

Natural gallium ( $^{31}\text{Ga}$ ) consists of a mixture of two stable isotopes: gallium-69 and gallium-71. The most commercially important radioisotopes are gallium-67 and gallium-68.

Gallium-67 (half-life 3.3 days) is a gamma-emitting isotope (the gamma emitted immediately after electron-capture) used in standard nuclear medical imaging, in [procedures](#) usually referred to as gallium scans. It is usually used as the free ion,  $\text{Ga}^{3+}$ . It is the longest-lived radioisotope of gallium.

The shorter-lived gallium-68 (half-life 68 minutes) is a positron-emitting isotope generated from germanium-68 in gallium-68 generators, for use in a small minority of diagnostic PET scans. For this use, it is usually attached as a tracer to a carrier molecule, which gives the resulting radiopharmaceutical a different tissue-uptake specificity from the ionic  $\text{Ga}^{3+}$  radioisotope normally used in standard gallium scans.

## 68Ga-DOTATATE PET

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Last update: **2025/04/29 20:26**

