

# Imaging in RCC

## Can we tell what's malignant

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The Netherlands

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**Radboudumc**

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# Introduction

- Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC) 2-3% of all cancers
- ~85% is ccRCC
- Estimated incidence in European Union per 100.000 (2012):
  - Men 15.8
  - Women 7.9
- Currently majority of detected solid renal masses is incidentaloma <4cm
- Still up to 30% mRCC at initial staging
- On initial imaging tumor size is important predictor of malignancy, more benign lesions expected in small renal masses.
- In surgical series, up to 20% of small renal masses shows benign histology.

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# Imaging

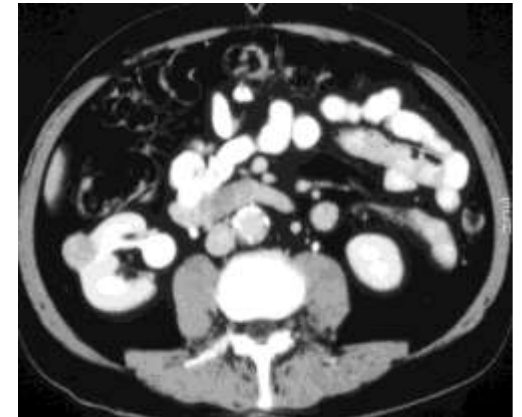
- Guidelines recommend contrast enhanced CT or MRI for primary lesion assessment
- On CT high-density (40-70 HU) and contrast enhancement (increase in attenuation  $\geq 20$  HU) depicts RCC
- MRI may also complement CT where CT is limited in identification of enhancing soft tissue and defining its characteristics
- No place for PET scanning due to low diagnostic accuracy for detecting primary RCC



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# Imaging drawbacks

- With current used techniques, both CT and MRI can not reliably distinguish benign (lipid poor angiomyolipoma and oncocytoma) from malignant lesions
- Mainly problem in SRMs
- Histological confirmation of metastasis based on imaging is impossible

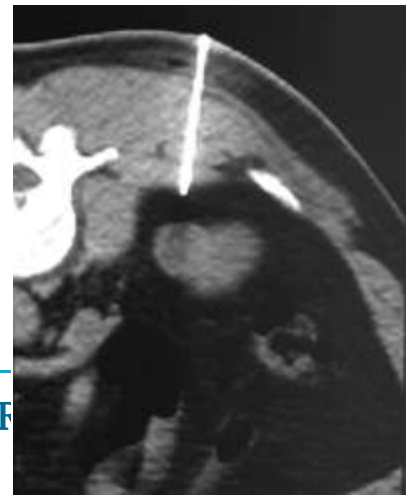


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# Biopsy

- In case of radiologically indeterminate renal masses biopsy may be warranted
- Biopsy sensitivity 86-100%, however up to 20% are inconclusive
- Especially biopsy in SRMs may be technically demanding
- In histological biopsy assessment, oncocytoma are hard to distinguish from well differentiated RCCs due to oncocytic features
- Biopsy is invasive procedure

**SEP. PROCEDURE  
IN LOCAL ANEST.  
CT-FLUOROSCOPY  
17G SHEATH ON TUMOR  
18G CORE 3-4 CORE BIOPSIES  
TROUGH SHEATH**



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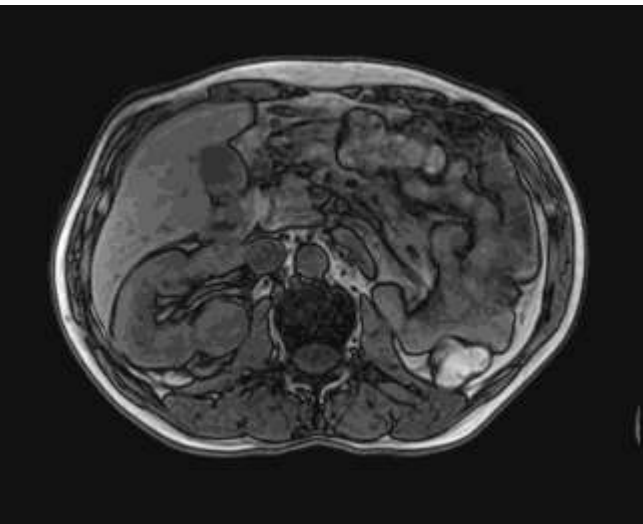
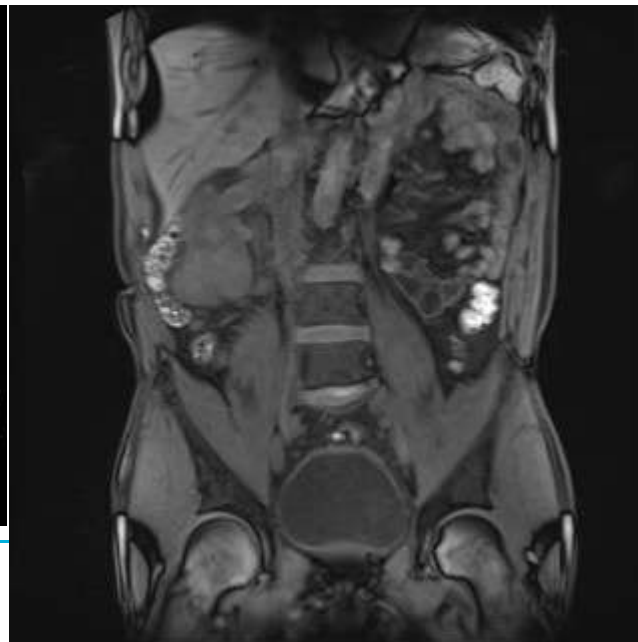
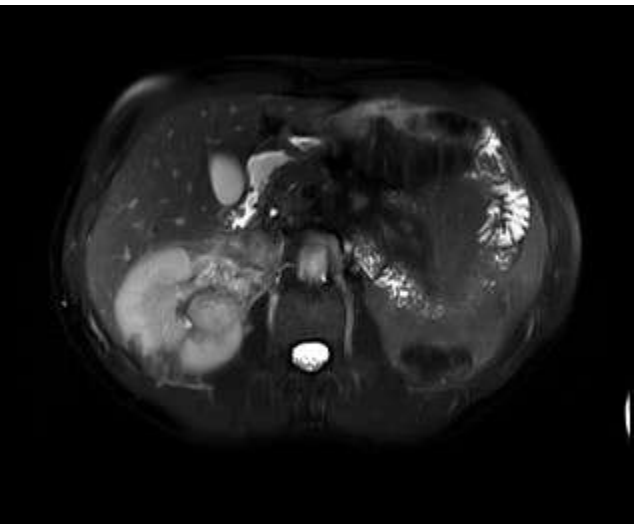
# Diagnostic challenges

- Diagnostics based on imaging especially challenging in distinguishing benign from malignant SRMs and in case of suspected metastasis
- For all renal masses when administration of contrast agent is contra indicated (impaired renal function or previous allergic reactions)
- New imaging modalities are evaluated

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# Diffusion Weighted MRI

- Technique to assess restriction of diffusion (movement of water molecules)
- Due to high cellularity diffusion in tumours is restricted
- Currently in clinical use for prostate and other organs



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# Diffusion Weighted MRI

Eur Radiol (2014) 24:241–249  
DOI 10.1007/s00330-013-3004-x

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MAGNETIC RESONANCE

## Diffusion-weighted imaging of focal renal lesions: a meta-analysis

E. A. Lassel • R. Rao • C. Schwenke • S. O. Schoenberg •  
H. J. Michaely

- 1181 measurements used: 450 RCCs, 132 cysts, 521 benign lesions (including normal parenchyma), 13 oncocytoma's, 65 uroepithelial tumours

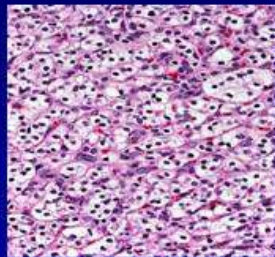


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# Diffusion Weighted MRI

- Conclusions:
  - “Evaluation of ADC values can help to determine between benign and malignant lesions in general but also seems able to differentiate oncocytomas from malignant tumours...”
  - Differentiation of AMLs from RCC not possible
- Main drawback is data heterogeneity mainly due to non standardized scanning protocols

# RCC : Histologic and Molecular Characteristics

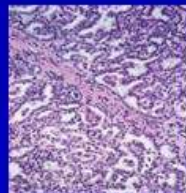


- Clear Cell Carcinoma (75%)**
- LOH - 3p25
  - VHL mutation (50-80%)
  - Hypermethylation (5-20%)
  - Anti-VEGF and VEGFr therapy

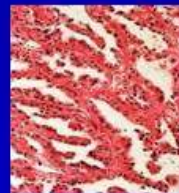
Proximal Nephron

Distal Nephron

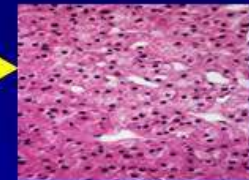
Papillary Carcinoma (15%)



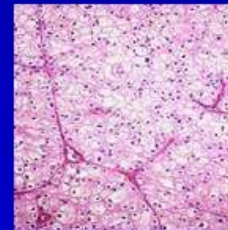
Type 1  
c-met  
mutation



Type 2  
FH  
mutation



Oncocytoma (5%)



Chromophobe (5%)

Collecting Duct, Undifferentiated (rare)

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# More RCC specific imaging

- 1986: antibody “G250” discovered
- Antigen later found: Carbonic Anhydrase IX (CAIX)

# CAIX expression

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## **NO** expression

- Normal kidney tissue
- Most normal tissues

## Exceptions:

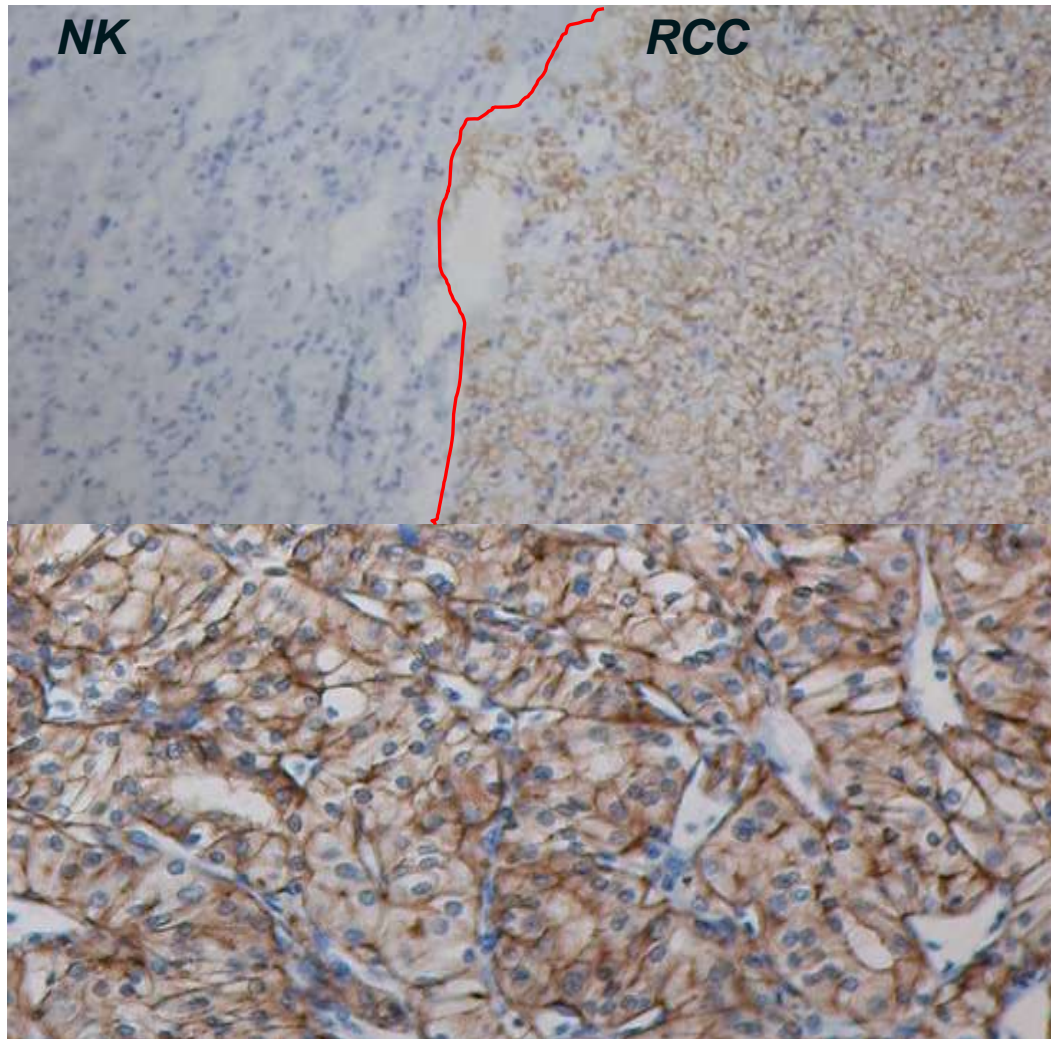
- Larger bile ducts, upper GI tract

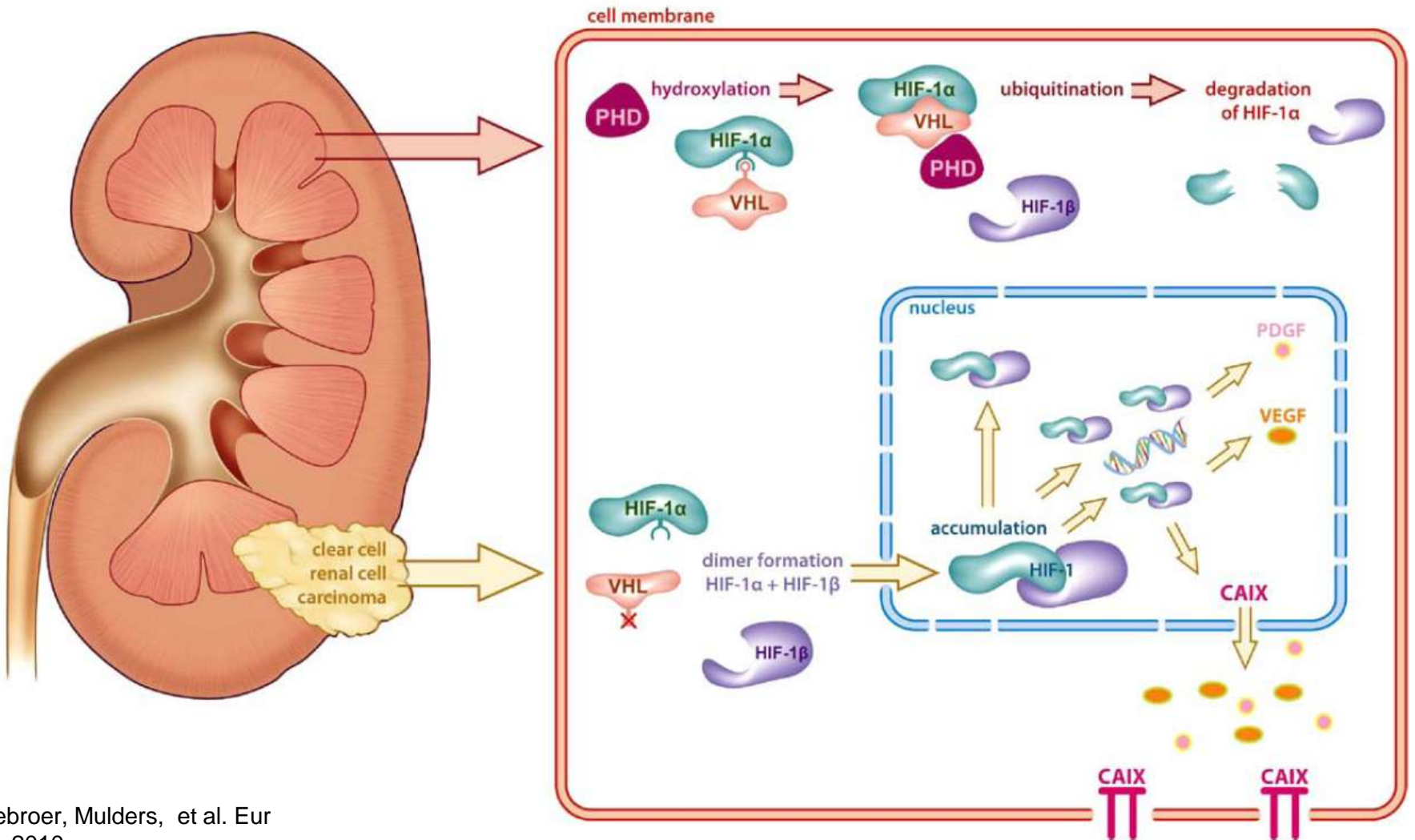
Expression ccRCC: high, homogeneous

Expression non-ccRCC: heterogeneous

# CAIX staining in ccRCC and normal kidney tissue

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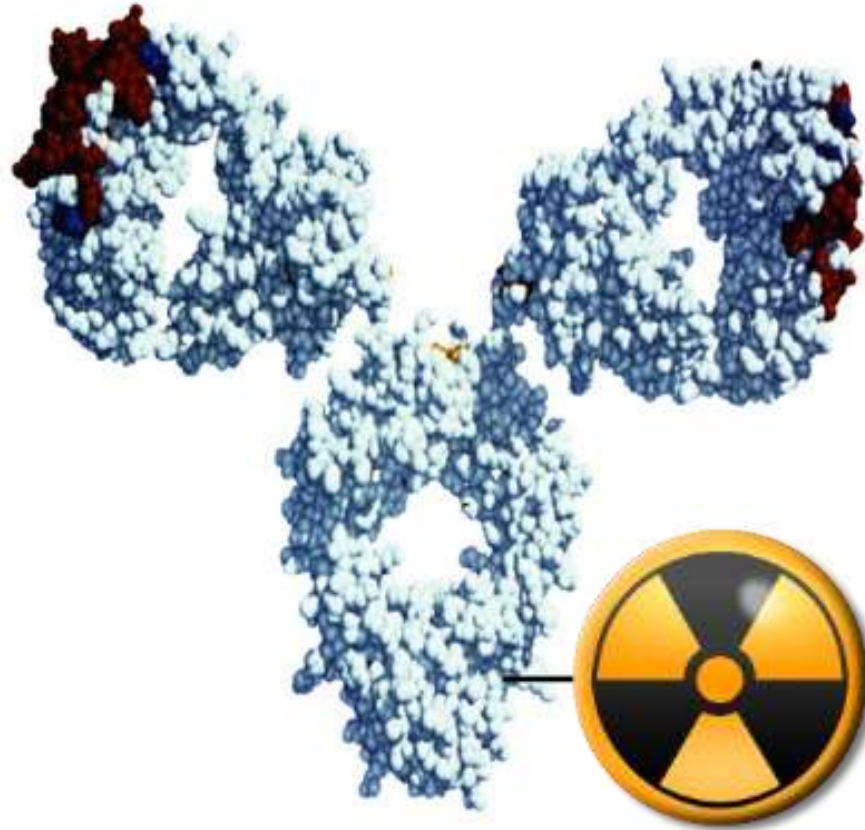
# ImmunoSPECT imaging

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- Carbonic Anhydrase IX (CAIX) specific antigen for ccRCC
- Not found in normal renal tissue nor in benign cysts
- High levels of expression are reported in up to 94% of ccRCC
- Very low levels are expressed in other organs, mainly in the upper gastrointestinal tract
- CAIX is an excellent target for imaging ccRCC lesions with monoclonal antibody (mAb) girentuximab (G250)

# Principle

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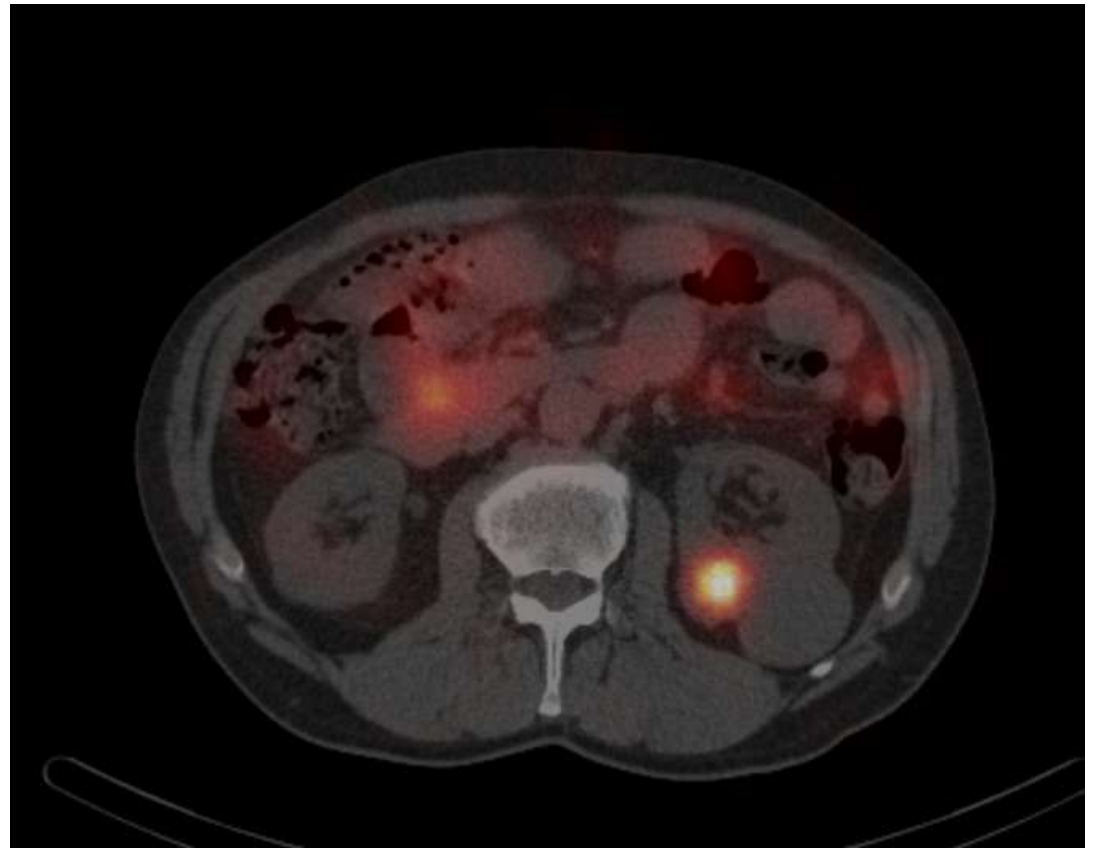
Radioimmunodetectie:  $^{111}\text{Indium}$  ( $\gamma$ -straler, SPECT imaging)

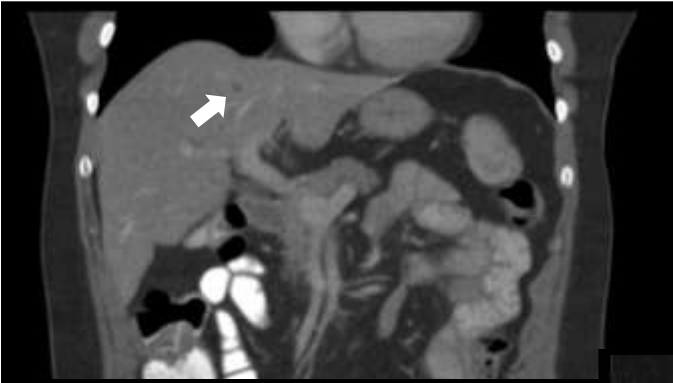
Radioimmunotherapie:  $^{177}\text{Lutetium}$  ( $\beta$ -straler, therapie)

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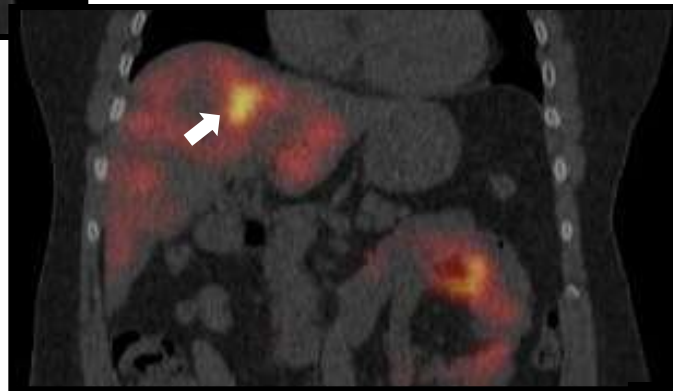


# Radioimmunodetectie met $^{111}\text{In}$ -girentuximab

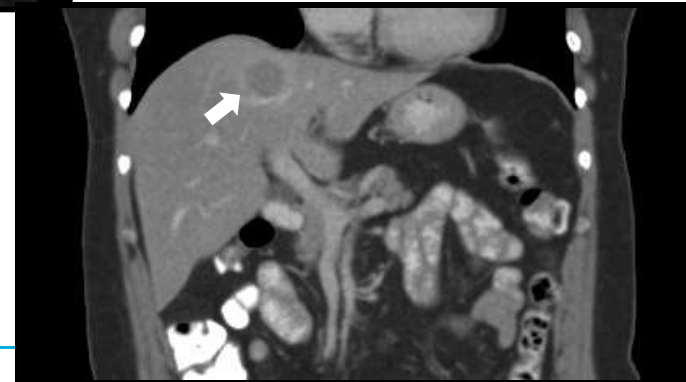




March 2012



April 2012



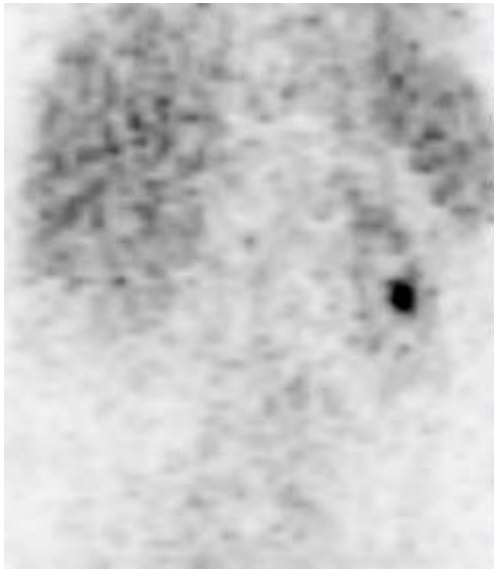
Radboudumc  
June 2012



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# Clinical usefulness of imaging

CA9-SCAN adds biological information to anatomical information



**CA9-SCAN**



**CT**

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# ImmunoSPECT imaging



European Association of Urology



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## Kidney Cancer

### **Indium-111-labeled Girentuximab ImmunoSPECT as a Diagnostic Tool in Clear Cell Renal Cell Carcinoma**

*Constantijn H.J. Muselaers<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Otto C. Boerman<sup>b</sup>, Egbert Oosterwijk<sup>a</sup>, Johannes F. Langenhuijsen<sup>a</sup>, Wim J.G. Oyen<sup>b</sup>, Peter F.A. Mulders<sup>a</sup>*

<sup>a</sup> Department of Urology, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, Nijmegen, The Netherlands; <sup>b</sup> Department of Nuclear Medicine, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

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# Immunospect imaging

- Evaluation of 29 patients using <sup>111</sup>In-girentuximab
- immunoSPECT
- 22 localized diseased:
  - 16 positive scans: 15 ccRCC, 1 papillary RCC
  - 6 negative scans: no ccRCC found (4) nor progression (2)
- 7 patients with metastatic disease:
  - 4 positive scans: systemic therapy initiated
  - 3 negative scans: 1 progression and 2 no progression

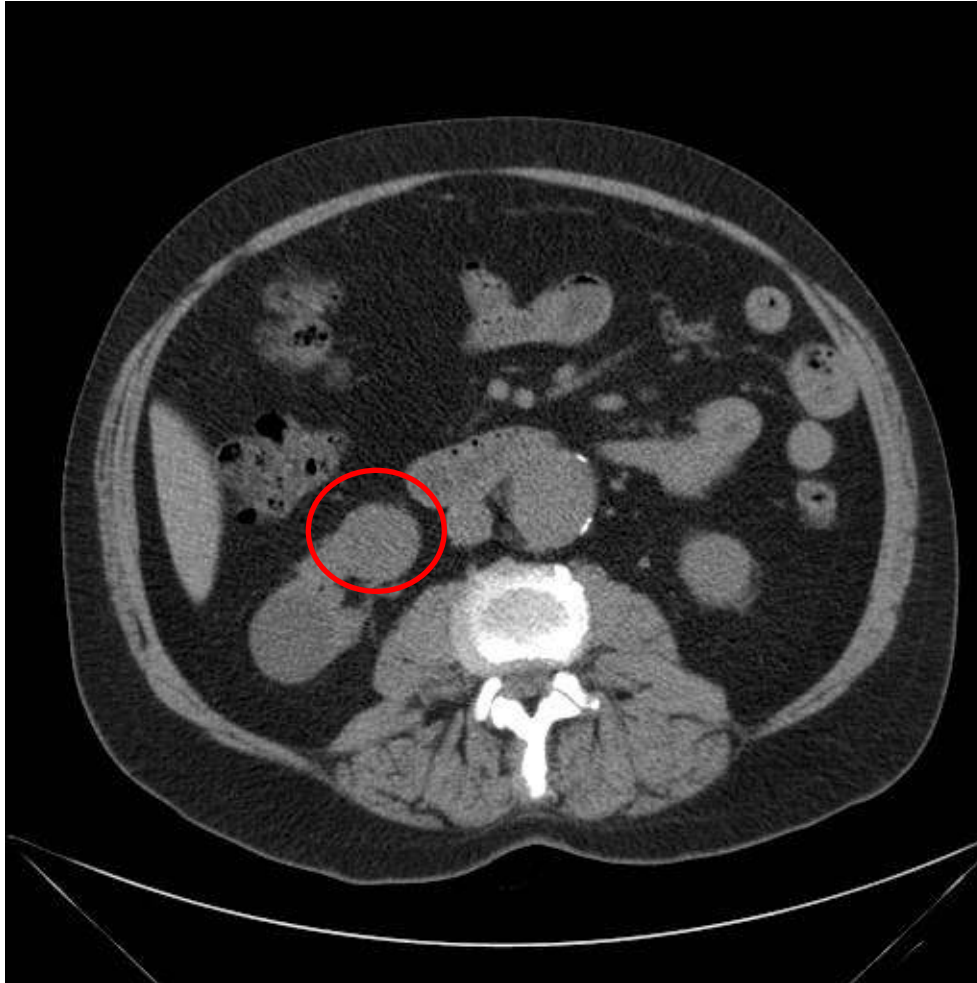
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# Case 1 Localized disease?

- 66 year old male referred to our clinic with diagnostic dilemma tumor lower pole right kidney
- Impaired renal function, eGFR 19 mL/min/1,73m<sup>2</sup>
- On ultrasound incidentaloma
- Due to renal function only non contrast enhanced CT performed
- Further diagnostics warranted

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# Case 1

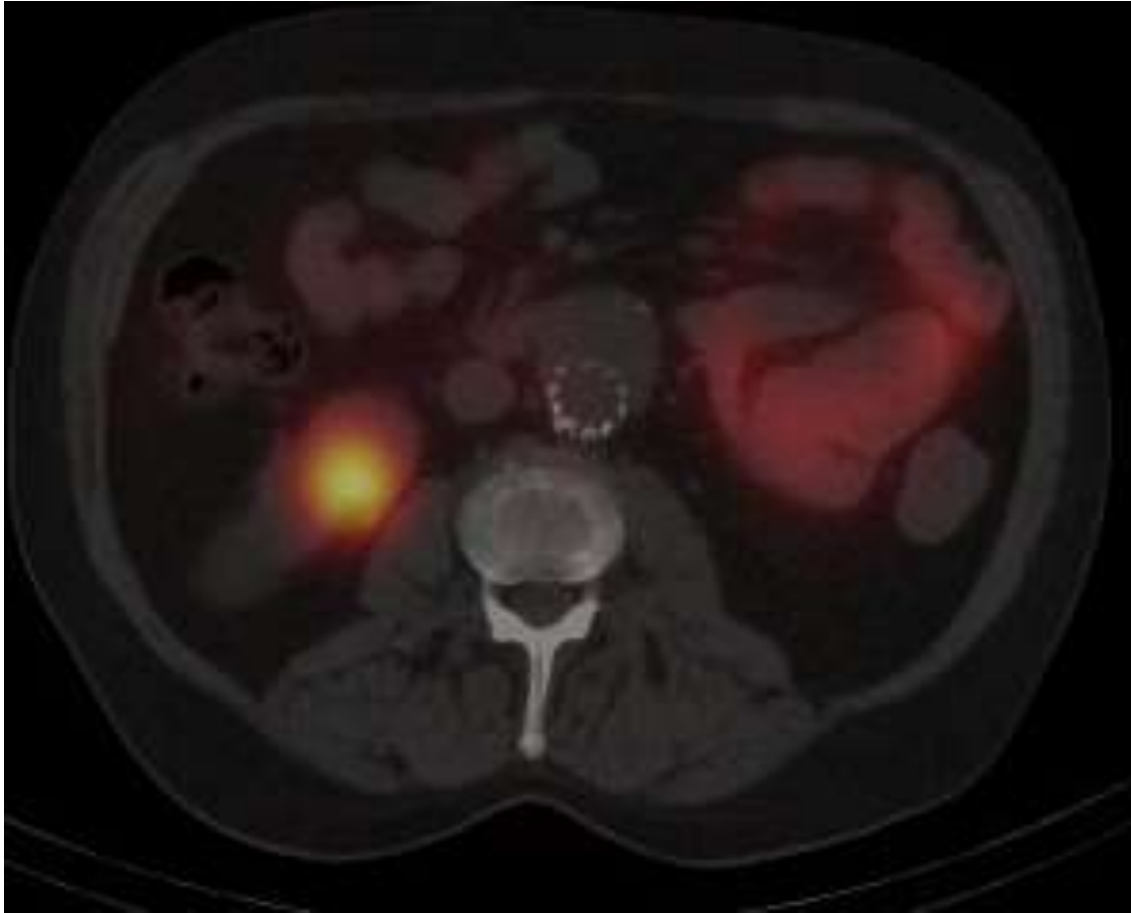




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# Case 1

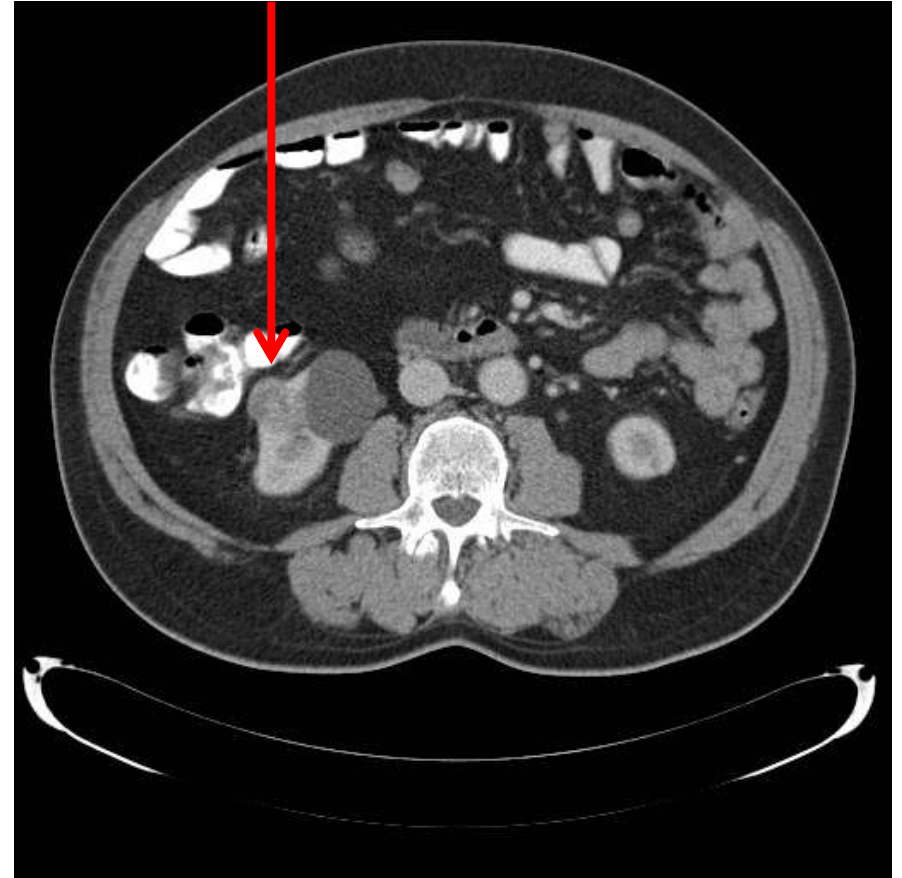
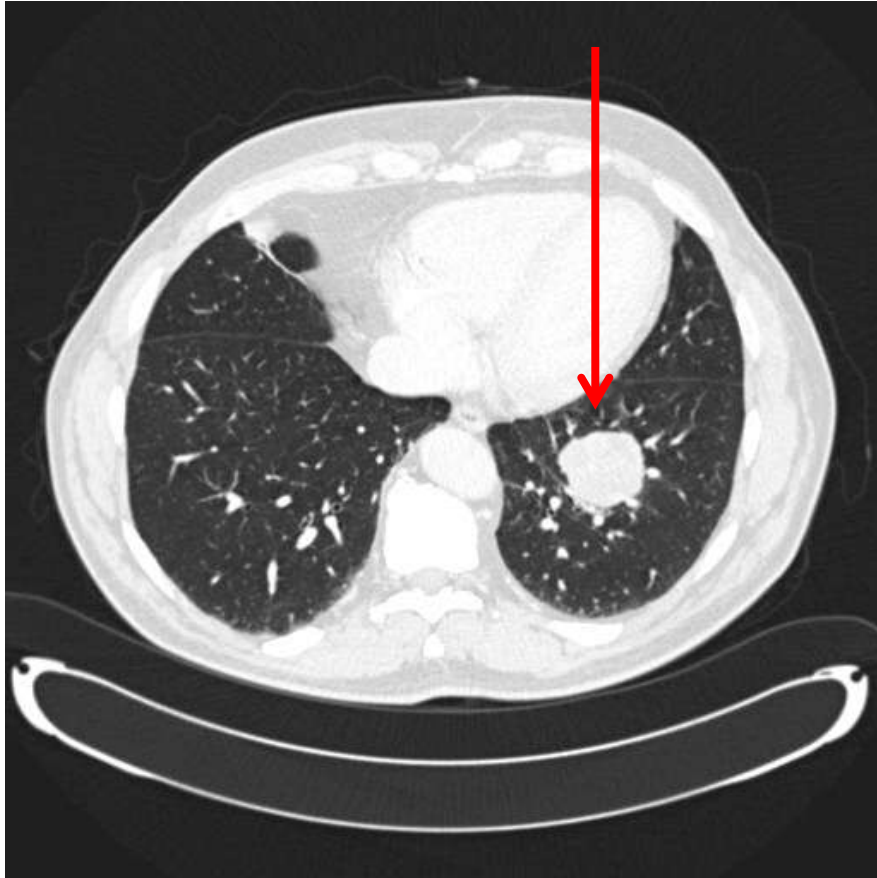


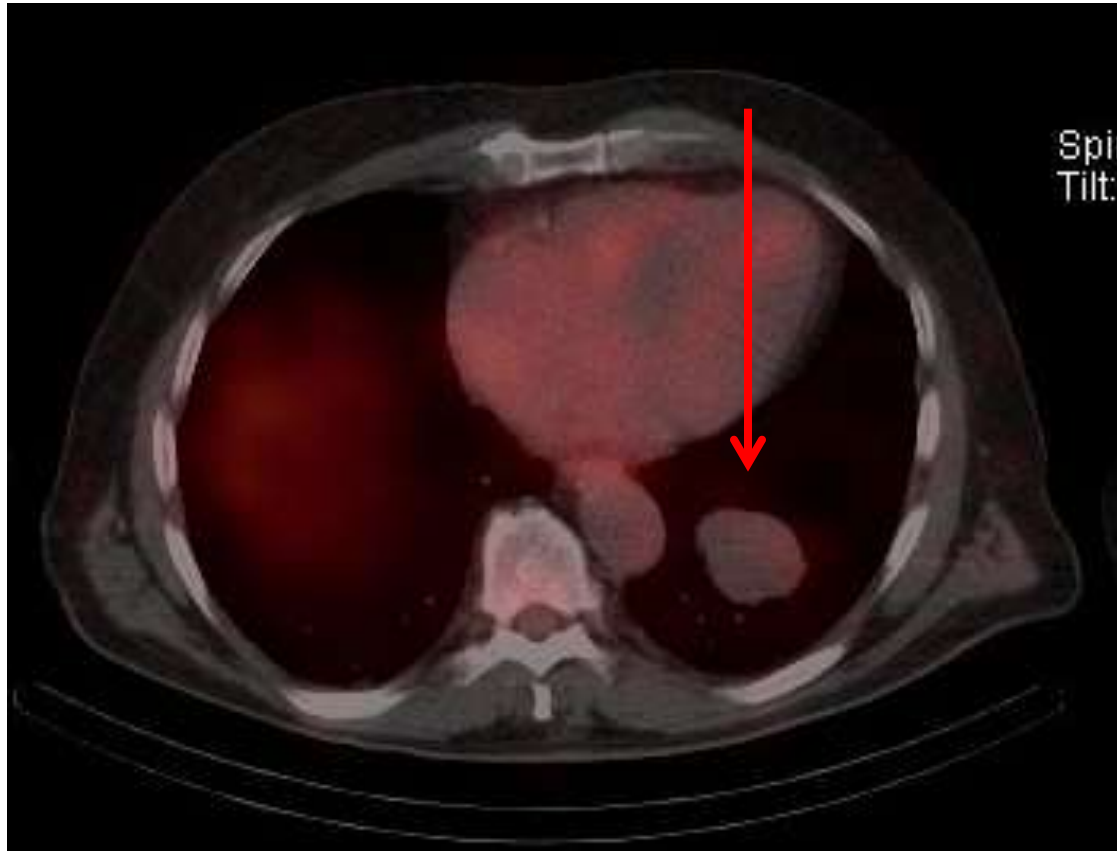


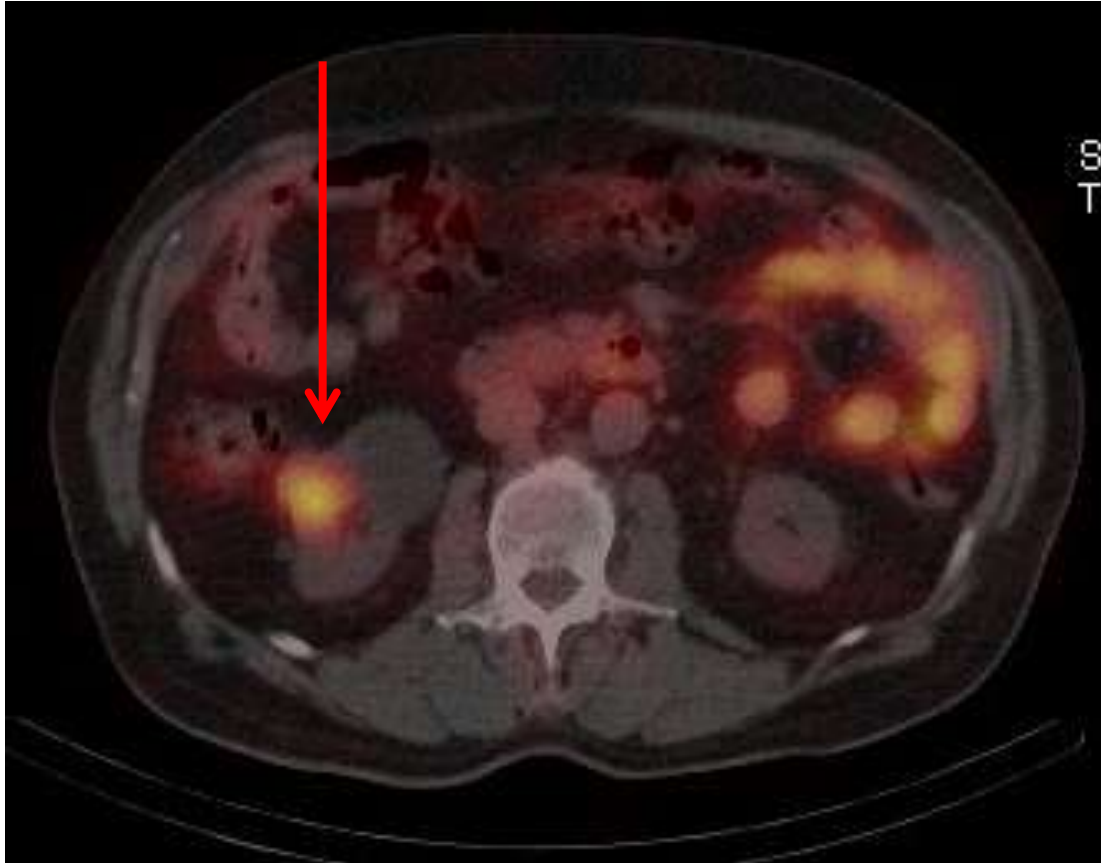
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# Case 2 Metastatic disease?

- 1952: TBC
- Hematologist:
  - Auto immune hemolysis with decreasing Hb, primary disease or due to malignancy? → imaging
- CT thorax abdomen → lesion left lung and right kidney → referred to lung specialist
- Consultation lung specialist:
  - PET scan: both lesions FDG negative
  - Pathology lung flush, no malignancy (representative?)
- Consultation of the urologist







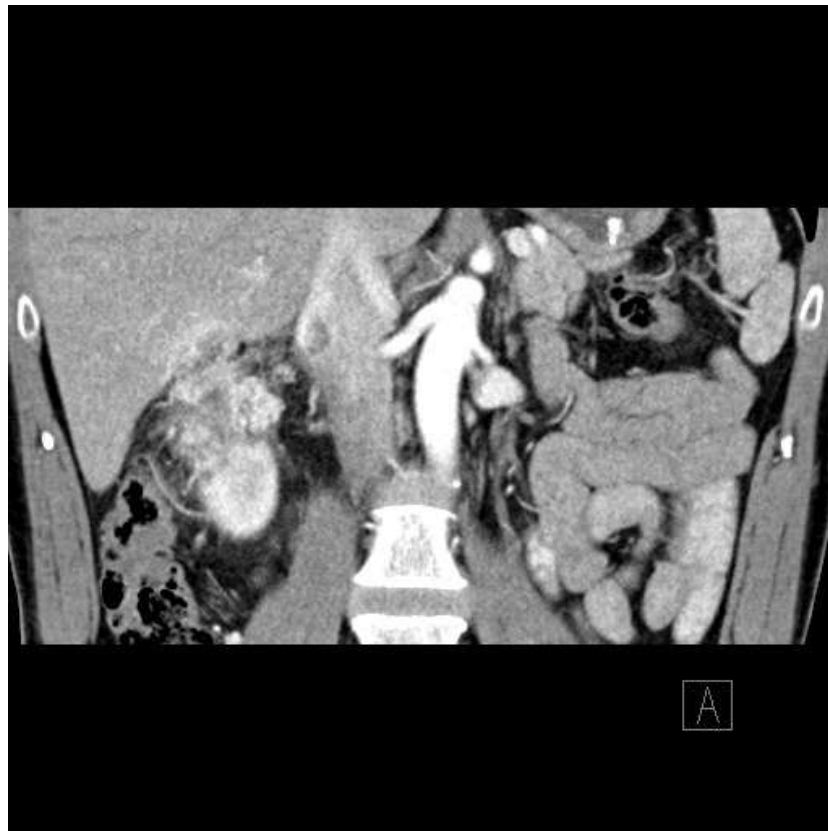
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# Conclusions

- Conventional CT and MRI sufficient in larger RCC.
- In case of SRMs new modalities necessary to distinguish benign from malignant lesions :
  - DW MRI → promising, uniformity required
  - Immuno SPECT using 111-In-Girentuximab very helpful in case of ccRCC
- In evaluating possible metastatic disease Immuno SPECT using 111-In-Girentuximab valuable non invasive diagnostic tool

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# Thank you







## Beoordeling primaire tumor:

- vaak rijk aan vaten
- aankleuring na iv contrasttoediening
- kleine tumor vaak homogeen
- grote tumor vaak inhomogeen tgv necrose en bloeding
- verkalkingen in tumor bij 30%

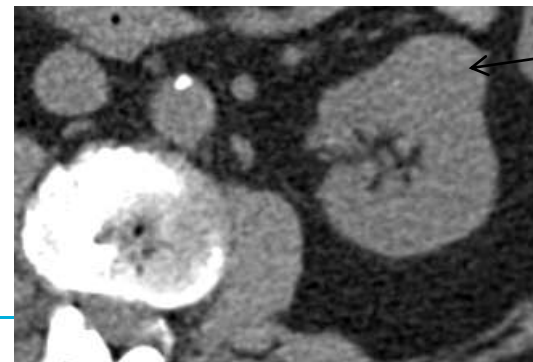


## Beoordeling primaire tumor:

- CT nier 3 fasen met iv contrast  
blanco  
corticomedullaire fase  
nefrogene fase

## Beoordeling primaire tumor:

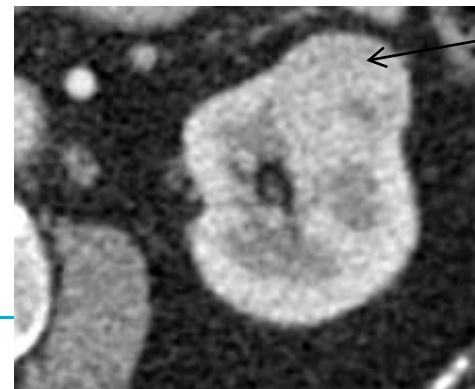
- CT blanco  
HU waarde laesie  
vergelijk met HU na iv contrast  
verkalkingen



HU 38

## Beoordeling primaire tumor:

- CT corticomedullaire fase  
ingroei in vaten  
aankleuring hypervasculaire  
laesies

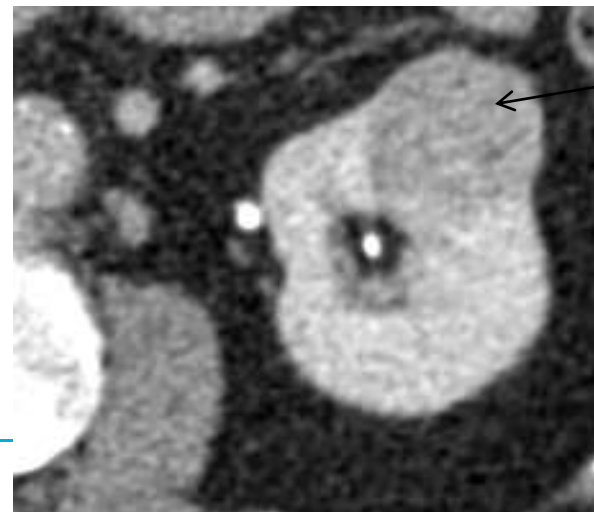


HU 125

## Beoordeling primaire tumor:

- CT nefrogene fase  
onderscheid massa's en normaal  
nierweefsel

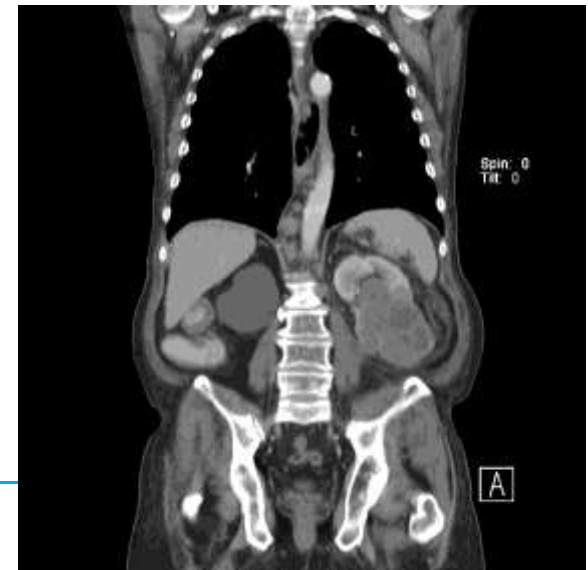
Partiële nefrectomie  
PA: heldercellig niercelcarcinoom



HU 96

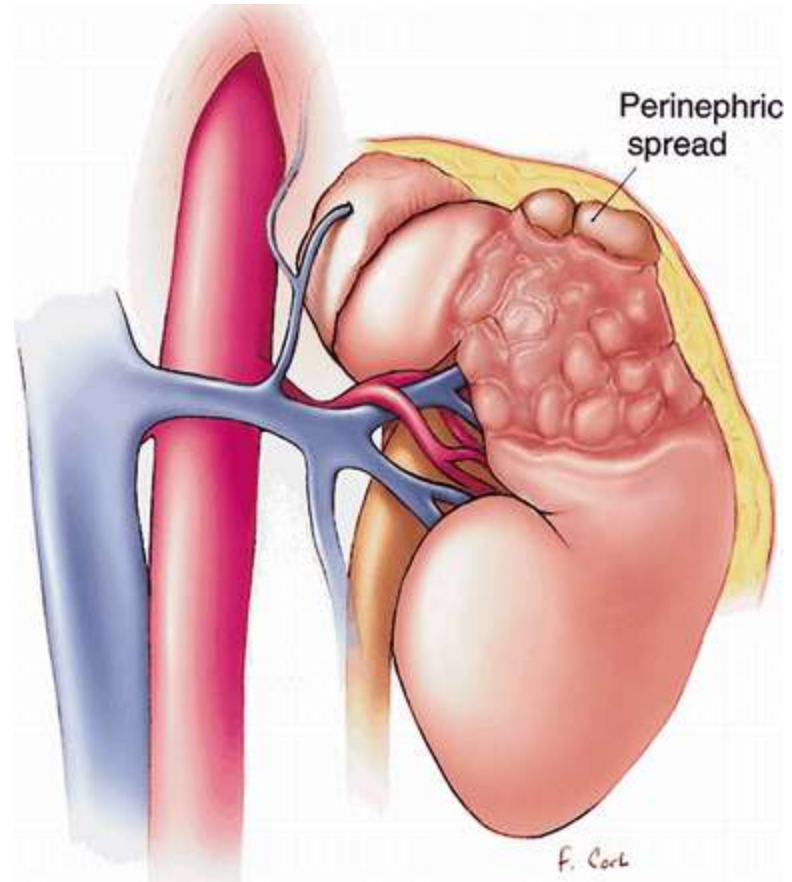
## Beoordeling metastasen: (stadiëring)

- combineer CT nier 3-fase met scan van gehele thorax en abdomen



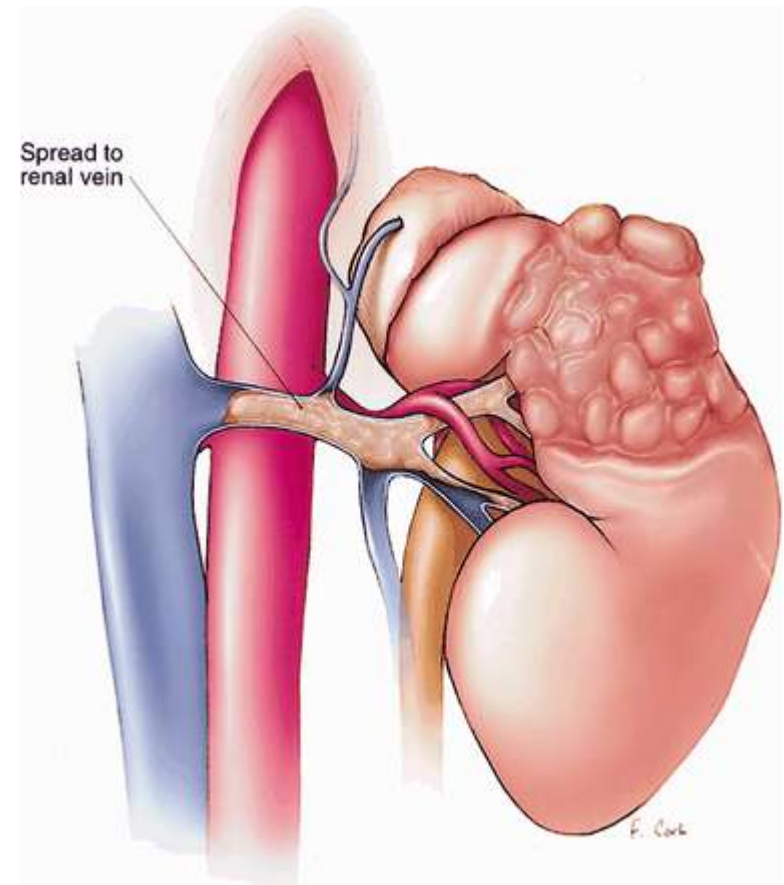
TNM stadium T3a

Niercelcarcinoom met  
kapseldoorbraak en uitbreiding in  
vet rond nier



TNM stage T3b

Niercelcarcinoom met tumor  
uitbreiding in de linker vena renalis

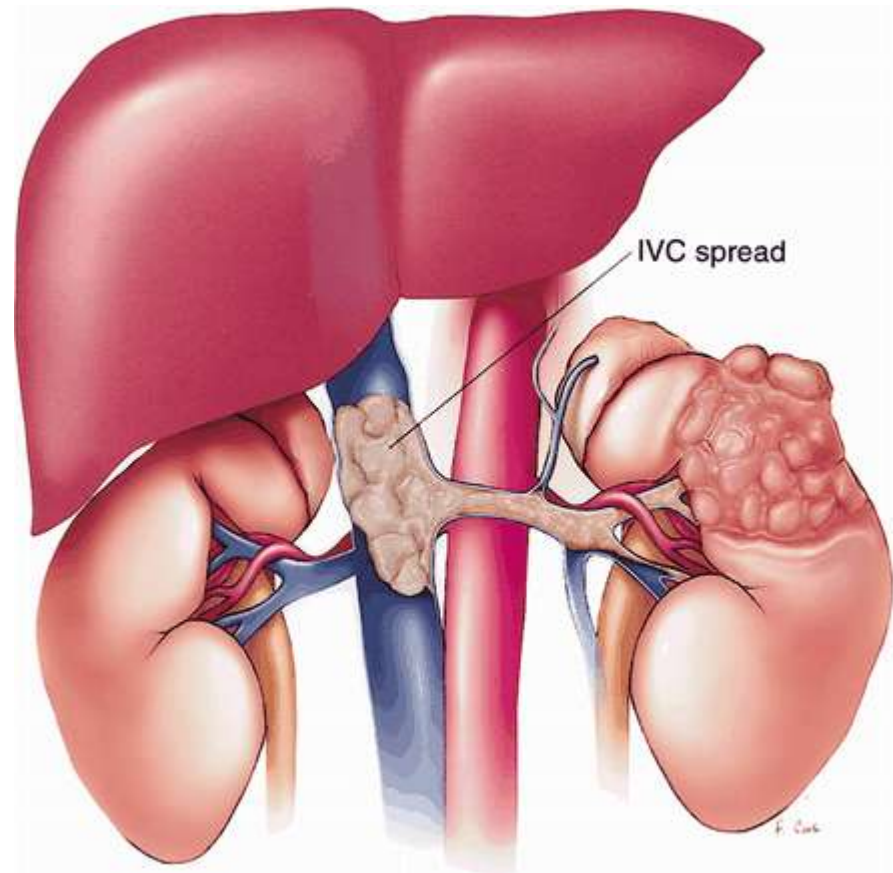




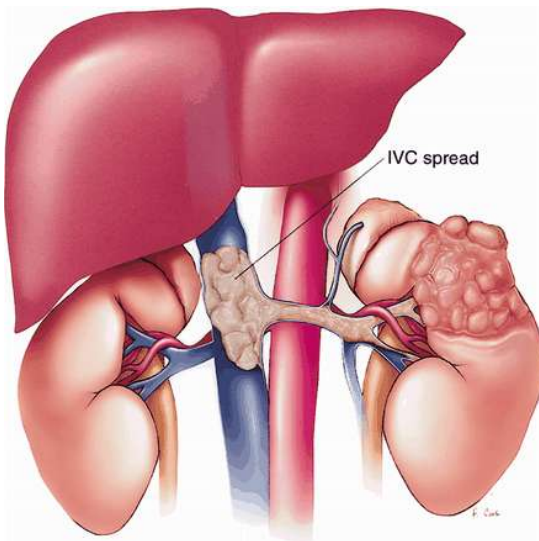
TNM stage T3b

Niercelcarcinoom met tumor uitbreiding in de linker vena renalis en vena cava inferior

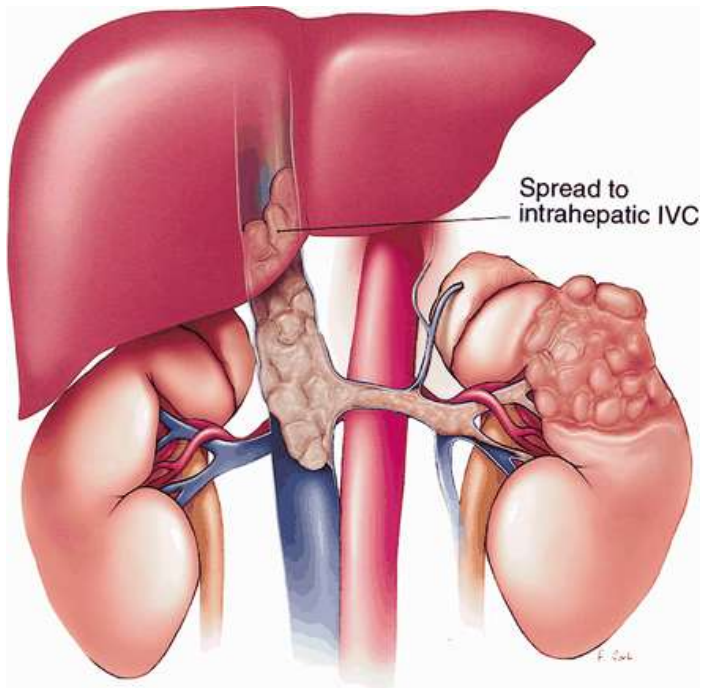
Bij 4-10%, meer bij rechtszijdige laesies



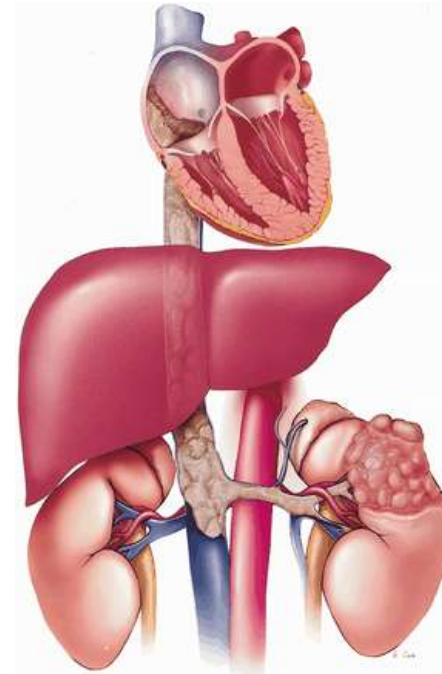
TNM stage T3b



TNM stage T3b  
intrahepatisch

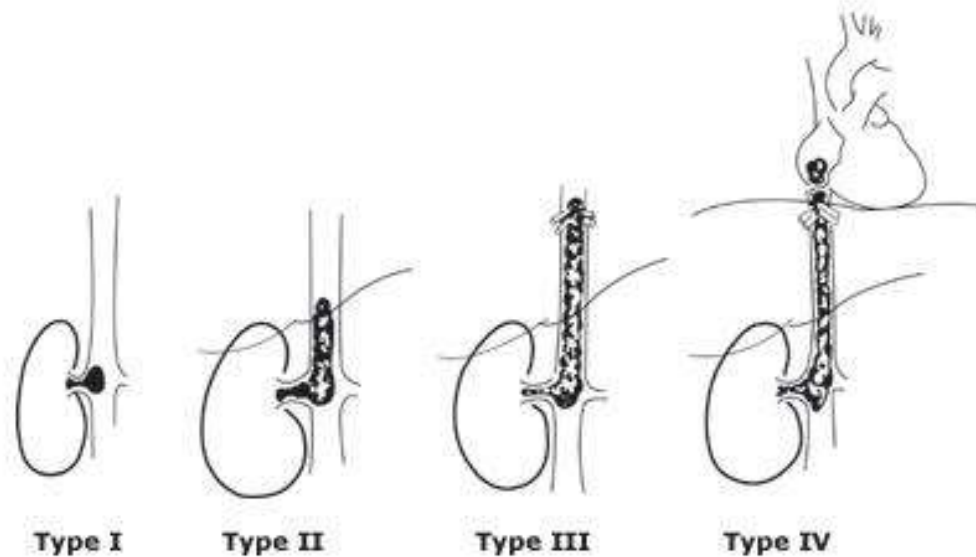


TNM stage T3c  
supradiafragmaal



Radiographics  
2001; 21: S237-  
S254

Niercelcarcinoom met tumor uitbreiding in de linker vena renalis, vena cava inferior en rechter atrium

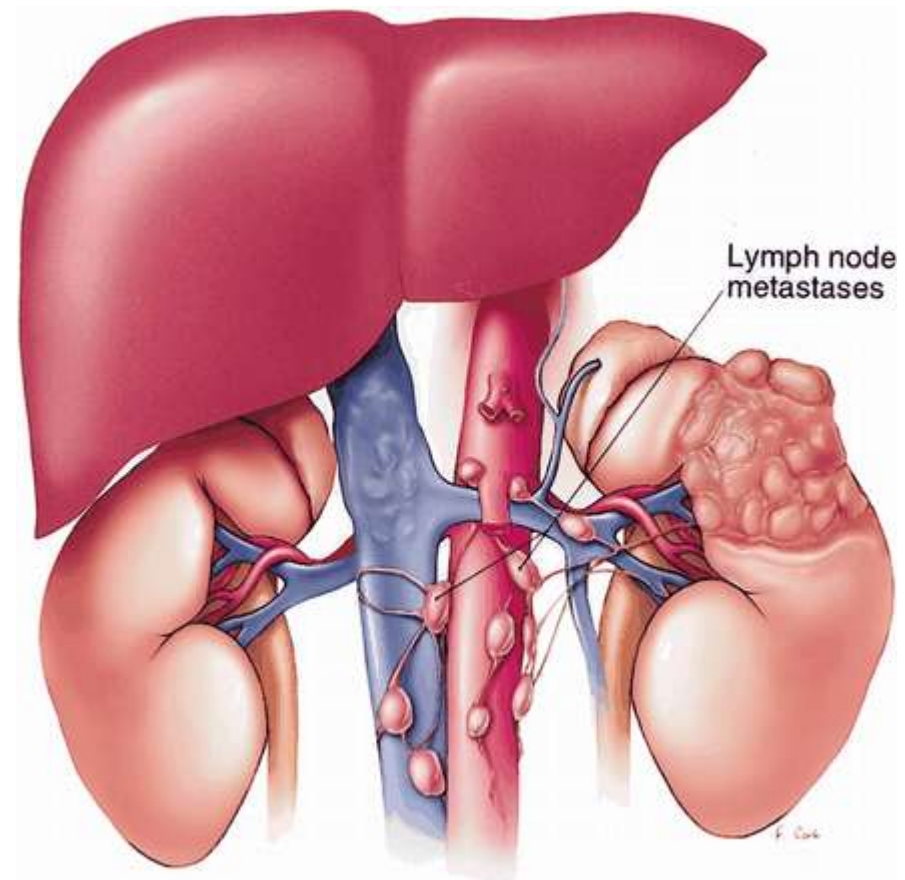


## 4 stadia van cavoatriale tumor extensie

Chiappini, Savini, Marinelli et al. Cavoatrial tumor thrombus: single-stage surgical approach with profound hypothermia and circulatory arrest, including a review of the literature. *J Thor Cardiovasc Surg* 2002; 124: 684.

Lymfklieren korte-as diameter  $> 1$  cm

Let wel: reactief of maligne adenopathie





## **CT scan is de modaliteit**

### **Type scan:**

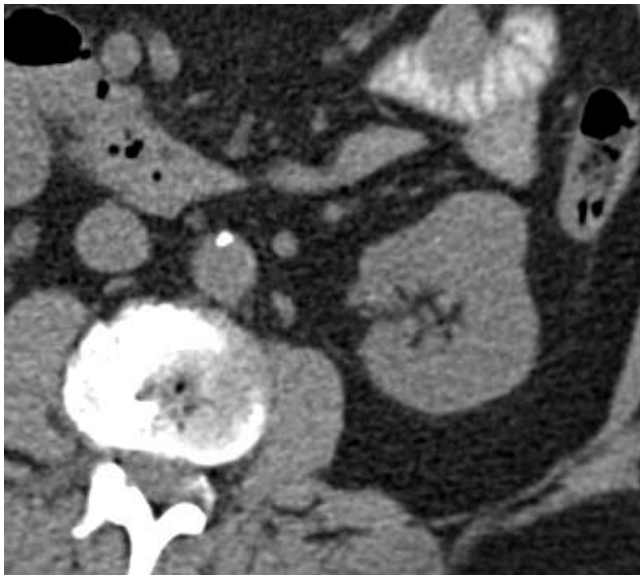
- **met i.v. contrast**
- **portaal veneuze contrastfase**
- **coupe dikte**
- **reconstructie kernel**



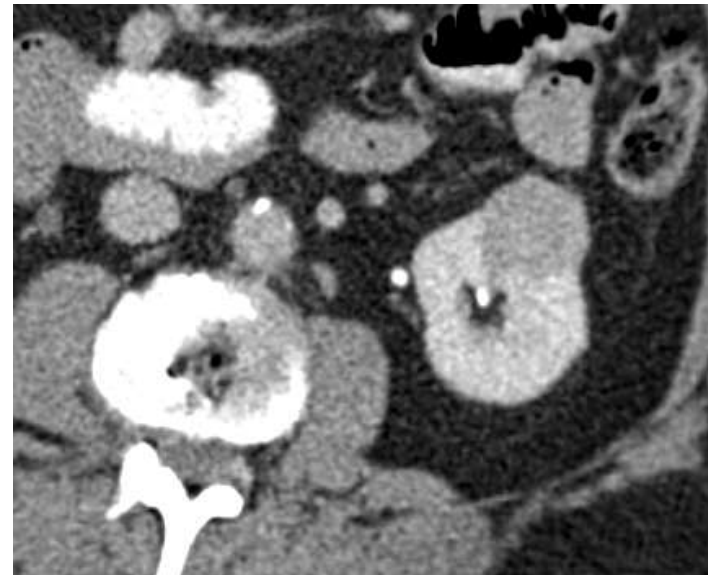


# MIDCT – contrastfase

## Patient –



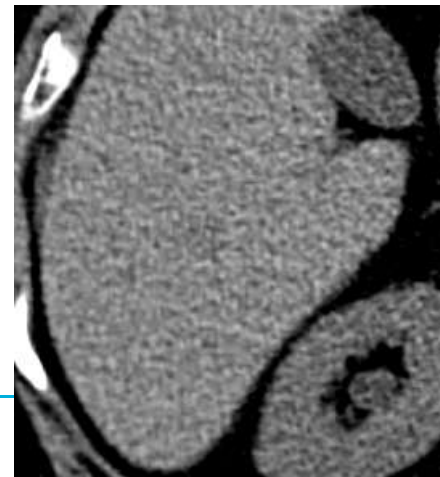
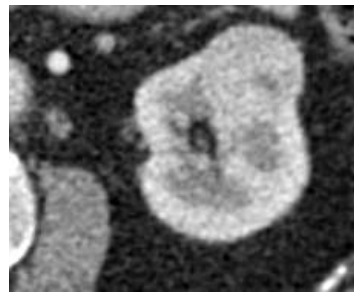
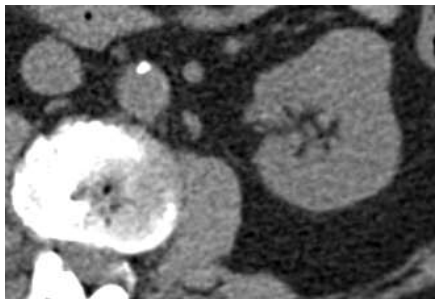
blanco



veneus

## CT zonder iv contrast:

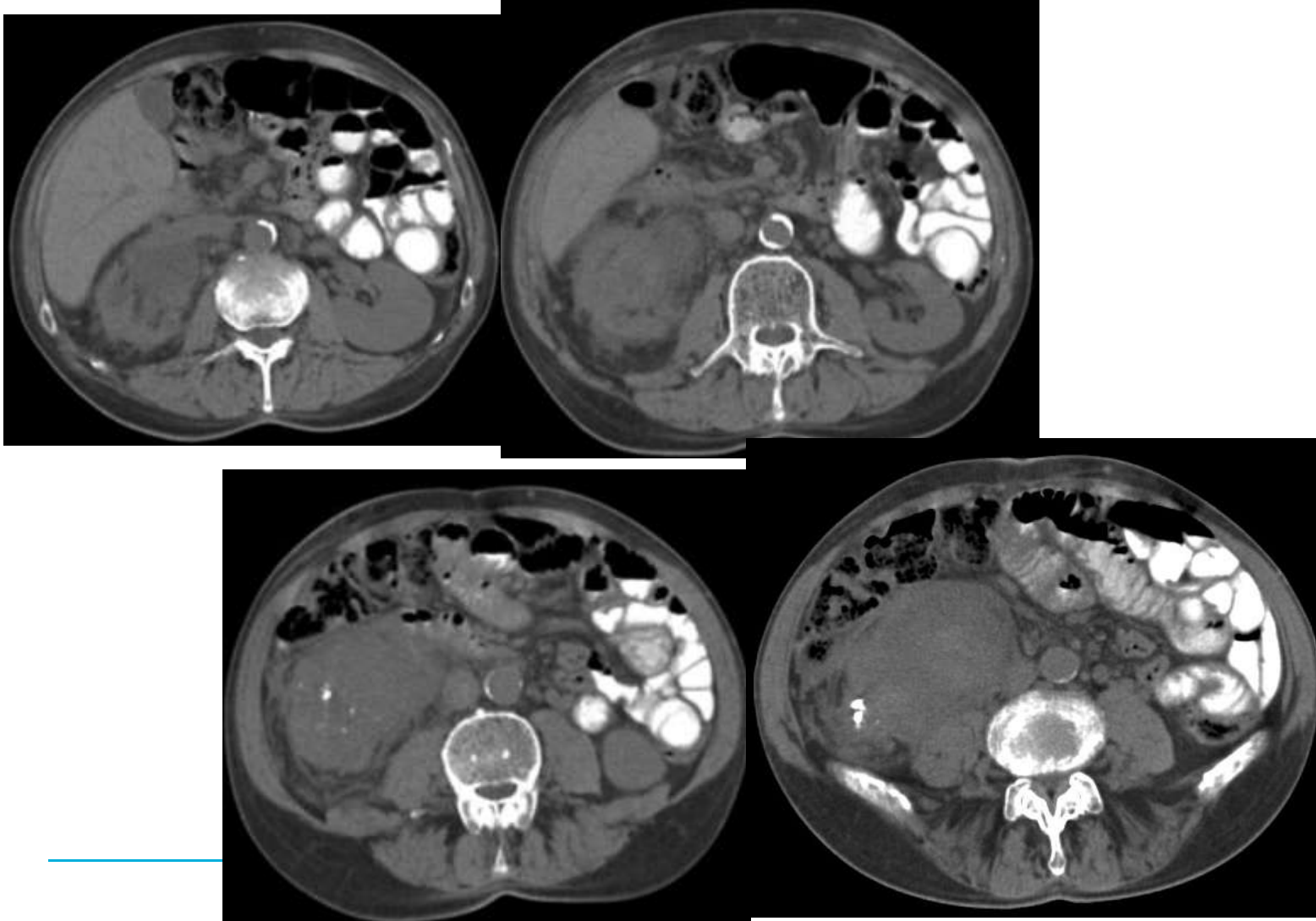
- missen van (kleine) metastatische laesies in solide organen
- missen (kleine) klieren







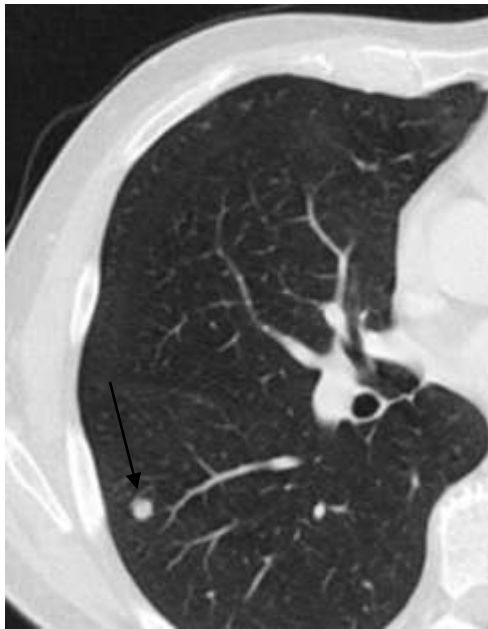
# CT zonder iv contrast



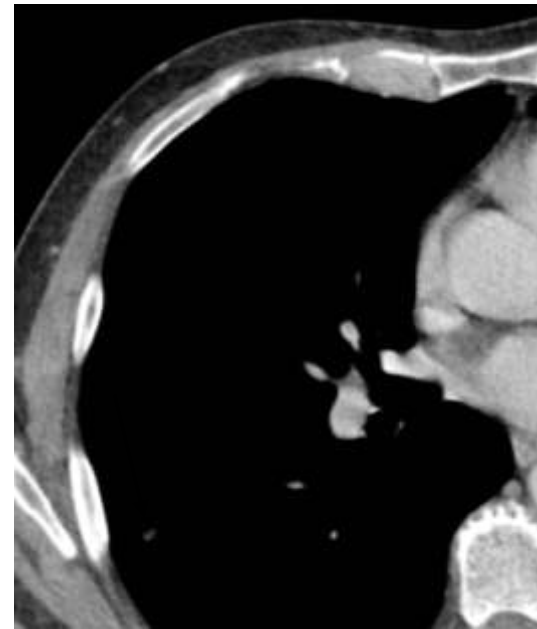


# MIDCT – reconstructie kernel

## Patient



longsetting



weke delen setting



## **Scan parameters zeer belangrijk !!!**

- **MDCT**
- **dunne coupes ( $\leq 5$  mm)**
- **met intraveneus contrast**  
**(veneuze fase)**
- **weke delen setting / longsetting**
- **hoge mate van reproduceerbaarheid**



## **Metingen op CT scan betrouwbaar, indien:**

- metingen op CT beelden van goede en vergelijkbare kwaliteit gedurende een therapie
- metingen op dezelfde settings