Second international workshop on interim PET, Menton, April 8-9th 2010

Qualitative or quantitative analysis for NHL and HL

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Limits of the visual analysis

- Visual system is sensitive to differences in contrast and not to differences in intensity
- Receptive field organization of the retinal ganglion cell neurons
- Perception of the different shades of gray depends on their background



Hodgkin's Lymphoma



Chemotherapy switches off the paracrine and autocrine loop of CK secretion by RS and accessory cells

Qualitative and/or quantitative



Interim PET in LNH

Dynamic evaluation



High interobserver variability

ECOG3404: interim PET after 3 RCHOP cycles LNH Horning et al. *Blood* 2009;on line

- Criteria: ECOG/London
- 3 experts
- 38 interim scans



Figure 1: Proportion of interim-PET cases interpreted as positive by reader, according to the ECOG and London criteria (see text). Error bar indicates one standard error for the proportion.

Visual and SUV analysis Early response assesment (2 cycles), n=92 pts



- \rightarrow Decreases the number of false positive studies
- \rightarrow 14/17 FP patients reclassified with $\Delta SUVmax$
- \rightarrow 2 cycles: Δ SUV performs better than visual
- \rightarrow Robust and objective index for multicenter trials

Lin, Itti et al. J Nucl Med 2007;48:1626-32

Should we resist to the temptation of the SUV analysis at least in NHL?



Odysseus and the Sirens. Detail from an Attic red-figured stamnos, ca. 480-470 BC. From Vulci