

# Cardiac PET scan

**Positron Emission Tomography (PET) technology is a relatively new medical application that has become vital in the diagnosis and treatment of cardiac disease. Cardiac disease is the leading killer of Americans and was responsible for 700,142 deaths in the United States of America during the year 2001. During that same year, the number of new cardiac disease diagnoses was approximately 23 million, which makes up 11.5% of the American population.**

## PET and Cardiac Disease Diagnosis

One of the most effective treatments used in the various medical stages of treating cardiac disease is Positron Emission Tomography. A PET scan of the heart is a highly effective imaging tool that is used to diagnose cardiac disease. It is particularly useful in detecting coronary heart disease, a condition in which the coronary arteries (the small blood vessels that supply blood and oxygen to the heart) are narrowed due to the buildup of fatty material and atherosclerosis (plaque). Due to the narrowing of the coronary arteries, blood flow to the heart is either slowed and can even stop. The early detection of coronary heart disease and other forms of cardiac disease is vital as the early treatment of heart disease can prevent heart attack and/or stroke.

## How is the Procedure performed?

- An IV line is placed in your arm to allow administration of the medications during the exam.
- Small pads called electrodes will be placed on your chest so that the medical team can monitor your heart throughout the study.
- You will be asked to lay on a scanning table made specifically for the PET camera
- A small amount of radiopharmaceutical will be given through your IV line that will allow the PET camera to take pictures of your heart.
- The amount of radiation exposure is considered safe by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements.
- A PET camera will take pictures of your heart in two phases: a resting phase and a stress phase.
- The procedure is usually completed in 1 hour or less; however don't be alarmed if it takes a little longer.

## Preparing for the Procedure

- No food or drink for 5 hours prior to the procedure.
- No Caffeine for 12 hours prior i.e. Coffee, soda, tea, ETC.
- Wear comfortable clothing and leave your jewelry at home.
- Bring a list of all your medications with you to the appointment.
- You may be asked not to take certain medications until after the procedure.
- Discuss any questions or concerns with your doctor or his/her staff prior to your scheduled appointment.

## Where is the procedure done?

**Lorven Heart and Vascular,**

**1609 SW 17<sup>th</sup> ST, Ocala FL**

**Ask for PET scan check-in.**