

## Image-guided Histotripsy for Oncological and Vascular Applications

Session: Image-guided Histotripsy for Oncological and Cardiovascular Applications

**Speaker 3: Zhen Xu**

Associate Professor and Associate Chair of Graduate Education

Department of Biomedical Engineering  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor



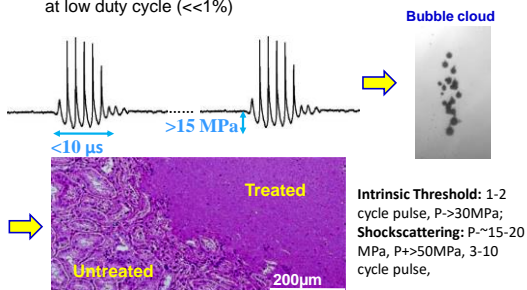
## Disclosure

- Zhen Xu is one of the inventors of intellectual property licensed to Histosonics, Inc..
  - Co-inventors: Charles Cain, Tim Hall, Brian Fowlkes, and Will Roberts
- She is a co-founder and holds stock in Histosonics.



## Histotripsy

- Mechanical Tissue liquefaction generated by **inertial cavitation via microsecond-length, high-pressure, pulses** at low duty cycle ( $\ll 1\%$ )



Xu et al. TUFFC 2004; Parsons et al. UMB 2006

## In Vitro Histotripsy Treatment



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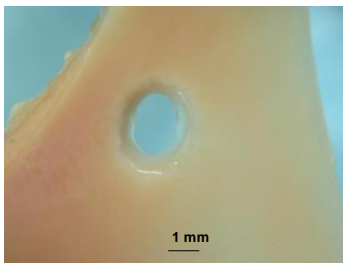
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## Tissue-Fluid Interfaces: Erosion

Porcine Atrial Wall



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Xu et al., IEEE Trans. Ultrason. Ferroelectr. Freq. Control. 2004, pp. 726;

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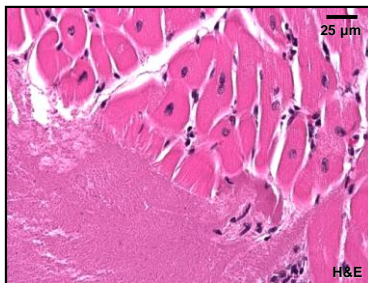
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## Bulk Tissue: Liquefaction



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Parsons, Ultrasound in Med & Biol 2006, vol. 32, pp. 115

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## Bubble-cell Interaction



High strain produced by bubble expansion and collapse mechanically disrupts the cells.

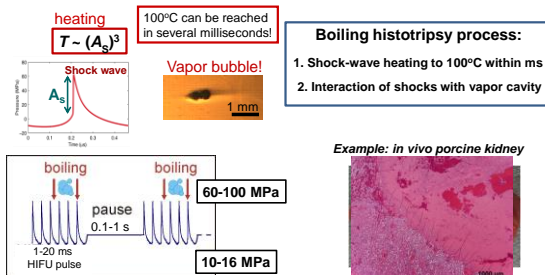


Vlaisavljevich et al. UMB 2016;42(10):2466.

## SAM Question

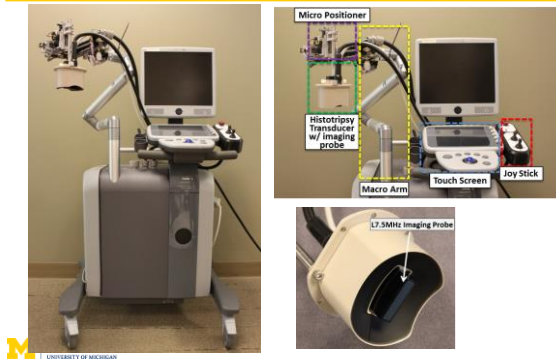
- 1. The mechanism of histotripsy-induced tissue disruption is:
  - a. High mechanical strain produced by cavitation
  - b. Heating by high energy of ultrasound delivered to the focus
  - c. All of above
- Answer: a)

## BOILING HISTOTRIPSY



Courtesy of Tanya Khokhlova from University of Washington

## Ultrasound Image Guided Histotripsy System




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## Histotripsy for Cancer Applications

Liver Cancer  
Renal Cancer  
Prostate Cancer  
Pancreatic Cancer  
Brain Cancer  
Thyroid Cancer




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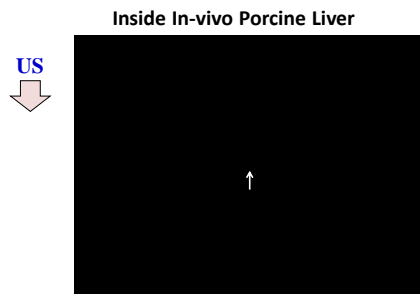
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## Cavitation Histotripsy in Porcine Liver



Vlaisavjevich et al. Ultrasound Med. Biol, 2013;39:1398-1409

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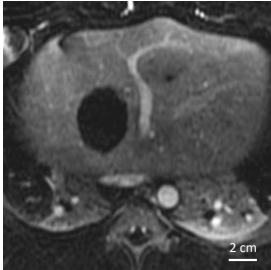
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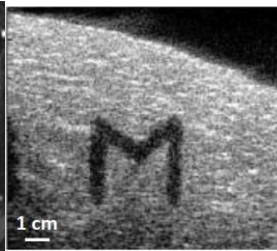
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## Cavitation Histotripsy in Porcine Liver

T2-weighted MRI

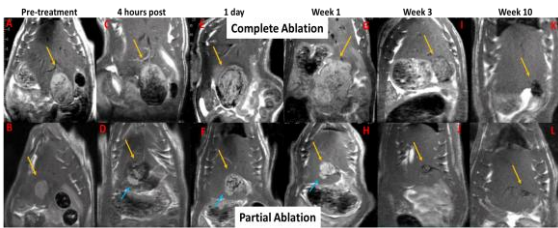


B-mode Ultrasound



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## Histotripsy Liver Tumor Ablation N1-S1 rodent liver tumor model



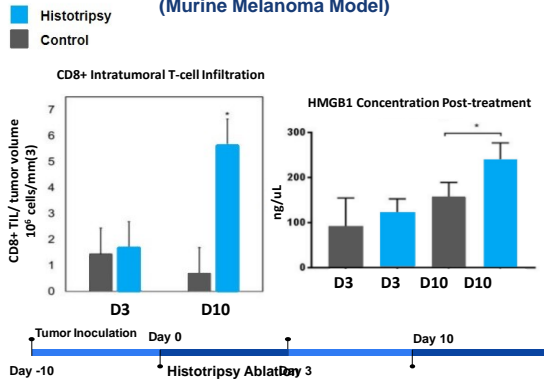
MRI in 14/15 treated tumors (6 partial and 9 complete) demonstrated near complete resorption of the ablated tumor in 7-10 weeks.

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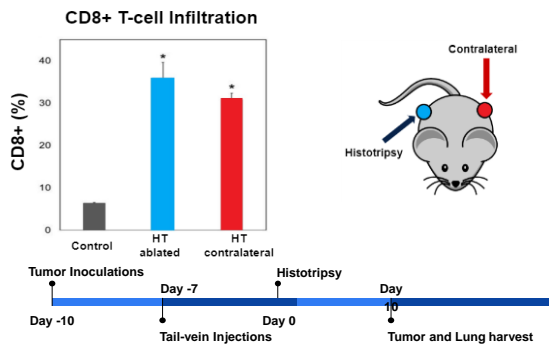
## SAM Question

- 2. What happens to the liquefied tissue homogenate after histotripsy ablation in long term?
- a. Remains in situ and forms scar-like tissue in situ
- b. Remains in situ but does not form scar
- c. Goes to blood flow and gets reabsorbed by the body, results in reduction of the targeted tissue volume
- Answer: (c)

## Histotripsy Induces Local Immune Response (Murine Melanoma Model)

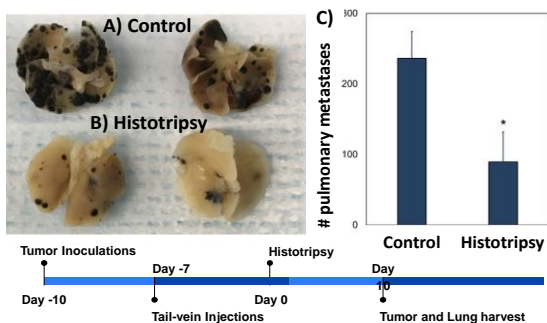


## Histotripsy (HT) Induces Systemic Immune Response



## Histotripsy (HT) Induces Systemic Immune Response

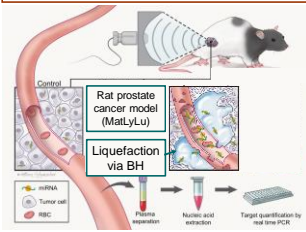
### Pulmonary Metastases



## BOILING HISTOTRIPSY NON-INVASIVE LIQUID BIOPSY TOOL

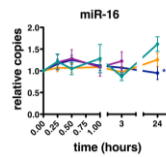
**Blood-based cancer biomarker** – a cancer-specific molecule secreted by the tumor into the circulation

MicroRNAs – promising class of blood-based biomarkers, but low baseline release levels



Chevillet, Khokhlova et al. Radiology 2016

Broadly expressed control



Courtesy of Tanya Khokhlova from University of Washington

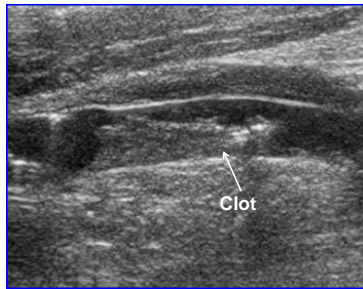
## Thrombosis

Deep Vein Thrombosis  
Large Hematoma Evacuation

## Non-invasive Thrombolysis

- **Thrombosis** - blood clot formation, cause of many vascular diseases, such as deep vein thrombosis, stroke, etc.
- **Current techniques have drawbacks:**
  - **Thrombolytic Drugs** – Slow reperfusion, excessive bleeding
  - **Catheters** – Invasiveness, bleeding, and infection

### Histotripsy Thrombolysis Porcine Deep Vein Thrombosis Model



Maxwell et al J Vasc Interv Radiol. 2011; 22: 369-77

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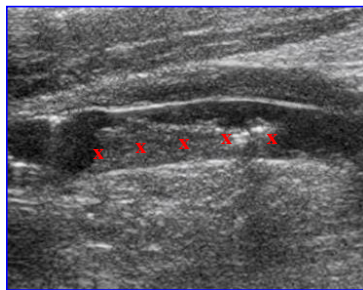
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### Histotripsy Thrombolysis Porcine Deep Vein Thrombosis Model



Maxwell et al J Vasc Interv Radiol. 2011; 22: 369-77

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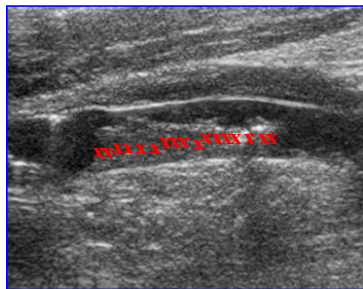
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### Histotripsy Thrombolysis Porcine Deep Vein Thrombosis Model



Maxwell et al J Vasc Interv Radiol. 2011; 22: 369-77

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## Boiling Histotripsy For Liquefaction And Aspiration Of Large Hematomas

**Large (up to 1-2 L) hematomas** often caused by trauma or post-surgical bleeds

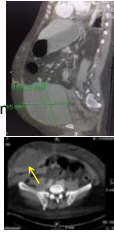
### Health effects:

- pain
- compartment syndrome
- organ failure
- risk of infection

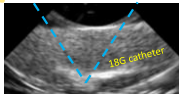
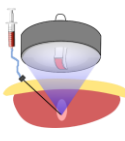
### Clinical

#### management:

- Surgery
- Indwelling drain (ineffective)



**Approach:** fast liquefaction with boiling histotripsy, simultaneously drain with fine needle



Highest liquefaction rate achieved to date: 16 mL/min

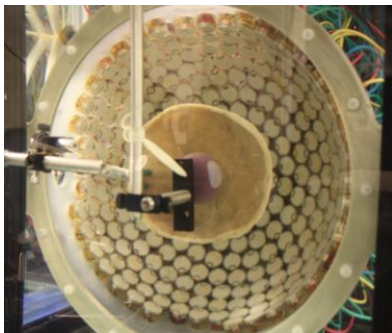
Courtesy of Tanya Khokhlova from University of Washington

## Histotripsy for Brain Applications

Brain Tumor

Hemorrhagic Stroke

## Transcranial (Cavitation) Histotripsy



250/500kHz 256E hemispherical array

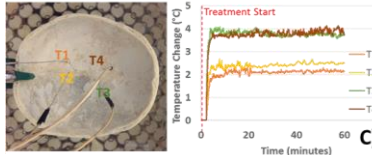
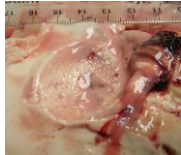
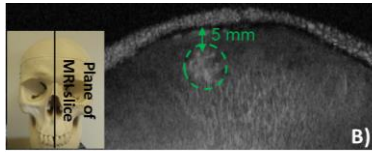
30 cm diameter  
15 cm focal distance

Can ablate brain tumor or liquefy clot through human skull in deep and shallow locations in the brain

## Transcranial Histotripsy In vitro bovine brain ablation through human skull

### Capability to

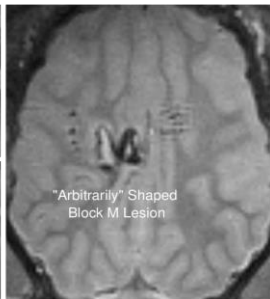
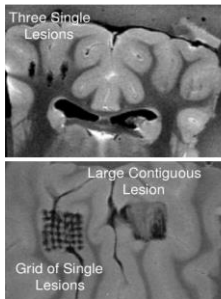
- ablate a volume
- ablate near skull surface (5mm)
- Skull heating (<4°C)



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Gerhardson et al., UMB, 43(10):2302-17

## Histotripsy in the In Vivo Porcine Brain



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Sukovich et al., J. Neurosurgery, 2018

## Acknowledgement

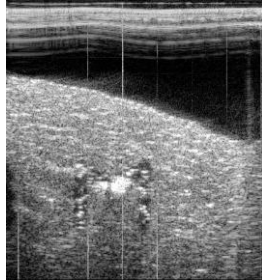
- **Scientific Collaborators (PhD)**
  - Charles A. Cain (BME)
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  - J. Brian Fowlkes (Radiology)
  - Jonathan Sukovich (BME)
  - Eric Johnsen (ME)
  - James Balter (Radiation Oncology)
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  - Jonathan Lundt
  - Jonathan Macoskey
  - Tyler Gerhardson
  - Hedieh Tamaddon
  - Yifei Li
  - Sang Won Choi
  - Tejaswi Warlikar
  - Ryan Hubbard
  - Ellen Yeats
  - Ning Lu
  - Greyson Stocker
- **Clinical Collaborators (MD)**
  - Aditya Pandey (Neurosurgery)
  - Gabe Owens (Pediatric Cardiology)
  - William Roberts (Urology)
  - Clifford Cho (Surgery)
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  - Fred Lee (Radiology – U. Wisconsin)
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## The End

**Thank you!**  
**Questions?**



## Brain Diseases and Treatment Options

- Brain Tumor Treatment
  - Craniotomy surgery - invasive
  - Chemotherapy – blood brain barrier
  - Radiation therapy – normal brain structure susceptible to radiation damage
- Hemorrhagic stroke treatment
  - Medical management – no active clot reduction
  - Craniopuncture (tPA + catheter drainage) – Slow
- MR guided Focused Ultrasound (MRgFUS)
  - Essential Tremor
  - Can only treat a small volume in the central region of the brain