

Radiation Oncology Management of Lung Cancer in NC: Update on Small-Cell Lung Cancer
May 24

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
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May 24

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OUR PRESENTER



Ashley Weiner, MD, PhD, is a radiation oncologist at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill. Her clinical focuses are thoracic malignancies (primarily non-small cell and small cell lung cancer) and gynecologic malignancies (primarily endometrial and cervical cancer). She received a bachelor's degree from Duke University and her PhD from Vanderbilt University, both in biomedical engineering.

She also received her MD degree from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. She completed residency training in radiation oncology at Washington University in St. Louis.

At UNC, she is the clinic medical director, director of the residency program in radiation oncology, and the course director of the medical student clerkship. Her passions are medical education, patient-reported outcomes, and improving clinical workflow in radiation oncology.

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OUR PRESENTER

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What one word comes to mind when you hear the phrase "radiotherapy for small cell lung cancer"?

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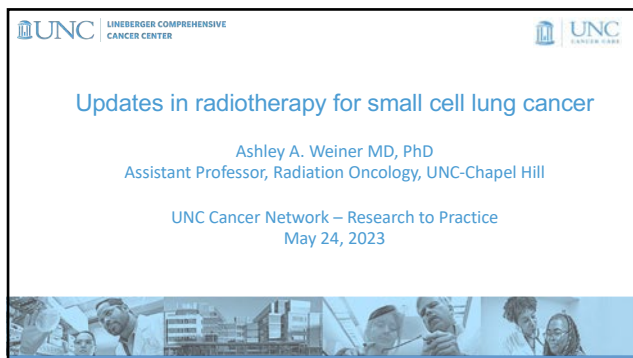
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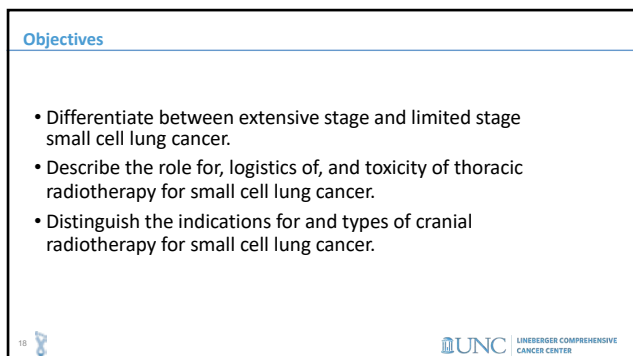
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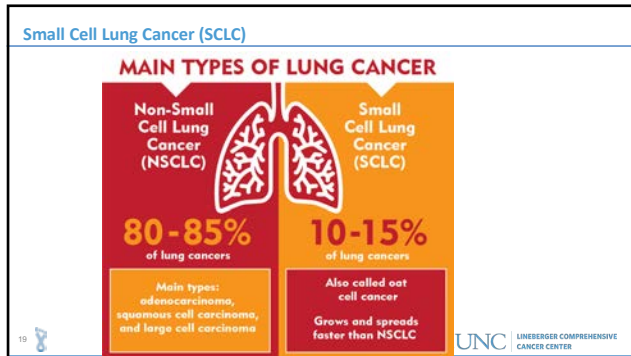
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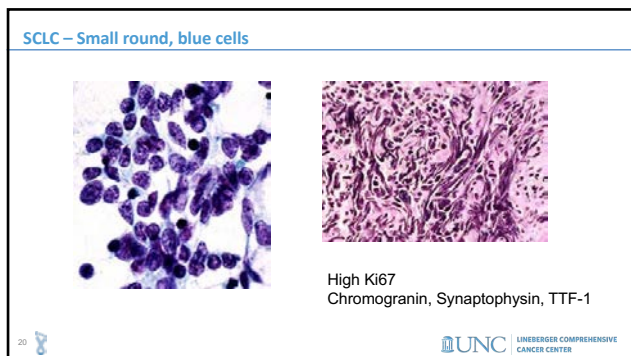
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SCLC - Epidemiology

- > 95% of cases are related to smoking

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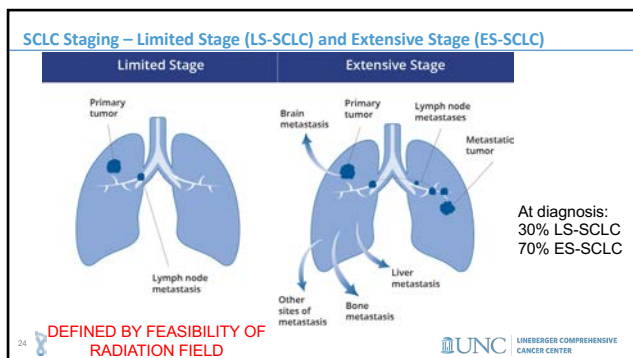
SCLC – Initial Presentation

- Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Weight loss
- Paraneoplastic Syndromes
 - SIADH (7-16% of patients)
 - Cramping, nausea, vomiting, confusion
 - Lambert-Eaton Syndrome (3% of patients)
 - Muscle weakness

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Staging can be controversial

- What can truly fit in a "radiation port"?
- Supraclavicular LN (ipsilateral and/or contralateral)
- Contralateral mediastinal LN
- Pleural effusion
- With more modern techniques, larger radiation ports are feasible

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Prognosis

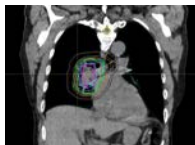
- Age
- Performance status
- Weight loss
- Gender
- Disease extent
- Serum markers: hyponatremia, elevated alkaline phosphatase, elevated LDH

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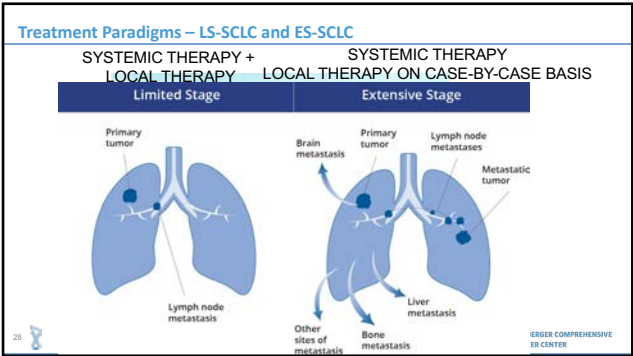
Treatment of SCLC

- SCLC is though to be somewhat of a "systemic" disease
- Systemic therapy (chemotherapy) is the mainstay of therapy
- Radiation (and surgery) are "local" treatments

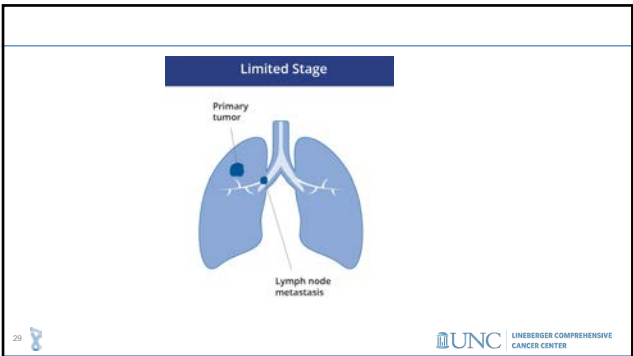


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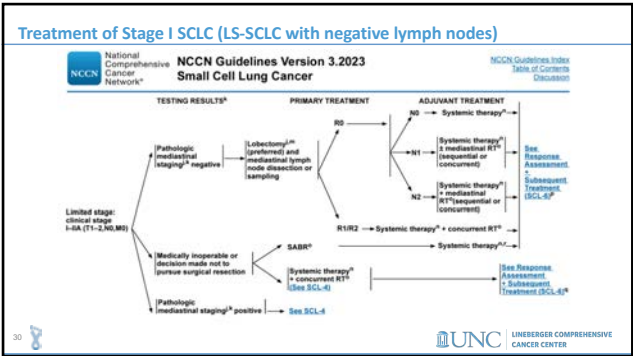
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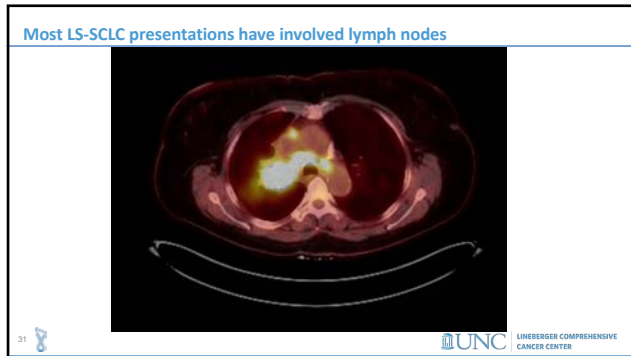
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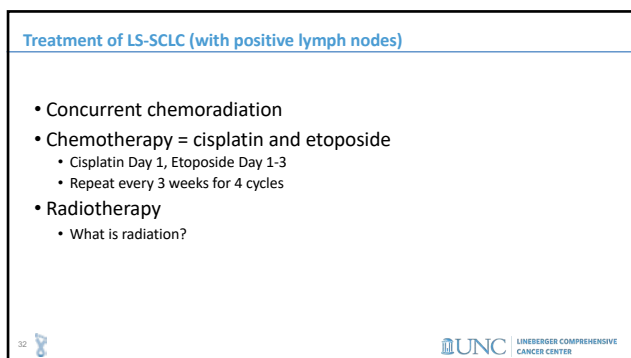
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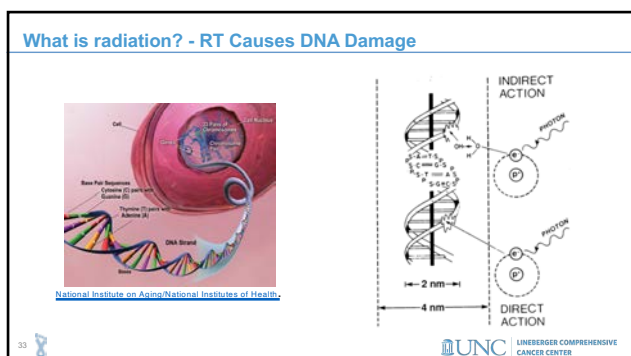
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What is radiation? – Cells die by mitotic death

- The cells are not “burned”
- DNA strand breaks → eventual mitotic cell death

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What is radiation? The patient pathway









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Reasons to do radiation

- Palliative – to help with a symptom (extensive stage)
- Definitive – curative intent without surgery (limited stage)
- Adjuvant – after surgery (rare for SCLC)
- Prophylactic – radiation without visible disease (RARE for other disease sites, but considered for SCLC)

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Limited Stage

Thoracic Radiotherapy
Prophylactic Cranial Irradiation (PCI)

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Thoracic radiotherapy for LS-SCLC

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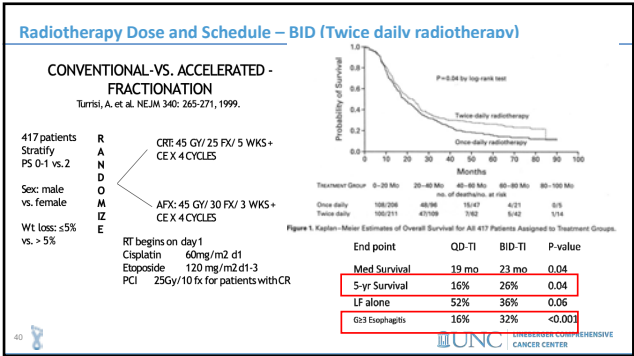
Thoracic Radiotherapy Dose and Schedule

- In vitro, small cell lung cancer cells are exquisitely radiosensitive
- Even low doses can kill a significant proportion of cells
- Multiple small fractions can be effective oncologically, AND spare normal tissues from late injury

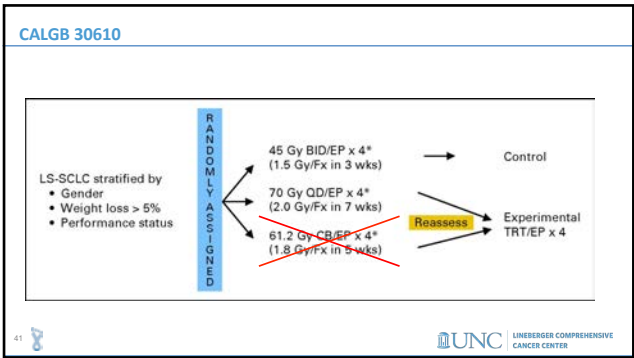
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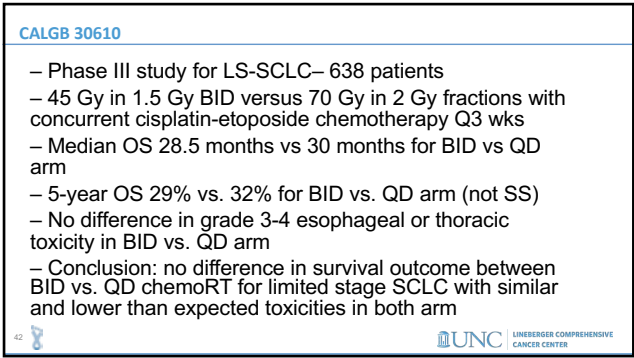
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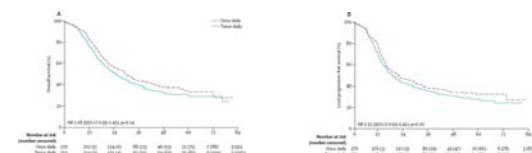


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- Phase III study for LS- SCLC- 547 patients
- 45 Gy in 1.5 Gy BID versus 66 Gy in 2 Gy fractions with concurrent cisplatin-epidose chemotherapy Q3 wks
- Median OS 30 months vs 25months for BID vs QD arm (HR 1.18, p=0.14)
- 2-year OS 56% vs. 51% for BID vs. QD arm (not SS)
- 5-year OS 34% vs. 31% for BID vs. QD arm (not SS)
- No difference in grade 3-4 esophageal or thoracic toxicity in BID vs QD arm
- Conclusion: no difference in survival outcome between BID vs. QD chemRT for limited stage SCLC with similar and lower than expected toxicities in both arm
- Powered for superiority(vs. non-inferiority),thus concluded **BID should still be standard**

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- RT began with chemo cycle 2
- Most 3D-CRT, some IMRT, no elective nodal RT
- ~80-85% with PCI



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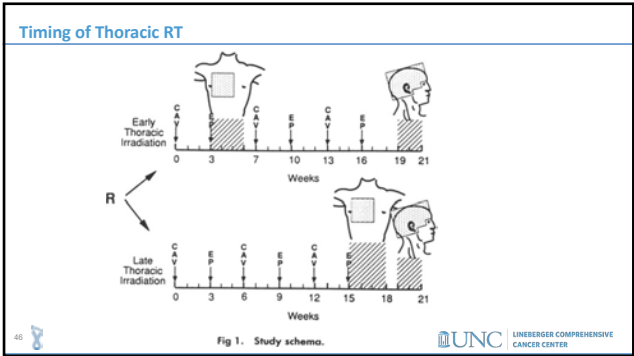
High-dose versus standard-dose twice-daily thoracic radiotherapy for patients with limited stage small-cell lung cancer: an open-label, randomised, phase 2 trial

Björn Henning-Gronberg, Kirsten Toftholm Kibbenberg, Øystein Flåtten, Odd Torje Brustugun, Gørst Hørnlien, Torbjørn Skidde, Jeppe Wang-Jensen, Tine Schjøtt, Jan Nymann, Signe Blum, Georjane Tiedeman, Jens Engelsen, Torje Ørnskov-Holmøyen

- Phase II study for LS- SCLC- 170 patients
- 45 Gy in 1.5 Gy BID versus 60 Gy in 1.5 Gy BID with concurrent cisplatin-etoposide chemotherapy Q3 wks
- Median OS 22.6 months vs 37 months (HR 0.67, p=0.012)
- 2-year OS 48 % vs. 74%
- No difference in median PFS (18.6 vs 10.6 months)
- No difference in esophagitis (18% vs 21%)
- Conclusion: Improved OS without PFS, worth pursuing in Phase III study

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Timing of Thoracic RT

Murray N et al. JCO 11:336-44, 1993

Endpoint	Early TI	Late TI	p-value
Median Survival	21 mo.	16 mo.	
OS 5 yr	20%	11%	0.008
G3-4 Esophagitis	15%	8%	0.05
G3 Dermatitis	6%	2%	0.02

TI: Thoracic irradiation, OS: overall survival, G: grade, NS: not significant
Note that Late RT becomes more "sequential-like"

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Timing – SER (start of treatment to end of radiotherapy)

Table 1. Summary of the Selected Phase III Trials Investigating Chest Radiation Schedules Combined With Chemotherapy for Limited-Stage Small-Cell Lung Cancer

Study	No. of Patients	Radiation Schedule	Day That RT Was Started	Concurrent CT	5-Year % LC*	5-Year Survival Rate (%)	Severe Pneumonitis (%)	Severe Esophagitis (%)	SER (days)	EQD _{0.1} (Gy)
Murray et al ¹⁸	155	40 Gy/15 6/19 d	21	Yes	45	20	3.2	15	40	47.13
	153	40 Gy/15 6/19 d	105	Yes	45	11	0.7	7.5	166	47.13
Jeremic et al ¹¹	52	54 Gy/36 10/6 d	1	Yes	58	30	1.9	28.8	26	51.75
	51	54 Gy/36 10/6 d	42	Yes	35	15	0	25.4	61	51.75
Turrisi et al ¹²	211	45 Gy/20 6/19 d	1-19	Yes	64	26	NR	33	19-38	48.02
	206	45 Gy/25 10/5 d	1-19	Yes	48	16	NR	16	35-62	39.35
Takada et al ¹⁴	114	45 Gy/20 6/19 d	2	Yes	82	24	NR	9	20	48.02
	114	45 Gy/20 6/19 d	84	No	82	18	NR	4	103	48.02

Abbreviations: RT, radiotherapy; CT, chemotherapy; LC, local tumor control; SER, the time from the start of any treatment to the end of chest irradiation; 1, fraction; NR, not reported; EQD_{0.1}, equivalent dose at 2 Gy corrected for overall treatment time of radiotherapy.
*Cumulative % LC except for Takada et al¹⁴ (first site of recurrence).

Improved OS with decreased SER
Each week of increase in SER associated with 1.8% decrease in 5 y OS

De Ruyscher JCO 2006

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UNC Lineberger Cancer Network
 What is prophylactic brain irradiation?

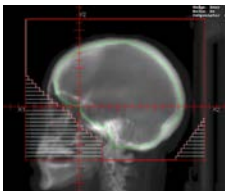
- Radiation to treat brain metastases
- Radiation to minimize side effects of chemotherapy
- Radiation to prevent the occurrence of brain metastases
- Radiation to palliate pain

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Limited -stage SCLC – Prophylactic Cranial Irradiation (PCI)

- Prophylactic = treatment in the absence of know disease to prevent disease occurrence
- Incidence of brain metastases is 30-80% at 2 years
- PCI can be given (25 Gy in 10 fractions)
- PCI might improve survival, does decrease incidents of brain metastases
- PCI is associated with decline in memory
- Old studies did NOT include MRI

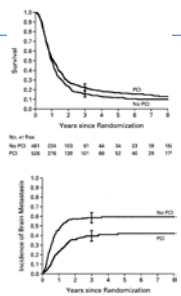


50 Auperin NEJM 1999. UNC LINEBERGER COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

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PCI in LS-SCLC

- Individual data of 987 pts in 7 trials ('65-95).
- Median follow up: 3.5-18.5 years
- RR of death : 0.84 (p= 0.01) favoring PCI.
- 5.4% absolute increase in 3-yr survival (20.7vs. 15.3%).



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Upcoming Trials in LS-SCLC

- NRG LU-005
 - Limited stage (T1-T4, N0-3, M0) small cell lung cancer (LS-SCLC)
 - Stratification factors
 - Radiation schedule, BID (3 weeks) vs. daily (8.5 weeks)
 - Chemotherapy (topotecan vs. carboplatin)
 - Sex (male vs. female)
 - ECOG Performance Status (PS 1 vs. 2)
 - Estimated N = 506

Arm 1
Platinum/Topotecan Q3 weeks x 4 cycles
+
Thoracic RT 45 Gy bid or 66 Gy daily beginning with cycle 2 of chemotherapy

Arm 2
Platinum/Topotecan Q3 weeks x 4 cycles
+
Thoracic RT 45 Gy bid or 66 Gy daily beginning with cycle 2 of chemotherapy
+
Atezolizumab Q3 weeks x 1 year, beginning with cycle 2 of chemotherapy
- ADRIATIC (NCT03703297)
 - Standard CRT followed by consolidation Durvalumab or Durvalumab + Tremelimumab or placebo
- S1827 Maverick – MRI surveillance vs PCI for LS- and ES-SCLC

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Extensive Stage

The diagram illustrates the Extensive Stage of lung cancer. It shows a central lung with a primary tumor. Arrows point from the primary tumor to various metastatic sites: Brain metastasis, Lymph node metastases, Metastatic tumor (in the contralateral lung), Liver metastasis, Bone metastasis, and Other sites of metastasis.

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Reasons to do radiation

- Palliative – to help with a symptom (extensive stage)
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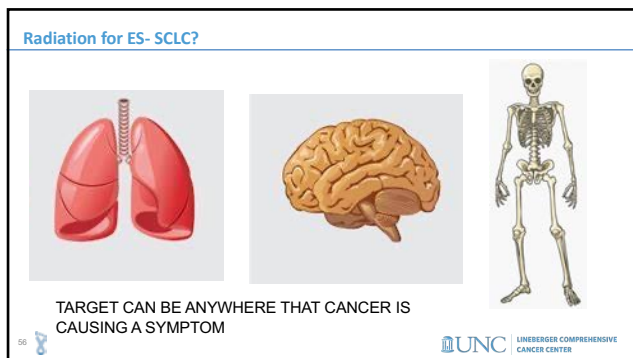
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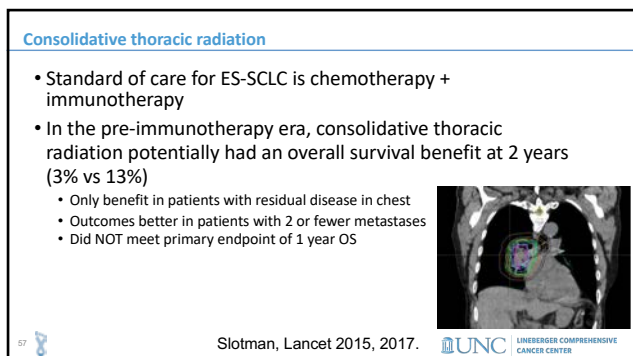
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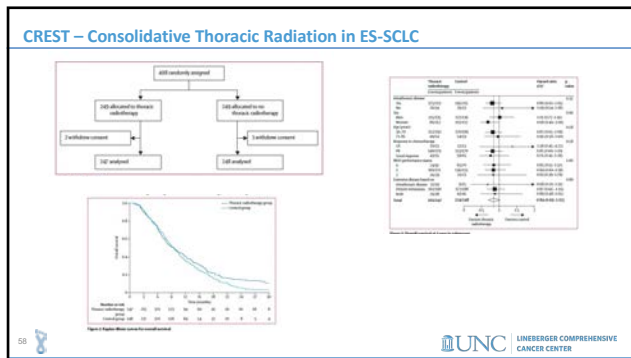
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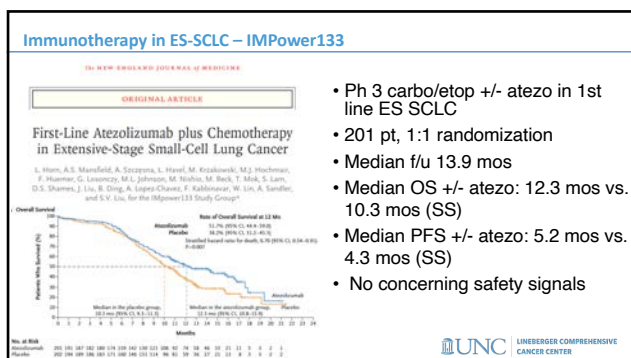
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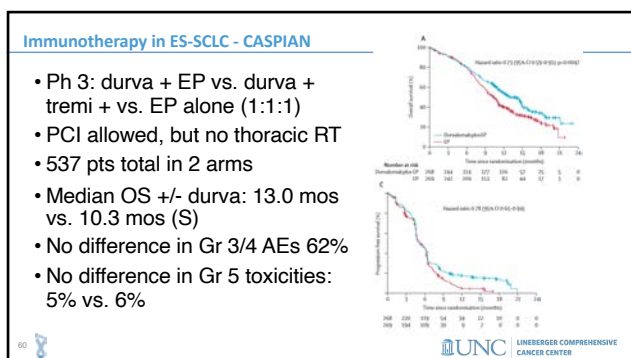
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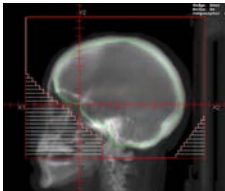
Consolidative Thoracic Immunotherapy in the Immunotherapy Era for ES-SCLC


- No prospective data
 - IMPower133 and CASPIAN did NOT allow thoracic radiotherapy
- Potential increased toxicity risk (pneumonitis)
- Consider with bulky residual thoracic disease

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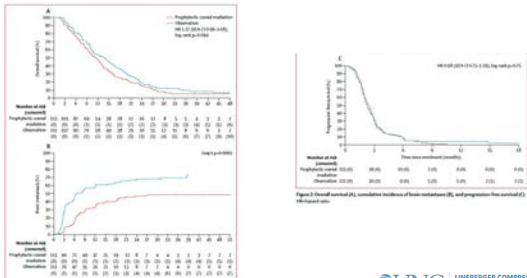
Prophylactic Cranial Irradiation (PCI) in ES-SCLC


- Old studies with overall survival benefit to PCI in ES-SCLC (13 vs 27% at 1 year)
- Modern study with:
 - MRI at baseline, and MRI every 3 months
 - Randomization to PCI or no PCI
 - Decreased incidence of brain mets 69 vs 48%
 - No difference in survival (13.7 mo vs 11.7 mos)



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PCI vs MRI surveillance for ES-SCLC



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How is radiation used for ES-SCLC? – brain metastases – WBRT vs SRS

Whole Brain Radiation

Stereotactic Radiosurgery – Does SRS make sense in a population who could get PCI?

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How is radiation used for ES-SCLC? – brain metastases – WBRT vs SRS

- FIRE-SCLC
 - Multicenter cohort – SRS for SCLC
 - 700 patients
 - Median survival 8.5 months after SRS
 - Matched WBRT patients were less likely to have CNS progression, no difference in survival
- Best outcome with < 5 brain mets

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Rusthoven JAMA Onc 2020, Wang Adv Rad Onc 2023

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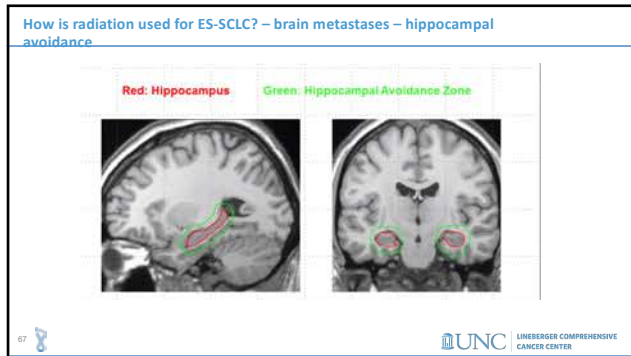
FIRE-SCLC

Figure 1. Overall Survival (OS) and Time to Central Nervous System Progression (TTP) After First-Line Stereotactic Radiosurgery

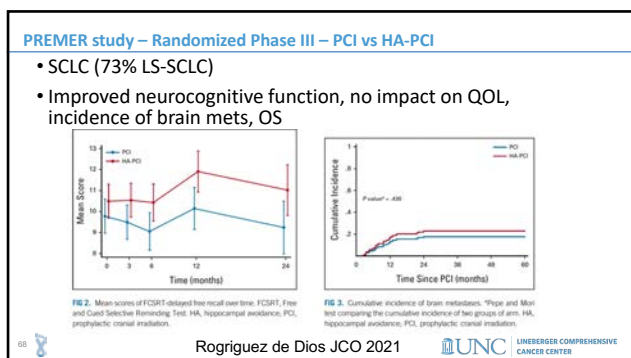
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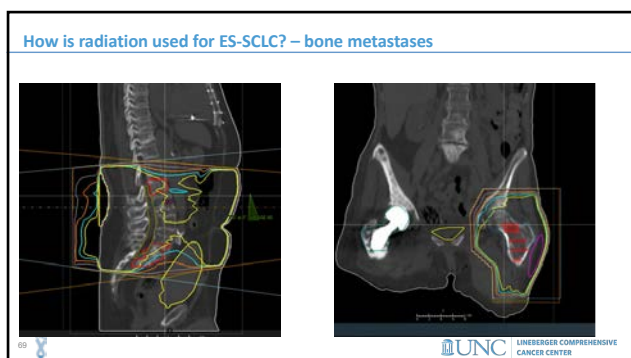
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How is radiation used for ES-SCLC? – oligometastatic disease (4 or fewer sites)

- RTOG 0937
- Patients with ES-SCLC (4 or fewer sites), initial response to initial chemotherapy
- Randomized PCI vs RT to all sites + PCI
- PCI 25 Gy in 10 fx
- Other sites 45 Gy in 15 fx
- Outcomes much higher than predicted
- No difference in 1 year survival ~50%
- G3+ toxicity 23% vs 36%

	PCI	PCI+RT
PCI	42	37
PCI+RT	44	39
	0	3
	6	9
	12	17

	# of Patients	Local	Other	Median Survival (95% CI)	p-value
PCI	42	22	20	15.8 (8.8, 27.8)	0.2080
PCI+RT	44	23	21	13.5 (8.3, 18.0)	

Figure 1
Overall Survival

Gore JTO 2018

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What is the current role of radiation in SCLC?

- LS-SCLC
 - Definitive thoracic radiotherapy (BID or QD)
 - PCI?
- ES-SCLC
 - Palliation of symptomatic sites of disease
 - PCI still considered in some practices
 - SRS acceptable for brain metastases¹⁴

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Upcoming Trials in SCLC

- NRG LU005 and ADRIATIC – adding immunotherapy to chemoradiation for LS-SCLC
- NRG CC-003 HA-PCI for SCLC
- NRG CC-009 SRS vs HA-WBRT for SCLC brain metastases
- S1827 Maverick – MRI surveillance vs PCI for LS- and ES-SCLC

- Advances in systemic therapy must always be considered when considering advances in radiation

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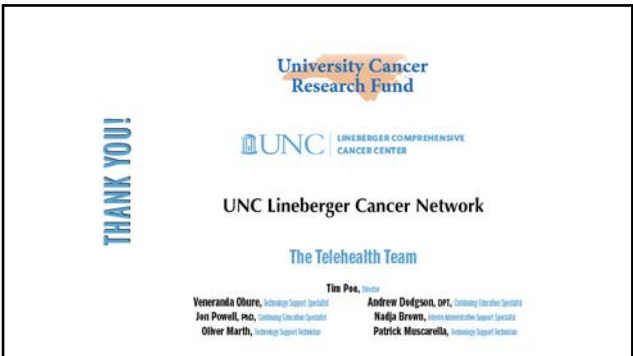




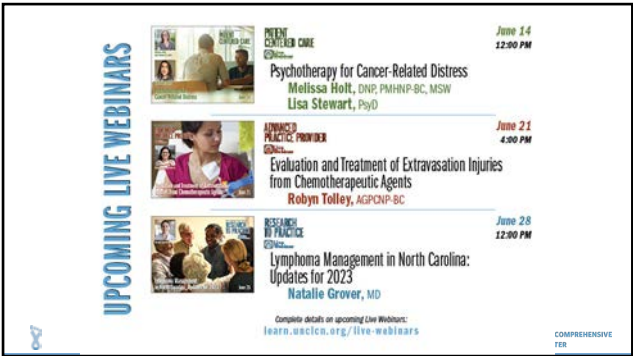




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