

RADIATION PROTECTION ISSUES IN MODERN EXTERNAL BEAM RADIOTHERAPY FLASH THERAPY

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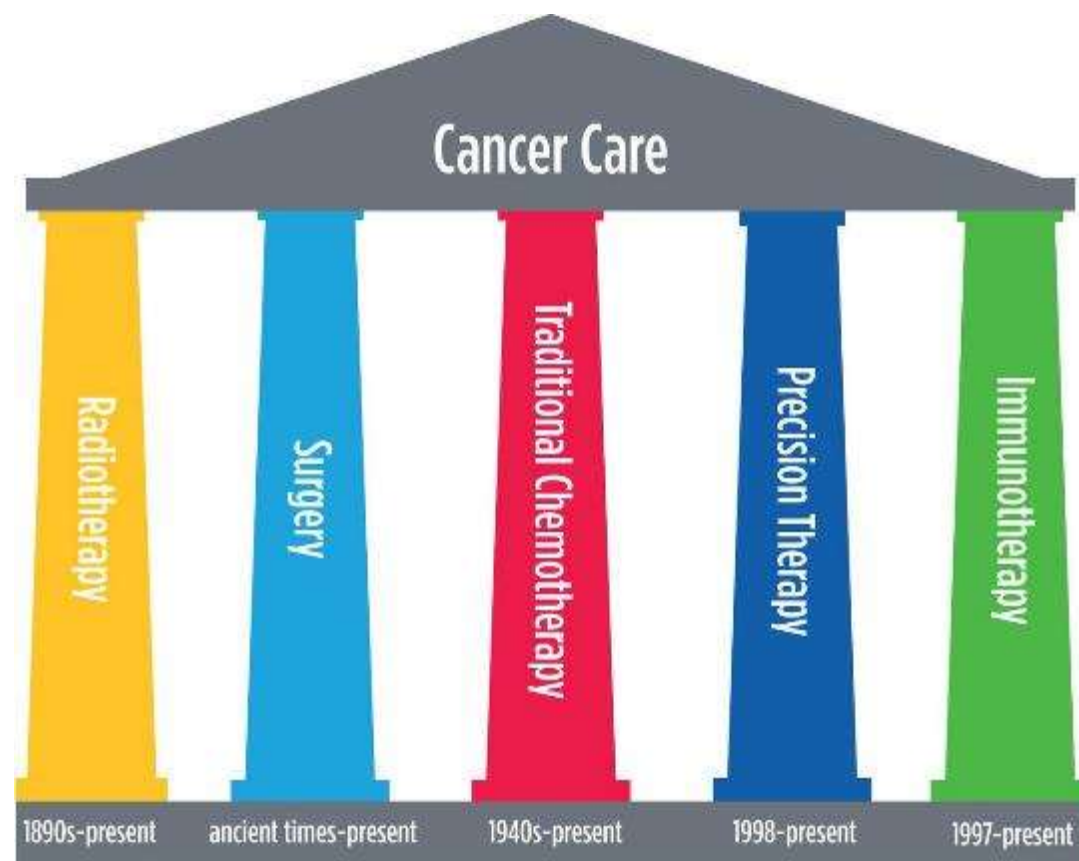
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PILARS OF CANCER CARE



FLASH RADIOTHERAPY

IRRADIATION AT ULTRA HIGH DOSE RATE (UHDR)

Balistic advantage

Radiobiological advantage

Freeze motion

THE FLASH EFFECT

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FLASH AND CONVENTIONAL RT

	Conv	Flash
Dose per pulse (Gy) d	mGy	Gy
Total dose (Gy) D=nd (n=number of pulses)	2-8Gx/fr 60-90 Gy	8 Gy in 1 fr
Delivery time T (n(>1min	<200 msec
Mean dose rate D/T	1Gy/min	>40Gy/sec
Duty cycle DT	0.1-50%	

CONV:
1Gy/min
0.017Gy/sec

FLASH:
60Gy/sec

**=X 3500
quicker**

SOME CONTEXT

exponent	12	9	6	3	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-6	-9	-12
	10^{12}	10^9	10^6	10^3	10^2	10^1	$10^0=1$	10^{-1}	10^{-2}	10^{-3}	10^{-6}	10^{-9}	10^{-12}
prefix	tera	giga	mega	Kilo	hecto	deca	BASE	deci	centi	mili	micro	nano	pico
	T	G	M	K	h	da		d	c	m	μ	n	p

conv

protons

electrons

VHEE



P Montay-Gruel



C Limoli

“FLASH-RT delivers radiation at ultra-high dose rates with specific beam parameters able to effectively treat tumors without inducing adverse toxicity within the surrounding normal tissues”

***in vivo* observation!**

1 – implements extremely **FAST** -
Ultra-high dose rate
(UHDR) irradiation

**Defined beam
parameters**

2 – does not induce
classical radiation
induced toxicity in
normal tissue

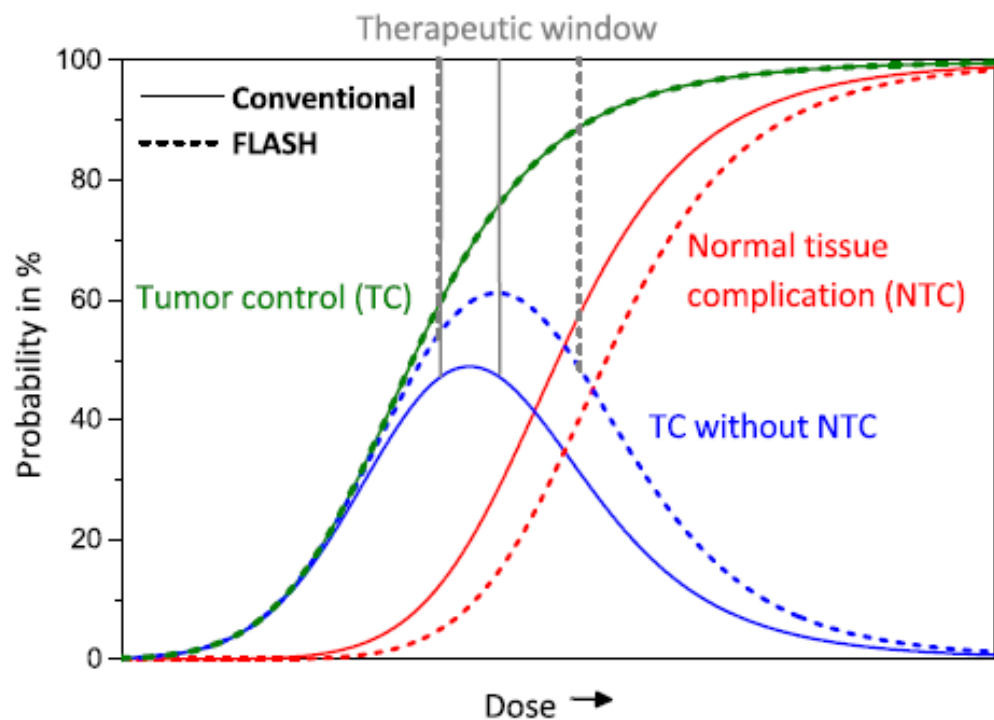
> 45 publications

3 – retains **antitumor
efficacy** compared to
standard RT

> 18 publications

“FLASH EFFECT”

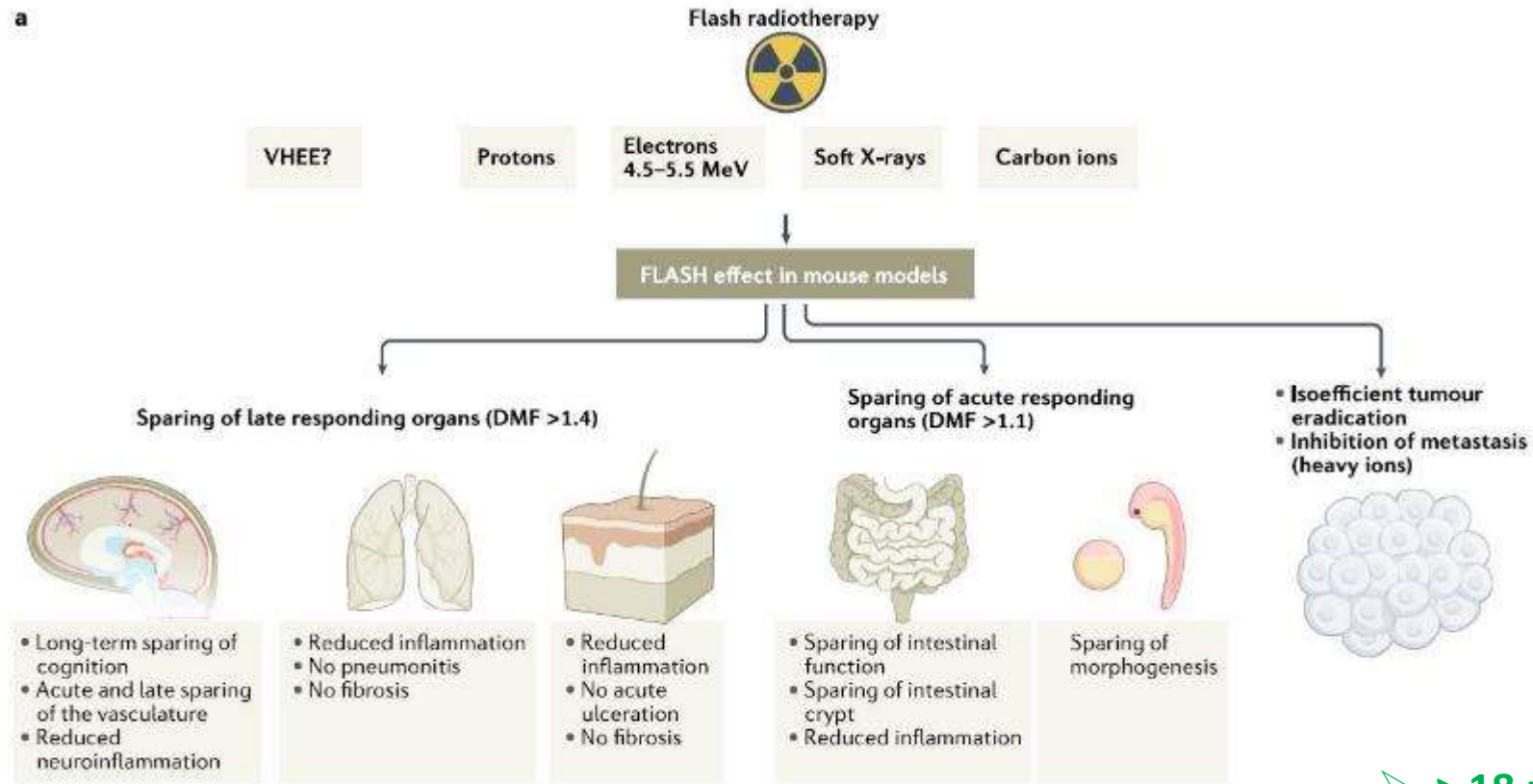
FLASH DOES ENHANCE THE THERAPEUTIC WINDOW



Original paper
The European Joint Research Project UHdpulse – Metrology for advanced radiotherapy using particle beams with ultra-high pulse dose rates

Andreas Schüller^{a,*}, Sophie Heinrich^b, Charles Fouillade^c, Anna Sabiel^d, Ludovic De Marzi^{e,g}, Francesco Romano^{a,h}, Peter Fejerⁱ, Maria Tractins^j, Celeste Hota^k, Radu Kranzer^l, Marco Caresani^m, Samuel Salvadoⁿ, Simon Busold^o, Andrea Schönfeld^o, Malcolm McEwen^p, Faustino Gomez^q, Jaroslav Sok^r, Claude Bailat^s, Vladimir Lindhart^t, Jan Jakubek^u, Jörg Pawelke^v, Marco Borghesti^w, Ralf-Peter Kapteich^x, Adrian Knyziak^y, Jan Jankovic^z, Veronika Obovцова^{aa}, Christian Kottler^{ab}, Daniela Poppinga^{ac}, Iva Ambrozova^{ad}, Claus Stefan Schmitzer^{ae}, Severino Rossumo^{af}, Marie-Catherine Vozisin^{ag}

VALIDATION OF FLASH BEAMS



> 45 publications
Single dose, HypoFx, Standard fx

> 18 publications
> 23 tumor types
Single dose and HypoFx
TGD, TC and carcinogenesis
Chabi et al. study show Rr to FLASH

THRESHOLD FOR FLASH EFFECT

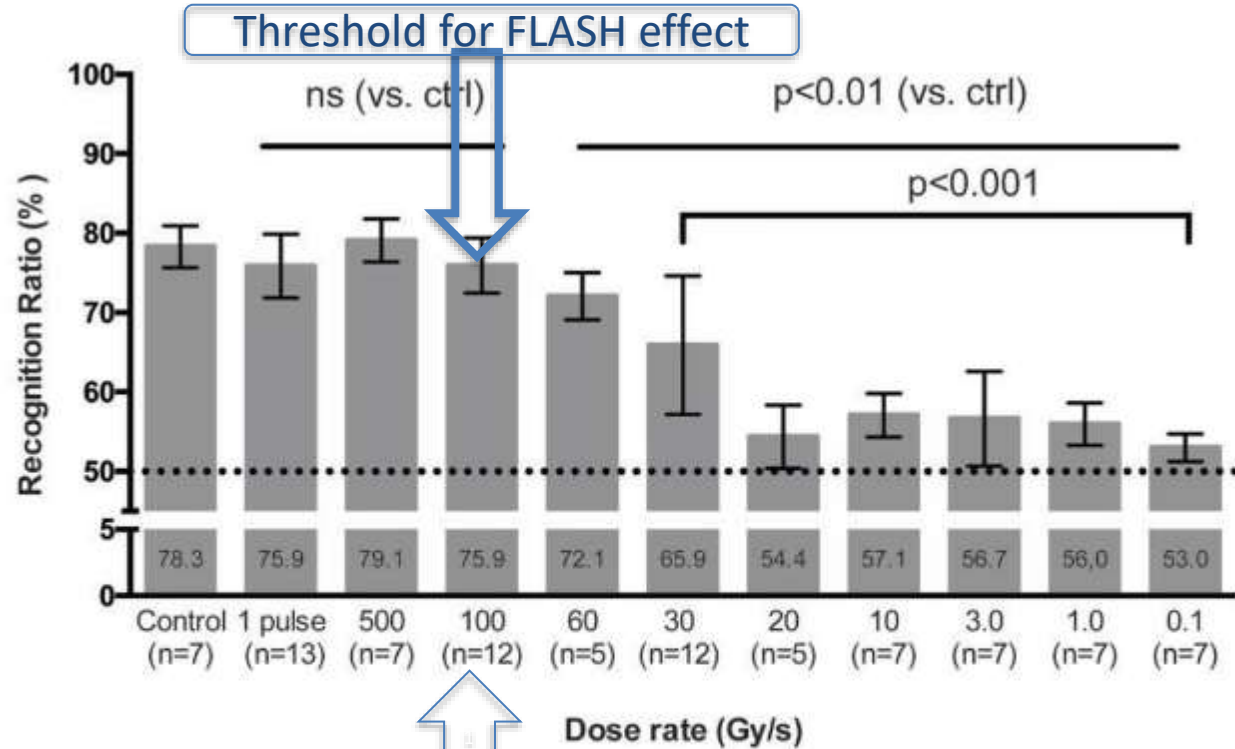
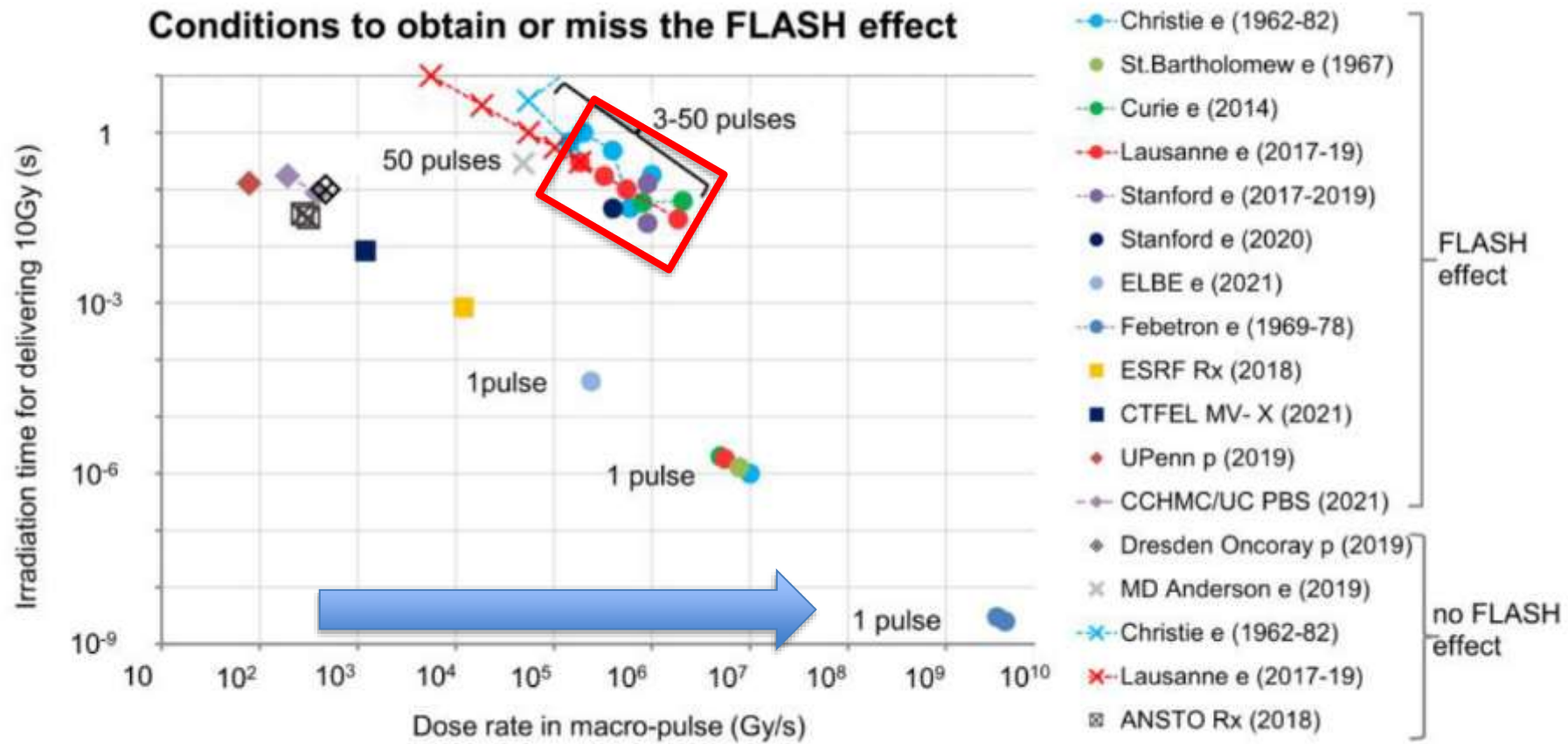


Figure 5: From [39], neuroprotection demonstrated by the evaluation of the Recognition Ratio (RR) two months post irradiation for groups of mice (n=number of mice) that received 0 Gy (Control) and 10 Gy whole brain irradiation with an average dose rate of 0.1, 1.0, 3, 10, 20, 30, 60, 100, or 500 Gy/s, or with a single 1.8 μ s electron pulse (1 pulse). Bars represent mean values and whiskers the standard deviations. Dose rates above 60 Gy/s or delivery times <167 ms were required for maximum neuroprotection at a dose of 10 Gy in this model.



JF Germond

CONDITIONS TO OBTAIN OR MISS THE FLASH EFFECT



GREAT INTEREST FROM BOTH THE PHYSICS AND MEDICAL COMMUNITY




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What is FLASH radiotherapy?

Find out in our December issue

Marie-Catherine Vozenin, Jean Bourhis & Marco Durante

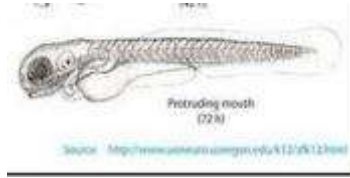
Perspective | 27 October 2022

LEADING TO A FLASH- COMMUNITY

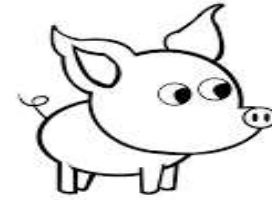


PRECLINICAL EVIDENCE: FEASIBILITY AND MECHANISTIC EVIDENCE

NORMAL TISSUE SPARING: FLASH-RT DOES NOT INDUCE NORMAL TISSUE TOXICITY, WHEN CONV-RT DOES



Skin
Gut
Lung
HS
Brain



Electron

Chabi et al. *IJROBP*, in press
Montay-Gruel et al. *Rad Res*, in press
Allen et al. *Rad Res*, in press
Alaghban et al. *Cancers*, in press
Bourhis J et al. *Radiother Oncol.* 2019.
Jorge PG et al. *Radiother Oncol.* 2019 Oct.
Montay-Gruel P et al. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2019.
Vozenin et al. *Clin Can Res*, 2019.
Montay-Gruel P et al. *Radiother&Oncol.*, 2017.
Jaccard M et al. *Med Phys*, 2018.
Favaudon V et al. *Sci Transl Med.* 2014.

X-ray-synchrotron

Montay-Gruel P et al. *Radiother&Oncol.* 2018.

Electron

Soto et al. *Rad Res*, 2020.
Fouillade C et al. *CCR*, 2019.
Simmons et al. *Radiother Oncol.* 2019.
Loo B et al. *IJROBP*, 2017, abst.
Hendry et al. *Rad Res*, 1982.

Proton

Zhang et al. *Rad Res*, 2020.
Diffenderfer et al. *IJROBP*, 2020.
Girdhani et al. *Can Res*, 2019, abst.

X-ray synchrotron

Smyth et al. *Sci Rep*, 2018.

Proton

Beyreuther et al. *Radiother Oncol.* 2019.

Electron

Venkatesulu et al. *Sc Rep*, 2019.

AND FLASH-RT IS EQUALLY ABLE TO ERADICATE TUMORS COMPARED TO CONV-RT

Ultrahigh dose-rate FLASH irradiation increases the differential response between normal and tumor tissue in mice

Vincent Favaudon,^{1,2*} Laura Caplier,^{1†} Virginie Monceau,^{1,5†} Frédéric Pouzoulet,^{1,2§} Mano Sayarath,^{1,2¶} Charles Fouillade,^{1,2} Marie-France Poupon,^{1,2||} Isabel Brito,^{6,7} Philippe Hupé,^{6,7,8,9} Jean Bourhis,^{9,9,10} Janet Hall,^{1,2} Jean-Jacques Fontaine,⁵ Marie-Catherine Vozenin^{6,9,10,11}

Electron

Chabi et al. *IJROBP*, 2020.

Montay-Gruel P et al. *CCR*, 2020.

Bourhis J et al. *Radiother Oncol.* 2019.

Jorge PG et al. *Radiother Oncol.* 2019.

Favaudon V et al. *Sci Transl Med.* 2014.

Electron

Kim et al. *IJROBP*, 2020

Proton

Diffenderfer et al. *IJROBP*, 2020.

Girdhani et al. *Can Res*, 2019, abst.

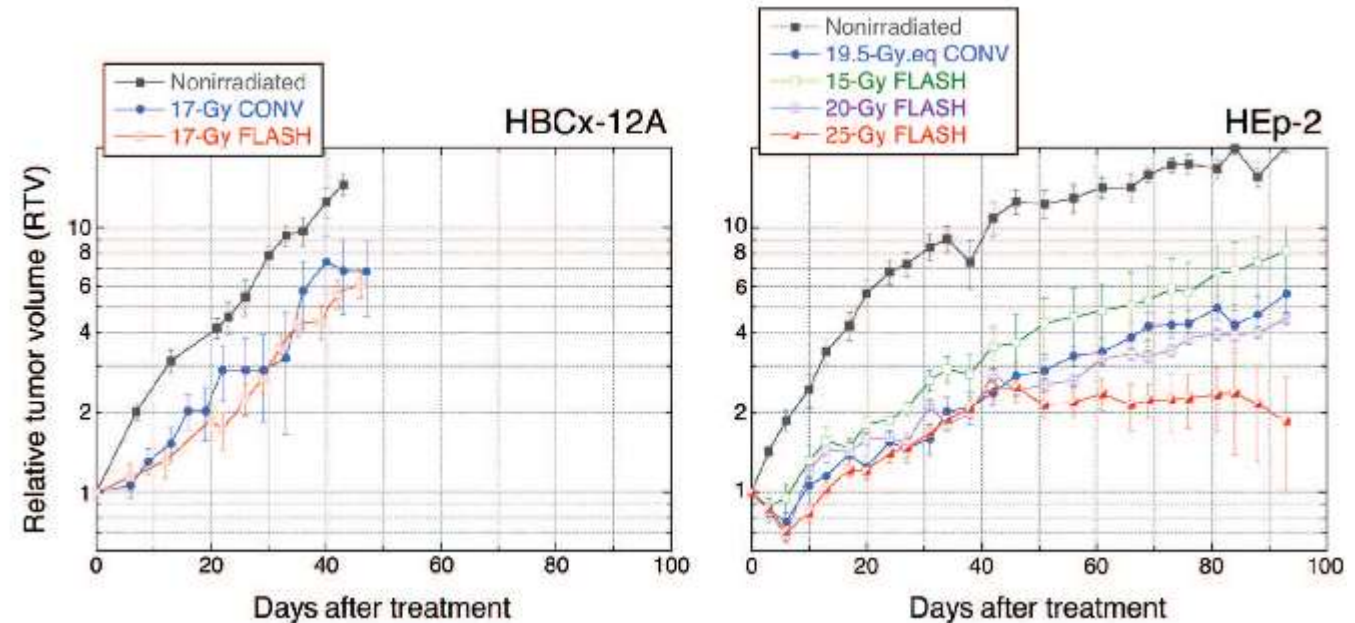
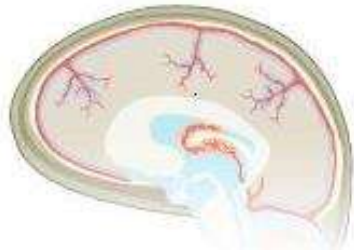


Fig. 3. Evolution of HBCx-12A and HEp-2 tumor xenografts after CONV versus FLASH irradiation.

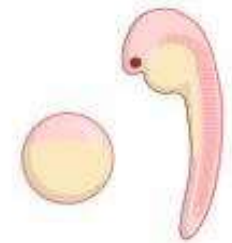
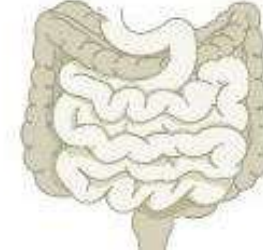
www.ScienceTranslationalMedicine.org 16 July 2014 Vol 6 Issue 245 245ra93

FLASH PROTECTIVE EFFECT ON **NORMAL TISSUES**

Sparing of late responding organs (DMF >1.4)

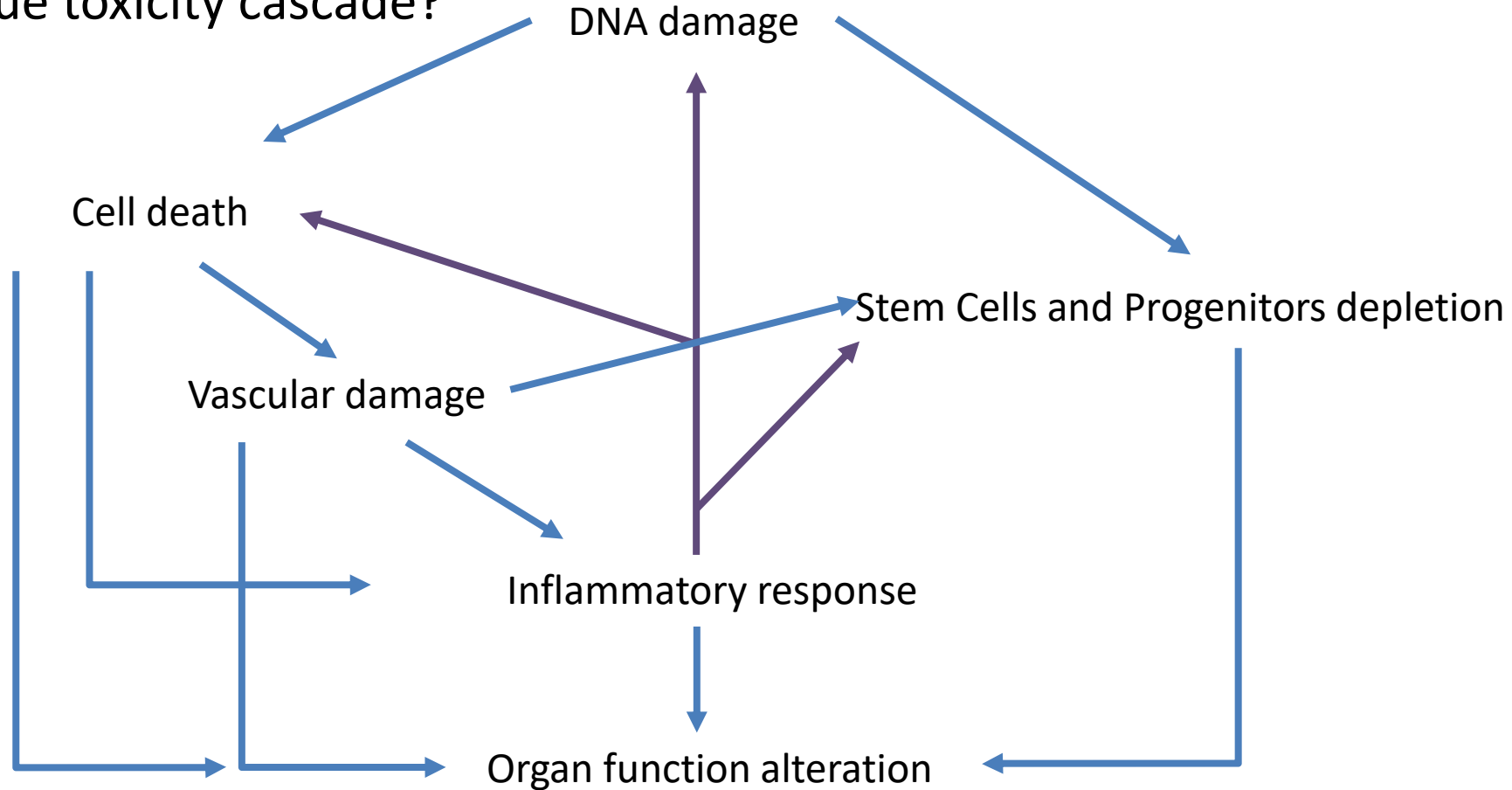


Sparing of acute responding organs (DMF >1.1)



Where does FLASH make a difference?

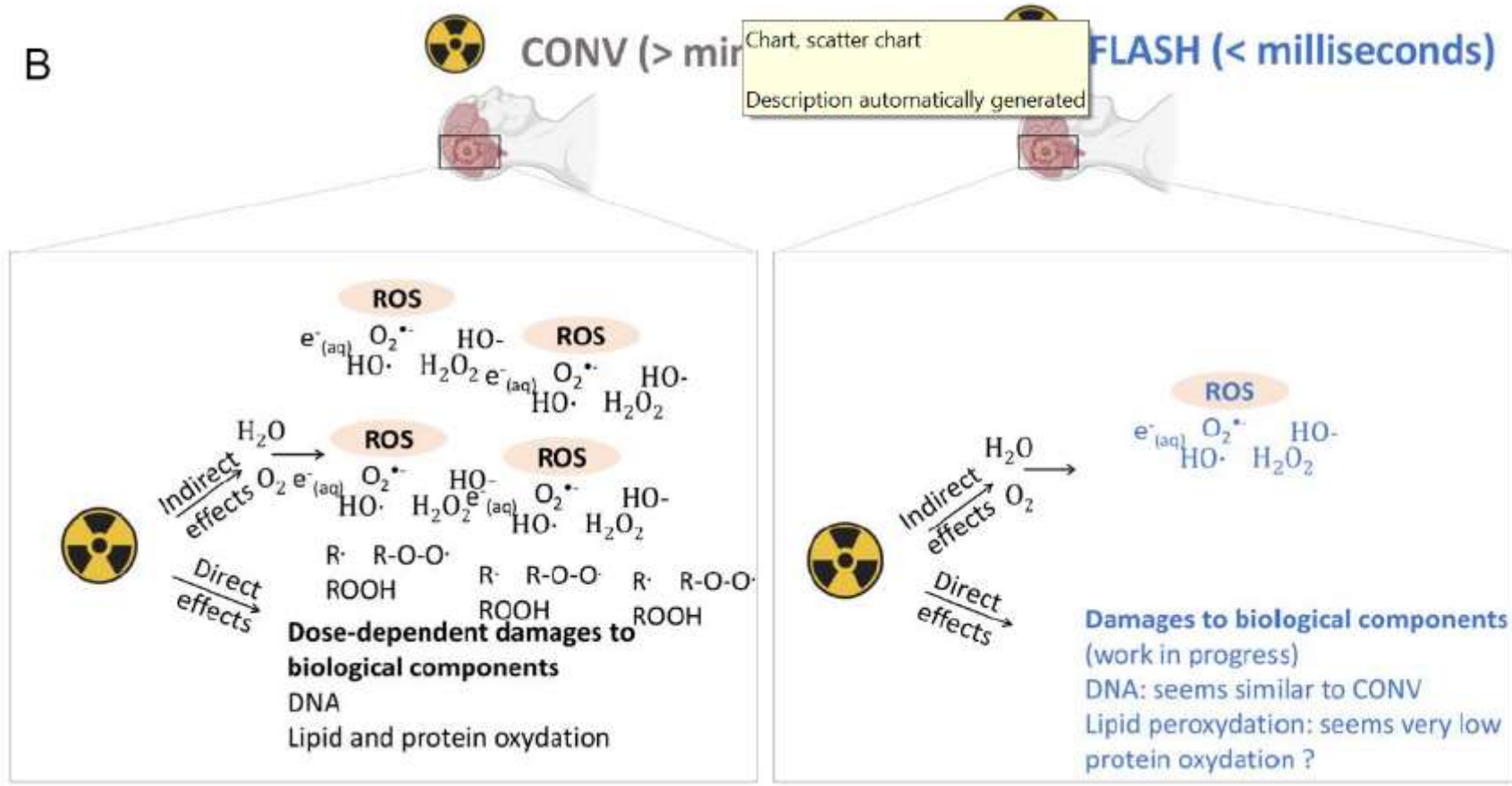
Normal tissue toxicity cascade?



Pierre Montay-Gruel, PhD

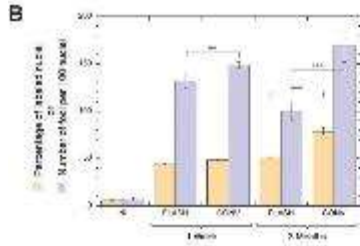
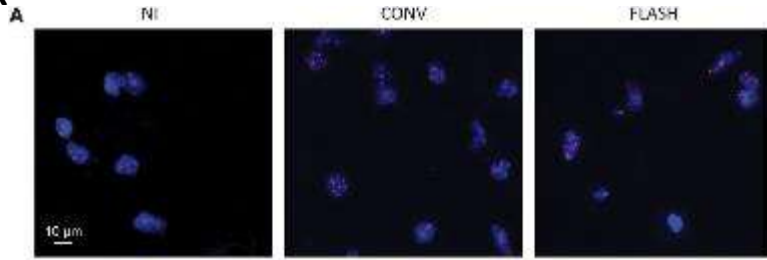
UP TO THE MICROSECOND: MOLECULAR RESPONSE

-6	-9	-12
10^{-6}	10^{-9}	10^{-12}
micro	nano	pico
μ	n	p

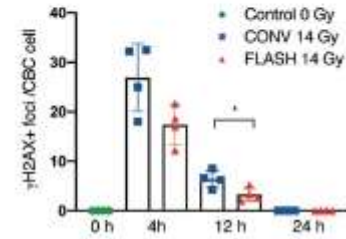
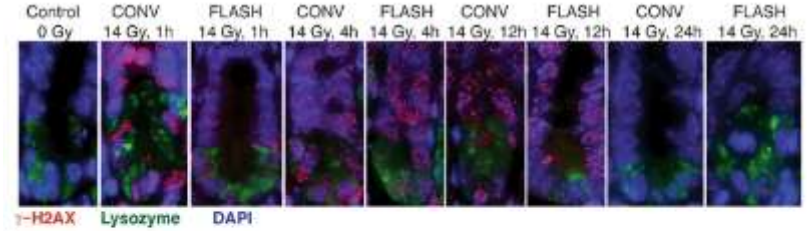
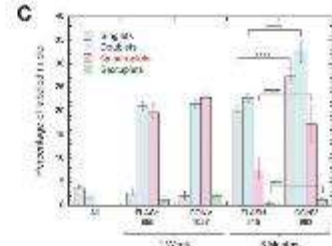


Less DNA damage *BUT NOT THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT*

γ H2AX



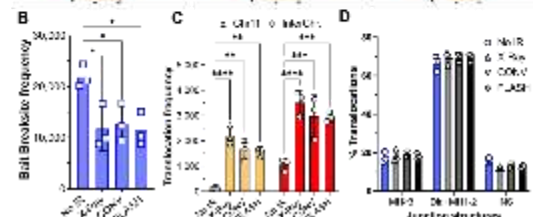
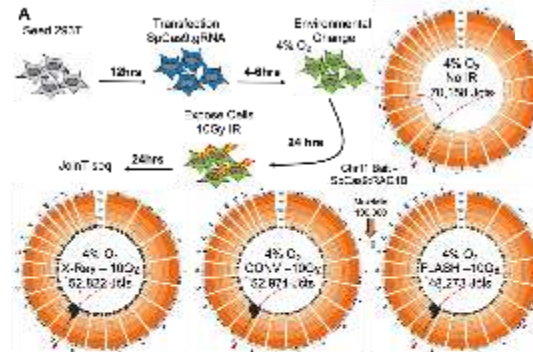
Fouillade et al. 2020



Levy et al. 2020

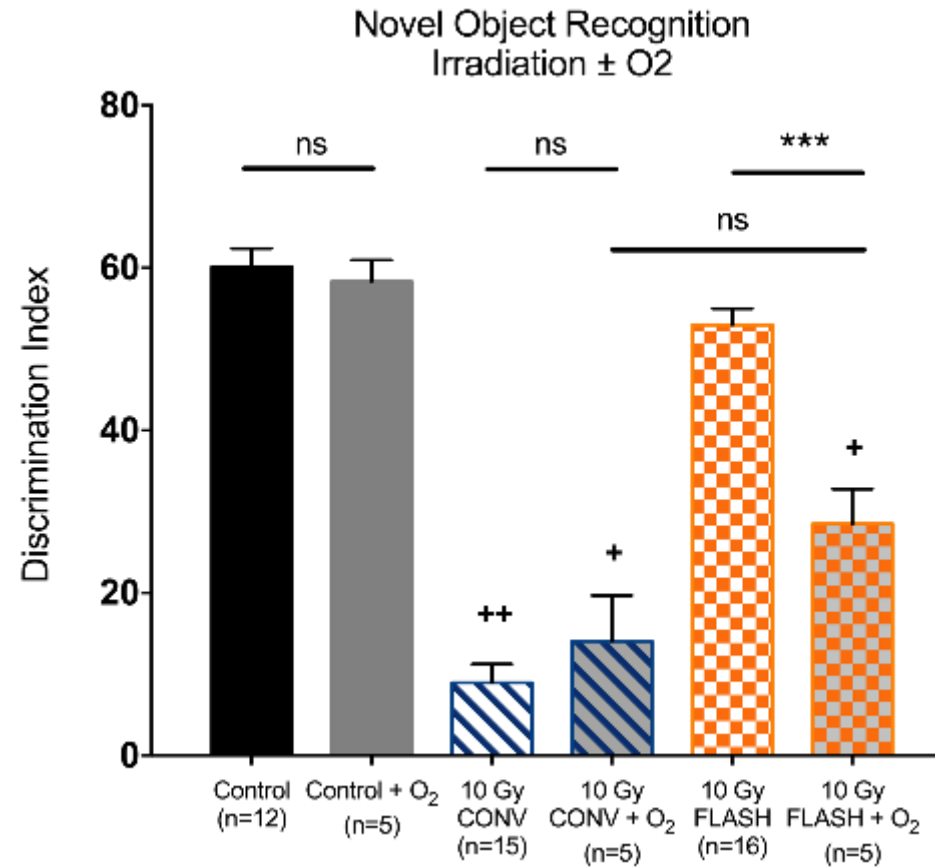
Kim et al. 2020

NO!



Barghouth et al., RO, 2023

DOUBLING BRAIN PO₂ REVERSES FLASH EFFECT



J Ollivier



B Petit

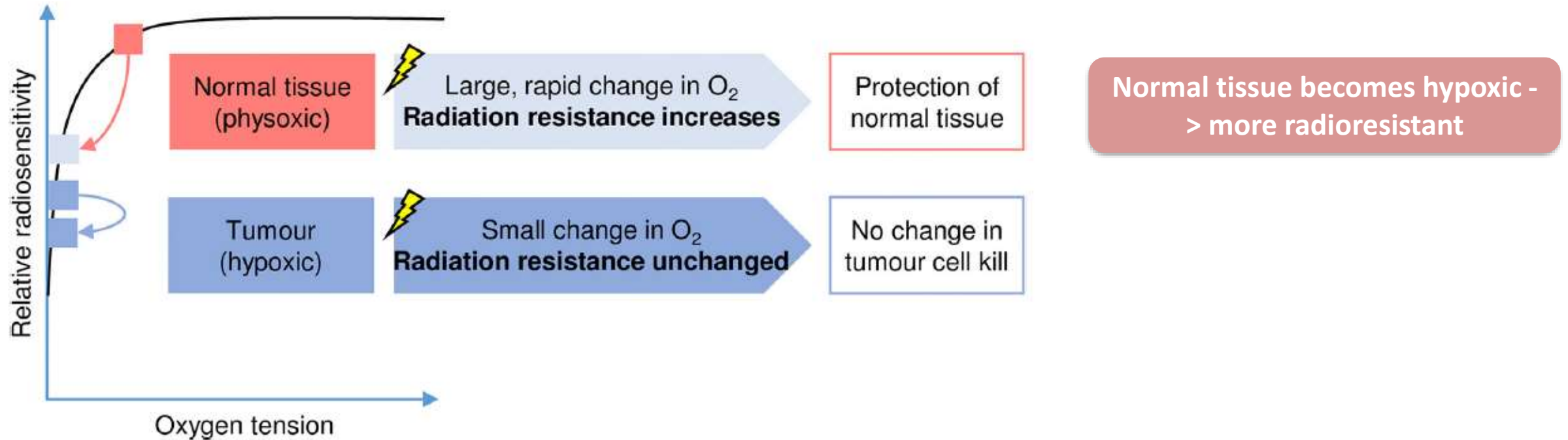


P Montay-Gruel

Montay-Gruel et al. 2019

HYPOTHESIS THAT THE PRIMARY MECHANISM IS OXYGEN DEPLETION

Radiolytic oxygen depletion?



Wilson et al., Front in Oncol, 2020

MEASUREMENTS DO NOT SUPPORT ANY RADIOLYTIC OXYGEN DEPLETION AT 10 GY FLASH



Biology Contribution

Quantification of Oxygen Depletion During FLASH Irradiation In Vitro and In Vivo

Xu Cao, PhD,^{*,†,‡,¶} Rongxiao Zhang, PhD,^{*,†,§,¶}
Tatiana V. Esipova, PhD,^{||,***} Srinivasa Rao Allu, PhD,^{||,***}
Ramish Ashraf, BS,^{*} Mahbubur Rahman, BS,^{*} Jason R. Gunn, BS,^{*}
Petr Bruza, PhD,^{*} David J. Gladstone, ScD,^{*,†,§}
Benjamin B. Williams, PhD,^{*,†,§} Harold M. Swartz, MD, MSPH, PhD,^{*,†,§}
P. Jack Hoopes, DVM, PhD,^{*,†,¶} Sergei A. Vinogradov, PhD,^{||,***} and
Brian W. Pogue, PhD^{*,†,¶}



FLASH-RT Results in Insignificant O₂ Depletion

Does FLASH deplete oxygen? Experimental evaluation for photons, protons, and carbon ions

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Francesca Pagliari

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João Seco[¶]

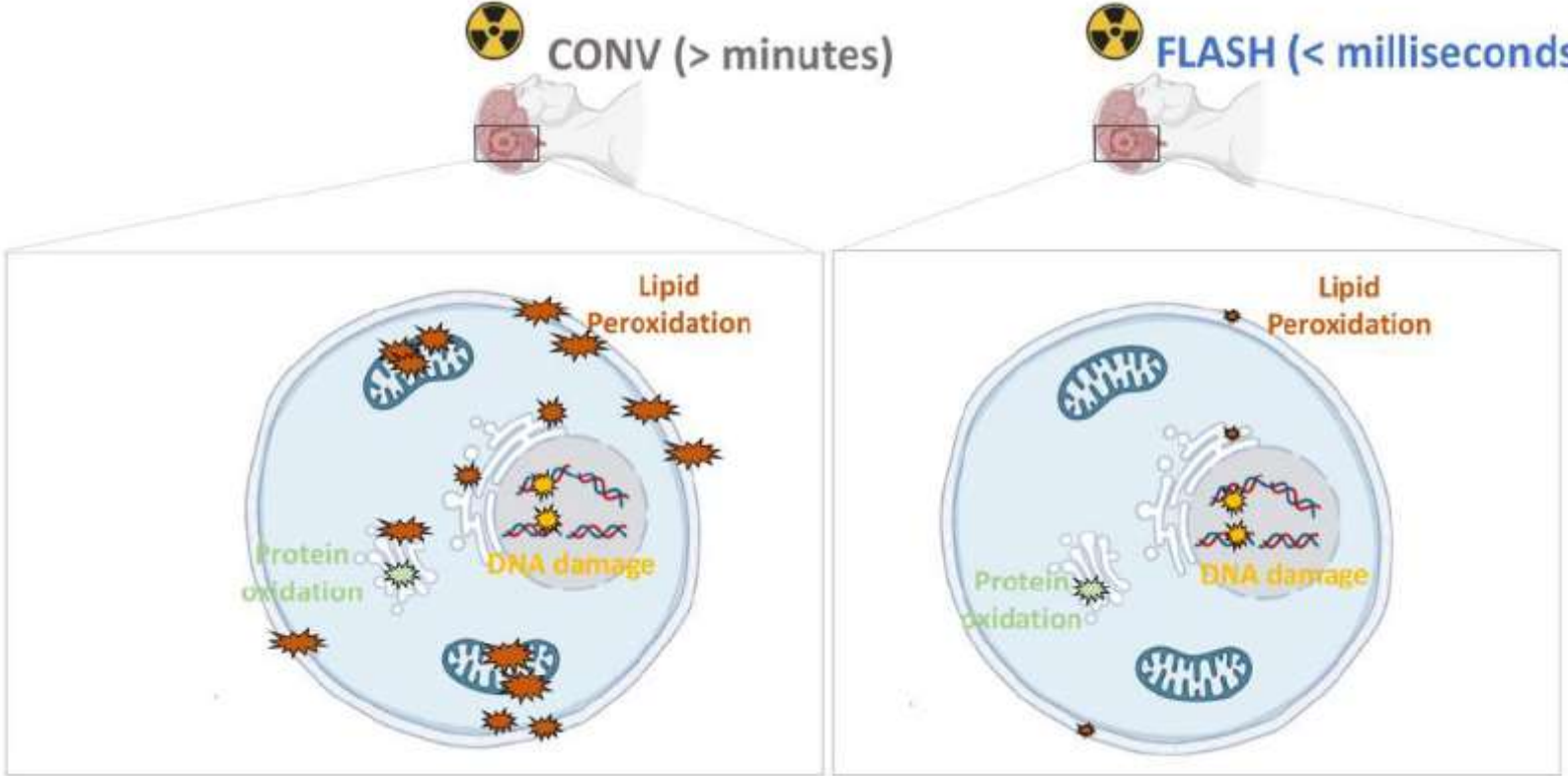
*Division of Biomedical Physics in Radiation Oncology, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany
Faculty of Physics and Astronomy, Ruprecht-Karls-University, Heidelberg, Germany*

(Received 20 December 2020; revised 1 March 2021; accepted for publication 6 April 2021; published 27 May 2021)

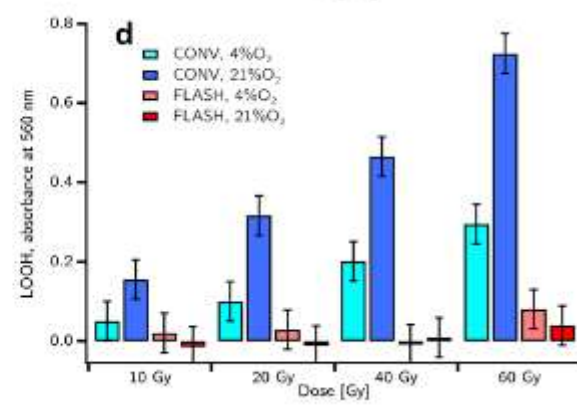
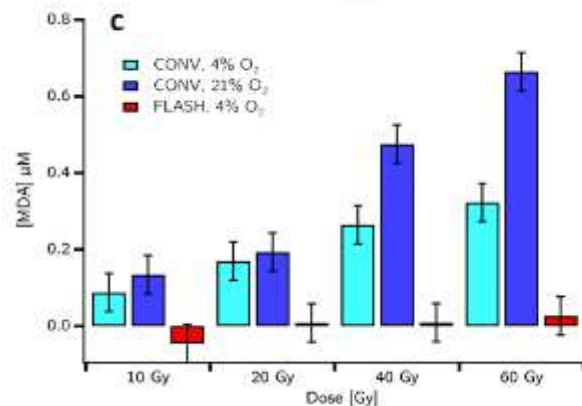
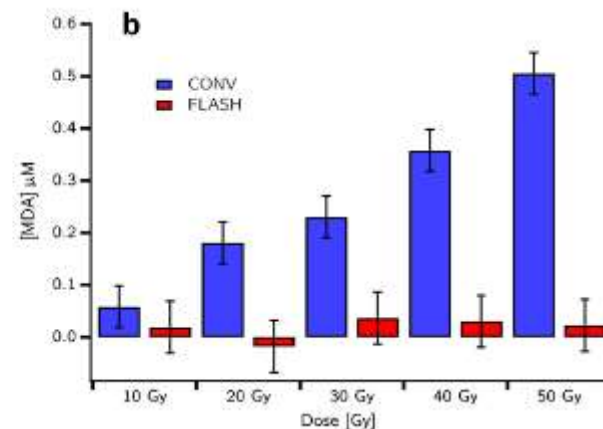
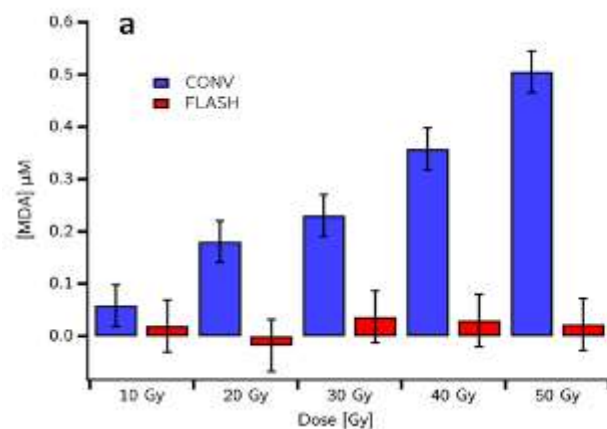
Conclusions: FLASH irradiation does consume oxygen, but not enough to deplete all the oxygen present. For higher dose rates, less oxygen was consumed than at standard radiotherapy dose rates. No total depletion was found for any of the analyzed radiation types for 10 Gy dose delivery using FLASH. © 2021 The Authors. *Medical Physics* published by Wiley Periodicals LLC on behalf of

FROM MILLISECOND TO MINUTES: CELLULAR RESPONSE

1	0	-1	-2	-3
10^1	$10^0=1$	10^{-1}	10^{-2}	10^{-3}
deca	BASE	deci	centi	milli
da		d	c	m



FLASH AND CONV-RT EFFECTS ON LIPID PEROXYDATION



Journal Pre-proof

FLASH irradiation does not induce lipid peroxidation in lipids micelles and liposomes

Fabrice Prod'homme, Vojko Ort, Claude Baillet, Walter Reiner Geyer, François Bochud, Marie-Catherine Vogelin

PIL: S0069-806X(22)00798-4

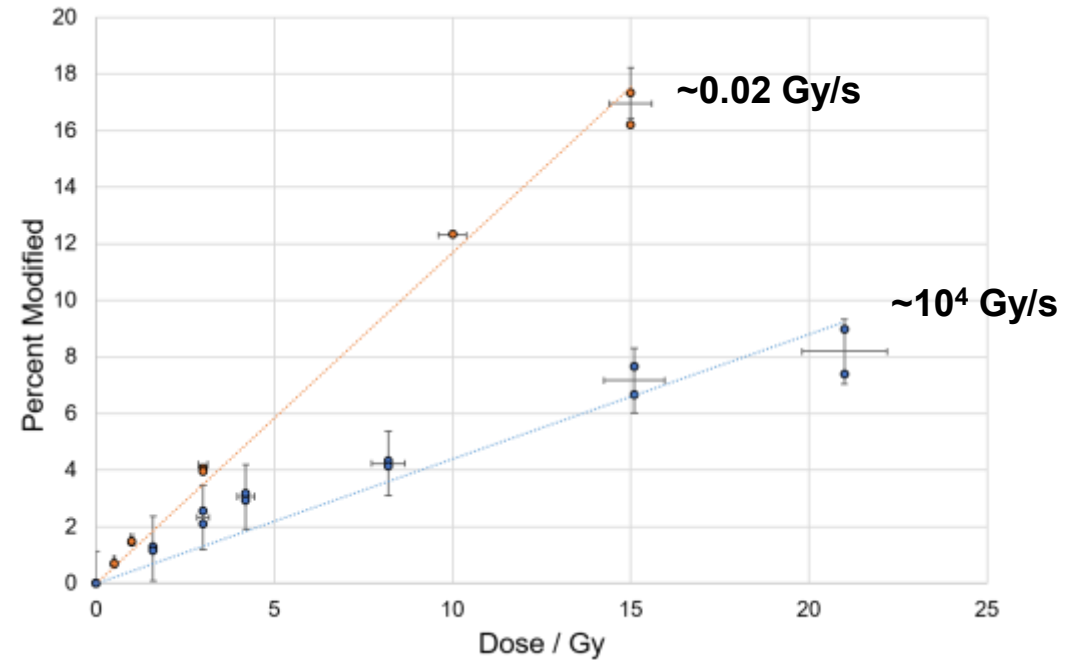
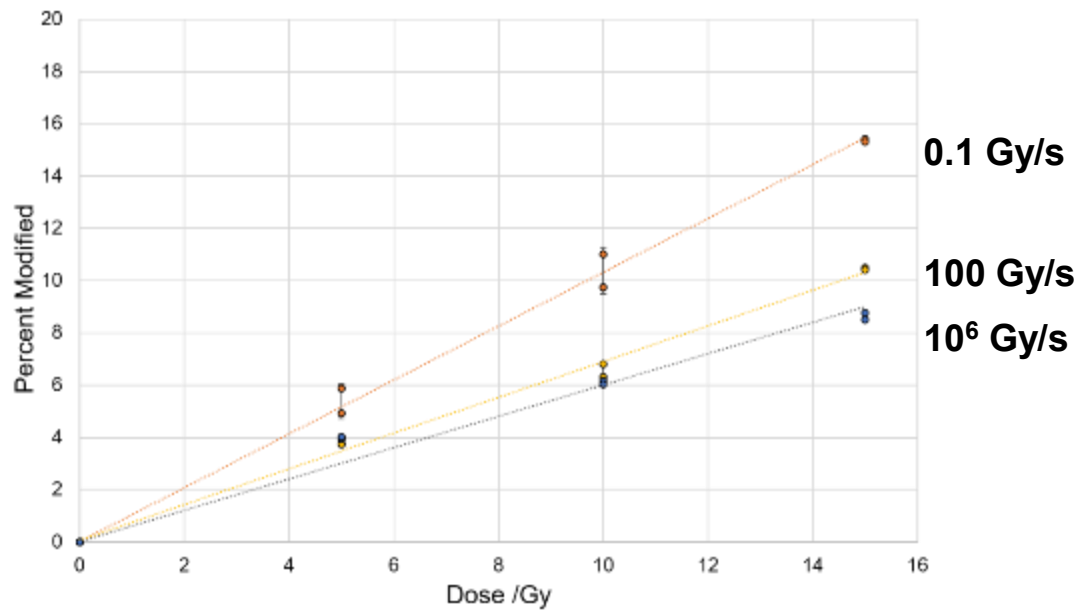
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.radphys.2022.110701>

Reference: RPD 116733



FLASH AND CONV-RT EFFECTS ON PROTEIN PEROXYDATION

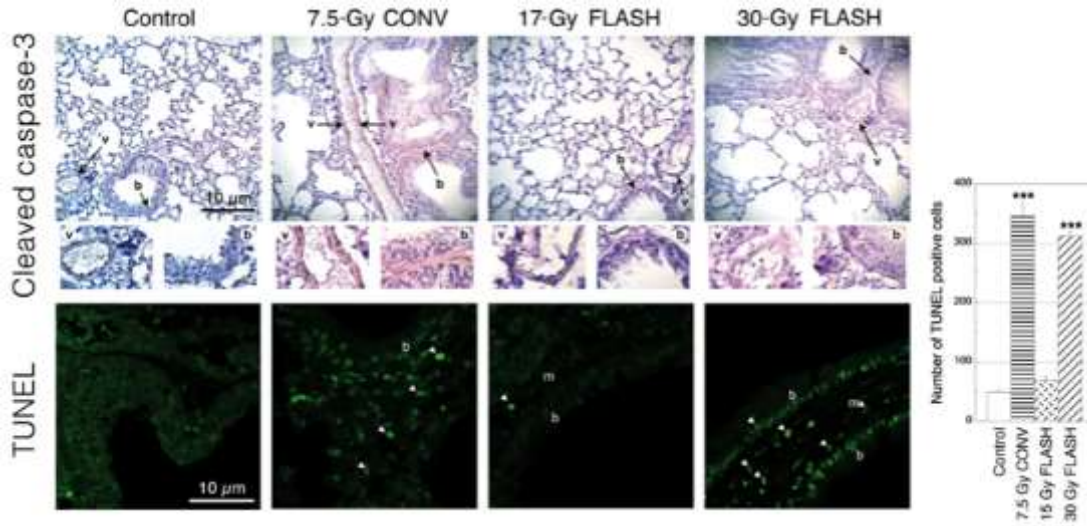
FKRIVQRIKDFLR peptide



Gupta et al, submitted

Less cell death

Less Apoptosis



in the lung

Favaudon et al. 2014
Fouillade et al. 2020

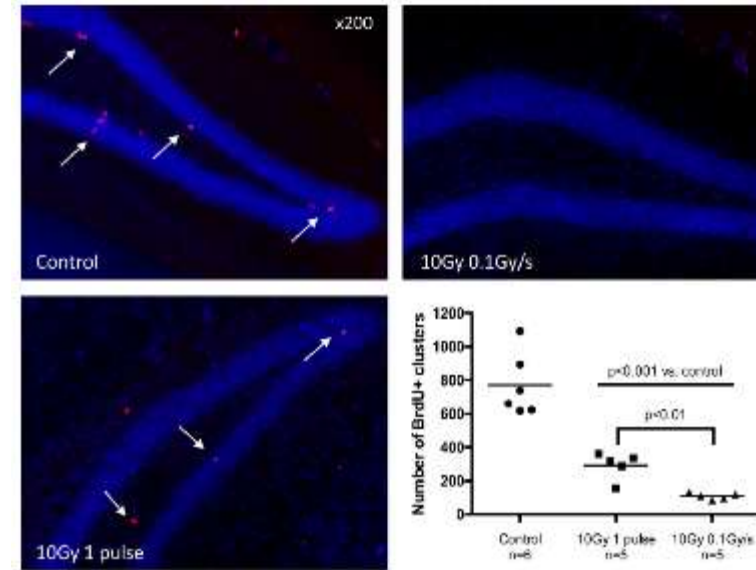
in the gut

Levy et al. 2020

in microvessels of the brain

Allen et al. 2020

Preservation of progenitors and stem cells



in the brain

Montay-Gruel et al. 2017
Montay-Gruel et al. 2018, xRay-FLASH

in the gut

Levy et al. 2017
Diffenderfer et al. 2020. pFLASH:

in the lung

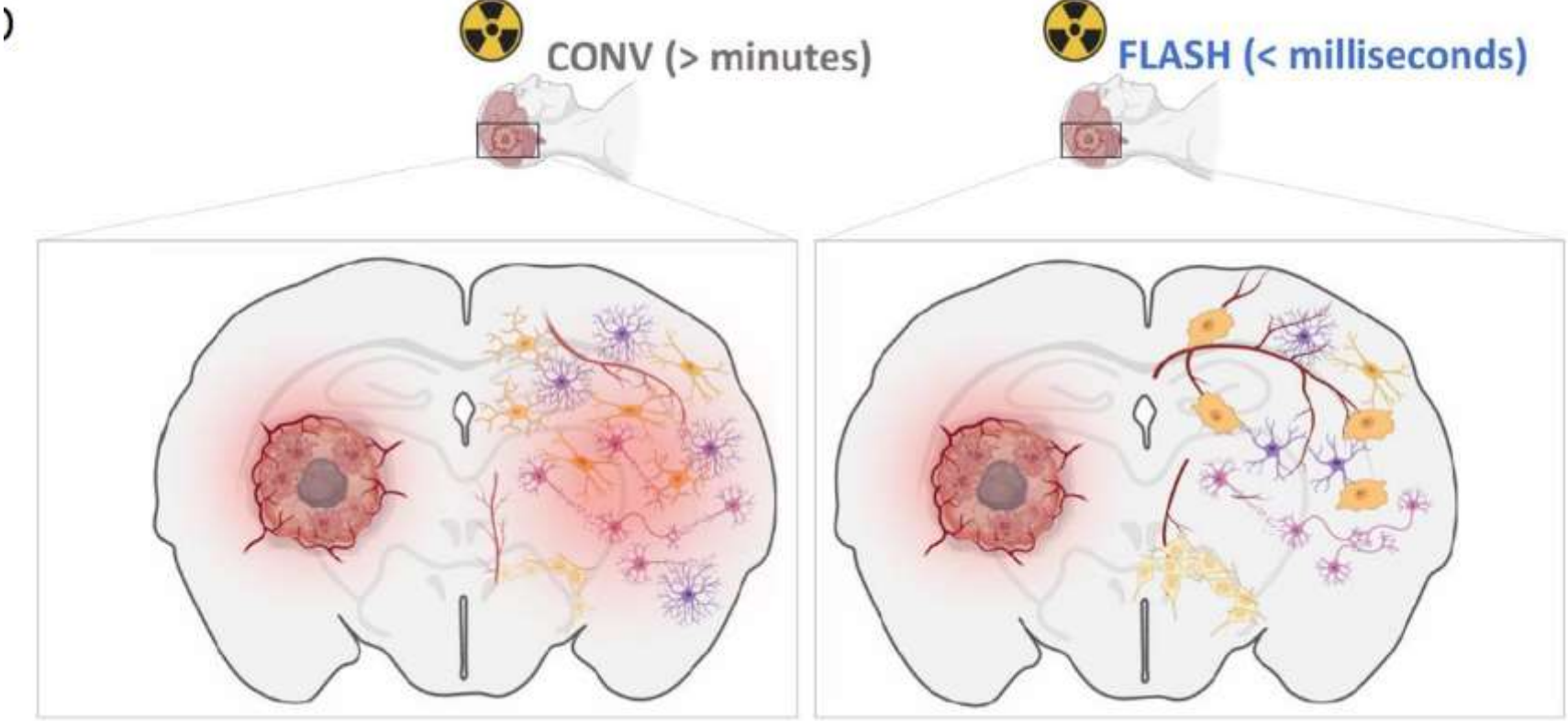
Fouillade et al. 2020

in the hematopoietic system

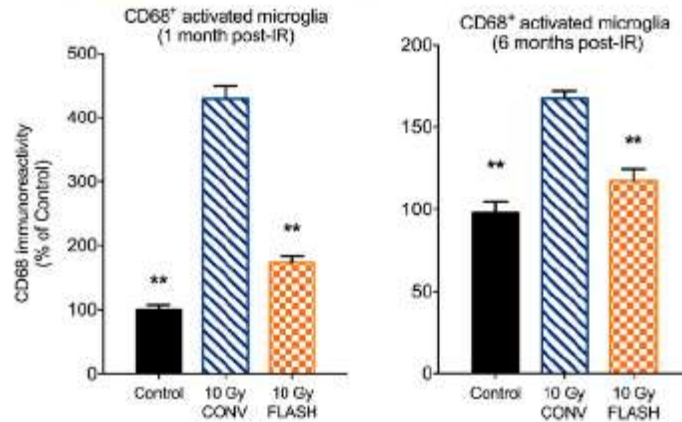
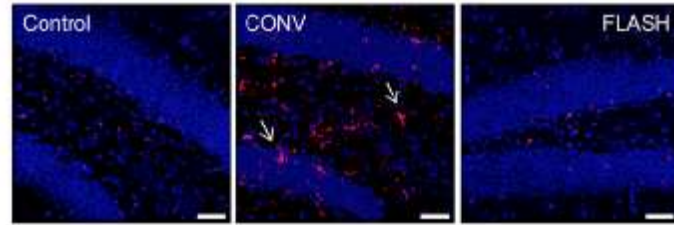
Chabi et al. 2020

FROM MINUTES TO YEARS: CELL AND TISSUE RESPONSE

12	9	6	3	2
10^{12}	10^9	10^6	10^3	10^2
tera	giga	mega	kilo	hecto
T	G	M	K	h



Less inflammation



in the brain

Montay-Gruel et al. 2019
Montay-Gruel et al. 2020
Simmons et al. 2019

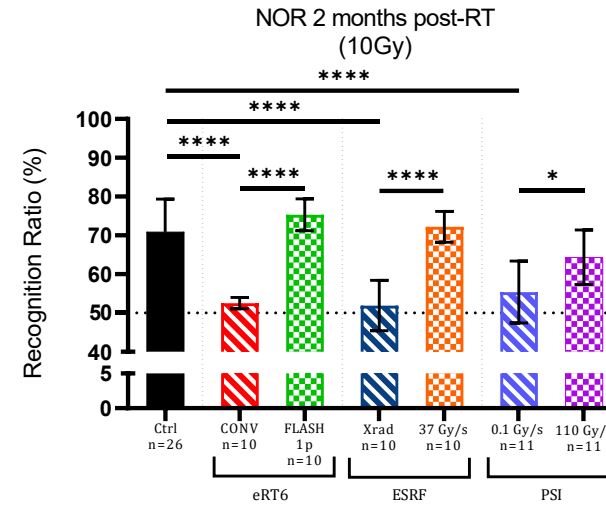
in the lung

Favaudon et al. 2014

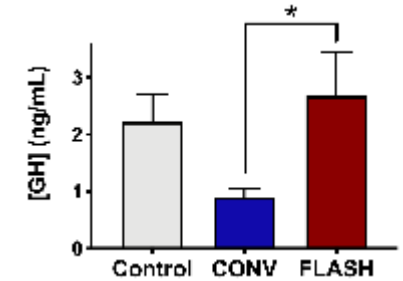
in the skin

Velalopoulou et al. 2021, pFLASH
Cunningham et al. 2021, pFLASH

Preservation of organ function



Montay-Gruel et al. 2017
Montay-Gruel et al. 2018
Montay-Gruel et al. 2019
Simmons et al. 2019
Alaghband et al. 2020
Allen et al. 2022
Alaghband et al., 2023
Limoli et al. 2023
Almeida et al., 2023



Pediatric model

LESS VASCULAR DAMAGE

FLASH-RT does not induce astrogliosis and reduces DAMPs production
 FLASH-RT does not induce vessel damages in the brain
 FLASH-RT does not induce neurocognitive damages in juvenile mice



C Limoli



M Acharya



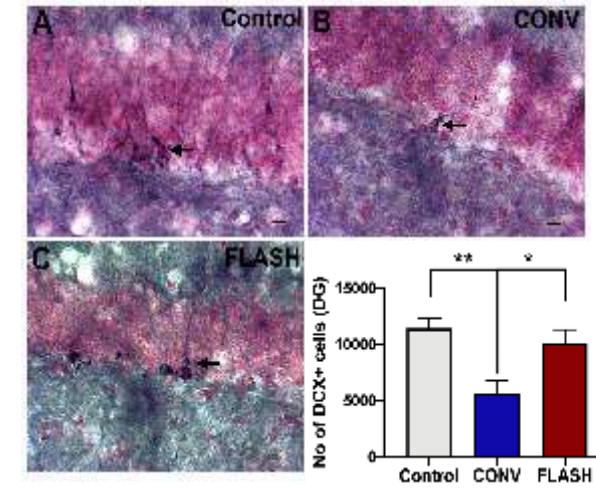
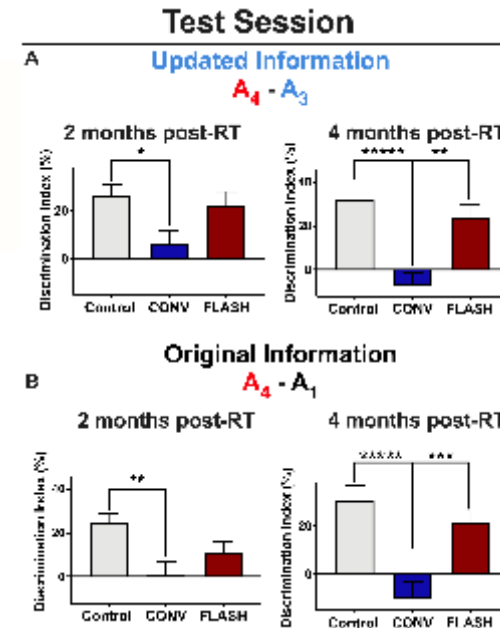
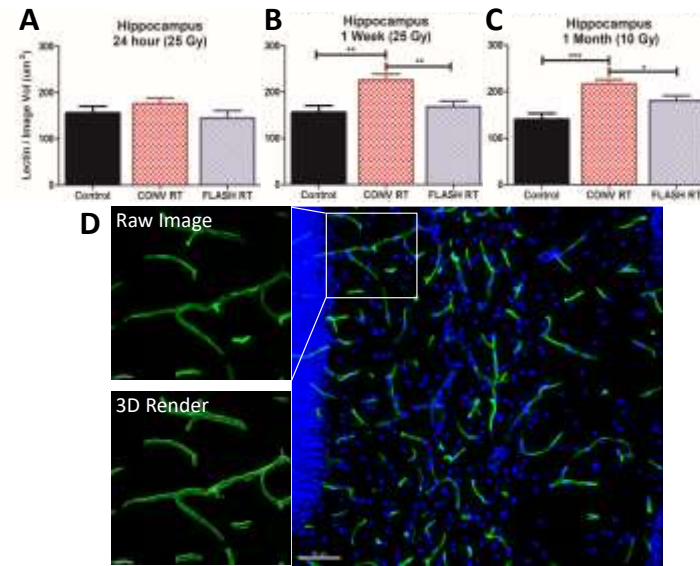
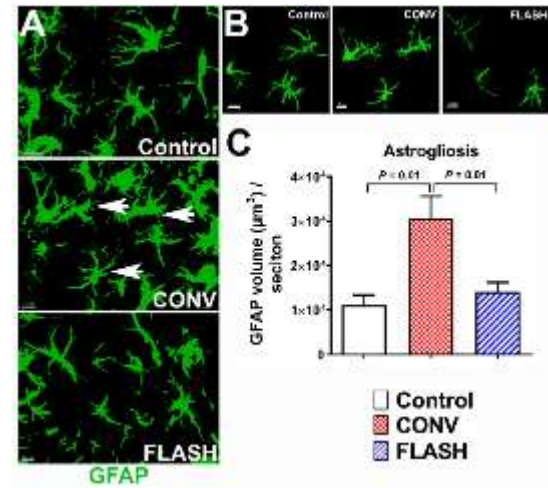
J Baulch



B Allen



Y Alagband



Montay-Gruel et al, Rad Res, 2020

Allen et al, Rad Res, 2020

Alagband et al, Cancers, 2020

Table 1: Irradiation parameters

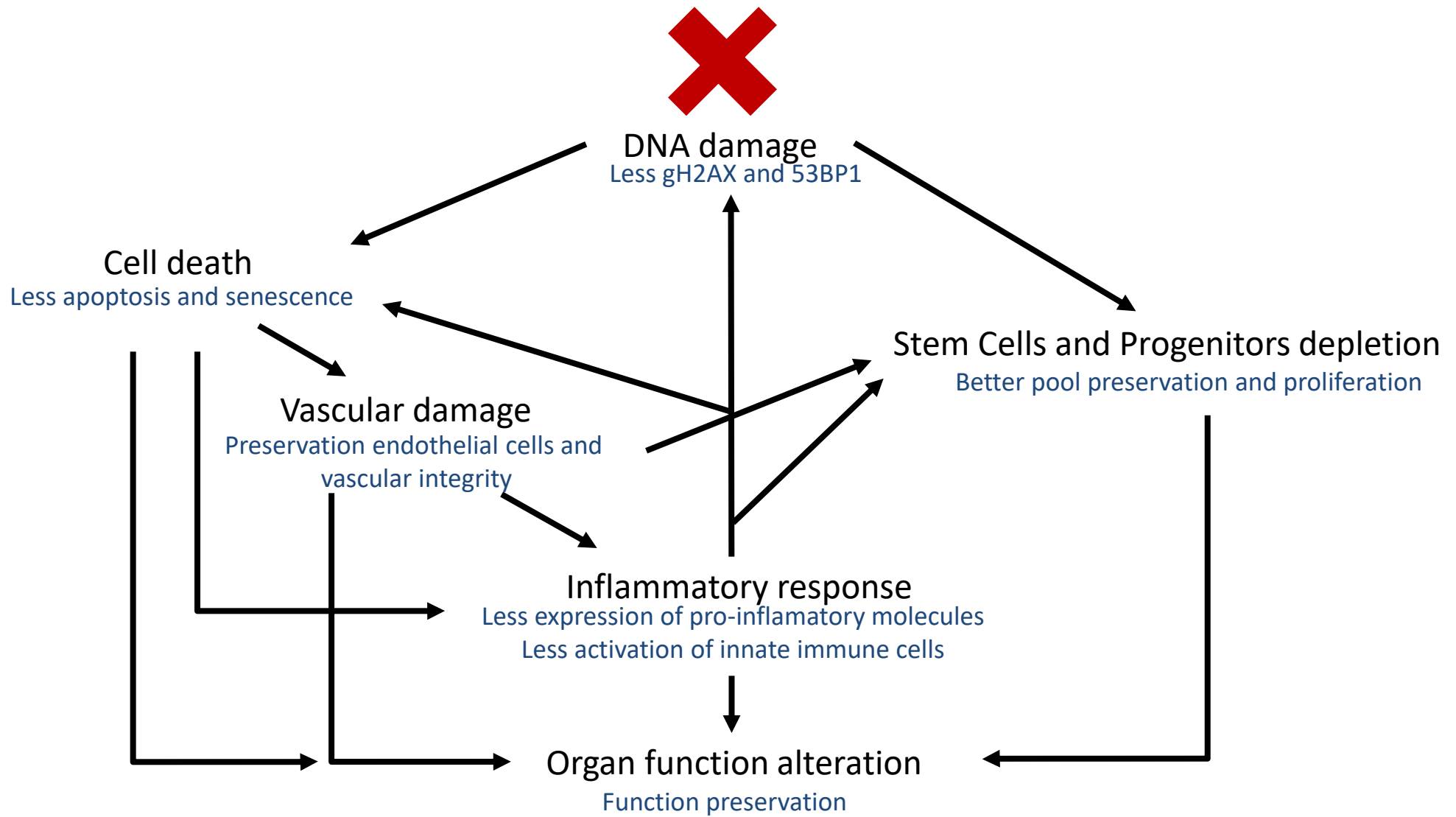
Single doses WBRT (Fig. 1, 3)		Beam parameters				
Mode	Prescribed Dose (Gy)	Frequency (Hz)	SSD (mm)	Pulse width (µs)	Number of pulses	Treatment time (s)
CONV	10	10	800	1.0	1170-1180	116.9-117.9
FLASH	10	100	369-370	1.8	1	1.8 · 10 ⁻⁶

Table 1: Irradiation parameters

Delivery Mode	Prescribed Dose (Gy)	Beam parameters							
		Graphite applicator type and size (mm)	Source-to-surface distance (mm)	Pulse repetition frequency (Hz)	Pulse width (µs)	Number of pulses	Treatment time (s)	Mean dose rate (Gy/s)	Instantaneous dose rate (Gy/s)
CONV	10	Circular Ø17	300	10	1.0	1170-1180	116.9-117.9	0.30	0.5 × 10 ³
	25	Circular Ø17	740	10	1.0	3000	301.6	0.1	0.5 × 10 ³
FLASH	10	Circular Ø17	369-370	100	1.8	1	1.8 × 10 ⁻⁶	0.8 × 10 ⁶	0.8 × 10 ⁶
	25	Circular Ø17	322	100	1.8	2	1.8 × 10 ⁻⁶	2.5 × 10 ⁶	0.3 × 10 ⁶

Table 1: Irradiation parameters.

Delivery Mode	Prescribed Dose (Gy)	Beam parameters							Mean dose rate (Gy/s)	Instantaneous dose rate (Gy/s)
		Graphite applicator type and size (mm)	Source-to-surface distance (mm)	Pulse repetition Frequency (Hz)	Pulse width (µs)	Number of pulses	Treatment time (s)			
CONV	8	Semicircular Ø17	798	10	1.0	1033	103.2	0.08	7.7 × 10 ³	
FLASH	8	Semicircular Ø17	383	100	1.8	1	1.8 × 10 ⁻⁶	4.4 × 10 ⁶	4.4 × 10 ⁶	



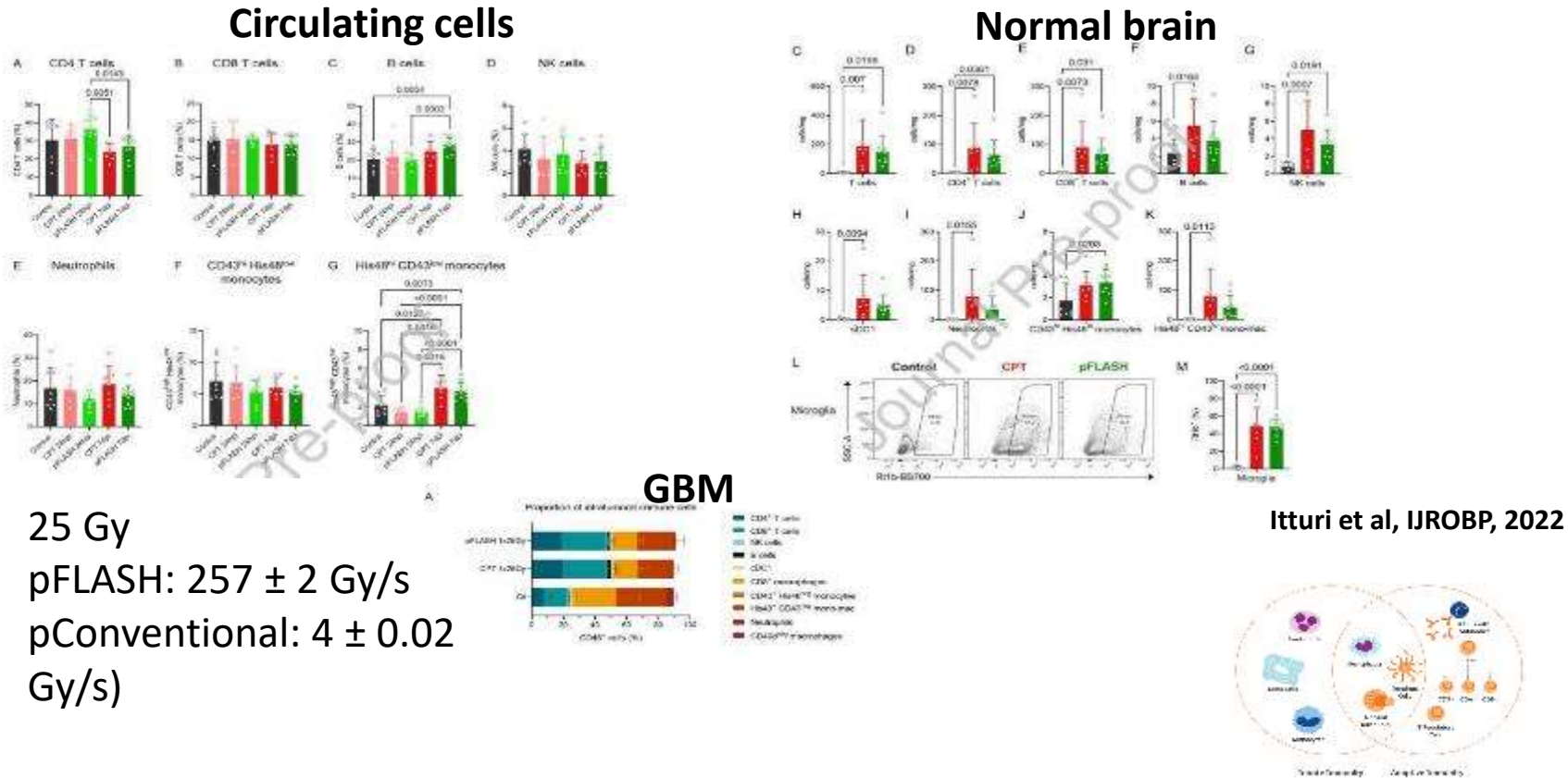
Pierre Montay-Gruel, PhD

FLASH EFFECT ON KILLING TUMORS

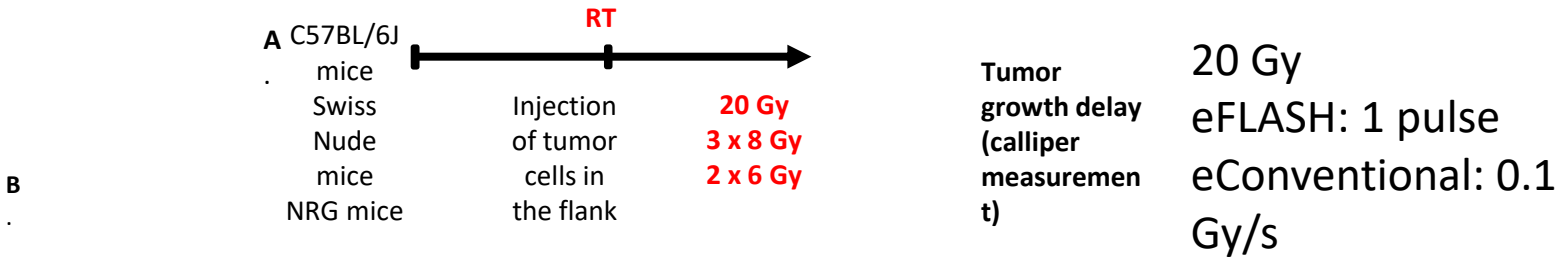
- **Isoefficient tumour eradication**
- **Inhibition of metastasis (heavy ions)**



HYPOTHESIS OF BETTER ANTI-TUMOR IMMUNITY

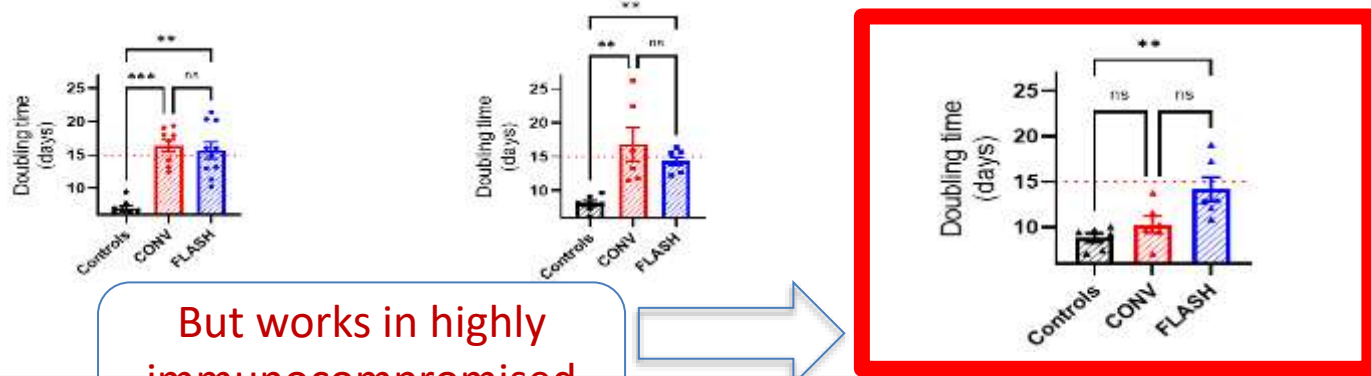
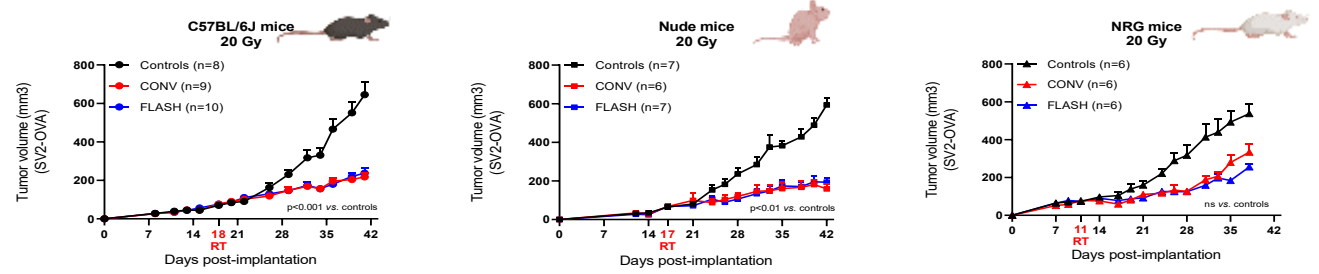


HYPOTHESIS OF BETTER ANTI-TUMOR IMMUNITY: NOT VALIDATED



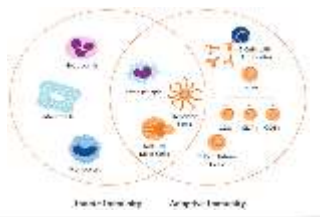
B

C



But works in highly immunocompromised mice

Almeida et al, IJROBP, 2023

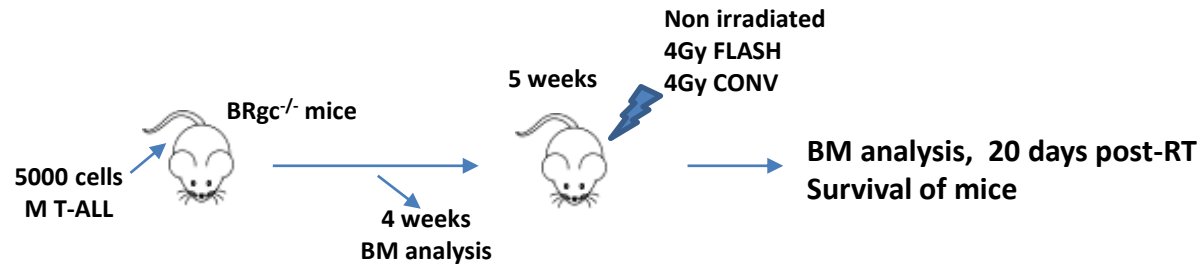


ALL TUMORS ARE NOT EQUALLY SENSITIVE TO FLASH-RT

Human T-ALL with different susceptibility profile to FLASH-RT

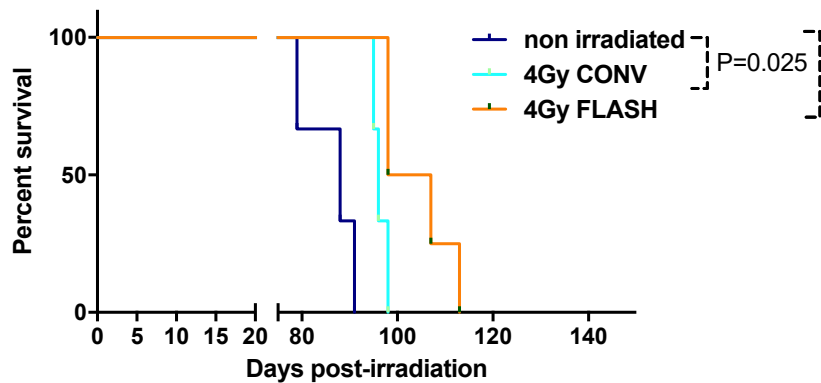


F Pflumio B Uzan

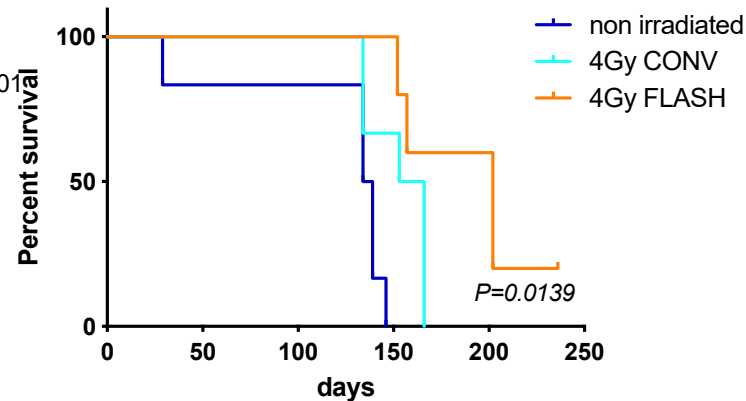


Delivery Mode	Prescribed Dose (Gy)	Beam parameters						
		Source-to-surface distance (mm)	Pulse repetition Frequency (Hz)	Pulse width (μs)	Number of pulses	Treatment time (s)	Mean dose rate (Gy/s)	Instantaneous dose rate (Gy/s)
CONV	4	880	10	1.0	>557	>55.6	<0.072	<7.2 × 10 ³
FLASH	4	800	100	1.8	3	0.02	200	7.4 × 10 ⁵

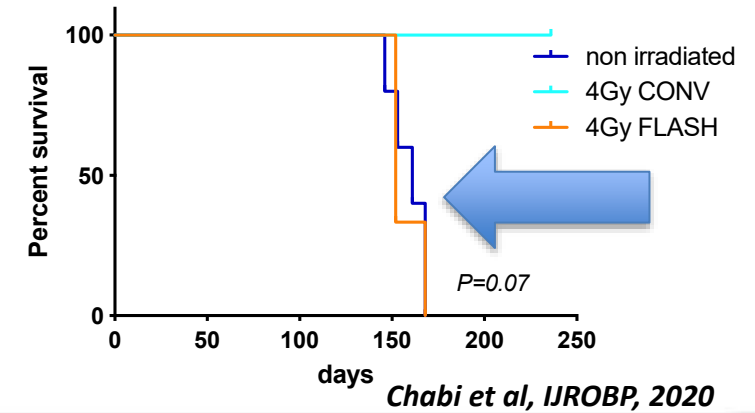
M106 PDX/T-ALL



M114 PDX/T-ALL



M108 PDX/T-ALL



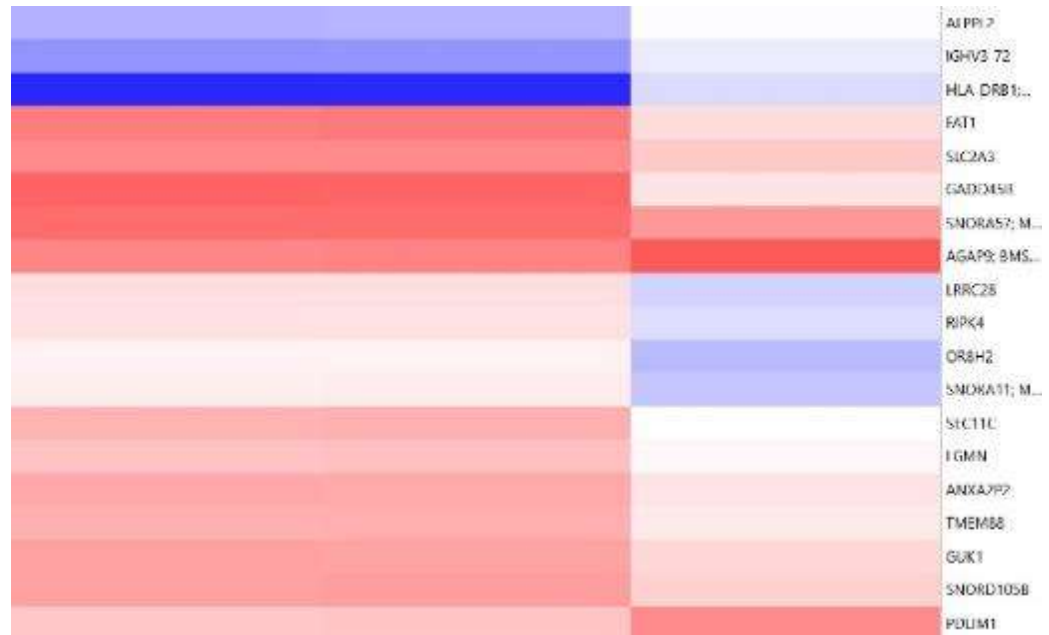
Chabi et al, IJROBP, 2020

BIOMARKERS OF FLASH RADIOSENSITIVITY (TUMORS)

Gene Symbol	resistant Avg (log2)	sensitive Avg (log2)	sensitive Standard Deviation	Fold Change	P-val
GADD45B	5,19	8,03	0,02	-7,12	0,0001
FAT1	5,33	7,43	0,05	-4,29	0,0005
SEC11C	4,76	6,18	0,04	-2,67	0,0031
SLC2A3	5,71	7,06	0,01	-2,56	0,0037
OR8H2	3,77	4,98	0	-2,3	0,0062
LRRC28	4,1	5,3	0,02	-2,3	0,0062
ANXA2P2	5,2	6,35	0,01	-2,22	0,0075
SNORA11; MAGED2	3,91	5,04	0	-2,18	0,0082
TMEM88	5,12	6,24	0,03	-2,17	0,0085
GUK1	5,4	6,52	0,05	-2,17	0,0087
SNORA57; METTL12	6,77	7,82	0,01	-2,07	0,0109
SNORD105B	5,56	6,58	0,04	-2,03	0,0124
RIPK4	4,24	5,25	0,01	-2,01	0,0129
LGMN	4,88	5,88	0,04	-2	0,0133
ALPPL2	4,74	3,69	0,04	2,07	0,0110
IGHV3-72	4,47	3,32	0	2,23	0,0073
AGAP9; BMS1P6	8,37	7,2	0,05	2,25	0,0072
PDLIM1	7,04	5,76	0,02	2,43	0,0048
HLA-DRB1; HLA-DRB6	4,23	2,3	0,01	3,81	0,0007

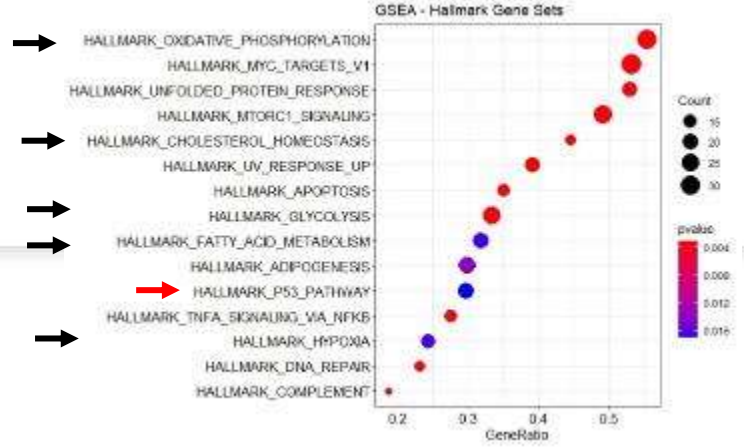
Inhibitor of cdc2/cyclinB1 kinase →
Wt pathway →

→



M106 M114 M108

Metabolic pathways

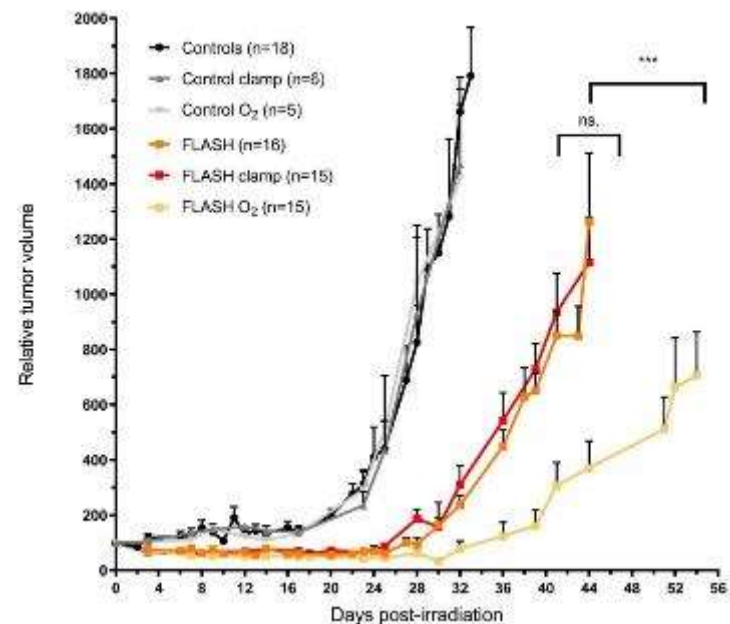
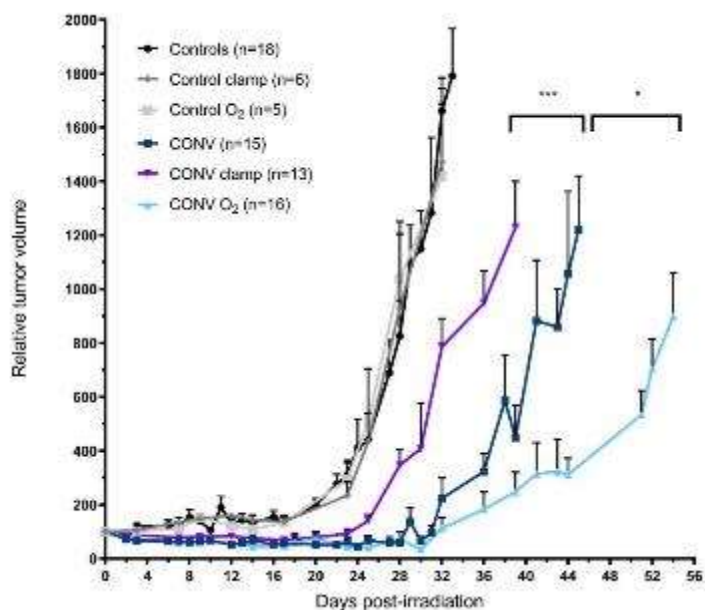


P53 pathway

HYPOXIC TUMORS ARE SENSITIVE TO FLASH RT

Title: Hypoxic tumors are sensitive to FLASH radiotherapy

Authors: Ron J. Leavitt¹, Aymeric Almeida¹, Veljko Grilj², Pierre Montay-Gruel^{1, 3, 4}, Céline Godfroid¹, Benoit Petit¹, Claude Bailat², Charles L. Limoli⁵, Marie-Catherine Vozenin^{1*}



Leavitt et al., 2023, BioRxiv

CLINICAL EVIDENCE



C Rohrer

FIRST PHASE III STUDY IN CAT PATIENTS

CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH | TRANSLATIONAL CANCER MECHANISMS AND THERAPY

Dose- and Volume-Limiting Late Toxicity of FLASH Radiotherapy in Cats with Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Nasal Planum and in Mini Pigs



Carla Rohrer Bley¹, Friederike Wolf¹, Patrik Gonçalves Jorge^{2,3,4}, Veljko Grilj^{2,3,4}, Ioannis Petridis^{2,3}, Benoit Petit^{2,4}, Till T. Böhlen⁴, Raphael Moeckli⁴, Charles Limoli⁵, Jean Bourhis², Valeria Meier¹, and Marie-Catherine Vozenin^{2,3}

ABSTRACT

Background: The FLASH effect is characterized by normal tissue sparing without compromising tumor control. Although demonstrated in various preclinical models, safe translation of FLASH radiotherapy stands to benefit from larger vertebrate animal models. Based on prior results, we designed a randomized phase III trial to investigate the FLASH effect in cat patients with spontaneous tumors. In parallel, the sparing capacity of FLASH radiotherapy was studied on mini pigs by using large field irradiation.

Methods: Cats with T1-T2, N0 carcinomas of the nasal planum were randomly assigned to two arms of electron irradiation: arm 1 was the standard of care (SoC) and used 10 × 4.8 Gy (90% isodose); arm 2 used 1 × 30 Gy (90% isodose) FLASH. Mini pigs were

irradiated using applicators of increasing size and a single surface dose of 31 Gy FLASH.

Results: In cats, acute side effects were mild and similar in both arms. The trial was prematurely interrupted due to maxillary bone necrosis, which occurred 9 to 15 months after radiotherapy in 3 of 7 cats treated with FLASH-radiotherapy (43%), as compared with 0 of 9 cats treated with SoC. All cats were tumor-free at 1 year in both arms, with one cat progressing later in each arm. In pigs, no acute toxicity was recorded, but severe late skin necrosis occurred in a volume-dependent manner (7–9 months), which later resolved.

Conclusions: The reported outcomes point to the caveats of translating single-high-dose FLASH-radiotherapy and emphasizes the need for caution and further investigations.



krebsliga schweiz
ligue suisse contre le cancer
lega svizzera contro il cancro

oncosuisse



Hôpitaux
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Genève

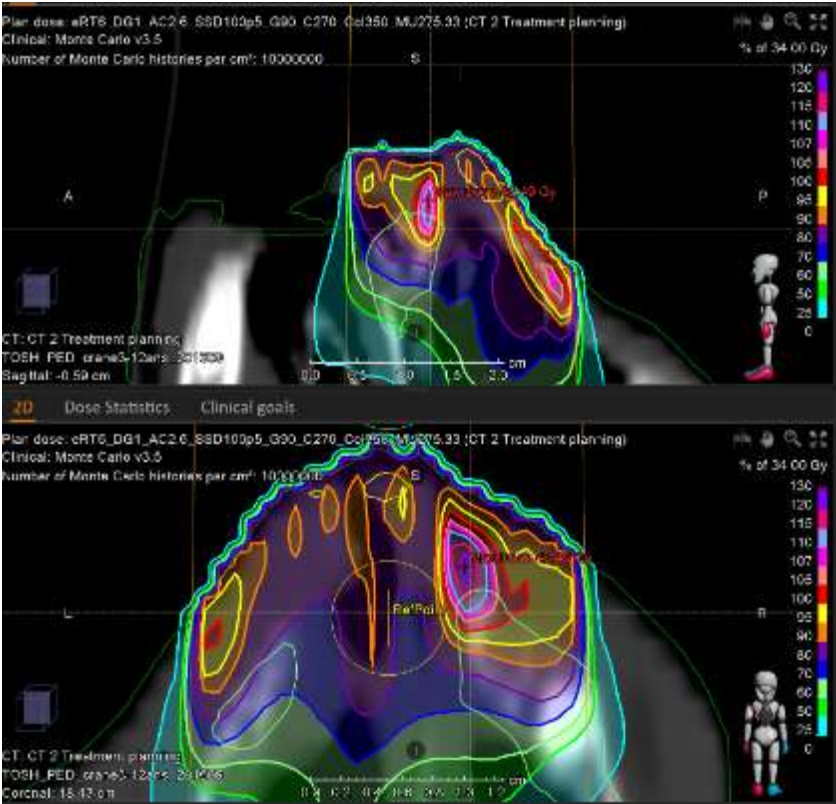


UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE
FACULTÉ DE MÉDECINE

3 CATS OVER 7 DEVELOPPED OSTEORADIONECROSIS WITHIN 9-15 MONTHS



Musi, 13 months post FLASH



Hot spots +125% of the dose

IMPACT OF DOSE AND VOLUME

9 mo post-RT

3 years post-RT

2.6 cm
28, 31, 34 Gy

10p-90ms
>280 Gy/s

?



Vozenin et al,
CCR, 2019

8X8 cm
31 Gy 1 Fx
20 p-190 ms
150 Gy/s

Technological
limitations

Rohrer-Bley et al
CCR, 2022

4 mo post-RT

5 mo post-RT

6 mo post-RT

7 mo post-RT

12 mo post-RT



Evaluation of Flash Proton RT in Dogs with Bone Cancer of the Leg

Aug 8, 2019 Osteosarcoma (OSA) is an aggressive cancer that frequently arises in the long bones of large-breed dogs. Current treatment therapies involve amputation with or without chemotherapy, or radiation therapy (RT). However, in dogs receiving radiation therapy, survival time is typically only 2-4 months. Preliminary studies suggest that using a different kind of RT, “flash” proton radiation, may improve treatment by decreasing normal tissue damage while increasing toxicity to tumor cells and may also improve anti-tumor immune responses in the dog.

Inclusion Criteria:

- Dogs with newly diagnosed OSA who have received no prior treatment for cancer
- Dogs with OSA of the leg which is amenable to limb amputation
- Dogs with no evidence of metastasis at the time of enrollment
- Owners are willing to pursue amputation at Penn Vet

Benefits: Dogs will have a single treatment of flash proton radiation, followed by amputation 5 days later. Biopsies will be taken under anesthesia to evaluate tumor and healthy tissue response to radiation treatment. The cost of radiation treatment and subsequent amputation surgery will be covered by the study. Clients are responsible for all other costs including initial consultation, pre-surgical diagnostics, and chemotherapy if elected.

First veterinary patient treated with electron FLASH radiotherapy at a clinical linear accelerator

Translational and clinical research

Elise Konradsson¹, Maja L. Arendt², Kristine Bastholm Jensen³, Betina Borresen², Crister Ceberg¹, Anders E.

Hansen⁴, Annemarie T. Kristensen², Per Munck af Rosenschold⁵, Kristoffer Petersson^{5, 6}

Introduction: There is a growing interest in advancing ultra-high dose rate radiotherapy (FLASH-RT) towards clinical studies. However, the availability of accelerators capable of delivering ultra-high dose rates in a clinical setting is still limited. We have initiated a veterinary clinical study of FLASH-RT for clinical canine cancer patients with superficial tumors using the electron beam of our modified clinical linear accelerator. Here we present the treatment of the first patient.

Methods: A clinical canine cancer patient diagnosed with a grade 1 soft tissue sarcoma at the right forelimb, with incomplete excision after surgery, was treated with 15 Gy FLASH-RT using a field size of 8x4 cm² (Figure 1). The irradiation was delivered with a source-to-surface distance of 70 cm. Dosimetric equipment consisted of radiochromic film, an ionization chamber (for relative measurements) and phantom material mimicking the experimental setup for irradiation. *In vivo* dose measurements were performed with film to verify the delivered dose.

Results: For the canine patient, the prescribed dose was accurately delivered (14.8 — 0.5 Gy) using 7 pulses in 0.03 s, i.e. with an average dose rate of 500 Gy/s. Only grade 1 cutaneous side effects were observed at 7 and 30 days post treatment.

CLINICAL TRANSLATION OF FLASH-RT CHUV'S PRAGMATIC APPROACH USING LINACS OF 5-12 MEV

Superficial tumors Intra-operative FLASH-RT





J Bourhis



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Radiotherapy and Oncology

journal homepage: www.thegreenjournal.com



Original Article

Treatment of a first patient with FLASH-radiotherapy

Jean Bourhis ^{a,b,*}, Wendy Jeanneret Sozzi ^a, Patrik Gonçalves Jorge ^{a,b,c}, Olivier Gaide ^d, Claude Bailat ^c,
 Frédéric Duclos ^a, David Patin ^a, Mahmut Ozsahin ^a, François Bochud ^c, Jean-François Germond ^c,
 Raphaël Moeckli ^{c,1}, Marie-Catherine Vozenin ^{a,b,1}

^a Department of Radiation Oncology, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne; ^b Radiation Oncology Laboratory, Department of Radiation Oncology, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne; ^c Institute of Radiation Physics, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne; and ^d Department of Dermatology, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne, Switzerland

1 year post-RT

FLASH



Previous zones treated with conventional RT

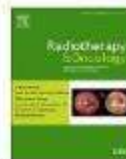


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Radiotherapy and Oncology

journal homepage: www.thegreenjournal.com



Short Communication

Comparison of ultra-high versus conventional dose rate radiotherapy in a patient with cutaneous lymphoma



Olivier Gaide^{a,1}, Fernanda Herrera^{b,c,1}, Wendy Jeanneret Sozzi^c, Patrik Gonçalves Jorge^{b,d}, Rémy Kinj^c, Claude Bailat^d, Frédéric Duclos^c, François Bochud^d, Jean-François Germond^{b,d}, Maud Gondré^d, Till Boelhen^{b,d}, Luis Schiappacasse^c, Mahmut Ozsahin^b, Raphaël Moeckli^{d,1}, Jean Bourhis^{b,c,x,1}

^aDepartment of Dermatology, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne; ^bRadiation Oncology Laboratory, Department of Radiation Oncology, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne; ^cDepartment of Radiation Oncology, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne; and ^dInstitute of Radiation Physics, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne, Switzerland

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 4 October 2021
Received in revised form 12 December 2021
Accepted 29 December 2021
Available online 5 January 2022

Keywords:
FLASH-RT
Normal skin protection
Differential effect
Clinical translation

ABSTRACT

A patient with a cutaneous lymphoma was treated on the same day for 2 distinct tumors using a 15 Gy single electron dose given in a dose rate of 0.08 Gy/second versus 166 Gy/second. Comparing the two treatments, there was no difference for acute reactions, late effects at 2 years and tumor control.
© 2022 The Authors. Published by Elsevier B.V. Radiotherapy and Oncology 174 (2022) 87–91 This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

JAMA Oncology | Original Investigation

Proton FLASH Radiotherapy for the Treatment of Symptomatic Bone Metastases: The FAST-01 Nonrandomized Trial

Anthony E. Mascia, PhD; Emily C. Daugherty, MD; Yongbin Zhang, MS; Eunsin Lee, PhD; Zhiyan Xiao, PhD; Mathieu Sertorio, PhD; Jennifer Woo, BSc; Lori R. Backus, BA; Julie M. McDonald, CCRP; Claire McCann, PhD; Kenneth Russell, MD; Lisa Levine, PhD; Ricky A. Sharma, MD, PhD; Dee Khuntia, MD; Jeffrey D. Bradley, MD; Charles B. Simone II, MD; John P. Perentesis, MD; John C. Breneman, MD

IMPORTANCE To our knowledge, there have been no clinical trials of ultra-high-dose-rate radiotherapy delivered at more than 40 Gy/sec, known as FLASH therapy, nor first-in-human use of proton FLASH.

OBJECTIVES To assess the clinical workflow feasibility and treatment-related toxic effects of FLASH and pain relief at the treatment sites.

CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE In this nonrandomized trial, clinical workflow metrics, treatment efficacy, and safety data demonstrated that ultra-high-dose-rate proton FLASH radiotherapy was clinically feasible. The treatment efficacy and the profile of adverse events were comparable with those of standard-of-care radiotherapy. These findings support the further exploration of FLASH radiotherapy in patients with cancer.

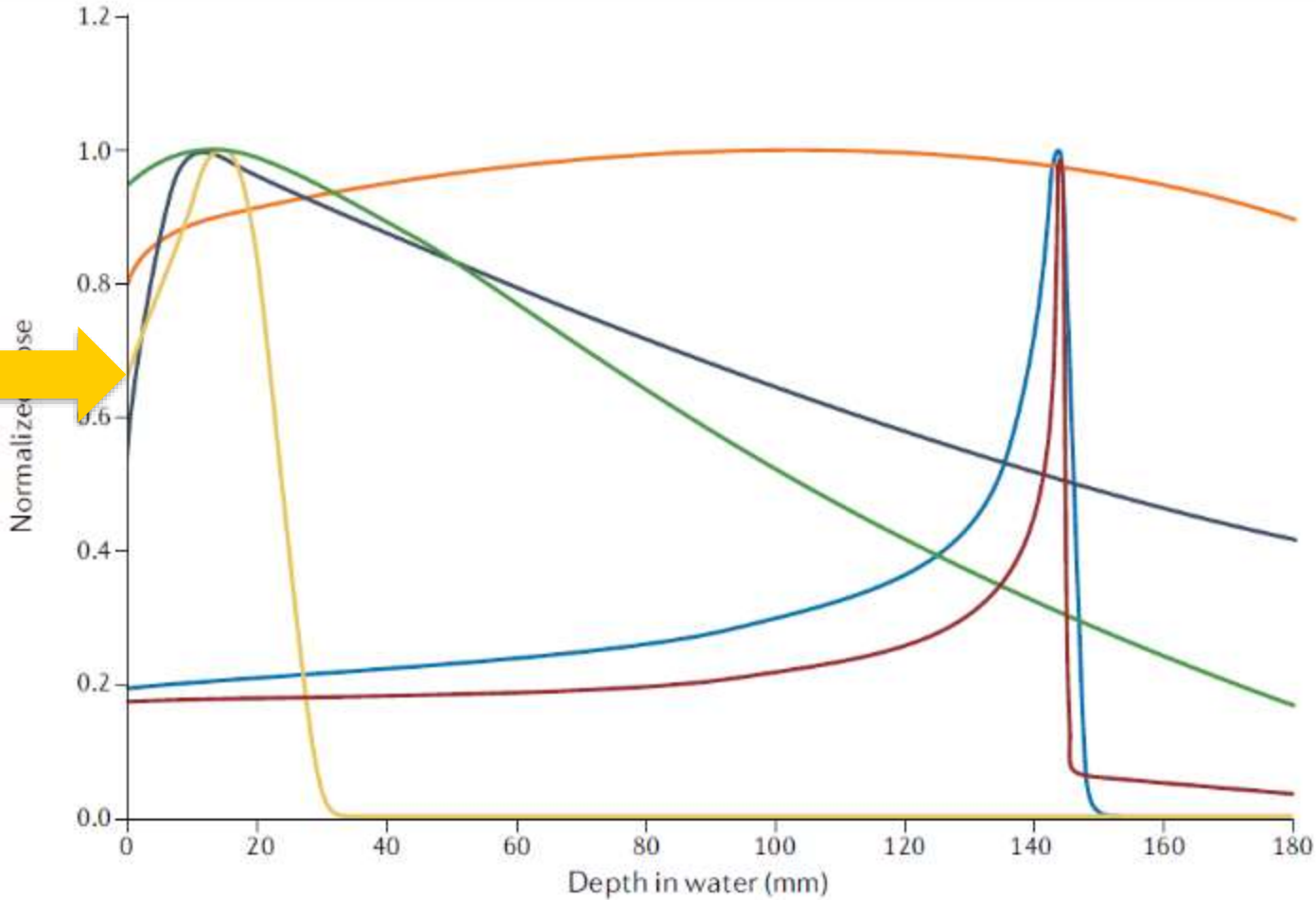
NEEDS FOR THE CLINICAL TRANSFER

EXISTING TECHNOLOGY AND ITS LIMITATIONS

PHYSICAL QUALITIES OF ELECTRONS

Short target distance

e



VHEE

DEVICES ABLE TO OPERATE AT ULTRA-HIGH DOSE RATE ELECTRONS

Radiation source	Modality of radiation	Advantages (+)	Disadvantages (-)	Currently available for FLASH-RT clinical studies, with which main limitations?
Conventional electron linear accelerator (10, 14, 66, 67)	1–25 MeV Electrons	Inexpensive. Minor beam size limitation.	Poor depth penetration. Wide penumbra.	Yes, Limited to treating superficial tumors.
Very High Energy Electron linear accelerator (68, 69) or Laser plasma accelerators (70, 71)	100–250 MeV Electrons	Good depth penetration. Electromagnetic steering and focusing. Not sensitive to tissue heterogeneity.	Low pulse rate (1–10 Hz) for Laser plasma accelerators. Limited beam size.	No

Wilson et al., Front in Oncol, 2020

EXISTING LINACS FOR FLASH RT ELECTRONS OF INTERMEDIATE ENERGY

	Kinetron (CGRMeV/ -Alcen)	Oriatron eRT6 (PMB Alcen)	Oxford linac	Modified Varian (Stanford)	Modified Elekta	Mobetron (IntraOp)	FLASH -knife (PMB- Alcen)	SIT (Sordina)	FLEX (Radia- Beam)
Available beam energy [MeV]	4.5	5	6	17	8 and 10	6 and 9	6 - 10	5-12	9
Maximum average dose rate [Gy/s]	2500	1000	1500	750	≥ 300	> 700 @ 6 MeV > 800 @ 9 MeV	Up to 350Gy/ s @30 mm depth	1500	7500
Maximum dose per pulse [Gy]	6.3	12	5	3	1.9	> 8 @ 6 MeV > 9 @ 9 MeV	NA	18.2	>25
Max. beam size for at least 1.5 Gy/pulse [cm]	5	20.5 (FWHM)	5 (FWHM)	5	2 (5% flatness)	6 @ 90%	NA	1.3 (FWHM)	6
Max. beam size @ max. dose rate [cm]	0.012	0.5	NA	5	2 (5% flatness)	4 @ 90%	NA	0.5 (FWHM)	6 (FWHM)

Flash effect validated

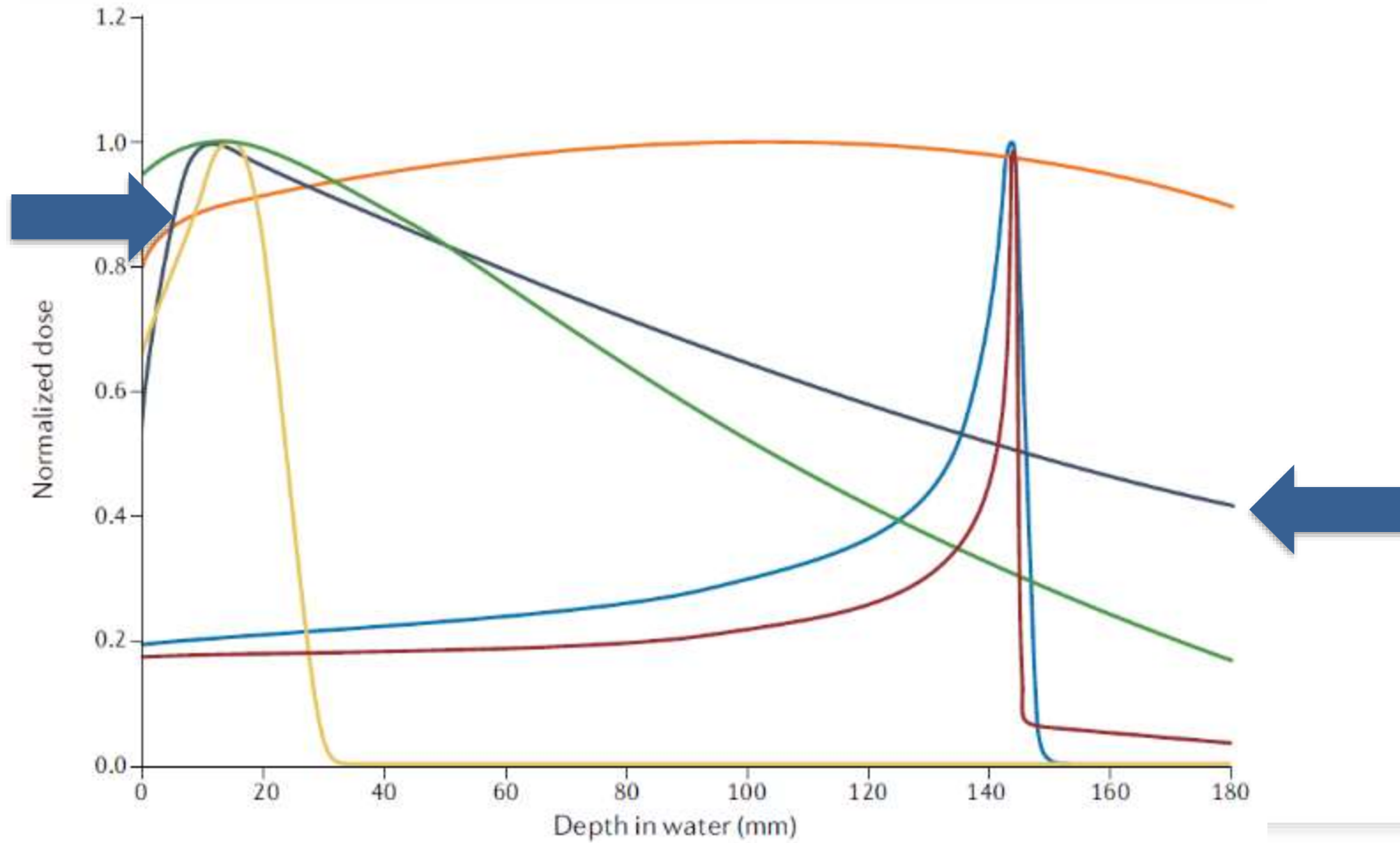
Biologically and dosimetrically intercompared

Vozenin et al., Reviews in Modern Physics, 2023

PHOTONS

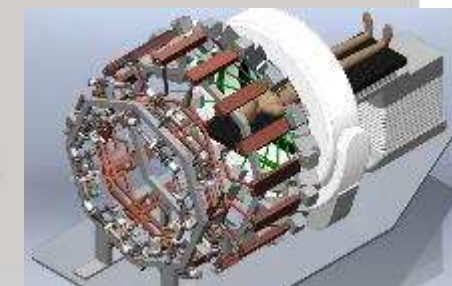
90% of
clinical
applications
today

photons



DEVICES ABLE TO OPERATE AT ULTRA-HIGH DOSE RATE PHOTONS

Radiation source	Modality of radiation	Advantages (+)	Disadvantages (-)	Currently available for FLASH-RT clinical studies, with which main limitations?
X-ray tube (72)	50–250 keV X-rays	Inexpensive. Compact design.	Very limited depth penetration. Limited beam size. High entrance dose.	Yes, Limited to treating small and very superficial tumors.
Synchrotron (24, 32)	50–600 keV X-rays	Microbeam Radiation Therapy possible.	Very large. Very expensive. Limited depth penetration. Very limited availability. Limited beam size requires scanning of sample/target.	Yes, Very limited availability.
Electron linear accelerator with high density target (20)	6–10 MV X-rays	Good depth penetration. Narrow penumbra. Minor beam size limitation.	Multiple beam angles required.	No



Wilson et al., Front in Oncol, 2020

PROTONS

-3

10^{-3}

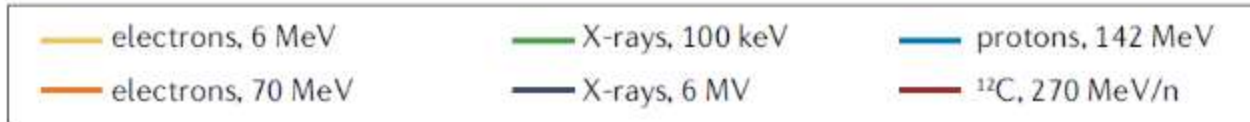
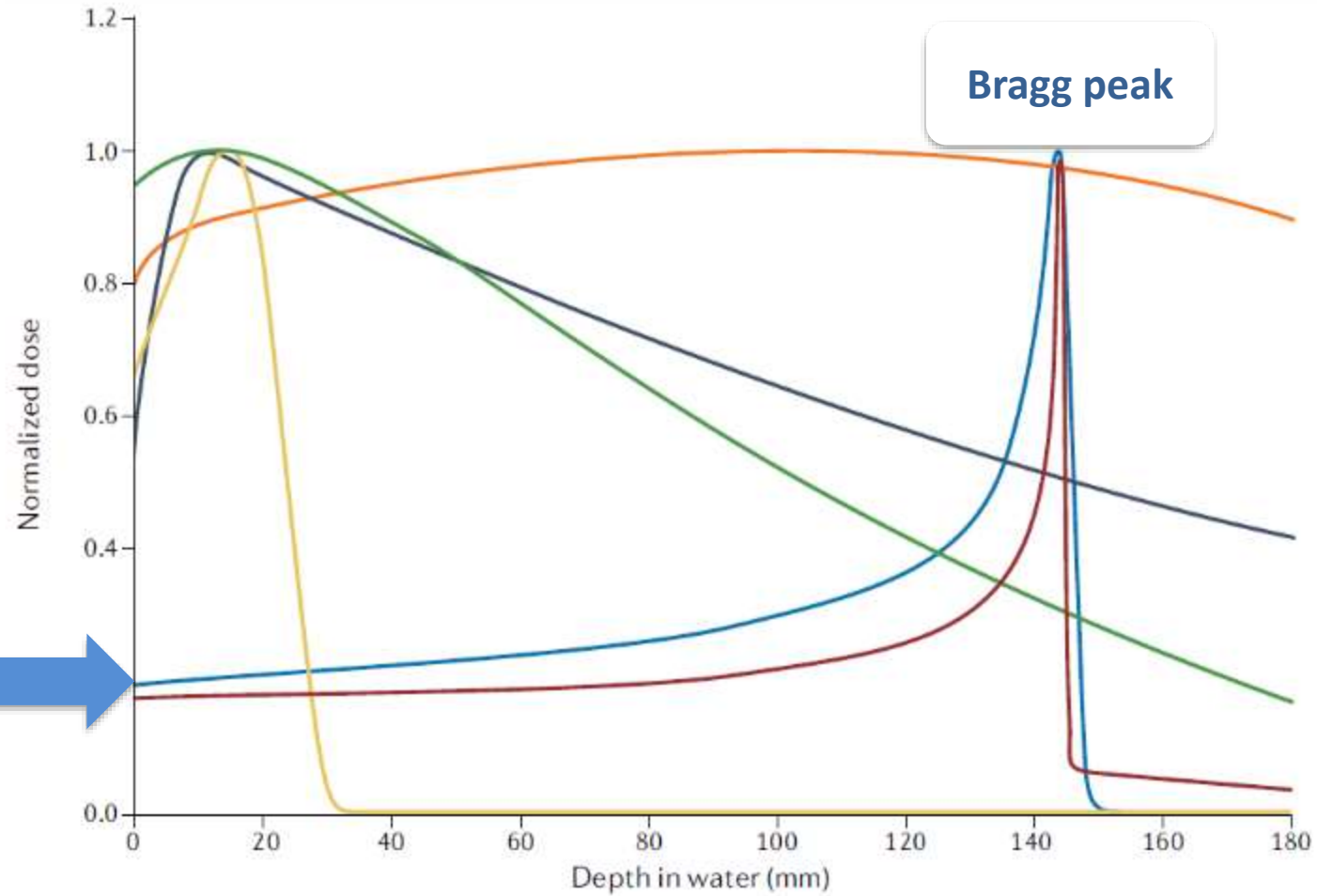
mili



100 facilities worldwide



protons



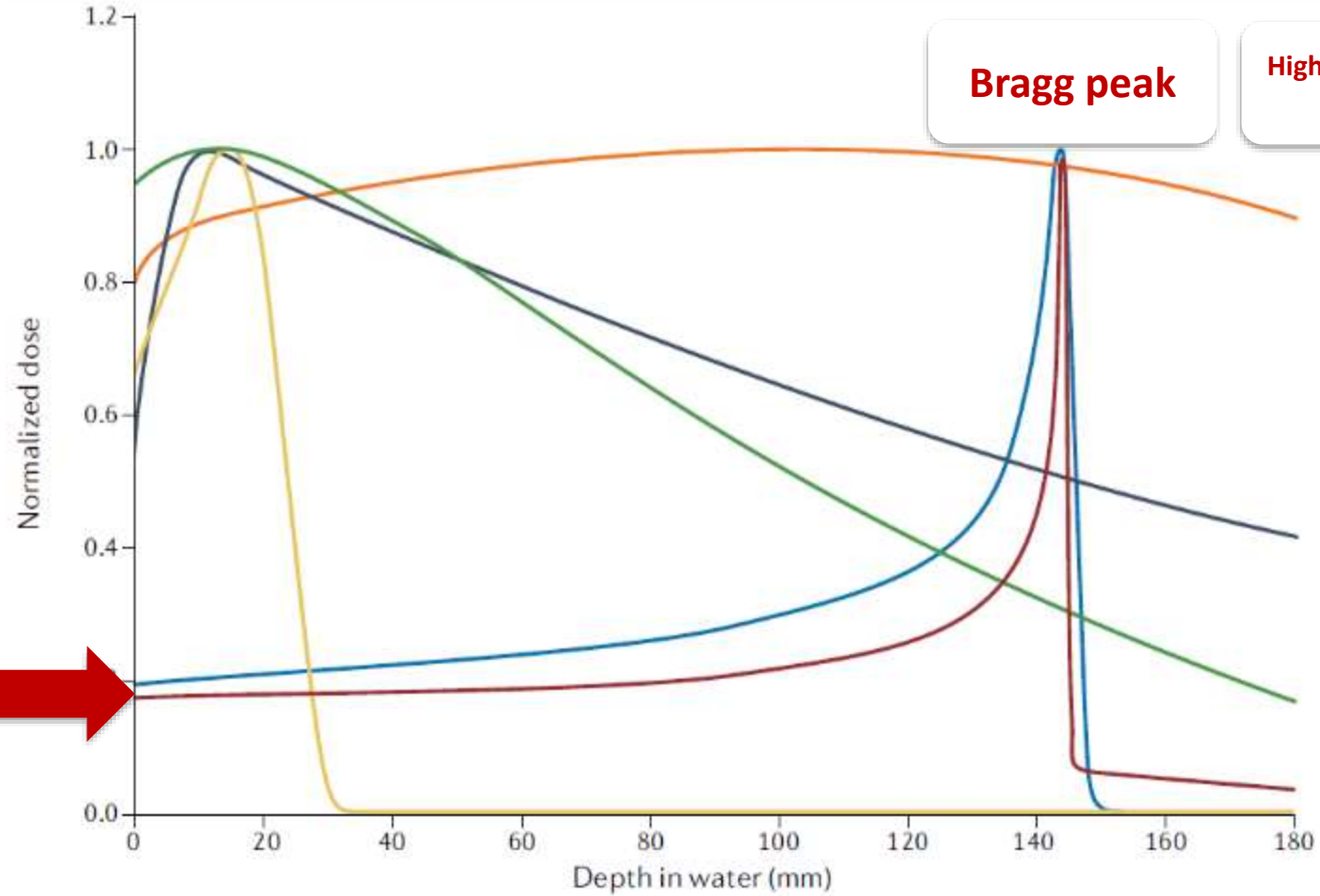
HEAVY IONS



12 facilities worldwide



Heavy ions



electrons, 6 MeV	X-rays, 100 keV	protons, 142 MeV
electrons, 70 MeV	X-rays, 6 MV	¹² C, 270 MeV/n

DEVICES ABLE TO OPERATE AT ULTRA-HIGH DOSE RATE PROTONS

Radiation source	Modality of radiation	Advantages (+)	Disadvantages (-)	Currently available for FLASH-RT clinical studies, with which main limitations?
Laser plasma accelerators (75)	1–45 MeV Protons	Compact design possible. Electromagnetic steering possible.	Poor depth penetration. Low pulse rate (1–10 Hz). Very sensitive to tissue heterogeneity. Higher LET in Bragg peak. Beam contamination. Stability issues. Limited beam size.	No
Cyclotrons, synchrotrons or Synchrocyclotron (11, 76)	100–250 MeV Protons	Good depth penetration. Electromagnetic steering possible. Limited dose-bath. Electromagnetic steering.	Large expensive sources. Sensitive to tissue heterogeneity. Higher LET in Bragg peak. Beam scanning or scattering required to cover target volumes	Yes, FLASH effect might be lost with beam scanning and/or higher LET.

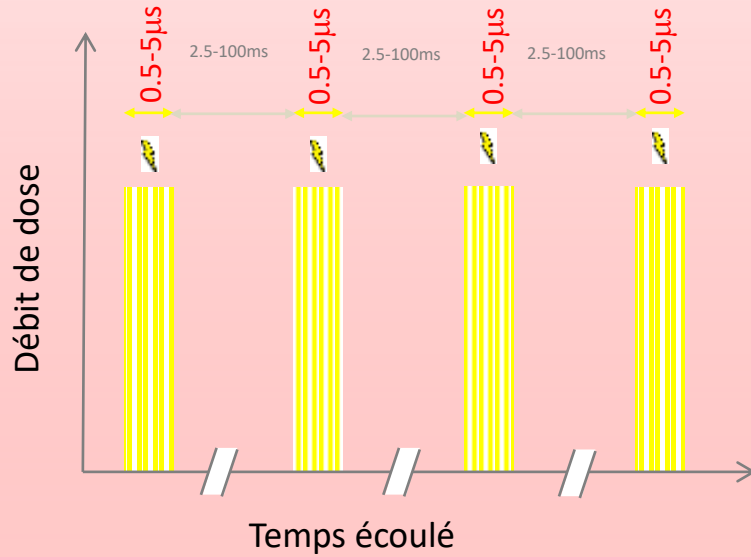
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Wilson et al., Front in Oncol, 2020



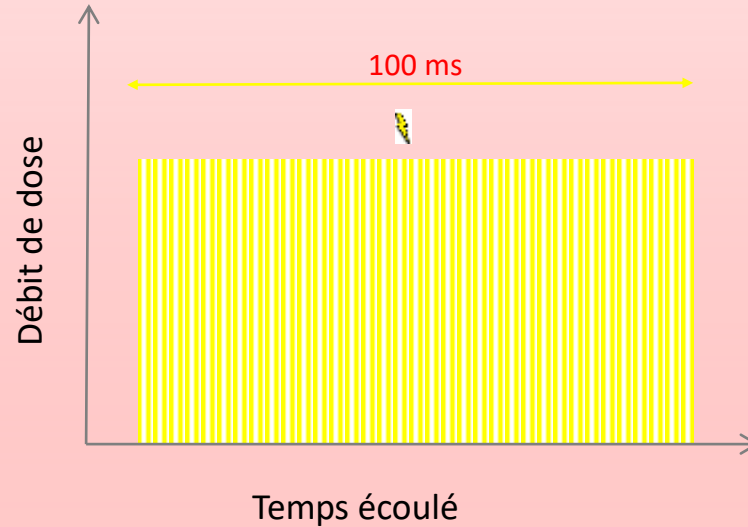
TECHNOLOGY

Structure pulsée d'un faisceau électron



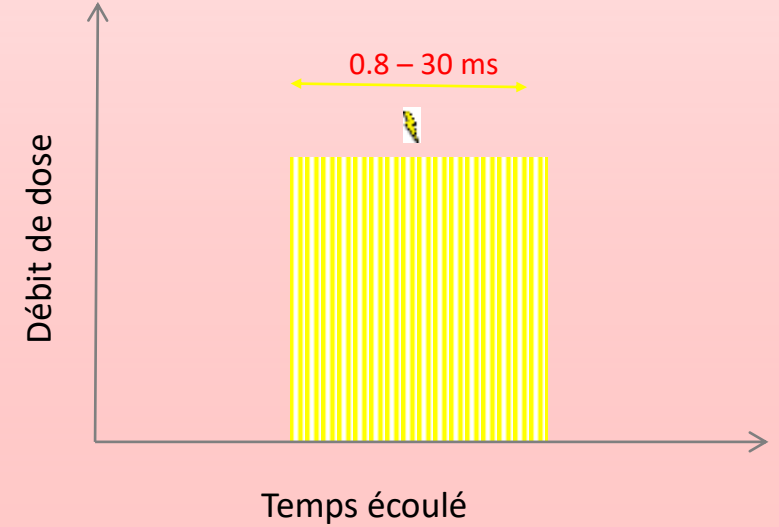
- ❖ 1 – 10 pulses
- ❖ Microstructure: 5000 bunches
- ❖ Pulse repetition frequency 10-250Hz

Structure d'un faisceau proton

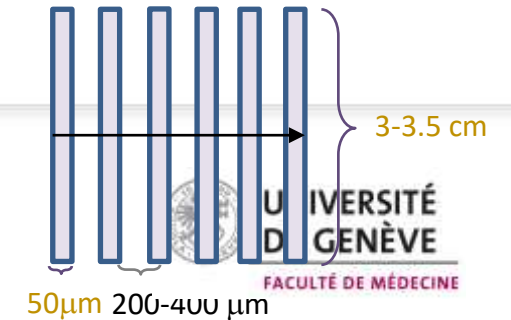
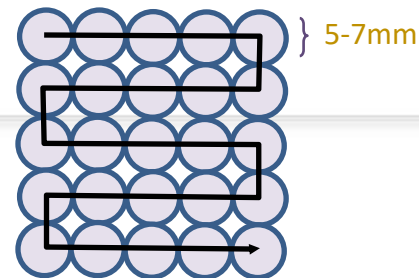


- ❖ 1 pulse
- ❖ Microstructure: 10^7 bunches
- ❖ Spot scanning (@1000Hz)

Structure d'un faisceau RX synchrotron



- ❖ 1 pulse = 1 stripe
- ❖ Microstructure: 10^7 bunches
- ❖ Stripe scanning (60mm/s)



ALL IRRADIATION THAT IS ULTRA-HIGH DOSE RATE IS NOT NECESSARILY FLASH

The FLASH effect is a biological effect

Importance of the parametric characterization of the FLASH effect

RADIATION RESEARCH **194**, 000–000 (2020)
0033-7587/20 \$15.00
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DOI: 10.1667/RADE-20-00141.1

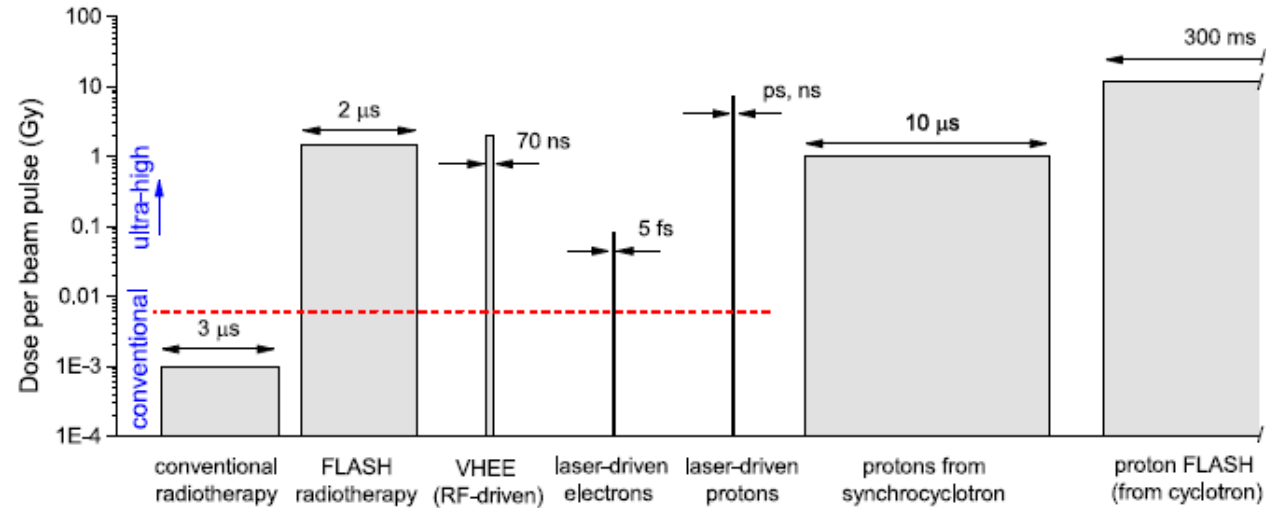
AN INTRODUCTION LETTER

All Irradiations that are Ultra-High Dose Rate may not be FLASH: The Critical Importance of Beam Parameter Characterization and *In Vivo* Validation of the FLASH Effect

Marie-Catherine Vozenin,^a Pierre Montay-Gruel,^{a,b} Charles Limoli,^{b,†} and Jean-François Germond^c

^a Laboratory of Radiation Oncology, Department of Radiation Oncology, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland; ^b Department of Radiation Oncology, University of California Irvine, Irvine, California; and ^c Institute of Radiation Physics/CHUV, Lausanne University Hospital, Lausanne, Switzerland

PHYSICAL PARAMETERS REQUIRED TO PRODUCE THE FLASH EFFECT



- FLASH effect with proton, electron, photon beams
- FLASH effect in milliseconds to microseconds range
- FLASH effect at 100 to 10^7 Gy/s

=> Suggest that the relevant metric is the average dose rate



METROLOGY: DOSIMETRY-TPS-RADIOPROTECTION

FLASH DOSIMETRY IS CHALLENGING REGARDLESS OF IRRADIATION SOURCE

Radiochromic films: most commonly used

Independent to dose rate + high spatial resolution but measure the dose after exposition

Real-time, online dose monitoring essential for clinical RT: ionization chambers but: saturation and reduced ion collection efficiency at high dose rates

Ideal FLASH dosimetry: **high time resolution + wide dynamic range** to monitor doses and dose rates

Vozenin MC et al, Nature 2022

A NEED TO GET ACCESS TO METROLOGY FOR UHDR RT

Physica Medica 80 (2020) 134–150



Original paper

The European Joint Research Project UHDpulse – Metrology for advanced radiotherapy using particle beams with ultra-high pulse dose rates

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DOSIMETRIC OPTIONS: PRIMARY STANDARDS

- **Fricke dosimetry**

used in conventional electron beams

independent of dose rate

evaluation for UHDR ongoing

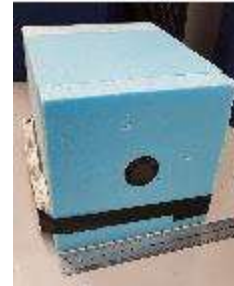
- **Graphite calorimeter**

proton UHDR

NPL commissioning first portable calorimeter (SPGC)

GUM portable to be tested for UHDR electron

aluminium calorimeter for UHDR electron



WP1: Primary standards

- Definition of reference conditions
- Reference radiation fields
- Adapting primary standards (calorimeter, Fricke dosimeter)
- Prototype graphite calorimeters for laser-driven beams

Schuller A et al, Physica Medica 2020

DOSIMETRIC OPTIONS: SECONDARY STANDARDS AND RELATIVE DOSIMETRY

- **Ionization chambers STANDARD FOR CONVENTIONAL**
international code of practice: plain parallel ionization chambers for measurement of absorbed dose -> challenging with UHDR
- **Absolute dosimetry for FLASH électrons**
with **chemical and passive dosimeters**
radiochromic films, alanine and thermo-luminescent dosimeters
not dependent on dose rate
but uncertainties 3%
impossible direct reading
REMAINS THE REFERENCE BUT IS RETROSPECTIVE
NEED TO WORK ON MONITOR CHAMBERS FOR REAL-TIME DOSIMETRY
- **Semiconductive detectors**
silicon and diamond
standard for protons: higher sensitivity, good spatial resolution, compact

WP2: Secondary standards, relative dosimetry

- Transfer from primary standards
- Characterizing established detector systems in UHPDR beams
- Formalism for reference dosimetry for future Code of Practice

Schuller A et al, Physica Medica 2020

BEAM MONITORING

- **UHDR électrons**

Ionization chambers saturate at UHDR

FOR UHDR: **beam current transformers (BCT): AC Current Transformer (ACCT) or Integrating Current Transformer (ICT)**
Not classically used in the clinic

- **UHDR protons**

Air-filled transmission ionization chambers= standard
With FLASH RT, recombination losses

- **Stray radiation**

Even more challenging: need for proper identification of field components

Key requirement: possibility to distinguish between particle types -> TimePix3 detector



WP3: Detectors for primary beam

- Novel and custom-built active dosimetric systems
- Beam monitoring systems

WP4: Detectors and methods outside primary beam

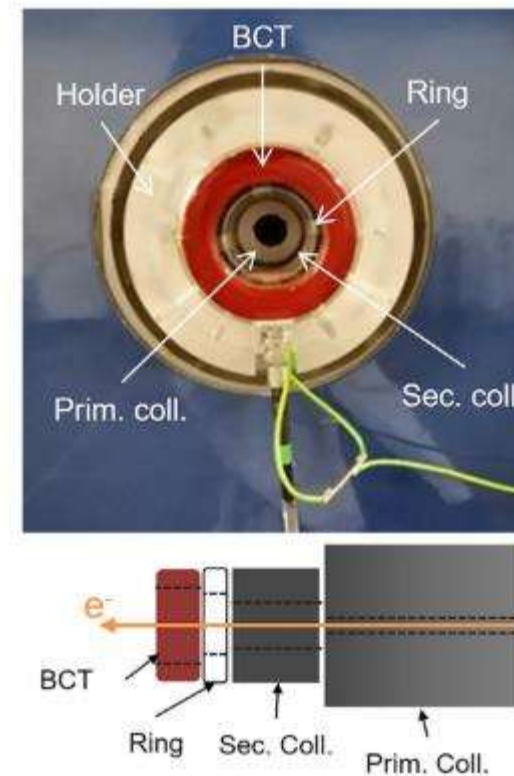
- Active detection techniques for pulsed mixed radiation fields of stray radiation incl. pulsed neutrons
- Methods with passive detectors

Schuller A et al, Physica Medica 2020

TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MONITOR CHAMBER USING BEAM CURRENT TRANSFORMERS (BCT) OR ACCT

Mandatory for clinical application

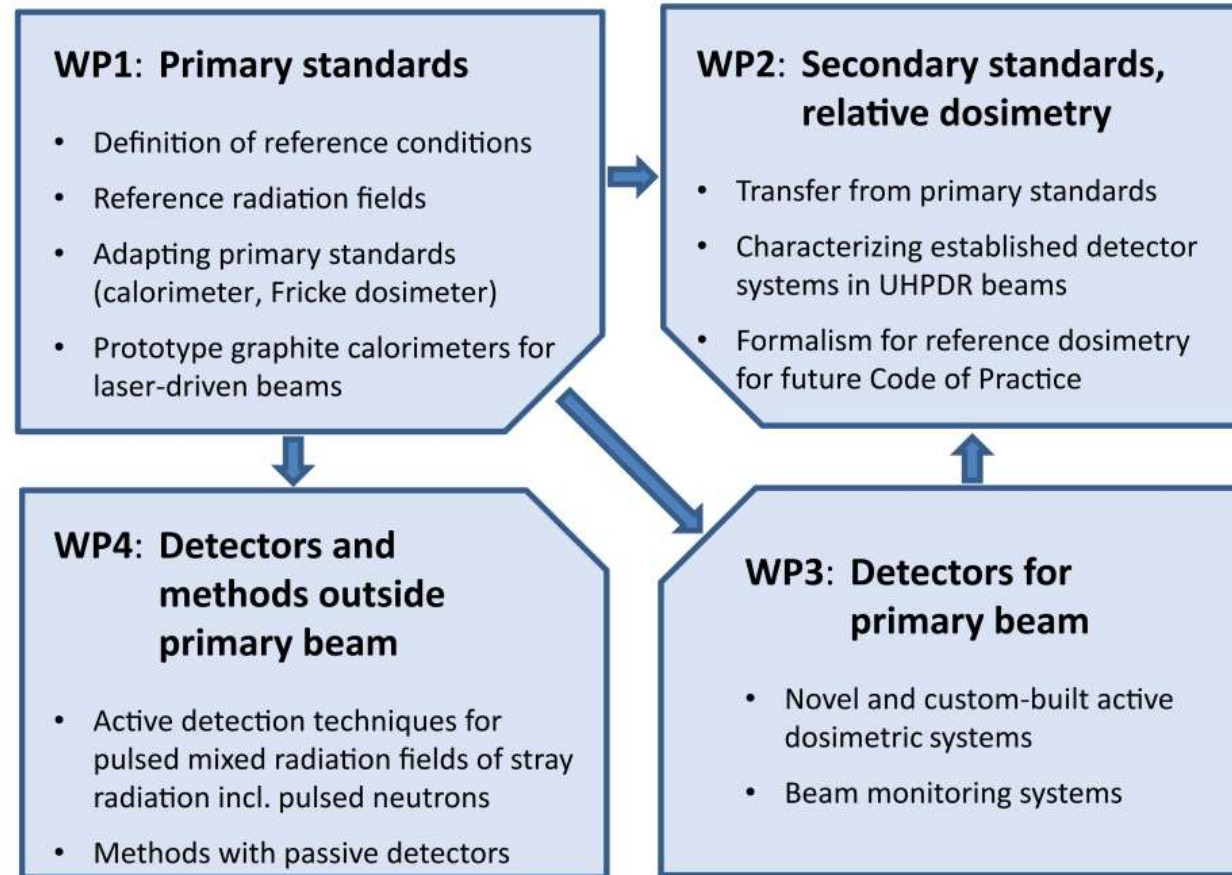
Real-time monitoring system of FLASH irradiation accelerators: pilot, check and verify delivered doses



C Bailat R Moeckli P Jorge Goncalves



THE UHD PULSE PROJECT -> COMPLETED



- **UHD** (Andreas Schüller)
Induction and diamond chambers
- **NPL UK**: Anna Subiel
Minicalorimeters: absolute dose measurements
- **CHUV**: Claude Baillat/
Maud Jaccard
passive dosimetry

Pour protons: Faraday-cup

Schuller A et al, Physica Medica 2020

RADIATION PROTECTION AT UHDR

- **Current regulatory framework**

annual doses received by personnel= restricted- established at international and national level

- **For UHDR**

Standard radiation protection instruments not designed to measure pulsed beams

designed in nuclear power plants

they accumulate the signal during seconds but operate well in the microsec frame ? Sensitive enough ?

Instruments for radiodiagnostics might be better suited

Passive dosimeters require the delivery of large, absorbed dose in a large water tank

For clinical operations

total dose delivery not expected to differ between conventional and FLASH RT

More deeply penetrating electrons will require **neutron dosimetry**

Vozenin MC et al, RMP 2023

TPS FOR FLASH ?

A need to create a FLASH dedicated TPS

Currently, Monte Carlo is used, but this does not integrate time of RT delivery

IMPLICATIONS OF RADIOBIOLOGICAL MECHANISMS ON CLINICAL TRANSFER

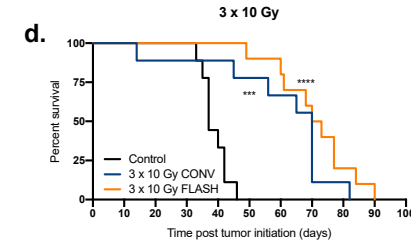
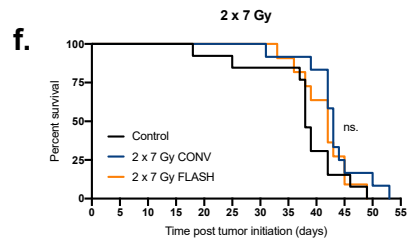
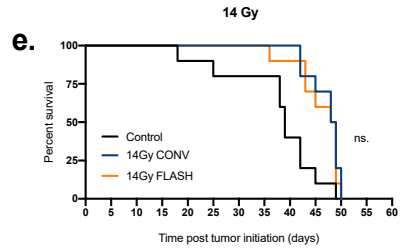
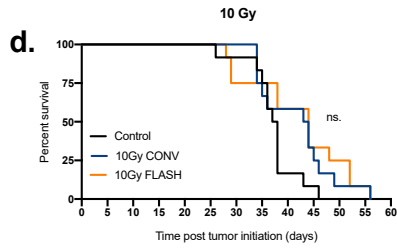
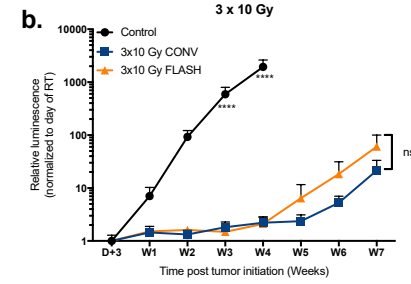
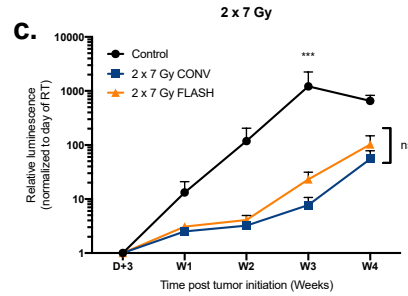
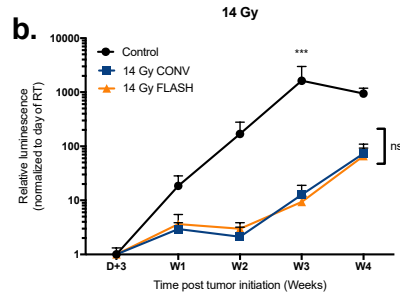
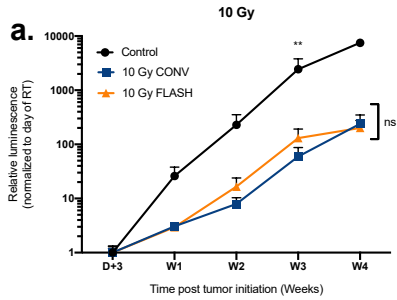
FRACTIONATION



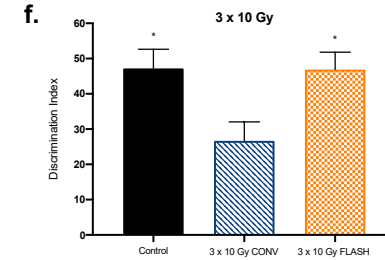
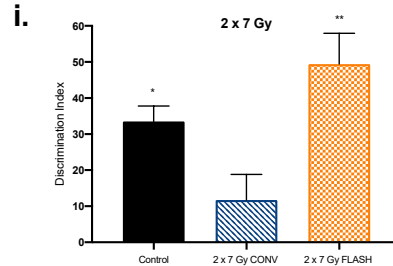
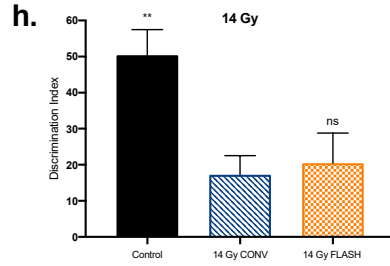
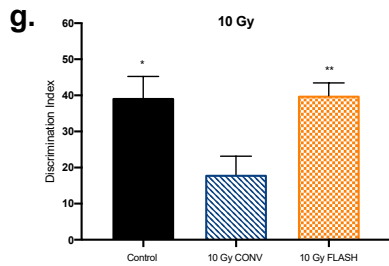
B Petit

P Montay-Gruel

IMPACT OF DOSE, FRACTIONATION AND INTERVAL



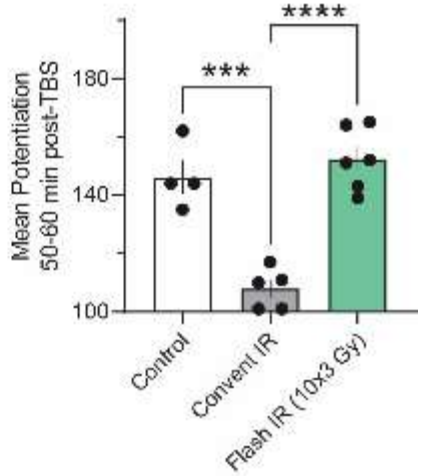
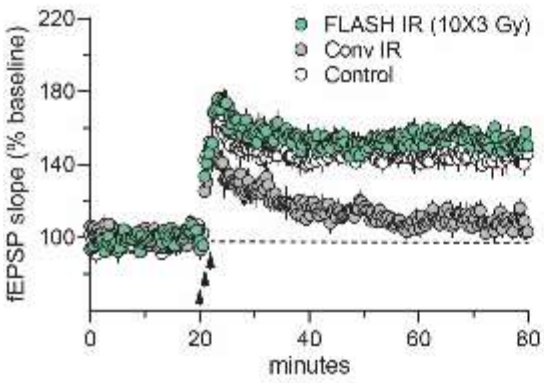
FLASH dose delivered in 1 pulse (1.8 micros)



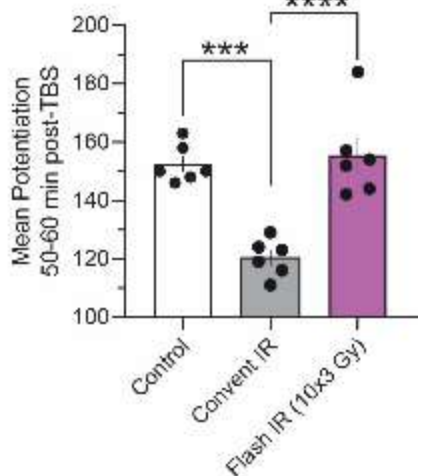
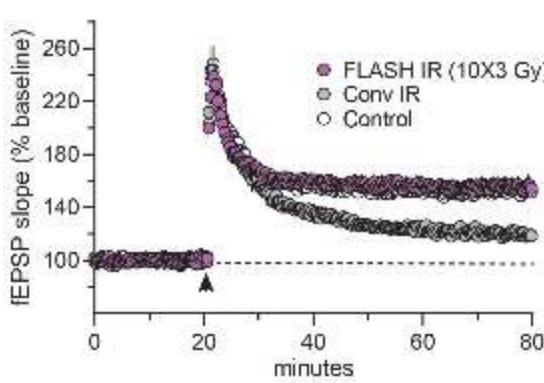
Montay-Gruel et al, CCR, 2020

STANDARD FRACTIONATION REGIMEN 10X3GY SPARES NORMAL BRAIN FUNCTION

Prefrontal Cortex



Hippocampus



=> Suggest that standard fractionation is feasible

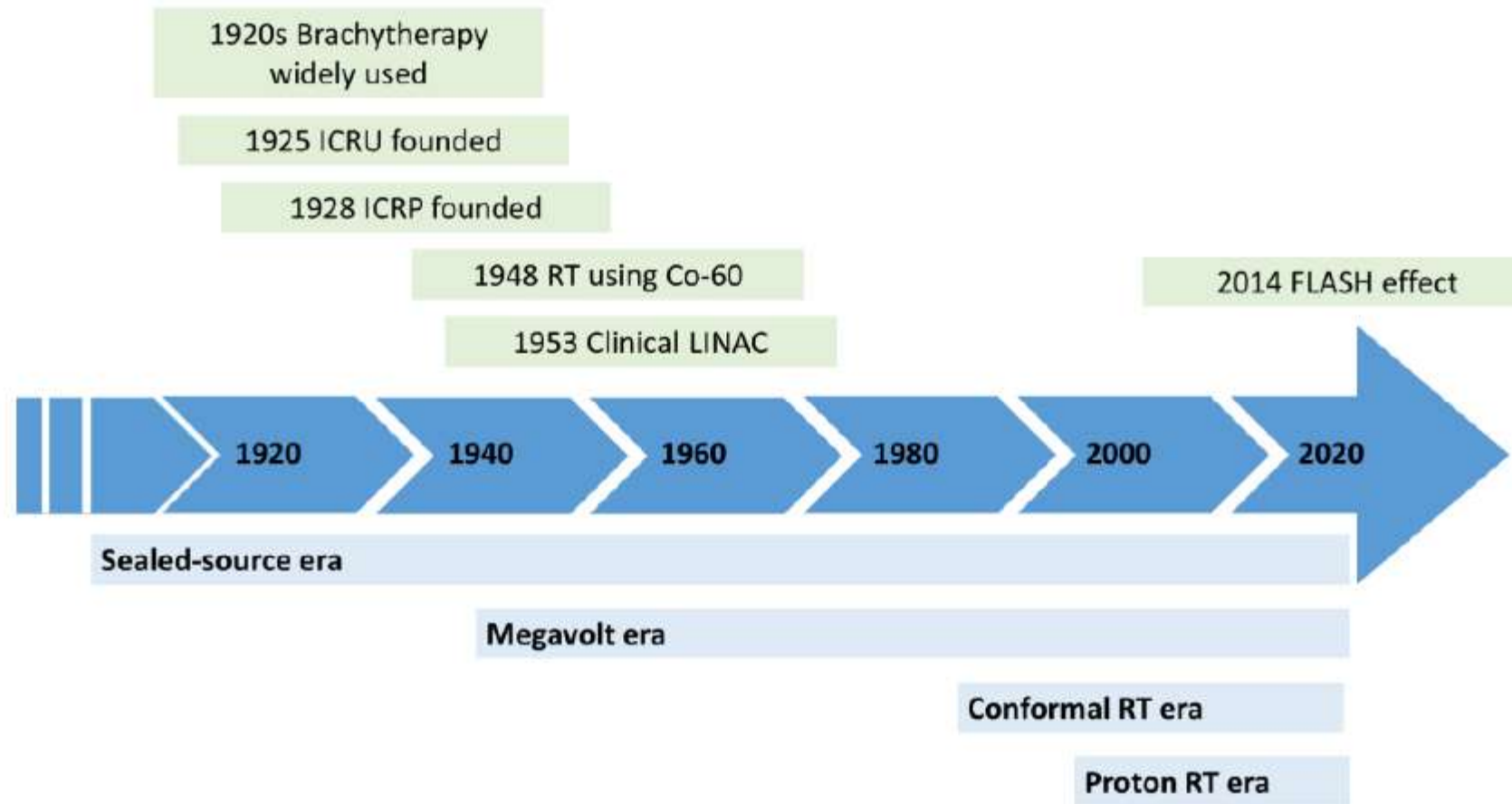
Limoli et al, RO, 2023

IMPACT OF DOSE AND VOLUME

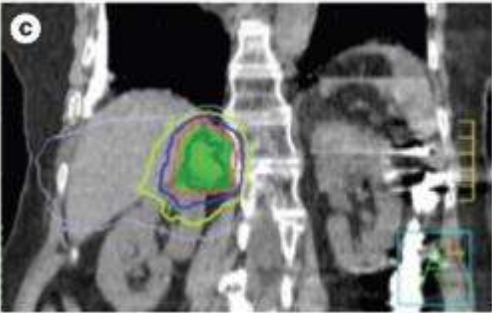
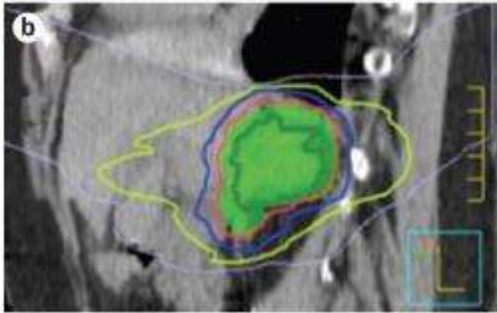
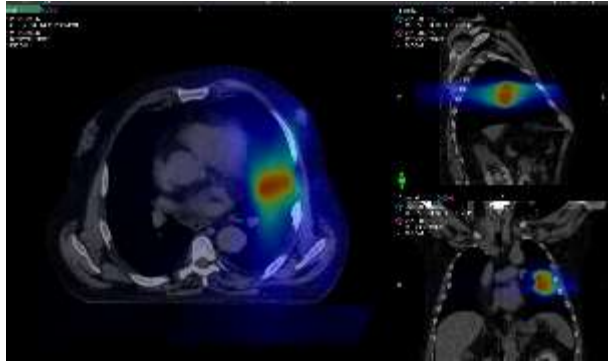
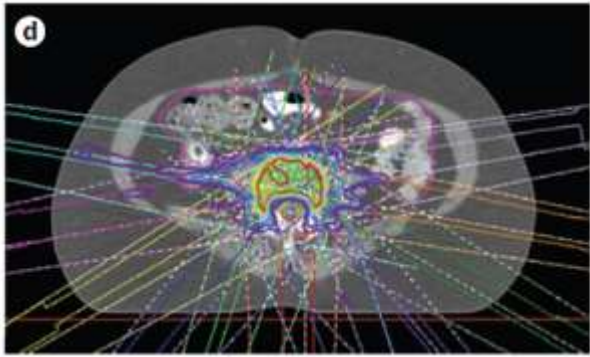
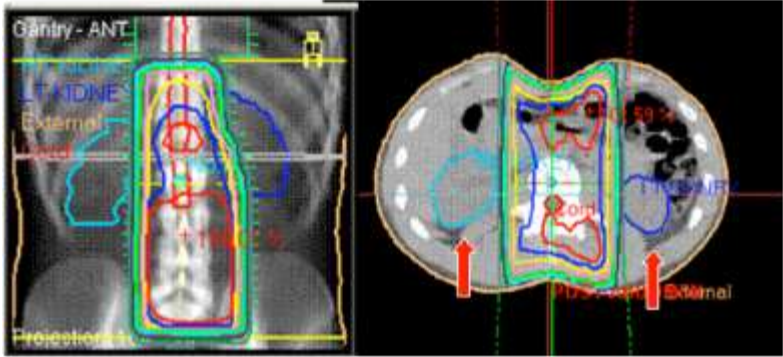


CONFORMALITY

A NEED TO BRING FLASH RT TO THE SAME LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AS CONVENTIONAL

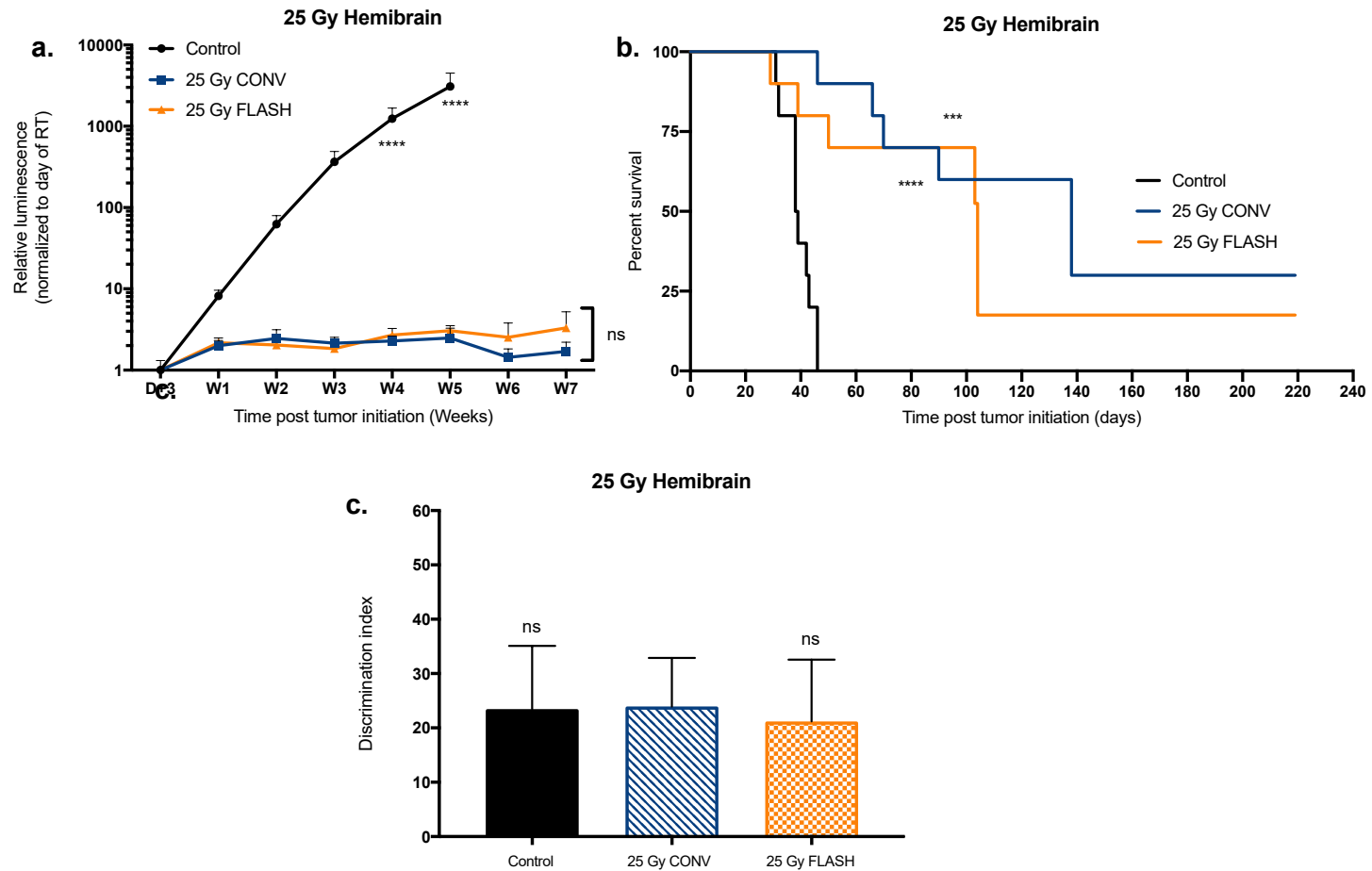


WITH FLASH RT, FROM A CONFORMALITY POINT OF VIEW, WE ARE NOT EVEN IN THE 3D ERA

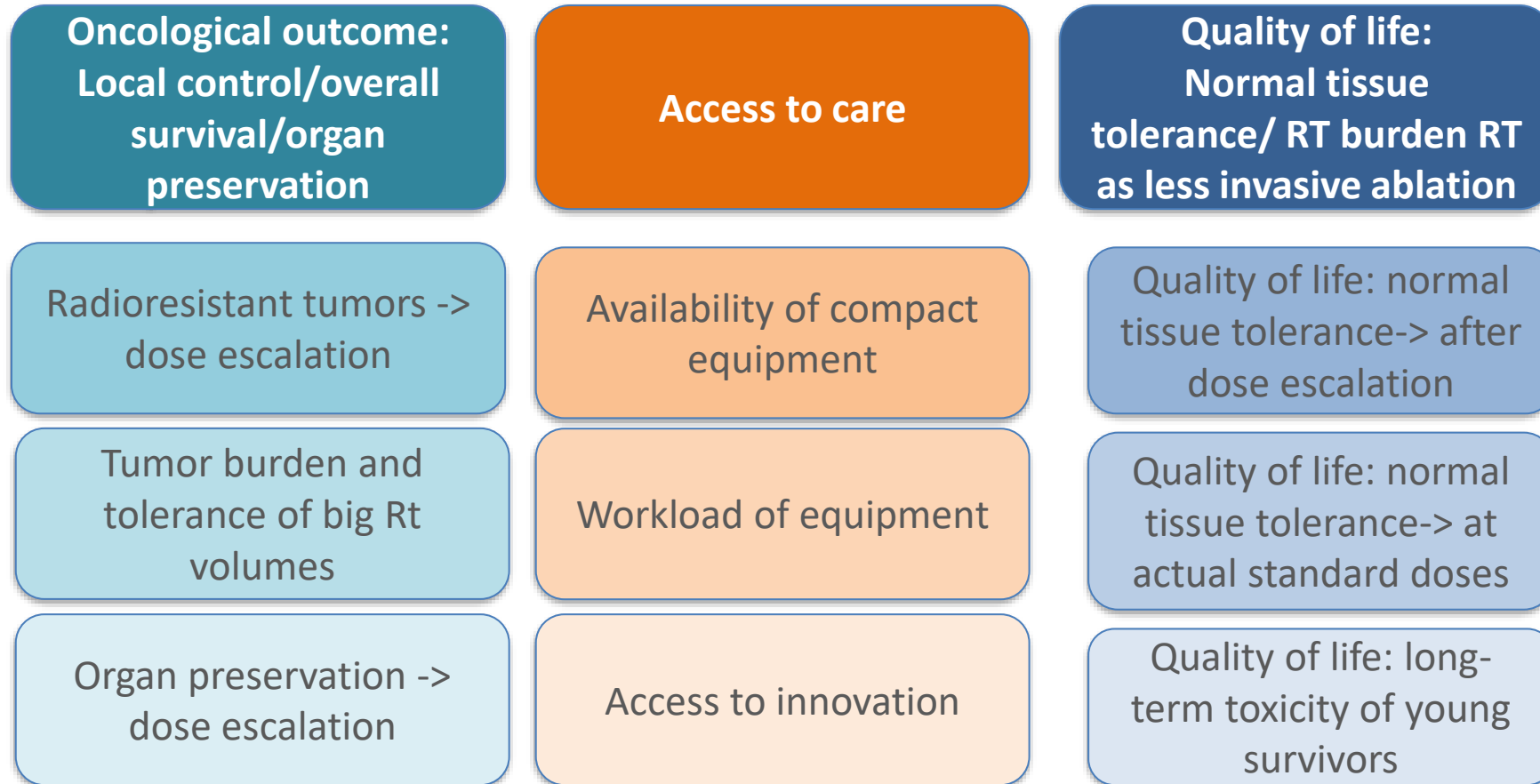


Salama, J. K. et al. *Nat. Rev. Clin. Oncol.* 9, 654–665 (2012)

CONFORMALITY



UNMET NEEDS IN MODERN RT

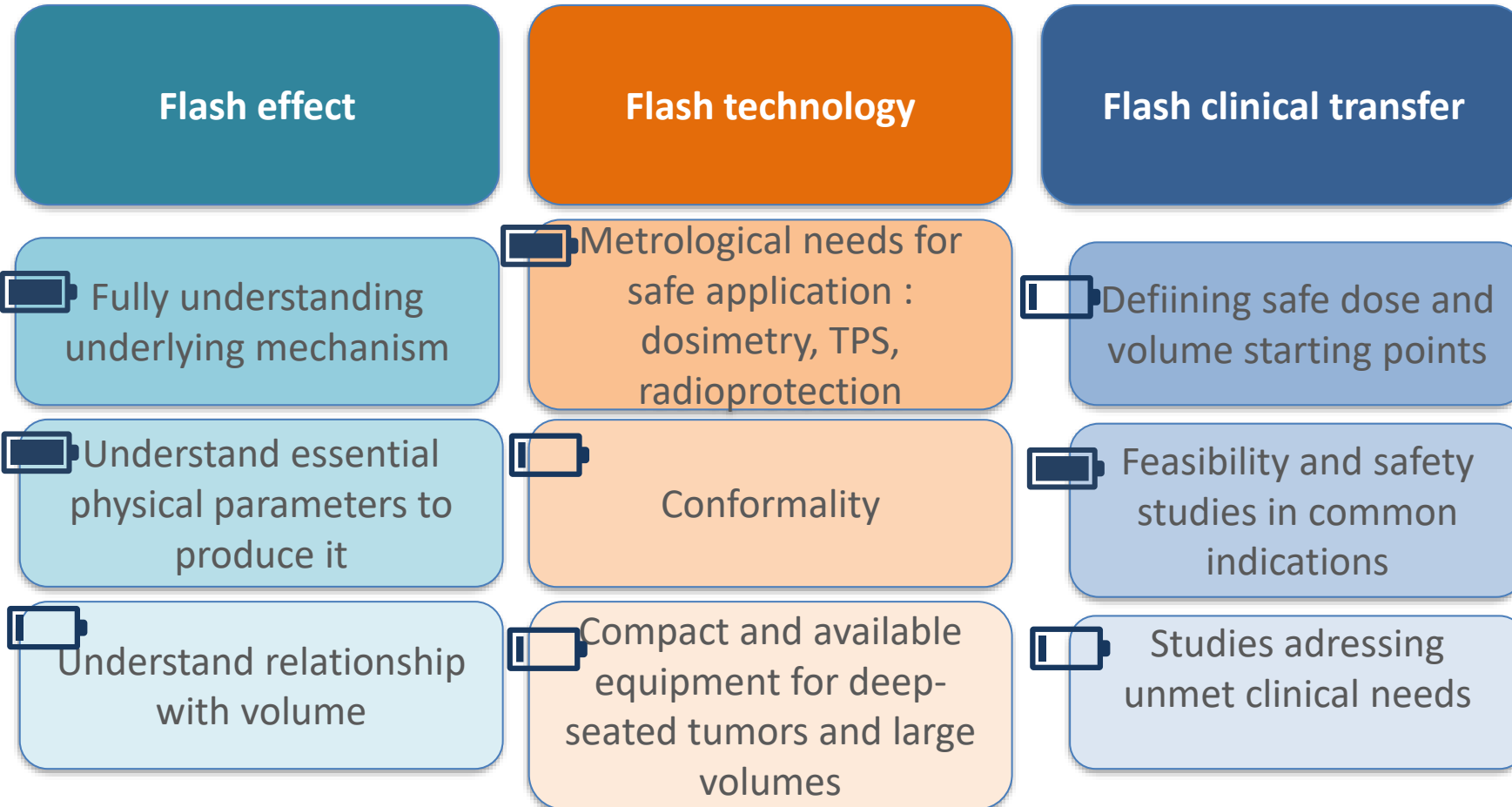


RESOLVED QUESTIONS IN FLASH RT

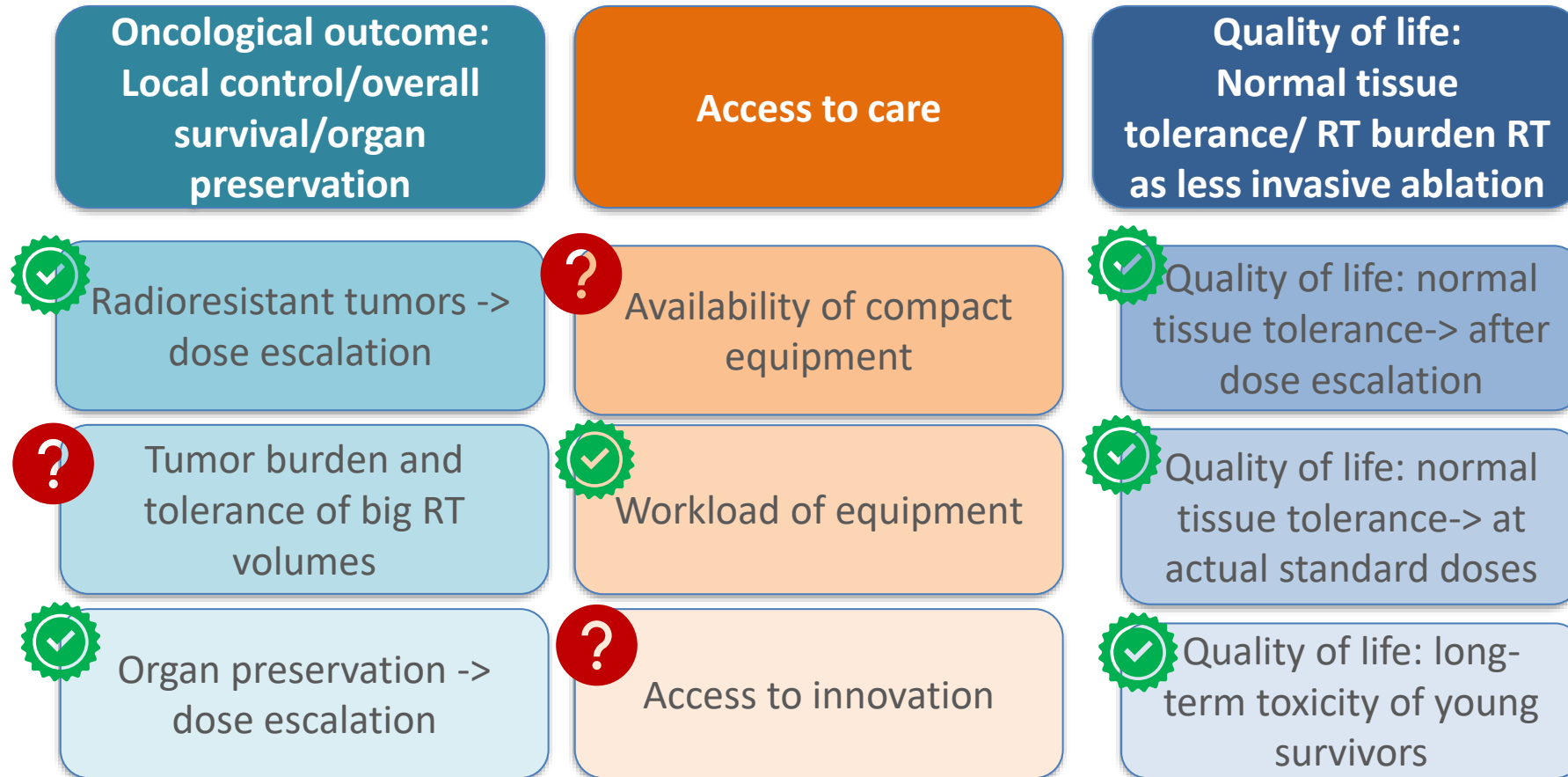


Flash effect	Flash technology	Flash clinical transfer
Protects normal tissues by 30-40%	Flash can be produced with all RT modalities	Clinical studies in animal patients
Kills tumors at least as well as conventional RT	Observed at dose rates >40/100 Gy/s	First-in-human
Observed with any fractionation	Total irradiation time <500 msec	First feasibility study in 10 patients
Observed in many species and all tissues		

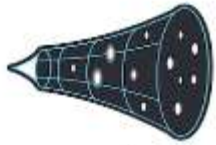
OPEN QUESTIONS AND UNMET NEEDS IN FLASH RT



WHICH OF THE UNMET NEEDS IN MODERN RT COULD THEORETICALLY BE ADDRESSED WITH FLASH RT



exponent	12	9	6	3	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-6	-9	-12	-18
	10^{12}	10^9	10^6	10^3	10^2	10^1	$10^0=1$	10^{-1}	10^{-2}	10^{-3}	10^{-6}	10^{-9}	10^{-12}	
prefix	tera	giga	mega	kilo	hecto	deca	BASE	deci	centi	mili	micro	nano	pico	Atto
	T	G	M	K	h	da		d	c	m	μ	n	p	



AGE OF THE UNIVERSE
1,000,000,000,000,000,000 SECONDS

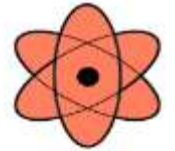


HEARTBEAT
1 SECOND

pFlash

eFlash

VHEE



ATTOSECOND
1/1,000,000,000,000,000,000 SECOND

©Johan Jarnestad/The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences



Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz, Anne L'Huillier.
Electron in pulses of lights in the attoseconds' time scale

FLASH «dream» team moved @



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DE GENÈVE

Biology team

R Leavitt
A Almeida
B Petit
J Ollivier
C Romero
C Godfroid
A Martinotti
J Franco-Perez
P Ballesteros-Zebadua
J Jansen



Clinical team

P Tsoutsou
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Pedro Romero team (Immunology)

Genrich Tolstonog team (H&Neck)



Charles Limoli and Team

M Acharya
P Montay-Gruel
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Billy Loo and Team
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