

6 years, 1 died of other causes at 11 years, 2 were alive with disease after 5 and 13 years, and the remaining 10 were alive with no evidence of disease with a mean follow-up of 10 years (1).

The authors found that the FDG positivity or negativity of distant metastases was not affected by whether the scan was done under TSH stimulation or under TSH suppression. However, the delay between when the distant metastases were found and when the initial FDG-PET-CT scan was performed raises concerns. (There can be discrepancies between repeat FDG

scans, with a spontaneous shift from positive to negative (2), and some data indicate that higher TSH levels can increase FDG positivity).

Only 5% of the patients in this study had a complete remission following therapy with ¹³¹I. This could reflect a selection bias because patients with aggressive disease may have been preferentially referred to this center to obtain access to their advanced research protocols and technology.

— **Stephen W. Spaulding, MD**

References

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