



Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Computed Tomography (CT)

Understanding PET/CT scans

A PET/CT scan is a nuclear medicine procedure used to evaluate how organ systems of the body function and to identify and distinguish between both primary and metastatic cancer. This scan can also be done to evaluate some heart diseases and brain disorders. A PET/CT scan uses a radiopharmaceutical (tracer) to show this activity by highlighting the areas in the body that have higher levels of chemical activity. This tracer may be injected, swallowed or inhaled, depending on the organ or tissue being reviewed. **Note:** The risk of an adverse reaction to this tracer is very minimal.

Equipment used at BRMC

BRMC PET/CT has a very specialized and dedicated mobile company that comes to the hospital once a week; this is when your physician will schedule your exam.

What to expect and how to prepare for this type of exam

Every exam is specific to each individual patient and therefore you should follow your physician's guidelines on how to prepare for your detailed scan. Most scans will require a patient to abstain from eating and drinking after midnight and can anticipate this test to take up to 3 hours.

For scheduling

Call your physician to arrange your PET/CT scan but for more specific questions regarding your scan please feel free to call the nuclear medicine department at BRMC 814/362-8202.