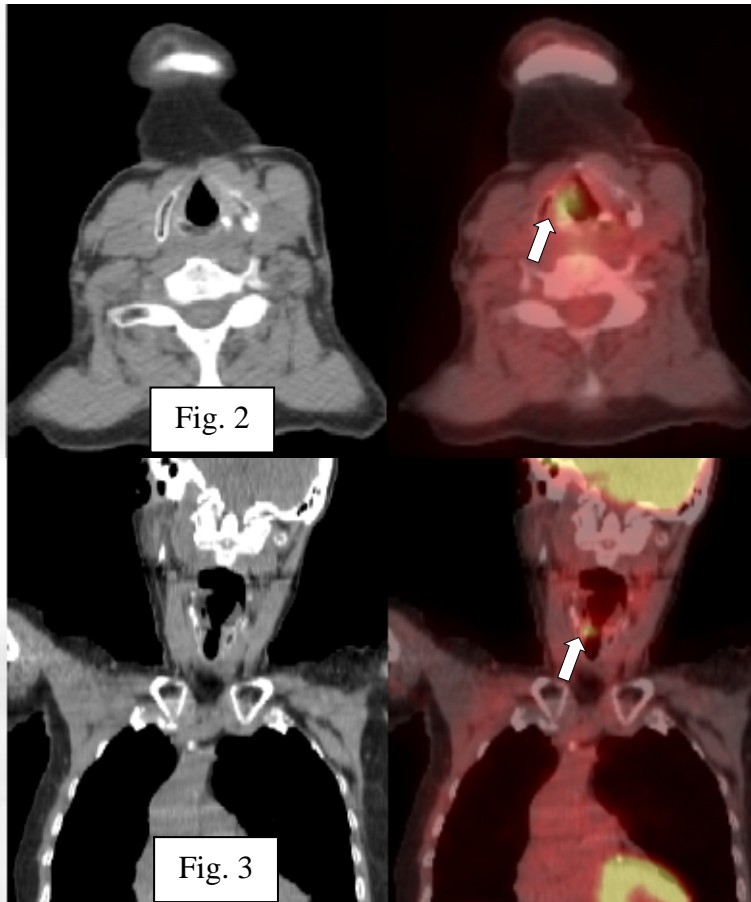
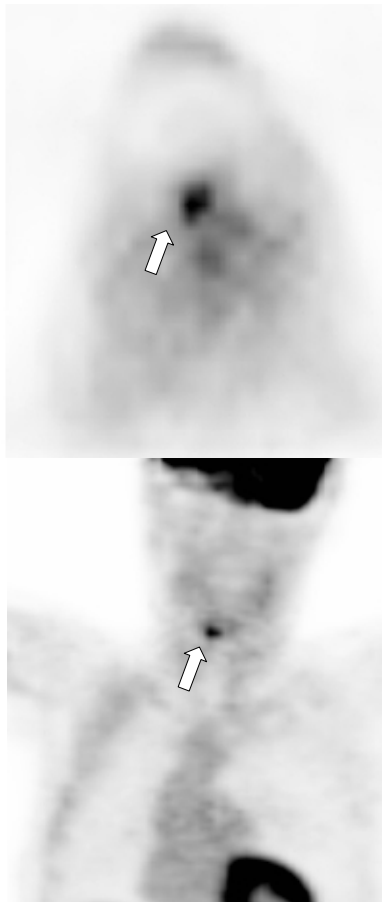
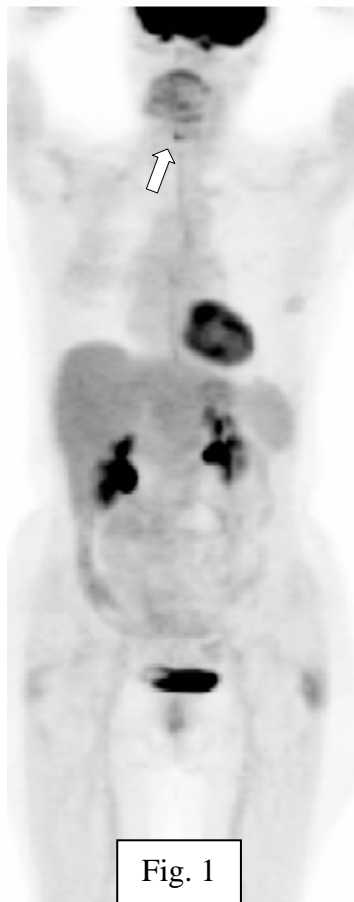


PET-CT CASE OF THE MONTH

David W. Seldin, M.D. Franklin Square Hospital Center November 2008



This 62 year old woman had been diagnosed with Stage III right breast cancer 3 years earlier and had been treated with modified radical mastectomy, adjuvant chemotherapy, and radiotherapy. A PET-CT scan ordered for routine restaging showed a focus of increased tracer uptake in the region of the right vocal cord (arrows, fig. 1-3). Laryngoscopy revealed a 4 mm. exophytic lesion of the mid right vocal cord. The biopsy showed a Stage I invasive moderately differentiated squamous cell carcinoma, which was treated with radiotherapy.

How did the PET-CT help? :

The patient had not had any significant symptoms relating to the vocal cord tumor. The PET-CT finding allowed its early detection and treatment, avoiding potential spread of disease and the need for more invasive treatment.

Several recent articles have shown that unexpected malignancies (not including thyroid cancer) are found in approximately 1% of PET-CT studies^{1,2,3}.

- (1) Cancer 2007;109:117-24
- (2) J Nucl Med 2005;46:752-57
- (3) J Nucl Med 2005;46:758-62

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This case and previous ones can be seen at www.petcases.com