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Title: Correlatin between PET scan and cytokine in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)

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Body: Background: Systemic and local inflammatory microenvironment may be an important contributor to morbidity and mortality associated with NSCLC. Exhaled breath condensate(EBC) is a non-invasive method to collect airway lining fluid for assessing lung inflammation. Interleukin-6 (IL-6) is associated with poor prognosis and correlates with neoplastic cachexia and with stage of disease. PET scan has been included in standard staging workup and the standardized uptake value(SUV) of PET-scan has been shown to correlate with poor prognosis in lung cancer. Aim and Objective: to assess the correlations between serum and EBC IL-6 levels and SUV in patients with NSCLC. Methods: Fifteen consecutive patients (12 males, mean age 64 years, range 39-82) receiving a curative resection for NSCLC were enrolled. All the patients underwent PET scan and IL-6 values measurement both in serum and EBC. Results: PET scan was positive in all the patients with a mean SUV value 10.64 ± 4.28 (range: 6-18.8). Mean IL-6 value was $1.05 \text{ pg/ml} \pm 1.27$ in serum and $0.29 \text{ pg/ml} \pm 0.09$ in EBC. Significant correlation between SUV and IL-6 levels both in serum and in EBC was found ($r = p < 0.001$ and $r = p < 0.05$ respectively)

Conclusions: the observed relationship suggest that lung and systemic inflammation is proportional to tumor metabolic activity.