

Glucose metabolism changes in patients with sepsis on FDG PET

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Background

- Main features of sepsis are uncontrollable activation of pro and anti-inflammatory responses resulting in metabolic changes in vital organs
- Abnormal glucose metabolism is a known stress-related response
- Sepsis induced encephalopathy: decreased cerebral blood flow and cerebral glucose uptake (described in rat experiments)





Background

- FDG PET CT in infection:
 - Catheter or prosthesis related infection
 - Osteomyelitis
 - Early localization of site of infection in patients with sepsis or fever of unknown origin





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Hypothesis

- Patients with sepsis have decreased FDG uptake within major organs and relatively increased uptake within muscles and soft tissues compared to patients with infection without sepsis
- FDG distribution in patients with sepsis can correlate with severity and may predict prognosis













Retrospective review

Population

• Adult patients who underwent whole body PET CT for evaluation of infection/sepsis

Study period

• Jan 2016 – Jan 2017





Data

- Demographics
- PET CT (Date, indication, SUV)
- Clinical data (VS, GCS, labs)





- PET CT review
 - All PET CT were reviewed by 2 radiology residents
 - Reviewers were blinded to clinical status





- PET CT review
 - SUV of the following major organs
 - Brain
 - Liver
 - Spleen
 - Adrenal gland

- Bone Marrow
- Subcutaneous fat

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Muscles



- PET CT review
 - Special considerations
 - Brain: Bilateral frontal/parietal/temporal/occipital lobes, brain stem
 - Standardized SUV area (40 cm² for liver) for R and L hepatic lobes
 - Organs involved with focal infectious process were excluded















Sepsis groups

 Clinical data was reviewed by 2 ID physicians to determine sepsis diagnoses based on VS, GCS and lab values from the same day of PET CT

• Clinicians were blinded to PET CT results





- Statistical analysis
 - Difference is major organ SUV values for the 2 groups was calculated with a simple t-test















SUV values

| Organ | Sepsis | No sepsis | P-value | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------------|
| Frontal lobe | 4.3 (1.9) | 7.5 (4.0) | 0.0008 | |
| Parietal lobe | 4.5 (1.9) | 8.3 (4.1) | 0.0001 | |
| Temporal lobe | 3.9 (1.6) | 6.5 (3.1) | 0.0005 | |
| Occipital lobe | 4.5 (2.2) | 8.6 (4.6) | 0.003 | |
| Cerebellum | 4.3 (1.8) | 6.8 (2.8) | 0.0011 | |
| Brainstem | 4 (1.7) | 5.6 (2.1) | 0.0093 | |
| Liver | 3.1 (1.1) | 3.1 (1.4) | 0.97 | |
| Spleen | 3.1 (1) | 3 (1) | 0.77 | |
| Adrenal | 2.3 (1.4) | 1.9 (0.5) | 0.2 | |
| BM T12 | 4 (1.7) | 2.9 (0.8) | 0.02 | |
| BM iliac crest | 3.2 (1.5) | 2.3 (0.6) | 0.03 | |
| Subcut fat | 0.8 (0.4) | 0.7 (0.4) | 0.6 | |
| Muscle | 1 (0.4) | 1.1 (0.6) | 0.6 | SITY of MARYLAN |

BM:bone marrow, Subcut:subcutaneous



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Results















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Discussion

- Patients with sepsis have significantly decreased SUV values in the brain and increased SUV values in bone marrow compared to patients with no sepsis
- Patient with sepsis may have qualitatively increased uptake in muscles and subcutaneous tissue no statistically significant SUV value
- Sepsis encephalopathy can be quantified with FDG PET CT
- Increased bone marrow activity related to systemic inflammatory response





Discussion

- Further analysis:
 - Account for concomitant conditions, medications...
 - FDG distribution correlation with early sepsis versus severe sepsis
 - PET CT distribution pattern and outcome/prognosis of septic patients





Conclusion

- There is altered glucose metabolism in sepsis
- FDG uptake as a useful tool to locate infection, assess severity and predict prognosis





References

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Thank you





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