

The Future Roles of Systemic Therapy in Transplant Oncology

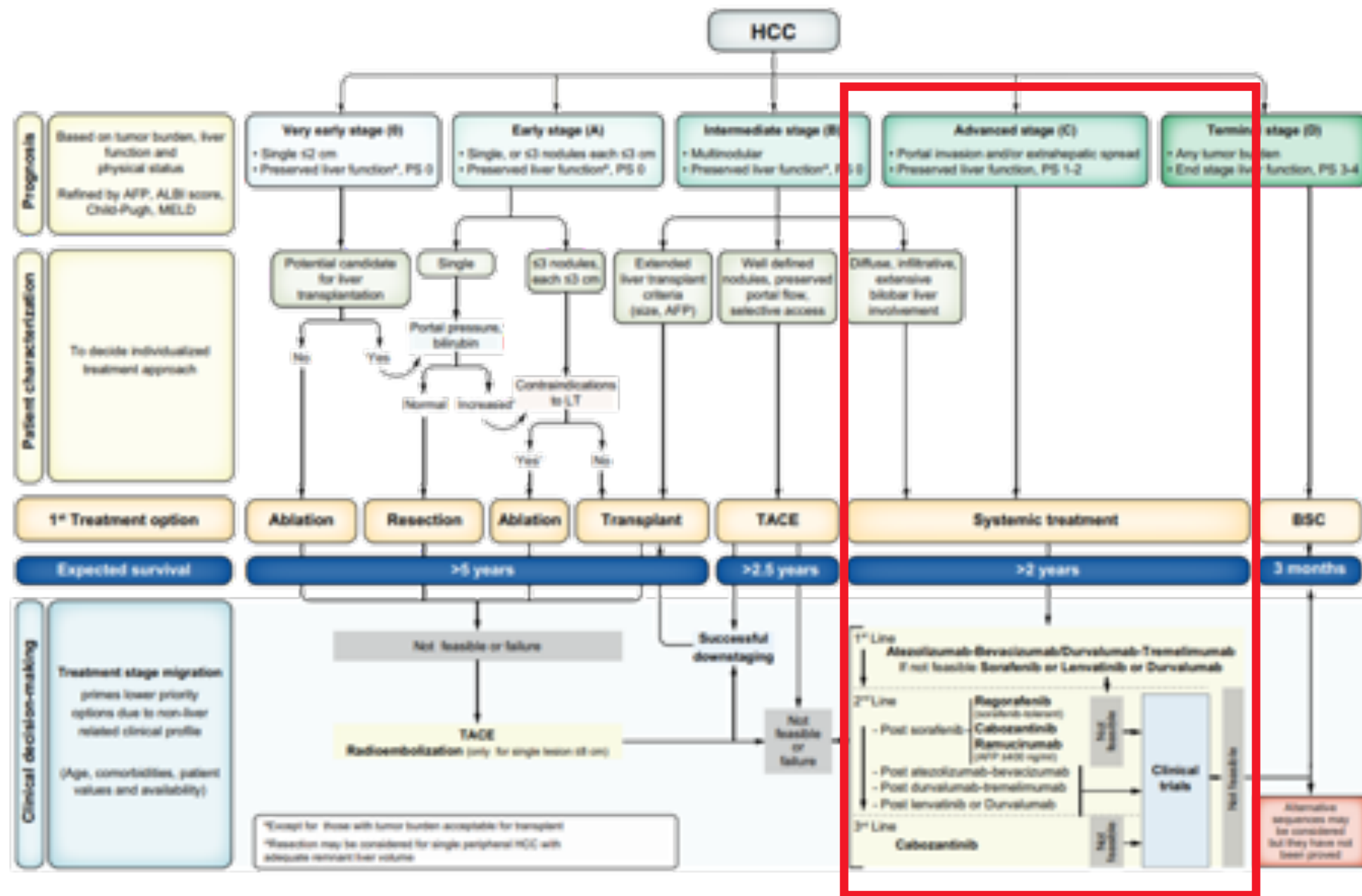
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Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Sept 23rd 2023

Disclosures

- Bayer
- Boston Scientific
- AstraZeneca

Epidemiology of Liver Cancer



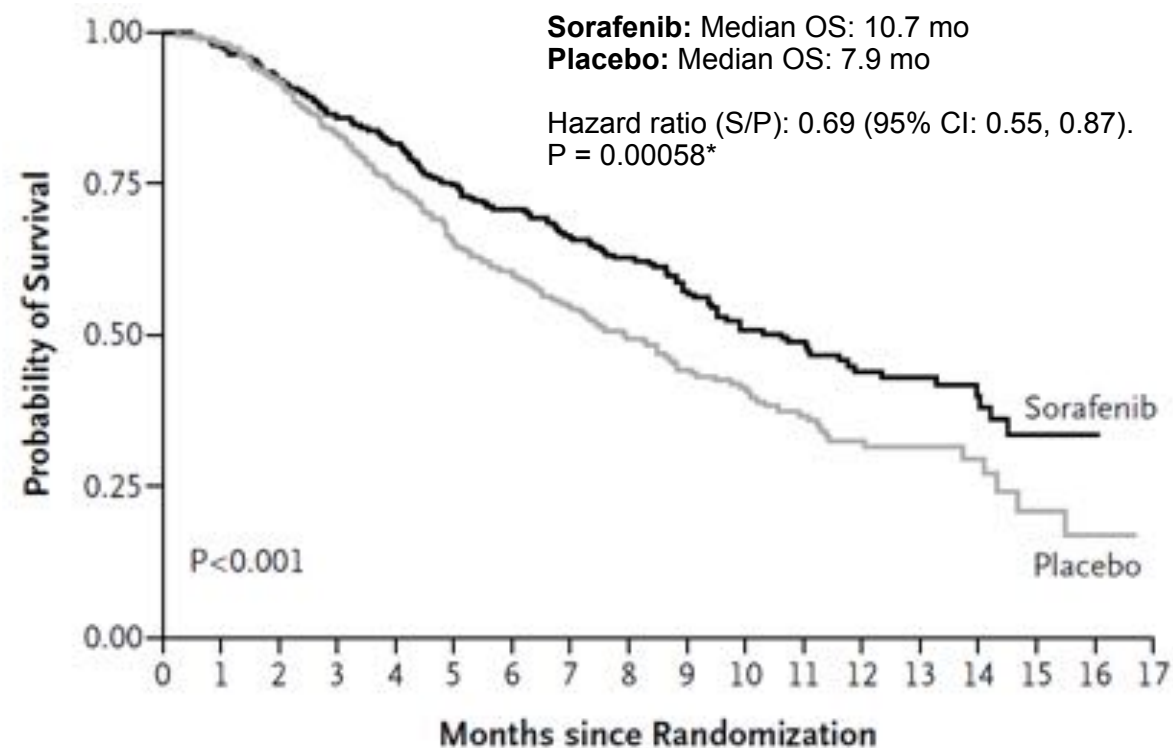


Sorafenib: First systemic treatment for HCC

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Sorafenib in Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Josep M. Llovet, M.D., Sergio Ricci, M.D., Vincenzo Mazzaferro, M.D., Philip Hilgard, M.D., Edward Gane, M.D., Jean-Frédéric Blanc, M.D., Andre Cosme de Oliveira, M.D., Armando Santoro, M.D., Jean-Luc Raoul, M.D., Alejandro Forner, M.D., Myron Schwartz, M.D., Camillo Porta, M.D., Stefan Zeuzem, M.D., Luigi Bolondi, M.D., Tim F. Greten, M.D., Peter R. Galle, M.D., Jean-François Seitz, M.D., Ivan Borbath, M.D., Dieter Häussinger, M.D., Tom Giannaris, B.Sc., Minghua Shan, Ph.D., Marius Moscovici, M.D., Dimitris Voliotis, M.D., and Jordi Bruix, M.D., for the SHARP Investigators Study Group*



No. at Risk

Sorafenib	299	290	270	249	234	213	200	172	140	111	89	68	48	37	24	7	1	0
Placebo	303	295	272	243	217	189	174	143	108	83	69	47	31	23	14	6	3	0

Management of advanced HCC

First Line:

1. Sorafenib vs. Placebo
2. Sorafenib +/- Erlotinib
3. Sorafenib vs. Brivanib
4. Sorafenib vs. Sunitinib
5. Sorafenib vs. Linifanib
6. Sorafenib +/- Doxorubicin
7. Sorafenib vs. Lenvatinib
8. Sorafenib vs. Y90
9. Sorafenib vs. Nivolumab

● Positive

● Non-inferior

Second Line:

1. Brivanib vs. Placebo
2. Everolimus vs. Placebo
3. Ramucirumab vs. Placebo (AFP > 400 ng/mL)
4. Regorafenib vs. Placebo
5. Tivantinib vs. Placebo
6. Cabozantinib vs. Placebo
7. Pembrolizumab vs. Placebo

REFLECT: First line treatment: Lenvatinib

Lenvatinib versus sorafenib in first-line treatment of patients with unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma: a randomised phase 3 non-inferiority trial

Masatoshi Kudo, Richard S Finn, Shukui Qin, Kwang-Hyub Han, Kenji Ikeda, Fabio Piscaglia, Ari Baron*, Joong-Won Park*, Guohong Han*, Jacek Jassem, Jean Frederic Blanc, Arndt Vogel, Dmitry Komov, T R Jeffry Evans, Carlos Lopez, Carina Dutcus, Matthew Guo, Kenichi Saito, Silvija Kraljevic, Toshiyuki Tamai, Min Ren, Ann-Lii Cheng

Advanced stage (BCLC C: Portal invasion and/or extrahepatic spread)
Intermediate stage (BCLC B: Multinodular) progressing upon loco-regional therapies

**1st
line**

Sorafenib

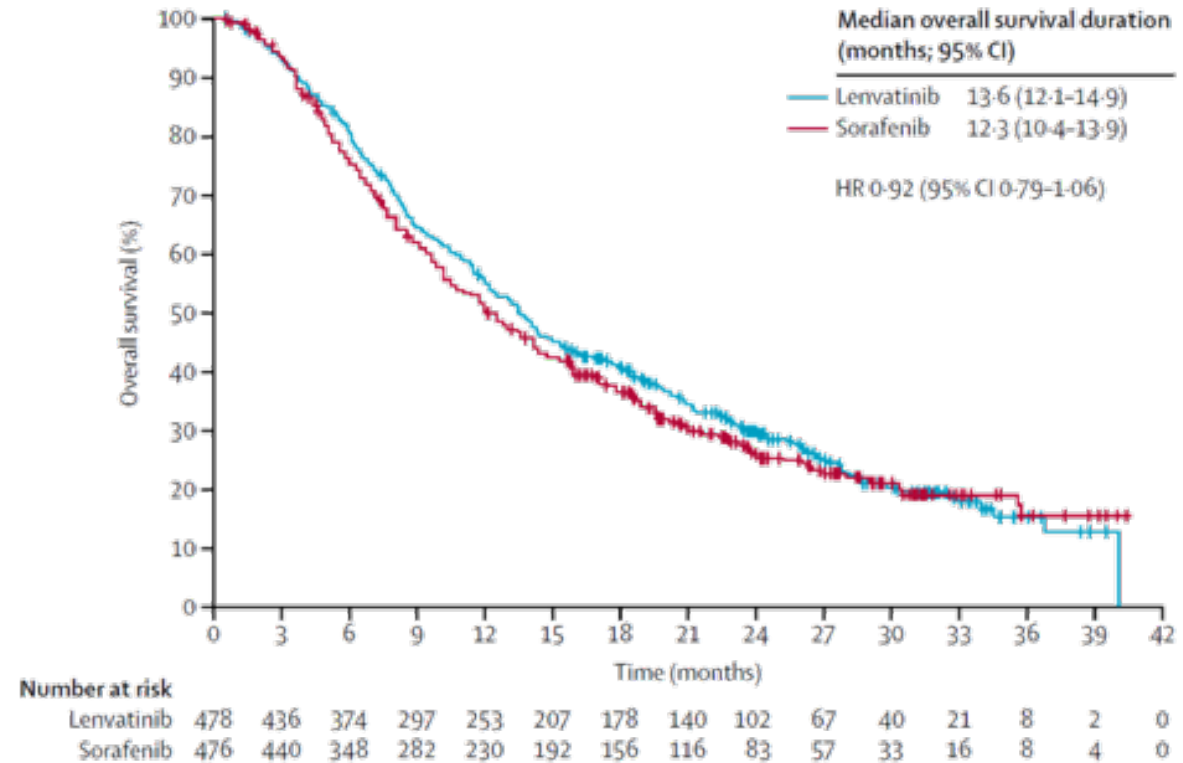
OS HR = 0.69 (vs. placebo)

Child-Pugh A-ECOG PS ≤ 2
*Higher benefit in HCV infection
and lack of EHS

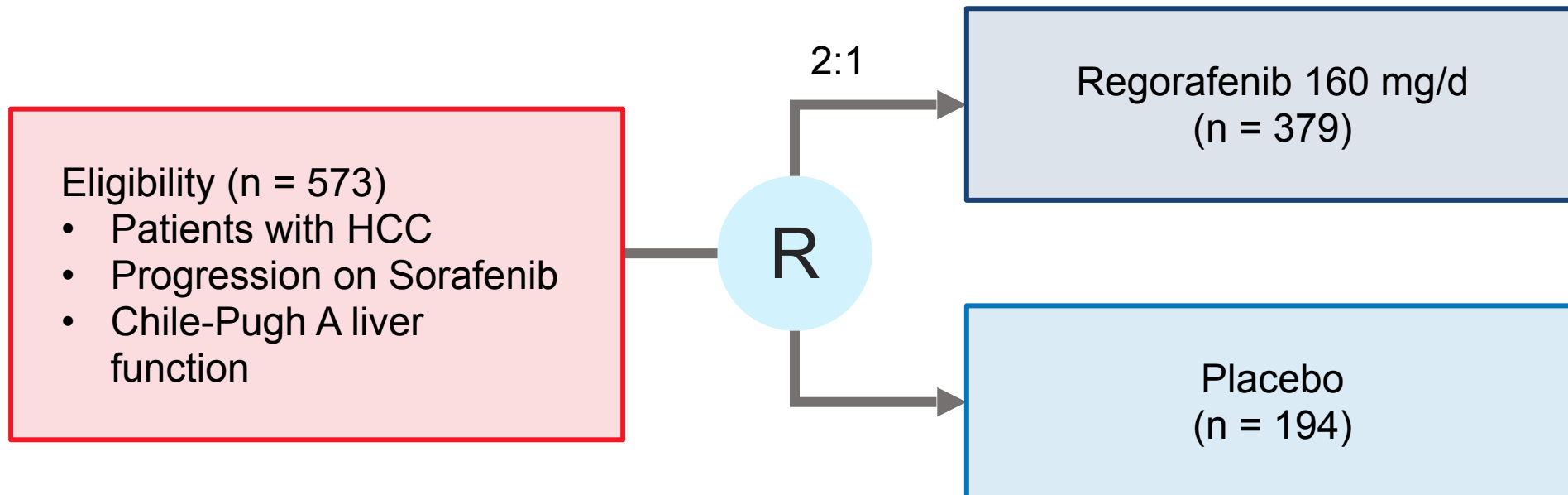
Lenvatinib

OS HR = 0.92 (vs. Sorafenib)

Child-Pugh A-ECOG PS ≤ 1
No invasion main portal vein

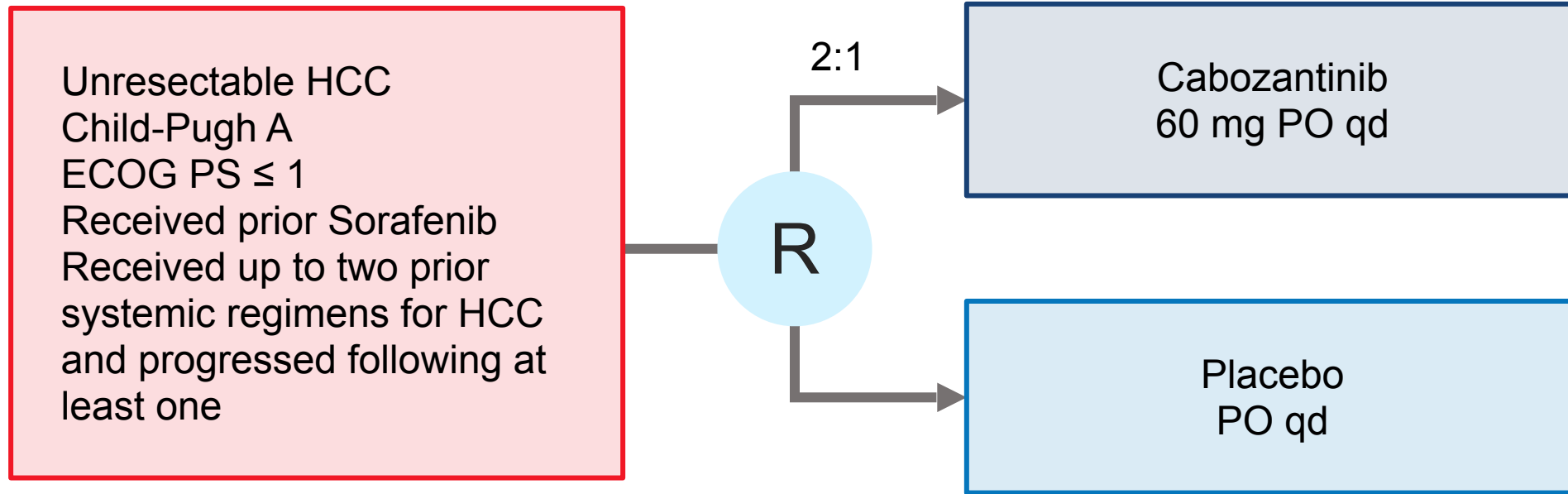


RESORCE trial: Phase III Regorafenib 2nd line



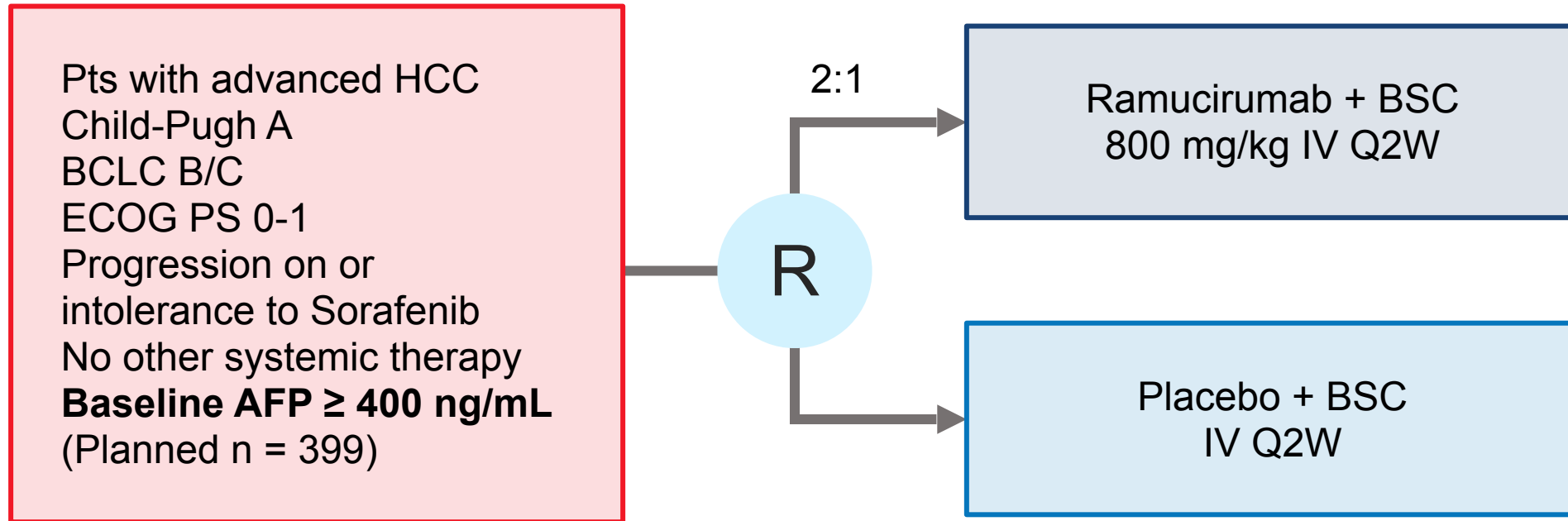
Outcome	Regorafenib (n = 379)	Placebo (n = 194)	HR	p-value
Median OS	10.6 mo	7.8 mo	0.63	< 0.0001

Celestial Trial: Cabozantinib 2nd line



Outcome	Cabozantinib (n = 470)	Placebo (n = 237)	HR	p-value
mOS, mo (95% CI)	10.2 (9.1, 12.0)	8.0 (6.8, 9.4)	0.76	0.005
mPFS, mo (95% CI)	5.2 (4.0, 5.5)	1.9 (1.9, 1.9)	0.44	< 0.001
ORR, n (%)	18 (4)	1 (< 1)		0.009

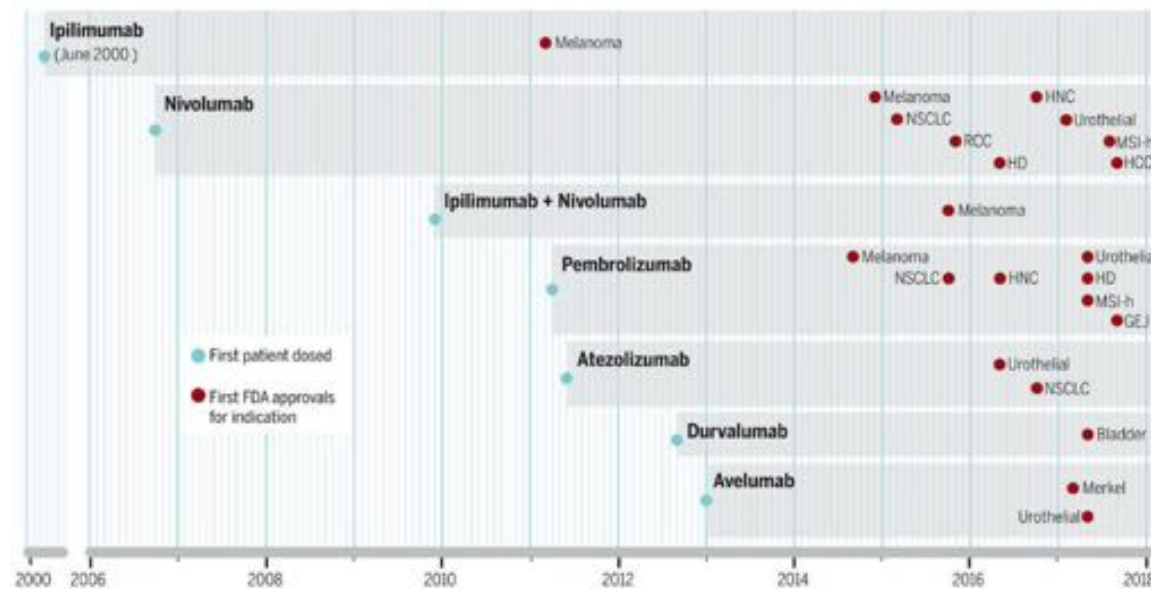
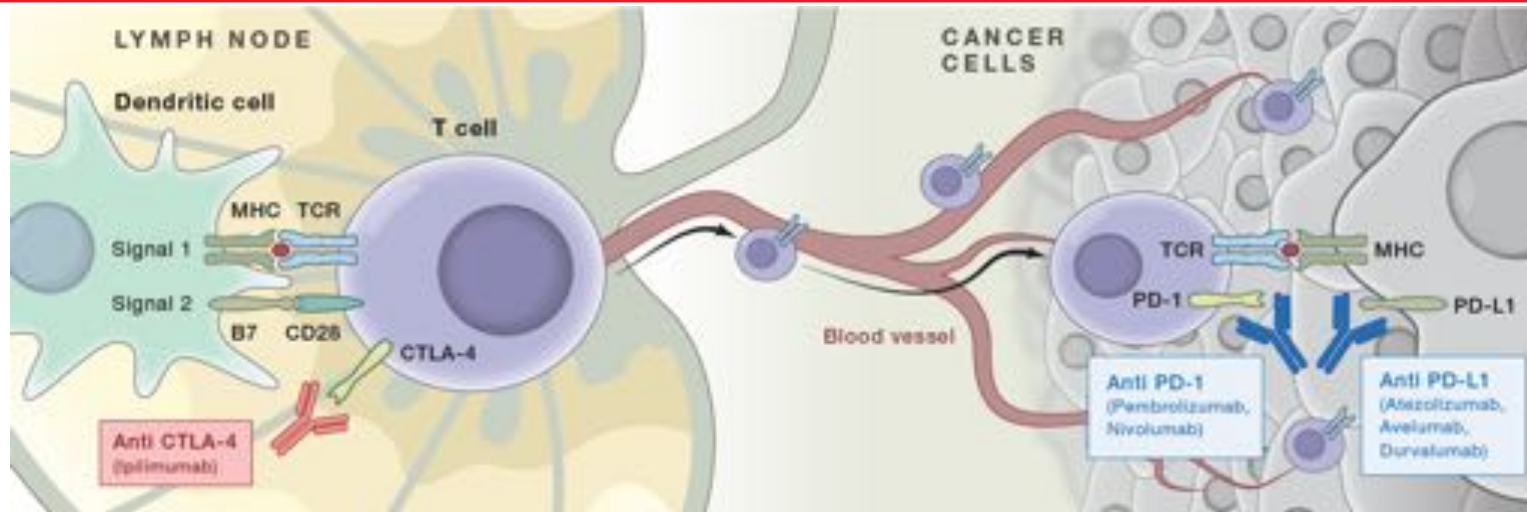
REACH 2: Ramucirumab $\text{AFP} \geq 400 \text{ ng/mL}$



Primary endpoint: OS

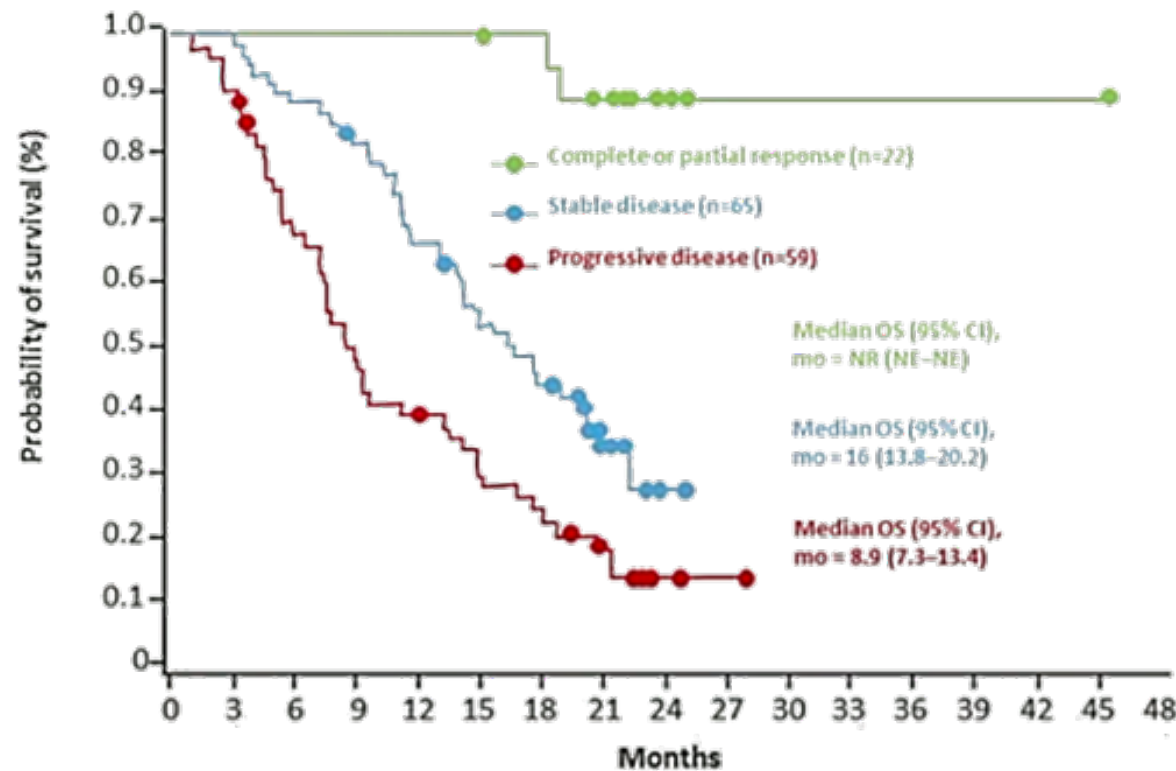
	Ramucirumab (n = 197)	Placebo (n = 95)	Δ
Median, months	8.5	7.3	1.2
HR (95% CI); <i>p</i> -value	0.710 (0.531, 0.949); 0.0199		

Immune checkpoint therapy



Abril-Rodriguez et al, Cancer Cell 2017
Ribas et al, Science 2018

Phase II trial: Nivolumab – CheckMate 040

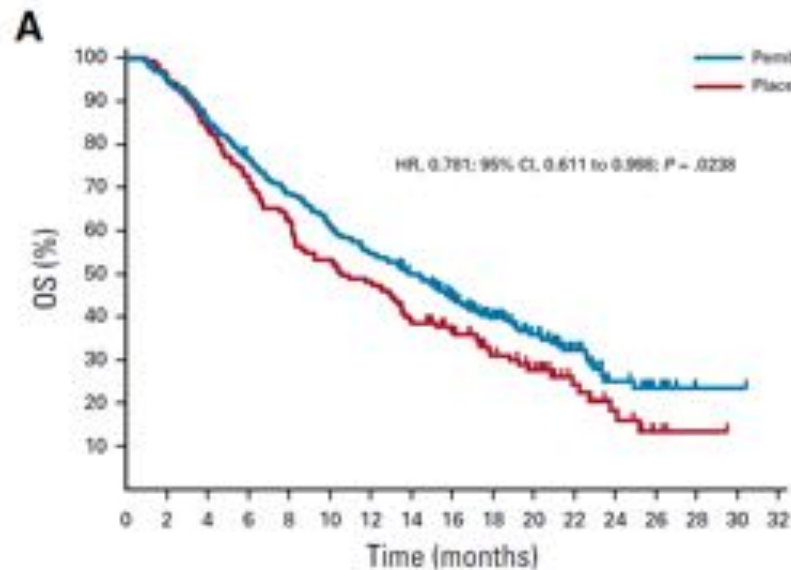


	Escalation phase (n=44)*	Expansion phase (n=174)*
PD-L1 ≥1%†	11 (25%)	34 (20%)
Objective response	3/11 (27%; 6–61)	9/34 (26%; 13–44)
Complete response	1 (9%)	1 (3%)
Partial response	2 (18%)	8 (24%)
Stable disease	0	16 (47%)
Progressive disease	7 (64%)	9 (26%)
Not determined	1 (9%)	0
PD-L1 <1%†	33 (75%)	140 (80%)
Objective response	4/33 (12%; 3–28)	26/140 (19%; 13–26)
Complete response	2 (6%)	2 (1%)
Partial response	2 (6%)	24 (17%)
Stable disease	19 (58%)	62 (44%)
Progressive disease	8 (24%)	46 (33%)
Not determined	2 (6%)	6 (4%)

Data are n (%); n/N (%; 95% CI). PD-L1=programmed death-ligand 1.
 *Four patients in the dose-escalation phase and 40 patients in the dose-expansion phase did not have tumour PD-L1 expression data available.
 †PD-L1 membrane expression on tumour cells.

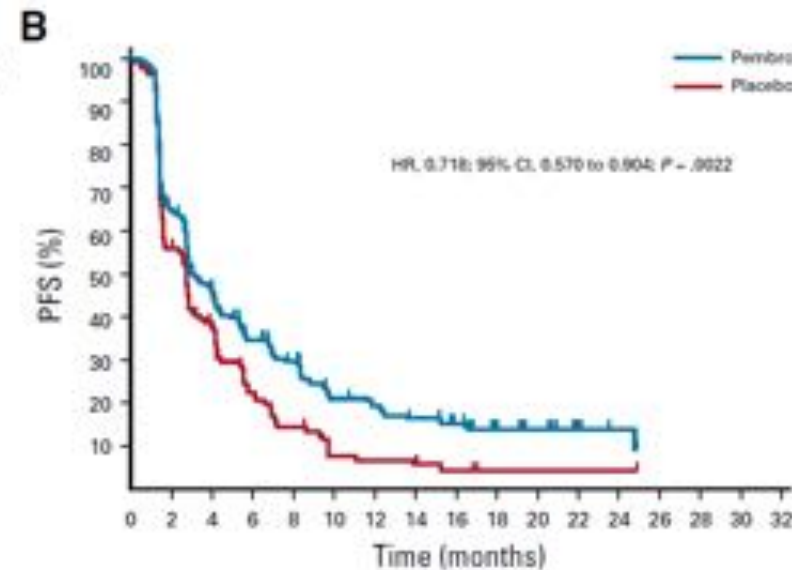
Table 5: PD-L1 expression on tumour cells and response

Phase III: Pembrolizumab vs. placebo KEYNOTE-240



No. at risk:

Pembro	278	265	237	213	190	169	152	135	110	86	57	33	16	7	1	1
Placebo	135	130	113	98	84	72	65	51	42	30	23	13	8	3	1	0



No. at risk:

Pembro	278	172	114	80	64	42	38	31	24	16	11	5	3	0	0	0
Placebo	135	73	46	25	16	8	7	5	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0

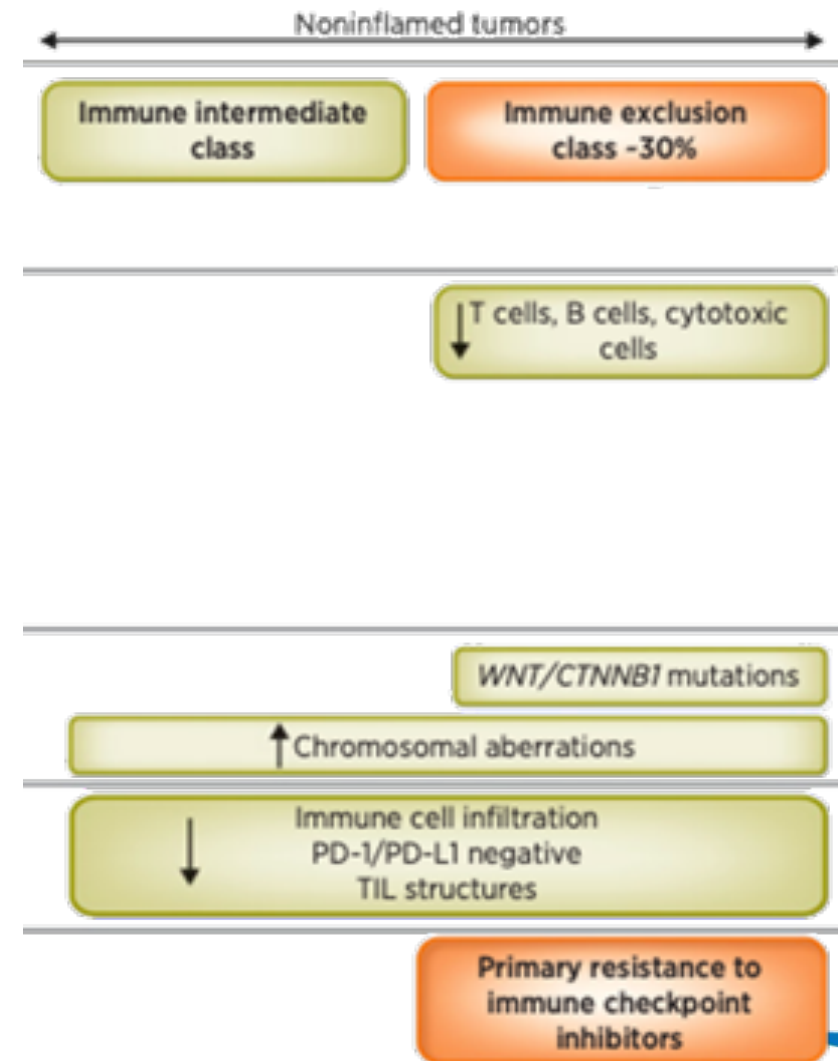
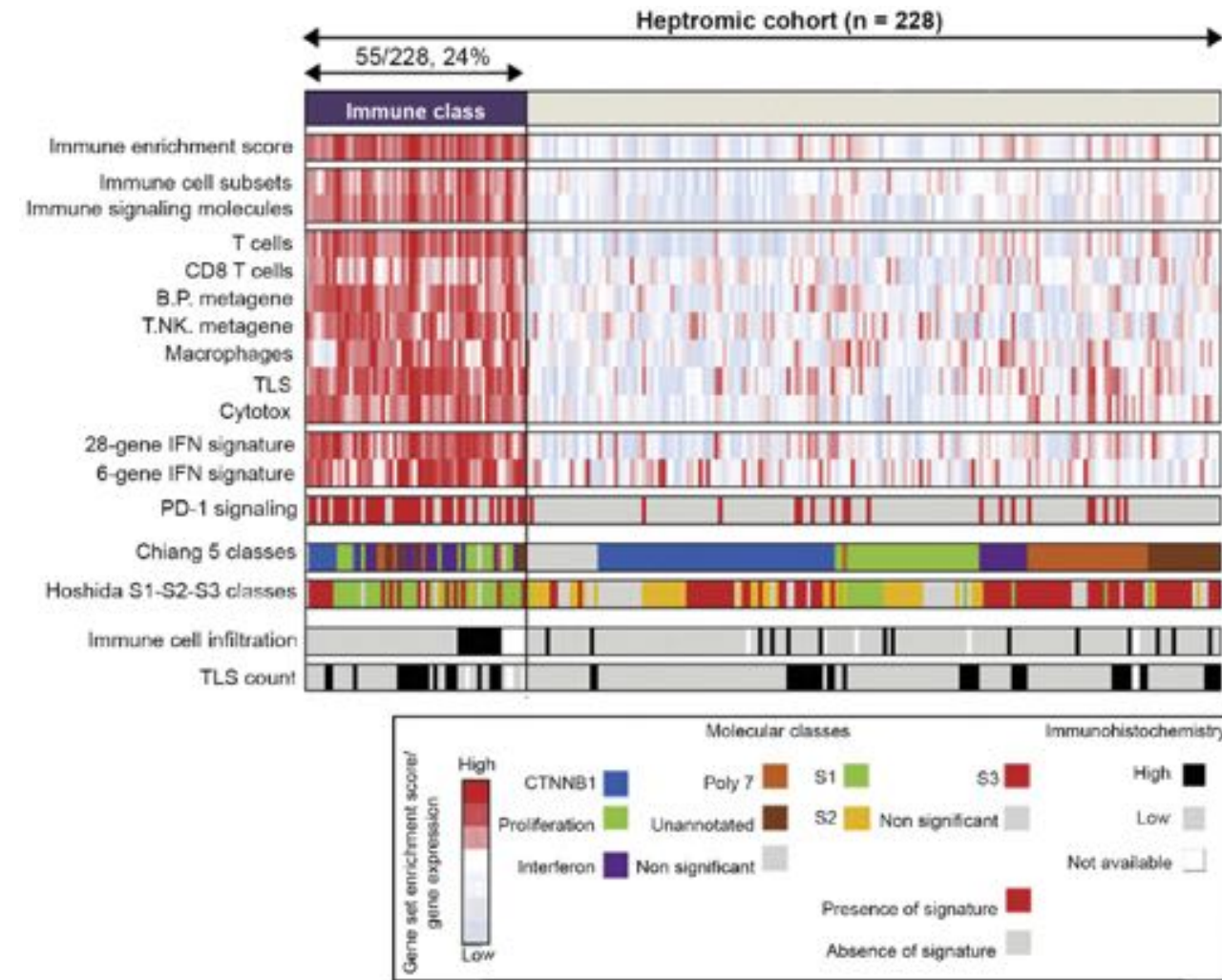
Parameter	No. (%)	
	Pembrolizumab (n = 278)	Placebo (n = 135)
Objective response*	51 (18.3)	6 (4.4)
95% CI	14.0 to 23.4	1.6 to 9.4
Estimated treatment difference†	13.8	
95% CI	7.7 to 19.5	
P‡	.00007	
Best overall response§		
CR	6 (2.2)	0 (0)
PR	45 (16.2)	6 (4.4)
SD	122 (43.9)	66 (48.9)
≥ 23 weeks	37 (13.3)	20 (14.8)
PD	90 (32.4)	57 (42.2)
Not evaluable	7 (2.5)	3 (2.2)
Not assessable¶	8 (2.9)	3 (2.2)
DCR#	173 (62.2)	72 (53.3)

Mechanism of resistance to ICI

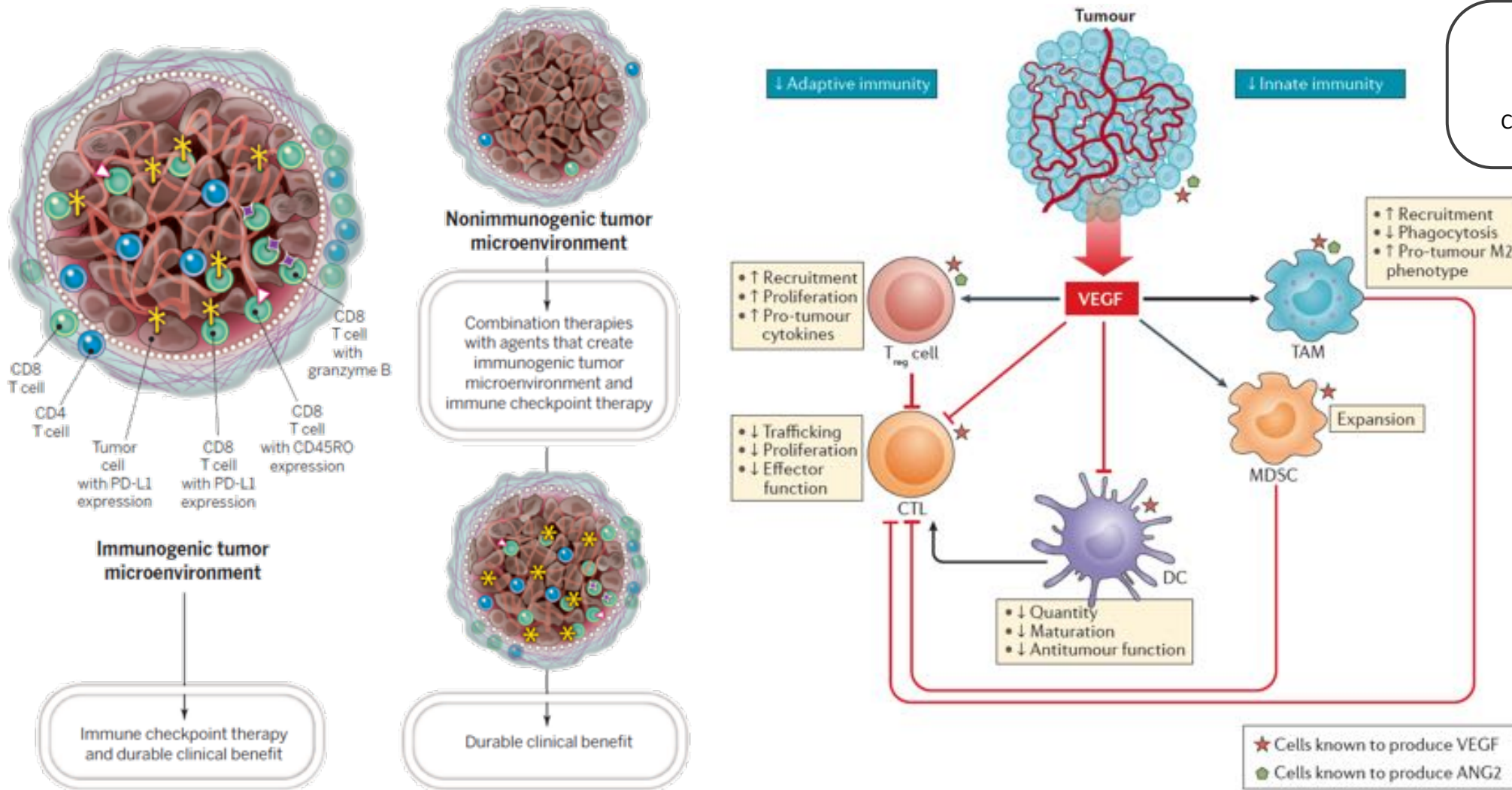


Fujiwara et al. Cancer drug resist 2020

Response/resistance to ICI



VEGF + checkpoint inhibitors



VEGF inhibitors in HCC
 Bevacizumab Sorafenib,
 Lenvatinib Regorafenib,
 Cabozantinib Ramucirumab

IMbrave150 trial

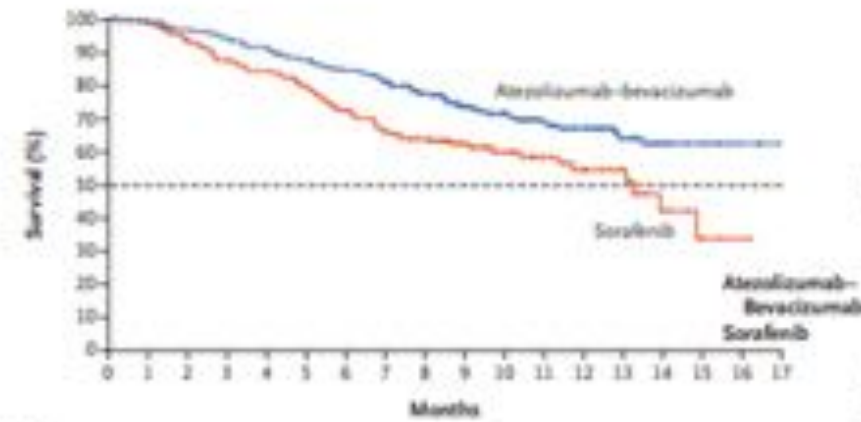
THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Atezolizumab plus Bevacizumab in Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Richard S. Finn, M.D., Shukui Qin, M.D., Masafumi Ikeda, M.D., Peter R. Galle, M.D., Michel Ducreux, M.D., Tae-You Kim, M.D., Masatoshi Kudo, M.D., Valeriy Breder, M.D., Philippe Merle, M.D., Ahmed O. Kaseb, M.D., Daneng Li, M.D., Wendy Verret, Ph.D., Derek-Zhen Xu, M.D., Sairy Hernandez, Ph.D., Juan Liu, Ph.D., Chen Huang, M.D., Sohail Mulla, Ph.D., Yulei Wang, Ph.D., Ho Yeong Lim, M.D., Andrew X. Zhu, M.D., Ph.D., and Ann-Lii Cheng, M.D.,
for the IMbrave150 Investigators*

Overall Survival



No. at Risk	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Atezolizumab-Bevacizumab	336	329	320	312	302	288	275	255	222	165	118	87	64	40	20	11	3	NE
Sorafenib	345	337	343	332	327	318	305	294	286	260	213	164	116	71	31	11	3	NE

No. of Events/ No. of Patients (%)	Median Overall Survival (95% CI) mo	Overall Survival at 6 Mo %
96/336 (28.6)	NE	84.8
45/165 (29.4)	13.2 (10.4-NE)	72.2

Safety

Table 1. Patient Characteristics at Baseline.^a

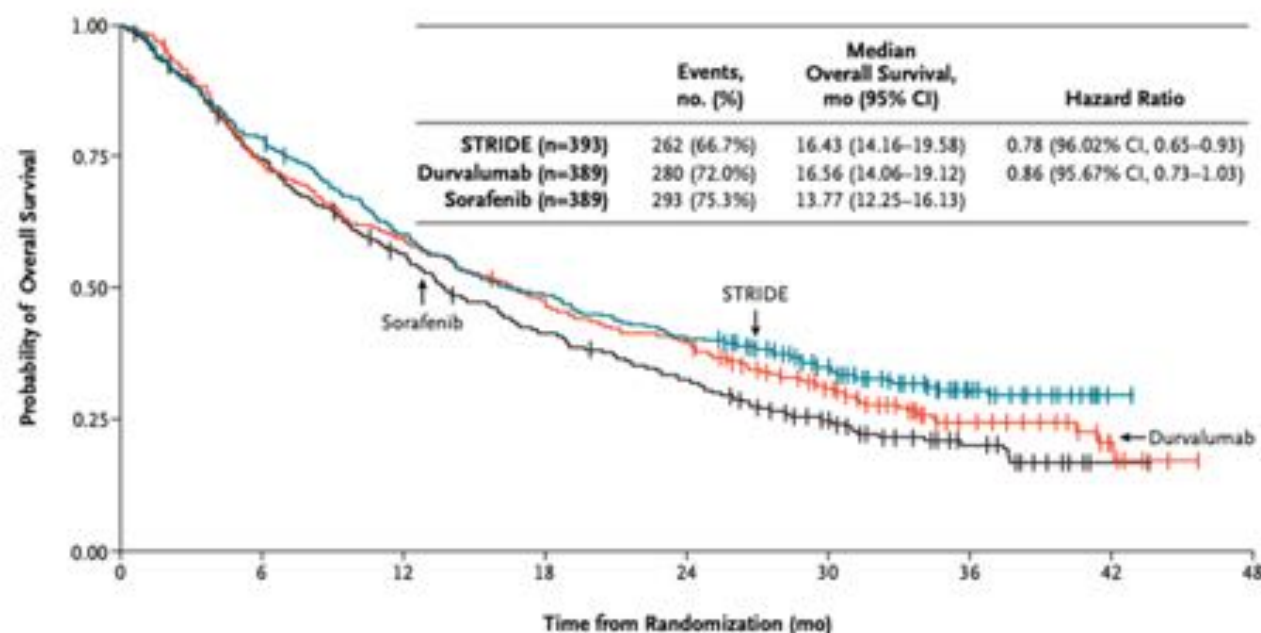
Variable	Atezolizumab–Bevacizumab (N=336)	Sorafenib (N=165)
Median age (IQR) — yr	64 (56–71)	66 (59–71)
Male sex — no. (%)	277 (82)	137 (83)
Geographic region — no. (%)		
Asia, excluding Japan	133 (40)	68 (41)
Rest of the world ^b	203 (60)	97 (59)
ECOG performance status score — no. (%) ^c		
0	209 (62)	103 (62)
1	127 (38)	62 (38)
Child–Pugh classification — no./total no. (%) ^d		
A5	219/333 (72)	121/165 (73)
A6	94/333 (28)	44/165 (27)
Barcelona Clinic liver cancer stage — no. (%) ^e		
A	8 (2)	6 (4)
B	52 (15)	26 (16)
C	276 (82)	133 (80)

Table 4. Adverse Events with an Incidence of More Than 10% in Either Group.

Event	Atezolizumab–Bevacizumab (N=329)		Sorafenib (N=154)	
	Any Grade	Grade 3 or 4	Any Grade	Grade 3 or 4
	number (percent)			
Hypertension	98 (29.8)	50 (15.2)	38 (24.4)	19 (12.2)
Fatigue	67 (20.4)	8 (2.4)	29 (18.6)	5 (3.2)
Proteinuria	66 (20.1)	10 (3.0)	11 (7.1)	1 (0.6)
Aspartate aminotransferase increase	64 (19.5)	23 (7.0)	26 (16.7)	8 (5.1)
Pruritus	64 (19.5)	0	13 (8.6)	0
Diarrhea	62 (18.8)	6 (1.8)	77 (49.4)	8 (5.1)
Decreased appetite	58 (17.6)	4 (1.2)	38 (24.4)	6 (3.8)
Pyrexia	59 (17.9)	4 (1.2)	15 (9.6)	2 (1.3)
Alanine aminotransferase increase	46 (14.0)	12 (3.6)	14 (9.0)	2 (1.3)
Constipation	44 (13.4)	0	22 (14.1)	0
Blood bilirubin increase	43 (13.1)	8 (2.4)	22 (14.1)	10 (6.4)
Rash	41 (12.3)	0	27 (17.3)	4 (2.6)
Abdominal pain	40 (12.2)	4 (1.2)	27 (17.3)	4 (2.6)
Nausea	40 (12.2)	1 (0.3)	25 (16.0)	1 (0.6)
Cough	39 (11.9)	0	15 (9.6)	1 (0.6)
Infusion-related reaction	37 (11.2)	8 (2.4)	0	0
Weight decrease	37 (11.2)	0	13 (8.6)	1 (0.6)
Platelet count decrease	35 (10.6)	11 (3.3)	18 (11.5)	2 (1.3)
Epistaxis	34 (10.3)	0	7 (4.5)	1 (0.6)
Asthenia	22 (6.7)	1 (0.3)	21 (13.5)	4 (2.6)
Alopecia	4 (1.2)	0	22 (14.1)	0
Palm-plantar erythrodysesthesia syndrome	3 (0.9)	0	75 (48.1)	13 (8.3)

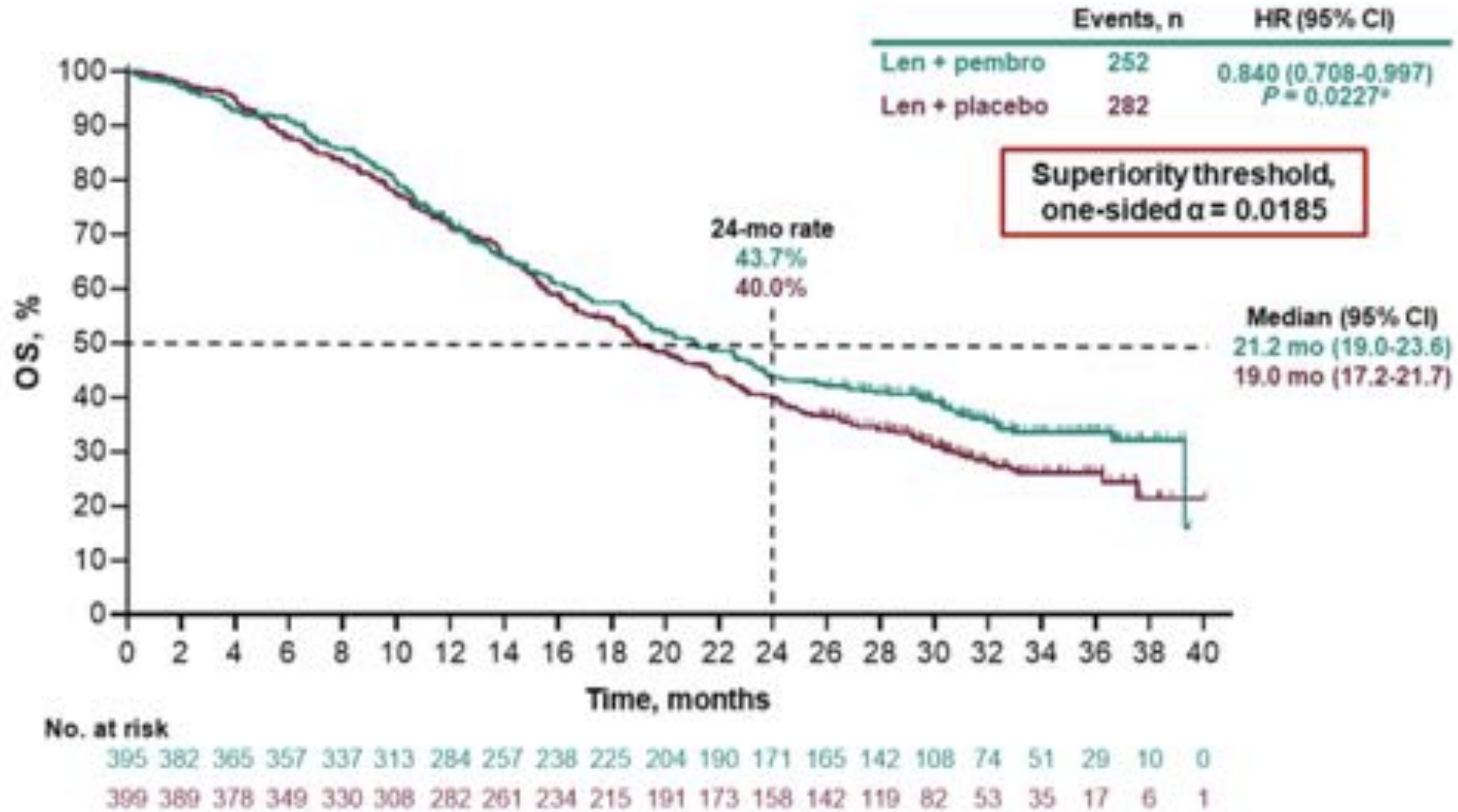
Tremelimumab Plus Durvalumab in Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Ghassan K. Abou-Alfa, M.D., M.B.A.,^{1,2} George Lau, M.D., F.R.C.P.,³ Masatoshi Kudo, M.D., Ph.D.,⁴ Stephen L. Chan, M.D.,⁵ Robin Kate Kelley, M.D.,⁶ Junji Furuse, M.D., Ph.D.,⁷ Wattana Sukeepaisarnjaroen, M.D.,⁸ Yoon-Koo Kang, M.D., Ph.D.,⁹ Tu Van Dao, M.D., Ph.D.,¹⁰ Enrico N. De Toni, M.D., Ph.D.,¹¹ Lorenza Rimassa, M.D.,^{12,13} Valeriy Breder, M.D., Ph.D.,¹⁴ Alexander Vasilyev, M.D.,¹⁵ Alexandra Heurgué, M.D.,¹⁶ Vincent C. Tam, M.D.,¹⁷ Kabir Mody, M.D.,¹⁸ Sathesh Chiradoni Thungappa, M.D.,¹⁹ Yuriy Ostapenko, M.D.,²⁰ Thomas Yau, M.D.,²¹ Sergio Azevedo, M.D.,²² Maria Varela, M.D., Ph.D.,²³ Ann-Li Cheng, M.D., Ph.D.,²⁴ Shukui Qin, M.D., Ph.D.,²⁵ Peter R. Galle, M.D., Ph.D.,²⁶ Sajid Ali, M.D.,²⁷ Michelle Marcovitz, Ph.D.,²⁷ Mallory Makowsky, Pharm.D.,²⁷ Philip He, Ph.D.,²⁷ John F. Kurland, Ph.D.,²⁷ Alejandra Negro, Ph.D.,²⁷ and Bruno Sangro, M.D., Ph.D.,²⁸ for the HIMALAYA Investigators*

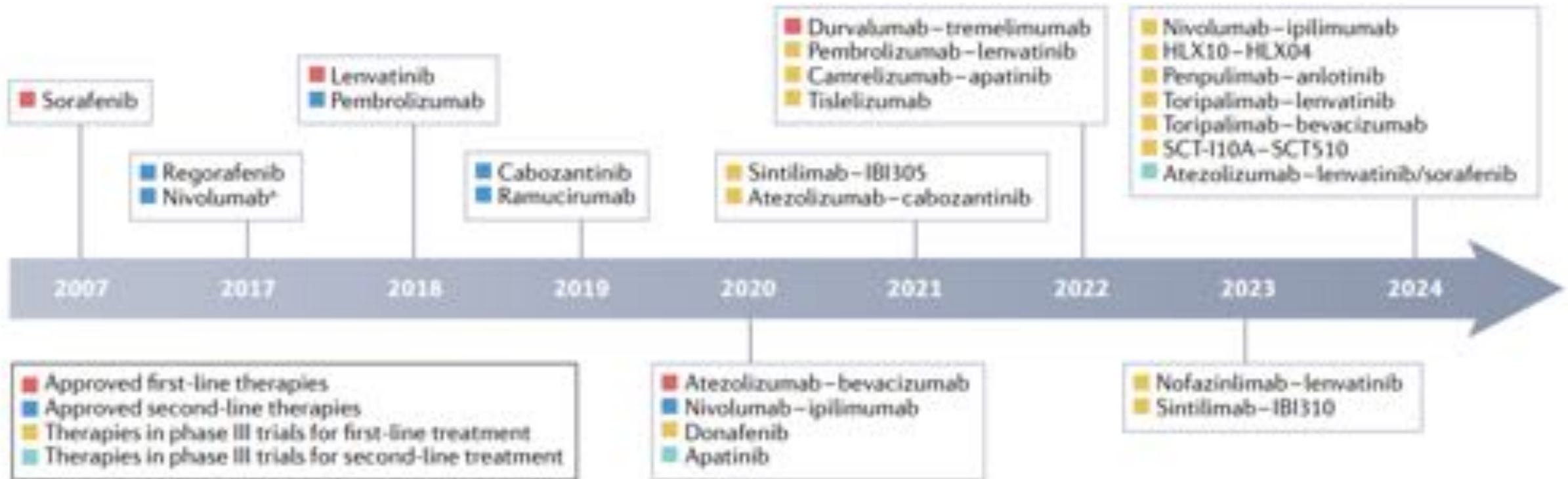


No. at Risk									
STRIDE	393	308	235	190	158	98	32	1	0
Durvalumab	389	286	230	183	153	87	27	6	0
Sorafenib	389	283	211	155	121	62	21	1	0

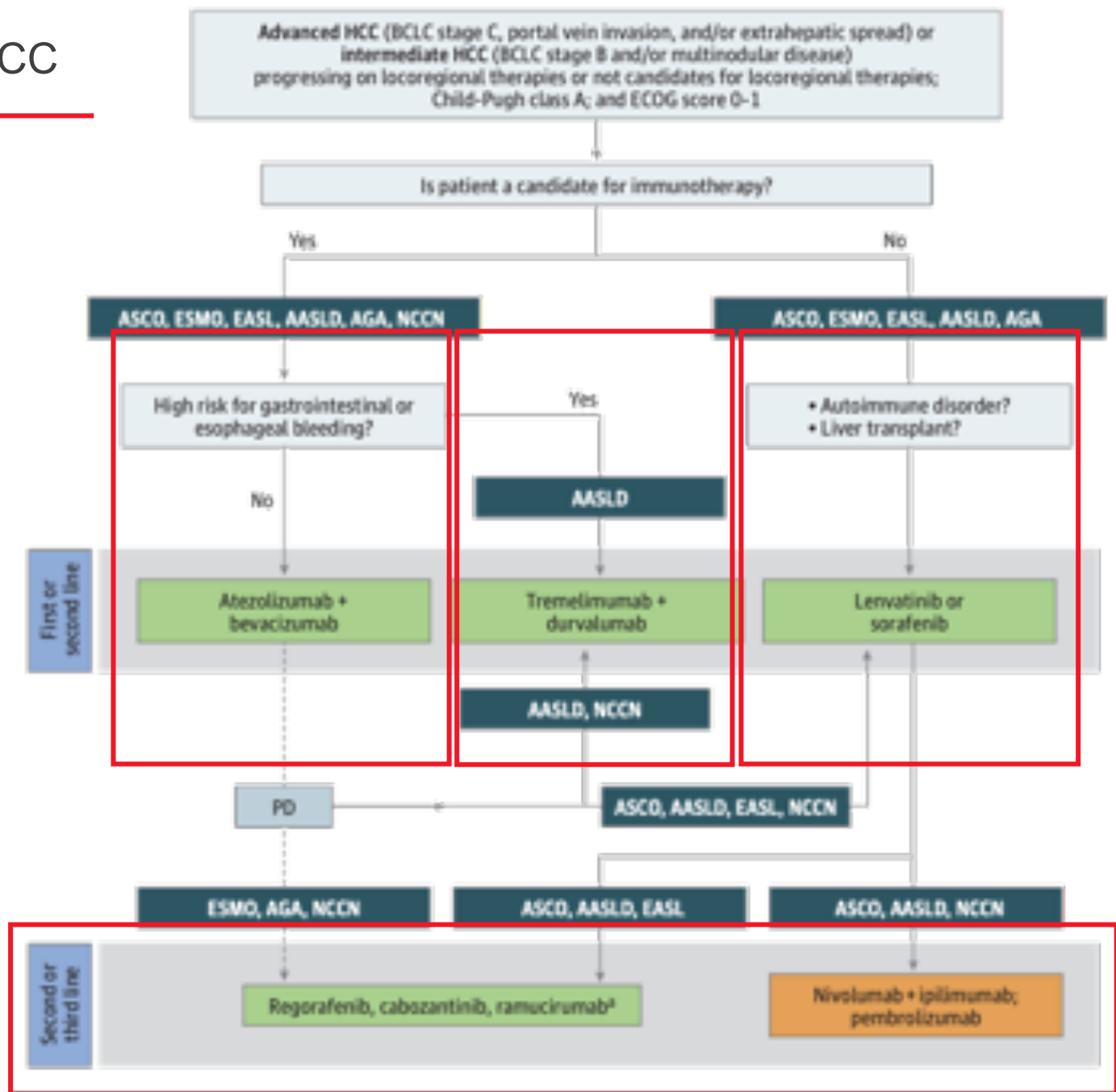
LEAP-002: Phase III Lenvatinib +Pembrolizumab



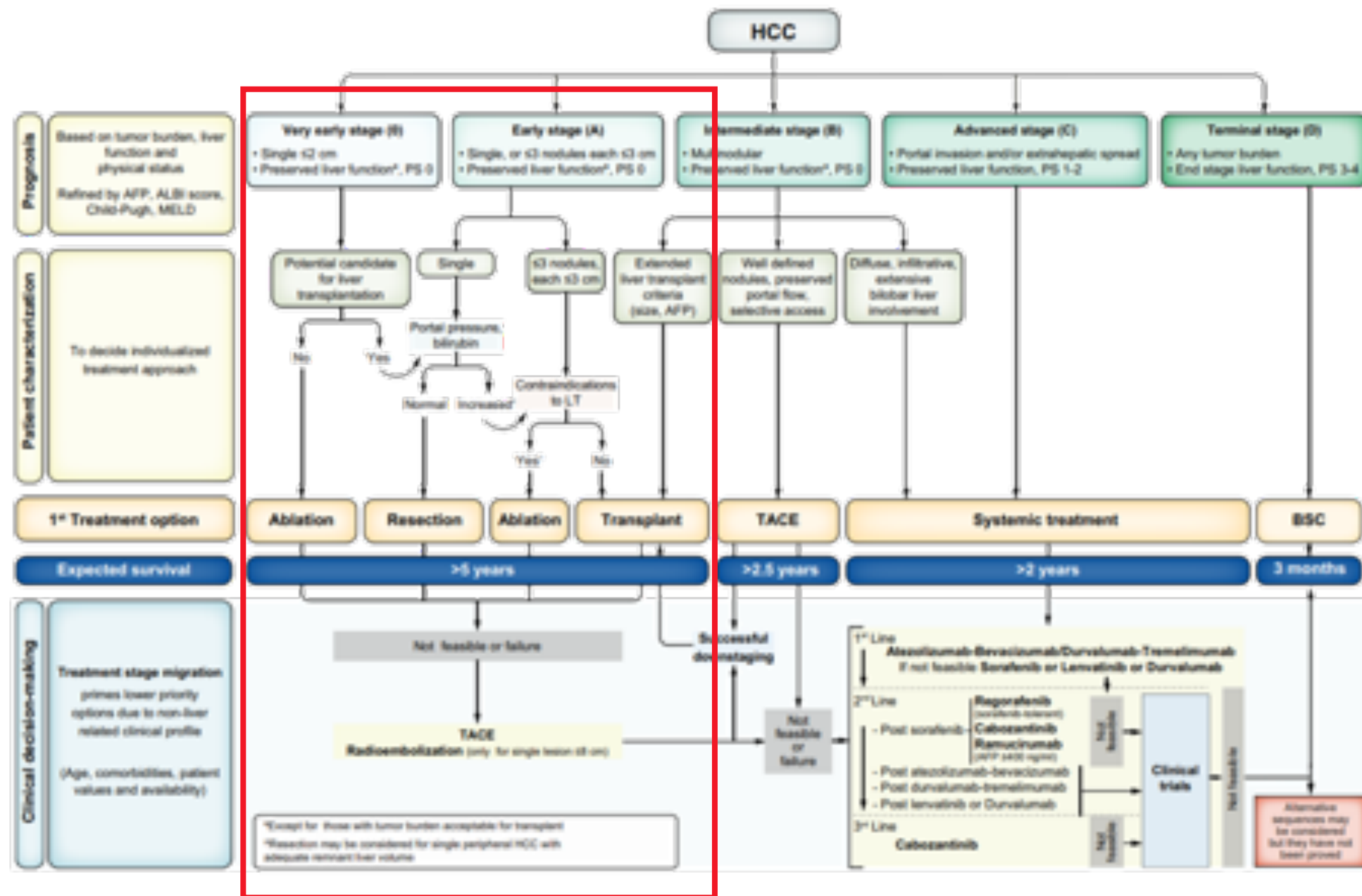
Therapeutic landscape of advanced HCC



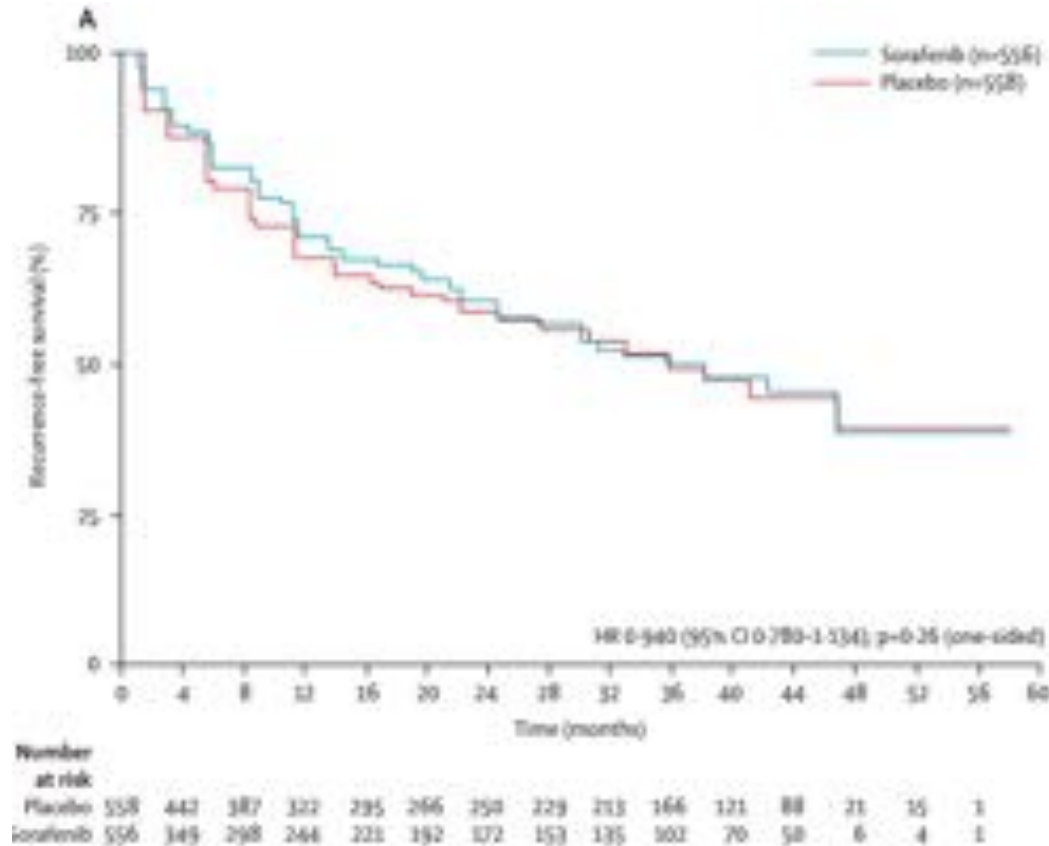
Proposed Treatment Algorithm for Advanced HCC



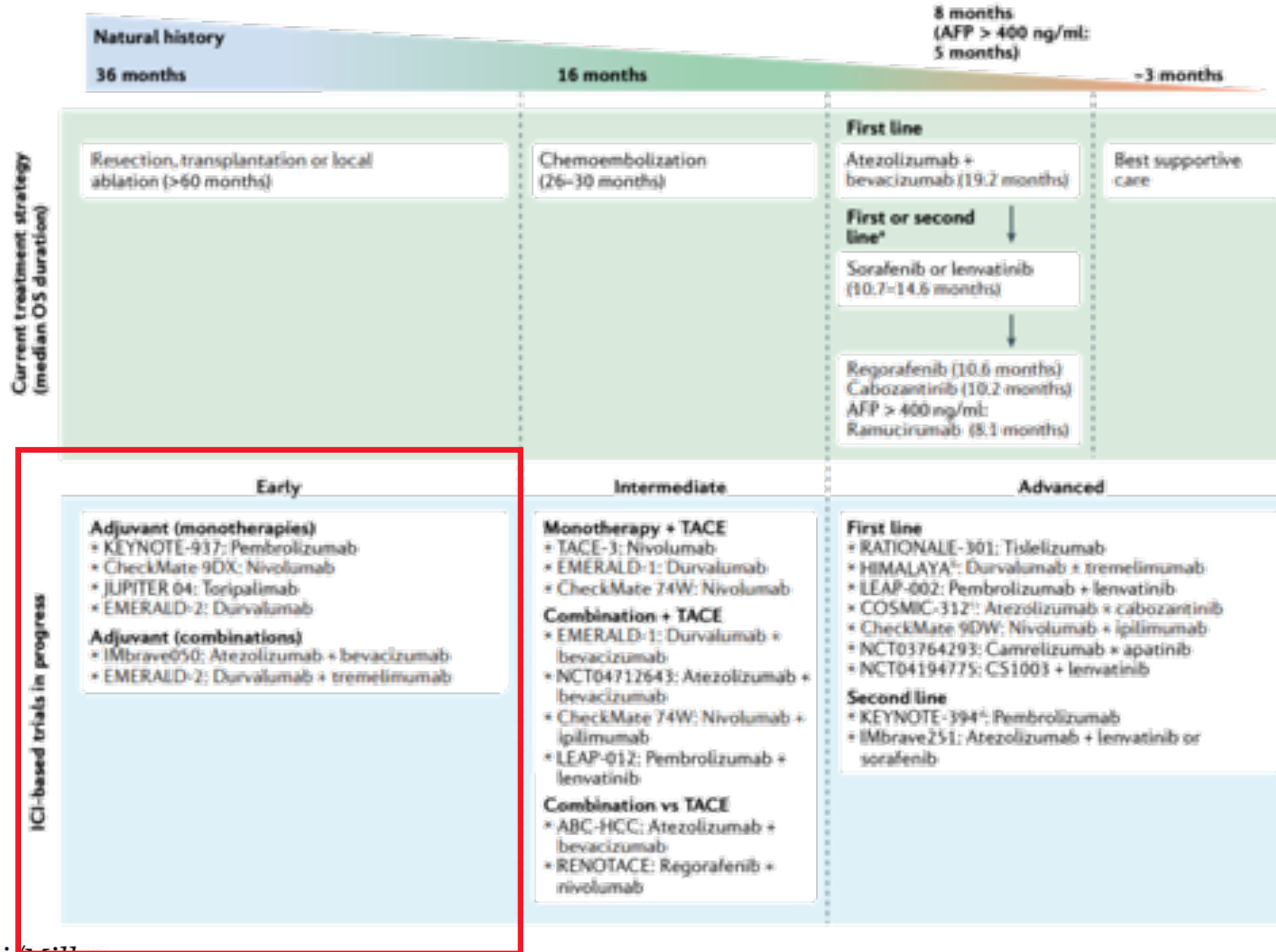
Cappuyns et al. JAMA Oncol 2023



STORM: Adjuvant therapy post resection in HCC



	Sorafenib (n=556)	Placebo (n=558)
Events, n (%)	194 (34.9)	270 (48.4)
Median RFS (95% CI)	33.4 months (27.6-44.0)	33.8 months (27.6-39.0)



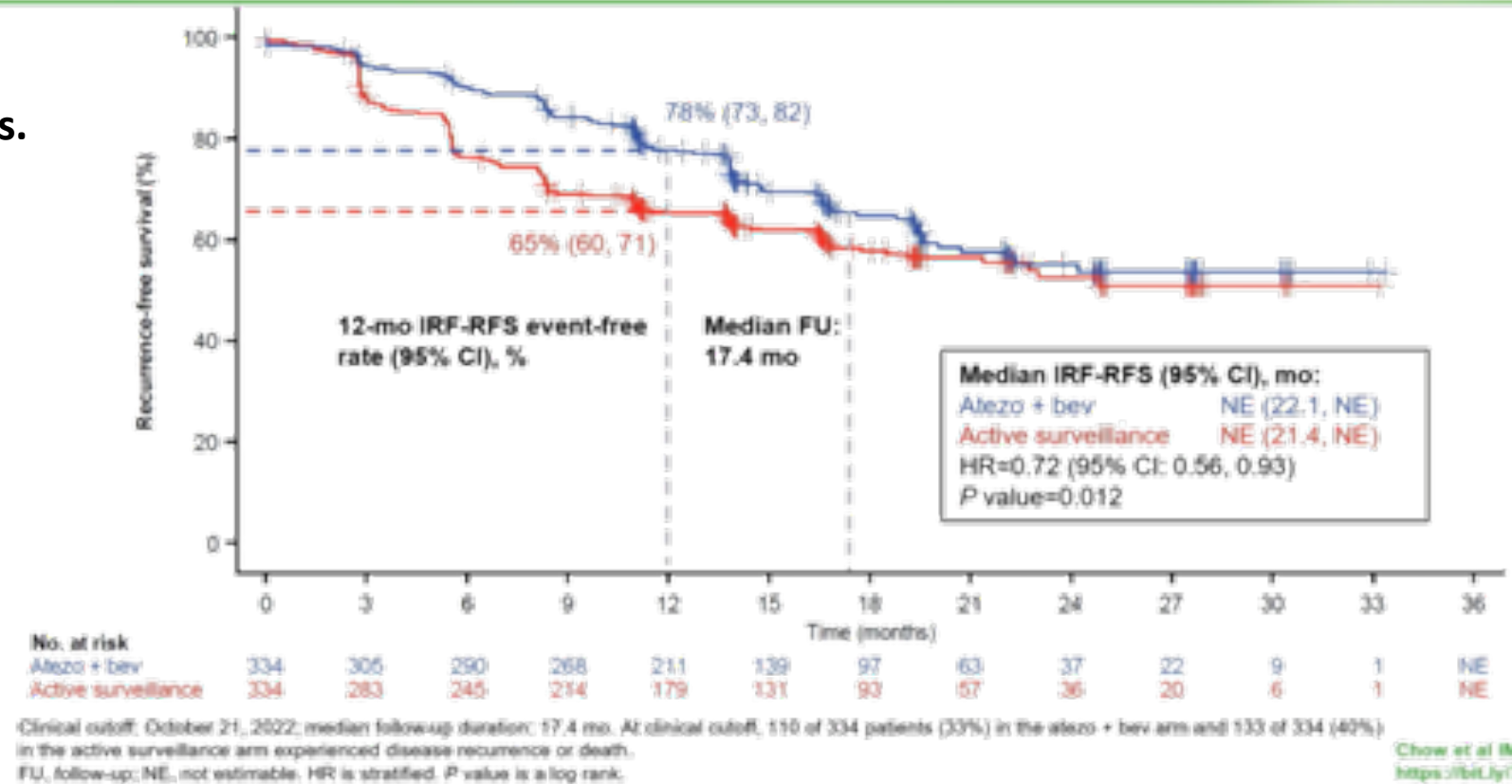
IMBRAVE 050

Primary endpoint: IRF-assessed RFS was significantly improved with atezo + bev vs active surveillance

RFS Atezolizumab + Bevacizumab vs.
placebo (HR: 0.72, $p = 0.01$)

High-risk population:

- Micro/macro VI
- Poor differentiation
- Single > 5 cm
- > 3 tumors



Neoadjuvant trials may elucidate intratumoral IO effect



For the patient:

- Lower tumor burden - better response rates?
- Smaller tumors → less heterogeneity
- Earlier stage (and smaller tumors) → better immune fitness
- Downstage



Higher chance for "cure" with IO

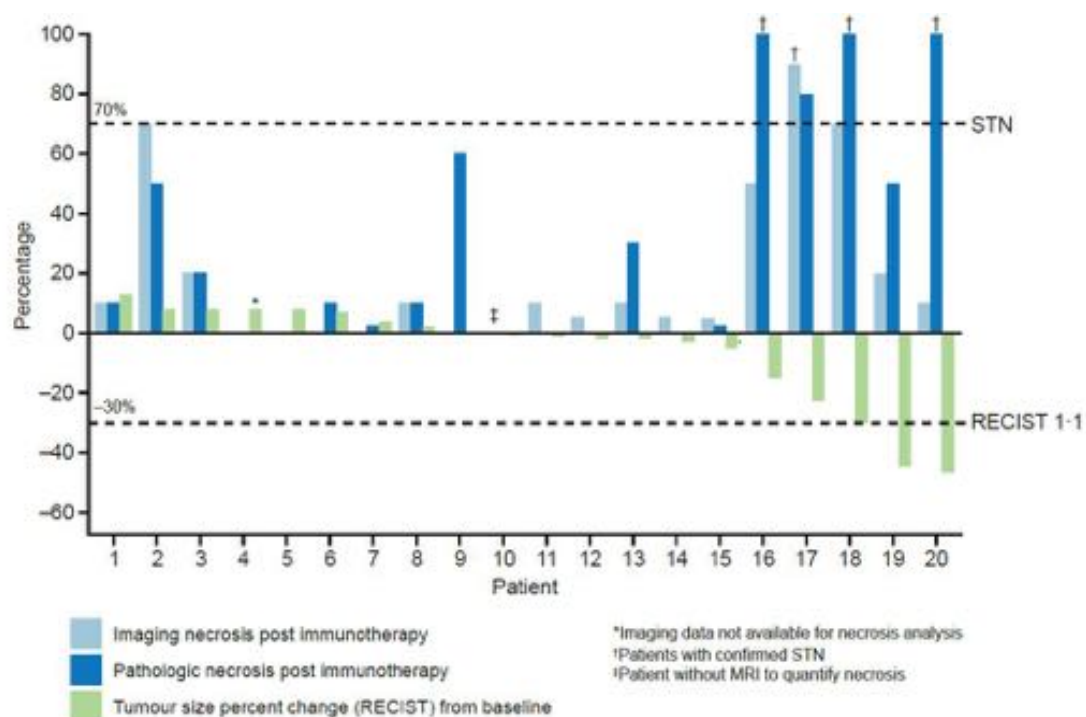
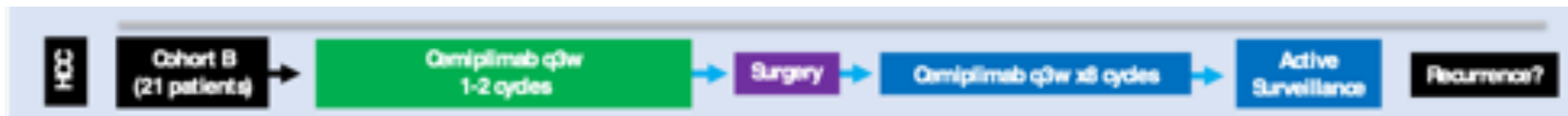
For research purposes:

- Define mechanism of action/resistance
- Define biomarkers (responders vs non responders)
- Smaller trials
- Propose rational combinatorial approaches



Help cure MORE people

TCl neoadjuvant Cemiplimab trial



Pathologic tumour necrosis	n (%)
STN (>70%)	4 (20)
Complete tumour necrosis (100%)	3 (15)
Tumour necrosis ≥50%	7 (35)
Tumour necrosis <50%	13 (65)

STN=significant tumour necrosis.

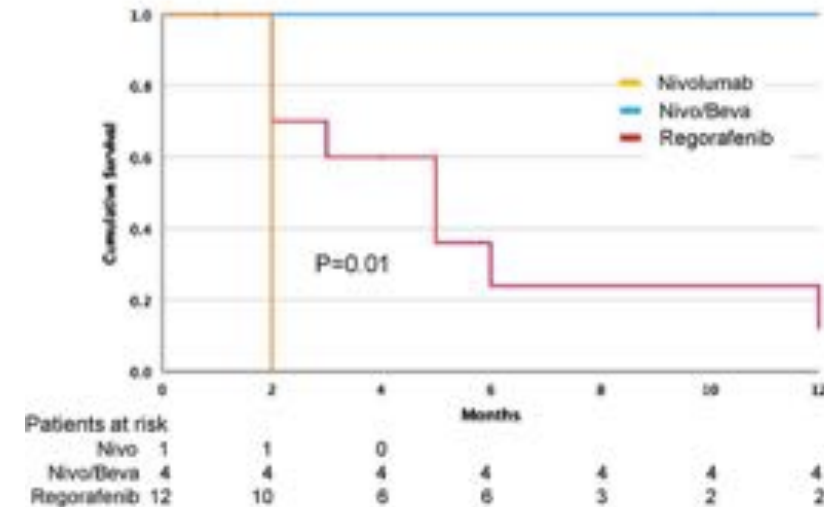
Solid organ transplant recipients treated with ICI

Age	Gender	Immune-suppression	Years after LT	Doses	Graft outcome	Pathology of graft	Treatment of rejection	Outcome of cancer	Overall outcome
20	M	Sirolimus	3	Nivo, 2	Loss of function	Cellular/AB mediated rejection	Prednisone, IVIG	N/A	Death after 5 weeks
14	M	Tacrolimus	3	Nivo, 1	Loss of function	Cellular/AB mediated rejection	Prednisone	N/A	Death after 4 weeks
53	F	Everolimus	3	Nivo, 1	Loss of function	Cellular	Steroids	Progression	Death after 4 weeks
41	M	Tacrolimus	1	Nivo, 15	No rejection	N/A	N/A	Progression	Death > 7 mo
57	M	Tacrolimus	4	Pembro x10	No rejection	N/A	N/A	Radiologic resolution	Alive at 10 mo

n = 29, 14/29 kidney, 11/29 liver, 3/29 heart, 1 cornea
Graft loss/acute rejection: 45%

Feasibility, safety, and outcome of second-line nivolumab/bevacizumab in liver transplant patients with recurrent hepatocellular carcinoma

- Proof-of concept study 2018-2021
 - Analyze the safety of nivolumab/bevacizumab in 22 patients HCC recurrence post LT, **progressed on sorafenib** therapy.
 - Nivolumab 2 infusions → Atezo/Bevacizumab
 - Unsuitable for nivolumab/ bevacizumab → regorafenib
-
- 18 % best supportive care, 81% sorafenib
 - N=12 regorafenib, n=1 nivo, n=4 Nivo/Bev (AE: moderate rejection, ALT increase, proteinuria)
-
- OS from the initiation of sorafenib has been
 - 26.5 ± 10.4 for patients on nivolumab/bevacizumab
 - 9.5 ± 5.5 for those on regorafenib ($p=0.02$)



Immunotherapy and liver transplant

PD-1 inhibitor as bridge therapy to liver transplantation?

American Journal of
TRANSPLANTATION

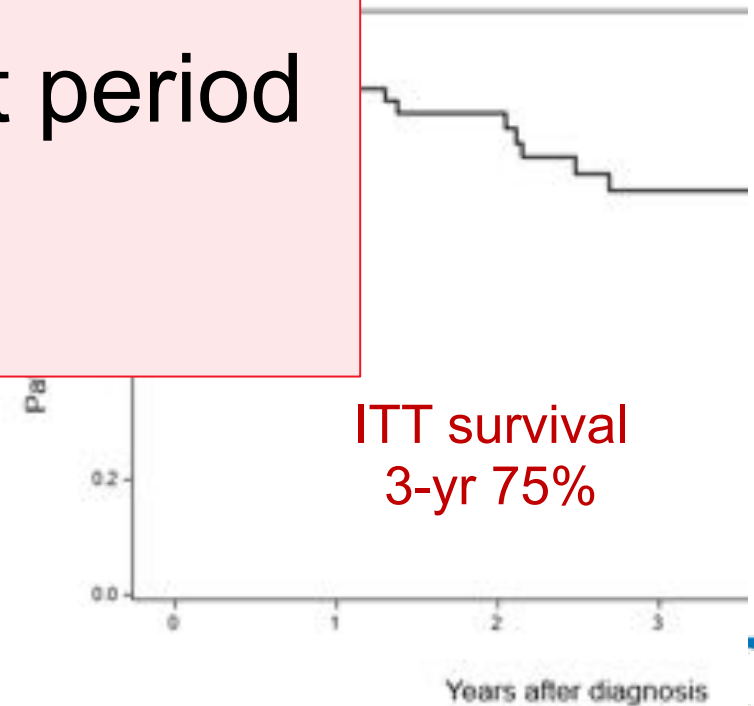
- Heterogeneous
- Case series/reports
- ICI type and washout period
- Lack of biopsy
- Immunosuppression

No major

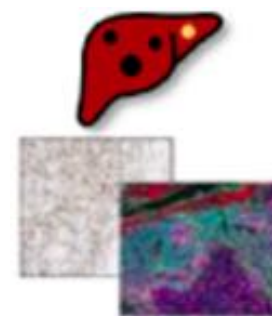
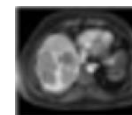
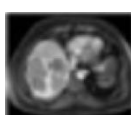
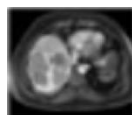
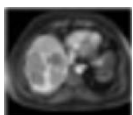
No major

50%

> 90 % major



Diagnosis ← Listing Time → Downstaged → Transplant



Patient selection:

- High risk
- High tumor burden
- AFP
- Number LRT
- Long wait list
- Downstaging/all comers
- Underlying liver disease?

- Choice of IO
- Observation period
- Washout period
- Living donor?

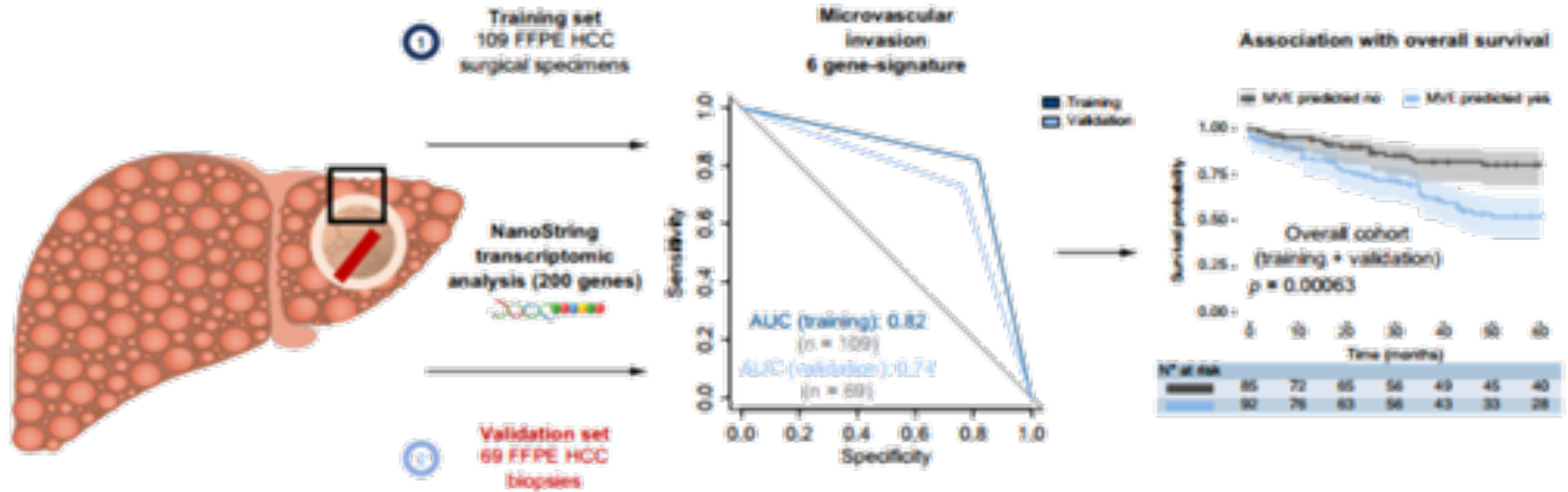
- Choice of Immunosuppression
- Induction therapy?

- Risk of Rejection and management
- Adjuvant use?

Future directions

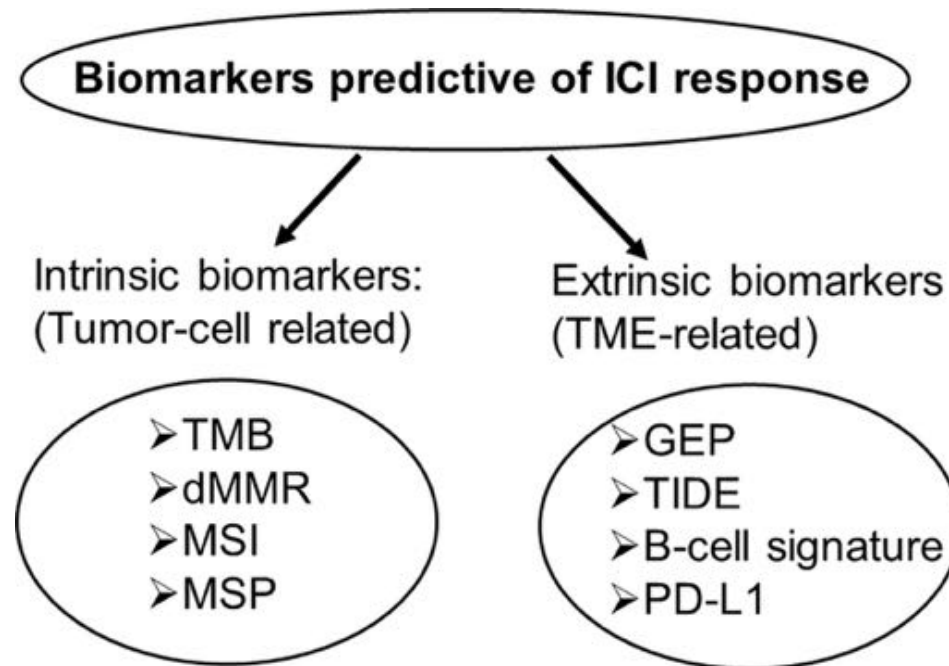
Trial	NCT	Phase	Treatment arms	Endpoint	Adjuvant	N=
Neoadjuvant pre LT						
PLENTY202001	NCT04425226	Phase 2	Pembro/Len	RFS	No	192
	NCT05185505	Phase 2	Atezo/Bev	Feasibility % rejection	No	24
	NCT05027425	Phase 2	Durva/Tremi	30d rejection rate	No	30
	NCT04443322	NA	Durva/Len	PFS/RFS	No	20

Gene expression signature



FDA-Approved and Emerging Next Generation Predictive Biomarkers for Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors in Cancer Patients

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Tumor Mutational Burden (TMB); defective MisMatch Repair (dMMR); MicroSatellite Instability (MSI); β -MicroSeminoProtein (MSP); T-cell inflamed Gene Expression Profile (GEP); Tumor Immune Dysfunction and Exclusion gene signature (TIDE); Melanocytic Plasticity Signature (MPS); B-cell focused gene signature

Selected ongoing phase I–III trials for advanced HCC

Agent(s) (targets)	Primary endpoint	Line of treatment	Phase	Sample size	NCT
ICI combinations with targeted therapies					
Pembrolizumab (PD1), lenvatinib (VEGFR1–VEGFR3, PDGFR, FGFR1–FGFR4, RET)	OS, PFS	First	III	750	NCT03713593
Atezolizumab (PD-L1), cabozantinib (VEGFR1–VEGFR3, MET, RET)	OS, PFS	First	III	740	NCT03755791
AK105 (PD1), anlotinib (VEGFR1–VEGFR3, FGFR1–FGFR4, PDGFR, KIT receptor)	OS	First	III	648	NCT04344158
Camrelizumab (PD1), apatinib (VEGFR2)	OS, PFS	First	III	510	NCT03764293
Tislelizumab (PD1), lenvatinib (VEGFR1–VEGFR3, PDGFR, FGFR1–FGFR4, RET)	ORR	First	II	66	NCT04401800
Nivolumab (PD1), sorafenib (VEGFR1–VEGFR3, PDGFR, RAF kinase, KIT receptor)	ORR, MTD	First	II	12	NCT03439891
Pembrolizumab (PD1), sorafenib (VEGFR1–VEGFR3, PDGFR, RAF kinase, KIT receptor)	ORR	First	I/II	27	NCT03211416
HX008 (PD1), bevacizumab (VEGFA), lenvatinib (VEGFR1–VEGFR3, PDGFR, FGFR1–FGFR4, RET)	ORR	First	II	72	NCT04741165
CS1001 (PD-L1), fisogatinib (FGFR4)	ORR, DLT	First or second	Ib/II	52	NCT04194801

Selected ongoing phase I–III trials for advanced HCC

ICI combinations with other ICIs

Durvalumab (PD-L1) plus tremelimumab (CTLA4)	OS	First	III	1,504	NCT03298451
Nivolumab (PD1) plus ipilimumab (CTLA4)	OS	First	III	650	NCT04039607
Nivolumab (PD1), relatlimab (LAG-3)	ORR	Second	II	250	NCT04567615

Triplet combinations involving ICIs and targeted therapies

Atezolizumab (PD-L1), bevacizumab (VEGFA), tiragolumab (TIGIT), tocilizumab (IL-6R), SAR439459 (TGF- β), TPST-1120 (PPAR- α), RO7247669 (PD1, LAG-3)	ORR	First	Ib/II	280	NCT04524871
Pembrolizumab (PD1), quavonlimab (CTLA4), lenvatinib (VEGFR1-VEGFR3, PDGFR, FGFR1-FGFR4, RET)	ORR, DLT, incidence of AEs/SAEs, hepatic AEs, discontinuation due to AEs	First	II	110	NCT04740307
Nivolumab (PD1), ipilimumab (CTLA4), cabozantinib (VEGFR1-VEGFR3, MET, RET)	ORR, incidence of AEs/SAEs	First or second	I/II	1,097	NCT01658878

New immunologic targets

Voyager V1 (VSV oncolytic virus), cemiplimab (PD1)	ORR	Second	II	152	NCT04291105
Talimogene laherparepvec (T-VEC, HSV oncolytic virus), pembrolizumab (PD1)	DLT, ORR	Second	I/II	206	NCT02509507
GNOS-PVO2 (personalized neoantigen), INO-9012 (IL-12), pembrolizumab (PD1)	Incidence of AEs, immunogenicity	Second	I/II	24	NCT04251117
ET140203 T cells (AFP)	Incidence of AEs, DLTs, RP2D	Third+	I/II	50	NCT04502082
ECT204 T cells (GPC3)	Incidence of AEs, DLTs, RP2D	Third+	I/II	12	NCT04864054

Summary

- Criteria of LT for HCC continues to evolve
 - Include surrogates of biological behavior into decision-making
 - Ongoing research to develop better biomarkers
 - Liquid biopsy, gene expression, imaging
- Systemic therapies are game changers → Controlled clinical trial in transplant oncology
 - What is the upper limit ?
 - What is an acceptable survival rate?
 - Should LDLT be used?
 - ICI pre transplantation?



Thank you