Four cases of Warthin’s tumor of the parotid gland detected with FDG PET

Masatoshi Horiuchi, Seiei Yasuda, Akira Shoji, and Michiru Ito

Departments of Otolaryngology, Tokai University School of Medicine and the HIMEDIC Imaging Center at Lake Yamanaka

In the cancer screening with FDG PET for 1,872 medical health club members, high FDG accumulation in the parotid gland was found in four males (age, 57–70 years). Warthin’s tumor was confirmed by surgical pathology. The exact mechanism of high FDG accumulation in Warthin’s tumor is not yet known. This tumor may be found incidentally during FDG PET studies. When high FDG accumulation is found in the parotid gland, integrated consideration of the results of the physical examination, medical history and 99mTc-pertechnetate scintigraphy makes it possible to differentiate Warthin’s tumor from other lesions.

Key words: Warthin’s tumor, 18F-fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG), positron emission tomography (PET)