

Your doctor has requested a PET/CT scan. This is performed at a scanner situated next to Car Park C in the grounds of Derriford Hospital in Plymouth. Occasionally we may need to ask you attend other centres, further away for the scan. If so you will be given further information.

What is a PET/CT?

PET stands for Positron Emission Tomography. A small quantity of a radioactive tracer can be used to show abnormalities in the tissues. The amount of radiation is very small. CT is Computed Tomography, which uses x-rays to produce pictures. By combining these tests important information can be gained to help your doctors plan the best treatment for you.

Before your scan

You will receive an appointment letter and / or telephone call from the company Alliance Medical giving you full details about your appointment date and time. You may be asked for details about your medical history, disabilities, allergies and medicines you normally take.

On the day of your scan

You should have nothing to eat for six hours before the scan; however you should drink plenty of water during this time (please avoid flavoured water or using cordial). You can take your normal medicines (but please speak to the scanning company about diabetic or thyroid medicines). It is very important that you arrive on time for your appointment. The radioactive tracer has a very short shelf life and if you are late it may not be possible to proceed with your scan. The procedure will be fully explained to you.

During your scan

Your whole appointment will take around one and a half hours. Wear comfortable loose fitting clothes and remove your jewellery. You will be given an injection of the radioactive glucose tracer- usually into your arm. It takes about one hour for the tracer to be absorbed into your body after which time you will be ready for your scan. You will be asked to lie on a couch which moves through a ring shaped scanner. This will take around 30-60 minutes.

After your scan

There are no restrictions on daily routine after the test. Some simple precautions will be followed to make certain you are not any risk to others. It is recommended that you do not have close contact with pregnant women or young children for 8 hours after the scan. You should drink plenty of fluids to flush out the tracer through your kidneys. The radiographer will not be able to tell you any results of your scan; these will be given to you at your next appointment with your doctor or nurse at Torbay Hospital.

Please note that the information in this leaflet is to be used as a guide only.

Any specific questions or concerns can be discussed with the team at the scanning centre.

If you need any further assistance or information please contact:

Your Clinical Nurse Specialist / Key Worker
Or
The Lodge,
Cancer Support & Information Centre,
Torbay Hospital Annexe
01803 617521

Transport

If at all possible please make your own arrangements. If there is no alternative a Hospital Car may be available. Please call 01803 656777 to book. Please give as much notice as possible. You will need to be clear it is for a PET scan and **NOT** an appointment at Derriford Hospital itself. There may be a charge for this service. Help with travel costs is available for those on benefits. Proof of receipt of benefit is required.

By Road:

Take the A38 to Plymouth, continue onto the A386, following signs for Derriford Hospital.

The PET scanner is located in a building next to Car Park C in the grounds of Derriford hospital.

By rail / Bus:

Trains-National Rail Enquiries

Tel: 03457 484950

<https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>

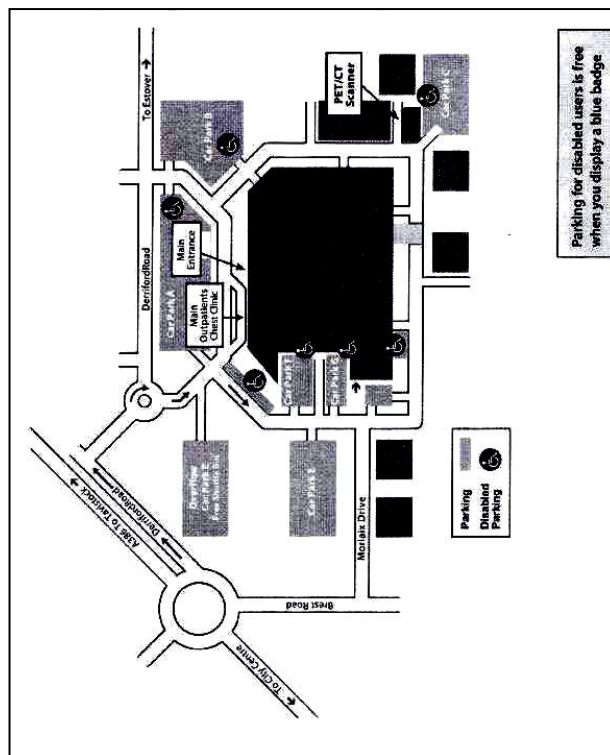
Public Transport-Traveline

Tel: 0871 200 2233

<https://www.traveline.info/>

For more information, or enquiries:

www.alliancemedical.co.uk/what-we-do/patient-services/types-of-scan/petct



Alliance Medical
Tel: 01752 430234

PET CT Scanner
Adjacent to Car Park C Derriford
Hospital
Derriford Road, Crownhill,
Plymouth, Devon.
PL6 8DH

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.

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Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust

PATIENT INFORMATION

Information about PET CT Scanning

Cancer Support Team

Working with you, for you