

# Klinik und Poliklinik für Nuklearmedizin

## Leitung

### Klinikdirektor

Prof. Dr. med. J. Kotzerke

## Kontakt

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## Lehre

TUT MED	0.00 %
TUT ZM	0.00 %
Med VK	0.00 %
Med KL	0.00 %
Praxistag	0.00 %
ZM	0.00 %
PH	0.00 %
MRS	0.00 %
Gesamt	0.00 %

## Publikationen

Summe der I-Faktoren (ungewichtet)	152.588
Summe der I-Faktoren	38.354
Summe der B-Faktoren	0.000
Summe der I- und B-Faktoren	38.354
Aufsätze	32
Bücher	0
Beiträge in Büchern	0
Habilitationen/Dissertationen	0/2
nicht-med. Diss./Dipl. u. Master	0/0
Patente (angem./ert.)	0/0
Preise und Ehrungen	0
Herausgabe einer Zeitschrift	0

## Drittmittel

Intern bewirtschaftet	LOM-Kategorie A	0.0 T€
	LOM-Kategorie B	0.0 T€
	LOM-Kategorie C	0.0 T€
	LOM-Kategorie D	0.0 T€
	LOM-Kategorie E	0.0 T€
<b>Gesamtsumme</b>		0.0 T€
<b>Gesamtsumme (bewertet)</b>		0.0 T€

## Leitbild

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Die klinische Evaluierung neuer Untersuchungs- und Behandlungsmethoden steht im Vordergrund der Projekte der Klinik und Poliklinik für Nuklearmedizin. Untersuchungen an einem der modernsten kombinierten PET/MRT-Geräte sowie am PET/CT beide im PET-Zentrum Haus 44 sind besonders hervorzuheben.

Weitere klinische Forschungsarbeiten umfassen die Durchführung und Teilnahme an klinischen Studien gemeinsam mit Kliniken und Instituten des Universitätsklinikums und der Medizinischen Fakultät sowie anderen Einrichtungen. In der interdisziplinären Arbeitsgruppe Radiobiologie untersuchen Mediziner, Biologen, Chemiker und Physiker gemeinsam strahlenbiologische Aspekte der Anwendung offener Radionuklide an Zellkulturen.

Weiterhin arbeiten wir an der Verbesserung der Bildgebung und der Quantifizierung der Daten. So soll die Validität der diagnostischen Aussagen und die Dosimetrie bei Radionuklidtherapien vorangetrieben werden.

Die Weiterentwicklung von Markierungstechniken für radioaktive Arzneimittel dient vorrangig der Erschließung neuer therapeutischer Ansätze.

## Publikationen

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### Publikationen 2021

#### Aufsätze in wissenschaftlichen Zeitschriften (32)

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Autoren, die zur eigenen Einrichtung gehören, sind mit \* gekennzeichnet. Ist der Beitrag auf mehrere Einrichtungen verteilt, so ist der berücksichtigte Anteil in [] angegeben.

##### **Radiotherapy enhances uptake and efficacy of (90)Y-cetuximab: A preclinical trial.**

Dietrich, A. • Andreeff, M.\* • Koi, L. • Bergmann, R. • Schubert, M. • Schreiner, L. • Löck, S. • Sihver, W. • Freudenberg, R.\* • Hering, S. • Pietzsch, H.J. • Steinbach, J. • Kotzerke, J.\* • Baumann, M. • Krause, M.

**Erschienen 2021 in:** RADIOTHER ONCOL 155, Seite 285 - 292

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 6.28 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.069 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 6.28 \cdot 0.069 = 0.435$ )

##### **Reduced diffusion in white matter after radiotherapy with photons and protons.**

Dünger, L. • Seidlitz, A. • Jentsch, C. • Platzek, I. • Kotzerke, J.\* • Beuthien-Baumann, B.\* • Baumann, M. • Krause, M. • Troost, E.G.C. • Raschke, F.

**Erschienen 2021 in:** RADIOTHER ONCOL 164, Seite 66 - 72

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 6.28 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.075 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 6.28 \cdot 0.075 = 0.471$ )

### **Spleno-aortic radiodensity ratio - A distinctive imaging feature to predict short-term outcome in critical care unit.**

Fedders, D. • Hoxha, G. • Kaiser, D. • Hempel, S. • Hoberück, S. \* • Michler, E. \* • Cuberi, A. • Platzek, I. • Hoffmann, R.T. • Winzer, R. \*

*Erschienen 2021 in:* EUR J RADIOL 143, Seite 109939 - 109945

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 3.528 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.375 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 3.528 \cdot 0.375$ ) = 1.323

### **Technical Note: ADAM PETer - An anthropomorphic, deformable and multimodality pelvis phantom with positron emission tomography extension for radiotherapy.**

Gillmann, C. • Homolka, N. • Johnen, W. • Runz, A. • Echner, G. • Pfaffenberger, A. • Mann, P. • Schneider, V. • Hoffmann, A.L. • Troost, E.G.C. • Koerber, S.A. • Kotzerke, J. \* • Beuthien-Baumann, B. \*

*Erschienen 2021 in:* MED PHYS 48, Seite 1624 - 1632

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 4.071 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.327 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 4.071 \cdot 0.327$ ) = 1.332

### **Overestimation of grey matter atrophy in glioblastoma patients following radio(chemo)therapy.**

Gommlich, A. • Raschke, F. • Petr, J. • Seidlitz, A. • Jentsch, C. • Platzek, I. • Van Den Hoff, J. \*[50%] • Kotzerke, J. \* • Beuthien-Baumann, B. \* • Baumann, M. • Krause, M. • Troost, E.G.C.

*Erschienen 2021 in:* MAGN RESON MATER PHY, Seite 1 - 8

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 2.31 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.075 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 2.31 \cdot 0.075$ ) = 0.173

### **Intraindividual comparison of [(68) Ga]-Ga-PSMA-11 and [(18)F]-F-PSMA-1007 in prostate cancer patients: a retrospective single-center analysis.**

Hoberück, S. \* • Löck, S. • Borkowetz, A. • Sommer, U. • Winzer, R. • Zöphel, K. \* • Fedders, D. • Michler, E. • Kotzerke, J. \* • Kopka, K. • Hölscher, T. • Braune, A. \*

*Erschienen 2021 in:* EJNMMI RES 11, Seite 109

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 3.138 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.760 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 3.138 \cdot 0.760$ ) = 2.385

### **Rapidly Evolving Diffuse Omental Carcinomatosis of Prostate Cancer in 68Ga-PSMA PET/CT.**

Hoberück, S. \* • Sommer, U. • Grey, A. • Hölscher, T. • Baretton, G.B. • Kotzerke, J. \*

*Erschienen 2021 in:* CLIN NUCL MED 46, Seite e216 - e217

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 7.794 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.700 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 7.794 \cdot 0.700$ ) = 5.456

### **Toxicity and Efficacy of Local Ablative, Image-guided Radiotherapy in Gallium-68 Prostate-specific Membrane Antigen Targeted Positron Emission Tomography-staged, Castration-sensitive Oligometastatic Prostate Cancer: The OLI-P Phase 2 Clinical Trial.**

Hölscher, T. • Baumann, M. • Kotzerke, J. \* • Zöphel, K. \* • Paulsen, F. • Müller, A.C. • Zips, D. • Koi, L. • Thomas, C. • Löck, S. • Krause, M. • Wirth, M. • Lohaus, F.

*Erschienen 2021 in:* Eur Urol Oncol

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 7.479 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.055 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 7.479 \cdot 0.055$ ) = 0.408

**Management of Germ Cell Tumours of the Testes in Adult Patients: German Clinical Practice Guideline, PART II - Recommendations for the Treatment of Advanced, Recurrent, and Refractory Disease and Extragonadal and Sex Cord/Stromal Tumours and for the Management of Follow-Up, Toxicity, Quality of Life, Palliative Care, and Supportive Therapy.**

Kliesch, S. • Schmidt, S. • Wilborn, D. • Aigner, C. • Albrecht, W. • Bedke, J. • Beintker, M. • Beyersdorff, D. • Bokemeyer, C. • Busch, J. • Classen, J. • De Wit, M. • Dieckmann, K.P. • Diemer, T. • Dieing, A. • Gockel, M. • Göckel-Beining, B. • Hakenberg, O.W. • Heidenreich, A. • Heinzelbecker, J. • Herkommer, K. • Hermanns, T. • Kaufmann, S. • Kornmann, M. • Kotzerke, J.\* • Krege, S. • Kristiansen, G. • Lorch, A. • Müller, A.C. • Oechsle, K. • Ohloff, T. • Oing, C. • Otto, U. • Pfister, D. • Pichler, R. • Recken, H. • Rick, O. • Rudolph, Y. • Ruf, C. • Schirren, J. • Schmelz, H. • Schmidberger, H. • Schrader, M. • Schweyer, S. • Seeling, S. • Souchon, R. • Winter, C. • Wittekind, C. • Zengerling, F. • Zermann, D.H. • Zillmann, R. • Albers, P.

*Erschienen 2021 in:* UROL INT 105, Seite 181 - 191

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 2.089 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.006 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 2.089 \cdot 0.006$ ) = 0.013

**Management of Germ Cell Tumours of the Testis in Adult Patients. German Clinical Practice Guideline Part I: Epidemiology, Classification, Diagnosis, Prognosis, Fertility Preservation, and Treatment Recommendations for Localized Stages.**

Kliesch, S. • Schmidt, S. • Wilborn, D. • Aigner, C. • Albrecht, W. • Bedke, J. • Beintker, M. • Beyersdorff, D. • Bokemeyer, C. • Busch, J. • Classen, J. • De Wit, M. • Dieckmann, K.P. • Diemer, T. • Dieing, A. • Gockel, M. • Göckel-Beining, B. • Hakenberg, O.W. • Heidenreich, A. • Heinzelbecker, J. • Herkommer, K. • Hermanns, T. • Kaufmann, S. • Kornmann, M. • Kotzerke, J.\* • Krege, S. • Kristiansen, G. • Lorch, A. • Müller, A.C. • Oechsle, K. • Ohloff, T. • Oing, C. • Otto, U. • Pfister, D. • Pichler, R. • Recken, H. • Rick, O. • Rudolph, Y. • Ruf, C. • Schirren, J. • Schmelz, H. • Schmidberger, H. • Schrader, M. • Schweyer, S. • Seeling, S. • Souchon, R. • Winter, C. • Wittekind, C. • Zengerling, F. • Zermann, D.H. • Zillmann, R. • Albers, P.

*Erschienen 2021 in:* UROL INT 105, Seite 169 - 180

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 2.089 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.006 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 2.089 \cdot 0.006$ ) = 0.013

**Value of PET imaging for radiation therapy.**

Lapa, C. • Nestle, U. • Albert, N.L. • Baues, C. • Beer, A. • Buck, A. • Budach, V. • Bütof, R. • Combs, S.E. • Derlin, T. • Eiber, M. • Fendler, W.P. • Furth, C. • Gani, C. • Gkika, E. • Grosu, A.L. • Henkenberens, C. • Ilhan, H. • Löck, S. • Marnitz-Schulze, S. • Miederer, M. • Mix, M. • Nicolay, N.H. • Niyazi, M. • Pöttgen, C. • Rödel, C.M. • Schatka, I. • Schwarzenboeck, S.M. • Todica, A.S. • Weber, W. • Wegen, S. • Wiegel, T. • Zamboglou, C. • Zips, D. • Zöphel, K.\* • Zschaack, S. • Thorwarth, D. • Troost, E.G.C.

*Erschienen 2021 in:* STRAHLENTHER ONKOL 197, Seite 1 - 23

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 3.621 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.008 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 3.621 \cdot 0.008$ ) = 0.030

**Value of PET imaging for radiation therapy.**

Lapa, C. • Nestle, U. • Albert, N.L. • Baues, C. • Beer, A. • Buck, A. • Budach, V. • Bütof, R. • Combs, S.E. • Derlin, T. • Eiber, M. • Fendler, W.P. • Furth, C. • Gani, C. • Gkika, E. • Grosu, A.L. • Henkenberens, C. • Ilhan, H. • Löck, S. • Marnitz-Schulze, S. • Miederer, M. • Mix, M. • Nicolay, N.H. • Niyazi, M. • Pöttgen, C. • Rödel, C.M. • Schatka, I. • Schwarzenboeck, S.M. • Todica, A.S. • Weber, W. • Wegen, S. • Wiegel, T. • Zamboglou, C. • Zips, D. • Zöphel, K.\* • Zschaack, S. • Thorwarth, D. • Troost, E.G.C.

*Erschienen 2021 in:* NUKLEARMED-NUCL MED 60, Seite 326 - 343

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 1.379 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.008 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 1.379 \cdot 0.008$ ) = 0.011

**Comparison of 6-[(18)F]FDOPA PET with Nigrosome 1 detection in patients with parkinsonism.**

Michler, E.\* • Kaiser, D. • Eleftheriadou, K. • Falkenburger, B. • Kotzerke, J.\* • Hoberück, S.\*

**Erschienen 2021 in:** EJNMMI RES 11, Seite 16

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 3.138 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.775 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 3.138 \cdot 0.775 = 2.432$ )

**11C-Methionine Uptake in the Lactating Human Breast.**

Michler, E.\* • Hilliger, S.\* • Kopka, K. • Kotzerke, J.\*

**Erschienen 2021 in:** CLIN NUCL MED 47, Seite e66 - e67

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 7.794 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.850 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 7.794 \cdot 0.850 = 6.625$ )

**Radioembolization versus portal vein embolization for contralateral liver lobe hypertrophy: effect of cirrhosis.**

Nebelung, H. • Wolf, T. • Bund, S. • Radosa, C.G. • Plodeck, V. • Grosche-Schlee, S.\* • Riediger, C. • Hoffmann, R.T. • Kühn, J.P.

**Erschienen 2021 in:** Abdom Radiol (NY) 46, Seite 4046 - 4055

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 3.039 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.043 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 3.039 \cdot 0.043 = 0.130$ )

**A convolutional neural network for fully automated blood SUV determination to facilitate SUR computation in oncological FDG-PET.**

Nikulin, P. • Hofheinz, F. • Maus, J. • Li, Y. • Bütof, R. • Lange, C. • Furth, C. • Zschaack, S. • Kreissl, M.C. • Kotzerke, J.\* • Van Den Hoff, J.\*<sup>[50%]</sup>

**Erschienen 2021 in:** EUR J NUCL MED MOL I 48, Seite 995 - 1004

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 9.236 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.183 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 9.236 \cdot 0.183 = 1.693$ )

**Diagnostic performance of (18)F-fluorodeoxyglucose-PET/MRI versus MRI alone in the diagnosis of pelvic recurrence of rectal cancer.**

Plodeck, V. • Platzek, I. • Streitzig, J. • Nebelung, H. • Blum, S. • Kühn, J.P. • Hoffmann, R.T. • Laniado, M. • Michler, E.\* • Hoberück, S.\* • Zöphel, K.\* • Kotzerke, J.\* • Fritzmann, J. • Weitz, J. • Radosa, C.G.

**Erschienen 2021 in:** Abdom Radiol (NY) 46, Seite 5086 - 5094

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 3.039 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.092 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 3.039 \cdot 0.092 = 0.281$ )

**KRAS mutation effects on the 2-[18F]FDG PET uptake of colorectal adenocarcinoma metastases in the liver.**

Popovic, M. • Talarico, O. • Van Den Hoff, J.\*<sup>[50%]</sup> • Kunin, H. • Zhang, Z. • Lafontaine, D. • Dogan, S. • Leung, J. • Kaye, E. • Czmielewski, C. • Mayerhoefer, M.E. • Zanzonico, P. • Yaeger, R. • Schöder, H. • Humm, J.L. • Solomon, S.B. • Sofocleous, C.T. • Kirov, A.S.

**Erschienen 2020 in:** EJNMMI RES 10, Seite 142

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 3.138 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.009 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 3.138 \cdot 0.009 = 0.029$ )

**GMP-compliant production of [(68)Ga]Ga-NeoB for positron emission tomography imaging of patients with gastrointestinal stromal tumor.**

Pretze, M.\* • Reffert, L. • Diehl, S. • Schönberg, S.O. • Wängler, C. • Hohenberger, P. • Wängler, B.

**Erschienen 2021 in:** EJNMMI Radiopharm Chem 6, Seite 22 - 35

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 2.64 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.400 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 2.64 \cdot 0.400$ ) = 1.056

**Ac-EAZY! Towards GMP-Compliant Module Syntheses of (225)Ac-Labeled Peptides for Clinical Application.**

Pretze, M.\* • Kunkel, F. • Runge, R.\* • Freudenberg, R.\* • Braune, A.\* • Hartmann, H.\* • Schwarz, U. • Brogsitter, C.\* • Kotzerke, J.\*

**Erschienen 2021 in:** Pharmaceuticals (Basel) 14, Seite 652 - 662

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 5.863 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.914 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 5.863 \cdot 0.914$ ) = 5.360

**$\alpha(v)\beta(3)$ -Specific Gold Nanoparticles for Fluorescence Imaging of Tumor Angiogenesis.**

Pretze, M.\* • Von Kiedrowski, V. • Runge, R.\* • Freudenberg, R.\* • Hübner, R. • Davarci, G. • Schirrmacher, R. • Wängler, C. • Wängler, B.

**Erschienen 2021 in:** Nanomaterials (Basel) 11, Seite 138 - 168

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 5.076 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.486 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 5.076 \cdot 0.486$ ) = 2.465

**PET/CT imaging of head-and-neck and pancreatic cancer in humans by targeting the "Cancer Integrin"  $\alpha v\beta 6$  with Ga-68-Trivehexin.**

Quigley, N.G. • Steiger, K. • Hobertück, S.\* • Czech, N. • Zierke, M.A. • Kossatz, S. • Pretze, M.\* • Richter, F. • Weichert, W. • Pox, C. • Kotzerke, J.\* • Notni, J.

**Erschienen 2021 in:** EUR J NUCL MED MOL I, Seite 1 - 12

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 9.236 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.090 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 9.236 \cdot 0.090$ ) = 0.831

**Molecular Response to Combined Molecular- and External Radiotherapy in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma (HNSCC).**

Rassamegevanon, T. • Feindt, L. • Koi, L. • Müller, J. • Freudenberg, R.\* • Löck, S. • Sihver, W. • Çevik, E. • Kühn, A.C. • Von Neubeck, C. • Linge, A. • Pietzsch, H.J. • Kotzerke, J.\* • Baumann, M. • Krause, M. • Dietrich, A.

**Erschienen 2021 in:** Cancers (Basel) 13, Seite 5595 - 5611

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 6.639 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.043 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 6.639 \cdot 0.043$ ) = 0.285

**Interim PET Evaluation in Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma Using Published Recommendations: Comparison of the Deauville 5-Point Scale and the  $\Delta$ SUV(max) Method.**

Rekowski, J. • Hüttmann, A. • Schmitz, C. • Müller, S.P. • Kurch, L. • Kotzerke, J.\* • Franzius, C. • Weckesser, M. • Bengel, F.M. • Freesmeyer, M. • Hertel, A. • Krohn, T. • Holzinger, J. • Brink, I. • Haberkorn, U. • Nyuyki, F. • Van Assema, D.M.E. • Geworski, L. • Hasenclever, D. • Jöckel, K.H. • Dührsen, U.

**Erschienen 2021 in:** J NUCL MED 62, Seite 37 - 42

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 10.057 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.016 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 10.057 \cdot 0.016$ ) = 0.159

**Third generation radioimmunoassay (RIA) for TSH receptor autoantibodies (TRAb) - one step less, similar results?**

Roggenbuck, J.J.\* • Zarske, G. • Schierack, P. • Wunderlich, G.\* • Conrad, K. • Kotzerke, J.\* • Roggenbuck, D. • Zöphel, K.\*

*Erschienen 2021 in:* NUKLEARMED-NUCL MED 60, Seite 38 - 46

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 1.379 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.800 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 1.379 \cdot 0.800 = 1.103$ )

**Comparative effects of neurally adjusted ventilatory assist and variable pressure support on lung and diaphragmatic function in a model of acute respiratory distress syndrome: A randomised animal study.**

Scharffenberg, M. • Moraes, L. • Güldner, A. • Huhle, R. • Braune, A.\* • Zeidler-Rentzsch, I. • Kasper, M. • Kunert-Keil, C. • Koch, T. • Pelosi, P. • Rocco, P.R.M. • Gama De Abreu, M. • Kiss, T.

*Erschienen 2021 in:* EUR J ANAESTH 38, Seite 32 - 40

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 4.33 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.027 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 4.33 \cdot 0.027 = 0.118$ )

**Final Results of the Prospective Biomarker Trial PETra: [(11)C]-MET-Accumulation in Postoperative PET/MRI Predicts Outcome after Radiochemotherapy in Glioblastoma.**

Seidlitz, A. • Beuthien-Baumann, B.\* • Löck, S. • Jentsch, C. • Platzek, I. • Zöphel, K.\* • Linge, A. • Kotzerke, J.\* • Petr, J. • Van Den Hoff, J.\*<sup>[50%]</sup> • Steinbach, J. • Krex, D. • Schmitz-Schackert, G. • Falk, M. • Baumann, M. • Krause, M.

*Erschienen 2021 in:* CLIN CANCER RES 27, Seite 1351 - 1360

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 12.531 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.075 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 12.531 \cdot 0.075 = 0.940$ )

**[Influence of therapeutic temperature management on the clinical course in patients after in-hospital cardiac arrest : A retrospective analysis].**

Wanek, F. • Meißner, S. • Nuding, S. • Hoberück, S.\* • Werdan, K. • Noutsias, M. • Ebelt, H.

*Erschienen 2021 in:* MED KLIN-INTENSIVMED

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 0.85 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.060 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 0.85 \cdot 0.060 = 0.051$ )

**Bilateral adrenal enhancement revised-adrenal-to-spleen ratio as an appropriate mortality predictor.**

Winzer, R.\* • Martin, R. • Kaiser, D. • Baldus, J.C. • Hoberück, S.\* • Hoffmann, R.T. • Fedders, D.

*Erschienen 2021 in:* Abdom Radiol (NY) 46, Seite 2107 - 2114

**Bewertung:** Originalpublikation 1.0 • Impact-Faktor: 3.039 • (anteiliger) Autoren-Faktor: 0.460 • Bewerteter Impact-Faktor ( $1.0 \cdot 3.039 \cdot 0.460 = 1.398$ )

**Adrenal glands enhancement in computed tomography as predictor of short-and intermediate term mortality in critically ill patients.**

Winzer, R.\* • Martin, R. • Kühn, J.P. • Baldus, J.C. • Seppelt, D. • Heidrich, F.M. • Hoberück, S.\* • Hoffmann, R.T. • Fedders, D.

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**Evaluation of response using FDG-PET/CT and diffusion weighted MRI after radiochemotherapy of pancreatic cancer: a non-randomized, monocentric phase II clinical trial-PaCa-DD-041 (Eudra-CT 2009-011968-11).**

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**Dissertationen (2)**

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**Mersch, S.**

Bedeutung seriell erhobener PET-Parameter für das Therapieoutcome von Patienten mit NSCLC und kurativer Radiochemotherapie unter Einschluss des mitbestrahlten Normalgewebes.

Technische Universität Dresden, 2021

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Untersuchung zur Wirkung von Psoralen in Kombination mit UV Licht und  $^{188}\text{Re}$  am pUC19-Plasmid und an FaDu-Zellen.

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**Kooperationen**

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**Nationale Kooperationen**

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**Entwicklung eines Prozesses zur Herstellung von Ac-225-DOTA-TATE und Ac-225-DOTA-PSMA unter Einsatz des ETD-Systems ML eazy**

**Bereich:** Forschung

**Kooperationspartner:** Eckert & Ziegler (Berlin)

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**Ansprechpartner an der Med. Fak.:** Dr. rer. nat. Marc Pretze (marc.pretze@ukdd.de), Prof. Dr. med. Jörg Kotzerke (joerg.kotzerke@ukdd.de)



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## Original Article

# Radiotherapy enhances uptake and efficacy of <sup>90</sup>Y-cetuximab: A preclinical trial



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## ABSTRACT

**Background and purpose:** Systemic molecular radiotherapy utilizes internal irradiation by radionuclide-labeled tumor-targeting agents with the potential to destroy (micro-)metastases. However, doses that are applicable in solid tumors do not reach the levels necessary for tumor control. Thus, the combination of molecular and external radiotherapy is a promising treatment strategy, as enhanced tumor doses can be delivered with and without minor overlapping toxicities. Here, we combined a <sup>90</sup>Y-labeled anti-EGFR antibody (Cetuximab) with clinically relevant fractionated radiotherapy in a preclinical trial using head and neck squamous cell carcinoma xenograft tumors.

**Materials and methods:** To model <sup>90</sup>Y-Cetuximab uptake for treatment schedule optimization, FaDu-bearing mice were injected with near-infrared-labeled-Cetuximab at different time points during radiotherapy with differing doses. Cetuximab uptake was longitudinally followed by in vivo-optical imaging. Tumor control probability experiments with fractionated radiotherapy (30 fx, 6 weeks, 8 dose groups/arm) in combination with <sup>90</sup>Y-Cetuximab were performed to test the curative potential.

**Results:** Imaging of near-infrared-labeled-Cetuximab uptake revealed that low to moderate external beam doses can enhance antibody uptake. Using the optimized schedule, combination of molecular and external radiotherapy using <sup>90</sup>Y-Cetuximab at a dose that did not result in permanent tumor inactivation in previous experiments, led to substantially increased tumor control compared to radiotherapy alone.

**Conclusion:** Our results indicate that combination of radiolabeled therapeutics with clinically relevant fractionated radiotherapy has a remarkable potential to improve curative treatment outcome. Application of some radiation dose prior to injection may improve drug uptake and enable patient stratification and treatment personalization via a corresponding PET-tracer during therapy.

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Labeling of molecular targeted drugs with toxic effectors is long discussed in the literature as a potential method to treat solid tumors [1]. If radionuclides are used, the approach is referred to as molecular radiotherapy [2,3]. Molecular radiotherapy has the potential to destroy localized tumors and even metastases [4,5]. However, the agents show classical limitations of molecular ther-

apeutics, especially the barriers for drug delivery [6–8], limiting the therapeutic doses that can be delivered to solid tumors. Maximum tolerated activities applied in clinical trials did not exceed tumor doses of 33 Gy [5,9], which corresponds to a palliative dose in most solid tumor entities.

External beam radiotherapy (RT) can precisely target solid tumors and is used to treat cancer patients with individualized treatment planning and curative intention [10]. A combination of molecular and external radiotherapy is a promising treatment strategy as it may combine advantages of both modalities [3,9,11]. Local tumor RT doses would be enhanced by molecular

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## Original Article

## Reduced diffusion in white matter after radiotherapy with photons and protons



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## ABSTRACT

**Background and purpose:** Radio(chemo)therapy is standard in the adjuvant treatment of glioblastoma. Inevitably, brain tissue surrounding the target volume is also irradiated, potentially causing acute and late side-effects. Diffusion imaging has been shown to be a sensitive method to detect early changes in the cerebral white matter (WM) after radiation. The aim of this work was to assess possible changes in the mean diffusivity (MD) of WM after radio(chemo)therapy using Diffusion-weighted imaging (DWI) and to compare these effects between patients treated with proton and photon irradiation.

**Materials and methods:** 70 patients with glioblastoma underwent adjuvant radio(chemo)therapy with protons ( $n = 20$ ) or photons ( $n = 50$ ) at the University Hospital Dresden. MRI follow-ups were performed at three-monthly intervals and in this study were evaluated until 33 months after the end of therapy. Relative white matter MD changes between baseline and all follow-up visits were calculated in different dose regions.

**Results:** We observed a significant decrease of MD ( $p < 0.05$ ) in WM regions receiving more than 20 Gy. MD reduction was progressive with dose and time after radio(chemo)therapy (maximum:  $-7.9 \pm 1.2\%$  after 24 months,  $\geq 50$  Gy). In patients treated with photons, significant reductions of MD in the entire WM ( $p < 0.05$ ) were seen at all time points. Conversely, in proton patients, whole brain MD did not change significantly.

**Conclusions:** Irradiation leads to measurable MD reduction in white matter, progressing with both increasing dose and time. Treatment with protons reduces this effect most likely due to a lower total dose in the surrounding white matter. Further investigations are needed to assess whether those MD changes correlate with known radiation induced side-effects.

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Radiotherapy (RT) is standard of care for patients with high grade gliomas [1]. However, irradiation of surrounding healthy brain parenchyma is inevitable due to added CTV and PTV margins and limitations of RT techniques themselves. This can lead to side effects such as neurocognitive decline and memory loss which may occur several months or years after RT [2,3]. Radiation with protons instead of photons reduces the radiation dose distal of the

tumour in the surrounding brain tissue due to the physical properties of protons. Irradiation with protons spares healthy brain parenchyma and could thus prevent or reduce possible delayed side effects, which may result in a better quality of life for the patient after therapy [4].

The underlying cause of RT induced side effects is not yet fully understood, but they are potentially associated with white matter (WM) damage that is not visible on conventional T1-weighted (T1w) or T2-weighted (T2w) magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) [2,5,6]. One way of assessing microstructural changes in white matter with MRI is diffusion weighted imaging (DWI). DWI measures diffusion of water on a microscopic level along three

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## Spleno-aortic radiodensity ratio – A distinctive imaging feature to predict short-term outcome in critical care unit

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### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** To investigate the value of contrast-enhanced CT findings - splenic and aortic radiodensities and their ratios (spleno-aortic ratio) - in predicting the prognosis of critical care unit patients (CCU).

**Methods:** One hundred thirteen continuous CCU patients with an acute deterioration (Group A: 37 women, age:  $67.2 \pm 14.0$  years) were included in the retrospective study. Radiodensities of the spleen and aorta were evaluated by two radiologists separately. The spleno-aortic ratio was calculated. Matthews correlation coefficient (MCC) was used in conjunction with receiver operating characteristic analysis (ROC) to assess if and which parameter was most suitable for short-term mortality prediction. The intra-class correlation coefficient assessed consensus across readers. To validate the results for the best predictor, a second cohort was evaluated (Group B: 354 CT scans).

**Results:** The portal venous spleno-aortic ratio was best suited to predict 72-hour mortality (AUC = 0.91). A threshold ratio  $\leq 0.53$  predicted short-term mortality with a high sensitivity (80.95%) and specificity (96.74%, MCC = 0.79). The post-test probability was 85%, assuming a pre-test probability of 18.6% (72-hour mortality rate). ICCs of HU measurements in the aorta, spleen, and its ratios showed high interrater agreement (ICC: 0.92–0.99). In a control cohort, a threshold ratio  $\leq 0.53$  predicted CCU patients' outcome satisfactorily (SENS = 83.93%, SPEC = 97.65%, PPV = 87.00%, NPV = 97.00%).

**Conclusions:** The portal venous spleno-aortic ratio serves as a distinctive imaging feature to predict short-term mortality. For CCU patients with a cut-off portal venous spleno-aortic ratio  $\leq 0.53$ , the risk of dying within three days after CT scan is approximately twenty times higher.

### 1. Introduction

The spleen is one of the most perfused abdominal organs. In the early contrast-enhanced CT phase, the spleen attenuation is much higher than in other abdominal organs, e.g., liver [1]. However, in critically ill patients, a reduced splenic enhancement is visible without any vascular or parenchymal injury [2–5]. One possible explanation focuses on the role of the sympathetic nervous system. Its activation and the associated release of catecholamines may lead to decreased arterial inflow and increased venous outflow [4], resulting in extensive splenic hypoenhancement. Other causes of hypodense areas must be considered, especially vascular rupture or splenic infarction. Signs for these are focal

splenic wedges, hematoma, rim enhancement, or vascular occlusion [1].

There are few reports of a possible correlation between splenic hypoperfusion and its prognostic value. In arterial phase CT scan, a decreased splenic enhancement may indicate a poor outcome in traumatic patients with hypovolemic shock [6,7].

In routine clinical practice, the portal venous CT phase is commonly performed in critically ill patients. Thus, we hypothesized that portal venous phase data could also predict mortality in critical care unit patients without trauma. Furthermore, we wanted to investigate whether splenic density values or the spleno-aortic ratio, which also reflects possible changes in aortic perfusion, are better suited for prognostic statements. If a predictor proves to be favorable, results should be

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# Technical Note: ADAM PETer – An anthropomorphic, deformable and multimodality pelvis phantom with positron emission tomography extension for radiotherapy

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**Objective:** To develop an anthropomorphic, deformable and multimodal pelvis phantom with positron emission tomography extension for radiotherapy (ADAM PETer).

**Methods:** The design of ADAM PETer was based on our previous pelvis phantom (ADAM) and extended for compatibility with PET and use in 3T magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). The formerly manually manufactured silicon organ surrogates were replaced by three-dimensional (3D) printed organ shells. Two intraprostatic lesions, four iliac lymph node metastases and two pelvic bone metastases were added to simulate prostate cancer as multifocal and metastatic disease. Radiological properties [computed tomography (CT) and 3T MRI] of cortical bone, bone marrow and adipose tissue were simulated by heavy gypsum, a mixture of Vaseline and K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> and peanut oil, respectively. For soft tissues,



# Overestimation of grey matter atrophy in glioblastoma patients following radio(chemo)therapy

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## Abstract

**Objective** Brain atrophy has the potential to become a biomarker for severity of radiation-induced side-effects. Particularly brain tumour patients can show great MRI signal changes over time caused by e.g. oedema, tumour progress or necrosis. The goal of this study was to investigate if such changes affect the segmentation accuracy of normal appearing brain and thus influence longitudinal volumetric measurements.

**Materials and methods** T1-weighted MR images of 52 glioblastoma patients with unilateral tumours acquired before and three months after the end of radio(chemo)therapy were analysed. GM and WM volumes in the contralateral hemisphere were compared between segmenting the whole brain (full) and the contralateral hemisphere only (cl) with SPM and FSL. Relative GM and WM volumes were compared using paired t tests and correlated with the corresponding mean dose in GM and WM, respectively.

**Results** Mean GM atrophy was significantly higher for full segmentation compared to cl segmentation when using SPM (mean  $\pm$  std:  $\Delta V_{GM,full} = -3.1\% \pm 3.7\%$ ,  $\Delta V_{GM,cl} = -1.6\% \pm 2.7\%$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ,  $d = 0.62$ ). GM atrophy was significantly correlated with the mean GM dose with the SPM cl segmentation ( $r = -0.4$ ,  $p = 0.004$ ), FSL full segmentation ( $r = -0.4$ ,  $p = 0.004$ ) and FSL cl segmentation ( $r = -0.35$ ,  $p = 0.012$ ) but not with the SPM full segmentation ( $r = -0.23$ ,  $p = 0.1$ ).

**Conclusions** For accurate normal tissue volume measurements in brain tumour patients using SPM, abnormal tissue needs to be masked prior to segmentation, however, this is not necessary when using FSL.

**Keywords** Radiotherapy · Tissue segmentation · SPM · Atrophy · Glioblastoma · Proton

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# Rapidly Evolving Diffuse Omental Carcinomatosis of Prostate Cancer in $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -PSMA PET/CT

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Gustavo Bruno Baretton, MD,† and Jörg Kotzerke, MD\*

**Abstract:** An 81-year-old man received androgen deprivation therapy for a locally advanced prostate cancer and, 6 months later, a curative radiation therapy. Half a year later, the patient presented with a steeply increased PSA value (32 ng/mL) and a suppressed testosterone level (0.48 nmol/L). The consecutively performed  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -PSMA PET/CT revealed, besides local tumor remains and several PSMA-positive lymph node and soft tissue metastases, an extensive, diffuse PSMA ligand accumulation in the omentum, which was immunohistochemically proven to be a carcinomatosis of prostate cancer. None of the extraprostatic lesions were present in the pretherapeutic PSMA PET 1 year ago.

**Key Words:** PSMA, PET, peritoneal carcinomatosis, omental carcinomatosis

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ORIGINAL RESEARCH

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# Intraindividual comparison of [<sup>68</sup>Ga]-Ga-PSMA-11 and [<sup>18</sup>F]-F-PSMA-1007 in prostate cancer patients: a retrospective single-center analysis

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## Abstract

**Background:** The analysis aimed to compare the radiotracers [<sup>68</sup>Ga]-Ga-PSMA-11 and [<sup>18</sup>F]-F-PSMA-1007 intraindividually in terms of malignant lesions, mi(molecular-imaging)TNM staging and presumable unspecific lesions retrospectively as used in routine clinical practice.

**Methods:** A retrospective analysis of 46 prostate cancer patients (median age: 71 years) who underwent consecutive [<sup>68</sup>Ga]-Ga-PSMA-11- and [<sup>18</sup>F]-F-PSMA-1007-PET/CT or PET/MRI within a mean of  $12 \pm 8.0$  days was performed. MiTNM staging was performed in both studies by two nuclear medicine physicians who were blinded to the results of the other tracer. After intradisciplinary and interdisciplinary consensus with two radiologists was reached, differences in both malignant and presumable nonspecific tracer accumulation were analyzed.

**Results:** Differences in terms of miTNM stages in both studies occurred in nine of the 46 patients (19.6%). The miT stages differed in five patients (10.9%), the miN stages differed in three patients (6.5%), and different miM stages occurred only in one patient who was upstaged in [<sup>18</sup>F]-F-PSMA-1007 PET. Concordant miTNM stages were obtained in 37 patients (80.4%). There was no significant difference between [<sup>18</sup>F]-F-PSMA-1007 and [<sup>68</sup>Ga]-Ga-PSMA-11 in the SUV<sub>max</sub> locally (31.5 vs. 32.7;  $p = 0.658$ ), in lymph node metastases (28.9 vs. 24.9;  $p = 0.30$ ) or in bone metastases (22.9 vs. 27.6;  $p = 0.286$ ). In [<sup>18</sup>F]-F-PSMA-1007 PET, more patients featured presumable unspecific uptake in the lymph nodes (52.2% vs. 28.3%;  $p < 0.001$ ), bones (71.7% vs. 23.9%;  $p < 0.001$ ) and ganglia (71.7% vs. 43.5%;  $p < 0.001$ ). Probable unspecific, exclusively [<sup>18</sup>F]-F-PSMA-1007-positive lesions mainly occurred in the ribs (58.7%), axillary lymph nodes (39.1%) and cervical ganglia (28.3%).

**Conclusion:** In terms of miTNM staging, both tracers appeared widely exchangeable, as no tracer relevantly outperformed the other. The differences between the two tracers were far more common in presumable unspecific lesions than in malignant spots. A routinely performed two-tracer study could not be shown to be superior. Since it seems at least challenging for most nuclear medicine departments to provide both [<sup>18</sup>F]-F-PSMA-1007 and [<sup>68</sup>Ga]-Ga-PSMA-11, it appears reasonable to choose the PSMA radiotracer depending on local availability with attention to the greater occurrence of nonspecific bone findings with [<sup>18</sup>F]-F-PSMA-1007.

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# Toxicity and Efficacy of Local Ablative, Image-guided Radiotherapy in Gallium-68 Prostate-specific Membrane Antigen Targeted Positron Emission Tomography-staged, Castration-sensitive Oligometastatic Prostate Cancer: The OLI-P Phase 2 Clinical Trial

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## Abstract

**Background:** Local ablative radiotherapy (aRT) of oligometastatic prostate cancer (PCa) is very promising and has become a focus of current clinical research.

**Objective:** We hypothesize that aRT is safe and effective in gallium-68 prostate-specific membrane antigen targeted positron emission tomography (PSMA-PET)-staged oligometastatic PCa patients.

**Design, setting, and participants:** A nonrandomized, prospective, investigator-initiated phase 2 trial recruited patients with oligometastatic PCa (five or fewer lymph node or osseous metastases) after local curative therapy, without significant comorbidity and androgen deprivation therapy (ADT), at two German centers from 2014 to 2018.

**Intervention:** All PSMA-PET-positive metastases were treated with aRT. No systemic therapy was initiated.

**Outcome measurements and statistical analysis:** The primary endpoint was treatment-related toxicity (grade  $\geq 2$ ) 24 mo after aRT. A one-sided single-sample test of proportions was planned to test whether the endpoint occurs in <15% of the patients. Key secondary endpoints were time to progression of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) and time to ADT, which were associated with potential prognostic factors by Cox regression.

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# **Management of Germ Cell Tumours of the Testis in Adult Patients. German Clinical Practice Guideline Part I: Epidemiology, Classification, Diagnosis, Prognosis, Fertility Preservation, and Treatment Recommendations for Localized Stages**

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## **Management of Germ Cell Tumours of the Testes in Adult Patients: German Clinical Practice Guideline, PART II – Recommendations for the Treatment of Advanced, Recurrent, and Refractory Disease and Extranodal and Sex Cord/Stromal Tumours and for the Management of Follow-Up, Toxicity, Quality of Life, Palliative Care, and Supportive Therapy**

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# Value of PET imaging for radiation therapy\*

## Wertigkeit der PET-Bildgebung für die Radioonkologie

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# Value of PET imaging for radiation therapy

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## Abstract

This comprehensive review written by experts in their field gives an overview on the current status of incorporating positron emission tomography (PET) into radiation treatment planning. Moreover, it highlights ongoing studies for treatment individualisation and per-treatment tumour response monitoring for various primary tumours. Novel tracers and image analysis methods are discussed. The authors believe this contribution to be of crucial value for experts in the field as well as for policy makers deciding on the reimbursement of this powerful imaging modality.

**Keywords** PET · Radiation oncology · Functional imaging · Radiomics

## Introduction

Positron emission tomography (PET) has found its way into primary disease staging of numerous solid tumours and of lymphomas. This has mainly been the contribution of 2-[<sup>18</sup>F]fluorodeoxyglucose-([<sup>18</sup>F]FDG), a glucose analogue which depicts the altered metabolism of malignant tumours as well as the physiological metabolism of organs and inflammatory processes. Functional PET with [<sup>18</sup>F]FDG as radiopharmaceutical (FDG-PET) combined with anatomical imaging modalities, such as computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), has also altered radiation treatment planning and response assessment, in particular in lung cancer, prostate cancer and lymphoma. More-

over, local radiation dose-escalation, termed dose-painting, based on increased metabolism has been applied both in theoretical treatment planning studies as well as in the context of prospective clinical trials. Finally, tracers depicting additional tumour characteristics beyond glucose metabolism have become available and their value is being assessed. For many years, the incremental value of a close interaction between radiation oncologists and nuclear medicine physicians has been highlighted by interdisciplinary studies in various tumour entities. Whereas this review is primarily aimed to provide a concise overview over the current value of PET in radiation oncology, it might also serve as a stimulus for future collaboration in both daily practice and scientific trials to further enhance patient care.

## Primary brain tumours

Different from peripheral oncological diseases, which are predominantly imaged with FDG-PET, non-glucose tracers have shown clear superiority in the workup of tumour lesions in the brain. This is due to their high physiological glucose consumption, leading to a low tumour-to-back-

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# <sup>11</sup>C-Methionine Uptake in the Lactating Human Breast

Enrico Michler, MD,\* Stephan Hilliger, MD,\* Klaus Kopka, PhD,† and Jörg Kotzerke, MD\*

**Abstract:** A 33-year-old nursing mother who underwent resection of a glioblastoma of the right hemisphere was referred for a <sup>11</sup>C-methionine PET/MR scan to exclude cancer recurrence. In whole-body PET imaging, a slight radiotracer uptake could be observed in the mammary glands, reflecting lactation status. In this case report, we initially describe <sup>11</sup>C-methionine uptake in the human breast and discuss any consequences arising from this special situation.

**Key Words:** <sup>11</sup>C-methionine, lactating breast, PET

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Ethics approval and consent to participate: Informed written consent was obtained from the patient before imaging, data collection, and publication.

Consent for publication: The patient gave her written consent for publication.

Availability of data and material: The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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ORIGINAL RESEARCH

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# Comparison of 6-[<sup>18</sup>F]FDOPA PET with Nigrosome 1 detection in patients with parkinsonism

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## Abstract

**Background:** The functional 6-[<sup>18</sup>F]FDOPA positron emission tomography (PET) can be a helpful tool in differentiating parkinsonism with dopaminergic deficiency from clinically similar differential diagnoses. Furthermore, in T2\*/susceptibility-weighted imaging (SWI) magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) sequences the structural integrity of the Nigrosome 1 (N1) can be assessed by checking the presence of the swallow tail sign (STS). We therefore retrospectively compared the performance of the 6-[<sup>18</sup>F]FDOPA PET with the N1 detection in patients suspected with parkinsonian diseases. Forty-three consecutive patients (m: 23, f: 20, mean age:  $63 \pm 12$  years) were included in the study. They underwent clinically indicated 6-[<sup>18</sup>F]FDOPA PET/MRI scans as part of their neurological evaluation of uncertain parkinsonian syndromes. Visual and semi-quantitative PET imaging results were statistically compared with visual N1 assessment on 3 T SWI. As the gold standard, we defined the clinical diagnosis at the last follow-up, which included idiopathic Parkinson syndrome (IPS;  $n=18$ ), atypical parkinsonian syndromes (APS;  $n=9$ ) and other neurological diseases without dopaminergic deficit ( $n=16$ ).

**Results:** Thirty-five of 43 patients (81%, Kappa 0.611) had corresponding results in 6-[<sup>18</sup>F]FDOPA PET and SWI. Seven of the remaining 8 patients were correctly diagnosed by 6-[<sup>18</sup>F]FDOPA PET alone. Sensitivity, specificity and accuracy for 6-[<sup>18</sup>F]FDOPA and N1 imaging were 93%, 94%, 93% and 82%, 75%, 79%, respectively.

**Conclusions:** 6-[<sup>18</sup>F]FDOPA PET and Nigrosome 1 evaluation had an overall good intermodality agreement. Diagnostic agreement was very good in cases of clinically suspected idiopathic Parkinson syndrome and fair in atypical parkinsonian syndromes, but poor in patients with non-parkinsonian disorders. 6-[<sup>18</sup>F]FDOPA PET showed higher sensitivity, specificity and accuracy in discriminating parkinsonian syndromes from non-parkinsonian disorders than the N1 evaluation. In summary, the additional benefit of N1 assessment in patients with APS or parkinsonism without dopaminergic deficit needs to be proven by prospective studies.

**Keywords:** Nigrosome 1, 6-[<sup>18</sup>F]FDOPA, PET, Parkinson's disease, Parkinsonism

## Background

Idiopathic Parkinson syndrome (IPS) is a sporadic neurodegenerative disease, in which pathological intracellular deposition of a-synuclein leads to diminishing motor and non-motor functions [1]. After onset in the brain stem, the disease progresses into midbrain's substantia nigra, resulting in dopaminergic cell death [2]. Besides IPS, further neurodegenerative disorders show a dopaminergic deficit. These are called atypical parkinsonian syndromes

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## Radioembolization versus portal vein embolization for contralateral liver lobe hypertrophy: effect of cirrhosis

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### Abstract

**Purpose** Preoperative hypertrophy induction of future liver remnant (FLR) reduces the risk of postoperative liver insufficiency after partial hepatectomy. One of the most commonly used methods to induce hypertrophy of FLR is portal vein embolization (PVE). Recent studies have shown that transarterial radioembolization (TARE) also induces hypertrophy of the contralateral liver lobe. The aim of our study was to evaluate contralateral hypertrophy after TARE versus after PVE taking into account the effect of cirrhosis.

**Methods** Forty-nine patients undergoing PVE before hemihepatectomy and 24 patients with TARE as palliative treatment for liver malignancy were retrospectively included. Semi-automated volumetry of the FLR/contralateral liver lobe before and after intervention (20 to 65 days) was performed on CT or MRI, and the relative increase in volume was calculated. Cirrhosis was evaluated independently by two radiologists on CT/MRI, and interrater reliability was calculated.

**Results** Hypertrophy after PVE was significantly more pronounced than after TARE (25.3% vs. 7.4%;  $p < 0.001$ ). In the subgroup of patients without cirrhosis, the difference was also statistically significant (25.9% vs. 8.6%;  $p = 0.002$ ), whereas in patients with cirrhosis, the difference was not statistically significant (18.2% vs. 7.4%;  $p = 0.212$ ). After PVE, hypertrophy in patients without cirrhosis was more pronounced than in patients with cirrhosis (25.9% vs. 18.2%;  $p = 0.203$ ), while after TARE, hypertrophy was comparable in patients with and without cirrhosis (7.4% vs. 8.6%;  $p = 0.928$ ).

**Conclusion** TARE induces less pronounced hypertrophy of the FLR compared to PVE. Cirrhosis seems to be less of a limiting factor for hypertrophy after TARE, compared to PVE.

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# A convolutional neural network for fully automated blood SUV determination to facilitate SUR computation in oncological FDG-PET

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## Abstract

**Purpose** The standardized uptake value (SUV) is widely used for quantitative evaluation in oncological FDG-PET but has well-known shortcomings as a measure of the tumor's glucose consumption. The standard uptake ratio (SUR) of tumor SUV and arterial blood SUV (BSUV) possesses an increased prognostic value but requires image-based BSUV determination, typically in the aortic lumen. However, accurate manual ROI delineation requires care and imposes an additional workload, which makes the SUR approach less attractive for clinical routine. The goal of the present work was the development of a fully automated method for BSUV determination in whole-body PET/CT.

**Methods** Automatic delineation of the aortic lumen was performed with a convolutional neural network (CNN), using the U-Net architecture. A total of 946 FDG PET/CT scans from several sites were used for network training ( $N = 366$ ) and testing ( $N = 580$ ). For all scans, the aortic lumen was manually delineated, avoiding areas affected by motion-induced attenuation artifacts or potential spillover from adjacent FDG-avid regions. Performance of the network was assessed using the fractional deviations of automatically and manually derived BSUVs in the test data.

**Results** The trained U-Net yields BSUVs in close agreement with those obtained from manual delineation. Comparison of manually and automatically derived BSUVs shows excellent concordance: the mean relative BSUV difference was (mean  $\pm$  SD) =  $(-0.5 \pm 2.2)\%$  with a 95% confidence interval of  $[-5.1, 3.8]\%$  and a total range of  $[-10.0, 12.0]\%$ . For four test cases, the derived ROIs were unusable ( $<1\text{ ml}$ ).

**Conclusion** CNNs are capable of performing robust automatic image-based BSUV determination. Integrating automatic BSUV derivation into PET data processing workflows will significantly facilitate SUR computation without increasing the workload in the clinical setting.

**Keywords** FDG-PET · Standardized uptake value · SUV · Standardized uptake ratio · SUR · Convolutional neural network

## Introduction

The standardized uptake value (SUV) is currently still the de facto standard for quantitative evaluation in clinical

oncological FDG-PET and assumed to be a reasonable surrogate for the metabolic rate of FDG and, ultimately, for tumor glucose consumption. However, the SUV falls short of closely reflecting the latter quantities due to a number of well-known shortcomings. Among these are a notable uptake time dependence, interstudy variability of the arterial input function, and susceptibility to scanner calibration errors [1–3]. Recently, it was shown that the uptake time normalized tumor to blood SUV ratio (standardized uptake ratio, SUR) essentially removes most of these shortcomings which leads to a distinctly improved correlation of this modified uptake measure with the metabolic uptake rate [4–6]. This in turn leads to improved test-retest stability [7] and significantly better prognostic value compared with tumor SUV [8–11].

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# Diagnostic performance of <sup>18</sup>F-fluorodeoxyglucose-PET/MRI versus MRI alone in the diagnosis of pelvic recurrence of rectal cancer

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## Abstract

**Purpose** To compare the diagnostic performance of <sup>18</sup>F-fluorodeoxyglucose-PET/MRI and MRI in the diagnosis of pelvic recurrence of rectal cancer.

**Methods** All PET/MRIs of patients in the follow-up of rectal cancer performed between 2011 and 2018 at our institution were retrospectively reviewed. Recurrence was confirmed/excluded either by histopathology or imaging follow-up (> 4 months). Four groups of readers (groups 1/2: one radiologist each, groups 3/4: one radiologist/one nuclear medicine physician) independently interpreted MRI and PET/MRI. The likelihood of recurrence was scored on a 5-point-scale. Inter-reader agreement, sensitivity, specificity, PPV/NPV and accuracy were assessed. ROC curve analyses were performed.

**Results** Forty-one PET/MRIs of 40 patients (mean 61 years  $\pm$  10.9; 11 women, 29 men) were included. Sensitivity of PET/MRI in detecting recurrence was 94%, specificity 88%, PPV/NPV 97% and 78%, accuracy 93%. Sensitivity of MRI was 88%, specificity 75%, PPV/NPV 94% and 60%, accuracy 85%. ROC curve analyses showed an AUC of 0.97 for PET/MRI and 0.92 for MRI, but the difference was not statistically significant ( $p=0.116$ ). On MRI more cases were scored as equivocal (12% versus 5%). Inter-reader agreement was substantial for PET/MRI and MRI (0.723 and 0.656, respectively).

**Conclusion** <sup>18</sup>F-FDG-PET/MRI and MRI are accurate in the diagnosis of locally recurrent rectal cancer. Sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV and accuracy are comparable for both modalities, but PET/MRI increases readers' confidence levels and reduces the number of equivocal cases.

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ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Open Access



# KRAS mutation effects on the 2-[18F]FDG PET uptake of colorectal adenocarcinoma metastases in the liver

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## Abstract

**Background:** Deriving individual tumor genomic characteristics from patient imaging analysis is desirable. We explore the predictive value of 2-[18F]FDG uptake with regard to the KRAS mutational status of colorectal adenocarcinoma liver metastases (CLM).

**Methods:** 2-[18F]FDG PET/CT images, surgical pathology and molecular diagnostic reports of 37 patients who underwent PET/CT-guided biopsy of CLM were reviewed under an IRB-approved retrospective research protocol. Sixty CLM in 39 interventional PET scans of the 37 patients were segmented using two different auto-segmentation tools implemented in different commercially available software packages. PET standard uptake values (SUV) were corrected for: (1) partial volume effect (PVE) using cold wall-corrected contrast recovery coefficients derived from phantom spheres with variable diameter and (2) variability of arterial tracer supply and variability of uptake time after injection until start of PET scan derived from the tumor-to-blood standard uptake ratio (SUR) approach. The correlations between the KRAS mutational status and the mean, peak and maximum SUV were investigated using Student's *t* test, Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction, logistic regression and receiver operation characteristic (ROC) analysis. These correlation analyses were also performed for the ratios of the mean, peak and maximum tumor uptake to the mean blood activity concentration at the time of scan: SUR<sub>MEAN</sub>, SUR<sub>PEAK</sub> and SUR<sub>MAX</sub>, respectively.

**Results:** Fifteen patients harbored KRAS missense mutations (KRAS+), while another 3 harbored KRAS gene amplification. For 31 lesions, the mutational status was derived from the PET/CT-guided biopsy. The Student's *t* test *p* values for separating KRAS mutant cases decreased after applying PVE correction to all uptake metrics of each lesion and when applying correction for uptake time variability to the SUR metrics. The observed correlations were strongest when both corrections were applied to SUR<sub>MAX</sub> and when the patients harboring gene amplification were grouped with the wild type: *p* ≤ 0.001; ROC area under the curve = 0.77 and 0.75 for the two different segmentations, respectively, with a mean specificity of 0.69 and sensitivity of 0.85.

**Conclusion:** The correlations observed after applying the described corrections show potential for assigning probabilities for the KRAS missense mutation status in CLM using 2-[18F]FDG PET images.

**Keywords:** PET, Colorectal adenocarcinoma, Liver metastases, KRAS mutations

## Background

The value of functional images for personalized therapy is limited by cancer histological and genomic heterogeneity [1, 2]. Gathering information from medical images

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access



# GMP-compliant production of [<sup>68</sup>Ga]Ga-NeoB for positron emission tomography imaging of patients with gastrointestinal stromal tumor

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## Abstract

**Background:** [<sup>68</sup>Ga]Ga-NeoB is a novel DOTA-coupled Gastrin Releasing Peptide Receptor (GRPR) antagonist with high affinity for GRPR and good in vivo stability. This study aimed at (1) the translation of preclinical results to the clinics and establish the preparation of [<sup>68</sup>Ga]Ga-NeoB using a GMP conform kit approach and a licensed <sup>68</sup>Ge/<sup>68</sup>Ga generator and (2) to explore the application of [<sup>68</sup>Ga]Ga-NeoB in patients with gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST) before and/or after interventional treatment (selective internal radiotherapy, irreversible electroporation, microwave ablation).

**Results:** Validation of the production and quality control of [<sup>68</sup>Ga]Ga-NeoB for patient use had to be performed before starting the GMP production. Six independent batches of [<sup>68</sup>Ga]Ga-NeoB were produced, all met the quality and sterility criteria and yielded  $712 \pm 73$  MBq of the radiotracer in a radiochemical purity of > 95% and a molar activity of  $14.2 \pm 1.5$  GBq/μmol within 20 min synthesis time and additional 20 min quality control. Three patients (2 females, 1 male, 51–77 yrs. of age) with progressive gastrointestinal stromal tumor metastases in the liver or peritoneum not responsive to standard tyrosine kinase inhibitor therapy underwent both [<sup>68</sup>Ga]Ga-NeoB scans prior and after interventional therapy. Radiosynthesis of <sup>68</sup>Ga-NeoB was performed using a kit approach under GMP conditions. No specific patient preparation such as fasting or hydration was required for [<sup>68</sup>Ga]Ga-NeoB PET/CT imaging. Contrast-enhanced PET/CT studies were performed. A delayed, second abdominal image after the administration of the [<sup>68</sup>Ga]Ga-NeoB was acquired at 120 min post injection.

**Conclusions:** A fully GMP compliant kit preparation of [<sup>68</sup>Ga]Ga-NeoB enabling the routine production of the tracer under GMP conditions was established for clinical routine PET/CT imaging of patients with metastatic GIST and proved to adequately visualize tumor deposits in the abdomen expressing GRPR. Patients could benefit from additional information derived from [<sup>68</sup>Ga]Ga-NeoB diagnosis to assess the presence of GRPR in the tumor tissue and monitor antitumor treatment.

**Keywords:** [<sup>68</sup>Ga]Ga-NeoB, GRPR, GMP, PET/CT, Metastatic GIST

## Article

# $\alpha_v\beta_3$ -Specific Gold Nanoparticles for Fluorescence Imaging of Tumor Angiogenesis

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## 1. Introduction

In recent years, gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) have gained serious attention since their first use as radioactive <sup>198</sup>Au-nanocolloid in the early 1950s for nanobrachytherapy [1–3]. Since then, the focus has shifted to the development of ultra-small target-specific AuNPs with a very narrow size distribution and, ultimately, tailored shapes for use in various imaging modalities such as CT [4], Raman [5], or photoacoustic imaging [6]. On the one hand AuNPs represent a perfect platform for multimerization of target-specific effectors on their surface and on the other hand they offer the possibility of detection using multimodal imaging techniques by surface modification [7], as well as for theranostic purposes [8–11]. Many approaches of AuNPs with a size of >10 nm are based on a phenomenon typically known as ‘enhanced permeability and retention’ (EPR) effect due to passive extravasation of nanoparticles across the perforated vasculature of tumors [12]. Rapid renal clearance is preferable for radioactive diagnostic nanoparticles to avoid a high radiation burden on healthy organs and tissues, which can be achieved for AuNPs smaller than 6



## Article

# Ac-EAZY! Towards GMP-Compliant Module Syntheses of $^{225}\text{Ac}$ -Labeled Peptides for Clinical Application

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**Keywords:** actinium-225; TATE; PSMA; module synthesis; endoradiotherapy; GMP

## 1. Introduction

Targeted alpha therapy (TAT) is a promising approach for the treatment of cancer [1]. The use of alpha emitters for cancer therapy has three distinct advantages over conventional therapies with beta emitters: The short range of alpha radiation in human tissue (less than 0.1 mm), corresponding to only a few cell diameters, allows the selective killing of targeted cancer cells while sparing surrounding healthy tissue. At the same time, the high energy (several MeV) of alpha particles and its associated high linear energy transfer leads to a high rate of cell deaths. Consequently, alpha radiation can destroy cells, which otherwise exhibit resistance to treatment with beta or gamma irradiation or chemotherapeutic drugs, and thus can offer a therapeutic option for tumors resistant to conventional therapies. The third is the radiation safety for personnel as  $^{225}\text{Ac}$ -therapeutic doses are in the MBq range (~100 kB/kg) compared to several GBq used commonly for  $^{90}\text{Y}$ - and  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -therapy. Recent results demonstrating the remarkable therapeutic efficacy of alpha emitters to treat various cancers have underlined the clinical potential of TAT. To date, the chelator DOTA is commonly used for  $^{225}\text{Ac}$ -labeling of peptides, antibodies and



# PET/CT imaging of head-and-neck and pancreatic cancer in humans by targeting the “Cancer Integrin” $\alpha v\beta 6$ with Ga-68-Trivehexin

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## Abstract

**Purpose** To develop a new probe for the  $\alpha v\beta 6$ -integrin and assess its potential for PET imaging of carcinomas.

**Methods** Ga-68-Trivehexin was synthesized by trimerization of the optimized  $\alpha v\beta 6$ -integrin selective cyclic nonapeptide Tyr2 (sequence: c[RGDLAYp(NMe)K]) on the TRAP chelator core, followed by automated labeling with Ga-68. The tracer was characterized by ELISA for activities towards integrin subtypes  $\alpha v\beta 6$ ,  $\alpha v\beta 8$ ,  $\alpha v\beta 3$ , and  $\alpha 5\beta 1$ , as well as by cell binding assays on H2009 ( $\alpha v\beta 6$ -positive) and MDA-MB-231 ( $\alpha v\beta 6$ -negative) cells. SCID-mice bearing subcutaneous xenografts of the same cell lines were used for dynamic (90 min) and static (75 min p.i.)  $\mu$ PET imaging, as well as for biodistribution (90 min p.i.). Structure–activity-relationships were established by comparison with the predecessor compound Ga-68-TRAP(AvB6)<sub>3</sub>. Ga-68-Trivehexin was tested for in-human PET/CT imaging of HNSCC, parotideal adenocarcinoma, and metastatic PDAC.

**Results** Ga-68-Trivehexin showed a high  $\alpha v\beta 6$ -integrin affinity ( $IC_{50}=0.047$  nM), selectivity over other subtypes ( $IC_{50}$ -based factors:  $\alpha v\beta 8$ , 131;  $\alpha v\beta 3$ , 57;  $\alpha 5\beta 1$ , 468), blockable uptake in H2009 cells, and negligible uptake in MDA-MB-231 cells. Biodistribution and preclinical PET imaging confirmed a high target-specific uptake in tumor and a low non-specific uptake in other organs and tissues except the excretory organs (kidneys and urinary bladder). Preclinical PET corresponded well to in-human results, showing high and persistent uptake in metastatic PDAC and HNSCC ( $SUV_{max}=10–13$ ) as well as in kidneys/urine. Ga-68-Trivehexin enabled PET/CT imaging of small PDAC metastases and showed high uptake in HNSCC but not in tumor-associated inflammation.

**Conclusions** Ga-68-Trivehexin is a valuable probe for imaging of  $\alpha v\beta 6$ -integrin expression in human cancers.

**Keywords** Positron emission tomography · Carcinoma · Integrins · Gallium-68

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Neil Gerard Quigley and Katja Steiger contributed equally to this work.

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This article is part of the Topical Collection on Translational research.

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## Article

# Molecular Response to Combined Molecular- and External Radiotherapy in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma (HNSCC)

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**Simple Summary:** Our previous preclinical trial in a head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC) xenograft model showed a high potential for the improvement of curative treatment outcome upon the combination treatment of a radiolabeled (Yttrium-90) anti-EGFR antibody (Cetuximab) and external radiotherapy. We aim to elucidate the molecular response of HNSCC tumors upon this combination. Here, we show that the combination treatment leads to an increasing number and complexity of DNA double strand breaks. The upregulation of p21<sup>cip1/waf1</sup> expression and cleaved caspase-3 suggest a blockage of cell cycle transition and an induction of programmed cell death. Collectively, a complex interplay between molecular mechanisms involved in cell death induction, cell cycle arrest, and DNA double strand break repair accounts for the beneficial potential using Yttrium-90-Cetuximab in combination with external radiotherapy.

**Abstract:** Combination treatment of molecular targeted and external radiotherapy is a promising strategy and was shown to improve local tumor control in a HNSCC xenograft model. To enhance the therapeutic value of this approach, this study investigated the underlying molecular response. Subcutaneous HNSCC FaDu<sub>DD</sub> xenografts were treated with single or combination therapy (X-ray: 0, 2, 4 Gy; anti-EGFR antibody (Cetuximab) (un-)labeled with Yttrium-90 (<sup>90</sup>Y)). Tumors were excised 24 h post respective treatment. Residual DNA double strand breaks (DSB), mRNA expression of DNA damage response related genes, immunoblotting, tumor histology, and immunohistological

# Interim PET Evaluation in Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma Using Published Recommendations: Comparison of the Deauville 5-Point Scale and the $\Delta\text{SUV}_{\max}$ Method

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The value of interim <sup>18</sup>F-FDG PET/CT (iPET)—guided treatment decisions in patients with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) has been the subject of much debate. This investigation focuses on a comparison of the Deauville score and the change-in-SUV<sub>max</sub> ( $\Delta\text{SUV}_{\max}$ ) approach—2 methods to assess early metabolic response to standard chemotherapy in DLBCL. **Methods:** Of 609 DLBCL patients participating in the PET-Guided Therapy of Aggressive Non-Hodgkin Lymphomas trial, iPET scans of 596 patients originally evaluated using the  $\Delta\text{SUV}_{\max}$  method were available for post hoc assessment of the Deauville score. A commonly used definition of an unfavorable iPET result according to the Deauville score is an uptake greater than that of the liver, whereas an unfavorable iPET scan with regard to the  $\Delta\text{SUV}_{\max}$  approach is characterized as a relative reduction of the SUV<sub>max</sub> between baseline and iPET staging of less than or equal to 66%. We investigated the 2 methods' correlation and concordance by Spearman rank correlation coefficient and the agreement in classification, respectively. We further used Kaplan-Meier curves and Cox regression to assess differences in survival between patient subgroups defined by the pre-specified cutoffs. Time-dependent receiver-operating-characteristic curve analysis provided information on the methods' respective discrimination performance. **Results:** Deauville score and  $\Delta\text{SUV}_{\max}$  approach differed in their iPET-based prognosis. The  $\Delta\text{SUV}_{\max}$  approach outperformed the Deauville score in terms of discrimination performance—most likely because of a high number of false-positive decisions by the Deauville score. Cutoff-independent discrimination

performance remained low for both methods, but cutoff-related analyses showed promising results. Both favored the  $\Delta\text{SUV}_{\max}$  approach, for example, for the segregation by iPET response, where the event-free survival hazard ratio was 3.14 (95% confidence interval, 2.22–4.46) for  $\Delta\text{SUV}_{\max}$  and 1.70 (95% confidence interval, 1.29–2.24) for the Deauville score. **Conclusion:** When considering treatment intensification, the currently used Deauville score cutoff of an uptake above that of the liver seems to be inappropriate and associated with potential harm for DLBCL patients. The  $\Delta\text{SUV}_{\max}$  criterion of a relative reduction in SUV<sub>max</sub> of less than or equal to 66% should be considered as an alternative.

**Key Words:** diffuse large B-cell lymphoma; early metabolic response to therapy; interim PET; Deauville score; deltaSUVmax approach

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**D**iffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) is the most common subtype of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, showing a widely varying response to standard chemoimmunotherapy usually encompassing 6 cycles of cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, prednisone, and, for patients positive for the cluster of differentiation molecule 20, rituximab (rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, and prednisone [R-CHOP]) (1). Although approximately one third of all patients progress after 6 cycles of R-CHOP, a substantial proportion of patients might be overtreated (2,3). Thus, risk-adapted treatment approaches are urgently needed but demand precise and reliable tools to guide therapy.

<sup>18</sup>F-FDG PET has been shown to predict outcome in aggressive lymphomas (4). After 1–4 cycles of treatment, an interim PET/CT

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# Third generation radioimmunoassay (RIA) for TSH receptor autoantibodies (TRAb) – one step less, similar results?

## Drittgenerations – Radioimmunoassay (RIA) für TSH-Rezeptor-Autoantikörper (TRAK) – ein Schritt weniger, gleiche Ergebnisse?

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### Key words

thyroid, autoantibodies, TSH receptor autoantibody, Graves' disease, Hashimoto's thyroiditis

### Schlüsselwörter

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### ABSTRACT

**Aim** TSH-receptor (TSHR)-autoantibody (TRAb) is the serological hallmark of Graves' disease (GD). Recently, 3<sup>rd</sup>-generation radioimmunoassays (RIA) employing monoclonal TRAb such as M22 or T7 instead of TSH for the inhibition of human TRAb binding with solid-phase TSHR (coated tubes) have been introduced into laboratory routine.

**Methods** As current assays typically employ a consecutive incubation of patient serum and labelled monoclonal TRAb, automation of TRAb RIA is a challenge. Thus, the assay procedure using human TSHR-coated tubes and the mouse monoclonal TRAb T7 was modified by combining both steps. The novel one-step method was compared with its corresponding consecutive 3<sup>rd</sup>-generation RIA by investigating 304 individuals encompassing 102 patients with active GD (GD<sub>a</sub>), 43 patients with GD after successful therapy (GD<sub>t</sub>), 31 with Hashimoto's disease (HD), 28 with non-autoimmune thyroid diseases (NAITD) and 100 healthy subjects (HS).

**Results** With the new method, the incubation time was shortened by approximately one hour. Both 3<sup>rd</sup>-generation RIAs did not reveal a significantly different assay performance by comparing areas under the curve (AUC) with receiver operating characteristics curve analysis (AUC one-step: 0.94, AUC two-step: 0.96, p > 0.05, respectively). The two-step TRAb RIA demonstrated sensitivity and specificity values of 87.5% and 96.2%, respectively, whereas the one-step revealed 84.6% and 96.2%, respectively.

**Conclusion** One-step 3<sup>rd</sup>-generation RIA may be used for the reliable detection of TRAb. The shorter and easier assay design may improve its use and enable automation in routine nuclear medicine laboratories.

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## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Comparative effects of neurally adjusted ventilatory assist and variable pressure support on lung and diaphragmatic function in a model of acute respiratory distress syndrome

*A randomised animal study*

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**BACKGROUND** Variable assisted mechanical ventilation has been shown to improve lung function and reduce lung injury. However, differences between extrinsic and intrinsic variability are unknown.

**OBJECTIVE** To investigate the effects of neurally adjusted ventilatory assist (NAVA, intrinsic variability), variable pressure support ventilation (Noisy PSV, extrinsic variability) and conventional pressure-controlled ventilation (PCV) on lung and diaphragmatic function and damage in experimental acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

**DESIGN** Randomised controlled animal study.

**SETTING** University Hospital Research Facility.

**SUBJECTS** A total of 24 juvenile female pigs.

**INTERVENTIONS** ARDS was induced by repetitive lung lavage and injurious ventilation. Animals were randomly assigned to 24 h of either: 1) NAVA, 2) Noisy PSV or 3) PCV ( $n=8$  per group). Mechanical ventilation settings followed the ARDS Network recommendations.

**MEASUREMENTS** The primary outcome was histological lung damage. Secondary outcomes were respiratory variables and patterns, subject-ventilator asynchrony (SVA), pulmonary and diaphragmatic biomarkers, as well as diaphragmatic muscle atrophy and myosin isotypes.

**RESULTS** Global alveolar damage did not differ between groups, but NAVA resulted in less interstitial oedema in dorsal lung regions than Noisy PSV. Gas exchange and SVA incidence did not differ between groups. Compared with Noisy PSV, NAVA generated higher coefficients of variation of tidal volume and respiratory rate. During NAVA, only 40.4% of breaths were triggered by the electrical diaphragm signal. The IL-8 concentration in lung tissue was lower after NAVA compared with PCV and Noisy PSV, whereas Noisy PSV yielded lower type III procollagen mRNA expression than NAVA and PCV. Diaphragmatic muscle fibre diameters were smaller after PCV compared with assisted modes, whereas expression of myosin isotypes did not differ between groups.

**CONCLUSION** Noisy PSV and NAVA did not reduce global lung injury compared with PCV but affected different biomarkers and attenuated diaphragmatic atrophy. NAVA increased the respiratory variability; however, NAVA yielded a similar SVA incidence as Noisy PSV.

**TRIAL REGISTRATION** This trial was registered and approved by the Landesdirektion Dresden, Germany (AZ 24-9168.11-1/2012-2).

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# Final Results of the Prospective Biomarker Trial PETra: [<sup>11</sup>C]-MET-Accumulation in Postoperative PET/MRI Predicts Outcome after Radiochemotherapy in Glioblastoma

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## ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** This prospective trial investigates the association of time to recurrence (TTR) in glioblastoma with [<sup>11</sup>C]methionine (MET) tracer uptake before postoperative radiochemotherapy (RCT) aiming to guide radiotherapy boost regions.

**Experimental Design:** Between 2013 and 2016, 102 patients with glioblastoma were recruited. RCT was performed with concurrent and adjuvant temozolamide to a total dose of 60 Gy. Tumor residues in postresection PET and MRI were together defined as gross tumor volumes for radiotherapy treatment planning. [<sup>11</sup>C]methionine (MET)-PET/MRI was performed before RCT and at each follow-up.

**Results:** The primary hypothesis of a longer TTR for patients without increased tracer accumulation in postoperative MET-PET was confirmed in 89 patients. With 18.9 months (95% confidence interval, 9.3–28.5 months), median TTR was significantly ( $P < 0.001$ ) longer for patients without ( $n = 29$ , 32.6%) as compared with 6.3 months

(3.6–8.9) for patients with MET accumulation ( $n = 60$ , 67.4%) in pre-RCT PET. Although MRI often did not detect all PET-positive regions, an unfavorable impact of residual tumor in postsurgical MRI ( $n = 38$ , 42.7%) on TTR was observed [4.6 (4.2–5.1) vs. 15.5 months (6.0–24.9),  $P < 0.001$ ]. Significant multivariable predictors for TTR were MRI positivity, PET-positive volume, and O<sup>6</sup>-methylguanine DNA methyltransferase (MGMT) hypermethylation.

**Conclusions:** Postsurgical amino acid PET has prognostic value for TTR after RCT in glioblastoma. Because of the added value of the metabolic beyond the pure structural information, it should complement MRI in radiotherapy planning if available with reasonable effort, at least in the context of maximal therapy. Furthermore, the spatial correlation of regions of recurrence with PET-positive volumes could provide a bioimaging basis for further trials, for example, testing local radiation dose escalation.

## Introduction

Postoperative radiotherapy remains a mainstay clinical treatment for glioblastoma. The introduction of combined postoperative radiochemotherapy (RCT) more than 10 years ago (1) has for the first time led to a noticeable proportion of patients surviving 5 years after primary treatment. For prediction of the general prognosis of patients with glioblastoma, the recursive partitioning analysis classification in its original (2) or modified version (3) including patient's age, performance status, extent of surgery, tumor grading, and brain function,

is widely used. Increasing evidence supports additional value of molecular markers and presence of isocitrate dehydrogenase (IDH) mutation and 1p/19q codeletion is now part of the World Health Organization (WHO) 2016 classification (4). However, none of these markers has become standard for treatment stratifications in clinical routine for glioblastoma (5). Several studies have tested escalated radiotherapy doses using recent techniques to improve outcome of radiotherapy in glioblastoma (6–14) and most of them showed higher local control rates and survival (7–11, 13, 15), sometimes at the price of higher toxicity. However, randomized data are missing, and some of

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**Note:** Supplementary data for this article are available at Clinical Cancer Research Online (<http://clincancerres.aacrjournals.org/>).

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# Einfluss des therapeutischen Temperaturmanagements auf den klinischen Verlauf bei intrahospital reanimierten Patienten

## Eine retrospektive Analyse

In der Europäischen Union erleiden jährlich etwa 275.000 Menschen einen Herzstillstand. Zwar kann bei optimaler Versorgung bei knapp der Hälfte der Patienten ein Spontankreislauf erfolgreich retabiliert werden, dennoch versterben trotz initialer Stabilisierung im weiteren Verlauf bis zu 75 % der Patienten [1, 2]. Die Gründe für dieses vergleichsweise geringe Überleben sind vielfältig. Der Prozess, den ein erfolgreich reanimierter Patient durchmacht, wurde früher unter dem Begriff der *Postreanimationskrankheit* subsumiert und von Vladimir Negovsky in den 1970er-Jahren geprägt [3]. Heute spricht man bevorzugt vom Post Cardiac Arrest Syndrome (PCAS; [4]). Mit der Wiedererlangung eines Spontankreislaufs (ROSC) nach primär erfolgreicher Reanimation beginnen Management und Therapie des PCAS, das in seiner Komplexität mit anderen systemisch-inflammatorischen Erkrankungen, wie etwa der Sepsis, zu vergleichen ist [2]. Neben einer systemischen Entzündungsreaktion bestimmen die Myokarddysfunktion sowie die zerebrale Ischämie dabei maßgeblich Morbidität und Mortalität der Patienten [4, 5]. Natürlich betrifft die Ischämie und die daraufhin folgende Reperfusion alle Organe, und Gewe-

be des Körpers, insbesondere solche mit hohem Sauerstoffumsatz sind als erste von der Schädigung betroffen [2]. Innerhalb weniger Minuten erschöpfen sich die zerebralen Adenosintriphosphatspeicher [6]. Als Hauptmechanismus der Schädigung gilt eine Überladung der Zellen mit Kalzium während der Reperfusion sowie das vermehrte Aufkommen freier Sauerstoffradikale [7]. Grundsätzlich kann bei einem Herz-Kreislauf-Stillstand zwischen dem Vorliegen einer kardialen und einer nichtkardialen Genese (4H: primäre Hypoxie, Hypovolämie, Hyper- oder Hypokaliämie) unterschieden werden. Des Weiteren ist im Zuge einer Reanimation an die HITS zu denken – also an Herzbeuteltamponade, Intoxikation, ein thromboembolisches Ereignis sowie ein Spannungspneumothorax. Hier steht nicht die primäre myokardiale Ischämie als Ursache des Herz-Kreislauf-Stillstands im Vordergrund, sie entsteht lediglich konsekutiv als Folge einer anderen Organdysfunktion [8].

Die erste multizentrische Studie, die sich mit Patienten nach primär erfolgreicher Reanimation beschäftigte, wurde 1953 veröffentlicht: Bei den insgesamt 1200 Fällen, die für diese Studie ausgewertet wurden, betrug die Gesamtsterb-

lichkeit 72 % [9]. Diese Sterblichkeit hat sich trotz aller Fortschritte der medizinischen Diagnostik und Therapie über die Jahre nicht wesentlich geändert; so zeigten Daten von über 24.000 ausgewertet Fällen aus England aus dem Jahr 2007 eine Gesamtsterblichkeit von über 70 % [10].

Im Jahre 2002 wurde die erste randomisierte kontrollierte Studie zum Einfluss eines therapeutischen Temperaturmanagements (TTM) auf die Prognose von Patienten nach stattgehabter Reanimation veröffentlicht. Hier zeigte sich in der Interventionsgruppe (43 Patienten, 55,8 %) ein insgesamt besseres neurologisches Outcome [11]. Auch aktuellere Studien belegen einen positiven Effekt dieses Verfahrens [12]. In den folgenden Jahren sind allerdings auch Untersuchungen veröffentlicht worden, die die Effektivität des therapeutischen Temperaturmanagements zumindest anzweifeln oder gar einen schädlichen Einfluss postulieren [13, 14]. Bei der spezifischen Betrachtung von Patienten, die einen intrahospitalen Herz-Kreislauf-Stillstand („intrahospital cardiac arrest“ – IHCA) erleiden, zeigt sich eine besonders kontroverse Studienlage. In einer Untersuchung von Wang et al. aus dem Jahre 2020 konnte bei



## Bilateral adrenal enhancement revised—adrenal-to-spleen ratio as an appropriate mortality predictor

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### Abstract

**Purpose** To investigate whether adrenal gland radiodensities alone or set in relation to either the inferior vena cava (IVC) or the spleen can predict hospital mortality in intensive care unit patients.

**Methods** One hundred thirty-three intensive care patients (90 males, age:  $66.3 \pm 14.5$  years) with an acute clinical deterioration were included in this retrospective analysis. CT attenuation (Hounsfield units) of adrenal glands, IVC, and spleen was evaluated by 2 radiologists separately. Adrenal-to-IVC and adrenal-to-spleen ratios were calculated. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis, combined with the Matthews correlation coefficient (MCC) as a classifier, was used to assess which parameter is the most suitable for short-term, intermediate-term, and overall mortality prediction. Interrater agreement was assessed using intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC).

**Results** The highest discriminative power to distinguish between deceased and survivors was found for the adrenal gland-to-spleen ratio for the 72-h mortality. A threshold of  $> 1.4$  predicted 72-h mortality with a sensitivity of 79.31% and a specificity of 98.08% (area under the curve (AUC) = 0.94;  $p < 0.0001$ ; MCCs = 0.81). The positive likelihood ratio was 41; the positive predictive value was 92.20%. Adrenal gland-to-spleen ratio was also best suited to predict the 24-h and overall mortality. ICCs of HU measurements in adrenal gland, IVC, and spleen indicated a high interrater agreement (ICC 0.95–0.99).

**Conclusions** To conclude, the adrenal-to-spleen ratio in CT in portal venous phase may serve as an imaged-based predictor for short, intermediate, and overall mortality and as reproducible prognostic marker for patient outcome.

**Keywords** Hospital mortality · Prognosis · Mortality prediction · Intensive care unit · Adrenal enhancement

### Introduction

The term CT hypoperfusion complex [1–5] includes various imaging features seen in the context of profound hypoperfusion and circulatory shock. In many patients with shock, the adrenal glands show intense enhancement as an imaging correlate of an increased release of catecholamines [6]. Catecholamines are crucial endogenous agents for increasing blood flow to the vital organs, which are typically triggered

by a significant drop in blood pressure. By releasing these hormones, adrenal glands play a central role in the circulatory regulation in states of shock.

Several study groups defined adrenal enhancement as bilateral adrenal attenuation values higher than those of the inferior vena cava (IVC) [2–5, 7–11]. Boos et al. [10] and Schek et al. [11] showed that adrenal enhancement is associated with a poor outcome. However, Schek's and Boos' inclusion of the IVC in their definition of hyperattenuating raises questions about IVC's suitability as a reference region. Due to pooling, e.g., in right ventricular failure with reflux of contrast agent into the inferior vena cava, and flow phenomena or the presence of catheters, it may be challenging to attain reproducible results in close-by regions or in repeated readings. Furthermore, no explanation for the choice of the IVC as reference region is given in any of the studies.

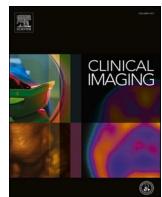
Lubner et al. [1] described that parenchymal abdominal organs such as the spleen may also be used as reference. The

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## Body Imaging

## Adrenal glands enhancement in computed tomography as predictor of short-and intermediate term mortality in critically ill patients

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## ARTICLE INFO

**Keywords:**

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## ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** To investigate whether adrenal gland radiodensities alone or compared to the inferior vena cava (IVC) can correctly predict hospital mortality in patients in intensive care.

**Methods:** One hundred thirteen intensive care patients (76 males, age:  $67.2 \pm 14.0$  years) with an acute clinical deterioration were included in this retrospective analysis. For the venous and the arterial phase CT attenuation (Hounsfield units) of adrenal glands and IVC was ROI-based evaluated by two radiologists separately. ROC analysis, combined with the Matthews Correlation Coefficient (MCC) as a classifier, was used to assess whether one of the parameters is suitable for predicting short and medium-term mortality and, if so, which parameter is most appropriate. Interrater agreement was assessed using the intraclass correlation coefficient.

**Results:** Twenty-one patients (18.6%) died within three days in the ICU. Measurements of the adrenal glands in the portal venous phase yielded the highest discriminative power (=AUC) to distinguish between deceased and survivors. A threshold ratio of  $>95.5$  predicted 72-hour mortality with a sensitivity of 76.19% and a specificity of 92.39% (AUC = 0.84;  $p < 0.0001$ ). The positive likelihood ratio was 10.1; the positive predictive value was 69%. The predictive power for 24-hour mortality was slightly lower. Venous adrenal-to-IVC ratios and arterial measurements as a whole were substantially less suitable. All intraclass correlation coefficients indicated a high interrater agreement.

**Conclusions:** In the portal venous phase, hyperattenuating of the adrenal glands on contrast-enhanced CT can predict short and intermediate ICU mortality quite well and may serve as a reproducible prognostic marker for individual patient outcomes.

## 1. Introduction

CT hypoperfusion complex [1–5] is a term that comprises a variety of imaging features seen in the context of profound hypoperfusion and mostly life-threatening conditions such as shock. In many patients with shock, the adrenal glands show intense enhancement as an imaging correlate of an increased release of catecholamines [6]. Catecholamines are crucial endogenous agents for increasing blood flow to the vital organs brain and heart, a mechanism that is typically triggered by a significant drop in blood pressure. By releasing these hormones, adrenal glands play a central role in the circulatory regulation in states of shock.

Several study groups defined adrenal enhancement as bilateral adrenal attenuation values greater than in the inferior vena cava (IVC)

[2–5,7–11]. Boos et al. [10] and Schek et al. [11] associated adrenal enhancement with poor outcome. However, Schek's and Boos' definition of hyperattenuation raises questions about the IVC's suitability as a reference region especially in the arterial phase [10]. Due to pooling, e.g. in right ventricular failure with reflux of contrast agent into the inferior vena cava, and flow phenomena or the presence of catheters, it may be difficult to obtain reproducible results in nearby regions or with repeated measurements when contrast agent is administered via the veins of the lower extremities.

In patients with shock, Boos et al. [10] associated an increased adrenal enhancement in the bolus triggered arterial phase with poor outcome within 14 days. Deceased Patients showed on average higher density values of the adrenal glands in comparison to survivors. In the

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# Evaluation of response using FDG-PET/CT and diffusion weighted MRI after radiochemotherapy of pancreatic cancer: a non-randomized, monocentric phase II clinical trial—PaCa-DD-041 (Eudra-CT 2009-011968-11)

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## Abstract

**Background** Pancreatic cancer is a devastating disease with a 5-year survival rate of 20–25%. As approximately only 20% of patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer are initially staged as resectable, it is necessary to evaluate new therapeutic approaches. Hence, neoadjuvant (radio)chemotherapy is a promising therapeutic option, especially in patients with a borderline resectable tumor. The aim of this non-randomized, monocentric, prospective, phase II clinical study was to assess the prognostic value of functional imaging techniques, i.e., [<sup>18</sup>F]2-fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose positron emission tomography/computed tomography (FDG-PET/CT) and diffusion weighted magnetic resonance imaging (DW-MRI), prior to and during neoadjuvant radiochemotherapy.

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## Original Article

## Generation of biological hypotheses by functional imaging links tumor hypoxia to radiation induced tissue inflammation/glucose uptake in head and neck cancer



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## ABSTRACT

**Background and purpose:** Positron emission tomography (PET) is a functional imaging modality which is able to deliver tracer specific biological information, e.g. about glucose uptake, inflammation or hypoxia of tumors. We performed a proof-of-principle study that used different tracers and expanded the analytical scope to non-tumor structures to evaluate tumor-host interactions.

**Materials and methods:** Based on a previously reported prospective imaging study on 50 patients treated with curative intent chemoradiation (CRT) for head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, PET-based hypoxia and normal tissue inflammation measured by repeat 18F-fluoromisonidazole (FMISO) PET and 18F-fluorodesoxyglucose (FDG) PET, respectively, were correlated using the Spearman correlation coefficient R. PET parameters determined before and during CRT (week 1, 2 and 5), were associated with local tumor control and overall survival.

**Results:** Tumor hypoxia at all measured times showed an inverse correlation with mid-treatment FDG-uptake of non-tumor affected oral (sub-)mucosa with R values between –0.35 and –0.6 (all  $p < 0.05$ ). Mucosal FDG-uptake and mucosal hypoxia correlated positively but weaker (R values between 0.2 and 0.45). More tumor hypoxia in FMISO-PET (week 2) and less FDG-uptake of (sub-)mucosa in FDG-PET (week 4) were significantly associated with worse LC (FMISO TBR<sub>peak</sub>: HR = 1.72,  $p = 0.030$ ; FDG SUV<sub>mean</sub>: HR = 0.23,  $p = 0.025$ ) and OS (FMISO TBR<sub>peak</sub>: HR = 1.71,  $p = 0.007$ ; FDG SUV<sub>mean</sub>: HR = 0.30,  $p = 0.003$ ). Multivariable models including both parameters showed improved performance, suggesting that these modalities still bear distinct biological information despite their strong inter-correlation.

**Conclusion:** We report first clinical evidence that tumor hypoxia is inversely correlated with increased FDG-uptake during radiation, potentially expressing inflammation. This observation merits further research and may have important implication for future research on tumor hypoxia and radioimmunotherapy. Our study demonstrates that functional imaging can be utilized to assess complex tumor-host interactions and generate novel biological insights *in vivo vero*.

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Tumor hypoxia is an established negative prognostic marker in almost all solid tumors, including head and neck squamous cell

carcinomas (HNSCC) [1]. Methods to assess intra-tumoral hypoxia include the classical gold standard of invasive measurement by Eppendorf electrodes, the use of serological biomarkers, particularly Osteopontin, and various hypoxia gene signatures [2–5]. For radiotherapy, the use of hypoxia specific positron emission tomography (PET) tracers is especially valuable as this modality delivers

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