



MI  
Metabolic Intelligence



SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI FISICA

# MODEL-FREE SEMANTIC SEGMENTATION FOR THE EARLY DETECTION OF METABOLIC ABNORMALITIES THROUGH MACHINE-LEARNING ALGORITHMS

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<sup>1</sup> Neuroscience Department – Biophysics Section - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome

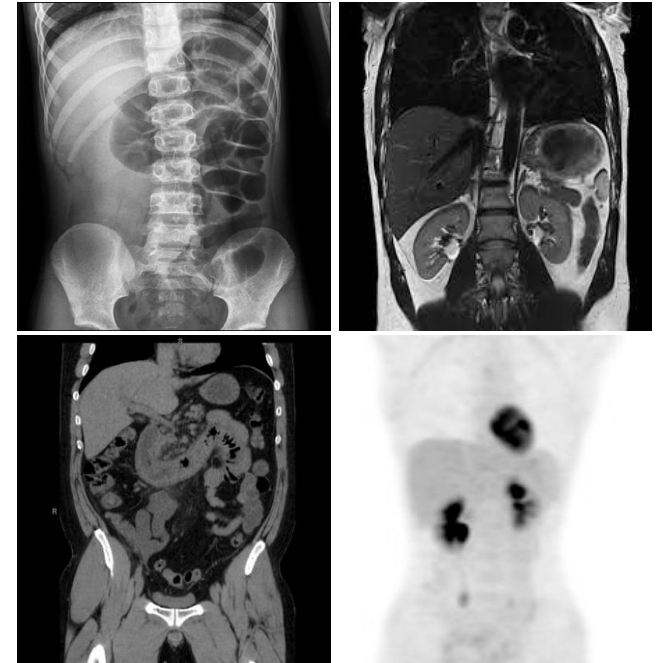
<sup>2</sup> Fondazione Policlinico Universitario «A. Gemelli» IRCSS, Rome

# Introduction

## Medical Imaging

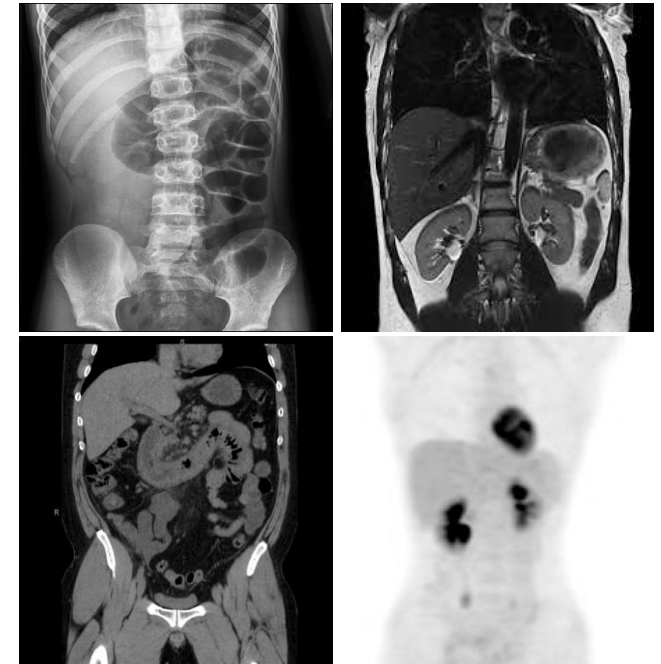
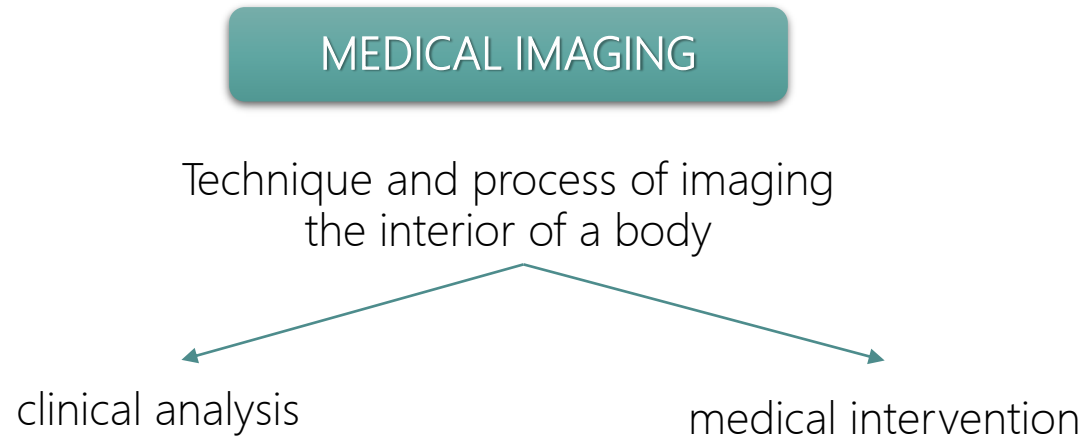
### MEDICAL IMAGING

Technique and process of imaging  
the interior of a body



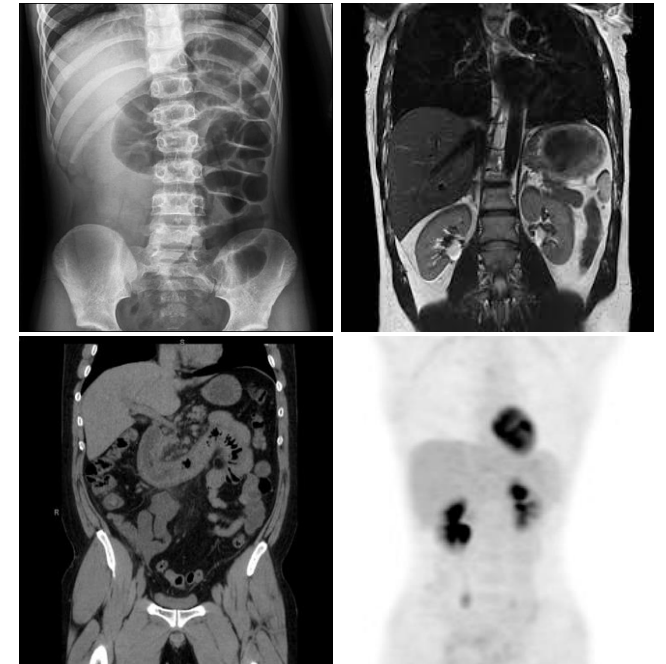
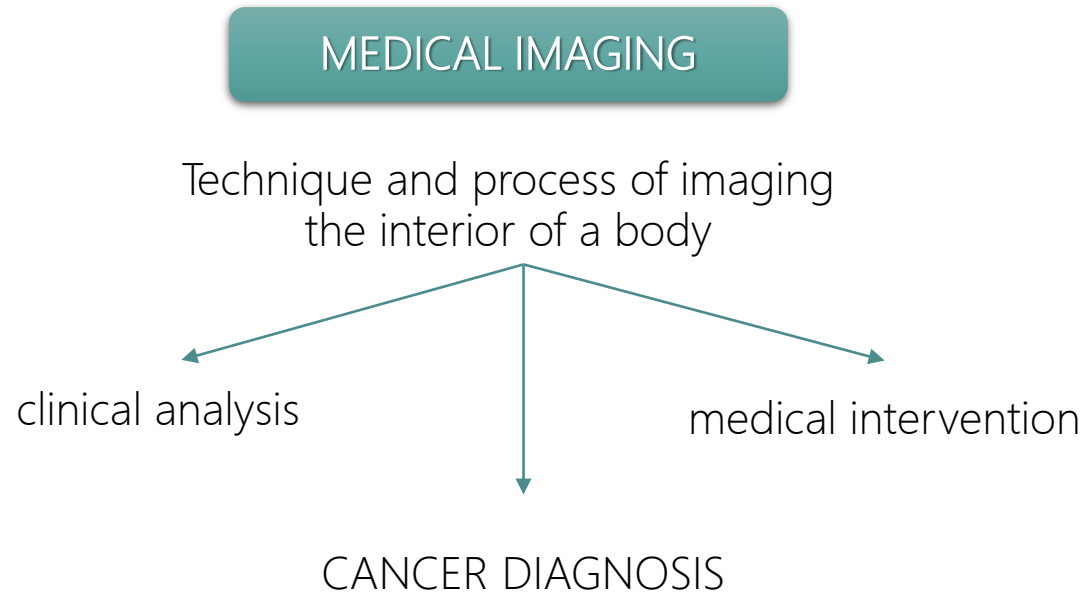
# Introduction

## Medical Imaging



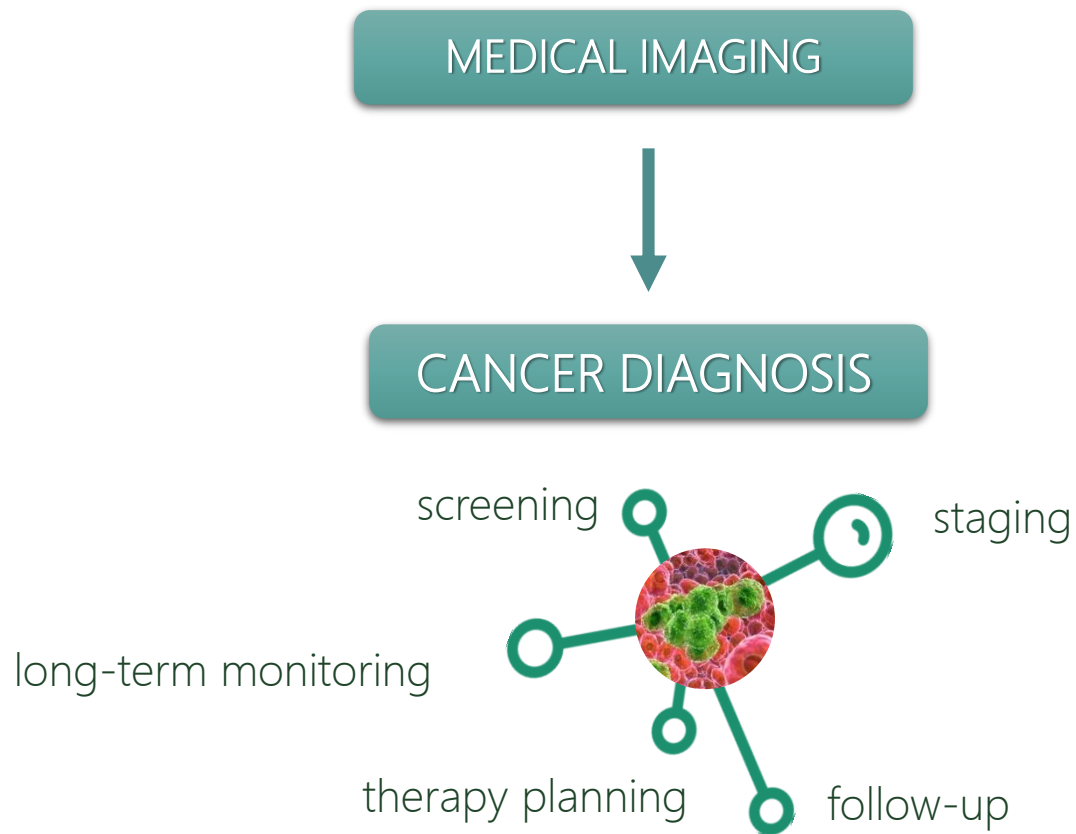
# Introduction

## Medical Imaging



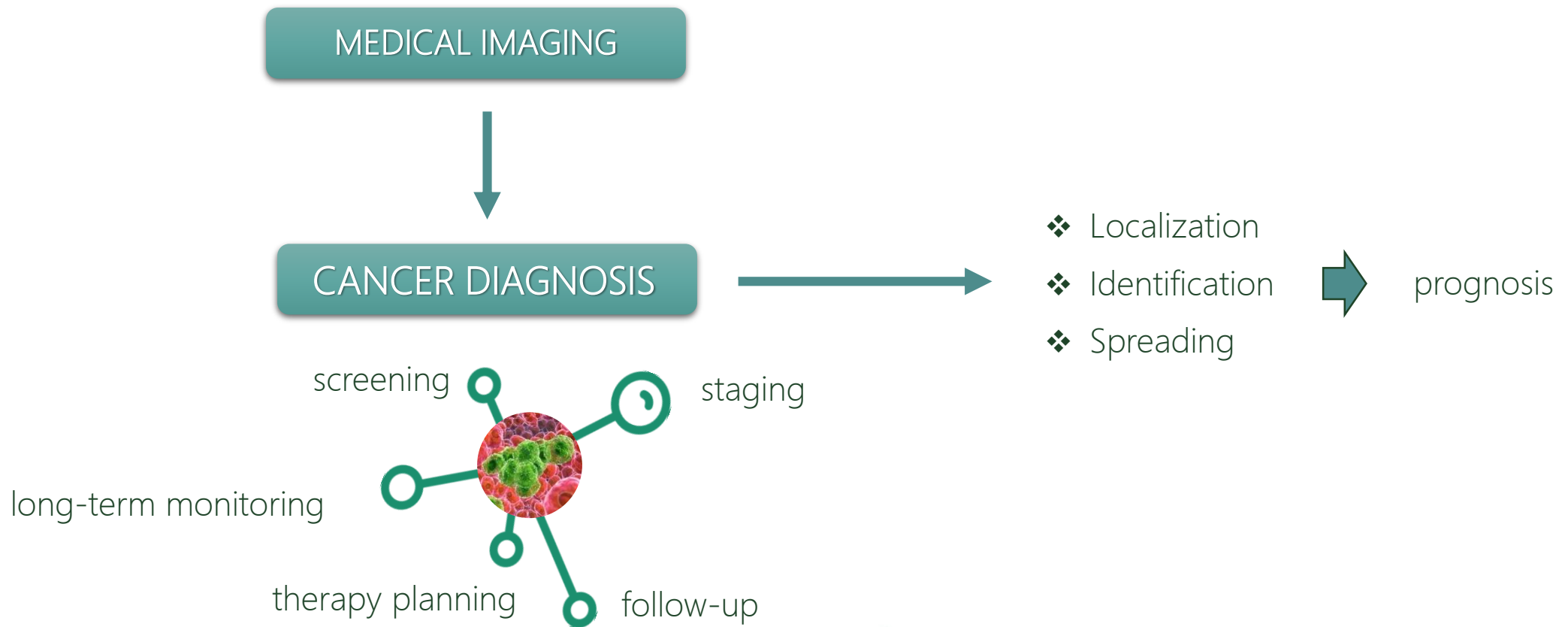
# Introduction

## Cancer diagnosis



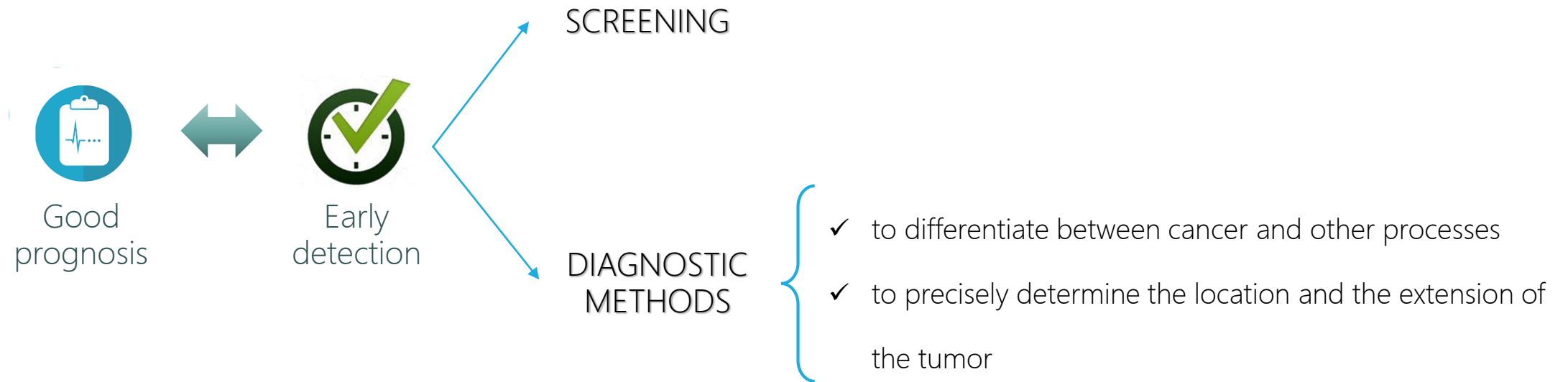
# Introduction

## Cancer diagnosis



# Introduction

The importance of early detection



# Introduction

Diagnostic imaging

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

- ❖ STRUCTURAL
- ❖ FUNCTIONAL



# Introduction

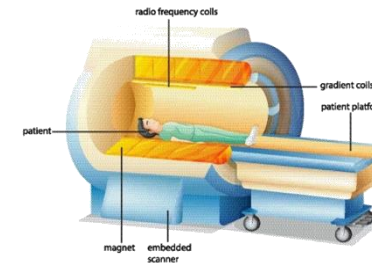
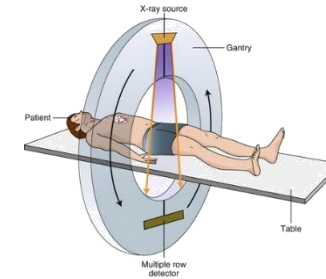
## Diagnostic imaging

### DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

- ❖ STRUCTURAL
- ❖ FUNCTIONAL

Computed Tomography (CT)

Magnetic Resonance (MRI)

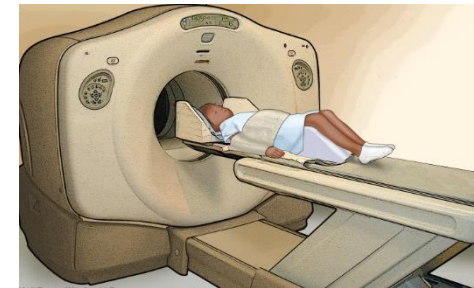


# Introduction

## Diagnostic imaging

### DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

- ❖ STRUCTURAL
- ❖ FUNCTIONAL
  - Positron Emission Tomography (PET)
  - Single-Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT)



# Introduction

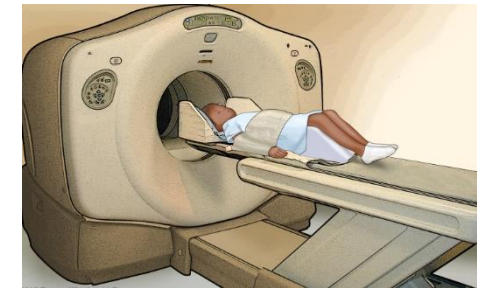
Diagnostic imaging

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

- ❖ STRUCTURAL
- ❖ FUNCTIONAL

POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY (PET)

Single-Photon Emission Computed  
Tomography (SPECT)



# Introduction

Diagnostic imaging

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

- ❖ STRUCTURAL
- ❖ FUNCTIONAL

POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY (PET)

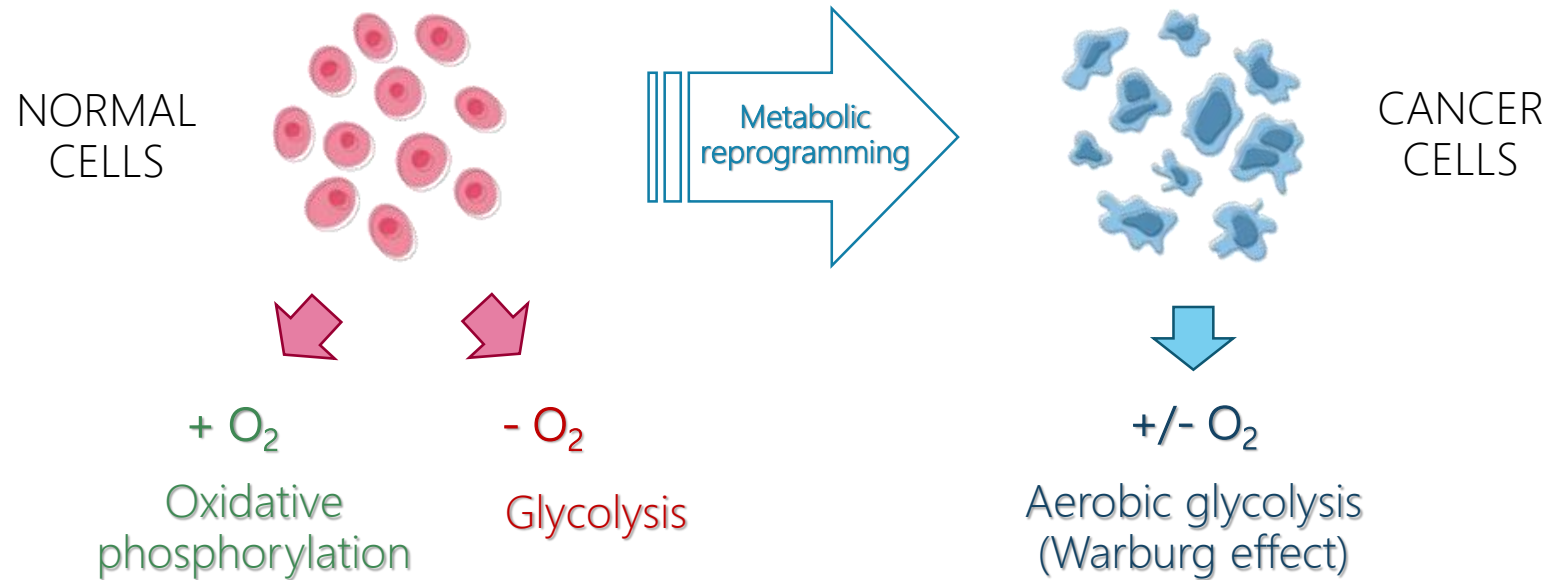
non-destructive

non-invasive

tissue metabolism

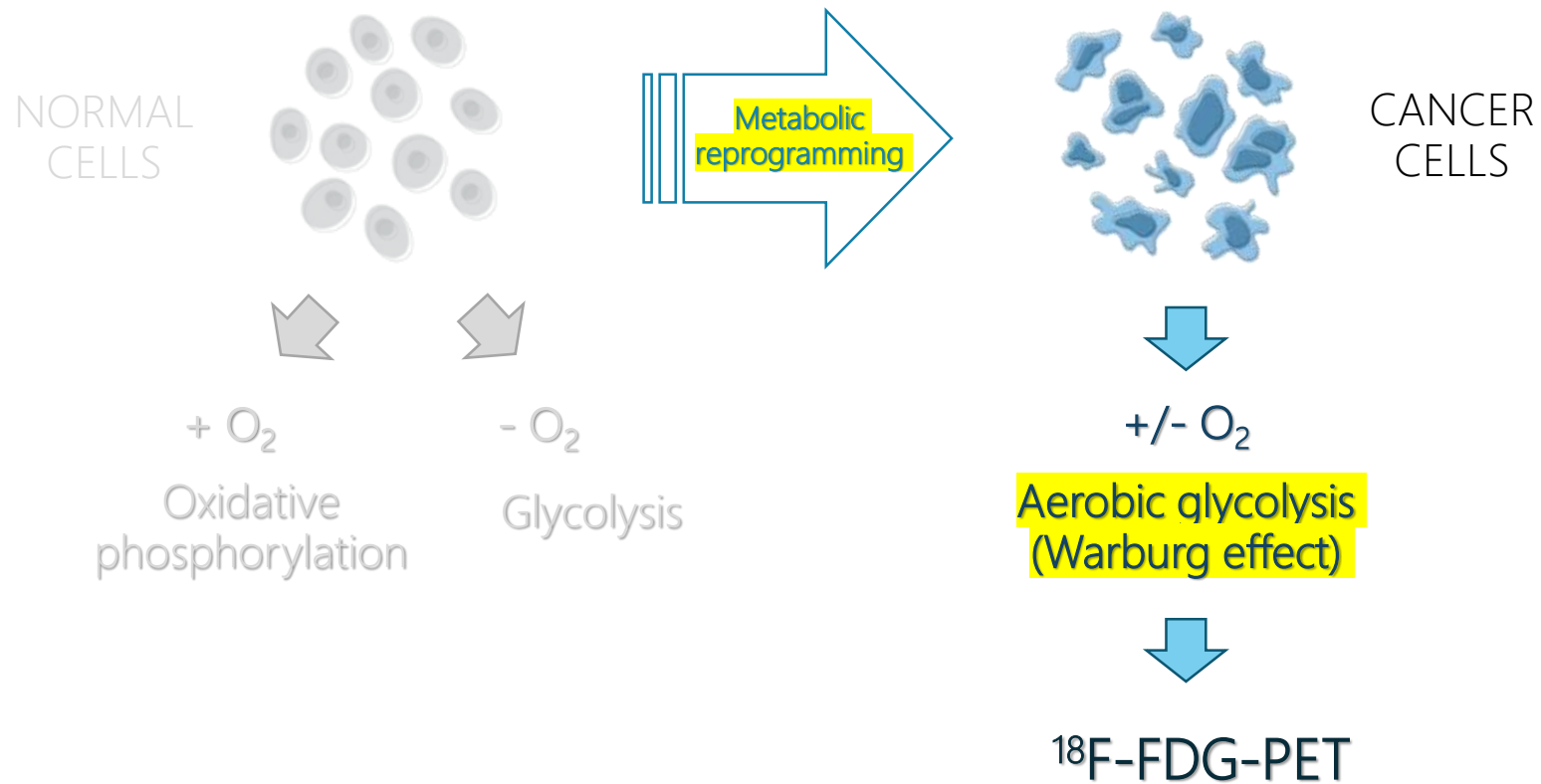
# Introduction

## Warburg Effect



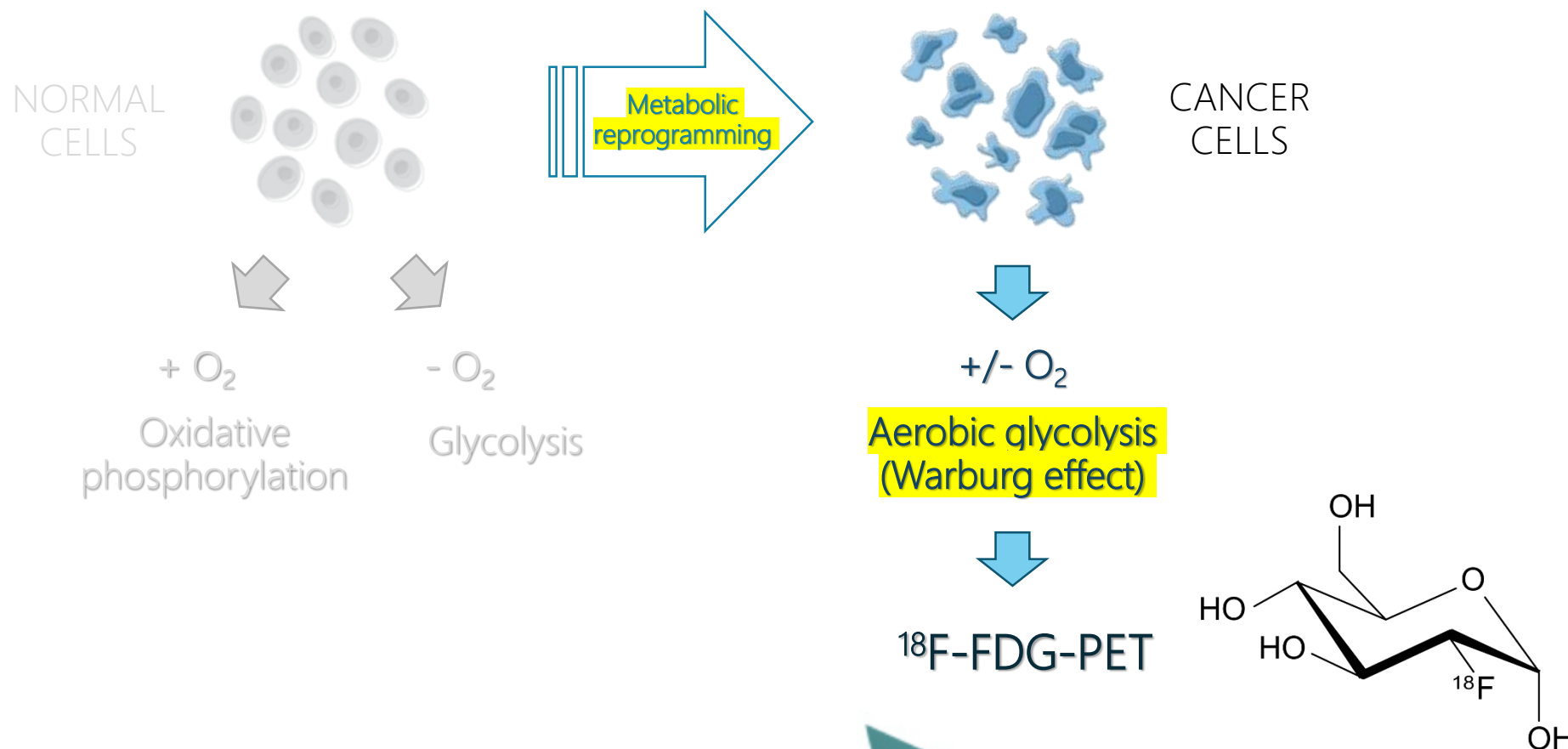
# Introduction

## Warburg Effect



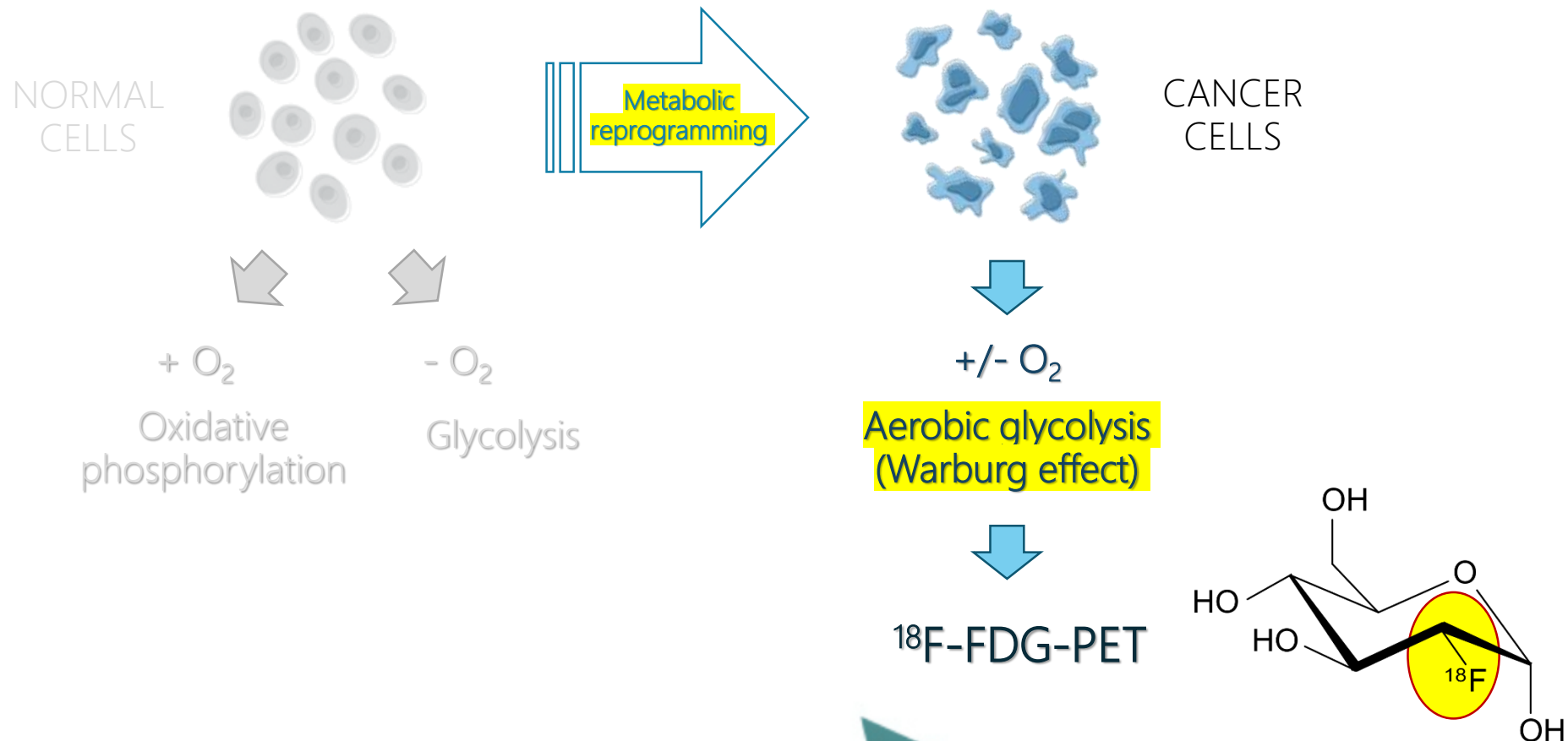
# Introduction

## Warburg Effect



# Introduction

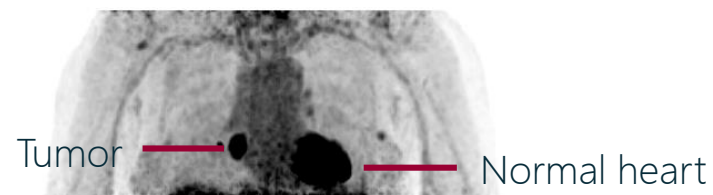
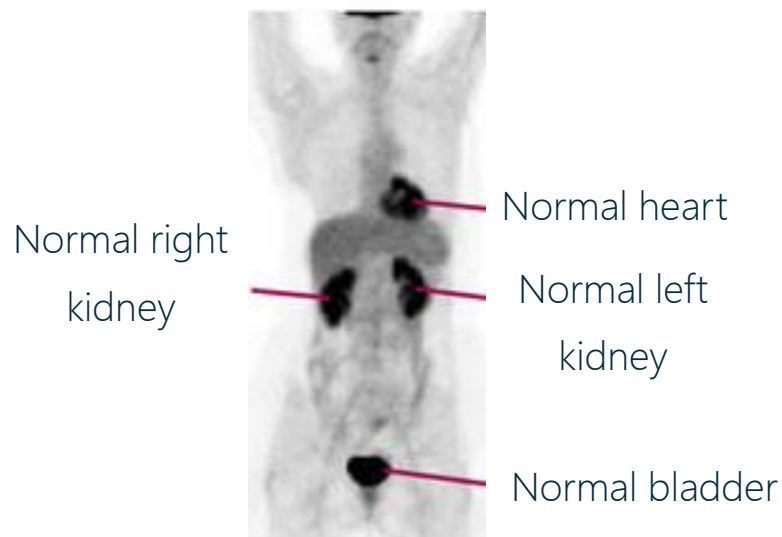
## Warburg Effect





# Introduction

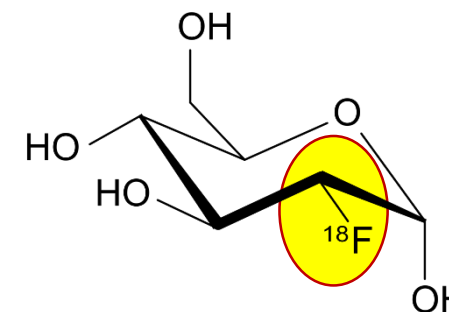
## Warburg Effect



Aerobic glycolysis  
(Warburg effect)

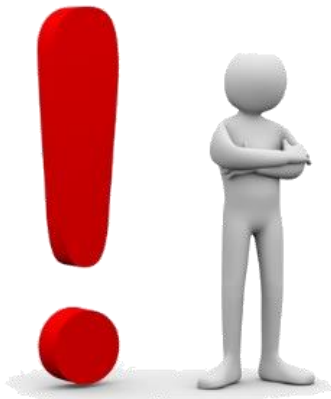


$^{18}\text{F}$ -FDG-PET



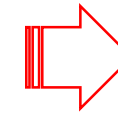
# Introduction

## FDG-PET: limits



- High physiological activity in organs (liver, brain)
- Suboptimal preparation of diabetic patients
- Infectious and/or inflammatory processes

Signal to noise ratio



False-positive results

# Multi-modal approaches

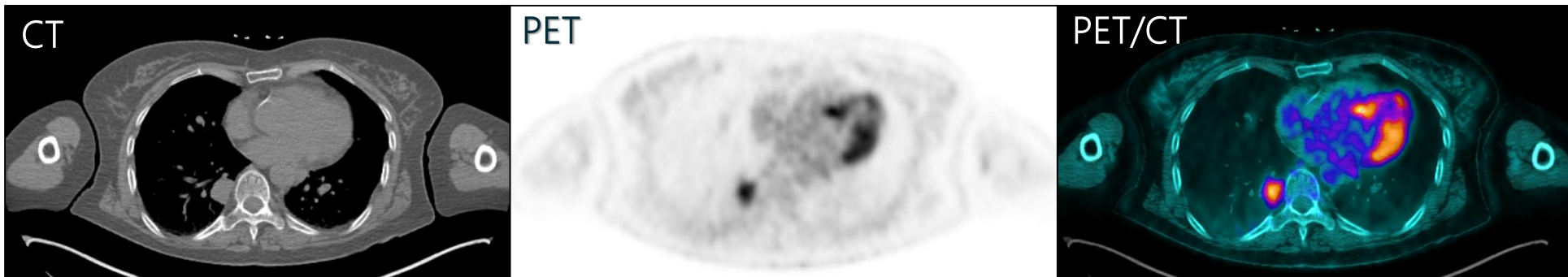
PET/CT fusion imaging

MULTI-MODAL IMAGING APPROACHES



PET/CT fusion

- × Artifacts due to physiologic motions
- × Spatial misregistration

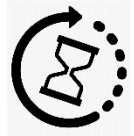


# Dynamic PET imaging

A deeper metabolic characterization

Registration of the tracer kinetics over time → pharmacokinetic

- i. temporally resolved
- ii. pixel resolution



Time consuming



Instrumental and  
analysis factors



Mathematical models  
for data analysis



Invasive continuous  
monitoring

# Dynamic PET imaging

A deeper metabolic characterization



Time consuming



Instrumental and  
analysis factors



Mathematical models  
for data analysis

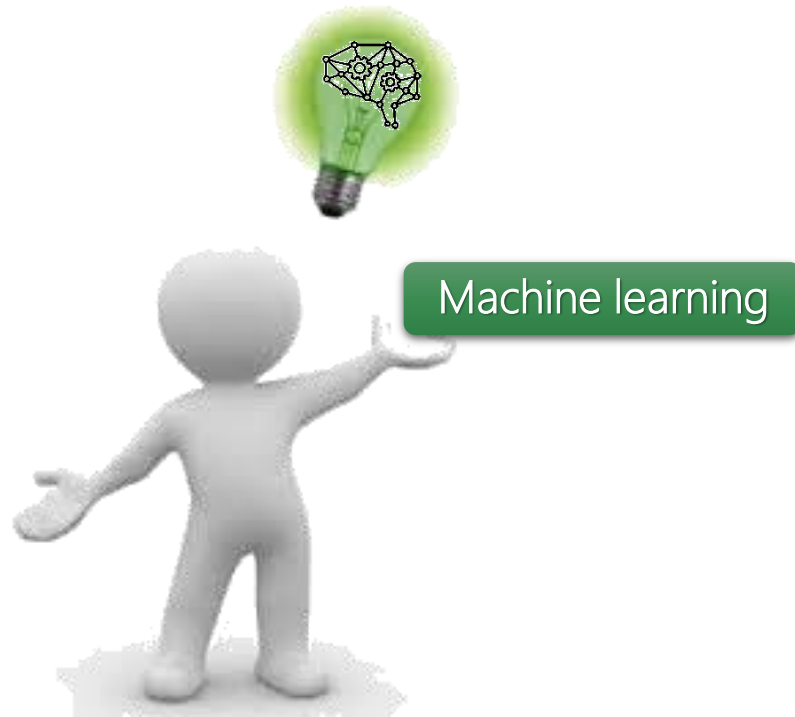


Invasive continuous  
monitoring



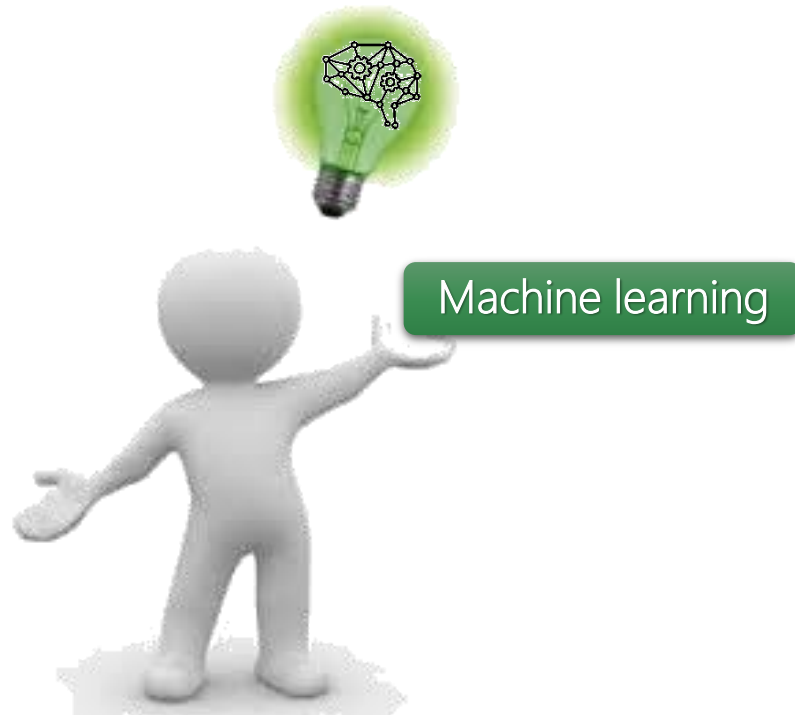
# Dynamic PET imaging

A deeper metabolic characterization



# Bio-image analysis

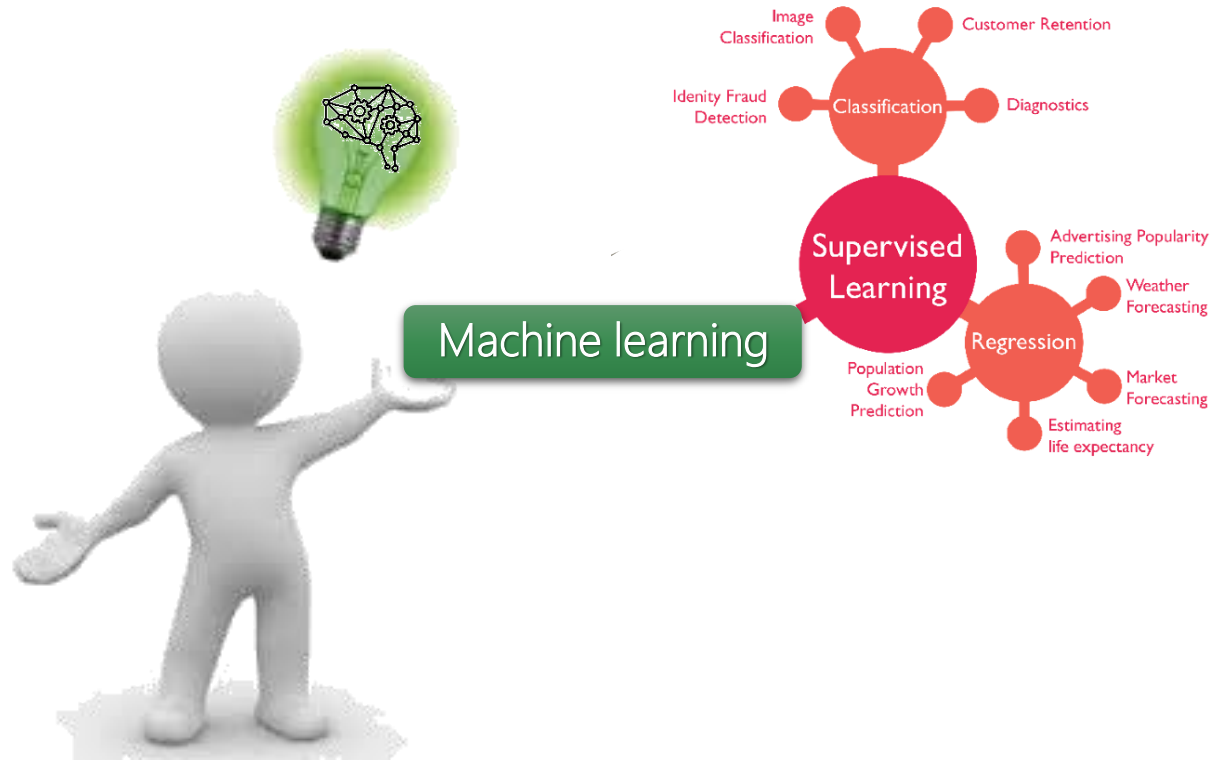
## Introduction of Machine-Learning



- ❖ Provide a way for analysis automation
- ❖ Avoid manual adjustments of pipeline
- ❖ More flexible for multidimensional data analysis tasks
- ❖ Provide new insights in metabolic features

# Machine Learning

## Introduction



Example **inputs** and **desired outputs** (given by a "teacher")



to learn a general rule that maps inputs to outputs.



Pixel-classification



# Pixel-classification

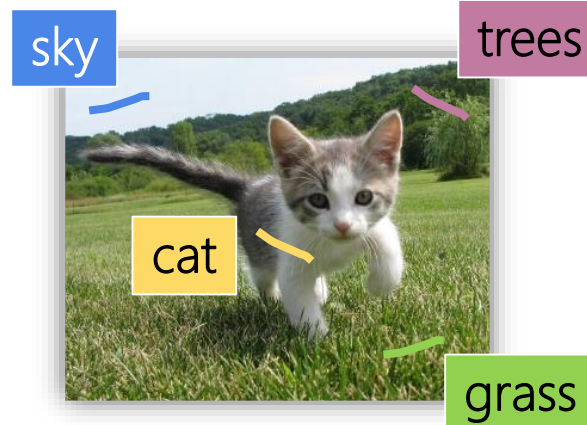
How it works

Pixel-classification

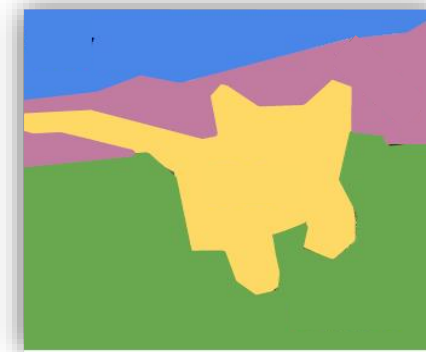
- ❖ Relies on examples provided by the user => *training set*
- ❖ The algorithm bases its decisions on criteria called *features*
- ❖ Generalize as well as possible on unseen data => *test set*



Input image



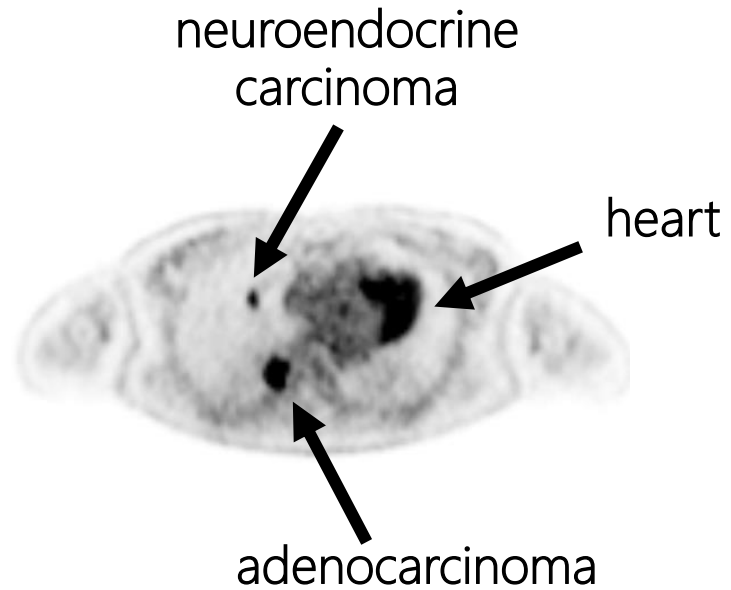
User annotations



Semantic segmentation

# Pixel-classification

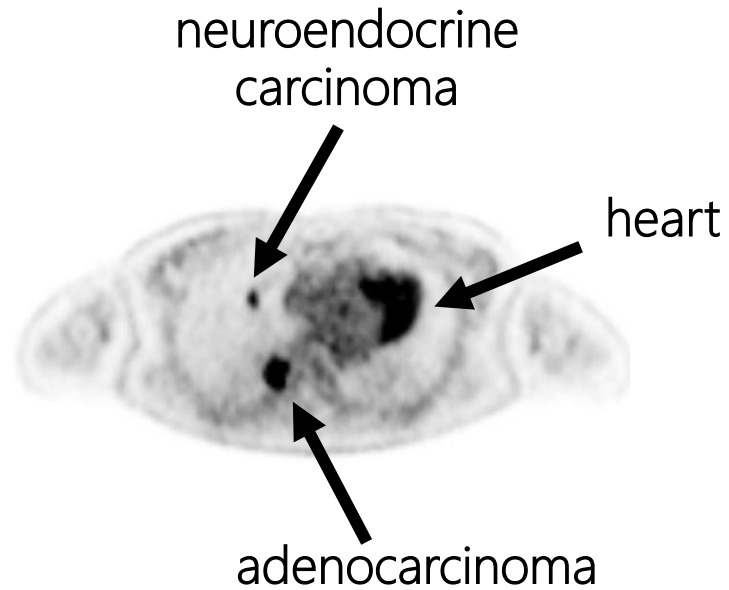
What it can do



No differences in intensity

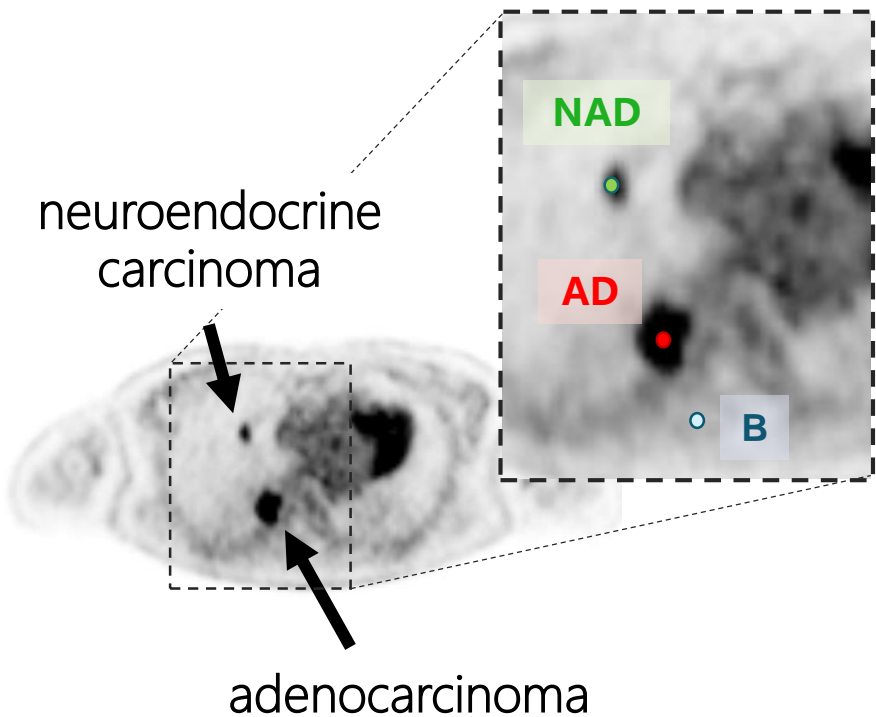
# Pixel-classification

What it can do

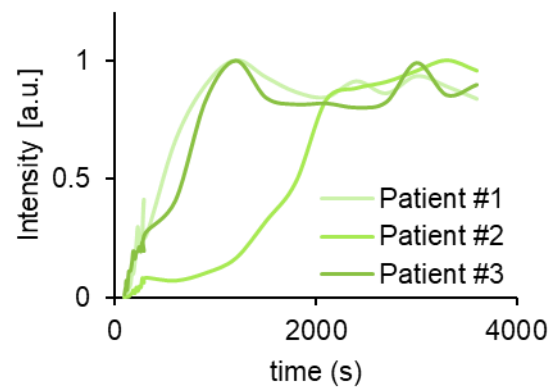


What about the kinetic of  
FDG uptake?

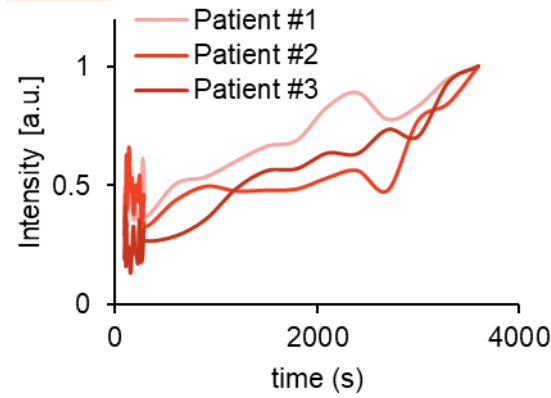
# What about the kinetic of FDG uptake?



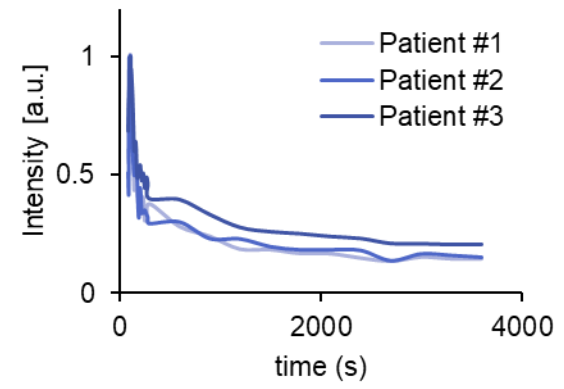
**NAD**

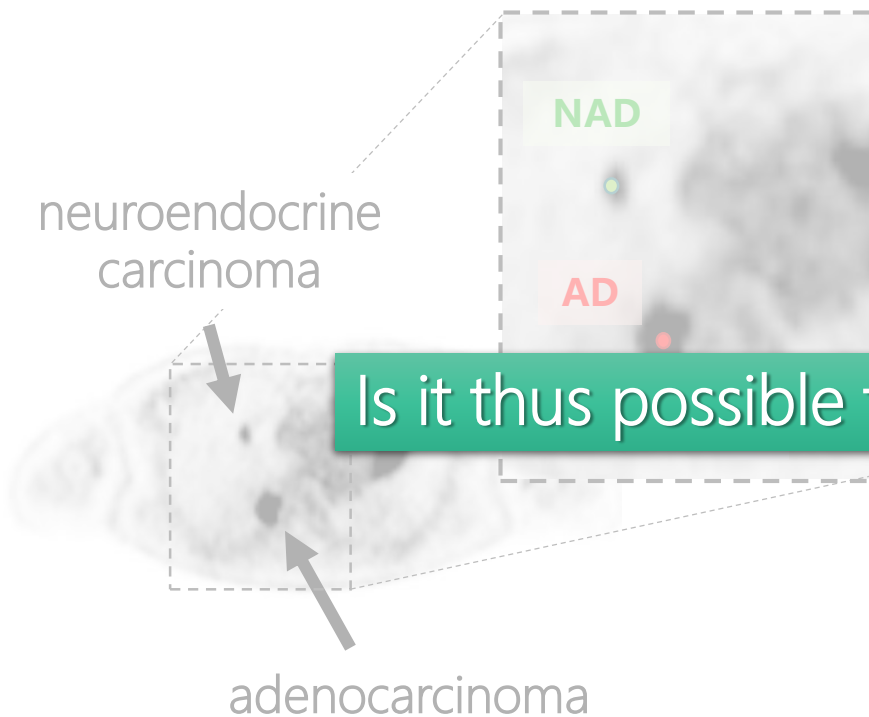


**AD**

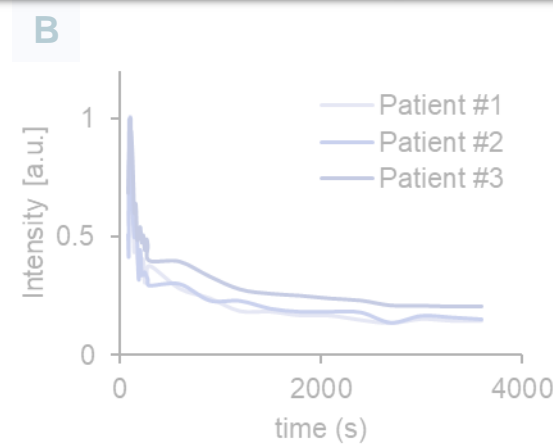
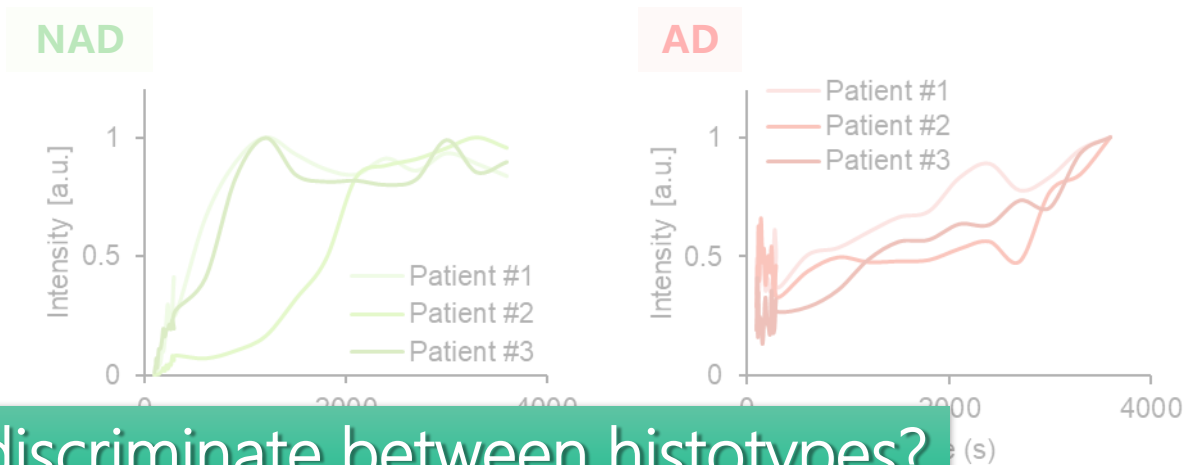


**B**

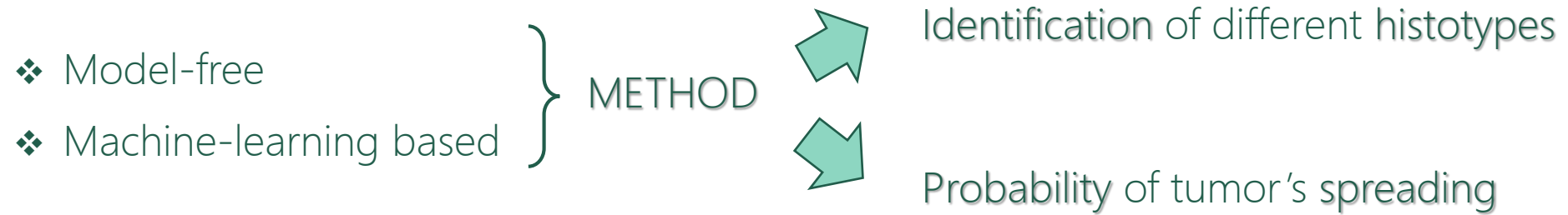




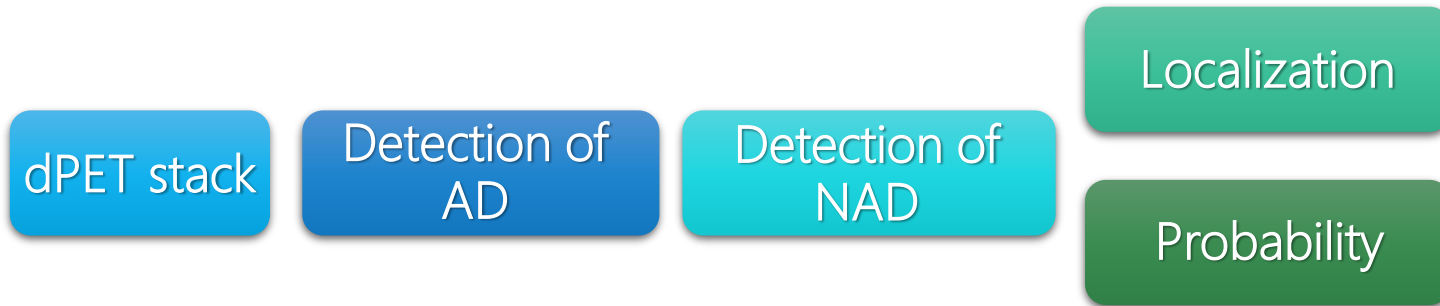
Is it thus possible to discriminate between histotypes?



## Is it thus possible to discriminate between histotypes?



# Is it thus possible to discriminate between histotypes?



dPET stack

Detection of  
AD

Detection of  
NAD

Localization

Probability



47 time-channels

512x512 pixel resolution



Ilastik



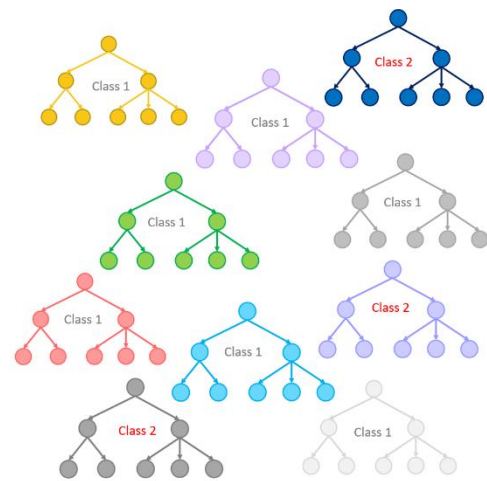
dPET stack

Detection of AD

Detection of NAD

Localization

Probability



Adenocarcinoma (AD)

Non-Adenocarcinoma (NAD)

Background

multiple decision trees taken into consideration for the final classification

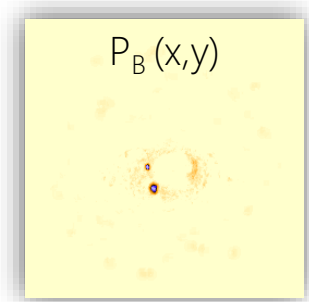
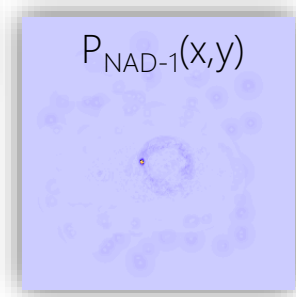
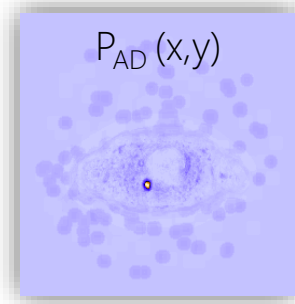
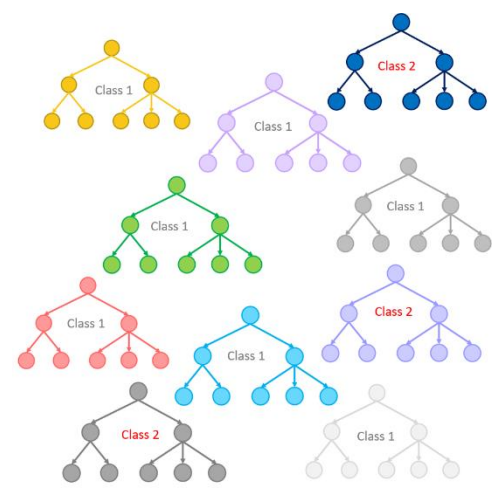
dPET stack

Detection of AD

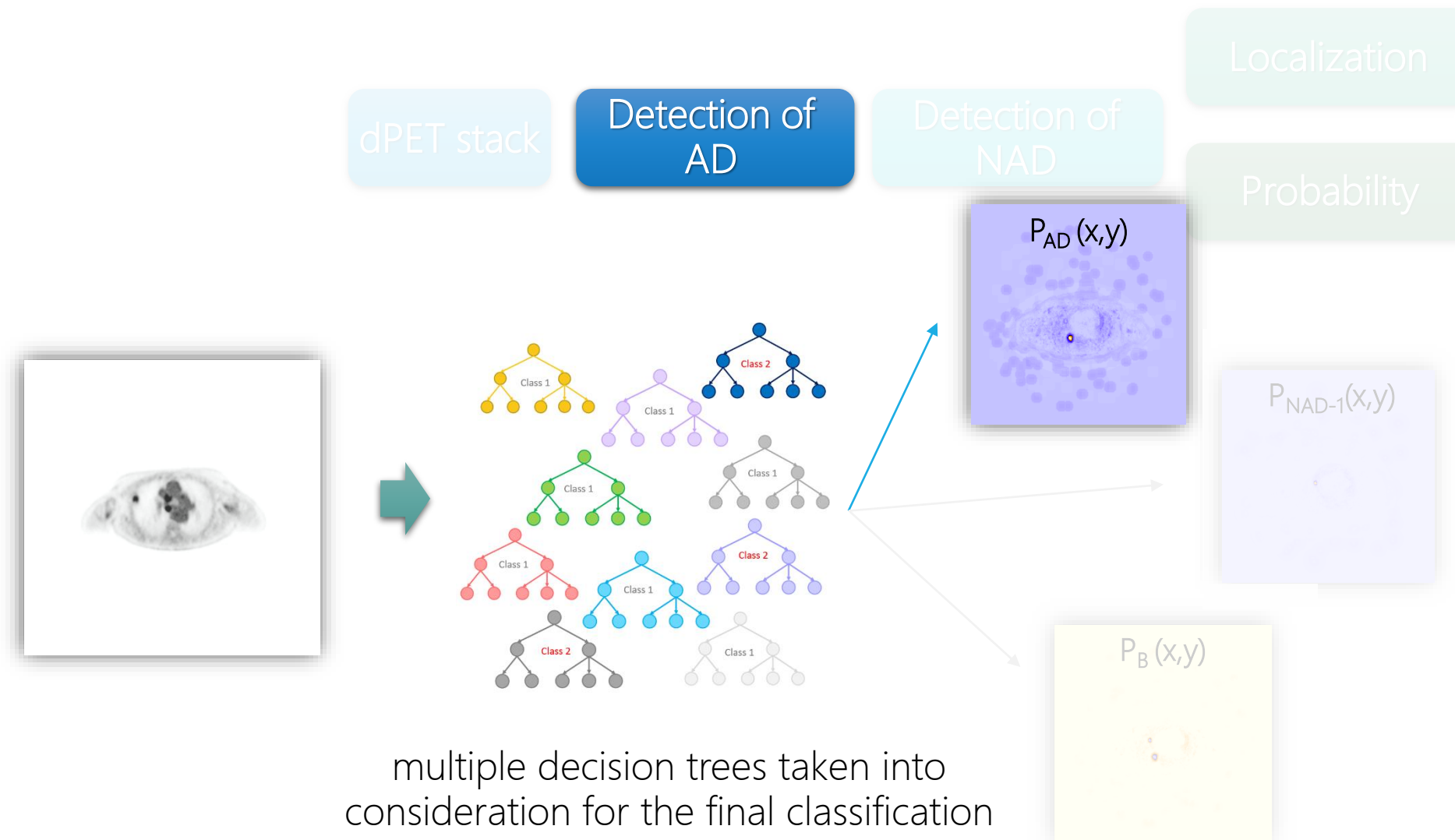
Detection of NAD

Localization

Probability



multiple decision trees taken into consideration for the final classification



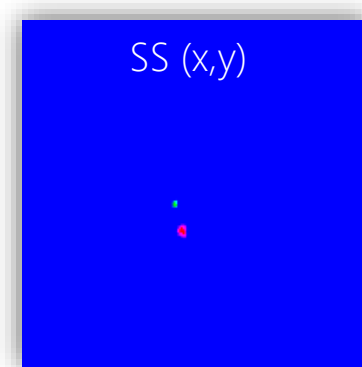
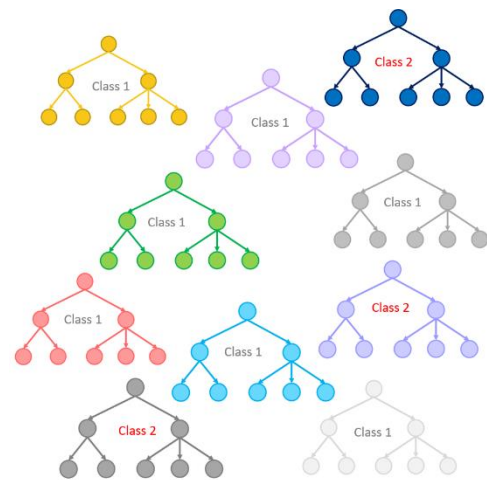
dPET stack

Detection of AD

Detection of NAD

Localization

Probability



multiple decision trees taken into consideration for the final classification

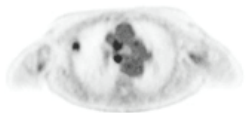
dPET stack

Detection of  
AD

Detection of  
NAD

Localization

Probability



47 time-channels + 1 (semantic segmentation)

512x512 pixel resolution

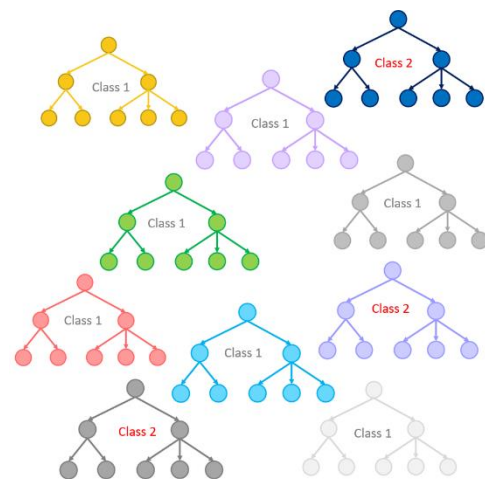
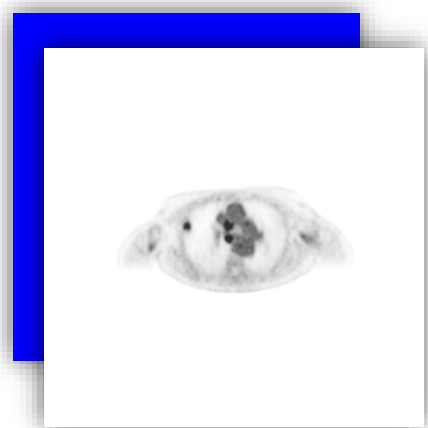
dPET stack

Detection of  
AD

Detection of  
NAD

Localization

Probability



Non-Adenocarcinoma (NAD)

Background

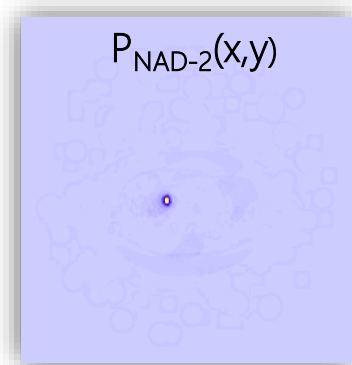
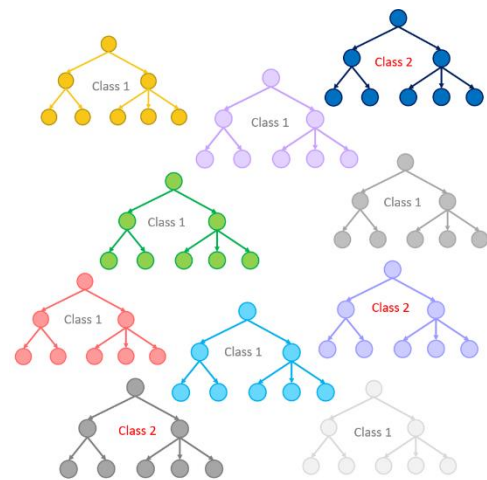
dPET stack

Detection of AD

Detection of NAD

Localization

Probability



Background

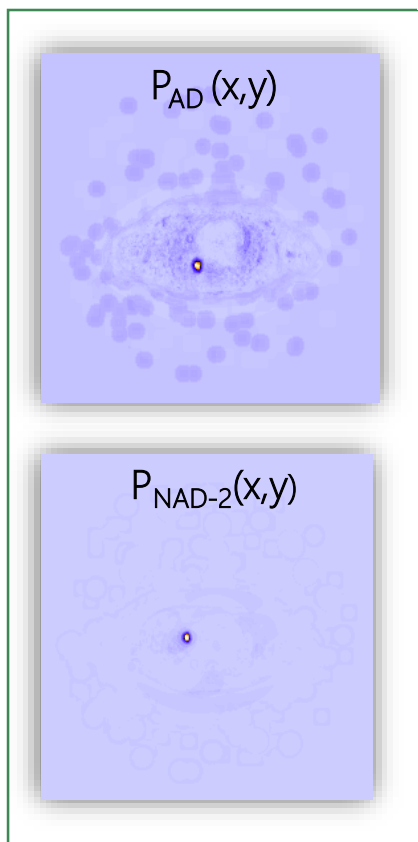
dPET stack

Detection of AD

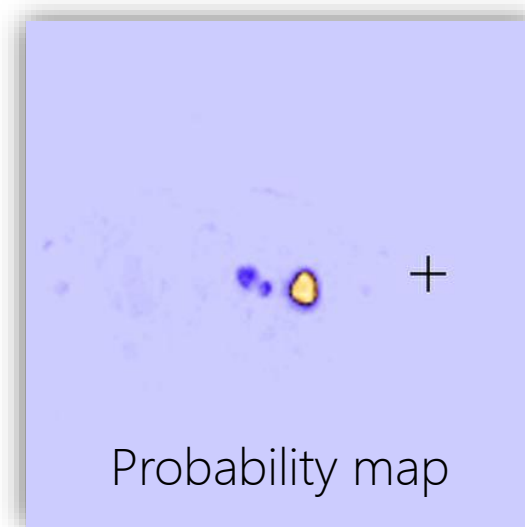
Detection of NAD

Localization

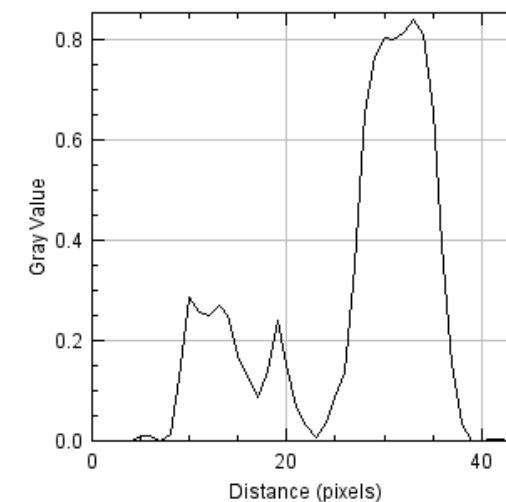
Probability



Analysis of maxima of probability



Probability profile





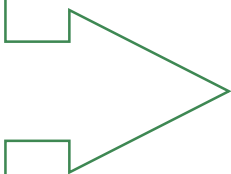
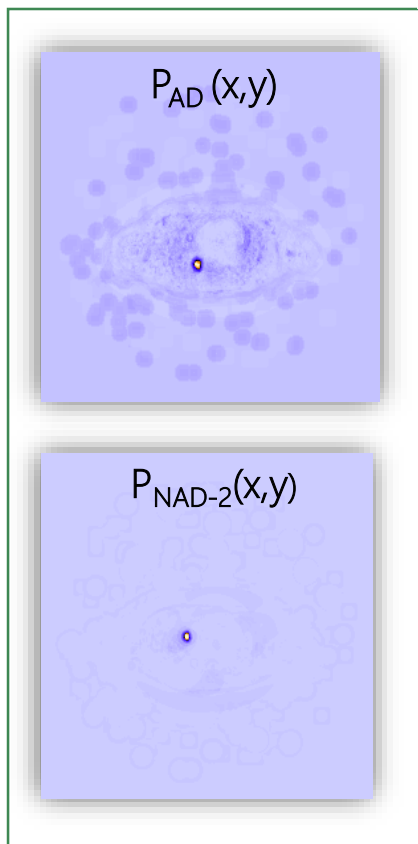
dPET stack

Detection of AD

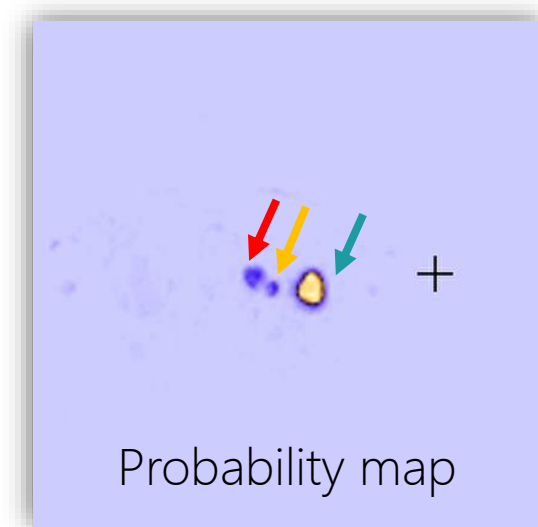
Detection of NAD

Localization

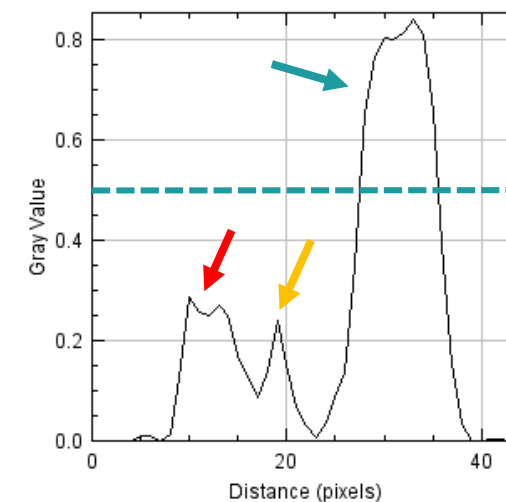
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Probability profile



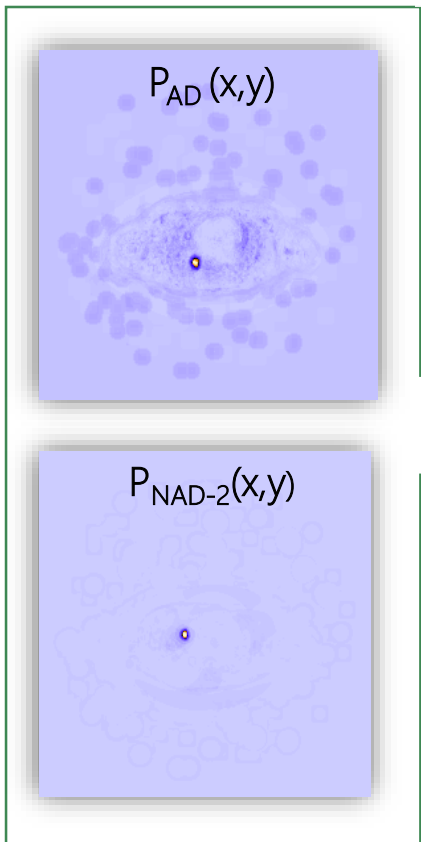
dPET stack

Detection of AD

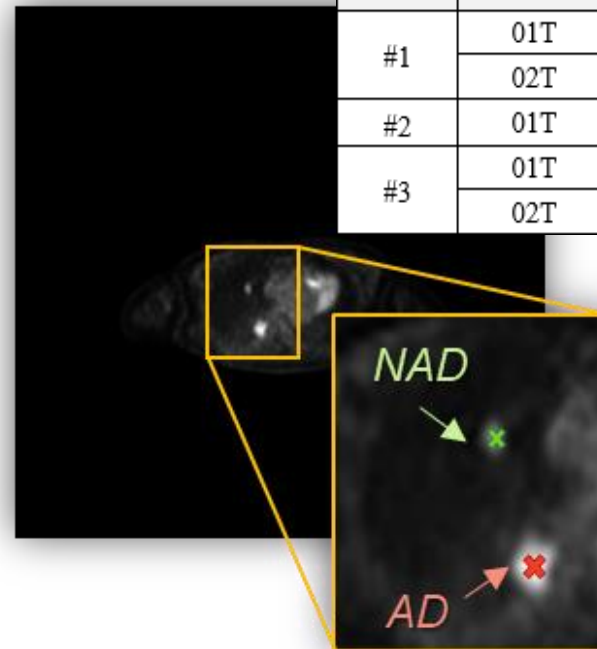
Detection of NAD

Localization

Probability



Analysis of maxima of probability



Patient	# Tumors	Histotype	Classification Output	X (pixel)	Y (pixel)
#1	01T	NSCLC	AD	97	120
	02T			109	141
#2	01T	NSCLC	AD	104	152
#3	01T	AD	AD	117	155
	02T	LCNEC	NAD	112	135

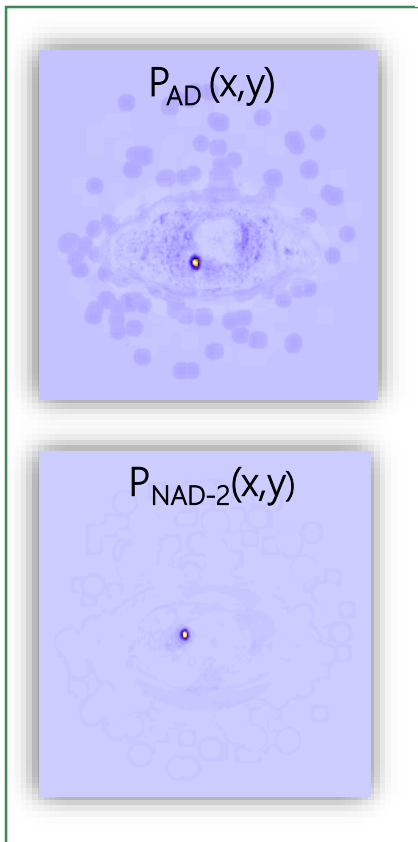
dPET stack

Detection of AD

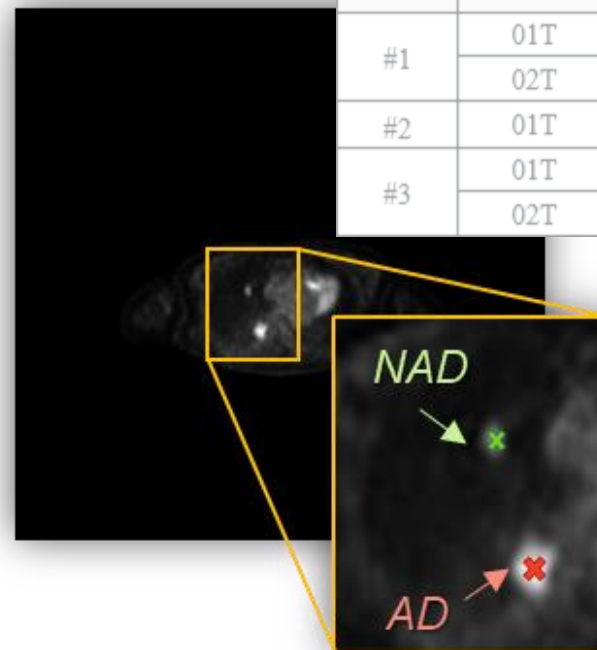
Detection of NAD

Localization

Probability



Analysis of maxima of probability



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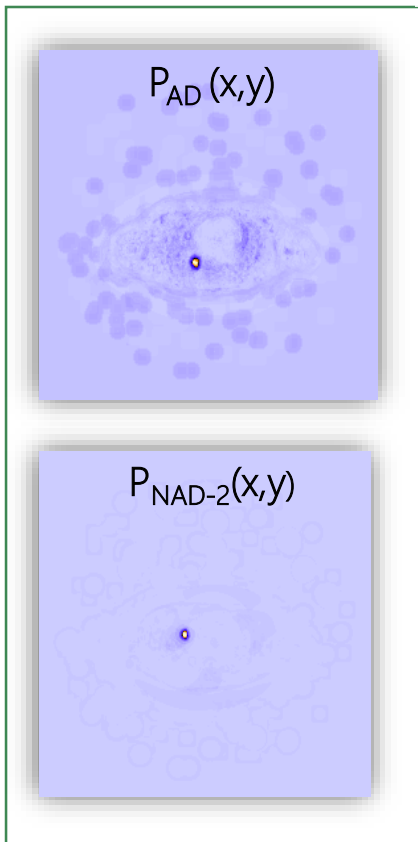
dPET stack

Detection of AD

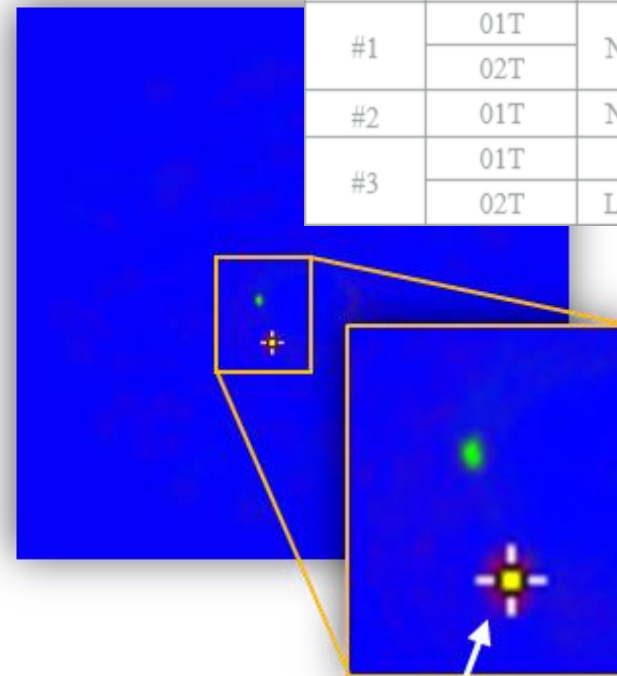
Detection of NAD

Localization

Probability



Analysis of maxima of probability



Patient	# Tumors	Histotype	Classification Output	Probability	Uncertainty
#1	01T	NSCLC	AD	1	0
	02T			0.64	0
#2	01T	NSCLC	AD	0.93	0.13
#3	01T	AD	AD	0.94	0.12
	02T	LCNEC	NAD	1	0

$P_{AD} = 0.94$

# Tumor's spreading

Evaluation of the lymph-node metastatic risk



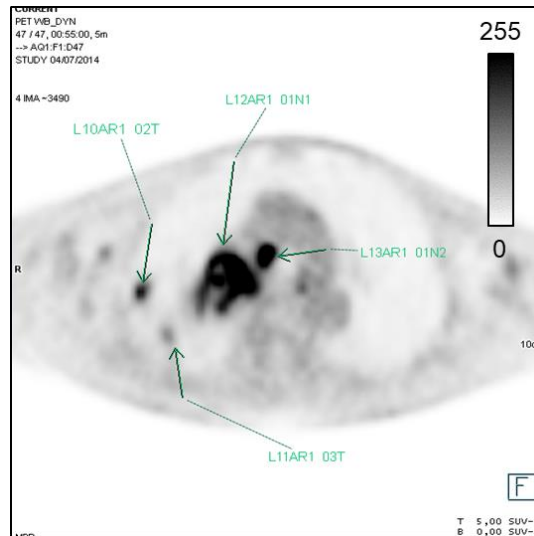
Analysis of maxima of  
probability



Presence of local maxima associated to lymph-nodes

# Tumor's spreading

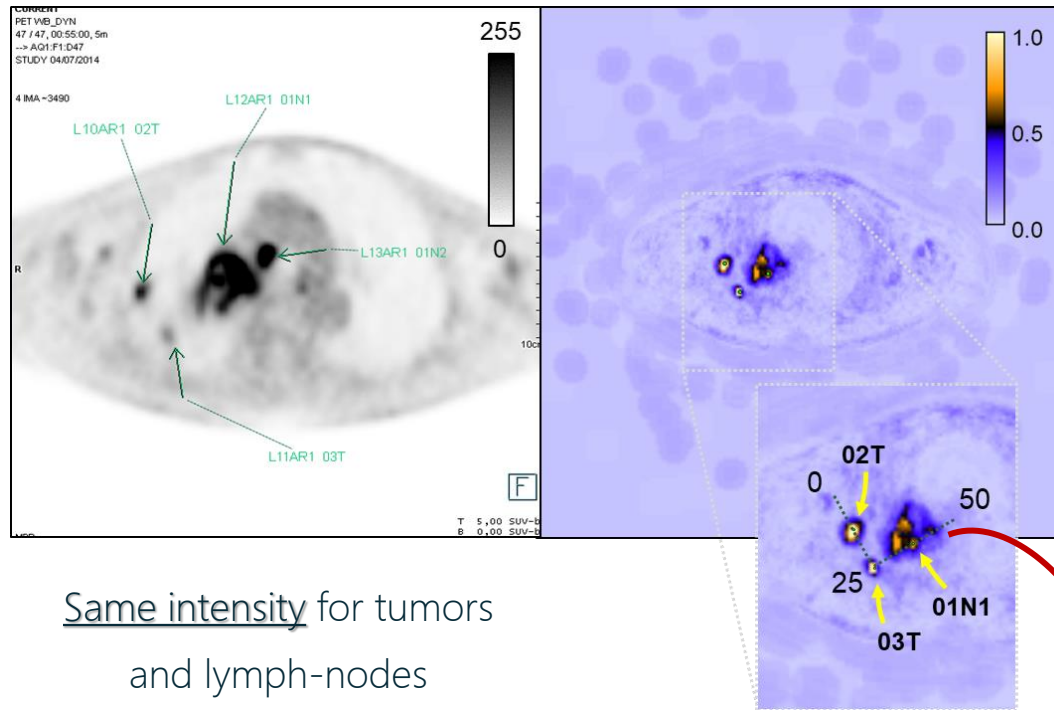
Evaluation of the lymph-node metastatic risk



Same intensity for tumors  
and lymph-nodes

# Tumor's spreading

Evaluation of the lymph-node metastatic risk

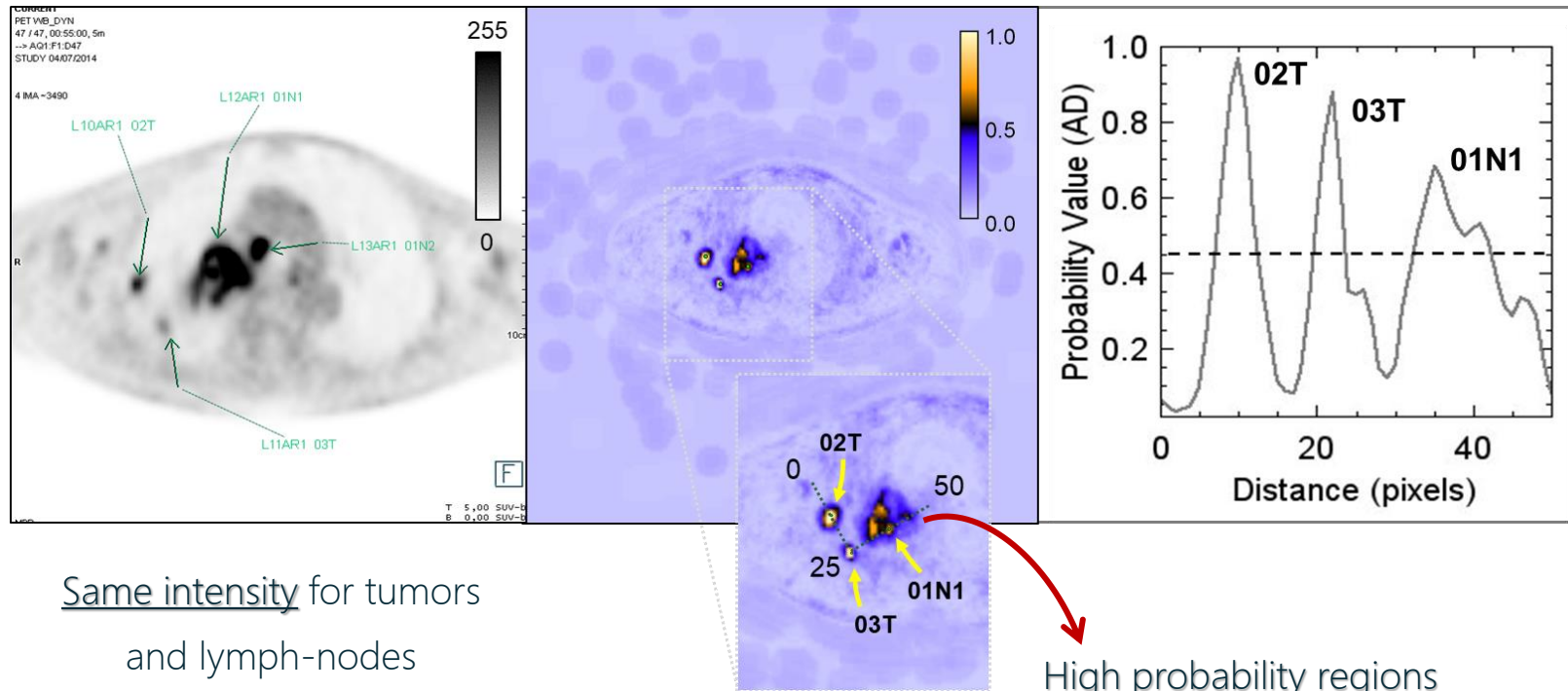


Same intensity for tumors  
and lymph-nodes

High probability regions  
revealed by the classifier

# Tumor's spreading

Evaluation of the lymph-node metastatic risk



Same intensity for tumors and lymph-nodes

High probability regions revealed by the classifier

Early detection of impaired metabolism regions



# Conclusions, **limits** and future perspectives

- ❖ Model-free
- ❖ Multi-stage pixel classification
- ❖ Combining spatial features and uptake kinetic



Automated detection and classification of AD and NAD on dPET imaging data



- × **Limited** number of analyzed **patients** → to be increased for workflow optimization
- × Still **requires** the **temporal information** → time consuming

- ✓ Automatic and accurate **localization** and **discrimination** of tumors
- ✓ Detection of **tumor's spreading** beyond the primary lesion **into lymphatic system**
- ✓ **Speed-up** and **furnish further evidence** in **diagnosis** and **staging** of lung cancer



**early** and **accurate classification** of **tumors** and **metastatic lymph-nodes**

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DI STORIA  
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MI  
Metabolic Intelligence

Department of Neuroscience - Section of Biophysics  
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore



Fondazione Policlinico  
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Sacro Cuore

Thanks!



Prof. Giuseppe Maulucci



Prof. Marco De Spirito



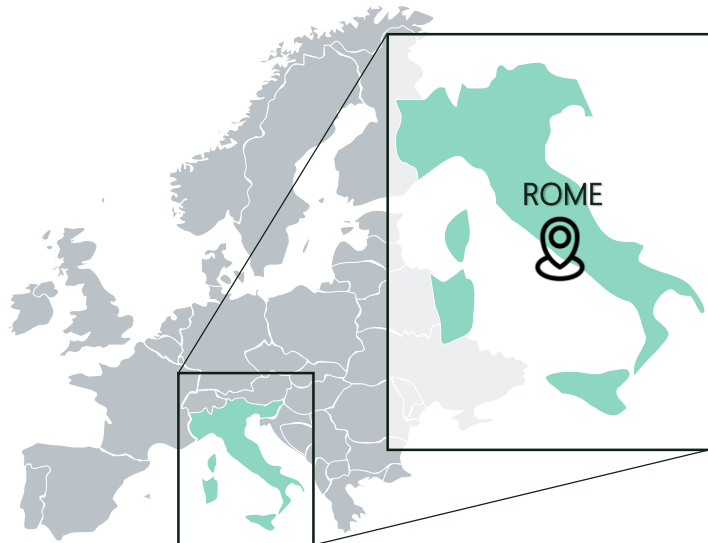
Giada Bianchetti



Alessio Abeltino



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# Questions?

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Metabolic Intelligence Website  
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