Thymus FDG Uptake
Thymic rebound hyperplasia
Ectopic hyperplastic thymus post-treatment
Clinical summary

- 28 year old woman with classical Hodgkin’s disease

- Treated chemotherapy followed by autologous transplant

- For post-transplant evaluation PET/CT scan
Pre-treatment showed small thymus

Post 2 cycles of chemotherapy – no thymus activation

End of chemotherapy showed thymic hyperplasia
PET/CT findings (2)

End of chemotherapy with thymic hyperplasia
One year later, decrease in thymic uptake

PET/CT findings (3)
Teaching point

- Thymic FDG pattern is often in a ‘lambda’ configuration in the anterior mediastinum

- More frequently, but not exclusively, seen in young patients

- Hyperplastic ectopic thymic tissue may be seen in the paratracheal location, up to the lower pole of the left thyroid lobe

http://humanhealth.iaea.org
168 patients with malignancy (27 children & 141 adults before and after chemotherapy)

Benign FDG accumulation in the thymus (thymic hyperplasia – increased uptake in a typical triangular shape with SUV < 4)

Common finding in children (73% before treatment and 75% after treatment) until the onset of puberty

Occasionally seen in young adults after chemotherapy (0% before treatment and 5% after treatment)