

Alzheimer's Association

Statement on Positron Emission Tomography

January 2004

The Alzheimer's Association believes that Fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography (FDG PET) may provide helpful information for the diagnosis and differential diagnosis of progressive cognitive impairment and dementia when used in conjunction with a thorough assessment conducted by an experienced and knowledgeable practitioner. However, FDG PET alone is not diagnostic for cognitive decline or dementia diagnosis. The Association supports the use of FDG PET for patients with dementia or patients with mild or moderate cognitive impairment of at least 6 months duration, when:

- 1) Dementia diagnosis, or cause for progressive cognitive impairment, remains uncertain after a comprehensive clinical evaluation, including review of the medical history, physical and neurological examinations, mental status testing, assessment of activities of daily living, laboratory tests, and structural imaging (MRI or CT), has been conducted by a physician experienced in the diagnosis and assessment of dementia, and
- 2) The information available through PET reasonably is expected to help clarify the diagnosis and/or help guide future treatment.

For more information:

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