Image in medicine

Single pulmonary nodule with reverse halo sign in COVID-19 infection: Incidental finding on FDG PET/CT scan[☆]

Nódulo pulmonar único con signo del halo inverso en infección COVID-19: hallazgo incidental en PET-TC

Diego Varona Porres [a],[*], Marc Simó [b], Ana Lucía Sánchez [a], Laura Cabanzo [a], Jordi Andreu [a]

[a] *Servicio de Radiodiagnóstico, Hospital Vall de Hebron, Barcelona, Spain*
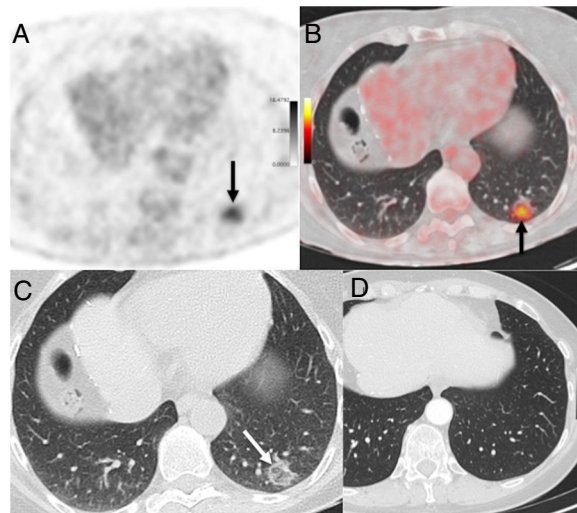[b] *Servicio de Medicina Nuclear, Hospital Vall de Hebron, Barcelona, Spain*

Figure 1.

We report the case of a 53-year-old woman with a history of colon neoplasm with liver metastases who came to our hospital for a cancer follow-up visit. In the follow-up CT scan, a possible liver recurrence of her neoplasm was identified. PET/CT showed liver recurrence and a single and subpleural pulmonary nodule in the left lower lobe, of approximately 17 mm and hypermetabolic (maximum SUV 6.7) (Fig. 1A and B, black arrows). This lesion was not visible on the previous CT performed 6 days before (Fig. 1D). The high-resolution chest CT performed in the PET/CT study showed that the pulmonary nodule had the reverse halo sign (Fig. 1C, white arrow). The possibility of pneumonia caused by COVID-19 was considered due to the current epidemiological context, confirmed by nasopharyngeal swab.

The reverse halo sign consists of a central ground-glass density area surrounded by lung consolidations. In COVID-19 pneumonia, the presence of multiple pulmonary nodules with progression to ground glass and reverse halo sign has been described after treatment. However, the presentation as a single pulmonary nodule with an reverse halo sign has not been previously described.