

# *Integrating our new therapeutics into (more) frontline protocols*

***Lynley Marshall***

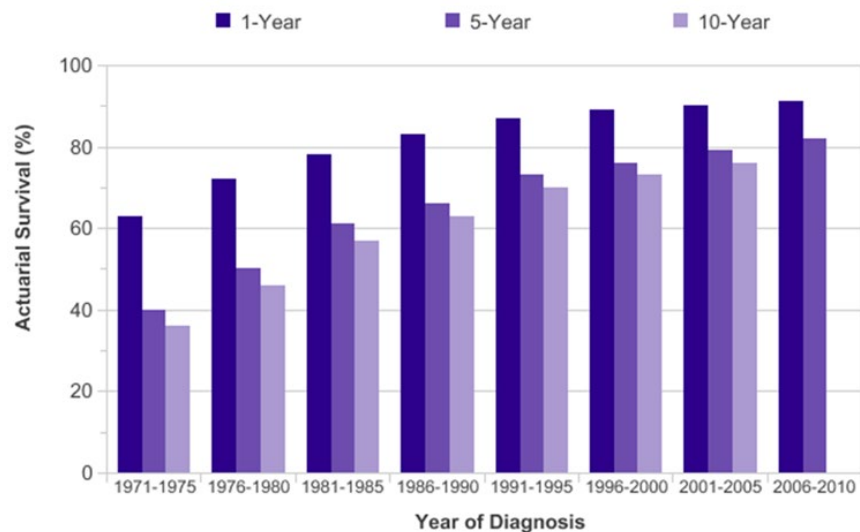
*Consultant in Paediatric & Adolescent Drug Development*

*The Royal Marsden Hospital & The Institute of Cancer Research, London*

***ITCC Introductory Course in Paediatric Drug Development***

*Utrecht, 15-16 October 2018*

# Childhood Cancer



## Improvement in UK Survival Outcomes (1971-2010)

- **High risk groups remain poor prognosis despite toxic therapy:**
  - Neuroblastoma
  - Metastatic sarcoma
  - Certain brain tumours - pHGG, DIPG
  - High risk leukaemia
  - Relapsed lymphoma
- **Need for earlier introduction of agents targeting molecular drivers of cancer.**

## *Cancer in childhood is rare:*

(<1% of all cancers < 15 years; 1% in teenagers/TYA)

**BUT** remains most common cause of death < 15 years (developed countries)

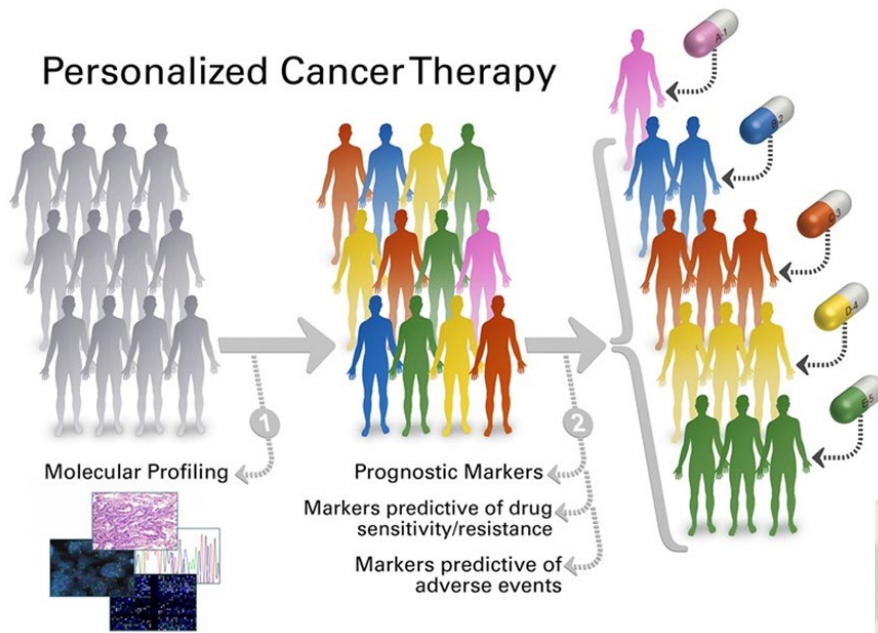
**Unmet need:** Faster, more efficient drug development

# Overall Goals & Ethos of Paediatric Drug Development

- To **improve survival** for poor prognosis childhood cancers by accelerating the development of new drugs and advancing the best to more frontline therapy as quickly and safely as possible
- To **provide access** to hypothesis-driven, biomarker-rich early clinical trials of novel molecularly targeted agents within early phase trials – paradigm shift
- To **provide excellent, holistic, ethical multidisciplinary cancer care** for child/young person and family – some are palliative
- To **deliver high quality clinical trials data** to regulatory standards required & to facilitate licensing of best new drugs
- To **train a new generation** of paediatric oncology drug developers to drive forward progress in the field



# Overall Goals: Paediatric & Adolescent Programmes



***Precision medicine and  
Personalised therapy***

# The Long Process of Drug Development

10-15 years

## Preclinical phase:

- Target identification
- Drug Discovery
- Preclinical testing *in vitro* & *in vivo*

Adults

## Phase I

First-in-man;  
Dose finding:

- DLT
- MTD/OBD
- RP2D

Safety/PK

## Phase II

Small numbers;  
disease-specific;  
activity

Efficacy

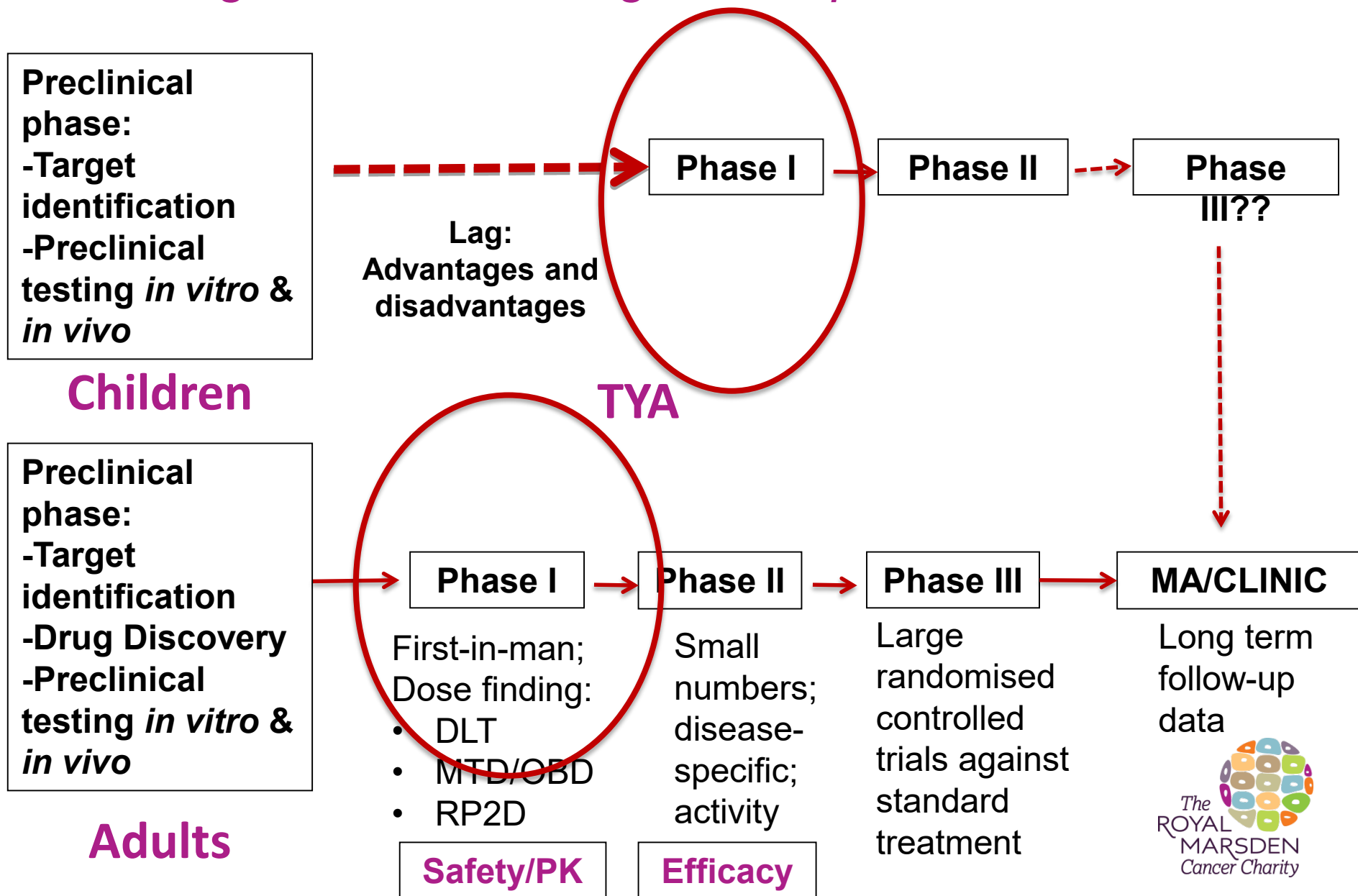
## Phase III

Large randomised controlled trials against standard treatment

## MA/CLINIC

Long term follow-up data

# The Long Process of Drug Development



# *Bottlenecks to cancer drug development for paediatric patients*

- **Drug supply**

- For preclinical & clinical studies
- Priorities – adult market; studies in patients <18yrs are perceived as high-risk by pharma
- High drug attrition rates at all stages of development (<10% paediatric phase 1)

- **Funding**

- **Industry-sponsored:** limited to PIP-driven trials; commercial income does not cover the cost of the academic studies
- **Academic funding:** limited; relatively few clinical trial units sponsor paediatric phase 1 trials
- **Charity**

- **Rarity of paediatric cancers & now molecular sub types**

- Long recruitment / small studies / multi-centre / collaboration / expense
- **Biology – less well understood; fewer recurrent mutations; drivers vs passengers; role of epigenetics**
- Historical lack of biomarker development/ incorporation (Predictive; PD)

- **Regulatory Issues**

- Regulatory obligations makes pharma fear entrusting academic investigators with trial delivery,



# *The European Paediatric Regulation (2006): Aims:*

- Improve the health of children & adolescents in Europe
- Increase high quality, ethical research into medicines for children
- Increase availability of **authorised** medicines for children (including age-appropriate formulations)
- Increase information on medicines (safety, toxicity, dosing, activity, efficacy; include in label/Summary of Product Characteristics)
- Without unnecessary studies in children or delaying authorisation for adults

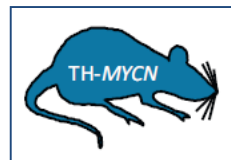
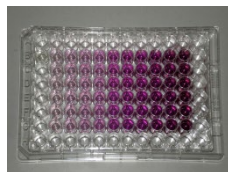
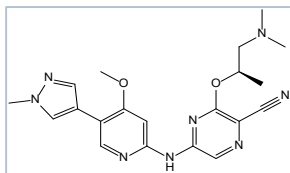


**Tools: Paediatric investigation Plans (PIPs), Waivers, Deferrals, Incentives & Rewards, Compliance Checks:**

**Companies agree plans with the European Medicine Agency's Paediatric Committee (PDCO)**



# *A whole package: infrastructure, investment, expertise*



**Centre for  
Molecular  
Pathology**

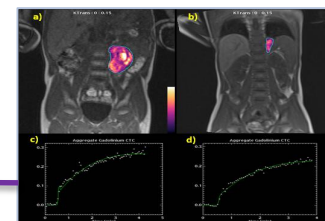


**Adult Drug  
Development Unit**

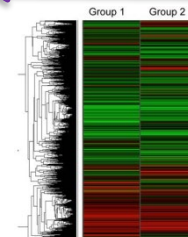
- The incorporation of scientific hypothesis with biomarkers into early clinical trials will accelerate and improve drug development for childhood cancers
- Uniquely placed to bring them into frontline treatment.



**Paediatric  
Drug  
Development  
Unit &  
Consortia**

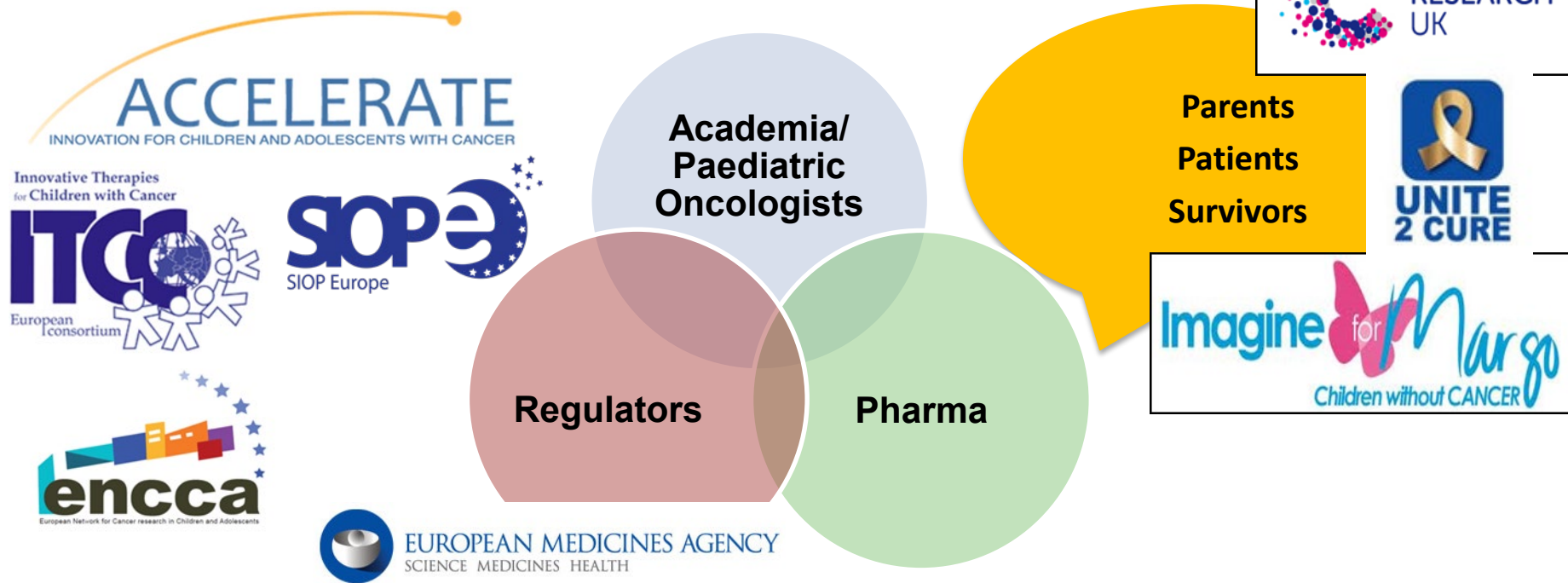


**Biomarkers**



**Clinical/Academic/Pharma Partners**

## *Multi-stakeholder interaction is crucial*



- Dialogue about prioritisation of drugs / targets / studies eg Novel Drug Development Strategy (NDDS); ACCELERATE Paediatric Strategy Forums
- Mechanism of action-based drug development
- Novel trial designs; combinations; multi-company; adaptive
- Extrapolation from adult data; inclusion of adolescents > 12 years
- Personalised medicine & molecular profiling strategies
- Long term follow up data collection initiatives

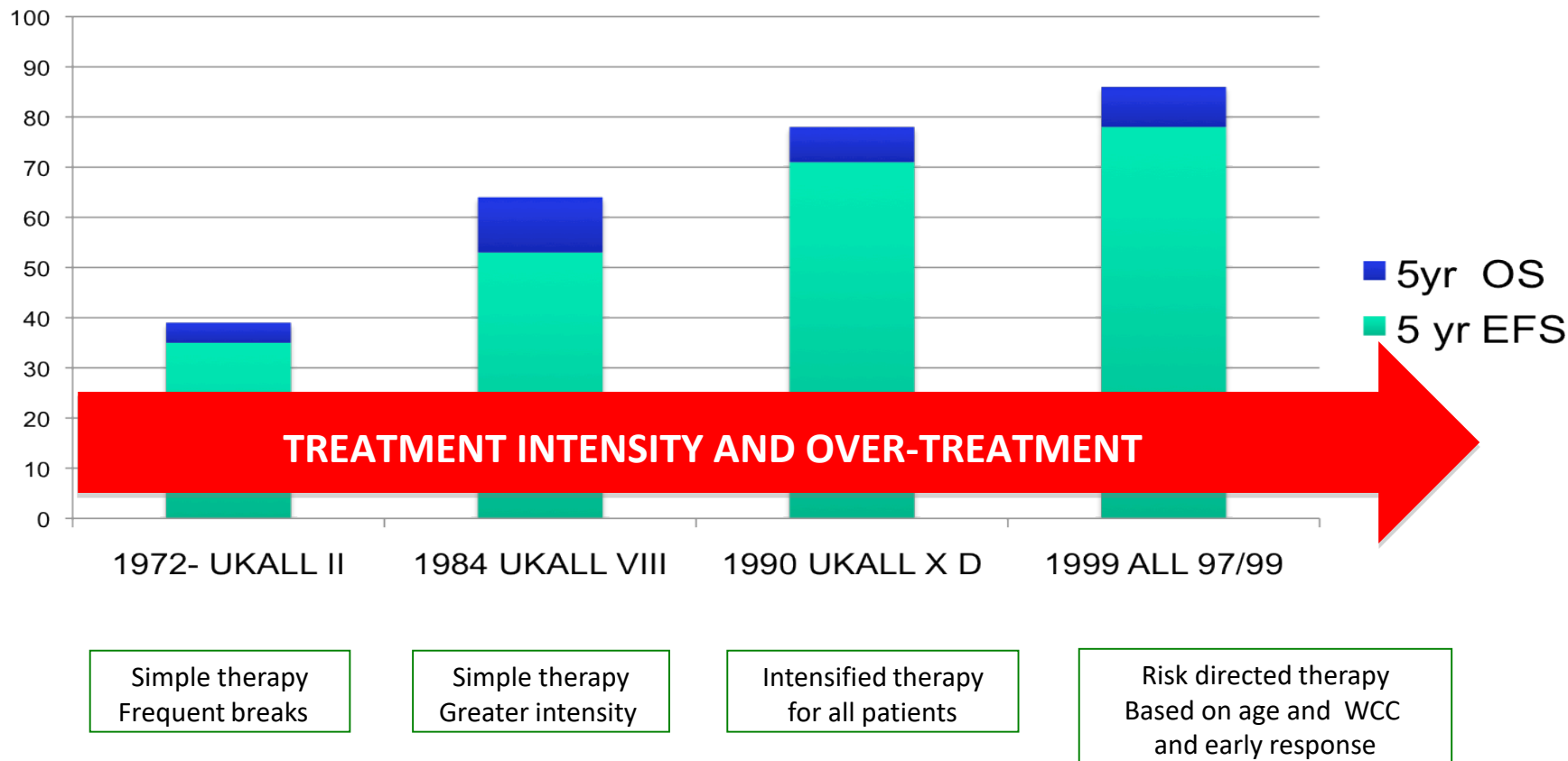
## ***Phase I & II trials: key strategies & priorities to help move forward more quickly***

- **Wide & balanced portfolio:**
  - Phase I and II; momentum essential; no gaps between studies (high attrition rate of drugs and studies)
  - Inclusive age range – infants, TYA patients
  - Broad eligibility and more targeted eligibility studies
  - Solid tumours, CNS tumours, Lymphomas, Leukaemias
  - Pharma-sponsored and investigator-led/academic studies
- **Make every patient count – efficient trial designs, maximise data use and biomarkers/biological information**
- **Extrapolate from adults where possible**
- **Increase access to trials and new drugs – lower age of inclusion in adult studies**
- **Tumour-specific & target-specific experts and groups driving drug development internationally**
- **Organised referral networks**

## *When/Why to move novel therapies forward to front line 'quickly'?*

- Very poor prognosis diseases (eg DMG/DIPG) – upfront
- High risk/metastatic disease which respond but relapse (HGG, ARMS, HR MBL...) – consider window studies
- Strong oncogenic driver targets/effective drugs – to improve outcomes
- Very good prognosis diseases – reduce acute and long term toxicities

## *Improving outcomes: Childhood ALL led the way*



- UKALL 2003 – one vs 2 DI; MRD; further improvements
- UKALL 2011 – dexamethasone, pulses, HD MTX rand - ongoing
- **2019 - ALL TOGETHER** – RISK GROUPBASED, TARGETED THERAPY, PATH TO CAR-T CELL FOR RELEVANT GROUPS

# *Targeted therapy : Leukaemia led the way in adults...extrapolated to rare paediatric population*



## Imatinib (Glivec):

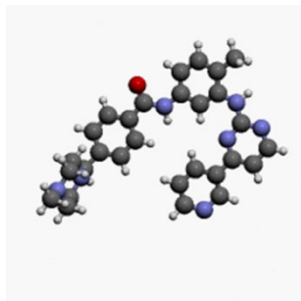
- Targeting BCR-ABL/the Philadelphia chromosome t(9;22) in chronic myeloid leukaemia in 2001
- Authorised on the basis of 5 CML studies 2133 adults & 54 children
- Generic biosimilar Imatinib authorised on the basis of showing bioequivalence once patent had expired



# Progress

## Imatinib

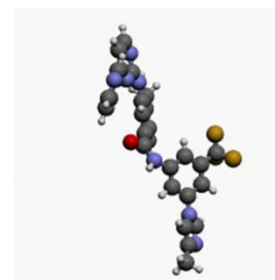
- 1<sup>st</sup> generation tyrosine kinase inhibitor
- Blocks the BCR-ABL enzyme
- Inhibits cell growth and induces apoptosis
- Initial use in CML (rare in children)
- Proven benefit in Ph+ ALL & incorporated into upfront treatment



**Imatinib**

## Dasatinib...Nilotinib...Bosutinib.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> generation tyrosine kinase inhibitors
- Overcome resistance/intolerance to imatinib
- Delay/Avoid BMT



**Nilotinib**



# *Targeted therapy success : Rituximab in high risk BNHL*

*(Rituximab approved in adults since 1997)*

## Journal of Clinical Oncology®

An American Society of Clinical Oncology Journal

Results of the randomized Intergroup trial

Inter-B-NHL Ritux 2010 for children and

adolescents with high-risk B-cell non-

Hodgkin lymphoma (B-NHL) and mature

acute leukemia (B-AL): Evaluation of

rituximab (R) efficacy in addition to standard

LMB chemotherapy (CT) regimen.

Veronique Minard-Colin, Anne Auperin, Marta Pillon, Amos Burke, James Robert Anderson, Donald A. Barkauskas,

ASCO®

- **Challenge:** rare population; high cure rate but high acute toxicity; few late toxicities; EFS ~90%
  - high risk group worse (80% or less)
  - Rituximab may have unexpected toxicity in children
- 1-year EFS 81.5% R- vs 94.2% R+

# Targets are important

- *Melanoma*

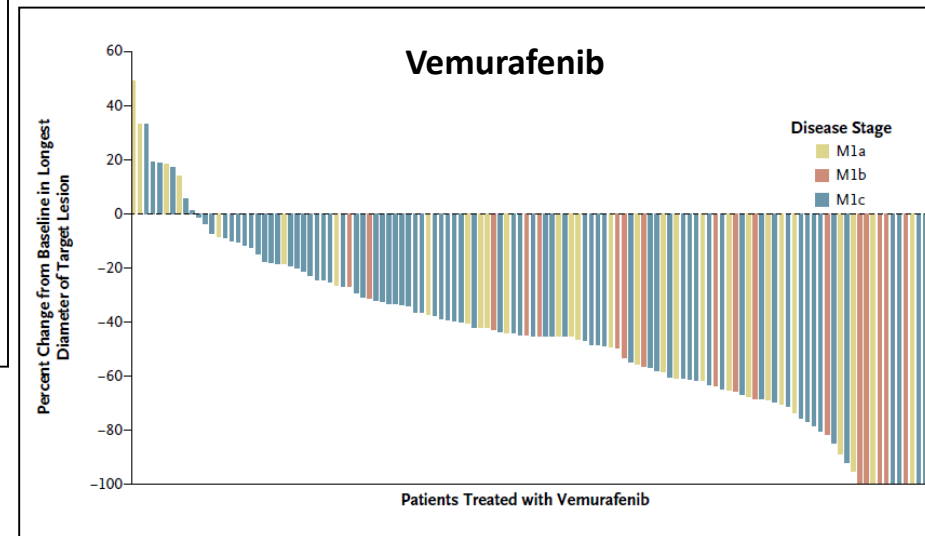
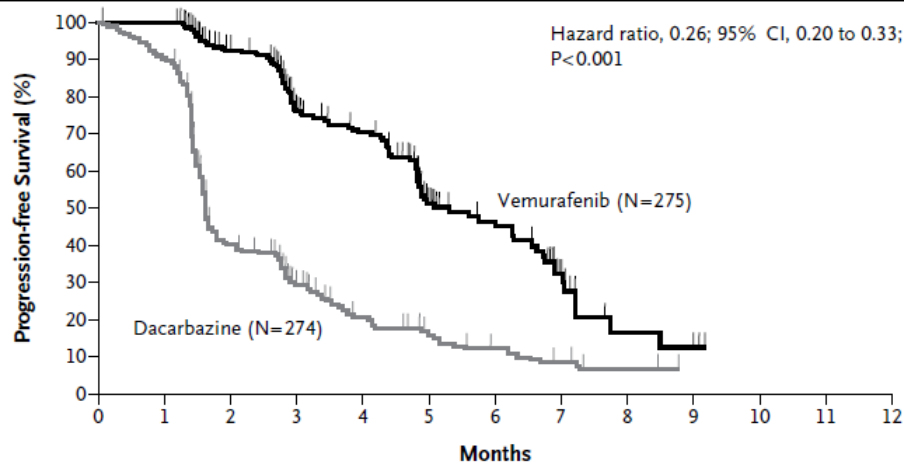
- Adult disease; rare in children
- BRAF V600E mutations in 50% – BRAF inhibitors very successful
- Paediatric melanoma studies unfeasible & terminated early

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

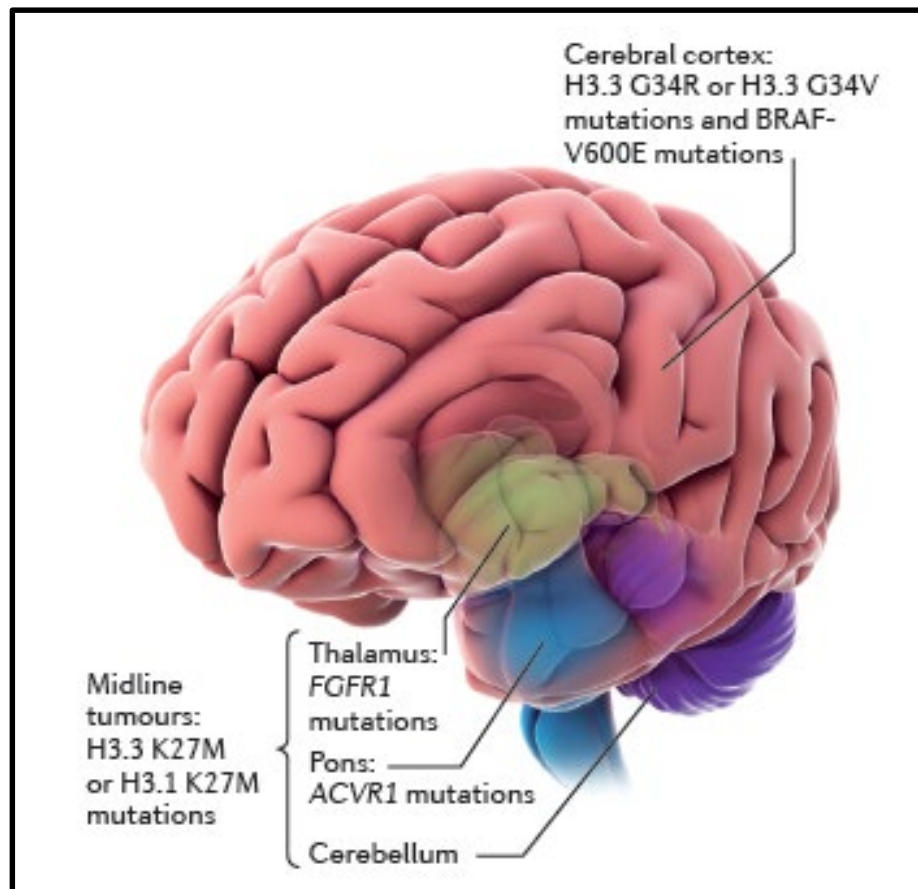
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Improved Survival with Vemurafenib in Melanoma with BRAF V600E Mutation

Paul B. Chapman, M.D., Axel Hauschild, M.D., Caroline Robert, M.D., Ph.D., John B. Haanen, M.D., Paolo Ascierto, M.D., James Larkin, M.D.,



## *Anatomical distribution and selective mutations distinguish subgroups of paediatric HGG*

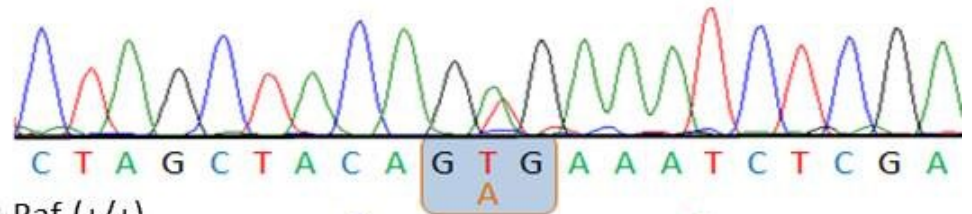


Jones et al, Nature Reviews Cancer, 2014

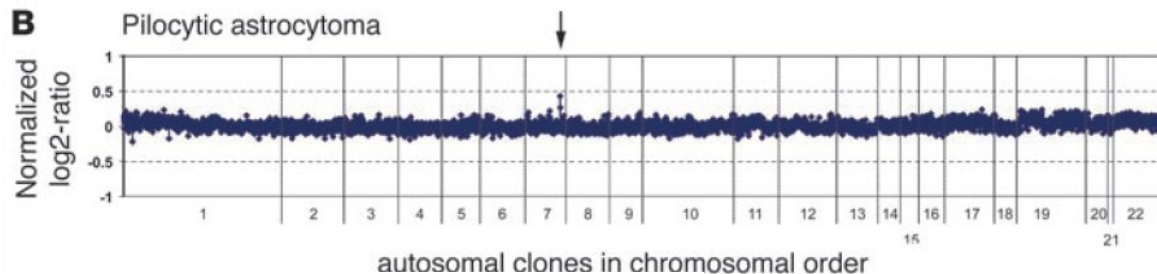
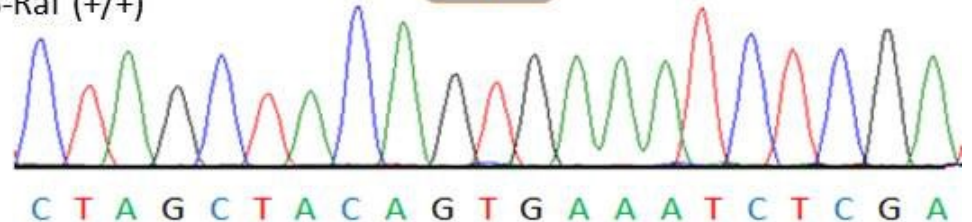
# *BRAF as an oncogenic driver in HGG & LGG:*

**BRAFv600 point mutations in SOME HGG & SOME LGG**

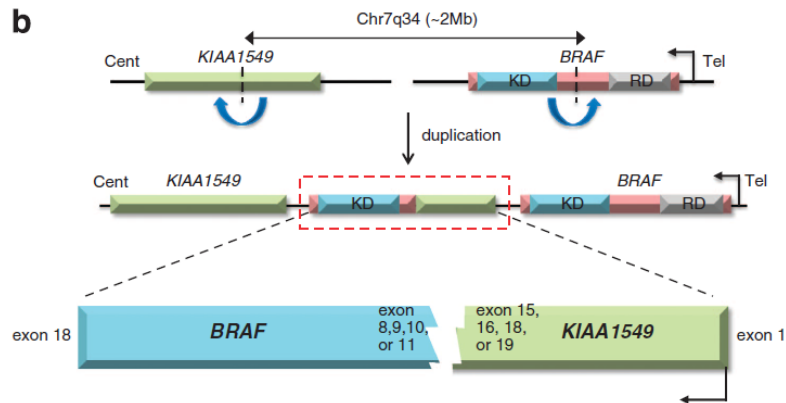
B-Raf (V600E/+)



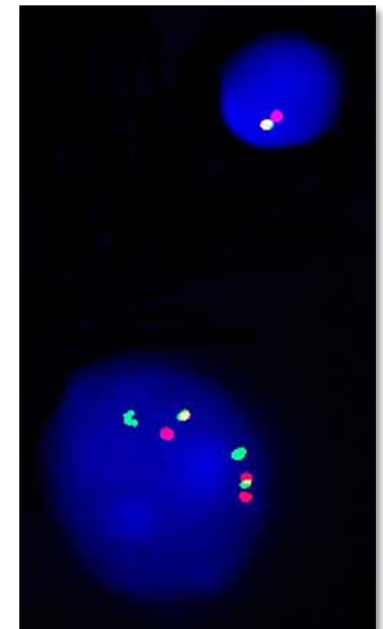
B-Raf (+/+)



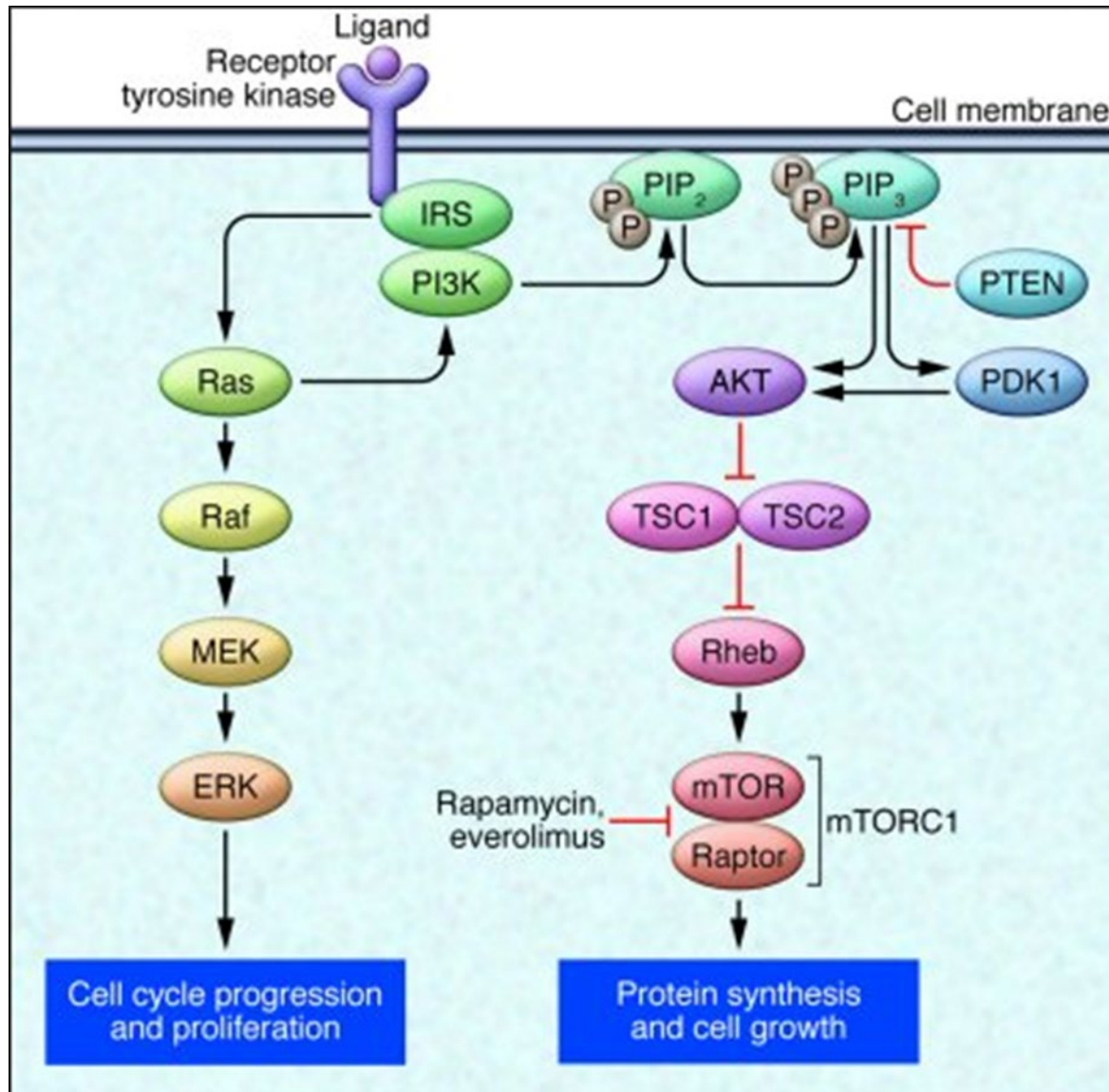
**b**



**BRAF fusions in LGG**



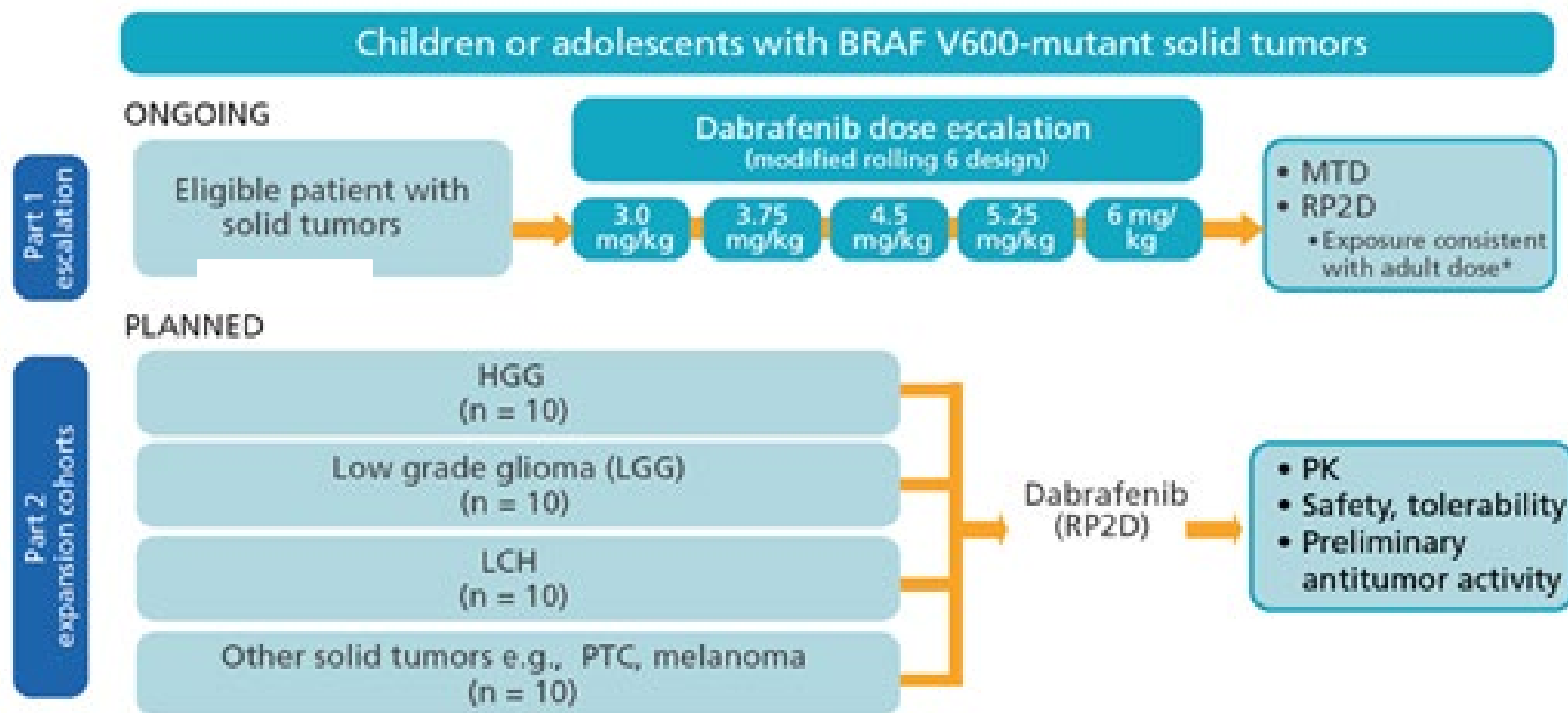
# MAP Kinase (MEK) Cell Signaling Pathway



# Complete Radiographic Responses in Pediatric Patients with BRAF V600–Positive Tumors Including High Grade Gliomas: Preliminary Results of an Ongoing Phase I/IIa Safety and Pharmacokinetics (PK) Study of Dabrafenib

Mark W. Kieran<sup>1</sup>, Kenneth J. Cohen<sup>2</sup>, Francois Doz<sup>3</sup>, Ira J. Dunkel<sup>4</sup>, Darren R. Hargrave<sup>5</sup>, Trent Ryan Hummel<sup>6</sup>, Irene Jimenez<sup>7</sup>, Sarah Leary<sup>7</sup>, Andrew D.J. Pearson<sup>8</sup>, Christine A. Pratlis<sup>9</sup>, James Whitlock<sup>8</sup>, Michael Durante<sup>10</sup>, Diana M. Gibson<sup>11</sup>, Patricia Haney<sup>12</sup>, Mark W. Russo<sup>13</sup>, A. Benjamin Suttle<sup>14</sup>, Birgit Georger<sup>15</sup>

ASCO 2016



*Building on this:*

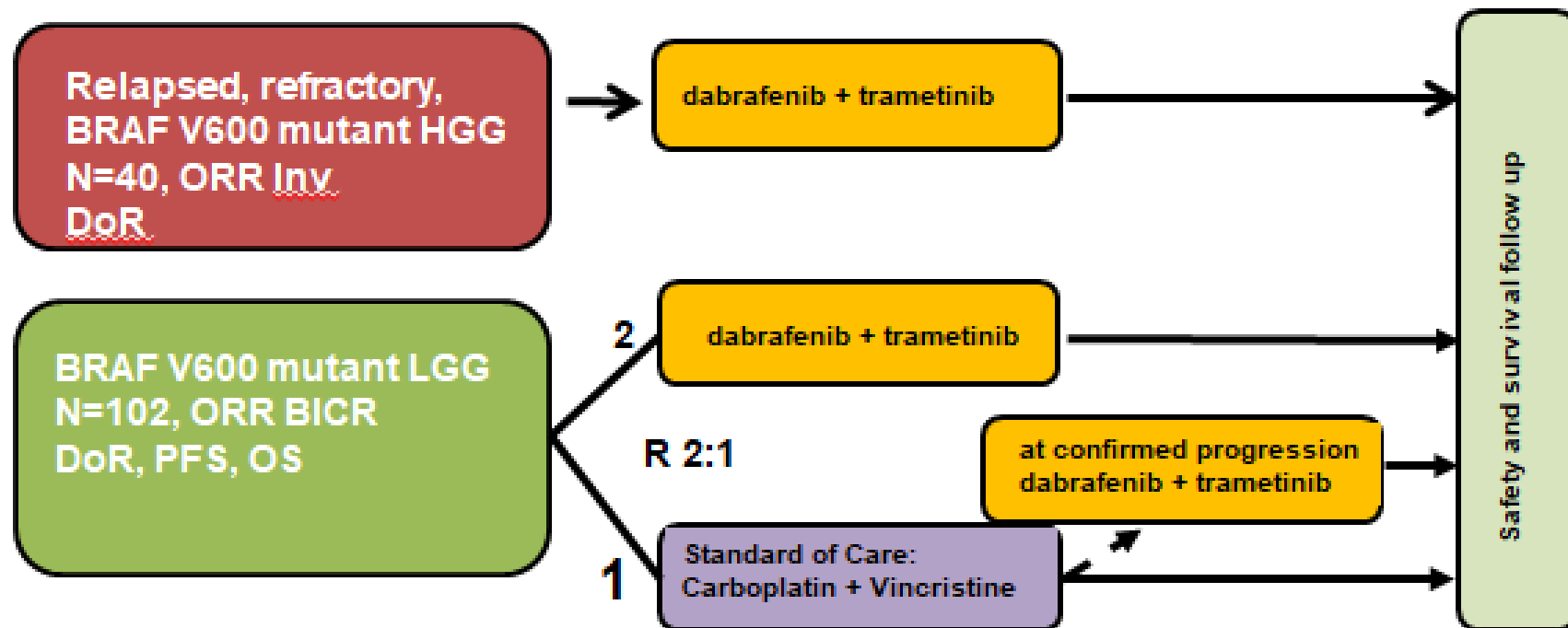
*Dabrafenib: BRAFV600E inhibitor (BRAFV600)*

*Trametinib: MAP Kinase inhibitor (BRAF fusions)*

*Combination – improve efficacy; overcome resistance*



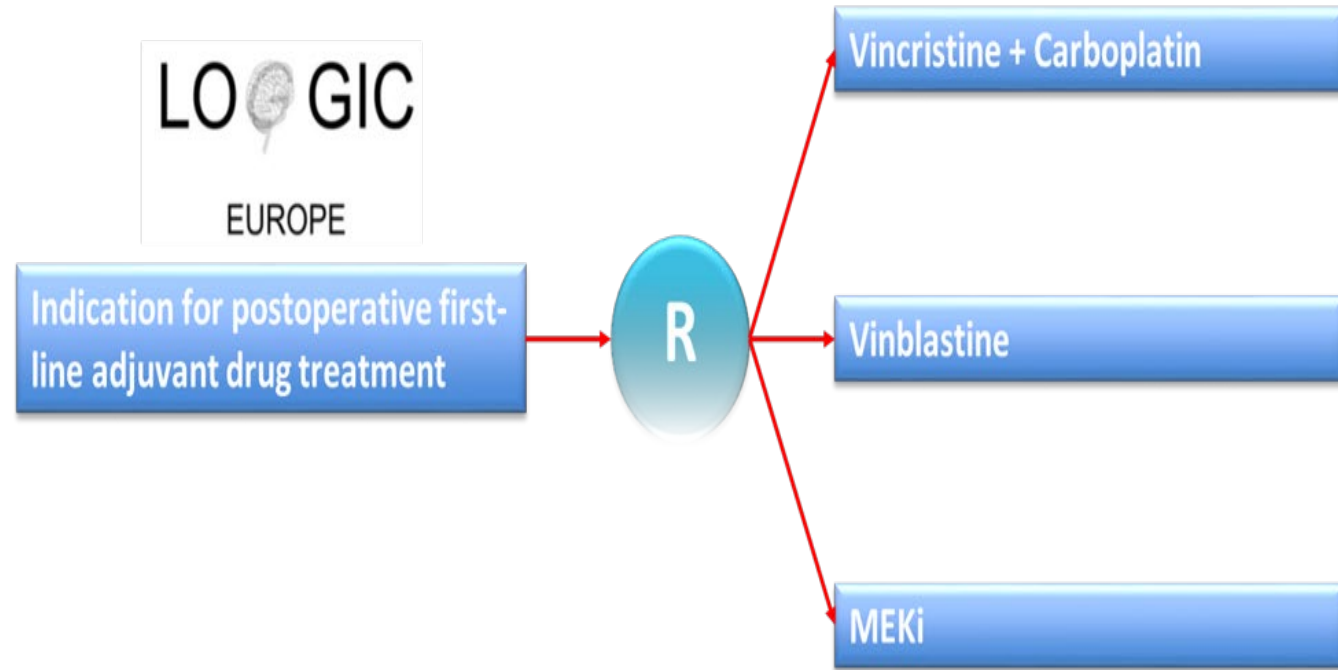
# *Moving forward BRAF & MEK inhibitors in BRAFv600mutant HGG & LGG: Study DRB436G2201*



Global effort in a rare population - 49 participating sites from 17 countries



# *Moving forward MEK inhibitors in LGG vs standard of care chemotherapy : upfront randomized phase III*



To identify the **optimum treatment regimen for tumour growth control and improvement of neurological and visual function** comparing **Carbo+VCR** versus weekly **VBL** versus **MEKi** as first line treatment in (non) NF1-related LGG

## Anti-angiogenics in pHGG: Stupp +/- Bevacizumab

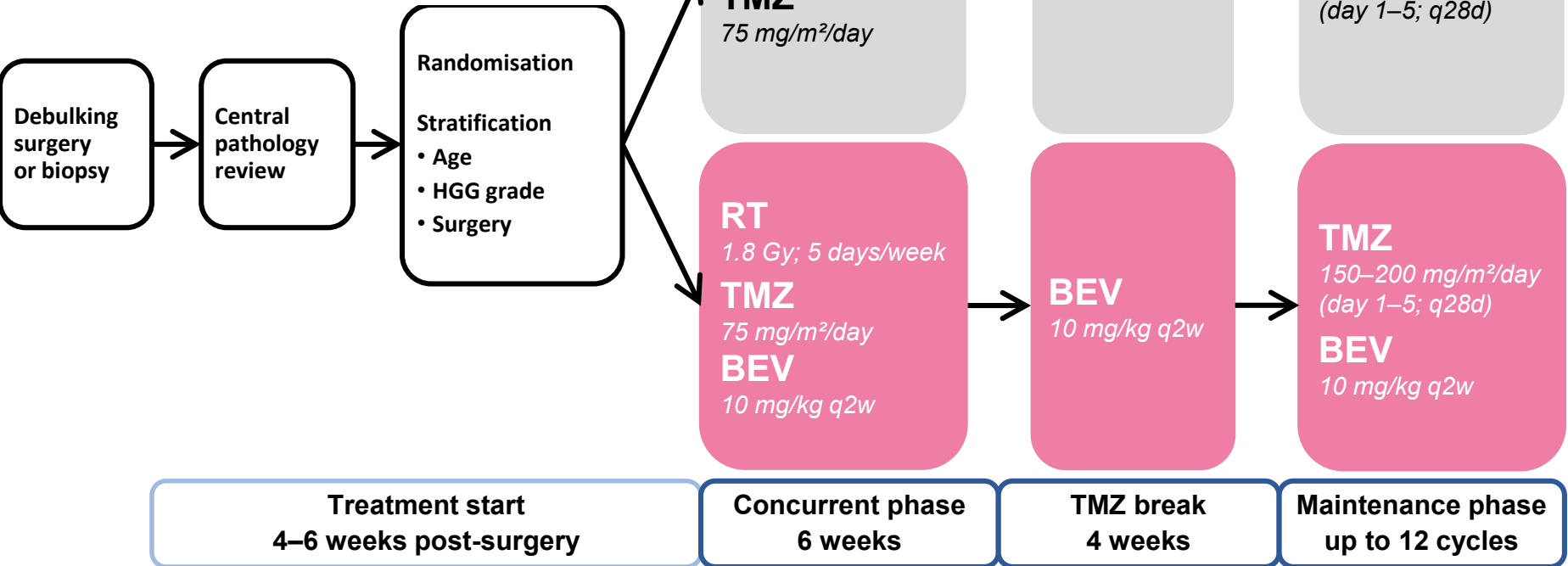
**HERBY**

Bevacizumab in Paediatric HGG Study

**HERBY Study (BO25041)**

Clinicaltrials.gov NCT01390948

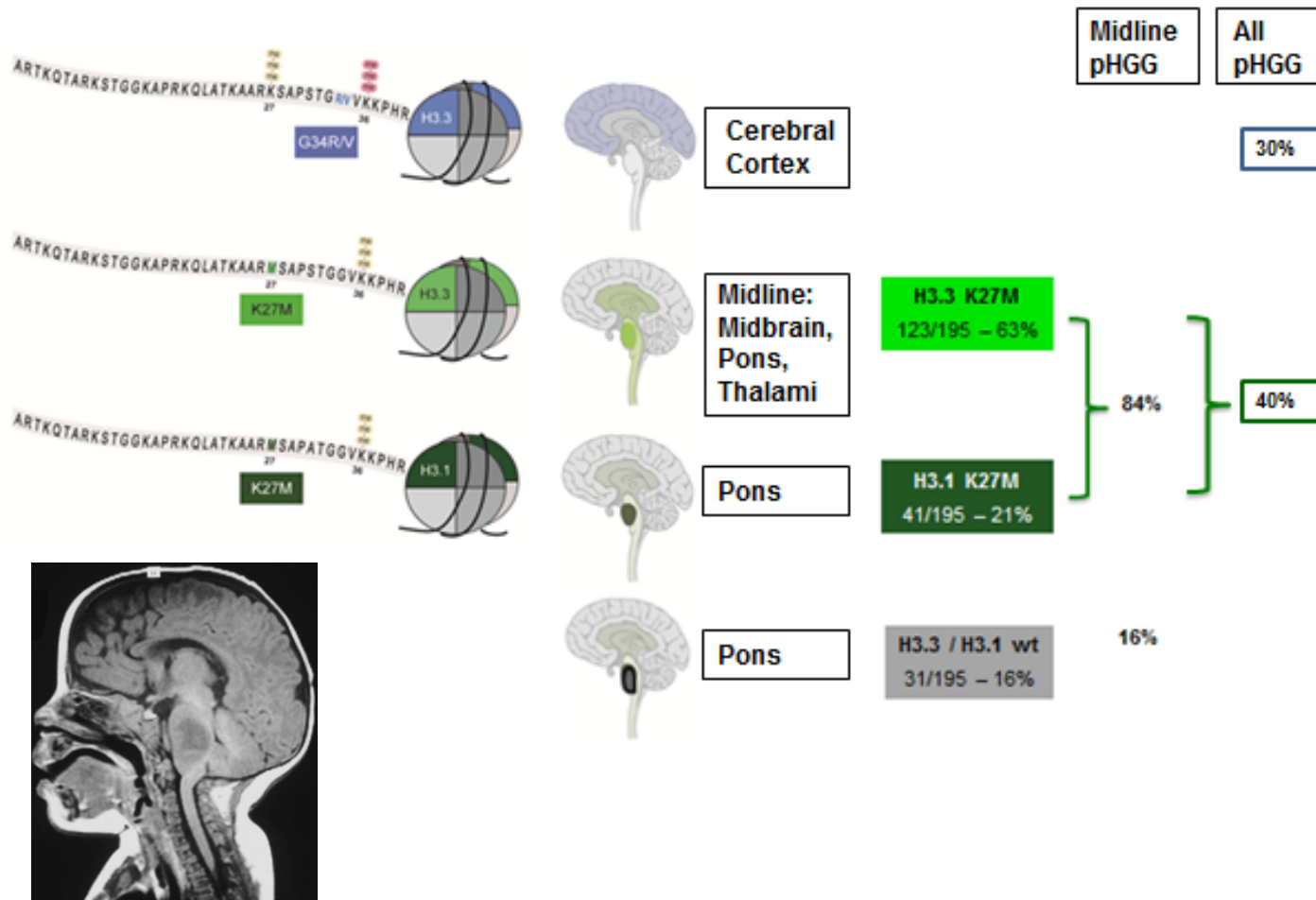
A study of bevacizumab in paediatric patients with newly diagnosed supratentorial high grade glioma



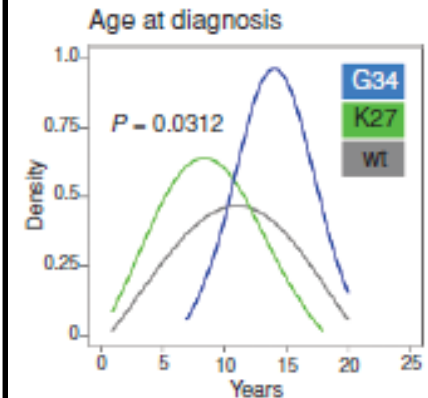
- Study population: patients aged  $\geq 3$  years to  $< 18$  years with newly diagnosed localised supratentorial or infratentorial cerebellar or peduncular HGG (WHO grade III/IV)

# Anatomical distribution, incidence and clinical correlates of histone H3F3A and HIST1H3B mutations in pHGG

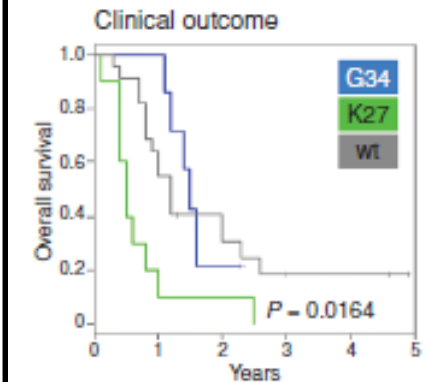
A



B



C

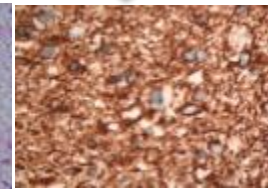
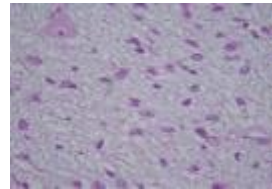
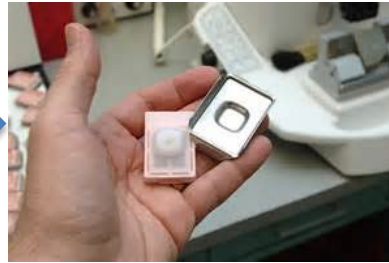
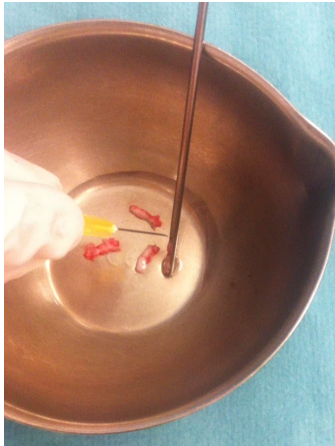


Bjerke, Cancer Discovery 2013

Modified from Jones, Nature Reviews Cancer 2014.

Incidence of H3.3/3.1 K27M and H3.3 G34R/V mutations from Buczkowicz 2014, Fontebasso 2014, Taylor 2014, Wu 2014, (Nature Genetics) and Gajjar, Clinical Cancer Research 2014.

# BIOMEDE Biology

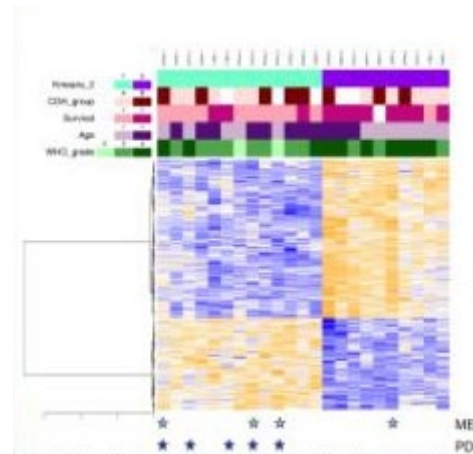
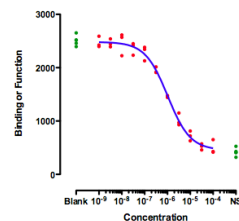
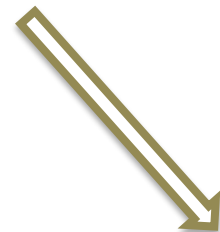
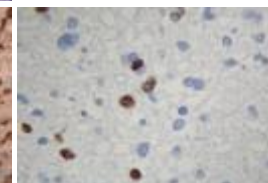


## Diagnosis

- H3K27me3
- H3.3K27M

## Biomarkers

- EGFR (IHC)
- PTEN (IHC)
- PDGFRA (FISH)

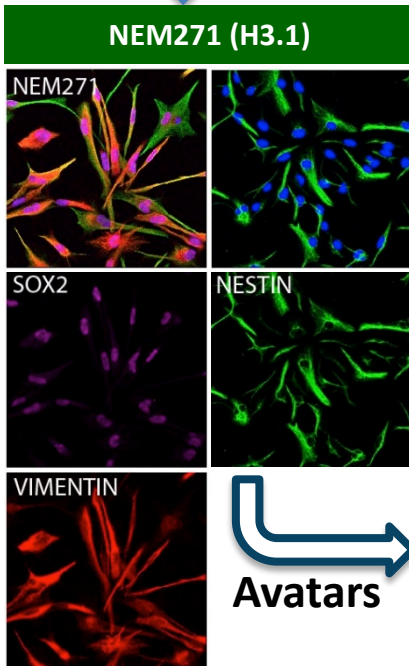


## Genomics

- Sequencing H3.3 and H3.1
- WES (+ blood)
- RNAseq

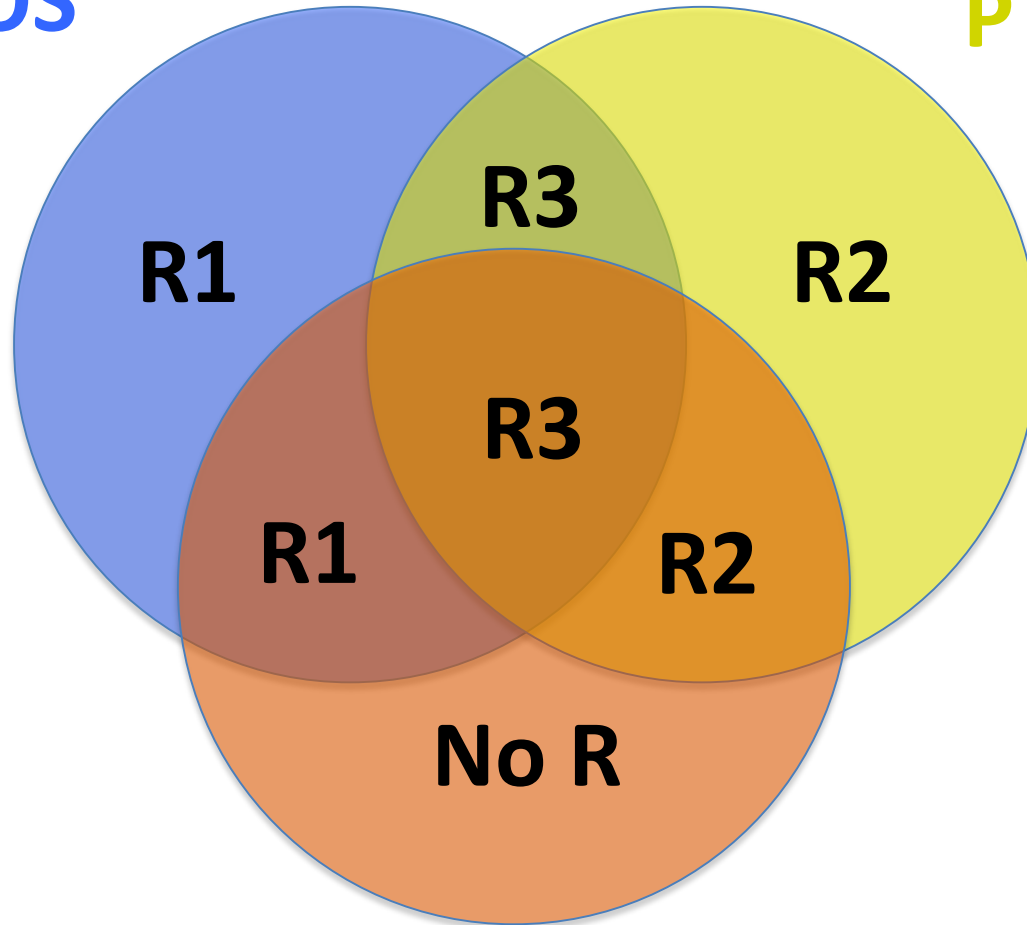


Avatars



**EGFR POS**

**PTEN LOSS**



*BIOMEDE*

**PDGFRA AMP**








































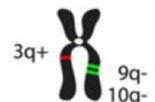
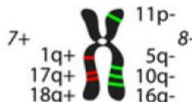
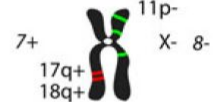
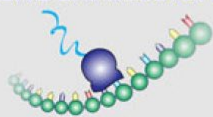
R1=Erlotinib/Dasatinib; R2=Everolimus/Dasatinib;

R3=All 3

**Concomitant with and adjuvant to radiotherapy**



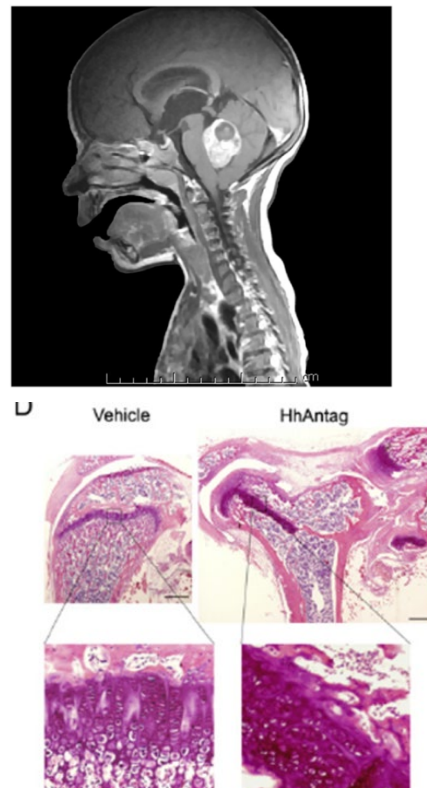
# Medulloblastoma

Molecular Subgroups of Medulloblastoma				
CONSENSUS	WNT	SHH	Group 3	Group 4
Cho (2010)	C6	C3	C1/C5	C2/C4
Northcott (2010)	WNT	SHH	Group C	Group D
Kool (2008)	A	B	E	C/D
Thompson (2006)	B	C', D	E, A	A, C
DEMOGRAPHICS				
Age Group:   	  	     	  	     
Gender:  	  :  	  :  	  : 	  : 
CLINICAL FEATURES				
Histology	classic, rarely LCA	desmoplastic/nodular, classic, LCA	classic, LCA	classic, LCA
Metastasis	rarely M+	uncommonly M+	very frequently M+	frequently M+
Prognosis	very good	infants good, others intermediate	poor	intermediate
GENETICS				
	 CTNNB1 mutation	 PTCH1/SMO/SUFU mutation GLI2 amplification MYCN amplification	 i17q MYC amplification	 i17q CDK6 amplification MYCN amplification
GENE EXPRESSION				
	WNT signaling MYC +	SHH signaling MYCN +	Photoreceptor/GABAergic MYC +++	Neuronal/Glutamatergic minimal MYC / MYCN

# *Medulloblastoma: Sonic Hedgehog Pathway*

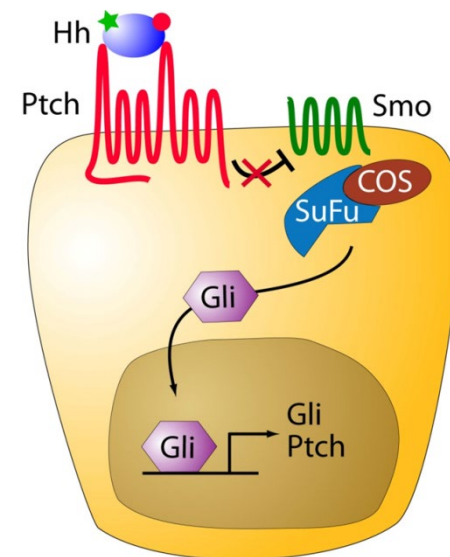
## **Novartis-sponsored; LDE225 in medulloblastoma and solid tumours potentially dependent on SHH signalling**

- Phase I  $\longrightarrow$  Phase III
- Adults and children.
- Molecular pre-screening in tumour tissue for 5-gene SHH signature (more common in adults; children <10%).
- Oral drug; daily dose; 4 weekly
- Well-tolerated.
- Unusual side effects: elevated CK; effects on growing bones & teeth.
- Study abandoned by company due to feasibility of phase III/rarity of disease



Cancer Cell  
**Article**

**Transient Inhibition of the Hedgehog Pathway in Young Mice Causes Permanent Defects in Bone Structure**



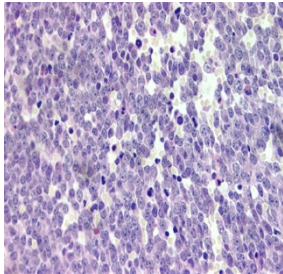
ASCO

Cell  
PRESS

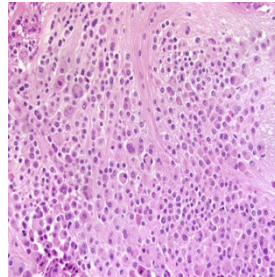
The  
ROYAL  
MARSDEN  
Cancer Charity



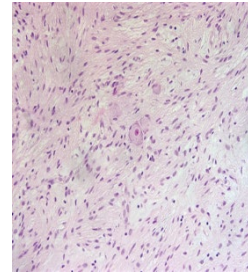
# *Neuroblastoma: a spectrum of diverse biology & clinical behaviour*



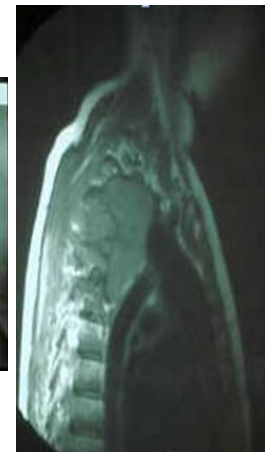
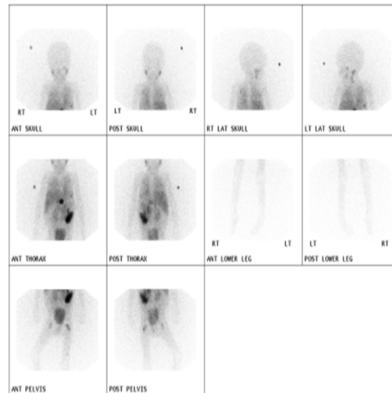
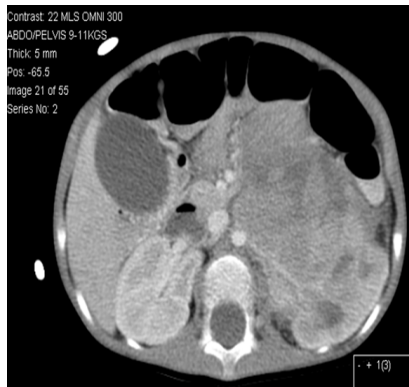
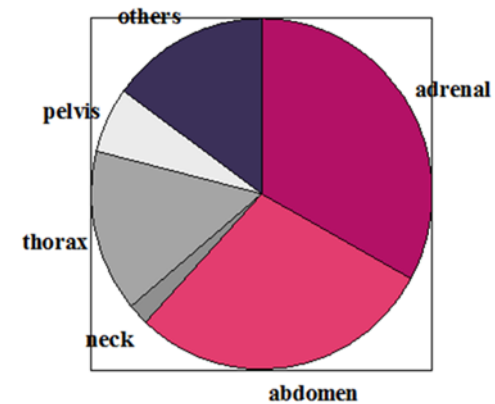
**Undifferentiated  
neuroblastoma**



**Differentiating  
neuroblastoma**



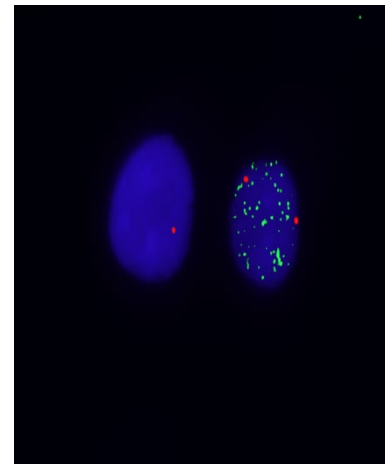
**Ganglioneuroma**



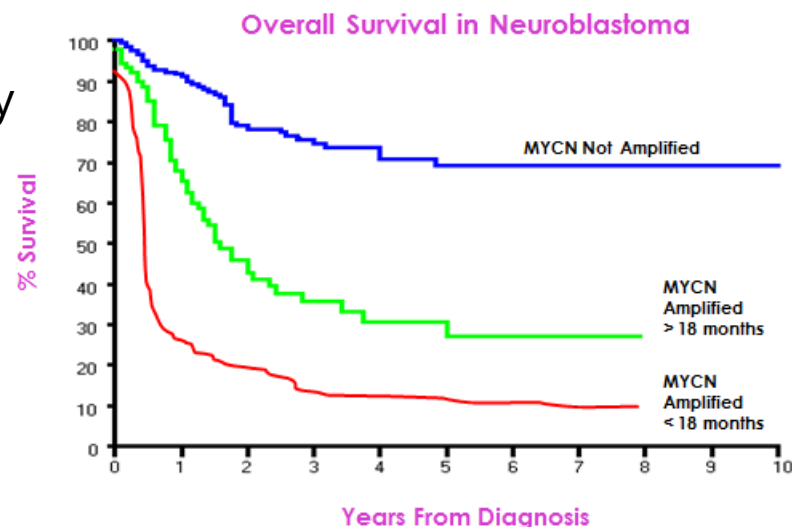
Degree of malignancy/aggressive biological features

# *MYCN in neuroblastoma: A major determinant of outcome*

- Proto-oncogene on chromosome 2p24.3 identified in 1999
- 4-fold number of *MYCN* FISH signals compared to the reference probe
- *MYCN* amplification in 25% of all neuroblastoma, 50% of high risk patients
- *MYCN* amplification **in infants** – especially powerful as a prognostic factor: 10% versus 85% survival
- **Almost 15 years after *MYCN* identification:**
  - utilised in clinical trials to guide standard upfront treatment
  - key target for novel therapies; is it 'druggable'?



Dual-coloured  
FISH



# *Standard treatment of high risk neuroblastoma*

**Induction  
Chemotherapy**

**Surgical  
Resection**

**Myeloablation  
& Autologous  
Stem Cell Rescue**

**Radiotherapy**

**Minimal  
Residual  
Disease  
Therapy**

# Improving outcomes through randomised studies: induction chemotherapy

Induction  
Chemotherapy

Surgical  
Resection

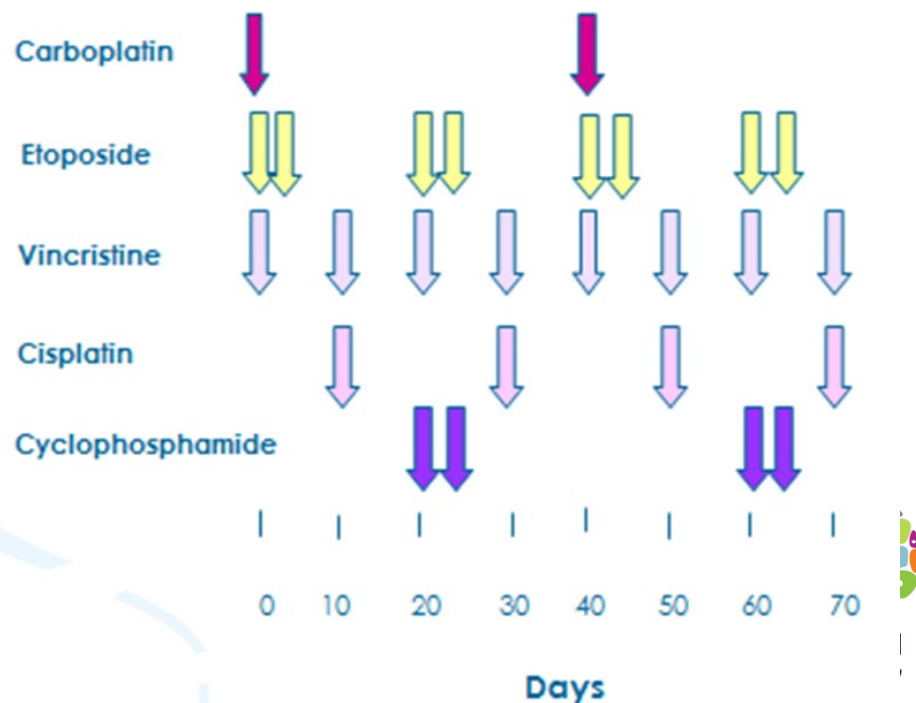
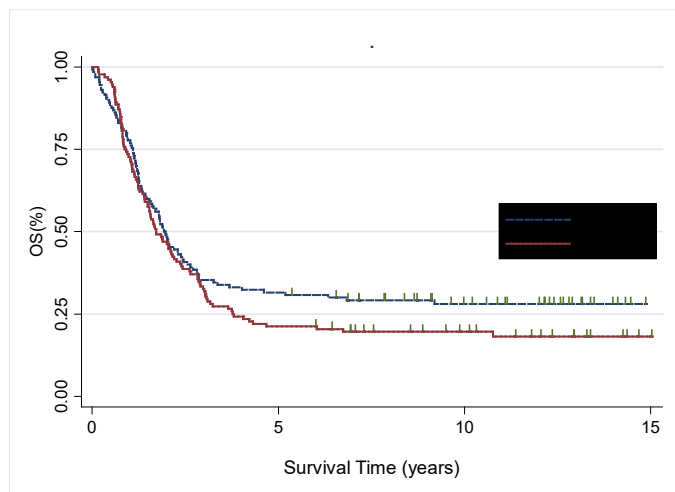
Myeloablation  
& Autologous  
Stem Cell Rescue

Radiotherapy

Minimal  
Residual  
Disease  
Therapy

Standard (OPEC/OJEC) vs  
Rapid Induction :

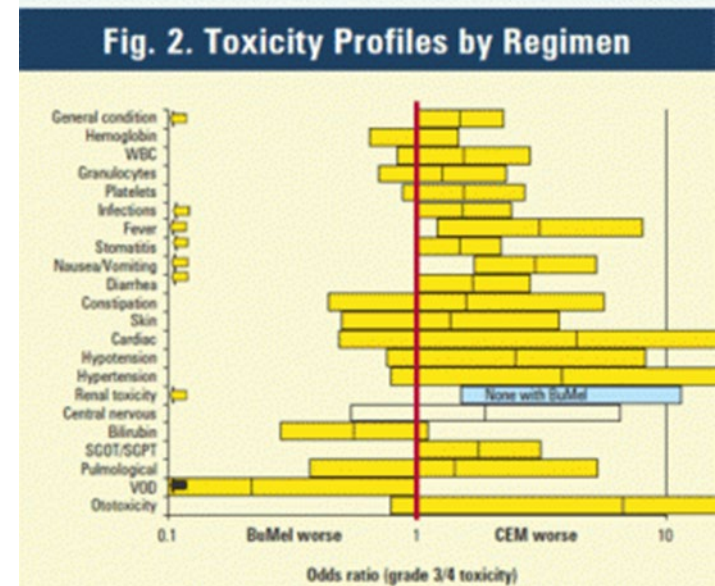
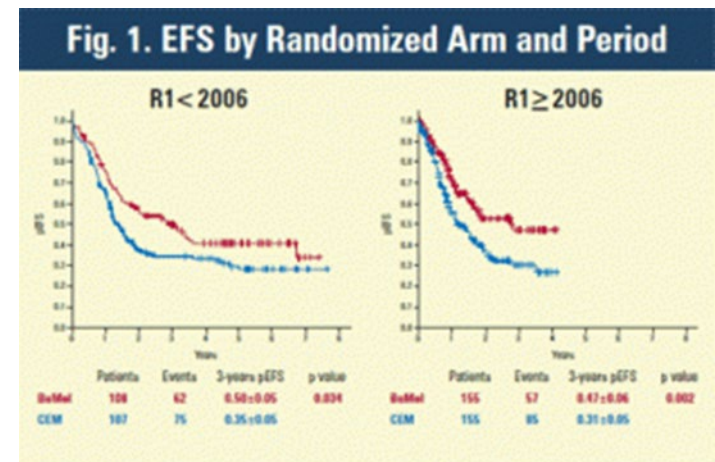
Previous Trial – ENSG5



# Improving outcomes through randomised studies: Myeloablative therapy & ASCT

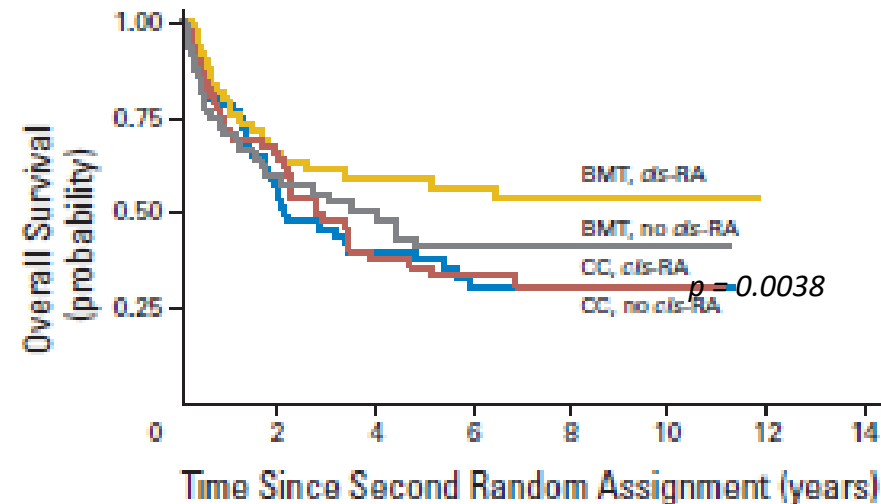
- Consensus of previous studies show benefit of multiple agents rather than single agent melphalan
- US gold standard - carboplatin, etoposide, melphalan (CEM)
- EU gold standard - busulphan, melphalan (BuMel)
- **R1 Randomisation on SIOPEN study: BuMel vs CEM**

	BuMel	CEM
Number of patients	281	282
3 year EFS	49%	33%
3 year OS	60%	48%
3 year relapse/progression	47%	60%
Treatment-related death rate	3%	5%



# Improving outcomes through randomised studies: Minimal residual disease strategies

## Differentiation therapy

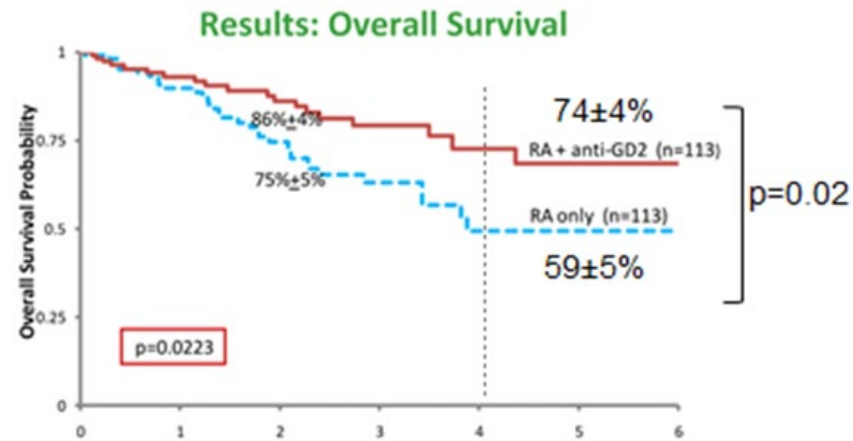
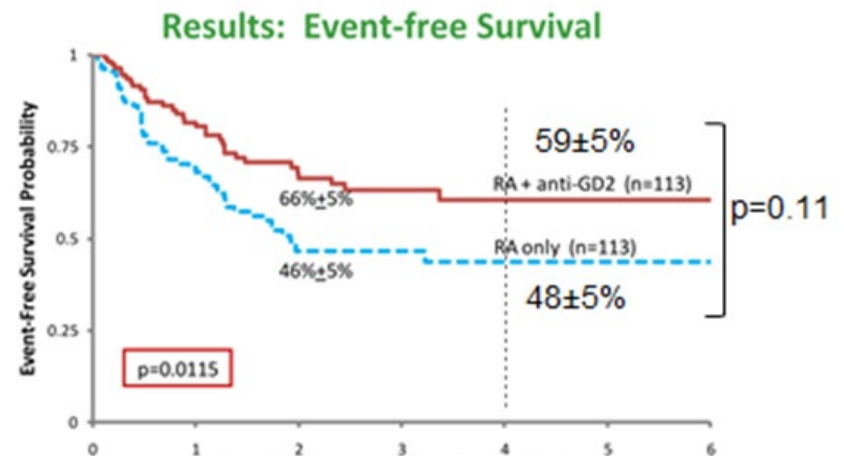


COG Study, Matthay K et al, JCO 2009

COG Study, Yu et al, NEJM 2010

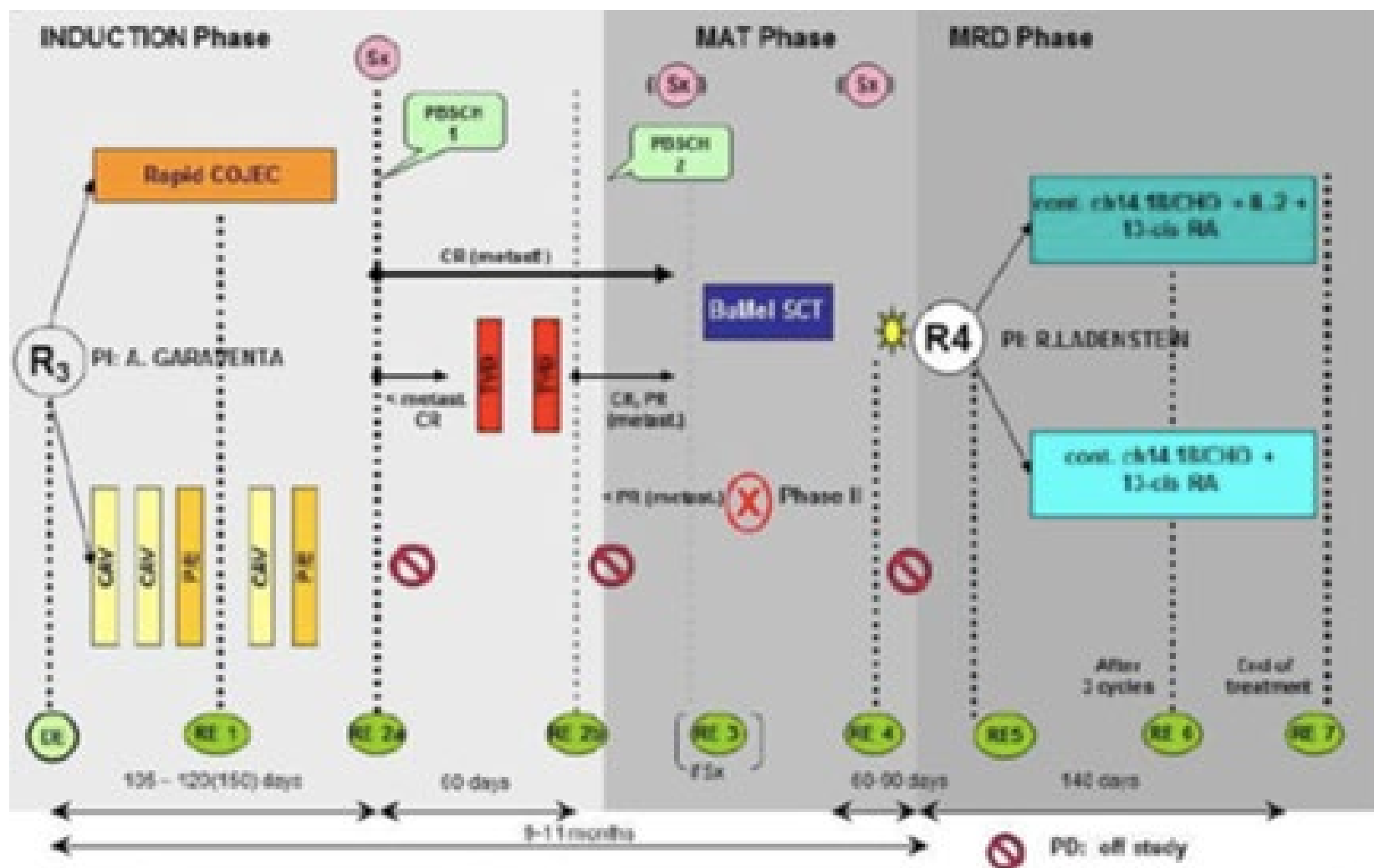
## Immunotherapy

Anti-GD2 antibody + GM-CSF + IL-2 (+isotretinoin)



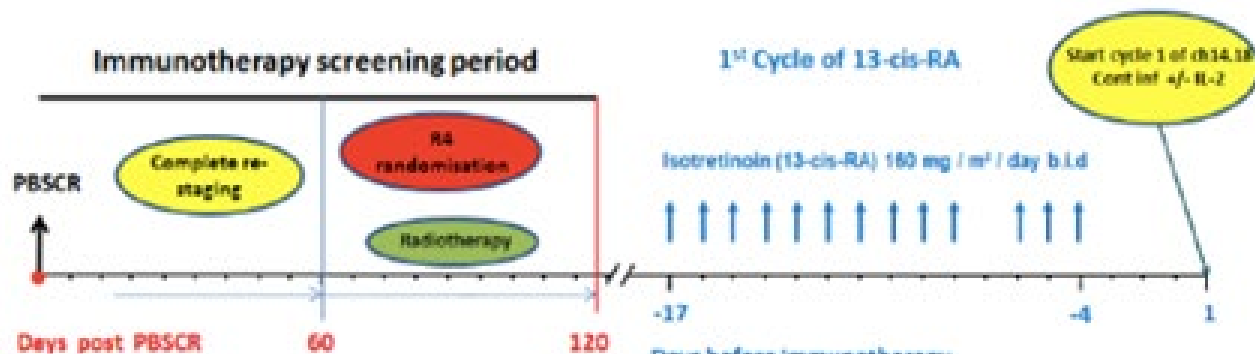


# SIOPEN High Risk Neuroblastoma Strategy

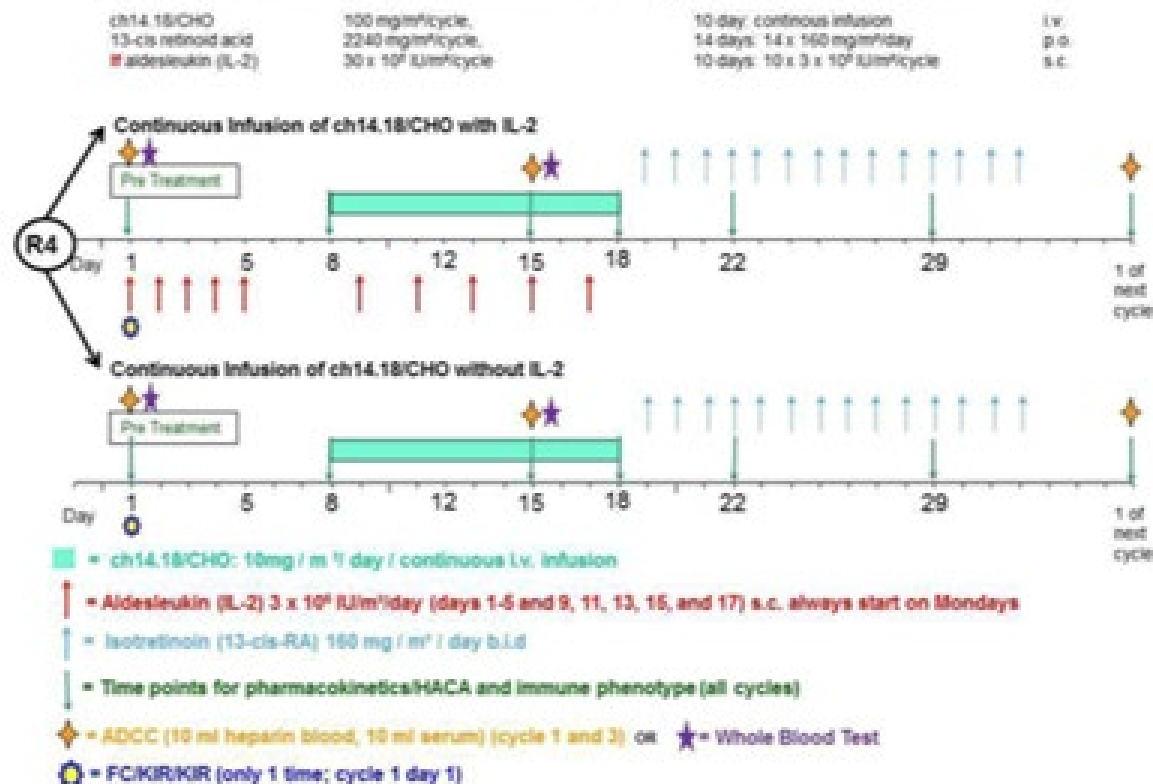




# SIOPEN High-Risk Neuroblastoma Immunotherapy



## R4 Randomisation: 35 day treatment cycle



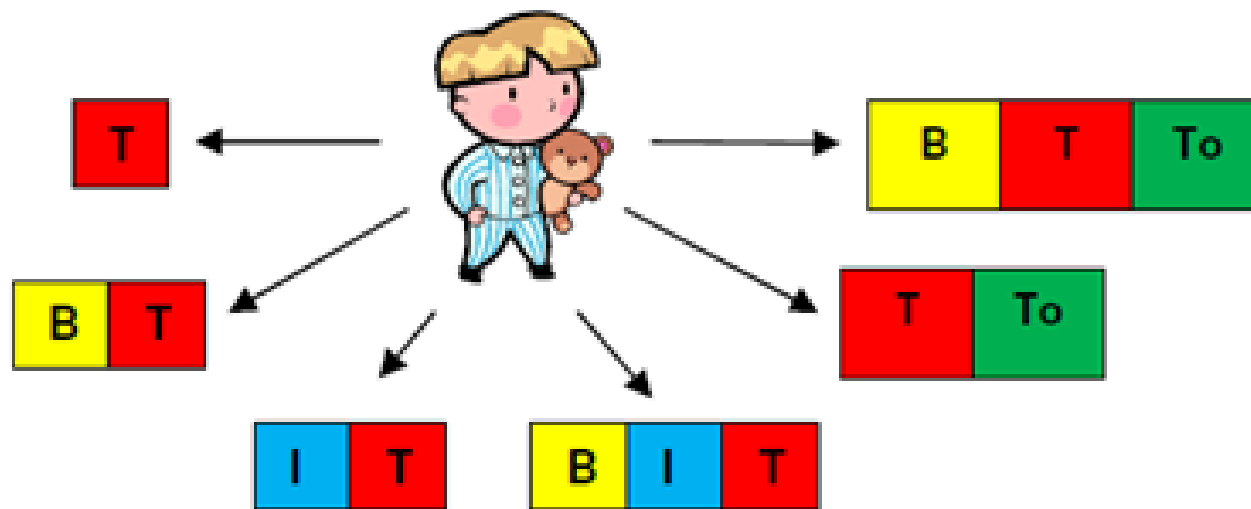
## *High-Risk Neuroblastoma Immunotherapy: Regulatory approval of anti-GD2 Ab (Dinutuximab-beta)*

- Challenge of getting approval in a paediatric only target – most children very young – safety, toxicity, PK, efficacy
- Orphan drug designation EU 8/11/2012 – rare population
- Conditional approval EU 8/5/2018 on basis of high unmet medical need, positive benefit :risk ratio; more follow up & data to be provided.
- 3 studies:
  - 2 studies in 88 relapsed/refractory pts in combination with IL2 & isotretinoin:
    - Refractory pts: 70% & 78% 2yr OS
    - Relapsed pts: 42% & 69% 2yr OS
  - 1 study in 370 pts responding to upfront treatment, in combination with isotretinoin +/- IL2
    - CR: 71% 3yr OS (irrespective of IL2 or not)
    - PR: 63% 3yr OS + IL2; 54% 3yr OS – IL2



# *BEACON-Neuroblastoma: European Study*

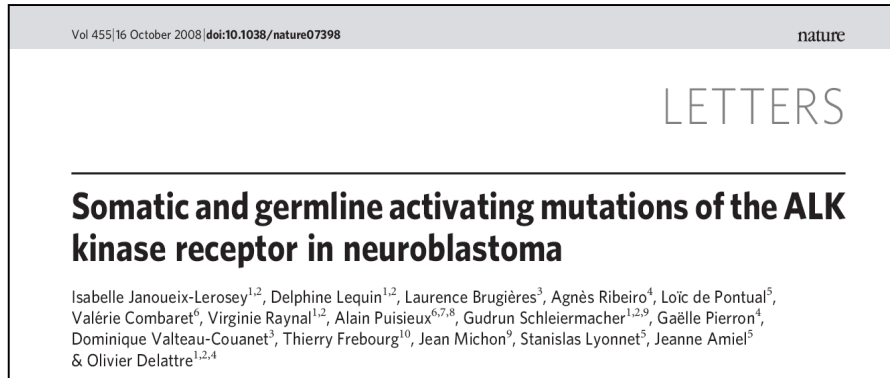
## Phase II Randomised Trial for Relapsed/Refractory Neuroblastoma; Adaptive Multifactorial Design



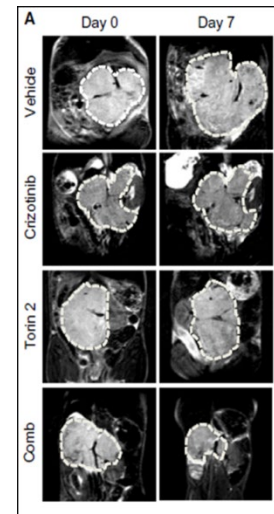
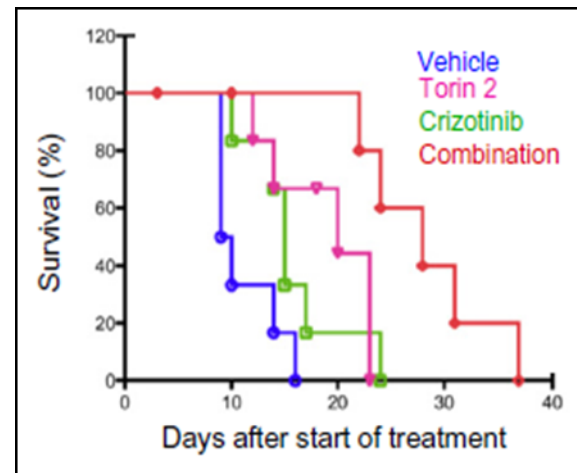
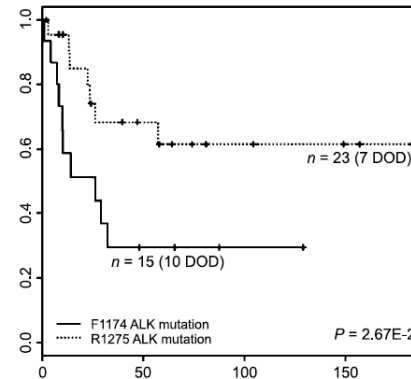
**T – Temozolomide**  
**I – Irinotecan**  
**To - Topotecan**  
**B - Bevacizumab**

- European target across 10 countries - enrolment of 160 patients
- Bevacizumab randomization was planned to close after 120 – increased by DMC
- Molecular characterisation of tumours
- Functional imaging to elucidate the role of anti-angiogenic therapy
- Measurement of neuroblastoma mRNAs
- Due completion 2019
- BEACON2 multi-arm, multi-stage in development (new arms; newer targets)

# Neuroblastoma – ALK as a target



- Mutations of ALK gene in 10% of neuroblastomas - F1174 & R1275
- F1174 mutation - 58.8% have MYCN amplification



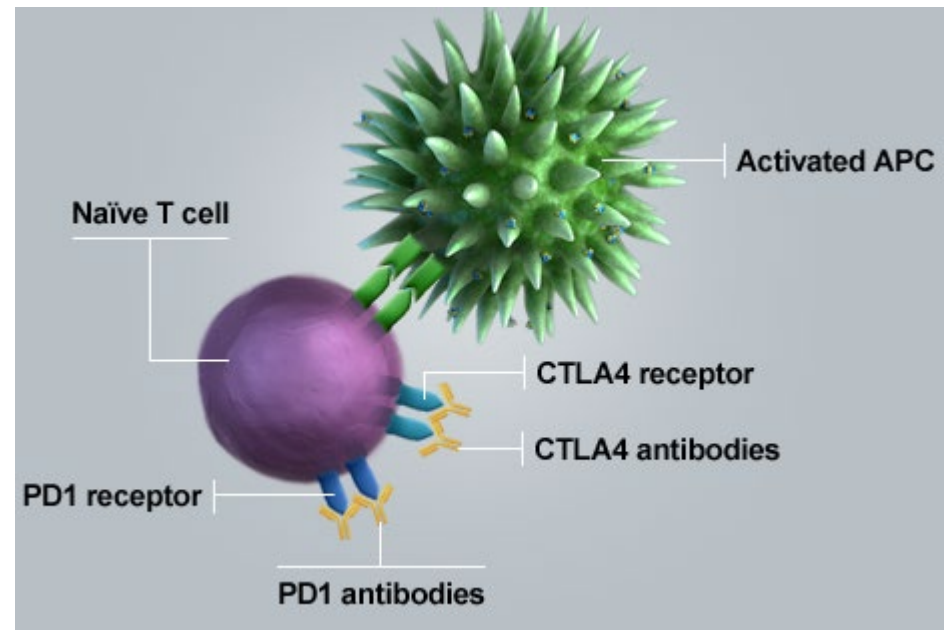
## Strategies

1. Direct inhibitors – crizotinib
2. Combination approach – CRISP (crizotinib + temsirolimus)
3. Novel compounds – ceritinib, lorlatinib

Chesler lab, The ICR

# *Targeting the immune checkpoints for cancer immunotherapy*



- PD-1 and CTLA-4 are immune checkpoints which are upregulated and present on the surface of T cells in certain cancers, dampening T-cell activation & immune response to tumour; contributing to the tumour's ability to evade the immune system.
- Inhibiting a checkpoint (“releasing the brakes”) on the immune system may enhance the anti-tumour T-cell immune response.



*Modified from Sharma et al*

**PD-1/PD-L1 pathway thus plays a critical role in tumour evasion and is an attractive target for therapeutic intervention – ‘recognising tumour as foreign’.**

## *Challenges for Paediatrics: Immune checkpoint inhibitors*

- Multiple PD-(L1) inhibitors in clinical development:
  - no overview of the whole class of drugs in advance
  - how do we identify the best in class overall/for a given disease?
- Paediatric cancers as a group are rare; relatively small (& finite) number of relapsed/refractory patients available for early phase trials
- How do we identify the best in class agents rapidly?
- How do we optimise design & efficiency of studies?
- Preclinical  Early phase  Front line combinations
- How do we achieve mechanism-of-action based drug development incorporating robust predictive &/or pharmacodynamic biomarkers (where possible)?



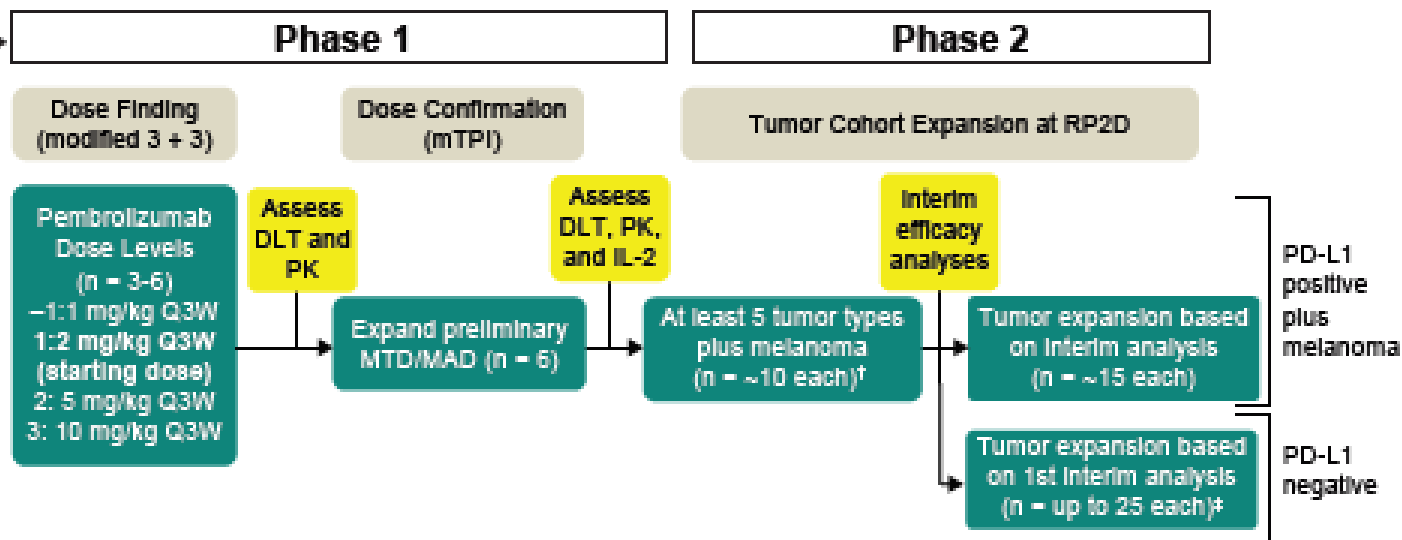
# Pembrolizumab in Pediatric Patients With Advanced Melanoma or a PD-L1–Positive Advanced, Relapsed, or Refractory Solid Tumor or Lymphoma: Phase 1/2 KEYNOTE-051 Study

Non-randomized, open-label, multicentre, phase 1/2 study

- Phase 1: dose-finding and dose-confirmation cohorts
- Phase 2: tumor expansion cohort



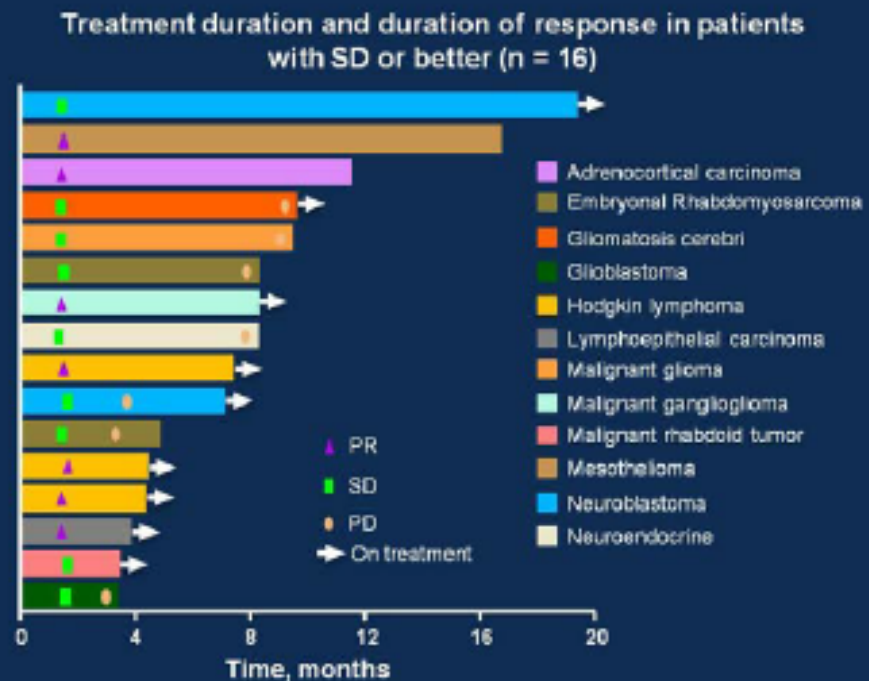
Central PD-L1 IHC pre-screening for non-melanoma patients



# Interim Results

## Antitumor Efficacy (RECIST v1.1, Investigator)

	N = 87
ORR <sup>a</sup> , % (95% CI)	8.0% (3%-16%)
Best overall response, n (%)	
Complete response (CR)	0
Partial response (PR) <sup>b</sup>	7 (8.0%)
Stable disease (SD)	9 (10.3%)
Progressive disease (PD)	43 (49.4%)



PRESENTED AT: ASCO ANNUAL MEETING '17 #ASCO17  
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<sup>a</sup>Confirmed responses only. <sup>b</sup>Patients with PR had Hodgkin lymphoma (n = 3) and mesothelioma, malignant ganglioglioma, adrenocortical carcinoma, and lymphoepithelial carcinoma (n = 1 each). Data cutoff date: Feb 17, 2017

ORR 8% in PD-L1+ patient group

Geoerger, ASCO 2017

# Interim Results



## Patients

- As of February 1, 2017, a total of 85 patients have been enrolled, and 82 have been treated
- Median age at inclusion: 14 years (range, 2–29); 12% of patients were aged 2–<6 years, 19% were aged 6–<12 years, 48% were aged 12–<18 years, and 21% were aged 18–<30 years
- 46 patients (54%) were male
- Baseline Lansky/Karnofsky Performance scores: 60 (n=2); 70 (n=9); 80 (n=12); 90 (n=18); 100 (n=36); missing (n=8).

Tumor type	Number of patients (%)
Osteosarcoma	12 (14)
Ewing sarcoma	11 (13)
Neuroblastoma	11 (13)
Rhabdomyosarcoma	10 (12)
Soft tissue sarcoma	10 (12)
Wilms tumor	10 (12)
Hodgkin lymphoma	9 (11)
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	3 (4)
Other	9 (11)

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ORR 4.8% in unselected patient group

Geoerger, ASCO 2017

# Better Predictive Biomarkers?

[www.impactjournals.com/oncotarget/](http://www.impactjournals.com/oncotarget/)

Oncotarget, Vol. 6, No. 39

## Mutational profiling of colorectal cancers with microsatellite instability

Elaine I. Lin<sup>1</sup>, Li-Hui Tseng<sup>2</sup>, Christopher D. Gocke<sup>1,3</sup>, Stacy Reil<sup>1</sup>, Dung T. Le<sup>3</sup>, Nilofer S. Azad<sup>3</sup>, James R. Eshleman<sup>1,3</sup>

### ABSTRACT

Microsatellite instability (MSI) is caused by defective mismatch repair in 15–20% of colorectal cancers (CRCs). Higher mutation loads in tumors with mismatch repair deficiency can predict response to pembrolizumab, an anti-programmed death 1 (PD-1) immune checkpoint inhibitor. We analyzed the mutations in 113 CRCs without MSI (MSS) and 29 CRCs with MSI-High (MSI-H) using the 50-gene AmpliSeq cancer panel. Overall, MSI-H CRCs showed significantly higher mutations than MSS CRCs, including insertion/deletion mutations at repeat regions. MSI-H CRCs showed higher incidences of mutations in the *BRAF*, *PIK3CA*, and *PTEN* genes as well as mutations in the receptor tyrosine kinase families. While the increased mutations in *BRAF* and *PTEN* in MSI-H CRCs are well accepted, we also support findings of mutations in the mTOR pathway and receptor tyrosine kinase family genes. MSS CRCs showed higher incidences of mutations in the *APC*, *KRAS* and *TP53* genes, confirming previous findings. NGS assays may be designed to detect driver mutations for targeted therapeutics and to identify tumors with high mutation loads for potential treatment with immune checkpoint blockade therapies. Further studies may be warranted to elucidate potential targeted therapeutics against mutations in the mTOR pathway and the receptor tyrosine kinase family in MSI-H CRCs as well as the benefit of anti-PD-1 immunotherapy in hypermutated MSS CRCs or other cancers.

# *Better Predictive Biomarkers?*

FDA News Release

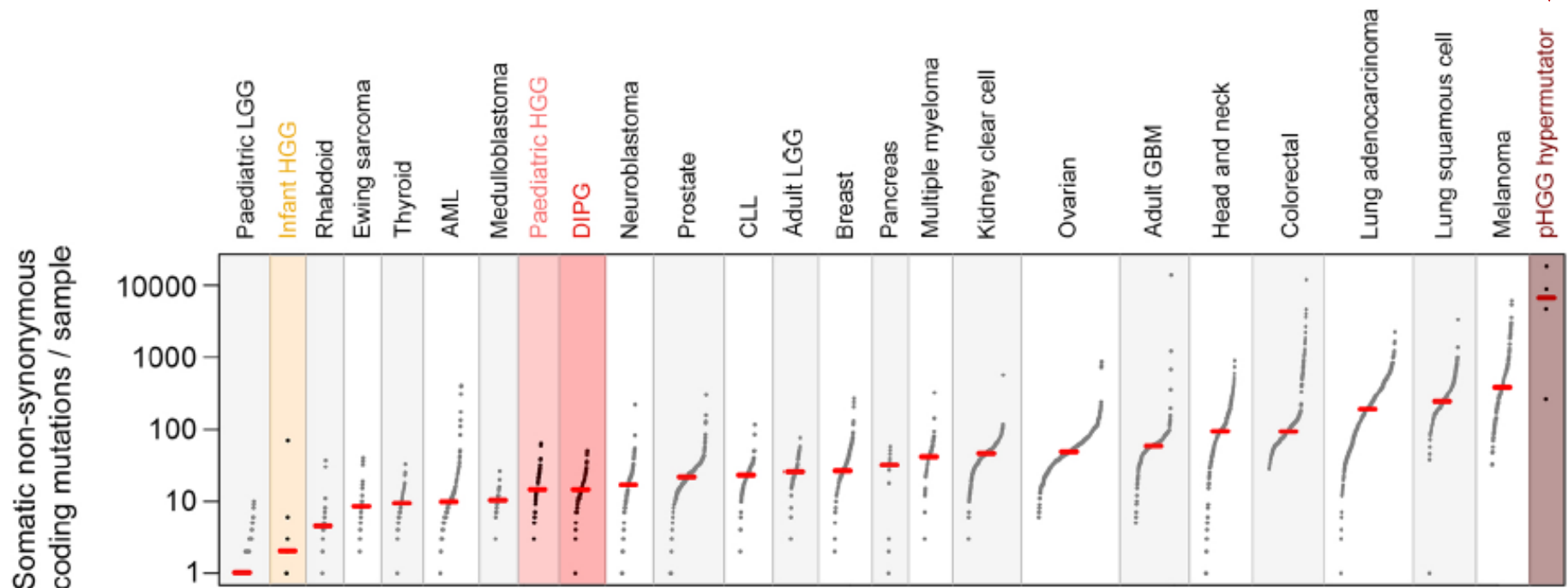
**FDA approves first cancer treatment for any solid tumor with a specific genetic feature**

**FDA Approves Merck's KEYTRUDA® (Pembrolizumab) for Adult and Paediatric Patients with Unresectable or Metastatic, Microsatellite Instability-High (MSI-H) or Mismatch Repair Deficient Cancer**

May 23, 2017

KEYTRUDA Now Approved for Patients with MSI-H or Mismatch Repair Deficient Solid Tumors That Have Progressed Following Prior Treatment and Who Have No Satisfactory Alternative Treatment Options, Which Includes MSI-H or Mismatch Repair Deficient Colorectal Cancer That Has Progressed Following Treatment with a Fluoropyrimidine, Oxaliplatin, and Irinotecan

# Mutational burden of paediatric tumours



## Mutational burden of paediatric HGG compared to other cancer types.

Number of somatic non-synonymous coding mutations per sample are plotted on a log scale for a variety of paediatric and adult cancer types, and ordered by increasing median (red bar).



# Immune checkpoint inhibitors in hypermutant GBM

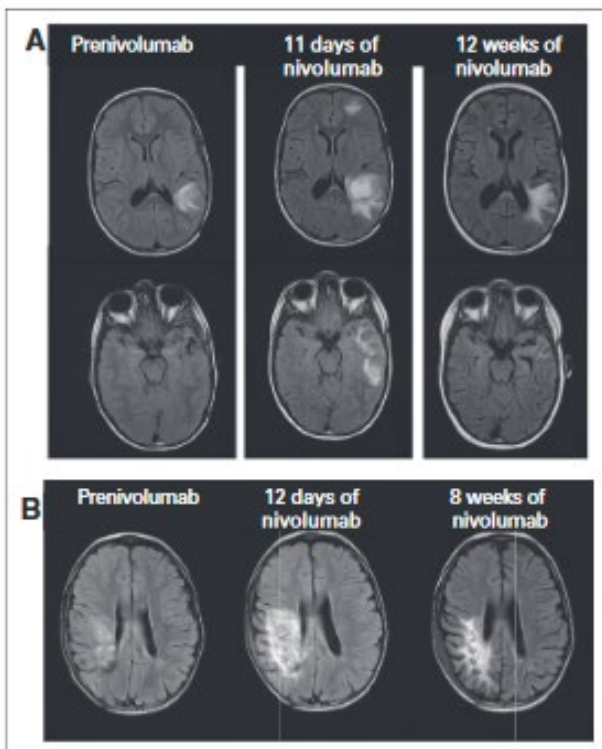
VOLUME 34 • NUMBER 18 • JULY 1, 2016

JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

ORIGINAL REPORT

## Immune Checkpoint Inhibition for Hypermutant Glioblastoma Multiforme Resulting From Germline Biallelic Mismatch Repair Deficiency

*Eric Bouffet, Valérie Larouche, Brittany B. Campbell, Daniele Merico, Richard de Borja, Melyssa Aronson, Carol Durno, Joerg Krueger, Vanja Cabric, Vijay Ramaswamy, Nataliya Zhukova, Gary Mason, Roula Farah, Samina Afzal, Michal Yalon, Gideon Rechavi, Vanan Magimairajan, Michael F. Walsh, Shlomi Constantini, Rina Dvir, Ronit Elhasid, Alyssa Reddy, Michael Osborn, Michael Sullivan, Jordan Hansford, Andrew Dodgehun, Nancy Klauber-Demore, Lindsay Peterson, Sunil Patel, Scott Lindhorst, Jeffrey Atkinson, Zane Cohen, Rachel Laframboise, Peter Dirks, Michael Taylor, David Malkin, Steffen Albrecht, Roy W.R. Dudley, Nada Jabado, Cynthia E. Hawkins, Adam Shlien, and Uri Tabori*



## *Conclusions on immune checkpoint inhibitors:*

- Multiple PD-(L)1 inhibitors in clinical development
- PIPs ongoing for several
- Safe & well-tolerated in children as single agents
- Activity in paediatrics disappointing in unselected patient groups, but optimal (biomarker-based) selection of patients is expected to change this.
- Excellent activity in Hodgkin's lymphoma & now approved for HL pts who have failed high dose chemotherapy & ASCT + Brentuximab verdotin
- We need to extrapolate from the adult experience: focus on MSI-high tumours and those with high mutational burden
- In paediatrics this is likely to include gliomas, osteosarcomas, soft tissue sarcomas, others....
- Combinations....

## *When/Why to move novel therapies forward to front line 'quickly'?*

- Very poor prognosis diseases (eg DMG/DIPG) – upfront
- High risk/metastatic disease which respond but relapse (HGG, ARMS, HR MBL...) – consider window studies
- Strong oncogenic driver targets/effective drugs – to improve outcomes
- Very good prognosis diseases – reduce acute and long term toxicities without reducing survival
- Still need sufficient evidence to move forward but much obtainable via efficiently novel designed phase I/II studies, extrapolation, ....eg Larotrectinib, Lenvatinib, Regorafenib.

*Thank You for your attention...*  
*Questions & Comments?*

