



Centre of Excellence for Functional Cancer Imaging

IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROVINCIAL PET/CT PROGRAM IN ONCOLOGY

The BC Cancer Agency, together with a number of partners (University of British Columbia, Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Centre, BC Children's Hospital, and Tri-University Meson Facility) officially opened a Centre of Excellence for Functional Cancer Imaging in July 2005. This facility, located in our Vancouver Cancer Centre at 600 West 10th Avenue, includes the first publicly funded PET/CT scanner in British Columbia.

A staged service offering is required to optimize protocols and procedures within the new facility. The initial start-up phase of the PET/CT Program began June 28, 2005.

Although PET/CT technology is recognized and accepted as an important diagnostic tool internationally, the radiopharmaceutical ¹⁸F-FDG is not yet approved in Canada. As a result all patients undergoing this test must be enrolled in a clinical trial sanctioned by Health Canada. The BC Cancer Agency has sponsored such a trial in order to introduce PET/CT to adult oncology patients in British Columbia. Data collected as part of this trial will help us assess the impact of PET/CT on patient management.

The BC Cancer Agency, through its Provincial Tumor Groups, has identified specific evidence-based guidelines for PET/CT scans that will be used to determine which oncology patients are eligible for publicly funded scans at our facility. **During the initial start-up phase of the PET/CT Program, the numbers and types of patients that can be scanned will be limited. A list of current clinical indications is available at:**

<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/PET/clinicalindications.htm>

Referrals for other clinical oncology indications will be considered on an individual basis. Information about expanded indications will be posted on the BC Cancer Agency's website as soon as it becomes available.

How to Initiate Referrals:

Relevant documents including currently accepted indications, referral forms, patient instructions and consent forms are available on the BC Cancer Agency's website under Health Professional Info at:

<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/PET/default.htm>

To provide the best service to our patients and to comply with regulatory requirements, we request your understanding and cooperation in the following areas:

1. Review the list of indications currently being scanned and ensure the referred patient falls into one of the groups outlined. **Only patients with these indications will be routinely scanned during the initial start-up phase.**
2. The PET/CT referral form must be completely filled out as information from this form is used to screen patients for eligibility in the clinical trial. We will not be able to



process requests without the required information. The completed referral forms should be faxed to 604-877-6245.

3. Consent will be required from each patient before they undergo PET/CT scanning. No additional biopsies or investigations will be required as part of the clinical trial. Consent will be obtained in the Functional Imaging Department by one of the study investigators or designated staff. The data will be managed by the Vancouver Cancer Centre's Radiation Oncology Research - Clinical Trials staff.
4. Referring physicians will be sent and **required to return**, a one page questionnaire regarding the impact the PET scan had on patient management.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 604-707-5979.

Sincerely,

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