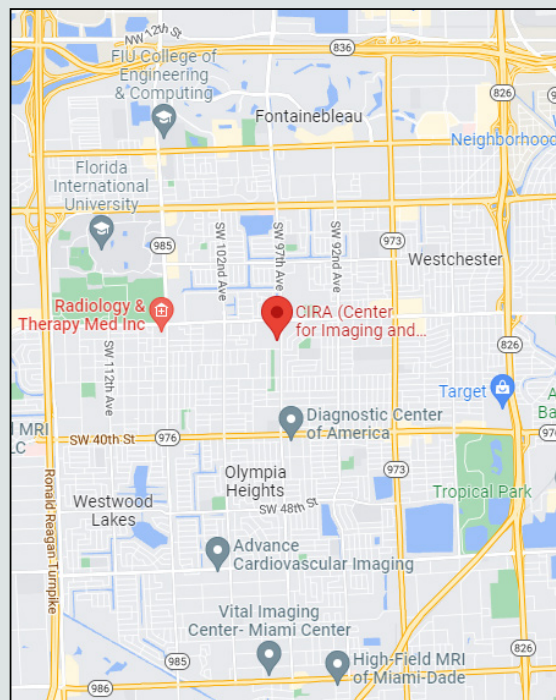


## Our Location



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# CIRA



## A Patient's Guide to N-13 Ammonia PET Imaging

## What is an N-13 Ammonia PET exam?

An N-13 Ammonia Positron Emission Tomography (PET) exam is used by doctors to evaluate the health of your heart by measuring the blood flow that it receives. People who receive this exam may have symptoms and/or risk factors for heart disease. The results of this exam will help your doctor determine if you should have follow-up treatment. If you are already being treated for a heart-related condition, the results of this exam can also be used to help your doctor manage your treatment.

“In partnership with Ionetix, CIRA is the first and only provider to bring N-13 Ammonia and treadmill stress PET/CT imaging to patients in South Florida.”

## How long does the procedure take?

- Most N-13 Ammonia PET exams are completed in less than 1 hour; however, a longer exam should not be cause for concern.
- Ask your doctor for specific details about how long you should plan to be present for your exam.

## When should I arrive for the procedure?

- Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your appointment to complete the necessary paperwork.

## How is the procedure performed?

- Small pads called electrodes will be placed on your chest so that the medical team can monitor the electrical activity of your heart throughout the study.
- You will be asked to lie on a scanning table made especially for the PET camera.
- A small amount of a radiopharmaceutical will be given through your IV line that will allow the PET camera to take pictures of your heart.
- A PET camera will take pictures of your heart in two phases: a resting phase and a stress phase.
- These phases are then compared to allow for the assessment of blood flow through your heart and/or to look for prior damage to the heart muscle.
- If you must cancel or reschedule your appointment, please do so at least 24 hours in advance of your exam.
- Arrive 30 minutes prior to your appointment.
- Results and images will be sent to your referring provider.

## How should I prepare for the procedure?

Here are a few general guidelines:

- Wear comfortable clothing and leave your jewelry at home.
- Bring a list of all your medications with you.
- If you are diabetic, please review special instructions.
- **DO NOT** eat or drink anything except water for 4-6 hours prior to your test.
- **DO NOT** have any chocolate, caffeine or decaffeinated products for at least 12 hours prior to your test.
- Arrive 30 minutes early.

*It is very important that you check with your doctor **BEFORE** discontinuing any medications.*

## What can I expect from the stress portion of the procedure?

- N-13 Ammonia enables your physician to utilize treadmill stress testing rather than the injection of a pharmacologic stress medication if preferred.
- The stress phase of the exam can also be performed with the medication that makes your heart respond as if you were exercising.
- This medication is given in your vein through an IV line while an electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed to monitor your heart.
- It is important to let the healthcare professional know if you experience chest pain, shortness of breath, palpitations, headache, dizziness, lightheadedness, or a flushing feeling during the test.

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