



Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is an imaging technique that uses very small amounts of radioactive compounds that allow researchers to image processes in the brain.

Why is a PET scan used for Alzheimer's and related dementia research? PET scans are used to study amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles, the features of Alzheimer's Disease (AD). Research suggests that plaques and tangles appear about 20 years prior to AD symptoms.

Before your scan

- Take your regular medications unless you have been instructed otherwise.
- Please arrive at your scheduled visit start time. This time will be used to prepare you for the scan.
- An IV (needle) will be placed in a vein in your arm or hand in order to inject a very small amount of a radioactive compound.
- You will be asked to empty your bladder before the scan begins.

During your scan

- You will be brought into the scan room and asked to lie down on a padded bed. The PET scanner has a round opening where your head will go and your brain will be scanned. Music, warm blankets, and pillows will be offered for your comfort during the scan.
- Part of your body, from head to shoulders, will be in the scanner opening.
- The technologist will be able to see and hear you at all times during the scan.
- The time for the entire scan ranges from 20 to 90 minutes.
- To obtain the best images of your brain, it is important that you lie as still as possible while the PET machine is scanning.

After your scan

- After each scan, please drink fluids and empty your bladder in order to help clear the compound from your system.

Where is the PET scanner located?

- The PET scanner is located at the **Waisman Center at 1500 Highland Ave.** A map will be included with your reminder letter.

Who should you contact if you have questions?

- Please reach out to **Sophia Egge at (608) 262-1858 or segge@medicine.wisc.edu** or **Faith Ocoke at (608) 263-0268 or focoko@wisc.edu** if you have any questions about the PET scan.