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Positron emission tomography in the management of lymphoma

(Review)

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Abstract

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In the field of lymphoma, ^{18}F -fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography (^{18}F -FDG PET) has become the metabolic imaging technique of choice. ^{18}F -FDG PET has currently utility in staging of lymphoma, planning and monitoring of therapy, radiotherapy planning, evaluation of residual mass, detection of recurrence, follow-up and prognostification. Nodal, extranodal, and bone marrow involvement have been imaged by ^{18}F -FDG PET with great sensitivity and specificity. It has a definite role in therapy monitoring of lymphoma, however it is always indicated to correlate positron emission tomography findings with pre-treatment ^{18}F -FDG PET scan, clinical data, other imaging modalities, biopsy, or all to reduce the risk of false positive results. Promising data are available on the predictive role of ^{18}F -FDG PET after one or few cycles of chemotherapy (interim scan) which may improve the management of lymphomas by identifying those patients who can be cured with minimal treatment and equally those for whom conventional treatment is doomed to failure and in whom more intensive strategies should be employed from the outset. Combined PET and computed tomography (PET/CT) has the best of both worlds of metabolic and anatomic imaging and may provide optimal disease assessment. It may be particularly useful for the planning of radiation therapy or for the planning of a surgical biopsy. Copyright © Hellenic Society of Haematology.

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