



Important factors determining prognosis based on SUVmax in PET imaging

To the Editor,

We read the article published by Cho et al. (1) with a great deal of interest. They elucidated the role of ¹⁸F-fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography/computed tomography imaging as an independent prognostic factor in hepatocellular carcinoma. We analyzed the article in detail. We want to emphasize on some points that must be explained.

1. Standardized uptake values (SUVs) are affected by the tumor differentiation degree and whole tumor necrosis size. These are not addressed in detail in the study.
2. In the Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer and Tumor, Node, and Metastasis staging systems, already anticipated situation that would be a worse prognosis in high grade tumors. In this study, SUVmax of the patients at the same stage were not comparable or were unspecified.
3. Additionally, patients with different stages of tumor will undergo different treatment options. The patients underwent different treatment regimens that may have influenced their outcomes. There-

fore, this situation may influence the prognostic evaluation of the patients' survival. For this reason, without grouping them well, the assignment of prognosis with SUVmax can lead to mistakes.

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Ertan Şahin¹, Abdullah Barış Akcan²

¹Department of Nuclear Medicine, Namık Kemal University Faculty of Medicine, Tekirdağ, Turkey

²Division of Neonatology, Department of Pediatrics, Adnan Menderes University Faculty of Medicine, Aydın, Turkey

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Address for Correspondence: Abdullah Barış Akcan, Division of Neonatology, Department of Pediatrics, Adnan Menderes University Faculty of Medicine, Aydın, Turkey
E-mail: barisak@hotmail.com

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