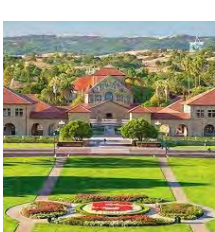
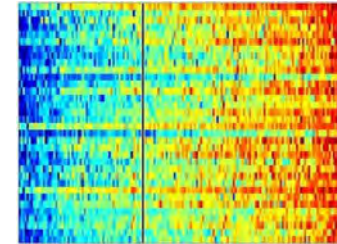
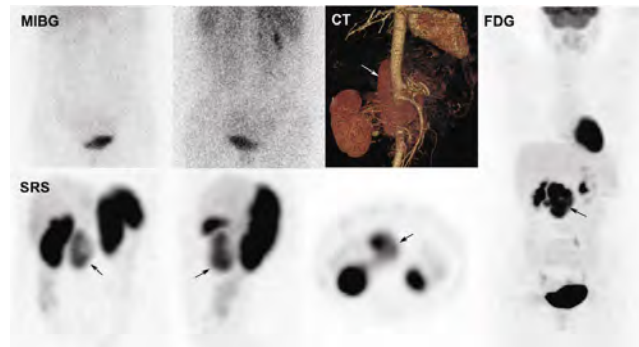


# Precision Surgery for Pheochromocytoma (PCC)/Paraganglioma (PGL)

Electron Kebebew, MD, FACS  
Professor of Surgery  
Chief, Division of General Surgery  
Harry A. Oberhelman, Jr. And Mark L. Welton Professor



# Disclosure

Nothing to disclose

# Precision Medicine



*Precision Medicine Initiative – Individualize Care*

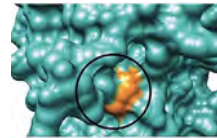
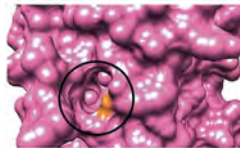
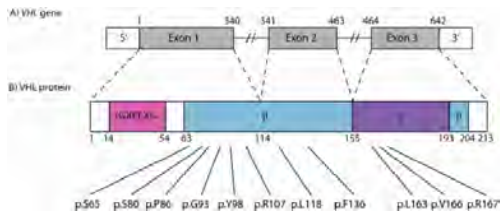
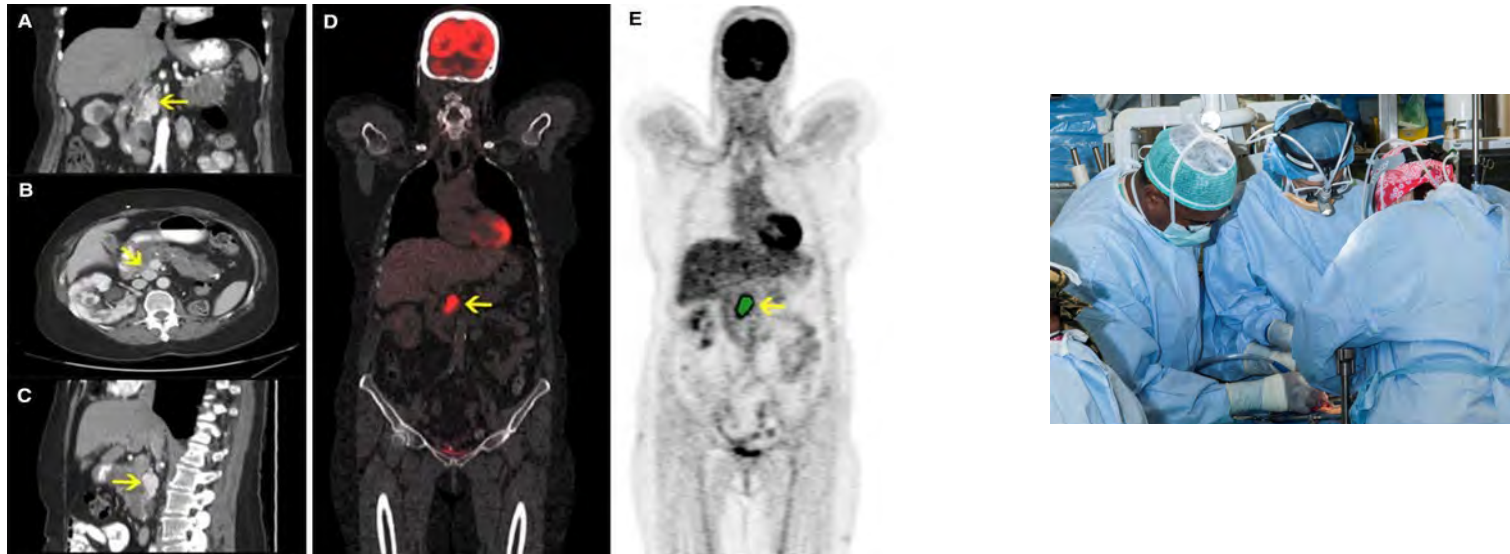
# Precision Medicine

*Pheochromocytoma/Paraganglioma –  
The prototypical tumor for true precision medicine*



*Precision Medicine Initiative – Individualize Care*

# Precision Surgery



*Precision: Exact and accurate in our management.  
...or let the crime fit the punishment*

# Outline

## Pheochromocytoma/Paraganglioma (PCC/PGL)

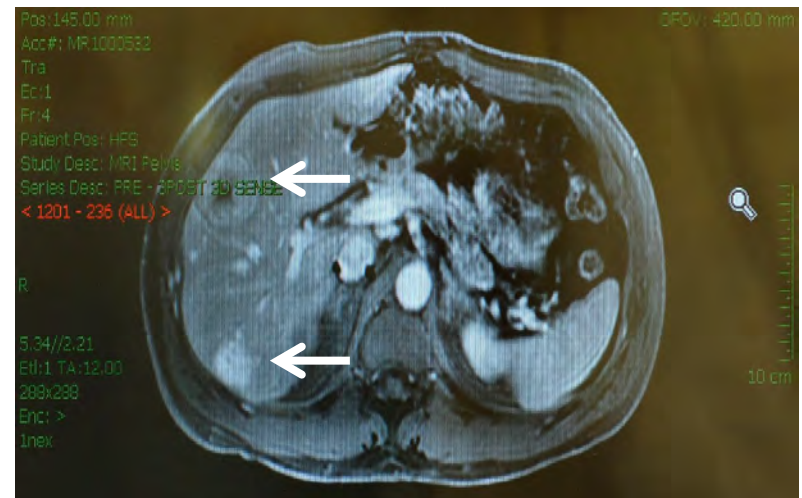
- Genetics
- Imaging
- Personalized surgical management based on genetics and advanced imaging results





# PCC/PGL

- Incidence of PCC/PGL is 2-8 cases per million
- Rare but can result in significant morbidity and mortality
  - Functional
  - Mass effect
  - Malignant (metastatic/locally invasive)



46 year-old man with metastatic paraganglioma resected 2009. Alive and disease-free today.

# PCC/PGL

- ~~RULE of 10~~
- Growing list of susceptibility genes
  - Age of onset
  - Tumor site
  - Multiplicity
  - Malignancy....



Paraganglioma in a patient with a horseshoe kidney



# PCC/PGL

- ~~RULE of 10~~
- Growing list of susceptibility genes

- Age of onset
- Tumor site
- Multiplicity
- Malignancy....

*Commercial PCC/PGL Panel*

*EGLN1  
FH  
KIF1B  
MAX  
MEN1  
NF1  
RET  
SDHA  
SDHAF2  
SDHB  
SDHC  
SDHD  
TMEM127  
VHL*



Paraganglioma in a patient with a horseshoe kidney

# What we have learnt

Timeline of seminal events in the surgical treatment of PCC/PGL

Almost a century ago.....

1926/27



The first  
adrenalectomy  
performed by  
Roux and Mayo

# What we have learnt

Timeline of seminal events in the surgical treatment of PCC/PGL

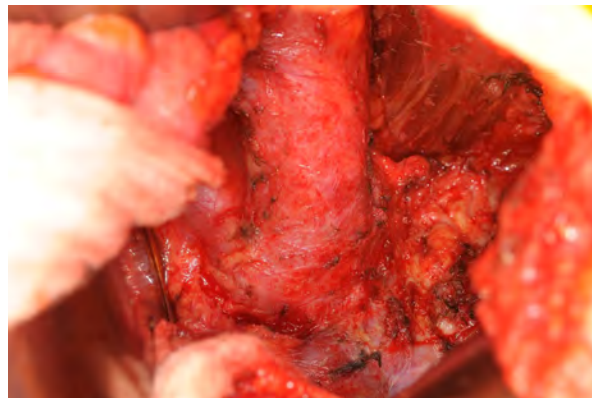
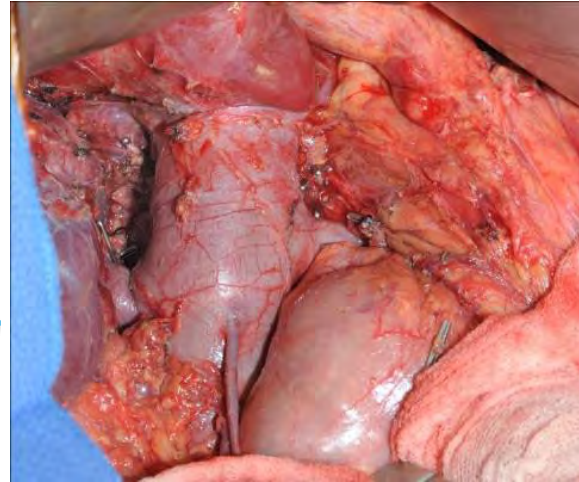
1926/27

The first  
adrenalectomy  
performed by  
Roux and Mayo

1970-80's

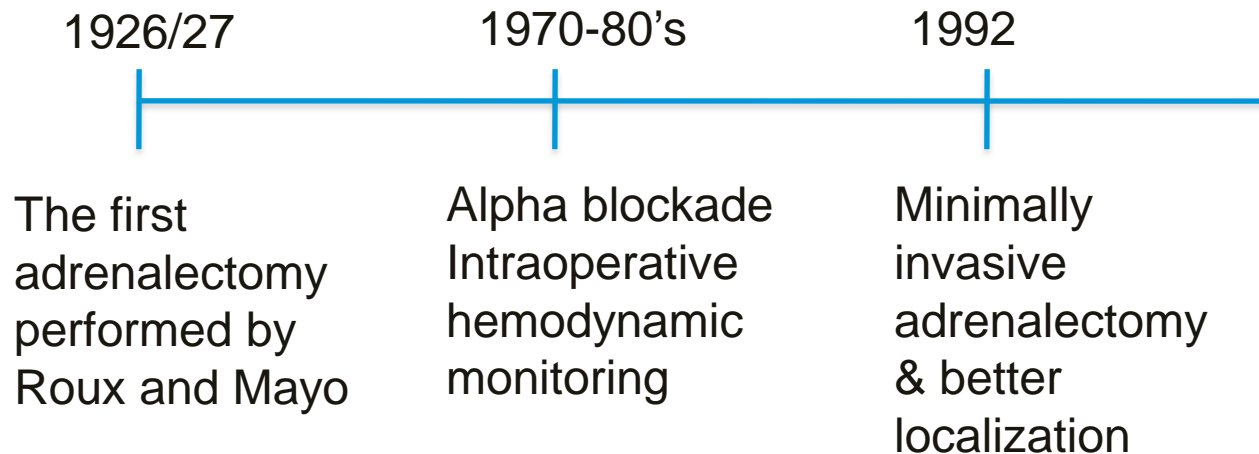
Alpha blockade  
Intraoperative  
hemodynamic  
monitoring

Reduced morbidity and  
mortality of surgical  
intervention.....



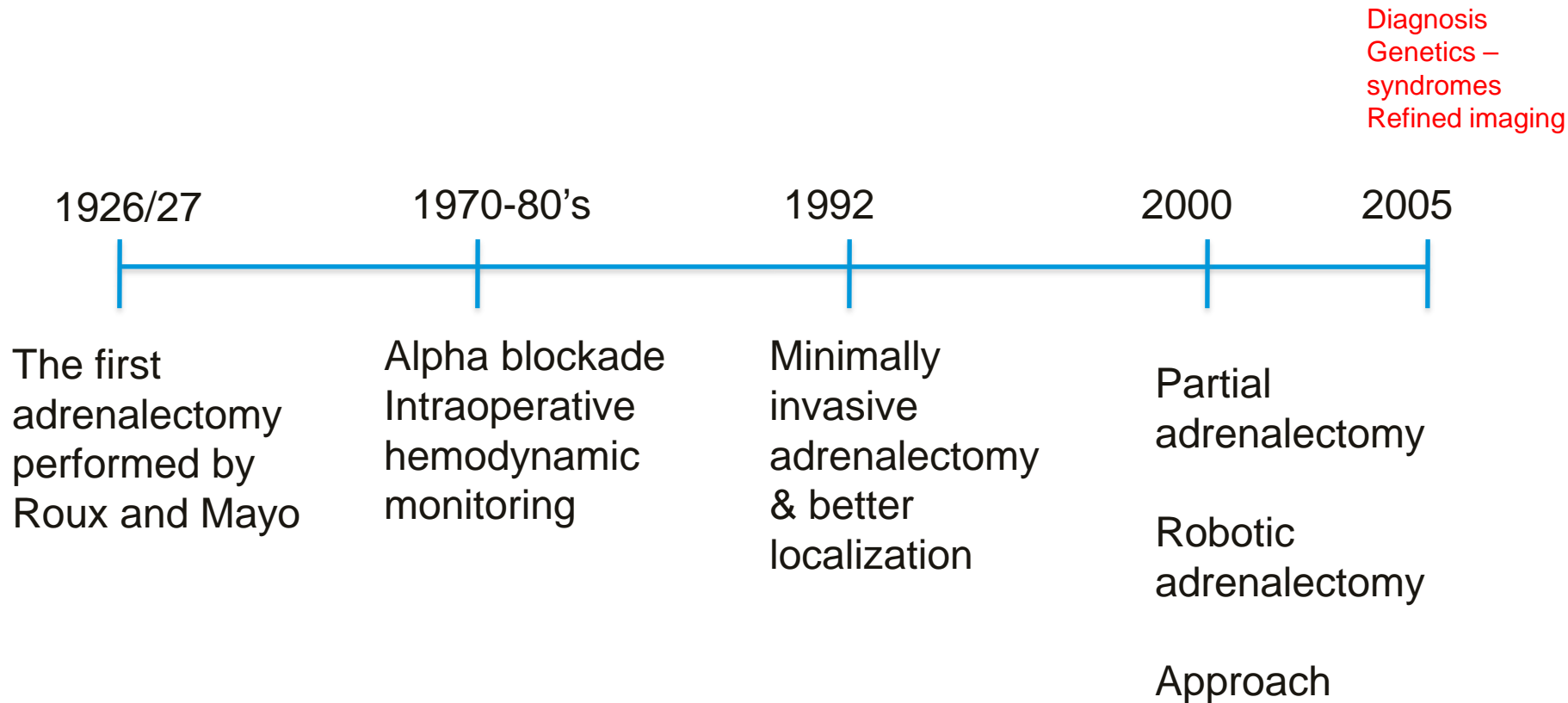
# What we have learnt

Timeline of seminal events in the surgical treatment of PCC/PGL



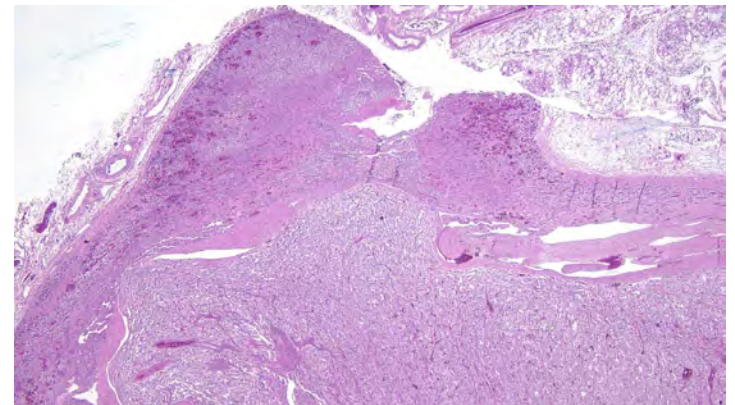
# What we have learnt

Timeline of seminal events in the surgical treatment of PCC/PGL



# Diagnosis of PCC/PGL

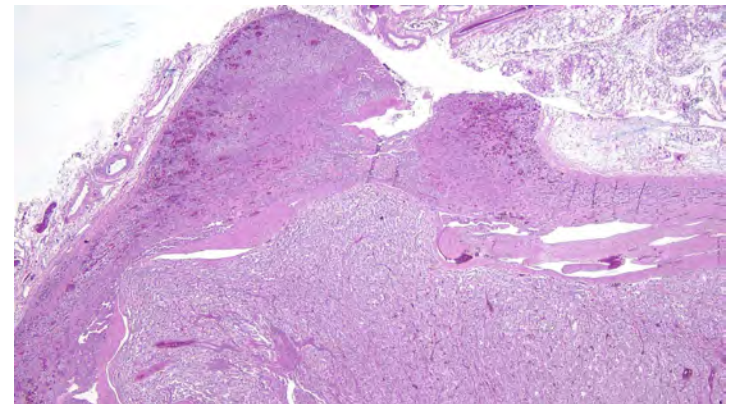
- Biochemical testing is essential for detecting functional tumors
  - Plasma/urine fractionated
    - Normetanephrine(NMN)/metanephrine(MN) levels > 3 upper limit of normal unless prior probability high.
  - Supine
  - Age-adjusted





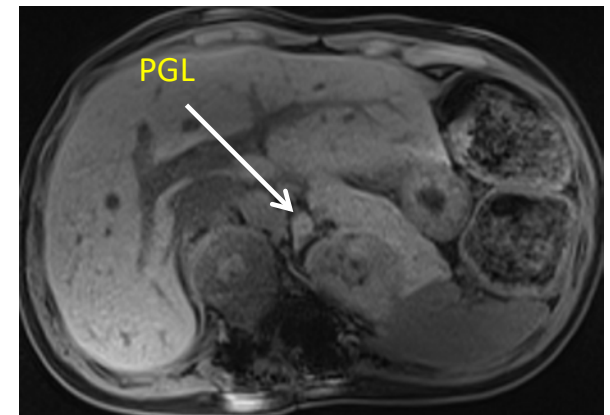
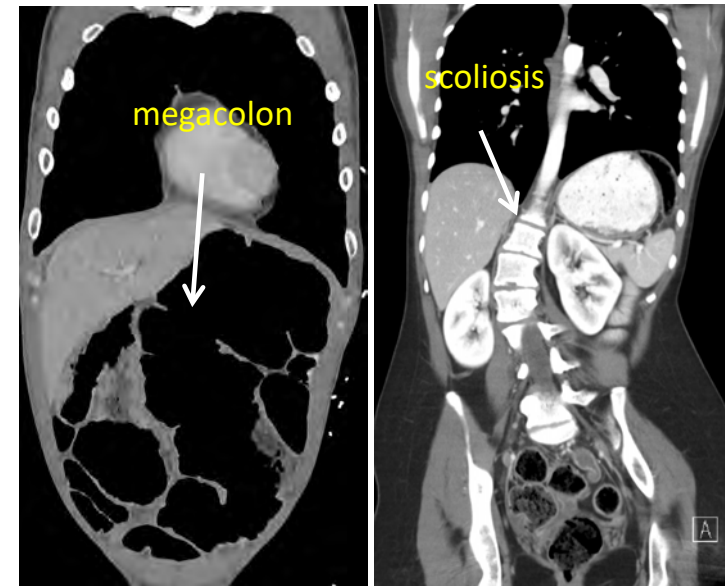
# Diagnosis of PCC/PGL

- Biochemical testing is essential for detecting functional tumors
  - Plasma/urine fractionated
    - Normetanephrine(NMN)/metanephrine(MN) levels > 3 upper limit of normal unless prior probability high.
  - Supine
  - Age-adjusted
- Any value above normal should be carefully evaluated.
  - Truly silent – head/neck PGL
  - Pseudo-silent – small tumor burden or episodic



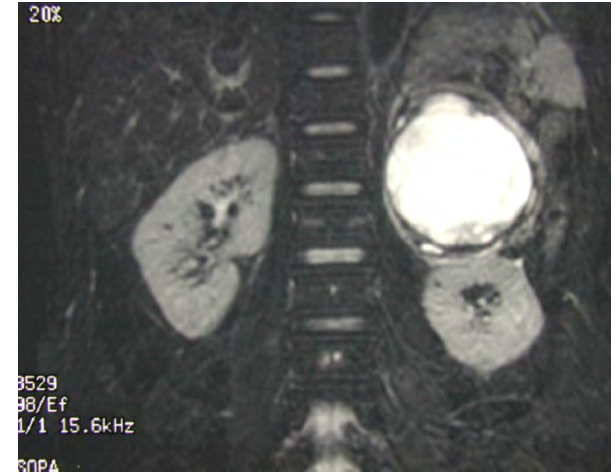
# Diagnosis of PCC/PGL - Location

- Noradrenergic phenotype
  - Increased levels in NE/NMN – outside of adrenals



# Diagnosis of PCC/PGL - Location

- Noradrenergic phenotype
  - Increased levels in NE/NMN – outside of adrenals
- Adrenergic phenotype
  - Elevated E/MN or both E/MN and NE/NMN – often in adrenals
  - False positive by tricyclic antidepressants, anesthetics, tyramine-rich food



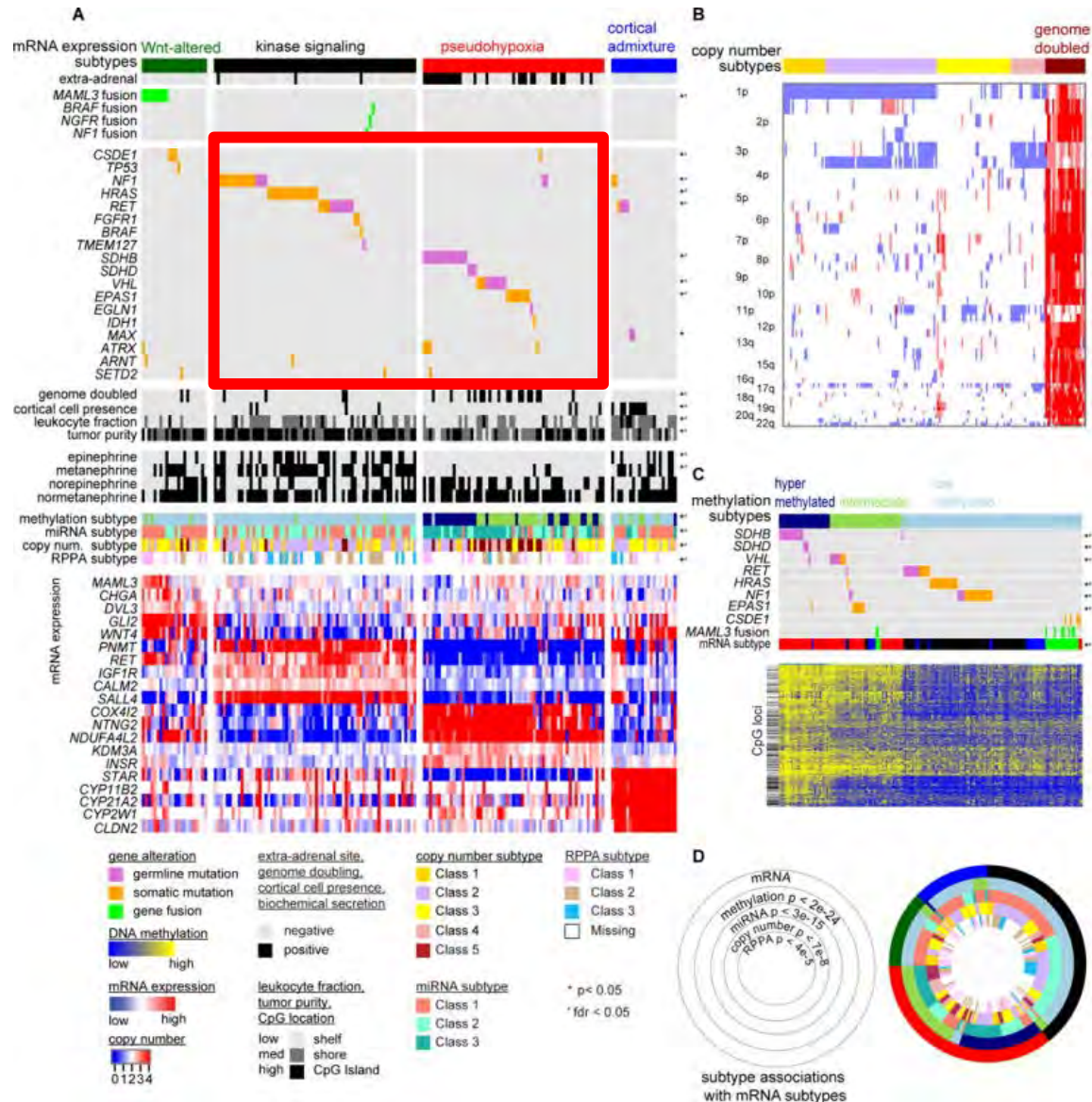
# Diagnosis of PCC/PGL - Location

- Noradrenergic phenotype
  - Increased levels in NE/NMN – outside of adrenals
- Adrenergic phenotype
  - Elevated E/MN or both E/MN and NE/NMN – often in adrenals
  - False positive by tricyclic antidepressants, anesthetics, tyramine-rich food
- Dopaminergic phenotype
  - High levels of dopamine/3-methoxytyramine and normal or near normal levels in E/MN and NE/NMN
  - Tumors often extra-adrenal and head/neck
  - Asymptomatic or abdominal pain/diarrhea/N/V, hypotension and weight loss



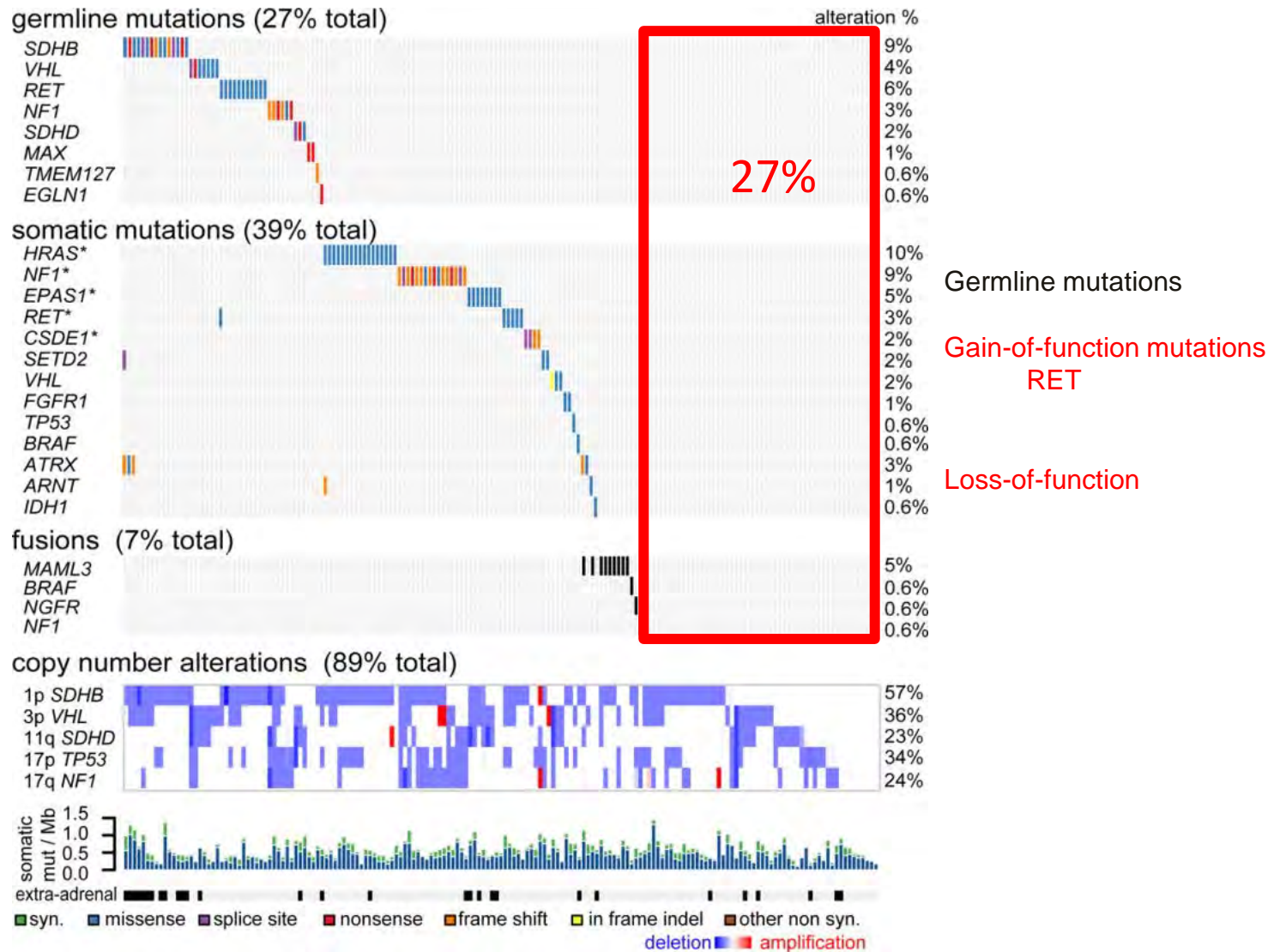


# Tumor classifications



Fishbein L, et al. Cancer Cell 2017

# Tumor classifications



Fishbein L, et al. Cancer Cell 2017



# Susceptibility mutations

- PCC/PGL may be sporadic or inherited
  - Half due to *SDHx*
  - 15% of positive are in *SDHx*
- Up to 40% of adult patients may have a susceptibility germline mutation
  - Up to 80% of pediatric patients
- Patients may present without family history of the disease
  - 24%

Disease (phenotype MIM numbers)	Genes	Mutation rate (%)*
Neurofibromatosis type 1 (162200)	<i>NF1</i>	3
Multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2 (171400; 162300)	<i>RET</i>	6
von Hippel–Lindau disease (193300)	<i>VHL</i>	7
Hereditary paragangliomas (168000; 605373; 115310; 601650; 614165)	SDHx genes:	
	<i>SDHB</i>	10
	<i>SDHD</i>	9
	<i>SDHC</i>	1
	<i>SDHA</i>	<1
	<i>SDHAF2</i>	<0.1
Familial pheochromocytomas (173300; 613403; 154950)	<i>TMEM127</i>	1
	<i>MAX</i>	1
Polycythemia paraganglioma syndrome (603349)	<i>EPAS1</i>	1
Leiomyomatosis and renal cell cancer (150800)	<i>FH</i>	1

Babic B, et al. Surgery 2016  
 Fliedner SM et al, Semin Oncol. 2011  
 Neumann HP et al, N Engl J Med. 2002

# Case 1

46 year old man with a left  
PCC

Blocked for 2 weeks with  
phenoxybenzamine.

Any further work up?

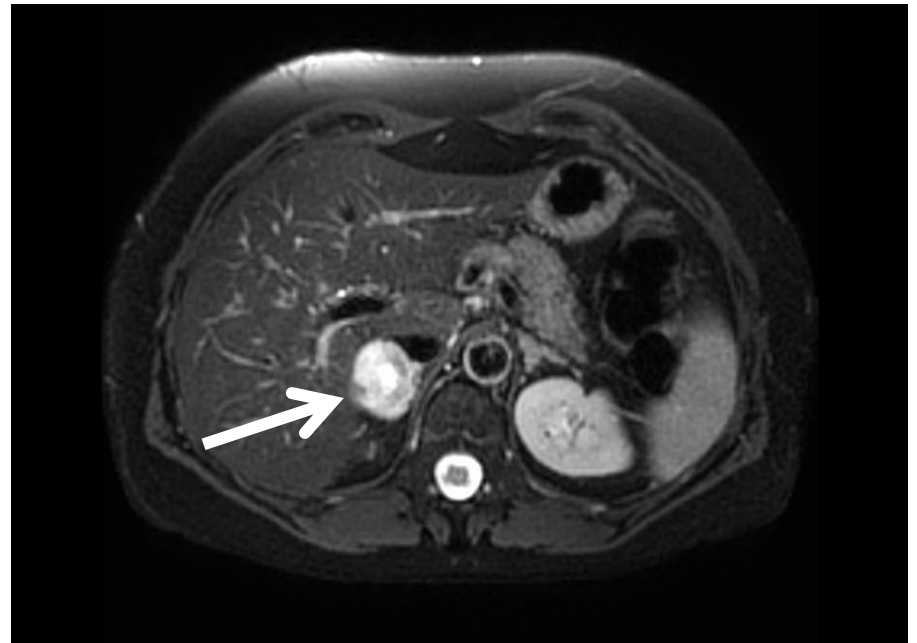


# Case 2

32 year old woman with a  
right PCC

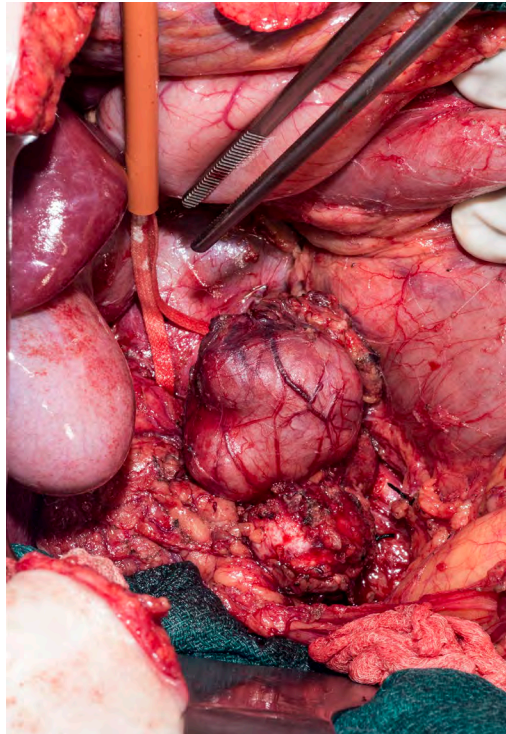
Started blockade 3 days  
ago.

Any further work up?

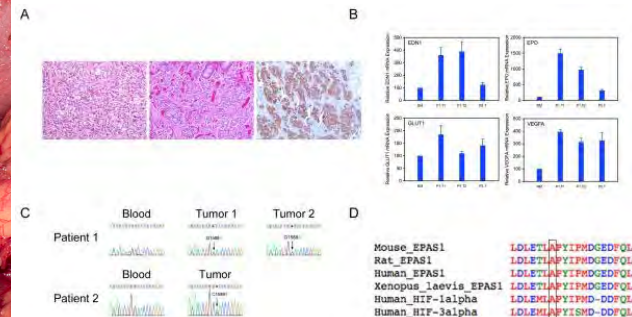


# Cardinal Features of Inherited Syndromes are not always present!

- Early age of onset
- Multiplicity
- Bilateral
- Other neoplasms...
- Malignant potential



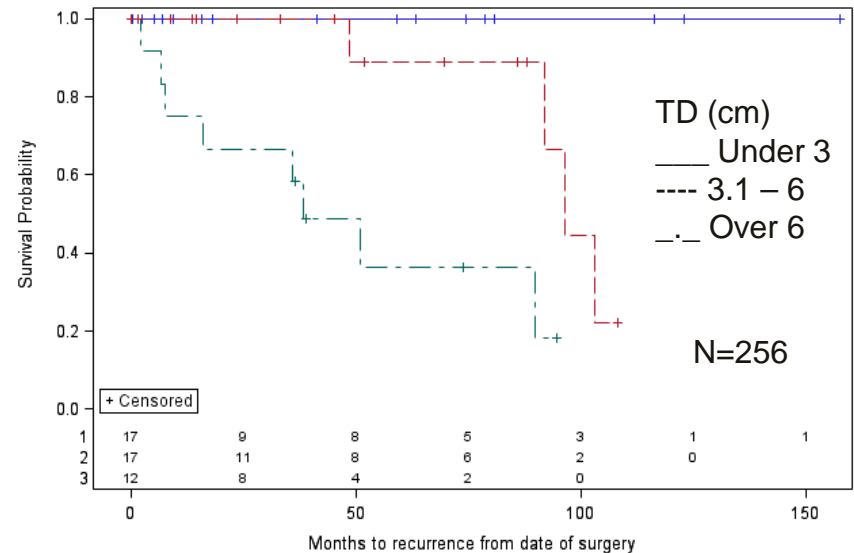
33 year-old woman  
@14 had left periaortic paraganglioma,  
@15 an aortocaval additional  
paraganglioma detected.  
One year later she presented with a  
recurrent paraganglioma and 3 years later  
with at least 5 abdominal  
paragangliomas.



Zhuang Z, et al. N Engl J Med. 2012

# Is preoperative genetic testing imperative for optimal management of PCC/PGL?

- Surgical resection is the only curative treatment available
  - Indication
    - All functioning
    - All Symptomatic
    - Malignant or potentially malignant nonfunctioning tumor(s)

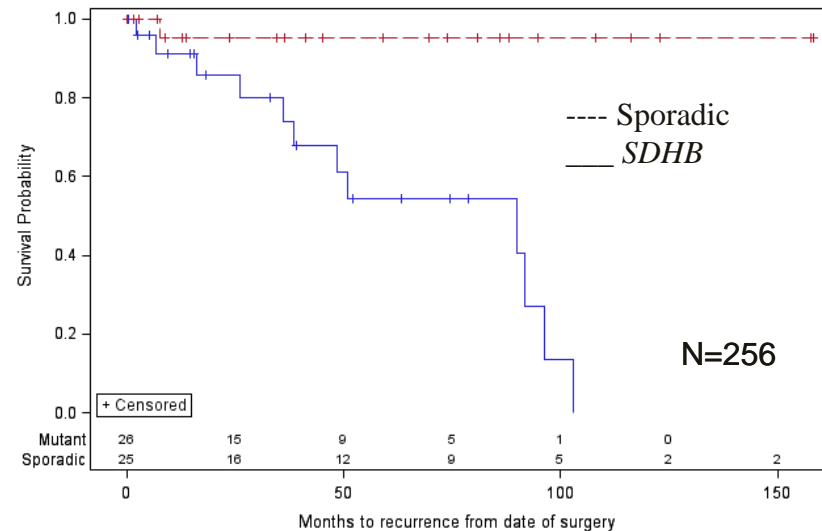


Tumor diameter (TD) (cm).  
Median DFI: not reached vs. 95.4 months, vs. 38.4 months  
( $p < 0.001$ ).

Assadipour et al. Surgery 2016

# Is preoperative genetic testing imperative for optimal management of PCC/PGL?

- Surgical resection is the only curative treatment available
  - Indication
    - All functioning
    - All Symptomatic
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*SDHB* mutation vs. no mutation Median DFI:  
89.8 months vs. median not reached ( $p < 0.001$ ).

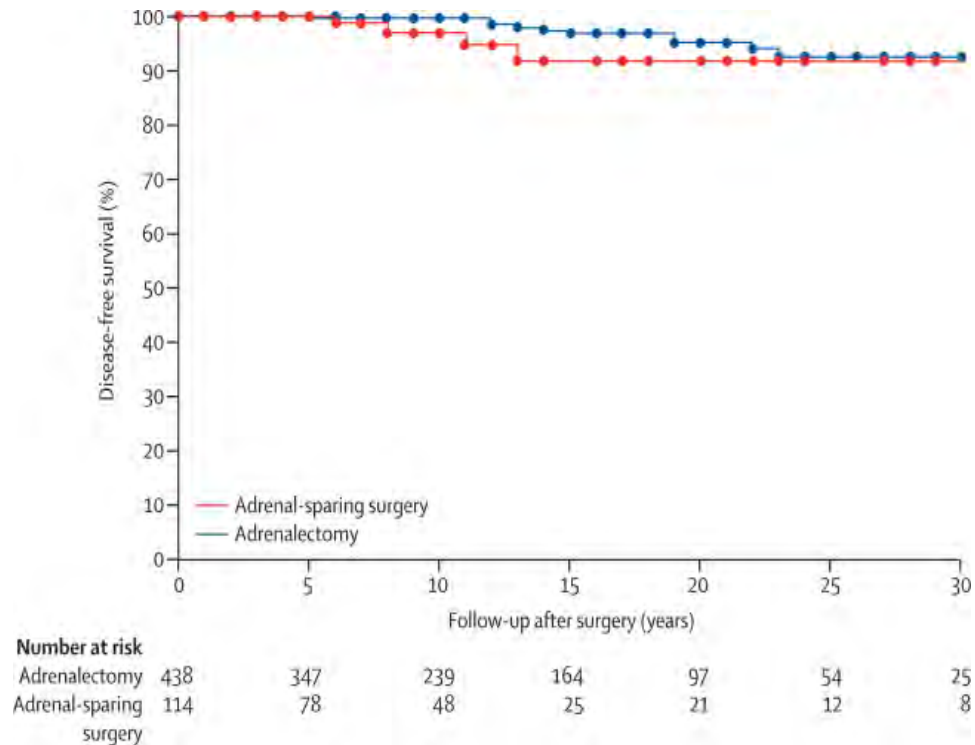
Assadipour et al. Surgery 2016



# Is preoperative genetic testing imperative for optimal management of PCC/PGL?

N = 552 with MEN2/*RET*

- 438 (79%) total adrenalectomy
- 114 (21%) adrenal-sparing surgery
- Recurrence occurred in 3% of the operated glands after adrenal-sparing surgery after 6-13 years



Castinetti et al. Lancet Oncol, 2014

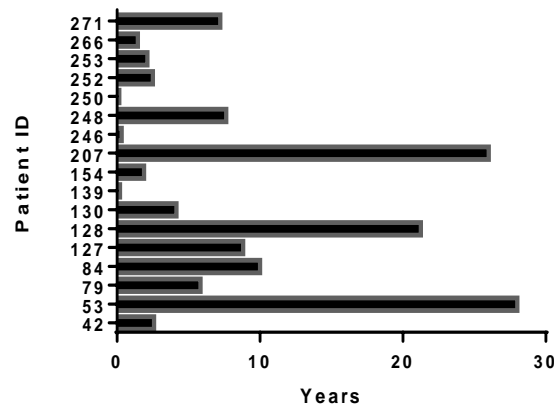
# Is preoperative genetic testing imperative for optimal management of PCC/PGL?

VHL-associated PCC (N = 273)

- Follow up: 203.8 months [0.7-912]
- 84 developed PCC
- 62 (74.7%) unilateral PCC & 22 (26.3%) bilateral
- 17 (20.5%) patients developed a contralateral second primary tumor requiring surgical intervention.



Time Interval between First and Second Primary Pheochromocytomas



Aufforth et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab 2015

# Is preoperative genetic testing imperative for optimal management of PCC/PGL?

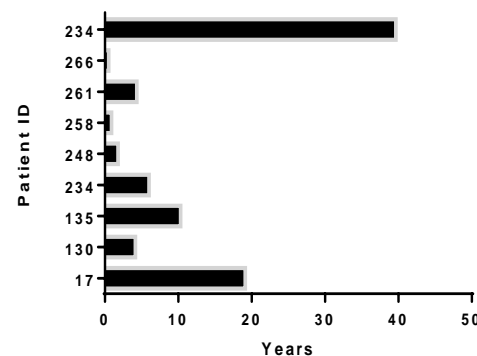
- Operative approach

- Is partial adrenalectomy reasonable?
- Yes in *VHL*, *RET* & *NF1* if
  - tumor is small < 2-3cm,
  - no history of metastatic disease in the family

•9 (14%) developed recurrence in remnant gland

a.

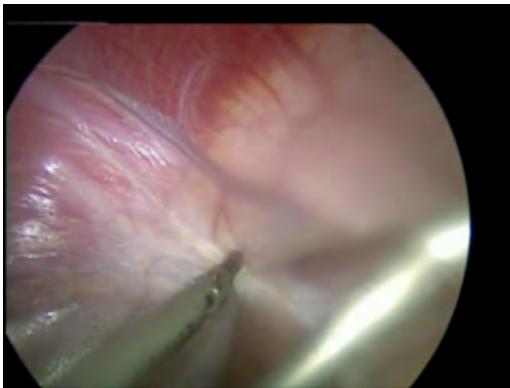
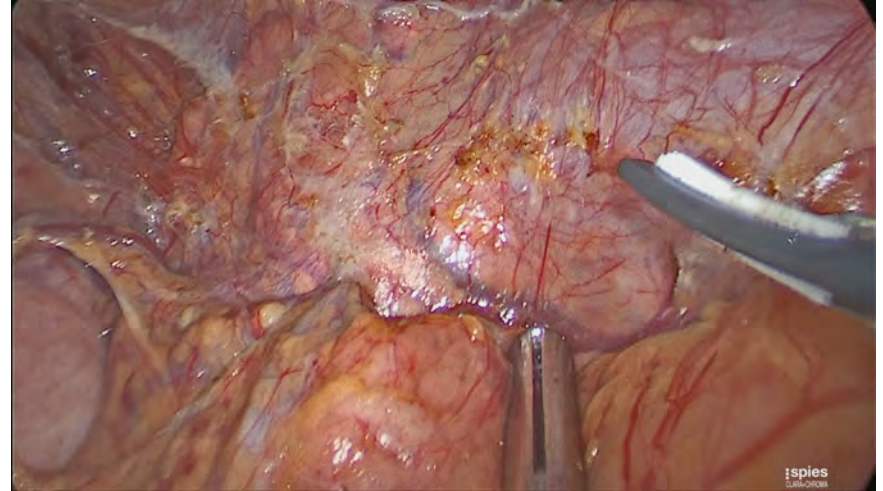
Time Interval between Primary Tumor and Recurrence



Aufforth et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab 2015

# Genotype-Phenotype Association

- ***SDHB, FH, MAX***
  - Higher rate of metastatic disease
- ***NF1, RET, VHL***
  - Low risk of metastatic disease
  - Synchronous/metachronous bilateral pheochromocytoma



Fliedner SM et al, Semin Oncol. 2011  
Neumann HP et al, N Engl J Med. 2002  
Maignan A et al, Langenbecks Arch Surg. 2017  
Lenders et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab 2014.

# Case 1

46 year old man with a left  
PCC

Blocked for 2 weeks with  
phenoxybenzamine.

Any further work up?



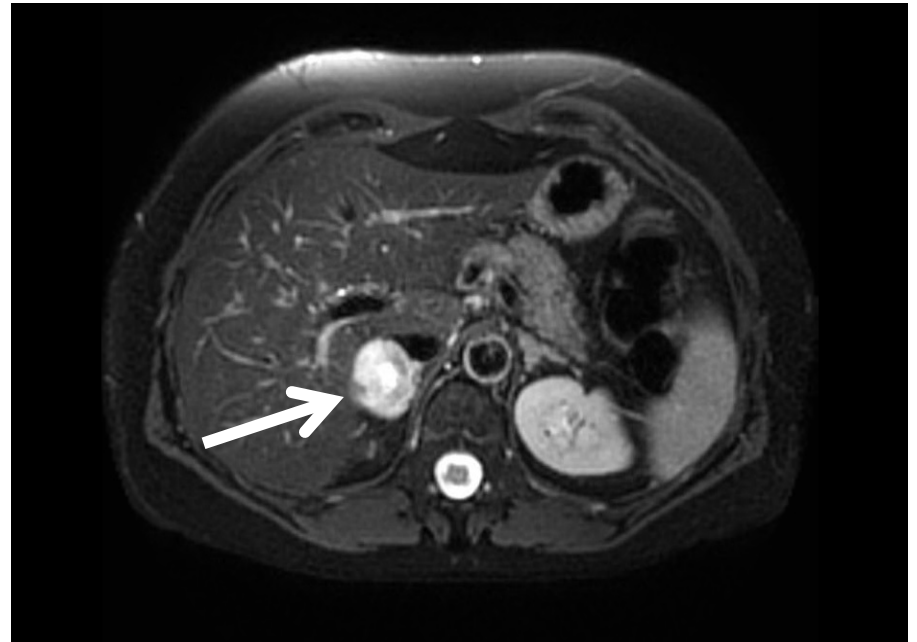
*SDHB* positive  
Open adrenalectomy and  
retroperitoneal lymph node dissection

# Case 2

32 year old woman with a right PCC

Started blockade 3 days ago.

Any further work up?



Genetic testing & family history positive for *VHL*

Partial laparoscopic adrenalectomy



# How many imaging studies & which ones?

## Imaging Modalities

### Anatomic

CT

MRI

### Functional

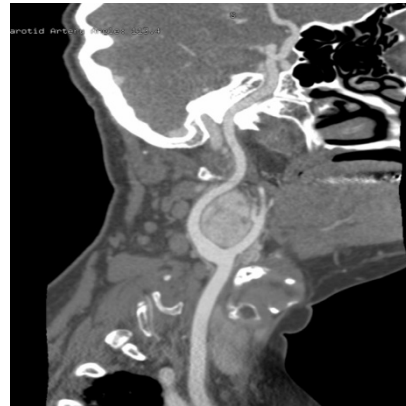
MIBG

18F-FDG PET

18F-FDOPA PET

18F-FDA PET

68Ga DOTATATE PET





# How many imaging studies & which ones?

## Imaging Modalities

Anatomic

CT

MRI

Functional

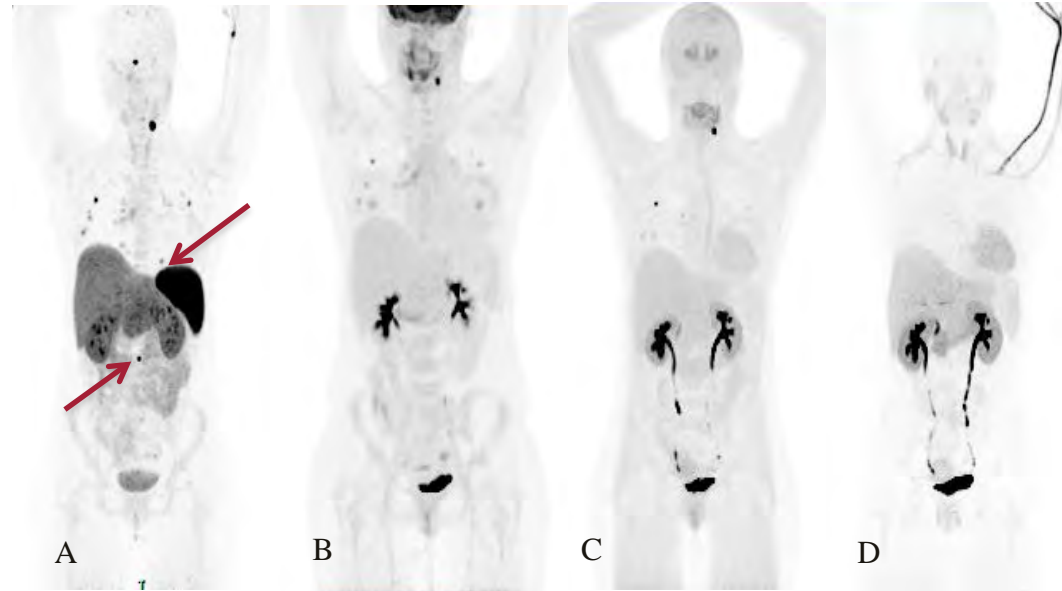
MIBG

$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET

$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDOPA PET

$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDA PET

$^{68}\text{Ga}$  DOTATATE PET



A  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTATATE PET

B  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET

C  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDOPA PET

D  $^{18}\text{F}$ -FDA PET (D)

# How many imaging studies & which ones?

## Imaging Modalities

Anatomic

CT

MRI

Functional

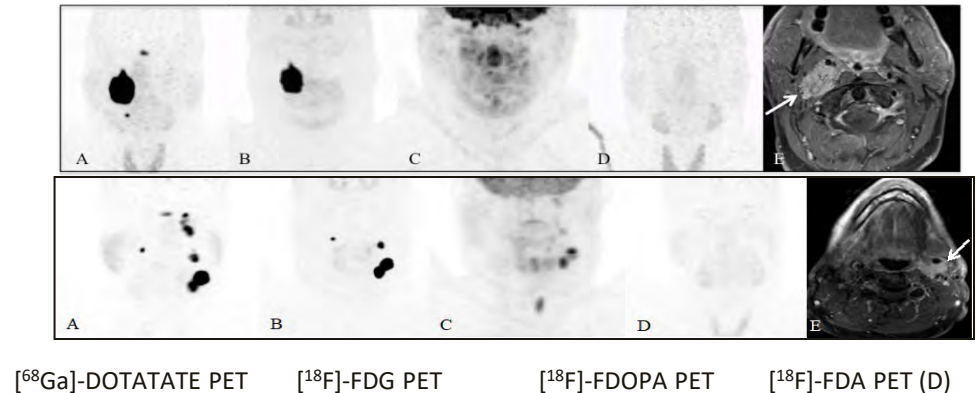
MIBG

$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET

$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDOPA PET

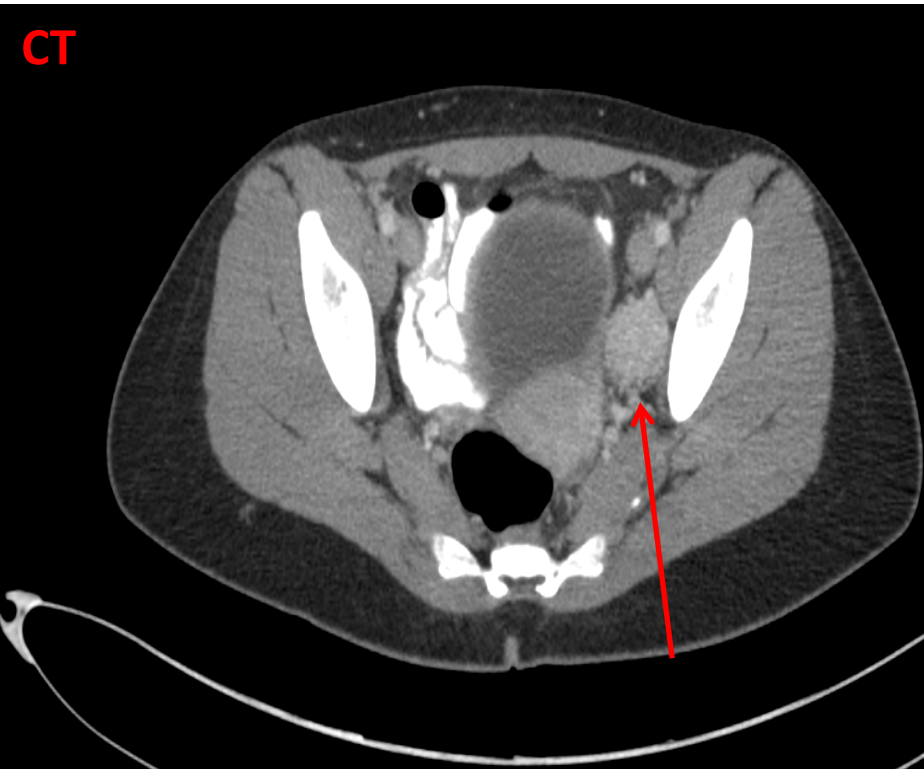
$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDA PET

$^{68}\text{Ga}$  DOTATATE PET



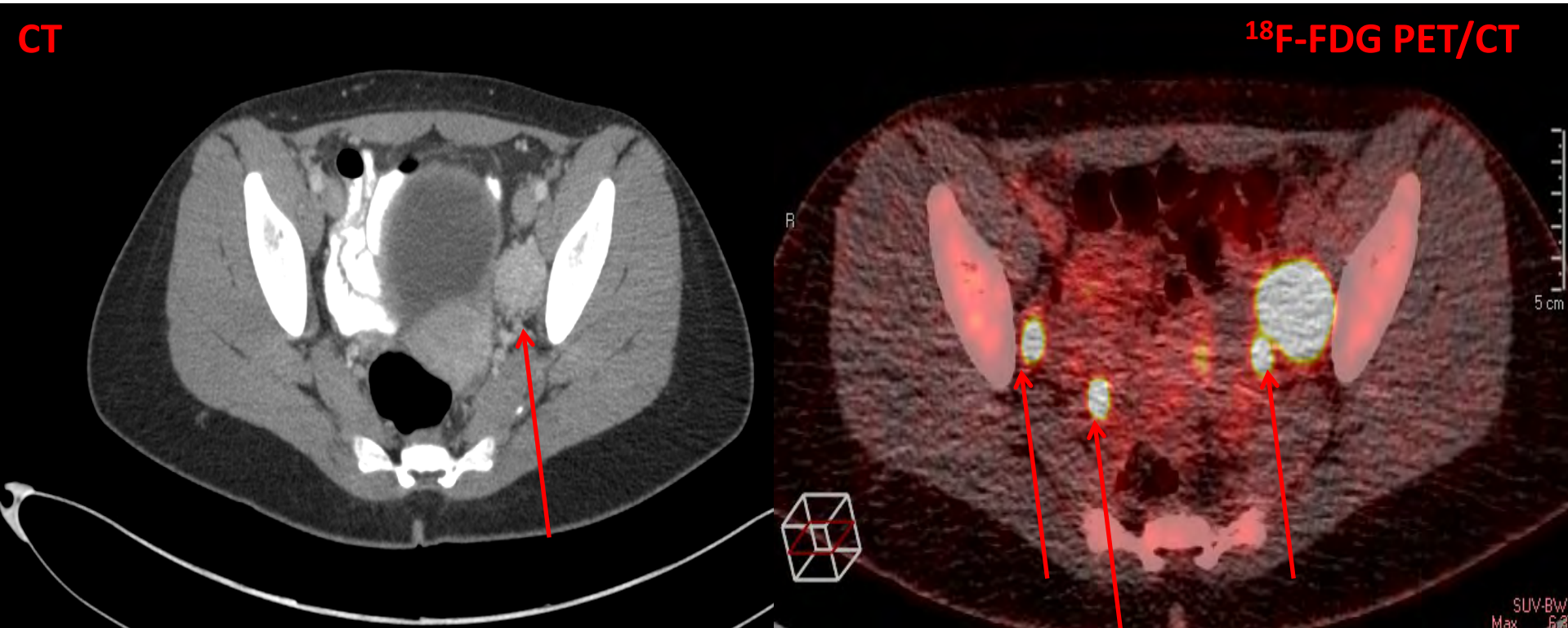
## Case and Point

16 year old female with a “left” pelvic paraganglioma – functional



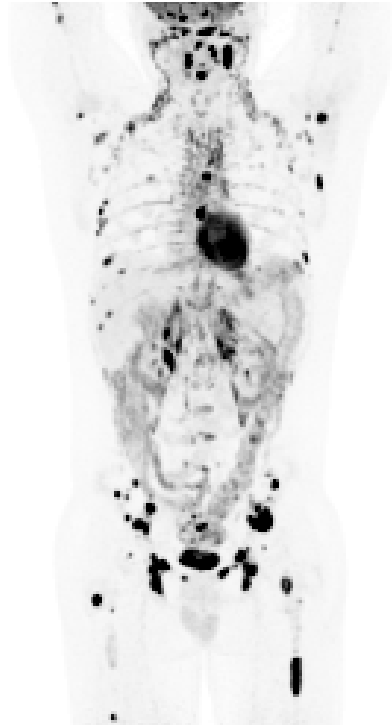
## Case and Point

16 year old female with a “left” pelvic paraganglioma – functional

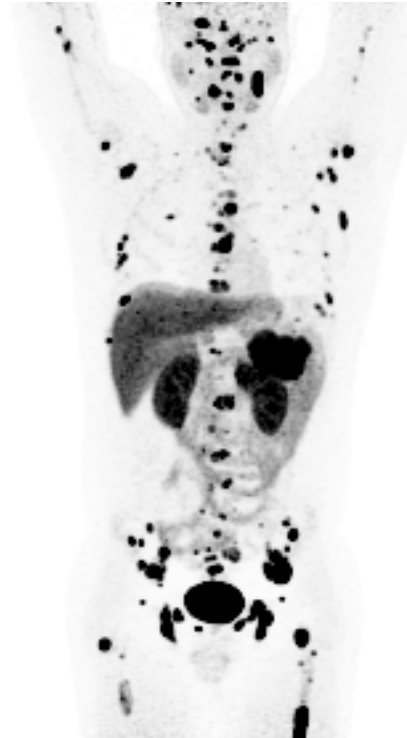




# Case and Point



FDG



DOTATATE



FDA



FDOPA

46 year old man with history of left PGL and *SDHB+* referred for adrenal bed recurrence

# How many imaging studies & which ones?

## Imaging Modalities

Anatomic

CT

MRI

Functional

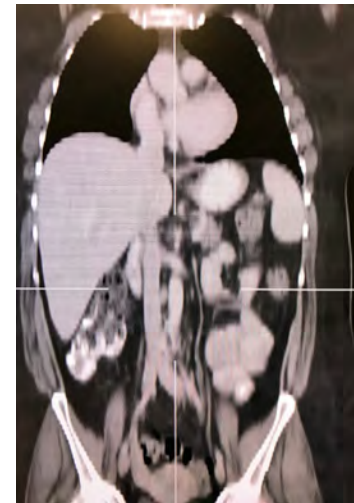
MIBG

**$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG PET**

$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDOPA PET

$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDA PET

**$^{68}\text{Ga}$  DOTATATE PET**



# Preoperative genetic testing and functional imaging experience with surgical resection of abdominal PCC/PGL

7/1/2009 – 12/30/2016

N = 137 PCC/PGL

## Surgical Approach

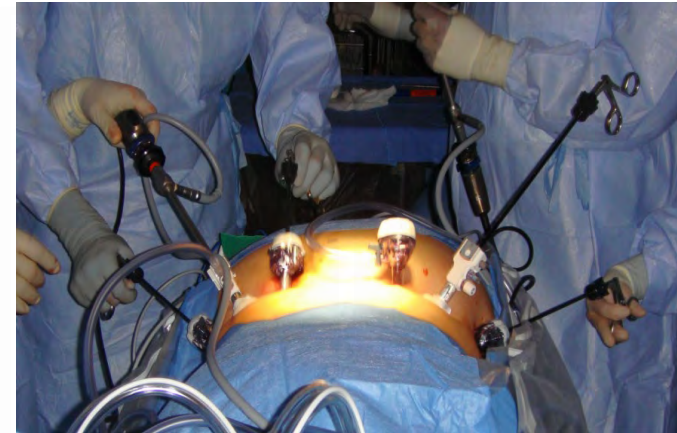
Open: 45 – metastatic/SDHB

Laparoscopic:

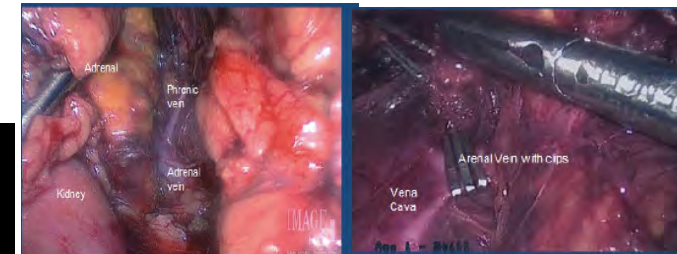
Lateral: 56 (14 partial in MEN2/VHL/NF1)

Retroperitoneal: 24 (4 partial in MEN2/VHL/NF1)

Robotic: 12



Port placement for the bilateral synchronous laparoscopic posterior retroperitoneal



Left adrenal tumor retracted to expose adrenal vein

Surgical clips on the right adrenal vein.



# Preoperative genetic testing and functional imaging experience with surgical resection of abdominal PCC/PGL

7/1/2009 – 12/30/2016

N = 137 PCC/PGL

## Surgical Approach

Open: 45 – metastatic/SDHB

Laparoscopic:

Lateral: 56 (14 partial in MEN2/VHL/NF1)

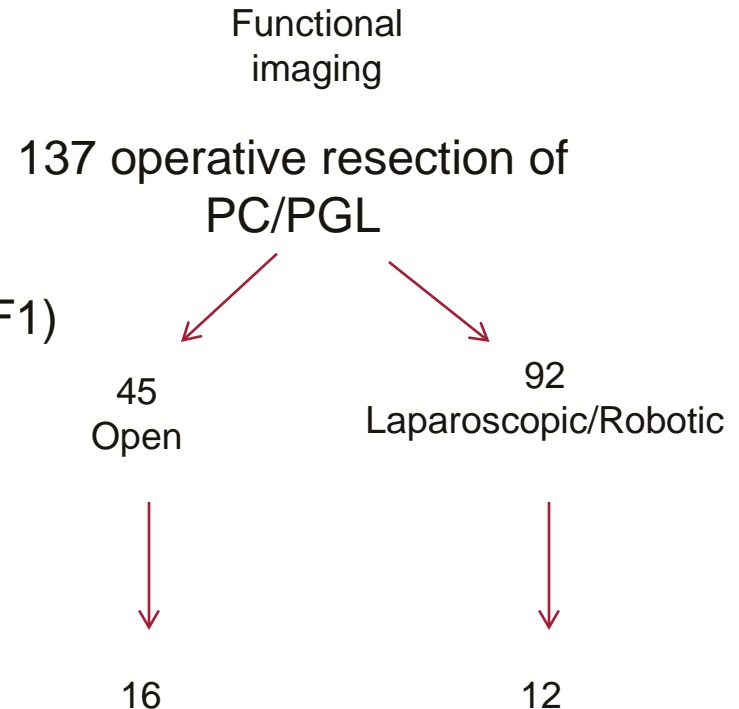
Retroperitoneal: 24 (4 partial in MEN2/VHL/NF1)

Robotic: 12



Pavel Nockel

*Does preoperative functional imaging and genetic testing impact our surgical intervention?*



**22% additional sites of disease that needed to be addressed**

Nockel P, et al. Ann Surg 2018  
Nockel P, et al. Surgery 2018

# Preoperative genetic testing and functional imaging experience with surgical resection of abdominal PCC/PGL

7/1/2009 – 12/30/2016

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## Surgical Approach

Open: 45 – metastatic/SDHB

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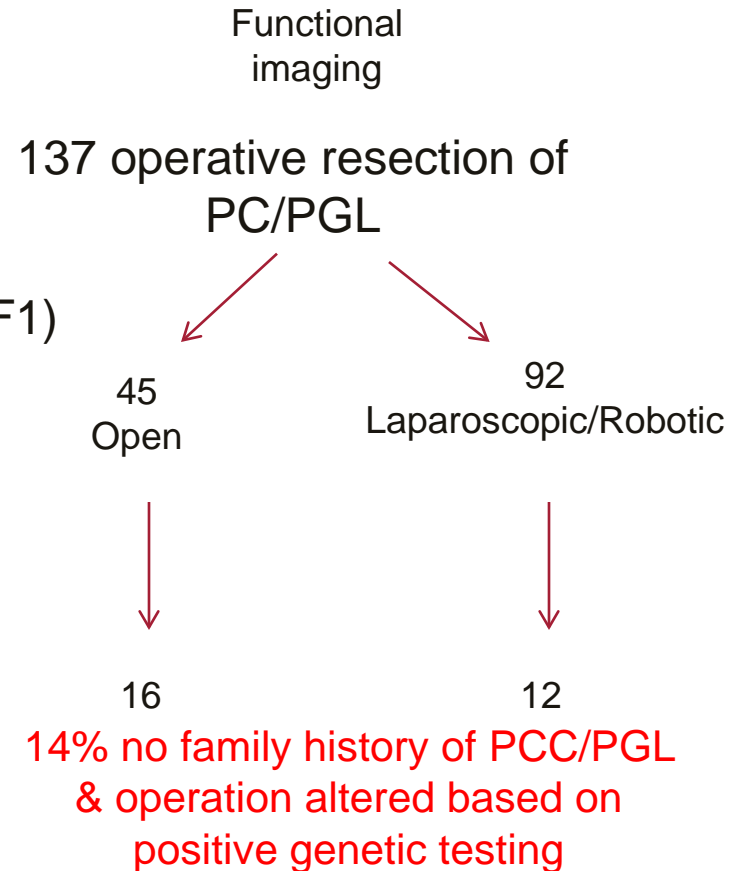
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Pavel Nockel

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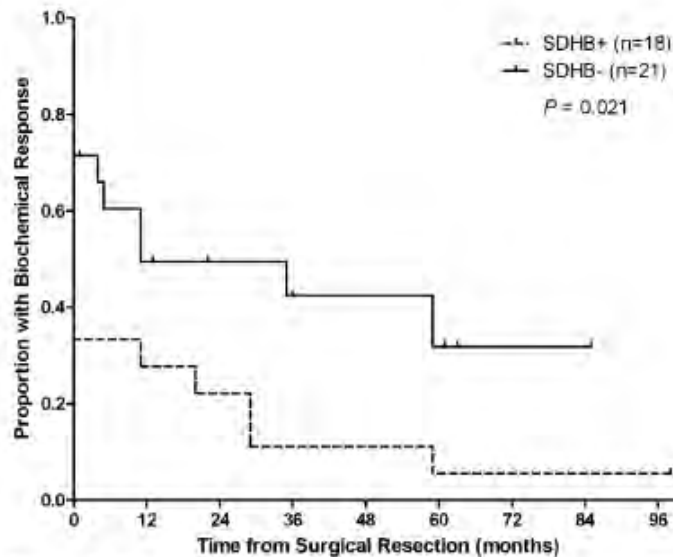


Nockel P, et al. Ann Surg 2018  
Nockel P, et al. Surgery 2018

# What is the role of surgery for metastatic/recurrent PCC/PGL?

## Response after Surgical Resection of Metastatic Pheochromocytoma and Paraganglioma: Can Postoperative Biochemical Remission Be Predicted?

Ryan J Ellis, BS, Dhaval Patel, MD, Tamara Prodanov, MD, Samira Sadowski, MD, Naris Nilubol, MD, FACS, Karen Adams, RN, Seth M Steinberg, MD, Karel Pacak, MD, PhD, DSc, Electron Kebebew, MD, FACS



**Figure 2.** Biochemical response in patients stratified by SDHB mutation status.

Ellis RJ, Patel D, et al. J Amer Coll Surg 2013



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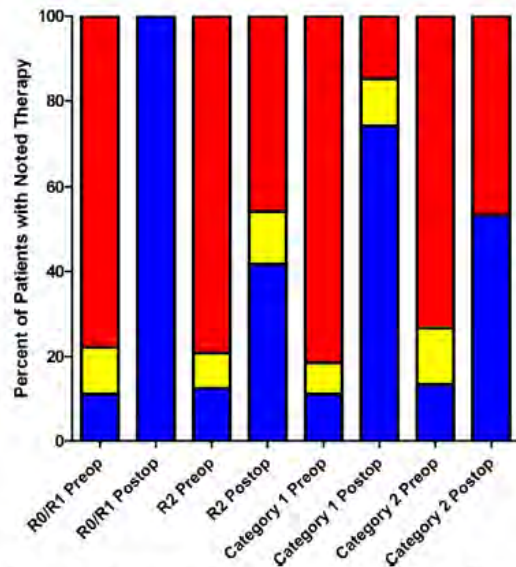


Figure 5. Pharmacotherapy breakdown by subgroups. Postop, postoperative; Preop, preoperative. Blue = No drug therapy; yellow = monotherapy; red = multi-drug therapy.

Ellis RJ, Patel D, et al. J Amer Coll Surg 2013

# How can we better predict who is going to benefit from surgical treatment when metastases is present?

*Optimizing benefit/success while minimizing risk!*

## Total 18F-FDG PET/CT Metabolic Tumor Volume Is Associated With Postoperative Biochemical Response in Patients With Metastatic Pheochromocytomas and Paragangliomas

*Dhaval Patel, MD,\* Amit Mehta, BS,\*† Naris Nilubol, MD,\* William Dieckmann, PhD,‡  
Karel Pacak, MD, ScD,§ and Electron Kebebew, MD\**

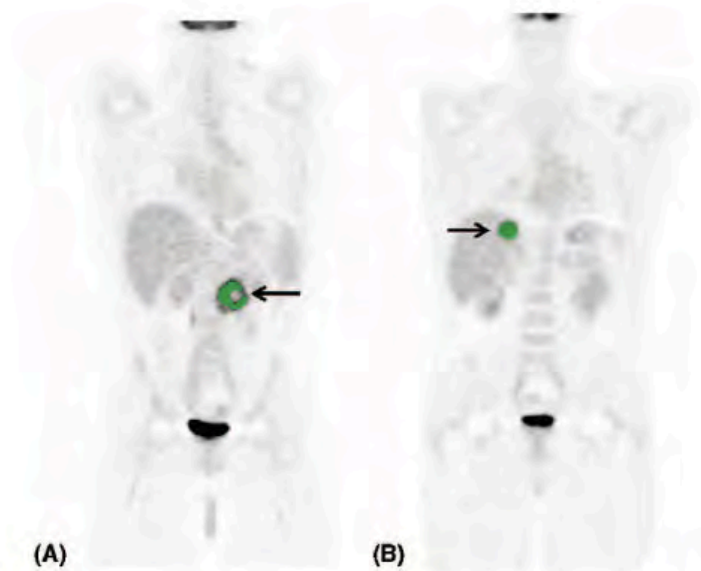


FIGURE 1. 18F-FDG PET/CT scan MTV measurements. A, A patient with a history of primary adrenal PCC with locoregional recurrence. B, A patient with liver metastasis.

- Measured from FDG PET scans
  - Tumor volume per lesion
  - Total SUV uptake per lesion
  - Total lesion glycolysis (TLG) calculated (mean SUV \* volume) per lesion



Tumor volumes, Total SUV, and TLG summed for each patient.

Patel D, et al. Ann Surg. 2014

# How can we better predict who is going to benefit from surgical treatment when metastases is present?

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**TABLE 3. Treatment and Tumor Burden Characteristics**

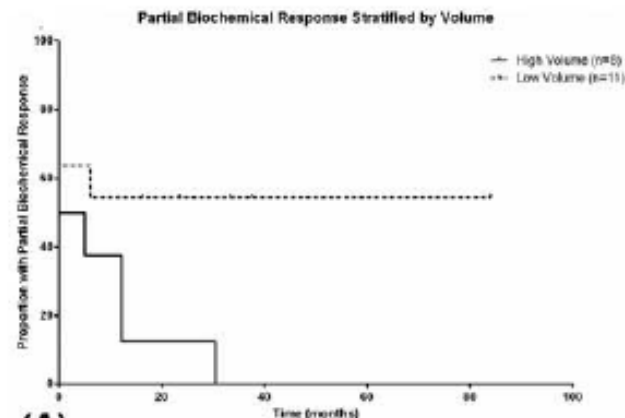
Characteristic	Data
Age at procedure, median (range), yrs	34 (13–68)
Intervention category, n	
Surgery, reoperation	13
Surgery, first operation	2
RFA	4
Disease location per patient, n (%)	
Abdominal metastases	
Liver	3 (17.6%)
Retropertitoneal	14 (82.4%)
Thoracic metastases	2 (11.8%)
Bony metastases	6 (35.3%)
No. tumors per disease location, n (range)	
Abdomen	32 (1–6)
Bone	128 (0–76)
Thoracic	4 (0–3)
Preoperative pharmacotherapy, n (%) <sup>*</sup>	
None <sup>†</sup>	2 (10.5%)
1 drug	3 (15.8%)
2 drugs	9 (47.4%)
>3 drugs	5 (26.3%)
Postoperative biochemical response, n (%)	
Partial biochemical response <sup>‡</sup>	11 (57.9%)
Complete biochemical remission <sup>§</sup>	6 (31.6%)

<sup>\*</sup>Drugs included alpha-blockers, beta-blockers, calcium channel blockers, and metyrosine.

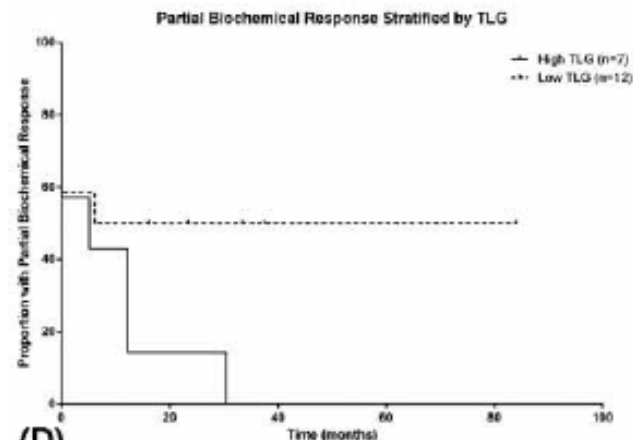
<sup>†</sup>Pharmacotherapy refused by a patient.

<sup>‡</sup>Partial biochemical response was defined as having at least 1, but not all, biochemical laboratory values returning to the normal range postoperatively.

<sup>§</sup>Complete biochemical remission was defined when all indicative laboratory values returned to the normal range postoperatively.



(A)



(D)

Patel D, et al. Ann Surg. 2014

# How can we better predict who is going to benefit from surgical treatment when metastases is present?

*Optimizing benefit/success while minimizing risk!*

**TABLE 3. Treatment and Tumor Burden Characteristics**

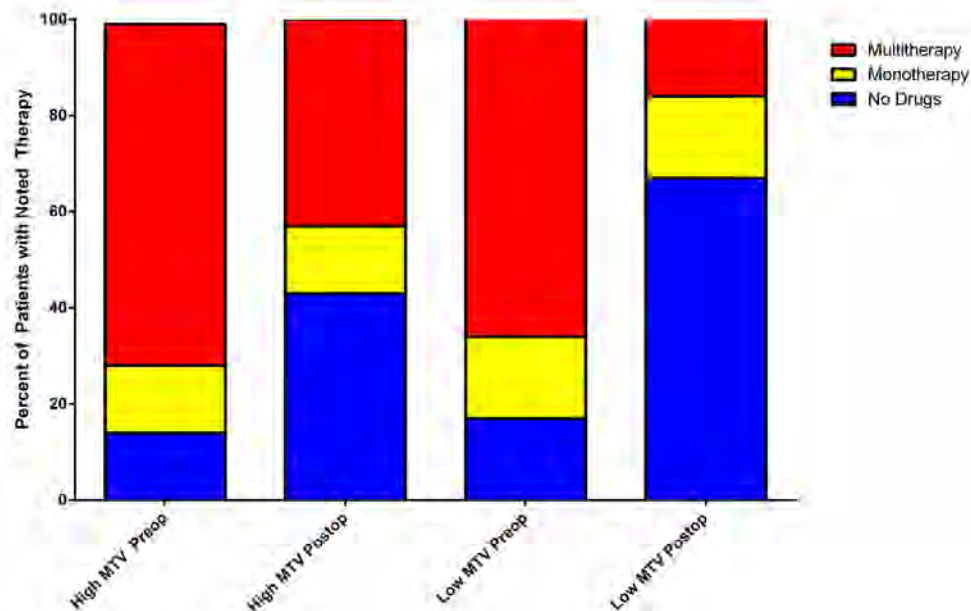
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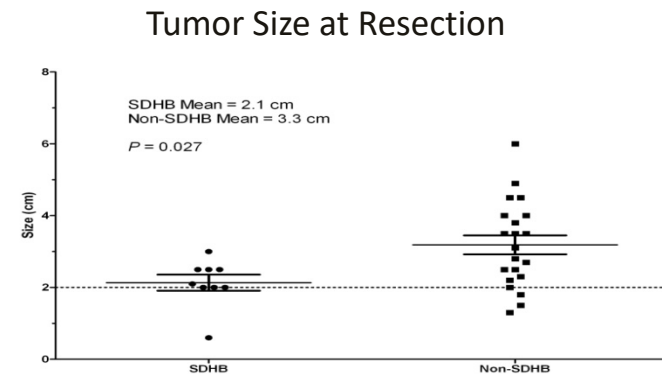
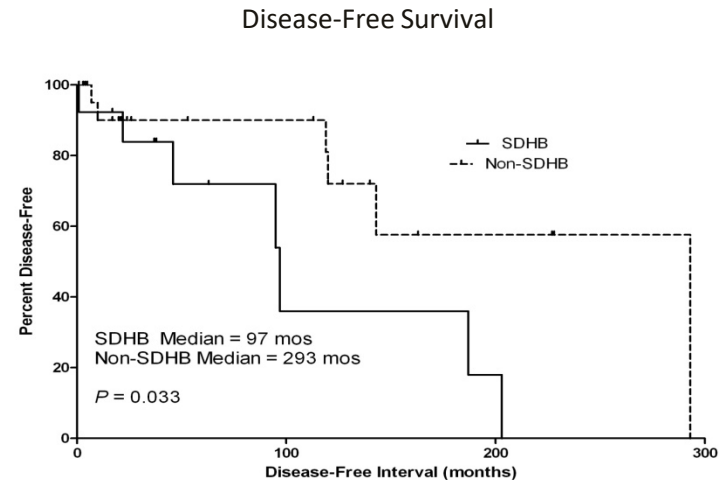


Total SUV Uptake by Biochemical Response

Patel D, et al. Ann Surg. 2014

# Surgical Resection of Carotid Body Paragangliomas: Should Genetic Background Modify Surgical Indications?

- 36 patients with 43 primary resections
- Median age: 33 years
- Mutation breakdown
  - 17 (47.2%) patients positive for *SDHD*
  - 12 (33.3%) for *SDHB*
  - 7 (19.4%) wildtype (no identified mutation)
- Six patients received medical and/or radiation therapy upon recurrence

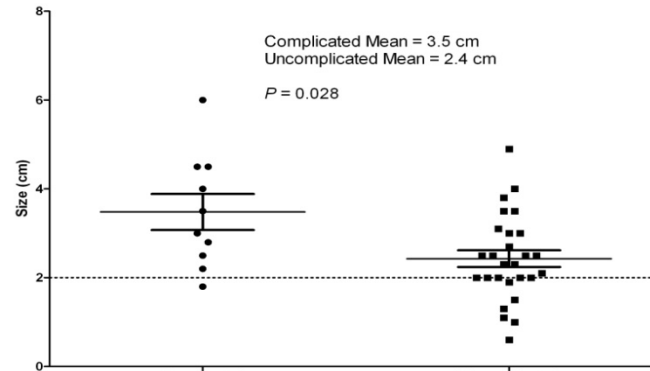


Ellis RJ, et al. Ann Surg 2014

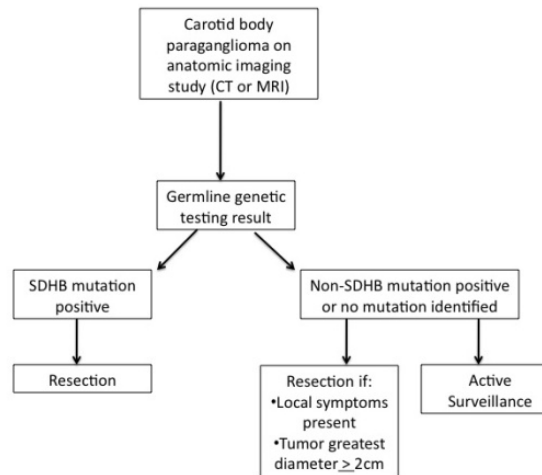


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## Proposed Surgical Algorithm



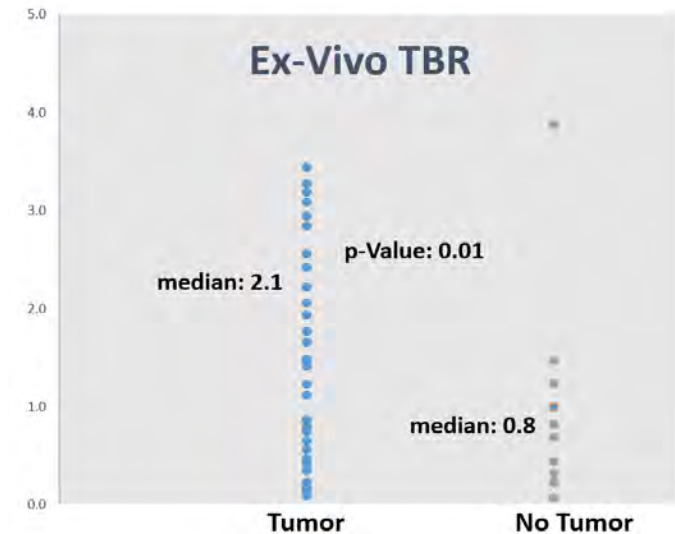
Ellis RJ, et al. Ann Surg 2014



# Radioguided Surgery using $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTATATE



- Forty-four patients with 133 lesions on preoperative imaging
- Pancreatic NET (43%), gastrointestinal NET (50%), and pheochromocytoma/paraganglioma (7%)
- The omentum had a significantly lower count than other solid organs for background count activity 3 hours after injection (22.1 vs. 34.5;  $p < 0.001$ ).
- The lesions containing NETs had a higher TBR (18.9 vs. 4.4;  $p < 0.001$ ).
- 13% of lesions not visible and or palpable.



El Lakis, et al. JAMA Surgery 2018

# Summary PCC/PGL

- Our understanding of the genetic basis of PCC/PGL has tremendously improved.
- Over half of the patients with PCC/PGL will have germline mutations.
- Thus all patients should undergo genetic counseling & testing before their surgical treatment.
- Genotype-phenotype associations
- The genetic testing results may alter the preoperative evaluation and management of patients with PCC/PGL, the surgical approach used, and the follow up plan.
- Patients should have at least one anatomic (CT/MRI) and one functional imaging study (18F FDG or 68-Ga DOTATATE).



# Thank you!

