

C-11 Choline or FACBC – PET Exams

What is a C-11 Choline or FACBC PET Exam?

A C-11 Choline or FACBC PET exam is an imaging exam done to detect prostate cancer.

How does it work?

A small amount of a radioactive drug called C-11 Choline or FACBC is given by injection before the PET exam. These drugs attach to prostate cancer cells, which then show up on the PET image as bright spots.

Why is it done?

Doctors use these exams to:

- Find recurrent prostate cancer
- See the stage of the prostate cancer

How is it done?

- Make sure you do not eat or drink anything other than plain water for four (4) hours before your appointment time.
- After you arrive for your scan and complete registration, you will be taken to the imaging room by a technologist. The technologist will ask you to use the bathroom and urinate before your scan begins.
- You will then lay on your back on a PET camera bed. You will be positioned to be warm and comfortable, so you can lay completely still for the entire scan.
- While lying on the PET camera bed, you will get an injection of C-11 Choline or FACBC into your arm. This should not be painful.
- The scan will begin right away, and will take 30-45 minutes.

Do I have special instructions after the exam?

- There are no special instructions after the imaging test has completed.

How long will it take to get my results?

- Your scan will usually be read on the same day.
- The results will then be sent to your doctor.

Disclaimer: This material provides general information only. It should not be used in place of the advice, instructions, or treatment given by your doctor or other health care professional.
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