

# Monitoring SARS-Cov-2 pathogenesis and assessment of therapeutic response in a preclinical model

#### AIM

Implementing [18F]FDG-PET/CT imaging to monitor the early phase of SARS-Cov-2 infection in animal

#### **METHODS**

- Young animals exposed to SARS-CoV-2
- Computed tomography CT to characterize lung lesions

• Whole-body [18F]FDG-PET to characterize lymph node and lung hypermetabolism

### RESULTS

Mild COVID-19 symptoms observed in animals including typical lung lesions

• FDG metabolism, revealed by [18F] FDG PET, significantly higher in the lungs, nasal cavities, lung-draining lymph nodes, and spleen of animals

### CONCLUSION

• [18F]FDG-PET/CT imaging of SARS-CoV-2 infected animals provides strong and transposable readouts to monitor COVID-19 disease and the efficacy of drug candidates



PET-CT images of [18F] FDG uptake in an animal exposed to Sars-CoV-2. (A) Chest frontal slice with lymph node hypermetabolism in clavicular (brown arrow), mediastinal (red arrow) and axillary (yellow arrow) regions. (B-C) Transversal slice with hypermetabolism in tonsil (blue arrow), naso-pharynx associated lymphoid tissue (purple arrow) and lymph node in cervical regions (green arrow). (D) 3D representation of [18F] FDG hypermetabolism. (E-G) Increased [18F] FDG uptake in lung lesion and spleen.



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