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Introduction and clinical application of PET/CT for oncologists

In recent decades, 18F-Fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) Positron Emission Tomography/Computed Tomography (PET/CT) is a non-invasive imaging modality and has been routinely used for diagnosis, staging, restaging, assessing treatment response, detecting recurrence after treatment and evaluating prognosis of patients in various malignancies. Because tumor FDG uptake is associated with tumor aggressiveness, positive tumor FDG uptake on visual analysis and intensity of uptake, expressed as maximum Standardized Uptake Value (SUV_{max}), volumetric parameters including Metabolic Tumor Volume (MTV), Total Lesion Glycolysis (TLG) and intra-tumoral heterogeneity reflecting the biological tumor conditions such as metabolism, hypoxia, necrosis, and cellular proliferation. In this forum, we overview the introduction and clinical applications of oncologic PET/CT that investigated metabolic characteristics on various cancers, and we discuss the clinical roles of PET/CT for patients with malignant disease and for clinical oncologists. Although FDG continues to be the most widely used radiotracer for PET imaging, some of the or newer PET imaging agents that have been studied in humans will also be announced.

Biography

Jae Pil Hwang is working in Nuclear Medicine Department at Soon Chun Hyang University Bucheon Hospital and Soon Chun Hyang Medical School, Republic of Korea, where he researches, teaches interpretation of medical imaging and treats cancer patients both in hospital and education institutions. He has completed his Graduation from the Gyeongsan National University of Korea with bachelor's and master's degrees in medicine in 2003 and 2011. Before assistant professor, he worked at Soon Chun Hyang University Hospital as Fellow and Clinical Assistant Professor of Nuclear Medicine and Radiology. Another position is Head of Department of Nuclear Medicine, an Editor of Radiology and Medical Webzine, an Editor of Clinical Radiology and Case Reports, full membership of Korean Society of Nuclear Medicine (KSNM) and sub-director of public relations of KSNM.

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