

parotid gland doses or pretreatment xerostomia assessment.

*Radiotherapy and Oncology*

### Nonparathyroid Findings on SPECT/CT Parathyroid Localization

Mallick et al. from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (PA) reported on April 11 ahead of print in the *Journal of Surgical Research* (2020;252:216–221) on a study of the frequency and types of unexpected and significant findings in <sup>99m</sup>Tc-sestamibi SPECT/CT imaging for primary hyperparathyroidism. The study, a retrospective review of all SPECT/CT imaging performed for primary hyperparathyroidism at a single institution over a 6-y period, included

2,413 imaging records. Of these, 652 patients (27%) were found to have 677 (28%) nonparathyroid findings, including thyroid nodules (331, 49%), of which 47 (6.9%) were malignancies: 40 papillary thyroid cancers (11 microcarcinomas), 5 follicular thyroid cancers, 1 medullary carcinoma, and 1 noninvasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like features. Pulmonary nodules were identified in 177 patients (26%), among whom 9 were diagnosed with primary lung lesions (6 non-small cell cancers, 1 small cell cancer, 1 carcinoid, and 1 pulmonary sequestration). SPECT/CT also identified 14 patients (2.1%) with breast abnormalities, including 3 cancers. Nine patients (1.3%) had imaging findings of metastatic disease within the

lungs (4), bones (3), and mediastinum (2), and 1 patient was diagnosed with follicular lymphoma. Two intracranial tumors were also identified, in addition to dysplastic Barrett esophagitis (1), hiatal hernia (20), and aortic aneurysm (13). In total, 72 (10.6%) of the 677 patients with nonparathyroid findings had premalignant or malignant results on SPECT/CT. The authors summarized their data by writing that in patients undergoing localization for primary hyperparathyroidism with <sup>99m</sup>Tc-sestamibi SPECT/CT “nonparathyroid findings are frequent (27%) and can lead to newly diagnosed malignant or premalignant lesions in at least 3% of patients.”

*Journal of Surgical Research*

## SNMMI Expands Free Virtual Curriculum

SNMMI announced on April 10 the availability of free and flexible access to its extensive virtual curriculum, which has been expanded since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The content is available free to SNMMI members.

A new SNMMI webinar series, “Artificial Intelligence Methods and Applications in Medical Imaging and Nuclear Medicine,” debuted on April 7 with the highest registration ever for an SNMMI webinar. The 6-part series, organized by the Physics Instrumentation and Data Sciences Council, continued through May 12 and reviewed the ways in which artificial intelligence methods are applied in imaging, including current challenges, limitations, and future promise. This series is a part of the new free curriculum, and each webinar offers 1 hour of continuing education (CE) credit for physicians, pharmacists, and technologists.

A new “Quality in Nuclear Medicine” online program is designed to assist learners in understanding the skills vital to practice quality, including evaluating images, managing triage, understanding disease processes, and achieving high-quality interpretable studies. This 12-module program offers 10.25 CE credits for technologists, pharmacists, physicians, and physicists.

On April 29 the SNMMI COVID-19 Task Force organized a webinar on “Imaging of a COVID-19-Positive Patient: What to Expect.” The SNMMI-TS quarterly webinars continued

on April 22 with “Considerations for Implementing a Successful Cardiac PET Program.” The Clinical Trials Network webinar on May 7 was titled “There’s a New PET Drug in Town: Manufacturing and Approval Considerations for Your Institution.” The SNMMI PET Center of Excellence organized and presented “<sup>68</sup>Ga-DOTATATE PET/CT: How to Read These Studies and Pitfalls: Case-Based Approach” on April 10. SNMMI has also joined with the American College of Nuclear Medicine to offer webinars on gastric emptying, cardiac CT, <sup>177</sup>Lu-DOTATATE prostate-specific membrane antigen therapy, and writing a quality report.

Additional webinar series are planned for:

- PET imaging (gallium imaging, PET imaging of cardiac sarcoid, <sup>18</sup>F-fluciclovine PET/CT, pediatric PET, PET/MR imaging of prostate cancer, grant writing, and others); and
- Correlative imaging (vasculitis/arteritis/atherosclerosis, device inflammation/infection, breast imaging, cardiac sarcoid/amyloid, and myocarditis/pericarditis/ endocarditis).

Registration is available for future live webinars, with many more available on demand at: [www.snmmi.org/webinars](http://www.snmmi.org/webinars).