

Radiopharmaceuticals in modern cancer therapy

Special techniques in radiotherapy

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Nuclear medicine & radioactivity

- Nuclear medicine: branch of medicine using radioactive drugs or radiopharmaceuticals for
 - Diagnostic use
 - Therapeutic use
- Radioactivity:
 - Discovered by Henri Bequerel in 1896 – 125 years ago
 - Marie Sklodowska-Curie discovered polonium in 1898
 - George De Hevesy: Nobel prize Chemistry in 1943 for development of radioactive tracers to study chemical processes > 75 years ago
 - Saul Hertz:
 - First Graves patient treatment with radioiodine in 1941 > 80 years ago
 - Followed soon by treatment of thyroid carcinoma patients - 1946



Radiopharmaceuticals for molecular imaging

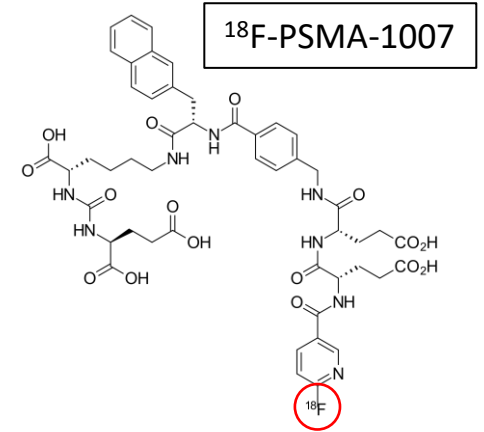


Radionuclide

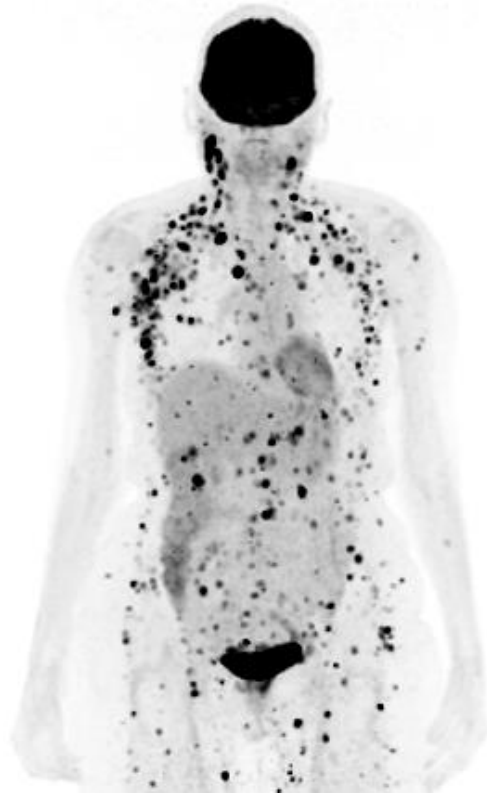
Emits **radiation** upon decay.
The radiation can be detected
by a **PET- or gamma-camera**

Vectormolecule

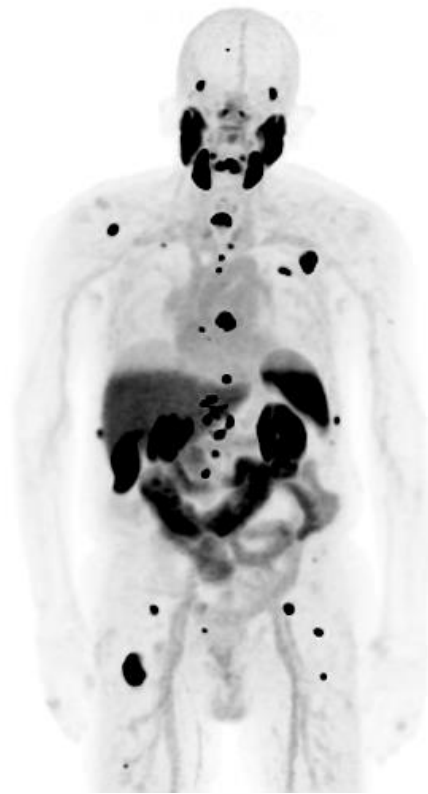
Is responsible for a specific
interaction with the target
(receptor, transporter,
enzyme,...)



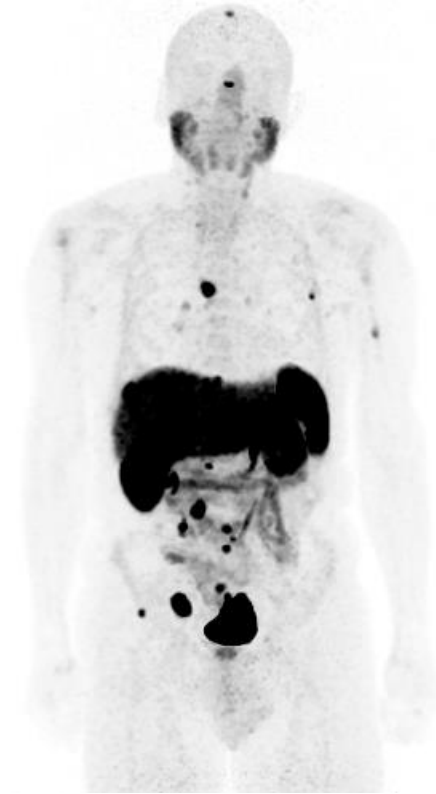
Radiopharmaceuticals for molecular imaging



Metabolic activity of tumor cells
(lymphoma)
 ^{18}F -FDG

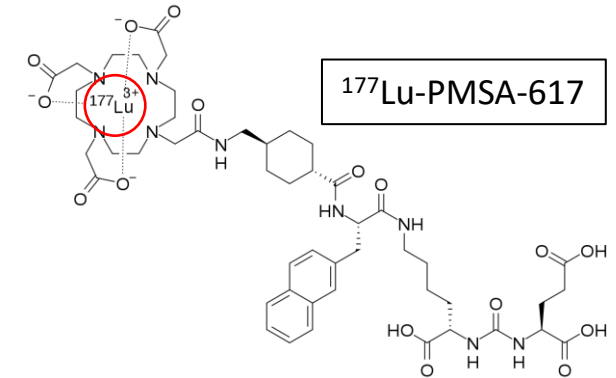
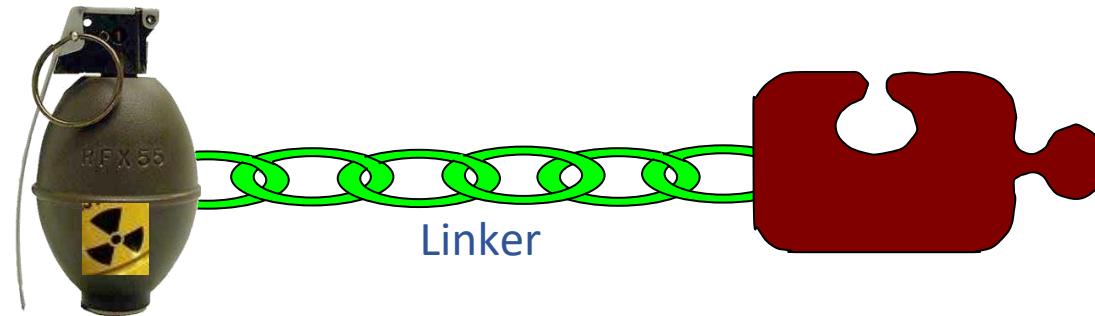


PSMA-expression of tumor cells
(prostate cancer)
 ^{18}F -PSMA-1007



SSTR-expression of tumor cells
(neuro-endocrine tumor)
 ^{68}Ga -DOTATATE

Radiopharmaceuticals for radionuclide therapy



Radionuclide

Emits upon decay **particle radiation**.

This radiation causes destruction of target cells.

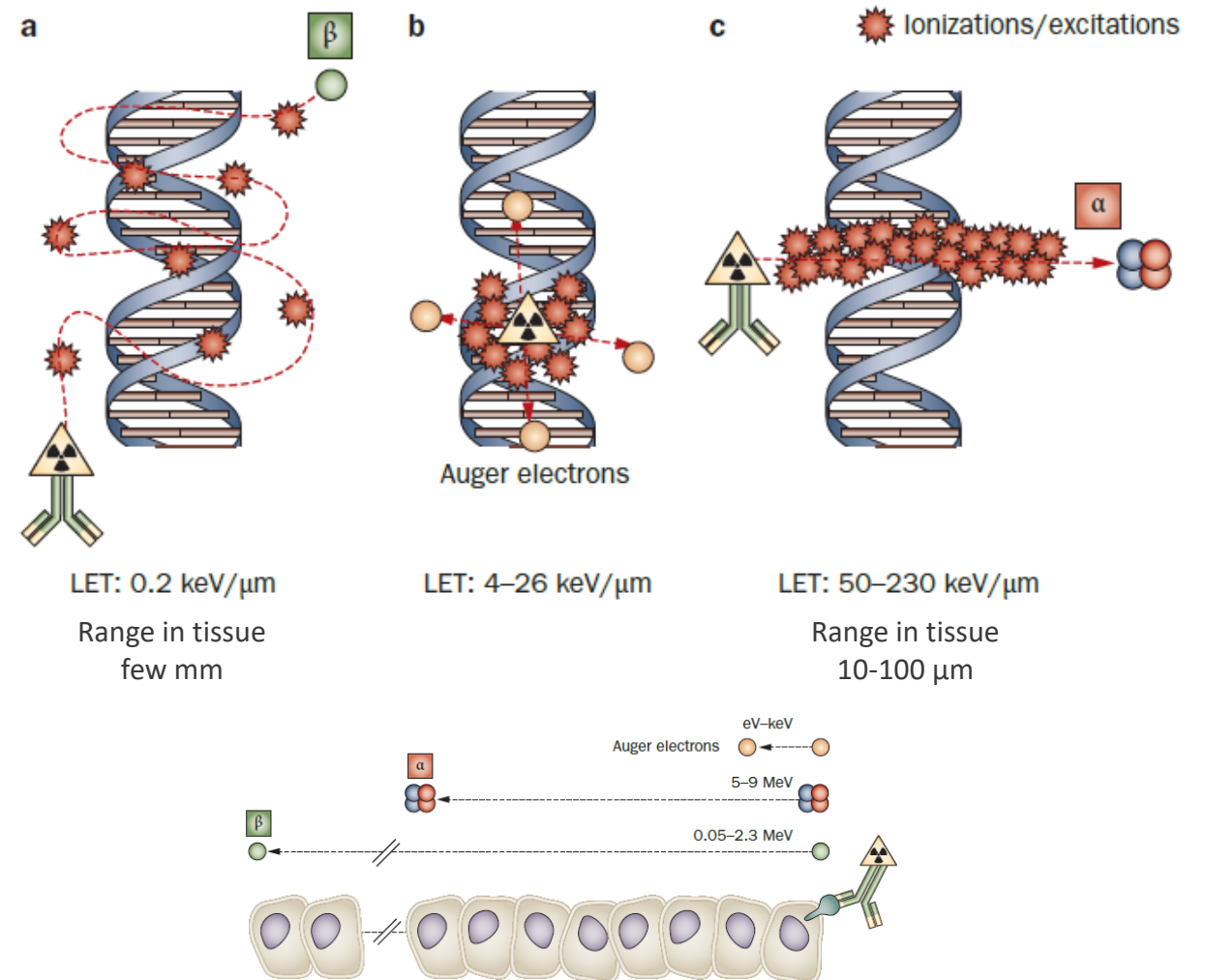
Vectormolecule

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

Radionuclides for RNT

Isotopes	Daughter isotope*	Half-life	Maximum energy (keV)	Maximum range (μm)	Associated emissions	Direct SPECT imaging
Beta-particle emitters (LET 0.2 keV/μm)						
^{90}Y	–	64.1h	2,284	11,300	NS	No
^{131}I	–	193.0h	606	2,300	Gamma	Yes
^{177}Lu	–	161.0h	497	1,800	Gamma, X-rays, Auger	Yes
^{67}Cu	–	61.9h	575	2,100	Gamma, X-rays, Auger	Yes
^{186}Re	–	90.6h	1,077	4,800	Gamma, X-rays, Auger	Yes
^{188}Re	–	17.0h	2,120	10,400	Gamma, X-rays, Auger	Yes
Auger-particle emitters (LET 4–26 keV/μm for very low (<1 keV) electrons)						
^{125}I	–	60.1 days	31	20	Gamma, IC, X-rays	Yes
^{111}In	–	67.3h	26	17	Gamma, IC, X-rays	Yes
^{67}Ga	–	78.3h	10	3	Gamma, IC, X-rays	Yes
^{123}I	–	13.3h	31	20	Gamma, IC, X-rays	No
$^{195\text{m}}\text{Pt}$	–	96.5h	64	76	Gamma, IC, X-rays	No
Alpha-particle emitters (LET 50–230 keV/μm)						
^{225}Ac	–	240.0h	5,830	48	Gamma, X-rays, Auger	No
	^{221}Fr	4.9 min	6,341	55	Alpha, Gamma, Auger	Yes
	^{217}At	32 ms	7,069	65	Alpha	No
	^{213}Bi	45.6 min	5,870	48	Alpha, Gamma, X-rays, Auger, Beta ⁺	Yes
	^{213}Po	4.2 μs	8,377	85	NS	No
^{211}At	–	7.2h	5,867	48	Gamma, X-rays, Auger	Yes
	^{211}Po	516 ms	7,450	70	NS	No
^{213}Bi	–	45.6 min	5,870	48	Gamma, X-rays, Auger, Beta ⁺	Yes
	^{213}Po	4.2 μs	8,377	85	NS	No
^{212}Bi	–	1.0h	6,051	51	Gamma, X-rays, Auger, Beta ⁻	Yes
	^{212}Po	0.3 μs	8,785	92	NS	No
$^{212}\text{Pb}^{\dagger}$	–	10.64h	–	–	Gamma, X-rays, Auger, Beta ⁻	Yes
	^{212}Bi	1.0h	6,051	51	Gamma, X-rays, Auger, Beta ⁻	Yes
	^{212}Po	0.3 μs	8,785	92	NS	No

* Generated after decay of the conjugated parent. ^{212}Pb is not an alpha-emitter but used for *in vivo* generation of the alpha-particle emitter ^{212}Bi . Abbreviation: IC, internal conversion electrons; NS, yield not significant; SPECT, single-photon emission CT.

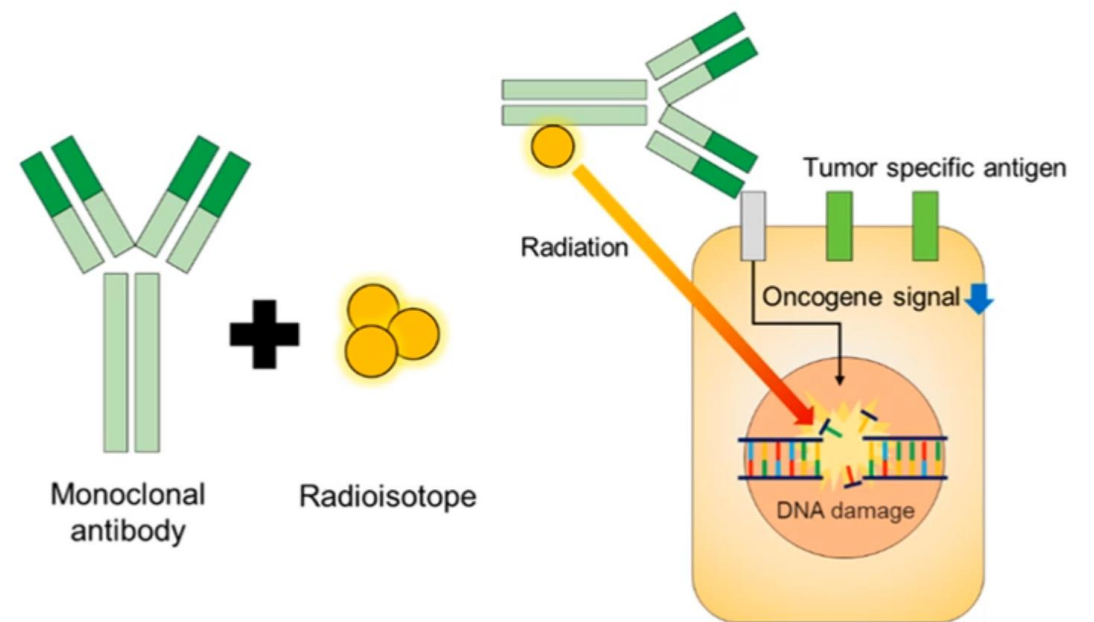


RNT, not so new at all

80 years of Metabolic RNT
Iodine-131



30 years of Targeted RNT
Starting with radio-immunotherapy



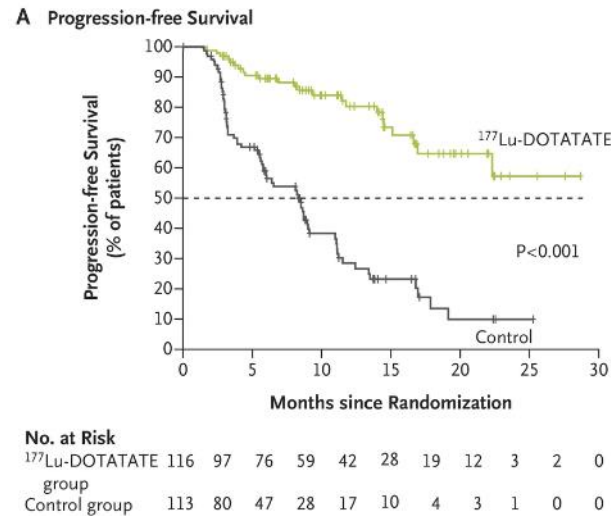
RNT anno 2024

	Approver and date of approval	Companion diagnostic or diagnostics	Indication
[¹³¹ I]NaI	US FDA 1971	[¹³¹ I]NaI	Differentiated thyroid carcinoma
[¹³¹ I]-tositumomab*	US FDA 2003, EMA 2003	[¹³¹ I]-tositumomab	CD20 ⁺ relapsed and refractory low-grade, follicular, or transformed non-Hodgkin lymphoma following disease progression during or after treatment with rituximab
[¹³¹ I]-derlotuximab biotin	Chinese FDA 2007	NA	Advanced lung cancer
[¹³¹ I]-I-iobenguane (or MIBG)	US FDA 2018	[¹³¹ I]-I-iobenguane	Norepinephrine transporter-positive pheochromocytomas or paragangliomas
[¹⁷⁷ Lu]Lu-DOTA-TATE	US FDA 2018, EMA 2017	[⁶⁸ Ga]Ga-DOTA-TATE (USA); [⁶⁴ Cu]Cu-DOTA-TATE (USA); [⁶⁸ Ga]Ga-DOTA-TOC (EU and USA)	Somatostatin receptor-positive gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumours
[¹⁷⁷ Lu]Lu-PSMA-617	USA FDA 2022	[⁶⁸ Ga]Ga-PSMA-11 (US FDA approved in 2021 and 2022)	Metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer following disease progression on androgen receptor inhibitors and taxane-based chemotherapy
[²²³ Ra]RaCl ₂	US FDA 2013, EMA 2013	Technetium-99m bone scan	Castration-resistant prostate cancer with symptomatic bone metastases and no known visceral metastases
[¹⁸⁸ Re]Re-resin	TGA 2020	NA	Non-melanoma skin cancer
[¹⁵³ Sm]Sm-EDTMP	US FDA 1997, EMA 1998	^{99m} Tc-bone scan	Palliation of bone pain in patients with multiple painful skeletal metastases
[⁸⁹ Sr]SrCl ₂	US FDA 1993, EMA 1986	^{99m} Tc-bone scan	Palliation of bone pain in patients with painful skeletal metastases
[⁹⁰ Y]Y-ibritumomab tiuxetan†	US FDA 2002, EMA 2004	[¹¹¹ In]In-ibritumomab	Relapsed or refractory, low-grade or follicular B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma; previously untreated follicular non-Hodgkin lymphoma with a partial or complete response to first-line chemotherapy
[⁹⁰ Y]Y-microspheres‡	US FDA 2002, EMA 2002	Technetium-99m-hepatic artery shunt scan	Unresectable metastatic liver tumours from primary colorectal cancer with adjuvant intrahepatic artery chemotherapy of floxuridine
[⁹⁰ Y]Y-Glass microspheres‡	US FDA 2021	Technetium-99m-hepatic artery shunt scan	Unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma

*Approval withdrawn and discontinued in 2014. †Discontinued in the USA in 2021. ‡Administered via hepatic artery. chTNT=tumor necrosis therapy chimeric antibody. DOTA=1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetra-acetic acid. DOTA-TATE=DOTA-Tyr3-octreotate. DOTA-TOC=DOTA-edotreotide. EDTMP=ethylenediamine tetramethylene phosphonic acid. EMA=European Medicines Agency. FDA=Food and Drug Administration. MIBG=meta-iodobenzylguanidine. NA=not applicable. PSMA=prostate-specific membrane antigen. TGA=Therapeutic Goods Administration.

RNT anno 2024

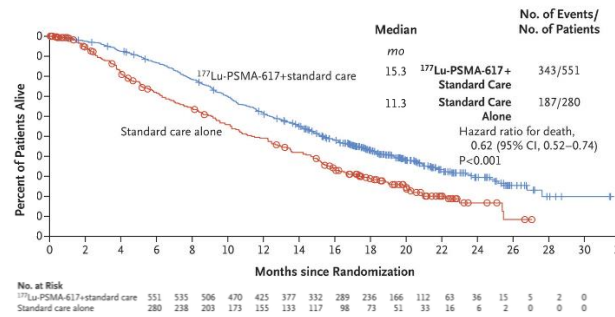
Progression-Free Survival



Control the growth of the disease

Strosberg et al., N Engl J Med 2017

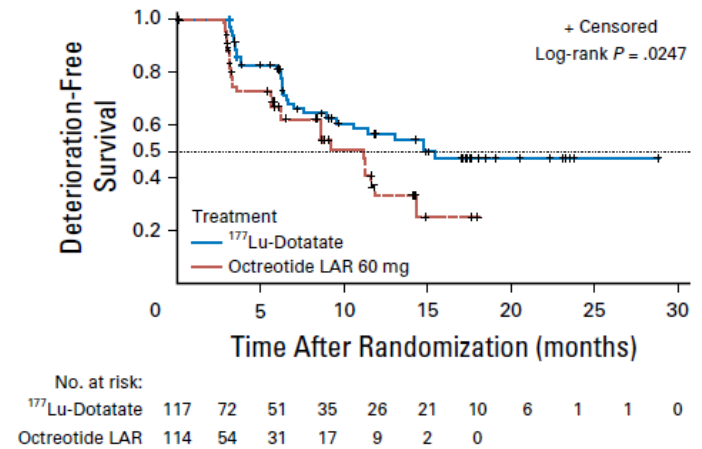
Overall Survival



Make patient **live longer**

Sartor et al., N Engl J Med 2021

Quality of life: e.g. pain



Make patient **live better**

Strosberg et al., J Clin Oncol 2018

RNT anno 2024

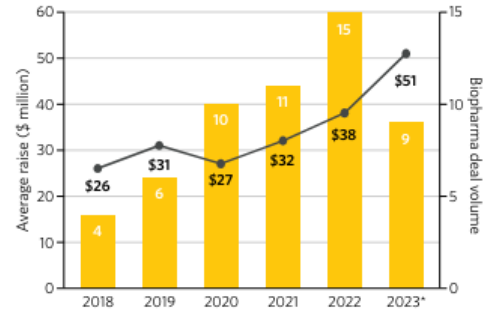
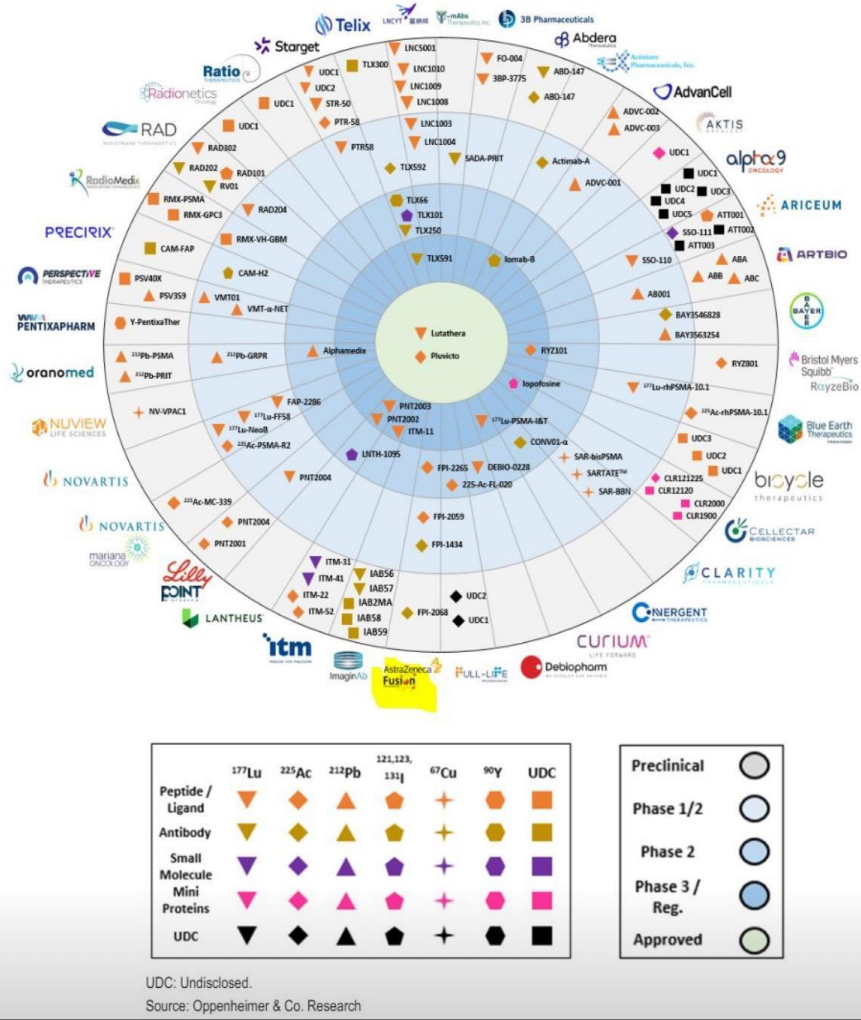


Fig. 3 | Venture-capital-backed private financings in the radiopharmaceuticals space: 2018-2023*. Financings are from series A to D. Data source: Pitchbook. *Through 3 October 2023.

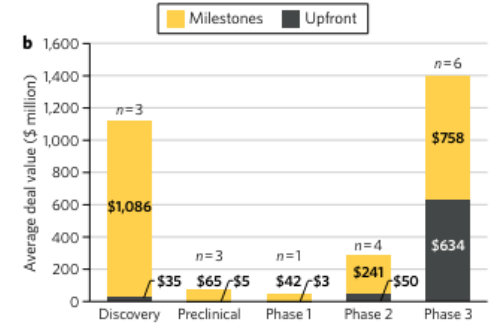
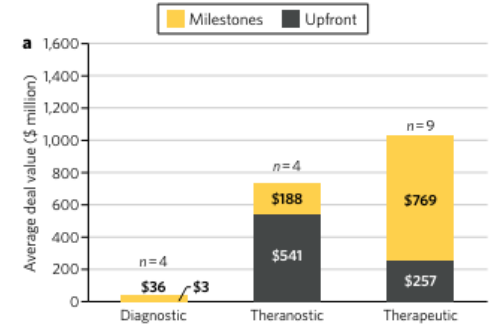


Fig. 2 | Biopharma-sponsored deal values in the radiopharmaceuticals space: 2018-2023*. a. Value of deals with disclosed terms, by modality. b. Value of deals with disclosed terms, by phase. Data source: Cortellis. *Through 3 October 2023.

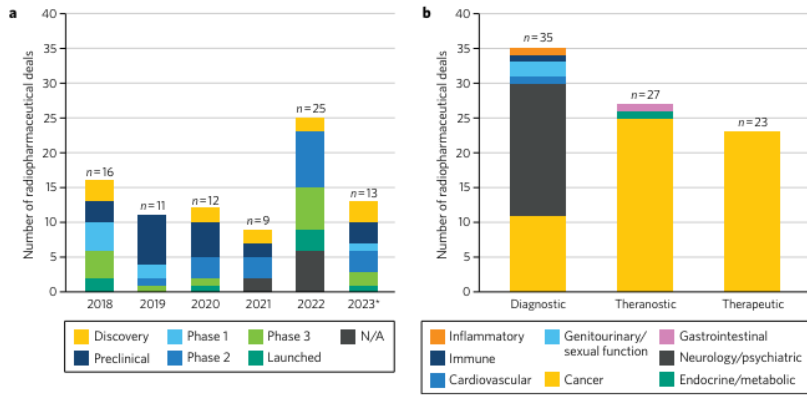


Fig. 1 | Biopharma-sponsored deal distribution in the radiopharmaceuticals space: 2018-2023*. a. Number of deals by phase, per year. b. Number of deals by indication, per modality. Data source: Cortellis. *Through 3 October 2023. N/A, not available.

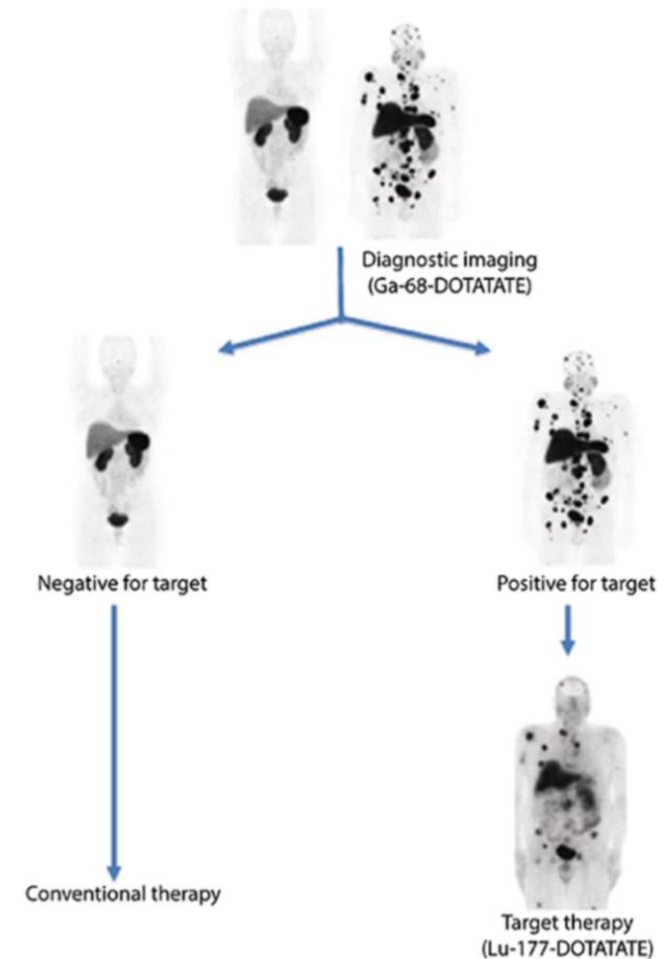
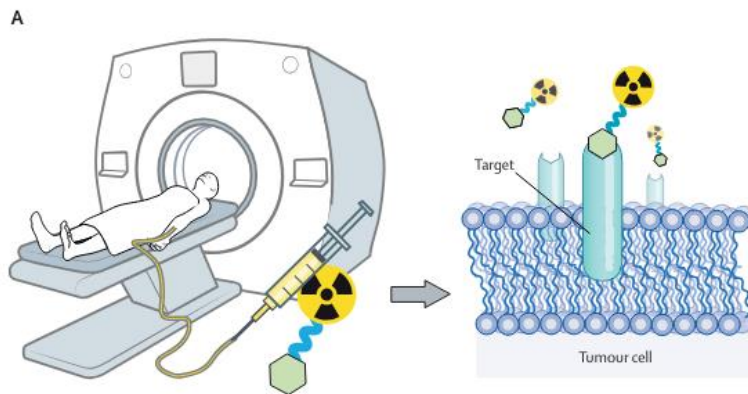
Diagnos**t**ics + Therap**y** = Theranostics



See it, treat it

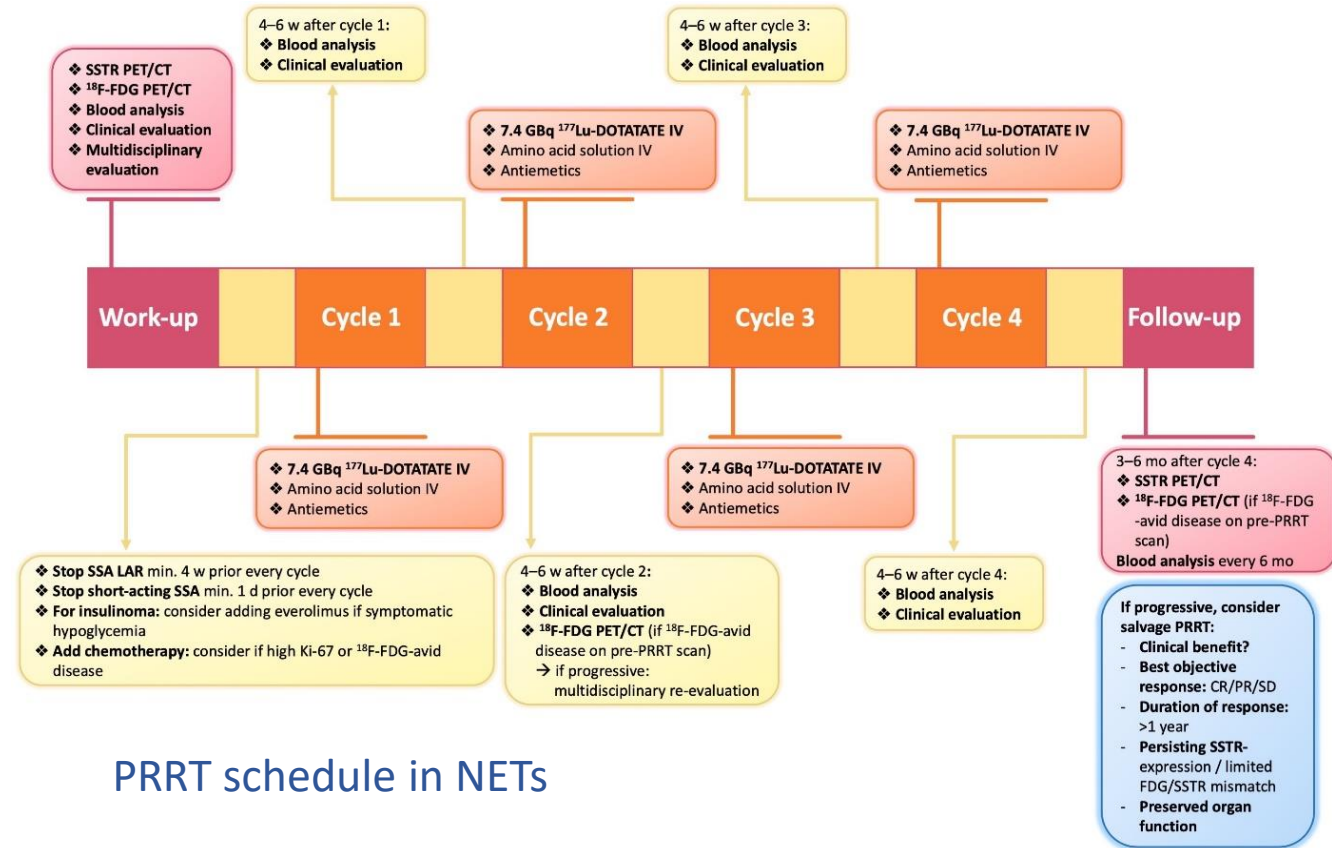
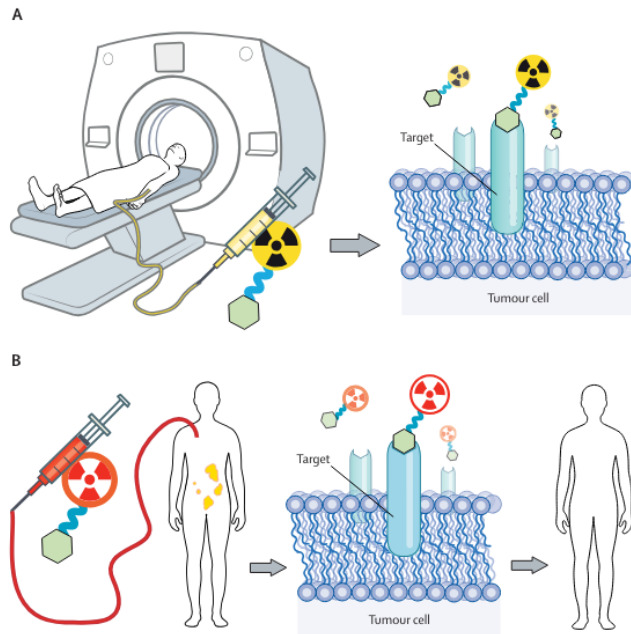
Theranostics

- Imaging-based patient selection
 - Target expression is necessary
 - High uptake in tumoral lesions, low(er) uptake in normal tissues
 - Longest residence time in tumoral lesions, more rapid washout in normal tissues
 - High doses to tumoral lesions with low(er) doses to normal organs
 - Effective treatment with low AE-rate



Theranostics

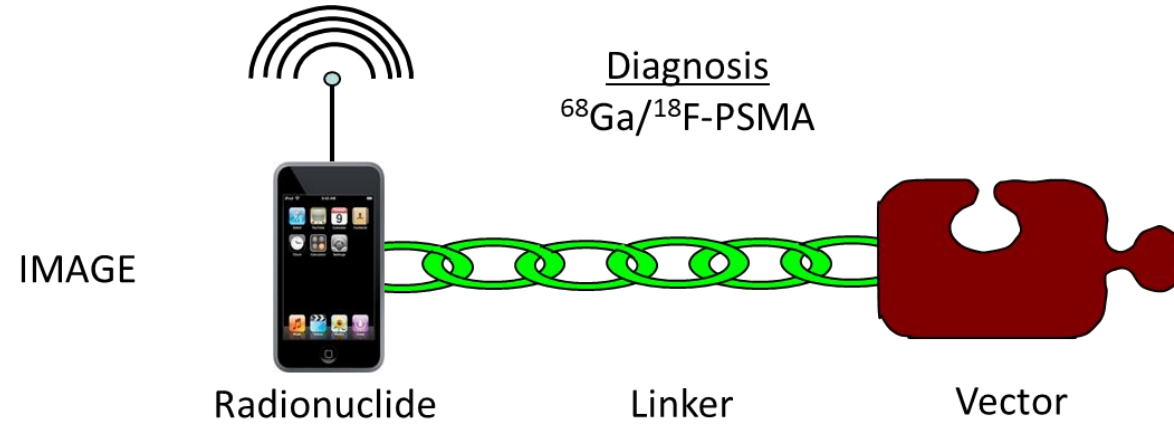
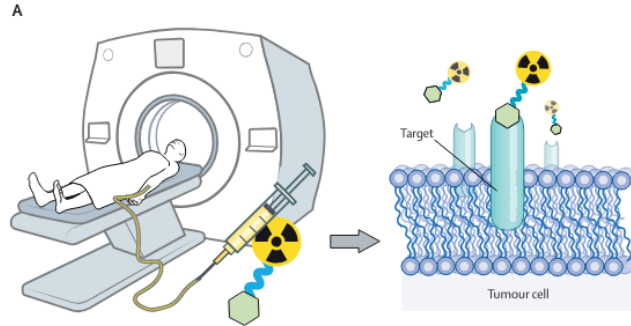
- Administration of RNT
 - Mostly intravenous injection
 - Several cycles with interval (6-8 weeks)
 - Fixed activity per cycle / individualised activity calculation



PRRT schedule in NETs

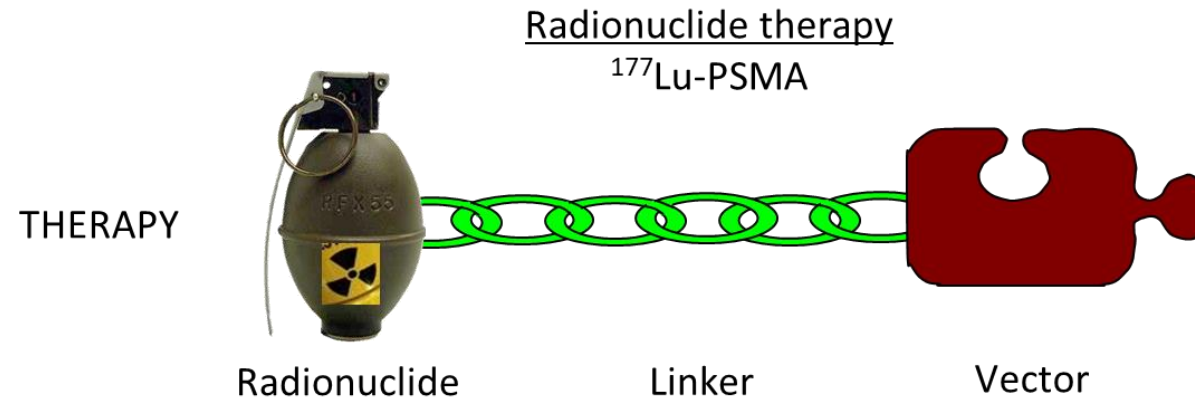
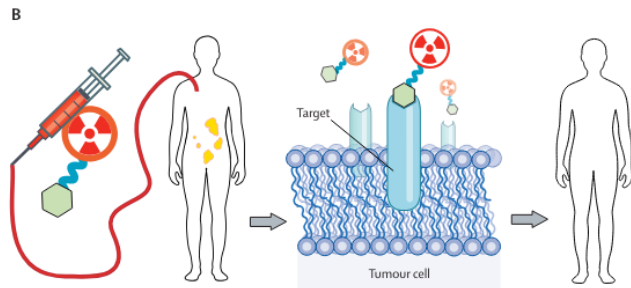
PSMA-based RNT in Prostate Cancer

Theranostic duo in prostate cancer

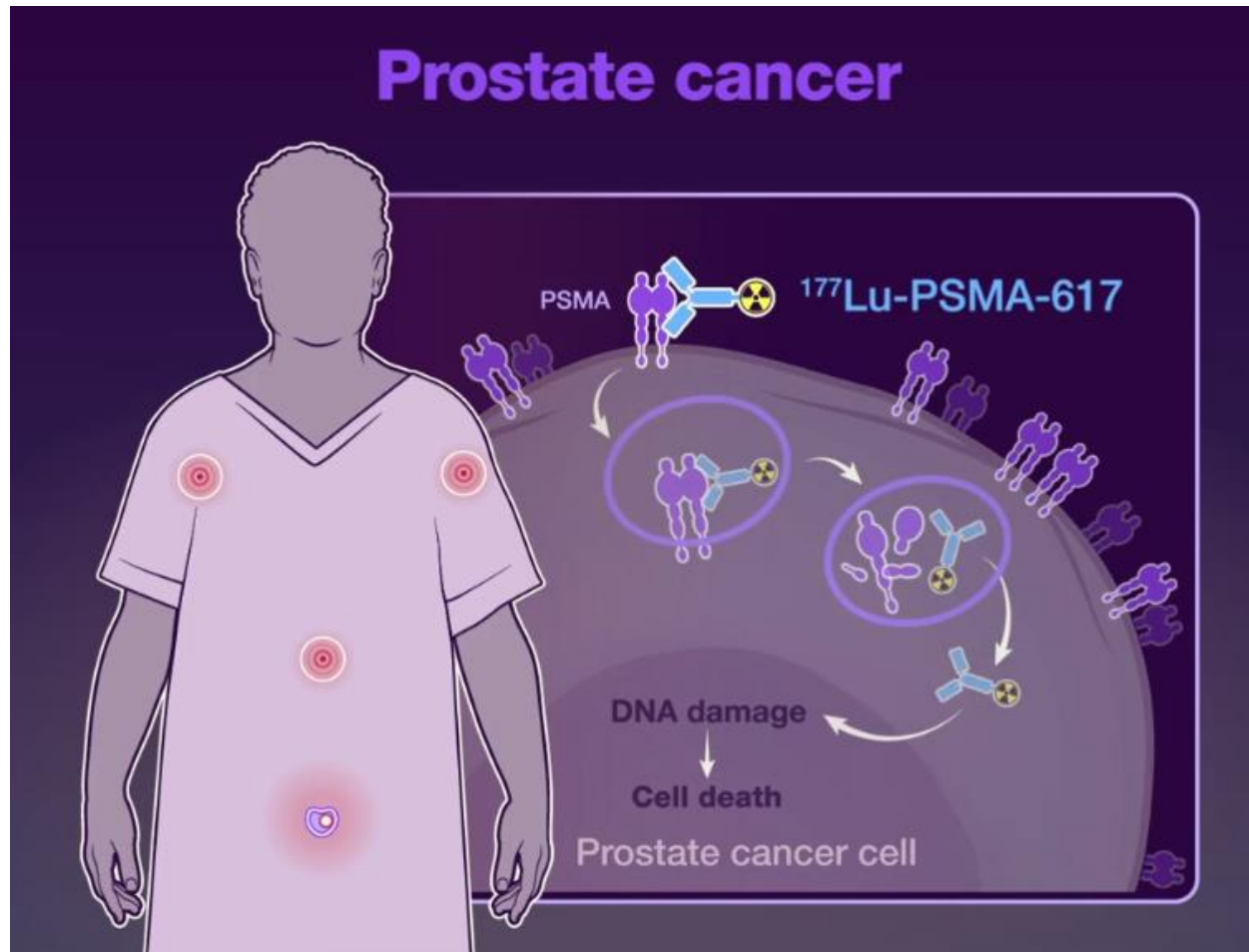


Patient selection

Response assessment



^{177}Lu -PSMA radioligand therapy



¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA therapy: VISION-RCT

International, open-label, phase 3 trial

Patient population

Stratification factors

mCRPC

- At least 1 prior NAAD
- At least 1 prior taxane
- PS = 0-2
- PSMA PET+

N=831

- LDH (above/below 260)
- Liver mets (Y/N)
- PS (0-1/2)
- NAAD as BSC (Y/N)

2:1 randomization

- Best SOC
- ¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA-617 7.4 GBq q6 wks x4-6

N=551

Primary endpoints

- Overall survival
- rPFS (PCWG3)

- Best SOC

N=280

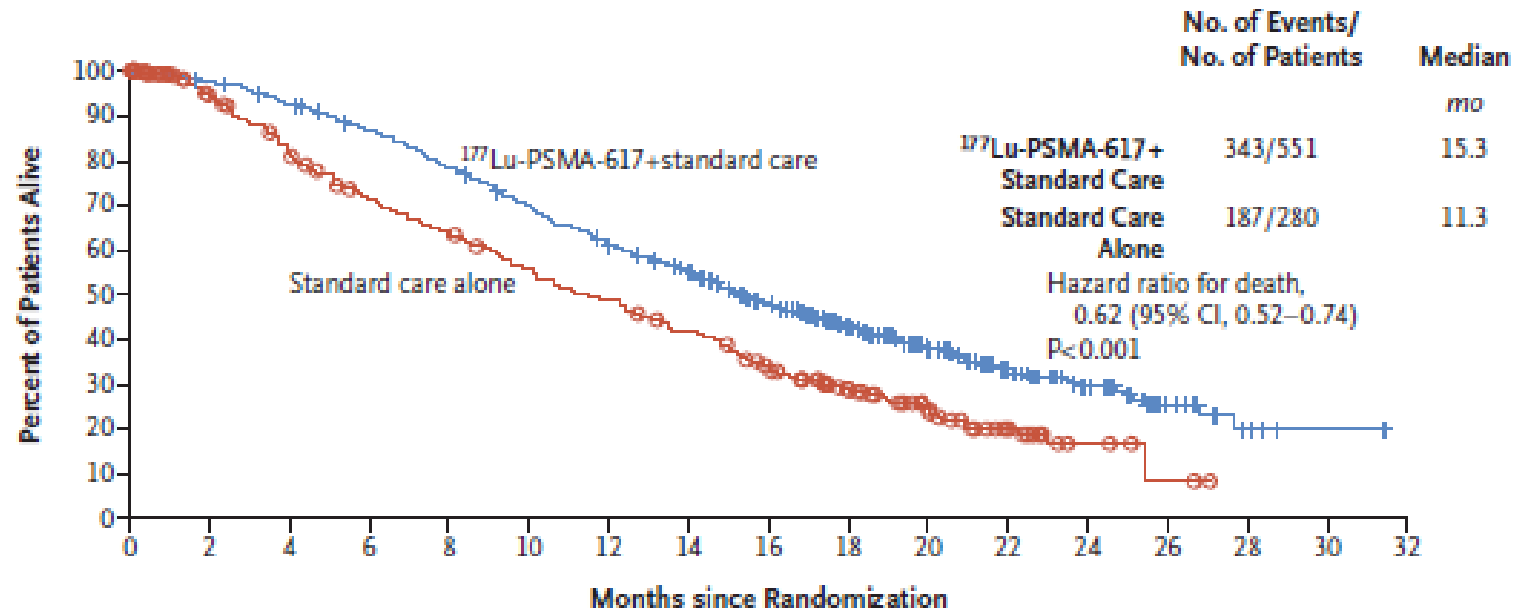
12% excluded

Centrally read PSMA PET imaging criteria

- ≥ 1 PSMA-positive metastatic lesion
 - Positive = ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 uptake > liver
- No PSMA-negative metastatic lesions
 - Bone with soft tissue component ≥ 1.0 cm
 - Lymph node ≥ 2.5 cm
 - Solid organ ≥ 1.0 cm

¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA therapy: VISION-RCT

Overall Survival



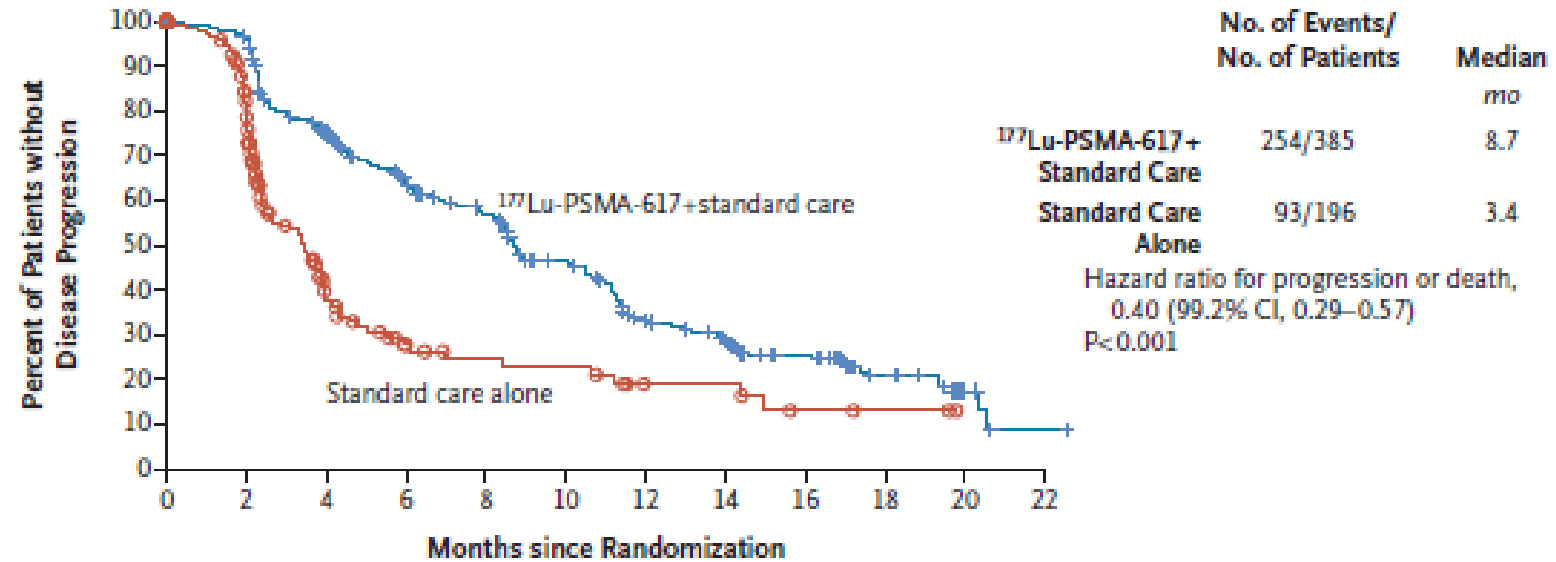
No. at Risk

¹⁷⁷ Lu-PSMA-617+standard care	551	535	506	470	425	377	332	289	236	166	112	63	36	15	5	2	0
Standard care alone	280	238	203	173	155	133	117	98	73	51	33	16	6	2	0	0	0

38% reduced risk of death

^{177}Lu -PSMA therapy: VISION-RCT

Imaging-Based Progression-free Survival



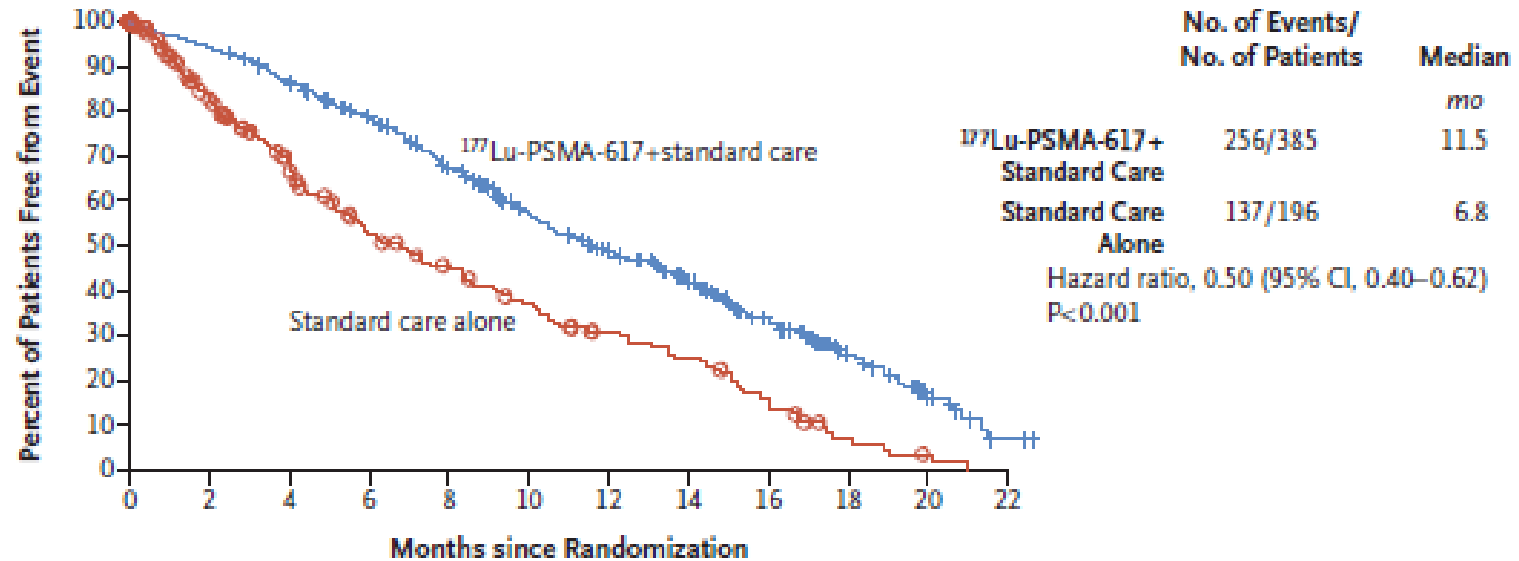
No. at Risk

^{177}Lu -PSMA-617+standard care	385	362	272	215	182	137	88	71	49	21	6	1
Standard care alone	196	119	36	19	14	13	7	7	3	2	0	0

60% reduced risk of progression

^{177}Lu -PSMA therapy: VISION-RCT

Time to First Symptomatic Skeletal Event = secondary endpoint



No. at Risk

^{177}Lu -PSMA-617+standard care	385	363	329	290	240	189	153	117	73	34	12	2
Standard care alone	196	141	104	75	61	48	36	29	15	6	2	0

¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA therapy: VISION-RCT

Table 2. Adverse Events.*

Event	¹⁷⁷ Lu-PSMA-617 plus Standard Care (N=529)		Standard Care Alone (N=205)	
	All Grades	Grade ≥3	All Grades	Grade ≥3
	<i>number of patients (percent)</i>			
Any adverse event	519 (98.1)	279 (52.7)	170 (82.9)	78 (38.0)
Adverse event that occurred in >12% of patients				
Fatigue	228 (43.1)	31 (5.9)	47 (22.9)	3 (1.5)
Dry mouth	205 (38.8)	0	1 (0.5)	0
Nausea	187 (35.3)	7 (1.3)	34 (16.6)	1 (0.5)
Anemia	168 (31.8)	68 (12.9)	27 (13.2)	10 (4.9)
Back pain	124 (23.4)	17 (3.2)	30 (14.6)	7 (3.4)
Arthralgia	118 (22.3)	6 (1.1)	26 (12.7)	1 (0.5)
Decreased appetite	112 (21.2)	10 (1.9)	30 (14.6)	1 (0.5)
Constipation	107 (20.2)	6 (1.1)	23 (11.2)	1 (0.5)
Diarrhea	100 (18.9)	4 (0.8)	6 (2.9)	1 (0.5)
Vomiting	100 (18.9)	5 (0.9)	13 (6.3)	1 (0.5)
Thrombocytopenia	91 (17.2)	42 (7.9)	9 (4.4)	2 (1.0)
Lymphopenia	75 (14.2)	41 (7.8)	8 (3.9)	1 (0.5)
Leukopenia	66 (12.5)	13 (2.5)	4 (2.0)	1 (0.5)
Adverse event that led to reduction in ¹⁷⁷ Lu-PSMA-617 dose	30 (5.7)	10 (1.9)	NA	NA
Adverse event that led to interruption of ¹⁷⁷ Lu-PSMA-617†	85 (16.1)	42 (7.9)	NA	NA
Adverse event that led to discontinuation of ¹⁷⁷ Lu-PSMA-617‡	63 (11.9)	37 (7.0)	NA	NA
Adverse event that led to death‡	19 (3.6)	19 (3.6)	6 (2.9)	6 (2.9)

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^{177}Lu -PSMA therapy: VISION-RCT



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Adverse event that led to death \ddagger	19 (3.6)	19 (3.6)	6 (2.9)	6 (2.9)

TheraP: ¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA vs cabazitaxel

multicentre, open-label, phase 2 trial

Patient population

mCRPC

- Post docetaxel
- Progressive disease with rising PSA and PSA \geq 20
- ECOG PS = 0-2
- PSMA PET+

N=291

Stratification factors

- Disease burden (>20 sites vs \leq 20 sites)
- Prior enza or abi
- Study site

1:1 randomization

- ¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA-617
8.5 GBq (-0.5 GBq each cycle)
q6 wks x4-6

N=99

Primary endpoints

- PSA decline \geq 50%

- Cabazitaxel
20 mg/m² IV q3 weekly
up to 10 cycles

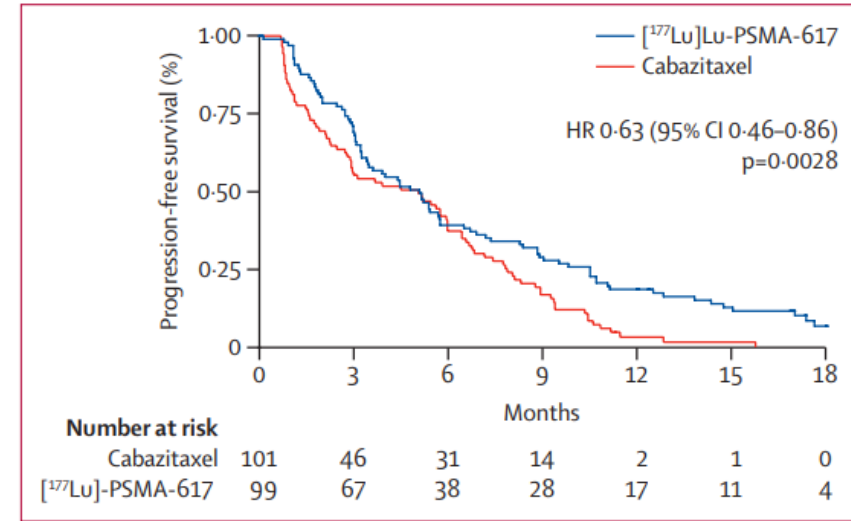
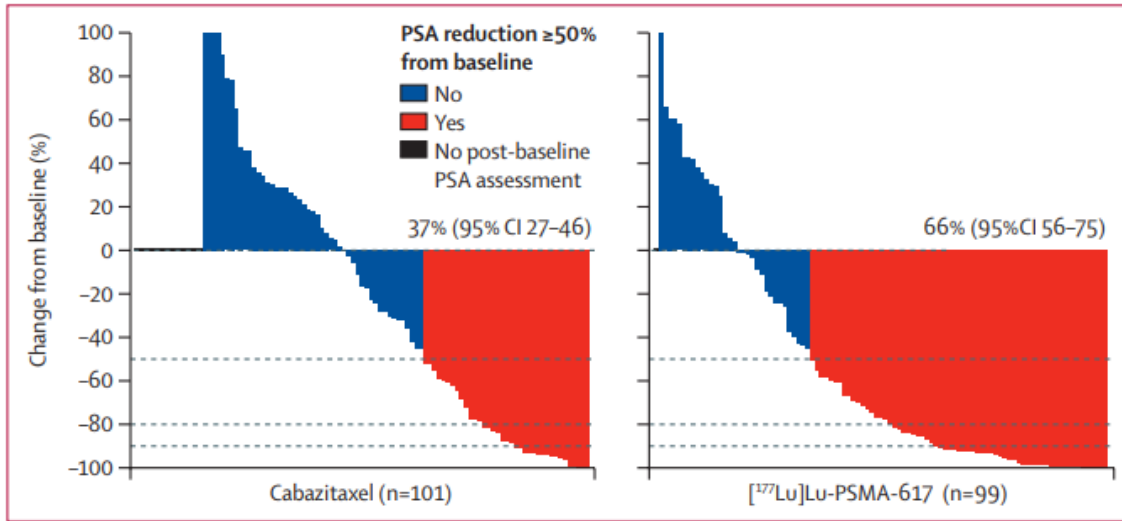
N=101

Centrally read PSMA PET imaging criteria

- PSMA SUV_{max} \geq 20 in \geq 1 lesion & SUV_{max} \geq 10 in all lesions
- No PSMA-negative FDG-positive metastatic lesions

28% excluded

TheraP: ^{177}Lu -PSMA vs cabazitaxel

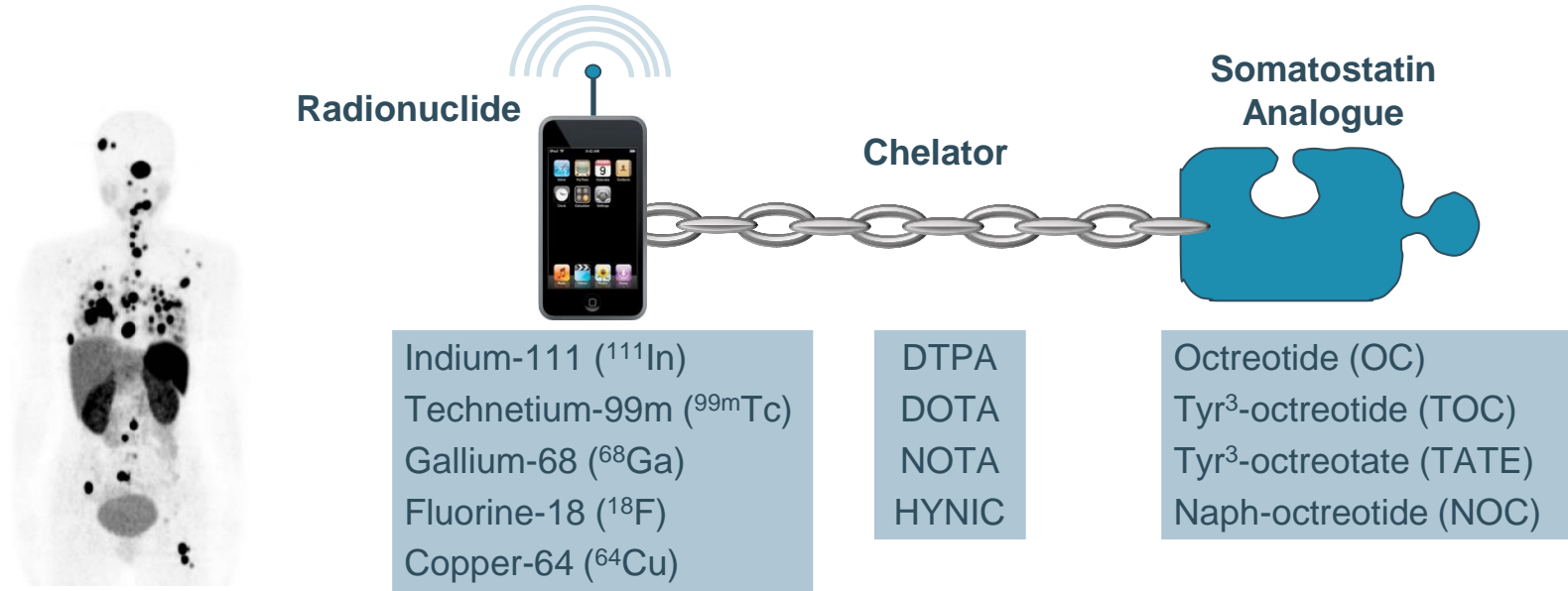


Radiographic or PSA PFS

- Overall survival similar: 19.1 months ^{177}Lu -PSMA vs 19.6 months cabazitaxel
- Lower AE rate with ^{177}Lu -PSMA

Peptide Receptor Radionuclide Therapy (PRRT) in Neuro-endocrine Tumors

SSTR radiopharmaceuticals



Indium-111 (^{111}In)
 Technetium-99m ($^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$)
 Gallium-68 (^{68}Ga)
 Fluorine-18 (^{18}F)
 Copper-64 (^{64}Cu)

DTPA
 DOTA
 NOTA
 HYNIC

Octreotide (OC)
 Tyr³-octreotide (TOC)
 Tyr³-octreotate (TATE)
 Naph-octreotide (NOC)

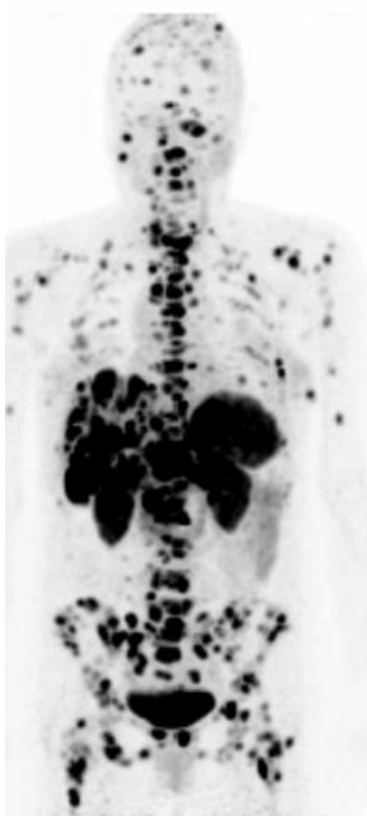
Diagnostic Combinations

- ^{111}In -DTPA-octreotide (pentetreotide) (**Octreoscan[®]**)
- ^{68}Ga -DOTA,Tyr³-octreotide (^{68}Ga -DOTA**TOC**)
- ^{68}Ga -DOTA,Tyr³-octreotate (^{68}Ga -DOTA**TATE**)
- ^{68}Ga -DOTA, [Phe¹-1-Nal³]-octreotide (^{68}Ga -DOTA**NOC**)
- ^{64}Cu -DOTA, Tyr³-octreotate (^{64}Cu -DOTA**TATE**)
- Al¹⁸F-NOTA-Octreotide (Al¹⁸F-**OC**)

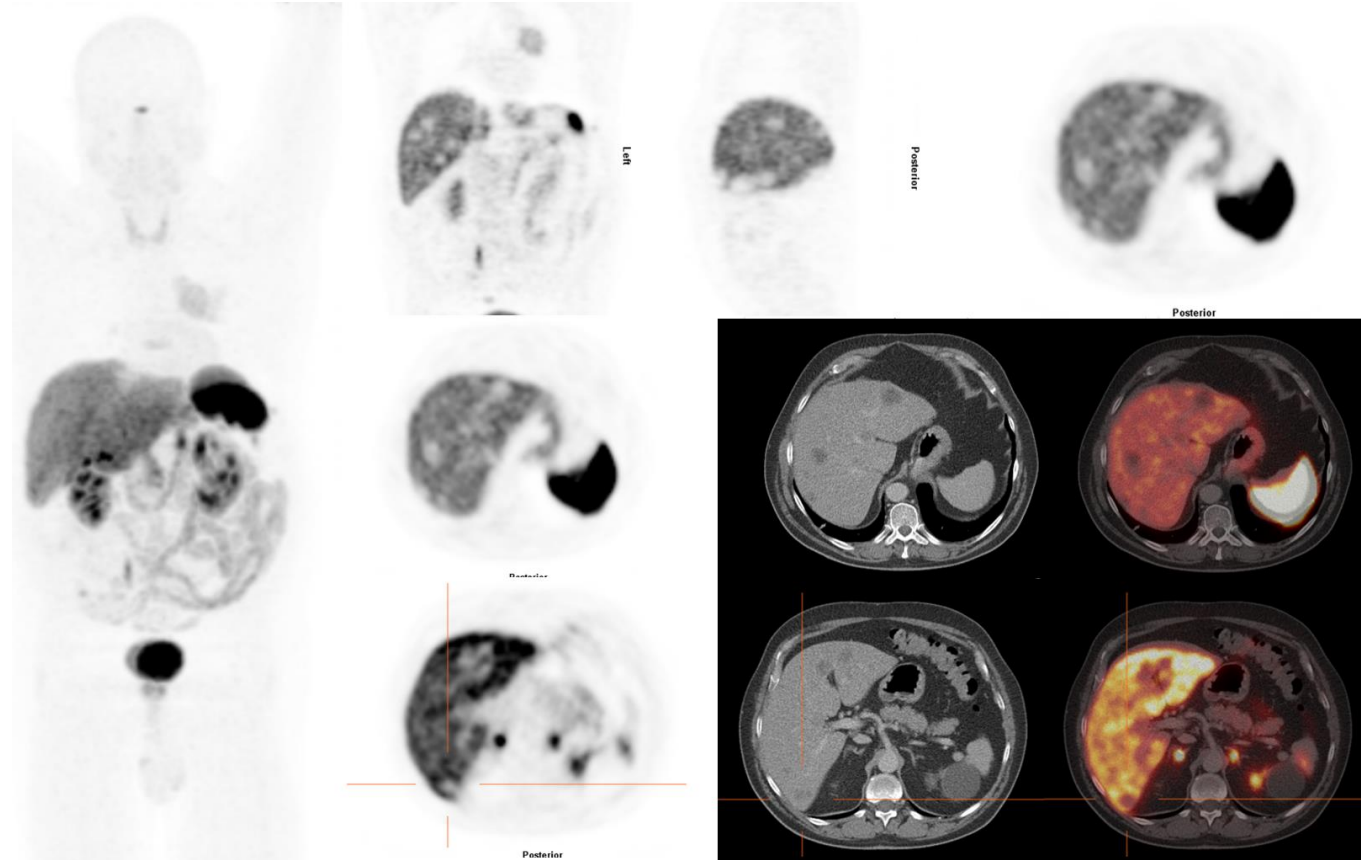


Expression status of SSTR = key selection parameter

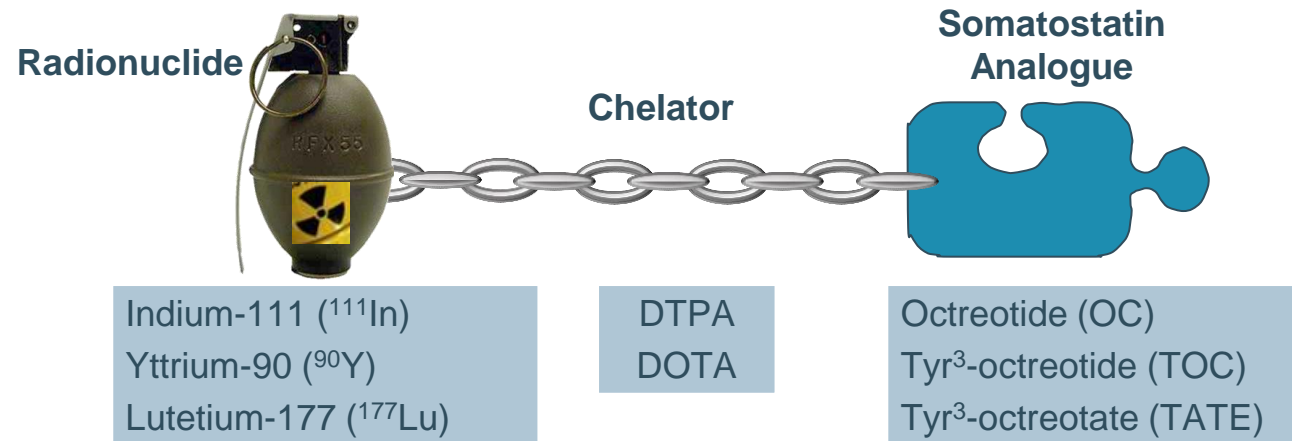
Candidate



No Candidate



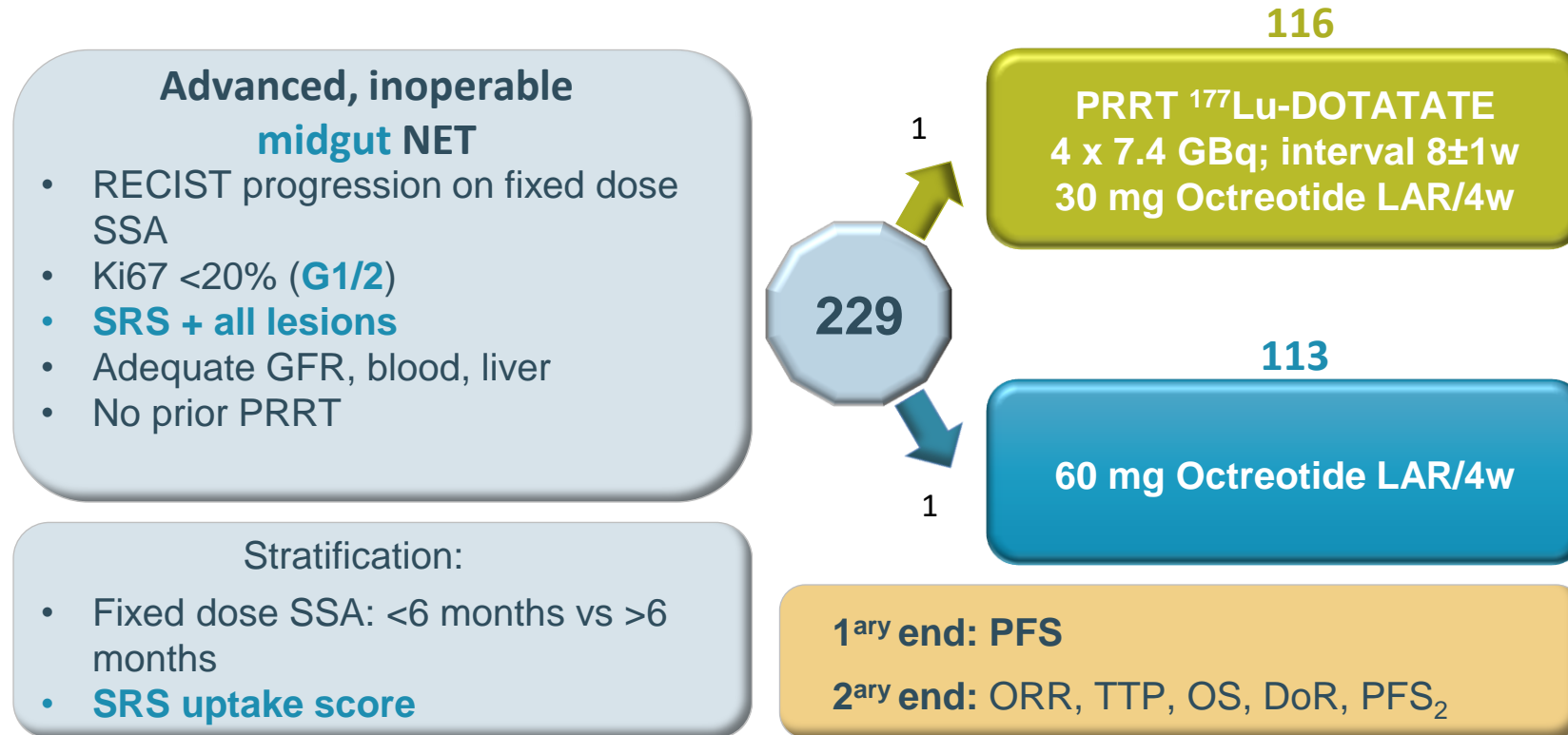
SSTR radiopharmaceuticals



Therapeutic Combinations

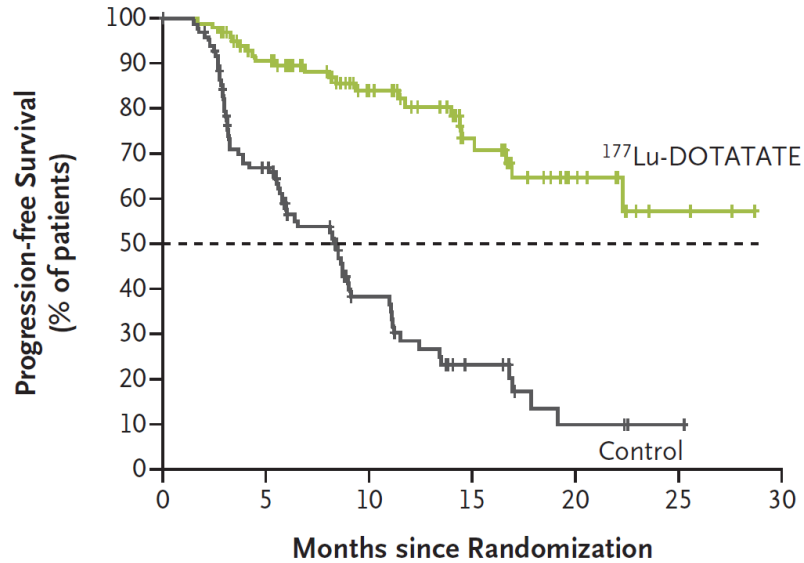
- | | | Generation |
|---|---|-------------------|
| • ^{111}In -DTPA-octreotide (pentetreotide) | (Octreoscan [®]) | First |
| • ^{90}Y -DOTA, Tyr ³ -octreotide | (^{90}Y -DOTA TOC) | Second |
| • ^{177}Lu -DOTA, Tyr ³ -octreotate | (^{177}Lu -DOTA TATE ; Lutathera [®]) | Third |
| • ^{177}Lu -DOTA, Tyr ³ -octreotide | (^{177}Lu -DOTA TOC) | Third |

NETTER-1 RCT



NETTER-1 RCT

Progression-free survival



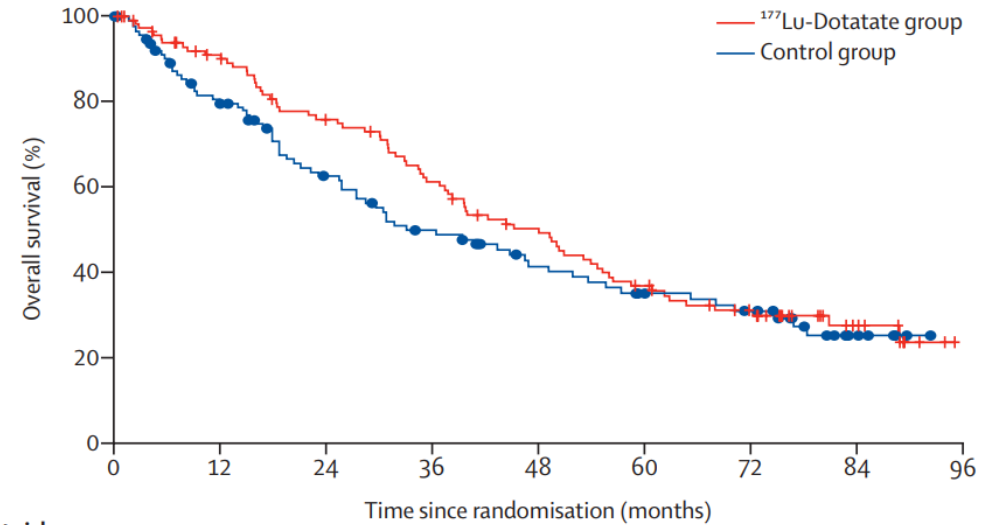
No. at Risk		0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30
¹⁷⁷ Lu-DOTATATE group		116	97	76	59	42	28	19	12	3	2	0
Control group		113	80	47	28	17	10	4	3	1	0	0

HR 0.21, p < 0.001

Median PFS:

- ¹⁷⁷Lu-DOTATATE: NR
- Octreotide 60 mg LAR: 8.4 mo

Overall survival



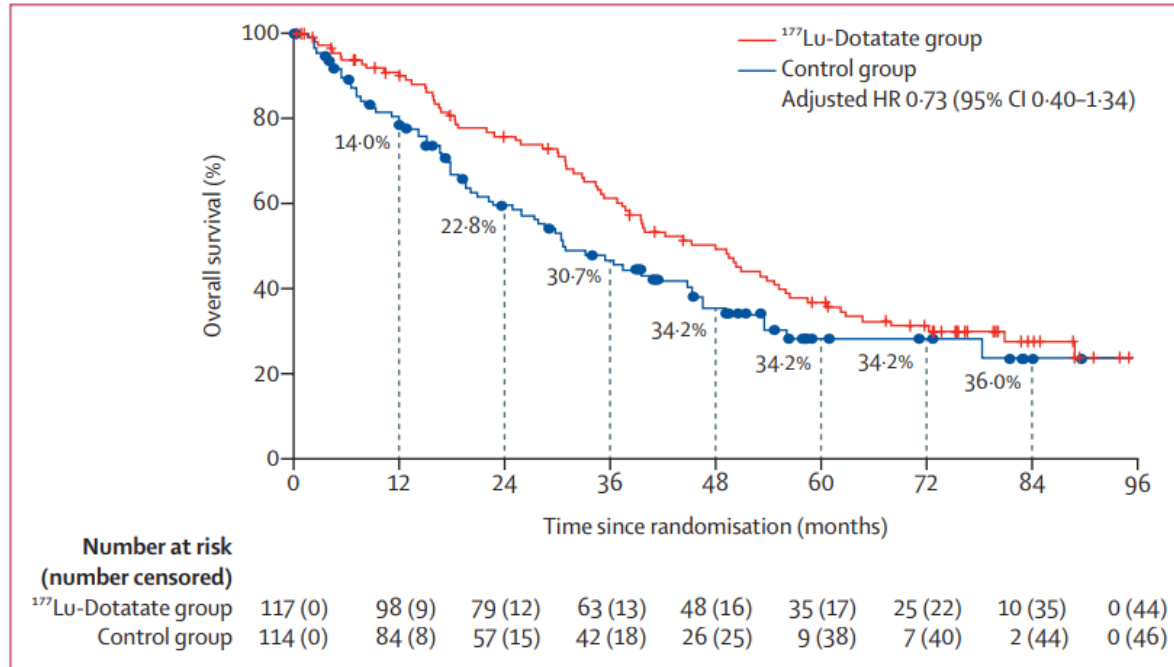
Number at risk (number censored)		0	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96
¹⁷⁷ Lu-Dotatate group		117 (0)	98 (9)	79 (12)	63 (13)	48 (16)	35 (17)	25 (22)	10 (35)	0 (44)
Control group		114 (0)	84 (8)	61 (14)	45 (18)	33 (23)	25 (26)	21 (27)	6 (39)	0 (45)

HR 0.84, p 0.30

Median OS

- ¹⁷⁷Lu-DOTATATE: 48.0 mo
- Octreotide 60 mg LAR: 36.3 mo

NETTER-1 RCT



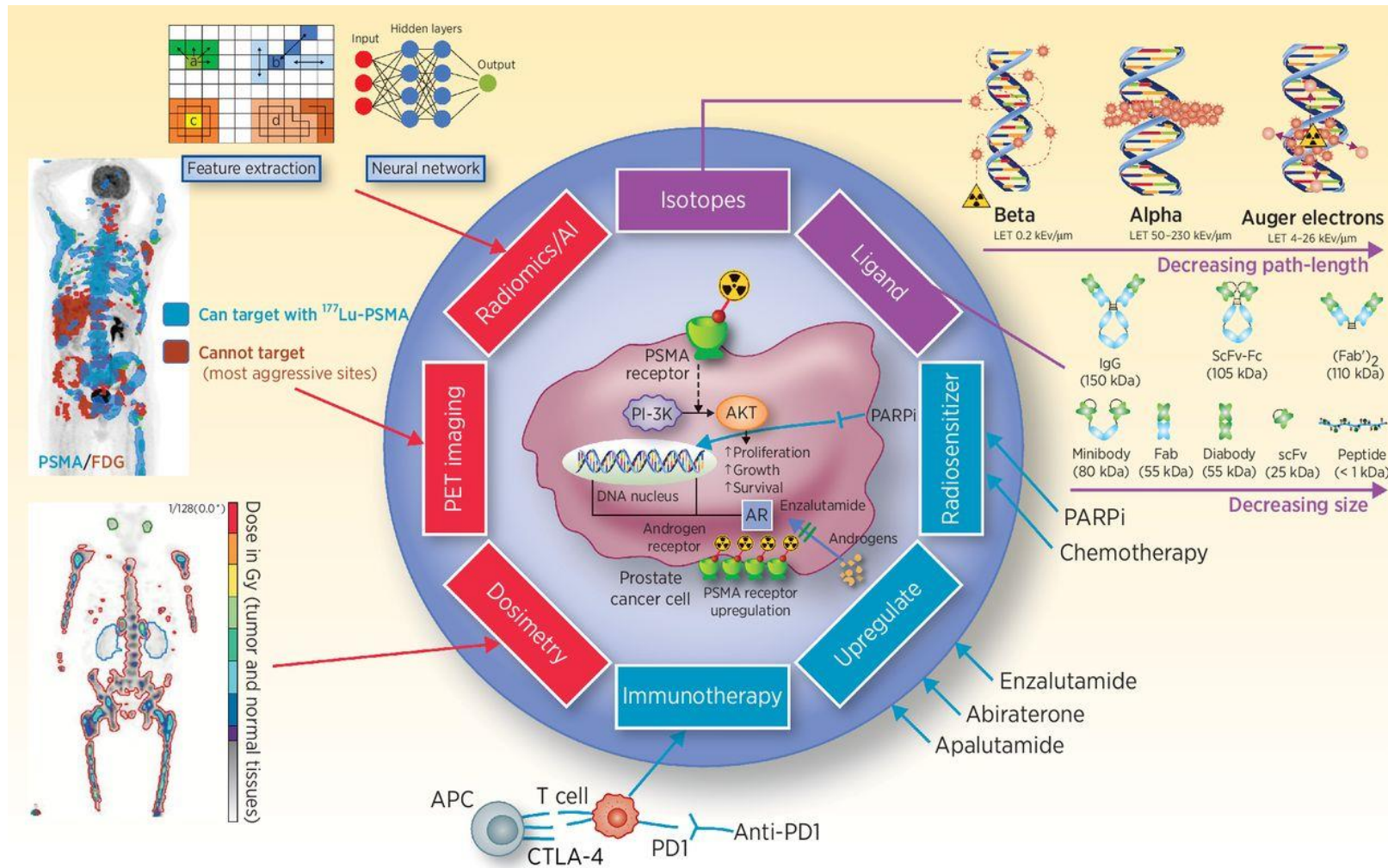
- Also
 - Higher objective response rate
 - Improved QOL
 - Improved symptom control

Figure 4: Rank-preserving structured failure time analysis of overall survival accounting for crossover to any PRRT in the control group during long-term follow-up
 Percentages at each timepoint are cumulative proportions of patients crossing over from the control group to PRRT. HR=hazard ratio. PRRT=peptide receptor radionuclide therapy.

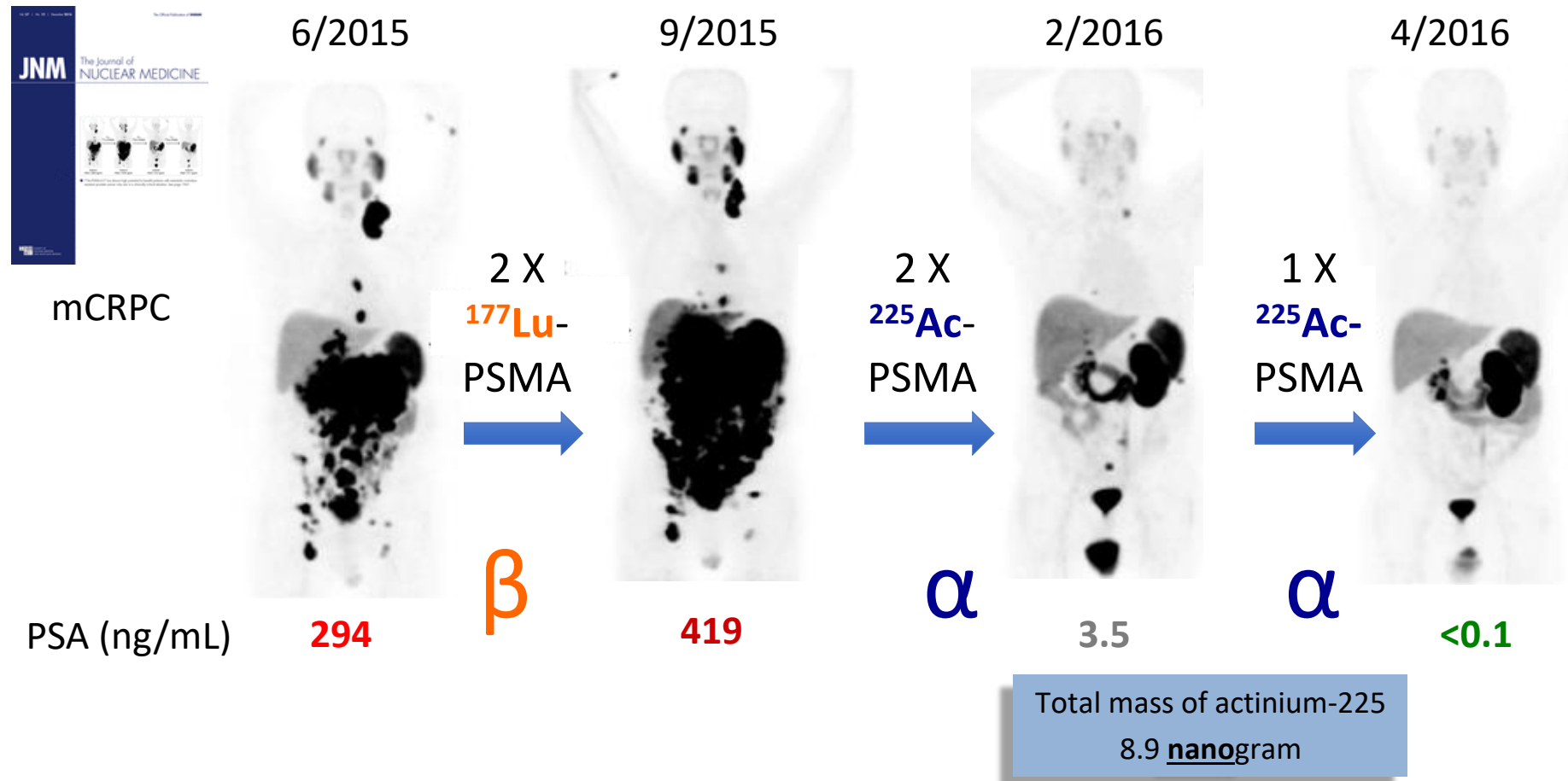
PRRT toxicity

- **Acute** (hours):
 - Nausea and vomiting (from nephroprotective AA)
- **Subacute** (days to weeks):
 - Fatigue & asthenia – common 1st week (NETTER-1: 36%)
 - Hematotoxicity - common (NETTER-1: 5-23%; G3/4: 3.6%)
 - Alopecia – common (10-30%)
 - Special attention:
 - Liver (in very high tumor, >90%) – very rare
 - Intestinal occlusion if peritoneal disease – rare
- **Long term** (years):
 - Kidney toxicity
 - ⁹⁰Y-DOTATOC: 9.2% end-stage kidney failure (G 4/5)
 - ¹⁷⁷Lu-DOTATATE: G 4/5 <1%
 - Bone marrow: Persistent Hematological Dysfunction (PHD)
 - Persistent cytopenia / MDS / AML

Future of RNT



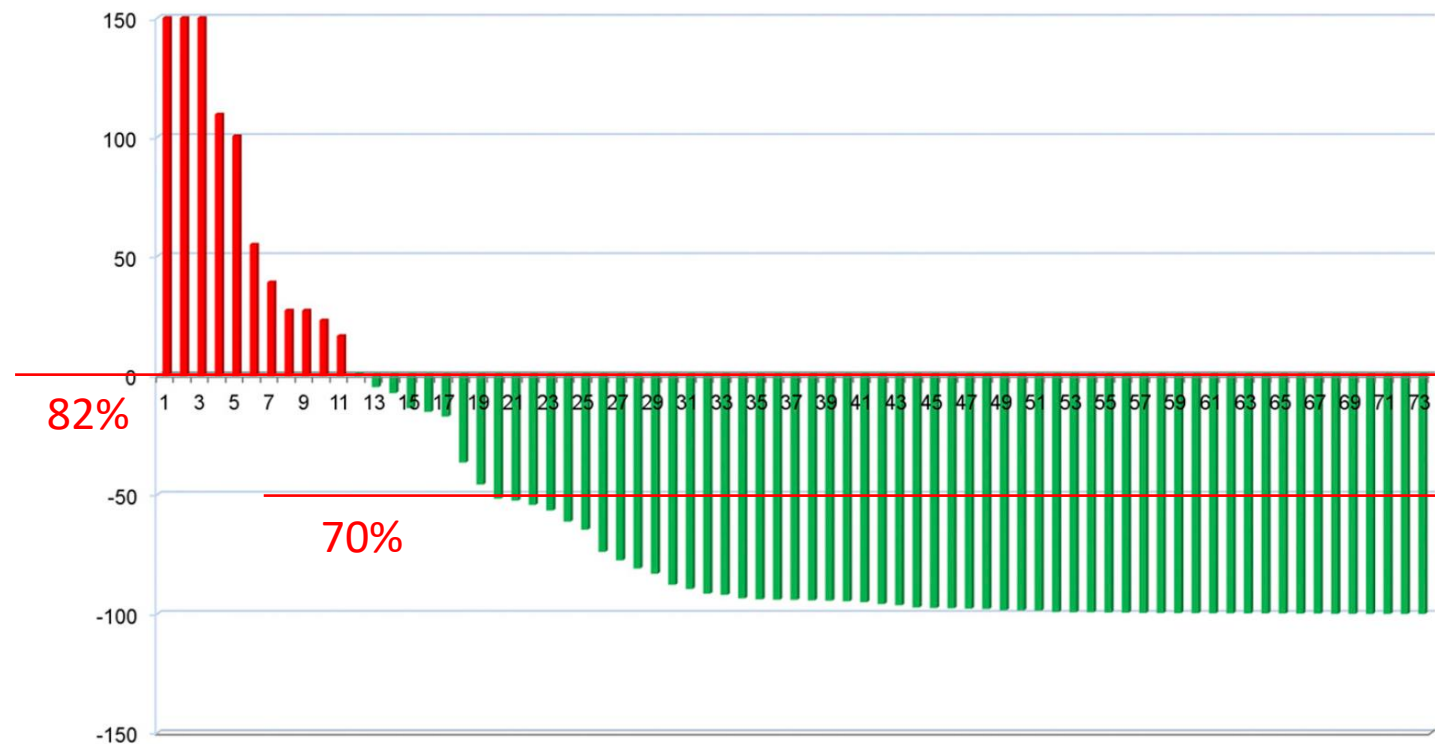
Beyond β ... the power of α -therapy



^{225}Ac -PSMA RLT - efficacy

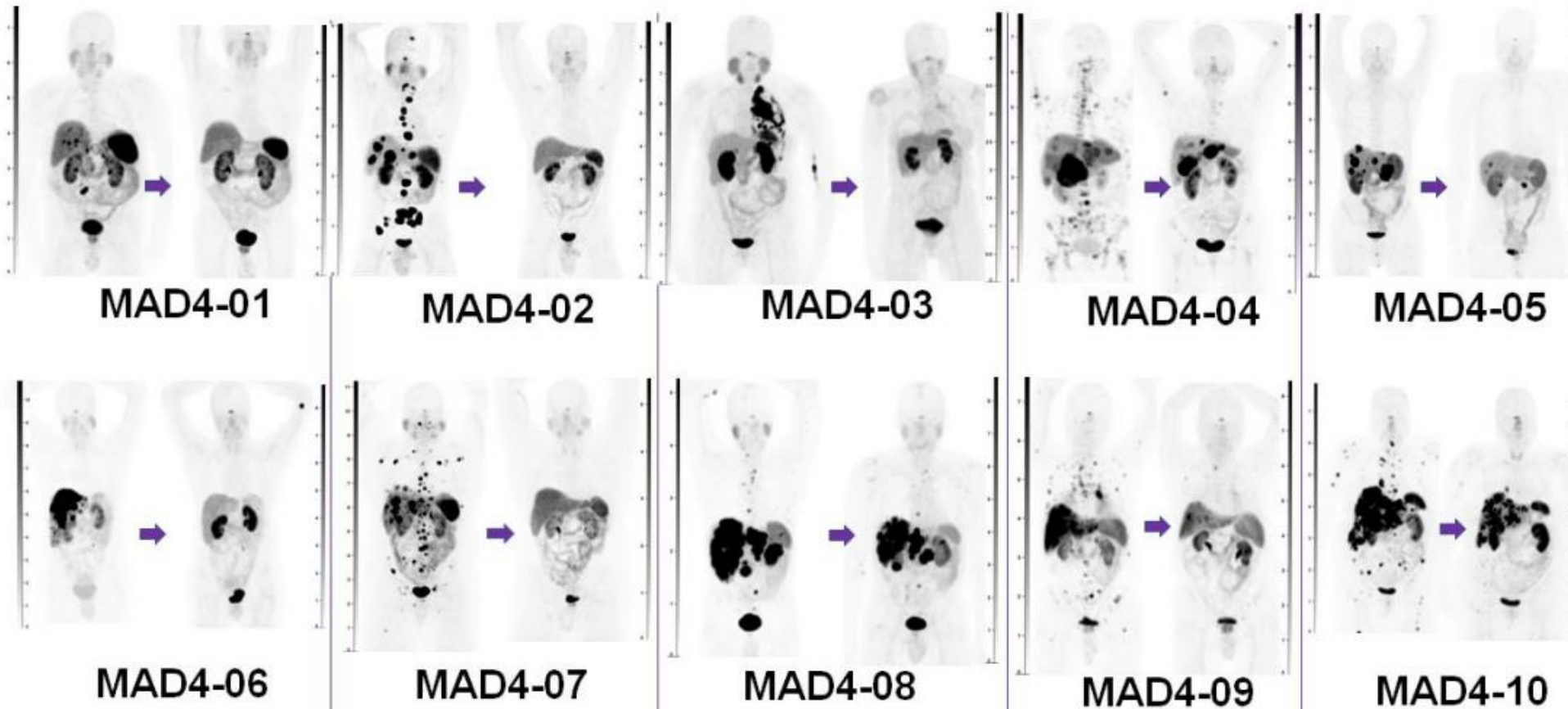
Characteristic	Value
No. of patients included	73
Median age (y)	69
≥75 y old	29
ECOG score of 0 or 1	82
ECOG score of ≥2	18
Median PSA level (ng/mL)	57.2
Median alkaline phosphatase level (IU/L)	154
Alkaline phosphatase level of >220 IU/L	27
Median hemoglobin level (g/dL)	11.7
Hemoglobin level of ≤10 g/dL	30
Bone metastases	90
Superscan pattern	38
Visceral metastases	
Lung	3
Liver	5
Brain	1
Local therapy to prostate	
Prostatectomy	33
Radiation therapy	14
No local therapy	53
Therapy for castration-resistant disease	
Chemotherapy	37
Abiraterone	1
Enzalutamide	1
^{177}Lu -PSMA-617	14
Estimated median OS (mo)	18

73 mCRPC patients



α -therapy in neuro-endocrine tumors

^{212}Pb -DOTAMTATE (2.5 MBq/kg) – PRRT naïve NET patients – Phase I



N=10
CR: 1
PR: 7
SD: 2
80% RR
100% DCR

To conclude...

- Radionuclide therapy has been applied by nuclear medicine for decades
- Modern theranostics allow diagnostic imaging of relevant molecular targets to make decision on target-directed treatments
- Radionuclide theranostic duos are currently used clinical routine practice
- Trials such as VISION and NETTER-1 have validated theranostic targeting of radionuclides to metastatic sites, with drastic effects on PFS and OS, while preserving or even improving quality of life
- New theranostic combinations for novel targets and radionuclides are eagerly being developed - huge unlocked potential.

