Lake Medical Imaging

Accredited by the American College of Radiology

The Importance of FES PET Imaging for Patients with Metastatic Breast Cancer

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC), also known as Stage 4 breast cancer, presents significant challenges in treatment and management due to its complexity and progression. For patients with estrogen receptor-positive (ER+) metastatic breast cancer, recent advancements in imaging technology, available at Lake Medical Imaging, now offer a more comprehensive and personalized approach to care.

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology recently recommended the use of FES PET imaging under certain circumstances during the systemic staging workup of patients with recurrent or metastatic breast cancer. This development highlights the growing recognition of FES PET as a valuable diagnostic tool for oncologists.

What Is FES PET Imaging?

FES PET imaging uses a specialized agent called Cerianna® (fluoroestradiol F18), the first and only U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved imaging agent to assess ER+ lesion status. By targeting estrogen receptors throughout the body, FES PET provides a whole-body view of ER+ lesions, complementing biopsy results that only sample specific tumor areas.

This imaging technology offers several potential advantages:

- Comprehensive Evaluation: Provides an in-depth view of estrogen receptor expression in primary tumors and metastatic lesions.
- Improved Clinical Decision-Making: Helps oncologists tailor treatments to individual patient needs, potentially leading to more effective therapy.
- Identification of Therapy Options: Assists in determining whether a patient is a candidate for endocrine-based therapies, including CDK 4/6 inhibitors.

Benefits for Patients

One of the primary challenges in treating metastatic breast cancer is the variation in ER expression within the primary tumor and across metastatic sites, which can change over time. FES PET imaging can help address these complexities by providing a clearer picture of the disease, supporting more informed treatment decisions.

The inclusion of FES PET in the NCCN Guidelines also signifies increased accessibility to this advanced imaging technology, potentially improving patient outcomes. By identifying ER+ lesions accurately, clinicians can better align treatment strategies, avoid ineffective therapies, and improve prognostic assessments.

Collaboration in Advancing Breast Cancer Care

The addition of FES PET to clinical guidelines reflects years of collaboration and research aimed at enhancing diagnostic tools for breast cancer. The Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI) recently published Appropriate Use Criteria for ER-targeted PET imaging, offering further guidance for physicians.

Lake Medical Imaging is proud to offer state-of-the-art technologies like FES PET imaging to support oncologists and their patients. By leveraging advanced imaging tools, we aim to empower clinicians in delivering more personalized and effective care for those battling metastatic breast cancer.

If you have questions about FES PET imaging or wish to learn more about how it may benefit you or your loved one, please talk with your primary physician or oncologist. If it is determined that you might benefit from FES PET Imaging, our team is here to guide you through every step of the diagnostic process.