

# CORRELATIVE IMAGING IN NUCLEAR MEDICINE PRACTICE

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***Abstract*** – Correlative imaging has been used in clinical practice, mainly for the interpretation of nuclear medicine studies with insufficient anatomical informations. First correlative studies were done more than 30 years ago when X rays were compared with rectilinear scans. Software co-registration techniques suffered from technical limitations related to the different geometries of the imaging equipment and differences in positioning of the patients. Last decade is dedicated to the worldwide usage of PET in clinical nuclear medicine practice. The development of hybrid PET/CT device has been the actual concept nowadays, so none of the major medical imaging manufacturers do not offer PET scanner alone. SPECT/CT as hybrid devices also have been adopted to nuclear medicine community. PET/MRI systems are in development last years and probably will replace PET/CT at some level. Despite the primacy of anatomical imaging for locoregional disease definition, functional and molecular characterization available from SPECT and PET offers unique complementary information with great importance in clinical practice.