# **Title Page**

**Title**: A Voice From the Past: Re-Discovering the Virchow Node with PSMA-targeted <sup>18</sup>F-DCFPyL PET Imaging

Running Title: <sup>18</sup>F-DCFPyL Uptake in the Virchow Node

**Authors:** Rudolf A. Werner<sup>1,2</sup>, Christian Andree<sup>3</sup>, Mehrbod S. Javadi<sup>1</sup>, Constantin Lapa<sup>2</sup>, Andreas K. Buck<sup>2</sup>, Takahiro Higuchi<sup>2,4</sup>, Martin G. Pomper<sup>1,5</sup>, Michael A. Gorin<sup>1,5</sup>, Steven P. Rowe<sup>1,5</sup>, Kenneth J. Pienta<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, The Russell H. Morgan Department of Radiology and Radiological Science, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA

<sup>2</sup>Department of Nuclear Medicine and Comprehensive Heart Failure Center, University Hospital Würzburg, Germany

<sup>3</sup>Institut für Geschichte der Medizin, Christian-Albrechts-Universität Kiel, Kiel, Germany

<sup>4</sup>Department of Biomedical Imaging, National Cardiovascular and Cerebral Research Center, Suita, Japan

<sup>5</sup>The James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute and Department of Urology, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA

## Correspondence:

Steven P. Rowe, M.D., Ph.D.

Division of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, The Russell H. Morgan Department of Radiology and Radiological Science, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine 601 N. Caroline St., Baltimore, MD 21287

Phone: (410) 502-1520 E-mail: srowe8@jhmi.edu

Keywords: 18F-DCFPyL, PSMA-PET, Virchow Node, Positron Emission Tomography,

Prostate Cancer, PET

**Submission Type:** Original article

**Word Count: 1,309** 

References: 25

Figures: 2

**Sources of Funding:** The Prostate Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Award, philanthropy raised by the James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute, and National Institutes of Health grants CA134675 and CA183031. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Sklodowska-Curie grant agreement No 701983.

# **Main Text**

More than 150 years ago, the German pathologist Rudolf Ludwig Karl Virchow (1821-1901) described the finding of involvement of the left supraclavicular node by gastric cancer. It is now known that a number of abdominal and thoracic malignancies have a propensity to metastasize to this anatomic site, which is commonly referred to as Virchow's node. Cancers known to spread to Virchow's node include malignancies of the lung, pancreas, esophagus, adenonocarcinoma of the gastric corpus, kidney, ovary, testicle, stomach, corpus uteri, cervix uteri, colon cancer and rectum. Metastasis to Virchow's node has also been reported in men with prostate cancer, however this has generally been observed at a low frequency of only 0.5%.

In recent years, Positron Emission Tomography (PET) radiotracers targeting prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA), including <sup>68</sup>Ga-PSMA-11 and <sup>18</sup>F-DCFPyL, have been increasingly used to image men with prostate cancer.<sup>4, 5</sup> PET imaging with these agents offers greatly improved sensitivity over conventional imaging modalities for detecting low volume sites of tumor burden.<sup>6, 7</sup> Because of the outstanding sensitivity afforded by PSMA-targeted PET, it can be directly visualized that many patients with advanced prostate cancer can harbor disease within Virchow's node (Fig. 1).<sup>3, 7-10</sup> This observation has served as an opportunity to reexplore the exemplary life and career of Rudolf Ludwig Karl Virchow.

# Rudolf Ludwig Karl Virchow – "Pope of Medicine" in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and Social Reformer

Remembered as the most influential pathologist in the nineteenth century, Virchow was also famous as a liberal politician and one of the leaders of the "Deutsche Fortschrittspartei" (German Progressive Party), the liberal political movement in Germany. In a time of competing political ideologies including nationalism, socialism and conservatism, the "Progressive Party" led the opposition to the constitutional forces by Prime Minister of Prussia Otto von Bismarck. However, due to his role in the 1848 "Märzrevolution" (March Revolution), Virchow was finally forced to leave Berlin and was subsequently appointed the First Chair of Pathological Anatomy at the University of Würzburg in 1849.<sup>11, 12</sup> Five years later the Charité Berlin reassigned him as the first Chair of Pathological Anatomy and Physiology due to his increasing international popularity and reputation.<sup>11, 13, 14</sup> Known as the father of

cellular pathology, Virchow established the journal "Archiv für pathologische Anatomie und Physiologie und für klinische Medizin" in close collaboration with his friend Benno Reinhardt (1819-1852). Pursuing the goal of transforming the esoteric medicine in Germany to a scientific discipline, this journal is still with us today and is now known as "Virchows Archiv", the official journal of the European Society of Pathology.<sup>15</sup>

As a broadly influential thinker of his day, Virchow's career in social science remains equally as remarkable as his work in medicine. More specifically, he is credited with founding the newspaper "Die medicinische Reform" (Medical Reform), popularizing the term "social medicine," and promoting the concept of physicians serving as "attorney[s] of the poor." One of his most famous contributions in medical literature is the "Report on Typhus Epidemic in Upper Silesia." Asked by the Education Minister of Prussia, Virchow investigated the 1848 typhus epidemic in this poor rural Prussian province (now within the borders of Poland) and stated that Prussian authorities had failed in preventing the outbreak of this devastating disease. Outlining a revolutionary program, Virchow emphasized the urgent need for improvement of social conditions in this area, i.e. democratic self-government, disestablishment of the Catholic Church, and agricultural co-operatives. 16-18 Another example of his contribution to social medicine is his report "Reinigung und Entwässerung Berlins" in which through a combination of political power and scientific knowledge he pushed the construction of the first sewer system of Berlin. 19

#### Virchow and his Aftermath

With close to 2000 publications, Virchow has made major contributions to the field of cellular pathology and should be remembered for the introduction of certain medical terms that are still in use today: Virchow defined the term "embolus" along with its thombosis mechanism, the word "amyloid" and its reaction with iodine and sulphuric acid in the brain, as well as the term "granuloma." 11, 20, 21

#### The Virchow Node

Indisputably, the first description of an enlargend supraclavicular lymph node involved in metastatic malignancies dates back to Virchow. In 1848, he outlined in his article "Zur Diagnose der Krebse im Unterleibe" (Fig. 2):

# "(...) namentlich

bei Krebsen des Magens, des Pankreas, der Eierstöcke, etc., wie sich der Prozess allmählich von den Lymphdrüsen des Unterleibs auf die im hinteren Mediastinum neben dem Ductus thoracicus gelegenen Drüsen fortsetzt und endlich bis auf die Jugulardrüsen fortkriecht, welche rings um die Einmündungsstelle des Ductus thoracicus (in der linken Supraclavicular-Grube) (...)"

This part has been translated by Morgenstern in 1979:

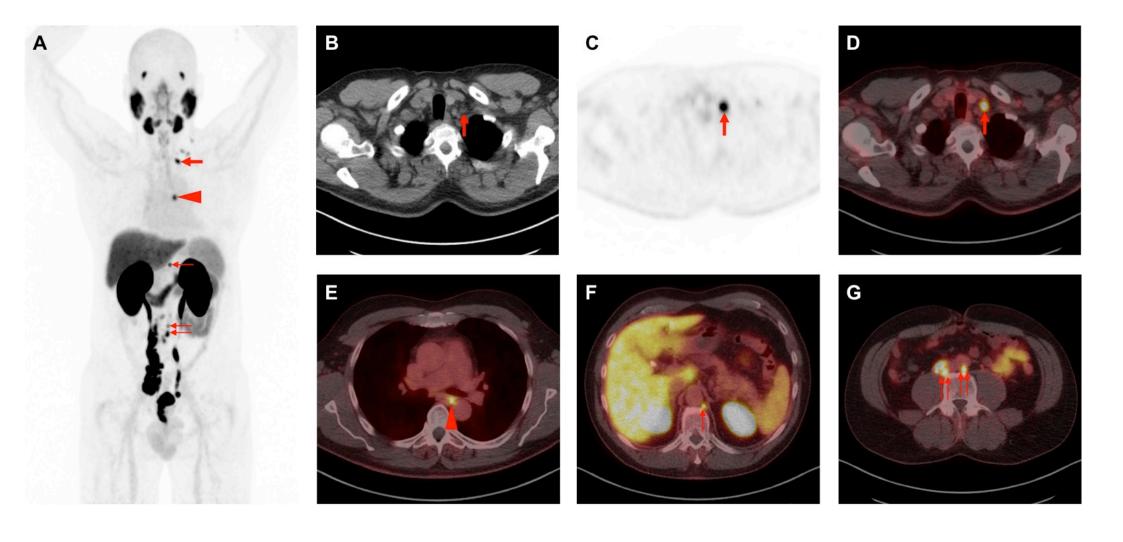
"(. . .) Thus, particularly in cancer of the stomach, the pancreas, the ovaries, etc. the process gradually spreads from the glands of the lower abdomen to the glands in the posterior mediastinum along the ductus thoracicus and finally involves the jugular glands around the junction of the ductus thoracicus (in the left supraclavicular fossa) (. . .). "<sup>22</sup>

In 1889, Charles-Emile Troisier (1844-1919) also reported on the findings in 27 cases of gastric carcinoma and noted a palpable, hard, left supraclavicular node being present.23 It has been thought that the cancerous enlargement of the left supraclavicular node at the junction of the thoracic duct and the left subclavian vein and the tendency of gastric carcinoma to metastasize towards this region is related to tumor emboli migration through the thoracic duct. The thoracic duct is a continuation of the cisterna chyli at the L1 level, which then enters the thoracic cavity through the aortic hiatus and continues in the posterior mediastinum between the aorta and azygos vein.<sup>24</sup> The duct drains lymphatic fluid into the angle of the left subclavian and internal jugular vein. The end node of the thoracic duct is the so-called Virchow Node and is located near or at this jugulo-subclavian venous junction.<sup>25</sup> The involvement of the Virchow Node by metastasis can be seen in several types of cancer. Viacava et al. investigated 4,365 patients suffering from abdominal and thoracic tumors and found an enlarged Virchow Node in 2.8% of the patients.<sup>2</sup> The highest frequency was observed in patients suffering from cancers of the lung, pancreas, esophagus, kidney, ovary, testicle, stomach, prostate, corpus uteri, cervix uteri, and rectum.<sup>2</sup> Despite its first description more than 150 years ago, the underlying anatomy of the thoracic duct end node has just been investigated more recently. More specifically, in 2005 Mizutani and co-workers found that the thoracic duct is divided into 3-10

several collateral ducts and these ducts surround the Virchow Node.<sup>25</sup>

#### Conclusion

The first description of pathological enlargement of the left supraclavicular node by gastric cancer was provided by Virchow in 1848. A number of other malignancies are now known to spread to this anatomic site. While prostate cancer has not classically been thought to have a propensity for metastasizing to the Virchow Node, advances in molecular imaging have revealed the contrary. The prevalent involvement of the Virchow Node by prostate cancer has likely been underestimated in the past due to our inability to effectively characterize non-pathologically enlarged lymph nodes in this patient population. More than one and a half centuries after its first description, this in vivo detection of supraclavicular lymphadenopathy using prostate molecular imaging emphasizes the importance of the insightful and visionary work of Dr. Virchow. Further studies on the nature of the prostate cancer cells that are disseminated to the Virchow node may shed light on the mechanism of prostate cancer metastases, the transition from the oligometastatic to the polymetastatic state, and the tumor microenvironment needed to maintain prostate cancer cells within this unique lymph node. However, if one might consider a molecular imaging approach to obtain specimen from the Virchow Node (e.g., by performing PET-guided biopsies), the costs for those type of studies have to be taken into account and the risk should balanced clinical be against the need.



\_\_\_ 248 -

dappelten Gesichtspunkte aus, einmal, dass eine solche Taxe für das ganze Land nur dann möglich, wenn zwischen dem bächsten und niedrigsten Satze ein groaser Spielraum gelassen wird, dies aber zu vermeiden set, wenn in jeden Bezirk die mittlere Samme als die normale festgestellt ist Denn in Leipzig und Dreude vermeiden set, wenn in jeden Bezirk die mittlere Samme als die normale festgestellt ist zu Denn in Leipzig und Dreude verzicht, das der Bezirksaussclaus bei reichen Leuten, in dem Oberrere gehrige und Voigtlande. Zweiten sist vorauszusetzen, dass der Bezirksaussclaus bei reichen Leuten, in Fällen, welche die Zeit und Kräfte des Arztes in ungewöhnlichen Grade in Anapruch nehmen, auch eine bedeutende Ueberschreitung des derchachnittlichen Preises als gerechtfertigt, ja als billig anerkenne werden des Ausschlaussch

(Zur Diagnose der Krehse im Unterleibe.) Wir haben schon wiederholt darauf aufmerksam gemacht, dass bei zweifelhaften Krankheitzuständen der Unterleibs - Or-gane die krebsige Natur des Uebels sich an einem sehr enffernten, der Untersuchung aber sehr zugänglichen Orte-zeigt, nämlich an den Jugulardrisen. Ein neuerer Pall be-Ductus thoracious tin aver innen Supraciavicular-versus; herantiegen. Wire diese Stremmung geschient, lasks sich freilich bis jotzt nicht sägen, da auch hier rückwärts gelegene Drisen befallen werden, allein es ist dieselbe eines der wichtigsten, diagnostischen Merkmale für die Berntheilung der Natur des Unterleibs-Uchells. Hat man auch

Verantwortlicher Redakteur: Dr. Rud. Virchow.

er sich in seinem hoben Alter von Neuem der experimen-tellen Physiologie zuwandet. Wenige Gelehrte in Deutsch-land möchten einem solchen Vorbilde auch der nachden ken können. Mittlerweile scheint sich über den letzten Rest dieser Hinterlassenschaft bei Lebrescen ein Streit er-hoben zu haben. Hr. Heal es oll etzkrift haben, dass er nicht im Heidelberg bleiben werde, wenn man ihm nicht auch die Direction des antomischen Theaters übertrüge, und eines Tages erschien plütsche in der Catzwaher Zei-und eines Tages erschien plütsche in der Catzwaher Zei-wa plötzlich wurde dieselby auch zurückgenommen und Hr. He ale soll sich nur in der unangenehmen Lage hefinden, seinem Ausstrucke zufere zu bleiben. seinem Ausspruche geren zu bleiben.

Anzeige. So eden ist erschienen und in allen Buchhandlungen Materialien

Neuen Medicinal-Verfassung Preussens.

Aus den Acten des Ministeriums herausgegeben Dr. M. Kalisch.

Erstes Heft. Der <u>arreitelle</u> Congress. gr. 3. gch. Preis 15 Sgr. Berlin, Mai 1849.

August Hirschwald.

Druck und Verlag von G. Reimer.

so sieht man, namentlich bei Krebsen des Magens, des Pankreas, der Eierstöcke etc., wie sich der Prozess allmählich von den Lymphdrüsen des Unterleibs auf die im hinteren Mediastinum neben dem Ductus thoracicus gelegenen Drüsen fortsetzt und endlich bis auf die Jugulardrüsen fortkriecht, welche rings um die Einmündungsstelle des Ductus thoracicus (in der linken Supraclavicular-Grube)

Verantwortlicher Redakteur: Dr. Rud. Virchow.

Figure 2.

# **Figure Captions**

**Figure 1.** Images from a <sup>18</sup>F-DCFPyL PET/CT scan in a 57-year-old man with untreated, biopsy-proven Gleason 5+4=9 prostate cancer with serum prostate specific antigen level of 109.2 ng/mL. (A) Whole body maximum intensity projection image demonstrates extensive adenopathy including a left supraclavicular Virchow Node (red arrow) as well as radiotracer-avid lymph nodes in left cervical levels IV and V, the mediastinum (red arrowhead), the retrocrural space (thin red arrow), the retroperitoneum (double thin red arrow), and the pelvis. (B) CT, (C) PET, and (D) PET/CT axial images at the level of the Virchow Node show that its small size (5 mm short axis, red arrows) would make it occult on conventional anatomic imaging and indicate the importance of molecular imaging with a PSMA-targeted agent to uncover this site of disease. Additional axial PET/CT images through (E) the mediastinum, (F) the retrocrural space, and (G) the retroperitoneum demonstrate additional involved lymph nodes (red arrowhead in (E), thin red arrow in (F), and double thin red arrow in (G)) and suggest a pathway for involvement of the Virchow Node; i.e. the cancer likely spread up the cisterna chyli in the proximity of the retrocrural node, then through the thoracic duct where it was able to establish sites of metastasis in both the mediastinum and left supraclavicular fossa.

Figure 2. (A) Original german article, "Zur Diagnose der Krebse im Unterleibe" by Rudolf Karl Ludwig Virchow, published in "Medicinische Reform" (45:248) in 1848. The article is within the section titled "Kleinere Mittheilungen" (Brief Communication). Description of the Virchow Node and the name of the author (Virchow) were both highlighted by a red frame. (B) Excerpt of "Zur Diagnose der Krebse im Unterleibe" showing the magnified paragraph of the Virchow Node description (upper red frame). The lower red frame highlights the name "Dr. Rud. Virchow", acting as the author of the article and as the editor-in-chief of the journal "Medicinische Reform". (Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg / Zur Diagnose der Krebse im Unterleibe / Die Medicinische Reform + Extrabl. (Signatur: Friedreich 297:: 1-52.1848-49); Seite 248)

### References

- 1. Virchow RLK. Zur diagnose der krebse im unterleibe. *Med Ref.* 1848;45:248.
- **2.** Viacava EP, Pack GT. Significance of supraclavicular signal node in patients with abdominal and thoracic cancer a study of one hunded and twenty-two cases. *Arch Surg.* 1944;48:109-199.
- **3.** Lopez F, Rodrigo JP, Silver CE, et al. Cervical lymph node metastases from remote primary tumor sites. *Head Neck.* 2016;38 Suppl 1:E2374-2385.
- **4.** Rowe SP, Gorin MA, Allaf ME, et al. PET imaging of prostate-specific membrane antigen in prostate cancer: current state of the art and future challenges. *Prostate Cancer Prostatic Dis.* 2016;19:223-230.
- **5.** Gorin MA, Pomper MG, Rowe SP. PSMA-targeted imaging of prostate cancer: the best is yet to come. *BJU Int.* 2016;117:715-716.
- 6. Rowe SP, Macura KJ, Mena E, et al. PSMA-Based [(18)F]DCFPyL PET/CT Is Superior to Conventional Imaging for Lesion Detection in Patients with Metastatic Prostate Cancer. *Mol Imaging Biol.* 2016;18:411-419.
- 7. Pyka T, Okamoto S, Dahlbender M, et al. Comparison of bone scintigraphy and 68Ga-PSMA PET for skeletal staging in prostate cancer. *Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging*. 2016;43:2114-2121.
- **8.** Aggarwal RR, Cooperberg MR, Ngyuen HG, et al. Incidence of intrathoracic (IT) metastases detected by 68Ga-PSMA-11 PET in early stage prostate cancer (PC). *J Clin Oncol*.35:5056-5056.
- **9.** Gorin MA, Rowe SP, Patel HD, et al. Prostate Specific Membrane Antigen Targeted 18F-DCFPyL Positron Emission Tomography/Computerized Tomography for the Preoperative Staging of High Risk Prostate Cancer: Results of a Prospective, Phase II, Single Center Study. *J Urol.* 2017.
- **10.** Afshar-Oromieh A, Hetzheim H, Kratochwil C, et al. The Theranostic PSMA Ligand PSMA-617 in the Diagnosis of Prostate Cancer by PET/CT: Biodistribution in Humans, Radiation Dosimetry, and First Evaluation of Tumor Lesions. *J Nucl Med.* 2015;56:1697-1705.
- **11.** Turk JL. Rudolf Virchow--father of cellular pathology. *J R Soc Med.* 1993;86:688-689.
- **12.** Byers JM, 3rd. Rudolf Virchow--father of cellular pathology. *Am J Clin Pathol.* 1989;92:S2-8.
- **13.** Ackerknecht EH. Rudolf Virchow: Doctor, statesman, anthropologist. *Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press.* 1953.
- **14.** Silver GA. Virchow, the heroic model in medicine: health policy by accolade. *Am J Public Health*. 1987;77:82-88.
- **15.** Newerla JG. Benno Reinhardt, 1919-1852 A Biographical Study and a Contribution to the Early History of Virchows Archiv. *N Engl J Med.* 1939;221:419-423.
- **16.** Azar HA. Rudolf Virchow, not just a pathologist: a re-examination of the report on the typhus epidemic in Upper Silesia. *Ann Diagn Pathol.* 1997;1:65-71.
- **17.** Taylor R, Rieger A. Medicine as social science: Rudolf Virchow on the typhus epidemic in Upper Silesia. *Int J Health Serv.* 1985;15:547-559.
- **18.** Brown TM, Fee E. Rudolf Carl Virchow: medical scientist, social reformer, role model. *Am J Public Health.* 2006;96:2104-2105.
- 19. Virchow RLK. Reinigung und Entwässerung Berlins: General-Bericht über die Arbeiten der Städtischen Gemischten Deputation für die Untersuchung der auf die Kanalisation und Abfuhr Bezüglichen Fragen. *Verlag von August Hirschwald, Unter den Linden No. 68.* 1873.
- **20.** Klippe HJ, Kirsten D, Andree C. [Rudolf Virchow (1821-1902) and the Origin of the Term "Granuloma"]. *Pneumologie*. 2016;70:S122-S127.
- **21.** George DR, Whitehouse PJ, D'Alton S, Ballenger J. Through the amyloid gateway. *Lancet.* 2012;380:1986-1987.
- **22.** Morgenstern L. The Virchow-Troisier node: a historical note. *Am J Surg.* 1979;138:703.

- **23.** Troisier CE. L'adenopathie sus-claviculaire dans les cancers de l'abdomen. *Arch gén de méd.* 1889;1:129-138 and 297-309.
- **24.** Siosaki MD, Souza AT. Images in clinical medicine. Virchow's node. *N Engl J Med.* 2013;368:e7.
- **25.** Mizutani M, Nawata S, Hirai I, Murakami G, Kimura W. Anatomy and histology of Virchow's node. *Anat Sci Int.* 2005;80:193-198.