

International Waldentrom's Patient Meeting  
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# **Disease morbidities 1; Polyneuropathy, Bing Neel, Amyloid**

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# Waldenstrom Macroglobulinemia

## Cancer cells :

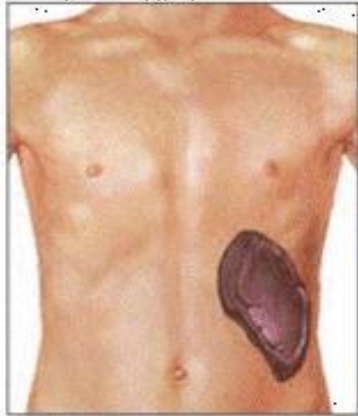
- B lymphocytes
- Plasmacells
- Represented as % in reports

## Blood;

- “wrong protein ” =  
M protein/paraprotein
- Represented in gr/L

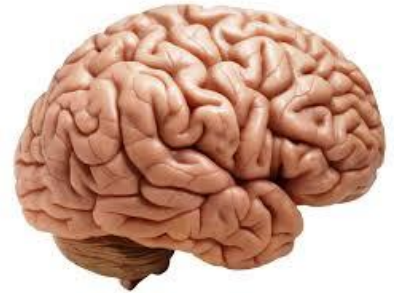
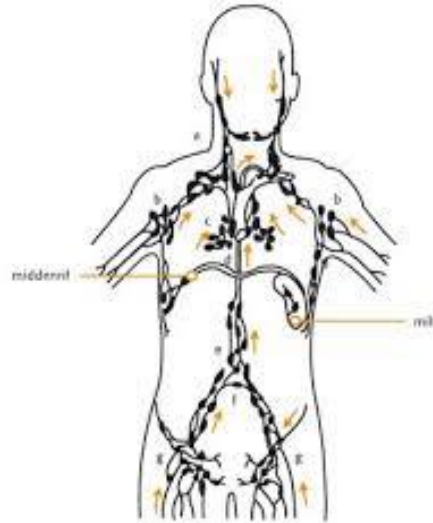


# Besides bone marrow the cancer cell can be present in other places of the body



Spleen, 15-30%

Lymph nodes ;  
15-30%



Brain + Spinal fluid  
≈ 1%; **Bing Neel Syndrome**

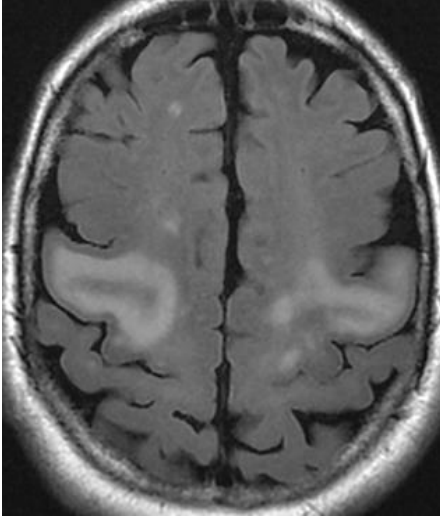


# Bing Neel syndrome

- Complaint difficult to recognise and very diverse
  - Mood disorder, psychic differences
  - Diminished strength arm or leg
  - Cranial nerve loss
  - Neuropathy
  - Balance disorder
  - Dizziness
  - Pain neck, back, legs
  - Memory loss
- Bing Neel Syndrome can arise while bone marrow disease and M protein is stable.



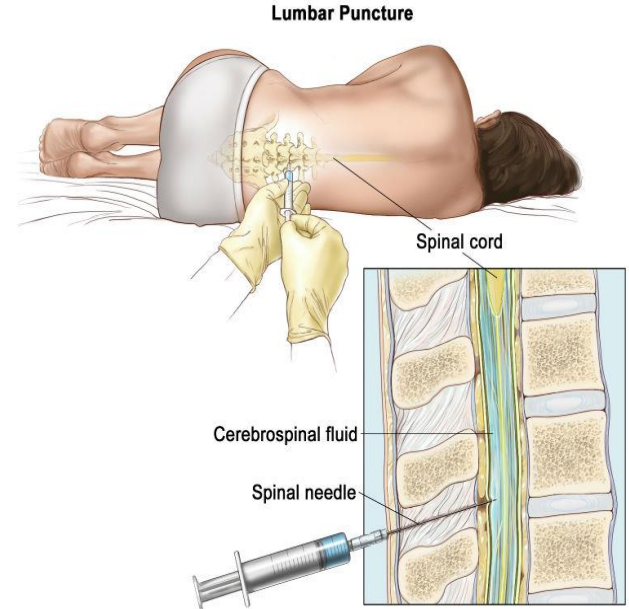
# Bing Neel Syndrome ; Diagnosis



MRI scan of brain and spine

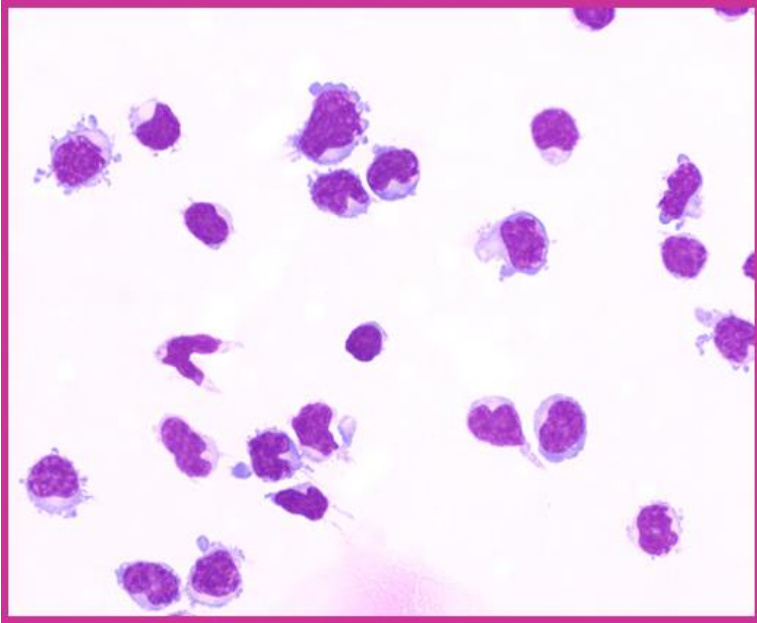


Operation for brain biopsy



Lumbar puncture

# Bing Neel Syndrome; Spinal fluid



- Presence of too many lymphocytes?
- Different lymphocytes in morphology?
- Clonal cells ?
  - Flow cytometry
  - Molecular *MYD88*<sup>L265P</sup> mutation present ?



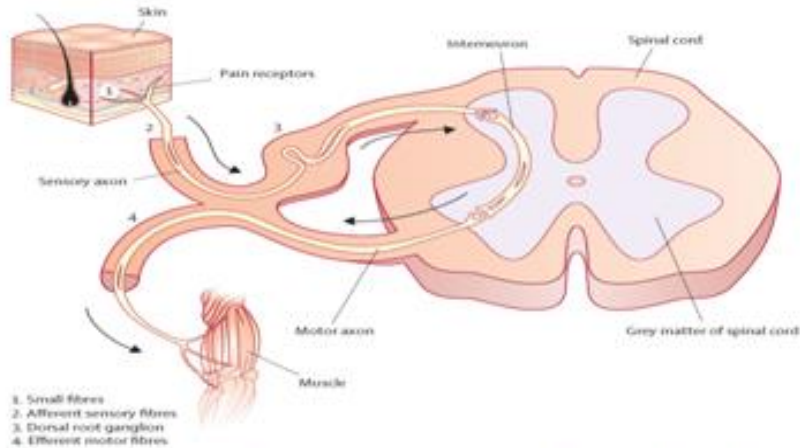
# Bing Neel Syndrome

- Can be treated, several possibilities
- Recovery of complaints is possible
- **Milestones in IWWM9?**
  - First international guideline published
  - Recognition of BNS improved
  - Discussion of several treatment options
  - Possibility for clinical study created



# What is Polyneuropathy?

What is peripheral neuropathy (PN)?



Peripheral neuropathy = nerve damage which manifests peripherally (toes, fingers)  
PN can be sensory, motorial and autonomous  
PN can induce pain

## Sensory Neuropathy

- tingling
- change in temperature
- pain
- lack of coordination
- feeling of tight sock/glove

## Motorial Neuropathy

- weak muscles, paralysis
- painfull cramps



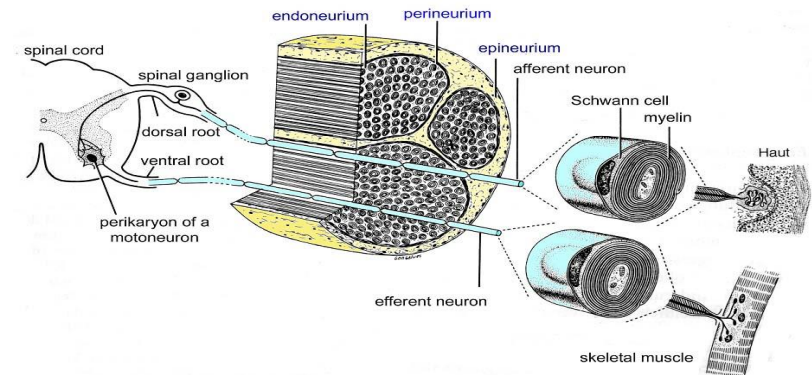


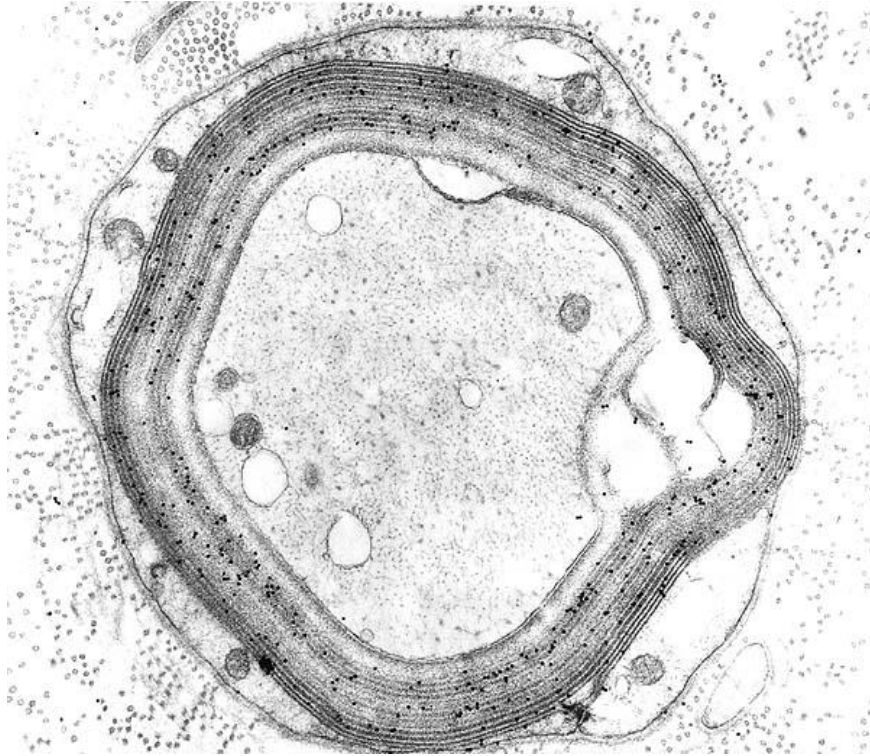
# Neuropathy in Waldenström's

- IgM paraprotein reacts with part of nerve cell, such as myelin (anti-MAG antibody); Inflammation and complaints
- 25-30% has neuropathy at diagnosis
- IgM related disease ; MGUS with neuropathy

## Anatomy of a normal nerve

- Other causes ;
  - Amyloidosis
  - Cryoglobulinaemia
  - POEMS syndrome





anti-MAG antibodies in  
myelin leaflet ; complaints!

Not everybody has anti  
MAG antibodies



# CIPN: Chemotherapy induced neuropathy

- Bortezomib
- Vincristin
- Anti-CD20 antibodies can sometimes increase PN
- Waldenström patients more sensitive to CIPN



# Treatment of Waldenström related PN

- Treatment of the disease itself
  - Do not use therapy with increased risk of CIPN
- Chance on positive result; 50%
- Nerve cells divide very slowly
- Pain medication
  
- IgM MGUS related neuropathy; monotherapy  
Rituximab/anti CD20 therapy



# Treatment of CIPN

- Not possible
- Complaints can be reversible after stopping therapy
- Important to stop in time with anti WM therapy
- Pain medication in PN:
  - Amitriptyline
  - Neurontin
  - Lyrica
- Be cautious: Vitamin B6 can induce PN! (> 200 mg/daily)



# Polyneuropathy; IMM9

- Multidisciplinary guideline prepared for evaluation and treatment of the different types of PN, related to IgM diseases and Waldenstrom
- New medication (ie BTK inhibitors, oral proteasome inhibitors)
  - effect on PN improvement unknown
  - Do not induce CIPN



# Amyloidosis;

## disease caused by protein accumulation as insoluble fibres

- Amyloid is formed from abnormal M protein
- Insoluble fibres in organs, deterioration of organs; complaints start.
- 6% of AL amyloidosis caused by IgM M proteins due to Waldenström or IgM-MGUS
- 94% caused by MGUS/Multiple Myeloma (IgG or IgA M-protein)



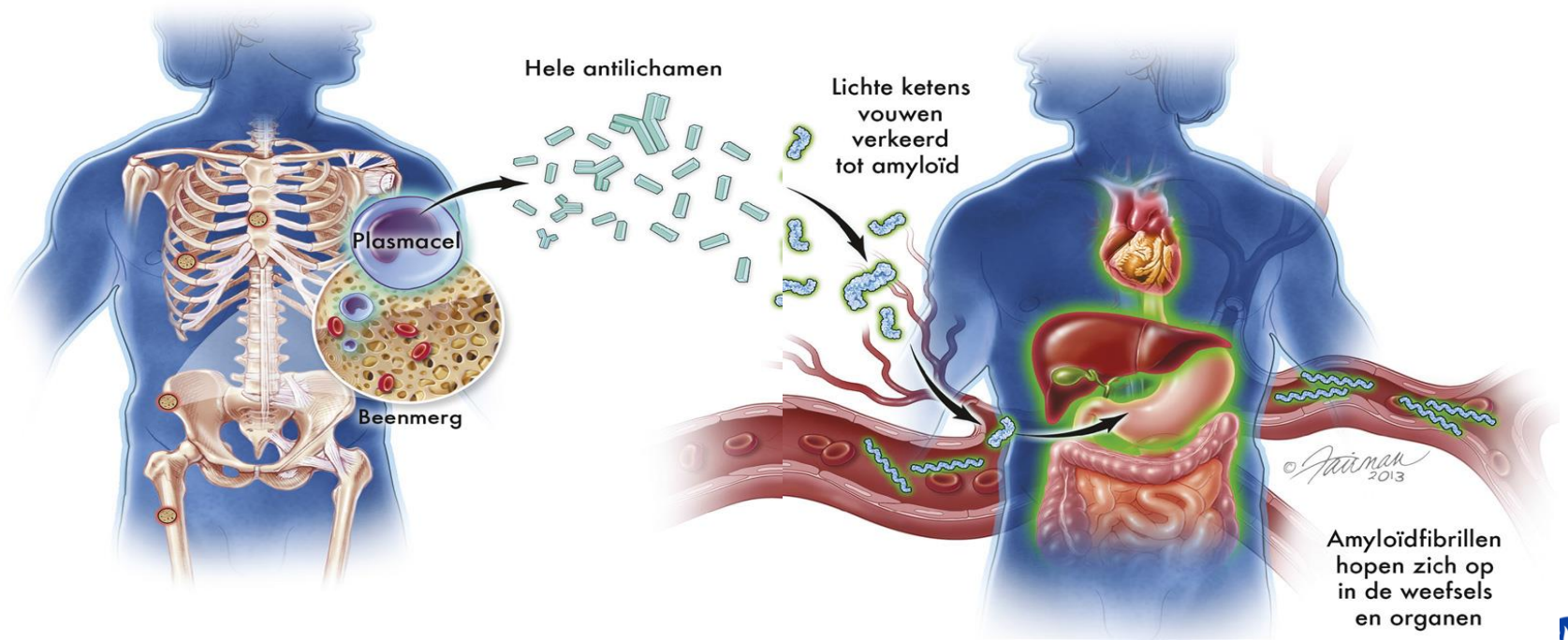
# Symptoms

- Polyneuropathy
- Fatigue
- Worse kidney function
- Proteinurie
- Thickening Cardiac wall
- Enlarged lymphenodes
- Bleeding
- Enlarged liver
- Diarrhea

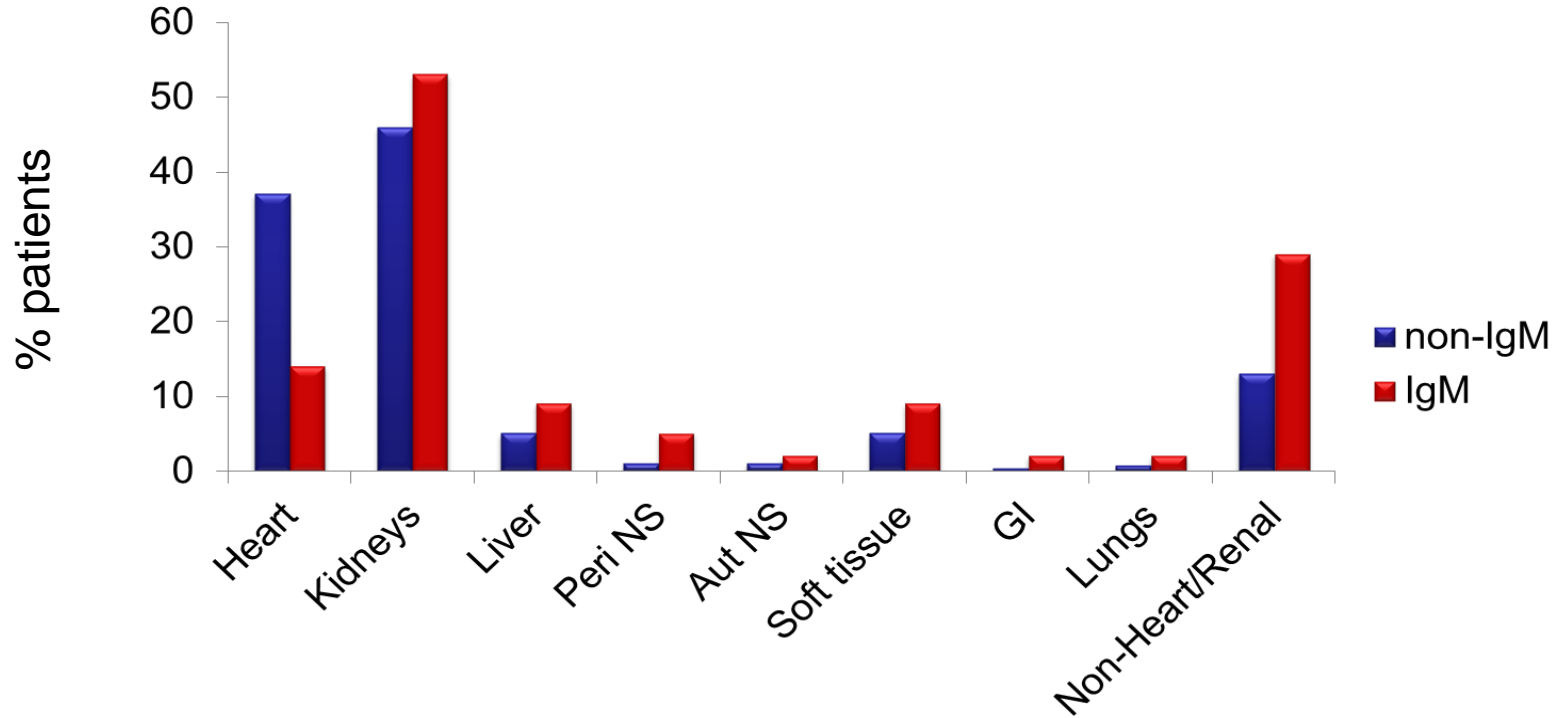




# How are amyloid fibres formed



# Dominant organ at diagnosis AL amyloidosis



# “underlying” disease

## Non-IgM

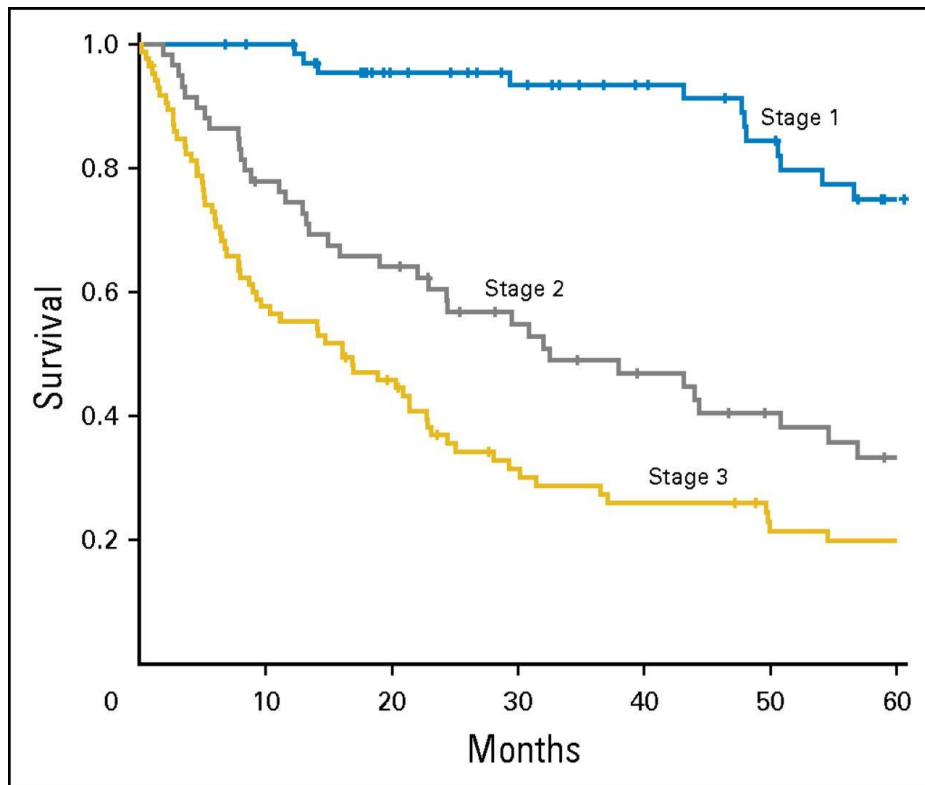
- Plasma cell dyscrasia
- Median ~ 7-9% plasma cell infiltration
- 15% have Multiple Myeloma

## IgM

- Lymphoproliferative disease – 52%
- ‘Plasma cell’ – 6%
- Normal bone marrow – 14%
- Unknown – 28%
- Lymphoproliferative disease
- ✓ Waldenstrom – 74%
- ✓ NHL-ns – 25%
- ✓ Follicular, CLL – 1%



# New staging system for IgM AL amyloidosis



## Factors:

- NT-proBNP >332
- Trop-T >0.03 ug/L
- Liver involvement
- Neuropathy ; autonomous

Stage I – 0 (90 m)

Stage II– 1 (32m)

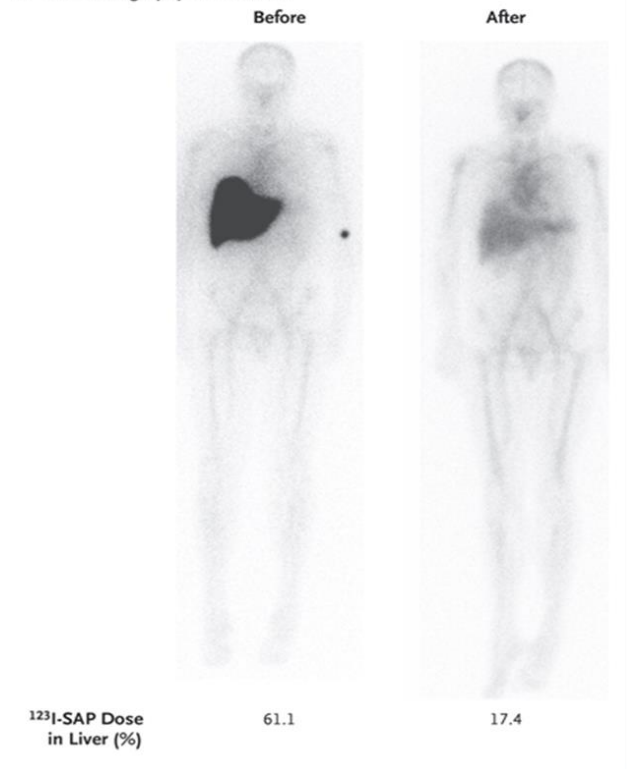
Stage III - 2 or more  
(16m)



# Treatment

- Goal ; M protein as low as possible
  - CR / VGPR
- Vulnerable patients
  - Bortezomib
  - Fludarabine
  - Autologous stem cell transplantation
- New ; anti amyloid antibodies

D SAP Scintigraphy in Patient 13



# Waldenström workshop

