

Evidence Discussion: Abdominal Lymphadenopathy (AB-8.1)

Abdominal lymphadenopathy can be associated with infectious, autoimmune, and malignant etiologies. Whenever possible, tissue pathology is preferred in the diagnosis of enlarged lymph nodes.

CT remains the main modality for evaluation of intra-abdominal lymph nodes. This can be used for identification, follow-up, and guidance for percutaneous biopsy. Serial CT should be done with consideration of radiation exposure.

PET/CT, although not specific for malignancy, can assist in identifying alternate sites for biopsy in patients with a previously non-diagnostic biopsy or when lymph nodes are relatively inaccessible and biopsy would require an invasive surgical intervention.

References

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