

# DOTATATE PET | CT SCAN

## Patient Prep Instructions



## Description

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A Ga-68 Dotatate PET/CT scan is used to assist with diagnosed neuroendocrine tumors (a tumor that forms from cells that release hormones into the blood in response to a signal from the nervous system). It is helpful for initial staging, restaging, detecting recurrence, and monitoring of response to therapy in patients with known neuroendocrine tumors. It also assists with detection of unknown primary neuroendocrine tumors in patients with known metastatic disease.

## How to Prepare

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- Confirm your appointment by NOON the day before your exam. Your appointment may be cancelled if we do not receive personal verbal confirmation.
- Hydrate the day prior and the morning of the exam.
- NPO (no food) for 2 hours prior to the exam, but you may continue drinking clear liquids.
- Wear comfortable clothing without metal to your appointment.
- **If you are on a somatostatin/octreotide therapy, the PET/CT must be scheduled as follows:**
  - Short-acting somatostatin analogs - after 24 hours from last dose
  - Long-acting somatostatin analogs - after 4-6 weeks from last dose

## What to Expect

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- A technologist will place an IV in your arm.
- The radioactive tracer (Ga-68 Dotatate) is specifically ordered for you. It will be injected through the IV.
- This tracer binds to cancer cells. The scanner detects which cells have collected the tracer.
- There are no side effects from the tracer.
- After the injection, you will relax in a room and wait 60 minutes for the tracer to circulate through your system.
- After the wait period, you will enter the imaging suite and be positioned on the scanner table on your back with arms above your head, resting on a support.
- Imaging is approximately 45 minutes. You will need to lie as still as possible with no position changes.
- The entire appointment will last approximately 2 ½ hours.

## After Your Exam

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- Hydrate the rest of the day to flush your system.
- Eat and drink normally.
- There are no restrictions to daily activities.
- Limit time with infants, children and pregnant women for 5 hours after your appointment.

## Results

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The radiologist will study your exam and send results to the referring physician. Your physician will share your results with you.

## Questions

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Please contact our office at 907-222-4624 for questions. 24-hour cancellation notice is required.