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Imaging inflammatory lesions by radiolabelled peptides and antibodies

Anzola Fuentes, Luz

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STELLINGEN

1. The use of radiolabelled antibodies for diagnostic purposes allows evidence-based biological therapy with the same, unlabelled antibody. (This thesis, chapter 1).
2. ^{68}Ga -DOTA-TOC can be used to detect high risk, vulnerable, atherosclerotic plaques. (This thesis, chapter 2).
3. Somatostatin receptor scintigraphy with ^{68}Ga -DOTA-TOC has clinical value in many chronic inflammatory disorders such as Graves' ophthalmopathy, pulmonary fibrosis and Rheumatoid Arthritis. (This thesis, chapter 2).
4. Scintigraphy with $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -rituximab demonstrates the presence of B lymphocyte infiltration in affected joints of patients with arthritis, thus providing evidence for treating these lesions with unlabelled Rituximab. (This thesis, chapter 3).
5. Somatostatin receptor scintigraphy can assess disease activity in Rheumatoid Arthritis patients and detects salivary gland inflammation in patients with secondary Sjögren's syndrome. (This thesis, chapter 4).
6. Somatostatin receptor scintigraphy as whole body imaging technique is able to identify the involvement in salivary glands as well in the joints and other tissues in patients with primary Sjögren's Syndrome. (This thesis, chapter 5).
7. ^{68}Ga -DOTA-NOC PET/CT can also be used instead of $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -HYNIC-TOC scintigraphy for imaging tissues affected by chronic inflammation. It is, therefore, important to define the cut-off values of "normality" in order to diagnose and monitor chronic inflammatory diseases. (This thesis, chapter 6).
8. The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands, but seeing with new eyes. (Marcel Proust).
9. The perfect blend for having no limits is having the curiosity of your inner child, the thrive of your puberty and the wisdom of your adulthood. (Kelly Anzola).
10. The higher the dream the wealthier the journey. (Kelly Anzola).
11. When I look back at the years of struggle, I find them to be the most beautiful and useful to build up my future. (Kelly Anzola).