

Preface

PET/CT has become an integral part of the evaluation of patients who have head and neck cancer. In no other region of the body are accurately co-registered PET and CT images more valuable than in the head and neck, particularly with the complex anatomy and multiple structures with variable physiologic FDG uptake patterns. The use of PET/CT has been studied in head and neck cancer for various applications, including detecting primary mucosal lesions in patients who have unknown primary tumors, staging and restaging. Almost all of the comparative studies in the PET/CT literature suggest there is an incremental benefit of combined PET/CT over that obtained with either PET or CT separately, or even PET and CT viewed together, but acquired from different devices.

This issue of *PET Clinics* provides up-to-date summaries of all of the common indications for head and neck cancer mentioned above, as well as more cutting-edge applications, such as evaluating response to therapy and radiation therapy planning. The information is presented with a focus on the unique synergistic value that PET/CT offers

in evaluating patients who have head and neck cancer.

Each of the chosen authors are well-respected clinicians in their specialties, and together offer a unique perspective on the uses of PET/CT in head and neck cancer.

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