Participating in research is a choice

Joining a research study is an important personal decision. Before you join, researchers will talk with you about the goals of the study and possible risks and benefits. They will also explain the rules they follow to protect your safety and privacy. Ask for help if you don’t understand something or have questions.

You should never feel rushed or pressured to make a decision. Being part of a research study is completely voluntary – it’s your choice.

After you understand the study, if you decide to take part you will be asked to sign a document called an “informed consent form.” You can change your mind at any time, for any reason, even after you sign.

How should I prepare for an PET scan?

Talk with the research staff so that you understand how to prepare for the PET scan. Make you sure understand what to expect before, during, and after the scan. When a PET scan is part of a research study, additional steps may be needed. The research staff will go over this information with you.

Questions to ask

You have a right to ask questions about the use of a PET scan before you decide whether to take part in a research study. You may want to ask the following questions:

> Is this PET scan being done specifically for the research study or is it also part of my regular medical care?
> Where will I go for my PET scan?
> How many scans will be needed?
> Will I need to do anything special to prepare for the scan?
> How will I receive the radioactive tracer?
> What happens if the scan reveals a medical issue?
> Will I receive the results of my scan?
> How will my privacy be protected?
> Will the results of this scan become part of my medical record?
> What happens if I decide to leave the study early?

Questions? Call us at [Health Research]

A positron emission tomography (PET) scan is a test done on the outside of the body to see what is happening on the inside. The PET scanner creates detailed pictures that show how your organs and tissues are working.

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What is Positron Emission Tomography (PET)?

A positron emission tomography (PET) scan is a test done on the outside of the body to see what is happening on the inside. Before a PET scan, you will receive some radioactive material (called a “tracer”) to see how much energy the cells inside your body are using. During the scan you will lie on a narrow platform bed as it slides through the scanner, which is shaped like a large donut. The PET scanner creates detailed pictures that show how your organs and tissues are working.

What is different about a PET scan used for research?

If you have a PET scan as part of your regular medical care, your doctor is usually trying to check your health or diagnose a problem. When a PET scan is part of a research study, the scan is used to help answer a scientific question. It is not intended to provide you medical care or detect health problems.

Unlike standard PET scan results, which you and your doctor would discuss, study results might not be discussed with you. Your scans might be reviewed as part of a larger group of scans and not looked at individually.

What are the risks of undergoing a PET scan?

PET scans are usually considered safe and relatively painless. A small amount of radiation will be given to you, which will leave your body in a few hours. There are small risks associated with radiation exposure.

Any study may involve risks; the informed consent form for your research study will explain any specific risks. Make sure you understand both the risks of a PET scan and the overall study before you decide to take part.