Applicability of FDG-PET-CT to the Detection of Oral Cancer

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We examined the applicability of PET-CT to the detection of primary tumors and metastases to cervical lymph nodes and distant organs of 30 patients with oral squamous cell carcinoma.

1) The accuracy rate for detecting primary tumor, was 93% (28/30).
2) That for detecting cervical lymph node metastases, was 97% (29/30), but small cervical lymph node metastases could not be detected.
3) That for detecting metastases to distant organs, was 90% (27/30), but the positive predictive value was low (25%), presumably because FDG also accumulates by inflammation or trauma.

These results suggested that PET-CT is useful as a screening of oral cancer, although there are some problems to be solved.

Key words : PET-CT, oral cancer, primary tumor, cervical lymph node metastasis, distant metastasis

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