

Title	Criteria for appropriate use of Fludeoxyglucose Positron Emission Tomography (FDG-PET) in malignant lymphoma
Agency	Regional Agency for Health and Social Care of Emilia-Romagna Viale Aldo Moro 21, 40127 Bologna Italy tel. +39 051 5277177- 7451 fax +39 051 5277049 LuBallini@Regione.Emilia-Romagna.it
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<p>Aim 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>Conclusions and results 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>Recommendations 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>Methods 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>Further research/reviews required Not applicable.</p> <p>Written by 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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