PET Imaging in the Clinic: Predictive and intermediate endpoint biomarkers



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Conflict of Interest: Founder: Sofie Biosciences

PET/CT is the best modality for initial and subsequent management decisions in cancer



Biograph 6, 40, 64



Discovery ST, STE, VCT, RX



Gemini GXL, TF

>2000 scanners installed in the US; >2 Mil studies in 2012 Reasonable cost (\$1-3 Mil) Established business model

Cost-effectiveness shown for many cancers Impact on Management documented (pioneering NOPR work) Impact on outcome shown in some cancers (MUNICON, PLUS, etc)

> 6500 publications under PET/CT 17545 publications under FDG

18516 publications under PET cancer

PET/CT with 10-15% higher accuracy than PET or CT alone

One stop shop frequently requires intravenous contrast

CT is indispensable for the planning of all interventions (surgery, biopsy, radiation, etc.; RECIST still standard of care)

IV contrast-enhanced FDG PET/CT is superior to contrast-enhanced CT alone and to unenhanced FDG PET/CT

i) Pfannenberg AC et al. Br J Radiol 2007;80 : 437–445 (mixed population)

ii) Pfannenberg AC et al. Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging 2007;34 : 36–44

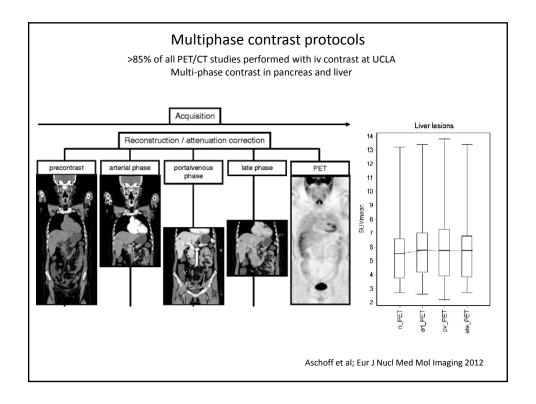
iii) Tateishi U et al. Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging 2007; 34: 1627-1634 (colorectal cancer)

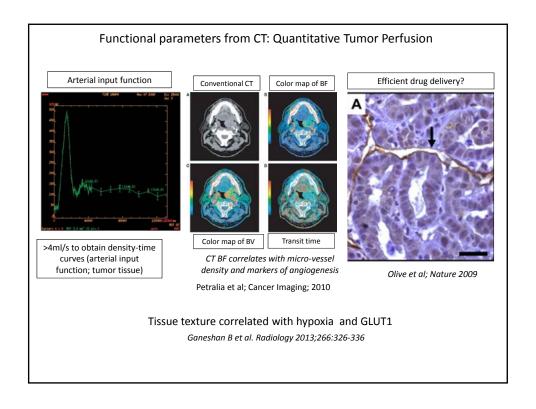
Use of IV contrast material increases lesion detectability (important in FDG negative lesions) iv) Cantwell et al. J Comput Assist Tomogr 2008; 34: 738-744 (metastatic liver lesions)

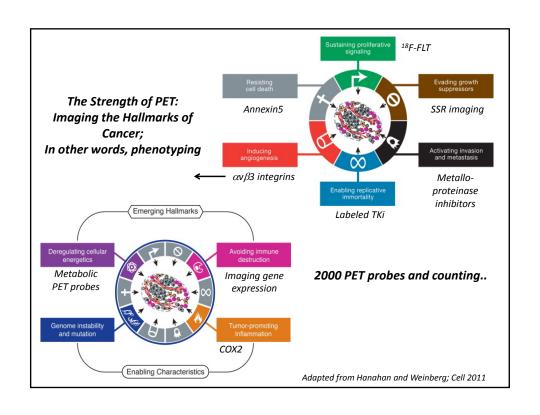
Multiphase contrast protocols are feasible

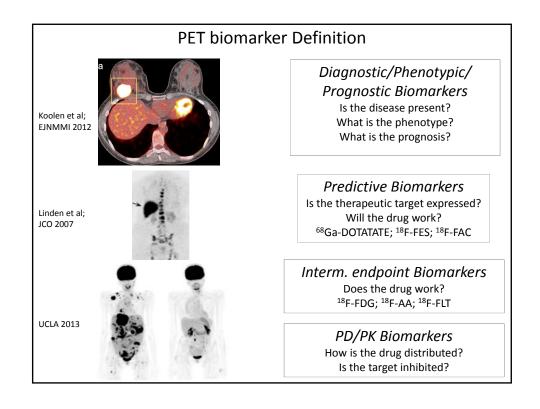
Oral contrast agents can aid in the evaluation of the GI tract

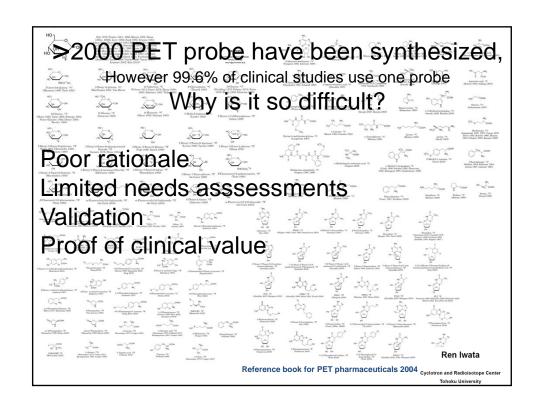
High attenuation values associated with high-density IV contrast cause attenuation-correction artifacts that are easily recognized











What is the required evidence for "new" imaging probes?

Feasibility Easy to synthesize? Easy to distribute?
Assay Does it measure what it is supposed to

measure?

Accuracy better than alternative; same, but at lower

cost

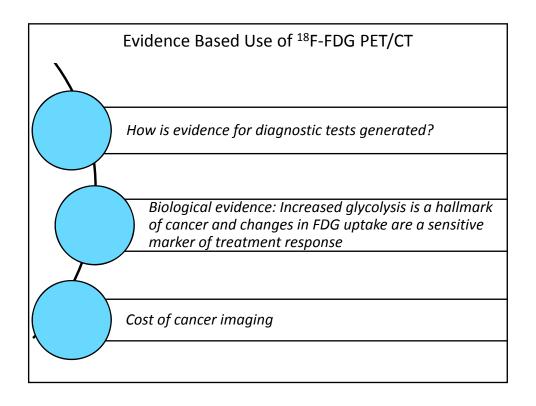
Diagnostic value How does test compare to other tests?

Therapeutic value Does the test improve therapy?

Patient and societal value Does the test improve patient outcome

at reasonable cost (many outcome parameters should be considered)

Adapted from Jager et al; JNM 2001



How is evidence generated?

Schueneman et al; APC club 2008: "If a test fails to improve patient-important outcomes, there is no reason to use it, whatever its accuracy."

Accuracy studies

Test 1 vs. Test 2; gold standard biopsy, imaging follow up etc.

Ungated RCT (18F-NaF trial)

Comparison of 2 management strategies; one uses new test; the other one standard test Outcome: OS, quality of life, PFS

Gated RCT

All pts undergo both tests; Randomization restricted to pts in whom test results would lead to different management decisions

Decision modeling

Data based on literature

Management decision studies

National Oncology PET Registry (NOPR)

Meta-analysis, expert opinions, etc..

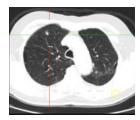
Test performance rated by HTA groups, regulatory agencies, etc

Question Quality Assessment of Diagnostic Accuracy Studies (QUADAS) (14 questions)

- Did patients receive the same reference standard regardless of the index test result?
- Was the reference standard independent of the index test (i.e., the index test did not form part of the reference standard)?
- Were index test results interpreted without knowledge of results of reference standard?
- Were reference standard results interpreted without knowledge of results of index test?



Reference standard: Biopsy



Question 6: Did patients receive same reference standard regardless of the index test result? Sensitivity overestimated if biopsy only performed in positive scans

Question 10: Were index test results interpreted without knowledge of reference standard?

Differentiation of SPNs is biased when PET reader knows results of histopathology

These questions may NOT make sense.. (see Weber et al; JNM 2011;52 Suppl 2)

Were reference standard results interpreted without knowledge of results of index test? Histologic verification not possible unless a lesion has been identified by imaging.

Were reference standard results interpreted without knowledge of results of index test? Imaging used as follow up confirmation: Thus index test used as reference test



Patient with widespread metastases

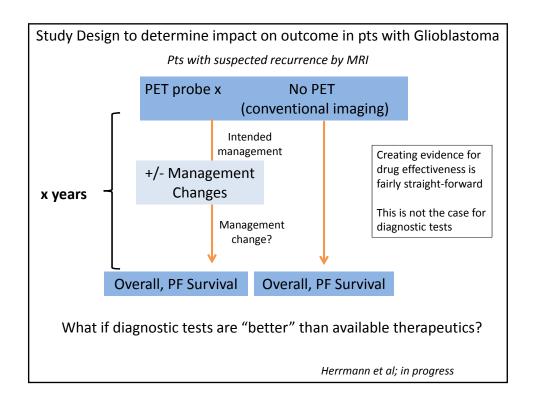
Were reference standard results interpreted without knowledge of results of index test?

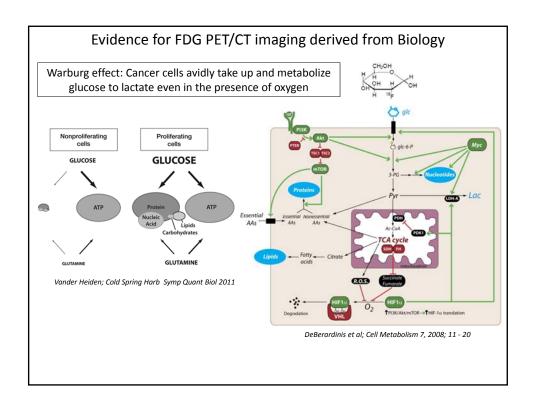
Pathologist knows imaging findings: Thus, reference not independent of index test

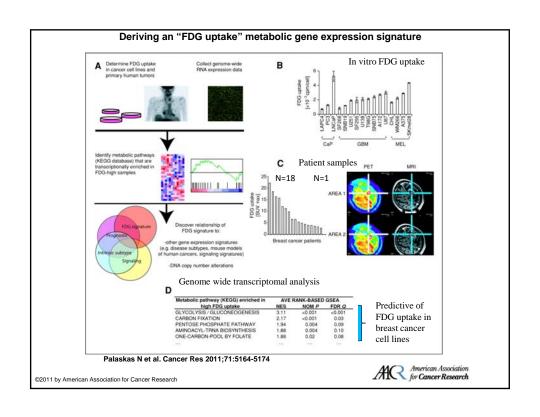
Reference standard cannot be determined when an imaging result is normal (autopsy required)

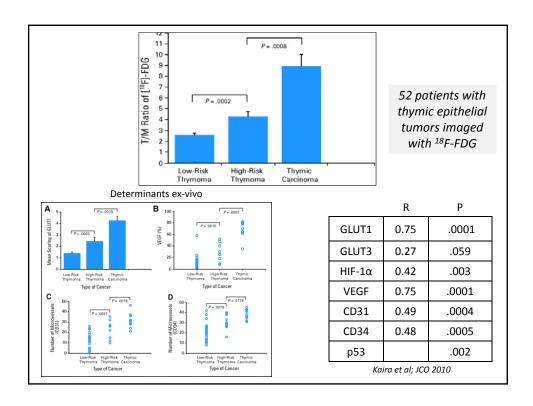
Thus, it is impossible to design a study for detection of distant metastases by an imaging modality without violating 6/14 requirements made by QUADAS.

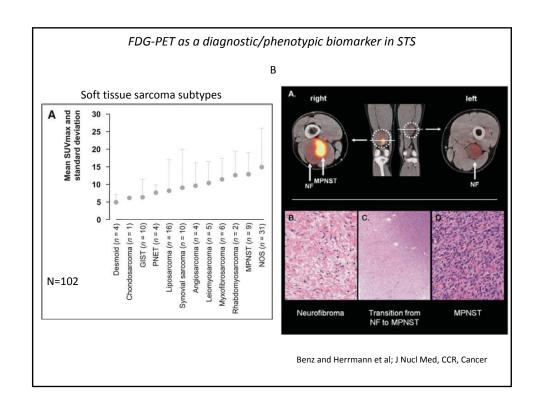
Same true for all other imaging modalities

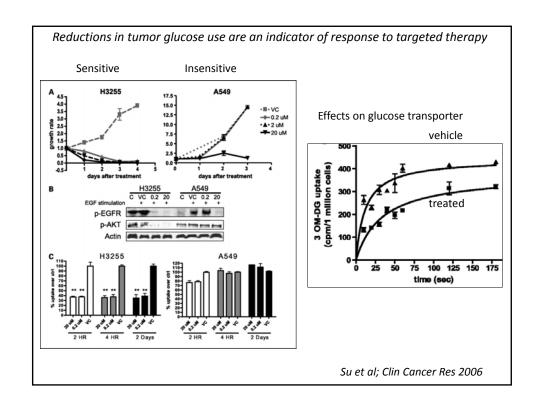


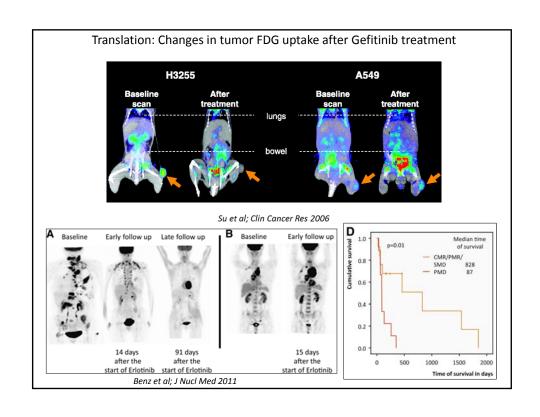


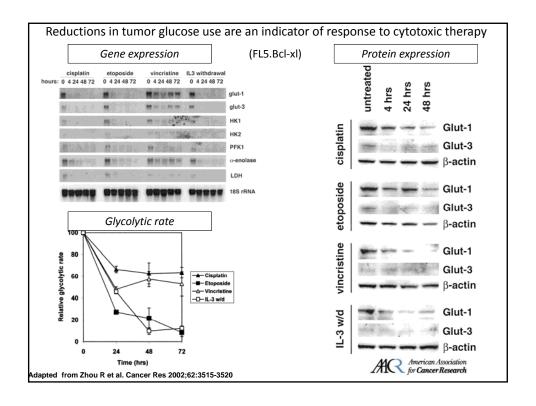


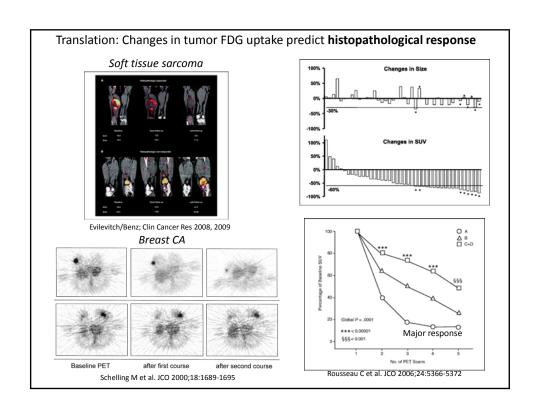


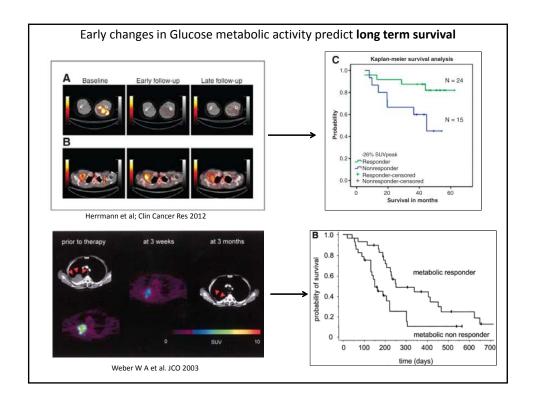


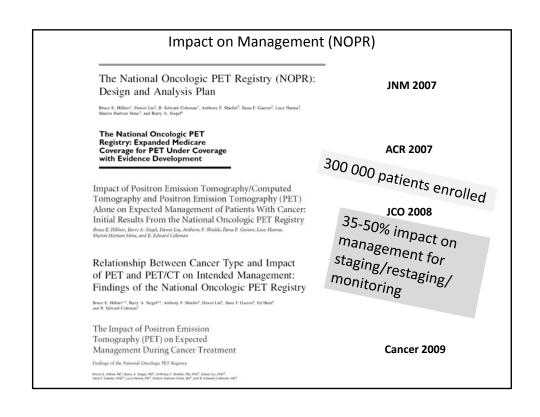


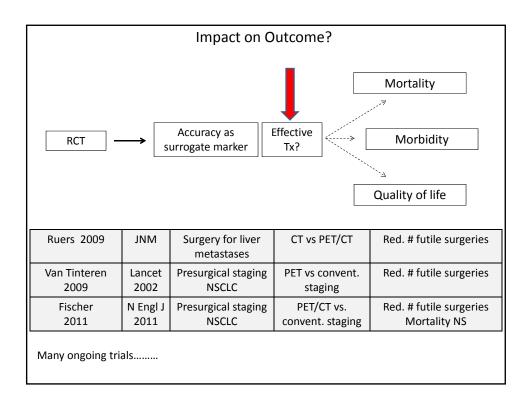




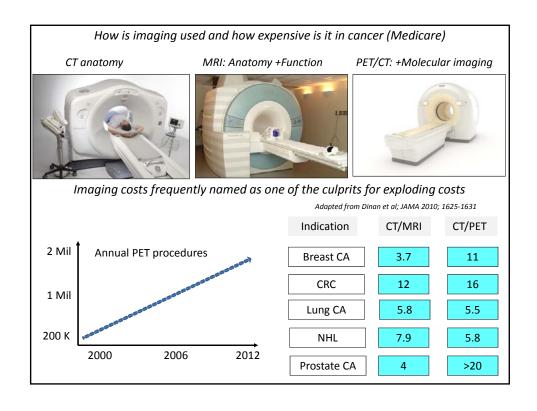


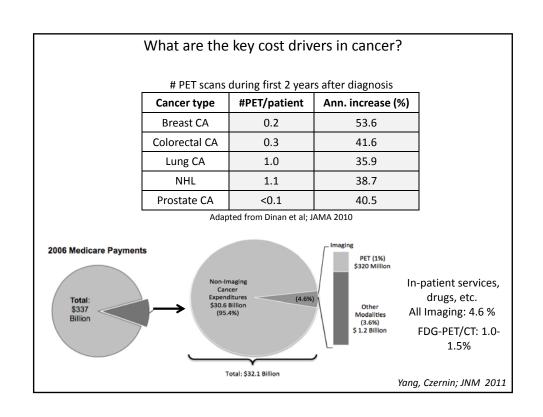




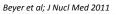


Initi	al Treatment Strategy	Subsequent Treatment strategy
Colorectal	Cover	Cover
Esophagus	Cover	Cover
Head & Neck	Cover	Cover
Lymphoma	Cover	Cover
NSCL	Cover	Cover
Ovary	Cover	Cover
Brain	Cover	Cover
Cervix	Cover	Cover
Small Cell Lung	Cover	Cover
STS	Cover	Cover
Pancreas	Cover	Cover
Testes	Cover	Cover
Breast	Cover w/exception	* Cover
Melanoma	Cover w/exception	* Cover
Prostate	Non-Cover	Non-Cover
Thyroid	Cover	Cover
All Other Solid	Cover	Cover
Myeloma	Cover	Cover
All oth. not listed	Cover	Cover



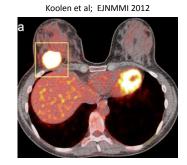


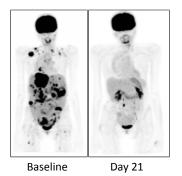
Distribution of Cancers	%
Lung cancer	29.9
Lymphoma	24.5
Breast cancer	12.4
Colorectal cancer	11.7
Head and neck cancer	8.1
Melanoma	2.7
GIST	1.0
Myeloma	1.0
Cancer of unknown primary	1.0
Esophageal cancer	1.0
Prostate cancer	0.7
Other tumors	6.0



Indication	N	%
Diagnosis	5,516	19
Staging	6464	23
Restaging	5607	20
Suspected recurrence	5388	19
Monitoring	5,503	19
Total	22,975	

NOPR data: Hillner et al: JCO 2008





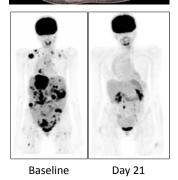
How do we use FDG PET/CT across most cancers?



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Initial treatment strategy

Diagnostic/Phenotypic/ Prognostic Biomarker Diagnosis, Staging

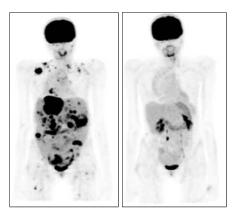


Subsequent treatment strategy

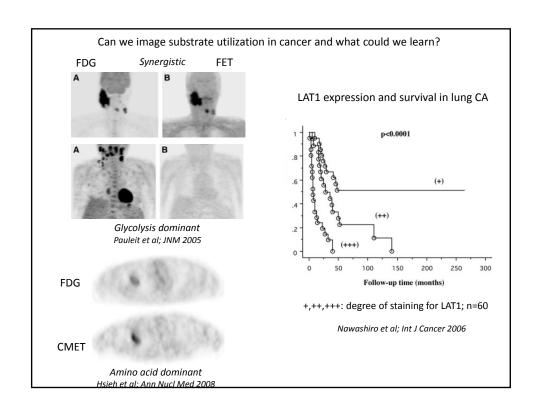
Intermediate endpoint
Biomarker
Treatment Monitoring

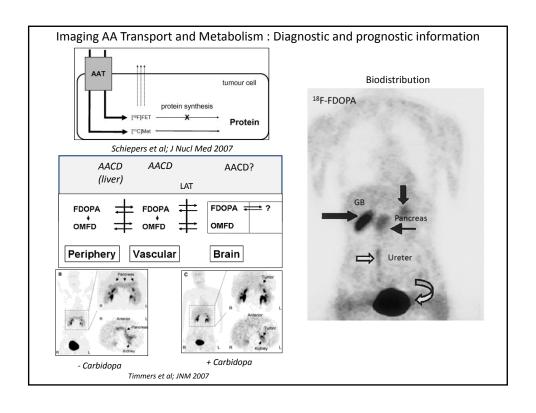
Conclusion

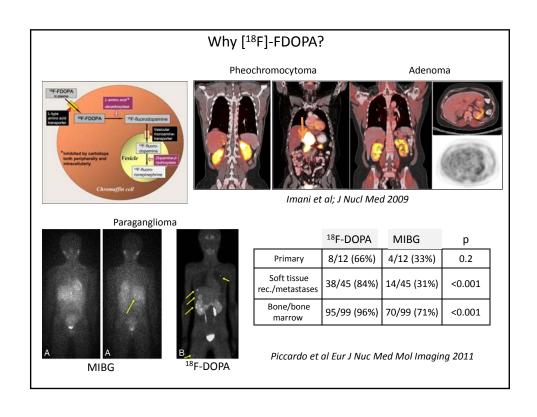
- FDG PET imaging has a strong and translatable underpinning in tumor biology
- Evidence based approaches never applied to MRI or CT (does this mean that these techniques are not useful?)
- Randomized trials difficult to conduct (no financial support, no stakeholders)
- Nevertheless, impact on management and outcome demonstrated

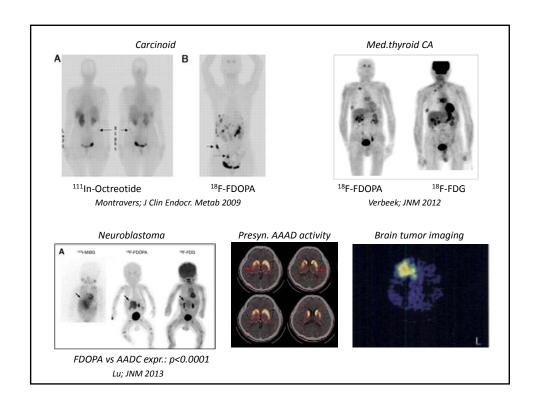


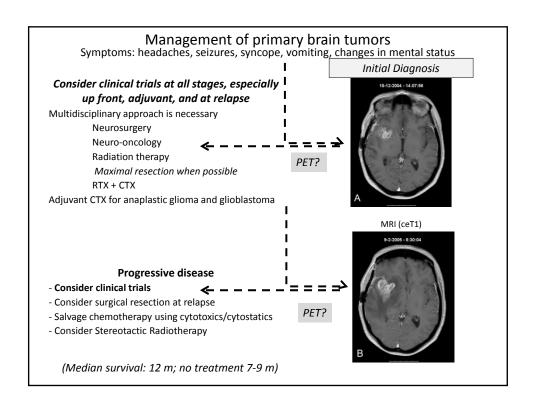
The fundamental role of increased glucose metabolism is well established Do we really need to show the usefulness of PET for each cancer/each indication?

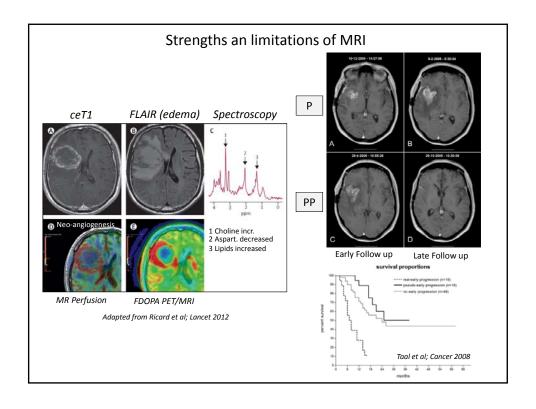


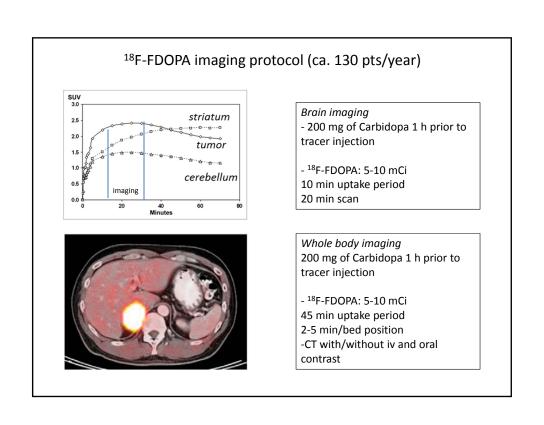


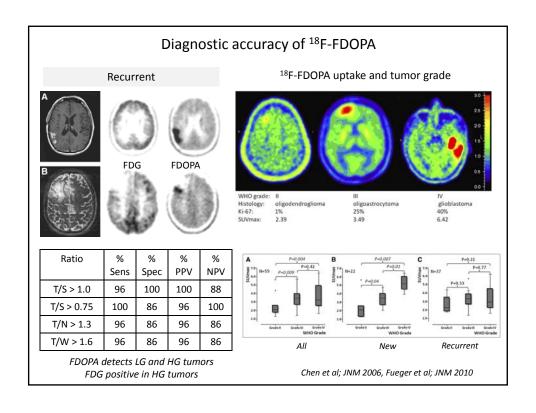


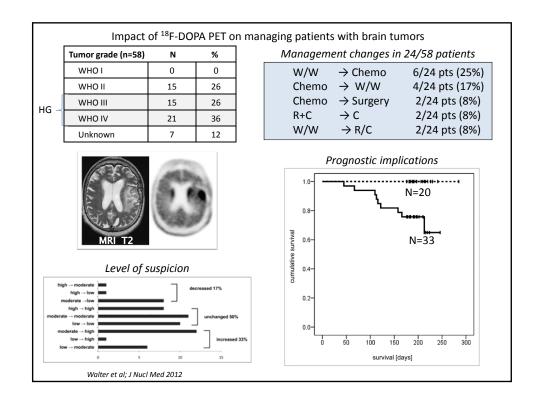




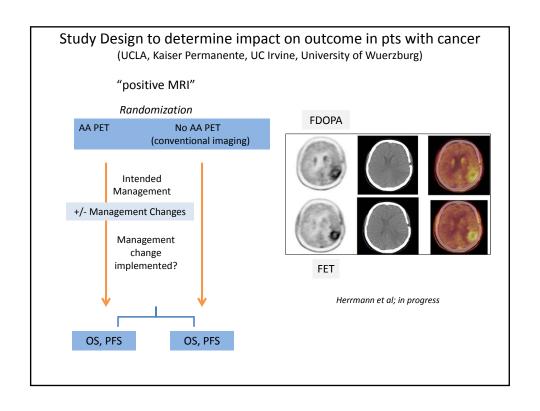


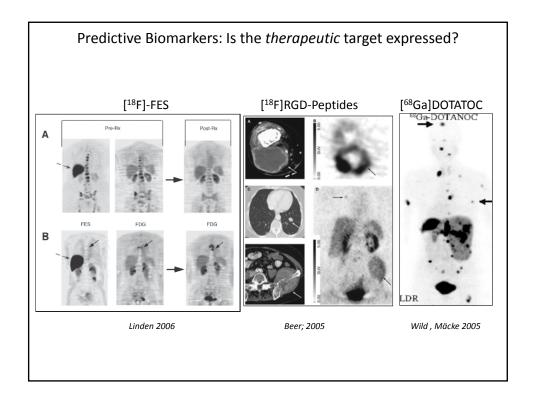




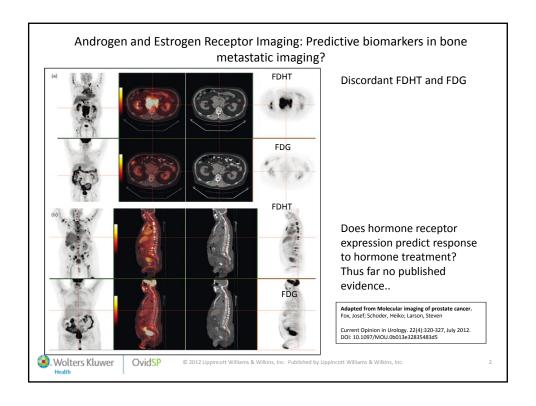


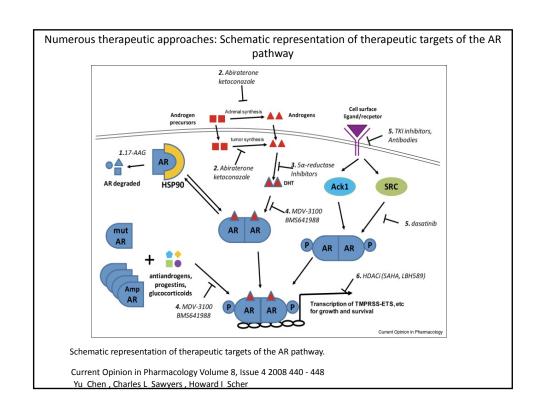
 $[^{18}F]$ -AA transport imaging (11 CMET, ^{18}F -FET, ^{18}F -FDOPA) for brain tumor imaging Feasibility yes Accuracy yes Diagnostic value yes; pseudo-progression vs progression Prognostic value yes Therapeutic value Impact on Management: Yes Does it result in better treatment? Patient and societal value Does it result in improved survival and/or quality of life, at acceptable cost/reduces costs at same outcome? Prospective randomized trial under way for ¹⁸F-FDOPA

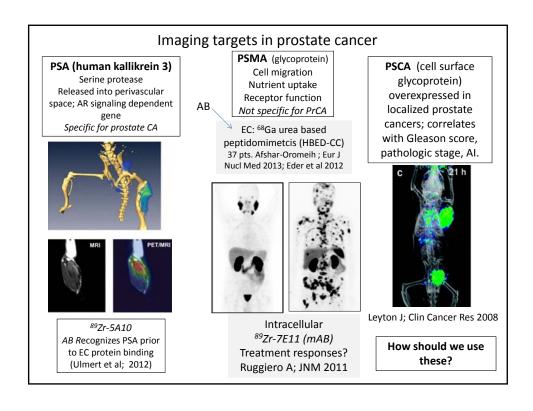


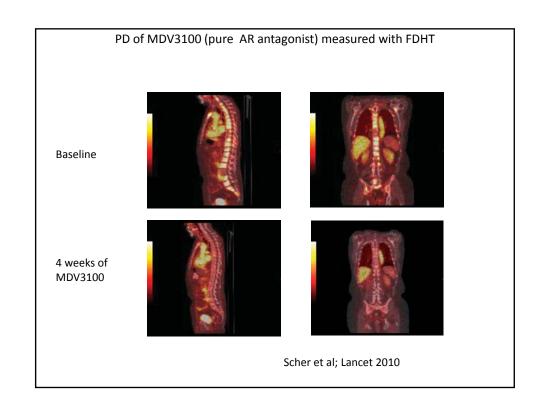


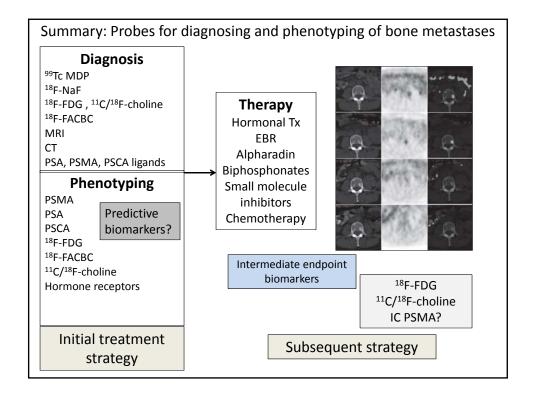
There are many PET probes for bone imaging				
Probe	T/2 (min) Target Process		Applications	
¹⁸ F-NaF	110	Hydroxyapatite	Bone formation	Osteoblastic
¹⁸ F-FDG	110	Glut1,3; hexokinase	Glycolysis	Osteolytic
¹¹ C-Choline	20	Choline kinase	lipid synthesis	Prostate
¹⁸ F-Choline	110	Choline kinase	lipid synthesis	Prostate
¹¹ C-Acetate 20 FAS Lipid synthesis Prosta		Prostate		
¹¹ C-Meth	20	L-AAT	AA metabolism	Myeloma
¹⁸ F-DOPA	110	L-AAT	AA metabolism	NET
⁶⁸ Ga-SSR	68	SSR 2,5	SSR expression	NET
¹⁸ F-Estradiol	110	ER	Receptors Breas	
¹⁸ F-FDHT	110	AR	Receptors Prostate	
124 lodine	4.2 days	Na-I-symporter	Iodine metab.	Thyroid
⁶⁸ Ga-PSMA	68	PSMA	Receptor exp	Al
⁸⁹ Zr-mAB	78h	PSMA	Receptor exp	Al
⁸⁹ Zr-mAB	78h	PSA	Receptor exp	AD
18F-FACBC	110	LAT?	AA Transport	Recurrence

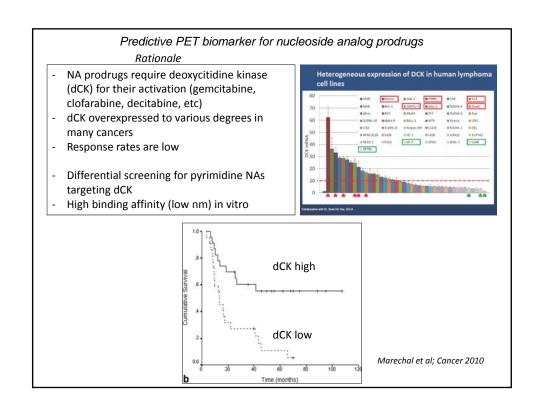


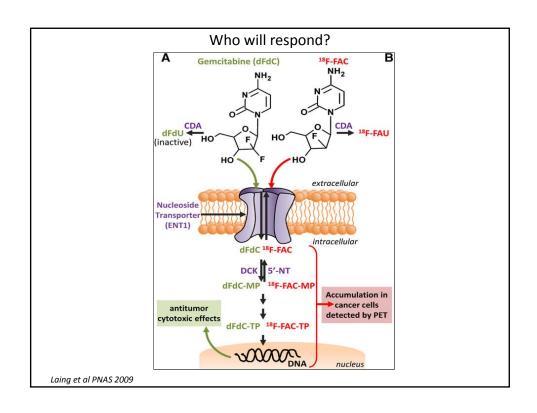


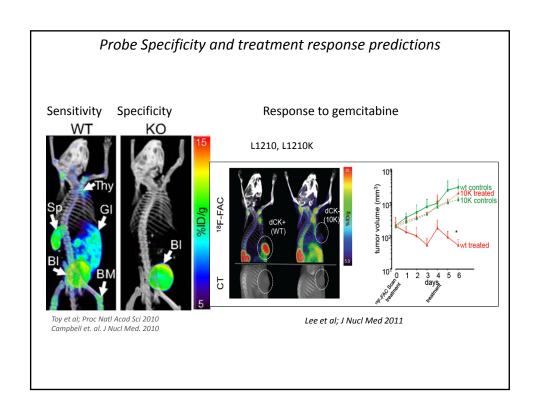




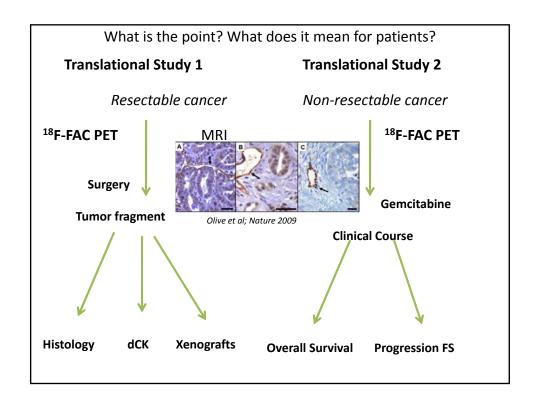




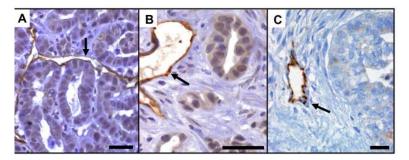




Clinical translation of predictive biomarkers 30 resectable patients imaged with ¹⁸F-FAC PET/CT Excised tumor examined for dCK activity and expression Correlation between dCK activity/expression and ¹⁸F-FAC uptake Patient 1 PET/CT PET Tumor PET/CT PET Tumor Czernin et al; 2013; unpublished data



Problems in study design



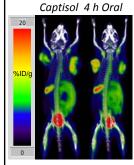
Sampling problems
Small tissue fragments
Probe delivery
Low tumor perfusion bu

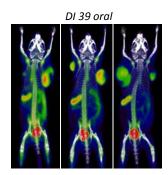
Low tumor perfusion but high dCK activity
High tumor perfusion but low dCK activity

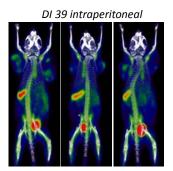
Tumor stroma

¹⁸F-FAC as Pharmakodynamic Marker of dCK inhibitors

Dose: 50mg/kg







At 50mg/kg the intraperitoneal administration is superior to oral administration

Radu group at UCLA

Summary: A rich portfolio of PET biomarkers

Koolen et al; EJNMMI 2012

UCLA 2013

UCLA 2013

Diagnostic/Phenotypic/ Prognostic Biomarkers Is the disease present? ¹⁸F-FDG; AA, ¹⁸F-FLT; etc, choline, ect

Predictive Biomarkers
Is the therapeutic target expressed?
Will the drug work?

68Ga-DOTATATE; 18F-FES; 18F-FAC

Intermediate endpoint
Biomarkers Does the drug work?

18F-FDG; 18F-AA; 18F-FLT

A few words about MRI: Capabilities have dramatically expanded

These arguments have been made for PET/MRI

- No Radiation
- Molecular capabilities (Research)
- True simultaneous acquisition
- Better for selected indications

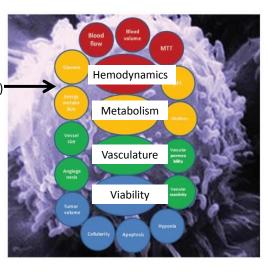
Brain Prostate

Head/Neck

Pancreas

Liver

But is there a good reason for marrying PET with MRI?



Kauppinen/Peet; Cancer Biol Ther. 2011

Argument #1 for PET/MRI

CT carries a significant radiation risk

Brenner DJ and Hall EJ; N Engl J Med 2007 Radiation doses of as high as 25 mSv might increase cancer risk

Brenner DJ et al; Radiology 2011: Greatly reduced relevance for patients with limited life expectancy

D. J. Shah et al; British Journal of Radiology 2012 "Risks of medical imaging at effective doses below 50 mSv for single procedures or 100 mSv for multiple procedures over short time periods are too low to be detectable and may be nonexistent"

"Predictions of hypothetical cancer incidence and deaths in patient populations exposed to such low doses are highly speculative and should be discouraged"

> Women of child bearing age Pediatric population

Do magnetic fields have a mutagenic effect (Ames test)? From Schreiber et al; J. Magn. Reson. Imaging 2001;14:779–788.

Increase in hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyl transferase gene mutations

Increase in DNA strand breaks in rat brain cells Increase in revertants in co-exposed *Salmonella* typhimurium TA 100

Increase in micronuclei in human lymphocytes (only in presence of the parallel static magnetic field)

Increase in the number of sister chromatid exchanges at 400 mT, but neither at 5 mT nor at 50 mT

Increase in hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyl transferase gene mutations in coexposed Chinese hamster ovary cells

Increase in hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyl transferase gene mutations in p53 deficient human osteosarkoma cells

DNA repair mechanisms are powerful

Argument #2 for clinical PET/MRI: MRI is "better" than CT for some indications

In pancreatic cancer (Shrikhande et al; HPB 2012)

Choice between CT or MRI/MRCP is often determined by the availability of the modality and by the technical expertise; CT and MRI equally accurate CT and MRI are underreporting vascular invasion in pancreatic cancer. MRA does not add information on vascular staging when compared with CT and MRI. (Zhang et al; Pancreatology 2012)

MRI and CT similarly accurate for characterizing cystic lesions (Lee et al; Clin. Radiology 2011; Visser et al; AJR 2007)

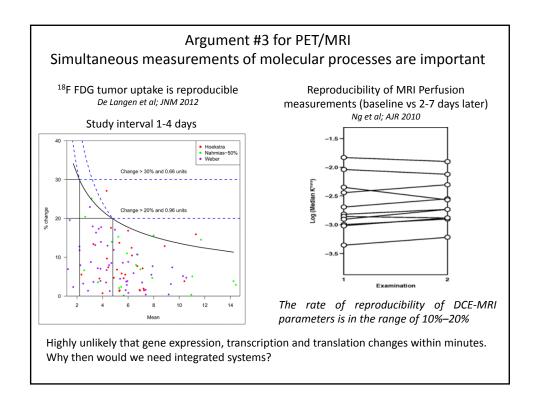
Liver metastases Niekel et al; meta-analysis; Radiology 2010

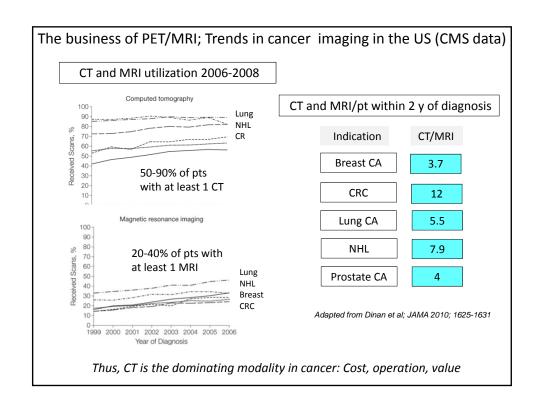
Modality*	Mean Sensitivity (%)†	Mean Specificity (%)†
CT (n = 9)	83.6 (66.9, 92.8)	94.9 (92.9, 96.3)
MR imaging $(n = 6)$	88.2 (64.8, 96.8)	92.5 (89.5, 94.6)
FDG PET $(n = 6)$	94.1 (91.6, 95.9)	95.7 (92.7, 97.6)
FDG PET/CT $(n = 3)$	96.5 (94.2, 97.9)	97.2 (92.8, 99.0)

CT, MRI, PET and US with comparable performance in metastatic H/N cancer Meta analysis: Liao et al; BMC Cancer 2012 Meta analysis: de Brondt et al; Eur J Radiol 2007 Same for recurrent nasopharyngeal CA Meta-analysis: Liu et al; Radioth.and Oncology 2007

And even in prostate cancer LN staging......
CT Sens: 42%; MRI Sens: 39%
Meta-analysis: Hoevels et al; Clinical Radiology 2008

Using LN specific contrast MRI superior to CT; Mulicenter trial; Heesakkers et al; Lancet
Oncology 2008





PET/MR: Worldwide distribution up to Q1 2013 Siemens 37 Philips 12 GE 6 TOTAL: 55 Almost all systems in academia or public health care

Interesting sales numbers

Adapted from David Townsend

Courtesy of David Townsend

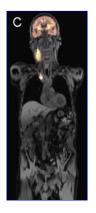
PET/CT 2002 – 2004: 360 Units shipped in US

A technical <u>evolution</u> and a clinical <u>revolution</u>

PET/MRI 2010 – 2012: 14 Units shipped in US

A technical <u>revolution: But is there a real need?</u>

	PET/CT (Mil \$)	PET/MRI (Mil \$)
Equipment	0.9 - 3	5+
Build out	1	2.5 (at UCLA)
Service contract/y	0.25	0.5
Throughput	12-15 pts/d	6-8 pts/day
Reimbursement	\$1250	\$1250?

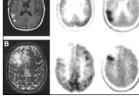


Great research tool: tumor perfusion; phenotyping of tumors using "molecular" MRI (predictive markers); improved diagnostic accuracy of PET/MRI over PET/CT?

But do I really need an integrated system to do this?

Summary: A rich portfolio of PET biomarkers

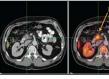




Diagnostic/Phenotypic/ Prognostic Biomarkers ¹⁸F-FDG; AA, ¹⁸F-FLT; etc, choline, ect

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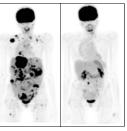
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Predictive Biomarkers
Is the therapeutic target expressed?
Will the drug work?

68Ga-DOTATATE; 18F-FES; 18F-FAC



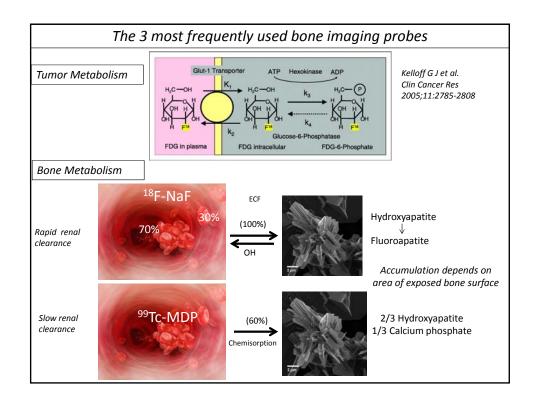


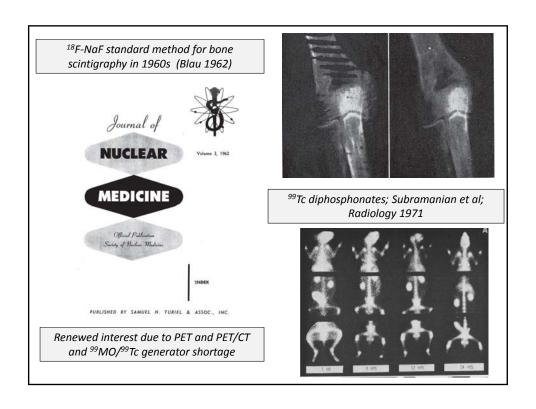
Intermediate endpoint
Biomarkers Does the drug work?

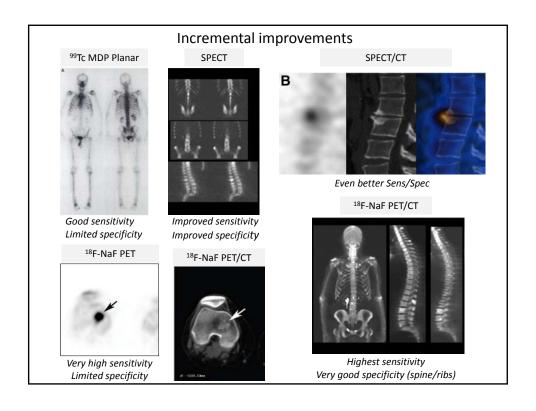
18F-FDG; 18F-AA; 18F-FLT

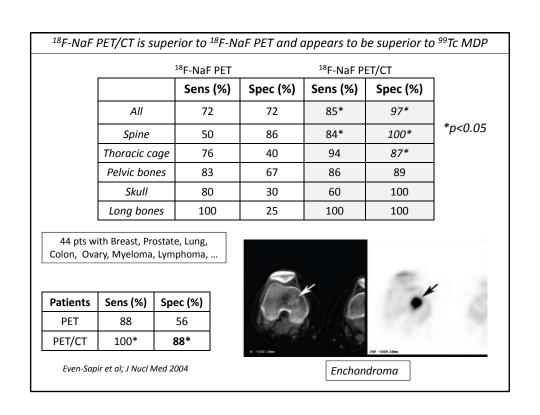
A randomized trial to determine the value of 18F-NaF bone imaging in patients with prostate CA

If you design a good study you must be willing to accept the results....!!!!

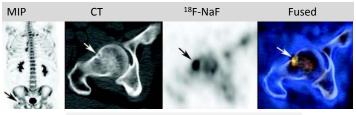








PET vs PET/CT: Reasons for false positives on ¹⁸F-NaF scans



Sub-chondral bone cyst in prostate CA

Location	Finding
Vertebral column	Degenerative disk disease, osteophytes, facet joint disease, Schmorl's node, fracture
Thoracic cage	Radionecrosis, fracture, arthritic changes at the acromioclavicular and sternoclavicular joints, postop. changes
Pelvic bones	Avulsion injury, insufficiency fracture, Paget's disease, arthritic changes, postoperative changes
Skull and facial bones	Sinusitis, mastoiditis, osteoma
Long bones	Enchondroma, subchondral cyst, trochanteric bursitis, tendonitis, stress fracture

Einat Even-Sapir et al; J Nucl Med 2004

Where are we going? Strategy for ¹⁸F-NaF Approval

CMS NCD February 26, 2010

¹⁸F-NaF-PET should be covered only under an approved coverage with evidence development (CED) study

At that time no qualifying clinical study that would enable this coverage

Now there is, once again NOPR!

	¹⁸ F-FDG NOPR	¹⁸ F-NaF NOPR
PET scans registered	157,453	8,475
PET scans consented/eligible	116, 953	6,417
# facilities (minimum 1 scan)	1,693	633

But, NOPR alone no longer sufficient..

NOPR data Courtesy Barry Siegel 2012

18F-NaF PET/CT versus ⁹⁹mTc-MDP for Detecting Bone Metastases:

A Randomized International Multi-center Trial (19 sites in US, Switzerland, Australia, Austria)

Currently 530 pts enrolled

Randomization (Image Metrix)

Pre-scan questionnaire

18F-NaF

99Tc-MDP (planar, SPECT, SPECT/CT)

On-site visual analysis (score); clinical report

Post-scan questionnaire

6 m follow up (questionnaires; source data)
Reference standard (other imaging modalities, tumor markers)

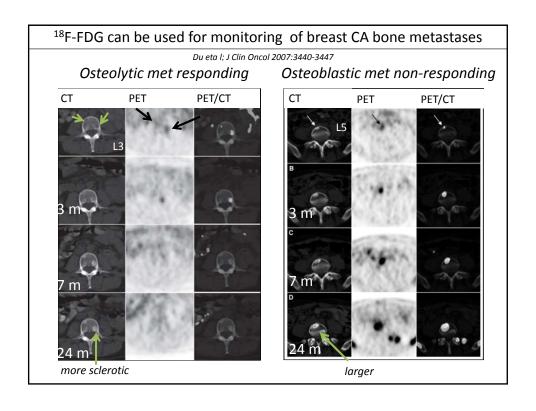
Independent Truth Panel to determine presence of absence of bone metastases Independent expert panel to re-read and score scans

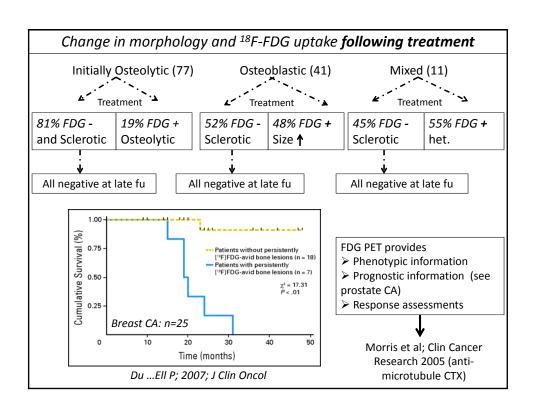
Surprising Preliminary Results

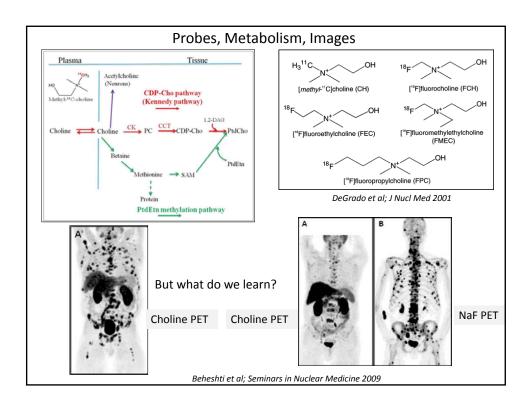
Bone Mets	¹⁸ F-NaF PET/CT	^{99m} Tc-MDP	Combined
Pos	18/155 (11.6%)	23/167 (13.8%)	41/322 (12.7%)
Neg	137/155 (88.4%)	144/167 (86.2%)	281/322 (87.3%)
Total	155	167	322

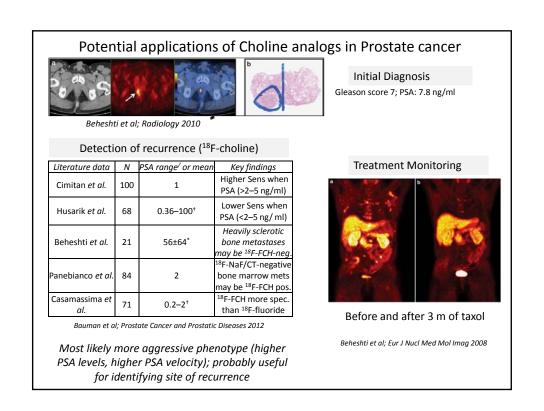
	¹⁸ F-NaF PET/CT	^{99m} Tc-MDP
1	0.8687	0.9272
2	0.9267	0.9450
3	0.9645	0.9566

¹⁸F-NaF does not appear to be superior.....









The utility of PET is expanding and the emphasis is shifting: Lets focus on phenotyping and predictive biomarkers

1990s: ¹⁸F-FDG and others as diagnostic/prognostic biomarkers (more work to be done; see ¹⁸F-NaF)

2000s: ¹⁸F-FDG and others as intermediate endpoint biomarkers (more work to be done; standardization; reimbursement)

2010s: - Predictive biomarkers (18F-FES;18F-DHTS, etc)

- PET in drug development (PK and PD)
- Theranostics

Advanced PET/CT: Understand biology of disease
Use imaging probes to determine whether the therapeutic target is
present and whether the target is inhibited by the drug (PD)

Future of PET/CT

- Diverse portfolio of PET probes for research and clinic
 - Diagnostic
 - Phenotypic
 - Prognostic
 - Predictive
 - Intermediate endpoint
- Drug development (PK and PD markers)
- Theranostics (precise organ dosimetry can be studied)

Together with CT: Most powerful current diagnostic tool in oncology Role of PET/MRI to be determined (no doubt about research applications)

Challenges

- Standardization
- > 2000 PET probes (do they make sense?)
- > Close cross disciplinary collaborations (Biologists, radio-chem, chemistry, mol. imaging, radiologists, oncologists, material scientists, etc.)
- ➤ High regulatory bar (management, outcome, costs, reimbursement)