

PET/CT - A GUIDE TO YOUR SCAN





Hi, I'm Connor and I'm going to explain what it is like to have a PET/CT Scan.

Before you arrive

You will be in the PET/CT centre for approximately 2 hours. It's a good idea to wear a T-shirt and jogging bottoms or clothes which don't have any metal on them so you will be comfortable and you won't need to wear a gown for your scan.

When you arrive

Prior to the day of your appointment you will be told if you need to report directly to the PET/CT Centre when you arrive or whether you need to visit the paediatric ward first. On the day, one of the team will check your height and weight, and then chat with you whilst a small injection/ line is put in your arm ready for the 'sugar solution' you will need for the PET/CT scan.





Here you can see I'm getting my height and weight checked and then lying down in the relaxing room in the PET/CT department.



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In the relaxing room, a member of the PET/CT team will explain that they need to put a small amount of 'sugar solution' into the line which you have in your arm. When this has been put through, you can relax for 1 hour then go to the toilet just before the scan.

Your parent/escort can stay in the room with you for the hour but it is important to relax and not move about very much. You can have a sleep if you want! If you move about and talk lots it will show up on the scan!



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Above is a picture of a scanner.

As you can see the scanner looks like a huge 'polo mint' and you can see straight through it. You will ride through the 'polo' about 3 times and then come out at the other side. You will spend most of your time out of it looking at the ceiling! It's really easy, there is no special breathing and you can open or close your eyes. The most important thing is to just lie still so they don't get 'blurry' pictures.





When the scan is finished, you can have something to eat and drink. You will also be offered a short survey so you can say how well the team did looking after you hopefully all smiles!