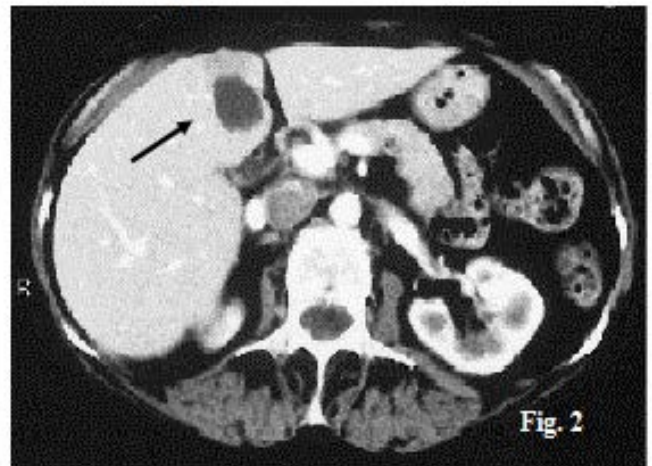
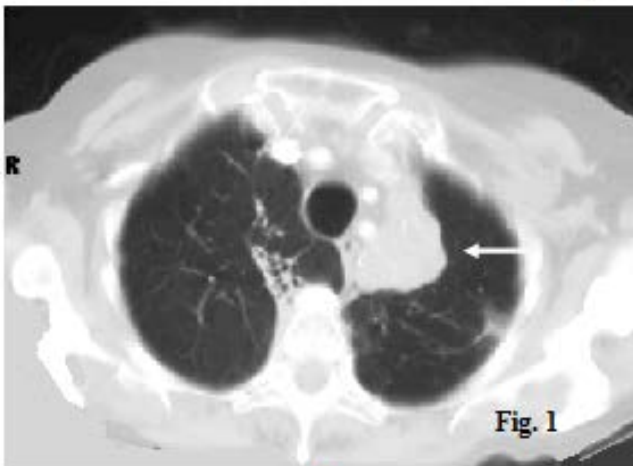




Nuclear Medicine

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Services

Lung Mass



This 77 year old patient with a remote history of tuberculosis was found to have a **left upper lobe density** on chest radiograph. The chest CT was reported as: “A soft tissue mass is seen in the prevascular space measuring 4.2 X 3.5 cm and is most worrisome for a neoplasm (Fig. 1). Cystic hepatic lesions are noted, however not meeting the requirements for simple cysts and metastatic foci cannot be excluded (Fig.2)”.

A PET scan was obtained which showed no evidence of malignancy in the chest, in the liver or in the rest of the body (Fig. 3).

Why did the PET help?

On the basis of the PET scan results and taking in consideration the background of the patient, no further testing was performed and invasive procedures were avoided.

In a recent meta-analysis to evaluate the accuracy of PET for diagnosis of pulmonary nodules and mass lesions, 1474 pulmonary lesions were included. The sensitivity was reported at 96.8% associated with a high negative predictive value (1).

(1) JAMA 2001;285:914-924