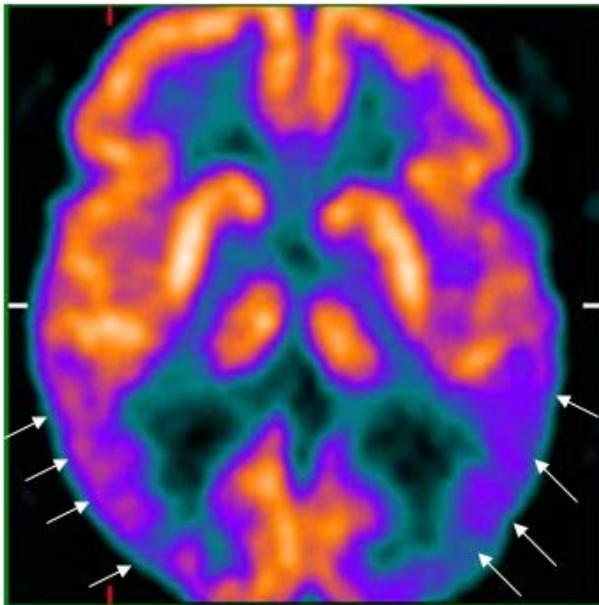
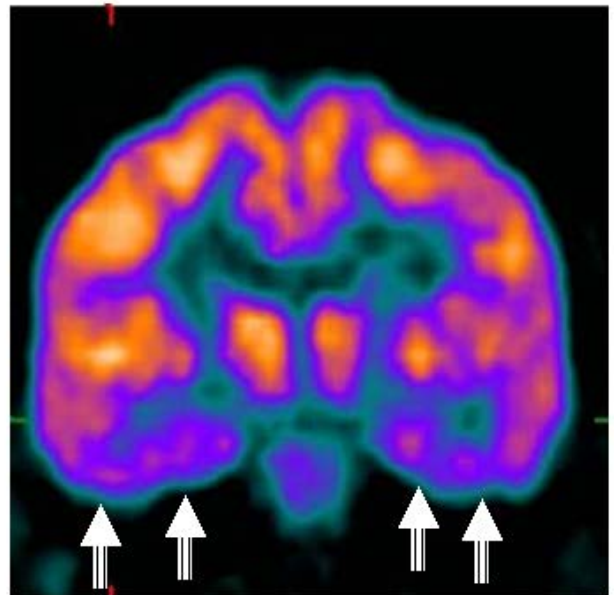




Alzheimer's Disease



PET transverse section through basal ganglia and thalami



PET coronal section through thalami

This 56-year-old man was referred to a neurologist for confusion, memory loss and getting lost while traveling. His clinical evaluation and neuropsychological testing was suggestive of **dementia of the Alzheimer's type**. A brain MRI only showed mild non-specific generalized volume loss.

A PET scan was obtained which showed bilaterally decreased FDG uptake in the parietal (small arrows) and temporal regions (large arrows).

How did the PET-CT help?

The PET confirmed the clinical impression of Alzheimer's disease by showing a pattern of FDG uptake classic for Alzheimer's disease.

In a recent study involving 284 patients undergoing evaluation for dementia, PET detected progressive dementia with a sensitivity of 93% and a specificity of 76% (1). The initial pattern of cerebral metabolism was significantly associated with the subsequent course of progression overall and a negative PET scan indicated that pathologic progression of cognitive impairment during the mean 3-year follow-up was unlikely to occur.

(1) JAMA 2001;286:2120-2127