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# Controversy: Should Molecular Imaging Fully Replace Conventional Imaging? (staging of intermediate and high-risk prostate cancer)

*Against*


Evis Sala, MD, PhD, FRCR, FRCP

# EANM Focus Meeting Disclosure Statement (COI)



Type of affiliation / financial interest	Name of commercial company
Receipt of grants/research supports:	GE Healthcare
Receipt of honoraria or consultation fees:	GE Healthcare
Participation in a company sponsored speaker's bureau:	GE Healthcare, Canon
Co-founder and stock shareholder:	Lucida Medical

# NGI for unfavorable intermediate and high-risk - limitations

 **Multiple NGI tracers:** varying sensitivity even within the PSMA family (polymetastatic invisible disease concept)

**False +ve lesions:** non-malignant conditions, higher for PSMA-1007 tracer

**False -ve disease:** 5-10% of patients

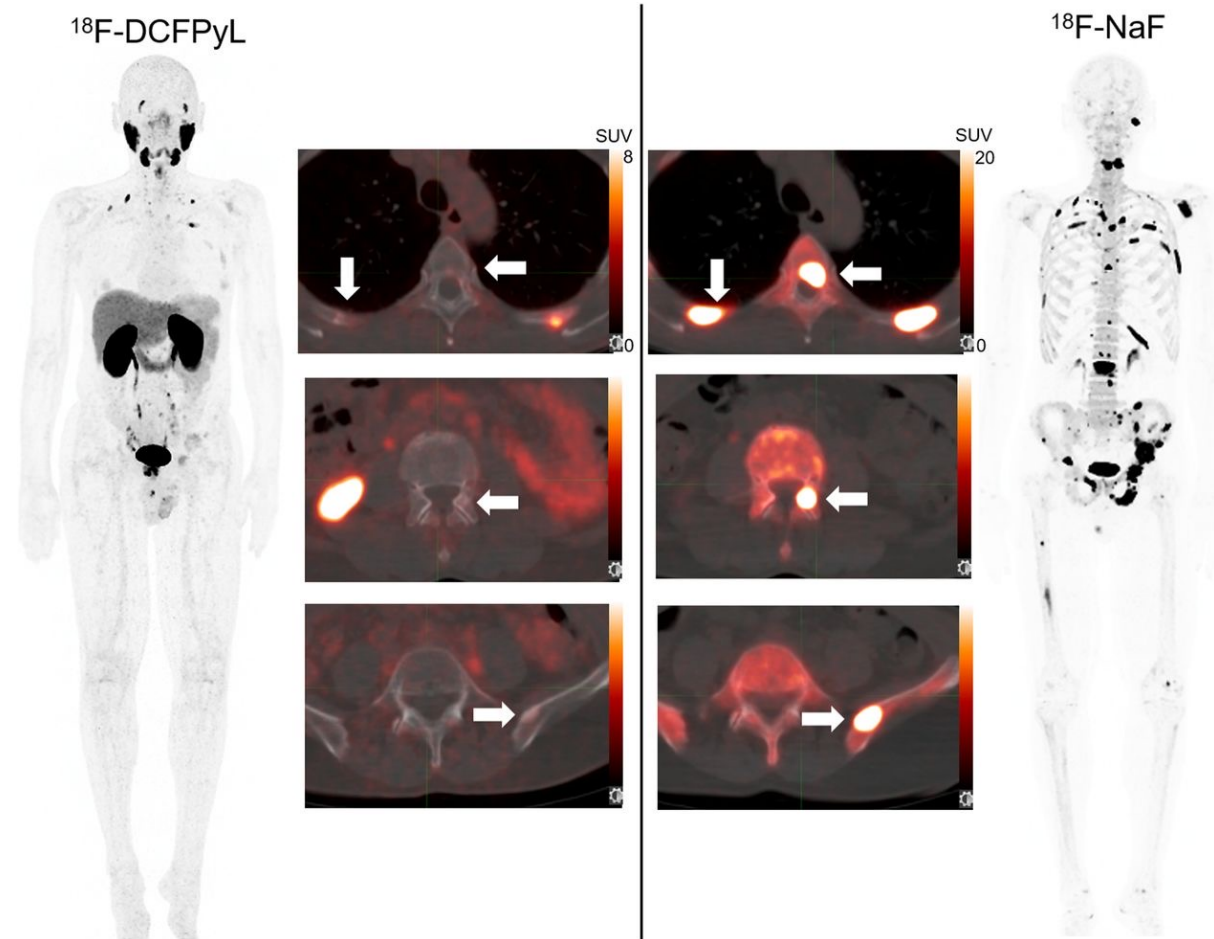
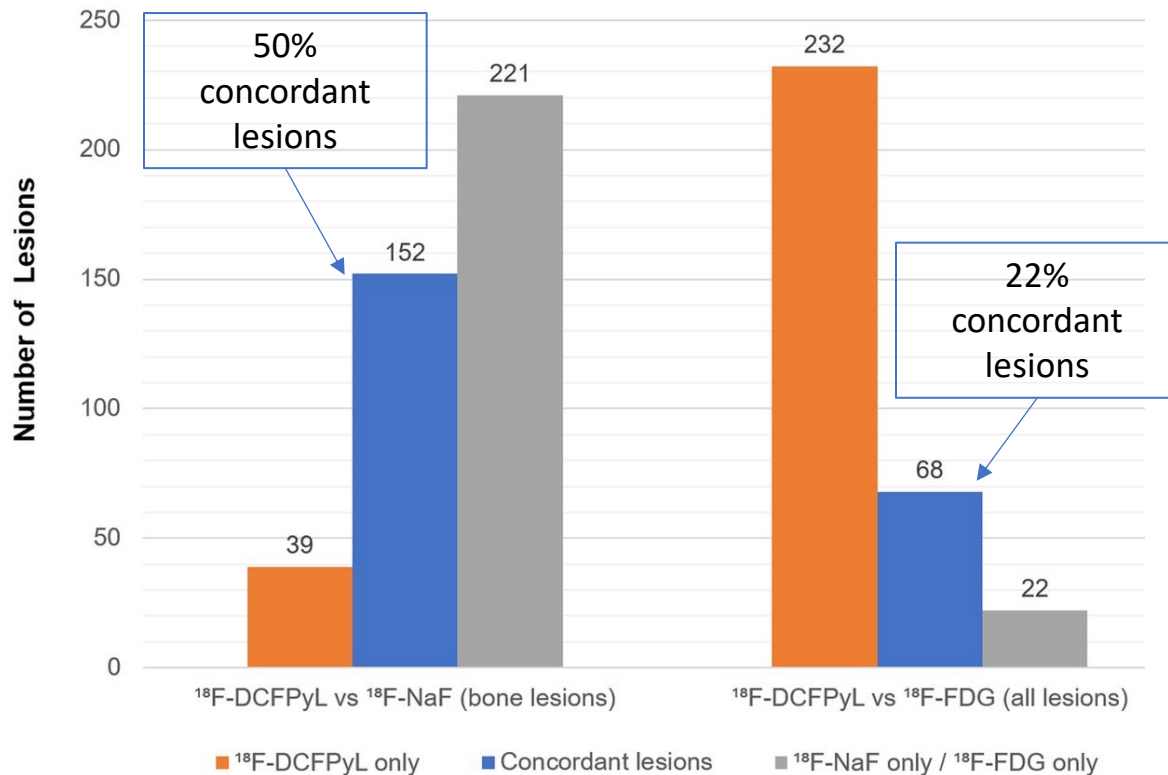
**Biases:** Will-Rogers effect, stage migration, lead-time and length time bias

**Outcome impacts:** Do management impacts 'really' change net patient outcomes?

# Changing metastasis numbers by PET tracer type

Highly unlikely that a single tracer will all lesions given the heterogenous nature of metastatic prostate cancer

Multiple phenotypes of metastases exist even in the same person, especially in mCRPC



Fourquet A, et al. A Comparison of  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL,  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF, and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET/CT in a Prospective Cohort of Men with Metastatic Prostate Cancer. *J Nucl Med.* 2022 May;63(5):735-741.

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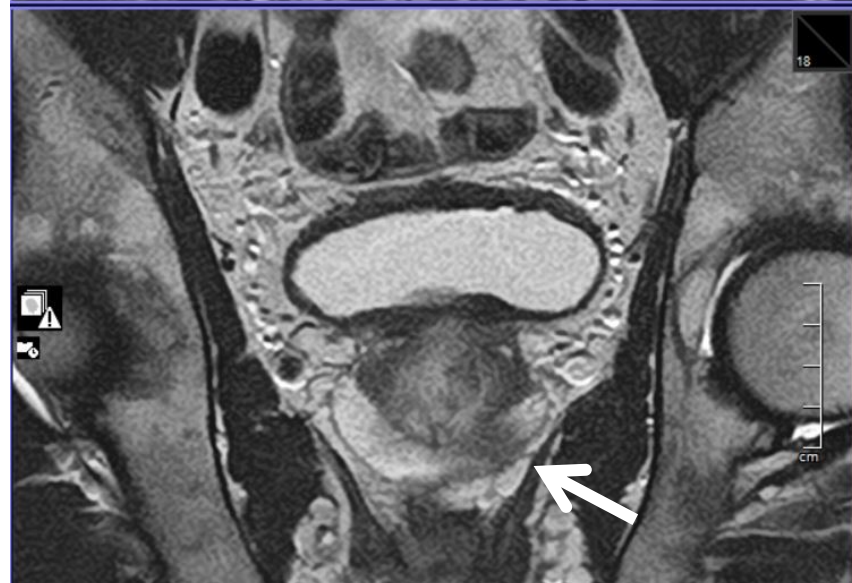
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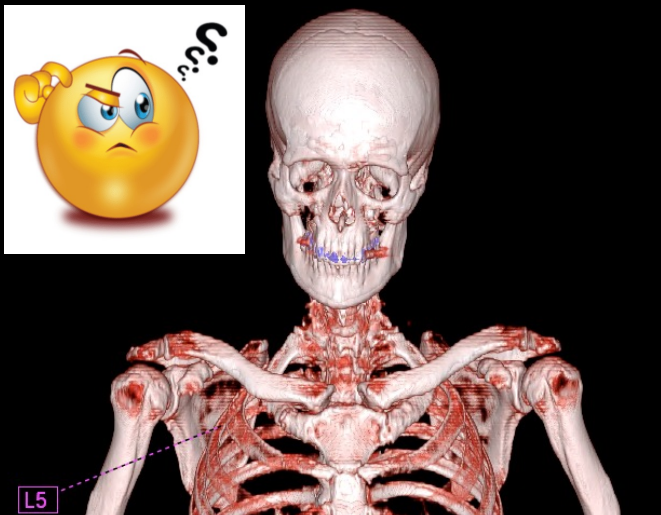
BS - Anterior



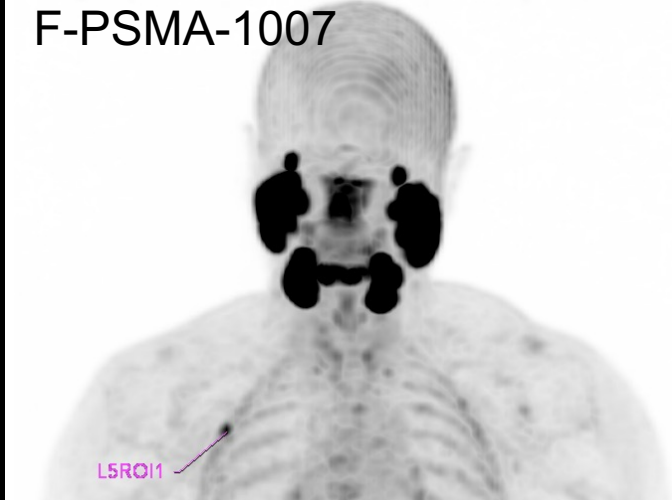
BS - Posterior



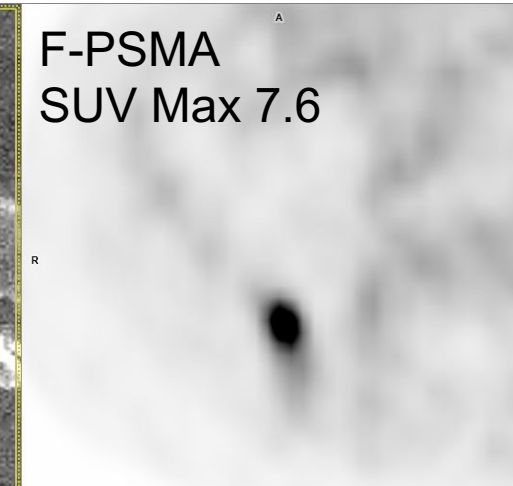
72M PSA 7.2 ng/mL. GS 4+3 (GG3) adenocarcinoma. T3A – microscopic. Bone scan - negative.



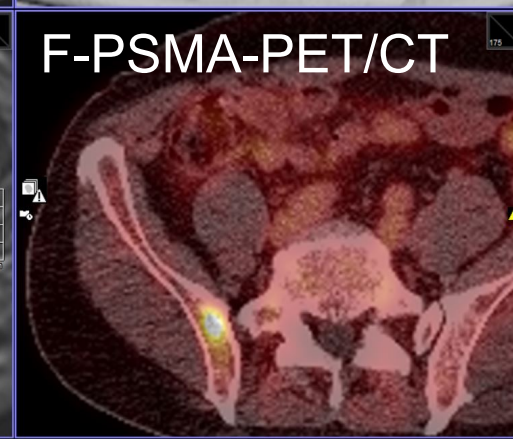
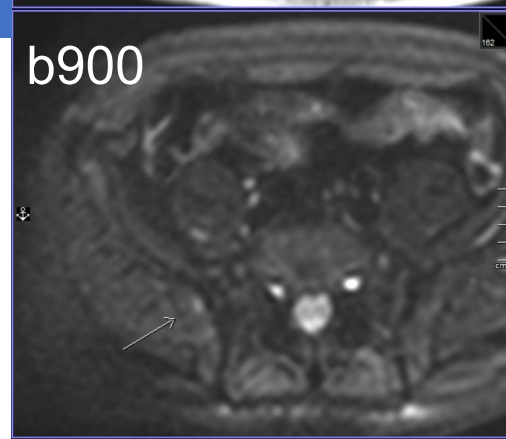
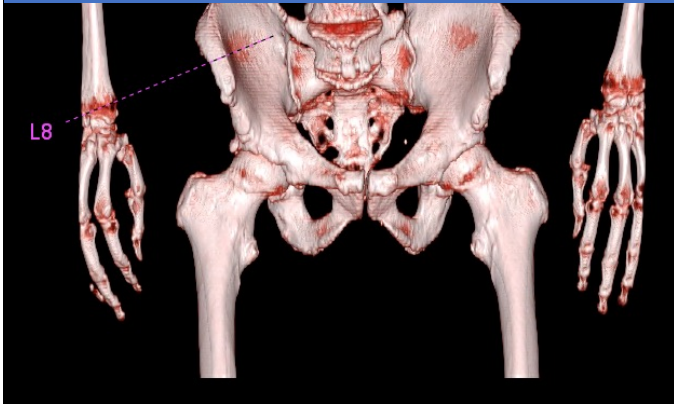
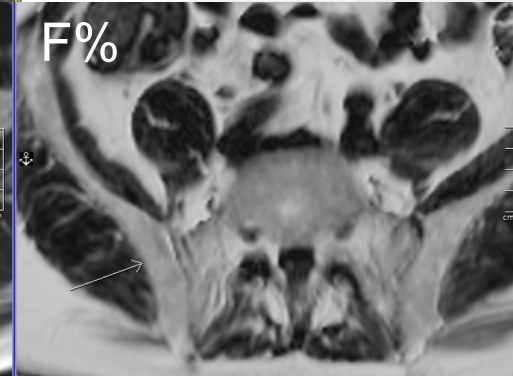
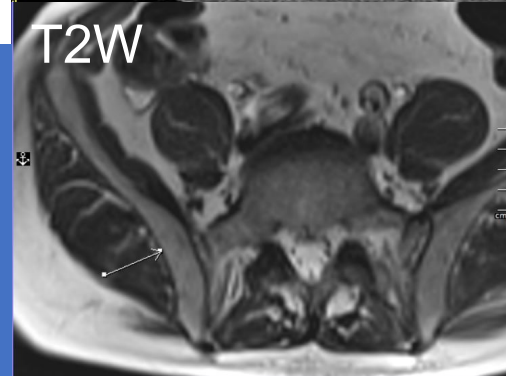
F-PSMA-1007



F-PSMA  
SUV Max 7.6

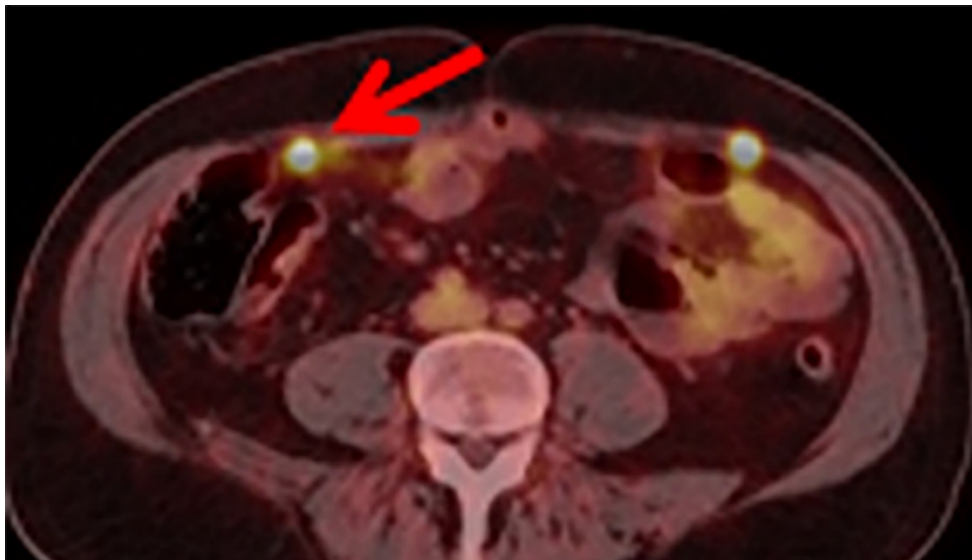


Multimodality or biopsy confirmation & MDT review are needed before Rx decisions



72M PSA 7.2 ng/mL. GS 4+3 (GG3) adenocarcinoma. T3A – microscopic. Bone scan - negative.

# 18F-DCFPyL PSMA-PET/CT for Initially Diagnosed and Biochemically Recurrent Prostate Cancer: Prospective Trial with Pathologic Confirmation



**One of out of 4 lesions is not cancer in a biopsy proven study!**

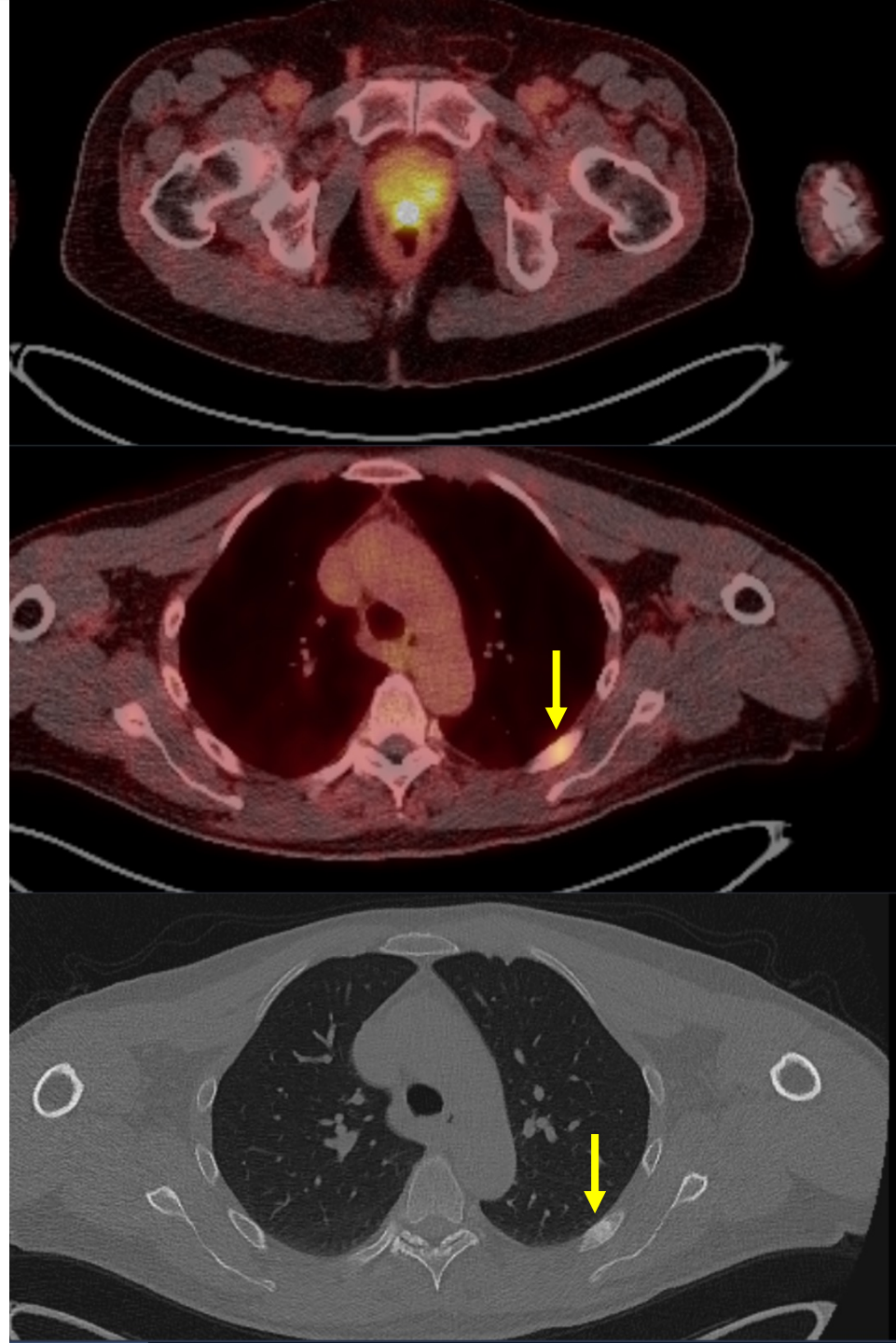
Fused DCFPyL PET/CT scan in a 72-year-old man shows biopsy-proven subcentimeter right anterior abdominal wall metastasis (arrow).

- In a prospective trial of DCFPyL in 184 patients with initially diagnosed and recurrent prostate cancer, 50 of 60 (83%) biopsied DCFPyL-avid lesions were malignant at biopsy.
- The biopsy-proven PPV of DCFPyL PSMA-PET/CT for distant metastases in newly diagnosed high-risk prostate cancer was 74% and that for sites of recurrence in men with biochemical recurrence was 89%.
- Solitary DCFPyL avidity in the ribs and pelvis locations should not be presumed as malignant; biopsy may be needed prior to therapy decisions.
- (Multimodality confirmation is an alternative)





F-PSMA  
29/06/2022



66M PSA 9.76 ng/mL.  
GS 4+5, TB3.

Rx Docetaxel; Pelvic RT; ADT x 2 years

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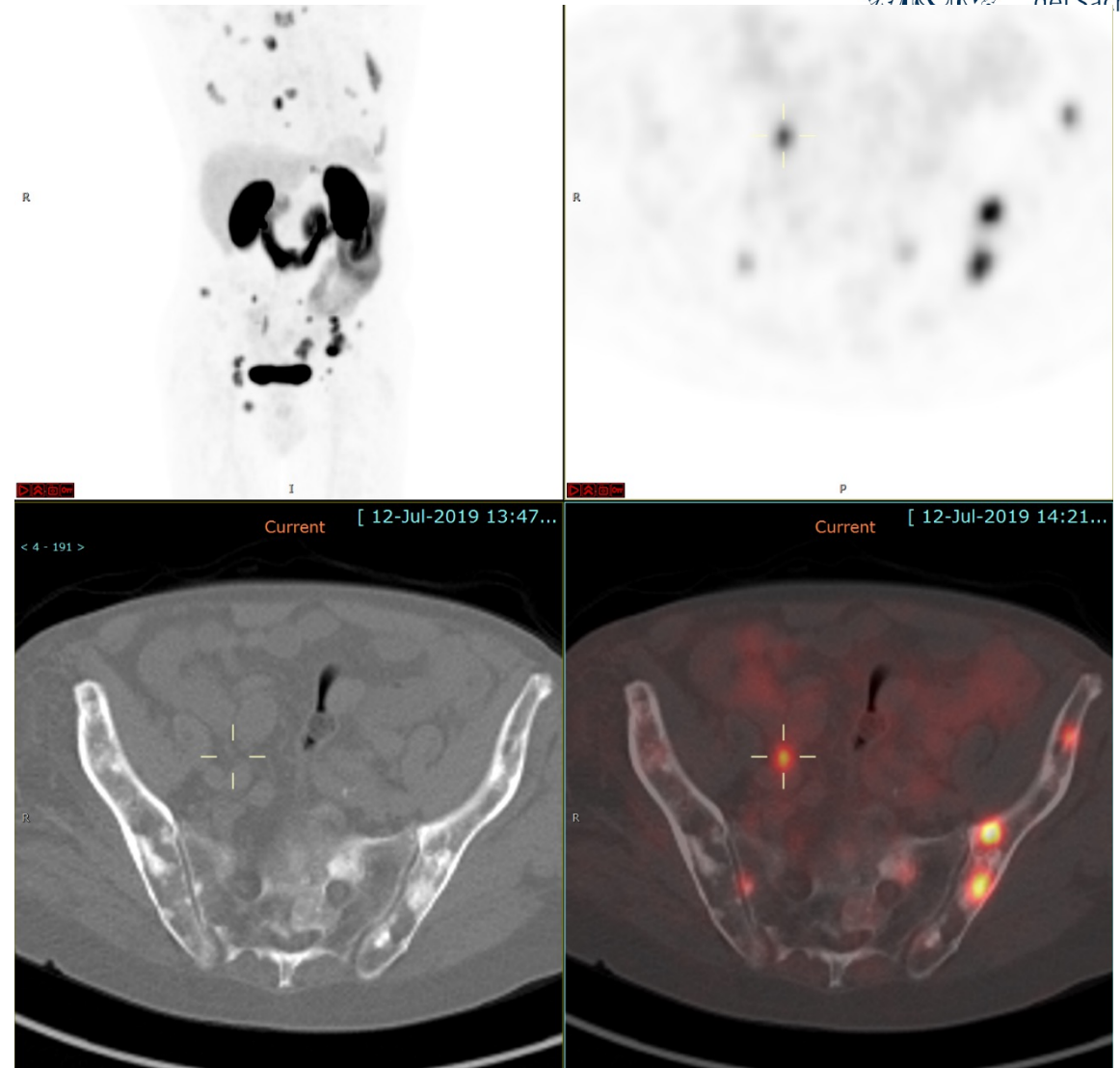
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# What about false -ve?

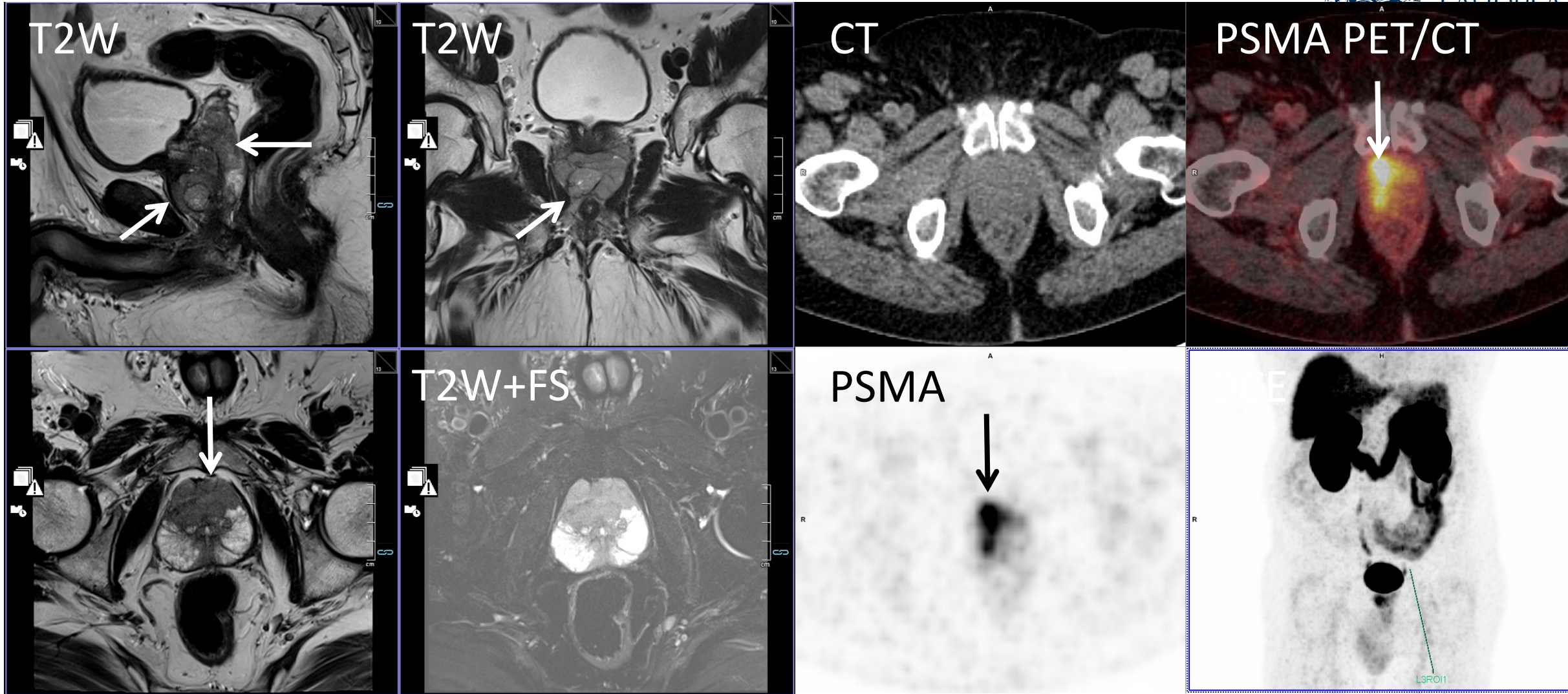
- 82M rising PSA on ADT.
- Even the CT scan shows more lesions than PSMA in this patient!
- The NM interpretation was that the PSMA 'unseen' lesions were 'inactive'!!!!



Ga-PSMA-CT/PET

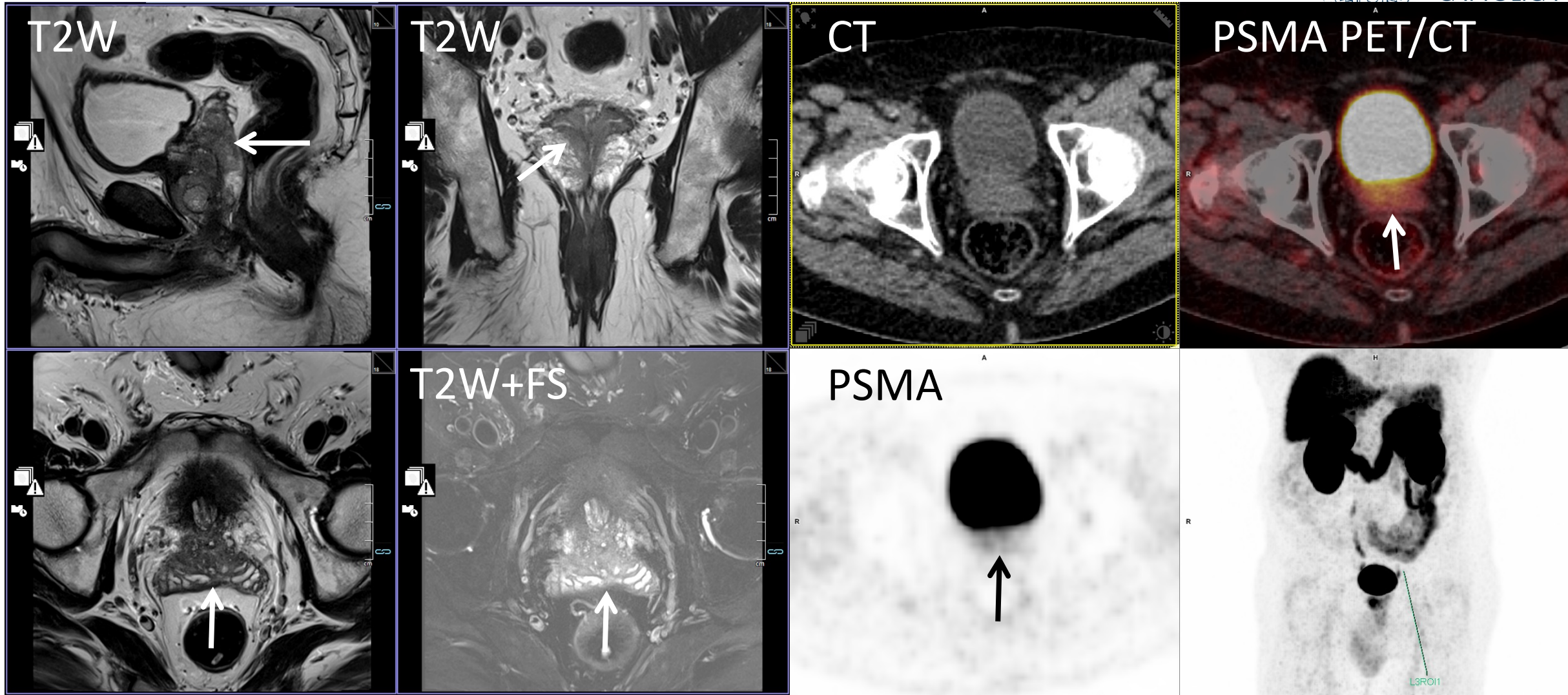


69M, PSA 10ng/mL, Asymptomatic, Routine check, DRE+ve



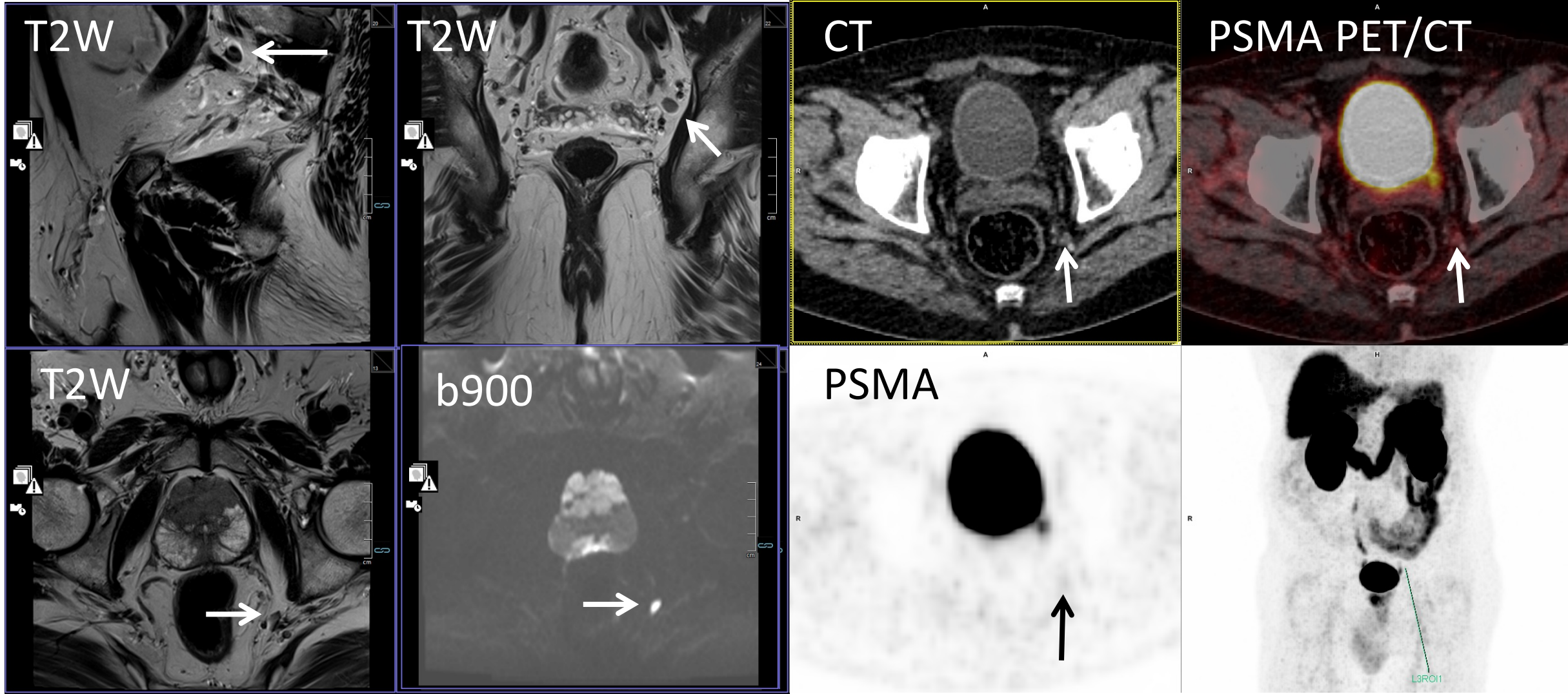
Anterior biopsy: GS4+5, 70% GS=4; Diffuse pattern adenocarcinoma; No small cell neuroendocrine differentiation

69M, PSA 10ng/mL, Asymptomatic, Routine check, DRE+ve



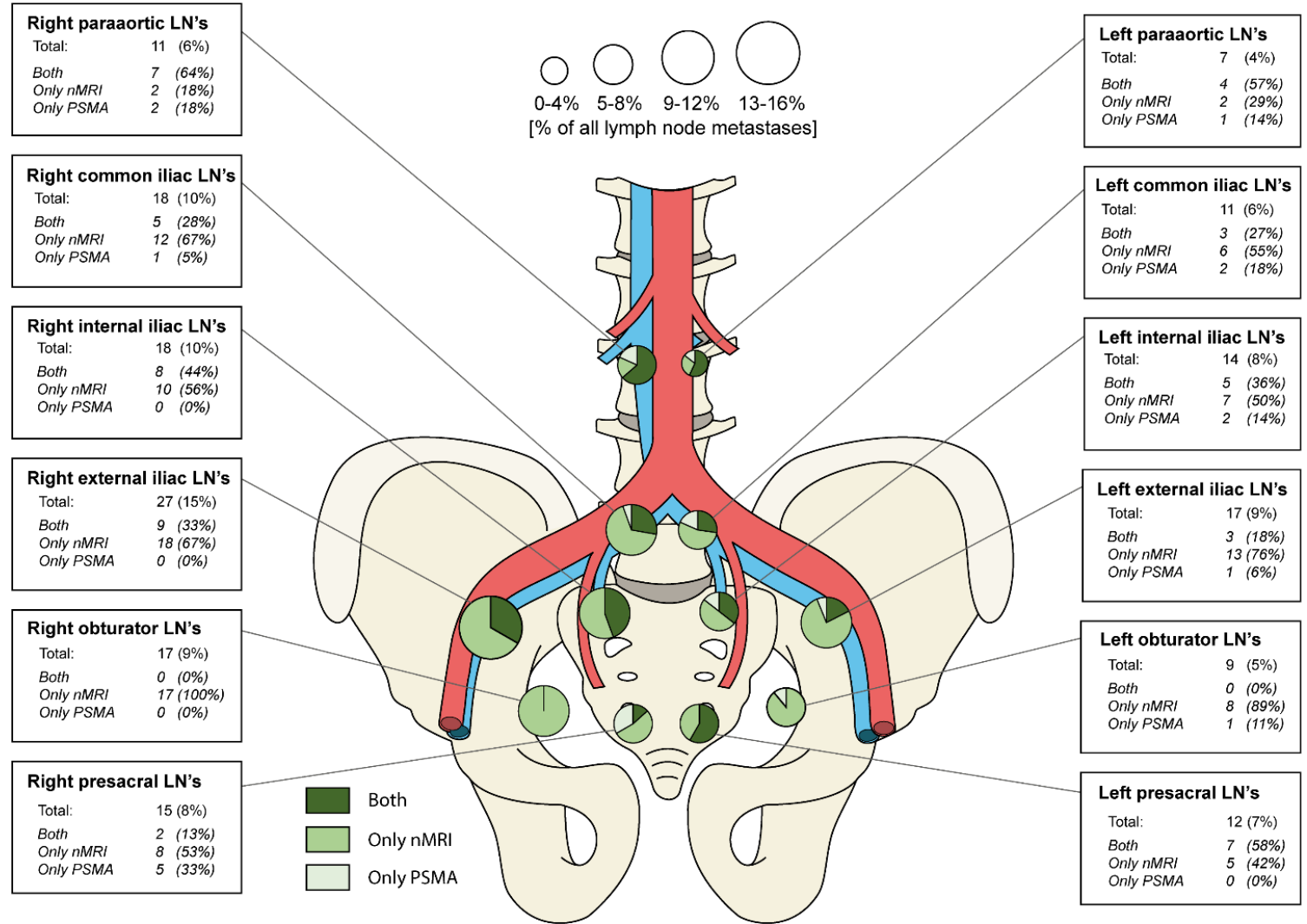
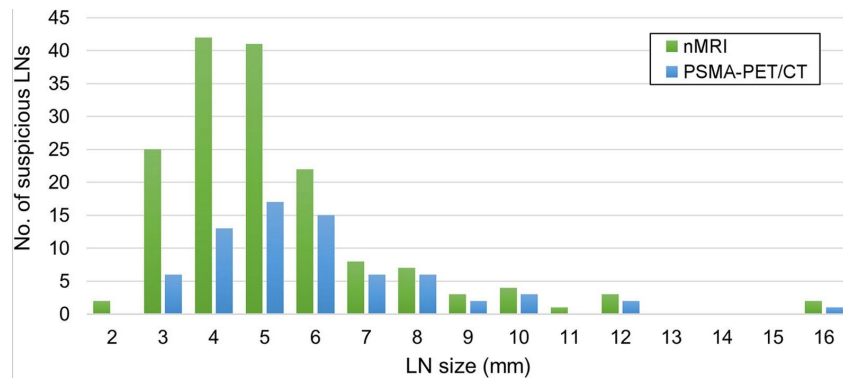
Base biopsy: GS4+5, 80% GS=4; Diffuse pattern adenocarcinoma; No small cell neuroendocrine differentiation

69M, PSA 10ng/mL, Asymptomatic, Routine check, DRE+ve



Base biopsy: GS4+5, 80% GS=4; Diffuse pattern adenocarcinoma; No small cell neuroendocrine differentiation

# Does PSMA see all nodal disease?



## Detection rates of PSMA-PET/CT for nodal disease in surgical series

- Majority of small metastatic nodes are consistently missed

- $\leq 2$  mm  $\rightarrow$  0% detected

- 2-4 mm  $\rightarrow$  25% detected

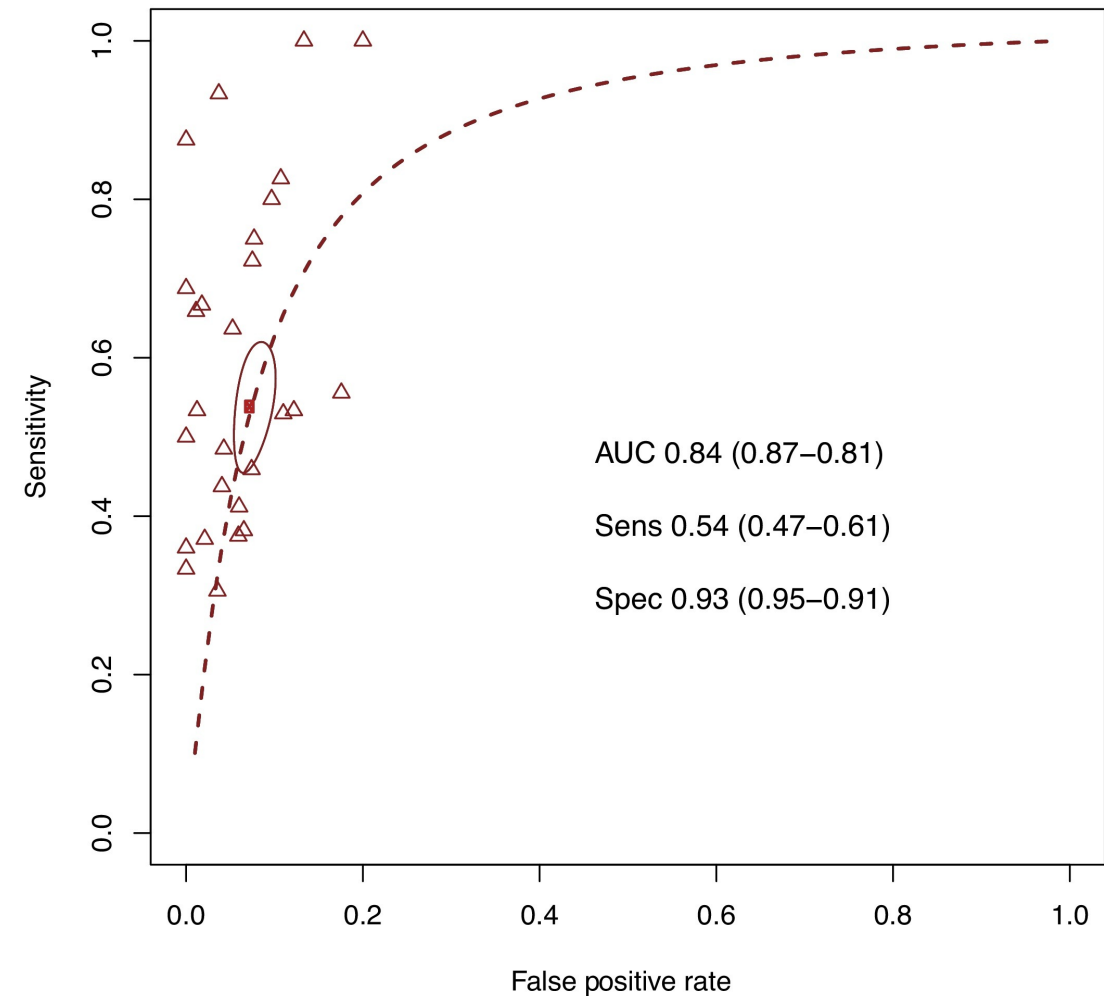
- $>5$  mm  $\rightarrow$  49-63%\*

Are these  $\mu$ Ma important?

- Patient/template level sensitivity  $>$  node/station level sensitivity
- Lymph-nodal therapies benefits are greatest for men with smaller nodes

\*Pouliot F, et al. A prospective phase II/III multi-center study of PSMA-targeted  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL PET/CT imaging in patients with prostate cancer (OSPREY): a sub-analysis of regional and distant metastases detection rates at initial staging by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL PET/CT. J Clin Oncol 2020;38(6 Suppl):9.

Bivariate SROC curve



Stabile A, et al. Can Negative PSMA PET/CT Avoid the Need for Pelvic Lymph Node Dissection in Newly Diagnosed Prostate Cancer Patients? A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis with Backup Histology as Reference Standard. Eur Urol Oncol. 2022 Feb;5(1):1-17.



# Moderate rule-out ability of PSMA for nodal disease results in higher failure rates in PET-N0 disease with prostate-only radiotherapy

High-risk and very high-risk, locally advanced, node negative PCa

- 224 men
- Very high-risk (NCCN) = 50%
- T3B/T4 = 48%
- 82% were node negative on PSMA-PET/CT

Randomized to prostate only or whole-pelvic radiotherapy (prostate + pelvic nodes, including common iliac) + 2 yrs adjuvant ADT

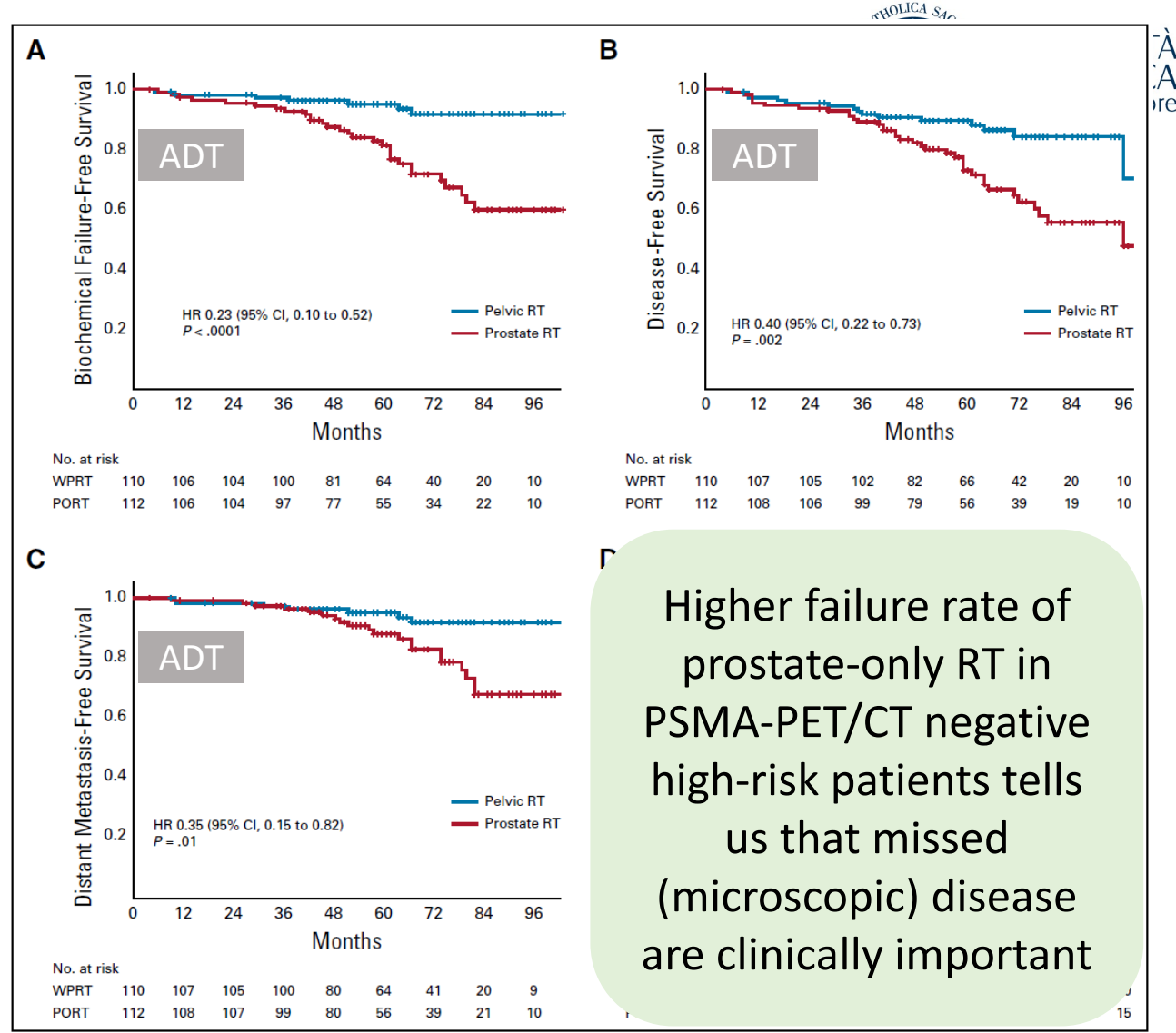


FIG 2. Kaplan-Meier estimates of biochemical failure-free survival (A), disease-free survival (B), distant metastasis-free survival (C), and overall survival (D). HR, hazard ratio; PORT, prostate-only radiotherapy; RT, radiotherapy; WPRT, whole-pelvic radiotherapy.

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Improves detection (sensitivity): indolent (diagnosis),  $\mu$ M (staging) &  $\mu$ PD (therapy monitoring)

Improves lesion characterizations (specificity)

## Survival biases of Next Generation Imaging

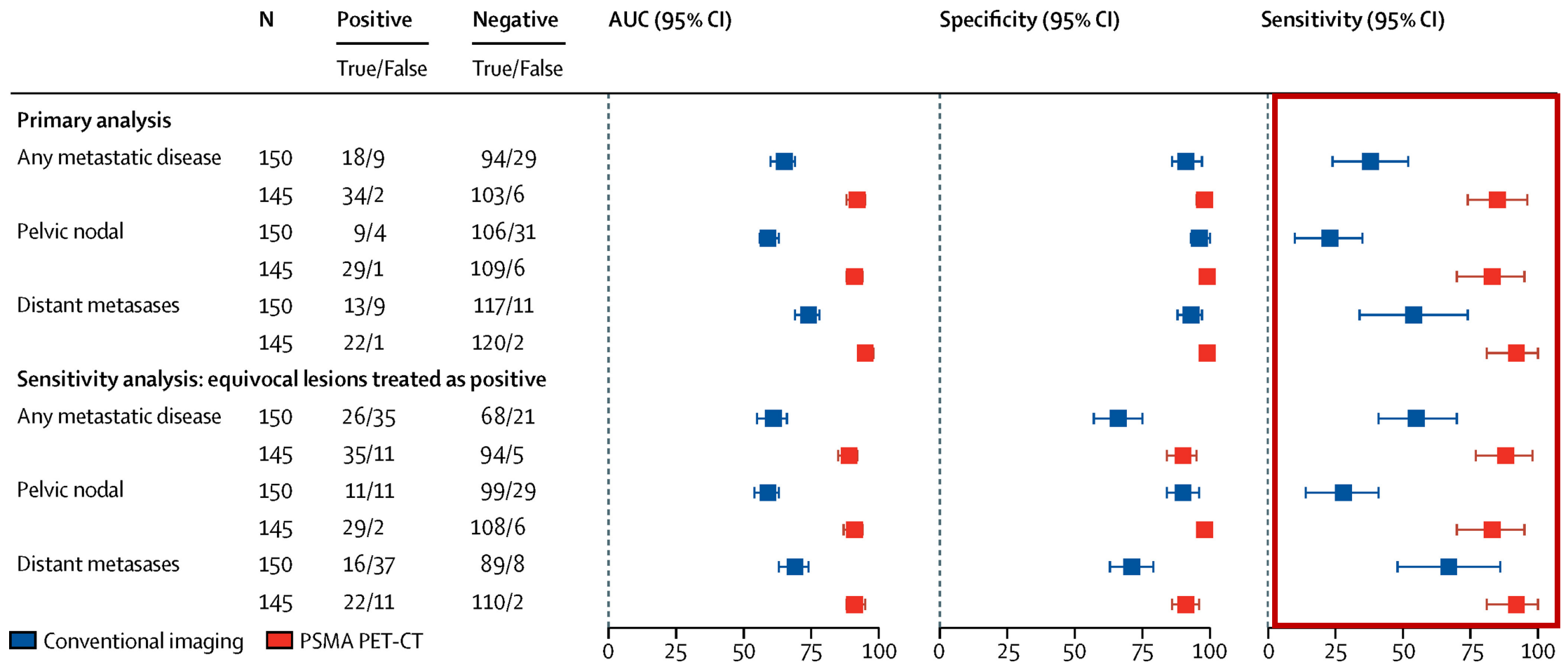
@ProfPadhani

Lead-time bias

Will-Rogers effect  
Stage-migration

Length-time bias

# Sensitivity improvements outweigh specificity for Ga-PSMA-PET/CT > CT/BS (SPECT)



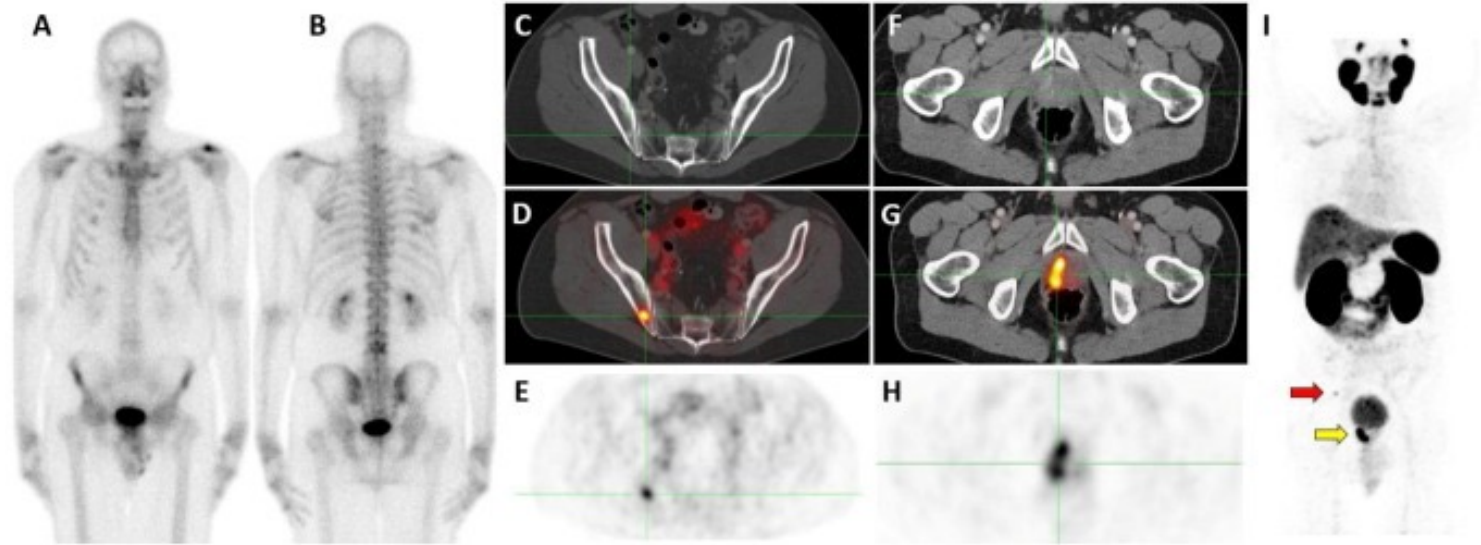
Hofman MS, et al. PSMA PET-CT in patients with high-risk prostate cancer before curative-intent surgery or radiotherapy (proPSMA): a prospective, randomised, multicentre study. *Lancet*. 2020 Apr 11;395(10231):1208-1216.

# PSMA-PET/CT vs CI (Sensitivity>Specificity)

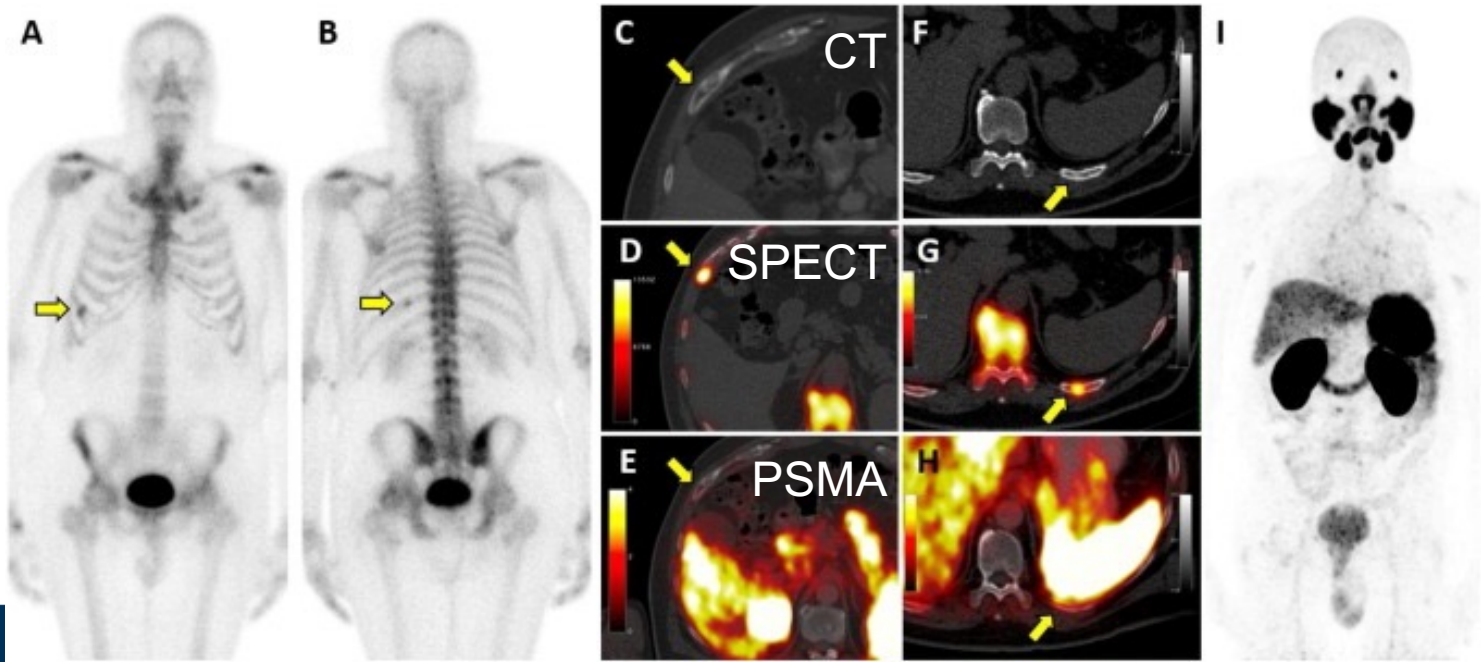
- Intermediate & high-risk staging (n=168; HR =74%)
- PSMA upstaging due to sensitivity (22%); downstaging due to specificity (7%)
- PSMA vs CI non-concordance ≈30% of patients; LN> M1b> M1c
- PSMA did not confirm 5/12 (42%) pts with suspicious M1b on CT/BS!

Lenis AT, et al. PSMA-PET/CT Compared with Conventional Imaging for Initial Staging of Treatment-naïve Intermediate- and High-risk Prostate Cancer: A Retrospective Single-center Study. *Eur Urol Oncol.* 2022 Oct;5(5):544-552.

## Higher sensitivity for M1b



## Higher specificity for M1b



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Platinum Opinion

## Modern Imaging in Prostate Cancer: Do We Treat Patients, or Their Scans?

Malcolm D. Mason<sup>a,\*,</sup> Theodorus H. van der Kwast<sup>b,</sup> Nicolas Mottet<sup>c,</sup> Daniela E. Oprea-Lager<sup>d,</sup> Olivier Rouvière<sup>e, f,</sup> EAU-EANM-ESTRO-ESUR-ISUP-SIOG Prostate Cancer Guidelines Panel<sup>†</sup>

Platinum Opinion

## When What You See Is Not Always What You Get: Raising the of Evidence for New Diagnostic Imaging Modalities

Nora Sundahl<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Silke Gillessen<sup>c,d,e,f,</sup> Christopher Sweeney<sup>g,h,</sup> Piet Ost<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Radiation Oncology, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium; <sup>b</sup>Division of Radiotherapy and Imaging, Institute of Cancer Research London, UK; <sup>c</sup>Oncology Institute of Southern Switzerland, Bellinzona, Switzerland; <sup>d</sup>Universita della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano, Switzerland; <sup>e</sup>Univ Bern, Bern, Switzerland; <sup>f</sup>Division of Cancer Science, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK; <sup>g</sup>Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA, USA; <sup>h</sup>Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA



COMMENTS AND CONTROVERSIES

## Newly Diagnosed High-Risk Prostate Cancer in an Era of Rapidly Evolving New Imaging: How Do We Treat?

Maha Hussain<sup>1</sup>, MD<sup>1</sup>; Daniel Lin<sup>2</sup>, MD<sup>2</sup>; Fred Saad<sup>3</sup>, MD<sup>3</sup>; Neha Vapiwala, MD<sup>4</sup>; Brian Francis Chapin, MD<sup>5</sup>; Howard Sandler<sup>6</sup>, MD, MS<sup>6</sup>; ...

COMMENTS AND CONTROVERSIES

## Strategies for Evaluation of Novel Imaging in Prostate Cancer: Putting the Horse Back Before the Cart

Check for updates

Neha Vapiwala, MD<sup>1</sup>; Michael S. Hofman, MBBS<sup>2,3</sup>; Declan G. Murphy, MB<sup>2,3</sup>; Scott Williams, MD<sup>2,3</sup>; and Christopher Sweeney, MBBS<sup>4</sup>

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## Evolving Role of Prostate-Specific Membrane Antigen-Positron Emission Tomography in Metastatic Hormone-Sensitive Prostate Cancer: More Questions than Answers?

Maha Hussain, MD<sup>1</sup>; Michael A. Carducci, MD<sup>2</sup>; Noel Clarke, MBBS<sup>3</sup>; Sarah E. Fenton, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Karim Fizazi, MD, PhD<sup>4</sup>; Silke Gillessen, MD, PhD<sup>5,6,7</sup>; Heather Jacene, MD<sup>8</sup>; Michael J. Morris, MD<sup>9</sup>; Fred Saad, MD<sup>10</sup>; Oliver Sartor, MD<sup>11</sup>; Mary-Ellen Taplin, MD<sup>12</sup>; Neha Vapiwala, MD<sup>13</sup>; Scott Williams, MD<sup>14</sup>; and Christopher Sweeney, MD<sup>12</sup>

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Clinical view → show net outcomes impacts:

“The value of novel imaging comes when it is shown that NCI helps maximize Rx benefits, minimize undertreatments, reduce or prevents overtreatments while tempering toxicity & costs”

Hussain M, et al.

COMMENTS AND CONTROVERSIES

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# PSMA-PET/CT compared with BS/CT scans



- Unfavourable intermediate and high-risk localised disease, PSMA-PET/CT compared to CT/BS
  - 87/150 (30%) patients had confirmed pelvic nodal or distant metastatic disease

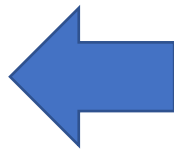


Michael Hofman  
@DrMHofman

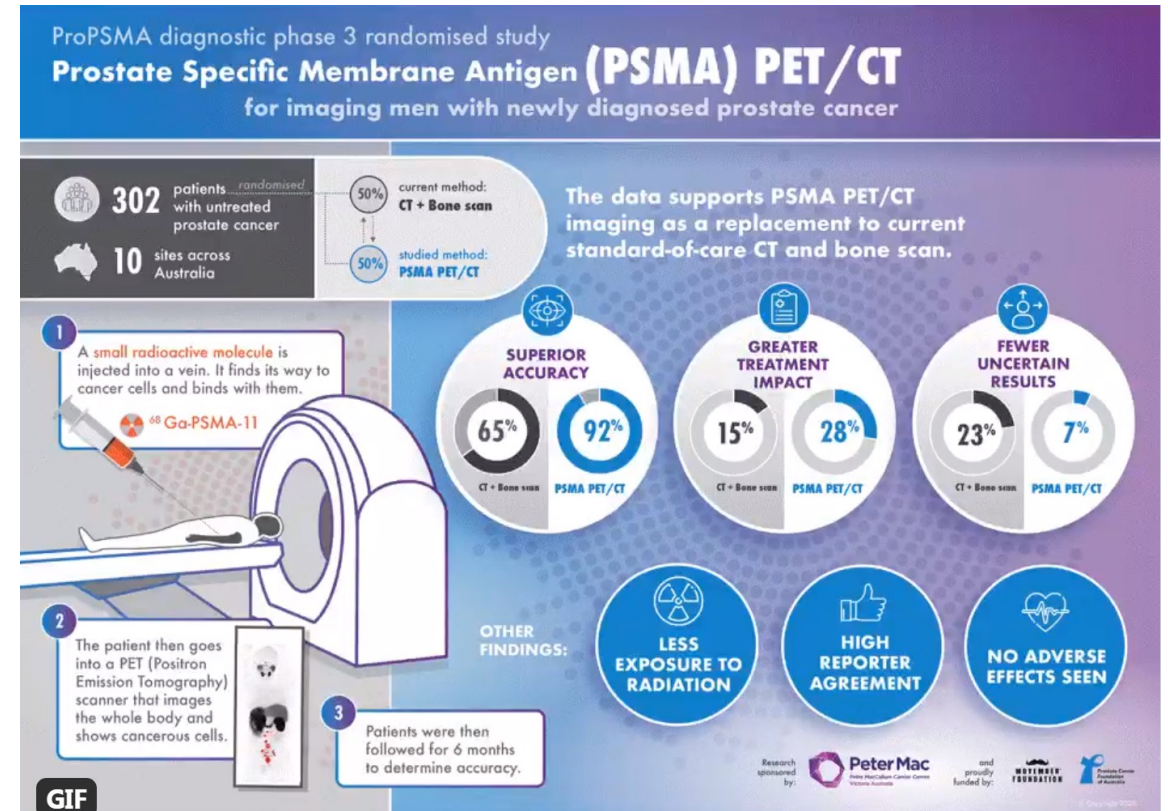
#ProPSMA randomised study online in @thelancet:

PSMA PET/CT can replace CT/bone scans in men with aggressive prostate ca:

- ✓ Accuracy 92% v 65%
- ✓ Management impact 28% v 15%
- ✓ Uncertain findings 7% v 23%
- ✓ Radiation dose 8 v 19mSv



[bit.ly/propsma](https://bit.ly/propsma) @gu Onc @pcfa @movember



Hofman MS, et al. PSMA-PET/CT in patients with high-risk prostate cancer before curative-intent surgery or radiotherapy (proPSMA): a prospective, randomised, multicentre study. Lancet. 2020 Apr 11;395(10231):1208-1216

# How often does low-volume disease on BS become high-volume on PSMA-PET/CT?

- 79 men with EAU high-risk (prevalence of bone disease 21%)
- Head-to-head study of BS ( $\pm$  SPECT) vs F-PSMA-PET/CT
  - DCFPyL (51%); PSMA-1007 (39%) and PSMA-7 (10%)
- Change in risk group in 15/79
- **Treatment changes occurred in almost 20% of cases**

		F-PSMA			
		M0	LVD	HVD*	
CT chaarted risk criteria for mHSPC	M0	60	7	5	70
	LVD	2	3	4	9
	HVD	-	-	-	-

Bodar YJL, et al. A prospective, multicenter head-to-head comparative study in patients with primary high-risk prostate cancer investigating the bone lesion detection of conventional imaging and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -PSMA-PET/CT. Urol Oncol. 2022 PMID: 36588019.

Do management changes after PSMA-PET/CT alter the patient outcomes (**risk-benefit ratio**) in high-risk localized/locally advanced prostate cancer?

Literature suggests the **escalation** use of PSMA-PET/CT in LAPC



Practice often shows the **de-escalation** use of PSMA-PET/CT in BCR

Limited list of ongoing randomized studies:

- **PRISMA-PET** - Primary Staging of Prostate Cancer: a Randomized Controlled Trial Comparing 18F-PSMA-1007 PET/CT to Conventional Imaging. NCT05123300
- PSMA PET/CT guided intensification of therapy in patients at risk of advanced prostate cancer (**PATRON**): a pragmatic phase III randomized controlled trial (CT/BS vs CT/BS/PSMA). NCT04557501
- **PEARLS**: A Multicenter Phase II/III Trial of Extended Field Radiotherapy for Androgen Sensitive Prostate Cancer Patients with PSMA-avid Pelvic and Para-Aortic Lymph Nodes at Presentation. ISRCTN36344989.

# High-risk prostate cancer imaging & Rx recommendations

- Perform both conventional imaging (BS/CT) and PSMA-PET/CT
  - CT component of PET/CT is often sufficient
  - BS contribution is often minimal
- Primary tumor Rx clinical decision is based on conventional imaging findings
- High specificity of PSMA means that N1/M1 disease should be trusted
  - Treatment intensifications
  - Adjuvant phase of Rx

Hussain M, et al. Evolving Role of PSMA-PET/CT in Metastatic Hormone-Sensitive Prostate Cancer: More Questions than Answers? J Clin Oncol. 2022 2022 Sep 10;40(26):3011-3014.

Imaging findings		Treatment recommendations for newly diagnosed high-risk disease	
CIM	PSMA		
-	-	Standard of care (SOC) of localised PCa	
-	+	Pelvic PMA LN+: SOC of prostate cancer and regional LN+	
		Beyond pelvic nodes 1. Prioritise clinical trials 2. Manage as high-risk with local and adjuvant metastatic therapy	
+	±	Pelvis LN+ on CIM	SOC of prostate cancer and regional LN+
		Pelvis LN on CIM & PSMA	SOC of prostate cancer and regional LN+
		CIM+ for M1	SOC for mHSPC by M1 disease state

# NGI in CT/BS-MO unfavourable & high-risk localized

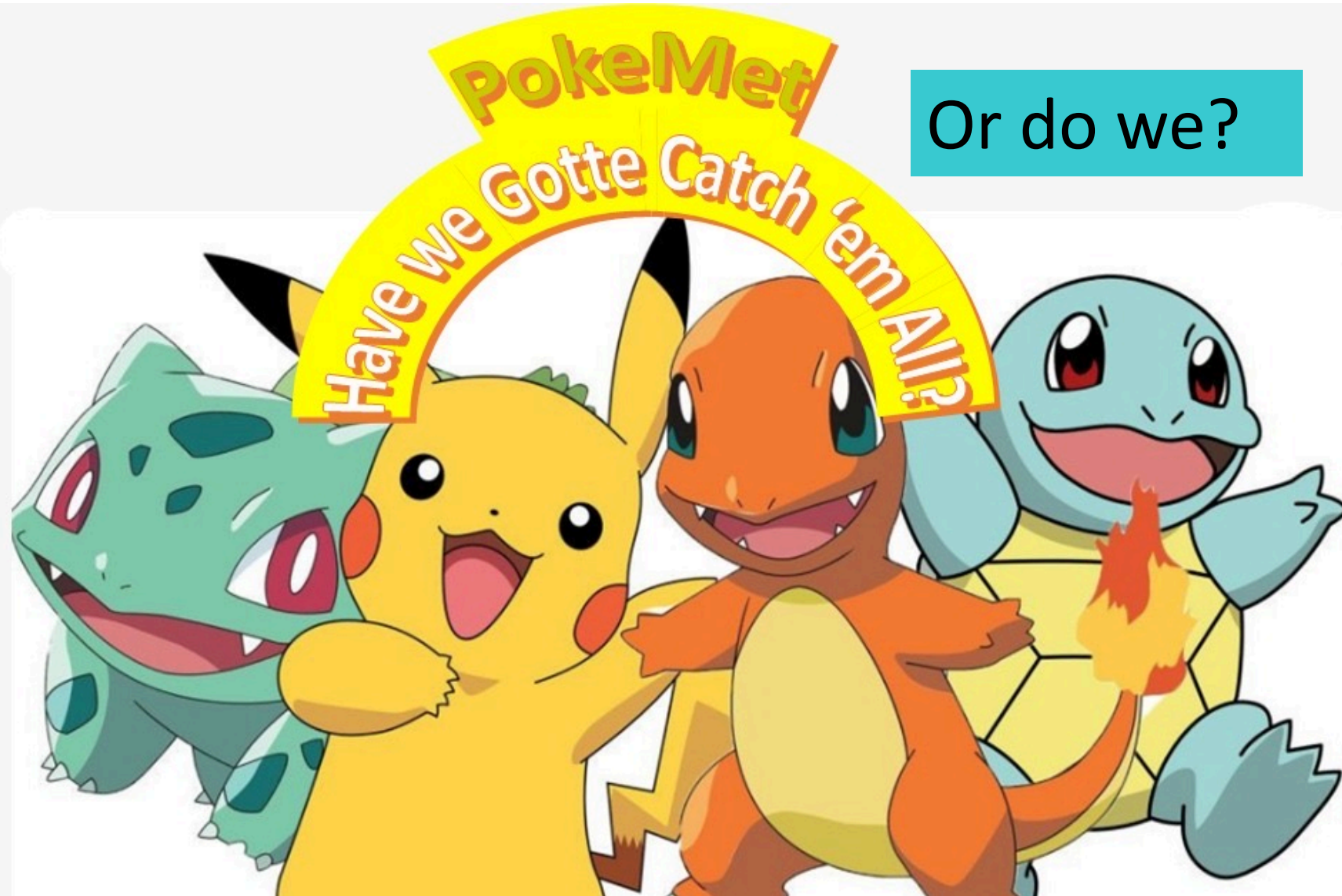
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# Delivering a New Paradigm for Personalised Medicine



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## Special thanks to:

- ✓ **Anwar Padhani**
- ✓ Salvatore Annunziata
- ✓ Daniele Pizzuto

Gemelli

The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research

