Additional Diagnostic Studies

• PET scan
  – Controversial role in routine staging of breast cancer patients
  – Axillary lymph node status is most important prognostic indicator in breast cancer
    • Metabolic imaging with PET scan detects increased glucose consumption in axillary metastases
    • Lymph node enlargement >1cm is decisive criterion
      – Limited detection of micrometastases
      – Does not replace sentinel lymph node biopsy
  – Sensitive for detection of osteolytic metastases
  – Can be used to monitor therapy response in metastases after chemotherapy or radiation