

PET CASE OF THE MONTH

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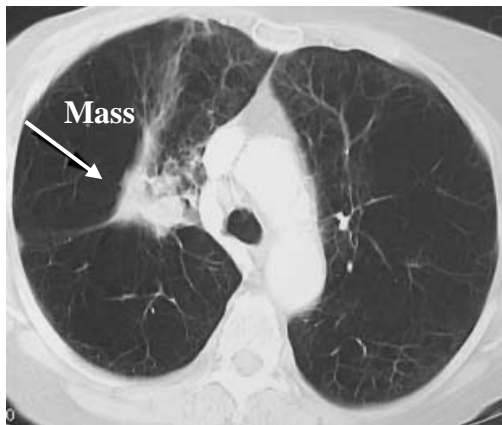


Fig. 1

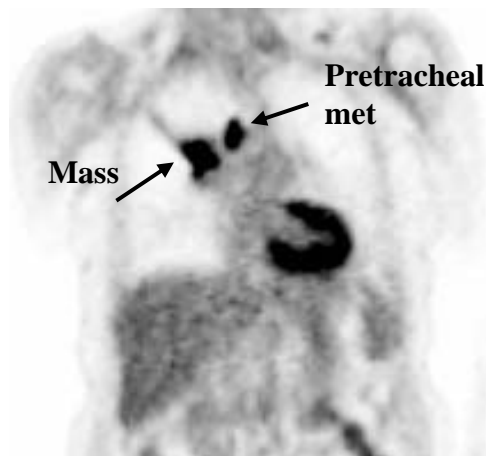


Fig. 2

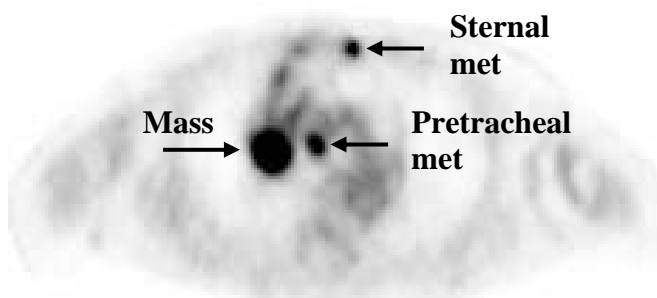


Fig. 3

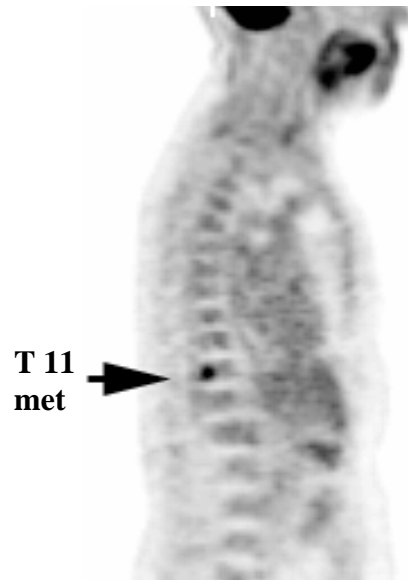


Fig. 4

This 71 year old lady was found to have a right hilar mass on chest radiograph. The chest CT confirmed the presence of a 2.5 cm mass in the right suprahilar region (Fig. 1). No adenopathy was reported. Transbronchial biopsy of the right upper lobe was diagnostic for a poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma. The PET scan obtained for staging showed:

- Intense FDG uptake in the primary mass (Fig. 2)
- Pretracheal (Fig 2 &3) and subcarinal (not shown) positive nodes
- Sternal (Fig. 3) and thoracic spine (Fig. 4) metastasis

Why did the PET help: The PET scan showed that the patient had much more extensive disease than previously thought (upstage to stage IV) and surgery was not a management option for this patient.

In a recent study (1) involving 102 patients with apparently resectable non-small cell **lung cancer** (by conventional imaging work-up), PET upstaged 42 patients and downstaged 20.

(1)N Engl J Med 2000;343:254-61