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# Challenges on Assessment of Treatment Response for Physiologically Adaptive Radiation Therapy

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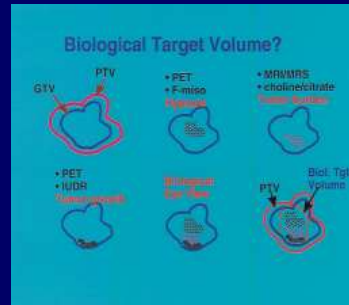
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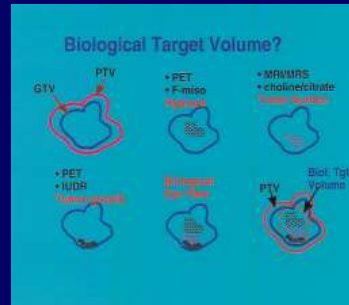
# Biological Target Volume, Tx Predictor, Dose Adaption



Ling, IJROPB, 2000

A tumor **target volume** could be defined and segmented as multiple **biological target subvolumes**.

# Biological Target Volume, Tx Predictor, Dose Adaption

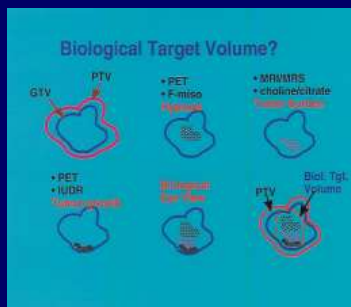


Ling, IJROPB, 2000

The subvolumes defined by multiple  
physiological imaging studies should be  
prognostic or predictive indicators

**Imaging for  
Tx  
Assessment**

# Biological Target Volume, Tx Predictor, Dose Adaption



Ling, IJROPB, 2000

Dose sculpting of multiple biological target subvolumes and adaptation based upon early response could lead to better outcome.

**Imaging for  
Tx  
Assessment**

**Physiological adaptation**

**Dose  
sculpting  
&  
adaption**



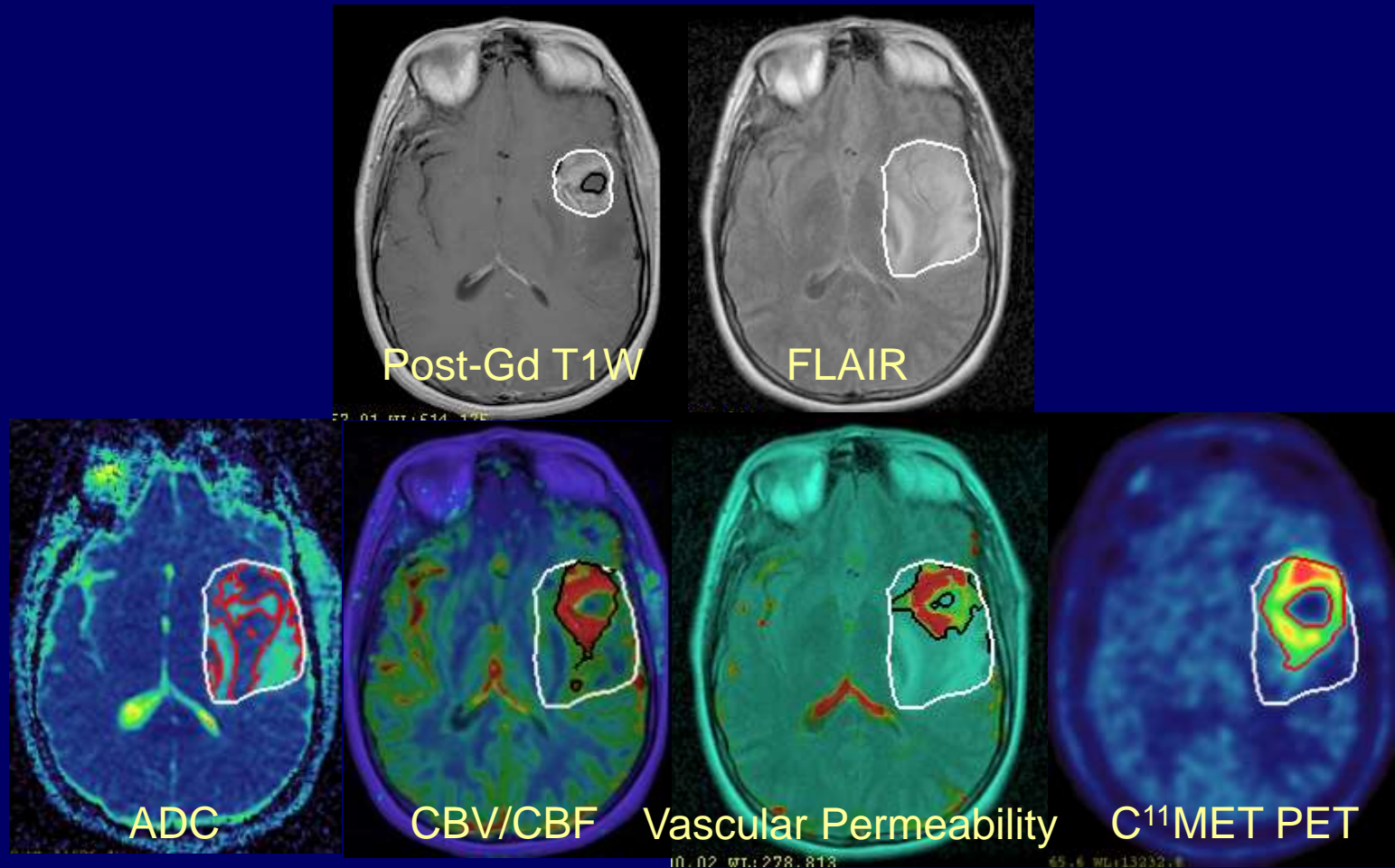
# How to Establish an Imaging Biomarker for Therapy Assessment

- Reproducibility
  - Separation of a true change from variation
- Sensitivity and specificity
  - Clinical end points, specific for tumor and therapy types
- Utility
  - biomarker associated w failure/progression
  - adaptive therapy for intensification or toxicity reduction



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# Heterogeneous Subvolumes in GBM





# Imaging-driven Response-Induced Subvolume of a Tumor

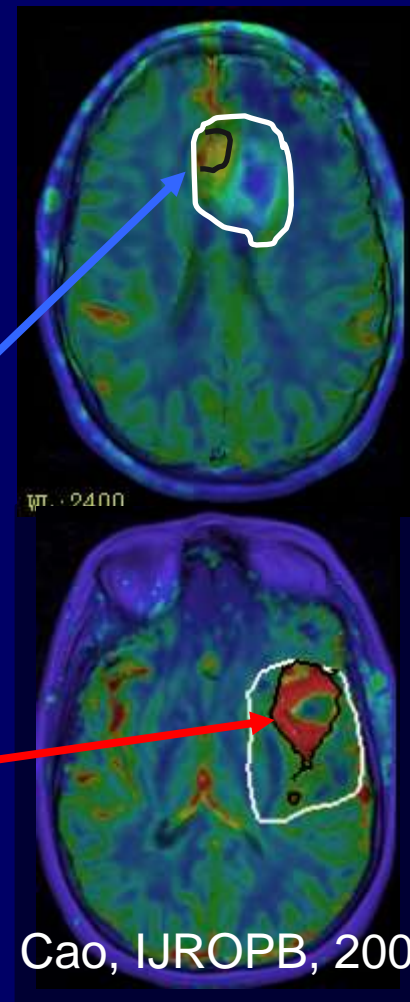
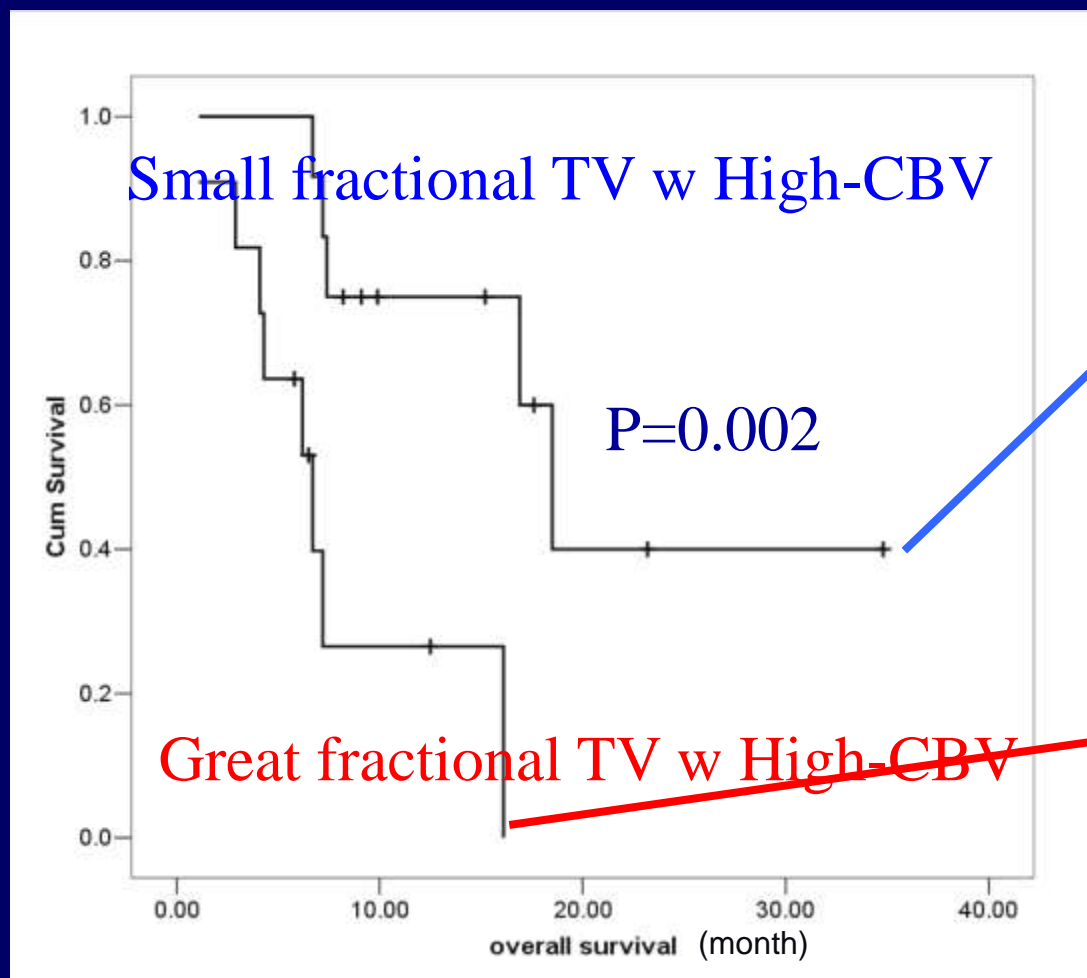
- Heterogeneous therapy response of a tumor could be primarily due to biological heterogeneity in the tumor
- The most aggressive or resistant sub-volume in a tumor could predominantly determine therapy response or outcome of a treatment to the whole tumor
- **Aims:** Extract the physiological imaging-defined tumor subvolume that is:
  - Predictive for treatment response
  - Highly reproducible
  - A candidate to be a boost target





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# High CBV: Prognostic Indicator in High-grade Gliomas



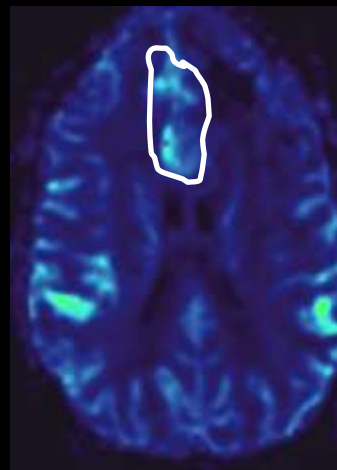
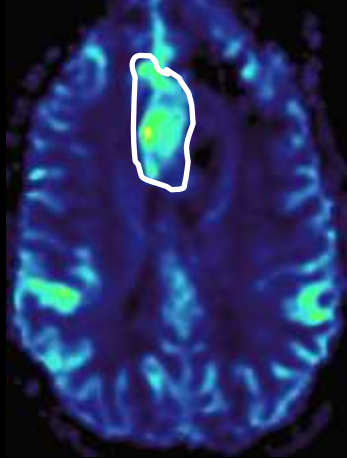
Cao, IJROPB, 2006



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# Change in high-CBV During RT

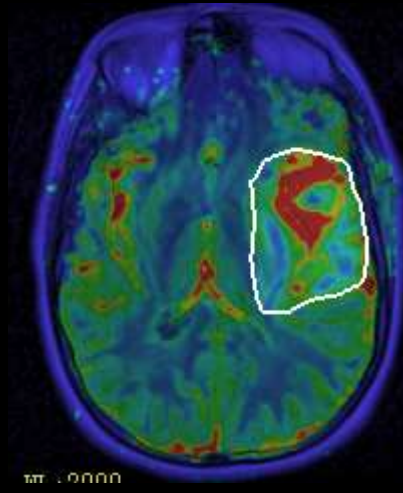
Pt A



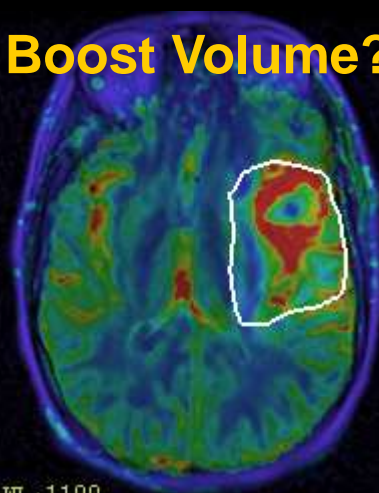
Decrease

**Better OS**

Pt B



**Boost Volume?**



Little Change

**Worse OS**

Pre RT

Week 3

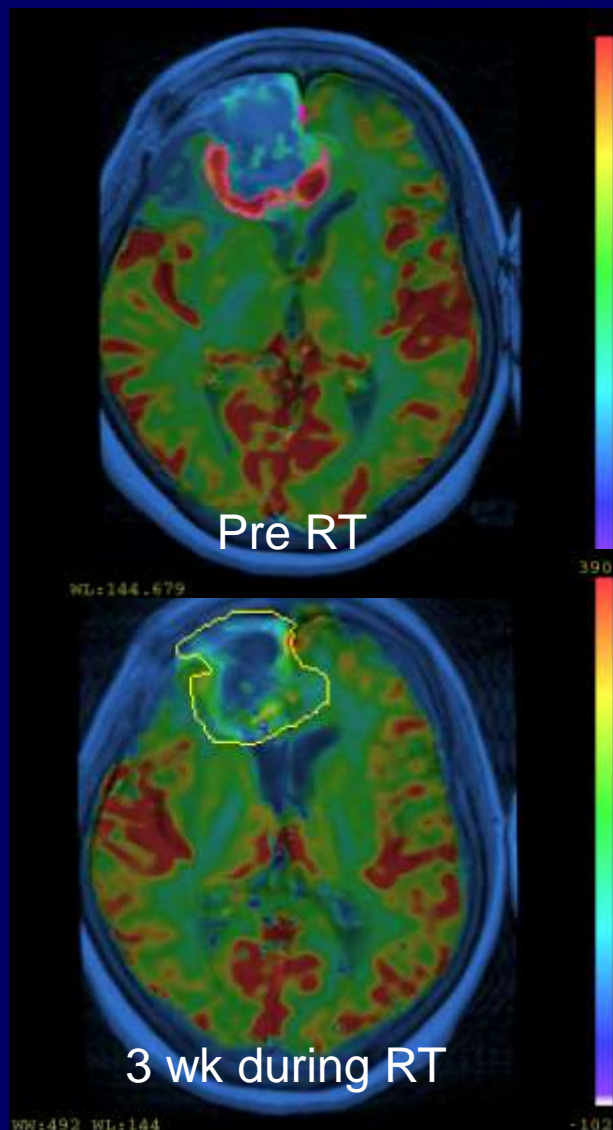
# Summary

- These early studies show that certain features of a tumor, and their changes during RT, which are identified by physiological imaging, are associated with outcome, or failure, and thereby can be candidates for radiation boosting or adaptation.



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# How to extract sub-volumes from a heterogeneous tumor



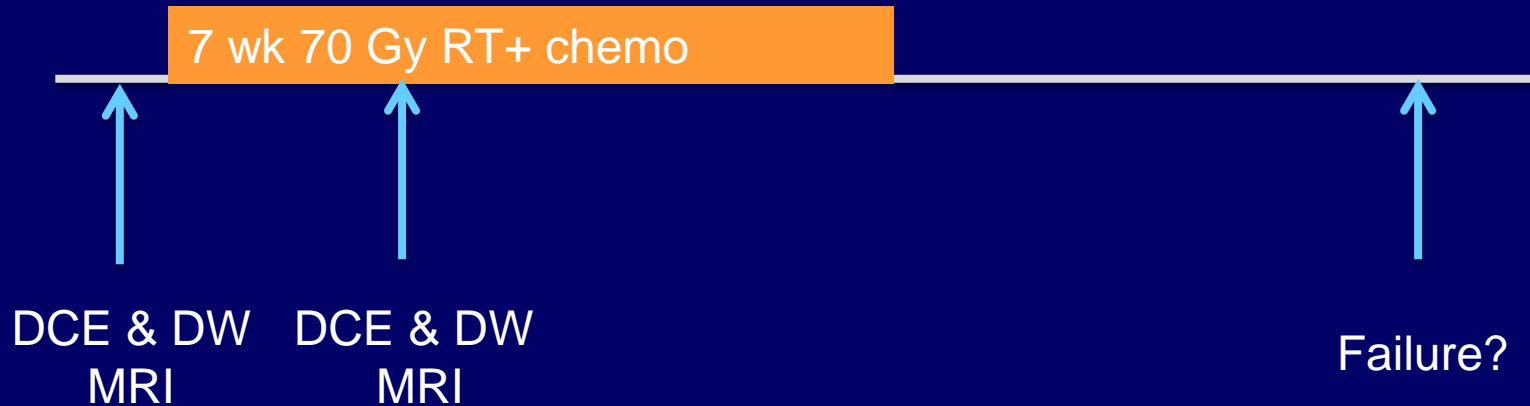
Feature (parameter) space



Quantitative metric:  
Subvolumes of the tumor with  
the “bad” features

Whether “bad” features decrease  
after receiving treatment?

# Advanced HNC: ChemoRT



Study aim: To test whether the poorly perfused subvolume of the tumor that persists during the early course of RT is associated with LR failure.

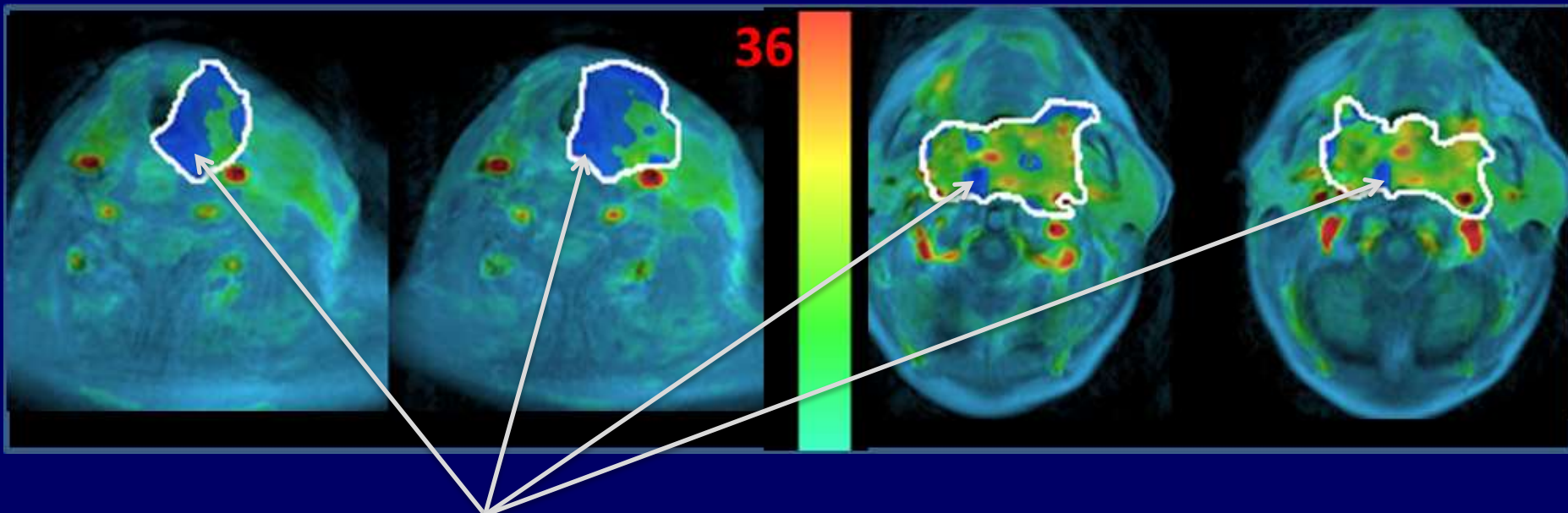




# Poorly Perfused Sub-Volumes in Advanced HN Cancers Blood Volume (BV)

Local Failure

Local Control



Poorly perfused Subvolume

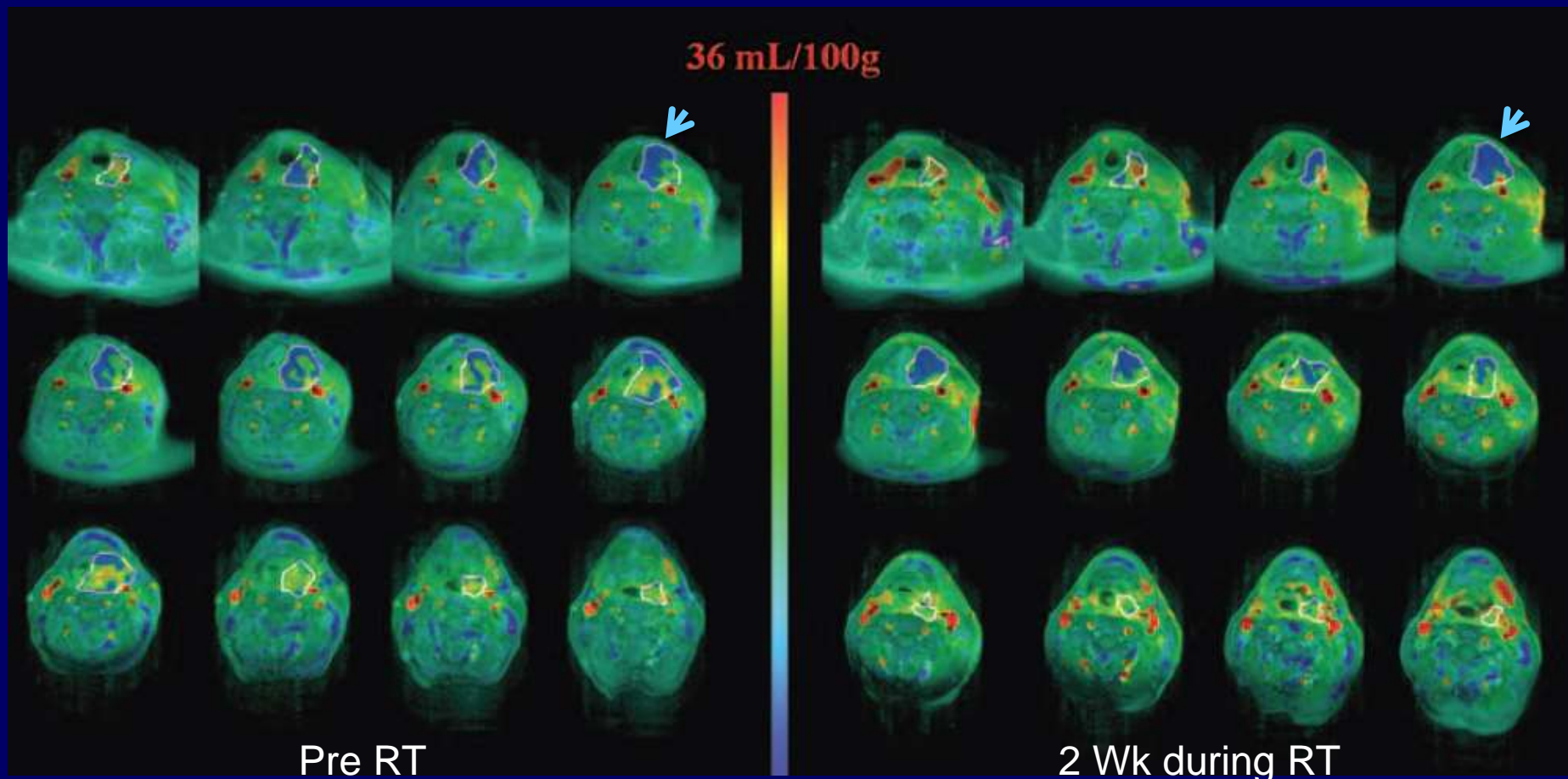
The large sub-volumes of the tumors with low BV (blue color) pre-Tx is significantly associated with LF.

Wang, et al Med Phys 2012



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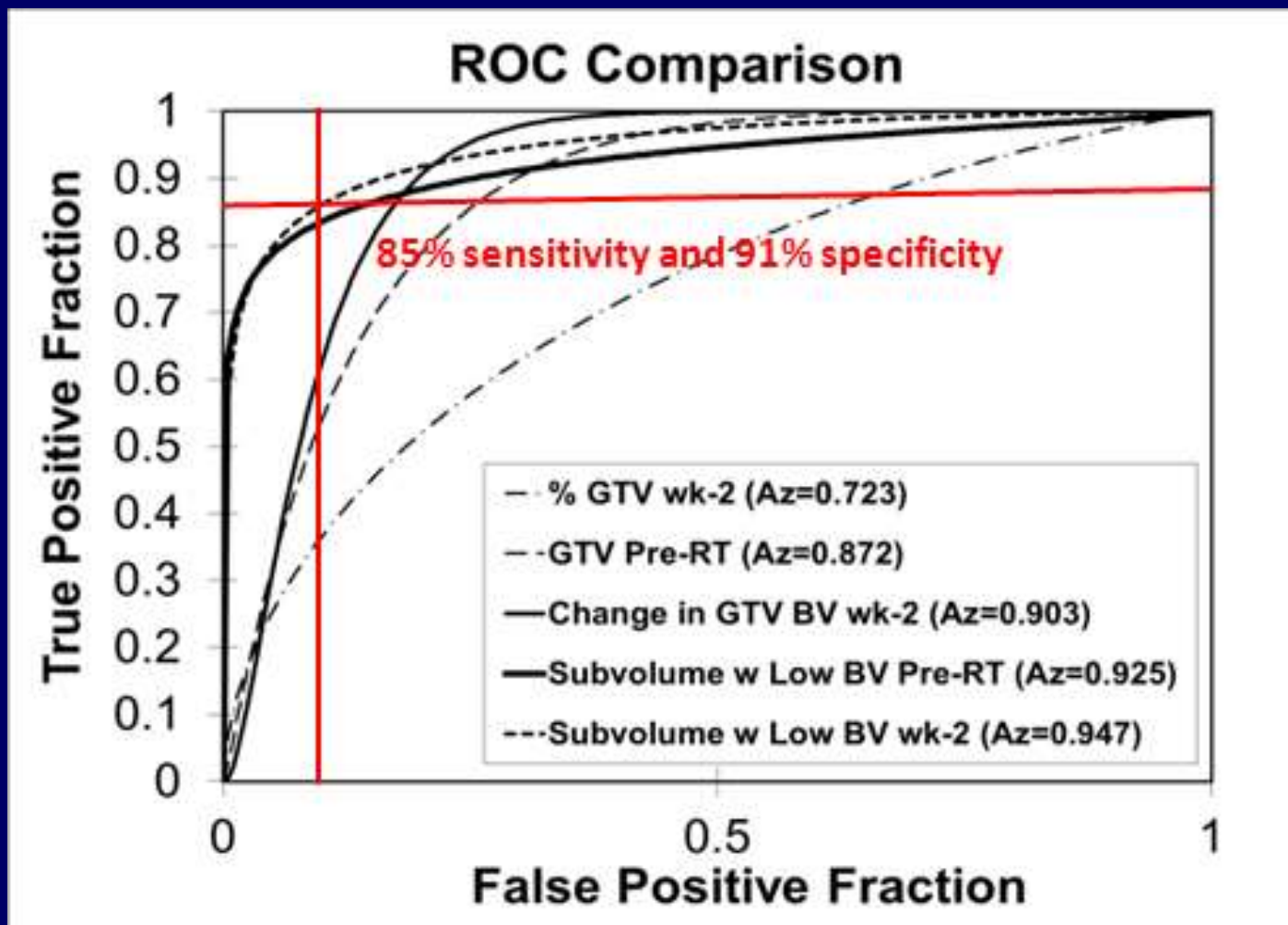
# Persistent Poorly Perfused Subvolumes in HNC



The large sub-volumes of the tumors with low BV (blue color) pre-Tx and persisting during the early course of CRT (2 weeks) are significantly associated with LF



# Prediction of Local Failure

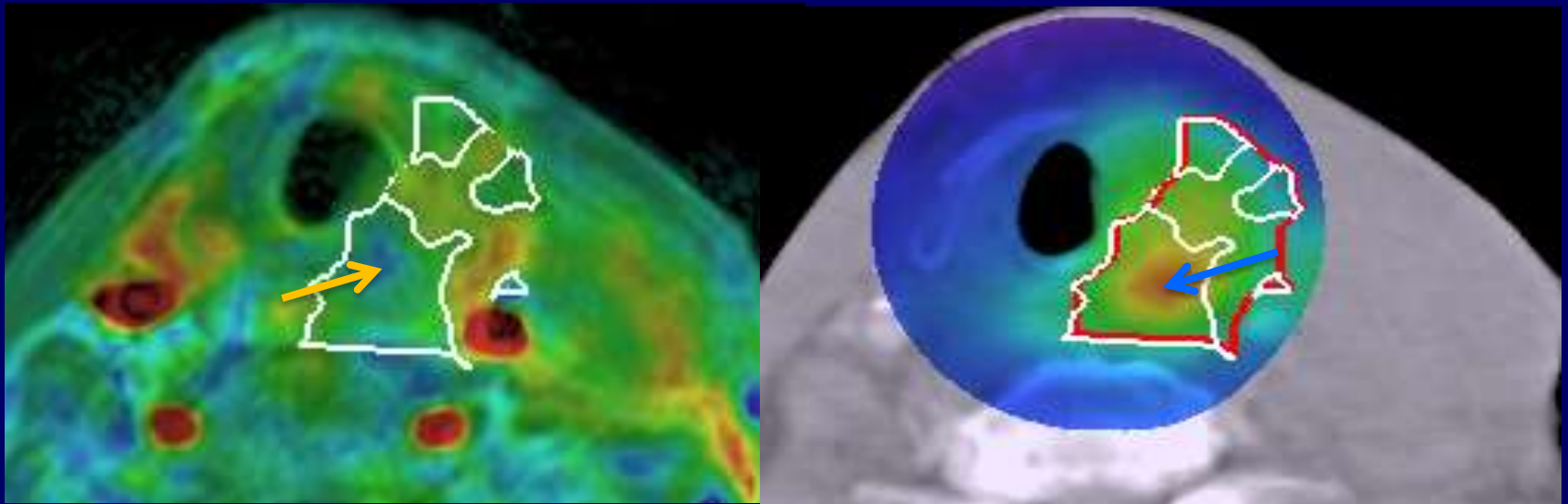






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# Association with Pattern Failure



Poorly-perfused  
Subvolume of the  
Tumor pre RT

FDG 3 moths post RT

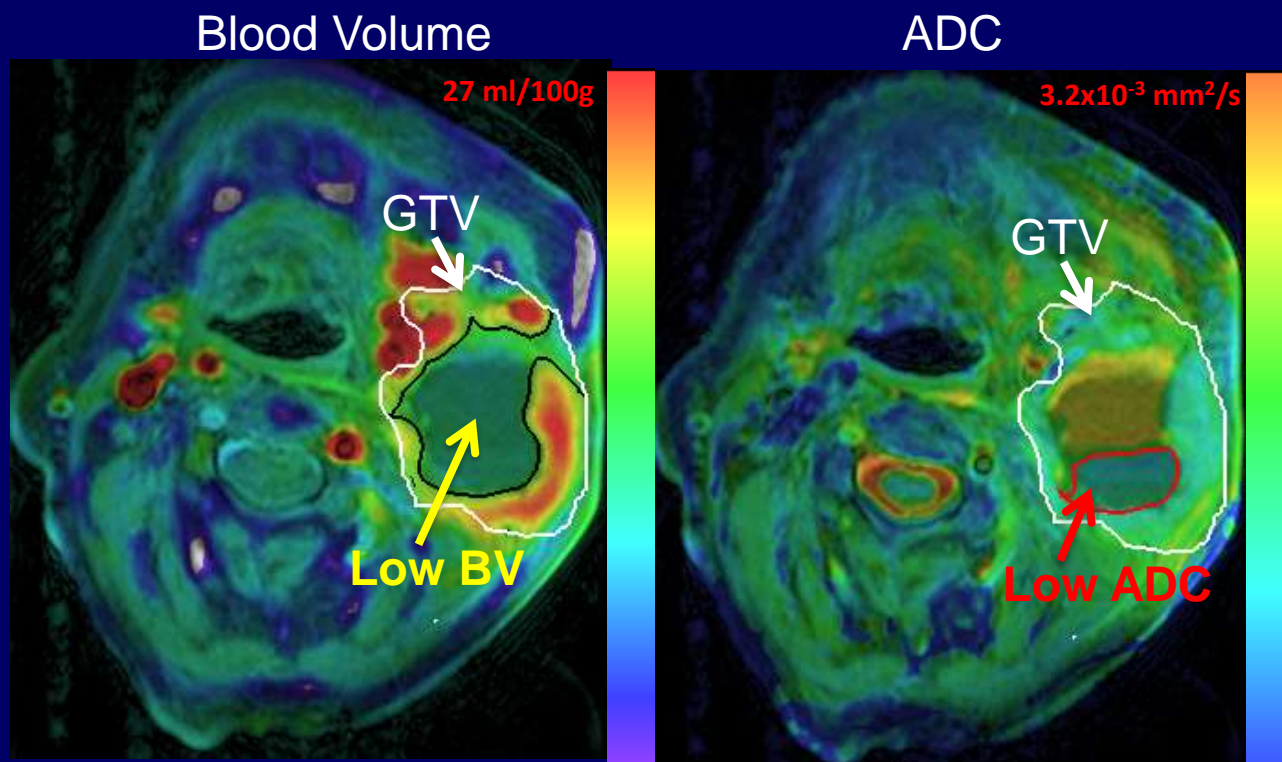


# Subvolumes of a Tumor

- A physiological imaging defined response-induced subvolume of a tumor is a better predictor for outcome and could be a candidate for an intensified therapy target
- Our approach can be applied to other physiological/metabolic imaging parameters
- Our method does not depend upon voxel-level accuracy of registration of a pair of images acquired over a period of therapy
- Our method produces metrics robust to image noise and other random factors



# Additive Value of Diffusion Imaging in HNC



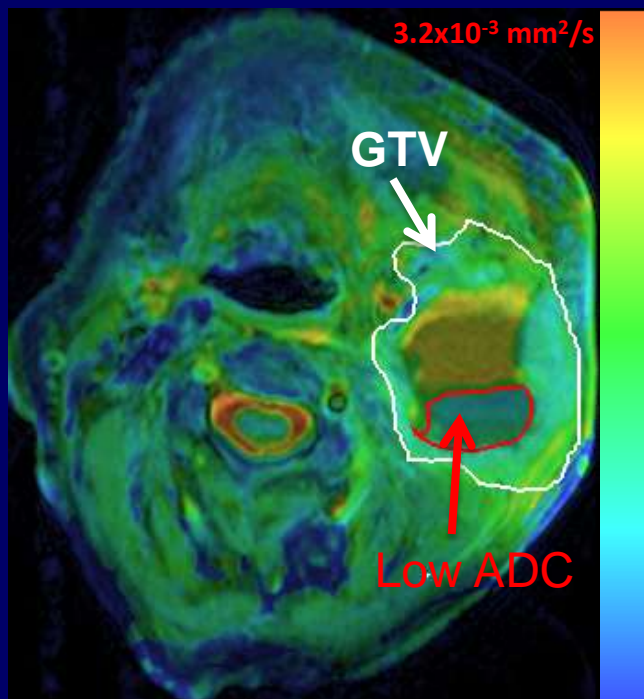
Subvolume with low BV (poor perfusion) and low ADC (high cellularity) -> Outcome?



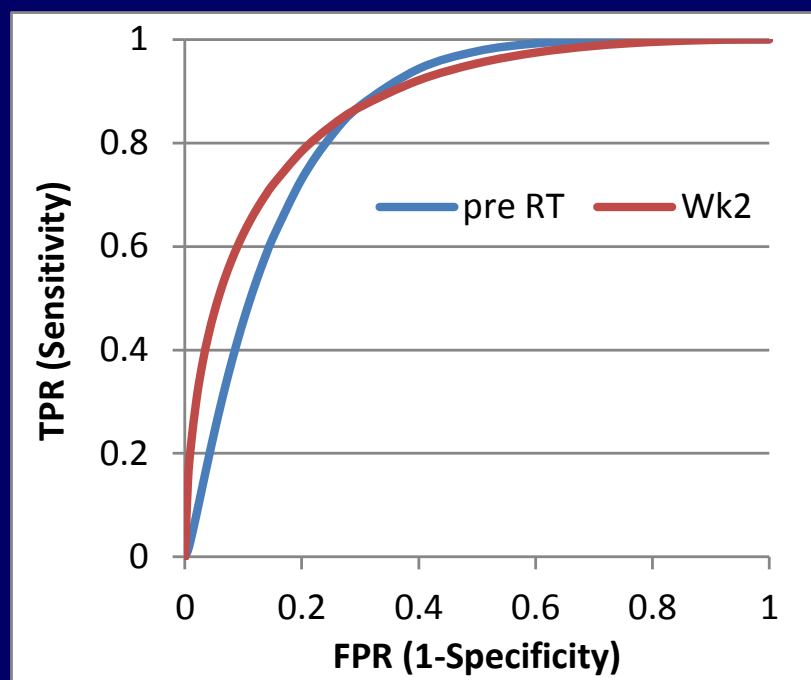
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# Subvolume of the tumor with high Cellularity

ADC map pre-RT

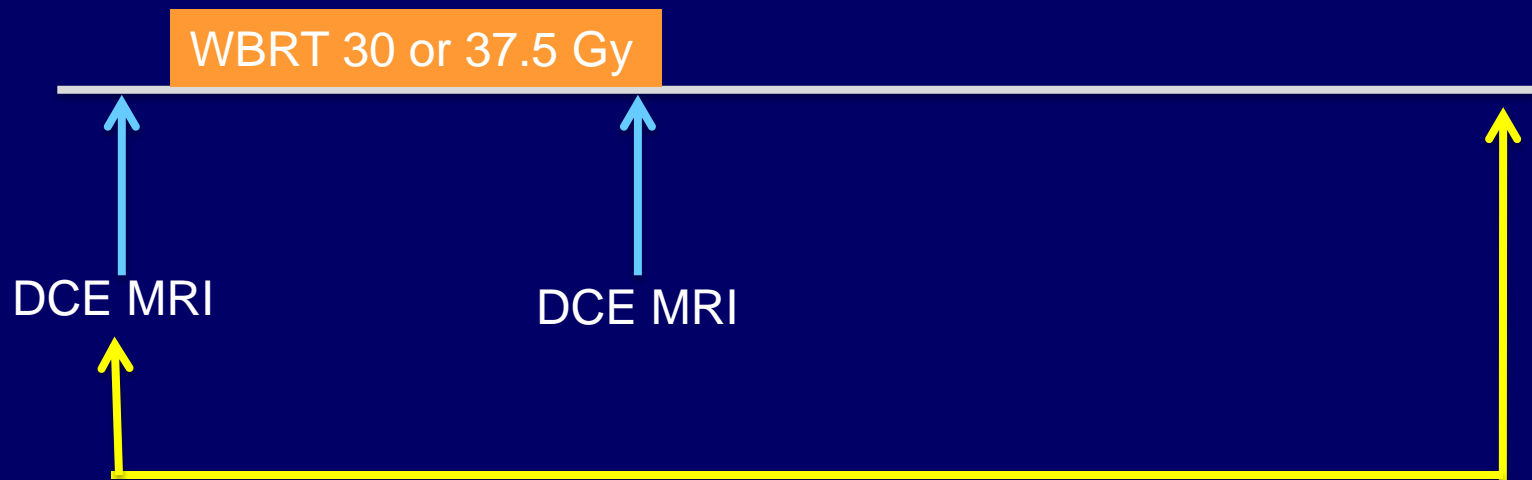


Prediction for local and regional failure





# Brain metastases: WBRT



## Radiographic response post-RT

Aim: Test whether a decrease in the subvolume of the tumor with elevated CBV and high vascular permeability at the end of RT is associated with post-RT response.

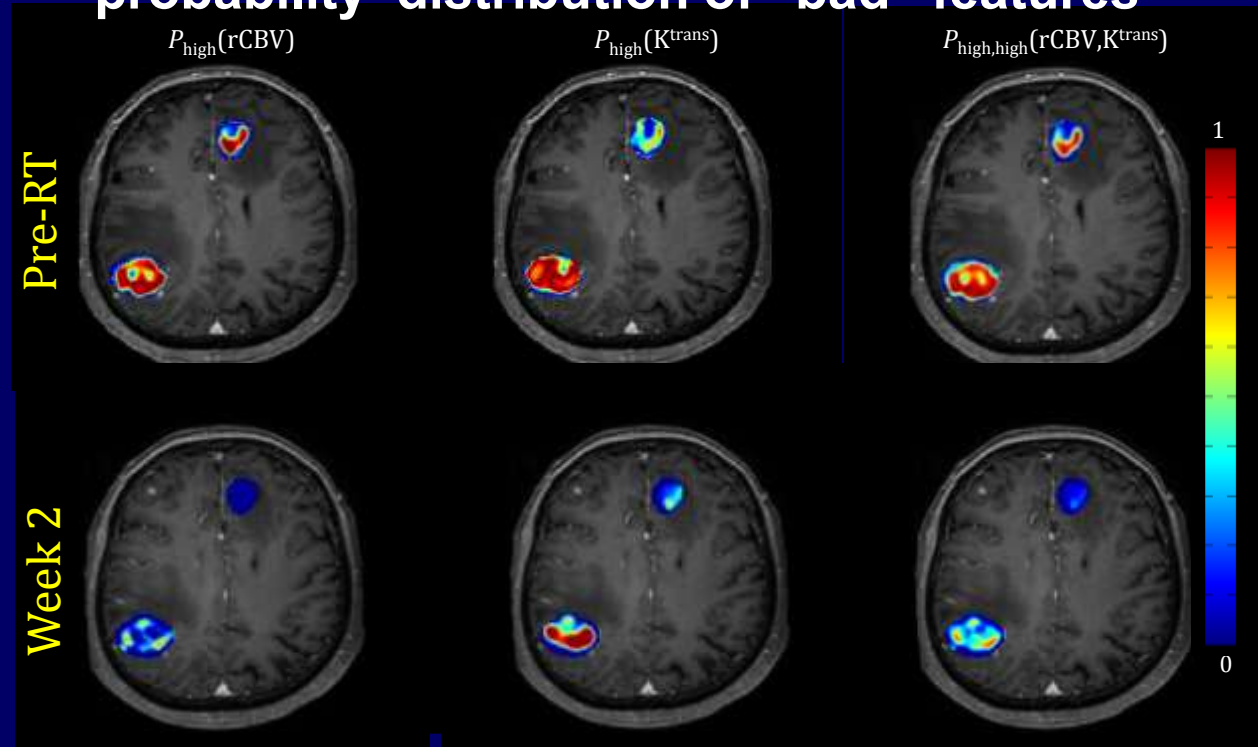


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# Brain metastases (Farjam 2013)

Create a single metric, a subvolume of a tumor with high CBV,  $K^{\text{trans}}$ , or both, for assessment of response

probability distribution of “bad” features





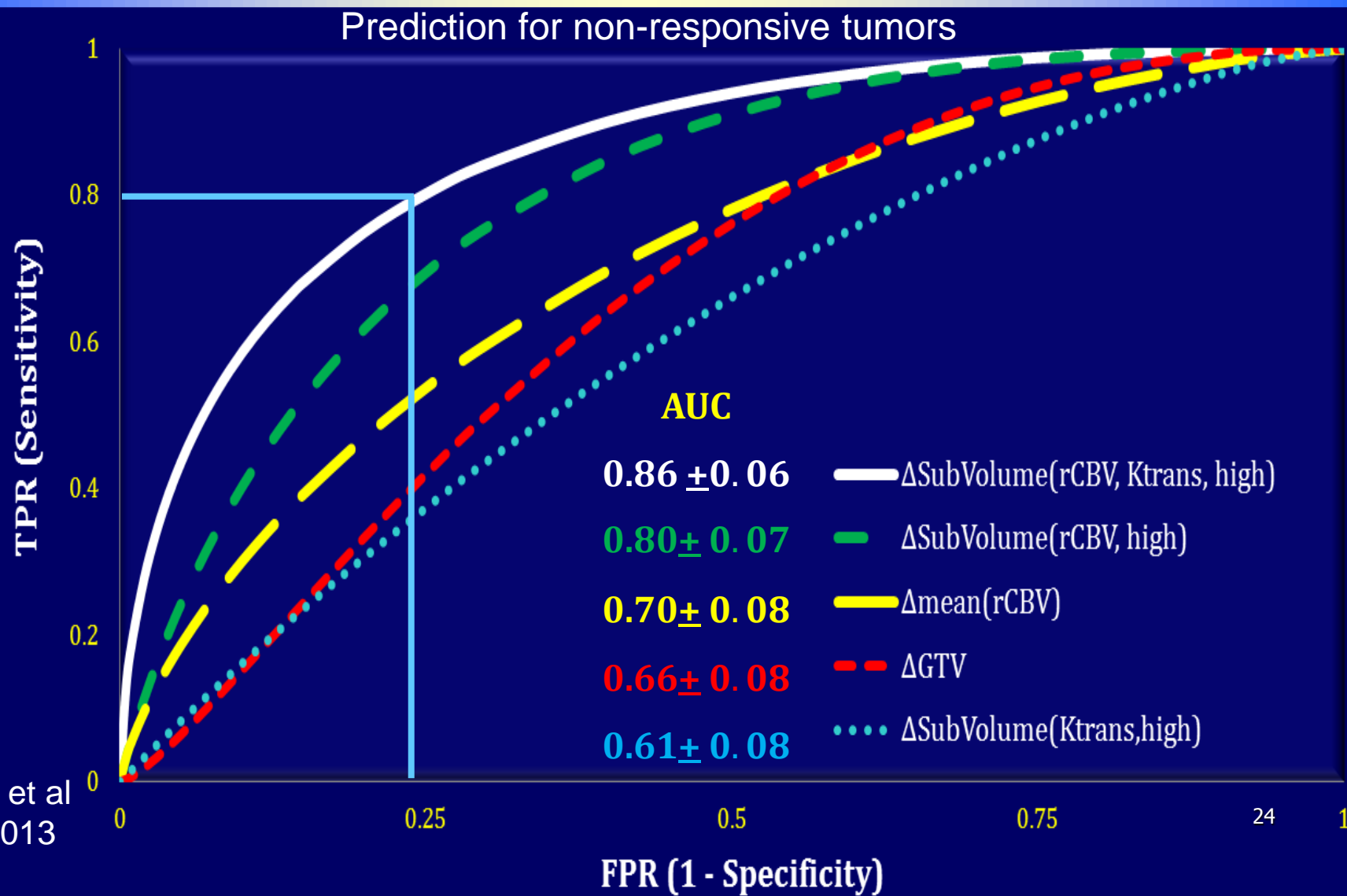


# Does the tumor subvolume with high CBV predict response?

- End point
  - Post-RT radiographic response
    - $\Delta\text{GTV}_{\text{post}} = \text{GTV}_{1\text{mpost}} - \text{GTV}_{\text{preRT}}$
    - Non-responsive:  $\Delta\text{GTV}_{\text{post}} < -25\%$
- Early prediction for non-responsive tumors
  - A change in the subvolume with high CBV, high  $K^{\text{trans}}$ , or both at the end of WBRT



# Sensitivity and Specificity





# Intrahepatic Cancer: RT

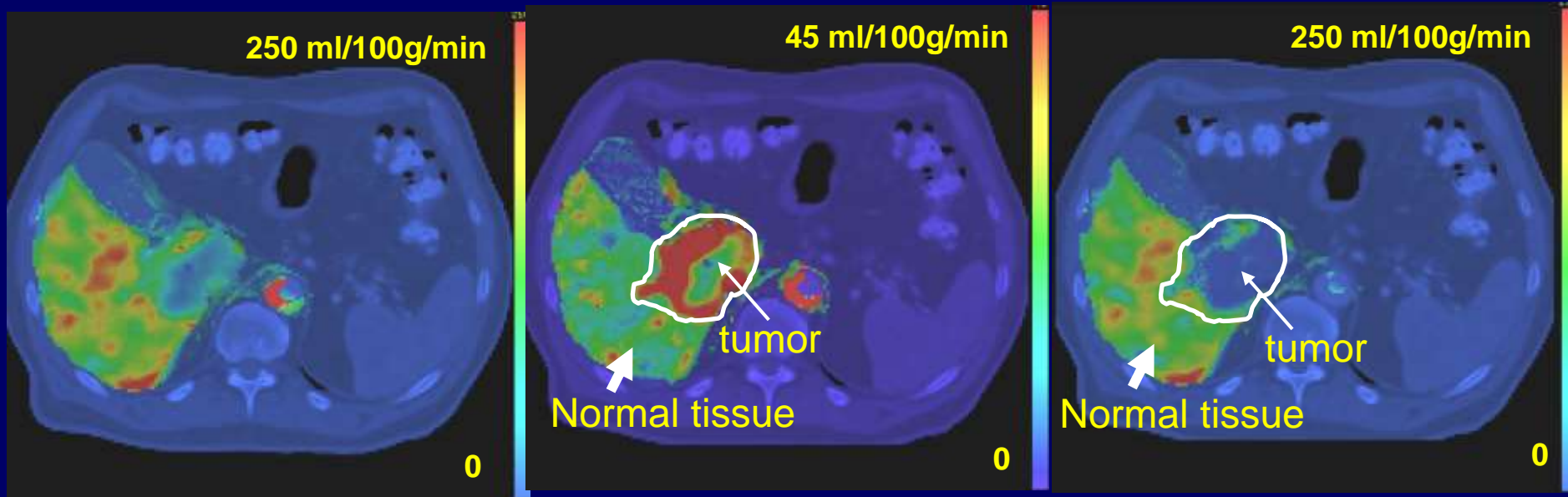


Aim: Test whether an increase in the subvolume of the tumor with elevated hepatic arterial perfusion after receiving 60% of treatment of RT is associated with progression.



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# Perfusion in Hepatic Cancer



**Total perfusion**

**Hepatic arterial perfusion**

**Portal venous perfusion**

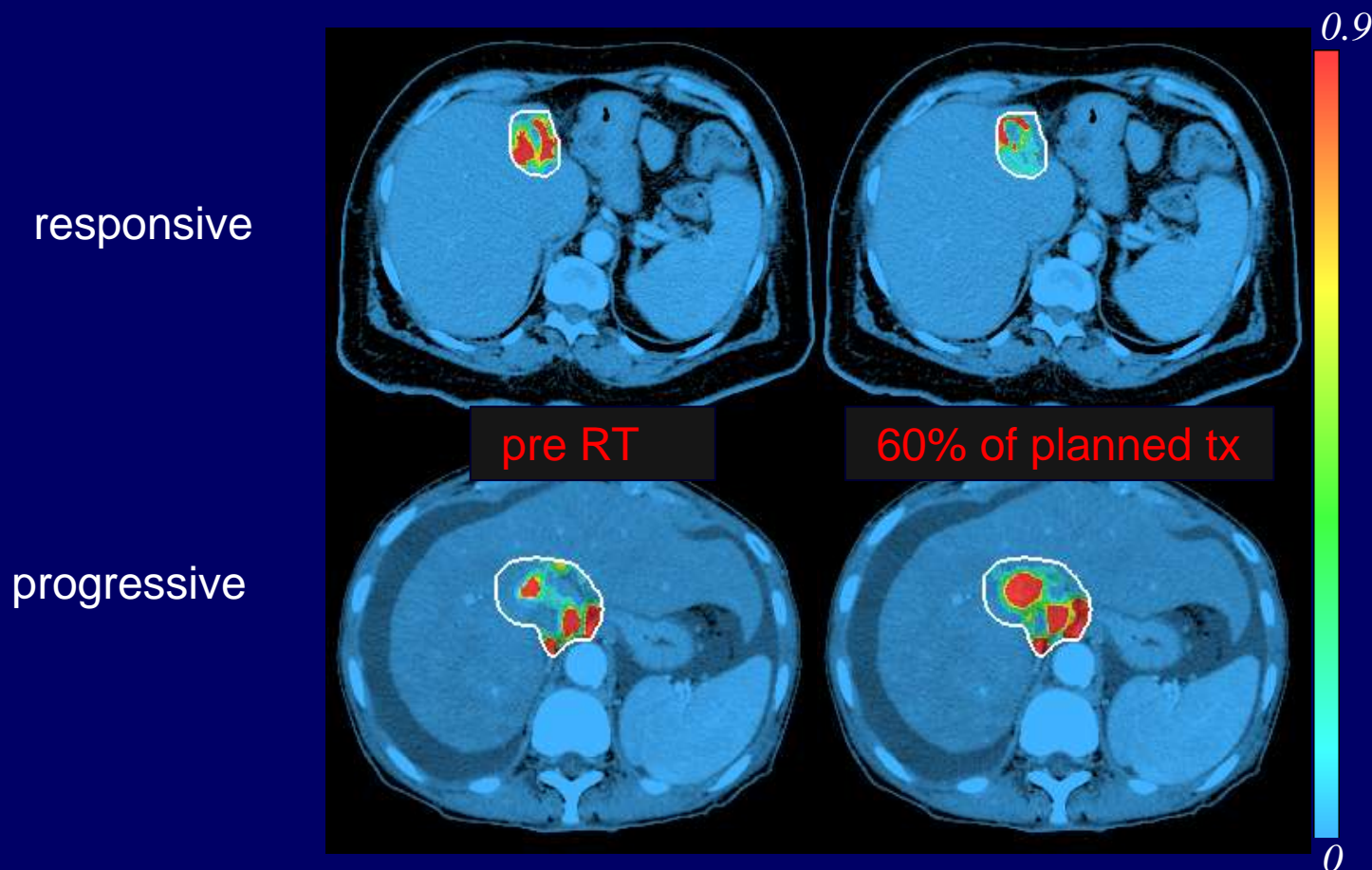
Normal liver: ~20% arterial perfusion and ~80% portal venous perfusion

Intrahepatic cancer: elevated arterial perfusion and decreased portal venous perfusion



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# Hepatic cancer: high arterial perfusion subvolume

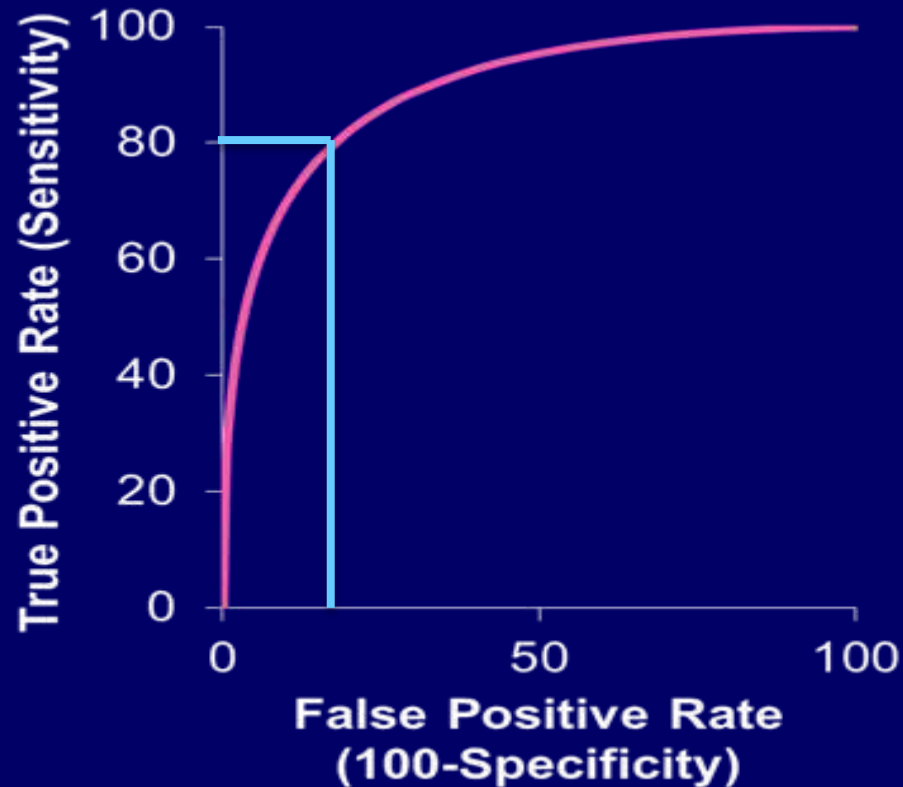




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# Sensitivity and Specificity

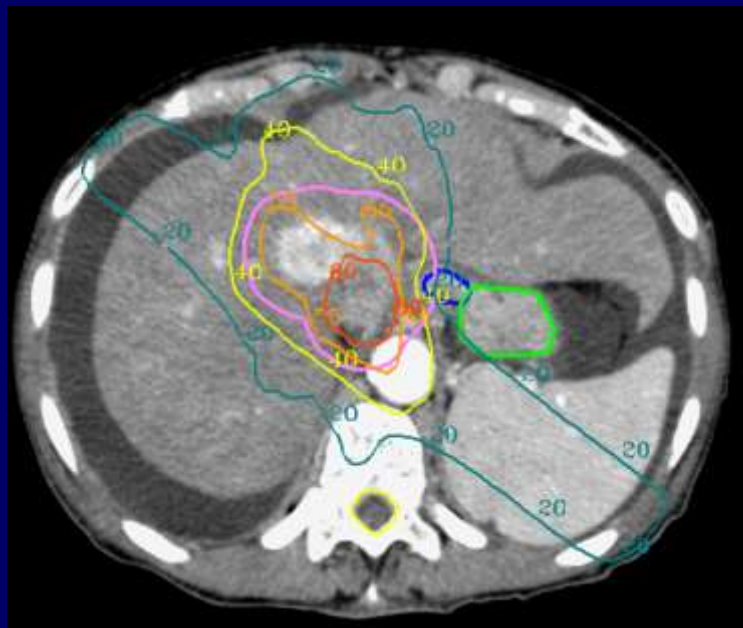
Prediction of progression



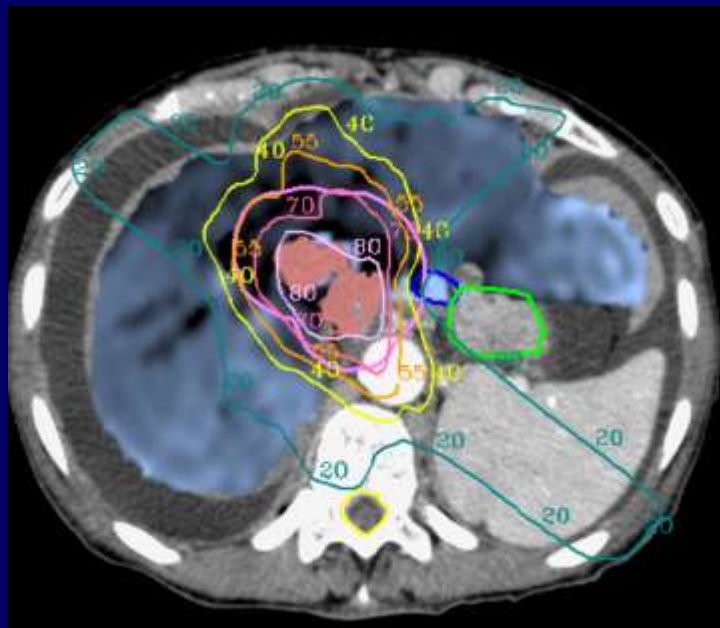


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# Adaptation: targeting the active residual tumor



SBRT Standard course  
55 Gy (5 Fx)  
NTCP:10%



SBRT Adaptive course  
80 Gy (5 Fx)  
NTCP: 10%

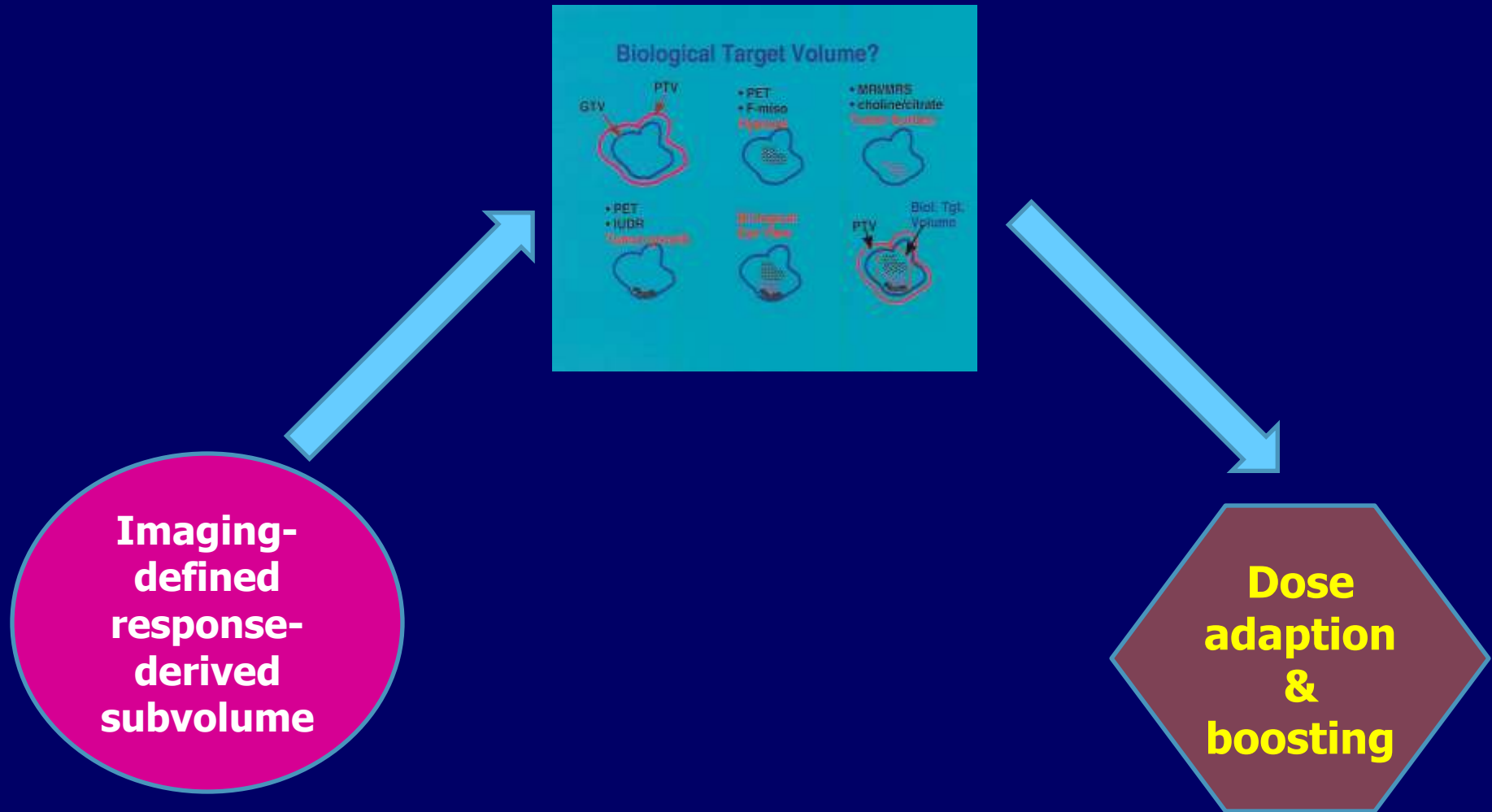
M. Matuszak, M. Feng, 2013

Cao AAPM 2013 29



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# Summary

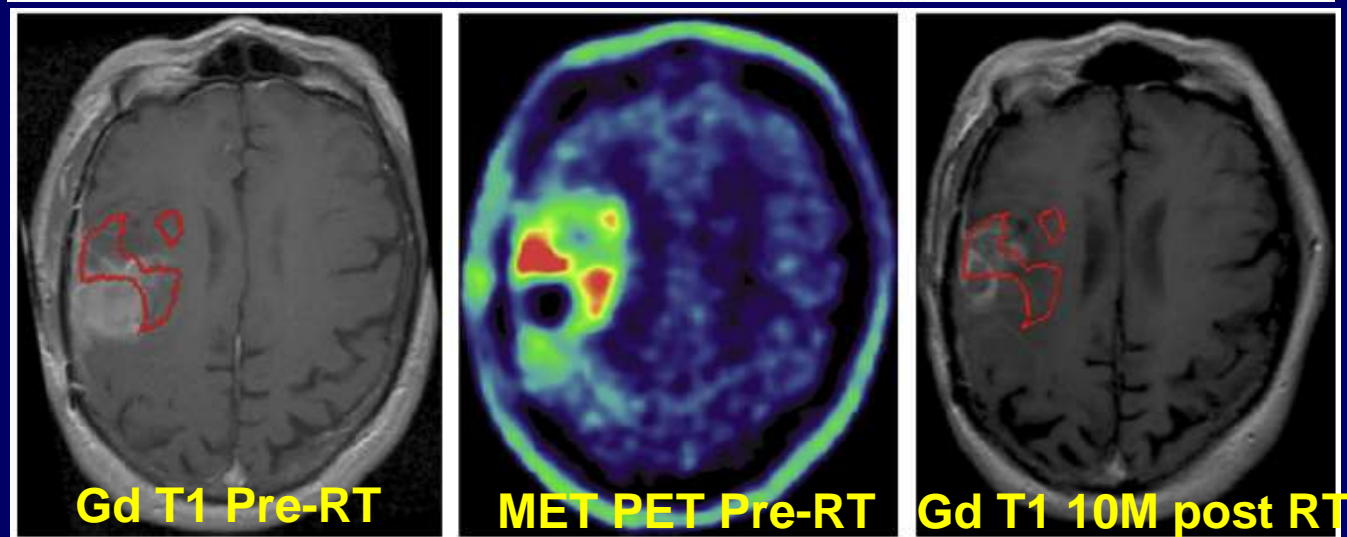
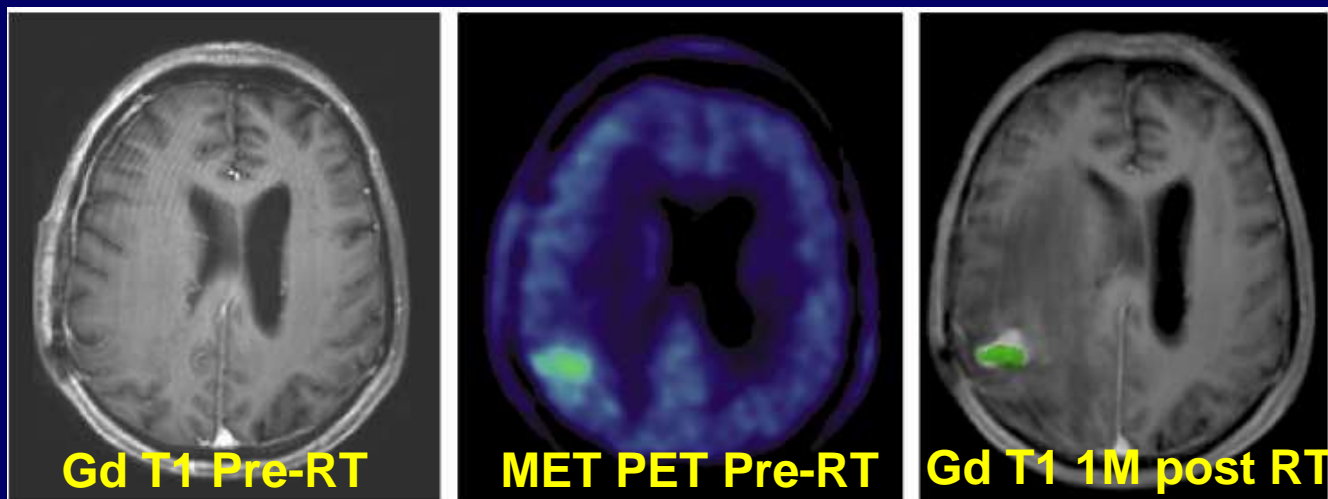






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# MET Uptake is associated with Patterns of Failure (Lee & Tsien, 2009)

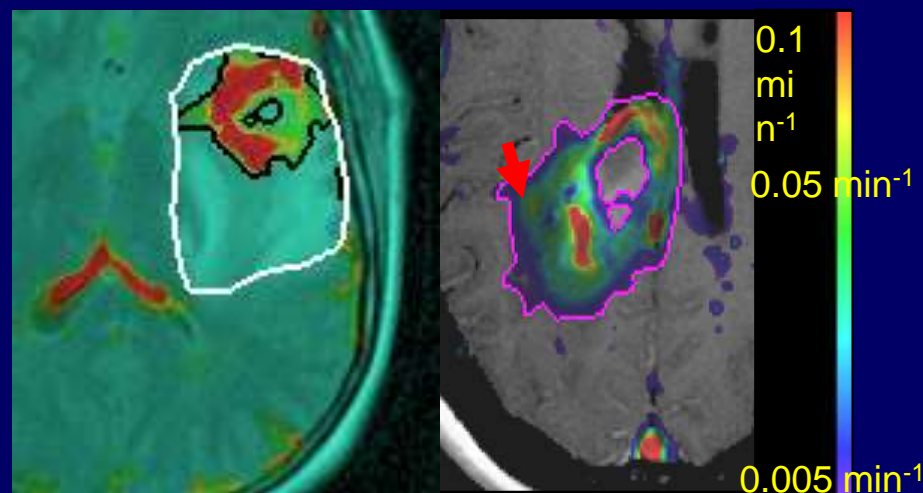




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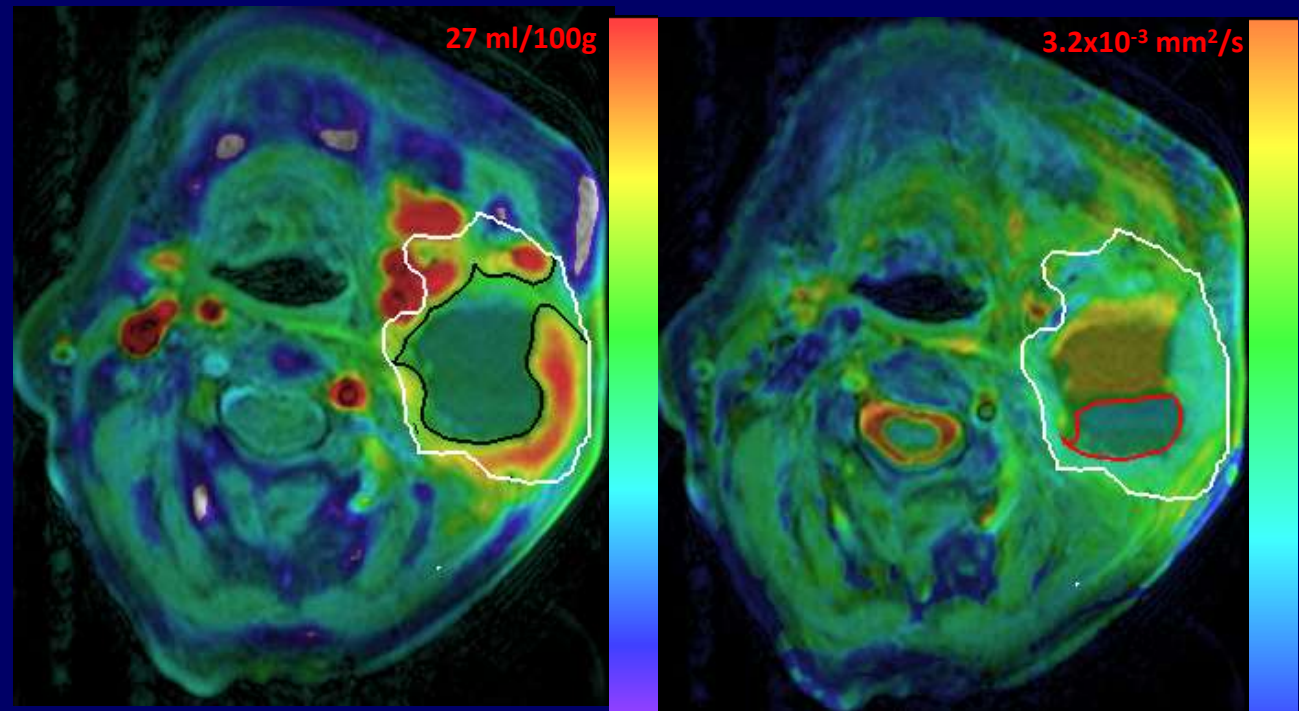
# Permeability: Prognostic indicator for high-grade gliomas

- Large vascular leakage volume, reflecting angiogenesis, was associated with worse OS
- Post-Gd T1 or FLAIR GTV failed to predict OS



Cao, Cancer Research, 2006

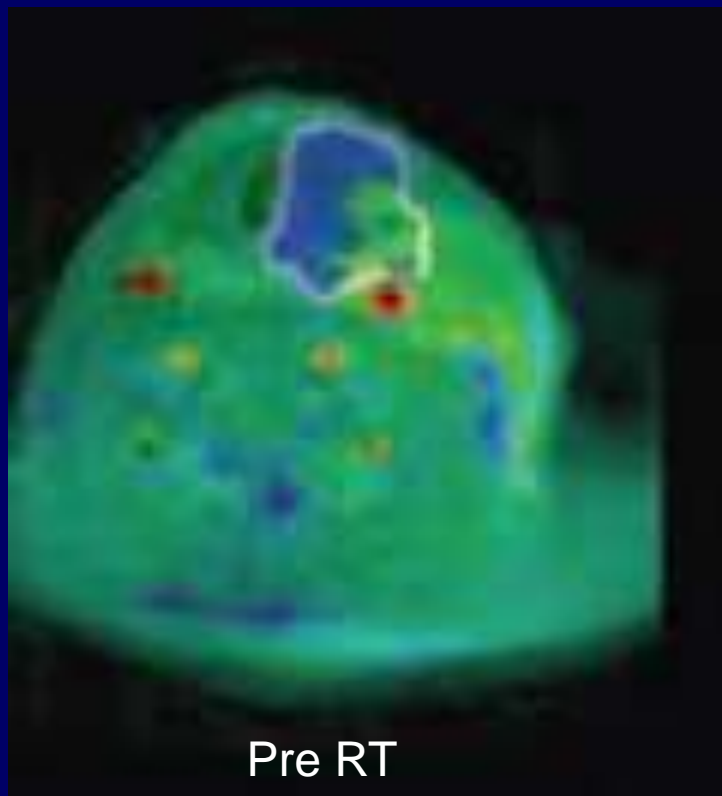




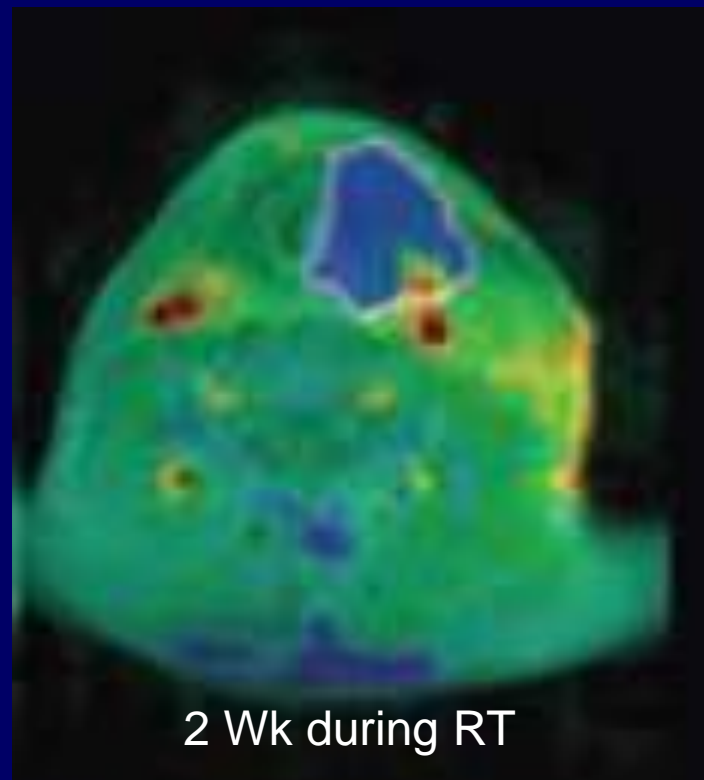


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# Poorly Perfused Subvolumes in HNC

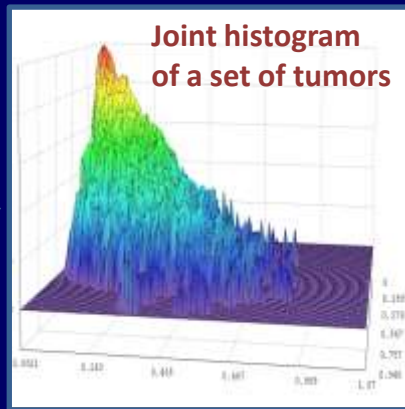
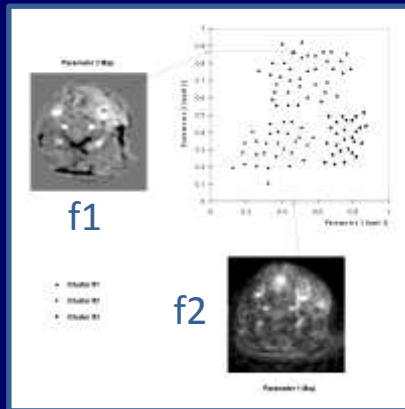


Pre RT



2 Wk during RT

# Fuzzy-Subvolume Model



Cluster analysis:

$PMF(\{f\}, class_1)$

...

$PMF(\{f\}, class_j)$

...

$\{f\}$ : a set of parameters

$PMF(\{f\}, \{class\})$

New tumor

