

What the Heck is *Nuclear Medicine* (in Prostate Cancer)?



Jan Manarite,
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The Villages Prostate Group— August 2nd 2023

Shared Decision-Making: Share the Conversations Share the Language

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Pointers for Q&A

- **Think in bullet points, not paragraphs.**

Find the key question you want answered and focus on that – find the bullseye!

- **Take notes.** Your question may get answered before you ask it!

- **Know your cancer; frame your question.**

Give a little context *without your whole story*

- **Remember: speakers cannot give you individual medical advice...** but they can help you to understand a treatment, or a situation, better and help you to develop better questions for your own doctors and nurses



Nuclear Medicine in USA (in PC) currently is:

Imaging

- ▶ **Bone Scan** (technetium 99)
- ▶ **Any PET Scan**
 - **Axumin** (fluciclovine)
 - **PSMA's**
 - **PYLARIFY** (piflufolastat)
 - **ILLUCCIX** (gallium 68)
 - **LOCAMETZ** (gallium 68)
 - **POSLUMA** (flotufolastat)

Treatment

- ▶ **Xofigo** (radium 223)
- ▶ **Pluvicto** (lutetium 177)

Nuclear Medicine (in PC) is **not** :

Imaging

- ⊘ **MRI's** (including prostate MRI)
- ⊘ **CT Scans**
- ⊘ **DEXA Scans**
- ⊘ **Ultrasounds**
- ⊘ **X-rays**

Treatment

- ⊘ **Hormone Therapy**
- ⊘ **Immunotherapy**
- ⊘ **Chemotherapy**
- ⊘ **Radiation Treatments
(external radiation)**

The word “Nuclear”. In Medicine?

Common Perception

▶ **ALWAYS** dangerous

Misperception?

▶ **Yes.**

Think Risk vs Benefit



The word “Nuclear”. In Medicine?

Common Perception

- ▶ Nuclear Medicine is always a Treatment

Misperception?

- ▶ Yes.

**Nuclear Medicine
includes BOTH
Imaging & Treatment**

Nuclear Medicine Imaging can be administered by:

- ▶ Nuclear Medicine Physician
- ▶ Radiologist with special training in Nuclear Imaging

Nuclear Medicine Treatment can be administered by:

- ▶ Nuclear Medicine Physician
- ▶ Radiation Oncologist

It cannot be administered by:

- ▶ Urologist
- ▶ Urologic Oncologist
- ▶ Medical Oncologist

Newly Diagnosed or Recurrence?

Some Questions to ask your Doctors about Nuclear Imaging



- ▶ Will insurance pay for a PSMA PET Scan for me? If not, what would make me 'eligible'?
- ▶ What % of PC patients don't express PSMA?
- ▶ If my cancer doesn't express PSMA, does an Axumin PET Scan make sense for me?
- ▶ On my PSMA PET – what SUV (Standard Uptake Value) number is meaningful for me?
- ▶ How do I get a copy of my written report from my imaging?

Recurrence? Some Questions to ask your Doctors about Nuclear Treatment



- ▶ Do I have CRPC? (Castrate Resistant PC)
- ▶ If I am CRPC, does my imaging show me as “metastatic”? (mCRPC)
- ▶ If so, when does Xofigo (radium 223) make sense for me? When does insurance cover it?
- ▶ If so, when does Pluvicto (Lu-177) make sense for me? When does insurance cover it?

For further information on Nuclear Medicine in PC

SNMMI's Patient Website

- ▶ <http://www.snmmi.org/Patients>

Each Product's Website/ Patient Section:

- ▶ www.pylarify.com
- ▶ www.illuccix.com
- ▶ **Locametz – no patient website yet ?**
- ▶ www.posluma.com
- ▶ www.axumin.com

- ▶ www.Xofigo-us.com
- ▶ www.us.Pluvicto.com

For further information on PC in General

- ▶ www.CancerABCs.org
- ▶ www.PCRI.org

Who is SNMMI? What is the Patient Advocacy Advisory Board?

17 Members – 4 Who Help Represent PC Patients

- **Hal Berger** – Government Relations, ZERO Prostate Cancer
- **Mike Crosby** – PC patient, CEO & President Veterans' PC Awareness
- **Jan Manarite** – Caregiver, Educator, Executive VP, Cancer ABCs
- **Mike Philbin** – PC patient, BRCA2 positive, FORCE

Questions?



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