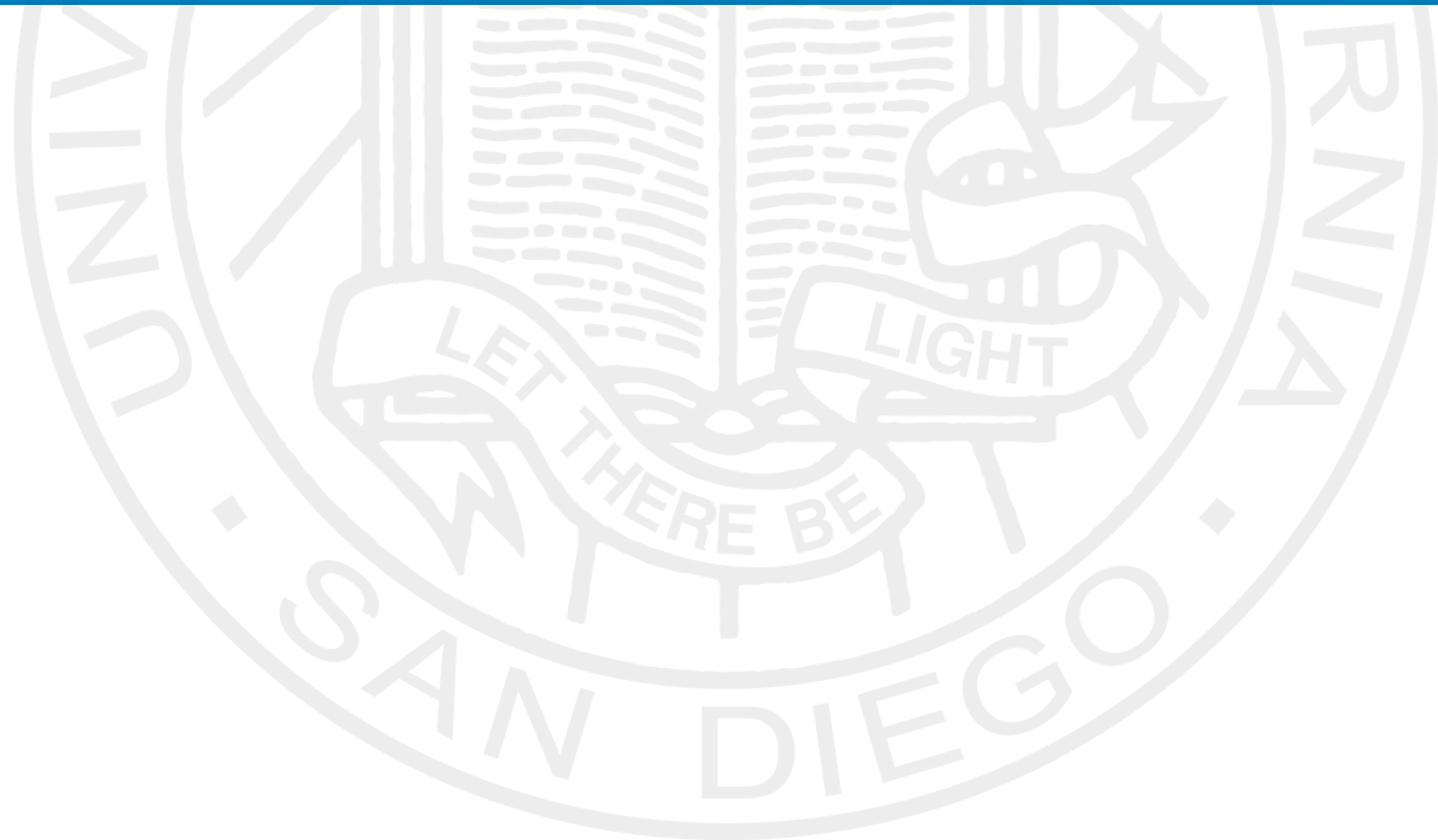


# Radiation Advances for Gynecologic Malignancies

**Dominique Rash, MD**

Associate Professor

Radiation Medicine & Applied Sciences

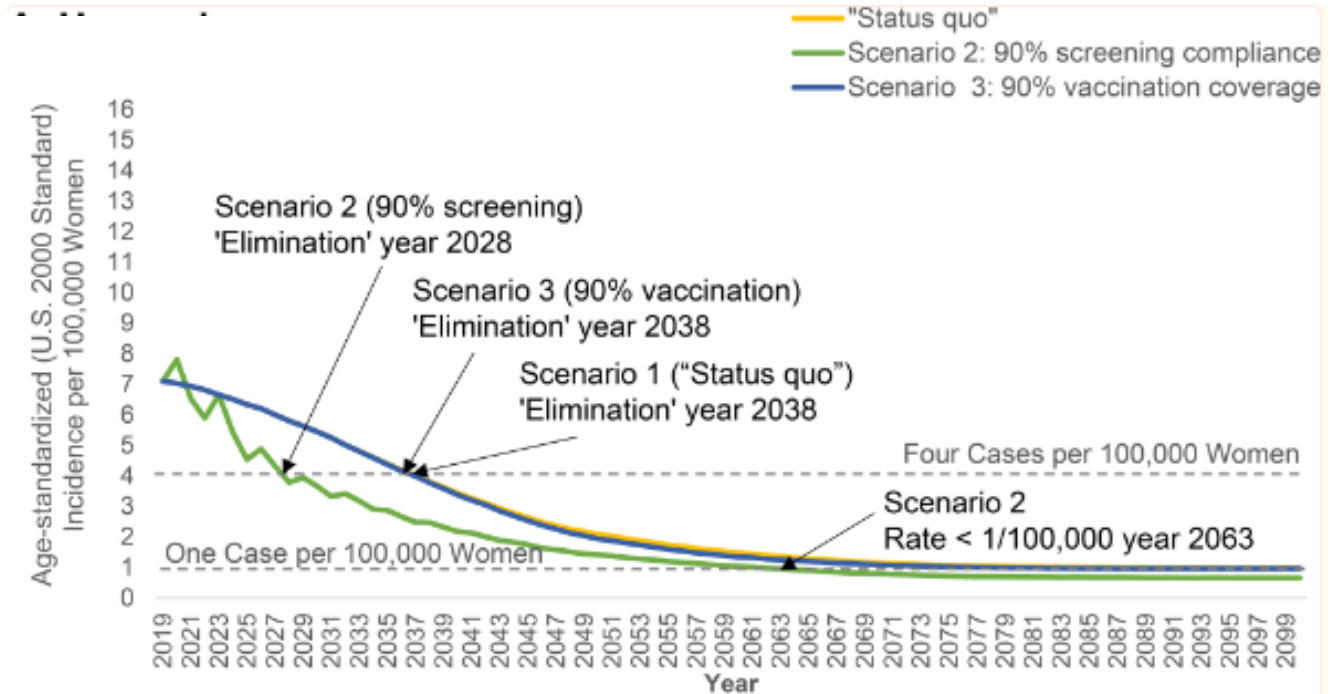


# Present radiation challenges

- Reducing radiation treatment volumes
- Incorporating immunotherapy into treatment

# Cervical Cancer: Ongoing Cancer Threat

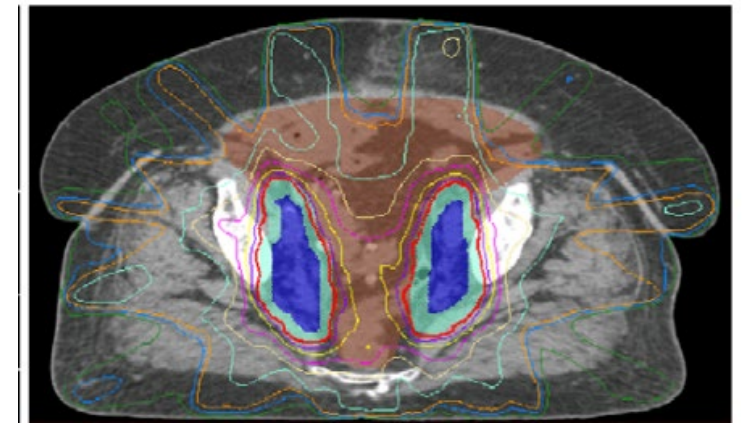
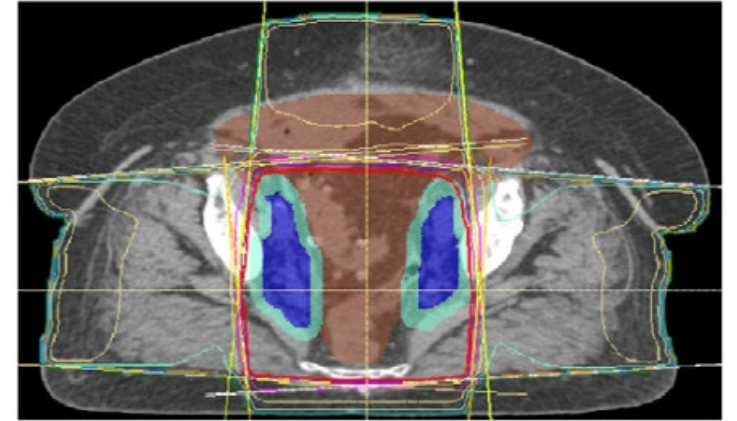
- 14,100 estimated new cases in 2022
- 7.3/100,000 women
- Overall survival 66%
- HPV vaccine: 61% compliance among US teens



Burger et al. Lancet Public Health 2020

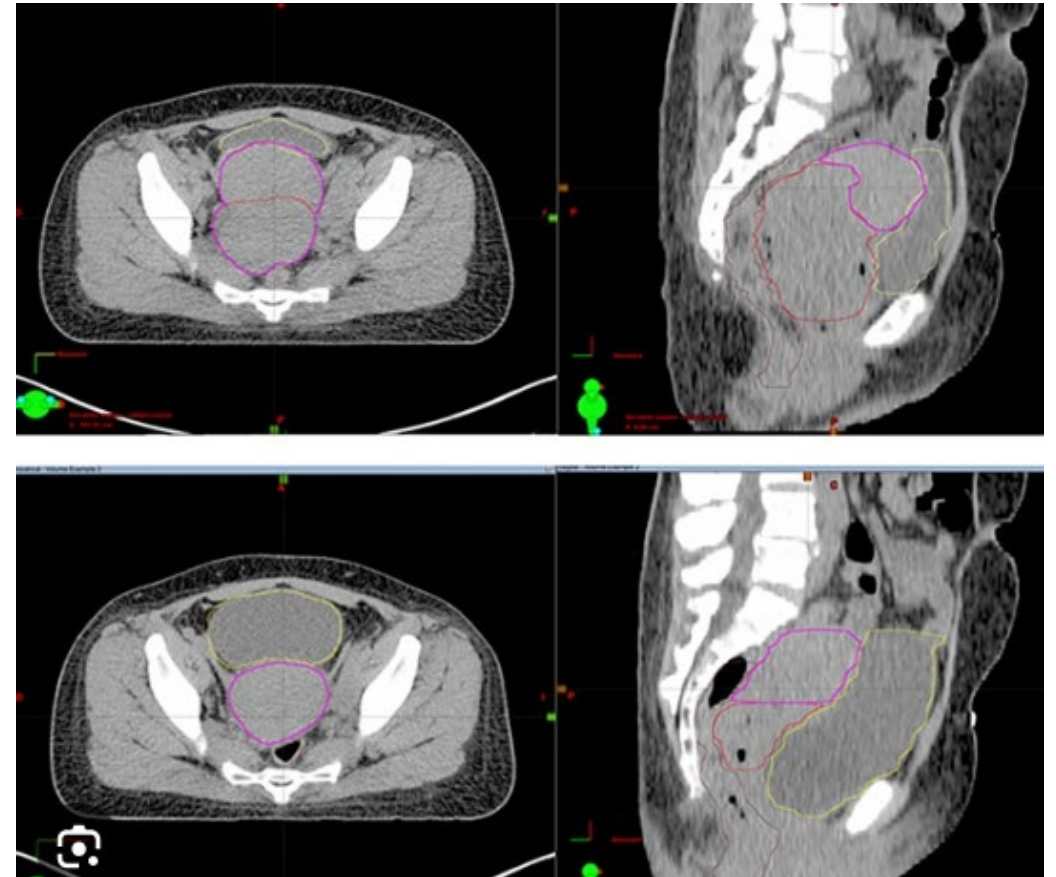
# Reducing radiation treatment volumes

- Intensity modulated radiation therapy for cervical cancer
  - Dosimetric studies initially published 2000-2001
  - First clinical series published in 2001
  - By 2009, 18+ retrospective studies published suggesting improved toxicity with IMRT compared to 3DCRT



# Reducing radiation treatment volumes

- Cervical cancer presents unique radiation challenge in that uterus and cervix are highly mobile structures
- Changes in target position may arise due to several reasons
  - Bladder filling
  - Rectal filling
  - Tumor shrinkage

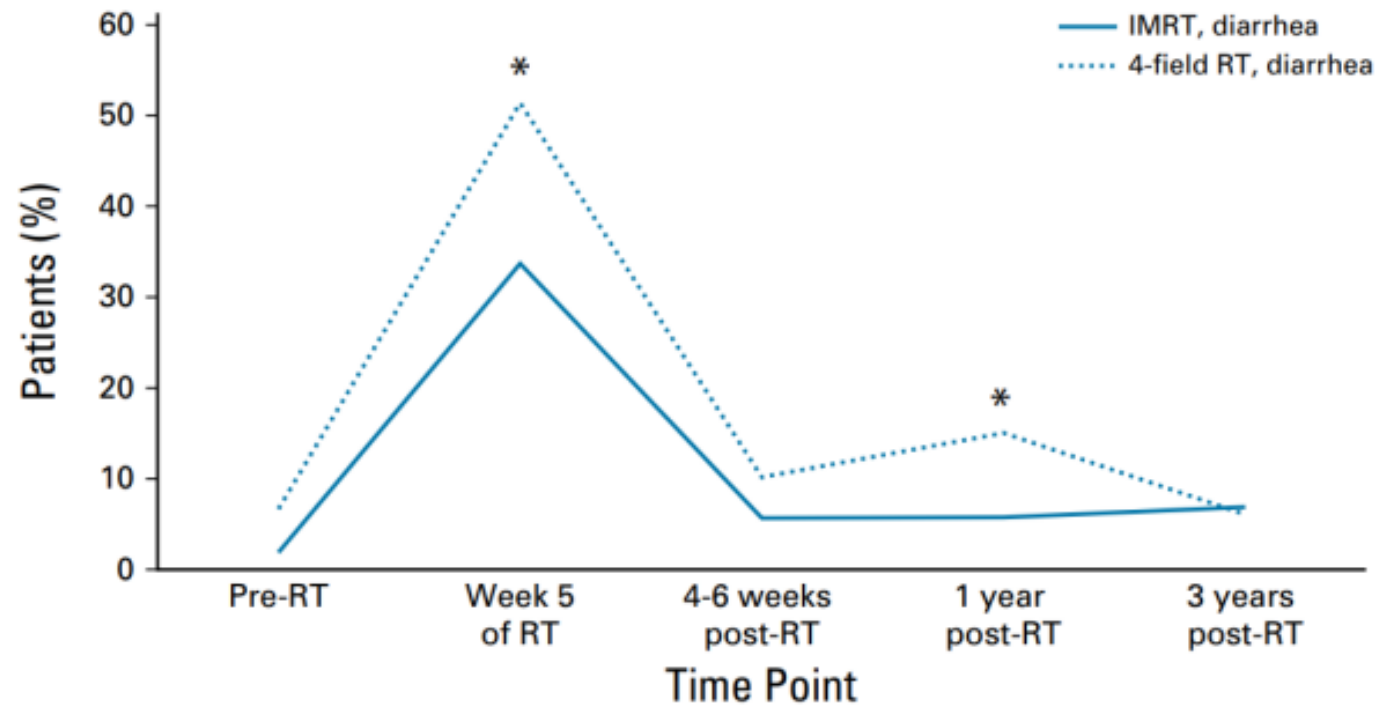


# IMRT for Gynecologic Malignancies

- IMRT decreases acute grade II diarrhea and late grade 2 anorexia, abdominal bloating, bowel obstruction
- Benefit greatest among pts receiving concurrent chemotherapy
- Image-guided bone marrow sparing IMRT can decrease acute grade III neutropenia: 19% with vs 54% without BM sparing

Chopra et al. *PARCER IJRO* 2020  
Klopp et al. *RTOG 1203/TIME-C JCO* 2018  
Williamson et al. *INTERTECC IJROBP* 2022

# IMRT for Gynecologic Malignancies



No. at risk:

IMRT	106	92	88	87	58
4-field RT	120	109	108	93	66

# IMRT for Gynecologic Malignancies

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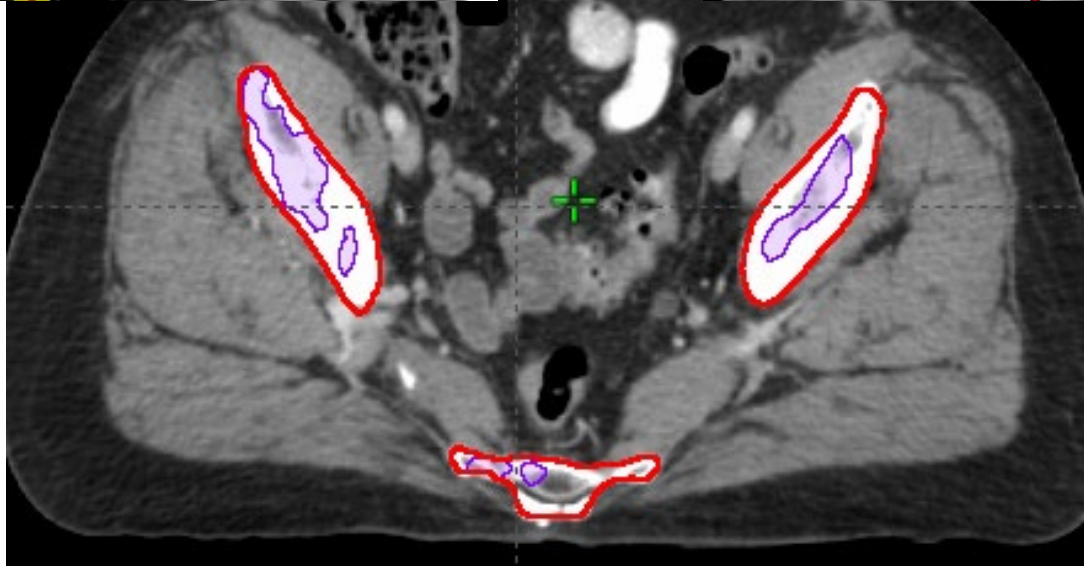
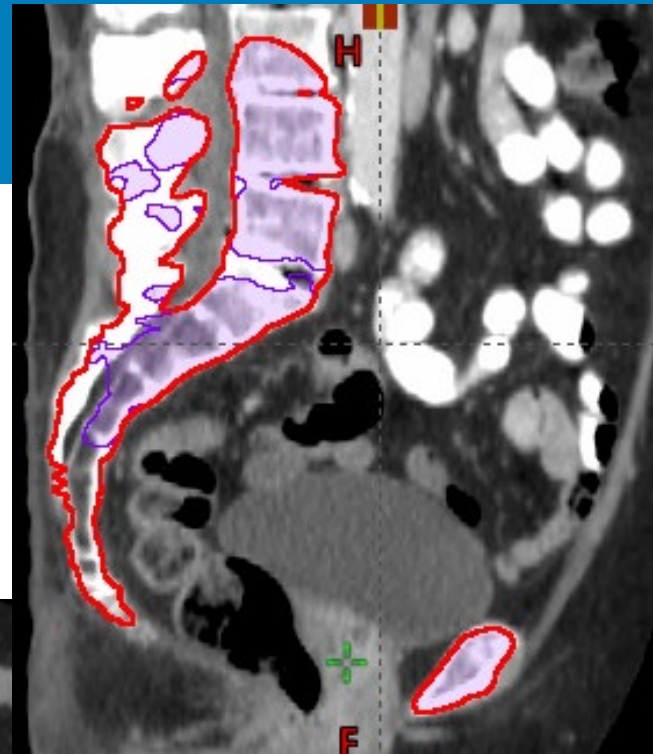
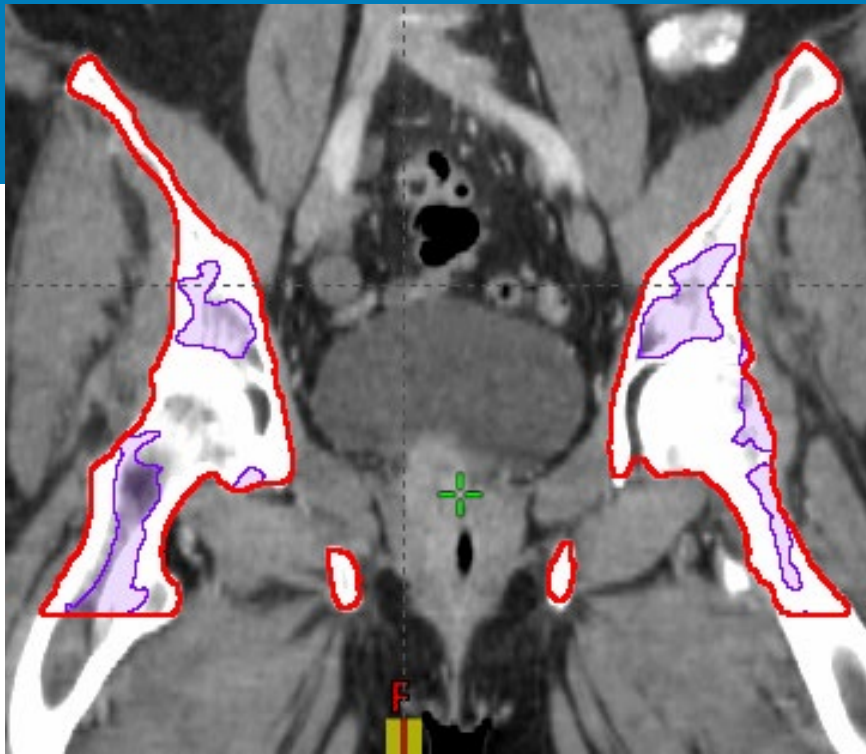
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# IMRT for Gynecologic Malignancies

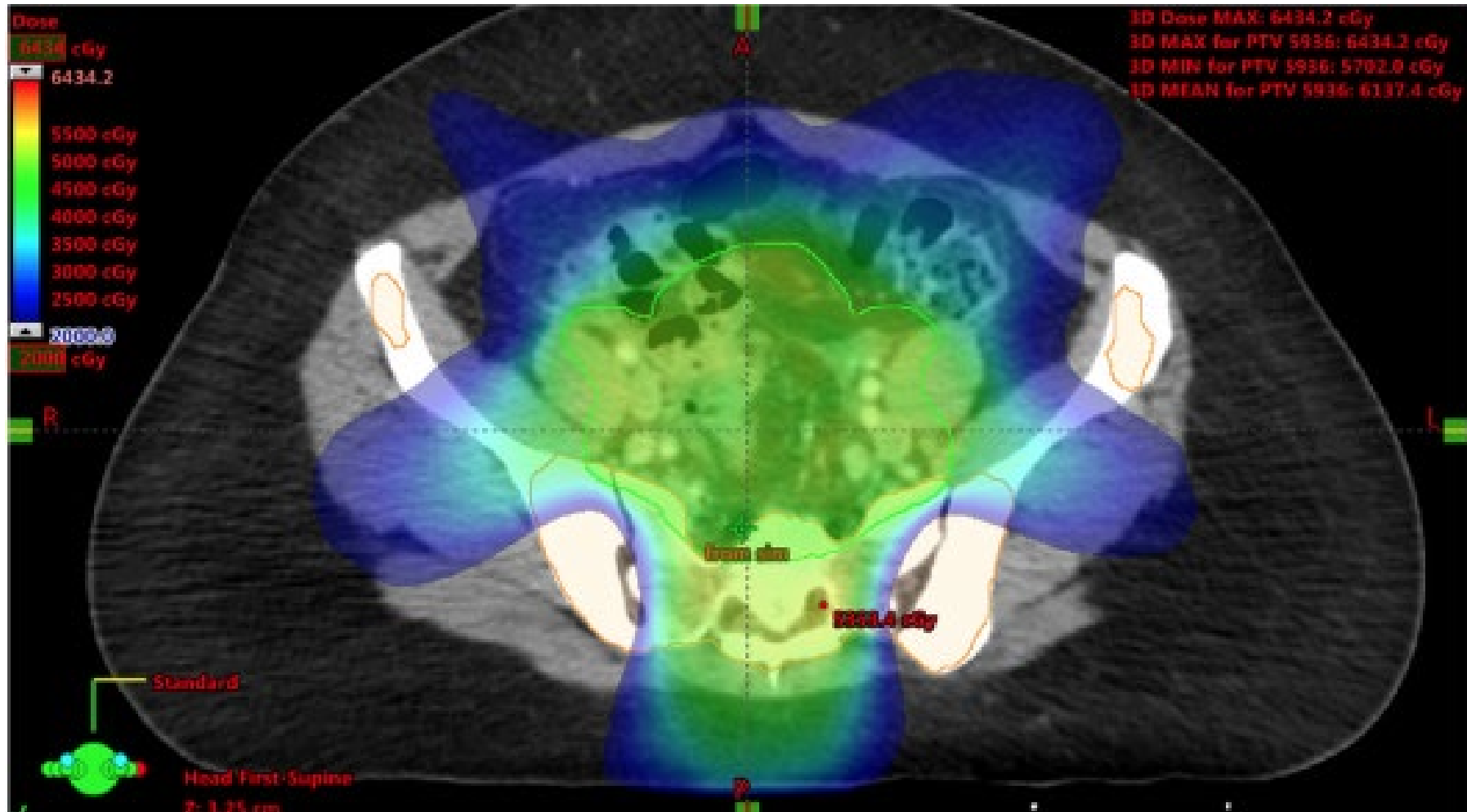
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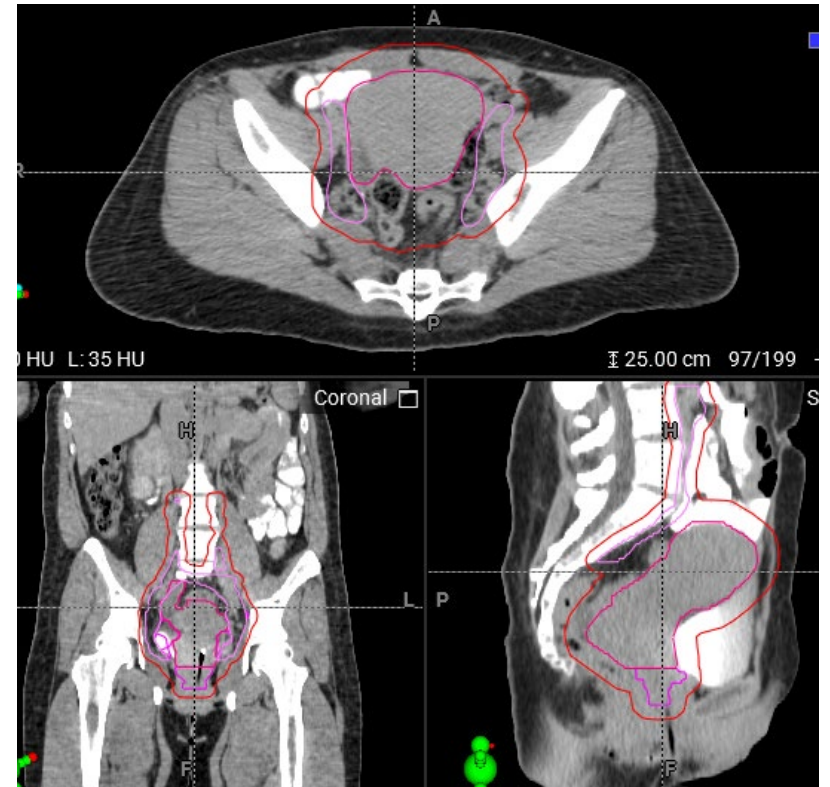
 Bone Marrow

 Active Bone Marrow defined by PET



# Adaptive Radiotherapy

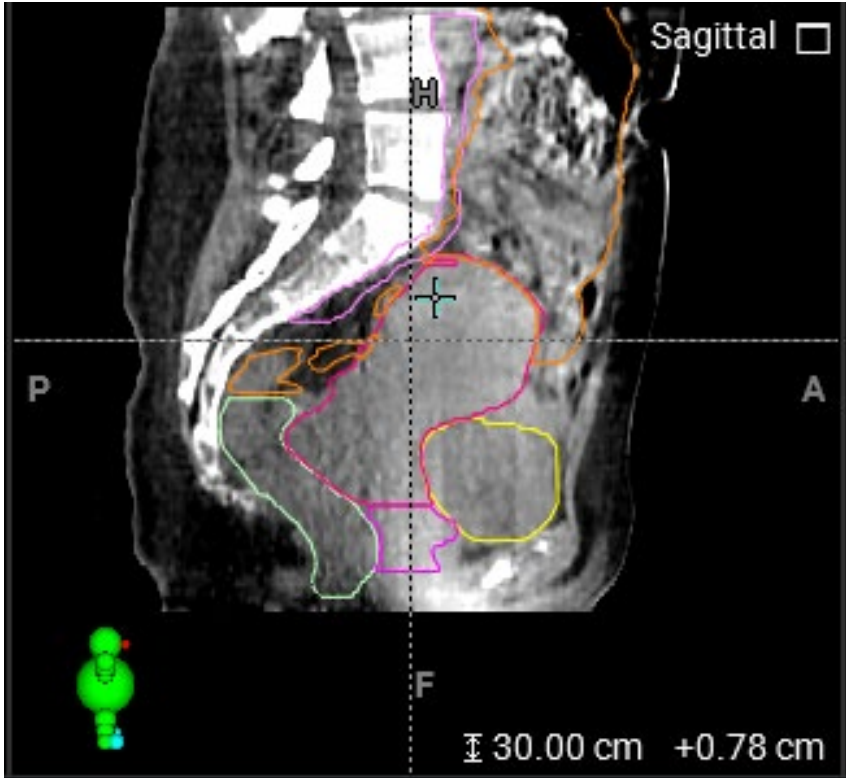
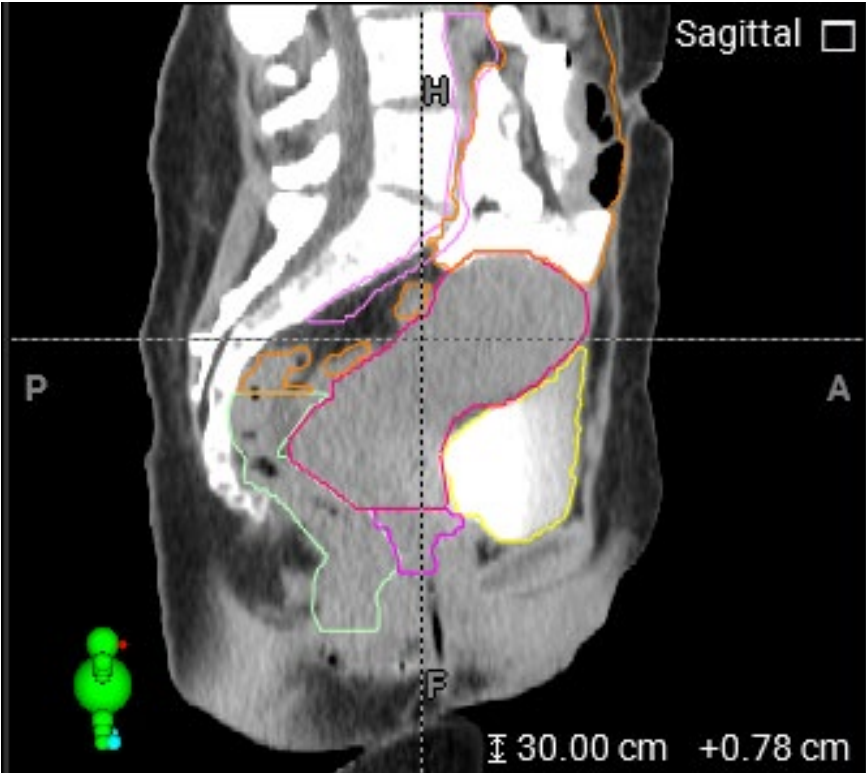
- IMRT requires margins that account for organ motion and daily image guidance
  - Uterus and cervix margin: 1.5 cm
  - Parametria and vagina margin: 1.0 cm
  - Lymph node margin: 0.7 cm



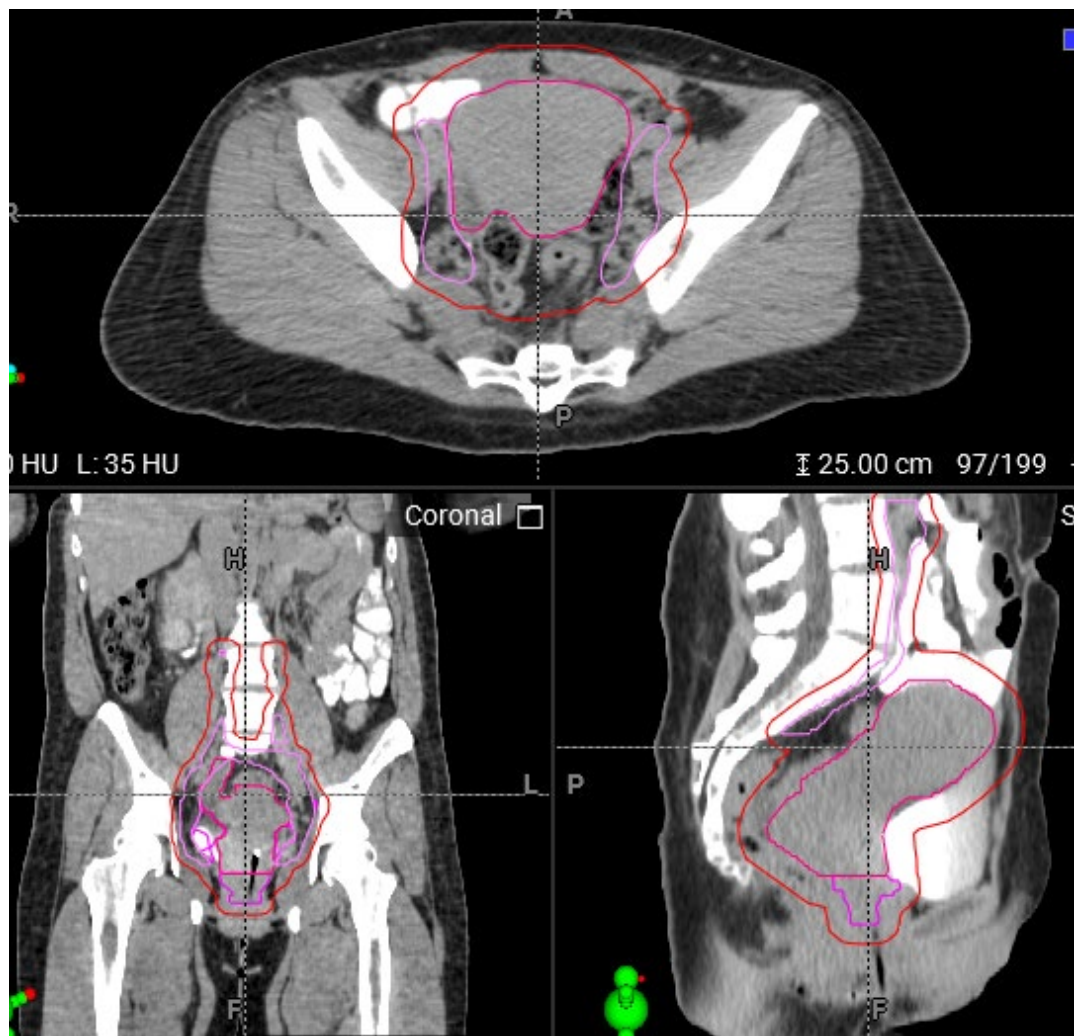
# Adaptive Radiotherapy

- Adaptive radiotherapy creates a new treatment plan for each daily fraction based on day of imaging
- Allow for tighter treatment margins

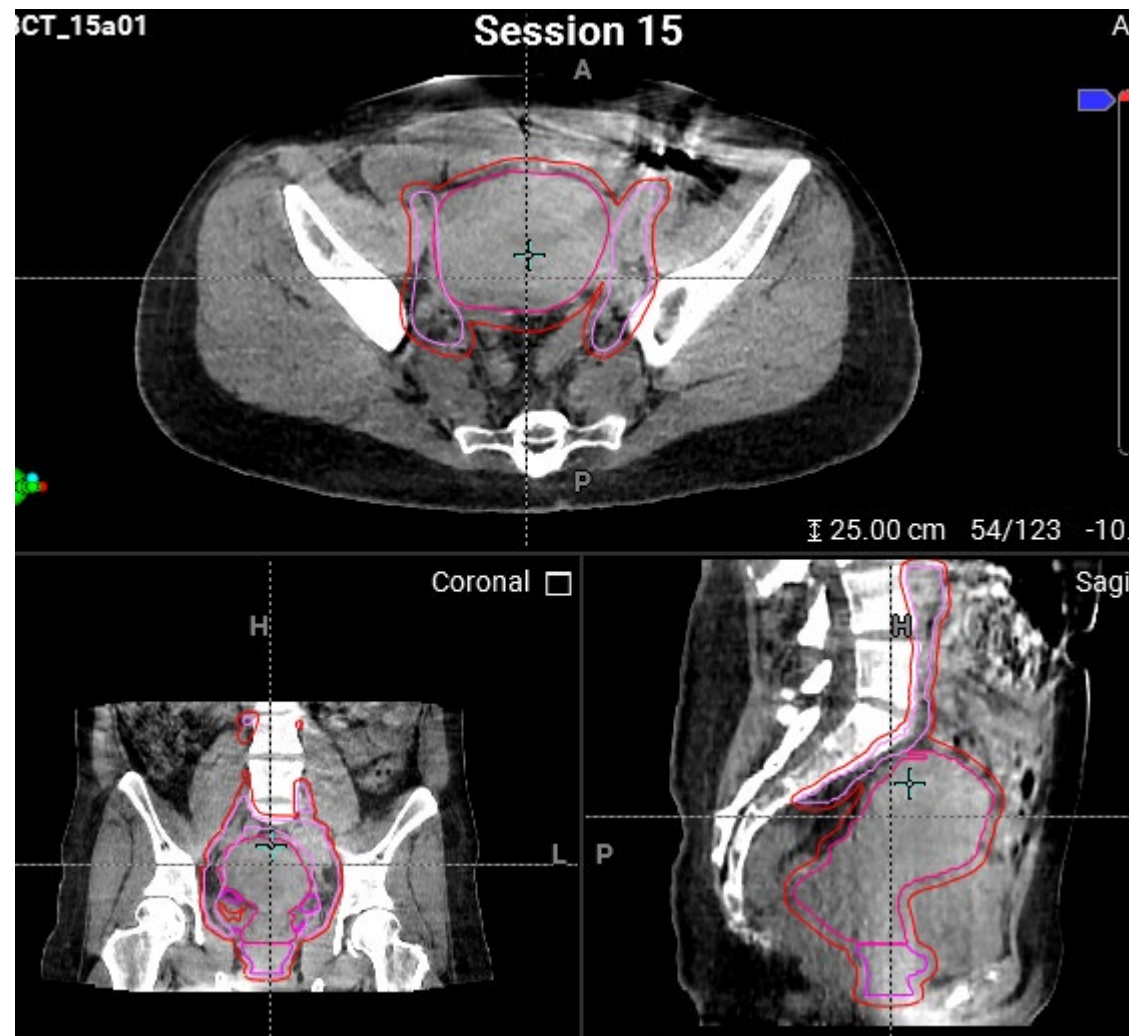
# Adaptive Radiotherapy



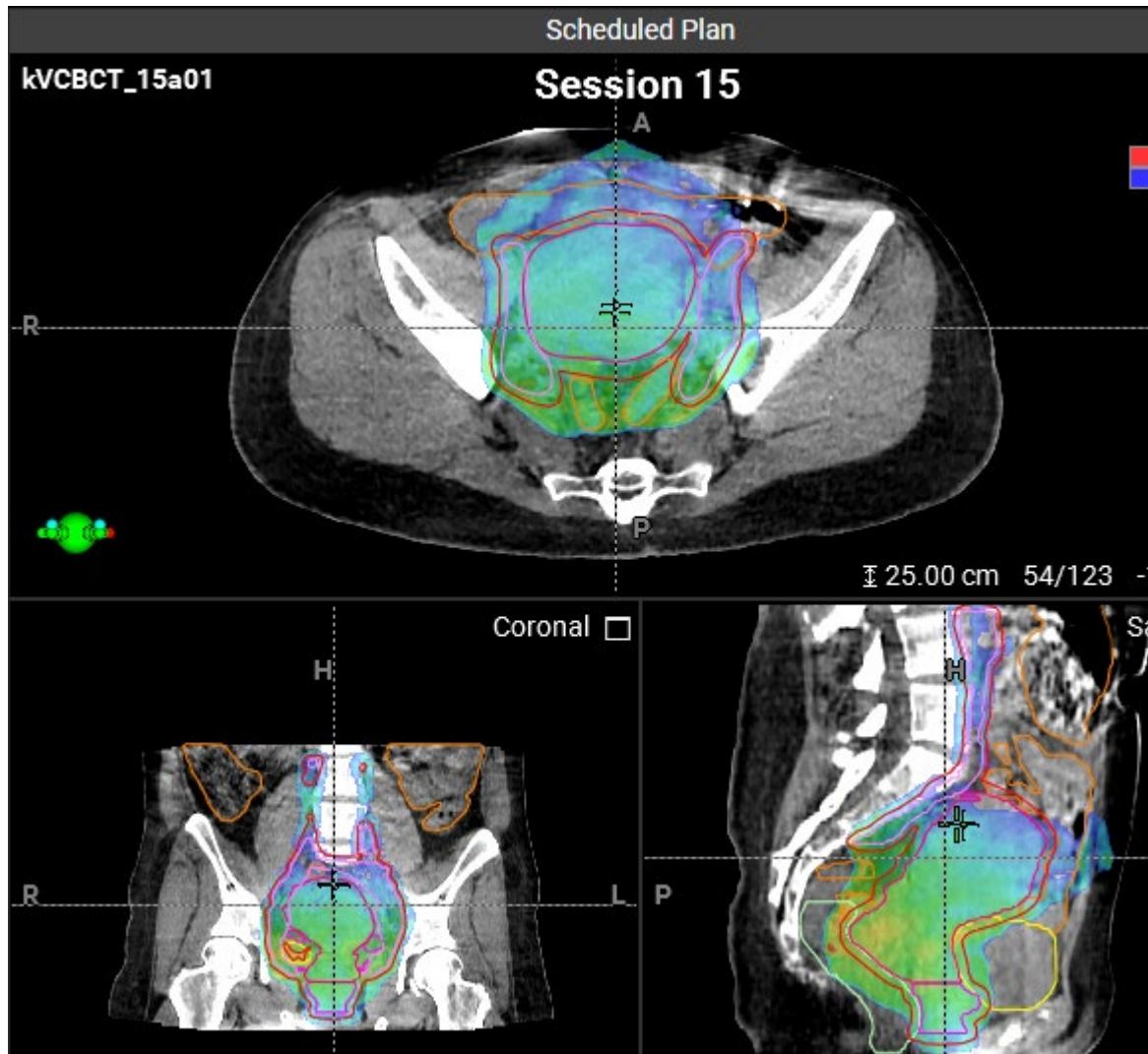
## IMRT Treatment Margins



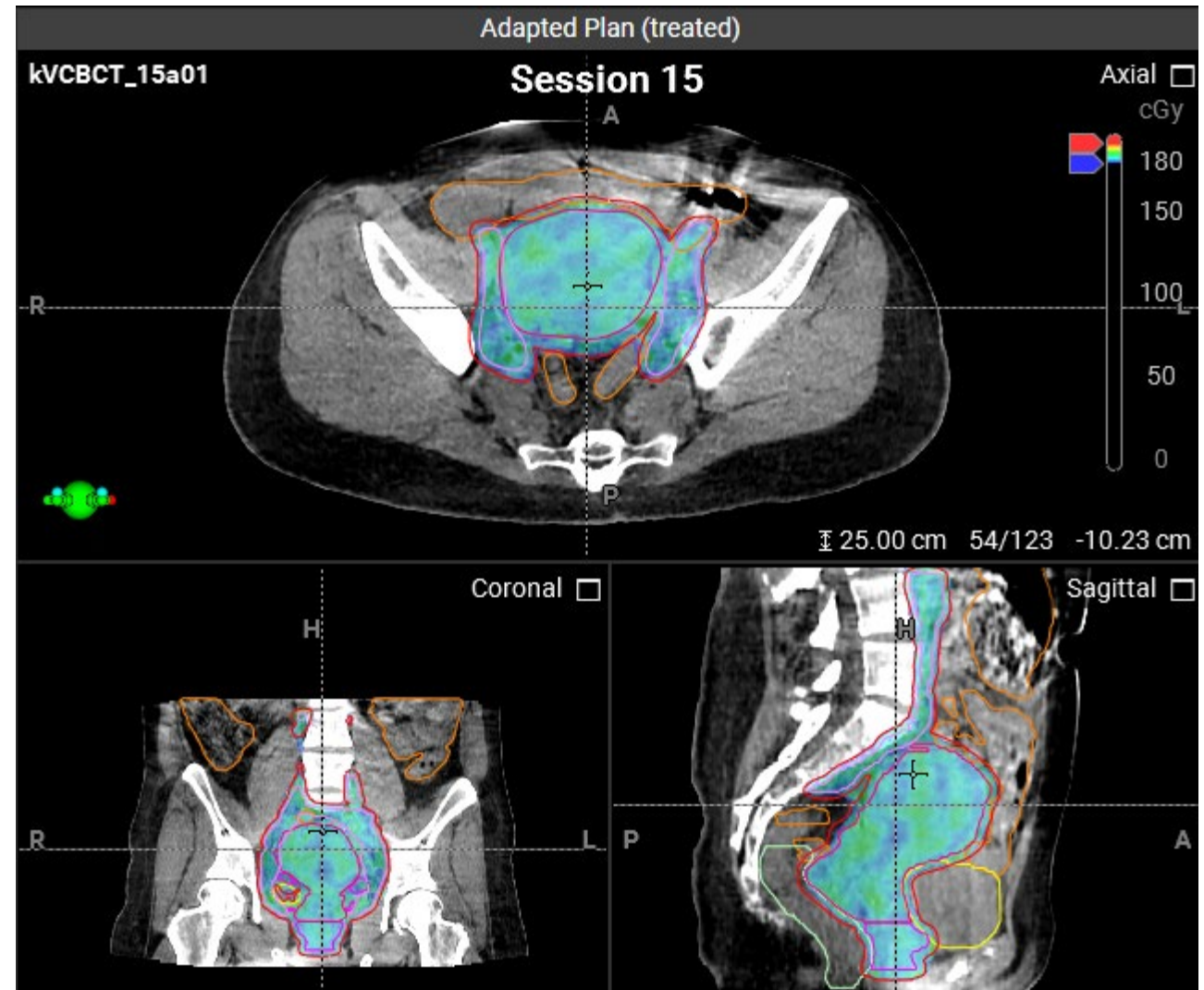
## Adaptive Treatment Margins



## IMRT Treatment Margins



## Adaptive Treatment Margins





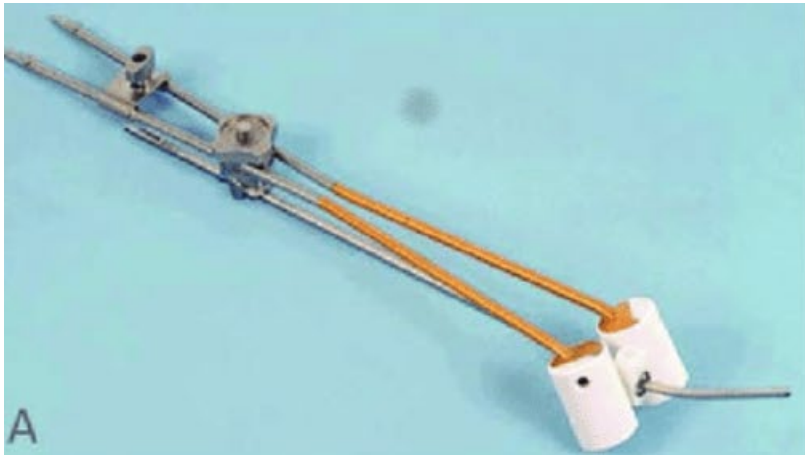
# Hybrid Brachytherapy Implants

- Intracavitary brachytherapy implants for cervical cancer can be enhanced with the addition of interstitial needles

# Hybrid Brachytherapy Implants

Standard intracavitary applicators

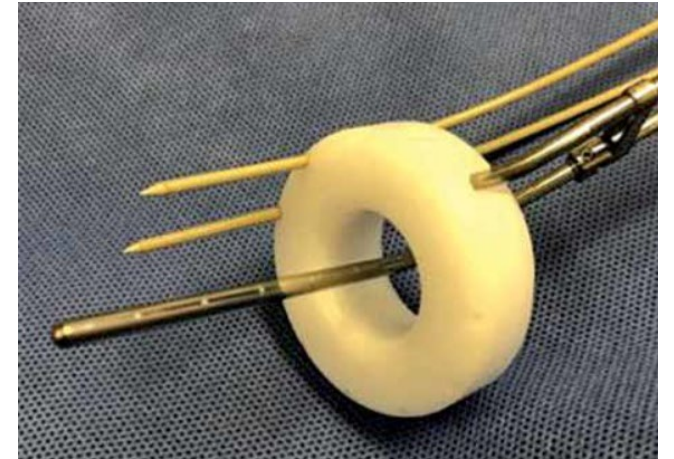
Tandem and ovoids



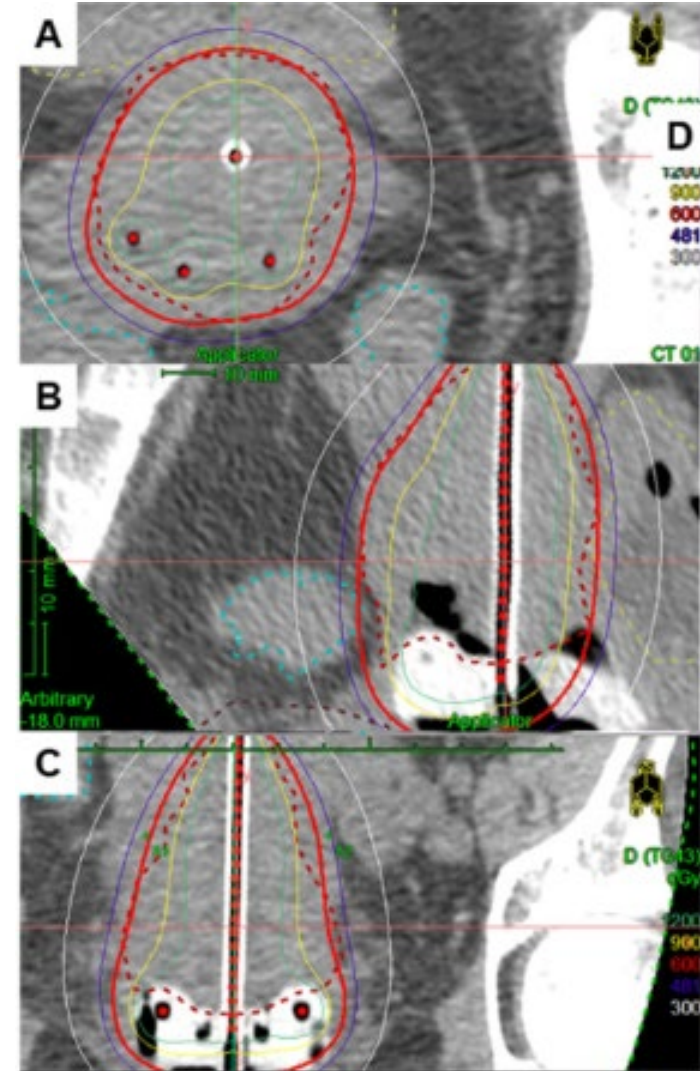
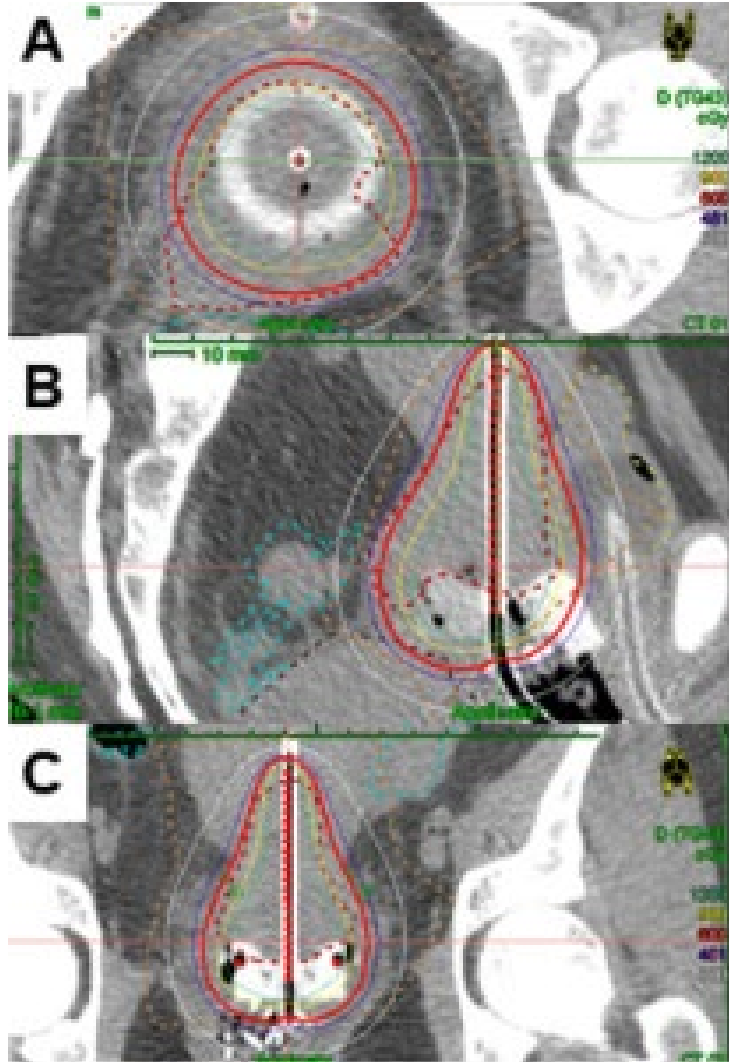
Tandem and ring



Hybrid Applicator



# Hybrid Brachytherapy Implants



# Hybrid Brachytherapy Implants

- Advantages

- Improves coverage of the clinical target (tumor)
- Decreases dose to the surrounding organs at risk

- Disadvantages

- Increases planning time
- Increased risk for bleeding with placement of interstitial needles
  - Transrectal or transabdominal US during needle placement

# Endometrial Cancer: Ever Present Danger

- 66,000 estimated new cases in 2022
- Overall survival 84% at 5 yrs
- Surgery is the primary treatment for endometrial cancer
  - Postoperative radiation +/- chemotherapy depends on pathologic features
  - National guidelines are not entirely clear re:optimal treatment recommendations



National  
Comprehensive  
Cancer  
Network®

## NCCN Guidelines Version 1.2024 Endometrial Carcinoma

[NCCN Guidelines In  
Table of Cont  
Discus](#)

All staging in guideline is based on updated FIGO staging. (ST-1)

CLINICAL FINDINGS  
(Endometrioid  
Histology)<sup>a</sup>

Surgically staged:  
Stage I<sup>b</sup> →

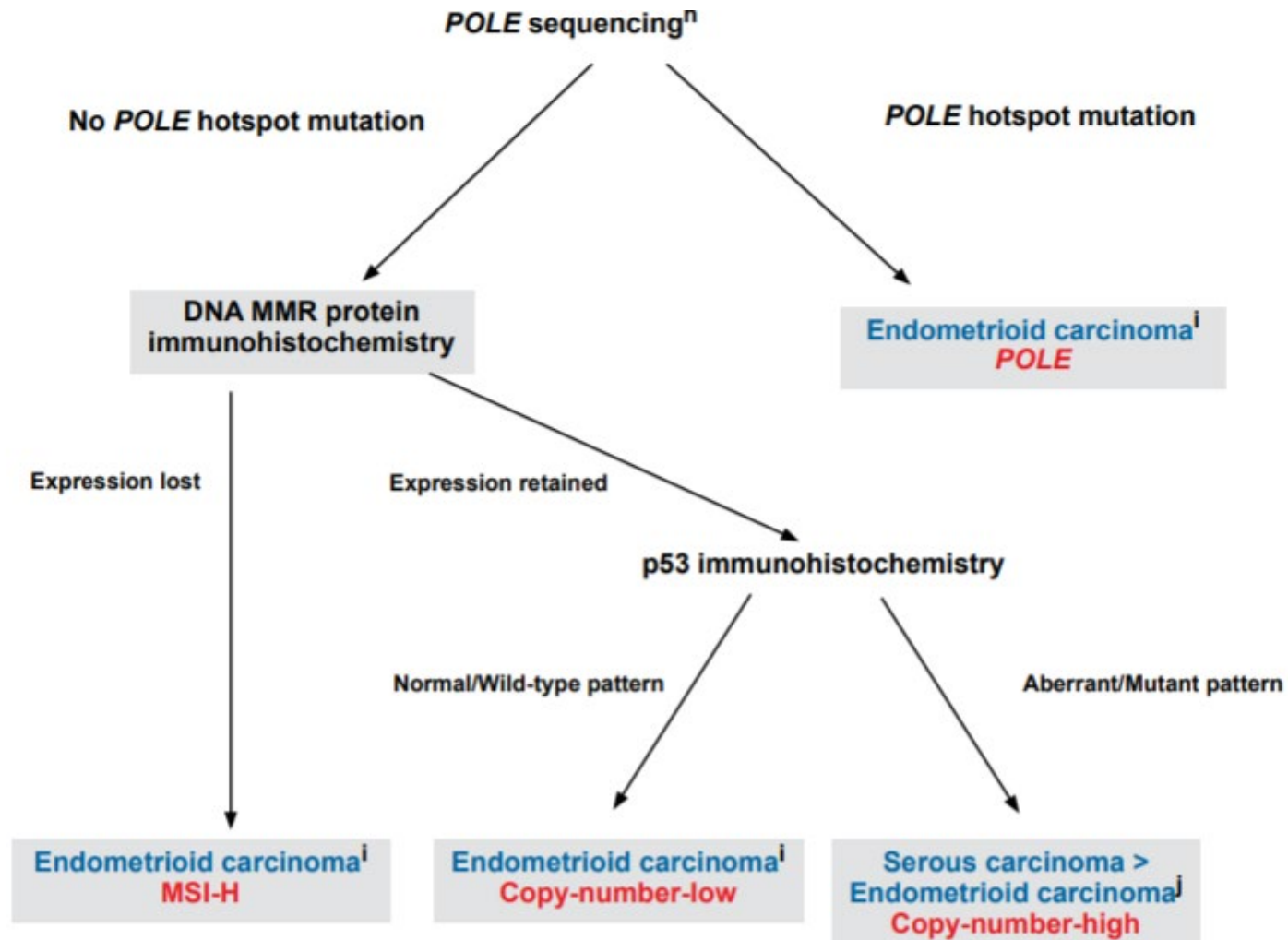
HISTOLOGIC GRADE/ADJUVANT TREATMENT<sup>g,h,m</sup>

FIGO Stage	Histologic Grade	Adjuvant Treatment
IA	G1, G2	Observation preferred or Consider vaginal brachytherapy if lymphovascular space invasion (LVSI) and/or age ≥60 y <sup>n</sup>
	G3	Vaginal brachytherapy preferred or Consider observation if no myoinvasion or Consider EBRT if either age ≥70 y or LVSI (category 2B)
IB	G1	Vaginal brachytherapy preferred or Consider observation if age <60 y and no LVSI
	G2	Vaginal brachytherapy preferred or Consider EBRT if ≥60 y and/or LVSI or Consider observation if age <60 y and no LVSI
	G3	RT (EBRT and/or vaginal brachytherapy) ± systemic therapy (category 2B for systemic therapy)

# Mismatch Repair in Endometrial Cancer

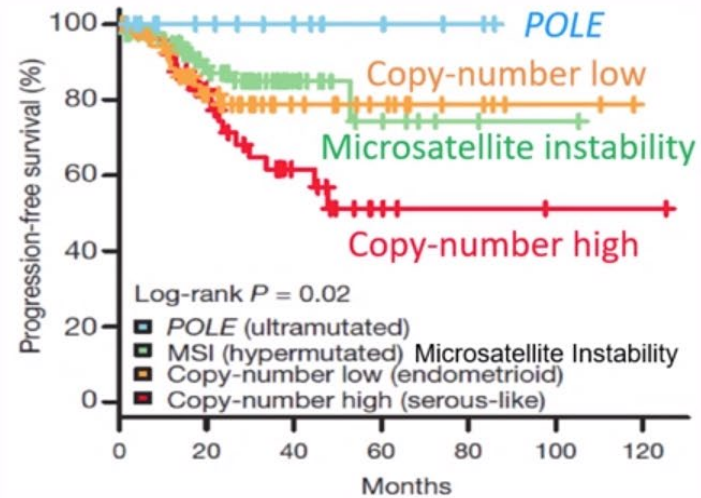
- Loss of DNA mismatch repair genes
- Germline mutations present in 4% of pts
- Somatic mutations present in 25% of pts
- dMMR is less likely to occur in non-endometrioid subtypes
- Testing: MSI testing or IHC staining for MLH1, PMS2, MSH2, MSH6
- Patients with dMMR have higher response rates to anti-PD1 tx

# TCGA Sequencing



# Molecular Subtypes of Endometrial Cancer

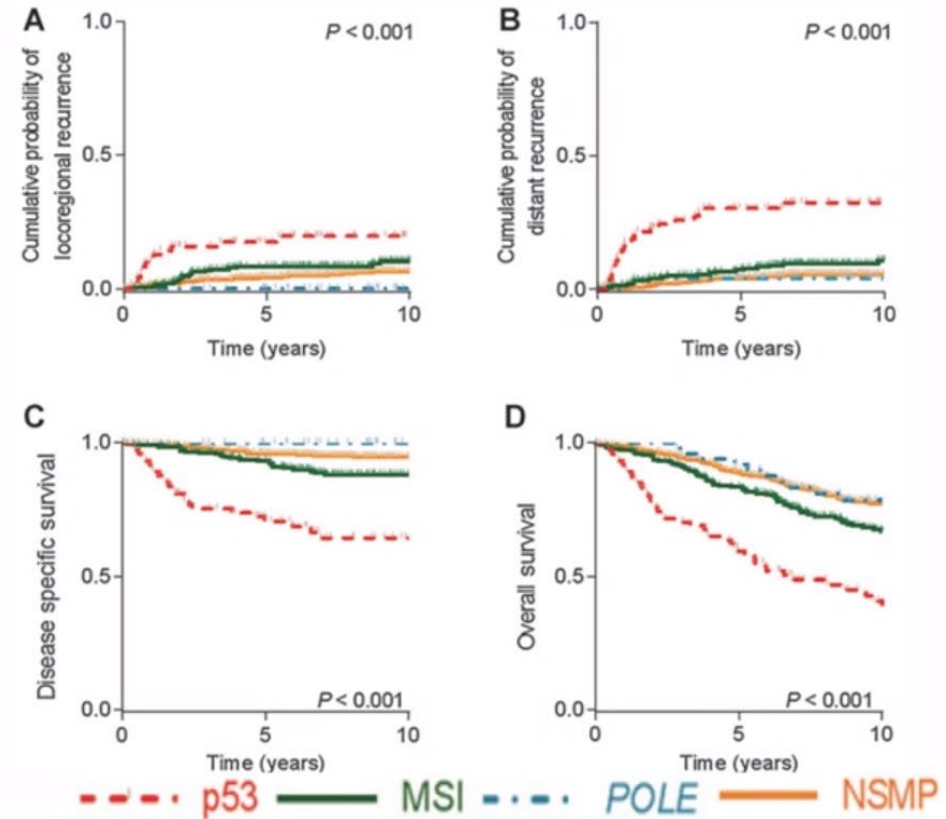
The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA)



Most favorable: POLE

Least favorable: Copy-number high (serous-like)  
(25% of G3 endometrioid)

Pooled PORTEC-1 and 2 Analysis



TCGA Nature 2013

Stelico et al. Clin Cancer Res 2016



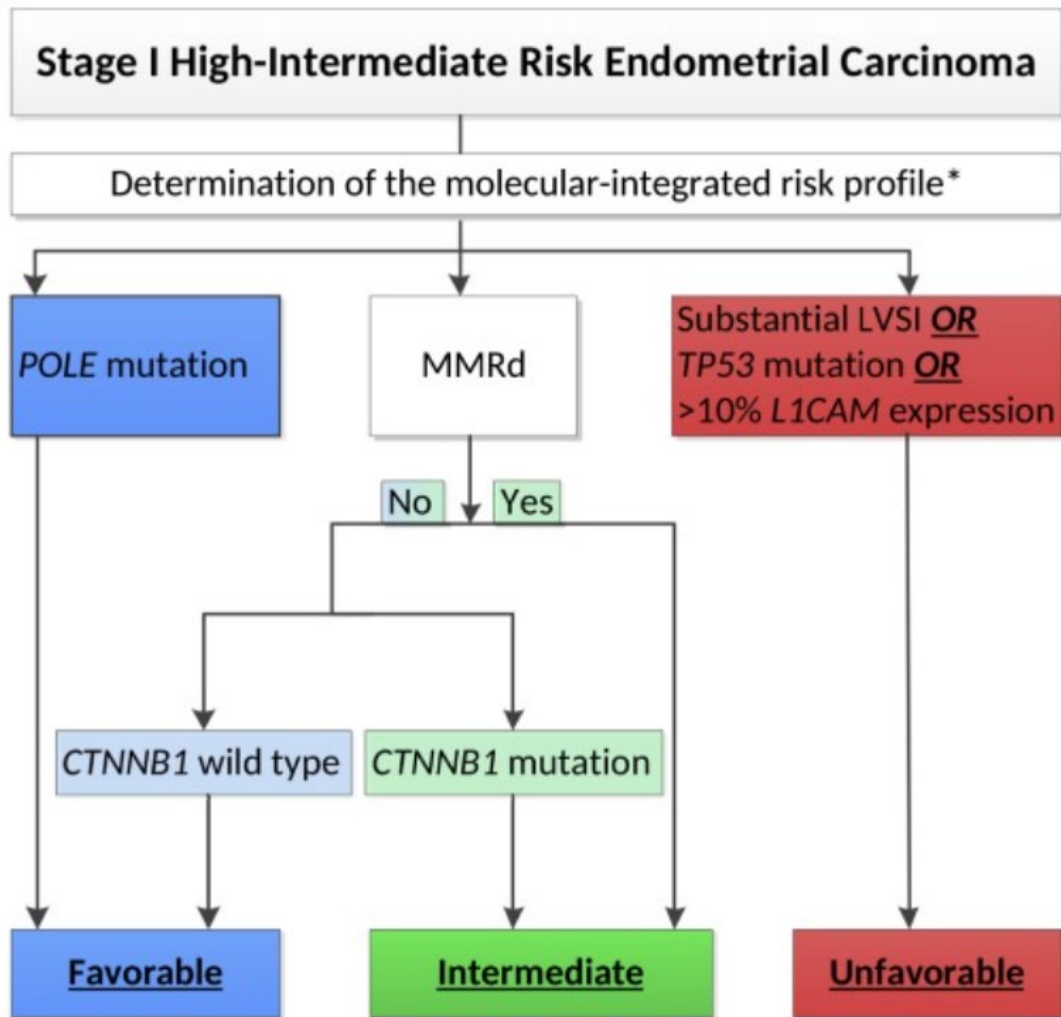
# GOG 210 MMR testing

- Over 1,000 pts, all tumors assessed for MSI, MMR IHC and MLH1 methylation
- Four molecular classes identified:
  - 65% MMR normal (no MSI, no IHC defect)
    - Most commonly grade 1
  - 26% epigenetic MMR defect (MSI+, MLH1 methylated)
    - Older, lower BMI, higher stage, higher grade, LVI
  - 10% probable genetic MMR mutation (MSI+ and/or IHC deficient without MLH1 methylation)
    - Higher grade, LVI
  - 2% MSI-low

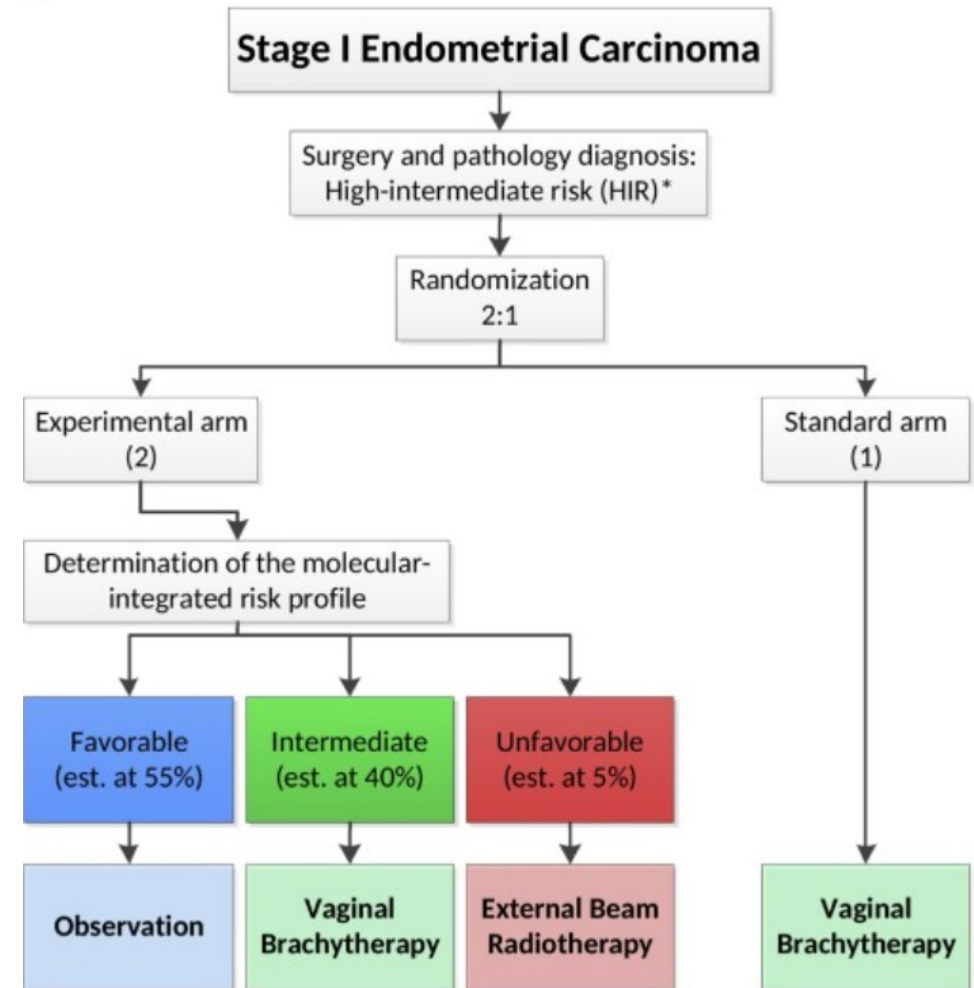
# Mismatch Repair in Endometrial Cancer

- Additional data from OSU looking at pts classified as early stage high intermediate risk and found dMMR pts had a higher rate of recurrence, with notably higher distant metastases. (Backes et al. Cancer 2018)

# PORTEC 4a



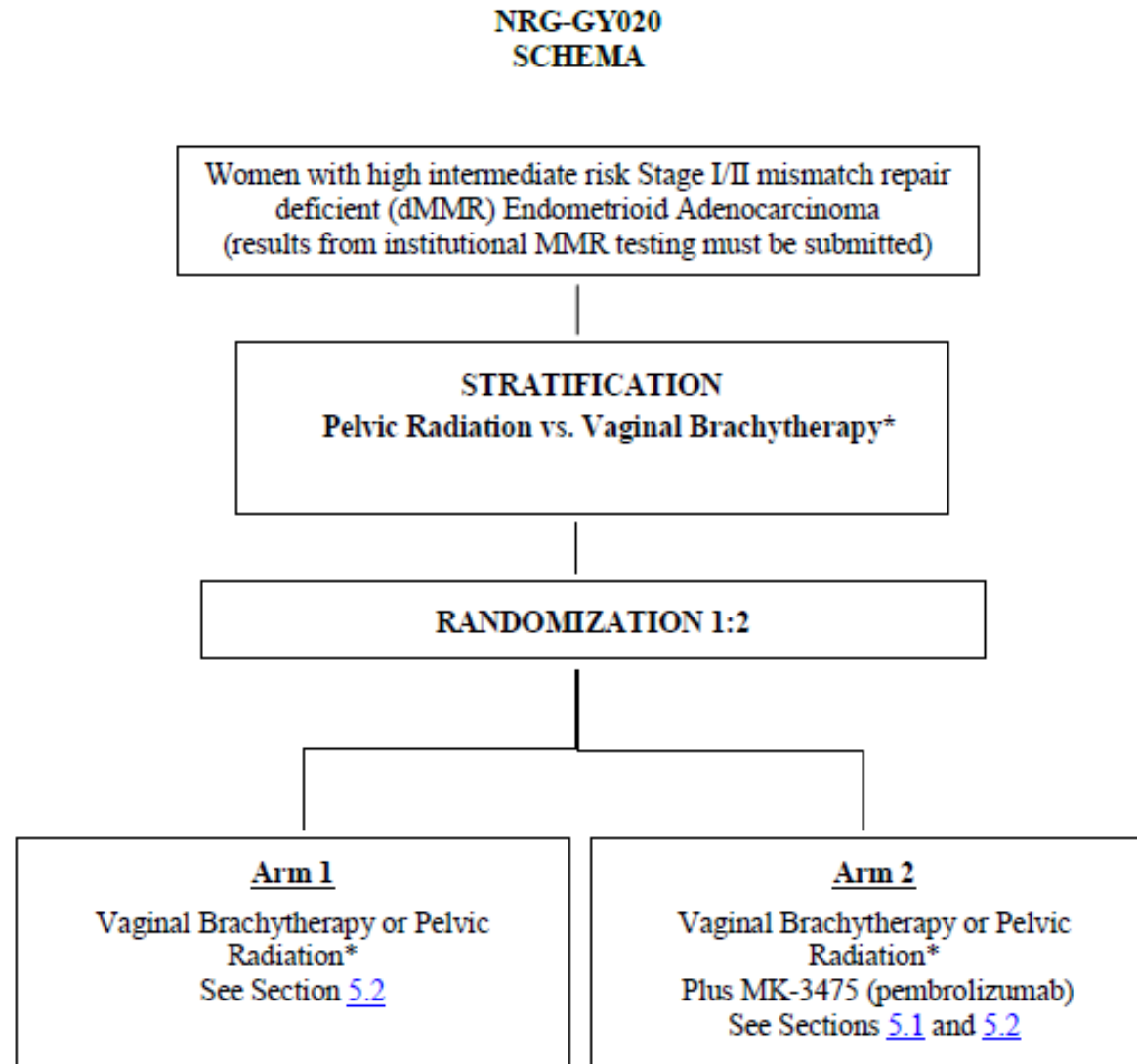
\*Patients with multiple characteristics (double classifiers) were designated intermediate risk. MMRd = Mismatch repair-deficiency. For details, see text.



\*High-intermediate risk (HIR) endometrial cancer: stage IA (with invasion) and grade 3; stage IB, grade 1 or 2; with either age  $\geq 60$  or substantial lymph-vascular space invasion (LVSI); stage IB, grade 3 without LVSI; or stage II (microscopic) with grade 1. Est = estimated.

# Immunotherapy for Endometrial Cancer

- GY020



# Summary

- Adaptive radiotherapy and hybrid interstitial brachytherapy are decreasing dose to organs at risk in the pelvis
- Understanding of the genomics and tumor microenvironment for cervical cancer and endometrial cancer are rapidly evolving
- Major advances in clinical outcomes of locally advanced cervical cancer are on the horizon via immunotherapy
- Molecular profiling of endometrial cancer will enhance our ability to appropriately select patients for adjuvant therapy