MOLECULAR
DIAGNOSTICS AND THERAPY
...where technology meets patient care

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Understanding
18F-PSMA PET-CT



What is 18F-PSMA PET-CT?

An 18F-PSMA PET-CT is a complex nuclear medicine test using a radioactive tracer containing Fluorine-18 (18F). The tracer binds to a protein called Prostate-Specific Membrane Antigen (PSMA), commonly found in prostate cancers. A PET-CT scan will be performed to give detailed images of your body.

Why is it Performed?

This test is usually carried out to look for prostate cancer and any spread to the lymph nodes, bone or organs. It can also help to see if your cancer has come back, how well your treatment is working, and help plan further treatments.

Preparation

- Inform the imaging team if you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant, or are breastfeeding.
- Share details of your current medicines, medical history and previous prostate cancer treatments.
- Carry previous PET-CT scans, PSA reports, biopsy reports and other relevant medical records, if available.

Procedure

A small amount of Fluorine-18 PSMA radioactive tracer will be given to you by intravenous injection (usually into your arm). You will then be asked to wait for a defined period of time to allow the radioactive tracer to circulate and bind to PSMA proteins in the body. Once this time has passed, you will be asked to lie on the scanning table whilst images are taken. You will need to lie as still as possible to provide clear images. The length of the examination will depend on the tracer used and imaging protocol.

Important Instructions

- Drink fluids as advised by the medical staff.
- Empty your bladder before the scan if instructed.
- Inform the staff if you feel uncomfortable during the injection or scan.

Safety Precautions

There is a small amount of radiation involved in this test. If you are unsure if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, please let us know. If you have any relevant medical conditions or have had any reactions to injections, please let us know. We will provide you with instructions to follow from the medical team. These will include instructions on drinking fluids and any temporary restrictions for pregnant ladies and young children.

When to Seek Medical Attention?

Please let your doctor know if you have any unusual or persistent symptoms. If you have any difficulty breathing, facial/throat swelling, or any other symptoms of a severe allergic reaction after the injection, please seek immediate medical advice. Please discuss your scan results with a healthcare specialist. This will be alongside your symptoms, PSA results, medical history, and other investigations. Molecular Diagnostics and Therapy is here to support you throughout your diagnostic process.