Usefulness of ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT in syphilitic aortitis

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Dear Sirs,

We have read with great interest the case-based review article by Balink et al. recently published on *Clinical Rheumatology* about the role of ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT in the early assessment of syphilitic aortitis [1].

We have appreciated the article agreeing with the authors' conclusions which, based on the described case and existing literature on this subject, stated that “ ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT can help in an early establishment of syphilitic aortitis before the possible life-threatening sequelae of syphilitic aortitis occur.”

The authors reported that, to the best of their knowledge, “only one case report of a patient with syphilis and increased ^{18}F -FDG uptake in the ascending aorta has been published so far” [2].

We have recognized the high scientific value of the article by Balink et al., but as a case-based review “describes a case report of extreme clinical interest incorporating a mini review in an area of new knowledge,” we would like to add that another article on this topic has been previously published [3], highlighting the usefulness of ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT for the as-

essment of disease extent and treatment response in a patient with syphilitic aortitis.

This adjunctive case could add further evidence to the possible role of ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT in the early assessment of syphilitic aortitis, strengthening the conclusions described by Balink et al.

Disclosures None.

References

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