

## Chapter 18

# THE ROLE OF 18F-FDG PET/CT DETECTING BONE MARROW INVOLVEMENT IN NEWLY DIAGNOSED LYMPHOMA PATIENTS

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### INTRODUCTION

Lymphoma is the most common hematologic malignancy in the world. Bone marrow (BM) involvement is one of the most important prognostic factor, increases disease to stage 4 according to the Ann-Arbor staging system and affects both treatment and prognosis in hodgkin's disease (HD) or non hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) (1). BM involvement is associated with poor prognosis in patients with lymphoma (2). Therefore, the presence of BM involvement is important in patient management at the time of diagnosis. BM infiltration by malignant cells detected by bone marrow biopsy (BMB) occurs in up to 6.5% in HD. Malignant BM infiltration occurs in 30% to 50% of all patients with NHL diagnosis, 4% to 90% of patients with indolent NHL and 18% to 36% of patients with aggressive NHL (2-5). The European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) recommend a BMB in all patients for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of HD and NHL (6, 7). Nowadays, BMB is considered as part of initial staging in lymphoma patients.

18F- fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography/computed tomography (18F-FDG PET/CT) is non-invasive and semi-quantitative imaging modality. It is the most sensitive and specific molecular imaging technique for staging and response evaluation of many cancers (8). It is a whole body scan that gives functional information about the cells using the glucose metabolism. Metabolically active malignant cell take radio-labeled glucose more than normally cell and becomes visible. FDG PET/CT can be used for initial staging and assessing treatment response evaluation for various malignant tumors including aggressive NHL and Hodgkin lymphoma (HL), and is being used increasingly in lymphoma patients (9-11). It is used successfully for staging and post-treatment follow-up examinations in aggressive lymphoma patients (12-14). Several lymphomas are

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