



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863

**LASER**  
GA 759159 *optima* $\lambda$



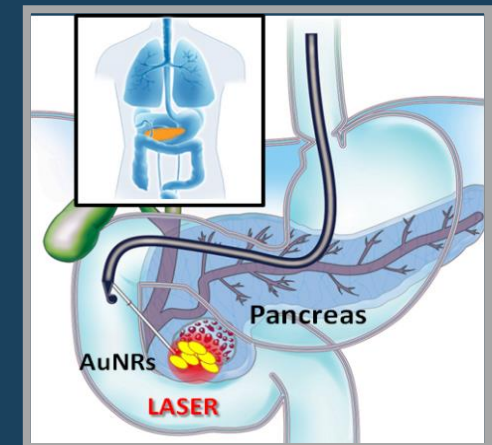
**erc**  
European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

# Laser *su misura* per il trattamento dei tumori

## Seminari di Cultura Matematica

**Paola Saccomandi, PhD**

Politecnico di Milano  
Department of Mechanical Engineering  
Italy

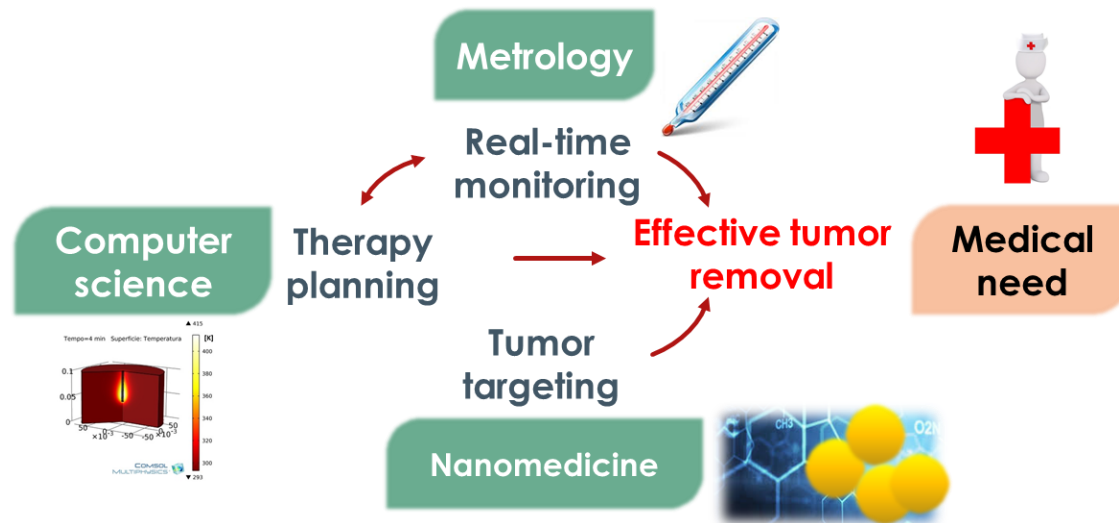


27/03/2019, Milano

ERC Starting Grant 2017

# LASER OPTIMAL

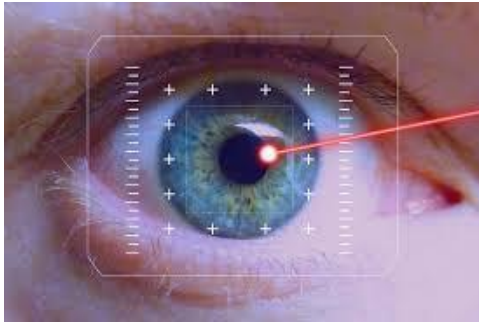
## Laser Ablation: SElectivity and monitoRING for OPTimal tuMor removAL



This project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program (GA n. 759159)



# • Laser tissue-interaction: from mathematical model to clinical practice



Ophthalmology



Pain relief



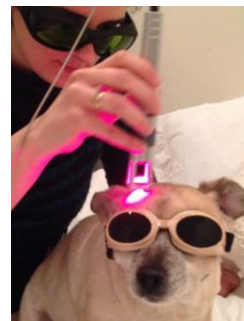
Surgery

## Laser in medical applications

Dentistry



Veterinary



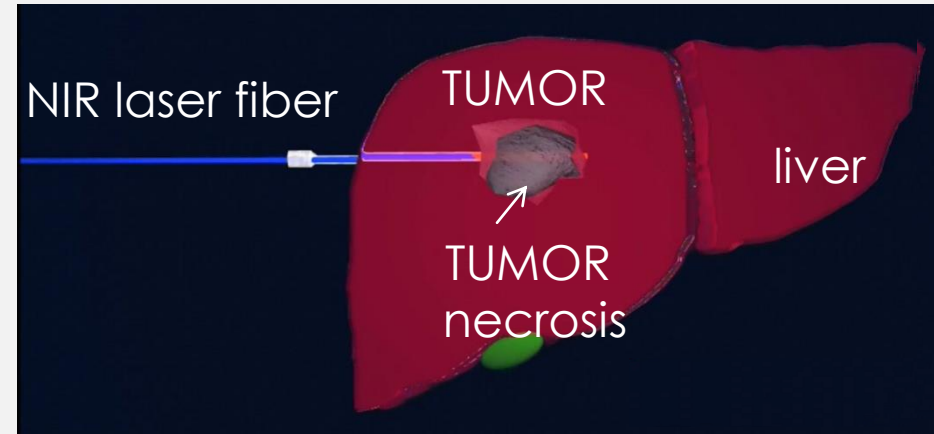
Cosmetics



## Laser Ablation

increases **tissue temperature**  
( $>50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

to induce coagulative tumor necrosis



## Final aims of optimal thermal ablation

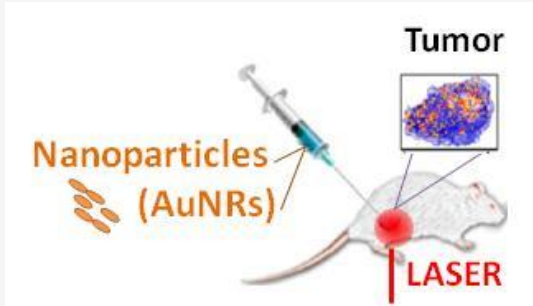
- ✓ **Necrosis** of the whole tumor  
(+ safety margins)
- ✓ **Minimize** the thermal damage to the  
surrounding healthy tissue

# 1. Nanoparticles

## Tumor targeting and selectivity

Inoculation of gold nanorods in tumor

(surface plasmon resonance)



Mooney, ..., Saccamandi *Int J Hyperthermia* 2017

# 2. Therapy planning

## Defining optimal LASER settings

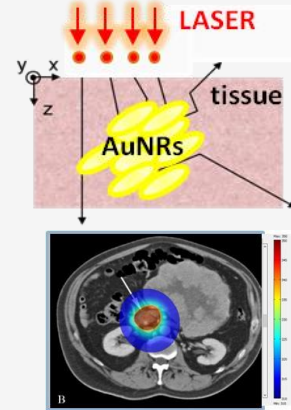
- Numerical model of temperature map in tumor during NIR LASER ABLATION

- Simulation NIR laser-AuNRs-tissue interaction

Saccamandi, *Las Med Scie* 2016

- Analysis of pre-operative patient images

Saccamandi *IEEE Trans Biomed Eng* 2012



Goal

**TUMOR  
REMOVAL**

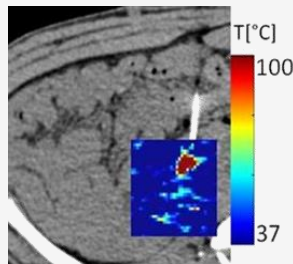
Safe & Selective

# 4. Thermometry

## Real-time feedback

- Real-time measurement of tumor temperature gradient: index of therapy efficacy

- Accuracy/sensitivity assay of various approaches optical sensors, CT, MR images

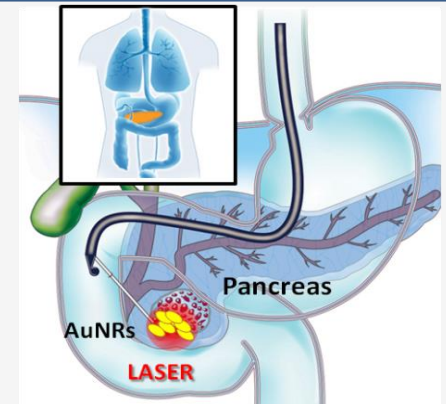


Saccamandi *Int J Hyperthermia* 2013, *Phys Med Biol* 2013, *Med Eng Phys* 2015

# 3. Laser ablation

## Tumor treatment

Endoscopic/percutaneous guidance of laser fiber in tumor



Di Matteo, Saccamandi *Gastrointest Endoscopy* 2014, 2016



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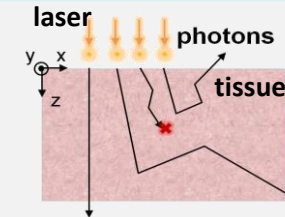


# •Laser tissue-interaction: from mathematical model to clinical practice

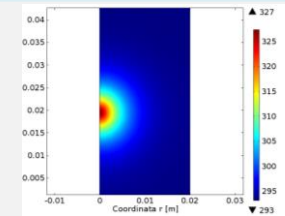
Laser energy



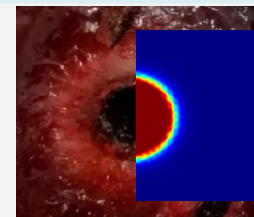
Absorption



Temperature increase



Thermal damage

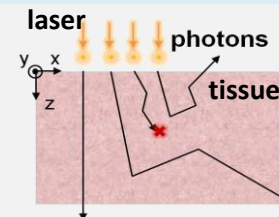


# • Laser tissue-interaction: from mathematical model to clinical practice

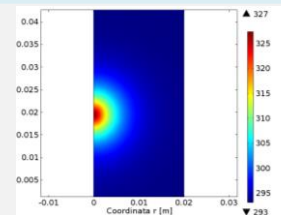
Laser energy



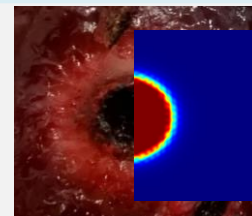
Absorption



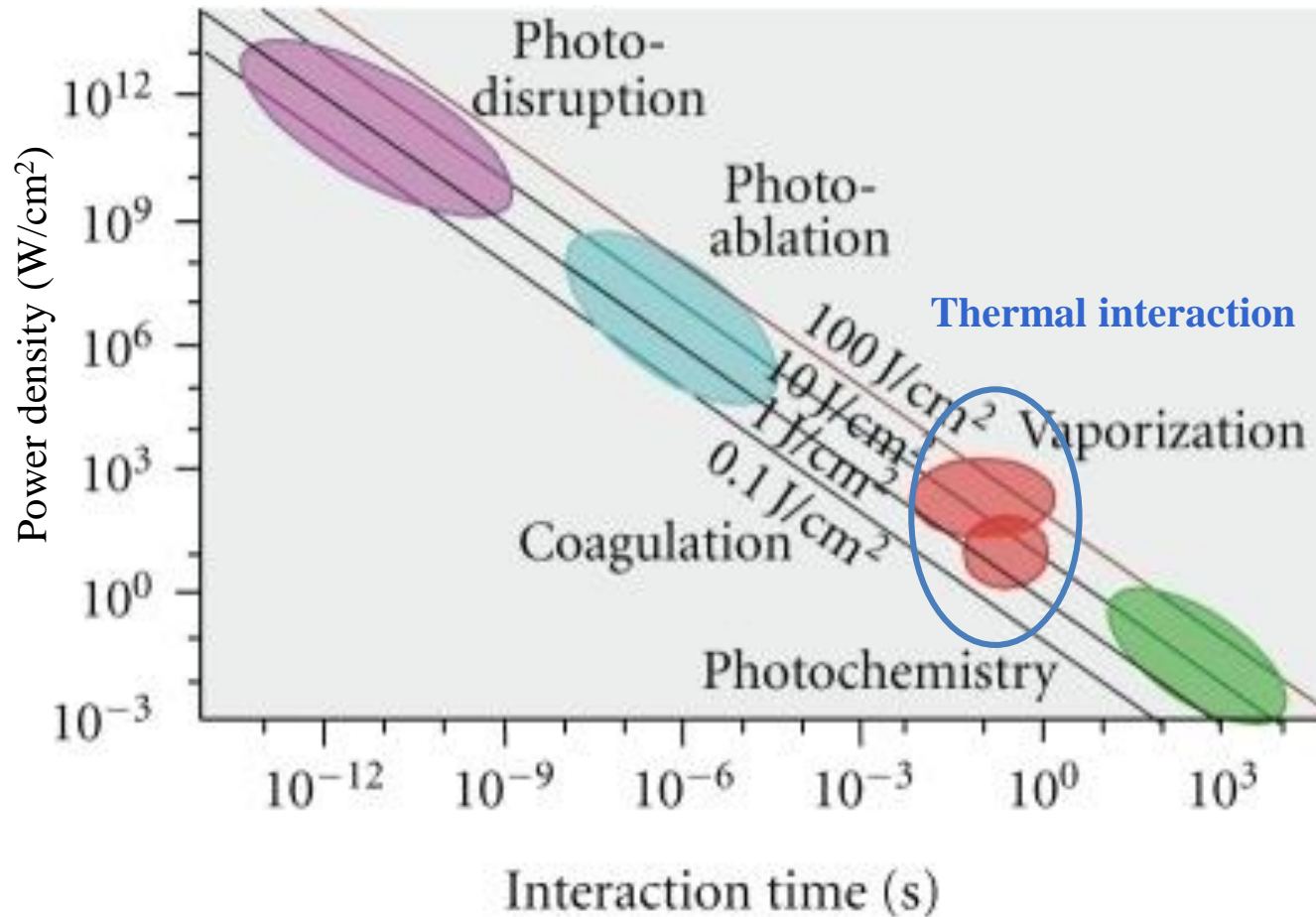
Temperature increase



Thermal damage

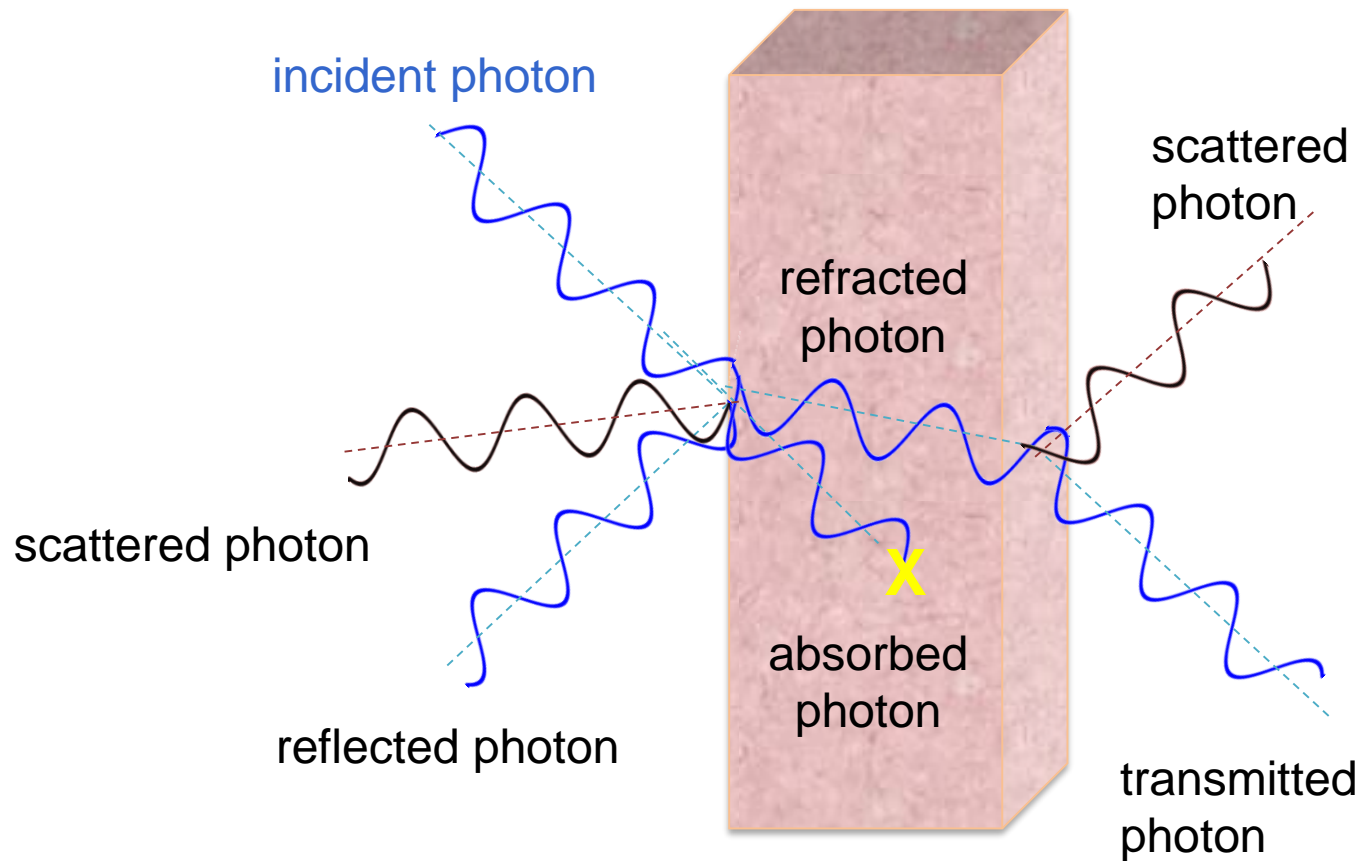


## Mechanisms of laser-tissue interaction



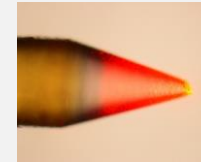


## Biomedical Optics: fundamentals

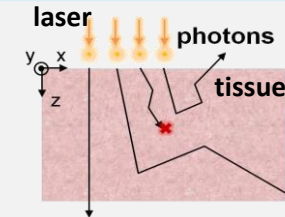


**Biomaterials are complex structures, so any combination of interaction with light is possible.**

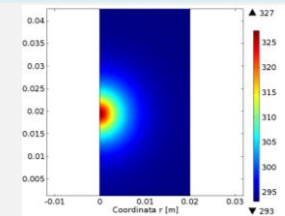
Laser energy



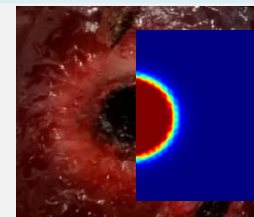
Absorption



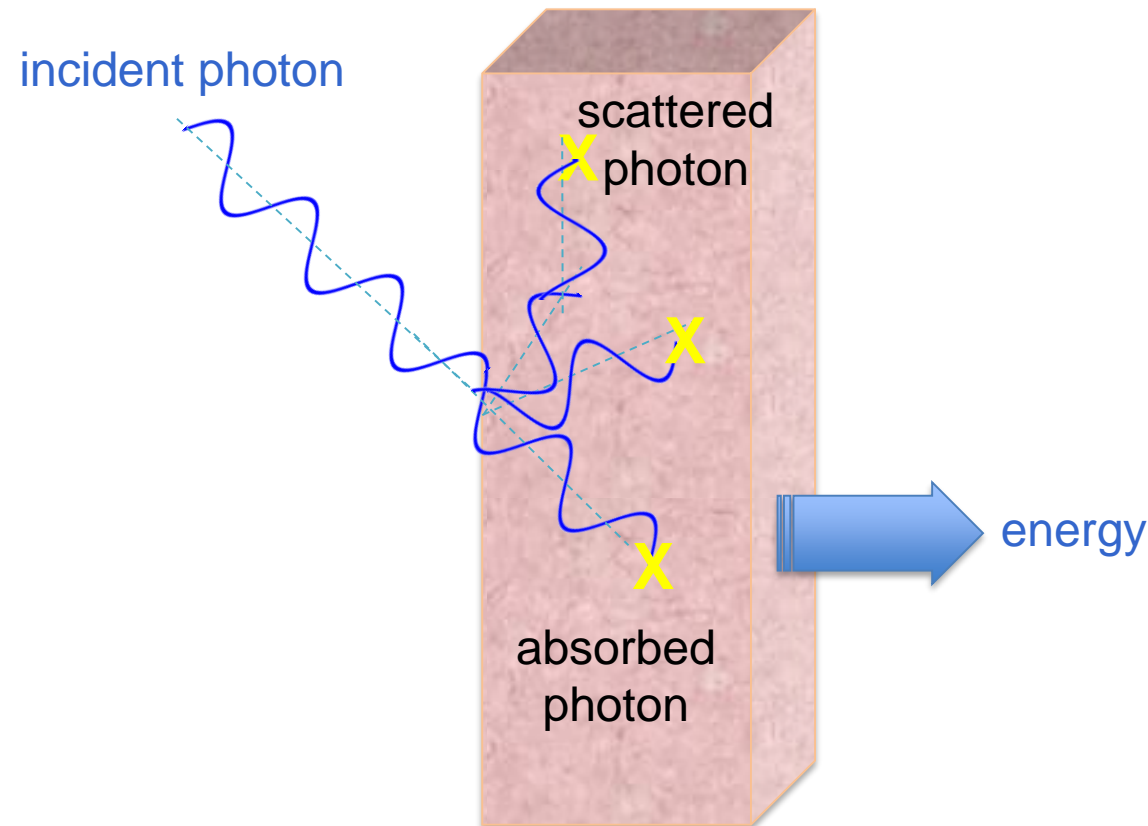
Temperature increase



Thermal damage



## Biomedical Optics: fundamentals

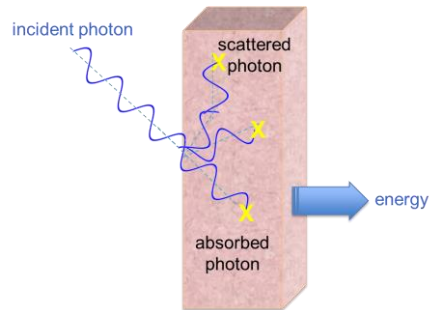


**Scattering:**  
change in the direction of motion of a particle after collision with another particle

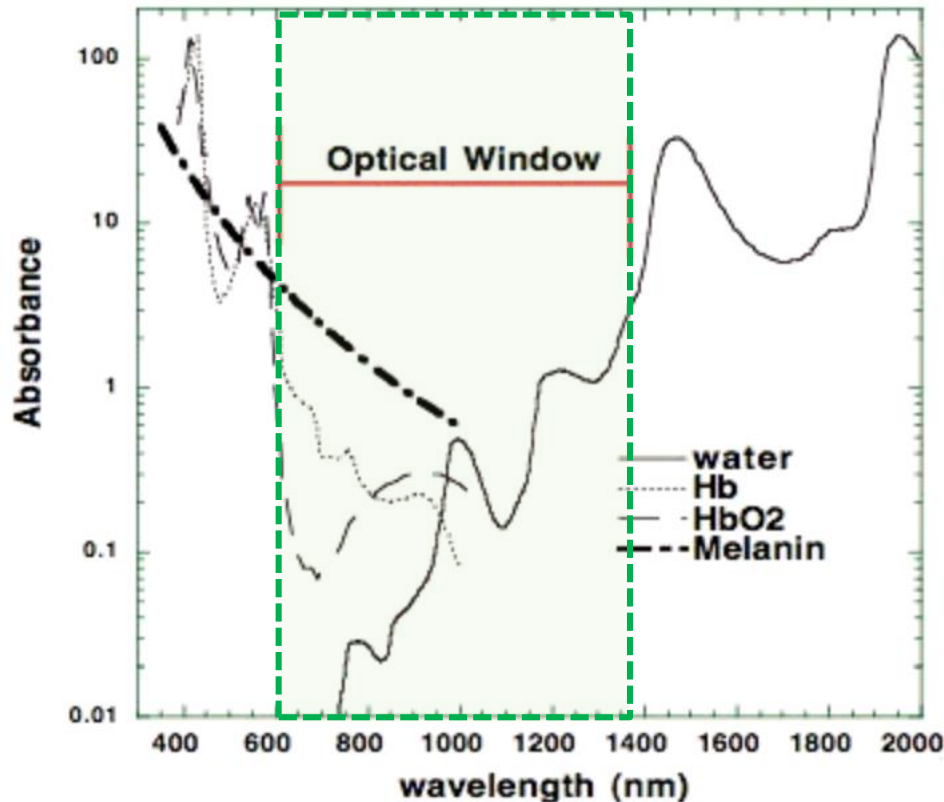
**Absorption:**  
the loss of light as it passes through the tissue, and it is converted into another energy form

# • Laser tissue-interaction: from mathematical model to clinical practice

## Biomedical Optics: fundamentals



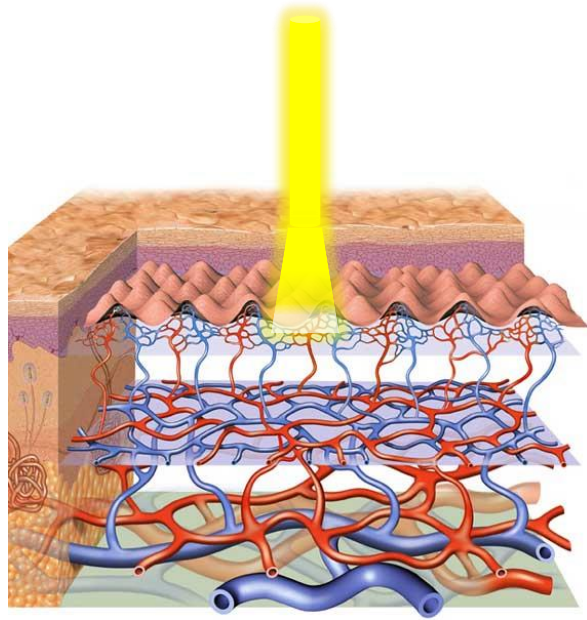
The ability of light to penetrate a tissue and deposit energy in tissues is key to therapeutic applications



advantages of reduced absorption and scattering  
→ deeper penetration of light inside tissues



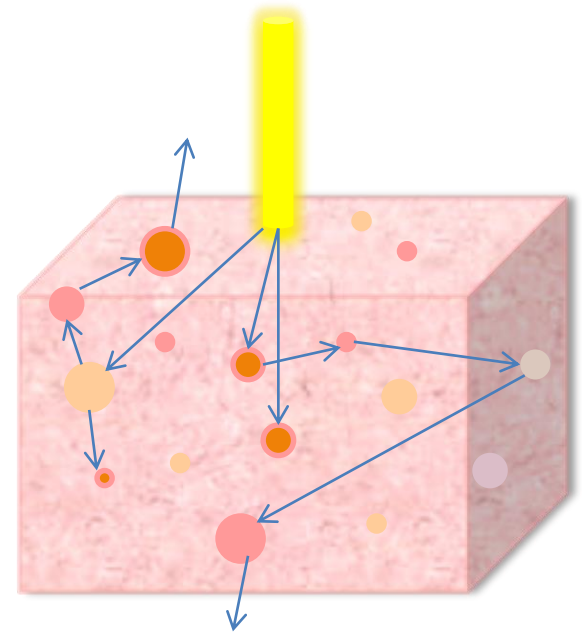
● **Laser tissue-interaction: from mathematical model to clinical practice**



**Turbid medium**

the scattering phenomenon is *strong*

An exact modelling of the inhomogeneous and **turbid** tissue is not available. The tissue is represented as an **absorbing bulk material with scattering particles** randomly distributed over the volume.



**Lambert-Beer law – Phase function**

attenuation (scattering and absorption)

*“The Deeper the Glass, the Darker the Brew, the Less of the Incident Light that Gets Through”*

$$I(z) = I_0 \cdot e^{-\mu_{eff} \cdot z}$$

$$\mu_{eff} = \sqrt{3\mu_a[\mu_a + \mu_s(1 - g)]}$$

Absorption coefficient

$\mu_a$  [cm<sup>-1</sup>]  
~0.1 cm<sup>-1</sup>

Scattering coefficient

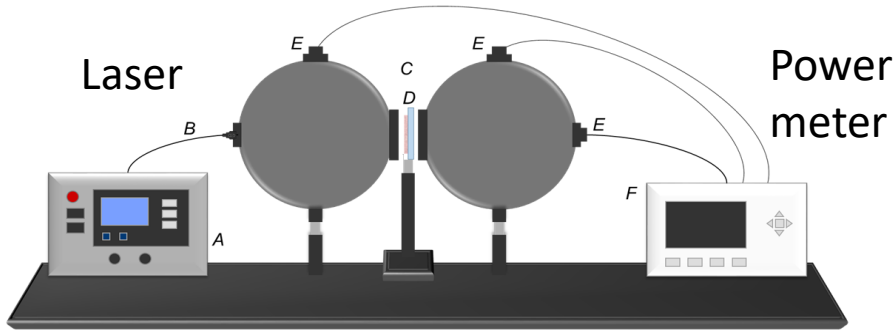
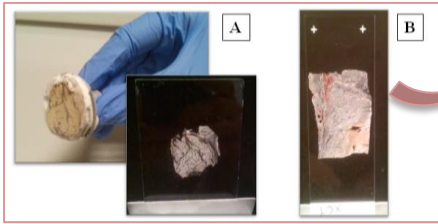
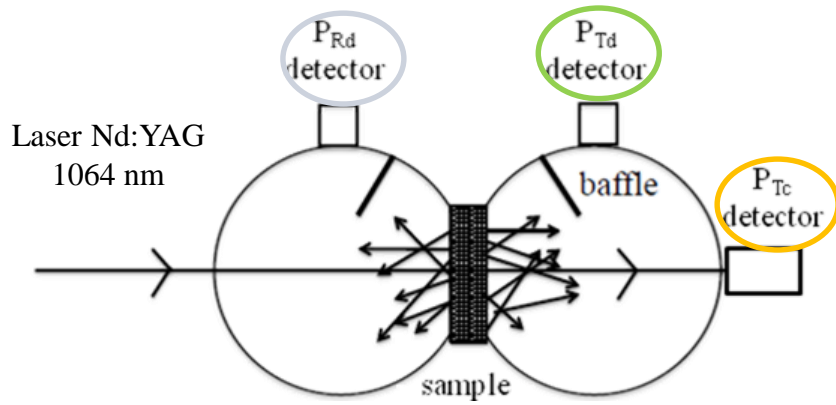
$\mu_s$  [cm<sup>-1</sup>]  
~100 cm<sup>-1</sup>

Anisotropy coefficient

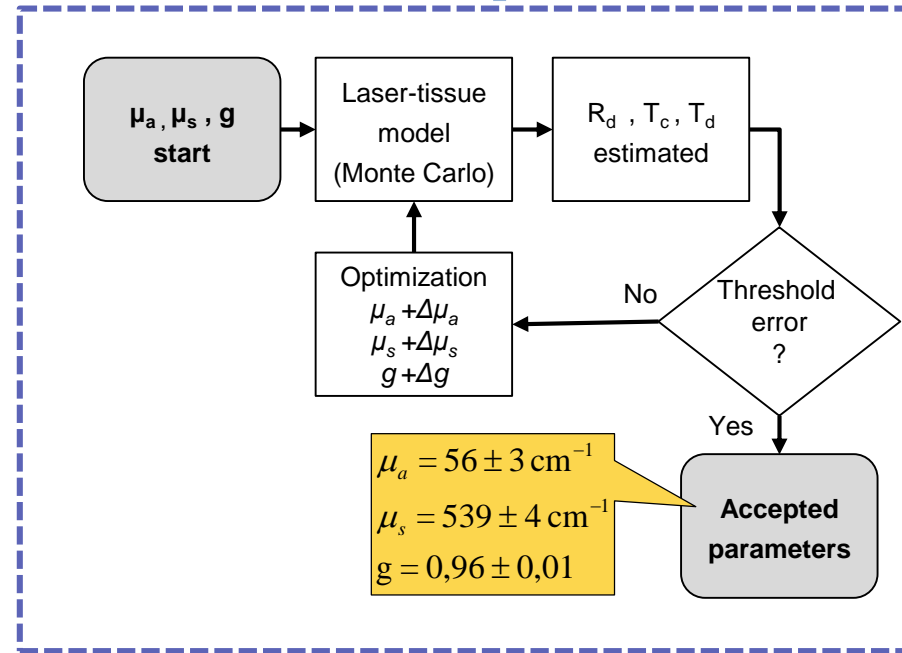
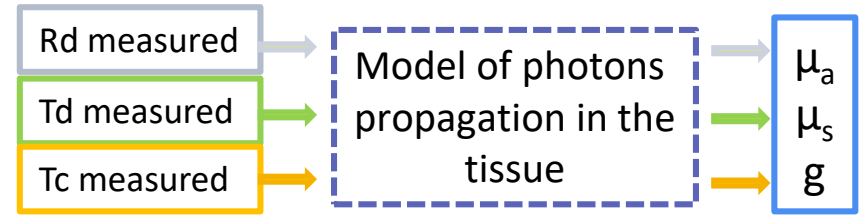
$g$   
~0.95



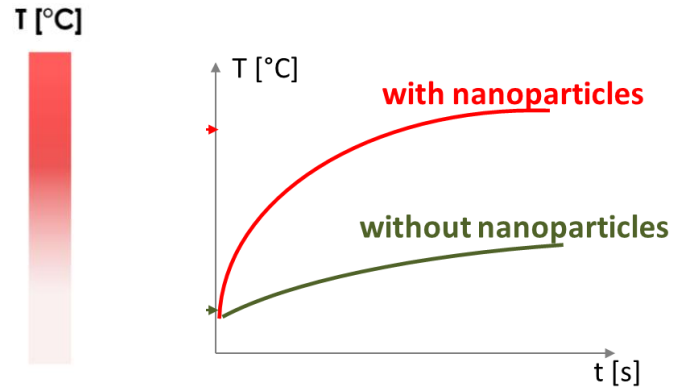
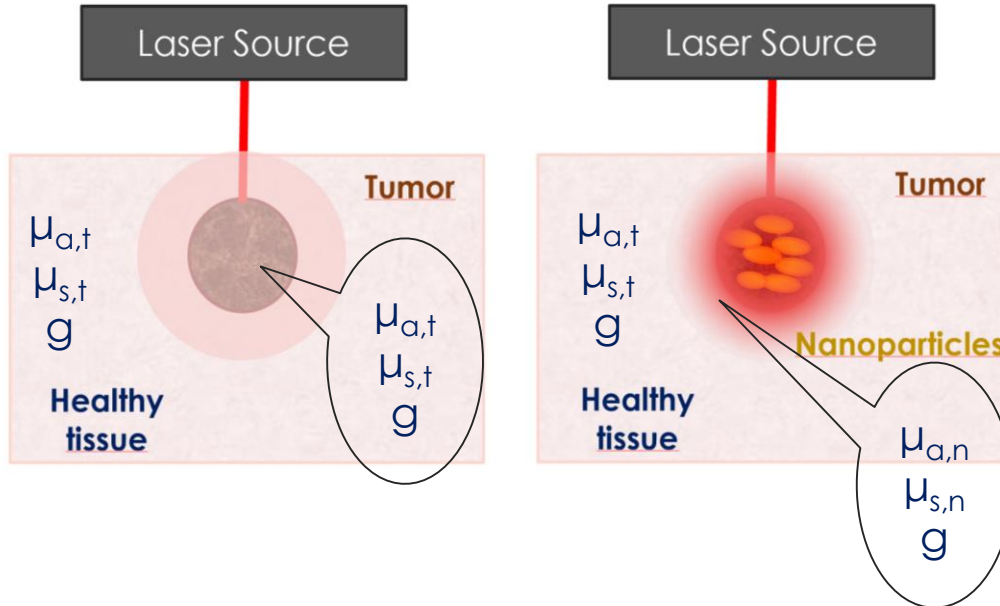
# • Laser tissue-interaction: from mathematical model to clinical practice



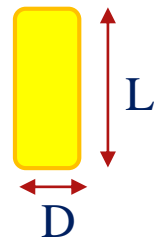
## Optical properties estimation



# • Laser tissue-interaction: from mathematical model to clinical practice



Quantity	Value	Unit
$\rho$	1050	$\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$
$c$	3700	$\text{J}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$
$k$	0.5	$\text{W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$
$\rho_b$	1060	$\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$
$c_b$	3640	$\text{J}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$
$W_b$	0.02	$\text{s}^{-1}$
$\mu_{a,t}$	5.7	$\text{cm}^{-1}$
$\mu_{s,t}$	97	$\text{cm}^{-1}$
$\mu_{a,n}$	40.6	$\text{cm}^{-1}$
$\mu_{s,n}$	0.0028	$\text{cm}^{-1}$
$g$	0.94	$\text{cm}^{-1}$
$D$	10	nm
$L$	41	nm
$\lambda$	800	nm



$$\mu_{eff} = \sqrt{3\mu_a[\mu_a + \mu_s(1 - g)]}$$

$$\mu_a = \mu_{a,t} + \mu_{a,n}$$

$$\mu_s = \mu_{s,t} + \mu_{s,n}$$

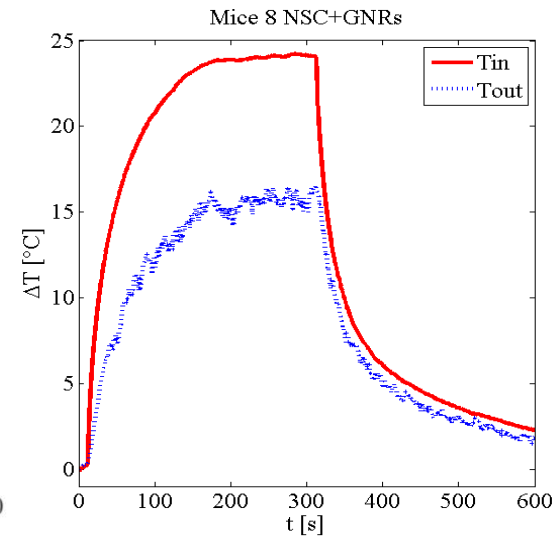
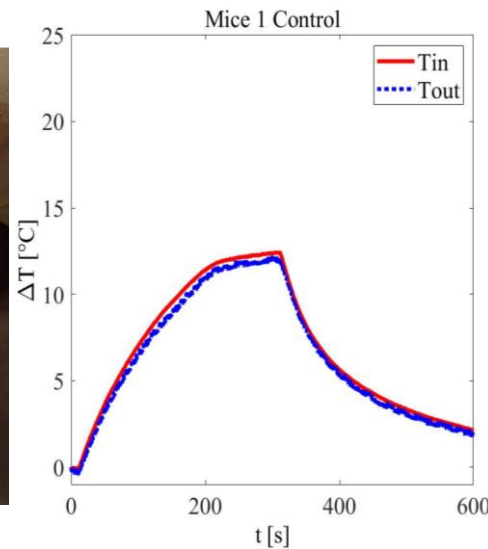
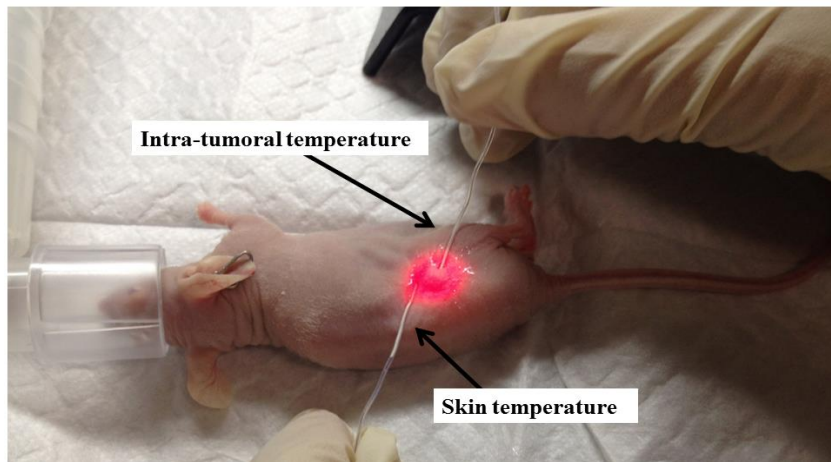
$$\mu_{a,n} = \frac{2\pi f_v}{\lambda V_{np}} \text{imag} \left( \frac{a_1}{3} + \frac{a_2}{3} + \frac{a_3}{3} \right),$$

$$\mu_{s,n} = \frac{16\pi^3 f_v}{18\lambda^4 V_{np}} (|a_1|^2 + |a_2|^2 + |a_3|^2)$$

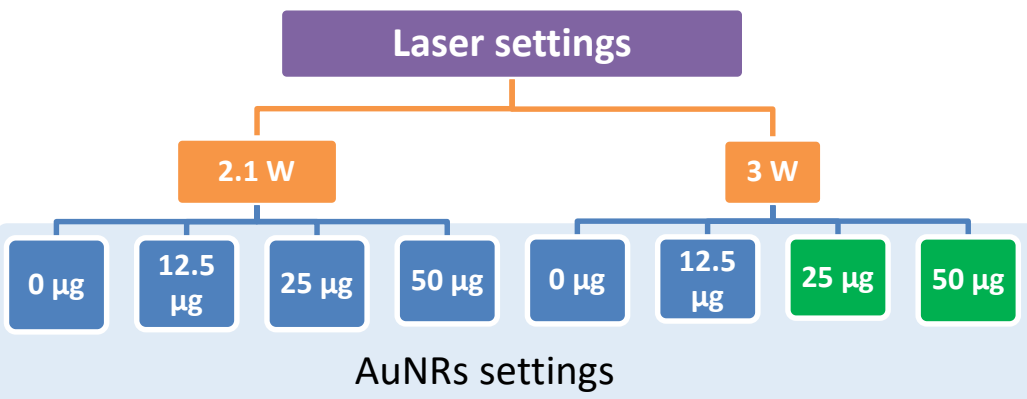
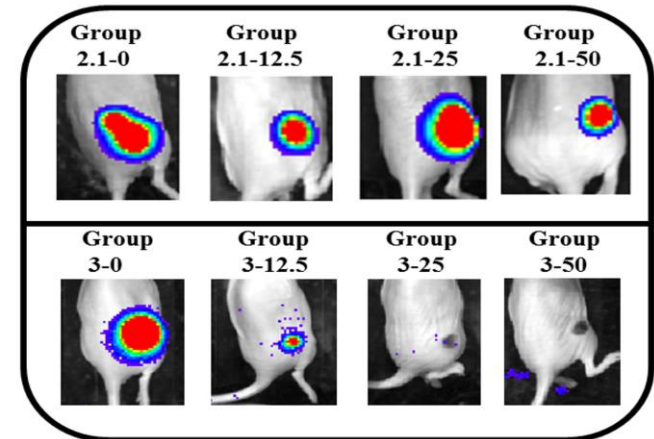
$$a_i = f(D/L)$$



# ● Laser tissue-interaction: from mathematical model to clinical practice



*Representative xenogen images 2 days after AuNRs-mediated LA LA.*



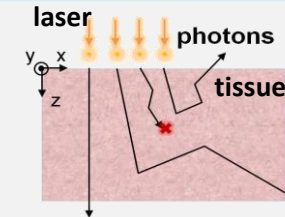


# •Laser tissue-interaction: from mathematical model to clinical practice

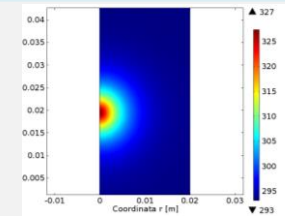
Laser energy



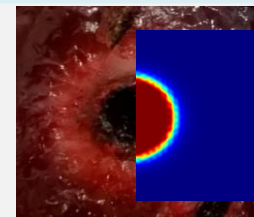
Absorption



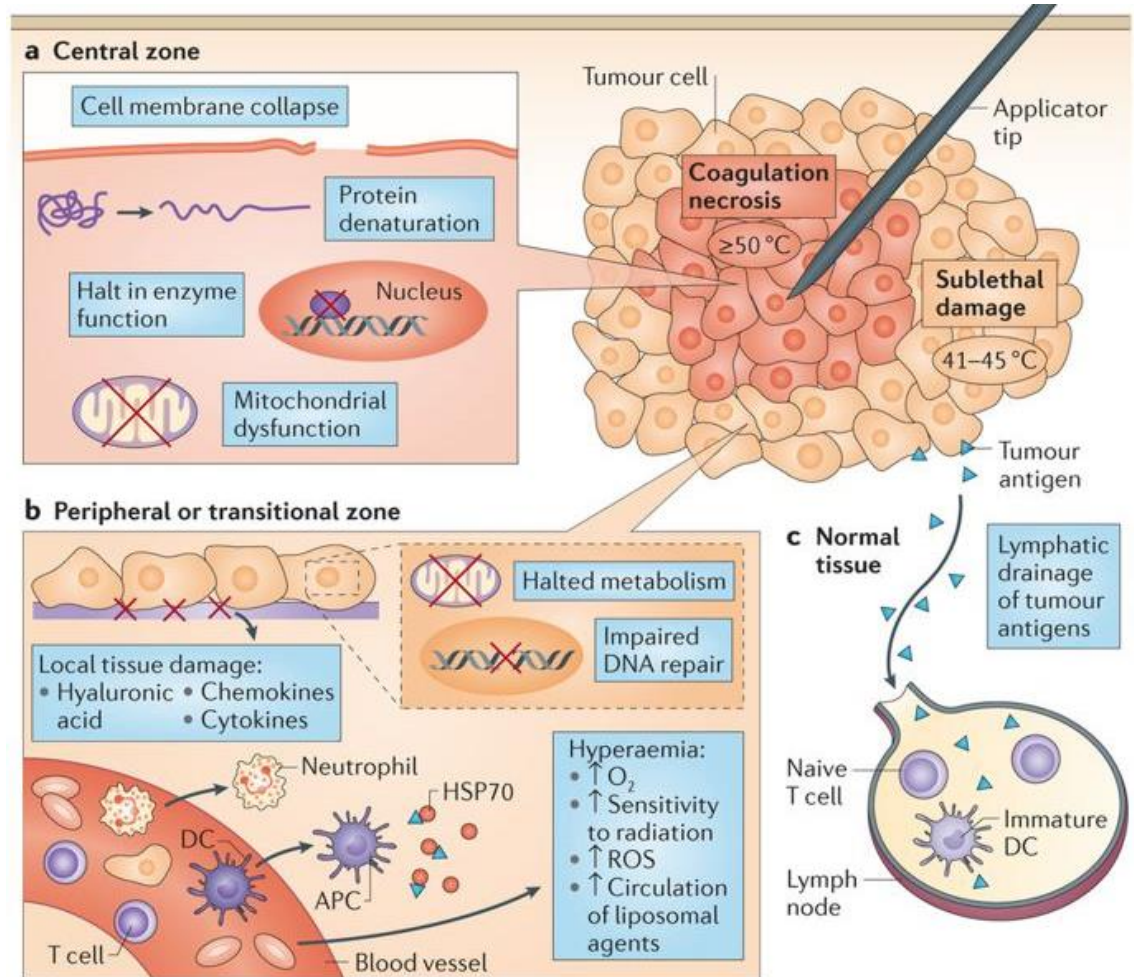
Temperature increase



Thermal damage



## Thermal outcome in living tissues



Nat Rev Cancer. 2014 Mar;14(3):199-208. doi: 10.1038/nrc3672.

### Thermal ablation of tumours: biological mechanisms and advances in therapy.

Chu KF<sup>1</sup>, Dupuy DE<sup>1</sup>.

Author information

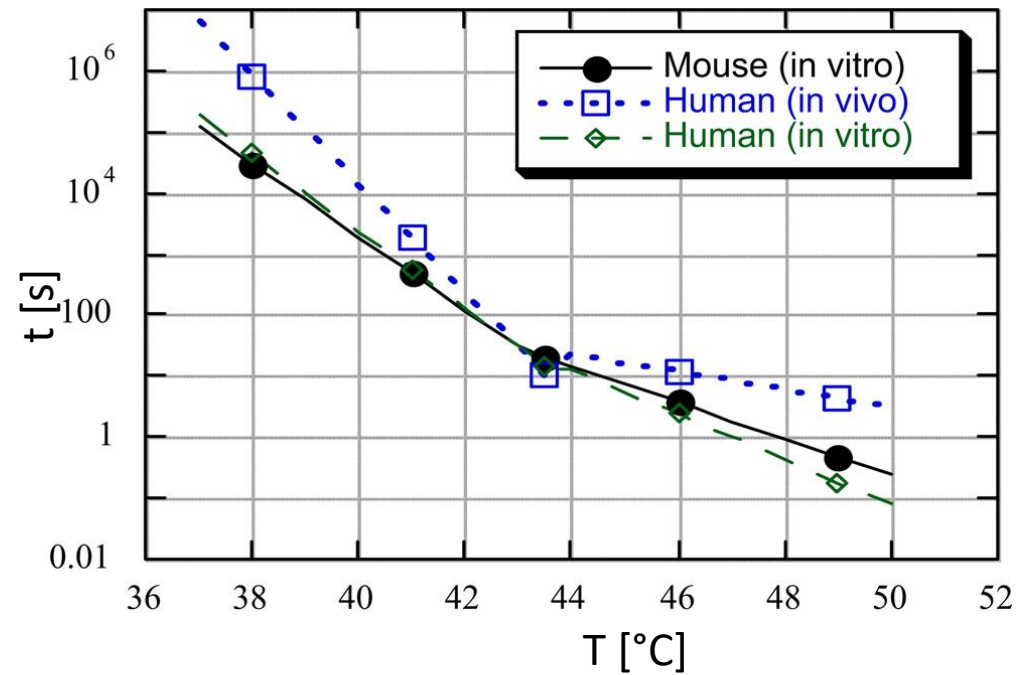
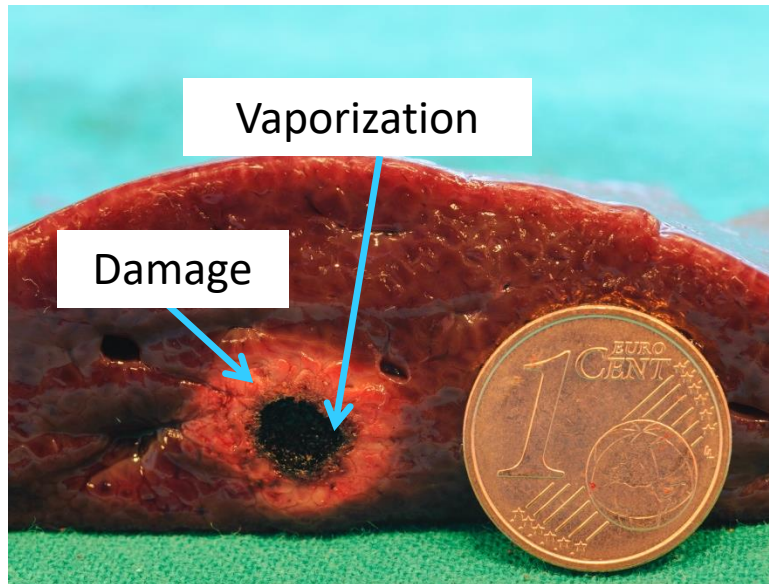
#### Abstract

Minimally invasive thermal ablation of tumours has become common since the advent of modern imaging. From the ablation of small, unresectable tumours to experimental therapies, percutaneous radiofrequency ablation, microwave ablation, cryoablation and irreversible electroporation have an increasing role in the treatment of solid neoplasms. This Opinion article examines the mechanisms of tumour cell death that are induced by the most common thermoablative techniques and discusses the rapidly developing areas of research in the field, including combinatorial ablation and immunotherapy, synergy with conventional chemotherapy and radiation, and the development of a new ablation modality in irreversible electroporation.

PMID: 24561446 DOI: 10.1038/nrc3672

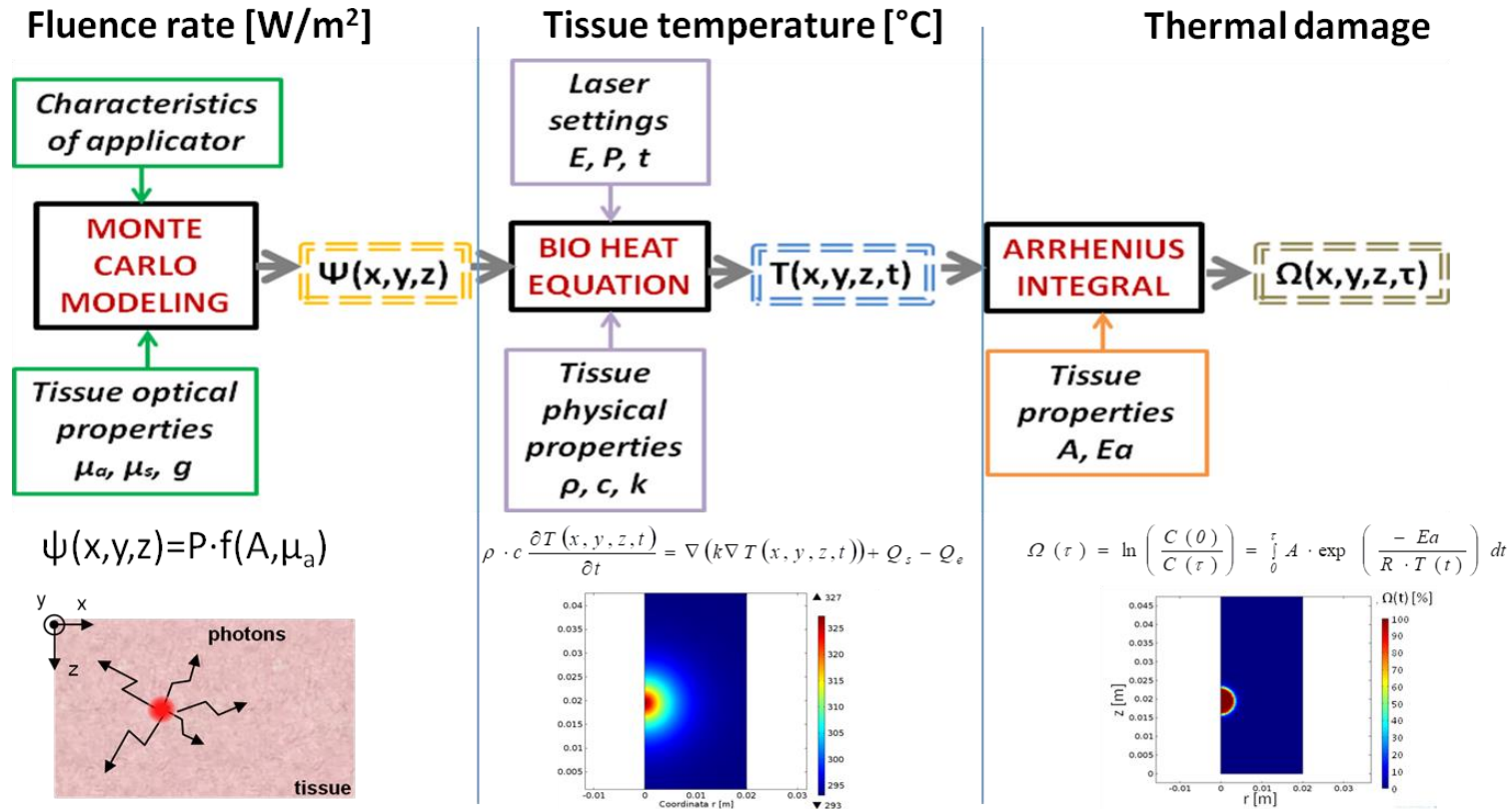
[Indexed for MEDLINE]

## Thermal outcome in living tissues



Dewhrist, 2003 Proc SPIE Int Soc Opt Eng.

# • Laser tissue-interaction: from mathematical model to clinical practice



Numerical Model approach to:

- plan the therapy (optimal settings) → Control ?
- predict the outcome



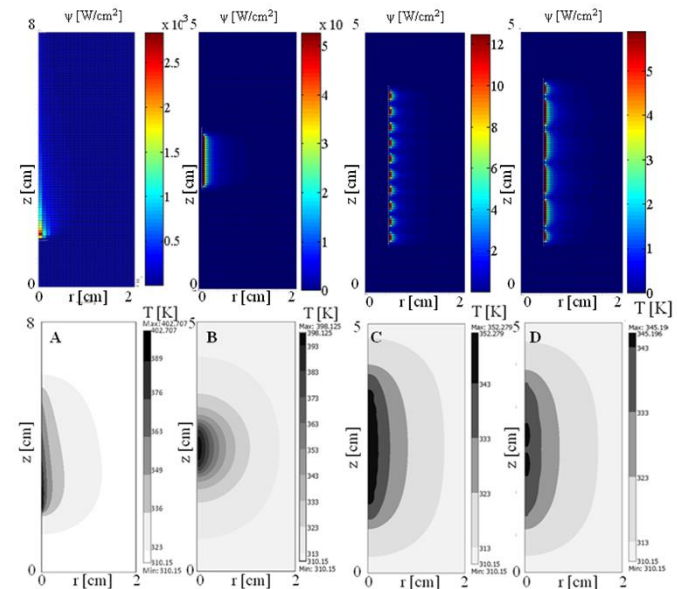
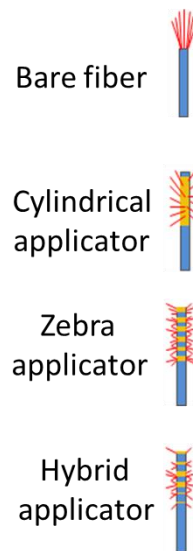
## Heat transfer modeling

$$\rho \cdot c \frac{\partial T(x, y, z, t)}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (k \cdot \nabla T(x, y, z, t)) + Q_b + Q_m + Q_l - Q_e$$

### Model inputs:

- mechanical tissue properties
- thermal tissue properties
- optical properties
- temperature dependent properties
- defined **geometry** of the tissue domain and **of the laser fiber applicator**

Models should account for:  
influence of the soft tissue properties,  
presence of blood vessels, ..



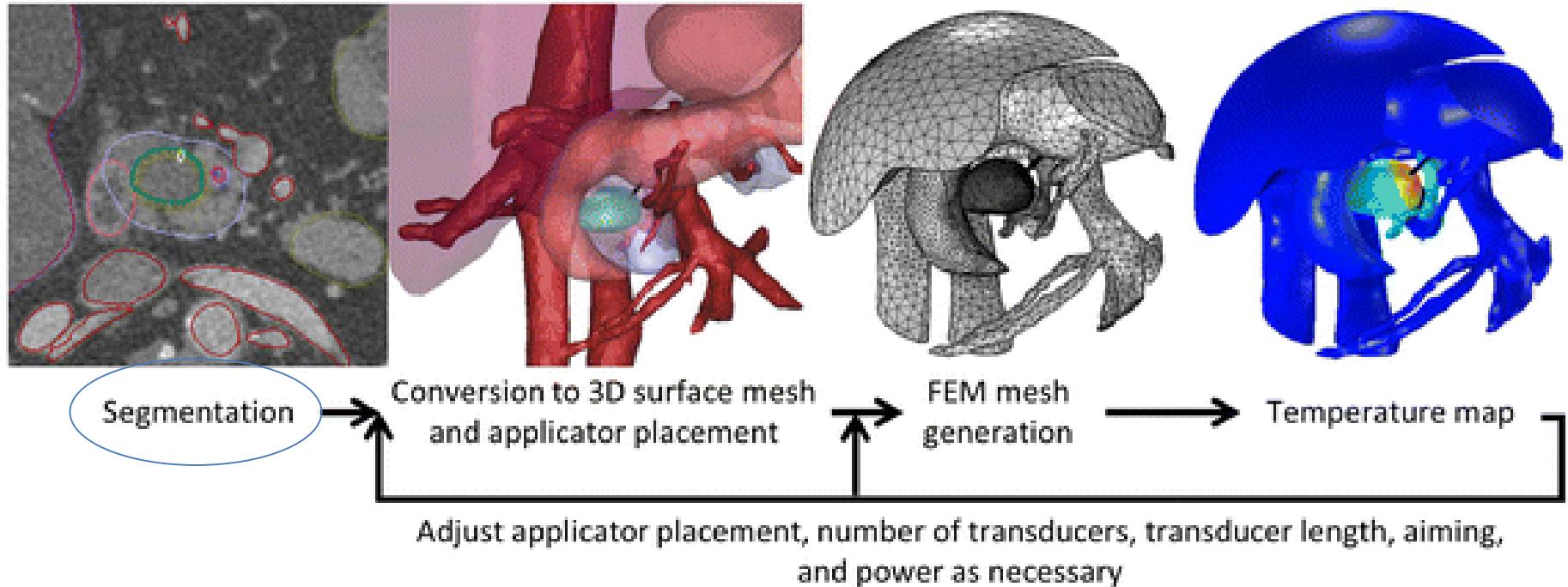
Saccomandi P, Schena E, Caponero MA, Di Matteo FM, Martino M, Pandolfi M, Silvestri S. Theoretical analysis and experimental evaluation of laser induced interstitial thermotherapy in ex vivo porcine pancreas. IEEE TRANSACTION OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, Vol. 59, n. 10, pp. 2958-2964, Ott 2012.

## Hyperthermal treatment planning (HTP) systems

1. Generation of the patient model

2. Finite element analysis based on individual patient anatomies

3. Calculation of temperature distributed into the tissue



Scott, S.J., Adams, M.S., Salgaonkar, V. et al. J Ther Ultrasound (2017) 5: 10. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40349-017-0090-2>. Open Access

## Hyperthermal treatment planning (HTP) systems

1. Generation of the patient model

2. Finite element analysis based on individual patient anatomies (mesh generation)

3. Calculation of temperature distributed into the tissue

• no segmentation

→ short computation time (30 s)

→ real time use

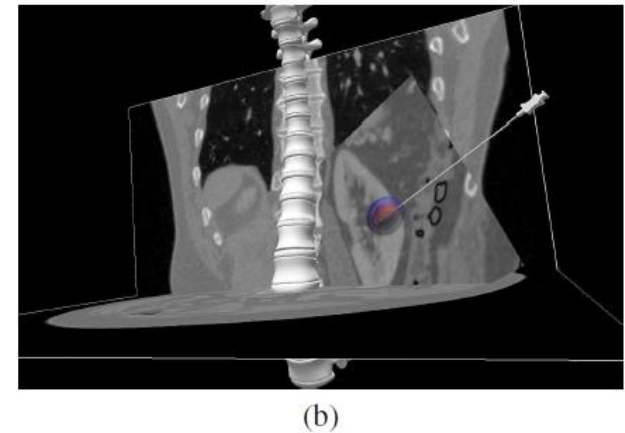
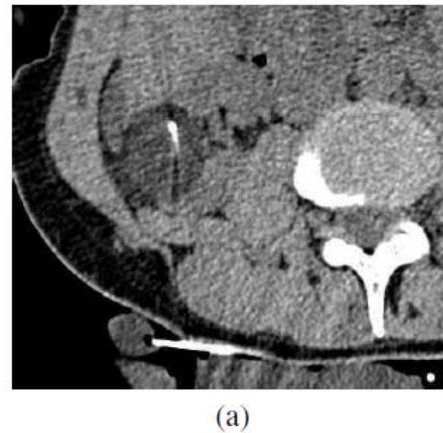
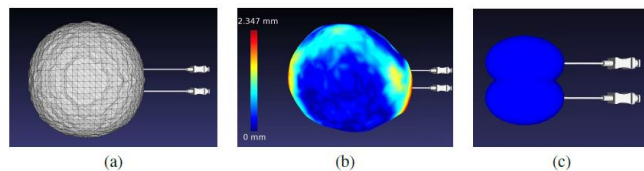


Figure 5. Iso-surface obtained from: (a) simulation, (b) patient-specific data (with Hausdorff distance) and (c) manufacturer.

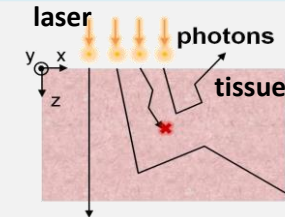
COTIN, Stéphane. "Interactive planning of cryotherapy using physics-based simulation." *Medicine Meets Virtual Reality 21: NextMed/MMVR21* 196 (2014): 423

# •Laser tissue-interaction: from mathematical model to clinical practice

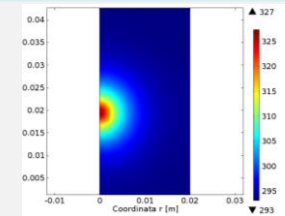
Laser energy



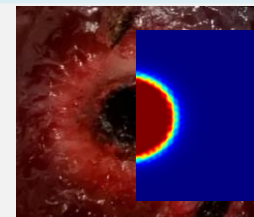
Absorption



Temperature increase



Thermal damage

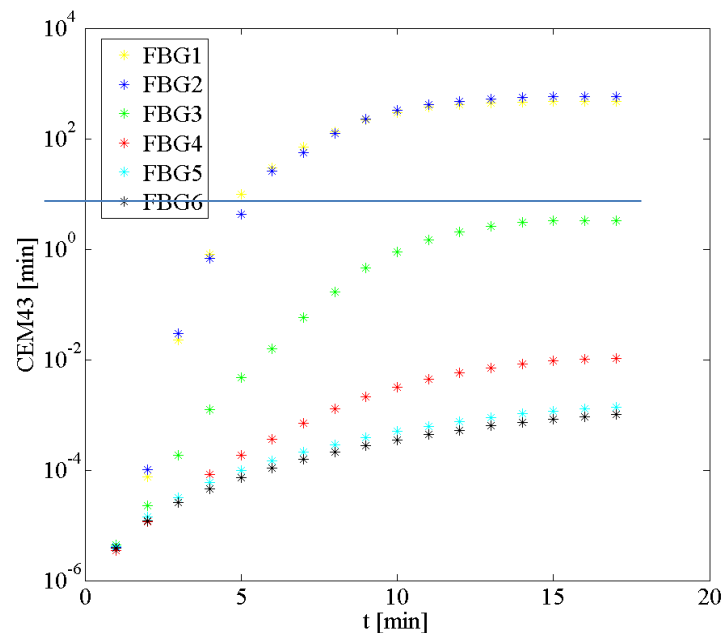
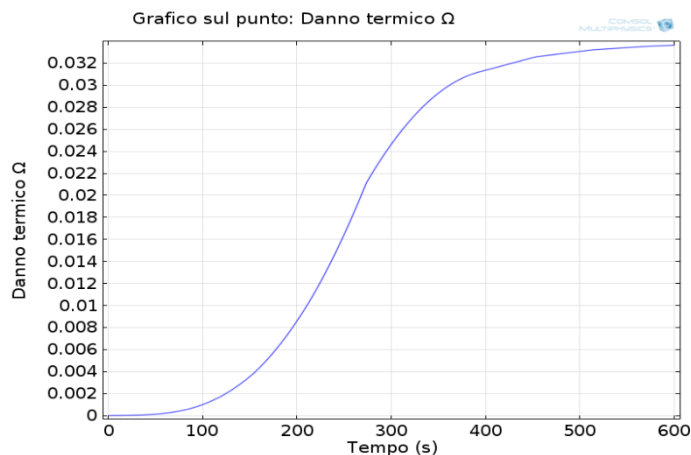




## Thermal damage

$$\Omega(\tau) = \ln \left\{ \frac{C(0)}{C(\tau)} \right\} = \int_0^{\tau} A e^{\left[ \frac{-E_a}{RT(t)} \right]} dt$$

$$CEM_{43} = \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \cdot R^{(43-T_i)}$$



**Arrhenius** calculations in numerical models can be used to predict the probability of irreversible thermal damage

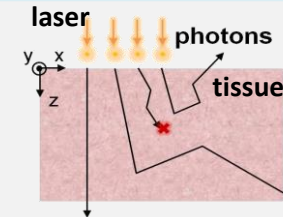
**Cumulative Equivalent Minute:** Conversion of any time-temperature history to an equivalent number of minutes of heating at 43 °C

# •Laser tissue-interaction: from mathematical model to clinical practice

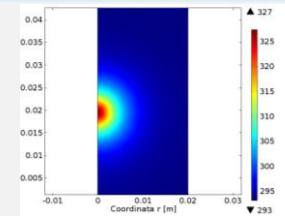
Laser energy



Absorption

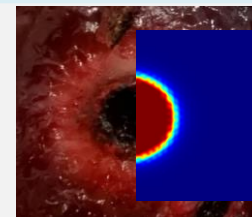


Temperature increase



Measurement of thermal effects!

Thermal damage



# ●Thermometry during laser therapy

## Thermometry during thermal therapies

**CONTACT**  
*(invasive)* techniques

**CONTACTLESS**  
*(non-invasive)* techniques

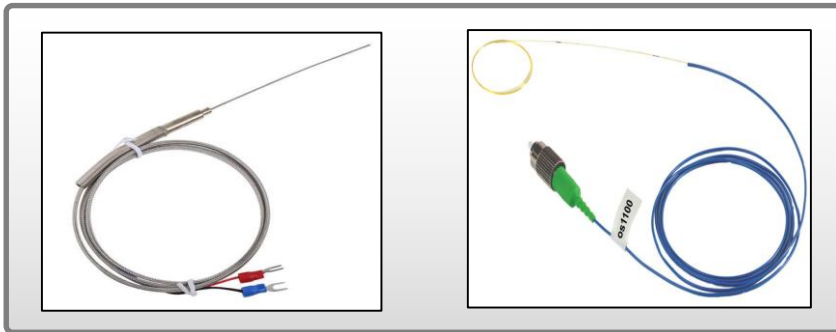
Thermocouples

Fiber Optic Sensors

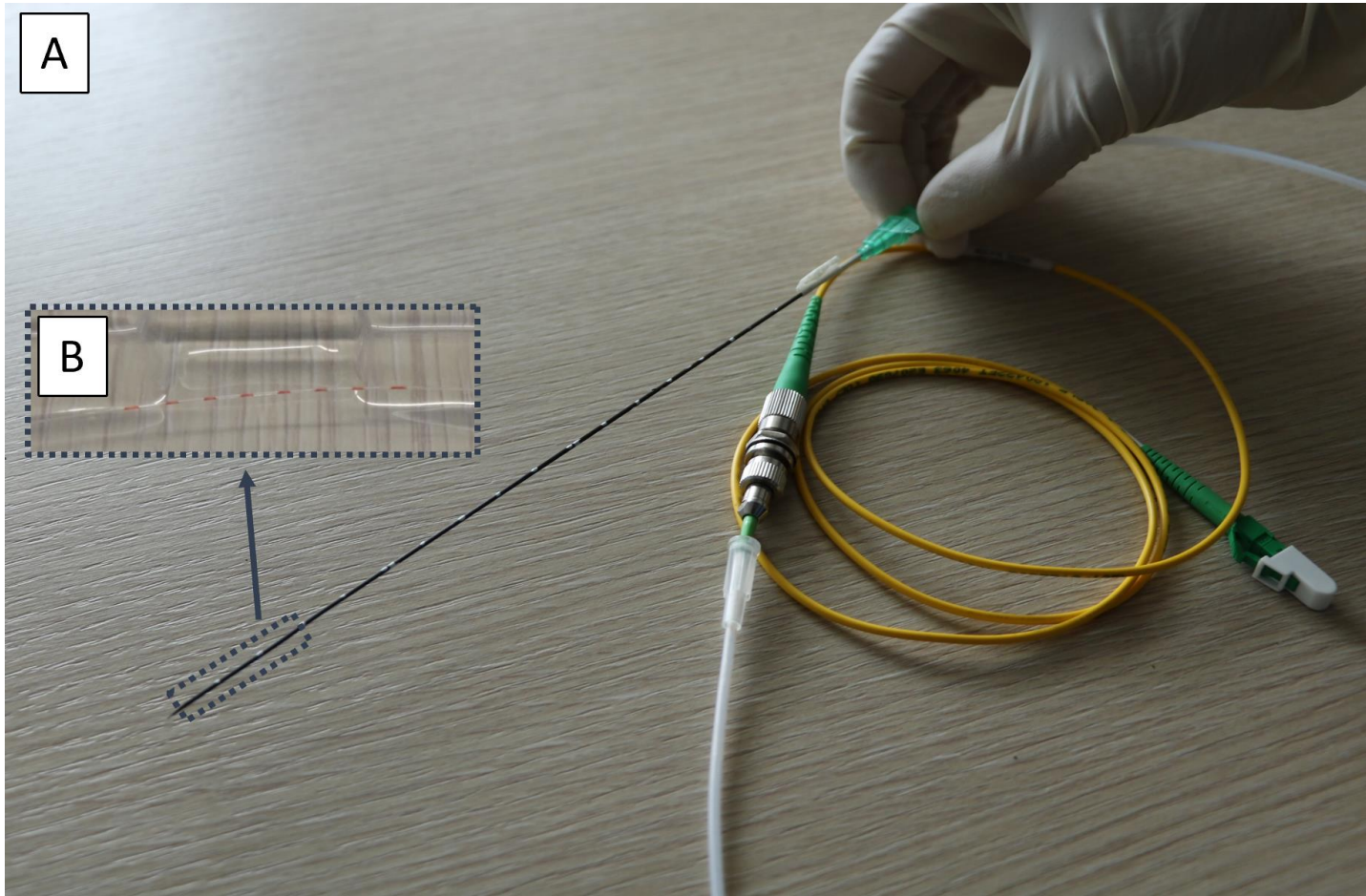
Computed Tomography

Ultrasound

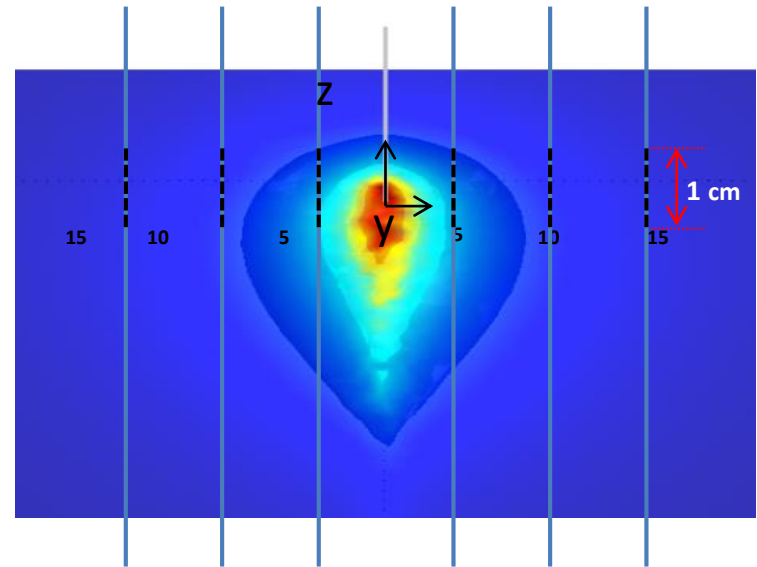
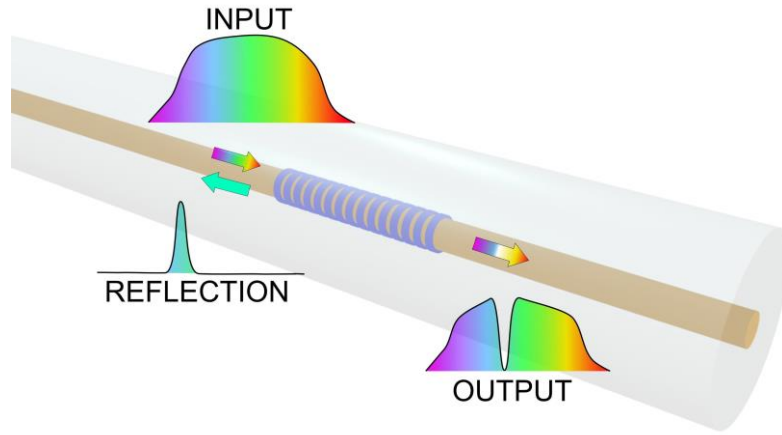
Magnetic Resonance Imaging



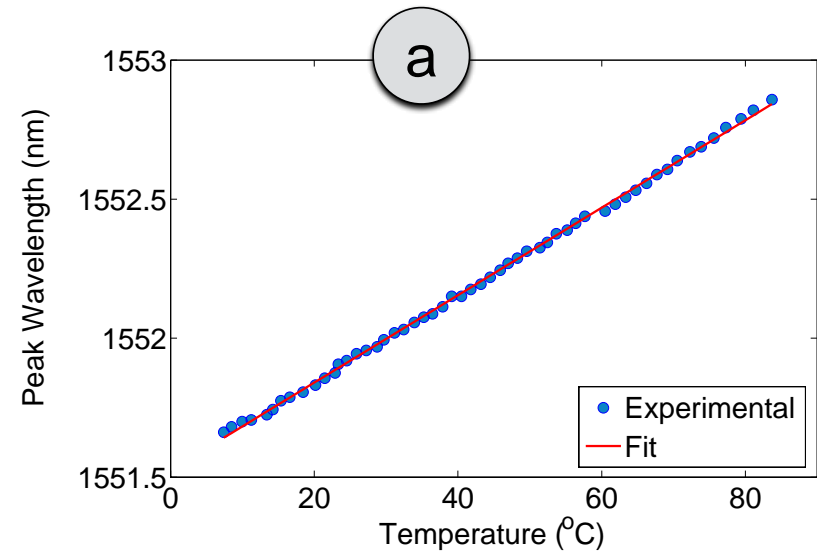
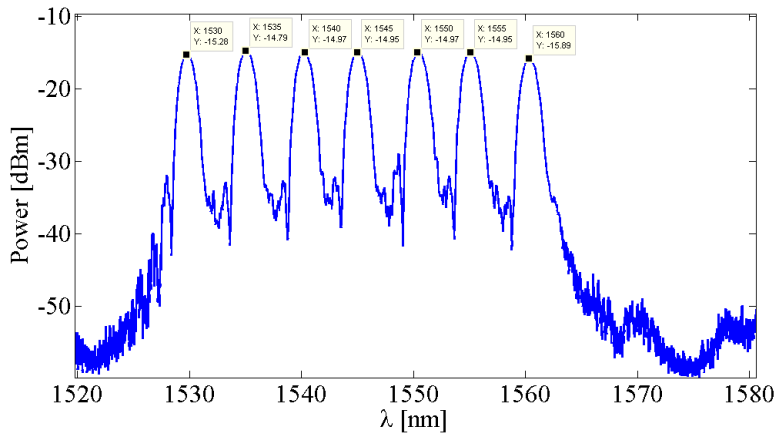
## ●Thermometry during laser therapy: fiber optic sensors



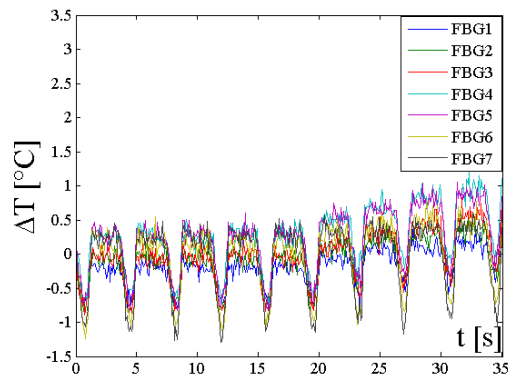
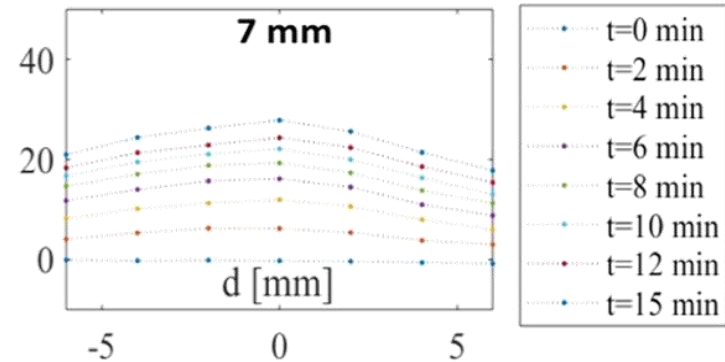
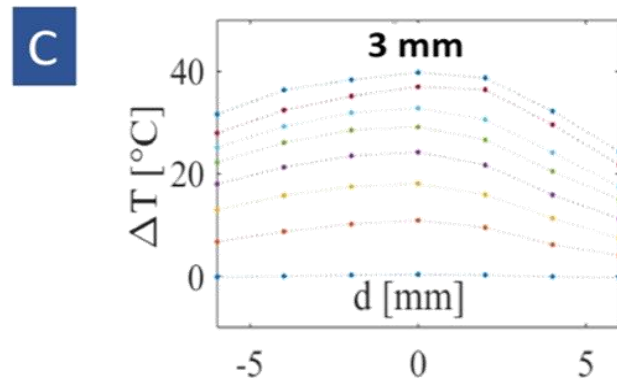
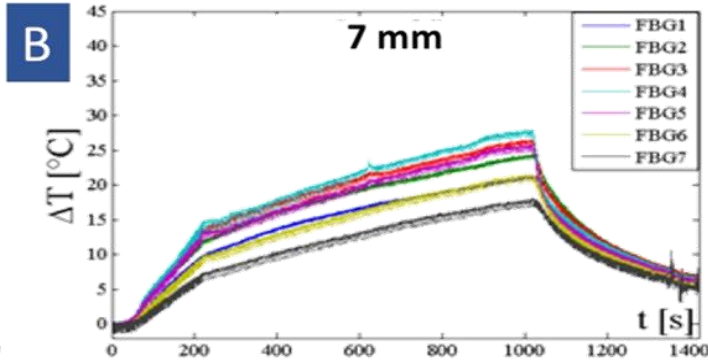
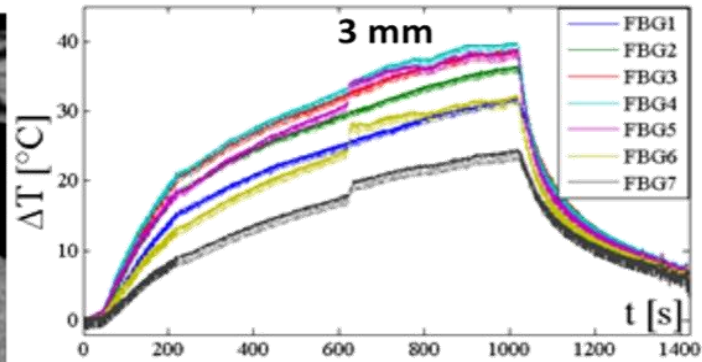
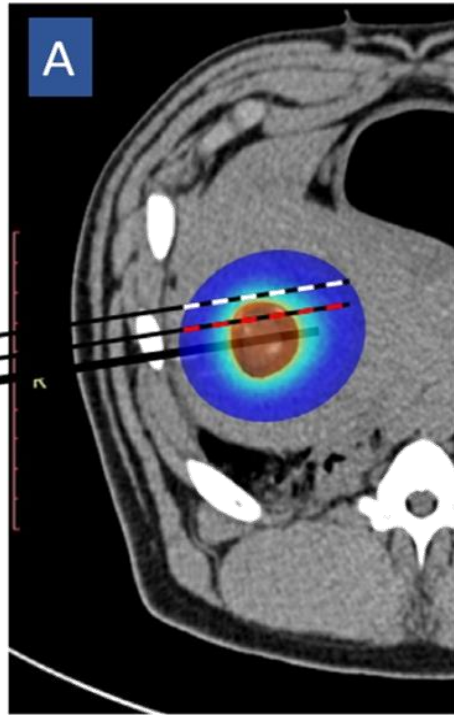
# Thermometry during laser therapy: fiber optic sensors



$$\frac{\Delta\lambda_B}{\lambda_B} = (1 - p_e) \cdot \varepsilon + ((1 - p_e) \cdot \alpha_\Lambda + \alpha_n) \cdot \Delta T$$



# Thermometry during laser therapy: fiber optic sensors



Measurement error due to breathing motion

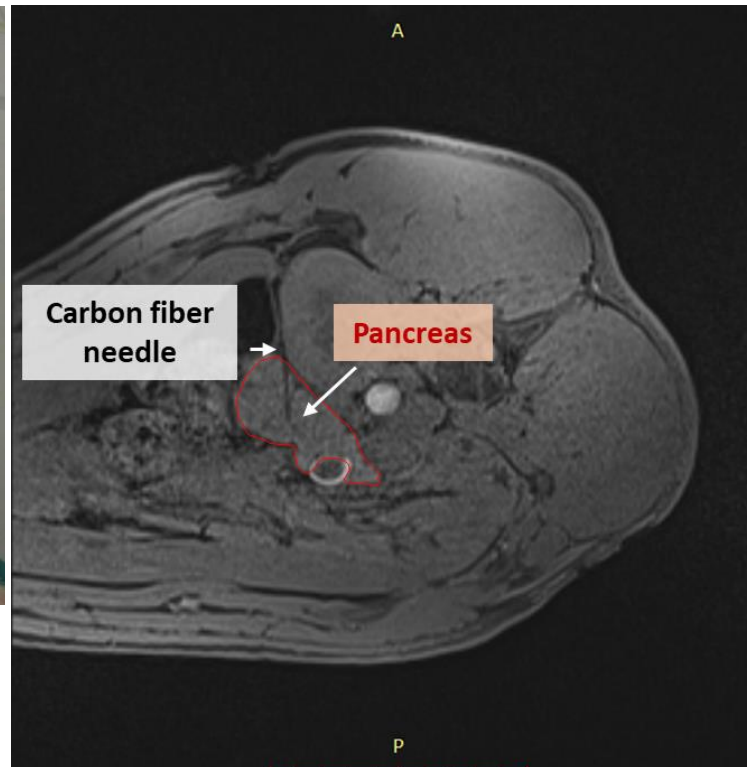
- Thermometry during laser therapy: MR Thermometry

## MR imaging and in vivo laser ablation

### Needles placement (laser and FBGs)



### MR imaging



### Laser Ablation



2-3 W  
1000-1200 J

Nd:YAG, 1064 nm, CW  
265  $\mu$ m fiber

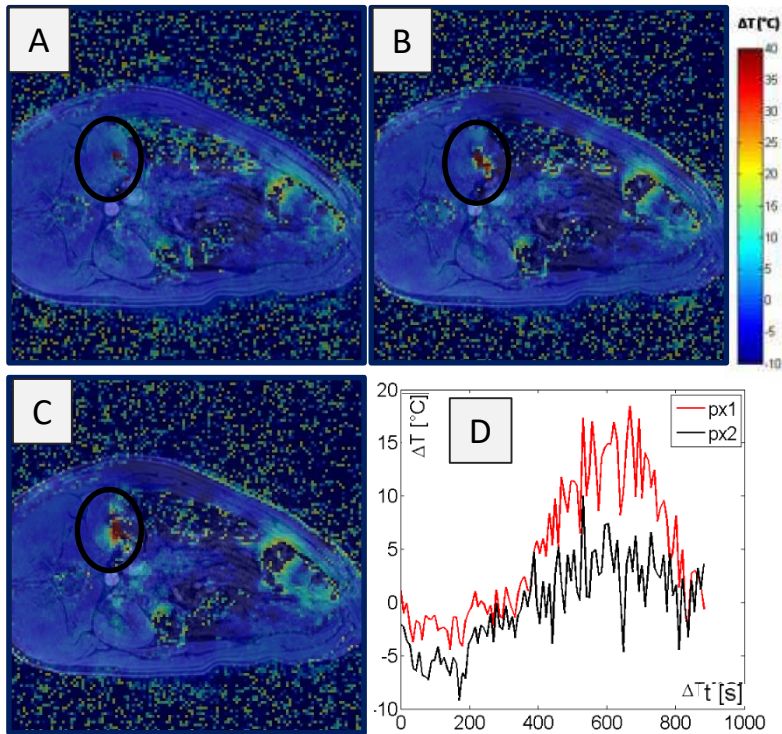
Anaesthetized animal  
Compliance with  
directive 2010/63/EU  
and 3Rs principles



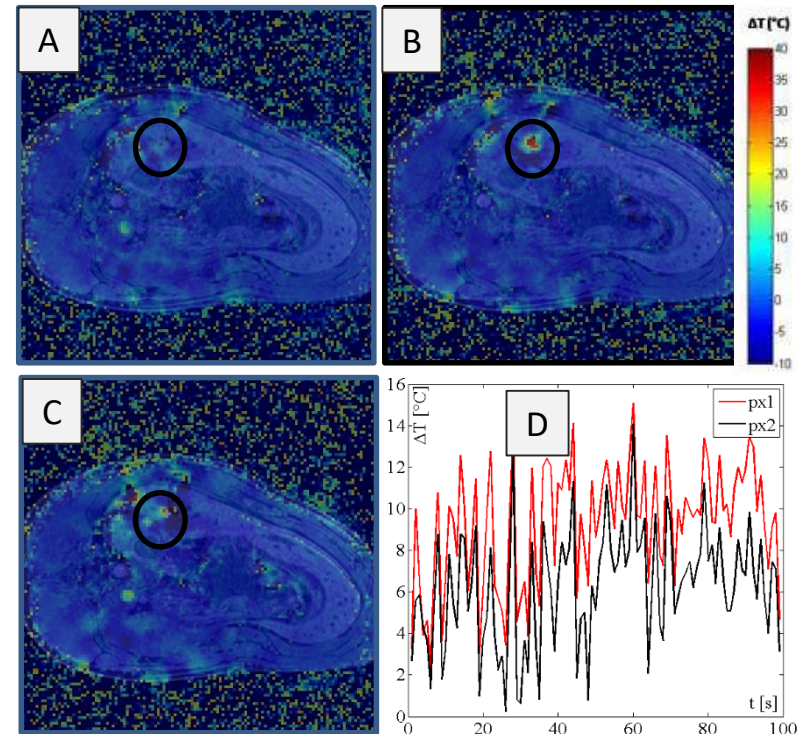
# • Thermometry during laser therapy: MR Thermometry

## MR thermometry

### Kidney



### Liver



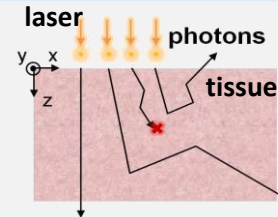


# •Laser tissue-interaction: from mathematical model to clinical practice

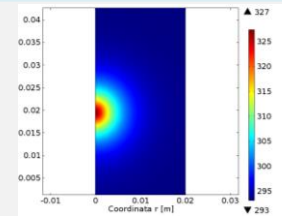
Laser energy



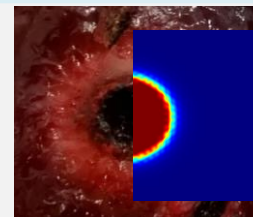
Absorption



Temperature increase



Thermal damage

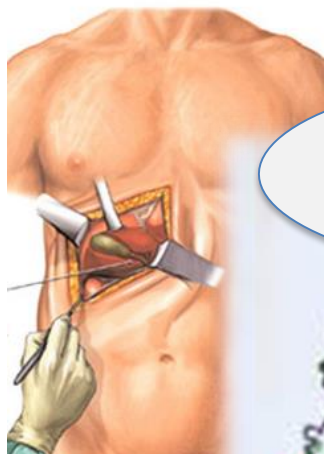


Patient



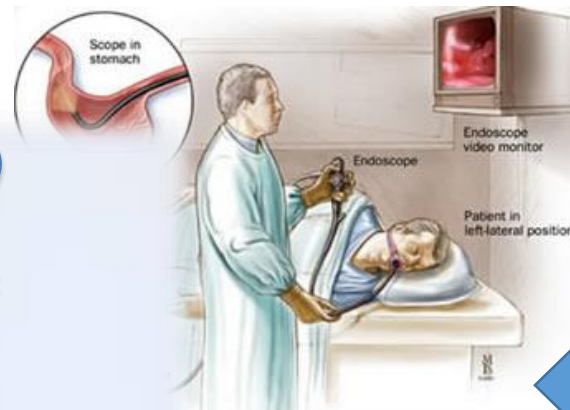
● Laser tissue-interaction: from mathematical model to clinical practice

# Laparotomy

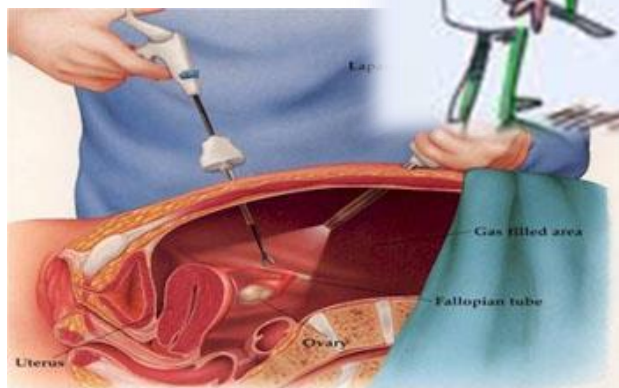


Big cut,  
good surgeon!

# Endoscopy/Percutaneous



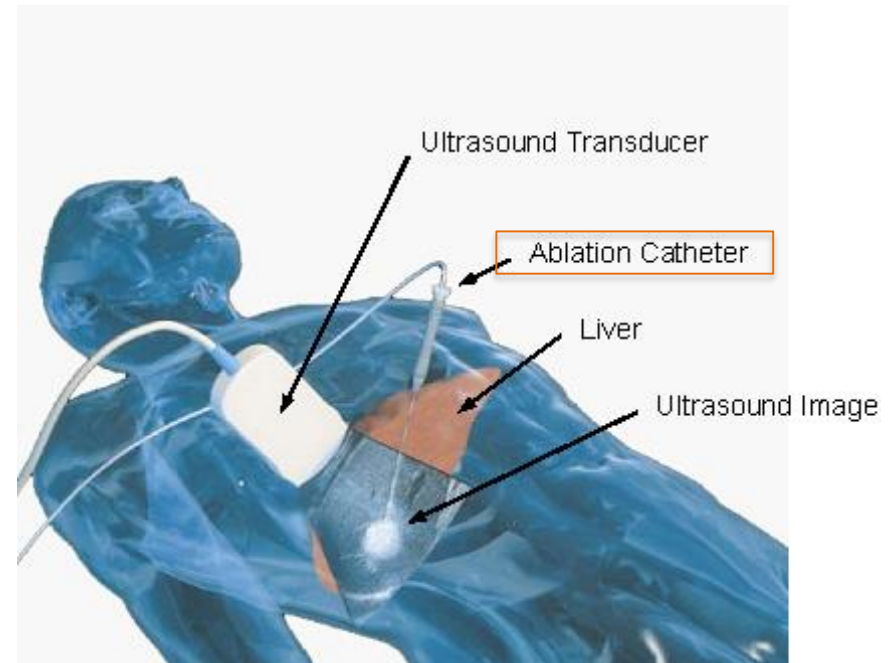
# Laparoscopy



# Robotics

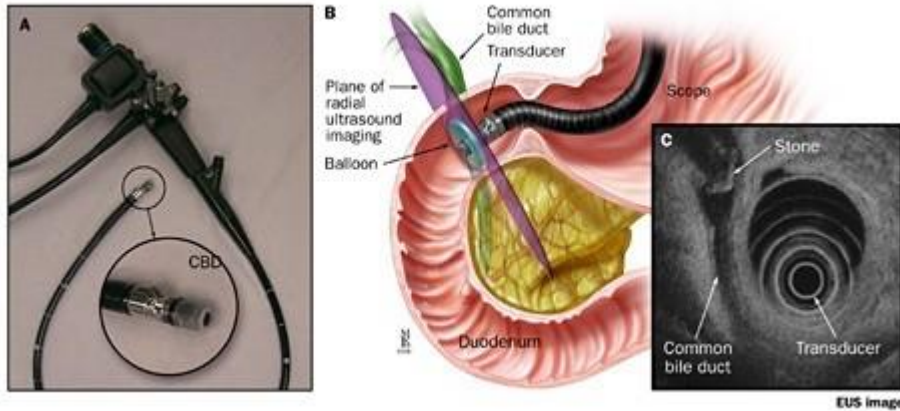


## Surgical diseases treatment evolution



## Which approach?

### Echoendoscopy

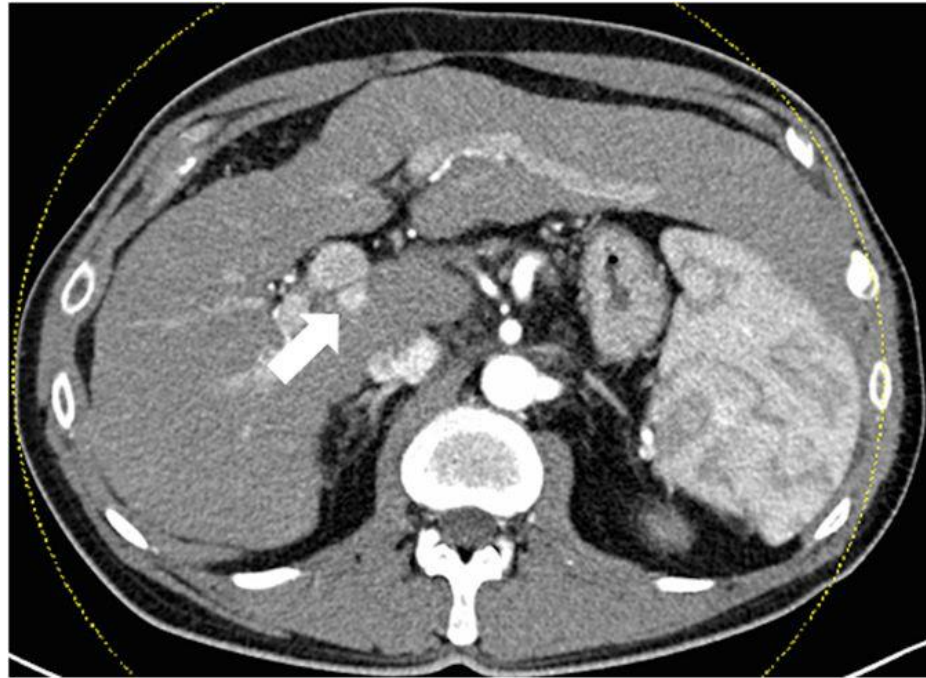


### Percutaneous approach



## Why laser ablation for malignancies treatment?

### Capability to reach “difficult locations”

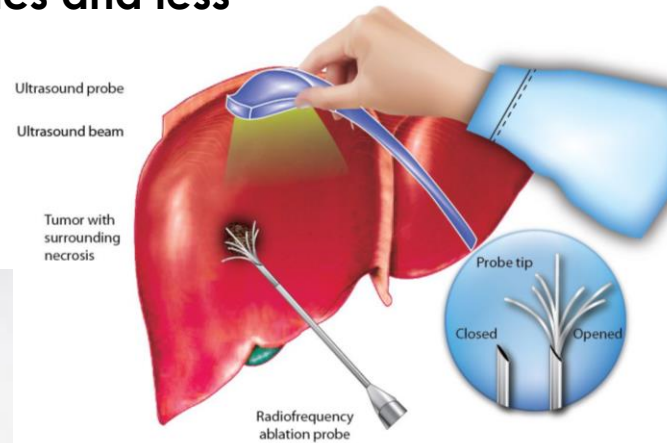


Overall, it is believed that between 10% and 25% of patients with HCC may not be eligible for RFA because of tumor location

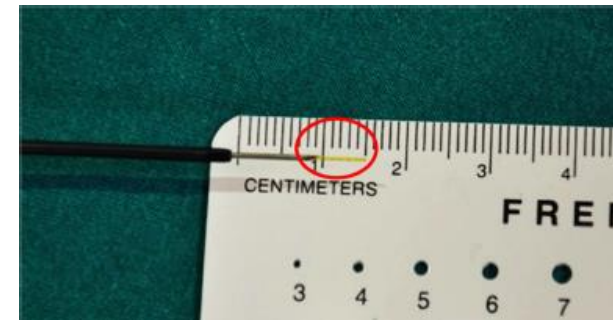
## Why laser ablation for malignancies treatment?

Major operator ergonomics and less patient's trauma

RFA probe



Laser probe



We believe that the main advantage of laser ablation is the use of multiple fine needles, which are less traumatic in cirrhotic patients at risk of bleeding and may be handled more easily by the operator to reach difficult sites. In addition, using multiple thermal sources makes it possible to better tailor energy delivery to the volume and shape of the target nodule.

## Clinical application of LA



Hepatocellular Carcinoma  
Liver Metastases

Thyroid nodules

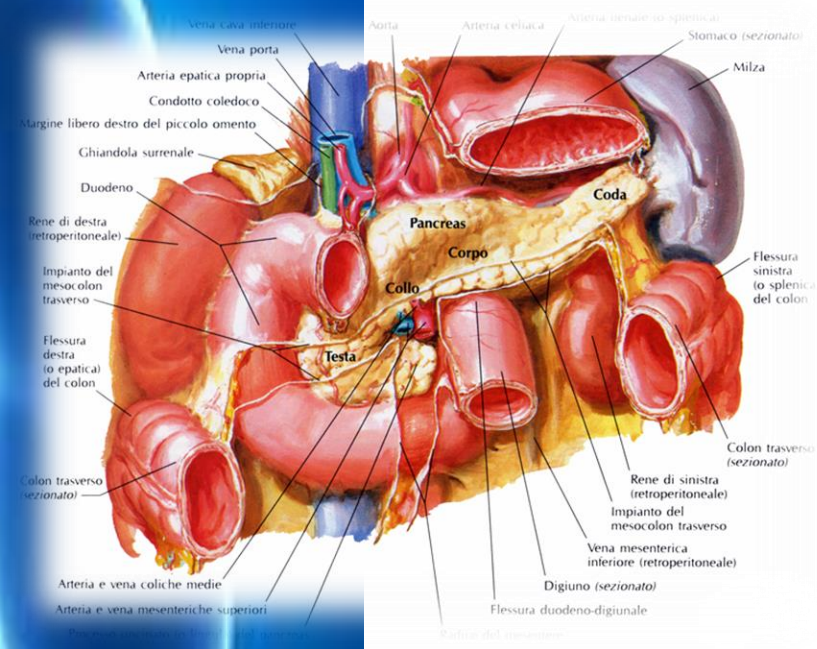
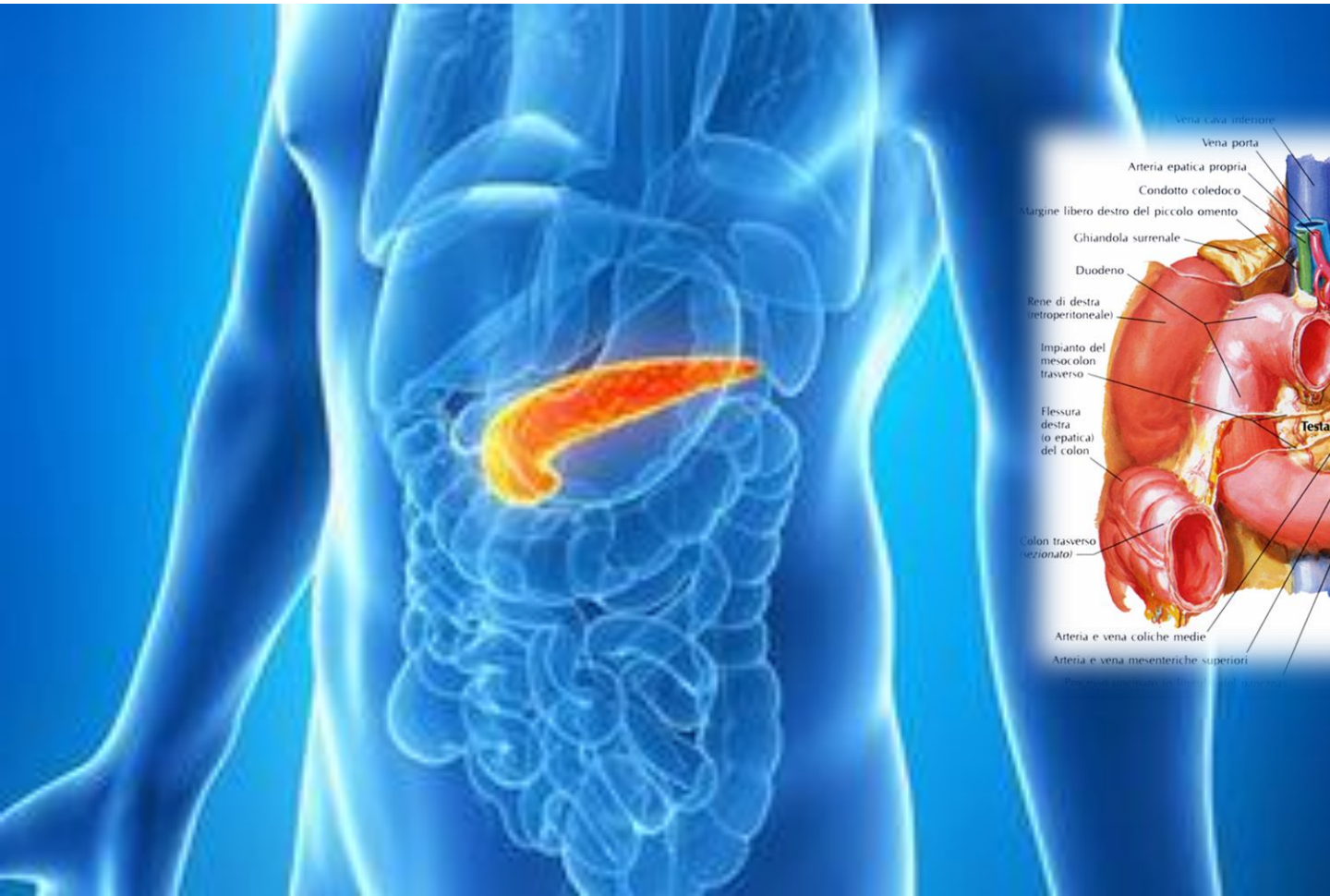


Pancreatic diseases

Biliary tree tumors



## Pancreatic diseases

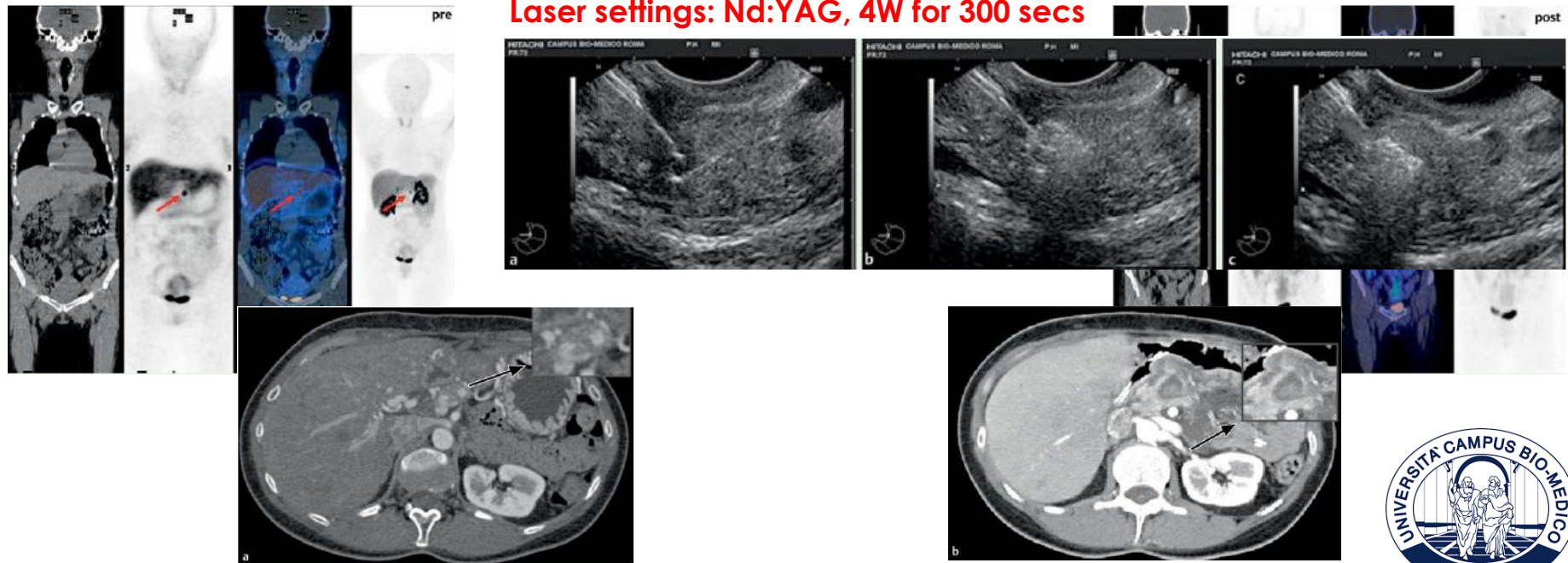




# • Laser tissue-interaction: from mathematical model to clinical practice

## Endoscopic ultrasound-guided Nd:YAG laser ablation of recurrent pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor: a promising revolution? Endoscopy 2014; 46: E380-E381

Francesco Di Matteo<sup>1</sup>,  
Francesca Picconi<sup>1</sup>,  
Margareth Martino<sup>1</sup>, Monica Pandolfi<sup>1</sup>,  
Claudio Maurizio Pacella<sup>2</sup>,  
Emiliano Schena<sup>3</sup>, Guido Costamagna<sup>4</sup>



Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS  
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore



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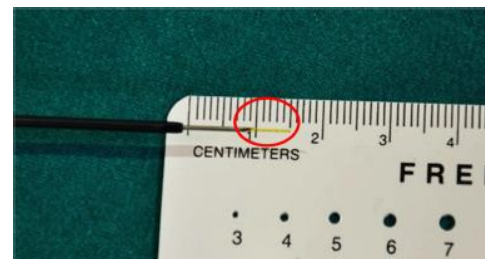
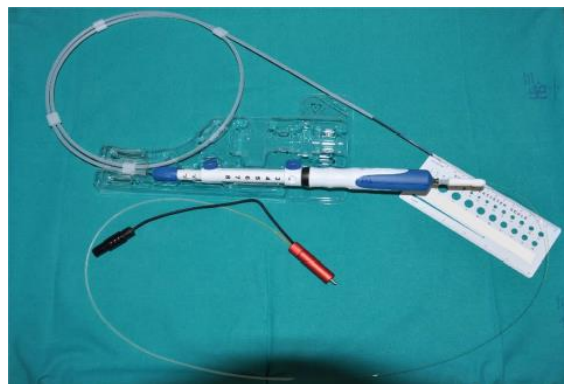
## Feasibility of EUS-guided Nd:YAG laser ablation of unresectable pancreatic adenocarcinoma

Francesco Maria Di Matteo, MD, Paola Saccomandi, Prof, Margareth Martino, MD, Monica Pandolfi, MD, Margherita Pizzicannella, MD, Valerio Balassone, Md, PhD, Emiliano Schena, Prof, Claudio Marcello Pacella, MD, Sergio Silvestri, Prof, Guido Costamagna, Prof.



**Laser settings:** 2W for 800 J, 1000 J and 1200 J or 3W for 800 J, 1000 J and 1200 J or 4W for 800 J, 1000 J and 1200 J

9 patients



Gemelli



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INSTITUT DE CHIRURGIE  
GUIDÉE PAR L'IMAGE



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## Feasibility of EUS-guided Nd:YAG laser ablation of unresectable pancreatic adenocarcinoma

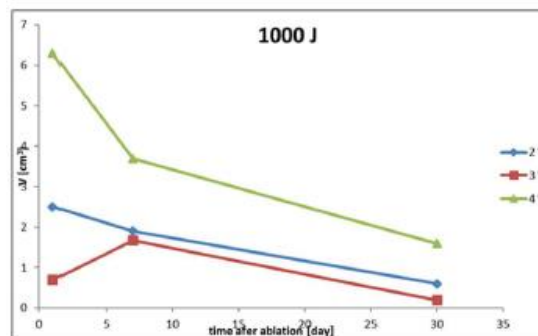
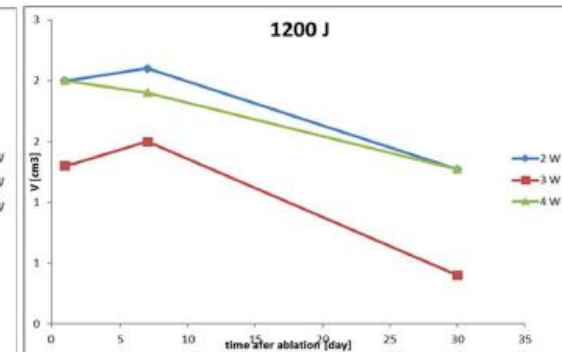
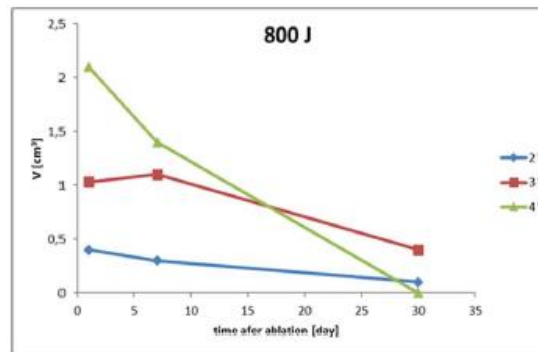
Francesco Maria Di Matteo, MD, Paola Saccomandi, Prof, Margareth Martino, MD, Monica Pandolfi, MD, Margherita Pizzicannella, MD, Valerio Balassone, Md, PhD, Emiliano Schena, Prof, Claudio Marcello Pacella, MD, Sergio Silvestri, Prof, Guido Costamagna, Prof.



No intra-procedural complications

Post-procedure morbidity:

- 3 peripancreatic fluid collections
- 2 mild grade pancreatitis



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GA 759159 *optima* $\lambda$



**erc**  
European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

# Laser *su misura* per il trattamento dei tumori

*Grazie!*

**Paola Saccomandi, PhD**

Politecnico di Milano  
Department of Mechanical Engineering

<http://www.laseroptimal.polimi.it/>



27/03/2019, Milano