

FACT SHEET

PET/CT DOTATATE Scan

This fact sheet tells you what a DOTATATE scan is, and what is involved. Please read this sheet before having your scan. If you have any questions, ask your doctor or call the department.

What is a DOTATATE PET/CT Scan?

DOTATATE PET/CT can be used to identify the presence or extent of neuroendocrine tumours (NETs), which may originate from a variety of organs including (but not limited to) the intestine, pancreas, lung, thyroid, and adrenal glands. This works by using a radiotracer (DOTATATE) that targets somatostatin receptors - often present in abundance in NETs, allowing visualisation of any tissue expressing the somatostatin receptor.

Your doctor may refer you to have a DOTATATE PET/CT based on your clinical symptoms, blood test results, or previous imaging or biopsy results.

What is involved?

You will be first interviewed by a doctor to obtain a medical history, and a cannula placed into a vein in your arm or hand.

You will be taken to a private room where the somatostatin-targeting radiotracer (DOTATATE) will be injected into the cannula. We don't expect you to feel any side effects due to the injection of radiotracer.

You will be required to wait for approximately 1 hour for the radiopharmaceutical to distribute around your body followed by a 30-minute scan.

Certain clinical indications are not currently funded by Medicare and will incur an out-of-pocket cost. We will inform you of the cost when making an appointment with us. The whole test can take up to 2.5 hours.

What happens after the scan?

After your scan, a nuclear medicine physician will assess the pictures and then send the results to your referring doctor within 48 hours. You should not have any problems after the test and can resume normal activities including driving.

You will be asked to avoid close contact with children and pregnant women for a few hours after the test.

Are there any risks or side effects?

All nuclear medicine tests involve exposure to radiation. The amount of radiation is very small, and the risks of side effects are very low. Allergic reactions are very rare and almost always mild.

When will my doctor receive the results?

The report will be faxed to your referring doctors within 48 hours of your appointment and a hard copy of the images and the report will be posted out if requested by the referrer.

Please let us know if you are:

Diabetic, have renal impairment, or have allergies to CT iodine contrast.

Feeling unwell (i.e. cold, flu etc.) and/or if you are claustrophobic.

Likely to be delayed more than fifteen minutes from your appointment.

For more information

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Nuclear Medicine or your test, please call the department on : (02) 8382 1830 or alternatively you can email on: svhs.nm@svha.org.au