

**DT** DESMOID TUMOR  
**RF** RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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# Desmoid Tumor: Pathobiology and Treatment

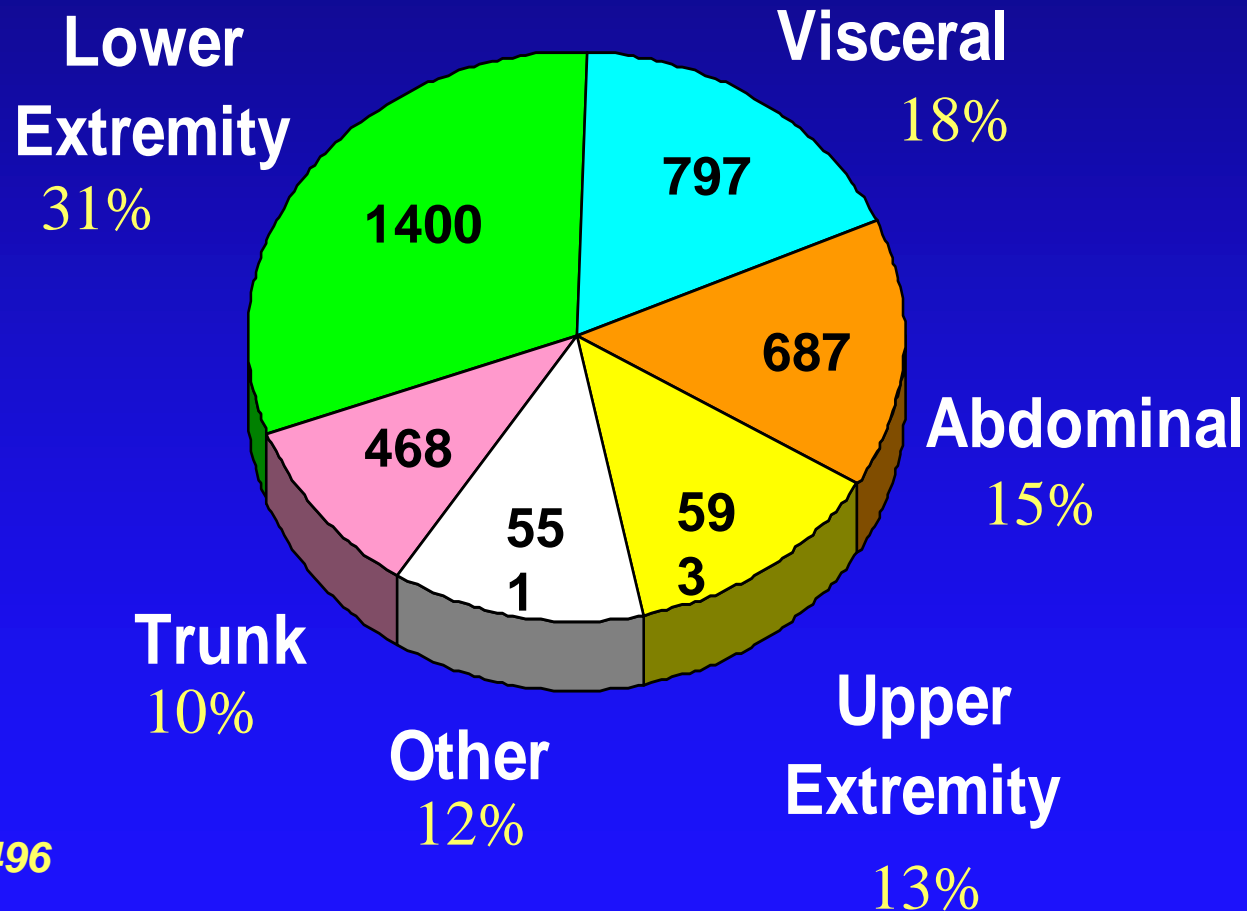
Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation  
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# Overview of Sarcomas

- “Incidence”: 11,000/year in USA
  - 1% of cancers in adults
  - 15% of cancers in pediatric malignancies
- Not restricted to any organ site
- Resemble connective tissue with mesenchymal origin
  - Bone and cartilage
  - Blood vessels, lymphatics
  - Skeletal and smooth muscle
  - Fat
  - Neural crest and perineural cells

# Sarcomas can occur anywhere in the body



n = 4496

Courtesy of M. Brennan MSKCC

# Classification of Sarcomas by Lineage of Differentiation

- **Adipocytic:** *Liposarcoma*
- **Myogenic:** *Leiomyosarcoma, Rhabdomyosarcoma*
- **Vascular:** *Angiosarcoma, Hemangioendothelioma*
- **Neural:** *Ewing/PNET, MPNST*
- **Fibroblastic:** *Synovial Sarcoma, Fibrosarcoma, **Desmoid**, Myofibroblastic, Myxofibrosarcoma, Endometrial Stromal Sarcoma*
- **Chondrocytic:** *Chondrosarcoma*
- **Osteogenic:** *Osteosarcoma*
- **Unclassifiable**

# Approach to Patients with Sarcomas

- Multidisciplinary Teamwork Required
  - Specialty expertise in multiple fields  
e.g. surgery, pathology, medical oncology, radiation oncology, psychosocial support, plastic and reconstructive surgery, physical therapy
- Definitive referral center disease

# Choosing the Optimal Primary Management of a Newly Diagnosed Localized Sarcoma

- Pathology review is often critical
- Every patient is unique
  - Complex decisions based on anatomic site, tumor behavior, co-morbid factors, etc.

# Same Issues Apply to Desmoid Tumor

- Pathology review is often critical
- Every patient is unique
  - Complex decisions based on anatomic site, tumor behavior, co-morbid factors, etc.

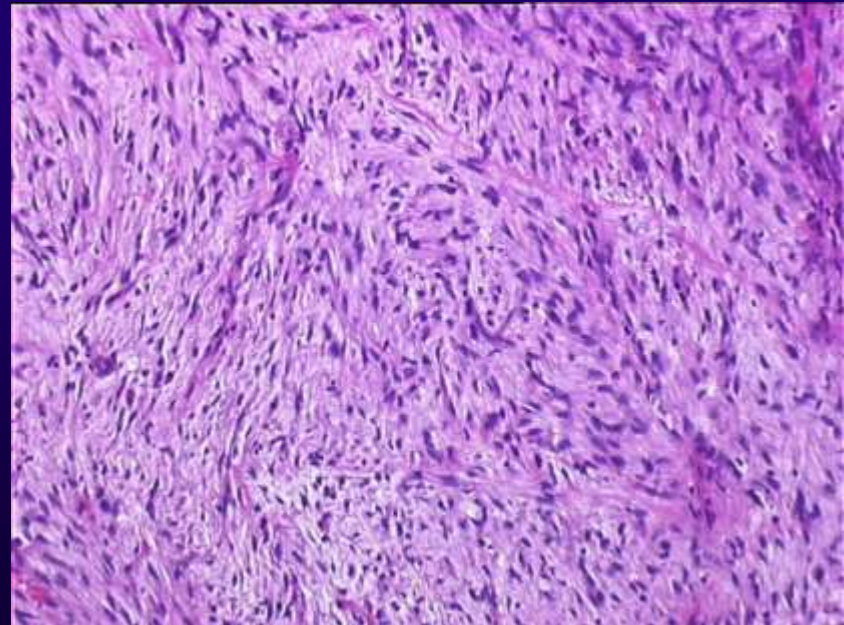


- Fibroblastic monoclonal proliferation arising from musculo-aponeurotic structures, constituted by spindle cells in a collagen matrix, without atypical, pleomorphic or hyperchromatic nuclei typical of malignancy.

- 0.2-0.4/100,000

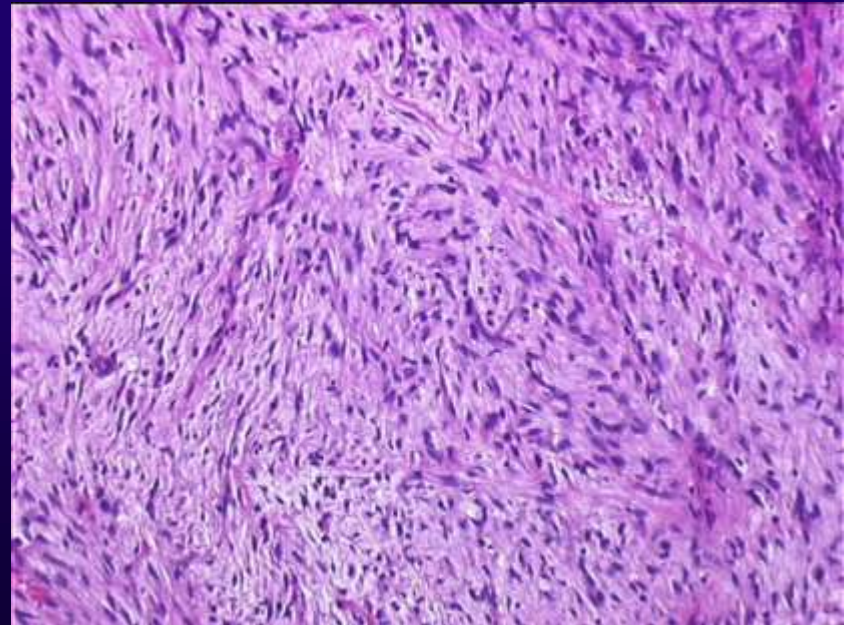
Li et al., Hum Pathol 1996

Alman et al., Diagn Mol Pathol, 1997



- Fibroblastic **monoclonal** proliferation arising from **musculo-aponeurotic** structures, constituted by spindle cells in a collagen matrix, **without** atypical, pleomorphic or hyperchromatic **nuclei typical of malignancy**.

Scar formation that the body isn't turning off



# Desmoid Tumor/ Aggressive Fibromatosis

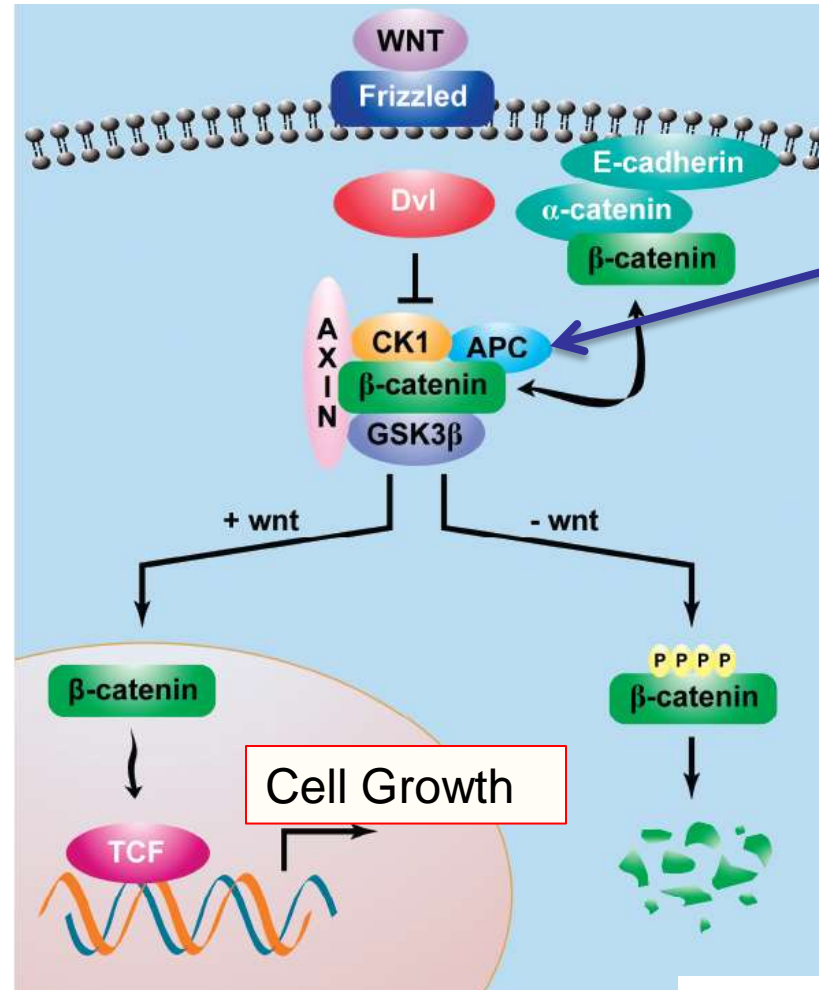
- Not a cancer, but can cause morbidity and mortality
- 95% Sporadic
- 5% FAP-Associated (Familial Adenomatous Polyposis = Gardner syndrome)

# Gardner Syndrome

- Autosomal dominant syndrome (50% chance of passing it on to children)
- 1000s of bowel polyps and high risk of colon cancer if colon is not removed
- Mutation in FAP “tumor suppressor gene” in all cells in body
- 10% lifetime risk of desmoid tumors

# Desmoid tumor: a disease opportune for molecular insights

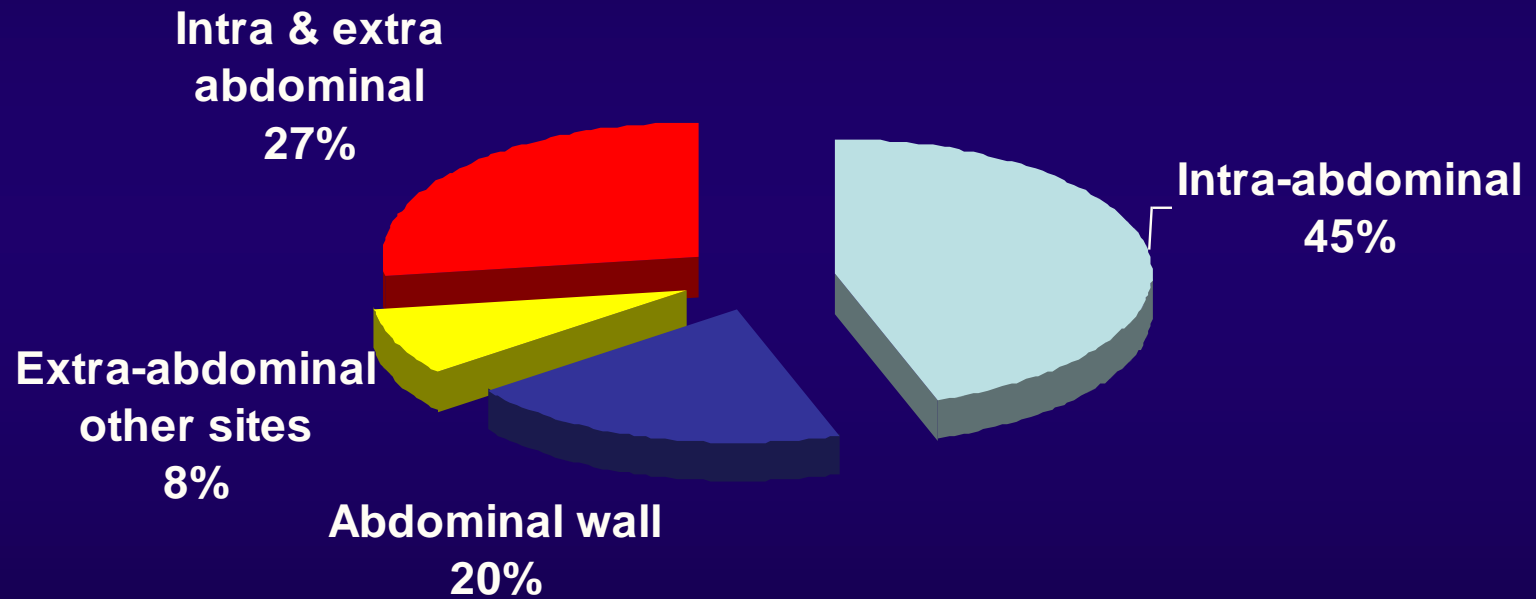
D. Kotiligam<sup>1</sup>, A.J.F. Lazar<sup>2</sup>, R.E. Pollock<sup>3</sup> and D. Lev<sup>1</sup>



Missing in FAP

Cell Growth

# SITES: FAP-Associated





# Follow up of 897 FAP patients

	No	Desmoids			All
		<i>Abdominal</i>	<i>Extra-abdominal</i>	<i>Abdominal and extra-abdominal</i>	
Alive	602 (76.2)	37	28	24	89 (83.2)
Causes of death					
Colorectal cancer	160 (20.3)	3 (6.3)	1 (3.3)	3 (10.3)	7 (6.5)
Other neoplasm	16 (2.0)	-	1 (3.3)	-	1 (0.9)
Fibromatosis	-	7 (14.6)	-	2 (6.9)	9 (8.4)
Other causes	12 (1.5)	1 (2.1)	-	-	1 (0.9)
<b>Total</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>107</b>

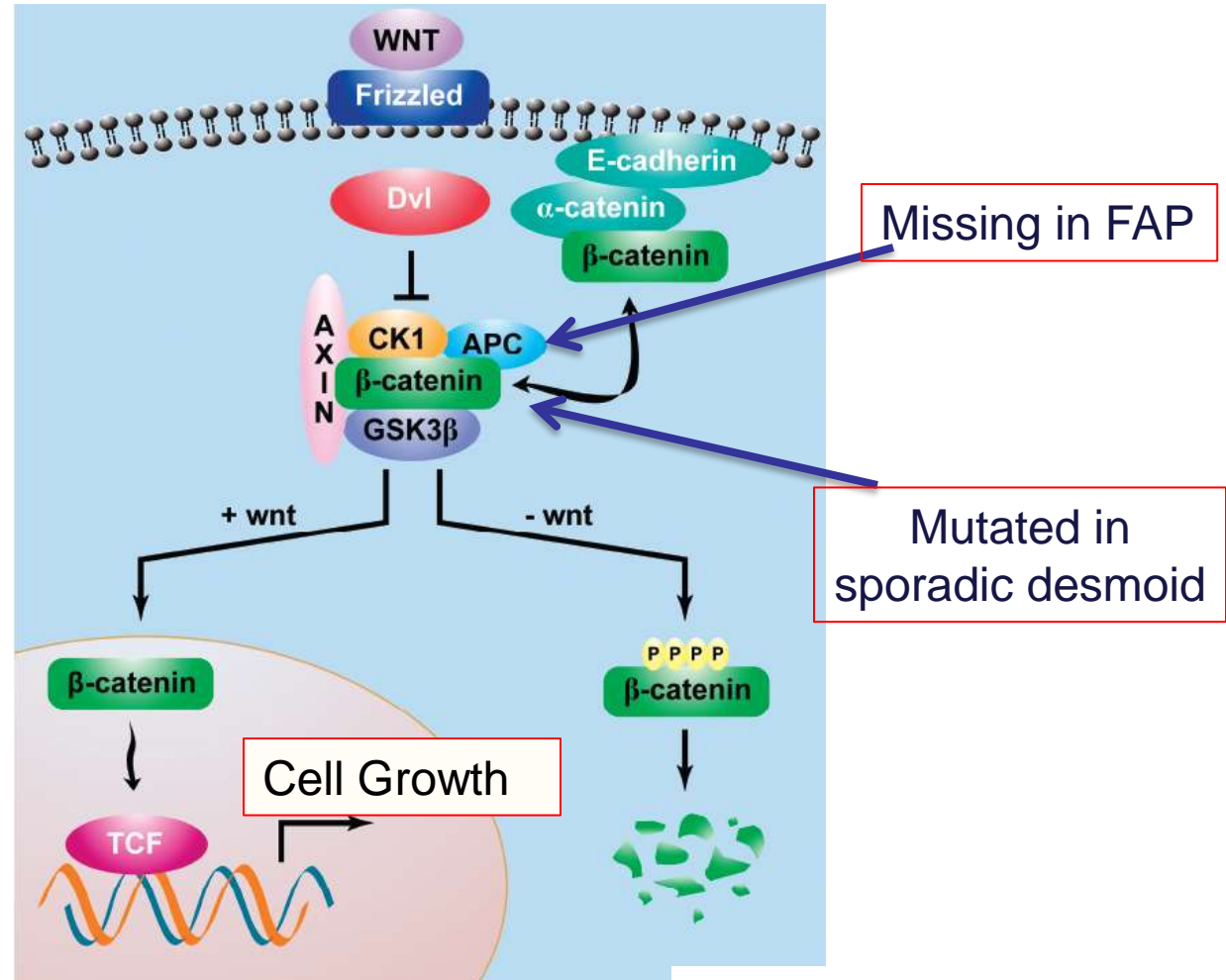


# Sporadic Desmoid

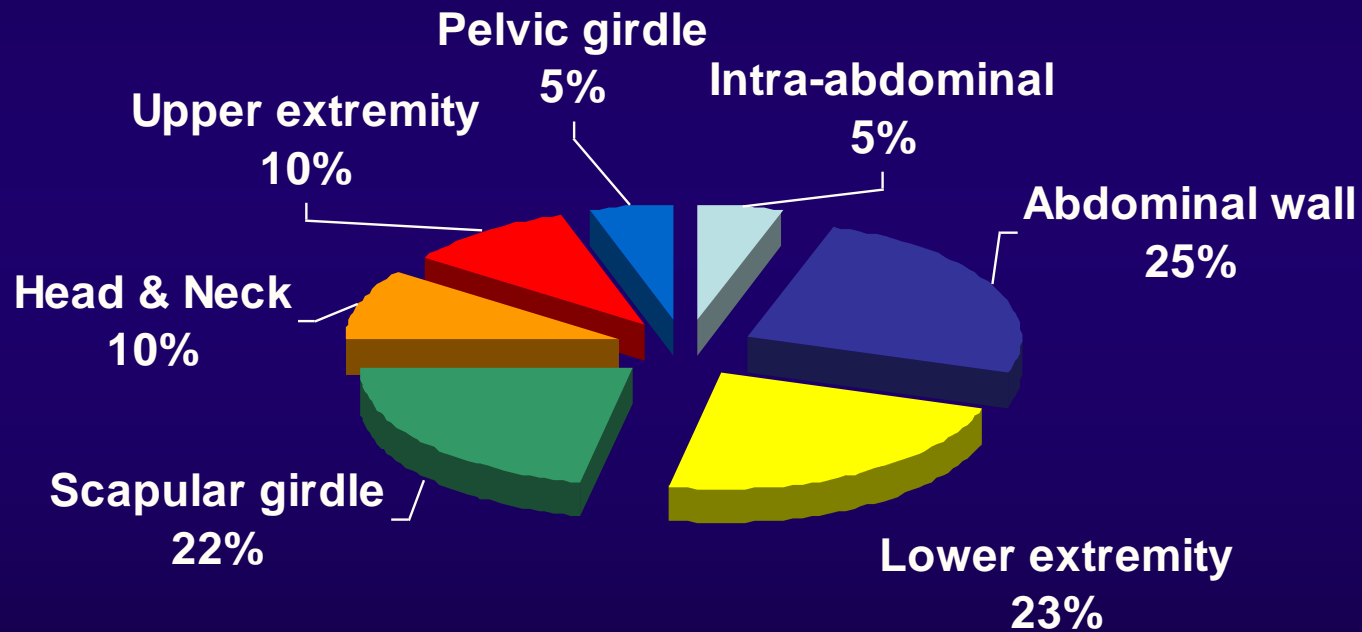
- 85% of the cases harbor a mutation in *CTNNB1*, encoding for  $\beta$ -Catenin protein
- Occurs just in the tumor cells; not in normal tissue
- **Not** hereditary
- Rarer *APC* (chromosome 5) deletion in *CTNNB1* WT tumors may occur

# Desmoid tumor: a disease opportune for molecular insights

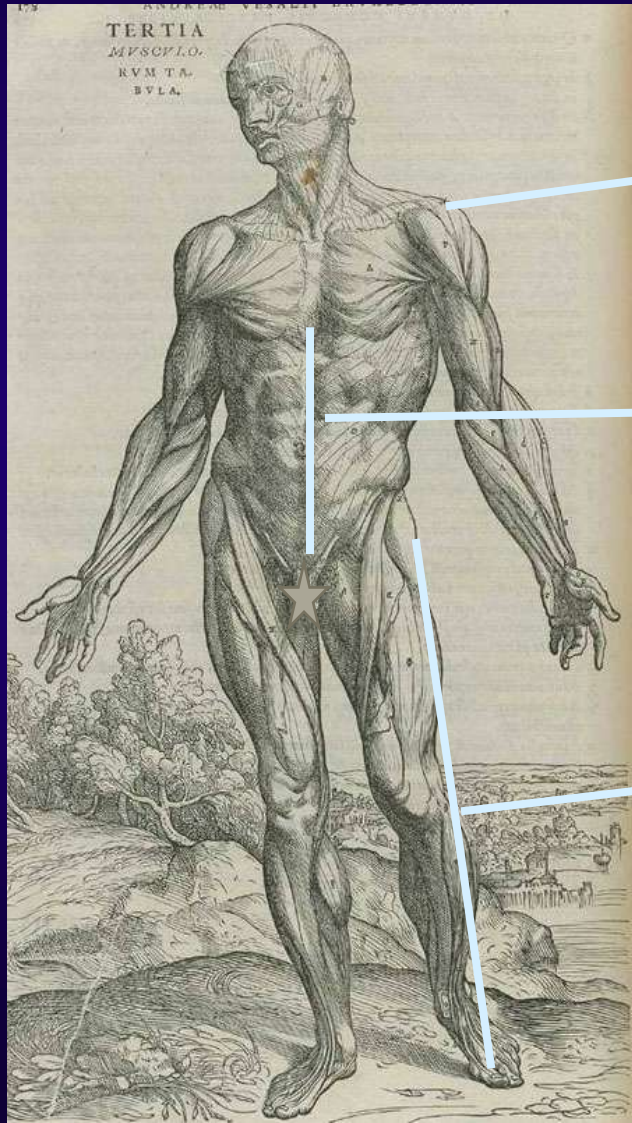
D. Kotiligam<sup>1</sup>, A.J.F. Lazar<sup>2</sup>, R.E. Pollock<sup>3</sup> and D. Lev<sup>1</sup>



# SITES: Sporadic Desmoid



# Most common sites

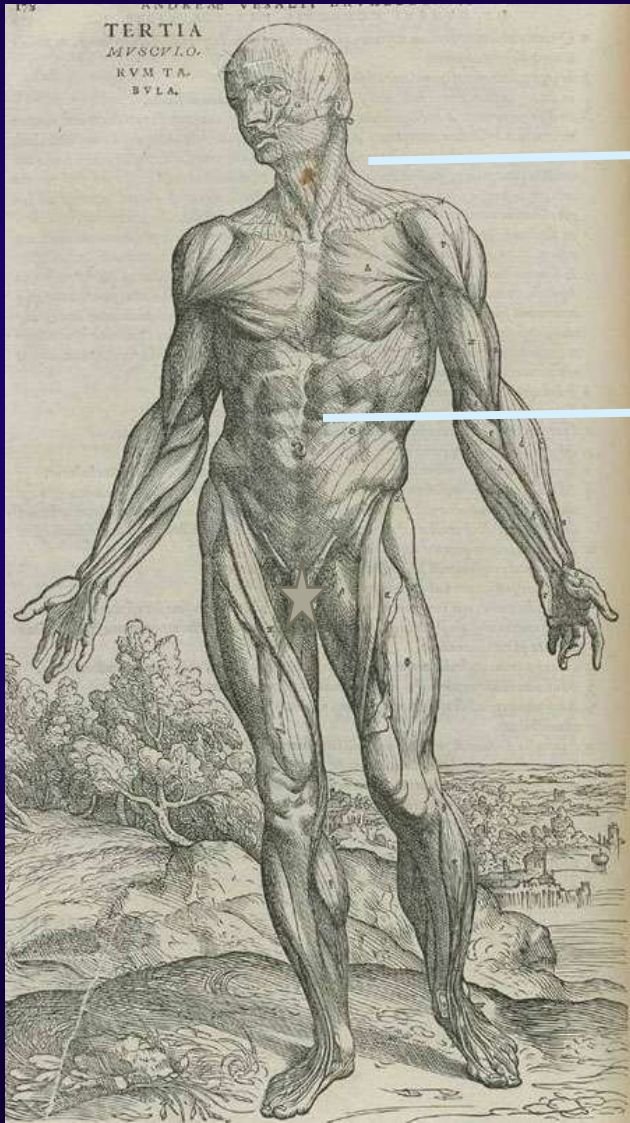


22 %

29 %

24 %

# Threatening locations



10 %

5 %

# Management

- Observation
  - Some spontaneously recede
  - Some grow and then stop growing
- Surgery
  - Only known curative therapy
  - Role of “margins”?
  - Need to balance consequence of disease with consequence of surgery

# Management - 2

- Radiation Therapy
  - Unclear role for “positive margins”
  - Can be helpful for unresectable and growing or symptomatic disease

# Management - 3

- Medical Treatment
  - NSAIDs (eg Sulindac)
  - Hormonal Therapy (eg tamoxifen)
  - Targeted therapy (imatinib/Gleevec)
  - Chemotherapy
    - Liposomal doxorubicin (Doxil)
    - Methotrexate and Vinblastine (Velban)
- Need to determine need for and goals of treatment!



# Clinical Study Designs

- Retrospective Case Series
  - “In the last 10 years we treated 30 patients with drug X. Looking back at their medical records, here is what happened to the tumors.”
  - Require Institutional Review Board approval for medical record review (with or without signed consent of patient)
  - Biased by case selection and lack of direct comparator

# Clinical Study Designs

- Prospective Studies
  - Enrollment of patients as research subjects/participants in study of drug(s)
  - Requires permission of IRB and often the FDA
  - Requires signed informed consent of patient

# Types of Prospective Studies

- Phase I

- New drug or combination of drugs
- Designed primarily to test **safety and toxicity**, and to establish appropriate dose
- Often multiple (or any) tumor types
- Enroll very small numbers of patients at one dose level; if safe, increase dose in new group of patients
- Everyone gets drug but may not be at effective (too low) or safe (too high) dose
- Frequent visits for safety evaluation and determination of drug blood levels

# Types of Prospective Studies

- Phase II

- Designed primarily to **test efficacy** of drug
- Dose determined from prior Phase I studies
- Often one tumor type
- Enrolls moderate number of patients
- Everyone gets drug
- Everyone gets same dose of drug
- Outcome measured as “response rate” or “progression free survival (PFS)”

# Types of Prospective Studies

- Phase III

- Designed primarily to **test if one treatment is better** than another
- One tumor type
- Enrolls large number of patients
- Requires national/global effort for rare disease
- Everyone gets drug
- Everyone gets same dose of drug
- Outcomes: “Response rate”, “PFS”, “Overall Survival”, or “Hazard Ratio”
- If positive results, can lead to FDA approval

# Recent Very Promising Retrospective Study

(Drs. Gounder, Maki, and others;  
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center)

- Sorafenib (Nexavar)
  - Oral medicine
  - Blocks key pathways in many tumors
  - Approved for treatment of kidney and liver cancers
  - Side effects can include high blood pressure, painful rash on hands/feet, diarrhea, nausea, fatigue, low blood counts, and others

# Activity of sorafenib against desmoid tumor/deep fibromatosis (DT/DF)

Gounder MM, Lefkowitz RA, Hameed MR, D'Adamo DR, Keohan ML,  
Singer S, Brennan MF, Antonescu CR, Ahn L and Maki RG.

Departments of Medicine, Pathology, and Surgery,  
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

# Sorafenib and DT/DF

## CELLULAR PROPERTIES:

- Sorafenib inhibits VEGFR, PDGFR, KIT, RET and RAF.
- Exhibits anti-angiogenic, antiproliferative and/or pro-apoptotic effects.

## INDEX CASE:

- 19 year old female with progressive and symptomatic supraclavicular desmoid that was initially resected, however recurred within 24 months and deemed unresectable.
- Imatinib was unavailable for this patient. She was started on Sorafenib 400 mg BID through an expanded access program from the manufacturer.
- Symptomatic relief of pain and improvement in shoulder mobility within weeks of starting; the tumor has been only stable by MRI at 24 months, however.

## GOAL:

We herein report our retrospective experience of 14 DT/DF patients treated with sorafenib.



## Sorafenib:

### INDICATION:

-- Progression by imaging: 12, stable scans but worsening pain : 2 and maximum benefit in 1 patient who had received prior doxorubicin.

-- 10/14 pts with prior chemotherapy (median 3 lines) started on sorafenib after a median of 17.5 mo after initial presentation.

-- 4/14 pts had first-line therapy with sorafenib after a median of 4 mo (1-12) after initial presentation.

### DURATION

-- Sorafenib was given for a median of 14 months (range 2 – 24) mo.

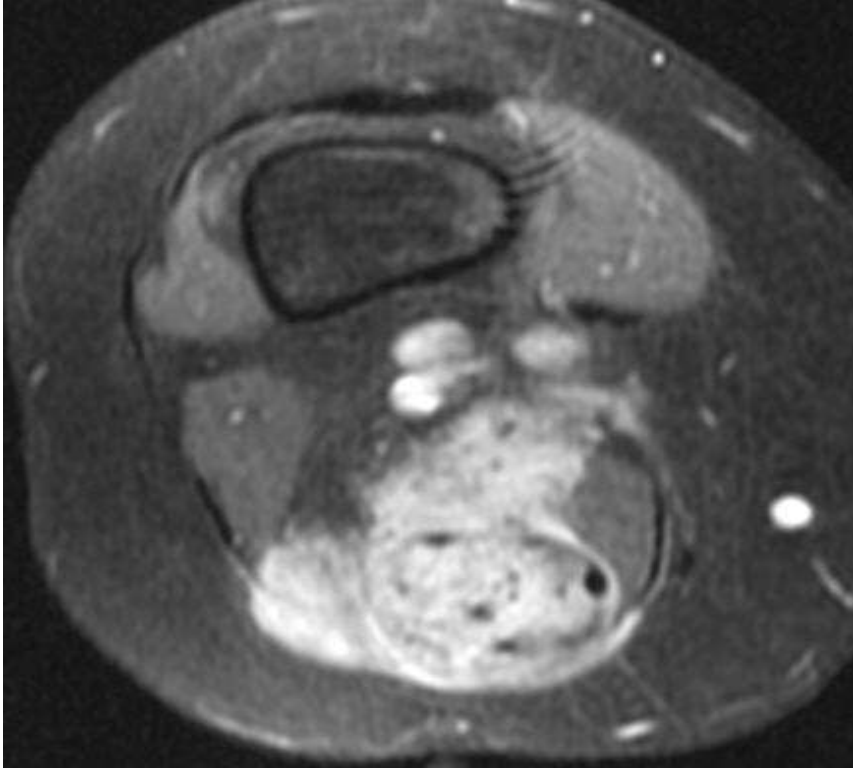
### DOSE

-- Patients were started at a median dose of 400 mg PO daily, decreased for symptoms.

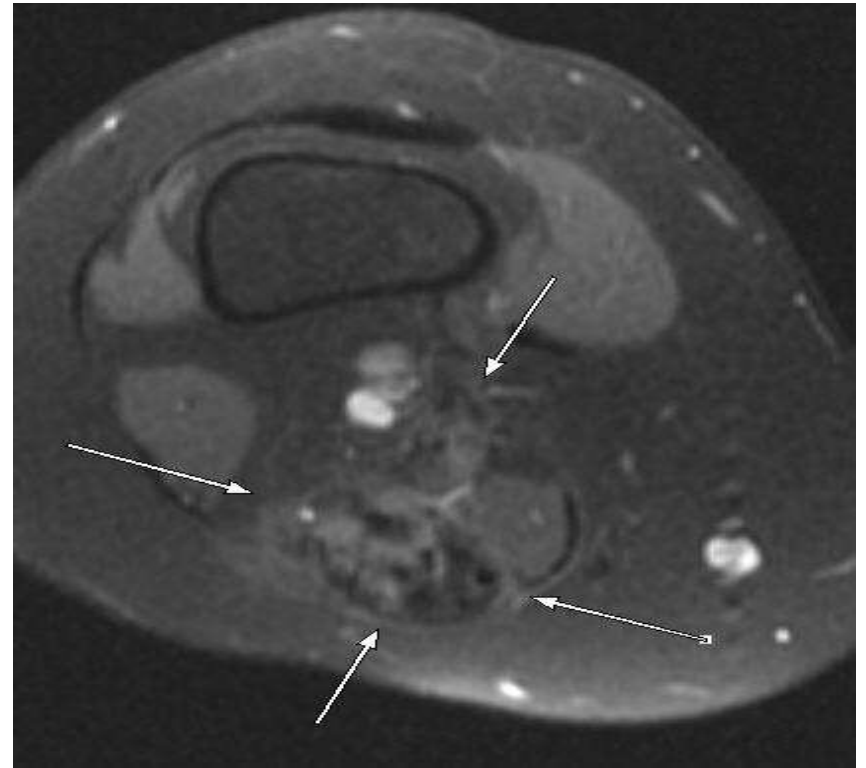
-- Symptoms included: included hand-foot syndrome, fatigue, rash, a sensation of scalp burning, hypertension, mild alopecia and diarrhea.

-- Severity of symptoms were not quantified.

# Pt #1: Pre- and Post MRI w/ contrast

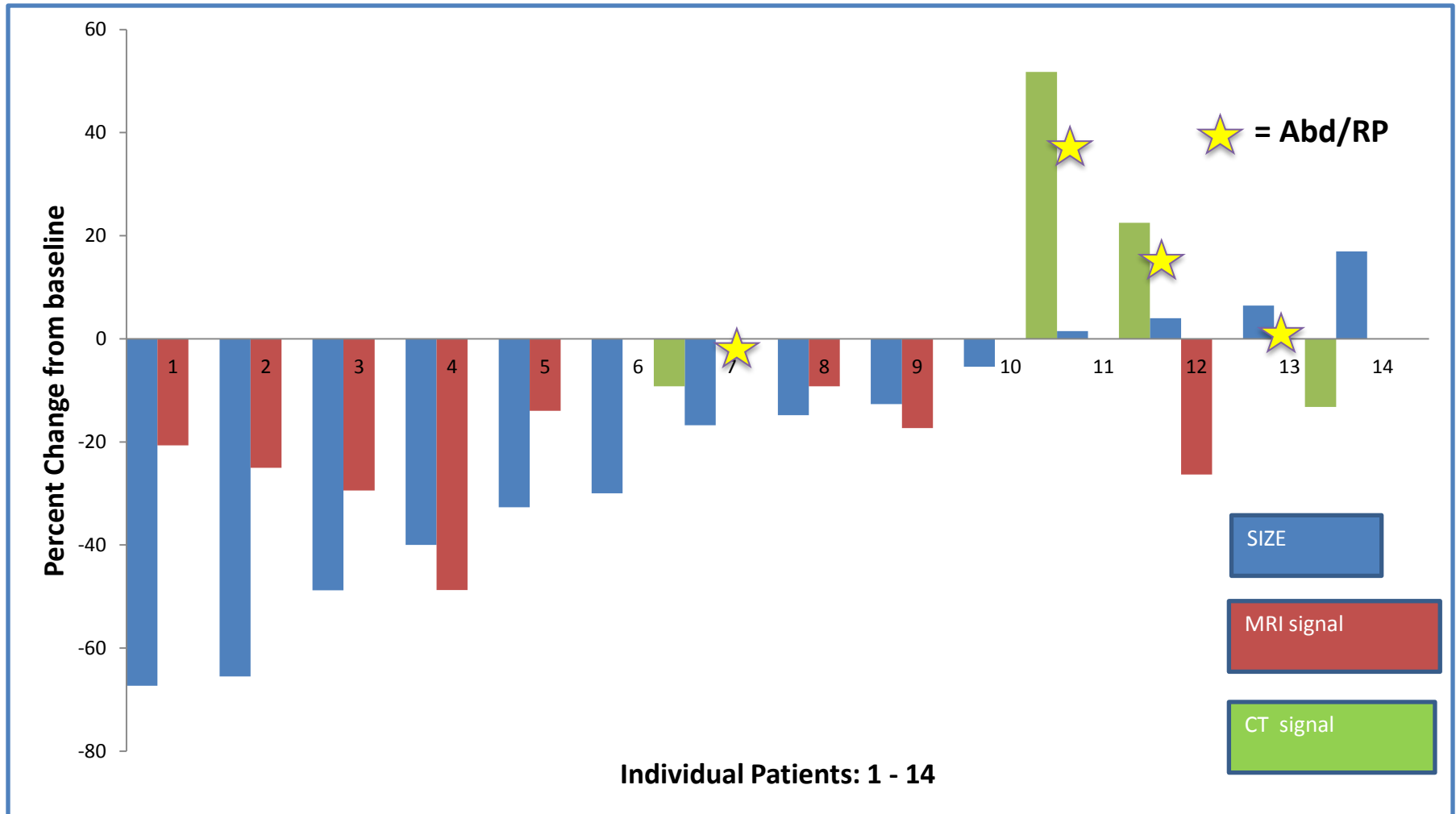


7/9/09: Post Gadolinium (popliteal surface)



12/11/09: Post Gadolinium

# RECIST Response (BLUE) Signal Change (RED and GREEN)



# Conclusions

- Desmoid Tumors are caused by mutations in the **APC/beta-catenin** pathway
- Although not strictly cancers, desmoids can cause **significant illness or death**
- **Treatment plans must be individualized** and can include observation, surgery, radiation, and medical therapy
- A variety of medical therapies can be effective, and **promising new treatments are coming!**

**THANK YOU!**

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