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# Energy metabolism in bone tumors : Fuel selection and adaptation

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#### Abstract

It has long been recognized that cancer cells exhibit altered patterns of metabolism that allow them to meet the biosynthetic demands of rapid proliferation and overcome metabolic stress imposed by the microenvironment. In this chapter, we aim to recapitulate knowledge on energetic metabolism and reprogramming in osteo-oncology. Diagnosis and staging of bone metastases using <sup>18</sup>Fluorine labeled Glucose, choline and folate and emission tomography and computerized tomography (PET/CT) reflect tumor cells energetic metabolism. Metabolites and associated gene regulators involved in bone metastases and/or osteosarcoma progression are also described including, glucose, lactate, amino-acid, cholesterol, fatty acids and derived mitochondrial activity ROS. Moreover several master regulators of energy metabolism in normal physiology, metabolic syndromes and cancer (PPARy, ERRa, PGC1a, CREB, MYC, RAS, EWS-FLI, TMPRSS2-ERG and mTOR) are identified in bone metastases and primary bone tumor. Interestingly, factors that were first detected in bone physiology (RANKL/OPG/RANK, Runx2, OPN, OCN, POSTN and SOST) have been recently identified as regulators of energetic metabolism. Finally, in clinic, treatments targeting metabolism (everolimus, statin,...) have an impact on bone metastases regression, suggesting that targeting energetic metabolism may constitute a new therapeutic pathway in osteo-oncology.

#### **Research Highlights:**

- High diversity of metabolic fuels to feed bone tumor.
- Strong energetic metabolism genes program allow tumor cells to survive and progress in bone microenvironment.
- Osteomimicry may contribute to bone tumor adaptation to their metabolic environment.

**Key words:** osteo-oncology, metabolites, energetic metabolism and reprogramming signaling, osteomimicry

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#### I. Introduction

Bone tumors include primary bone tumor like osteosarcoma (OS) and bone metastases, which are frequent complications of many cancers but are especially common from breast and prostate cancer. Bone tumors can lead to occurrence of metastases (lung for OS), skeletal-related events, including fractures and spinal cord compression, bone pain and disability, contributing to morbidity and mortality in patients with advanced cancer. Understanding tumor cells survival and progression mechanisms when anchored in the bone is essential for the safe and the identification of new biomarkers or therapeutics in the clinic. Transcriptional reprogramming of energetic metabolism is a hallmark of cancer and is today the best proof of the incredible flexibility of tumor cells allowing them to survive, escape and adapt to their new environment. Therefore, identifying metabolic signatures (glucose-lactate (Warburg), Fatty Acid, Amino-Acid, oxidative stress, OXPHOS...) should contribute to early bone lesions detection as well as the characterization of tumor cells reprogramming metabolic status allowing a better therapeutic choice throughout the disease.

#### **II.** Imaging of cellular energy metabolism in Osseous Metastatic Disease.

Since bone metastases remain the main cause of morbidity in patients with metastatic breast and castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC), early and accurate detection of bone lesions as well as follow up of the disease during and after therapy, is becoming crucial (Fig.1). In this regard, the use of radiotracers revealing energetic metabolism has shown the capabilities in detection bone metastases. First glycolytic metabolism has been documented by molecular imaging by using the glucose analog <sup>18</sup>F-fluorodeoxyglucose <sup>18</sup>F-FDG-PET for bone metastases detection derived from breast (BCa) and prostate cancer (PCa) [1][2]. GLUT1 is overexpressed in BCa and PCa and is responsible of the <sup>18</sup>F-fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose uptake [3]. Also the hyperpolarized (HP)<sup>13</sup>C-pyruvate MRI had been shown to provide real-time assessment of the glycolytic pathways in PCa bone metastases combined with conversion of pyruvate to lactate and increased expression of lactate deshydrogenase isoform A (LDHA) [4]. Beside aerobic glycolysis, cancer cells in bone can use additional sources of energy. Indeed, an abnormal regulation of the phospholipid metabolism in cancer cells metastatic to bone can be visualized by using the <sup>18</sup>Fluorine-18-choline- and <sup>11</sup>C-choline PET/CT scanning of PCa bone metastases [5]. Interestingly, bone metastases type seem to be associated to more specific metabolism since osteolytic lesions show more metabolic activity than the osteoblastic type and are better reveal with the <sup>18</sup>F-FDG. Recently, more specific radiotracers reflecting tumor cells energetic metabolism had been identified like the folate hydrolase Prostate Specific Monoclonal Antibody (PSMA) in PCa cancer [6]. PSMA participates to the folate-mediated one-carbon metabolism essential for purine and thymidine monophosphate (dTMP) biosynthesis, mitochondrial protein translation, and methionine regeneration, which give tumor cells expressing it a proliferative advantage [7]. PSMA can be coupled with the <sup>18</sup>Fluorine or the gallium-68 for PET to visualize bone metastases but <sup>18</sup>F-PSMA seems to outperform the <sup>68</sup>Ga-PSMA [6][8][9]. A new PET compounds the anti-3-<sup>18</sup>F-FACBC or <sup>18</sup>F-fluciclovine (a synthetic analog of the amino acid L-Leucine) that was tested for the detection of PCa relapse was also shown to detect bone metastases [10]. Leucine is known to be an essential amino-acid that is obtained by the diet and used in protein biosynthesis by activating mTOR signaling [11]. Moreover, Leucine is involved in insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) and dietary restriction of Leucine improved glucose and pyruvate tolerance, increased adipose mass and decreased lean mass in mice [11][12][13]. The impact of Leucine on glucose up-take, mitochondrial biogenesis and fatty-acid oxydation suggests that PCa cells that metastases to bone detected by the <sup>18</sup>F-fluciclovine are capable to metabolize Leucine and to use this aminoacid for their global metabolism and their progression. Interestingly, <sup>18</sup>F-fluciclovine provided

a statistically significant better performance in terms of bone lesion detection rate as compared with <sup>11</sup>C-choline [14].

#### **III.** Metabolites Contribution to the fertile soil for bone lesions development.

Bone metastases arising from the primary tumor cells must adapt their new metabolic environment to fuel their biology through different phases allowing anchorage, dormancy and/or progression stages. Several studies have characterized metabolites that are used or produced by tumor cells in bone (Fig.2, Table.1).

#### A. Glucose and Lactate

Similar to many tumor cells and as mentioned previously, bone metastases used glucose and glycolysis to progress [1][2][15]. Indeed, glycolytic enzyme such as phosphoglycerate kinase 1 (PGK1) secreted by PCa cells can regulate bone formation at the metastatic site by increasing osteoblastic activity, osteomimicry and decreasing osteoclastic function [16]. Moreover, glucose is used for ATP generation through lactate production and via the pentose phosphate pathway (PPP) for nucleotide synthesis that is essential for cell proliferation. Accordingly, comparison of 28 paired primary metastatic breast cancers revealed differential expression patterns of PPP proteins and the expression of the 6-phosphogluconolactonase (6PGL) in bone metastases was associated with shorter overall survival [17]. Similarly, MDA-MB-231 cancer cells are described to release a large amount of lactate [18]. In fact, Warburg et *al* observed increased venous lactate levels in tumor-bearing limbs of rats compared to controls [19]. It has been reported that the release of lactate at the bone site by glycolytic BCa cells is mediated by the monocarboxylate transporters (MCT4), and that this protein is more expressed in metastases to bone compared to other sites like brain, lung or liver [18][20]. Interestingly, MCT4 and MCT1 overexpression is also observed in osteosarcoma (OS) and is linked to poor prognosis, tumor growth, metastatic process and chemotherapy response [21][22]. Moreover,

in the context of the bone, increase acidosis due to lactate released by tumor cells may strongly stimulate bone metastases progression, by increasing not only tumor cells aggressiveness, but also by modulating bone cell functions and inducing cancer-related bone pain, showing a major impact that may have the energetic metabolism of metastatic cells on the global bone physiology [23][24] (Fig.2). More precisely, low pH can directly contribute to the mineralized matrix destruction since a large majority of the matrix is alkaline mineral (hydroxyapatite). Moreover, lactate uptake by osteoclasts has been described through MCT1, a transporter highly expressed by the bone resorbing cells, stimulating osteoclasts resorption activity and deciphering the lactate as a metabolic fuel for the oxidative metabolism of osteoclasts [18]. Osteoblasts can also perceive tumor metabolic acidosis that inhibits most of their bone formation functions by altering alkaline phosphatase and extracellular matrix proteins expression, inhibiting mineral deposition [25]. On the other side, low pH induces proosteoclastogenic factors *i.e* receptor activator of nuclear factor kappa-B ligand (RANKL), TNFα, parathyroid hormone- protein PTH/PTHrP receptors, IL-6, IL-8 and the chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 5 (CCL5) over-expression in osteoblasts, conducting the bone forming cells toward a pro-tumoral phenotype by activating osteoclasts resorption and lead to more bone destruction [26]. With the addition of osteoclasts and osteoblasts, mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) may be sensitive to low pH. Indeed acidosis can induce MSC stemness maintenance and stimulate TGF-B, IL-8 secretion [27] [28]. MSC under low pH conditions, may also contribute to tumor cells aggressiveness, tumor immune escape and bone resorption in OS. Coculture with MSC incubated with short-term acidosis can stimulate OS cells clonogenicity and invasiveness through NF-kB signaling (RelA, RelB) and downregulated cytokines secretion (CSF2/GM-CSF, CSF3/G-CSF, CCL5, CXCL5, CXCL1, IL6 and IL8) in MSC [29]. Finally, extracellular lactate, have been shown to affect myeloid lineages, by decreasing monocytes motility (contrasted with the stimulation of tumor cells migration), reprogramming macrophages into a tumor-supporting M2 phenotype and by inhibiting differentiation of monocytes into dendritic cells [30] [31] [32]. Similarly, high lactate levels alter lymphoid lineage, by inhibiting CD8+T cells function through depleting extracellular glucose stores (T cell anergy), impairing IFNy-producing T cells and NK cells and NK generation contributing to the phenomenon of tumor immune escape [33] [34] [35]. Beside its participation into the bone metastases vicious circle, the lactate contribution to cancer-related bone pain is also strongly documented [23]. The low pH induced by extracellular lactate can stimulate acidsensing receptors highly expressed by sensoring neurons (nociceptors) that innervate the bone marrow and the periosteum including transient receptor potential vanilloid (TRPV1), acidsensing ion channels (ASIC1-3), and metabotropic proton-sensing G protein-coupled receptors (GPCR) thereby creating the formation of neuromas at the origin of the oncologic pain observed in many patients with bone metastases [36] [37] [38]. Interestingly, TRPV1, ASIC and GPRC receptors are also expressed in osteoclasts and osteoblasts [39]. Moreover, the GPRC receptor OGR1, a dual membrane receptor for both protons (extracellular pH) and lysolipids, expression level can be stimulated by RANKL treatment in osteoclasts and can mediate RANKL expression in osteoblasts in response to lactate acidosis [40][41]. Finally, low pH in the bone marrow microenvironment stimulate the release of nociceptive and inflammatory mediators by bone cells such as the nerve growth factor (NGF), the brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) causing axonal chemoattraction and IL6, IL8 and IL1 promoting tumor-associated hyperalgesia [42] [43].

#### **B.** Amino-acid and nucleotides

In parallel to lactate, several studies have identified other metabolites linked to bone metastases energetic metabolism. One of them compared bone / lung metastatic cells to liver metastatic cells, associated lung and bone metastases to an increased glutamine uptake and glutamine derived TCA (Tricarboxylic Acid) cycle while oxidative glutamine was reduced in

liver metastases. Very recently metastatic OS was also described to require glutamine up-take and glutaminase-1 (GLS1) activity for proliferation and metastatic progression. In OS, glutaminase inhibition induces a decrease in glycolysis and TCA cycle, decrease of fatty acid and pyrimidine and Uracil metabolism driving beta-alanine and energy metabolism towards ketogenesis [44].

Genome-wide gene expression profiling of the highly bone metastatic variant MDA-MB-231(SA) cell line as compared to the parental MDA-MB-231 cells also revealed the upregulation of the phosphoglycerate dehydrogenase (PHGDH), phosphoserine aminotransferase 1 (PSAT1), and phosphoserine phosphatase (PSPH), three genes involved in the L-serine biosynthesis pathway, in the MDA-MB-231(SA) [45]. Interestingly, L-serine is known to be essential for the osteoclasts differentiation, and therefore may contribute to the osteolytic bone metastasis. In bone metastases derived from PCa, tissue obtained from patients with high-risk tumors with or without diagnosed bone metastases were profiled showing increased aminoacids synthesis and metabolism (glutamic acid, asparagine, phenylalanine, threonine, thyrosine, adenosine). Reinforcing data obtained in bone metastases derived from BCa and <sup>18</sup>Ffluciclovine imagery in PCa, serine and leucine were also found increased in bone metastases [10] [45]. In parallel, by Raman Spectroscopy, proteins and amino acid (methionine, phenylalanine, glutamic acid, alanine, glycine, tryptophane) were the second component that was identified increasing with bone tropism and highly present in the MDA-MB-231 osteotropic subclone B02 cells compared to their parental cell line. In contrast, cytochrome C, DNA and nucleotide were inversely related to capacity for tumor cells to metastasize to bone [46].

#### C. Cholesterol and Fatty acid

Incidence of skeletal metastases from PCa strongly increases with age and obesity, two conditions associated with bone marrow progressive infiltration by fat cells [47][48]. By using

diet-induced obesity models in vivo, Herroon et al demonstrate the stimulatory effects of marrow fat on growth and progression of skeletal prostate tumors [49]. They demonstrate that lipids from marrow adipocytes induces expression of the Fatty acid binding protein 4 (FABP4), a lipid chaperone, interleukin IL-1β, and the inducible Heme oxygease 1 (HMOX-1) in prostate skeletal tumors from obese mice and in bone metastases samples from PCa patients [49]. Increased metabolism of fatty acids (Arachidonic acid, Stearic acid, Linoleic acid) were also revealed in bone metastases *versus* normal bone and *versus* prostate cancer tissues [50]. They also noted the high level of cholesterol in PCa bone metastases associated with intense immunohistochemical staining of enzymes for cholesterol influx (low density lipoprotein receptor (LDL-R), scavenger receptor class B type1 (SR-B1)), deciphering the cholesterol as a metabolic fuel for tumor cells. De novo synthesis of cholesterol in tumor cells is also suggested through high expression of the 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-coenzyme A (HMG-CoA) reductase in PCa bone metastatic cells, an enzyme that catalyzed the reduction of HMG-CoA into mevalonate, a cholesterol precursor [50]. Reinforcing this data, the expression of fatty acid synthase (FASN) is observed in 90% of bone metastases in CRPC and is coexpressed with the constitutively active AR variant V7 (AR-V7) in 39% of bone metastases [51]. Selective FASN inhibitor antagonizes CRPC growth through inhibition of glucose incorporation into lipids (oleic and palmitoleic acids and membrane lipid composition), accumulation of polyunsaturated FA (docosapentaenoid acid, docosahexaenoic acid, eicosapentaenoic acid and arachidonate) and increased carnitine metabolism resulting in ER stress and the inhibition of protein synthesis [51]. In BCa, Lysophosphatidic acid (LPA) producing enzyme Autotaxin (ATX) promotes the progression of osteolytic bone metastases in animal models and is expressed in 25% of bone metastases [52][53]. Moreover mature osteoclast secretome determined by metabolomics profiling using LC-MS show increased secretion of Arachidonic Acid (AA) and a decrease of lysophosphatidylcholines (LPC) from osteoclasts. This shift in

lipid osteoclastokines stimulates BCa cell lines growth, migration, survival and intravenous administration of osteoclast-secreted lipids exacerbate syngeneic Py8119 cell bone metastases *in vivo* [54]. They also stimulate prometastatic genes, osteopontin (OPN), cyclooxygenase 2 (COX2), integrin-β3, RANKL, PTHrP and interleukin-1β expression in BCa cell [54]. Contradictory, BCa Raman Spectroscopy shows that lipids (triacylglycerols, cholesterol, fatty acid, membrane lipids) were inversely proportional to bone metastatic ability [46].

#### **D.** Reactive oxygen species (ROS)

Lung and bone metastases also demonstrated an increase in mitochondrial activity and reactive oxygen species (ROS) production [55]. These metabolic differences were due to a decrease in lung and bone metastases of hypoxia-inducible factor lalpha (HIF-lalpha) conducting to the decrease on the gene encoding pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase (PDK1) and the inactivation of pyruvate dehydrogenase (PDH) which blocks the conversion of pyruvate to acetyl-CoA and suppress the TCA cycle [55]. In contrast, the antioxidant proteins Peroxiredoxin 2 (PRDX2) that is highly expressed in the lungs metastatic BCa cells was shown to have different impact in lung and bone microenvironment. Indeed, high levels of PRDX2 in lungs metastatic breast cancer model contributed to decreased ROS production and stimulation of metastatic progression while in bone metastases model PRDX2 induced an inhibition of osteolytic progression [56]. Because of the high-energy demands of osteoclasts, bone-resorbing cells contain a large number of mitochondria that are the major source of ROS. Interestingly osteoclasts used ROS as secondary signaling molecules during NF-kB ligand (RANKL)induced differentiation and activation and stimulate bone destruction [20] [57]. In contrast, deacetylation of FoxOs by Sirt1 prevents FoxO association with β-catenin and potentiates Wnt signaling, leading to decreased ROS and stimulation of osteoblasts proliferation [58][59]. Concomitantly, by coupling Raman Spectroscopy and multivariate Curve Resolution (MCR)

analysis Marro *et al* show that lipid, nucleotide and cytochrome C level was higher in B02/PRXD2 cells compared to B02 while amino acid level was lower [46].

#### **IV.** Energetic reprogramming genes in osteo-oncology.

#### A. Transcription factors and cofactors

Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor  $\gamma$  (PPAR $\gamma$ ) is a master regulator of energy metabolism involved in the adipocytic lineage, thermogenesis and mitobiogenesis [60]. During aging, increased activity of Cebp $\beta$  /PPAR $\gamma$ 2, or the decreased expression of the TGF- $\beta$ /BMP, Wnt/β-catenin, and IGF-I signaling pathways induced MSCs commitment changes, creating an unbalanced proadipocytic and anti-osteoblastic MSC allocation [61]. These changes lead to reduced osteoblast differentiation and increased adipocytes formation conducting to a new bone microenvironment metabolic status in favor of lipids enrichment. The master genes of this network are Cebpß and PPARy, two critical transcription factors that initiate a cascade of other factors that enhance differentiation of adipocytes. Endogenous ligands, including the 15-deoxydelta12, 14-prostaglandin J2 (15d-PGJ2) that derived from arachidonic acid through cyclooxygenase, and the oxidized lipid (Linoleic acid through lipo-oxygenase), 9hydroxyoctadecadienoic acid (9-HODE) and 13-HODE activate PPARy promote the progression of adipogenesis [48][60][61]. In bone metastases, 15d-PGJ2 inhibited viability, migration, invasion, and PTHrP production in MDA-MB-231. Conditioned medium from MDA-MB-231 treated with 15d-PGJ2 also decreased the RANKL/osteoprotegerin (OPG) ratio in osteoblasts. Osteolytic lesions progression induced by MDA-MB-231 cells was also limited by subcutaneously injected 15d-PGJ2 concomitantly with serum PTHrP levels [20]. Interestingly, FABP4 and PPARy pathways interaction was described in skeletal prostate tumors, revealing a pro-tumoral function of PPARy in PCa cell aggressiveness in bone [49]. In another study, Yen *et al* show that  $15d-PGJ_2$  is also a potential regulator of OS through the PPAR $\gamma$ -dependent pathway by promoting apoptosis through ROS-mediated JNK activation, downregulation of p-Akt and protein kinase A (PKA)-PLK1 pathways [62]. Beside ligands, coactivators PPAR $\gamma$  coactivator 1 $\alpha$  (PGC-1 $\alpha$ ), can also stimulate PPAR $\gamma$  activity [48][60][61].

PGC1 $\alpha$  is largely known as a master co-regulator of multiple energetic metabolic pathways through nuclear transcriptional metabolic program [63] [64] [65] [66]. In bone metastases, increased PGC1 $\alpha$  suppressed PCa bone lesion development and integrative metabolomics and transcriptomics revealed that PGC1 $\alpha$  induced a catabolic state, characterized by a reverse Warburg effect, high ATP production and limited production of fatty acid and lactate [67]. This metabolic switch was dependent of PGC1 $\alpha$  interaction with the nuclear receptor Estrogen Related Receptor alpha (ERR $\alpha$ ): high PGC1 $\alpha$  level (PGC1 $\alpha$ <sup>high</sup>/ERR $\alpha$ ) conducting to PCa tumor suppression and low level (PGC1 $\alpha$ <sup>low</sup>/ERR $\alpha$ ) to PCa progression [67] [68].

Similar to PPAR $\gamma$ , ERR $\alpha$  is a nuclear receptor strongly involved in transcriptional metabolic program (adipogenesis, lipogenesis, thermogenesis, neoglucogenesis). In cancer, ERR $\alpha$  is involved in rapid responses to metabolic stress, drug resistance and energetic reprogramming (Glycolysis, pyruvate, OXPHOS, fatty acid oxydation, glutamine, lactate and One-carbon metabolism) [68][69][70][71][72][73]. In bone, ERR $\alpha$  is involved in osteoblasts formation and osteoclasts differentiation and polarization [74][75][76][77]. This receptor is also considered with MYC, as a main regulator of osteoclasts metabolic status by being at the origin of a metabolic switch to an oxidative state required for their differentiation through RANKL pathway [78]. Moreover cholesterol is suspected to activate ERR $\alpha$  activity in osteoclasts and inhibiting ERR $\alpha$  in osteoblasts culture induce a switch into the adipocytic lineage suggesting that low level of ERR $\alpha$  may contribute to lipids enrichment of the bone microenvironment [79][80]. In osteo-oncology, ERR $\alpha$  was found to play a dual function since this receptor acts as an inhibitor and a pro-tumor factor in BCa and PCa-derived bone metastases progression respectively. To understand that functional duality, ERR $\alpha$  was

associated in BCa derived bone metastases with limitation of osteoclasts differentiation and with CD8<sup>+</sup> T lymphocytes recruitment. Concomitantly increased OPG, CCL17 and CCL20 expression level and inhibition of TGF $\beta$ 3 signaling was found [81][82]. Conversely, activation of PCa derived bone metastases was due to an increase of bone remodeling (osteoblasts and osteoclasts) and increased level of VEGF, Wnt5a and TGF $\beta$ 1 expression in tumor cells, and to an active metastatic niche *via* the up-regulation of Periostin in cancer-associated stromal cells [83].

Beside PPARy and ERR $\alpha$ , PGC1 $\alpha$  can also interact and regulate transcriptional activity of other nuclear factors such as nuclear respiratory factor 1-2 (Nrf1-2), Forkhead box O3 (FoxO3a), and cyclic-AMP (cAMP) response element-binding protein (CREB) [63][64]. Nrf1-2, and FoxO3a are master regulators for mitobiogenesis, antioxidant defense and rapid responses to metabolic stress [84][85] and CREB is acting as a metabolic sensor, involved in the adaptation to nutrient restriction and in glycolysis (lactate production), and detoxification of ROS by catalase [86][87][88]. In osteo-oncology, MDA-MB-231 BCa cells exhibited higher CREB expression than non-metastatic MCF-7 cells and CREB expression was increased by several soluble factors, such as IL-1, IGF-1, and TGF-β, factors linked to bone metastases progression [89]. More precisely, IL1<sup>β</sup> was described to stimulate Wnt signaling via NFkB and CREB, promoting BCa cancer stem cells colony formation in bone marrow and bone metastases progression [90]. Reinforcing these data, osteolytic lesions induced by MDA-MB-231 cell were inhibited by a dominant-negative form (K-CREB) [89]. CREB-AP1 was also implicated into treatment response in OS and in the regulation of PTHrP, OPG and Bone Sialoprotein (BSP) in BCa which are closely involved in cancer metastasis and bone destruction [89][91][92]. Moreover, sterol regulatory element-binding protein 2 (SREBP-2) was similarly under the transcriptional control of CREB in BCa inducting matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) expression, key matrix degradative enzymes involved in bone metastases progression [93]. Altogether, if all these studies on master regulators of energy metabolism (linked to the coactivator PGC1 $\alpha$ ) show their involvement in bone lesions progression, their metabolic function in osteo-oncology remains elusive, even though increased expression of ERR $\alpha$  in 4T1 model was associated in the primary tumor to a glycolytic phenotype with increased Glut1, PGC1 $\alpha$ , PGC1 $\beta$ , Cytc, Ldha and Sod2 mRNA level and decreased of Mcad, Pdk1, Ldhb and Mct1 [94].

Myc and Ras, two other transcription factors, are also both linked to osteo-oncology and implicated in energetic metabolism: glycolysis, glutaminolysis, and mitochondrial biogenesis, rendering cells (tumor cells, osteoclasts) glucose and glutamine dependent for c-Myc and increases glycolytic flux into lactate, de novo nucleic acid synthesis and increases NADH shuttling and oxygen consumption for Ras signaling [95][96][97][98]. MYC oncogene has been implicated in the pathogenesis of human OS and upon MYC inactivation, osteosarcoma exhibited a slight reduction in uptake of <sup>(18)</sup>FDG, even-though these tumors continue to accumulate <sup>(18)</sup>FDG at higher levels compared to normal bone [99]. Moreover, OS cells, which harbor mutations driving c-Myc over-expression, induced OS osteoblastic differentiation and ectopic bone formation [100]. Also, in PCa, c-Myc could participate to osteolytic lesions by being up-regulated by estrogen receptor (ER) $\beta$ 2 that can regulate stimulators of bone lesion progression Runx2, Twist1 and Dickkopf homolog (DKK1) [101][102]. For the oncogen Ras, clinical studies demonstrate that H-Ras codon 61.2 mutation may have some predictive roles for bone metastases in prostate carcinoma [103]. Moreover, even though if it is rarer, bone is the most common site of initial for metastatic follicular thyroid carcinoma (FTC) where Ras mutation was the most commonly identified (55%) [104]. Oncogenic Ras promotes the metastasis of DU145 to multiple organs, including bone and activation of one of the effector pathways downstream of Ras, RalGEF, or WNT signaling and phosphorylated Runx2 (S294 and S312 in human Runx2) led to bone metastases [105][106][107]. Moreover, a positive correlation was noted between OPG production level and K-Ras mutation status in pancreatic cancer suggesting a link in bone metastases progression [108]. Ras up-regulation and activation was also observed in lung adenocarcinoma that metastasized to bone through the stimulation of Cut and Homeobox DNA-binding domains (ONECUT2) [109]. Moreover, Ras signaling can be regulated by Myc signaling (Myc-associated zinc-finger prot (MAZ)) in bone metastases from PCa [110]. Similarly, Plexin-B1, a semaphorin (SEM4D) receptor that was found to be mutated in 89% of PCa bone metastases, stimulate cell motility and invasion by increasing ratio of active/inactive R-Ras [111]. All together these data describe the expression of well-known energetic metabolism regulators (ERR $\alpha$  and CREB, oncogen Myc and Ras) in bone metastases, suggesting that they can also function as such in osteo-oncology.

#### **B.** Genetic fusion EWS-FLI and TMPRSS2-ERG

Fusion between erythroblast transformation-specific (ETS) family transcriptional factor Fli with the Ewing sarcoma breakpoint region 1 (EWS) in PCa events had been linked to metabolic changes and aggressiveness. First, EWS/FLI fusion that is driving the Ewing sarcoma (ES) is a master regulator of metabolism reprogramming in ES. EWS/FLI function results in decrease glycolysis (decrease expression of hexokinase-1), extra cellular acidification rate and low mitochondrial membrane potential suggesting decrease oxidative metabolism, and biosynthesis [112]. This decrease of glycolytic intermediates is linked to increased expression of phosphoglycerate dehydrogenase (PHGDH), phosphoserine aminotransferase (PSAT), phosphoserine phosphatase (PSPH), and serine hydromethyltransferase (SHMT1 and SHMT2) expression, enzymes that participate to the commitment of the glycolytic intermediate 3phosphoglycerate to serine and glycine synthesis contributing to biosynthetic pathways (precursors for protein, lipid and nucleic acid synthesis) and to 1-carbon metabolism (methyl donor recycling and epigenetic states) [112].

Transmembrane serine protease 2 (TMPRSS2) with another ETS transcription factor ETSrelated gene (ERG) fusion also influence the metabolome with a switch of glycolysis to FA metabolism in PCa. Decreased levels of sugars (glucose, mannose, maltose), may be due to rapidly consuming glucose and elevated levels of lipids metabolism (phosphocholine, phosphoethanolamine, choline-associated metabolites, cerebronic acid, 2-hydroxybehenic and tricosanoic acid (C23:0)), as observed in TMPRSS2-ERG+ cells and patients [113][114]. Decrease of sphingolipid pathway and increased of acylcarnitines confirm altered FA metabolism in ERG-positive PCa samples [115]. The observed increased of lipids metabolism is in accordance with previous data showing that obesity is associated with poorer prognosis primarily with ERG-positive tumors [116]. Increase lipids metabolism was linked to increase expression level of acetyl-CoA carboxylase alpha (ACACA), FA synthase (FASN), carnitine palmitoyltransferase 1A (CPT1) and long-chain acyl-CoA synthetase 3 (ASCL3) and decrease citrate with low level of aconitase 2 (ACO2). Decrease of carnitine palmitoyltransferase 2 (CPT2), peroxysomal protein enoyl-CoA ligase -1 (EHHADH) and long-chain-fatty-acid-CoA ligase 1 (ACSL1) was also described [115]. Concerning glucose metabolism, high ERG was associated with increased expression of pyruvate kinase (PKM2), 6-phosphogluconolactonase (PGLS), transketolase (TKT) and ribokinase (RBKS) suggesting that ERG may redirect carbohydrate intermediates to pentose phosphate pathway [113]. Decreased levels of spermine, putrescine, gluconic acid, and citrate and increase of tryptophane, tyrosine, isoleucine, aspartate and metabolites belonging to the purine catabolism (Inosine, Xanthine, Adenine and Uric acid) level were also described [113][114][115]. Interestingly, TMPRSS2/ERG has been recently described as a pro-bone metastases factor from PCa by enhancing osteoblastic phenotype through the direct regulation of endothelin-1, Collagen Type I Alpha 1 Chain and Alkaline Phosphatase expression [117]. Now, TMPRSS2/ERG function as a regulator of energy metabolism in osteo-oncology needs to be addressed in the future.

#### C. mTOR: glycolysis and autophagy

mTOR is known to sense alteration in nutrients (amino acids and glucose), oxygen and stress and is mainly involved in anabolic processes such as proteins and lipids synthesis, stimulates glycolysis and inhibits autophagy conducting to tumor cell proliferation and progression [118]. In bone, mTOR may interact with PPARγ signaling, Wnt/β-catenin signaling and the RANK/RANKL thus participating to bone homeostasis [119]. In bone metastases, mTOR is involved early at the BCa cells anchorage stage in the establishment of the bone osteogenic niche, since adherens junctions between osteoblasts (N-cadherin) and tumor cells (E-cadherin) activates mTOR, conducting stimulation of eIF4, protein synthesis and tumor cells proliferation and survival [120][121]. Under ATP availability, metastatic dissemination to bone can be stimulated by the inactivation of the nutrient-sensing AMPK through the tumor necrosis factor receptor-associated protein-1 (TRAP-1), preventing autophagy, stimulating migration and overcoming metabolic stress [122]. Concomitantly to the inhibition of the AMPK activation, the Akt/mTOR/S6K1 was found hyperactivated in a TNBC metastasis to bone model derived from MDA-MB-231 cells [123]. In PCa, inhibiting mTOR may also alter bone metastasis progression by limiting bone colonization and osteolytic lesions induced by PC3 cells in vivo and by counteracting osteoclastogenesis and stimulation of osteoblast activity [124]. Beside bone metastases, genetic screen and common insertion site (CIS) analysis of primary tumors and metastatic osteosarcoma identified osteosarcoma-associated genes enriched in the PI3K-AKT-mTOR: RAF1, AKT2, YWHAE, GAB1, GRB2, GSK3B, EIF4E, PTEN, MCL1, SEMA4d, NF1, SEMA6d and ZFP217 [125]. Among them, five genes are known to be implicated into energetic metabolism; AKT2 (insulin-stimulated glucose uptake and glycolysis), glycogen synthase kinase-3β (GSK3B)(mitochondrial function and hepatic energetic balance), eIF4E (mediating the effects cellular energetics on mRNA translation and protein synthesis), PTEN (autophagy, mitophagy) and MCL1 (mitochondria, response to glucose, apoptosis) [126] [127] [128] [129] [130]. Also, up-regulation of eukaryotic translation

elongation factor 1 delta (EEF1D) and of Glycoprotein non-metastatic melanoma protein B (GPNMBr) promotes OS (MG63 and U2OS cells) proliferation and metastasis by facilitating Akt-mTOR signaling pathways [131][132]. P2X7, an ATP-gated ion channel is also highly expressed in OS and stimulate mTOR/HIF1α/VEGF signaling promoting growth and metastasis of Human HOS/MNNG [133].

Cancer progression is also attributable to a dysfunction of autophagy, a dynamic catabolic process that has dual roles in promoting cell survival as well as cell death [134]. Rab5a, a small-GTPase which regulates vesicle traffic for autophagosome formation, was associated to high grade dysplasia in the mammary gland and detected in bone metastases together with Beclin-1 [135]. The HGF/Met/HIF1alpha axis was also associated with autophagy failure and prevention of bone metastases [135]. In OS, Tumor-suppressing STF cDNA 3 (TSSC3) is positively correlated with ATG5 expression and can promote autophagy via inactivating the Src-mediated PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway inhibiting proliferation, migration and invasion of OS cells [136]. However, this link between mTOR and autophagy in OS was also documented by showing that the combination of inhibitors of mTOR and inhibitors of autophagy could enhance OS MG63 cells apoptosis [137]. In OS, autophagy is strongly described as a tumor survival and cytoprotective mechanism to provide tumor cells energy under stress conditions and also decrease drug sensitivity [138]. Indeed, studies linked to HSP90 and its family member HSP90AA1 described autophagy in OS as a cytoprotective process and a process involved into drugs resistance [139][140][141]. Indeed, inhibition of autophagy by 3-methyladeine (3-MA) treatment decreases proliferation rate and promotes apoptosis, reversing the autophagyinduced-cytoprotection due to low level of HSP90 (geldanamycin) or high level of HSP90AA1 in OS cells [139]. They further show that HSP90AA1 induces autophagy by impairing PI3K/AKT/mTOR pathway [141]. Beside mTOR, ROS/JNK is also a key regulator of autophagy in OS. Ma et al. had reported that cinobufagin can trigger apoptosis and autophagy

through the activation of the ROS/JNK/P38 axis [142]. The transcription factor Wilms tumor suppressor 1 (WT1) is also associated with autophagy in OS, through the AKT/JNK pathway and the expression of arrest-specific 1 (GAS1) [143]. Investigation on the role of Wnt/β-catenin signaling in the induction of autophagy in OS show that activating the Wnt/β-catenin pathway could increase the sensitivity of beclin 1-overexpressed OS cells to gemcitabine-induced cell death [144]. Several MicroRNAs (miRNA) are also associated with the regulation of autophagy and play an important role in the resistance or sensitivity to chemotherapy. miR-199a-5p that directly target beclin-1, inhibits cisplatin-mediated autophagy and reinforces proliferation in OS inhibition [145]. miR-140-5p is also observed in OS treated with chemotherapy, and overexpression of miR-30a enhanced Dox-stimulated apoptosis and inhibited autophagy [146][147].

#### D. Osteoblastic and osteoclastic factors: osteomimicry and energetic metabolism

Factors that were first detected in bone physiology have been recently linked to metabolic syndromes. RANKL and OPG represent osteoblast-derived paracrine cytokines that are essential for osteoclasts functions and are commonly detected in breast and prostate cancer and highly expressed in bone metastases [148]. Recently, epidemiological studies have linked OPG to insulin resistance in pre-diabetes and type 2 diabetes in postmenopausal women and in obese adolescents [149][150][151] [152]. Elevated serum OPG was also found in diabetic (Type 2) nephropathy and cardiovascular risk (Type 1) [153][154][155]. Other findings imply that OPG exert a common defensive effect on the pathophysiologic alterations responsible for nonalcoholic fatty liver disease [156]. Furthermore, RANKL is proposed as predictor of incident type 2 diabetes mellitus and epigenetic regulation (methylation) of RANKL gene have influences on obesity and adipokine levels [157]. Moreover hepatocyte-specific RANK knockout mice prevent the insulin resistance induced in mutated mice after 4weeks of high-fat

diet [158] and overexpress RANKL (HuRANKL-Tg+) in mice develop sarcopenia while inhibition of RANKL (Denosumab) and OPG improved muscle insulin sensitivity, glucose uptake, and decrease myostatin [159], providing evidence that the RANKL/RANK/OPG axis may be implicated in energetic metabolism of tumor cells in bone. Interestingly, ERR $\alpha$ , that play a central role at the interface of cancer and metabolism, is a direct regulator of OPG and RANK in BCa cells and can inhibit bone metastases progression suggesting that OPG and RANK regulation may, beside impacting osteoclast (OPG), also participate into ERRa energetic reprogramming function in tumor cells that metastasize to bone [81][94][160]. Other factors identified in bone cells, like periostin a secreted cell adhesion protein and sclerostin, a cysteine-knot-containing protein mainly released by osteocytes had also been linked to metabolic syndromes and bone metastases. More precisely, Periostin can promote liver steatosis and hyperglyceridemia and is increased in plasma and associated with glucose and lipids of subjects with obesity and Type 2 Diabetes [161][162]. In contrast, besides an increase in bone volume, Sost-/- mice exhibit a reduction in adipose tissue accumulation in association with increased insulin sensitivity [163]. High level of Slerostin was also found in children and adolescents with Type 1 Diabetes and is described as a biomarker for early Atherosclerosis in obesity [164] [165]. Similar to OPG/RANKL axis, Periostin and Slerostin are markers of osteolytic lesions derived from BCa suggesting that, both factors may impact bone metastases energetic metabolism [166][167][168][169]. In line with bone markers, Runx2 is abnormally expressed in myeloma and in highly metastatic breast and prostate cancer cells and is associated to bone metastases progression [107][170][171][172]. Interestingly, Runx2 is also associated to catabolic process and can enhance autophagy by stimulating trafficking of LC3B vesicles in metastatic breast cancer cells [173]. Runx2 can also alter glucose metabolism in breast cancer cells. It is associated with expression of glycolytic genes; increased glucose uptake and Runx2 knockdown can increase sensitivity to metformin (174]. Conversely, glucose via the activation

of PI3K/Akt pathway stimulates Runx2 but also OPN and osteocalcin (OCN) in osteoblasts [175]. Interestingly, OPN is involved in atherogenesis and hyperglycemia and is also highly expressed in invasive BCa and PCa cells. It is acting as pro-bone metastatic factor and is considered as a biomarker in OS [176][177]. If OPN is implicated in primary tumor proliferation, angiogenesis, invasion and anchorage-independent expansion of tumor cells, it was also described as a modulator of glucose metabolism [178][179]. Osteopontin-a, but not by osteopontin-c could increase glucose level, stimulates lipid signaling through STAT-3 and the stimulation of sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine but down regulates the levels of lactate and taurine in BCa [179]. Osteopontin-a stimulation of cellular glucose levels, may supply the energy source for osteopontin-c mediated anti- anoikis suggesting that OPN may support the survival of circulating tumor cells. Beside the PI3K/Akt pathway, glucose can also upregulate OPN via FoxO1 activation that is closely associated with insulin resistance and diabetes [180]. OCN is one of the main osteogenic hormone linked to energy metabolism. OCN is secreted by osteoblast and through resorption is released into active undercarboxylated active OCN in the blood to act as a hormone that can regulate energy metabolism via enhancement of glucose uptake and increase mitochondria biogenesis in muscle, increase insulin production in pancreas, increase insulin sensitivity and decrease lipid accumulation in the liver and stimulate adiponectin expression in adipose tissue [181]. Recently, clinical and preclinical studies allow to identify circulating OCN-positive cells (cOC) in BCa bone metastases. Progressive disease group present higher baseline cOC and a decrease in bone metastases free survival. In murine, cOC increased at early time points when micrometastases were detectable by histology but not observed by bioluminescence imaging and its expression correlated bone metastases tumor burden [182].

#### V. Treatments targeting tumor cells energetic metabolism in bone.

Reinforcing pre-clinical data, PI3k/mTOR inhibitor rapamycin was found to inhibit osteolytic lesions progression by counteracting osteoclasts and stimulating osteoblasts in breast and prostate derived bone metastases [124][183][184]. Interestingly, rapamycin can also stimulate OPG secretion by host stromal cells inhibiting osteolytic lesions [185]. Finally results from the BOLERO-2 study suggest beneficial effects of the combination therapy exemestane with everolimus (inhibitor of mTOR) by lowering disease progression in the bone and suppress increased bone turnover and resorption observed in exemestane alone [186][187][188]. Everolimus was also shown to decrease mTOR in OS [189]. Denosumab, a fully human monoclonal antibody directed against RANKL that inhibits osteoclasts differentiation, decrease bone metastases progression from BCa and PCa patients and has been shown to improve muscle strengh, insulin sensitivity and glucose uptake in mice suggesting that it may also regulate tumor cell energetic metabolism [190][191][192]. Interestingly, the very commonly drugs the aminobisphosphonates (NBP), used for treatment of metastatic bone disease, prevent prenyl protein transferase of the mevalonate pathway, a major metabolic pathway that plays a key role in sterol isoprenoids, such as cholesterol and androgen synthesis [193][194]. Other mevalonate pathway inhibitors, statins (Atorvastatin, Fluvastatin, Simvastatin), a class of lipid-lowering drugs that target the mevalonate pathway rate-limiting enzyme dominant, the 3-hydroxyl-3methylglutaryl-Coenzyme A reductase (HMG-CoAR), have also been described in bone metastatic treatment and recently in the prevention of osteonecrosis of the jaw [195][196][197]. Accordingly, targeting of SREBP-2 with Fatostatin, which specifically inhibits SCAP (SREBP cleavage-activating protein) and prevents SREBP activation, attenuated breast cancer-induced osteolysis in vivo [91]. Moreover, the combination of Simvastatin and Metformin (activator of AMPK activity) synergistically reduces CRPC cell viability and metastatic properties by stimulating AMPKa activity and decreasing HMG-CoAR, reducing total cellular cholesterol and its synthesis in PCa cells [198]. Interestingly, concerning statins actions, ERR $\alpha$  activation by cholesterol was shown to mediate Simvastatin and zoledronate effects on osteoclasts, muscle and macrophages suggesting that statins and NBP may mediate their effects on bone metastases through the nuclear receptor [79]. Beside metastases, Simvastatin is described to induce apoptosis of OS cell lines through the regulation of the RhoA-AMPK/p38MAPK signaling and to exert anticancer effect via the geranylgeranylation and c-Jun activation [199]. Lovastatin, NBP and metformin also improve OS cell sensitivity to doxorubicin and cisplatin by increasing their cytotoxicity [200]. In line with lipid metabolism regulation, NADPH oxidase activation is involved in LPA stimulating osteolysis through at least three signaling including, LPA, RANKL and TGFβ and NADPH oxidase inhibitors Phycocyanin (anti-oxidant: ROS inhibitor) and statins can decrease osteolytic bone metastases driven by LPA generation [201]. Finally, selective FASN inhibitor antagonizes CRPC growth through metabolic reprogramming [51] and epidemiology has linked omega-3 intake to increase bone density and decrease osteolysis in patients treated with aromatase inhibitor therapy [202].

#### **Conclusions and perspectives**

Multiple mechanisms contribute to primary bone tumor and bone metastases development and among them metabolic flexibility, enabling tumor cells to adapt fluctuations in nutrients is becoming a key step in survival of metastatic cells in bone suggesting that targeting energetic metabolism may constitute new therapeutic pathway into osteo-oncology. Several genes implicated in osteomimicry are described these days in metabolic syndromes and involved in metabolites metabolism (glucose, lipids) suggesting their implication, not only on bone microenvironment alteration, *i.e* osteoclasts, osteoblasts, CAF or immune cells, but also in energetic fuel used, re-programming and adaptation for survival and progression in bone lesions. On the other side, master genes and co-regulators of multiple energetic metabolic pathways identified in metabolic diseases, should also constitute new research avenues to decipher new mechanisms of action of tumor cells in bone anchorage, survival, dormancy and progression. In conclusion, identifying metabolic signatures could therefore constitute, not only new therapeutic paths but also a new means of monitoring tumors metabolic status contributing to a better-personalized medicine.

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# Legends

Fig.1: Imaging energetic metabolism of bone metastases.

# Fig.2: Metabolites and molecular signalings involved in energy metabolism in bone

### tumors.

## Table.1: Genes involved in energetic program of tumor bone lesions.

BM: Bone metastases, OS: Osteosarcoma, ES: Ewing Sarcoma

# Table.1

Gene/miR name	Metabolic function	Cancer type	References
ATX	LPA synthesis	BM (BCa)	[52, 53]
ASIC1-3 OGR1, TRPV1	pH sensing (protons) (Lactate induce low pH)	BM (BCa) Osteoblasts	[36-38, 40, 41]
BDNF	Induced by low pH	BM (BCa)	[42, 43]
Beclin-1	Autophagy	BM (BCa)	[135]
CREB	Metabolic sensor Glycolysis-ROS detoxification	BM (BCa) / OS	[89, 92]
EEF1D	Protein metabolism mTOR signaling	OS	[131]
ERRα	OXPHOS Warburg effect Glutamine, Folate, Lactate, FA oxidation	BM (BCa and PCa)	[81-83]
EWS/FLI	Metabolism reprogramming Decrease glycolysis	Ewing Sarcoma	[112]
FABP4	Lipid transport	BM (PCa)	[49]
FASN	Fatty Acid synthesis	BM (PCa)	[51]
GLUT1	Glycolysis	BM (BCa and PCa)	[2]
GLS1	Glutamine uptake	OS	[44]
GPNMBr	mTOR signaling	OS	[132]
HMG-CoA	Cholesterol (synthesis)	BM (PCa)	[50]
HSP90 HSP90AA1	Autophagy mTOR signaling ROS/JNK/P38	OS	[139-142]
LDHA	Lactate metabolism	BM (BCa and PCa)	[4]

LDL-R	Cholesterol influx	BM (PCa)	[50]
MCT-1	Lactate uptake Lactate fuel	OS Osteoclasts	[21, 22]
MCT-4	Lactate release	BM (BCa), OS	[18, 20-22]
miR-199a-5p miR-140-5p miR-30a	Autophagy	OS	[145-147]
МҮС	Glycolysis Glutaminolysis Mitochondria biogenesis	OS BM (PCa)	[99-101]
NGF	Induced by low pH	BM (BCa)	[42, 43]
OCN	Glucose metabolism Insulin Lipids Mitochondria biogenesis	BM (BCa)	[181, 182]
P2X7	ATP-gated ion channel mTOR signaling	OS	[133]
PDK1	Pyruvate metabolism	BM (BCa)	[55]
PGC1a	Multiple energetic metabolic pathways	BM (PCa	[67]
PGK1	Glycolysis	BM (PCa)	[16]
6PGL	РРР	BM (BCa)	[17]
PHGDH	L-serine biosynthesis Link with EWS/FLI	BM (Bca) ES	[45, 112]
ΡΡΑRγ	Lipids metabolism	BM (BCa)	[20, 49]
PRDX2	Ros metabolism	BM (BCa)	[56]

PSAT1	L-serine biosynthesis Link with EWS/FLI	BM (BCa) ES	[45, 112]
PSPH	L-serine biosynthesis Link with EWS/FLI	BM (BCa) ES	[45, 112]
6PGL	РРР	BM (BCa)	[17]
Rab5a	Autophagy	BM (BCa)	[135]
RAS	Glycolysis, Nucleotide Acid synthesis, OXPHOS	BM (PCa)	[103, 106, 107]
SR-B1	Cholesterol influx	BM (PCa)	[50]
mTOR/S6K	Metabolic sensor	BM (BCa, PCa)	[120, 122-124, 137]
TSSC3	ATG5 correlation mTOR signaling Autophagy	OS	[178]
WNT/β-catenin	Autophagy (Beclin-1)	OS	[144]
WT1	Autophagy, AKT/JNK GAS1	OS	[143]

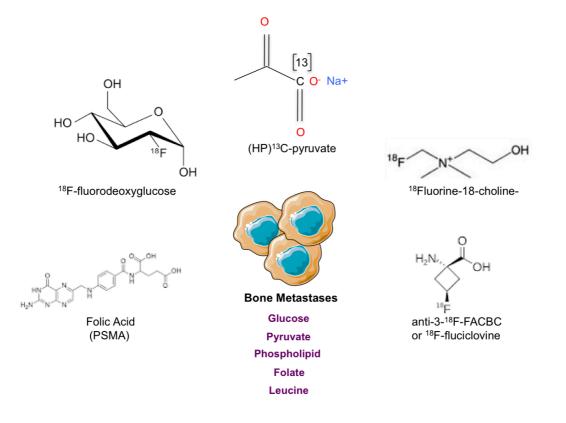


Figure.1:

