

<b>Title</b>	Criteria for appropriate use of Fludeoxyglucose Positron Emission Tomography (FDG-PET) in malignant lymphoma
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<b>Reference</b>	Dossier n. 227/2012 <a href="http://assr.regione.emilia-romagna.it/it/servizi/pubblicazioni/dossier/doss227">http://assr.regione.emilia-romagna.it/it/servizi/pubblicazioni/dossier/doss227</a>

<p><b>Aim</b> To define criteria for appropriate use of FDG-PET for patients affected by Hodgkin's lymphoma or aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The criteria reported in this document are to be intended as guidance for programs of clinical governance aimed at: supporting clinicians on the use of FDG-PET, post hoc analyses of appropriate use of FDG-PET, contributing to the planning of the regional health service.</p> <p><b>Conclusions and results</b> For each disease the panel examined and assessed the role of FDG-PET for six clinical indications (for a total of 12 clinical questions). Nine systematic reviews and 33 primary studies, evaluating diagnostic accuracy of FDG-PET, were included.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b> Criteria for the appropriate use of FDG-PET in Hodgkin's lymphoma:</p> <p><u>Appropriate</u> (level of evidence: moderate) - Staging of Hodgkin's lymphoma - During treatment evaluation of early response to therapy - End of treatment evaluation of response to therapy</p> <p><u>Appropriate</u> (level of evidence: very low) - Staging of recurrence in treated patients</p> <p><u>Indeterminate</u> due to lack of studies - Dose painting definition in involved-field radiation treatment</p> <p><u>Inappropriate</u> (level of evidence: low) - Follow up of treated patients, with no suspicion of recurrence</p> <p>Criteria for the appropriate use of FDG-PET in aggressive non Hodgkin's lymphoma:</p> <p><u>Appropriate</u> (level of evidence: moderate) - Staging of aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphoma - End of treatment evaluation of response to therapy</p> <p><u>Appropriate</u> (level of evidence: very low) - Staging of recurrence in treated patients</p> <p><u>Indeterminate</u> due to lack of studies - Dose painting definition in involved-field radiation treatment</p> <p><u>Inappropriate</u> (level of evidence: moderate) - During treatment evaluation of early response to therapy</p> <p><u>Inappropriate</u> (level of evidence: very low)</p>	<p>- Follow up of treated patients, with no suspicion of recurrence</p> <p>For all the above clinical indications the panel reached an agreement.</p> <p><b>Methods</b> A panel of 25 experts working in Health Trusts and Teaching Hospitals of Emilia-Romagna was convened to discuss and agree on the methodology for a research program aimed at defining the criteria for appropriate use of FDG-PET in oncology. For each indication a systematic review was performed. The GRADE approach was applied to assess the level of evidence of included studies. The RAND method was used to vote the appropriateness criteria. To assign a level of appropriateness to the use of FDG-PET, the working group agreed on the following definitions:</p> <p><u>Appropriate</u> Clinical indications for which there is a rationale for change in management related to a patient-important clinical outcome, there is a high or moderate level of evidence for diagnostic accuracy of PET and the presumed benefit - resulting from the test results - is greater than the presumed harm.</p> <p><u>Uncertain</u> Clinical indications for which there is a rationale for change in management related to a patient-important clinical outcome, but there is a low or very low level of evidence for diagnostic accuracy of FDG-PET and balance between harms and benefit is unclear.</p> <p><u>Inappropriate</u> Clinical indications for which there is no rationale for change in management related to a patient-important clinical outcome or clinical indications for which there is a rationale for change in management related to a patient-important clinical outcome, there is a high or moderate level of evidence on poor diagnostic accuracy of FDG-PET and/or the presumed harm - resulting from the test results - is greater than the presumed benefit.</p> <p><u>Indeterminate</u> Clinical indications for which there is a rationale for change in management related to a patient-important clinical outcome, but there are no data on diagnostic accuracy of FDG-PET.</p> <p><b>Further research/reviews required</b> Not applicable.</p> <p><b>Written by</b> Ballini L, Maltoni S, Vignatelli L, Negro A, Trimaglio F. Regional Agency for Health and Social Care of Emilia-Romagna, Italy.</p>
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