

The added value of FDG PET/CT in oesophageal cancer
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Positron emission tomography (PET) with ^{18}F -Fluoro-2-déoxyglucose (FDG) has been largely investigated in the oncological diseases of the digestive tract, including esophageal carcinoma. This metabolic imaging technique has largely benefited in the past few years from the development of devices integrating a PET scanner and a CT scanner, allowing for the acquisition of both studies as part of a single session.

Even though most tumors are highly FDG avid, neither PET nor PET/CT is able to accurately depict the T stage of a newly diagnosed esophageal carcinoma. However, PET/CT has shown superior to other techniques in assessing the N stage, especially for distant nodes and the M stage of the disease. The combination of PET/CT and endoscopic ultrasonography (EUS) is therefore the recommended association in the pretherapeutic staging of the disease .

In addition to this well-established indication, other clinical indications have emerged for PET/CT. These include the prognostic value of the metabolic stage, the use of metabolic imaging for assessing the response to chemotherapy or chemoradiotherapy, and the integration of the metabolic information into the definition of the target volume for radiation therapy planning . The clinical results of PET/CT are highly encouraging, even though these indications are not fully validated yet.