# Neuroendocrine differentiation of prostate cancer

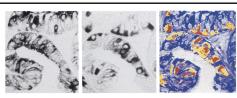
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BAU 2018, Terhulpen-La Hulpe

# Neuroendocrine (NE) differentiation in prostate carcinoma in different settings

- Neuroendocrine cells in non-cancerous prostate.
- Usual (acinar) prostatic adenocarcinoma with neuroendocrine differentiation.
- Prostatic adenocarcinoma with Paneth cell-like neuroendocrine differentiation.
- Carcinoid tumor.

- Small cell NE carcinoma.
- Intermediate atypical prostate cancer (IAC).
- Mixed acinar-neuroendocrine carcinoma.
- · Large cell NE carcinoma.



**NOURE 2.** Hyperplasia with numerous EP cells, Sequential immunohistochemical demonstration of PSA (left) and Chr.A (midale), in the final Image PSA deposits appears blue, Chr.A appears red, and co-expression of the two antigens appears yellow, (Magnication x301).

Basal localisation, between secretory cells.

Within the genitourinary tract, most frequent in prostate.

Most sensitive marker: synaptophysine; normal NE cells are AR negative

Bonkhoff et al. Hum Pathol 1994;25:42-46

### Gleason 3+3 usual acinar adenocarcinoma, untreated: 50% of tumoral cells are synaptophysin positive

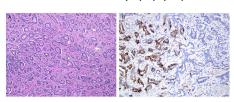


FIGURE 1. A, Adenocarcinoma of the prostate Gleason score 3+3=6. B, Same case as (A) with areas showing positivity for synaptophysin (left) that are indistinguishable in their glandular morphology from areas that are synaptophysin negative (right).

# Neuroendocrine differentiation in usual acinar prostatic adenocarcinoma

- Usual acinar carcinoma shows variable, sometimes extensive, positivity for synaptophysin and chromogranine!
- Doing synapto/chromo stainings without considering the morphological features and setting is useless and dangerous.
- Risk of miscommunication: clinician asks: is there expression
  of NE markers? Pathologists does synapto/chromo which is
  positive and answers: yes. Clinicians concludes this is an
  aggressive tumor, related to therapy-resistance.

### Proposed Morphologic Classification of Prostate Cancer With Neuroendocrine Differentiation

uthan I. Epstein, MD\*†‡ Mahul B. Amin, MD& Himisha Beltran, MD.|| Tamara L. Lotan, MD\*‡ Juan-Miguel Mosquera, MD, MSc, #l Victor E. Reuter, MD\*\* Brian D. Robinson, MD, #l Patricia Troncoso, MD,†† and Mark A. Rubin, MD¶

Summary: Currently, as the clinical significance remains uncertain, it is not recommended to routinely use IHC stains to detect any NE differentiation in an otherwise morphologically typical primary adenocarcinoma of the prostate.

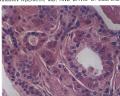
AJSP 2014 and current WHO

### Adenocarcinoma with Paneth cell-like neuroendocrine differentiation

- Paneth cell-like areas (variable %) can be found in approx. 10% of usual prostatic adenocarcinoma.
- Eosinophilic/amphohilic cells with variable granules, positive for NE markers.
- Considered as low-grade NE differentiation, with favorable prognosis. Cave incorrect scoring as Gleason 5.
- However, recent data show that this tumor type is frequently associated with AURKA amplification, which is also seen in the treatment-resistance setting of NE differentiation towards small cell carcinoma. Meaning unclear.

# Paneth Cell-like Change in Prostatic Adenocarcinoma Represents Neuroendocrine Differentiation:

HARKIRAN ADLAKHA, MD, AND DAVID G. BOSTWICK, MD



Hum Pathol 1994

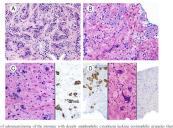


PAT

Original contribution

Variant of prostatic adenocarcinoma with Paneth cell-like neuroendocrine differentiation readily misdiagnosed as Gleason pattern 5th

Jeffrey S. So MD a, Jennifer Gordetsky MD a, Jonathan I. Epstein MD a,b,c,\*



PATH

Original contribution

Prostate cancer with Paneth cell-like neuroendocrine

differentiation has recognizable histomorphology and harbors *AURKA* gene amplification  $^{*}$ ,  $^{*}$ 

### Carcinoid tumor of the prostate

- Supposed to be prostatic counterpart of typical carcinoid of the lung and well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor (NET) of the pancreas, etc...
- Extremely rare. Maybe does not exist? Most reported cases represent likely Paneth cell-like change in prostate cancer.
- Rare cases in young patients with MEN syndroma might be bona fide.

# Small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma of the prostate: definition

- Typical morphological features (next slide). De novo and in the setting of resistance to AR-targeted therapy.
- Synaptophysin IHC is positive, but sometimes focal and weak, less than in usual prostatic carcinoma!
- « Plasticity gain » phenotype: aberrant retinoblastoma (pRB) and p53 IHC.
- Luminal marker expression decreases to zero: PSA, AR, NKX3.1 and ERG, but if TMPRSS2-ERG fusion was present, it remains!

Tumor type	Adenocarcinoma	SCNC	
Cytoplasm	Abundant Scant		
Nuclear chromatin	Clumpy, vacuolated, open chromatin pattern	Fine homogeneous chromatin pattern	
Nuclear staining	Light	Dark	
Nuclear shape	Some degree of irregularity	Irregular	
Nuclear molding	No	Yes	
Nucleoli	Prominent macronucleoli	No nucleoli	
Crush artifact	No	No Yes	
Mitotic figures	Rare	Common	
Glandular formation	Obvious	No	

Aggarwal et al. JCO 2018;36:2492

# Development of small cell NE carcinoma: gain of plasticity and neuronal transdifferentiation

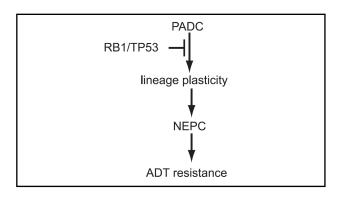
- Small cell carcinoma, probably also de novo cases, arise from transdifferentiation of a tumoral luminal cell, not from normal NF cells
- Gain of plasticity is followed by development of full small cell NE phenotype, AR indifferent.
- De novo/primary presentation is rare; prevalence increased in recent times in relation to «escape» from (newer) ARPI treatments

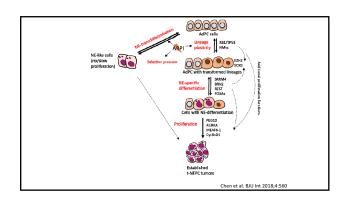
# *Rb1* and *Trp53* cooperate to suppress prostate cancer lineage plasticity, metastasis, and antiandrogen resistance

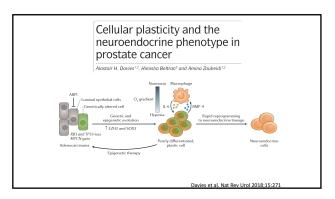
Sheng Yu Ku,  $^{1+}$  Spencer Rosario,  $^{1+}$  Yanqing Wang,  $^{1}$  Ping Mu,  $^{2}$  Mukund Seshadri,  $^{1}$  Zachary W. Goodrich,  $^{1}$  Maxwell M. Goodrich,  $^{1}$  David P. Labbé,  $^{5+}$  Eduardo Cortes Gomez,  $^{2}$  Jianni Wang,  $^{2}$  Henry W. Long,  $^{5+}$  Bo Xu,  $^{6}$  Myles Brown,  $^{5+}$  Massimo Loda,  $^{4.78,0}$  Charles L. Sawyers,  $^{2+0}$  Leigh Ellis,  $^{1+}$  David W. Goodrich  $^{1+}$ 

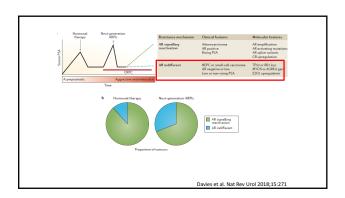
Prostate cancer relapsing from antinarrogen therapies can exhibit variant histology with altered lineage marker expression, suggesting that lineage plasticity facilitates therapeutic resistance. The mechanisms underlying prostate cancer lineage plasticity are incompletely understood. Studying mouse models, we demonstrate that Rib I loss facilitates lineage plasticity and metastasis of prostate adenocarroma initiated by Pern mutation. Additional loss of Trp53 causes resistance to antinardrogen therapy. Gene expression profiling indicates that mouse understance of the study of the profiling indicates that mouse and human tumors exhibit increased expression of epigenetic reprogramming factors such as EAP2 and Soz. Clinically relevant Exit inhibitor restore androgen receptor expression and sensitivity to antiandrogen therapy. These findings uncover genetic mutations that enable prostate cancer progressions; dentrylly mouse models for studying prostate cancer insegel plasticity, and suggest an epigenetic approach for extending clinical responses to antiandrogen therapy.

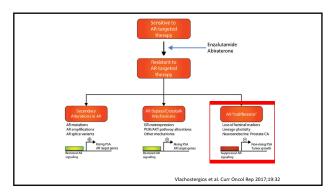
Science 2017











### Intermediate atypical prostate cancer

- No uniform definition yet, but important concept.
- Carcinoma « on its way » to small cell NE carcinoma; in the process of transdifferentiation.
- Should show aberrant p53 and pRB pattern on IHC.
- Morphologically intermediate between adenocarcinoma and small cell carcinoma.
- See JCO abstracts, ASCO meetings 2015 and 2016.

Characterization of neuroendocrine prostate cancer
(NEFC) in patients with metastatic cateation resistant
prostate cancer (mEFC) resistant abstrateror (AbB)
or enzalutamide (Em2): Perliminary results from the
SUZC/PCFA/KW MES Coast Prostate Cancer Dream
Team (WCDT).

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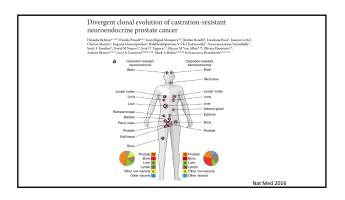


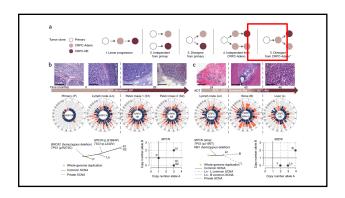
### Mixed acinar-neuroendocrine carcinoma

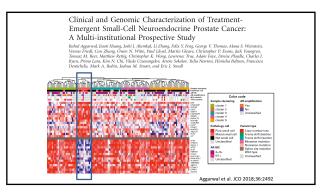
- Abrupt transition, mixture of two populations: NE carcinoma + acinar adenocarcinoma.
- Can be primary/de novo and secondary/treatment resistant
  setting
- Unclear why transdifferentiation is sometimes gradually (intermediate atypical carcinoma) and sometimes abrupt (mixed carcinoma).

# Small cell NE carcinoma: other molecular features

- Upregulation of **EZH2**, SOX2, FOXA2, POU3F2, PDX1,...
- NMYC and AURKA copy number gain.
- No genomic alterations in the DNA repair pathway.
- Epigenetic modifications (methylation) play an important role.
- Evolution from adenocarcinoma to small cell NE is divergent







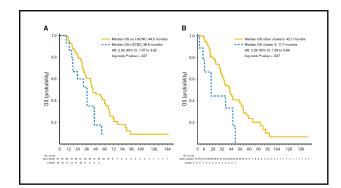


Table 1. Patient Demographics and Clinical Characteristics							
Demographic or Characteristic	Total Cohort (N = 202)	Small Cell (n = 27)	Not Small Cell (n = 133)	(n = 42)	P		
Metastatic sites of disease at time of biopsy							
Liver	35 (17)	8 (30)	22 (17)	5 (12)	.112 (liver v no liver)		
Other visceral	38 (19)	4 (15)	29 (22)	5 (12)			
Bone/node only	130 (64)	15 (56)	82 (62)	32 (76)	.257 (overall)		
Laboratory values							
PSA, ng/mL	49.5 (0.4-1,657)	64.8 (0.4-1,500)	46.2 (0.4-1,657)	46.0 (0.5-1,444)	.938		
Alkaline phosphatase, U/L	96 (20-1,506)	146 (55-1,506)	94 (36-996)	99 (20-1,079)	.212		
LDH, IU/L	203 (31-2,643)	235 (150-1,284)	199 (31-2,643)	205 (129-856)	.039		
Hemoglobin, g/dL	12.5 (7.8-16.1)	12.5 (8.9-14.4)	12.6 (7.8-16.1)	12.4 (8.0-15.9)	.439		
NSE, ng/mL	7.8 (1-90)	11.6 (5-90)	7.1 (1-83)	7.1 (1-79)	< .001		
CGA, ng/mL	6.3 (1-198)	7.8 (1-70)	6.0 (1-198)	6.5 (1-23)	.977		
sever was 19%	(Fig 2; Data Sup n mixed cases ran observed at simila , and 14% of evalu- ectively (P = .76)	ged from 20% to ar proportions by aable liver, lymph	80%. Detection biopsy site, inclu	of t-SCNC ding 14%,			

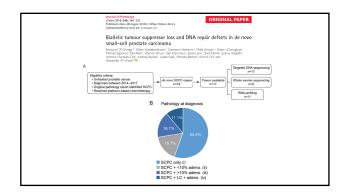
### Poly-metastatic patient in the CRPC-setting

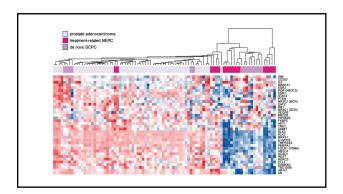
- · A metastatic site can show any of the following and combinations thereof: acinar adca, intermediate ca, mixed adca-NE and small cell NE.
- There is no strong evidence that a specific organ (bone, visceral,...) is related to one of the tumor types above.
- How to detect the small cell NE? Which metastatic site(s) has to be biopsied? Role of serology and imaging (PSMA, SSTR2?)???

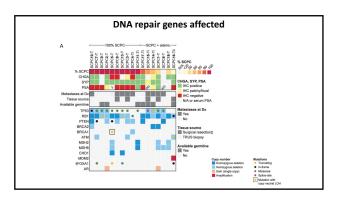
Abstract
Protesting-specific membrane adops in PSMA) is oversponseed in most prostate adenocarchoma (AdPC) sells and acts as a target for mostcast imaging threaver, some case reports include that PSMA-supplied imaging confidence in the PSMA-supplied imaging confidence in self-stand for delivation of enumeratorism (PSMA-supplied imaging) confidence in Self-specific imaging confidence in S

### A few words on de novo small cell NE cancer

- As for secondary cases, cellular plasticity (p53 and pRB loss) and transdifferentiation also apply.
- Primary and secondary small cell NE cancer has similar RNA profile.
- Frequently presence of intermediate cancer, mixed acinar-NE carcinoma, as in secondary tumors.
- In contrast with secondary small cell NE carcinoma, primary small cell NE carcinoma often shows <u>involvement of DNA repair genes.</u>

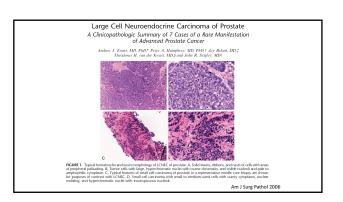


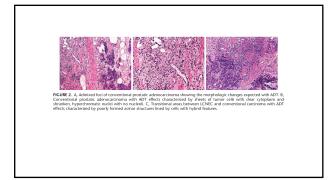




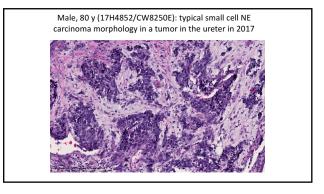
### Large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma

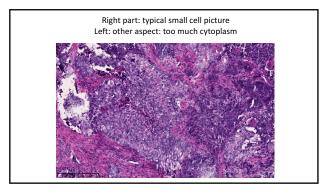
- Much rarer than small cell NE carcinoma.
- Frequently mixed with adca (mixed adca-NE carcinoma).
- Sometimes difficult to determine whether a NE carcinoma is small or large, so this is also a setting in which « intermediate type » is used!
- Otherwise, probably very similar to small cell NE in all aspects, but very little data.

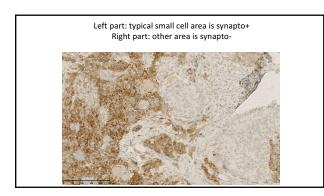


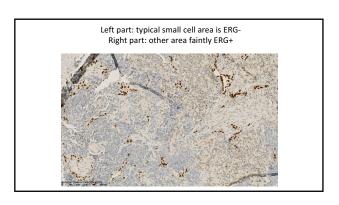


# Some examples







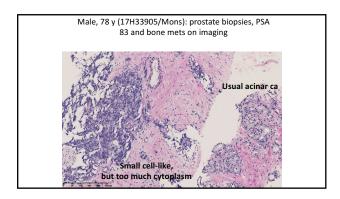


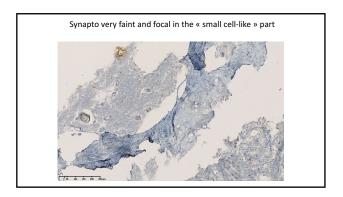


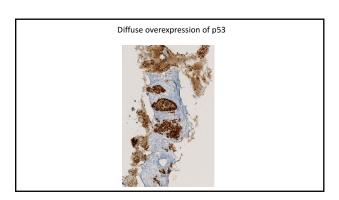
The findings suggest acinar prostatic carcinoma transformed into small cell NE carcinoma in an ureteral metastasis, with a small «residu» of the original acinar carcinoma with intermediate features.

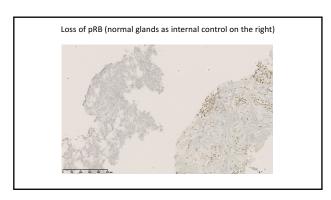
Prostate biopsy 2014: acinar adenocarcinoma Additional stainings in 2017 on the 2014 biopsy: synapto-, ERG strongly+ and loss of pRB.

In 2014 patient was already metastatic and under treatmant with Firmagon and Taxotere.









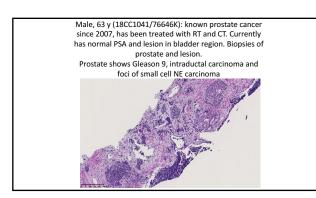
A small part of this tumor shows classic acinar carcinoma.

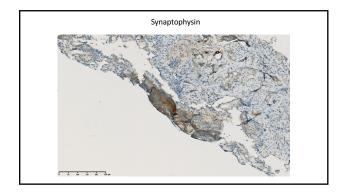
The majority shows the picture of a high grade carcinoma. Some features of small cell ca seem present, but not all morphological features for the diagnosis are there (yet).

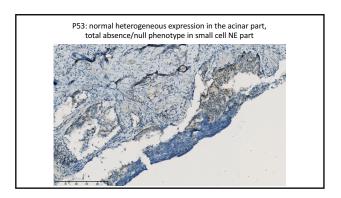
There is only focal synaptophysin expression.

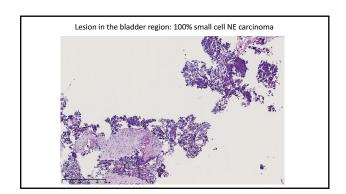
However, there is pRB loss and aberrant p53 expression.

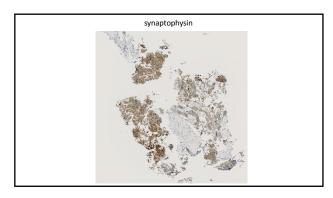
Probably best to consider this as a so-called intermediate atypical prostate cancer (IAC)

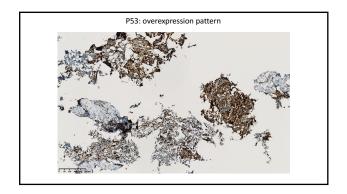


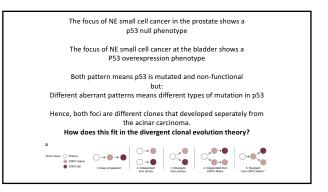


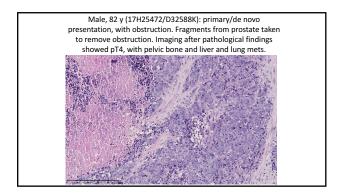


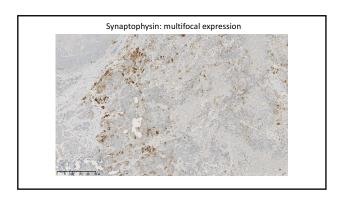


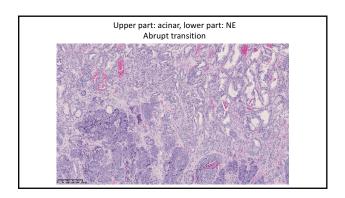


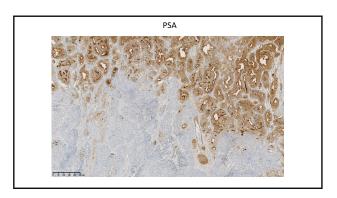


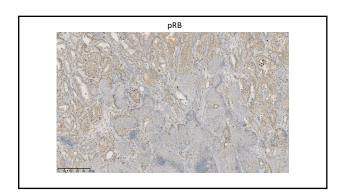


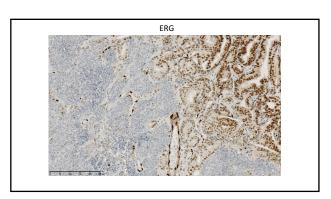


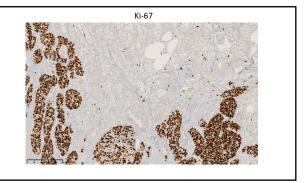












A part of this tumor shows the picture of a high-grade NE carcinoma, with features intermediate between large cell and small cell NE carcinoma (« intermediate carcinoma »).

Synaptophysine is focal, less than in some usual adca cases!

The tumor shows abrupt transition between high grade NE carcinoma and usual acinar carcinoma:

Mixed acinar- neuroendocrine carcinoma

This is in a de novo setting!

Why do acinar carcinomas occasionally transdifferentiate
« spontaneously » towards NE carcinoma?

