

# Updates in Colorectal Cancer

Thomas Reske, MD PhD CMD AGFS FACP

Associate Professor of Medicine

*LSUHSC New Orleans, LA*

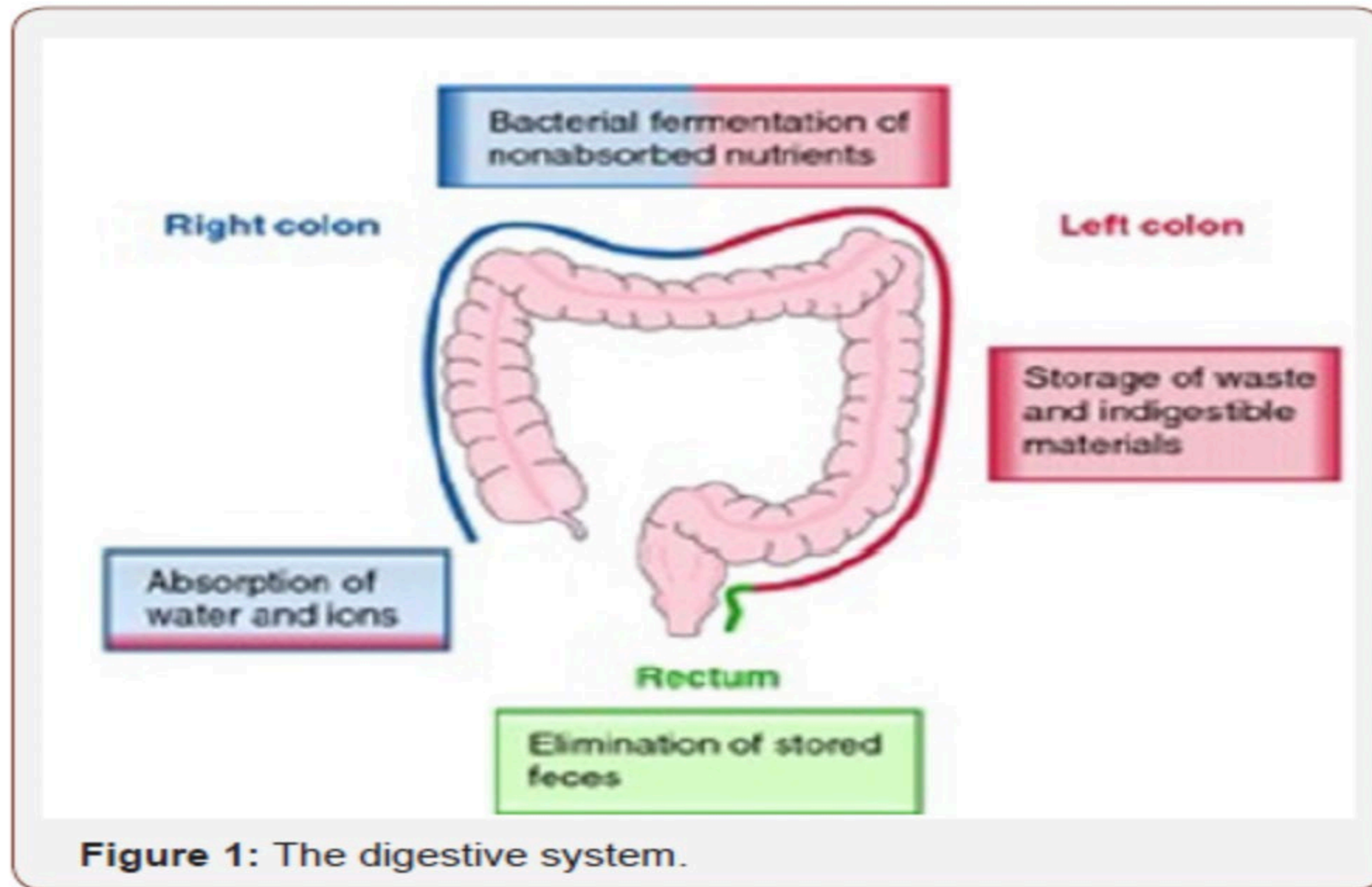
# Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Thomas Reske, MD, has no real or apparent financial relationships to disclose.



The following slides were shared by authors/presenters and permitted to be presented today.

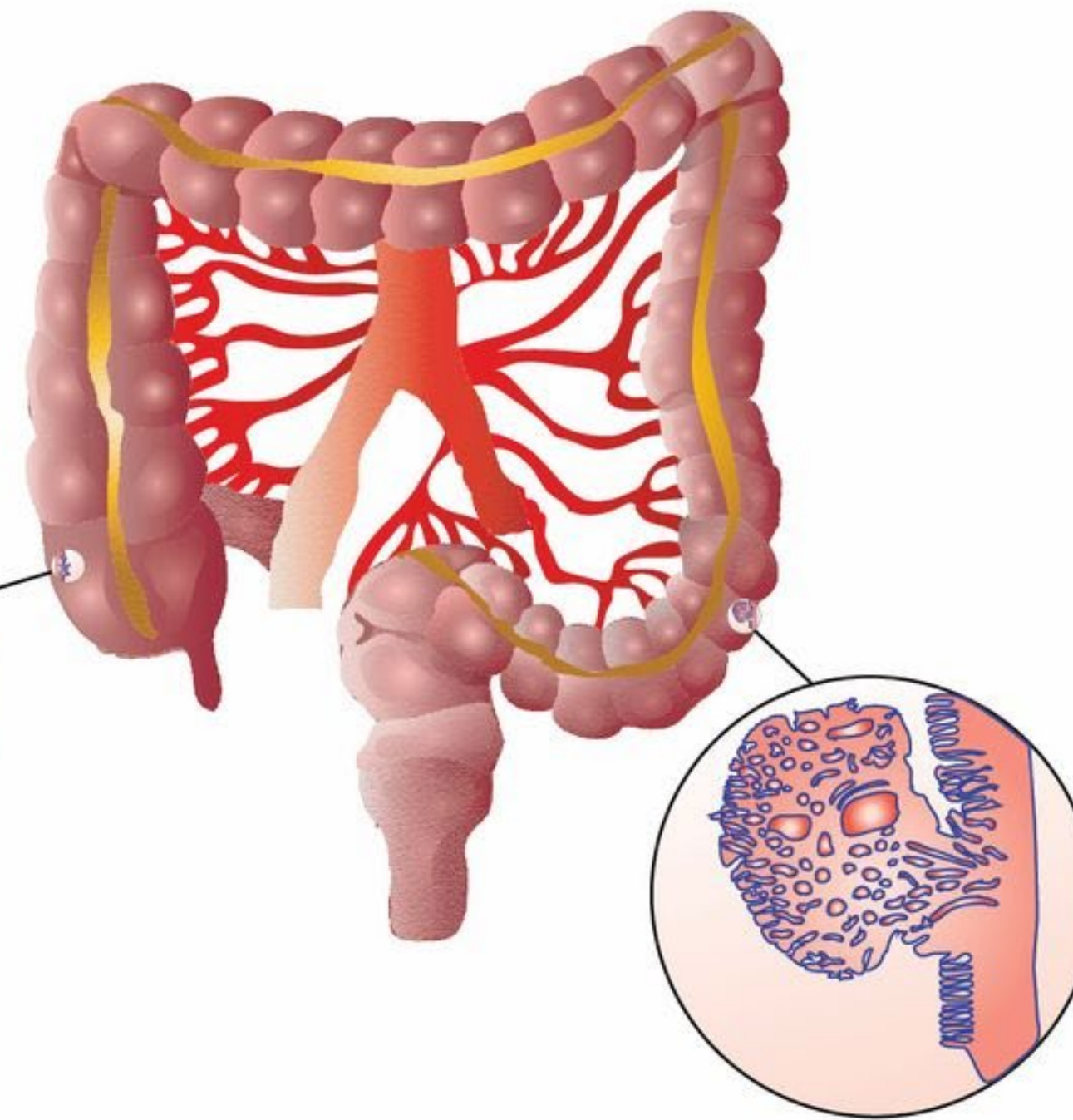
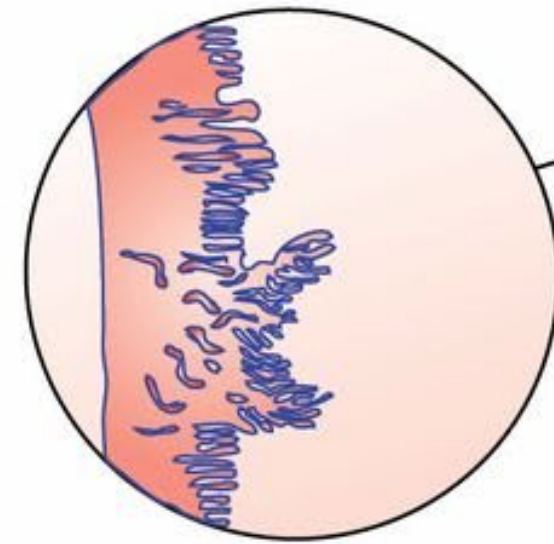
# Biology





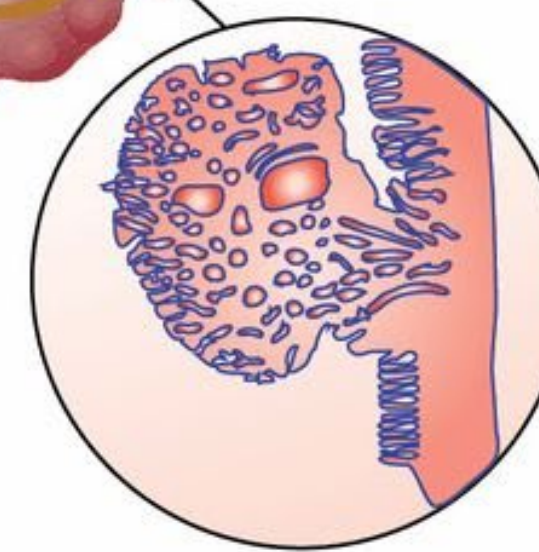
**RIGHT-SIDED CRC**  
Inferior outcomes  
with cetuximab  
Poorer prognosis

Sessile serrated polyps  
CMS1 and CMS3  
CIMP-high  
Midgut  
*BRAF* mutant  
MSI-high  
Bile acid exposure  
Invasive bacteria biofilms



**LEFT-SIDED CRC**  
Superior outcomes  
with cetuximab  
Better prognosis

Tubular adenoma  
CMS2 and CMS4  
Higher *EREG/AREG*  
expression  
Hindgut



Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network J  
Natl Compr Canc Netw 15, 3; [10.6004/jnccn.2017.0038](https://doi.org/10.6004/jnccn.2017.0038)

**Figure 2.** Summary of key biologic differences between right- and left-sided CRCs.  
Abbreviations: AREG, amphiregulin; CIMP, CpG island methylator phenotype; CMS, consensus molecular subtype; CRCs, colorectal cancers; EREG, epiregulin; MSI, microsatellite instability.

# Epidemiology

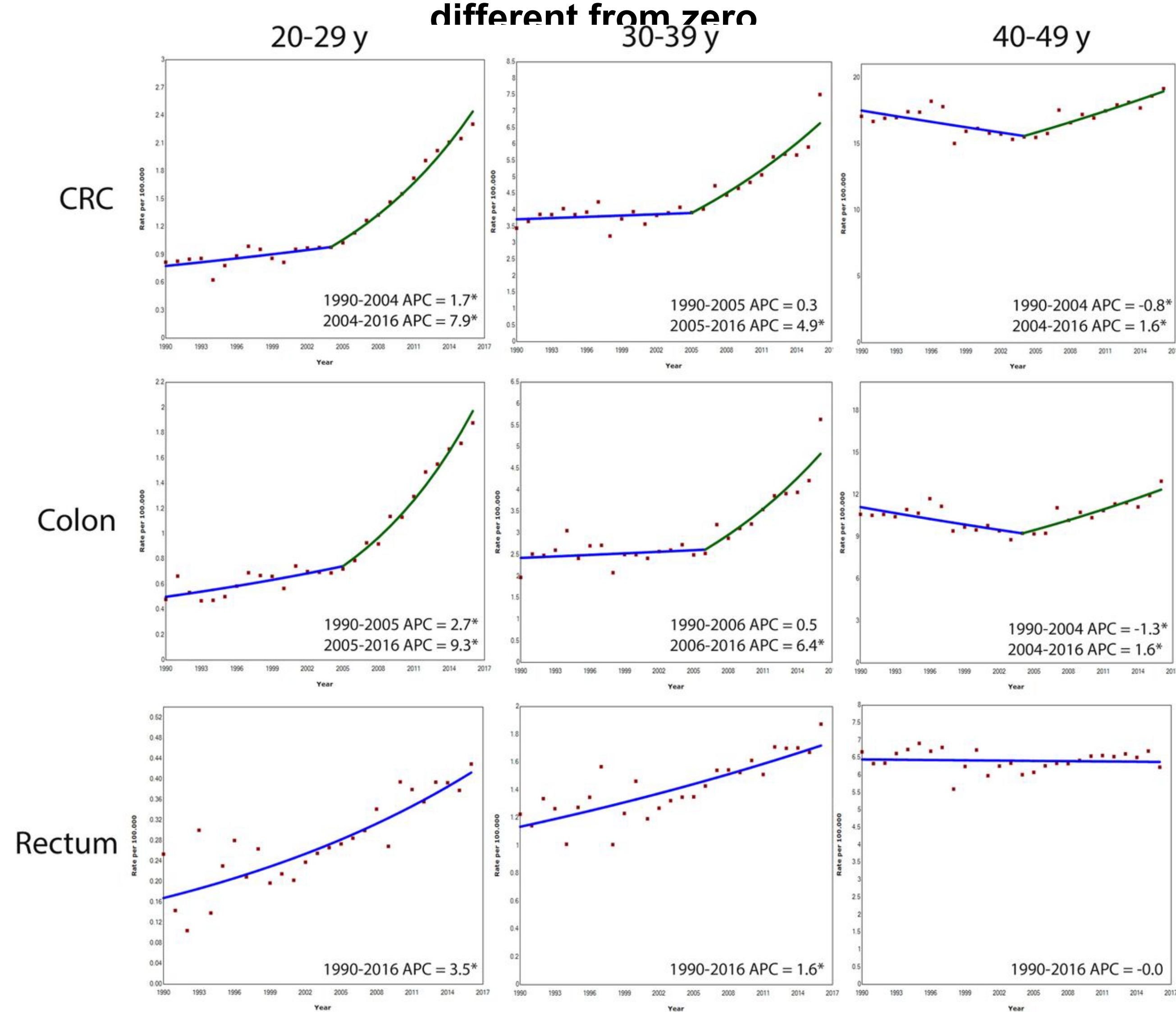
- 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of cancer death for both women and men
- 2021 52980 persons in US died of colorectal cancer
- Commonly diagnosed in persons 65-74 years
- 10.5% of all new colorectal cancer occur in < 50 years
- Incidence in adults 40-49 has increased by almost 15% in last two decades
- 25.6% of eligible adults in US have never been screened

# Epidemiology

- Largest increase in CRC in subjects 20-39 years
- Annual increase in colon cancer 6.4-9.3% and rectal 1.6-3.5%
- Weight gain is associated with increased risk of CRC
- Excess nutrients among other factors may initiate a chronic low-grade inflammatory response in metabolic cells
- Microbiome changes



**Annual percent change (APC) in age-specific colorectal cancer (CRC), colon cancer and rectal cancer incidence rates in Europe, 1990–2016. \*Indicates that APC is statistically significant**



Fanny ER Vuik et al. Gut 2019;68:1820-1826



# USPSTF Recommendations

## Recommendation Summary

Population	Recommendation	Grade
Adults aged 50 to 75 years	The USPSTF recommends screening for colorectal cancer in all adults aged 50 to 75 years. See the "Practice Considerations" section and Table 1 for details about screening strategies.	<b>A</b>
Adults aged 45 to 49 years	The USPSTF recommends screening for colorectal cancer in adults aged 45 to 49 years. See the "Practice Considerations" section and Table 1 for details about screening strategies.	<b>B</b>
Adults aged 76 to 85 years	The USPSTF recommends that clinicians selectively offer screening for colorectal cancer in adults aged 76 to 85 years. Evidence indicates that the net benefit of screening all persons in this age group is small. In determining whether this service is appropriate in individual cases, patients and clinicians should consider the patient's overall health, prior screening history, and preferences.	<b>C</b>



# Different Modalities

**Table 1. Characteristics of Recommended Colorectal Cancer Screening Strategies**

Screening method <sup>a</sup>	Frequency <sup>b</sup>	Evidence of efficacy	Other considerations
<b>Stool-based tests</b>			
High-sensitivity gFOBT	Every year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence from RCTs that gFOBT reduces colorectal cancer mortality</li> <li>High-sensitivity versions (eg, Hemoccult SENSAs) have superior test performance characteristics than older tests (eg, Hemoccult II), although there is still uncertainty about the precision of test sensitivity estimates. Given this uncertainty, it is unclear whether high-sensitivity gFOBT can detect as many cases of advanced adenomas and colorectal cancer as other stool-based tests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harms from screening with gFOBT arise from colonoscopy to follow up abnormal gFOBT results</li> <li>Requires dietary restrictions and 3 stool samples</li> <li>Requires good adherence over multiple rounds of testing</li> <li>Does not require bowel preparation, anesthesia or sedation, or transportation to and from the screening examination (test is performed at home)</li> </ul>
FIT	Every year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence from 1 large cohort study that screening with FIT reduces colorectal cancer mortality</li> <li>Certain types of FIT have improved accuracy compared to gFOBT and HSgFOBT (20 µg hemoglobin per gram of feces threshold was used in the CISNET modeling)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harms from screening with FIT arise from colonoscopy to follow up abnormal FIT results</li> <li>Can be done with a single stool sample</li> <li>Requires good adherence over multiple rounds of testing</li> <li>Does not require bowel preparation, anesthesia or sedation, or transportation to and from the screening examination (test is performed at home)</li> </ul>
sDNA-FIT	Every 1 to 3 <sup>c</sup> y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved sensitivity compared with FIT per 1-time application of screening test</li> <li>Specificity is lower than that of FIT, resulting in more false-positive results, more follow-up colonoscopies, and more associated adverse events per sDNA-FIT screening test compared with per FIT test</li> <li>Modeling suggests that screening every 3 y does not provide a favorable (ie, efficient) balance of benefits and harms compared with other stool-based screening options (ie, annual FIT or sDNA-FIT every 1 or 2 y)</li> <li>Insufficient evidence about appropriate longitudinal follow-up of abnormal findings after a negative follow-up colonoscopy</li> <li>No direct evidence evaluating the effect of sDNA-FIT on colorectal cancer mortality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harms from screening with sDNA-FIT arise from colonoscopy to follow up abnormal sDNA-FIT results</li> <li>Can be done with a single stool sample but involves collecting an entire bowel movement</li> <li>Requires good adherence over multiple rounds of testing</li> <li>Does not require bowel preparation, anesthesia or sedation, or transportation to and from the screening examination (test is performed at home)</li> </ul>
<b>Direct visualization tests</b>			
Colonoscopy	Every 10 y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence from cohort studies that colonoscopy reduces colorectal cancer mortality</li> <li>Harms from colonoscopy include bleeding and perforation, which both increase with age</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screening and follow-up of positive results can be performed during the same examination</li> <li>Requires less frequent screening</li> <li>Requires bowel preparation, anesthesia or sedation, and transportation to and from the screening examination</li> </ul>
CT colonography	Every 5 y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence available that CT colonography has reasonable accuracy to detect colorectal cancer and adenomas</li> <li>No direct evidence evaluating effect of CT colonography on colorectal cancer mortality</li> <li>Limited evidence about the potential benefits or harms of possible evaluation and treatment of incidental extracolonic findings, which are common. Extracolonic findings detected in 1.3% to 11.4% of examinations; &lt;3% required medical or surgical treatment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional harms from screening with CT colonography arise from colonoscopy to follow up abnormal CT colonography results</li> <li>Requires bowel preparation</li> <li>Does not require anesthesia or sedation or transportation to and from the screening examination</li> </ul>
Flexible sigmoidoscopy	Every 5 y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence from RCTs that flexible sigmoidoscopy reduces colorectal cancer mortality</li> <li>Risk of bleeding and perforation but less than risk with colonoscopy</li> <li>Modeling suggests that it provides fewer life-years gained alone than when combined with FIT or in comparison to other strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional harms may arise from colonoscopy to follow up abnormal flexible sigmoidoscopy results</li> <li>Test availability has declined in the US but may be available in some communities where colonoscopy is less available</li> </ul>
Flexible sigmoidoscopy with FIT	Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 10 y plus FIT every year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence from RCTs that flexible sigmoidoscopy + FIT reduces colorectal cancer mortality</li> <li>Modeling suggests combination testing provides benefits similar to those of colonoscopy, with fewer complications</li> <li>Risk of bleeding and perforation from flexible sigmoidoscopy but less than risk with colonoscopy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional potential harms from colonoscopy to follow up abnormal flexible sigmoidoscopy or FIT results</li> <li>Flexible sigmoidoscopy availability has declined in the US but may be available in some communities where colonoscopy is less available</li> <li>Screening with FIT requires good adherence over multiple rounds of testing</li> </ul>



# Timing of Follow-up Colonoscopy

Findings	Follow-up
Normal	10 years
1-2 small (< 1cm) tubular adenomas	<b>7-10 years</b>
3-4 small (<1cm) tubular adenomas	<b>3-5 years</b>
5-10 small (<1cm) tubular adenomas	<b>3 years</b>
large ( $\geq$ 1cm) or high grade dysplasia/villous pathology	3 years
> 10 tubular adenomas	1 year

\*\*All assuming HIGH quality colonoscopy with COMPLETE removal of polyps

Gupta et al. AJG 2020

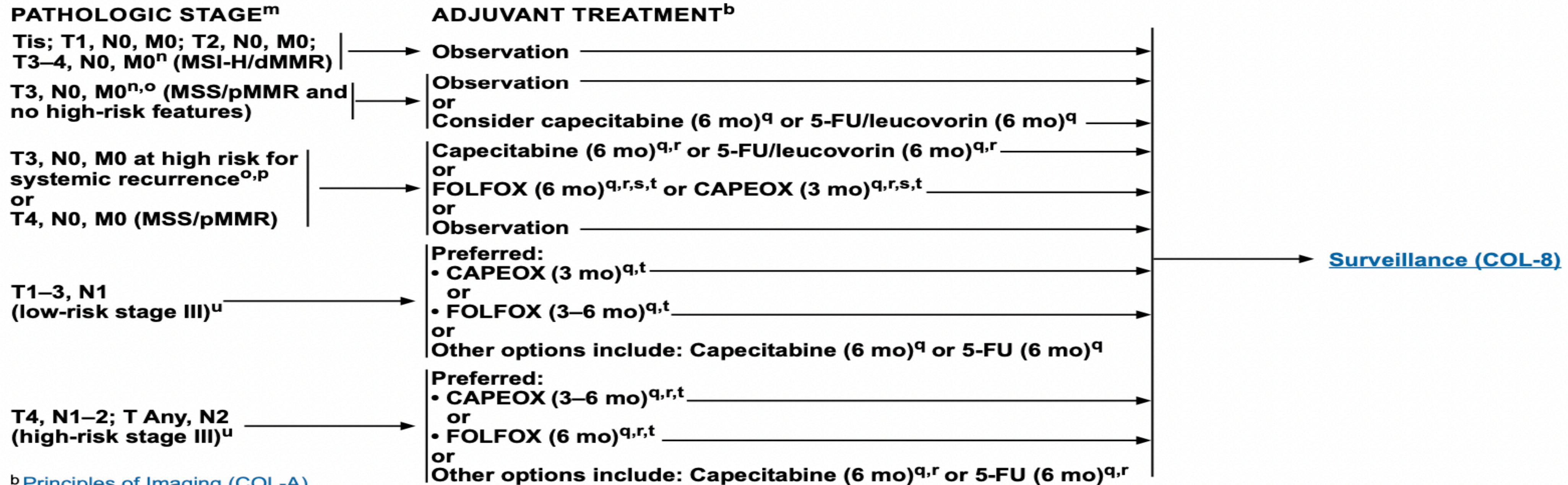
# Colon Cancer Therapy

# Historic Overview

- 1957 5FU discovered
- 1962 5FU FDA approved for CRC
- 2000 Irinotecan approved for CRC
- 2002 Oxaliplatin approved for CRC
- 2004 MOSAIC trial adding Oxaliplatin to 5 FU OS and DFS benefit
- 2006 Bevacizumab approved for CRC
- 2012 Regorafenib approved
- 2015 Trifluridine-tipiracil approved + EGFR Inhibitor
- 2018 Published IDEA (International Duration Evaluation of Adjuvant Therapy collaboration)
- 2020 BRAF Inhibitor and Immunotherapy

# Early Stage Colon Cancer





<sup>b</sup> [Principles of Imaging \(COL-A\)](#).

<sup>m</sup> [Principles of Pathologic Review \(COL-B\)](#).

<sup>n</sup> [Principles of Risk Assessment for Stage II Disease \(COL-F\)](#).

<sup>o</sup> High-risk factors for recurrence (exclusive of those cancers that are microsatellite instability-high [MSI-H]): poorly differentiated/undifferentiated histology, lymphatic/vascular invasion, bowel obstruction, <12 lymph nodes examined, perineural invasion, localized perforation, or close, indeterminate, positive margins, or tumor budding. In high-risk stage II patients, there are no data that correlate risk features and selection of chemotherapy.

<sup>p</sup> There are insufficient data to recommend the use of multi-gene assay panels to determine adjuvant therapy.

<sup>q</sup> [Principles of Adjuvant Therapy \(COL-G\)](#).

<sup>r</sup> Consider RT for T4 with penetration to a fixed structure.

[Principles of Radiation and Chemoradiation Therapy \(COL-E\)](#).

<sup>s</sup> A survival benefit has not been demonstrated for the addition of oxaliplatin to 5-FU/leucovorin in stage II colon cancer. Tournigand C, et al. J Clin Oncol 2012; 30:3353-3360.

<sup>t</sup> A benefit for the addition of oxaliplatin to 5-FU/leucovorin in patients aged 70 years and older has not been proven.

<sup>u</sup> While non-inferiority of 3 mo vs. 6 mo of CAPEOX has not been proven, 3 mo of CAPEOX numerically appeared similar to 6 mo of CAPEOX for 5-year overall survival (82.1% vs. 81.2%; HR, 0.96), with considerably less toxicity. (Andre T, et al. Lancet Oncol 2020;21:1620-1629). These results support the use of 3 mo of adjuvant CAPEOX over 6 mo in the vast majority of patients with stage III colon cancer. In patients with colon cancer, staged as T1–3, N1 (low-risk stage III), 3 mo of CAPEOX is non-inferior to 6 mo for disease-free survival; non-inferiority of 3 mo vs. 6 mo of FOLFOX has not been proven. In patients with colon cancer staged as T4, N1–2 or T any, N2 (high-risk stage III), 3 mo of FOLFOX is inferior to 6 mo for disease-free survival, whereas non-inferiority of 3 mo vs. 6 mo of CAPEOX has not been proven. Grade 3+ neurotoxicity rates are lower for patients who receive 3 mo vs. 6 mo of treatment (3% vs. 16% for FOLFOX; 3% vs. 9% for CAPEOX). Grothey A, et al. N Engl J Med 2018;378:1177-1188.

**Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.**

**Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.**



Original Article

# Duration of Adjuvant Chemotherapy for Stage III Colon Cancer

Axel Grothey, M.D., Alberto F. Sobrero, M.D., Anthony F. Shields, M.D., Ph.D., Takayuki Yoshino, M.D., Ph.D., James Paul, Ph.D., Julien Taieb, M.D., John Souglakos, M.D., Qian Shi, Ph.D., Rachel Kerr, Ph.D., Roberto Labianca, M.D., Jeffrey A. Meyerhardt, M.D., M.P.H., Dewi Vernerey, Ph.D., Takeharu Yamanaka, Ph.D., Ioannis Boukovinas, M.D., Jeffrey P. Meyers, B.S., Lindsay A. Renfro, Ph.D., Donna Niedzwiecki, Ph.D., Toshiaki Watanabe, Ph.D., Valter Torri, M.D., Mark Saunders, M.B., B.S., Ph.D., Daniel J. Sargent, Ph.D., Thierry Andre, M.D., and Timothy Iveson, M.D.

N Engl J Med  
Volume 378(13):1177-1188  
March 29, 2018



The NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

# Conclusions

- Among patients with stage III colon cancer receiving adjuvant therapy with FOLFOX or CAPOX, noninferiority of 3 months of therapy, as compared with 6 months, was not confirmed in the overall population.
- However, in patients treated with CAPOX, 3 months of therapy was as effective as 6 months, particularly in the lower-risk subgroup.





# Prognostic impact of early discontinuation of treatment and oxaliplatin in patients treated with 6 months of oxaliplatin-based chemotherapy for stage III colon cancer: an ACCENT/IDEA pooled analysis of 11 adjuvant trials

Claire Gallois, Qian Shi, Jeffrey P. Meyers, Timothy Iveson, Steven R Alberts, Aimery de Gramont, Alberto F. Sobrero, Daniel G. Haller, Eiji Oki, Anthony Frank Shields, Caroline Kelly, Ioannis Boukovinas, Roberto Labianca, Frank A. Sinicrope, Ioannis Souglakos, Takayuki Yoshino, Jeffrey A Meyerhardt, Thierry Andre, Demetris Papamichael and Julien Taieb





# Background

- In patients treated with 6 months of adjuvant chemotherapy, we may need to **stop oxaliplatin early**, mainly due to **peripheral sensory neuropathy**
- In the literature, we have limited data on the prognostic impact of the **relative dose intensity (RDI) of oxaliplatin in localized CC**

	<i>Jolanta Zok et al. BMC Cancer 2021</i>	<i>Dawon Park et al. Ann Surg Treat Res 2018</i>
Stage	III	II/III
N patients	365	611
Regimen	FOLFOX/CAPOX	FOLFOX
Associated with poorer outcomes	<b>RDI of oxaliplatin &lt; 60%</b>	<b>&lt; 60% of the standard dose of oxaliplatin</b>



**Need for more robust data on the prognostic impact of early treatment discontinuation and oxaliplatin discontinuation, while continuing fluoropyrimidine, according to the number of cycles received**



# Population

## Trials

N=28, 623

MOSAIC, XELOXA, N0147, PETACC8, AVANT, TOSCA, SCOT, IDEA France, CALGB/SWOG 80702, HORG, ACHIEVE

### Main exclusion criteria:

- Treatment with:
  - Fluoropyrimidine alone arms (FULV, 5-FU, capecitabine)
  - Targeted therapy (cetuximab, bevacizumab) arms
- Treatment prescribed for a duration of 3 months
- Discontinuation of chemotherapy due to recurrence

N= 10, 444

**Oxaliplatin-based adjuvant chemotherapy** (FOLFOX or CAPOX)  
Prescribed for a duration of **6 months**  
In **stage III CC**



# RESULTS

- ETD (N=10, 444) → **20.9% experienced ETD**
- EOD (N=7, 243) → **18.8% experienced EOD**

		ETD (N=2184)	p-value	EOD (N=1359)	p-value
Gender	<b>Female</b>	23.1%	<b>&lt; 0.001</b>	21.0%	<b>&lt; 0.001</b>
	Male	19.2%		17.0%	
Age	< 65y	17.1%	<b>&lt; 0.001</b>	18.0%	<b>&lt; 0.001</b>
	<b>≥ 65y</b>	26.0%		20.0%	
ECOG-PS	0	20.0%	<b>&lt; 0.001</b>	17.6%	<b>&lt; 0.001</b>
	<b>≥ 1</b>	23.9%		22.7%	
BMI	<b>&lt; 18.5</b>	31.5%	<b>&lt; 0.001</b>	24.2%	0.25
	18.5 - 25	21.0%		20.2%	
	> 25	20.1%		19.3%	
Regimen	FOLFOX	17.8%	<b>&lt; 0.001</b>	17.4%	<b>&lt; 0.001</b>
	<b>CAPOX</b>	27.2%		21.4%	

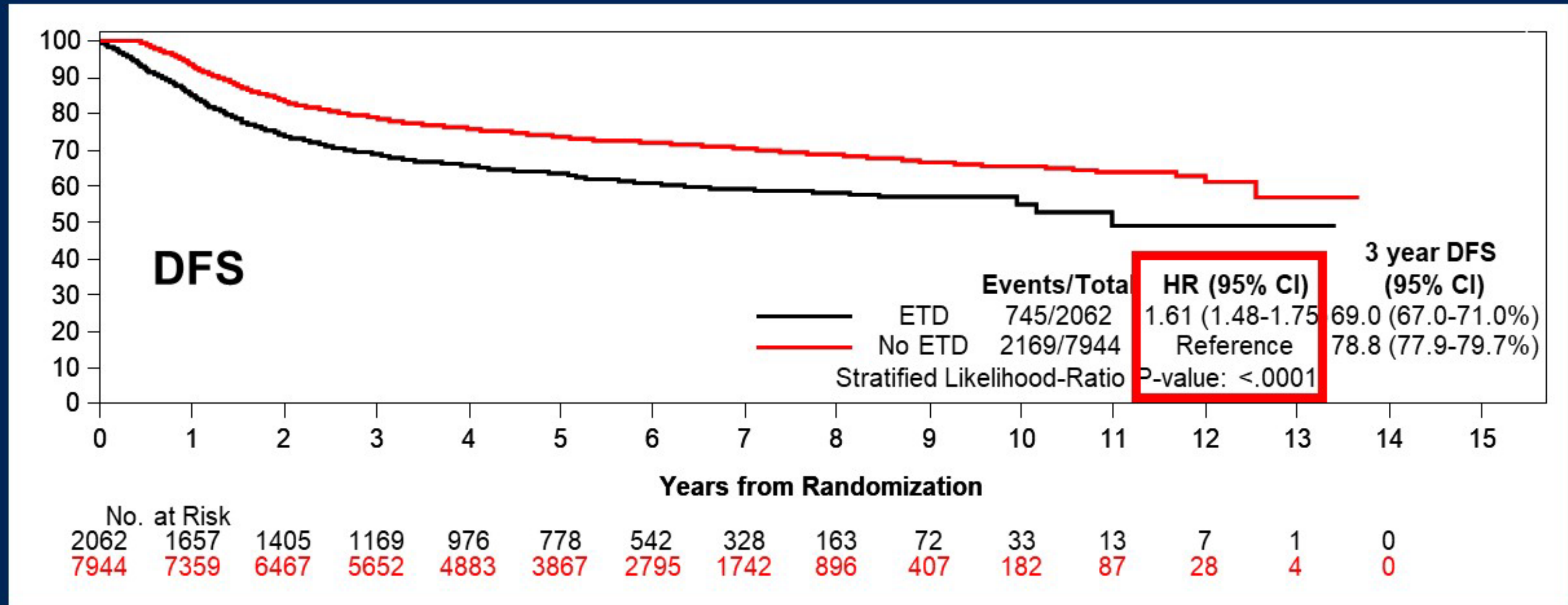
**No statistically significant difference for:**

- T stage, N stage
- Risk group (low-/high-risk)
- Sidedness
- Histological grade
- LNR
- MMR status
- KRAS, BRAF mutation status



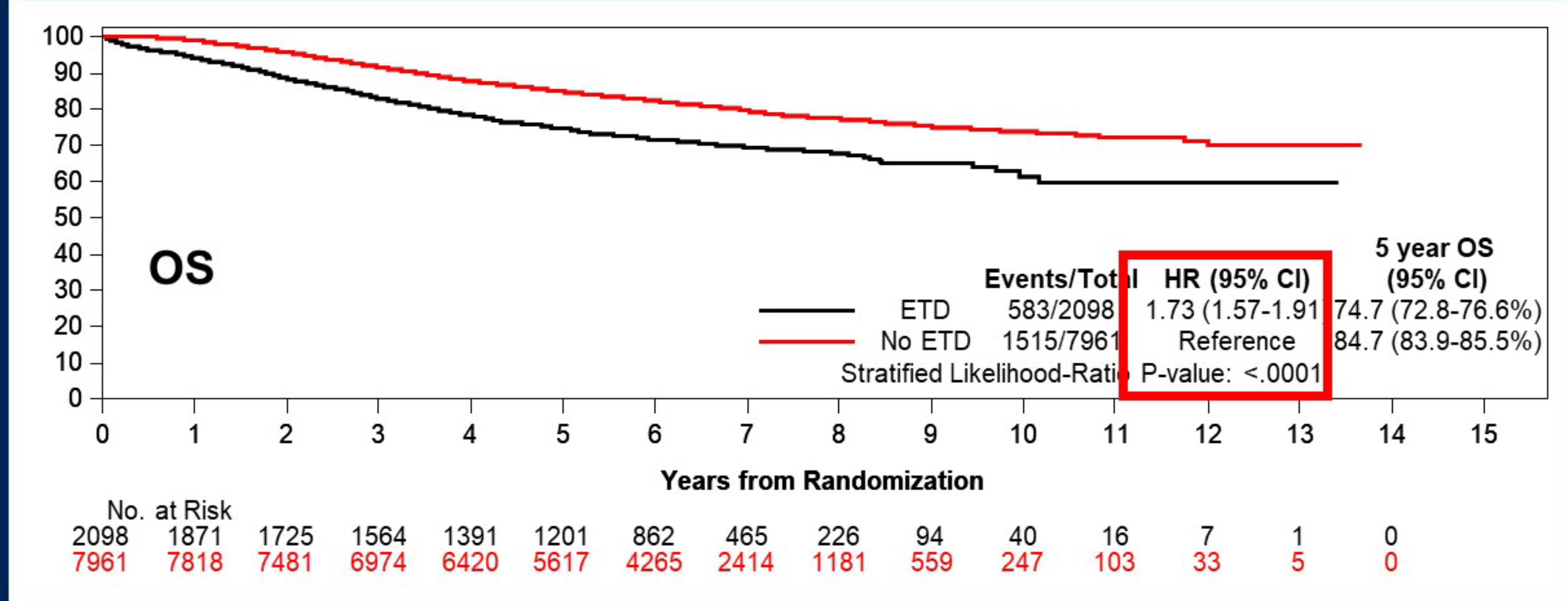
# Survival according to ETD/no ETD in multivariate analysis

## Overall population



- Adjustment variables:**
- Age
  - Gender
  - Year enrollment
  - ECOG PS
  - T and N stage

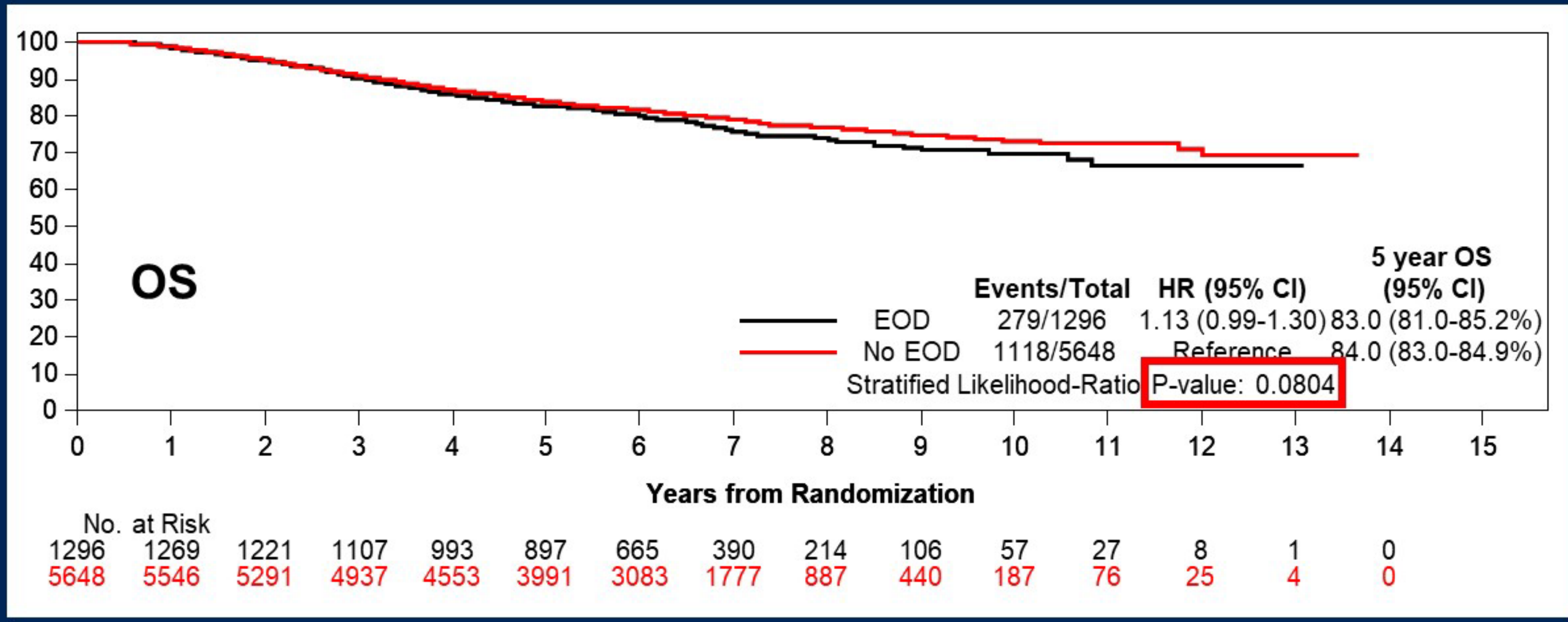
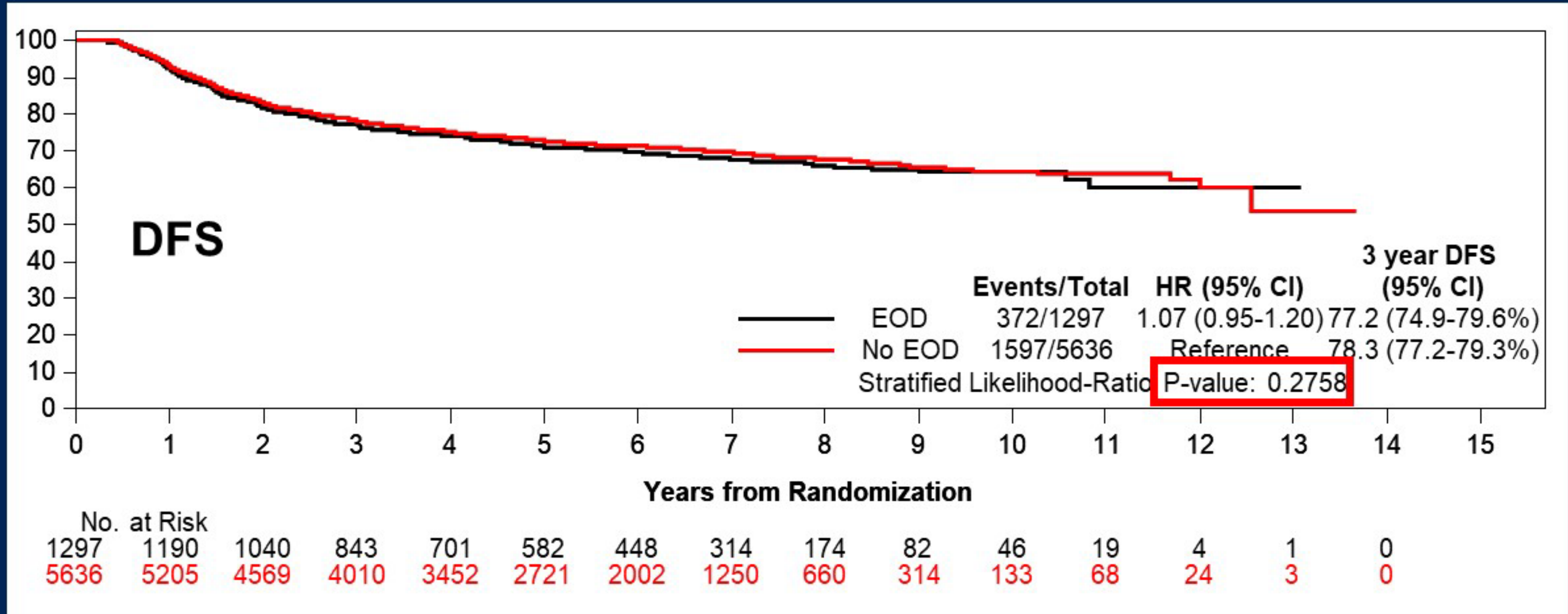
**Adjusted Kaplan Meier curves**





# Survival according to EOD/no EOD in multivariate analysis

## Overall population



- Adjustment variables:**
- Age
  - Gender
  - Year enrollment
  - ECOG PS
  - T and N stage

### Adjusted Kaplan Meier curves



# Conclusion / Summary

In a large series of patients receiving 6-months of CT for stage III CC :

- **ETD** and **EOD** were associated with:
  - older age, female gender, ECOG>0, CAPOX regimen, malnutrition (ETD only)
- **ETD** → **associated with a significant and clinically relevant decrease in DFS and OS**
- **EOD** → **not significantly associated with decreased DFS or OS**
  - However, patients who received **< 50% of the planned number of cycles of oxaliplatin**, had **poorer outcomes**



# Limitations

## Missing data for:

- **the cause of ETD**  
→ could be linked to confounding factors for DFS/OS
- **Co-morbid conditions** (renal impairment, diabetes mellitus...)  
→ may lead to ETD and influence DFS/OS



**We can not fully exclude all confounding factors for DFS and OS**



# Take Home Points

In patients with a **6-month adjuvant regimen** chosen in MTD:

- **Maintain the planned number of treatment cycle** seems important
- **Grade 2+ neurotoxicity / any timepoint: stop oxaliplatin (GCP)**
- **After 3 months**, in patients having grade 1-2 neurotoxicity: **stopping oxaliplatin** is likely a valid option **not impairing clinical outcomes**



# Monitoring and surveillance: *Then and now*

Stage II/III colon ca

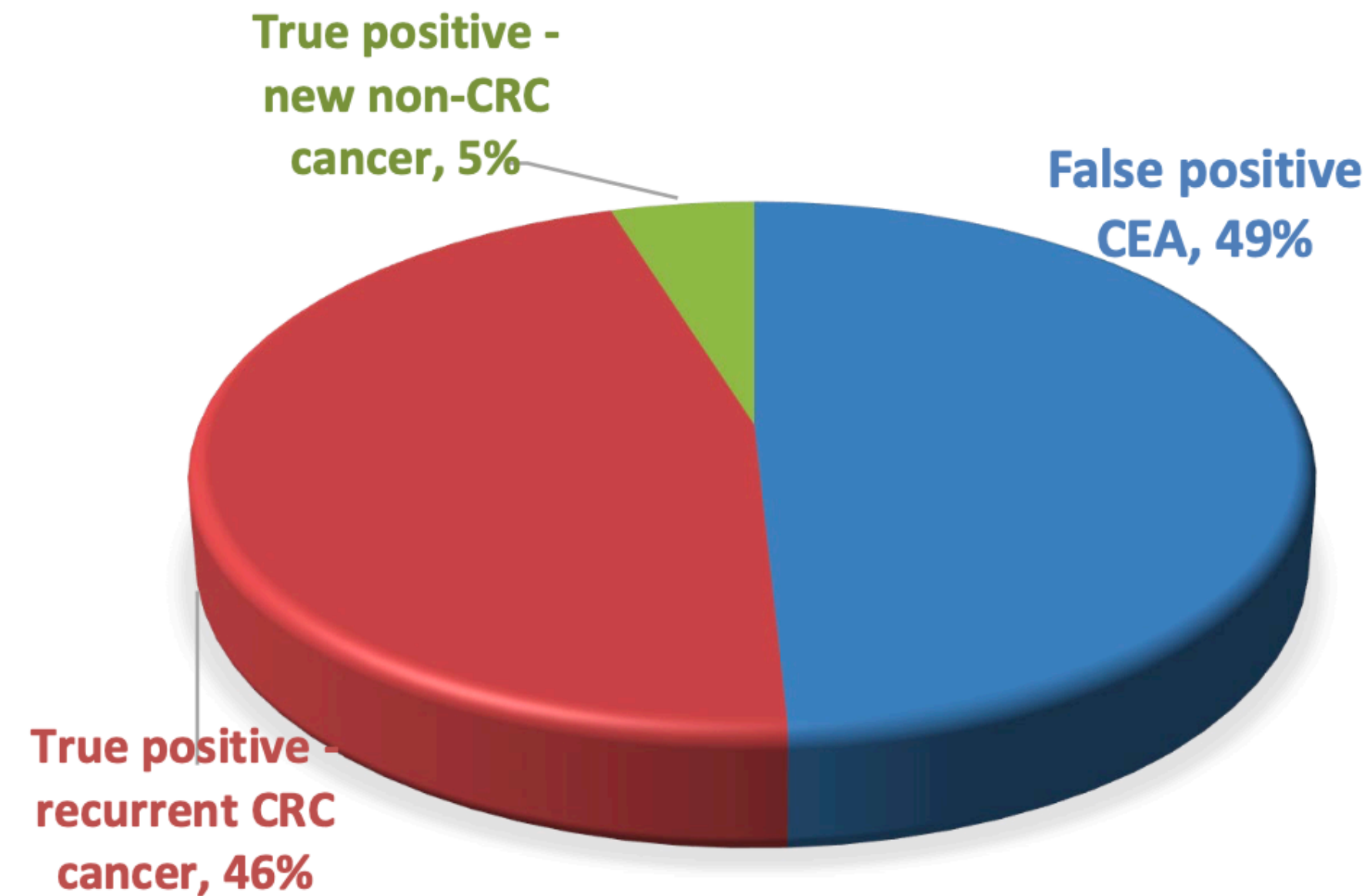
	<u>1996 NCCN guidelines</u>	<u>2022 NCCN guidelines</u>
Physical exam	✓	✓
<b>CEA</b>	✓	✓
Imaging	✓ CXR Chest CT if metastasis Abd CT if resected metastasis or rectal ca	✓ CT chest, abdomen, pelvis
Colonoscopy	✓	✓

1996: *“Post treatment surveillance of patients with colon cancer is a controversial management issue”*

# CEA is a problematic biomarker

- 728 MSKCC patients were identified who underwent R0 resection for stage I–III CRC (2003–2012)
- All pts had a normal perioperative CEA level but subsequently had at least one abnormal CEA measurement

## OUTCOMES FOR POSITIVE CEA



# The appropriate cutoff for CEA is unknown

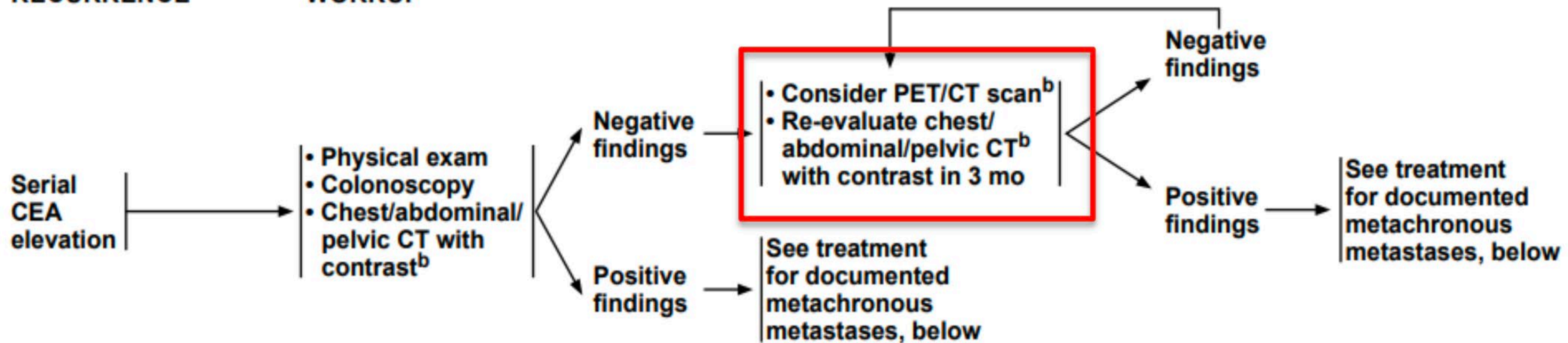
- More false-positives than true-positives occur at CEA levels up to 10 ng/mL
- At the cutoff of 5.0 ng/mL (used at MSKCC), the sensitivity is only 54% and the specificity is 79%
- The optimal cutoff based on ROC curve would be 7.9 ng/mL (sensitivity= 44% and specificity = 95%)



# Positive CEA results in increased imaging and patient/ provider anxiety

**RECURRENCE**

**WORKUP**



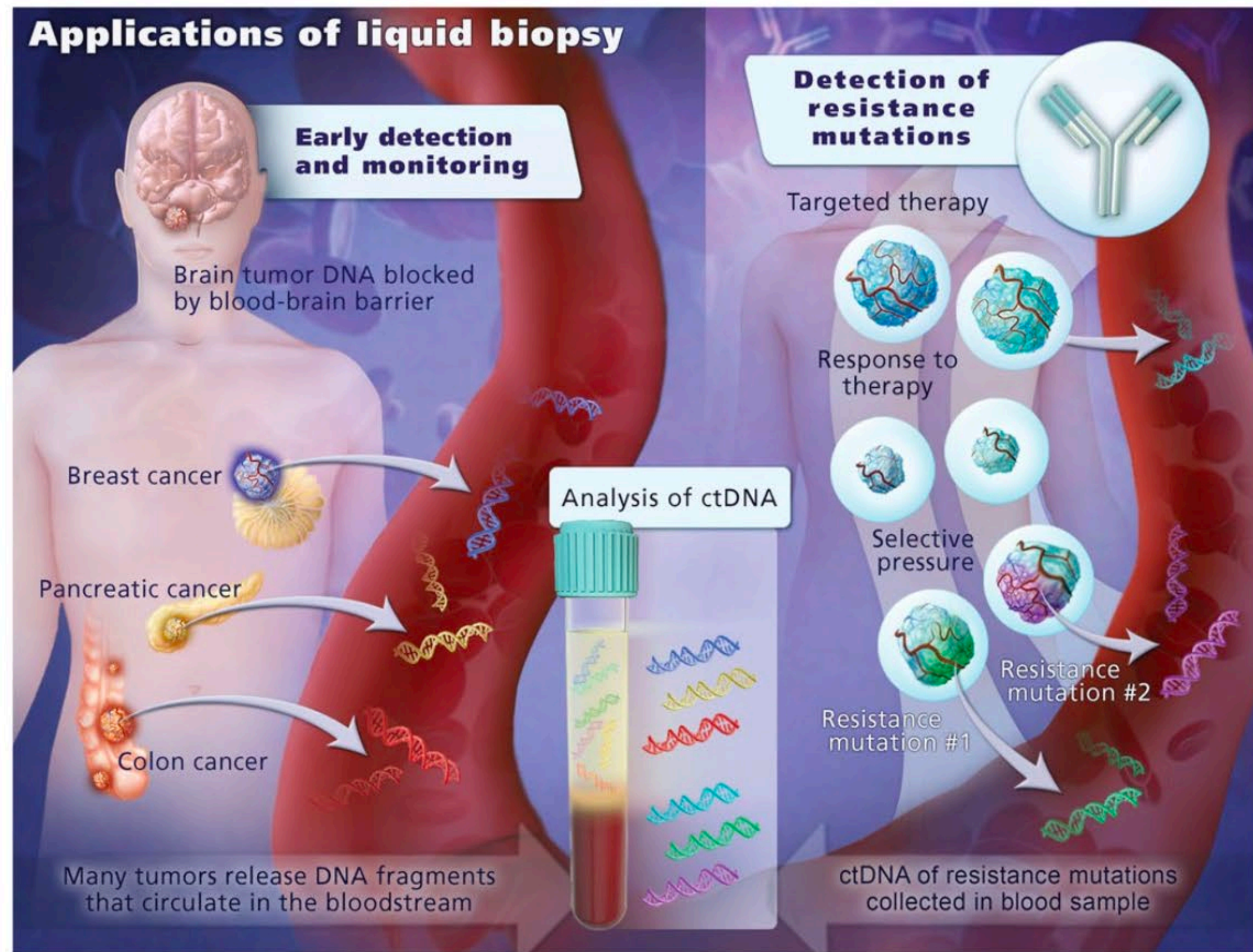


# Current state of survivorship/ surveillance for stage II/III colorectal cancer

- Current guidelines for surveillance were established >25 years ago with limited supporting evidence
- The core components of surveillance (CEA and CT) and their test intervals have no proven survival benefit and may not optimize limited healthcare resources
- There is an opportunity to rethink survivorship and surveillance with evidence-based analysis and modern technology



# “Liquid biopsy” in the clinic



## Potential clinical applications

- Screen asymptomatic population
- Detect residual disease following resection
- Identify actionable biomarkers (HER2, etc.)
- Predict treatment response
- Monitor overall tumor burden
- Identify drivers of treatment resistance

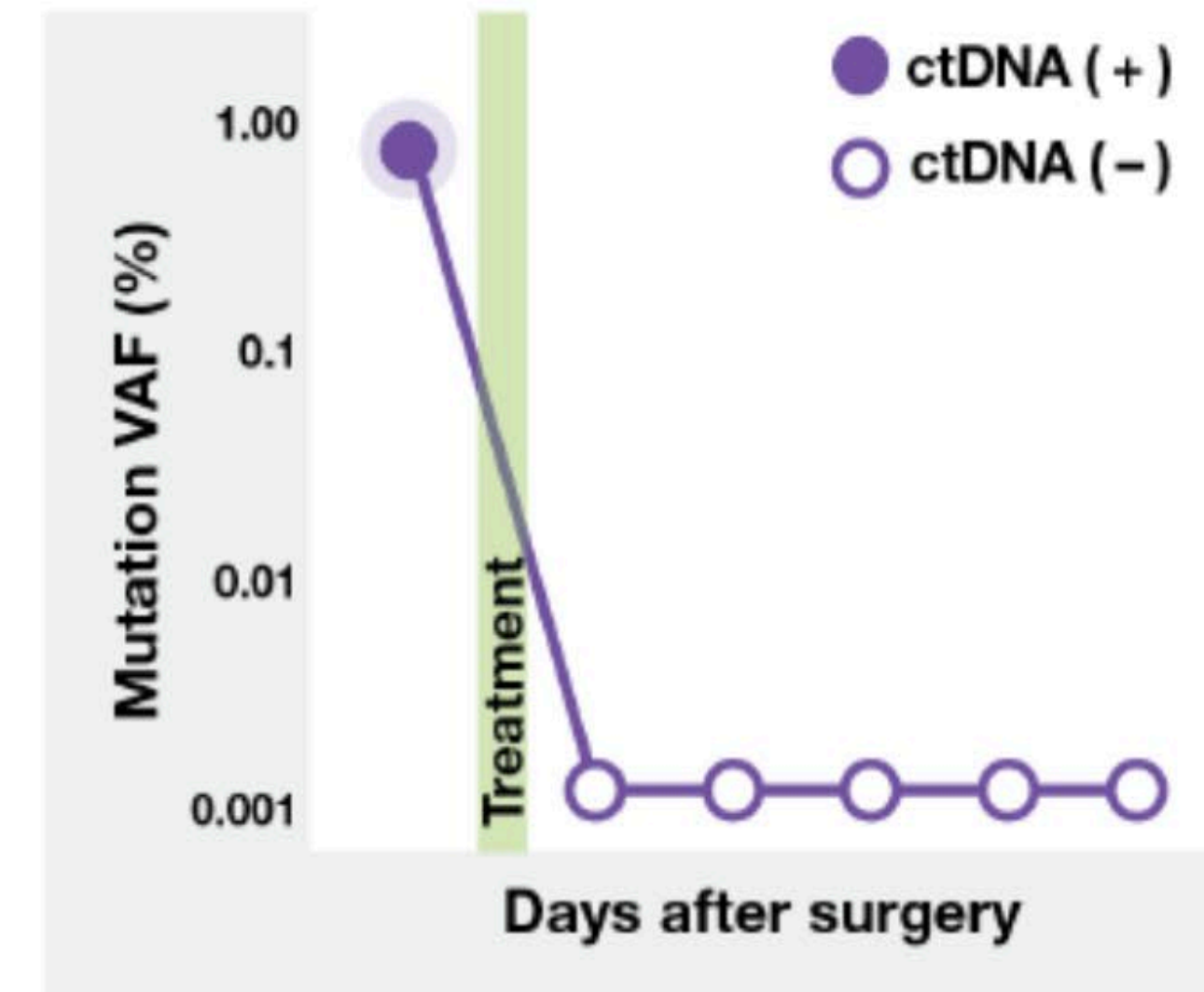
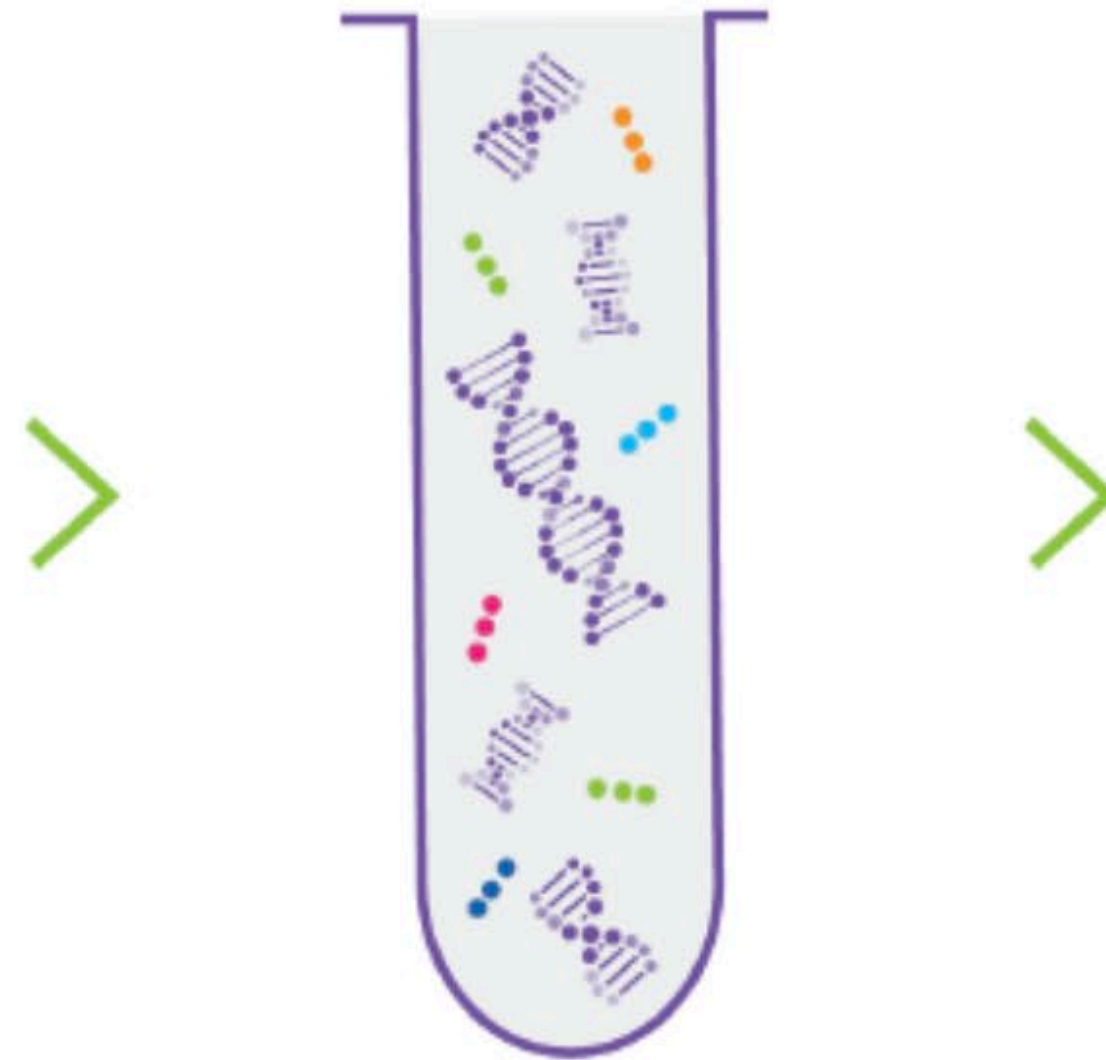
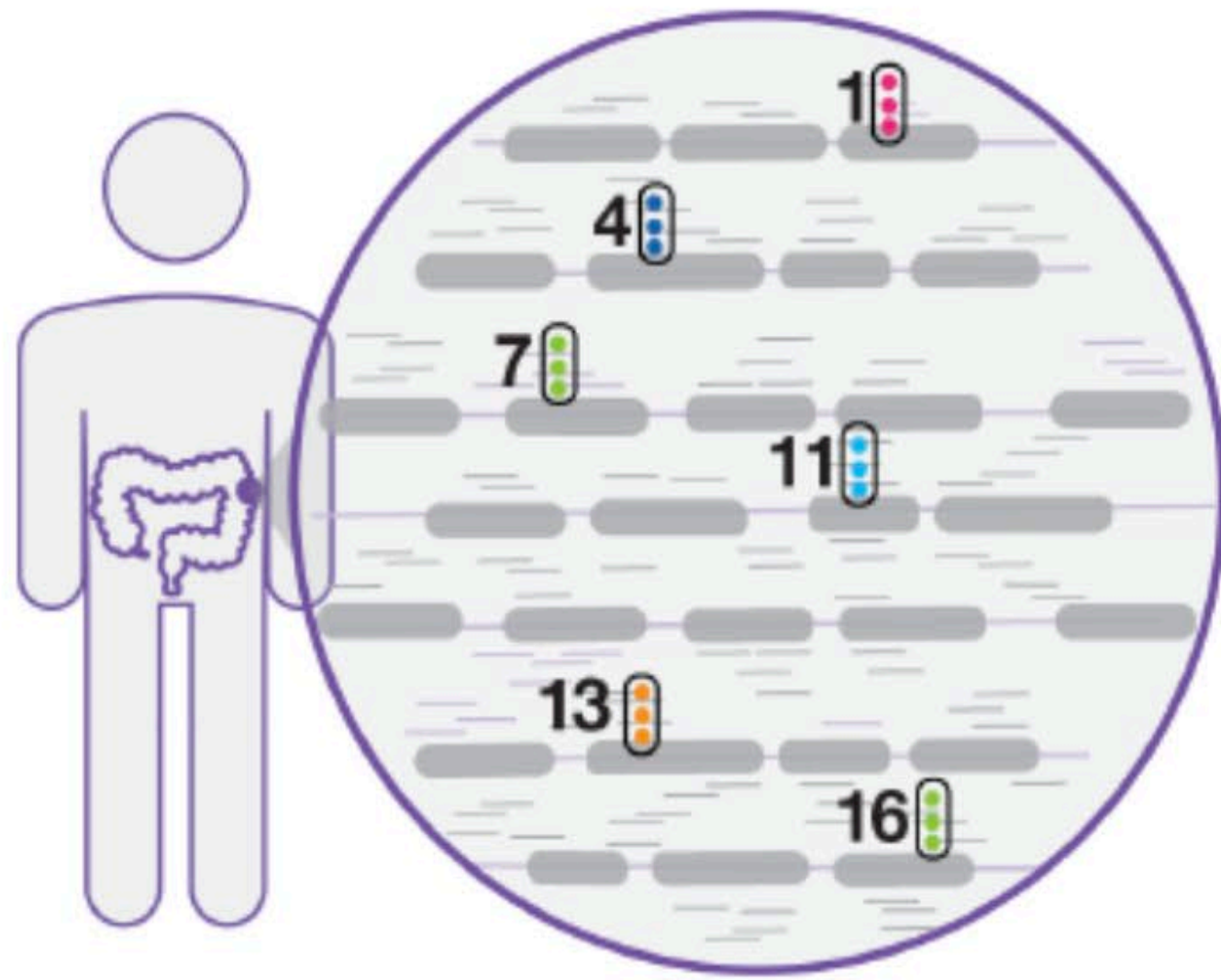


# “Tumor informed” mutation detection

Sequencing of tumor tissue, to identify unique signature of tumor mutations

Custom design and manufacture of personalized mPCR assay for each patient, targeting the top 16 clonal mutations found in tumor

Use personalized assay to test patient’s blood for presence of circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA)

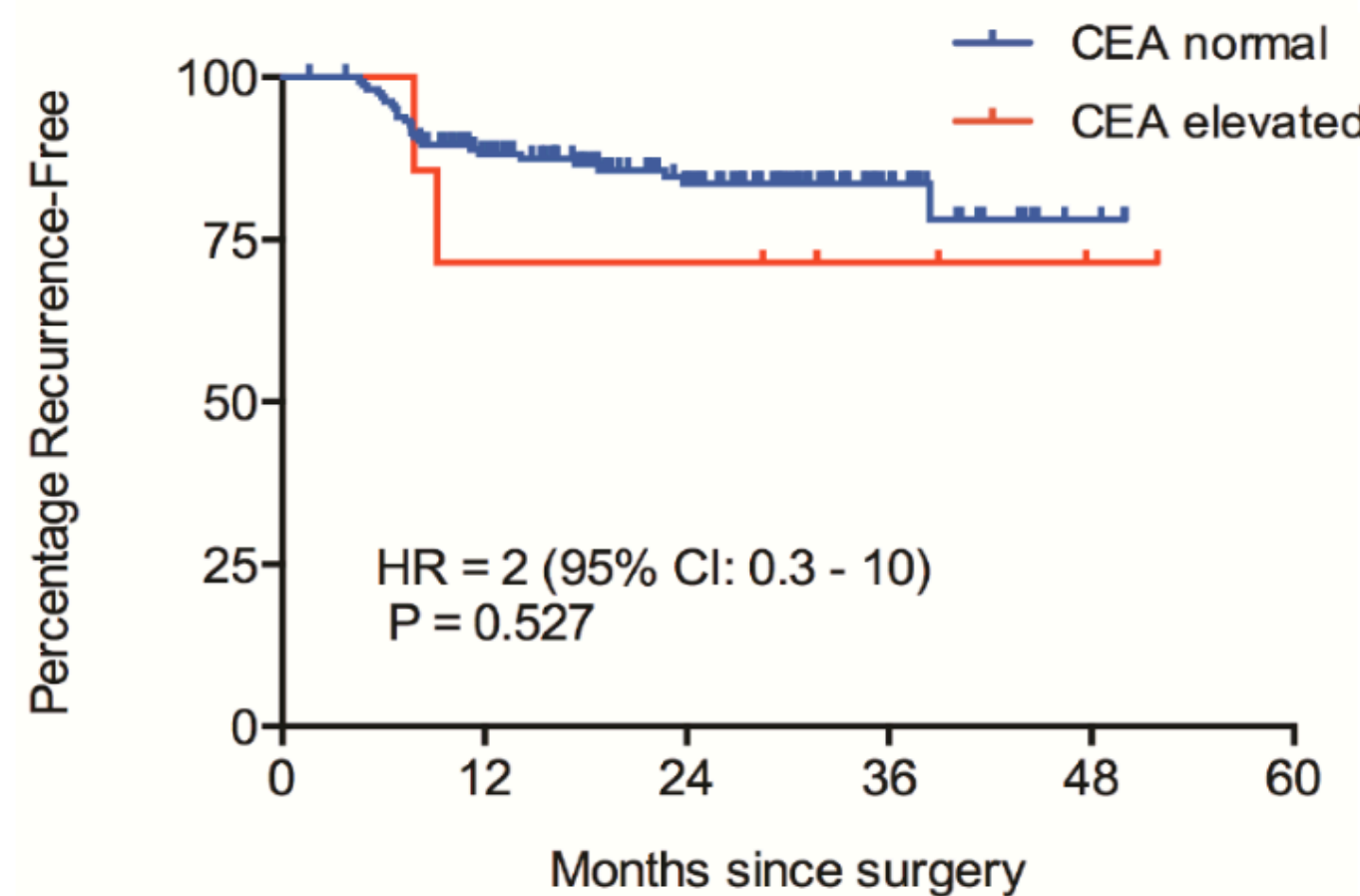




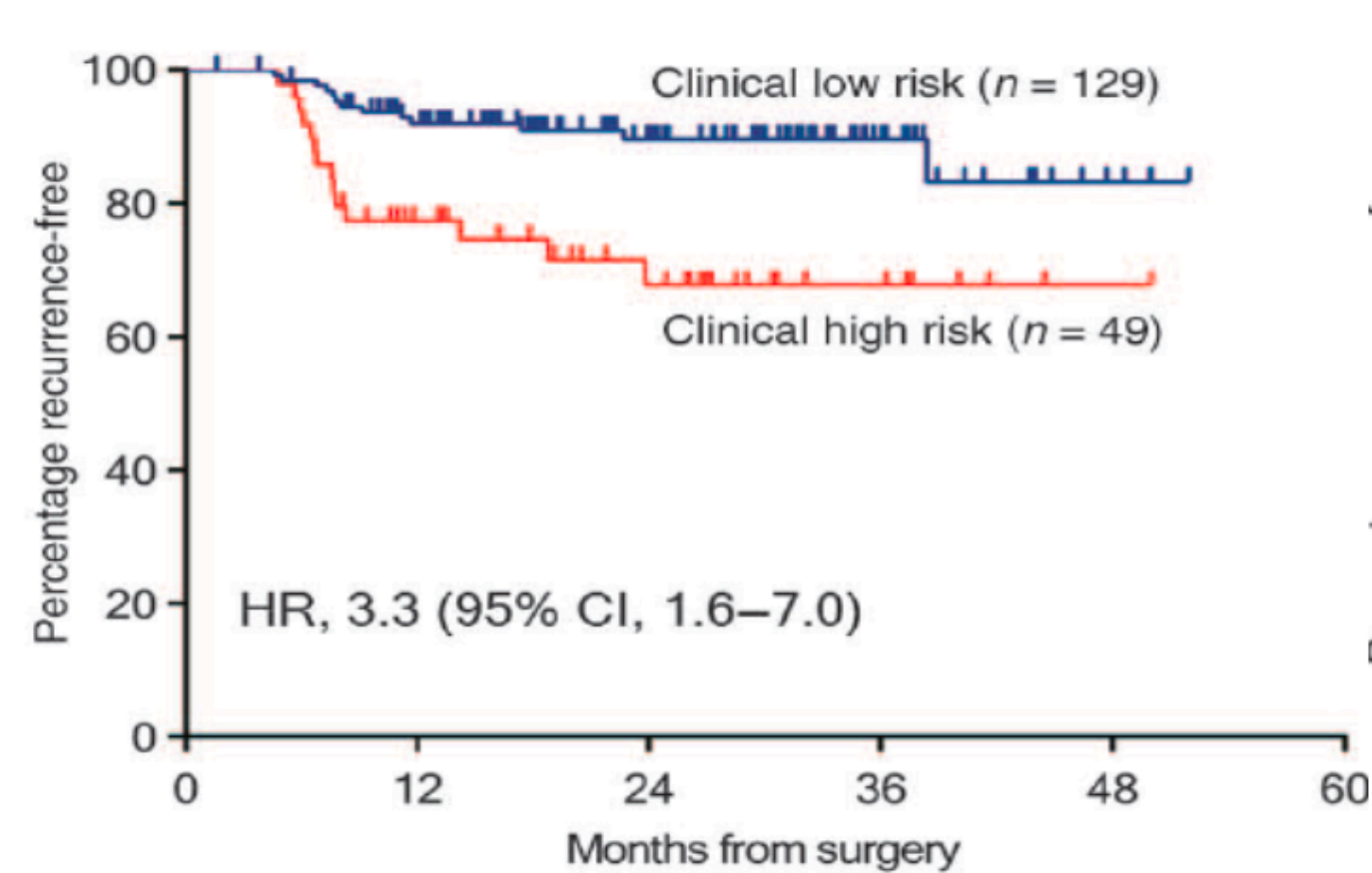
# Tumor informed MRD assay outperforms clinical risk factors in stage II colon ca

No patients received adjuvant chemotherapy (n=230)

### Post-operative CEA

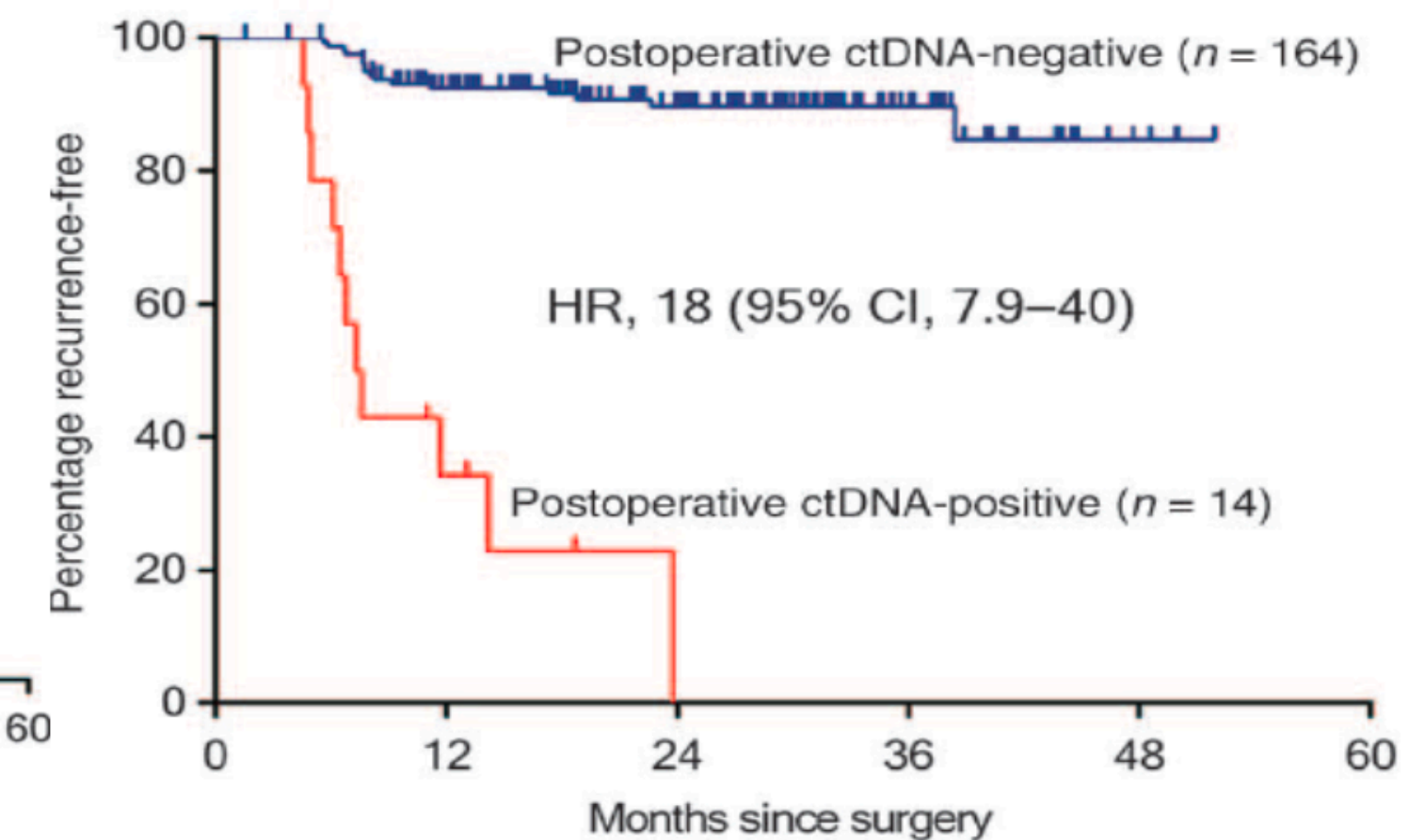


### Clinical Risk Factors\*



\* T stage, LN < 12, LVI

### Post-operative ctDNA

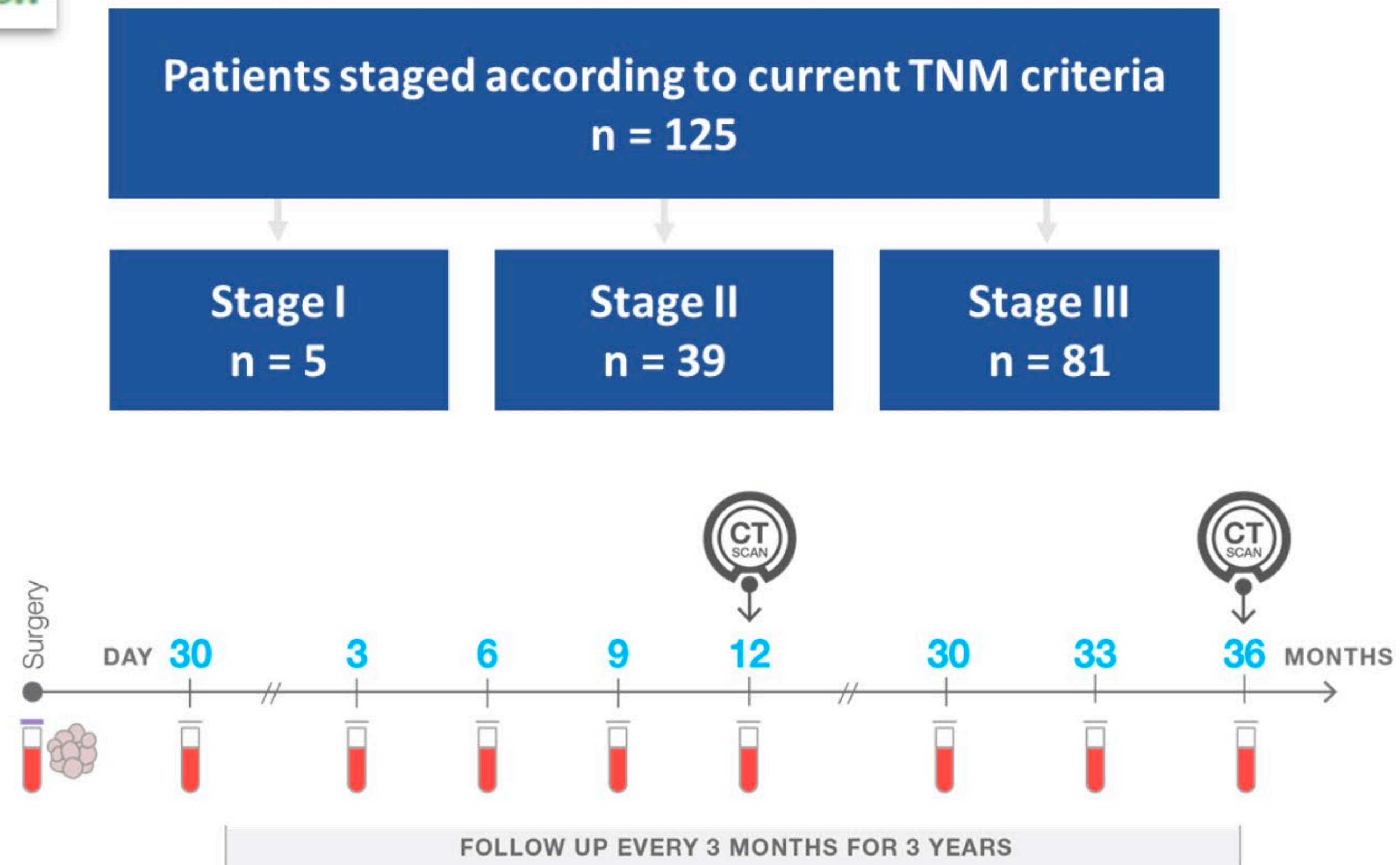




# Signatera (tumor informed): Clinical validation study in stage I-III CRC

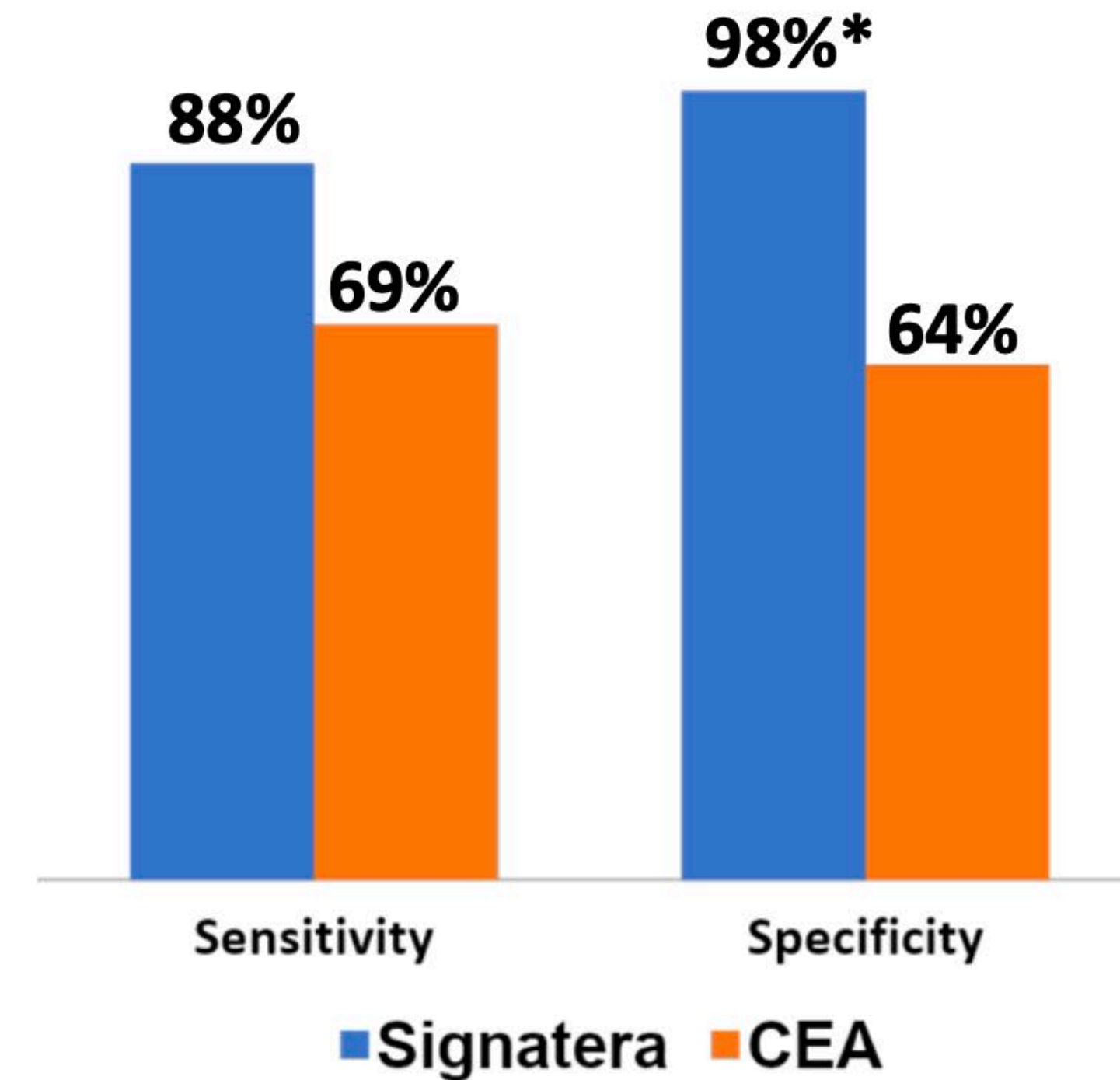
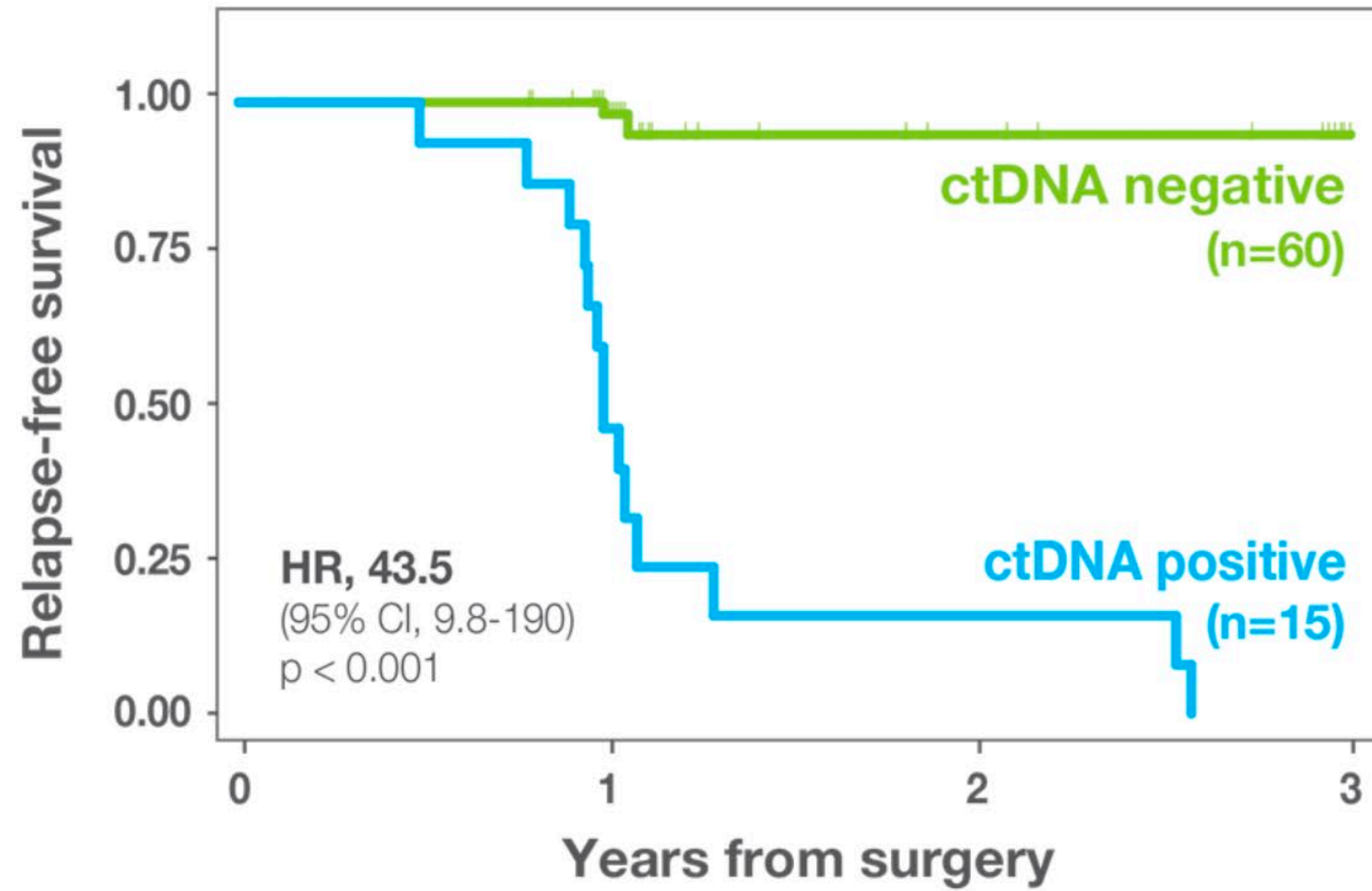
JAMA Oncology | Original Investigation

- 125 patients stages I-III CRC, treated with curative surgery and optional adjuvant chemotherapy
- 795 plasma samples were collected:
  - Pre-surgery
  - Day 30
  - Qtrly up to 3 years





# Stage I-III colon ca: ctDNA outperforms CEA



\*Patient-level specificity 98%. Test-level specificity 99.7%.<sup>2</sup>



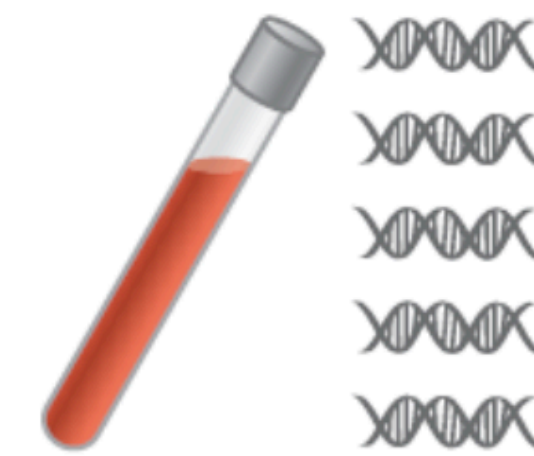
# Can we integrate MRD into clinical care?

Potential applications:

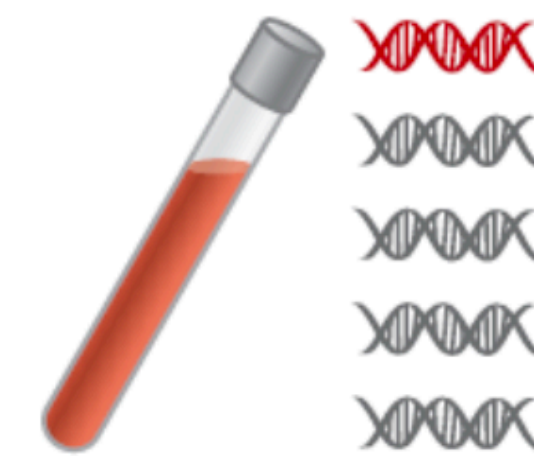
- Selecting high risk patients for aggressive therapy when post-operative observation is SOC
- Spare patients chemotherapy/treatment if no residual disease (when SOC calls for additional therapy)





Sequence resected tumor  
Identify tumor-specific mutations



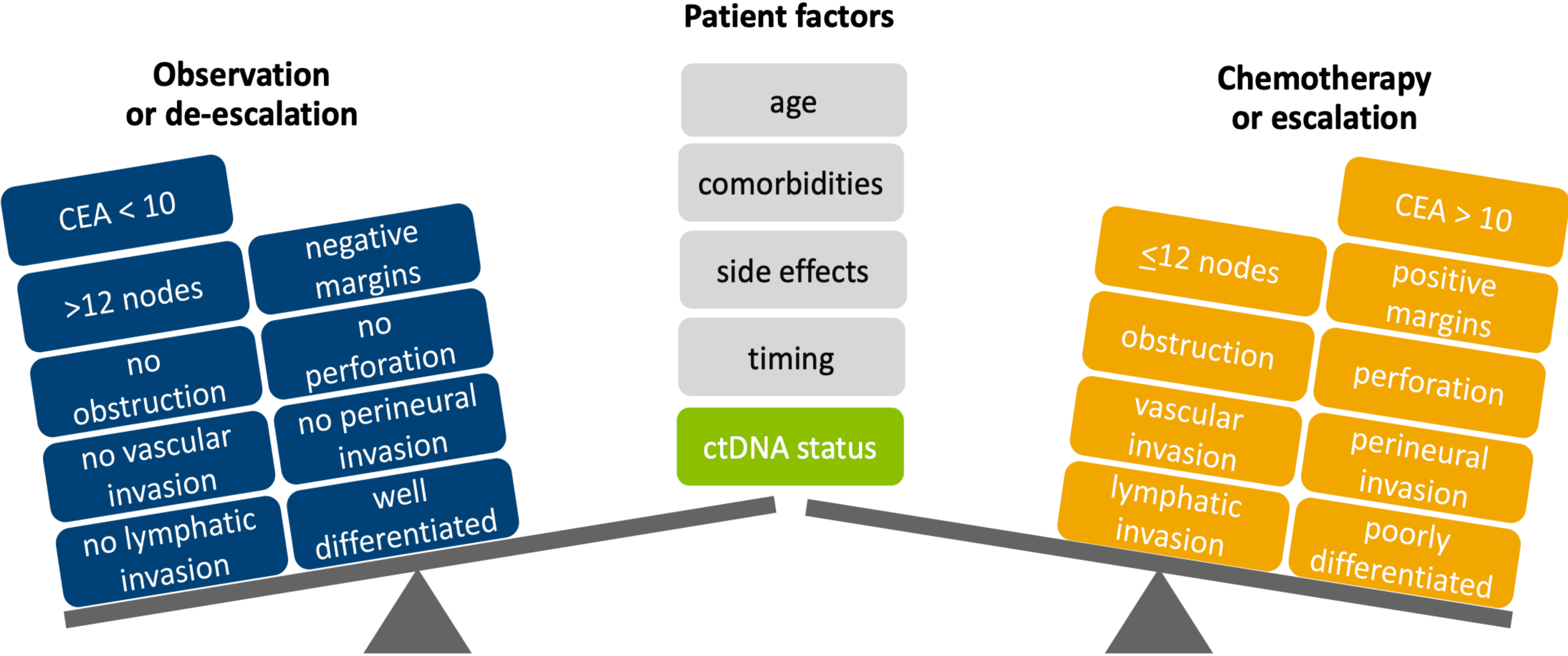
No adjuvant therapy  
Close surveillance  
Serial cfDNA testing



Adjuvant therapy  
Serial cfDNA testing

 Normal germline cfDNA  
 Tumor-specific alterations in ctDNA

# Factors that influence adjuvant chemotherapy





# Association of circulating tumor DNA dynamics with clinical outcomes in the adjuvant setting for patients with colorectal cancer from an observational GALAXY study in CIRCULATE-Japan

**Masahito Kotaka**

Gastrointestinal Cancer Center, Sano Hospital, Kobe, Japan

Co-authors; Hiromichi Shirasu, Jun Watanabe, Kentaro Yamazaki, Keiji Hirata, Naoya Akazawa, Nobuhisa Matsuhashi, Mitsuru Yokota, Masataka Ikeda, Kentaro Kato, Alexey Aleshin, Shruti Sharma, Daisuke Kotani, Eiji Oki, Ichiro Takemasa, Takeshi Kato, Yoshiaki Nakamura, Hiroya Taniguchi, Masaki Mori, Takayuki Yoshino

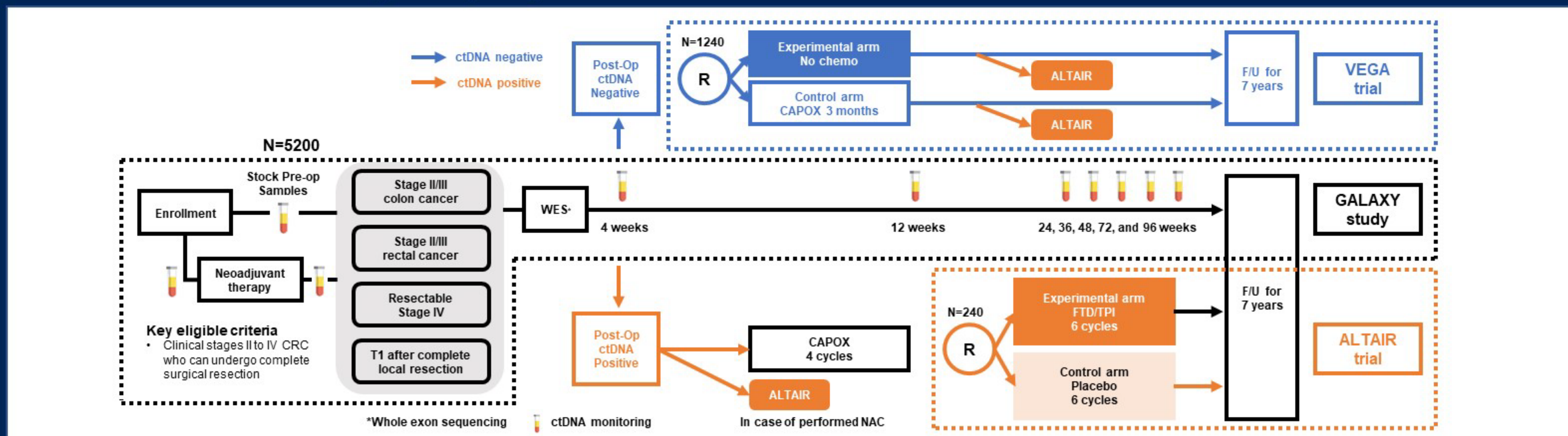
On behalf of the CIRCULATE-Japan Investigators



# Background

- Circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA)-based molecular residual disease (MRD) has the potential to select patients who may benefit more from standard-of-care (SOC) adjuvant chemotherapy (ACT) by accurately assessing recurrence-risk post-surgery and by evaluating ACT efficacy.
- CIRCULATE-Japan project is a large platform enrolling patients with clinical stage II–IV resectable colorectal cancer (CRC) to evaluate the clinical utility of ctDNA MRD analysis. The study comprises of one observational (GALAXY study) and two randomized phase III trials (VEGA and ALTAIR trials)<sup>1,2</sup>.

## Schema of CIRCULATE-Japan project



1. Taniguchi H, et al. Cancer Sci 2021, 2. Miyo M, et al. Cancer Sci 2021.



# Emerging Roles of ctDNA on the Horizon of Gastrointestinal Cancers

## ctDNA as a Tool to Detect Minimal Residual Disease After Surgery

Scott Kopetz, MD, PhD

Professor, GI Medical Oncology

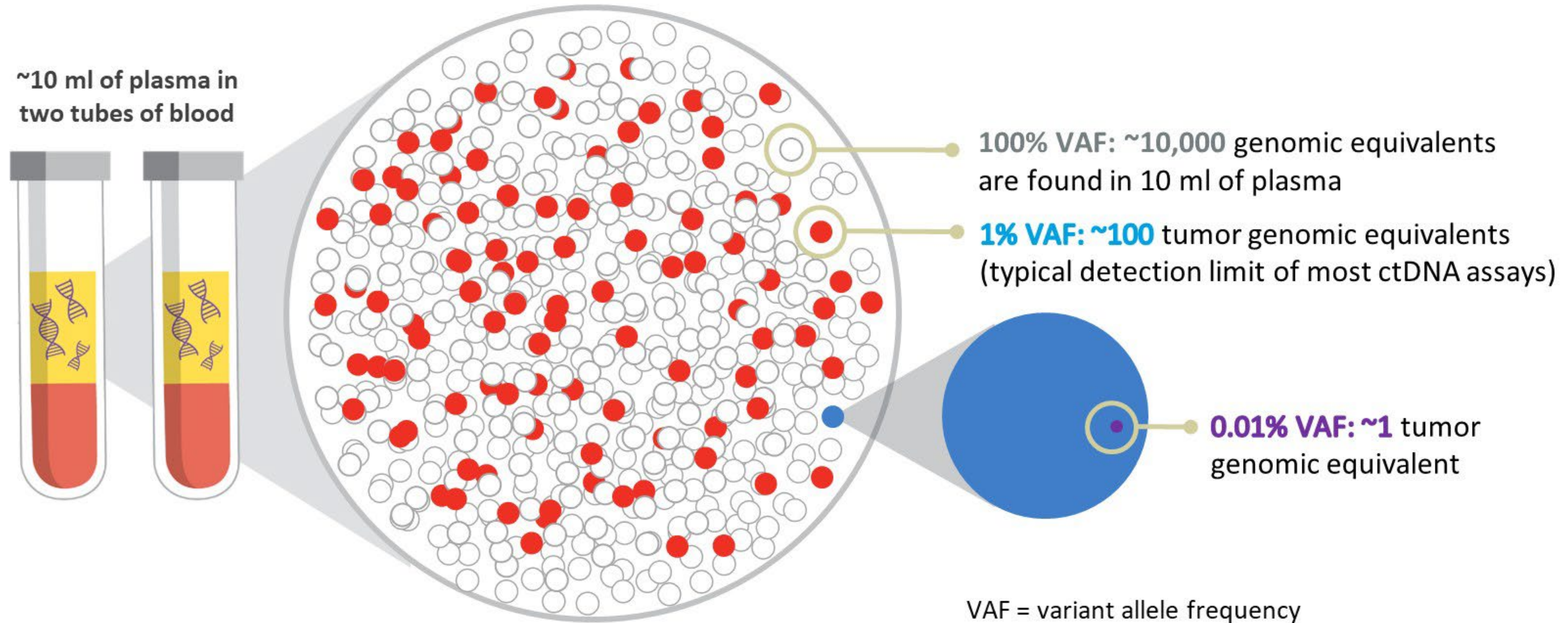
University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center

[@skopetz](#)

[skopetz@mdanderson.org](mailto:skopetz@mdanderson.org)



# Best performing assays can detect as few as one genomic equivalent in 10 ml of plasma (VAF = 0.01%)

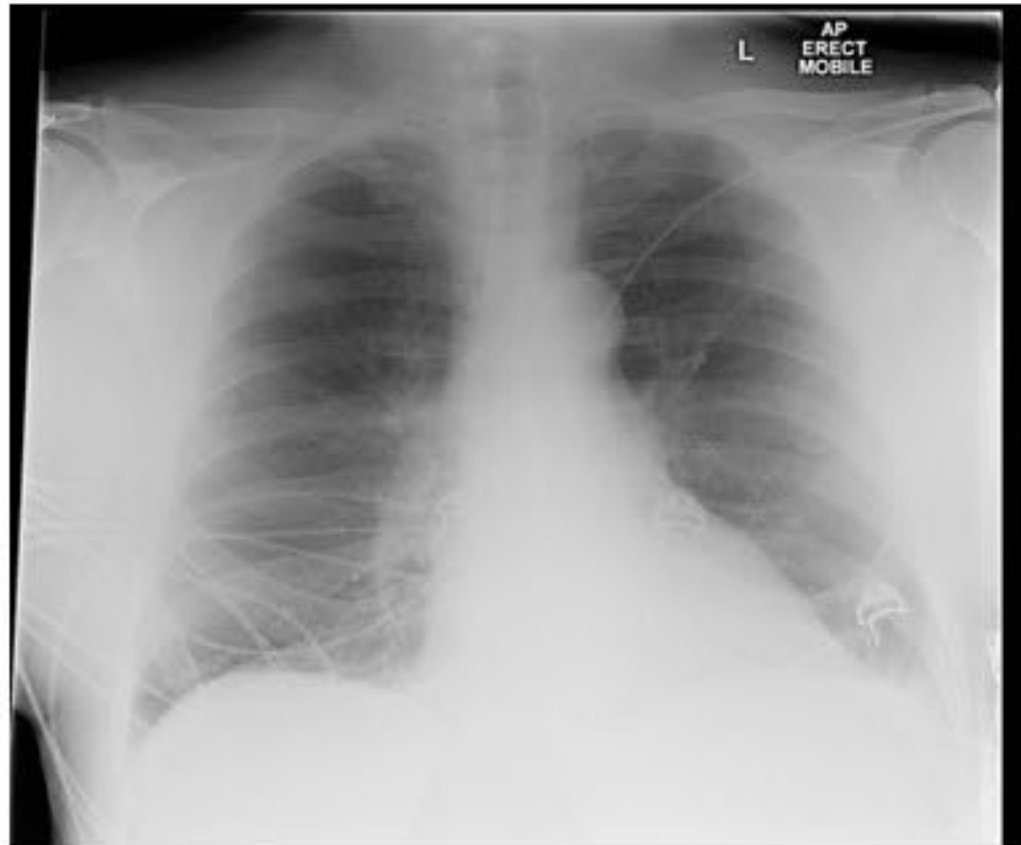


This requires use of a ctDNA assay optimized for minimal residual disease detection

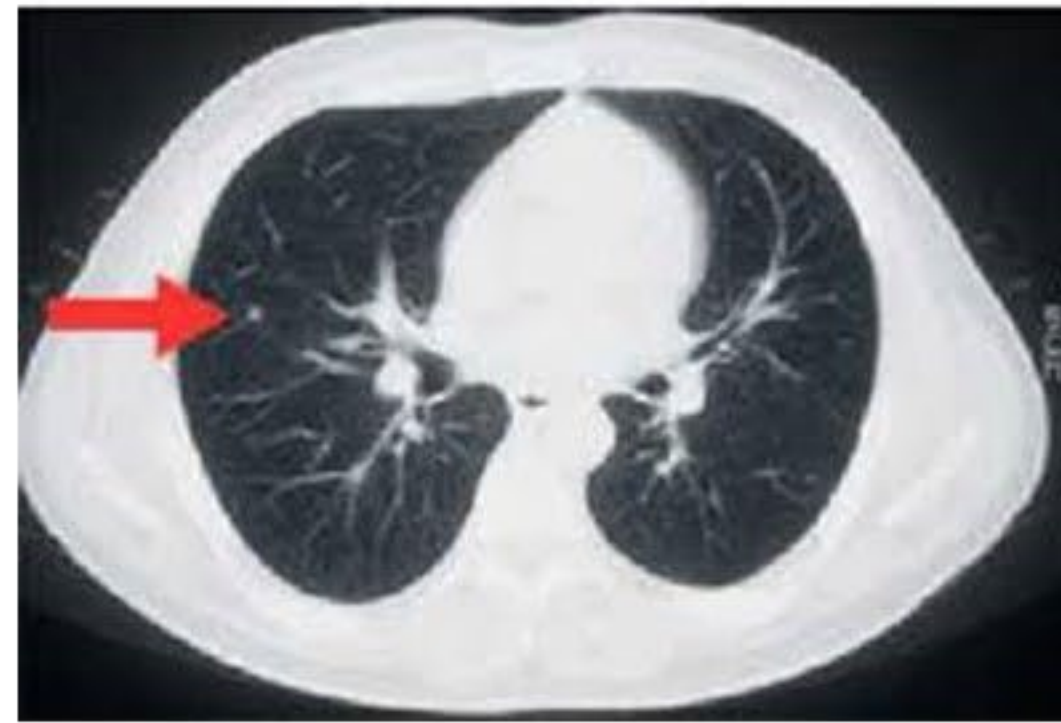


# Evolution of Tumor Surveillance: Dramatic improvement of sensitivity

CXR can detect  
 **$10^9$  cancer cells**



CT Scan can detect  
 **$10^7$  cancer cells**



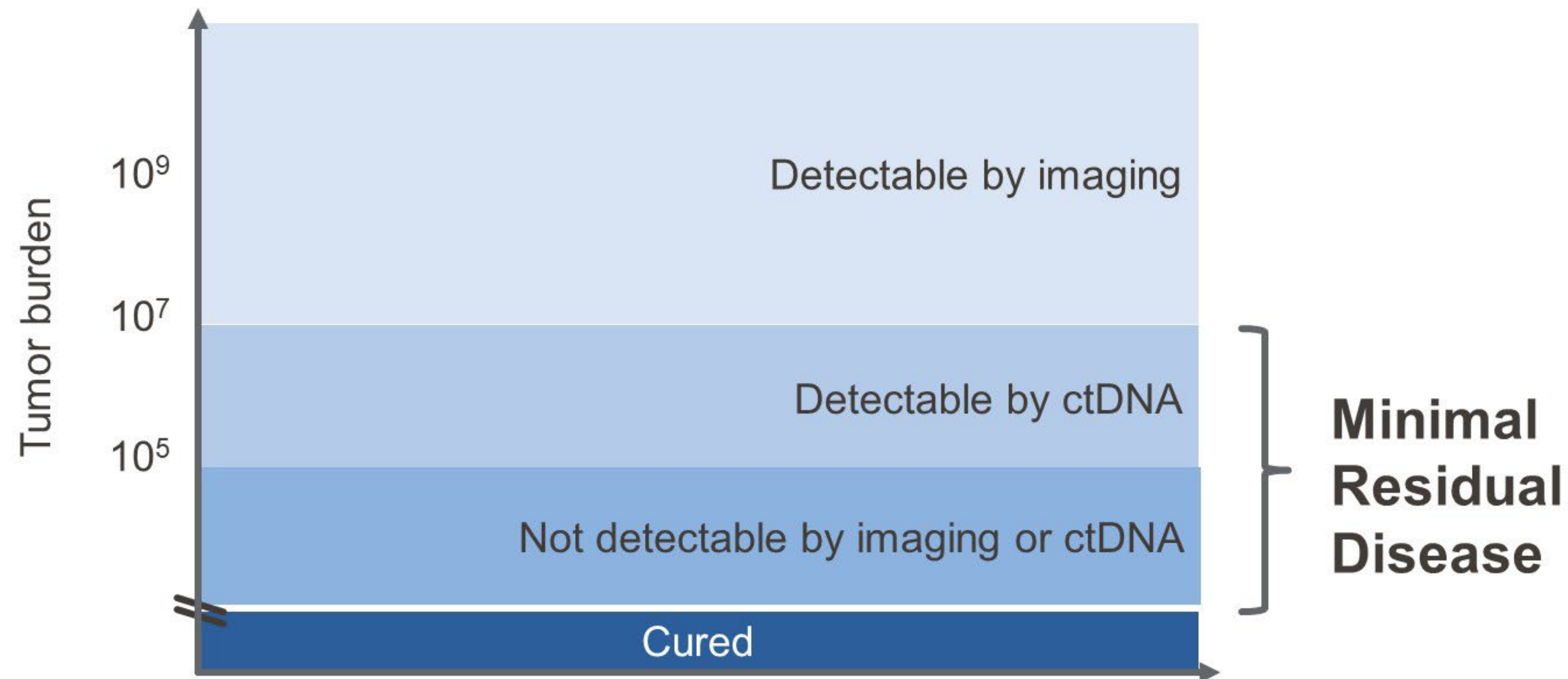
ctDNA can detect  
 **$10^5$  cancer cells?**





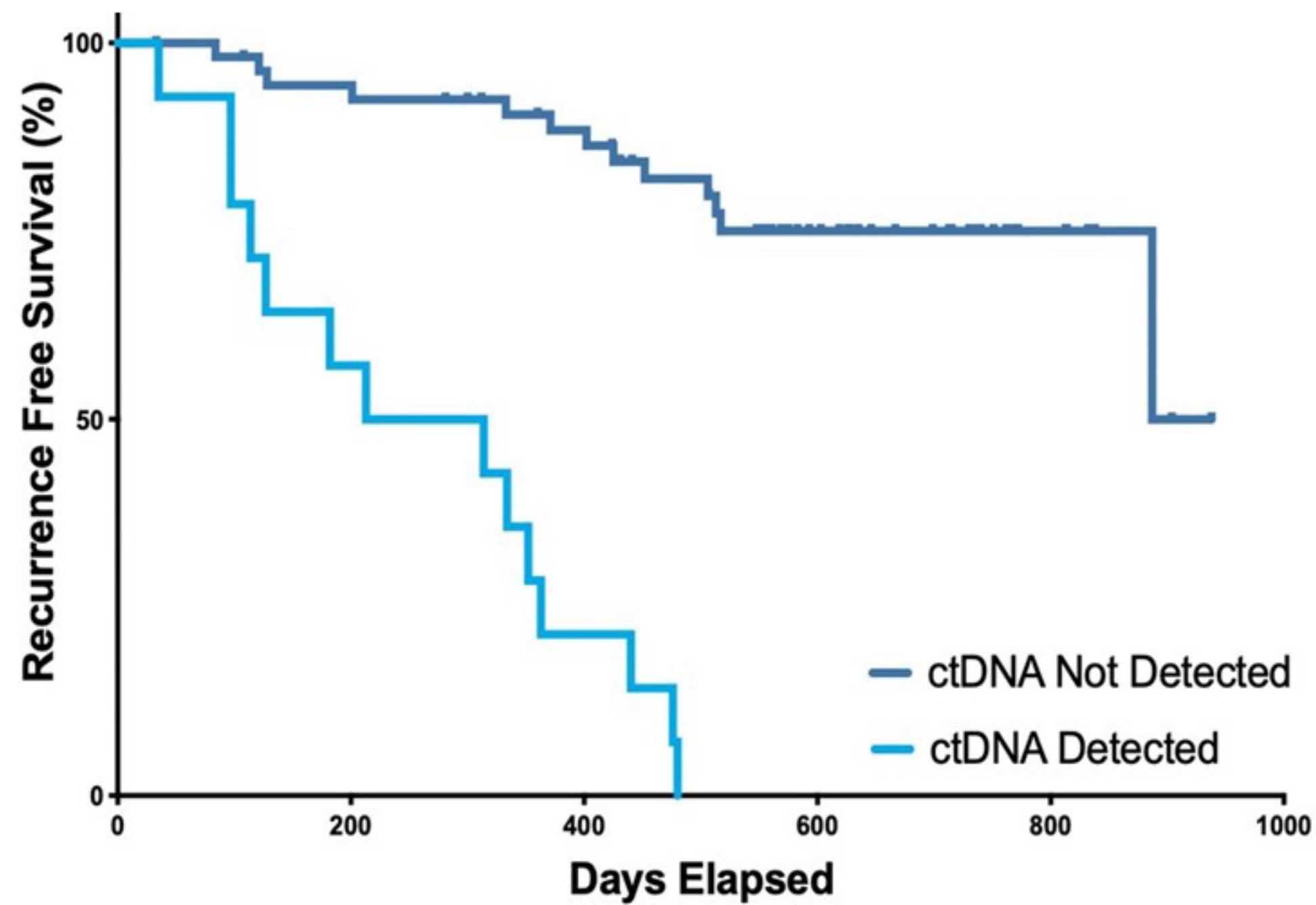
# Definition of Minimal Residual Disease

Presence of cancer after surgical resection (or other definitive procedure) *without* radiographic evidence of disease

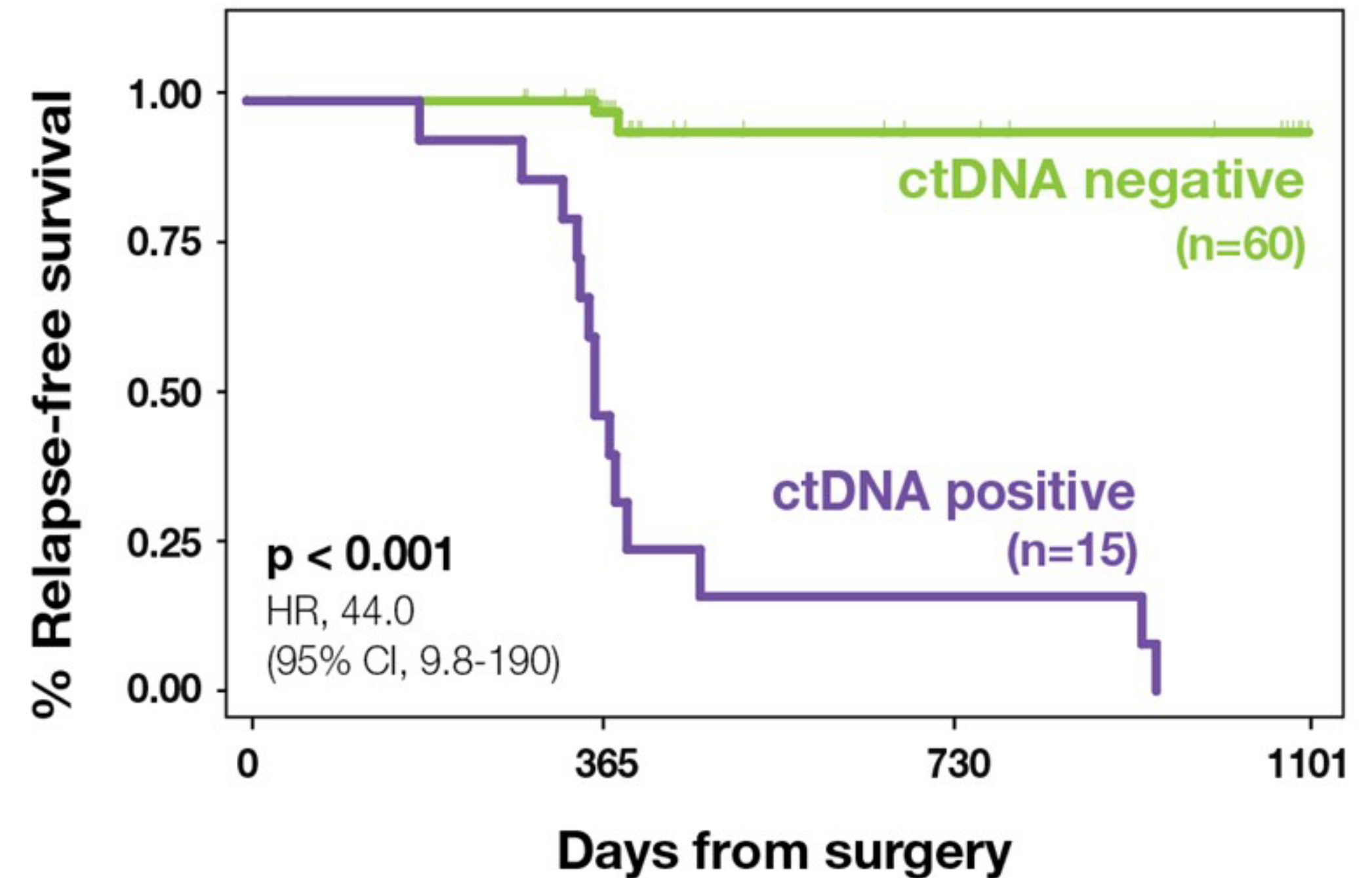




# Currently available ctDNA clinical assays can detect MRD



Parikh et al CCR '21; MGH / Guardant Health / **Reveal**



Reinart et al JAMA Onc '19; Aarhus / Natera / **Signatera**

These assays are currently covered by Medicare and most insurance companies for CRC, but not (yet) other GI cancers.

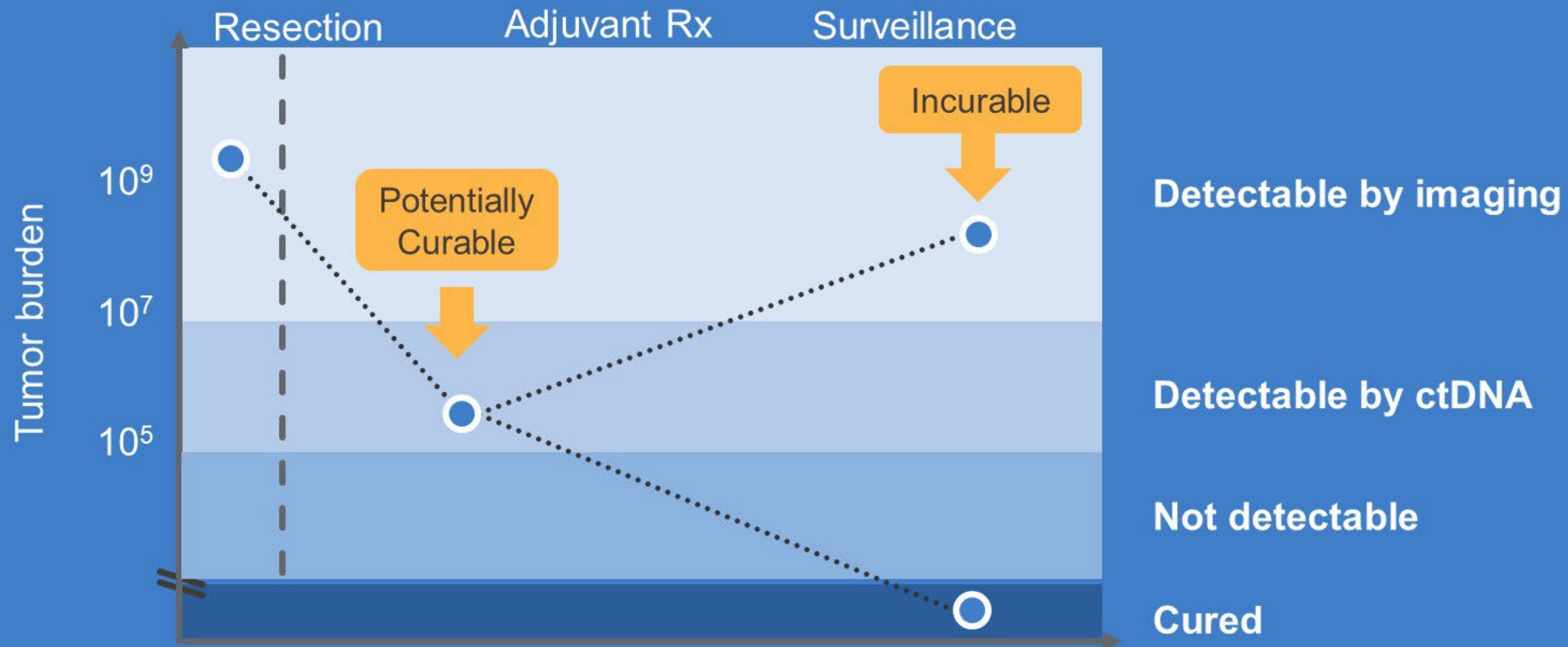


# Clinical Utility: Defining Patients for Adjuvant Therapy



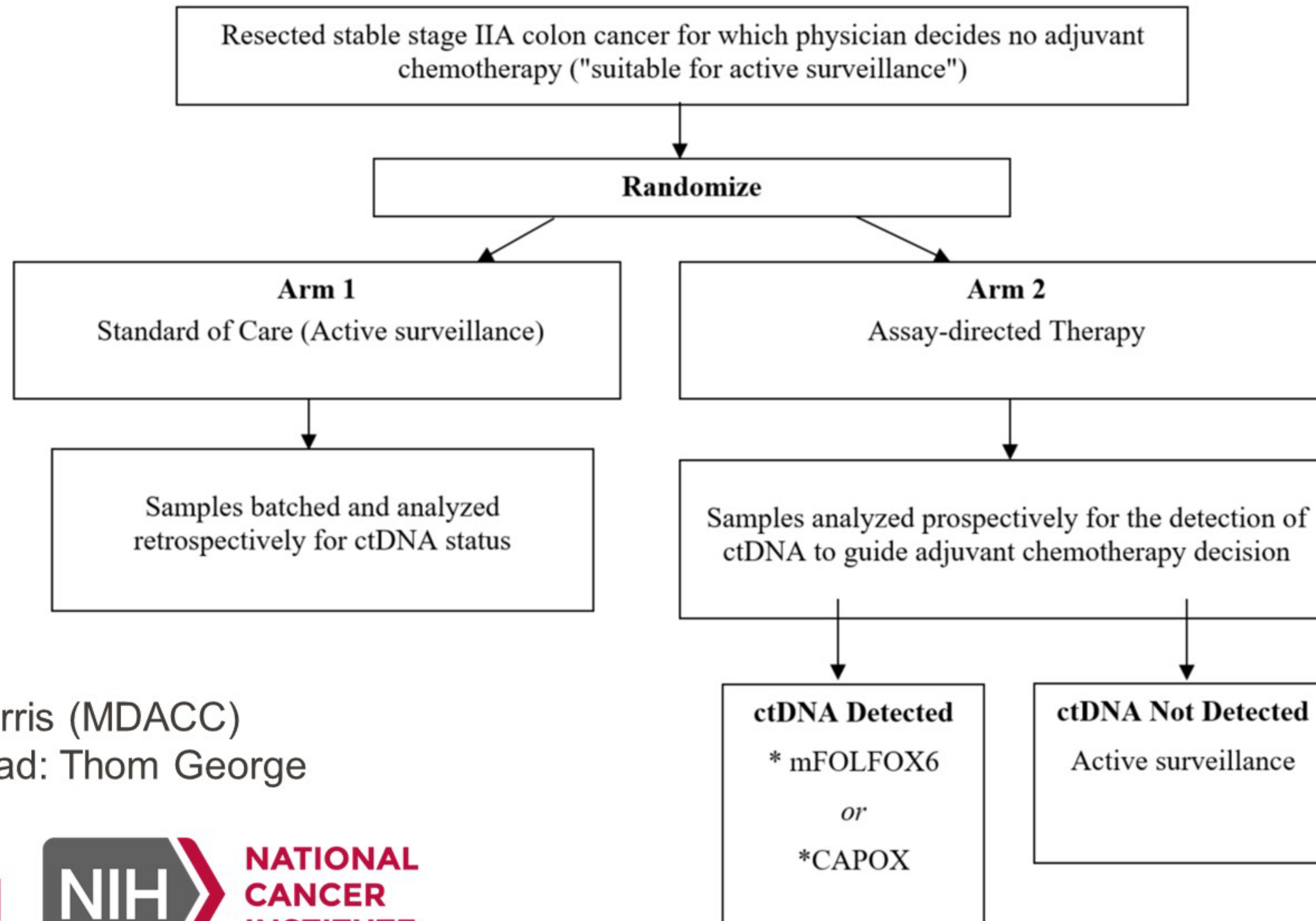


# Clinical Utility: Addition of Novel Therapies with Curative Intent





# COBRA: Stage II Adjuvant Study CR1643



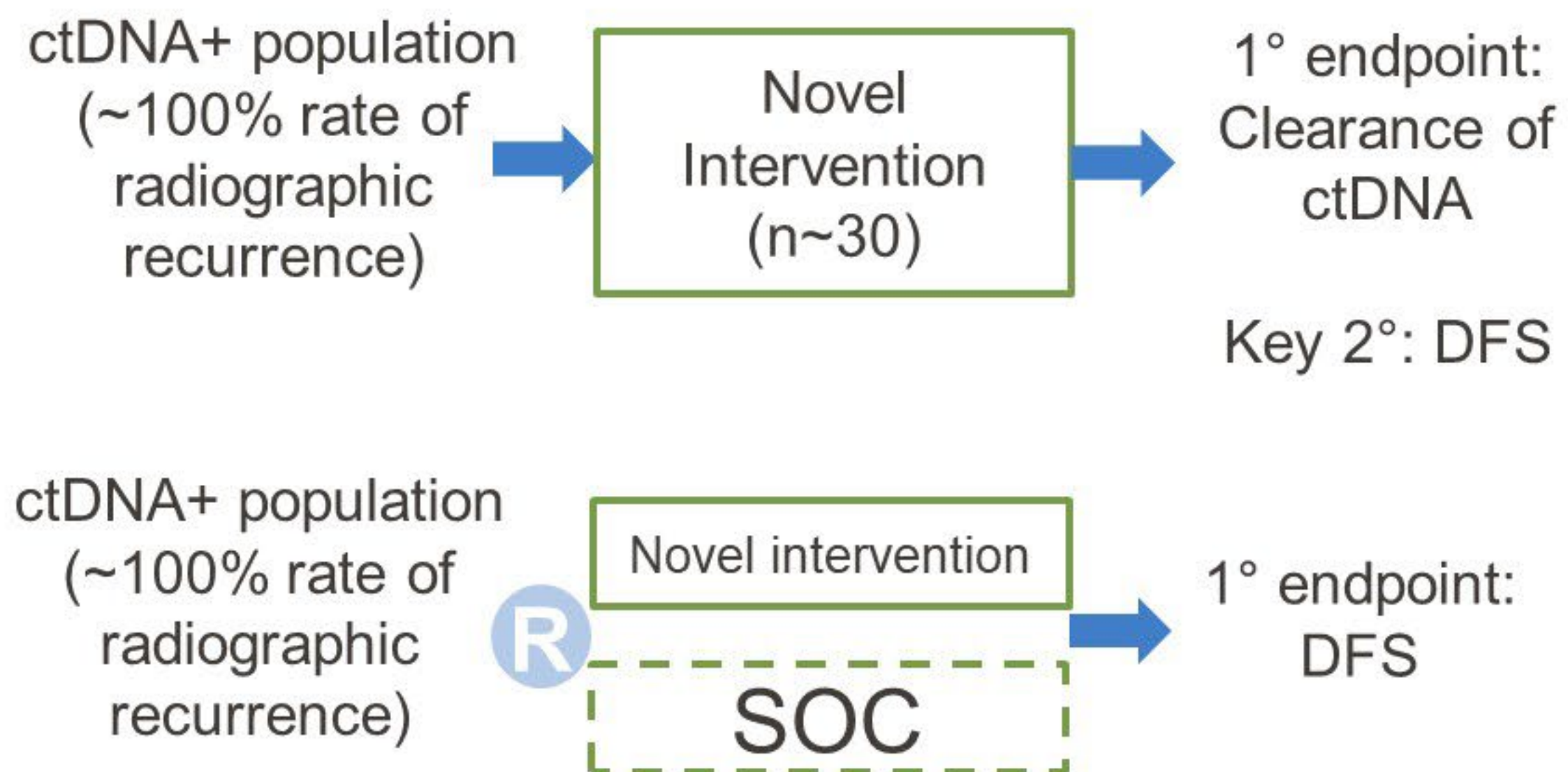
PI: Van Morris (MDACC)  
NRG GI Lead: Thom George





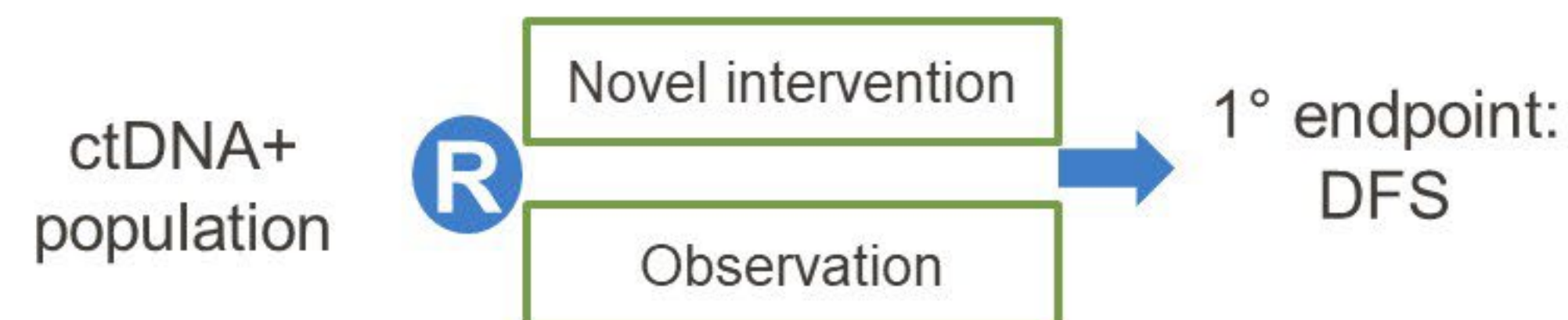
# ctDNA Enables Rapid Path to Registration for Novel Therapies

## Phase II Proof of Concept



- Endpoint of clearance of ctDNA, where this is **necessary but not sufficient** for improved outcomes

## Phase III Registration Study



- Very high event rate, so relatively small Phase III study size (~300 pts)

Dasari et al JCO '20



## Other Proof of Principle MRD Pilot studies

Cord blood NK cells + Cetuximab

TBD

Pembrolizumab or Nivolumab for MSI-H

NCT03803553/NCT03832569

TAS-102 with or without Irinotecan

NCT04920032

Exercise +/- Diet, Vit D, Aspirin

NCT05036109 / NCT04589468

Personalized Peptide Vaccine + CD40 + anti-PD1

NCT03803553

Encorafenib, binimetinib, cetuximab in BRAF<sup>mut</sup>

NCT02600949

Many additional studies in development

*Resources are available to find clinical trials for patients with ctDNA+ MRD: CRCMRD.com and Colontown*



# Conclusions

- MRD applications are enabled by very high **positive predictive value** (low false positive) of commercially-available ctDNA for recurrent disease in patients
- This is not a marker of high risk for recurrence, but **defines molecular persistence of disease / minimal residual disease**.
- GI cancer patients with ctDNA+ after definitive interventions should be considered as a new “line” of therapy distinct from adjuvant or first line metastatic and **suitable for novel drug development**
- *In the next several years, ctDNA will dramatically change our approaches to “adjuvant” therapy, **but we need to develop the data** and understand more about strengths/weaknesses of these strategies before prematurely adopting any new intervention approaches*



# Rectal Cancer Early Stage



ASCO® Gastrointestinal  
Cancers Symposium

# Short course radiotherapy vs Long course chemoradiation

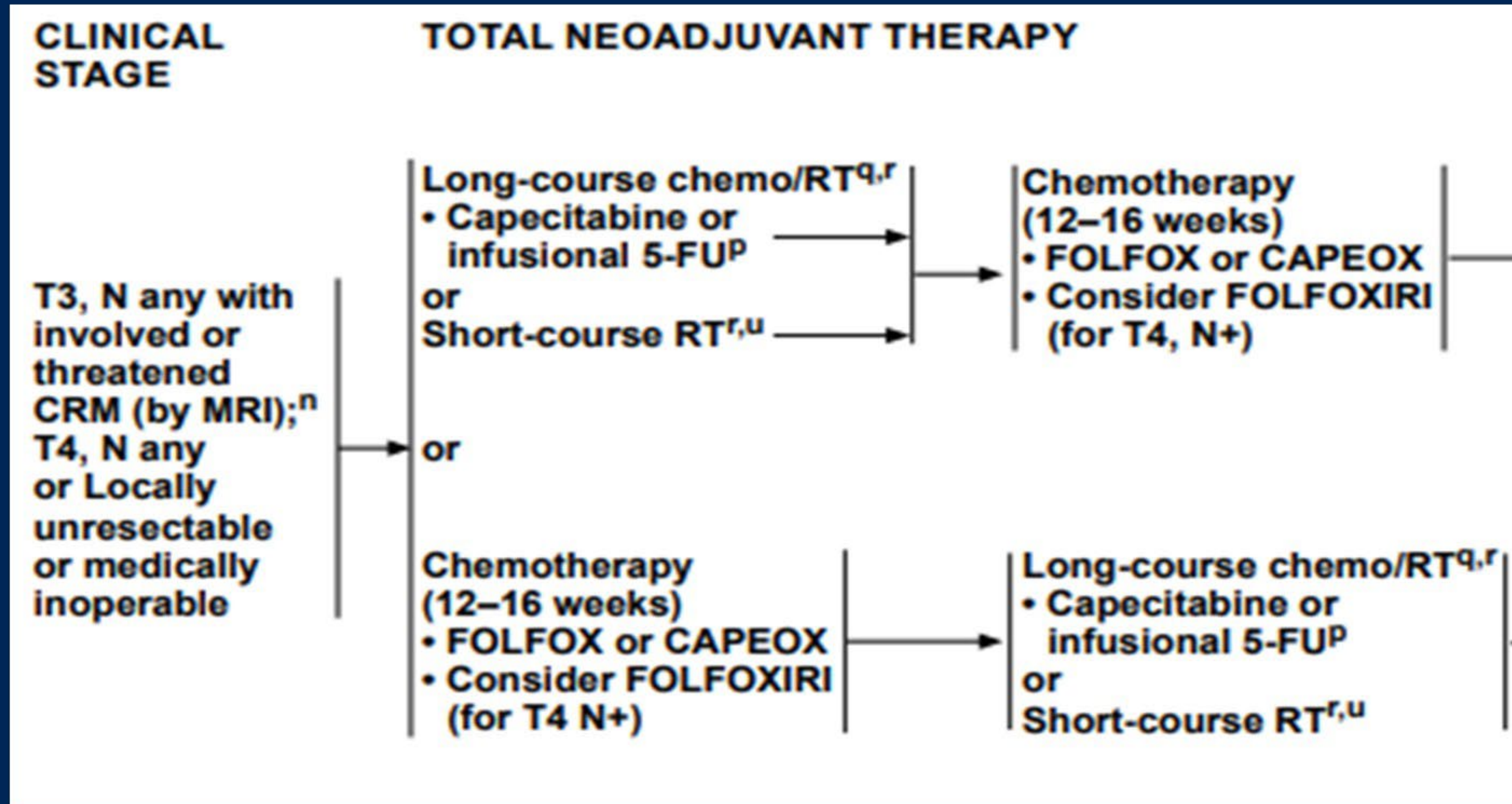
*As a component of TNT for LARC*

Emma Holliday, MD

Assistant Professor Gastrointestinal Radiation Oncology



# TNT is the clear SOC due to DFS benefit



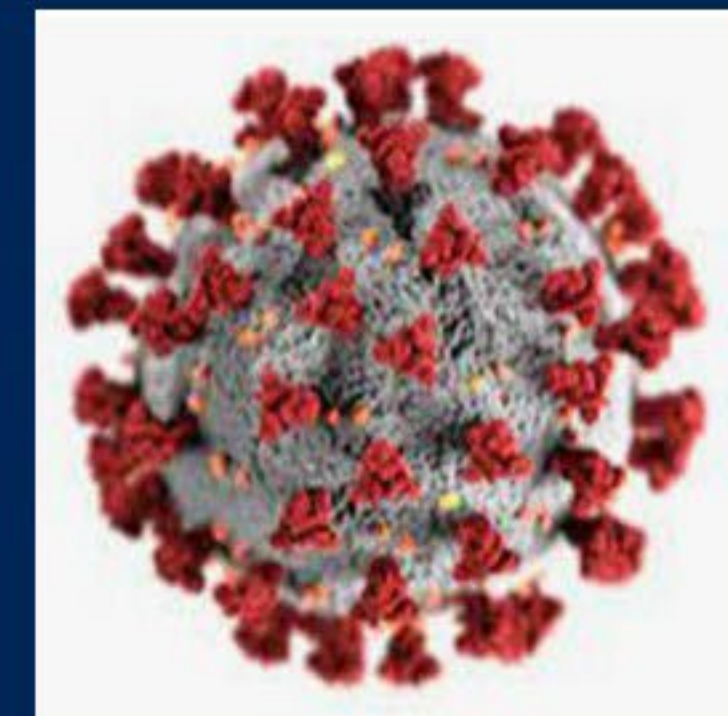
**RAPIDO**

**PRODIGE-23**



# Benefits of SCRT over LC-CRT?

- Similar efficacy and safety compared to long course
- More convenient to patients
- Less costly/financially toxic





# SCRT vs LC-CRT Trials: Toxicity & Complications

	Short Course	Long Course	P-value
Polish Trial I (Bujko 2006)	Late tox: 28.3%	Late tox: 27.0%	0.81
TROG 01.04 (Ansari 2017)	G3-4 late tox: 5.8%	G3-4 late tox: 8.2%	0.53
Stockholm III (Erlandsson 2017)	Postop comp & late tox: 50% & 43% immed surg vs 38% & 40% delay surg	Postop comp: 39% Late tox: 47%	0.53



# RAPIDO



*Primary outcome: Disease-related treatment failure = locoregional failure, distant metastasis, new primary colorectal tumor or treatment-related death.*



# SCRT is more convenient and less costly

- Convenience:
- Less time off work/away from family
- Less time in the hospital system/COVID exposure
  
- Cost:
- 28 fractions 3DCRT + capecitabine = \$19,311\*
- 5 fractions 3DCRT = \$7,223\*

•\*Radlow et al JAMA Network Open 2019

•From 2018 Medicare Fee Schedule to include costs of consult, simulation, weekly management, treatment planning and delivery



# When is LC-CRT preferable in TNT?

- *When a W&W strategy is desired*
- *When maximal local response is desired for sphincter-saving operation*



# Is SCRT W&W ready for prime time?

- Many are awaiting results from randomized trials to support retrospective data:
- ACO/ARO/AIO-18.1: SCRT TNT vs LC-CRT TNT → surg or W&W
- STAR-TREC = TME vs LC-CRT + W&W vs SCRT + W&W



# Conclusions/Take-Away

- SCRT and LC-CRT are both reasonable and evidence-based RT options in the context of TNT.
- For most patient with LARC, SCRT will give equivalent results and may be preferable for logistics/financial toxicity.
- For patients for whom a W&W approach is being considered, LC-CRT is preferred by many centers, but similar rates of pCR call this bias into question and further data may inform this.



# Triplet versus Doublet Systemic Therapy

*Should we add irinotecan to the mix?*

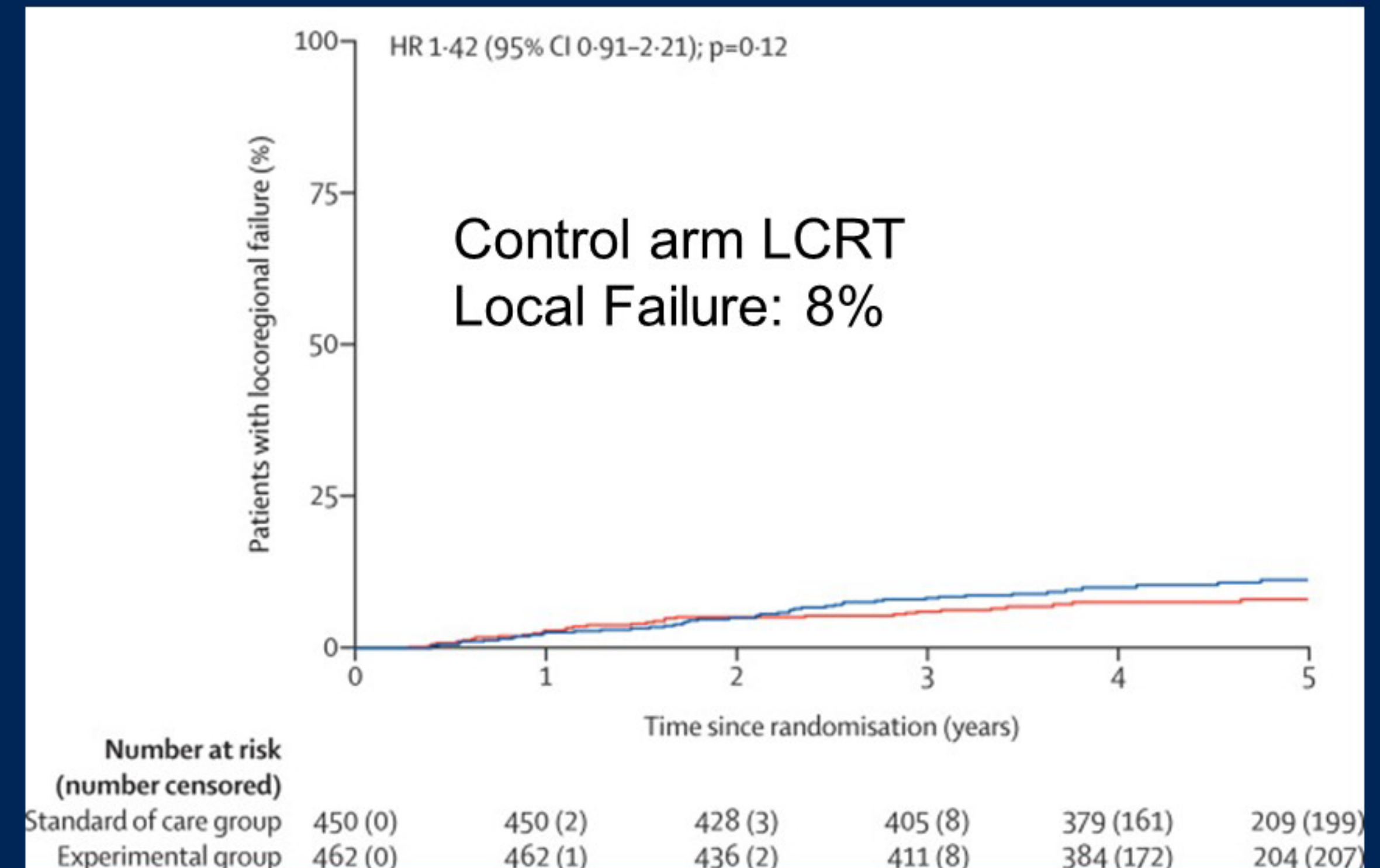
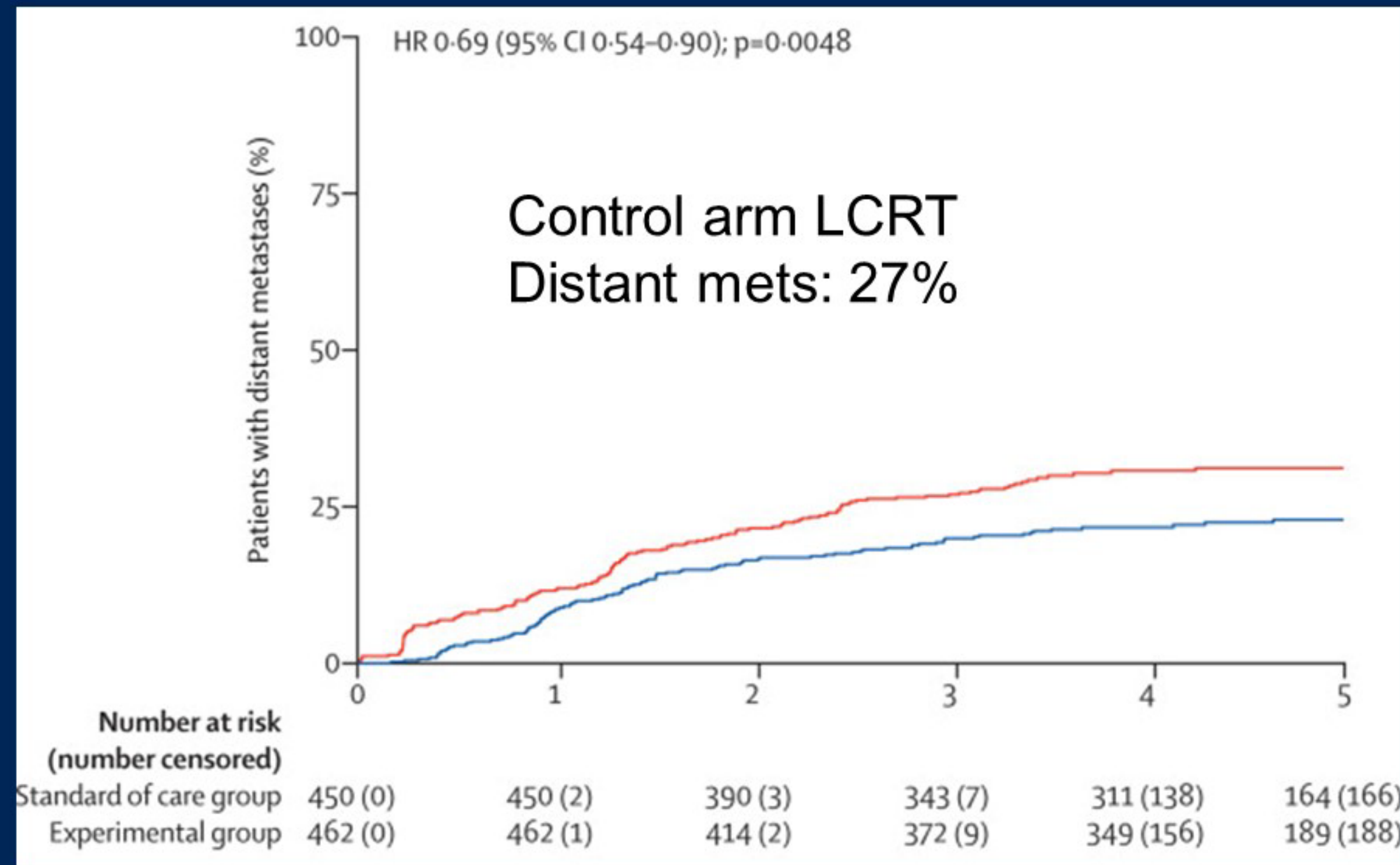


Hanna K. Sanoff, MD  
Professor of Medicine  
Division of Oncology  
University of North Carolina



# Treatment fails 2-3x as often outside the pelvis

## RAPIDO TRIAL



Bahadoer, et al Lancet Oncol 2021; 22: 29-42



# Why would we escalate?

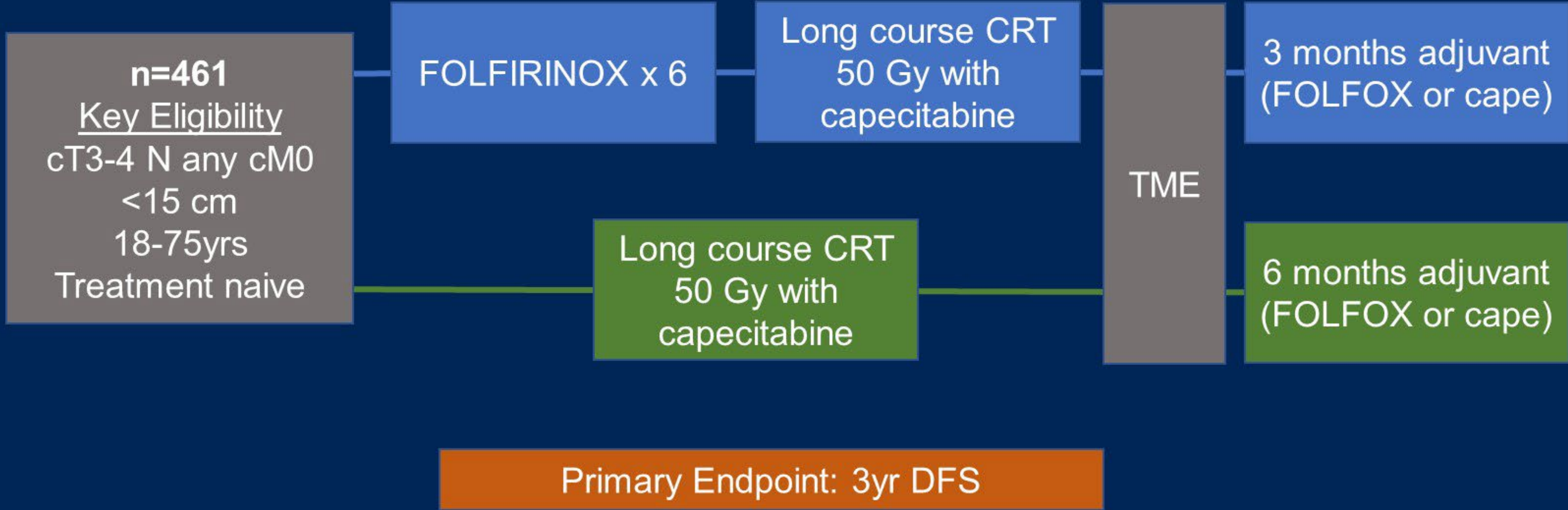
---

1. People with rectal cancer are still dying of metastatic recurrence
2. Current treatment is often inadequate for high-risk local disease



# Best evidence is for triplet chemotherapy

## UNICANCER-PRODIGE 23



Conroy T, et al. Lancet Oncol 2021; 22(5):702-715



# UNICANCER-PRODIGE 23

## Key trial characteristics

	Neoadj FFX + CRT	Neoadj CRT
Median Age	61	62
Distance to anal verge $\leq$ 5cm	38%	36%
MRI stage T4	18%	16%
cN2	26%	23%
Predicted radial margin $\leq$ 1mm	21%	23%

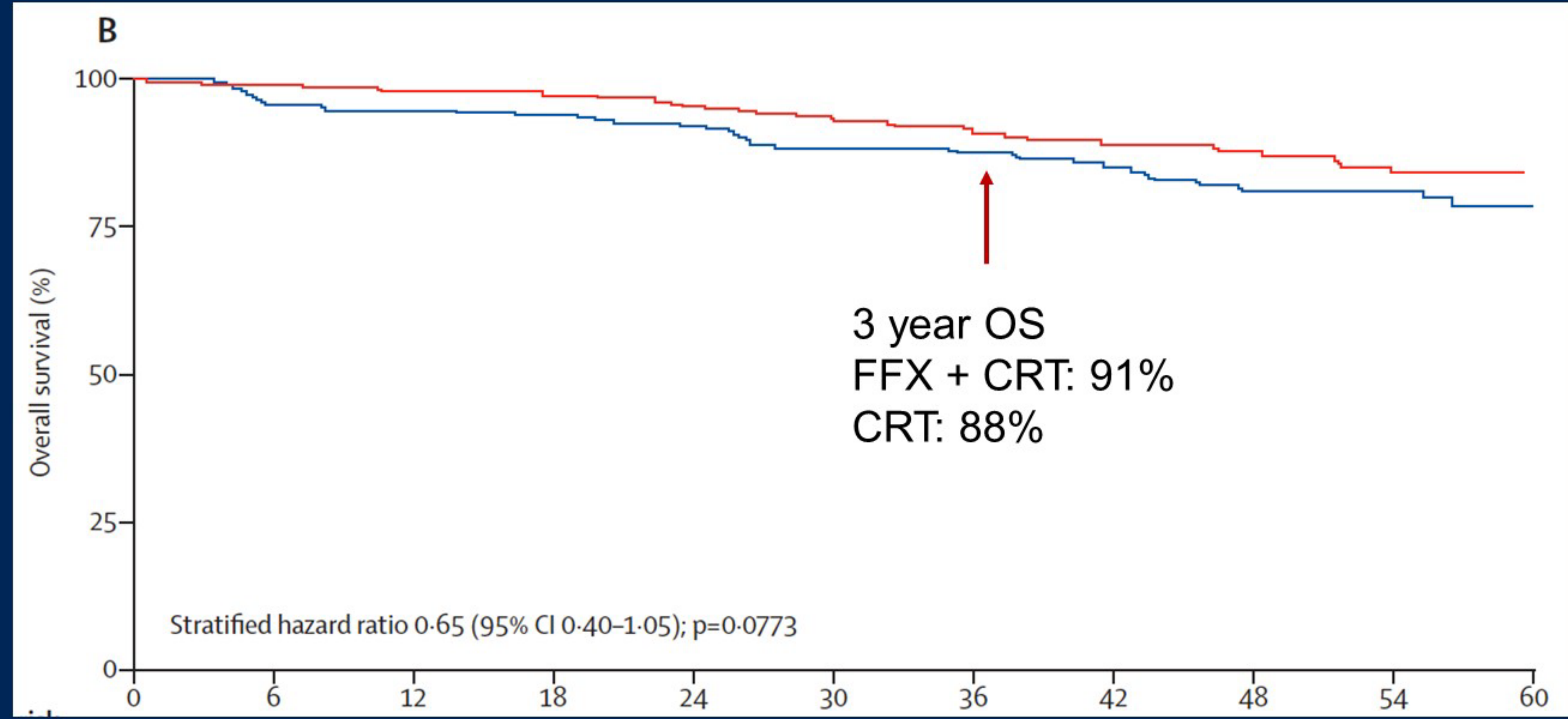
### TREATMENT SUMMARY

- 92% received 6 cycles FFX
- 27% received cGSF
- 95% vs 99% CRT completion
- 92% vs 95% resected
- 77% vs 79% started adjuvant chemotherapy

Conroy T, et al. Lancet Oncol 2021; 22(5):702-715



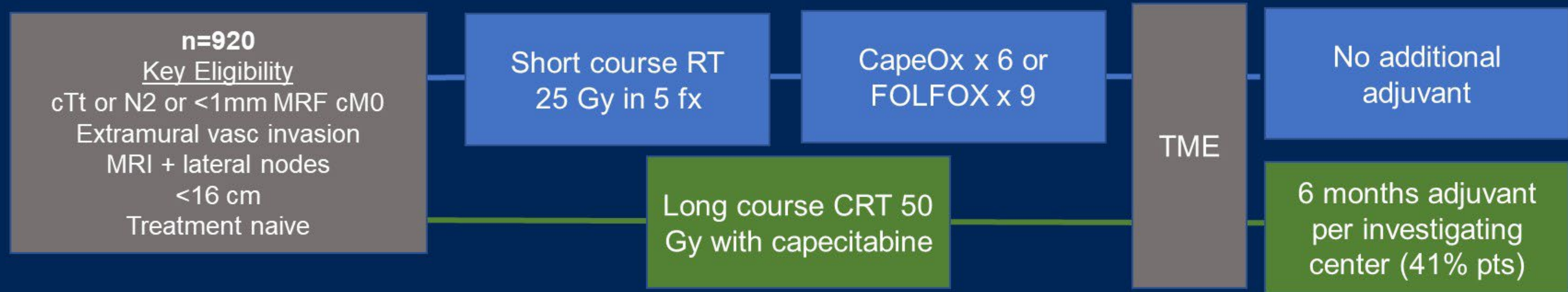
# UNICANCER-PRODIGE 23 Key Trial Results



Conroy T, et al. Lancet Oncol 2021; 22(5):702-715



# Reminder comparison: RAPIDO Trial Results



Outcome	SC + FOLFOX	Long Course CRT	
Disease related treatment failure at 3 years	24%	30%	HR 0.75, 0.6-0.95
OS at 3 years	89%	89%	HR 0.92, 0.67-1.25
Distant Mets at 3 years	20%	27%	HR 0.69, 0.54-0.9
Local Recur. At 3 years	8%	6%	HR 1.42, 0.9-2.21
pCR	28%	14%	p<0.0001

Bahadoer, et al Lancet Oncol 2021; 22: 29-42



# Why would we escalate?

---

1. People with rectal cancer are still dying of metastatic recurrence
  - ✓ 7% absolute improvement distant mets
  - X No survival benefit. Will survival difference emerge with time?*
  - X is this related to FOLFIRINOX? Or just neoadj chemo?*
2. Current treatment is often inadequate for high-risk local disease
  - x Minimal difference in local recurrence, but too few locally high-risk patients to know*



# Why would we escalate?

---

1. People with rectal cancer are still dying of metastatic recurrence
2. Current treatment is often inadequate for high-risk local disease
3. For better responses in bulky, painful, difficult to resect cancers
4. Improve chance of organ preservation / Non-operative management  
*x Totally unclear– to be answered by JANUS trial*



# Conclusions on Neoadjuvant FOLFIRINOX

## YES FOLFIRINOX IS A GO:

- Improves tumor regression and symptom palliation for very bad, locally advanced disease

## MAYBE...

- DFS and distant mets: Clear incremental benefit vs upfront CRT only
- BUT not clear that's from triplet vs just neoadjuvant chemo
- Without survival data use should be reserved for selected cases

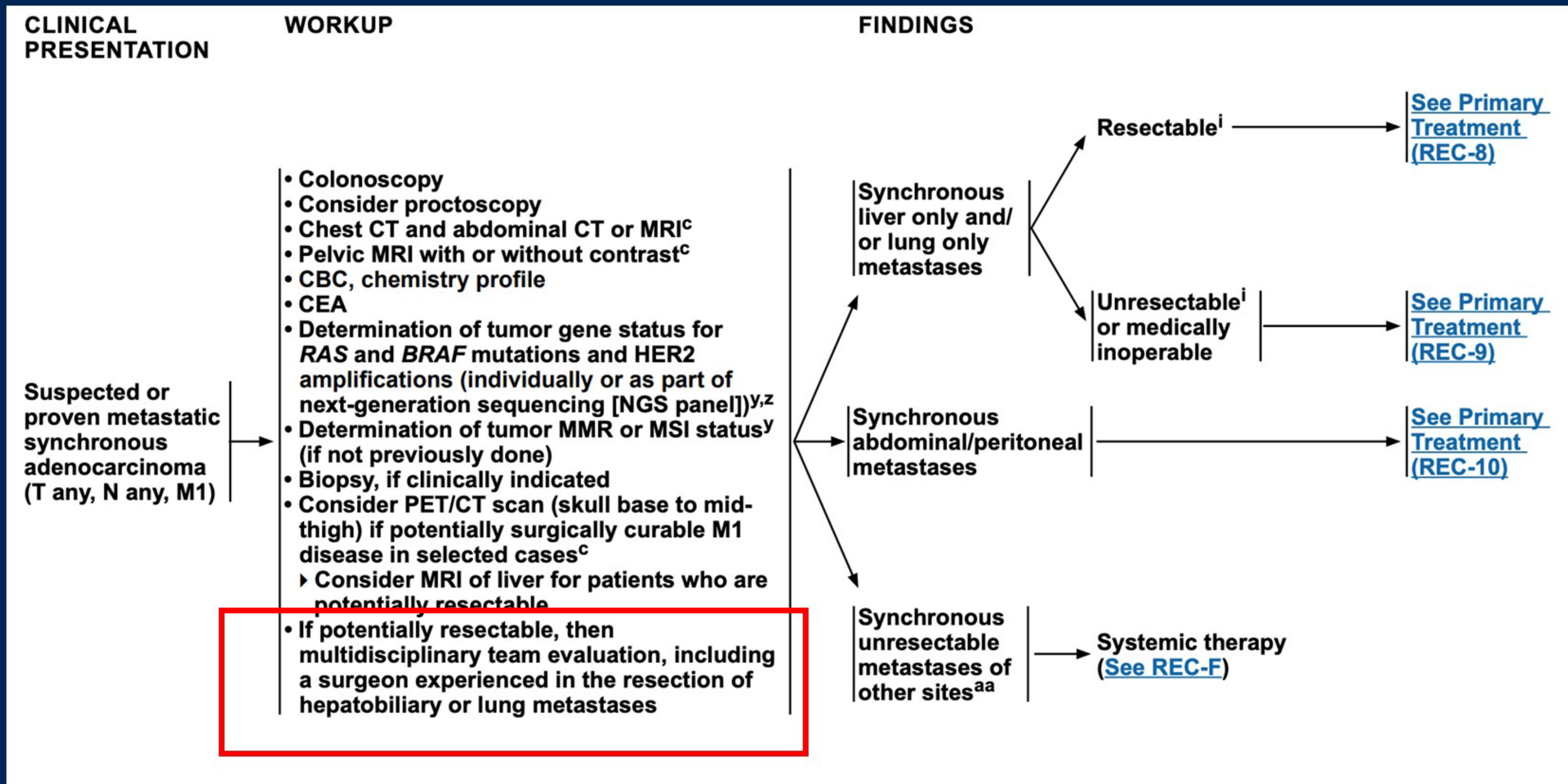
## JURY'S OUT ON:

- Local control for high-risk disease (current evidence suggests no benefit)
- Overall survival benefit
- Improvement in cCR for non-operative management



# Colon & Rectal Cancer Late Stage

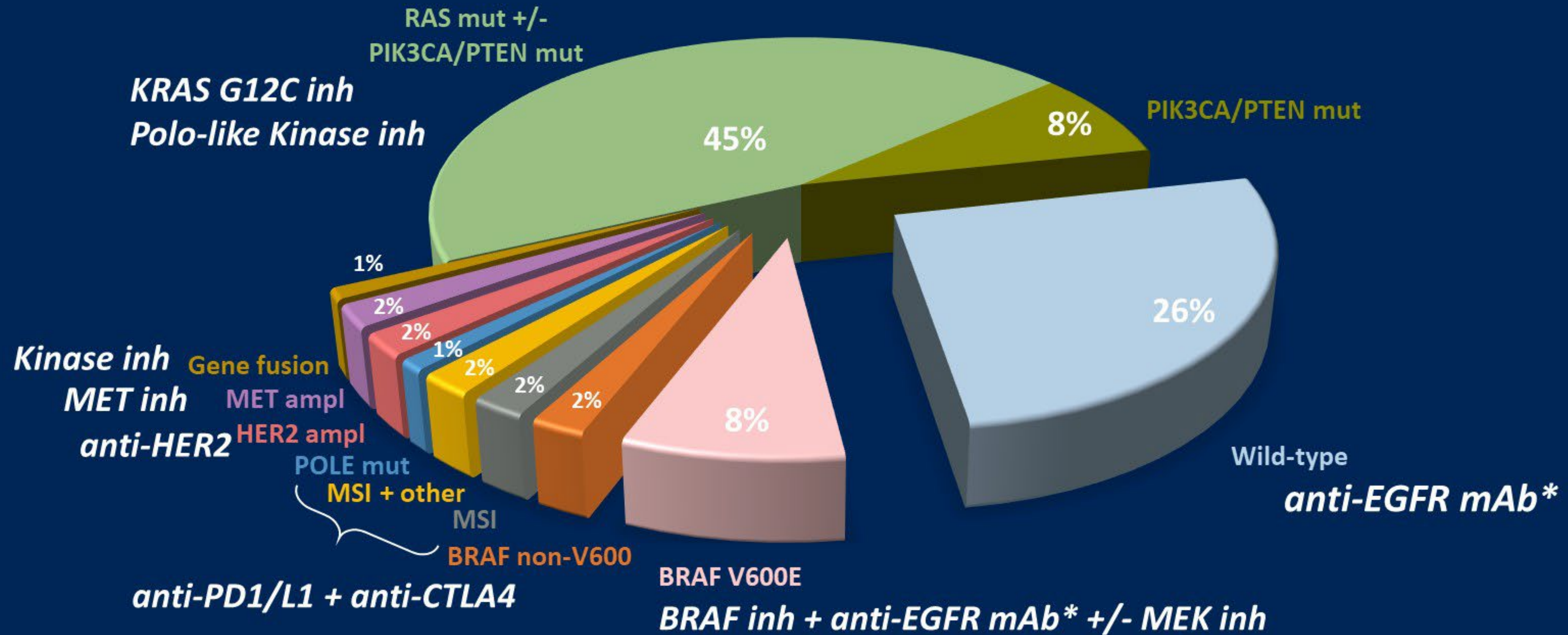




NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines for Rectal Cancer. (2021, 2, 2021). *National Comprehensive Cancer Network Clinical Practice Guidelines*. from [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/rectal.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/rectal.pdf)



# Genomic markers in mCRC with existing or potential matched therapies



\* mAb: monoclonal antibody

Modified citation from reference Dienstmann R, Tabernero J, et al. ASCO Edu. Book2018



# Keynote 177

- Superiority of Immunotherapy over chemotherapy



Original Article

# Pembrolizumab in Microsatellite-Instability

Thierry André, M.D., Kai-Keen Shiu, F.R.C.P., Ph.D., Tae Won Kim, M.D., Ph.D., Benny Vittrup Jensen, M.D., Lars Henrik Jensen, M.D., Ph.D., Cornelis Punt, M.D., Ph.D., Denis Smith, M.D., Rocio Garcia-Carbonero, M.D., Ph.D., Manuel Benavides, M.D., Ph.D., Peter Gibbs, M.D., Christelle de la Fouchardiere, M.D., Fernando Rivera, M.D., Ph.D., Elena Elez, M.D., Johanna Bendell, M.D., Dung T. Le, M.D., Takayuki Yoshino, M.D., Ph.D., Eric Van Cutsem, M.D., Ph.D., Ping Yang, Ph.D., Mohammed Z.H. Farooqui, D.O., Patricia Marinello, Pharm.D., Luis A. Diaz, Jr., M.D., for the KEYNOTE-177 Investigators

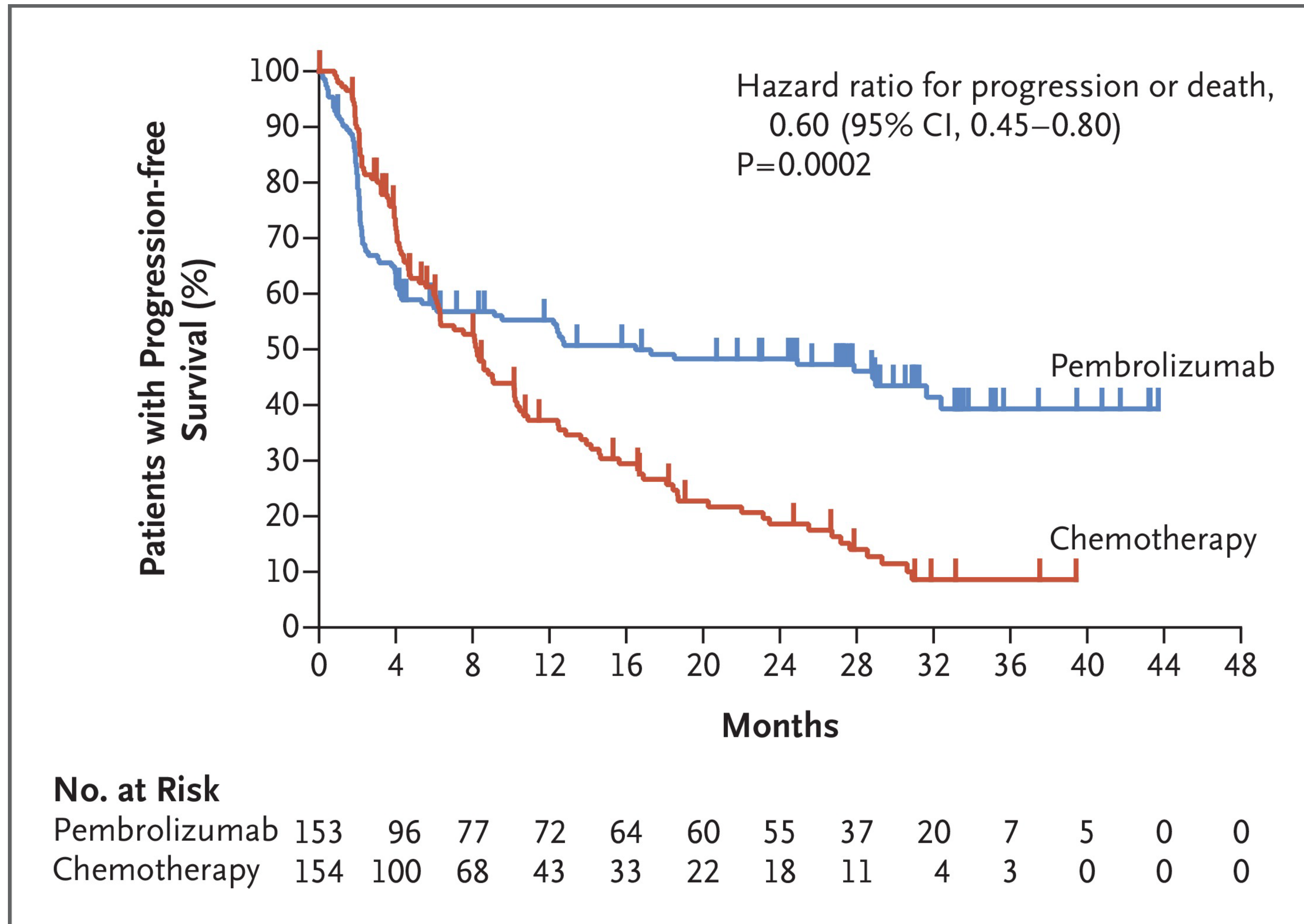
N Engl J Med  
Volume 383(23):2207-2218  
December 3, 2020



The NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL of MEDICINE



## Progression-free Survival in Patients with MSI-H–dMMR Metastatic Colorectal Cancer.







### CLINICAL PRESENTATION

### WORKUP

### FINDINGS

Suspected or proven metastatic synchronous adenocarcinoma (any T, any N, M1)

- Colonoscopy
- Chest/abdominal/pelvic CT<sup>b</sup>
- CBC, chemistry profile
- CEA
- Determination of tumor gene status for *RAS* and *BRAF* mutations and HER2 amplifications (individually or as part of tissue- or blood-based next-generation sequencing [NGS] panel)<sup>v,w</sup>
- Determination of tumor mismatch repair (MMR) or microsatellite instability (MSI) status<sup>e</sup> (if not previously done)
- Biopsy, if clinically indicated
- Consider PET/CT scan (skull base to mid-thigh) if potentially surgically curable M1 disease in selected cases<sup>b</sup>
  - ▶ Consider MRI of liver for liver metastases that are potentially resectable<sup>b</sup>
- If potentially resectable, then multidisciplinary team evaluation, including a surgeon experienced in the resection of hepatobiliary or lung metastases

Synchronous liver only and/or lung only metastases

Resectable<sup>h</sup>

[Treatment and Adjuvant Therapy \(COL-5\)](#)

Unresectable (potentially convertible<sup>h</sup> or unconvertible)

[Treatment and Adjuvant Therapy \(COL-6\)](#)

Synchronous abdominal/peritoneal metastases

[Primary Treatment \(COL-7\)](#)

Synchronous unresectable metastases of other sites<sup>x</sup>

[Systemic Therapy \(COL-D\)](#)

<sup>b</sup> [Principles of Imaging \(COL-A\)](#).

<sup>e</sup> [Principles of Pathologic Review \(COL-B 4 of 8\)](#) - MSI or MMR Testing.

<sup>h</sup> [Principles of Surgery \(COL-C 2 of 3\)](#).

<sup>v</sup> [Principles of Pathologic Review \(COL-B 4 of 8\)](#) - *KRAS*, *NRAS*, and *BRAF* Mutation Testing.

<sup>w</sup> If known *RAS/RAF* mutation, HER2 testing is not indicated. Tissue- or blood-based NGS panels have the ability to pick up rare and actionable mutations and fusions.

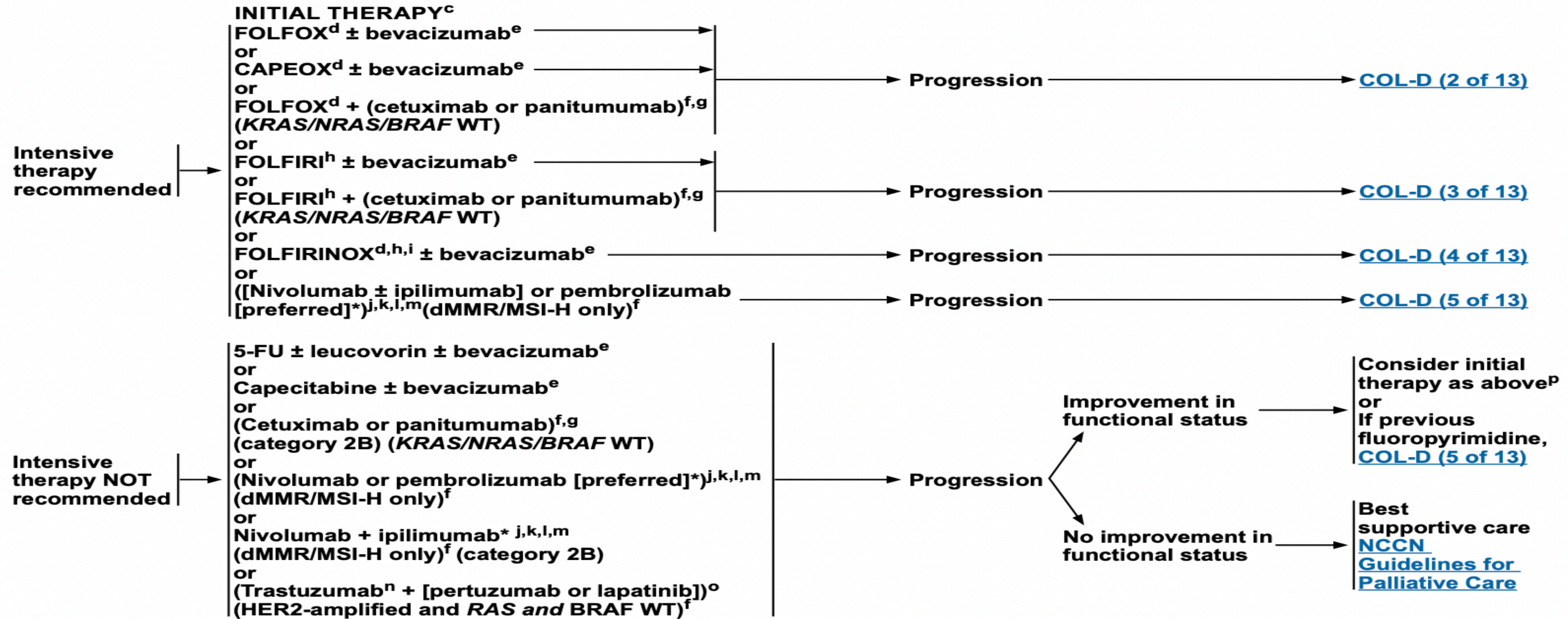
<sup>x</sup> Consider colon resection only if imminent risk of obstruction, significant bleeding, perforation, or other significant tumor-related symptoms.

**Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.  
Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.**





## CONTINUUM OF CARE - SYSTEMIC THERAPY FOR ADVANCED OR METASTATIC DISEASE<sup>a,b</sup>



\* Patients should be followed closely for 10 weeks to assess for response.

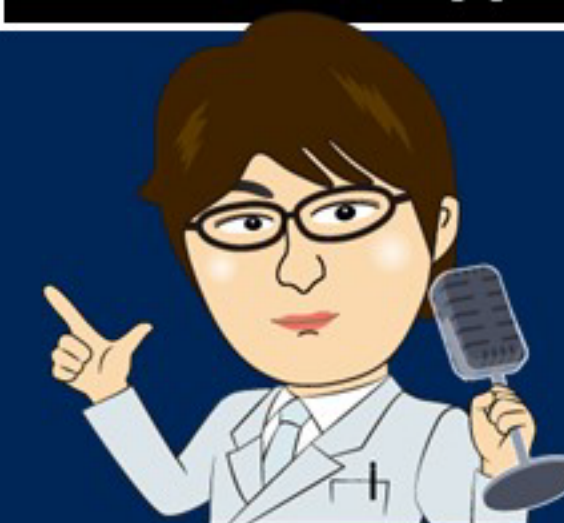
Footnotes [COL-D \(7 of 13\)](#)

**Note:** All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.  
**Clinical Trials:** NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

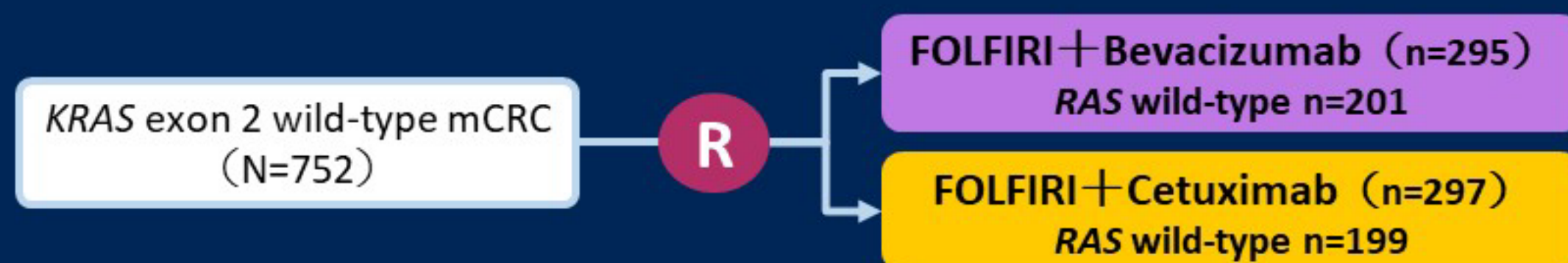


# Anti-EGFR mAb vs. Bevacizumab in First-line Therapy

RAS wild type

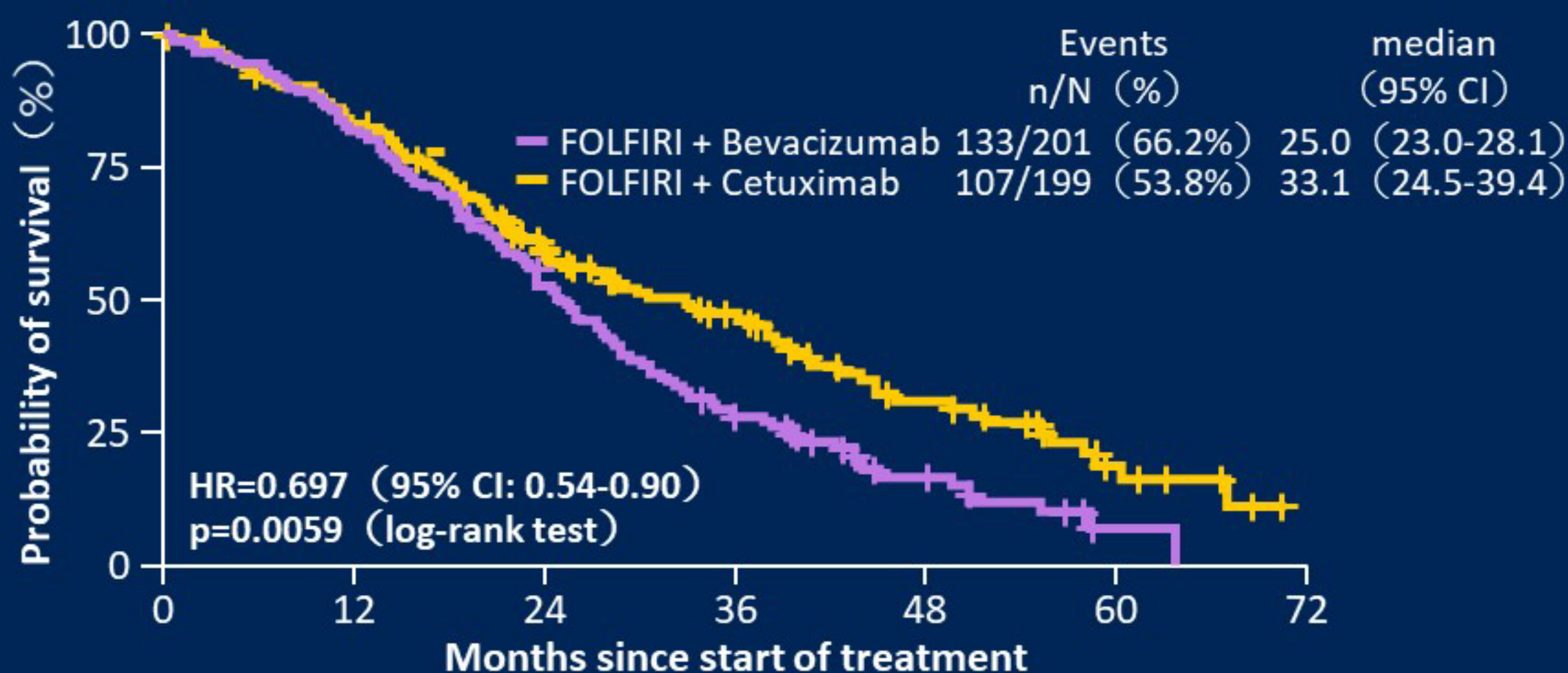


FIRE-3<sup>1)</sup>

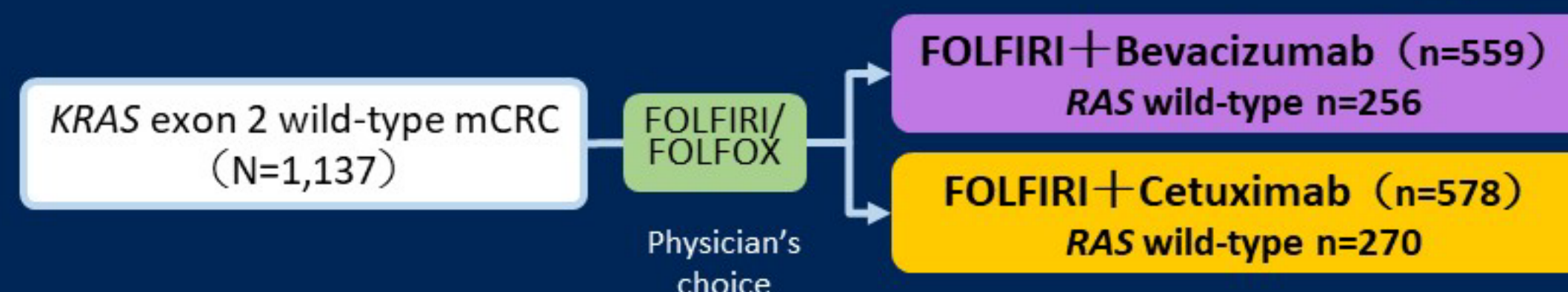


RAS analysis (n=400)

**ΔOS: 8.1 months**

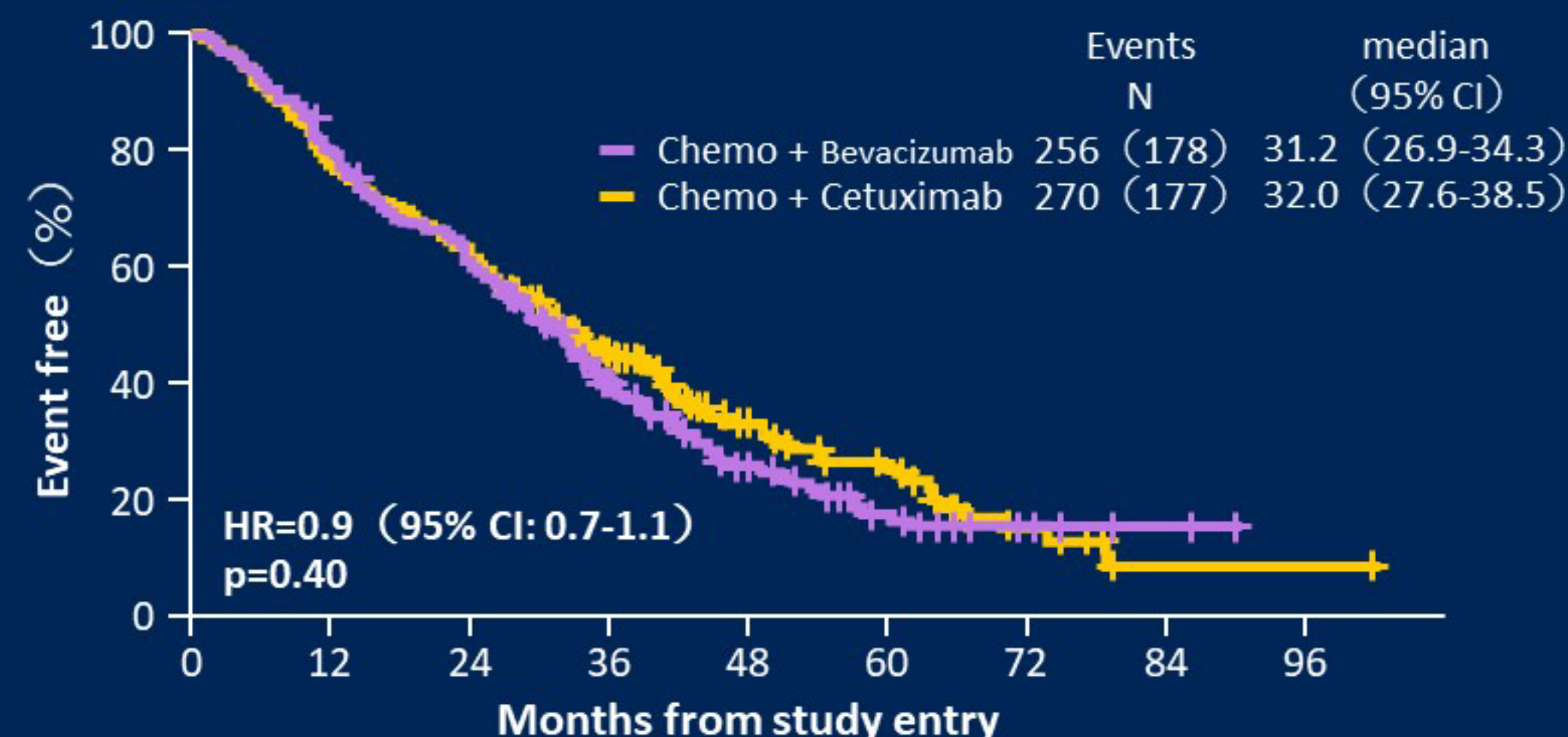


CALGB/SWOG 80405<sup>2)</sup>



RAS analysis (n=526)

**ΔOS: 0.8 months**



1) Stintzing S, et al.: Lancet Oncol 2016. 2) Lenz H, et al.: ESMO 2014, #5010. Venook AP, et al.: JAMA 2017.



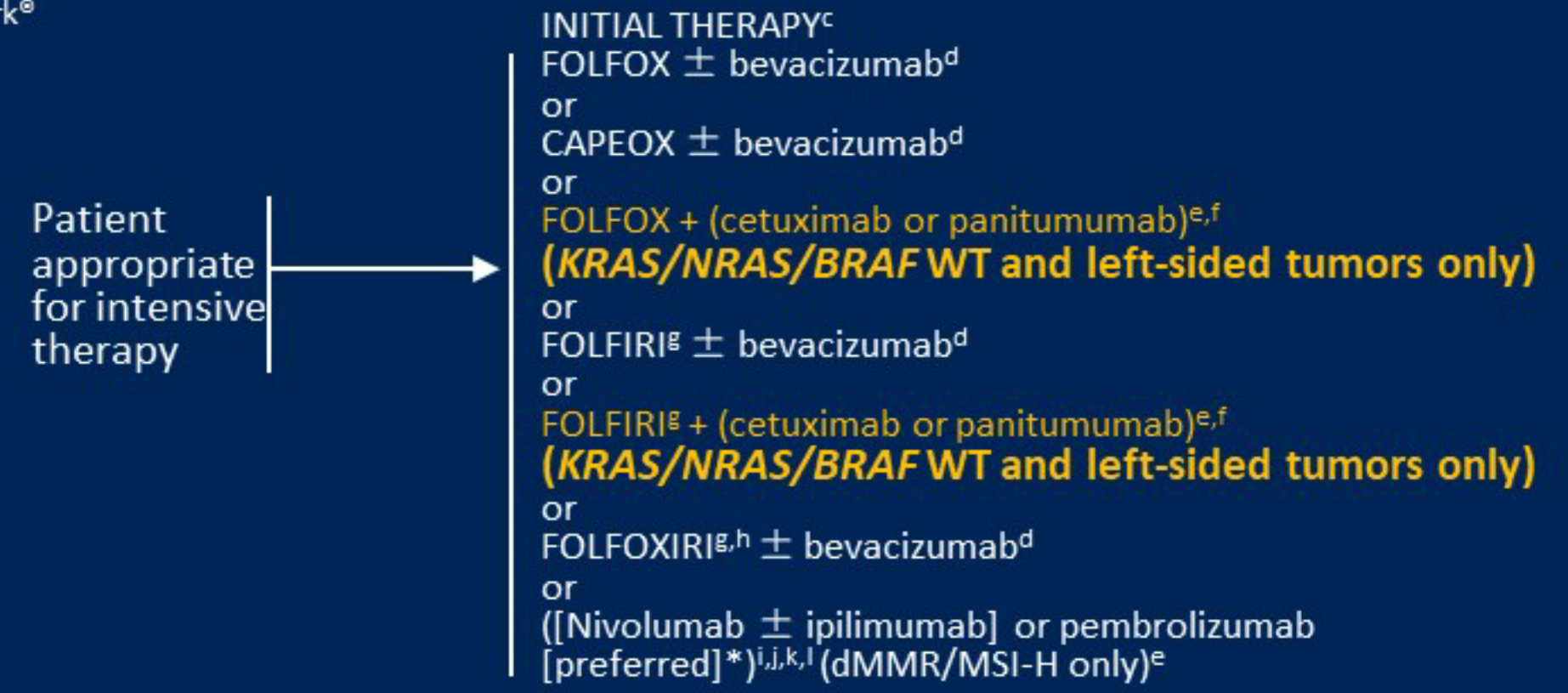
# Prognostic and predictive value of primary tumor sidedness in patients with RAS wild-type mCRC

Category	No. deaths/No. entered		OS; Hazard ratio	HR interaction [95%CI]
	CT+anti-EGFR	CT± BEV		
FIRE-3 - Left	86/157	106/149	[Forest plot point estimate]	2.08 [1.19-3.63]
FIRE-3 - Right	31/38	38/50		
CALGB80405 - Left	119/173	119/152	[Forest plot point estimate]	1.77 [1.11-2.80]
CALGB80405 - Right	56/71	58/78		
PEAK - Left	29/53	33/54	[Forest plot point estimate]	0.86 [0.33-2.25]
PEAK - Right	19/22	12/14		
CRYSTAL - Left	102/142	112/138	[Forest plot point estimate]	1.66 [0.93-2.97]
CRYSTAL - Right	26/33	42/51		
PRIME - Left	126/169	136/159	[Forest plot point estimate]	1.19 [0.71-2.00]
PRIME - Right	34/39	44/49		
20050181 - Left	129/150	123/148	[Forest plot point estimate]	1.19 [0.67-2.10]
20050181 - Right	28/31	36/39		
<b>Total - Left</b>	<b>591/844</b>	<b>629/800</b>	[Forest plot point estimate]	<b>0.75 [0.67-0.84]</b>
<b>Total - Right</b>	<b>194/234</b>	<b>230/281</b>		

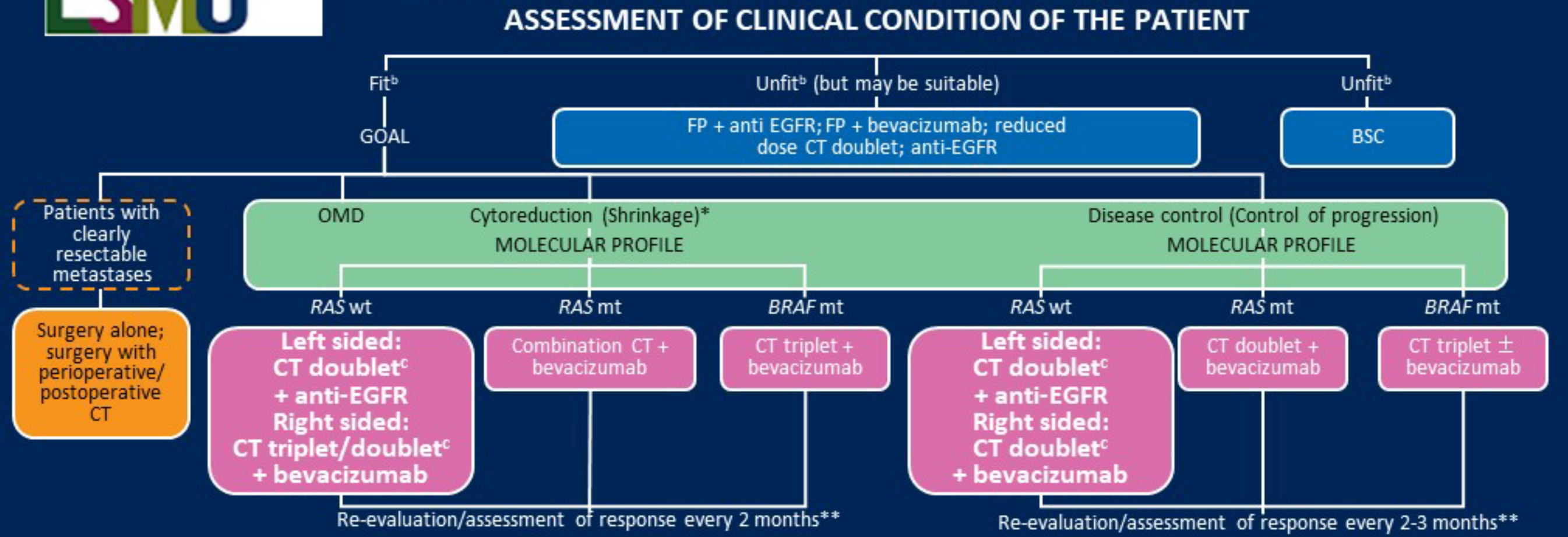
CT+anti-EGFR better ← | → CT± BEV better



## NCCN Guidelines Version 3.2021 Colon Cancer



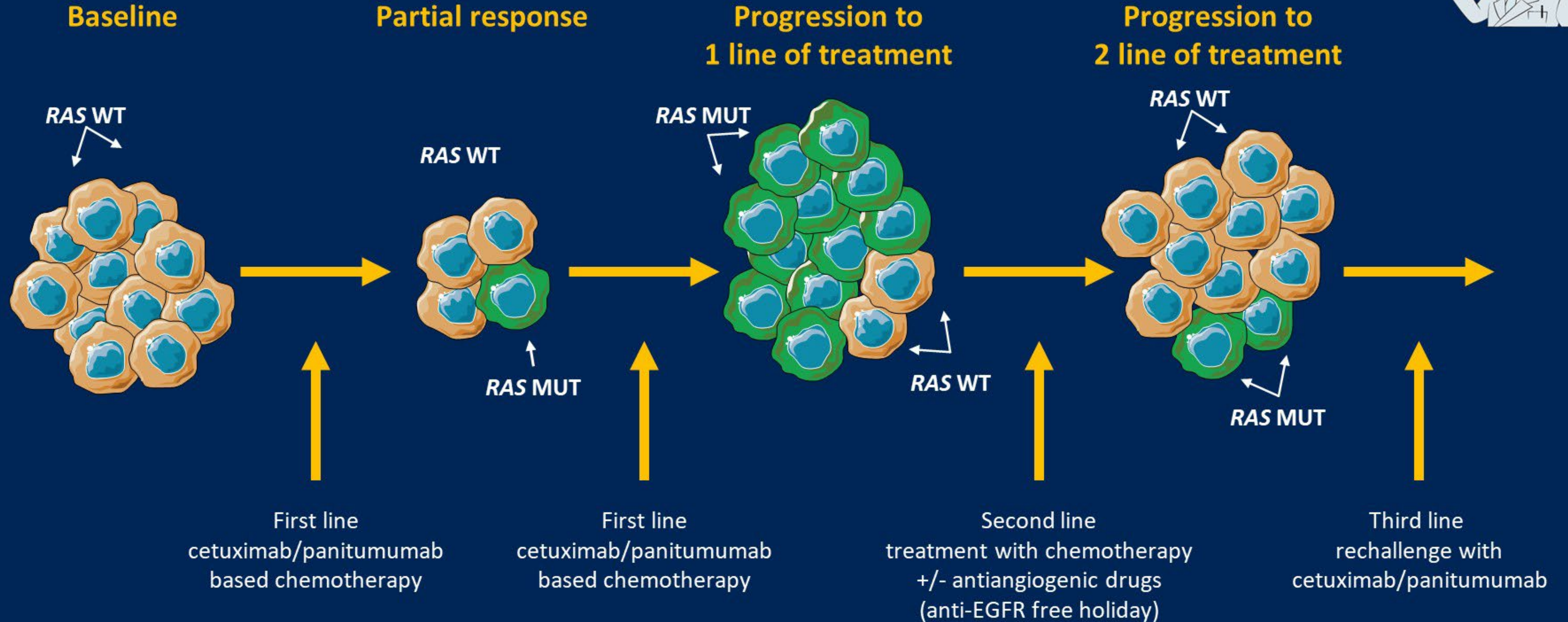
## Pan-Asian adapted ESMO consensus guidelines



Arnold D, et al. Ann Oncol. 2017. NCCN Guidelines ver3.2021 Colon Cancer. Yoshino T, et al.: Ann Oncol 2018.



# Biological rationale for anti-EGFR mAb rechallenge therapy



Ciardello D, et al.:Cancers (Basel). 2021



# Rechallenge studies by ctDNA status

	Line	Regimen	<i>RAS/BRAF</i> status	N	ORR	DCR	PFS	OS	
CRICKET <sup>1)</sup>	3	Cetuximab +Irinotecan	<i>RAS</i>	wild type	13	30.5%	76.9%	4.0m	12.5m
				mutant	12	0%	41.7%	1.9m	5.2m
E-Rechallenge <sup>2)</sup>	≥3	Cetuximab +Irinotecan	<i>RAS/BRAF</i>	wild type	7	42.9%	85.8%	NR	5.5m
				mutant	17	0%	37.5%	NR	3.0m
JACCRO-CC08&09 <sup>3)</sup>	≥3	Cetuximab/ Panitumumab	<i>RAS</i>	wild type	10	NR	80.0%	4.7m	16.0m
				mutant	6	NR	33.3%	2.3m	3.8m
CAVE <sup>4)</sup>	≥3	Cetuximab +Avelumab	<i>RAS/BRAF</i>	wild type	41	9%	30%	4.3m	16.1m
				mutant	15	0%	7%	3.0m	11.5m
CHRONOS <sup>5)</sup>	≥3	Panitumumab	<i>RAS/BRAF</i>	wild type	27	30%	70%	16.4w	NR

***Rechallenge of anti-EGFR mAb is considered in patients with blood-based RAS wild type.***

NR: not reported

1) Cremolini C, et al. JAMA Oncol. 2019. 2) Ohhara Y et al.: ASCO-GI 2019 #585. 3) Sunakawa y, et al.: JCO Precis. Oncol. 2020.

2) 4) Martinelli E, et al.: JAMA Oncol. 2021. 5) Sartore-Bianchi A, et al.: ASCO2021 #3506.

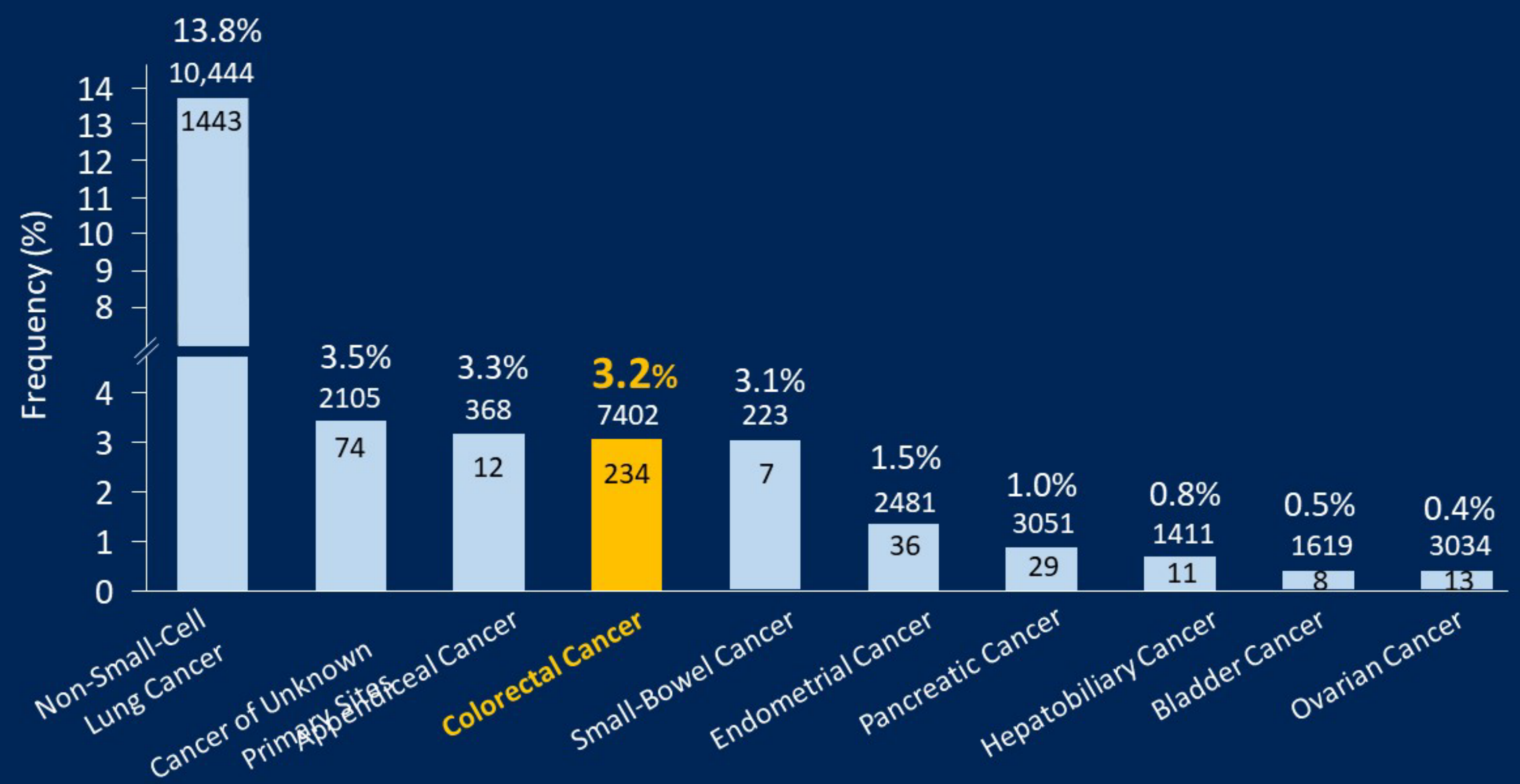




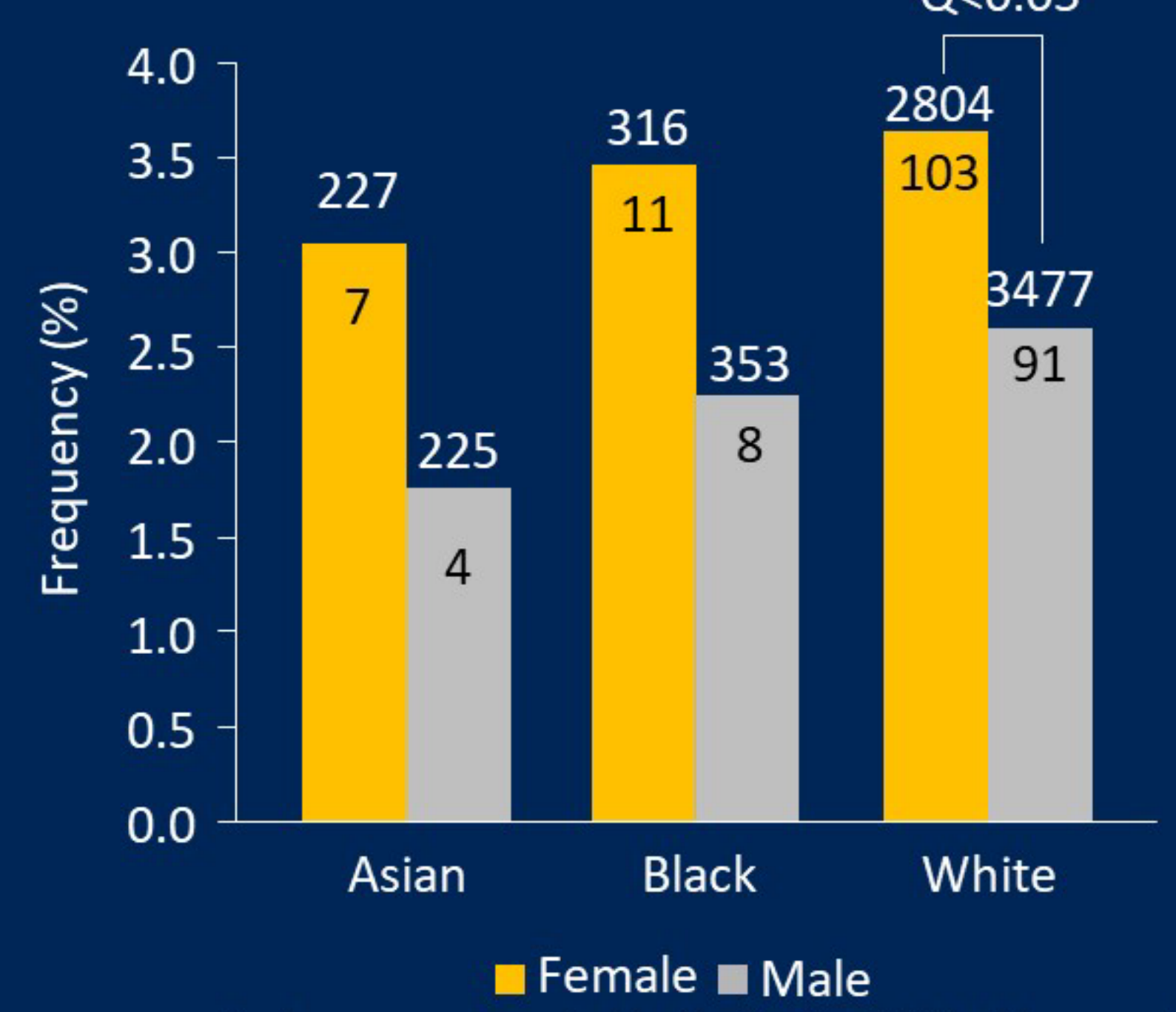
# KRAS<sup>G12C</sup> Mutant Landscape of 32,138 Patients.

Data from the registry of the American Association for Cancer Research Project GENIE

Distribution of KRAS<sup>G12C</sup> Mutant



KRAS<sup>G12C</sup> Mutant in Subgroups with Colorectal Cancer



**KRAS<sup>G12C</sup> mutation rate in colorectal cancer is 3.2% without racial difference.**

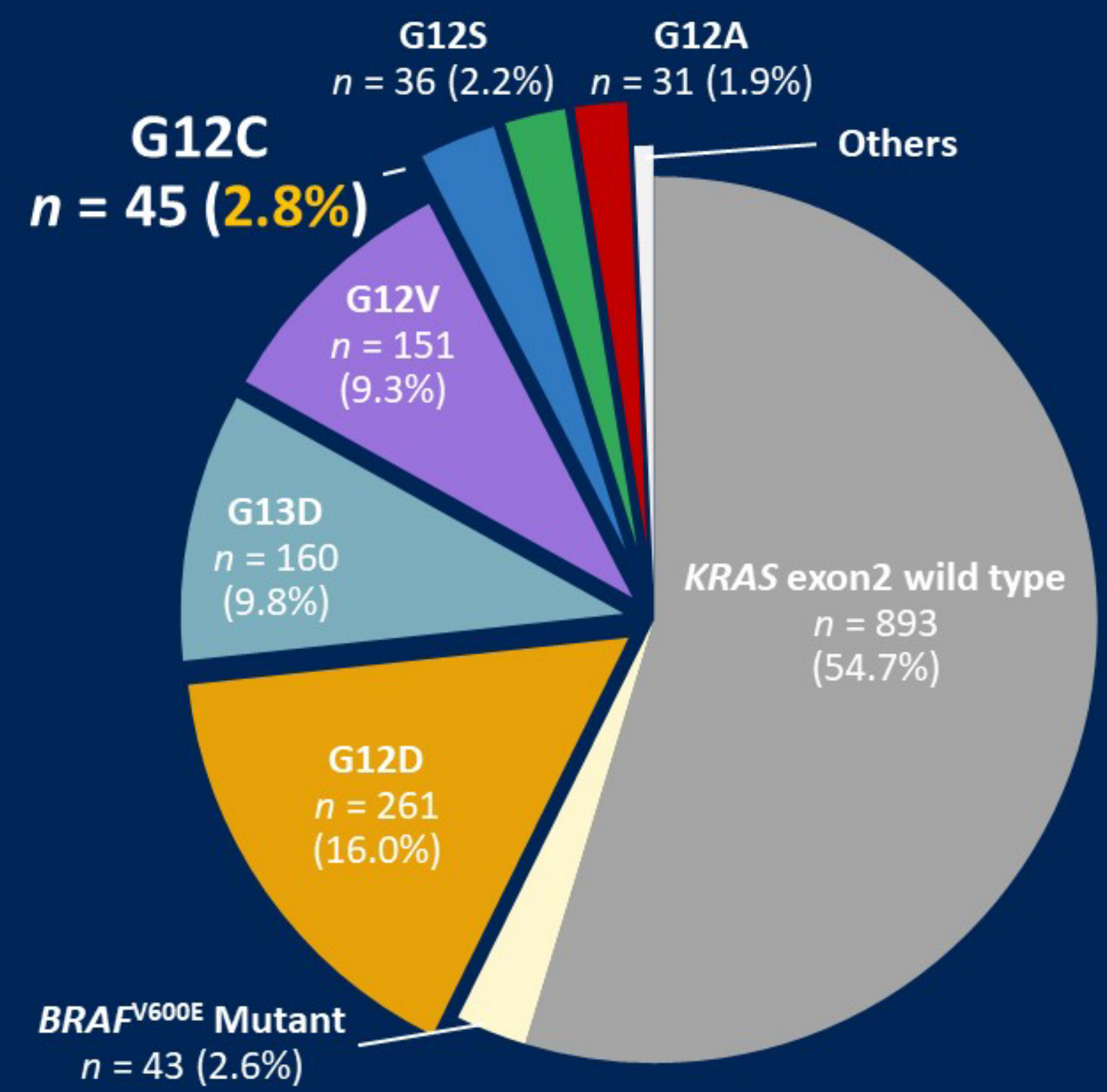
P values were corrected by the Benjamini-Hochberg method to determine false discovery rate-corrected Q values

Nassar AH, et al. N Engl J Med. 2021



# The Prognostic Impact of *KRAS*<sup>G12C</sup> Mutant in Patients with mCRC

Frequency of each subtype (% of all population [n = 1,632])

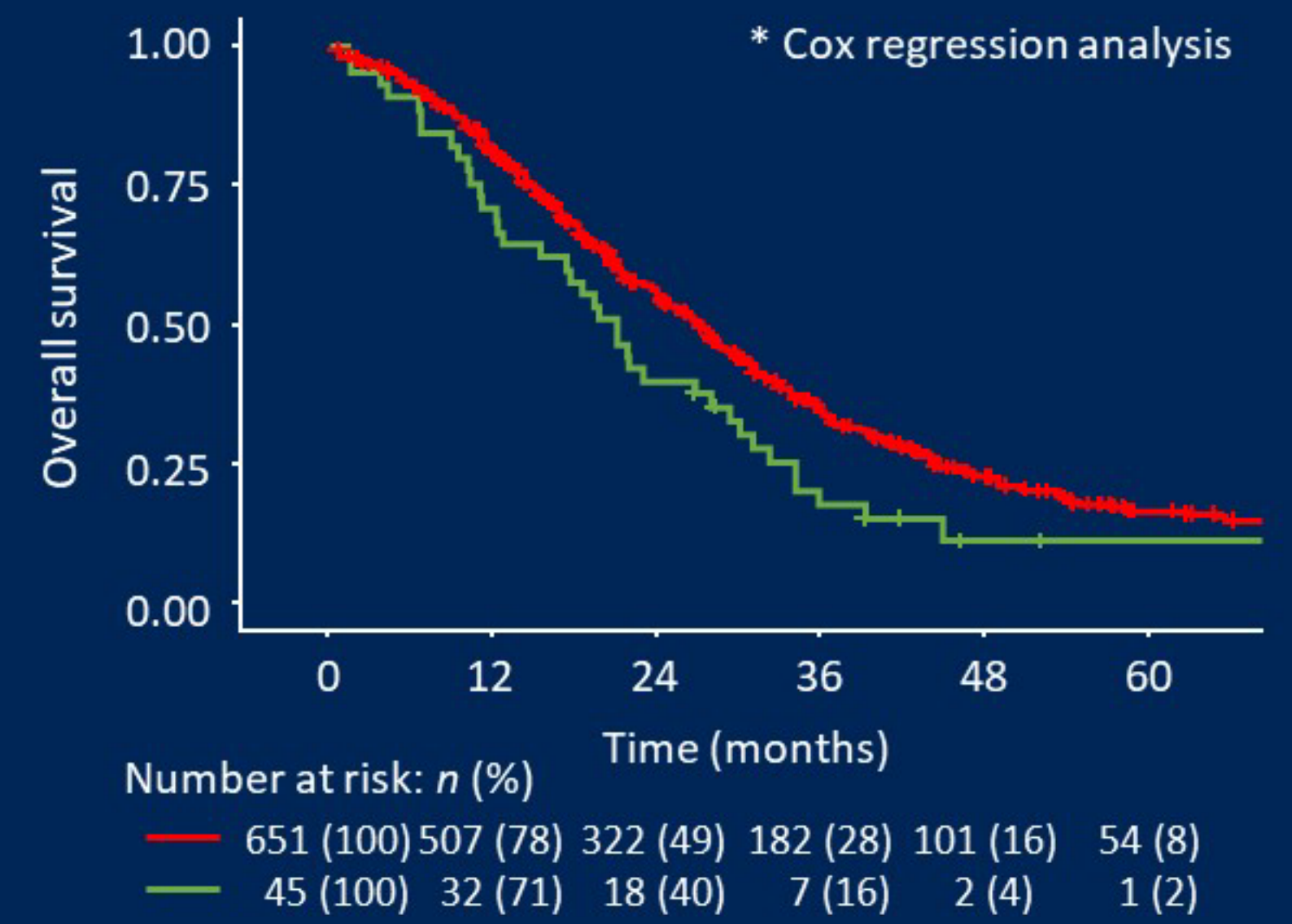
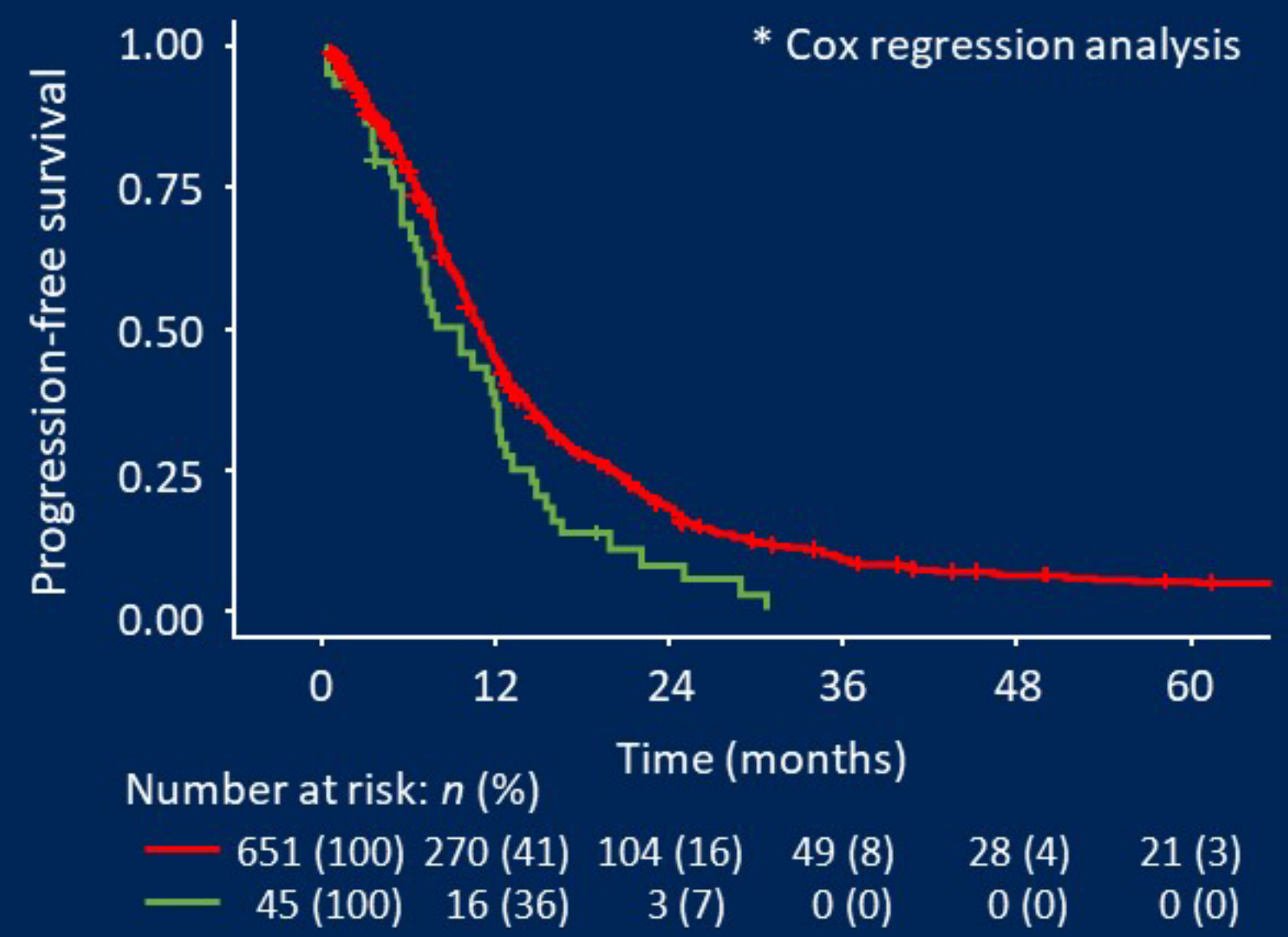


## progression-free survival

<i>KRAS</i> exon2 mutant	n	Median (95% CI) (months)	HR vs Other <i>KRAS</i> mutation subtypes (95% CI)	p value*
Non-G12C mutations	651	10.8 (10.1-11.5)	Reference	
G12C mutations	45	9.4 (6.4-12.0)	<b>1.47</b> (1.08-2.01)	<b>.015</b>

## overall survival

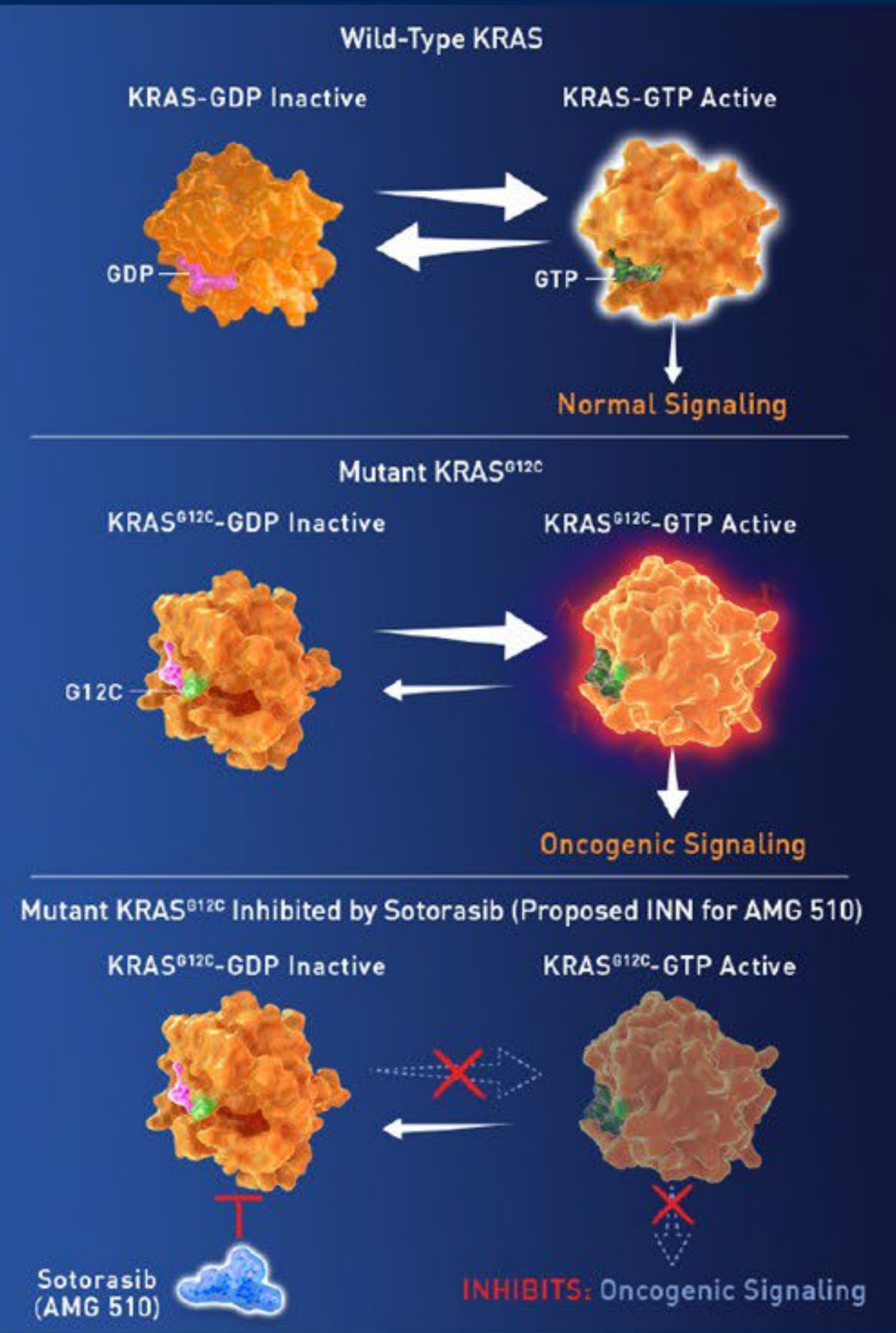
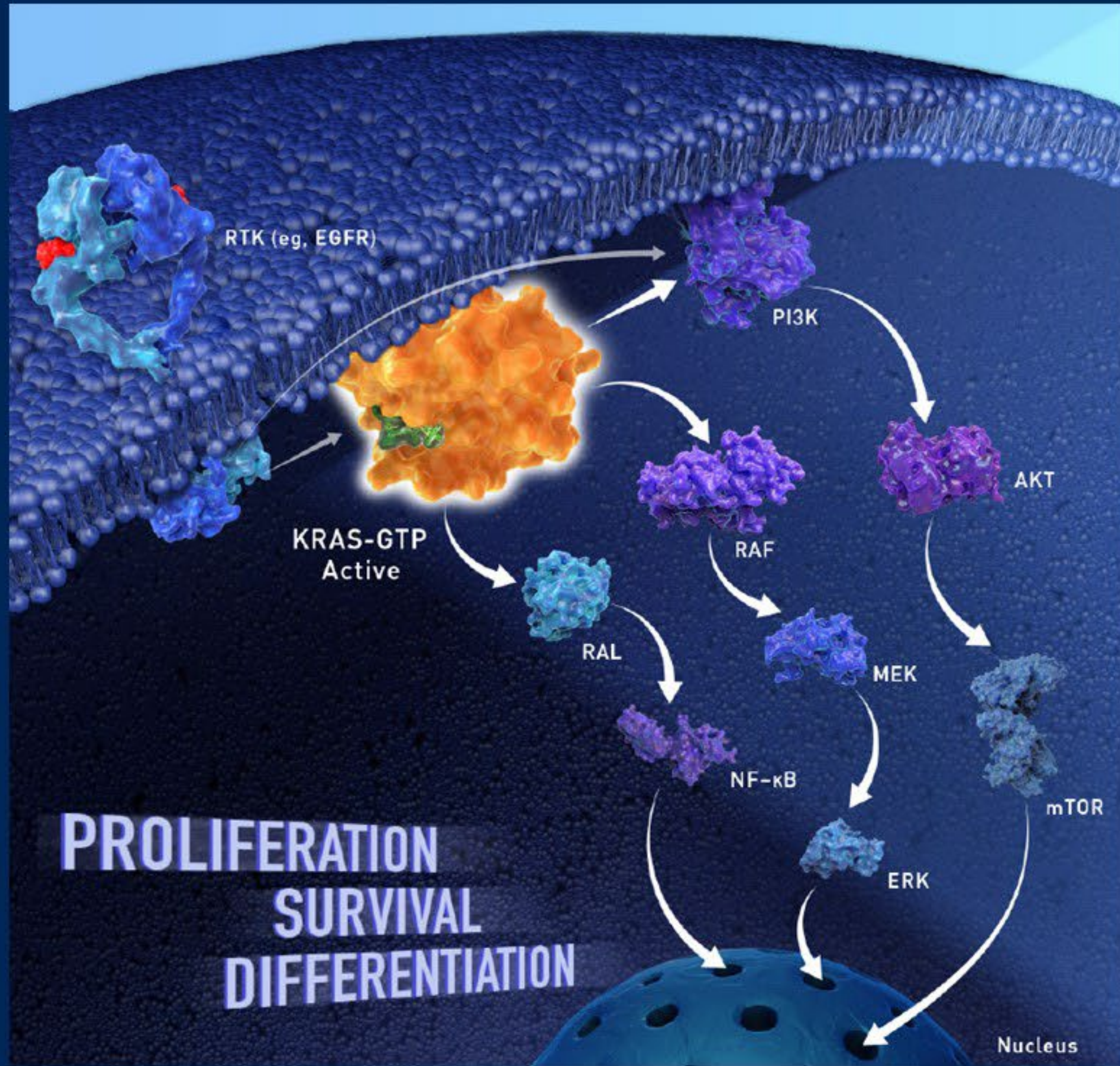
<i>KRAS</i> exon2 mutant	n	Median (95% CI) (months)	HR vs Other <i>KRAS</i> mutation subtypes (95% CI)	p value*
Non-G12C mutations	651	27.3 (24.8-28.9)	Reference	
G12C mutations	45	21.1 (12.8-27.9)	<b>1.50</b> (1.08-2.08)	<b>.015</b>



Chida K, Yoshino T, et al. Oncologist. 2021



# Sotorasib (AMG 510) is a novel *KRAS*<sup>G12C</sup> inhibitor



*KRAS* encodes a GTPase that cycles between active GTP-bound and inactive GDP-bound states to regulate signal transduction.

The glycine-to-cysteine mutation at position 12 favors the active form of the *KRAS* protein, resulting in a predominantly GTP-bound *KRAS* oncoprotein and enhanced proliferation and survival in tumor cells.

Sotorasib (AMG 510) traps *KRAS*<sup>G12C</sup> in the inactive GDP-bound state

Fakih MG, et al.: ASCO 2020 #4018.



# CodeBreak 100: Phase 1/2 study of Sotorasib

## Tumor Response in patients with advanced colorectal cancer

Efficacy outcomes	All dose levels N = 42, n (%)	960mg N = 25, n (%)
Best overall response		
Confirmed partial response – n (%)	3 (7.1)	3 (12.0)
Stable disease – n (%)	29 (69.0)	17 (68.0)
Progressive disease – n (%)	9 (21.4)	4 (16.0)
Not done – n (%) <sup>a</sup>	1 (2.4)	1 (4.0)
Objective response rate – % (95% CI)	<b>7.1</b> (1.50, 19.48)	<b>12.0</b> (2.55, 31.22)
Disease control rate – % (95% CI)	<b>76.2</b> (60.55, 87.95)	<b>80.0</b> (59.30, 93.17)
Duration of response for 3 responders – months	1.4+, 4.2+, 4.3+	1.4+, 4.2+, 4.3+
Duration of stable disease – months Median (min, max)	4.2 (2.5+, 11.0)	4.2 (2.6, 5.7+)

<sup>a</sup> Patient had clinical progression with no postbaseline measurement.

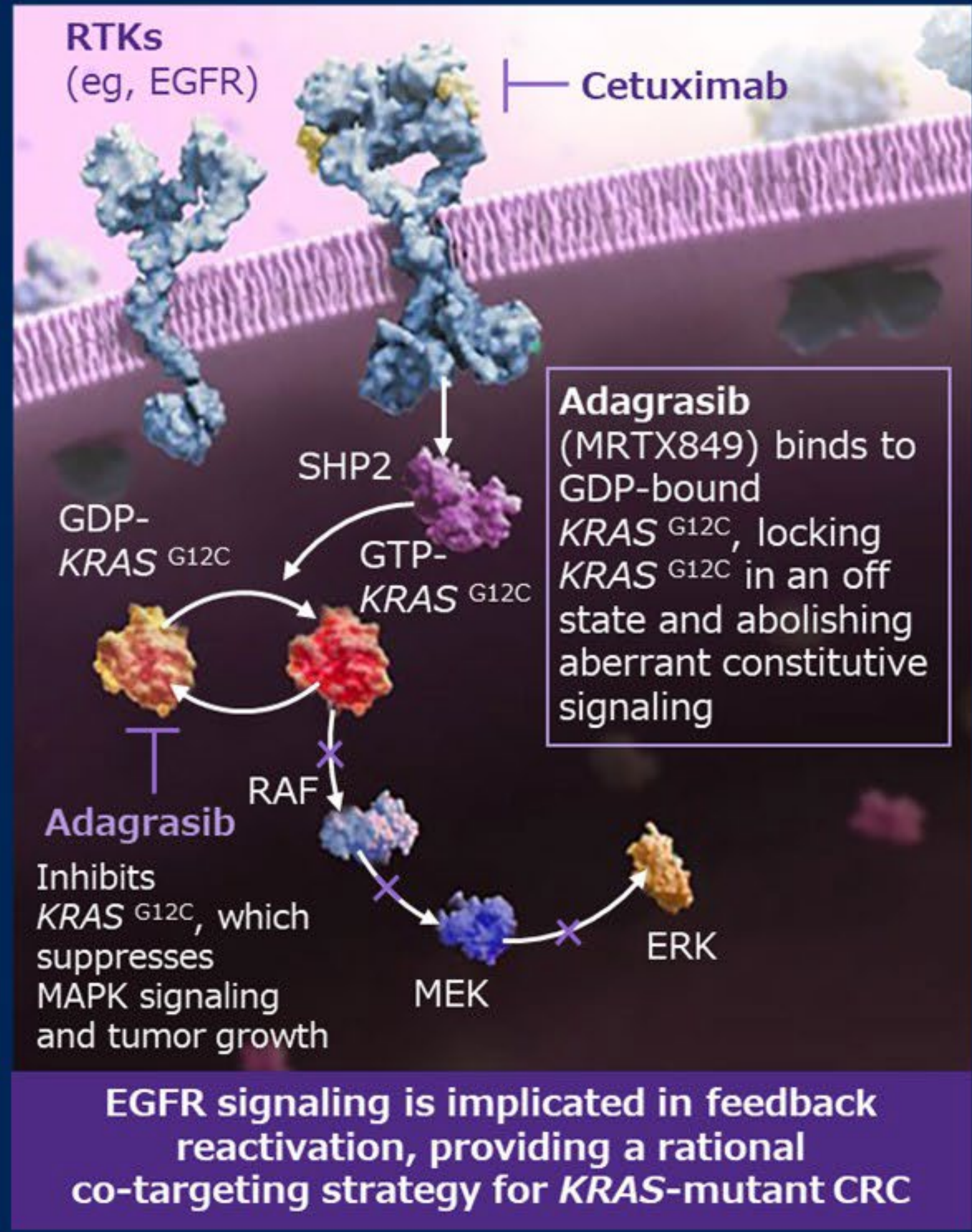
+: censored value. Responses were durable and still ongoing as of the data cutoff

The median follow-up time was 7.9 month

Fakih MG, et al.: ASCO 2020 #4018.



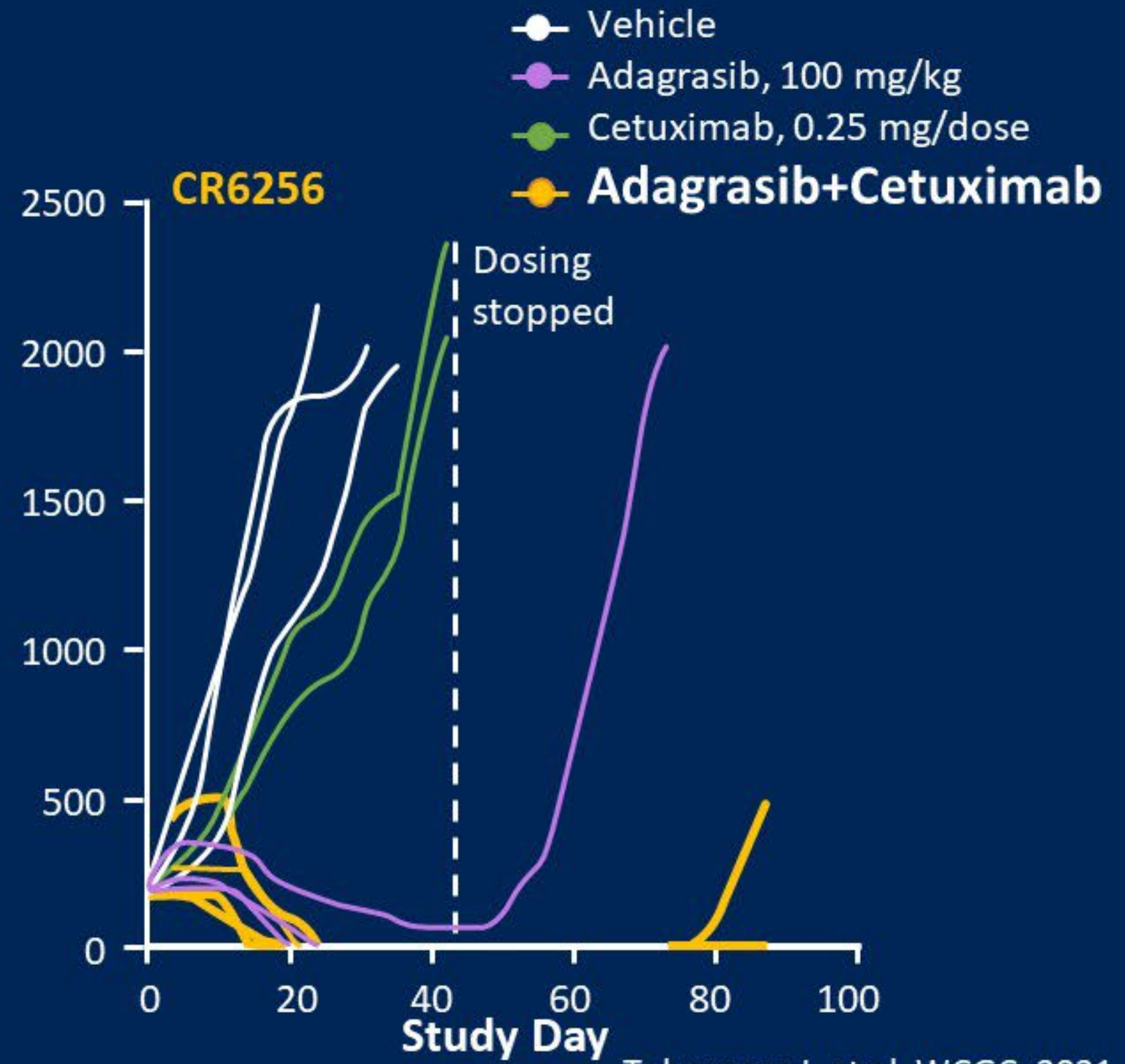
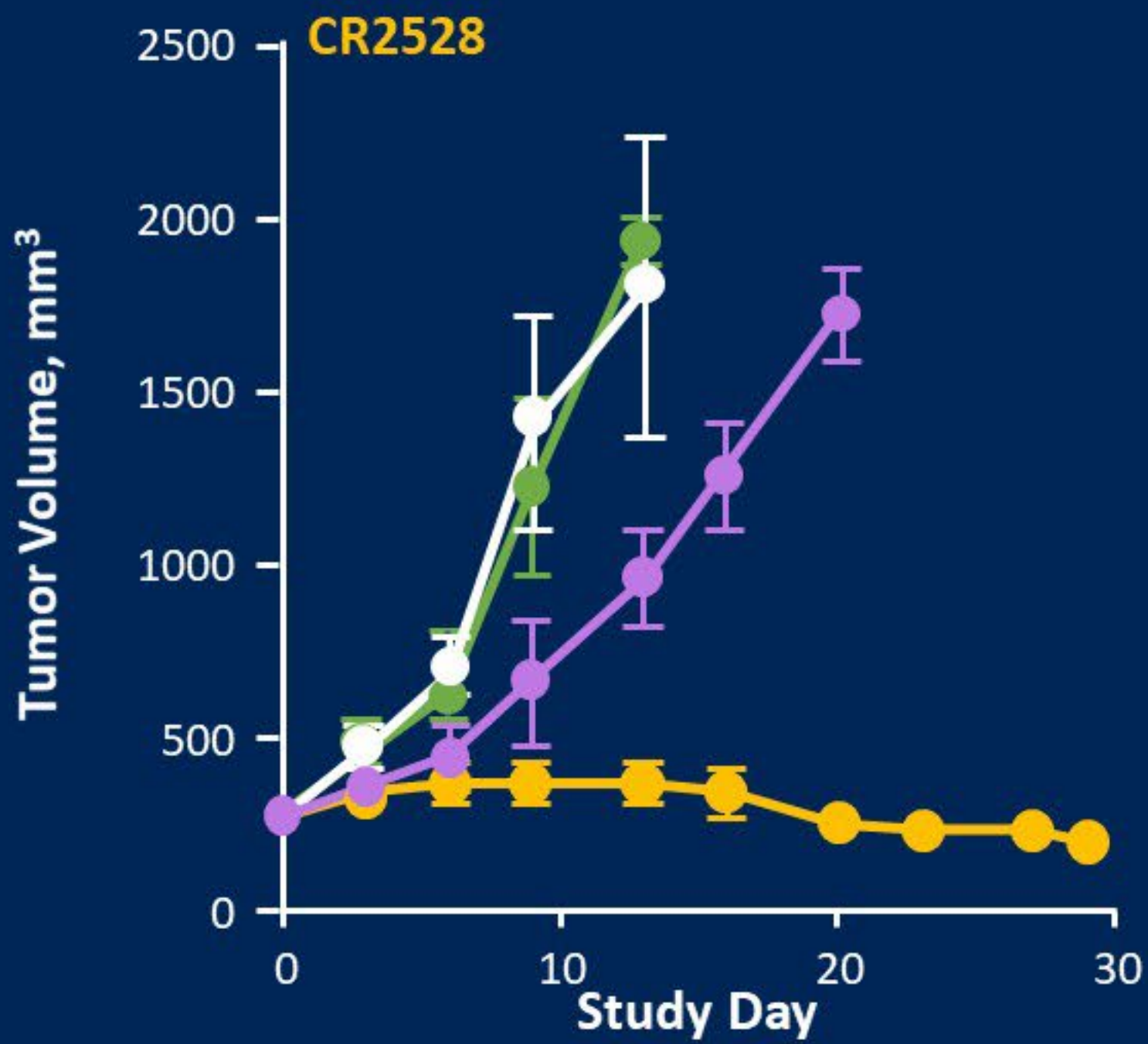
# KRAS<sup>G12C</sup> inhibitor(Adagrasib) + anti-EGFR mAb



- ✓ Adagrasib, a covalent inhibitor of KRAS<sup>G12C</sup>, irreversibly and selectively binds KRAS<sup>G12C</sup> in its inactive, GDP-bound state and was optimized for desired properties
- ✓ Combining adagrasib with cetuximab, an EGFR inhibitor, may enhance inhibition of KRAS-dependent signaling or overcome adaptive feedback to improve outcomes

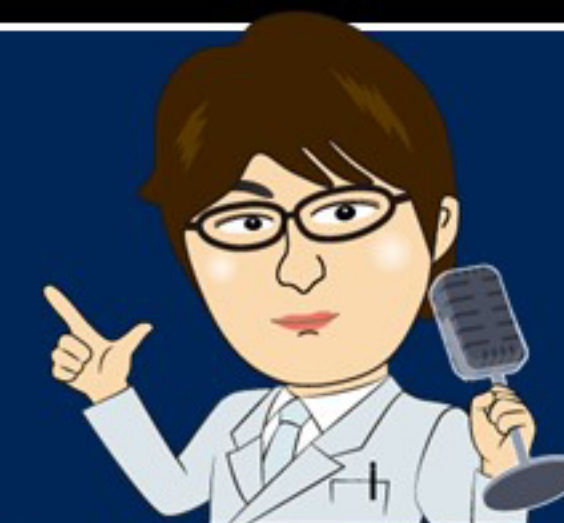
## Adagrasib + Cetuximab

in CRC patient derived xenograft models



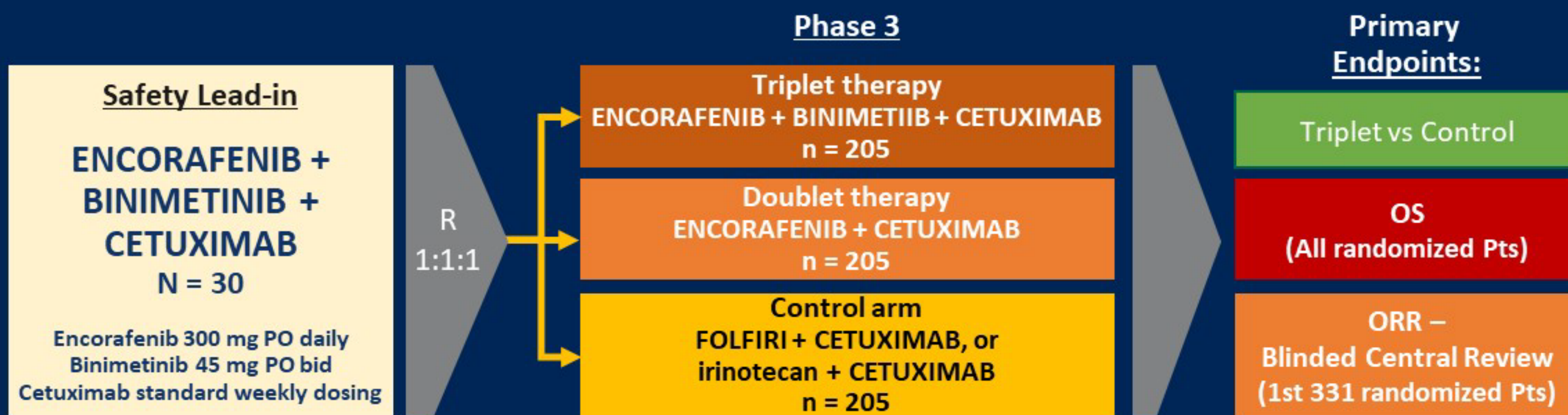
Tabernero J, et al. WCGC, 2021





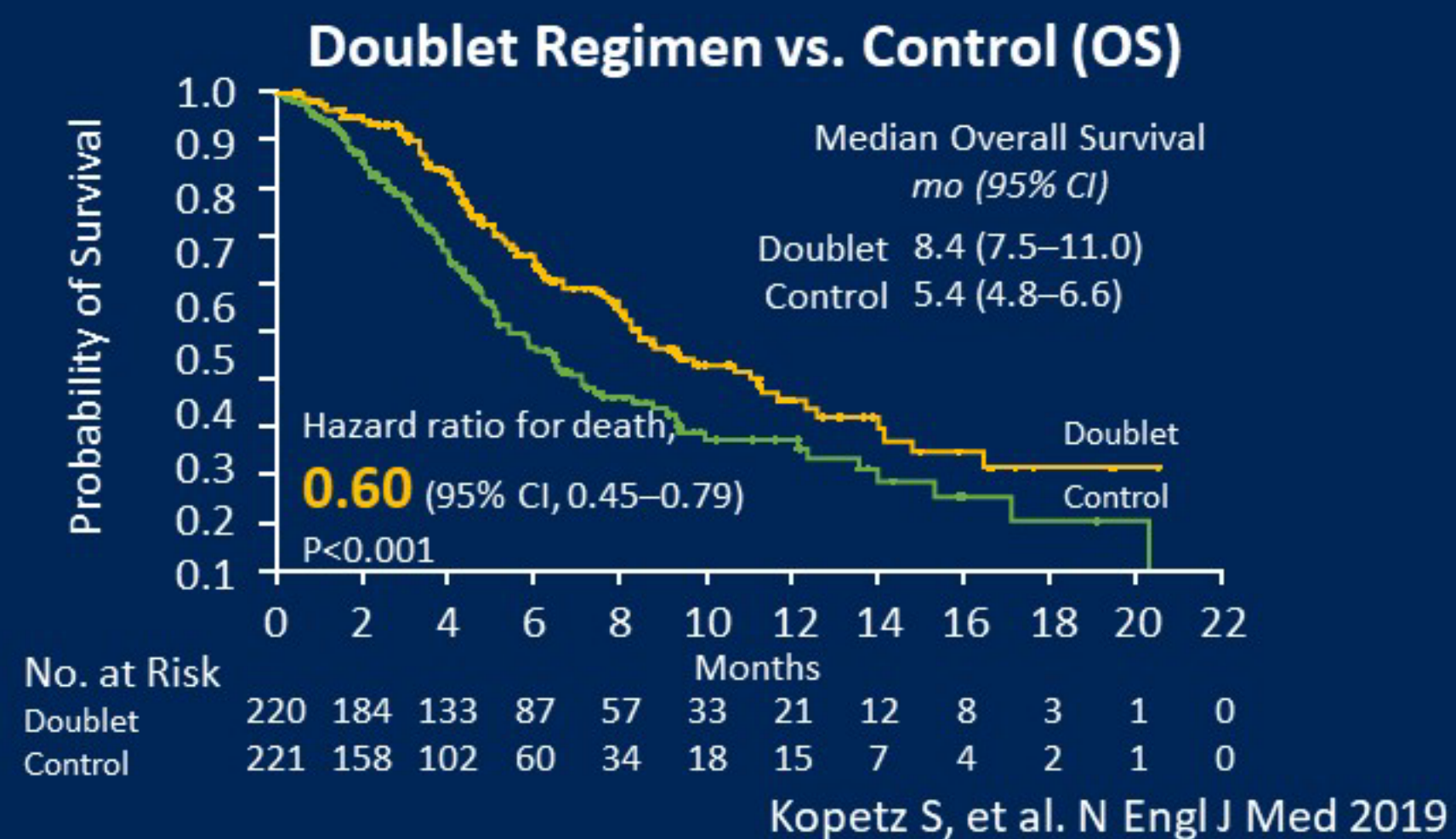
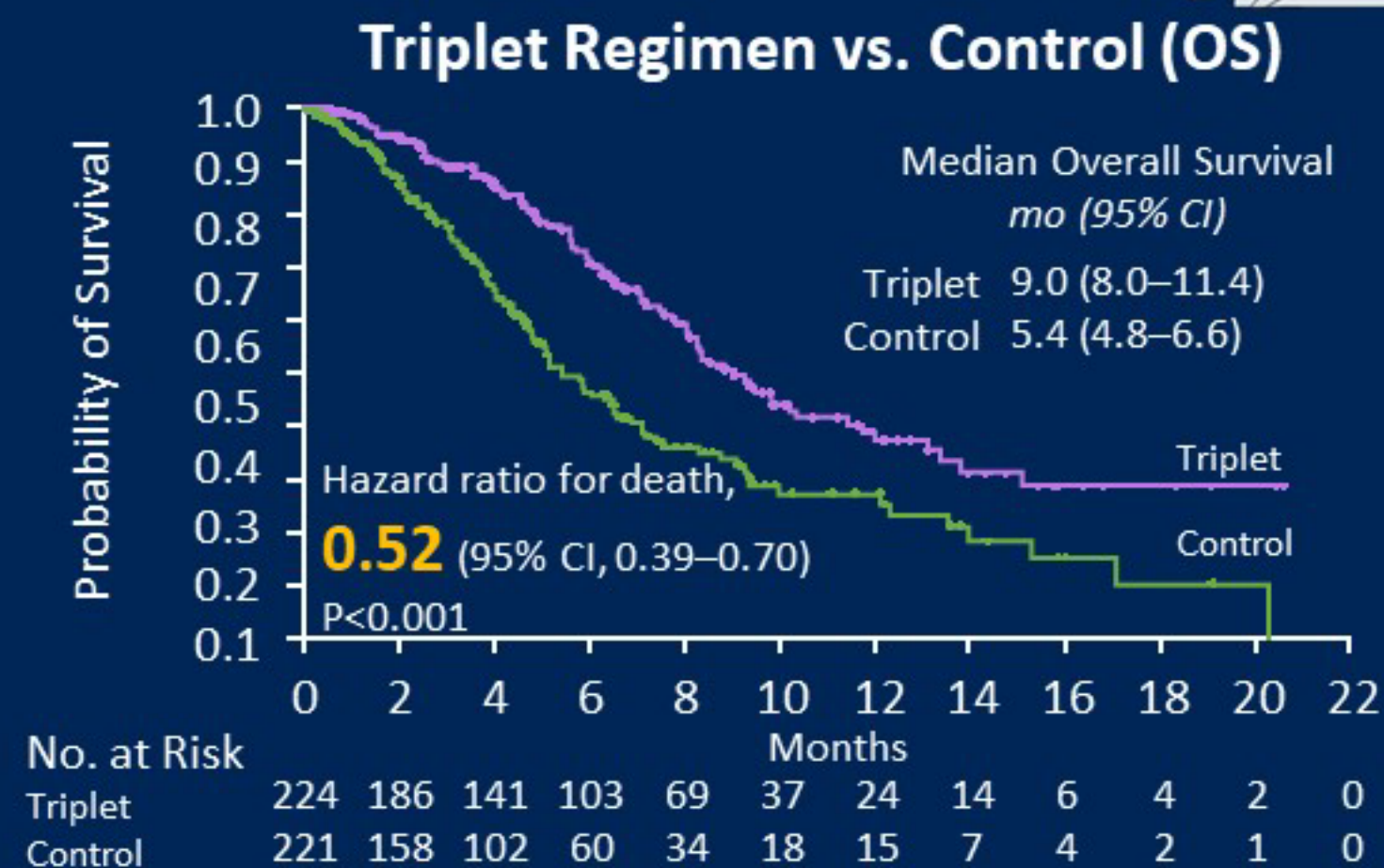
# BEACON CRC Phase III study in 2L BRAF<sup>V600E</sup>-mutant mCRC

Patients with BRAF<sup>V600E</sup> mCRC with disease progression after 1 or 2 prior regimens; ECOG PS of 0 or 1; and no prior treatment with any RAF inhibitor, MEK inhibitor, or EGFR inhibitor



Randomization was stratified by ECOG PS (0 vs. 1), prior use of irinotecan (yes vs. no), and cetuximab source (US-licensed vs. EU-approved).

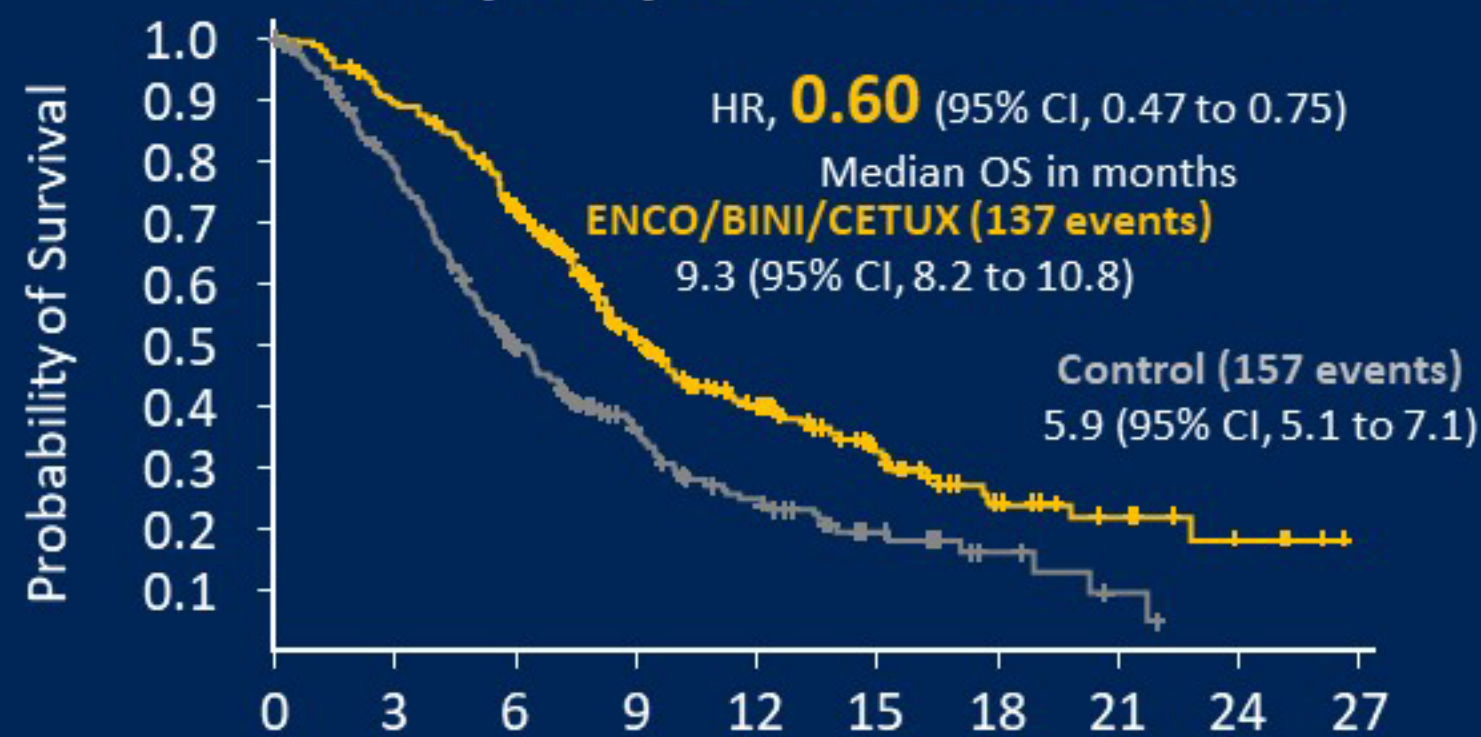
Variable	Triplet Regimen (N=111)	Doublet Regimen (N=113)	Control (N=107)
Objective response			
Patients with a complete or partial response — no. (%)	<b>29</b> (26)	<b>23</b> (20)	<b>2</b> (2)
95% CI	18–35	13–29	<1–7
P value vs. control	<0.001	<0.001	
Best overall response — no. (%)			
Complete response	4 (4)	6 (5)	0
Partial response	25 (23)	17 (15)	2 (2)
Stable disease†	47 (42)	61 (54)	31 (29)
Progressive disease	11 (10)	8 (7)	36 (34)
Could not be evaluated according to RECIST‡	24 (22)	21 (19)	38 (36)





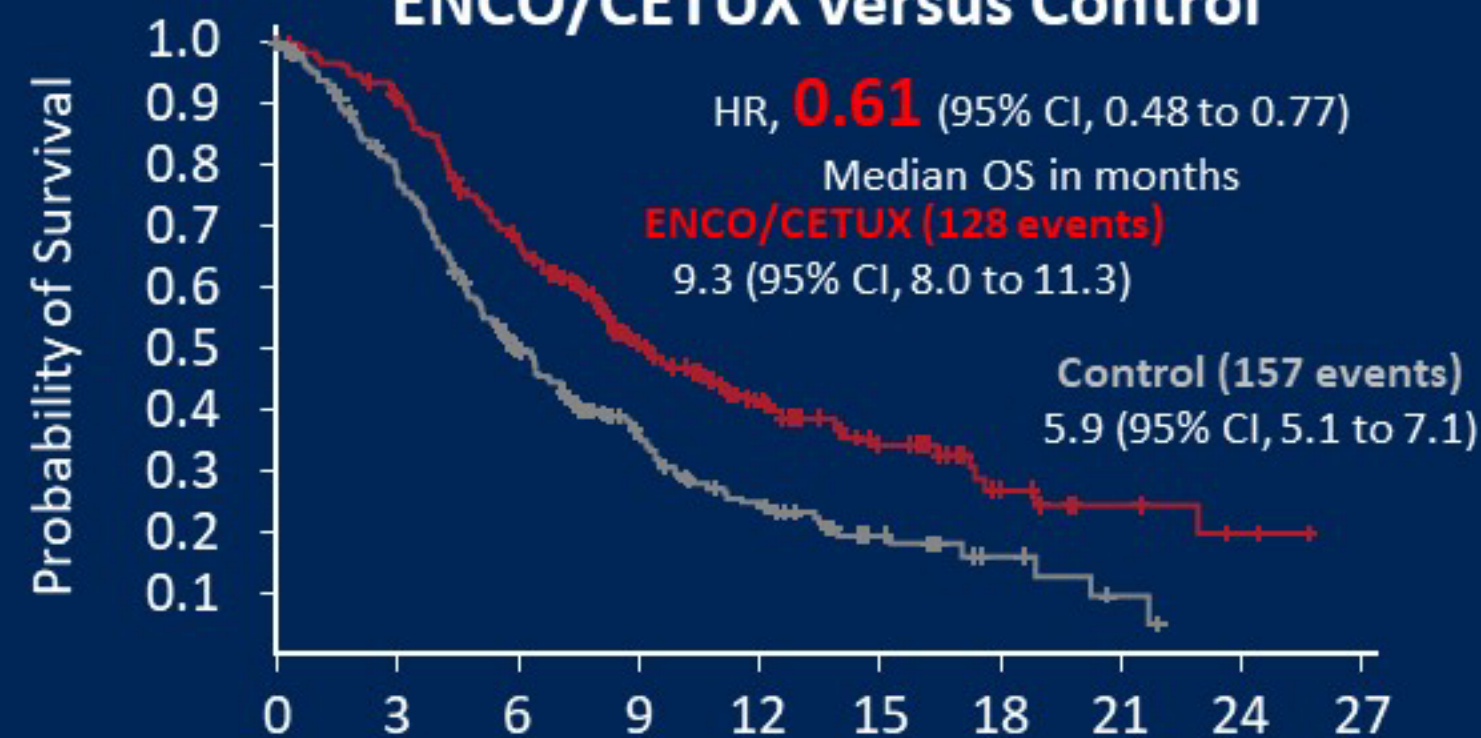
# BEACON CRC OS updated

**ENCO/BINI/CETUX versus Control**



Number of patients at risk		Months									
		0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27
ENCO/BINI/CETUX	224	198	157	89	56	33	15	9	4	0	
Control	221	166	98	54	33	15	6	2	0	0	

**ENCO/CETUX versus Control**



Number of patients at risk		Months									
		0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27
ENCO/CETUX	220	197	143	83	47	28	13	7	2	0	
Control	221	166	98	54	33	15	6	2	0	0	

**ENCO/BINI/CETUX versus ENCO/CETUX**

Subgroup	No. of Events/Patients	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)
All patients	294/445	0.95 (0.74 to 1.21)
ECOG PS = 0	112/227	1.28 (0.88 to 1.86)
ECOG PS = 1	153/216	0.81 (0.59 to 1.11)
Prior Irinotecan No	126/217	1.06 (0.75 to 1.50)
Prior Irinotecan Yes	139/227	0.92 (0.66 to 1.29)
Number of Prior Regimens for Metastatic Disease 1	166/292	0.96 (0.71 to 1.30)
Number of Prior Regimens for Metastatic Disease 2+	99/152	1.04 (0.70 to 1.54)
Age < 65	159/278	1.11 (0.81 to 1.51)
Age ≥ 65	106/166	0.86 (0.58 to 1.25)
Sex Male	138/219	1.18 (0.84 to 1.65)
Sex Female	127/225	0.84 (0.59 to 1.19)
Number of Organs Involved ≤ 2	124/230	1.34 (0.94 to 1.91)
Number of Organs Involved 3+	141/214	0.69 (0.49 to 0.96)
MSI Status High	26/41	1.05 (0.47 to 2.38)
MSI Status Normal	182/309	1.12 (0.84 to 1.50)
Baseline CEA ≤ Upper Limit of Normal	44/112	0.77 (0.41 to 1.42)
Baseline CEA > Upper Limit of Normal	221/332	0.93 (0.71 to 1.21)
Baseline CRP ≤ Upper Limit of Normal	120/261	1.09 (0.76 to 1.56)
Baseline CRP > Upper Limit of Normal	139/174	0.76 (0.54 to 1.06)
Side of Tumor Left Colon	92/162	1.02 (0.68 to 1.54)
Side of Tumor Right Colon	146/236	1.04 (0.75 to 1.45)
Tumor Resection Status Completely Resected	142/255	1.20 (0.86 to 1.68)
Tumor Resection Status Partially / Not Resected	123/188	0.80 (0.56 to 1.14)

← ENCO/BINI/CETUX Better | 0.1 0.2 0.5 1.0 2.0 | ENCO/CETUX Better →

Tabernero J, et al. J Clin Oncol 2021.



# ANCHOR CRC : Efficacy

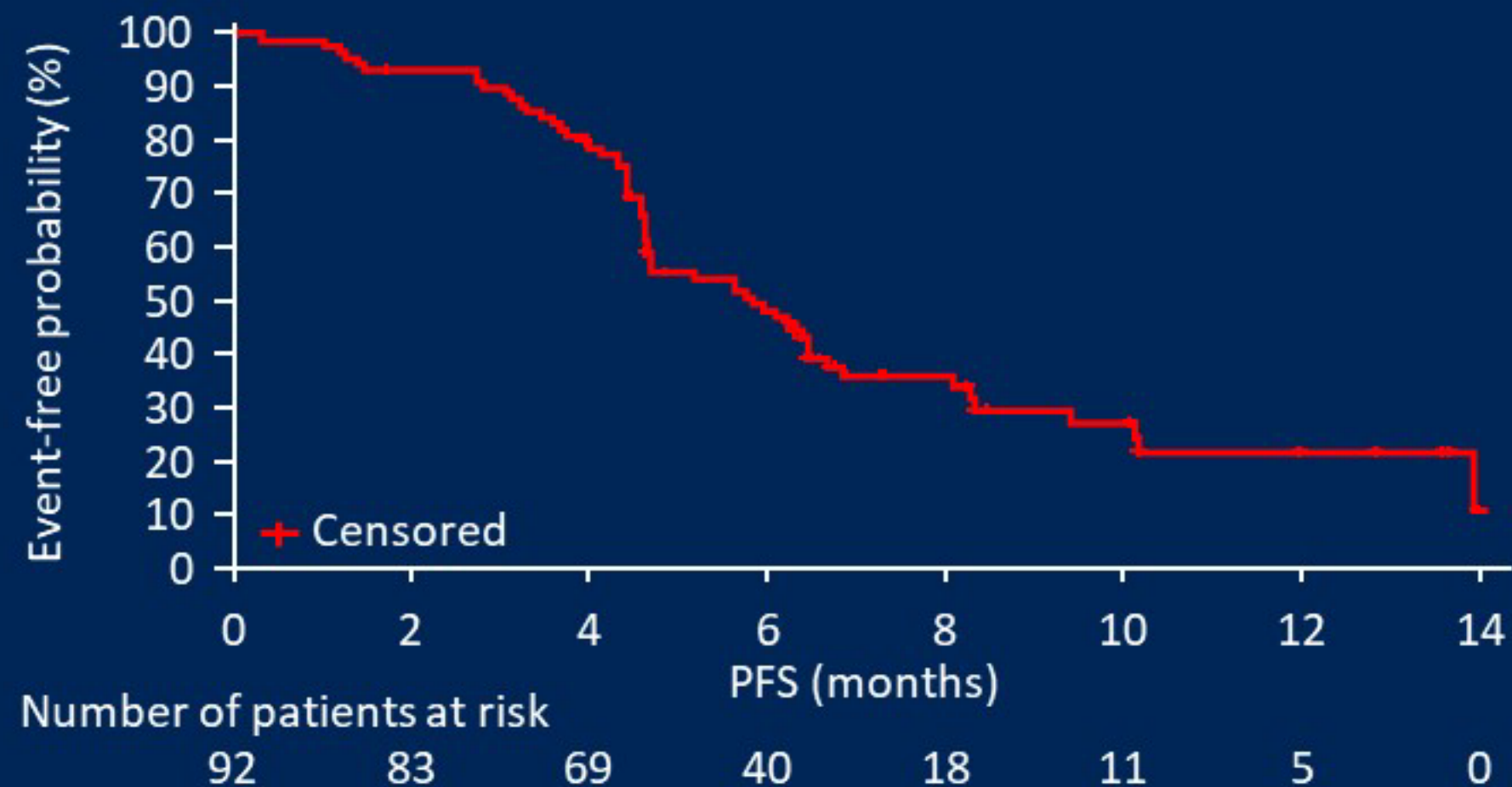
## ORR(Primary endpoint)

Investigator's assessment	Patients (N=92 <sup>#</sup> ), n (%)
<b>cORR</b> <b>95% CI</b>	<b>44 (47.8)</b> <b>37.3-58.5</b>
Best overall confirmed response	0
CR	44 (47.8)
PR	37 (40.2)
SD	5 (5.4)
PD	6* (6.5)
Not evaluable	

} **DCR = 88%**

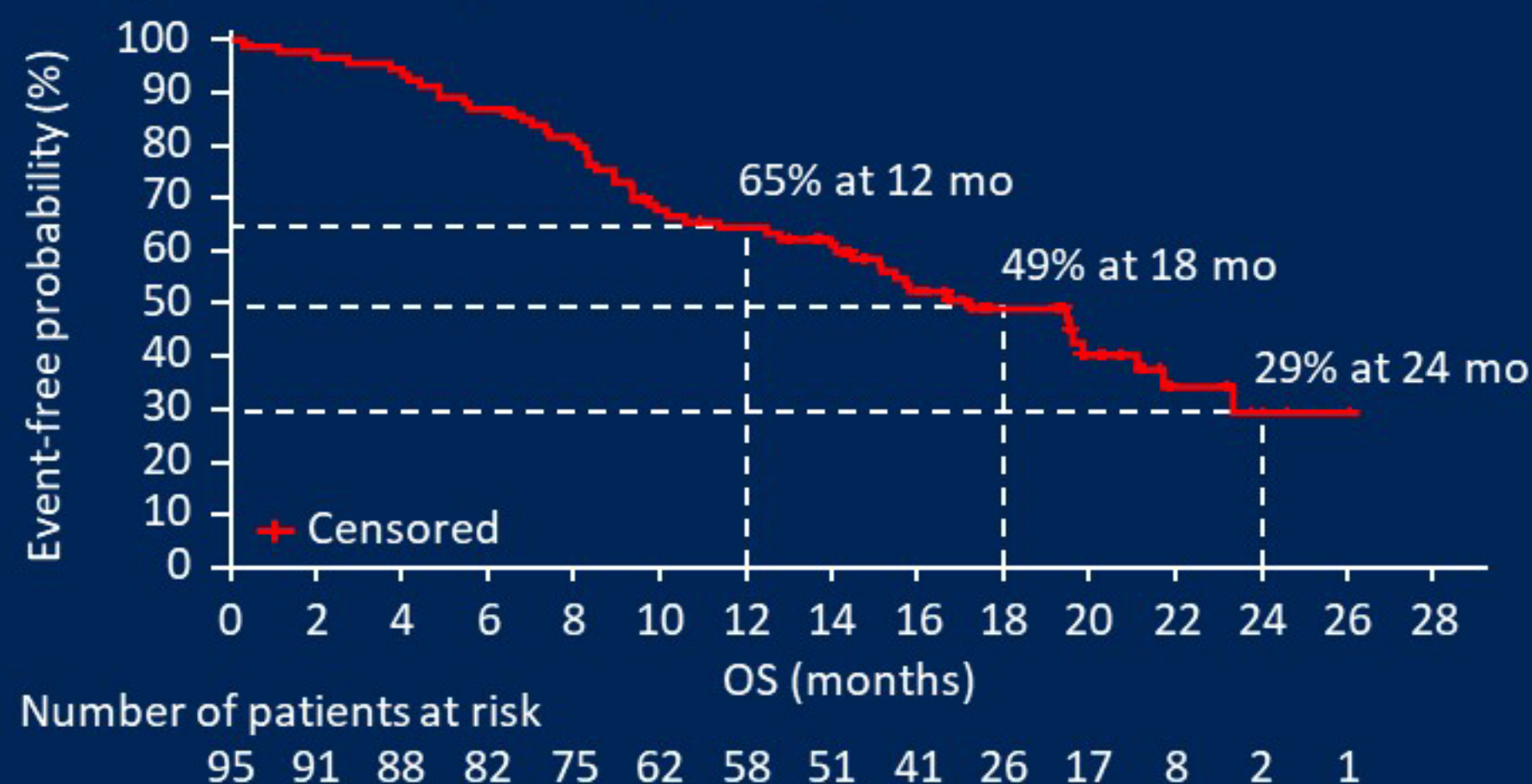
\*Primary endpoint met with a lower limit of the 95% CI exceeding 30%

## PFS(Secondary endpoint)



	Encorafenib + binimetinib + cetuximab
Local PFS	N=92 <sup>#</sup>
Number of events	61 (66.3%)
Median PFS (months) 95% CI	<b>5.8</b> <b>4.6-6.4</b>

## OS(Secondary endpoint)

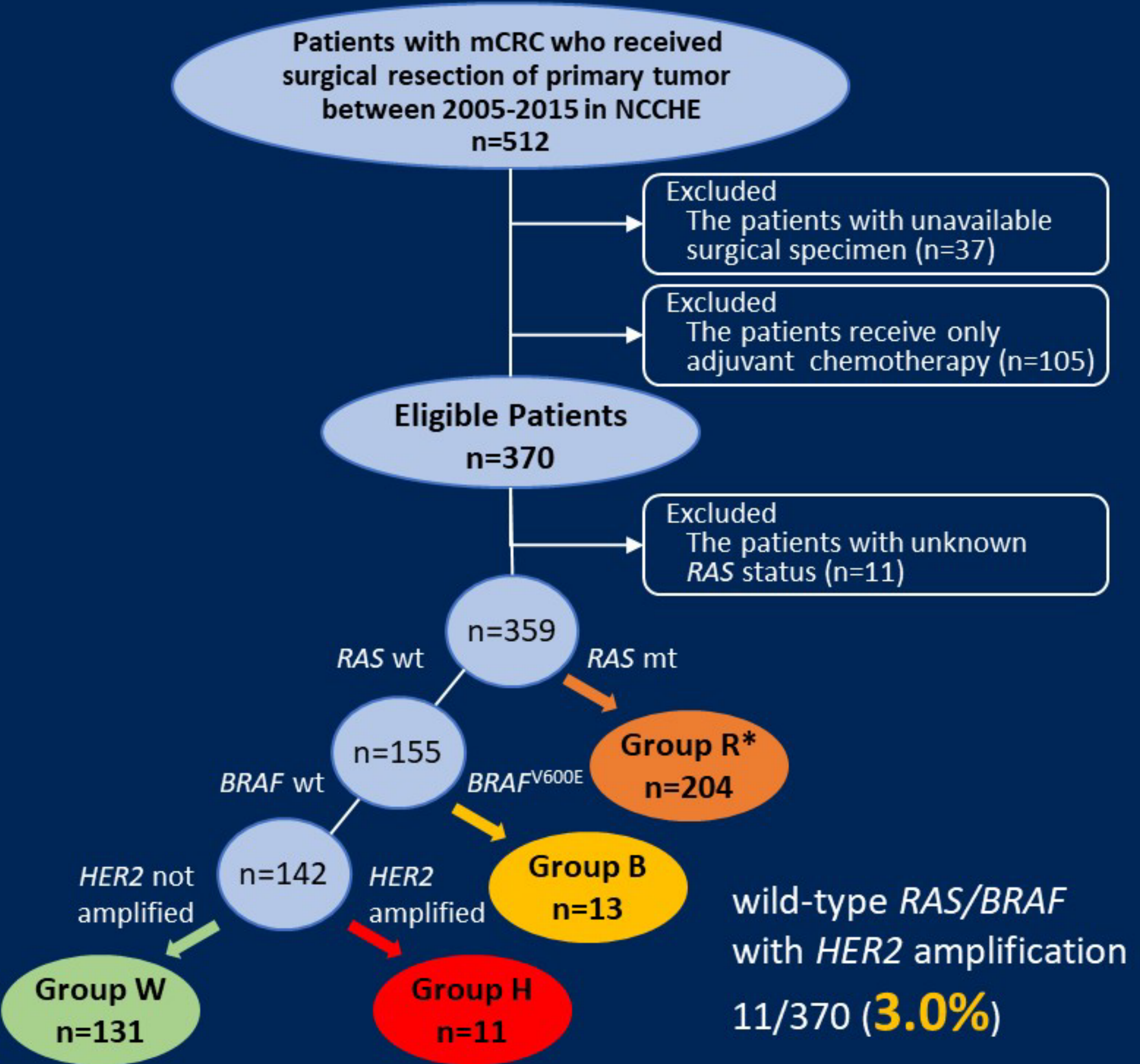


	Encorafenib + binimetinib + cetuximab
OS	N=95
Number of events	52 (54.7%)
Median OS (months) 95% CI	<b>17.2</b> <b>14.1-21.1</b>

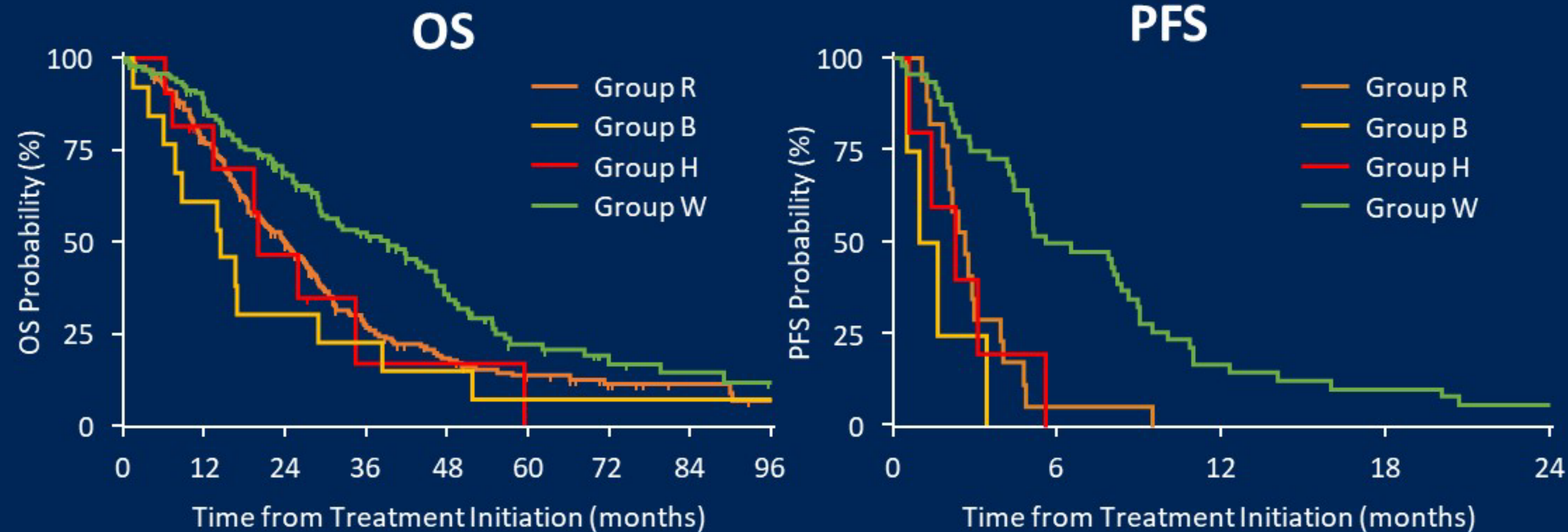
Van Cutsem E, et al.: WCGC 2021 #O-10



# Frequency and prognosis of HER2-positive colorectal cancer



## OS and PFS in Patients Treated With anti-EGFR Therapy



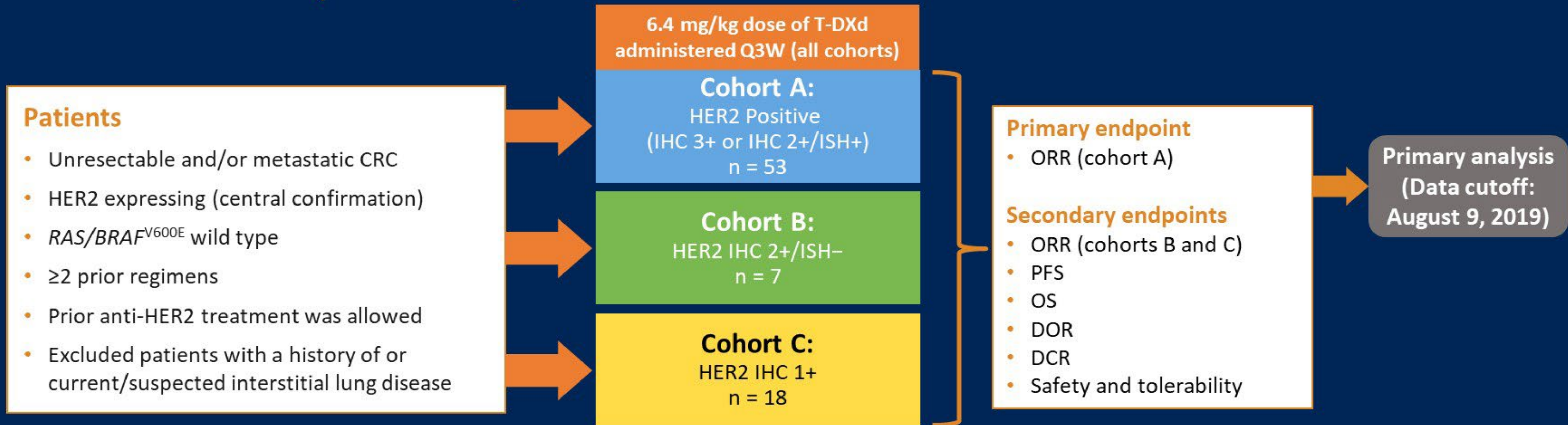
R: RAS mutant  
 B: BRAF<sup>V600E</sup> mutant  
 H: wild-type RAS/BRAF with HER2 amplification  
 W: wild-type RAS/BRAF without HER2 amplification

Sawada K, Yoshino T, et al. Clin Colorectal Cancer 2018



# DESTINY-CRC01 : Study Design

An open-label, multicenter, phase 2 study  
(NCT03384940)



**Primary analysis of cohort A**

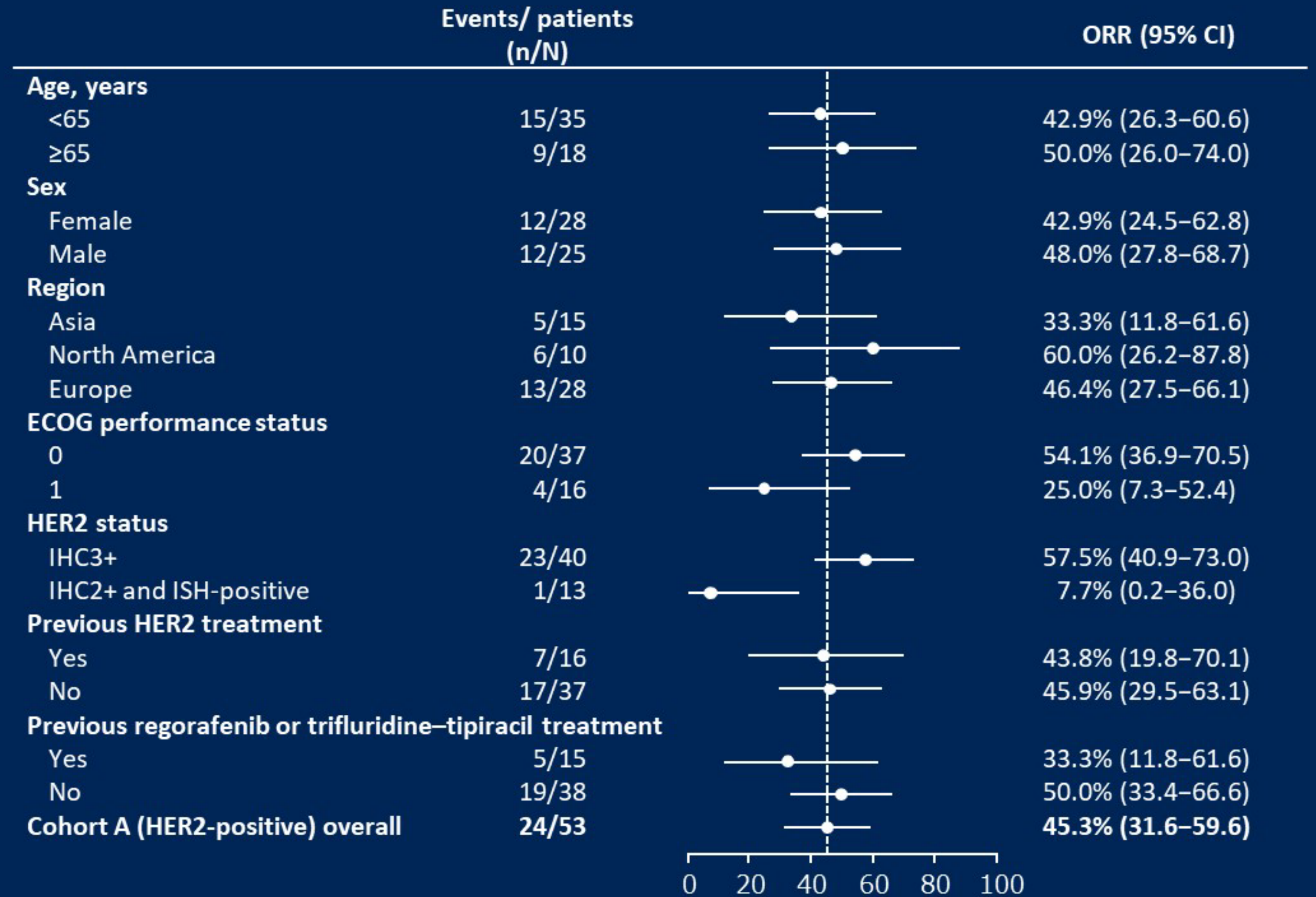
- The primary endpoint was confirmed objective response rate (defined as the proportion of patients who had a confirmed best overall response of complete response or partial response at any point from the start of therapy until the patient was withdrawn from the study or started a new anti-cancer therapy, or until data cutoff [whichever came first]), assessed by independent central review on the basis of RECIST version 1.1,

Siena S, Yoshino T, et al.: Lancet Oncol. 2021.



# Clinical response for cohort A patients treated with trastuzumab deruxtecan

	Cohort A (HER2-positive; n=53)
Confirmed ORR by ICR, % (95% CI)	45.3 (31.6–59.6)
Complete response	1 (2%)
Partial response	23 (43%)
Stable disease	20 (38%)
Progressive disease	5 (9%)
Non-evaluable*	4 (8%)

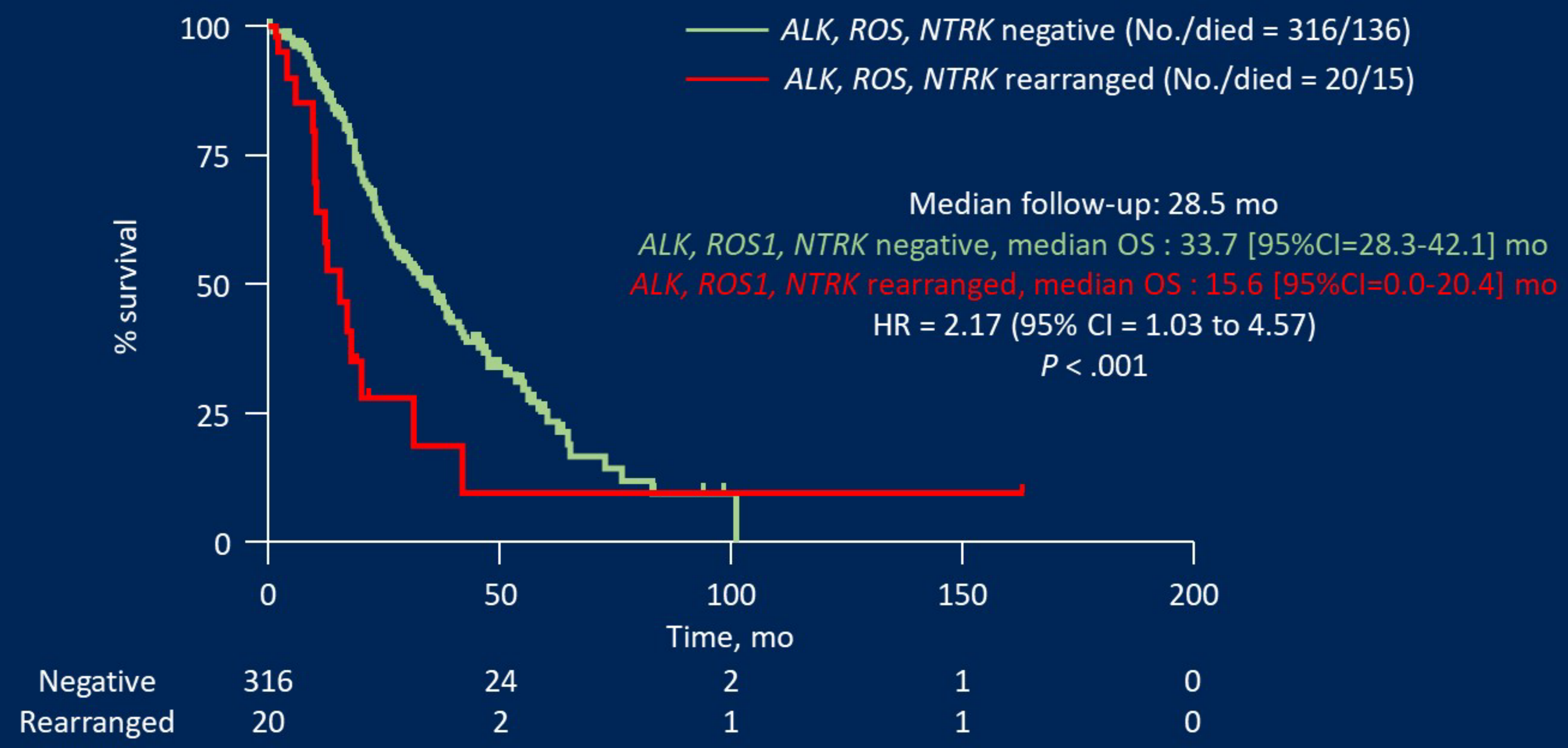


Siena S, Yoshino T, et al.: Lancet Oncol. 2021.





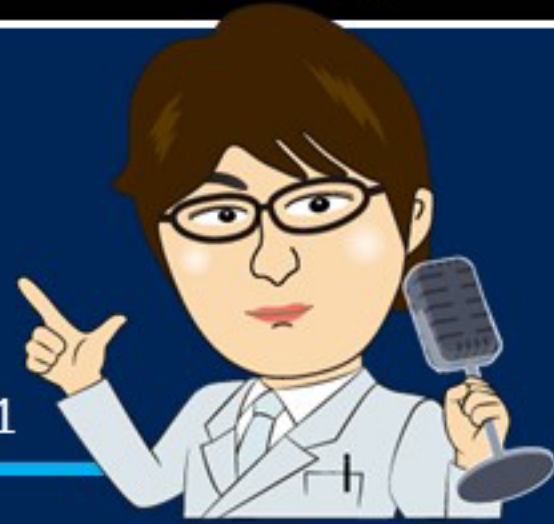
# Survival in metastatic colorectal cancer patients carrying ALK, ROS1, and NTRK rearranged tumors



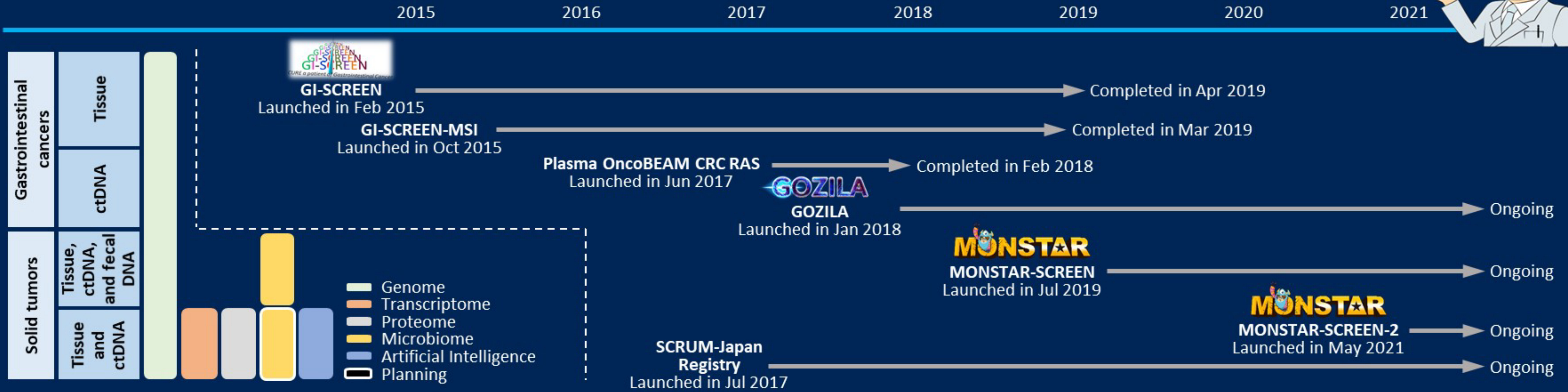
***NTRK gene fusion mCRC may have a poor prognosis***  
***Most NTRK fusion mCRC are involved in MSI-H/dMMR***

Pietrantonio F, et al.: J Natl Cancer Inst 2017





# SCRUM-Japan GI-SCREEN, GOZILA and MONSTAR-SCREEN



	GI-SCREEN	GOZILA	MONSTAR-SCREEN	MONSTAR-SCREEN-2
Cancer	Gastrointestinal cancers	Gastrointestinal cancers	Solid tumors	Solid tumors
Sample size	5743	7000	2206	2750
Molecular profiling	Tissue DNA/RNA targeted sequencing (OCA)	Plasma DNA targeted sequencing (Guardant360)	Tissue and plasma DNA targeted sequencing (F1CDx and F1L CDx) Fecal microbiome (16S sequencing, shotgun metagenomic sequencing, single-cell metagenomics)	Tissue and plasma WES/WTS, and buffy coat WES (CARIS assay) Tissue IHC (HER2 and PD-L1) Multiplex IHC
Status	Completed	Active recruitment	Completed	Active recruitment

Abbreviations: F1CDx, FoundationOne CDx; F1L CDx, FoundationOne Liquid CDx; IHC, immunohistochemistry; OCA, Oncomine Comprehensive Assay; WES, whole exome sequencing; WTS, whole transcriptome sequencing.

Nakamura Y, Yoshino T, et al.: Cancer Science. 2021.



# GOZILA UMBRELLA/BASKET TRIALS

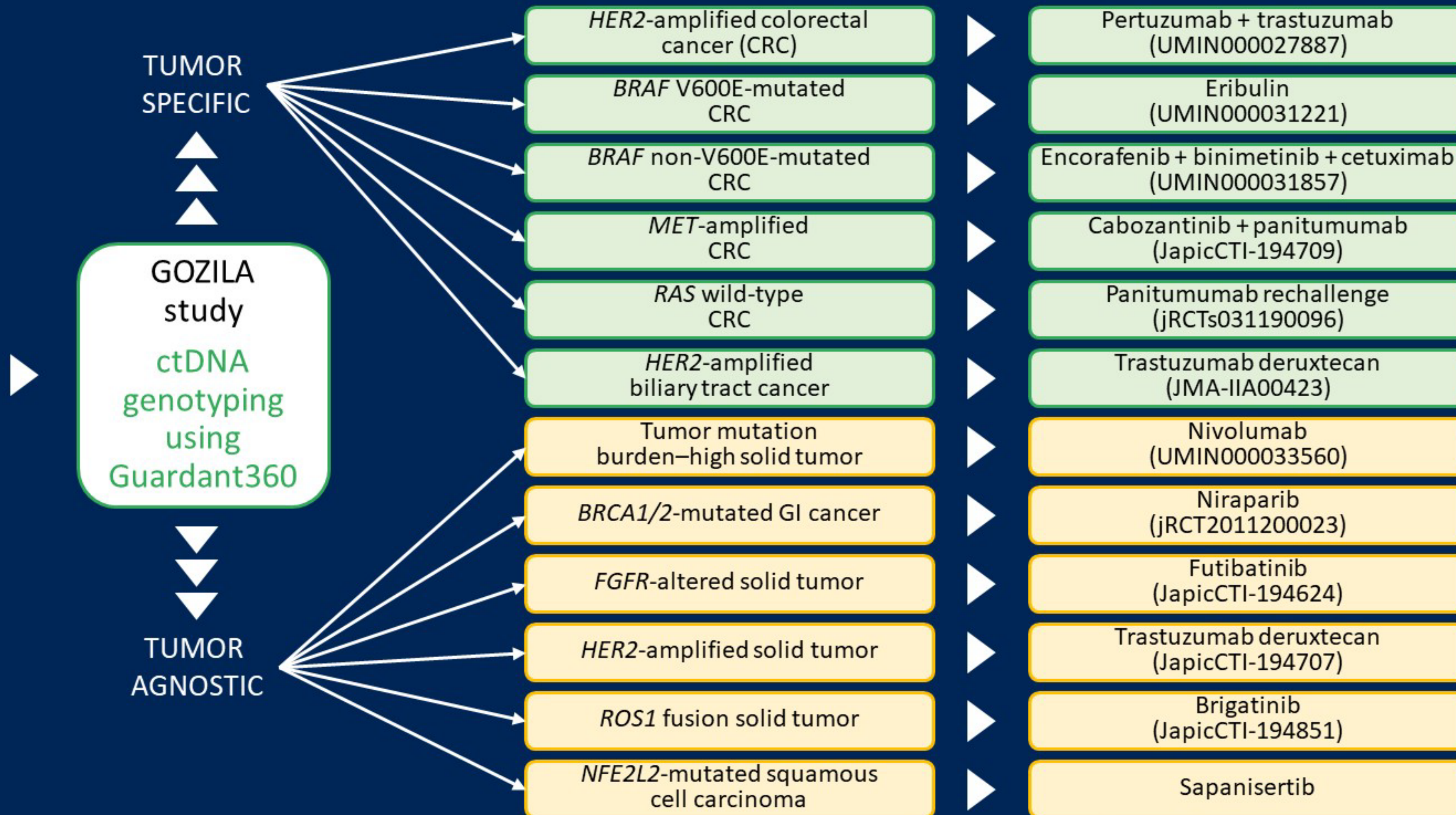
## GOZILA UMBRELLA/BASKET TRIALS



Metastatic gastrointestinal (GI) cancer or other advanced solid tumors with specific genomic alterations

Treatment naïve or disease progression after anticancer therapy

N = 5000



Bando H, Yoshino T, et al.: Oncology, ONCOLOGY Vol 35, Issue 7, 2021.



# Conclusions/Take-Away -Molecular Targeted Therapies for mCRC-

- **RAS wild type & anti-EGFR mAb naïve;** Anti-EGFR mAb is a preferred choice in the 1<sup>st</sup>-line, particularly in left-sided primary tumor.
- **RAS wild type & anti-EGFR mAb pre-treated;** Rechallenge of anti-EGFR mAb is considered in patients with blood-based RAS wild type.
- **RAS mutant;** KRAS<sup>G12C</sup> inhibitor + anti-EGFR mAb combination is promising. Clinical development with KRAS<sup>G12D</sup> or RAS<sup>MULTI</sup> inhibitors have been initiated.
- **BRAF<sup>V600E</sup> mutant;** BEACON doublet regimen in 2<sup>nd</sup>- or 3<sup>rd</sup>-line is established.
- **HER2;** Dual HER2 blockade or HER2-ADC monotherapy are promising.
- **NTRK Fusion;** Most NTRK fusion mCRC are involved in MSI-H/dMMR
- **SCRUM-Japan;** Efficient platform to identify orphan-fractionated cancer subtypes.

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mAb, monoclonal antibody: ADC, Antibody-Drug Conjugate

[tyoshino@east.ncc.go.jp](mailto:tyoshino@east.ncc.go.jp)



# Immunotherapy in Microsatellite Stable Colorectal Cancer

Kristen K. Ciombor, MD, MSCI  
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center



# Anti-PD-(L)1 + Targeted Therapies in MSS mCRC

- **MEK**: IMblaze370 (cobimetinib/atezolizumab)
- **EGFR**: **nivo/ipi/pmab**; CAVE: cetuximab/avelumab; AVETUX: FOLFOX/cetuximab/avelumab; AVETRIC: FOLFOXIRI/cetuximab/avelumab
- **BRAF**: encorafenib/cetuximab/nivolumab, dabrafenib/trametinib/spartalizumab; spartalizumab/dabrafenib/LTT462 (ERKi)
- **KRAS G12C**: CodeBreak 100: AMG 510 +/- anti-PD-(L)1; TNO155 (SHP2 inhibitor)/spartalizumab/JDQ443
- **PI3K**: nivolumab/copanlisib
- **MGMT silencing**: **MAYA**: TMZ + nivolumab + ipilimumab (TMZ-induced hypermutation); ARETHUSA: TMZ/pembro



# Conclusions/Take-Away Points

- **Failure of immune checkpoint blockade monotherapy in MSS mCRC well established**
  - Reasons: lack of T-cell inflamed phenotype (inadequate T-cell infiltration and activation, T-cell suppression)
  - Notable exceptions: *POLE* mutations, high TMB, etc.
- **Immunotherapy combinations are under investigation to try to overcome this failure (including dual immunotherapy, chemo, anti-angiogenic agents, targeted therapies and more)**
  - Need better understanding of primary and adaptive immune resistance, biomarkers for optimal patient selection



# Abstracts GI ASCO 2022



# Nivolumab + 5-fluorouracil/leucovorin/oxaliplatin (mFOLFOX6)/bevacizumab versus mFOLFOX6/bevacizumab for first-line treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer: phase 2 results from CheckMate 9X8

Heinz-Josef Lenz,<sup>1</sup> Aparna Parikh,<sup>2</sup> David R. Spigel,<sup>3</sup> Allen Cohn,<sup>4</sup> Takayuki Yoshino,<sup>5</sup> Mark Kochenderfer,<sup>6</sup> Elena Elez,<sup>7</sup> Spencer Shao,<sup>8</sup> Dustin Deming,<sup>9</sup> Regan Holdridge,<sup>10</sup> Timothy Larson,<sup>11</sup> Eric Chen,<sup>12</sup> Amit Mahipal,<sup>13</sup> Antonio Ucar,<sup>14</sup> Dana Cullen,<sup>15</sup> Edwina Baskin-Bey,<sup>15</sup> Jean-Marie Ledeine,<sup>15</sup> Amy Hammell,<sup>15</sup> Josep Tabernero<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, Los Angeles, CA; <sup>2</sup>Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA; <sup>3</sup>Sarah Cannon Research Institute at Tennessee Oncology, Nashville, TN; <sup>4</sup>Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers, Denver, CO; <sup>5</sup>National Cancer Center Hospital East, Chiba, Japan; <sup>6</sup>Oncology & Hematology Associates of Southwest Virginia, Roanoke, VA; <sup>7</sup>Vall d'Hebron Hospital Campus, Barcelona, Spain; <sup>8</sup>Compass Oncology, Portland, OR; <sup>9</sup>University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center, Madison, WI; <sup>10</sup>Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV; <sup>11</sup>Minnesota Oncology Hematology, Minneapolis, MN; <sup>12</sup>Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto, Canada; <sup>13</sup>Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN; <sup>14</sup>Miami Cancer Institute (part of Baptist Health South Florida), Miami, FL; <sup>15</sup>Bristol Myers Squibb, Princeton, NJ



# Introduction

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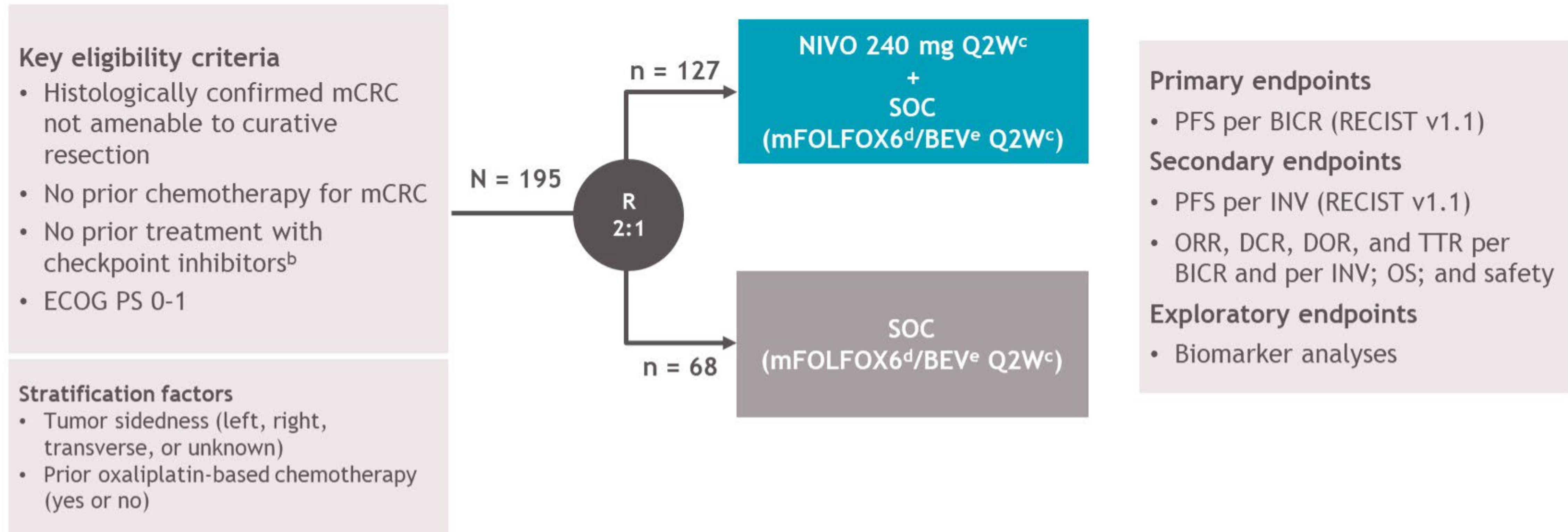
- Fluoropyrimidine-containing regimens with oxaliplatin and/or irinotecan and a biologic agent such as the *VEGF* inhibitor BEV are one of the standard 1L therapeutic options for mCRC<sup>1</sup>
- Immunotherapeutic agents may enhance antitumor activity in combination with standard therapies in patients with mCRC<sup>2-4</sup>
- NIVO, a PD-1 inhibitor, is approved as a single agent or in combination with IPI, a CTLA-4 inhibitor, in previously treated patients with MSI-H/dMMR mCRC<sup>5-7</sup>
- CheckMate 9X8 evaluated NIVO + mFOLFOX6/BEV (NIVO + SOC) vs mFOLFOX6/BEV (SOC) as a 1L therapy in MSS and MSI-H mCRC

1. Grapsa D, et al. *Expert Rev Anticancer Ther* 2015;15:1267-1281. 2. Le DT, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2015;372:2509-2520. 3. Boland PM, Ma WW. *Cancers (Basel)* 2017;9:50. 4. Cremolini C, et al. Oral presentation at ESMO; September 16-21, 2021; Virtual. Abstract LBA20. 5. OPDIVO® (nivolumab) [prescribing information]. Princeton, NJ: Bristol Myers Squibb; August 2021. 6. OPDIVO® (nivolumab) [prescribing information]. Osaka, Japan: Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd; November 2020. 7. OPDIVO® (nivolumab) [summary of product characteristics]. Dublin, Ireland: Bristol Myers Squibb Pharma EEIG; October 2021.



# CheckMate 9X8 study design

- CheckMate 9X8 is a randomized, open-label phase 2/3 study<sup>a</sup>

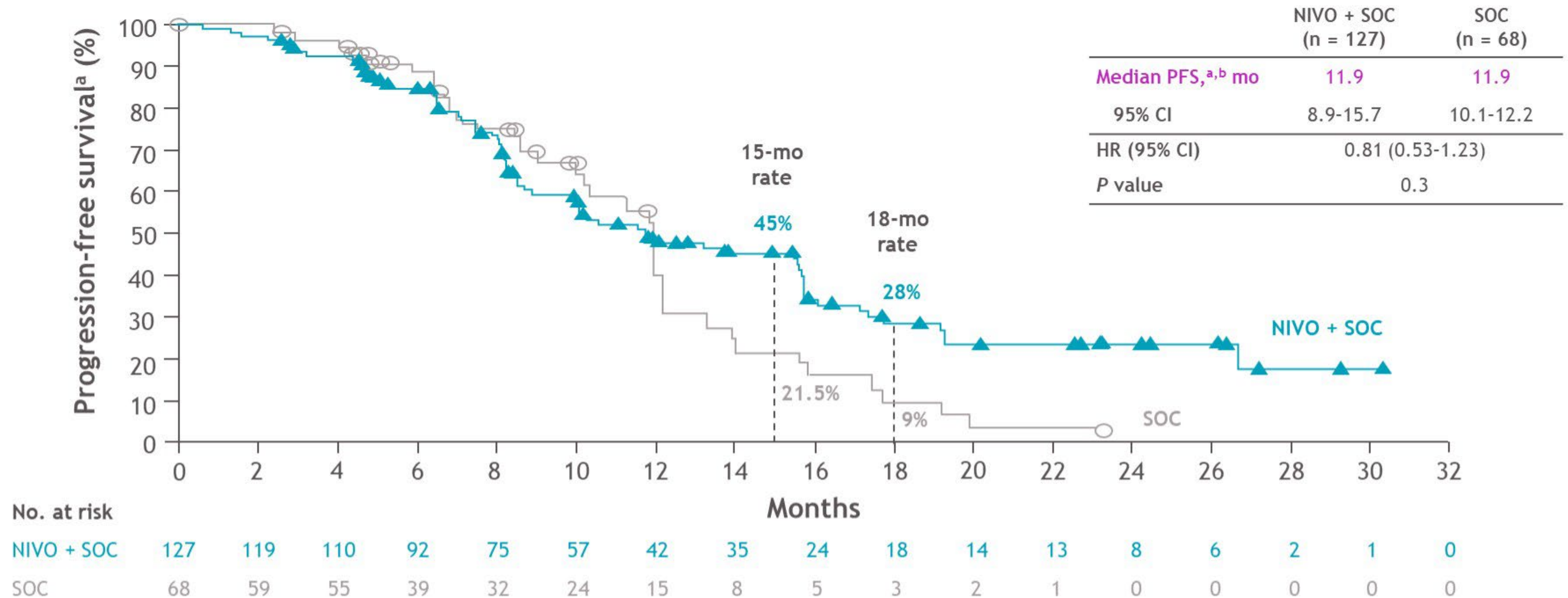


- At data cutoff (February 1, 2021), the minimum follow-up was 21.5 months<sup>f</sup>

<sup>a</sup>ClinicalTrials.gov. NCT03414983; <sup>b</sup>No prior treatment with an anti-PD-1, anti-PD-L1, anti-PD-L2, or anti-CTLA-4 antibody, or any other antibody or drug specifically targeting T-cell co-stimulation or checkpoint pathways; <sup>c</sup>Until disease progression, unacceptable toxicity, withdrawal of consent, or end of study; NIVO treatment for  $\leq 24$  months; <sup>d</sup>Oxaliplatin, 85 mg/m<sup>2</sup>; leucovorin, 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> or 350 mg/m<sup>2</sup> per local standards; fluorouracil, bolus 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, followed by 1200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> continuous infusion on day 1 (or 15) and day 2 (or 16), or 2400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> continuous infusion over 46-48 hours from day 1 (or 15) through day 2 (or 16) per local standards; <sup>e</sup>Bevacizumab, 5 mg/kg; <sup>f</sup>Time from randomization of the last patient to clinical data cutoff.



# Progression-free survival



- The primary endpoint of PFS per BICR was not met ( $P = 0.3$ )
- PFS rates after 12 months were numerically higher with NIVO + SOC vs SOC

<sup>a</sup>Per BICR; <sup>b</sup>Minimum follow-up was 21.5 months.



# Response, disease control, and durability

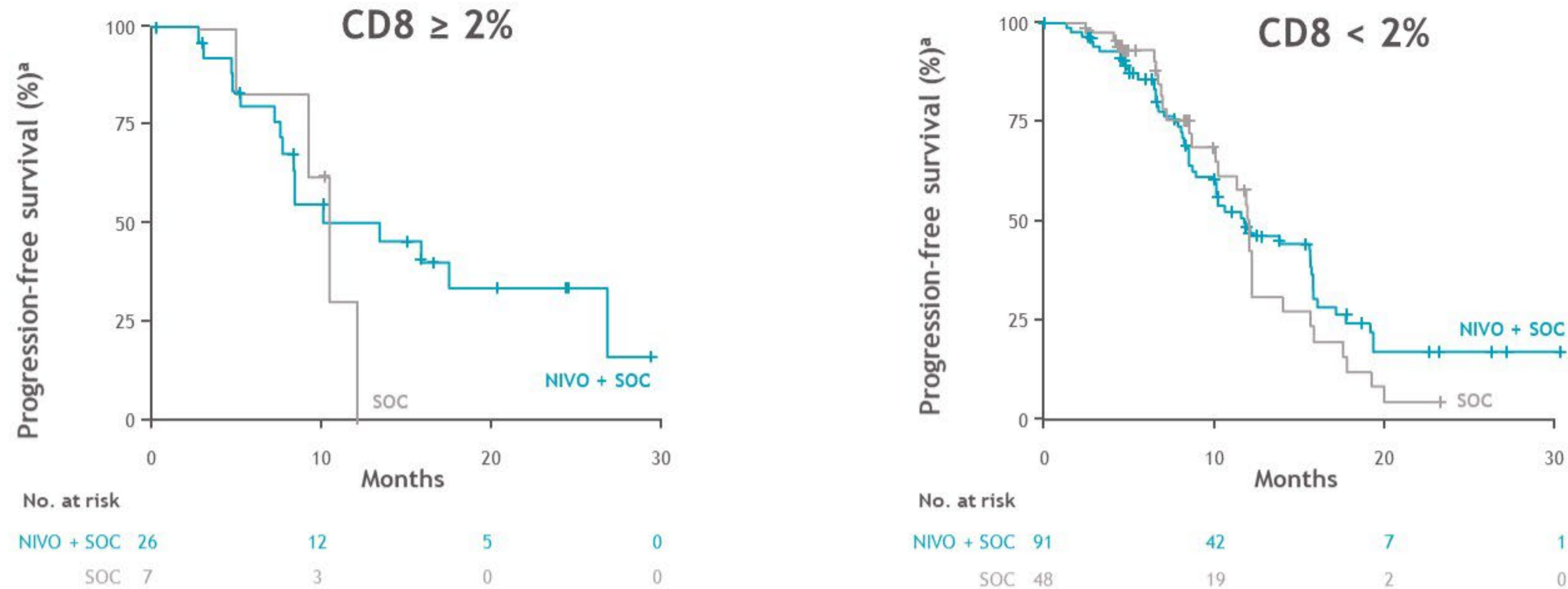
Outcome <sup>a</sup>	NIVO + SOC (n = 127)	SOC (n = 68)
ORR, <sup>b</sup> n (%) 95% CI	76 (60) 51-68	31 (46) 33.5-58
<b>Best overall response, n (%)</b>		
CR	6 (5)	1 (1)
PR	70 (55)	30 (44)
SD	39 (31)	26 (38)
PD	3 (2)	0
Unable to determine	9 (7)	11 (16)
DCR, <sup>c</sup> n (%) 95% CI	115 (91) 84-95	57 (84) 73-92
Median TTR (range), <sup>d</sup> months	2.8 (1.5-12.2)	2.8 (1.8-8.3)
Median DOR (95% CI), <sup>d</sup> months	12.9 (9.0-13.1)	9.3 (7.5-11.3)
≥ 12-mo rate (95% CI), %	52 (39-64)	31 (14-50)
≥ 18-mo rate (95% CI), %	29 (17-42)	0 (NE)

- ORR was higher and responses were more durable with NIVO + SOC compared to SOC

<sup>a</sup>Per BICR; <sup>b</sup>Number of CR + PR divided by the number of randomized patients; <sup>c</sup>Number of CR + PR + SD divided by the number of randomized patients; <sup>d</sup>Evaluated in patients who had an objective response.



# PFS by baseline tumor CD8 levels in MSS population



Median PFS (95% CI), mo	Baseline tumor CD8 levels <sup>a,b,c</sup>	
	CD8 ≥ 2%	CD8 < 2%
NIVO + SOC (n = 117)	13.2 (8.25-NE)	11.8 (10.0-15.7)
SOC (n = 55)	10.4 (9.1-NE)	11.9 (10.25-14.1)

- In exploratory analyses, benefit was seen with the addition of NIVO to SOC in patients with baseline tumor CD8 ≥ 2% after 12 months
- Higher baseline tumor CD8 levels (≥ 2%) may contribute to greater disease control (CR/PR/SD) with NIVO + SOC

<sup>a</sup>Per BICR; <sup>b</sup>19 patients (NIVO + SOC: n = 9; SOC: n = 10) not evaluable for response were excluded from this analysis; <sup>c</sup>2 patients with unknown CD8 results, and 1 patient with multiple baseline samples and discordant results in the SOC arm were excluded from this analysis.



# Summary

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- PFS with NIVO + SOC vs SOC did not meet the prespecified threshold for statistical significance in previously untreated patients with mCRC ( $P = 0.3$ )
  - PFS curves overlapped before separating at approximately 12 months, after which numerically higher PFS rates were observed with NIVO + SOC vs SOC
  - Higher ORR and more durable responses were observed with NIVO + SOC vs SOC
- Benefit was observed with the addition of NIVO to SOC in CMS1 and CMS3 patients and in patients with  $CD8 \geq 2\%$  in exploratory subgroup analyses
- NIVO + SOC had an acceptable safety profile, and no new safety signals were identified
  - Rates of grade 3/4 TRAEs were higher with NIVO + SOC vs SOC
- Results from this phase 2 exploratory study suggest that a subgroup of patients with mCRC may experience benefit from the addition of NIVO to SOC in the 1L setting; however, further investigation is warranted to identify characteristics of these patients



ASCO® Gastrointestinal  
Cancers Symposium

**A randomized phase III trial of  
mFOLFOX7 or CapeOX plus bevacizumab versus  
5-FU//LV or capecitabine plus bevacizumab  
as initial therapy in elderly patients  
with metastatic colorectal cancer:  
JCOG1018 study (RESPECT)**

UMIN000008866, jRCTs031180145

Tetsuya Hamaguchi, Atsuo Takashima, Junki Mizusawa, Yasuhiro Shimada, Fumio Nagashima, Masahiko Ando, Hitoshi Ojima, Tadamichi Denda, Jun Watanabe, Katsunori Shinozaki, Hideo Baba, Masako Asayama, Tadao Fukushima, Toshiki Masuishi, Ken Nakata, Shunsuke Tsukamoto, Hiroshi Katayama, Kenichi Nakamura, Haruhiko Fukuda, Yukihide Kanemitsu  
Colorectal Cancer Study Group in Japan Clinical Oncology Group (JCOG)



# Background

- Fluoropyrimidine plus oxaliplatin (OX) with bevacizumab (BEV) is one of the standard intensive initial therapy for metastatic colorectal cancer (MCRC)
- Since elderly patients are under-represented in clinical trials, the benefit of intensifying initial therapy is not yet clear in this group
- Fluoropyrimidines plus BEV showed significantly longer progression-free survival (PFS) in elderly patients with MCRC



# Study Schema

## MCRC as Initial therapy

70-74yo with PS 2, or 75yo ≤ with PS 0-2

Physician's choice for fluoropyrimidine  
("5-FU+I-LV" or "Cape")

## Randomization

ECOG-PS (0-1 / 2), Age (>85 / 80-84 / 75-79 / 70-74),  
Number of metastatic sites (1 / ≥2), and Institute

**Arm A ("NO" OX)**  
Fluoropyrimidine+BEV

5-FU+I-LV+BEV  
or  
Cape + BEV

**Arm B ("ADD" OX)**  
Fluoropyrimidine/OX+BEV

mFOLFOX7+BEV  
or  
CapeOX + BEV

### 5-FU+/-LV+BEV

BEV 5 mg/kg | I-LV 200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> | 5-FUci 2400 mg/m<sup>2</sup>

### Cape+BEV

BEV 7.5 mg/kg

Capecitabine 1,250 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (CrCL ≥ 50) or 1,000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (50 > CrCL)

### mFOLFOX7+BEV

BEV 5 mg/kg | OX 85 mg/m<sup>2</sup> | I-LV 200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> | 5-FUci 2400 mg/m<sup>2</sup>

### CapeOX+BEV

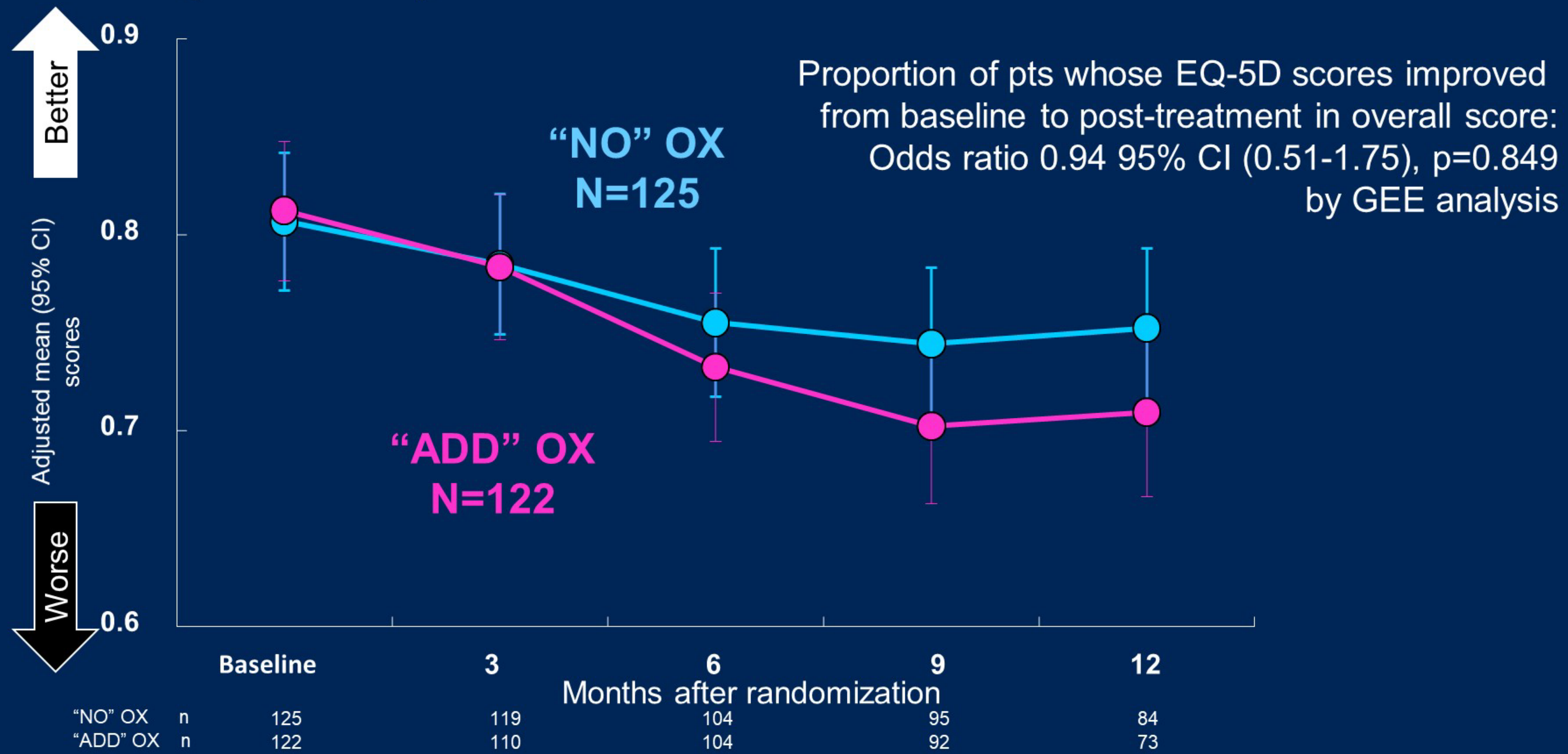
OX 130 mg/m<sup>2</sup>

BEV 7.5 mg/kg

Capecitabine 1,000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (CrCL ≥ 50) or 750 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (50 > CrCL)

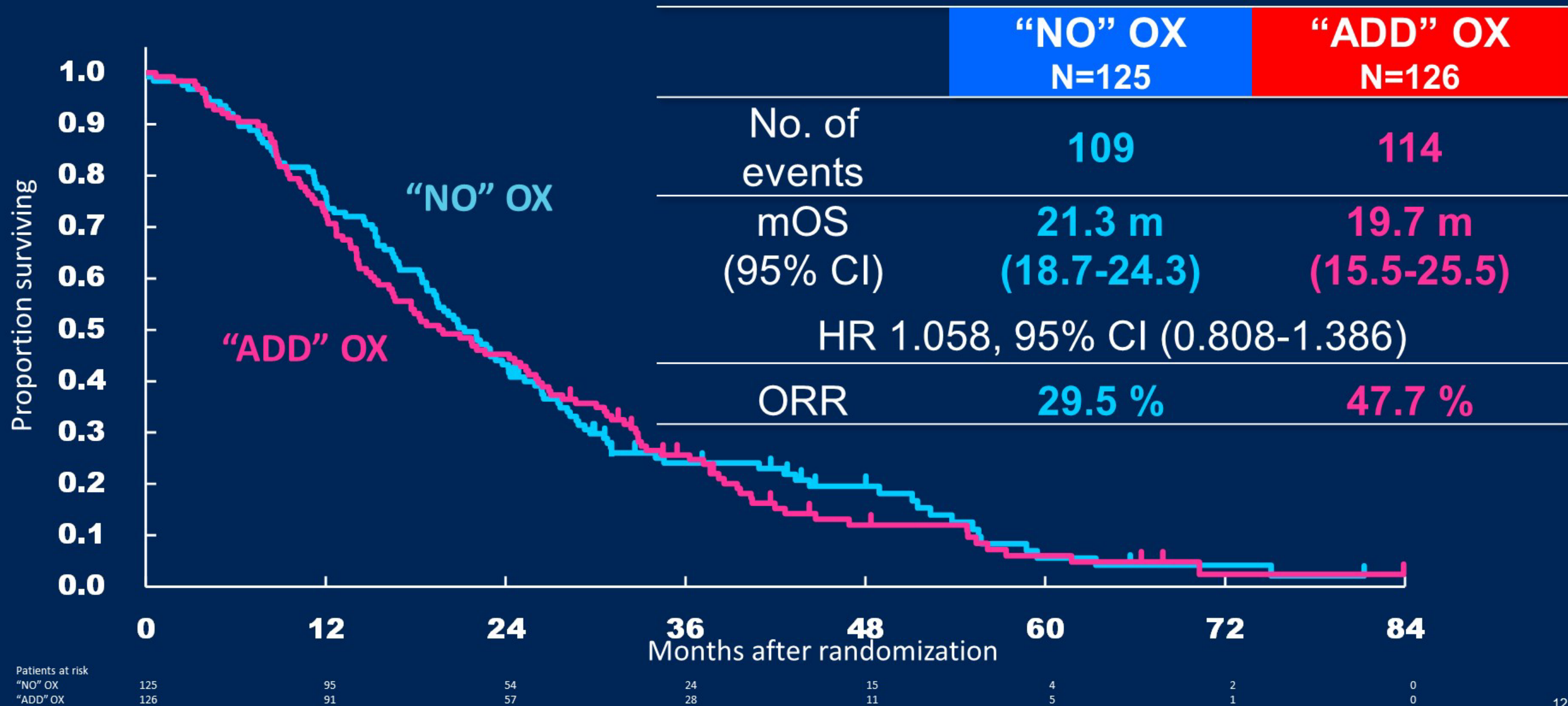


# QOL (EQ-5D)



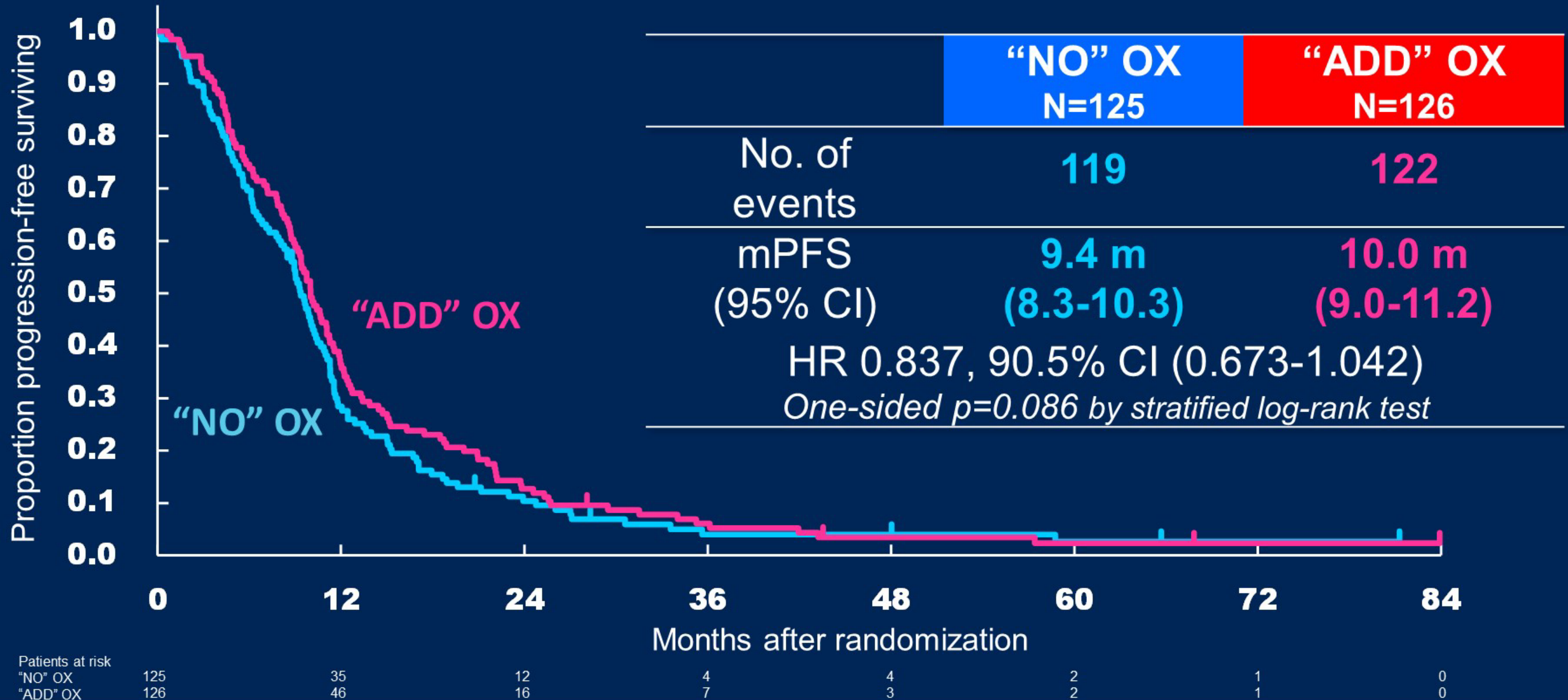


# OS and ORR





# Progression-free survival (ITT)





# Summary

- In this “elderly” trial, 93% of patients were  $\geq 75$  years with ECOG PS 0 or 1
- The “ADD” OX to fluoropyrimidine with BEV has no PFS prolongation
- The “ADD” OX was associated with more frequent and more severe adverse events



# Summary

- Treatment of colorectal cancer is evolving to a more targeted approach
- CtDNA role to find its role in adjuvant and metastatic setting
- Immunotherapy in combination with chemotherapy in the first line setting to find its subpopulation
- Benefit of adjuvant oxaliplatin dependent on age and length of therapy



Questions?



Thank you