| Variable            | Pheo        | Para         |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Location*           |             |              |
| Carotid body        | -           | 40 (44.9)    |
| Retroperitoneal     | -           | 16 (18)      |
| Spinal              | -           | 6 (6.7)      |
| Jugular             | -           | 4 (4.5)      |
| Zuckerkandl organ   | -           | 3 (3.4)      |
| Parapharingeal      | -           | 2 (2.2)      |
| Vagal               | -           | 4 (4.5)      |
| Mediastinum         | -           | 1 (1.1)      |
| Periaortic          | -           | 4 (4.5)      |
| Jugulotympanic      | -           | 1 (1.1)      |
| Bladder             | -           | 1 (1.1)      |
| Liver               | -           | 1 (1.1)      |
| Neck (soft tissue)  | -           | 1 (1.1)      |
| Bone metastasis     | -           | 4 (4.5)      |
| Ileal metastasis    | -           | 1 (1.1)      |
| Side <sup>†</sup>   | l           | 1            |
| Left                | 17 (39.5)   | -            |
| Right               | 26 (60.5)   | -            |
| Weight‡ (grams)     | 145.7 ± 493 | 61.1 ± 154.1 |
| Size¶ (centimetres) | 5.4 ± 3.1   | 4.1 ± 2.4    |

Supplemental table 3: Tumour characteristics. Numbers in brackets indicate percentage of an absolute number.

<sup>\*</sup> All pheocromocytomas were originated in the adrenal gland.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup> The side of tumour was only considered for the pheocromocytomas.

<sup>‡</sup> The weight was available for 39 cases of pheocromocytomas and 31 cases of paragangliomas.

<sup>¶</sup> The size was available for 40 cases of pheocromocytomas and 75 cases of paragangliomas.