

New procedure standard/practice guidelines for FES PET imaging of breast cancer

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The Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI) and the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM) have issued a new procedure standard/practice guideline for estrogen receptor imaging of breast cancer patients using FES PET. The standard/guideline, [published ahead of print](#) in the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, is intended to assist physicians in recommending, performing, interpreting, and reporting the results of ^{18}F -FES PET studies for patients with breast cancer.

More than 2 million women worldwide are diagnosed with breast cancer each year. The estrogen receptor (ER) is a significant contributor to breast cancer formation and progression and, as such, is an important target for therapy. Approximately 70% of breast cancers will express ER, and the determination of ER expression by tissue analysis is part of the standard of care for those newly diagnosed breast cancer.

Multiple studies suggest that ^{18}F -FES PET—which is approved for [clinical use](#) in France and the United States—offers advantages in assessing tumor ER expression, predicting response to ER-targeted therapies, and clarifying equivocal staging and restaging results in patients with ER-expressing cancers. It may also be helpful in staging invasive lobular [breast cancer](#) and low-grade ER-expressing invasive ductal cancers and, in some cases, may be a substitute for biopsy.

The procedure guideline/practice standard includes information on common clinical indications, procedure specifications, patient selection and preparation, tracer administration and imaging, and imaging interpretation and reporting. It also presents standardized [quality control](#), quality assurance, and imaging procedures for ^{18}F -FES PET.

"Precision, accuracy, repeatability, and reproducibility for both clinical management of patients and for the use of ^{18}F -FES in multicenter trials is important," emphasize the authors. "The availability of a standardized

imaging procedure will help to promote the appropriate use of ^{18}F -FES PET and enhance subsequent research."

SNMMI/EANM periodically define new standards/guidelines for nuclear medicine practice to help advance the science of nuclear medicine and to deliver effective and safe medical care to patients. Each standard/guideline, representing a [policy statement](#) by the SNMMI/EANM, undergoes a thorough consensus process in which it is subjected to extensive review.

More information: David Mankoff et al, Summary: SNMMI Procedure Standard/EANM Practice Guideline for Estrogen Receptor Imaging of Patients with Breast Cancer Using 16α -[^{18}F]Fluoro- 17β -Estradiol PET, *Journal of Nuclear Medicine* (2023). [DOI: 10.2967/jnumed.123.266938](#)

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