NYU Langone Health

What is a PET-MRI scan?

Participants in the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) study complete brain imaging using PET-MRIs. PET scans (positron emission tomography) reveal how the brain is functioning. Participants are given a small amount of a radiactive substance called a tracer through an injection in a vein in the arm. MRI scans (magnetic resonance imaging) provides detailed images of brain anatomy. MRIs use strong magnets and radio waves. We combine PET and MRI scans together, to provide clinicians with a comprehensive, three-dimensional view of the brain.

What is a PET-MRI for?

PET-MRI can show areas of the brain that contain proteins associated with Alzheimer's disease - amyloid plaques and tau tangles. Amyloid plaques are a form of protein buildup that collects between brain cells (neurons). Tau tangles are a form of protein that can build up inside neurons.

Both amyloid plaques and tau tangles can disrupt healthy brain functioning and are linked with Alzheimer's disease. PET-MRI is used to improve our understanding of the role that these proteins play in the progression of Alzheimer's disease. PET-MRI scans take place at: Center for Biomedical Imaging 660 First Avenue, 1st Floor New York, NY 10016

Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC)

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What should I expect with PET-MRI?

Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) study participants will receive two PET-MRI scans of the brain, one that looks at amyloid plaques, and the other that looks at tau tangles. The PET-MRI scans will take place on two separate days and will be scheduled following the Day 1 and Day 2 visits to the Center. Participants may be asked to complete these scans every 2 years. Participants will receive feedback from clinicians on any unexpected medical discoveries.



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