

Figure 1.

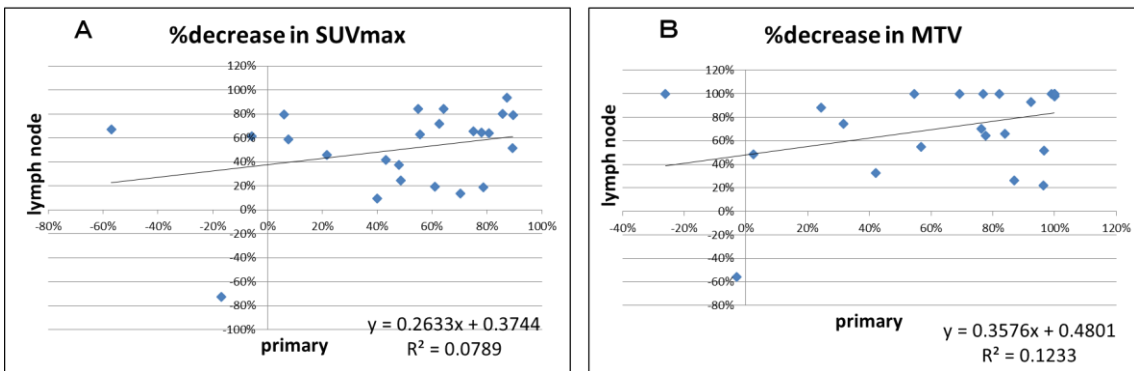


Figure 2.

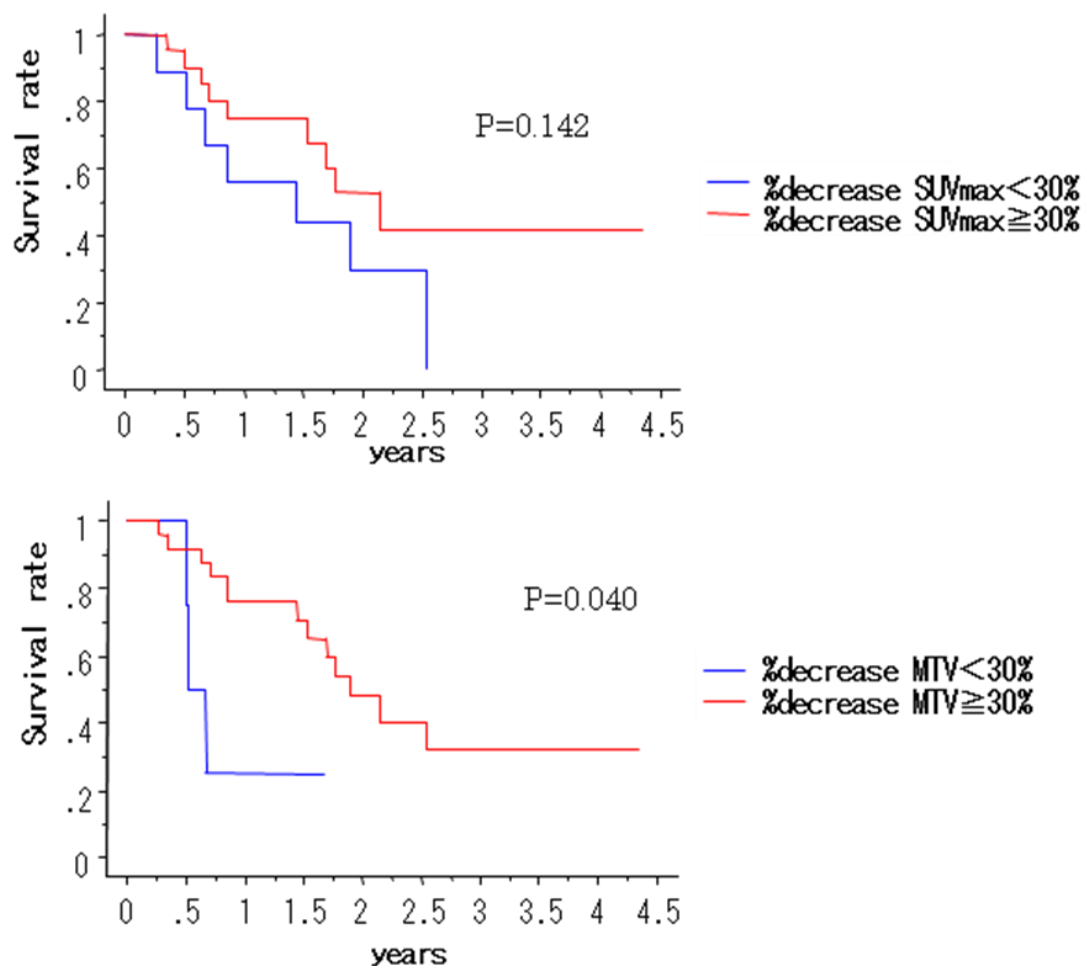


Figure 3.

Figure 1. Two patients with grade 1a tumors based on the pathological assessment. (A and B): A 46-year-old man had a primary tumor in the lower esophagus. (A): Pre-treatment with ^{18}F -fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography/computed tomography (PET/CT) shows a maximum standard uptake value (SUV_{max}) of 13.60 and a metabolic tumor volume (MTV) of 60.34. (B): The post-treatment PET/CT shows an SUV_{max} of 21.35 and an MTV of 76.11. The reduction rate of the SUV is -57% , and that of the MTV is -26% . (C and D): A 66-year-old man with a primary tumor in the lower esophagus. (C): Pretreatment PET/CT shows an SUV_{max} of 21.51 and an MTV of 102.01. (D): Post-treatment PET/CT shows an SUV_{max} of 2.25 and an MTV of 0. The reduction rate of the SUV is 89.5% , and the MTV is 100% .

Figure 2. Spearman's correlation coefficients for a primary tumor and lymph node metastasis. There is no correlation between (A) the %decrease in SUV after neoadjuvant chemotherapy NAC ($R^2=0.079$) or (B) the %decrease in MTV after NAC ($R^2=0.123$).

Figure 3. Kaplan–Meier analysis of the patients with a diagnosis of esophageal cancer. (A): The overall survival shows no significant difference between the %decrease in SUV_{max} of ≥ 30 and $\text{SUV}_{\text{max}} < 30$. (B): Prediction of overall survival shows a significant difference between the %decrease in the MTV ≥ 30 and MTV < 30 .