

Prostate Cancer, Day 5,593½ – Scan No. 4 Completed

Blogger Dan Zeller completed his fourth PSMA PET scan, which looks for a prostate-specific membrane antigen protein found on prostate cancer cells.

March 16, 2026 By [Dan Zeller](#)

My fourth PSMA PET scan is in the books. If I keep this up, I should join a PSMA PET scan loyalty club—have five scans and get the sixth one free.

It started with me drinking 500 ml of water two hours before the scan. On arrival, I was weighed (I guess to help calculate how much Gallium-68 to inject?), and the tech started an IV. He walked away and wheeled in a cart with a small, lined box containing the injection syringe, and pushed the glow juice into my arm through the IV.

Once the juice was in, he removed the IV, and I leaned back in my recliner for the hour-long wait for the juice to make its way through my system. At the end of the hour, we headed to the scanner room where I emptied my pockets, jumped on the scanner table, and got strapped in so my arms wouldn't move.

The scanner wasn't claustrophobic for me, and it took 41 minutes to run up my body (they start at the thighs and work their way up to the head).

When I was through, I hopped off the table, collected my things, and headed home.

I have to admit that when I walked out of the hospital, I was really surprised by how much my body and mind unwound from the apparent subconscious nervous tension I was harboring. Going into it, I didn't seem fazed by it all. It was routine for me. Heck, I'm on a first-name basis with the nuclear medicine tech (we'll call him Sam) because he's done all three of my scans at the VA. But apparently my subconscious had a different experience. Oh well. Nothing a good nap won't cure.

I asked Sam how quickly the results would be available, and he said it could be as soon as this afternoon, but within 48 hours if they're not.

From my previous scans with Sam, I've learned to not even think of asking him if he saw anything of concern during the course of the scan. He resoundingly (and rightly) always answered that it's up to the doctor to interpret and provide the results.

I've also come to know that, for Sam, bedside manners seem to be optional. He's not unprofessional in any way, but he is all business and sometimes even borders on the grumpy side. As I was leaving, Sam said something in such a way that he let his tough façade down. His voice became just a hint softer as he said, "You take care now" in a caring way.

Of course, that caught my attention and got my mind racing. I'm really, really, really trying not to read too much into that and get ahead of the actual results, but he said it two more times before I left. That makes me wonder what he saw that may have changed his demeanor.

Of course, my exhausted Gallium-68-infused brain may be making all this crap up, and I may get a good laugh out of it in a day or two. Or not.

As usual, stay tuned for the next chapter in this saga. I have my appointment to go over the results on 24 March.

Be well!

[This post](#) originally appeared March 4, 2026, on [Dan's Journey Through Prostate Cancer](#). It is republished with permission.

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