G6 PET-Based Textural Analysis Assessment in Early Stage Hodgkin Lymphoma Treated with Standard Combined Approach.

Authors
Angelo Fama1, Patrizia Ciammella2, Massimiliano Casali3, Natalia Villani4, Marco Bertolini4, Angela Ferrari1, Elisa Barbolini1, Ala Podgornii2, Mauro Iori4, Giacomo Feliciani4, Stefano Luminari1, Francesco Merli1 and Annibale Versari3

Author’s affiliation
1Hematology Unit, Arcispedale Santa Maria Nuova, Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico, Reggio Emilia, Italy; 2 Radiation Oncology Unit, Department of Advanced Technology, Arcispedale Santa Maria Nuova, Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico, Reggio Emilia, Italy; 3 Department of Nuclear Medicine, Arcispedale Santa Maria Nuova, Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico, Reggio Emilia, Italy; 4Medical Physics Unit, Arcispedale Santa Maria Nuova, Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico, Reggio Emilia, Italy

Text
BACKGROUND
Interim-PET (iPET) has been shown to be a prognostic factor for clinical outcome in Hodgkin lymphoma (HL). Predicting an early cancer’s response to chemotherapy could enhance clinical care management by enabling the personalization of treatment plans. Tumour texture can be measured from medical images to quantify tumor heterogeneity (TH) and could be used as prognostic factors for early treatment response.

PURPOSE
The aim of the study was to assess the applicability of the pre-treatment PET-based textural analysis (TA) in a cohort of early stage HL and its correlation with early response to chemotherapy.

METHODS
We reviewed medical records of patients (pts) with early stage HL diagnosed between January 2012 and December 2014 treated with ABVD. All PET scans were reviewed in blind by a local nuclear medicine physician. TA features were evaluated on the segmented VOI with two different segmentation methods. For non bulky lesions, the lymph nodes were segmented with a 40% of SUVmax isocontour algorithm. Each lymph node was analyzed with TA as a “stand-alone patient” in order to increase the number of observations. For bulky lesions, two cubes of 27 and 64 cm3 of volume were extracted from the highest metabolically active region. 74 textural features were calculated and analyzed with Kruskall Wallis test (KWt). Features which showed prognostic power were employed to build ROC curve.

RESULTS
Twenty-four pts were selected. After iPET revision, 17 pts were considered negative (Deauville 1-3). Considering each lymph node as a “stand-alone patient” we were able to analyze 84 cases. Using the first segmentation approach, the KWt showed that 5 TA features could identify iPET response with statistical significance (p<0.01). Among these 5 features, “coarseness feature” is able to predict the iPET response (p<0.05), with an efficiency of 73% (77% sensitivity, 70% specificity). This means that lymph nodes which appear coarser in pre-treatment PET images have a higher probability of being positive at iPET. Results obtained employing the second technique showed that 4 features are able to predict iPET response with statistical significance (p<0.02), with an even better discrimination efficiency up to 85% (88% sensitivity, 83% specificity) employing “uniformity feature”.

CONCLUSION
Our study showed that TH as described by PET-based TA is associated with early response to ABVD in localized HL. This method requires further validation in a large prospective study.