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TITLE: 68Ga Bombesin PET/MRI in Patients with Biochemically Recurrent Prostate Cancer and Noncontributory Conventional Imaging

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14. ABSTRACT <p><b>Purpose:</b> <sup>68</sup>Ga-labeled DOTA-4-amino-1-carboxymethyl-piperidine-D-Phe-Gln-Trp-Ala-Val-Gly-His-Sta-Leu-NH<sub>2</sub> (<sup>68</sup>Ga-RM2) is a synthetic bombesin receptor antagonist that targets gastrin-releasing peptide receptors (GRPr). GRPr proteins are highly overexpressed in several human tumors, including prostate cancer (PC).</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> We enrolled 49 men with biochemically recurrent PC from May 2017 to Sep 2018, 59-79 year-old (mean±standard deviation (SD): 69.8±5.4). Imaging started at 40-89 minutes (mean±SD: 56.3±28.6) after injection of 127.5-149.7 MBq (mean±SD: 141.6±4.4) of <sup>68</sup>Ga-RM2 using a time-of-flight (TOF)-enabled simultaneous positron emission tomography (PET) / magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner. T1-weighted (T1w), T2-weighted (T2w) and diffusion-weighted images (DWI) were acquired.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> All patients had rising prostate specific antigen (PSA) (range: 0.2-124.0 ng/mL; mean±SD: 6.6±19.3) and negative CI (CT or MRI, and <sup>99m</sup>Tc MDP bone scan) prior to enrollment. The observed <sup>68</sup>Ga-RM2 PET detection rate was 73.5%. <sup>68</sup>Ga-RM2 PET identified recurrent PC in 36 of the 49 participants. PSA ranged 0.2-9.1 (mean±SD: 1.9±2.5) in patients with negative scans and 0.2-124.0 (mean±SD: 8.2±20.4) in patients with positive scans.</p> <p><b>Conclusions:</b> <sup>68</sup>Ga-RM2 PET can be used for assessment of GRPr expression in patients with biochemically recurrent PC. High uptake in multiple areas compatible with cancer lesions suggests that <sup>68</sup>Ga-RM2 is a promising PET radiopharmaceutical for localization of disease in participants with biochemically recurrent PC and negative conventional imaging.</p>				
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## INTRODUCTION

Prostate cancer (PC) is the most common malignancy in elderly men (1) and the second leading cause of cancer death after lung and bronchus tumors (2). Up to 40% of prostate cancer patients develop biochemical recurrence within 10 years after radical treatments (3) and morphological imaging methods exhibit considerable limitations in detecting relapsed disease early (4). Gastrin releasing peptide receptors (GRPr), part of the bombesin (BBN) family, are overexpressed in several human tumors including prostate cancer.

Combined positron emission tomography (PET) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) targeting the GRPr with a  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -labelled bombesin analog receptor antagonist (RM2) is used as a promising diagnostic method for patients with suspicion of PCa recurrence. Here, we evaluate the role of  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -RM2 PET/MRI in patients with biochemical recurrence of PCa and negative conventional imaging.

The main goal of our study is to evaluate if  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -RM2 PET/MRI can improve the diagnostic accuracy of recurrent prostate cancer earlier, when PSA level is still low and no disease is seen by conventional imaging. This would lead to timely and more accurate treatments with impact on overall survival and quality of life.

### References:

1. Attard G, Parker C, Eeles RA, et al. (2016) Prostate cancer. Lancet 387:70-82.
2. Siegel RL, Miller KD, Jemal A (2016) Cancer statistics, 2016. CA Cancer J Clin 66:7-30.
3. Isbarn H, Wanner M, Salomon G, et al. (2010) Long-term data on the survival of patients with prostate cancer treated with radical prostatectomy in the prostate-specific antigen era. BJU International 106(1):37-43.
4. Bott SRJ. Management of recurrent disease after radical prostatectomy (2004). Prostate Cancer & Prostatic Disease. 7930:211-216.

## KEYWORDS

Prostate cancer, bombesin,  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ , RM2, PET, PET/MRI, clinical research, receptors

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Major goals of the project

Specific Aim 1 (specified in Project Narrative)	Original Timeline	Progress	Date Completed
To compare the diagnostic performance of $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -RM2 PET/MRI to that of conventional imaging (CI) for detecting recurrent prostate cancer.	Months		
Time needed to get protocol approved by HRPO	1-5	100%	03/20/17
Prepare to start enrollment of participants	1-2	100%	05/01/17
Enroll participants	Ongoing	50%	Ongoing

## **Accomplishments under goals**

- 1) *Major activities:* enrolling eligible patients and reviewing <sup>68</sup>Ga-RM2 PET/MRI images to investigate its role as stated in #2.

We enrolled 49 participants in the May 2017 - Sep 2018 time frame. June 2017 was effectively the start date for enrollment since we needed time for HRPO approval and to run validation runs locally afterwards. In addition we experienced a catastrophic failure of the cyclotron facility (entire radiochemistry area was flooded), limiting our resources recently. We plan to enroll 4 or more participants each month and be on target for complete and timely accrual.

- 2) *Specific objectives:* The specific objectives of the goals included: obtaining study approvals from the Stanford Institutional Review Board and the DOD CDMRP HRPO, designing the clinical database, enrolling eligible patients, performing <sup>68</sup>Ga PET/MRI of the eligible patients, review images.

All of the above have been completed or are in progress, as detailed in #1.

- 3) *Significant results or key outcomes, including major findings, developments, or conclusions (both positive and negative):*

<sup>68</sup>Ga-RM2 PET/MRI was able to detect findings compatible with prostate cancer recurrence in 36 of the 49 participants enrolled to date. There were no failures in <sup>68</sup>Ga-RM2 synthesis, scanner operation or otherwise.

- 4) *Stated goals not met:*

None

## **Opportunities for training and professional development**

We hired a research fellow as specified in the submission. In addition, other fellows in the Division of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging are assisting with the enrollment of eligible participants and collecting and analyzing data, respectively. We presented preliminary results at the RSNA, SNMMI and EANM annual conferences. In addition, we had an invited talk at SNMMI annual meeting and World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology congress.

## **Results disseminated to communities of interest**

<sup>68</sup>Ga-RM2 PET/MRI is promising for improving the diagnostic accuracy in patients with biochemical recurrence of prostate cancer and negative conventional imaging. We presented the results at local and regional meetings, including at a patient outreach event organized by Stanford HealthCare. We plan to continue to present results at local, national and international meeting in order to disseminate results to communities of interest.

## **Plans for next reporting period to accomplish goals**

We plan to closely monitor study enrollment, with the goal of enrolling 3-4 patients a month in order to meet the study recruitment goal of 100 participants overall. If the study recruitment goals are met early, we will make every attempt to complete the project in a timely manner and expedite efforts where we can.

## **IMPACT**

### **Impact on the development of the principal discipline(s) of the project**

Nothing to report

### **Impact on other disciplines**

Nothing to report

### **Impact on technology transfer**

Nothing to report

### **Impact on society beyond science and technology**

Nothing to report

## **CHANGES/PROBLEMS**

### **Changes in approach and reasons for change**

Nothing to report

### **Actual or anticipated problems or delays and actions or plans to resolve them**

Our cyclotron and radiochemistry facility suffered catastrophic flooding in September and many of the staff who were producing  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -RM2 had to assist with cleaning and repairs. Production should resume shortly.

### **Changes that had a significant impact on expenditures**

Nothing to report

### **Significant changes in use or care of human subjects**

Nothing to report

### **Significant changes in use or care of vertebrate animals**

Nothing to report

### **Significant changes in use of biohazards, and/or select agents**

Nothing to report

## **PRODUCTS**

### **Journal publications**

Nothing to report

### **Books or other non-periodical, one-time publications**

Nothing to report

### **Other publications, conference papers, and presentations**

1. Baratto L, Harrison C, Davidzon G, Yohannan T, Iagaru A.  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -RM2 PET/MRI Detection of Recurrent Prostate Cancer in Patients with Negative Conventional Imaging. SNMMI Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. Jun 23-26, 2018.
2. Iagaru A. PSMA and GRPR Ligands as New and Emerging Prostate Cancer Imaging Agents and Theranostics. RSNA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. Nov 26 - Dec 1, 2017.
3. Iagaru A. Creating Probes for Theranostics. World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology. Apr 23, 2018
4. Iagaru A. Non-PSMA Prostate Cancer Theranostics. SNMMI Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. Jun 23, 2018.

**Website(s) or other Internet site(s)**

Nothing to report

**Technologies or techniques**

Nothing to report

**Inventions, patent applications, and/or licenses**

Nothing to report

**Other products**

Nothing to report

**PARTICIPANTS & OTHER COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS****Individuals who have worked on the project**

Name:	Iagaru, Andrei Horia
Project Role:	Principal Investigator
Nearest person month worked:	1
Contribution to project:	Dr. Iagaru has worked with all personnel to oversee the project (no change)

Name:	Brooks, James Duane
Project Role:	Co-Investigator
Nearest person month worked:	<1
Contribution to project:	Dr. Brooks has assisted with participants referrals

Name:	Loening, Andreas Markus
Project Role:	Co-Investigator
Nearest person month worked:	<1
Contribution to project:	Dr. Loening has assisted with analysis of MRI data

Name:	Davidzon, Guido
Project Role:	Co-Investigator
Nearest person month worked:	<1
Contribution to project:	Dr. Davidzon has assisted with analysis of PET data

Name:	Srinivas, Sandhya
Project Role:	Co-Investigator
Nearest person month worked:	<1
Contribution to project:	Dr. Srinivas has assisted with coordinating the clinical study, including referral of participants

Name:	Vasanawala, Shreyas Shreenivas
Project Role:	Co-Investigator
Nearest person month worked:	<1
Contribution to project:	Dr. Vasanawala has assisted with analysis of MRI data

Name:	Hancock, Steven L
Project Role:	Co-Investigator
Nearest person month worked:	<1
Contribution to project:	Dr. Hancock has assisted with coordinating the clinical study, including referral of participants

Name:	Baratto, Lucia
Project Role:	Clinical Postdoctoral Fellow
Nearest person month worked:	12
Contribution to project:	Dr. Baratto has assisted with patient enrollment and consenting, data collection and analysis.

Name:	Rosenberg, Jarrett
Project Role:	Statistician
Nearest person month worked:	<1
Contribution to project:	Dr. Rosenberg has assisted with data analysis.

Name:	Cisneros, Jordan
Project Role:	Research Coordinator
Nearest person month worked:	2
Contribution to project:	Jordan Cisneros has assisted with patient recruitment and scheduling.

Name:	Marcellus, David G.
Project Role:	Research Coordinator
Nearest person month worked:	<1
Contribution to project:	David Marcellus has assisted with patient recruitment and scheduling.

**Changes in active other support of the PD/PI(s) or senior/key personnel since the last reporting period**

Nothing to declare

**Other organizations involved as partners**

Nothing to report

**Location of organization:**

**Partners contribution to the project:**

## **SPECIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Nothing to report

## **APPENDICES**

Nothing to report