

Tau Visit Information & Instructions:

Location: Citigroup Biomedical Imaging Center of Weill Cornell at [516 East 72nd Street](#)

Visit Summary: During this session, we will perform a PET scan with 18F-MK 6240 (Tau) radiotracer followed by a functional MRI scan.

Preparing for Your Appointment

- Fasting or diet restrictions are **NOT** required before this visit. However, drinking water 1-2 hours before the scan is encouraged.
- You should take all medications prescribed by your physician the day of the scan.
- Dress comfortably in layers to stay warm as scanner rooms are cold. Please avoid piercing, jewelry, large buttons and other metal objects on your clothing. Generally, you will not have to change out of your clothes for the procedure.
- If you wear corrective lenses and have the option of wearing contacts, we recommended you use them as they will be more comfortable than glasses when you are inside the MRI. If contacts are not an option, feel free to wear your own glasses and we will provide you with prescription goggles to be used inside the scanner.

What to Expect for the PET Scan

- Urine pregnancy test will be done for females 20-40 years old
- Our staff will interview you to discuss your medical history. An IV line will be inserted in your arm. A certain amount of blood will be drawn into the vials and stored for future analysis. Then, a technologist will give you a very small dosage of radioactive MK-6240 molecule through your IV.
- You will sit or lie comfortably for 90 minutes after the technologist gives you the radioactive tracer.
- The PET scanner is the same device used for CT scans. It is quiet and not painful. Typical scan times last around 90 minutes for this visit. You can relax during this scan.

What to Expect After the PET Scan

- You should feel fine, and there are no post-scan requirements.
- Be sure to limit close contact with infants or pregnant women for 12 hours after your scan.
- Drink plenty of water to help remove the tracer out of your body.
- You will have about a 30 – 60 minute break before your MRI scan; we provide food and drink at your request.

What to Expect for the MRI scan

- Like your first visit, you will be trained outside the scanner in about six different cognitive tasks until you feel comfortable with each one. These tasks will be different than the ones from your first visit. The training will take 30 – 60 minutes.
- When the training is finished, you will move to the scanner room where the functional and structural magnetic resonance imaging fMRI/MRI scans will be done.
- During the fMRI scans you will be asked to complete the same tasks that you had just practiced, with short breaks in between tasks.
- In addition to the cognitive tasks, two resting-state MRI scans will be completed. You will simply be asked to relax during these scans.
- **It is critical that you remain completely motionless while the MRI machine is scanning.** You will have a short break between scans, about 1 – 2 minutes of rest for every 5 – 10 minutes of scanning. You can feel free to adjust your position in between scans.
- The MRI scanner is completely safe and painless, but noisy. You will be provided with earplugs to reduce the noise level.
- Total scan time, including breaks, is about 1.5 hours.