

Patient Information– PET/CT Ga68-PSMA Examination

What is a PSMA Scan?

Ga68-PSMA is a radioactive tracer agent that is valuable in the early detection of prostate cancer, both within the prostate itself, and in common sites of prostate cancer spread such as lymph nodes and bone. This information is used by your treating doctor in conjunction with other staging scans you may also have, such as MRI or bone scans, to determine the best treatment for you.

Ga68-PSMA is injected through a vein in your arm, allowing imaging to take place using the PET/CT scanner. This high-quality tracer is produced through a series of complex processes undertaken by an experienced Radiopharmaceutical Scientist on-site at St. Vincent's Hospital.

Ga68-PSMA is currently classified as experimental and is not yet approved by the *Therapeutic Goods Administration*. The Nuclear Medicine Specialist will discuss this in greater detail during your consult before the examination.

How much does a PET/CT Ga68-PSMA cost?

The current out-of-pocket cost for this examination is \$700*. Currently, there is no Medicare rebate for PET/CT Ga68-PSMA. Unfortunately, your private health insurance will not cover the expenditure.

Preparation for the scan:

On the day of the scan you can eat and drink water and take any current medication. Please make sure prior to the appointment you have a renal function test, your GP or Specialist can supply you with this referral. Please note we need a recent result that is within the last 3 months.

One of our nurses will contact you in regards to the preparation a couple of days before your scan. If you have any further enquiries about the preparation please call the department on **8382 1830**.

The steps involved for the PET/CT Ga68-PSMA examination include the following:

1. After arrival, you will be seen by a Nuclear Medicine Scientist. Your weight will be recorded and a cannula (plastic needle) will be inserted for a later injection of the tracer.
2. You will also be seen by a Nuclear Medicine Specialist, who will take your medical history, explain the examination and answer any questions you may have.
3. You will be required to change into a gown and remove all metal objects before shown into an uptake room where you will be lay down and rest for 45 minutes.
4. During the 45minute rest time you will be given approximately 600mls of Oral Contrast prior to commencing the PET/CT scan. On the day please be aware there may be minor delays to your scan commencement time due to other scans taking place.
5. You will then be positioned on the PET/CT scanner; you are required to lie on your back with your arms raised above your head.
6. The PET/CT scan itself takes approximately 30 minutes, on the day you should allow 3 hours from start to finish for the entire examination.
7. After the scan, a disc of images will be produced for you. A report and images will be forwarded onto your referring doctor.
8. All patients will have a routine diagnostic CT of the abdomen and pelvis concurrently performed in conjunction with the PET scan to better aid in diagnosis.