What to Expect?
F-18 Sodium Fluoride Bone PET/CT Scan

Recent clinical studies have shown that Sodium Fluoride (F18-NaF) has proven to be a superior imaging agent in the diagnosis of bone metastasis. NaF bone scanning detects 45% more metastases in the spine as compared to standard bone scans. A fusion CT allows immediate comparisons without the inconvenience of additional imaging.

What is a Sodium Fluoride PET Bone Scan used for?
This PET scan is used specifically to confirm the presence of bone metastasis in a patient with diagnosed cancer. This exam also provides a full body scan in a shorter time compared to standard bone scans.

What happens when I arrive for my scan?
When you arrive for your PET scan, you will be registered by our office personnel and taken to the PET area. There, a technologist will ask you a series of questions regarding your medical history. Before your scan, you will receive an intravenous injection containing a small amount of radiopharmaceutical and you will be asked to relax for 45-60 minutes in one of our patient waiting areas.

How does the PET procedure work?
After your injection, you will be asked to relax and remain relatively still for about an hour. Then, you will be asked to lie on a table called a scanning bed. The bed will move slowly through the scanner while it detects the injected tracer. Some people fall asleep during the scan. When the imaging procedure is complete, the scanner sends the resulting information to a computer. The computer generates numerous images that will be reviewed by a specially trained physician. Your doctor will receive a report and picture detailing the findings of your exam.

How long does the procedure take?
You can expect to be in the PET center for two to three hours. The actual scan itself takes far less time and depends on the purpose and type of the study.

How accurate is a Sodium Fluoride PET Bone Scan?
Recent clinical studies have shown that Sodium Fluoride Bone Scanning detects 45% more metastases in the spine as compared to standard bone scans. It’s fusion with CT provides such better specificity in the detection of bone metastasis in the bone vs. degenerative disease, such as arthritis.
How will I feel afterwards?
You should feel fine after the scan. There are no side effects from the injected tracer.

Oncology patients undergoing regular PET scans should be scheduled for a Sodium Fluoride Bone Scan on a separate day.

When will I know the results of my scan?
The results of your PET scan are read within 48 hours after the scan is completed and a report will be sent to your referring physician who will discuss the findings.

What else should I do?
It is important that your other recent x-ray studies (such as CT or MRI scans) be available for the PET imaging doctor to compare them directly to your PET scan. Your doctor or hospital may send the films and reports from these studies to the PET center or you may be asked to bring them with you to prevent delay in reading your PET scan.