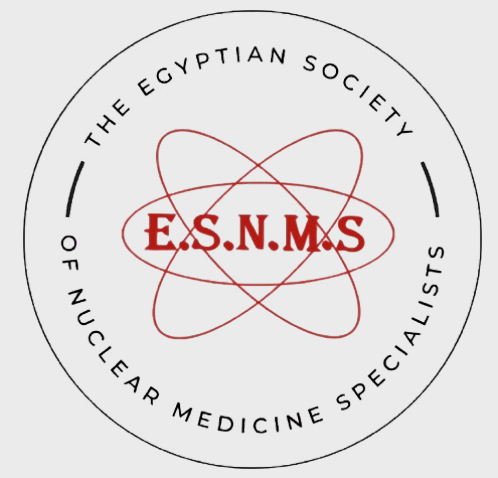


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20th CONFERENCE OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE

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Saturday- Sunday
11th - 12th April, 2026

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In the Memory of Father of Nuclear Medicine Physics in Egypt



Prof. Dr. Gaber Ziada

- We honor the memory of [Professor Dr. Gaber Ziada](#), the pioneering figure and the father of Nuclear Medicine Physics in Egypt.
- He graduated from the Faculty of Science, Cairo University in 1970, earned his MSc in 1975, and PhD in 1978. He became a Professor of Nuclear Medicine Physics in 1989 and was appointed Emeritus Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University in 2007.
- Throughout his illustrious career, he contributed profoundly to the development of Nuclear Medicine both in Egypt and abroad. He undertook sabbatical leaves at Kuwait University (1983–1988, 1994–1999, 2002–2015) and received advanced training at the KFA Nuclear Research Center, Germany (1979–1981). His expertise was recognized internationally, with multiple missions as an IAEA expert to countries including Kuwait, Egypt, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Morocco, Australia, Germany, and Austria between 1984 and 2008.
- [Professor Gaber Ziada](#) played a pivotal role in establishing MSc and PhD programs in Nuclear Medicine at Cairo and Kuwait Universities and devoted himself to postgraduate teaching in Nuclear Medicine Physics, Instrumentation, and Computer Applications at Cairo, Assiut, and Kuwait Universities. He supervised [42 PhD and 31 MSc](#) students, authored [65 manuscripts](#) in international journals, and contributed extensively to conferences with [53 posters and abstracts](#).
- His international engagement included memberships in the Egyptian Science Syndicate (1971), American Society of Nuclear Medicine (1984), European Society of Nuclear Medicine (1985), and the Egyptian Society of Nuclear Medicine, where he served on the Board of Directors from 2023 until his passing.
- [Professor Gaber Ziada's](#) dedication, mentorship, and vision have shaped generations of nuclear medicine specialists and left an ineffaceable mark on the field. His legacy will continue to inspire both his students and colleagues around the world.

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(1) Professor: Abdel-Razzak Award

For young doctor in Nuclear Medicine field less than 35-year-old.

He / She should have best oral presentation during the 2026 Conference Meeting.

(2) Professor: Abdel-Dayem Award

For doctors less than 45-year-old during the 2026 Conference Meeting.

He / She should submit (3) International Articles or Articles Published in EJNM in last 3 years.

Conference Location:

- Triumph Plaza Hotel – Cairo, Egypt.

Conference Language:

- Official language of the Conference is English.
- No simultaneous translation will be provided.

Projection:

- Computer projection is available and Computer data should be handed over to the Conference office one-hour before the session.

Climate:

- The weather during April in Cairo region is generally hot by day and good by night.

Visa:

- Citizens of most countries require entry visa for Egypt.
- The Egyptian Embassy and/or Consulate in your country can inform you if a visa is necessary.

Important Guidelines:

For Chairpersons:

- Please be in your session place at least 10 minutes before its start.
- Speakers should be strictly stuck to presentation and discussion time.
- Discussion will be as end the of session.

For Speakers:

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Ass. Prof. Elshaymaa Hussein

E-mail : elshaymaa_hussein@yahoo.com

Social Program:

Saturday	11/04/2026	08:30 - 09:15	Registration.
Sunday	12/04/2026	15:20 - 16:00	Closing ceremony.

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The 20th CONFERENCE OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE



Expanding Horizons in Nuclear Medicine

Day 1 - SATURDAY, April 11, 2026

- ◆ **Session I: 09:30– 12:20**
Nuclear Medicine in Complex Clinical Reality
Immunotherapy / Infection
- ◆ **Session II: 13:00– 15:30**
Next-Generation Molecular Imaging
FAPI PET/CT / Total-Body PET/CT / Cardiac

Day 2 - SUNDAY, April 12, 2026

- ◆ **Session III: 09:30– 12:20**
Exploiting Molecular Signatures of Disease
PET/CT Brain / Thyroid/ Breast/ Neuroendocrine
- ◆ **Session IV: 13:00– 16:00**
The Future of Nuclear Medicine
Theranostics/ Artificial Intelligence





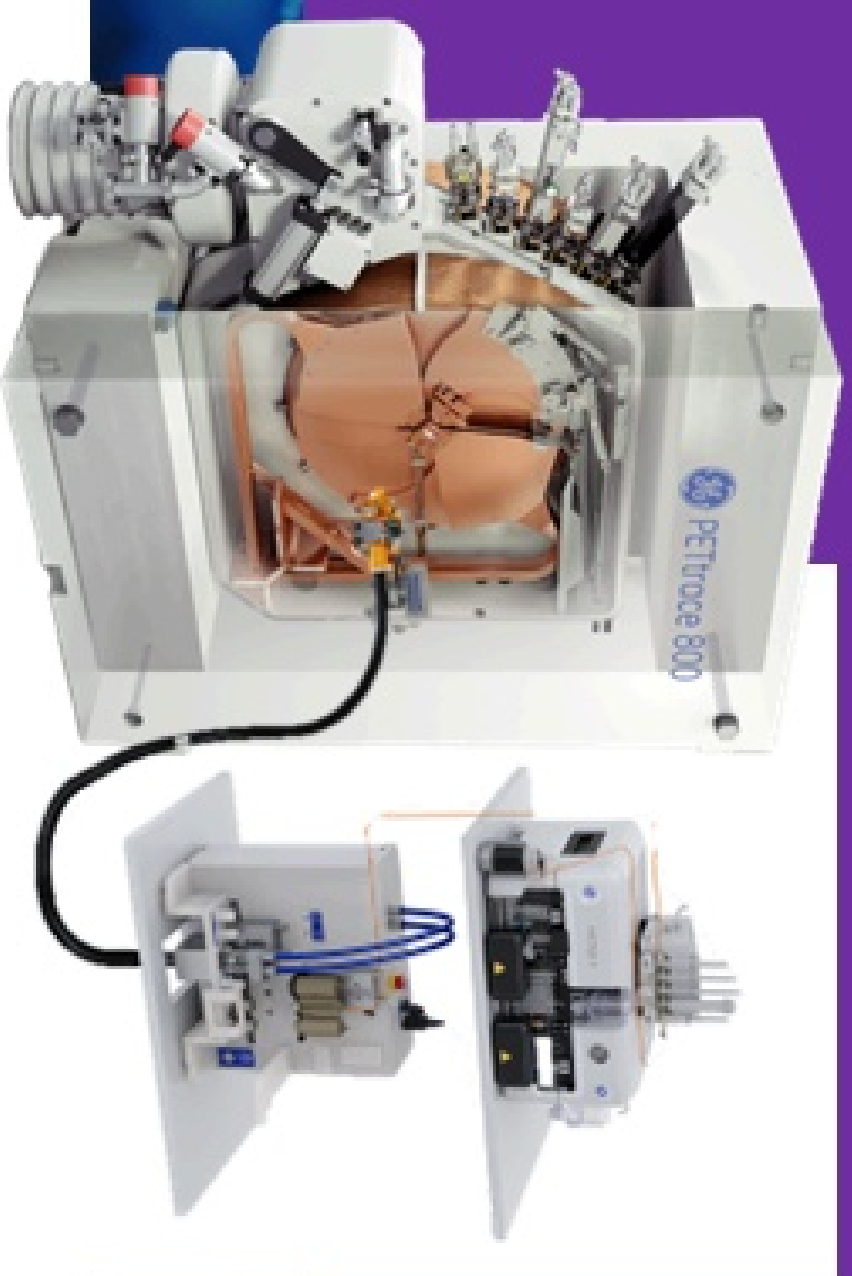
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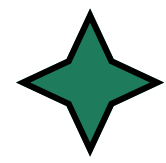


The 20th CONFERENCE OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE

Expanding Horizons in Nuclear Medicine



Day 1 - SATURDAY, April 11, 2026



Session I: 09:30– 12:20

Nuclear Medicine in Complex Clinical Reality

Immunotherapy /Infection



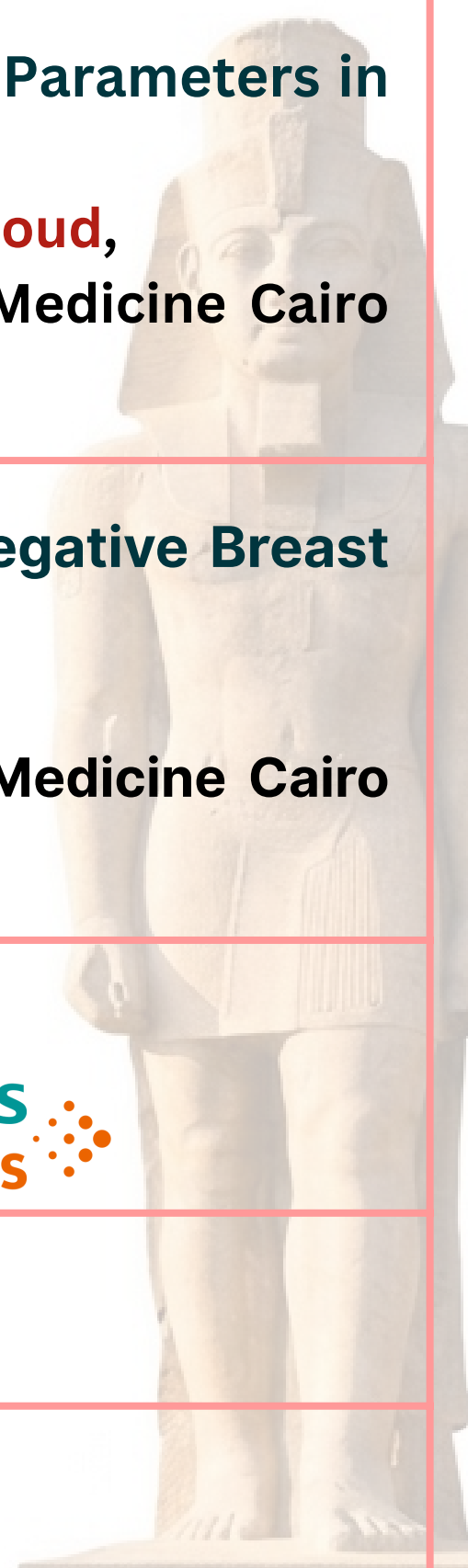
Chair Persons:

Prof. Dr. **Walid Omar** (Egypt)
 Prof. Dr. **Mai Amr** (Egypt)
 Consultant Dr. **Adel Khedr** (Egypt)

09:30 - 10:00	FAPI PET/CT as New Insights in Oncology	Egesta Lopci (Italy)
10:00 - 10:30	Diabetic foot Disease. Update on Diagnostic Strategy	Abdelhamid Elgazzar (Egypt)
10:30 -10:50	PET/CT in Fever of Unknown Origin	Aya Nawaar (UK)
10:50 - 11:20	PET Myocardial Perfusion	Raef Riad (Australia)

FREE PAPERS

11:20 – 11:30	<p>Prognostic Value of 18F-FDG PET/CT Volume Based Metabolic Parameters in Patients with Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma.</p> <p>¹Randa Koura, ²Hosna Mostafa, ¹Esraa El kholy, ¹Ahmed Abdelmaksoud, ¹Nuclear Medicine Unit, NCI, Nuclear Medicine Unit Faculty of Medicine Cairo University, Egypt</p>
11:30 – 11:40	<p>Evaluating the Diagnostic Performance of PET/CT in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer.</p> <p>¹Rawan Sherra, ²Tarek ElMaghraby, ¹Maha Mehesen, ¹Dina Deif ¹Nuclear Medicine Unit, NCI, ²Nuclear Medicine Unit Faculty of Medicine Cairo University, Egypt.</p>
11:40 – 12:10	<p>Biograph Trinion, Future forward by design"</p> <p>Eng. Ahmed Sayed: "Business Manager MI Egypt "</p>
12:10 – 12:30	DISCUSSION
12:30 – 13:00	Coffee Break



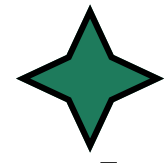


The 20th CONFERENCE OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE

Expanding Horizons in Nuclear Medicine



Day 1 - SATURDAY, April 11, 2026



Session II: 13:00– 15:30

Next-Generation Molecular Imaging

FAPI PET/CT / Total-Body PET/CT/ Cardiac



Chair Persons:

Prof. Dr. **Ashraf Fawzy** (Egypt)

Prof. Dr. **Ahmed Zaher** (Egypt)

Prof. Dr. **Walid Diab** (Egypt)

13:00 – 13:20	The current status and barriers for NM service delivery in Africa”?	Anita Brink (IAEA Austria)
13:20 – 13:50	Response to immunotherapy.	Egesta Lopci (Italy)
13:50 – 14:10	Long-axial-field-of-view (LAFOV) PET-CT in oncology for diagnosis and precision therapy	Antonia Dimitrakopoulou-Strauss, (Germany)
14:10 – 14:30	Non-oncologic applications of total-body PET	Yasser Gaber (USA)

FREE PAPERS

14:30 – 14:40	<p>Clinical-based Machine-Learning Model for Prostate Cancer Stage Prediction. Abdelhamid Elhendy¹, Ahmed Kandeel¹, Mohammed Houseni², Hussam Zawam¹ and Ahmed Badawy¹</p> <p>¹Department of Clinical Oncology and Nuclear Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University. ²Radiology department, National Liver institute, Menoufia University, Egypt</p>
14:40 – 14:50	<p>The Added Value of F-18 fluorodeoxyglucose Positron Emission Computed Tomography PET/CT in Assessment of Pleural Metastases in Breast Cancer Patients. ¹Mayada Ashraf, ¹Esraa El-Kholy, ¹Salma Abdelaziz AbdelAzim Badr, ²Ahmed Abdelsamie Kandeel¹</p> <p>¹Nuclear Medicine Unit, National Cancer Institute, ²Nuclear Medicine Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt.</p>
14:50 – 15:10	DISCUSSION
15:10 – 15:40	<p>Value of Ga-Trivehxin PETCT Dr.Mohamed Elkanawaty</p>
15:40 – 17:00	Lunch



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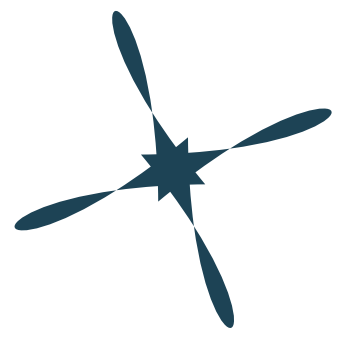


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Day 2 - SUNDAY, April 12, 2026

★ **Session III: 09:30– 12:20**

Exploiting Molecular Signatures of Disease
 PET/CT Brain / Thyroid/ Breast/ Neuroendocrine




Chair Persons:

Prof. Dr. **Ahmed Kandeel** (Egypt)
 Ass. Prof. Dr. **Abou El-magd El- Noby** (Egypt)
 Consultant Dr. **Abd Elmoneim Omar** (Egypt)

09:30 - 10:00	PET in Degenerative Brain Disease. Relationship Between Tau and Cognition in the Evolution of Alzheimer's Disease.	John Buscombe (UK)
10:00 - 10:30	Novel Theragnostic Concepts in Thyroid Cancer Management	Markus Luster (Germany)
10:30 -11:00	Estrogen Receptor Targeting with 18F-Fluoroestradiol (18F-FES PET): Applications and Interpretation.	Hussien Farghaly (EGYPT)
11:00 - 11:30	PET in Neuroendocrine Tumors.	Tarek Elmaghraby (EGYPT)

FREE PAPERS

11:30 – 11:40	<p>18F-PSOutperforms Conventional Bone Scintigraphy in Detecting Bone Metastases from Prostate Cancer.</p> <p>¹Waleed Alaa El-Deen El-Hosary, ¹Abubakr Yehia ElHawary, ¹Khaled Mohamed Taalab, and ²Yasser Mohamed El-Sayed.</p> <p>¹Armed Forces College of Medicine, ²Nuclear Medicine Department, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University</p>
11:40 – 11:50	<p>Evaluation of 18F-FDG-Avid Thyroid Incidentalomas.</p> <p>Doaa Ibrahim¹, Samar Maher², Ahmed Abdelrady³, Nagwa Abd El-Sadek Ahmed⁴ Mai Sayed¹.</p> <p>¹Nuclear Medicine Unit, Department of Clinical Oncology and Nuclear Medicine, University. ² Radiology department, Sohag Oncology Center, ³Department of Radiology, Al zhar University, Assuit branch, ⁴ Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Sohag University, Egypt</p>
11:50 – 12:10	DISCUSSION
12:10 – 13:00	 <p>Group Photo / Coffee Break</p>

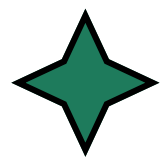


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Day 2 - SUNDAY, April 12, 2026



Session IV: 13:00– 16:00

The Future of Nuclear Medicine
Theragnostics/ Artificial Intelligence



Chair Persons:

- Prof. Dr. **Sherin Wagih** (Egypt)
 Prof. Dr. **Yasser El-Saied** (Egypt)
 Ass. Dr. **Alaa Eldeen Nagy** (Egypt)

13:00 - 13:30	Novel Theragnostic Concepts in Prostate Cancer Management.	Markus Luster (Germany)
13:30 - 14:00	The Latest Advances in Peptide Receptor Radionuclide Therapy for Gastro-entero-pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors.	John Buscombe (UK)
14:00 - 14:30	Artificial Intelligence for improving Nuclear Medicine images: Opportunities and Cautions	Ramsey Badawy (USA)

FREE PAPERS

14:30 – 14:40	Correlation between SUVmax value and Gleason Grade in Patients with Suspected Prostate Cancer by 18F-PSMA PET/CT Mona Saeid¹ Passant Shibel², Hoda Anwar¹. ¹ Department of Clinical Oncology and Nuclear Medicine ² Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt
14:40 – 14:50	Tumor Sink Effect in F-18-PSMA PET/CT Hisham Shebeta, Hoda Anwar, Maha Abd Elkareem, Marwa Maamoun. Department of Clinical Oncology and Nuclear Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt .
14:50 – 15:10	DISCUSSION
15:10 – 16:00	Closure & Awards Prof. Dr. Hosna Moustafa (Egypt) Prof. Dr. Khalid M. Taalab (Egypt)



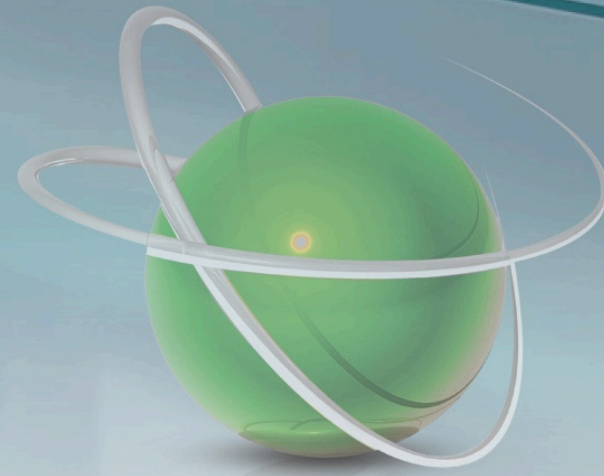
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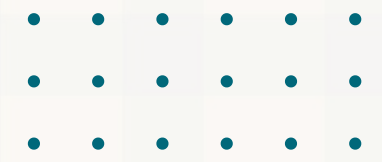
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Expanding Horizons in Nuclear Medicine



ABSTRACTS



123-456-7890

Prognostic Value of 18F-FDG PET/CT Volume Based Metabolic Parameters in Patients with Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma

¹Randa Koura, ²Hosna Mostafa,,¹Esraa El kholy, ¹Ahmed Abdelmaksoud

¹Nuclear Medicine Unit, NCI, ²Nuclear Medicine Unit Faculty of Medicine Cairo University, Egypt.

Purpose: Malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM) is a disease with poor prognosis but there is variation in survival between patients. Prognostic information is therefore potentially valuable in managing patients, particularly in the context of clinical trials where patients could be stratified according to risk. Therefore, we have evaluated the prognostic ability of parameters derived from baseline 18F-FDG PET/CT. **Methods:** In order to determine the relationships between metabolic activity and prognosis of disease. We reviewed all 18F-FDG PET/ CT scans used for pretreatment staging of MPM patients in NCI from January 2016 to May 2021 (n =56) and measured SUV including mean, maximum and peak values, MTV and TLG. Overall survival (OS) or time to last censor was recorded, as well as histological subtypes. **Results:** Median follow-up of 41 cases "remaining cases have missing survival dates" (was 7.07 months and median OS was 19.28 months. OS rate at 1 years = 70.1%. By ROC curve analysis of 18F-PET/CT for primary site; SUVmax (p =0.030), SUVpeak (p =0.023), SUVmean (p =0.019) and TLG (p =0.010) were significantly associated with prediction of disease progression. ROC curve analysis of 18F-PET/CT for primary/liver ratio; only TLG (p =0.038) was significantly associated with prediction of disease progression. Univariate OS analysis in relation to 18F-PET/CT for primary site; SUVmean (P=0.002) SUVpeak (P =0.026) and TLG (P= 0.006) were significantly associated with OS. Multivariate analysis showed (P= 0.005), was independently predicting OS (P= 0.005), . Univariate analysis in relation to demographic, pathologic and clinical characteristics of patients; Age (P= 0.005), site (P= 0.037), M stage (P= 0.004) and Mass max. diameter (P= 0.031) were significantly associated with OS. Multivariate analysis showed only age group (p =0.015) and max diameter (p =0.026), were independently predicting OS.

Conclusions: 18F-FDG PET/CT parameters that take into account functional volume (SUVmean and SUVpeak, SUVmax and TLG) show significant associations with survival in patients with MPM and are worthy of further evaluation to determine their ability to stratify patients in clinical trials.

Evaluating the Diagnostic Performance of PET/CT in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

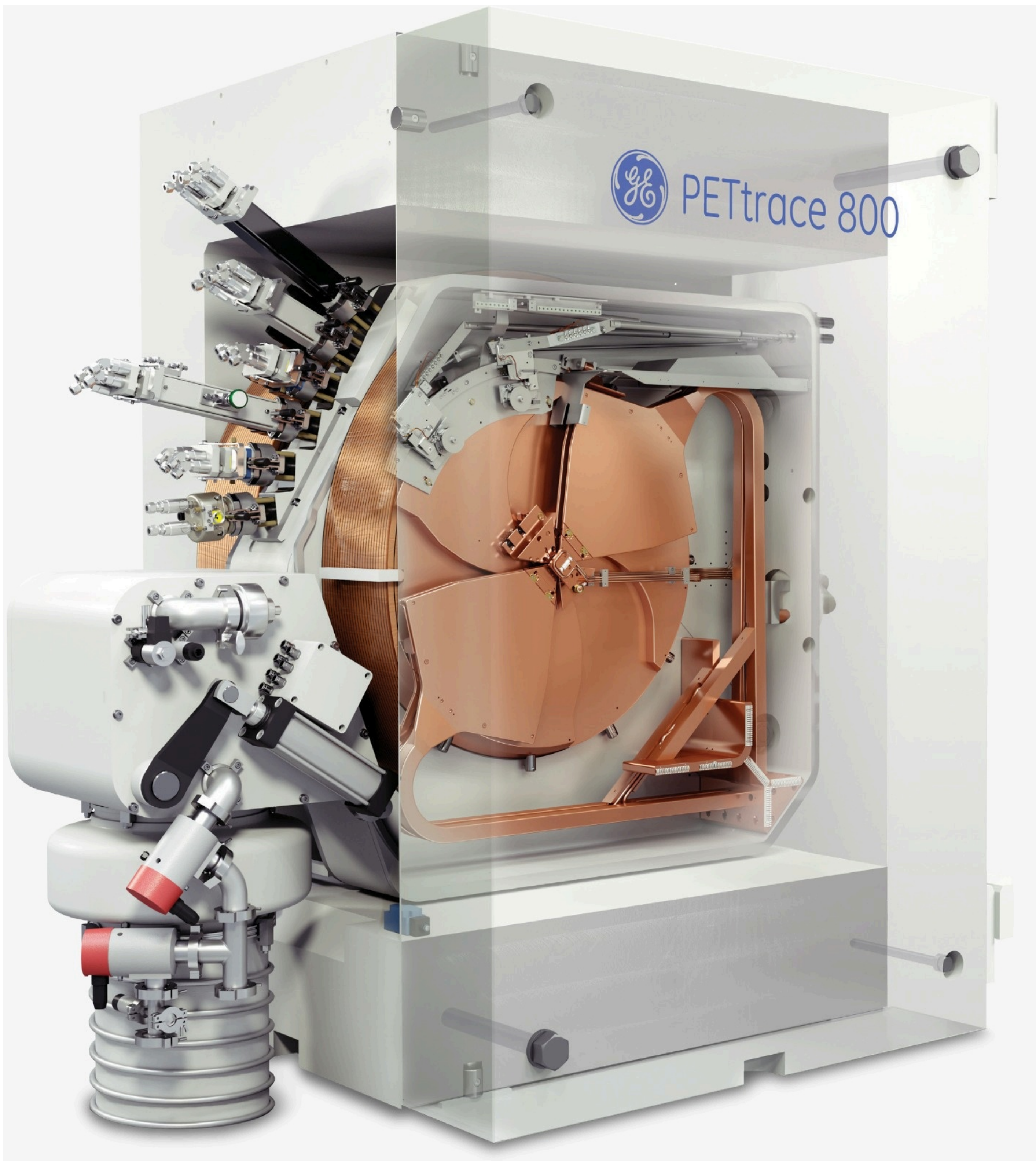
¹Rawan Sherra, ²Tarek ElMaghraby, ¹Maha Mehesen, ¹Dina Deif

¹Nuclear Medicine Unit, NCI, ²Nuclear Medicine Unit Faculty of Medicine Cairo University, Egypt.

Background and aim of work: This study aimed to investigate the role of positron emission computed tomography (PET/CT) in the initial staging of triple negative breast cancer (TNBC).

Methods: This is a combined retrospective and prospective observational study conducted to include 40 adult patients with pathologically proven TNBC for initial assessment by the standard ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT. Among them, 13 patients were enrolled in a prospective sub-study and underwent both ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT and ¹⁸F-PSMA PET/CT within a one-week interval for comparative analysis. **Results:** ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT demonstrated superior performance, causing stage migration in 37.5% of patients by detecting distant metastases in 17 versus only 12 with CT. It identified nodal metastases in 82.5% of patients (vs. 52.5%), including crucial extra-axillary sites. Prognostically, high TLG predicted lymphatic spread, while high MTV indicated systemic dissemination. Tumor grade correlated strongly with metabolic activity, with Grade III tumors exhibiting nearly double the SUVmax of Grade II tumors (14.1 vs. 7.7). Exploratory PSMA PET/CT in 13 patients showed preferential, higher uptake in osseous metastases (SUVmax 9.7 vs. 6.6 for FDG) and potential for detecting brain lesions, indicating a complementary role for future theranostic strategies.

Conclusions: ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT is critical in the management of TNBC, as it accurately defines true disease extent, detects occult metastases, and quantifies metabolic tumor burden—enabling precise staging, reliable prognostic stratification, and informed personalized treatment planning. Meanwhile, PSMA PET/CT demonstrates promising potential in identifying specific metastatic patterns, supporting its complementary role and warranting further investigation for future tailored therapeutic strategies.



Clinical-based Machine-Learning Model for Prostate Cancer Stage Prediction

Abdelhamid Elhendy¹, Ahmed Kandeel¹, Mohammed Houseni², Hussam Zawam¹ and Ahmed Badawy¹

¹Department of Clinical Oncology and Nuclear Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University.

²Radiology department, National Liver institute, Menoufia University, Egypt.

Background: PSMA PET/CT is a powerful diagnostic tool for prostate cancer staging. Clinical data such as Grade Group and PSA are the cornerstone of prostate cancer risk stratification. Our aim is to use the PSMA PET/CT results to train and evaluate a clinical-based machine-learning model that can discriminate between non-metastatic versus metastatic prostate cancer patients.

Methods: 210 patients with prostate cancer who underwent F-18 PSMA PET/CT for initial staging were categorized into non-metastatic (NOM0) and metastatic (either NOM0 or M1) groups. These results were used to train and evaluate a model, using Grade Group and PSA (free and total). Using Python 3.10, the dataset was divided into training/validation (85%) and test (15%) sets, the former was stratified into 4-folds for training and cross-validation. Missing data were imputed using the median of the training fold. Multiple machine learning models were used for training and cross-validation. The model that showed balanced performance across different validation folds was trained over the whole training/validation dataset and tested over the test set. **Results:** The XGBoost model showed balanced performance metrics and least standard deviation across validation folds with overall AUC = 0.83 (0.80 – 0.87), F1 = 0.78 (0.73 – 0.82), accuracy = 0.79 (0.75 – 0.82), precision = 0.82 (0.77 – 0.89), sensitivity = 0.75 (0.68 – 0.82) and specificity = 0.83 (0.77 – 0.93). The final XGBoost model trained over the complete training dataset, when tested over the test set had an AUC = 0.78, F1= 0.77, accuracy = 0.78, precision = 0.80, sensitivity = 0.75 and specificity = 0.81.

Conclusion: The current clinical-based machine-learning model demonstrated a promising stable and balanced performance. Large-scale external validation is recommended to determine its potential clinical applications.

The Added Value of F-18 Fluorodeoxyglucose Positron Emission Computed Tomography PET/CT in Assessment of Pleural Metastases in Breast Cancer Patients

¹Mayada Ashraf, ¹Esraa El-Kholy², ¹Salma Abdelaziz AbdelAzim Badr², ²Ahmed Abdelsamie Kandeel¹

¹Nuclear Medicine Unit, National Cancer Institute, ²Nuclear Medicine Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt

Aim of work: This study aimed to investigate the feasibility of F-18 fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) positron emission computed tomography (PET/CT) in identifying the pleural invasion of breast cancers and its relation to patient's outcome and survival. **Methods:** A retrospective study was conducted to include 537 patients with pathologically proven breast cancer who had undergone PET/CT scan in different disease stages. 115 patients showing a different array of pleural lesions which were then confirmed/ruled out by the cytological evaluation and/or follow up either by another post therapy PET/CT scan or by other conventional radiological CT or MRI. These results were then correlated with prognosis and OS of these patients. **Results:** All of 115 patients were female with a mean age of 53 ± 12 . Ninety-nine (86.1%) patients had other distant metastatic sites. Different patterns of pleural involvement were analysed including effusion, nodular thickening, diffuse thickening, or even a combination of these patterns simultaneously with a percent of 40%, 22%, 33.3% and 4.7% respectively. Metastatic disease was diagnosed in the pleura of 81 (%) and ruled out in 32 (%) of the patients. The sensitivity and specificity of PET/CT in detecting pleural metastases associated with breast carcinoma was calculated as 92.5% and 94.1%. PET/CT also indicated a false negative rate of 5.3%, a false positive rate of 1.8% and an overall accuracy rate of 93%. The presence of pleural metastases was related to the site of primary mainly associated with LIQ lesions ($p < 0.001$), also it greatly affected the prognosis and over-all survival ($p < 0.001$), even worsening when associated with other distant metastases ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusions: The simultaneous presence of sizable and FDG avid pleural lesions is a sensitive marker to suspect pleural metastases. PET/CT qualitative and quantitative assessment while reporting a suspicious pleural lesion is beneficial as it can affect and help map out the treatment approach to enhance the over-all prognosis and survival.

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¹⁸F-PSMA PET/CT Outperforms Conventional Bone Scintigraphy in Detecting Bone Metastases from Prostate Cancer

¹Waleed Alaa El-Deen El-Hosary, ¹Abubakr Yehia ElHawary, ¹Khaled Mphamed Taalab, and Yasser Mohamed El-Sayed.

¹Armed Forces College of Medicine, ²Nuclear Medicine Department, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University⁴

Introduction: Prostate cancer (PCa) is a leading cause of cancer-related morbidity, with bone being the most frequent site of metastasis. Accurate detection of bone metastases is crucial for staging, prognosis, and guiding therapy. While conventional bone scintigraphy (BS) with ^{99m}Tc-MDP has been the traditional modality, it suffers from limited specificity. Positron Emission Tomography/Computed Tomography with Fluorine-18 prostate-specific membrane antigen (¹⁸F-PSMA PET/CT) offers a novel, targeted approach with potentially superior diagnostic accuracy. **Objectives:** This study aimed to directly compare the diagnostic performance of ¹⁸F-PSMA PET/CT versus conventional ^{99m}Tc-MDP bone scintigraphy for detecting bone metastases in patients with prostate cancer. **Patients and Methods:** This observational cross-sectional study was conducted at the El-Galaa Military Medical Complex and included 40 male patients with histologically confirmed prostate cancer and clinical/radiological suspicion of bone metastases. Each patient underwent both ¹⁸F-PSMA PET/CT and whole-body ^{99m}Tc-MDP bone scintigraphy. Images were interpreted independently by two blinded nuclear medicine specialists. Diagnostic accuracy parameters (sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, negative predictive value, overall accuracy) were calculated for both modalities, using a composite reference standard integrating CT morphology, follow-up imaging, and clinical data. **Results:** The mean patient age was 69.8 ± 9.09 years. PSMA PET/CT demonstrated significantly higher diagnostic performance. It identified bone metastases in 95% (38/40) of patients, compared to 57.5% (23/40) with bone scintigraphy. PSMA PET/CT showed superior sensitivity (96.6% vs. 82.4%), specificity (100% vs. 83.3%), and overall accuracy (90% vs. 82.5%) in predicting bone metastasis. PSMA PET/CT also detected a greater number of metastatic sites, particularly in the axial skeleton (e.g., spine: 65% vs. 37.5%), and provided comprehensive staging by identifying extra-prostatic extension (42.5%), lymph node metastases (77.5%), and visceral metastases (15%). Regression analysis confirmed that higher PSA, Gleason score, tumor stage, and prostate SUVmax were significant predictors of bone metastasis. **Conclusion:** ¹⁸F-PSMA PET/CT is significantly more accurate than conventional ^{99m}Tc-MDP bone scintigraphy for the detection of bone metastases in prostate cancer patients. It provides superior sensitivity and specificity, enables earlier and more precise lesion localization, and facilitates comprehensive whole-body staging in a single examination. These findings strongly support the adoption of PSMA PET/CT as a first-line imaging modality for staging and restaging in advanced prostate cancer.

Evaluation of ¹⁸F-FDG-Avid Thyroid Incidentalomas

**Doaa Ibrahim¹, Samar Maher², Ahmed Abdelrady³, Nagwa Abd El-Sadek Ahmed⁴
Mai Sayed¹**

¹ Nuclear Medicine Unit, Department of Clinical Oncology and Nuclear Medicine, University.² Radiology department, Sohag Oncology Center, ³ Department of Radiology, , Al zhar University, Assuit branch, ⁴ Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Sohag University, Egypt.

Introduction: The frequency of incidentally discovered thyroid nodules has risen markedly in recent years. ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT has become an important tool in oncological practice. FDG-avid thyroid incidentalomas raise clinical concern because a considerable proportion may be malignant. **Methods:** In this retrospective study, approximately 1000 PET/CT scans were reviewed, and 31 patients were identified with FDG-avid thyroid incidentalomas. All patients underwent thyroid US, and nodules were classified according to the Thyroid Imaging Reporting and Data System (TI-RADS) into three groups: not suspicious (TI-RADS 1 and 2), borderline (TI-RADS 3), and suspicious (TI-RADS 4 and 5). Fine needle aspiration cytology (FNAC) was performed for nodules with TI-RADS 3 classification measuring >1 cm, as well as for all nodules categorized as TI-RADS 4 and 5. Cytological results were reported using the Bethesda system. **Results:** Among the 31 FDG-avid TNs, 11 were TI-RADS I–II, 7 were TI-RADS III, and 11 were TI-RADS IV–V. SUV values were higher in suspicious nodules ($p = 0.023$), with TI-RADS scores positively correlating with SUVmax ($\rho = 0.025$, $r = 0.4$). FNAC confirmed malignancy in 7 nodules (22.5%; Bethesda VI), benign pathology in 6 nodules (19.4%; Bethesda II), while 2 nodules (6.5%) yielded inconclusive results. **Conclusion:** The integration of TI-RADS-based US assessment with FNAC enhances diagnostic accuracy and provides a practical strategy for risk stratification of FDG-avid thyroid incidentalomas. Incorporating of SUVmax and metabolic tumor volume, PET/CT parameters may help in diagnostic precision and clinical decision-making.



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Correlation between SUVmax value and Gleason Grade in Patients with Suspected Prostate Cancer by 18F-PSMA PET/CT

Mona Saeid¹, Passant Shibel², Hoda Anwar¹

¹Department of Clinical Oncology and Nuclear Medicine, ²Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt.

Objective: To determine whether 18F-PSMA PET/CT's SUVmax may foretell the existence of clinically relevant prostate cancer and whether the degree of uptake correlates with the grade of the prostatic cancer lesions. **Methods:** This study included 51 patients with clinical or radiological suspicion of prostate cancer, who underwent 18F-PSMA PET/CT in our center. SUVmax was measured over 6 ROIs in the prostate (right base, left base, right mid, left mid, right apex, left apex), and a pathological specimen was taken from the same ROIs to determine whether these specimen include cancer or not and if cancer is present, its Gleason grade. **Results:** The mean age of our study group was 68 years+ 7.6 SD. The highest SUVmax was found in the left base (10.9 +14.4 SD), while the lowest SUVmax was found in the right apex with SUVmax6.9 +5.7 SD. Spearman's correlative analysis found a statistically significant relationship between SUVmax and the Gleason grades in all regions, with p-values 0.005, 0.033, 0.042, 0.005, 0.017, 0.011 for the left base, for the right base for the left mid for the right mid, for the left apex, for the right apex respectively. With a sensitivity of 72%, specificity of 71%, and an overall accuracy of 72%, ROC curve analysis showed that a cut-off of 4.7 SUVmax was necessary for the prediction of prostate cancer.

Conclusion: SUVmax as detected by 18F-PSMA PET/CT can serve an in vivo marker for the identification of prostate cancer with a high clinical grade. Moreover, the magnitude of uptake as expressed by SUVmax is an indicator of the degree of aggressiveness of the tumor.





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Tumor Sink Effect in F-18-PSMA PET/CT

Hisham Shebeta, Hoda Anwar , Maha Abd Elkareem, Marwa Maamoun

Department of Clinical Oncology and Nuclear Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt

Objective: We aimed to examine the impact of the tumor burden on the biodistribution of 18F-prostate-specific membrane antigen-1007 (18F-PSMA 1007) in PET imaging by the use of quantitative measurements. **Methods:** This retrospective analysis included 100 males with prostate cancer who underwent 18F-PSMA PET/CT. For each prostate cancer lesion, the metabolic tumor volume (PSMA-TV) was measured via an automatic segmentation tool based on 50% threshold. Then, the “total lesion PSMA expression” (TL-PSMA) was calculated by multiplying PSMA-TV by SUVmean of each lesion. The whole-body PSMA tumor burden is the sum of TL-PSMA values of all lesions in each patient. Based on this tumor burden, patients were divided by quintiles into 5 groups. A very low (group 1, tumor burden ≤ 400), low (group 2, 401-1250), moderate (group 3, 1251 – 2500), high (group 4, 2501 - 6500), and very high (group 5, ≥ 6501) whole body total lesion PSMA-expression (TL-PSMA) or tumor burden. Different groups were compared and correlation between tumor burden and SUVmax/SUVmean of reference background organs was conducted. Reference organs for the normal background tissue uptake were the parotid glands, lacrimal glands, liver, spleen and kidneys. **Results:** Tumor burden showed a moderate negative correlation with the SUVmean of the right kidney ($r = -0.448$), left-kidney ($r = -0.357$), right parotid gland ($r = -0.4$), left parotid gland ($r = -0.413$, $P < 0.001$), and left lacrimal gland ($r = -0.337$) and a weak negative correlation with the SUVmean of right lacrimal gland liver and spleen. Patients with a very high tumor burden (group 5, ≥ 6500) had a significantly lower PSMA uptake in the lacrimal, salivary glands, kidneys, liver, and spleen compared to other groups ($P < 0.001$).

Conclusions: Tumor sequestration affects 18F-PSMA 1007 bio-distribution in normal organs. As tumor sink effect may occur with PSMA-targeted radio-ligand therapy (RLT), patients with very high tumor burden might benefit from higher therapeutic doses without exceeding the radiation dose limit for organs at risk.



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