

Minerva Access is the Institutional Repository of The University of Melbourne

Author/s:

Kalapara, AA;Nzenza, T;Pan, H Y C;Ballok, Z;Ramdave, S;O'Sullivan, R;Ryan, A;Cherk, M;Hofman, M S;Konety, B R;Lawrentschuk, N;Bolton, D;Murphy, D G;Grummet, J P;Frydenberg, M

Title:

Detection and localisation of primary prostate cancer using 68gallium prostate-specific membrane antigen positron emission tomography/computed tomography compared with multiparametric magnetic resonance imaging and radical prostatectomy specimen pathology

Date:

2020-07-01

Citation:

Kalapara, A. A., Nzenza, T., Pan, H. Y. C., Ballok, Z., Ramdave, S., O'Sullivan, R., Ryan, A., Cherk, M., Hofman, M. S., Konety, B. R., Lawrentschuk, N., Bolton, D., Murphy, D. G., Grummet, J. P. & Frydenberg, M. (2020). Detection and localisation of primary prostate cancer using 68gallium prostate-specific membrane antigen positron emission tomography/computed tomography compared with multiparametric magnetic resonance imaging and radical prostatectomy specimen pathology. *BJU International*, 126 (1), pp.83-90. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bju.14858>.

Persistent Link:

<https://hdl.handle.net/11343/275970>

Detection and localisation of primary prostate cancer using ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT compared with mpMRI and radical prostatectomy specimens

Arveen A Kalapara^{1,2}, Tatenda Nzenza³, Henry YC Pan¹, Zita Ballok^{4,5}, Shakher Ramdave⁵, Richard O'Sullivan^{4,6}, Andrew Ryan⁷, Martin Cherk⁸, Michael S Hofman⁹, Badrinath R Konety¹⁰, Nathan Lawrentschuk³, Damien Bolton¹¹, Declan G Murphy^{3,12}, Jeremy P Grummet^{1,13}, Mark Frydenberg^{1,2}

¹Department of Surgery, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

²Australian Urology Associates, Malvern, Australia

³Division of Cancer Surgery, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Australia

⁴Healthcare Imaging Services, Richmond, Australia

⁵Department of Nuclear Medicine & PET, Monash Medical Centre, Bentleigh East, Australia

⁶Department of Medicine, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

⁷TissuPath, Mount Waverley, Australia

⁸Department of Nuclear Medicine & PET, Alfred Hospital, Melbourne Australia

⁹Centre for Molecular Imaging, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Australia

¹⁰Department of Urology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

¹¹Department of Urology, Austin Hospital, Heidelberg, Australia

¹²Sir Peter MacCallum Department of Oncology, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Australia

¹³Department of Urology, Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, Australia

Corresponding Author:

Arveen A Kalapara

Department of Surgery

Monash University

Melbourne, Australia

E: arveenkalapara@gmail.com

T: +61 433 455 590

This is the author manuscript accepted for publication and has undergone full peer review but has not been through the copyediting, typesetting, pagination and proofreading process, which may lead to differences between this version and the [Version of Record](#). Please cite this article as [doi: 10.1111/BJU.14858](https://doi.org/10.1111/BJU.14858)

This article is protected by copyright. All rights reserved

Abstract word count: 321

Body word count: 2,972

Tables: 3

Figures: 3

Key words: Prostate cancer; multiparametric MRI; prostate-specific membrane antigen; positron emission tomography, staging, metastases

Author Manuscript

1

2 MR. ARVEEN ADITH KALAPARA (Orcid ID : 0000-0003-3003-2655)

3 DR. TATENDA NZENZA (Orcid ID : 0000-0002-1157-7003)

4 PROF. MICHAEL S HOFMAN (Orcid ID : 0000-0001-8622-159X)

5 DR. NATHAN LAWRENTSCHUK (Orcid ID : 0000-0001-8553-5618)

6 DR. DECLAN MURPHY (Orcid ID : 0000-0002-7500-5899)

7

8

9 Article type : Original Article

10

11

12 Category: Urological Oncology

13

14 **Abstract**

15

16 **Objective:**

17 To compare the accuracy of ⁶⁸Gallium prostate-specific membrane antigen positron
18 emission tomography/computed tomography (⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT) with mpMRI in detecting
19 and localising primary prostate cancer when compared with radical prostatectomy (RP)
20 pathology.

21

22 **Patients and methods:**

23 Retrospective review of men who underwent ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT and mpMRI for primary
24 prostate cancer prior to RP across four centres between 2015 and 2018. Patients
25 undergoing imaging for recurrent disease or prior to non-surgical treatment were excluded.
26 We defined pathological index tumour as the lesion with highest ISUP Grade Group (GG) on
27 RP. Our primary outcomes were rates of accurate detection and localisation of RP index
28 tumour using ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT or mpMRI. We defined tumour detection as imaging lesion
29 corresponding with RP tumour on any imaging plane, and localisation as imaging lesion
30 matching RP index tumour in all sagittal, axial and coronal planes. Secondary outcomes
31 included localisation of clinically significant and transition zone index tumours. We defined
32 clinically significant disease as GG 3-5. We used descriptive statistics and Mann-Whitney U

33 test to define and compare demographic and pathological characteristics between
34 detected, missed and localised tumours using either imaging modality. We used the
35 McNemar test to compare detection and localisation rates using ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT and
36 mpMRI.

37

38 **Results:**

39 205 men were included in our analysis, including 133 with clinically significant disease.
40 There was no significant difference between ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT and mpMRI in the detection
41 of any tumour (94% vs 95%, $p>0.9$). There was also no significant difference between
42 localisation of all index tumours (91% vs 89%, $p=0.47$), clinically significant index tumours
43 (96% vs 91%, $p=0.15$), or transition zone tumours (85% vs 80%, $p>0.9$) using ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA
44 PET/CT and mpMRI. Limitations include retrospective study design and non-central review
45 of imaging and pathology.

46

47 **Conclusion:**

48 We found no significant difference in the detection or localisation of primary prostate
49 cancer between ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT and mpMRI. Further prospective studies are required to
50 evaluate a combined PET/MRI model in minimising tumours missed by either modality.

51

52 **Introduction**

53

54 Recent years have seen a significant shift in the diagnostic landscape of localised prostate
55 cancer. Multiparametric MRI (mpMRI) is now a well-established tool in the assessment of
56 primary tumours, and has demonstrated high sensitivity and excellent negative predictive
57 values for clinically significant disease (1), leading to increasing uptake of pre-biopsy mpMRI
58 and targeted prostate biopsy (2-4). Contemporary diagnostic biopsy, therefore, relies on
59 precise identification of index tumour location on imaging. An index tumour is
60 conventionally regarded as the focus of intra-prostatic cancer with highest grade, and
61 carries important clinical implications from a prognostic standpoint (5). Moreover, knowing
62 index tumour location adds value to diagnostic and therapeutic approaches, including target

63 biopsy and treatment. Despite its accuracy, some concerns remain around underestimation
64 of tumour size and identification of transition zone lesions using mpMRI (6,7).

65

66 ⁶⁸Gallium labelled prostate-specific membrane antigen positron emission tomography (⁶⁸Ga-
67 PSMA PET) has emerged as a viable staging tool alongside mpMRI (8,9). PSMA is a
68 transmembrane protein found on prostatic cells and overexpressed in prostate cancer (10),
69 and targeting this using ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT has shown promise in accurately re-staging
70 recurrent disease (11,12) and improving detection of lymph node metastases when
71 compared with mpMRI (13-15). Still, beyond evidence for its utility in advanced disease, the
72 added potential of PSMA PET/CT in detecting and characterising primary prostate cancer
73 lesions remains to be fully explored (16,17), along with any clinical benefit it offers over
74 mpMRI. We aimed to assess the accuracy of ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT compared with mpMRI in
75 detecting and localising primary prostate cancer lesions when compared with radical
76 prostatectomy (RP) specimens.

77

78 **Patients and methods**

79

80 We performed a retrospective review of men who underwent ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT and
81 mpMRI for primary prostate cancer prior to radical prostatectomy across four Australian
82 centres between 2015 and 2018. Patients undergoing re-staging for recurrent disease, or
83 non-surgical treatment, including any focal therapy, were excluded. Ethical approval was
84 obtained from Monash University and University of Melbourne (Melbourne, Australia).
85 Clinical and demographic characteristics were collected, including age, PSA at diagnosis. PSA
86 density was calculated using prostate volume on mpMRI.

87

88 Patients underwent ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT across four Australian institutions. PET/CT imaging
89 was performed on Siemens Biograph mCT Excel and, Siemens Biograph mCT Flow and GE
90 710 Discovery PET/CT scanners. Imaging was reviewed and reported by nuclear medicine
91 physicians (ZB, SR, MC, MSH). Index lesion on ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT was defined as the focal
92 lesion with highest avidity, quantified by maximum standardised uptake value (SUVmax),
93 regardless of size. As such, when a small lesion with greater avidity and large lesion with
94 lesser avidity were present, the smaller focus was considered the index lesion. All other

95 lesions found on imaging were considered non-index. Scans with no focal lesion and mild,
96 diffuse uptake only were considered negative.

97

98 ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT scanning protocols were similar across sites. Our first site used a Siemens
99 Biograph mCT PET/CT scanner to acquire PET images from thighs to vertex at 60 minutes
100 after administration of 2 MBq/kg body weight \pm 5% of ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA. Our second site used a
101 Siemens Biograph mCT 20 with extended FOV Biograph PET/CT scanner to acquire PET
102 images from thighs to vertex at 45-60 minutes after administration of 2 MBq/kg \pm 5% up to
103 300 MBq of ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA. Our third site used a GE 710 Discovery PET/CT scanner to acquire
104 PET images from pelvis towards head at 45-75 minutes after administration of 1.8–2.2
105 MBq/kg body weight of ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA-11. Finally, our fourth site also used a GE 710 Discovery
106 PET/CT scanner to acquire PET images from thighs to vertex at 55-60 minutes following
107 administration of 2 MBq/kg \pm 5% up to 200 MBq of ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA. At all sites, a low dose non-
108 contrast CT was performed during tidal respiration for attenuation correction and
109 anatomical correlation.

110

111 All multiparametric MRI images included were acquired using 3-Tesla MRI scanners, and
112 imaging was reviewed and reported by specialised MRI radiologists, as per PIRADS v2 (18).
113 Index lesion on mpMRI was defined as that with the highest PIRADS score. In the case of
114 multiple lesions, those with lower PIRADS scores were considered non-index. If two lesions
115 with identical PIRADS score were identified on MRI, the larger lesion was deemed the index
116 tumour.

117

118 Findings on ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT and mpMRI were compared with histopathology on
119 formalin-fixed and paraffin-embedded RP specimens, as reported by specialised uro-
120 pathologists. Index tumour on RP specimen was defined as the lesion with highest ISUP
121 grade group (GG). In men with multiple foci with identical tumour grade, again, the larger
122 lesion was deemed index tumour.

123

124 Our primary outcomes included rates of accurate detection and localisation of index tumour
125 found on RP specimen, using ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT or mpMRI. Detection of cancer was defined
126 as identification of any corresponding lesion between imaging and histopathology, both

127 index and non-index, in any imaging plane. Tumour localisation was considered accurate if
128 location of index tumour on imaging correlated with that of index tumour on RP specimen in
129 all three planes; sagittal (left, right), axial (apex, mid, base), and coronal (anterior,
130 posterior). Index lesions on imaging which met all three criteria but only partially
131 overlapped with pathological lesion were also considered accurate, as imaging-targeted
132 biopsy of these lesions would still sample the histological index tumour. Clinically significant
133 disease was defined as ISUP Grade Group 3-5. Secondary outcomes included the localisation
134 of clinically significant index tumours, and localisation of index tumours in the
135 transition/anterior and peripheral prostatic zones

136

137 *Statistical analysis*

138 Descriptive statistics were used for demographic and pathological characteristics of the
139 overall cohort. Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare demographic and pathological
140 characteristics of tumours detected, missed and localised using either imaging modality.
141 McNemar test was used to compare detection and localisation accuracy of PET/CT and
142 mpMRI within the cohort. All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS Statistics
143 version 25 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY).

144

145

146 **Results**

147

148 205 men who underwent both ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT and mpMRI prior to RP were included in
149 our analysis. Cohort characteristics are listed in Table 1. Median age was 67 years and
150 patients had a median PSA of 7.18 ng/mL prior to imaging. Median PSA density (PSAD) was
151 0.204. All men had prostate cancer on final histopathology, including 133 (64.9%) with
152 clinically significant disease (GG 3-5) and 127 (62.0%) with non-organ confined disease
153 (Table 1). All 205 men had GG 2 or greater index tumour on final pathology.

154

155 *Detection of any prostate cancer*

156 193 (94.1%) of 205 ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT scans showed a focal lesion with PSMA avidity
157 corresponding with any tumour on RP, and similarly a focal lesion was found in 194 (94.6%)
158 MRI scans. There was no significant difference between the modalities for detection of any

159 tumour ($p > 0.9$). Examples of tumours detected and missed on ^{68}Ga -PSMA PET/CT and
160 mpMRI are shown in Figure 1.

161

162 In total, 127 (62.0%) of men had non-organ confined tumours, including 86 with pT3a and
163 41 with pT3b tumours. Of 127 men with pT3 disease, ^{68}Ga -PSMA PET/CT detected 120
164 (94.5%) index tumours, whilst mpMRI detected 123 (96.9%) ($p=0.549$). Similarly, ^{68}Ga -PSMA
165 PET/CT localised 118 (92.9%) of these tumours, not significantly less than 120 (94.5%) by
166 mpMRI ($p=0.791$).

167

168 *Missed index tumours*

169 Clinical and pathological characteristics of men with index tumours missed on ^{68}Ga -PSMA
170 PET/CT or mpMRI are listed in Table 2. 12 (5.9%) index tumours on RP were non-avid on
171 ^{68}Ga -PSMA PET/CT, including 10 with no PSMA avidity and 2 men had PSMA uptake that did
172 not correspond with any focus of tumour on histopathology (Figure 2). These men had a
173 median PSA of 5.25 ng/mL (IQR, 3.63 – 8.43). Median PSAD was 0.114 (0.075 – 0.143), lower
174 than 0.213 (0.155 – 0.311) for tumours detected on PET/CT ($p < 0.001$). Correspondingly,
175 patients with non-PSMA PET avid lesions had a lower median index tumour volume on RP of
176 1.4 cc (0.8 – 2.2), compared with 3.0 cc (1.6 – 6.0) for all RPs ($p=0.002$). 3 of these 10
177 tumours were clinically significant, one each being GG 3, 4 and 5. The remaining 7 tumours
178 were GG 2. Notably, 7 (58.3%) of 12 men had pT3a tumours.

179

180 Eleven (5.4%) index tumours were not detected on mpMRI, including 10 showing no focal
181 lesion on imaging and 1 with a focal lesion that did not correspond with any intra-prostatic
182 tumour. These men had a median PSA of 9.90 ng/mL (4.94 – 18.60). Median PSAD was 0.260
183 (0.159 – 0.380), not significantly different from 0.200 (0.144 – 0.297) for those lesions seen
184 on mpMRI ($p=0.254$). However, median index tumour volume on RP was 1.2cc (0.6 – 2.8),
185 significantly lower than 2.9cc (1.6 – 6.0) for mpMRI visible lesions ($p=0.003$). These 11
186 missed tumours consisted of six GG 2, four GG 3 and one GG 5 lesion. 4 men had non-organ
187 confined disease, including 3 men with pT3a and 1 man with pT3b tumours.

188

189 Only 1 (0.5%) index lesion on RP was missed on both ^{68}Ga -PSMA PET/CT and mpMRI. This
190 patient had GG 2 disease on RP with a very small index tumour volume of 0.4cc. mpMRI

191 identified 11 of the 12 lesions missed by ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT, and PET/CT identified 10 of
192 the 11 tumours missed on MRI.

193

194 *Index tumour localisation*

195 ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT accurately localised index tumour on RP in 176 (85.9%) of 205 men. In a
196 further 11 men (5.4%), index tumour on RP corresponded with non-index lesions with lower
197 SUVmax values on ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT. When adding these lesions, ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT was
198 able to accurately localise 187 (91.2%) index tumours seen on RP.

199

200 mpMRI accurately localised index tumour in 180 (87.8%) of 205 men. In a further 2 men
201 (1.0%), index tumour on RP corresponded with non-index lesion location found on MRI with
202 lower PIRADS score, giving a cumulative localisation rate of 88.8% using mpMRI. There was
203 no significant difference between overall localisation of index tumour using ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA
204 PET/CT (91.2%) and mpMRI (88.8%) (p=0.472). Localisation by RP segments in sagittal and
205 coronal planes are shown in Table 3.

206

207 133 (64.9%) of 205 index tumours were clinically significant, with ISUP GG of 3-5. 127
208 (95.5%) of these clinically significant index tumours were localised by ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT,
209 and 121 (91.0%) were found on mpMRI (p=0.146). Three clinically significant index tumours
210 were not completely localised on both imaging modalities, but all were detected by either
211 ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT or mpMRI. Localisation of index tumours stratified by ISUP Grade Group
212 is shown in Figure 3. There was no significant difference between ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT and
213 mpMRI in the localisation of GG 2 (83% vs 85%, p>0.9), GG 3 (97% vs 92%, p=0.29), GG 4
214 (90% vs 80%, p>0.9) or GG 5 (94% vs 92%, p>0.9) tumours.

215

216 Twenty tumours were found exclusively in the transition or anterior zones on
217 histopathology, of which ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT localised 17 (85%) and mpMRI localised 16
218 (80%) (p>0.9). Similarly, there was no difference in localisation of 145 peripheral zone index
219 tumours between PET/CT (130, 89.7%) and mpMRI (127, 87.6%) (p=0.690).

220

221

222 **Discussion**

223

224 The diagnosis and initial management of localised prostate cancer has grown increasingly
225 reliant on imaging findings following the introduction of mpMRI and, more recently, ⁶⁸Ga-
226 PSMA PET/CT. While mpMRI is now recommended prior to biopsy in men with a suspicion
227 of localised prostate cancer (19), the emerging role of ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT in primary staging
228 is predominantly focussed on staging of regional and distant disease. Little is yet known of
229 the value of ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT in primary staging of lesions within the prostate itself.
230 Despite the inherently heterogeneous and multifocal nature of prostate cancer, the highest
231 tumour grade found on pathology remains a strong prognostic indicator for recurrence-free,
232 metastasis-free and cancer-specific survival (5,20,21). Identification of these lesions on
233 imaging, therefore, is pertinent to decision making surrounding diagnostic biopsy approach
234 and local treatment options offered to patients. We assessed intra-prostatic index tumour
235 detection and localisation using ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT and mpMRI, and found equivalent rates
236 between both. To our knowledge, our study is the largest in the literature comparing the
237 accuracy of these modalities in localising primary prostate cancer lesions.

238

239 *Detection*

240 Both ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT and mpMRI detected any tumour on RP in 94% of our cohort, and
241 96% and 91% of clinically significant index tumours were identified by ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT
242 and mpMRI, respectively. A recent Australian study found similar rates, but reported
243 superior detection using ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT over mpMRI, at 100% and 94% respectively
244 (22). Discrepancy from our results may lie in varying definitions of index tumours; whilst
245 defined as the lesion with highest tumour grade in our cohort, Berger et al assessed
246 detection of the largest tumour found on RP. Larger lesions may be better detected using
247 either modality, and accordingly smaller lesions with higher tumour grade may be more
248 commonly missed. This was confirmed in a large, prospective cohort comparing mpMRI with
249 RP pathology in which tumour size was found to be the strongest predictor of detection on
250 imaging, and missed clinically significant lesions were smaller than those that were
251 visualised (23). These results corroborate our finding of significantly smaller index tumour
252 volumes in ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT non-avid and MRI invisible tumours. A randomised
253 multicentre study of 300 patients undergoing PET/CT and conventional imaging has recently

254 completed accrual and will provide prospective data on the performance of ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA
255 PET/CT in the primary staging setting (24).

256

257 Other cohorts have demonstrated sensitivity ranging between 49-68% and specificity
258 between 92-95% for detection of any tumour on ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT (25-27), regardless of
259 index tumour status, demonstrating no significant difference between mpMRI and ⁶⁸Ga-
260 PSMA PET/CT (25). The high sensitivity of ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT suggests it may have a role in
261 reducing uncertainty when excluding high risk disease prior to inclusion on active
262 surveillance, or reassurance in men with rising PSA despite negative prostate biopsy.
263 Nevertheless, consistent with existing reports suggesting 5% of tumours lack PSMA
264 expression on immunostaining (28), 6% of index tumours in our cohort were non-avid on
265 ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT, potentially influencing detection rates. Again, these tumours were
266 significantly smaller in volume than those visible on imaging, and one-third were clinically
267 significant.

268

269 *Localisation*

270 Accurate localisation of clinically significant tumours within the prostate carries wide
271 diagnostic and treatment implications. mpMRI has been proposed as a triaging tool and
272 sampling of MRI lesion-targeted cores has become paramount in contemporary biopsy
273 practices, replacing systematic cores in some settings (29). Equivalent localisation using
274 ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT raises the possibility of its use as a primary diagnostic tool in this domain
275 as well. In a North American cohort of MRI negative or MRI-naïve men with prior negative
276 biopsy, ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/TRUS fusion guided biopsy yielded 82% sensitivity and of 72%
277 specificity for any cancer, and 100% sensitivity for clinically significant disease (30).
278 Although only targeted biopsy cores were sampled in this study, potentially overestimating
279 sensitivity, these results are somewhat promising, particularly for men who are ineligible for
280 mpMRI. PSMA expression is also associated with tumour grade (28), and further
281 investigation of the predictive ability of other parameters on ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT, such as
282 standardised uptake value (SUV), are required to identify whether PET/CT can function as a
283 stand-alone test in this space.

284

285 Accordingly, this raises the potential of ^{68}Ga -PSMA PET/CT as a single test to assess both
286 local and distant disease. ^{68}Ga -PSMA PET/CT has proven sensitivity in detecting metastases
287 when compared with nodal histopathology in primary staging (31), and thus may have
288 utility in detecting oligometastatic spread, thereby upstaging tumours that would otherwise
289 be considered localised. Given anterior periprostatic tissue contains lymph nodes in 30% of
290 men (32), detection of disease here using ^{68}Ga -PSMA PET/CT may also guide the adjustment
291 of margins and surgical technique, including pelvic lymph node dissection, accordingly. From
292 a treatment standpoint, confidence in tumour location can also guide decision making in
293 nuances such as nerve sparing during radical prostatectomy and lesion-specific focal
294 therapy.

295
296 Predominantly transition and anterior zone tumours have been traditionally more difficult
297 to reach on biopsy, particularly from a transrectal approach, and thus need to be effectively
298 localised using pre-biopsy imaging. Existing evidence for MRI in detecting impalpable
299 anterior tumours missed by TRUS biopsy (33) is compounded by our finding of equivalent
300 localisation rates using ^{68}Ga -PSMA PET/CT, suggesting molecular imaging may have a similar
301 role in identifying these tumours.

302
303 Our finding of no significant difference in index tumour localisation rates between
304 modalities is discrepant with some existing studies demonstrating inferior performance
305 using mpMRI (22). Almost all mpMRI scans in our study were performed at a high volume
306 centre and reported by specialised MRI radiologists with significant experience in mpMRI
307 prostate, perhaps overestimating sensitivity in our cohort. Conversely, although PSMA
308 avidity allows identification of focal lesions on PET/CT, assessment of true lesion size is
309 difficult due to lack of sufficient detail on the CT component, and as apparent lesion size is
310 dependent on the SUV threshold used at the time of reporting, which can be variable. The
311 degree of anatomical detail offered by imaging is an important consideration in planning for
312 focal therapy. Underestimation of tumour size on mpMRI remains a concern (6,34), and
313 ^{68}Ga -PSMA PET/CT may suffer from a similar drawback, with attempts to estimate tumour
314 volume using standardised uptake value thresholds to contour lesion borders revealing only
315 moderate histopathological correlation (35). Consequently, a combination of mpMRI at the

316 voxel level, co-registered with PSMA PET, is being explored as a machine learning
317 framework to optimise planning for focal therapy (36).

318

319 Our study has a number of limitations. Firstly, as a result of its retrospective nature,
320 radiologists and nuclear medicine physicians were not blinded to either mpMRI or ⁶⁸Ga-
321 PSMA PET/CT results when reporting scans. Any cross examination of scans may have
322 potentially overestimated the sensitivity of either test. Secondly, although required to
323 precisely assess tumour location, evaluation of these imaging techniques in a RP cohort
324 introduces selection bias, potentially overestimating imaging accuracy in a group of men
325 with higher grade tumours. Men referred to undergo ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT are inherently
326 likely to be of intermediate-high clinical risk, compounding this potential bias. Our study was
327 also limited to the characterisation of index tumours. Although we selected this outcome
328 based on its prognostic significance, this meant only sensitivity and not specificity could be
329 assessed. Finally, as mentioned earlier, more discrete evaluation of tumour volume and
330 extent was not feasible on PET/CT, limiting classification of lesion location to sextant areas.
331 Both of these issues may be addressed in future by way of large, per-segment or voxel-wise
332 analyses (36).

333

334 It is possible that, ultimately, a combined ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/MRI approach may be the ideal
335 tool in characterising primary disease on imaging. PSMA PET adds high sensitivity and
336 staging accuracy to the anatomical detail afforded by mpMRI, and early studies have shown
337 promising results in using PET/MRI to improve the localisation of tumours when compared
338 with either modality alone (16). However, PET/MRI is an expensive platform and is
339 predominantly restricted to the research setting. Fusion of mpMRI and PET/CT acquired
340 independently may be a more practical approach.

341

342 **Conclusion**

343

344 We found no significant difference in the overall detection or localisation of primary
345 prostate cancer between ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT and mpMRI. Both modalities were also
346 comparable in the detection of clinically significant cancer and transition zone tumours.
347 Tumours that were missed using either ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT or mpMRI were smaller and

348 associated with a lower PSA density. Further studies are required to compare the
349 localisation accuracy of ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT and mpMRI per-segment, and also evaluate the
350 added utility of a combined PET/MRI model.

351

352 **Conflict of Interest**

353 None declared

354

Author Manuscript

355 **References**

356

- 357 1. Ahmed HU, El-Shater Bosaily A, Brown LC, et al. Diagnostic accuracy of multi-
358 parametric MRI and TRUS biopsy in prostate cancer (PROMIS): a paired
359 validating confirmatory study. *Lancet*. 2017 Feb 25;389(10071):815–22.
- 360 2. Nzenza T, Murphy DG. PRECISION delivers on the PROMIS of mpMRI in
361 early detection. *Nat Rev Urol*. 2018 Sep;15(9):529–30.
- 362 3. Hansen NL, Barrett T, Kesch C, et al. Multicentre evaluation of magnetic
363 resonance imaging supported transperineal prostate biopsy in biopsy-naïve
364 men with suspicion of prostate cancer. *BJU Int*. 2017 Oct 11;313:390.
- 365 4. Barnett CL, Davenport MS, Montgomery JS, Wei JT, Montie JE, Denton BT.
366 Cost-effectiveness of magnetic resonance imaging and targeted fusion biopsy
367 for early detection of prostate cancer. *BJU Int*. 2018 Feb 1;157:120.
- 368 5. Epstein JI, Zelefsky MJ, Sjoberg DD, et al. A Contemporary Prostate Cancer
369 Grading System: A Validated Alternative to the Gleason Score. *Eur Urol*. 2016
370 Mar;69(3):428–35.
- 371 6. Priester A, Natarajan S, Khoshnoodi P, et al. Magnetic Resonance Imaging
372 Underestimation of Prostate Cancer Geometry: Use of Patient Specific Molds
373 to Correlate Images with Whole Mount Pathology. *J Urol*. 2017
374 Feb;197(2):320–6.
- 375 7. Hoeks CMA, Hambrock T, Yakar D, et al. Transition zone prostate cancer:
376 detection and localization with 3-T multiparametric MR imaging. *Radiology*.
377 2013 Jan;266(1):207–17.
- 378 8. Murphy DG, Azad AA, Sandhu S, Violet J, Hofman MS. Prostate-specific
379 Membrane Antigen Across the Spectrum of Prostate Cancer: Detection,
380 Surgery, and Theranostics. *Eur Urol*. 2019 Jan 4.
- 381 9. Murphy DG, Hofman M, Lawrentschuk N, Maurer T. Bringing clarity or
382 confusion? The role of prostate-specific membrane antigen positron-

- 383 emission/computed tomography for primary staging in prostate cancer. *BJU*
384 *Int.* 2017 Feb;119(2):194–5.
- 385 10. Maurer T, Eiber M, Schwaiger M, Gschwend JE. Current use of PSMA-PET in
386 prostate cancer management. *Nat Rev Urol.* 2016 Apr;13(4):226–35.
- 387 11. Perera M, Papa N, Roberts M, et al. Gallium-68 Prostate-specific Membrane
388 Antigen Positron Emission Tomography in Advanced Prostate Cancer-
389 Updated Diagnostic Utility, Sensitivity, Specificity, and Distribution of Prostate-
390 specific Membrane Antigen-avid Lesions: A Systematic Review and Meta-
391 analysis. *Eur Urol.* 2019 Feb 14.
- 392 12. van Leeuwen PJ, Stricker P, Hruby G, et al. (68) Ga-PSMA has a high
393 detection rate of prostate cancer recurrence outside the prostatic fossa in
394 patients being considered for salvage radiation treatment. *BJU Int.* 2016
395 May;117(5):732–9.
- 396 13. Chaloupka M, Herlemann A, D'Anastasi M, et al. 68Gallium-Prostate-Specific
397 Membrane Antigen PET/Computed Tomography for Primary and Secondary
398 Staging in Prostate Cancer. *Urol Clin North Am.* 2017 Nov;44(4):557–63.
- 399 14. van Leeuwen PJ, Emmett L, Ho B, et al. Prospective evaluation of 68Gallium-
400 prostate-specific membrane antigen positron emission tomography/computed
401 tomography for preoperative lymph node staging in prostate cancer. *BJU Int.*
402 2017 Feb;119(2):209–15.
- 403 15. van Leeuwen PJ, Donswijk M, Nandurkar R, et al. Gallium-68-prostate-specific
404 membrane antigen (68 Ga-PSMA) positron emission tomography
405 (PET)/computed tomography (CT) predicts complete biochemical response
406 from radical prostatectomy and lymph node dissection in intermediate- and
407 high-risk prostate cancer. *BJU Int.* 2018 Aug 3.
- 408 16. Eiber M, Weirich G, Holzapfel K, et al. Simultaneous 68Ga-PSMA HBED-CC
409 PET/MRI Improves the Localization of Primary Prostate Cancer. *Eur Urol.*
410 2016 Nov;70(5):829–36.

- 411 17. Hofman MS, Eu P, Jackson P, et al. Cold Kit for Prostate-Specific Membrane
412 Antigen (PSMA) PET Imaging: Phase 1 Study of 68Ga-
413 Tris(Hydroxypyridinone)-PSMA PET/CT in Patients with Prostate Cancer. J
414 Nucl Med. 2018 Apr;59(4):625–31.
- 415 18. Weinreb JC, Barentsz JO, Choyke PL, et al. PI-RADS Prostate Imaging -
416 Reporting and Data System: 2015, Version 2. Eur Urol. 2016 Jan;69(1):16–40.
- 417 19. Mottet N, van den Bergh R, Briers E, et al. EAU – ESTRO – ESUR – SIOG
418 Guidelines on Prostate Cancer. EAU Guidelines. 2019 Mar.
- 419 20. Leapman MS, Cowan JE, Simko J, et al. Application of a Prognostic Gleason
420 Grade Grouping System to Assess Distant Prostate Cancer Outcomes. Eur
421 Urol. 2017 May;71(5):750–9.
- 422 21. He J, Albertsen PC, Moore D, Rotter D, Demissie K, Lu-Yao G. Validation of a
423 Contemporary Five-tiered Gleason Grade Grouping Using Population-based
424 Data. Eur Urol. 2017 May;71(5):760–3.
- 425 22. Berger I, Annabattula C, Lewis J, et al. 68Ga-PSMA PET/CT vs. mpMRI for
426 locoregional prostate cancer staging: correlation with final histopathology.
427 Prostate Cancer Prostatic Dis. 2018 Jun;21(2):204–11.
- 428 23. Johnson DC, Raman SS, Mirak SA, et al. Detection of Individual Prostate
429 Cancer Foci via Multiparametric Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Eur Urol. 2018
430 Nov 30.
- 431 24. Hofman MS, Murphy DG, Williams SG, et al. A prospective randomized
432 multicentre study of the impact of gallium-68 prostate-specific membrane
433 antigen (PSMA) PET/CT imaging for staging high-risk prostate cancer prior to
434 curative-intent surgery or radiotherapy (proPSMA study): clinical trial protocol.
435 BJU Int. 2018 Nov;122(5):783–93.
- 436 25. Rhee H, Thomas P, Shepherd B, et al. Prostate Specific Membrane Antigen
437 Positron Emission Tomography May Improve the Diagnostic Accuracy of
438 Multiparametric Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Localized Prostate Cancer. J
439 Urol. 2016 Oct;196(4):1261–7.

- 440 26. Fendler WP, Schmidt DF, Wenter V, et al. 68Ga-PSMA PET/CT Detects the
441 Location and Extent of Primary Prostate Cancer. *J Nucl Med.* 2016
442 Nov;57(11):1720–5.
- 443 27. Koerber SA, Utzinger MT, Kratochwil C, et al. 68Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT in
444 Newly Diagnosed Carcinoma of the Prostate: Correlation of Intraprostatic
445 PSMA Uptake with Several Clinical Parameters. *J Nucl Med.* 2017
446 Dec;58(12):1943–8.
- 447 28. Minner S, Wittmer C, Graefen M, et al. High level PSMA expression is
448 associated with early PSA recurrence in surgically treated prostate cancer.
449 *Prostate.* 2011 Feb 15;71(3):281–8.
- 450 29. Kasivisvanathan V, Rannikko AS, Borghi M, et al. MRI-Targeted or Standard
451 Biopsy for Prostate-Cancer Diagnosis. *N Engl J Med.* 2018 May
452 10;378(19):1767–77.
- 453 30. Lopci E, Saita A, Lazzeri M, et al. 68Ga-PSMA Positron Emission
454 Tomography/Computerized Tomography for Primary Diagnosis of Prostate
455 Cancer in Men with Contraindications to or Negative Multiparametric Magnetic
456 Resonance Imaging: A Prospective Observational Study. *J Urol.* 2018 Feb 1.
- 457 31. Herlemann A, Wenter V, Kretschmer A, et al. 68Ga-PSMA Positron Emission
458 Tomography/Computed Tomography Provides Accurate Staging of Lymph
459 Node Regions Prior to Lymph Node Dissection in Patients with Prostate
460 Cancer. *Eur Urol.* 2016 Oct;70(4):553–7.
- 461 32. Finley DS, Deane L, Rodriguez E, et al. Anatomic excision of anterior prostatic
462 fat at radical prostatectomy: implications for pathologic upstaging. *Urology.*
463 2007 Nov;70(5):1000–3.
- 464 33. Lawrentschuk N, Haider MA, Daljeet N, et al. “Prostatic evasive anterior
465 tumours”: the role of magnetic resonance imaging. *BJU Int.* 2010
466 May;105(9):1231–6.

- 467 34. Bratan F, Melodelima C, Souchon R, et al. How accurate is multiparametric
468 MR imaging in evaluation of prostate cancer volume? *Radiology*. 2015
469 Apr;275(1):144–54.
- 470 35. Rhee H, Thomas P, Shepherd B, et al. Prostate Specific Membrane Antigen
471 Positron Emission Tomography May Improve the Diagnostic Accuracy of
472 Multiparametric Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Localized Prostate Cancer. *J*
473 *Urol*. 2016 Oct;196(4):1261–7.
- 474 36. Reynolds HM, Williams S, Jackson P, et al. Voxel-wise correlation of positron
475 emission tomography/computed tomography with multiparametric magnetic
476 resonance imaging and histology of the prostate using a sophisticated
477 registration framework. *BJU Int*. 2018 Dec 10.

Table 1: Demographic and pathological features of cohort (n=205)

Demographics		
Age (years)		67 (IQR, 61 – 72)
PSA (ng/mL)		7.18 (4.90 – 10.20)
PSAD		0.204 (0.145 – 0.305)
Features on mpMRI		
PIRADS Score	2	10 (4.9%)
	3	14 (6.8%)
	4	93 (45.4%)
	5	88 (42.9%)
Pathological features on RP		
Index tumour ISUP Grade Group	GG 2	72 (35.1%)
	GG 3	87 (42.4%)
	GG 4	10 (4.9%)
	GG 5	36 (17.6%)
Pathological T-stage	pT2	78 (38.0%)
	pT3a	86 (42.0%)
	pT3b	41 (20.0%)
Index tumour volume		2.8 cc (1.5 – 5.8)
Zonal location	Peripheral zone only	145 (70.7%)
	Transition zone only	20 (9.8%)
	Both	40 (19.5%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figures shown as median (<i>interquartile range</i>), or n (%) • PSA = prostate specific antigen; PSAD = PSA density; RP = radical prostatectomy; ISUP = International Society of Urological Pathology; GG = ISUP Grade Group 		

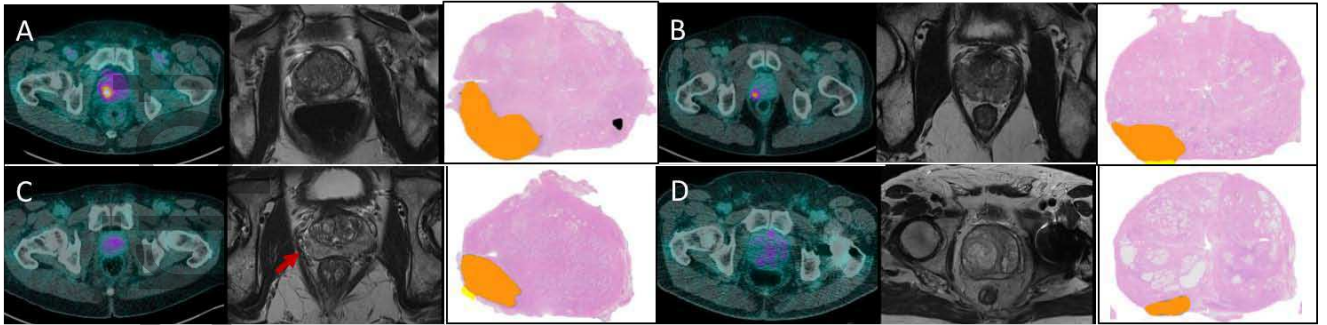
Table 2: Clinical and tumour characteristics in men with non-avid 68Ga-PSMA PET/CT or non-visible lesions on mpMRI

Variable		68Ga-PSMA PET/CT	mpMRI
n		12	11
Age		71 (65 – 69)	65 (63 – 69)
PSA (ng/mL)		5.25 (3.63 – 8.43)	9.90 (4.94 – 18.60)
PSAD		0.114 (0.075 – 0.143)	0.260 (0.159 – 0.380)
Pathological features on RP			
Index TV		1.4 (0.8 – 2.2)	1.2 (0.6 – 2.8)
ISUP GG	2	9 (75.0%)	6 (54.5%)
	3	1 (8.3%)	4 (36.4%)
	4	1 (8.3%)	0
	5	1 (8.4%)	1 (9.1%)
	pT-stage	pT3	7 (58.3%)
Index tumour location – zone	Peripheral zone only	10 (83.3%)	8 (72.7%)
	Transition zone only	2 (16.7%)	2 (18.2%)
	Both	0	1 (9.1%)
Index tumour location – left/right	Right-sided only	6 (50.0%)	5 (45.4%)
	Left-sided only	4 (33.3%)	3 (27.3%)

Table 3: Sagittal and coronal location of index tumours on RP accurately localised by ⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT and mpMRI

Plane	Location	⁶⁸ Ga-PSMA PET/CT	mpMRI	No. of index tumours on RP
Sagittal	Left only	70 (93.3%)	66 (88.0%)	75
	Right only	48 (85.7%)	46 (82.2%)	56
	Bilateral	69 (93.2%)	70 (94.6%)	74
Coronal	Anterior only	31 (86.1%)	31 (86.1%)	36
	Posterior only	116 (89.9%)	111 (86.0%)	129

Figure 1: Tumours detected and missed on mpMRI and 68Ga-PSMA PET/CT with RP histological comparison. A) PET/CT and mpMRI both positive; B) PET/CT positive and mpMRI negative; C) PET/CT negative and mpMRI positive; D) PET/CT and mpMRI both negative.



Author Manuscript

Figure 2: Example of non-avid lesion on 68Ga-PSMA PET/CT (A) compared with wholemount histopathology (B). 60 year old male, PSA 3.2 with no focal lesion on 68Ga-PSMA PET/CT. Final pathology on RP was ISUP GG 2, stage pT3a.

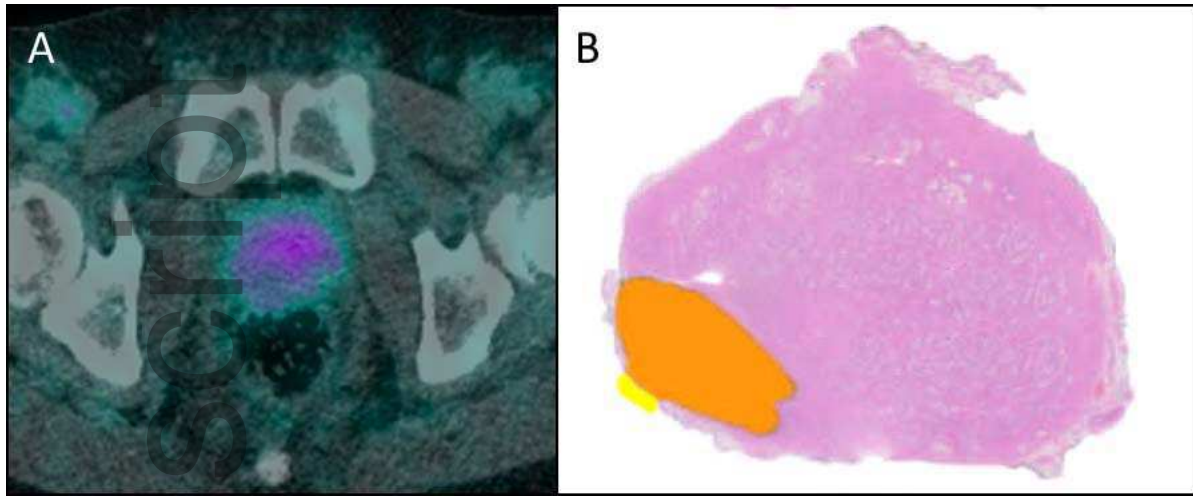


Figure 3: Localisation of index tumour by ISUP Grade Group

