



Targeted Therapy and Biomarker-Driven Treatments in Biliary Tract Cancer

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The University of Texas
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FLASCO, February 2025


BTC: Advancement in clinical science, for 15 years

ABC-02: GemCis improves OS in 1st line therapy (UK trial, 2010)

Standard of care for the 1st time in BTC

2010

2025



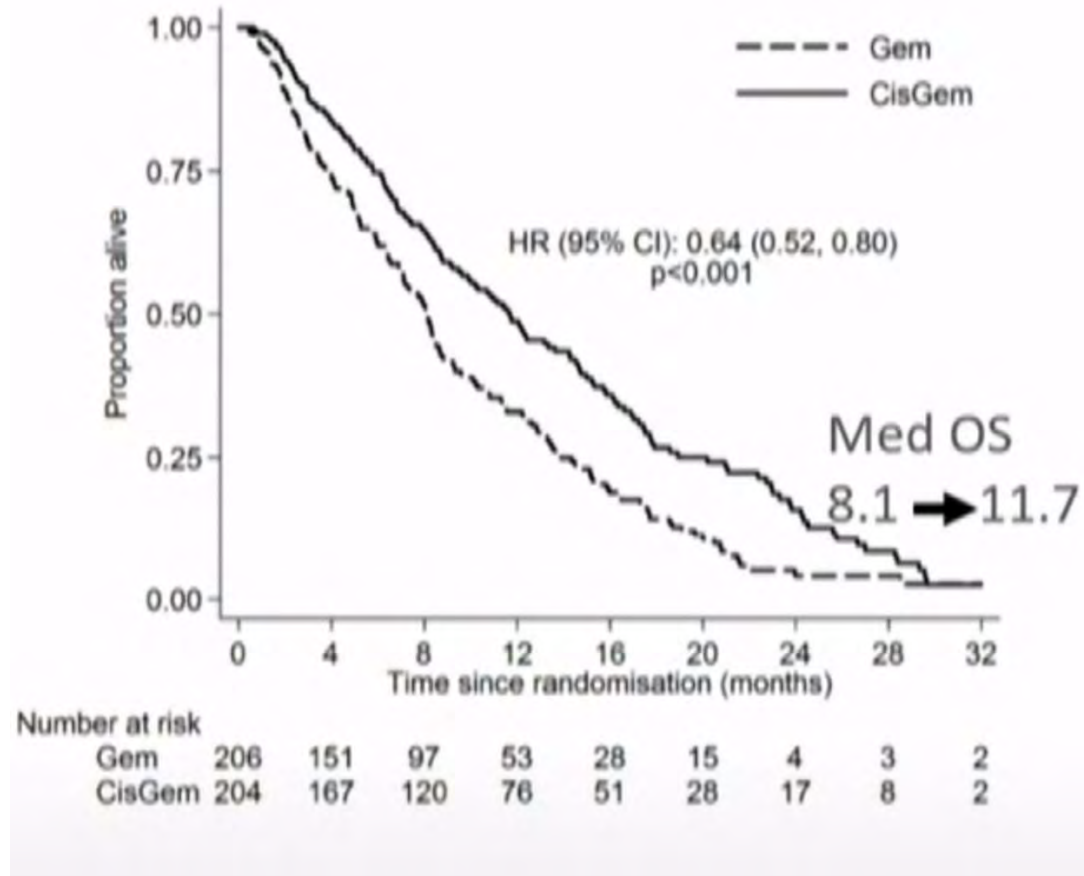
- No adjuvant approach. (meta-analysis favouring 5-FU chemo in N+, R1 ds)³
- No neoadjuvant trials
- No second-line therapies
- BTC needed attention from pharma and researchers
- Precision oncology not a topic of discussion.

What was happening in oncology elsewhere?

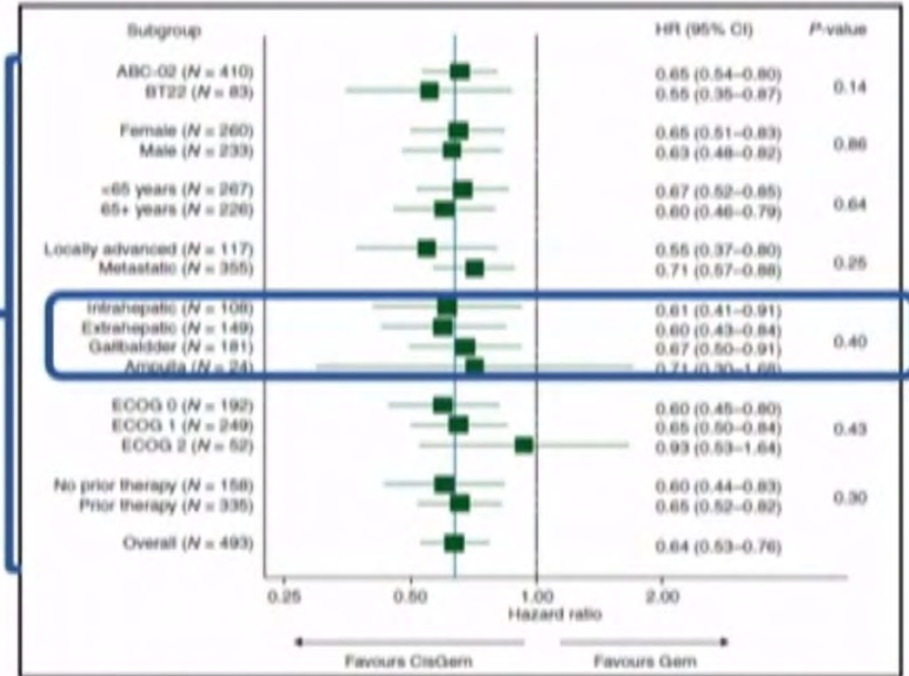
2014 – nivolumab – 1st in class – anti-PD1, FDA approval for melanoma

2015 – RCC, SCC lung, NSCLC

ABC-02: OS of GemCis doublet over gem alone



No biomarkers



Consistent benefit in sub-groups
No biomarker to select benefit

Multiple further studies..

- No benefit from adding EGFR inhibitors
- No benefit in adding MET TKI

2023: Heterogeneous Genomics of CCA

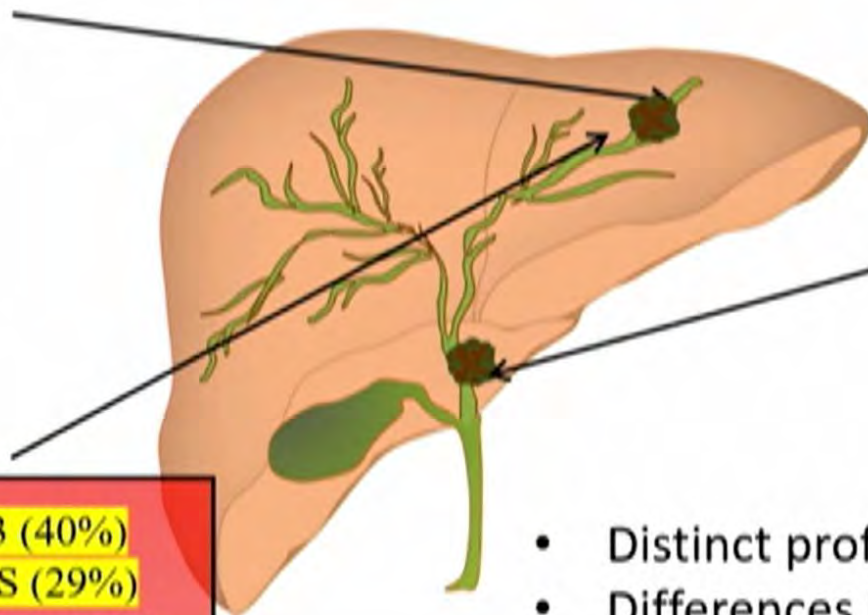
USA-Europe

CDK2A (30%)
IDH1/2 (23%)
TP53 (21%)
ARID1A (20%)
FGFR (18%)
BAP1 (17%)
KRAS (~16%)
PBRM1 (~11%)
PIK3A (9%)
BRAF (7%)

Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma

Asia
Western (HBV)

TP53 (40%)
KRAS (29%)
ARID1A (18%)
CDKN2A (15%)
IDH1/2 (13%)
FGFR (13%)
PBRM1 (11%)
BAP1 (10%)
SMAD4 (10%)
PI3KCA (9%)
BRCA2 (9%)



Extrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma

TP53 (~45%)
KRAS (~36%)
ARID1A (~15%)
CDKN2A/B (~15%)
SMAD4 (~12%)
ERBB2 (~12%)
NF1 (~7%)
STK11 (~6%)
ERRB2 (~5%)

- Distinct profile of iCCA vs eCCA
- Differences between iCCA in USA-Europe vs Asia
- Similar difference in USA-Europe in -HBV vs +HBV
- eCCA profiles resemble the Asia and +HBV groups

Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma: Genomic Heterogeneity Between Eastern and Western Patients

Jingyu Cao, MD¹; Jing Hu, PhD²; Siqin Liu, PhD³; Funda Meric-Bernstam, MD⁴; Reham Abdel-Wahab, MD⁵; Junjie Xu, MD⁶;
Qiang Li, MD⁷; Maolin Yan, MD⁸; Yujie Feng, PhD¹; Jianzhen Lin, MD⁹; Songhui Zhao, MSc¹; Jian Wang, MS¹; Lawrence N. Kwong, PhD¹;
Jinwei Hu, MD³; Fernando Carapeto, DMV³; Mitesh J. Borad, MD¹⁰; Kai Wang, MD, PhD¹; Milind Javle, MD¹; and Haitao Zhao, MD⁹

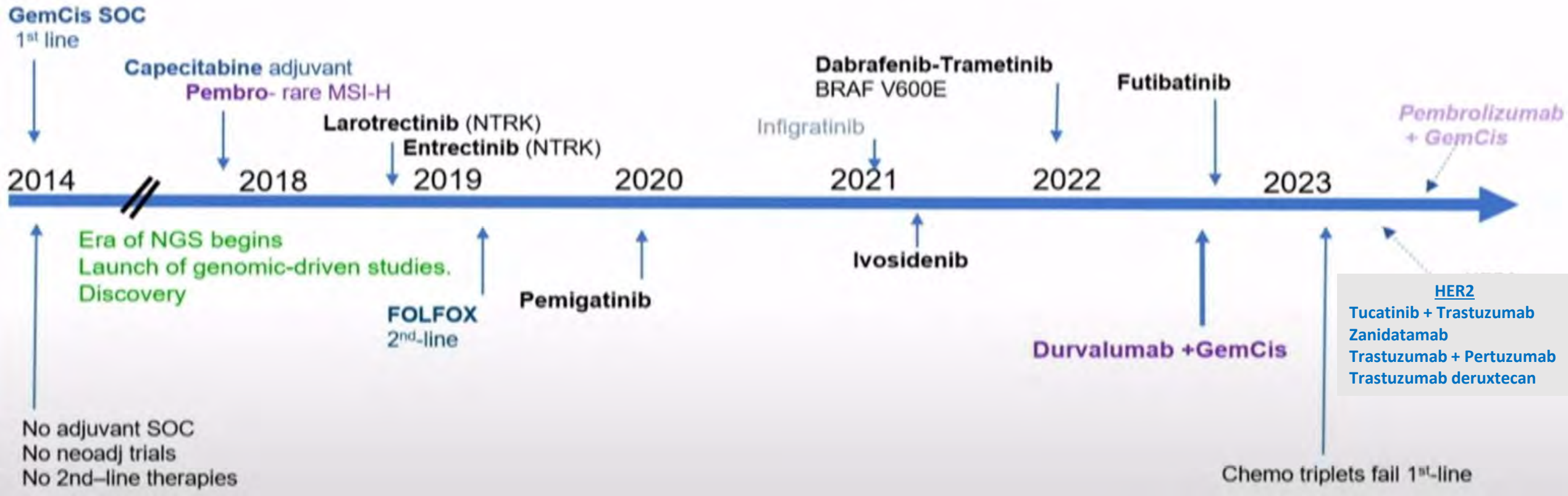
Foundation Series, n=554 BTC relative frequencies

Summary of Genomic Alterations

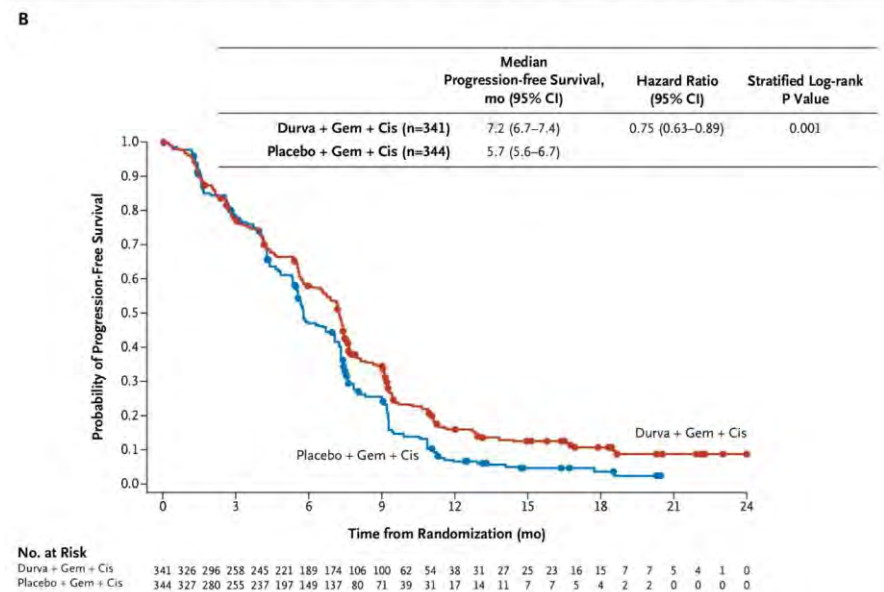
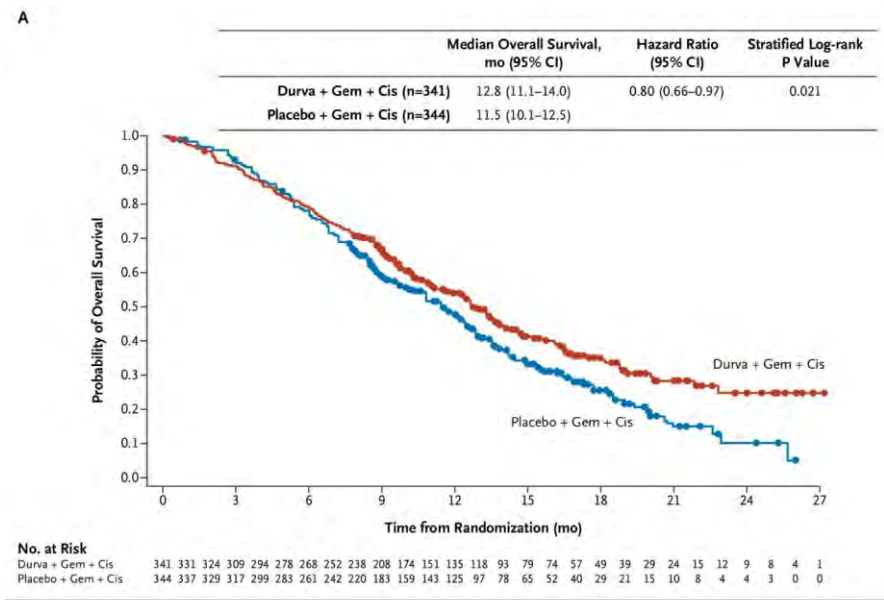
Genomic Findings	IHCCA N= 412	EHCCA N= 57	GBCA N= 85
Total Genomic alterations/pt	3.6	4.4	4.0
ERBB2 (HER-2) Amplification	4%	11%	16%
BRAF Substitutions	5%	3%	1%
KRAS Substitutions	22%	42%	11%
PIK3CA Substitution	5%	7%	14%
FGFR1-3 Fusions/Amplifications	11%	-	3%
CDKN2A/B Loss	27%	17%	19%
IDH 1/2 mutations	20%	-	-
ARID1A Alterations	18%	12%	13%
TP53	2-29%	40-45%	25-46%

Javle, Cancer 2016

BTC Clinical Progress: 2014 - 2025

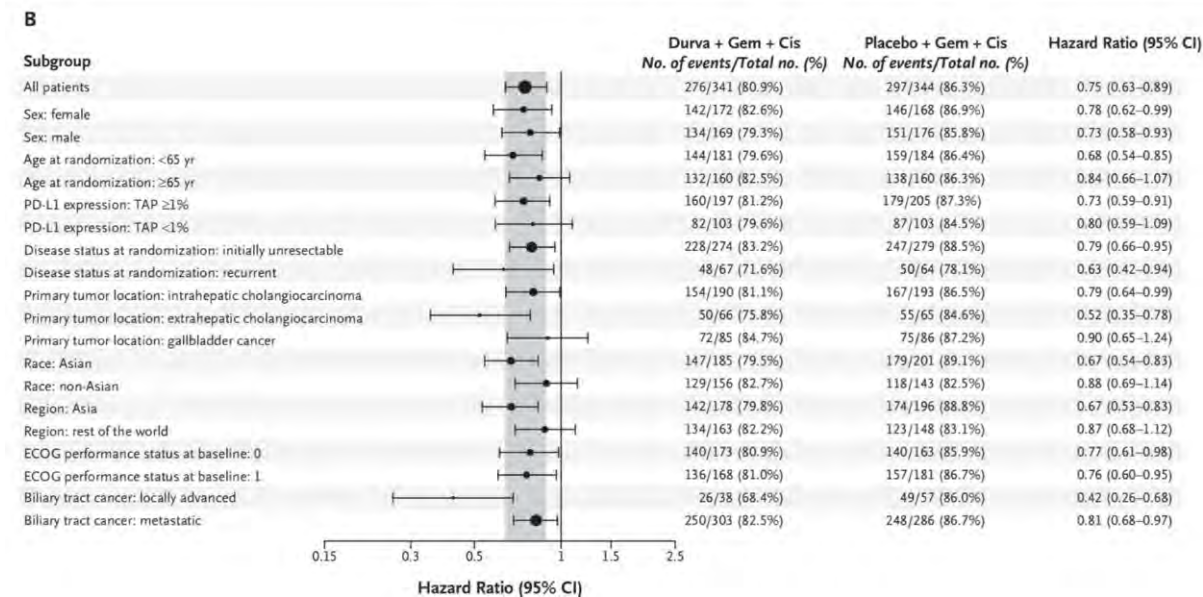
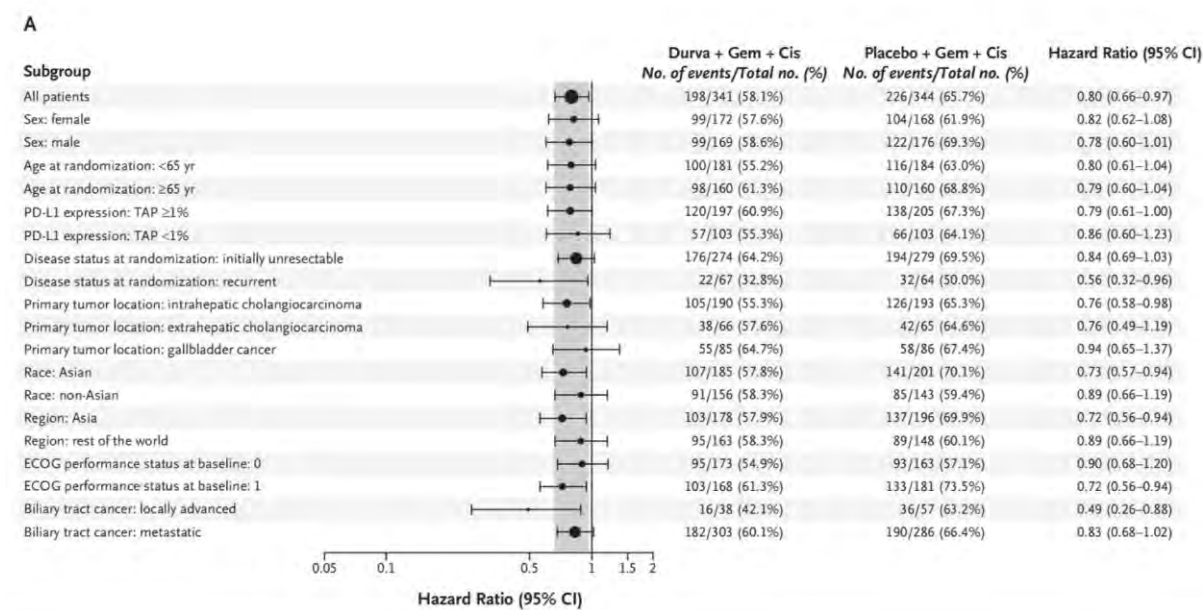


TOPAZ-1: adding durvalumab to SOC GemCis



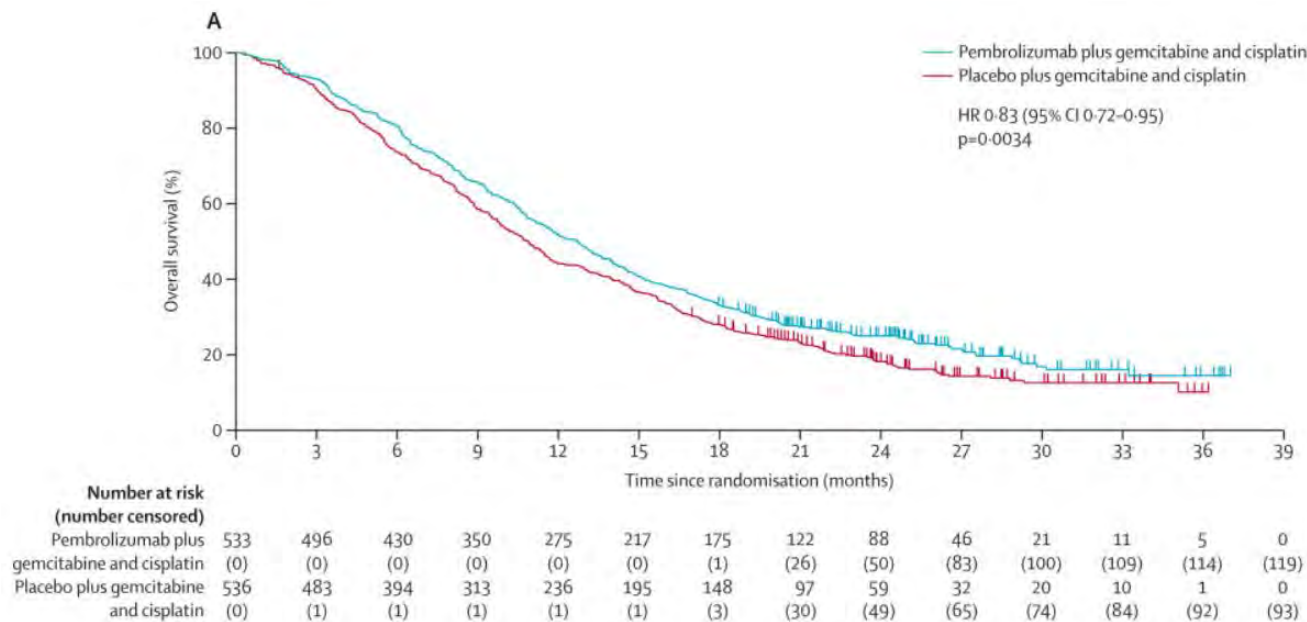
N=685

ORR
27% vs. 19%

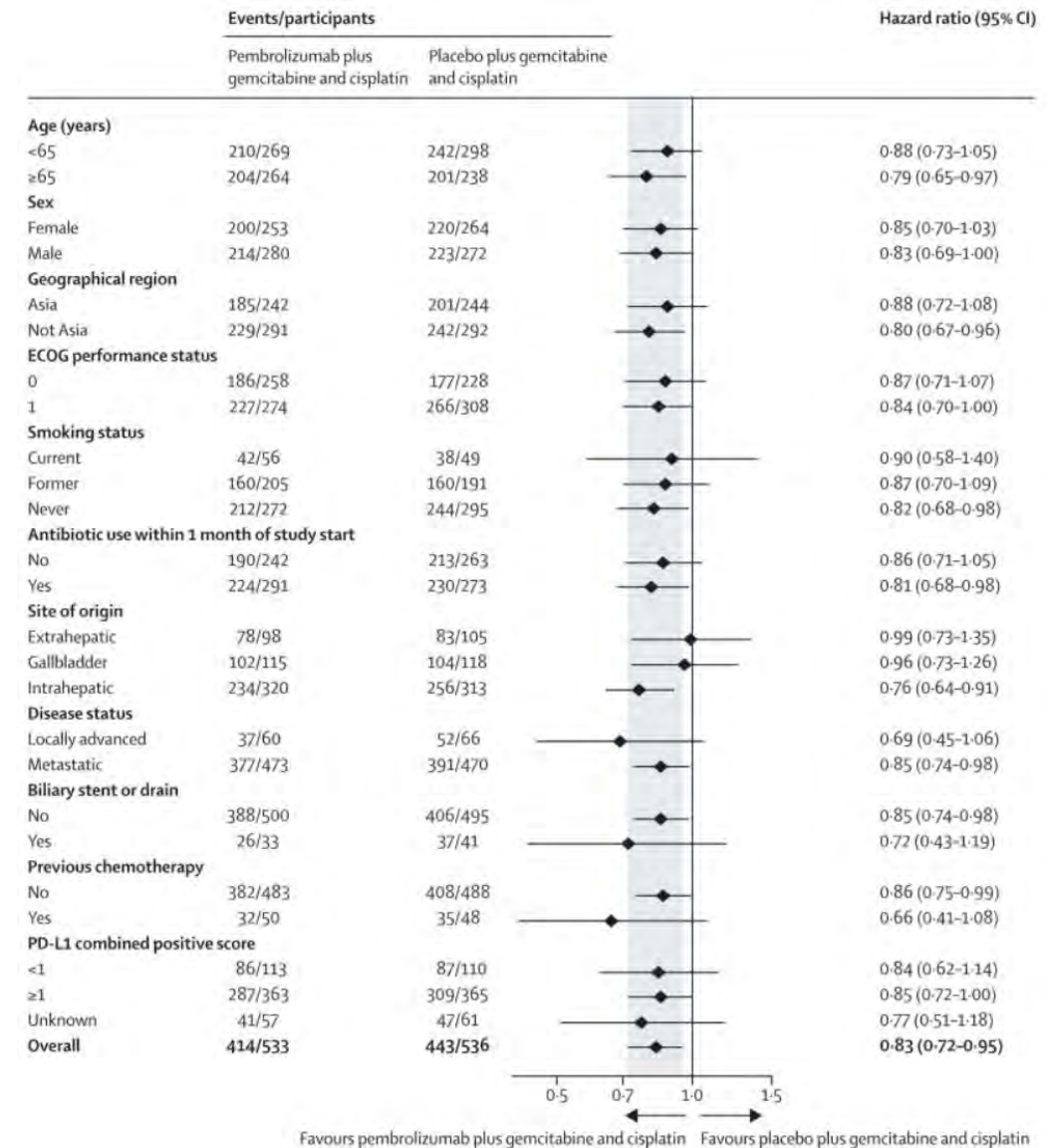


KEYNOTE-966, primary endpoint, OS

- Pembrolizumab + GemCis
vs. Placebo + GemCis, advanced, 1st line



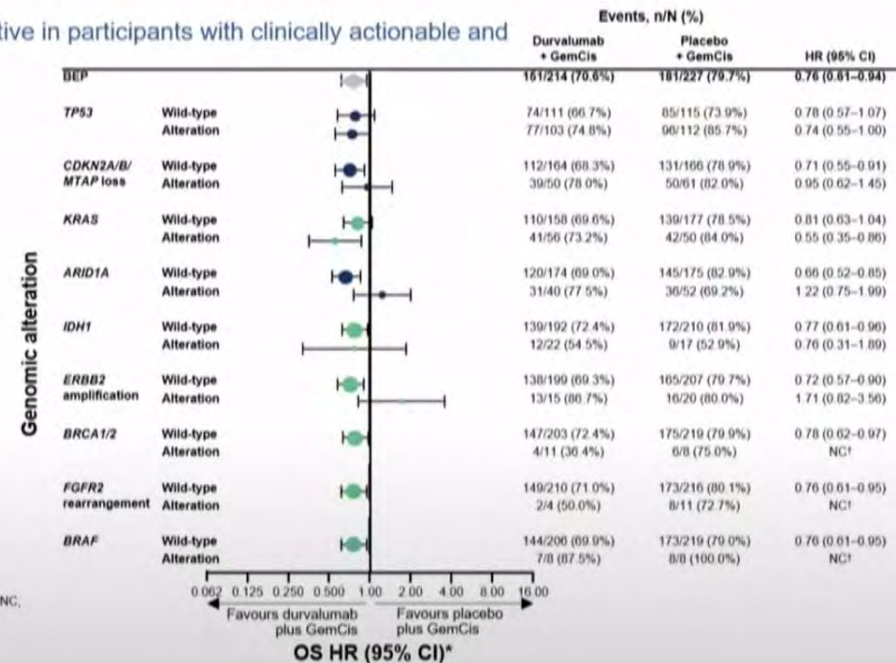
Pembrolizumab: continued until progression
 Gemcitabine: continued until progression (different from TOPAZ1)
 Cisplatin: given for a maximum of 8 cycles



Impact of genomic alterations on overall survival

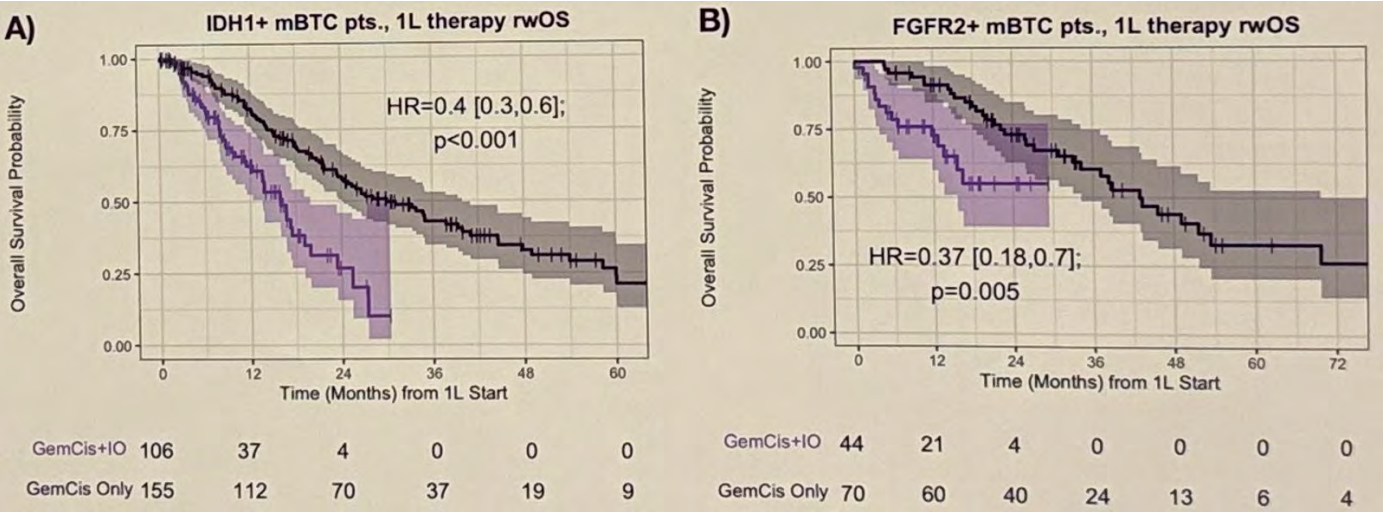
Durvalumab plus GemCis is generally effective in participants with clinically actionable and high-prevalence genomic alterations

- OS benefit for durvalumab versus placebo is mostly consistent across genomic alteration subgroups
- 95% CIs are wide for some genomic alterations due to their low prevalence
- These findings support durvalumab plus GemCis as first-line standard of care for advanced BTC across genomic variants



Green indicates clinically actionable genomic alterations. BEP, biomarker-evaluable patients. CI, confidence interval. GemCis, gemcitabine and cisplatin. HR, hazard ratio. NC, not calculated. OS, overall survival. *Size of dot represents number of events. †HR not calculated if <20 total events occur across treatment arms

Valle, Oh et al, ESMO Singapore 2023



Kim R, et al, GI ASCO 2025

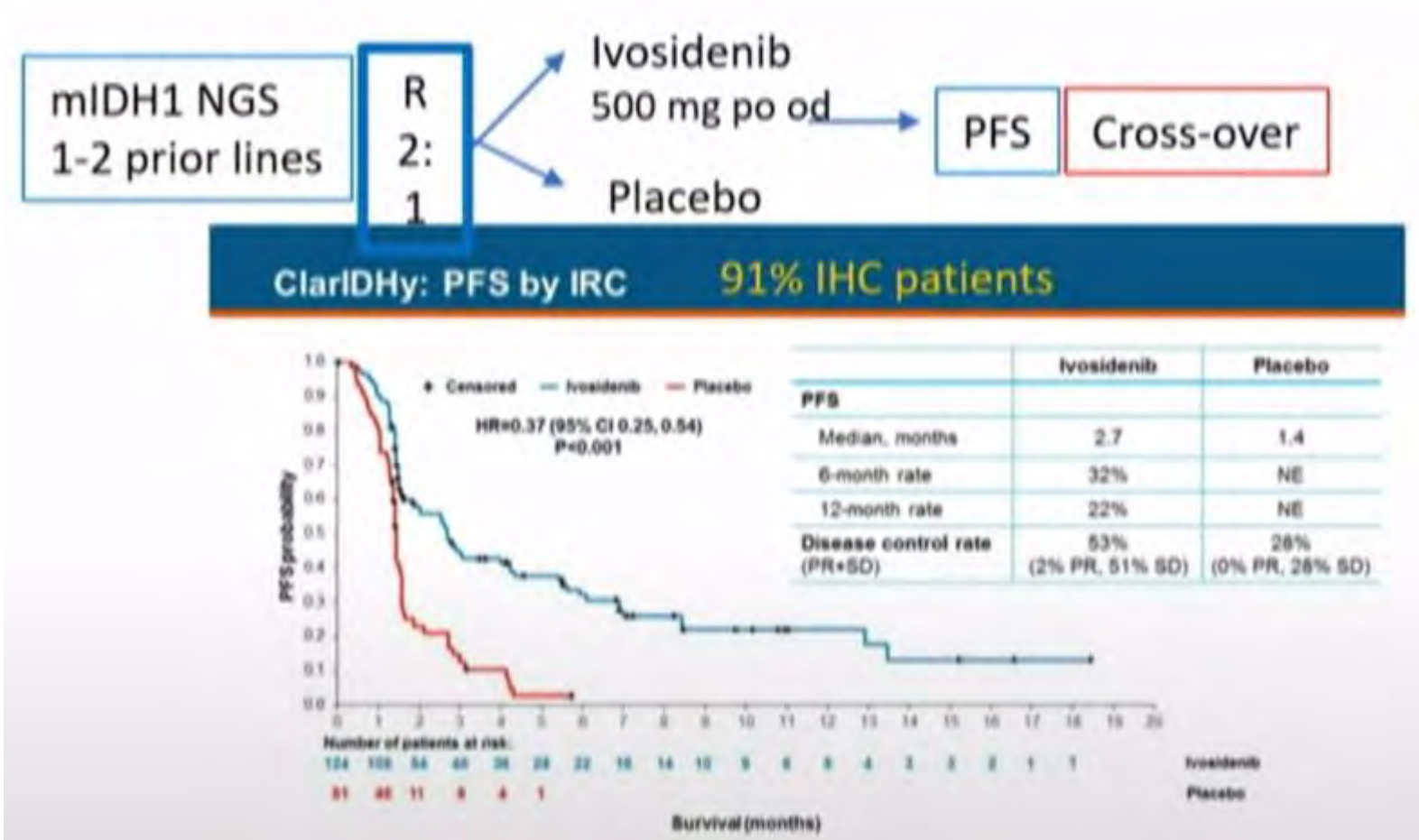
Early data

- Immunotherapy may be beneficial across genomic alterations
- Data not mature

Conflicting data, more data accumulating

- Dr. Kim presented the data on GI ASCO 2025
- Patients who received immunotherapy may have a worse outcome, compared to those who did not, with IDH1 mutation or FGFR2 fusion

Targeting IDH1 population (ClarIDHy)



Pivotal trial of biomarker selected population in a rare cancer
Low response rate, there is a signal, but it needs a biomarker study

Pemigatinib, 2nd line, FGFR fusions/rearrangements

Pemigatinib is a selective, potent, oral inhibitor of FGFR 1, 2, 3.
FDA approved late 2020- first drug ever in cholangiocarcinoma

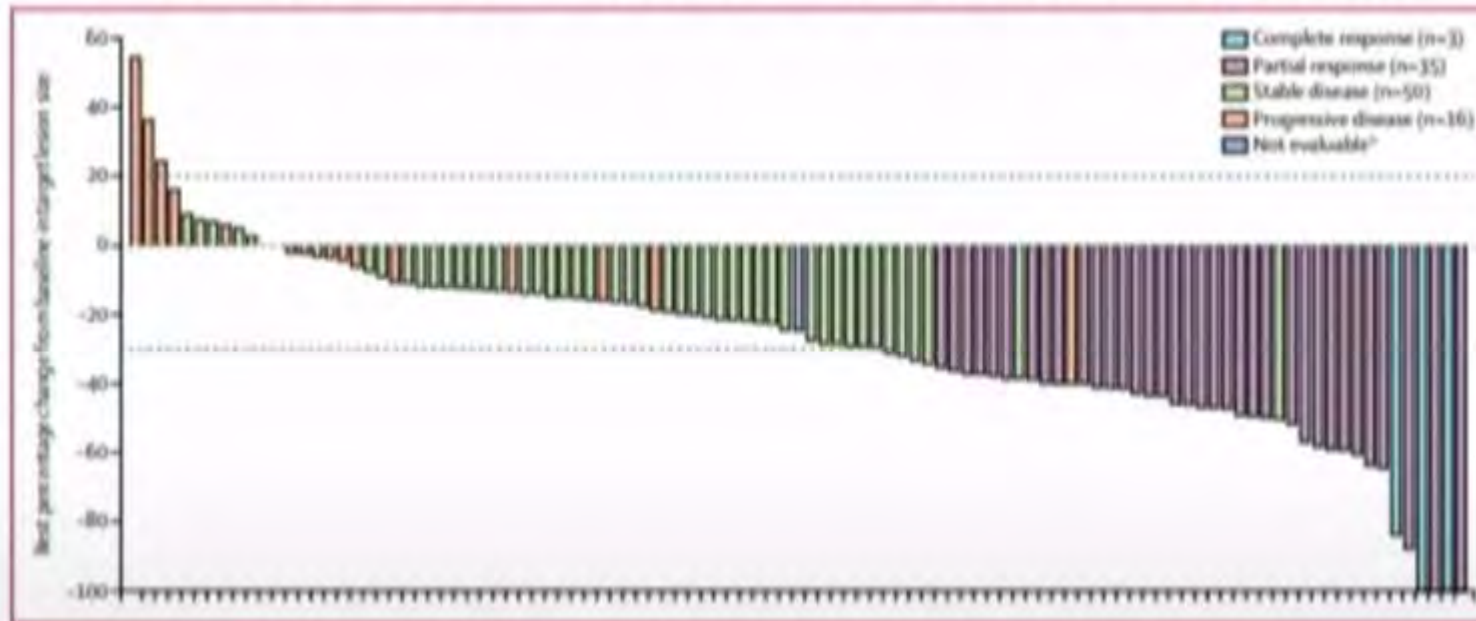
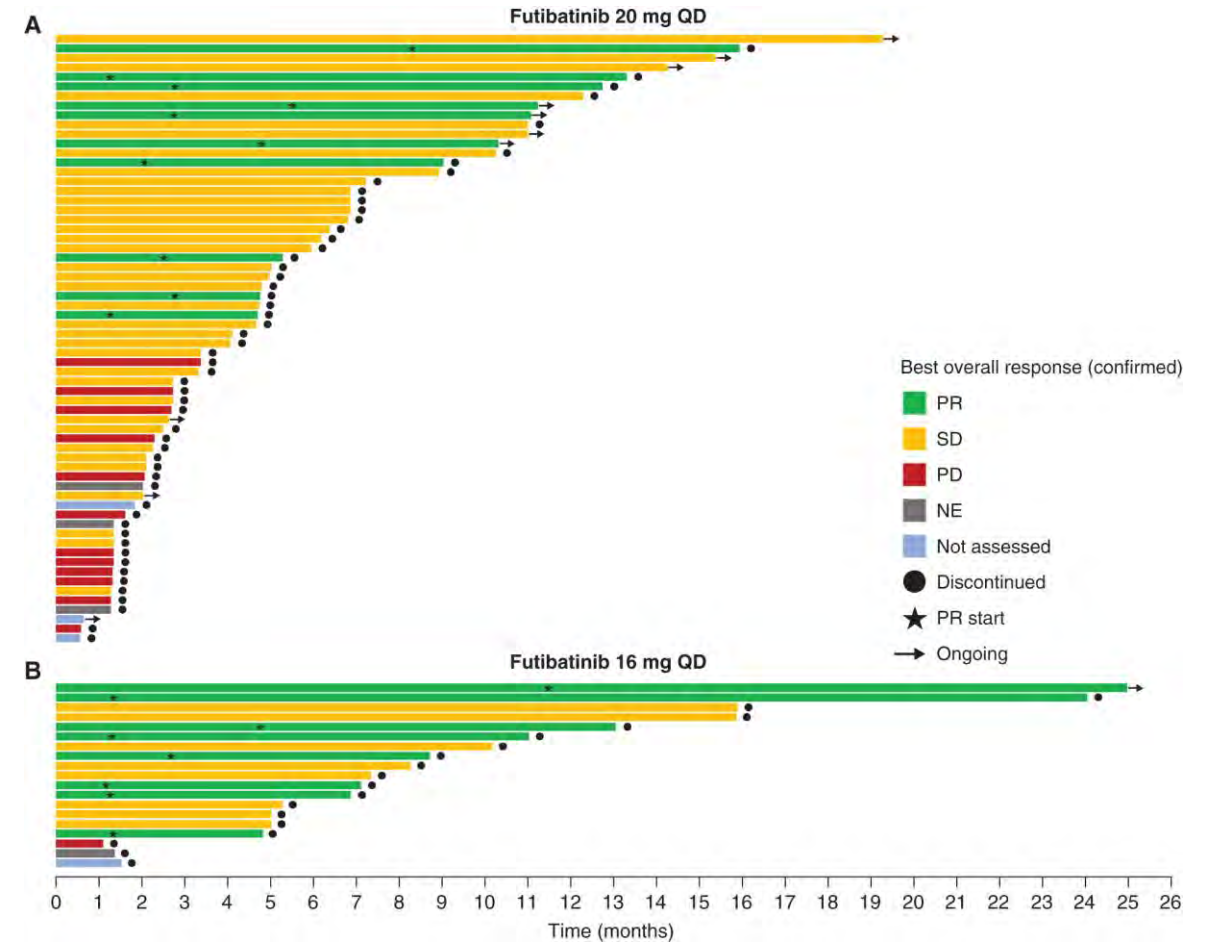
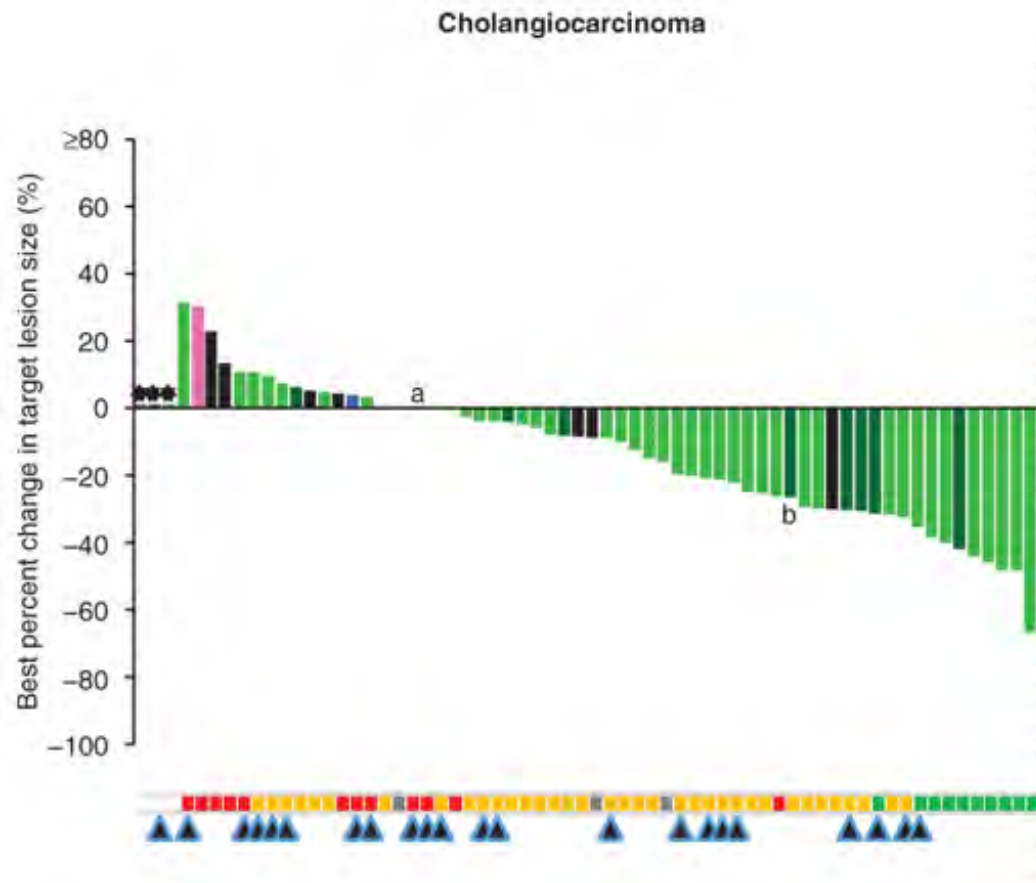


Figure 2: Best percentage change from baseline in target lesion size for individual patients with FGFR2 fusions or rearrangements
Coloured bars indicate confirmed responses assessed by RECIST 1.1. FGFR=fibroblast growth factor receptor. RECIST 1.1=Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors version 1.1. *Patient had a decrease in target lesion size but was not evaluable for response using RECIST.

ORR 36%, mPFS 7 m, mOS 21 m

Next Gen FGFRi: futibatinib (covalent, FGFR1-4i)

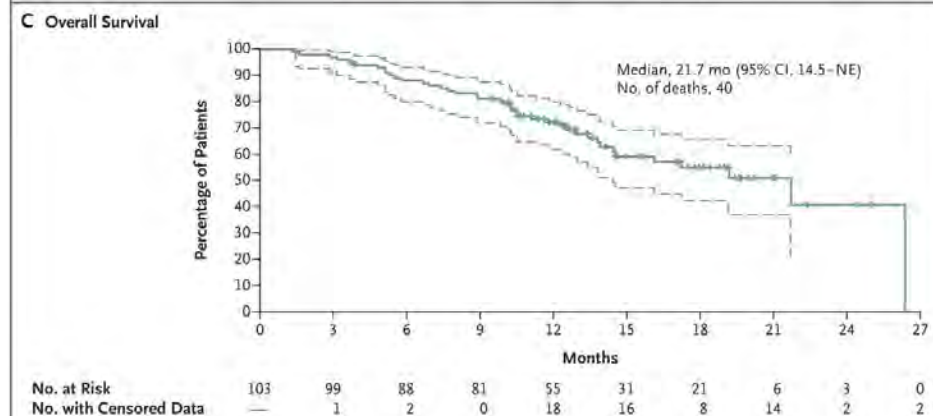
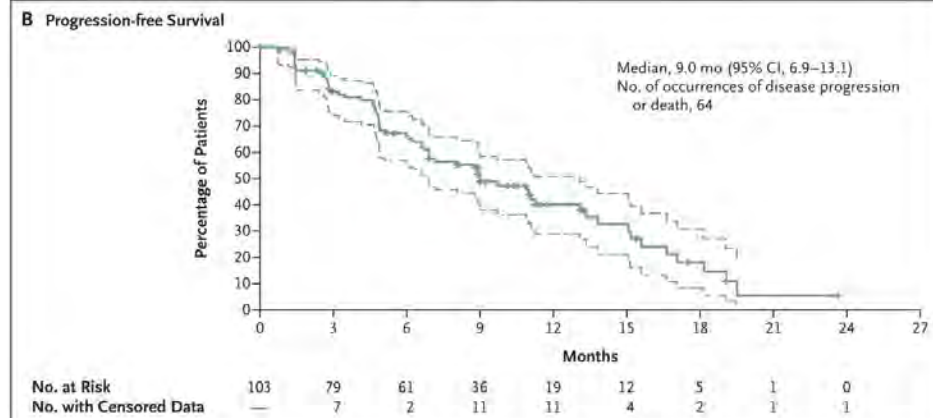
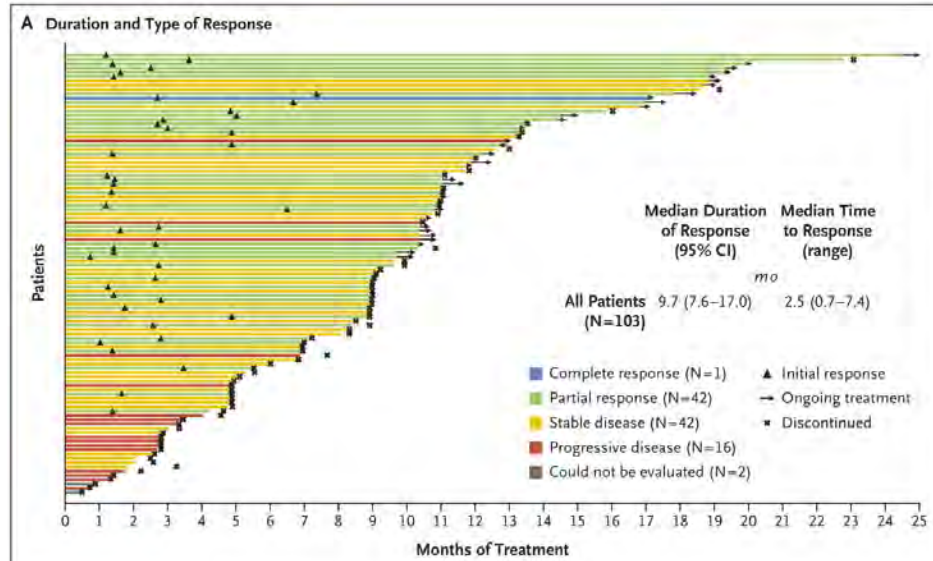


Activity in a broad range of cancers and against a broad variety of FGFR aberrations including patients who developed acquired resistance to a prior FGFRi.

Meric-Bernstam et al, Cancer Discov 2022

Futibatinib for *FGFR2*-Rearranged Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma

Lipika Goyal, M.D., Funda Meric-Bernstam, M.D., Antoine Hollebecq, M.D., Juan W. Valle, M.D., Chigusa Morizane, M.D., Ph.D., Thomas B. Karasic, M.D., Thomas A. Abrams, M.D., Junji Furuse, M.D., Ph.D., Robin K. Kelley, M.D., Philippe A. Cassier, M.D., Heinz-Josef Klumpen, M.D., Ph.D., Heung-Moon Chang, M.D., et al., for the FOENIX-CCA2 Study Investigators*

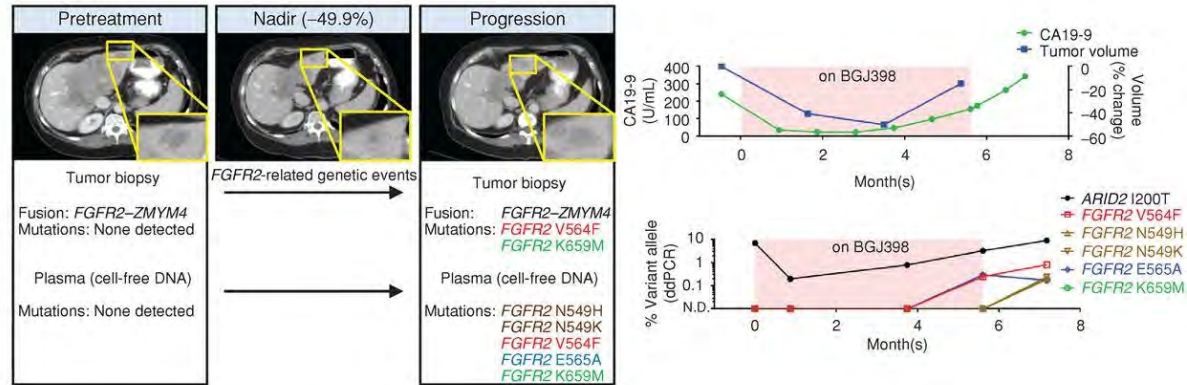


Phase II data, non-randomized, 103 patients

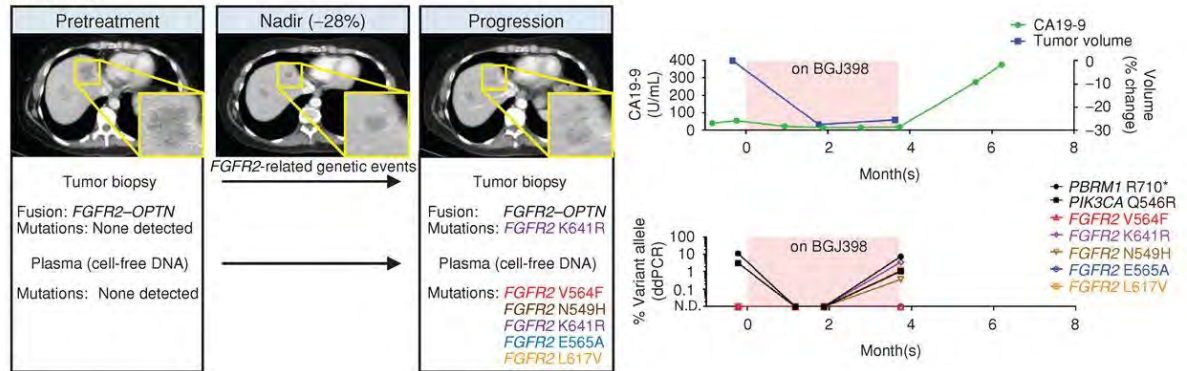
- ORR>40%
- mPFS – 9 months
- Treatment-related AEs
 - Hyperphosphatemia, alopecia, dry mouth, diarrhea, fatigue
 - Well tolerated

Polyclonal Secondary Mutations in FGFR2 fusion

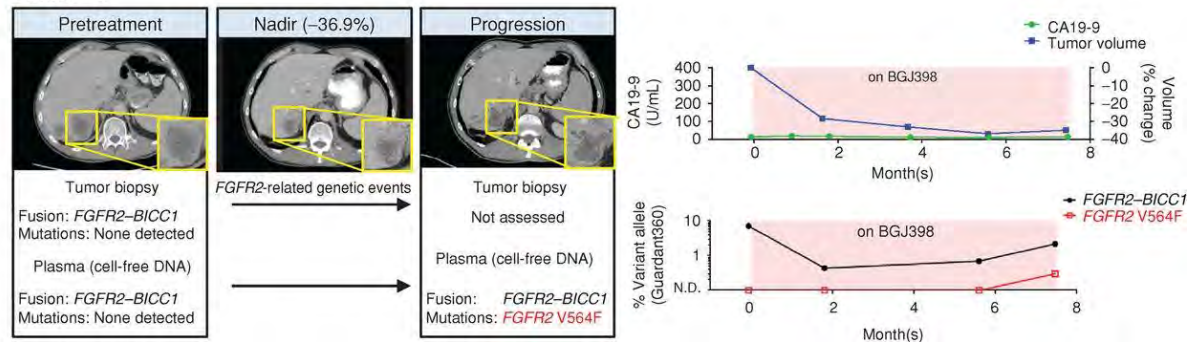
A Patient #1



B Patient #2

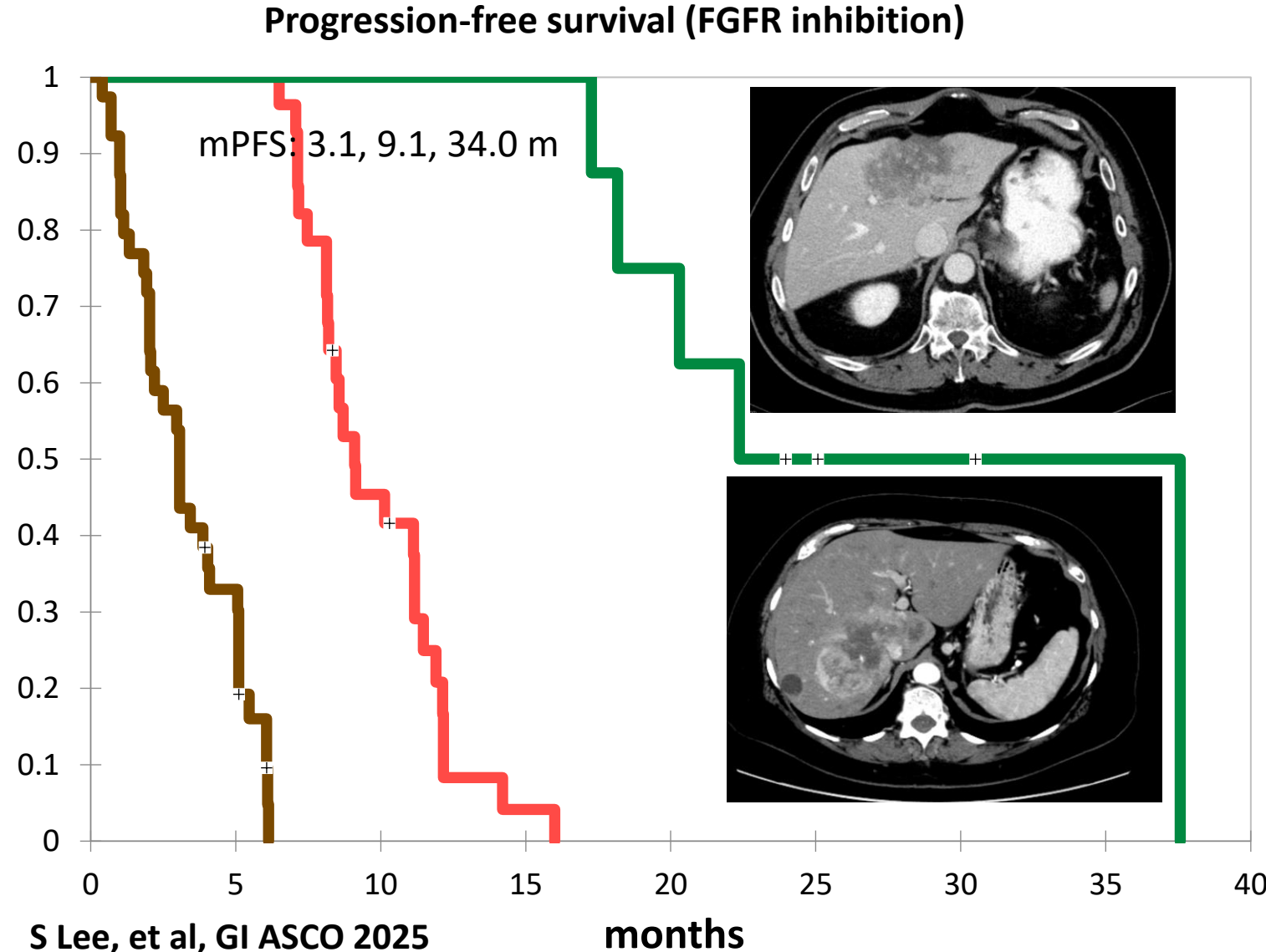


C Patient #3



FGFRi, genomic alteration and vascularity

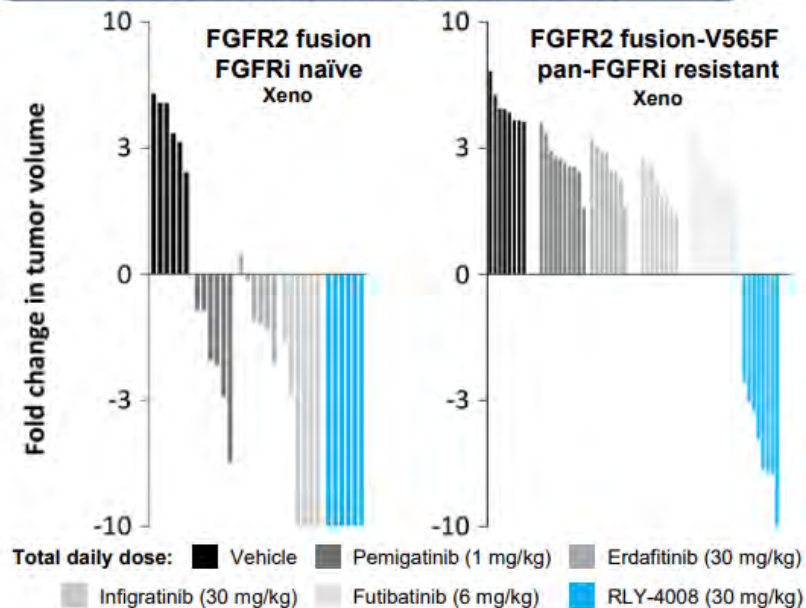
- Co-existing alterations with FGFR2 fusion/rearrangement
 - Resistant FGFR2 mutations
 - mTOR, TSC1/2 pathways
 - EGFR
 - KRAS
- Tumor vascularity significantly impacting response
- 3 groups based on tumor vascularity
 - HU measurement
 - mRNA expression of genes related to VEGF(R)



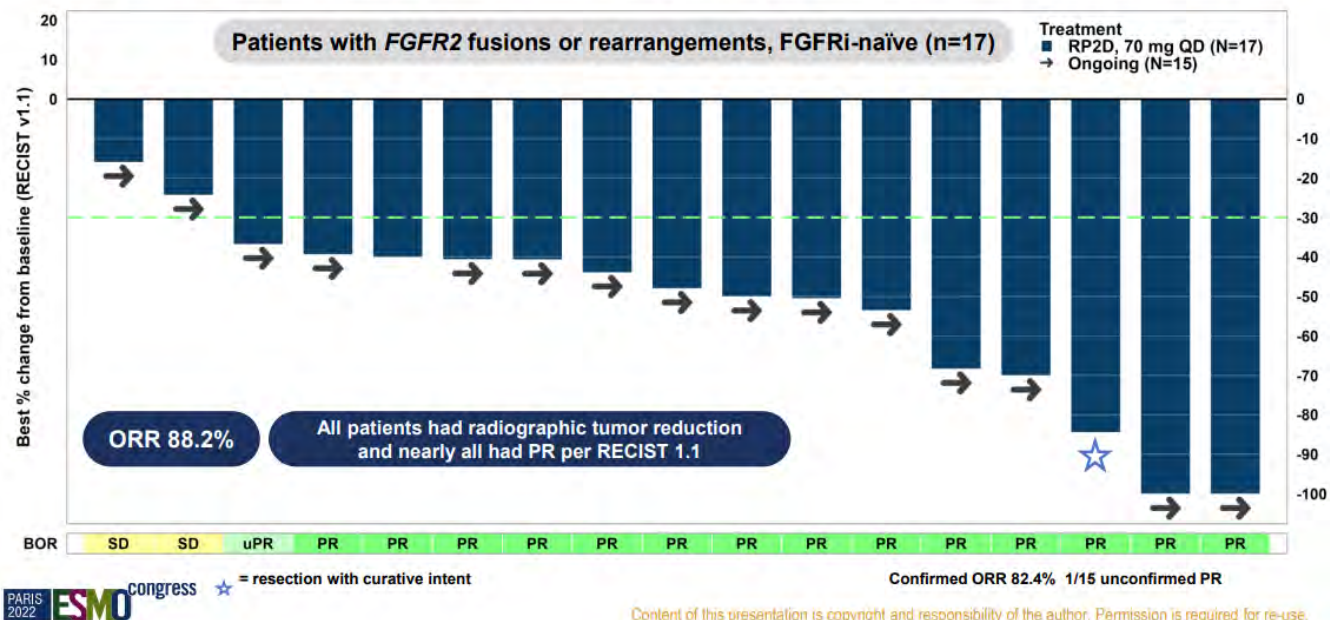
NextGen FGFRi: RLY-4008 (lirafugratinib)

Irreversible FGFR2i

Potent in-vivo activity against FGFRi-sensitive and resistant cholangiocarcinoma²



Radiographic Tumor Regression and Response per RECIST 1.1 at RP2D (70 mg QD)



- At the RP2D 70 mg QD, ORR is 88% (15/17, 15 with response ongoing)
- Across doses, ORR is 63%

Most AEs are low grade, largely reversible on-target AEs

Help from tumor agnostic trials

Targeting **BRAF V600E**

Efficacy and Safety of dabrafenib and trametinib in patients with BRAF V600E

– ROAR trial

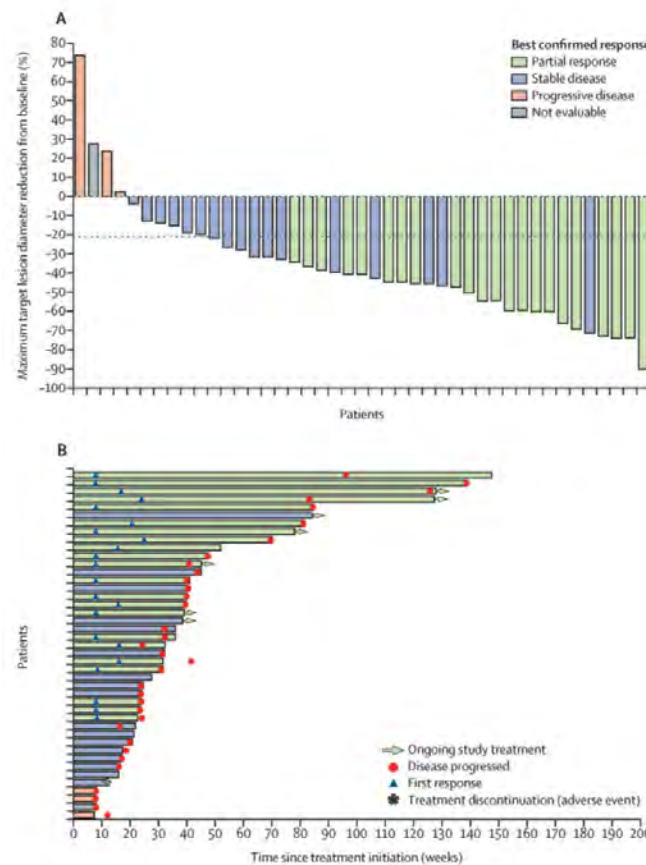


Figure 1 Change in target lesion diameters and treatment duration in the intention-to-treat evaluable population (n=43)

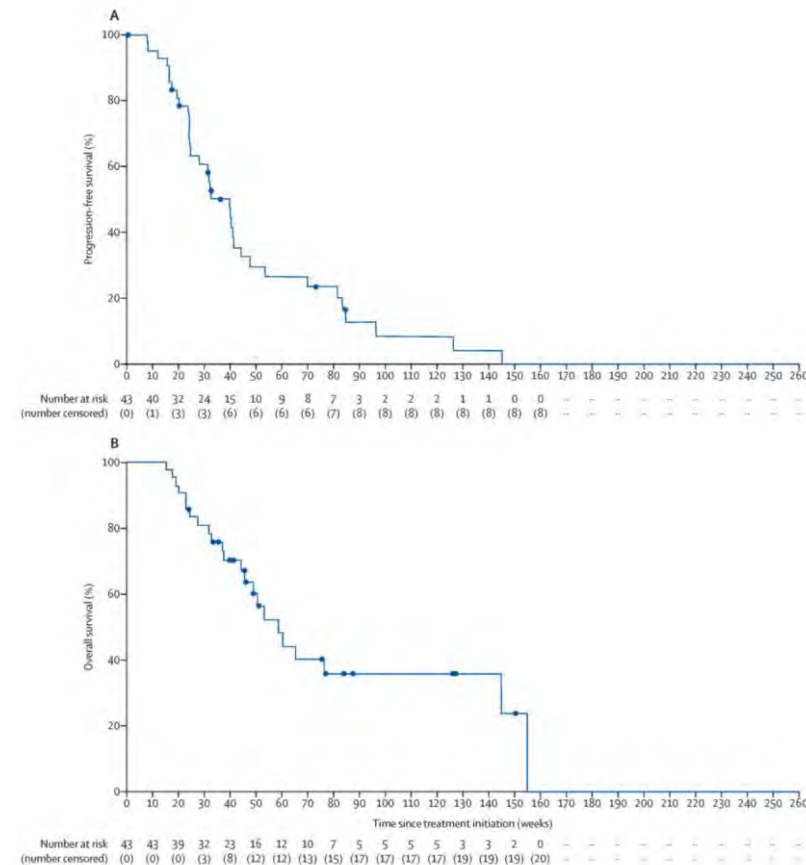


Figure 2 Progression-free survival (A) and overall survival (B) in the intention-to-treat evaluable population (n=43)

Confirmed partial responses occurred in 36%, mPFS 9.2 months, mOS 11.7 months

Subbiah et al, Lancet Oncology 2020

HER2 amplification in BTC

HER2 amplification or overexpression can be found in 5 - 10% of cholangiocarcinoma and in 15-20% of gallbladder cancer.

Choong-kun Lee^{1,2}, Dong Hyun Seo^{1,2}, Daniel Fox³, Jaime Ivan Haro-Silerio³, Taek Chung⁴, Chang Gon Kim^{1,2}, Deepak Bhamidipati⁵, Funda Meric-Bernstam⁶, Shubham Pant⁷, Milind Javle⁷, Sunyoung S. Lee⁷

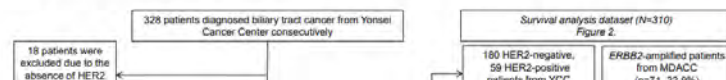
¹ Division of Medical Oncology, Yonsei Cancer Center, Seoul 03722, Republic of Korea. ² Department of Internal Medicine, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul 03722, Republic of Korea. ³ Department of Internal Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, USA. ⁴ Department of Pathology, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul 03722, Republic of Korea. ⁵ Division of Cancer Medicine, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA. ⁶ Department of Investigational Cancer Therapeutics, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA. ⁷ Department of Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA.

Background

- Biliary tract cancer (BTC): one of the most fatal cancers with limited treatment options
- HER2 positivity, defined as IHC 3+ or IHC 2+ with positive in situ hybridization (ISH), or *ERBB2* amplification, is observed in approximately 20% of patients with advanced BTC.
- The combination of gemcitabine and cisplatin with immune checkpoint inhibitors, as evaluated in the TOPAZ-1 and KEYNOTE-966 trials, represents the current standard first-line systemic therapy for advanced BTCs. However, therapeutic options remain limited after progression on first-line treatment.
- Anti-HER2 treatments evaluated in various phase II trials, including the MyPathway study (Javle *et al.*, Lancet Oncology, 2021) and the KCSG-HB19-14 trial (Lee *et al.*, Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology, 2023), have demonstrated efficacy in pretreated HER2-positive BTC patients, with objective response rates (ORR) ranging from 23% to 40% and median progression-free survival (PFS) between 4.0 and 5.1 months.
- Recent advances in HER2-targeting agents have shown promising results in HER2-positive BTCs. However, data on the prevalence of HER2 positivity and its impact on prognosis in cholangiocarcinoma patients remains limited.

Methods

- A retrospective cohort study was conducted at Yonsei Cancer Center (YCC), Korea, and MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC), USA, including Stage IV BTC patients with known HER2 status diagnosed between 2009 and 2023.
- Patients were classified as HER2-positive based on immunohistochemistry (IHC 3+ or 2+/ISH+) or next-generation sequencing (*ERBB2* amplification).
- Among the enrolled patients, those who received palliative chemotherapy (at least two cycles) and whose survival events were not attributed to causes of death unrelated to BTC were included in the survival analysis.
- Tissue NGS results from targeted panel sequencing (Illumina TruSight Oncology 500, FoundationOne CDx, and MDA MAPP, MD Anderson Cancer Center's proprietary NGS platform) were included in this study.



HER2 positivity, observed in approximately 25% of biliary tract cancers, is linked to poor prognosis. Targeting HER2 in these subgroups is essential for improving survival outcomes.

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Figure 1. Distribution of HER2-positive patients by overexpression (IHC) and amplification (NGS) status (N=310)

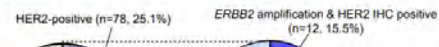
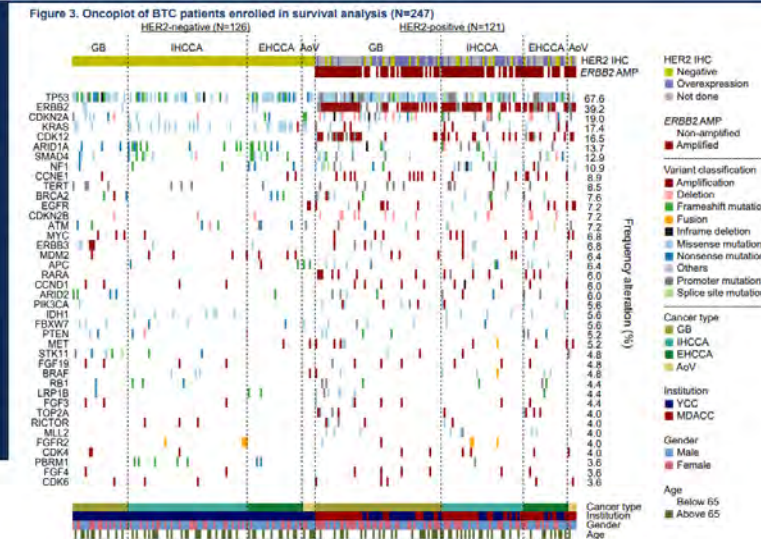


Table 2. Correlation of HER2 grading system measured using NGS and IHC (N=201)

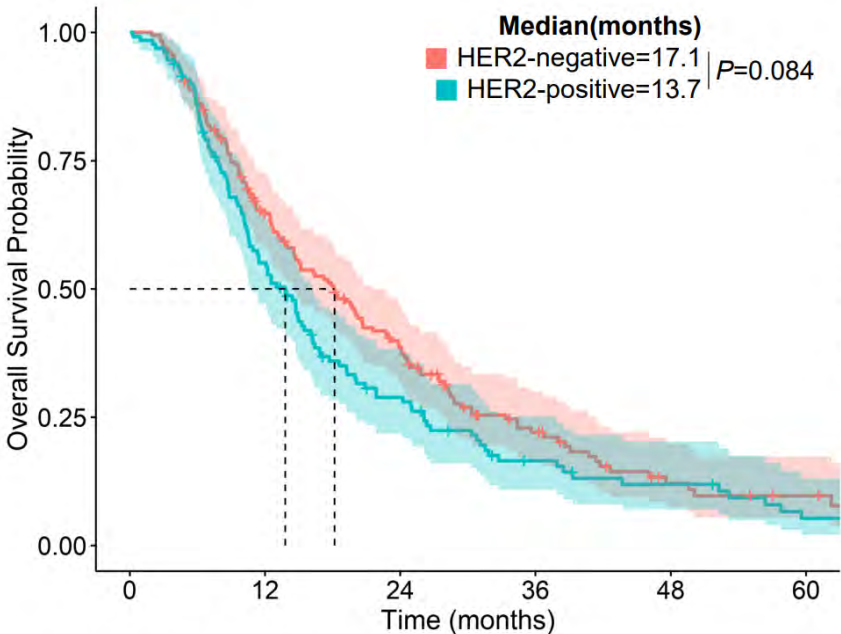
ERBB2 amplification in NGS		P-value
No (n=182)	Yes (n=19)	
Immunohistochemistry		<0.0001
No (n=182)	Yes (n=19)	



HER2 amplification in BTC

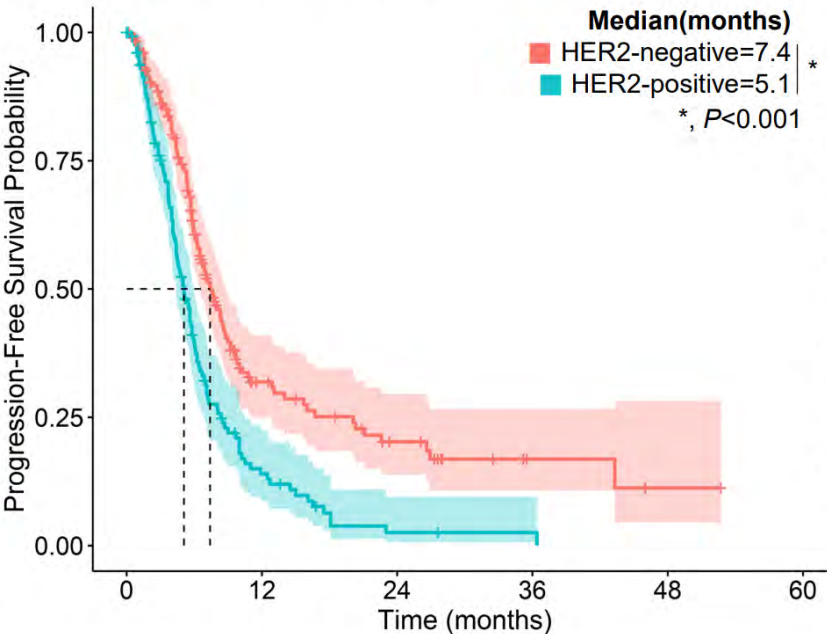
Figure 2. Survivals according to HER2 status and HER2 targeted therapy (N=310)

a. Overall survival



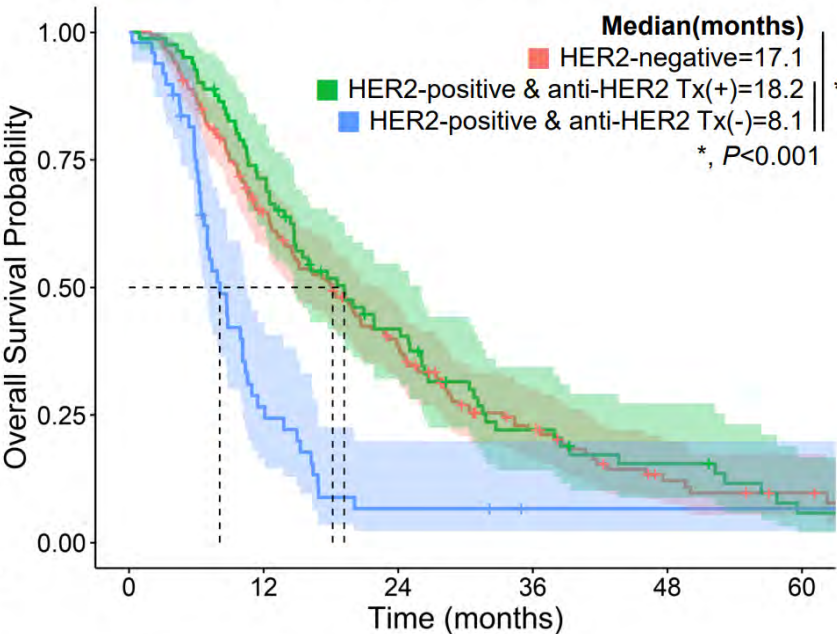
Number at risk (number censored)						
180 (0)	106 (12)	60 (16)	26 (27)	10 (33)	6 (35)	
130 (0)	69 (4)	32 (10)	15 (14)	10 (15)	4 (16)	

b. First-line progression free survival



Number at risk (number censored)					
180 (0)	30 (49)	14 (55)	3 (64)	1 (65)	0 (66)
130 (1)	14 (16)	2 (18)	1 (19)	0 (19)	0 (19)

c. Overall survival regarding HER2 targeted therapy



Number at risk (number censored)						
180 (0)	106 (12)	60 (16)	26 (27)	10 (33)	6 (35)	
81 (0)	57 (1)	29 (7)	14 (9)	9 (10)	3 (11)	
49 (0)	12 (3)	3 (3)	1 (5)	1 (5)	1 (5)	

Targeting HER2 amplification

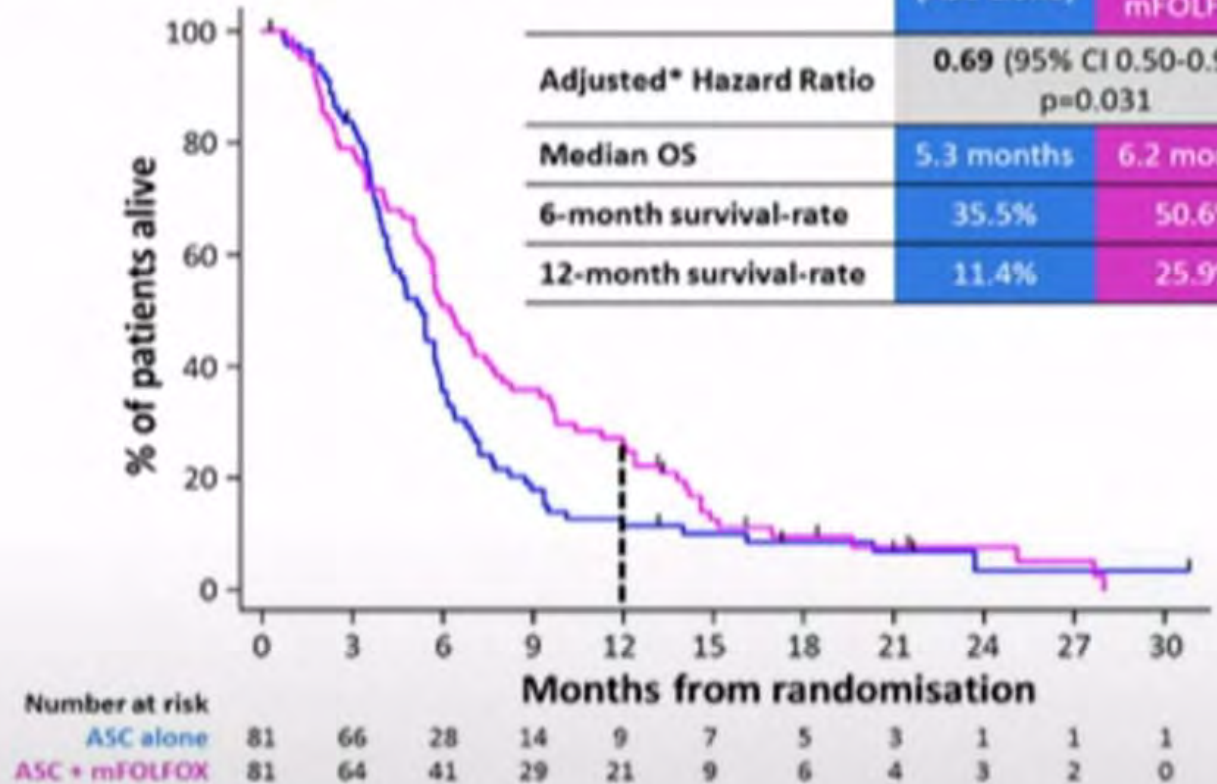
- HER2 amplification or overexpression can be found in 5 - 10% of cholangiocarcinoma and in 15-20% of gallbladder cancer.

Therapy	Progression-Free Survival (PFS)	Overall Response Rate (ORR)	Overall Survival (OS)	Key Notes
Trastuzumab + Pertuzumab	4.0 months	23%	10.9 months	NCCN guideline
Zanidatamab	6.0 months	41.3% overall; 51.6% (IHC3+), 5.6% (IHC2+)	15.5 months	FDA approved it a few months ago
Trastuzumab Deruxtecan	6.9 months	36%		FDA-approved for HER2-positive solid tumors
Trastuzumab + Tucatinib	5.5 months	46.7%	15.5 months	NCCN guideline

Second-Line Treatment – Chemo (FOLFOX)

**ABC 06:
ASC ±
mFOLFOX in 2L
BTC**

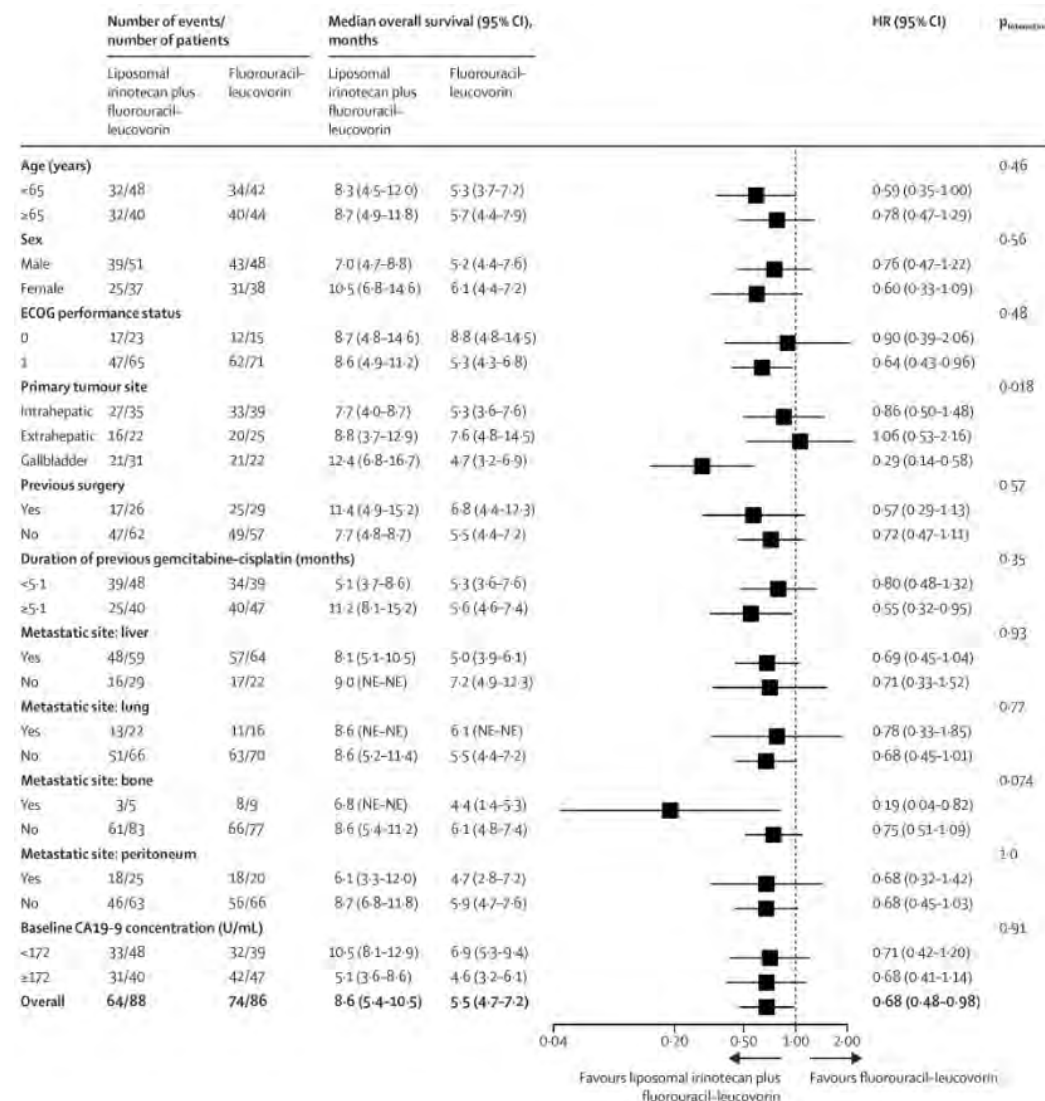
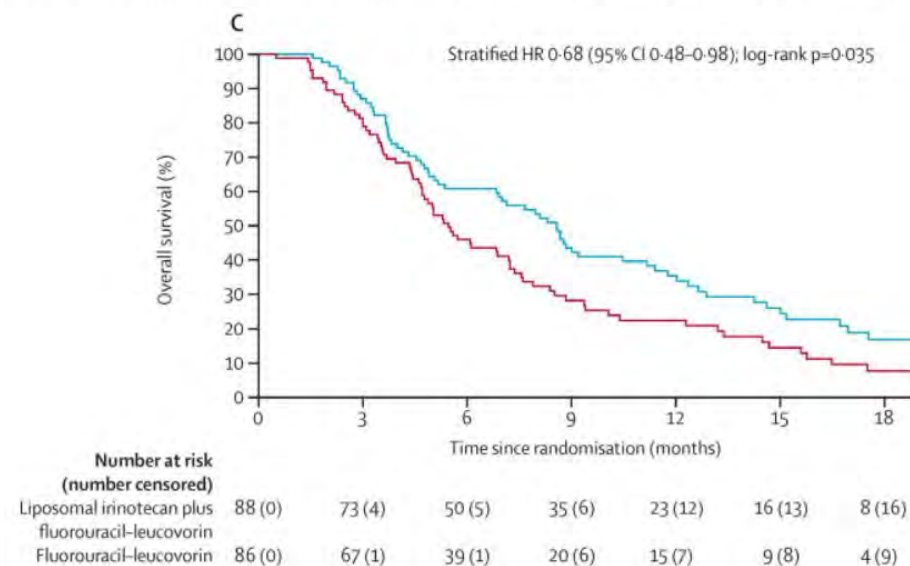
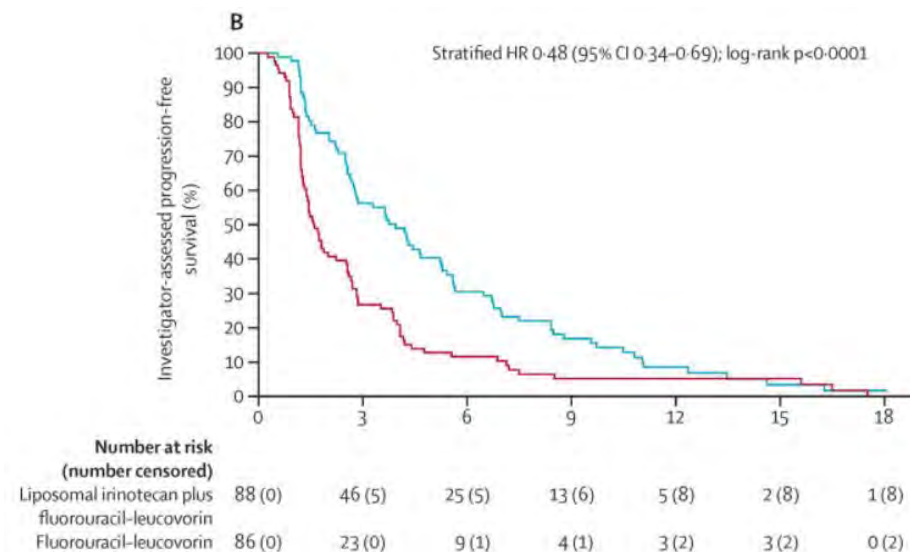
Overall survival by trial arm



FDA approved.

Lamarca et al. ASCO 2019

Second-Line – Chemo (5-FU + liposomal irinotecan)

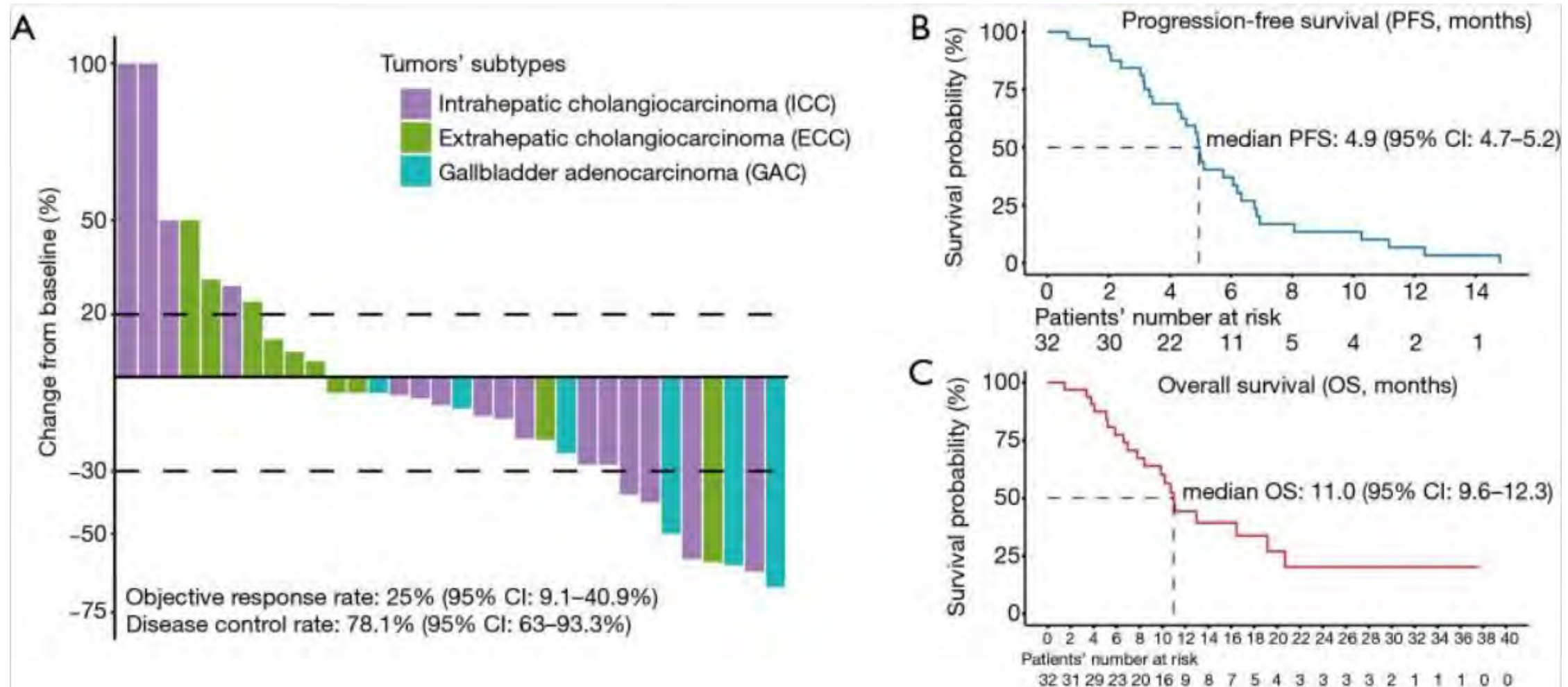


ORR: 17%, decent ORR in the 2nd line setting, OS 8.6 months

FDA not approved, but very commonly used in clinic.

Yoo et al, Lancet Onc 2021

Anti-VEGF(R): Lenvatinib + Pembrolizumab



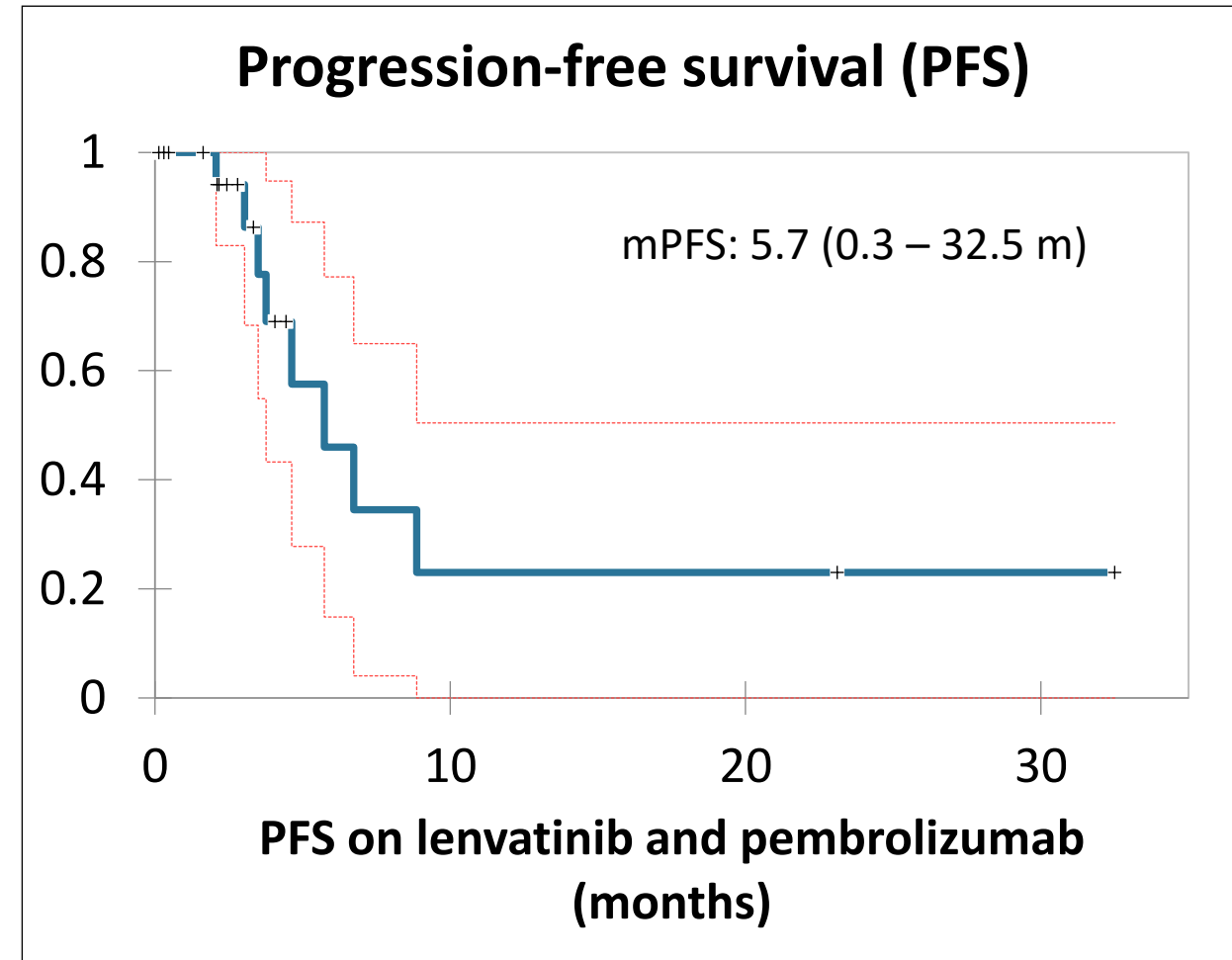
ORR: 25%, SD 53%, mPFS 4.9 m, mOS 11.0

FDA not approved, but commonly used in clinic → Recently removed from NCCN

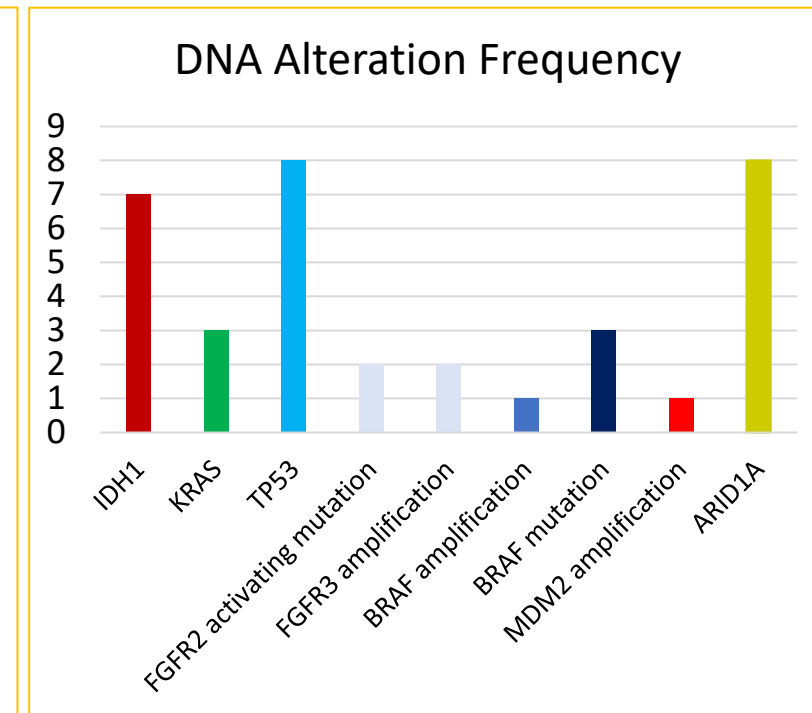
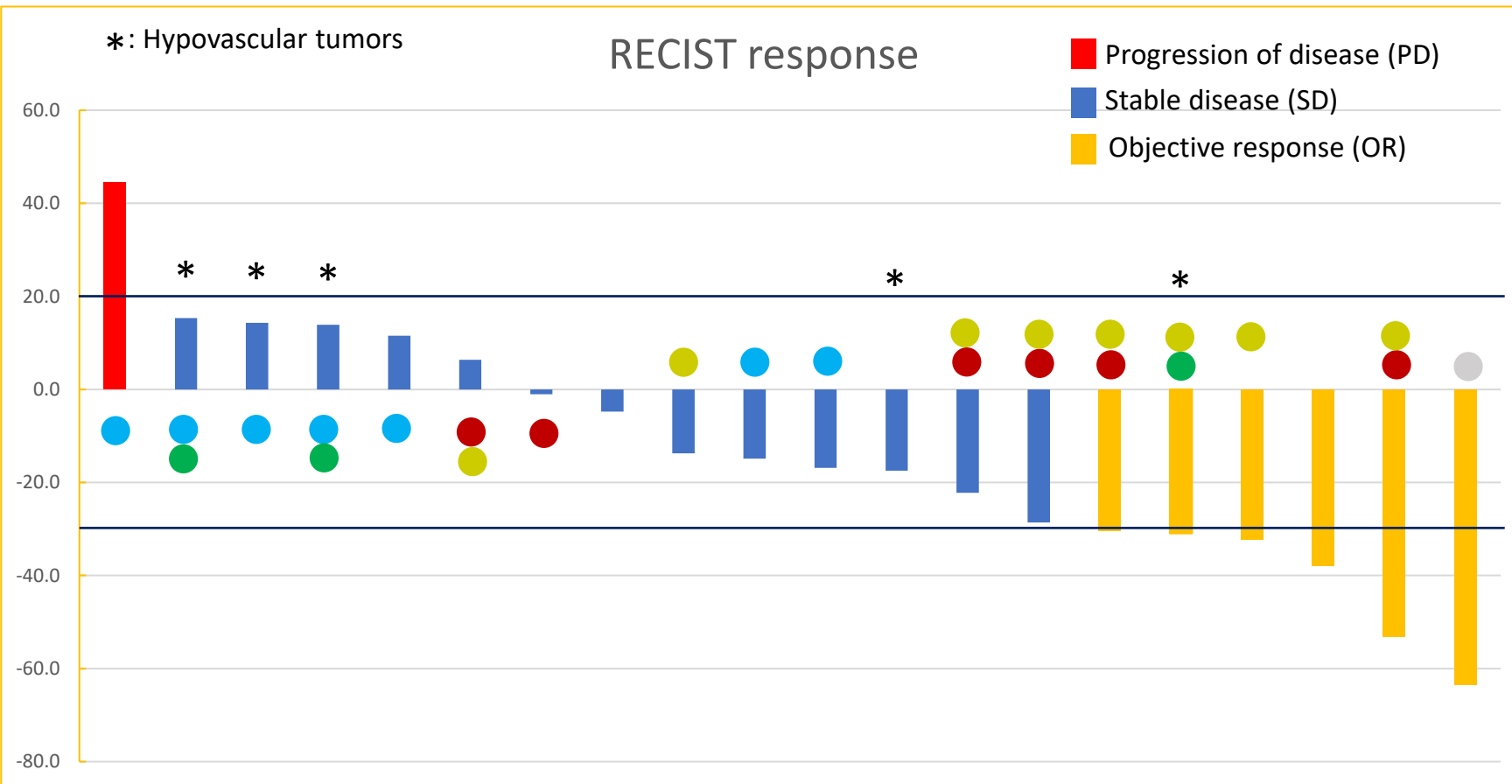
Leap-5 trial, Lin et al. 2020

Lenvatinib + Pembrolizumab

- MD Anderson study:
 - mPFS 5.7 month (0.3 – 32.5 months)
- 2 patients are on this over 23.1 and 32.5 m (still receiving them)
- Only 5 patients received this regimen in the 2nd line; all other patients received in 3+ lines.
- When lenvatinib was provided 4+ lines, patients did not tolerate it well.
- 4 patients with IDH1 mutation received ivosidenib without response, before receiving lenvatinib and pembrolizumab.



Overall Response Rate (ORR) / DNA Alterations



While # patients is not large:

- 1) TP53 mutations are associated with decreased response.
- 2) IDH1/ARID1A mutated tumors are hypervascular and associated with better response.

Progress in 10 years

- Biliary tract cancer firmly entered the era of precision medicine and immuno-oncology
 - Many problems still to solve
 - Biomarkers for selection and resistant pathways
 - Optimizing therapy – best sequencing and combinations
 - Improve access to profiling and precision drugs in routine care
- Inhibitors and clinical trials: KRAS, BRAF, MTAP loss, MDM2 amplification, PIK3CA, IDH2
- Antibody-drug conjugate (CDH6, FOLR1, TROP2, Nectin4)
- Anti-VEGF(R) including bevacizumab, CTX-009, lenvatinib, rivoceranib, ramucirumab
- Studies underway
 - Peri-operative and down-staging, transplant, radiotherapy approaches
 - More international collaborations



Thank you

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~~Cancer~~ Center
Making Cancer History®