Appendix B

Analytical Framework for Evaluating PET in Soft Tissue Sarcomas

Patient presents without history of prior soft tissue sarcoma, and either has painless mass growing for a variable length of time or mass after an injury that does not rapidly resolve

Potential Use of PET: For primary diagnosis, if it can help direct patient management in rare instances where core biopsy will be problematic to perform.

Usual diagnostic data
1. Core biopsy of mass
2. Local CT/MRI
3. Lung CT for metastases

Potential Uses of PET:
2. If it can help distinguish between different pathologic states, given an inconclusive biopsy (can it actually replace repeat biopsy?).
3. For detecting metastatic disease during primary staging.
4. Evaluating pre-operative tumor reduction in cases where chemo/radiation therapy is used.

Surgical resection of mass: Some centers may use pre-op chemo/radiation

Potential Uses of PET:
1. For local recurrence at scar site.
2. For distant metastases.

Serial evaluation for local and/or distant recurrence