

Why Ga68 PET for Neuroendocrine Cancer Patients?

Ga-68-labeled somatostatin analogs are important imaging agents to detect and manage neuroendocrine tumors (NETs). The Gallium 68 scan, used with functional PET imaging, is a nuclear medicine scan that relies on the over-expression of somatostatin receptors to visualize tumours. NETs typically express several somatostatin receptor subtypes in a unique pattern based on tumour type, origin and grade of differentiation. Ga68 scans offer the advantages of improved image resolution and higher sensitivity.

Ga68 PET:

- Offers high quality images that provide information that exceeds what is available from conventional imaging (¹¹¹In-Octreotide, contrast enhanced CT).
- Can detect tumors as small as 4 millimeters.
- Has different roles depending on what the tumour is doing.
- May be used for diagnosis, staging and restaging, deciding best form of treatment and monitoring the effect of treatment.
- Identifies patients who are viable candidates for PRRT therapy.
- Cost of scan is currently comparable to Octreotide and therefore no further burden on provincial funding agencies.

Change in Patient Management:

Ga68 has the potential to delineate the extent of disease accurately for proper management:

- Different studies found that Ga68 PET led to change in management in 36% to 56% of patients.
- Could spare patients from invasive futile surgery.
- Offers the ability to tailor treatments for patients based on a more accurate assessment of tumor burden.
- Potential to find unknown primary. Important for NET patients who have had surgery to remove metastases but have an unknown primary tumor.
- Earlier diagnosis for symptomatic patients.
- May also provide additional information, such as if a tumor is well or poorly differentiated. Poorly differentiated tumors are more aggressive and with the GA-68 scan the likelihood of a tumor's growth may be determined.
- In one trial, patients who were previously considered to be inoperable went on to have surgery, and patients with previously unknown and extensive cancer who were originally slated for surgery were found to be inoperable.

Patient Convenience:

- No significant toxicity
- Lower radiation exposure
- Shorter examination time
- Fewer visits to hospital with scan completed in one day as opposed to multiple days for Octreoscan

Ga68 PET is available in Canada at Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada, J1H 5N4

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Applying for Ga68 Scan in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Ensure the referring physician indicates how the Ga68 PET scan may influence the clinical management of the patient. Please refer to CNETS Canada website: [Ga68 Scan](#) for further information/guidance on approval process per province.

British Columbia Pre-approval requests to be submitted to PCR@gov.bc.ca .	Alberta Awaiting response	Saskatchewan Awaiting response
Manitoba Awaiting response	Ontario Contact CCO's PET Access Program for an application form via CCO PET Access Program online .	Quebec Covered under Quebec Health Insurance Plan. No need for pre-approval.
New Brunswick Provide the medical reasons for the scan for prior approval (by letter) & faxed or mailed to: Dr. Zeljko Bolesnikov Medical Consultant Medicare PO Box 5100 Fredericton, NB E3B 5G8 Fax: (506) 457-7671	Nova Scotia Provide the medical reasons for the scan and submit for prior approval (by letter) to MSI at Fax # 902-490-2275. Further Contact Info for MSI (Medical Services Insurance) P: 902-496-7008, 1-800-563-8880 msi@medavie.ca https://novascotia.ca/DHW/msi/moving_travel.asp	PEI Written (letter) request with patient history and the reason (diagnosis) for the request to be directed to Arlene Powers for pre-approval by fax to 902-569-0581.
Newfoundland Not covered	NWT Awaiting response	Nunavut Awaiting response