though most pronounced in patients with tumors ⩽10 mm and patients with node-negative disease. Patients with an interval carcinoma diagnosed before 1997 had a better OS and BCSS, whereas patients diagnosed with interval carcinomas diagnosed between 1997 and 2001 had similar outcomes compared to patients with non-screenings-related cancers in the corresponding time period.

Conclusions: Screen-detection is an independent prognostic factor and resulted in an additional BCSS benefit of 34% beyond stage migration. Therefore, method of detection should be taken into account when selecting patients for adjuvant systemic therapy.

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A focused, PCR based gene expression signature to refine grade in breast cancer

A. Szasz[1], A.M. Tokes[1], L. Szittya[1], Z.S. Baranyak[1], B. Szekely[1], A. Eklund[2], Q. Li[2], C. Swanton[3], Z. Szallasi[2], J. Kulka[1]. [1]Semmelweis University, 2nd Department of Pathology, Budapest, Hungary; [2]Technical University of Denmark, Center for Biological Sequence Analysis, Lyngby, Denmark; [3]Cancer Research UK, London Research Institute, London, United Kingdom

Nottingham grading system is used to classify breast carcinomas of different histological appearance and clinical behavior into well-differentiated (grade 1), moderately (grade 2) and poorly differentiated (grade 3) subgroups. Major limitations of this system are interobserver variability and the grade 2 group of tumors which display intermediate characteristics. Further, when considering clinical behavior and treatment options this group of breast carcinomas does not compose an uniform cluster.

Recent studies suggested that grade 2 tumors can be split into high and low grade tumors with reasonable confidence, replacing the three grades with a high and low grade tumor subtype. This has been achieved with the use of microarray analysis, which is associated with a rather high cost rendering its use in routine pathological diagnosis impractical.

The genes contained in the gene expression signatures used for grade refinement show a high level of pairwise Pearson correlation coefficients (>0.7) across several breast cancer cohorts. This suggests that most grade refining genes reflect the same biological information, therefore a few appropriately selected genes will provide the same grade associated information as the tens or hundreds of genes used in the microarray analysis.

On the basis of histological grade, we evaluated 314 invasive breast carcinomas consisting of 106 grade 1, 116 grade 2 and 91 grade 3, formalin-fixed and paraffin-embedded tissue samples. After RNA purification and reverse transciption, qRT-PCR method was able to validate the proposal of the in silico analysis. We selected 5 genes (AURKA, TOP2A, FOXM1, TPX2) that are present in grade refining signatures (Sotiriou et al. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2006, Carter et al. Nat Genet 2006) and CLDN4 which is gaining more importance considering the recently described claudin-low subtype.

We present the results of our analysis which was able to split grade 2 carcinomas into low and high genomic grade clusters, thus, making it possible to reclassify breast cancer into different prognostic groups and aid therapeutic decision making.

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Unprecedented results of a clinical validation of the dedicated and highest resolution breast PET

A. González Martínez[1], T. Aukema[2], J.M. Benlloch Baviera[3], J. Barbera Ballester[1], C. Correcher Salvador[1], C. Vazquez Barreiros[1], R.A. Valés Olmos[2], W. Vogel[2]. [1]Oncovision, R+D, Valencia, Spain; [2]National Cancer Institute, Nuclear Medicine, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; [3]Instituto Fisica Corpuscular, Fisica Medica, Valencia, Spain

Background: This work aims to evaluate the first prototype of a mini-PET ring detector (MAMMI) dedicated for early cancer diagnosis. To show the first clinical images with an unprecedented spatial resolution and increased sensitivity of the MAMMI in comparison with a whole-body PET/CT.

Methods: After a pre-clinical test period the first prototype of the MAMMI mini-PET is being validated at the Netherlands Cancer Institute in a group of patients with histologically confirmed breast cancer. Images are obtained immediately after PET/CT (GeminiTF, Eindhoven, The Netherlands). PET/CT images are acquired 60 minutes after administration of 180–240 MBq 18F-FDG with the patients positioned on a special device that allows the breasts to hang down offering their maximum volume. Subsequently to the main sequence acquired with the PET/CT 10−20 min studies (depending on breast length) are performed with the MAMMI mini-PET without the need of additional dose administration. The PET/CT study counts with attenuation correction through the CT acquisition. In

contrast, the MAMMI reconstruction uses 3D MLEM (voxel size of 1 mm) and an innovative attenuation correction through breast-air binarization has been obtained. Other corrections nemaly random and scatter were also satisfactorily applied during the reconstruction process. Breast lesion 18F-FDG SUVmax and tumor/background ratios were measured on PET.

Results: The new and dedicated breast PET has demonstrated to acquire images with a spatial resolution near 1.5 mm and highest physical sensitivity for this type of detectors. The mini-PET reconstructs images using a Maximum Likelihood Expectation Maximization 3D algorithm in about 15 min for a transaxial FOV of 170 mm in diameter and 40 mm axial in one shoot. However, an expanded 2D algorithm has also been developed to reconstruct the same volume within just 1 min. The whole axial FOV varies as a function of the breast length. A reliable SUV serves the user to accurately quantify the tumor and surrounding tissue.

Conclusion: An innovative dedicated breast PET ring detector with unprecedented spatial resolution aimed for early breast cancer detection has been pre-clinically tested. A clinical validation study of this mini-PET in comparison with a whole body PET/CT device is in progress at the Netherlands Cancer Institute in order to evaluate the possible advantage of the new system when related to small breast lesions.

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Outcomes of incidentally detected breast lesions on chest CT, based on histopathologic correlation

B. Ko[1], Y.S. Kim[1], D.W. Kang[1], H.K. Yoon[1], S.Y. Ham[2]. [1]Ulsan University Hospital, General Surgery, Ulsan, Korea; [2]Korea University Anam Hospital, Radiology, Seoul, Korea

Background: To analyze of the histopathologic findings of incidentally detected breast lesion by chest CT scan and to predict the imaging findings of suggesting malignancy.

Materials and Methods: We retrospectively reviewed the medical records of 41 cases of breast abnormalities, detected by chest CT scan (64-detector row CT (Brilliance 64; Philips Medical Systems, Netherlands)) for screening and diagnostic CT scan (total 498 CT scans). Most of the patients were women (M:F= 3:38). The age varies from 31 to 78 years old. The clinical indication of for chest CT scan were evaluation of the chest abnormalities, detected in chest radiography (112, 22.5%), lung cancer screening (97, 19.5%), preoperative evaluation for malignancy except breast (86, 17.3%), evaluation for pulmonary metastases from other organs (75, 15.1%), work up for infectious diseases (e.g., tuberculosis, pneumonia) (61, 12.2%), clinical history of hemoptysis (49, 9.8%), unknown cause (18, 3.6%). Follow up evaluation were done by breast US and mammography. Histopathologic correlation was done if there's any finding, suggesting malignancy and over category 4a lesions and follow up breast US were done for cat. 3 lesions.

Results: Of 41 patients, 13 cases (31%) were confirmed as malignancy (8 invasive ductal carcinoma, 2 ductal carcinoma in situ, 1 mucinous carcinoma, 1 small cell carcinoma, 1 lymphoma). Remaining 28 cases were benign lesion, (19 were fibrocystic disease, 7 were fibroadenomas, 2 were intramammary lymph nodes). The CT features, suggesting malignancy were speculated margin (8/13), peripheral rim enhancement (5/13), axillary node enlargements (4/13), central low attenuation area (3/13), perilesional infiltrations (3/13). Associated calcifications, size and multifocal nodular enhancement were also shown in malignant lesions. Conversely, smooth well defined margin of the mass was more common in benign lesions (17/28 cases).

Conclusions: Based on our study, significant rates (31%) of malignancy among the detected abnormalities in chest CT scan. The most common abnormality in malignancy is invasive ductal carcinoma. The CT findings of spiculated margin and peripheral enhancement with axillary lymphadenopathy were reliable findings in predicting malignancy.

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Is 18FDG-PET CT available for detection of preoperative axillary lymph node metastasis in invasive ductal carcinoma?

J.Y. Lee[1], Y.T. Bae[1], H.I. Seo[1], Y.J. Jung[1]. [1]Pusan National University Hospital, General surgery, Busan, South Korea

Background: 18FDG-PET/CT has been recommended as a preoperative staging modality of advanced cancer, but the availability of 18FDG-PET/CT is still remained controversial. This study was designed to give ideas using 18FDG-PET/CT for axillary lymph node (ALN) metastasis of invasive ductal carcinoma by comparison positive with negative result group.

Materials and Methods: The subjects are consisted of 176patients with invasive ductal carcinoma who underwent operations on Pusan National University Hospital from January 2007 to December 2008 and preoperative 18FDG-PET/CT. Among 65patients with metastatic ALN comfirmed on permanent pathologic result, 31patients with and 34 patients without