PET Finding
The FDG PET brain study demonstrated bilateral symmetric decreased FDG uptake in parietal and temporal lobes (Figure 1). This is a typical pattern for Alzheimer’s Disease (AD).

How Did PET Help?
The FDG PET brain scan helped to confirm the diagnosis of early Alzheimer’s Disease. PET provided the patient and clinician with important information for assessing possible treatment options and planning for the future.

Discussion
Recent studies have highlighted the value of PET in Alzheimer’s Disease as a diagnostic tool. It is also a prognostic tool used to identify early changes associated with Alzheimer’s, in contrast to other neurodegenerative dementias. Early detection of AD will allow physicians to employ existing and new therapeutic options in a timely fashion for the patient’s maximum benefit.

In recognition of the important role that PET can play in the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease, on September 15, 2004, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) approved coverage of FDG PET scans for Alzheimer’s Disease under conditions in which the diagnosis remains uncertain.


Copyright 2004 New England PET Imaging System