This handout explains how to prepare for a Ga-68 dotatate PET/CT scan (Positron Emission Tomography/Computed Tomography) and what to expect during the scan.

**Description**

A Ga-68 dotatate PET/CT scan is used to diagnose neuroendocrine tumors (a tumor that forms from cells that release hormones into the blood in response to a signal from the nervous system.)

**How to prepare**

- If you are on a somatostatin/octreotide therapy, you cannot have the following medications within the specified time:
  - **Short-acting** somatostatin analogs within 24 hours.
  - **Long-acting** somatostatin analogs within 4 to 6 weeks
- There are no eating or drinking restrictions.
- Wear comfortable clothing without metal if possible.

**What to expect**

- A nuclear medicine technologist will place an IV in your arm.
- A radioactive tracer (Ga-68 dotatate) will be injected through your IV. This tracer binds to cancer cells. The scanner can detect which cells have collected the tracer. There are no side effects from the tracer.
- After the injection, you will sit in a room and wait 45 minutes for the tracer to circulate.
- After waiting, you will be taken to the imaging room and positioned on the PET/CT scanner.
- Imaging can take up to 30 minutes. The scanner is mostly silent and you will not feel anything.
- After the scan there are no restrictions to daily activities.
Your results
A radiologist will study your images and send results to your primary care provider or referring physician. Your provider or physician will share your results with you over the phone, in person, or via MyChart. Results are typically available within 1 business day.

Questions?
For questions about scheduling, call Medical Imaging scheduling at (206) 606-1434.

For questions about the scan or how to prepare for it, call our Nuclear Medicine Department at (206) 606-7191.