

27-29 novembre 2025



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Padova Congress

27 - 29 novembre 2025

Padova Congress
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**Sarcopenia e tossicità oncologica:
evidenze emergenti e algoritmi decisionali**

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Body composition and sarcopenia: The next-generation of personalized oncology and pharmacology?



Marc Hilmi^a, Anne Jouinot^a, Robert Burns^b, Frédéric Pigneur^b, Rémi Mounier^d, Julien Gondin^d, Cindy Neuzillet^{c,*}, François Goldwasser^{a,1}

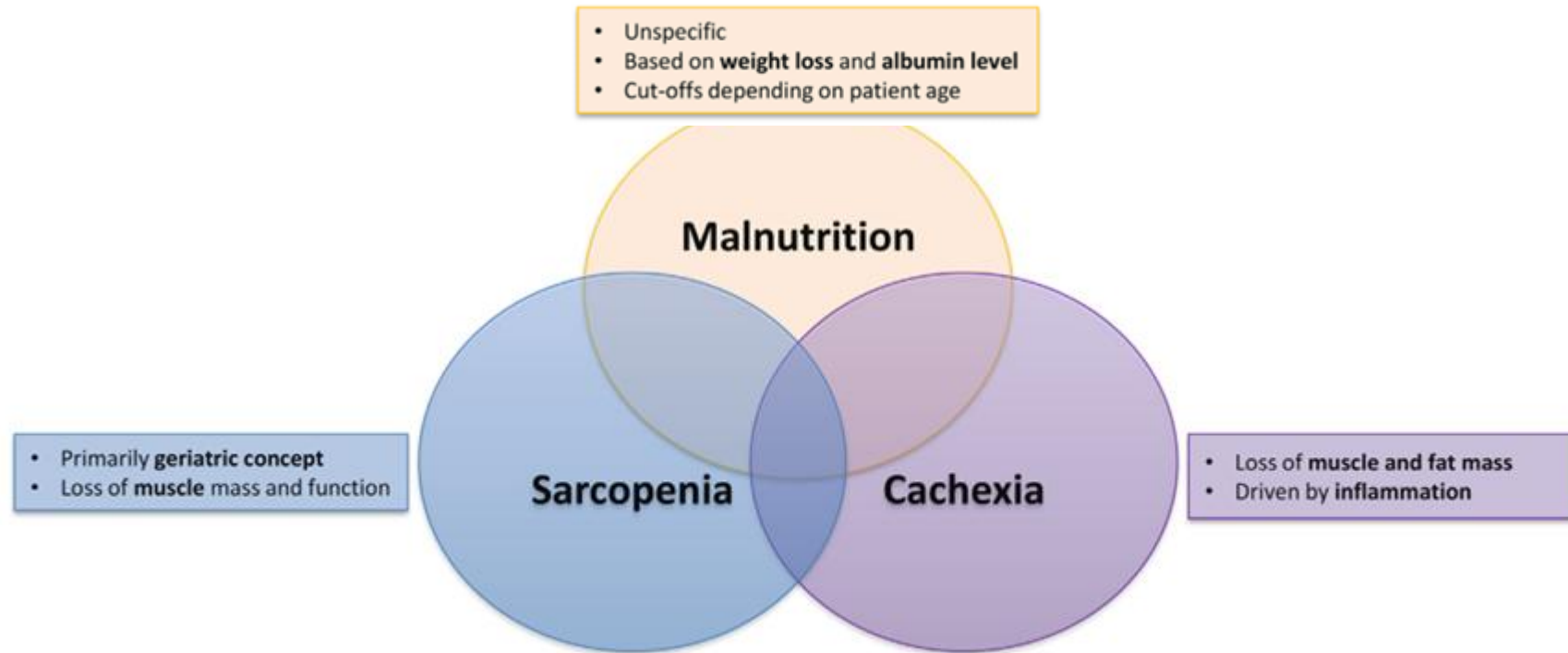


Fig. 1. Overlap and distinctions between sarcopenia, cachexia and malnutrition definitions.

Table 3
Prevalence of sarcopenia.

| Tumor type | Stage | Study | Sarcopenia evaluation | Prevalence of sarcopenia | |
|---|----------------------|---|---|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Head and neck</u> | Locally advanced | Wendrich et al., 2017 | L3 CT scan | 54% | |
| | Breast | Localized | Shachar, Deal, Weinberg, Williams, et al., 2017 | L3 CT scan | 3% obese sarcopenic |
| Del Fabbro et al., 2012 | | | L3 CT scan | 14% | |
| <u>Lung</u> | Metastatic | Carla M. M. Prado et al., 2009 | L3 CT scan | 3% obese sarcopenic | |
| | | Shachar, Deal, Weinberg, Nyrop, et al., 2017 | L3 CT scan | 25% | |
| | All stages | Srdic et al., 2016 | L3 CT scan | 58% | |
| | | Stene et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 47% | |
| | | Arrieta et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 74% | |
| | | Kim et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 69% | |
| <u>Oesophagus</u> | Localized | Go et al., 2016 | L3 CT scan | 79% | |
| | | Baracos, Reiman, Mourtzakis, Gioulbasanis, & Antoun, 2010 | T4 CT scan | 25% | |
| | | Anandavadivelan et al., 2016 | L3 CT scan | 47% | |
| <u>Stomach</u> | Locally advanced | B. H. L. Tan et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 43% | |
| | | Tamandl et al., 2016 | L3 CT scan | 14% obese sarcopenic | |
| | | Murimwa et al., 2017 | L4 CT scan | 49% | |
| | Locally advanced | Awad et al., 2012 | L3 CT scan | 65% | |
| | | Yip et al., 2014 | L3 CT scan | 41% | |
| | | Miyata et al., 2017 | L3 CT scan | 57% | |
| <u>Liver</u> | Locally advanced | Palmela et al., 2017 | BIA | 43% | |
| | | | L3 CT scan | 47% | |
| | Localized | Advanced | Tegels et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 23% |
| | | | Wang et al., 2016 | L3 CT scan | 10% obese sarcopenic |
| | | | Meza-Junco et al., 2013 | L3 CT scan | 58% |
| | | | Levolger et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 12% |
| | | | Voron et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 30% |
| | | | Kamachi et al., 2016 | L3 CT scan | 58% |
| | | | (Harimoto et al., 2013) | L3 CT scan | 30% |
| | All stages | Dhooge et al., 2013 | L3 CT scan | 66% | |
| | | Mir, Coriat, Blanchet, et al., 2012 | L3 CT scan | 40% | |
| Nault et al., 2015 | | L3 CT scan | 50% | | |
| Mir, Coriat, Boudou-Rouquette, et al., 2012 | | L3 CT scan | 27% | | |
| <u>Pancreas</u> | Localized | Fujiwara et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 76% | |
| | | Iritani et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 50% | |
| | Advanced | Amini et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 11% | |
| | | Cooper et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 11% | |
| | | Joglekar et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 25% | |
| | Rollins et al., 2016 | L3 CT scan | 52% | | |
| | | | 26% | | |
| | | | 60% | | |
| | | | 25% overweight/obese sarcopenic | | |

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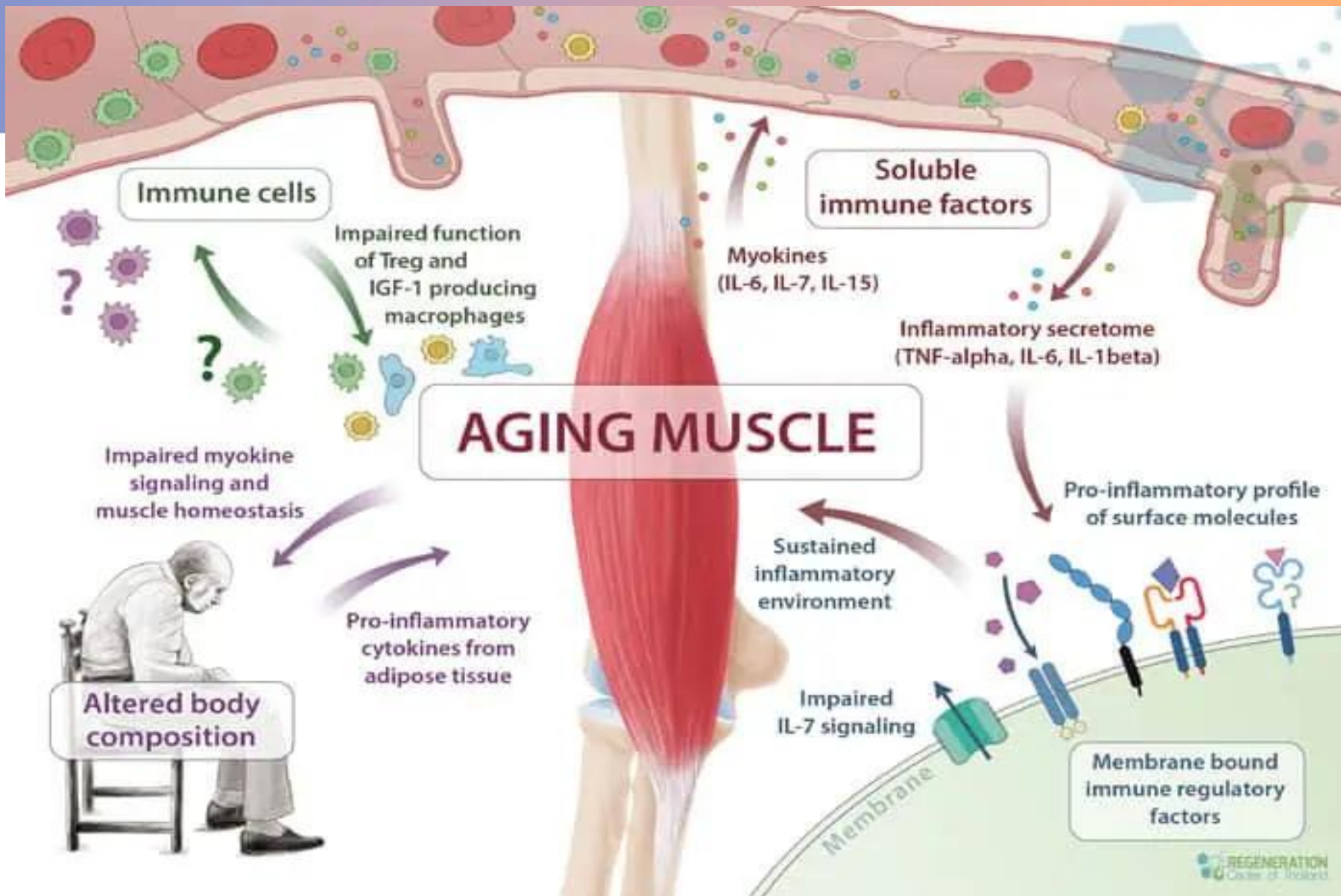
Table 3 (continued)

| Tumor type | Stage | Study | Sarcopenia evaluation | Prevalence of sarcopenia | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--|------------|
| Colorectal | | Dalal et al., 2012 | L3 CT scan | 63% | | | |
| | | Benjamin H. L. Tan, Birdsell, Martin, Baracos, & Fearon, 2009 | L3 CT scan | 40% | | | |
| | All stages | Localized | Choi et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 16% overweight/obese sarcopenic | | |
| | | | Di Sebastiano et al., 2013 | L3 CT scan | 21% | | |
| | | | Broughman et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 48% | | |
| | | | Miyamoto et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 57% | | |
| | | | Reisinger et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 25% | | |
| | | | Huang et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 48% | | |
| | | | Chemama et al., 2016 | L3 CT scan | 12% | | |
| | | | Van Vugt et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 40% | | |
| | | | Locally advanced | Metastatic | Lene Thoresen et al., 2013 | L3 CT scan | 44% |
| | | | | | L. Thoresen et al., 2012 | L3 CT scan | 39% |
| | | | | | Van Vledder et al., 2012 | L3 CT scan | 20% |
| | | | | | Barret et al., 2014 | L3 CT scan | 19% |
| | | | | | Blauwhoff-Buskermolen et al., 2016 | L3 CT scan | 71% |
| Parsons, Tsimberidou, et al., 2012 | L3 CT scan | 57% | | | | | |
| Kidney | All stages | Lieffers, Bathe, Fassbender, Winget, & Baracos, 2012 | L3 CT scan | 42% | | | |
| | | Localized | Psutka et al., 2016 | L3 CT scan | 39% | | |
| | | | Metastatic | (Fukushima et al., 2016) | L3 CT scan | 47% | |
| | | Sharma, Zargar-Shoshtari, Caracciolo, Fishman, et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 68% | | | |
| | | Huillard et al., 2013 | L3 CT scan | 29% | | | |
| | | Cushen et al., 2017 | L3 CT scan | 53% | | | |
| | | Bladder | Localized | Ishihara et al., 2016 | L3 CT scan | 33% | |
| | | | | Antoun et al., 2010 | L3 CT scan | 13% overweight sarcopenic | |
| | | | | Psutka et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 63% | |
| | | | | Prostate | Advanced | Fukushima, Yokoyama, Nakanishi, Tobisu, & Koga, 2015 | L3 CT scan |
| Metastatic | Cushen et al., 2016 | | | | L3 CT scan | 83% | |
| Penile | Locally advanced | Sharma, Zargar-Shoshtari, Caracciolo, Richard, et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 5% obese sarcopenic | | | |
| | | | L3 CT scan | 60% | | | |
| | | | L3 CT scan | 47% | | | |
| | | | L3 CT scan | 27% obese sarcopenic | | | |
| Hematological malignancies | Metastatic | Sucak et al., 2012 | LBM: Cunningham formula* | 51% | | | |
| | | | Morishita et al., 2012 | BIA | 13% | | |
| | | | Camus et al., 2014 | L3 CT scan | 50% | | |
| | | | Nakamura et al., 2015 | L3 CT scan | 55% | | |
| Melanoma | Metastatic | Heidelberger et al., 2017 | L3 CT scan | 56% | | | |
| | | | L3 CT scan | 50% | | | |
| Mixed | All stages | Daly et al., 2017 | L3 CT scan | 16% overweight sarcopenic | | | |
| | | Carla M. M. Prado et al., 2008 | L3 CT scan | 20% | | | |
| | | Bretagne et al., 2017 | Cr/CysC ratio | 15% | | | |
| | | Parsons, Baracos, Dhillon, Hong, & Kurzrock, 2012 | L3 CT scan | 62% | | | |
| | | Cousin et al., 2014 | L3 CT scan | 51% | | | |
| | | | L3 CT scan | 50% | | | |

Abbreviations: BIA: bioelectrical impedance analysis, Cr: creatinine, CysC: cystatin C, L3 CT scan: computed tomography at the third lumbar vertebra level, LBM: lean body mass.

* Male; $[(79.5 - 0.24 \times \text{mass (kg)} - 0.15 \times \text{age (years)})] \times \text{mass (kg)} + 73.2$ which is divided by square of height (m^2).

Female; $[(69.8 - 0.26 \times \text{mass (kg)} - 0.12 \times \text{age (years)})] \times \text{mass (kg)} + 73.2$ which is divided by square of height (m^2).



INVITED REVIEW

Drug-related sarcopenia as a secondary sarcopenia

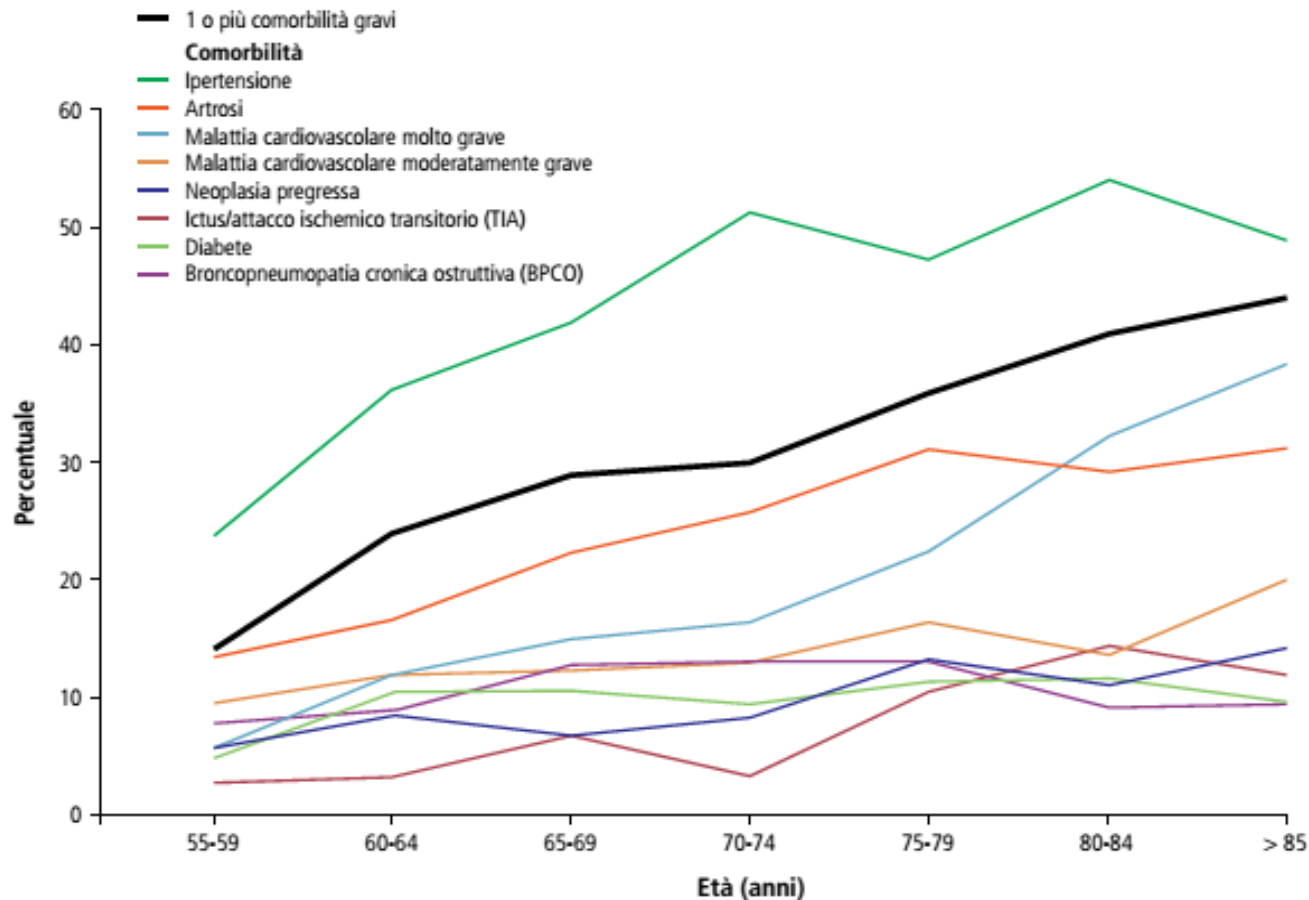
Masafumi Kuzuya^{1,2} 

Table 2 Drugs that may cause sarcopenia and their direct effects on muscle

| Drugs | Effects on skeletal muscle |
|---|--|
| Statin | Mitochondrial function ↓, coenzyme Q10 ↓, apoptosis ↑, muscle protein catabolism ↑ |
| Sulfonylureas/insulin secretagogue (glinides) | Apoptosis ↑ |
| SGLT2 inhibitors | Muscle protein ↓ ^a |
| Antineoplastic drugs | Various ^b |
| Immune checkpoint inhibitors | Cytotoxic T cell ↑, inflammation in muscle ↑ |
| Glucocorticoids | Muscle protein ↓, satellite cell differentiation ↓, muscle IGF-I production ↓ |
| Androgen deprivation therapy | Muscle protein ↓, inflammation ↑ |
| Chloroquine/hydroxychloroquine | Autophagy ↓ |
| Colchicine | Autophagy ↓ |
| Nucleoside analogues | Mitochondrial function ↓ |
| Loop diuretics | Myoblast fusion ↓ |
| D-penicillamine | Inflammation in muscle ↑ |

Abbreviations: SGLT2, sodium–glucose cotransporter 2; ↑, increase; ↓, decrease.

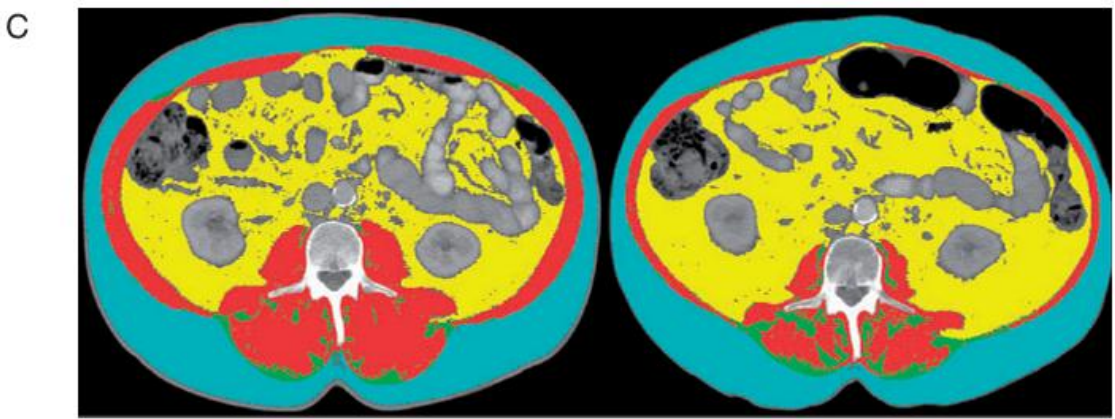
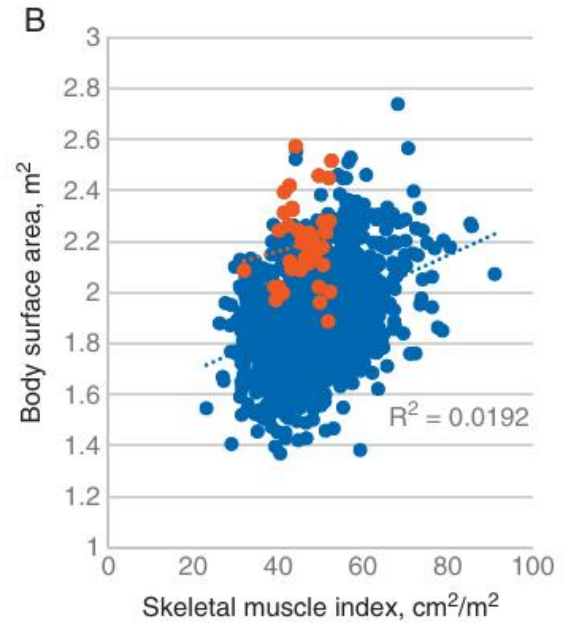
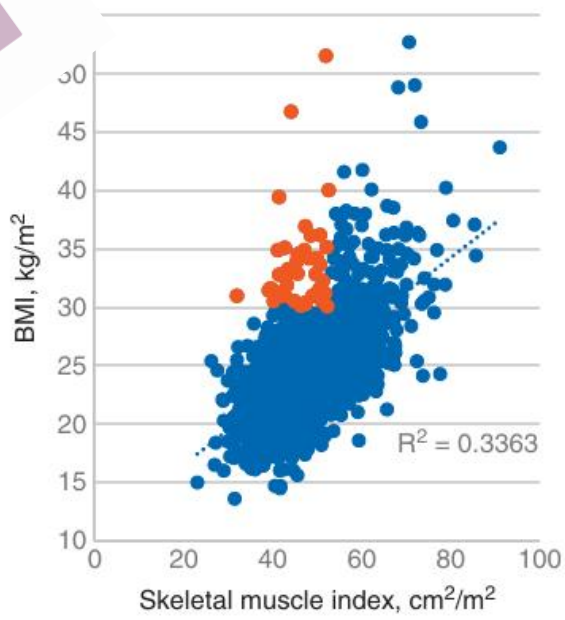
^aIndirect action on muscles.

Sarcopenic obesity: hidden muscle wasting and its impact for survival and complications of cancer therapy

V. E. Baracos^{1*} & L. Arribas^{2,3,4}

Annals of Oncology 29 (Supplement 2): ii1-ii9, 2018
doi:10.1093/annonc/mdx810

ent article



Orange dots represent sarcopenic obese patients

Figure 1. Variation in muscularity of patients with solid tumors. Data presented are for a population cohort of male patients with advanced solid tumors of the lung or gastrointestinal tract ($n=2760$). (A) Body mass index (BMI) and lumbar skeletal muscle index are poorly correlated.

SUPPLEMENT ARTICLE

Sarcopenic obesity: hidden muscle wasting and its impact for survival and complications of cancer therapy

V. E. Baracos^{1*} & L. Arribas^{2,3,4}

SARCOPENIC OBESITY

Multivariate hazard ratio for death

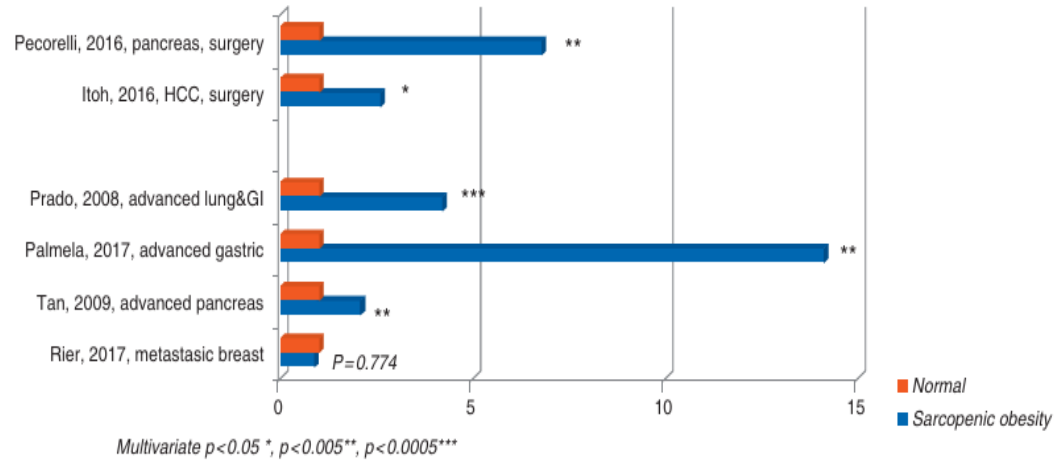


Figure 2. Multivariate odds ratio for mortality in sarcopenic obese patients.

SARCOPENIC OBESITY

Multivariate odds ratio for surgical complications

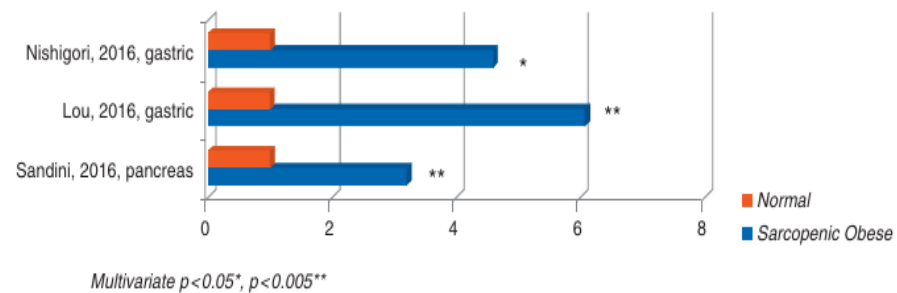


Figure 3. Multivariate odds ratio for surgical complications in sarcopenic obese patients.

SUPPLEMENT ARTICLE

Sarcopenic obesity: hidden muscle wasting and its impact for survival and complications of cancer therapy

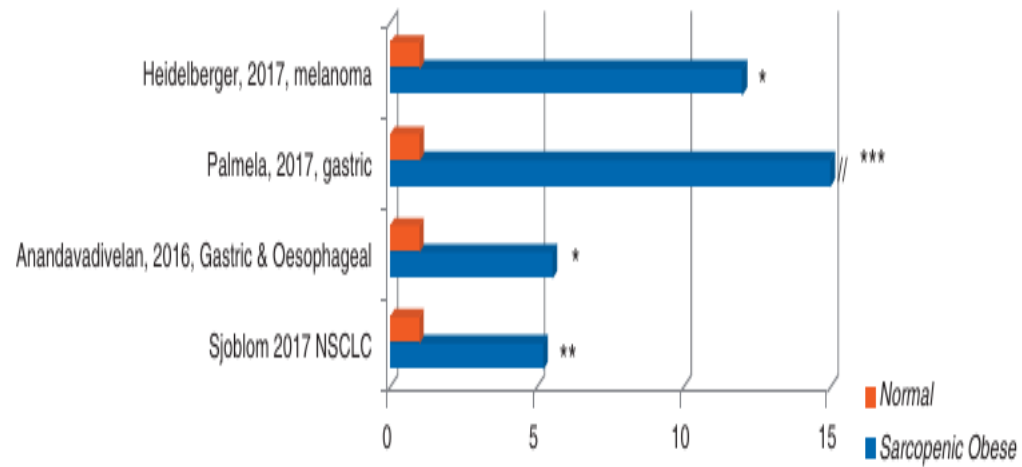
V. E. Baracos^{1*} & L. Arribas^{2,3,4}

Annals of Oncology

Supplement article

SARCOPENIC OBESITY

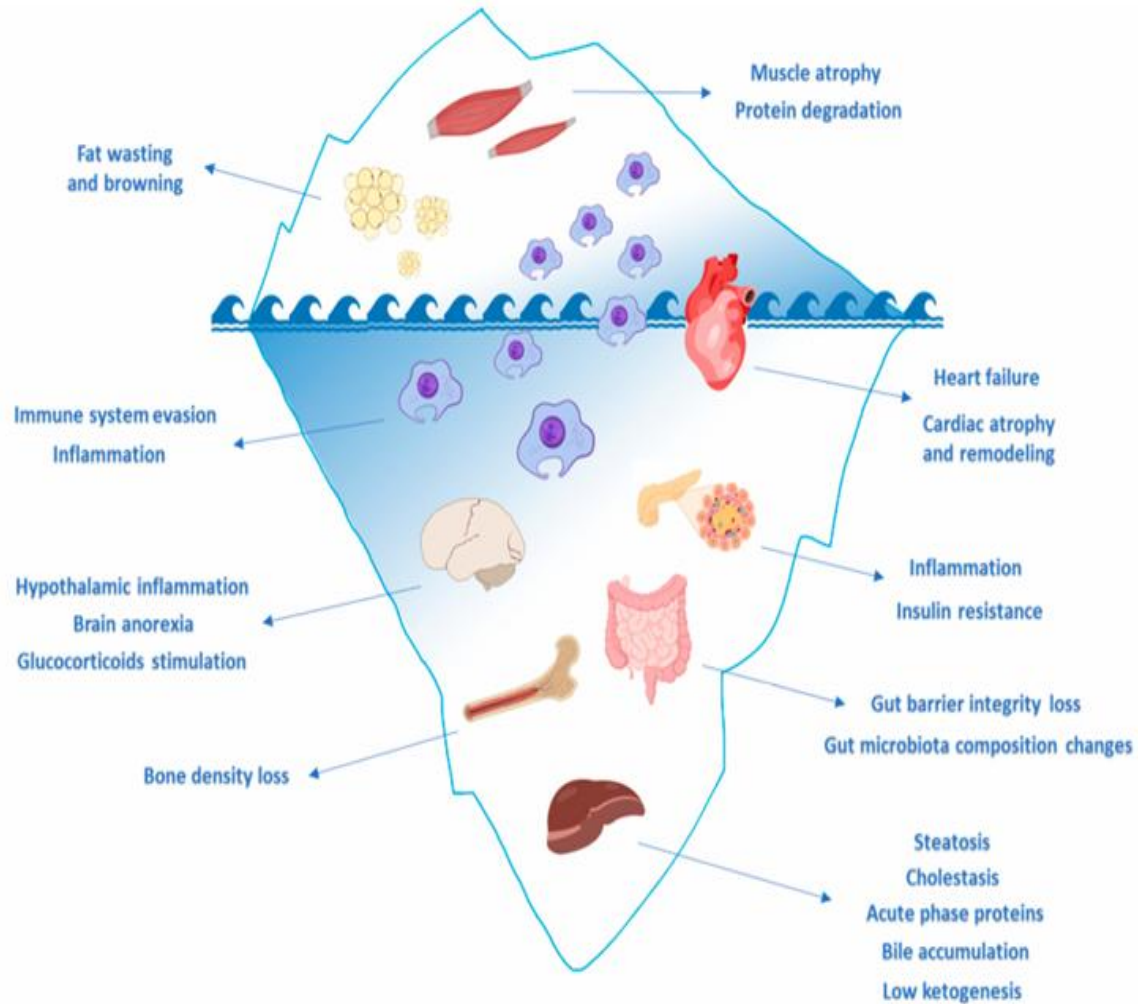
Multivariate odds ratio for chemotherapy dose limiting toxicity



Multivariate $P < 0.05^*$, $P < 0.005^{**}$, $P < 0.0005^{***}$

Figure 4. Multivariate odds ratio for dose-limiting toxicity of chemotherapy in sarcopenic obese patients.

The tip of the iceberg



Multi-organ dysfunctions are parallelly ongoing during tumor growth by promoting muscle wasting

Main molecular mechanisms of cancer cachexia

Adipose tissue breakdown

- ↑ in lipolysis, ↑ turnover of glycerol and FFA
- elevated levels of lipid mobilising factor (**LMF**), a tumour-induced catabolic factor directly acting on the adipose tissue with the release of FFA and glycerol.

Inflammation

- elevated levels of **TNF-α**, **IFN-γ**, **IL-1** and **IL-6** act in a synergistic manner, driving mechanisms responsible for the progressive muscle wasting

Increased muscle protein breakdown

- via various proteolytic pathways

Decreased protein synthesis

Decreased insulin sensitivity of the skeletal muscle

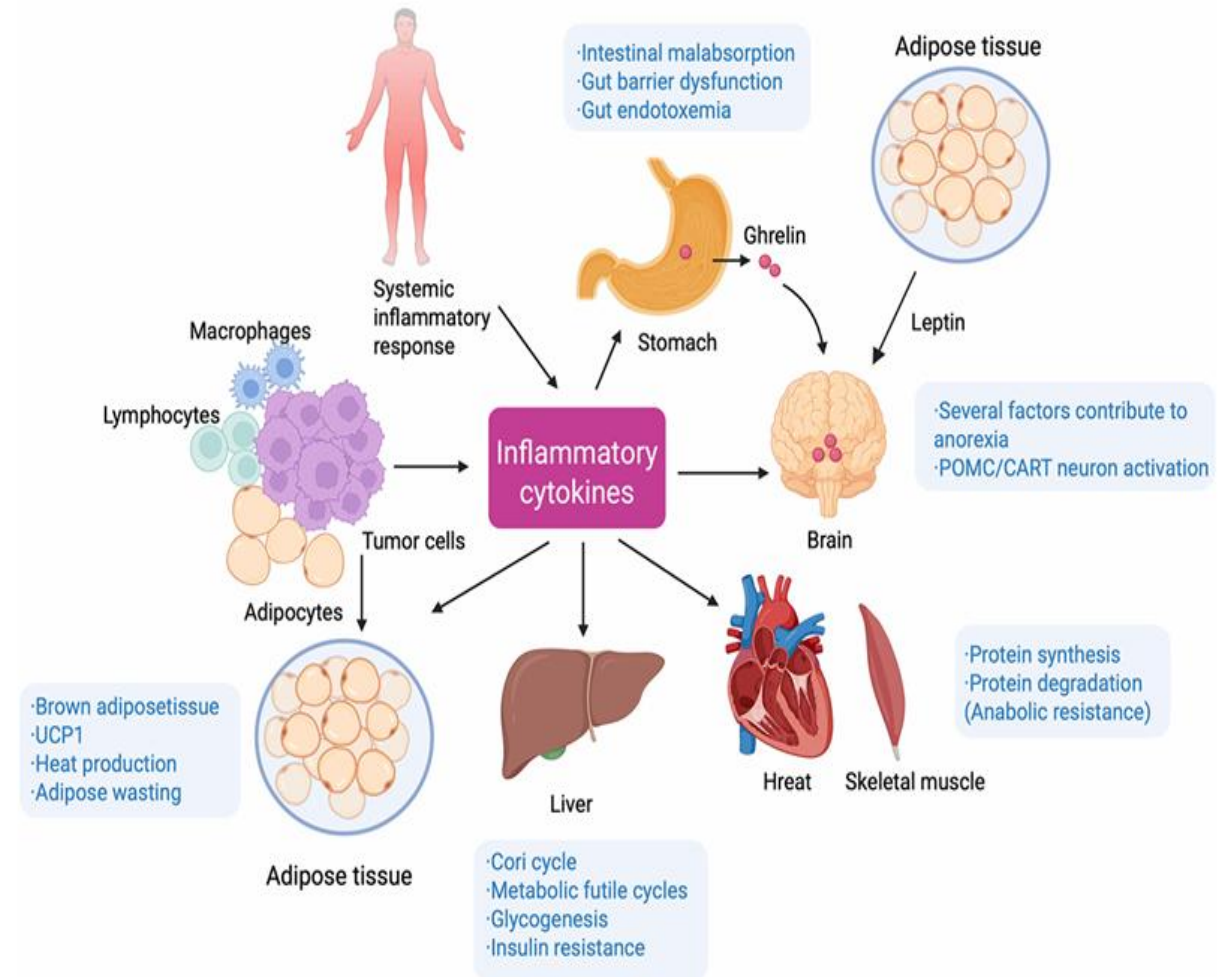
- prevents the AA uptake, suppressing protein synthesis

Loss of physical activity

may also significantly affect the suppression of protein synthesis

Oxidative stress

- due to increased production levels of ROS



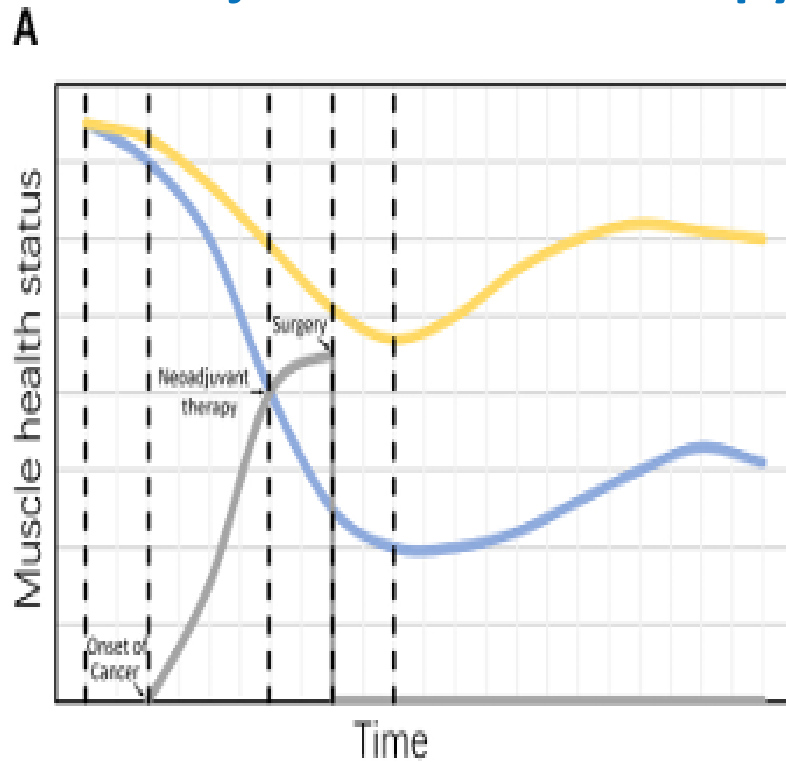
Key proteolytic systems in muscle wasting

Proteolytic systems act synergistically to degrade both myofibrillar and non-myofibrillar cellular proteins, thereby contributing to muscle wasting.

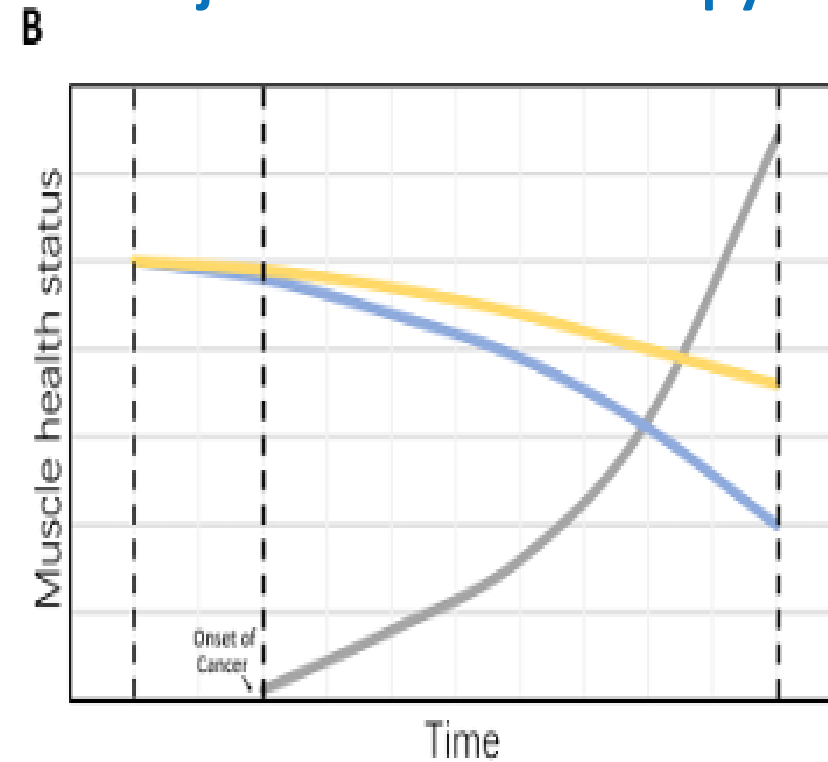
- **Ubiquitin–proteasome system**
This pathway degrades myofibrillar proteins, which constitute the structural components of muscle fibers
- **Inappropriately upregulated lysosomal autophagy**
- **Calcium-dependent proteases**
Calpains are activated by elevated intracellular calcium concentrations
- **Mitochondrial dysfunction**
It impairs energy metabolism in muscle cells, increases oxidative stress, leading to excessive production of ROS



Neoadjuvant chemotherapy



Adjuvant chemotherapy



— Muscle health status without intervention — Muscle health status with active intervention — The progression of cancer

Ageing Research Reviews 91 (2023) 102057

Original article

The impact of sarcopenia and myosteatosis on outcomes of unresectable pancreatic cancer or distal cholangiocarcinoma

Katie E. Rollins ^{a,1}, Nilanjana Tewari ^{a,1}, Abigail Ackner ^a, Amir Awwad ^b, Srinivasan Madhusudan ^c, Ian A. Macdonald ^d, Kenneth C.H. Fearon ^e, Dileep N. Lobo ^{a,*}

Does quantity or quality of muscle mass matter?

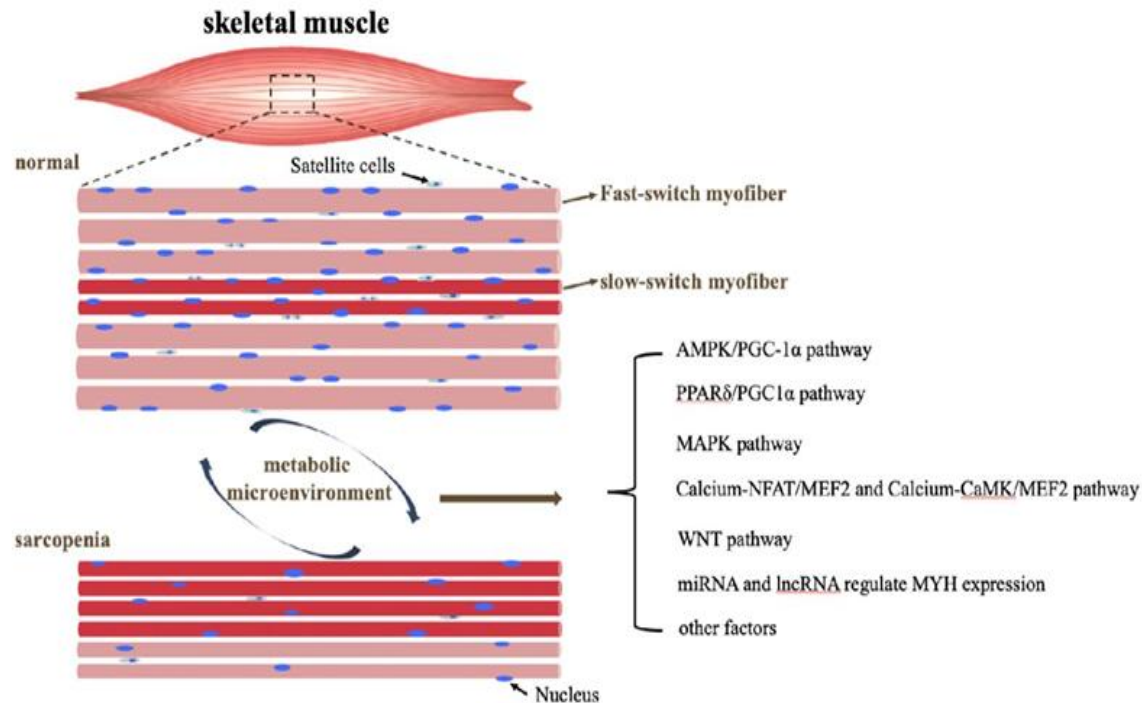


Figure 3. The model of signaling pathways and transcription factors that regulate metabolic microenvironment in skeletal muscle. AMPK/PGC-1α signaling, MAPK signaling, Calcium-NFAT/MEF2 and Calcium-CaMK/MEF2 signaling, WNT signaling, miRNA and lncRNA and other transcription factors.

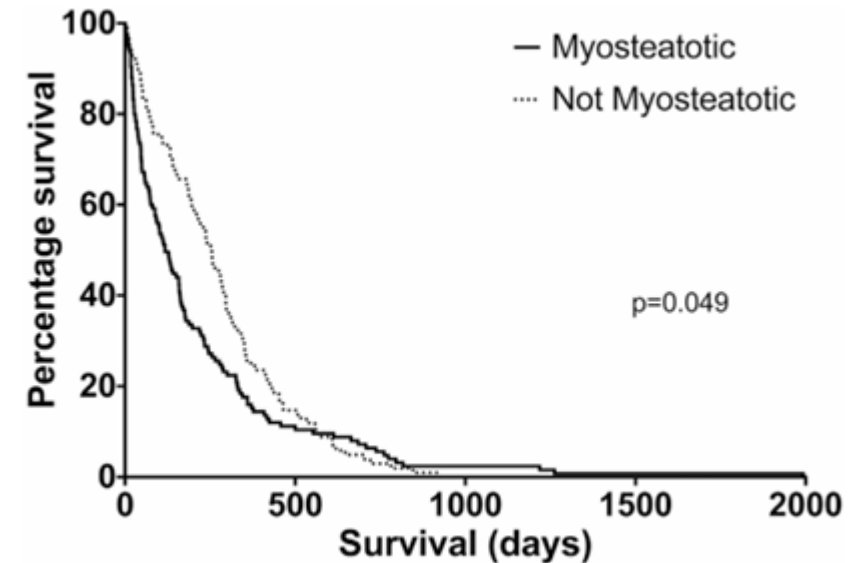


Fig. 3. Survival by presence and absence of myosteatosis in the whole patient cohort.

Table 3. Risk of mortality due to sarcopenia

| Author (year) | Primary tumour | Hazard ratio (CI) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Colorectal | |
| Van Veddler [45] (2012) | | 2.69 (1.67–4.33) |
| Thoresen [46] (2013) | | 1.74 (0.99–3.04) |
| Myamoto [44] (2015) | | 2.27 (1.15–4.49) |
| | Hepatocellular carcinoma | |
| Dhooge [52] (2012) | | 2.87 (0.41–20.27) |
| Mir [50] (2012) | | 1.66 (0.64–4.27) |
| Mir [51] (2012) | | 4.84 (1.20–19.44) |
| Fujwara [56] (2013) | | 1.52 (1.18–1.96) |
| Harimoto [53] (2013) | | 1.11 (1.04–1.19) |
| Moza-Junco [54] (2013) | | 2.53 (1.35–4.74) |
| Itoh [117] (2014) | | 1.96 (1.04–3.68) |
| Iritani [58] (2015) | | 3.18 (1.68–6.03) |
| Levolger [59] (2015) | | 3.76 (1.78–7.93) |
| Veron [55] (2015) | | 3.19 (1.28–7.96) |
| Kaido [118] (2017) | | 95% versus 57% 3-year survival |
| | Pancreas/biliary tract | |
| Tan [68] (2009) | | 1.28 (0.86–1.91) |
| Dalal [62] (2012) | | 1.48 (0.76–2.87) |
| Mir [50] (2012) | | 3.27 (0.80–13.44) |
| Choi [70] (2015) | | 1.72 (1.39–2.28) |
| Cooper [66] (2015) | | 0.99 (0.96–1.02) |
| Rollins [71] (2015) | | 1.10 (0.77–1.58) |
| | Oesophagus/gastric | |
| Yip [73] (2013) | | 2.38 (0.48–11.69) |
| Harada [76] (2015) | | 1.07 (0.69–1.67) |
| Tamandl [77] (2015) | | 1.87 (1.15–3.03) |
| Tan [107] (2015) | | 1.80 (0.95–3.42) |
| | Kidney/bladder/urothelial | |
| Psutka [91] (2015) | | 1.48 (1.02–2.15) |
| Sharma [88] (2015) | | 2.13 (1.15–3.93) |
| Smith [89] (2014) | | |
| Fukushima [87, 90] (2015, 2015) | | 2.58 (1.16–5.74), 1.11 (1.07–1.15) |
| Psutka [91, 84] (2015, 2016) | | 1.93 (1.24–3.01), 1.71 (1.14–2.57) |
| | Other | |
| Prado [32] (2008) | | 4.20 (2.42–7.27) |
| Martin [33] (2013) | | 1.20 (1.05–1.38) |
| Sharma [99] (2015) | | 1.95 (0.68–5.64) |
| Lanic [119] (2014) | | 3.22 (1.73–5.98) |

Sarcopenia decreases response to chemotherapy and survival

If patients are sarcopenic, the response to chemotherapy may be lower.

Poor outcomes may be related to higher toxicity rates that, in turn, may lead to dose reduction and delivering lower doses of effective oncological treatment.

Table 2. Increased toxicity due to sarcopenia

| Author (year) | Primary | Drugs | Comments |
|--|-------------------------|---|---|
| Prado [105] (2007) Barret [48] (2014) | Colon | 5-FU Fluoropyrimidine ± oxaliplatin, irinotecan | 1.7↑ toxicity if > 20 mg/kg LMB 13.5↑ grade 3–4 toxicity at oxaliplatin 3 mg/Kg LMB |
| Ali [106] (2016) Jung [41] (2015) | | FOLFOX FOLFOX | 44% versus 0 in nonsarcopenic 1.5↑ grade 3–4 toxicity/1PI*SD<ref. value |
| Anandavalivedan [74] (2015) Tan [107] (2015) | Oesophago-Gastric J | Cisplatinum +5-FU | 5.5↑ DLT in obese sarcopenic patients 2.9↑ DLT in sarcopenic patients |
| Prado [93] (2009) Prado [108] (2011) Shachar [109] (2016) | Breast | Capecitabine Epirubicine Taxane | 2.5↑ toxicity Lower LBM in patients with toxicity 3.1↑ grade 3–4 toxicity |
| Antoun [82] (2010) Houillard [85] (2013) Cushen [86] (2014) | Renal cell Carcinoma | Sorafenib Sunitinib Sunitinib | 6.4 ↑ toxicity 4.1 ↑ toxicity 1.6 ↑ dose-limiting toxicity |
| Mir [50, 51] (2012) Massicotte [110] (2013) Sjoblom [111] (2016) | Other | Safeni, vandetanib, Phase 1 drugs carboplatinum, pemetrexed/ gemcitabine/vinorelbine | 2.6↑ DLT, 5.2↑ DLT 6↑ toxicity 2↑ toxicity |
| Choi [70] (2016) | | rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, and prednisolone | 2.4↑ early discontinuation |
| Go [112] (2016) | | R-CHOP | 1.3 ↑ discontinuation |

LMB: lean body mass; PI; psoas index; DLT:dose lethal toxicity; R-CHOP: radiotherapy-cyclophosphamide, hydroxydaunorubicin, oncovin, prednisone

The excess of toxicity ranges from 1.6 to a 13 factor, mainly depending on the drug investigated in the different studies

Table 4
Sarcopenia and chemotherapy toxicity.

| Study | Tumor type | Treatment | N | Sarcopenia evaluation | Toxicity assessment | Main results | Significant association |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--------------|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Wendrich et al., 2017 | Locally advanced head and neck cancer | Primary radiochemotherapy | 112 | L3 CT scan SMI < 43.2 cm ² /m ² | Entire length of chemotherapy Retrospective | More DLT in sarcopenic pts. (OR = 0.93) | Yes p = .005 |
| Carla M. M. Prado et al., 2011 | Localized breast cancer | Adjuvant epirubicin | 24 | L3 CT scan LBM as continuous variable | First cycle Retrospective | Lower LBM (mean 41.6 vs 56.2 kg) in pts. with toxicity Correlation of LBM with neutrophil nadir (r = 0.5) | Yes p = .002 p = .023 |
| Shachar et al., 2017 | Localized breast cancer | Anthracycline and taxane-based chemotherapy | 151 | L3 CT scan Skeletal muscle gauge (SMG) = SMI x SMD | Entire length of chemotherapy Retrospective | More hematological (RR = 2.12), gastrointestinal grade 3–4 toxicities (RR = 6.49), and hospitalizations (RR = 1.91) in pts. with lower SMG (<1475 units) | Yes p = .02 p = .02 p = .05 |
| Shachar, Deal, Weinberg, Nyrop, et al., 2017 | Metastatic breast cancer | Taxane-based chemotherapy | 40 | L3 CT scan SMI < 41 cm ² /m ² | Entire length of chemotherapy Retrospective | More grade 3–4 toxicity (57% vs 18%) in sarcopenic pts. More toxicity-related hospitalizations (39% vs 0%) in sarcopenic patients | Yes p = .02 p = .005 |
| Carla M. M. Prado et al., 2009 | Metastatic breast cancer | Capecitabine | 55 | L3 CT scan SMI < 38.5 cm ² /m ² | First cycle Prospective | More toxicity ≥ grade 2 (50% vs 20%) in sarcopenic pts. | Yes p = .03 |
| Go et al., 2016 | Localized and metastatic SCLC | Platinum plus etoposide or irinotecan | 117 Men only | T4 CT scan (pectoralis muscle) Lowest quartile SMI | First cycle Retrospective | More dose reduction in sarcopenic pts. (51.7% vs 29.5%) Higher treatment-related mortality (50.0 vs. 8.4%) in sarcopenic pts. with high NLR | Yes p < .001 |
| Suzuki et al., 2015 | Metastatic lung cancer | Mostly platinum-based chemotherapy | 25 | Cr/c ratio as continuous variable | First cycle Retrospective | Higher Cr/CysC ratio (0.83 vs 0.7) in pts. with grade 3–4 toxicity | Yes p < .05 |
| Stene et al., 2015 | Metastatic NSCLC | Carboplatin plus vinorelbine or gemcitabine | 35 | L3 CT scan SMI ≤ 38.5 cm ² /m ² for women SMI ≤ 52.4 cm ² /m ² for men | Cycles 1–3 Retrospective | No association between sarcopenia and grade 3–4 toxicity | No p = .33 |
| Sjøblom et al., 2015 | Metastatic NSCLC | Gemcitabine vinorelbine | 153 | L3 CT scan LBM as continuous variable | First cycle Retrospective | Higher dose/kg LBM of gemcitabine (41.9 vs 38.2 mg/kg) and vinorelbine (2.5 vs 2.3 mg/kg) in pts. with grade 3–4 hematological toxicity | Yes p = .008 p = .18 |
| Sjøblom et al., 2017 | Metastatic NSCLC | Carboplatin-doublet (gemcitabine, pemetrexed, vinorelbine) | 424 | L3 CT scan LBM as continuous variable | Cycle 1–4 Retrospective | Regarding grade 3/4 hematological toxicity, higher risk for dose/kg LBM > 20% above mean (OR = 1.93) and lower risk for dose/kg LBM < 20% below mean (OR = 0.52) | Yes p = .004 |

Table 4 (continued)

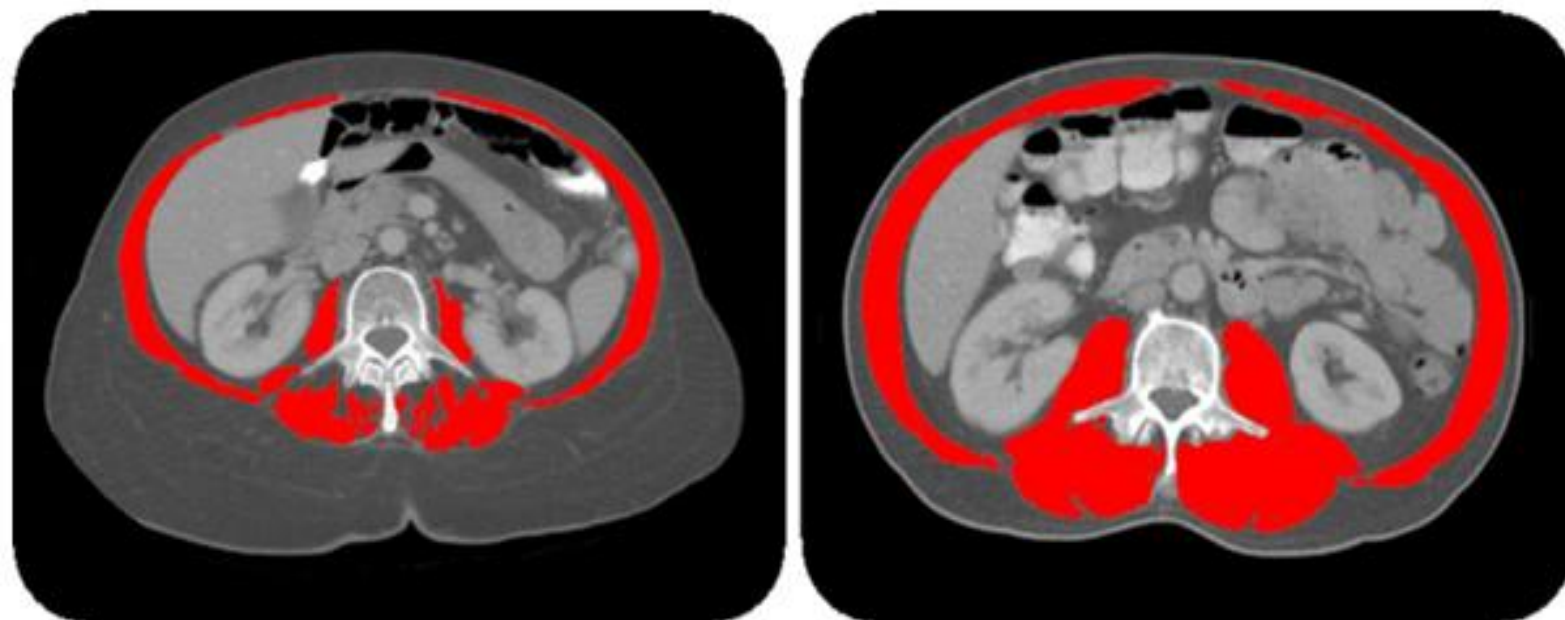
| Study | Tumor type | Treatment | N | Sarcopenia evaluation | Toxicity assessment | Main results | Significant association |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|-----|---|--|---|---|
| C. M.M. Prado et al., 2007 | pancreatic cancer | | | SMI < 41 cm ² /m ² for women | Retrospective | and toxicity | p = .4321 |
| | Stage II/III colon cancer | 5FU | 62 | SMI < 43 cm ² /m ² for men and < 53 cm ² /m ² for overweight/obese men Yes LBM as continuous variable | L3 CT scan Retrospective | First cycle p = .036 | Higher dose of 5FU mg/kg LBM in pts. with DLT (17.9 vs 16.3) Threshold of 20 mg 5FU/kg LBM for developing overall toxicity |
| p = .05 Jung et al., 2015 | Stage III colon cancer | Adjuvant FOLFOX | 229 | L4 CT scan (psoas muscle) Sex-adjusted lowest quartile SMI | Cycles 1–12 Retrospective | No association between decreased psoas index and toxicity (OR = 1.36 in multivariate analysis) | No p > .05 |
| Cespedes Feliciano et al., 2017 | Stage II/III colon cancer | Adjuvant FOLFOX | 533 | L3 CT scan Sex-adjusted lowest tertile SMI | Cycles 1–12 Retrospective | More neutropenia in pts. in the lowest tertile (54.9 vs 38.4%) More thrombocytopenia in pts. in the lowest tertile (13.2% vs 5.1%) | Yes p = .008 p = .02 |
| Barret et al., 2014 | Metastatic colorectal cancer | Mostly fluoropyrimidine based chemotherapy | 51 | L3 CT scan SMI ≤ 38.9 cm ² /m ² for women SMI ≤ 55.4 cm ² /m ² for men | Two first months Prospective | More grade 3–4 toxicity in sarcopenic pts. (OR = 13.35 in multivariate analysis) | Yes p = .043 |
| Blauwhoff-Buskermolen et al., 2016 | Metastatic colorectal cancer | Mostly capecitabine oxaliplatin + – bevacizumab | 67 | L3 CT scan SMI ≤ 38.9 cm ² /m ² for women SMI ≤ 55.4 cm ² /m ² for men | Period between two CT scans Prospective | No association between SMI and DLT | No p = .99 |
| Ali et al., 2016 | Metastatic colorectal cancer | FOLFOX | 138 | L3 CT scan LBM as continuous variable | Cycles 1–4 Retrospective | Stratification into three groups based on oxaliplatin dose/kg LBM. More DLT in pts. with highest dose/LBM (39.9% including 25% of neuropathy vs 8.3% including no neuropathy). | Yes p < .01 |



Interactions of lean soft-tissue and chemotherapy toxicities in patients receiving anti-cancer treatments

Jessica J. Hopkins¹ · Michael B. Sawyer²

Fig. 1 Using CT-derived body composition analysis to compare two patients with identical BSA but differing skeletal muscle area at L3



81M
BSA = 1.59 m²
SMI = 31.8 cm²/m²

65M
BSA = 1.59 m²
SMI = 54.4 cm²/m²

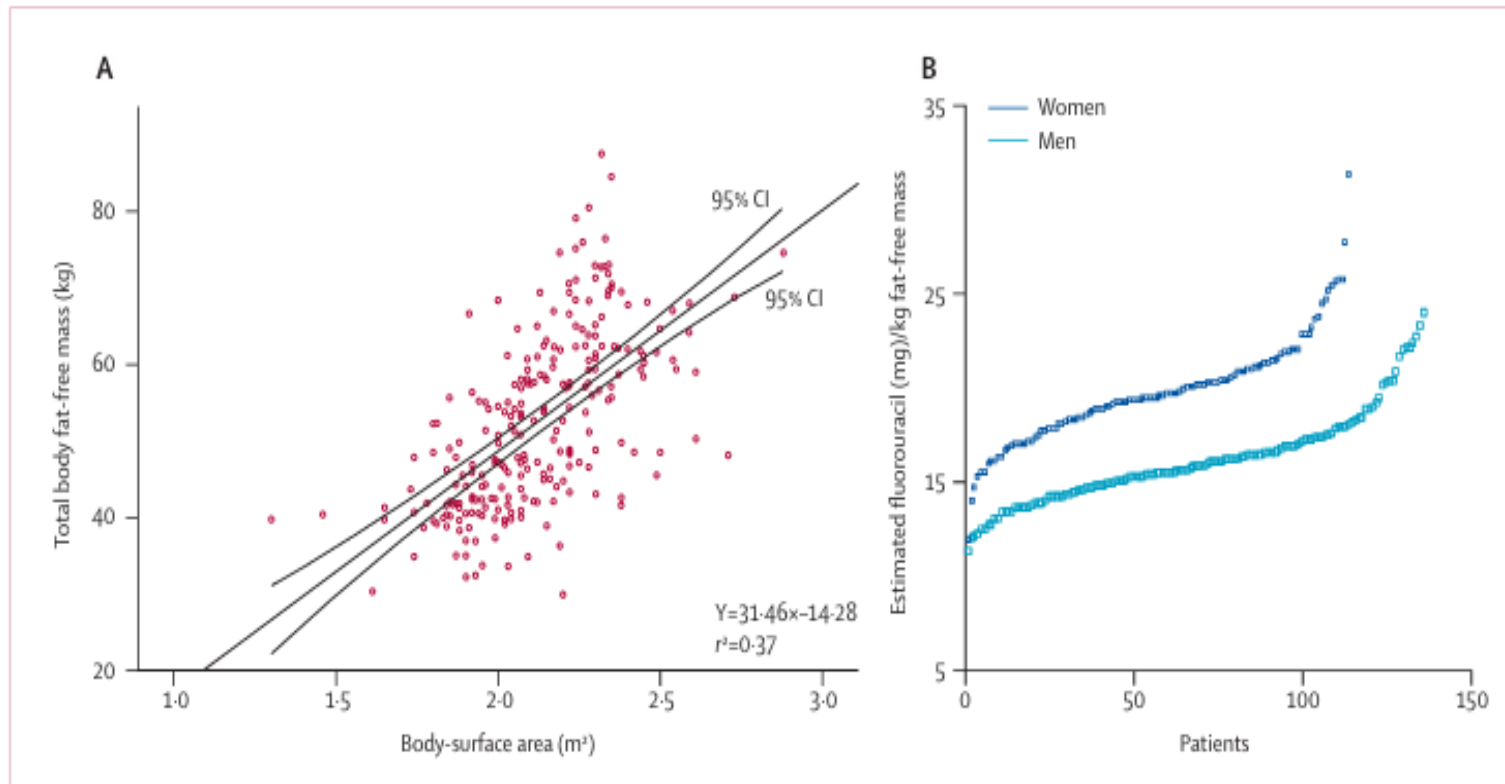


Figure 4: Findings for obese patients with cancer

(A) Association between lean body mass and body-surface area in obese patients with cancer. (B) Estimated fluorouracil dose per kg fat-free mass in obese male and female patients based on 425 mg fluorouracil/m² of body-surface area; all patients ranked from lowest to highest fluorouracil dose per kg fat-free mass.

The association between estimated total body **FFM** and **BSA** was poor even though both are associated with height. A consequence of low FFM would be a low volume of distribution of cytotoxic chemotherapy drugs, with a higher incidence of overall toxicity.

How does sarcopenia influence drug toxicity?

Pharmacokinetic alterations due to changes in body composition (FFM)

Hypoalbuminemia







Increases the unbound plasma fraction of drugs with high protein binding (e.g., carboplatin, etoposide, cisplatin, docetaxel, paclitaxel, irinotecan).

Reduced CYP450 activity



Article

Prognostic Impact of Sarcopenia's Occurrence during Radiotherapy in Oropharyngeal Cancer Patients

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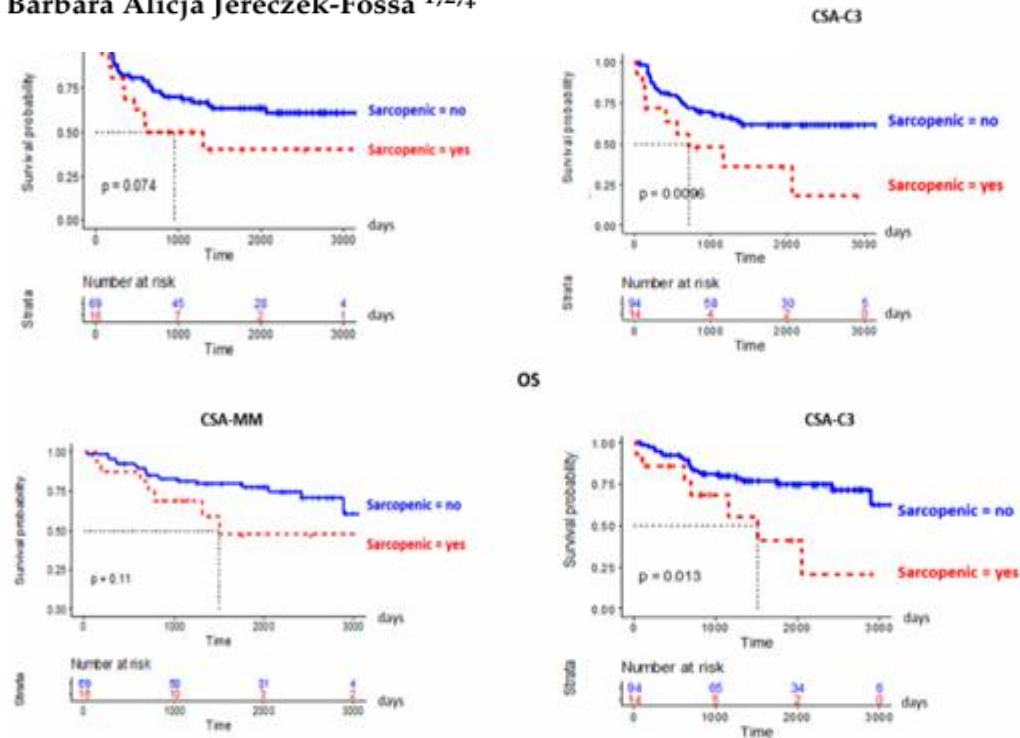
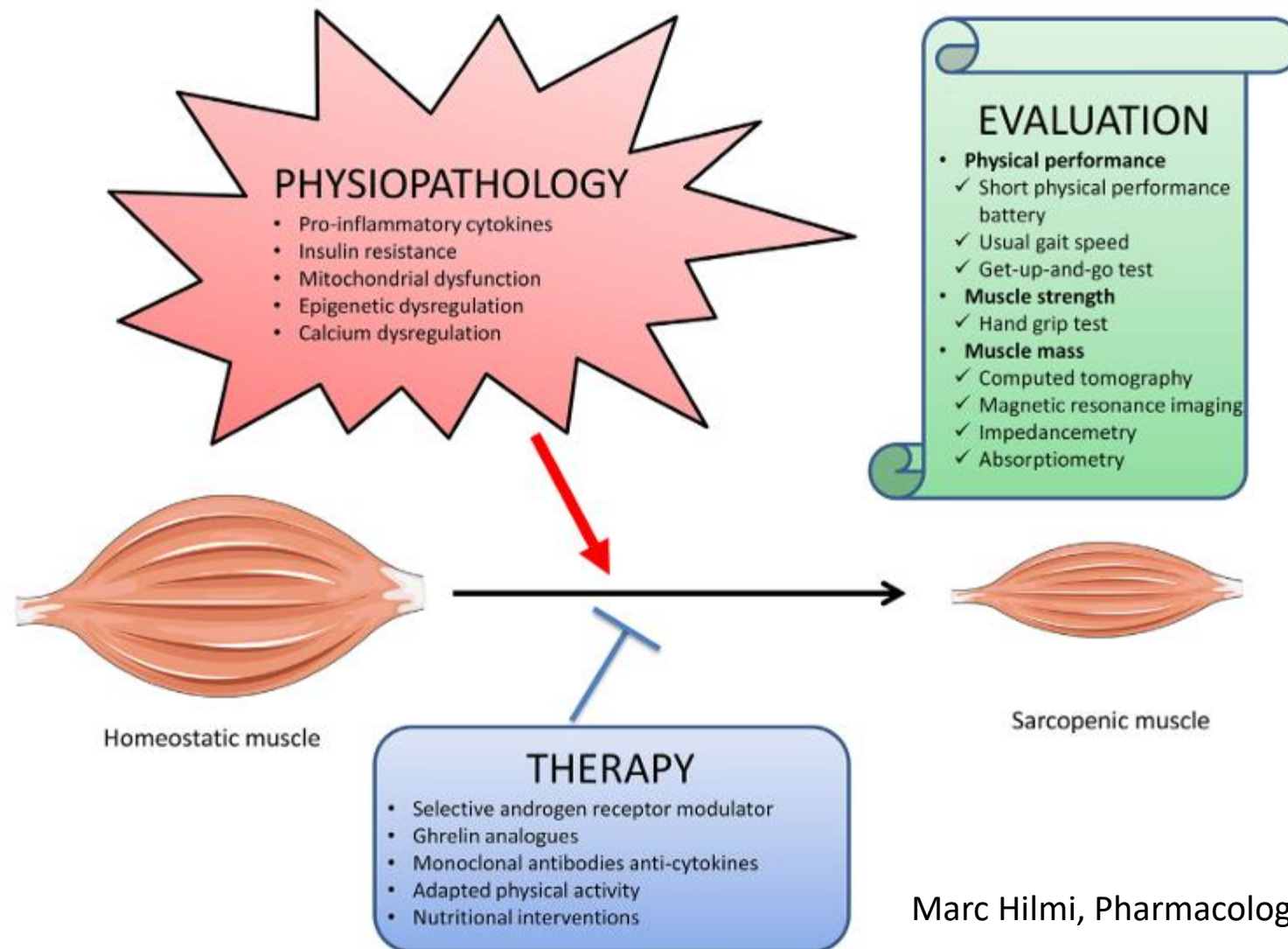


Figure 3. KM curves for OS and PFS of patients become sarcopenic during RT vs. never sarcopenic, based on MM-CSA and C3-CSA.



Marc Hilmi, Pharmacology & Therapeutics 196 (2019) 135 - 159

Fig. 2. Physiopathology, treatment and evaluation of sarcopenia.

Strategies to reverse sarcopenia

- Adequate intake of nutrients
- Treatments to fight the muscle loss whose efficacy was proved by RCTs
- Anti-inflammatory agents with both anticatabolic and anabolic effects (omega-3-enriched ONS, orexigenic agents as ghrelin, high protein regimens)
- **Muscle exercise**
- Better results are expected combining different procedures in an **early** and **multimodal approach**.



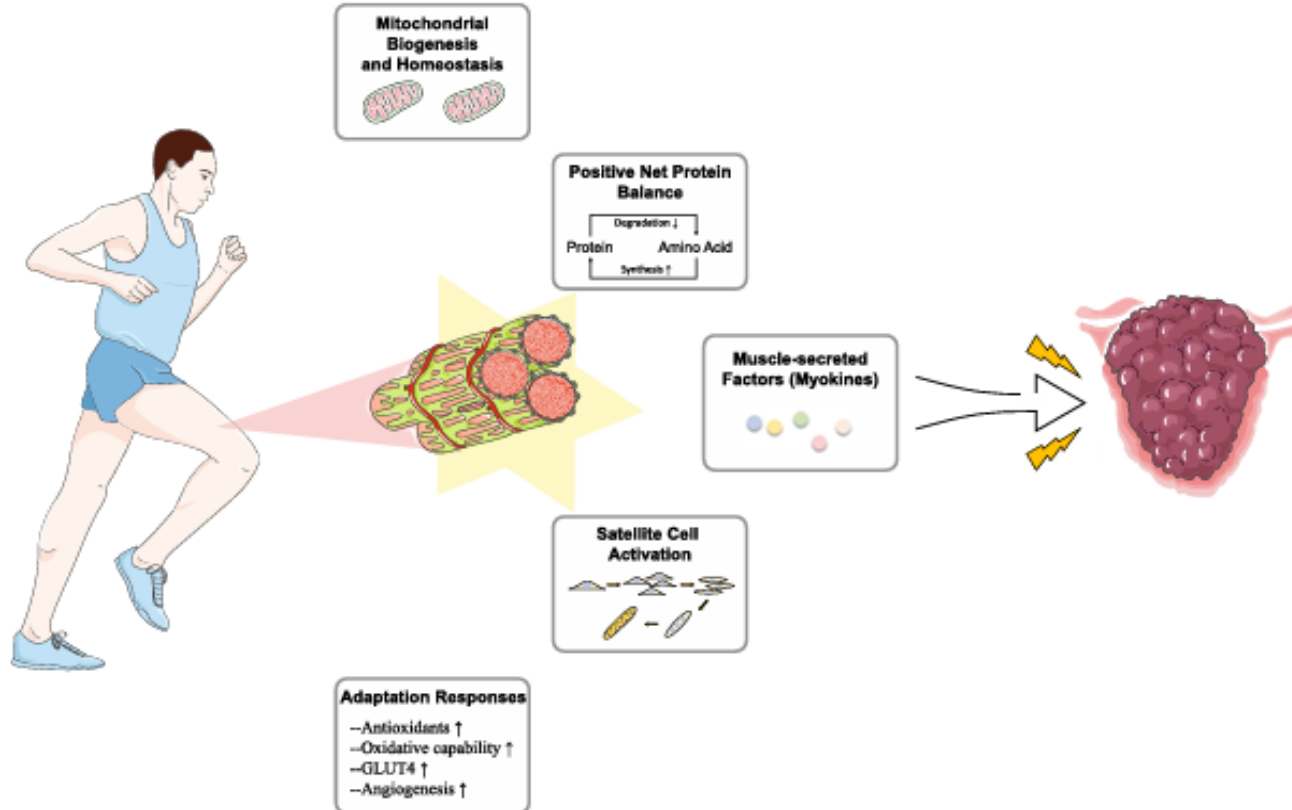
Table 3

Summary of clinical trials for pharmacological treatment of cancer-induced muscle wasting.

| Mechanism | Name | Target | Phase | Status | Clinical Trial |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------|------------|----------------|
| Appetite stimulants | Anamorelin | Ghrelin receptor | III | Completed | NCT01387269 |
| | Ghrelin* | Ghrelin | I/II | Completed | NCT00933361 |
| | CTL-002 | GDF-15 | I/II | Recruiting | NCT04725474 |
| | Ponsegromab | GDF-15 | II | Recruiting | NCT05546476 |
| | NGM120 | GDF-15 | I/II | Recruiting | NCT04068896 |
| Anabolic agents | AZD8853 | GDF-15 | I/II | Recruiting | NCT05397171 |
| | Enobosarm | Androgen receptor | II | Completed | NCT00467844 |
| Anti-catabolism | Testosterone* | Androgen | I | Completed | NCT00878995 |
| | Landogrozumab | Myostatin | II | Completed | NCT01505530 |
| | Trevogrumab | Myostatin | II | Completed | NCT01963598 |
| | STM 434 | Activin A | I | Completed | NCT02262455 |
| | Bimagrumab | ActRII | II | Completed | NCT01433263 |
| | MT-102 | B-adrenergic receptor | II | Completed | NCT01238107 |
| Anti-inflammation | MABp1 | IL-1 α | III | Completed | NCT02138422 |
| | ALD518 | IL-6 | II | Completed | NCT00866970 |
| | Lenalidomide | TNF- α | I/II | Completed | NCT01127386 |
| | Ruxolitinib | JAK/STAT signaling | I | Recruiting | NCT04906746 |

* not trade name.

Muscle exercise



Resistance exercise is a potent stimulant for protein synthesis resulting in increases in muscle fibre cross-sectional area, particularly hypertrophy of myofibrillar proteins, myosin and actin, stimulating both myofibrillar and mitochondrial protein synthesis.

A key regulator of this process appears to be insulin-like growth factor-1 (**IGF-1**)

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If exercise could be packed in a pill, it would be the single most widely prescribed and beneficial medicine in the nation.

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Conclusions

- Cancer patients are susceptible to sarcopenia before and after chemotherapy
- Muscle mass depletion is associated with the risk of discontinuation of chemotherapy and dose reduction
- Sarcopenia worsens chemotherapy mediated toxicity in sarcopenic obese, eutrophic and malnourished subjects, with elevated healthcare costs
- Need for a simple, rapid, and reliable approach to enable timely and effective intervention.





Grazie per l'attenzione!