

1 **Title**

2 Using, ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT for therapy response assessment in patients with metastatic
3 castration-resistant prostate cancer: an application of EAU/EANM recommendations in clinical
4 practice.

5

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32 **Conflicts of interest**

33 All authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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35 **Running Title**

36 PSMA PET/CT for therapy assessment

37 **ABSTRACT**

38 For patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC), no reliable
39 biomarkers are currently available that predict therapeutic response or assist in treatment
40 selection and sequencing. Using the recent European Association of Urology and European
41 Association of Nuclear Medicine (EAU/EANM) recommendations, we aimed to (1) compare
42 response assessment between prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) positron emission
43 tomography combined with computed tomography (PET/CT) and conventional imaging (CI) in
44 mCRPC patients starting a first-line treatment with novel hormonal agents (NHA), and (2)
45 perform a sequential comparative analysis of PSMA PET/CT-derived parameters after 4 and 12
46 weeks of therapy. **Methods:** Eighteen mCRPC patients who started NHA and underwent ⁶⁸Ga-
47 PSMA-11 PET/CT before therapy initiation (baseline), at week 4 (W4) and week 12 (W12), in
48 addition to CI (bone scintigraphy, CT) at baseline and W12, were retrospectively included.
49 PET/CT images were quantitatively analyzed for maximum and mean standardized uptake value
50 and total PSMA-ligand positive total lesion (PSMA-TL). Comparative analysis of PET/CT-
51 derived parameters was performed, and patients were classified with non-progressive disease
52 (non-PD) or progressive disease (PD) according to ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT, PSA and CI criteria.
53 **Results:** Treatment response was evaluable by ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT in 16/18 (89%) patients
54 compared to 11/18 (61%) by CI. At W12, patients with PD by ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT already
55 met progression criteria at W4 ($n = 5/16$) and substantial agreement was observed between the
56 W4 and W12 ($\kappa = 0.74$) ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT. Nonetheless, 2/16 (13%) patients were
57 wrongly classified with PD due to a flare phenomenon on PSMA PET/CT, which disappeared at
58 W12. **Conclusion:** Volumetric assessments of ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT imaging can improve
59 response evaluation in NHA-treated patients with mCRPC. Although early response assessments
60 at W4 need to be approached with caution due to flare, ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT imaging at 4

61 and 12 weeks revealed a substantial agreement in the therapy response assessment, which
62 warrants further investigation to distinguish PD from flare at W4 and help improve our
63 understanding of resistance to therapy.

64

65 **Keywords**

66 mCRPC, prostate cancer, tumor quantification, PSMA PET/CT, flare

67

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70 INTRODUCTION

71 Although new imaging modalities using radionuclides have become available to e.g., evaluate
72 tumor burden, a practical tool for improved staging and clinical decision-making in metastatic
73 castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) is urgently needed. In current clinical practice,
74 therapy response assessment by means of conventional imaging (CI), encompassing computed
75 tomography (CT) and bone scintigraphy (BS), is typically performed after 12-16 weeks of
76 therapy. However, CI has limited sensitivity and specificity for small lymph node and bone
77 metastases, especially at low prostate-specific antigen (PSA) levels (1-2). Due to its higher
78 accuracy, prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) positron emission tomography combined
79 with CT (PET/CT) has gained momentum in staging and recurrence localization compared to CI
80 (3-5). Recently, the EAU (European Association of Urology) in collaboration with EANM
81 (European Association of Nuclear Medicine) recruited a panel of international experts to reach
82 a consensus statement for the use of PSMA PET/CT in assessing therapy response for patients
83 with metastatic disease (6). However, semi-quantitative parameters that should be used for
84 PSMA PET/CT interpretation were not clearly defined. Moreover, the expert panel raised
85 awareness for potential “tumor flare” phenomena following the initiation of androgen
86 deprivation therapy and discouraged the use of PSMA PET/CT within 12 weeks to avoid
87 misinterpretation of potential flare as progressive disease (PD). As PSMA imaging is more
88 widely used in clinical practice, understanding the factors underlying PSMA expression
89 modulation is becoming increasingly important. Interestingly, other factors than exposure to
90 androgen deprivation therapies, such as DNA damage response genes defect (7) or activation of
91 the PI3K-Akt pathway (8), may modulate PSMA expression. Thus, PSMA PET/CT imaging
92 may indirectly reflect underlying molecular biology and, besides a prognostic tool, also serve as
93 a predictive biomarker prior to biochemical progression and/or PD on CI (8-11). Consequently,

94 exploring response endpoints by PSMA PET/CT might improve clinical decision-making, e.g.,
95 treatment intensification for oligoresistant or oligoprogressive lesions to delay disease
96 progression (11-13). The present work evaluated ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT for the baseline
97 assessment and monitoring of treatment response in a retrospective series of patients with
98 mCRPC starting a first-line treatment with a novel hormonal agent (NHA). Additionally, therapy
99 response by ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT at 12 weeks was compared to the earlier response obtained
100 at 4 weeks and individual analysis of ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT-derived parameters using the
101 proposed criteria from the expert-based consensus was performed.

102

103 **METHODS**

104 **Patients**

105 From a large internal database, files from mCRPC patients who started a first-line
106 treatment by NHA between January 2018 and May 2021 at the University Hospital of Liège
107 (Belgium) were retrospectively extracted and reviewed. Additional inclusion criteria comprised
108 patients having undergone ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT before NHA initiation (baseline), at week 4
109 (W4 ± 7 days) and week 12 (W12 ± 7 days) along with CI at baseline and W12; having
110 histologically confirmed prostate adenocarcinoma; having progressive castration-resistant
111 disease, as defined by castrate levels of testosterone (< 1.7 nmol/L) and clinical, biological and/or
112 radiographic progression, conform to Prostate Cancer Clinical Trials Working Group 3
113 (PCWG3) criteria (14); and having documented evidence of metastatic disease (on CI and/or
114 ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT) prior to NHA initiation. Patients who did not respect all inclusion
115 criteria were excluded. This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of the
116 University Hospital of Liège and written informed consent was obtained from all patients.

117

118 **⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT**

119 ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT images were analyzed by a nuclearist (15-year experience
120 including 7 years with PSMA PET/CT) blinded to the clinical data and BS results, using MIM
121 Software (version 7.0.5, Cleveland, Ohio, USA). ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 radiolabeling was performed
122 as previously described (15). Image acquisition and tumor volume delineation technique are
123 summarized in the Supplementary Data (16-19). The following semi-quantitative variables were
124 extracted for each patient: maximum SUV of the hottest lesion (SUV_{max}), total PSMA-ligand
125 positive tumor volume (PSMA-TV), mean SUV of PSMA-TV (SUV_{mean}) and total PSMA-ligand
126 positive total lesion (PSMA-TL, the product of SUV_{mean} and PSMA-TV) (20-21). Following the
127 EAU/EANM recommendations, the parameters used to assess therapy response for tracer uptake
128 and tumor volume were SUV_{max} and PSMA-TL, respectively.

129

130 **Conventional Imaging**

131 CT (chest-abdomen-pelvis) and BS images were analyzed according to PCWG3
132 recommendations (14) by a nuclearist and a radiologist (10-year experience), also blinded to the
133 clinical data and ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT results. To enable therapy response assessment,
134 patients needed to have measurable disease defined as the presence of bone lesions on BS and/or
135 at least one measurable lesion on CT according to RECIST v1.1 (2).

136 All retrospective images interpretations (⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT and CI) were compared
137 to the protocols issued prospectively as part of the follow-up: if discordances were observed,
138 another nuclearist and radiologist, blinded to the clinical and imaging data, were to interpret the
139 images to reach a consensus majority (two versus one).

140

141 **Therapy Response Assessment**

142 Therapy response by ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT and CI were assessed using EAU/EANM
143 PSMA PET/CT (6) and PCWG3 (2,14) criteria, respectively (Table 1). The clinical response rate
144 after 4 weeks (^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT) and 12 weeks (^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT, CI) of therapy
145 was defined between patients with progressive disease (PD) and non-progressive disease (non-
146 PD), calculated by adding the number of patients with complete response (CR), partial response
147 (PR) and stable response (SR). Biochemical response was defined according to the PCWG3
148 criteria and patients without PSA progression were classified with non-PD.

149

150 **Statistical Analyses**

151 Categorical variables were described using relative frequencies (%). Mean \pm standard
152 deviation (SD), median, range and interquartile range (IQR) were used to describe normally and
153 non-normally distributed data. The primary outcome measure of PSMA PET/CT response
154 endpoints were reported as changes at 4 and 12 weeks, by means of waterfall plots. The
155 percentage change of PSA, SUV_{max} , SUV_{mean} and PSMA-TL between baseline and W4/W12
156 was calculated using the following formula:

$$157 \quad \text{Change from baseline (\%)} = 100 \left(\frac{\text{New value}}{\text{Baseline value}} - 1 \right)$$

158 Additionally, the proportion of patients categorized with non-PD versus PD using PSA
159 or CI-driven response endpoints at 4-12 weeks were reported and compared to ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11
160 PET/CT response rates. Co-occurrence between W4 ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT and W12 ^{68}Ga -
161 PSMA-11 PET/CT, PSA and CI response categories were tested using Cohen's kappa coefficient
162 (κ). All statistical tests were performed in RStudio (version 1.1.463), with a two-sided p -value
163 <0.05 as being considered as statistically significant.

164 **RESULTS**

165 **Patients And Imaging**

166 From our database, 165 patients with mCRPC starting a first-line treatment by NHA were
167 extracted. A total of 144 patients were first excluded because ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT was not
168 performed or not at the required timepoints. Out of the 21 remaining patients, 3 were further
169 excluded: 2 patients were registered as mCRPC by the clinician, but no metastatic disease was
170 detected by neither CI nor ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT at the time of NHA initiation, and 1 patient
171 was found to have started his NHA therapy with 1 month delay, consequently, the imaging no
172 longer fitted the inclusion criteria. Overall, 18 patients could be included for further analysis
173 (Supplementary Figure 1, Table 2). PET/CT scans were performed 76.5 ± 14.8 minutes (mean \pm
174 SD) after intravenous injection of 154 ± 6.6 MBq (mean \pm SD) of ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11. Median time
175 intervals between NHA initiation and baseline ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT, BS and CT-scan were
176 10 (IQR 6–27), 5 (IQR 4–10) and 5 (IQR 4–12) days, respectively. Follow-up ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11
177 PET/CT scans at 4 and 12 weeks from NHA initiation were performed after a median time
178 interval of 29 (IQR 28–29) and 85 days (IQR 85–85), respectively. BS and CT-scan at W12 were
179 both performed at a median time interval of 86 days (IQR 86–86 and 86–87, respectively). No
180 disagreement was observed in the prospective and retrospective image interpretations.

181

182 **Baseline Assessment Of Tumor Burden And PCWG3 Clinical Subtypes**

183 At baseline, ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT detected metastatic disease in all 18 patients
184 (100%), whereas CI identified 14/18 (78%) patients with metastases. Overall, baseline tumor
185 burden quantification (Supplementary Table 1) and subsequent therapy response assessment by
186 ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT could be performed in 16/18 patients. Two patients were non-evaluable
187 by PSMA PET; for one (UPN7), parameters could not be extracted as his PSMA-avid lesions

188 were below the fixed volume threshold for delineation, and for the other (UPN19), his unique
189 residual lung nodule - highly suspicious given the diagnosis of biopsy-confirmed PC lung
190 metastases 3 years prior to the study - was CT-visible but did not show PSMA tracer uptake.
191 Individual imaging data are listed in Supplementary Figure 2.

192 Finally, we determined the PCWG3 clinical subtypes using CI and ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11
193 PET/CT (14,22). In 14/18 (78%) patients, ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT and CI resulted in concordant
194 PCWG3 subtypes. ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT upstaged 4/18 (22%) patients from non-metastatic
195 by CI to nodal involvement. Moreover, 3 patients considered oligometastatic by CI were
196 upstaged to polymetastatic (UPN5, UPN18 and UPN20) by ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT.

197

198 **Comparison Of Therapy Response Assessment At Week 12**

199 Based on PSA values at W12, 17/18 (89%) and 1/18 (6%) patients were classified with
200 non-PD and PD, respectively (Supplementary Table 2). Patients with undetectable metastatic
201 disease at baseline by CI ($n = 4/18$) still showed no lesions at W12.

202 Overall, 16/18 (89%) patients remained to have measurable disease by ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11
203 PET/CT, which allowed for treatment response assessment in a larger proportion of patients
204 compared to CI (11/18 [61%]). The non-evaluable patients by CI either had no metastases (4/18
205 [22%]) or non-measurable disease (3/18 [17%]) (Table 3). Among patients with CI-evaluable
206 disease, 4/18 (22%) patients had RECIST v1.1-measurable disease, and in 7/18 (39%) patients,
207 response assessment was BS-driven due to non-measurable disease on CT (2/18 [11%]) or bone-
208 only disease (5/18 [28%]).

209 In patients with CI- and ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT-evaluable disease at W12 ($n = 11$), we
210 observed discordances between imaging techniques in the response categorization for 4/11
211 (36%) patients (Table 3). Three patients categorized with PD by ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT were

212 responding to therapy according to CI, and one patient was categorized with PD by CI but not
213 by ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT. The latter (UPN21) demonstrated a 38% increase in the sum of
214 largest diameter of liver metastases at W12 despite a 42% decline in PSA from baseline.
215 Distinction between true progression or size-progression related to necrosis will be clarified with
216 follow-up. Overall, treatment response according to CI, ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT and PSA
217 change were concordantly categorized in 5/11 (46%) patients. Discordant results were observed
218 in 6/11 (55%) patients with PD on either CI and/or ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT despite a PSA
219 response in all but one patient (UPN16). Individual patient data may be found in Supplementary
220 Table 2.

221 Next, changes in ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT-derived parameters at W12 were compared to
222 baseline (Figure 1A) and concordances in response categorization according to each parameter
223 was investigated (Supplementary Table 3A). PSMA-TL was concordant with tracer uptake
224 (SUV_{max} and SUV_{mean}) and with the appearance of ≥ 2 new lesions in the majority of cases (88%,
225 $n = 14/16$), whereas the latter was concordant with SUV_{max} in only 12/16 patients (75%).

226

227 **Early Therapy Response Assessment At Week 4 Using PSMA PET/CT Compared To** 228 **Week 12**

229 At W4, 17/18 (94%) patients were classified with PSA non-PD whereas 1/18 (6%)
230 patients showed PSA PD (Supplementary Table 2). Similar to W12, 16/18 (89%) patients were
231 ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT-evaluable at W4. Although only a fair agreement was observed in the
232 response categorization between ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT at W4 and CI/PSA at W12, substantial
233 agreement ($\kappa = 0.74$, $p < 0.005$) was observed between ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT at W4 and W12
234 (Supplementary Table 4). Overall, 7/16 (44%) patients were classified with PD at W4 versus

235 5/16 (31%) at W12. Importantly, the 5 patients with PD at W12 according to ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11
236 PET/CT, already fulfilled PD criteria at W4.

237 When comparing each ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT-derived parameter at W4 and W12, a
238 higher number of discordant results was observed at W4, especially between PSMA-TL and
239 SUV_{max} (Supplementary Table 3). At W4, 4/16 (25%) patients demonstrated a > 30% increase
240 in SUV_{max}, which sustained till W12 in only 1 patient (UPN12). This flare phenomenon led to
241 incorrectly classifying 2 patients (UPN2, UPN17) as progressive at W4 (Figure 1B). For both
242 patients, this flare phenomenon resolved by W12 and patients were classified with non-PD
243 (Figure 1A). Finally, on the contrary of SUV_{max}, SUV_{mean} showed little modifications at W4
244 (IQR -1.0% to +10.8%) and showed no discordances between W4 and W12. It was only
245 significant in UPN1 who was confirmed progressive at W12.

246

247 **DISCUSSION**

248 Despite EAU/EANM consensus statements on PSMA PET/CT response assessment
249 criteria (6), recommendations or guidelines on which segmentation algorithm and/or PSMA
250 PET/CT-derived parameter(s) to be used are lacking. Various thresholding techniques also exist
251 for PET image segmentation, such as using fixed thresholds, mostly SUV_{max} > 3, or relative
252 thresholds (e.g., 40-45% of the SUV_{max} of the selected lesion) (16-18,23). Here, we applied a
253 combined fixed SUV_{max} > 3 and lesion-volume threshold > 0.5ml to select and delineate PSMA-
254 positive lesions. Although potential misinterpretation of background foci as small lesions was
255 avoided in this way, it underestimated the number of liver metastases in 2/16 (12.5%) patients
256 due to the difficulties in delineating lesions from the intense normal liver background activity.
257 Combining liver-based and relative thresholds to limit image sampling errors and compensate
258 spillover effect might also overcome the liver background-lesion discrimination issue (20-21).

259 Moreover, as low-dose CT may underestimate small visceral lesions that can also be PSMA-
260 negative (24), PSMA imaging should be combined with a thin-slice contrast-enhanced CT to
261 optimize tumor burden enumeration and monitoring.

262 In contrast to tracer intensity of uptake, volumetric parameters were most adequate to
263 assess treatment response using the EAU/EANM PSMA PET/CT criteria in our dataset, and the
264 least influenced by the flare phenomenon. (Supplementary Table 3). The underlying mechanism
265 behind PSMA “flare” post androgen deprivation therapy is poorly understood. Similar to BS
266 tumor flare definitions (25), the increase in SUV_{max} on ^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT may also lead
267 to a concomitant increase in PSMA-TV (and thus, PSMA-TL) due to activity spillover or
268 emergence of previously invisible or non-significant lesions at baseline and result in
269 misinterpretation of PD, which is why the EAU/EANM did not recommend PSMA PET/CT
270 imaging before 12 weeks. The volumetric changes associated with a flare phenomenon may be
271 significant but remain transitory, e.g., UPN17 for whom the increase in SUV_{max} by 54% at W4
272 lead to the appearance of 4 new lesions and an increase in PSMA-TL by 163%. By W12, the
273 SUV_{max} decreased by 70% (i.e., 16% lower than baseline), the previously observed new lesions
274 disappeared completely and PSMA-TL decreased by 49% from baseline (Figure 1).

275 When comparing PSMA PET/CT at W4 and W12 we made three observations : (1) An
276 increase in SUV_{max} at W4 with a decrease in PSMA-TL, with or without new lesions, was
277 confirmed at W12 to be linked to a flare phenomenon (e.g. UPN2, UPN14), (2) New lesions at
278 W4 without a $> 30\%$ increase in SUV_{max} , independently of PSMA-TL, were confirmed
279 progressive at W12 (e.g. UPN1, UPN13), and (3) when both SUV_{max} and PSMA-TL increase at
280 W4, with or without new lesions, PD cannot be distinguished from flare (e.g., UPN12, UPN17).
281 Thus, defining PD based on SUV_{max} alone does not seem feasible and SUV_{max} should always be
282 evaluated in combination with the other parameters to limit misinterpretation of flare as PD.

283 Although at early time points SUV_{max} may hint the nuclearist on the presence of a flare
284 phenomenon, no flare was observed after W12 and SUV_{max} at W12 did not change therapeutic
285 response evaluation in our cohort.

286 Furthermore, it should be reminded that the EAU/EANM recommendations on the use
287 of uptake thresholds based on the PET response criteria in solid tumors (PERCIST) were
288 arbitrarily chosen as these have only been validated for ^{18}F -FDG PET. Even though tracer uptake
289 in PSMA imaging does not reflect direct metabolic activity, the modified PERCIST criteria were
290 shown to perform better than morphological criteria such as RECIST in metastatic PC, as
291 molecular changes appear earlier than morphological ones (26). Although the aim of this study
292 was not to validate PERCIST criteria in PSMA imaging, we observed that caution should be
293 taken when using those criteria especially for early imaging. Indeed, changes in tracer uptake
294 are not synonymous of PD but rather seem to reflect biomolecular changes leading to
295 modifications in PSMA expression, as seen by the heterogeneous responses at the patient-level,
296 and further highlighting the fact that additional data are needed to enlighten us on the
297 mechanisms of PSMA expression and tracer uptake. Besides flare, the modulation of PSMA
298 expression may also reflect intrinsic tumor tissue modifications conferring potential treatment
299 resistance (10). In our data, the 5/16 (31%) patients with PD at W12 according to PSMA PET/CT
300 already met progression criteria at W4. Two of those patients had PD according to CI (UPN12,
301 UPN13), and one patient had PSA progression (UPN16).

302 Using these EAU/EANM recommendations, patients with non-PD may be further
303 subdivided between SR, PR and CR depending on the reduction in both SUV_{max} and PSMA-TL
304 (Table 1). These criteria may however need to be revised, as the extent of reduction in SUV_{max}
305 and volumetric parameters seem rarely comparable (Figure 1). For example, at W12, 4/11
306 patients would be classified with PR (>30% reduction in both SUV_{max} and volumetric

307 parameters) and 7/11 patients would be classified with SR even though 5/7 achieved a significant
308 >30% reduction in PSMA-TL. Data is also lacking on the thresholds that should be used,
309 especially to define PD. For example, in the current recommendations PD may be defined by an
310 increase in 30% of tumor volume, but the recently proposed RECIP criteria have set a lower
311 threshold of 20% and have found these parameters to carry prognostic value after ¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA
312 therapy (27). Moreover, on the contrary of PERCIST, RECIP do not include tracer uptake
313 modifications to evaluate response to ¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA therapy. Nonetheless, this parameter could
314 be of potential use to improve patient stratification before therapy initiation and was recently
315 shown to predict higher likelihood of response to ¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA therapy than cabazitaxel (28).

316 The integration of minimal-invasive molecular biomarkers, such as circulating tumor
317 DNA (ctDNA), with novel imaging might facilitate in the discrimination between PD and flare
318 and guide therapeutic intervention at early response assessment timepoints. As shown in a recent
319 work, ctDNA does not seem to rise in patients presenting with PSA or bone flare on CI (29).
320 Additionally, the introduction of PSMA PET/CT in mCRPC might improve disease control rates
321 by identifying oligo-resistant/-progressive lesions, which could be subjected to e.g., metastasis-
322 directed therapy, whilst preserving the antitumoral effect of the systemic agent on the responsive
323 lesions (12-13).

324 Overall, molecular imaging parameters have the potential to act as predictive biomarkers
325 of response to treatment, but whether modifying treatment plan according to them improves
326 patient outcome is yet to be determined in larger prospective trials. The main limitation of this
327 study was the small number of patients that were retrospectively included, in addition to the
328 absence of validated criteria for interpretation of PSMA PET/CT scans and delineation method.

329

330 **CONCLUSION**

331 Volumetric assessments of PSMA PET/CT imaging can improve metastasis detection
332 and image-based response assessment in NHA-treated patients with mCRPC. At early imaging
333 timepoints flare phenomena can be observed, typically denoted by a SUV_{max} increase, which
334 resolves by week 12. Overall, although early response assessments at W4 need to be approached
335 with caution, our comparative analysis of PSMA PET/CT imaging at 4 and 12 weeks revealed a
336 substantial agreement in the therapy response assessment, which warrants further investigation
337 to distinguish PD from flare at W4.

338 **KEY POINTS**

339 **QUESTION:** Is the use of EAU/EANM recommendations on PSMA PET/CT feasible for
340 therapy assessment of mCRPC patients and can early imaging detect resistance to treatment?

341 **PERTINENT FINDINGS:** EAU/EANM recommendations improve PSMA imaging reporting
342 and evaluation of NHA-treated mCRPC patients, but caution should be taken when interpreting
343 SUV_{max} on early imaging. Early PSMA uptake modifications occur as early as 4 weeks post-
344 therapy and revealed substantial agreement with the imaging at week 12.

345 **IMPLICATIONS FOR PATIENT CARE:** Early imaging may contribute to improving
346 therapy selection and sequencing in the mCRPC context. Adding biological biomarkers may
347 provide further insight on the biology behind PSMA expression and help distinguish early
348 progressive disease from flare.

349

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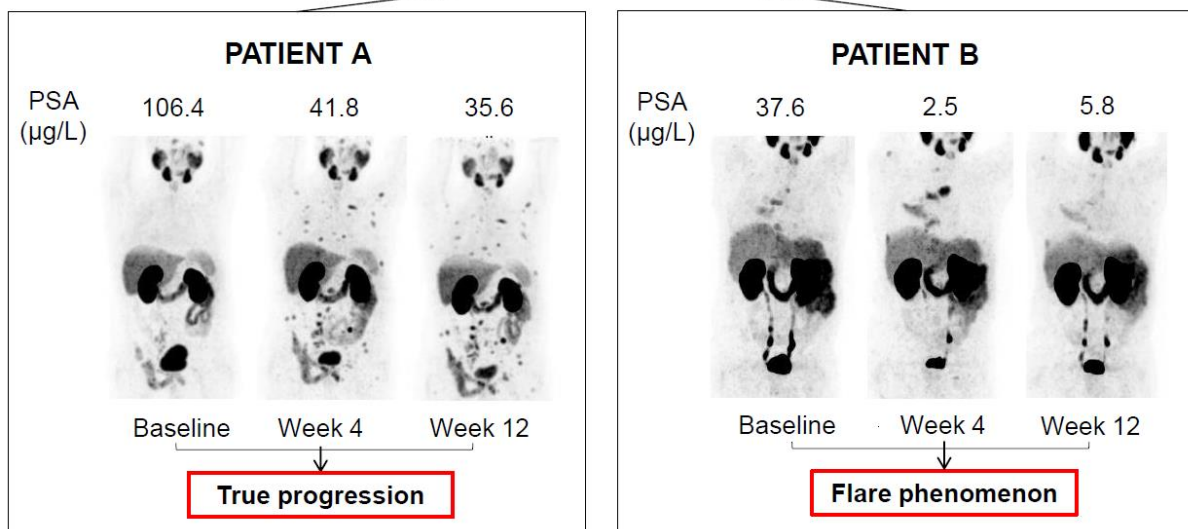
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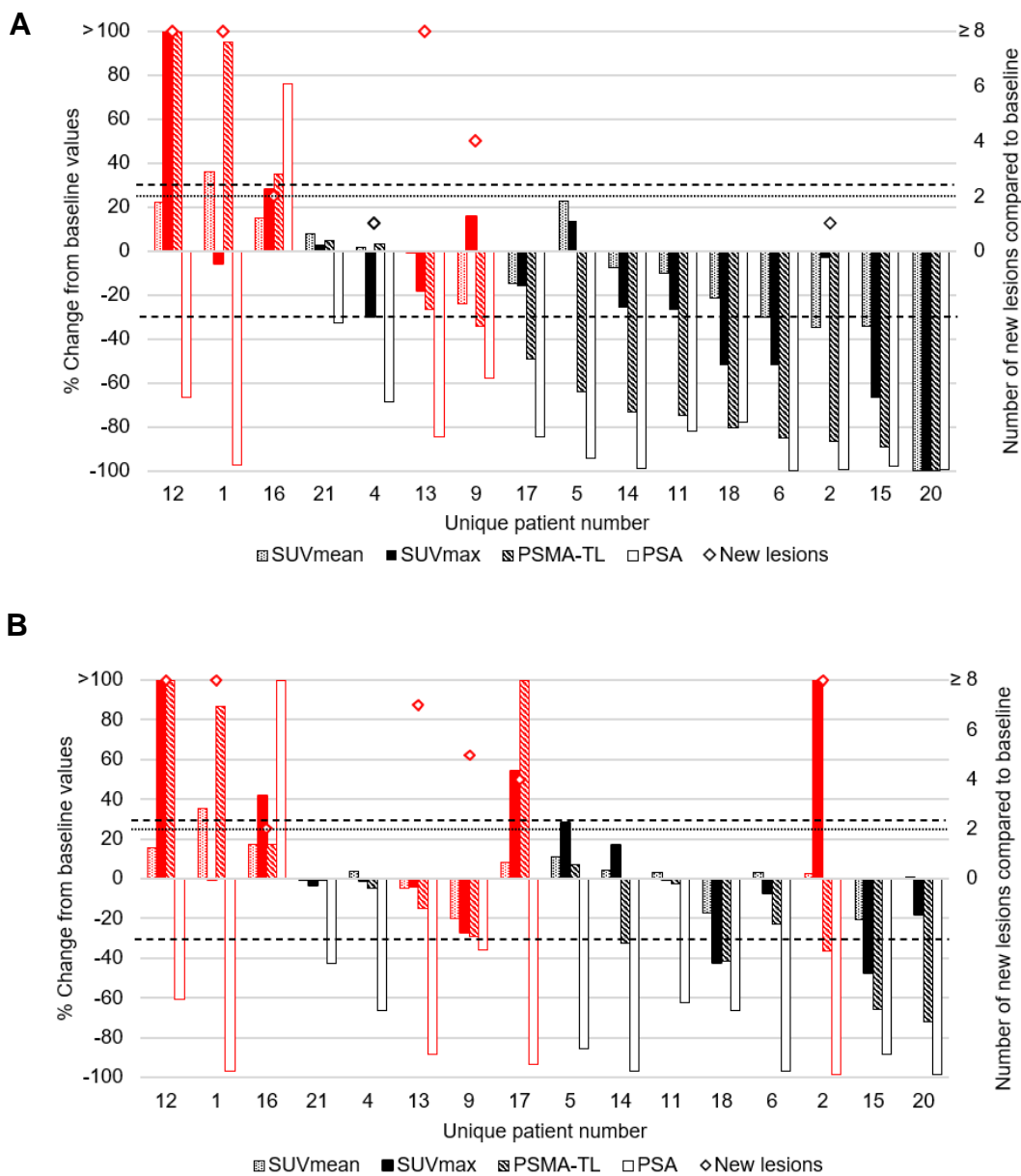
421 **GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT**

^{68}Ga -PSMA-11 PET/CT of patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer



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424 **FIGURE 1:** Waterfall plots of changes in PSMA PET/CT parameters (SUV_{mean} , SUV_{max} , PSMA-TL, PSA and the
 425 number of new lesions) at W12 (Figure 1A) and W4 (Figure 1B) in comparison to baseline PSMA PET/CT ($n =$
 426 16), stratified according to PSMA-TL and therapy response assessment (i.e., non-PD in black and PD in red, as
 427 defined in Table 1).
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The $\pm 30\%$ cut-off is represented by the horizontal dashed line. The $n = 2$ lesions cut-off is represented by the dotted line. Patients in Figure 1B are presented in the same order as Figure 1A.

436 **TABLE 1:** Therapy response assessment criteria based on imaging.

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		NON-PROGRESSIVE DISEASE			PROGRESSIVE DISEASE
		Complete Response (CR)	Partial Response (PR)	Stable Response (SR)	(PD)
PCWG3 imaging response criteria	CT (2)	Disappearance of all lesions	Decrease of $\geq 30\%$ in the sum of target lesions (without new lesions or non-target lesions progression)	Not meeting the criteria for PR, CR or PD	Increase of $\geq 20\%$ in the sum of target lesions, or unequivocal progression of non-target lesions or appearance of new lesions
	BS (14)	Disappearance of all suspicious lesions	No new lesion or appearance of < 2 new lesions		Appearance of at least ≥ 2 new lesions confirmed on subsequent scan
EAU/EANM PSMA response criteria	PSMA PET/CT (6)	Disappearance of any lesion with tracer uptake	Reduction of uptake and tumor PET volume by $> 30\%$	Change in uptake and tumor PET volume by $\pm \leq 30\%$, without evidence of new lesions	Increase of uptake or tumor PET volume by $> 30\%$ And/or appearance of ≥ 2 new lesions (with or without CT change)

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439 **TABLE 2:** Patient characteristics at study entry.
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Characteristics	Value * (n = 18 patients)
Mean age (±SD)	73.1 (±6.1) years
Median PSA at baseline (IQR)	8.04 (5.96–24.8) ng/ml
Median time between initiation of first-generation ADT and mCRPC status (IQR)	47.5 (27.0–79.0) months
Patients with prior local treatment	14 (78%)
RP only	4 (22%)
RP + ePLND	3 (17%)
Exclusive RT only	5 (28%)
ePLND + aborted RP + RT	2 (11%)
Type of prior systemic therapy before resistance to castration	
First-generation ADT	16 (89%)
Upfront chemotherapy	2 (11%)
ISUP grade group V.8.0 at time of diagnosis	
Grade 1	2 (11%)
Grade 2	2 (11%)
Grade 3	3 (17%)
Grade 4	6 (33%)
Grade 5	4 (22%)
Unknown	1 (6%)
First-line treatment initiated for mCRPC	
Enzalutamide (160mg daily)	17 (94%)
Abiraterone (1000mg daily)	1 (6%)

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 442 RP = Radical Prostatectomy, ePLND = extended Pelvic Lymph Node Dissection, RT = radiotherapy, ISUP =
 443 International Society of Urological Pathology.
 444 * Values are reported as numbers of patients with percentages in brackets, unless otherwise indicated.

445 **TABLE 3:** Therapy response assessment at week 12 according to PCWG3 CI, biochemical (PSA) and EAU/EANM
 446 PSMA PET/CT response criteria.

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Unique Patient number	CI	PSA	PSMA PET/CT
7	NE_0	Non-PD	NE_{nt}
11	NE_0	Non-PD	Non-PD
14	NE_0	Non-PD	Non-PD
6	NE_0	Non-PD	Non-PD
5	NE_{nm}	Non-PD	Non-PD
18	NE_{nm}	Non-PD	Non-PD
19	NE_{nm}	Non-PD	NE_{nt}
1	Non-PD [†]	Non-PD	PD
4	Non-PD [†]	Non-PD	Non-PD
9	Non-PD [†]	Non-PD	PD
15	Non-PD [†]	Non-PD	Non-PD
16	Non-PD [†]	PD	PD
2	Non-PD ^{††}	Non-PD	Non-PD
17	Non-PD ^{††}	Non-PD	Non-PD
20	Non-PD ^{††}	Non-PD	Non-PD
12	PD [†]	Non-PD	PD
13	PD [†]	Non-PD	PD
21	PD ^{††}	Non-PD	Non-PD

476 NE = Not Evaluable (NE_0 if no metastasis were detected since baseline, NE_{nm} if no measurable lesion was visible
 477 on CT and without bone lesions on BS, NE_{nt} if lesions visible but non-evaluable by PSMA imaging).

478 [†] Patients for which response assessment was BS-driven.

479 ^{††} Patients with measurable lesions according to RECIST v1.1.

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

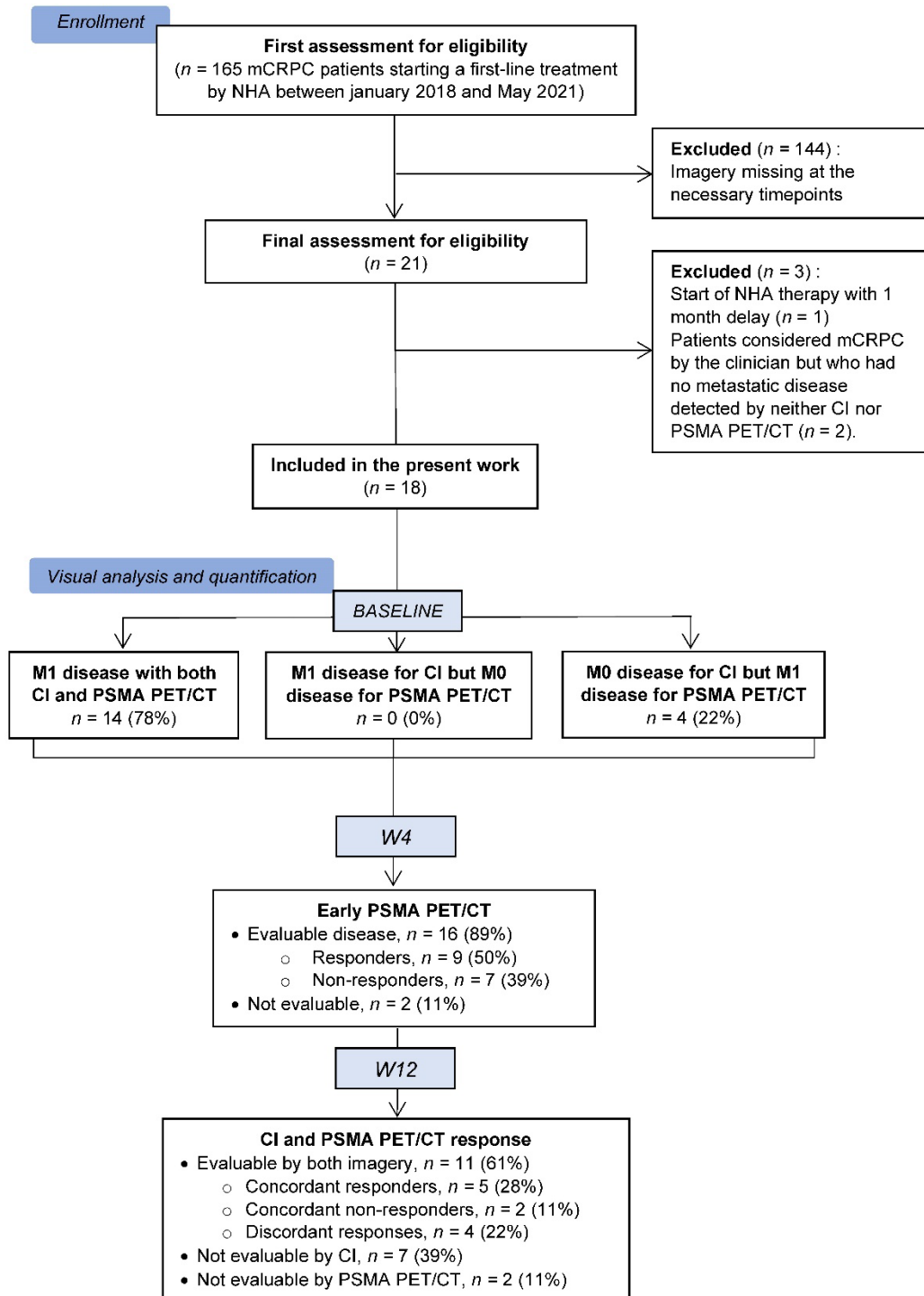
⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT Image Acquisition and Tumor Volume Delineation

Whole-body scans from cranial base to the upper femur were acquired in a GEMINI TF Big Bore or a GEMINI TF 16 PET scanner (Philips Medical Systems, Cleveland, OH, USA), for which ⁶⁸Ga crosscalibration was performed. A low dose CT (3-mm slice thickness, tube voltage 120 kV) was performed for PET images attenuation correction, followed by a PET emission scan of 60 to 120s per bed position (depending on the patient's body mass index with bed overlap of 50%). Additionally, a thin-slice thoraco-abdomino-pelvic CT without injection of intravenous contrast agent was performed (1-mm slice thickness, tube voltage 120 kV). Reconstruction of PET images was done with standard 4 x 4 x 4 mm³ voxels using iterative list mode time-of-flight algorithm. Corrections for attenuation, dead-time, random and scatter events were applied. PSMA PET/CT images were initially analysed by an experienced nuclear medicine physician who was blinded to the clinical data. A positive lesion was defined as an area of focal uptake above the background level at a typical location of PC metastasis, with or without underlying CT abnormality.

Whole-body PSMA-positive tumor volume delineation was performed using a semi-automatic lesion delineation workflow at baseline, W4 and W12. A volume of interest including the whole body was manually selected. Then, a fully automated preselection of PSMA-positive prostate cancer (PC) lesions was applied to delineate lesions with an absolute standardized uptake value (SUV) threshold set at 3.0, as previously described (16-18). Additional lesion thresholds were applied: > 0.5 ml to avoid small non-PC lesions and < 500ml to avoid the automated delineation of the liver, kidneys, bowels, and retroperitoneal para-aortic lymph nodes as a single volume and limit large manual organ removal errors. For PSMA-positive para-aortic lymph nodes that were overlooked by this technique, an additional volume of interest centered on the para-aortic region was manually set and lymph nodes were then delineated using the same thresholds (SUV > 3.0 and volume > 0.5 ml). The observer used a clearing option to manually remove areas of known physiological uptake (19).

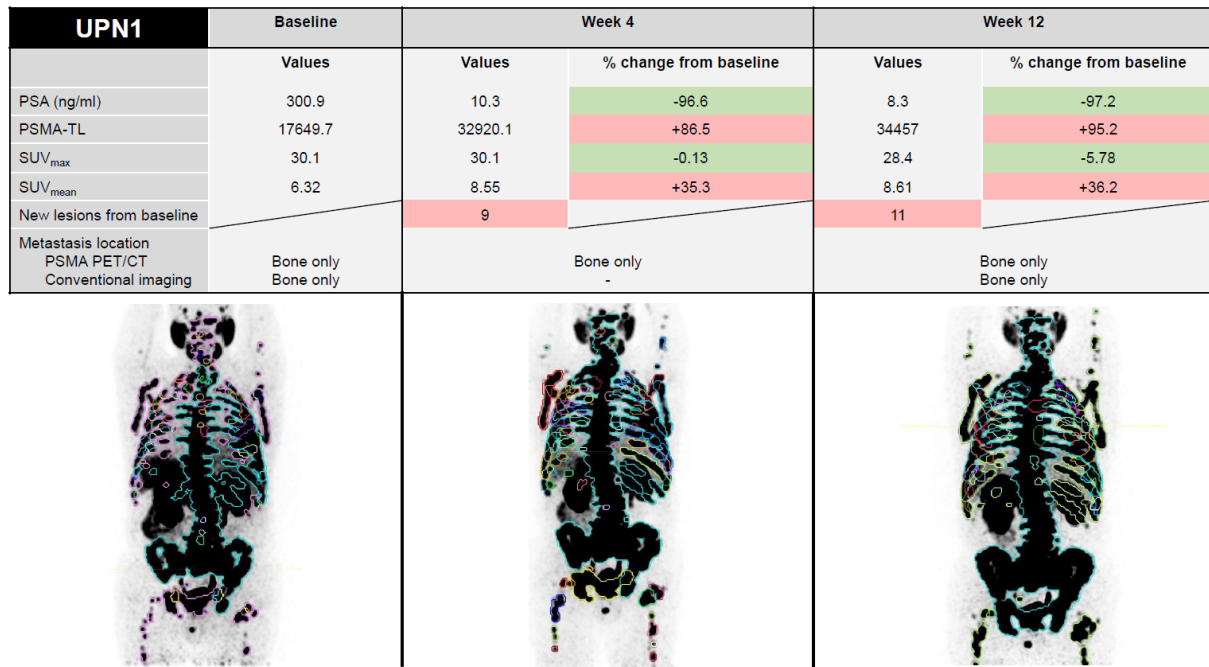
SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES

Supplementary Figure 1: Consort flow diagram.

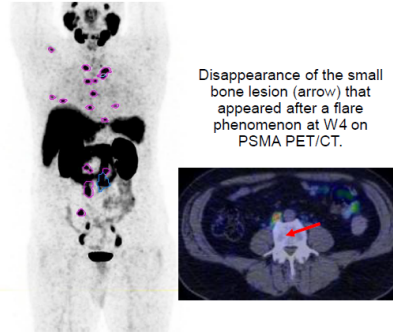
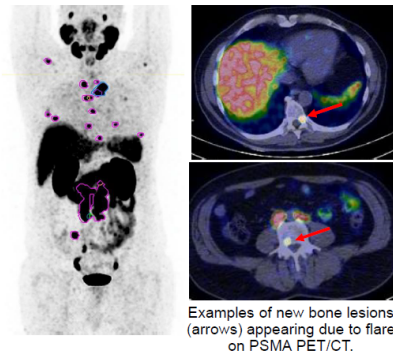
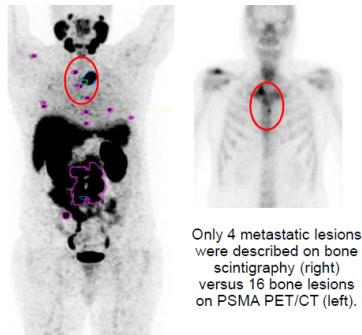


M1 = metastatic disease, M0 = no metastatic disease.

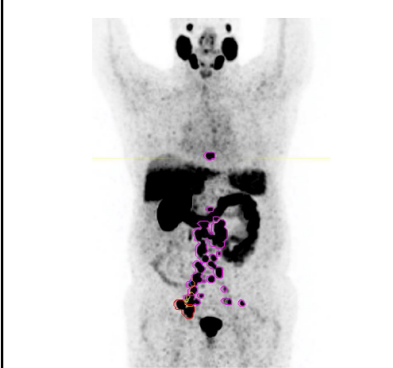
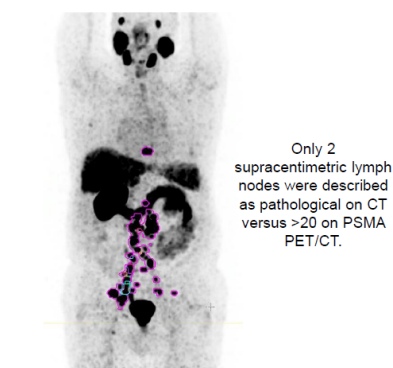
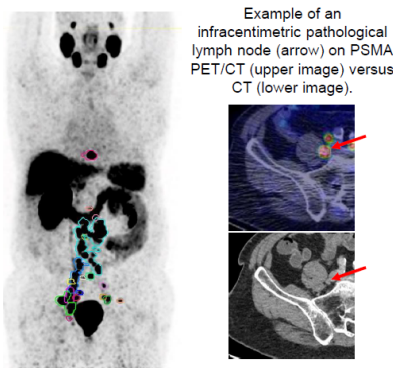
Supplementary Figure 2: Individual data from PSMA PET/CT-evaluable patients ($n = 16$) at baseline, week 4 and week 12. Each subpart of the figure corresponds to one patient, as denoted by their unique patient number (UPN) in the upper left corner and includes: a table, PSMA PET/CT maximal intensity projections (MIP) with the overall delineated tumor volume (shown by multiple-colored contours) and for some patients, relevant images from conventional imaging. Color coding in the tables is as follows: red if criterion fits PD definition, green if criterion fits non-PD definition. All images are shown with a SUV scale of 0 – 5 if not otherwise specified on the figure itself.



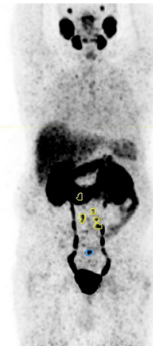
UPN2	Baseline	Week 4		Week 12	
	Values	Values	% change from baseline	Values	% change from baseline
PSA (ng/ml)	7.83	0.11	-98.6	0.03	-99.6
PSMA-TL	2298.5	1456.4	-36.6	302.8	-86.8
SUV _{max}	30.9	63.8	+106.4	30.1	-2.55
SUV _{mean}	9.3	9.5	+2.27	6.01	-35.0
New lesions from baseline		9		1	
Metastasis location		Bone + lymph nodes		Bone + lymph nodes	
PSMA PET/CT	Bone + lymph nodes	-		Bone + lymph nodes	
Conventional imaging	Bone + lymph nodes			Bone + lymph nodes	



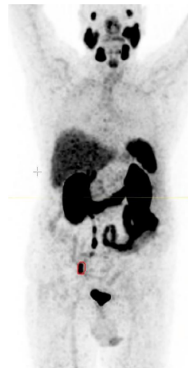
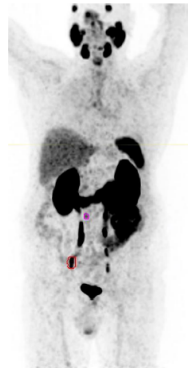
UPN4	Baseline	Week 4		Week 12	
	Values	Values	% change from baseline	Values	% change from baseline
PSA (ng/ml)	29.0	9.8	-66.2	9.03	-68.8
PSMA-TL	1982.9	1891.5	-4.61	2049.0	+3.33
SUV _{max}	215.4	212.8	-1.20	151.2	-29.8
SUV _{mean}	10.6	11.01	+3.67	10.8	+1.88
New lesions from baseline		0		1	
Metastasis location		Bone + lymph nodes		Bone + lymph nodes	
PSMA PET/CT	Bone + lymph nodes	-		Bone + lymph nodes	
Conventional imaging	Bone + lymph nodes			Bone + lymph nodes	



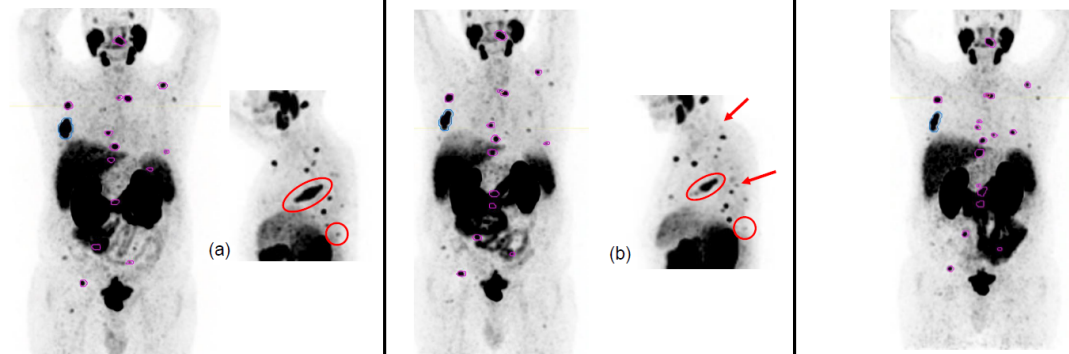
UPN5	Baseline	Week 4		Week 12	
	Values	Values	% change from baseline	Values	% change from baseline
PSA (ng/ml)	3.06	0.45	-85.3	0.18	-94.1
PSMA-TL	38.0	40.6	+6.85	13.8	-63.8
SUV _{max}	8.31	10.7	+28.4	9.49	+14.2
SUV _{mean}	3.98	4.41	+10.8	4.88	+22.6
New lesions from baseline		0		0	
Metastasis location PSMA PET/CT Conventional imaging	Lymph nodes No measurable lesion	Lymph nodes -		Lymph nodes No measurable lesion	



UPN6	Baseline	Week 4		Week 12	
	Values	Values	% change from baseline	Values	% change from baseline
PSA (ng/ml)	8.06	0.27	-96.7	0.01	-99.9
PSMA-TL	38.4	29.6	-23.1	5.72	-85.1
SUV _{max}	10.5	9.75	-7.14	5.01	-52.3
SUV _{mean}	5.14	5.31	+3.31	3.58	-30.4
New lesions from baseline		0		0	
Metastasis location PSMA PET/CT Conventional imaging	Lymph nodes No metastasis	Lymph nodes -		Lymph nodes No metastasis	



UPN9	Baseline	Week 4		Week 12	
	Values	Values	% change from baseline	Values	% change from baseline
PSA (ng/ml)	58.5	37.6	-35.8	24.6	-57.9
PSMA-TL	612.1	433.0	-29.3	402.0	-34.3
SUV _{max}	37.8	27.4	-27.3	43.6	+15.5
SUV _{mean}	9.13	7.31	-19.9	6.96	-23.8
New lesions from baseline		5		4	
Metastasis location		Bone + lymph nodes		Bone + lymph nodes	
PSMA PET/CT	Bone + lymph nodes	-		Bone only	
Conventional imaging	Bone only	-		Bone only	

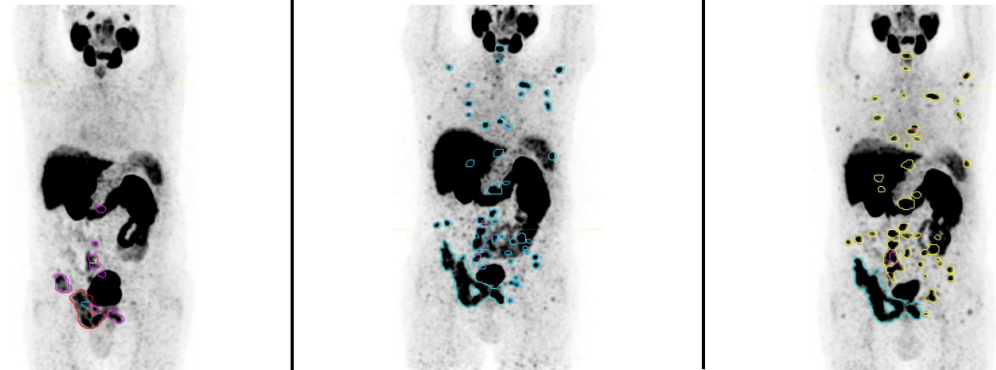


MIP side views were added for clarity (a, b). In comparison to baseline (a), new lesions (arrows) are appearing at W4 (b) while other lesions seem to respond to therapy (circles).

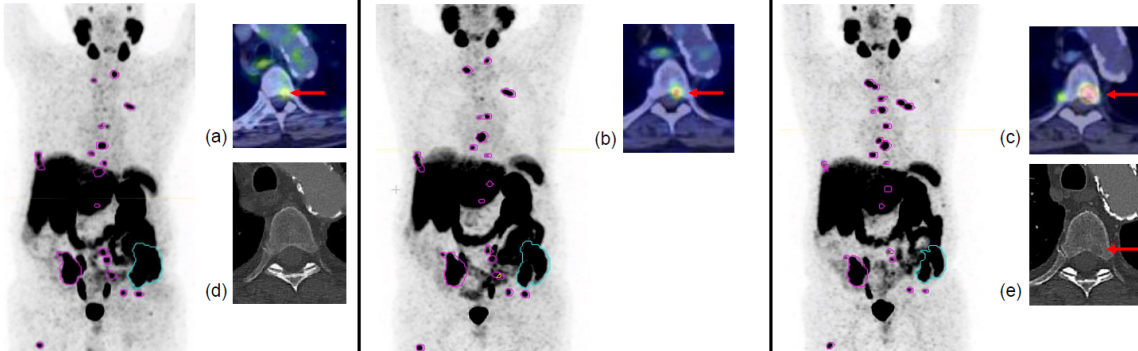
UPN11	Baseline	Week 4		Week 12	
	Values	Values	% change from baseline	Values	% change from baseline
PSA (ng/ml)	6.65	2.50	-62.4	1.21	-81.8
PSMA-TL	103.73	101.1	-2.53	26.0	-74.9
SUV _{max}	8.38	8.32	-0.72	6.13	-26.9
SUV _{mean}	4.06	4.19	+3.20	3.66	-9.85
New lesions from baseline		0		0	
Metastasis location		Lymph nodes		Lymph nodes	
PSMA PET/CT	Lymph nodes	-		No metastasis	
Conventional imaging	No metastasis	-		No metastasis	



UPN12	Baseline	Week 4		Week 12	
	Values	Values	% change from baseline	Values	% change from baseline
PSA (ng/ml)	106.4	41.8	-60.7	35.6	-66.6
PSMA-TL	683.32	2047.8	+199.7	2566.0	+275.5
SUV _{max}	11.0	26.7	+143.7	24.2	+120.8
SUV _{mean}	4.52	5.21	+15.3	5.53	+22.4
New lesions from baseline		>20		>20	
Metastasis location PSMA PET/CT Conventional imaging	Bone and lymph nodes Bone only	Bone and lymph nodes -		Bone and lymph nodes Bone only	

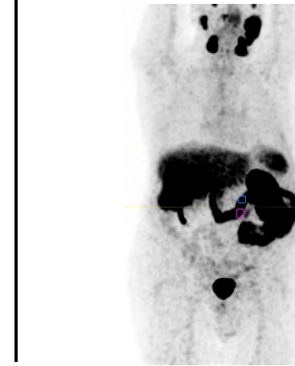
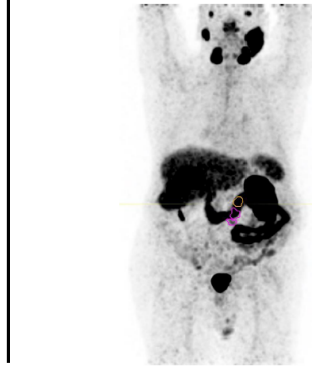
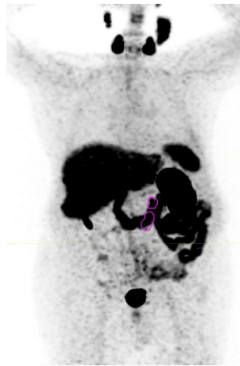


UPN13	Baseline	Week 4		Week 12	
	Values	Values	% change from baseline	Values	% change from baseline
PSA (ng/ml)	12.47	1.44	-88.5	1.92	-84.6
PSMA-TL	2421.8	2056.6	-15.1	1779.5	-26.5
SUV _{max}	53.1	50.8	-4.24	43.8	-17.5
SUV _{mean}	8.69	8.26	-4.95	8.68	-0.12
New lesions from baseline		7		9	
Metastasis location PSMA PET/CT Conventional imaging	Bone + lymph nodes Bone only	Bone + lymph nodes -		Bone + lymph nodes Bone only	

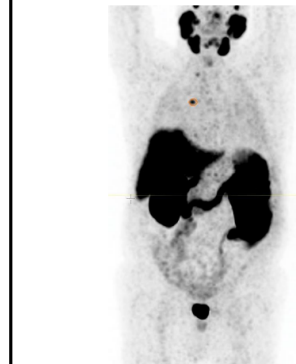
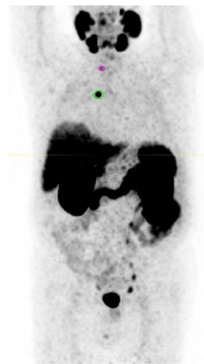


Evolution of a small bone lesion (arrow) that was detected on PSMA PET/CT at baseline (a), week 4 (b) and week 12 (c) but neither by CT (d) nor BS. The latter appeared as an osteolytic bone metastasis on CT only after 12 weeks (e).

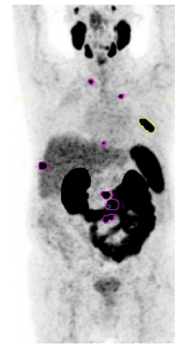
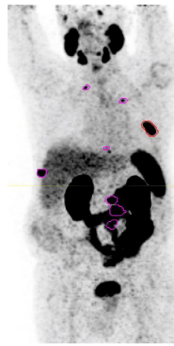
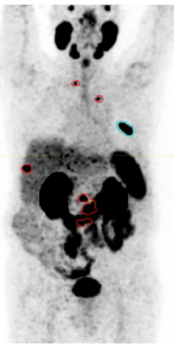
UPN14	Baseline	Week 4		Week 12	
	Values	Values	% change from baseline	Values	% change from baseline
PSA (ng/ml)	3.21	0.10	-96.9	0.03	-99.1
PSMA-TL	51.9	35.16	-32.3	13.8	-73.5
SUV _{max}	8.26	9.68	+17.2	6.1	-26.2
SUV _{mean}	4.16	4.33	+4.09	3.84	-7.69
New lesions from baseline		0		0	
Metastasis location PSMA PET/CT Conventional imaging	Lymph nodes No metastasis	Lymph nodes -		Lymph nodes No metastasis	



UPN15	Baseline	Week 4		Week 12	
	Values	Values	% change from baseline	Values	% change from baseline
PSA (ng/ml)	1.92	0.22	-88.5	0.04	-97.9
PSMA-TL	24.4	8.28	-66.04	2.59	-89.4
SUV _{max}	13.2	6.93	-47.3	4.36	-66.9
SUV _{mean}	5.6	4.46	-20.4	3.67	-34.5
New lesions from baseline		0		0	
Metastasis location PSMA PET/CT Conventional imaging	Bone Bone	Bone -		Bone Bone	

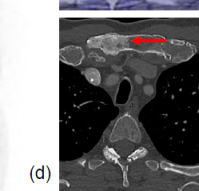
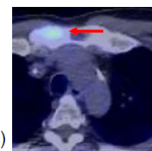
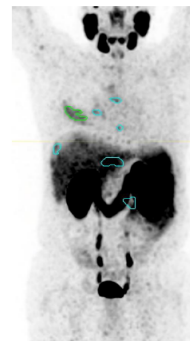
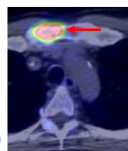
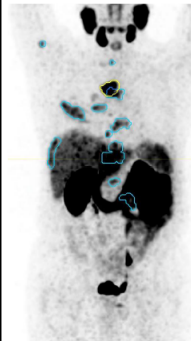
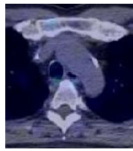


UPN16	Baseline	Week 4		Week 12	
	Values	Values	% change from baseline	Values	% change from baseline
PSA (ng/ml)	8.02	27.5	+242.6 *	14.1	+75.9
PSMA-TL	807.5	945.4	+17.1	1090.2	+35.0
SUV _{max}	78.6	111.4	+41.7	100.6	+27.9
SUV _{mean}	13.8	16.2	+17.1	15.9	+14.8
New lesions from baseline		2		2	
Metastasis location PSMA PET/CT Conventional imaging	Bone Bone	Bone -		Bone Bone	



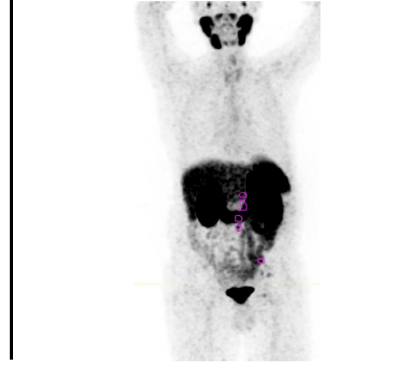
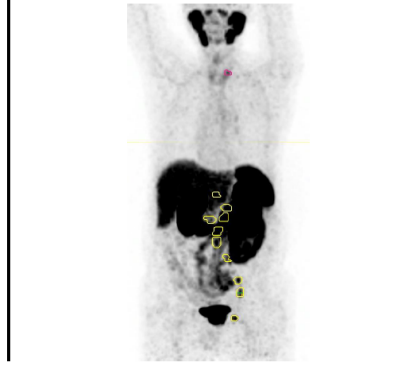
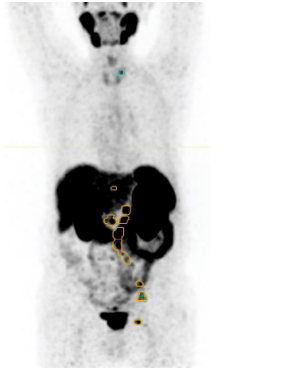
*For this patient, PSA value at week 4 may have been influenced by a concomitant pneumonia requiring a hospitalization at the same time-point. At the later time-points, PSA kept increasing in comparison to baseline (+76% at week 12, +142% at week 20 and +262% at week 24).

UPN17	Baseline	Week 4		Week 12	
	Values	Values	% change from baseline	Values	% change from baseline
PSA (ng/ml)	37.6	2.54	-93.2	5.84	-84.5
PSMA-TL	233.0	612.3	+162.8	118.3	-49.2
SUV _{max}	7.50	11.6	+54.3	6.3	-16.0
SUV _{mean}	4.16	4.50	+8.17	3.55	-14.7
New lesions from baseline		4		0	
Metastasis location PSMA PET/CT Conventional imaging	Bone + visceral Bone + visceral	Bone + visceral -		Bone + visceral Bone + visceral	

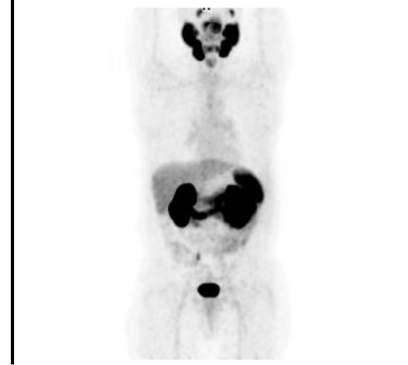
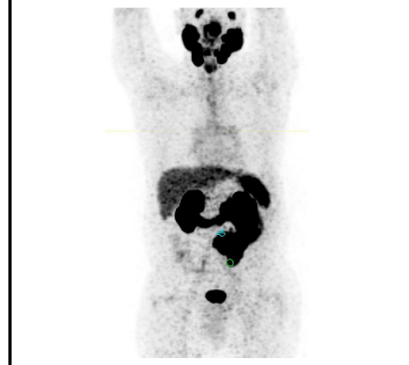
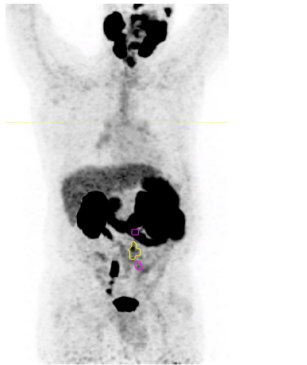


Evolution of a sternal lesion from baseline (a) on PSMA PET/CT. It became significant at W4 due to a flare phenomenon (b) and showed almost no residual PSMA uptake by week 12 (c). On CT, a sclerotic bone lesion appeared at week 12, as denoted by the arrow (d). Corresponding baseline CT image is shown for comparison (e).

UPN18	Baseline	Week 4		Week 12	
	Values	Values	% change from baseline	Values	% change from baseline
PSA (ng/ml)	6.17	2.08	-66.3	1.36	-78.0
PSMA-TL	158.0	92.3	-41.5	30.5	-80.7
SUV _{max}	14.6	8.42	-42.5	7.06	-51.8
SUV _{mean}	5.1	4.22	-17.3	4.00	-21.6
New lesions from baseline		0		0	
Metastasis location PSMA PET/CT Conventional imaging	Lymph nodes No measurable lesion	Lymph nodes -		Lymph nodes No measurable lesion	



UPN20	Baseline	Week 4		Week 12	
	Values	Values	% change from baseline	Values	% change from baseline
PSA (ng/ml)	5.89	0.08	-98.6	0.02	-99.7
PSMA-TL	23.8	6.62	-72.2	0.00	-100.0
SUV _{max}	6.25	5.14	-17.8	0.00	-100.0
SUV _{mean}	3.65	3.67	+0.55	0.00	-100.0
New lesions from baseline		0		0	
Metastasis location PSMA PET/CT Conventional imaging	Lymph nodes Lymph nodes	Lymph nodes -		Lymph nodes Lymph nodes	



UPN21	Baseline	Week 4		Week 12	
	Values	Values	% change from baseline	Values	% change from baseline
PSA (ng/ml)	3.51	2.01	-42.7	2.37	-32.5
PSMA-TL	210.3	209.5	-0.40	220.3	+4.76
SUV _{max}	14.4	13.9	-3.34	14.8	+2.99
SUV _{mean}	7.72	7.64	-1.04	8.33	+7.90
New lesions from baseline		0		0	
Metastasis location		Bone + visceral		Bone + visceral	
PSMA PET/CT	Bone + visceral	-		Bone + visceral	
Conventional imaging	Bone + visceral			Bone + visceral	



SUV scale 0 – 10

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Supplementary Table 1: Quantitative measurements extracted from PSMA PET/CT ($n = 16$). Results are expressed with median values (IQR).

		Baseline	W4	W12
PSMA parameters	SUV _{max}	13.8 (8.4–32.6)	12.7 (9.4–35.3)	12.1 (6.1–33.5)
	PSMA-TV	43.5 (11.8–160.0) ml	42.9 (8.9–158.4) ml	29.9 (3.4–98.9) ml
	SUV _{mean}	5.4 (4.2–8.8)	5.3 (4.4–8.3)	5.2 (3.7–8.4)
	PSMA-TL	221.7 (48.6–1101.3)	321.2 (39.2–1565.2)	169.3 (13.8–1262.5)

Supplementary Table 2: Change in PSMA PET/CT parameters, PSA values and conventional imaging in comparison with baseline ($n = 18$). Patients with PD and non-PD are highlighted by a red and green background, respectively.

UPN	WEEK 4					WEEK 12					
	SUV _{max} (%)	PSMA-TL (%)	New lesions on PSMA PET/CT	PSA change (%)	PET response	SUV _{max} (%)	PSMA-TL (%)	New lesions on PSMA PET/CT	PSA change (%)	PET response	CI response
7 *	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	-52	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	-65	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
19 *	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	-98	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	-100	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
1	-0	+87	9	-97	PD	-6	+95	11	-97	PD	Non-PD
2	+106	-37	9	-99	PD	-3	-87	1	-100	Non-PD	Non-PD
9	-27	-29	5	-36	PD	+16	-34	4	-58	PD	Non-PD
12	+144	+200	>20	-61	PD	+121	+276	>20	-67	PD	PD
13	-4	-15	7	-89	PD	-18	-27	9	-85	PD	PD
16	+42	+17	2	+243 [†]	PD	+28	+35	2	+76	PD	Non-PD
17	+54	+163	4	-93	PD	-16	-49	0	-85	Non-PD	Non-PD
4	-1	-5	0	-66	Non-PD	-30	+3	1	-69	Non-PD	Non-PD
5	+28	+7	0	-85	Non-PD	+14	-64	0	-94	Non-PD	<i>n.a.</i>
6	-7	-23	0	-97	Non-PD	-52	-85	0	-100	Non-PD	<i>n.a.</i>
11	-1	-3	0	-62	Non-PD	-27	-75	0	-82	Non-PD	<i>n.a.</i>
14	+17	-32	0	-97	Non-PD	-26	-74	0	-99	Non-PD	<i>n.a.</i>
15	-47	-66	0	-89	Non-PD	-67	-89	0	-98	Non-PD	Non-PD
18	-43	-42	0	-66	Non-PD	-52	-81	0	-78	Non-PD	<i>n.a.</i>
20	-18	-72	0	-99	Non-PD	-100	-100	0	-100	Non-PD	Non-PD
21	-3	0	0	-43	Non-PD	+3	+5	0	-33	Non-PD	PD

Values are listed as whole numbers for clarity. UPN = Unique Patient Number, *n.a.* = not applicable.

* These two patients were non-evaluable by PSMA PET/CT (PN19 with a unique PSMA-negative lung nodule; PN7 with a small positive node but below the thresholds for tumour volume delineation).

[†] For this patient, PSA value at week 4 may have been influenced by a concomitant pneumonia requiring a hospitalization at the same time-point. At the later time-points, PSA kept increasing in comparison to baseline (+76% at week 12, +142% at week 20 and +262% at week 24).

Supplementary Table 3: Concordance between PSMA PET/CT parameters at week 12 (Supplementary Table 3A) and week 4 (Supplementary Table 3B) in the evaluable patients ($n = 16$). Patients in Table 3B are displayed in the same order as patients in Table 3A. For clarity, patients with PD are highlighted by a red background and those with non-PD by a green background.

A

Unique patient number	≥ 2 new lesions	PSMA-TL	SUV _{max}	SUV _{mean}
1	PD	PD	Non-PD	PD
12	PD	PD	PD	Non-PD
16	PD	PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
9	PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
13	PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
2	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
4	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
5	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
6	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
11	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
14	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
15	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
17	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
18	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
20	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
21	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD

B

Unique patient number	≥ 2 new lesions	PSMA-TL	SUV _{max}	SUV _{mean}
1	PD	PD	Non-PD	PD
12	PD	PD	PD	Non-PD
16	PD	Non-PD	PD	Non-PD
9	PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
13	PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
2	PD	Non-PD	PD	Non-PD
4	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
5	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
6	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
11	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
14	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
15	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
17	PD	PD	PD	Non-PD
18	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
20	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD
21	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD	Non-PD

Supplementary Table 4: Contingency tables of patients with non-PD versus PD between PSMA PET/CT at week 4 and conventional imaging, PSA and PSMA PET/CT at week 12.

		PSA (W12)		PSMA PET/CT (W12)		Conventional imaging (W12)	
		PD	Non-PD	PD	Non-PD	PD	Non-PD
PSMA PET/CT (W4)	PD	1	4	5	2	2	3
	Non-PD	0	11	0	9	1	5
		$n = 16$ $\kappa = 0.256, p = 0.13$		$n = 16$ $\kappa = 0.738, p < 0.01$		$n = 11$ $\kappa = 0.241, p = 0.39$	