



The Volatile Body: Mapping Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Phenotypes for Oncological Detection and Target-Agnostic Metabolic Resonance Therapy

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DOI: 10.31080/ASPS.2026.10.1284

Received: July 10, 2026

Published: September 09, 2026

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Abstract

Traditional oncology heavily relies on invasive tissue biopsies and localized, high-energy radiological interventions. However, the human “volatolome”-the complete profile of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) emitted via breath, sweat, and sebum presents an untapped frontier for non-invasive diagnostics and potential bio-resonant therapeutics. This review synthesizes current advancements in gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and electronic-nose (e-nose) technologies utilized to map metabolic shifts in cancer patients. Furthermore, we introduce a novel biophysical hypothesis: pathologically distinct VOC signatures from oncological patients can be computationally isolated, mapped, and mathematically converted into specific, non-ionizing electromagnetic wavebands (such as terahertz or far-infrared). We propose that delivering these tailored, bio-resonant frequencies back to the patient could selectively disrupt metabolic or structural pathways unique to the malignant phenotype, offering a non-invasive, target-agnostic therapeutic modality.

Keywords: Volatolome; Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs); Cancer Biomarkers; Bio-electronic Medicine; Terahertz Radiation; Metabolic Resonance

Introduction: The Human Volatolome as a Biomarker Engine

Cellular transformation and malignancy are systematically characterized by profound metabolic reprogramming, such as the classic upregulation of glycolysis under aerobic conditions known as the Warburg effect [1]. These aberrant intracellular pathways alter systemic biochemistry long before macroscopic structural tumours manifest, generating distinct metabolic byproducts. Among these byproducts are Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)-low-molecular-weight molecules that easily evaporate at room temperature and circulate through the bloodstream, eventually escaping the body via respiration, skin surfaces, and biological fluids [2].

The human volatolome comprises thousands of these compounds, reflecting genetic backgrounds, dietary intake, and metabolic status [3]. While everyday phenotypes present common aromatic baselines (e.g., compounds mimicking common botanicals or dietary lipid peroxidation), the presentation of specialized, atypical volatolome signatures points to highly specific metabolic configurations. Recent advances have firmly established the diagnostic potential of these olfactory profiles in identifying metabolic diseases and distinct cancers [4]. However, their utility has historically been limited to passive detection. This paper reviews the current state of oncological VOC profiling and proposes a novel framework where these volatile signatures serve as a direct blueprint for personalized, wave-based metabolic therapy.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in oncological diagnostics

Malignant cells exhibit altered oxidative stress profiles, cytochrome P450 activation, and cell membrane composition,

leading to the emission of specific VOC classes, including alkanes, alcohols, aldehydes, and ketones [5].

Cancer Type	Major VOC Biomarkers	Sampling Medium	Detection Method	Biological Basis	Representative Reference
Lung Cancer	Hexanal, Nonanal, Benzene derivatives	Breath	GC-MS, E-Nose	Lipid peroxidation	Amann., <i>et al.</i>
Breast Cancer	Heptanal, Octanal, Pentanal	Breath, Skin	GC-MS	Oxidative stress	Phillips., <i>et al.</i>
Colorectal Cancer	Acetone, Butyrate, Ethanol	Breath, Fecal headspace	GC-MS	Altered gut metabolism	Altomare., <i>et al.</i>
Melanoma	Isovaleric acid, Dimethyl sulfone	Skin, Dermal headspace	GC-MS	Abnormal amino acid metabolism	Kwak., <i>et al.</i>
Ovarian Cancer	2-Butanone, Pentanal	Breath	GC-MS	Fatty acid oxidation	Horvath., <i>et al.</i>
Pancreatic Cancer	Formaldehyde, Acetaldehyde, Hexanal	Breath	GC-MS	Oxidative metabolism	Markar., <i>et al.</i>
Gastric Cancer	Ethanol, Acetaldehyde	Breath	GC-MS	Altered gastric metabolism	Amal., <i>et al.</i>
Liver Cancer	Dimethyl sulfide, Methanethiol	Breath	GC-MS	Sulfur metabolism	Qin., <i>et al.</i>
Prostate Cancer	Sarcosine-associated VOCs, Aldehydes	Urine	GC-MS	Amino acid metabolism	Khalid., <i>et al.</i>
Bladder Cancer	Phenols, Ketones	Urine	GC-MS	Urothelial metabolism	Willis., <i>et al.</i>
Cervical Cancer	Decanal, Hexanal	Vaginal secretions	GC-MS	Lipid oxidation	Di Lena., <i>et al.</i>
Kidney Cancer	Aliphatic hydrocarbons	Urine	GC-MS	Oxidative stress	Mochalski., <i>et al.</i>
Oral Cancer	Sulfur-containing VOCs	Breath, Saliva	GC-MS	Bacterial and tumor metabolism	Tangerman., <i>et al.</i>
Esophageal Cancer	Hexane derivatives, Aldehydes	Breath	GC-MS	Cellular oxidation	Kumar., <i>et al.</i>
Leukemia	Aldehydes, Ketones	Breath	GC-MS	Systemic metabolic alterations	Various studies

Table 1: Reported VOC Biomarkers Associated with Different Malignancies.

Analytical configurations such as Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) combined with solid-phase microextraction (SPME) represent the gold standard for identifying these trace-level volatile profiles [9]. Concurrently, cross-reactive sensor arrays commonly referred to as electronic noses (e-noses) utilize nanomaterials (e.g., gold nanoparticles, carbon nanotubes) to

generate distinct “breathprints” or “odourprints” unique to specific pathologies without needing to isolate individual chemical entities [10].

The proposed hypothesis: From volatolomis to bio-electronic resonance therapy

While utilizing VOCs for early detection is an active area of research, we hypothesize a novel therapeutic application:

Volatolomic-driven Bio-electronic Resonance (VBER). The concept relies on capturing a patient's oncological VOC signature, isolating it from healthy baselines, translating those chemical structures into equivalent electromagnetic wavebands, and applying those waves to induce targeted metabolic disruption.

Patient Olfactory Map----> Subtraction of Healthy

| (GC-MS / E-Nose Profile) | | Background Voc Phenotypes |-->

| Target-Agnostic Cellular | <---- | Translation to Specific |

| Destructive Interference | | Electromagnetic Frequencies |

Phase I: Differential phenotype filtration

To isolate the exact "malignant scent phenotype," a patient's raw volatolome data must be computationally overlaid with, and subtracted from, a standardized library of healthy human volatolomes. This process filters out common baseline environmental factors, dietary signals, and healthy metabolic noise [3]. The remaining isolated volatile map represents the unique, pathologically derived chemical signature of the patient's specific oncological state.

Mathematical representation of the malignant volatolome

Let

$$V_p = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$$

Represent the patient's VOC profile obtained using GC-MS or electronic nose analysis.

Similarly,

$$V_h = \{h_1, h_2, \dots, h_n\}$$

Represents the reference healthy human volatolome.

The isolated malignant VOC signature is computed as

$$V_c = V_p - V_h$$

Where

V_p = Patient VOC profile

V_h = Healthy baseline

V_c = Cancer-specific VOC profile

Each volatile compound possesses characteristic molecular vibrational frequencies according to quantum spectroscopy,

Where

$$E_i = h\nu_i$$

h = Planck's constant

ν_i = Molecular vibrational frequency.

The personalized therapeutic frequency spectrum is therefore estimated as

$$F_{therapy} = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i \nu_i$$

Where w_i represents the normalized abundance of each VOC.

This mathematical formulation provides a computational basis for translating chemical signatures into personalized electromagnetic resonance spectra.

Phase II: Spectroscopic translation and electromagnetic frequency generation

Every molecule possesses unique rotational, vibrational, and translational energy states dictated by its chemical bonds. When exposed to electromagnetic radiation, these molecules interact with highly specific frequencies [11].

Rather than utilizing high-energy ionizing radiation (such as conventional gamma or X-ray radiotherapy, which cause indiscriminate DNA double-strand breaks), our hypothesis proposes translating the chemical signature of the isolated tumour-associated VOCs into a corresponding spectrum of non-ionizing, high-frequency radiation specifically in the Terahertz (THz) or Far-Infrared (FIR) bands (0.1THz to 10THz). Terahertz radiation is highly sensitive to the low-frequency collective vibrations of biomolecules and hydrogen-bond networks without disrupting genetic architecture [12]. By calculating the collective spectroscopic absorption and emission frequencies of the isolated tumour VOCs, a synthetic "bio-resonant blueprint" wave-packet can be computationally generated.

Proposed volatolomic resonance mapping theorem (Hypothesis)

Theorem (Hypothetical)

For every distinguishable malignant metabolic phenotype characterized by a unique volatile organic compound distribution , there exists a corresponding non-ionizing electromagnetic spectrum capable of interacting with the biochemical pathways responsible for generating that phenotype.

Mathematically,

$f: V_c \rightarrow F_c$

Where

V_c denotes the isolated malignant volatolome,

F_c denotes the personalized resonance spectrum,

f represents the computational translation function.

This theorem is proposed as a theoretical framework requiring future experimental validation.

Phase III: Targeted resonance therapy application

When these tailored THz or FIR frequencies are directed back into the target tissue, they are hypothesized to interact selectively via resonance with the precise cellular microenvironments and metabolic structures that generated those VOCs in the first place.

Applying principles akin to destructive interference or targeted photo-acoustic disruption, these precise wave frequencies could selectively stress the malignant cells’ fragile metabolic membranes or disrupt their enzyme kinetics [13]. Because healthy tissues possess a radically different volatile profile and baseline vibrational state, they would remain transparent to these customized, tumour-specific wavebands, significantly reducing peripheral toxicity.

Algorithm 1. Volatolomic-to-bioelectronic resonance conversion (VBRC)

Proposed Computational Workflow

Patient



Breath / Sweat / Sebum / Urine



GC-MS + Electronic Nose



VOC Matrix



Noise Removal



Healthy Baseline Library



Cancer VOC Signature



Machine Learning



Spectroscopic Database



Frequency Generator



THz/FIR Resonance Therapy



VOC Reassessment



Adaptive Personalized Therapy

Step	Computational Process
1	Collect breath, sweat, sebum and urine VOC samples
2	Analyze VOC profile using GC-MS and electronic nose
3	Normalize VOC concentrations
4	Remove environmental and dietary VOC noise
5	Subtract healthy baseline VOC library
6	Obtain cancer-specific VOC phenotype
7	Cluster biomarkers using PCA/t-SNE
8	Retrieve molecular vibrational frequencies from spectroscopy databases
9	Compute weighted therapeutic frequency spectrum
10	Generate THz/FIR electromagnetic waveform
11	Deliver personalized resonance therapy
12	Re-evaluate VOC profile after therapy
13	Update resonance spectrum using adaptive learning

Algorithm

Discussion and Future Experimental Validation

Transitioning this hypothesis from a theoretical framework to clinical validity requires addressing several key checkpoints:

- In Vitro VOC-to-Frequency Mapping:** Headspace VOC analysis must be paired with terahertz time-domain spectroscopy (THz-TDS) on specific cancer cell lines (e.g., MCF-7 vs. MCF-10A) to map how specific volatile concentrations correlate to real-time electromagnetic absorption changes [14].
- Computational Modelling:** Developing robust algorithms capable of taking multidimensional GC-MS datasets and accurately calculating their macro-molecular vibrational frequencies.
- Biological Safety:** Verifying that chronic exposure to targeted non-ionizing THz spectra selectively induces apoptosis in malignant cells via metabolic stress without inducing thermal damage in adjacent healthy tissues [15].

Artificial intelligence assisted frequency optimization

Machine learning algorithms may significantly improve the proposed workflow by identifying complex multidimensional VOC relationships that are difficult to detect using conventional statistical methods. Principal Component Analysis (PCA), Support Vector Machines (SVM), Random Forests, Artificial Neural Networks

(ANNs), Autoencoders and Bayesian Optimization can classify VOC phenotypes, optimize resonance frequency prediction, personalize treatment parameters and continuously adapt therapeutic waveforms according to longitudinal patient monitoring.

Conclusion

The integration of volatolomics with bio-electronic medicine represents a paradigm shift in oncology. By viewing the body’s olfactory footprint not merely as a passive byproduct of disease, but as a dynamic, structural reflection of cellular energy states, we open the door to fully personalized, non-invasive, target-agnostic therapeutic interventions.

Limitations

The proposed framework remains hypothetical and requires extensive experimental validation. VOC profiles may be influenced by age, diet, smoking status, medications, microbiome composition, environmental exposure, and circadian variation. Furthermore, tissue penetration of THz radiation, resonance specificity, and long-term biological safety remain incompletely understood. Future studies should standardize VOC acquisition protocols, validate computational resonance models, and investigate therapeutic efficacy *in vitro*, *in vivo*, and clinical settings.

Future Directions

Future investigations should integrate large-scale volatilomic databases with artificial intelligence, quantum chemistry simulations, terahertz spectroscopy, molecular dynamics modeling, and digital twin oncology platforms. Wearable electronic noses coupled with real-time cloud-based resonance optimization could ultimately enable continuous, personalized, non-invasive cancer diagnosis and adaptive metabolic therapy.

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