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Less is more: towards a tailored approach in myxoid liposarcoma

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CHAPTER 7

“Moderate dose preoperative RT
may render borderline or inoperable
MLS resectable”

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Abstract

Background

Histotype specific neoadjuvant therapy response data is scarce in soft tissue sarcomas. This study aimed to assess the impact of a moderate radiotherapy (RT) dose on resectability and to correlate MRI parameters to pathological treatment response in Myxoid Liposarcoma (MLS).

Methods

This prospective, multicenter, single-arm, phase 2 trial assessed the radiological effects of 36 Gy of preoperative radiotherapy in primary non-metastatic MLS. Distance of the tumor to the neurovascular bundle, tumor dimensions, fat fraction, enhancing fraction were determined on repeat MRI scans at baseline, 8 fractions, 16 fractions and preoperatively. Extensiveness of pathological response was established by central pathology review.

Results

Preoperative radiotherapy resulted in a median increase of 2 mm (IQR 0 – 6) of the distance of the tumor to the neurovascular bundle. As compared to baseline, the median change of the tumor volume, craniocaudal diameter and axial diameter at preoperative MRI were -60% (IQR -74 – -41), -19% (IQR -23– -7) and -20% (IQR -29 – -12), respectively. The median fat fraction of 0.1 (IQR 0.0 – 0.1) and enhancing fraction of 0.8 (IQR 0.6 – 0.9) at baseline, changed to 0.2 (IQR 0.1 – 0.5) and to 0.5 (IQR 0.4 – 0.9) preoperatively, respectively. Radiological signs of response in terms of volume, enhancing fraction and fat fraction were correlated with specific pathological expresses of response like hyalinization, necrosis and fatty maturation.

Conclusions

A moderate dose of preoperative radiotherapy may improve resectability in MLS and could facilitate achievement of clear margins and function preservation. MRI features which were predictive for signs of pathological response, can play a role in further personalization of neoadjuvant treatment strategies in order to improve outcome in MLS.

Introduction

Response evaluation is important in clinical trials investigating novel neoadjuvant treatment strategies. It is frequently used as a surrogate short-term endpoint to assess efficacy of neoadjuvant regimens in Soft Tissue Sarcoma (STS) including the myxoid liposarcoma (MLS) subtype.⁴³⁻⁴⁶ The major limitation of pathological response is that it can only be assessed after surgery once neoadjuvant treatment already has been completed. In contrast, radiological response evaluations can be performed once or multiple times during neoadjuvant therapy. Provided clear correlations between radiological and histopathological parameters can be established, this could ultimately offer an opportunity to adapt neoadjuvant therapies on a personalized basis of actual treatment response.

Although the relationship between radiological and histopathological parameters in STS has been subject of previous investigations,⁴⁷⁻⁵⁰ histotype specific data is scarce. For MLS, this would be particularly of interest given its distinctive clinical behavior. In sharp contrast to other STS subtypes, substantial volumetric reductions and even partial responses according to RECIST are frequently observed following preoperative radiotherapy in MLSs.^{39,41,48,50-52} The reported association between tumor shrinkage and pathological response in a small and heterogeneous group of STS,⁴⁸ is likely to reflect at least partly the well-established high radiosensitivity of the MLS subtype in this series.^{9,41,46,50} However, the question can be raised whether shrinkage is also predictive for pathological response in a cohort with only MLS patients. Furthermore, the clinical benefit of tumor shrinkage for the patient in terms of resectability, is currently unclear. Particularly for tumors in close proximity of the neurovascular bundle (NVB), function preservation could be facilitated by a radiotherapy induced increase of the distance from tumor to the NVB.

In addition to dimensional changes on Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), other changes visible on MRI during and following preoperative radiotherapy may be interpreted as therapy effect in MLS.⁵³ Radiotherapy has been reported to potentially result in an increase of fat content on MRI in MLS,^{47,50,54} with corresponding fatty maturation on histopathological examination of 13 MLS resection specimens.⁵⁰ Finally, MLSs frequently show radiotherapy associated decreases of enhancing fraction on MRI. However, this feature may not reliably predict pathological response in STS.^{47,50}

The goal of the current study is (I) to determine the correlation of MRI parameters established during and after preoperative radiotherapy to pathological treatment response in MLS and (II) to assess the impact of a moderate radiotherapy dose on resectability.

Methods

Trial design and patients

In this study, the MRI data of MLS patients, included in the DOREMY (DOse REduction in MYxoid liposarcoma) trial (NCT02106312), were evaluated. This prospective, multicenter, single-arm, phase 2 trial was open for enrollment from 24 November, 2010, until 14 May, 2020. The study was designed to assess efficacy and morbidity of a reduced dose of 36 Gy of preoperative radiotherapy in 18 fractions in MLS.^{46,52} Three trial centers participated in this complementary and voluntary part of the study investigating repeat MRI examinations before, during, and after preoperative radiotherapy. All patients provided a written informed consent. The protocol and all amendments thereon were approved by the ethics committee of the initiating center.

Eligible patients were adults (≥ 18 years) with a translocation confirmed MLS (either t(12;16)(q13,p11) or t(12;22)(q13q12) reciprocal translocation). Exclusion criteria were any other prior or concurrent malignancy, pregnancy, ECOG performance status > 2 , and prior radiotherapy to the target area.

Procedures

Staging consisted of MRI of the primary site followed by image guided biopsies and CT scans of the chest, abdomen, and pelvis.^{27,28} Histopathological and molecular confirmation of the MLS diagnosis of the original primary tumor was mandatory. The comprehensive radiotherapy protocol has been published elsewhere and a summary is presented in the *Supplementary material*.⁴⁶ The interval between radiotherapy and resection was 4-8 weeks. Central pathology review of the resected specimen was performed and the percentage of vital tumor cells, hyalinization, fatty maturation, and necrosis were scored systematically,^{55,56} together mounting to 100%. The cumulative percentage of hyalinization, fatty maturation, and necrosis, was considered as pathological treatment response. The cut-off value for an extensive pathological response was set at 90% (median % in this dataset).

Patients underwent MRI scans according to the study protocol within one week before the 1st fraction (baseline) and at the day of the 8th and 16th fraction. From 2015 onwards the study imaging protocol was also performed preoperatively. The study MRI protocol included conventional T1- and T2-weighted MRI sequences, followed by fat suppressed T1-weighted sequences pre- and post-gadolinium contrast administration. The tumors were imaged in at least two planes (axial and sagittal or axial and coronal). If the study MRI at baseline was missing, the same sequence of the diagnostic MRI (similar protocol) was used as a surrogate. If the MRI data at 8 fractions, 16 fractions or preoperative was missing, patients were excluded from the analysis at those respective time points.

MRI evaluation consisted of an estimation of the tumor's fat fraction on the T1-weighted sequence and enhancing fraction on post-contrast T1-weighted images. Both fat and enhancing fractions were graded visually for the complete tumor volume using all available scan planes (i.e. 0-9%, 10-19%, etcetera). Additionally, to express the impact of preoperative radiotherapy on resectability in a quantitative parameter, the shortest distance from the tumor to the NVB was measured on the axial T1-weighted images. The MRI evaluations were performed at all available time points by a musculoskeletal oncology radiologist (K.v.L.). Furthermore, the tumors were delineated and reviewed on post-contrast T1-weighted images by respectively a resident radiation oncology (J.L.) and sarcoma radiation oncologist (R.L.H.). Subsequently, tumor volumes and axial and craniocaudal tumor dimensions were automatically extracted.

Statistical analysis

Median values are presented with an interquartile range (IQR). For the analysis of the fat fractions and enhancing fractions, the lower boundary of the estimated range was used (i.e. 10% was used when the range was estimated to be 10-19%). Wilcoxon matched-pair signed rank tests were used to assess differences between measurements at different time points. Binary logistic regression and linear regression were used to test associations between MRI parameters and dichotomized and continuous pathology examination outcome measures, respectively. The standardized beta (β) ranges from 0 to 1 or 0 to -1, depending on the direction of the correlation. The closer the value is to 1 or -1, the stronger the correlation. Resection specimens not available for central pathology review were not taken into account for the pathology response analysis. P-values are considered

statistically significant when $p \leq 0.05$. Statistical analyses were conducted by using IBM SPSS statistics (version 25, Chicago, Illinois, Unites States).

Results

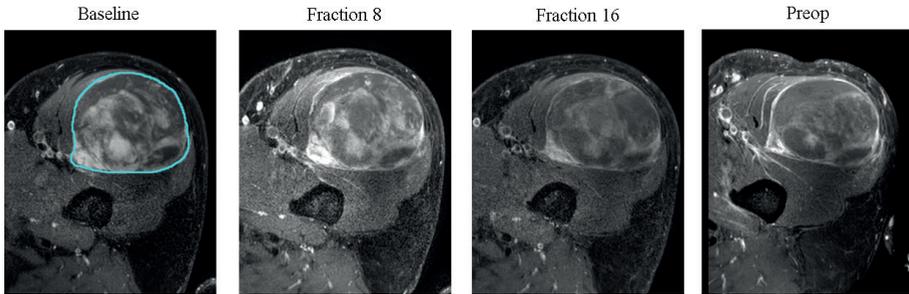
A total of 34 patients were included in the study population, consisting of 22 males (65%) and 12 females (35%). The median age was 45 years (IQR 37–52). Tumor locations included lower extremity (n=27), upper extremity (n=5), and the trunk (n=2). The Round Cell Component in diagnostic biopsies was estimated to be $\geq 5\%$ in 4/34 (12%), $< 5\%$ in 27/34 (79%), and unknown in 3/34 (9%) of the patients. At baseline MRI, the tumor was marginally resectable (≤ 2 mm distance of the tumor to the NVB) in 15/34 (44%) of the patients. The tumor was found in very close proximity (< 1 mm) to the NVB in 11/34 (32%) of the patients. All patients underwent radiotherapy according to the protocol and subsequent surgery was with one exception performed in all patients. The reason for omitting surgery in this patient was development of intercurrent metastatic disease. Clear surgical margins were achieved in 32/33 (97%). One patient (3%) had microscopically positive resection margins. Neither major blood vessels nor nerves were sacrificed and function was preserved in all patients with a extremity tumor location.

Resection specimens were not available for central pathology review in four patients. The pathologic response percentages as determined in central pathology review were 25% in 1/29 (3%), 60% in 1/29 (3%), 75% in 1/29 (3%), 80% in 1/29 (3%), 85% in 6/29 (21%), 90% in 8/28 (28%), 95% in 9/29 (31%), and 99% in 2/29 (7%) of the patients.

MRI evaluation

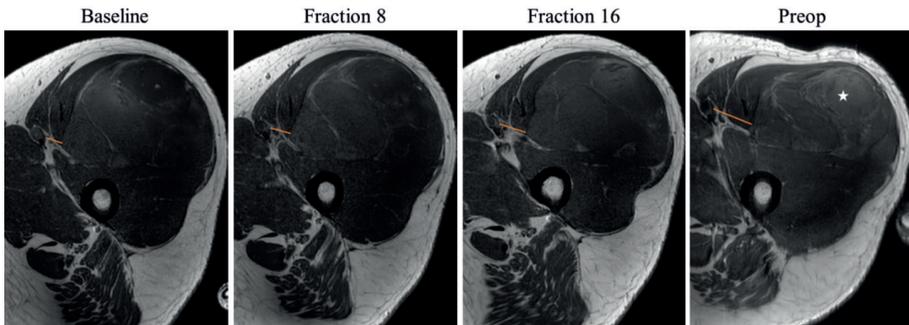
MRIs were available at baseline (n=34), after 8 fractions of radiotherapy (n=28), after 16 fractions of radiotherapy (n=30), and preoperatively (n=28). *Figure 1* shows an illustrative example of a tumor responding on radiotherapy. The boxplots in *Figure 2* depict change of MRI characteristics over time on a study population level. As compared to baseline MRI, the median change of the tumor volume, craniocaudal diameter, and axial diameter at preoperative MRI are -60% (IQR -74 – -41), -19% (IQR -23 – -7), and -20% (IQR -29 – -12), respectively. The median fat fraction of 0.1 (IQR 0.0–0.1) and enhancing fraction of 0.8 (IQR 0.6–0.9) at baseline MRI, increased to 0.2 (IQR 0.1–0.5) and decreased to 0.5 (IQR 0.4–0.9) preoperatively, respectively.

Figure 1A *T₁-weighed post contrast images of an illustrative example of a patient with a radiologically responding tumor*



Caption Figure 1A. Axial T₁-weighed post contrast images (above) of an example of a radiologically responding intramuscular tumor in the proximal lower extremity. The tumor is delineated with a blue line. In comparison to baseline (left), the decreases in enhancing fraction and tumor volume (modest decrease of tumor volume) observed at fraction 8 (middle) and fraction 16 (right).

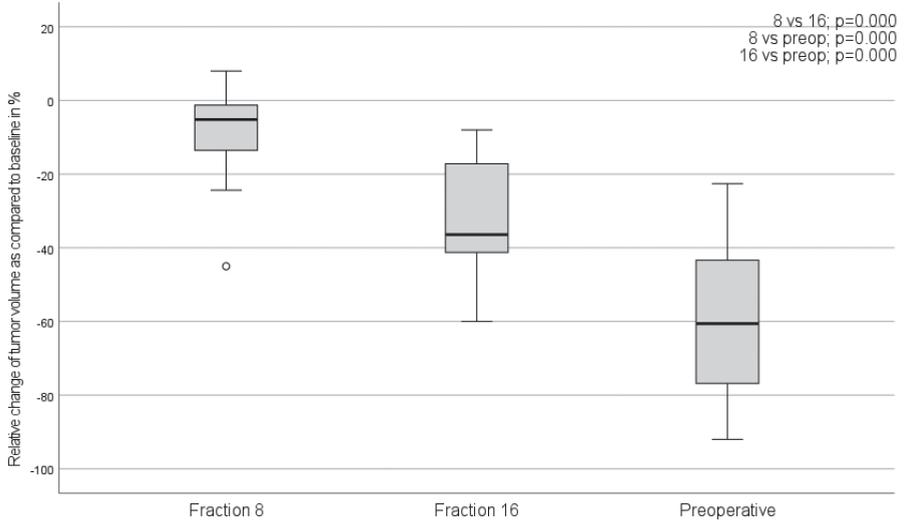
Figure 1B *T₁-weighed images of the same illustrative example of a patient with a radiologically responding tumor*



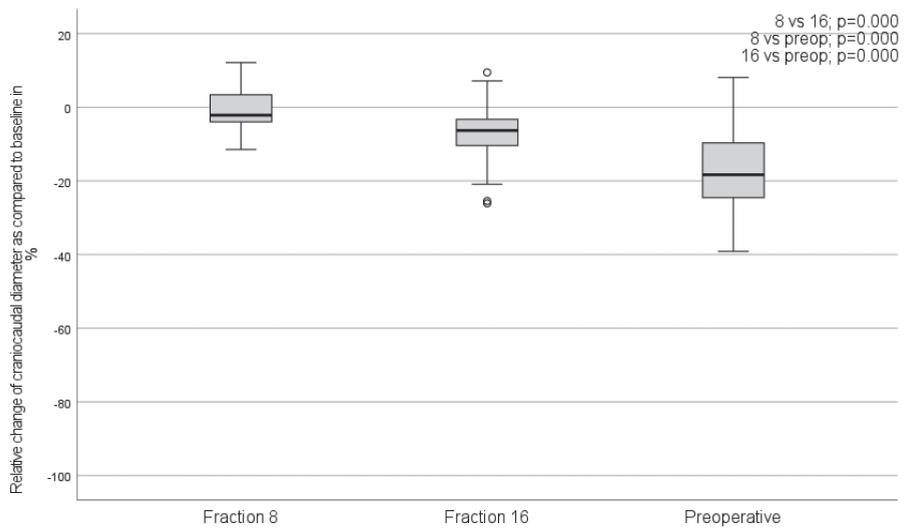
Caption Figure 1B. Axial T₁-weighed images of the same example as presented in Figure 1B. In comparison to baseline (left), tumor dimensions decrease and the distance of the tumor to the neurovascular bundle increases (in this example the distance from the tumor to the artery is marked with the orange line) over time. Furthermore, the fat fraction on MRI gradually increases between baseline and preoperative. The white star in the preoperative image (right) marks a new fat-containing area, as a sign of radiological response.

Figure 2. Boxplots represent relative changes of tumor volume (A), craniocaudal tumor diameter (B) and axial tumor diameter (C), as compared with baseline. Other boxplots represent fat fraction (D), enhancing fraction (E) and distance of the tumor to the neurovascular bundle (F) over time.

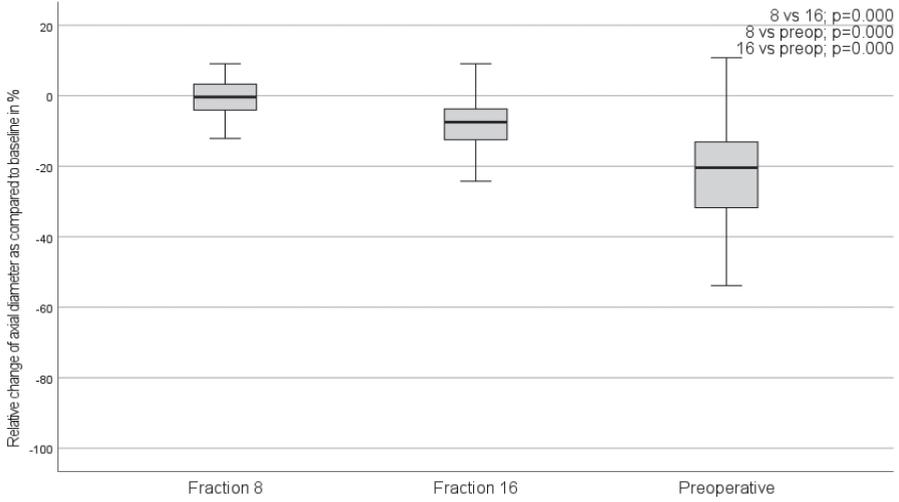
A Tumor volume



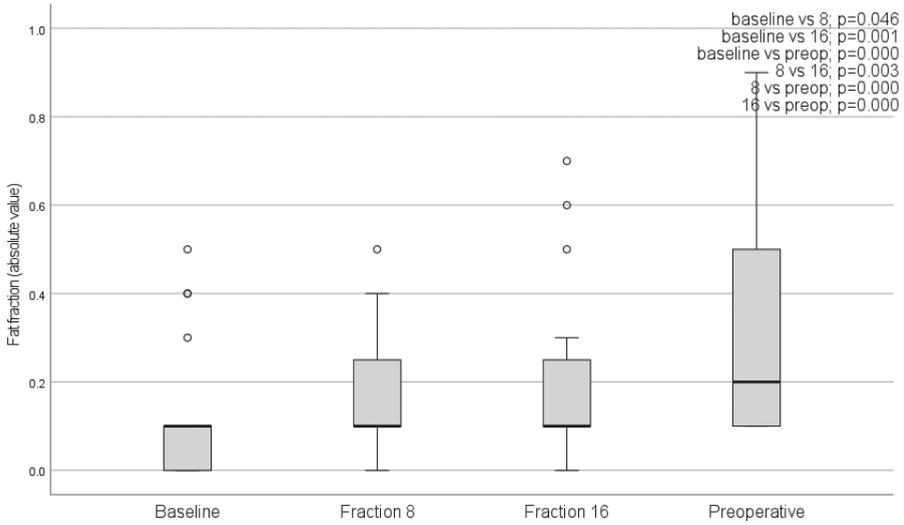
B Craniocaudal tumor diameter



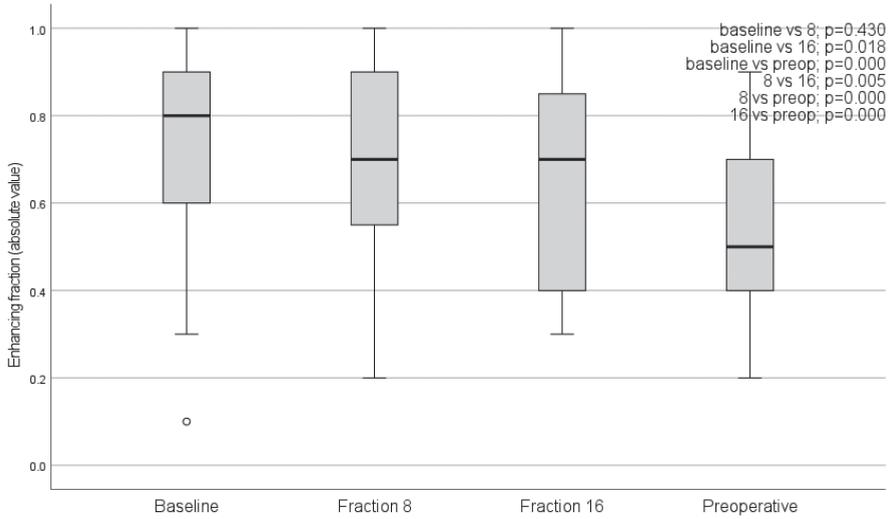
C Axial tumor diameter



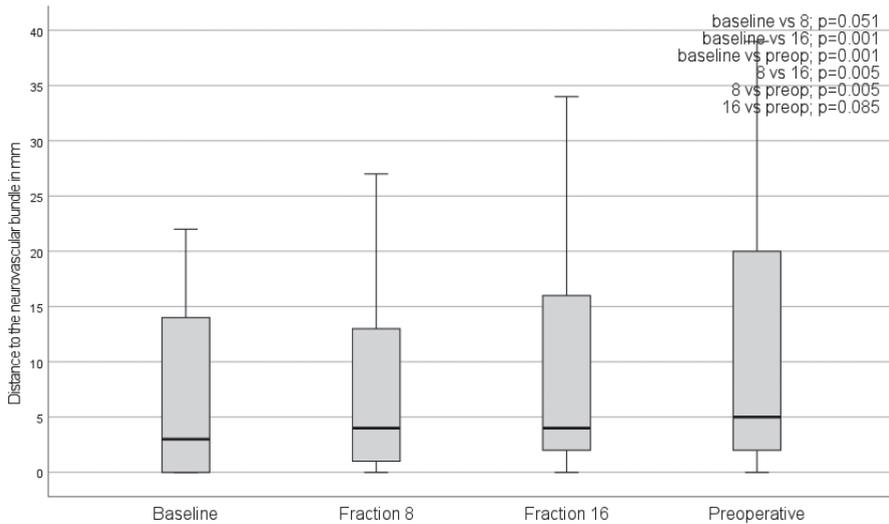
D Fat fraction



E Enhancing fraction



F Distance of the tumor to neurovascular bundle



Caption Figure 2. The horizontal black line in the gray box represents the median value. The gray box displays the interquartile range (IQR). Any value outside the whiskers is considered as an outlier and is represented with a circle.

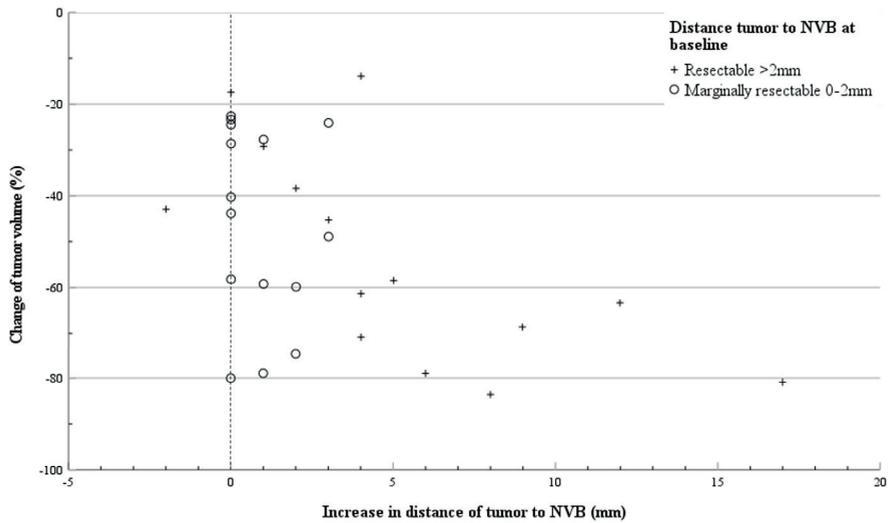
An overview of individual distances between tumor and NVB as measured on MRI at the different time points, sorted by distance of the tumor to the NVB at the baseline measurement, is given in *Table 1*. The median difference in distance of the tumor to the NVB between the MRI at baseline and preoperative is +2mm (IQR 0–6). Although the large benefits in terms of increased distance of the tumor to the NVB are generally observed in patients who initially had resectable disease already, smaller but still relevant benefits are also observed in cases with preexistent smaller distances of the tumor to the NVB. At preoperative MRI, but not earlier, relative dimensional tumor changes as compared to baseline, are inversely associated with the distance of the tumor to the NVB (volume β =-.506, $p=0.012$; craniocaudal diameter β =-.457, $p=0.021$; axial diameter β =-.512, $p=0.011$). The "chart of benefit" in *Figure 3* visualizes the correlation between change in tumor volume and change in distance of the tumor to the NVB.

Table 1. Distance on MRI from tumor to the neurovascular bundle before, during and after radiotherapy and the minimal margin at pathology examination, in millimeters assessed in 31 patients.

MRI Baseline	MRI Fraction 8	MRI Fraction 16	MRI Preoperative	Pathology minimal margin	Radiological Difference
0	NA	1	NA	0	+1*
0	NA	NA	0	1	0
0	0	0	0	+	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	NA	NA	0	1	0
0	NA	0	0	1	0
0	0	0	0	0.1	0
0	0	0	1	1	+1
0	1	2	2	1	+2
0	3	3	3	2	+3
1	2	3	3	0.1	+2
2	2	2	NA	2	0*
2	2	3	3	1	+1
2	2	2	5	1	+3
3	5	7	NA	1	+4*
3	4	6	8	1	+5

MRI Baseline	MRI Fraction 8	MRI Fraction 16	MRI Preoperative	Pathology minimal margin	Radiological Difference
6	5	6	NA	4	0*
6	5	4	4	0.3	-2
7	7	8	NA	0.2	+1*
7	8	12	9	2	+2
7	7	7	10	2	+3
10	9	11	14	3	+4
11	NA	NA	22	3	+11
14	16	17	26	2	+12
15	20	16	24	3	+9
16	20	29	20	1	+4
16	16	19	22	1	+6
18	13	24	26	3	+8
22	27	34	39	3	+17
23	26	27	NA	3	+4*
3 (0-15)	4 (1-15)	4 (1-17)	5 (2-21)	1 (0.28-2.25)	2 (0-6)

*Caption Table 1. Tumors are sorted from small to large distance from the tumor to the neurovascular bundle (NVB) at baseline. The second, third and fourth column represent the distance of the tumor to the NVB after 8 fractions, 16 fractions and prior to surgery, respectively. The fifth column shows the minimal pathology margin in mm as reported by the pathologist at pathology examination and the sixth column represents the difference in distance of the tumor to the NVB between the measurement at baseline and the latest available MRI scan. The row below in bold represents the median value with the inter quartile range (IQR) between the parentheses. In cases with a thoracic wall localization (n=1) and subcutaneous mass (n=2) distance of the tumor to NVB were deemed irrelevant and excluded from this table. * = represents the difference in distance of the tumor to the NVB between baseline and fraction 16, because no preoperative MRI was performed in these patients. Given the possible underestimation of the difference in distance of the tumor to the NVB, these values are not taken into account for further descriptive analysis including the presented median difference at the bottom of the right column. + =this patient had microscopically positive surgical margins.*

Figure 3. "Chart of benefit"

Caption Figure 3. Scatterplot shows the correlation between change of tumor volume and change in distance of the tumor to the neurovascular bundle (NVB). Change is defined as the difference between the measured value at preoperative MRI, as compared to the MRI at baseline. Patients without preoperative MRI are excluded from this scatterplot. Each asterisk () represents a tumor deemed resectable at baseline, with a distance of the tumor to the NVB of >2mm. Each circle represent a tumor deemed marginally resectable at baseline, with a distance of the tumor to the NVB smaller or equal to 2mm.*

MRI and pathological outcome

Associations were tested between clinical MRI parameters and pathological outcome. No associations were found between clinical MRI parameters and comprehensive pathological response at any of the time points; neither dichotomized with a 90% pathological response cut-off value, nor as a continuous variable. However, when the particular pathological treatment effects were tested separately, several associations were identified. Firstly, at all time points, fat fraction on MRI was associated with fatty maturation and inversely associated with hyalinization at pathology examination. In addition, relative volumetric change at 16 fractions and preoperatively, as compared to baseline, was associated with necrosis and inversely associated with hyalinization at pathology. Lastly, also from fraction 16 onwards, enhancing fraction was associated with hyalinization and inversely associated with necrosis at pathology examination. An overview of all tested associations is provided in the *Supplementary table 1*.

Discussion

This prospective study shows that preoperative radiotherapy, even after a relatively low dose of 36 Gy in 2 Gy fractions, increases the distance from tumor to NVB with a median of 2 mm. This may improve resectability in MLS and facilitate achievement of clear surgical margins and function preservation. Furthermore, radiological signs of response in terms of tumor volume, enhancing fraction and fat fraction were correlated with specific pathological signs of response like hyalinization, necrosis, and fatty maturation.

To the best of our knowledge, this investigation is the first to suggest an impact of preoperative radiotherapy on the resectability in the setting of MLS. Although the exceptional volumetric response on preoperative radiotherapy of MLS has been subject of several other investigations,^{39,41,48,51} none of them addressed this surgically relevant question. We have attempted to parametrize this issue by measuring the shortest distances from tumor to NVB pre- and post-radiotherapy in 31 patients. Although the largest tumor to NVB distance increases were observed in patients with already resectable MLS, preoperative radiotherapy also appeared to be beneficial in terms of increased distance of the tumor to the NVB in roughly half of the patients with marginally resectable (≤ 2 mm distance to the NVB) or borderline resectable (< 1 mm distance to the NVB) MLS. For 15 patients with a shortest distance from tumor to NVB of less than or equal to 2 mm before radiotherapy, this distance increased in 7 patients after radiotherapy (*Table 1*), implying improved resectability in these cases. Due to the lack of preoperative imaging in 2 of these 15 patients, this measurement was performed in these 2 cases on the MRI at 16 fractions of radiotherapy. Hence, this is a possible underestimation of the effect of preoperative radiotherapy on the distance from the tumor to the NVB, given the fact that a substantial part of the volumetric reduction takes place after 16 fractions (*Figure 2, A*). Moreover, the achievement of clear surgical margins in 97% of the patients supports the claim of a benefit in terms of resectability of preoperative radiotherapy.⁵⁷ Whether these data are also applicable in the setting of primary unresectable MLS remains to be established, as this study population consisted of patients with tumors considered formally resectable. However, we strictly cannot rule out that anticipated radiotherapy-induced responses have affected these initial decisions on resectability status.

Obviously, resectability is more complex than just this distance of the tumor to the NVB, as other parameters also affect resectability such as the location of the tumor and its relation to other adjacent anatomical structures. It should be acknowledged that preoperative radiotherapy can also have its downside, since radiotherapy can induce fibrotic changes to the tissue potentially hampering resections and moreover results in higher rates of wound complications.³⁴

The volumetric changes in our MLS cohort are consistent with other reports.^{39,41,48,50,51} In our study, volumetric change was inversely associated with hyalinization and necrosis from fraction 16 onwards, which is in line with the observations in 13 and 7 MLS patients as reported by Wortman and Roberge, respectively.^{48,50} Similar to Wortman, we observed increases of fat fraction and decreases of enhancing fraction following radiotherapy. Most likely these observations are read-outs of therapy response. However, one should realize that an increase of enhancing fraction on MRI does not necessarily mean tumor progression, but can also reflect treatment induced vascular disruption.⁵³ The observed association between fat fraction, as visually graded on T1 weighted sequences, with fatty maturation at pathological examination, is in line with the findings with respect to a cohort of 30 retroperitoneal STS using Dixon.⁴⁹ According to the authors, the radiological equivalent of hyalinization at pathology remains yet to be established in future research.

Importantly, the MRI at 8 fractions of radiotherapy did not yield additional predictive value above the MRI performed at baseline. However, the MRI at 16 fractions of radiotherapy predicted all three forms of pathological treatment response and therefore might play a role in the individualized adaptation of preoperative radiotherapy. Although in the currently used radiotherapy schedule the number of remaining fractions at this point is only two in the currently used radiotherapy schedule, this still provides opportunity to remit these last two fractions in case of an excellent MRI response. Contrarily, if a tumor does not show any radiological signs of response in terms of volume, enhancing fraction, and fat fraction, a prolongation of the schedule to for instance the conventional 25 fractions realizing 50 Gy might be considered.

With respect to the limitations of the association of MRI parameters with pathological response, visual grading of fat fraction and enhancing fraction is subject to a certain

extent of subjectivity. Previous reports suggest that quantitative Dixon techniques to be preferable in fat content estimation and indicate that radiologists tend to overestimate fat fractions above 50%,^{54,58} and albeit this was the case in only eight patients, this possibly could have biased our findings. Another potential limitation of the study is the uncertainty regarding the predictive value of the pathological response for outcome in STS. Although the correlation of pathological treatment response with oncological survival outcomes in STS is well-established,^{22,56,59-62} the evidence for the correlation of pathological treatment response with local control is less solid. Of note, given the demonstrated benefit of perioperative radiotherapy in terms of local control,^{24,25} local control is in the end the most important outcome in radiotherapy trials regarding STS. Whereas associations between pathological response and local control were shown in the three largest series reporting on this topic,^{22,59,62} others failed to establish this correlation in smaller study samples.^{56,63,64} Sample size appears to play an important role in this controversy. As a consequence of the low local recurrence rates in recent years, very large sample sizes are required to reach sufficient numbers of events and therewith statistical power to possibly demonstrate a possible correlation. Single institution series hardly ever meet these patient numbers in the setting of rare cancers such as STS. Hence, it is expected that – in line with other malignancies –⁶⁵⁻⁶⁸ treatment induced pathological response is an independent prognostic marker for local control in STS.

In conclusion, this cohort suggests that preoperative radiotherapy is beneficial in terms of resectability in approximately half of the at best marginally resectable tumors and that the distance from the tumor to the NVB on MRI increases in two-thirds of MLS patients. Tumor shrinkage following a modest dose of preoperative radiotherapy in MLS results in a 2 mm median increase of the distance between the tumor and the NVB. Both volumetric change and enhancing fraction were correlated with hyalinization and necrosis at pathology examination. Furthermore, fat fraction on MRI was associated with the pathological response parameters fatty maturation and hyalinization. Given the negligible predictive value of the MRI at 8 fractions, we do not recommend to routinely perform MRI response assessments before the end of the second week of preoperative radiotherapy outside clinical trials in MLS.

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Supplementary material

Radiotherapy protocol

The RT protocol, conform to the ICRU 50/62 guidelines, required standardized target volume delineation. Mirada DBx 1.2.0. delineation software (Mirada Medical, Oxford, United Kingdom) was used for target volume delineation. The gross tumor volume (GTV) was defined on the gadolinium-enhanced, T1-weighted MRI. The clinical target volume (CTV) was constructed by expanding the GTV with 3 cm in the longitudinal axis, and 1.5 cm in all other directions. Subsequently, if applicable, the GTV was manually edited to encompass any on T2-weighted MRI identified peritumoral edema in order to construct the CTV. The planning target volume was produced by expanding the CTV by 1 cm isotropically in all directions. The total prescribed dose was 36Gy, given in once-daily 2Gy fractions in a total treatment time of 24 days. IMRT or VMAT planning techniques were used. Dose distributions were calculated using Pinnacle with collapsed cone algorithm and inhomogeneity corrections (Pinnacle versions 9.2–9.10, Philips, Best, The Netherlands). The dose inhomogeneity within the PTV was between the 90% and 107%. Position verification at treatment was performed prior to every fraction with an online cone beam CT scan set-up correction protocol.

Supplementary Table

Supplementary Table 1. Overview of tested correlations between clinical MRI parameters and specific pathology treatment response effects

MRI parameter	Pathology outcome	Baseline	Fraction 8	Fraction 16	Preoperative
Volumetric change*	Hyalinization	NA	NS	$\beta = -.663, p=.000$	$\beta = -.588, p=.003$
Enhancing fraction		$\beta = .376, p=.044$	NS	$\beta = .578, p=.002$	$\beta = .622, p=.001$
Fat fraction		$\beta = -.584, p=.001$	$\beta = -.557, p=.009$	$\beta = -.588, p=.005$	$\beta = -.775, p=.000$
Volumetric change*	Necrosis	NA	NS	$\beta = .514, p=.009$	$\beta = .570, p=.005$
Enhancing fraction		NS	NS	$\beta = -.565, p=.003$	$\beta = -.536, p=.007$
Fat fraction		NS	NS	NS	NS
Volumetric change*	Fatty maturation	NA	NS	NS	NS
Enhancing fraction		NS	NS	NS	NS
Fat fraction		$\beta = .664, p=.000$	$\beta = .526, p=.014$	$\beta = .632, p=.002$	$\beta = .672, p=.000$

*Caption Supplementary Table 1. Correlations between MRI parameters and pathology treatment response effects are tested by logistic regression. A significant correlation exists between the MRI parameter and the pathology treatment response effect if the presented p-value meets the predefined level of statistical significance of $p \leq 0.05$. β -values below and above zero represent negative and positive correlations for high pathology treatment response effects, respectively. * = As this parameter is a relative value (as compared to the baseline measurement) and therefore only tested at fraction 8, fraction 16 and preoperative. Abbreviations: NA= not assessed, NS= not significant, β = standardized coefficient Beta, p = level of significance*

