

The sensitivity of the method on a patient basis was 90.7% (95% CI = 84.5 - 96.9) if the results of all three times of the scans are included in the analysis (1h- 4h and 24h). This data would seem slightly lower than that required to reject the null hypothesis (sensitivity > 92.5). It should be emphasized that the sensitivity of the detection at 24h is a confusing datum since this detection time is not adequate for a diagnostic application due to the too low level of radioactivity caused to the decay of the radiopharmaceutical and therefore it should be excluded analysis. As a consequence, the sensitivity of the patient-based method was evaluated considering only scan times at 1 and 4 hours. The sensitivity in this case was 94.7% (95% CI = 92.6 - 96.5) and therefore superior to hypothesis testing that required a sensitivity > 92.5% to reject the null hypothesis (sensitivity < 80%). Moreover, for the purposes of identifying the optimal detection timing, the sensitivity to the single times 1 h, 4 h and 24 h, which were respectively equal to 94.7% (IC 95% =) 92.1 - 97.2); 94.75% (95% CI = 92.1 - 97.2) and 85.3% (95% CI = 85.3 - 89.3) were calculated (as the mean between the observers and between the readings). So there are no differences in sensitivity between the first scan at 1 hour and the second scan at 4 hours.