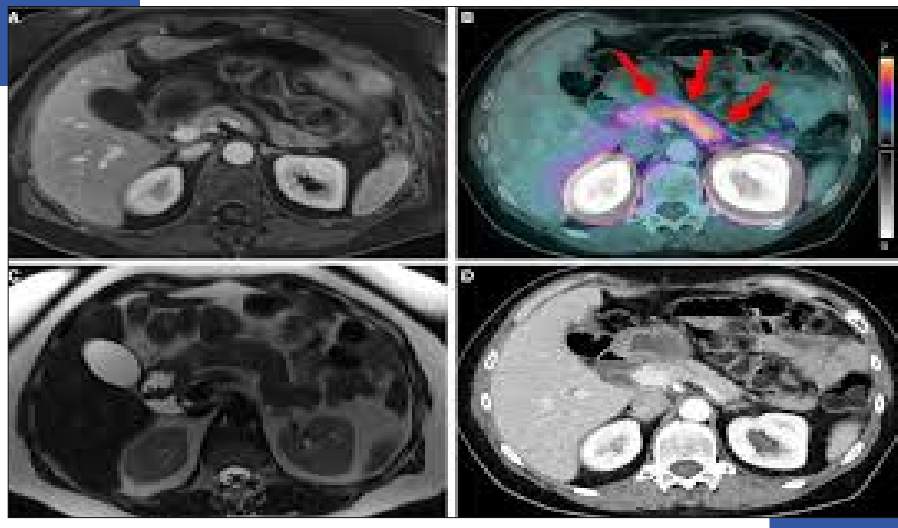




Understanding Ga-68 DOTATATE Whole Body PET-CT Scan

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

Ga-68 DOTATATE Whole Body PET-CT Scan is an advanced nuclear medicine imaging procedure that combines PET and CT scans to provide information about both body structure and cellular activity. A small amount of Ga-68 DOTATATE radiotracer is injected. The tracer attaches to specific receptors that may be present in certain types of abnormal cells. PET shows the tracer's distribution, while CT provides detailed anatomical images. Together, these images help doctors evaluate different areas of the body.

Why is it Performed?

It assesses the activity of the somatostatin receptors found in neuroendocrine tumours and other conditions that require somatostatin receptor imaging. It facilitates the diagnosis of receptor-positive lesions, evaluates the extent of the disease, searches for potential spread, and follows treatment response.

Preparation

- Inform the team if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Inform the team about current medicines, especially somatostatin analogue medicines.

- Follow any specific medication instructions provided before the scan.
- Carry previous imaging, pathology, and laboratory reports.
- Inform the team about any relevant medical conditions or allergies.

Procedure

The prescribed radiotracer (Ga-68 DOTATATE) is injected into the body. The tracer is given for a specific amount of time to move throughout the body and bind to the target receptors. The next step is that you lie down on the scanning table that moves into the PET-CT scanner. Images are acquired with a protocol depending on the type of imaging required (PET, CT). Stillness during scanning is important, and the overall time of the procedure depends on the clinical need.

Important Instructions

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

Safety Precautions

The dose of Ga-68 DOTATATE PET-CT is determined and controlled according to a prescription, under qualified medical supervision. Some slight pain at the site of the injection may occur. Inform the team before the scan if you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or have any other medical conditions that could affect the scan.

When to Seek Medical Attention?

Inform the healthcare professional if symptoms are abnormal or if there are concerns after the procedure. The Ga-68 DOTATATE Whole Body PET-CT Scan is a special type of scan. Interpretation of the results should be done by a qualified specialist, in conjunction with your medical history and other clinical data. Support and guidance are provided by Molecular Diagnostics and Therapy throughout the entire process of the scan.