Signs in Nuclear Medicine Imaging

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Nuclear medicine is an imaging specialty that helps by giving functional information and aids a wide variety of specialties in determining causes of medical problems based on images. Classical radiological signs have been reported extensively as a result of a myriad of pathophysiological processes. In general, when encountered, they aid in diagnosis of conditions and add confidence for the reader; at times even hinting at a specific diagnosis. The naming of signs is commonly associated with objects from everyday life to establish familiarity with visual findings. Association of signs and disease comes with regular practice, and improves understanding of the image and its underlying cause. It is also important to be aware of rare signs as they may often cause misinterpretation. While the areas of uptakes in nuclear medicine usually correlate to the area of disease, there are cases of scans which produced unusual findings caused by unexpected pathophysiology or anatomical abnormalities. This lecture will contain illustrations of different signs in nuclear medicine as reported in the literature and discuss the causes for their appearances and possible differentials when encountered.