

**A comparison of  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL,  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET/CT in a prospective cohort of men with metastatic prostate cancer**

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## **ABSTRACT**

**Introduction:**  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL,  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET/CT were compared in a prospective cohort of men with metastatic prostate cancer (PCa).

**Materials and Methods:** 67 men (Group 1) with documented metastatic PCa underwent  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF PET/CT and a subgroup of 30 men (Group 2) underwent additional imaging with  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET/CT. The tracers were compared for their detection rates, imaging concordance, associations with Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA), treatment at the time of imaging and castration status.

**Results:** Overall, 61 men had metastatic disease detected on one or more scans, while 6 men were negative. In Group 1,  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF detected significantly more metastatic lesions than  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL (median of 3 lesions versus 2,  $p=0.001$ ) even after eliminating benign causes of  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF uptake. This difference was particularly clear for men receiving treatment ( $p=0.005$ ) or who were castrate resistant ( $p=0.014$ ). The median percentage of bone lesions that were concordant on  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF was 50%. In Group 2,  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL detected more lesions than  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG (median of 5 lesions versus 2,  $p=0.0003$ ), regardless of PSA level, castration status or treatment. The median percentage of lesions that were concordant on  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG was 22.2%. This percentage was slightly higher for castrate-resistant than castrate-sensitive men ( $p=0.048$ ).

**Conclusion:**  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL PET/CT is the most versatile of the three PET agents for metastatic PCa however,  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF detects more bone metastases. Imaging reveals substantial tumor heterogeneity with only 50% concordance between  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and 22% concordance for  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG. This indicates considerable phenotypic differences among metastatic lesions.

**Keywords:** prostate cancer, metastatic, PSMA, NaF, FDG

## INTRODUCTION

Prostate cancer (PCa) is the second leading cause of cancer death among men in the US with a 5-year survival rate of only 31% in men with metastatic disease (1). In recent years, precision medicine has offered the hope of improving outcome with treatments tailored to the molecular and clinical characteristics of an individual patient's malignancy (2,3).

In this context, several targeted radiotracers have emerged to assess PCa by positron emission tomography/computed tomography (PET/CT).  $^{18}\text{F}$ -Sodium Fluoride ( $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF) demonstrates uptake at sites of bone remodeling and osteoblastic activity with higher sensitivity and specificity for detecting bone metastases compared to conventional bone scintigraphy(4,5).  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL targets Prostate-Specific Membrane Antigen (PSMA), a membrane glycoprotein highly expressed on PCa cells, especially in metastatic disease (6–8). The most widely used PET agent,  $^{18}\text{F}$ Fluorodeoxyglucose ( $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG), reflects glucose metabolism commonly upregulated in malignant cells. Although most localized PCa tumors are not  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG avid (9), its uptake increases with aggressive and widely metastatic disease(10). Direct comparisons of these agents could cast light on their relative value in men with metastatic PCa.

Therefore, we prospectively compare the performance of  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL to  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL to  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG in men with metastatic PCa to understand patterns of overlap/discordance and their potential significance.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **Patient Selection and Study Design**

This single-institution open-label prospective, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act-compliant study was approved by the Institutional Review Board (NCT03173924) and Radiation Safety Branch. All patients were enrolled after written informed consent was obtained. Eligibility criteria included men with histopathologically confirmed PCa and identifiable metastatic disease on standard of care imaging (computed tomography or conventional bone scan). Exclusion criteria included subjects for whom participating would significantly delay standard therapy. There were no exclusion criteria regarding prior or ongoing therapies. Diagnostic and prior treatment history, castration status and current treatments were recorded after clinical review of medical records.

### **PET Imaging Protocol**

Group 1 subjects underwent  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF PET/CT on separate occasions but within 35 days of each other.  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL was intravenously injected (mean injected dose of 291.3 MBq [range 221.4–399.7 MBq]), followed by a head to toe PET/CT at mean time 121.7 +/- 7.9 minutes post-injection.  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF was administered intravenously (mean injected dose of 125.2 MBq [range 97.9–201.7 MBq]) followed by a head to toe PET/CT at mean time 63.7 +/- 6.0 minutes post-injection.

A subcohort of 30 patients imaged with  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL also underwent  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET/CT imaging on a separate occasion (Group 2) within 33 days of each other.  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG was administered intravenously (mean injected dose of 377.0 MBq [range 327.3–433.7 MBq]), with whole-body scanning at mean time 61.4 +/- 4.6 minutes post-injection.

Imaging was performed on a 3D Time of Flight mode GE Discovery MI DR camera with low dose (120 KV, 60 mAs) CT-based attenuation correction; along with random, normalization, dead time and scatter correction.

When technically feasible and after patient consent, a biopsy of at least one suspicious lesion identified on imaging was performed within 4-6 months of scanning.

### **Imaging Analysis**

PET/CT review and analysis was performed using a MIM workstation (version 6.9.2, MIM Software Inc. Cleveland, OH) by three experienced nuclear medicine physicians. Only lesions that were highly suggestive of metastatic or recurrent disease by consensus were included. Indeterminate lesions were excluded from the analysis. In particular, benign causes of increased uptake on  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF scans were eliminated from the dataset.

Standardized Uptake Value (SUV), tumor volume (TV), and total lesion uptake (TLU) were reported for every lesion after applying a semi-automatic segmentation analysis tool for contouring (PET-Edge). TLU was calculated as the multiplication of SUV<sub>mean</sub> and TV for each lesion. All values obtained per person were summed to calculate the TLU at the patient level. The total tumor burden (TB) was calculated as the sum of TV from all reported lesions per person.

When the scan showed extensive disease, with lesions too numerous to delineate manually, a semi-automatic software algorithm based on an SUV threshold was used. The pathologic threshold SUV value was set at 3 for both  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG and 10 for  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF. Physiologic uptake, benign and indeterminate lesions were then removed by the readers so that only highly suspicious foci were included in the analysis. In these men, exact lesion number was impossible to count thus, only the TB and the TLU were recorded.

Lesion detection rates and imaging concordance were determined at the patient-level and lesion-level for the three agents. Positive lesions in the same location on different scans were considered concordant regardless of variation in volume or extent. Lesion detection rate and imaging concordance were correlated with PSA, castrate status, and treatment at the time of imaging. Men were considered castrate resistant (CRPC) if they had a history of androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) with castrate serum testosterone (<50ng/dl) plus biochemical or radiologic progression, and were considered castrate sensitive (CSPC) if they never had ADT or if they had a history of ADT but did not fit criteria of CRPC.

### **Statistical Analysis**

$^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL,  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET characteristics (number of lesions, TB, and TLU) were correlated to PSA values using Spearman rank correlation. Differences in imaging PET parameters across individual characteristics, such as castration status and treatment at the time of imaging, were evaluated using the Wilcoxon rank-sum. Comparisons of number of lesions and TB between  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL (for bone lesions only) and between  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL were performed with the paired Wilcoxon test. Lesions were categorized as concordant or discordant across tracers. Concordance between tracers at the patient-level was evaluated using Wilcoxon rank-sum and Spearman rank correlation. All tests were 2-sided, and p values < 0.05 were considered significant.

## RESULTS

### Population

Overall, a total of 67 patients (median age of 67.8 years; range 51-84 years) with documented metastatic PCa met criteria for the protocol between June 2017 and February 2020. Six patients were excluded from the analysis because their metastatic disease demonstrated no uptake on any of the PET/CT scans; therefore only 61 evaluable patients were analyzed. Seven patients (11.5%) had newly diagnosed metastatic PCa and had not received any treatment at the time of imaging. Further specific patient demographics are listed in Table 1. The mean time between  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and between  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG scans was seven days (range 1-35 days) and eight days (range 1-33 days), respectively. Patients did not experience adverse events or clinically detected pharmacological effects following PET scans.

### Comparison Between $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF (Group 1)

*Patient-Based Detection Rate and Concordance Between Radiotracers.* All 61 patients had at least one pathological focus consistent with metastatic bone disease on  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL.  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF detection rate was 77.0% for metastatic bone disease.

The median percentage of bone lesions that were concordant between  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF was 50%. The imaging concordance between  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL was independent of castration status, PSA values, treatment at the time of imaging and time from diagnosis to imaging.

*Lesion-Based Detection Rate.* A total of 412 bone lesions were detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and/or  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF. Lesions from six patients with extensive disease (“superscans”) were excluded from this analysis because an accurate lesion count was not feasible.  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF detected 373 of 412



(90.5%) bone lesions while  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL detected 191 (46.4%). A total of 152 of these bone lesions were concordant between  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL, 39 were detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL only, and 221 by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF only (Figure 1). The median number of bone lesions detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF was higher than that of  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL ( $p=0.001$ ) (Figure 2). Lesion tumor volume detected only by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF was significantly lower than that of lesions detected by both  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL ( $p < 0.05$ ). In this population,  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL identified 450 soft-tissue lesions (186 pelvic lymph nodes, 112 retroperitoneal lymph nodes, 92 distant lymph nodes and 11 visceral) in addition to the bone lesions.

*Correlation With PSA.* The number of lesions, TLU, and total TV derived from  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF correlated with PSA and PSA velocity (Table 2). The strongest correlation was seen between PSA and TLU ( $\rho=0.6$ ,  $p<0.001$ ) and total TV ( $\rho=0.55$ ,  $p<0.001$ ) detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL. These PET metrics showed a weak correlation with PSA doubling time.

The median number of bone lesions detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF was slightly higher than  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL at low PSA levels and rose with increasing PSA (Figure 3A). The same trend was noted for TV, with a greater TV detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF compared to  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL, but the difference was not significant.

*Correlation With Treatment at the Time of Imaging.* Men were subdivided into two groups according to their treatment at the time of imaging: one group consisted of 27 men receiving treatment (mainly ADT and chemotherapy) and the other group consisted of 34 men with no treatment at the time of imaging. Number of lesions, TB and TLU were higher in the group receiving treatment compared to men without treatment ( $p$  values ranging from 0.016 to 0.057) (Table 3).

For men without treatment, there was no significant difference in median number of bone lesions detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF versus  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL, but more bone lesions were detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF than by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL among men receiving treatment (Figure 3B). Although the difference was not significant, the same pattern was noted for TV with higher bone tumor volume detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF in comparison to  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL.

*Correlation With Castration Status.* Number of lesions, TB and TLU showed a positive correlation with CRPC status (p values between 0.005 and 0.042) (Table 3).

In CSPC patients, there was no significant difference in median number of bone lesions detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF versus  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL, but more bone lesions were detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF among CRPC patients (9 versus 5 lesions;  $p=0.014$ ) (Figure 4A). The TB detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF was higher than that of  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL for CRPC patients ( $p=0.017$ ) and CSPC patients ( $p=0.051$ ).

*Histopathology.* A biopsy was performed in 32 patients (52.5%). Five patients had biopsies from two different locations. Among the 37 samples, five were prostate gland, six lymph nodes, 22 bone lesions and four visceral lesions. Most of the samples (94.6%) demonstrated metastases of PCa. Of 22 bone lesions,  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF demonstrated two false-positives (rib, sacrum) and 20 true-positives.  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL revealed two false-positives (rib, sacrum), one false-negative (sternum) and 34 true-positives (19 in bone).

### **Comparison Between $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG (Group 2)**

*Patient-Based Detection Rate and Concordance Between Radiotracers.* A cohort of 30 patients underwent both  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET/CT imaging. The  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG detection rate was 93.3% on a per patient basis. The median percentage of lesions that were concordant between  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG was 22% (Figure 5).  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL/ $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG imaging concordance was

higher in men with CRPC (66.5%) compared to CSPC (20%) ( $p=0.019$ ) and was independent of other factors.

*Lesion-Based Detection Rate.* Among the 322 lesions detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG and/or  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL (244 soft-tissue lesions and 78 bone lesions), 68 were concordant, 232 were detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL only and 22 were detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG only. The median number of lesions detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL was 5 (IQR 3-15.5), which was significantly higher than  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG (median of 2 lesions (IQR 1-3.5),  $p=0.0003$ ).

*Correlation With PSA, Treatment at the Time of Imaging, and Castration Status.* Most metrics derived from  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG correlated with PSA and PSA velocity, castrate status and treatment at the time of imaging (Table 2, Figure 3C).

$^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL demonstrated more lesions than  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG regardless of PSA, treatment and castration status (Figure 4B).

The total TV detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL was greater than that of  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG in the group with  $\text{PSA}>10$  ng/ml ( $p=0.033$ ), when patients were not on treatment ( $p=0.044$ ) and in the CSPC group ( $p=0.017$ ).

*Histopathology.* A biopsy was performed in 17 men who underwent  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG revealing three false-negatives (iliac, ischium and prostate) and 15 true-positives for the PET tracer.

## DISCUSSION

Accurate assessment of disease burden is essential for the management of patients with metastatic PCa. However, it is unlikely that a single targeted imaging agent will detect all lesions given the heterogeneous nature of metastatic disease (11). With very different mechanisms of radiotracer uptake, the low percentage of concordant lesions among the three PET agents studied ( $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL,  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG), supports the concept that many phenotypes of metastases exist even within the same person.

In this study,  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF showed the highest sensitivity for bone metastases. These results support those of Harmon et al. in which bone lesion detection rates for  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and a first-generation PSMA-targeting agent were 98.4% and 45.4%, respectively, which are similar to our detection rates (93% for  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF versus 46% for  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL) (12). Our findings also agree with the study by Uprimny et al. in which  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF PET detected a higher number of metastatic bone lesions than  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -PSMA-11 PET (13). These results differ from two other studies, that found no difference in diagnostic sensitivity for bone metastases between these two radiotracers (14,15).

It has been argued that  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF scans are susceptible to false positives due to benign disease mimicking metastases (16). However, in this series, where histologic confirmation was available in several cases, there were only 2 false positives among 22 osseous lesions detected with  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF after trained nuclear medicine physicians eliminated obvious benign lesions from consideration. Since PCa cells induce bone formation in adjacent osteocytes, it is likely that only a few cancer cells can affect many regional osteocytes leading to an amplification of signal on  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF scans, heightening sensitivity compared to  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL. We believe that  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF reflects active disease but may recognize disease below the detection threshold of  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL

(17,18). The relatively high rates of recurrent disease after  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -PSMA therapy in sites not previously identified suggests there is a reservoir of PSMA negative metastases in the bone that may be detectable by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF but not by PSMA radiotracers (19).

One explanation for the lesion mismatch between  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL is that castration resistance could disproportionately influence the performance of  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF relative to  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL (20). In CSPC patients, there was no difference in the median number of bone lesions detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF versus  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL, but more bone lesions were detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF among more heavily pre-treated CRPC patients ( $p=0.014$ ). In immunohistochemistry studies, only 44% of bone metastases expressed PSMA and osseous lesions with low PSMA detection were associated with CRPC, which could readily explain our findings of discordance with  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF (7).

$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG and PSMA-targeting agents showed low concordance in our study. PSMA negative, FDG positive lesions are thought to be more aggressive and are linked with poor outcomes as they are encountered more frequently in amphicrine and neuroendocrine phenotypes of CRPC (21). In our research,  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL detected significantly more lesions than  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG ( $p < 0.0001$ ) on both a per patient and per lesion basis regardless of castration or treatment status. In about 10% of men, some lesions were positive on  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG and negative on  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL despite overall higher lesion number seen by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL. This implies that a limited number of metastases may exhibit aggressive metabolic features with low PSMA (FDG+, PSMA-) earlier in the course of disease (22). Indeed, similar to the study by Wang et al. (23), we noted discordance between the two scans with 22 of 322 lesions (6.8%) detected by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG alone in 8 of 30 patients (27%) of which 3 were CRPC and 5 were CSPC. These lesions may be clinically relevant, as decreased survival and therapeutic response have been noted in men with abnormal  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET

findings (21,22,24,25).  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG uptake has been suggested as a biomarker for CRPC and when accompanied by negative  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL findings, may suggest evolution to neuroendocrine prostate cancer (26). Interestingly, as the disease progressed from CSPC to CRPC, concordance between  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL scans increased ( $p=0.048$ ). The discordance among  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL,  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF scans in individual lesions confirms phenotypic heterogeneity of PCa metastases, explaining in part, the difficulty in eradicating such lesions.

The main limitation of this study was the lack of histological proof for many of the suspected metastases. However, where biopsies were obtained, they overwhelmingly confirmed the presence of cancer in positive scans. Furthermore, readers had access to PET/CT images performed with the other radiotracers. This may have biased the interpretation of faint uptake when evaluating scans. However, these unmasked readings reflect daily practice. Finally, the metastatic population was broadly diverse and further investigation stratified by prior therapy may help clarify the respective roles of these radiotracers in the various states of PCa.

## CONCLUSION

Imaging men with metastatic PCa using  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF,  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET demonstrated that  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL had the best overall performance but concordance with other agents was low reflecting phenotypic tumor differences.  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF identified a significantly higher number of metastatic bone lesions in comparison to  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL. Our study suggests that  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF might provide additional staging information compared to  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL, especially in castrate-resistant patients and patients receiving treatment at the time of imaging.  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL functioned better than  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG in overall lesion detection and was more concordant in CRPC. Further research is warranted to elucidate the utility of  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF as prognostic tools and complementary agents to  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL in understanding tumor heterogeneity patterns in PCa metastases.

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## **KEY POINTS**

**QUESTION:** How does  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL uptake compare to  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET/CT in men with metastatic PCa?

**PERTINENT FINDINGS:** In a prospective study of 67 men with metastatic PCa,  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL was the most versatile PET agent but  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF detected more bone metastasis. Substantial tumor heterogeneity was revealed with only 50% concordance between  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and 22% concordance between  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR PATIENT CARE:**  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF could be complementary agents to  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL in staging and illustrating heterogeneous disease characteristics that could optimize treatment strategies for men with metastatic PCa.



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**FIGURE 1.** Lesion number comparisons

**FIGURE 2.**  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL discordance. 61-year-old man with metastatic PCa involving lymph nodes and bones. PSA at imaging = 49.69 ng/ml. More bone lesions were seen with  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF than with  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL (arrows). \

**FIGURE 3.** Number of lesions detected by (A)  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL, (B)  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and (C)  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG according to median PSA, treatment at the time of imaging and castration status.

**FIGURE 4.** Comparison of median number of lesions detected (A) by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL (bone lesions only) and (B) by  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL according to median PSA, treatment at the time of imaging and castrate status.

**FIGURE 5.** Concordant PET metastases. 64-year-old man with metastatic CRPC. PSA at imaging = 464 ng/ml. Concordant pathological foci were noted on all scans at T8 vertebral body and the left iliac bone, consistent with metastasis.

**TABLE 1****Patient demographics (n=61)**

Characteristic	Data
Median age (y)	67.8 (range 51-84)
ISUP grade	
1	5 (8.2%)
2	6 (9.8%)
3	9 (14.8%)
4	15 (24.6%)
5	25 (41.0%)
Not available	1 (1.6%)
Initial treatment	
None	7 (11.5%)
Surgery (prostatectomy +/- lymph node dissection)	28 (45.9%)
Definitive radiation therapy +/- ADT	12 (19.6%)
ADT	7 (11.5%)
ADT + chemotherapy	5 (8.2%)
Cryotherapy	2 (3.3%)
Castration Status	
Castrate-sensitive	41 (67.3%)
Castrate-resistant	20 (32.7%)
Median PSA (ng/mL)	9.97 (range 0.02 - 7270.8)
Median PSA doubling time (months)	5.1 (range 0.7 – 81.7)
Median PSA velocity (ng/mL/y)	15.4 (range 0.1 – 5967.4)
Therapy at time of imaging	
No treatment	34 (55.7%)
ADT	18 (29.5%)
ADT + other	3 (4.9%)
Other (chemotherapy, immunotherapy, estradiol patch)	6 (9.8%)

*ISUP=International Society of Urological Pathologists; ADT= Androgen Deprivation Therapy*

**TABLE 2**

**Correlation of PSA characteristics with PET metrics derived from  $^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL,  $^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF and  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG, using Spearman correlation coefficient**

	$^{18}\text{F}$ -DCFPyL		$^{18}\text{F}$ -NaF		$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG	
	PSA	PSA velocity	PSA	PSA velocity	PSA	PSA velocity
Number of lesions	0.47 ( $<0.001$ )	0.38 (0.003)	0.41 (0.001)	0.25 (0.06)	0.21 (0.268)	0.39 (0.038)
Total lesion uptake	0.6 ( $<0.001$ )	0.53 ( $<0.001$ )	0.31 (0.014)	0.33 (0.015)	0.44 (0.014)	0.32 (0.087)
Total tumor burden	0.55 ( $<0.001$ )	0.5 ( $<0.001$ )	0.34 (0.007)	0.29 (0.028)	0.44 (0.016)	0.34 (0.074)

*Expressed as correlation coefficient ( $\rho$ ) with p-values in parentheses.*

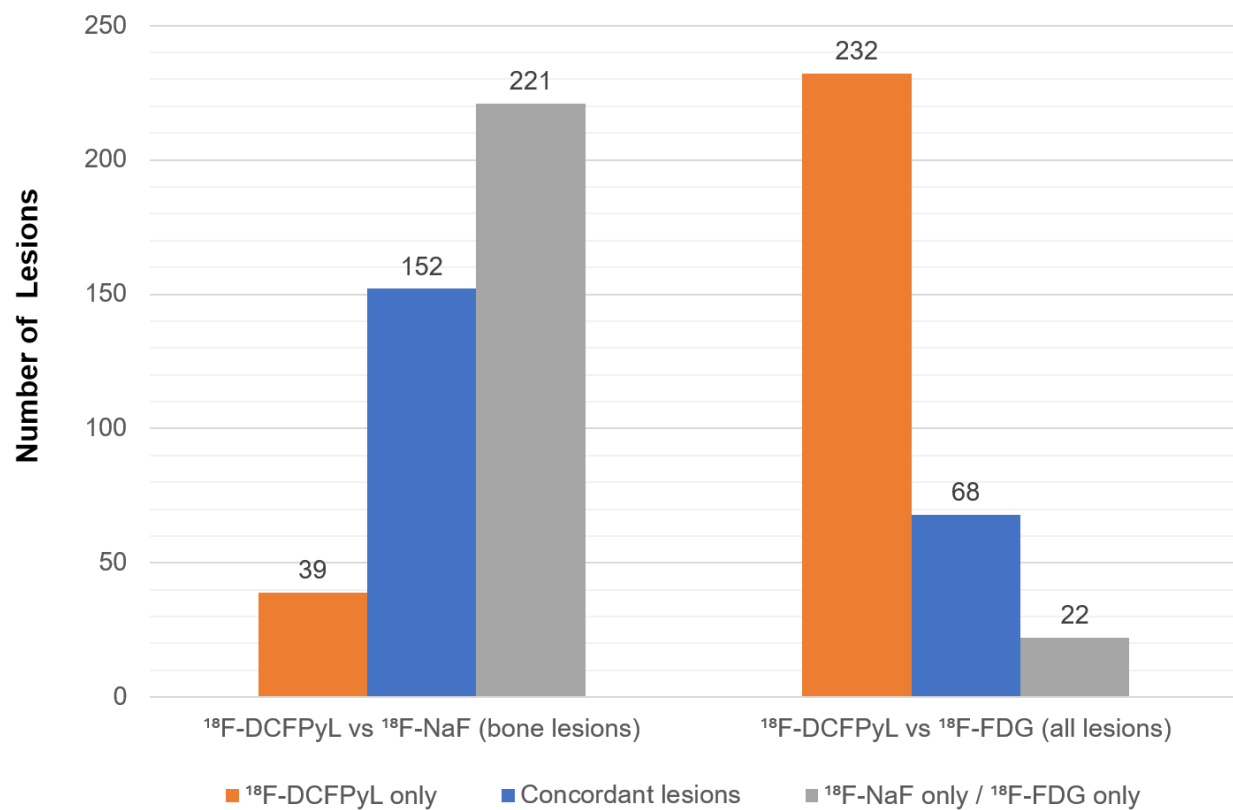
**TABLE 3.**

**<sup>18</sup>F-DCFPyL, <sup>18</sup>F-NaF and <sup>18</sup>F-FDG median number of lesions, total tumor volume and total lesion uptake according to median PSA, treatment at the time of imaging and castrate status.**

			Number of lesions			Total tumor burden			Total lesion uptake		
PSA (ng/ml)	PyL	<10	5	(2.5-13.5)		12.7	(4.3-34.2)		99.9	(26-232.2)	
		>10	17	(5-34)	<i>0.005</i>	62.8	(14.8-200)	<i>&lt;0.001</i>	680.9	(154.1-3211)	<i>&lt;0.001</i>
	NaF	<10	2	(0-4)		6	(0-41.1)		49.6	(0-1373.4)	
		>10	5.5	(2-34)	<i>0.006</i>	13.4	(3.4-252)	<i>0.079</i>	130.8	(41.4-3736.4)	<i>0.115</i>
	FDG	<10	2	(1-4)		6.2	(2.4-23.9)		28	(7.8-58.5)	
		>10	2	(1-13)	<i>0.5</i>	48.8	(3.8-191)	<i>0.052</i>	211	(18-941)	<i>0.05</i>
Treatment ongoing	PyL	No	5	(3-20)		16.6	(4.2-51.9)		117	(20.1-507.6)	
		Yes	14	(5-28)	<i>0.057</i>	36.4	(13.4-174)	<i>0.016</i>	305.3	(138.4-1487)	<i>0.021</i>
	NaF	No	3	(1-5)		5.8	(0.4-18.9)		56.8	(4.3-404.6)	
		Yes	6	(1.5-30.5)	<i>0.05</i>	54.6	(1.2-190)	<i>0.024</i>	1062	(19.5-2466.3)	<i>0.048</i>
	FDG	No	1.5	(1-3)		5	(0.7-25.1)		18	(5-59)	
		Yes	3.5	(2-7)	<i>0.04</i>	38.7	(10-87.3)	<i>0.036</i>	112.5	(33.2-237.2)	<i>0.032</i>
Castrate status	PyL	CS	7	(3-19)		21.3	(4.4-60.2)		122.3	(37.9-575.9)	
		CR	17	(5-93)	<i>0.042</i>	77	(13.6-192)	<i>0.013</i>	302.4	(157.9-2123)	<i>0.018</i>
	NaF	CS	3	(1-5)		5.82	(0.4-20.5)		49.6	(3-475.5)	
		CR	9	(3-95)	<i>0.012</i>	93.1	(11.1-655)	<i>0.005</i>	1256.2	(70.4-4475.6)	<i>0.012</i>
	FDG	CS	2	(1-3)		6.21	(1.8-45.8)		21	(7-139)	
		CR	3.5	(2-7)	<i>0.057</i>	25.6	(10-86.1)	<i>0.153</i>	71.5	(33.3-518.5)	<i>0.108</i>

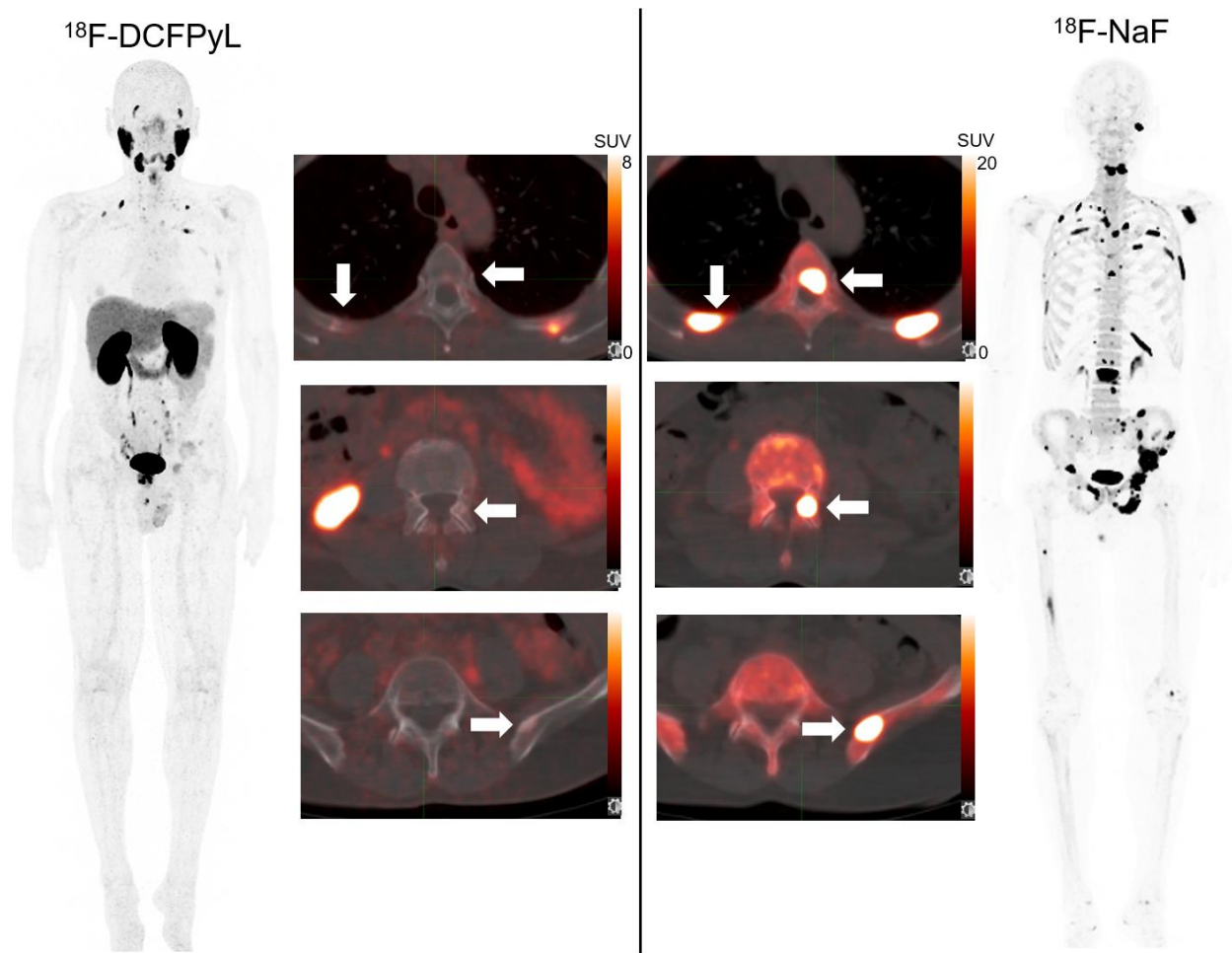
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**FIGURE 1.** Lesion number comparisons

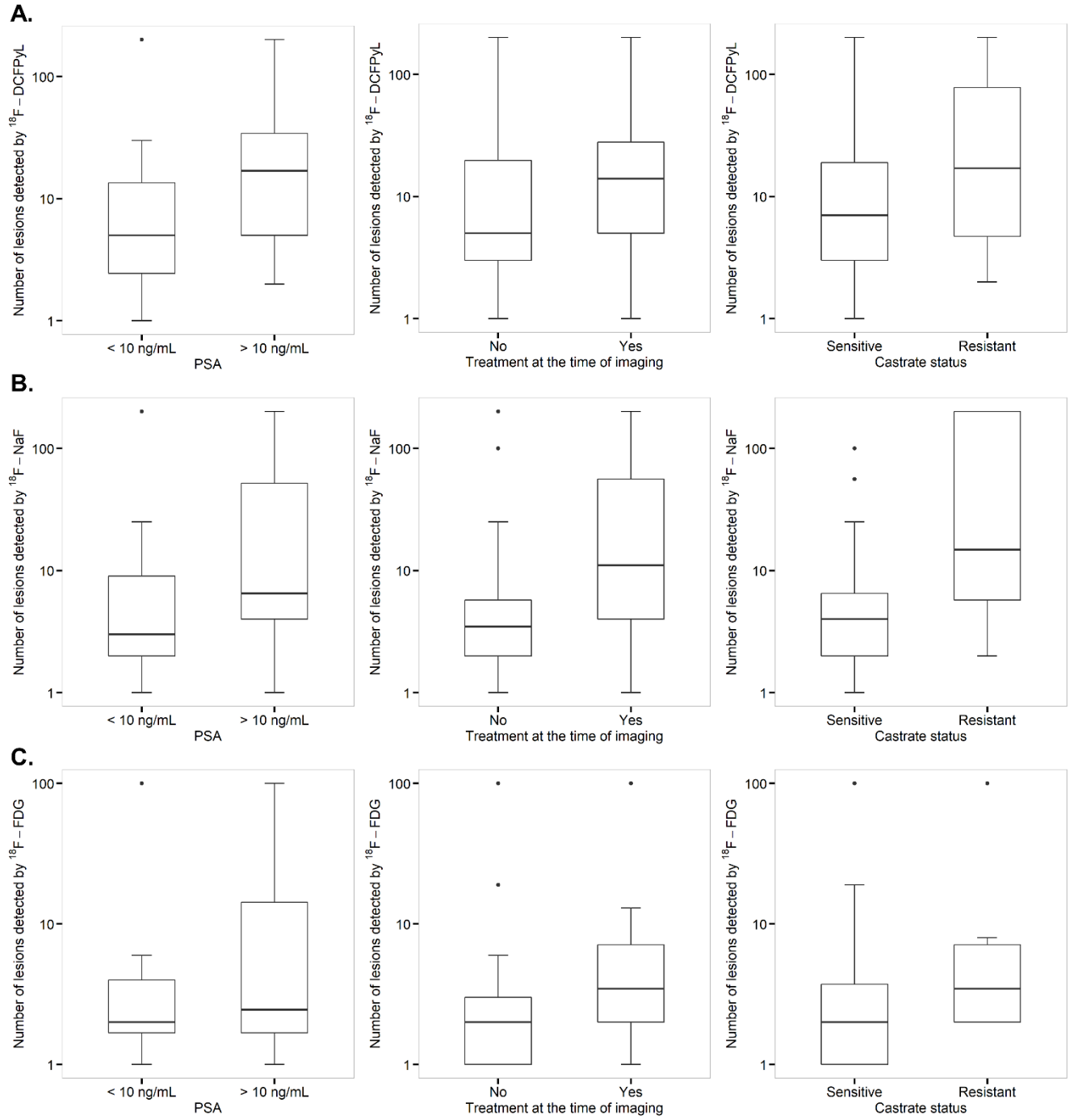




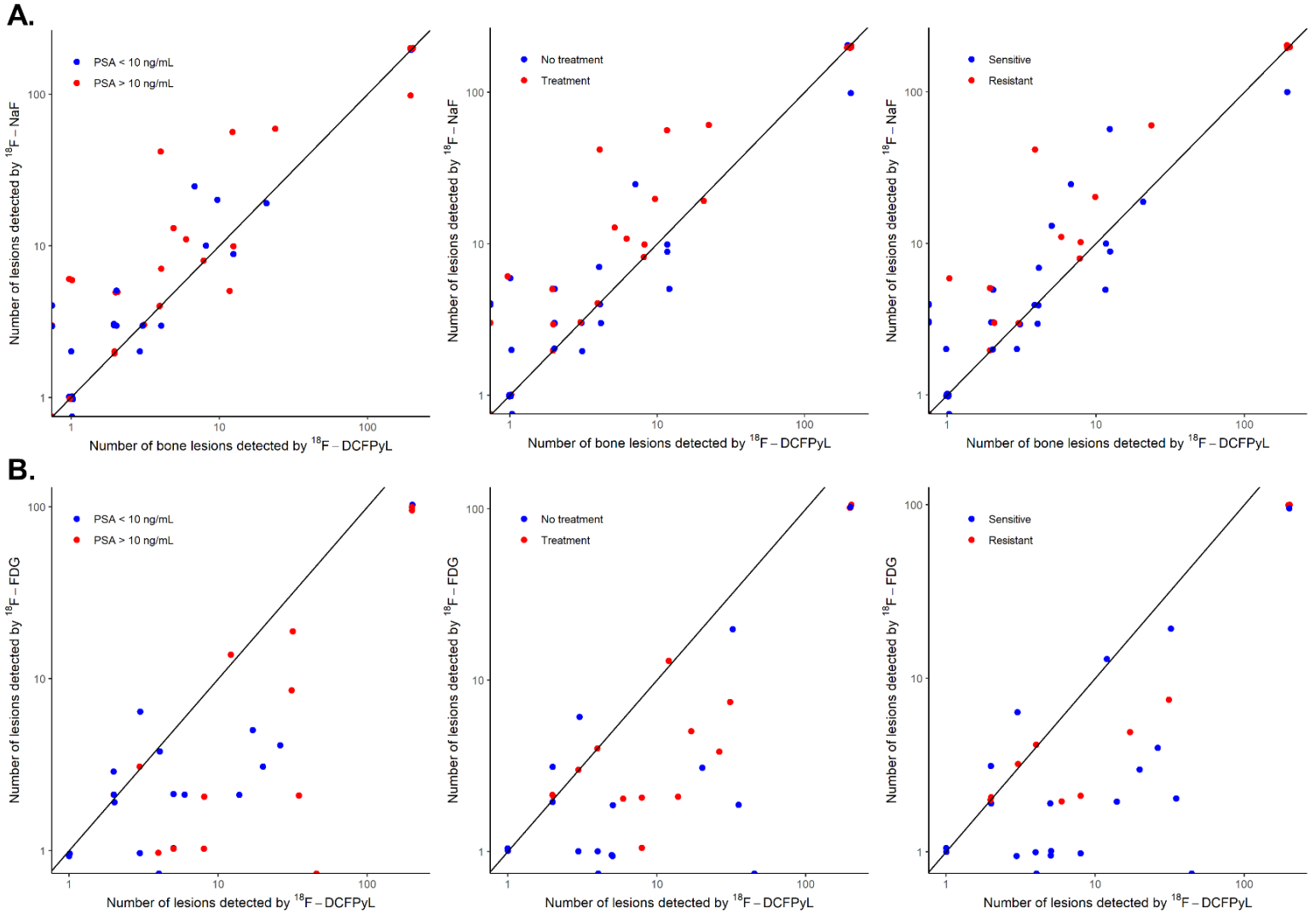
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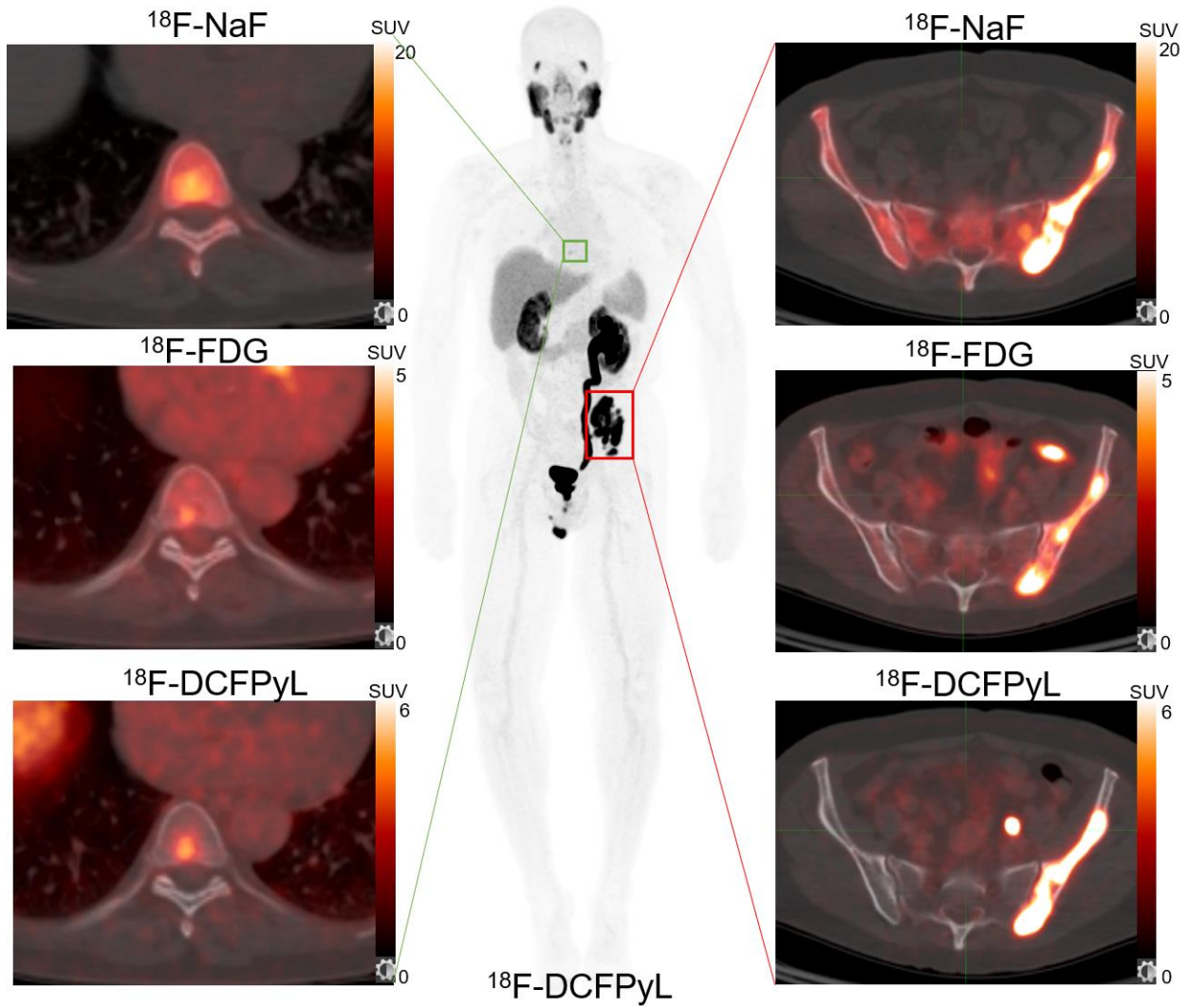
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