



# Health Care Forum

ASK THE MEDICAL EXPERTS

## PET/CT Imaging Shows Promise For WNY Cancer Patients

Numerous positive community responses have been received from both ordering physicians and patients for the PET/CT Scanner, Windsong Radiology Group's latest acquisition. The Positron Emission Tomography/Computerized Tomography Scanner, as it is formally called, is a first for WNY and is showing great promise for cancer imaging.

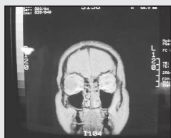
Since its debut in July, the Windsong Radiology Group has scanned approximately 50 PET/CT patients, many with positive results for cancer. Using other traditional imaging, these may have gone undetected. PET/CT has proven to be very accurate in diagnosing, staging and monitoring many types of cancer. It is also becoming more widely used to evaluate and diagnose both heart disease and brain disorders. It can show changes or abnormalities that may not be detected using more traditional imaging techniques. A single PET/CT scan allows imaging of most organ systems, thereby reducing or even eliminating the need for additional tests or other invasive procedures.

Although separate PET and CT scanners have been available in WNY for years, the combined imager is rela-

tively new and generates fused imaging information that is proving more valuable than either PET or CT alone. Older model PET offers imaging as to the function of cancer cells, but shows up as a "hot spot" with only limited anatomic landmarks. CT imaging lacks the ability to confirm that an abnormal area is cancer yet provides detailed anatomy. Since the two exams are combined into a single study, PET/CT also provides for a much shorter and more accurate scan with enhanced image quality.

The advantages for patients are tremendous. Early studies have shown the enhanced information obtained from PET/CT can change the management in cancer patients in up to 30% of cases. Moreover, since the tests are combined, it costs less per case. Both radiation treatments and chemotherapy regimens can be changed sooner through PET/CT monitoring and surgical decisions can be made more readily as well.

In the life of a cancer patient, every day counts! For more information, please call (716) 631-2500 ext. 140. **By: Janet Sung, M.D.**



## Imaging Experts

**What is PET/CT?** Positron Emission Tomography / Computerized Tomography, also called PET/CT is a unique, non-

invasive imaging tool that combines evaluation of body systems in a single exam. PET/CT has proven to be very accurate in diagnosing, staging and monitoring many types of cancer, and is also becoming more widely used to evaluate and diagnose heart disease and many brain disorders.

### Why might my physician order a PET/CT scan?

PET/CT scanning is used primarily in the diagnosis, staging and monitoring of many types of cancer. It can show changes or abnormalities that may not be detected using more traditional imaging techniques. A single PET/CT scan allows us to report to your physician on most organ systems. This possibly eliminates or reduces the need for additional tests, and other invasive procedures.

**Eric Snitzer, M.D. & Stuart Rubin, M.D.**

**Windsong Radiology Group**

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