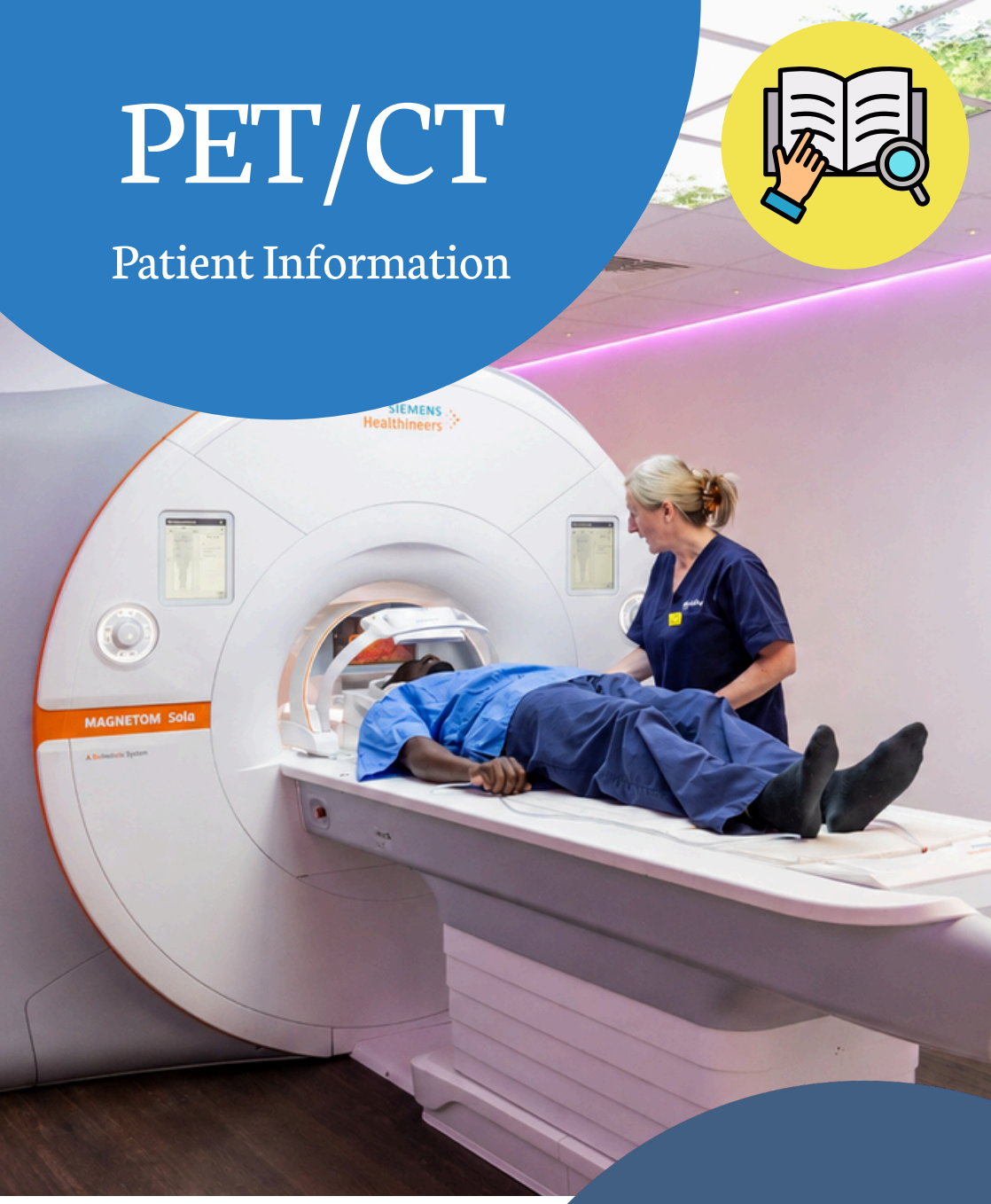
PET/CT

Patient Information



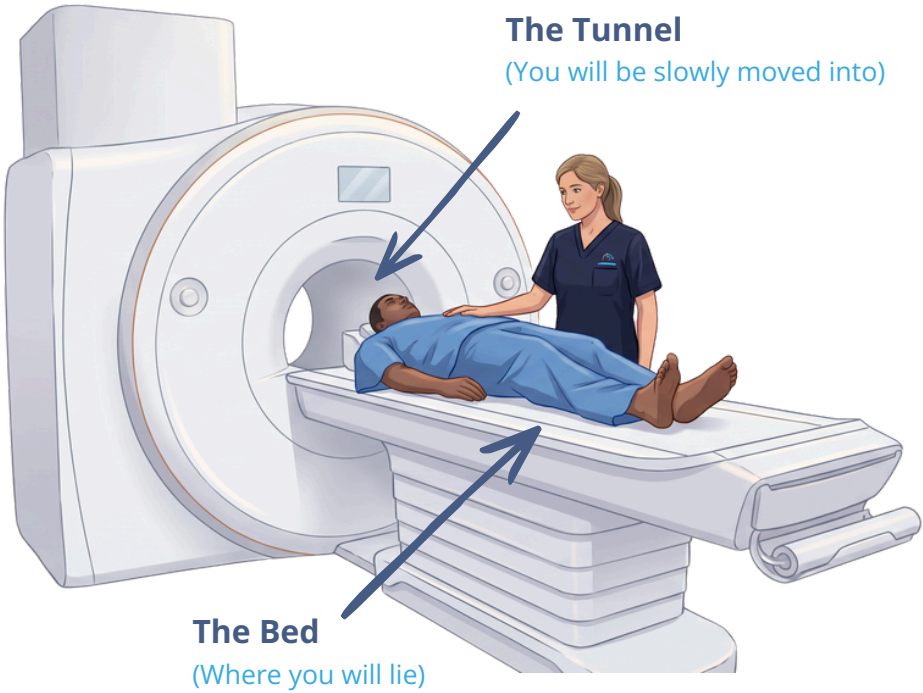
www.cobalthealth.co.uk
01242 535900

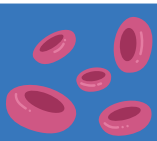
Registered Charity No: 1090790

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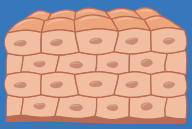
What is an PET/CT scanner?

A combination of a PET scan and a CT scan





A **PET scan** tracks the movement of cells



A **CT scan** shows the structure of your body



Combined we can see how well your organs are working

A PET/ CT scan does not hurt

How to prepare for your scan



Try to drink plenty of water throughout the day of your appointment. Unless you are on fluid restrictions.



Don't eat or drink anything (water is okay) for at least 6 hours before your scan. This includes chewing gum, nicotine gum, mints and cough drops.



For brain scans, don't eat or drink anything (water is okay) for at least 3 hours before your scan



If you have a feeding tube don't have anything through it (water is okay) for 6 hours before your appointment



Arrive for your appointment on time.



Avoid exercising for at least 24 hours before your appointment

If you are afraid of small spaces, please let us know. You can come and have a look at the scanner before your appointment if you think it will make you more comfortable.

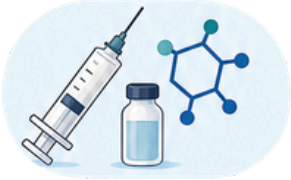
What happens when you arrive?

1



You will go to reception and they will ask you some safety questions. You will then wait in the waiting room until you are called.

2



A small injection of radioactive sugar (called a tracer) is given - this is safe and painless.

3



You will then wait for 1 hour 30 minutes in a quiet chair while the tracer travels round your body.

4



You will be asked to remove any metal from your body (there is a list on page 3), these can be stored in a locker.

5



You will be brought into the PET/CT scanner and your scan will begin. The radiographer will be able to hear you at all times.

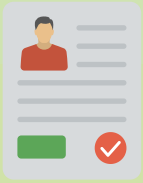
For brain scans: You will be asked to relax quietly for 30 minutes, this lets us get the best images of your brain. You will not be allowed to watch TV or use your phone in this time.

What can I take into the scanner room?

You can bring these



Wear comfy clothes with no metal zips or buttons



Your referral/ appointment letter



Any medicine you need - let staff know



A friend or family member if it helps you feel comfotable

Leave these in the locker



Mobile phone



Bank cards



Jewellery



Belt, keys, hair clips

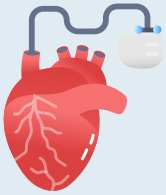


Hearing aid (tell the team)

Lockers are avaliable for your things

Safety - what you must tell us

Please tell our staff if you have any of the following



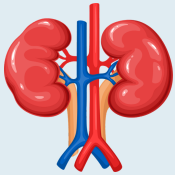
Pacemaker or heart device



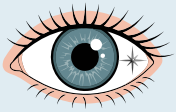
Metal implants or clips



Pregnancy



Kidney problems



Metal in your eye



Hearing aids or cochlear devices



If you aren't sure, just ask!

Common questions



Will it hurt?

The scan itself wont hurt, you may feel a small pinch from the injection.

Will I feel claustrophobic?

The scanner is open at both ends so you will never be enclosed. If you are anxious speak to the radiographer.

Is it safe?

The scanner gives off a small amount of radiation, however, this can be a very small risk. Please ask our staff if you are worried.

How long will I wait for my results?

A specialist will have a look at your images. You will get your results within at least 2 weeks.

Can I eat and drink beforehand?

On page 2 there is information about eating and drinking. If you have any questions please call our team.

Still have questions?

Call us before your appointment 01242 535900



Did you know Cobalt is a *charity?*

What we do
We provide diagnostic scans for patients.
We carry out research, mainly into cancer and dementia.
We support new ideas and technology that can improve patient care. We teach and train healthcare workers and help the next generation learn new skills.

How we make this possible
We rely on donations and money from our services to fund our work.

HELP US TO HELP OTHERS • HELP US TO HELP OTHERS •

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