

Welcome to the Department of Imaging Services at Cayuga Medical Center

We are here to assist in the diagnosis of medical conditions and orthopedic injuries using various forms of radiography and imaging technology. We want to make you as comfortable as possible during your exam, while providing timely, thorough, and accurate diagnostic information to your doctor.

The information in this brochure will tell you about the imaging study for which you are scheduled. If you have additional questions, please feel free to call **(607) 274-4376** and ask for the diagnostic supervisor. This person will be able to help you.

About our Imaging Services



Cayuga Medical Center has a commitment to and reputation for staying abreast of changing technology and our imaging equipment is state-of-the-art.

Our range of services is comprehensive and we offer all imaging modalities found in major medical centers. Radiologists are on site at all three of our locations, which also distinguishes the level of service we provide.

Imaging Services is staffed by six board certified radiologists, many of whom are sub-specialists in areas such as neuroradiology, abdominal CT, and interventional procedures. Assisting them are experienced radiologic technologists and sonographers, many of whom have completed advanced training and are certified in specialty modalities.

PET/CT Scan

(Positron Emission Tomography and Computerized Tomography Scan)

What is the test?

A diagnostic nuclear medicine exam used to evaluate metabolic functions of cells throughout the body.

What can be learned from this procedure?

PET/CT is one of the newest, most advanced procedures used to help identify and differentiate between both primary and metastatic cancer. It can also detect certain diseases of the heart and brain.

Why should I have a PET/CT scan instead of other types of testing?

A PET/CT scan can detect certain disease processes long before other tests such as CT or MRI alone. It can also reduce unnecessary treatment and procedures.

Is PET/CT scan safe?

You will be injected with a radioactive substance. Medical experts have determined that the benefits of diagnostic testing that use radiation outweigh the risks associated with radiation exposure.

Pregnant or nursing women should not have a PET/CT exam unless the risks are specifically discussed with their doctor.

What can I expect during the procedure?

Your test will be performed by a certified nuclear medicine technologist and a registered nurse.

- The patient will have blood sugar level checked.
- An IV will be started.
- F-18 FDG (*the radioactive material*) will be injected and the IV will be removed after injection.
- The patient will remain lying down, resting comfortably and quietly while radioactive material circulates for 45 to 60 minutes.
- Prior to the start of the scan, the patient will be instructed to void.

- The patient will be positioned on the imaging table that will slowly pass through the scanner.
- This "pass" will take approximately 20 to 30 minutes. The patient will be asked to stay very still.
- The scanner will pick up information from the body, which will be reassembled through a computer to create an image of the body.
- After the technologist briefly reviews the images, the procedure is complete.

Preparation:

You will be contacted 1-2 days prior to your procedure for further instructions and information.

This test will take approximately 2 hours to complete.

- Please do not eat 4 hours before your test. You are permitted to drink water.
- Please wear comfortable clothing. Avoid underwire bras, girdles, metal snaps or pins. Please leave valuables at home.
- If you are diabetic, you will be given instructions by the nurse related to your diabetic medications the day of your scan. These instructions will be different depending on the time your test is scheduled.
- If you take Lasix or any type of diuretic, you will be instructed not to take it until after the test is completed. If you are on any medications for seizures, please inform the nurse or technologist. All other medications should be taken on your usual schedule.
- *Please remember to bring your:* insurance cards, referral forms, current list of medications, and requested X-rays or films, and the order for your test.