



European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC): European guidelines on breast cancer screening and diagnosis

Evidence profile

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| Healthcare question | Should 18F-FDG PET-CT staging exams vs. no PET staging exams be used for patients with clinical stage II breast cancer without symptoms suggestive of metastases? |
| Date | July 2018 |
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| Abbreviations | CI: Confidence interval |

| Certainty assessment | | | | | | | Impact | Certainty | Importance |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|-------------|------------|
| Nº of studies | Study design | Risk of bias | Inconsistency | Indirectness | Imprecision | Other considerations | | | |
| Detection rate | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 | randomised trials | serious _{ab} | not serious | not serious | serious ^{cd} | none | Pooled detection rate: 93 per 1000 examinations (95% CI 74 - 113) n/N = 85/880 | ⊕⊕○○ LOW | CRITICAL |
| False positive | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 ^{1,3,5,7} | randomised trials | serious _{ab} | not serious | not serious | serious ^{cd} | none | Pooled detection rate: 0.0 per 1000 examinations (95% CI 0 - 5) n/N = 0/394 | ⊕⊕○○ LOW | CRITICAL |

Explanations

- a. Different reference standards were used across studies some included another imaging test without histological confirmation, which is likely to incorrectly classify the condition. Additional follow up were not implemented in all cases.
- b. Some studies collected its data from medical registries on retrospective designs, which preclude them from implementing standard procedures and quality of data.
- c. Judgement of imprecision depends on the panel decision about the detection rate threshold, which leads to change decision.
- d. Overall studies included small sample sizes, therefore confidence interval are widen.

References

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