



## Methods in HTA – Health outcomes

# Bringing patients' outcome at the forefront in HTA of diagnostic tests using the GRADE approach

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# Appropriateness of FDG-PET in oncology: 3rd update

Since 2001 a permanent research activity  
alongside the development and diffusion  
of the technology



**An obsession ?**

**... or an opportunity**

- To reason on diagnostic-therapeutic strategies, rather than simply on diagnostic test
- To address research gaps (clinical effectiveness)
- To test a new methods for working groups developing diagnostic recommendations



# Appropriateness of a diagnostic test

*The value of any medical test is ultimately measured by whether the information it provides affects patient-relevant outcomes (Bossuyt 2010)*

- Initial diagnostic assessment with subsequent therapeutic approach
- The potential of the new test to modify initial diagnostic assessment (e.g. stage of disease)
- The change in management following change of diagnostic assessment

Rationale

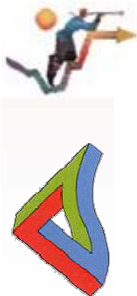
- The diagnostic accuracy of the new test

Available evidence

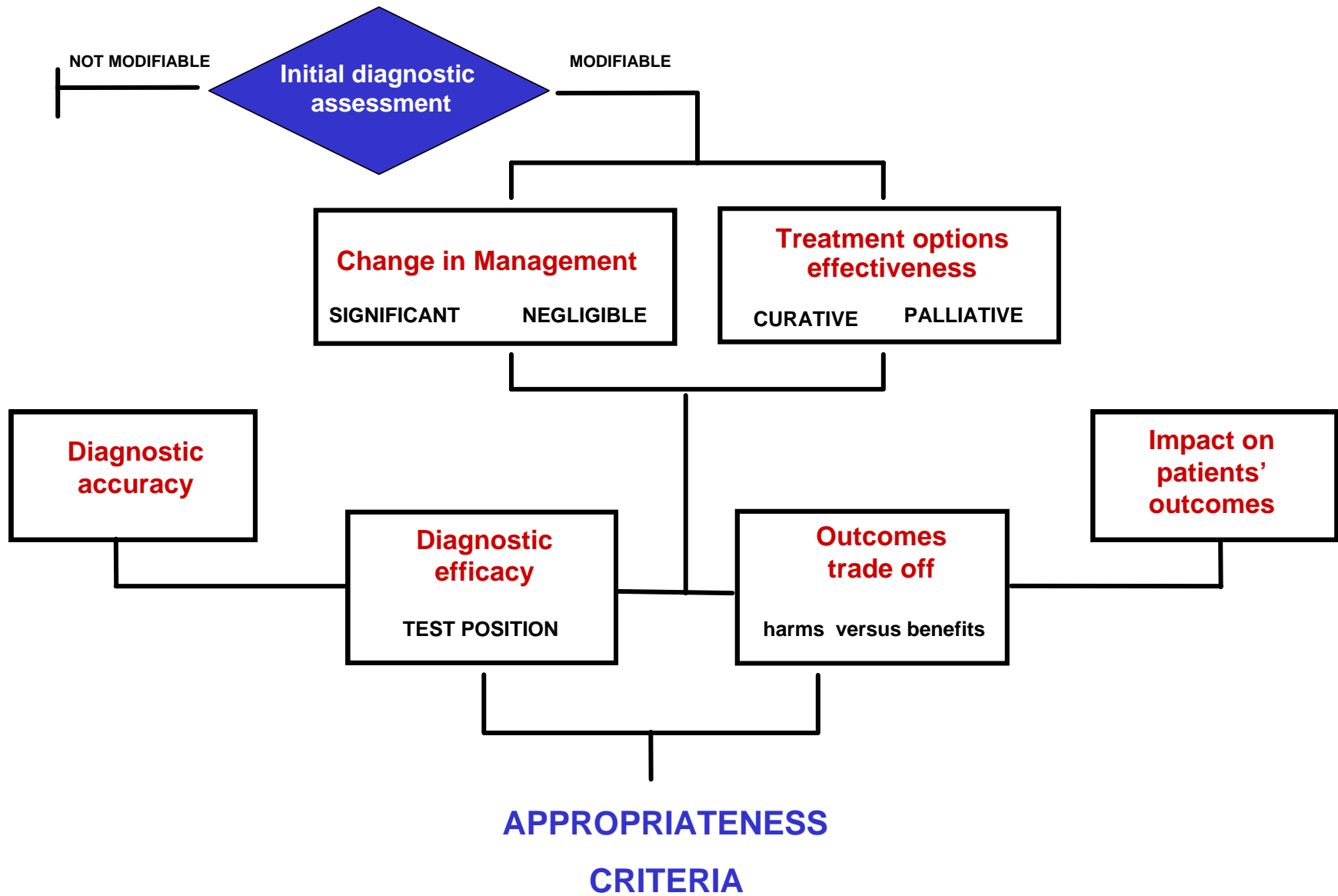
- **The resulting improvement in patients' outcome due to change in therapeutic approach induced by new test's results**

?

**GRADE**



# Consequentialist Approach



**CLINICAL QUESTION 3: Role of FDG-PET in early response to preoperative chemoradiation of patients treated for locally advanced esophageal cancer**

**Rationale:** As preoperative chemotherapy could increase the risk of postoperative mortality (ESMO 2010), a selection of respondents after the first cycles could spare non-respondents the risks of a futile full-length chemotherapy.

**Effectiveness of treatment:** in patients with locally advanced cancer, preoperative chemoradiation improves the 2-year survival by 13% (absolute difference) compared to surgical treatment only (GebSKI 2007). On the other hand preoperative chemotherapy could increase the risk of postoperative mortality (ESMO 2010).

**Research question: FDG-PET as replacement (new test)**

**Is FDG-PET accurate in evaluating the early response to preoperative chemoradiation of patients treated for locally advanced oesophageal cancer?**

**Pre-test probability:** 43% of patients show an histopathological response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy (Ngamruengphong 2010, Lorenz 2007).

**Diagnostic accuracy estimates:** **Level of evidence: low**

FDG-PET	sensitivity (heterogeneous) range 44-100%	specificity: 74%
Comparator (current practice: all patients complete preoperative treatment)	sensitivity: 100%	specificity: 0%

**Outcomes importance**

Consequences of TEST for		Level of Importance* (1-9)
Patients Responders	True Responders: Responders complete clinically effective preoperative treatment, which could improve survival but might carries some risk of postoperative mortality	6 (2-9)
	False Non Responders: Responders interrupt clinically effective treatment, which could have improved survival, and proceed directly to surgery	8 (2-9)
Patients Non-responders	True Non Responders: Non-responders interrupt ineffective treatment, which would not have improved survival, and proceed directly to surgery, with lower risks of postoperative mortality	7 (2-9)
	False Responders: Non responders complete ineffective preoperative treatment, with no possible gain in survival but with some risk of postoperative mortality	6 (2-9)

\* not important (score 1-3), important (4-6), and critical (7-9) to a decision

**Matrix of natural frequencies**

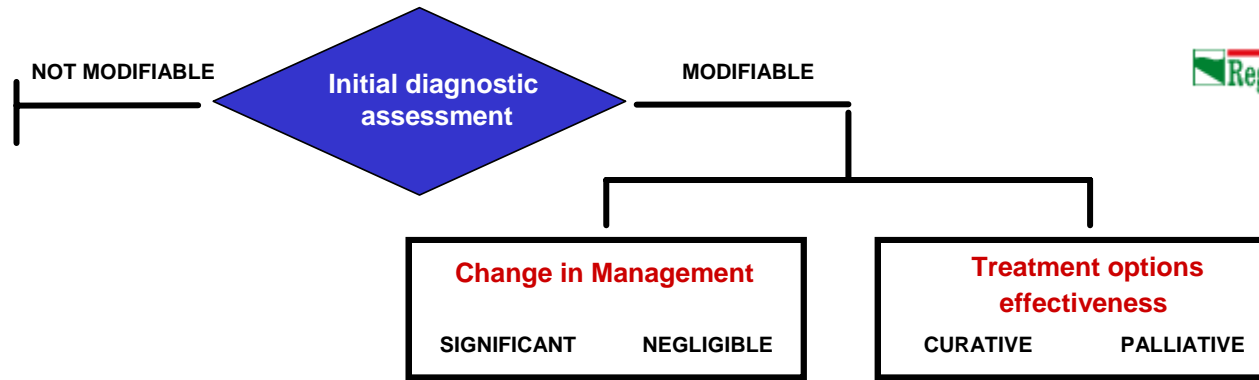
	Patients	According to PET		According to current practice	
		N of patients out of 100 submitted to the exam			
Patients responders	True Responders	19	43	43	
	False Non-responders	24	0	0	
Patients non responders	True Non-responders	42		0	
	False Responders	15		57	
		100		100	

**CLINICAL QUESTION 3:**

APPROPRIATENESS of FDG-PET									
1-2-3 inappropriate									
4-5-6 uncertain	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7-8-9 appropriate									
INDETERMINATE									

The consequentialist approach at work : information provided to the panel





CLINICAL QUESTION:

*Role of FDG-PET in early response to pre-operative chemoradiation of patients treated for locally advanced esophageal cancer*

**Treatment effectiveness:** Preoperative chemo/radio therapy improves 2 year survival by 13% (absolute difference) compared to surgical treatment only (Gebski Lancet Oncology 2007)

**Rationale:** Preoperative chemo/radio therapy reduces tumour mass but increases risk of post-operative mortality (ESMO 2010). Early identification of non responders could avoid futile treatment and unnecessary risks

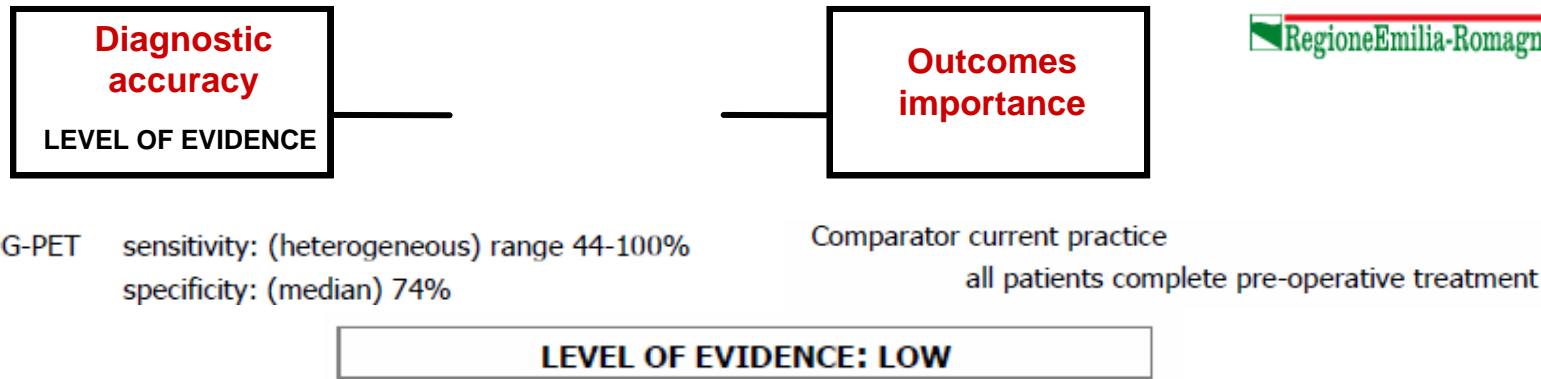
RESEARCH QUESTION: FDG-PET as replacement

*Is FDG-PET accurate in evaluating early response to pre-operative chemoradiation of patients treated for locally advanced esophageal cancer ?*

**Pre-test probability**

43% of patients show an histopathological response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy (Lorenz 2007; Ngamruengphong 2010).



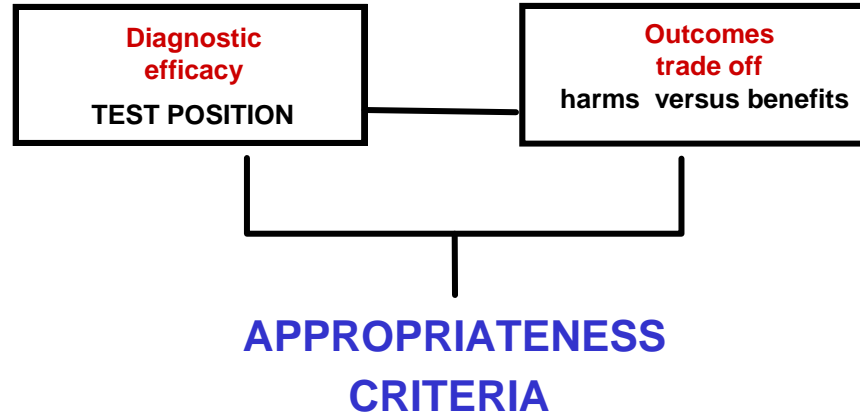


**Table 7.5.** Patient-important clinical outcomes and median scores of importance

PATIENT IMPORTANT OUTCOMES	Median score
<i>Consequences of test for responders</i>	
• True responders - responders complete clinically effective pre-operative treatment, which could improve survival but might carries some risk of post-operative mortality	7
• False non responders - responders interrupt clinically effective treatment, which could have improved survival, and proceed directly to surgery	8
<i>Consequences of test for non responders</i>	
• True non responders - non responders interrupt ineffective treatment, which would not have improved survival, and proceed directly to surgery, with lower risks of post-operative mortality	7
• False responders - non responders complete ineffective pre-operative treatment, with no possible gain in survival but with some risk of post-operative mortality	5

**GRADE**





**Table 7.6.** "Natural frequencies" of patients assessed for response to therapy

		N of patients out of 100 submitted to the exam		Median scores of importance
		According to FDG-PET	According to current practice	
Patients responders	True responders	19 - 43	43	7
	False non responders	24 - 0	0	8
Patients non responders	True non responders	42	0	7
	False responders	15	57	5
		100	100	

**INAPPROPRIATE**

Not good enough

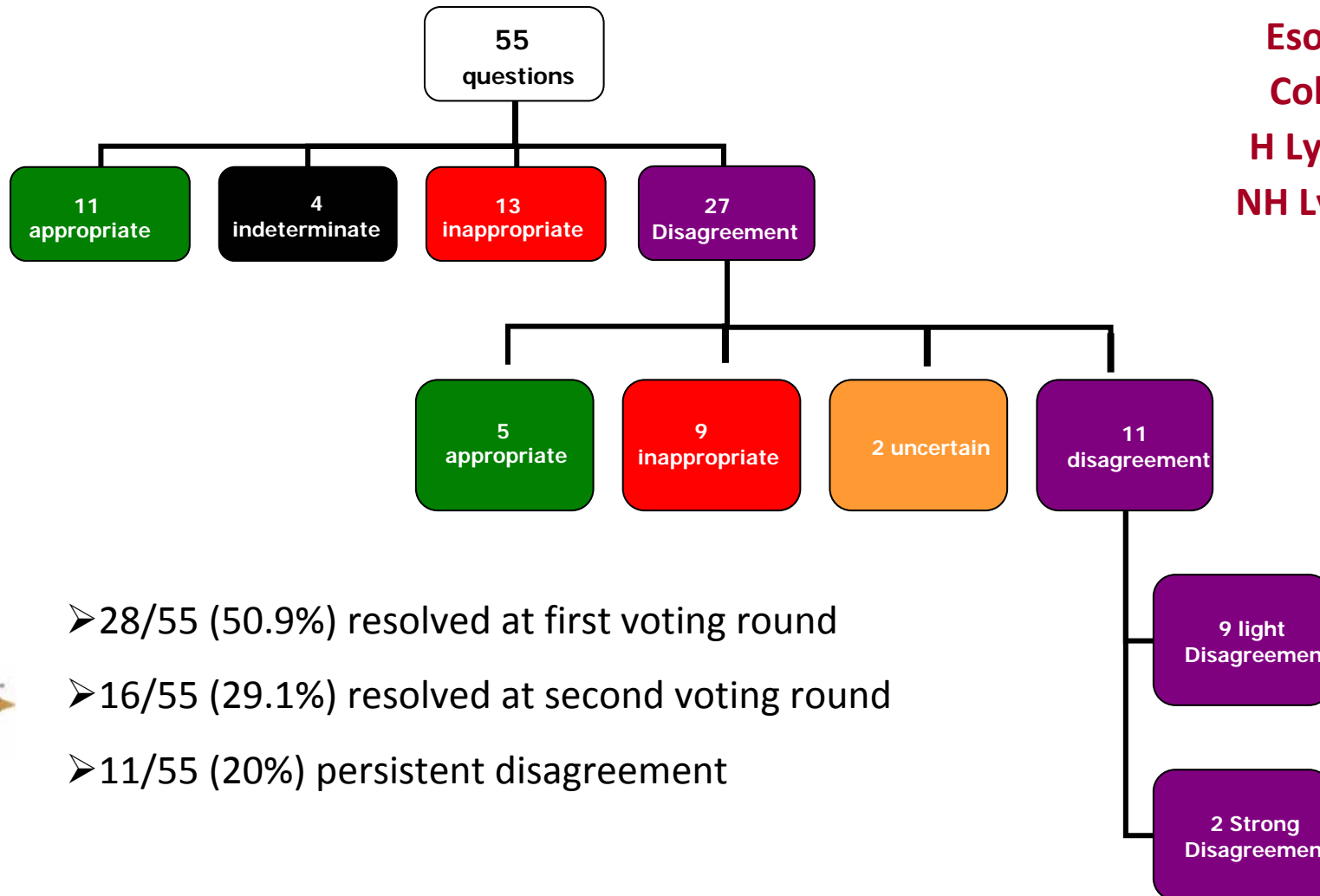




# RAND/UCLA Appropriateness Method: Results

## 7 panels (60 experts) – 7 tumours

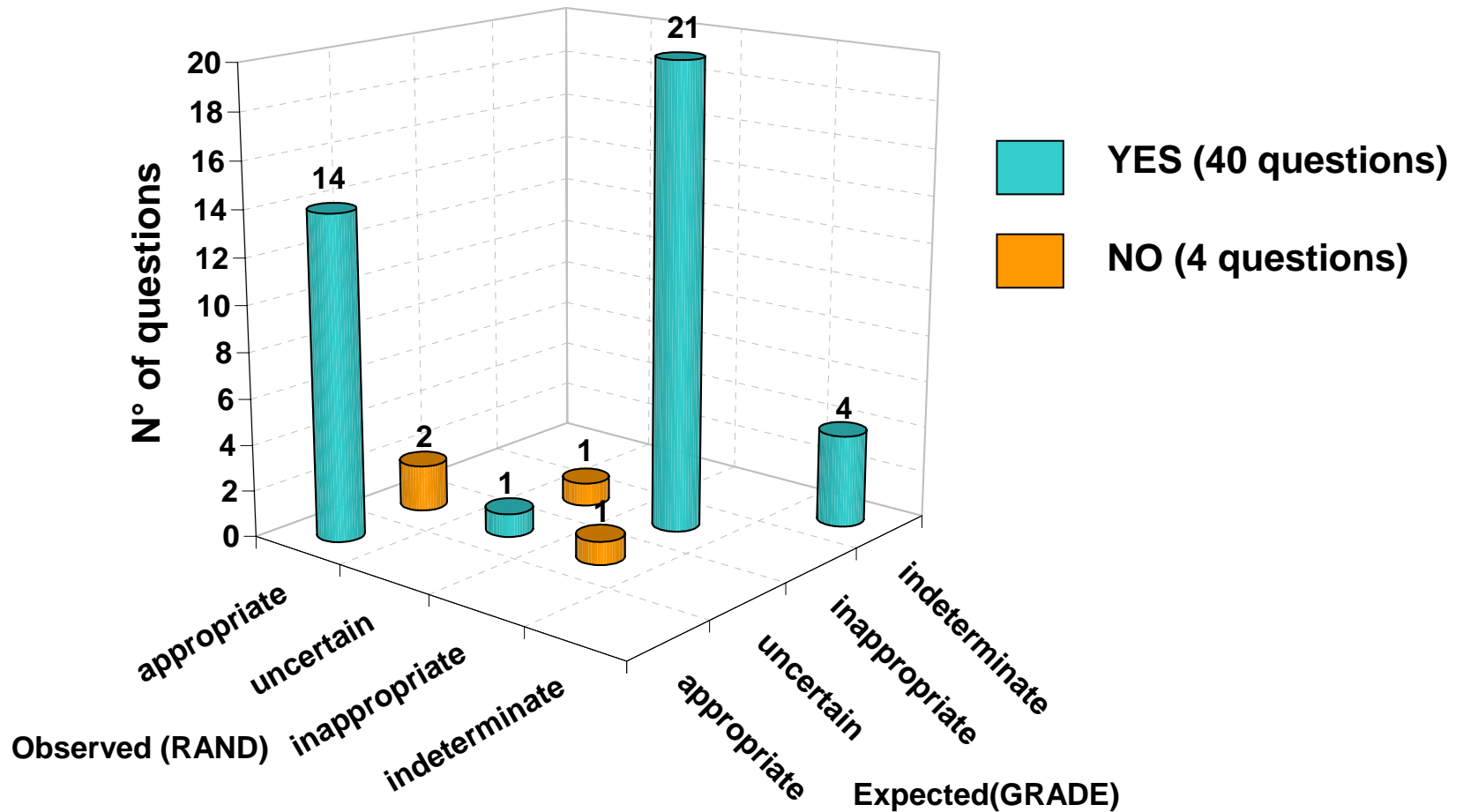
Lung  
Breast  
Head & Neck  
Esophageal  
Colo-rectal  
H Lymphoma  
NH Lymphoma



- 28/55 (50.9%) resolved at first voting round
- 16/55 (29.1%) resolved at second voting round
- 11/55 (20%) persistent disagreement



# Was the approach followed by the panels ?



**Yes in 73% of questions**  
 (considering also the 11 unresolved questions)



## The panelists

Agenzia sanitaria e sociale regionale

<b>Valentina Ambrosini</b> Nuclear Physician, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna			
<b>Giorgio Baldari</b> Nuclear Physician, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Parma			
<b>Mario Bertolani</b> Radiologist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Monica Agostini</b> Nuclear Physician, Azienda USL di Cesena		
<b>Filippo Bertoni</b> Radiotherapist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Salvatore Bacciu</b> Ear, Nose & Throat Specialist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Parma		
<b>Maurizio Boaron</b> Surgeon, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Alessandra Bologna</b> Oncologist, Azienda ospedaliera di Reggio Emilia		
<b>Alessandra Casolo</b> Nuclear Physician, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Athos Borghi</b> Internist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Modena		
<b>Claudio Corbelli</b> Nuclear Physician, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Alba Brandes</b> Oncologist, Azienda USL di Bologna	<b>Barbara Melotti</b> Oncologist, Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria di Bologna	
<b>Maria Cristina Cucchi</b> Surgeon, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Sebastiano Calpona</b> Oncologist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Francesco Merli</b> Haematologist, Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria di Reggio-Emilia	
<b>Valerio Di Scioscio</b> Radiologist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Paolo Campioni</b> Radiologist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Stefano Nava</b> Pneumologist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	
<b>Giorgio Fagioli</b> Nuclear Physician, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Luigi Cavanna</b> Nuclear Physician, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Alberto Ravaioli</b> Oncologist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Maurizio Miselli</b> Health Director, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Modena
<b>Stefano Fanti</b> Nuclear Physician, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Roberto De Maria</b> Surgeon, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Francesca Re</b> Haematologist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Manlio Monti</b> Oncologist, IRST Meldola
<b>Luca Fasano</b> Pneumologist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Ermanno Emiliani</b> Radiotherapist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Livia Ruffini</b> Nuclear Physician, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Andrea Moretti</b> Nuclear physician, Azienda USL di Forlì
<b>Luciano Feggi</b> Nuclear Physician, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Stefano Fanti</b> Nuclear Physician, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Maura Scarlattei</b> Nuclear physician, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Cristina Nanni</b> Nuclear Physician, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna
<b>Antonio Frassoldati</b> Oncologist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Giovanni Frezza</b> Radiotherapist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Nicola Sciascia</b> Radiologist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Silvia Palazzi</b> Radiotherapist, Azienda USL di Ravenna
<b>Patrizia Giacobazzi</b> Radiotherapist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Riccardo Galassi</b> Nuclear physician, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b> Davide Tassinari</b> Oncologist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Micaela Piccoli</b> Surgeon, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Modena
<b>Nicola Lacava</b> Surgeon, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Andrea Gardini</b> Surgeon, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Enrico Tincani</b> Internist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Monica Silvotti</b> Radiologist, Azienda ospedaliera di Reggio Emilia
<b>Giuseppe Longo</b> Oncologist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Cinzia Iotti</b> Radiotherapist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Lucia Zanoni</b> Nuclear Physician, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Annibale Versari</b> Nuclear Physician, Azienda ospedaliera di Reggio Emilia
<b>Andrea Martoni</b> Oncologist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Moreno Marani</b> Ear, Nose & Throat Specialist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Giampaolo Zini</b> Radiotherapist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Claudio Vicini</b> Ear, Nose & Throat Specialist, Azienda USL di Forlì
<b>Giorgio Mazzi</b> Health Director, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Federica Matteucci</b> Nuclear Physician, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Stefania Zoboli</b> Nuclear Physician, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Alessandro Volpe</b> Surgeon, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Modena
	<b>Renzo Mazzarotto</b> Radiotherapist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Maurizio Zompatori</b> Radiologist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna	<b>Elena Zamagni</b> Hematologist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna
	<b>Alberto Merighi</b> Gastroenterologist, Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria di Bologna		

Thank you

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