan

For this scan, you **must** strictly follow the directions below. If you do not or cannot follow the diet, we will need to reschedule your scan. The reasons for the diet restrictions are:

- All cells in your body need energy. Healthy heart muscle cells use glucose (sugar) as their main source of energy. When you do not eat foods that provide your body with glucose, healthy heart muscle cells start to use fat as their fuel supply instead of glucose. But, inflamed heart muscle cells cannot use fat for fuel. Inflamed cells can only use glucose as their main source of energy.
- When you follow the diet restrictions, you deprive your body of glucose. Your healthy heart muscle cells will then start to use fat for energy. Any inflamed heart cells will use glucose for energy.
- For the part of this scan that looks for inflammation, radioactive glucose is injected into your vein. Only the inflamed areas of your heart will take up this radioactive glucose. The pictures we take of your heart will show where the radioactive glucose is.

The Entire Day Before Your Scan

You **MUST** follow food and drink instructions starting the day before your scan. The boxes below list what to eat and drink the **entire day before your scan** (Step 1) and starting **12 hours before your scan** (Step 2). Call us at 206.598.4240 if you have questions about what you can and cannot do before your scan.

The food and drink instructions below are VERY important. If you eat or drink any foods that are not listed, call us at 206.598.4240 to reschedule your scan.

Diet Step 1

You **MUST** start your diet at midnight the day before your scan and you **must** eat high-fat meats and/or fish at least 2 times on that day.

THE ENTIRE DAY before your scan, eat **ONLY** proteins and fats. **Do NOT eat any carbohydrate foods.**

Eat ONLY:

- Plain meat (beef, steak, pork, chicken, or lamb), fish, and eggs. You may cook the meat in oil, if you wish. NO bacon, deli meats, or other processed meats.
- **VEGANS:** Eat **ONLY** plain tofu that has been cooked in oil (added fat is needed).
- “Plain” means **NO** sauces, seasonings, dressings, or breading.

Drink ONLY: Water or plain black coffee. NO milk, cream, sugar, or other sweeteners.

Medicines: NO liquid, chewable, or lollipop medicines. Take all other medicines with water.

Diet Step 2

Follow these instructions starting **12 hours before** your scan.

Starting 12 HOURS before your scan:

- Do **NOT** eat anything.
- You may drink water or plain coffee. **NO** milk, cream, sugar, or other sweeteners.
- Do **NOT** take any chewable, liquid, or lollipop medicines. You may take all other medicines with water.

If you have diabetes:

- Starting 6 hours before the scan, do **NOT** take insulin or other diabetes medicines.
- **Stop** taking long-acting insulin on the day of the exam.
- If you have type 1 diabetes: Please call Nuclear Medicine to discuss.

Important:

- You **must** eat proteins and fats the day before your scan. Do **NOT** fast.
- Do **NOT** eat or drink anything that is not listed above.
- We must reschedule your scan if you do not follow these instructions exactly.



The Day of Your Scan

- Wear comfortable clothes.
- **Please arrive on time.** The exact timing of this scan is very important. If you are more than 20 minutes late, we may need to reschedule your scan.
- Plan to be at the hospital for up to 2 to 2½ hours for this scan.
- Come to the Nuclear Medicine Clinic on the 2nd floor of UWMC - Montlake. From the 3rd floor (main level). Take the Pacific elevators down to the 2nd floor and follow the signs to Radiology. Check in at the Radiology front desk.

What to Expect

When you arrive at the Nuclear Medicine Clinic:

- A technologist will explain what to expect during your scan.
- Tell the technologist if there is any chance you could be pregnant.

During your procedure:

- An *intravenous* (IV) line will be started in your arm and we will check your blood sugar.
- The nuclear medicine technologist will inject the tracer.
- The technologist will use a PET/CT scanner to take pictures of your heart. This will take about 20 minutes. These images will show us how much blood reaches your heart.
- After these first images are taken, you will be injected with another radioactive tracer. You will need to remain lying on your back during this time between scans.
- More images of your heart will be taken 1 hour later. These images will take about 20 minutes.

Who reads the scan? When will I get the results?

A nuclear medicine doctor or nuclear cardiologist will read your scan. Within 3 days, they will send your results to your referring provider. Your provider will then share your scan results with you. You and your provider will then decide the next step, including treatment, if needed.

You may also read your results on your MyChart page. If you need copies of your images on disc, call 206.598.6206.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

**UWMC Nuclear
Medicine/Imaging
Services:** 206.598.6200

**Harborview Imaging
Services:** 206.744.3105

**Harborview Nuclear
Medicine:** 206.744.4473

**UWMC - Northwest Imaging
Services:** 206.598.4240