



# Rad to Rad Learning: Wernicke Encephalopathy

The Radiology Partners (RP) Neuroradiology National Subspecialty Division (NSD) presents our newest Rad to Rad Learning case.

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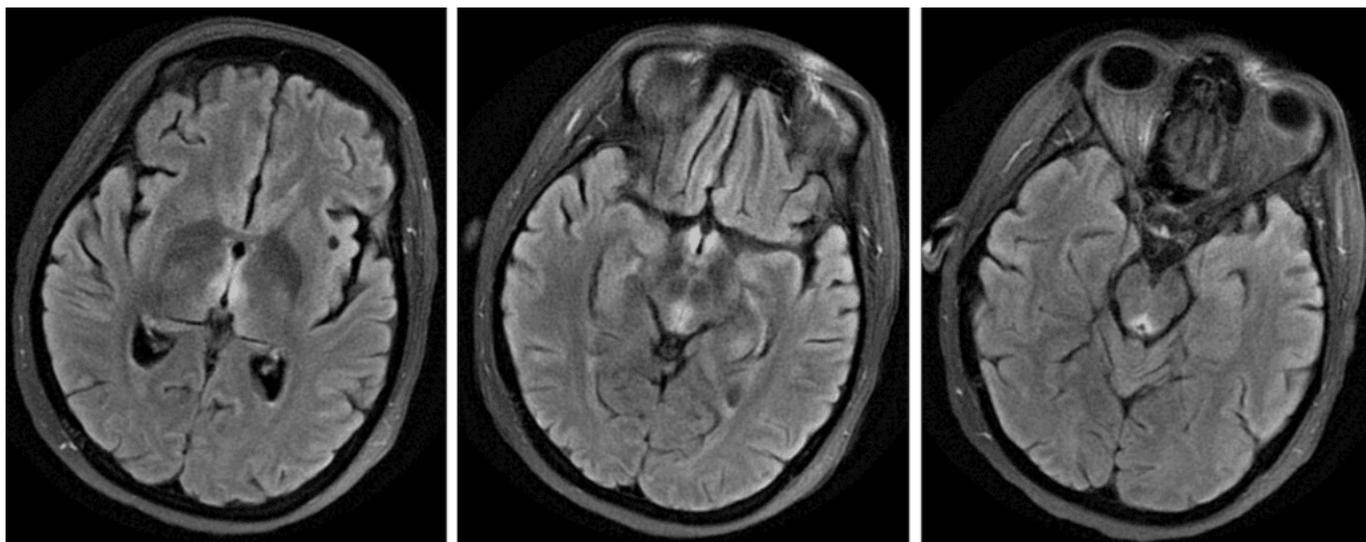
## Peer Learning Opportunity



**Up to 80% of patients with this condition suffer severe memory loss (Korsakoff syndrome) and it has a 10-20% mortality rate if untreated.**

## Wernicke Encephalopathy

**Look for symmetric T2 hyperintensity in the medial thalami, hypothalami, mammillary bodies, and periaqueductal grey matter.**



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## Practical Insights

- **The classic triad of ataxia, oculomotor abnormalities and confusion is present in the majority of patients.**
  - **Over 20% of thiamine deficiencies occur in nonalcoholics with malnutrition, malabsorption, prolonged vomiting, cancer, or AIDS.**
  - **MRI is normal in 40% of cases.**
  - **Thiamine supplementation is a cheap and effective treatment.**
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## Classic imaging appearance should trigger thiamine supplementation due to low-risk and high clinical impact.

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# Rad to Rad Learning: Solid Pulmonary Nodules on FDG PET/CT

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**Low-level FDG uptake in a solid pulmonary nodule does not exclude malignancy.**

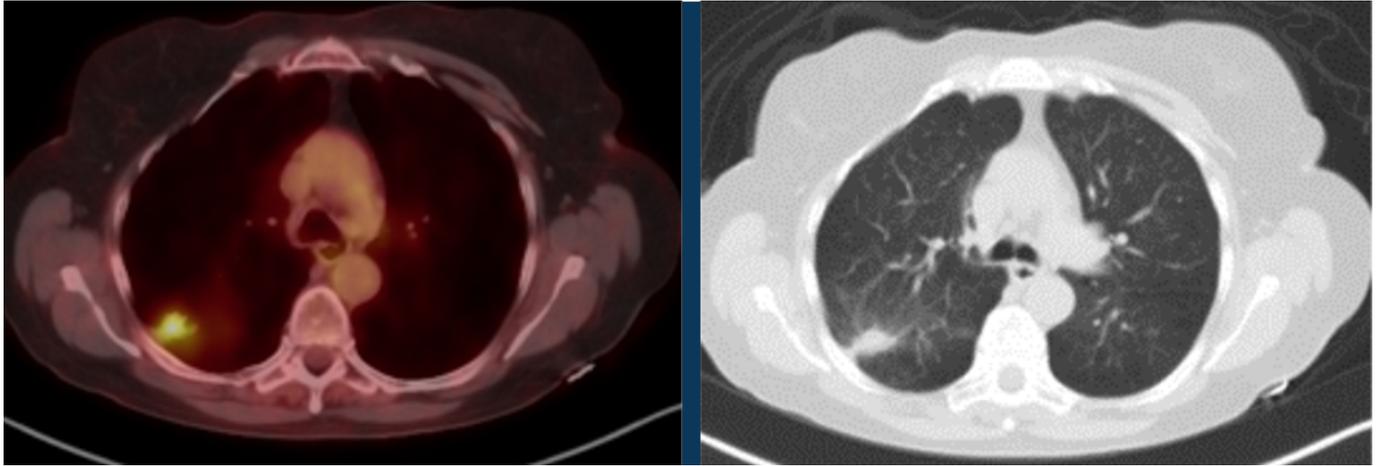
## **Solid Pulmonary Nodules on FDG PET/CT**

**2018 study - Below threshold SUV. SUV max 2.2**

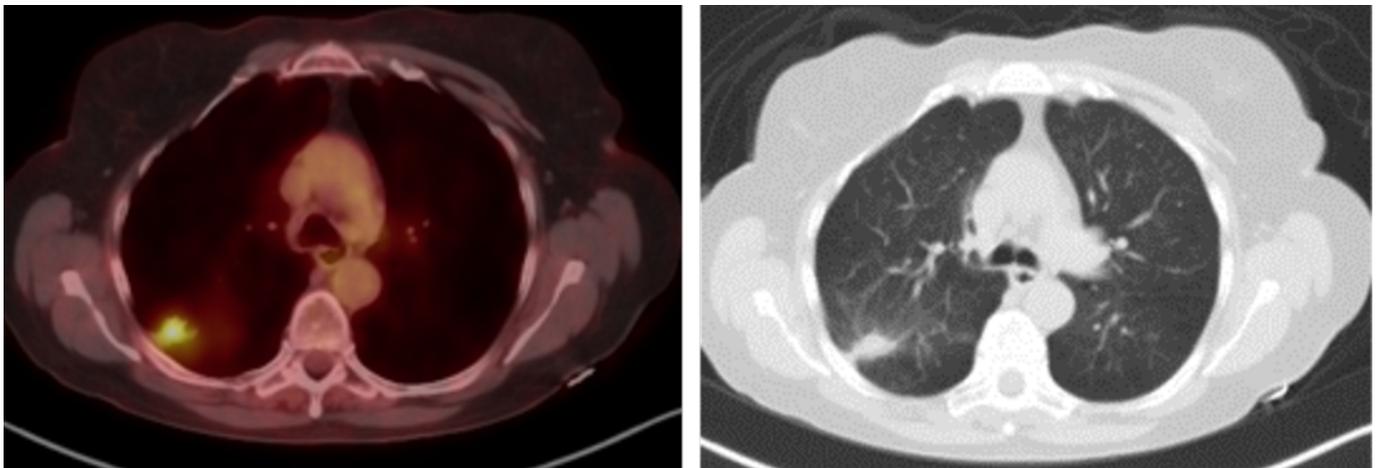
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2020 study - Biopsy-proven adenocarcinoma. SUV max 5.4



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## Practical Insights

- **Historically, SUV > 2.5 has been shown to have higher positive predictive value**

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**for malignancy.**

- **However, SUV <2.5 is not definitively benign.**
- **Nodule morphology and change over time are as important as SUV.**
- **If low FDG activity, recommend follow-up CT as a minimum**



### **No SUV threshold reliably differentiates malignant from benign solid nodules.**

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## [Rad to Rad Learning: Subsolid Pulmonary Nodules on FDG PET/CT](#)

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**Low-level FDG uptake in a subsolid pulmonary nodule does not exclude malignancy.**

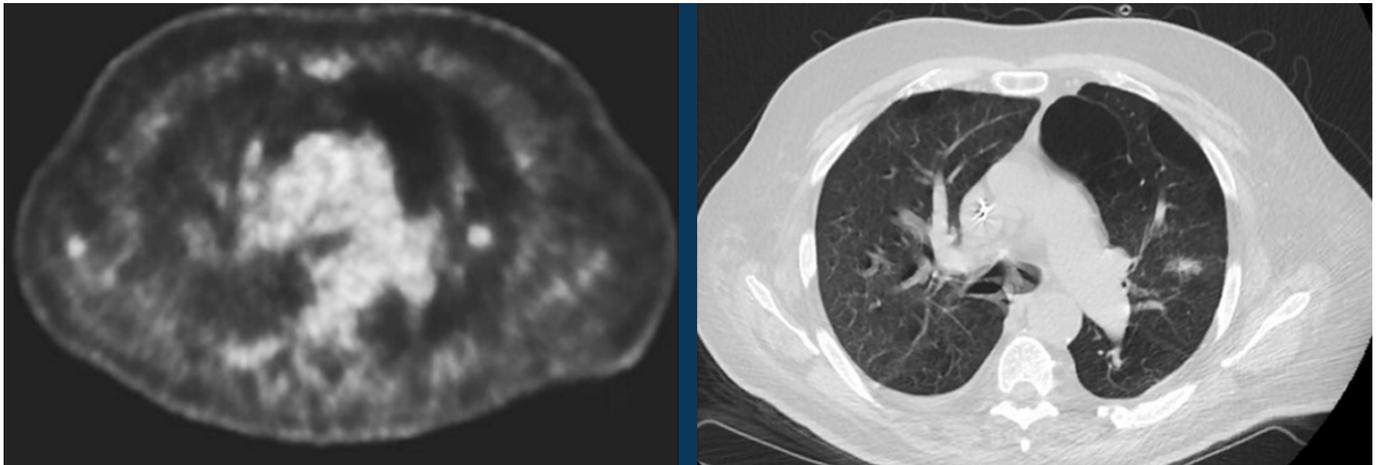
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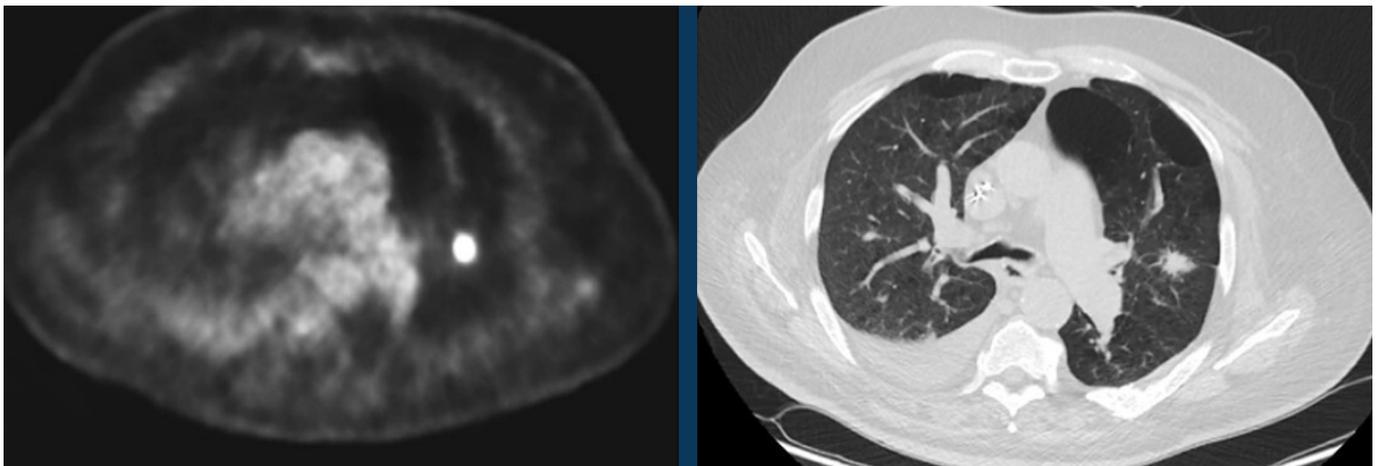
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## Subsolid Pulmonary Nodules on FDG PET/CT

Feb 12, 2024 SUV max 2.1



July 25, 2025. SUV max 8.2



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- **There are no relevant threshold values when evaluating subsolid nodules.**
- **Changes in nodule morphology over time may be as or more important than SUV max.**
- **For subsolid nodules with low SUV max, follow-up CT is recommended, unless the nodule is enlarging over time.**



### **Subsolid nodules with low-level FDG uptake can be malignant.**

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## [Rad to Rad Learning: False Positive GI Bleed](#)

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## [Rad to Rad Learning: HIDA - Nonexcreting Liver](#)

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