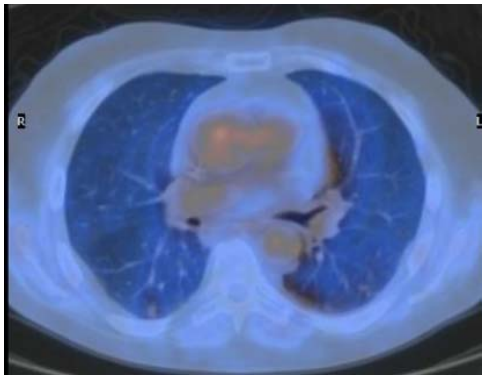
PETIMAGING

INTEGRATED PET/CT SCANNING
CASE STUDY Nº 89

Development of New Pulmonary Metastases in Esophageal Cancer

A 68 year old male is diagnosed with esophageal cancer metastatic to the lymph nodes, lung and brain. Patient begins chemotherapy and external beam radiation to the brain and the esophagus. The following year, patient undergoes gamma knife to the brain, and PET/CT at that time reveals resolution of the brain, pulmonary, and esophageal lesions. Patient completes chemotherapy with cisplatin and irinotecan and is restaged with PET/CT in December of that year. The scan reveals interval development of multiple subcentimeter, bilateral pulmonary nodules on the CT portion of the exam. The chemotherapy regimen is changed to Xeloda and epirubicin.



A PET/CT ordered three months later reveals that the pulmonary nodules have increased in size (now 8-10 mm) and metabolic activity (SUVs 2.2-4.1) indicative of progressive disease. The chemotherapy regimen is discontinued, and potential treatment options are reviewed.