

FANC: Permanente vorming arbeidsartsen



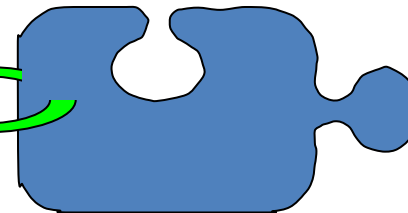
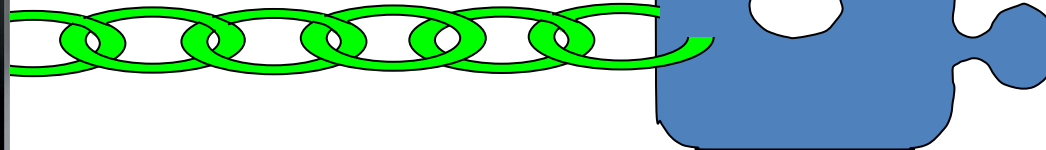
## **Nuclear medicine: Recent therapeutic and theranostic evolutions in nuclear medicine**

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Nuclear Medicine - University Hospitals Leuven (UZ Leuven)  
Department of Imaging & Pathology – KU Leuven  
Leuven Cancer Institute (LKI)  
Leuven, Belgium

Friday 23<sup>th</sup> October 2020

# Radiopharmaceutical: diagnostic

For molecular imaging (diagnosis)



**Radionuclide:**

Emits radiation upon decay.  
The radiation can be detected  
by the nuclear medicine  
cameras

**Vector:**

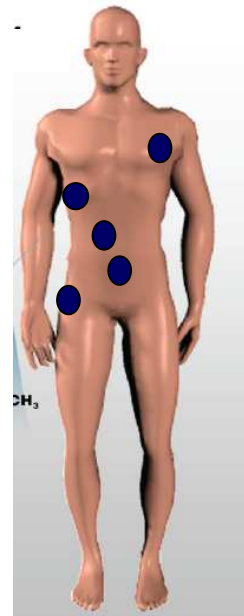
Is responsible for a specific interaction  
with the target (receptor, transporter,  
enzyme,...)

# Diagnostic use: imaging

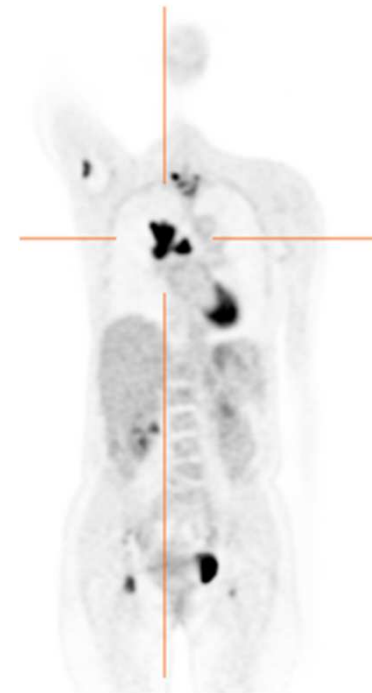


**Injection  
radiofarmaceutical**

$\Delta$ Time



**Accumulation  
radiofarmaceutical in  
cancer cells**

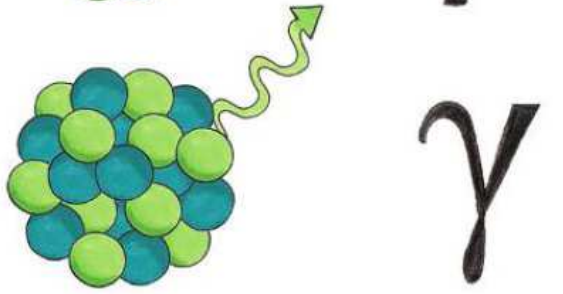
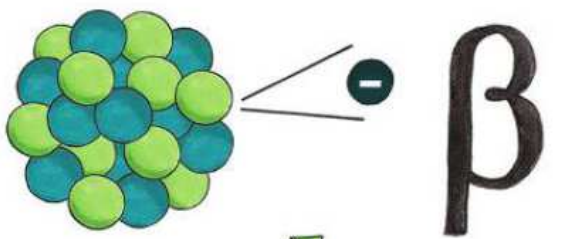
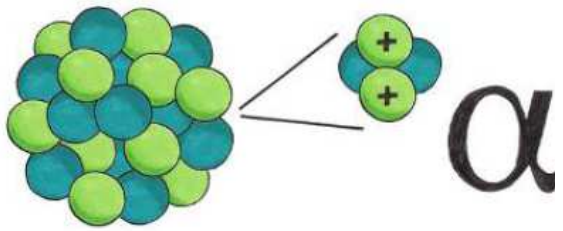


# Diagnostic

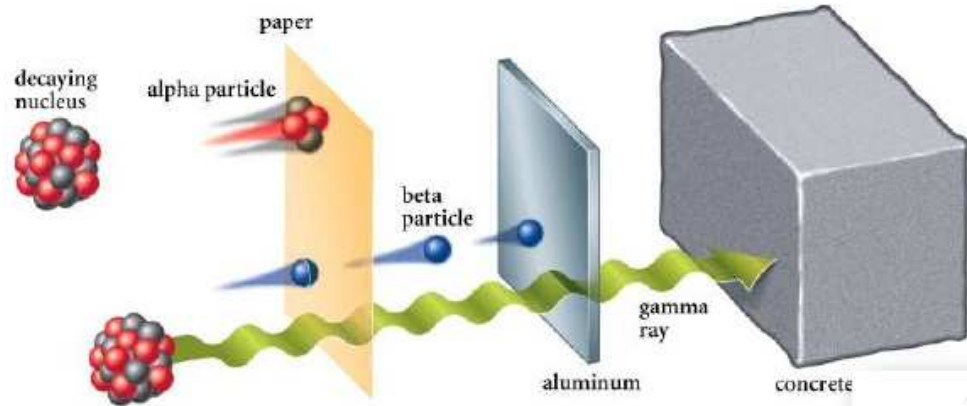
# Therapeutic



# Limited penetration power of $\alpha$ et $\beta$ -particles

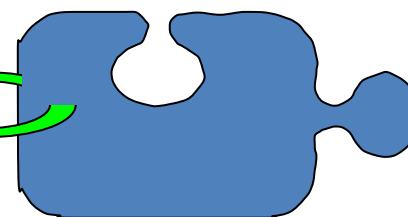
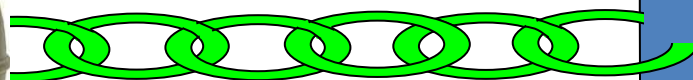


Characteristics of alpha, beta ( $\beta^+$  and  $\beta^-$ ) and gamma radiations



# Radiopharmaceutical: therapeutic

For therapy



Radionuclide:

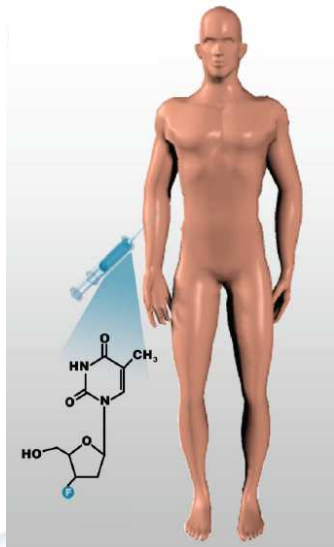
Upon decay emits particulate radiation for destruction of the tissue target cells

Vector:

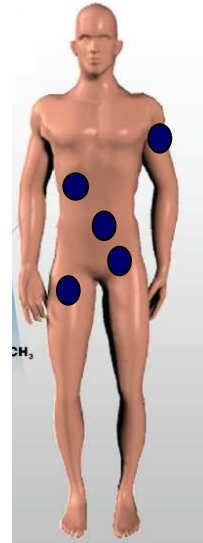
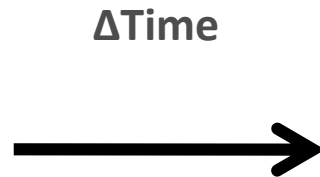
Is responsible for a specific interaction with the target (receptor, transporter, enzyme,...)



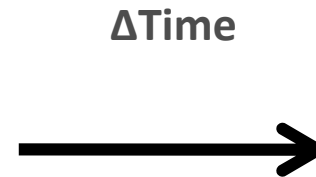
# Radionuclide therapy: concept



Radiopharmaceutical injection



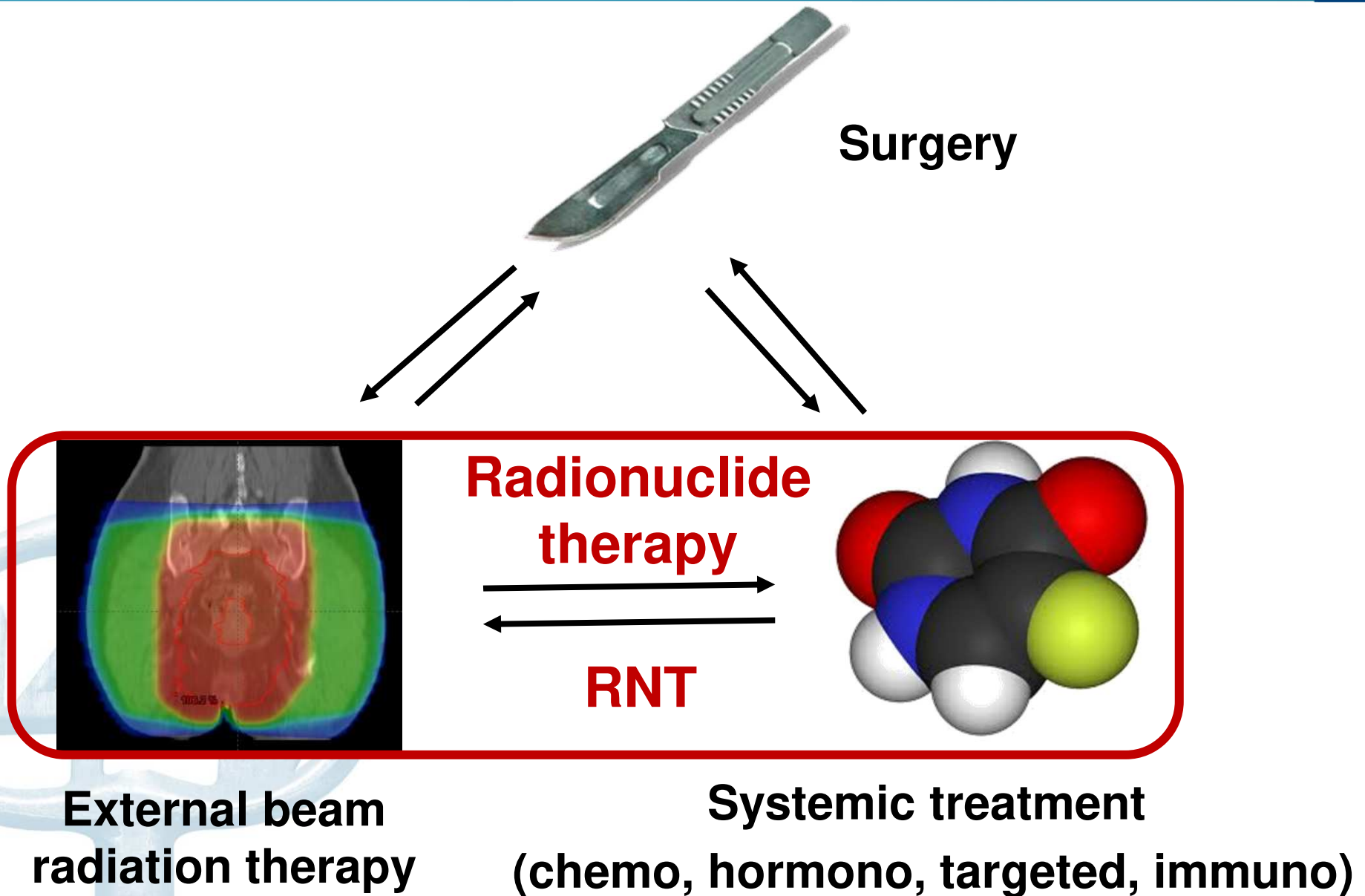
Radiopharmaceutical binds to molecular target and accumulates in the tissue



Particulate emission leads to local cellular destruction



# The Oncological Treatment Triangle





# EXAMPLES OF CURRENTLY USED THERANOSTICS DUO'S

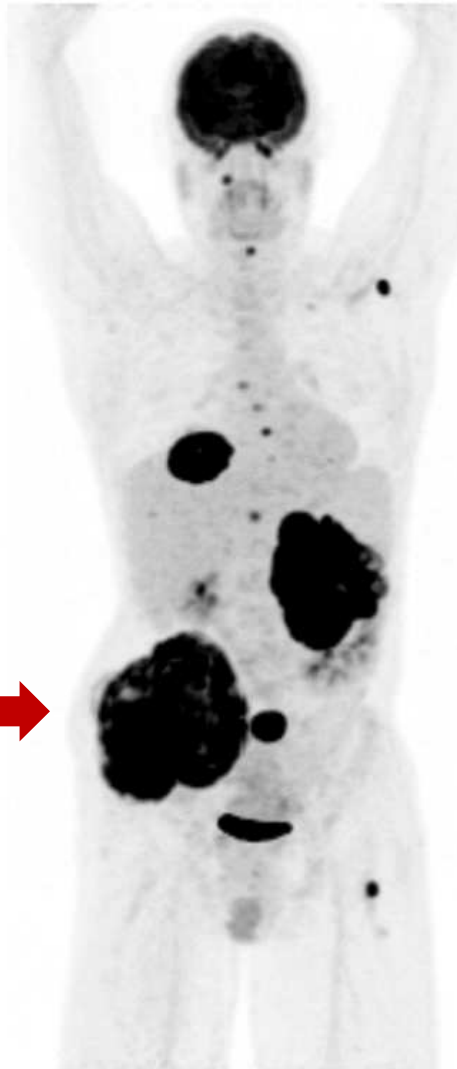


# NOREPINEPHRINE TRANSPORTER TARGETING: $^{123}\text{I}$ -MIBG $^{131}\text{I}$ -MIBG

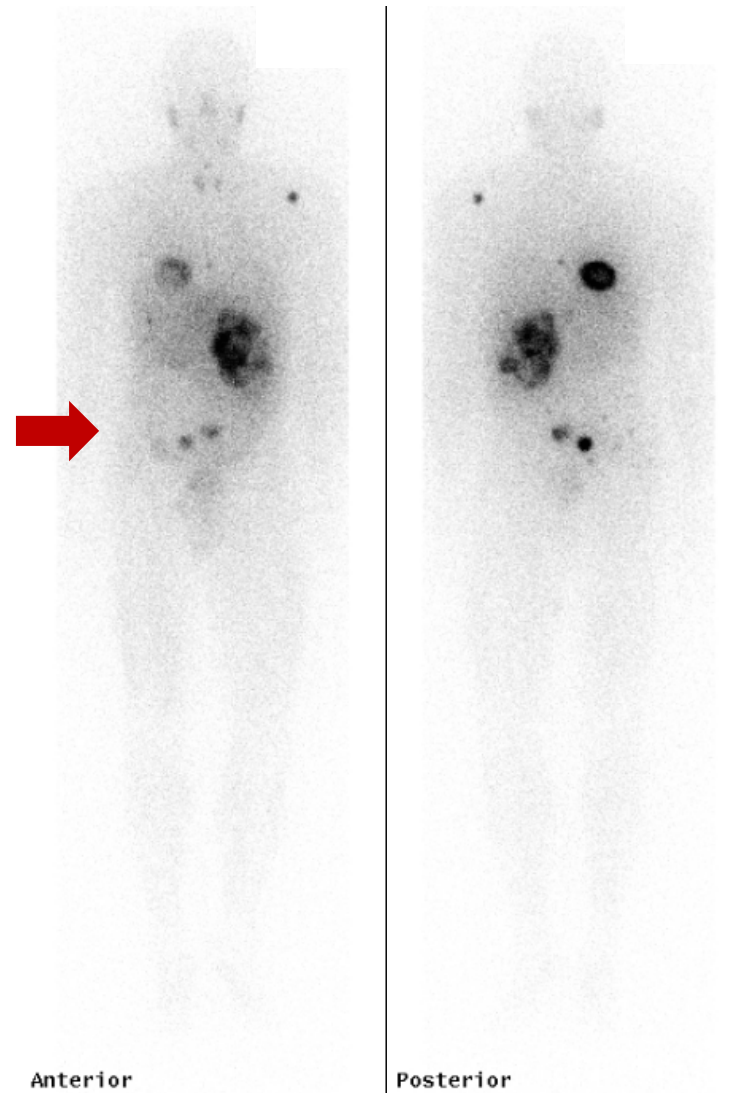


# Case: 34 year old man - paraganglioma

**$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG**

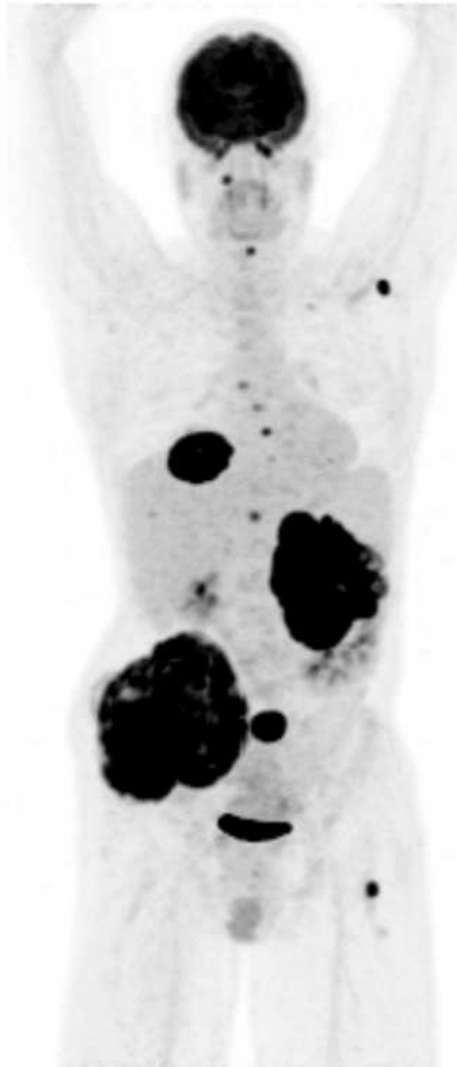


**$^{123}\text{I}$ -MIBG**

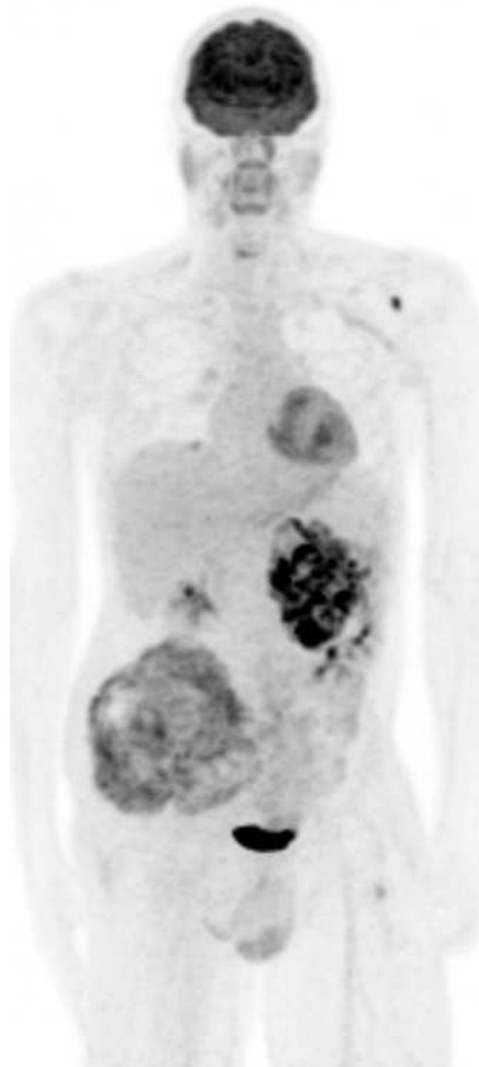


# Case: status post chemo and EBRT

**Baseline**



**Post-therapy**



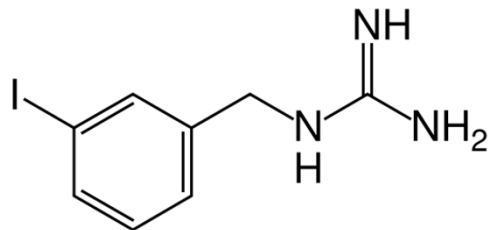
Partial  
metabolic  
reponse

Plan:  $^{131}\text{I}$ -MIBG

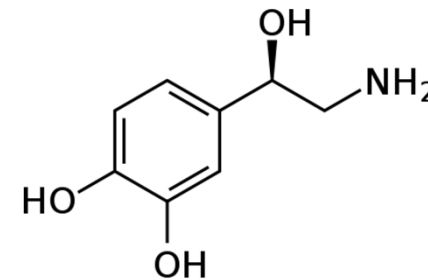
But:  
paraneoplastic  
thrombocytopenia:  
 ~~$^{131}\text{I}$ -MIBG~~

# Sympatomimetics: MIBG/MFBG

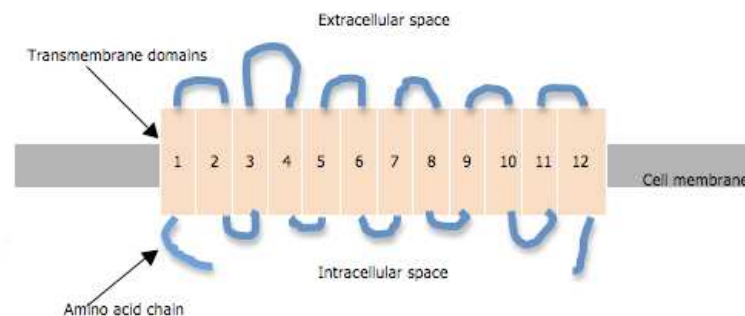
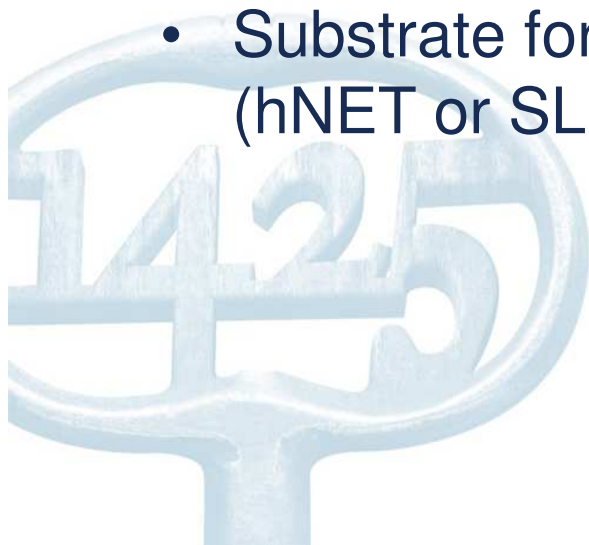
MIBG



Norepinephrine



- Metaiodobenzylguanidine (mIBG or MIBG)
- Can be labeled with
  - Iodine-123:  $^{123}\text{I}$ -MIBG
  - Iodine-131:  $^{131}\text{I}$ -MIBG
  - Fluorine-18:  $^{18}\text{F}$ -MFBG
- Substrate for the human norepinephrine transporter (hNET or SLC6A2)



# SOMATOSTATIN RECEPTOR TARGETING: $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTATATE $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -DOTATATE



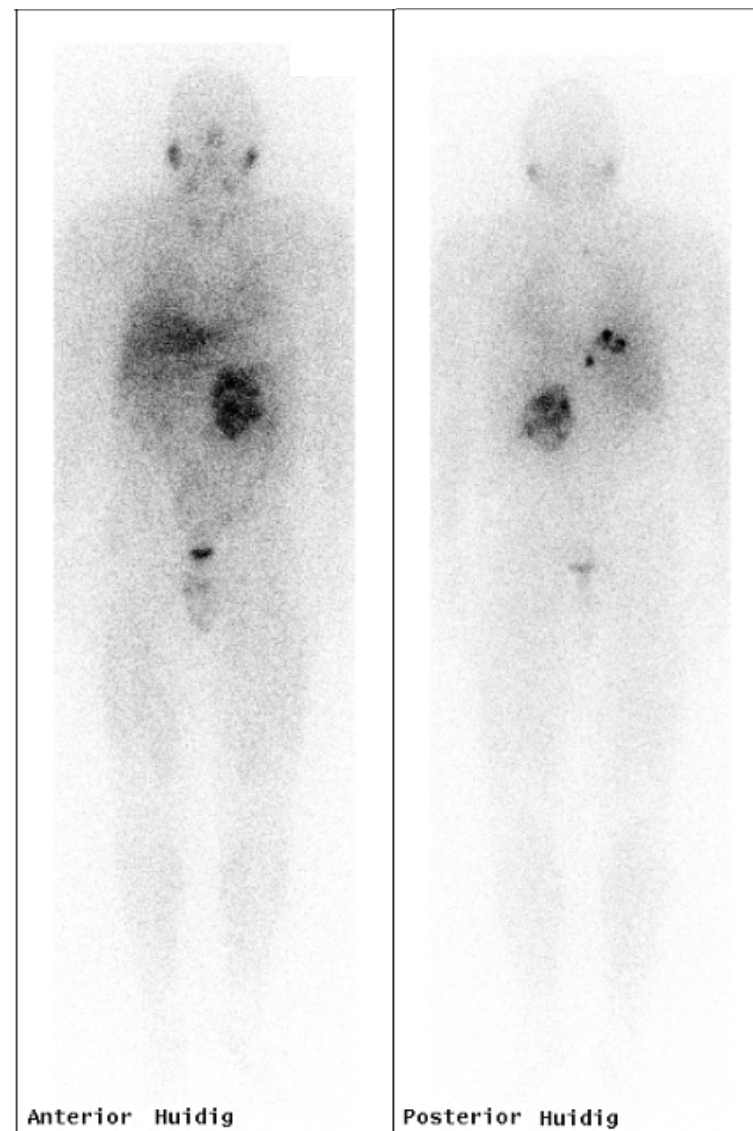
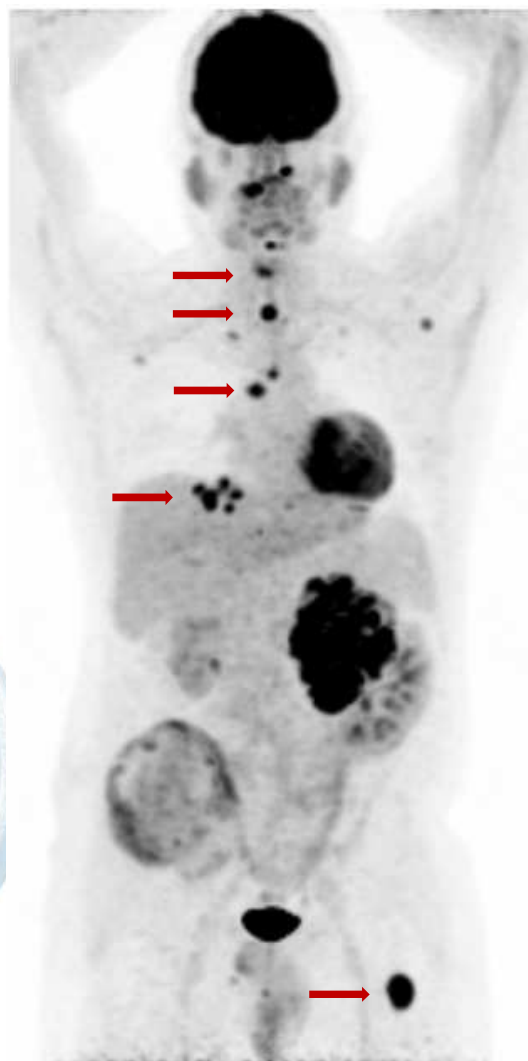
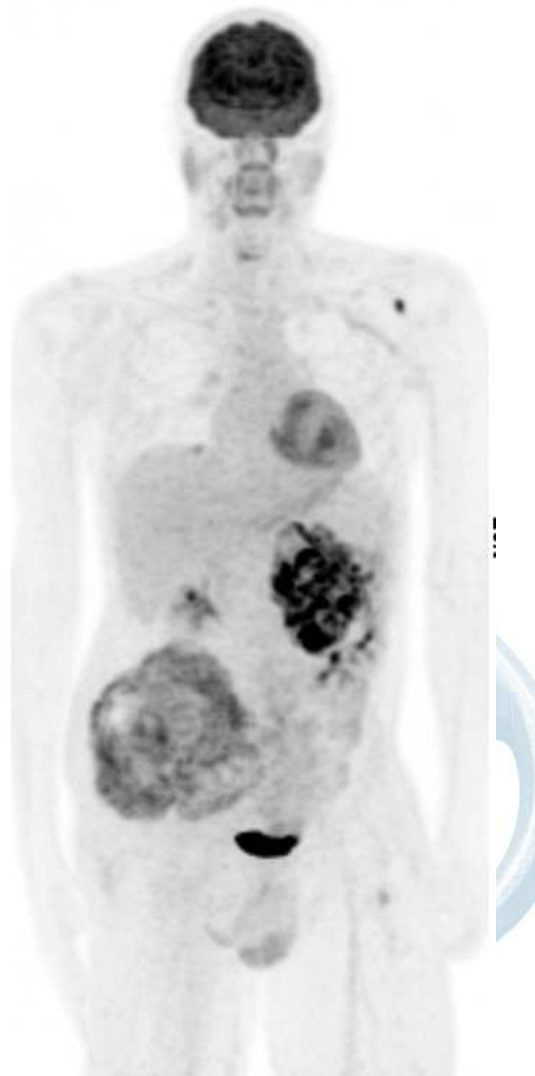
# Case: 1½ years later: progression

**<sup>18</sup>F-FDG**

**<sup>123</sup>I-MIBG**

Post Chemo-RT

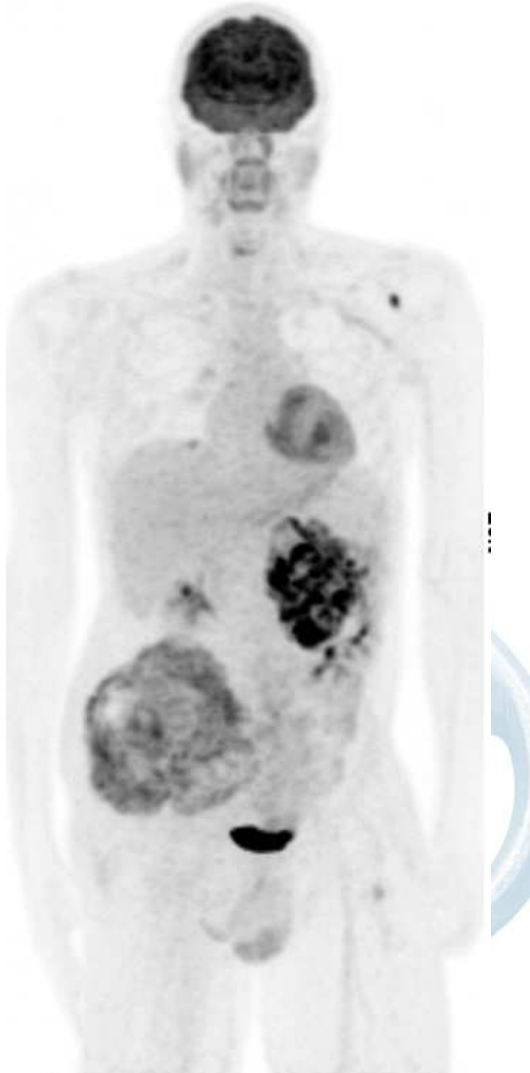
New scan



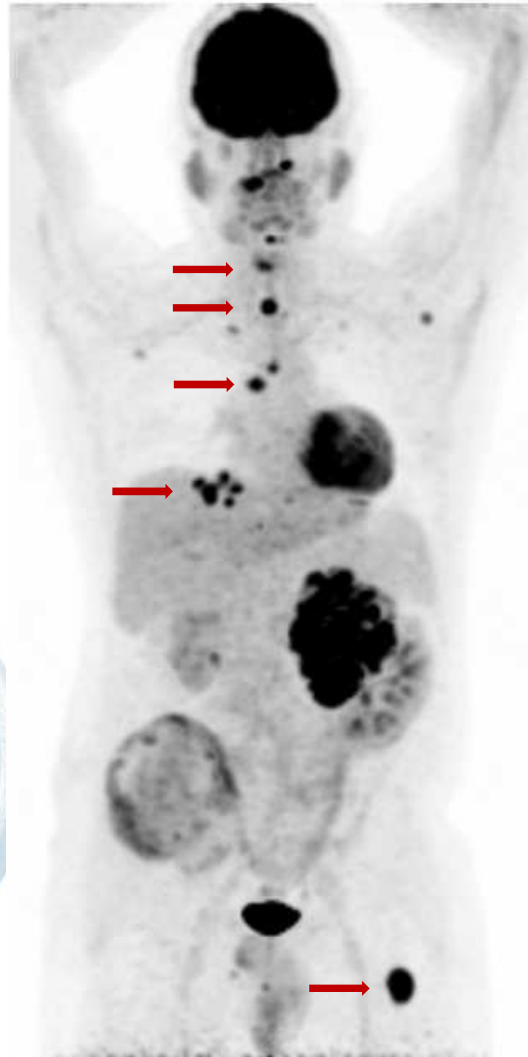
# Case: 1½ years later: progression

**<sup>18</sup>F-FDG**

Post Chemo-RT



New scan



**<sup>68</sup>Ga-DOTATATE**

Lesion saturated





# Case: 1½ years later: PRRT

**$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG**  
New scan



**$^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTATATE**



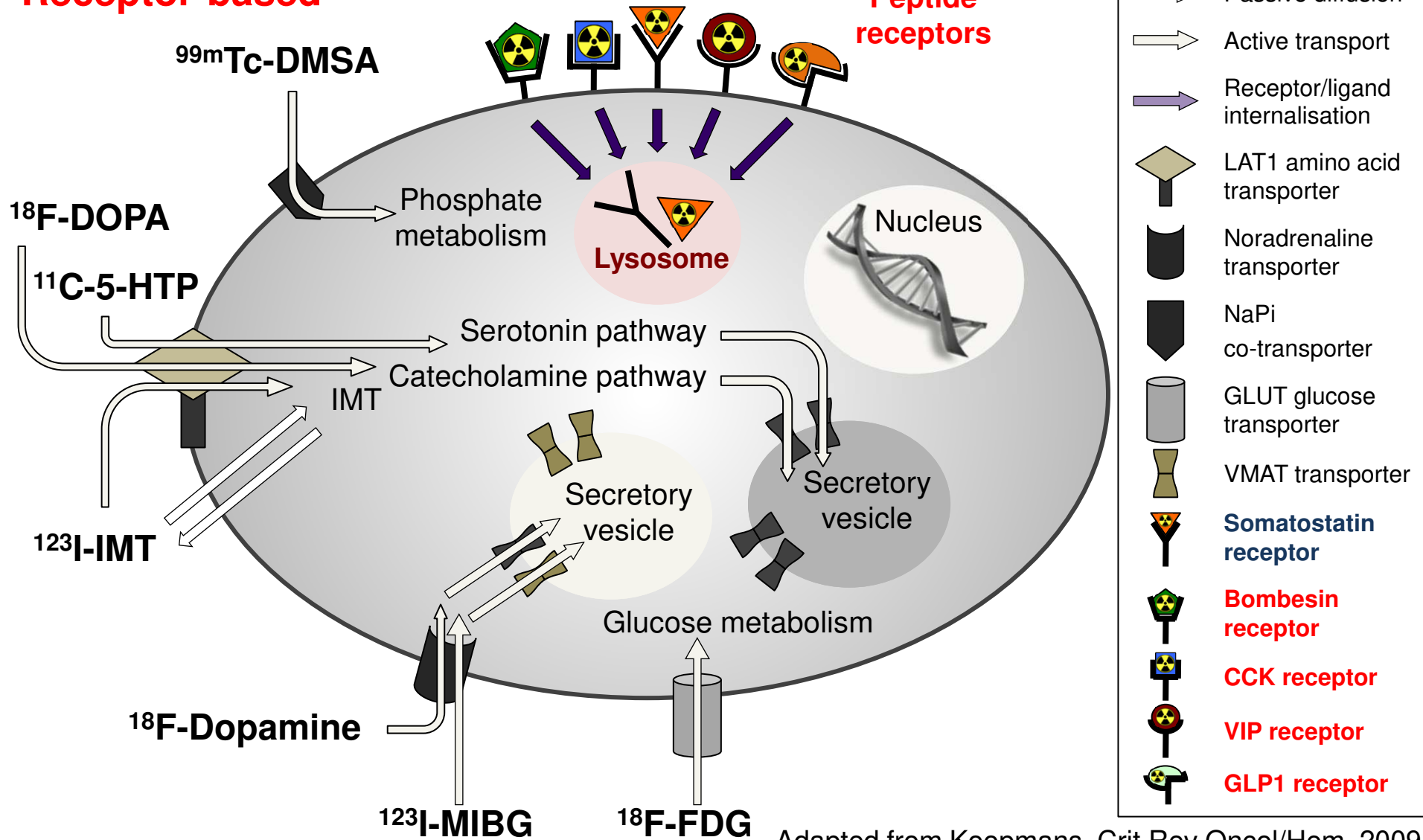
**$^{177}\text{Lu}$ -DOTATATE**



# Peptide Receptors

## Receptor-based

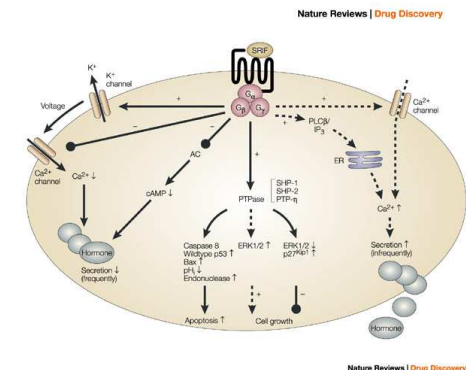
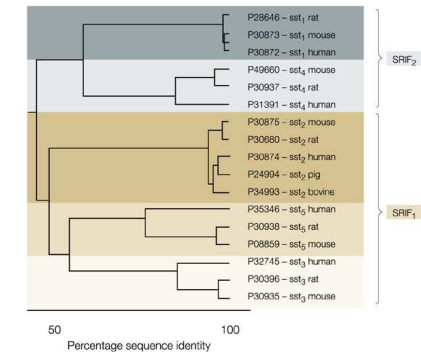
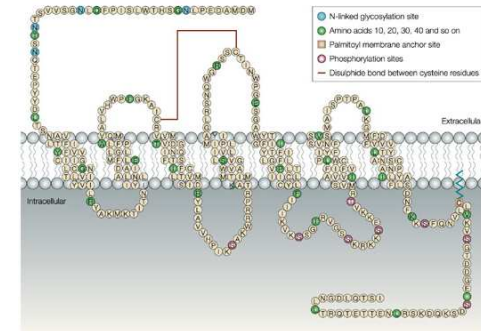
## Peptide receptors



Adapted from Koopmans, Crit Rev Oncol/Hem, 2009

# Somatostatin Receptor (SSTR)

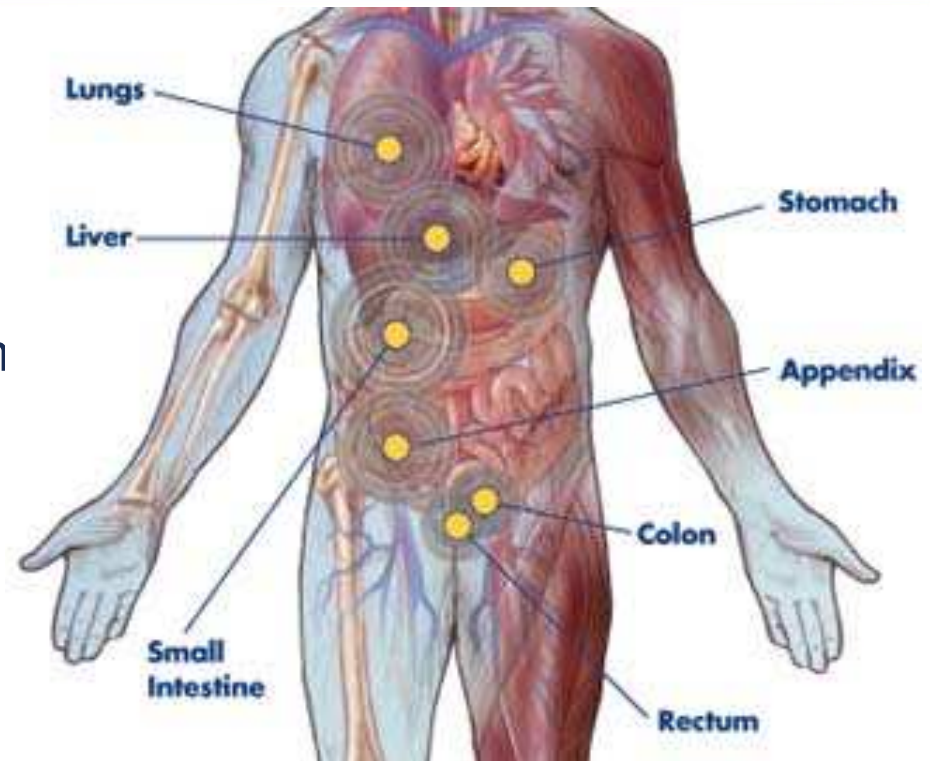
- Seven transmembrane G-coupled receptor
- Six human subtypes
  - SSTR1
  - SSTR2 (2A & 2B)
  - SSTR3
  - SSTR4
  - SSTR5
- Function
  - ↓ secretions
    - Endocrine
    - Exocrine
  - ↓ Cell growth
  - ↑ Apoptosis
- Internalise upon agonist binding / recycle



# Neuro-endocrine Tumors (NET's)

## CHARACTERISTICS:

- Arise from neuroendocrine cells
- Slow growing and rare
- Young patients
- Heterogenic group of tumors with specific features
- Can secrete hormones,
  - e.g. serotonin -> carcinoid syndrome



## DIAGNOSIS:

- Clinical: complaints
  - Mechanical
  - Hormonal
- Tumormarkers in blood and urine
- Imaging: US, CT, MRI, Octreoscan, 68Ga-DOTATOC PET/CT
- Pathology

Peptide

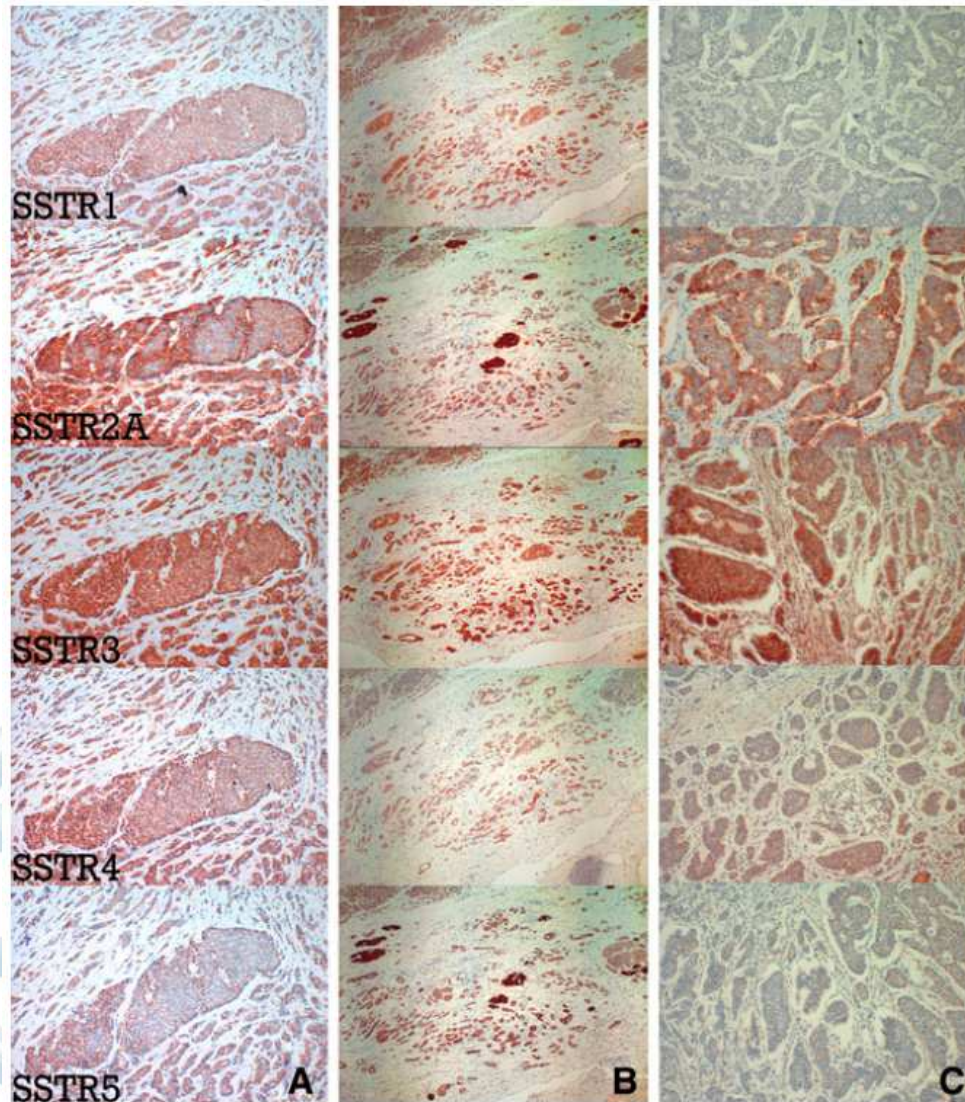
Receptor

Radionuclide

Therapy



# Overexpression of SSTR subtypes on NET



48%

86%

87%

50%

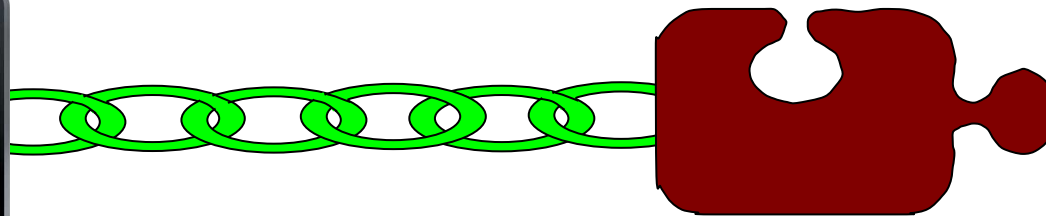
46%

- cytoplasmic staining
  - SSTR1
  - SSTR3
  - SSTR5
- membrane bound
  - SSTR2A

LN M+    NET ileum    NET pancreas

# Diagnostic agents for SSR

Radionuclide + Chelator + Somatostatin analogue



<sup>111</sup>Indium

<sup>99m</sup>Techetium

<sup>68</sup>Gallium

<sup>18</sup>Fluorine

DTPA

DOTA C11

NOTA

HYNIC

Octreotide

Tyr<sup>3</sup>-octreotide (TOC)

Tyr<sup>3</sup>-octreotate (TATE)

Naph-octreotide (NOC)

## DIAGNOSTIC COMBINATIONS:

- <sup>111</sup>In-DTPA-octreotide (**Octreoscan®**)
- <sup>68</sup>Ga-DOTA, Tyr<sup>3</sup>-octreotide (<sup>68</sup>Ga-DOTATOC)
- <sup>68</sup>Ga-DOTA, Tyr<sup>3</sup>-octreotate (<sup>68</sup>Ga-DOTATATE)
- <sup>68</sup>Ga-DOTA, [Phe<sup>1</sup>-1-Nal<sup>3</sup>]-octreotide (<sup>68</sup>Ga-DOTANOC)

C12

SPECT

P  
E  
T

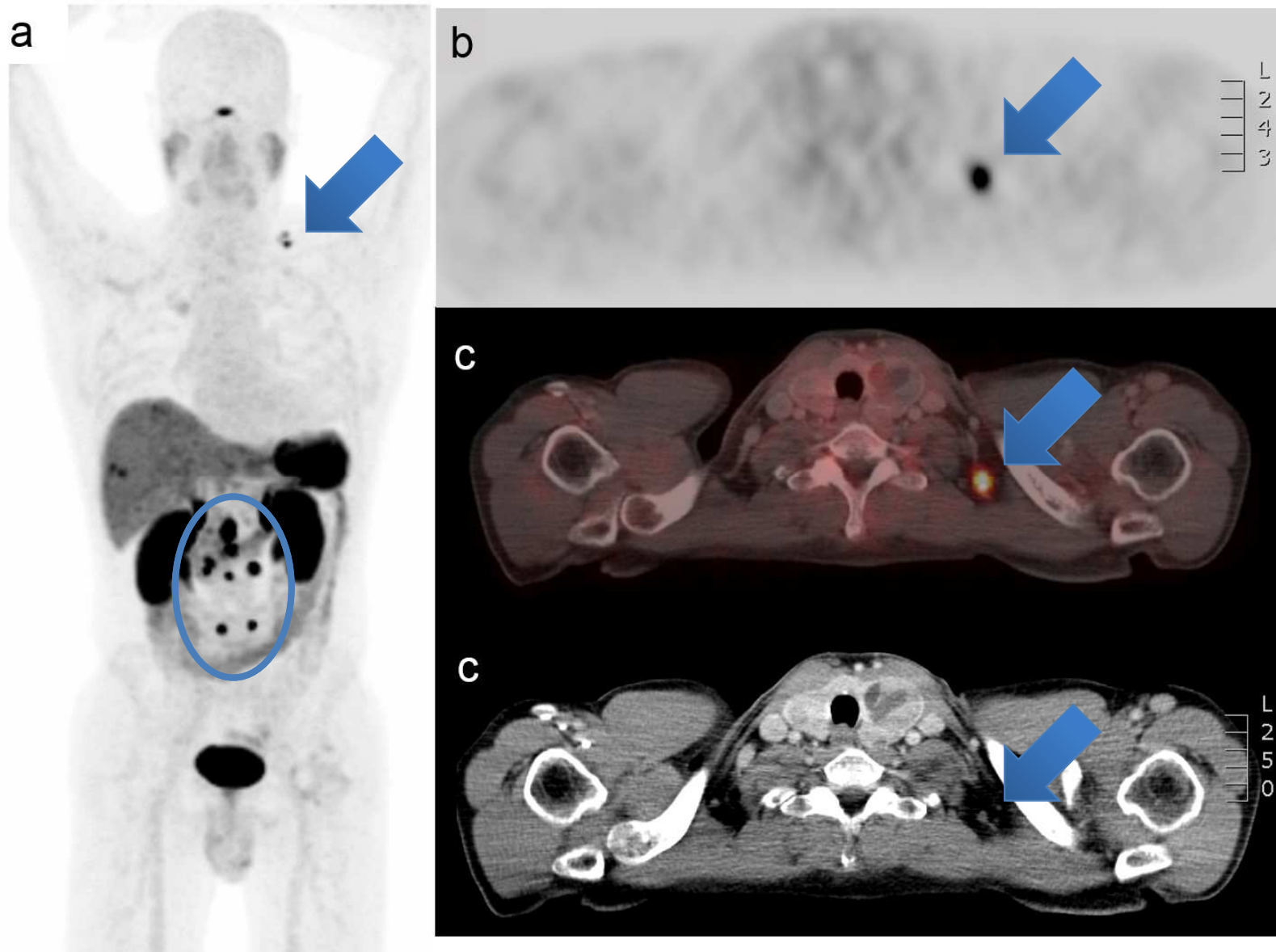
## Diapositive 23

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- C12** Afbeelding van de molecules?  
Christophe Deroose; 28/10/2009
- C11** Quid NOTA  
Christophe Deroose; 28/10/2009



# SSR imaging: very sensitive and specific technique for NET detection



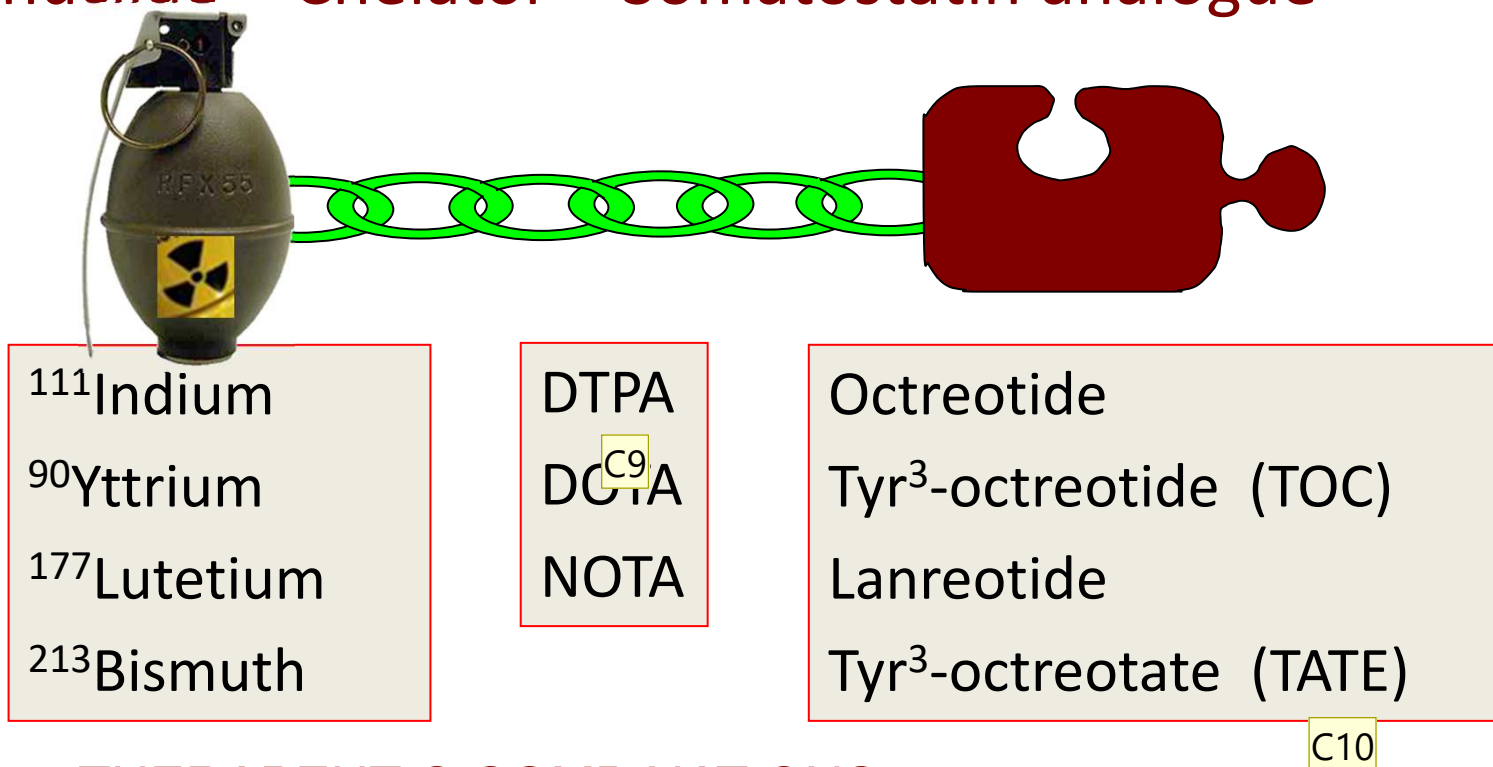
# Comparison of $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTA-peptide PET vs. $^{111}\text{In}$ -pentetretotide

Author	Year	n	$^{68}\text{Ga}$ -Peptide	Level (Patient /lesion)	Sensitivity $^{111}\text{In}$ -pentetretotide	Sensitivity $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -peptide	$\Delta$ Sens
Gabriel	2007	84	-TOC	Patient	52.0%	97.0%	45.0%
Buchmann	2007	27	-TOC	Region	66.0%	100.0%	34.0%
Srirajaskanthan	2010	51	-TATE	Lesion	11.9%	74.3%	<b>62.4%</b>
Van Binnebeek	2016	53	-TOC	Lesion	60.0%	99.9%	39.9%
Deppen	2016	78	-TATE	Patient	72.0%	96.0%	<b>24.0%</b>
Sadowski	2016	131	-TATE	Lesion	30.9%	95.1%	64.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>424</b>		<b>Range</b>	<b>12-72%</b>	<b>74-100%</b>	<b>24-64%</b>

**Gabriel**, 2007, J Nucl Med; 48(4):508-18; **Buchmann**, 2007, Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging;34(10):1617-26; **Srirajaskanthan**, 2010, J Nucl Med; 51:875-82; **Van Binnebeek**...Deroose, 2016 Eur Radiol; 26(3):900-9; **Deppen**, 2016, J Nucl Med; 57: 708-14; **Sadowski**, 2016, J Clin Oncol; 34(6): 588-96

# Theranostic concept: Therapeutic agents for Peptide Receptor **Radionuclide** Therapy (PRRT)

Radionuclide + Chelator + Somatostatin analogue



## THERAPEUTIC COMBINATIONS:

- 1<sup>st</sup> generation •  $^{111}\text{In}$ -DTPA-octreotide (Octreoscan®)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> generation •  $^{90}\text{Y}$ -DOTA, Tyr<sup>3</sup>-octreotide ( $^{90}\text{Y}$ -DOTATOC)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> generation •  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -DOTA, Tyr<sup>3</sup>-octreotate ( $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -DOTATATE)
- 4<sup>th</sup> generation •  $^{213}\text{Bi}$ -DOTA, Tyr<sup>3</sup>-octreotide ( $^{213}\text{Bi}$ -DOTATOC)

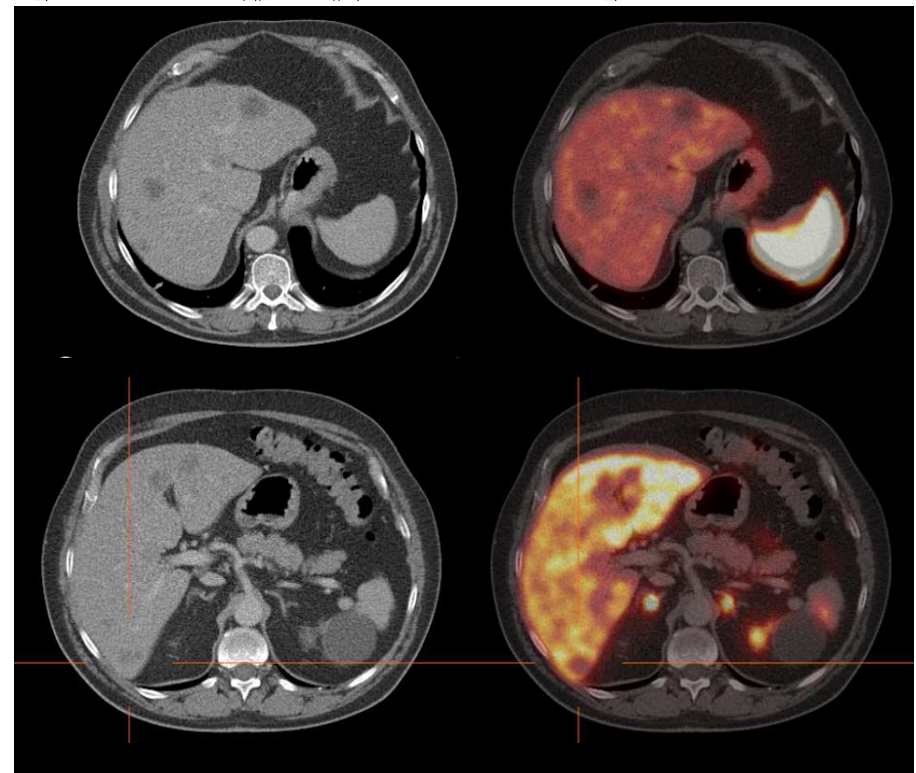
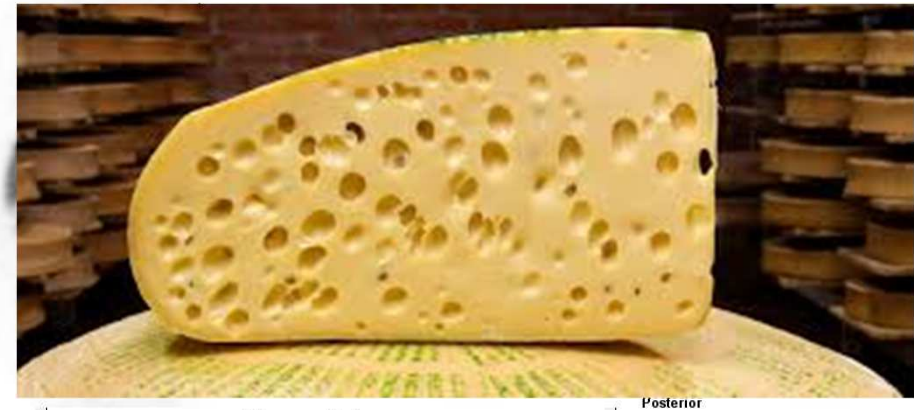
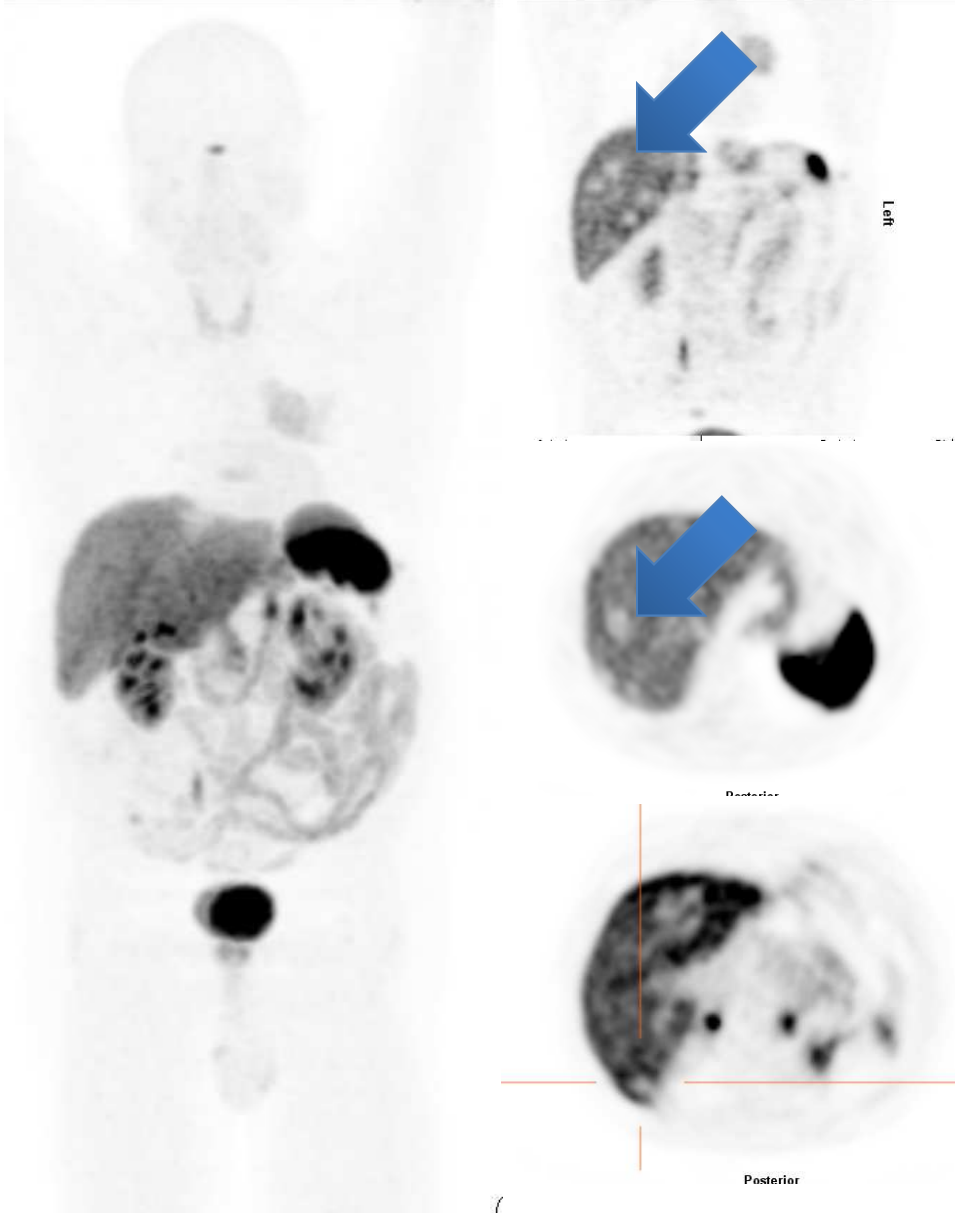
## Diapositive 26

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**C10** Afbeelding van de molecules?  
Christophe Deroose; 28/10/2009

**C9** Quid NOTA  
Christophe Deroose; 28/10/2009

# Absence of SSR expression – no candidate for PRRT



# High SSR expression: PRRT candidate

Normal biodistribution    Patient with multifocal disease



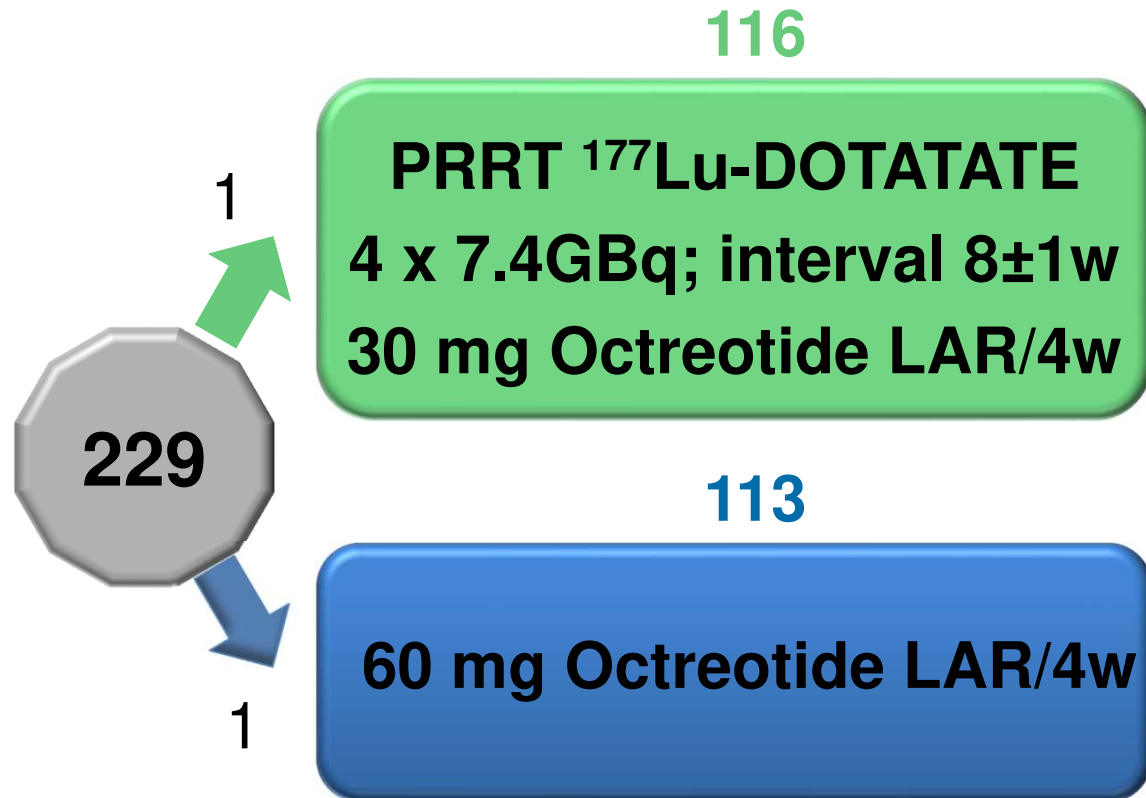
# Randomised Controlled Trial NETTER-1

## Metastatic NET (midgut)

- RECIST progression on fixed dose SSA
- Ki67 <20% (Gr 1/2)
- **SRS + all lesions**
- Adequate GFR, blood, liver
- No prior PRRT

## Stratification

- Fixed dose SSA: <6 months vs >6 months
- **SRS uptake score**



**1<sup>ary</sup> end: PFS**

**2<sup>ary</sup> end: ORR, TTP, OS, DoR, PFS<sub>2</sub>**

# NETTER-1: a historical milestone in nuclear medicine

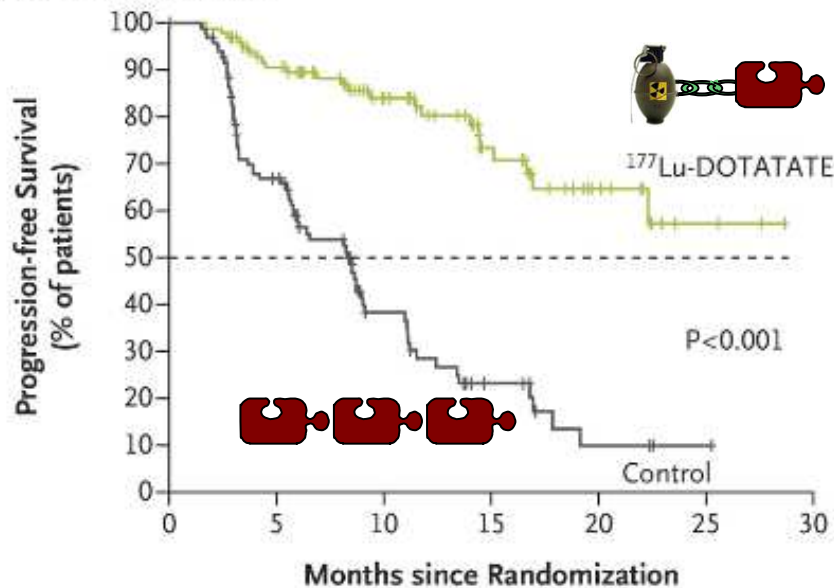


The NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

Progression-free survival

Overall survival  
(interim analysis)

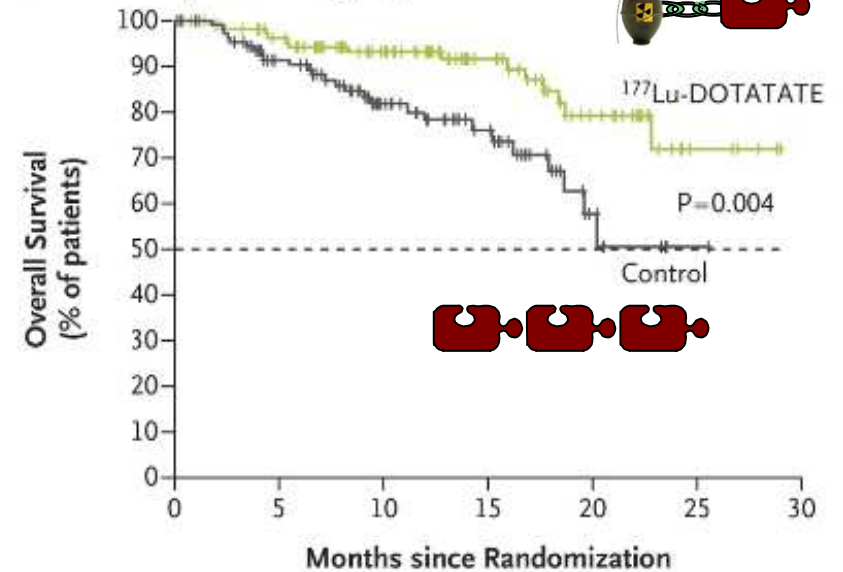
**A** Progression-free Survival



No. at Risk

<sup>177</sup> Lu-DOTATATE group	116	97	76	59	42	28	19	12	3	2	0
Control group	113	80	47	28	17	10	4	3	1	0	0

**B** Overall Survival (Interim Analysis)



No. at Risk

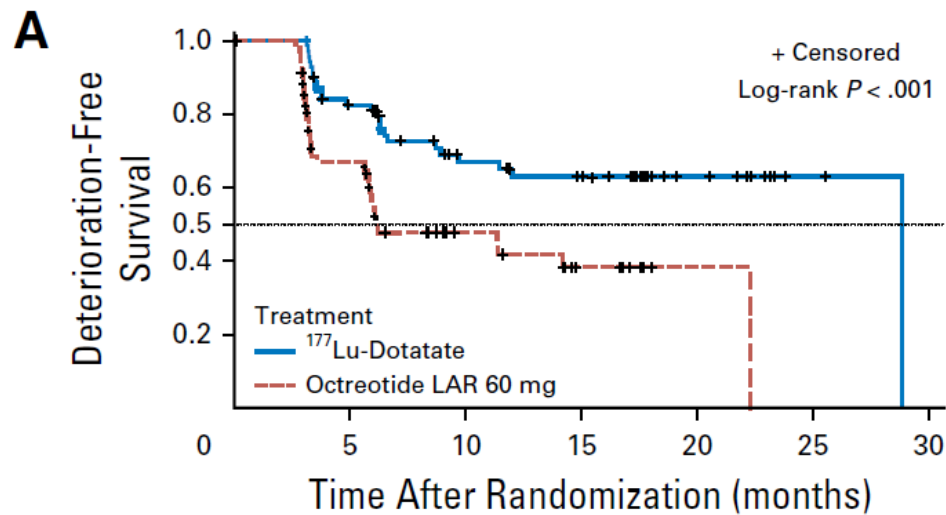
<sup>177</sup> Lu-DOTATATE group	116	108	96	79	64	47	31	21	8	3	0
Control group	113	103	83	64	41	32	17	5	1	0	0



# NETTER-1: Health-related quality of life

EORTC QLQ C-30

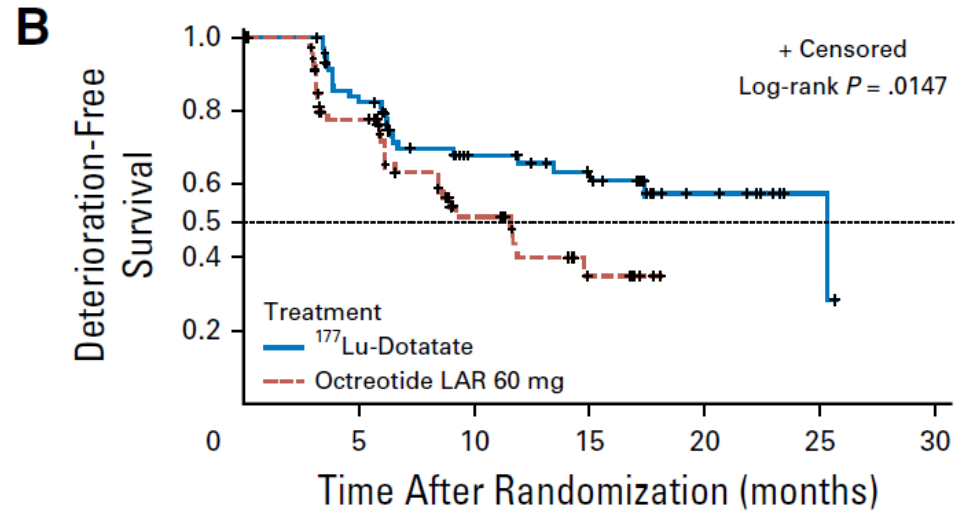
## Global Health Status



No. at risk:		0	5	10	15	20	25	30			
$^{177}\text{Lu-Dotatate}$	117	72	52	39	30	28	13	9	2	1	0
Octreotide LAR	114	54	28	19	13	7	1	1	0		

HR (95% CI): **0.41** (0.26-0.69)

## Physical Functioning



No. at risk:		0	5	10	15	20	25	30		
$^{177}\text{Lu-Dotatate}$	117	72	52	40	31	26	11	8	2	0
Octreotide LAR	114	57	33	20	11	6	0			

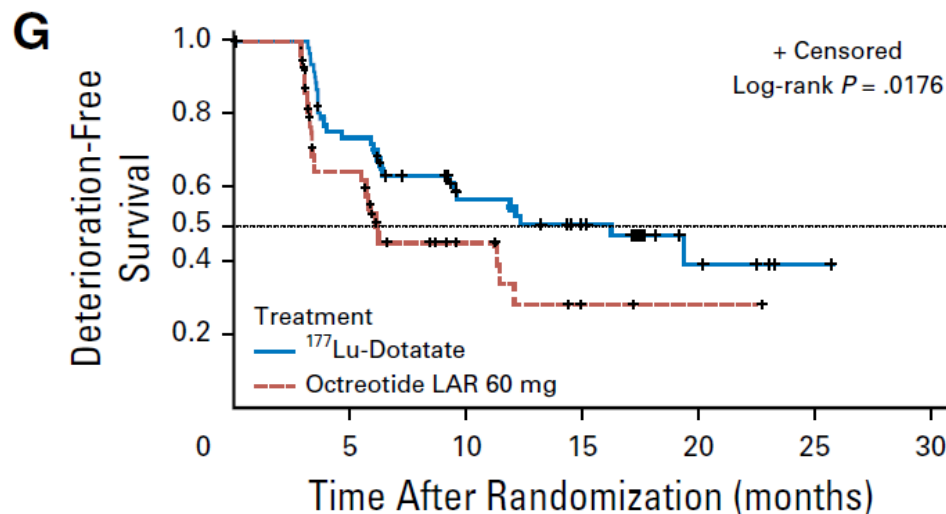
HR (95% CI): **0.52** (0.30-0.89)

# NETTER-1: Health-related quality of life

Disease-related worries

EORTC QLQ C-30

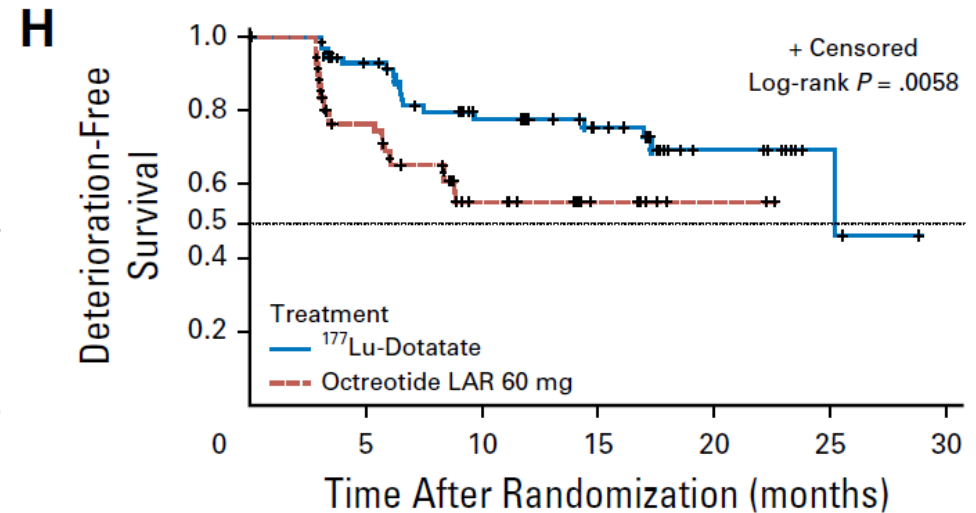
Body image



No. at risk:

<sup>177</sup> Lu-Dotatate	117	72	47	34	23	18	8	4	1	0
Octreotide LAR	114	54	24	15	6	3	1	1	0	0

HR (95% CI): **0.57** (0.36-0.91)



No. at risk:

<sup>177</sup> Lu-Dotatate	117	72	56	47	36	30	13	10	3	1	0
Octreotide LAR	114	56	36	19	14	7	2	2	0	0	0

HR (95% CI): **0.43** (0.23-0.80)

- **Global Health Scale:** HR **0.39** (95%CI: 0.24-0.63); p<0.001
- Domain scores:
  - 14/23 (61%) were significantly different, all in favour of PRRT arm
  - All **23 HR** were  $\leq$  **0.70**

**Validation of the concept that directing **beta-emitters** to **tumorcells** can prolong **overall survival** in metastatic cancer patients.**

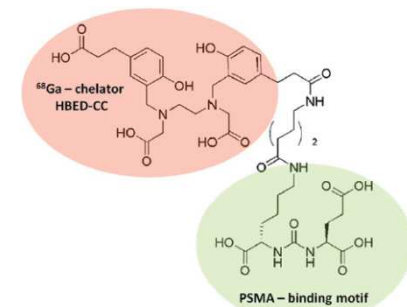
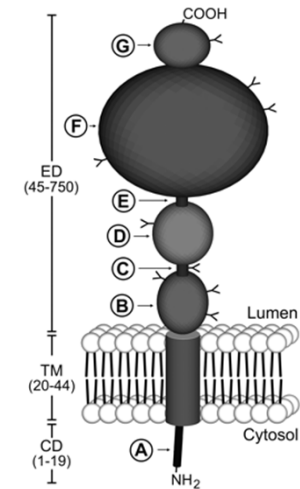


**PROSTATE SPECIFIC MEMBRANE  
ANTIGEN (PSMA) TARGETING:  
<sup>68</sup>Ga-HBED-CC (aka <sup>68</sup>Ga-PSMA)  
<sup>177</sup>Lu-PSMA**



# Prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) ( $\neq$ PSA!)

- Prostate-specific membrane antigen
  - Type II transmembrane protein with a short NH<sub>2</sub>-terminal cytoplasmic domain (CD), a hydrophobic transmembrane region (TM), and a large extracellular domain (ED).
- Excellent target for imaging
  - Expressed by nearly all prostate cancer cells
  - Enhanced expression levels in poorly differentiated, metastatic, and hormone-refractory carcinomas
  - Low levels of physiologic PSMA expression in brain, salivary glands, kidney, spleen, liver, and small intestine
- Different types of ligands
  - Urea-based inhibitors of PSMA (<sup>68</sup>Ga-HBED-CC)
  - <sup>111</sup>In-ProstaScint<sup>®</sup> (capromab pendetide)
  - <sup>99m</sup>Tc-Trofolostat<sup>®</sup> (MIP-1404)



Vallabhajosula et al., JNM 2014

Rieter et al., Clin Nucl Med 2011

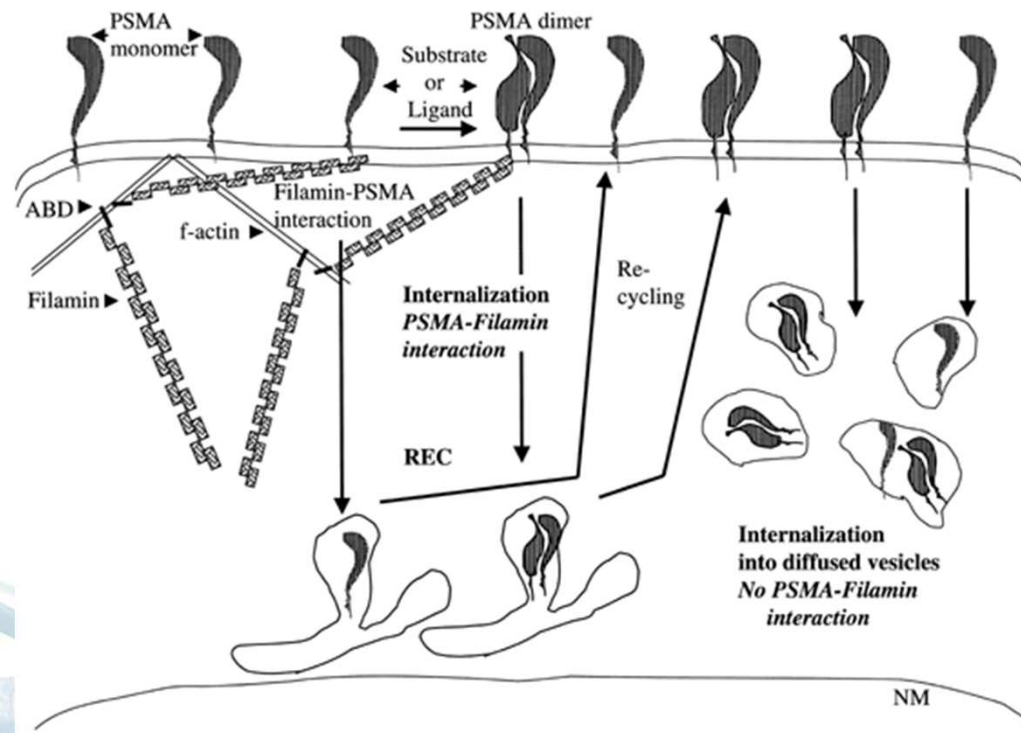
Eder et al., Bioconjug Chem 2012

Rajasekaran et al., Amer Journal Phys 2005

Murphy et al., Cancer 1998

Silver et al., Clin Cancer Res 1997

# PSMA Upregulation in prostate cancer

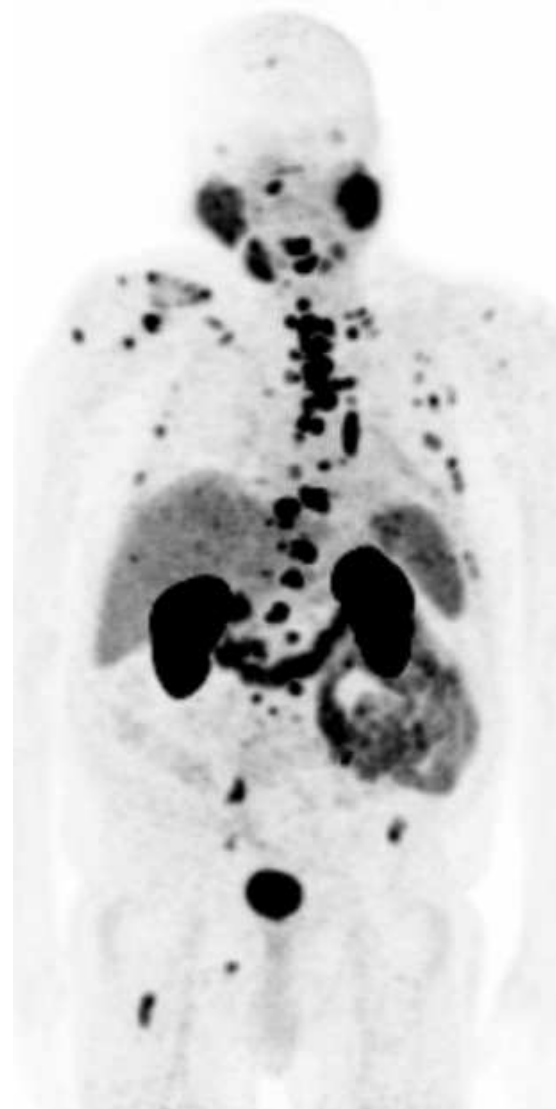


Ghosh and Heston, *Journal of Cellular Biochemistry*

Volume 91, Issue 3, pages 528-539, 7 OCT 2003 DOI: 10.1002/jcb.10661

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jcb.10661/full#fig4>

# PSMA: Theranostic target

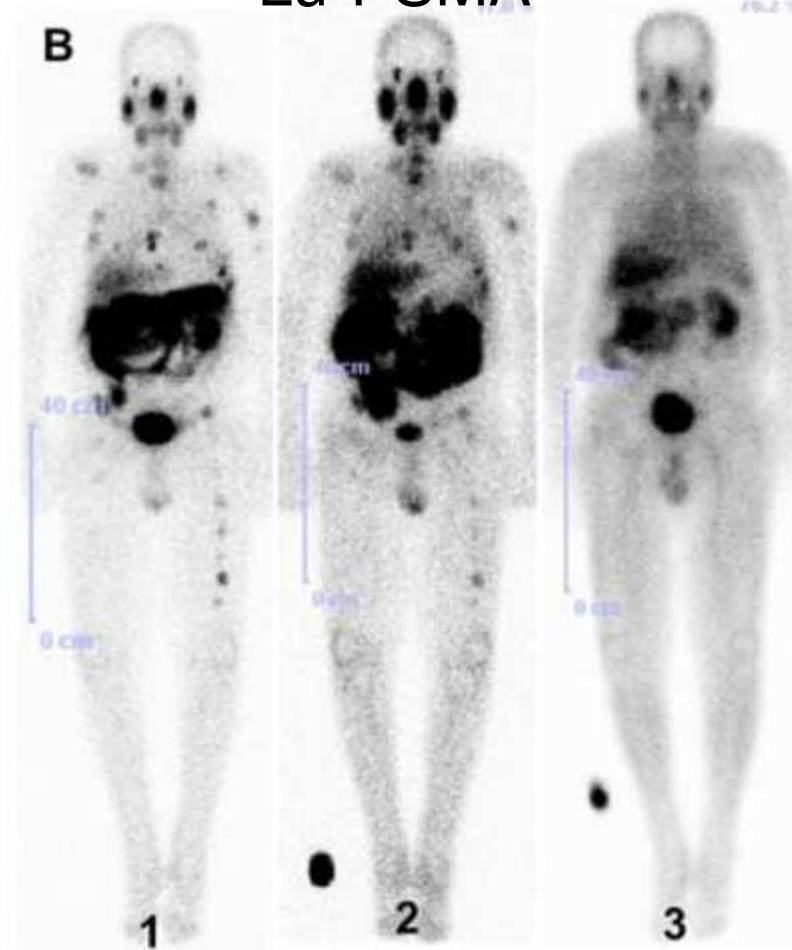


# PSMA: theranostic target (<sup>177</sup>Lu-PSMA)

PSMA PET 1



<sup>177</sup>Lu-PSMA



PSMA PET 2

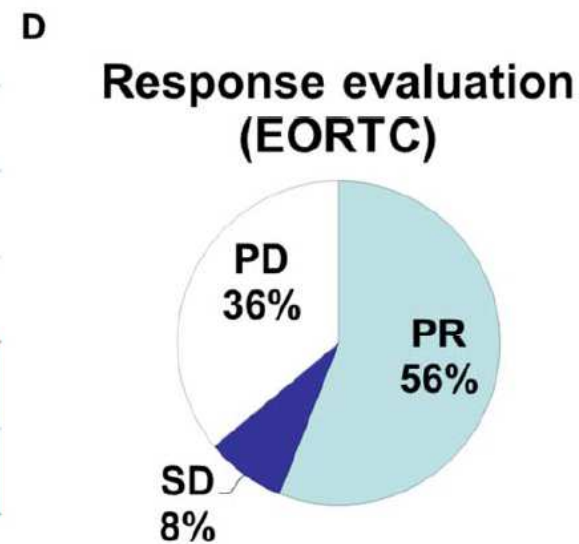
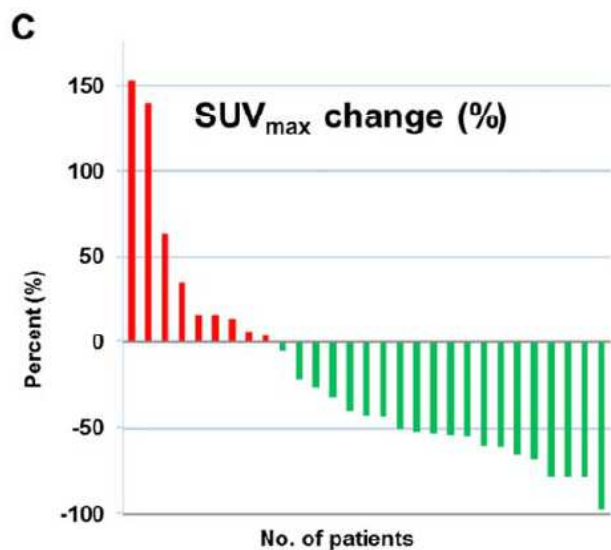
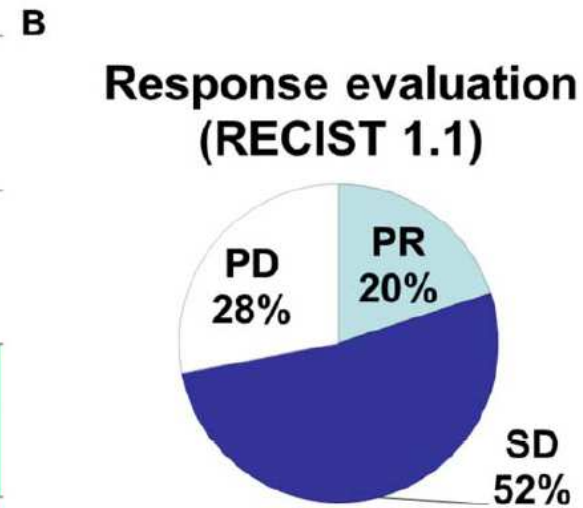
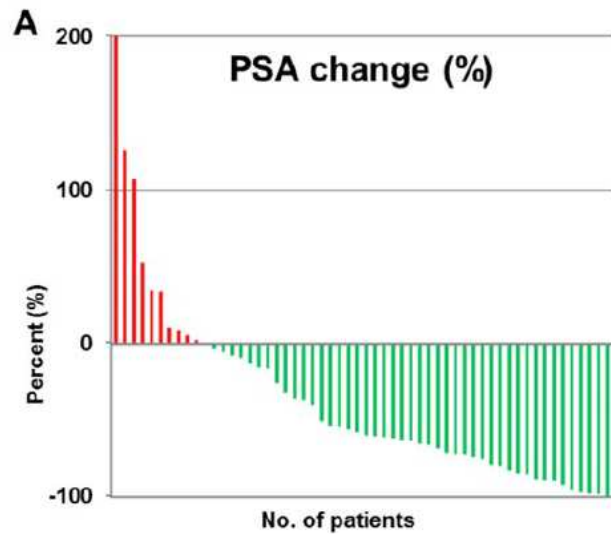


<sup>177</sup>Lu-PSMA 1

<sup>177</sup>Lu-PSMA 3



# Response evaluation



# SNMMI 2015 Image of the year

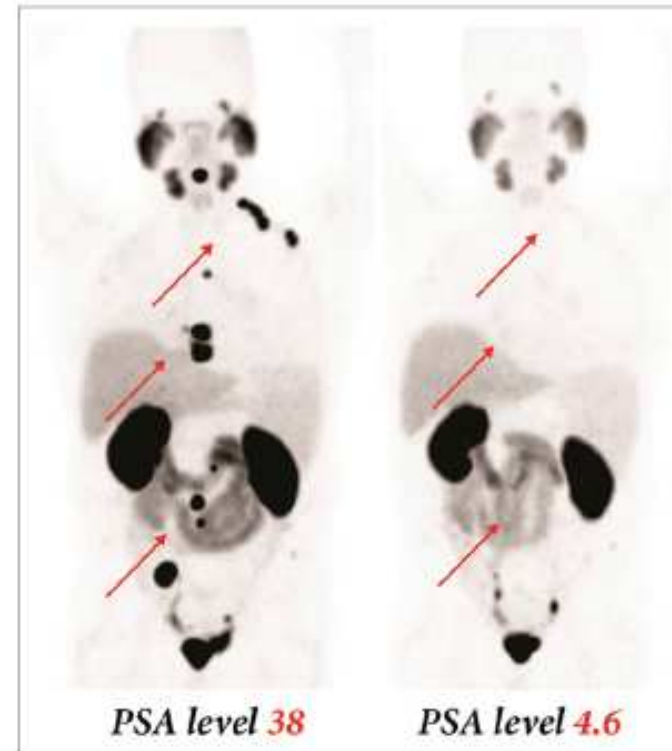
## SNMMI 2015 Image of the Year

**A**t the final session of the SNMMI Annual Meeting on June 8, society leaders announced the award of the 2015 Image of the Year to a group working under Matthias Eder, PhD, from the German Cancer Research Center (Heidelberg, Germany) for images acquired with an agent that can be labeled with  $^{68}\text{Ga}$  for imaging for treatment stratification and with  $^{177}\text{Lu}$  for therapy in prostate cancer. PSMA-617 is a prostate-specific membrane antigen inhibitor that targets prostate cancer cell surfaces at both local and metastatic sites. Their podium presentation was titled “PSMA-617—a novel theranostic PSMA inhibitor for both diagnosis and endoradiotherapy of prostate cancer.”

“We feel very honored to receive this prestigious award as it is the result of the excellent work of many people,” said Eder. “I would like to thank all the team members who contributed to this work.” This team included the first author of the presentation, Martina Benesova, PhD.

The same group, in partnership with researchers at Heidelberg University Hospital under Uwe Haberkorn, MD, have already used  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -PSMA-617 to treat patients with advanced prostate cancer. After treatment, >50% of patients experienced sharp drops in prostate-specific antigen (PSA) levels. In addition, PET/CT imaging confirmed that metastases had shrunk and were no longer detectable. “The results were so promising that we plan to go ahead with a clinical trial as soon as possible to examine whether PSMA-617 is superior to other therapy methods,” said Haberkorn in a press release from the researchers’ institutions.

“Prostate cancer remains one of the main causes of cancer-related death among men worldwide,” said Peter Herscovitch, 2014–2015 SNMMI president. “This new mo-



Left: Baseline image of patient with widely metastasized prostate cancer before  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -PSMA-617 treatment (PSA = 38). Right: After treatment (PSA = 4.6).

lecular imaging technology not only detects metastatic prostate cancer, but also can treat metastases noninvasively. It is the combined capability of diagnosis and therapy that makes this molecular theranostic so powerful.”

# Great expectations....

Curr Radiopharm. 2016;9(1):6-7.

**Lutetium-177 Labeled Therapeutics:  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -PSMA is Set to Redefine Prostate Cancer Treatment.**

Pillai AM, Knapp FF Jr<sup>1</sup>.

“Lutetium-177 Labeled Therapeutics:  
 $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -PSMA is Set to Redefine  
Prostate Cancer Treatment”

Pillai AM & Knapp FF Jr

*Current radiopharmaceuticals* 2016;9(1):6-7



# $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -PSMA therapy

## THE LANCET Oncology

Volume 19, Issue 6, June 2018, Pages 825-833



### Articles

## $[^{177}\text{Lu}]$ -PSMA-617 radionuclide treatment in patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (LuPSMA trial): a single-centre, single-arm, phase 2 study

Prof Michael S Hofman MBBS <sup>a, e, †</sup> ✉, John Violet MBBS <sup>b, †</sup>, Prof Rodney J Hicks MD <sup>a, e</sup>, Justin Ferdinandus <sup>a</sup>, Sue Ping Thang MBChB <sup>a</sup>, Tim Akhurst MBBS <sup>a, e</sup>, Amir Iravani MD <sup>a</sup>, Grace Kong MBBS <sup>a</sup>, Aravind Ravi Kumar MBBS <sup>a</sup>, Declan G Murphy MB BCh <sup>c, e</sup>, Peter Eu BSc <sup>a</sup>, Price Jackson PhD <sup>a</sup>, Mark Scalzo <sup>a</sup>, Scott G Williams MBBS <sup>b</sup>, Shahneen Sandhu MBBS <sup>d, e</sup>

- 30 patients with progressive mCRPC
- Up to 4 cycles of  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -PSMA therapy (mean activity 7,5 GBq)

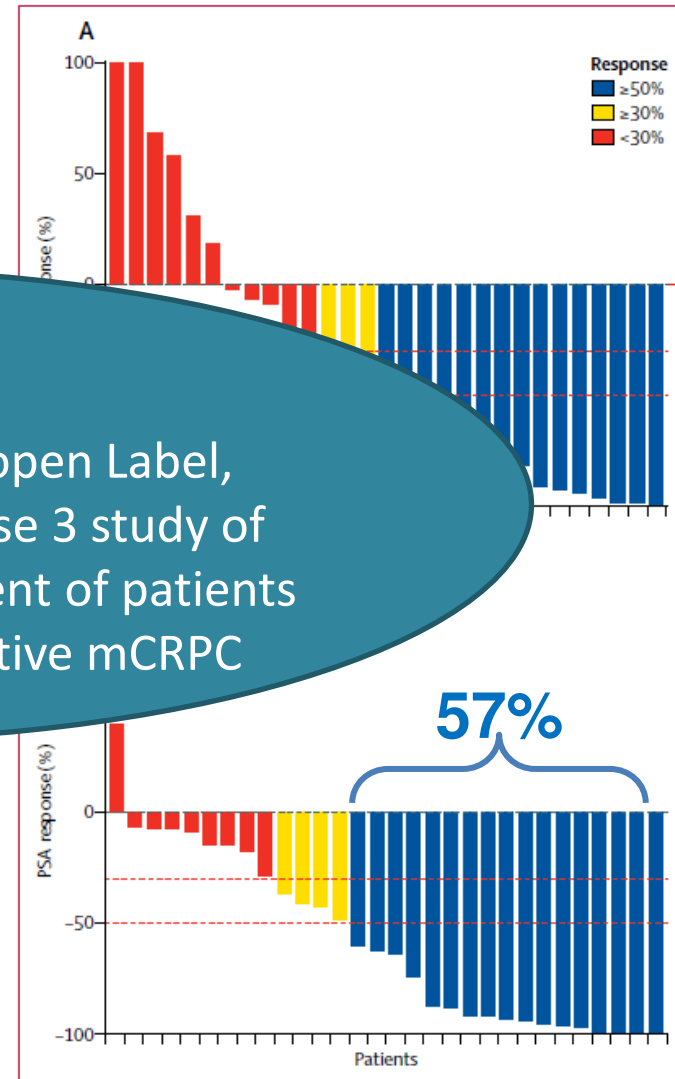
# $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -PSMA therapy

## Main results

- Low toxic effects
- PSA decline of patients
- Overall PSA response in patients with progressive disease (82%)
- Reduction of pain

### VISION trial

international, prospective, open Label, multicenter, randomized phase 3 study of  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -PSMA-617 in the treatment of patients with progressive PSMA-positive mCRPC



(A) PSA response after 12 weeks and  
(B) Best PSA response from baseline

# TheraP Trial: First randomised evidence about $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -PSMA efficacy

## Aim: to determine the activity and safety of Lu-PSMA vs cabazitaxel

### KEY ELIGIBILITY

- mCRPC post docetaxel suitable for cabazitaxel
- Progressive disease with rising PSA and PSA  $\geq$  20 ng/mL
- Adequate renal, haematologic and liver function
- ECOG performance status 0-2



### $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -PSMA + $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET/CT

- PSMA SUVmax  $>$  20 at any site
- Measurable sites SUVmax  $>$  10
- No FDG positive/PSMA negative sites of disease
- Centrally reviewed



### $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -PSMA-617

8.5 GBq IV q6 weekly  
 $\downarrow$  0.5GBq each cycle  
Up to 6 cycles

### SPECT/CT @ 24 hours

suspend Rx if exceptional response; recommence upon progression

200 men 1:1 randomisation  
11 sites in Australia

Stratified by:

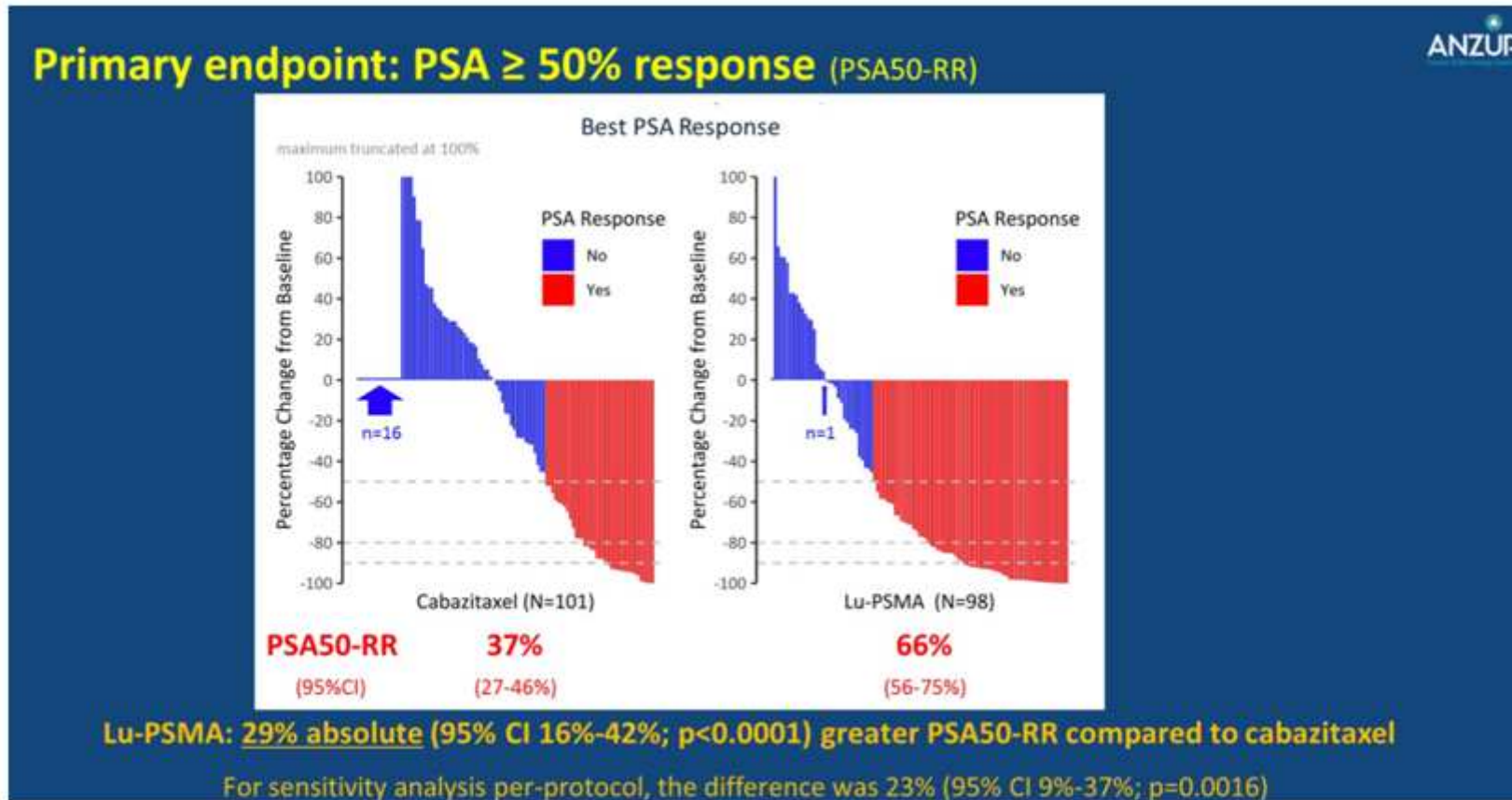
- Disease burden ( $>$ 20 sites vs  $\leq$  20 sites)
- Prior enzalutamide or abiraterone
- Study site

### CABAZITAXEL

20mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV q3 weekly,  
Up to 10 cycles

80% power to detect a true absolute difference of 20% in the PSA response rate (from 40% to 60%), with a 2-sided type 1 error of 5% and allowance of 3% for missing data.

# TheraP Trial: First randomised evidence about $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -PSMA efficacy

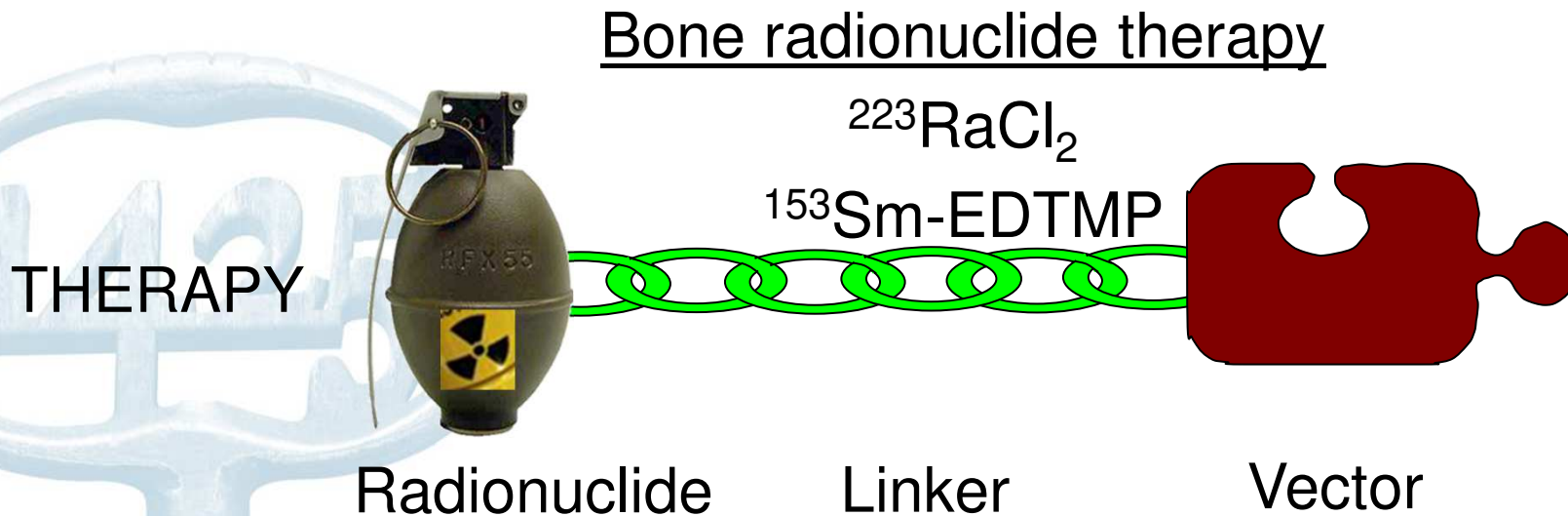
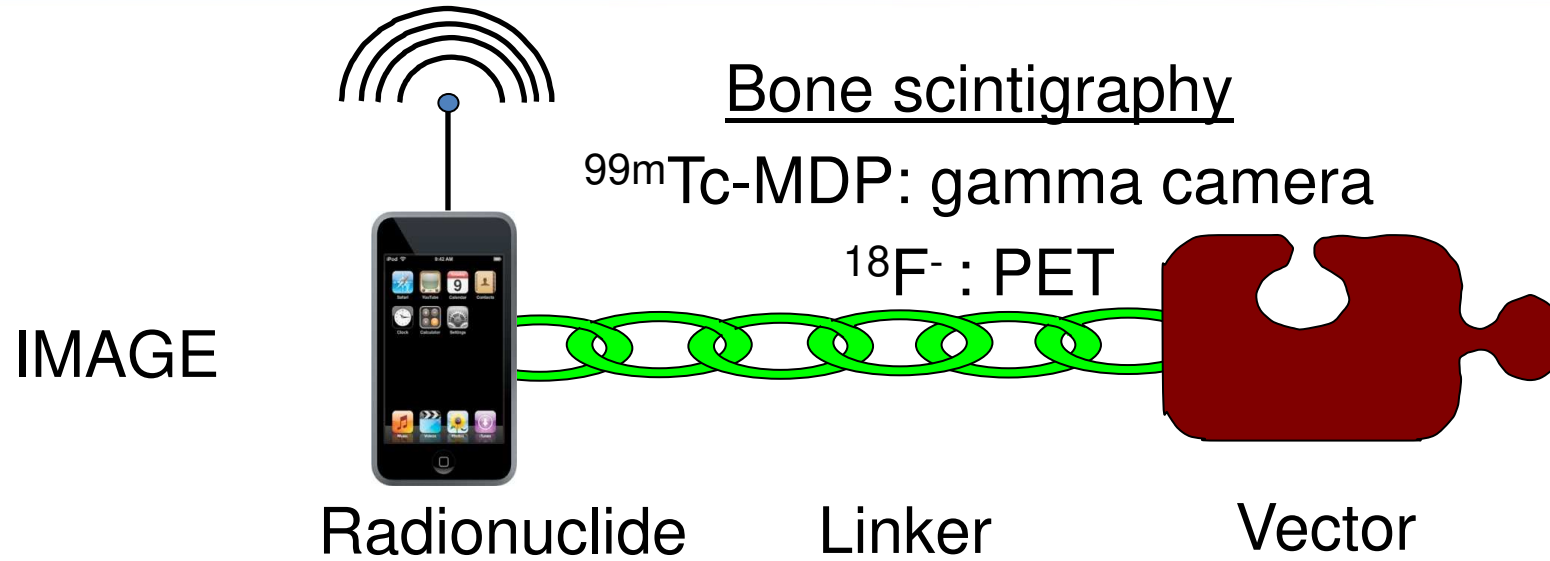


\* PFS<sub>PSA</sub> hazard ratio **0.69** (95%CI 0.50-0.95;  $p = 0.02$ ).

\* Less severe AE (CTCAE 3-4) in RNT arm: **35%** vs. 54%.

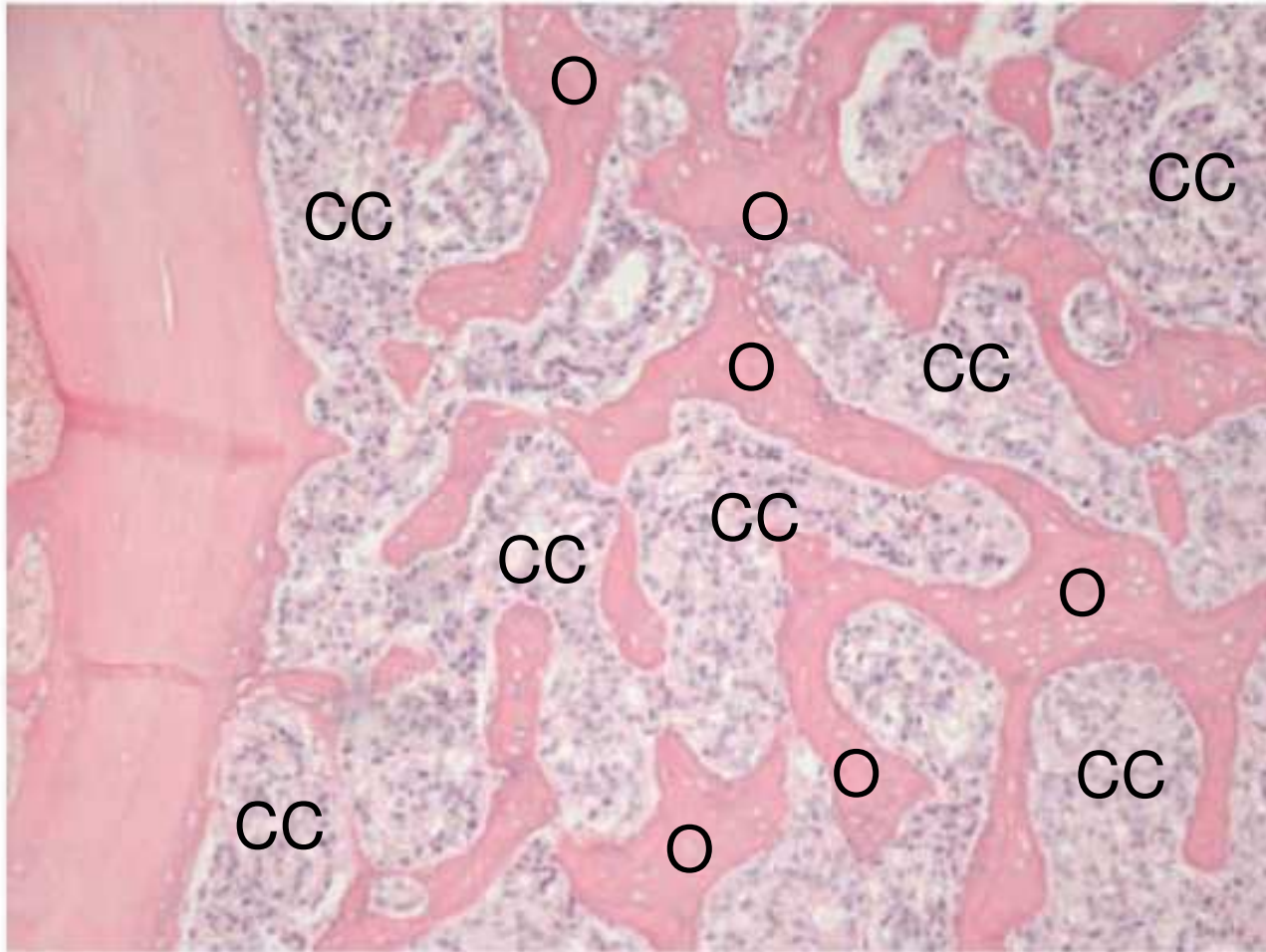
ASCO 2020

# Bone turnover: theranostic duo's





# Theranostic target Osteoid & hydroxyapatite

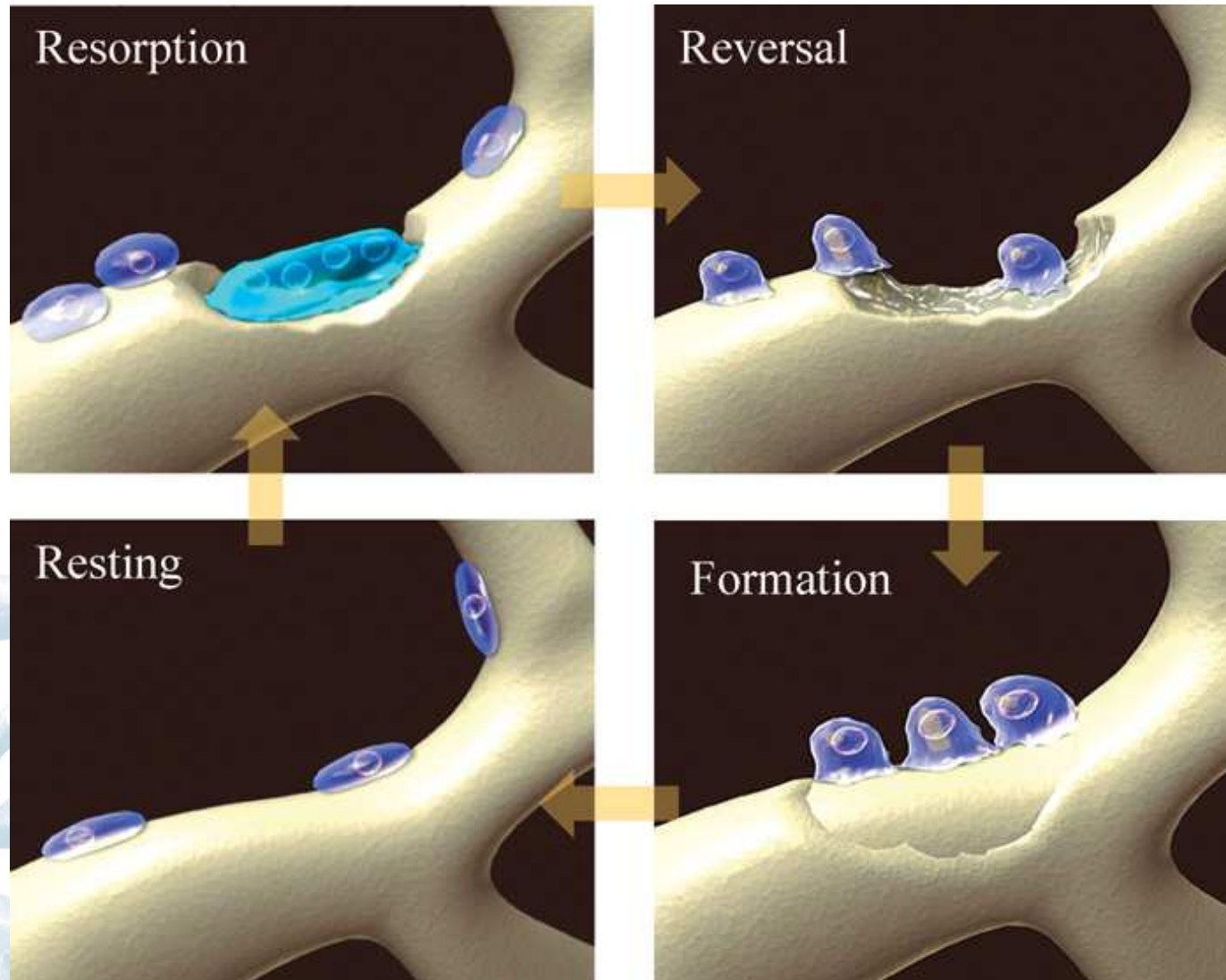


O: osteoid

CC: Cancer cells



# Bone remodeling cycle



*“Ceci n’est pas un squelette”*



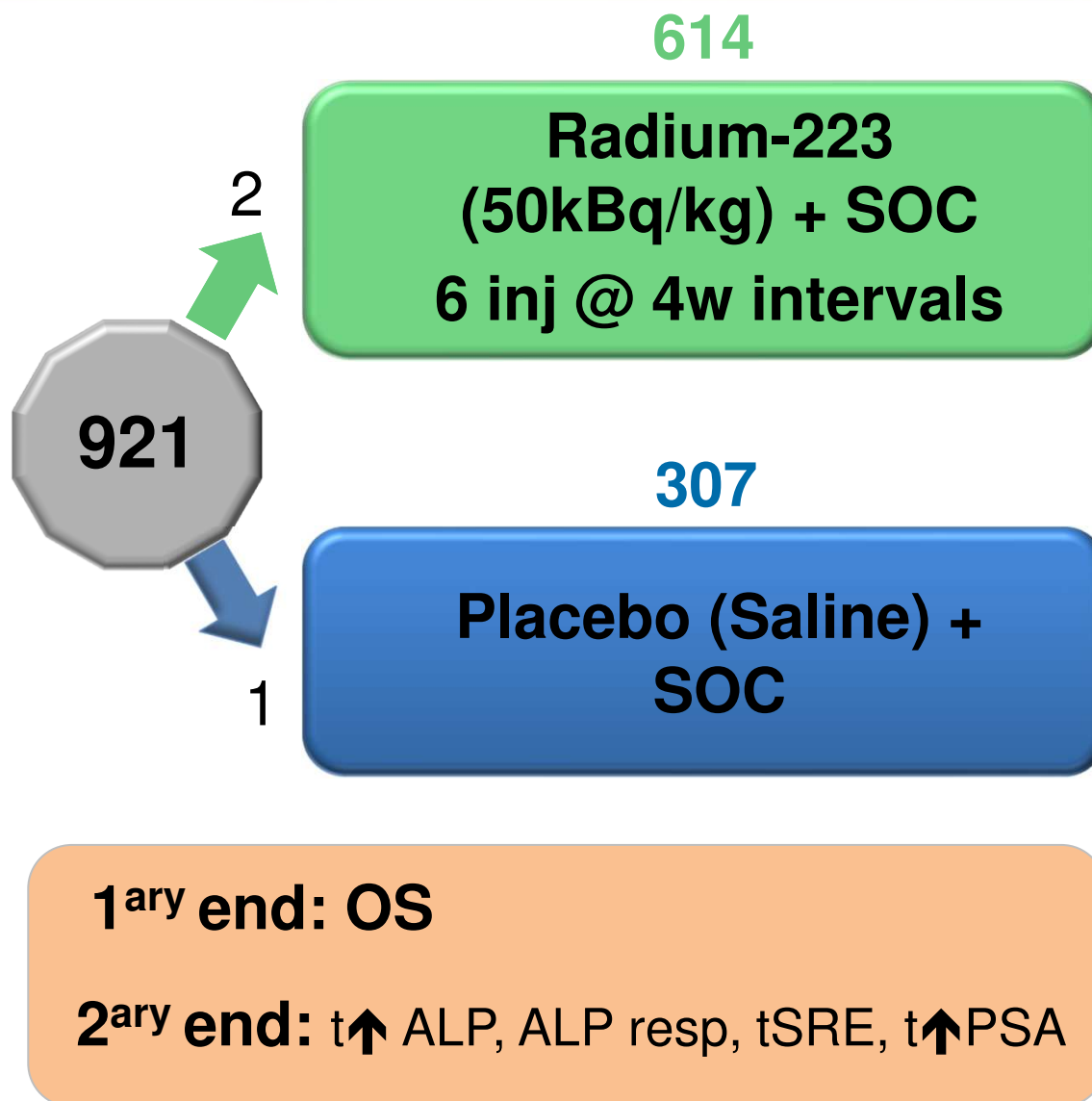
# ALSYMPCA: Trial Design

## CRPC

- $\geq 2$  bone metastases
- No known visceral metastases
- Post-docetaxel, unfit for docetaxel, or refused docetaxel

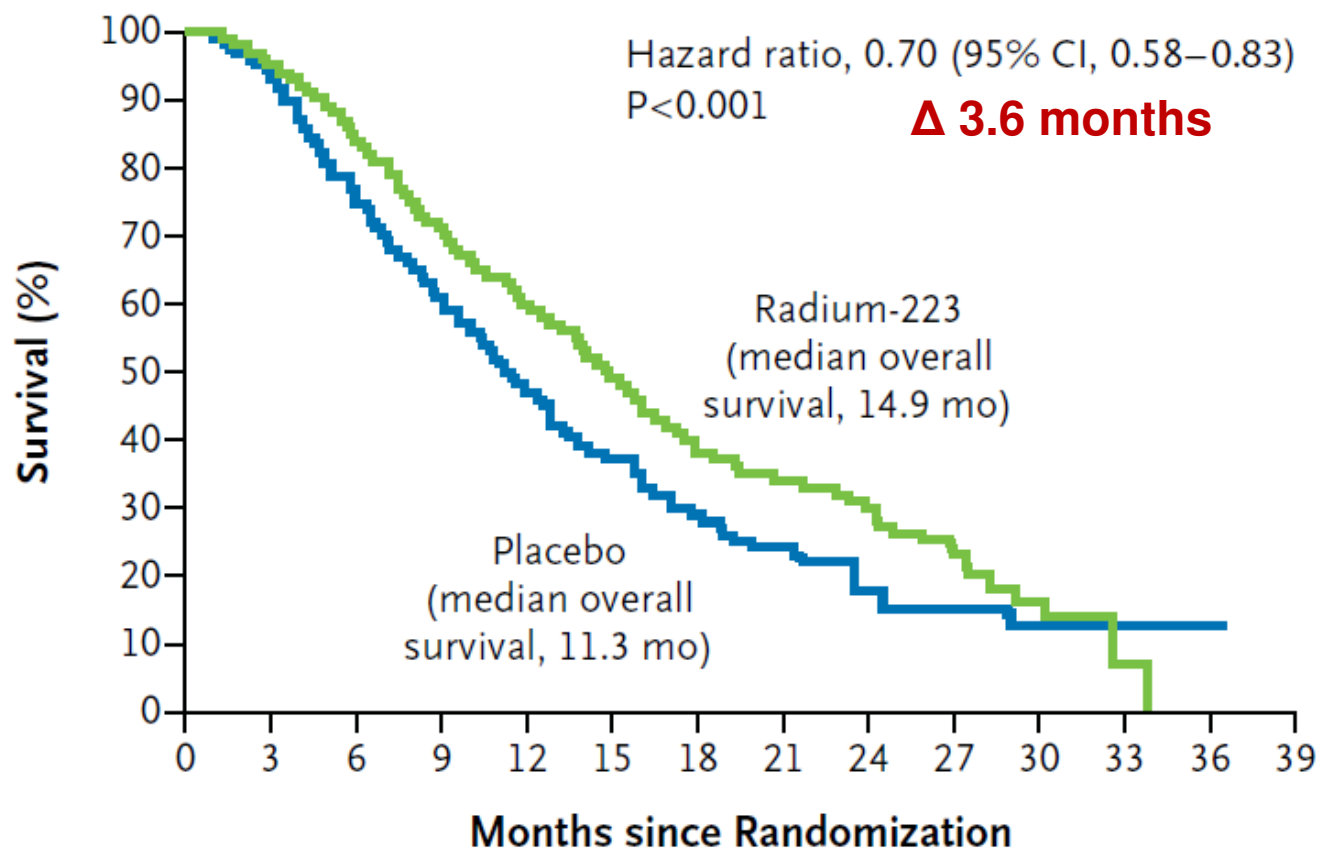
## Stratification

- Total ALP:
  - $<220$  U/L
  - $\geq 220$  U/L
- Bisphosphonate use
- Prior docetaxel



# Alsympca – Overall Survival (update)

## A Overall Survival

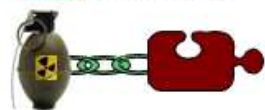


### No. at Risk

Radium-223	614	578	504	369	274	178	105	60	41	18	7	1	0	0
Placebo	307	288	228	157	103	67	39	24	14	7	4	2	1	0

# Visual summary

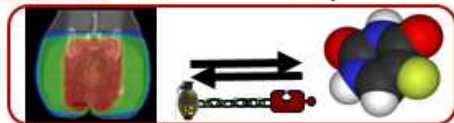
**RNT:** toediening van radiofarmaca met beta- of alfa-emitters



De Oncologische Behandelingsdriehoek

Radionuclide Therapie (RNT)

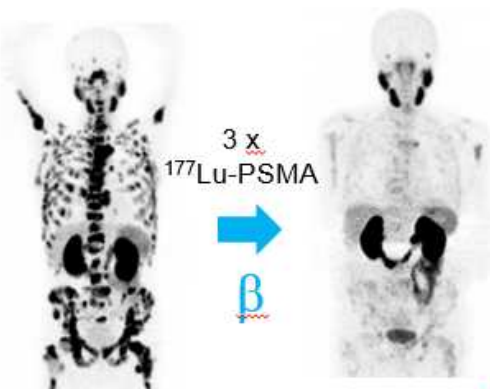
Systemische bestraling



Externe Radiotherapie (p+, hv, ...)  
Brachytherapie

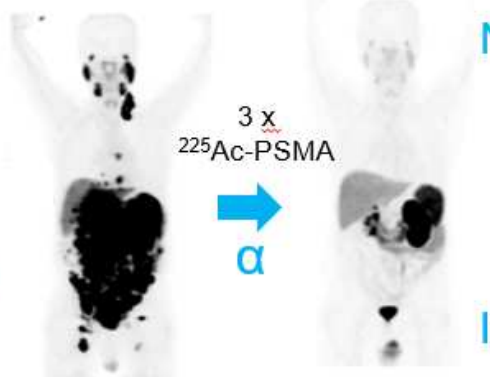
Systemische Therapie (chemo-, hormono-, targeted-, immuno-, ...)

Heelkunde



PSA: 1160

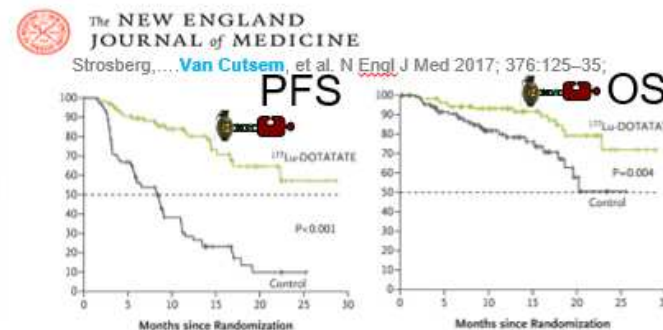
PSA: 9



PSA: 419

PSA < 0.1

“Evidence-based”



Nieuwe Radionucliden –  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , Auger

Nieuwe doelwitten & vectormoleculen

PSMA	CCK2	CD 30	Integrin
HER-2	GRPR	CD 37	$\alpha_V\beta_3$
FAPI	SSTR – antag	CD138	CEA, ...

Nieuwe Tumortypes

Prostaat, Borst, Long, Pancreas, Maag, Lymfoom, Colon, ...

Investerings “Big Pharma/Device”

Novartis, Ipsen, Bayer, Boston Scientific, Terumo, ...

# Take Home messages

## Clinical potential of theranostics

- Theranostics allow diagnostic **imaging** of relevant molecular targets to make decision on target-directed **treatments**
- Radionuclide theranostic duo's are currently used **clinical practice**
- **Netter-1** trial has validated theranostic targeting of beta-emitters to metastatic tumor cells, with drastic effects on PFS and OS – **PARADIGM** trial
- **$^{177}\text{Lu}$ -PSMA** will be the next major RNT applications.
- **New** theranostic combinations for novel targets are eagerly being developed - huge **unlocked potential**.

# In memoriam: Rose-Marie Mertens

10-03-1945

17-10-2020

Rust in vrede

“Ceux qui vivent d’amour  
vivent d’éternité”

