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Radiolabelled WBCs against [¹⁸F]FDG PET/CT for imaging infections: the eternal battle

Chiara Lauri

STELLINGEN

1. I like to imagine WBCs and [¹⁸F]FDG as Hector and Achilles. As well as the main difference between these two heroes was their motivation to fight in the Trojan war, so WBCs and [¹⁸F]FDG differ for their loyalty in imaging infections and inflammations.

(This thesis, Cover page)

2. To allow an accurate diagnosis of DFIs and to start a prompt treatment of this common, complex, and costly problem, the goal is certainly to use the most cost-effective imaging method.

(This thesis, Chapter 3)

3. Functional hybrid imaging offers the possibility to in vivo investigate an affected tissue, from a morphological and histopathological point of view.

(This thesis, Chapter 5)

4. The choice of the most appropriate imaging modality for the diagnosis of DFI and VGEI depends on the purpose of the investigation: if high specificity is required, then WBC scintigraphy should be preferred; if high sensitivity is needed, [¹⁸F]FDG PET/CT is the technique of choice.

(This thesis, Chapter 7)

5. Standardization of acquisition protocols and interpretation criteria of all imaging modalities is warranted to reduce the procedural heterogeneity and to allow optimal comparison between studies.

(Chapter 7, this thesis)

6. Understanding the specific clinical need is always the first step and therefore, multidisciplinary discussion would warrant an appropriate diagnostic schedule based on patient characteristics, resources available and therapeutic options.

(This thesis, Chapter 9)

7. Invasion, defence and healing. These are the three phases observed in infections as well as in the worst moments of our life. Regardless of the cause that undermines our stability, the goal is always to raise up stronger than before, by acquiring a kind of “immune tolerance”.

(Chiara Lauri)

8. Standardization is crucial in medical sciences but no standardized protocols should be adopted in our daily life.

(Chiara Lauri)

9. No one who learns to think can return to obey as he did before, not for a rebellious spirit, but for the now acquired habit of questioning and examining everything.

(Hannah Arendt, 1951)

10. You can be anything you want to be. Just turn yourself into anything you think that you could ever be. Be free with your tempo, be free, be free. Surrender your ego, be free, be free to yourself.

(Queen, Innuendo, 1991)