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PRESS RELEASE

ONCOLOGICAL IMAGING: Early diagnosis and accurate tumor staging, new targeted therapies

New techniques and Medical Imaging methods provide the possibility of early tumor diagnosis as well as accurate estimation of their expansion (tumor staging), in order to choose the best and most beneficial therapy for every patient, and in combination with the rapidly developing technology, form the dynamically developing area of **Oncological Imaging**.

CT and magnetic resonance tomography, latest generation techniques of X-rays, digital mammography, ultrasound tomography and Nuclear Medicine as well as the new revolutionary methods of “molecular imaging”, such as Positron Emission Tomography (PET), are today necessary tools in the hands of oncologists.

All of the above were discussed at the “**1st Hellenic Conference on Oncological Imaging**”, that was organized by **HYGEIA Hospital** on the **23-25 October 2009** at the “Megaron Music Hall Conference Center” in Athens with the participation of scientists from a wide range of hospitals and Health services of the whole country.

As the **President of the Organizing Committee**, oncologist and President of the HYGEIA Scientific Board, **Paris Kosmidis**, stated “Thanks to the new surgical techniques, the new and more effective chemotherapeutic drugs, the targeted therapies and the more accurate methods of radiotherapy and radiosurgery, **the evaluation of the result of different therapies and the guidance of minimally interventional acts** for diagnosis or complementary compassionate tumor therapy is now more reliable”. In parallel, he went on, “**the possibility of early diagnosis** of several cancer types **improved significantly**”.

Referring to the importance of **PET examination** in the neoplastic patient, **the President of the Conference Scientific Board**, radiologist and Coordinator of HYGEIA Imaging sector, **Ioannis Andreou**, noted that “positron emission tomography (**PET**) has radically changed the way of initial staging **of patients with lung cancer** as well as the way of evaluation of the therapy outcome **in patients with lymphoma** and with other type of tumours also. **Magnetic tomography** offers, today, **at a very high level, reliable evaluation of local expansion in prostate cancer**, in order to provide the most beneficial therapy for the patient”.

“The expanding use of annual preventive mammography during the last decades alone, has improved survival rates of women with breast cancer at least by 20%” added the

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deputy Director of the CT and Magnetic Resonance Tomography Departments, Arkadios Rousakis, and noted that “**magnetic mammography is now a mature tool of complementary breast examination**, that offers significant information in selective patient cases”.

However, even the most developed techniques of Oncological Imaging are not sufficient to improve alone life expectancy and quality of life of cancer patients. They should also be reliably applied by specialized -in the field- Radiologists and Nuclear medical doctors, rationally used by the Surgeons, Oncologists and Radiotherapists and, finally, have their usefulness subjectively assessed over the long term.

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