

Title Indications for positron emission tomography (pet): a brief update

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Aim

The purpose of this report is to provide an initial response to various questions concerning the expansion of the clinical indications for positron emission tomography (PET) and PET-CT1 in oncology and for other types of diseases with regard to the current practice in Québec.

Conclusions and results

In conclusion, the range of new or expanded indications for PET in relation to those currently accepted in Québec remains fairly limited. However, PET is a rapidly evolving technology, and its combined use with other technologies such as magnetic resonance imaging, is opening development prospects for new clinical applications.

Following an agreement with the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, it was agreed that the most concerned professional associations with PET would be consulted to check if the results of this update on the indications accurately reflect the current state of knowledge and their application in Québec clinical practice.

Methods

A targeted literature review identified 28 health technology assessments and systematic reviews on this topic published between 2004 and 2010, from which information concerning PET clinical indications was extracted. These indications were placed in two categories: the initial indications (diagnostic characterization and tumour initial

staging) and follow-up indications (evaluation of treatment response, disease progression, and evaluation of recurrences).

Further research/reviews required

No comment provided

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