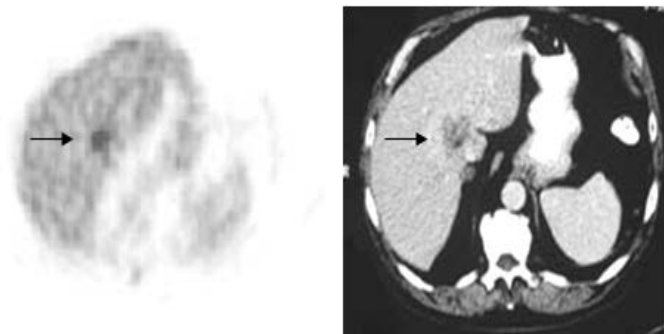
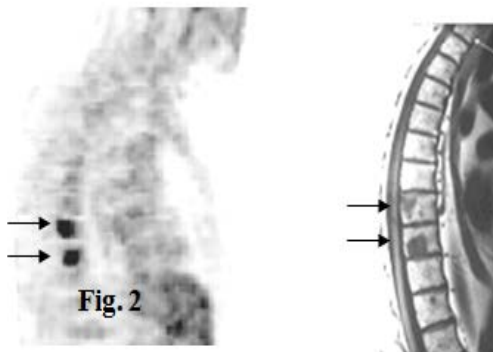
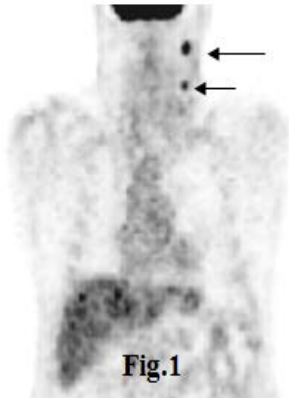




Nuclear Medicine

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Services

Parotid Cancer



This 69-year-old man was status post surgical resection of a high grade infiltrating adenocarcinoma of the left **parotid** gland. Two out of 4 lymph nodes showed metastasis. The patient was asymptomatic without back pain or constitutional symptoms. A PET scan was obtained for restaging prior to radiation therapy and showed:

- Multiple positive nodes in the left cervical region (Fig. 1)
- Several spinal metastases (Fig. 2) confirmed by MRI (Fig. 3)
- A single liver metastasis in the caudate lobe (Fig. 4) confirmed by CT (Fig. 5)

Why did the PET help?

The PET scan showed that the patient had much more extensive disease than previously thought (distant metastases), radiation therapy to the surgical bed was not a management option and palliative chemotherapy was more appropriate.

In a recent abstract (1) involving 54 patients with suspected recurrence of head and neck cancer, PET sensitivity and specificity in assessing recurrence were 97% and 90% respectively.

(1) J Nucl Med 2002;43(5)72P