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**A Study to Assess the Role of 18F-FDG PET/CT Radiomic  
Features in Predicting KRAS, BRAF and EGFR Mutation  
Status in Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Patients**

**A Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

**In**

**Radiobiology**

**Submitted by**

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## **Abstract**

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second most deadly cancer and the third most commonly diagnosed cancer in the world. But besides an increase in incidence, advances in early detection screenings, genetic testing, improved management, and treatment options have reduced CRC mortality. KRAS, BRAF, and EGFR mutation status is critical for tailoring therapeutic approaches and predicting treatment potential for CRC patients. Fluorine-18-fluorodeoxyglucose (18F-FDG) PET/CT scans are frequently used for cancer diagnosis, staging, and post-operative monitoring, including the investigation of metastatic diseases in a variety of malignancies. The goal of this study was to investigate the correlations between the prognostic value of 18F-FDG PET/CT radiomics with KRAS, BRAF, and EGFR mutations status in patients with mCRC. Our results indicated that SUVmax, SUVmean, SUVmin, TBR, and TLG were significantly higher in the mutation group compared to the wild-type or heterozygous groups. ROC curve analysis of SUVmax shows high-to-moderate sensitivity (77.5%) and specificity (63.0%). As such, SUVmax, SUVmean, SUVmin, TBR, and TLG were independently predictive of mutation status in CRC patients. However, only SUVmax was independently predictive of the mutation status of CRC metastasis regardless of the other adjusted factors. From these results, we can conclude the clinical significance of SUVmax, SUVmean, SUVmin, TBR, and TLG in diagnosis and prognosis prediction of mCRC mutation status.