



### What happens if I'm claustrophobic or need sedation?

If you do require mild sedation for the PET/CT scan this will be given at the time of the examination. It is essential you have someone drive you home.

You will not be able to operate a machine or drive a car for 12 hours following sedation.

### Further information

If you require further information before your scan, please contact the appointment co-ordinator on (04) 978 5535.

### Contact details

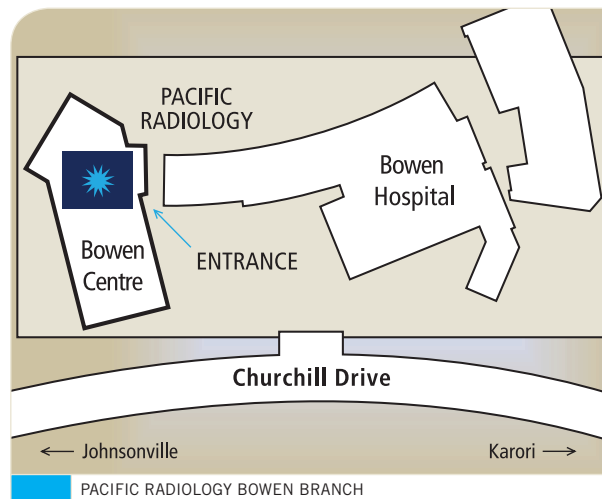
PET/CT is located at Pacific Radiology's Bowen Branch:

Address: Level 1, Bowen Centre  
98 Churchill Drive  
Crofton Downs  
Wellington

Phone: (04) 978 5535 (appointment co-ordinator)  
Fax: (04) 978 5501  
Email: [petct@pacificradiology.co.nz](mailto:petct@pacificradiology.co.nz)

### How to get there

Level 1, Bowen Centre  
98 Churchill Drive  
Crofton Downs  
Wellington



# PET/CT in Medical Imaging



## Patient Information



### Positron Emission Tomography

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is a medical imaging technique, which uses small amounts of radioactive tracers, to help diagnose, locate and assess a disease process. It can be used to study specific regions, such as the brain or bones, or the whole body.

### PET/CT

When having a PET scan, a CT scan is also performed. This is a full diagnostic CT scan, which provides the specialist Radiologist with important anatomical information when reporting the scan.

### Radioactive PET Tracers Used

At Pacific Radiology we have access to three radioactive PET tracers:

$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG – used in Oncology, Neurology and Cardiology imaging

$^{18}\text{F}$ -FET – used in Neurology imaging

$^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF – used in Skeletal imaging

#### For further information

Call us on (04) 978 5535  
or email [petct@pacificradiology.co.nz](mailto:petct@pacificradiology.co.nz)

### What will the procedure involve?

A PET/CT scan involves an injection via a vein in the arm, of a radioactive tracer. After the injection you will be asked to rest for 60-90 minutes in one of our rooms.

$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG is a radioactive sugar. Our muscles use sugar, so to get the best images possible, those having this injection will be encouraged to rest quietly in a darkened room. This allows the radioactive tracer to be taken up by the organs and NOT the muscles.

The scan takes 30-60 minutes, depending on the part of your body being imaged. During the scan you may need an intravenous injection of x-ray contrast. A technologist will discuss this with you at the time of your appointment.

The total appointment time is between three and four hours.

### What preparation is required?

A personalised instruction sheet will be sent to you with the exact preparation that you will need for the test. However, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

If you are a DIABETIC, please inform our bookings staff when making the appointment.

Depending on the area under examination, it may also be necessary to administer a muscle relaxant drug, or insert a urinary catheter (tube) into the bladder, or administer a sedative.

### When will the results be available?

The results of the PET/CT scan should be with your referring doctor within approximately three working days. You will need to contact that doctor to obtain the results.



### What are the risks?

The amount of radioactivity used is very small. The tracers used in PET are substances naturally found in the body and are administered in minute quantities. There are no known side effects associated with their use.

It is recommended that you should not be close to small children or pregnant women for four hours following your examination.

It is important to notify the technologist before the test if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.