

# POTENTIAL PREDICTORS OF NODAL METASTASIS IN EARLY TONGUE CANCER FOUND THROUGH APERIO IMAGE ANALYSIS

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## Introduction

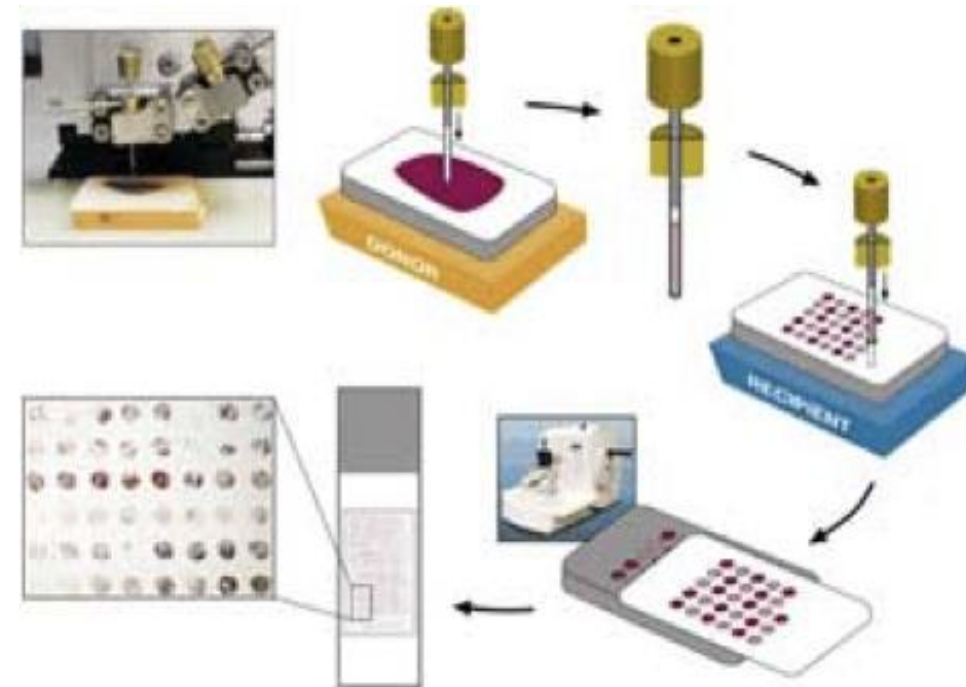
- Oral cancer is the eleventh most common cancer worldwide (WHO)
- Pakistan has one of the highest incidence of oral cancer in the world
- Approximately 20-30% of patients with early oral tongue carcinoma will have occult neck nodal modal metastasis
- Presently, elective neck dissection remains the only reliable way to predict regional and or distant metastasis
- There has been an influx of studies to determine if biomarkers, both genetic and proteomic of oral cancers diagnosis, prognosis, and metastatic potential

## Experimental Aim

Signature proteins will constitute new markers for predicted of nodal metastasis in the form of potential biomarker panel in SCCOT

## Methods

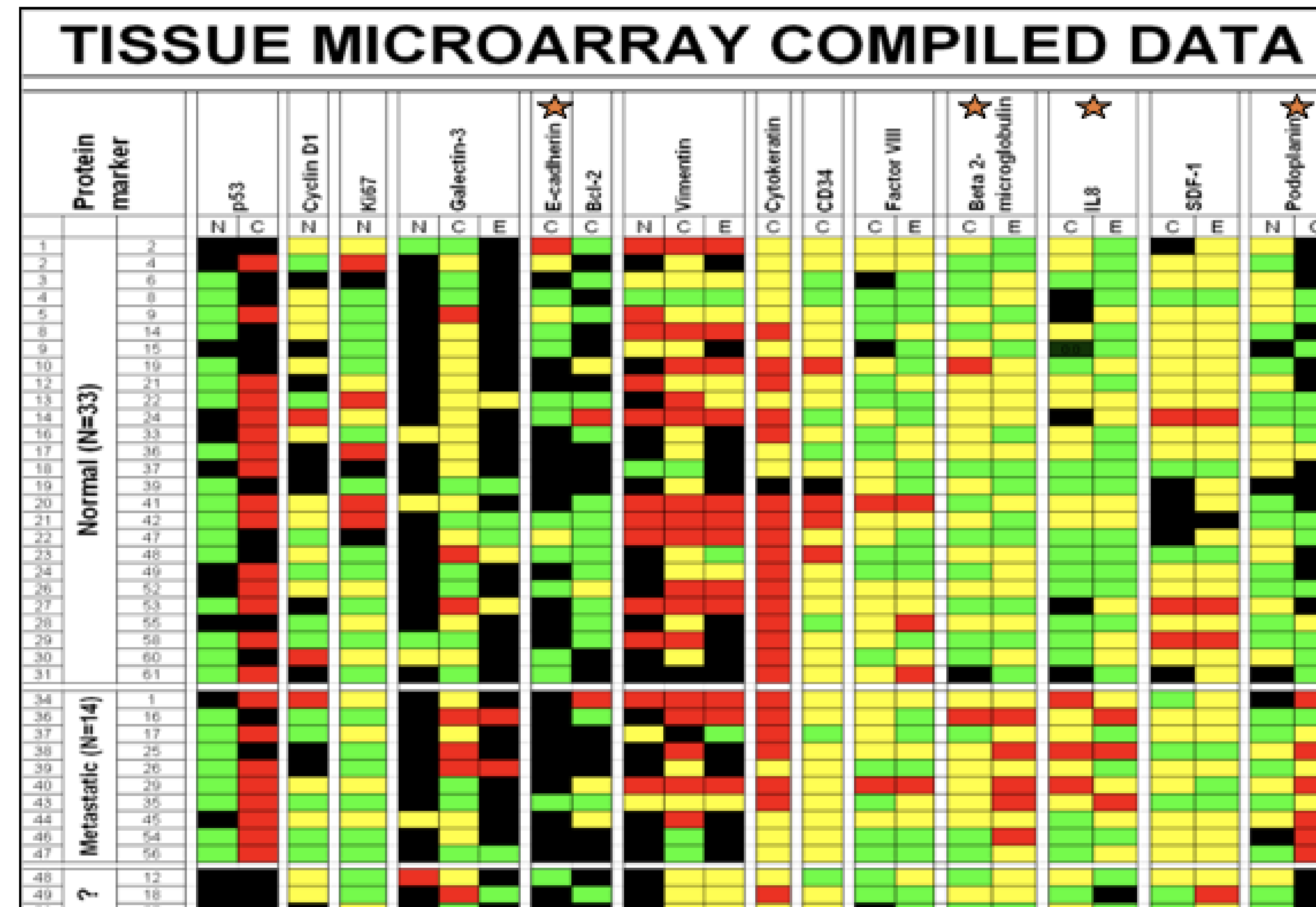
Retrospective analysis was performed in a double-blind manner on tissues microarray (5 cores/patient) created from paraffin-embedded specimens from 50 patients with well documented clinical history of the disease. A subset of 20 different proteins were elected as potential biomarkers of metastasis based on published literature on SCCOT and analyzed through immunohistochemistry. Three proteins, E-cadherin, Podoplanin, and Microglobulin were found as possible predicators of metastasis. These findings were validated using Aperio image analysis software.



TMA-1

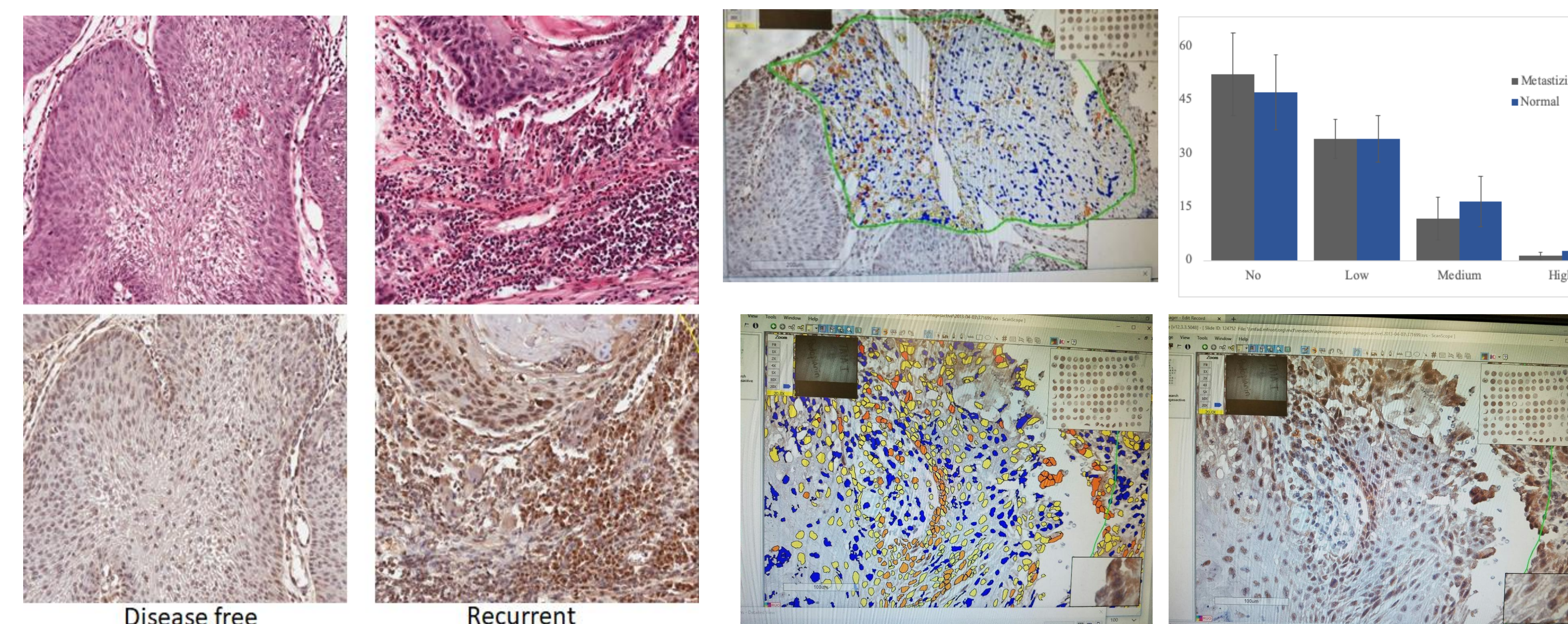
A tissue microarray was used to analyze the samples. Multiple cores from each patient sample was placed on a slide glass and analyzed one time instead of individually.

Figure 1



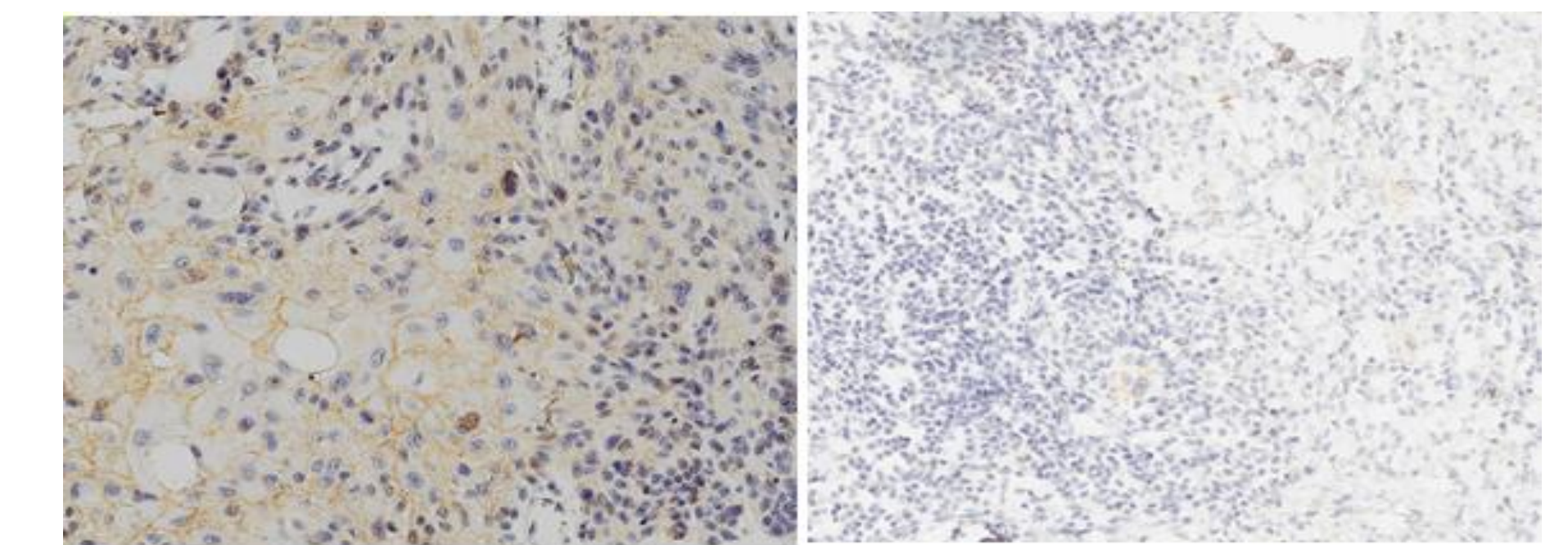
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## Podoplanin results were not confirmed through Aperio analysis



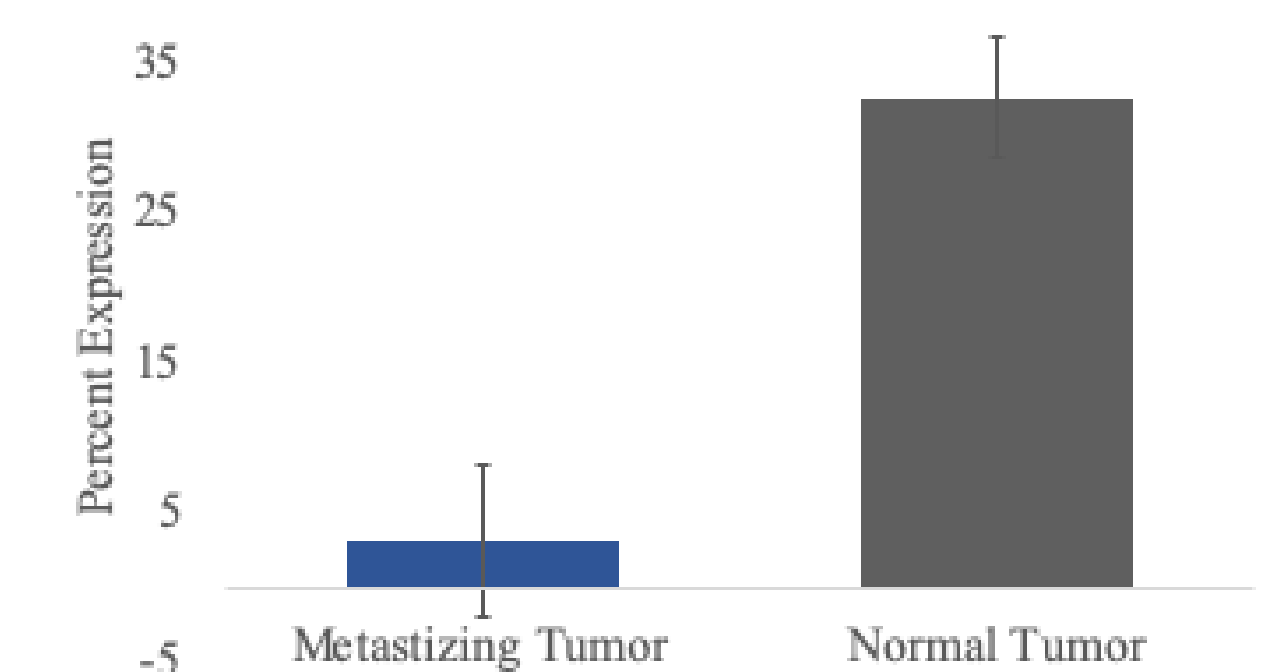
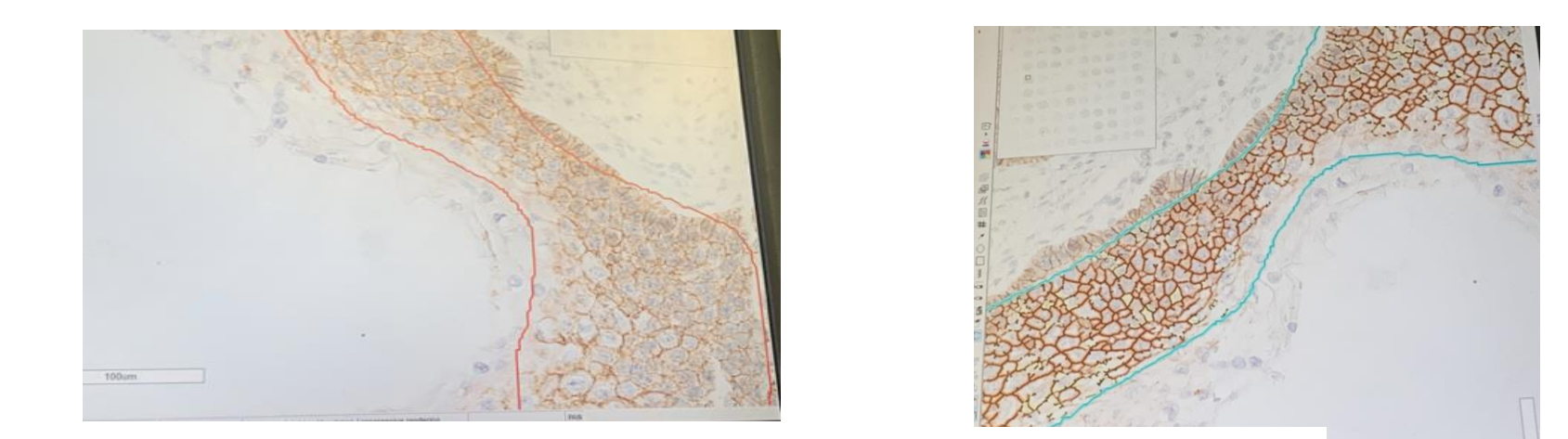
After Aperio analysis, it can be shown by that graph that there is no significance to support any conclusion that podoplanin is a biomarker for oral cancer. Further research is needed to develop new significant findings.

## Aperio analysis confirms absence of e-cadherin as potential marker for recurrent disease



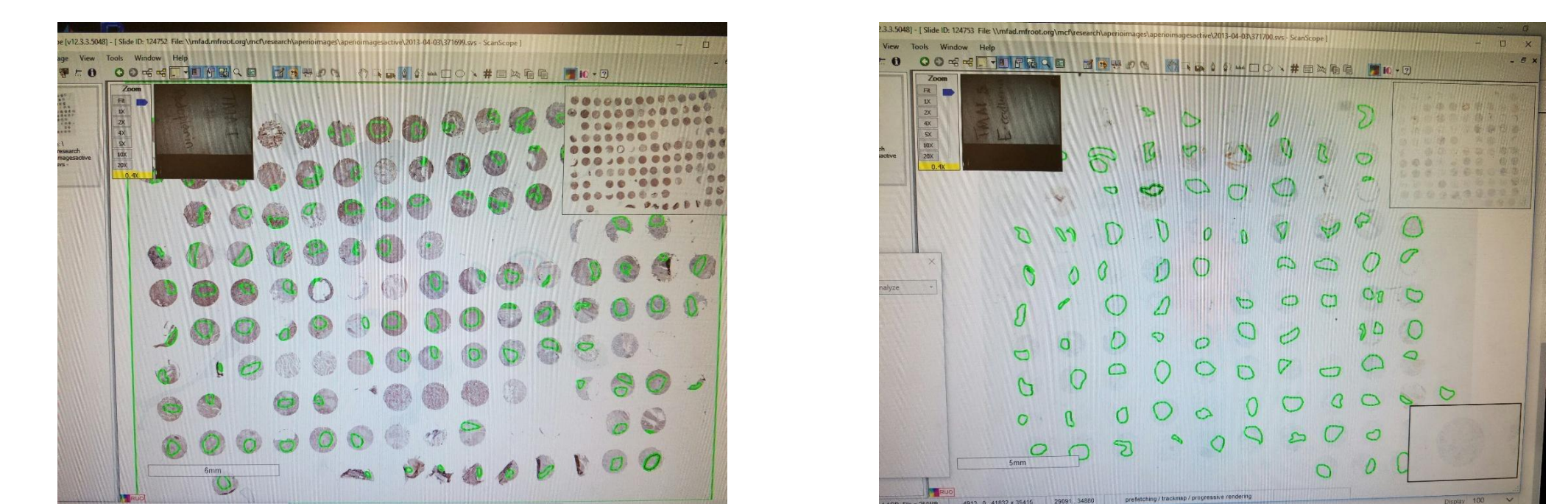
Disease free

Recurrent



The graph above depicts the levels of E-Cadherin of the normal vs. metastasized cells. Metastasized cells show lower levels of E-Cadherin in comparison to the normal cells and suggest E-Cadherin as a possible biomarker for oral cancer.

## Importance of area selection in Aperio analysis



- Data review of Podoplanin revealed incorrect section choices. Need to rescore by Aperio using correct area matching tumor tissue histology results.
- E-cadherin data analysis confirmed its importance in maintaining normal behavior of cells through cell-cell and cell-matrix interactions.

## Future Directions

Need to confirm analyses for Beta 2 microglobulin and repeat Podoplanin analysis.

## Clinical Relevance

These results can help in translating these markers to clinical practice in order to examine how the disease progresses.