Result Feedback Guide for PITT ADRC Participants
Dementia Syndrome, Aβ-

Background

We used something called positron emission tomography, or PET, for short. PET scans allow doctors to see activity in a person's brain. The PET scan that you had uses a substance called Pittsburgh Compound-B (PiB) which is given through a shot in the arm at the time of the scan.

PiB sticks to a protein in the brain called amyloid-beta (Aβ), or amyloid for short. Amyloid is often found in the brains of patients who have Alzheimer's disease (AD), but is sometimes present in the brains of older adults who do not have AD dementia.

Many scientists believe that amyloid builds up over many years before any symptoms of memory loss begin. Up until recently, amyloid could only be seen by doing an autopsy after the patient died. By using a PiB scan, we can tell now whether or not you have amyloid build up in your brain.

Result

Your scan did not show significant levels of amyloid build up in your brain at this time.

This finding suggests that Alzheimer's disease (AD) may not be the cause of the changes in memory or thinking that you are experiencing.

Keep in mind that there are other causes of memory decline and changes in thinking besides AD (for example, stroke and Parkinson's disease). PiB scans do not give us information about these non-Alzheimer's types of dementia.

Because the PET scan that you had was part of a research study, these results will not automatically appear in your medical record. A summary of your results may be shared with your medical provider upon request and completion of a HIPAA release form.

Follow-up: (ADRC staff member's name here) will be phoning you in a few weeks to check-in with you. If you have questions about these results or wish to speak with someone sooner, please call (# here), at any time.