



Nuclear Imaging Department

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Patient Information Handout Amyloid PET Brain Imaging

What is Amyloid Brain Imaging?

Amyloid PET imaging is a special type of scan used to detect amyloid plaques in the brain, made possible by injecting a small amount of radioactive medication called a tracer. These plaques are associated with conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia. The scan helps your doctor better understand your symptoms and guide treatment planning.

****Please arrive at least 30 MINUTES EARLY to your appointment****

****If you are breastfeeding, please plan to interrupt breastfeeding for 24 hours after the scan****

Before the Exam

1. Precautions

- If you are breastfeeding, please plan to stop breastfeeding for 24 hours after the scan. During this time, breastmilk should be collected and discarded. It is advisable to collect milk before the scan that can be used to feed your baby after the scan.
- Notify us immediately if you are pregnant, or if you have had a prior allergic reaction to Vizamyl (*Flutemetamol F18*) or any of its ingredients, such as Polysorbate 80.
- You should avoid having more than one nuclear imaging procedure performed within 48 hours of each other. If you have another scan scheduled, please notify us immediately.

What to Expect During the Exam

2. Preparation

- Please arrive at least 30 minutes early to your appointment.
- No fasting is required. You may eat and drink normally before your appointment.
- Take your medications as prescribed unless instructed otherwise by your physician.
- Wear comfortable clothing without metal zippers or snaps.
- If you are unable to lie still for at least 10 minutes, please inform us.

3. During the Scan

- A small amount of a radioactive tracer, called Vizamyl (*Flutemetamol F18*) will be injected into your arm vein. This tracer attaches to amyloid plaques in the brain.
- After the injection, you will rest quietly for about 60 minutes while the tracer circulates through your body.

- You will then be positioned on the PET scanner, where the camera will take images of your brain. The scan itself usually takes 10 to 20 minutes.
- You will need to lie still during the imaging portion for the best results.

4. After the Exam

- If you are breastfeeding, please stop breastfeeding for 24 hours.
- You can resume your other normal activities right away.
- Drink plenty of fluids to help flush the tracer from your body.
- There are no restrictions on being around family or friends after the test.

Safety

- The tracer used in this exam contains a very small amount of radiation, which will naturally leave your body within a day.
- Please notify us if any of the following apply on the day of your scan:
 - You are pregnant or think you might be pregnant
 - You are breastfeeding

Results

- A board-certified nuclear medicine physician or radiologist will review your images.
- The results will be sent to your referring doctor, who will discuss them with you.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will it hurt?

- A small needle stick is needed for the injection, which may be slightly painful.

2. Is it safe?

- Yes. The radiation exposure is very low and is not expected to cause side effects. Like other needle sticks, there may be some injection-site redness, pain, or swelling after the injection is given. In very rare cases, patients may have an allergic reaction to Vizamyl or its ingredients. If you have any questions, ask your doctor.

3. How long will I be at the imaging center?


- Expect to be at the imaging center for up to 2 hours.

Contact Us

If you have questions before your exam, please contact us:

The Neuron Clinic – San Marcos

Nuclear Imaging Department

 **(760)281-3662**

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