

Pet/Ct Characteristics for Metastasis in Patients Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To explore the location of lymph nodal and distant organ metastasis; and SUVmax on PET/CT in non-small cell lung cancer.

Subjects and methods: Patients diagnosed with non small cell lung cancer based on pathology results were retrospective analyzed at Oncology and Nuclear Medicine Department - Bach Mai Hospital, from November 2015 to October 2018. They were underwent 18F-FDG PET-CT scans before the treatment. The variables include: location, SUVmax of lymph nodal and distant organ metastasis.

Results: PET/CT detects the metastasis at various organs, including mediastinal nodal metastasis, umbilical lymph nodes accounting for the highest rate, respectively 69.5% and 39.3%; followed by lung metastasis of 37.4%, bone metastasis 32.7%, Supraclavicular lymph nodes 20.8%, abdominal lymph nodes 12.9%, adrenal gland 8.8%; liver 6.6%, brain 3.1%. SUVmax was highest in liver and abdominal lymph nodes, respectively 7.53 ± 4.63 and 7.50 ± 3.15 ; the lowest in lung metastases and lung umbilical lymph nodes, respectively 4.41 ± 2.81 and 5.57 ± 2.46 .

Conclusion: PET/CT is a very good imaging technique for detecting lymph nodal and distant organ metastasis in NSLC.

Introduction

Lung cancer is a fairly common malignancy of the respiratory system, the most common cause of cancer death in Europe in 2006 (about 334,800 deaths), after prostate cancer and is the most common type of cancer in men. The morbidity and mortality rates in 2006 were 75.3 and 64.8 / 100,000 people / year [1]. According to the statistics of the American Cancer Society in 2006, lung cancer was the leading cause of death in cancers (about 162,460 in 2006), accounting for about 13% of all cancers and 28% of the Cancer

deaths [2]. In Vietnam, according to cancer epidemiological records in 2004, lung cancer is the most common cancer nationwide, ranking first among men with the incidence rate in Hanoi of 39.8 / 100,000 [3].

Lung cancer if detected late, the prognosis is very bad, the mortality rate is very high and death within a short time after the disease is detected. Early diagnosis and evaluation of the stage of lung cancer is a necessary and urgent need. Including important

help of the diagnostic means. Conventional X-rays and computer tomography are two techniques for casualty survey. However, assessing the stage of the tumor is still limited. In recent years, the role of PET / CT in diagnosing and assessing the stage of non-small cell lung cancer has been increasingly confirmed. However, in our country, there is no research to mention the role of PET / CT in assessing stage of non-small cell lung cancer

Materials and Methods

Selected as non-small cell lung cancer patients determined by pathological anatomy. Have PET / CT scans according to the method selected in the study. Place: performed at the Department of Oncology and Nuclear Medicine - Bach Mai Hospital. Study period: 11 / 2015-10 / 2018

Study Design: description, retrospective. Convenient sampling; we selected 318 patients eligible for inclusion in the study

Research Facilities and Techniques:

- a) Machine type: PET / CT Biograph True Point - Siemens - Germany.
- b) F-18 FDG radioactive drugs: F-18 FDG solution (2-fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose). Dosage 0.15-0.20 mCi / Kg weight (7-12mCi), intravenous. PET / CT scan: done after F-18 FDG injection 45-60 minutes. Body scan from skull base to 1/3 on femoral bone. Capture additional areas of interest or late as needed.
- c) Assess the results to determine the variables: location, size, SUVmax metastases (lung metastases, mediastinal lymph nodes, distal metastases ...)

Results: (Table 1-5)

Table 1: Divide metastasis rate by location.

Metastatic location	Number of cases	Rate %
Brain	10	3,1
Lymph nodes	36	11,3
Submandibular node	7	2,2
Thyroid gland	2	0,6
Supraclavicular lymph nodes	66	20,8
Lung	119	37,4
Pleural	26	8,2
Pericardium	1	0,3
Mediastinal nodal metastasis	221	69,5
Lung umbilical lymph nodes	127	39,3
Axillary lymph node	16	5,0
Esophagus	3	0,9
Liver	21	6,6
Stomach	3	0,9
Abdominal lymph nodes	41	12,9

Adrenal gland	28	8,8
Inguinal lymph node	3	0,9
Bone	104	32,7
Tissue	12	3,8

Note: non-small cell lung cancer metastases to many organ sites, in which metastatic lymph nodes and umbilical lymph nodes accounted for the highest proportion, respectively 69.5% and 39.3%; followed by lung metastases 37.4%, bone metastases 32.7%, supraclavicular lymph nodes 20.8%, abdominal lymph nodes 12.9%, adrenal metastases 8.8%; liver 6.6%, brain 3.1%.

Table 2: Characteristics of PET / CT in assessment of mediastinal lymph node location.

Mediastinal lymph node location	Number of lymph nodes (n=281)	Rate %
Near carina	3	1,1
Under carina	55	19,6
After carina	2	0,7
Above the carina	10	3,6
Before carina	47	16,7
Near the aortic artery	17	6,0
Below the aortic artery	31	11,0
Above the aortic artery	1	0,4
Before the aortic artery	5	1,8
Near the trachea	14	5,0
Before trachea	12	4,3
Original bronchus	14	5,0
Near the original bronchus	7	2,5
Near the heart	1	0,4
Middle mediastinum	1	0,4
Above mediastinum	19	6,8
Previous mediastinum	4	1,4
Upper mediastinum	38	13,5

Note: Metastatic mediastinal lymph nodes many locations, in which mediastinal lymph nodes under carina and before carina accounted for the highest proportion, respectively 19.6% and 16.7%.

Table 3: Division of median lymph node diameter.

Median size of lymph nodes (cm)	Number of lymph nodes (n=281)	Rate %
≤ 1	54	19,2
> 1 - 2	144	51,2
> 2 - 3	48	17,1
> 3 - 4	22	7,8
> 4 - 5	4	1,4
> 5	9	3,2
Smallest, largest, medium	Minimum: 0.4 cm; The largest: 8.2 cm Average: 1.88 ± 1.19 cm	

Note: Half of the mediastinal lymph nodes size > 1-2cm; smallest lymph nodes 0.4 cm the largest: 8.2 cm; Average: 1.88 ± 1.19 cm.

Table 4: Bone metastases location detected on PET / CT.

Location of bone metastases	Number of cases	Rate %
(n= 107)	Rate %	3,1
Spinal metastases	24	22,4
Pelvic metastases	25	23,4
Metastasis of ribs	21	19,6
Multifocal bone metastases	37	34,6

Note: Metastatic bone metastases accounted for a high proportion (34.6%), pelvic metastases accounted for 23.4%; spine 22.4% and ribs 19.6%.

Table 5: SUVmax of common metastatic lesions.

Metastatic location	Number of cases SUVmax
(TB±SD)	36
Mediastinal lymph nodes	6,10±3,31
Lung umbilicus lymph node	5,57±2,46
Lung	4,41±2,81
Bone	6,53±3,30
Supraclavicular lymph nodes	6,05±2,92
Abdominal lymph nodes	7,50±3,15
Adrenal gland	5,83±3,70
Liver	7,53±4,63

Note: SUVmax is highest in liver and abdominal lymph node injury, respectively 7.53 ± 4.63 and 7.50 ± 3.15 ; lowest in metastatic lung lesions and umbilical lymph nodes, respectively 4.41 ± 2.81 and 5.57 ± 2.46 .

Discussion

Non-small cell lung cancer is a malignant disease, with the majority of patients presenting with distant metastases at diagnosis [4]. Research results: UPC metastases to many organ locations, including metastases of mediastinal lymph nodes, umbilical lymph nodes accounted for the highest proportion, respectively 69.5% and 39.3%; followed by lung metastases 37.4%, bone metastases 32.7%, supraclavicular lymph nodes 20.8%, abdominal lymph nodes 12.9%, adrenal metastases 8.8%; liver 6.6%, brain 3.1%. Metastasis of mediastinal lymph nodes with many positions, in which mediastinal lymph nodes under carina and before carina accounted for the highest proportion, respectively 19.6% and 16.7%. Half of the mediastinal lymph nodes size > 1-2cm; smallest lymph nodes 0.4 cm the largest: 8.2 cm; Average: 1.88 ± 1.19 cm

Of the 119 cases of lung metastases, 71.4% of them had lung cancer on the same side, 16.8% had metastases on the other side and 11.8% had metastases on both sides. Multifocal bone metastases accounted for a high proportion (34.6%), pelvic metastases 23.4%; spine 22.4% and ribs 19.6%. SUVmax is highest in liver and abdominal lymph node lesions, respectively 7.53 ± 4.63 and 7.50 ± 3.15 ; lowest in metastatic lung lesions and umbilical lymph nodes, respectively 4.41 ± 2.81 and 5.57 ± 2.46 . The clinical

signs and symptoms of lung cancer are often vague or nonspecific, including cough, chest pain, hoarseness, recurrent pneumonia and coughing up blood. Conventional X-rays help find lung nodules or tumors, but often produce false-negative results, especially in early-stage disease [5]. In a study of 396 lung radiographs of proven lung cancer patients from 1992-1995, nearly 20% of lung cancer was undetectable, usually with nodules less than 1.6 cm in diameter [6]. Many cases were not detected on radiographs, until lesions were detected relatively large in size [5]. Computed tomography is greatly improved compared to pulmonary X-ray in detecting small lesions [7].

For non-small cell lung cancer, PET / CT is better than computerized tomography for distinguishing benign and malignant lesions and is far more valuable in evaluating lymph node invasion and metastases far from muscles Other officials [8]. Research by Antoch et al. [9] shows that the superior detection of PET / CT scans compared with PET scans or computed tomography in evaluating T-stage small cell non-small cell lung cancer (accuracy 94 % with PET / CT versus 75% of PET or computerized tomography, stage N (93% accuracy with PET / CT and 63% for computerized tomography and 89% for PET alone). PET / CT is also better at detecting distant metastases than CT or PET alone. Although the accuracy of PET / CT is higher than that of computerized tomography in lung cancer assessment. However, in some non-malignant cases such as inflammation, granulomatosis (mycobacterial infection, sarcoidosis), recent surgery may have a false positive result with FDG uptake [10].

Conclusion

Most cases of non-small cell lung cancer have regional metastases (lung metastases, umbilical lymph nodes, mediastinal lymph nodes) and distant metastases when diagnosed. PET / CT is a very good imaging technique for detecting metastatic lesions, helping to guide treatment and prognosis.

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