

Special Issue

Hybrid Imaging of Complicated Osteomyelitis in the Central and Peripheral Skeleton

Message from the Guest Editors

FDG-PET combined with CT seems to be the most accurate single modality for imaging COM in the central as well as peripheral skeleton, compared to traditional radionuclide imaging tests. Firstly, PET-CT offers the advantage of locating abnormalities more precisely, and is capable of monitoring treatment response. Secondly, it is an all-in-one technique completed within 2 hours, and the patient dose is lower. Thirdly, it is a robust technique with high interobserver agreement and NPV, excluding COM, with high certainty. Unfortunately, there are still false positives, especially in the early postsurgical period and also in the presence of spinal implants or tibial delayed union, resulting in a lower specificity and PPV. Therefore, the holy grail is still imaging bacteria with specific radiopharmaceuticals, hopefully as a realistic option or an illusion!

In the future, the complementary use of hybrid SPECT and especially radiolabeled compounds for PET-based infection imaging combined with CT or MRI may overcome some of the challenges faced in the assessment of COM.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 April 2024)



Life

an Open Access Journal
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Impact Factor 3.4
CiteScore 6.0
Indexed in PubMed



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