

### **Essential elements**

*Food*  
*Mineral supplements*  
*e.g. F, Ca, Fe, Co (vit B12)*  
*Zn, Se*

### **Therapeutic agents**

*(e.g. Li, V, As, Ru,*  
*Ag, Pt, Au)*

### **Radiopharmaceuticals**

*Therapeutic (e.g.  $^{188}\text{Re}$ )*  
*Diagnostic (e.g.  $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ )*

### **Metallomics**

*Transport and signalling*  
*pathways*  
*Genomic codes for elements*

## **Medicinal Inorganic Chemistry**

### **Protein/enzyme regulators**

*e.g metalloproteinases,*  
*angiotensin-converting enzyme*  
*O<sub>2</sub>, CO, NO*

### **Chelation therapy**

*Overload diseases (e.g. Fe, Cu)*  
*Removal of radionuclides*

### **Enzyme mimics**

*Synzymes (e.g. for SOD)*

### **Contrast agents**

*MRI (e.g. Gd, Mn, Fe)*  
*X-ray (e.g. I)*

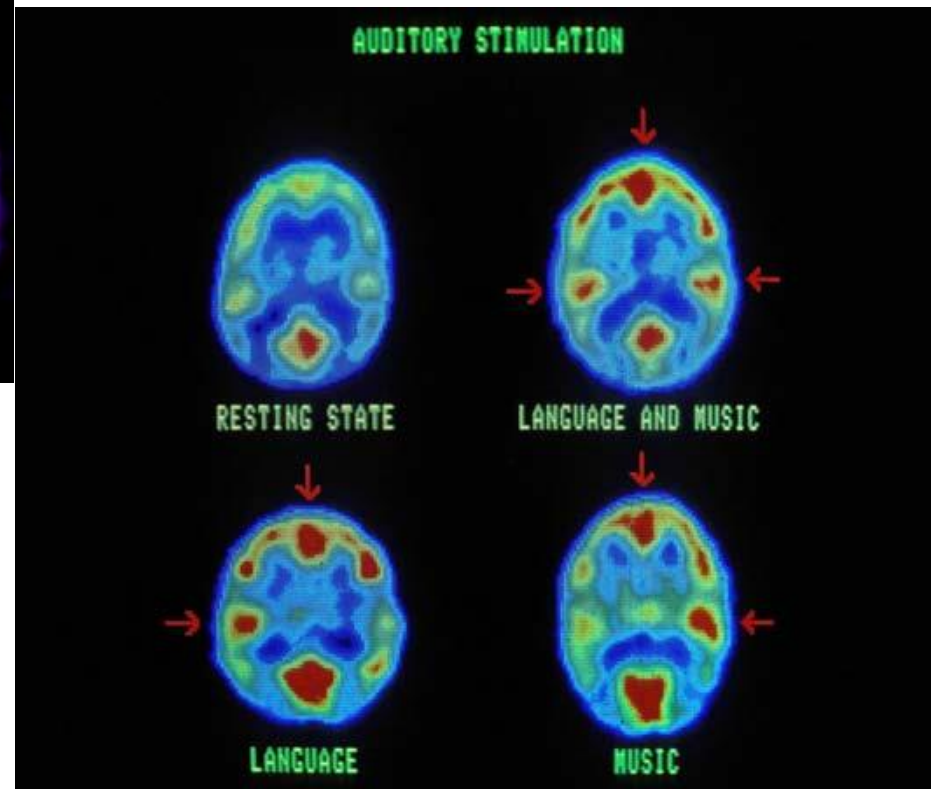
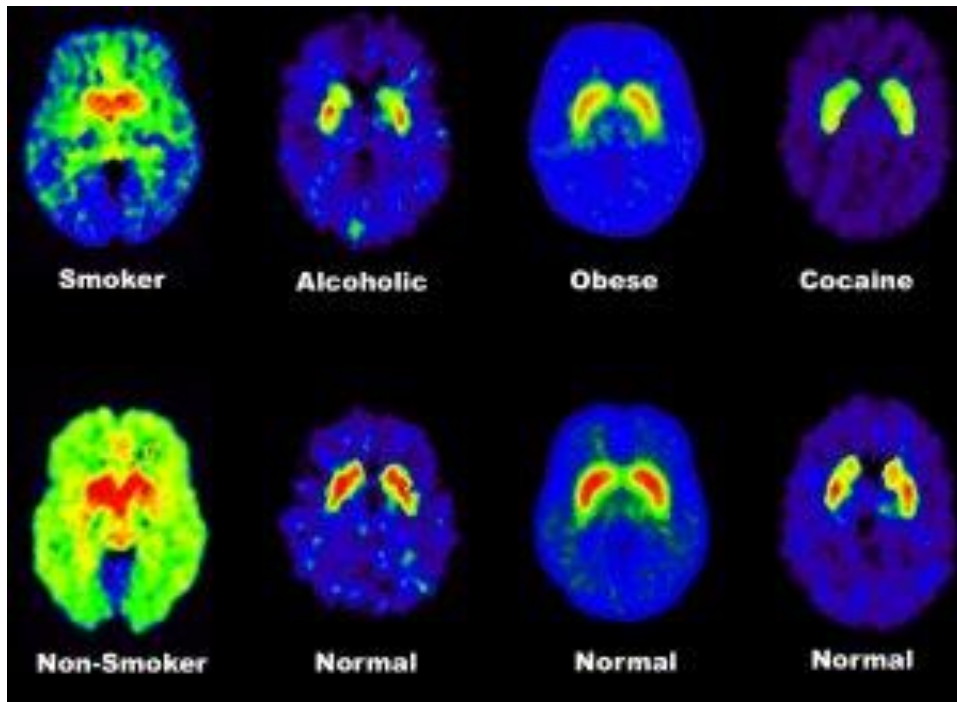
# Imaging with Metal Compounds

Cellular level  
*(molecular imaging)*

Whole-body level  
*(imaging anatomico o strutturale  
al massimo funzionale)*

Definizione di *molecular imaging* (2007): il *molecular imaging* riguarda la visualizzazione, caratterizzazione e misurazione di processi biologici a livello molecolare o cellulare nell'uomo o in altri organismi viventi.

# Molecular Imaging



# Processi spontanei nei nuclei radioattivi

- Emissione di particelle ( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta^-$ ,  $\beta^+$ )
- Cattura di elettroni
- Emissione di radiazioni (raggi X,  $\gamma$ )

# Radiopharmaceuticals

```
graph TD; A([Radiopharmaceuticals]) --> B([Radiodiagnosics]); A --> C([Radiotherapeutics]);
```

Radiodiagnosics

$\gamma$ -emitters (SPECT)  
positron-emitters ( $\beta^+$ ) (PET)  
 $10^{-6} - 10^{-8}$  M

Radiotherapeutics

$\alpha$  or  $\beta^-$  emitters

# Isotopes suitable for nuclear imaging

1 H Hydrogen		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Short Half-Life</p> <div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;">PET Isotopes</div> <div style="background-color: #dc3545; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;">SPECT Isotopes</div> <p>Long Half-Life</p> </div> </div>																2 He Helium																			
3 Li Lithium		4 Be Beryllium																		5 B Boron		6 C Carbon		7 N Nitrogen		8 O Oxygen		9 F Fluorine		10 Ne Neon							
11 Na Sodium		12 Mg Magnesium																		13 Al Aluminum		14 Si Silicon		15 P Phosphorus		16 S Sulfur		17 Cl Chlorine		1 Ar Argon							
19 K Potassium		20 Ca Calcium		21 Sc Scandium		22 Ti Titanium		23 V Vanadium		24 Cr Chromium		25 Mn Manganese		26 Fe Iron		27 Co Cobalt		28 Ni Nickel		29 Cu Copper		30 Zn Zinc		31 Ga Gallium		32 Ge Germanium		33 As Arsenic		34 Se Selenium		35 Br Bromine		36 Kr Krypton			
37 Rb Rubidium		38 Sr Strontium		39 Y Yttrium		40 Zr Zirconium		41 Nb Niobium		42 Mo Molybdenum		43 Tc Technetium		44 Ru Ruthenium		45 Rh* Rhodium		46 Pd Palladium		47 Ag Silver		48 Cd Cadmium		49 In Indium		50 Sn Tin		51 Sb Antimony		52 Te Tellurium		53 I Iodine		54 Xe Xenon			
55 Cs Cesium		56 Ba Barium		57-70 Lanthanides		71 Lu* Lutetium		72 Hf Hafnium		73 Ta Tantalum		74 W Tungsten		75 Re* Rhenium		76 Os Osmium		77 Ir Iridium		78 Pt Platinum		79 Au Gold		80 Hg Mercury		81 Tl Thallium		82 Pb Lead		83 Bi Bismuth		84 Po Polonium		85 At Astatine		86 Rn Radon	
87 Fr Francium		88 Ra Radium		89-102 Actinides		103 Lr Lawrencium		104 Rf Rutherfordium		105 Db Dubnium		106 Sg Seaborgium		107 Bh Bohrium		108 Hs Hassium		109 Mt Meitnerium		110 Ds Darmstadtium		111 Rg Roentgenium		112 Cn Copernicium		113 Uut Ununtrium		114 Fl Flerovium		115 Uup Ununpentium		116 Lv Livermorium		117 Uus Ununseptium		118 Uuo Ununoctium	



Denotes an element with isotopes suitable for both PET and SPECT



Denotes an element with multiple isotopes with different physical half-lives

\*Isotopes typically used for radiotherapy with which SPECT is also possible but not common — e.g.,  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ ,  $^{105}\text{Rh}$ ,  $^{186}\text{Re}$ , etc. — have been omitted.

# Preparazione di un radio-farmaco

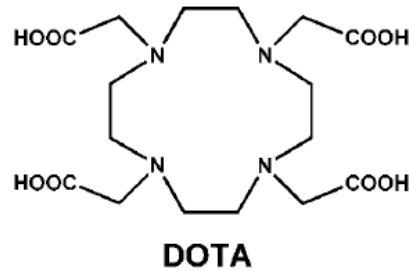
I radio-isotopi si possono ottenere:

- per decadimento di radionuclidi a tempo di semi-vita più lungo in un generatore
- tramite un ciclotrone, bombardando un opportuno elemento o suo composto con particelle cariche accelerate, tipicamente protoni o nuclei di deuterio;
- tramite bombardamento nucleare con neutroni in un reattore nucleare
- Purificazione da isotopo padre e sottoprodotti
- Incorporazione in un composto, spesso tramite un chelante polidentato

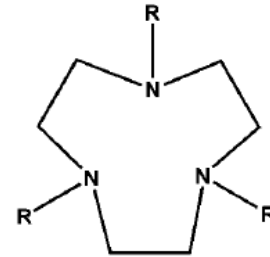


# Chelanti più comuni

a)



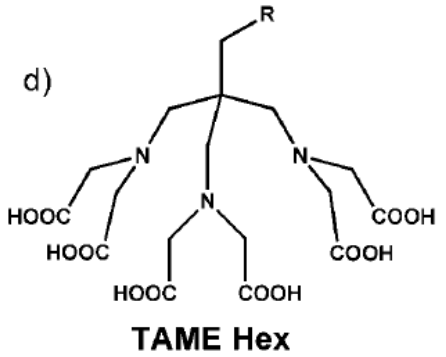
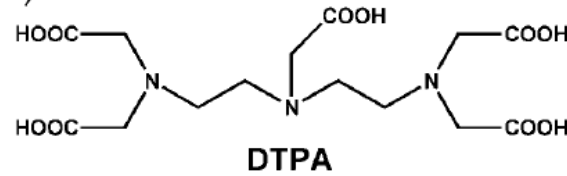
b)



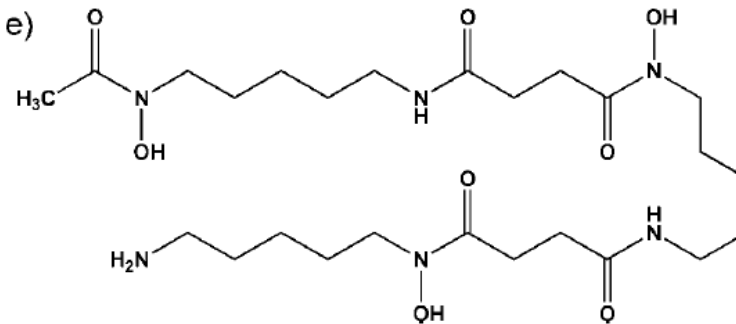
<b>NOTA</b>	R = CH <sub>2</sub> COOH
<b>TACN-TM</b>	R = CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> SH
<b>NOTP</b>	R = CH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>3</sub> H <sub>2</sub>
<b>NOTPME</b>	R = CH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>2</sub> (OCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )

Diethylenetriamino-  
pentaacetic acid

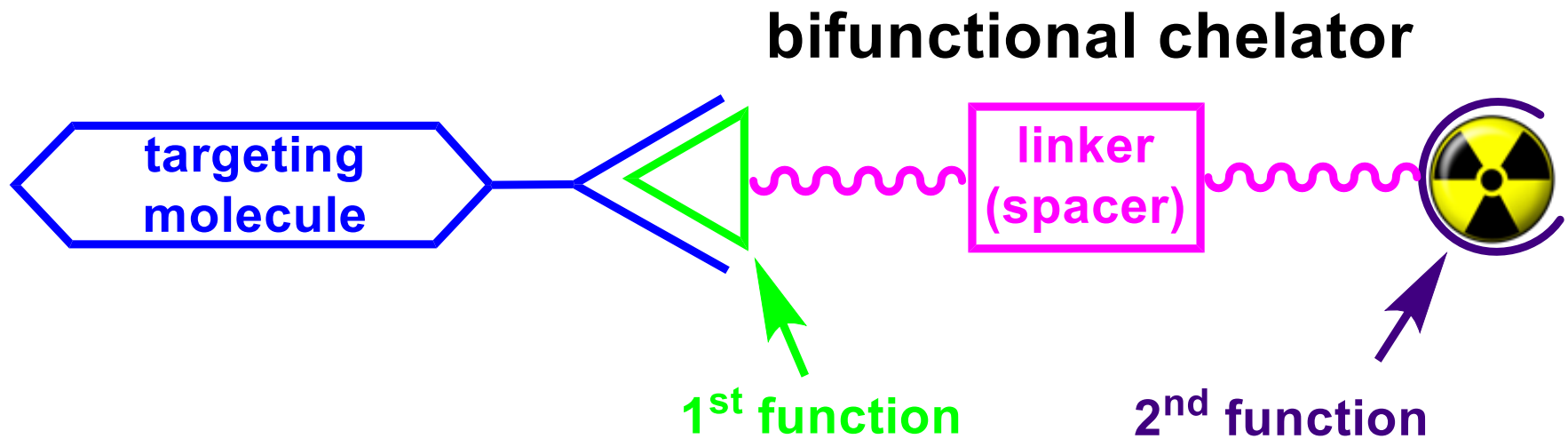
c)



e)



# Targeted Approach (*Trojan horse*)



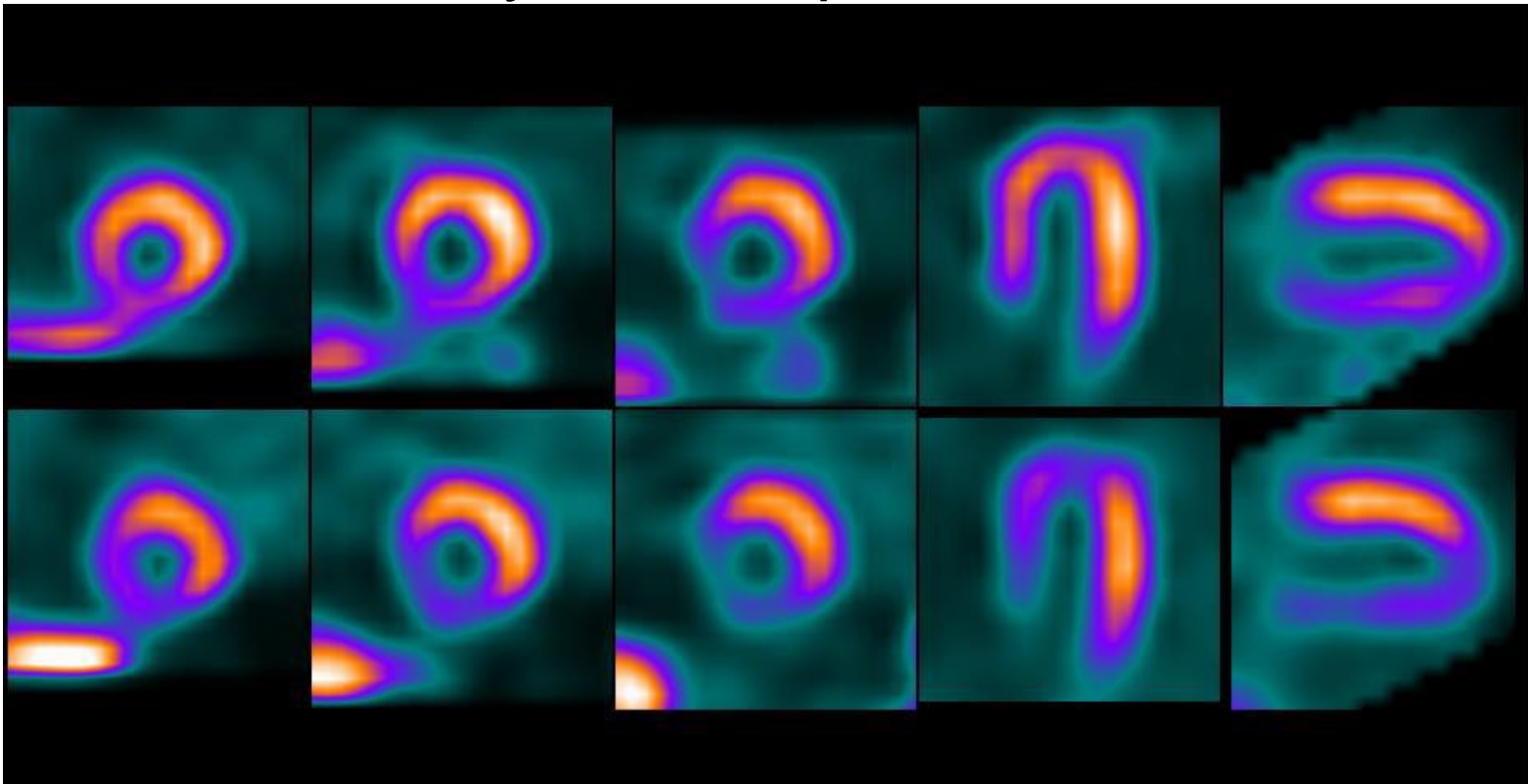
Targeting molecules: monoclonal antibodies, peptides, vitamins, carbohydrates,...

## *'Shake and bake'* principle

- Preparations must be performed in kits
- Yields must be  $> 98\%$  (even at very low metal ion concentration)
- Compound must be ready for administration
- No lengthy purification or separation
- Aqueous solutions
- Non-toxic reagents and byproducts

# SPECT: Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography $\gamma$ emitters, 100 – 250 keV

## Myocardial perfusion



Metal compounds for  
SPECT imaging

```
graph TD; A[Metal compounds for SPECT imaging] --> B["1st generation  
Perfusion agents"]; B --> C["2nd generation  
Targeted agents"];
```

*1st generation*

Perfusion agents

*2nd generation*

Targeted agents

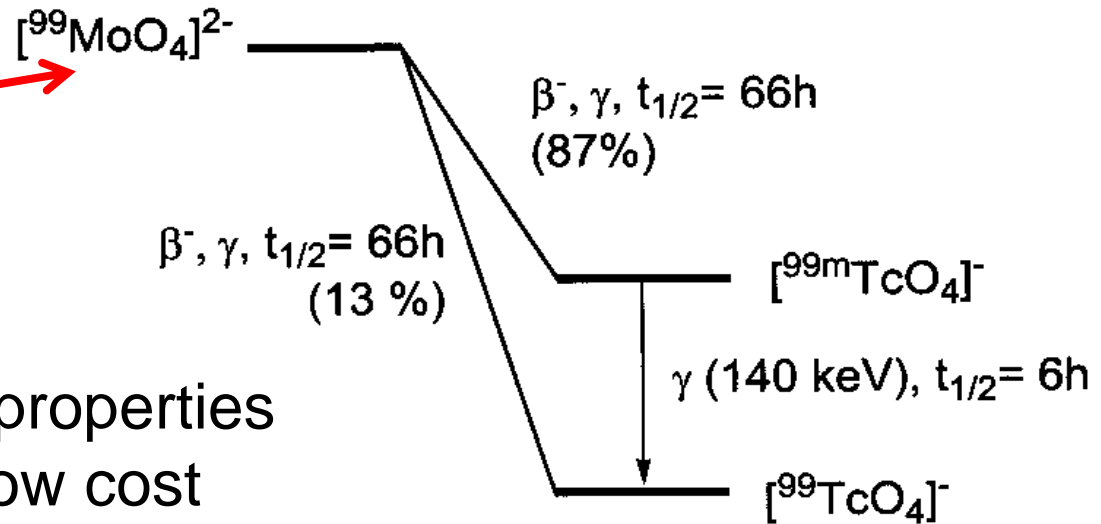
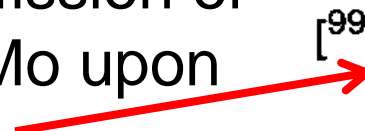
# Main radionuclides for SPECT

Radionuclide	Half life	Energy of main $\gamma$ emission (keV)
$^{67}\text{Ga}$ ( $\gamma$ )	78 h	93, 185, 300
$^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ ( $\gamma$ )	6 h	140
$^{111}\text{In}$ ( $\gamma$ )	67 h	171, 245
$^{131}\text{I}$ ( $\beta$ , $\gamma$ )	8 d	364

# $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ : the *workhorse* of radioimaging

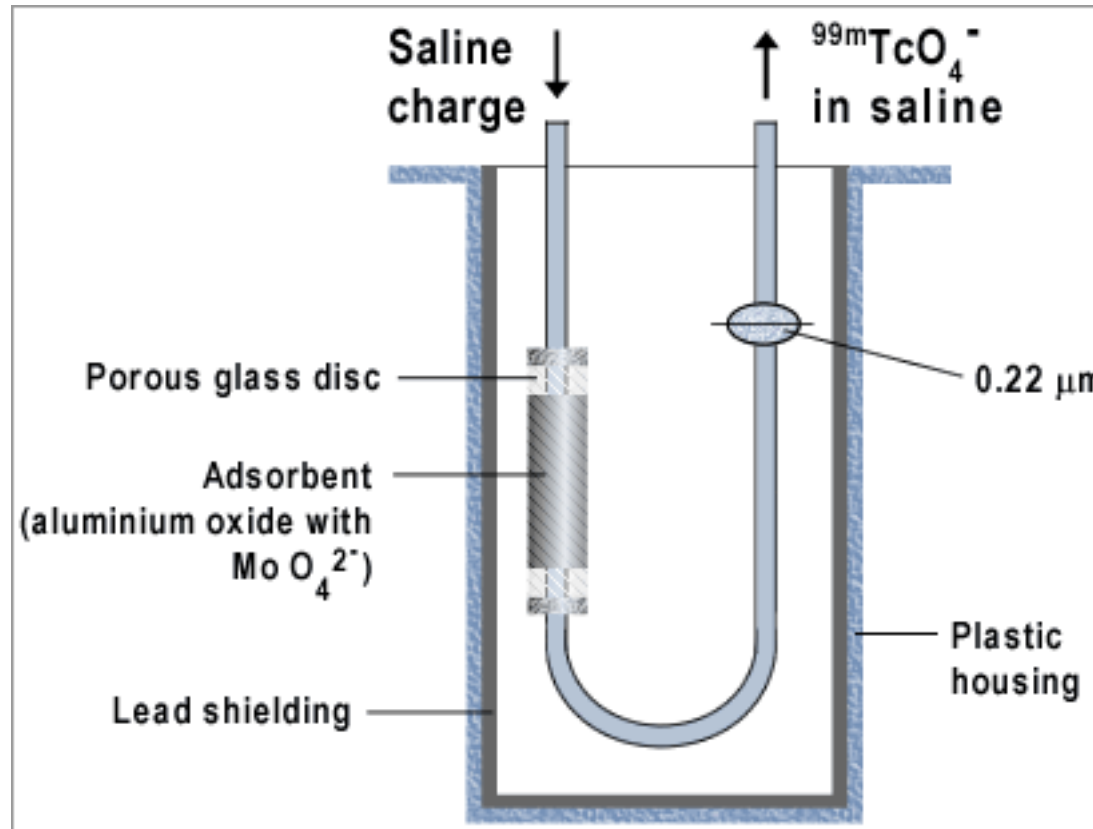
(used in >80% of diagnostic scans, more than 25 M in 2007)

Obtained from fission of  $^{235}\text{U}$  or from  $^{98}\text{Mo}$  upon  $(n, \gamma)$  reaction



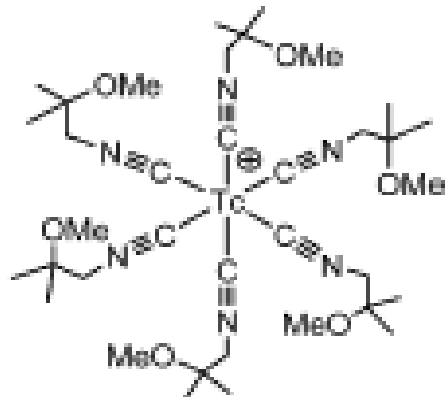
- Ideal physical decay properties
  - Readily available at low cost
  - Many oxidation states (+7 – -1)
  - Various coordination geometries (4 – 9)
  - *Cold* Re for characterization (**matched-pair approach**)
- Pure  $\beta$ -emitter

# Generatore di $^{99m}\text{TcO}_4^-$



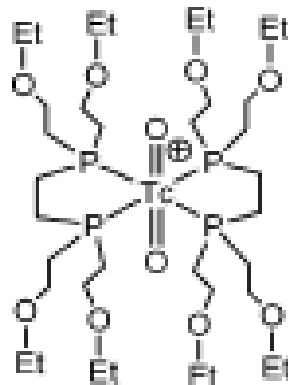


# Radiofarmaci di tecnezio di prima generazione



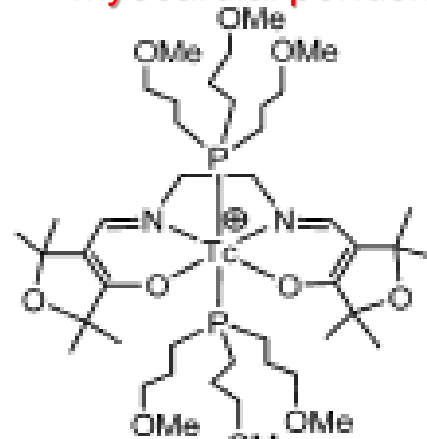
$^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -Sestamibi

cardiac imaging



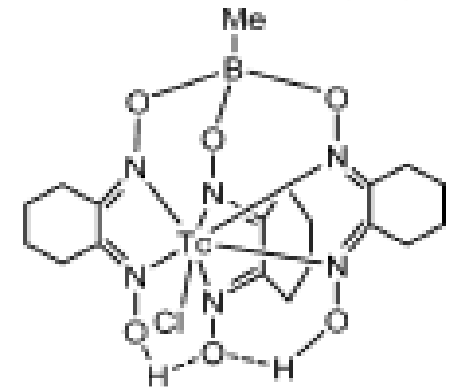
$^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -Tetrofosmin

myocardial perfusion

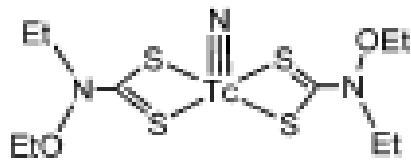


Q12

cardiac imaging

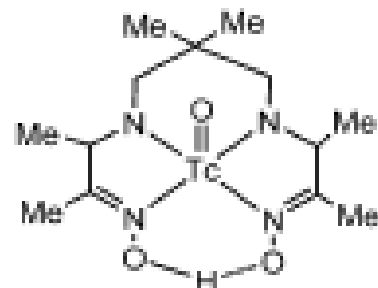


$^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -Teboroxime



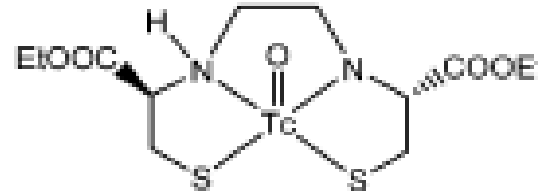
$^{99m}\text{TcN}$ -NOET

myocardial perfusion



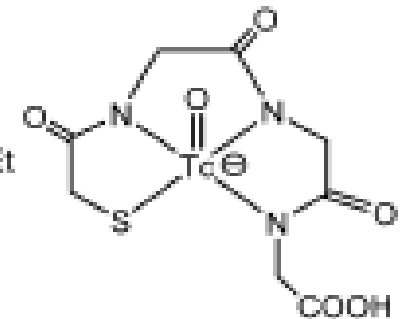
$^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -HMPAO

cerebral perfusion



$^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -Bicisate

brain imaging

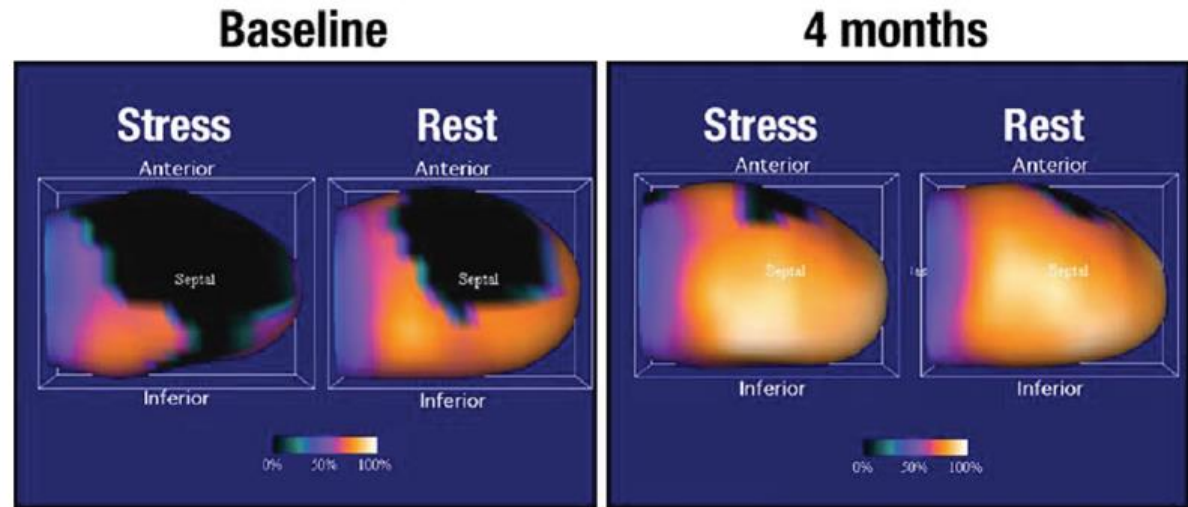
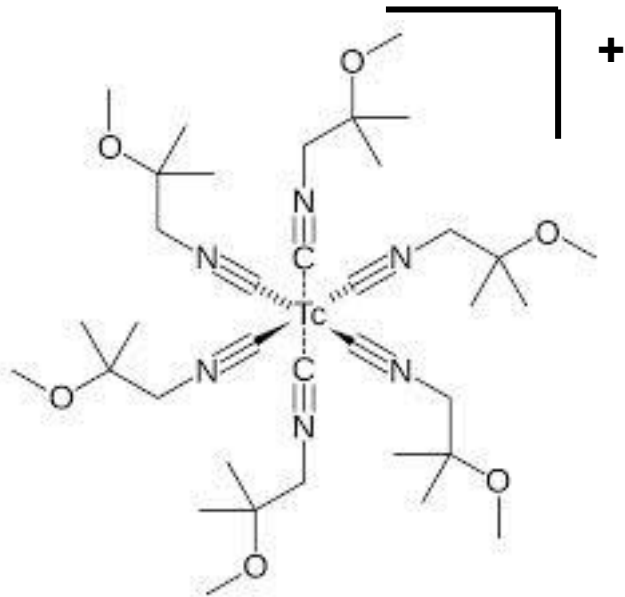


$^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -MAG<sub>3</sub>

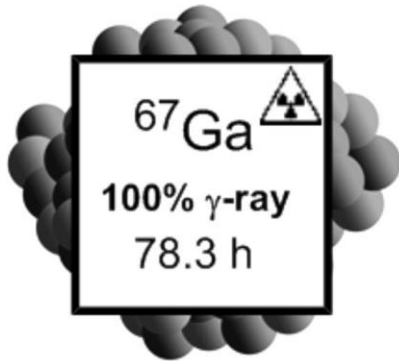
renal imaging

# $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -sestamibi

Localizzazione nei mitocondri



- Imaging cardiaco
- Diagnosi dei tumori (seno)
- Imaging della tiroide (adenomi)

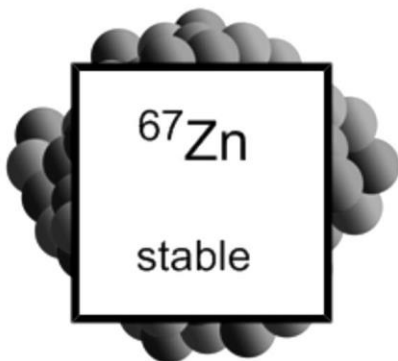
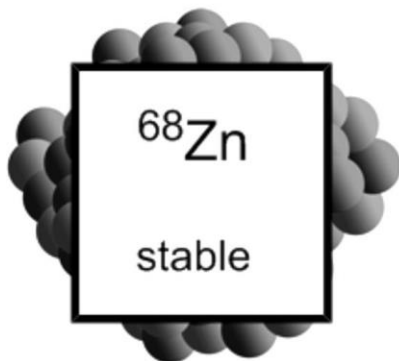
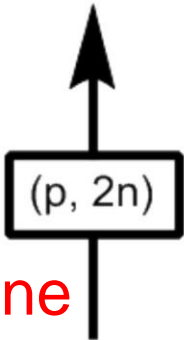


*Electron capture*

93 keV (36%)  
185 keV (20%)  
300 keV (16%)

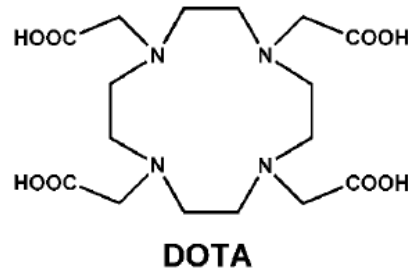
*imaging* di processi  
infiammatori e di tumori

Ciclotrone

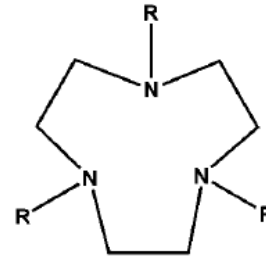


# Chelators for the “**3+ family**”: Ga, In, Y and Lanthanides (e.g. $^{67}\text{Ga}$ , $^{68}\text{Ga}$ , $^{111}\text{In}$ , $^{90}\text{Y}$ , $^{153}\text{Sm}$ , $^{177}\text{Lu}$ )

a)



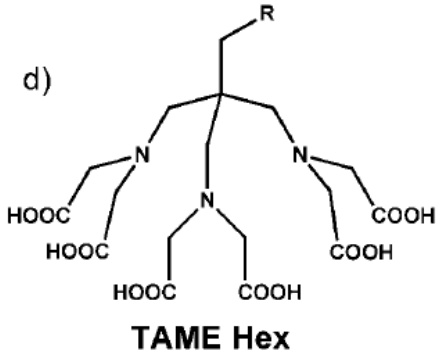
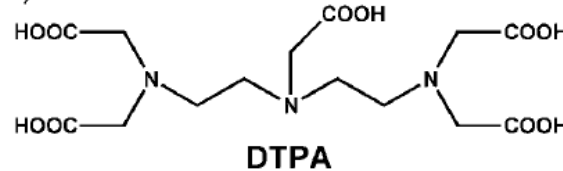
b)



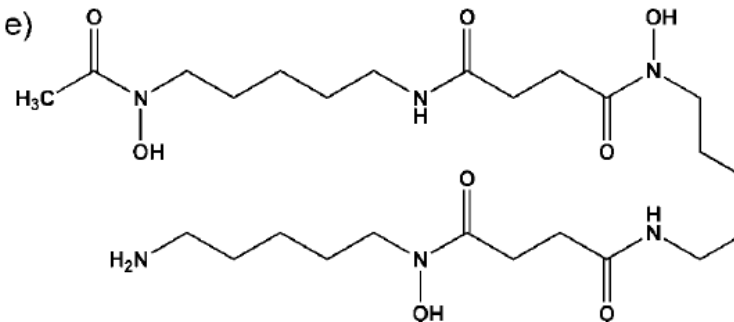
<b>NOTA</b>	R = CH <sub>2</sub> COOH
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<b>NOTPME</b>	R = CH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>2</sub> (OCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> )

Diethylenetriamino-  
pentaacetic acid

c)

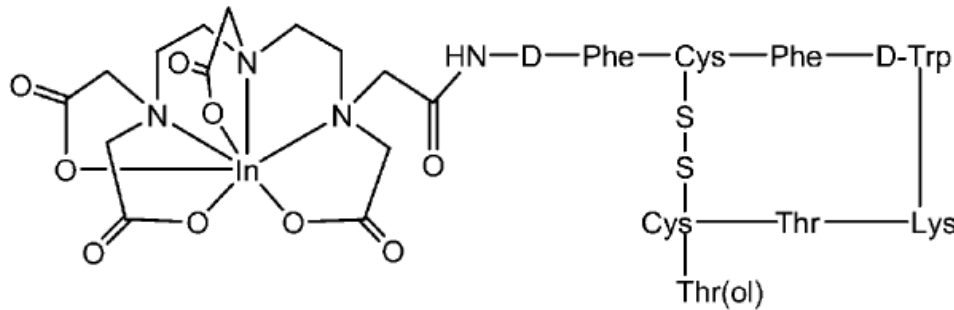


e)



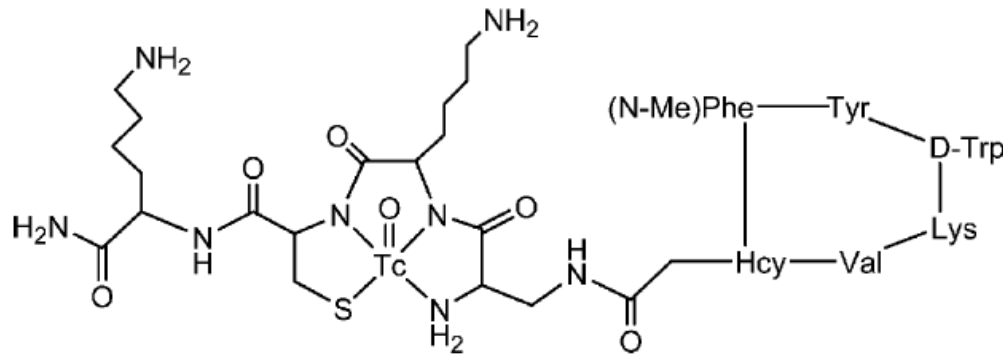
# Octreotide e Depreotide

peptidi specifici per i recettori della somatostatina



**$^{111}\text{In}$ -DTPA-Octreotide (OctreoScan<sup>®</sup>)**

SPECT imaging  
of neuroendocrine  
tumors

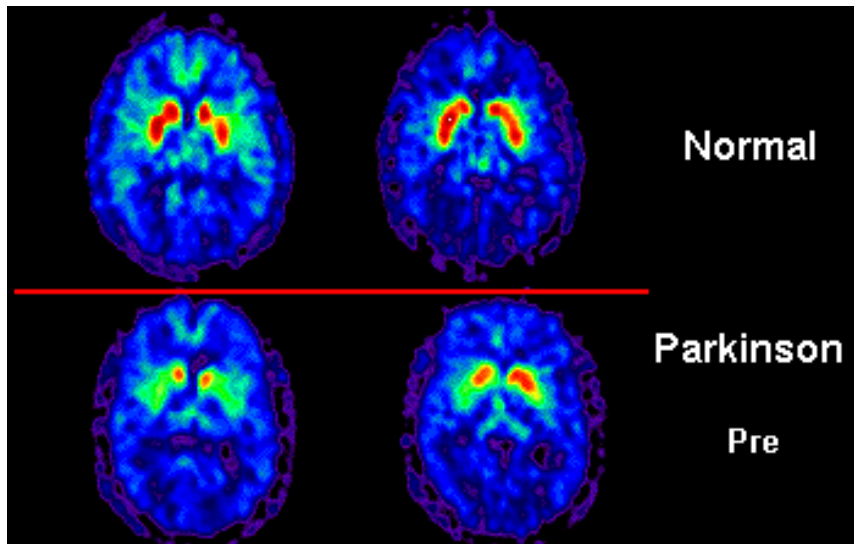
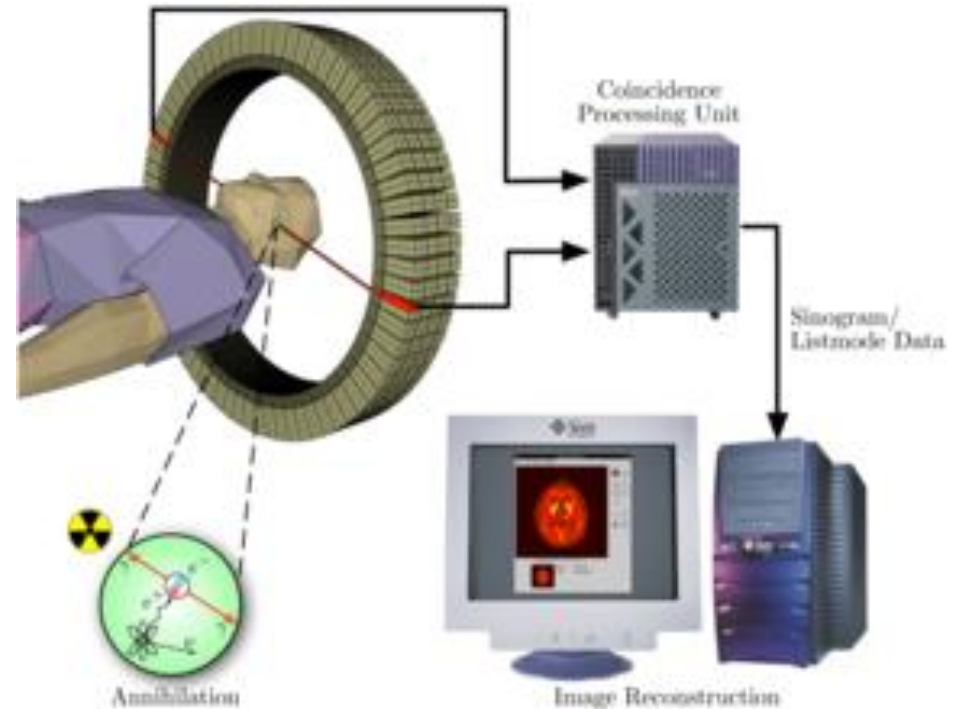
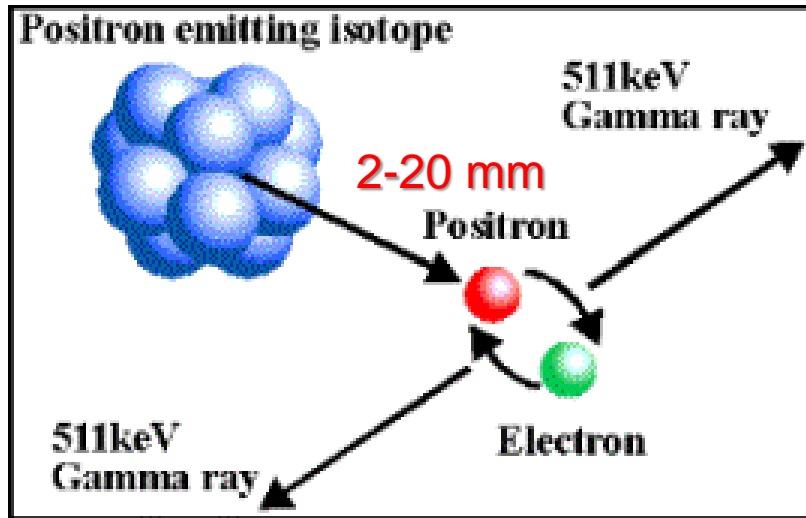


**$^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -P829 (NeoTect<sup>®</sup>)**

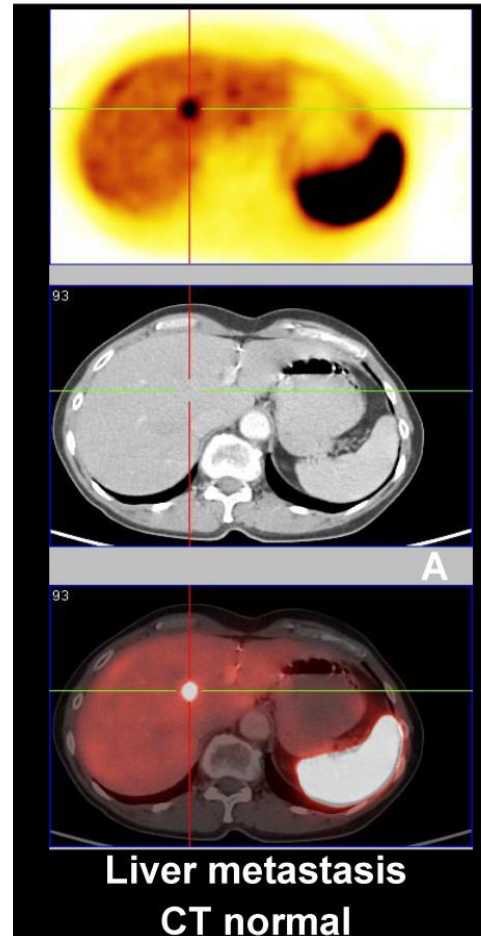
SPECT imaging  
of lung tumors

La somatostatina è un ormone polipeptidico che regola il sistema endocrino, la crescita e la proliferazione cellulare. I recettori della somatostatina sono proteine trans-membrana, sovra-espressi in molti tipi di tumori. L'octreotide è simile alla somatostatina

# PET: Positron Emission Tomography



# PET/CT: combinazione di imaging strutturale e funzionale



PET

CT

PET + CT

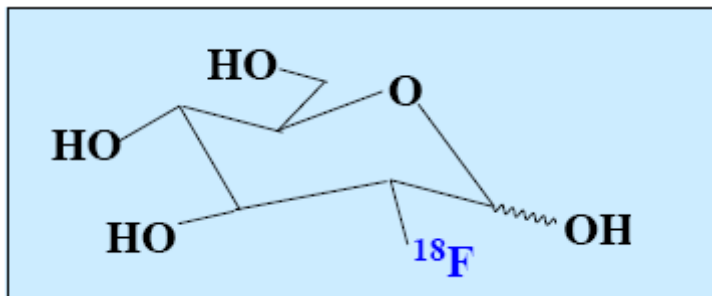
# Principali radionuclidi per PET

**Table 1. Physical Properties of Commonly Used Positron-Emitting Radionuclides**

nuclide	half-life (min)	maximum energy (MeV)	mode of decay (%)	theoretical specific activity (GBq/ $\mu$ mol)
$^{18}\text{F}$	110	0.64	$\beta+$ (97%) EC <sup>a</sup> (3%)	$6.3 \times 10^4$
$^{11}\text{C}$	20.3	0.97	$\beta+$ (99%)	$3.4 \times 10^5$
$^{13}\text{N}$	10	1.20	$\beta+$ (100%)	$7.0 \times 10^5$
$^{15}\text{O}$	2	1.74	$\beta+$ (100%)	$3.4 \times 10^6$
$^{76}\text{Br}$	972	4.0	$\beta+$ (57%) EC (43%)	$7.2 \times 10^3$
$^{124}\text{I}$	60 192	2.14	$\beta+$ (25%) EC (75%)	$1.15 \times 10^3$
$^{68}\text{Ga}$	68.1	1.90	$\beta+$ (89%) EC (11%)	$1.02 \times 10^5$
$^{64}\text{Cu}$	762	0.655	$\beta+$ (19%) EC (41%) $\beta+$ (40%)	$9.13 \times 10^3$

<sup>a</sup> EC: electron capture.

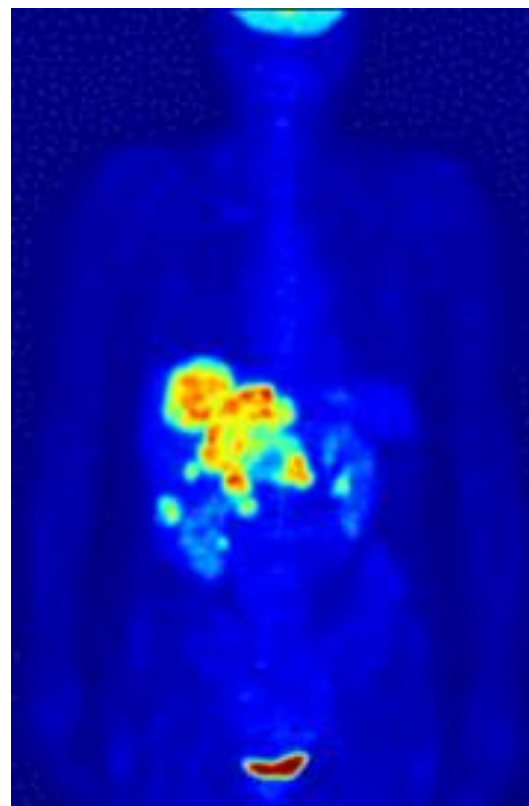




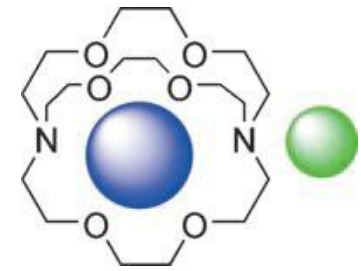
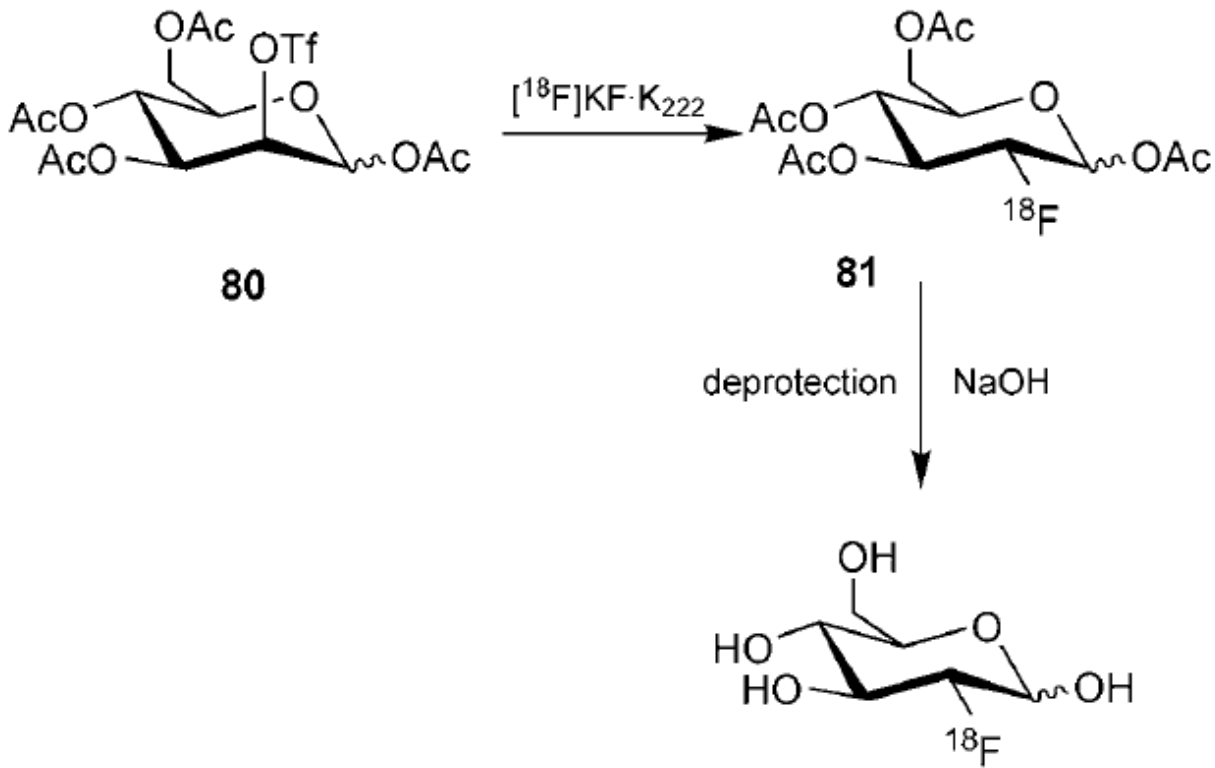
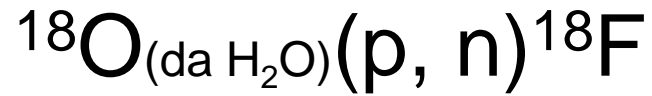
Fluorodeoxyglucose ( $[^{18}\text{F}]$  FDG)

*Sostituzione bio-isosterica*

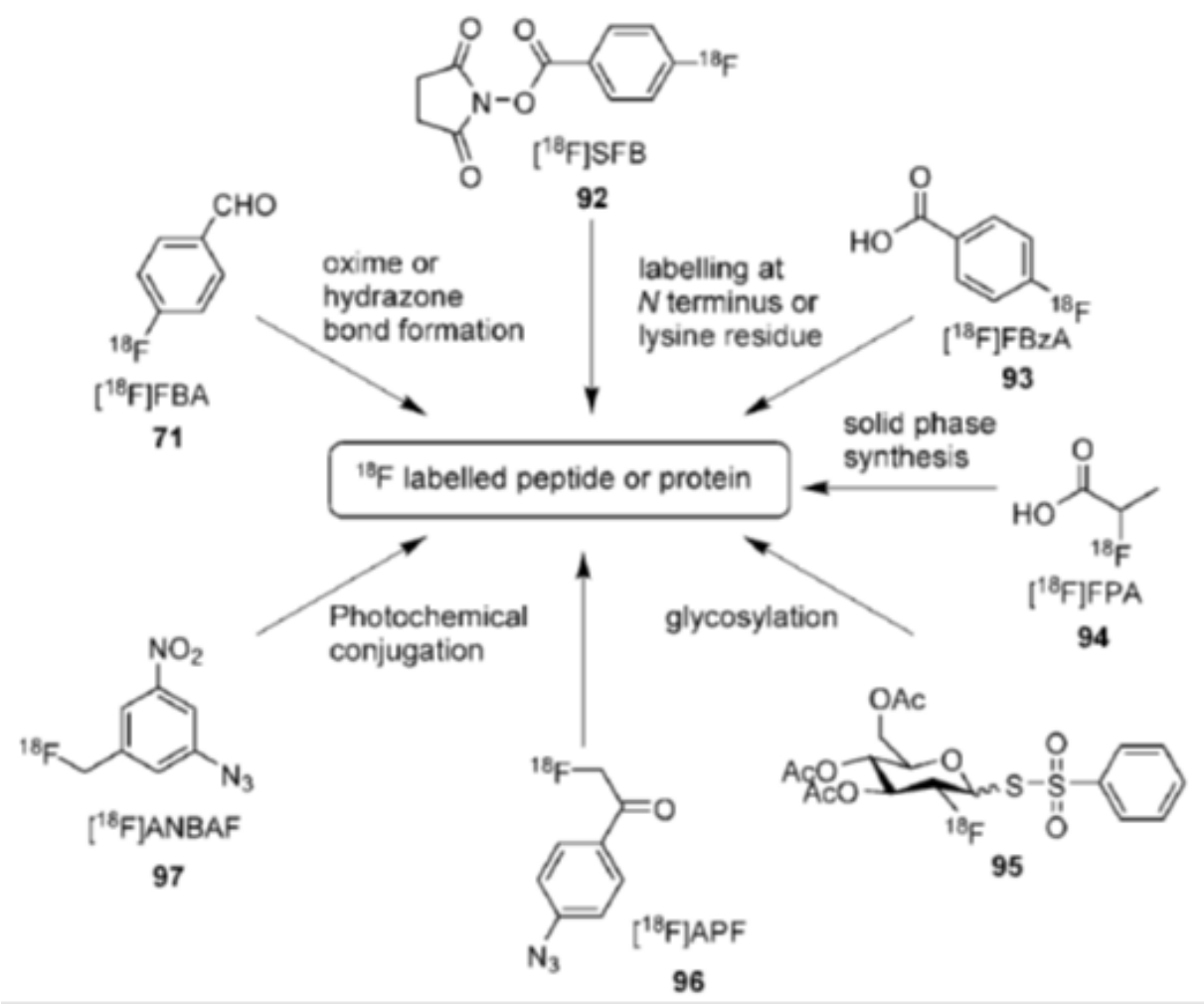
metabolismo del glucosio  
localizzazione di tumori



# Esempio di fluorurazione diretta (nucleofila)



# Gruppi prostetici per marcare biomolecole con $^{19}\text{F}$

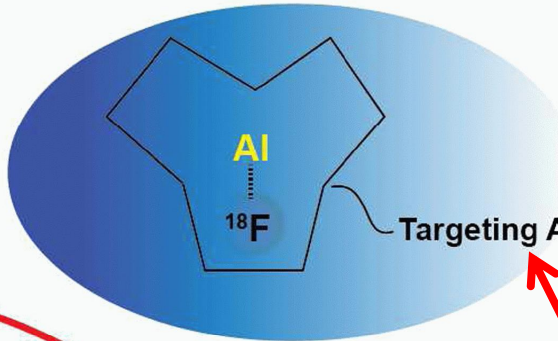
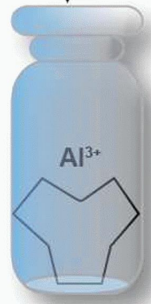


# Fluorurazione inorganica

$\text{Al-F} > 670 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  vs  $480 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  per  $\text{C-F}$

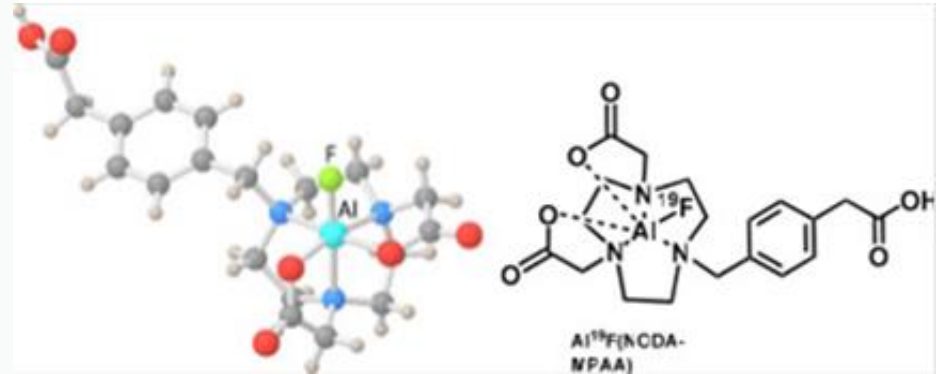
$\text{Na}^{18}\text{F}$

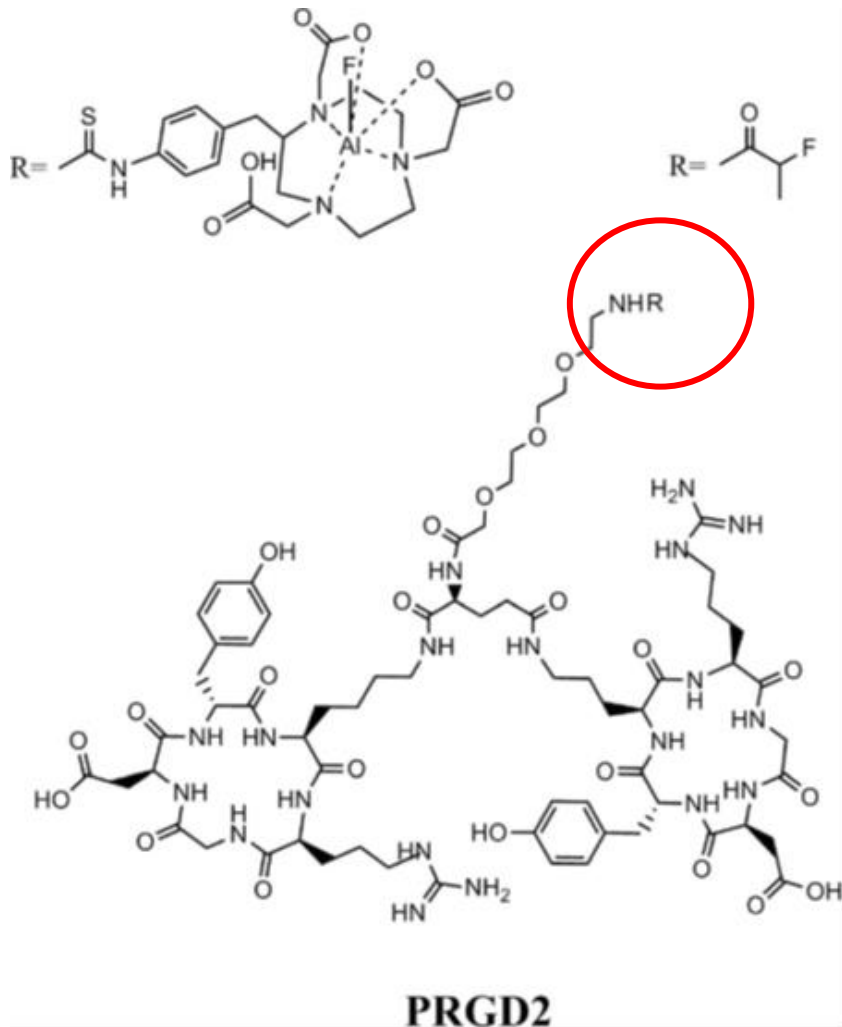
Heat -15 min



Targeting Agent

ocreotide





I peptidi RGD ciclici hanno un'alta affinità e selettività per il recettore dell'integrina  $\alpha_v\beta_3$

Visualizzare e quantificare questa integrina permette di valutare la neo-vascularizzazione di un tumore e stabilire se ha probabilità di rispondere a una terapia anti-angiogenica

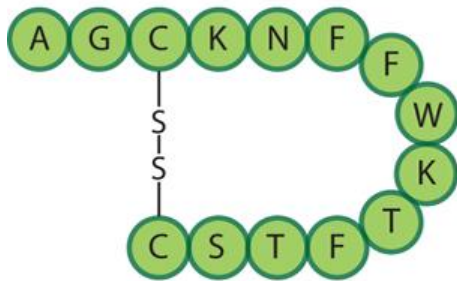
studio clinico nell'uomo per l'*imaging* di un tumore al polmone

# Radionuclidi metallici per PET

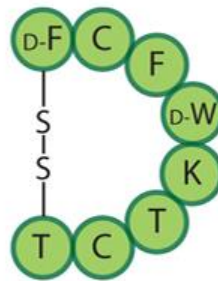
Table 1. Physical Properties of Some Common PET Radiometals<sup>a</sup>

isotope	half-life/h	source	production reaction	decay mode (% branching ratio)	$E_{\beta^+}/\text{keV}$	abundance, $I_{\beta^+}/\%$	$E_{\gamma}/\text{keV}$ (intensity, $I_{\gamma}/\%$ )	relevant oxidation states	common coordination numbers
<sup>64</sup> Cu	12.7	cyclotron	<sup>64</sup> Ni(p,n) <sup>64</sup> Cu	$\epsilon + \beta^+$ (61.5) $\beta^+$ (17.6) $\beta^-$ (38.5)	278.2(9)	17.60(22)	511.0 (35.2)	1+, 2+	4, 5, 6
<sup>68</sup> Ga	1.1	generator	<sup>68</sup> Ge/ <sup>68</sup> Ga	$\epsilon + \beta^+$ (100) $\beta^+$ (89.1)	836.02(56)	87.94(12)	511.0 (178.3)	3+	4, 5, 6
<sup>86</sup> Y	14.7	cyclotron	<sup>86</sup> Sr(p,n) <sup>86</sup> Y	$\epsilon + \beta^+$ (100) $\beta^+$ (31.9)	535(7)	11.9(5)	443.1 (16.9) 511.0 (64) 627.7 (36.2) 703.3 (15) 777.4 (22.4) 1076.6 (82.5) 1153.0 (30.5) 1854.4 (17.2) 1920.7 (20.8)	3+	8, 9
<sup>89</sup> Zr	78.4	cyclotron	<sup>89</sup> Y(p,n) <sup>89</sup> Zr	$\epsilon + \beta^+$ (100) $\beta^+$ (22.7)	395.5(11)	22.74(24)	511.0 (45.5) 909.2 (99.0)	4+	8

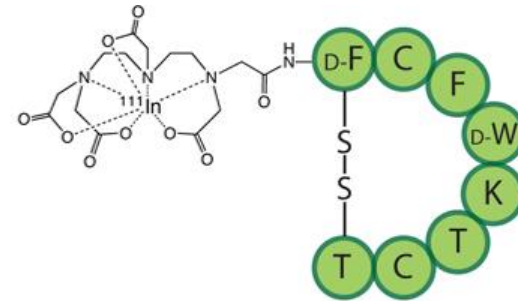
# I tumori neuroendocrini sovra-esprimono i recettori per la somatostatina



Somatostatin



Octreotide



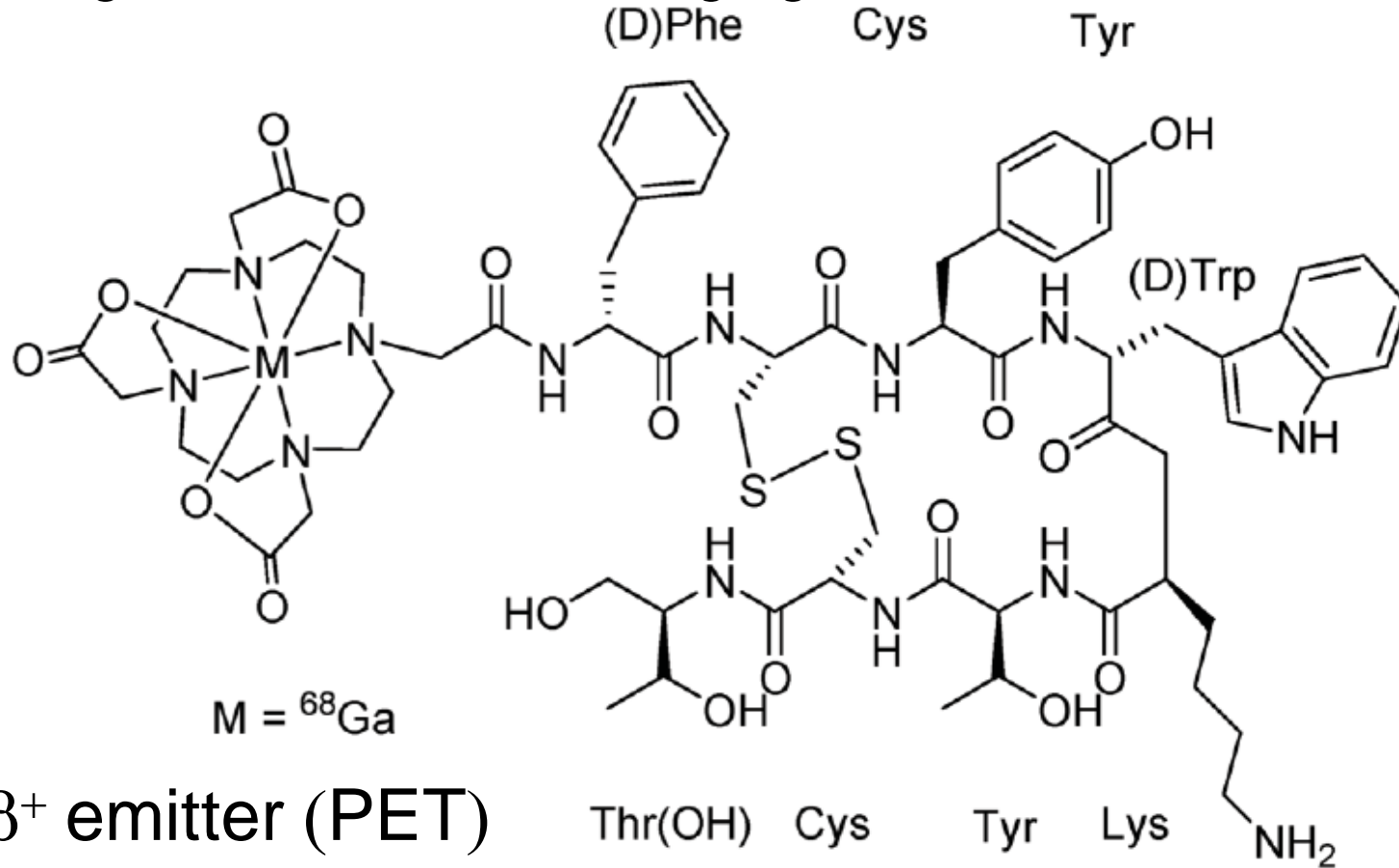
$^{111}\text{In}$ -DTPA-Octreotide

SPECT imaging  
of neuroendocrine  
tumors

# $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTA-tyr3-Octreotide

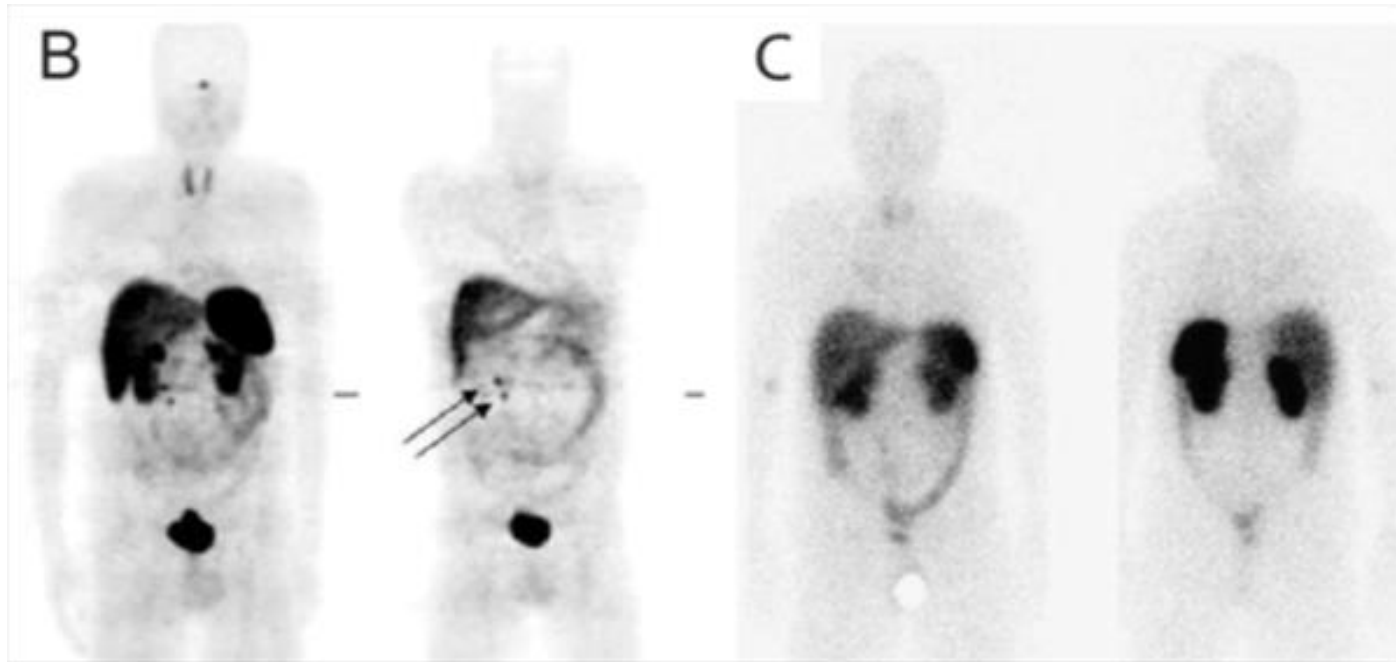
( $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTATOC)

High resolution PET imaging of neuroendocrine tumors





## *imaging* di un tumore endocrino



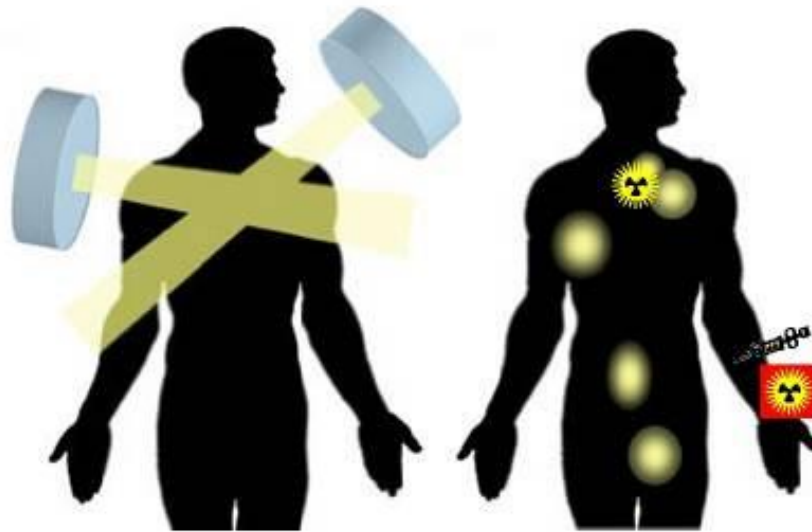
$^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTATOC  
(PET)

$^{111}\text{In}$ -DTPA-ocreoitide  
(SPECT)

# Targeted Radiotherapy (*Radio(immuno)therapy*)

External Beam

Targeted Radionuclide



- Linfomi: 1500–2000 cGy
- Tumori solidi: 3500–10000 cGy

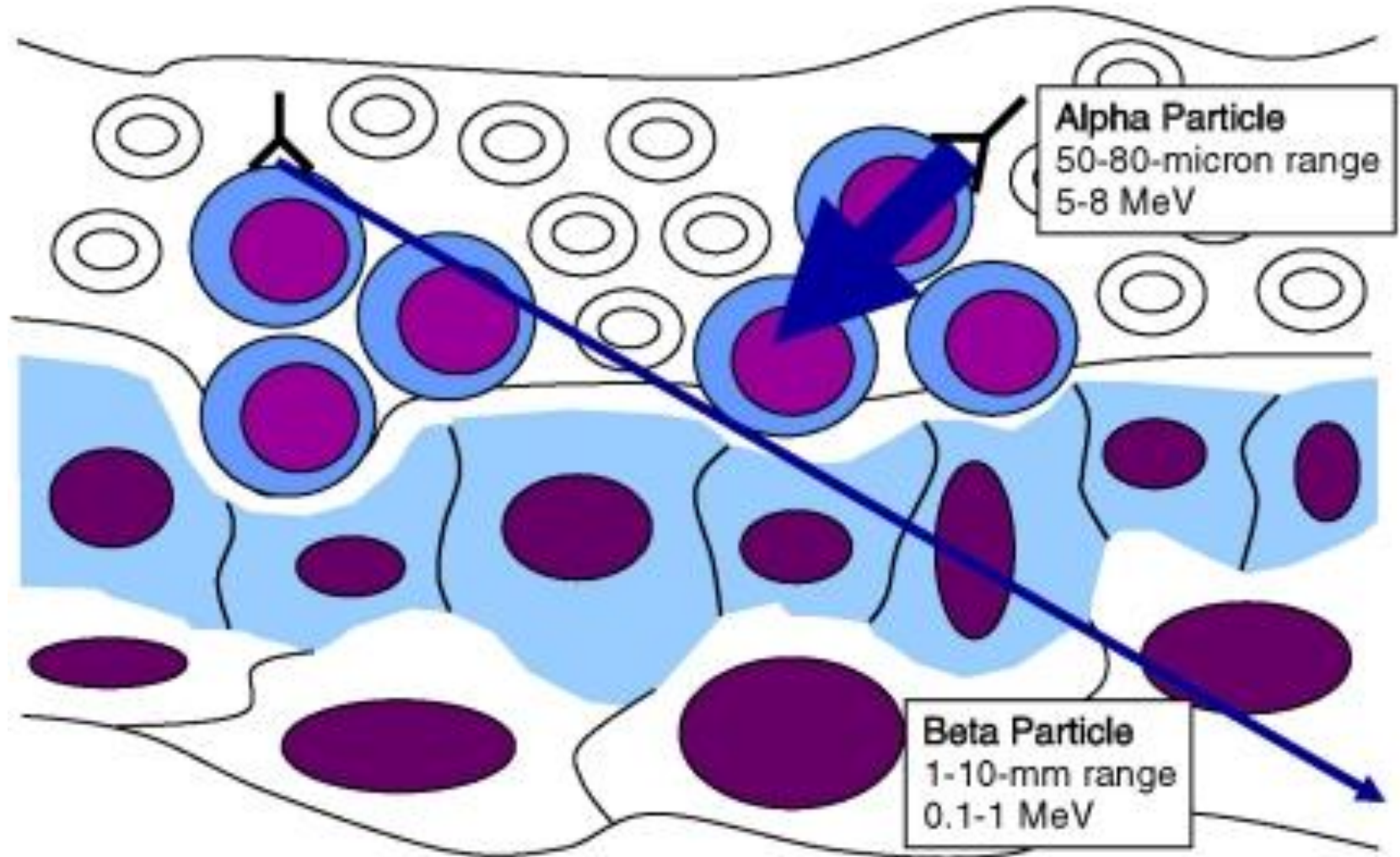
- $TI > 10$  per reni e polmoni
- $TI > 50$  per midollo spinale

Requires knowledge of tumor location

Requires knowledge of tumor biology

TI = therapeutic index

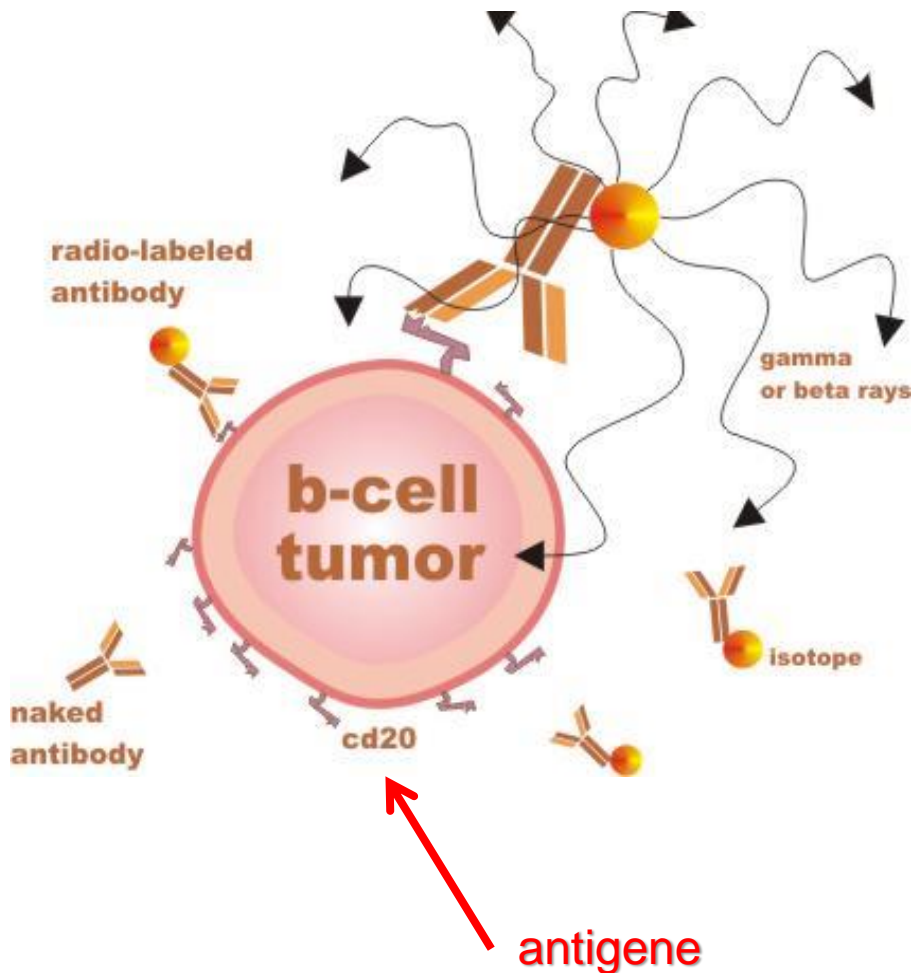
# Penetrating power of $\alpha$ and $\beta$ particles



# Main radionuclides for Targeted Radiotherapy

Radionuclide	Half life	Energy of main $\gamma$ emission (keV)
$^{67}\text{Cu}$ ( $\beta$ , $\gamma$ )	62 h	93, 185
$^{90}\text{Y}$ ( $\beta$ )	64 h	
$^{153}\text{Sm}$ ( $\beta$ , $\gamma$ )	46 h	103
$^{131}\text{I}$ ( $\beta$ , $\gamma$ )	8 d	364
$^{177}\text{Lu}$ ( $\beta$ , $\gamma$ )	6.6 d	497
$^{188}\text{Re}$ ( $\beta$ , $\gamma$ )	17 h	155
$^{213}\text{Bi}$ ( $\alpha$ , $\beta$ , $\gamma$ )	1 h	727
$^{225}\text{Ac}$ ( $5\alpha$ , $3\beta$ )	10 d	5800 - 8400

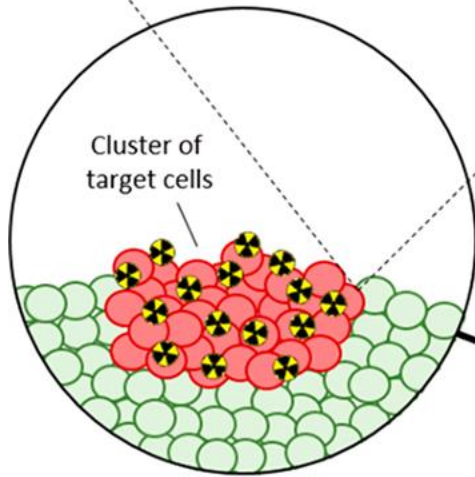
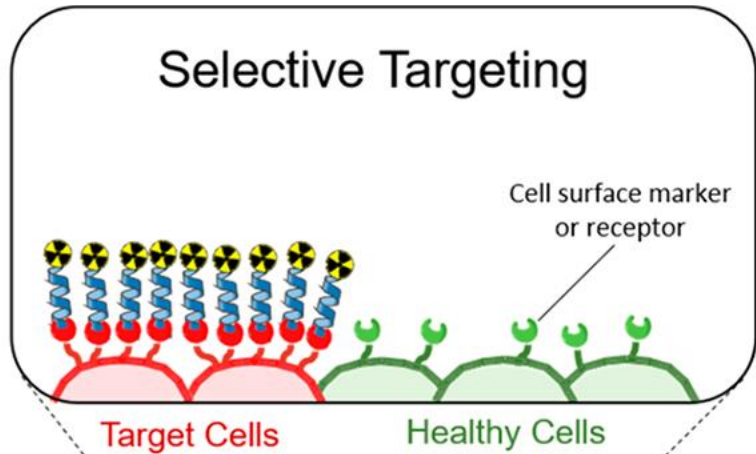
# Treatment of B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma



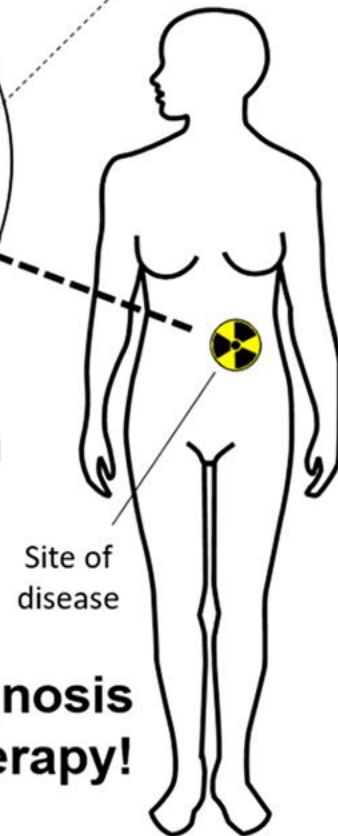
## Antigene ideale:

- altamente espresso con densità uniforme sulla superficie di tutte le cellule del tumore ( $> 10^5$  siti per cellula),
- non deve essere espresso (o molto meno) nelle cellule sane,
- affinità antigene-anticorpo dell'ordine nanomolare
- internalizzazione

# Selective Targeting



Localized Radiation

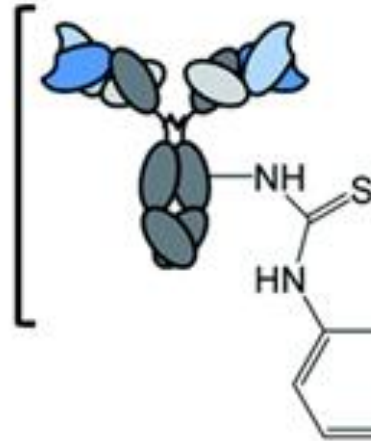


**Targeted Diagnosis  
and/or Therapy!**

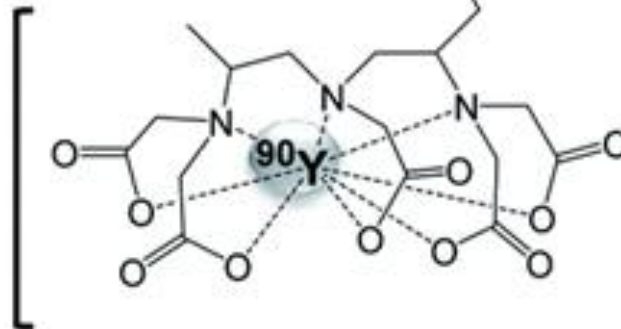
# FDA approved

(a)  $^{90}\text{Y}$ -ibritumomab tiuxetan  
(Zevalin<sup>®</sup>)

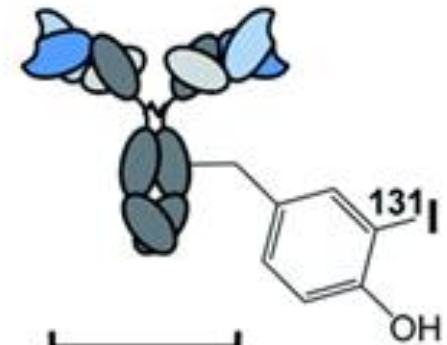
Anti-CD20  
monoclonal  
antibody



DTPA  
chelating  
moiety



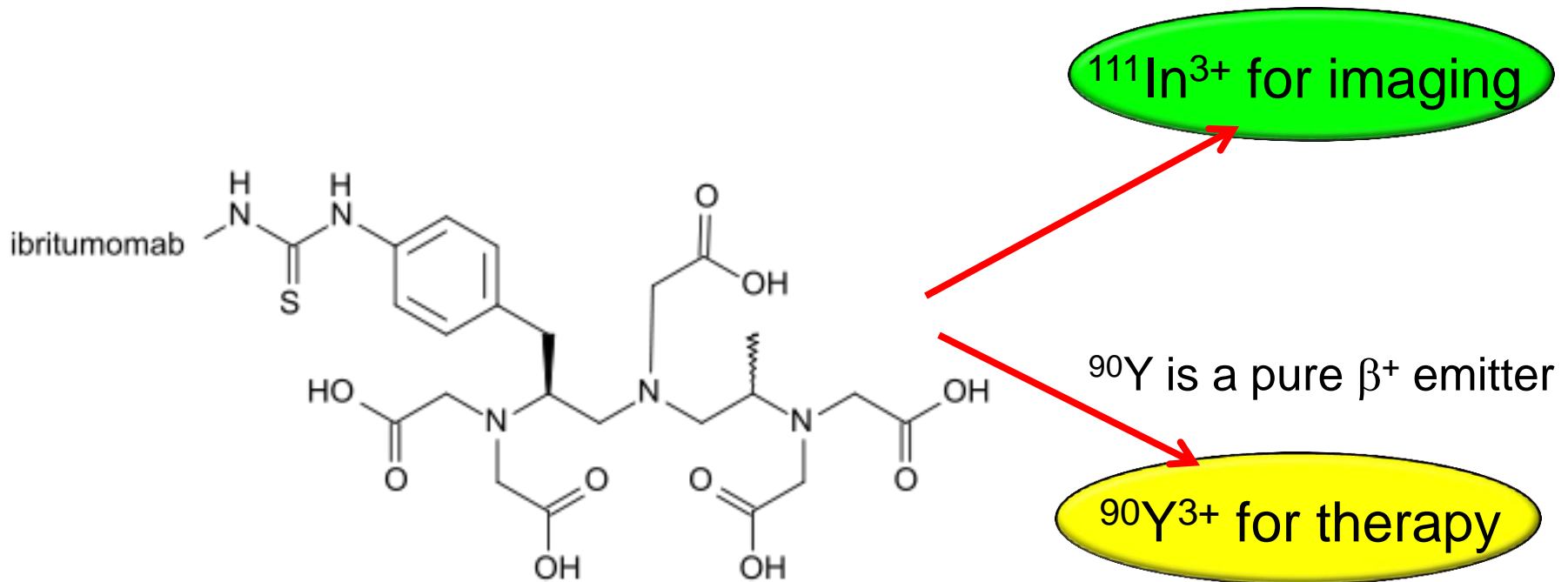
(b)  $^{131}\text{I}$ -tositumomab  
(Bexxar<sup>®</sup>)



Anti-CD20  
monoclonal  
antibody

# Zevalin<sup>®</sup>

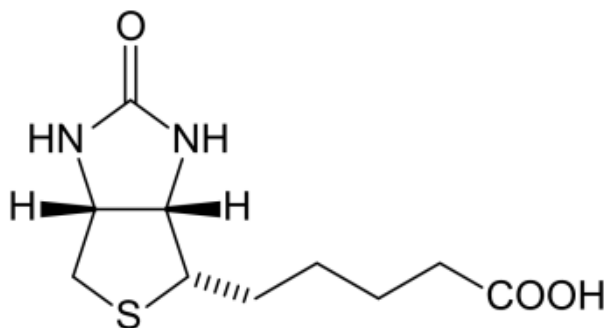
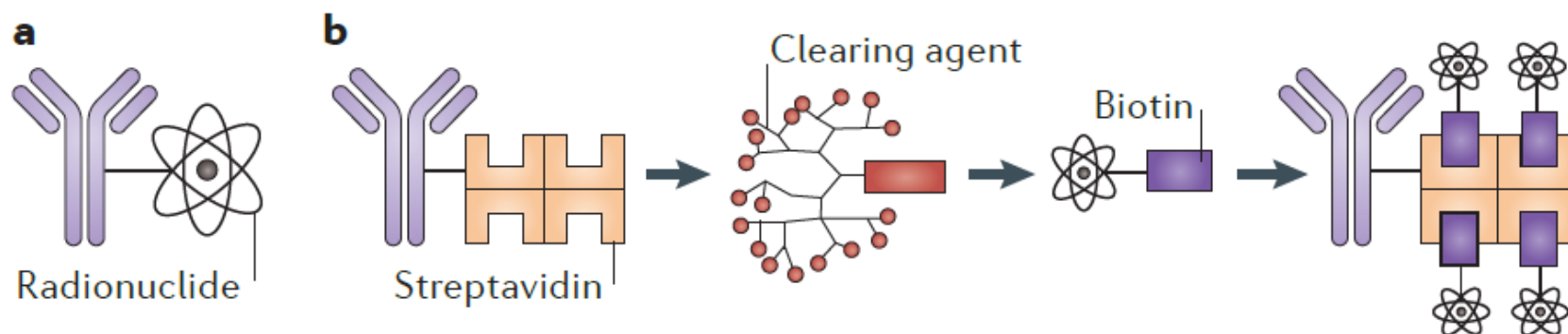
Ibritumomab (MC antibody) covalently conjugated to the <sup>90</sup>Y chelator tiuxetan



Example of the **matched-pair approach**



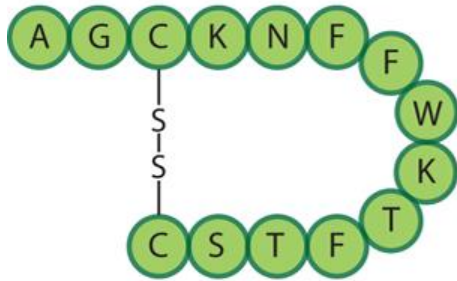
# multi-step pre-targeted radio-immunotherapy (PRIT)



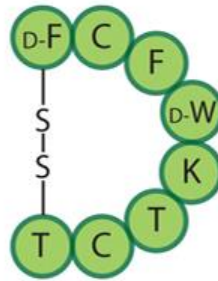
## Biotina

la costante di binding  
**streptavidina-biotina** è  
dell'ordine di  $10^{14}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>

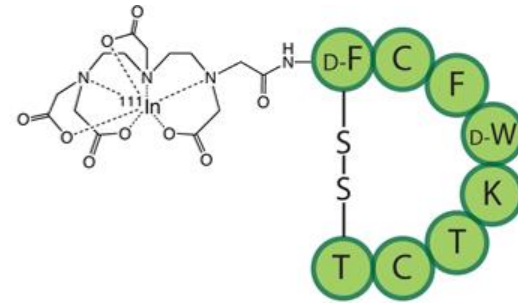
# Radio-immunotherapy of neuroendocrine tumors



Somatostatin



Octreotide



$^{111}\text{In}$ -DTPA-Octreotide

SPECT imaging  
of neuroendocrine  
tumors

$^{68}\text{Ga}$ -DOTATOC for PET imaging

$^{90}\text{Y}$ -DOTATOC and  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ -DOTATATE for radiotherapy

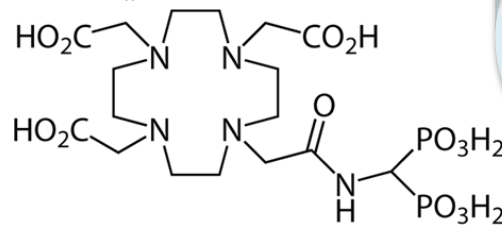
# Radiometal-based *theranostics*: the *matched-pair* strategy

$^{68}\text{Ge}$   
 $\epsilon$   
270.8 d

$^{68}\text{Ga}$   
 $\beta^+$  1.9  
67.7 m

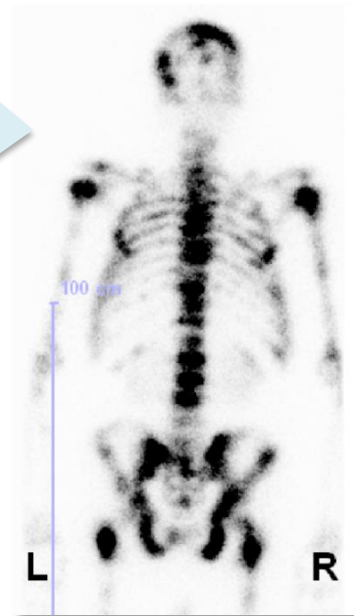
$^{176}\text{Lu}$ 2.98 a	$^{177}\text{Lu}$ 160 d 6.71
$^{176}\text{Yb}$ 12.7 % 3 b	$^{177}\text{Yb}$ 1.9 h

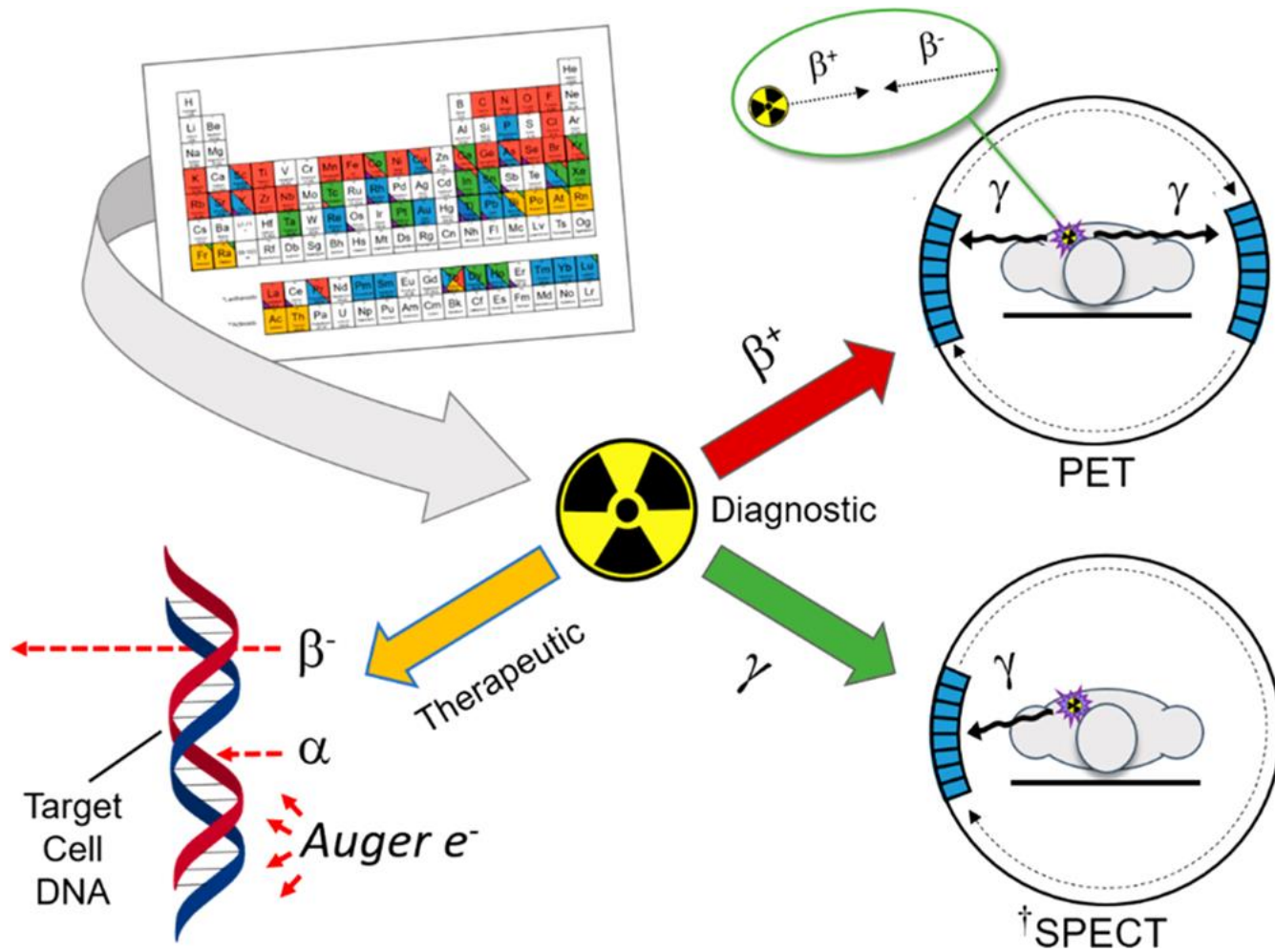
DOTA-bisphosphantae amide  
„BPAMD“



$^{68}\text{Ga}$ -BPAMD  
Diagnosis (PET/CT)

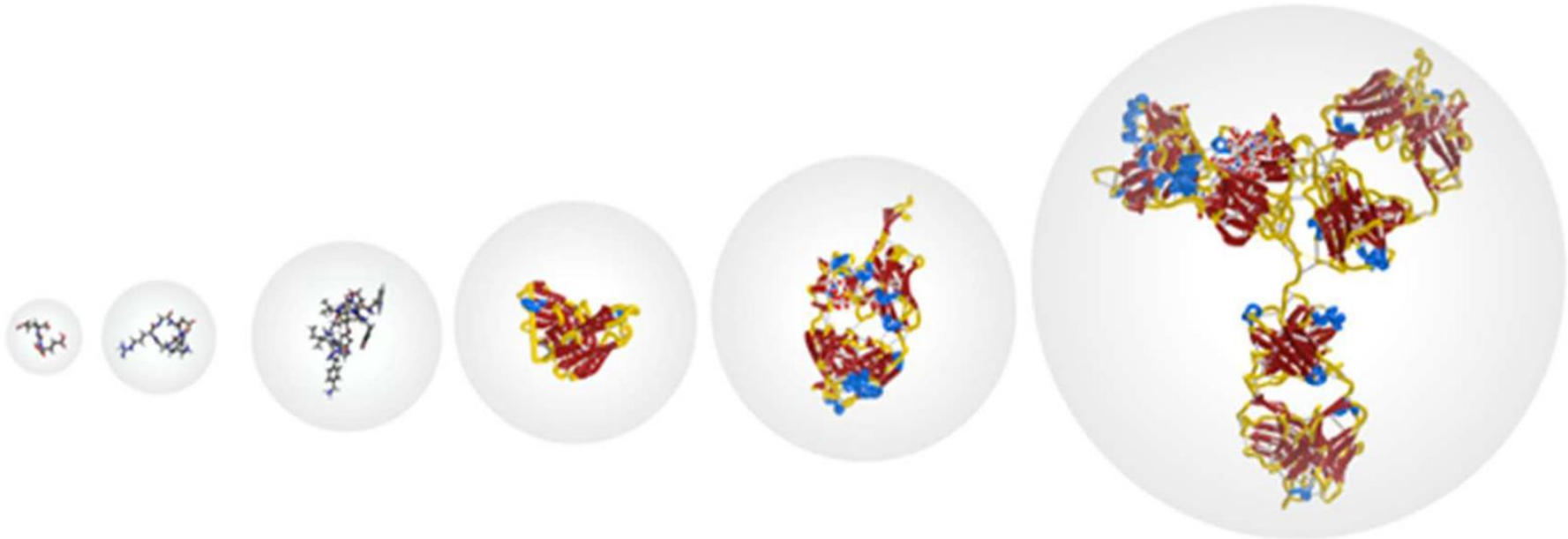
$^{177}\text{Lu}$ -BPAMD  
Therapy





# Tempo di semi-vita e tempo di biodistribuzione

Short in vivo half-life      2 h      2 - 4 h      4 - 12 h      24 - 120 h      Long in vivo half-life



Short radionuclide half-life

Long radionuclide half-life

$^{63}\text{Zn}$ $t_{1/2} = 0.6 \text{ h}$	$^{94\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ $t_{1/2} = 0.9 \text{ h}$	$^{45}\text{Ti}$ $t_{1/2} = 3.1 \text{ h}$	$^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ $t_{1/2} = 6 \text{ h}$	$^{64}\text{Cu}$ $t_{1/2} = 12.6 \text{ h}$	$^{90}\text{Nb}$ $t_{1/2} = 14.6 \text{ h}$	$^{55}\text{Co}$ $t_{1/2} = 17.5 \text{ h}$	$^{89}\text{Zr}$ $t_{1/2} = 78 \text{ h}$	$^{52}\text{Mn}$ $t_{1/2} = 134 \text{ h}$
					$^{188}\text{Re}$ (359 keV) $t_{1/2} = 17 \text{ h}$	$^{104}\text{Rh}$ (566 keV) $t_{1/2} = 35 \text{ h}$	$^{67}\text{Cu}$ (580 keV) $t_{1/2} = 62 \text{ h}$	$^{186}\text{Re}$ (791 keV) $t_{1/2} = 89 \text{ h}$

PET  
  SPECT  
   $\beta^-$

# The $^{99m}\text{Tc}/^{188}\text{Re}$ *matched-pair*

