

Nodal staging in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma by combining different imaging techniques

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Stellingen behorend bij het proefschrift

Nodal Staging in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma by Combining Different Imaging Techniques

1. Optimal treatment of head and neck cancer should have a maximal treatment effect on the one hand and a minimal treatment morbidity on the other hand. Combining evaluable modern imaging techniques will improve nodal staging and help to provide an optimal personalized treatment with all benefits for the patient (this thesis).
2. Using functional imaging tools additional to anatomical imaging tools improves node selection for nodes to be punctured and the prediction of presence of lymph node metastases (this thesis).
3. Real time image fusion of PET-CT and ultrasound is feasible and real time ultrasound guided fine needle aspiration improves the detection rate of malignant lymph nodes (this thesis).
4. Small reactive PET-positive lymph nodes are difficult to distinguish from small malignant PET-positive lymph nodes. Diffusion weighted magnetic resonance could therefore be helpful (this thesis).
5. Combining available imaging tools will improve node selection for nodes to be punctured but one has to accept that micro metastases beyond a visible size and visible metabolic changes still will be missed (this thesis).
6. As diagnostic radiologist we have to deal with a certain rate of missed diagnosis and misinterpretations.

A multidisciplinary approach is essential to avoid the diagnostic misinterpretations and to provide the best treatment

7. Artificial intelligence will improve diagnostic potential and make the radiologists life easier, but will not replace the radiologist.
8. I don't see what I am not looking for.