We report an unusual case of a positron emission tomography (PET)-positive para-aortic lymph node (Fig. 1) in a patient with breast cancer that was punctured with transesophageal endoscopic ultrasound (EUS)-guided fine needle aspiration (FNA) by traversing the carotid artery, with multiple needle passes performed.

EUS was performed by an experienced endosonographer (A. L.) using a conventional linear echoendoscope. It confirmed the presence of a 15×20-mm lymph node, which was located near to the origin of the left common carotid artery from the aortic arch (Fig. 2). A window that would allow the lymph node to be punctured without traversing any vascular structure could not be found. Therefore, transcarotid EUS-FNA was performed using a 25-gauge needle (Echotip Ultra, Cook Medical Inc., Bloomington, Indiana, USA; Fig. 3a and Video 1).

After the first needle pass, a hyperechoic halo appeared around the vessel, suggestive of a small leakage of blood, but there were no ultrasonographic signs of overt bleeding (Fig. 3b). Two additional needle passes were performed. The patient was observed for 1 hour in the recovery room then for the following 24 hours with no evidence of complications. She was discharged on the day after the procedure. A definitive diagnosis of metastatic breast cancer was made on cytological examination (Fig. 4a) with evidence of positivity for the estrogen receptor (Fig. 4b).

Recently, Wallace and colleagues [1] have reported the first case of transbronchial endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS)-guided transaortic FNA in a patient with meta-
static lymph nodes from lung cancer using a 22-gauge needle. Subsequently, von Bartheld \[2\] utilized the same technique to perform transesophageal transaortic EUS-FNA of para-aortic lymph nodes and lung masses using a 25-gauge needle. In both cases, only a single needle pass was performed because of the fear of complications. In contrast, the present case shows that EUS-FNA of a para-aortic lymph node is also technically feasible by traversing the carotid artery and that no complications resulted even when multiple passes of a 25-gauge needle were carried out.

** Competing interests:** None

**References**


**Bibliography**

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**Corresponding author**

F. Lococo, MD
Department of Thoracic Surgery
Catholic University of Sacred Heart
Largo F. Vito n 1
Roma
Italy
Fax: +39-32-94131202
filippo_lococo@yahoo.it