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Pakistan Journal of Nuclear Medicine is the official journal of Pakistan Society of Nuclear Medicine

# Dots (...) and lines need more attention: progress, participation, and the pursuit of indexing

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## ABSTRACT

It is our pleasure to introduce the 2025 issue of the Pakistan Journal of Nuclear Medicine (PJNM). This edition reflects not only the scientific progress of our field but also PJNM's growing role as a national platform with regional relevance for nuclear medicine research. The articles featured in this issue, from original research to rare case reports, demonstrate how our specialty continues to evolve and how our community remains committed to advancing patient care.

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## Introduction

We begin with two impactful original contributions.

The first, by Ilyas et al. [1], presents an innovative AI-based dynamic release system for I-131-treated patients. By incorporating machine-learning models, the authors propose a more precise, patient-specific approach to post-therapy discharge, something long needed in our local context. This approach aligns well with how journals evolve through modernization and scientific innovation [1].

The second original article, from Djigo et al. [2] in Dakar, compares relative renal function measurements using Diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid and Dimercaptosuccinic acid scintigraphy. Their findings show a strong correlation between the two modalities, offering evidence that can help departments streamline renal imaging workflows, an important consideration as journals grow through expanded research output [2].

## Special Communication

This issue also features an important pilot study by Shabbir et al. [3], reporting on the prevalence of the BRAF V600E mutation in papillary thyroid carcinoma among Pakistani patients. As molecular diagnostics become increasingly relevant, such local genomic data contribute to the advancement of precision medicine and mirror how established journals improved through specialized scientific focus [3].

## Case Reports

The case reports in this issue highlight uncommon clinical presentations and the indispensable role of nuclear imaging:

- A thoracic kidney detected incidentally on DMSA scintigraphy, an uncommon finding, reminding us how nuclear imaging often uncovers rare anatomical variations.
- An atypical osteoid osteoma mimicking a stress fracture in an elderly female, where Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography / Computed Tomography proved essential for correct diagnosis.
- A Grade-1 neuroendocrine tumor studied with both DOTANOC PET/CT and indigenous HYNIC-TATE SPECT/CT, demonstrating excellent agreement and showcasing local radiopharmacy capability.
- Multiglandular parathyroid disease in a young Chronic Kidney Disease patient, highlighting the diagnostic importance of Technetium-99m Methoxyisobutyl isonitrile scintigraphy.
- Rosai-Dorfman disease with meningeal involvement, where Fluorodeoxyglucose Positron Emission Tomography / Computed Tomography offered valuable insight into disease activity.
- Ectopic thyroid tissue in the superior mediastinum, an uncommon presentation elegantly demonstrated through hybrid imaging.

### A Shared Responsibility: Strengthening PJNM

While PJNM continues to grow, we must acknowledge a challenge that limits its full potential: modest manuscript submission rates. A major factor contributing to this is the lack of formal recognition by Higher Education Commission and international indexing and impact-factor authorities. Such recognition is essential because academic promotion criteria heavily favor indexed journals [4,5].

This creates a difficult cycle:

- We receive fewer submissions because PJNM has no impact factor.
- Without enough submissions and citations, PJNM cannot qualify for indexing or an impact factor.
- The lack of recognition further discourages authors, leading to continued low submission rates [5].

This “self-perpetuating cycle” has affected many emerging journals worldwide, but it can be overcome. The Japanese Journal of Nuclear Medicine (Kaku Igaku) and the Korean Journal of Nuclear Medicine both broke similar cycles through sustained national submission practices, editorial strengthening, and long-term academic commitment [6,7]. International examples, such as the development of EJNMMI, show how consistent scientific contribution can transform a regional journal into a widely recognized platform [8].

To move PJNM forward, we must work together:

- Submit original research, reviews, clinical audits, and imaging innovations.
- Cite PJNM articles in our academic work where relevant.
- Encourage trainees and young researchers to publish in PJNM.
- Participate regularly in peer review.
- Support multi-center research collaborations.
- Professional societies promote the journal as the primary scientific platform.

With unity, commitment, and a shared vision, PJNM can evolve into a respected regional journal that reflects the expertise, innovation, and dedication of Pakistan’s nuclear medicine community.

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