Columbia Doctors Radiology is committed to providing the highest standard of care, participating in both clinical and research imaging.

We offer Clinical PET/CT imaging for:
- Cancers utilizing: F-18 FDG, 18-F NaF, 18-F fluciclovine, and Ga-68 dotatate
- Cardiology utilizing: F-18 FDG and 13-N ammonia
- Brain disorders utilizing: F-18 FDG, 18F-florbetapir, 18F-flutemetamol, 18F-florbetaben

Clinical research projects apply PET imaging for monitoring therapeutic responses in cancer patients. Our research is collaborative and is conducted across Columbia University departments, Institutes, and Industry.

We have 3 state of the art Siemens Biograph mCT Flow PET/CT scanners with FlowMotion Technology equipped with 64 slice diagnostic CT scanners.

Some of the features include:
- The ability to provide the finest detail for every organ in every scan with FlowMotion, which improves accuracy
- Innovative solutions that allow the lowest dose to be administered, while still scanning patients faster than ever before. And by reducing dose and increasing speed, patient safety is improved.
- A large 78 cm bore, short tunnel and a 227 kg (500 lb) table capacity to improve patient comfort and accessibility.

Columbia Doctors Radiology - PET Center Facility

Our PET Center facility is conveniently located at 722 W 168th Street (Mailman School of Public Health) on the R1 floor. Parking is available at the Milstein entrance or you may park at the hospital lot on Fort Washington Avenue between 164th and 165th Streets. For public transportation, you can take the A, C, or 1 subway lines or the M2, M3, M4, M5, M100, or BX7 bus lines to W168th Street.

Handicap Access is located to the left of the stairs at the front of the building.

Directions to Columbia Doctors Radiology - PET Center Facility

*About Your PET-CT Exam*

A Guide for Adult & Pediatric Patients

What is a PET scan?

A positron emission tomography (PET) scan is an imaging test that helps reveal how your tissues and organs are functioning. A PET scan uses a radioactive drug (tracer) to show this activity. The tracer may be injected or inhaled, depending on which organ or tissue is being studied by the PET scan. The tracer collects in areas of your body that have higher levels of chemical activity, which often correspond to areas of disease. On a PET scan, these areas show up as bright spots. The pictures from a PET scan provide information different from that uncovered by other types of scans, such as computerized tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). A PET scan or a combined PET/CT scan enables your doctor to better diagnose your condition.

A PET scan is useful in revealing or evaluating several conditions, including some cancers, heart disease and brain disorders.

ColumbiaDoctors | Radiology

PET Center
722 West 168th Street • R1 Floor
(Mailman School of Public Health)
New York, NY 10032
Appointment Scheduling: 212-326-8518
columbiaradiology.org

columbiaradiology.org
Detecting cancer
Please drink water, preferably 32-64 oz. 2 hours prior. You may need to drink contrast for your scan. The entire process will take about 2 hours. Expose your unborn baby to radiation if you are pregnant. Please consult with your physician if you are pregnant. No other preparation is required.

Finding a cancer recurrence

What happens during a PET scan?
After your PET scan, a very small amount of radioactive sugar will remain in your body. So, be sure to drink plenty of water to help flush it out your system. You don’t need to follow any special dietary restrictions or guidelines after your PET scan. A radiologist or other physician who has specialized training in nuclear medicine will interpret the images and forward a report to your referring physician. Your doctor will receive your PET scan results afterwards, and will share them at your next appointment.

What are the Benefits vs. Risks?

Benefits
PET/CT examinations provide unique information—including details on both function and anatomic structure of the body that is often unattainable using other imaging procedures. By identifying changes in the body at the cellular level, PET imaging may detect the early onset of disease before it is evident on other imaging tests such as CT or MRI.

Risks
Because the doses of radiotracer administered are small, diagnostic PET/CT procedures result in relatively low radiation exposure to the patient, acceptable for diagnostic exams. Thus, the radiation risk is very low compared with the potential benefits. But the tracer might:
• Cause an allergic reaction, in rare instances
• Expose your unborn baby to radiation if you are pregnant
• Expose your child to radiation if you are breastfeeding

Follow your specific PET scan preparation below for best results:

For scans that use 18F-FDG:
• Do not eat anything for 6 hours before you arrive for your scan. You may drink only water.
• Do not chew gum or suck on hard candy, mints, or cough drops
• You may drink only water, preferably 32-64 oz. 2 hours prior to your appointment
• If you take medications, take them with water only.
• Your last meal before the scan should include high protein foods and plenty of water. Avoid carbohydrates and foods with sugar. Because PET scans read your sugar metabolism, eating sugar/carbohydrates could affect the results of your scan.
• Stay warm - it is important that you stay warm the day before and the day of your scan. This prevents a special type of fast from becoming active, which can make it hard for the physician to read your PET scan.

For scans with 18F-NaF, F-18 beta amyloid imaging (18F-florbetapir, 18F-flutemetamol, 18F-florbetaben):
• Please drink water, preferably 32-64 oz. 2 hours prior to your appointment.
• No other preparation is required.

For scans 18-F fluciclovine:
• Do not eat anything for 4 hours before you arrive for your scan. You may drink only water.
• Please drink water, preferably 32-64 oz. 2 hours prior to your appointment.
• No other preparation is required.

For scans that use Ga-68 dotatate:
• Please consult with your physician if you are receiving octreotide therapy.
• Please drink water, preferably 32-64 oz. 2 hours prior to your appointment.
• No other preparation is required.