

UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI BRESCIA



**Hi-tech treatments: results,  
perspectives, suggestions for future  
comparative effectiveness studies**

**Brain metastases**

Michela Buglione

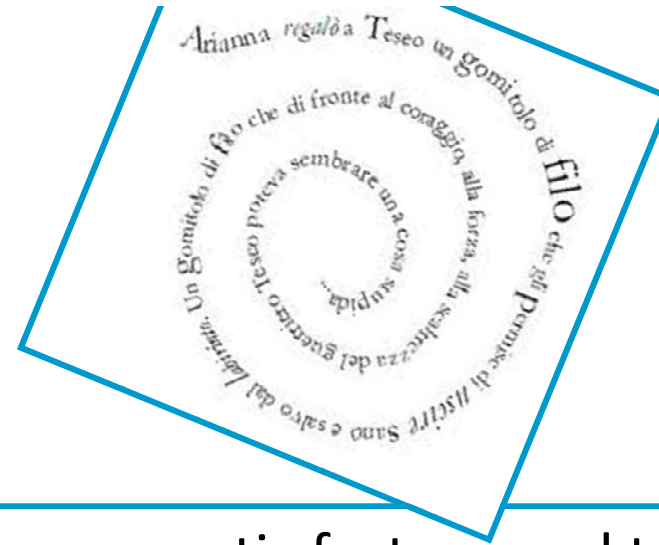
Cattedra di Radioterapia – Università di Brescia

## The trail.....



- ✓ Brain metastases: background and treatment
- ✓ The basis of hypo-fractionation in brain metastases
- ✓ Modality of hypo-fractionation : stereotactic RT alone;  
WB + stereotactic boost;  
surgery + stereotactic boost;  
concomitant boost.
- ✓ Different techniques means different results, toxicities, costs?
- ✓ Future.....

## The trail.....



✓ Brain metastases: background, prognostic factors and treatment

# *Brain metastases - background*



- ✓ 20% to 40% of cancer patients
- ✓ 98,000 to 170,000 new cases are diagnosed in the United States each year
- ✓ the patients require/expect treatment

Mehta M et al Neoplasms of the central nervous system. In: DeVita VT Jr et al: Cancer: Principles and Practice of Oncology. 9th ed. 2011



## ***Brain metastases - prognostic factors***

✓ Prognostic indices : RPA

<b>RPA</b>	<b>Karnofsky Performance Status</b>	<b>Median OS (mo)</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>KPS <math>\geq</math> 70; age &lt; 65; Controlled primary disease, no extracranial metastases</b>	<b>7.1; 13.5 for single met, 6.0 multiple mets</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>KPS <math>\geq</math> 70, age &gt; 65, progressive primary tumour, other mts</b>	<b>4.2 8.1 for single met 4.1 multiple mets</b>
<b>III</b>	<b>RPA 2 and KPS &gt; 70</b>	<b>2.3</b>



## Brain metastases - prognostic factors

✓ Prognostic indices : GPA

	0 points	0.5 points	1 point
Age	>60	50-59	<50
KPS	<70	70-80	90-100
N° mets	>3	2-3	1
Extracranial mets	Present		absent

GPA score	Median OS (mo)
0-1	2.6
1.5-2.5	3.8
3,0	6.9
3.5-4	11

✓ Possible role of primary site of disease

# Brain metastases - prognostic factors

✓ Prognostic factors

**Tab 4. Univariate analysis of overall survival in each RPA class**

Variable	p	RR
Age	0.031	
< 65		1
>65		1.325
KPS	0.004	
>= 90		1
< 90 >= 70		1.824
<70		1.466
RPA class	0.019	
1		1
2		1.236
3		2.502
N° brain mets	0.001	
>=1 <=3		1
>3		1.266
Therapy	0.021	
Surgery + RT		1
RT		1.640
Dose	0.001	
30 Gy		1
20 Gy		1.589
Histology	0.004	
Breast		1
Lung (adenoca)		1.043
Lung (SCLC)		1.064
Lung (squamo)		1.423
Renal		0.574
Melanoma		2.419
Other		1.454

KPS = Karnofsky Performance Scale; RR = Relative Risk; N° = Number; RT = Radiotherapy

**Tab 5. Multivariate analysis of overall survival: statistical significance of the different variables in each RPA class**

All cases			RPA class 1			RPA class 2		
Variable	p	RR	Variable	p	RR	variable	p	RR
Age	0.031		Other mets	ns		Dose	0.000	
< 65		1	Yes		1	30 Gy		1
>65		1.325	no		0.568	20 Gy		2.088
KPS	0.004		KPS	0.000		Histology	0.002	
>= 90		1	>= 90		1	Breast		1
< 90 >= 70		1.824	< 90 >= 70		3.032	Lung (adenoca)		0.798
<70		1.466	<70	nopts		Lung (SCLC)		0.817
RPA class	0.019		N° brain mets	0.001		Lung (squamo)		2.136
1		1	>=1 <=3		1	Renal		0.248
2		1.236	>3		1.534	Melanoma		1.609
3		2.502	Therapy	ns		Other		1.256
N° brain mets	0.001		Surgery + RT					
>=1 <=3		1	RT					
>3		1.266	Dose	0.003				
Therapy	0.021		30 Gy		1			
Surgery + RT		1	20 Gy		2.385			
RT		1.640	Histology	0.030				
Dose	0.001		Breast		1			
30 Gy		1	Lung (adenoca)		1.11			
20 Gy		1.589	Lung (SCLC)		1.976			
Histology	0.004		Lung (squamo)		1.073			
Breast		1	Renal		0.557			
Lung (adenoca)		1.043	Melanoma		5.643			
Lung (SCLC)		1.064	Other		1.19			
Lung (squamo)		1.423						
Renal		0.574						
Melanoma		2.419						
Other		1.454						

# *Brain metastases - treatment*



- ✓ surgery
- ✓ whole brain radiotherapy
- ✓ stereotactic radiotherapy /radiosurgery



# Brain metastases - treatment



National  
Comprehensive  
Cancer  
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## NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2012 Limited (1-3) Metastatic Lesions

### CLINICAL PRESENTATION

Disseminated systemic disease with poor systemic treatment options<sup>c,d</sup>

Newly diagnosed or stable systemic disease or Reasonable systemic treatment options<sup>d</sup>

Resectable<sup>e</sup>

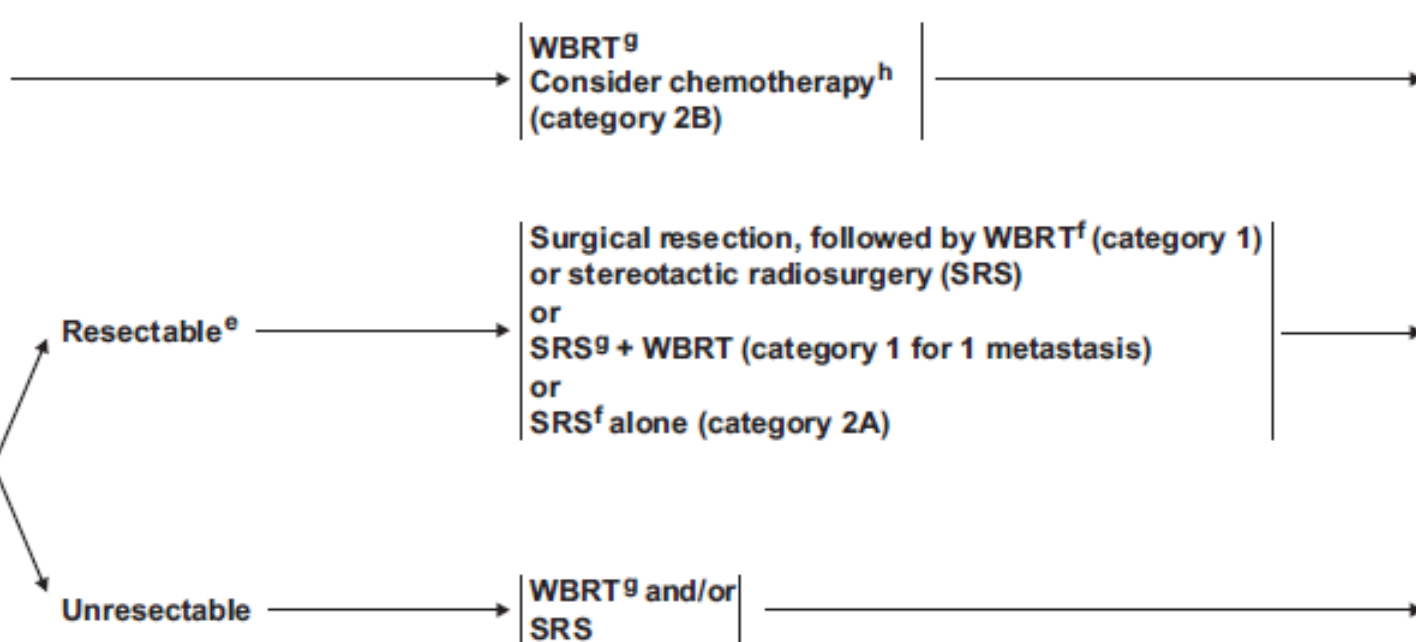
Unresectable

### PRIMARY TREATMENT<sup>f,g</sup>

WBRT<sup>g</sup>  
Consider chemotherapy<sup>h</sup>  
(category 2B)

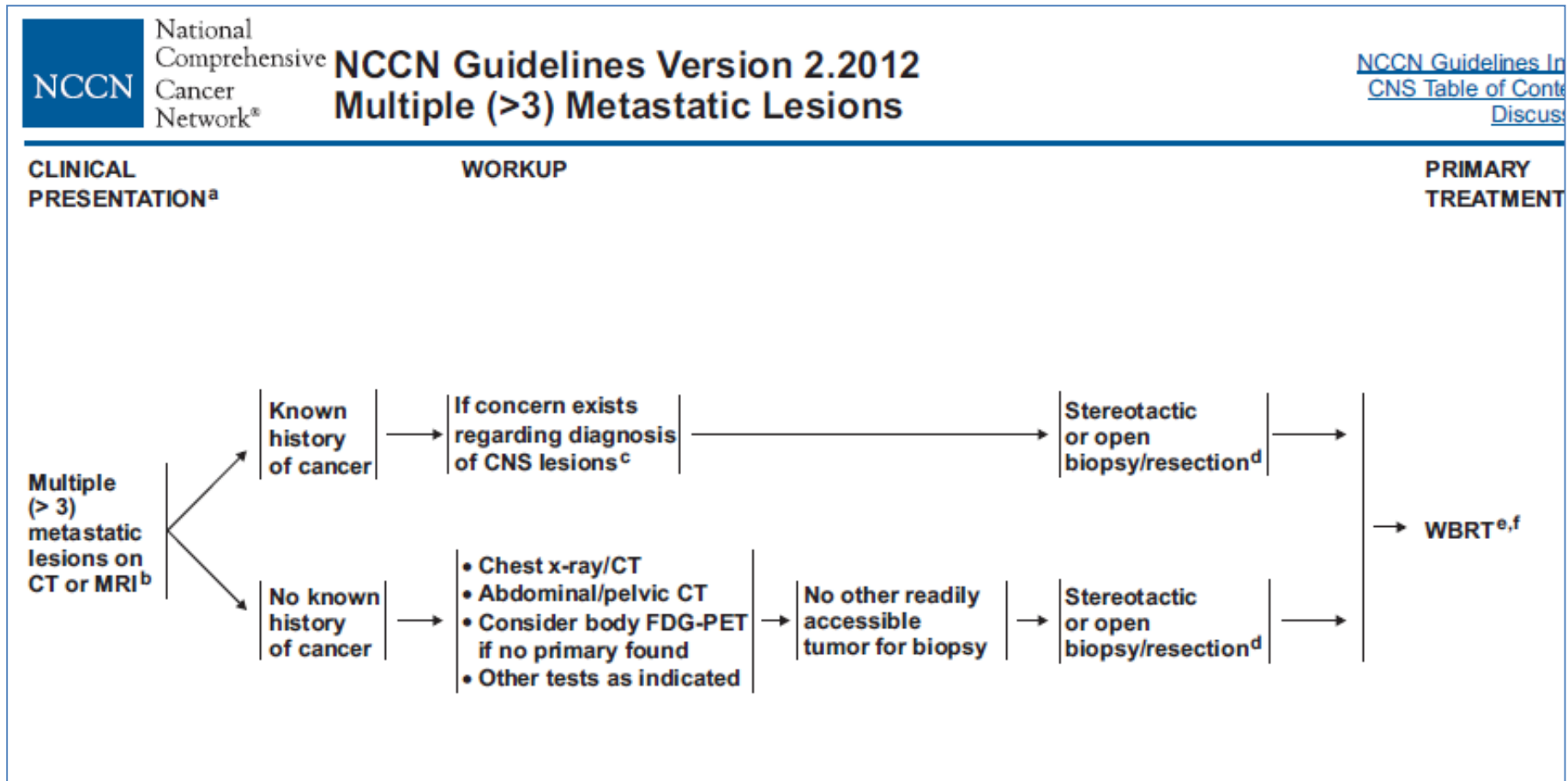
Surgical resection, followed by WBRT<sup>f</sup> (category 1)  
or stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS)  
or  
SRS<sup>g</sup> + WBRT (category 1 for 1 metastasis)  
or  
SRS<sup>f</sup> alone (category 2A)

WBRT<sup>g</sup> and/or  
SRS

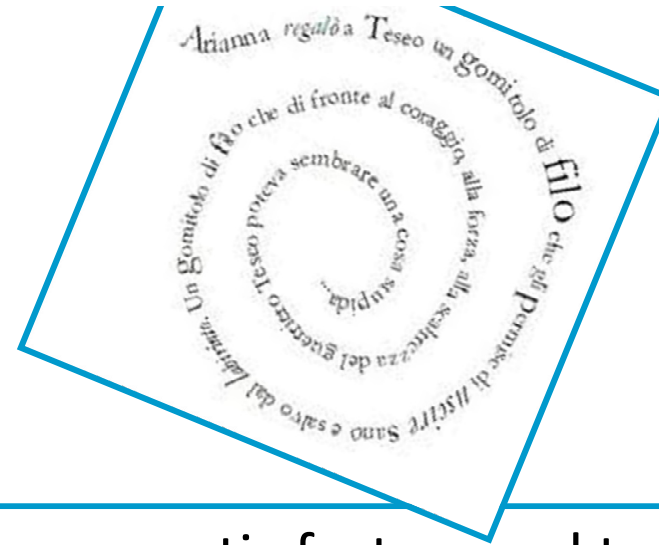




# Brain metastases - treatment



## The trail.....



- ✓ Brain metastases: background prognostic factors and treatment
- ✓ The basis of hypo-fractionation in brain metastases

# The basis of hypo-fractionation

- ✓ Hypo-fractionated/single fraction RT has a growing role in the treatment of single/<3 brain metastases

Systematic review

Dose-effect relation in stereotactic radiotherapy for brain metastases.

A systematic review

Ruud Wiggendaad<sup>a,\*</sup>, Antoinette Verbeek-de Kanter<sup>a</sup>, Henk B. Kal<sup>b</sup>, Martin Taphoorn<sup>c,e</sup>, Thomas Vissers<sup>d</sup>, Henk Struikmans<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Radiotherapy Centre West, The Hague, The Netherlands; <sup>b</sup>Maassluis; <sup>c</sup>Department of Neurology; <sup>d</sup>Medical Library, Medical Center Haaglanden, The Hague, The Netherlands; <sup>e</sup>Department of Neurology, VU Medical Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- ✓ 6 mo local control rate is higher than 80% in hypo-fractionated and single fraction
- ✓ 12 mo LCR >80% with a single dose >20 Gy
  - >70% with FSRT
  - >60% SRT >18Gy
  - <50% SRT 15 Gy
- ✓ BED12 of at least 40 Gy is necessary → LCR 12mo of >70%



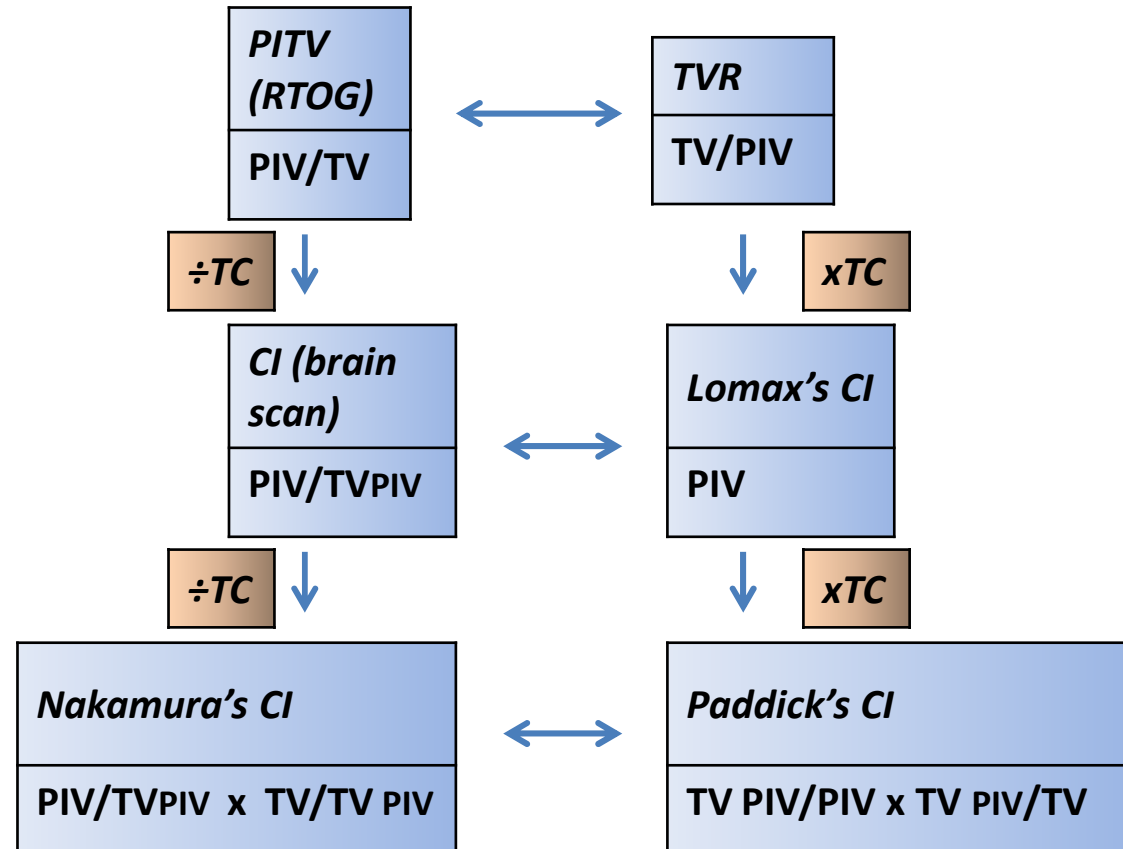
## *The basis of hypo-fractionation*

- ✓ Different methods of dose prescription and isodose specification not related to tumor volume but to estimated late radiation toxicity rate
- ✓ Wide range of dose levels
  - different algorithms to compare different prescription methods;
  - RTOG 90-05 : disease without margin
    - 50-90% isodose line (encompassing the lesion)
    - 24 Gy →  $\geq 20$ mm
    - 18 Gy → 21-31 mm
    - 15 Gy → 31-40 mm

# The basis of hypo-fractionation

- ✓ Conformity index → quantitatively evaluate the dose conformity
- ✓ The choices of CI and reference isodose are left to the planners
- ✓ Differences in methods to evaluate the target coverage using different conformity indices

**CI: conformity index**  
**PIV: prescription isodose volume**  
**PITV: ratio of prescription isodose volume/target volume**  
**TV<sub>PIV</sub>: the volume of the target receiving the prescription dose;**  
**TVR: treatment volume ratio;**  
**TC: target coverage**  
**TV: target volume**



## The trail.....



- ✓ Brain metastases: background prognostic factors and treatment
- ✓ The basis of hypo-fractionation in brain metastases
- ✓ Hypo-fractionation modality : stereotactic RT alone;  
WB + stereotactic boost;  
surgery + stereotactic boost;  
concomitant boost.

# Hypo-fractionation modality

✓ Stereotactic RT alone vs WB + stereotactic boost

Ok, but...

Author	Treatment	Dose	LC/OS
Aoyama JAMA 2006	RS RS+WB	22-25Gy/18-20Gy Dose <30% + 30Gy in 10-12 #	72.5%/ns <b>88.7%/ns</b>
Chang Lancet oncol 2009	RS RS+WB	18-12 Gy 18-12 Gy + 30 Gy in 12 #	67.7%/15.2mo <b>100%/5.7 mo</b>
Mueller and Kocher JCO 2009 and 2011	RS o S RS o S + WB	20 Gy 20 Gy + 30 Gy in 10 #	67.6%/ns <b>82.4%/ns</b>
Muacevic J Neurooncol 2008	RS RS+WB	17-27 Gy 14-27 Gy + 40 Gy in 20 #	74.2%/ns <b>97%/ns</b>



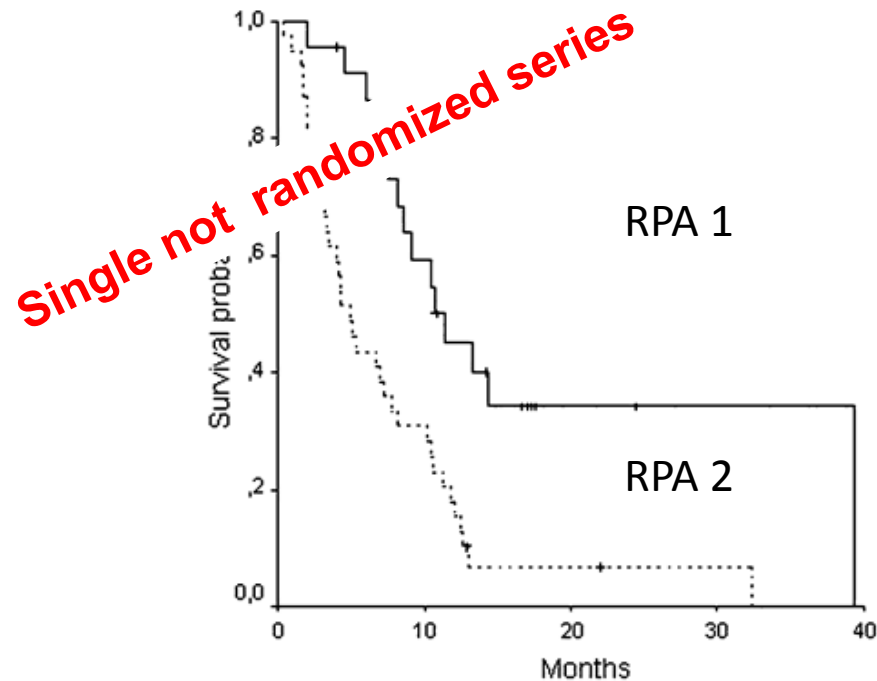


## *Hypo-fractionation modality*

- ✓ WB + stereotactic boost vs WB alone
- multiple metastases (>4) → no better survival
- in patients with 1-4 metastases → no better survival but better local control, better functional outcome and decreased steroid requirement
- in patients with **RPA 1**; 1 metastasis → better local control and better survival

## Hypo-fractionation modality

- ✓ Hypofractionated/SRS RT alone
- 24 Gy in 3 #
- LC → 75% at 9 mo and 45% at 24 mo



# Hypo-fractionation modality

✓ Surgery + stereotactic boost

Hartford AC et al IJROBP in press 2012

- LC → 1y 85.5%; 2 y 66.9%;
- OS → 1y 52.5%; 2y 31.7% ; 15.3Gy (range 10.75-23.5Gy);
- size <2 cm → better LC;
  - lower brain recurrence;
  - lower intracranial recurrence;
  - > time to WB

Robbins JR et al Neurosurgery in press 2012

-LC → 1y 81.4%; 2 y 75.7%; median OS 12.1 mo;  
 median marginal dose 16 Gy

Critical Review

## Radiosurgery to the Postoperative Surgical Cavity: Who Needs Evidence?

David Roberge, M.D.,<sup>\*,†</sup> Ian Parney, M.D., Ph.D.,<sup>‡</sup> and Paul D. Brown, M.D.<sup>§</sup>

\*Division of Radiation Oncology, Department of Oncology, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada; †Department of Radiation Oncology, Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal, Montreal, QC, Canada; ‡Department of Neurologic Surgery, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, MN; and §Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

**Prospective trials needed!!**

# Hypo-fractionation modality



✓ Concomitant WB + boost

Lagerwaard et al IJROBP 2009

- 1° experience in 2009
- 20 Gy/5# and 40 Gy in 5# → higher conformity index than WB>SRS

Rodrigues et al Radiother&Oncol 2011

- 20 Gy/5 and 40Gy/5 #
- 30 Gy/10 and 36-50 Gy/10 #
- multivariate → primary lung, systemic mets, low WHO PS, predictive of shorter **OS**;
- cumulative brain mets volume → **LC**

# Hypo-fractionation modality



## Original Article

Profession (n = 445)	
Radiation oncologist	412 (92.6%)
Neurologist	1 (0.2%)
Other	32 (7.2%)
Multidisciplinary meetings in the institution of practice for patients with brain metastases (n = 438)	
No	128 (29.2%)
Yes	310 (70.8%)

	30 Gy in 10 daily fractions	20 Gy in 5 daily fractions
Alone	41%	40%
With surgery	55%	19%
With radiosurgery	48%	14%

astases: Third and Symptom

Target size (cm)	15 Gy	18 Gy	20 Gy	22 Gy	24 Gy	Other	Total number of responses
<2 cm	8%	21%	28%	9%	13%	21%	321
2–3 cm	13%	44%	15%	5%	3%	20%	319
3–4 cm	47%	16%	7%	2%	4%	24%	310

Survey question number (n)	Surgery alone	Radiosurgery alone	Surgery and WBRT	Radiosurgery and WBRT	WBRT	Surgery and radiation boost	Surgery, radiation boost, WBRT	Comfort measures only
14 (661)	7%	14%	40%	17%	5%	9%	8%	0%
15 (661)	12%	15%	37%	14%	6%	8%	8%	0%
16 (488)	1%	32%	1%	42%	23%	1%	0%	0%
17 (512)	8%	1%	56%	5%	11%	10%	9%	0%

## Treatment options for initial management of multiple brain metastases (survey questions 20–22)

Survey question number (n)	Radiosurgery alone	Radiosurgery and whole brain radiotherapy	Whole brain radiotherapy	Comfort measures only
20 (453)	14%	42%	44%	0%
21 (449)	5%	7%	78%	10%
22 (456)	1%	1%	40%	58%

Tsao MN et al Clinical Oncol 2012, 24: e81-92

# Hypo-fractionation modality

Original Article		30 Gy in 10 daily fractions	20 Gy in 5 daily fractions
Profession (n = 445)			
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Other	32 (7.2%)		
Multidisciplinary meetings in the institution of practice for patients with brain metastases (n = 438)			
No	128 (29.2%)		
Yes			
		Alone 41%	40%
		With surgery 55%	19%
		With radiosurgery 48%	14%

**A survey of practice among more than 400 radiation oncologists confirms some practice patterns:**

- 1. No selective high dose treatments for prognostic worse pts;**
- 2. Larger use of SRS/FSRT in selected RPA 1, < 4 mets pts;**
- 3. Addition of WB to SRS is favoured;**
- 4. Mainly WB in pts with > 4 mets.**

Treatment options for initial management of multiple brain metastases (survey questions 20–22)

Survey question number (n)	Radiosurgery alone	Radiosurgery and whole brain radiotherapy	Whole brain radiotherapy	Comfort measures only
20 (453)	14%	42%	44%	0%
21 (449)	5%	7%	78%	10%
22 (456)	1%	1%	40%	58%

## The trail.....



- ✓ Brain metastases: background and treatment
- ✓ The basis of hypo-fractionation in brain metastases
- ✓ Modality of hypo-fractionation : stereotactic RT alone;  
WB + stereotactic boost;  
surgery + stereotactic boost;  
concomitant boost.
- ✓ Different techniques means different results, toxicities, costs?

## *Different techniques.....*



- ✓ Fixed-gantry angle IMRT – 3D
- ✓ Dynamic conformal arc therapy (DCA) → multiple non-coplanar arcs
- ✓ Arc based IMRT
- ✓ Serial → HELICAL THOMOTHERAPY
- ✓ Intensity Modulated Arc Therapy → VMAT/Rapid Arc





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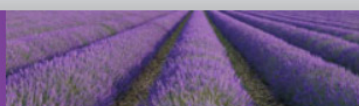


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- Elekta Synergy®: On-line workflows

#### Elekta Synergy resources



## Different results?....dosimetric/clinical evaluation

Author	Treatment	techniques	Observations	LC
Hazard LJ et al (rew) IJROBP 2009	SRS	DCA 3D GK CyberK Proton	- CI: if reported ...comparable → ? -3D: more dose homogeneity in TV - <b>necessary a standardized method to choose prescription isodose</b>	NR
Penagaricano JA Radiation Oncol 2006	SRS	HT GK	-CI, TV coverage are comparable - min dose to PTV higher with GK - low-dose spillage volume is higher in <b>HT</b>	NR

### ✓ concomitant WB+boost

- feasible only with HT or VMAT/Rapid Arc
- → no results in terms of local control between different techniques  
(Rodrigues G R&O 2011)



## Different toxicity?.....

Author	Treatment	Techniques	Observations	Necrosis/nerologic
Hazard LJ et al (rew) IJROBP 2009	SRS	DCA 3D GammaKnife CyberK Proton	GK dose inhomogeneity in TV	Increased risk of complications (?)
Penagaricano JA Radiation Oncol 2006	SRS	HT GK	- Low doses in HT  - Non-homogeneity dose in TV	Problems related to low-doses in HT?; Increased risk of complications (?)

### ✓ concomitant WB+boost

- feasible only with HT or VMAT/Rapid Arc
- no published data

## Different costs?.....



Author	Treatment	Techniques	Delivery time/immobilization	Costs
Hazard LJ et al (rew) IJROBP 2009	SRS	DCA 3D GammaKnife CyberK Proton	3D less time /NR	NR
Penagaricano JA Radiation Oncol 2006	SRS	HT GK	30-49 minutes 14-36 minutes / Non invasive (HT)	NR

### ✓ concomitant WB+boost

- feasible only with HT or VMAT/Rapid Arc
- the problem of HT is the delivery time

## Different costs?.....

OPEN ACCESS

HTA-Kurzfassung

Medizinische und gesundheitsökonomische Bewertung der Radiochirurgie zur Behandlung von Hirnmetastasen

Medical and health economic assessment of radiosurgery for the treatment of brain metastasis

- ✓ 1495 medical paper
- ✓ 15 meet inclusion criteria
- ✓ limited study quality
- 320 economic paper
- 5 eligible

The efficiency of the different equipments depends to a great extent on the number and the indications of the patients treated. If dedicated systems are used to their full capacity, there is some evidence for superior cost-effectiveness. If more treatment flexibility is required, adapted systems seem to be advantageous. However, equal treatment effectiveness is a necessary assumption for these conclusions.

Studies focusing on the comparative effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of different treatment options and their combinations, especially for the German setting, are warranted.

## *Different results, toxicity, costs ?.....*



✓ WB+boost → SIB or sequential; VMAT/Rapid Arc vs HT

Objective:

✓ Dosimetric comparison

✓ OAR

✓ delivery time

## *Different results, toxicity, costs ?.....*



In general :

- ✓ PTV coverage of metastases is better with sequential boost (the planning is concentrated on the lesion)
- ✓ no great differences between VMAT and tomotherapy;
- ✓ Organ at risk respect is better and simpler with the concomitant boost rather with sequential

# Different results, toxicity, costs ?.....



	A VMAT-SIB	B VMAT-SRS					C TOMO-SIB			D TOMO-SRS														
HI																								
<b>1</b>	0,07	<p><b>- HI are more or less the same</b>  <b>- CI → better results with HT-SRS</b>  <b>worse results with VMAT-SRS</b></p>																						
<b>2</b>	0,09																							
<b>3</b>	0,16																							
<b>4</b>	0,13																							
<b>4</b>	0,12													1,71	0,69	0,04	0,69	NA	0,06	1,62	0,37	0,06	1,12	0,50
<b>5</b>	0,06													3,84	0,22	0,02	4,83	0,51	0,02	1,83	0,46	0,04	1,48	0,46
<b>6</b>	0,05	2,08	0,73	0,06	6,67	0,36	0,04	1,69	0,41	0,04	1,56	0,47												
<b>media</b>	<b>0,10</b>	<b>2,99</b>	<b>0,60</b>	<b>0,04</b>	<b>3,64</b>	<b>0,35</b>	<b>0,04</b>	<b>2,14</b>	<b>0,36</b>	<b>0,08</b>	<b>2,05</b>	<b>0,61</b>												





OAR

	brain- PTV boost				chiasma	brains tem	camera ant dx	camera ant sx	n.ott dx	n.ott. sx
	V35 (%)	V40 (%)	V45 (%)	V12 (cc)						
<b>1 BG</b>										
A VMAT-SIB	2,95	1,03	0,04		34,04	34,67	4,77	4,53	27,28	5,56
B VMAT-SRS				0,00	30,15	30,43	2,45	2,66	30,02	29,84
C TOMO-SIB	2,35	0,85	0,00		30,51	31,41	6,55	6,76	29,54	29,83
D TOMO-SRS				9,01	30,20	30,47	2,49	2,70	30,07	29,89
<b>2 MS</b>										
A VMAT-SIB	3,56	1,14	0,10		34,16	31,36	4,81	5,31	28,01	25,14
B VMAT-SRS				36,25	30,54	30,84	3,22	4,37	30,71	30,69
C TOMO-SIB	12,63	5,85	0,13		30,37	31,91	3,66	3,89	29,35	29,39
D TOMO-SRS										
<b>3</b>										
A VMAT-SIB	3,43	0								
B VMAT-SRS										
C TOMO-SIB	14,39	5								
D TOMO-SRS				10,65	30,42	30,91	2,61	2,68	29,55	30,21
<b>4 DG</b>										
A VMAT-SIB	16,88	5,64	0,79		34,76	38,58	2,74	3,03	22,01	23,19
B VMAT-SRS				26,41	38,89	42,87	6,31	3,75	36,29	33,33
C TOMO-SIB	10,68	3,36	0,00		30,50	31,53	3,19	3,04	30,27	30,19
D TOMO-SRS				36,20	32,42	35,25	2,84	2,41	32,05	31,26
<b>5 DV</b>										
A VMAT-SIB	3,58	1,34	0,07		32,53	33,93	4,13	4,4	28,41	28,39
B VMAT-SRS				87,82	38,45	41,78	7,84	3,60	37,37	30,87
C TOMO-SIB	4,32	1,55	0,00		30,14	30,26	3,98	3,71	29,06	28,26
D TOMO-SRS				16,35	32,57	35,68	3,98	3,86	31,62	31,38
<b>6 ZL</b>										
A VMAT-SIB	2,58	1,06	0,06		31,81	33,00	3,14		29,22	
B VMAT-SRS				59,56	30,43	30,61	2,44		30,85	
C TOMO-SIB	3,96	0,93	0,00		29,58	30,31	3,01		29,24	
D TOMO-SRS				10,45	30,32	30,50	2,37		30,54	

- All constrains are respected  
 - Better "brain" avoidance with SIB

# *Different results, toxicity, costs ?.....*



	Delivery time (seconds)						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	media
<b>A VMAT-SIB</b>	277	193	168	195	237	235	218
<b>B VMAT-SRS</b>	386	419	375	543	578	549	475
<b>C TOMO-SIB</b>	980	247	409	480	485	401	500
<b>D TOMO-SRS</b>	1150	1266	1188	2712	1222	1051	1432

## Different results, toxicity, costs ?.....



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**-Not yet clinical results**

**Next step → clinical analysis on higher number of patients**

## The trail.....



- ✓ Brain metastases: background and treatment
- ✓ The basis of hypo-fractionation in brain metastases
- ✓ Modality of hypo-fractionation : stereotactic RT alone;  
WB + stereotactic boost;  
surgery + stereotactic boost;  
concomitant boost.
- ✓ Different techniques means different results, toxicities, costs?

To know the patient  
To choose the right  
treatment

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SRS and SFRT  
enhance local  
control; problem:  
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It doesn't seem

- ✓ Different techniques means different results?
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It doesn't seem

Probably yes...?

- ✓ Different techniques means different results?
- ✓ Different techniques means different toxicities?

- Chose the right  
treatment for  
the right patient



We are not so sure.....!



We need much experience



To know the patient  
To choose the right  
treatment

SRS and SFRT  
enhance local  
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✓ Brain metastases: background and treatment

✓ The basis of hypo-fractionation in brain metastases

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stereotactic boost;

stereotactic boost;

concomitant boost.

It doesn't seem

Probably yes

✓ Different techniques

✓ Different techniques

✓ **Future.....**

Solve clinical problem  
→ prospective trials  
are needed to  
evaluate -  
toxicity/neurotoxicity  
@ DVH  
- clinical advantage

- Chose the right  
treatment for  
the right patient

# Neurocognitive toxicity

Valutazioni neuro-cognitive e  
trattati con radioterapia per  
clinico osservazionale multicentrico

Studio osservazionale – prospettico

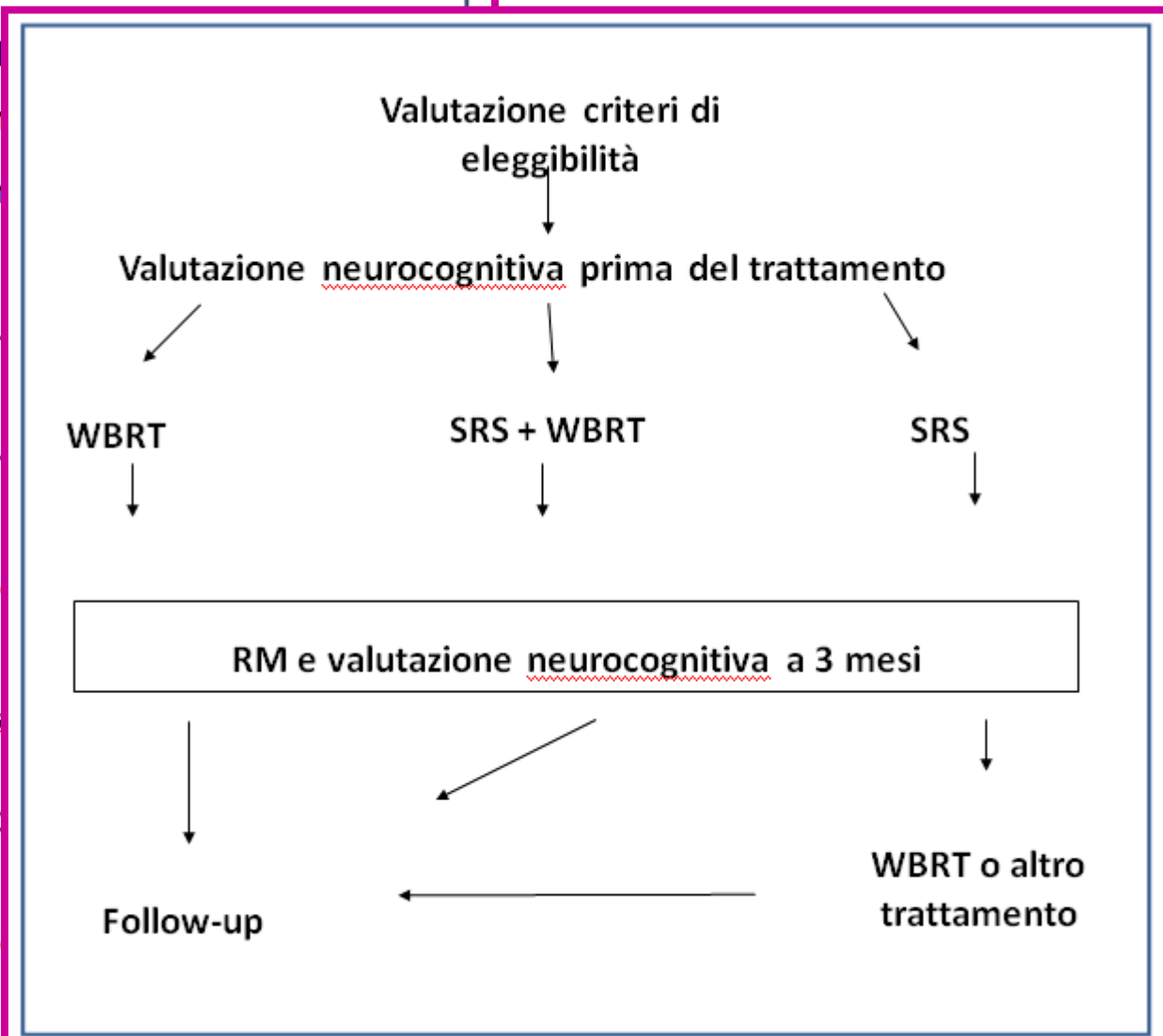
Centri promotori:

Cattedra di Radioterapia – Università di  
dott.ssa Michela Buglione

Radioterapia – Istituto Neurologico Besta  
Dott.ssa Ida Milanese

Data center:

Cattedra di Radioterapia – Università di  
Dott.ssa Michela Buglione  
[buglione@med.unibs.it](mailto:buglione@med.unibs.it)



## *Clinical advantages*

- ✓ trials needed to verify clinical advantages
- ✓ not considering/considering differences in techniques to verify better/worse results



Thanks for your attention !!!

