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Diagnostic accuracy of incidental focal colonic uptake on ^{18}F-FDG PET/CT in patients with non-abdominal Cancers

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An imaging modality ^{18} F-FDG PET/CT has been gaining popularity in screening and staging of malignant diseases. Meanwhile, incidental colonic focal lesions can be identified on PET/CT in patients who undergo PET/CT for other reasons than expected colon diseases. The aim of this study was to evaluate the accuracy of incidentally detected colonic lesions on PET/CT and to correlate with colonoscopy and histopathological findings.

Patients those who underwent PET/CT for non-abdominal cancer work-up with incidentally identified focal colorectal radiotracer activity on PET/CT were included to study . Patients with known colorectal cancers were excluded. Colonoscopy was performed in all patients with this incidental finding in order to exclude colonic malignancy. Maximum standardized uptake value (SUVmax), CT findings, colonoscopy findings and histopathological results were analyzed in all patients. True positive lesions were considered as colorectal cancer, adenomatosus adenomas and hyperplastic polyps.

Focal PET/CT colorectal activity was incidentally detected in 49 patients with no previous history of colorectal cancer. Of the 49 patients, 35 (71,4%) colonoscopies were performed. Based on pathological findings, fourteen patients (40 %) had adenomatous polyps, 7 (20%) had hyperplastic polyps, 5 (14,3%) had adenocarcinoma. Nine patients (25,7%) had normal colonoscopic examination. The reason for PET/CT was done as follows: Bronchopulmonary cancer 27 (55.1%), breast cancer 11 (22.4%), larynx cancer 7 (14.3%) and 4 (8.2%) miscellaneous non-abdominal cancers. The average SUVmax values of adenocancers and adenomatous /hyperplastic polyps were 13.5 and 6.11. The average size of adenocancer and polyps were 21m and 7.2 mm repectively.

Based on this study, we recommend to do colonoscopy and histological analysis in all patients with unexpected focal FDG activity found in colon during a PET/CT examination for unrelated reasons.

Speaker Biography

Yusuf Gunay graduated from Ankara University medical school in 1999 and then completed a general surgery residency at Ankara Numune Hospital, Ankara, Turkey. He then completed his first abdominal transplant surgery fellowship at The Ohio State University in 2010 and followed by MIS fellowship at University of Iowa in 2011 and the second Abdominal Transplant Surgery fellowship at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in June 2017. Currently, he is an assistant professor at Bulent Ecevit University, Zonguldak, Turkey. He has many publications mainly in abdominal transplant surgery.

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