

18F-NaF Positive Bone Metastases of Non 18F-FDG Avid Mucinous Gastric Cancer

Çiğdem Soydal, Elgin Özkan, Özlem Nuriye Küçük, Metin Kemal Kır
Ankara University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Nuclear Medicine, Ankara, Turkey

Abstract

Detection of gastric cancer bone metastasis is crucial since its presence is an independent prognostic factor. In this case report, we would like to present 18F-NaF positive bone metastases of non 18F-FDG avid gastric mucinous cancer.

Keywords: Gastric cancer, bone metastasis, positron emission tomography/computed tomography

Introduction

Gastric cancer could metastasize to different sites prior to diagnosis. The rate of bone metastasis has been reported as 1% to 20% for gastric cancer (1,2,3). Detection of gastric cancer bone metastasis is crucial since its presence is an independent prognostic factor (4). In this report, we would like to present a case with gastric cancer bone metastases that could not be shown by 18F-FDG positron emission tomography/computed tomography (PET/CT).

Case Report

A 58 years old female patient with histopathologically proven gastric mucinous adenocarcinoma was referred to Ankara University Medical Faculty Department of Nuclear Medicine with a request of 18F-FDG PET/CT for staging. The whole body 18F-FDG PET/CT imaging was performed approximately 1 hour after intravenous injection of 370 MBq 18F-FDG. PET/CT images were acquired with GE Discovery ST PET/CT scanner (General Electric, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA). Emission PET images were reconstructed with non-contrast CT data for attenuation correction. In the evaluation of 18F-FDG PET/CT images, there was no pathological uptake in the stomach and whole body except diffuse increase in gastric wall thickness (Figure 1). Multiple sclerotic bone lesions were detected in axial CT images (Figure 2). An 18F-NaF PET/CT was performed to exclude bone metastases. 18F-NaF PET/CT images were obtained by the same scanner and parameters with CT, approximately 30 minutes after intravenous injection of 135 MBq 18F-NaF from vertex to feet. Intense 18F-NaF uptake was seen in multiple sclerotic bone lesions in the vertebral column, sternum, ribs, scalp and both scapula (Figure 3).

Literature Review and Discussion

18F-FDG PET/CT is a hybrid imaging modality used in the staging of several cancers. However, the role of 18F-FDG...
PET/CT in the detection of bone metastases of gastric cancer is controversial (4,5,6,7,8,9,10). No algorithm has yet been defined to detect bone metastases of gastric cancer.

In our case, bone metastases of gastric cancer could not be shown by $^{18}$F-FDG PET/CT. In our case, we suspected bone metastases of gastric cancer in spite of lack of $^{18}$F-FDG uptake, because absence of uptake in the primary tumor was probably related to the mucinous component and sclerotic pattern of bone lesions. For these reasons an $^{18}$F-NaF PET/CT was performed to evaluate bone lesions, and $^{18}$F-NaF PET/CT confirmed bone metastases.

Conventional staging modalities such as bone scintigraphy are more valuable especially in patients with non $^{18}$F-FDG avid tumors. Various imaging methods including $^{18}$F-FDG PET/CT, whole body bone scintigraphy, magnetic resonance imaging and CT could be utilized to detect bone metastases. Tc-99m MDP bone scintigraphy is the traditional method to evaluate bone metastases of several cancers with low cost (5). The poor spatial resolution and longer duration of the examination result in limitations to bone scintigraphy. High quality images of the skeleton can be obtained within one hour after intravenous injection of $^{18}$F-NaF (6). In a recent study, Iagaru et al. (7) have reported that $^{18}$F-NaF PET/CT is superior to $^{18}$F-FDG PET/CT in the detection of bone metastases. An advantage of combined PET/CT systems is that they provide skeletal system evaluation with highly sensitive and specific images (8). During evaluation of $^{18}$F-FDG PET/CT images, skeletal lesions could be seen in CT series and these lesions could be evaluated by other methods to show bone metastases. In patients with non $^{18}$F-FDG avid tumors that could often metastasize to bone, CT series should be carefully evaluated to search bone lesions.

![Figure 1. Axial computed tomography, PET and whole body maximum intensity projection $^{18}$F-FDG positron emission tomography/computed tomography images of the patient. There was no pathological uptake in the stomach or entire body](image1)

![Figure 2. Sagittal computed tomography image of the patient. Multiple sclerotic lesions were seen in the entire skeleton](image2)

![Figure 3. Whole body maximum intensity projection $^{18}$F-NaF positron emission tomography/computed tomography image of the patient. Intense $^{18}$F-NaF uptake was seen in sclerotic bone lesions](image3)
Informed Consent: It was taken, Concept: Çiğdem Soydal, Design: Çiğdem Soydal, Data Collection or Processing: Elgin Özkan, Analysis or Interpretation: Çiğdem Soydal, Özlem Nuriye Küçük, Literature Search: Çiğdem Soydal, Metin Kemal Kir, Writing: Çiğdem Soydal, Peer-review: Externally peer-reviewed, Conflict of Interest: No conflict of interest was declared by the authors, Financial Disclosure: The authors declared that this study has received no financial support.

References
1. Noda N, Sano T, Shirao K, Ono H, Katai H, Sasako M, Maruyama K. A case of bone marrow recurrence from gastric carcinoma after a nine-year disease-free interval. Jpn J Clin Oncol 1996;26:472-475.
2. Yoshikawa K, Kitaoka H. Bone metastasis of gastric cancer. Jpn J Surg 1983;13:173-176.
3. Nishidoi H, Koga S. [Clinicopathological study of gastric cancer with bone metastasis]. Gan To Kagaku Ryoho 1987;14:1717-1722.
4. Yoshioka T, Yamaguchi K, Kubota K, Suginoya T, Yamazaki T, Ido T, Yamamura G, Takahashi H, Fukuda H, Kanamaru R. Evaluation of 18F-FDG PET in patients with advanced, metastatic, or recurrent gastric cancer. J Nucl Med 2003;44:690-699.
5. Savelli G, Maffioli L, Maccauro M, De Deckere E, Bombardieri E. Bone scintigraphy and the added value of SPECT (single photon emission tomography) in detecting skeletal lesions. Q J Nucl Med 2001;45:27-37.
6. Grant FD, Fahey FH, Packard AB, Davis RT, Alavi A, Treves ST. Skeletal PET with 18F-fluoride: applying new technology to an old tracer. J Nucl Med 2008;49:68-78.
7. Iagaru A, Young P, Mittra E, Dick DW, Herfkens R, Gambhir SS. Pilot retrospective evaluation of Tc-99m-MDP scintigraphy. 18F NaF PET/CT, 18F FDG PET/CT and whole-body MRI for detection of skeletal metastases. Clin Nucl Med 2013;38:290-296.
8. Even-Sapir E, Metser U, Flusser G, Zuriel L, Kollender Y, Lerman H, Lievschi G, Ron I, Mishani E. Assessment of malignant skeletal disease: initial experience with 18F-fluoride PET/CT and comparison between 18F-fluoride PET and 18F-fluoride PET/CT. J Nucl Med 2004;45:272-278.
9. Hillner BE, Siegel BA, Liu D, Shields AF, Gareen IF, Hanna L, Stine SH, Coleman RE. Impact of positron emission tomography/computed tomography and positron emission tomography (PET) alone on expected management of patients with cancer: initial results from the National Oncologic PET Registry. J Clin Oncol 2008;26:2155-2161.
10. Nakai T, Okuyama C, Kubota T, Ushijima Y, Nishimura T. FDG-PET in a case of multiple bone metastases of gastric cancer. Ann Nucl Med 2005;19:51-54.