

First-in-Human PET Imaging of Tissue Factor in Patients with Primary and Metastatic Cancers Using ^{18}F -labeled Active-Site Inhibited Factor VII (^{18}F -ASIS): Potential as Companion Diagnostic

Mathias Loft^{1,†}, Camilla Christensen^{1,†}, Malene M Clausen^{1,2}, Esben A Carlsen¹, Carsten P Hansen³, Niels Kroman⁴, Seppo W Langer^{2,5}, Claus Høgdall⁶, Jacob Madsen¹, Nic Gillings¹, Carsten H Nielsen^{1,7}, Thomas L Klausen¹, Søren Holm¹, Annika Loft¹, Anne K Berthelsen¹ and Andreas Kjaer^{1*}

[†]Equal contribution

¹Department of Clinical Physiology and Nuclear Medicine & Cluster for Molecular Imaging, Copenhagen University Hospital – Rigshospitalet & Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

²Department of Oncology, Copenhagen University Hospital – Rigshospitalet, Denmark

³Department of Surgery, Copenhagen University Hospital – Rigshospitalet, Denmark

⁴Department of Breast Surgery, Copenhagen University Hospital – Rigshospitalet, Denmark

⁵Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

⁶Department of Gynecology, Copenhagen University Hospital – Rigshospitalet, Denmark

⁷Minerva Imaging ApS, Denmark

*Correspondence to Prof. Andreas Kjaer, MD, PhD, DMSc, Department of Clinical Physiology and Nuclear Medicine, Rigshospitalet, Blegdamsvej 9, 2100-Copenhagen, Denmark. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2706-5547>. E-mail: akjaer@sund.ku.dk

First authors:

[†]Mathias Loft, MD, PhD-fellow, Department of Clinical Physiology and Nuclear Medicine, Rigshospitalet, Blegdamsvej 9, 2100-Copenhagen, Denmark. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3024-5706>. E-mail: mloft@sund.ku.dk

[†]Camilla Christensen, MSc Chemistry, PhD-fellow, Department of Clinical Physiology and Nuclear Medicine, Rigshospitalet, Blegdamsvej 9, 2100-Copenhagen, Denmark. E-mail: CCHR0300@regionh.dk

Word count: 5,775

Running title: First-in-Human Tissue Factor PET

ABSTRACT

Tissue factor (TF) expression in cancers correlates with poor prognosis. Recently, the first TF-targeted therapy was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for cervical cancer. To unfold the potential of TF-targeted therapies, correct stratification and selection of patients eligible for treatments may become important for optimization of patient outcomes. TF-targeted PET imaging based on ^{18}F -radio-labeled active-site inhibited versions of the TF natural ligand coagulation factor VII (^{18}F -ASIS) has in preclinical models convincingly demonstrated its use for non-invasive quantitative measurements of TF expression in tumor tissue. ^{18}F -ASIS PET imaging thus has the potential to act as a diagnostic companion for TF-targeted therapies in the clinical setting.

Methods In this first-in-human trial we included 10 cancer patients (4 pancreatic, 3 breast, 2 lung, and 1 cervical cancer patient) for ^{18}F -ASIS PET imaging. The mean and standard deviation of administered ^{18}F -ASIS activity was 157 ± 35 MBq (range, 93–198 MBq). PET/CT acquisition was performed after 1, 2, and 4 hours. The primary objectives were to establish the safety, biodistribution, pharmacokinetics, and dosimetry of ^{18}F -ASIS. Secondary objectives included quantitative measurements of standardized uptake values (SUV) in tumor tissue with PET and evaluation of the correlation (Pearson correlation) between tumor SUV_{max} and *ex vivo* TF expression in tumor tissue.

Results Administration of ^{18}F -ASIS was safe, and no adverse events were observed. No clinically significant changes in vital signs, electrocardiograms, or blood parameters were observed following injection of ^{18}F -ASIS. Mean ^{18}F -ASIS plasma half-life was 3.2 hours, and the radiotracer was predominantly excreted in the urine. For an administered dose of 200 MBq of ^{18}F -ASIS, effective whole-body dose was 4 mSv and no prohibitive organ-specific absorbed doses were found. Heterogeneous radiotracer uptake was observed across patients and within tumors. We found a trend of a positive correlation between tumor SUV_{max} and *ex vivo* TF expression ($p=0.08$, $r=0.84$, $n=5$).

Conclusion ^{18}F -ASIS can safely be administered to cancer patients for PET imaging of TF expression in tumors. The trial marks the first test of a TF-targeted PET radiotracer in humans (first-in-class). The

findings represent important first steps towards clinical implementation of ^{18}F -ASIS PET imaging of TF expression.

Keywords

Active site inhibited factor VII (ASIS); Tissue factor; PET/CT; First-in-human; Phase I clinical trial

FUNDING

This project received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreements no. 670261 (ERC Advanced Grant) and 668532 (Click-It), the Lundbeck Foundation, the Novo Nordisk Foundation, the Innovation Fund Denmark, the Danish Cancer Society, Arvid Nilsson Foundation, the Neye Foundation, the Research Foundation of Rigshospitalet, the Danish National Research Foundation (grant 126), the Research Council of the Capital Region of Denmark, the Danish Health Authority, the John and Birthe Meyer Foundation and Research Council for Independent Research. Andreas Kjaer is a Lundbeck Foundation Professor.

DISCLOSURE

AK and CHN are inventors/hold intellectual property rights on a patent covering tissue factor Imaging. No other potential conflicts of interest relevant to this article exist.

INTRODUCTION

Personalized medicine based on targeted therapies is predicted to shape the future of oncology in the coming decades. An emerging oncological target is the transmembrane glycoprotein tissue factor (TF) that functions as the main initiator of the extrinsic coagulation cascade (1). In addition to its role in coagulation, TF expression is also linked to several cancer hallmarks including tumor growth, angiogenesis, and metastatic potential (2,3). Abundant TF expression has been reported in most solid tumors, and TF expression levels are associated with disease stage and poor overall survival in pancreatic cancer (4), cervical cancer (5), non-small cell lung cancer (6-8), and breast cancer (9).

TF-targeted therapies are currently under translation into the clinical treatment of cancer patients. In 2019, reports from the first phase 1-2 clinical trial of the TF-targeted antibody-drug conjugate *tisotumab-vedotin* in patients with recurrent, advanced, or metastatic solid tumors showed an objective tumor response in 16% of the patients (10). Recently, a 24% response rate was demonstrated in a phase 2 trial in previously treated recurrent or metastatic cervical cancer patients (11), and the United States Food and Drug Administration approved the therapy in September 2021 for this indication (12).

With the emergence of TF-targeted therapies, robust methods for quantifying TF expression in primary tumors and metastases are needed for efficient patient selection and stratification. Whole-body PET imaging can reduce the risk of sampling error from within tumor and between tumor heterogeneity seen in *ex vivo* analyses of tumor biopsies (13). Hence, PET imaging of TF expression is attractive as a companion imaging diagnostic agent for identifying patients eligible for TF-targeted therapies and may have the potential to increase response rates.

We have developed a TF-targeted PET radiotracer based on the natural ligand, factor VII (FVII). When vascular injury occurs, FVII is activated to FVIIa by the exposed TF on the endothelial cells and sets off the coagulation cascade (1). Through inhibition of the active site in FVIIa, the resulting active-site inhibited FVIIa (ASIS) binds to TF with an affinity approximately 5-fold higher than FVIIa

without activating the coagulation system (14). For TF-targeted PET imaging, ASIS is radiolabeled with N-succinimidyl 4-[¹⁸F]fluorobenzoate (¹⁸F-SFB) to form ¹⁸F-ASIS (15). Preclinical studies with xenograft tumor-bearing mice have demonstrated high and specific ¹⁸F-ASIS uptake in tumor tissue that reflects the level of TF expression determined *ex vivo* (16). Spurred on by the promising preclinical results, we moved forward with the clinical translation of ¹⁸F-ASIS PET imaging in cancer patients.

Here we report our first-in-human trial on ¹⁸F-ASIS PET in cancer patients. The primary objectives were to demonstrate the safety, biodistribution, pharmacokinetics, and dosimetry of ¹⁸F-ASIS. As a secondary objective, we investigated radiotracer accumulation in tumors with PET and its correlation with TF expression in *ex vivo* analyses of matched tumor samples.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Design

We performed the study as an open-label, phase 1 clinical trial approved by the Danish Medicines Agency (EudraCT no. 2015-005583-42) and the Ethical Committee of the Capital Region of Denmark (protocol H-18015477). Patients signed written informed consent prior to inclusion. The study was conducted in accordance with the requirements for Good Clinical Practice including independent monitoring by the Good Clinical Practice unit of Copenhagen University Hospital and the trial was registered at ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT03790423). Eligible patients were ≥ 18 years, diagnosed with breast, lung, pancreatic, cervical, or ovarian cancer, and capable of understanding the patient information in Danish and giving full informed consent. Exclusion criteria were pregnancy/breast-feeding, weight above 140 kg or history of allergic reaction attributable to compounds of similar chemical or biologic composition to ¹⁸F-ASIS.

From January to November 2019, after giving informed consent, 10 patients with pancreatic cancer (n=4), breast cancer (n=3), lung cancer (n=2), and cervical cancer (n=1) were included in

the study and referred to a ^{18}F -ASIS PET/CT imaging series. The mean and standard deviation of the administered mass of ^{18}F -ASIS was 0.67 ± 0.12 mg (range, 0.41–0.84 mg). The mean administered activity was 157 ± 35 MBq (range, 93–198 MBq) yielding a mean specific activity of 245 ± 84 MBq/mg (range, 126–412 MBq/mg) at the time of injection. Sequential whole-body PET/CT imaging was performed 1 hour (h), 2h, and 4h after injection of ^{18}F -ASIS. Patients were monitored for changes in vital signs, electrocardiograms, and blood parameters before and after radiotracer administration. Adverse events were registered up to 48 hours after administration of ^{18}F -ASIS and coded according to the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAE) v5.0. Blood sampling and urine collection was performed for pharmacokinetic analyses. The study design is summarized in Figure 1. A detailed study description is provided in the supplemental information. When available, tumor biopsies or surgically excised primary tumor tissue and local lymph nodes were collected, and TF expression was analyzed with immunohistochemistry (IHC) and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA).

Inhibition of FVIIa

FVIIa (Novo Nordisk A/S, Bagsværd, Denmark) was dissolved in water and 5 equivalents of D-Phe-Phe-Arg-chloromethyl ketone (fFR-cmk, Bachem, Bubendorf, Switzerland) were added for inhibition of FVIIa to produce ASIS. After inhibition (1h, 4°C), excess of inhibitor was removed by dialysis (Slide-a-lyzer, MWCO 10, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Copenhagen, Denmark) in 50 mM N-2-Hydroxyethylpiperazine-N'-2-Ethanesulfonic Acid (HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 10 mM CaCl_2 , pH 7.4, Sigma-Aldrich, Brøndby, Denmark) overnight. The content of fFR-cmk and the concentration of ASIS was analyzed by high-pressure liquid chromatograph (HPLC) using an Aeris C4 column ($3.6 \mu\text{m}$, 150×4.6 mm, Phenomenex, Værløse, Denmark) and 1.5 ml/min solvent flow with a gradient method: 0–2 min 17% B; 2–5 min 60% B, 6 min 60% B, 6–7 min 17% B, 7–8 min 17% B with solvent phases 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) in H_2O (A) and 0.1% TFA in acetonitrile (MeCN) (B). Aliquots (500 μl) were stored at -80°C prior to labeling.

Synthesis of ^{18}F -ASIS

ASIS was labeled with the ^{18}F -containing prosthetic group ^{18}F -SFB. ^{18}F -SFB was produced in a three-step, one pot synthesis on a qualified TracerLab_{MX} module (GE Healthcare, Brøndby Denmark) with a final solid-phase extraction purification in 80% MeCN. ^{18}F -SFB was subsequently evaporated to dryness in a single vial. ASIS (500 μl) was added to the vial for labeling at room temperature for 30 min followed by purification with a PD10 column (Sigma-Aldrich, Brøndby, Denmark) into formulation buffer (10 mM GlyGly, 150 mM NaCl, and 10 mM CaCl_2 , pH 7.5). The final product was sterile filtered in a laminar airflow bench and a sample was drawn for quality control. The shelf-life of ^{18}F -ASIS was evaluated up to 4h after end-of-synthesis.

Quality Control of ^{18}F -ASIS

All analytical methods were validated according to the International Council of Harmonization guidelines (17). The radiochemical purity, unspecified ^{18}F -labeled impurities, and ^{18}F -fluoride were determined with radio-HPLC while the content of ASIS was determined by ultraviolet-detector HPLC (UV-HPLC), both using the same gradients as described above. Residual MeCN from the ^{18}F -SFB synthesis was determined by gas chromatography. Color-spot tests were used to determine the content of tetrabutylammonium hydrogen carbonate and HEPES in the final product. The immunoreactivity of ^{18}F -ASIS was determined by Lindmo assay using a high TF expressing cell-line (BxPC-3, CRL-1687™, ATCC, Virginia, United States) according to previously described procedures (18). Quality control parameters are summarized in Supplemental Table 1.

Plasma and Urine Pharmacokinetics

The activity of urine, whole blood, and plasma samples was measured on a Cobra II TM Gamma Counter (PACKARD, Meriden, CT, USA). The plasma samples were prepared from whole blood samples by centrifugation (3,500 rpm, 4 min) and filtering of the supernatant plasma through a

0.45 μ M syringe filter. The radiotracer half-life was determined from the activity concentrations in plasma decay-corrected to the blood sampling time points (approximately 1h, 2h, and 4h after injection). The accumulated percentages of excreted radiotracer in urine were determined from the ratio between the accumulated activity in urine and the injected radiotracer activity dose decay-corrected to the urine sampling time points (approximately 1h, 2h, and 5h after injection). Metabolites in plasma and urine samples were analyzed by radio-HPLC with a Posi-RAM Module 4 using the same gradients as described above.

Image Acquisition

Image acquisition was performed on a Siemens Biograph 128 mCT PET/CT (Siemens Healthineers, Erlangen, Germany) with PET acquisition commenced 1h, 2h, and 4h after injection of ^{18}F -ASIS. Unless otherwise contraindicated, patients were injected with intravenous iodine-based contrast (Optiray 300 mg I/ml, 70-100 ml, injection rate 1.5-2.5 ml/s) using an automated injection system. Detailed descriptions of the PET and CT imaging parameters (including acquisition times and reconstruction parameters) are provided in the supplemental information.

Biodistribution and Dosimetry

Dosimetry was based on the PET images (n=10) supplemented with sampled urine-data (n=8). For each patient, organ, and time-point, tissue activity concentration was calculated as the average of the mean values from 3 volumes of interests (VOIs) drawn in the following organs/regions: adrenal, bone, brain, blood pool, ascending and descending colon, heart wall, kidney, liver, lung, red marrow (L3–L5 vertebrae), small intestines, spleen, stomach contents, and thyroid using MIRADA DBx version 1.2.0 (Mirada Medical, Denver CO, USA). OLINDA/EXM 2.0 software (Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, USA and HERMES Medical Solutions, Stockholm, Sweden) was used for calculation of do-

simetry parameters using the organ masses of the OLINDA male adult phantom (19,20) and the absorbed doses for organs and effective dose with tissue weighting factors according to International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) 103 (21). A detailed description of the dosimetry calculation and biodistribution data processing is provided in the supplemental information.

Image Analysis

The PET/CT images were evaluated by a highly experienced team consisting of a nuclear medicine specialist and a radiologist. Size measurements of the primary tumor and metastases (if any) were performed on the diagnostic CT. In tumor lesions identified on the CT, radiotracer accumulation was measured on the PET images and reported as standardized uptake values (SUV). Spherical VOIs maximizing a volume encompassed by the tumor lesion perimeter based on the CT images were used for uptake quantification, and the tumor lesion maximal SUV (SUV_{max}) and mean SUV (SUV_{mean}) were recorded on the PET scan. Tumor-to-blood ratios were calculated as tumor lesion SUV_{max} divided by the blood pool SUV_{mean} . Any additional foci identified only on the PET, judged indicative of a primary tumor or metastases by the readers, were recorded. SyngoVIA Version VB30A-HF04 (Siemens Healthineers, Erlangen, Germany) was used for the image analysis.

Ex Vivo Tumor Tissue Samples

Tumor tissue samples were obtained from surgically resected tissue or from tumor biopsies performed in relation to routine clinical procedures. Samples were processed for measurement of TF expression with ELISA and IHC. Details on tissue preparation, ELISA measurements, and IHC preparation is provided in the supplemental information. TF expression on IHC was stratified as low, intermediate, or high based on visual assessment.

Statistical Methods

The radiotracer plasma half-life was determined from mono-exponential linear regression models (one-compartment models) fitted to the decay-corrected time-activity curves in plasma (n=8). The relationship between the PET 4h tumor SUV_{max} and *ex vivo* measurements of TF expression by ELISA was analyzed with Pearson correlation (n=5). Two-sided P-values <0.05 were considered statistically significant. Data is presented as mean ± standard deviation unless otherwise noted. All statistical analyses were performed using R version 3.6.1 (R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria).

RESULTS

Radiochemistry

¹⁸F-SFB was prepared in 29.4 ± 25.9 % non-decay corrected radiochemical yield (n=10 batches). ¹⁸F-ASIS was achieved in 221 ± 58 MBq non-decay corrected activity yield (n=10 batches). ¹⁸F-ASIS was produced with a radiochemical purity ≥95%, and unspecified ¹⁸F-labeled impurities and ¹⁸F-fluoride were both determined to ≤2%. The concentration of ASIS was 0.08 ± 0.01 mg/ml. Tetrabutylammonium hydrogen carbonate and HEPES content were <0.1 mg/ml and <20 µg/ml, respectively. An immunoreactivity of ≥75% was found for all 10 batches. Summary results of all quality control parameters are provided in Supplemental Table 1.

Patient Characteristics and Safety

The characteristics of the patients are shown in Table 1. There were no adverse events and no clinically significant changes in vital signs (Supplemental Table 2), blood parameters (Supplemental Table 3), nor electrocardiograms observed in any of the 10 patients.

Biodistribution, Pharmacokinetics, and Dosimetry

Biodistribution. A representative imaging series demonstrating the radiotracer distribution on the 1h, 2h, and 4h PET on the maximum intensity projection (MIP) is shown in Figure 2 for patient 5. The MIPs for the additional 9 patients are shown in Supplemental Figure 1. Organ-specific radiotracer uptake expressed as SUV_{mean} is shown in Figure 3. The highest uptakes were observed in the urinary bladder followed by the kidneys and the liver. The brain, bone, muscle, red bone marrow, and lung had low and decreasing uptakes suggesting no radiotracer accumulation.

Pharmacokinetics and dosimetry. Time-activity curves measured in plasma (n=8) are shown in Figure 4A. The plasma half-life was 3.2 ± 0.6 h. Urinary excretion accounted for the majority of ^{18}F -ASIS elimination and more than 40% of the injected dose was accumulated in the urine within 5h after injection (Figure 4B). Radio-HPLC run on plasma samples showed no major metabolites. Radio-HPLC run on urine samples showed urinary excretion of a smaller ^{18}F -radiolabeled fragment suggesting renal metabolism of ^{18}F -ASIS. Representative chromatograms of plasma samples collected 1h, 2h, and 4h after injection and urine samples collected 1h, 2h and 5h after injection are shown in Figure 4C. The dosimetry output from the OLINDA/EXM dosimetry software is shown in Table 2. The highest dose was received by the urinary bladder wall (118 $\mu Gy/MBq$) followed by the kidneys (76 $\mu Gy/MBq$), liver (67 $\mu Gy/MBq$), and spleen (60 $\mu Gy/MBq$). The effective dose was 20 $\mu Sv/MBq$ corresponding to 4 mSv for a target 200 MBq dose.

Radiotracer Accumulation in Tumor and Correlation with *Ex Vivo* Tumor Tissue

^{18}F -ASIS accumulation in tumor lesions quantified as SUV_{max} and tumor-to-blood ratios are shown in Figure 5. Heterogeneous SUV_{max} patterns between patients were observed: For patients 3 and 4 (both primary pancreatic tumors) and 5 (lung metastasis) SUV_{max} increased on the 2-4h PET

compared with the 1h PET. Contrary, in patients 7 and 8 (both primary breast tumors), low uptakes were observed at all three time points. The remaining patients showed relatively intermediate SUV_{max} that remained stable or slightly increased with time. Compared with the other patients, the 4h SUV_{max} for patients 3 and 4 were relatively high. The tumor-to-blood ratios showed a similar pattern.

Within tumor and within patient heterogeneity in radiotracer accumulation was also observed. Patient 10 (breast cancer) had heterogeneous radiotracer accumulation in the primary tumor (Figure 6A) with 4h SUV_{max} in the intermediate range (2.86). A corresponding small tissue sample taken immediately from the surgically resected tumor showed low *ex vivo* TF expression measured with both ELISA and IHC (Figure 6B). However, TF IHC staining of the full mastectomy specimen, performed following the pathology examination, showed areas with intermediate TF expression (Figure 6C). The pathology examination demonstrated two separate primary tumors. This patient also had an axially sentinel node metastasis that was not enlarged on CT, showed no apparent focal accumulation on PET, and had low TF expression on IHC (Figure 6D).

There was a trend of a positive correlation between 4h PET SUV_{max} and TF expression measured *ex vivo* on matched tumor tissue samples although not statistically significant ($p=0.08$, $r=0.84$, $n=5$). TF IHC-stained images in matched tumor tissue samples were available for 7 patients. Representative examples of low, intermediate, and high TF expression on IHC with corresponding 4h PET/CT images are shown in Figure 7. A summary of the PET/CT findings, quantitative plasma and *ex vivo* tumor TF expression, and TF IHC staining patterns is shown in Table 3.

DISCUSSION

We report here the first-in-human experience of the tissue factor (TF)-targeted radiotracer ^{18}F -ASIS in cancer patients. The trial marks the first test in humans of a PET radiotracer targeting TF

(first-in-class). Our main finding was that injection of ^{18}F -ASIS was safe, and no adverse events were observed. The effective radiation dose of 4 mSv from administration of 200 MBq of ^{18}F -ASIS is lower than that received after a standard ^{18}F -FDG injection (22). None of the calculated organ-specific absorbed doses were prohibitive for administration of 200 MBq of ^{18}F -ASIS. As an indication of the specific tumor-targeting ability of ^{18}F -ASIS, we observed a trend of a positive correlation between tumor SUV_{max} and quantitative TF expression determined *ex vivo* ($p=0.08$, $r=0.84$). These initial findings represent important first steps towards the clinical implementation of ^{18}F -ASIS PET imaging as a companion diagnostic tool for TF-targeted therapies.

The biodistribution and pharmacokinetic data indicated that the primary elimination route of ^{18}F -ASIS was through the kidneys. The low bone uptake is supportive of high metabolic stability, as freely circulating ^{18}F -fluoride would expectedly result in high bone accumulation (23). The 3.2h ^{18}F -ASIS plasma half-life was comparable to the 3.8h half-life observed for an unlabeled version of ASIS at similar dose (24) suggesting that the radiolabeling does not fundamentally alter the elimination of the radiotracer from plasma. Compared to antibody- and antibody fragment based TF-targeted radiotracers with long circulation time resulting in optimal tumor to background contrast after several days in preclinical models, e.g. ^{64}Cu and ^{89}Zr -labeled NOTA-ALT-836 (25,26), the relatively fast elimination of ^{18}F -ASIS makes this radiotracer better suited for same day imaging.

The between patient and cancer type heterogeneity in radiotracer tumor accumulation and *ex vivo* TF expression observed in the study is in line with the varying degree of TF expression across cancer types reported in the literature (2, 16,27). Pancreatic tumors have particularly high TF expression in agreement with our findings. The within tumor heterogeneity seen in both radiotracer accumulation on PET and on *ex vivo* TF IHC staining of full surgical specimens serves as an example of the potential of PET imaging for evaluation of TF expression. As PET imaging captures the whole-body tumor burden, identification of hotspots that could be otherwise missed on a biopsy is possible with PET. Importantly,

the sentinel node metastasis without enlargement on CT, and with no apparent focal PET accumulation, had low TF expression on IHC, which suggests that PET was not false negative. Conclusions should of course not be inferred from single observations, but the results encourage further investigation.

The trend of a positive correlation between tumor SUV_{max} and quantitative TF expression measured *ex vivo* ($r=0.84$, $p=0.08$) suggests that ^{18}F -ASIS accumulation depends on the levels of TF in tumors. It may be argued that the radiotracer accumulation in tumors were modest. Importantly, this does not pose a limitation to the use of ^{18}F -ASIS PET as a whole-body non-invasive companion diagnostic or prognostic tool based on tumor TF expression if robust correlations between PET-derived tumor radiotracer accumulation and actual TF expression can be established. The relationship between SUV_{max} and *ex vivo* TF expression presented in this study suggests such a correlation. The observed trend is in line with our preclinical results in xenografted tumor mouse models that showed a strong and statistically significant positive correlation between tumor SUV_{max} on 4h ^{18}F -ASIS PET and TF expression measured in excised tumor tissue (16). The specificity of ^{18}F -ASIS for targeting TF was supported by the qualitative relationship between the tumor SUV_{max} and TF IHC staining patterns of surgical specimens that generally were in agreement. These preliminary results suggest that ^{18}F -ASIS PET imaging can be used for non-invasive measurement of TF expression in tumor tissues which may ultimately assist in identifying patients eligible for TF-targeted therapies. However, future later-phase clinical studies are needed to validate these findings in larger populations.

CONCLUSION

¹⁸F-ASIS can safely be administered to cancer patients for TF-targeted PET imaging. The trial marks the first test of a TF-targeted PET radiotracer in humans (first-in-class). The effective whole-body dose for a 200 MBq activity dose was 4 mSv and no prohibitive organ-specific absorbed doses were observed. Plasma half-life was 3.2h and renal elimination accounted for most of the radiotracer excretion. The findings represent important first steps towards the clinical implementation of ¹⁸F-ASIS for PET imaging of TF expression, which could assist in patient prognostication and selection of eligible patients for TF-targeted therapies. Future later-phase studies are needed to validate these initial findings.

DISCLOSURE

AK and CHN are inventors/hold intellectual property rights on a patent covering tissue factor imaging. No other potential conflicts of interest relevant to this article exist.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the staff at the Department of Clinical Physiology and Nuclear Medicine for help with performing the PET/CT studies and for the patients for participating in the study. We also thank Katrine Qvist for performing the *ex vivo* IHC staining and ELISA measurements. Novo Nordisk A/S is gratefully acknowledged for providing GMP-grade FVIIa.

KEYPOINTS

QUESTIONS: Can ^{18}F -ASIS safely be administered to cancer patients for PET imaging of tissue-factor in tumors?

PERTINENT FINDINGS: In this first-in-human clinical trial of 10 cancer patients, administration of 200 MBq ^{18}F -ASIS was safe, and no adverse events were reported. The effective whole-body dose was 4 mSv and no prohibitive organ-specific absorbed doses were observed.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PATIENT CARE: The trial marks the first test in humans of a PET radiotracer targeting tissue factor (first-in-class). The findings represent important first steps towards implementation of ^{18}F -ASIS PET imaging of tissue factor in cancer patients for prognostication and selection of patients for tissue factor-targeted therapies.

REFERENCES

1. McVey JH. Tissue factor pathway. *Baillieres Clin Haematol.* 1994;7:469-484.
2. van den Berg YW, Osanto S, Reitsma PH, Versteeg HH. The relationship between tissue factor and cancer progression: insights from bench and bedside. *Blood.* 2012;119:924-932.
3. Kasthuri RS, Taubman MB, Mackman N. Role of tissue factor in cancer. *J Clin Oncol.* 2009;27:4834-4838.
4. Nitori N, Ino Y, Nakanishi Y, et al. Prognostic significance of tissue factor in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2005;11:2531-2539.
5. Zhao X, Cheng C, Gou J, et al. Expression of tissue factor in human cervical carcinoma tissue. *Exp Ther Med.* 2018;16:4075-4081.
6. Regina S, Valentin JB, Lachot S, Lemarie E, Rollin J, Gruel Y. Increased tissue factor expression is associated with reduced survival in non-small cell lung cancer and with mutations of TP53 and PTEN. *Clin Chem.* 2009;55:1834-1842.
7. Goldin-Lang P, Tran QV, Fichtner I, et al. Tissue factor expression pattern in human non-small cell lung cancer tissues indicate increased blood thrombogenicity and tumor metastasis. *Oncol Rep.* 2008;20:123-128.
8. Chen WH, Wang C, Zhang YH, Yang YH, Zhan HY, Zhang LM. Influence of overexpressed coagulant and fibrolytic components in tumor tissues on the prognosis of non-small cell lung cancer. *Zhonghua Yi Xue Za Zhi.* 2007;87:3228-3232.
9. Ueno T, Toi M, Koike M, Nakamura S, Tominaga T. Tissue factor expression in breast cancer tissues: Its correlation with prognosis and plasma concentration. *Br J Cancer.* 2000;83:164-170.

10. de Bono JS, Concin N, Hong DS, et al. Tisotumab vedotin in patients with advanced or metastatic solid tumours (InnovaTV 201): A first-in-human, multicentre, phase 1-2 trial. *Lancet Oncol.* 2019;20:383-393.
11. Coleman RL, Lorusso D, Gennigens C, et al. Efficacy and safety of tisotumab vedotin in previously treated recurrent or metastatic cervical cancer (InnovaTV 204/GOG-3023/ENGOT-cx6): A multicentre, open-label, single-arm, phase 2 study. *Lancet Oncol.* 2021;22:609-619.
12. FDA. Orange book: Approved drug products with therapeutic equivalence evaluations. U.S. Food and Drug Administration website. https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2021/761208s000lbl.pdf. Accessed 28 September, 2021.
13. Subramaniam RM. Precision medicine and PET/computed tomography: Challenges and implementation. *PET Clin.* 2017;12:1-5.
14. Sorensen BB, Persson E, Freskgard PO, et al. Incorporation of an active site inhibitor in factor VIIa alters the affinity for tissue factor. *J Biol Chem.* 1997;272:11863-11868.
15. Erlandsson M, Nielsen CH, Jeppesen TE, et al. Synthesis and characterization of ¹⁸F-labeled active site inhibited factor VII (ASIS). *J Labelled Comp Radiopharm.* 2015;58:196-201.
16. Nielsen CH, Erlandsson M, Jeppesen TE, et al. Quantitative PET imaging of tissue factor expression using ¹⁸F-labeled active site-inhibited factor VII. *J Nucl Med.* 2016;57:89-95.
17. Agency EM. Harmonised tripartite guideline: Validation of analytical methods: Methodology, ICH Topic Q2B guideline. 1995.
18. Lindmo T, Boven E, Cuttitta F, Fedorko J, Bunn PA, Jr. Determination of the immunoreactive fraction of radiolabeled monoclonal antibodies by linear extrapolation to binding at infinite antigen excess. *J Immunol Methods.* 1984;72:77-89.

19. ICRP. Basic anatomical and physiological data for use in radiological protection: Reference values. A report of age- and gender-related differences in the anatomical and physiological characteristics of reference individuals. ICRP Publication 89. *Ann ICRP*. 2002;32:5-265.
20. Stabin MG, Siegel JA. Physical models and dose factors for use in internal dose assessment. *Health Phys*. 2003;85:294-310.
21. ICRP. The 2007 Recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection. ICRP publication 103. *Ann ICRP*. 2007;37:1-332.
22. Quinn B, Dauer Z, Pandit-Taskar N, Schoder H, Dauer LT. Radiation dosimetry of ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT: Incorporating exam-specific parameters in dose estimates. *BMC Med Imaging*. 2016;16:41.
23. Ahuja K, Sotoudeh H, Galgano SJ, et al. ¹⁸F-sodium fluoride PET: History, technical feasibility, mechanism of action, normal biodistribution, and diagnostic performance in bone metastasis detection compared with other imaging modalities. *J Nucl Med Technol*. 2020;48:9-16.
24. Erhardtson E, Nilsson P, Johannessen M, Thomsen MS. Pharmacokinetics and safety of FFR-rFVIIa after single doses in healthy subjects. *J Clin Pharmacol*. 2001;41:880-885.
25. Hong H, Zhang Y, Nayak TR, et al. Immuno-PET of tissue factor in pancreatic cancer. *J Nucl Med*. 2012;53:1748-1754.
26. Hernandez R, England CG, Yang Y, et al. ImmunoPET imaging of tissue factor expression in pancreatic cancer with ⁸⁹Zr-Df-ALT-836. *J Control Release*. 2017;264:160-168.
27. Saidak Z, Soudet S, Lottin M, et al. A pan-cancer analysis of the human tumor coagulome and its link to the tumor immune microenvironment. *Cancer Immunol Immunother*. 2021;70:923-933.

FIGURES

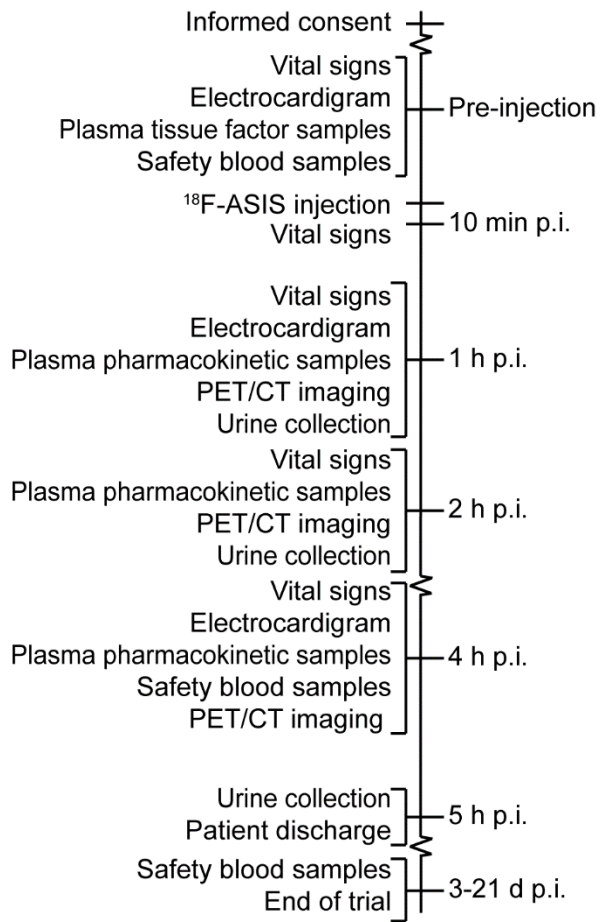


FIGURE 1 Schematic overview of the study design. d: days. h: hours. p.i.: post-injection.

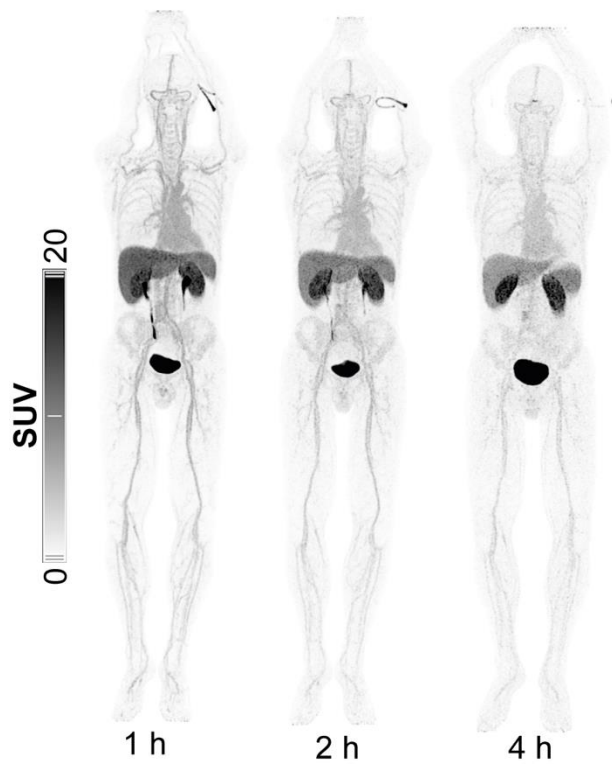


FIGURE 2 Representative maximum intensity projection (MIP) showing the distribution of ^{18}F -ASIS for patient 5. h: hours.

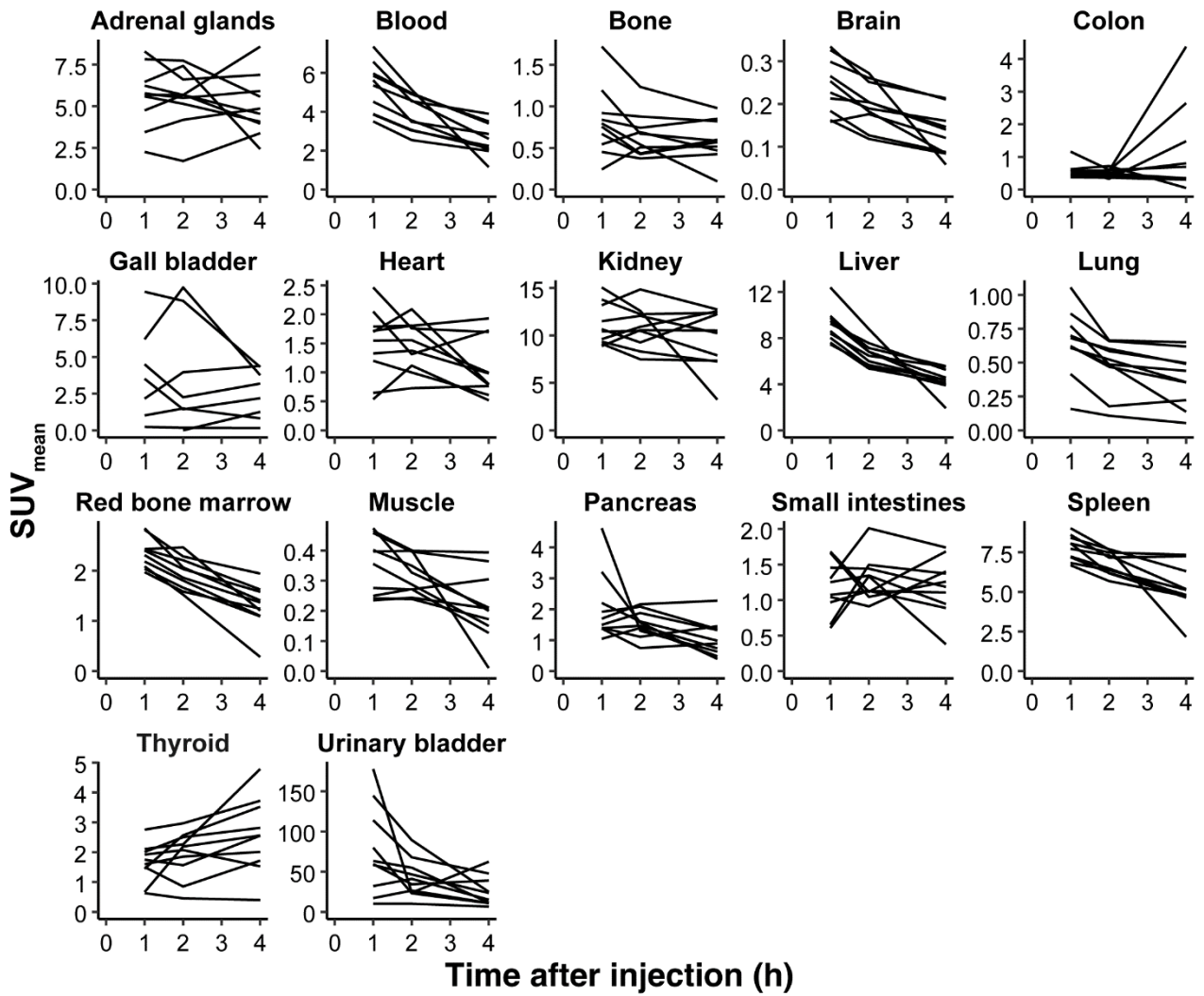


FIGURE 3 Distribution of ^{18}F -ASIS in organs (n=10). h: hours. SUV_{mean}: mean standardized uptake value

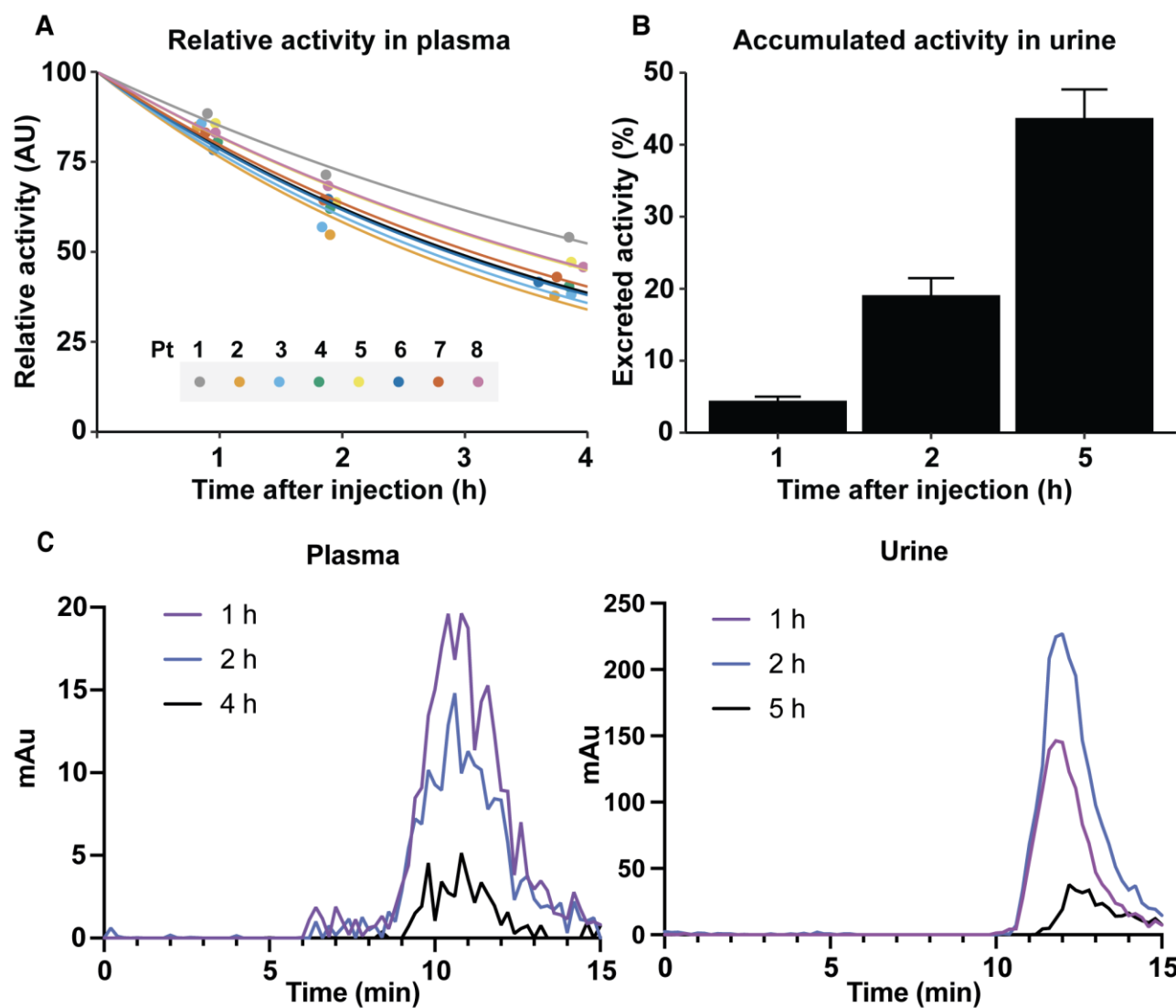


FIGURE 4 **A** Normalized time-activity curves of plasma samples with mono-exponential fits (n=8). **B** Accumulated percentages of activity excreted in urine (n=8). **C** Representative radio-high-pressure liquid chromatograph (radio-HPLC) chromatograms from plasma showing no major metabolites (left) and representative radio-HPLC from urine showing urinary excretion of a smaller ^{18}F -radiolabeled fragment (right). AU: arbitrary units. h: hours. mAu: absorbance units.

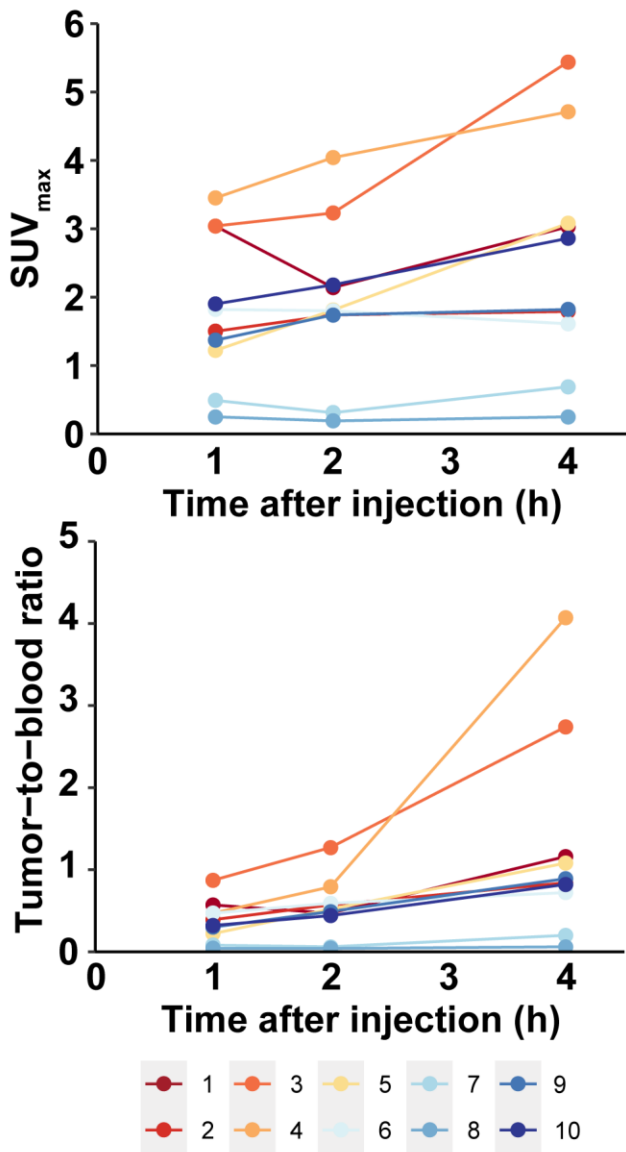


FIGURE 5 Tumor maximum standardized uptake values (SUV_{max}) (top) and tumor-to-blood ratios (Tumor SUV_{max} divided by blood pool SUV_{mean}) on the 1h, 2h, and 4h PET (bottom). Colors refer to the patient numbers shown below.

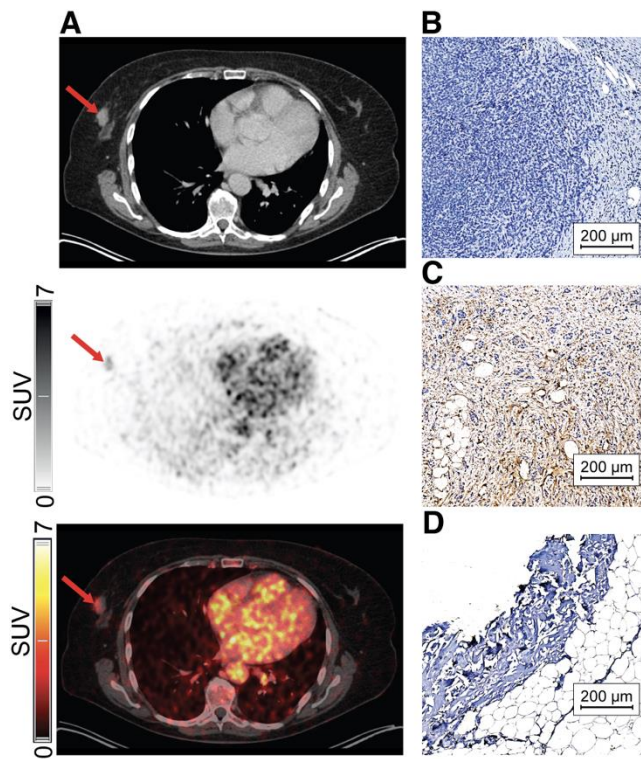


FIGURE 6 Patient 10 with breast cancer. **A** Primary breast tumor with relatively intermediate 4h PET SUV_{max} (2.86) shown on (top to bottom) CT, PET and fused PET/CT, respectively. Arrows mark tumor location. **B** Small sample taken from the tumor lesion immediately following surgery with low TF expression on immunohistochemistry (IHC). **C** Portion of the mastectomy specimen showing intermediate TF expression on IHC performed after the pathology examination. **D** Axillary sentinel node metastasis with low TF expression on IHC without apparent focal accumulation in the corresponding axillary area on PET or lymph node enlargement on CT (not shown).

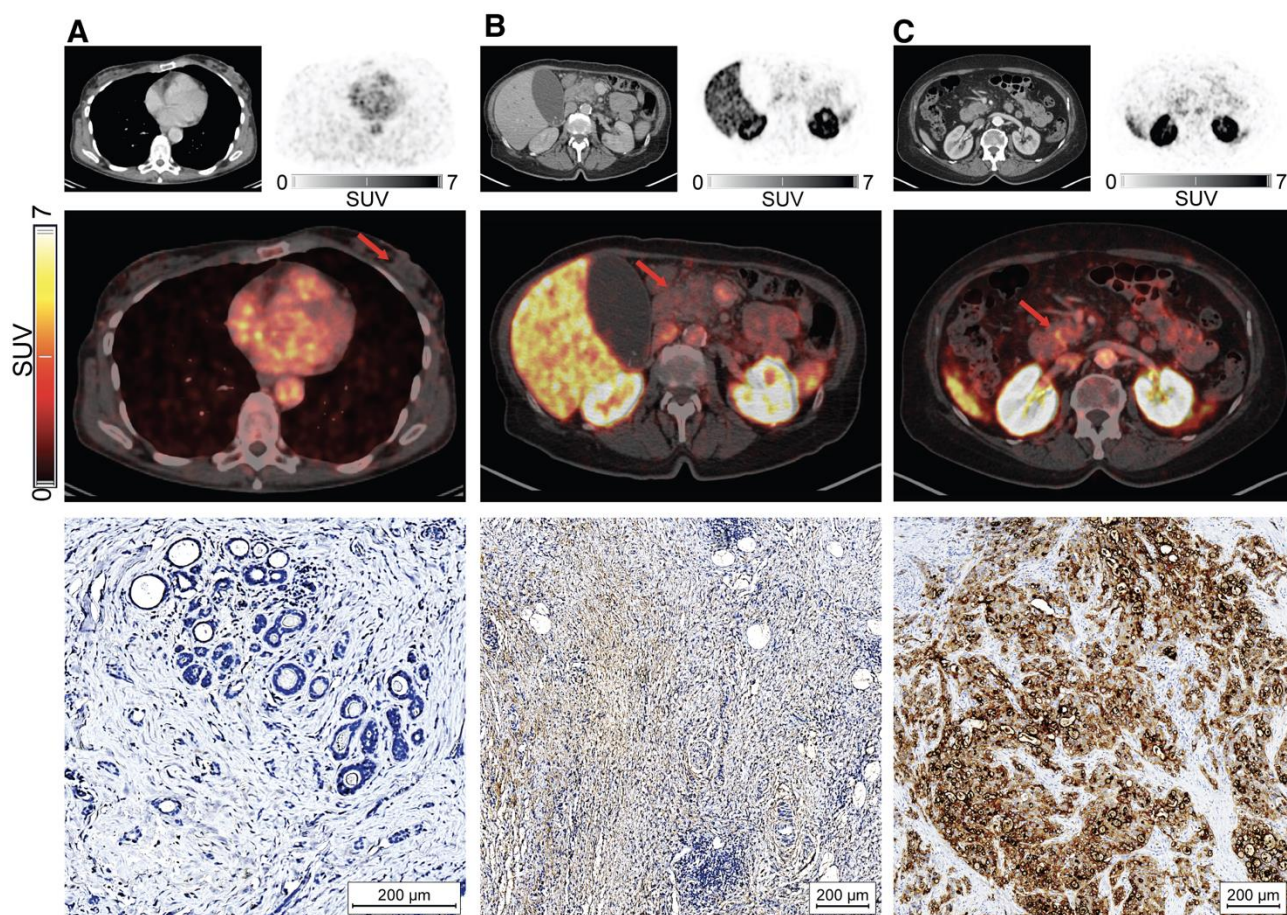


FIGURE 7 **A** Patient 7: Breast tumor with low SUV_{max} (0.69) and low tissue factor TF expression on immunohistochemistry (IHC) *ex vivo*. **B** Patient 2: Pancreatic tumor with relatively intermediate SUV_{max} (1.79) and intermediate TF expression on IHC. **C** Patient 4: Pancreatic tumor with relatively high 4h PET SUV_{max} (4.71) and high TF expression on IHC. **Top-bottom:** 4h CT, PET and fused PET/CT, and IHC. Arrows mark tumor location on the PET/CT. SUV: standardized uptake values.

TABLE 1 Patient Characteristics

| Pt | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--|---|------------|--|
| Gender | Female | Female | Female | Female | Male | Female | Female | Female | Female | Female |
| Age (y) | 88 | 67 | 69 | 79 | 65 | 58 | 54 | 59 | 43 | 73 |
| Primary tumor | Pancreas | Pancreas | Pancreas | Pancreas | Lung [†] | Lung | Breast | Breast | Cervix | Breast |
| Type [stage][*] | PT: DAC | PT: PAC [pT2pN2M0] | PT [‡] : DAC | PT: DAC [pT2N0M0] | PT [‡] : AC MET: AC | PT: AC [pT2bN0M0] | PT: IDC (HER2+1/ ER100%). SN without MET (0/1 LN). [M0] | PT: ILC (HER2+1/ ER100%). SN without MET (0/2 LN). [M0] | PT: SCC | PT [‡] : ISPC SN with micro MET (1/2 LN). [M0] |
| Prior cancer treatment | None | None | CTX | None | Surgery and CTX | CTX | None | None | None | None |
| Concomitant cancer treatment | None | None | None | None | CTX | RDX | None | None | None | None |

^{*}Pathology TNM staging is reported in square brackets when available. [†]Primary tumor removed. [‡]Two separate tumors without connection: Tumor 1: HER2+1/ER100%; Tumor 2: HER2-/ER100%. AC: adenocarcinoma. CTX: chemotherapy. DAC: ductal adenocarcinoma. ER: estrogen receptor. HER2: human epidermal growth factor receptor 2. IDC: invasive ductal carcinoma. ILC: invasive lobular carcinoma. ISPC: invasive solid papillary carcinoma. LN: lymph nodes. MET: metastases. PAC: pancreaticobiliary adenocarcinoma. PT: primary tumor. RDX: radiation therapy. SN: sentinel nodes. SCC: squamous cell carcinoma.

TABLE 2 Organ-based Dosimetry

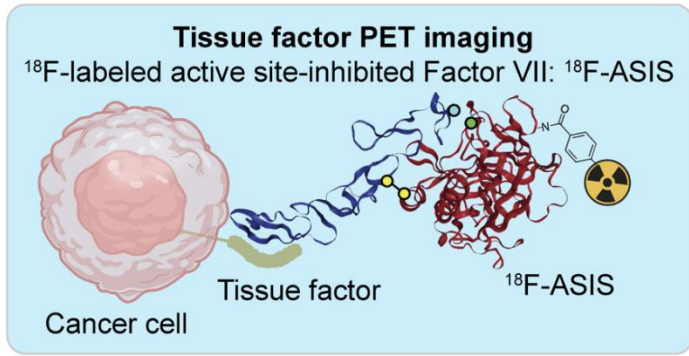
| Organ | Total mean absorbed dose ($\mu\text{Gy}/\text{MBq}$) |
|--|--|
| Adrenals | 56 |
| Brain | 4 |
| Breasts | 8 |
| Esophagus | 12 |
| Eyes | 6 |
| Gallbladder Wall | 22 |
| Left colon | 21 |
| Small Intestine | 25 |
| Stomach Wall | 15 |
| Right colon | 13 |
| Rectum | 17 |
| Heart Wall | 17 |
| Kidneys | 76 |
| Liver | 67 |
| Lungs | 10 |
| Ovaries | 15 |
| Pancreas | 17 |
| Prostate | 15 |
| Salivary Glands | 7 |
| Red Marrow | 15 |
| Osteogenic Cells | 16 |
| Spleen | 60 |
| Testes | 8 |
| Thymus | 9 |
| Thyroid | 17 |
| Urinary Bladder Wall | 118 |
| Uterus | 22 |
| Total Body | 12 |
| | |
| Effective Dose ($\mu\text{Sv}/\text{MBq}$) | 20 |

TABLE 3 PET/CT Image Findings and Ex Vivo Tissue Factor Measurements

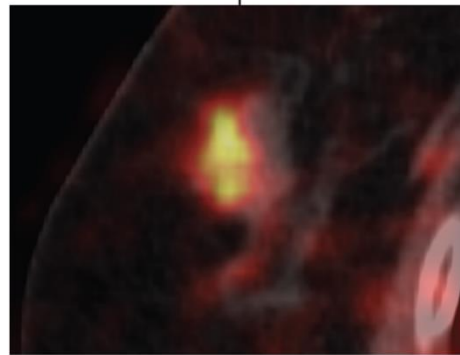
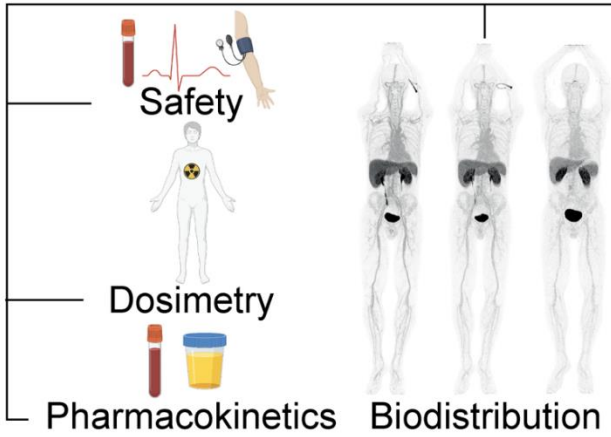
| Pt | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|--|-------------------|--------------|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|--|
| Primary tumor | Pancreas | Pancreas | Pancreas | Pancreas | Lung | Lung | Breast | Breast | Cervix | Breast |
| Radiotracer mass (mg) | 0.84 | 0.69 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.74 | 0.41 | 0.76 | 0.56 | 0.74 | 0.58 |
| Activity dose (MBq) | 135 | 187 | 198 | 189 | 93 | 169 | 145 | 187 | 117 | 145 |
| Specific activity* (MBq/mg) | 161 | 271 | 279 | 266 | 126 | 412 | 191 | 334 | 158 | 250 |
| Metastases (Pathology/PET/CT)[†] | ÷/÷/÷ | ÷/÷/÷ | ÷/÷/÷ | ÷/÷/÷ | +/+/+ | ÷/÷/÷ | ÷/÷/÷ | ÷/÷/÷ | ÷/÷/÷ | +/÷/÷ [¶] |
| Tumor size (cm) | 3.6x3.3 | 3.5x3.1 | 4.9x3.8 | 2.6x2.2 | 1.2x0.9 | 3.6x3.4 | 2.8x1.4 | 0.7x0.8 | 3.2x2.9 | 2.4x1.4 |
| SUV_{max} (1h) | 3.04 | 1.50 | 3.04 | 3.45 | 1.22 | 1.82 | 0.49 | 0.25 | 1.37 | 1.90 [#] |
| SUV_{max} (2h) | 2.14 | 1.74 | 3.23 | 4.04 | 1.81 | 1.80 | 0.31 | 0.19 | 1.74 | 2.18 [#] |
| SUV_{max} (4h) | 3.03 | 1.79 | 5.44 | 4.71 | 3.08 | 1.61 | 0.69 | 0.25 | 1.82 | 2.86 [#] |
| SUV_{mean} (1h) | 1.41 | 0.85 | 1.67 | 1.93 | 0.83 | 0.70 | 0.30 | 0.20 | 0.75 | 1.19 [#] |
| SUV_{mean} (2h) | 1.38 | 0.96 | 1.73 | 2.24 | 1.19 | 1.26 | 0.21 | 0.15 | 0.92 | 1.21 [#] |
| SUV_{mean} (4h) | 1.68 | 0.98 | 2.94 | 2.62 | 1.97 | 1.18 | 0.40 | 0.15 | 1.01 | 1.73 [#] |
| ΔT (days)[‡] | 42 | 4 | NA | 6 | NA | NA | 12 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| TF_{tumor} (μg/mg) | NA | 5.93 | NA | 25.75 | NA | NA | 1.14 | NA | 1.27 ^{**} | PT: 0.67 MET: NA |
| TF_{tumor} IHC[§] | Low ^{**} | Intermediate | NA | High | NA | NA | Low | Low | Low ^{**} | PT: Low / intermediate ^{††} MET: Low |
| TF_{plasma} (μg/l) | 61 | 54 | 56 | 72 | 73 | 43 | 82 | 66 | 21 | 73 |

*At time of injection. †Presence of metastases based on pathology, PET, and CT, respectively. (+): metastases present, (÷): no metastases. ‡Time between imaging and tissue collection. §Tissue factor (TF) expression on immunohistochemistry (IHC) rated low, intermediate, or high based on visual assessment. ||Primary tumor removed. SUV and size measured on metastasis. ¶No lymph node enlargement on CT and no apparent focal accumulation on PET. #Heterogeneous radiotracer accumulation observed. **Samples from biopsies. ††Low TF staining on IHC on tissue sample also showing low (0.67 μg/mg) TF expression. Tissue from full mastectomy, obtained from post-pathology evaluation, with intermediate TF expression on IHC. MET: metastases. NA: Not available. PT: Primary tumor.

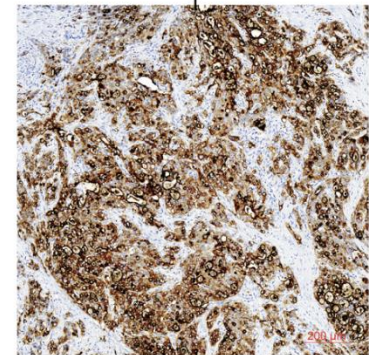
GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



First-in-human phase I trial
10 cancer patients



PET/CT imaging



Ex vivo target validation

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Full Methods Section

Study Design

We performed the study as an open-label, phase 1 clinical trial approved by the Danish Medicines Agency (EudraCT no. 2015-005583-42) and the Ethical Committee of the Capital Region of Denmark (protocol H-18015477). Patients signed written informed consent prior to inclusion. The study was conducted in accordance with the requirements for Good Clinical Practice including independent monitoring by the Good Clinical Practice unit of Copenhagen University Hospital and the trial was registered at ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT03790423). Eligible patients were ≥ 18 years, diagnosed with breast, lung, pancreatic, cervical, or ovarian cancer, and capable of understanding the patient information in Danish and giving full informed consent. Exclusion criteria were pregnancy/breast-feeding, weight above 140 kg or history of allergic reaction attributable to compounds of similar chemical or biologic composition to ^{18}F -ASIS.

From January to November 2019, after giving informed consent, 10 patients with pancreatic cancer (n=4), breast cancer (n=3), lung cancer (n=2), and cervical cancer (n=1) were included in the study and referred to a ^{18}F -ASIS PET/CT imaging series. The mean and standard deviation of the administered mass of ^{18}F -ASIS was 0.67 ± 0.12 mg (range, 0.41–0.84 mg). The mean administered activity was 157 ± 35 MBq (range, 93–198 MBq) yielding a mean specific activity of 245 ± 84 MBq/mg (range, 126–412 MBq/mg) at the time of injection. Sequential whole-body PET/CT imaging was performed 1 hour (h), 2h, and 4h after injection of ^{18}F -ASIS.

Blood samples were collected prior to administration of ^{18}F -ASIS for plasma tissue factor (TF) measurements in all patients. In a subset of eight patients (patients 1-8), blood samples were

collected for pharmacokinetic analysis, including radiotracer metabolism and plasma half-life, approximately 1h, 2h, and 4h after injection. In the same eight patients, urine collection was performed throughout the study period and sampled immediately prior to the 1h and 2h PET/CT and following the 4h PET/CT scans (at approximately 1h, 2h, and 5h after injection) for determination of urinary metabolism, excretion, and dosimetry calculations.

Safety measures included observation of the patients by a medical doctor up to 5h after injection of ^{18}F -ASIS and monitoring of heart rate, blood pressure, and pulse oximetry with regular intervals before, during, and after the last PET/CT scan (pre-injection, 10 min, and approximately 1h, 2h, and 4h after injection). Electrocardiograms were performed pre-injection, and approximately 1h, and 4h after injection. Hematologic (hemoglobin, white blood cells, platelets), liver (alanine amino transferase, aspartate transaminase, alkaline phosphatase), and renal function (creatinine, glomerular filtration rate, sodium, potassium), and c-reactive protein (CRP) were measured before radiotracer administration, 4h after injection, and as follow-up on the patient's routine return to the hospital 3–21 days after the study day. Adverse events were registered up to 48 hours after administration of ^{18}F -ASIS and coded according to the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAE) v5.0.

When available, tumor biopsies or surgically excised primary tumor tissue and local lymph nodes were collected for target validation by analysis of expression of TF with immunohistochemistry (IHC) and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA).

PET/CT Image Acquisition and PET Image Reconstruction

Image acquisition was performed on a Siemens Biograph 128 mCT PET/CT with an axial-field-of-view (FOV) of 221 mm (Siemens Healthineers, Erlangen, Germany) and PET acquisition commenced 1h, 2h and 4h after injection of ^{18}F -ASIS. Patients were preferably placed with their arms above the head. Prior

to the 1h and 2h PET, whole body (from fingertips to toes) low-dose CT (2 mm slice thickness, 40 mAs exposure, 120 kV kilovoltage peak) were performed. Following the 4h PET, a diagnostic whole-body 2 mm slice thickness CT was performed: Quality reference mAs = 225, kV = 120. Dose and kV modulation were activated meaning that the output from the X-ray tube was modulated according to patient size using the build-in CARE software (Siemens Healthineers, Erlangen, Germany). Unless otherwise contraindicated, patients were injected with intravenous iodine-based contrast (Optiray 300 mg I/ml, 70-100 ml, injection rate 1.5-2.5 ml/s) using an automated injection system. The PET acquisitions covered the whole body (from fingertips to toes). To allow for sufficient count statistics, while keeping the acquisition times at an acceptable level, differential acquisition times were employed. For the 1h and 2h PET, the acquisition time was 3 minutes per bed from head to midthighs and 1 minute per bed from midthighs and downwards. For the 4h PET, the corresponding acquisitions times were 4 and 2 minutes per bed, respectively. PET data were reconstructed iteratively using 3-dimensional ordinary Poisson ordered subsets expectation maximization (3D-OP-OSEM) with point-spread-function using the vendor supplied TrueX algorithm (Siemens Healthineers, Erlangen, Germany). 2 iterations and 21 subsets were used including time-of-flight information (540 ps) and smoothed by a Gaussian filter (2 mm full-width-half-maximum) with a slice thickness of 2 mm. For the 1h and 2h PETs, the corresponding low-dose CTs were used for localization and attenuation correction. For the 4h PET, the diagnostic CT was used.

Dosimetry and Biodistribution

Dosimetry was based on the non-decay corrected PET image sets from the 3 time-points (n=10) supplemented with sampled urine-data (n=8). The following organs were considered: adrenal, bone, brain, blood pool, heart wall, kidney, liver, lung, red marrow (L3–L5 vertebrae), ascending and descending colon, small intestine, spleen, stomach contents, and thyroid. For each patient, organ, and time-point, tissue activity concentration (kBq/mL) was calculated as the average of the mean values from 3 volumes

of interest (VOIs) drawn on the PET images using MIRADA DBx version 1.2.0 (Mirada Medical, Denver CO, USA). For presentation of the organ-specific radiotracer distribution, the average decay-corrected tissue activity concentration was calculated as body-weight adjusted mean standardized uptake values (SUV_{mean}). For the dosimetry calculations, total activity (per patient, organ, and time) was estimated by multiplying these average values by organ masses of the OLINDA male adult phantom (1,2). Activity values were normalized to 1 MBq by dividing with injected activity and scaled with the ratio of actual patient weight to the weight of the standard male model (73 kg). Time integrated activity coefficients (TIAC; unit h) for each patient and organ were determined by numerical integration up to the third (last) data point and analytical extrapolation to infinity assuming only physical decay. Piecewise linearity was assumed from time zero up to the second data point and a mono-exponential was used between the second and third data points. The resulting organ TIACs were averaged over patients. All data were entered into OLINDA/EXM 2.0 software (Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, USA and HERMES Medical Solutions, Stockholm, Sweden). The cumulated decay corrected activity (in MBq) of the excreted urine, normalized to 1 MBq of injection, was plotted over time for all 8 subjects and data fitted to a one phase exponential association (exponential growing towards a limit) using the Excel Solver. The resulting limit and half-life were used as input to the bladder voiding model of OLINDA, yielding the TIAC for bladder contents. A bladder voiding interval of 2 hours was selected for the calculation. The value for “remainder tissue” was determined as the total area (in h) for 1 MBq minus the sum (except bladder) of the organ-specific values minus the value passed to urine (based on the fitted model parameters). The output from OLINDA consists of absorbed doses for organs and effective dose with tissue weighting factors according to International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) 103 (3).

***Ex vivo* Tumor Tissue Samples**

Tissue preparation

Tumor tissue samples were obtained from resected surgical specimens or from tumor biopsies performed in relation to routine clinical investigation. Samples intended for quantification of TF by ELISA were immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen and subsequently stored at -80°C until use. Samples intended for histological preparation were fixated in 4% paraformaldehyde for 48h followed by storage in 96% alcohol until embedding into paraffin.

Measurement of Tissue Factor Expression in *Ex Vivo* Tumor Tissue Samples and Plasma

Tissue homogenization

Following thawing, tumor samples were weighed and 1 ml of RIPA buffer (89900, Thermo Fischer Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) per g of tissue were added in a CKmix tissue homogenizing tube (Bertin Instruments, Rockville, MD, USA). Samples were homogenized on a Precellys Evolution Homogenizer (Bertin Instruments, Rockville, MD, USA) with the following program settings: 2 cycles of 35 sec, 9500 RPM, 4°C.

ELISA measurements

The TF protein concentration in tumor samples and plasma were measured with ELISA using the manufacturer's protocol (Human Coagulation Factor III/Tissue Factor Quantikine ELISA, DCF300, R&D systems, Minneapolis, MN, USA). Standards were applied in duplicates in the range 7.8–500 pg/mL, and a standard curve was fitted to a 3-parameter dose–response curve (Microsoft Excel 2016, Microsoft, Redmond, WN, USA). Samples were diluted to 1:3 (plasma) and 1:300 (tumor samples)

and measured in duplicates, and the TF concentration interpolated from the standard curve. Finally, the TF concentration in the tumor samples was normalized to total protein concentration measured with the Micro BCA™ Protein Assay Kit (23235, Thermo Scientific, Pierce Biotechnology, IL, USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol.

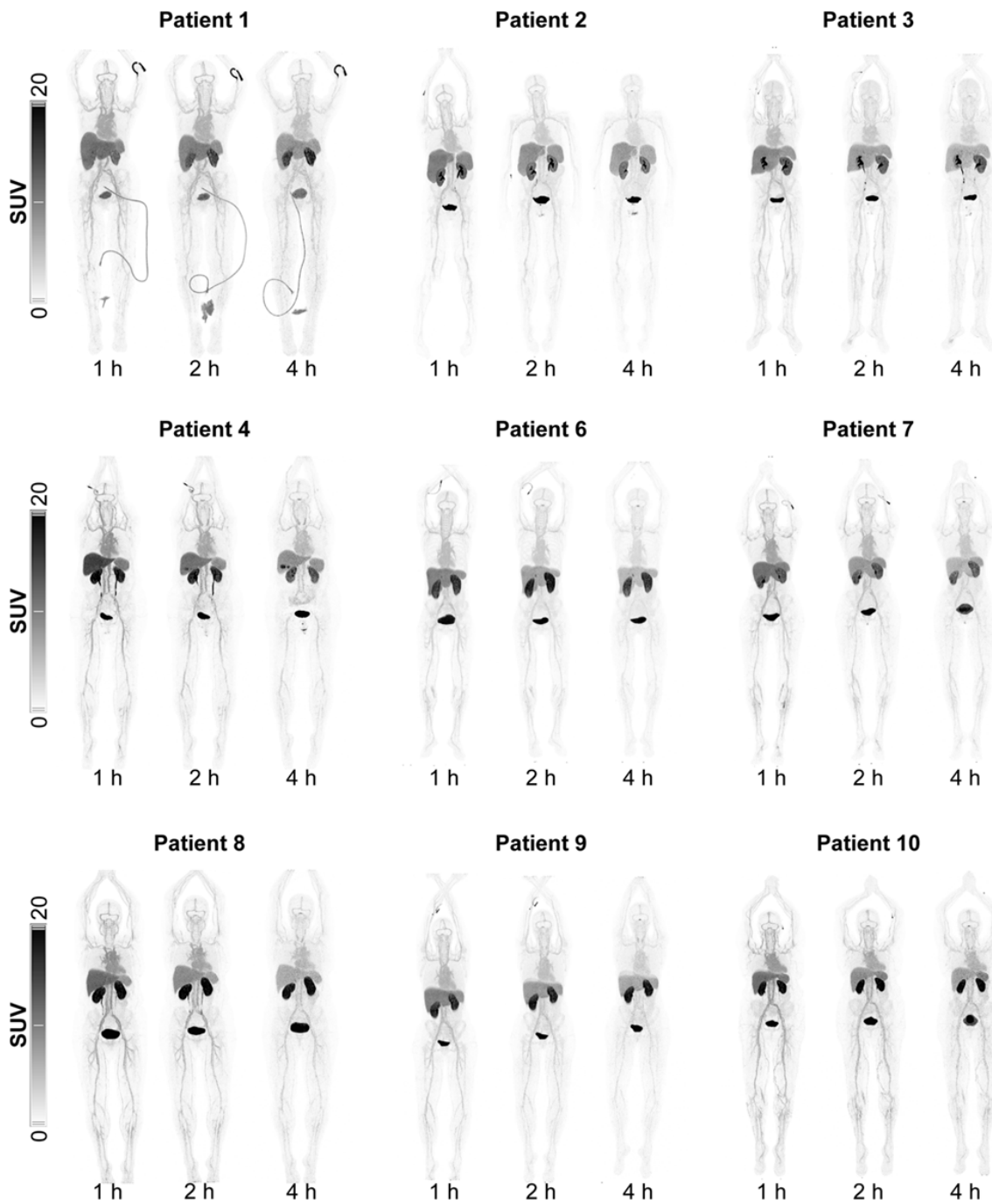
Immunohistochemistry of Tissue Factor in *Ex Vivo* Tumor Tissue

Biopsies were fixated in buffered 4% paraformaldehyde (pH 7.2) followed by preparation in Shandon Excelsior AS Tissue Processor O/N (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) and embedded in paraffin. Biopsies were cut in sections of 4 µm and dewaxed through xylene to tap water. For antigen retrieval, the sections were heat treated for 15 min in citrate buffer (pH 6). This was followed by a blocking step with Peroxidase-Blocking Solution (S2023, Agilent, Santa Clara, CA, USA) and pre-incubation in 2 % bovine serum albumin for 10 min. Sections were incubated with primary anti-tissue factor antibody (ADG4508, ImmBioMed, Pfugstadt, Germany) in a 1:500 dilution in 2% bovine serum albumin 1 hour at RT. For visualization, the sections were incubated with Envision+ system Anti-Mouse (K4001, Agilent, Santa Clara, CA, USA) for 45 min followed by incubation with DAB+ system (K3468, Agilent, Santa Clara, CA, USA) for 10 min. Counterstaining was performed with Mayer's Hematoxylin. Imaging was performed on Carl Zeiss Axio Lab.A1 (Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH, Jena, Germany) and analyzed with ZEN 3.2 Blue Edition (Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH, Jena, Germany). Immunohistochemistry TF expression was stratified as low, intermediate and high based on visual assessment.

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

1. Stabin MG, Siegel JA. Physical models and dose factors for use in internal dose assessment. *Health Phys.* 2003;85:294-310.
2. ICRP. Basic anatomical and physiological data for use in radiological protection: reference values. ICRP Publication 89. *Ann ICRP.* 2002;32:5-265.
3. ICRP. The 2007 Recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection. ICRP publication 103. *Ann ICRP.* 2007;37:1-332.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURES AND TABLES



SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURE 1 Maximum intensity projections (MIPs) showing the distribution of ^{18}F -ASIS for patients 1-4 and patients 6-10. h: hours.

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLE 1 Quality control parameters for ¹⁸F-ASIS

| Test | Method | Specification | Results (n=10) |
|--|---------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Physical Tests | | | |
| Radioactivity | Dose Calibrator | 200 MBq – 330 MBq at end of synthesis | 220.5 ± 58.1 MBq |
| Physical appearance | Visual inspection | Clear and colorless solution, free from visible particulates or cloudiness | Complies for all batches |
| pH | Calibrated pH meter | 6.0-8.0 | 7.2 ± 0.1 |
| Radioactivity and chemical Tests | | | |
| ¹⁸F-Fluoride | HPLC | ≤ 2% | 0.0 ± 0.0 % |
| Unspecified ¹⁸F-impurities | HPLC | ≤ 2% | 0.2 ± 0.2 % |
| Overall radio-chemical purity | HPLC | ≥ 95% | 99.9 ± 0.2 % |
| Identification of ¹⁸F-ASIS | HPLC | The labeled product corresponds in retention time to an authentic reference standard of ASIS | Complies for all batches |
| ASIS content | HPLC | 0.05 mg/ml - 0.15 mg/ml | 0.08 ± 0.01 mg/ml |
| Acetonitrile | GC | ≤ 410 ppm | 30.9 ± 82.5 ppm |
| Tetrabutylammonium ions | Color-spot test | < 0.1 mg/ml | < 0.1 mg/ml for all batches |
| HEPES | Color-spot test | < 20 µg/ml | < 20 µg/ml for all batches |
| Protein and cell assays | | | |
| Immunoreactive fraction* | Lindmo assay | ≥ 75 % | ≥ 75 % for all batches |

| Microbiology tests | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Sterility* | Ph. Eur. test for sterility | Must comply | Complies for all batches |
| Endotoxins test | Ph. Eur. test for endotoxins | ≤ 1EU/ml | ≤ 1EU/ml for all batches |

Data is presented as mean ± standard deviation unless otherwise indicated. *Not release test. Performed retrospectively following release of every batch. EU: Endotoxin units. HEPES: N-2-Hydroxyethylpiperazine-N'-2-Ethanesulfonic Acid. HPLC: high-pressure liquid chromatograph, GC: gas chromatography.

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLE 2 Vital signs for patients pre-injection, 10 min, 1 hour, 2 hours, 4 hours following injection of

¹⁸F-ASIS

| | Before injection | | | | 10 min post injection | | | | 1 hour post injection | | | | 2 hours post injection | | | | 4 hours post injection | | | |
|-----------|------------------|-----|----|-----------------|-----------------------|-----|----|-----------------|-----------------------|-----|----|-----------------|------------------------|-----|----|-----------------|------------------------|-----|----|-----------------|
| Pt | Sys | Dia | HR | PO ₂ | Sys | Dia | HR | PO ₂ | Sys | Dia | HR | PO ₂ | Sys | Dia | HR | PO ₂ | Sys | Dia | HR | PO ₂ |
| 1 | 122 | 60 | 52 | 99 | 132 | 62 | 51 | 98 | 146 | 71 | 52 | 99 | 133 | 61 | 54 | 96 | 136 | 60 | 54 | 100 |
| 2 | 128 | 80 | 89 | 97 | 131 | 69 | 87 | 98 | 144 | 84 | 91 | 99 | 127 | 77 | 88 | 98 | 136 | 80 | 85 | 100 |
| 3 | 145 | 92 | 72 | 93 | 153 | 89 | 68 | 100 | 144 | 79 | 81 | 97 | 142 | 73 | 79 | 93 | 154 | 92 | 71 | 100 |
| 4 | 153 | 76 | 69 | 96 | 161 | 71 | 71 | 96 | 162 | 76 | 81 | 97 | 166 | 78 | 83 | 97 | 170 | 69 | 81 | 95 |
| 5 | 125 | 75 | 72 | 98 | 119 | 74 | 67 | 98 | 123 | 71 | 63 | 97 | 115 | 80 | 80 | 98 | 128 | 79 | 81 | 96 |
| 6 | 100 | 59 | 67 | 99 | 100 | 57 | 68 | 99 | 109 | 52 | 52 | 99 | 112 | 62 | 59 | 98 | 98 | 55 | 73 | 99 |
| 7 | 150 | 94 | 79 | 99 | 146 | 93 | 75 | 100 | 139 | 82 | 77 | 99 | 139 | 82 | 77 | 99 | 143 | 79 | 78 | 98 |
| 8 | 121 | 78 | 70 | 95 | 116 | 71 | 63 | 93 | 129 | 78 | 63 | 97 | 141 | 85 | 52 | 96 | 134 | 74 | 79 | 93 |
| 9 | 127 | 66 | 44 | 97 | 112 | 66 | 47 | 100 | 133 | 72 | 44 | 100 | 125 | 73 | 47 | 100 | 131 | 70 | 59 | 99 |
| 10 | 150 | 72 | 68 | 99 | 136 | 80 | 74 | 98 | 162 | 84 | 66 | 98 | 174 | 83 | 67 | 100 | 146 | 102 | 76 | 98 |

Sys: Systolic blood pressure, Dia: Diastolic blood pressure HR: Heart rate, PO₂: pulse oximetry.

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLE 3 Safety blood parameters measured before and after injection of ¹⁸F-ASIS

| Pt | Parameter (normal range) | Pre-injection | 4 hours p.i. | Follow-up (21 days p.i.) |
|---|---|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Hemoglobin (7.3-9.5 mM) | 7.3 | 6.2 ^{*,a} | 5.5 ^{*,b} |
| | Leucocytes (3.5-8.8 10 ⁷ /l) | 11.2 ^{*,b} | 12.6 ^{*,b} | 14.4 ^{*,b} |
| | Platelets (145-390 10 ⁷ /l) | 429 ^{*,b} | 356 | 497 ^{*,b} |
| | CRP (<10 mg/l) | 27 ^{*,b} | 28 ^{*,b} | 14 ^{*,b} |
| | eGFR (> 60 ml/min/1.73 m ²) | 21 ^{*,c} | 22 ^{*,c} | 34 ^{*,c} |
| | Creatinine (50-90 μM) | 186 ^{*,c} | 175 ^{*,c} | 123 ^{*,c} |
| | Sodium (137-144 mM) | 134 ^{*,b} | 132 ^{*,b} | 138 |
| | Potassium (3.5-4.4 mM) | 4.1 | 3.8 | 4.8 ^{*,a} |
| | ALAT (10-45 U/l) | 67 ^{*,b} | 62 ^{*,b} | 97 ^{*,b} |
| | ASAT (15-35 U/l) | 85 ^{*,b} | 80 ^{*,b} | NA |
| | ALP (35-105 U/l) | 407 ^{*,b} | 353 ^{*,b} | 868 ^{*,b} |
| Comments [*] Outside normal ranges. ^a Not considered clinically significant. ^b Related to patient's cancer disease (pancreatic cancer). ^c Related to patient's chronic kidney disease. NA: Not available. | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Pt | Parameter (normal range) | Pre-injection | 4 h. p.i. | Value (18 days p.i.) |
| 2 | Hemoglobin (7.3-9.5 mM) | 7.8 | 6.8 ^{*a} | 7.2 ^{*a,c} |
| | Leucocytes (3.5-8.8 10 ⁷ /l) | 8.0 | 7.7 | 12.8 ^{*a,c} |
| | Platelets (145-390 10 ⁷ /l) | 371 | NA | 958 ^{*a,c} |
| | CRP (<10 mg/l) | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | eGFR (> 60 ml/min/1.73 m ²) | >90 | >90 | >90 |
| | Creatinine (50-90 μM) | 48 ^{*a} | 47 ^{*a} | 48 ^{*a} |
| | Sodium (137-144 mM) | 136 ^{*,a} | 138 | 136 ^{*,a} |
| | Potassium (3.5-4.4 mM) | 3.9 | NA | 4.0 |
| | ALAT (10-45 U/l) | 105 ^{*,b} | 80 ^{*,b} | 37 |
| | ASAT (15-35 U/l) | 124 ^{*,b} | 65 ^{*,b} | 69 ^{*,b} |
| | ALP (35-105 U/l) | 343 ^{*,b} | 287 ^{*,b} | 83 |
| Comments [*] Outside normal ranges. ^a Not considered clinically significant. ^b Related to patient's cancer disease (pancreatic cancer). ^c Related to sequelae from post-surgical infection. NA: Not available. | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Pt | Parameter (normal range) | Pre-injection | 4 hours p.i. | Follow-up (4 days p.i.) |
| 3 | Hemoglobin (7.3-9.5 mM) | 6.0 ^{*,b} | 5.7 ^{*,b} | 6.8 ^{*,b} |
| | Leucocytes (3.5-8.8 10 ⁷ /l) | 7.4 | 6.2 | 6.7 |
| | Platelets (145-390 10 ⁷ /l) | 377 | 343 | 308 |
| | CRP (<10 mg/l) | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | eGFR (> 60 ml/min/1.73 m ²) | 90 | 90 | 90 |

| | | | | |
|-----------|--|---|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Creatinine (50-90 μ M) | 55 | 55 | 53 |
| | Sodium (137-144 mM) | 143 | 142 | 143 |
| | Potassium (3.5-4.4 mM) | 3.8 | 4.2 | 4.1 |
| | ALAT (10-45 U/l) | 28 | 28 | 31 |
| | ASAT (15-35 U/l) | 37 ^{*,a} | 47 ^{*,a} | 37 ^{*,a} |
| | ALP (35-105 U/l) | 92 | 89 | 100 |
| | Comments [*] Outside normal ranges. ^a Not considered clinically significant. ^b Patient has anemia. | | | |
| | | | | |
| Pt | Parameter (normal range) | Pre-injection | 4 h. p.i. | Value (5 days p.i.) |
| 4 | Hemoglobin (7.3-9.5 mM) | 7.6 | 7.6 | 7.3 |
| | Leucocytes (3.5-8.8 $10^7/l$) | 11.0 ^{*,a} | 11.8 ^{*,a} | 12.3 ^{*,a} |
| | Platelets (145-390 $10^7/l$) | 374 | 343 | 309 |
| | CRP (<10 mg/l) | 7 | 6 | 66 ^{*,a} |
| | eGFR (> 60 ml/min/1.73 m ²) | 83 | 83 | 86 |
| | Creatinine (50-90 μ M) | 61 | 60 | 55 |
| | Sodium (137-144 mM) | 137 | 138 | 135 ^{*,a} |
| | Potassium (3.5-4.4 mM) | 4.7 ^{*,a} | 4.4 | 4.1 |
| | ALAT (10-45 U/l) | 24 | 24 | 20 |
| | ASAT (15-35 U/l) | 23 | 24 | 20 |
| | ALP (35-105 U/l) | 59 | 59 | 64 |
| | | Comments [*] Outside normal ranges. ^a Not considered clinically significant. | | |
| Pt | Parameter (normal range) | Pre-injection | 4 hours p.i. | Follow-up (15 days p.i.) |
| 5 | Hemoglobin (8.3-10.5 mM) [#] | 7.3 ^{*,a} | 7.4 ^{*,a} | 8.0 ^{*,a} |
| | Leucocytes (3.5-8.8 $10^7/l$) [#] | 8.9 ^{*,a} | 7.6 | 9.8 ^{*,a} |
| | Platelets (145-390 $10^7/l$) | 327 | 332 | 370 |
| | CRP (<10 mg/l) | 13 ^{*,a} | 15 ^{*,a} | 36 ^{*,a} |
| | eGFR (> 60 ml/min/1.73 m ²) | 67 | 69 | 79 |
| | Creatinine (60-105 μ M) [#] | 101 | 99 | 88 |
| | Sodium (137-144 mM) | 140 | 140 | 139 |
| | Potassium (3.5-4.4 mM) | 4.2 | 4.4 | 4.3 |
| | ALAT (10-70 U/l) [#] | 25 | 25 | 20 |
| | ASAT (15-45 U/l) [#] | 28 | 28 | NA |
| | ALP (35-105 U/l) | 123 ^{*,a} | 126 ^{*,a} | 150 ^{*,a} |
| | | Comments [*] Outside normal ranges. ^a Not considered clinically significant. [#] Different normal ranges due to male gender. NA: Not available. | | |
| | | | | |
| Pt | Parameter (normal range) | Pre-injection | 4 hours p.i. | Follow-up (6 days p.i.) |
| 6 | Hemoglobin (7.3-9.5 mM) | 6.7 ^{*,a} | 7.3 | 7.4 |
| | Leucocytes (3.5-8.8 $10^7/l$) | 1.9 ^{*,a} | 2.0 ^{*,a} | 4.3 |
| | Platelets (145-390 $10^7/l$) | 220 | 222 | 267 |
| | CRP (<10 mg/l) | 1 | 2 | 3 |

| | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| | eGFR (> 60 ml/min/1.73 m ²) | 74 | 87 | >90 |
| | Creatinine (50-90 μM) | 77 | 67 | 54 |
| | Sodium (137-144 mM) | 135 ^{*,a} | 140 | 138 |
| | Potassium (3.5-4.4 mM) | 4.6 ^{*,a} | 4.2 | 4.4 |
| | ALAT (10-45 U/l) | 16 | 18 | 26 |
| | ASAT (15-35 U/l) | 25 | 26 | 32 |
| | ALP (35-105 U/l) | 54 | 59 | 60 |
| | Comments [*] Outside normal ranges. ^a Not considered clinically significant. | | | |
| | | | | |
| Pt | Parameter (normal range) | Pre-injection | 4 hours p.i. | Follow-up (11 days p.i.) |
| 7 | Hemoglobin (7.3-9.5 mM) | 8.5 | 8.2 | 8.1 |
| | Leucocytes (3.5-8.8 10 ⁷ /l) | 7.6 | 6.3 | 6.5 |
| | Platelets (145-390 10 ⁷ /l) | 354 | 303 | 311 |
| | CRP (<10 mg/l) | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| | eGFR (> 60 ml/min/1.73 m ²) | 70 | 87 | 71 |
| | Creatinine (50-90 μM) | 82 | 74 | 81 |
| | Sodium (137-144 mM) | 136 ^{*,a} | 134 ^{*,a} | 131 ^{*,a} |
| | Potassium (3.5-4.4 mM) | 4.0 | 3.7 | 3.9 |
| | ALAT (10-45 U/l) | 22 | 18 | 22 |
| | ASAT (15-35 U/l) | 32 | 29 | 33 |
| | ALP (35-105 U/l) | 51 | 49 | 47 |
| | | Comments [*] Outside normal ranges. ^a Not considered clinically significant. | | |
| | | | | |
| Pt | Parameter (normal range) | Pre-injection | 4 hours p.i. | Follow-up (4 days p.i.) |
| 8 | Hemoglobin (7.3-9.5 mM) | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.2 |
| | Leucocytes (3.5-8.8 10 ⁷ /l) | 4.8 | 5.7 | 5.7 |
| | Platelets (145-390 10 ⁷ /l) | 190 | 189 | 200 |
| | CRP (<10 mg/l) | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | eGFR (> 60 ml/min/1.73 m ²) | 87 | 87 | 82 |
| | Creatinine (50-90 μM) | 67 | 67 | 70 |
| | Sodium (137-144 mM) | 137 | 140 | 142 |
| | Potassium (3.5-4.4 mM) | 3.5 | 3.7 | 4.1 |
| | ALAT (10-45 U/l) | 26 | 26 | 23 |
| | ASAT (15-35 U/l) | 25 | 21 | 23 |
| | ALP (35-105 U/l) | 71 | 62 | 68 |
| | | | | |
| Pt | Parameter (normal range) | Pre-injection | 4 hours p.i. | Follow-up (13 days p.i.) |
| 9 | Hemoglobin (7.3-9.5 mM) | 6.0 ^{*,a} | 6.2 ^{*,a} | 7.3 |
| | Leucocytes (3.5-8.8 10 ⁷ /l) | 4.5 | 5.5 | 5.1 |
| | Platelets (145-390 10 ⁷ /l) | 174 | 195 | 259 |
| | CRP (<10 mg/l) | 1 | 1 | NA |

| | | | | |
|-----------|--|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| | eGFR (> 60 ml/min/1.73 m ²) | 72 | 75 | 77 |
| | Creatinine (50-90 μM) | 86 | 83 | 81 |
| | Sodium (137-144 mM) | 141 | 143 | 136 ^{*,a} |
| | Potassium (3.5-4.4 mM) | 3.8 | 3.4 ^{*,a} | 4.1 |
| | ALAT (10-45 U/l) | 13 | 15 | NA |
| | ASAT (15-35 U/l) | 19 | 18 | NA |
| | ALP (35-105 U/l) | 39 | 42 | NA |
| | Comments [*] Outside normal ranges. ^a Not considered clinically significant. NA: Not available. | | | |
| | | | | |
| Pt | Parameter (normal range) | Pre-injection | 4 hours p.i. | Follow-up (4 days p.i.) |
| 10 | Hemoglobin (7.3-9.5 mM) | 9.0 | 9.0 | 9.3 |
| | Leucocytes (3.5-8.8 10 ⁷ /l) | 7.6 | 7.3 | 6.3 |
| | Platelets (145-390 10 ⁷ /l) | 246 | 251 | 239 |
| | CRP (<10 mg/l) | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | eGFR (> 60 ml/min/1.73 m ²) | 57 ^{*,a} | 49 ^{*,a} | 58 ^{*,a} |
| | Creatinine (50-90 μM) | 87 | 98 ^{*,a} | 86 |
| | Sodium (137-144 mM) | 140 | 144 | 141 |
| | Potassium (3.5-4.4 mM) | 4.3 | 3.9 | 4.2 |
| | ALAT (10-45 U/l) | 22 | 21 | 24 |
| | ASAT (15-35 U/l) | 24 | 21 | 23 |
| | ALP (35-105 U/l) | 49 | 49 | 48 |
| | Comments [*] Outside normal ranges. ^a Not considered clinically significant. | | | |

Safety blood samples measuring hematologic parameters (hemoglobin, leucocytes, platelets), liver parameters (ALAT: alanine amino transferase, ASAT: aspartate transaminase, ALP: alkaline phosphatase), and renal function (creatinine, GFR: glomerular filtration rate, sodium, potassium), and c-reactive protein (CRP) prior to injection, 1 hour after injection and 3-21 days post injection (p.i.)