



The Power of FAPI-PET/CT - II

In June 2022, we first presented the use of fibroblast activation protein inhibitor or FAPI PET/CT with a case where a lesion was well seen on the FAPI PET/CT, but not on routine FDG PET/CT. FAPI targets cancer-associated fibroblasts, while FDG targets glucose uptake in cells.

Over the last 2 years, the use of FAPI-PET/CT has increased. Today it is considered superior to FDG-PET/CT in many tumors including signet cell tumors of the GI tract, liver tumors, especially hepatocellular carcinomas, cholangiocarcinomas (Fig. 1) peritoneal and omental spread (Fig. 2), ovarian cancers...tumors that traditionally show low FDG uptake.

In the future, we will see an increase in its use even in other cancers, such as pancreas, head & neck, sarcomas and colorectal malignancies (Fig. 2).

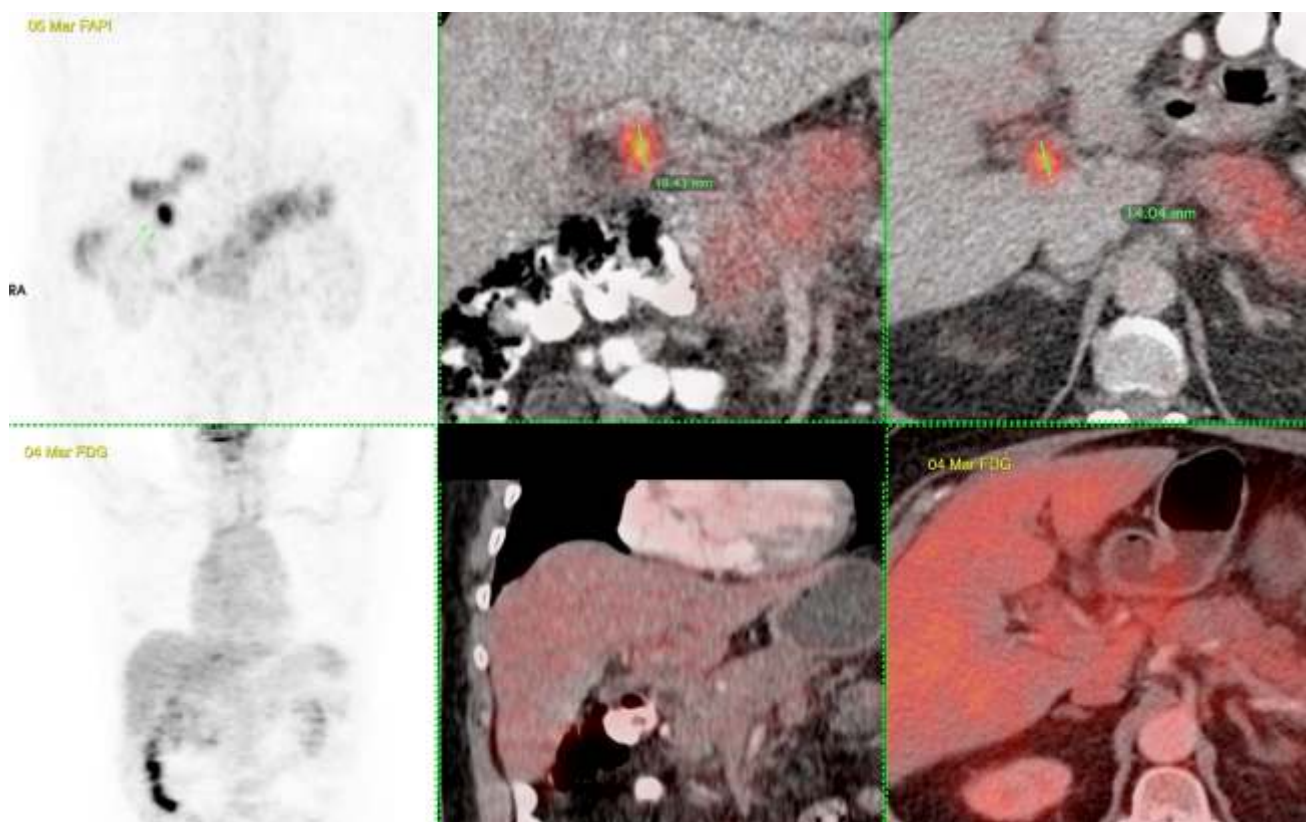


Fig. 1: 70-yr old man with cholangiocarcinoma. Post-chemotherapy, a staging FDG PET/CT (lower panel) showed no tumor or uptake. A FAPI PET/CT the next day (upper panel) clearly showed the cholangiocarcinoma with FAPI uptake, measuring 14 mm in transverse diameter and 18.4 mm in supero-inferior extent. Cholangiocarcinoma usually has low FDG avidity and in this situation, it showed only FAPI uptake and no FDG uptake, allowing us to accurately stage it on FAPI PET/CT.



At a glance

- ◆ FAPI PET/CT is an alternative to FDG PET/CT in many malignancies.
- ◆ Specifically, in tumors like HCC, cholangiocarcinoma, signet cell tumors, peritoneal and omental spread from ovarian and other cancers, FAPI is superior to FDG.

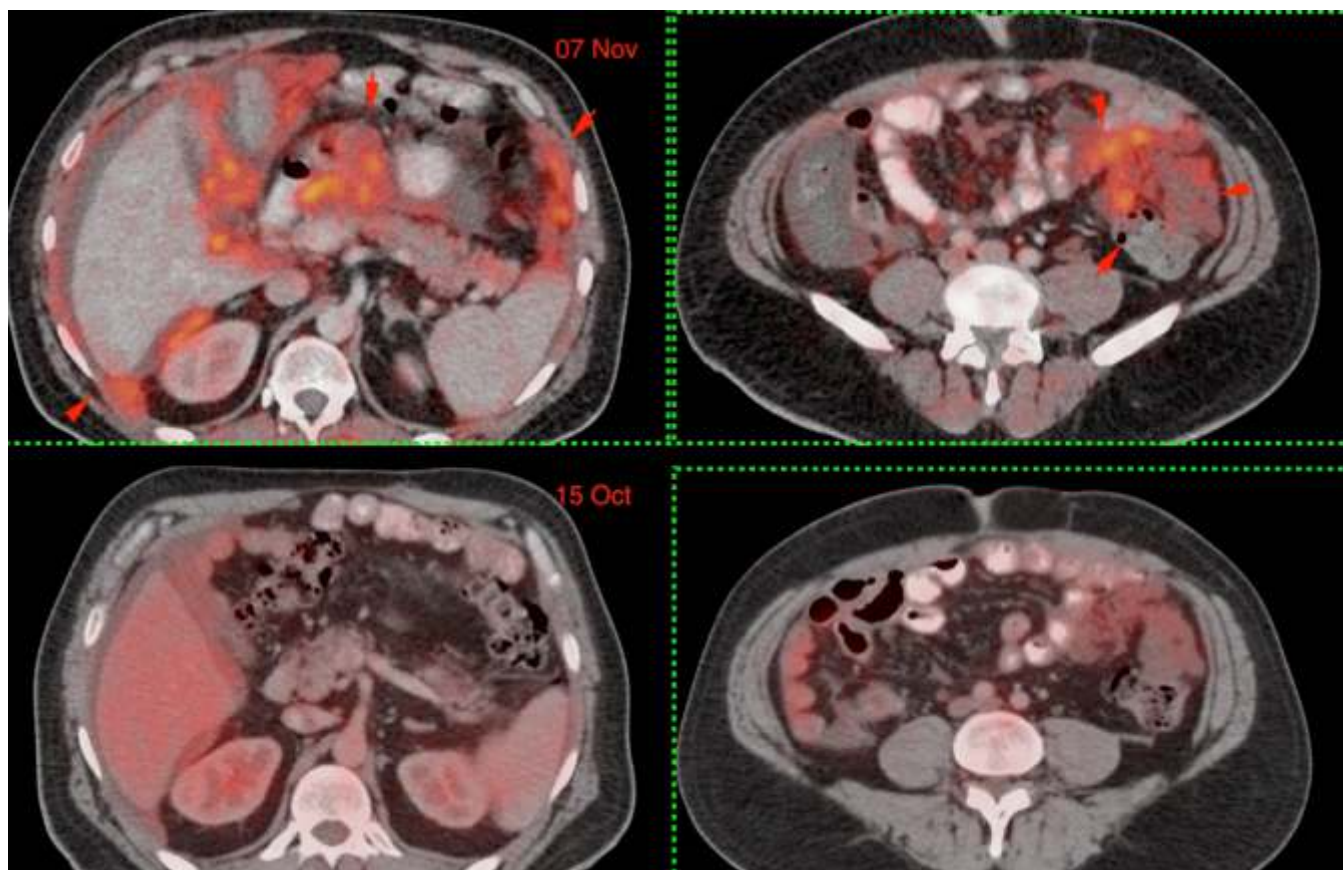


Fig. 2: 53-yrs old man with peritoneal spread from an operated descending colon carcinoma. He presented with ascites 3 years later. An FDG PET/CT (lower panel) showed ascites and peritoneal spread. However, the uptake of the lesions was low and the exact disease burden was difficult to estimate. A FAPI PET/CT done 3 weeks later (upper panel) showed how widespread the disease was with extensive omental and peritoneal nodules and masses. In this case, FAPI PET/CT helped us understand the extent of disease, which in turn helped with treatment planning and served as a baseline for future follow-up

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