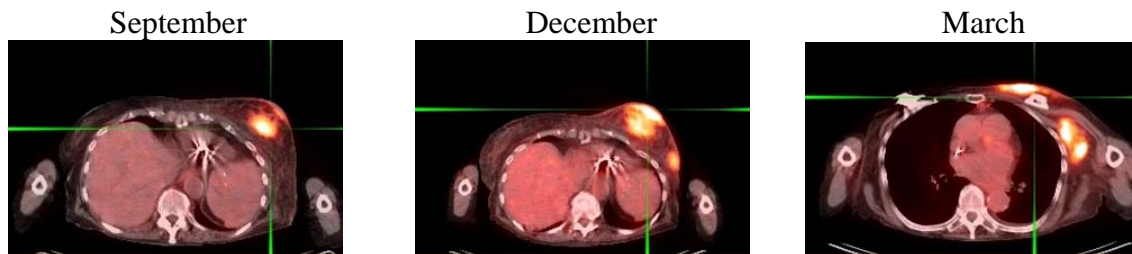


PETIMAGING

INTEGRATED PET/CT SCANNING CASE STUDY N° 90

Inflammatory Breast Cancer

A 74 year old female is diagnosed with left breast cancer in September. There is a large mass in the left breast along with a few palpable axillary lymph nodes. PET/CT, ordered for staging, reveals active disease in the left breast with overlying skin thickening consistent with inflammatory breast cancer. As well, hypermetabolic activity is identified in the axillary and internal mammary lymph nodes and in a single node in the superior mediastinum. Patient undergoes chemotherapy which concludes in December. PET/CT is ordered to restage the cancer revealing progressive disease within the left breast with new foci of disease, increase in size and FDG avidity of the axillary lymph nodes, and persistence of internal mammary disease. A new chemotherapeutic regimen is offered. PET/CT, ordered to assess response to therapy three months later, discovers that the primary left breast cancer has progressed and is invading the chest wall. The left axillary disease has tripled in size with associated increase in hypermetabolic activity.



As well, there has been interval development of metabolic activity in a subcutaneous area and the skin in the medial portion of the right breast. The patient decides to forgo additional therapy.

