



Hepatocellular Carcinoma

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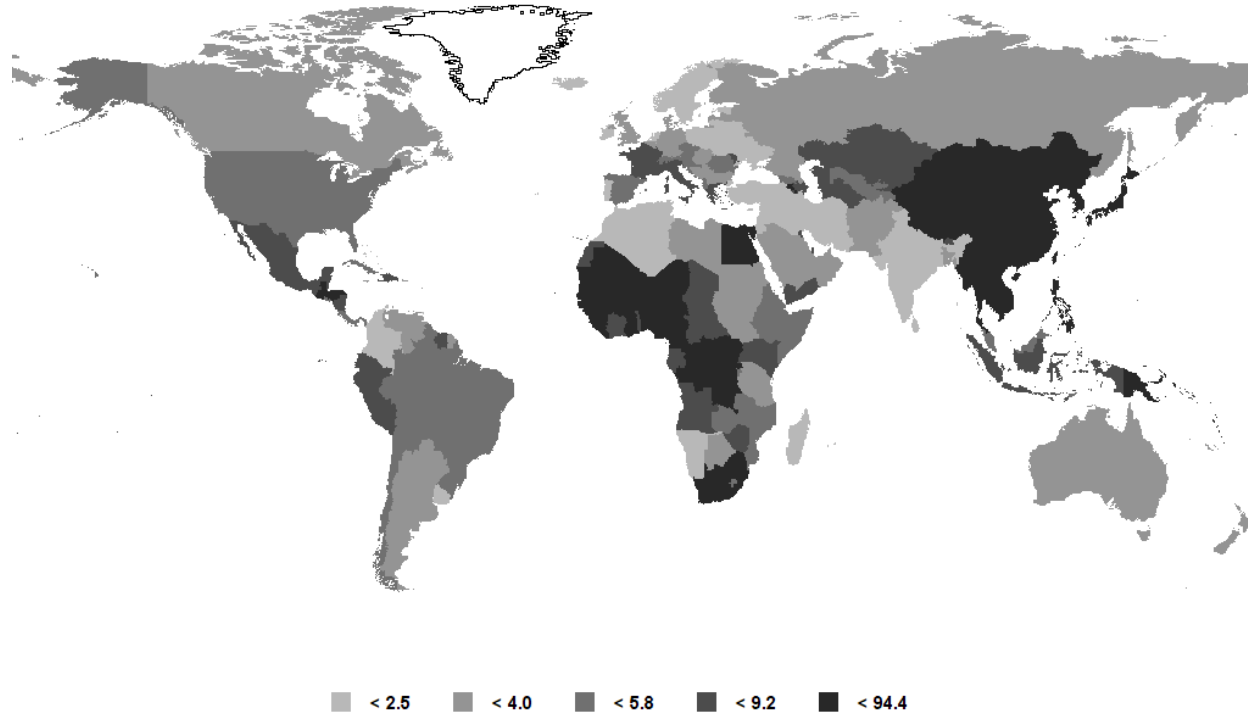
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Research Center

Disclosures:

- Institutional Research Funding: Agios, Basilea, Bayer, BTG, BMS, Merck, Medimmune, Exelixis
- Consulting: Eisai, Zymeworks
- Other Unpaid Affiliations: GI Cancer Alliance, ASCO, Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation

HCC: Global incidence

Estimated age-standardised incidence rate per 100,000
Liver: both sexes, all ages



GLOBOCAN 2008 (IARC) - 7.7.2013

**3rd leading cause of global cancer related death
Incidence and mortality is rising in the United States**

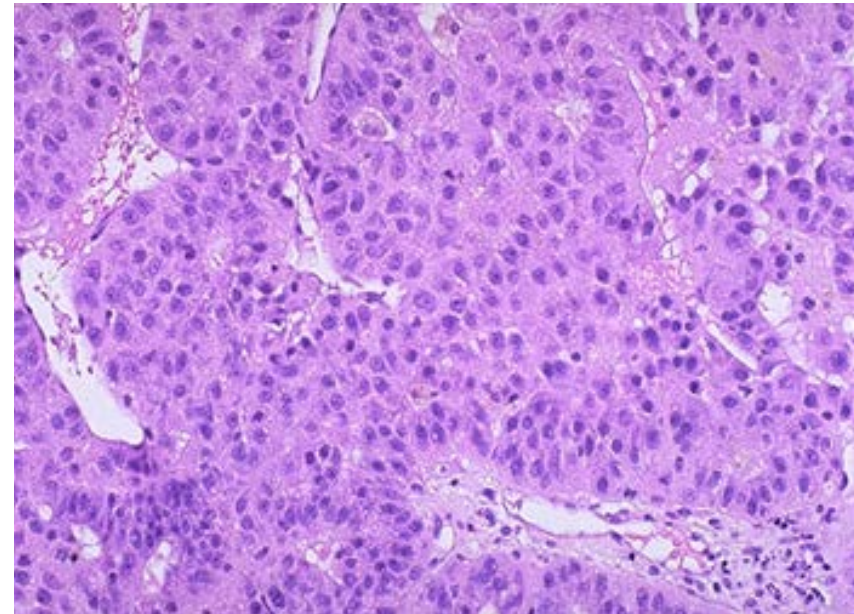
El-Serag HB. N Engl J Med 2011;
365:1118-1127.

Bray et al. Cancer 2018;68(6)
394-424

HCC: Risk Factors

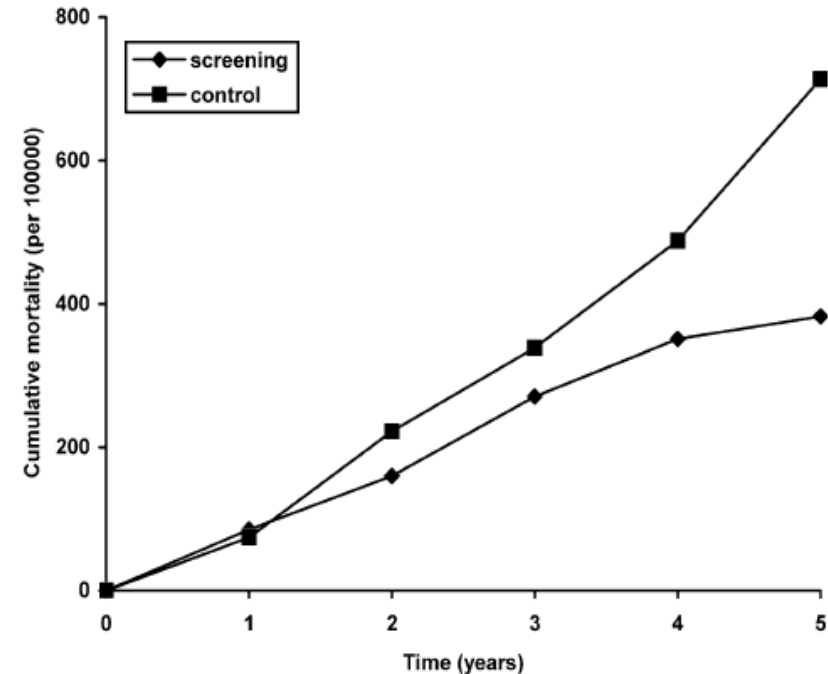
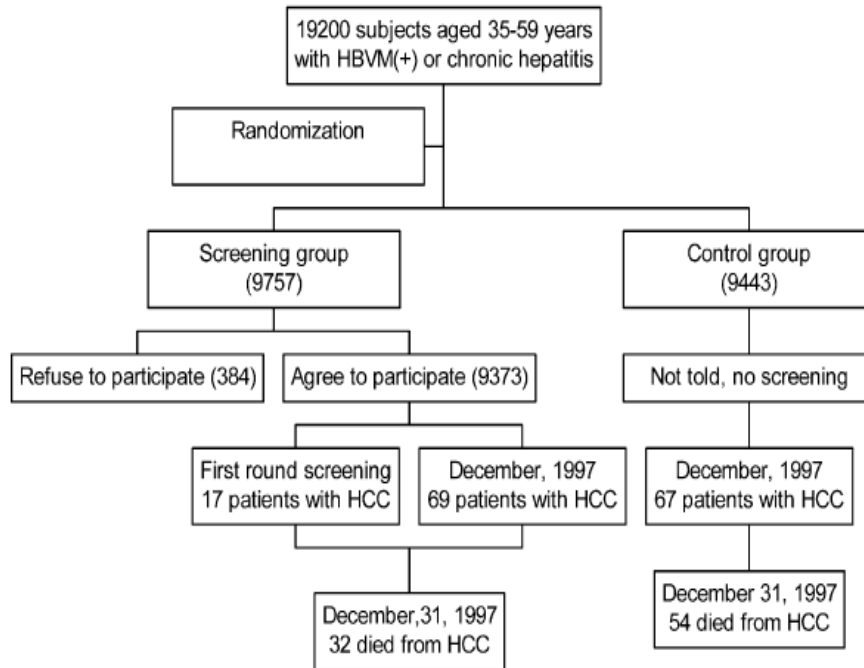
- **Cirrhosis from any cause**
(3-4% annual risk of HCC)
 - HCV
 - HBV
 - Heavy alcohol consumption
 - Non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH)
 - Aflatoxins
- **HBV Chronic Hepatitis**
(0.4% annual risk of HCC)
- **Inherited metabolic diseases**
 - Hemochromatosis
 - Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency
 - Glycogen storage disease
 - Porphyria cutanea tarda
 - Tyrosinemia
 - Autoimmune hepatitis

Diabetes Mellitus
Obesity



HCC: Screening and Early Detection

- Approximately 19,000 patients with chronic hepatitis/chronic HBV randomized to: Ultrasound every 6 months and AFP vs. control (no screening)
- **37% HCC mortality reduction** – **mortality rate ratio 0.63** (95% CI 0.41, 0.98)



Who should be screened for HCC? AASLD Guidelines

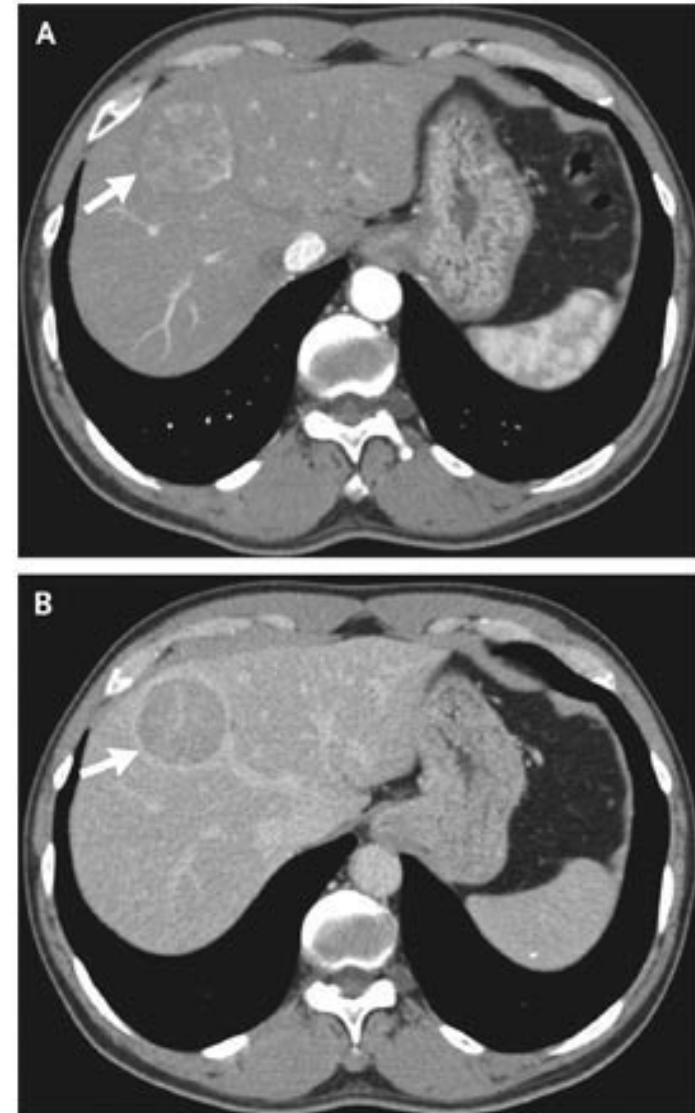
TABLE 1. PATIENTS AT THE HIGHEST RISK FOR HCC

Population Group	Threshold Incidence for Efficacy of Surveillance (>0.25 LYG; % per year)	Incidence of HCC
Surveillance benefit		
Asian male hepatitis B carriers over age 40	0.2	0.4%-0.6% per year
Asian female hepatitis B carriers over age 50	0.2	0.3%-0.6% per year
Hepatitis B carrier with family history of HCC	0.2	Incidence higher than without family history
African and/or North American blacks with hepatitis B	0.2	HCC occurs at a younger age
Hepatitis B carriers with cirrhosis	0.2-1.5	3%-8% per year
Hepatitis C cirrhosis	1.5	3%-5% per year
Stage 4 PBC	1.5	3%-5% per year
Genetic hemochromatosis and cirrhosis	1.5	Unknown, but probably >1.5% per year
Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency and cirrhosis	1.5	Unknown, but probably >1.5% per year
Other cirrhosis	1.5	Unknown
Surveillance benefit uncertain		
Hepatitis B carriers younger than 40 (males) or 50 (females)	0.2	<0.2% per year
Hepatitis C and stage 3 fibrosis	1.5	<1.5% per year
NAFLD without cirrhosis	1.5	<1.5% per year

Abbreviation: LYG, life-years gained.

Diagnosis

- **Diagnostic** imaging indicated for lesion 1 cm or greater or AFP > 20
- Typically no biopsy required
- LIRADS scoring system used to characterize lesions
 - Applies to patients with cirrhosis or chronic hepatitis B infection and incorporates:
 - Size of arterially enhancing lesion
 - Washout
 - Capsule
 - Threshold growth
- Contrast enhanced **multiphase** MRI or CT



LIRADS: Standardized radiology reporting system

LR-1 = definitely benign LR-2 = probably benign

LR-3 = indeterminate LR-4 = suspicious LR-5 = definite

CT/MRI Diagnostic Table

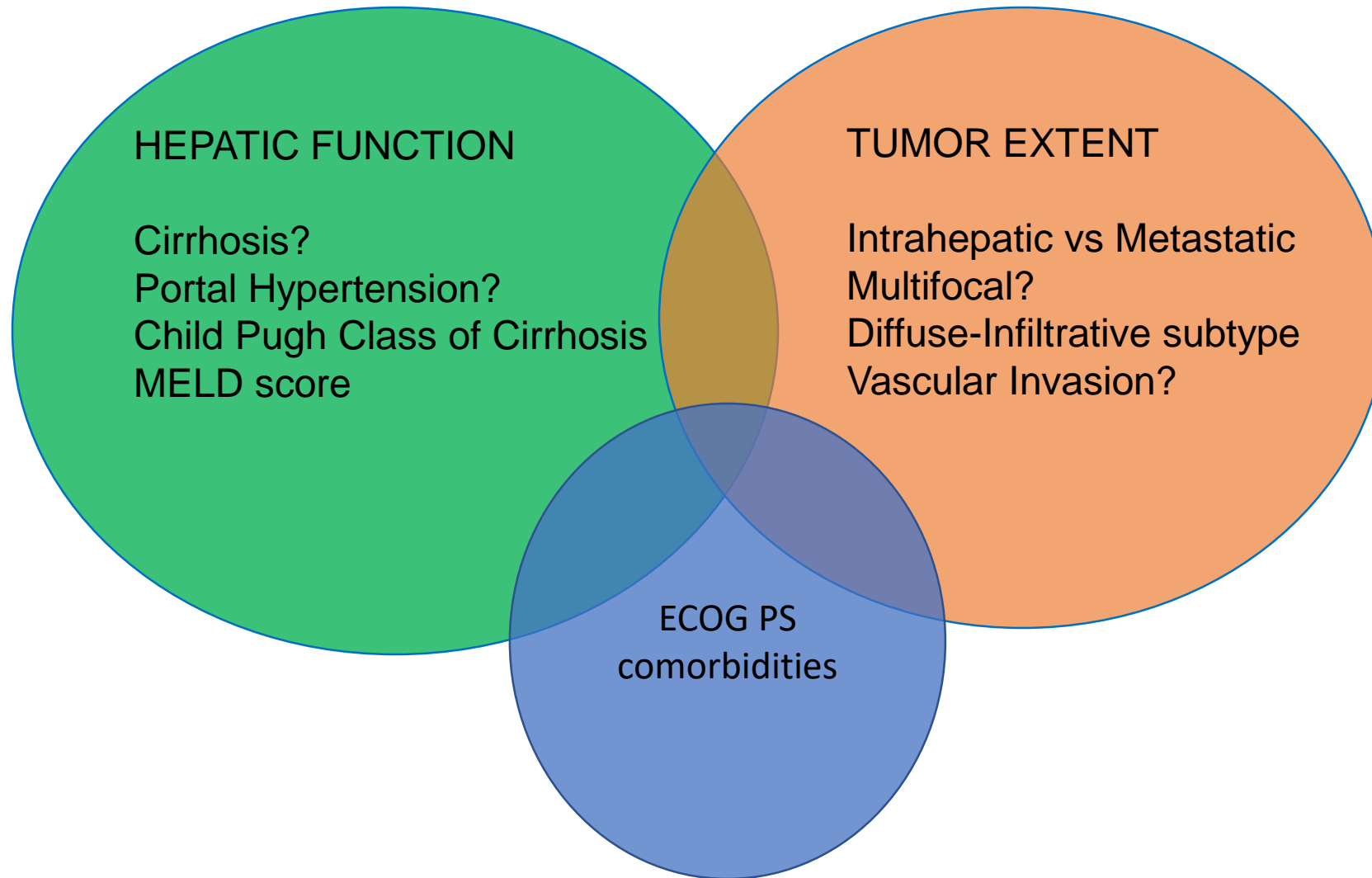
Arterial phase hyperenhancement (APHE)		No APHE		APHE (not rim)		
Observation size (mm)		< 20	≥ 20	< 10	10-19	≥ 20
Count major features: • “Washout” (not peripheral) • Enhancing “capsule” • Threshold growth	None	LR-3	LR-3	LR-3	LR-3	LR-4
	One	LR-3	LR-4	LR-4	LR-4 / LR-5	LR-5
	≥ Two	LR-4	LR-4	LR-4	LR-5	LR-5



Observations in this cell are categorized LR-4, except:

- LR-5g, if ≥ 50% diameter increase in < 6 months (equivalent to OPTN 5A-g)
- LR-5us, if “washout” and visibility at screening ultrasound (per AASLD HCC criteria)

HCC: Considerations in staging and selection of therapeutic options



Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Staging

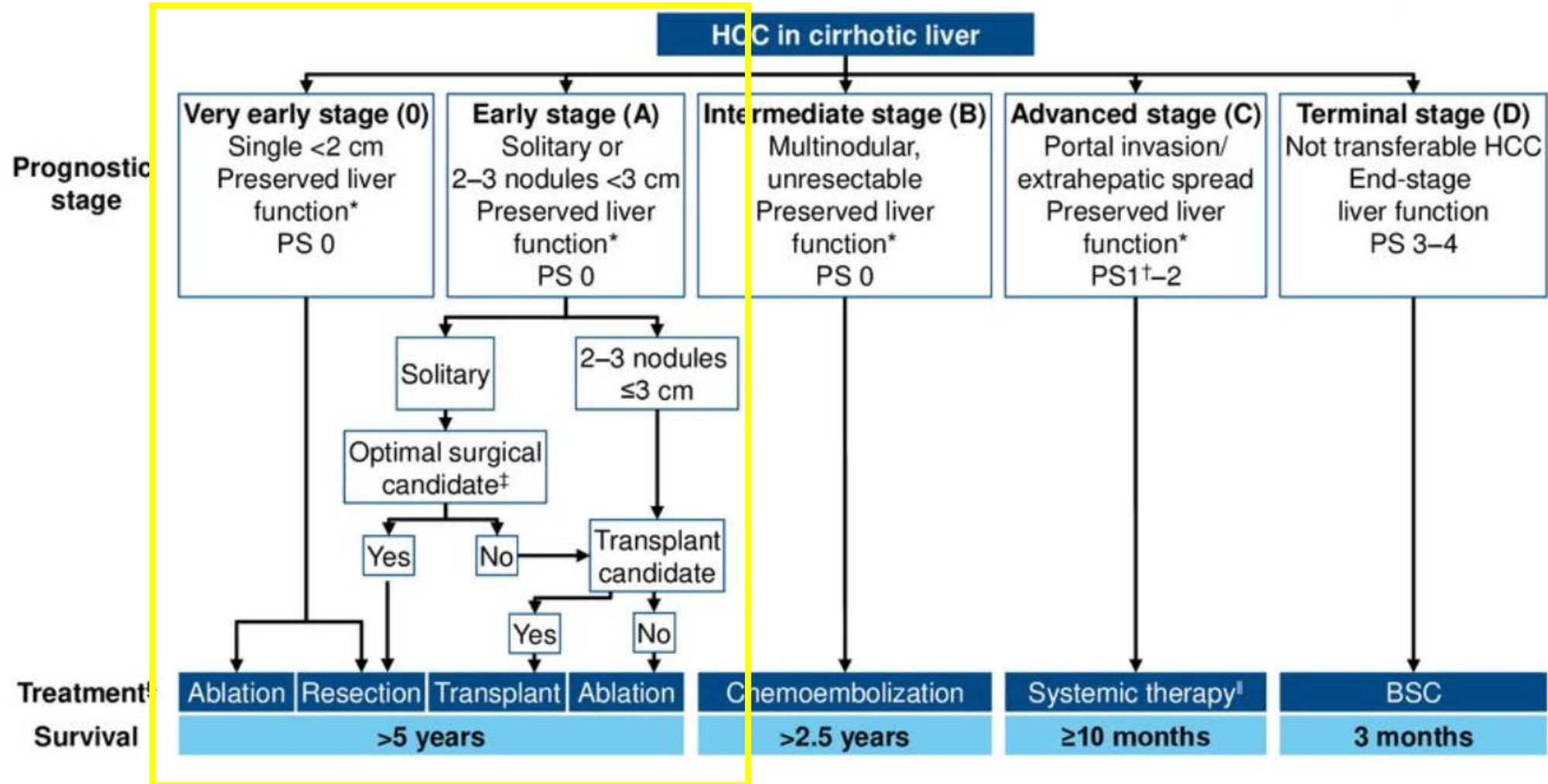
Multiple Complex staging systems incorporate:

- Size
- Multifocality
- Vascular invasion (e.g. portal vein tumor thrombus)
- Underlying liver function (Child-Pugh, MELD)
- Performance status
- Alpha fetoprotein levels

BCLC (Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer) Staging

	BCLC stage				
	Very early stage (0)	Early stage (A)	Intermediate stage (B)	Advanced stage (C)	Terminal stage (D)
Child–Pugh classification	A	A–B	A–B	A–B	C
Performance status	0	0	0	1–2	3–4
Tumor status	1 HCC <2cm <i>Carcinoma in situ</i>	1 HCC or 3 nodules <3cm	Multinodular	Portal invasion or N1/ M1	Terminal stage

Modified BCLC Treatment Algorithm: Early Stage Disease



Early Stage Hepatocellular Carcinoma → BCLC Stage 0/A

Local Options

Well-preserved liver function (non-cirrhotic, Child-Pugh A amenable to surgery)

- Surgical resection: no specific tumor size cut-off; no vascular invasion
- Accepted surgical outcome goal targets include:
 - Perioperative mortality 2-3%
 - 5-year overall survival of 60%

Underlying cirrhosis, poorer baseline liver function

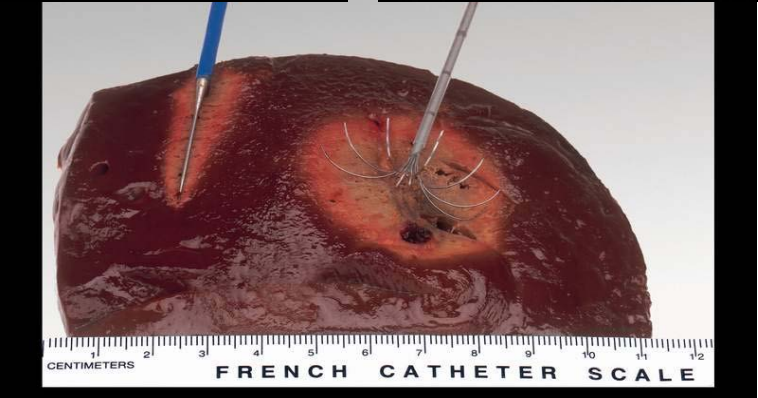
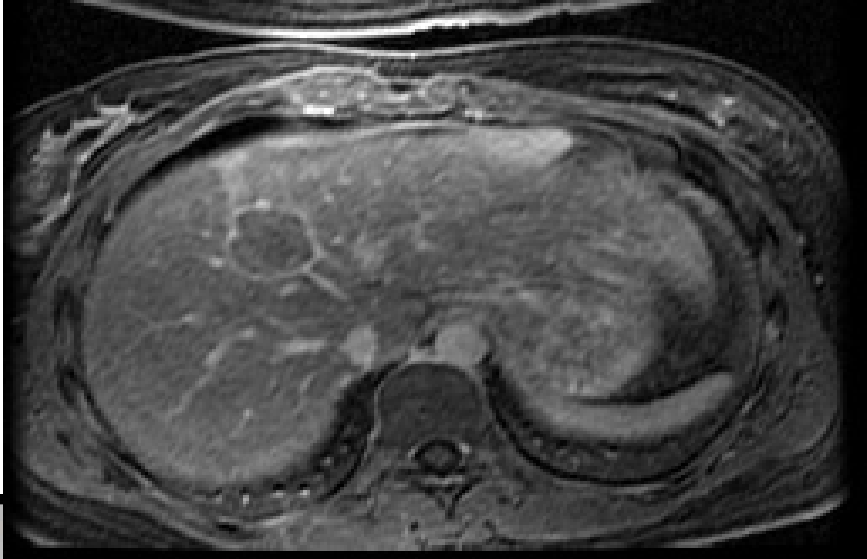
- Liver transplantation: Milan criteria; strict eligibility criteria
- Radiofrequency ablation (RFA): Best in tumors < 3 cm; associated with similar survival to surgery.
- Stereotactic Radiation, focal radioembolization and other local interventions promising in multiple phase II trials

Local Treatment for Early Stage HCC: Radiofrequency Ablation

Pre-Radiofrequency Ablation



1-month post-RFA



Images from Dr. Siddharth Padia, UW Interventional Radiology

Early Stage Hepatocellular Carcinoma

- In well-selected patients with early stage HCC, 5-year survival 60-75% with local treatments.

(Llovet JM et al. Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *Lancet*. December, 2003)

- No standard adjuvant chemotherapy following surgical resection, radiofrequency ablation (RFA) or other definitive local therapies

Orthotopic Liver Transplant: MELD Exception Points

Milan Transplant Criteria (1996)

- **Strict Criteria**
 - Solitary tumors ≤ 5 cm
 - **or**
 - 2-3 tumors all $< 1-3$ cm
 - **and**
 - No macrovascular invasion/ mets

New Transplant Criteria (2017)

- **Downstaging to Milan allowed**
 - Solitary tumors 5-8 cm
 - 2-3 lesions
 - Each < 5 cm, sum < 8 cm
 - 4-5 lesions
 - Each < 3 cm, sum < 8 cm
- **AFP Criteria**
 - AFP > 1000 within Milan require locoregional therapy to achieve AFP < 500

Transplantation based on these guidelines has been shown to result in a 5-year post-transplant survival of ~80%

Modified BCLC Treatment Algorithm: Intermediate/Advanced Stage Disease

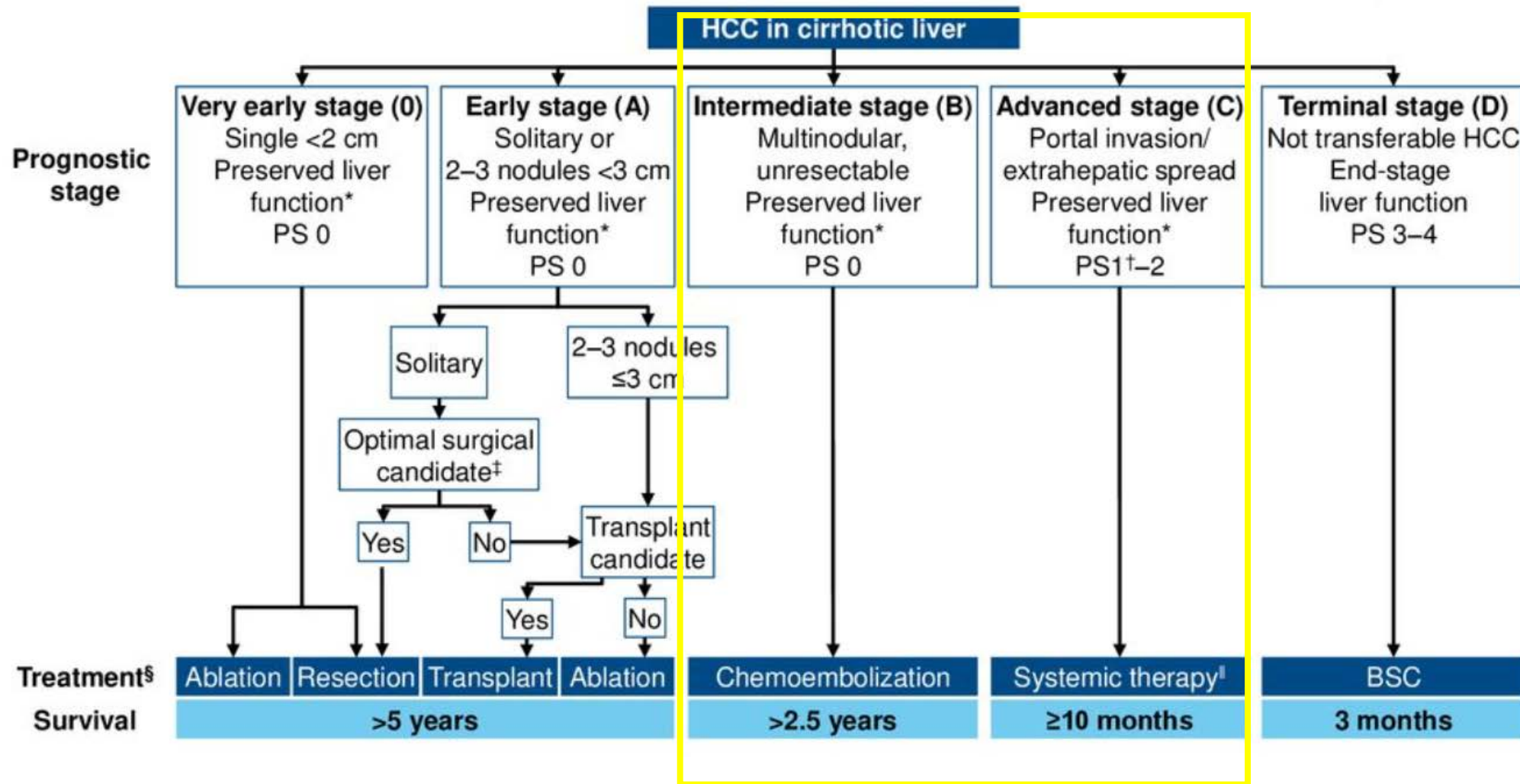


Figure: EASL CPG HCC. J Hepatol 2018

Intermediate/Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Standard Approaches

Liver-confined disease (tumors > 5cm, multifocal):

- Transarterial embolization (TAE/bland embolization) and chemoembolization (TACE)
- Radioembolization with Y⁹⁰ beads (TARE, SIRT)
- External Beam Radiation (SBRT)
- Can be used as 'bridge' therapy while awaiting transplant

Metastatic disease or vascular invasion (BCLC C)

- Systemic therapy (boards answer); Y90 a consideration in less extensive portal venous invasion

Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Updated Algorithms

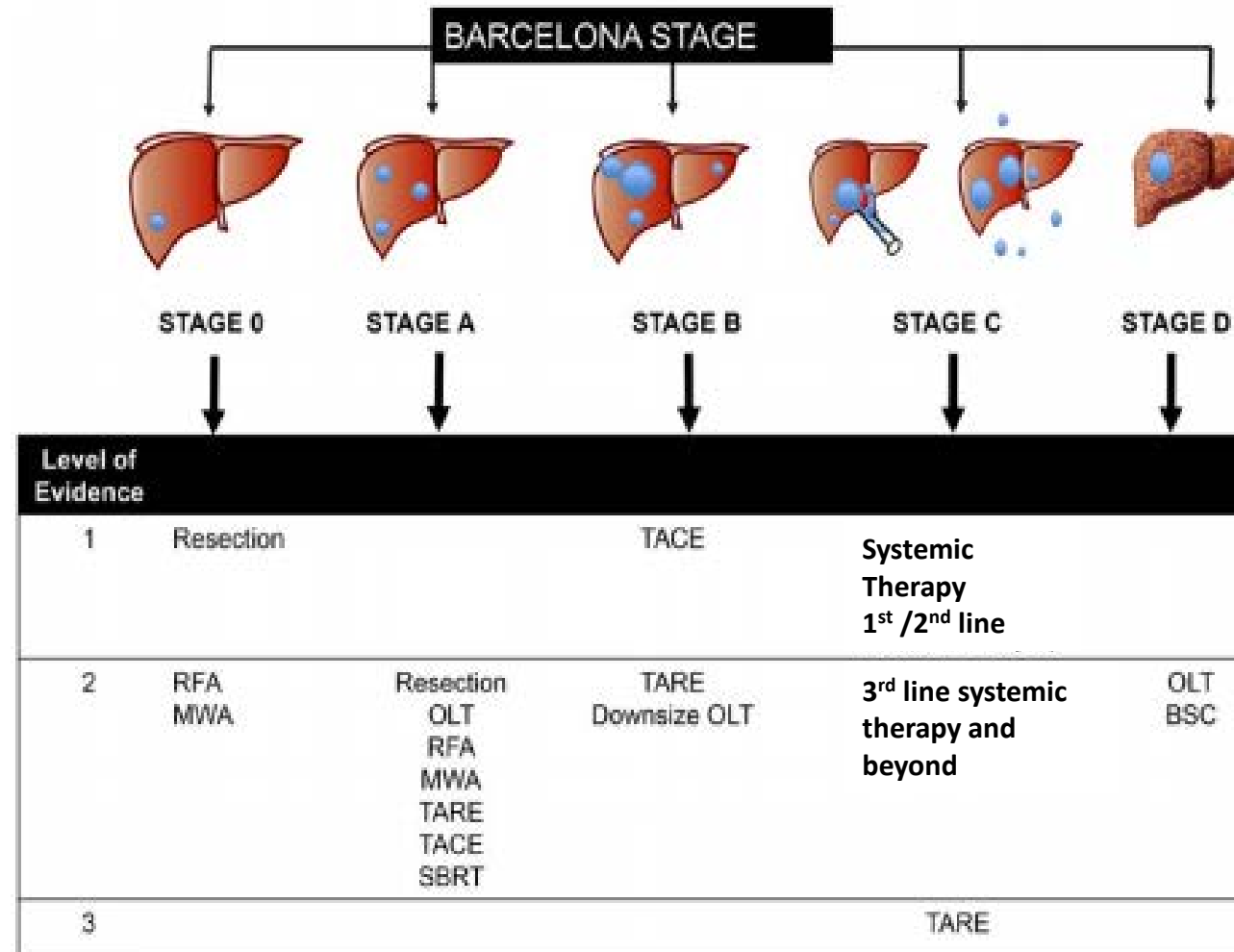
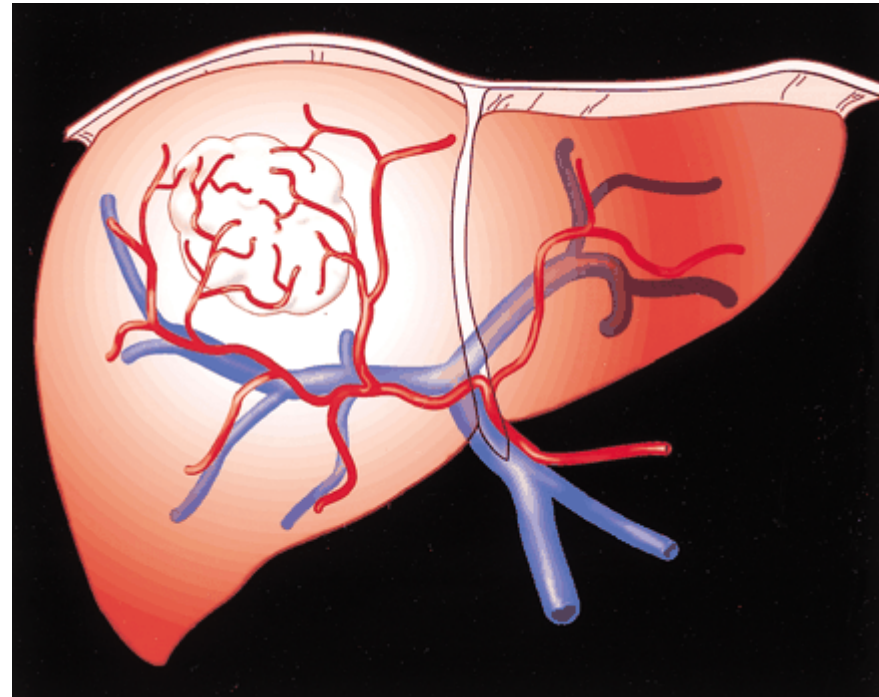


FIG. 3. Treatment recommendations according to BCLC Stage. Abbreviations: MWA, microwave ablation; BSC, best supportive care; 1L, first-line therapy; 2L, second-line therapy.

Hepatocellular Carcinoma – Blood Supply to Tumor

Hepatocellular carcinomas derive 95% of their blood supply from branches of the hepatic artery.

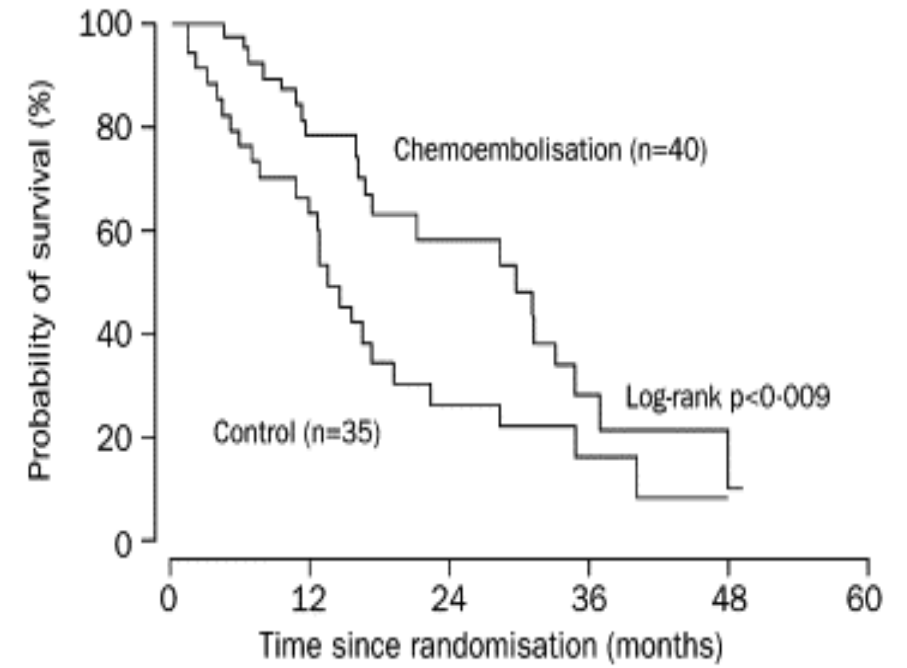
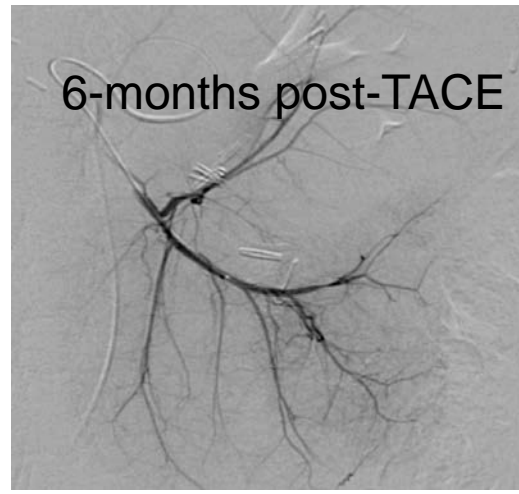
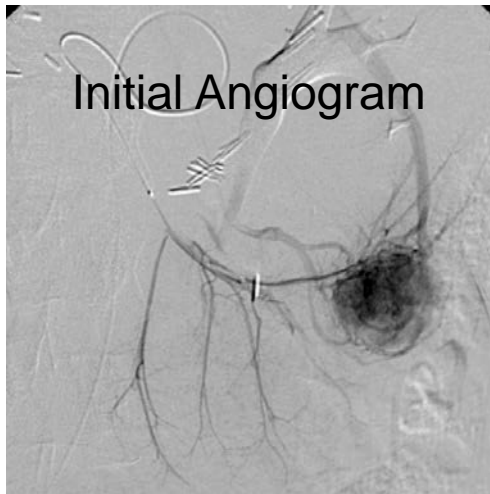
Normal liver parenchyma: derives 75% of its blood supply from the portal vein



Intermediate/Advanced HCC: Transarterial Embolization

Two components of therapy:

- 1) Acute arterial obstruction
- 2) Local administration of chemotherapeutic agents



Llovet et al. Lancet 2002 359(9319)

TACE vs. Best Supportive Care – Asian vs. Western Population

	Lo et al <i>Hepatology</i> 2002		Llovet et al <i>Lancet</i> 2002	
Etiology	80% Hepatitis B		87% Hepatitis C	
Tumor characteristics	60% multinodular, mean tumor size 7cm		71% multinodular, mean tumor size 5cm	
Treatment (TACE)	Cisplatin (chemo) Gelatin sponge (embolic)		Doxorubicin (chemo) Gelatin sponge (embolic)	
Survival	TACE	BSC	TACE	BSC
1 year	57%	32%	82%	63%
2 year	31%	11%	63%	27%
3 year	26%	3%	29%	17%
HR for death TACE vs. BSC	HR 0.49 (95% CI 0.28-0.81), p=0.006		HR 0.45 (95% CI 0.25-0.81), p=0.02	

Lo C, et al. Randomized controlled trial of transarterial lipiodol chemoembolization for unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma. *Hepatology*. May, 2002.

Llovet JM, et al. Arterial embolisation or chemoembolisation versus symptomatic treatment in patients with unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma: a randomised controlled trial. *Lancet*. May, 2002

TACE/TAE: Adverse Events

Expected toxicities:

- Post-embolization syndrome: Fatigue, nausea, pain, liver enzyme elevation, low grade fever
- Chemotherapy side effects: pancytopenia, alopecia, nausea

Contraindications:

- Bilirubin >3 mg/dL
- Main portal vein thrombosis – hepatic ischemia
- Child-Pugh C cirrhosis

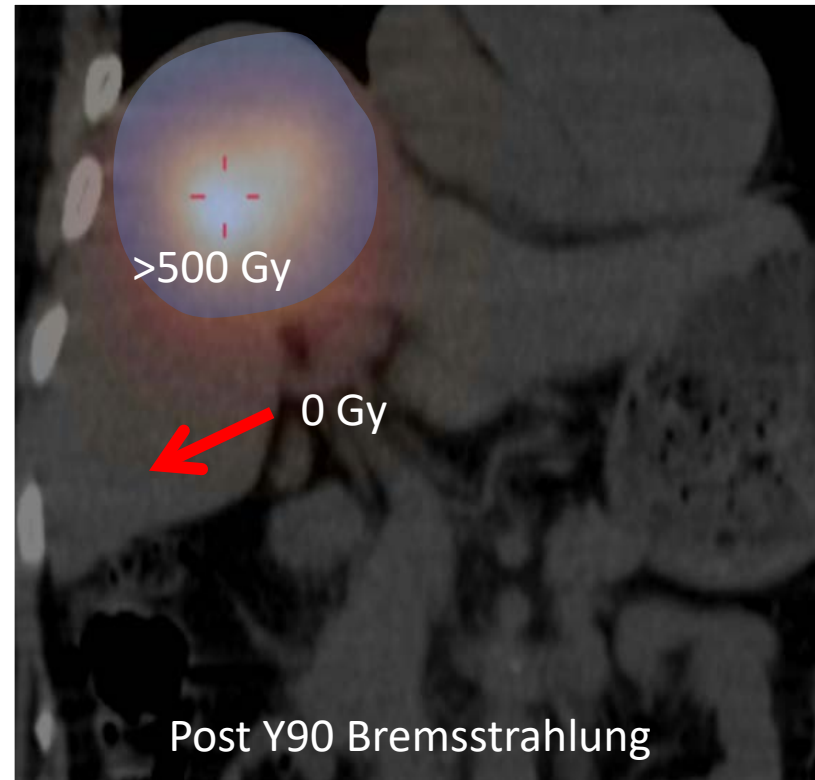
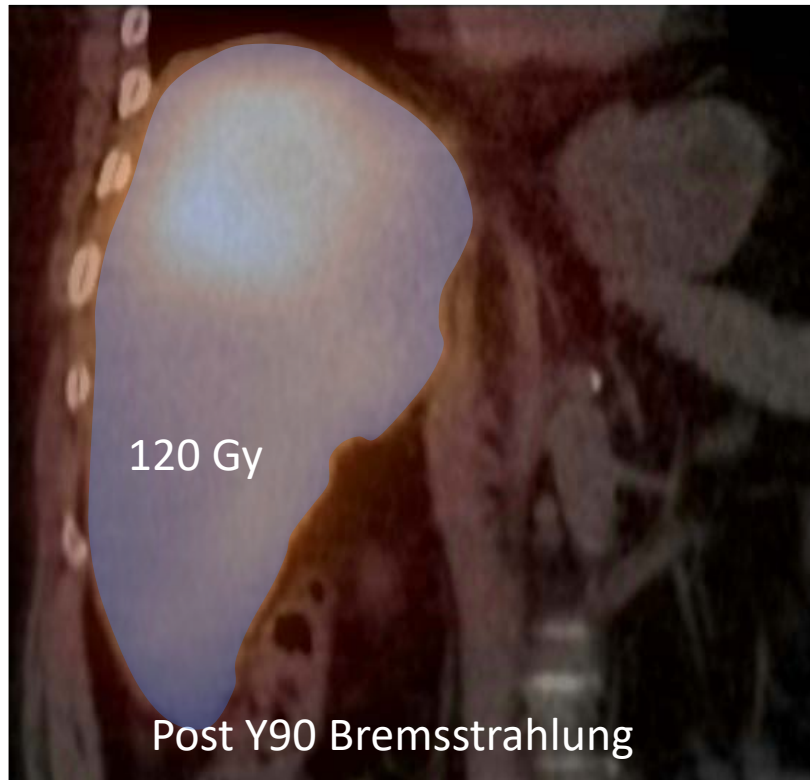
TACE/TAE – Conclusions and Questions

- Large systematic reviews / meta-analyses have demonstrated a benefit from TACE
 - Large contemporary series show median OS of 2.5-3.0 years with catheter-based therapy

(Bruix J et al. Chemoembolization for hepatocellular carcinoma. *Gastroenterology*. November, 2004).

- No definitive advantage of TACE over bland embolization.
- Is TACE/TAE superior to systemic therapy in BCLC B patients?
- How often should TACE/TAE be performed?
- When to move on to systemic therapy?

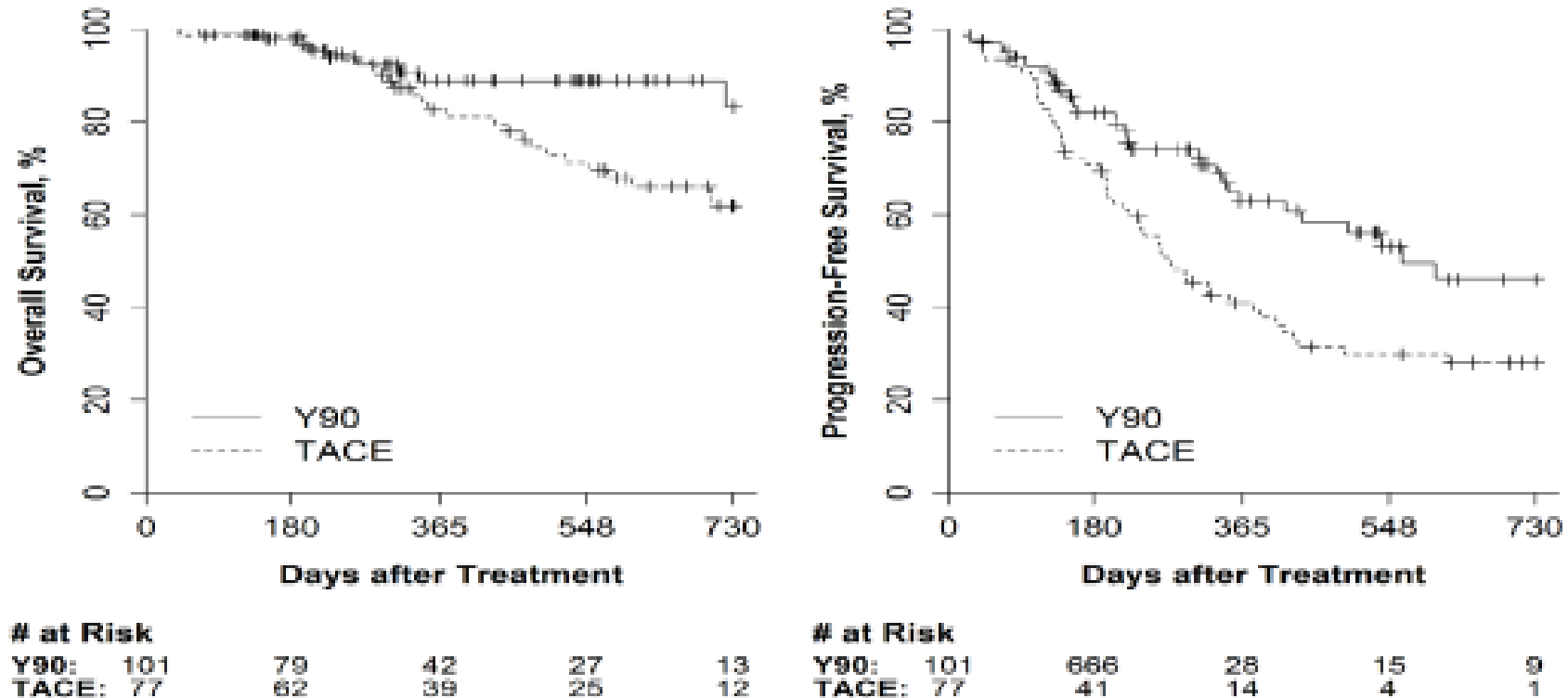
Y90 Radioembolization: Evolving Segmental Approaches for HCC



Improved targeting
Higher intra-tumoral radiation doses → Improved response?
Decreased collateral damage

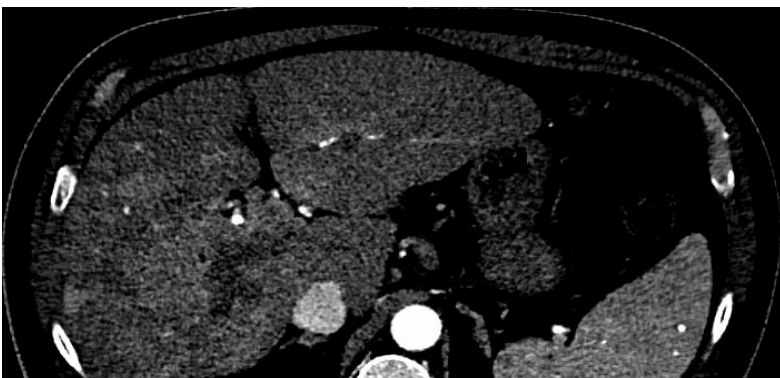
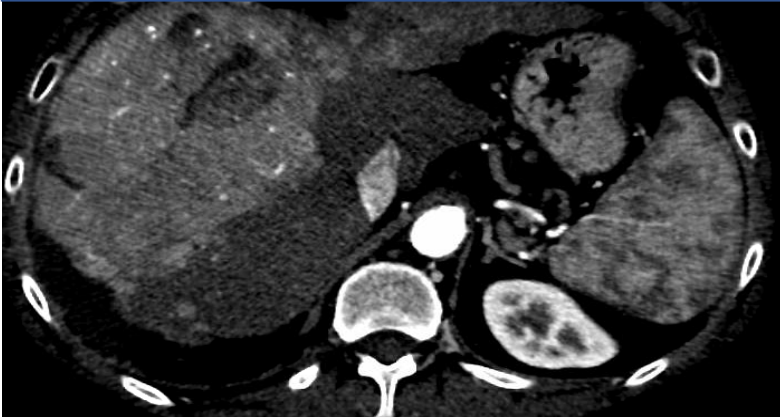
High dose localized radioembolization: (radiation segmentectomy)

Figure 2. Kaplan-Meier curves of overall survival and progression-free survival.



Background: Systemic Therapy for Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma

BCLC B (ineligible/refractory to catheter-based therapy)



BCLC C (Vascular Invasion/Metastatic Disease)

FDA APPROVED AGENTS

1 st Line	2 nd Line	3 rd Line
Sorafenib SHARP/ASIA PACIFIC	Cabozantinib CELESTIAL TRIAL	Cabozantinib CELESTIAL TRIAL
Lenvatinib REFLECT TRIAL	Regorafenib (sorafenib tolerant) RESOURCE	
Atezolizumab + Bevacizumab IMBRAVE150 TRIAL	Ramucirumab (AFP>400) REACH-2	
	Nivolumab* CHECKMATE 040	* Accelerated Approval based upon ORR and DOR
	Pembrolizumab* KEYNOTE 224	
	Nivolumab + Ipilimumab CHECKMATE 040	

Advanced/Metastatic Hepatocellular Carcinoma: SHARP Trial

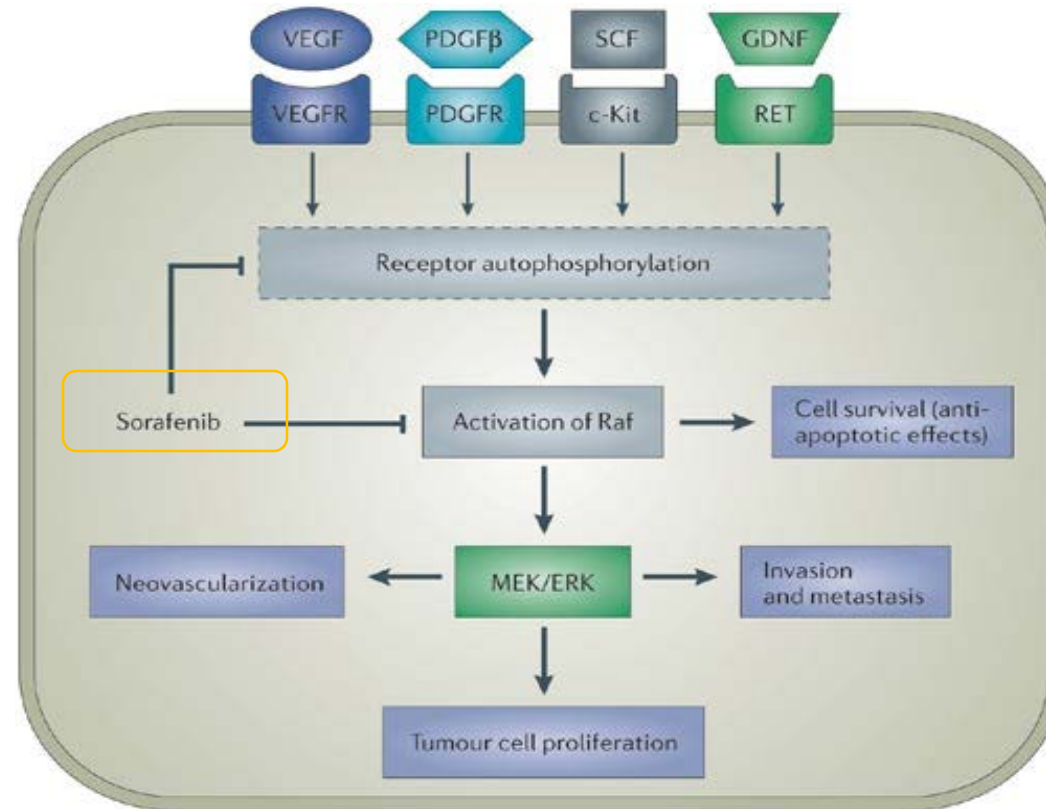
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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*

Sorafenib approved by the FDA for advanced HCC in November 2007

Advanced/Metastatic HCC: Sorafenib

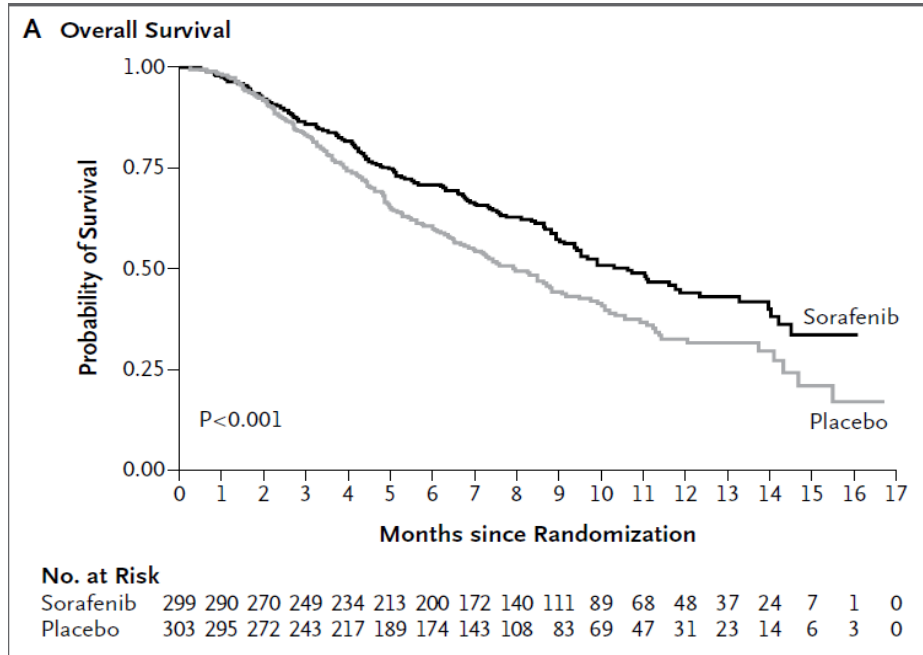


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Nature Reviews | Drug Discovery

SHARP: Patient Characteristics

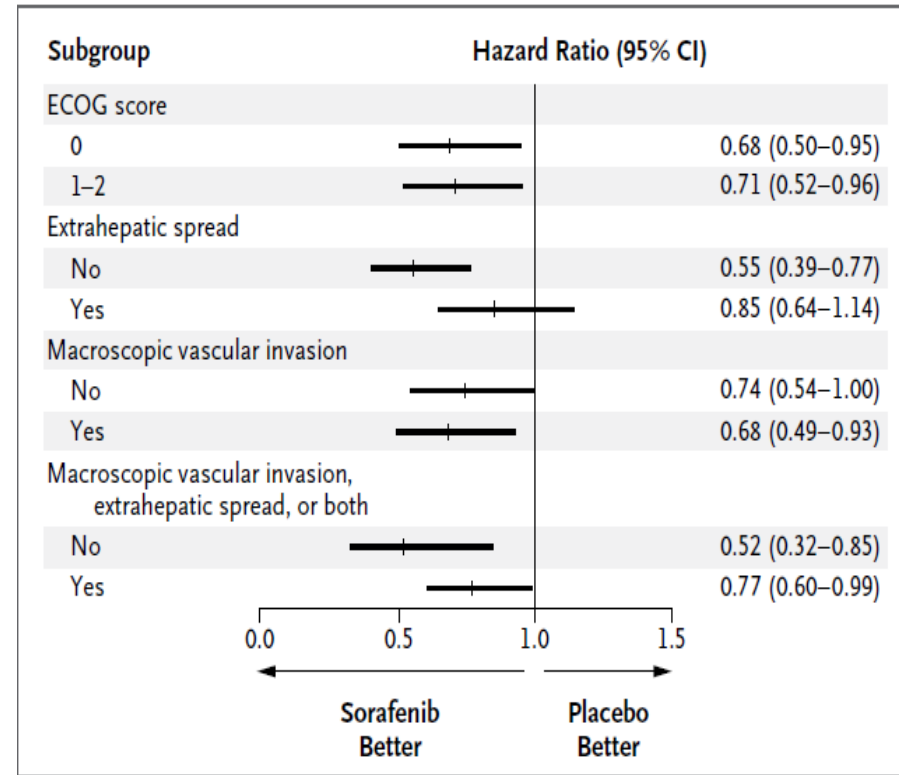
	Sorafenib (n=299)	Placebo (n=303)
Age	65	66
Male/Female	87/13	87/13
Region (Europe/N. America/Other %)	88/9/3	87/10/3
Etiology (HCV/HBV)	29/19	27/18
(Alcohol/Other)	26/26	26/29
Child Pugh (A/B %)	95/5	98/2
Prior Therapies:		
Surgical resection	19%	21%
Loco-regional therapies	39%	41%
ECOG PS:		
0	54%	54%
1	38%	39%
2	8%	7%
Vascular Invasion/Extrahepatic spread		
Present	70%	70%
Absent	30%	30%

SHARP Trial: Results



**Median survival: 10.7 vs. 7.9 months
(HR 0.69 (95% CI 0.55, 0.87) $p < 0.001$)**

**Disease control rate: 43% vs. 32%
($p = 0.002$) – largely stable disease**



SHARP Trial: Safety

- Overall incidence of any grade adverse event: 80% (sorafenib) vs. 52% (placebo)
- Grade 3-4 toxicities: Hand-foot syndrome, diarrhea.
- Of note, prophylactic urea-based lotions decrease severity of hand-foot syndrome



Lenvatinib: First-Line HCC Trial

Study Schema

Global, randomized, open-label, phase 3 noninferiority study

Patients with unresectable HCC (N = 954)

- No prior systemic therapy for unresectable HCC
- ≥ 1 Measurable target lesion per mRECIST
- **BCLC stage B or C**
- **Child-Pugh A**
- ECOG PS ≤ 1
- Adequate organ function
- **Patients with $\geq 50\%$ liver occupation, clear bile duct invasion, or portal vein invasion at the main portal vein were excluded**

Stratification

- Region: (Asia-Pacific or Western)
- MVI and/or EHS: (yes or no)
- ECOG PS: (0 or 1)
- Body weight: (< 60 kg or ≥ 60 kg)

Randomization 1:1

Lenvatinib (n = 478)

8 mg (BW < 60 kg)
or
12 mg (BW ≥ 60 kg)
once daily

Sorafenib (n = 476)

400 mg twice daily

Primary endpoint:

- OS

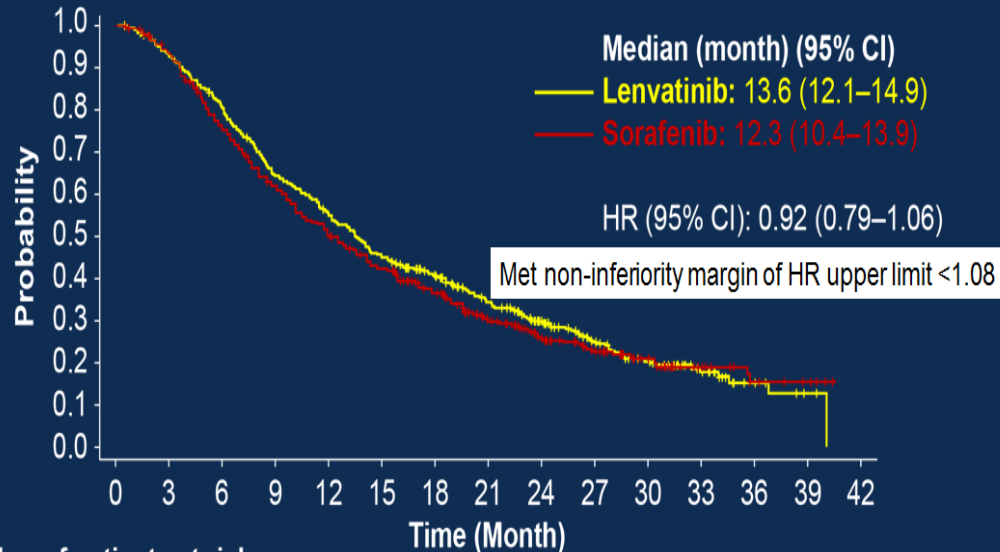
Secondary endpoints:

- PFS
- TTP
- ORR
- Quality of life
- PK lenvatinib exposure parameters

Tumor assessments were performed according to mRECIST by the investigator

Lenvatinib First-Line HCC Trial

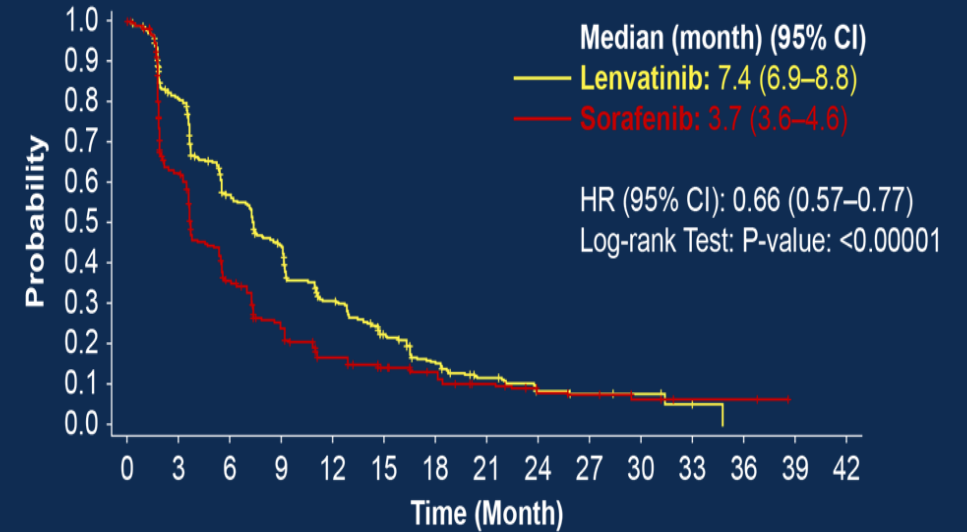
Primary Endpoint: Kaplan-Meier Estimate of OS



Number of patients at risk:

Lenvatinib	478	436	374	297	253	207	178	140	102	67	40	21	8	2	0
Sorafenib	476	440	348	282	230	192	156	116	83	57	33	16	8	4	0

Secondary Endpoint: Kaplan-Meier Estimate of PFS by mRECIST



Number of patients at risk:

Lenvatinib	478	345	223	172	106	69	44	28	14	9	4	2	0	0
Sorafenib	476	262	140	94	56	41	33	22	14	9	4	2	2	0

Lenvatinib non-inferior to sorafenib as 1st line therapy

- Multi-TKI: anti VEGF, FGFR, PDGFR α , RET, KIT
- FDA approved August 2018 for Child-Pugh A patients
- ORR: 24% vs 9% by mRECIST

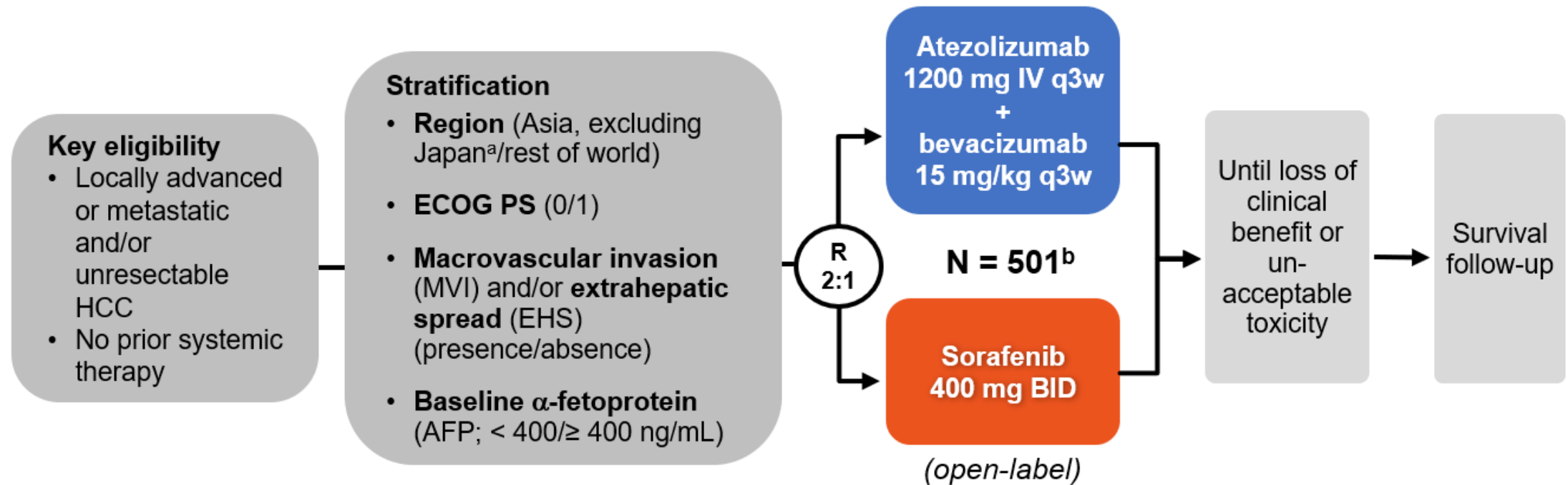
Lenvatinib: First-Line HCC Trial

Adverse event, n (%)	Lenvatinib (n = 476)		Sorafenib (n = 475)	
	Any grade	Grade 3/4	Any grade	Grade 3/4
Hypertension	201 (42)	111 (23)	144 (30)	68 (14)
Diarrhea	184 (39)	20 (4)	220 (46)	20 (4)
Decreased appetite	162 (34)	22 (5)	127 (27)	6 (1)
Decreased weight	147 (31)	36 (8)	106 (22)	14 (3)
Fatigue	141 (30)	18 (4)	119 (25)	17 (4)
Palmar-plantar erythrodysesthesia	128 (27)	14 (3)	249 (52)	54 (11)
Proteinuria	117 (25)	27 (6)	54 (11)	8 (2)
Dysphonia	113 (24)	1 (0)	57 (12)	0 (0)
Nausea	93 (20)	4 (1)	68 (14)	4 (1)
Decreased platelet count	87 (18)	26 (6)	58 (12)	16 (3)
Abdominal pain	81 (17)	8 (2)	87 (18)	13 (3)
Hypothyroidism	78 (16)	0 (0)	8 (2)	0 (0)
Vomiting	77 (16)	6 (1)	36 (8)	5 (1)
Constipation	76 (16)	3 (1)	52 (11)	0 (0)
Elevated aspartate aminotransferase	65 (14)	24 (5)	80 (17)	38 (8)
Rash	46 (10)	0 (0)	76 (16)	2 (0)
Alopecia	14 (3)	0 (N/A)	119 (25)	0 (N/A)

Kudo M, Finn RS, Qin S, et al. Lenvatinib versus sorafenib in first-line treatment of patients with unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma: a randomised phase 3 non-inferiority trial [published online February 9, 2018]. *Lancet*. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(18)30207-1.

Practice Changing Trial: IMBRAVE 150 Trial

Atezolizumab + Bevacizumab for 1st Line HCC



Co-primary endpoints

- OS
- IRF-assessed PFS per RECIST 1.1

Key secondary endpoints (in testing strategy)

- IRF-assessed ORR per RECIST 1.1
- IRF-assessed ORR per HCC mRECIST

Key Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Notable Inclusion Criteria

- Child Pugh A hepatic function
- Advanced HCC (not a candidate for surgery or transplant)
- ECOG 0-1
- Extensive portal vein and hepatic venous invasion allowed
- AST/ALT < 5x ULN
- Platelet count >75,000

Notable Exclusion Criteria

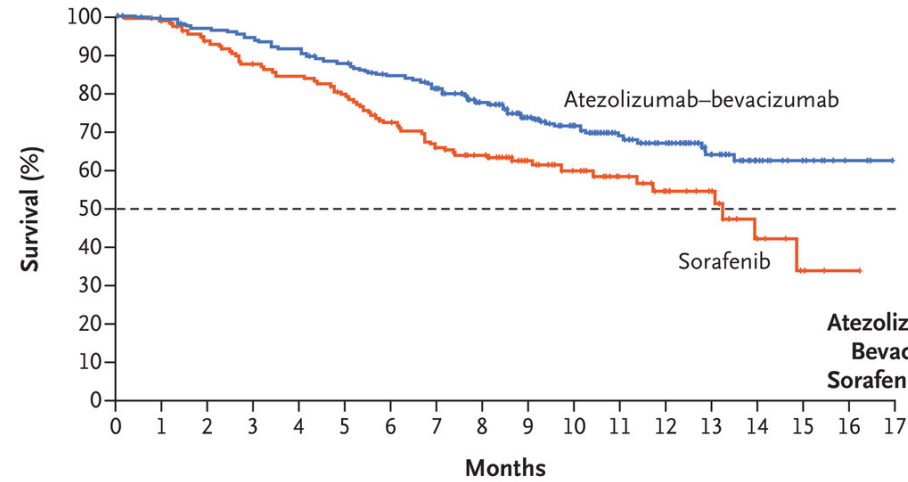
- Untreated/incompletely treated esophageal/gastric varices
- History of autoimmune disease
- Hepatitis B/C co-infection
- Anticoagulation or antiplatelet therapy (ASA 81 mg allowed)
- Uncontrolled hypertension (>150/100)

IMBRAVE 150 RESULTS

Comments:

- Trial stopped at first interim analysis due to clear efficacy
- **Met both co-primary endpoints**
 - **OS HR 0.58 p<.001**
 - **PFS HR .59 p<.001**
- **mOS not yet reached, longer follow-up needed**
- **ORR 27.3% vs 11.9%**
- **Favorable mPFS of 6.8 months**

A Overall Survival



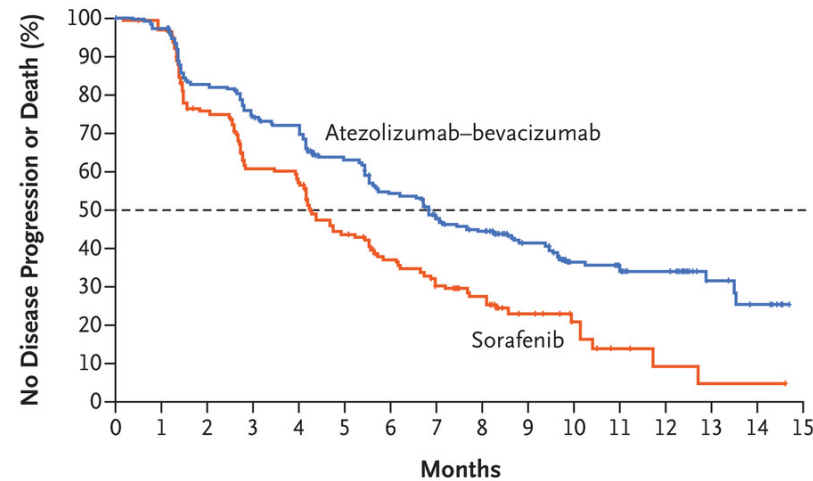
No. at Risk

Atezolizumab-bevacizumab	336	329	320	312	302	288	275	255	222	165	118	87	64	40	20	11	3	NE
Sorafenib	165	157	143	132	127	118	105	94	86	60	45	33	24	16	7	3	1	NE

No. of Events/ No. of Patients (%)	Median Overall Survival (95% CI) <i>mo</i>	Overall Survival at 6 Mo %	
Atezolizumab- Bevacizumab	96/336 (28.6)	NE	84.8
Sorafenib	65/165 (39.4)	13.2 (10.4-NE)	72.2

Stratified hazard ratio for death, 0.58 (95% CI, 0.42-0.79)
P<0.001

B Survival without Disease Progression



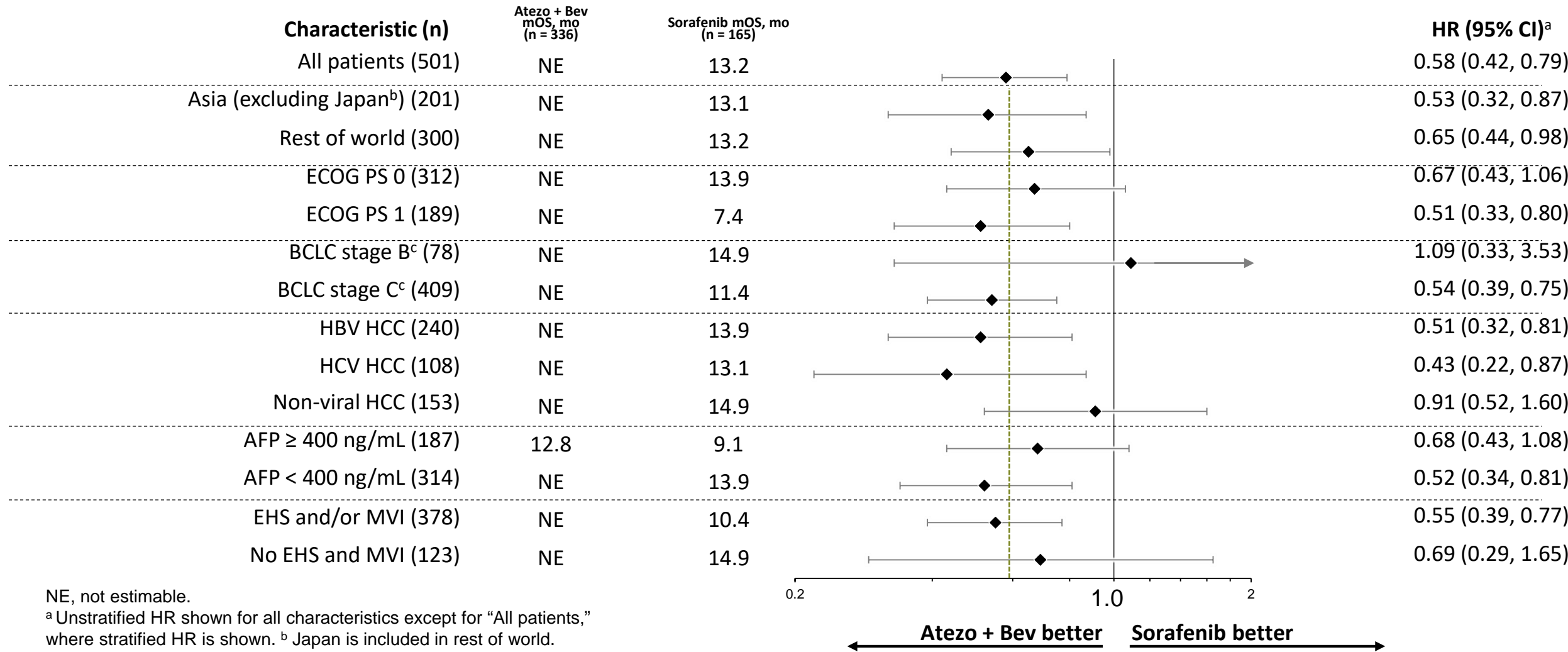
No. at Risk

Atezolizumab-bevacizumab	336	322	270	243	232	201	169	137	120	74	50	46	34	11	7	NE
Sorafenib	165	148	109	84	80	57	44	34	27	15	9	4	2	1	1	NE

No. of Events/ No. of Patients (%)	Median Progression- free Survival (95% CI) <i>mo</i>	Progression- free Survival at 6 Mo %	
Atezolizumab- Bevacizumab	197/336 (58.6)	6.8 (5.7-8.3)	54.5
Sorafenib	109/165 (66.1)	4.3 (4.0-5.6)	37.2

Stratified hazard ratio for progression or death, 0.59 (95% CI, 0.47-0.76)
P<0.001

OS subgroups



NE, not estimable.

^a Unstratified HR shown for all characteristics except for “All patients,” where stratified HR is shown. ^b Japan is included in rest of world.

^c BCLC stage A not shown, as there were only 14 patients; thus, estimation is not meaningful.

Data cutoff, 29 Aug 2019; median survival follow-up, 8.6 mo.

IMBRAVE 150 - AEs

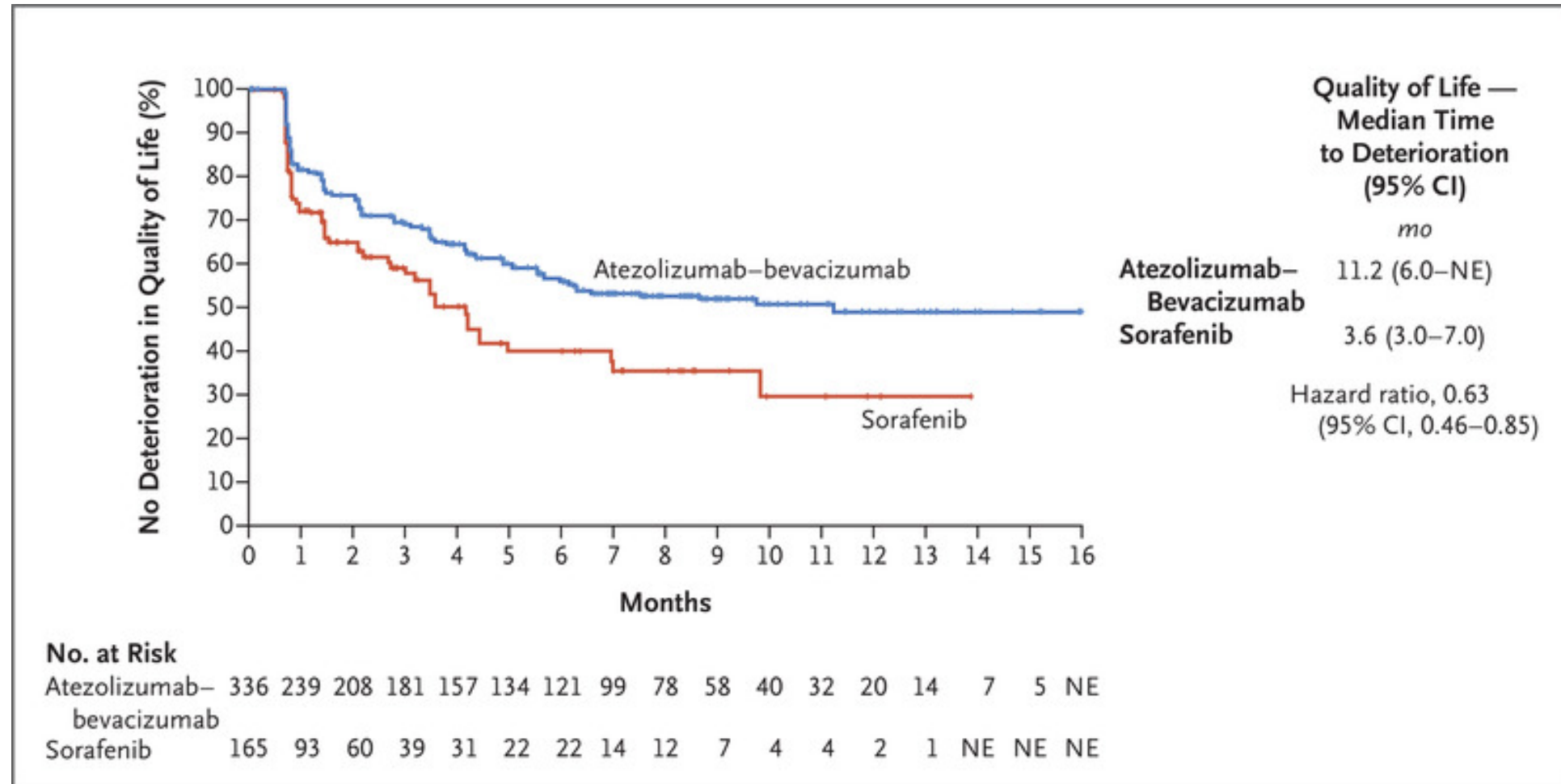
Comments:

- Serious Adverse Events increased in Atezo/Bev arm slightly (38% vs. 30.8%)
 - No one clear toxicity stands out
 - Less PPE, severe diarrhea, asthenia noted
- Gastrointestinal (usually variceal) bleeding rates consistent with known risk
 - 7% vs 4.5% overall
 - Fatal bleeding/Perforation Atezo/Bev (n=6) vs sorafenib (n=1)

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

Event	Atezolizumab–Bevacizumab (N=329)		Sorafenib (N=156)	
	Any Grade	Grade 3 or 4	Any Grade	Grade 3 or 4
	<i>number (percent)</i>			
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	15 (9.6)	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 (12.5)	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	15 (9.6)	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
Palmar–plantar erythrodysesthesia syndrome	3 (0.9)	0	75 (48.1)	13 (8.3)

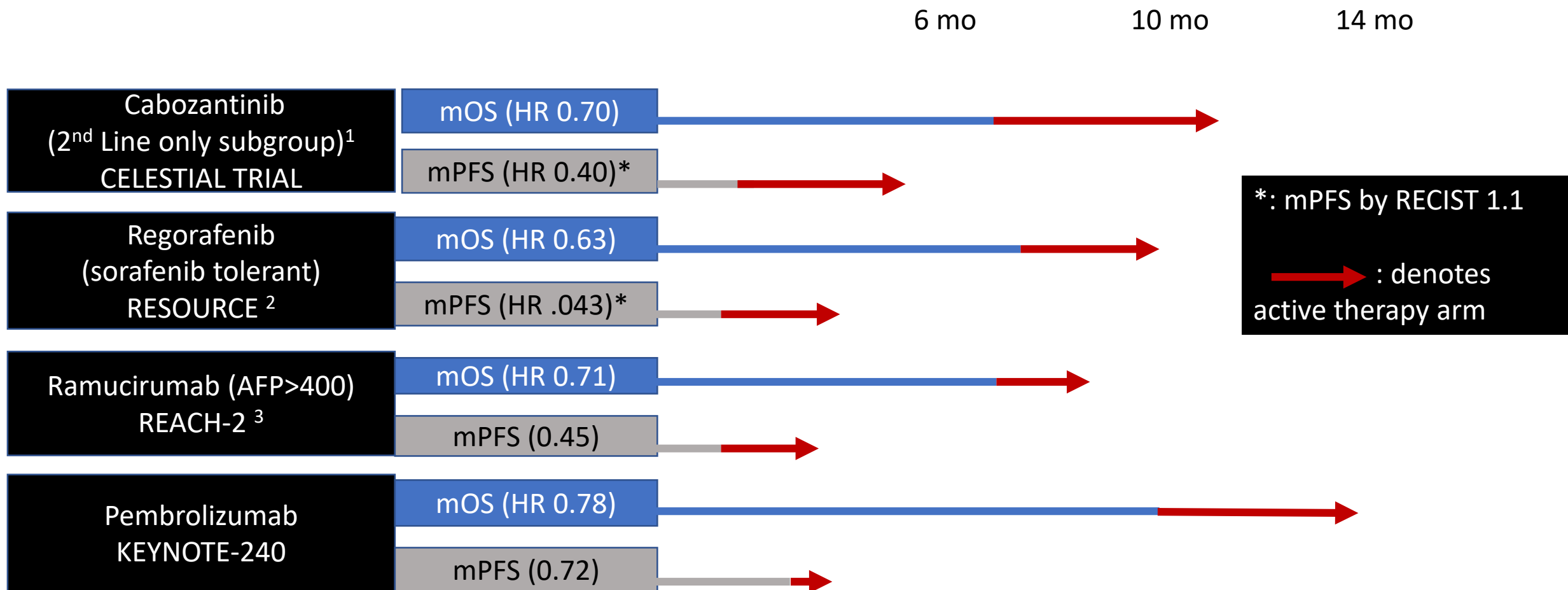
IMBRAVE 150 – Quality of Life Assessments



SUMMARY: FIRST-LINE SYSTEMIC THERAPY FOR HCC

- Atezolizumab and Bevacizumab represents the favored 1st line therapy for advanced HCC for eligible patients
 - Patients require EGD for variceal screening and treatment as indicated prior to initiation of therapy
- In patients with advanced, unresectable HCC with Child-Pugh A cirrhosis, treatment with sorafenib resulted in a 3-month survival benefit compared to placebo.
- Lenvatinib demonstrated non-inferiority to sorafenib as 1st line therapy, with superior response rates, TTP and PFS.
- The benefit/safety of current 1st line therapy for routine use in Child-Pugh B cirrhosis is unclear.

Phase III HCC Trials: Second-Line Therapy Outcomes



1. Kelley et al. ASCO 2018 Abstract 4088

2. Bruix et al. Lancet 2017 389(10064):56-66

3. Zhu et al. Lancet Oncology 2019 20(2):282-292

Regorafenib vs. Placebo (2nd line) Positive Phase III Trial Results

- **Multi-TKI with broad activity**

- VEGFR1-3, TIE2
- FGFR1, PDGFR-B, KIT, RET
- C-RAF, B-RAF

- **Key Patient Characteristics**

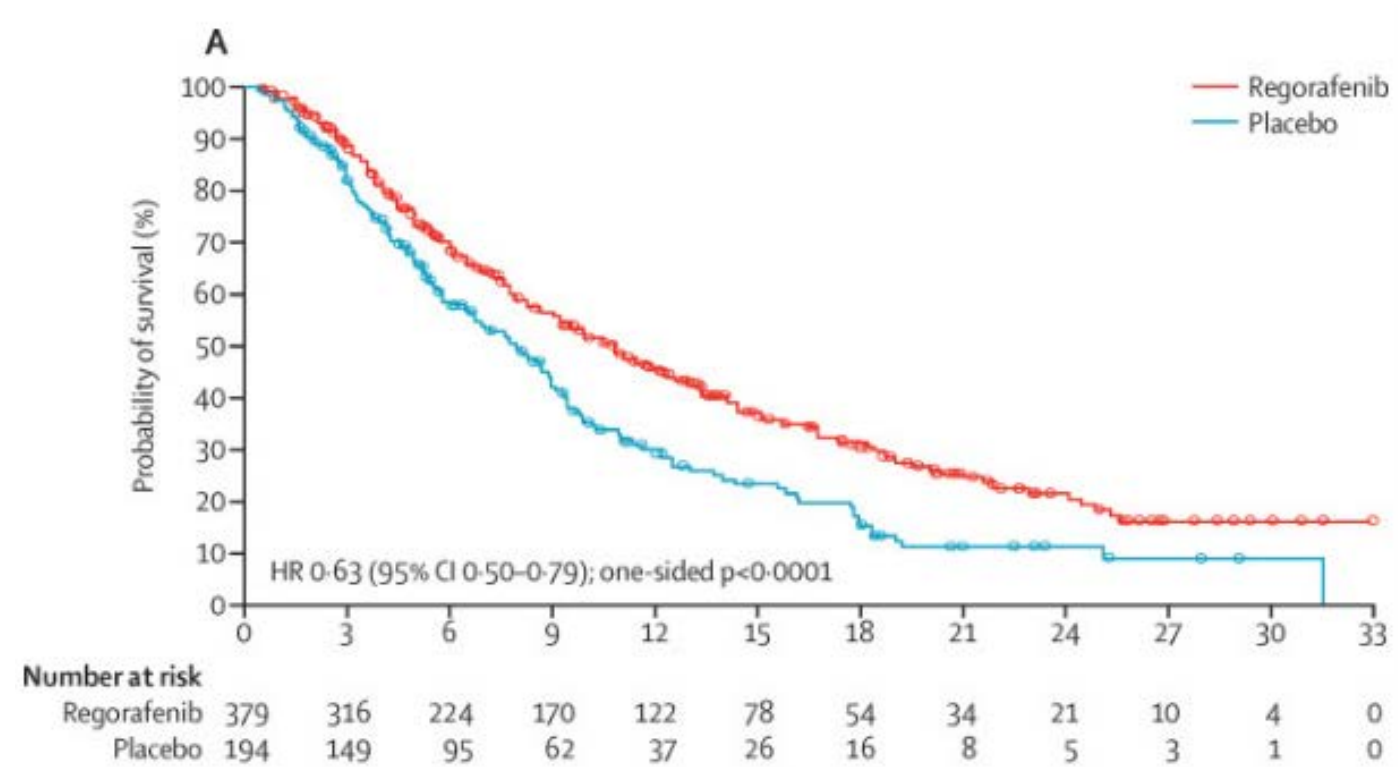
- Child Pugh A, ECOG 0-1
- **Tolerant but progressing on sorafenib**

- **Design**

- 2:1 randomized placebo-controlled trial
- Regorafenib 160 mg days 1-21 monthly
- Primary endpoint: improved OS

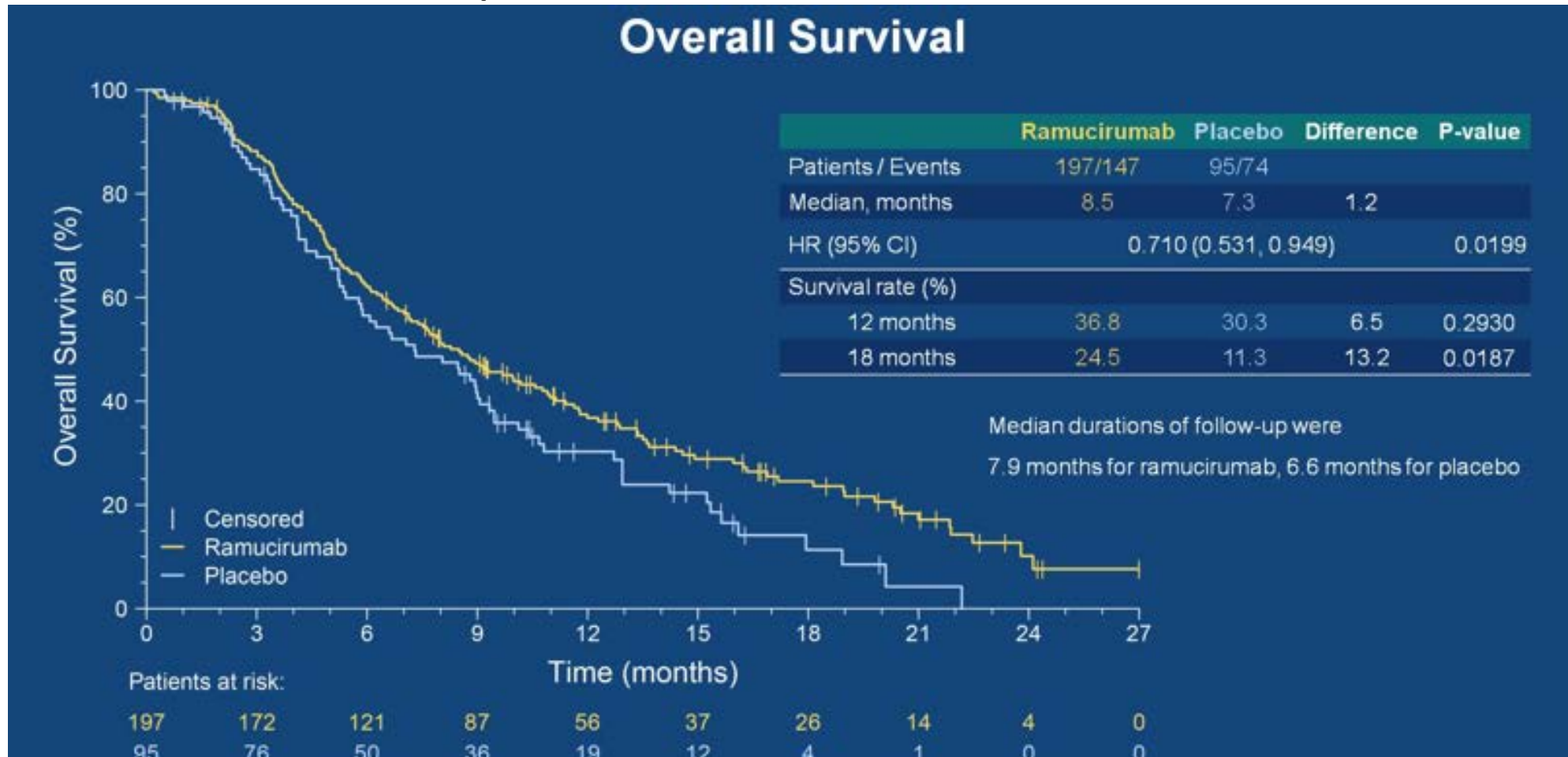
- **Outcome**

- **mOS 10.6 vs 7.8 months** (HR .63, p<.0001)
- Grade >3 Toxicity compared to placebo:
 - 10% increased HTN
 - 12% hand-foot syndrome
 - 4% fatigue
 - 3% diarrhea



FDA approved for second line HCC

Ramucirumab as 2L therapy for HCC (in patients with AFP >400)



FDA approved as second line therapy if AFP > 400

Main Grade 3-4 Toxicities: HTN (12%), Ascites (4%), encephalopathy (3%)

Cabozantinib in Refractory HCC

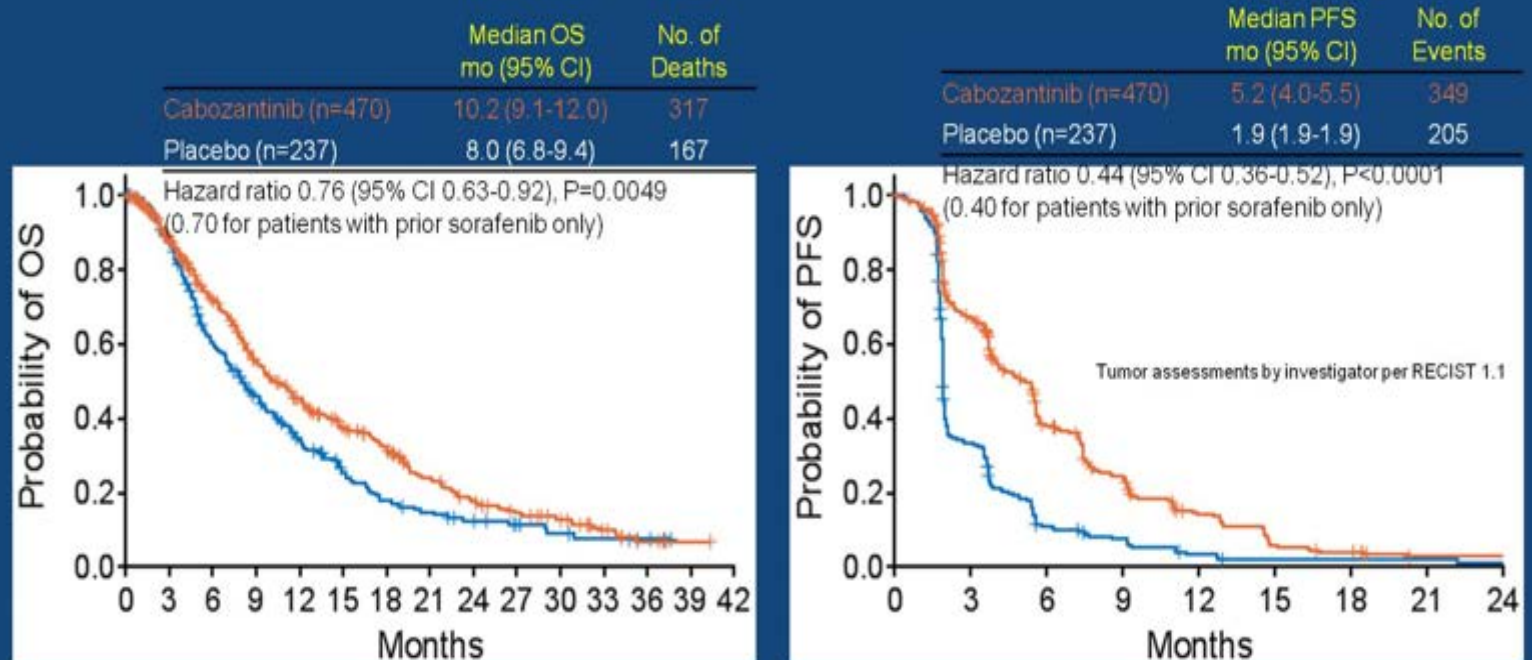
Positive Phase III Data in 2nd / 3rd line

Randomized Phase III trial of cabozantinib vs. placebo

→ sorafenib refractory / intolerant patients with HCC

- 707 patients randomized 2:1 against placebo
- 2nd / 3rd line therapy; Child-Pugh A
- mOS 10.2 vs 8.0 months (HR .76, p=.005)
- Not selected based upon c-met status
- FDA approved

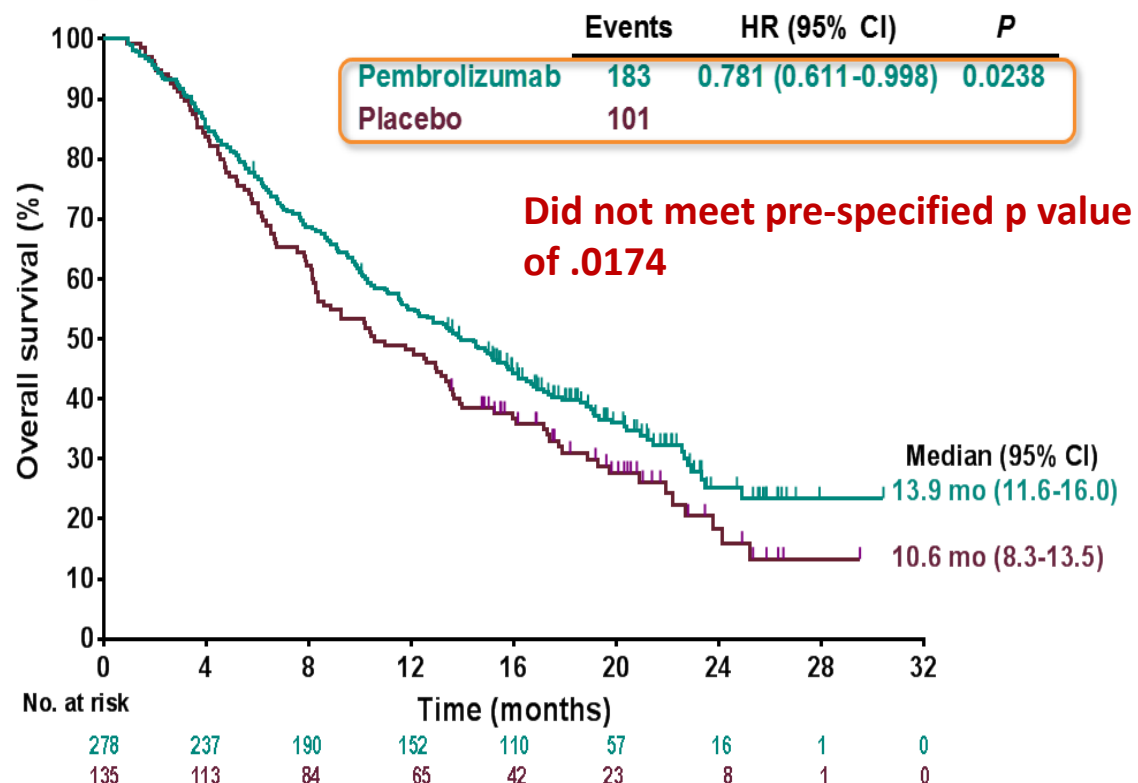
Overall Survival and Progression-free Survival



Abou-Alfa GK et al.
GI ASCO 2018 oral
presentation;
JCO 36:4s Abstr
207

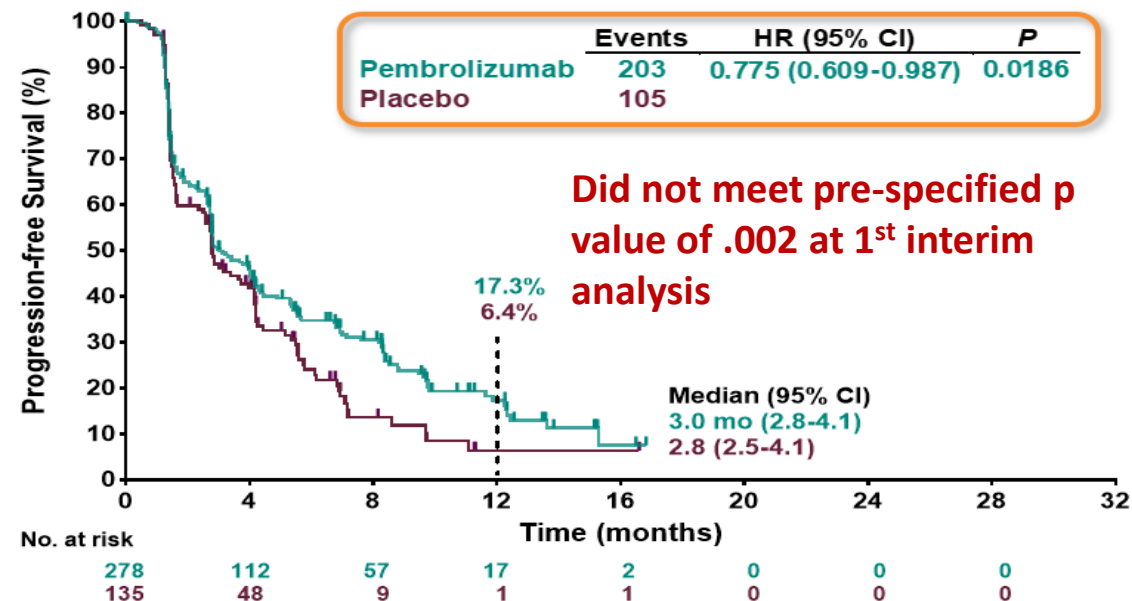
Recent results: KEYNOTE-240 Trial (2nd Line Pembrolizumab vs. Placebo)

Overall Survival



Progression-free Survival

First interim analysis



FDA approved 2nd Line irrespective of PD-L1 status despite just missing statistical endpoints in Phase III trial.

ORR 18.3% by RECIST 1.1

Median DOR 13.8 months

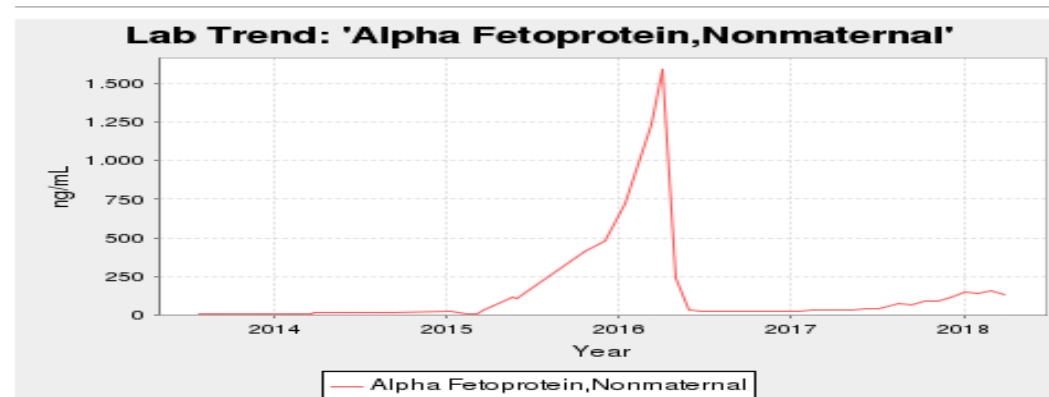
mOS 13.9 months

Second-Line Systemic Therapy: Case

Progressive Disease 1 year after sorafenib initiation



Scans 2 years after PD1 inhibition



Future Directions/Questions: HCC

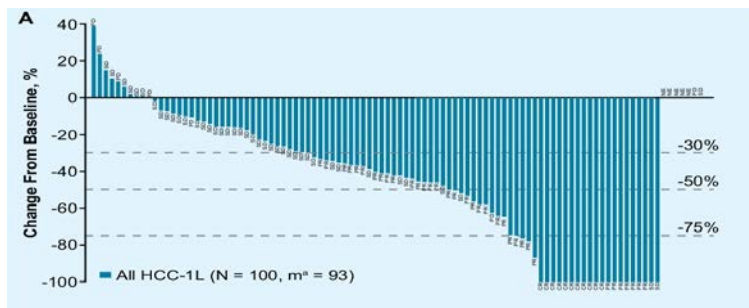
- **Optimal sequencing of currently approved agents unclear**
 - Especially with no data to guide next steps after atezo/bev 1st line therapy
- **Optimizing Immunotherapy approaches**

Promising combination strategies show high response rates in early phase trials; Phase III 1st line trials ongoing

TKI + α -PD1/PDL1 (n=100)
Lenvatinib + Pembro: 36% ORR
88% DCR, mPFS 8.6 mo.

α -CTLA4 + α -PD1/PDL1 (2nd Line)
Nivo(1)/Ipi(3): 32% ORR
8% CR; 23-month mOS

One Priming Dose α -CTLA4 + α -PDL1
Tremelimumab + Durvalumab



1. Zhu et al. ASCO 2020 Abstr 4519
2. Kelley et al ASCO 2020 Abstr 4508.
3. Yau et al. ASCO 2019 J Clin Oncol. 2019; 37(suppl) Abstr 4012

Future Directions: Local Interventions + Immune Checkpoint Inhibition

Phase II: SBRT + PD1 inhibitor (NCT03316872)

Phase II: Radioembolization + PD1 inhibitor (NCT03099564)

Phase III: TACE + PD-L1 inhibitor (+/- Bevacizumab) (NCT03778957)

Ongoing phase 2 Single arm Pilot study (n=30), 3 institution study

- HCC not amenable to Resection/Transplant
- No prior radioembolization
- Child Pugh A, ECOG 0-1
- BCLC Stage B/C

Pembrolizumab

Y90

Pembrolizumab



Outcomes:

Immunologic correlates

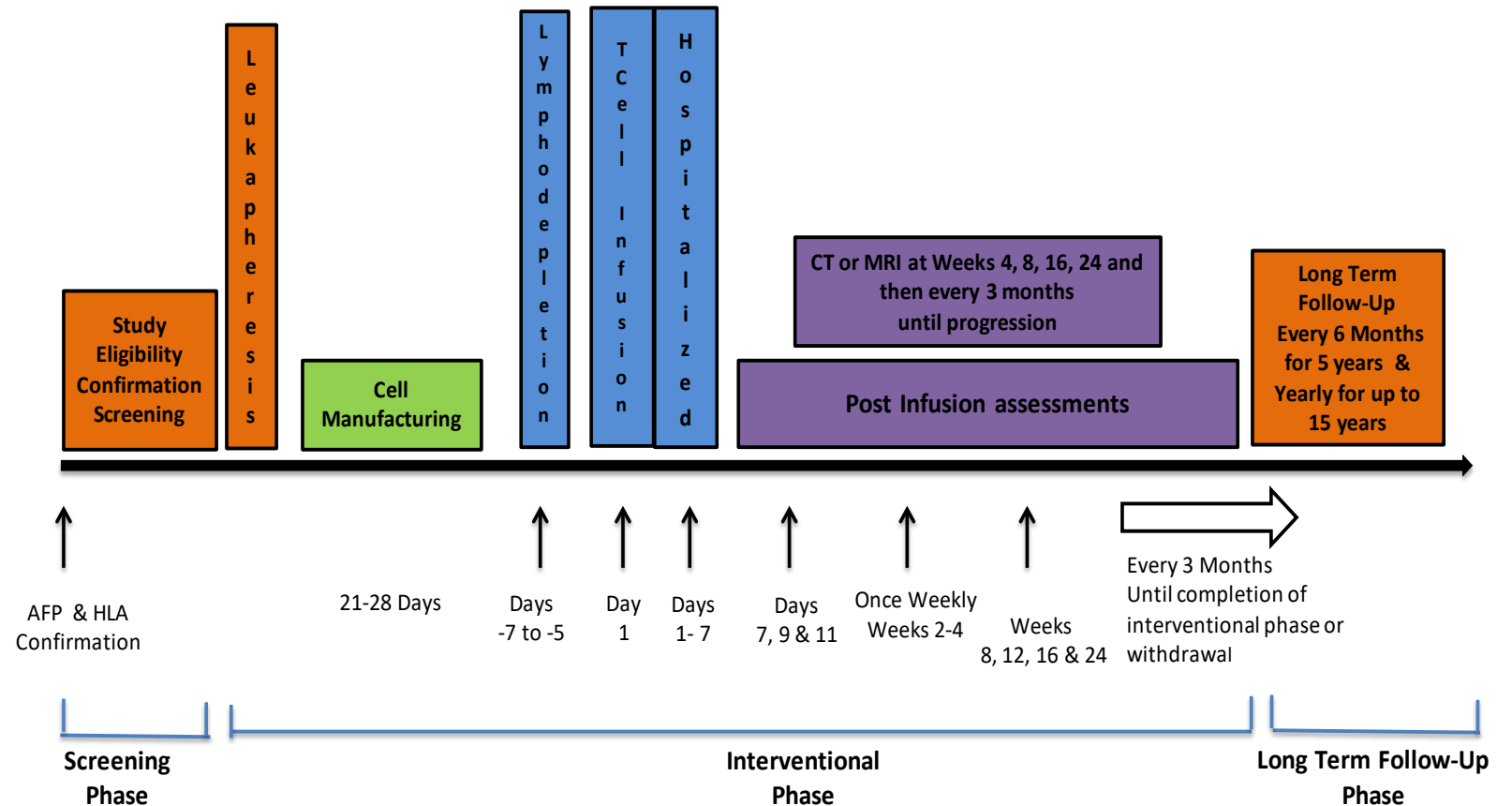
Toxicity assessment

Response rates, mOS, TTP

Future Directions: Adoptive T-cell Therapy AFP-directed chimeric T-cell Receptor Therapy (TCR)

- Advanced HCC, any-line
- Child Pugh A
- ECOG 0-1
- HLA-A*02:01 + (~35%)
- Tumor AFP + by IHC (~40%) or elevated serum AFP
- Liver Parenchyma AFP – by IHC (most)
- Mandatory biopsies
- Requires chemotherapy conditioning

First in Human Studies, currently accruing



HCC: Final Take-home messages

- Localized therapy and liver transplantation for early stage disease (BCLC stage A) can be curative
- For Child-Pugh A/B unresectable HCC (without vascular involvement or metastatic disease): TACE has been shown to prolong survival compared with best supportive care
- For vascular involvement/metastatic HCC or select patients with bulky intermediate stage disease (Child-Pugh A), atezolizumab and bevacizumab is standard of care as first-line therapy.
- For advanced/metastatic HCC (Child-Pugh B), the benefit of systemic therapy is less defined but may be considered in select patients.
- Multiple recently FDA approved systemic therapies in the refractory setting, with no current consensus regarding optimal selection. Many GI Oncologists would attempt TKI (Lenvatinib, sorafenib) after atezo/bev.