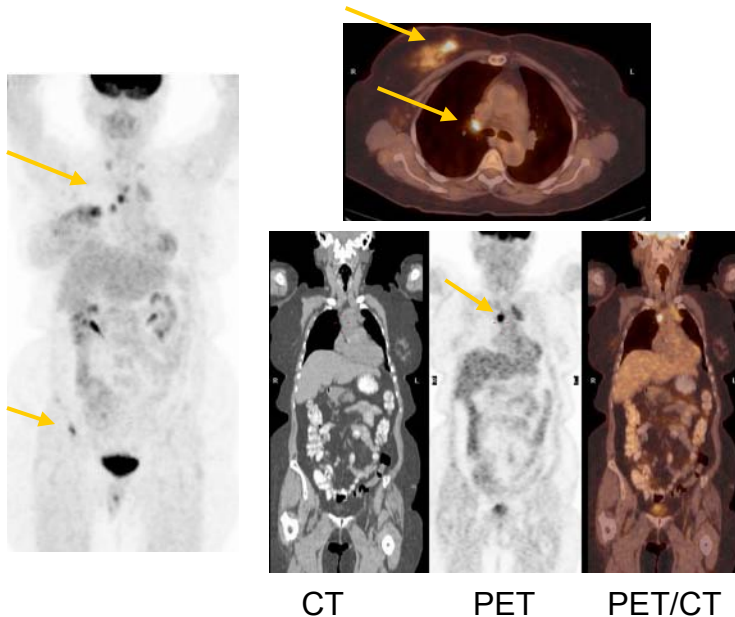


Case of the Month Breast Cancer



PATIENT HISTORY

➤ 65 Y/O female with history of right-sided inflammatory breast cancer. PET/CT for initial staging for metastases.

PET/CT FINDINGS

- Abnormal FDG uptake in:
 - Right Breast
 - Bilateral supraclavicular lymph nodes
 - Mediastinal and hilar lymph nodes
 - Right ilium

IMPRESSION

➤ Findings consistent with metastatic breast cancer.

DISCUSSION

➤ This case illustrates the value of PET/CT to properly stage breast cancer and guide treatment. Prior to the PET/CT, the only known lesion was the primary tumor in the right breast. The PET/CT scan showed multiple lesions throughout the patient's body in one non-invasive scan.

Featured Indication:

Breast Cancer

PET/CT has been shown to be of increasing value in the staging and management of patients with various cancers. While CT alone provides high-resolution morphologic information, diagnoses are usually based on lesion size. Studies have shown, however, that up to 21% of lymph nodes smaller than 1 cm to be malignant, whereas 40% of those larger than 1 cm were demonstrated to be benign.¹

Yap, et al, showed that information provided by PET resulted in a significant change in clinical stage in 36% of breast cancer patients studied. The majority of those patients were upstaged due to PET's findings of distant, unsuspected disease spread.²

PET/CT has also been shown to be particularly useful in assessing breast cancer treatment success. Schelling, et al, showed that anatomical imaging does not consistently distinguish viable tumor from fibrotic scar tissue following treatment. Assessment of therapy response should be possible at earlier time points with PET/CT compared with anatomical imaging because a change in tumor metabolism precedes a reduction of tumor size. In this study, therapy response was determined earlier with PET than with any other method of conventional therapy evaluation.³

1. Antoch et al, *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, Vol. 22, No. 21, November 1 2004
2. Yap, C., et al, *Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, Vol 42, No. 9, Sept. 2001.
3. Schelling, M., *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, Vol. 18, No. 8, 2000,

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The Stage

September 2005

We're Covered...

Trident PET of Fayette, Gwinnett and Savannah accept patients with the following private insurance plans...

- Aetna
- BCBS
- Cigna
- Coventry
- First Health
- Humana
- Medfocus
- Medicare
- Multiplan
- One Health
- PHCS
- TriCare
- UHC
- USA MC Network

...and others. Check with Trident about specific payer coverage policies.

Medicare Coverage Policy for PET Scans for Breast Cancer

Medicare patients meeting the following criteria for breast cancer *will* be covered

- Initial staging for distant metastases
- Re-staging for local or regional recurrence
- Evaluation of response to treatment

Not Covered by Medicare

- Diagnosis of primary lesion, or screening
- Initial staging of axillary lymph nodes

To Order a PET/CT Scan:

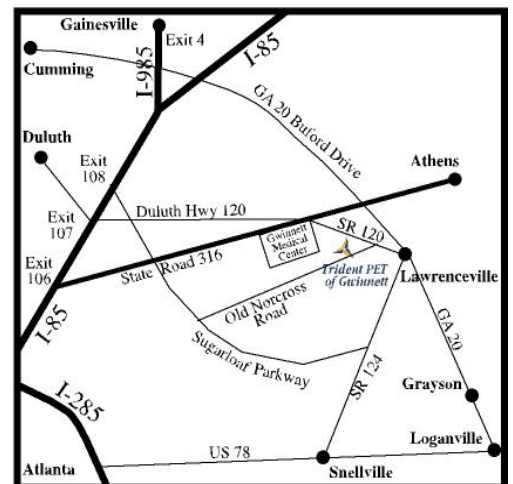
Call: 770-513-2499

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