

Diagnostic evaluation and treatment of Hepatocellular carcinoma

DLW 2018

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Maag, Darm en Leverziekten

LEIDEN



No disclosures

Epidemiology and risk factors for HCC

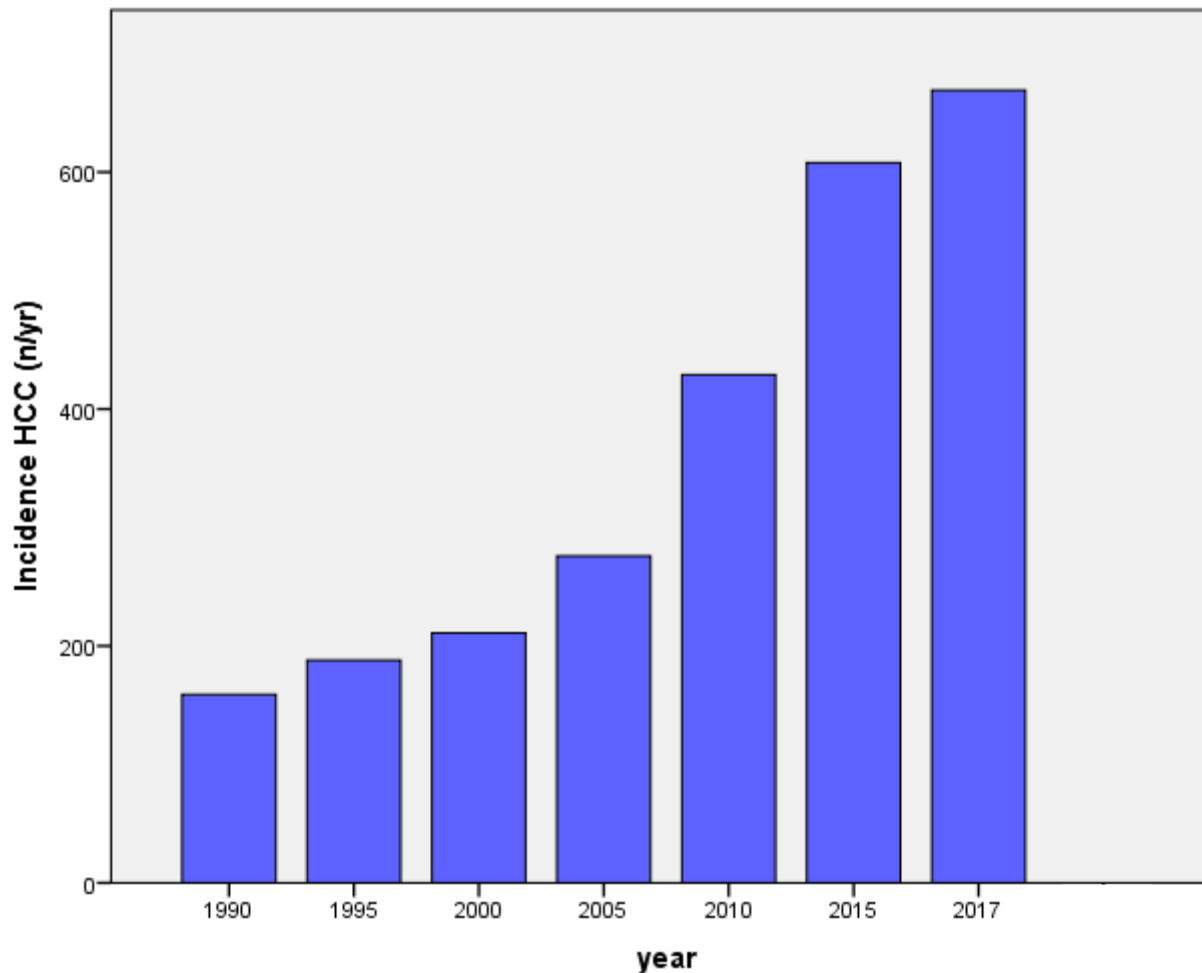
Noncirrhotic HCC: risk factors and prognosis

Is surveillance indicated?

Role of biopsy in diagnostic algorithm for suspected HCC

Evolving treatment cirrhotic HCC

Rising incidence of HCC



Risk of HCC depends on cause, ethnicity/region, stage of fibrosis/ cirrhosis

Cirrhosis is key risk factor for HCC development

- Prevalence of cirrhosis among patients with HCC 85%-95%
- HCC incidence rate in patients with cirrhosis 2%-4% per year

Geographical distribution of main risk factors for HCC worldwide

Geographic area	Risk factors		Alcohol	Others
	HCV(%)	HBV(%)	(%)	(%)
Europe	60-70	10-15	20	10
North America	50-60	20	20	10 (NASH)
Asia and Africa	20	70	10	10

Hepatocellular carcinoma in cirrhotic versus noncirrhotic livers: results from a large cohort in the Netherlands

	Total group	Cirrhosis	No cirrhosis	P-value ^a
Patient number	1221 (100)	983 (81)	238 (19)	
Male sex	936 (77)	779 (79)	157 (66)	< 0.001
Age at HCC diagnosis	63 (8–91)	63 (8–91)	65 (11–88)	0.514
BMI [mean (SD)]	26.7 (5.0)	27.1 (5.0)	25.4 (4.7)	< 0.001
Etiology				< 0.001
Alcohol	349 (29)	312 (32)	37 (16)	
Chronic viral hepatitis				
HBV	197 (16)	162 (16)	35 (15)	
HCV	249 (20)	236 (24)	13 (6)	
Coinfection	19 (2)	18 (2)	1 (< 1)	
Hemochromatosis	37 (3)	29 (3)	8 (3)	
NAFLD	181 (15)	114 (12)	67 (28)	
Others	43 (3)	39 (4)	4 (2)	
No risk factors known	146 (12)	73 (7)	73 (30)	
ALT (U/l)	47 (4–1193)	49 (4–1193)	39 (8–712)	< 0.001
AST (U/l)	66 (14–8678)	71 (15–8678)	46 (14–1344)	< 0.001
Albumin	38 (13–62)	37 (13–58)	43 (18–62)	< 0.001
Platelets	146 (8–985)	125 (8–985)	259 (62–724)	< 0.001
INR	1.1 (0.8–2.9)	1.2 (0.8–2.9)	1.0 (0.8–1.8)	< 0.001
PT	13.9 (9.7–36.7)	14.3 (10.0–36.2)	12.3 (9.7–36.7)	< 0.001
APRI	1.6 (0.1–304)	2.0 (0.1–304)	0.6 (0.1–32)	< 0.001
MELD score	9 (6–33)	10 (6–33)	7 (6–29)	< 0.001

Results indicate numbers and, between brackets, percentages. Continuous variables reported as medians and, between brackets, ranges unless otherwise indicated.

Significant P-values are in bold.

ALT, alanine transaminase; APRI, aspartate aminotransferase to platelet ratio index; AST, aspartate aminotransaminase; coinfection, HBV + HCV infection; HBV, hepatitis B virus; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; HCV, hepatitis C virus; INR, international normalized ratio; MELD, Model For End-Stage Liver Disease; NAFLD, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease; PT, prothrombin time.

^aP-value applies to the 'cirrhosis' versus 'no cirrhosis' groups.

Hepatocellular carcinoma in cirrhotic versus noncirrhotic livers: results from a large cohort in the Netherlands

	Total group	Cirrhosis	No cirrhosis	P-value ^a
Patient number	1221 (100)	983 (81)	238 (19)	
Number of lesions				< 0.001
1	632 (52)	473 (48)	159 (67)	
2	152 (12)	132 (14)	20 (8)	
3	68 (6)	63 (6)	5 (2)	
Multifocal/diffuse	369 (30)	315 (32)	54 (23)	
Tumor size (cm)	5 (1-26)	4 (1-26)	8 (1-26)	< 0.001
BCLC stage				< 0.001
0	75 (6)	72 (7)	3 (1)	
A	345 (28)	301 (31)	44 (18)	
B	406 (33)	274 (28)	132 (56)	
C	299 (25)	247 (25)	52 (22)	
D	96 (8)	89 (9)	7 (3)	
α -Fetoprotein (μ g/l)	29 (1-2.7 $\times 10^6$)	35 (1-1.8 $\times 10^6$)	10 (1-2.7 $\times 10^6$)	< 0.001
Treatments				< 0.001
Surgical therapy	341 (28)	215 (22)	126 (53)	
Resection	214 (18)	95 (10)	119 (50)	
Transplantation	120 (10)	116 (12)	4 (2)	
Both	6 (< 1)	4 (< 1)	2 (1)	
RFA ^b	149 (12)	145 (15)	4 (2)	
TACE/TARE ^c	207 (17)	176 (18)	31 (13)	
Systemic therapy	118 (10)	85 (8)	33 (14)	
Best supportive care	351 (29)	314 (32)	36 (15)	
Unknown	55 (4)	48 (5)	8 (3)	

Results indicate numbers and, between brackets, percentages. Continuous variables reported as medians and, between brackets, ranges.

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BCLC stage; tumor stage according Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer staging system; RFA, radiofrequency ablation; TACE, transcatheter arterial chemoembolization; TARE, transarterial radioembolization.

^aP-value applies to 'cirrhosis' versus 'no cirrhosis' groups.

^bThirteen patients received RFA and subsequently TACE with more than 1 month interval.

^cIn 31 patients a combination of TACE and RFA within a 1 month interval was performed as initial therapy.

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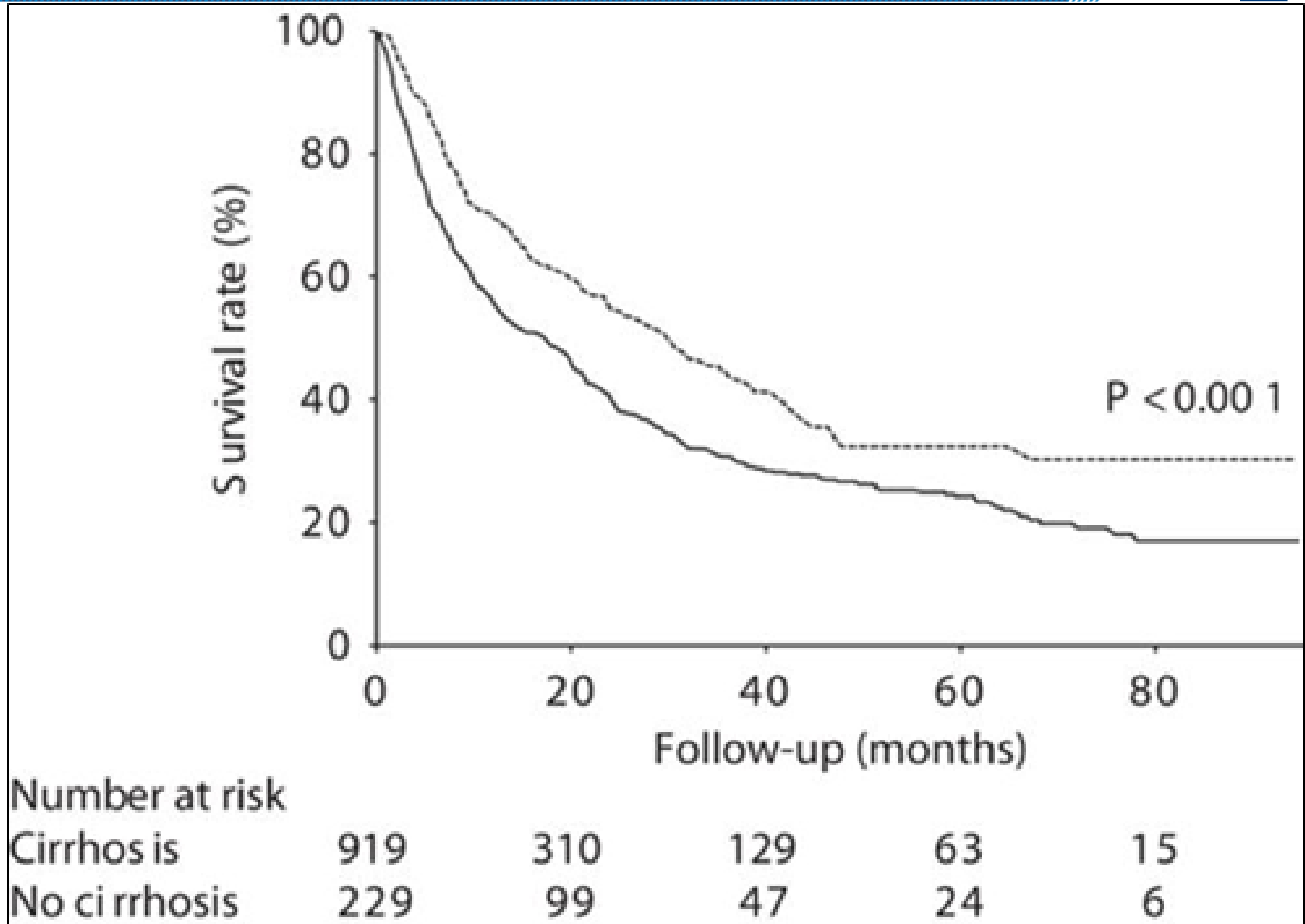
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Hepatocellular carcinoma in cirrhotic versus noncirrhotic livers: results from a large cohort in the Netherlands



Female 58 yr

HCV genotype 1A, non response to peginterferon/ ribavirin

Child Pugh A cirrhosis, MELD 6

Q: Surveillance for HCC?

YES

NO

Male, 66 yr

Diabetes mellitus, hypertension

NASH cirrhosis, Child Pugh B, MELD 8

Q: Surveillance for HCC?

YES

NO

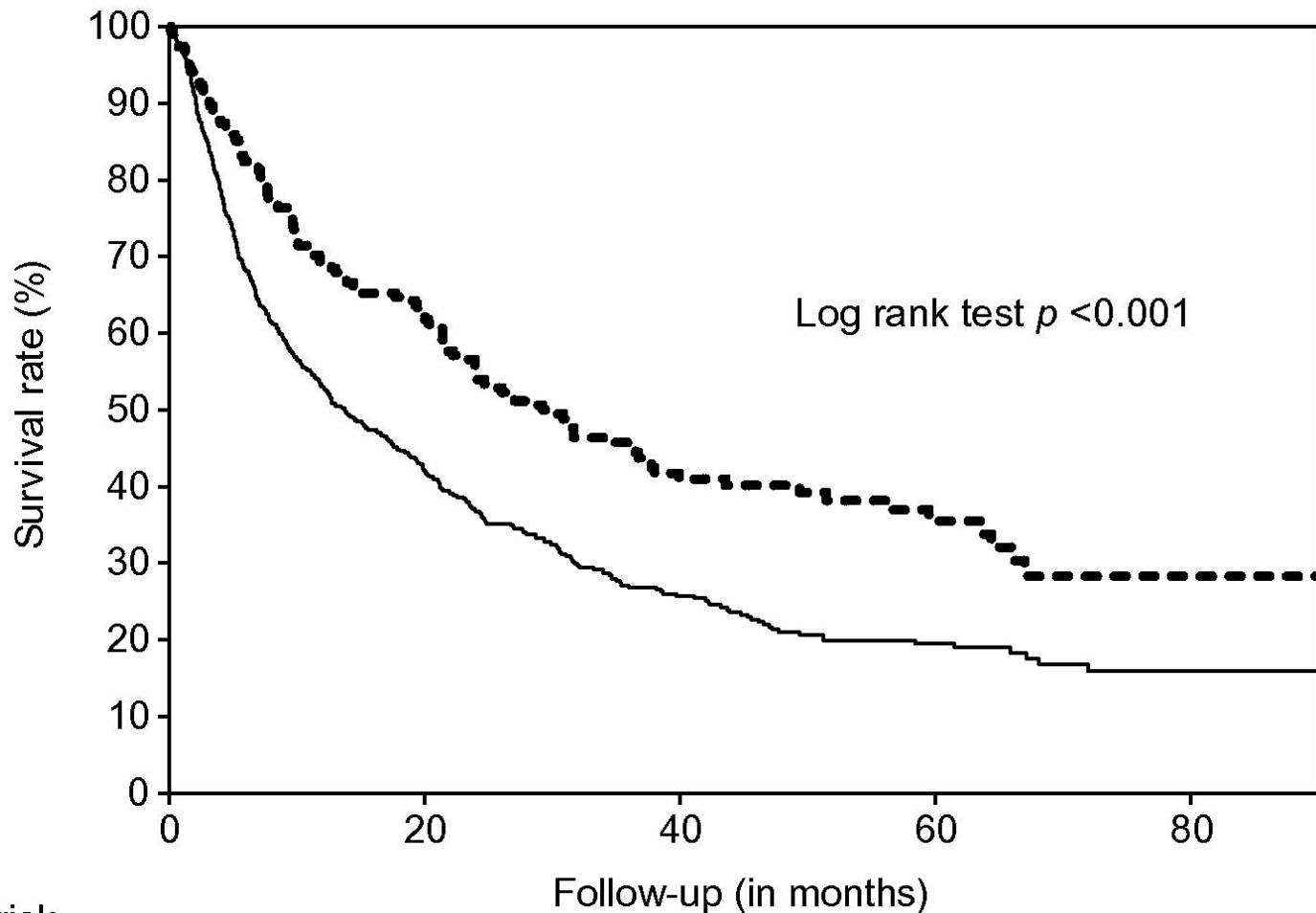
Surveillance for hepatocellular carcinoma is associated with increased survival: Results from a large cohort in NL

Retrospective analysis

Patients with HCC in 2005-2012 from five Dutch academic centers

	Surveillance 295 (27%)	Non surveillance 779 (73%)
Cirrhosis	286 (97%)	460 (60%)
Viral hepatitis	179 (61%)	214 (27%)
NAFLD	22 (7%)	154 (20%)
BCLC 0/A	179 (61%)	163 (21%)
Surgical treatment	101 (34%)	199 (25%)

Surveillance for hepatocellular carcinoma is associated with increased survival: Results from a large cohort in NL



Number at risk

Surveillance: 279

123

57

24

6

Non-surveillance: 720

216

86

43

8

EASL EORTC guideline 2012

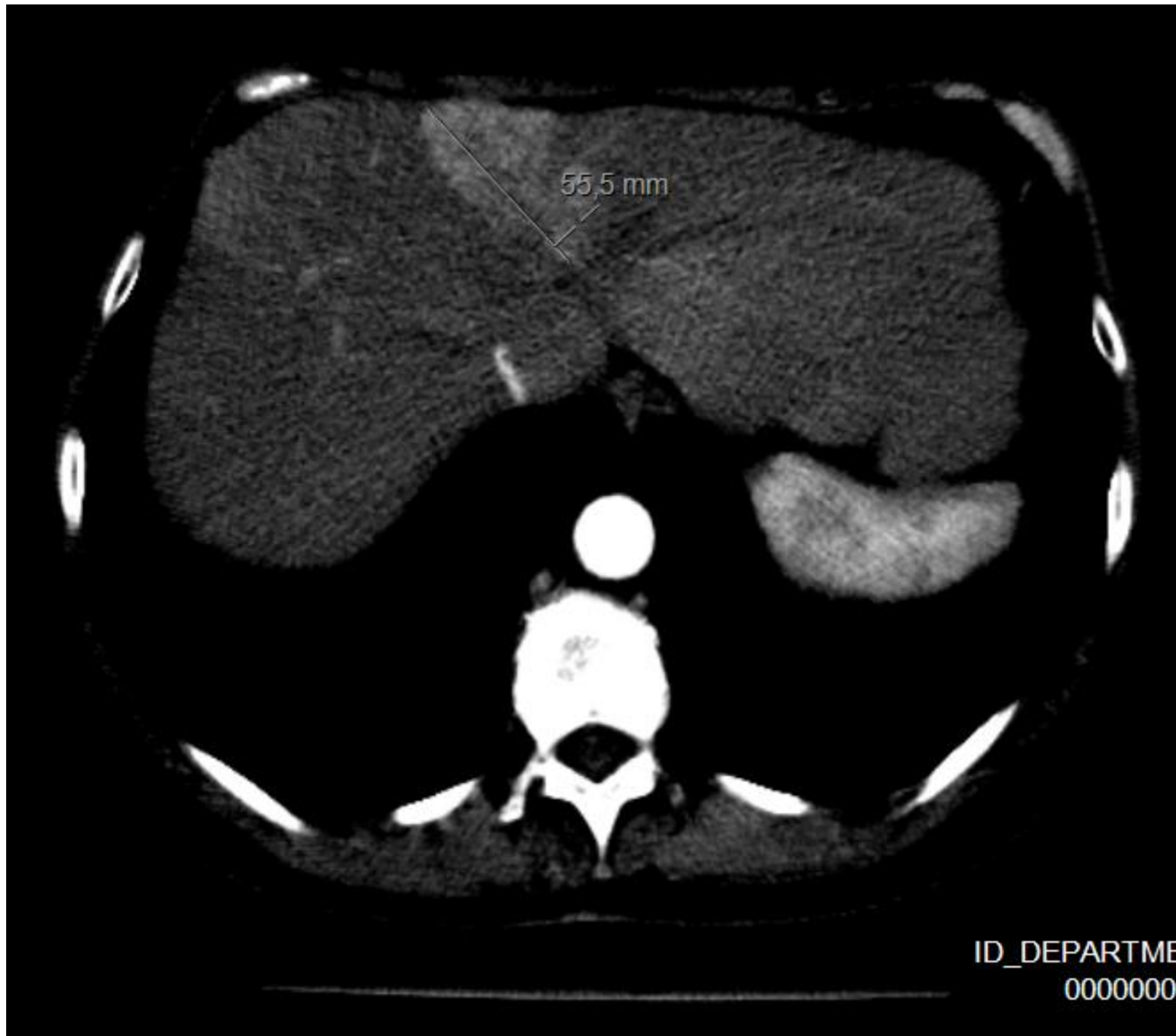
- Cirrhosis Child Pugh A and B and CP-C awaiting LT
- HCV F3 fibrosis
- Active HBV infection or with positive family history HCC

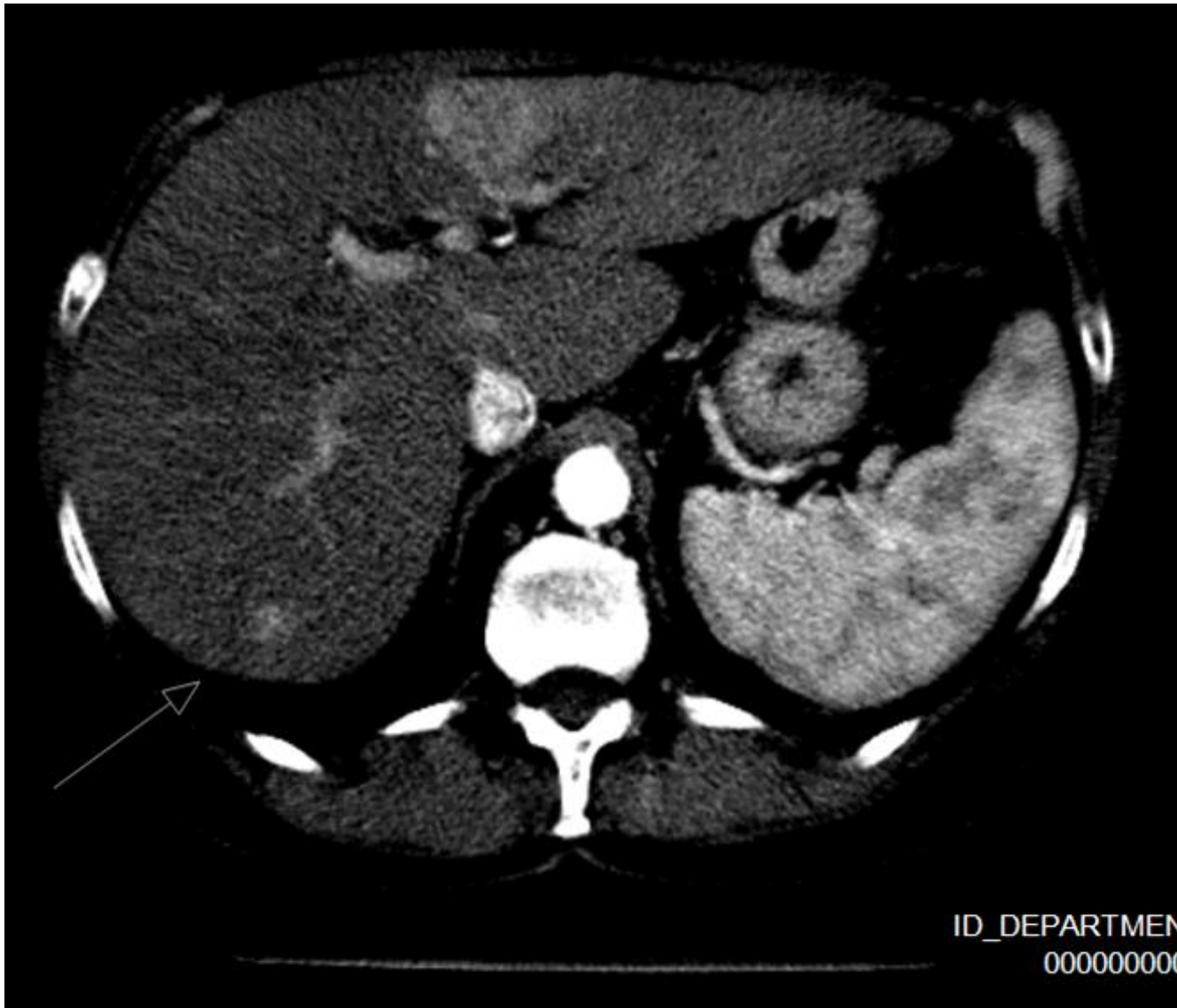
Nederlandse richtlijn 2013

- Cirrhosis due to HBV, HCV, ALD, hemochromatosis, PBC
- Active HBV infection or with positive family history HCC

AASLD guideline 2018

- Cirrhosis Child Pugh A and B and CP-C awaiting LT
- improvement in survival, higher early-stage HCC detection





Liver biopsy indicated for diagnosis?

Yes

No

Until 2000 diagnosis based on biopsy despite limitations

- Feasibility due to location
- Risk of complications (bleeding or needle-track seeding)
- Sampling error, especially in very small lesions

2001, expert panel reported non-invasive criteria for HCC

Recommendation #2 AASLD 2018

The AASLD recommends diagnostic evaluation for HCC with either multiphasic CT or multiphasic MRI because of similar diagnostic performance

AASLD HCC guideline 2018:

Substantial proportion of 1- to 2-cm indeterminate nodules are nonmalignant histologically and unlikely to progress to HCC during follow-up

The AASLD suggests against routine biopsy of every indeterminate nodule

Several options: follow-up imaging, alternative modality imaging or biopsy

Individualized diagnostic workup based on:

- clinical context
- imaging findings
- feasibility of biopsy
- institutional expertise

Biopsy in expert centres in potentially curable patients

Female 58 yr

HCV cirrhosis Child Pugh A, MELD 6

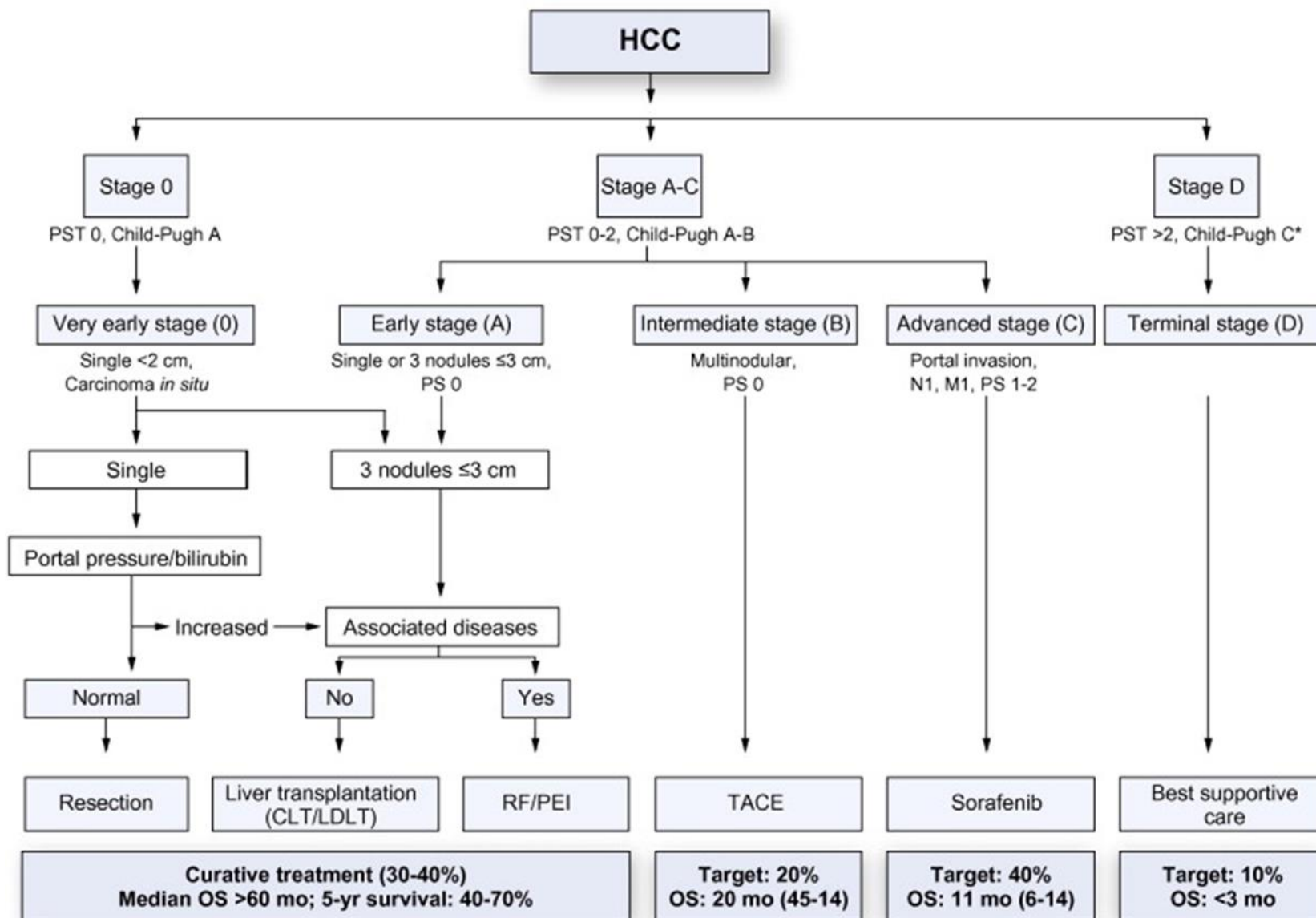
Multifocal bilobar HCC

ECOG performance status 0

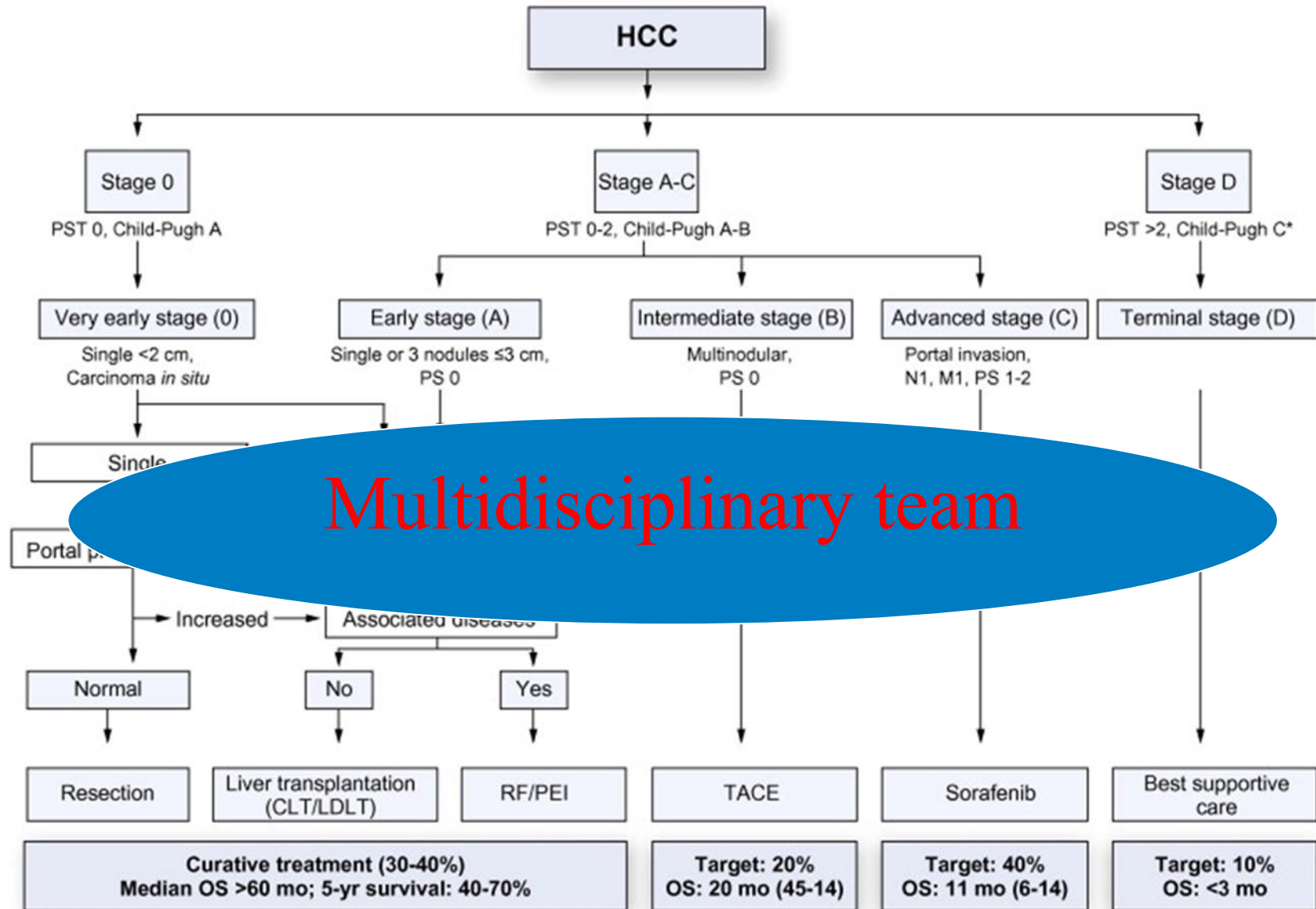
Stage?

Treatment?

BCLC staging system



BCLC staging system



Evolving field of HCC treatment: Early stage HCC

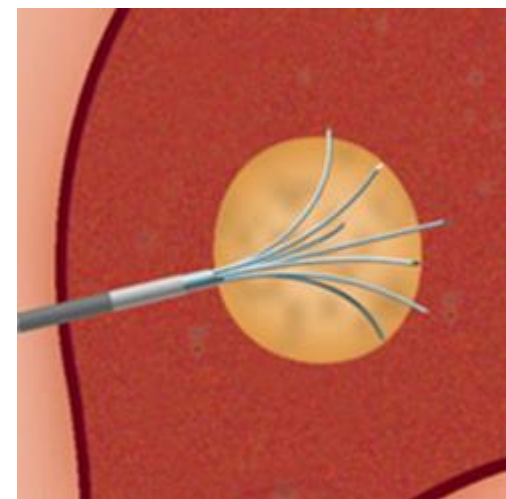
Recommendation #4 AASLD 2018

Adults with Child-Pugh class A cirrhosis and resectable T1 or T2 HCC undergo resection over radiofrequency ablation

2 RCTs: resection vs RFA in 578 patients with early stage HCC

overall survival HR 0.56; 95% CI, 0.40-0.78

2-year survival HR, 0.38; 95% CI, 0.17-0.84

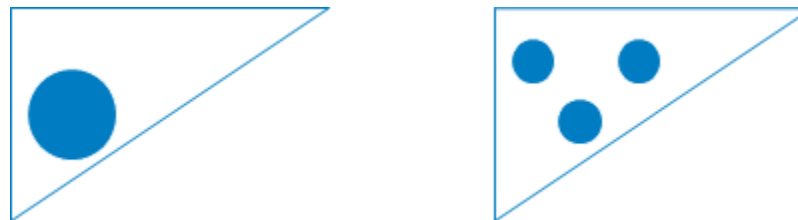


Recommendation #8 AASLD 2018

Patients beyond the Milan criteria (T3) should be considered for liver transplantation after successful downstaging into the Milan Criteria

The Milan criteria currently benchmark for selection in Eurotransplant

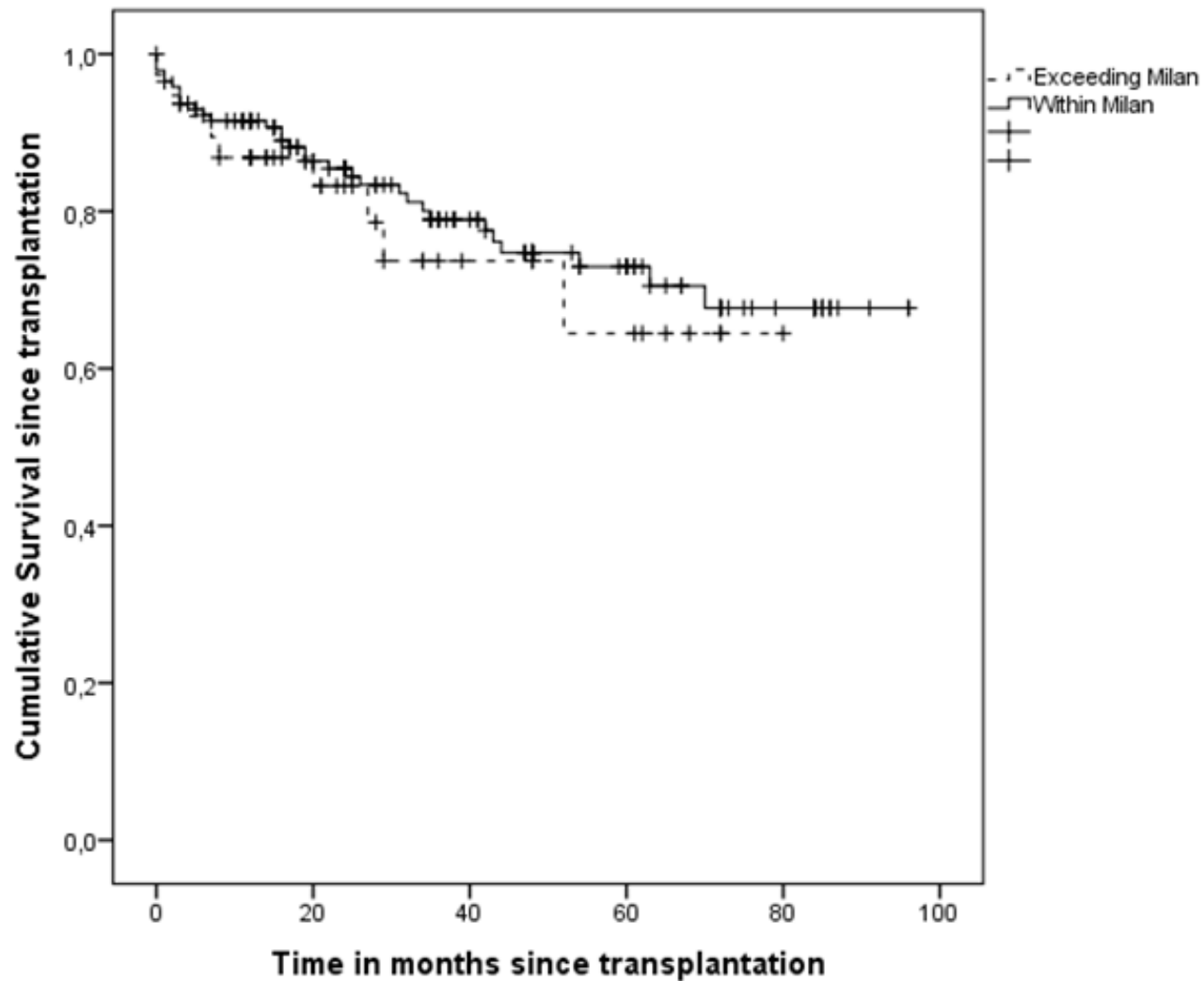
- 5 yr overall survival rate 70%
- Recurrence rate after liver transplantation 8-12%



The role of downstaging of hepatocellular carcinoma before liver transplantation in The Netherlands

Variable median (IQR)/ number (%)	Total cohort (n=230)	Within Milan at diagnosis (n= 183)	Exceeding Milan at diagnosis (n=47)
Age (y)	59 (52-63)	59 (53-63)	58 (50-63)
Male gender	181 (78%)	145 (79%)	34 (79%)
Cirrhosis present	220 (94%)	176 (96%)	41 (87%)
Etiology HCV	79 (34%)	61 (33%)	17 (36%)
HBV	31 (13%)	25 (14%)	6 (13%)
ALD	70 (30%)	57 (31%)	11 (23%)
Other	50 (33%)	40 (22%)	13 (28%)
AFP concentration	15 (5-105)	12 (5-101)	23 (8-221)
No of tumors 1	145 (63%)	126 (69%)	20 (43%)
2	56 (24%)	43 (24%)	11 (23%)
3	19 (8%)	12 (7%)	6 (13%)
4	8 (4%)		8 (17%)
Diameter largest nodule (mm)	24 (17-34)	22 (16-28)	52 (35-65)
Neoadjuvant LRT before LT	190 (81%)	145 (79%)	42 (89%)

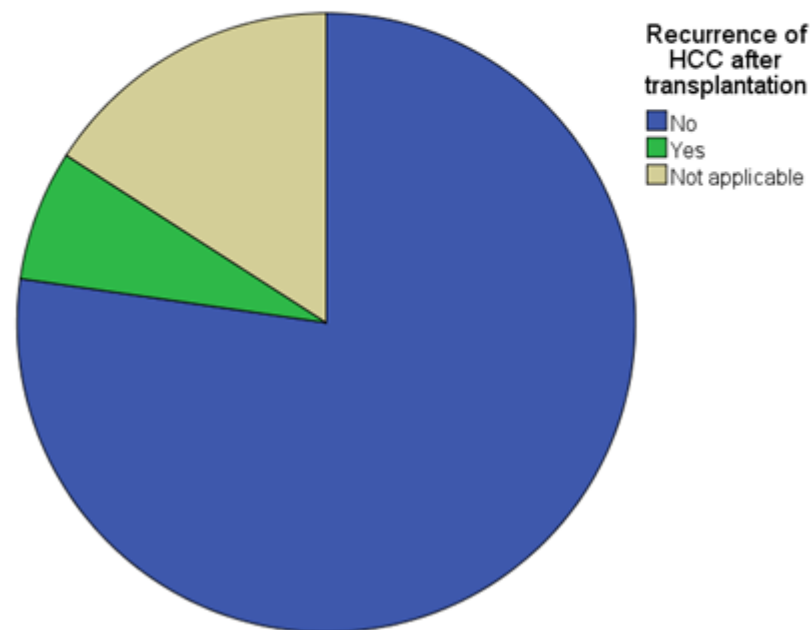
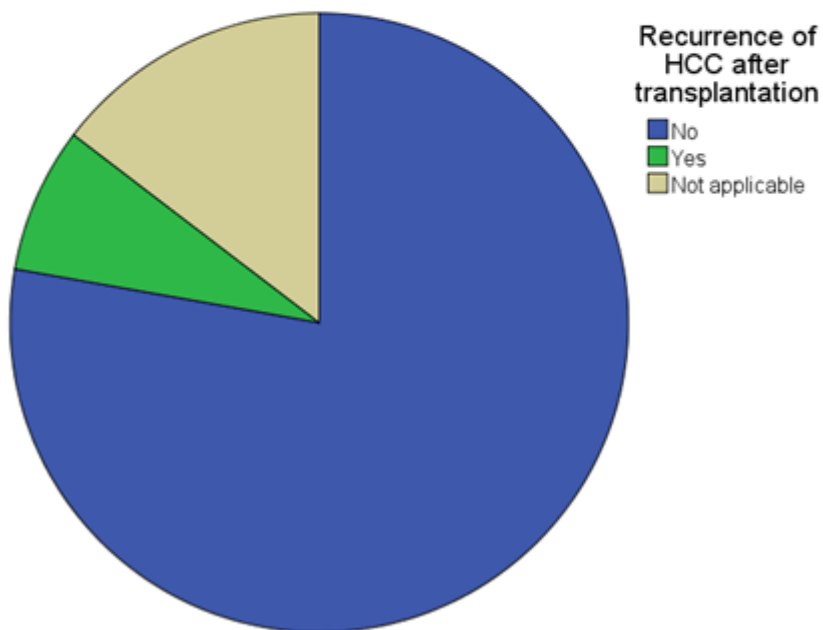
Survival after liver transplantation



Recurrence of HCC after LT

Within Milan criteria
13/145 (8.9%)

Exceeding Milan criteria
3/38 (7.8%)



Back to case: BCLC Intermediate stage HCC

April 2015 underwent whole liver TransArterial RadioEmbolisation (TARE) using Yttium90 microspheres

July 2015 Fulfilled Milan criteria, RF ablation of small residual HCC lesion

November 2015 within Milan criteria: screening for liver transplantation

National audit: registration at Wait List for transplantation

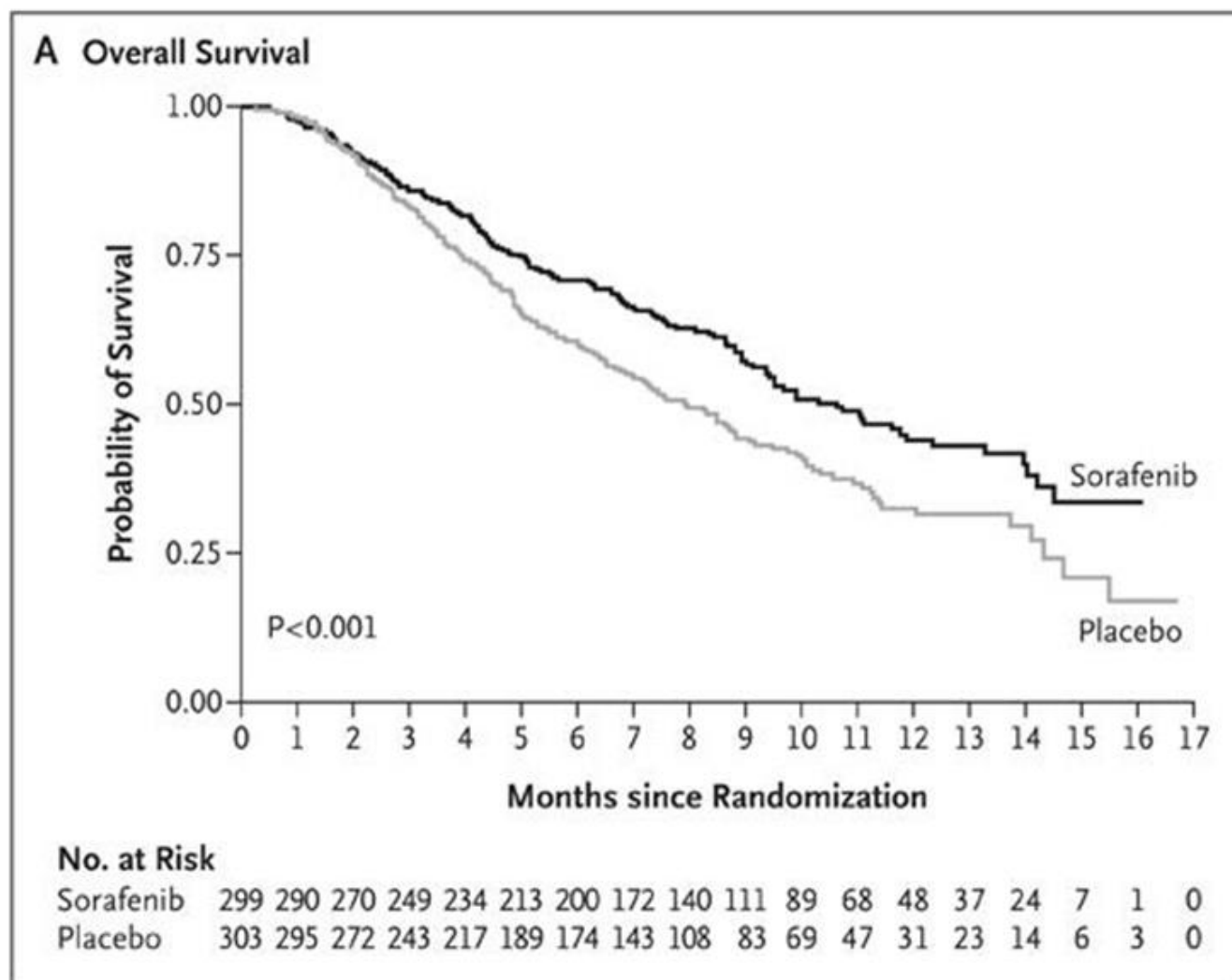
10-10-2016 Orthotopic LT

PA explant: Cirrhosis, in segm 4 reactive changes and embolisation material, no vital HCC

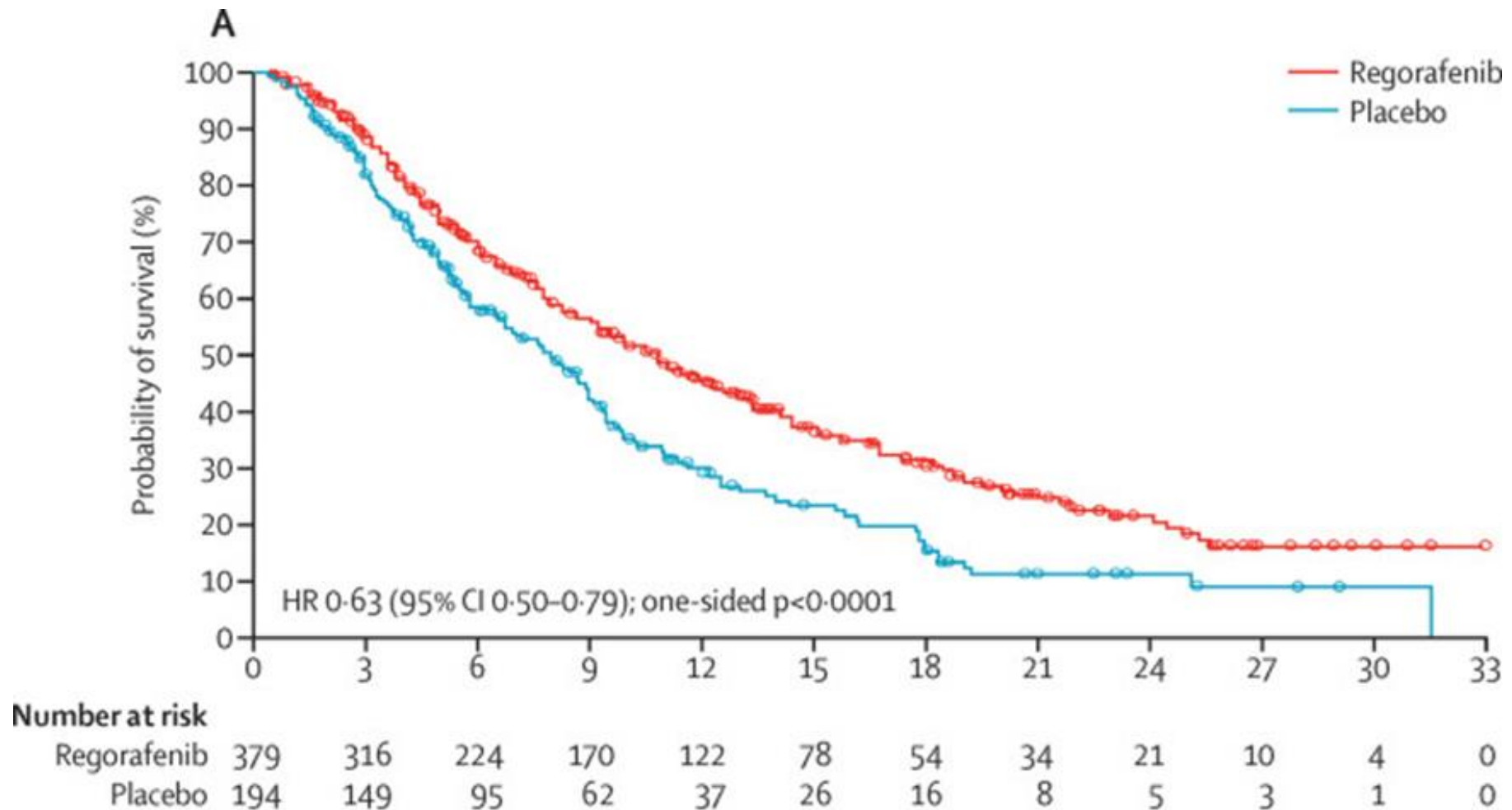
April 2018 Alive, good QOL, no sign of tumor recurrence

Recommendation #10 AASLD 2018

The AASLD recommends the use of systemic therapy over no therapy for patients with Child-Pugh class A cirrhosis or well-selected patients with Child-Pugh class B cirrhosis plus advanced HCC with macrovascular invasion and/or metastatic disease.



Regorafenib for patients with HCC who progressed on sorafenib treatment (RESORCE): a phase 3 trial



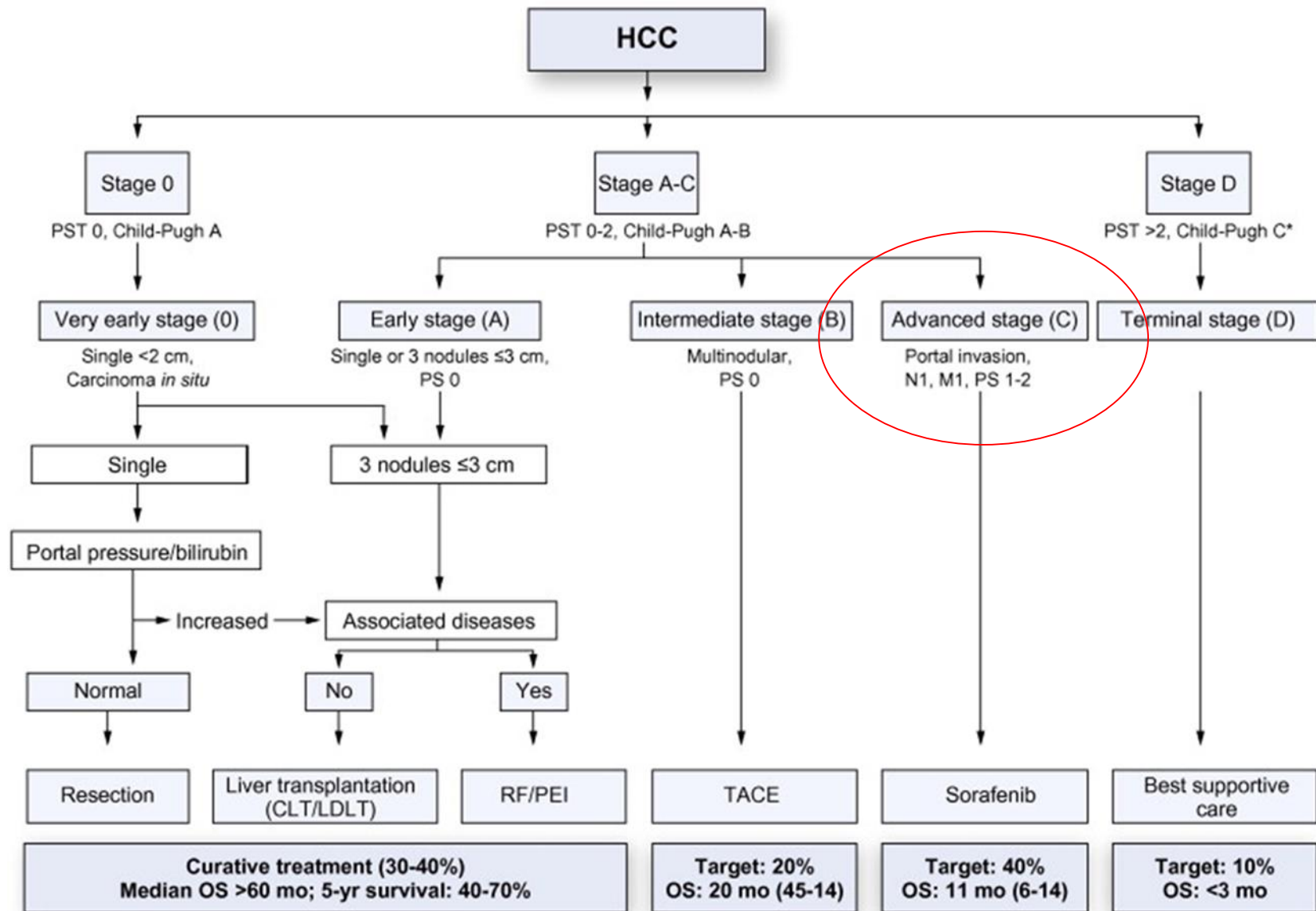
Immune checkpoint affects immune system functioning; can be stimulatory or inhibitory

Tumors can use checkpoints to protect from immune system

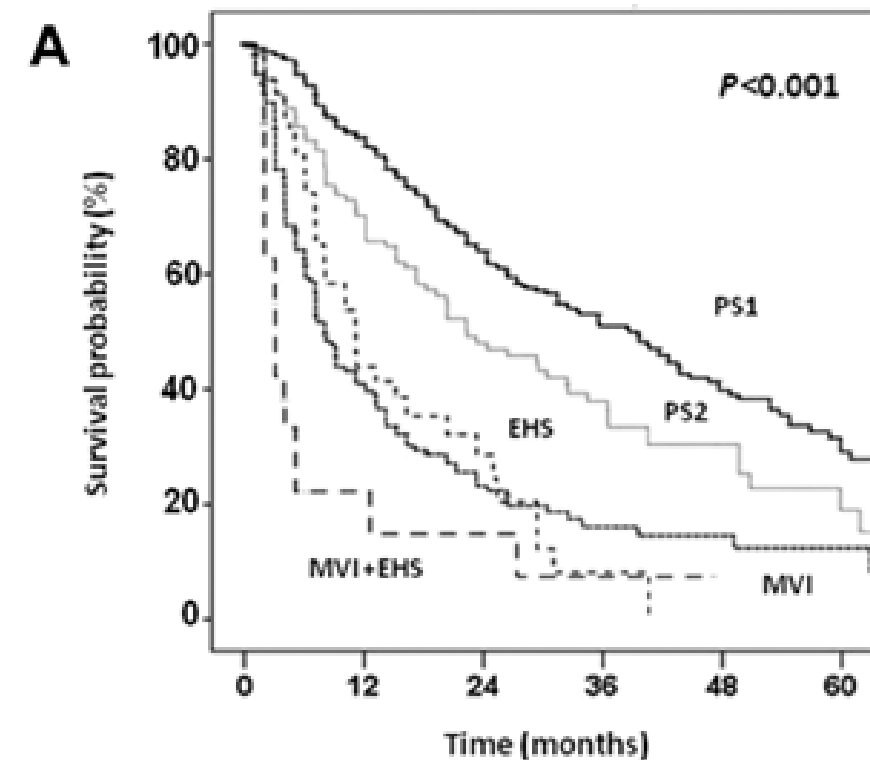
Checkpoint therapy blocking inhibitory checkpoints can restore immune cell function

- Tremelimumab (human monoclonal AB against cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated protein CTLA-4)
- Pembrolizumab (humanized PD-1 receptor inhibitor)
- Nivolumab (human PD-1 receptor inhibitor) Check Mate 040

Patients with advanced HCC need a personalized management: A lesson from clinical practice (ITA.LI.CA)

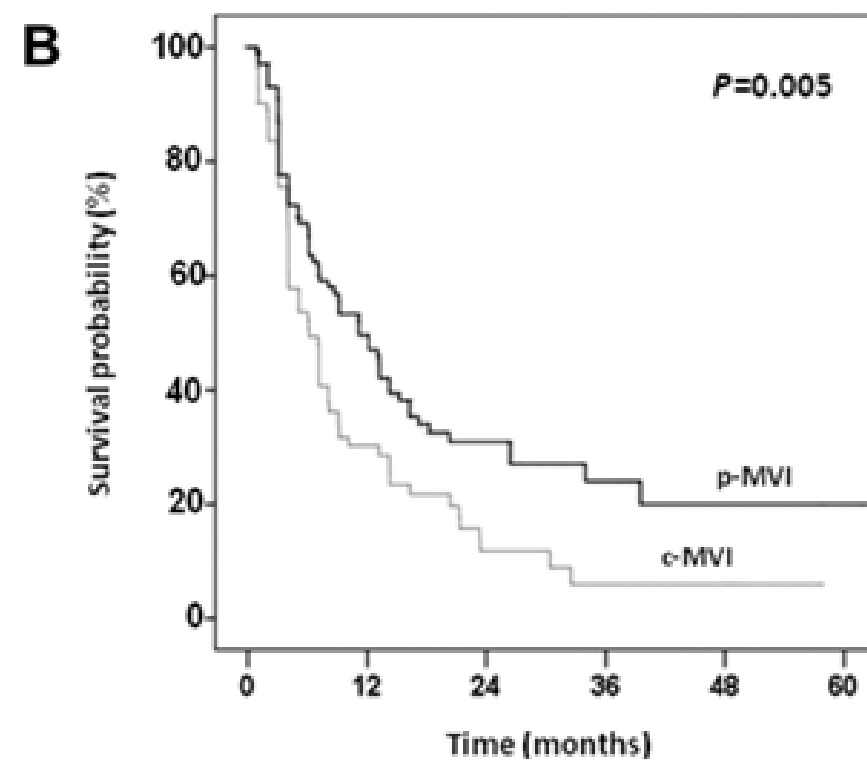


Patients with advanced HCC need a personalized management: A lesson from clinical practice (ITA.LI.CA)



Patients at risk:

PS1	385	269	171	103	55	24
PS2	146	77	43	25	11	4
MVI	224	66	27	11	6	3
EHS	69	17	8	2		
MVI+EHS	29	2	1			



Patients at risk:

p-MVI	108	39	19	8	8	8
c-MVI	86	17	6	1	1	1

Table 3. Treatment Distribution in the Various BCLC C Subclasses

	PS1 n = 385 (46.1)	PS2 n = 146 (17.5)	MVI n = 224 (26.8)	EHS n = 51 (6.1)
Liver transplant	10 (2.6)	1 (0.7)	—	—
Resection	29 (7.5)	7 (4.8)	23 (10.3)	2 (3.9)
Ablation	114 (29.6)	35 (24.0)	4 (1.8)	1 (2.0)
TA(C)E	133 (34.5)	25 (17.1)	11 (4.9)	7 (13.7)
TARE	3 (0.8)	—	10 (4.5)	2 (3.9)
Sorafenib	14 (3.6)	12 (8.2)	88 (39.3)	19 (37.3)
BSC	71 (18.4)	61 (41.8)	72 (32.1)	15 (29.4)

Rising incidence of HCC also in The Netherlands

20% of HCC in noncirrhotic patients

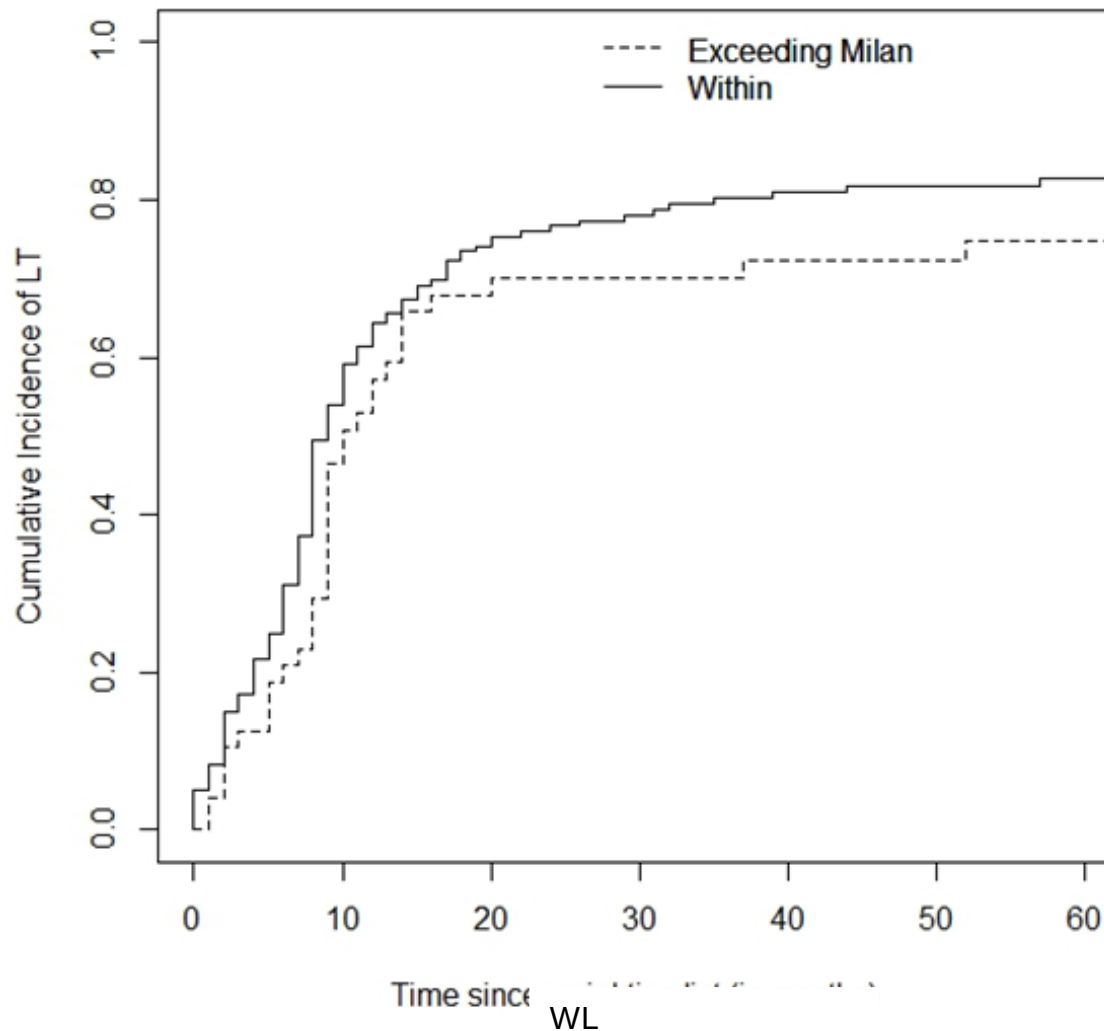
Surveillance by 6 months-interval ultrasound in cirrhotic patients

Tumor biopsy in expert centres in potentially curable patients

Multidisciplinary approach for HCC treatment

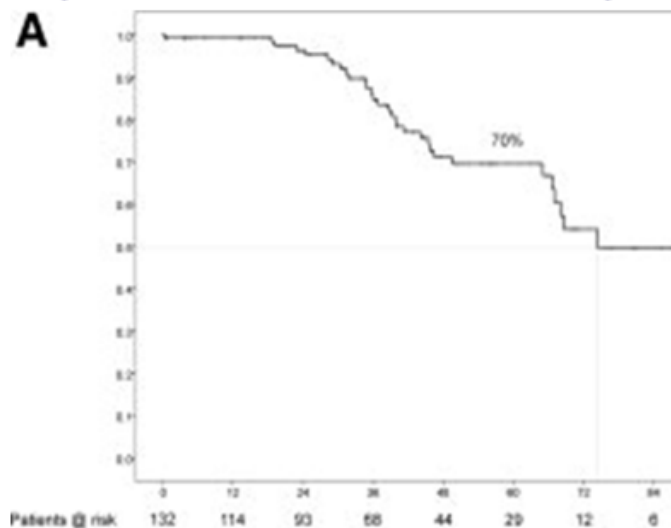
Evolving treatment cirrhotic HCC: from '*one size fits all*' to more personalized approach

Cumulative incidence of liver transplantation

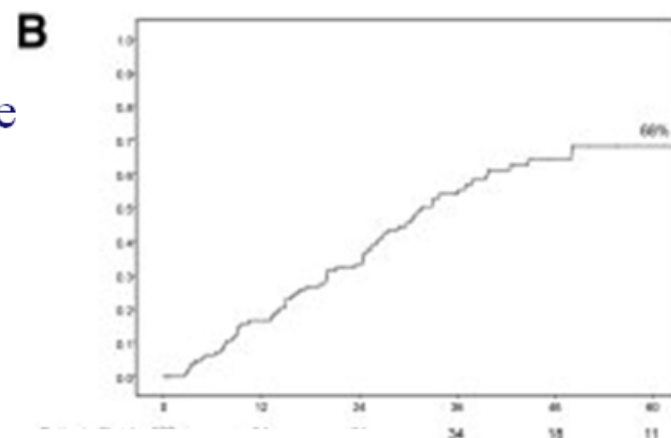


Resection of HCC < 2 cm: results from 2 Western centers

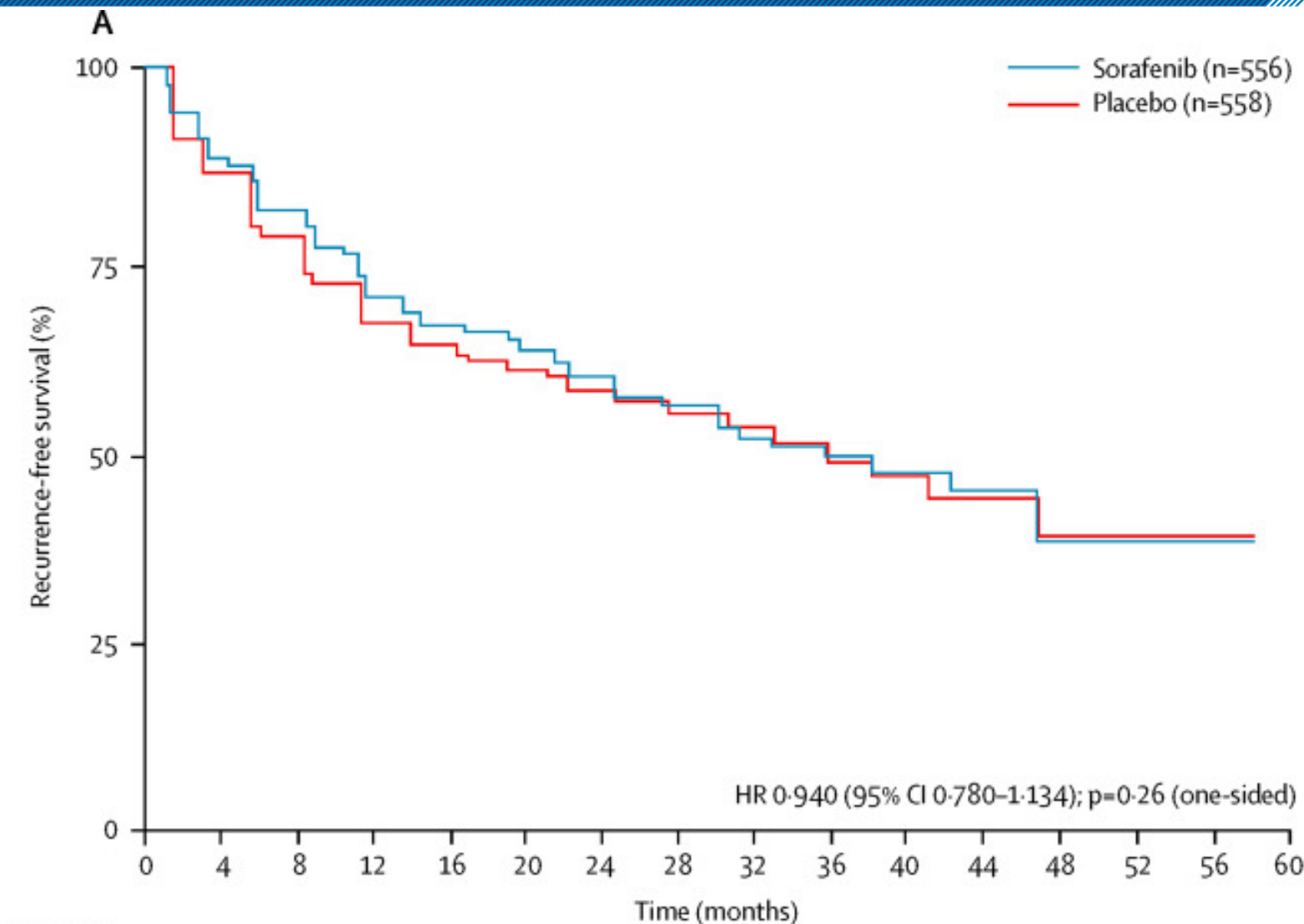
Overall survival



Time to recurrence



Adjuvant sorafenib for hepatocellular carcinoma after resection or ablation (STORM): a phase 3 trial

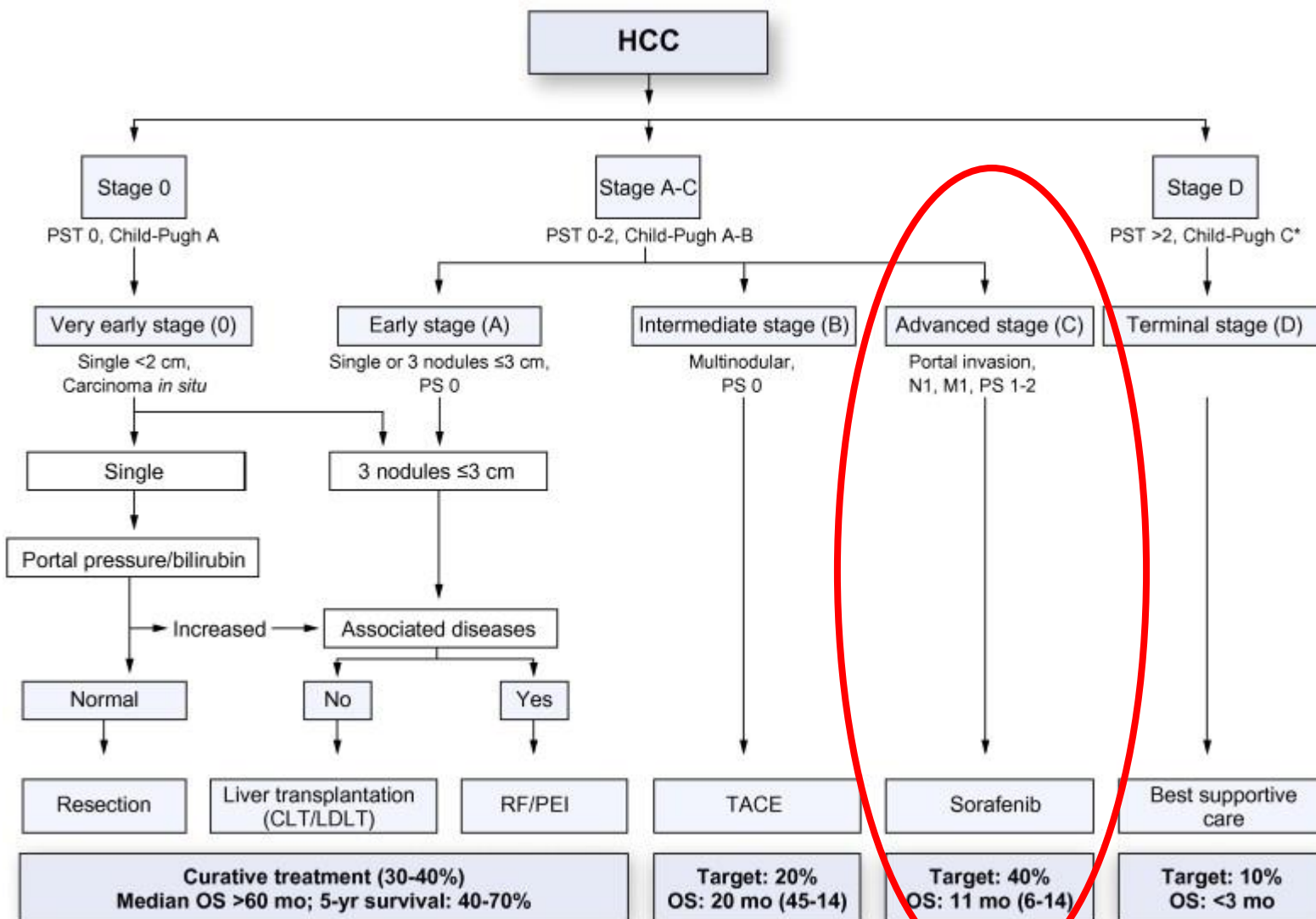


Number at risk																
Placebo	558	442	387	322	295	266	250	229	213	166	121	88	21	15	1	
Sorafenib	556	349	298	244	221	192	172	153	135	102	70	50	6	4	1	

10. SHOULD ADULTS WITH
CHILD-PUGH CLASS A/B
CIRRHOSIS AND ADVANCED HCC
WITH MACROVASCULAR
INVASION AND/OR METASTATIC
DISEASE BE TREATED WITH
SYSTEMIC THERAPY OR LRT OR
NO THERAPY?

Recommendation

10. The AASLD recommends the use of systemic therapy over no therapy for patients with Child-Pugh class A cirrhosis or well-selected patients with Child-Pugh class B cirrhosis plus advanced HCC with macrovascular invasion and/or metastatic disease.



ADVANCED STAGE HCC: combined locoregional and systemic therapy superior?



Sorafenib with vs without cTACE in pts with advanced HCC; results from a multicenter, open label, phase III RCT



Background: Standard of care in advanced stage HCC: first-line sorafenib therapy

Aim: Phase III trial evaluating effect of SOR +/- Transarterial chemoembolisation

Methods:

Multicenter RCT in 339 patients from 13 hospitals in South Korea

Sorafenib + TACE versus Sorafenib alone

Follow-up until progression or unacceptable toxicities

Sorafenib with vs without cTACE in pts with advanced HCC; results from a multicenter, open label, phase III RCT

	SOR + TACE	SOR	HR	P
Median overall survival	12.8 mo	10.8 mo	0.91 (95% CI 0.69-1.21)	p=0.290
Time to progression	5.3 mo	3.5 mo	0.67 (0.53-0.85)	P=0.0028
SAE	33.3%	19.8%		0.006
Grade ≥3 SAE				
↑ALAT	20.3%	3.6%		<0.05
↑bilirubin	11.8%	3.0%		
Ascites	11.8%	4.2%		

Conclusions:

Combined TACE + sorafenib therapy did not improve OS in advanced stage HCC

The SORAMIC trial palliative cohort: an Investigator Initiated Trial

JENS RICKE FOR THE SORAMIC STUDY GROUP

Funded by



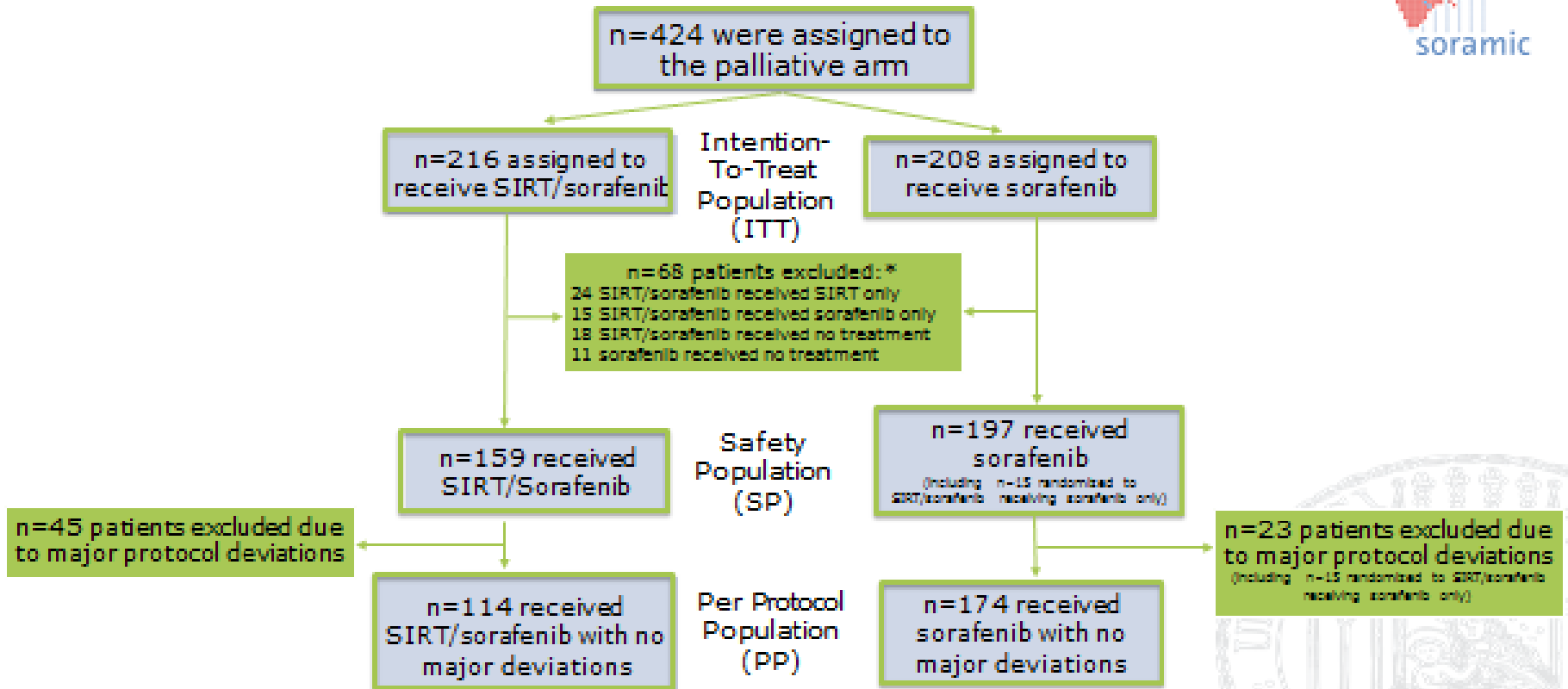
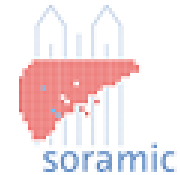
Bayer HealthCare

Sponsored by



PATIENT FLOW

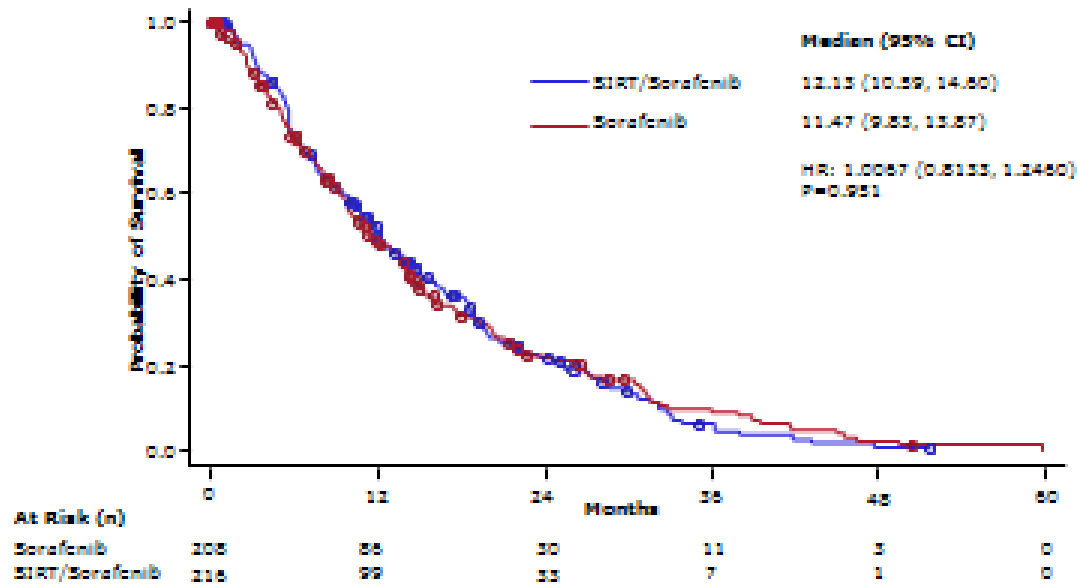
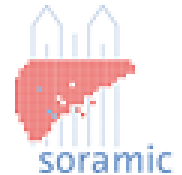
BCLC B and C patients



*Two sites, recruiting 38 patients, experienced major compliance issues despite diligent follow-up to implement corrective action. The data from these sites could not be recovered. The compliance issues were reported to the national authorities.

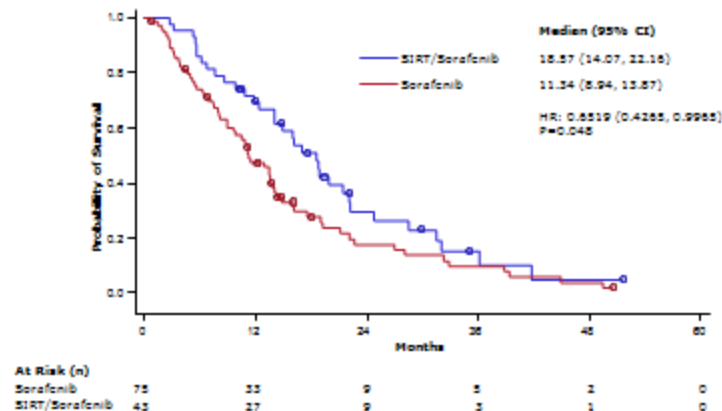
KLINIKUM DER UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN*
KLINIK UND POLIKLINIK FÜR RADIOLOGIE

OVERALL SURVIVAL: SIRT/SORAFENIB VS SORAFENIB (INTENT-TO-TREAT POPULATION)



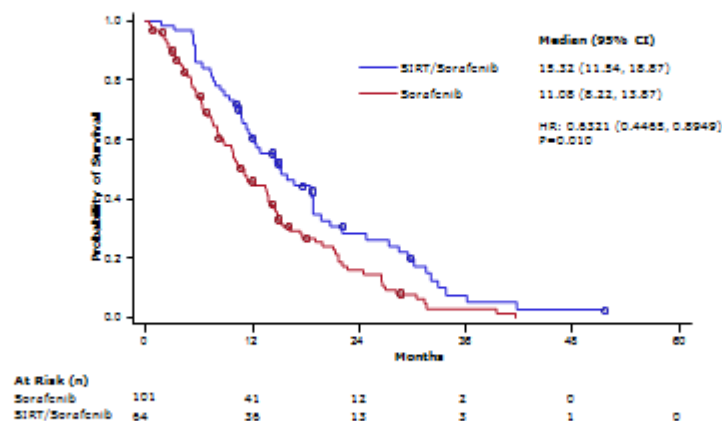
KLINIKUM DER UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN
KLINIK UND POLIKLINIK FÜR RADIOLOGIE

OVERALL SURVIVAL: PATIENTS <65 YEARS OF AGE (PER PROTOCOL POPULATION)



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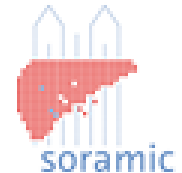
OVERALL SURVIVAL: PATIENTS WITH NON-ALCOHOLIC AETIOLOGY (PER PROTOCOL POPULATION)



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SUMMARY OF STUDY RESULTS

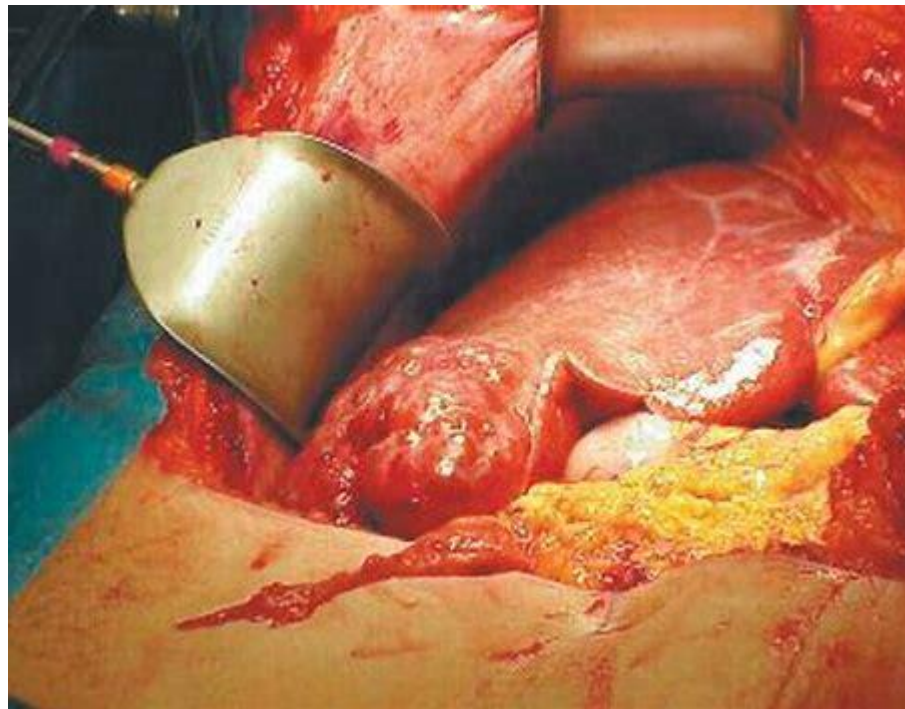
PALLIATION STUDY

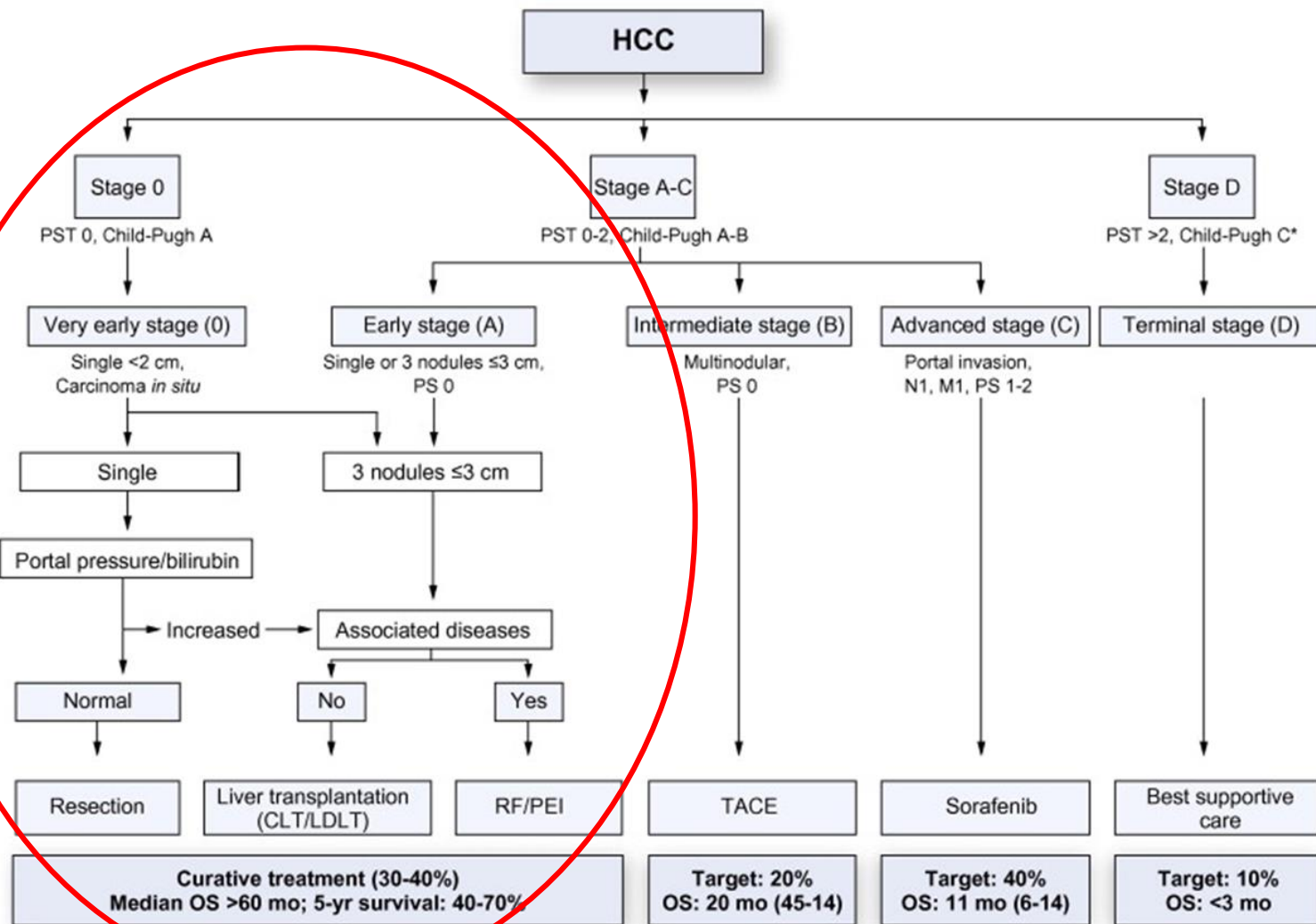


- The addition of SIRT to the sorafenib treatment regimen did not result in a significant improvement in survival compared to sorafenib alone
- The safety and toxicity of the SIRT/sorafenib combination was similar to sorafenib alone
- Subgroup analyses (hypothesis generating) suggest a clinical benefit for:
 - *non-cirrhotics*
 - *patients presenting with non-alcoholic aetiology*
 - *younger patients*



Early stage HCC: adjuvant immunotherapy in HCC patients eligible for curative treatment





Sustained Efficacy of Adjuvant Immunotherapy with Cytokine-Induced Killer Cells for HCC

An Extended Follow-up Study of a RCT

Jeong-Hoon Lee M.D. | Ph.D.

Department of Internal Medicine and Liver Research Institute
Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea



Early HCC (vs. EGC): early recurrence of the tumor

HCC



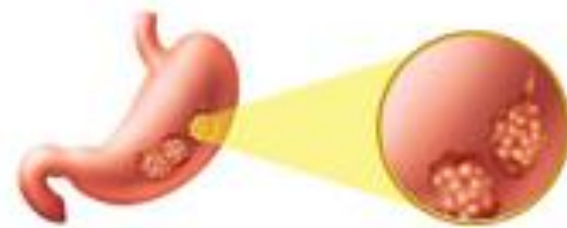
after curative treatment
(resection, RFA, or PEI)

5 YSR: 76.1%

5 yr RFS: **29.1%**

Cho EJ et al. Clin Cancer Res. 2013;19:4218-27.

EGC



after curative resection

5 YSR: >90%
(mucosal tumor, ~ 100%;
submucosal tumor, 80-90%)

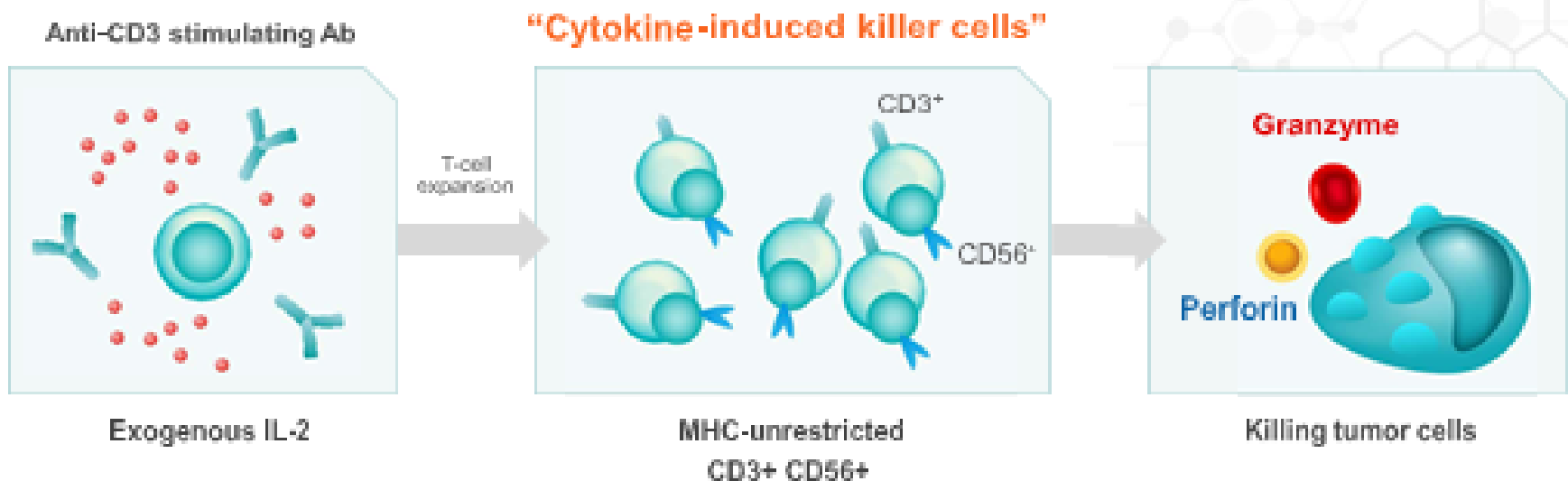
5 yr RFS: **97.8%**

Youn HG et al. Ann Surg Oncol. 2010;17:448-54.

No adjuvant therapy proven to reduce the risk of HCC recurrence

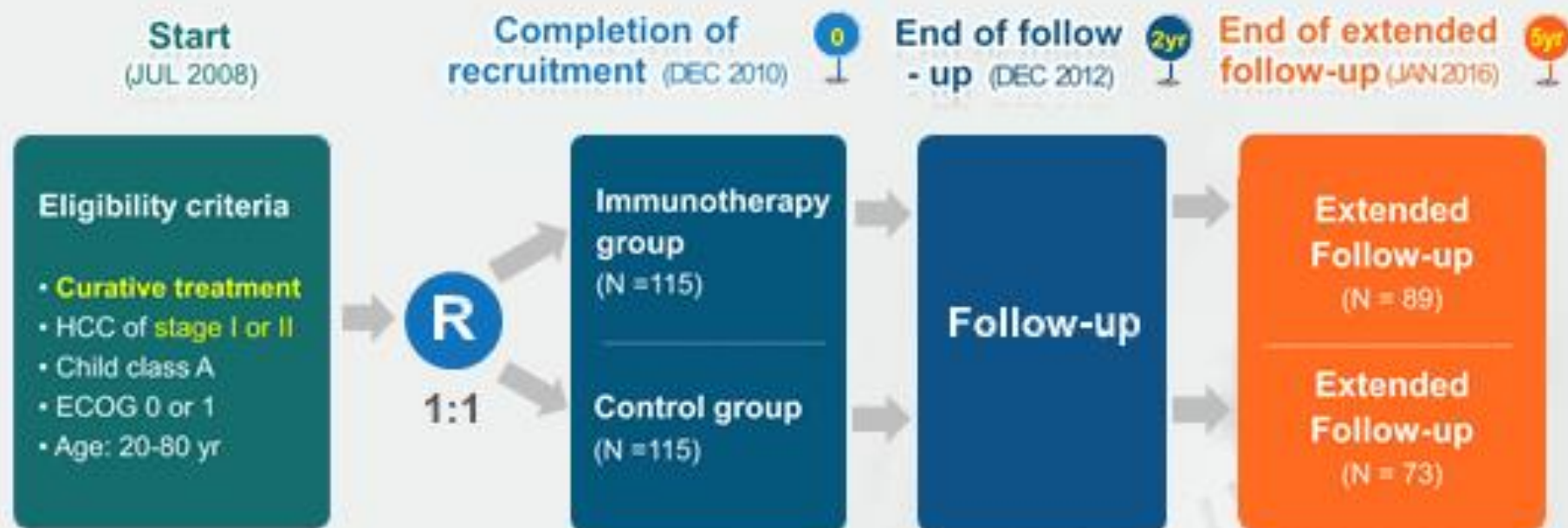
Cytokine-induced killer (CIK) cells

ex vivo expanded autologous **T cells** (with anti-CD3 mAb, IL-2)
with **NK cell** functions (non-MHC-restricted)



Extended Follow-up Study: Study Design

ClinicalTrials.gov number: NCT01890291



* Median follow-up duration: 68.5 months (IQR, 45.0-82.2)

← Original study: 38.0 months

Primary endpoint: RFS

Secondary endpoints: OS, cancer-specific survival

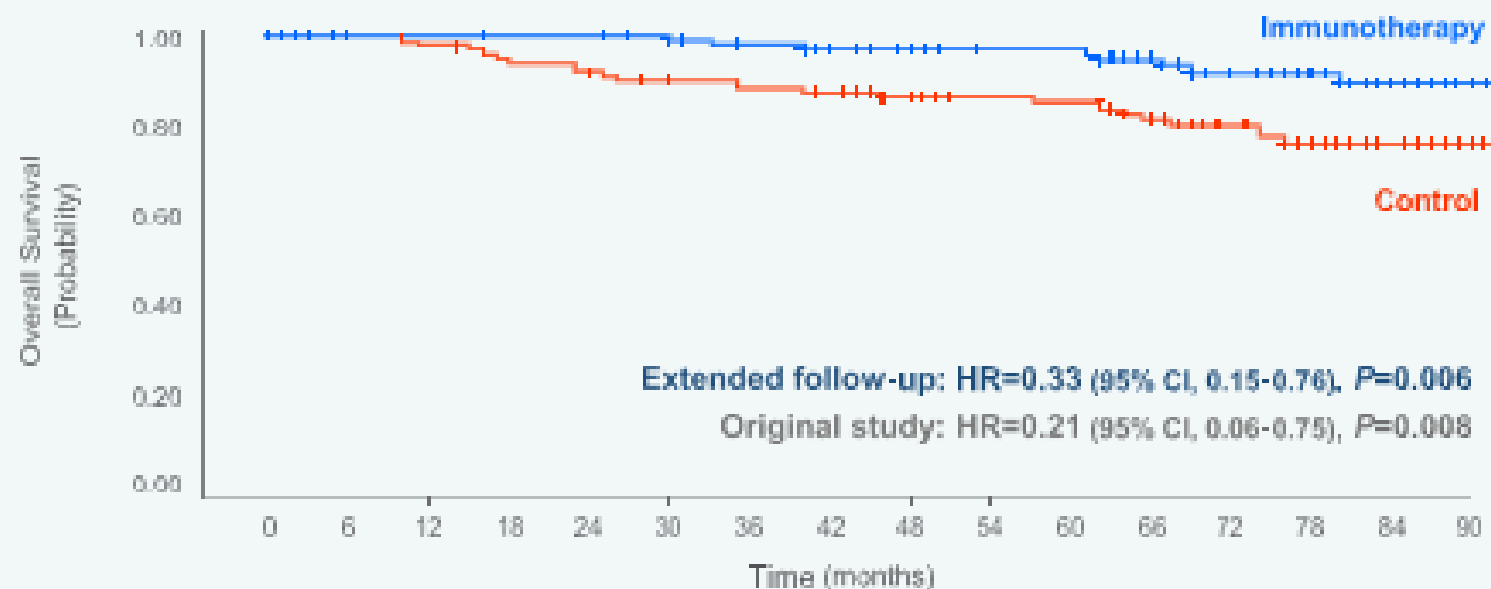
Baseline Characteristics



Variable	Immunotherapy (n = 114)	Control (n = 112)	P Value
Sex, male, N (%)	95 (83.3)	91 (81.3)	0.68
Age, years, mean (SE)	55.4 (8.2)	56.4 (10.8)	0.41
Treatment modality, N (%)			0.06
PEI	13 (11.4)	4 (3.6)	0.67
RFA	69 (60.5)	70 (62.5)	
Surgical resection	32 (28.1)	38 (33.9)	
HCC stage, N (%)			0.67
Stage I	98 (86.0)	94 (83.9)	0.03
Stage II	16 (14.0)	18 (16.1)	
Size of HCC, cm, median (IQR)	1.8 (1.4–2.3)	2.3 (1.5–3.1)	0.51
Cirrhosis, N (%)	76 (66.7)	70 (62.5)	0.01
Platelet, $\times 10^3/\text{mm}^3$, median (IQR)	117 (92–158)	141 (118–166)	

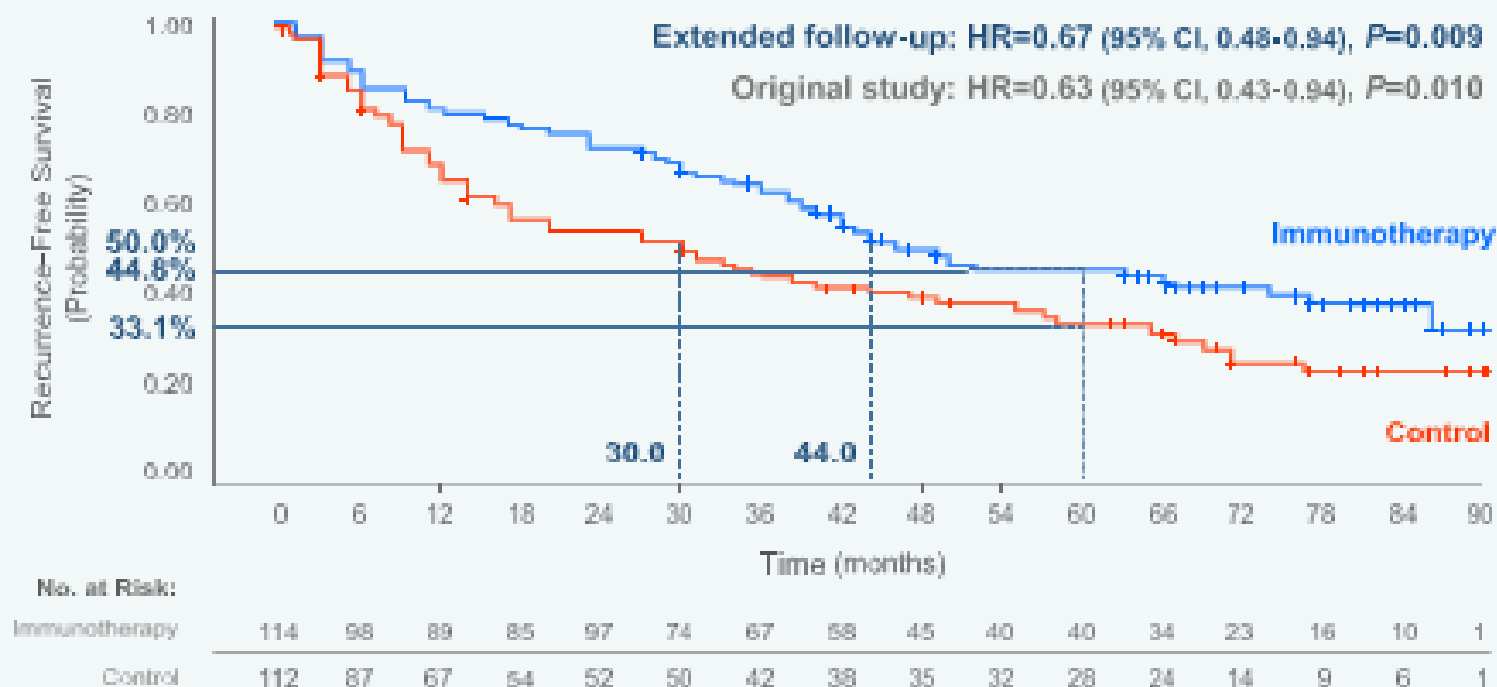


Overall Survival



No. at Risk:		Time (months)															
Immunotherapy	114	109	109	108	108	106	101	96	90	86	86	75	55	45	27	2	
Control	112	100	97	93	91	86	84	81	75	71	70	61	43	34	20	3	

Recurrence-Free Survival



Median RFS: 44.0 mo vs 30.0 mo

5-YR RFS rate: 44.8% vs 33.1%

Summary

🌐 Adjuvant autologous CIK cell immunotherapy

▲ RFS, OS, and cancer-specific survival

Sustained during an extended follow-up period

- ▼ 33% risk of recurrence or death
- ▼ 67% risk of overall death

🌐 CIK cells might have a prolonged antitumor activity

- Long-lasting memory T cells
- Memory NK cells
- CIK cells itself as a terminally differentiated memory T cells



Aim: assess accuracy of diagnostics of liver lesion in women with childbearing potential

Methods: Pregnancy and Liver adenoma Management (PALM) study, multicenter prospective cohort study

Results:

57 women with suspected hepatocellular adenomas

median size 25 mm

CE-MRI confirmed HCA 48/57 (84%); 9/57 (16%) Focal Nodular Hyperplasia

Conclusion:

Large proportion of childbearing women suspected of having HCA appears to have FNH. State of art imaging warranted

Original Study: Adverse Events

Background



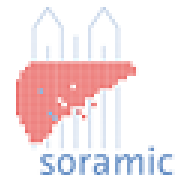
	Immunotherapy (n=115)				Control (n=115)			
	All AE		TEAE		All AE		P value	
Adverse events	Any grade	Grade 3 or 4	Any grade	Grade 3 or 4	Any grade	Grade 3 or 4	Any grade	Grade 3 or 4
Overall	71 (62%)	7 (6%)	40 (35%)	0	47 (41%)	4 (4%)	.002	.35
Vomiting	3 (3%)	0	1 (1%)	0	3 (3%)	1 (1%)	1.00	1.00
Chills	10 (9%)	0	9 (8%)	0	0	0	.001	NA
Fatigue	11 (10%)	0	3 (3%)	0	3 (3%)	0	.03	NA
Pyrexia	13 (11%)	0	10 (9%)	0	0	0	<.001	NA
URI	7 (6%)	0	0	0	3 (3%)	0	.20	NA
Headache	3 (3%)	0	2 (2%)	0	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	.62	1.00
Productive cough	6 (5%)	0	0	0	0	0	.03	NA

But, no difference in serious AE (7.8% vs 3.5%, P=0.15)

Lee JH et al. Gastroenterology 2015;148:1383-91.

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KEY PATIENT SELECTION CRITERIA PALLIATION STUDY



Inclusion criteria:

- Child Pugh A through B7
- BCLC B (not eligible for TACE per investigator decision) and C
- Prior resection (transplant excluded) or vascular (PEI, TAE, TACE, RFA) procedures permitted
 - *Post TACE/TAE: >3 months interval and revascularization present*
 - *Extra-hepatic disease (excluding pulmonary metastases) permitted*

Exclusion criteria:

- Bilirubin above 1.5 times the upper limit of the normal range
- Hepato-pulmonary shunt leading to a lung dose >30 Gy
- any previous external beam radiation therapy to the liver
- previous therapy with monoclonal antibodies

