



Published in final edited form as:

Semin Nucl Med. 2011 January ; 41(1): 29–44. doi:10.1053/j.semnuclmed.2010.08.005.

PET/CT imaging and radioimmunotherapy of prostate cancer

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Abstract

Prostate cancer is a common cancer in men and continues to be a major health problem. Imaging plays an important role in the clinical management of patients with prostate cancer. An important goal for prostate cancer imaging is more accurate disease characterization through the synthesis of anatomic, functional, and molecular imaging information. Positron emission tomography (PET)/computed tomography (CT) in oncology is emerging as an important imaging tool. The most common radiotracer for PET/CT in oncology, ¹⁸F-fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG), is not very useful in prostate cancer. However, in recent years other PET tracers have improved the accuracy of PET/CT imaging of prostate cancer. Among these, choline, labelled with ¹⁸F or ¹¹C, ¹¹C-acetate and ¹⁸F-fluoride have demonstrated promising results, and other new radiopharmaceuticals are currently under development and evaluation in pre-clinical and clinical studies. Large prospective clinical PET/CT trials are needed to establish the role of PET/CT in prostate cancer patients. Because there are only limited available therapeutic options for advanced metastatic prostate cancer, there is an urgent need for the development of more effective treatment modalities that could improve outcome. Prostate cancer represents an attractive target for radioimmunotherapy (RIT) for several reasons, including pattern of metastatic spread (lymph nodes and bone marrow, sites with good access to circulating antibodies), and small volume disease (ideal for antigen access and antibody delivery). Furthermore, prostate cancer is also radiation sensitive. Prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) is expressed by virtually all prostate cancers, and represents an attractive target for RIT. Anti PSMA RIT demonstrates antitumor activity and is well tolerated. Clinical trials are underway to further improve upon treatment efficacy and patient selection. This review focuses on the recent advances of clinical PET/CT imaging and RIT of prostate cancer.

Keywords

positron-emission tomography; PET; PET/CT; radioimmunotherapy; RIT; prostate cancer

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Introduction

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in United States and Europe^{1,2}. Despite early detection of prostate cancer through screening, about 27 000 deaths per year are attributable to prostate cancer in the United States². In several countries, screening programmes have been introduced, although no randomised controlled trials have been completed with mature follow up, to prove or disprove the effectiveness of such an approach³. As a result of screening, the proportion of men diagnosed before the age of 70 has increased, as has the proportion of well and moderately differentiated tumors. Apart from age and ethnic origin, a positive family history is probably the strongest known risk factor.

Prostate cancer is most commonly diagnosed, when it is still localized. At present, diagnosis is based on histological examination of tissue specimens from the prostate gland usually obtained by systematic transrectal core biopsies, with transrectal ultrasound guidance. The most commonly used system for grading adenocarcinoma of the prostate is the Gleason score. The system describes a score between 2 and 10, with 2 being the least aggressive and 10 the most aggressive. This score is the sum of the two most common patterns (grades 1–5) of tumor growth.

The choice of treatment for localized prostate cancer, i.e. active surveillance, radical prostatectomy, or any type of radiotherapy, depends on tumor characteristics, Gleason score, PSA value and the patient's life expectancy. Treatment with intent to cure is not used in all patients with prostate cancer since many cases of well to moderately differentiated prostate cancers have a very indolent history and are not lethal. Men in these low risk groups, especially if they have a short life expectancy, may be actively monitored however, active surveillance is being offered more commonly to patients with normal life expectancy^{1,4}. The basic concept of active surveillance is that most men diagnosed with low grade, small-volume disease are not destined to have any clinical manifestations of prostate cancer during their lifetime⁴. However, in the case of poorly differentiated tumors in patients with an otherwise long life expectancy, treatment with curative intent is offered. Radical prostatectomy can be performed as an open operation or by conventional or robotic laparoscopy. In the recent years, the methods for delivery of external-beam radiation therapy (RT) have improved. The addition of image guidance has resulted in more accurate radiation treatment plans using newer conformal therapy methods such as three-dimensional conformal RT, intensity-modulated RT, and proton beam RT⁵. Radiotherapy may also be delivered with high-dose brachytherapy, combined with external-beam radiotherapy, or by permanently implanting radioactive seeds, either as monotherapy or in combination with external-beam radiation¹. Other treatment options for patients with localised prostate cancer may include high-intensity focused ultrasound and cryosurgery.

The first sign of failure after primary treatment with curative intent is generally a rising serum PSA concentration, occurring months to years before clinical symptoms or radiographic signs of recurrent disease. In general, local recurrence is characterized by a late PSA increase, a long PSA-doubling time, and a less aggressive disease at diagnosis with low Gleason score, and no invasion of the seminal vesicles or lymph nodes. However, in patients who demonstrate early PSA recurrence accompanied by rapid PSA doubling times, metastases are more likely to be the cause. Local salvage therapy is available and may be effective in individual cases, but most men will ultimately suffer from progressive disease because of subclinical sites of disease outside of the prostate area that are not evident on standard imaging modalities.

For several decades, chemical androgen-ablation has been the mainstay of the clinical management of advanced prostate cancer due to the dependence of prostate cancer cells on androgen stimulation. About 70–80% of treated patients with advanced metastatic disease will have symptomatic relief after androgen ablation. After progression on hormonal therapy, metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer is the final stage of this disease. Cytotoxic chemotherapy has been demonstrated to improve symptoms and length of life in this setting, but is not curative⁶⁻⁹ More recently, autologous cellular immunotherapy with sipuleucel-T has been demonstrated to have a survival benefit and has been approved for clinical use by the U.S. FDA and a new chemotherapeutic agent (cabazitaxel) has also demonstrated a survival benefit leading to FDA approval. However, with all available treatment strategies, responses are transient and lead to only incremental benefits. Novel therapeutic approaches are in development, including new cytotoxic agents, hormonal agents, biologic agents, antiproliferative therapies, immunotherapies (vaccine-based approaches, immune-regulating agents), and antiangiogenic agents^{1,10,11}. Other new treatment strategies in advanced prostate cancer may involve targeted radionuclide therapy (TRT)¹²⁻¹⁵.

The current treatment options for advanced metastatic prostate cancer demonstrate limited efficacy and severe side effects. Therefore, there is a need for new diagnostic imaging agents and therapeutic strategies in the clinical management of prostate cancer patients. In this review, we summarize recent developments in clinical positron emission tomography (PET)/computed tomography (CT) imaging for detection and monitoring of prostate cancer and advances in the radioimmunotherapy (RIT) of prostate cancer.

PET/CT and prostate cancer

The successful management of prostate cancer requires early detection, appropriate risk assessment, and optimum treatment. Imaging has become more important in the diagnosis, local staging, and treatment follow-up of prostate cancer, and recent developments in imaging technologies, particularly magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and PET/CT, may lead to significant improvements in lesion detection and staging^{16,17}. Imaging is a powerful tool because most imaging techniques are non- or minimal invasive, and can provide dynamic real-time data, and repeated observations. However, no consensus exists regarding the use of imaging for evaluating primary prostate cancers.

Ultrasonography (US) is mainly used for biopsy guidance and brachytherapy seed placement. Endorectal MRI including MR spectroscopy (MRS) is helpful for evaluating tumor location and extent. MRI with superparamagnetic nanoparticles has high sensitivity and specificity in depicting lymph node metastases, but guidelines have not yet been developed for its use, which remains restricted to the research setting¹⁷. CT is mainly reserved for the evaluation of advanced disease.

Functional imaging techniques, such as PET, detect pathologic processes using specific molecular probes labelled with radionuclides, and particularly PET/CT imaging plays an increasingly important role in oncology. The advantage of PET/CT include high sensitivity and spatial resolution and the ability to quantify uptake. The most commonly used PET tracer in oncology is ¹⁸F-FDG. However, the results of ¹⁸F-FDG PET in detecting prostate cancer have been disappointing¹⁸⁻²¹. To improve the usefulness of PET in prostate cancer detection, molecular probes with higher sensitivity and specificity are currently being developed.

PET tracers for prostate cancer

FDG— ^{18}F -FDG uptake in the cell is mediated by several glucose transporters in the cell membrane, which allow active ^{18}F -FDG passage across the membrane to the cytoplasm and trapping without further metabolism. Most malignant cells are characterized by an enhanced rate of glucose metabolism due to increased numbers of cell surface glucose transporter proteins and by increased intracellular enzyme levels of hexokinase and phosphofructokinase, which promote glycolysis²². The most common glucose transport protein overexpressed on the tumor cell membranes is Glut-1, which is insulin independent. Once inside the cell, FDG is phosphorylated by hexokinase into FDG-6-phosphate. FDG-6-phosphate is not metabolized and accumulates intracellularly. FDG is not very useful in prostate cancer mainly because of the low metabolism of prostate cancer cells but also because of the urinary excretion of ^{18}F -FDG that masks uptake in the prostate gland and loco-regional lymph nodes²³. A large fraction of prostate cancer possess a relatively slow metabolic rate and expresses fewer Glut-1 binding sites, leading to lower ^{18}F -FDG uptake compared with other cancers²². Table 1 summarizes clinical reports on ^{18}F -FDG in prostate cancer²⁴⁻⁴² and indicates that uptake is mainly seen in more advanced disease. Figure 1 illustrates ^{18}F -FDG uptake in a patient with aggressive prostate cancer.

Choline—The most commonly used PET tracer in prostate cancer is choline radiolabelled with ^{11}C (^{11}C -choline) or ^{18}F as in ^{18}F -fluoroethylecholine and ^{18}F - fluoromethyldimethyl-2-hydroxyethylammonium (^{18}F -FCH)⁴³. Choline is incorporated into malignant cells by conversion into phosphorylcholine, which is trapped inside the cell. This is followed by synthesis of phosphatidylcholine, which constitutes a main component of cell membranes. Increased choline uptake in prostate cancer cells may be explained by increased cell proliferation in tumors and by upregulation of choline kinase in cancer cells; overexpression of choline kinase has been found in cancer cell lines, including human derived prostate cancer. Thus, the uptake of choline labelled with ^{11}C or ^{18}F in malignant tumors represents the rate of tumor cell proliferation. ^{18}F -FCH has the advantage of a longer half-life of ^{18}F (110 min), compared with ^{11}C (20 min). Thus, an onsite cyclotron is not necessary for ^{18}F -based agents as it is for ^{11}C -based agents. However, urinary excretion of ^{18}F -FCH is higher than ^{11}C -choline. Table 2 summarizes clinical trials with ^{11}C -choline^{40,42,44-66} and ^{18}F -choline⁶⁷⁻⁸¹. Figure 2 illustrates ^{18}F -FCH PET/CT scan in a prostate cancer patient.

Acetate—Another commonly used tracer for PET imaging in prostate cancer is ^{11}C -acetate. The mechanism of tumor uptake appears to be incorporation into cell membrane lipids. The uptake of acetate in malignant cells is proportional to lipid synthesis and fatty acid metabolism. Prostate cancer is associated with an increase in fatty acid synthesis and with overexpression of fatty acid synthase⁸². Acetate is metabolized and incorporated into the cellular lipid pool, and finally into the cell membrane. There is little excretion of this agent into the urine and relatively rapid clearance of the tracer from most other tissues because of its oxidative metabolism to ^{11}C - CO_2 . Because ^{11}C has a very short half-life, an on-site cyclotron is necessary to use this tracer for clinical studies. Recently, acetate has also been labelled with the longer lived positron emitter ^{18}F for PET imaging of prostate cancer⁸³. Table 3 summarizes the current clinical experience with ^{11}C -acetate in prostate cancer^{37-39,66,80,84-89}, and figure 3 illustrates an ^{11}C -acetate PET/CT scan.

Amino acids—Uptake of ^{11}C -methionine is proportional to the amino acid cellular transport and, by implication, protein synthesis. In cancer, methionine uptake has been correlated with the amount of viable tumor tissue and with active tumor proliferation. ^{11}C -methionine is rapidly cleared from the blood and is metabolized in both the liver and the pancreas without renal excretion⁸². Two studies have demonstrated ^{11}C -methionine to be superior to FDG^{35,36}. ^{11}C -methionine has also only been used in small studies, and larger

clinical trials are needed to evaluate the role of this tracer in prostate cancer patients. Anti-1-amino-3-¹⁸F-fluorocyclobutane-1-carboxylic acid (anti-¹⁸F-FACBC) is a synthetic l-leucine analogue with delayed bladder excretion that has been shown to be taken up by prostate tumors⁹⁰. Initial experience with anti-¹⁸F-FACBC, a synthetic amino acid analogue, has been promising⁹¹. Currently, a tracer similar to anti-¹⁸F-FACBC is being developed commercially and tested in Phase I/II clinical trials. Table 4 includes clinical reports on ¹¹C-methionine^{35,36,92} and anti-¹⁸F-FACBC⁹¹.

FDHT—The androgen receptor plays an important role in prostate cancer, and anti-androgen treatment is widely used in the treatment of prostate cancer. ¹⁸F-fluoro-5 α -dihydrotestosterone (FDHT) is a radiolabelled analogue of dihydrotestosterone, the main ligand of androgen receptor. Only few small studies have used ¹⁸F-FDHT in progressive metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer patients^{41,93}. ¹⁸F-FDHT PET/CT may have a role in monitoring viable, androgen-sensitive, advanced prostate cancer, and in the assessment of therapeutic response to anti-androgen treatment. However, the experience with ¹⁸F-FDHT PET is limited and it has not yet entered large multicenter clinical trials. Clinical experience with ¹⁸F-FDHT^{41,93} is included in table 4.

Fluoride—¹⁸F-fluoride PET is highly sensitive for detection of malignant bone metastases, and uptake in malignant bone lesions reflects the increase in regional blood flow and bone turnover. The uptake mechanism resembles that of ^{99m}Tc-MDP⁹⁴. Furthermore, the plasma clearance is more rapid than that of ^{99m}Tc-MDP, the extraction is higher because of its smaller molecular weight, and the protein binding is negligible whereas binding of ^{99m}Tc-MDP to plasma proteins varies from 25% to 70%. The fast blood clearance of ¹⁸F-fluoride results in a better target- to background ratio as compared to ^{99m}Tc-MDP. In the bone, ¹⁸F-fluoride ions exchange with hydroxyl groups in the hydroxyapatite at the surface of bone crystals resulting in fluoroapatite, mainly at sites of bone remodelling with high turnover. ¹⁸F-fluoride bone scans benefit from the intrinsically better spatial resolution of PET scans compared to planar gamma camera images and because of the ability to co-localize uptake in registered CT scans. Clinical studies with ¹⁸F-fluoride PET in prostate cancer is summarized in table 4^{81,95}

Antibodies—Because prostate specific membrane antigen (PSMA) a transmembrane protein, is expressed by virtually all prostate cancers, and its expression is further increased in poorly differentiated, metastatic, and castrate-resistant carcinomas, it is a very attractive target. Molecules targeting PSMA can be labelled with radionuclides to become both diagnostic and/or therapeutic agents. A number of PSMA antibodies have been developed that target the external domain of the antigen and these are demonstrating promising results in imaging and RIT of prostate cancer^{14,15}. There is increasing evidence that HER2 also plays a role in advanced prostate cancer¹³. Monoclonal antibodies such as trastuzumab and pertuzumab, or the small scaffold Affibody molecule are used as HER2-targeting agents. A HER2-binding Affibody molecule has been labelled with ¹⁸F for in vivo monitoring of the HER2 expression by PET, and the same tracer has been used to assess the changes of HER2 expression following therapeutic intervention^{96,97}. Recently, ¹¹¹In- and ⁶⁸Ga-labeled Affibody molecules were used for clinical imaging of HER2 positive tumors in 3 breast cancer patients⁹⁸.

Primary diagnosis

The goal of current prostate cancer care is to administer risk-adjusted, patient-specific treatment, planned to maximize cancer control while minimizing the risk of complications. Therefore, accurate characterization of the tumor and staging of disease is of great importance in choosing the appropriate therapeutic strategy, i.e., observation, active

surveillance, androgen ablation, radical surgery, external radiation, etc. Prostate cancer is diagnosed by pathologic examination of needle biopsy specimens, most often prompted by abnormal clinical findings on digital rectal examination and by elevated serum PSA. Since approximately 85% of prostate cancers are multifocal in origin, the current 12-18 spatially distributed prostate core biopsies under TRUS guidance may not provide accurate information about the extent and grade of disease¹⁷. Even when the number of core biopsies is increased underdiagnosing and undergrading of biopsy specimens (compared to radical prostatectomy specimens) is common. Biopsy and radical prostatectomy Gleason score categories correlate in only about 69% of the patients⁹⁹. Thus, using the current diagnostic procedures both underdiagnosis and overdiagnosis exists and a new and more accurate approach that identifies clinically significant disease and differentiates it from indolent disease is urgently needed.

¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT is not effective in the diagnosis of localized prostate cancer because of low glucose metabolism in these tumors. However, some localized prostate cancers are highly glucose dependent and will be positive on ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT scans performed for other reasons than investigation of prostate cancer, although this PET positive finding is the exception rather than the normal finding. Several PET studies have used choline and acetate for detection of malignancy in the prostate gland. However, careful interpretation of the PET images of prostate cancer is necessary because the tracer uptake for the normal prostate and for BPH may overlap with those for prostate cancer^{68,74,84,100}. It is possible that combining PET with MRI may improve the detection rate of malignancy in the prostate gland in the future. Furthermore, the utility of PET to detect locally confined prostate cancer will be improved by molecular probes with higher sensitivity and specificity. Thus, new PET tracers are being developed for prostate cancer.

Initial staging

Accurate detection of lymph-node metastases in prostate cancer is an essential component of the approach to treatment. Pelvic lymph node metastases are considered the strongest predictor of disease recurrence and progression, and the presence of metastases often means the difference between local and systemic therapy. CT and MRI are the main imaging techniques for N-staging of prostate cancer¹⁰¹. For the assessment of lymph node metastases, MR imaging, like CT, has relative low sensitivity¹⁰². The low sensitivity of MR imaging and CT is mainly due to the inability of cross-sectional imaging to detect metastases in normal-sized nodes. Both CT and MRI mainly rely on size criteria to detect malignant lymph node involvement, and small metastases or micrometastases cannot be detected using conventional size criteria. The use of lymphotropic ultrasmall supermagnetic particles of iron oxide (USPIO) as a contrast agent for MRI enables reliable detection of metastases in pelvis lymph nodes smaller than 0.5 mm in patients with prostate cancer. Thus, this new promising technique is able to detect malignant involvement of normal sized lymph nodes. USPIO particles are consumed by macrophages in normal lymph nodes resulting in decrease in signal on T2/T2*-weighted MRI sequences. In a study of 80 patients with prostate cancer MRI with lymphotropic superparamagnetic nanoparticles (Sinerem, Guerbet, Paris, France) correctly identified all patients with nodal metastases, and a node-by-node analysis had a significantly higher sensitivity than conventional MRI (90.5 percent vs. 35.4 percent, $P < 0.001$) or nomograms¹⁰³. The new technique also had a sensitivity of 100% and a specificity of 95.7 in detecting nodal metastasis on a per patient basis. Unfortunately, this agent is very unlikely to become commercially available. A second generation USPIO, ferumoxytal, has been developed and approved for iron replacement therapy in chronic renal failure. This agent may also have efficacy as a lymph node imaging agent.

^{18}F -FDG has been used for N-staging but, because prostate cancer has variable accumulation of ^{18}F -FDG, ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT is not widely used^{23,104}. In recent years, reports have focused on the potential role of PET performed with radiotracers such as ^{11}C -acetate, ^{11}C - and ^{18}F -FCH in the assessment of patients with prostate cancer. However, the value of PET with choline and acetate in lymph node staging of prostate cancer has been a subject of controversy, and varying results have been reported in the primary assessment of malignant lymph node involvement^{48,60,73}. Recently, Behesthi *et al.* assessed the value of FCH PET/CT imaging in the preoperative staging of intermediate- and high-risk patients with prostate cancer⁷⁷. In this large prospective study, 132 patients with prostate cancer with intermediate or high risk of extra capsular disease were enrolled. Overall, 912 lymph nodes were histopathologically examined, and a per-patient analysis revealed the sensitivity, specificity, and positive and negative predictive values of ^{18}F -FCH PET/CT in the detection of malignant lymph nodes were 45%, 96%, 82%, and 83%, respectively. In lymph nodes 5 mm in diameter or larger, the sensitivity, specificity, and positive and negative predictive values were 66%, 96%, 82%, and 92%, respectively. In clinical staging, ^{18}F -FCH PET/CT led to a change in the therapeutic care of 15% of the patient population (19/130 patients). When considering the entire high-risk group, 20% of the patient population (17/83 patients) had findings that were upstaged after ^{18}F -FCH PET/CT. At least two other large prospective clinical trials of ^{18}F -FCH PET/CT are underway^{76,79}. The role of ^{11}C -methionine, ^{18}F -FACBC, and ^{18}F -FDHT for detection of nodal involvement remains to be evaluated further in large prospective trials.

Recurrence

Biochemical recurrence, a rise in PSA, occurs in 20%-40% of patients within 10 years of “definitive” treatment, usually proceeding clinically detectable disease. After definitive radical prostatectomy or radiation therapy, biochemical recurrence is usually the first sign of prostate cancer recurrence. After radical prostatectomy, PSA should fall to undetectable values within 3-4 weeks, while the PSA level decrease slowly and may never reach undetectable values after radiation therapy. The time from biochemical recurrence to metastases depends on preoperative pathologic stage, Gleason score, and PSA doubling time. A shorter PSA doubling time (< 10 months) after radical prostatectomy is a strong indicator for malignant disease progression, while defining biochemical recurrence after irradiation is more complex. When a biochemical recurrence is observed in patients, accurate delineation of local versus metastatic disease is crucial for selection of appropriate therapy. Imaging plays an important role in distinguishing local recurrence from distant malignant disease.

Because of low metabolism of most prostate cancers, FDG PET/CT is not very useful for this purpose. In a study of 91 patients, ^{18}F -FDG-PET detected local or systemic disease in 31% of patients with PSA relapse³⁴. However, several studies have reported both choline and acetate to be useful for detecting recurrence in patients with PSA relapse^{39,40,87,105}. Rinnab *et al.* evaluated the detection of biochemical recurrence of prostate cancer after radical prostatectomy with ^{11}C -choline PET/CT in 41 patients, and reported a sensitivity value of 89% for patients with a PSA < 2.5ng/ml⁶². Recently, Winter *et al.* reported the initial results of ^{11}C -choline PET/CT-guided secondary lymph node surgery in 6 patients with biochemical failure after radical prostatectomy and, after resection of lymph nodes, in all patients the oncologic criteria of a remission were fulfilled⁶⁴. In a large prospective study Cimitan *et al.* identified prostate cancer recurrence with ^{18}F -FCH PET/CT in 53 of 100 patients with PSA relapse; however, 89% of patients with presumably false-negative scans had a serum PSA level < 4 ng/dL resulting in a lower sensitivity for ^{18}F -FCH for detecting recurrent prostate cancer if the PSA was low⁷⁰. The authors concluded that ^{18}F -FCH PET/CT is not likely to have a significant impact on the care of prostate cancer patients with

biochemical recurrence until PSA increases to above 4 ng/ml. Recently, Castellucci *et al.* investigated the effect of total PSA at the time of ^{11}C -choline PET/CT (trigger PSA), PSA velocity (PSAvel), and PSA doubling time (PSAdt) on ^{11}C -choline PET/CT detection rate in patients (n=190) treated with radical prostatectomy who showed biochemical failure during follow-up⁶³. The study demonstrated that the ^{11}C -choline PET/CT detection rate is influenced by trigger PSA, PSAdt, and PSAvel. Trigger PSA and PSAvel were found to be independent predictive factors for a PET-positive result ($P = 0.002$; $P = 0.04$), while PSAdt was found to be an independent factor only in patients with trigger PSA less than 2 ng/mL ($P = 0.05$) using multivariate analysis. The results from this study may be used to improve the selection of patients for PET/CT scanning by reducing the number of false-negative scans and increasing the detection rate of disease in patients with early relapse and potentially curative disease.

The role of ^{11}C -acetate for detecting prostate cancer recurrence was examined by Sandblom *et al.* in 20 patients with increasing PSA after radical prostatectomy. In this study recurrence was detected in 75% of the patients while 15 % of the cases showed false positive uptake⁸⁶. Kotzerke *et al.* studied the potential utility of ^{11}C -acetate in the detection of local recurrence in 31 patients and positively identified local recurrence in 15 of 18 patients with ^{11}C -acetate PET⁶⁶. Fricke *et al.* compared ^{11}C -acetate and ^{18}F -FDG in patients with rising PSA after radical prostatectomy and radiation therapy. The results showed that ^{11}C -acetate detected relapse in 20 of 24 patients whereas ^{18}F -FDG was positive in 10 of 15¹⁰⁶. Seppala *et al.* demonstrated the feasibility of ^{11}C -acetate PET/CT in prospectively delineating prostate cancer lesions in 12 patients who had received external beam radiation therapy¹⁰⁷. No large prospective clinical trial has directly compared choline and acetate PET/CT for detection of prostate cancer. ^{18}F -FACBC PET/CT may also be used for detection of recurrence⁹¹. However, the study is small and it has to be confirmed in larger clinical trial.

Bone metastases

A typical feature of prostate cancer is its ability to metastasize to bone. It has been estimated that >80% of men who die from prostate cancer develop bone metastases¹⁰⁸. It is mainly osteoblastic, and is caused by a relative excess of osteoblast activity induced by adjacent cancer cells, leading to abnormal bone formation. Bone metastases are the result of a complex series of steps that depend on dynamic crosstalk between metastatic cancer cells, cellular components of the bone marrow microenvironment, and bone matrix (osteoblasts and osteoclasts). Bone scintigraphy using $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -labelled diphosphonates has long been the mainstay investigation for bony metastasis. However, planar bone scans have a relative poor specificity. It can be difficult to distinguish between metastases and other pathological conditions such as degenerative disease, which often coexist in prostate cancer patients. Single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) has been used in such situations to clarify the location of focal hotspots. Recently, Helyar *et al.* investigated the additional value of SPECT/CT over whole-body planar bone scintigraphy and SPECT in prostate cancer patients¹⁰⁹. The addition of SPECT/CT improved the diagnostic confidence compared to SPECT alone and planar imaging in prostate cancer patients with suspected bone metastases. SPECT/CT resulted in a significant reduction of equivocal reports, and a definitive diagnosis was given in the majority of the patients as compared to planar or SPECT imaging alone.

FDG—A few ^{18}F -FDG PET studies have looked specifically at the skeleton, and these studies indicate that FDG is less sensitive than bone scintigraphy in the identification of osseous metastases. Thirty four patients were evaluated in a study by Shreve *et al.*, in which PET was compared with $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ bone scan, CT, and clinical follow up for the presence of skeletal metastases²⁶. In 202 untreated osseous metastases in 22 patients, the sensitivity of ^{18}F -FDG PET was 65% (131 of 202 metastases), with a positive predictive value of 98%

(131 of 133 positive findings). In that study there were also 6 patients receiving hormonal treatment and 1 studied after orchiectomy, with 131 metastases identified on the bone scan but only 4 seen on ^{18}F FDG PET. However, in study by Morris *et al.* ^{18}F -FDG PET demonstrated a sensitivity of 77% for detection of bone metastases in patients with advanced metastatic prostate cancer, but FDG was effective in detecting soft-tissue metastases³²

Fluoride— ^{18}F -fluoride PET/CT is a promising modality for the evaluation of bone metastases with higher sensitivity for lesion detection, when compared with the routine conventional bone scan. Schirrmeyer *et al.* compared the diagnostic accuracy of ^{18}F -fluoride PET scanning of the skeletal trunk with the diagnostic accuracy of conventional bone scintigraphy¹¹⁰. Sensitivities in the detection of benign and malignant lesions were compared in different regions of the skeleton. It was clearly demonstrated that bone imaging with ^{18}F -fluoride PET is more sensitive than planar bone scan in the detection of benign and malignant osseous lesions. The sensitivity in detecting benign and malignant bone lesions with bone scan is highly dependent on their anatomic localization. Recently, it was demonstrated that ^{18}F -fluoride PET is more accurate than $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -diphosphonate SPECT for identifying both malignant and benign lesions of the skeleton^{111,112}. In a prospective study by Even-Sapir *et al.*, planar and SPECT $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -MDP bone scans, ^{18}F -fluoride PET, and ^{18}F -fluoride PET/CT were performed on 44 patients with high-risk prostate cancer⁹⁵. Among these 23 patients were characterized as having metastatic disease. As was the case in prior reports, ^{18}F -fluoride PET was more sensitive in detecting skeletal metastases than was planar $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -MDP scintigraphy, either alone or in combination with $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -MDP SPECT. ^{18}F -fluoride PET detected skeletal metastases in all 23 patients, whereas $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -MDP imaging detected malignant lesions in only 18 patients.

In another prospective study, Behesthi *et al.* compared the potential value of ^{18}F -FCH and ^{18}F -fluoride PET/CT for the detection of bony metastases from prostate cancer⁸¹. Thirty-eight patients with prostate cancer underwent both imaging modalities within 2 weeks. Overall, 321 lesions were evaluated in this study. The sensitivity, specificity and accuracy of PET/CT in the detection of bone metastases in prostate cancer was 81%, 93% and 86% for ^{18}F -fluoride, and 74% ($p=0.12$), 99% ($p=0.01$) and 85% for ^{18}F -FCH, respectively. Thus, ^{18}F -fluoride PET/CT demonstrated higher raw sensitivity than ^{18}F -FCH PET/CT for detection of bone metastases; however, upon analysis this difference was not statistically significant. Furthermore, ^{18}F -FCH PET/CT proved to be more specific than ^{18}F -fluoride PET/CT. For evaluation of bone metastases in prostate cancer patients, ^{18}F -FCH and ^{18}F -fluoride PET/CT were concordant in 80% of lesions. The remaining “discordant group” (constituting 20% of the study) could be classified into two categories. In the group with ^{18}F -FCH positive/ ^{18}F -fluoride negative results, the findings may be due to bone marrow metastases without significant bone reaction and remodelling, which suggests that ^{18}F -FCH PET/CT has an advantage in the early detection of bone metastases. In the other group, demonstrating ^{18}F -FCH negative/ ^{18}F -fluoride positive results, this pattern was mainly seen in densely sclerotic malignant lesions. Most of these lesions were positive in previous ^{18}F -FCH PET/CT studies. Thus, with increasing density of sclerotic lesions, the intensity of ^{18}F -FCH uptake was reduced so that no ^{18}F -FCH uptake was detected in densely sclerotic malignant lesions. Almost all of these lesions were detected in patients who were under hormone therapy, which supports the theory that ^{18}F -FCH-negative sclerotic lesions may no longer be as metabolically active.

Radioimmunotherapy and prostate cancer

Radioimmunotherapy refers to the use of a radiolabeled antibody to deliver a therapeutic radiation dose, most frequently to tumor. This “targeted” form of radiotherapy allows radiation delivery to tumors while sparing normal organs. Targeted radionuclide therapy

utilizes a charged particle since this form of ionizing radiation is absorbed locally with efficient transfer of energy to the biochemical system of the targeted cells, disrupting the processes necessary for cell survival. Beta particles, Auger electrons, and Alpha particles have been used for these purposes but most current clinical applications utilize beta particle emission.

General aspects of RIT

Currently, the antibodies used for RIT are IgG proteins derived from murine hybridoma cells [mouse lymphocyte fused with a mouse malignant plasma (myeloma) cell]. These giant cells are capable of producing large amounts of the specific immunoglobulin for which the lymphocyte had been encoded by prior immunization of an intact animal. Each hybridoma cell colony produces a monoclonal antibody that can be assessed for binding affinity and epitope specificity to select a preferred reagent for radiolabeling and further evaluation. The immuno-recognition portion of the large immunoglobulin resides in the terminal portion of heavy and light chains known as the hypervariable region. The remainder of the molecule is involved in complement binding and evoking a macrophage response – properties that are important in terms of the antitumor effect of the antibody. However, murine immunoglobulins are recognized as foreign proteins in humans leading to development of anti-murine antibodies [Human Anti-Murine Antibodies or HAMA]. The hypervariable region can be split off from the intact molecule and either evaluated as is or fused with a portion of a human immunoglobulin. These immunoglobulin constructs are identified as either “chimeric” or “humanized” depending upon the amount of murine component retained. A standard nomenclature has been developed. All generic names for monoclonal antibodies end with the suffix “mab”. Mouse monoclonal antibodies are “momabs”; the chimeric molecules are “ximabs” and the humanized molecules are “zumabs”. Antibodies directed against tumor antigens often include the syllable “tu”; hence “...tumomab”, a murine monoclonal antibody to a tumor antigen; “...tuximab”, a chimeric monoclonal antibody to a tumor antigen and “...tuzumab”, a humanized monoclonal antibody.

In order to prevent non-specific binding of the radiolabeled antibody or even specific binding to similar epitopes expressed on tissue other than the tumor target, it is necessary to administer unlabeled antibody prior to or at the time of administration of the labeled antibody. In the instance of anti-CD20 radioimmunotherapy of low-grade B cell non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, several hundred milligrams of an unlabeled immunoglobulin are administered prior to the labeled antibody to saturate the abundant CD20 expression on normal B cells. By contrast, since the prostate is the only normal tissue in males expressing significant amounts of PSMA, only a relatively small quantity of “carrier” antibody is necessary as there is little competition for the radiolabeled antibody. PSMA is a large molecule with an extra-cellular, transmembrane and intracellular portion. Antibodies have been developed to each of these components. One of the antibodies, J591 with affinity for the extra-cellular portion of the PSMA epitope has been evaluated extensively as a vehicle to deliver targeted radiation.

Radioimmunotherapy can be delivered in a single dose or in multiple fractions. The degree of anti-tumor response following the administration of radiolabeled mAbs depends on several variables, especially total (cumulative) radiation dose to the tumor, dose-rate, and tumor radiosensitivity. As with conventional external beam ionizing radiotherapy, dose fractionation may result in the ability to deliver a higher tumor dose with less toxicity. Fractionated dose RIT may decrease the dose to bone marrow while increasing the cumulative radiation dose to the tumor at an optimal dose-rate¹¹³⁻¹¹⁵. Preclinical data have shown that dose fractionation or multiple low dose treatments can decrease toxicity while increasing the efficacy¹¹⁶⁻¹¹⁸. Early clinical studies have supported the ability to increase the cumulative maximum tolerated dose by dose fractionation¹¹⁹⁻¹²¹.

It is clear that external beam radiotherapy can be combined with cytotoxic chemotherapy. Though there may be increased toxicity, efficacy of concurrent chemoradiotherapy may be superior to sequential use. This may be especially true when utilizing chemotherapeutic agents with radiosensitizing effects. Combining RIT with cytotoxic chemotherapy has also been investigated¹²²⁻¹²⁴. These combinations have the possibility of increasing the therapeutic yield of RIT, particularly in the face of bulky, metastatic solid tumors.

With “targeted” therapy in general, patient selection can be important. While all our ability to pre-select optimal patients based upon expression of a target may be limited, in other cases, it can be quite helpful either in selecting patients more likely to respond or by eliminating patients with a very low chance of response. For example, although epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) expression as measured by immunohistochemistry is not helpful in selecting patients for anti-EGFR monoclonal antibody therapy in advanced colorectal carcinoma, excluding those with mutated K-ras has become helpful in clinical practice¹²⁵. In performing studies developing predictive biomarkers, one must remember that prospective validation is important, as development of a “targeted” therapy may be thwarted by a sub-optimal biomarker.

Although the initially investigated form of RIT utilized radiolabeled antibodies against carcinoembryonic antigen for solid tumors, the most studied form of radioimmunotherapy to date uses targeting of the CD20 antigen (I^{131} tositumomab or Y^{90} ibritumomab tiuxetan) in non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, demonstrating safety and efficacy in phase I-III trials that resulted in FDA approval. While mostly used in the setting of relapsed disease, it appears that these therapies may have their greatest impact in the minimal disease setting¹²⁶⁻¹³¹. RIT for solid tumor malignancies has been slower to develop. Reasons for this are multi-faceted, including lack of specific antigens and antibodies optimized for RIT, difficulties in stably linking radionuclides to existing mAb’s, shortfalls in existing (and readily available) radionuclides, and difficulty in clinical use (coordination between different specialties)¹³². However, clinical trials utilizing RIT in solid tumor malignancies have been increasing; on a recent query on clinicaltrials.gov, at least 28 clinical trials utilizing RIT for solid tumors were identified.

Choice of radionuclides

The physical and chemical characteristics of available radionuclides must be considered in choosing the radionuclide to be used for radioimmunotherapy. Currently, 3 beta emitting radionuclide, Iodine-131 [I^{131}], Yttrium-90 [Y^{90}] and Lutetium-177 [Lu^{177}] are readily available to radiolabel antibodies (Table 5). Based upon the physical properties of each radionuclide, there may be more optimal tumor types and clinical situations for each one¹³³. I^{131} has been used as a radio-therapeutic agent for over 60 years. In addition to its characteristic beta particle emission, a gamma photon is emitted that can be quantified and imaged. Iodine chemistry is well understood and most organic compounds can be readily iodinated. However, following binding to PSMA, the antibody is internalized followed by hydrolysis of portions of the immunoglobulin molecule. Iodinated fragments easily diffuse across the cell membrane. Although it is more difficult to bind a metal atom to immunoglobulins, if the molecule is internalized and digested, the metallic label is insoluble and remains intracellular. Yttrium-90 [Y^{90}] and Lutetium-177 [Lu^{177}] are radiometals that decay by beta emission. Y^{90} is a pure beta emitter with half-life less than 3 days. Lu^{177} emits both a beta particle and a gamma photon enabling imaging to be performed using the treatment dose (as opposed to using ^{111}In followed by ^{90}Y). The half-life of Lu^{177} is 6.7 days. Due to longer physical half-life of Lu^{177} , as compared to Y^{90} , the tumor residence times are higher. As a result, higher activities (more mCi amounts) of Lu^{177} labeled agents can be administered with comparatively less myelosuppression.

The beta particles emitted from ^{90}Y is more energetic than those of ^{177}Lu [Max: 2.3 MeV vs Max: 0.5 MeV]. In general, lower energy favors more effective energy transfer and radiobiologic effect for micrometastases while it is believed that higher energy beta emission (such as from ^{90}Y) may be more effective for use in targeted irradiation of larger tumors. Large tumors could receive an adequate radiation absorbed dose from low energy beta emitting radiotracers if there is sufficient intra-tumoral distribution. In a clinical situation such as in metastatic prostate carcinoma, micrometastatic involvement of bone marrow may be the basis for recurrent disease following treatment of larger recognized lesions. Lower energy beta emission and, consequently, shorter range in tissue would result in less radiation delivered to surrounding normal tissue. A combination of radionuclides providing low and high-energy beta emissions would seem to be worthwhile. This concept has been confirmed in animal studies but has not yet been evaluated in humans.

Prostate cancer and RIT

Prostate cancer is an ideal solid tumor malignancy for which RIT may be utilized. It is a radiosensitive tumor with typical distribution to sites with high exposure to circulating antibodies (bone marrow and lymph nodes). Although sometimes clinically problematic, early readouts of efficacy can be examined using serum prostate specific antigen (PSA) levels. In pre-clinical and clinical prostate cancer settings, radionuclides have been linked to antibodies and/or peptides against mucin, ganglioside (L6), Lewis Y (Le^y), adenocarcinoma-associated antigens, and prostate specific membrane antigen (PSMA)^{14,122,123,134-141}. Of these, prostate specific membrane antigen is the most specific and will be discussed in further detail in this review.

Prostate specific membrane antigen is a non-secreted type II membrane protein. It is expressed on the luminal surface of normal prostate epithelial cells, and its expression increases in prostate carcinoma¹⁴²⁻¹⁴⁶, being expressed on all prostate cancers in pathology studies¹⁴⁷. PSMA has been validated as an *in vivo* target for imaging utilizing radiolabeled mAb 7E11 (CYT-356, capromab)^{148,149}. However, subsequent clinical treatment studies were disappointing^{138,139}. Molecular mapping revealed that 7E11 targets a portion of the PSMA molecule that is within the cell's interior and not exposed on the outer cell surface^{150,151} and cannot bind to viable cells^{142,151}. Recognition of these features led to the development of mAbs to the exposed, extracellular domain of PSMA which in theory would have the potential to significantly improve *in vivo* targeting likely resulting in enhanced imaging and therapeutic benefit^{151,152}. These antibodies (J591, J415, J533 and E99) demonstrated high affinity binding to viable PSMA-expressing LNCaP cells in tissue culture and are rapidly internalized^{151,153}.

J591 is a deimmunized IgG monoclonal antibody (mAb) which binds the external portion of PSMA followed by rapid internalization^{151,153,154}. Phase I clinical trials of radiolabeled J591 were performed using Yttrium-90 (^{90}Y) or Lutetium-177 (^{177}Lu) linked to J591 via a DOTA chelate in patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC)^{140,141}. Each of these studies was designed to deliver a single-dose of radiolabeled J591 intravenously followed by planar gamma camera imaging +/- SPECT (in the case of ^{90}Y -J591, imaging was performed after ^{111}In -J591 administration). These trials defined the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) and further refined dosimetry, pharmacokinetics, and HAHA of the radiolabeled mAb conjugates and demonstrated preliminary evidence of anti-tumor activity. As expected, based upon the physical properties as described above, the MTD of single-dose ^{177}Lu -J591 was higher (70 mCi/m²) than that of ^{90}Y -J591 (17.5 mCi/m²)^{140,141}.

A phase II study was subsequently performed with ^{177}Lu -J591, confirming safety, efficacy, and tumor targeting ability¹⁵⁵. In this study, men with progressive metastatic CRPC received

a single-dose of ^{177}Lu -J591 intravenously followed by imaging one week later. As demonstrated in the phase I studies, myelosuppression was the most significant toxicity, mostly manifested by thrombocytopenia. The majority (94%) demonstrated accurate targeting of known sites of metastatic disease. Efficacy was confirmed, with the majority of subjects experiencing declines in PSA.

In aggregate, these trials provide support that radiolabeled J591 is well-tolerated with reversible myelosuppression, accurately targets prostate cancer metastatic sites, demonstrates efficacy, and is non-immunogenic. However, as discussed above, there are limitations of RIT for solid tumors, and the physical properties of ^{177}Lu should be sub-optimal in treating the population treated to date (men with progressive metastatic CRPC were treated, many of whom had bulky disease). Additional studies to improve the therapeutic profile were therefore activated.

A Department of Defense sponsored study utilizing fractionated dose ^{177}Lu -J591 has recently been completed with initial results presented¹⁵⁶. Men with progressive metastatic CRPC received 2 fractionated doses two weeks apart. Doses were escalated in cohorts of 3-6 subjects, with cohort 1 receiving 20 mCi/m² x2 and each successive cohort undergoing dose escalation by 5 mCi/m² per dose (10 mCi/m² cumulative dose increase per cohort). The primary endpoint was to determine dose-limiting toxicity (DLT) and the cumulative maximum tolerated dose (MTD) of fractionated ^{177}Lu -J591 RIT with pharmacokinetics and dosimetry and secondary endpoints of efficacy. Dose limiting toxicity is defined as severe thrombocytopenia (platelet count < 15 or need for > 3 platelet transfusions in 30 days), grade 4 neutropenia > 7 days, febrile neutropenia, or grade > 2 non-hematologic toxicity. Twenty-eight subjects received treatment with cumulative doses of up to 90 mCi/m² (highest planned dose). The median age was 72 years with median baseline PSA 49 ng/mL; the majority had Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance status 1 and had bone metastases. The study confirmed the hypothesis that fractionated dose would allow higher cumulative doses of ^{177}Lu -J591 to be administered with less toxicity with evidence of anti-tumor activity.

Following progression on primary hormonal therapy, chemotherapy can offer symptomatic improvement as well as incremental survival benefit^{9,157}. However, responses are transient and all men eventually suffer from progression of disease. As described above, single-agent anti-PSMA-based RIT has demonstrated efficacy in the treatment of metastatic CRPC, but the results are limited, and all men treated to date with mature follow up have suffered from progression of disease. The combination of taxane chemotherapy with radiotherapy has been used in several diseases because of the radiosensitizing effects of taxane-based chemotherapy¹⁵⁸⁻¹⁶⁰. The combination of taxane chemotherapy with radioimmunotherapy has also been studied in pre-clinical and early clinical studies^{122,123,161}. In addition to favorable results from fractionated radioimmunotherapy and the radiosensitizing effects of taxane-based chemotherapy, it is hypothesized that the additional debulking by chemotherapy will overcome some of the limits imposed by the physical characteristics of ^{177}Lu . Based upon these data, a phase I trial of docetaxel and prednisone with escalating doses of fractionated ^{177}Lu -J591 is ongoing¹⁶².

As discussed above, the most studied form of RIT to date targets the CD20 antigen (^{131}I tositumomab and ^{90}Y ibritumomab tiuxetan) in non-hodgkin's lymphoma. While approved in the relapsed setting, it appears that these therapies have their greatest impact in the minimal disease setting^{126-130,163}. The vast majority of relapses after local therapy for prostate cancer are initially "biochemical" only, i.e. with a rising PSA despite no evidence of cancer on imaging^{164,165}, affecting approximately 50,000 men per year in the United States alone. Although there is no proven overall survival benefit in a prospective randomized trial,

radiotherapy as a salvage regimen can lead to long-term survival in selected individuals¹⁶⁶⁻¹⁶⁹. Unfortunately, most subsequently suffer systemic progression because of subclinical micrometastatic disease outside of the radiation field.

Based on the demonstrated ability of J591-based therapy to successfully target known sites of disease and apparent clinical efficacy in the advanced setting, it is now under investigation in the salvage setting. “Targeted radiotherapy” in the form of radioimmunotherapy is an attractive option with the possibility being a higher yield therapy in the minimal disease (biochemical only) setting. The primary objective of this trial is to prevent or delay radiographically evident metastatic disease. Radiolabeled J591 imaging will also be explored as a possible way to detect sites of disease in these patients with biochemical relapse and no evidence of disease on standard scans (^{99m}Tc-MDP bone scans and computed tomography or magnetic resonance imaging)¹⁷⁰.

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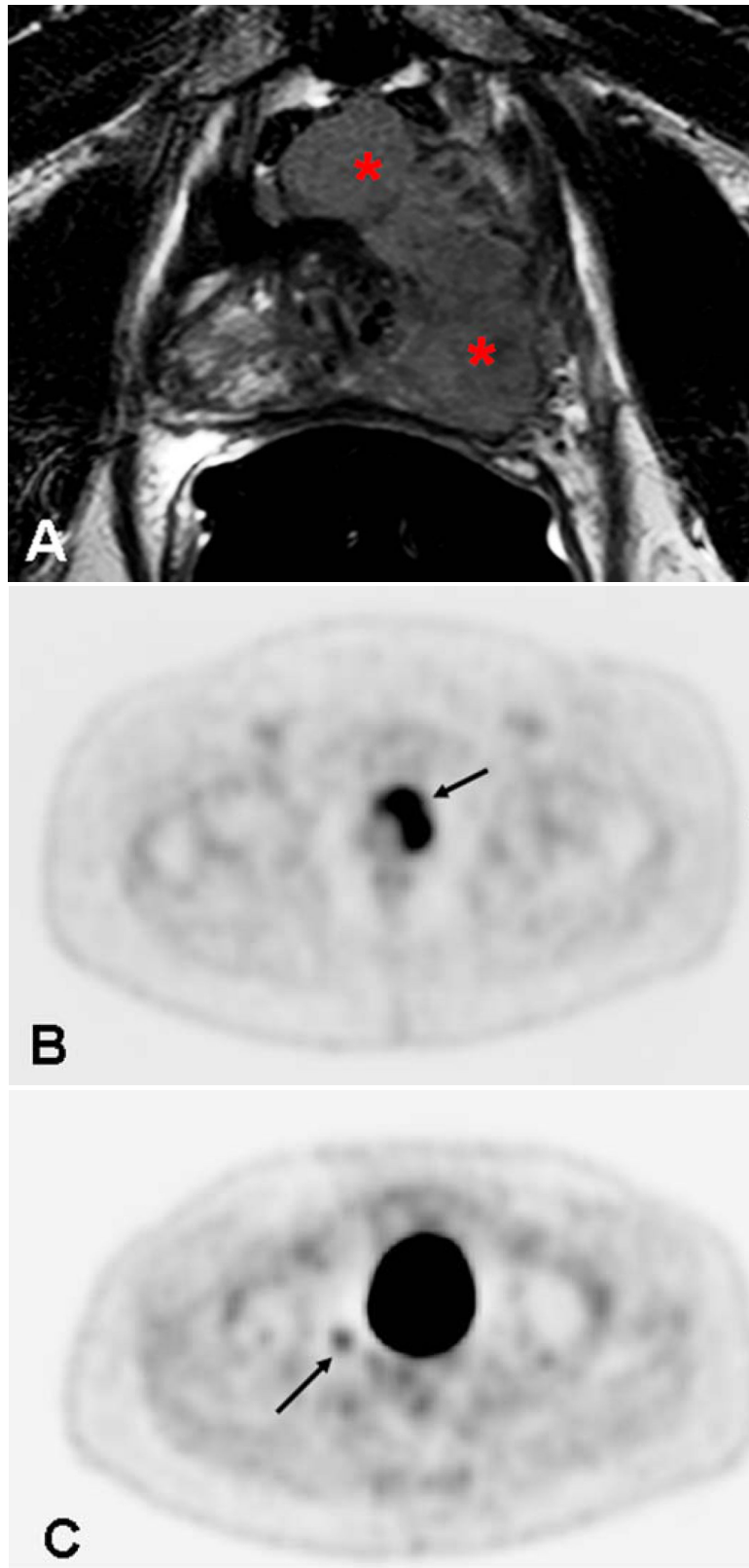


Figure 1.

67-year-old male with a PSA<0.6 ng/ml (under hormone therapy). Axial T2W MR image demonstrates a large multi-lobular mass of Gleason 9 in the left hemi-prostate (asterix) (a); ^{18}F -FDG PET image demonstrates significant tracer uptake by the large mass (arrow) (b), a metastatic lymph node within right pelvis also shows increased uptake (arrow) (c).

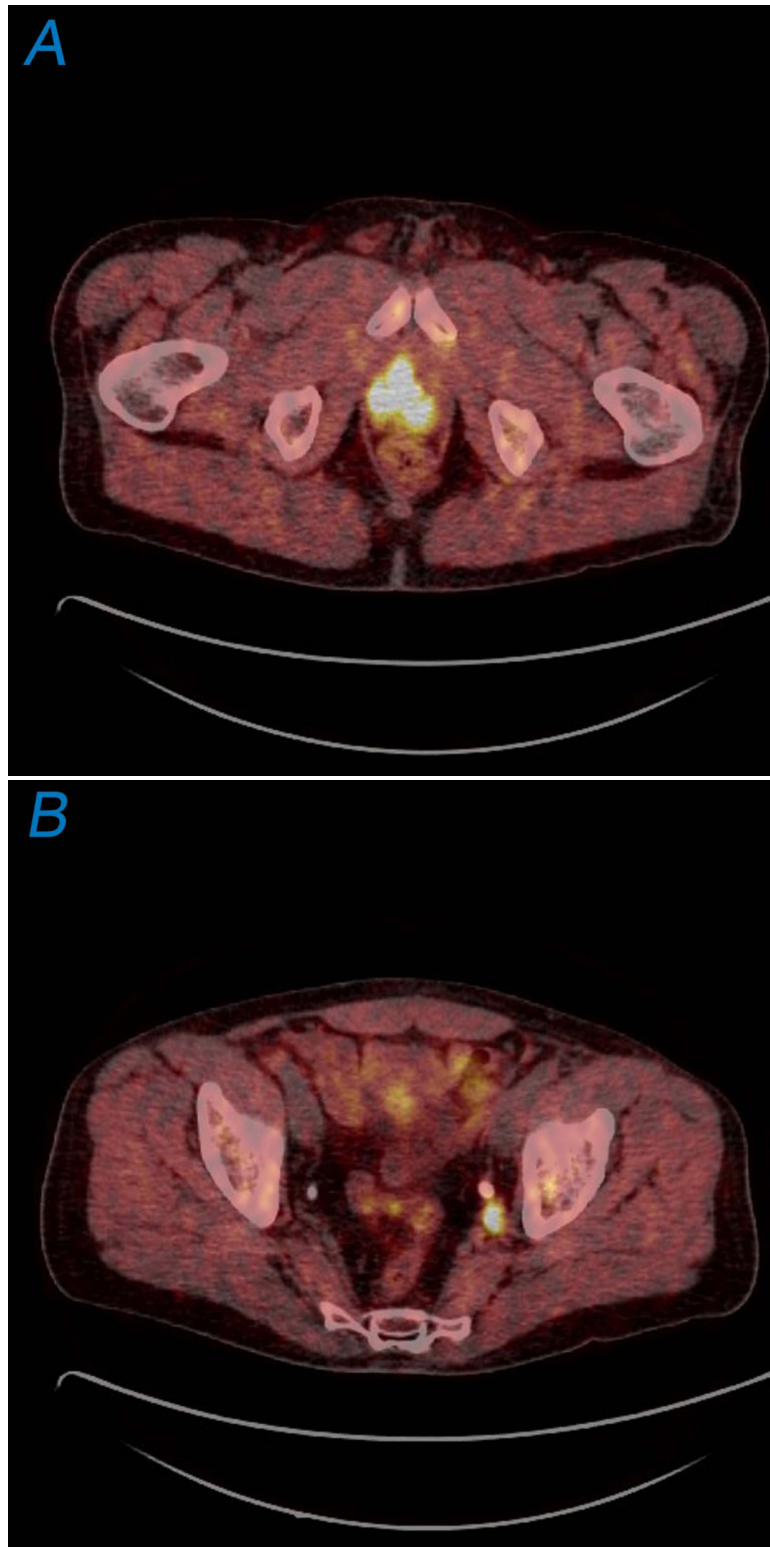
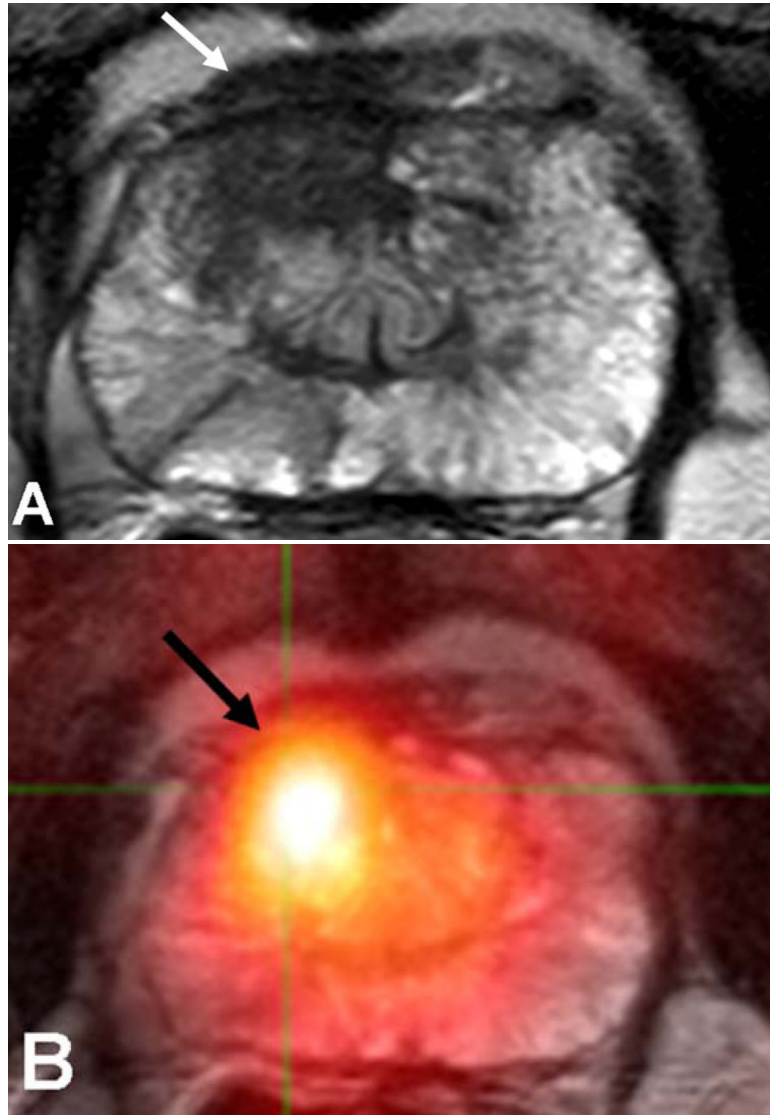


Figure 2.

59-year-old male with newly diagnosed high risk prostate cancer. Fused ^{18}F -FCH PET/CT images demonstrate significant increased tracer uptake in the prostate gland (a) and in a lymph node within left pelvis (b).



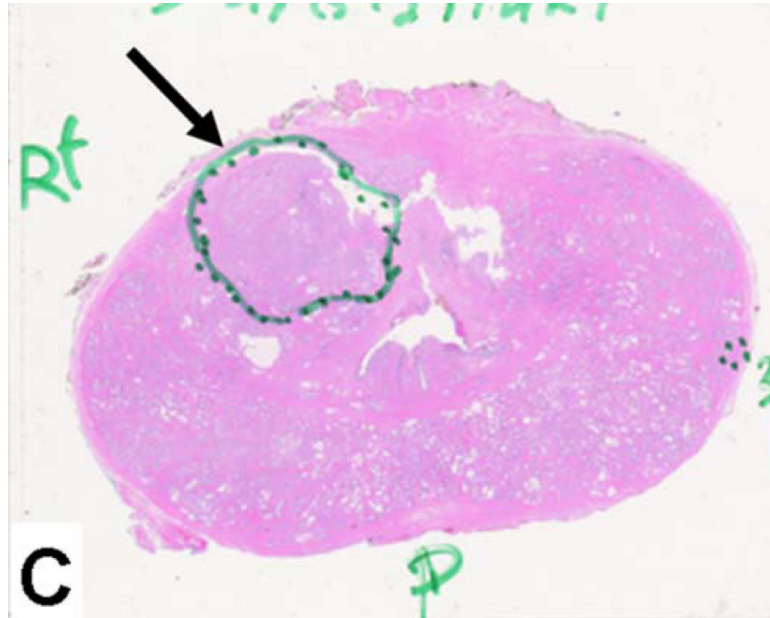


Figure 3. 64-year-old male with a PSA of 7.5 ng/dl. Axial T2W MR Image demonstrates a low signal intensity focus in the right anterior PZ (arrow) (a). Fused ^{11}C -acetate PET/MRI image localizes the tumor (arrow) (b). Histopathology confirms presence of a Gleason 3+4 tumor (arrow and inked in green) (c).

Table 1

¹⁸F-FDG PET clinical trials in prostate cancer²⁴⁻⁴².

Tracer(s)	Patient number	Disease stage	Study objective	Sensitivity	Specificity	Year	Group
¹⁸ F-FDG	48	Early	Staging	81%	NA	1996	Effert PJ, et al.
¹⁸ F-FDG	13	Advanced	Staging	NA	NA	1996	Yeh SD, et al.
¹⁸ F-FDG	34	Advanced	Staging	65%	NA	1996	Shreve PD, et al
¹⁸ F-FDG	18	Mixed	Restaging	NA	NA	1999	Hofer C, et al
¹⁸ F-FDG	44	Early	Staging	64%	NA	1999	Oyama N, et al.
¹⁸ F-FDG	24	Early	Staging	4%	NA	2001	Liu JJ, et al.
¹⁸ F-FDG	10	Advanced	Restaging	NA	NA	2001	Oyama N, et al.
¹⁸ F-FDG	42	Early	Staging	NA	NA	2002	Oyama N, et al.
¹⁸ F-FDG	17	Advanced	Staging	NA	NA	2002	Morris MJ, et al.
¹⁸ F-FDG	24	Advanced	Re-staging	75%	100%	2003	Chang CH, et al.
¹⁸ F-FDG	91	Mixed	Restaging	31%	NA	2005	Schoder H, et al
¹⁸ F-FDG, ¹¹ C-methionine	10	Advanced	Staging	NA	NA	1999	Mascapinlac HA, et al
¹⁸ F-FDG, ¹¹ C-methionine	12	Advanced	Staging	48% (72%)	NA	2002	Nunez R, et al.
¹⁸ F-FDG, ¹¹ C-acetate	15 (25)	Mixed	Staging	NA	NA	2003	Fricke E, et al
¹⁸ F-FDG, ¹¹ C-acetate	18(22)	Early	Staging	NA	NA	2002	Oyama N, et al.
¹⁸ F-FDG, ¹¹ C-acetate	46	Advanced	Restaging	NA	NA	2003	Oyama N, et al.
¹⁸ F-FDG, ¹¹ C-choline	100	Advanced	Restaging	27% (47%)	NA	2003	Picchio M, et
¹⁸ F-FDG, ¹⁸ F-FDHT	7	Advanced	Staging	97% (78%)	NA	2004	Larson SM, et al.
¹⁸ F-FDG, ¹¹ C-choline,	26	Early	Staging	73%	59%	2010	Watanabe H, et al.

Table 2

^{11}C -choline 40,42,44-66 and ^{18}F -choline 67-81 PET clinical trials in prostate cancer

Tracer(s)	Patient number	Disease stage	Study objective	Sensitivity	Specificity	Year	Group
^{11}C -choline	10	Mixed	Staging	NA	NA	1998	Hara T, et al.
^{11}C -choline	23	Advanced	Staging	NA	NA	2000	Kotzerke J, et al.
^{11}C -choline	25	Early	Staging	NA	NA	2002	De Jong JJ, et al.
^{11}C -choline	67	Mixed	Staging	80%	96%	2003	De Jong JJ, et al.
^{11}C -choline	36	Mixed	Restaging	38%	NA	2003	De Jong JJ, et al.
^{11}C -choline	14	Early	Staging	NA	NA	2004	Sutinen E, et al.
^{11}C -choline	36	Early	Staging	66%	81%	2005	Farsad M, et al.
^{11}C -choline	20	Early	Staging	100%	NA	2005	Yamaguchi T, et al.
^{11}C -choline	13	Mixed	Staging	56.3%	12.5%	2005	Yoshida S, et al.
^{11}C -choline	43	Early	Staging	66%	84%	2006	Martorana G, et al.
^{11}C -choline	26	Early	Staging	NA	NA	2006	Reske SN, et al.
^{11}C -choline	50	Advanced	Restaging	91%	50%	2007	Rinnab J, et al.
^{11}C -choline	55	Early	Staging	36%	NA	2007	Rinnab J, et al.
^{11}C -choline	58	Early	Staging	86.5%	62%	2007	Scher B, et al.
^{11}C -choline	26	Early	Staging	55%	86%	2007	Testa C, et al.
^{11}C -choline	15	Recurrence	Restaging	NA	NA	2008	Rinnab J, et al.
^{11}C -choline	57	Mixed	Staging	60%	97.6%	2008	Schiavina R, et al.
^{11}C -choline	49	Early	Staging	90.5%	85.7%	2008	Li X, et al.
^{11}C -choline	41	Advanced	Restaging	75-89%	40%	2009	Rinnab J, et al.
^{11}C -choline	190	Advanced	Restaging	73%	69%	2009	Castellucci P, et al.
^{11}C -choline	6	Advanced	Restaging	NA	NA	2010	Winter A, et al.
^{11}C -choline	25	Recurrence	Restaging	86%	100%	2010	Fucchio C, et al.
^{11}C -choline, ^{18}F -FDG	26	Early	Staging	73% (31%)	NA	2010	Watanabe H, et al.
^{11}C -choline, ^{18}F -FDG	100	Advanced	Restaging	47% (27%)	NA	2003	Picchio M, et al.
^{11}C -choline, ^{11}C -acetate,	12	Advanced	Staging	NA	NA	2003	Kotzerke J, et al.

Tracer(s)	Patient number	Disease stage	Study objective	Sensitivity	Specificity	Year	Group
^{18}F -FCH	17	Mixed	Staging	93%	48%	2005	Kwee SA, et al.
^{18}F -FCH	19	Early	Restaging	100%	NA	2005	Schmid DT, et al.
^{18}F -FCH	26	Mixed	Staging	60%	90%	2006	Kwee SA, et al.
^{18}F -FCH	100	Advanced	Restaging	98%	100%	2006	Cimitan M, et al.
^{18}F -FCH	20	Advanced	Staging	10%	80%	2006	Hacker A, et al.
^{18}F -FCH	34	Advanced	Restaging	NA	NA	2006	Heimisch M, et al.
^{18}F -FCH	111	Mixed	Staging	86%	NA	2008	Husank DB, et al.
^{18}F -FCH	20	Early	Staging	NA	NA	2008	Igerc I, et al.
^{18}F -FCH	15	Early	Staging	NA	NA	2008	Kwee SA, et al.
^{18}F -FCH	70	Advanced	Staging	79%	97%	2009	Beheshti M, et al.
^{18}F -FCH	20	Early	Staging	NA	NA	2010	Steuber T, et al.
^{18}F -FCH	111	Mixed	Staging	45-66%	96%	2010	Beheshti M, et al.
^{18}F -FCH	25	Early	Staging	100%	95%	2010	Poulsen MH, et al.
^{18}F -FCH, ^{13}C -acetate,	11 (11)	Advanced	Restaging	NA	NA	2007	Vees H, et al.
^{18}F -FCH, ^{18}F -Fluoride	38	Mixed	Staging	74% (81%)	99% (93%)	2008	Beheshti M, et al.

Table 3

¹¹C-acetate PET clinical trials in prostate cancer^{37-39,66,80,84-89}

Tracer(s)	Patient number	Disease stage	Study objective	Sensitivity	Specificity	Year	Group
¹¹ C-acetate	30	Early	Staging	NA	NA	2002	Kato T, et al.
¹¹ C-acetate	31	Advanced	Re-staging	83%	NA	2002	Kotzerke J, et al.
¹¹ C-acetate	20	Advanced	Restaging	75%	NA	2006	Sanblom G, et al.
¹¹ C-acetate	50	Advanced	Re-staging	NA	NA	2006	Wachter S, et al.
¹¹ C-acetate	32	Advanced	Restaging	82%	NA	2007	Albrecht S, et al.
¹¹ C-acetate	12	Advanced	Staging	NA	NA	2009	Seppala J, et al.
¹¹ C-acetate, ¹¹ C-choline	12	Advanced	Staging	NA	NA	2003	Kotzerke J, et al.
¹¹ C-acetate, ¹⁸ F-FDG	25 (15)	Mixed	Staging	NA	NA	2003	Fricke E, et al.
¹¹ C-acetate, ¹⁸ F-FDG	22(18)	Early	Staging	NA	NA	2002	Oyama N, et al.
¹¹ C-acetate, ¹⁸ F-FDG	46	Advanced	Restaging	NA	NA	2003	Oyama N, et al.
¹¹ C-acetate, ¹⁸ F-FCH	11 (11)	Advanced	Restaging	NA	NA	2007	Vees H, et al.

Table 4

Other tracers used in clinical trials in prostate cancer 35,36,41,81,91-93,95

Tracer(s)	Patient number	Disease stage	Study objective	Sensitivity	Specificity	Year	Group
^{11}C -methionine, ^{18}F -FDG	10	Advanced	Staging	NA	NA	1999	Mascapinlac HA, et al
^{11}C -methionine, ^{18}F -FDG	12	Advanced	Staging	72% (48%)	NA	2002	Nunez R, et al.
^{11}C -methionine	20	Early	Staging	35%	47%	2005	Tooth G, et al
^{18}F -FACBC	15	Advanced	Staging, restaging	NA	NA	2007	Schuster DM, et al.
^{18}F -FDHT, ^{18}F -FDG	7	Advanced	Staging	78% (97%)	NA	2004	Larson SM, et al.
^{18}F -FDHT	20	Advanced	Staging	63%	NA	2005	Dehdasthi F, et al.
^{18}F -fluoride	44	Bone metastases	Staging	100%	100%	2006	Even-Sapir E, et al
^{18}F -fluoride, ^{18}F -FCH	38	Bone metastases	Staging	81% (74%)	93% (99%)	2008	Beheshti M, et al

Table 5

Radionuclides for RIT

Radionuclide	Physical half-life	Decay Type	Particle Energy (MeV)	Range in tissue (mm)	Gamma Energy (MeV)
¹³¹ Iodine	8 days	β , γ	0.61 Max 0.20 Average	2.4 0.4	0.364
⁹⁰ Yttrium	2.7 days	β	2.3 Max 0.94 Average	12.0 2.7	none
¹⁷⁷ Lutetium	6.7 days	β , γ	0.50 Max 0.15 average	2.2 0.2	0.113-0.208