

Peer Review

Review of: "Impact of Total Mastectomy on the Lymphatic Pathway and the Limitation of PET Imaging in Breast Cancer Surveillance"

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- **Over-reliance on General Information:** The introduction and early sections provide a lot of general background on breast cancer and mastectomy. While some context is helpful, it detracts from the central focus on PET scan limitations. Much of the information on mastectomy and lymphedema, while relevant, could be condensed or assumed knowledge for the intended audience.
- **Lack of Specificity in the Critique of PET Scans:** While the commentary mentions low metabolic activity as the reason for PET scan limitations, it doesn't delve deeply into the why behind this. A more detailed explanation of the biological factors contributing to the lower metabolic activity of lymphatic metastases would strengthen the argument.
- **Weak Transition to Alternative Imaging:** The commentary abruptly ends with a mention of MRI. It would be more impactful to elaborate on the advantages of MRI (and potentially other imaging modalities) in detecting lymphatic metastases. A more thorough discussion of how these alternatives address the limitations of PET scans would strengthen the conclusion.
- **Figure Placement and Relevance:** The figures are helpful, but their placement and integration with the text are weak. The figures should be more directly tied to the discussion of lymphatic metastasis and the challenges of detection. For example, a figure comparing PET and MRI images of lymphatic metastases would be highly relevant.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.