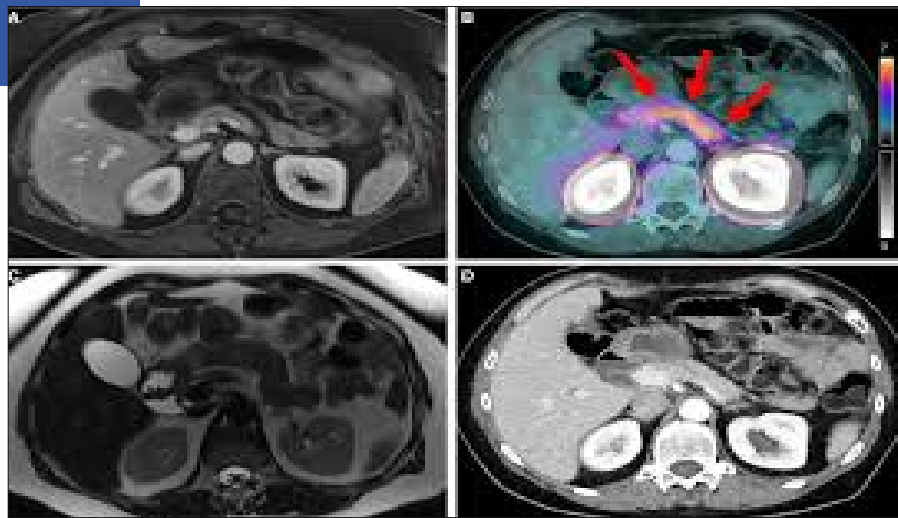




Understanding 18F-FDG Whole Body PET-CT Scan

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What is an 18F-FDG Whole Body PET-CT Scan?

18F-FDG whole-body PET-CT scan is a state-of-the-art imaging modality that uses PET (Positron Emission Tomography) and CT (Computed Tomography) to give information regarding metabolic activity and body structures. Small doses of 18F-FDG radiotracer are injected into the patient through an injection. PET identifies cells consuming glucose at higher levels than normal; CT gives detailed images of the structures of the body. These images, combined, provide information to help doctors evaluate various parts of the body.

Why is it Performed?

This type of scan is ordered to examine certain medical problems, to look for suspicious tissues, or to find out how far the cancer has advanced, or to check how the cancer responds to treatment. The results are analysed in the context of the patient's medical history, examination and ancillary investigations.

Preparation

- Inform the team if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Follow the fasting instructions provided before the scan.

- Inform the team about diabetes, current medicines, allergies, or other medical conditions.
- Carry previous imaging, pathology, and laboratory reports.

Procedure

The 18F-FDG radiotracer is administered through an injection into the patient's body. You rest for a specific amount of time so that the tracer spreads throughout the body. Then you lie on the scanning table, which passes through the PET-CT machine. Imaging is carried out with CT images first, or using a combination of CT and PET images, followed by PET. During this scan, it is important not to move to not hinder with the image quality.

Important Instructions

- Follow all instructions given by the Molecular Diagnostics and Therapy team.
- Remain relaxed and avoid unnecessary movement before and during scanning.
- Inform staff if you feel uncomfortable.
- Follow the fasting, hydration, and medication instructions provided.
- Drink fluids after the scan if advised and if not medically restricted.
- Follow all post-scan instructions given by the medical team.

Safety Precautions

18F-FDG PET-CT, a specific dose of the radioactive tracer is administered with skilled medical monitoring. Some slight pain at the point of injection may occur. Let the staff know if the patient is pregnant or breastfeeding, has diabetes, or has an allergy, if applicable, before the scan.

When to Seek Medical Attention?

If you have any strange symptoms or concerns following the procedure, tell your health care professional. 18F-FDG Whole Body PET-CT Scan is a special type of imaging technique. However, a skilled practitioner trained and experienced in interpreting these results should consider them in conjunction with medical history and other clinical details. Molecular Diagnostics and Therapy provides support and guidance throughout the procedure.