

A positron emission tomography (**PET**) **scan** is an **imaging** test that helps reveal how your tissues and organs are functioning. A **PET scan** uses a radioactive drug (tracer) to show this activity.

a PET scan to inspect your **blood flow**, your oxygen intake, or the metabolism of your organs and tissues. PET scans show problems at the cellular level, giving your doctor the best view of complex systemic diseases.

The PET scan involves radioactive tracers, but the exposure to harmful radiation is minimal. According to the Mayo Clinic, the amount of radiation in the tracer is small, so the risks to your body are low. Still, it's a good idea to discuss possible risks with your doctor.

Before the scan, you'll get tracers through a vein in your arm, Next, you'll undergo the scan, which can last anywhere from **30 to 45 minutes**. This involves lying on a narrow table attached to a PET machine, which looks like a giant letter "O." The table glides slowly into the machine so that the scan can be conducted.

Overview. A single-photon emission computerized tomography (**SPECT**) **scan** lets your doctor analyze the function of some of your internal organs. A **SPECT scan** is a type of nuclear **imaging** test, which means it uses a radioactive substance and a special camera to create 3-D pictures.

A single-photon emission computerized tomography (SPECT) scan lets your doctor analyze the function of some of your internal organs. A SPECT scan is a type of nuclear imaging test, which means it uses a radioactive substance and a special camera to create 3-D pictures.

Your scan will take **approximately 30 minutes**. During this time you will be required to lie flat on your back, without moving. Using a special nuclear medicine camera, pictures of your brain will be obtained.

- You will receive an intravenous injection (in your vein) of a tracer dose of radioactive material.
- The level of radioactivity is extremely low and has no side effects.
- Approximately 30 minutes to one hour later, you will be brought into the exam room for the scan.
- Your scan will take approximately 30 minutes.
- During this time you will be required to lie flat on your back, without moving.
- Using a special nuclear medicine camera, pictures of your brain will be obtained. The camera does not produce any radiation; it simply detects and records the distribution of the radioactive material in your brain.



Scanner used for PET & SPECT Brain Scans

**It takes anything from 30-45 minutes**