

# About your PET/CT exam

You will find us in the Meridian Pavilion:  
11011 Meridian Ave. N.  
Suite 101  
Seattle, WA 98133

Please see other side for directions and contact information.



## Your PET/CT exam



PET/CT (Positron Emission Tomography/Computed Tomography) is one of the newest and most powerful tools used in diagnostic imaging.

The highly sensitive PET/CT scan is used most often to detect cancer, plan treatment and examine the effects of cancer therapy. PET/CT can also be used to assess the extent of heart disease and neurological conditions.

The PET (Positron Emission Tomography) diagnostic exam is based on the electronic detection of positron emissions. Positrons are tiny particles coming from a radioactive substance administered to the patient.

Via Radiology has state-of-the-art technology that combines PET with a 16-slice CT scanner in a single machine. The machine fuses the physiologic data from the PET scan with the high-resolution accuracy of CT scanning, to offer an unprecedented level of diagnostic imaging accuracy.

PET is the most highly regarded noninvasive technology that can assess changes in the function and metabolism of body organs.

## Before your exam

For your exam, please wear loose and comfortable clothing and bring an extra layer to stay warm and comfortable while you are waiting. Once you arrive, you may be asked to change into clothing appropriate for your exam, since metal objects, including jewelry and eyeglasses, may interfere with the quality of your study. Keys, wallets, watches and cell phones should be removed and can be secured in a lockable space.

It is very important that we know in advance whether you might be pregnant, are currently breastfeeding, or are diabetic. Please refrain from strenuous exercise 24 hours before your exam. Do not eat or drink anything except water for six hours before your exam, and please do not chew gum. You are encouraged to drink plenty of water the day before your exam; try to

drink at least 48 ounces (six 8-ounce glasses). You may continue to take your medications with water, unless your physician tells you to not do so.

A Via Radiology representative will call you prior to your appointment, to review health and insurance information, and to provide specific instructions about diet and other exam preparation.

## During your exam

Once you arrive, a technologist will place an IV in your arm or hand for the injection of a small amount of radioactive glucose. Immediately after the injection, the glucose will travel through your body and localize in the tissues under study. This will take approximately an hour, and you will be asked to rest quietly and avoid any movement or talking, which could interfere with the body's localization of the injection.

Depending on what your doctors are evaluating, you may be asked to drink some liquid used to identify your intestines. After this localization time, you will empty your bladder, and once you are comfortably positioned on the scanner table, scanning will begin. You will be asked to lie very still, to help the machine obtain clear images.

Patients who are claustrophobic may feel some anxiety while positioned in the scanner, but a two-way communication system will allow your technologist to see and hear you at all times. You may be offered a mild relaxation medication at the imaging center to help you rest quietly and remain comfortable and still during the scanning. A PET/CT scan is painless and has no side effects.

## After your exam

You may return to work or home and resume your normal eating habits and activities. A radiologist will read

and interpret the findings of your examination and provide your physician with a detailed report by the next day.

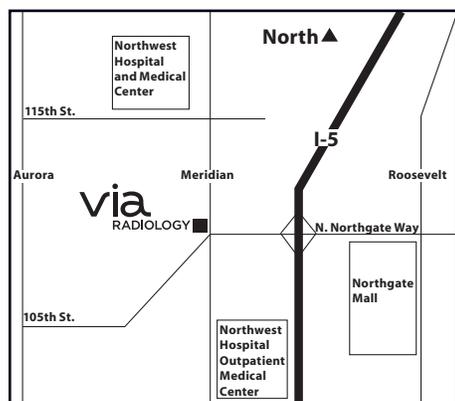
Your referring physician will discuss the results with you.

## Via Radiology

Via Radiology is a team of board-certified, subspecialty trained physicians and caring staff who are dedicated to providing the highest quality diagnostic imaging and imaging guided therapeutic procedures in the Puget Sound Region.

By merging advanced technology, uncompromising professional standards, and a patient-focused approach, we provide our patients safe, accurate and appropriate care, and our referring medical professionals with expert radiologic consultations.

## Location



11011 Meridian Ave. N.  
Suite 101  
Seattle, WA 98133

(206) 306-1011  
Fax (206) 306-1019  
[viaradiology.com](http://viaradiology.com)

We are in the Meridian Pavilion, 11011 Meridian Avenue N., Suite 101, on the Northwest corner of Meridian Avenue N. and Northgate Way. Plenty of free, on-site parking is available at our convenient location.

### Driving directions

#### *From the North:*

- I-5 Southbound
- Exit at Northgate Way/1st Ave. NE, Exit 173
- Take the Northgate Way Westbound ramp
- Turn right onto N. Northgate Way
- Continue thru the first light, which is the intersection of Northgate Way and Meridian Avenue N.
- Immediately after the light turn right into the parking garage for Meridian Pavilion.

#### *From the South:*

- I-5 Northbound
- Take the Northgate Way/1st Ave. NE, Exit 173
- Turn left onto 1st Ave. NE
- Turn left onto N. Northgate Way
- Continue straight thru two lights until you reach the intersection of Northgate Way and Meridian Avenue N.
- Immediately after the light turn right into the parking garage for Meridian Pavilion.

#### *From Highway 99/Aurora Ave N.:*

- Turn East on North 105th Street, which becomes Northgate Way
- Drive 0.6 miles
- Immediately before the intersection of Meridian Avenue N. and Northgate Way, turn left into the parking garage for Meridian Pavilion.