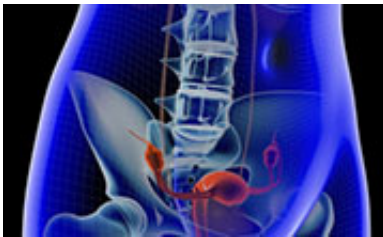


# Tattoos can mimic metastasis on PET-CT in cervical cancer

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(HealthDay)—For patients with cervical cancer, extensive tattoos could mimic metastasis on positron emission tomography (PET) fused with computed tomography (CT) imaging, according to a case report published online June 5 in *Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

Narine Grove, M.D., from the University of California in Orange, and colleagues describe the case of a 32-year-old woman presenting with clinical stage 1B1 [cervical cancer](#) and extensive tattoos of the lower extremities.

The researchers note that two ileac lymph nodes considered suspicious for metastatic disease were identified in preoperative PET-CT scan with increased fluorine-18-deoxyglucose uptake. Bilateral pigmented lymph nodes were identified at the time of surgical resection; however, histologic examination showed deposition of tattoo ink and no evidence

of malignant cells.

"Physicians should be cognizant of the possible effects of tattoos on PET-CT findings while counseling patients and formulating a treatment program," the authors write.

**More information:** [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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