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Title: 18F-FDG (fluorodeoxyglucose) uptake in focal organizing pneumonia mimicking bronchial carcinoma

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Body: Objective: To assess role of positron-emission tomography (PET) with fluorodeoxyglucose 18F for the diagnosis of focal organized pneumonia (OP) that may mimic bronchial carcinoma. Patients and Methods: Medical records of 14 patients with mass-like lesions on the chest X-ray who underwent diagnostic thoracotomy with initial diagnosis of lung carcinoma were evaluated respectively. Results: There were 10 (71.4%) male and 4 (28.6%) female patients. The mean age was 57.2±11.7 (38-85) years. Focal lung lesions were initially detected by chest radiography in 10 (71.4%) patients and by CT scan in all patients. CT scan showed single lesions in 12 (85.7%) patients. Distribution of lesions were equal for both right and left lungs. Eight (57.1%) lesions were located in upper lobes, 2 (14.3%) in middle lobes and 4 (28.6%) in lower lobes. Margin of the lesions was smooth in 2 (14.2%) patients whereas it was irregular or spiculated in 8 patients (57.1%). Six (42.8%) patients had solitary nodules and eight (57.1%) patients had numerous masses; two of them with consolidation, another two with reticular pattern and one with pleural thickening. Median diameter of lesions was 3.4 (1.8 - 6.0) cm. PET was performed in all patients and hypermetabolic activity of lesions was demonstrated in all cases. Median value of maximal SUV was 3.5±2.7 (2.1-13.1). Five (35.7%) patients had intrathoracic lymphadenopathy. Conclusion: Focal OP is a rare form of OP that is associated with discrete unifocal lesions on radiological images. It can easily be misdiagnosed as lung cancer because of mass like pattern and positive PET scans. PET scan does not give us any evidence to distinguish focal OP from lung carcinoma.