

Result Feedback Guide for PITT ADRC Participants Cognitively Healthy, A β -

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 (A β), 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 means that you likely have a lower chance of developing symptoms of Alzheimer's disease (AD) within the next few years as compared to someone who has amyloid build up in their brain.

Limitations of this information – It is not possible for researchers to predict with certainty whether you will ever develop Alzheimer's disease in your lifetime.

We are still learning about other factors, both genetic and environmental, that determine risk for AD.

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.