



**PATIENT INFORMATION**  
Advice regarding your  
radiology appointment

date	time
location	

## PET-CT Scan

### Three reasons why at Hamilton Radiology you're in good hands.

- 1 The healthcare team caring for you know what complications may occur and how to manage them.
- 2 All images are reviewed on-site and reported only by vocationally trained specialist radiologists.
- 3 We provide a valuable service as a training provider of medical imaging knowledge and technical training.

Please do not hesitate to ask us of any concerns or questions you may have. We're here to help.

Hamilton Radiology Ltd, PO Box 262, Hamilton  
P. 07 839 4909 F. 07 839 5780  
E [info@hamrad.co.nz](mailto:info@hamrad.co.nz)

If you have any questions please call our  
freephone **0800 426 723**

[www.hamiltonradiology.co.nz](http://www.hamiltonradiology.co.nz)



# YOU'RE IN SAFE HANDS



## What is a PET-CT scan?

PET stands for "Positron Emission Tomography".

It is an advanced imaging technique that uses very small amounts of radioactive tracer called "FDG" (similar to sugar), to produce images showing how your body is functioning. You may already be familiar with CT (Computed Tomography), which uses x-rays to produce pictures showing structures in the body. By combining these two techniques in one scanner, a PET-CT scan provides important information that can help your doctor plan the best treatment for you.

## Arranging your scan

Upon booking your appointment you will be given a preparation pack containing the following:

1. Detailed information about the bowel cleansing process.
2. A packet of laxatives. The laxative is used to cleanse the bowel and rid the colon of any stools. You may experience many bowel movements over several hours.

It is necessary for the colon to be completely empty of food residue. This will be achieved by a restricted diet and laxatives.

## What happens during a CT Colography?

The radiographer will get you to lie on the CT x-ray table. A small tube will be inserted into your rectum and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is introduced into the bowel until it is fully distended.

While you are lying on your back you will be asked to hold your breath and the CT scan will be performed.

You then turn over onto your stomach and again holding your breath the second CT scan is performed.

The Radiologist will check the scan and once the images are completed the tube will be removed.



## Is CT Colography painful?

Prior to the procedure a small bowel relaxant will be administered as the distention of the colon with CO<sub>2</sub> may be uncomfortable. You may get the feeling of fullness, as though you need to pass wind. It should not be painful. This discomfort will last for just a few minutes.

## How long does it take?

The actual scan is about 10-15 minutes but you will be in the department for approximately 30 minutes.

## What happens after the test?

You will be allowed to leave straight after the procedure and resume your normal diet! The Radiologist, who is trained in interpreting radiology examinations will analyse all the images and send a written report to your Specialist or GP who will then share the results with you. What do I do now?

To make an appointment for your CT Colography please phone **0800 427 3828**.

For more information please visit our website  
[www.hamiltonradiology.co.nz](http://www.hamiltonradiology.co.nz)