Recurrent malignant melanoma detected on fluciclovine

\(^{(18} \text{F})\) PET/CT imaging for prostate cancer

Eugene J. Teoh MRCP FRCR\(^{1,2}\), Maria T. Tsakok BM BCh\(^{1}\), Kevin M.
Bradley FRCP FRCR\(^{1}\), Katherine Hyde MRCP FRCR\(^{3}\), Manil Subesinghe
MRCP FRCR\(^{1}\), Fergus V. Gleeson FRCP FRCR\(^{1,2}\).

1. Department of Radiology, Churchill Hospital, Old Road, Headington,
   Oxford OX3 7LE, United Kingdom.
2. Department of Oncology, University of Oxford, Old Road Campus
   Research Building, Roosevelt Drive, Oxford, OX3 7DQ, United
   Kingdom.
3. Department of Clinical Oncology, Churchill Hospital, Old Road,
   Headington, Oxford OX3 7LE, United Kingdom.

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Corresponding author:

Dr Maria Tsakok, Department of Radiology, Churchill Hospital, Old Road,
Headington, Oxford OX3 7LE, United Kingdom.

Telephone: +44 1865 235761

Fax: +44 1865 235005

E-mail: maria.tsakok@ouh.nhs.uk

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Unstructured abstract

A 66-year-old man presented with biochemical recurrence of prostate cancer and underwent fluciclovine (\(^{18}\)F) PET/CT to detect sites of recurrence. He had a history of resected truncal stage IIIC malignant melanoma, with bilateral axillary node involvement on sentinel node biopsy, in complete remission for 3 years.

Fluciclovine (\(^{18}\)F) PET/CT demonstrated an incidental fluciclovine-avid right axillary node (SUV\(_{\text{max}}\)=4.3). Diagnostic sampling confirmed recurrent malignant melanoma.

Figure legend

A 66-year-old man with a history of radical prostatectomy for prostate cancer, presented with biochemical recurrence (prostate specific antigen level 0.32 ng/ml) and underwent fluciclovine (\(^{18}\)F) PET/CT to detect sites of disease recurrence. He also had a history of resection of a truncal stage IIIC 4-mm non-ulcerated malignant melanoma, with bilateral axillary node involvement on sentinel node biopsy, in complete remission for 3 years. While the site of prostate cancer recurrence was not demonstrated, an incidental fluciclovine-avid (SUV\(_{\text{max}}\)=4.3) 12-mm right axillary node was detected. Diagnostic sampling and subsequent right axillary node dissection two months later confirmed recurrent malignant melanoma.
Fluciclovine ($^{18}$F) / anti-1-amino-3-$^{18}$F-fluorocyclobutane-1-carboxylic acid (FACBC) is a synthetic amino acid, recently FDA-approved for imaging recurrent prostate cancer$^1$. It is predominantly transported into cells by high-affinity glutamine transporter ASCT2, and leucine transporter LAT$^2$. There has been therapeutic interest in targeting glutamine metabolism by utilising ASCT2 inhibitors in melanoma$^4$ as well as prostate cancer$^5$, which in the case of melanoma, is fuelled by observation of a metabolic switch to glutamine dependence on developing resistance to BRAF inhibition$^6$. Disease detection aside, this raises potential application in patient selection and response assessment to such emerging therapies.

Unlike fluorodeoxyglucose, which demonstrates non-specific uptake upon activation of both innate and adaptive immune response components, preclinical studies report uptake of fluciclovine only upon T- and B-cell activation, but not in granulocytes and macrophages$^8$. Fluciclovine may therefore have the potential ability to selectively image T-cell modulation in the tumour microenvironment.

References


