

1 **Comparison of PET/CT with sequential PET/MRI using an MR-**
2 **compatible mobile PET system**

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8 **Word count:** 5,028 words

9

10 **Short running title:** A new MR-compatible mobile PET scanner

11

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 **Objectives:** The current study tested a newly developed flexible PET (positron emission
3 tomography) scanner prototype. This flexible PET (fxPET) system involves dual arc-
4 shaped detectors based on silicon photomultipliers, which are designed to fit existing
5 magnetic resonance (MR) devices, allowing us to get fused PET and MR images by
6 sequential PET scanning. This prospective study sought to evaluate image quality, lesion
7 detection rate, and quantitative values of fxPET in comparison with conventional whole-
8 body (WB) PET images, and to assess the accuracy of registration.

9 **Methods:** Seventeen patients with suspected or known malignant tumors were analyzed.
10 Approximately 1 h after intravenous injection of ^{18}F -fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG), WB
11 PET/computed tomography (CT) scanning was performed, followed by fxPET and MR
12 scanning. For reconstruction of fxPET images, MRI-based attenuation correction was
13 applied. The quality of fxPET images was visually assessed, and the number of detected
14 lesions was compared between the two imaging methods. The maximum standardized

1 uptake values (SUV_{max}) and maximum average SUV within a 1 cm³ spherical volume
2 (SUV_{peak}) of lesions were also compared. In addition, the magnitude of misregistration
3 between fxPET and MR images was evaluated.

4 **Results:** The image quality of fxPET was acceptable for diagnosis of malignant tumors.

5 There was no significant difference in detectability of malignant lesions between fxPET
6 and WB PET ($P > 0.05$). However, the system did not exhibit superior performance
7 compared with WB PET. There were strong positive correlations between the two imaging
8 modalities in SUV_{max} ($\rho = 0.88$) and SUV_{peak} ($\rho = 0.81$). SUV_{max} and SUV_{peak}
9 measured with fxPET were approximately 1.1-fold greater compared with WB PET
10 measurements. The average misregistration between fxPET and MR images was 5.5 ± 3.4
11 mm.

12 **Conclusion:** Our preliminary data indicate that running a fxPET scanner in the proximity
13 of an existing MR system provided visually and quantitatively acceptable fused PET/MR
14 images for diagnosis of malignant lesions.

1

2 **Keywords:** flexible PET scanner, mobile PET, PET/MRI, MRI

3 **INTRODUCTION**

4 Hybrid PET/MRI is a recent advance in multimodality imaging, providing both
5 anatomical and functional information (1,2). PET/MRI systems have several important
6 advantages, compared with PET/CT. First, MRI is considered to be superior to CT for soft-
7 tissue contrast, and is regarded as the first-line imaging procedure in oncology associated
8 with soft-tissue regions (e.g., tumors in the brain, the head-and-neck region, the
9 musculoskeletal region, and the pelvis) (3). Second, MRI can yield functional information
10 about perfusion, diffusion, and metabolism (2). Third, the use of MRI instead of CT for
11 attenuation correction reduces radiation dose, particularly in patients undergoing repeat
12 PET studies (4,5). In addition, integrated PET/MRI systems which perform simultaneous
13 PET and MRI acquisition afford significantly more accurate registration than sequential
14 scanning of conventional PET/CT scanners (6). Precise registration between PET and

1 anatomic MRI is important for diagnosing pathologic conditions, avoiding errors in
2 interpretation, surgical planning, and delineating radiation therapy margins (6). PET/MRI
3 scanners have recently been developed by several vendors, and an increasing number of
4 studies using these systems have been published. However, PET/MRI scanners are not
5 widely available, because the costs (including the cost of facilities) are far greater than
6 those of PET/CT. To overcome these limitations, a multi-modal compatible prototype called
7 the flexible PET system (fxPET) has been developed. This new device is a prototype of an
8 MRI-compatible PET scanner with silicon photomultiplier array-based depth-of-interaction
9 and time-of-flight capable (TOF) detectors (7). This device is designed to fit existing MR
10 devices, allowing us to get fused PET and MR images by sequential PET scanning.

11 The purpose of this prospective study was to evaluate image quality, lesion
12 detection rate, and quantitative values of fxPET, compared with conventional whole-body
13 (WB) PET imaging, and to assess the accuracy of registration.

14

1 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

2 **Patients**

3 A total of 17 patients (nine males, eight females) with suspected or known
4 malignant tumors who underwent fxPET scanning between February 2015 and May 2015
5 were analyzed. All patients underwent a dual- imaging, single-injection protocol consisting
6 of PET/CT and subsequent fxPET/MRI on the same day. The institutional review board
7 approved the study, and all subjects gave written informed consent.

8 **Description of the flexible PET scanner system**

9 The fxPET scanner consists of two detector units that enable the fitting of beds of
10 other imaging modalities and patients of various body sizes (8). The dual arc-shaped
11 detector heads can be arranged in various configurations, including top-bottom, and left-
12 right, depending on the purpose of imaging. The fxPET system is shown in Figure 1. Each
13 detector unit consists of 18 detector modules in the transaxial direction and three rings in
14 the axial direction, with a detector ring diameter of 778 mm and an axial extent of 150 mm.

1 The detector block is composed of four-layer depth-of-interaction crystal blocks of lutetium
2 oxyorthosilicate crystals (Hitachi Chemical, Japan), a light guide and a 64-ch MRI-
3 compatible silicon photomultiplier array (Hamamatsu Photonics, Japan). The coincidence
4 timing resolution of the system is approximately 500 psec. As shown in Figure 1, the
5 fxPET scanner is a partial-ring scanner rather than a conventional full-ring scanner, and its
6 limited angular coverage results in missing line-of-responses in sinogram space. In practice,
7 degradation of image quality caused by data loss due to incomplete coincidence data was
8 confirmed by a previous phantom study, and was found to be reduced by using TOF
9 information and more suitable list-mode reconstruction algorithms (8,9). Each crystal is 20
10 mm long, with a cross-sectional area of 2.9×2.9 mm and four-layer depth-of-interaction
11 capability. The spatial resolution of these scanners measured with an ^{18}F point source was
12 estimated to be less than 2.5 mm. The main specifications of the fxPET system are
13 summarized in Table 1.

14 Several phantom studies were conducted in preparation for the clinical study of
15 fxPET/MRI. A National Electrical Manufacturers Association image-quality phantom study

1 with the fxPET scanner demonstrated that the device was able to clearly depict the smallest
2 sphere (10 mm) (7). Another preclinical study using with an MR phantom was performed
3 to investigate whether there was an adverse influence on MR images after installation of the
4 fxPET scanner to a 1.5 T MRI system, and detected no adverse influence on MR images
5 (10). In addition, an experimental study detected no adverse effects of the 1.5 T MRI
6 system on fxPET images (10).

7 **Conventional PET/CT and fxPET/MRI**

8 An intravenous injection of ^{18}F -FDG (~3.7 MBq/kg of weight) was followed by
9 WB PET/CT scanning at 1 h post-injection, using a combined PET/CT scanner (Discovery
10 ST Elite or Discovery IQ; GE Healthcare, Waukesha, WI, USA) for 2–3 min/bed position.
11 Patients then underwent fxPET scanning with 10 min/bed position, followed by MR
12 scanning for 20 min (mean 17 min; range, 10–25 min). To reduce the time needed for
13 fxPET/MRI scanning, the scan range of fxPET was limited to one bed position (axial field-
14 of-view [FOV] of 150 mm). Therefore, the fxPET scan range was determined according to

1 the site of primary tumors (the neck, upper abdomen, pelvis, or musculoskeletal region)
2 using information from CT, MRI, and WB PET/CT findings obtained prior to fxPET
3 scanning in this study. All fxPET scans were performed with dual arc-shaped detectors
4 arranged in a top-bottom configuration (Fig. 1C). The central angle of the detector was 135
5 degrees; the detector pair covered 270 degrees out of 360 degrees (Supplemental Fig. 1). A larger
6 MRI scan range was determined to include the whole scan range of fxPET. The mean
7 duration between ^{18}F -FDG injection and the start of fxPET scanning was 114 min (range,
8 92–161 min). Table 2 summarizes the difference of acquisition conditions and system
9 sensitivity between the fxPET and WB PET/CT systems. No patients had a plasma glucose
10 level greater than 200 mg/dL. WB PET images were attenuation-corrected using CT data
11 and reconstructed using a 3D ordered-subsets expectation-maximization algorithm called
12 VUE Point Plus (Discovery ST Elite; 14 subsets, two iterations, a matrix size of 128×128 ,
13 a voxel size of $4.7 \times 4.7 \times 3.3$ mm, and post-filtering at 5 mm full width at half maximum;
14 Discovery IQ; 12 subsets, four iterations, a matrix size of 192×192 , a voxel size of $3.3 \times$
15 3.3×3.3 mm, and post-filtering at 5 mm full width at half maximum). All acquisition

1 fxFPET data were reconstructed with a dynamic row-action maximum-likelihood algorithm
2 (DRAMA) (11) (128 subsets, one iteration, a matrix size of $240 \times 240 \times 50$, a voxel size of
3 $3.0 \times 3.0 \times 3.0$ mm, and relaxation control parameter $\beta = 30$ with post-filtering of 5 mm full
4 width at half maximum). The MRI scanner was a 1.5 Tesla (T) MRI scanner (EXCELART
5 Vantage; Toshiba Medical Systems Corporation, Otawara, Japan). Diagnostic MRI
6 sequences (including T1-weighted imaging, T2-weighted imaging, T2-weighted short-tau
7 inversion recovery, and diffusion-weighted imaging) were determined according to the site
8 of primary tumors. In this study, we applied a newly developed method of MRI-based
9 attenuation correction to fxFPET images (12,13). Conventional segmentation methods of
10 MRI-based attenuation correction ignore the presence of bony structures and have been
11 found to underestimate SUVs of regions containing bone or regions close to large bony
12 structures, such as the brain and pelvis (5). In contrast, the new method generates a
13 distribution of attenuation correction factors by considering bone attenuation using
14 diagnostic T1-weighted images. The parameters of the axial T1-weighted image were
15 determined according to the scan site of MRI: matrix size $192\text{--}576 \times 288\text{--}576$, FOV 220–

1 350 mm × 220–500 mm, slice thickness 4.0 or 5.0 mm with 0 or 1 mm gap, TR 272–570
2 msec, TE 4.8–15 msec, and a flip angle of 70° or 90°. The attenuation map for the MR table
3 was obtained using the background activity of lutetium oxyorthosilicate scintillators. The
4 method of scatter corrections was TOF Single Scatter Simulation (14).

5 **Visual analysis**

6 *I. Evaluation of image quality.* The image quality of fxPET was visually compared
7 with that of WB PET by two board-certified nuclear medicine physicians blinded to clinical
8 information, including other clinical images, using a 4-point grading scale: 1, poor for
9 diagnosis; 2, acceptable for diagnosis but inferior to WB PET; 3, comparable to WB PET; 4,
10 superior to WB PET. The degree of inter-observer agreement was evaluated using weighted
11 Kappa statistics. Kappa values of 0.81–1.00, 0.61–0.8, 0.41–0.60, 0.21–0.40, and 0–0.2 were
12 defined as indicating almost perfect, substantial, moderate, fair, and slight agreement,
13 respectively (15).

14 *II. Evaluation of the lesion detection rate.* The number of lesions detected on fxPET

1 images was compared with the number detected on WB PET images based on the final
2 diagnosis by two board-certified nuclear medicine physicians, reached by consensus. Lesions
3 less than 5 mm in diameter measured by CT or MR were excluded from the analysis. Focal
4 moderate to intense uptake of ^{18}F -FDG, compared with the surrounding tissue, was regarded
5 as positive. If lesions were so close together that PET tracer uptake of lesions could not be
6 individually distinguished, it was counted as one lesion. The gold standard for the final
7 diagnosis was histopathological findings (biopsy or surgery), or serial radiological follow-up
8 (CT and/or MRI and/or WB PET/CT) revealing further metastatic lesions, or, alternatively,
9 the disappearance of metastatic lesions following systemic therapy or clinical follow up for
10 at least 6 months (16). Both fxPET and WB PET images were evaluated using the Osirix MD
11 (Pixmeo, Geneva, Switzerland).

12 **Quantitative analysis**

13 The maximum standardized uptake values (SUV_{max}) and maximum average
14 SUV within a 1 cm³ spherical volume (SUV_{peak}) of lesions were measured for both fxPET

1 and WB PET images (17). The SUV_{max} and SUV_{peak} were only available for lesions that
2 met the gold standard, were entirely within the FOV, and could be visually detected on both
3 fxPET and WB PET images (n = 28). Pulmonary lesions and lesions containing wide lung
4 fields in the same axial cross section were excluded, because the MRI-based attenuation
5 correction method did not take account of attenuation of lung fields.

6 **Registration accuracy**

7 To obtain accurate registration, image fusion of fxPET and MRI was performed
8 using software in combination with 3D positional information obtained from an optical
9 Polaris camera (Northern Digital Inc., Bakersfield, CA, USA). This optical tracking system
10 provides real-time measurement data of accurate 3D position and orientation tracking of
11 markers attached to the surface of both modalities for accurate image fusion (Fig. 2). Before
12 the clinical study, a phantom study using a water phantom and point sources was performed
13 to evaluate image registration accuracy. The results revealed that the average misregistration
14 between fxPET and MR images was approximately 2 mm.

1 In the clinical study, the registration accuracy of clinical fxPET/MR images was
2 retrospectively evaluated by one observer using the above-mentioned fusion software
3 (Osirix MD). The spatial coordinates (X, Y, Z) of the visually estimated centers of the
4 lesions were determined for fxPET/MRI (i.e., for fxPET and MR images independently) by
5 calculating the middle slice for each section for all three planes (18). The coordinate
6 differential in the three axes was determined, and Delta X was defined as coordinate X axis
7 fxPET - coordinate X axis MRI. The same process was used for the Y and Z axes. The total
8 difference between the lesion centers on fxPET and MRI was determined by the following
9 formula: $\text{Difference} = (\text{Delta } X^2 + \text{Delta } Y^2 + \text{Delta } Z^2)^{0.5}$ (19). The same 28 lesions included
10 in the quantitative analysis were analyzed. To avoid inaccurate measurement, six lesions
11 from a case in which a patient was unable to remain still during fxPET/MRI examination
12 were excluded from the analysis. One lesion in which FDG uptake was not sufficiently
13 homogeneous to visually determine boundaries of FDG uptake was also excluded. Thus, a
14 total of 21 lesions were finally evaluated for the extent of misregistration on fxPET/MR
15 images.

1 **Statistical analysis**

2 The sensitivities of fxPET and WB PET images for lesion detection were compared
3 with the final diagnosis using McNemar's test. Spearman's rank correlation coefficient (ρ)
4 was calculated to assess the correlation of SUVmax and SUVpeak obtained from malignant
5 lesions between the two scanners. A *P*-value less than 0.05 was considered to indicate
6 statistical significance. GraphPad Prism version 6 for Windows (GraphPad Software, San
7 Diego, CA, USA) and Excel 2016 (Microsoft, Redmond, WA, USA) were used for statistical
8 analysis.

9

10 **RESULTS**

11 Patient characteristics, including the results of the visual analysis, are shown in
12 Table 3. Figure 3 shows a representative case of fxPET/MRI.

1 The median ratings of visual assessment of fxPET image quality by the two
2 observers were both grade 2 (acceptable for diagnosis but inferior to WB PET). The weighted
3 Kappa score for the quantitative scales between the two observers for the quality of fxPET
4 images was “substantial” (0.653, 95 % CI: 0.021–1.000).

5 A total of 41 malignant lesions (primary tumors, metastatic lymph nodes and
6 distant metastases) were detected based on the gold standard. Of these, 35 malignant lesions
7 (85%) were detected by fxPET, and 36 lesions (88%) were detected by WB PET. There was
8 no significant difference in detectability of malignant lesions between fxPET and WB PET
9 ($P > 0.05$). In addition, there were no false positive findings in both PET studies in this
10 population.

11 There were strong positive correlations in SUV_{max} ($\rho = 0.88$) and SUV_{peak} ($\rho =$
12 0.81) between fxPET and WB PET (Fig. 4). The fxPET scanner exhibited 1.1-fold greater
13 SUV_{max} and SUV_{peak} than WB PET/CT.

1 The average misregistration of the center of lesions measured with fxPET and MRI
2 was 5.5 ± 3.4 mm for all lesions (Table 4). Misregistration was not consistent, but was more
3 pronounced in the Z-axis (3.3 ± 2.5 mm) than the X-axis (1.3 ± 1.1 mm) and Y-axis ($2.5 \pm$
4 1.7 mm).

5

6 **DISCUSSION**

7 The results of the visual analysis indicated that the fxPET system produced
8 images of acceptable quality for diagnosis of malignant lesions. In addition, the
9 detectability of malignant lesions was not significantly different between fxPET and WB
10 PET images ($P > 0.05$). This is the first clinical study to evaluate the feasibility of an MRI-
11 compatible mobile PET system, indicating that PET images would be less expensively
12 fused to MR images which have higher soft-tissue contrast and more functional
13 information. This system is considered helpful for reducing radiation dose, compared to
14 PET/CT, especially when repeated scans are necessary.

1 The image quality of fxPET was not better than that of WB PET, although we
2 took longer acquisition time for fxPET scanning (10 vs. 2-3 min/bed). The most likely
3 cause of the lack of superior performance was the degradation of image quality caused by
4 incomplete coincidence data derived from the partial-ring detector. Suri et al. reported that
5 accurate TOF information improved reconstruction image quality in a partial-ring PET
6 scanner with no detector rotation (8, 9). Therefore, the technology of TOF was added to the
7 fxPET system to improve image quality, although the image quality of fxPET was not
8 superior to that of commercial WB PET scanners without TOF capability in this study.
9 Another potential explanation is that the reconstruction conditions of fxPET images may
10 not have been sufficiently optimized. To further improve image quality, data pre-processing
11 and reconstruction methods dedicated to the partial-ring TOF PET are now under
12 development.

13 The SUV_{max} and SUV_{peak} of lesions obtained with fxPET were 1.1-fold greater
14 than those of WB PET/CT. Several factors may have contributed to the difference in SUVs
15 between the two scanners. First, different duration time after administration of PET tracers

1 (59 min vs. 114 min) may have influenced the difference in SUVs, because the radioactive
2 uptake of a lesion has been reported to continue increasing after injection in many cases
3 (20,21). Thus, a longer uptake phase could result in the overestimation of quantitative
4 values of malignant lesions on fxPET images rather than underestimation. Second, fxPET
5 images were reconstructed without taking account of attenuation from MR coils. The fact
6 may have contributed to decrease SUVs of lesions on fxPET images. Third, attenuation
7 correction for the MR table may have been inaccurate, because the materials of the MR
8 table were unknown. Finally, data loss due to incomplete coincidence data obtained from
9 the dual arc-shaped detectors arranged in a top-bottom configuration may have caused
10 degradation of quantitative accuracy, although fxPET images were reconstructed using TOF
11 information to reduce the effects of incomplete projection data. The difference between
12 CT-based and MR-based attenuation correction was unlikely to have affected the difference
13 of SUVs between the two scanners in this study, because a newly developed method of
14 attenuation correction that takes attenuation of bony structures into account was applied on
15 fxPET images.

1 The average misregistration between fxPET and MR images was 5.5 mm, and the
2 performance of the system in the clinical study was inferior to that in the phantom study (by
3 approximately 2 mm). The cause of the discrepancy between the two results may be related
4 to the effects of physiological organ motion, such as respiratory motion and intestinal
5 peristalsis, caused by the different acquisition timing between fxPET and MR imaging (18).
6 Rakheja et al. reported that the average misregistration of a hybrid PET/MRI between PET
7 and T1-weighted MR imaging was 2.4 mm (6). Their PET/MRI system exhibited more
8 accurate spatial registration than the system in the current study. A possible explanation for
9 this difference is that their PET/MRI system was able to perform simultaneous acquisition,
10 whereas the current system required PET and MRI data to be collected sequentially.
11 Nevertheless, our data suggested that acceptably accurate fused fxPET/MRI images were
12 obtained from the current system, comparable with the lesion misregistration reported in
13 PET/CT images in previous studies (4.1 ± 4.2 mm) (6).

14 This pilot study revealed that our prototype of mobile PET system had several
15 problems to be solved in order to improve its performance. Nevertheless, we consider that

1 the fxPET scanner would be one of the attractive imaging tools, especially from the aspect
2 of cost. In any facilities where a state-of-art MR system is installed, fused images of PET and
3 MR can be obtained at low cost, although the scanning is not simultaneous, but sequential.
4 Also, due to wide inner diameter of the fxPET system, standard radiofrequency coils in MR
5 scanning could be used in this system if we prepare CT attenuation map of them and
6 incorporate it into the reconstruction of fxPET images. For this reason, it is not necessary to
7 prepare dedicated radiofrequency coils for combined PET/MR. In addition, this system could
8 be installed for other devices, such as CT or radiation therapy equipment.

9 The current study involved several limitations that should be considered. First, the
10 number of enrolled patients was relatively small ($n = 17$). A prospective study with a larger
11 number of patients is warranted to clarify the clinical impact of the fxPET scanner. Second,
12 although 3T MRI is now becoming the clinical standard, this pilot study was performed with
13 a 1.5T MRI system. It is physically feasible to install the fxPET system in close proximity to
14 a 3T MRI system, and further studies are needed to confirm whether combined fxPET and a
15 3T MRI system could provide high-quality fused PET/MR images without any PET and MRI

1 artifacts. Third, because of the relatively long acquisition time of fxPET (10 min/bed), the
2 scan range of fxPET/MRI was limited to only one bed position (axial FOV, 150 mm). To
3 widen the scan range of fxPET/MRI, we plan to evaluate the extent to which we can shorten
4 acquisition time of fxPET without degrading the quality of fxPET images using list-mode
5 fxPET data. Because the spatial resolution of the fxPET scanner is high (full width at half
6 maximum < 2.5 mm), we expect that the detectability of small lesions (e.g., lymph node
7 metastases) would be improved, compared with a conventional PET scanner.

8

9 **CONCLUSION**

10 Our preliminary data indicate that a fxPET scanner placed in the proximity of an
11 existing MR system provided visually and quantitatively acceptable fused PET/MR images
12 for the diagnosis of malignant lesions.

13

1 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

2 We thank Kyoko Takakura, RT, for her excellent clinical assistance; Yoshiyuki
3 Yamakawa, Masafumi Furuta, Masanobu Satoh, Tetsuya Kobayashi, Junichi Ohi, and Keishi
4 Kitamura for their technical advice. We obtained financial support from Shimadzu
5 Corporation, Kyoto, Japan. This study was based on results obtained from a project
6 commissioned by the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization
7 (NEDO).

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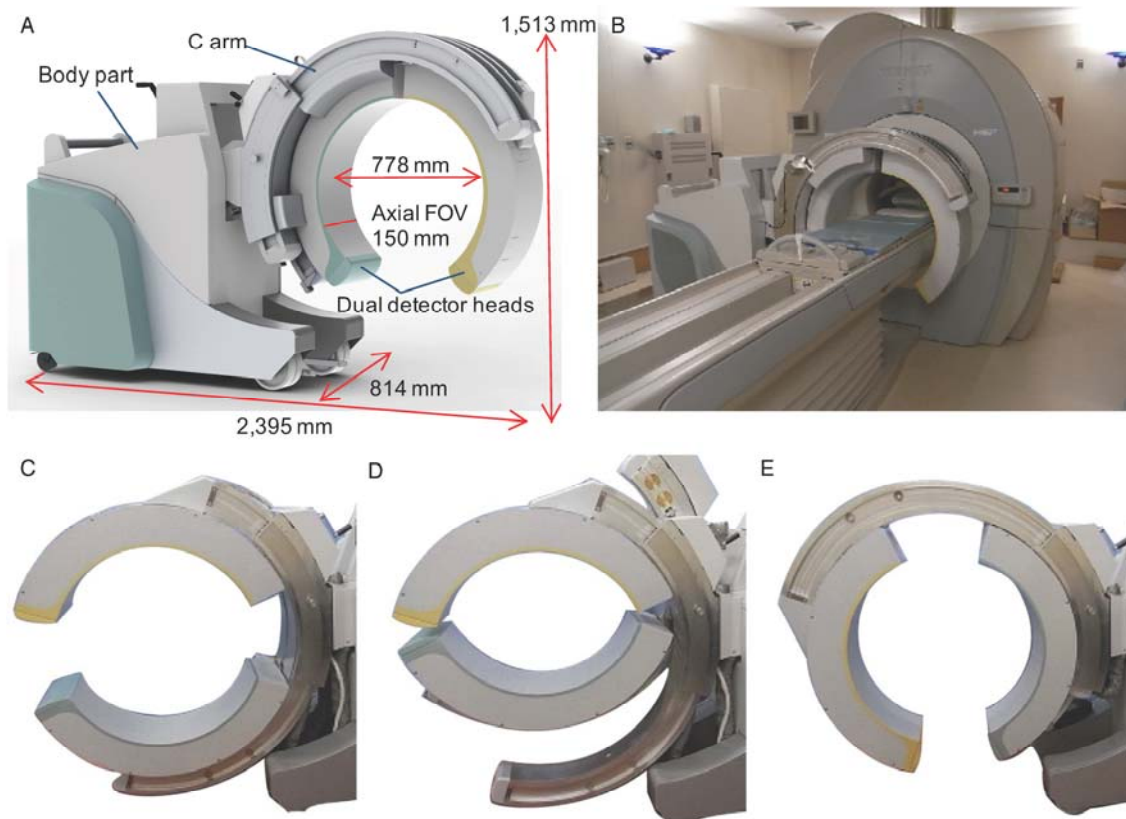
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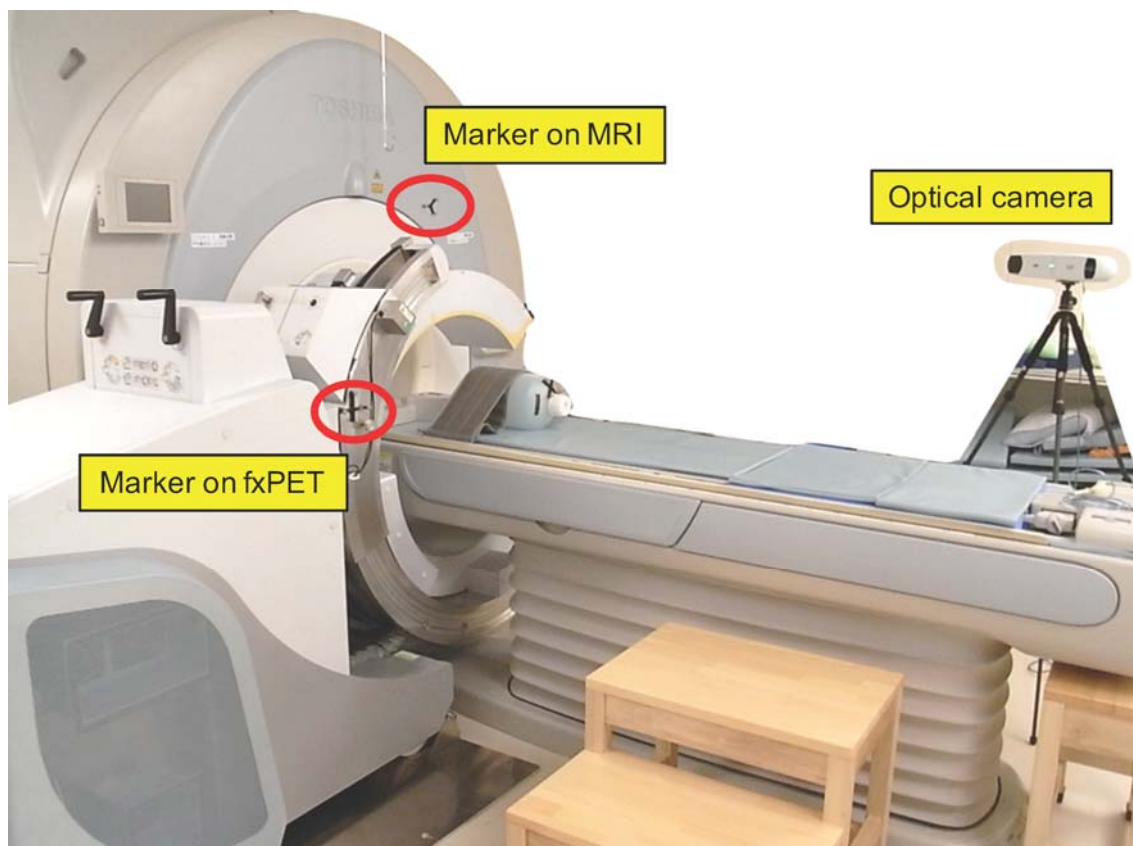
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2 **FIGURE 1.** Appearance of the fxPET scanner (A-E). The device is designed to fit an existing
3 MRI system (B). The dual arc-shaped detector heads can be arranged in various
4 configurations: top-bottom (C), top-bottom (near-mode) (D), and left-right (E), depending
5 on the purpose of imaging.

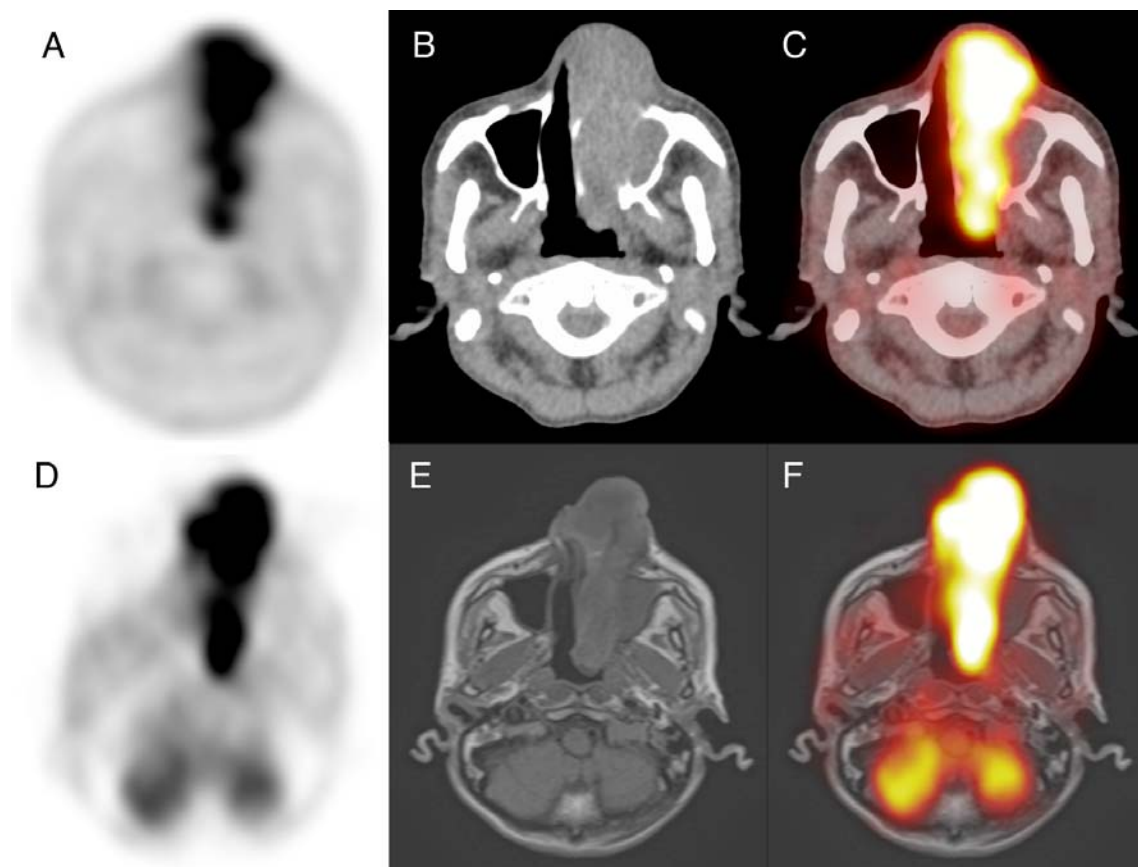
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2 **FIGURE 2.** The method of fPET/MRI image registration. The spatial registration of
3 fPET/MRI was performed with an optical camera measuring positional information of
4 markers (red circles) labeled on the surfaces of both imaging modalities.

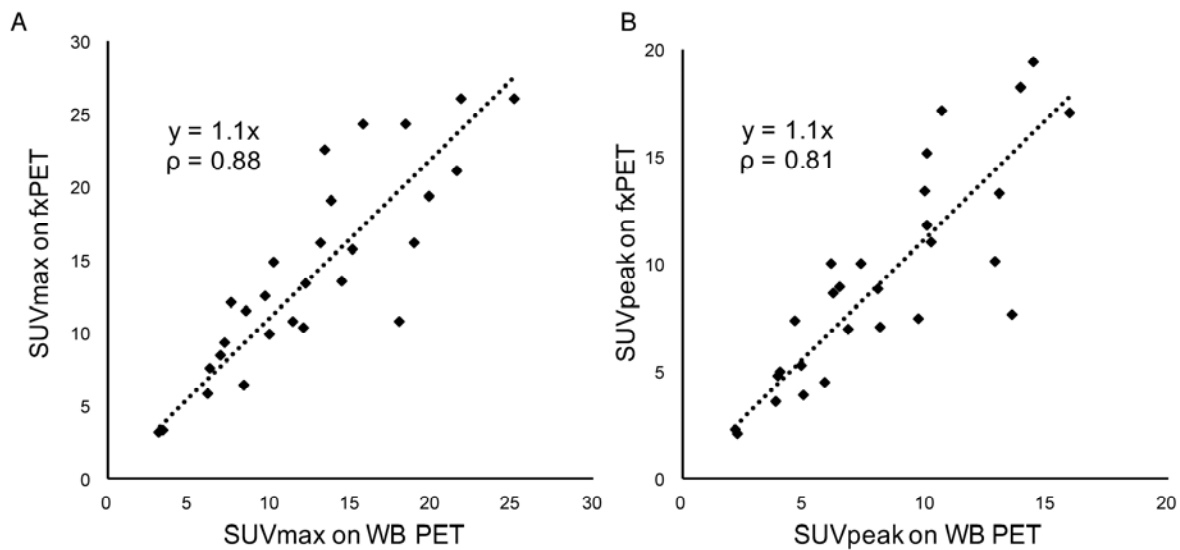
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2 **FIGURE 3.** A representative case of a 76-year-old male with histologically proven nasal
3 mucosal melanoma in his left nasal cavity. A ^{18}F - fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) PET/CT scan
4 (A-C), including PET (A), CT (B), and fused PET/CT images (C), shows the left nasal tumor
5 with focal intense uptake of ^{18}F -FDG. A fPET/MR scan (D-F), including PET (D), MR (E:
6 T1-weighted image), and fused fPET/MR images, also depicts the tumor clearly.



1

2 **FIGURE 4.** Correlations of the maximum standardized uptake values (SUVmax) and

3 maximum average SUV within a 1 cm³ spherical volume (SUVpeak) of 28 lesions between

4 whole-body (WB) PET and fxPET.

5

1 **TABLE 1.** Specifications and characteristics of the flexible PET scanner

System description	Description value
Crystal material	LGSO ($\text{Lu}_{1.8}\text{Gd}_{0.2}\text{SiO}_5:\text{Ce}$)
Crystal size (mm^3)	$2.9 \times 2.9 \times 20$
Crystal block	Four layers of 16×16 arrays (256 crystal elements)
No. of detector block modules	108 (18 modules \times 3 rings \times 2 heads)
No. of crystals	27,648
Detector ring diameter (mm)	778
Axial FOV (mm)	150
Transaxial FOV (mm)	720
Energy resolution (%)	12.8
Temporal resolution of time-of-flight (ps)	500
Spatial resolution (mm)	< 2.5

2 FOV, field-of-view; LGSO, lutetium oxyorthosilicate

- 1 **TABLE 2.** The difference of acquisition conditions and system sensitivity between the
 2 flexible PET and whole-body PET/CT systems.

	fxPET	Discovery STE	Discovery IQ
Timing of start after FDG injection	114 min (92 min - 161 min)	58 min (49 min - 67 min)	60 min (54 min - 68 min)
Acquisition time	10 min/bed	2-3 min/ bed	2-3 min/bed
Sensitivity (the center)	2.98 cps/kBq	9.0 cps/kBq	19.44 cps/kBq
Time of flight technology	Available	Not available	Not available
Spatial resolution (mm)	< 2.5*	< 6.7	< 6.2

- 3 FDG, fluorodeoxyglucose

- 4 * Based on the iterative PSF (point spread function) reconstruction algorithm.

1 **TABLE 3.** Patient characteristics and results of visual analysis.

No.	Site	Sex	Age	Disease	Time duration between FDG injection and starting time of scanning (min)		Image quality 4-point grading scale		The number of detected lesions		
					WB PET	fxPET	Reader 1	Reader 2	Gold standard	WB PET	fxPET
1	Neck	M	46	Bone tumor	52	96	2	2	3	3	3
2		M	59	Malignant lymphoma	58	110	2	2	8	7	6
3		M	66	Tongue ca.	50	92	2	2	1	1	1
4		M	76	Melanoma	54	121	2	2	2	2	2
5	Upper abdomen	F	65	Ovarian ca.	64	126	2	2	0	0	0
6		M	70	Pancreatic ca.	50	106	2	2	1	1	1
7		M	74	HCC	62	99	2	2	1	1	1
8		M	77	Cholangiocarcinoma	62	104	2	2	5	4	4
9		F	62	pNET	58	101	2	2	1	1	1
10		F	77	pNET	49	111	2	2	4	1	1
11		F	66	Endometrioid ca.	62	108	3	3	4	4	4
12	Pelvis	F	30	Uterine cervical ca.	67	115	2	1	1	1	1
13		F	68	Uterine cervical ca.	66	132	2	2	6	6	6
14		F	52	Uterine cervical ca.	60	103	2	2	1	1	1
15	Musculoskeletal	M	62	Rectal ca.	68	129	2	2	1	1	1
16		M	73	Soft tissue sarcoma	64	126	2	2	1	1	1
17		F	39	Soft tissue sarcoma	60	161	2	2	1	1	1
Total (n = 17)		M 9, F 8	Mean ± SD 62.5 ± 13.6		Mean ± SD 59.2 ± 6.2	Mean ± SD 114.1 ± 17	Median 2	Median 2	41	36	35

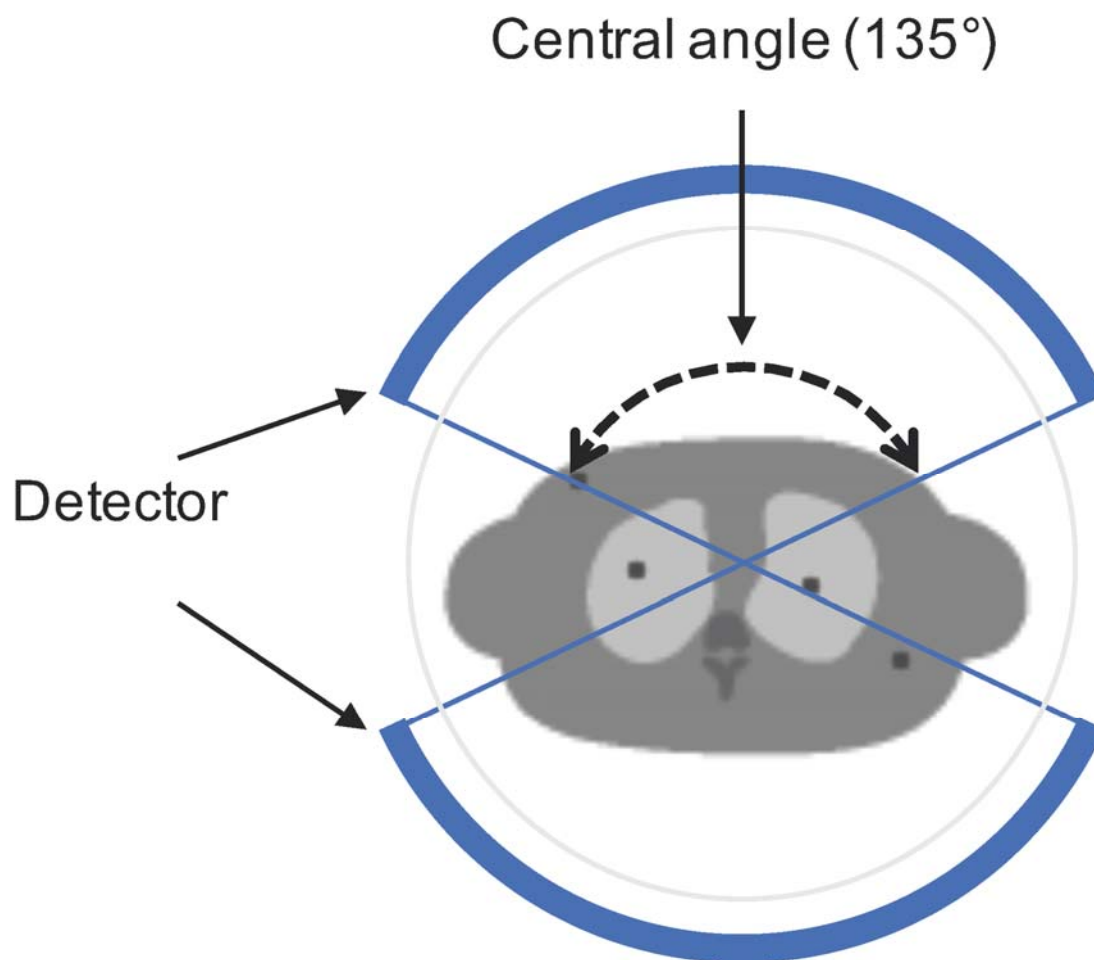
2 FDG, fluorodeoxyglucose; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; pNET, pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor; WB, whole-body.

1 **TABLE 4.** Difference (in mm) between the registrations of lesion center measured in three axes
2 with fxPET and MRI

Axis	n = 21
X	1.3 ± 1.1
Y	2.5 ± 1.7
Z	3.3 ± 2.5
Total	5.5 ± 3.4

3 Values are mean ± SD (mm)

4



1

2 Supplemental Figure 1.

3 The central angle of the detector arc. The detector pair covered 270 degrees out of 360 degrees.



The Journal of
NUCLEAR MEDICINE

Comparison of PET/CT with sequential PET/MRI using an MR-compatible mobile PET system

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J Nucl Med.

Published online: November 2, 2017.

Doi: 10.2967/jnumed.117.197665

This article and updated information are available at:

<http://jnm.snmjournals.org/content/early/2017/11/01/jnumed.117.197665>

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The Journal of Nuclear Medicine is published monthly.
SNMMI | Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging
1850 Samuel Morse Drive, Reston, VA 20190.
(Print ISSN: 0161-5505, Online ISSN: 2159-662X)

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