Clinical summary

• Male 77 year-old with squamous cell carcinoma of the left pyriform fossa.

• For staging PET/CT.
PET/CT findings

Intense uptake in the primary carcinoma (A) and ipsilateral cervical lymph nodes (B)

Nodal disease spread into the upper mediastinum (C – arrow), with no distant metastatic disease elsewhere.
Clinical summary

• Male 70 year-old presents with large necrotic nodal mass in the setting of hypopharyngeal carcinoma.

• For staging PET/CT.
PET/CT findings

Primary – right hypopharynx (arrows)
Large necrotic nodal mass – non uniform uptake

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Teaching points

• FDG PET/CT is potentially appropriate for evaluation of tumour extent, as MRI remains the standard of care for T-staging in head and neck carcinoma.

• FDG PET is accurate for detection of nodal and distant metastatic disease, and synchronous malignancies.

• Necrotic lymph nodes with absent FDG uptake may represent metastatic involvement until proven otherwise.


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