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Article

Correlation between Radiological Characteristics, PET-CT and Histological Subtypes of Primary Lung Adenocarcinoma—A 102 Case Series Analysis

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Abstract: Summarizing radiological characteristics between primary lung adenocarcinoma subtypes and correlate them with FDG uptake on PET-CT are important for further treatment. A PET-CT examination was performed on some of the patients and the values of SUV-max were also correlated with the histological and morphological characteristics of masses in the lungs. Results of this analysis showed that the mean size of AIS-MIA cancer was significantly lower than for all other cancer types, while mean size of the acinar cancer was smaller than in solid type of cancer. Metastases were significantly more frequent in solid adenocarcinoma than in acinar, lepidic and AIS-MIA cancer subtypes. The maximum standardized FDG uptake was significantly lower in AIS-MIA than in all other cancer types, and in acinar compared to solid cancer. Papillary adenocarcinoma had higher odds to develop contralateral lymph node involvement compared to other types. Solid adenocarcinoma was associated with higher odds of having metastases and with higher SUVmax. AIS-MIA was associated with lower odds of one unit increase in tumour size, ipsilateral lymph node involvement. Radiology has a significant role in the diagnosis and monitoring of the disease, and in determining its prognosis, and influence on the decision on the method of treatment.

Keywords: lung adenocarcinoma; CT; PET-CT; lung cancer

1. Introduction

Lung cancer is the second most common form of cancer in the world both, men and women as well as the most common cause of cancer related death worldwide. Around 2 million new cases of lung cancer are discovered in the world every year, with an increasing trend from each year. 85% of all diagnosed cases of lung cancer, are non-small pathohistological type, and about 45% of them are lung adenocarcinomas [1].

The International Association for the Study of Lung cancer (IASLC), the American Thoracic Society (ATS) and the European Respiratory Society (ERS) published in 2011 a multidisciplinary classification of lung adenocarcinomas (ADCs), resulting from a consensus between chest physicians, oncologists, thoracic surgeons, pathologists, molecular biologists and radiologists. Further refinements were made in the WHO classification of 2015 and 2021, integrating genetic and molecular data [2].

The radiological presentation of peripheral ADCs is singular with a spectrum varying from subsolid to solid nodules and masses. This wide range of imaging findings was shown to have a good correlation with adenocarcinoma subtypes, histological patterns, as well as prognosis [3,4,5]. Recent advances in imaging techniques, such as positron emission tomography-computed tomography

(PET-CT) and multidetector computed tomography (MDCT), have improved the diagnosis, staging, and management of lung adenocarcinoma. This essay aims to explore the histological subtypes of lung adenocarcinoma and their correlation with PET-CT and MDCT findings [6].

Terminology of lung adenocarcinoma has been significantly revised in the new WHO classification by discontinuing the terms bronchioloalveolar carcinoma (BAC) and mixed subtype adenocarcinoma and adding terms of adenocarcinoma in situ (AIS) as a preinvasive lesion and minimally invasive adenocarcinoma (MIA) (Figure 1-2). The subtypes of clear cell and signet ring adenocarcinoma and term mucinous cystadenocarcinoma have been discontinued and later included under the category of colloid adenocarcinoma, while keeping five general histological types: (acinar, papillary, micropapillary, lepidic, solid) [6,7].

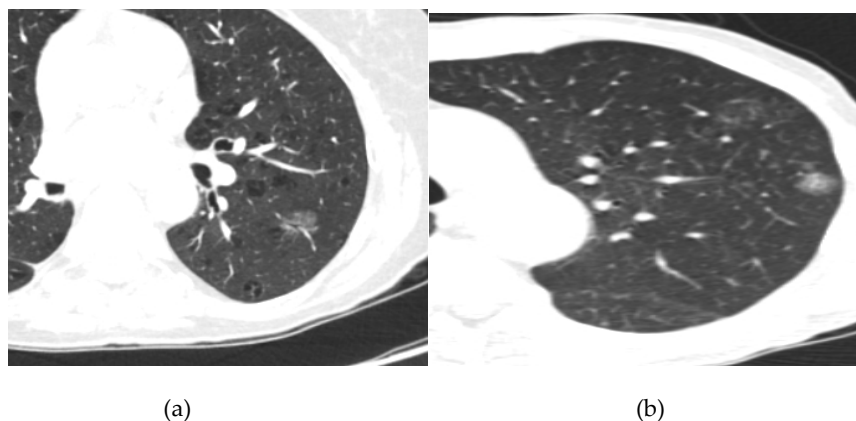


Figure 1. Lepidic type of adenocarcinoma (a), with invasion of vein (b).



Figure 2. Semisolid lung tumor with groundglass and solid component.

The aim of this study is to show the correlation between morphological characteristics of primary lung adenocarcinoma and histopathological subtypes in order to use radiological illustration of tumor appearance and other findings for better understanding and diagnosis of lung adenocarcinoma itself, as well as suggestions for further treatment and prognosis. (Figure 1-5) Another goal is the correlation between the values of the maximum uptake of FDG on the performed PET-CT with certain radiological characteristics and histological subtypes of the tumor.

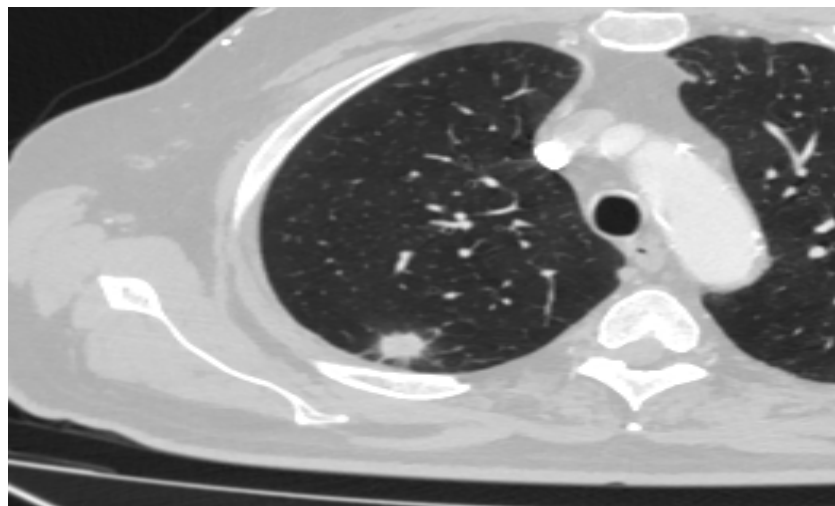


Figure 3. Solid lung tumor with spiculations adherent to the pleura.



Figure 4. Solid lung tumor with contralateral mediastinal lymphadenopathy.

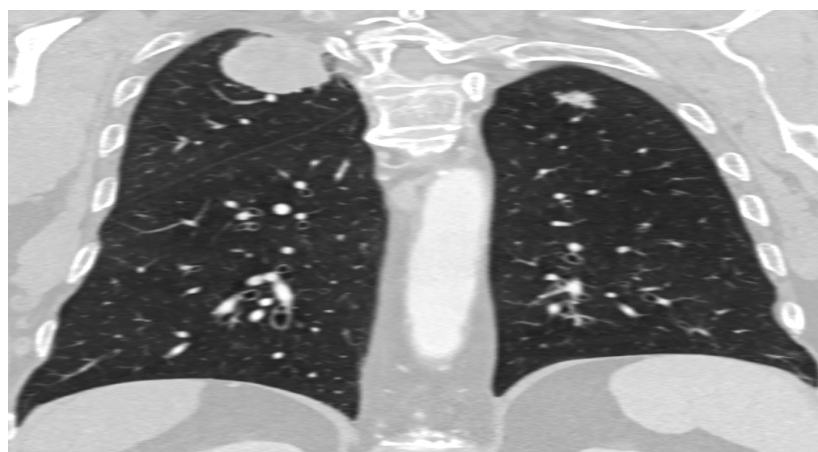


Figure 5. Lobulated lung tumor with contralateral lung metastasis.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Patients

This study included 102 patients with lung adenocarcinoma confirmed by pathohistological examination, starting from January 1st to December 31st, 2017, in Clinic for thoracic surgery and Clinic

for pulmonology in University Clinical Center of Serbia. The sample was obtained by surgical resection or tru-cut and FNA biopsies under the guidance of ultrasound or CT.

2.2. CT and FDG PET CT Amage Acquisition

All CT examination were performed with CT scanners after intravenous contrast administration in late arterial phase in all patients. The chest CT features are reviewed by radiologists and included: tumor consistency, the size of the tumor (largest diameter in the axial plane in the lung window), shape and margins, as well as the relationship to the surrounding structures (pleura, vascular components, bronchi). The enlargement of lymph nodes (more than 15 mm in shorter axis) and their localization were monitored – paratracheal, hilar on the same side as tumor, contralateral and in the supraclavicular pits. Three patients with micropapillary subtypes of adenocarcinoma reported by pathologist in this group were excluded from study because of lack of statistical significance. (Figure 1- 5).

2.3. Statistical Methods

The normality of the distribution of continuous variables was evaluated by using visual inspection of histograms and probability plots. Data were presented as mean \pm SD or median (interquartile range [IQR]) for continuous variables, depending on the normality of data distribution, and number (percentage) for categorical variables. Differences in patient and cancer characteristics between the five groups of caner types were assessed using the ANOVA or Kruskal-Wallis test for continuous data and Chi-square test for categorical data. To adjust for multiple comparisons, Bonferroni correction was applied for all post/hoc comparisons. Separate logistic regression analyses were performed to estimate the relationship between patient and cancer characteristics and occurrence of different cancer types adjusted for age, sex, and smoking status. “One vs. all” method was used to assess association between patient and cancer characteristics and certain type of cancer with respect to other cancer types. Odds ratios (OR) with 95%CI were calculated and the Hosmer-Lemeshow goodness-of-fit test was performed to assess overall model fit. All statistical tests were two-sided and were performed at 5% significance level or by using 95% confidence interval generated by the bootstrap method set to 1.000 reiterations. The statistical analysis was performed using SPSS version 23.0 software (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).

3. Results

Baseline patients and cancer characteristics are summarised in tables 1-4, and compared between five categories of lung adenocarcinoma. Lepidic type of cancer was significantly more common in females than in males (78.9% vs. 21.1%, $p=0.003$) while acinar type was significantly more common in males than in females (65.6% vs. 34.4%, $p=0.003$). The mean size of AIS-MIA cancer was significantly lower than for all other cancer types, while mean size of the acinar cancer was smaller than in solid type of cancer (37.2 ± 7.6 vs. 47.7 ± 12.6 , $p=0.002$). Metastases were significantly more frequent in solid adenocarcinoma (61%) than in acinar (9.4%, $p=0.001$), lepidic (0%, $p<0.001$) and AIS-MIA (0%, $p=0.003$) cancer subtypes. The maximum standardized uptake (SUVmax) was significantly lower in AIS-MIA than in all other cancer types, and in acinar compared to solid cancer (4.9 ± 1.1 vs. 6.3 ± 0.8 , $p=0.001$).

Table 1. Characteristics of primary lung adenocarcinoma by subtype in relation to gender, age and smoking status.

	Acinar n=32	Papillary n=28	Lepidic n=19	Solid n=13	AIS-MIA n=10	Overall Comparison p value	Mean difference	95%CI**	Post-hoc p value [‡]	
Age, mean \pm SD	62.8 \pm 7.0	62.7 \pm 7.0	61.8 \pm 7.4	63.7 \pm 7.2	61.0 \pm 5.6	0.893				
Gender, n (%)										
Male	21 (65.6)	14 (50.0)	4 (21.1)	9 (69.2)	5 (50.0)	0.024	Acinar vs. Lepidic	na	na	0.003
Female	11 (34.4)	14 (50.0)	15 (78.9)	4 (30.8)	5 (50.0)					

Smoking status, n (%)	0.052				
Non-smoker	10 (31.3)	16 (57.1)	5 (26.3)	7 (53.8)	1 (10.0)
Former smoker	8 (25.0)	2 (7.1)	2 (10.5)	1 (7.7)	1 (10.0)
Current smoker	14 (43.8)	10 (35.7)	12 (63.2)	5 (38.5)	8 (80.0)

*Only comparisons significant at $p < 0.005$ level are presented. **bootstrapped at 1000 iterations. †Bonferroni correction was applied for multiple comparisons (0.05/10 comparisons=0.005). Na, not applicable; ns, not significant. Interpretation: overall p value indicates whether there is an overall significant difference between these 5 categories. For those comparisons that are significant in the overall comparison (bold, $p < 0.05$), a post-hoc analysis was performed to see exactly where the difference lies. Since there are a lot of comparisons because there are 5 categories to compare, only left are those that are significant ($p < 0.005$ and not < 0.05 due to multiple comparisons).

Age, sex, and smoking status adjusted OR with 95%CI for the association between patient and cancer characteristics are presented in table 5. Papillary adenocarcinoma had higher odds to develop contralateral lymph node involvement compared to other types (OR 4.49, 95%CI 1.02-19.73). Solid adenocarcinoma was associated with higher odds of having metastases (OR 14.09, 95%CI 3.51-56.41) and with higher SUVmax (OR for one unit increase 2.64, 95%CI 1.48-4.69). AIS-MIA was associated with lower odds of one unit increase in tumour size (OR 0.65 95%CI 0.51-0.83), ipsilateral lymph node involvement (0.20 95%CI 0.05-0.85) and one unit increase in SUVmax (OR 0.07 95%CI 0.02-0.29) and with higher odds of ground glass presentation (OR 7.19, 95%CI 1.35-38.34). There were no significant associations of the selected characteristics and acinar and solid cancer compared to other cancer types.

Table 2. Characteristics of primary lung adenocarcinoma by subtype in relation to tumor size, component and edges.

	Acinar n=32	Papillary n=28	Lepidic n=19	Solid n=13	AIS-MIA n=10	Overall p value	Compariso n group*	Mean difference	95%CI**	Post-hoc p value‡
Tumor size, mean \pm SD						<0.001	Acinar vs. Solid	-10.44	-18.77 to -3.14	0.002
							Acinar vs. AIS-MIA	12.35	8.88 to 16.14	0.001
							Papillary vs. AIS- MIA	16.89	12.92 to 20.76	<0.001
							Lepidic vs. AIS-MIA	13.26	9.79 to 16.74	0.001
							Solid vs. AIS-MIA	22.79	15.68 to 30.54	0.001
Component, n (%)										
Solid	32 (100)	28 (100)	19 (100)	13 (100)	9 (90.0)	0.054				ns
Necrosis	3 (9.4)	9 (32.1)	5 (26.3)	4 (30.8)	0 (0.0)	0.074				ns
Ground glass	3 (9.4)	0 (0.0)	1 (5.3)	1 (7.7)	3 (30.0)	0.051				ns
Edges n (%)										
Round	19 (59.4)	14 (50.0)	14 (73.7)	7 (53.8)	5 (50.0)	0.244				ns
Lobular	4 (12.5)	4 (14.3)	2 (10.5)	5 (38.5)	3 (30.0)					
Spiculated	9 (28.1)	10 (35.7)	3 (15.8)	1 (7.7)	2 (20.0)					

*Only comparisons significant at $p < 0.005$ level are presented. **bootstrapped at 1000 iterations. †Bonferroni correction was applied for multiple comparisons (0.05/10 comparisons=0.005). Na, not applicable; ns, not significant Interpretation: overall p value indicates whether there is an overall significant difference between these 5 categories. For those comparisons that are significant in the overall comparison (bold, $p < 0.05$), a post-hoc analysis was performed to see exactly where the difference lies. Since there are a lot of comparisons

because there are 5 categories to compare, only left are those that are significant ($p < 0.005$ and not < 0.05 due to multiple comparisons).

Table 3. Characteristics of primary lung adenocarcinoma according to subtypes in relation to involvement of surrounding structures, involvement of lymph nodes.

	Acinar n=32	Papillary n=28	Lepidic n=19	Solid n=13	AIS-MIA n=10	Overall p value	Compariso n group*	Mean difference	95%CI**	Post-hoc p value [‡]
Pleural involvement, n (%)	11 (34.4)	15 (53.6)	5 (26.3)	8 (61.5)	2 (20.0)	0.084				ns
Bronch ial cut- off, n (%)	12 (37.5)	13 (46.4)	10 (52.6)	9 (69.2)	5 (50.0)	0.41				ns
Vascul ar invasio n, n (%)	11 (34.4)	16 (57.1)	9 (47.4)	6 (46.2)	3 (30.0)	0.397				ns
No lymph node involv ment	9 (28.1)	4 (14.3)	9 (47.7)	2 (15.4)	7 (70.0)	0.049				ns
Ipsilate ral lymph node involv ment	18 (56.3)	18 (64.3)	8 (42.1)	9 (69.2)	3 (30.3)					
Contral ateral lymph node involv ment	5 (15.6)	6 (21.4)	2 (10.5)	2 (15.4)	0 (0.0)					

*Only comparisons significant at $p < 0.005$ level are presented. **bootstrapped at 1000 iterations. †Bonferroni correction was applied for multiple comparisons (0.05/10 comparisons=0.005). Na, not applicable; ns, not significant Interpretation: overall p value indicates whether there is an overall significant difference between these 5 categories. For those comparisons that are significant in the overall comparison (bold, $p < 0.05$), a post-hoc analysis was performed to see exactly where the difference lies. Since there are a lot of comparisons because there are 5 categories to compare, only left are those that are significant ($p < 0.005$ and not < 0.05 due to multiple comparisons).

Table 4. Characteristics of primary lung adenocarcinoma according to subtypes in relation to presence of metastases and PET findings.

	Acinar n=32	Papillar y n=28	Lepidic n=19	Solid n=13	AIS-MIA n=10	Overall p value	Comparis on group*	Mean difference	95%CI**	Post-hoc p value [‡]
Metastases present, n (%)	3 (9.4%)	7 (25.0%)	0 (0.0%)	8 (61.5%)	0 (0.0%)	<0.001	Acinar vs. solid	na	na	0.001
							Lepidic vs. solid	na	na	<0.001
							Solid vs. AIS-MIA	na	na	0.003

SUVmax, mean \pm SD	4.9 \pm 1.1	5.3 \pm 1.3	5.1 \pm 0.7	6.3 \pm 0.8	3.3 \pm 0.8	<0.001	Acinar vs. solid	-1.35	-1.89 to - 0.76	0.001
							Acinar vs. AIS- MIA	1.65	1.00 to 2.28	<0.001
							Papillary vs. AIS- MIA	2.01	1.35 to 2.72	<0.001
							Lepidic vs. AIS- MIA	1.83	1.23 to 2.38	<0.001
							Solid vs. AIS-MIA	-3	2.32 vs. 3.59	<0.001

*Only comparisons significant at $p < 0.005$ level are presented. **bootstrapped at 1000 iterations. †Bonferroni correction was applied for multiple comparisons (0.05/10 comparisons=0.005). Na, not applicable; ns, not significant Interpretation: overall p value indicates whether there is an overall significant difference between these 5 categories. For those comparisons that are significant in the overall comparison (bold, $p < 0.05$), a post-hoc analysis was performed to see exactly where the difference lies. Since there are a lot of comparisons because there are 5 categories to compare, only left are those that are significant ($p < 0.005$ and not < 0.05 due to multiple comparisons).

Table 5. Odds ratios with bootstrapped 95%CI of the adjusted* relationship of cancer characteristics with type of cancer.

Characteristic	Acinar	Papillary	Lepidic	Solid	AIS-MIA
	n=32	n=28	n=19	n=13	n=10
	OR (95%CI)	OR (95%CI)	OR (95%CI)	OR (95%CI)	OR (95%CI)
Tumor size	0.97 (0.92-1.02)	1.04 (1.00-1.09)	1.00 (0.95-1.05)	1.11 (1.04-1.18)	0.65 (0.51-0.83)
Solid component	na	na	na	na	na
Necrosis	0.27 (0.07-1.03)	2.57 (0.90-7.37)	1.69 (0.46-6.17)	1.80 (0.47-6.96)	na
Ground glass	1.25 (0.27-5.89)	na	0.69 (0.07-6.59)	1.00 (0.11-9.38)	7.19 (1.35-38.34)
Round edges	1.0 [Reference]	1.0 [Reference]	1.0 [Reference]	1.0 [Reference]	1.0 [Reference]
Lobular edges	0.62 (0.18-2.22)	9.91 (0.25-3.22)	0.32 (0.06-1.67)	3.17 (0.83-12.19)	2.28 (0.48-10.81)
Spiculated edges	1.16 (0.42-3.16)	2.16 (0.79-5.89)	0.43 (0.11-1.74)	0.28 (0.03-2.42)	1.00 (0.18-5.62)
Pleural involvement	0.62 (0.25-1.53)	2.18 (0.89-5.34)	0.52 (1.16-1.66)	2.48 (0.73-8.43)	0.35 (0.70-1.77)
Bronchial cut-off	0.60 (0.25-1.48)	0.87 (0.35-2.16)	0.90 (0.31-2.62)	3.53 (0.93-13.36)	1.17 (0.30-4.56)
Vascular invasion	0.55 (2.23-1.33)	2.06 (0.85-4.99)	1.17 (0.41-3.34)	1.11 (0.34-3.60)	0.52 (0.13-2.17)
No lymph node involvement	1.0 [Reference]	1.0 [Reference]	1.0 [Reference]	1.0 [Reference]	1.0 [Reference]
Ipsilateral lymph node involvement	1.08 (0.40-2.90)	3.26 (0.98-10.80)	0.43 (1.14-1.34)	2.54 (0.50-12.98)	0.20 (0.05-0.85)
Contralateral lymph node involvement	1.32 (0.34-5.16)	4.49 (1.02-19.73)	0.30 (0.05-1.74)	2.34 (0.29-19.04)	na
Metastases present	0.34 (0.09-1.33)	1.93 (0.65-5.72)	na	14.09 (3.51-56.41)	na
SUVmax	0.86 (0.59-1.23)	1.21 (0.86-1.73)	1.04 (0.69-1.57)	2.64 (1.48-4.69)	0.07 (0.02-0.29)

*Adjusted for age, sex, and smoking status. Bolded values are significant. Na, not applicable. Interpretation: If the OR is less than 1, it means that the characteristic is less present in that cancer than in others, if the OR is greater than 1, it means that this characteristic is more present in that tumor than in the others. If 95% of the CI does not contain 1, it means that the difference is statistically significant (bold in each case).

4. Discussion

Having in mind the fact that lung cancer is currently one of the most common form of cancer in the world, and lung adenocarcinoma is the most common histological type of lung cancer, we believe that timely diagnosis significantly improves the outcome of the course of the disease [8,9].

Invasive adenocarcinoma is most often seen as a solid nodule but it may also be partially solid, and occasionally a ground glass nodule. A lobar pattern of ground-glass opacity (GGO) can be seen in some of the cases. Lobulated tumors in Ia stage of lung adenocarcinoma correlate with well-differentiated, slowly growing tumors. Thick (≥ 2 mm) spiculation has been associated with vascular

invasion, mediastinal lymphadenopathy and decreased survival rate. If in Ia stage lung adenocarcinoma is seen as a partially solid nodule, than an extensive ground-glass component suggests a favorable outcome [10,11,12]. Histologically, the solid component typically corresponds to invasive patterns, while a lepidic pattern is usually seen as the ground-glass component. Absence of pleural retraction in lung adenocarcinoma is also a sign of favorable prognosis [11]. In solid adenocarcinomas, the presence of nodules, or lobulated edges on thin section CT has usually been associated with poor differentiation on pathohistological examination and these cases have a much higher risk of an adverse outcome [5,9,11]. A number of studies conveyed to this date are dealing with the significance of determination of the type of lung adenocarcinoma, as well as with its further prognosis based on staging and certain gene mutations. It has been proven that the lepidic type associated with a better outcome in patients with lung adenocarcinoma is also a predictor of survival in numerous papers and morphological characteristics that we have correlated here. Also, the correlation of tumor morphological features with PET-CT results gave a clear picture of the prognosis of the outcome. Although the weakness of this study is that other histological types of non-small cell lung cancer are not included, which gives similar CT characteristics, it still gives its importance especially in a certain part of patients where surgical treatment is not possible. Then the histopathological type of tumor is obtained by bronchoscopy, tru-cut or FNA biopsy and the sample is significantly smaller in volume and the correlation with the morphological characteristics on CT is of great importance for making a final diagnosis. Findings on larger studies as also in our group of patients go for CT and PET-CT characteristics of histological subtypes [13-19]:

- **Lepidic Pattern:** The lepidic subtype, characterized by the growth of tumor cells along preexisting alveolar structures, often presents as a ground-glass opacity (GGO) on CT imaging. GGOs typically demonstrate a hazy or cloudy appearance and are associated with favorable prognosis. This type often exhibits low metabolic activity on PET imaging. This pattern typically manifests as a focal area of increased radiotracer uptake on CT, reflecting the underlying ground-glass opacity or consolidation.
- **Acinar Pattern:** The acinar subtype, composed of glandular structures, often appears as a solid nodule or a partially solid nodule with a central ground-glass component on CT scans. The solid component is associated with a higher likelihood of lymph node involvement and poorer prognosis. The acinar subtype, composed of glandular structures, generally demonstrates moderate to high metabolic activity on PET-CT imaging. PET scans reveal focal areas of increased radiotracer uptake corresponding to solid components within the tumor
- **Papillary Pattern:** The papillary subtype, characterized by the presence of papillary projections, may manifest as a solid nodule with lobulated margins on CT imaging. The papillary subtype, characterized by papillary projections, typically shows increased radiotracer uptake on PET scans. The presence of avid radiotracer uptake corresponds to the solid components or invasive portions of the tumor, highlighting a higher risk of lymph node metastasis and potential aggressiveness.
- **Solid Pattern:** The solid subtype, composed of sheets of tumor cells without distinctive glandular or papillary structures, typically appears as a homogeneous solid nodule on CT imaging. It is associated with a higher risk of lymph node metastasis, distant spread, and unfavorable prognosis. The solid subtype, composed of sheets of tumor cells without distinctive glandular or papillary structures, generally exhibits high metabolic activity on PET imaging.

And for PET - Given the increase in the number of patients from year to year as well as the beginning of screening for this disease in some countries for risk groups, it is necessary to work as much as possible in this area to see a better radiological picture and contribute to the correlation between different morphological features on CT with pathological, immune, genetic characteristics as well as the characteristics that the tumor shows on other imaging methods, all with the aim of better understanding this disease. An example can be the proof that in the first stage of the disease, as well as in patients with AIS and MIA, the five-year survival is almost 100% [6,14,19 - 23].

There were no other major studies that show gender correlation and based on our experience, there is no predilection for any gender to develop any subtype of adenocarcinoma, so basic gender results in this paper are consequence of relatively small sample [24-26].

Elevated standard uptake values (SUVs) on fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography (PET) correlate with cellular proliferation and aggressiveness of the primary cancer. Sensitivity of

PET for AIS is usually very low. PET is commonly used for staging and follow-up of invasive adenocarcinoma, and for lesions of 7 mm or larger, SUV for adenocarcinoma of the lung tends to be lower than for other histologic types of lung cancer and correlate inversely with survival [27-33].

5. Conclusions

Radiology has a significant role in the diagnosis and monitoring of the course of the disease, as well as in determining its prognosis, and thus the greatest influence on the clinical decision on the method of treatment. An example of this may be smaller ground glass lesions that have been shown to be minimally invasive, and a shorter follow-up may have been advised to rule out another etiology, rather than primary resection. The morphological characteristics of the tumor may to some extent indicate histological types of lung adenocarcinoma, but in correlation with PET-CT, they significantly help to differentiate them when the tumor tissue sample itself is small. CT is also the primary method for monitoring responses to chemotherapy and radiotherapy, as well as for diagnosing disease metastases.

The correlation between histopathological and radiological findings is crucial for accurate diagnosis and staging. By integrating both sets of data, clinicians can enhance diagnostic accuracy and determine the optimal treatment plan. Additionally, the presence of specific histopathological features, such as micropapillary or solid patterns, may indicate a higher risk of lymph node involvement, which can guide the decision for surgical resection or lymph node sampling.

Furthermore, histopathological and radiological correlation is crucial for assessing treatment response and disease progression. Changes in tumor size, density, and metabolic activity observed on follow-up imaging scans can help evaluate the effectiveness of treatment modalities, such as chemotherapy or targeted therapy. If there is discordance between the radiological and histopathological findings, additional investigations, such as repeat biopsies or molecular testing, may be necessary to guide treatment adjustments.

Histopathological and radiological correlation plays a fundamental role in the management of lung adenocarcinoma. The integration of histopathological findings with radiological imaging allows for accurate diagnosis, staging, treatment planning, and assessment of treatment response. A multidisciplinary approach involving pathologists, radiologists, and clinicians is essential to optimize patient care and improve outcomes in individuals with lung adenocarcinoma.

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Data Availability Statement: The data that support the findings of this study are available from the first author (N.C.) upon reasonable request.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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