

# BSMO-Bordet 2022

## Recent advances in nasopharyngeal cancer



Dr. Michael Saerens  
Dept of Medical Oncology, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium

## Disclosures:

Speaker fee: Novartis, BMS and Pierre-Fabre. all institutional and non-personal

Advisory board: Novartis



# Chemo options in 1st line R/M NPC

R/M+  
NPC  
n=362

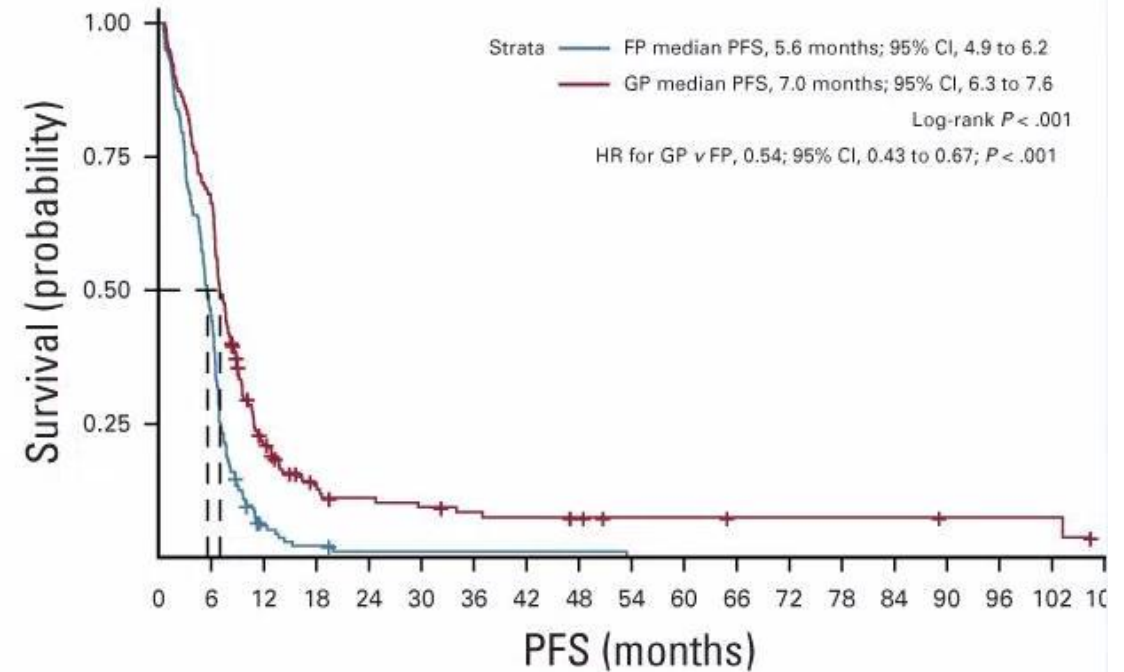
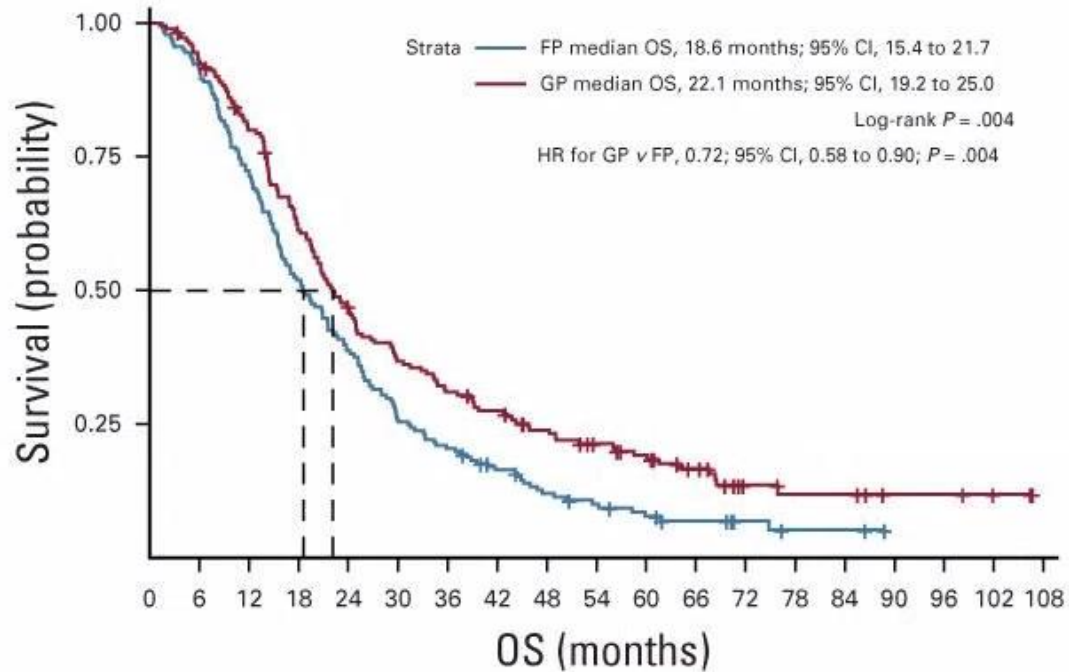
R  
1:1

Cis 80mg/m<sup>2</sup> d1  
+gem 1000mg/m<sup>2</sup>  
d1d8 Q3w

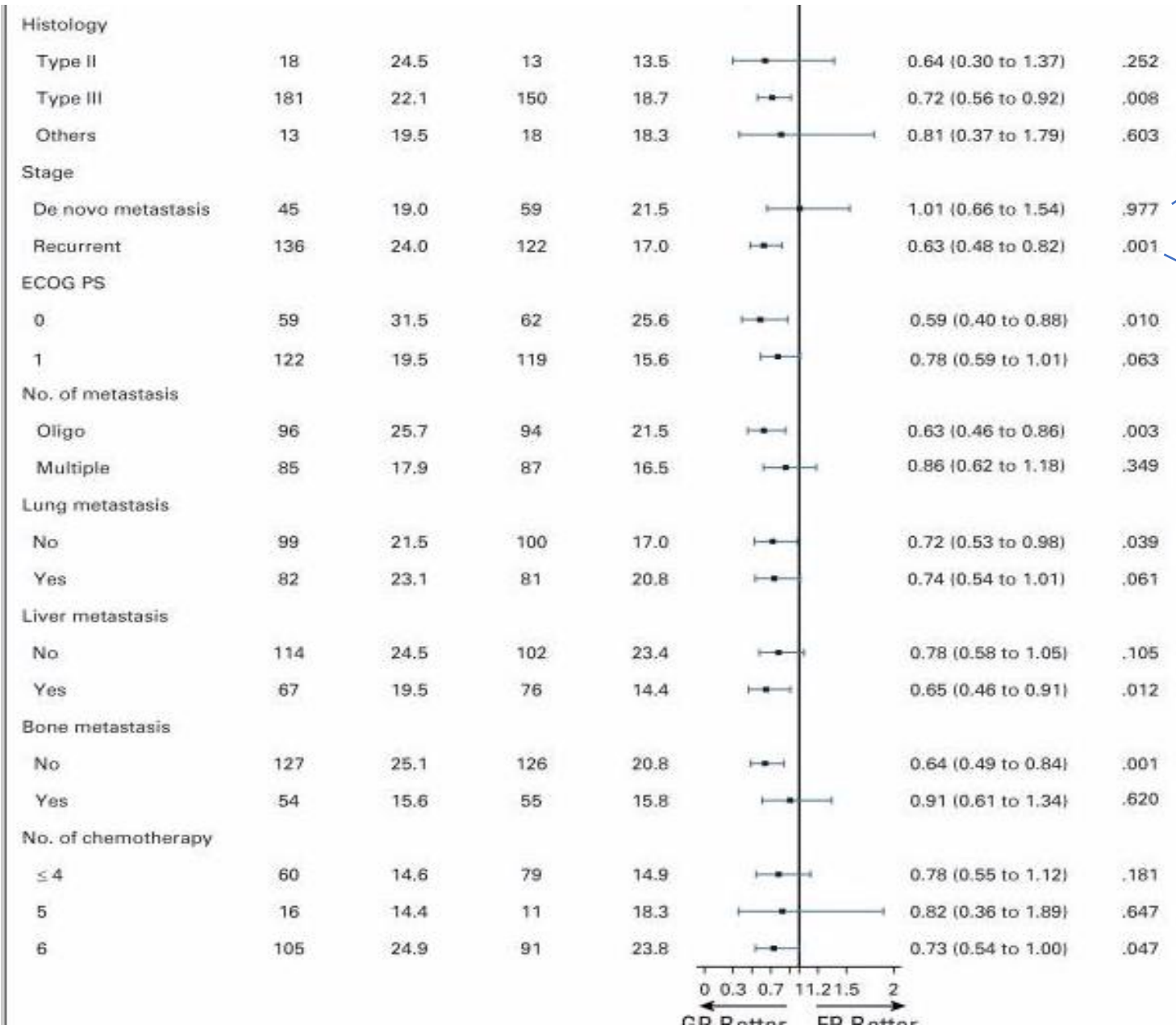
Cis 80mg/m<sup>2</sup>  
+ 5FU 4g/96h Q3w

**PRIMARY outcome:**  
PFS superiority

Secondary outcomes: OS, ORR, DoR



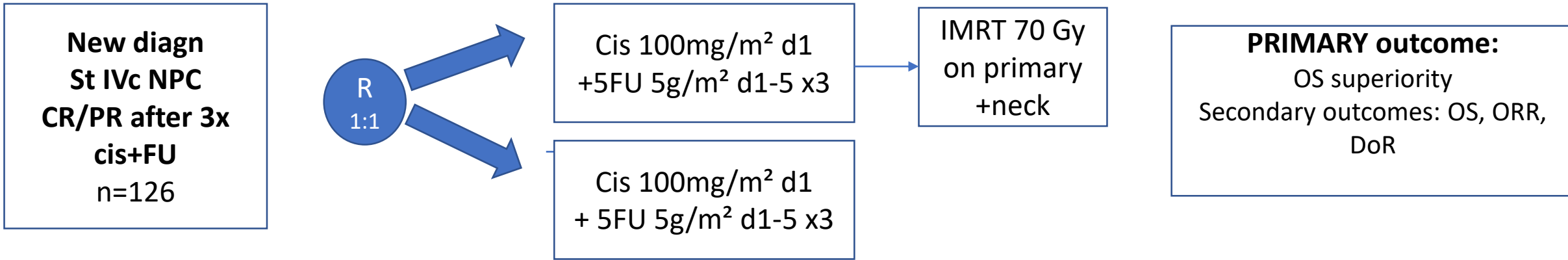
# Cis-Gem as first line regimen: for all?



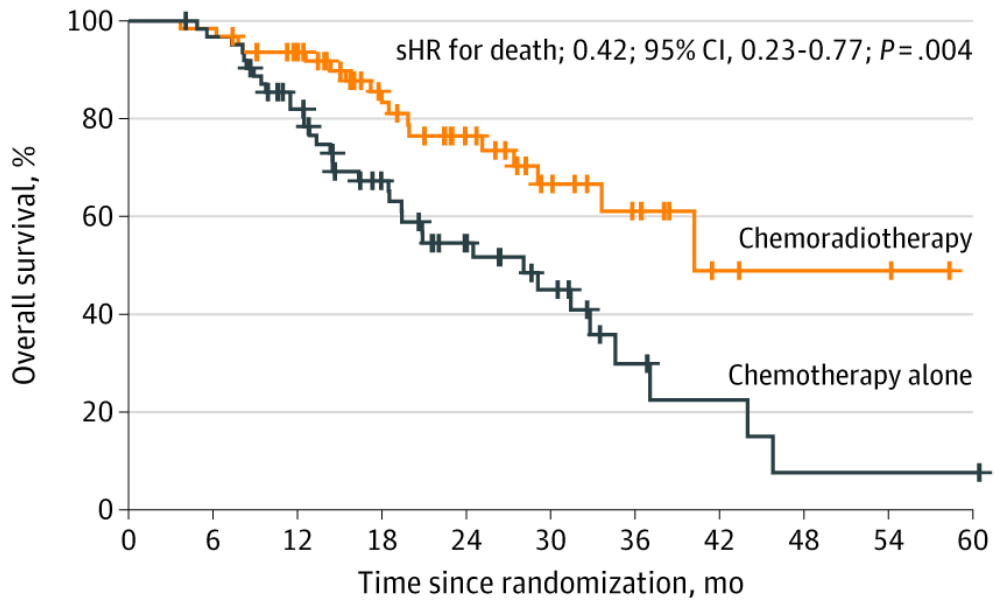
**Should we intensify treatment?**

**Previous gem-cis for locoregional disease: N=1**

# Addition of RT in de novo M+ NPC



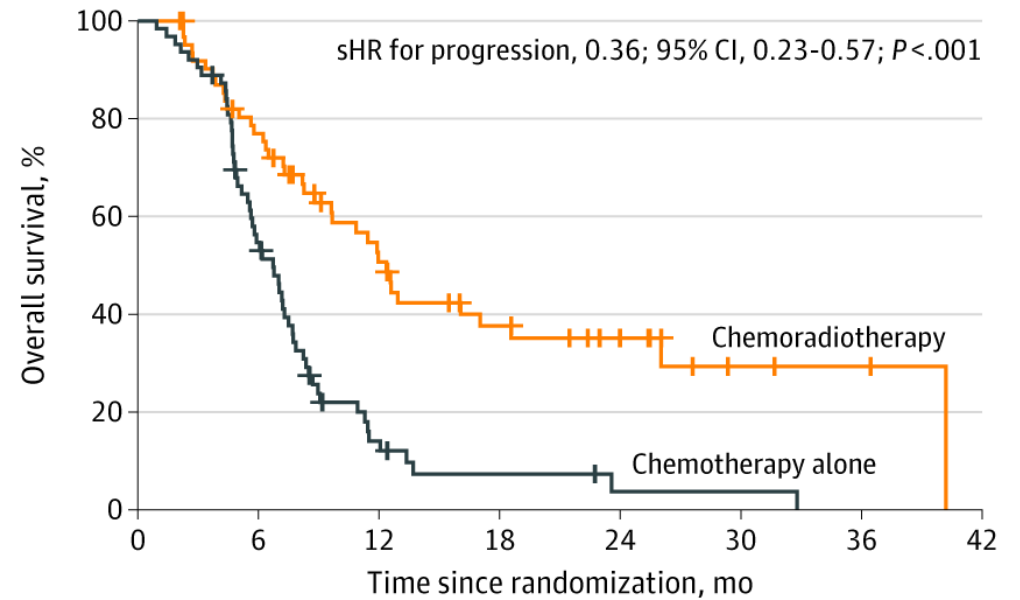
**A** Overall survival



No. at risk

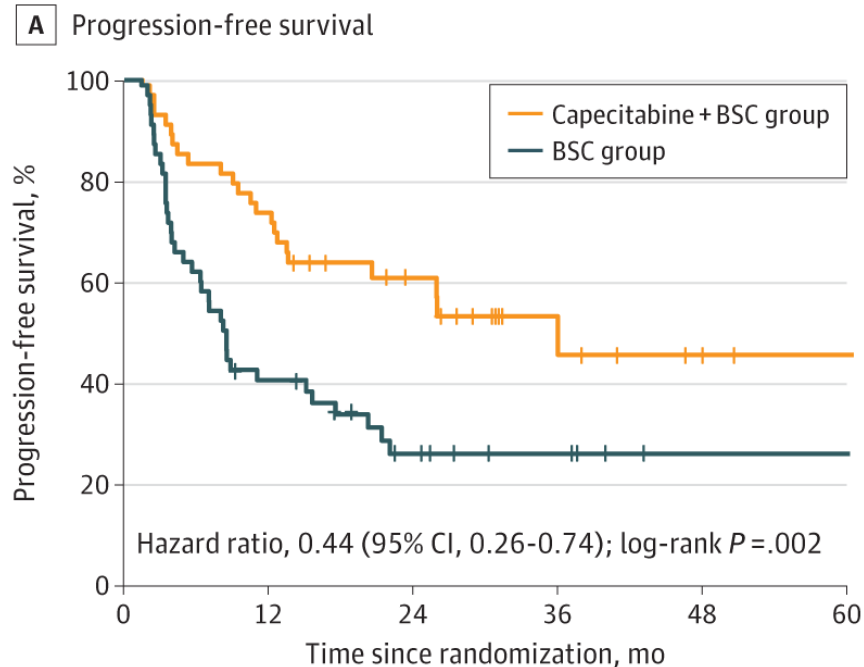
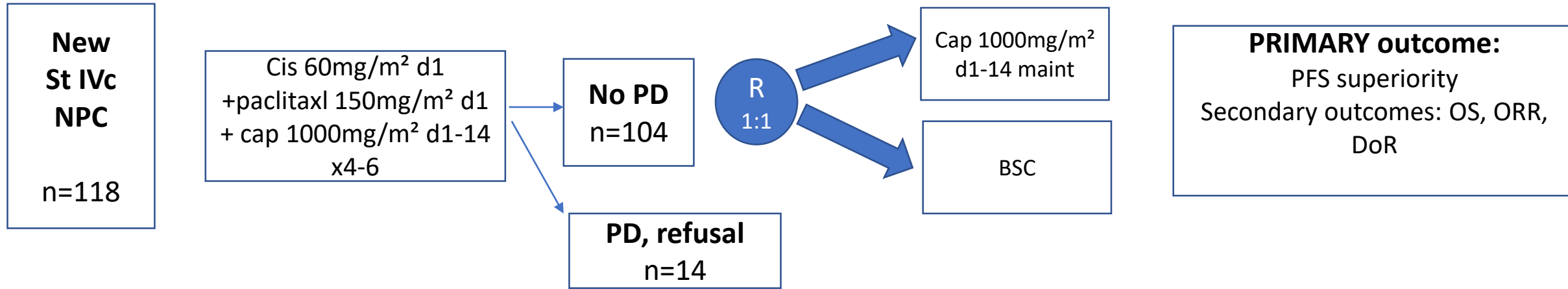
Chemoradiotherapy	63	62	52	37	27	16	10	3	2	1	0
Chemotherapy alone	63	60	47	32	19	13	5	3	1	1	0

**B** Progression-free survival

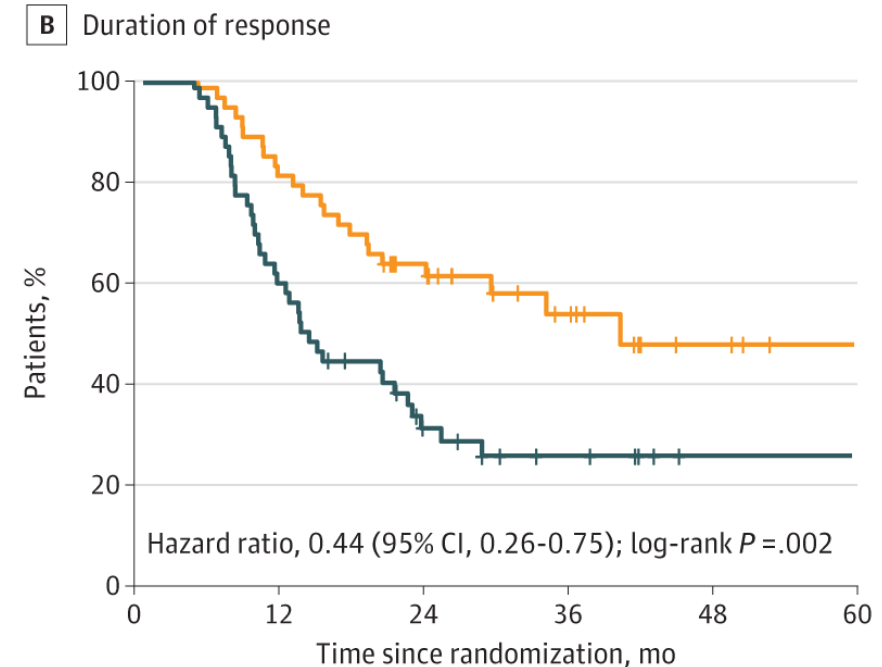


Chemoradiotherapy	63	46	25	16	10	3	2
Chemotherapy alone	63	33	7	3	1	1	0

# Maintenance capecitabine



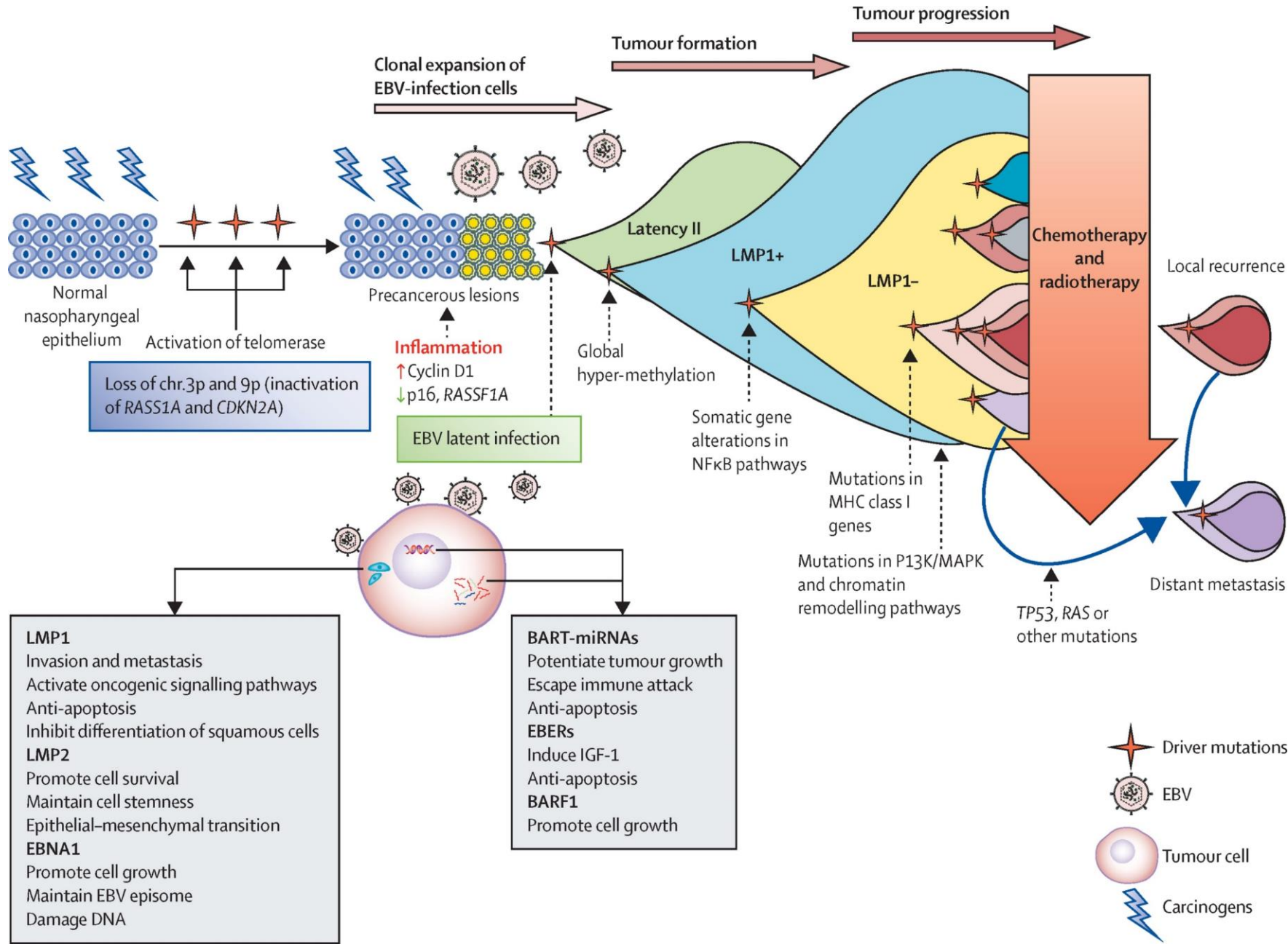
No. at risk	0	12	24	36	48	60
Maintenance group	52	38	19	6	4	1
BSC group	52	20	9	5	3	0



No. at risk	0	12	24	36	48	60
Maintenance group	52	48	28	15	6	1
BSC group	52	41	26	12	6	0



# Rationale for ICI?

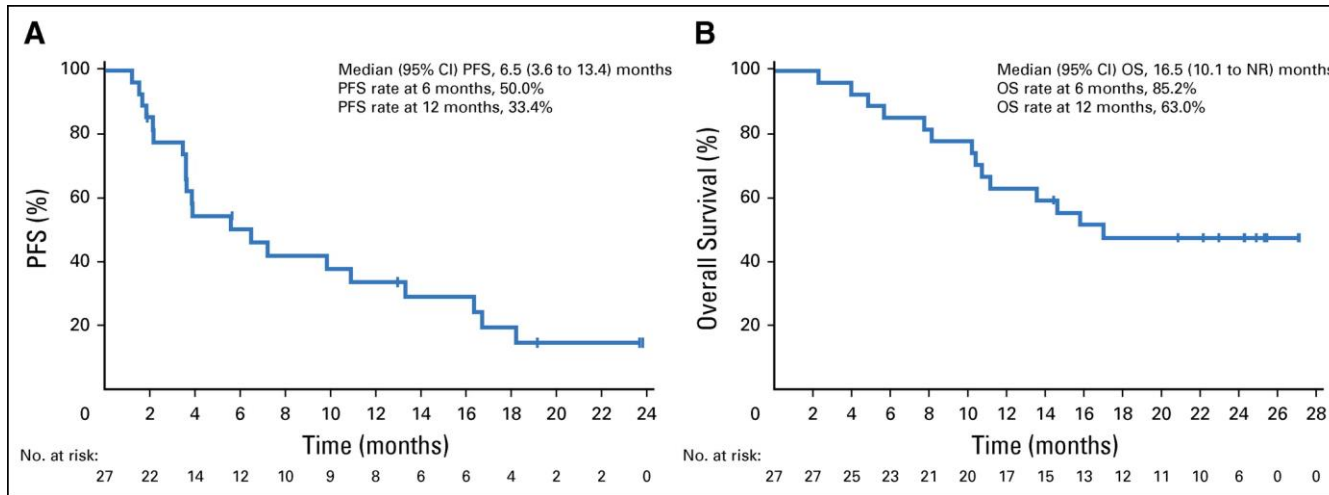
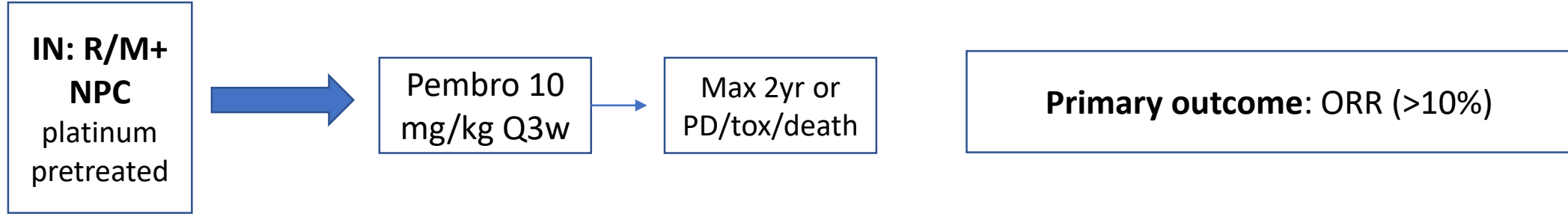


>80% harbour PD-L1 expression

LMP1 is the key oncoprotein:  
 Induction of genetic and epigenetic changes  
 MMP2 and MMP9 mediation  
 → IL 6 upregulation  
 → cellular mobility, invasion, cervical LN m+

# Keynote-028: NPC cohort

Phase 1b basket trial, N=27 pretreated NPC (PDL1+)



	Pembro (KN-027)
ORR	26%
DCR	37%
mPFS	6,5 months
mOS	16,5 months



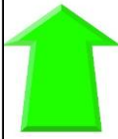
# ICI in pretreated NPC: single arm studies

	Pembro (KN-028) Hu, JCO 2017	Nivolumab (NCI9742) Ma, JCO 2018	Camrelizumab* (SHR-1210-101) Feng, Lancet Oncol 2018	Camrelizumab* (CAPTAIN) Zhang, ann onc 2020	Tislelizumab (CTR2016087219) Shen, JTC 2021	Toripalimab** (Polaris-02) Wang, JCO2021	Nivolumab + ipilimumab*** (NCT03097939) Kao, ESMOasia 2020
N	27	44	93	156	21	190	40
Phase	1b, pretreated	2, pretreated	1b, pretreated	2, $\geq 2$ lines	1b/2, pretreated	2, 50% >2lines	2, $\geq 1L$
primary outcome	ORR (>10%)	ORR (>20%)	safety and tolerability	ORR	ORR (>15%)	ORR (>24%)	ORR (>45%)
ORR	26%	20,5%	34%	28%	43%	20,5%	35%
DCR	37%	54,5%	59%	54,5%	86%	40%	52%
mDOR	16,5m	9m	NR	NR	8m	13m	5,9m
mPFS months (95%CI)	6,5m (95%CI)	2,8m (1,8-7,4)	5,6 m (3,3-7,9)	3,7m (2.0 - 4.1)	10m (4,0-10,1)	1,9m (1,8-3,5)	5,3m (3,0-6,4m)
mOS Months (95%CI)	16,5m (10,1- NR)	17m (10,9-NR)	NA	17m (95% CI 15.1-NE)	NR	17,5m (11,7-22,9)	17,6m (13-30)
Trial result	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive?	positive	Negative?	?

\*Humanized antiPD1 MOAB escalating doses of 1 mg/kg, 3 mg/kg, and 10 mg/kg Q2w, finally 200mg Q2w (phase 2 dose)

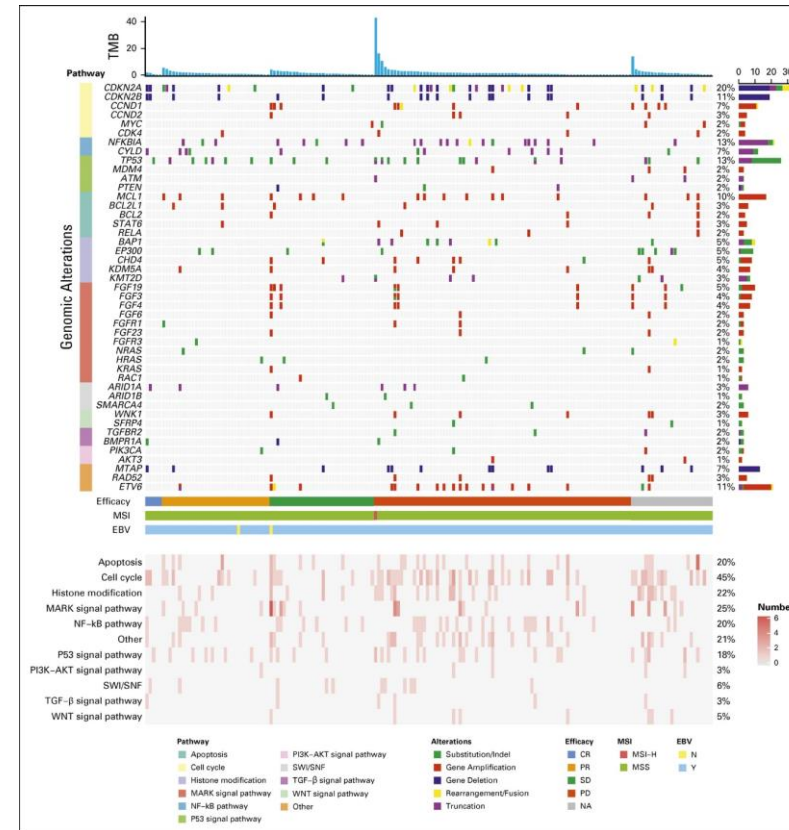
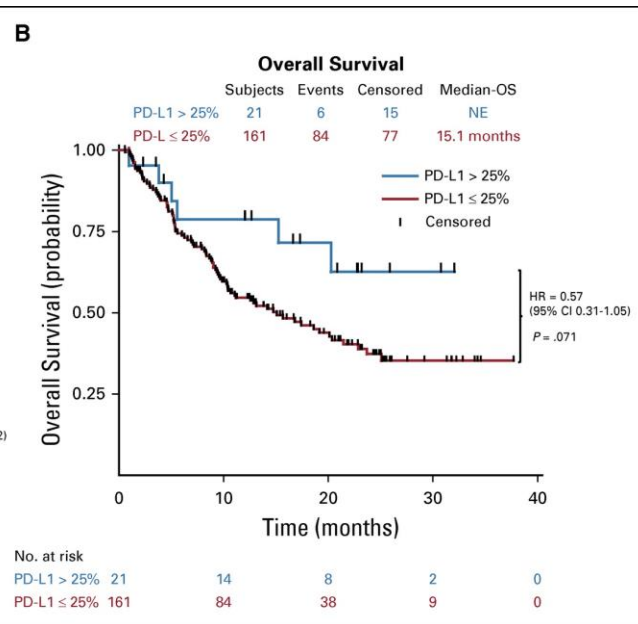
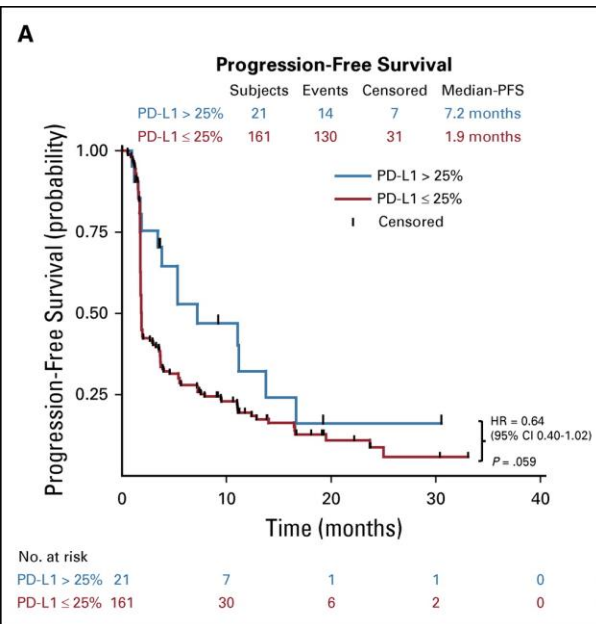
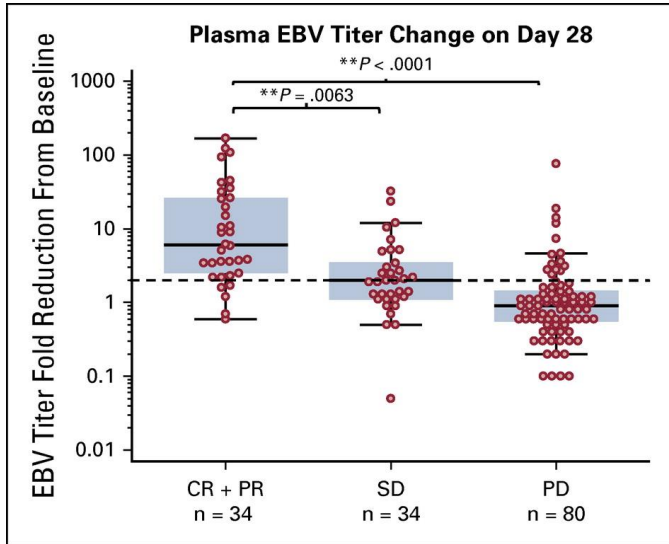
\*\*Humanized antiPD1 MOAB at 3mg/kg Q2w \*\*\* nivolumab 3mg/kg + ipilimumab 1mg/kg Q6w

# Biomarker of response? (Polaris-02)



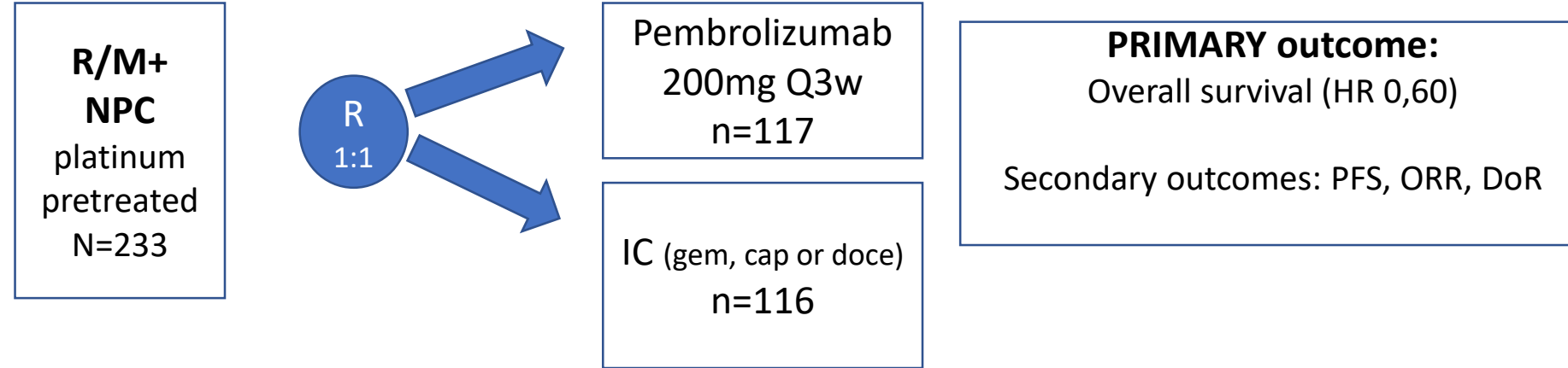
ORR EBV titer decline >50% (not baseline)

Trend for better survival in PD-L1 TPS>25  
genomic signature: NS



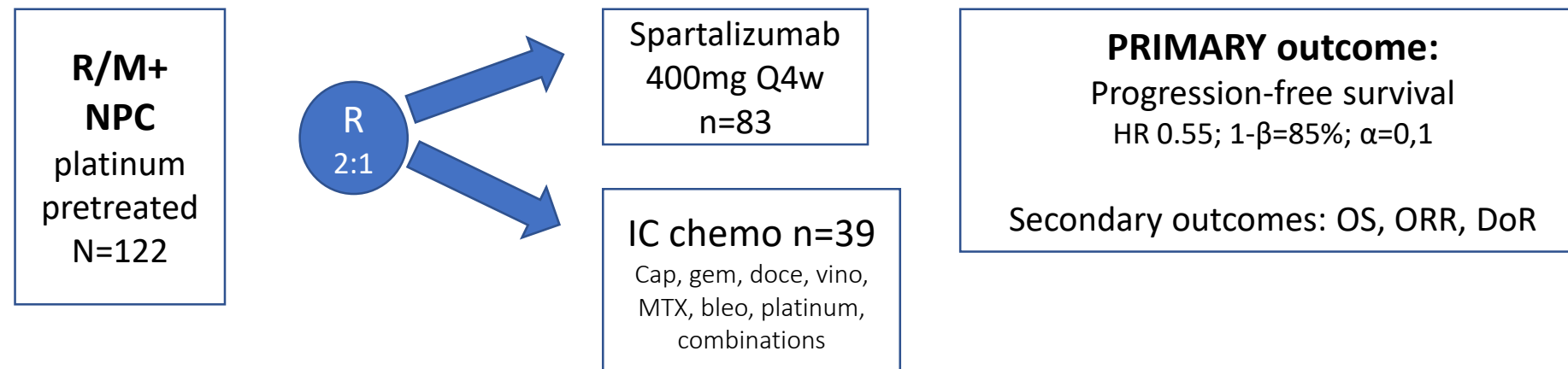
# IO in 2nd line NPC: RCT

## Keynote122



Chan, ESMO 2021 abstract 8580

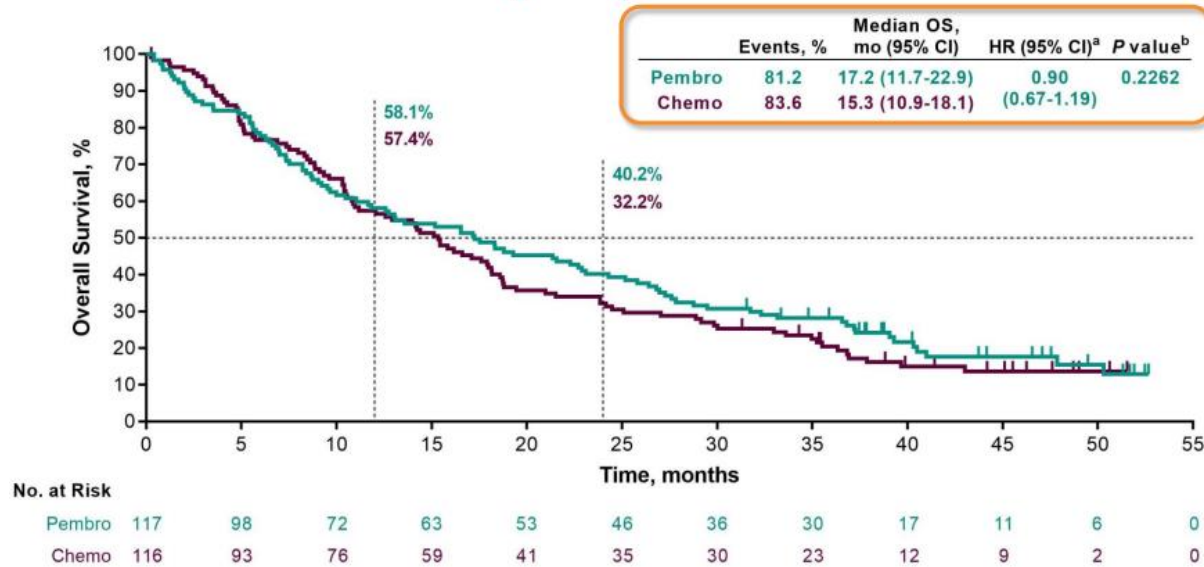
## NCT02505967



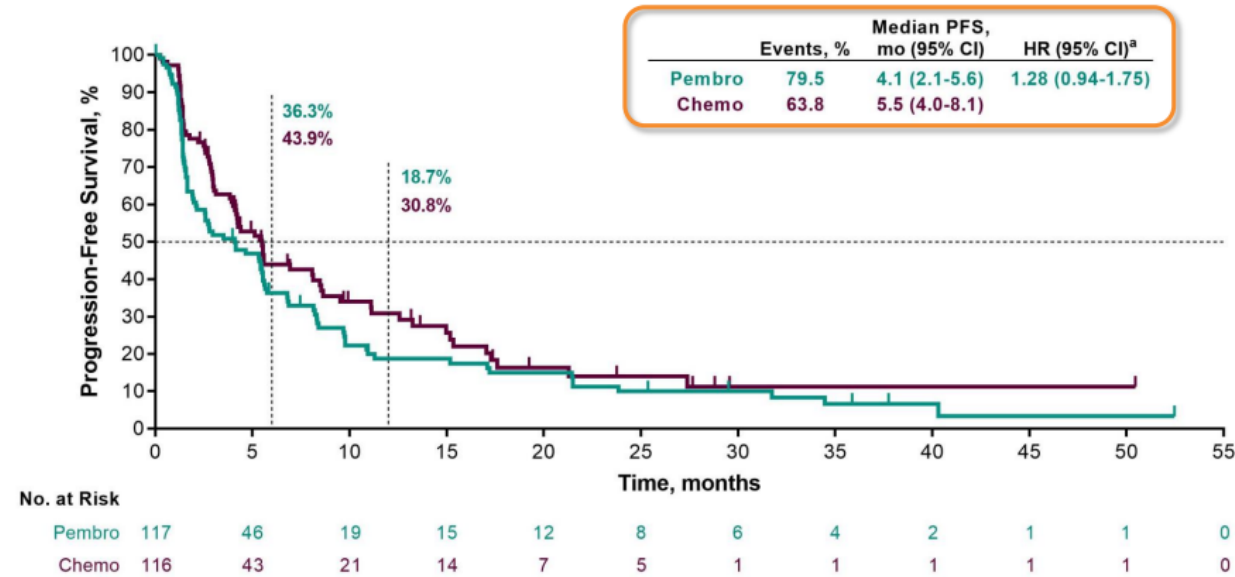
Even, clin can res 2021

# Keynote-122: pembro vs IC

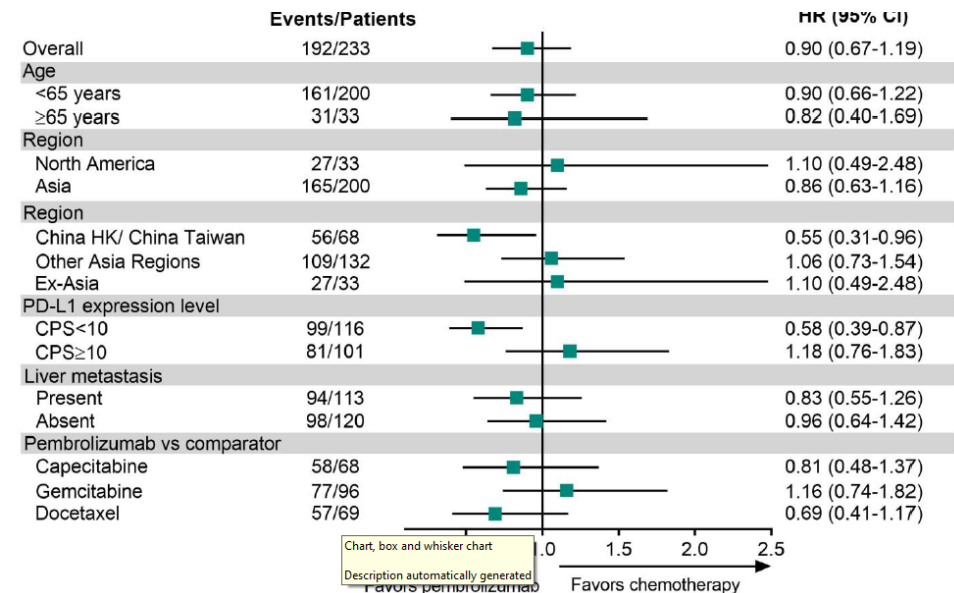
## Overall Survival (ITT)



## PFS per RECIST v1.1 by BICR (ITT)

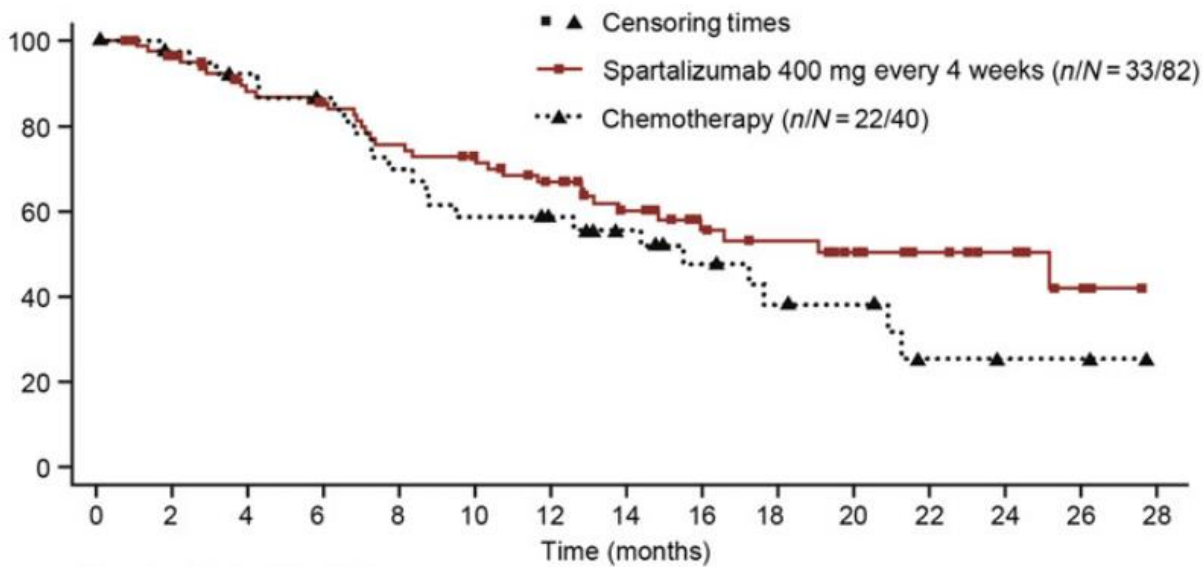


	Pembro (KN122)	IC (cap, gem or doce)
ORR	21%	23%
DCR	50%	64%
mPFS	4,1 months	5,5 months
mOS	17,2 months	15,3 months
	HR 0,90 (95%CI 0,67-1,19) → endpoint NOT MET	

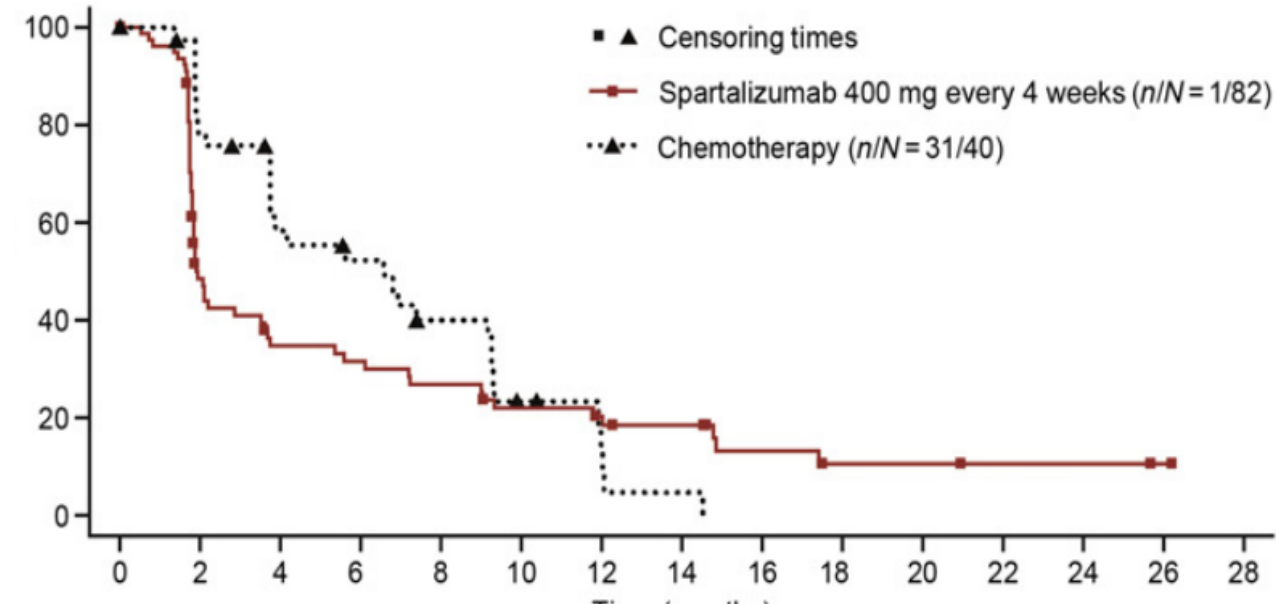


# NCT02605967: spartalizumab vs IC

## Overall survival (ITT)



## Progression-free survival



	spartalizumab	IC
ORR	17%	35% (26% monotherapy – 58% for combo)
DCR	42%	70%
mOS	17,2 months	15,3 months
mPFS	1,9 months	6,6 months
	HR 1.36 (95% CI 0.87–2.12) <b>ENDPOINT NOT MET</b>	

Chemotherapy regimen	N (%)
<b>Monotherapy</b>	<b>27 (69.2)</b>
Capecitabine	9 (23.1)
Docetaxel	7 (17.9)
Gemcitabine	6 (15.4)
Paclitaxel	4 (10.3)
Vinorelbine	1 (2.6)
<b>Combination regimens</b>	<b>12 (31.0)</b>
Bleomycin + methotrexate	1 (2.5)
Carboplatin + gemcitabine	1 (2.5)
Carboplatin + paclitaxel	1 (2.5)
Cisplatin + docetaxel	1 (2.5)
Cisplatin + gemcitabine	2 (5.1)
Cisplatin + paclitaxel	2 (5.1)
Gemcitabine + paclitaxel	1 (2.6)
Carboplatin + docetaxel; Capecitabine	1 (2.6)
Carboplatin + gemcitabine; Gemcitabine	1 (2.6)
Cisplatin + gemcitabine; Gemcitabine + vinorelbine	1 (2.6)



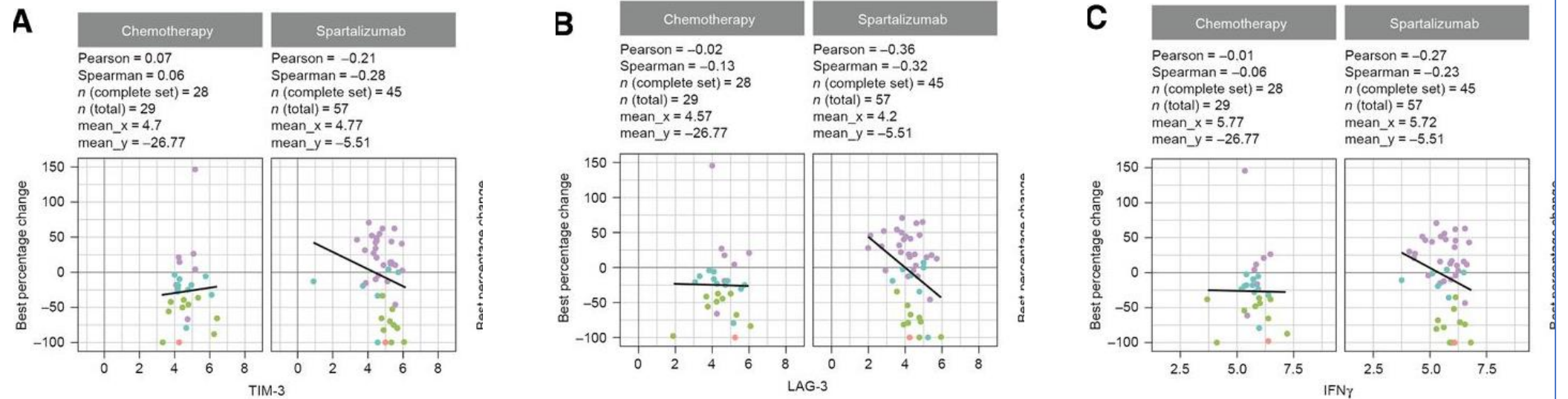
# Biomarker analysis

## Spartalizumab:

Immune-inflamed subtype have better response rates

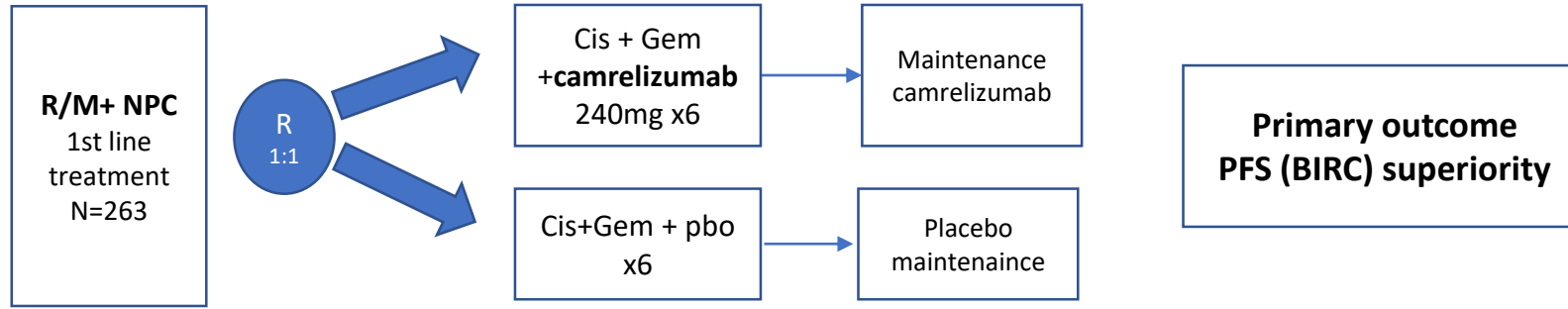
EBV titer at baseline correlated with poorer prognosis, but not with response

PD-L1 was not analysed as prognostic or predictive biomarker

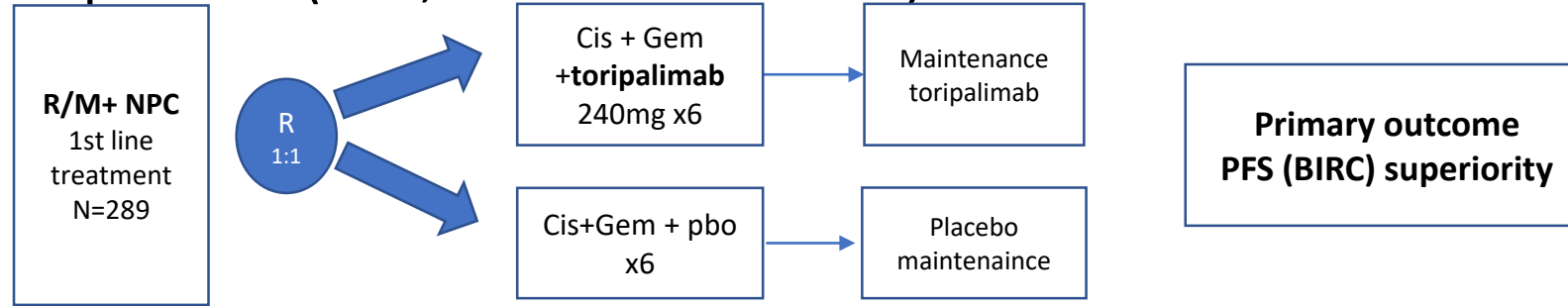


# ICI in 1st line: 3 RCTs

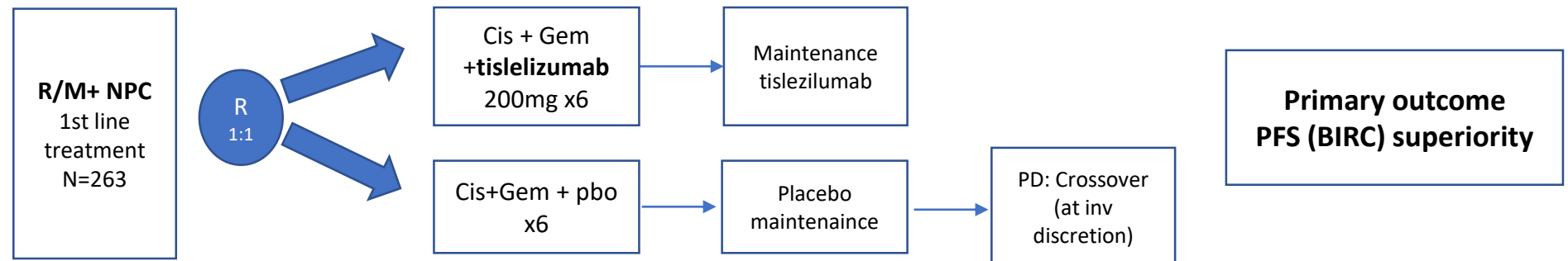
## Camrelizumab: Captain-1st (Yang, Lancet Oncol 2021)



## Toripalimab: Jupiter-02 (Mai, Nature Med 2021)



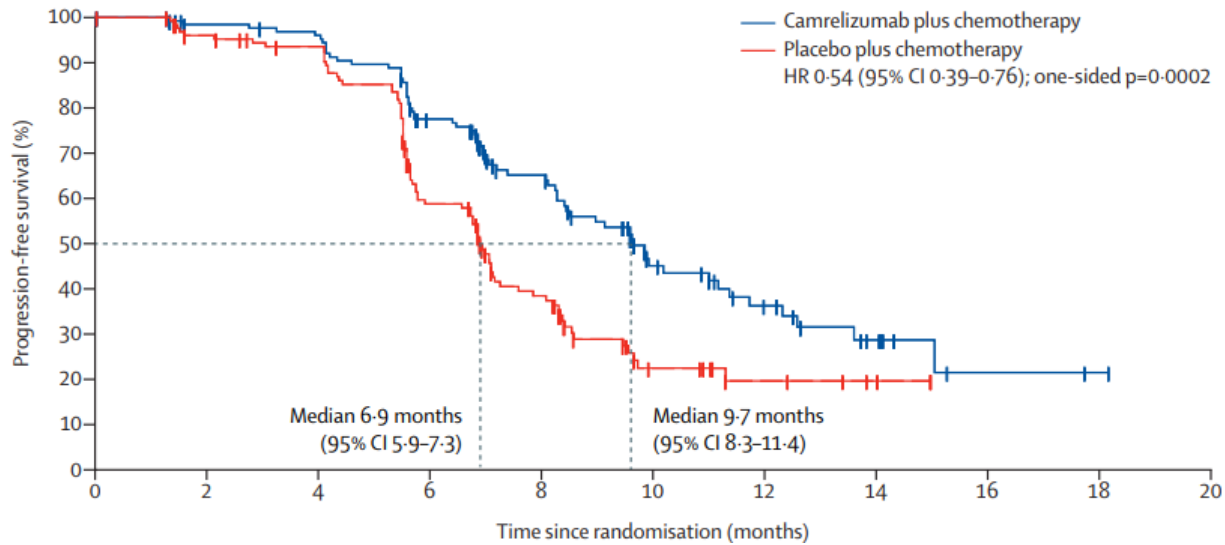
## Tislelizumab RATIONALE-309 (Zhang, ASCO 2022)



# ICI in 1st line NPC: patient characteristics

	CAPTAIN-1st (camrelizumab) Yang, Lancet Oncol 2021		Jupiter-02 (toripalimab) Mai, Nature med 2021		Rationale-09 (Tislelizumab) Zhang, ASCO virtual plenary 2022 ab384950	
	Cis + Gem + Camrelizumab	Cis + Gem	Cis + Gem + Toripalimab	Cis + gem	Cis + gem + tislelizumab	Cis+gem
N	134	129	146	143	131	132
Mean age (range)	52 (40-58)	49 (40-56)	46 (19-72)	51 (21-72)	50 (26-74)	50 (23-73)
Primary metastatic disease	35%	33%	42%	39%	96% (?)	94% (?)
Recurrent disease	65%	67%	58%	61%	4%	6%
Previous chemoradio	64%	64%	45%	48%	64%	63%
Liver mets	52%	51%			43%	43%
Plasma EBV DNA	Pos 71% Neg 29%	Pos 67% Neg 33%	<2000: 37% ≥2000: 63%	<2000: 38% ≥2000: 62%	<500: 20% ≥500: 80%	<500: 28% >500: 72%
PD-L1 ≥1	NA	NA	75%	76%	61% (CPS ≥10)	64% (CPS ≥10)

# Captain 1st: results



	Camrelizumab+chemo	chemo
mOS	NE	NE
mPFS	9,7m	6,9m
	HR 0,54 (95%CI 0,39-0,76) (primary endpoint met)	

**Table S6. Progression-free survival in patients with baseline positive and negative plasma EBV DNA level**

	EBV DNA positive (n=181)	EBV DNA negative (n=82)†	HR (95% CI) *
<b>Independent review committee-assessed</b>			
Camrelizumab plus chemotherapy	9.9 (8.1–12.3)	15.1 (9.5–NR)	0.64 (0.37–1.11)
Placebo plus chemotherapy	6.8 (5.7–7.1)	9.5 (6.6–12.2)	0.51 (0.33–0.80)
Total	7.3 (6.9–8.4)	9.8 (8.3–15.1)	0.65 (0.46–0.91)

**Table S7. Progression-free survival in patients with different plasma EBV DNA level change from baseline after 3 cycles of treatment \***

	EBV DNA Positive to negative (n=122)	EBV DNA consistently positive (n=59)	HR (95% CI)†
<b>Independent review committee-assessed</b>			
Camrelizumab plus chemotherapy	12.3 (8.4–18.0)	6.7 (4.6–9.1)	0.37 (0.22–0.63)
Placebo plus chemotherapy	7.1 (6.7–8.3)	5.7 (5.5–5.9)	0.51 (0.30–0.84)
Total	8.4 (7.2–10.9)	5.7 (5.5–6.7)	0.43 (0.30–0.62)

# Captain 1st: Toxicity

	Camrelizumab+chemo	chemo
Grade 3-4 TRAE	93% (mainly hemato)	90%
Grade 5 TRAE	10/134 (7%) MODS, fatal bleed, arrythmia, unkown	7/129 (5%)
SAE	44%	37%
Leading to discontinuation	13/134 (10%)	7/129 (5%)
Suspect irAE (any grade)	112/34 (84%)	65/129 (50%)
Gr 3-4 irAE	15%	1%
reactive capillary endothelial proliferation	58%	8 (6%)

Median time of onset: 4 weeks  
Tends to resolve spontaneously  
after 4-6 months  
May correlate with response

red-nevus-like



pearl-like



mulberry-like



patch-like



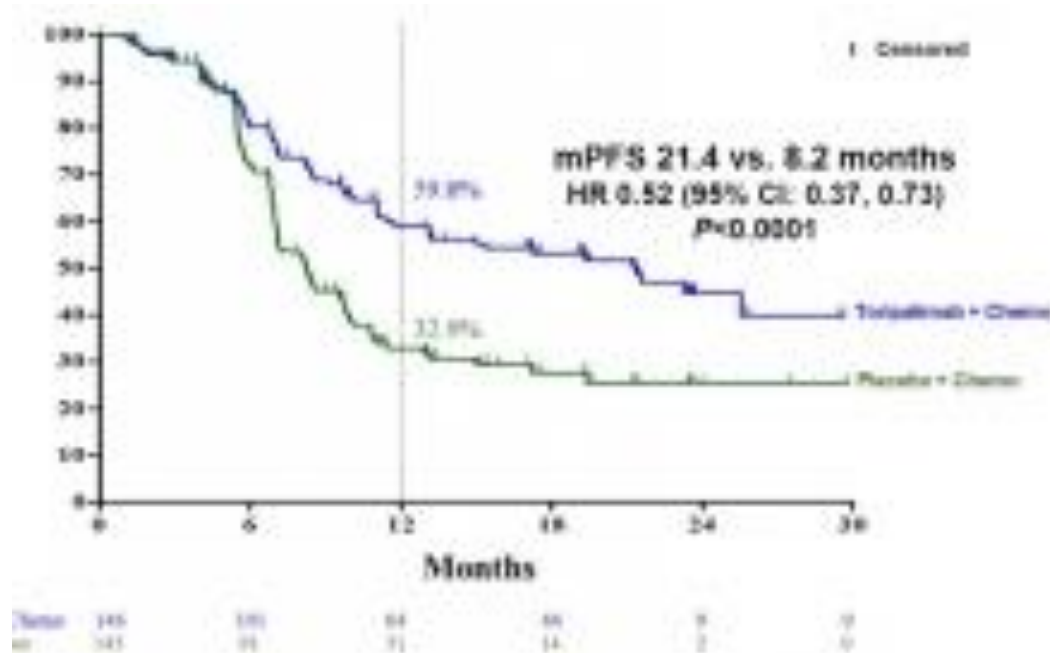
tumor-like



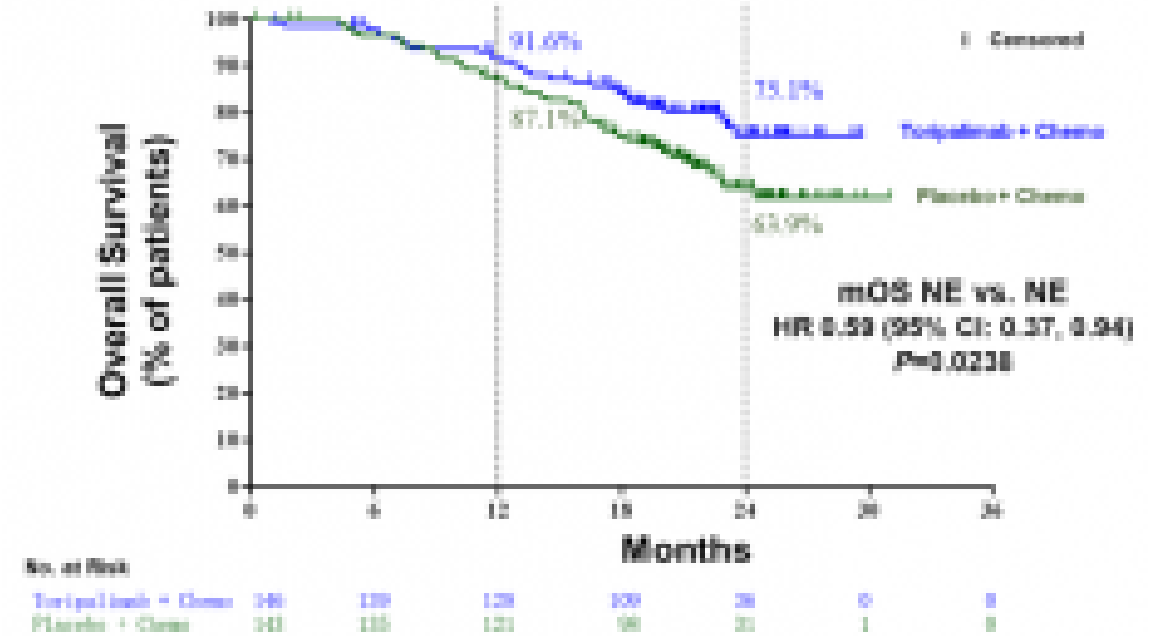


# Jupiter-02: results (2022 update)

## PFS



## OS

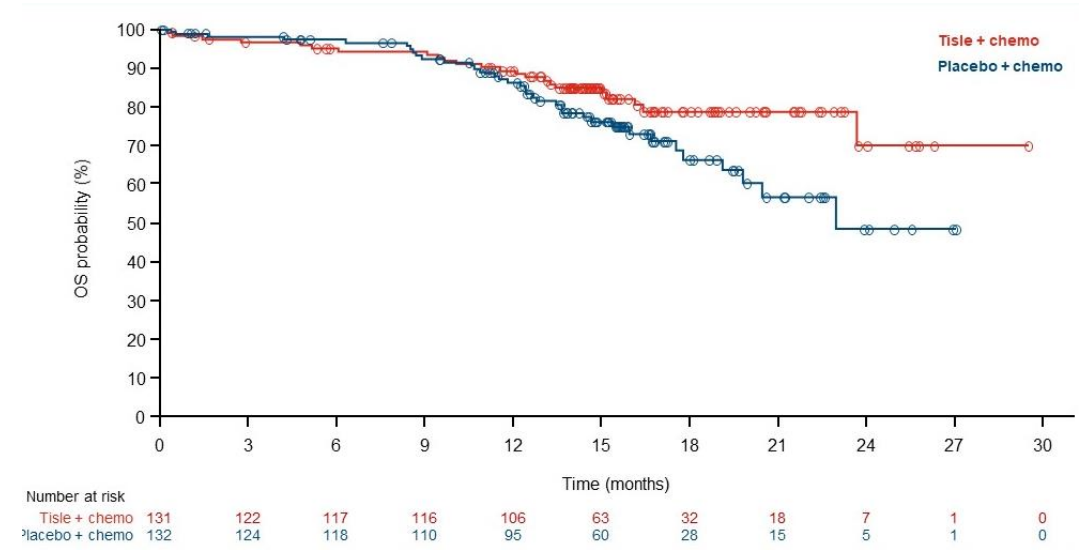
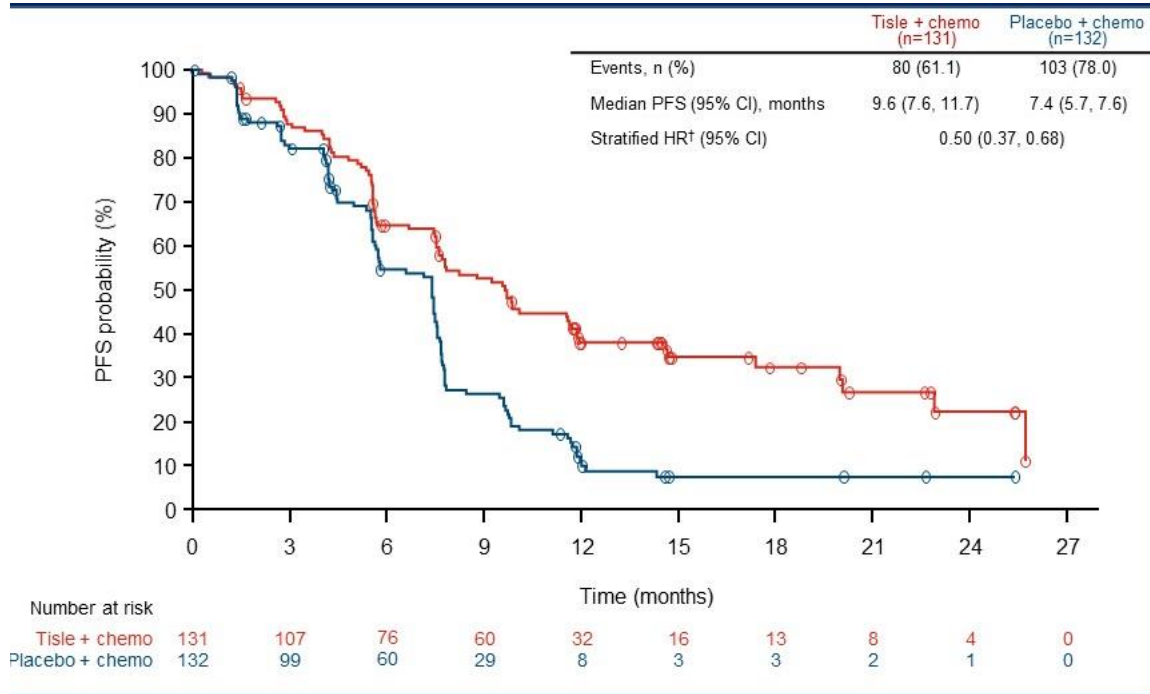


	Toripalimab+chemo	chemo
mOS	NE	NE
mPFS	21,4m	8,2m
	HR 0,52 (95%CI 0,37-0,73) (primary endpoint met)	

# Jupiter-02: Toxicity

	<b>Toripalimab+chemo</b>	<b>chemo</b>
Grade 3-4 TRAE	89% (mainly hemato)	89,5%
Grade 5 TRAE	2,7%	2,8%
SAE	41%	43%
Leading to discontinuation	7,5%	4,9%
Suspect irAE (any grade)	40%	19%
Gr 3-4 irAE	7,5%	<1%

# Rationale-309: results



	Tislelizumab+chemo	chemo
mOS	NE	23,0m
mPFS	9,6m	7,4m
	HR 0,50 (95%CI 0,37-0,68) (primary endpoint met)	

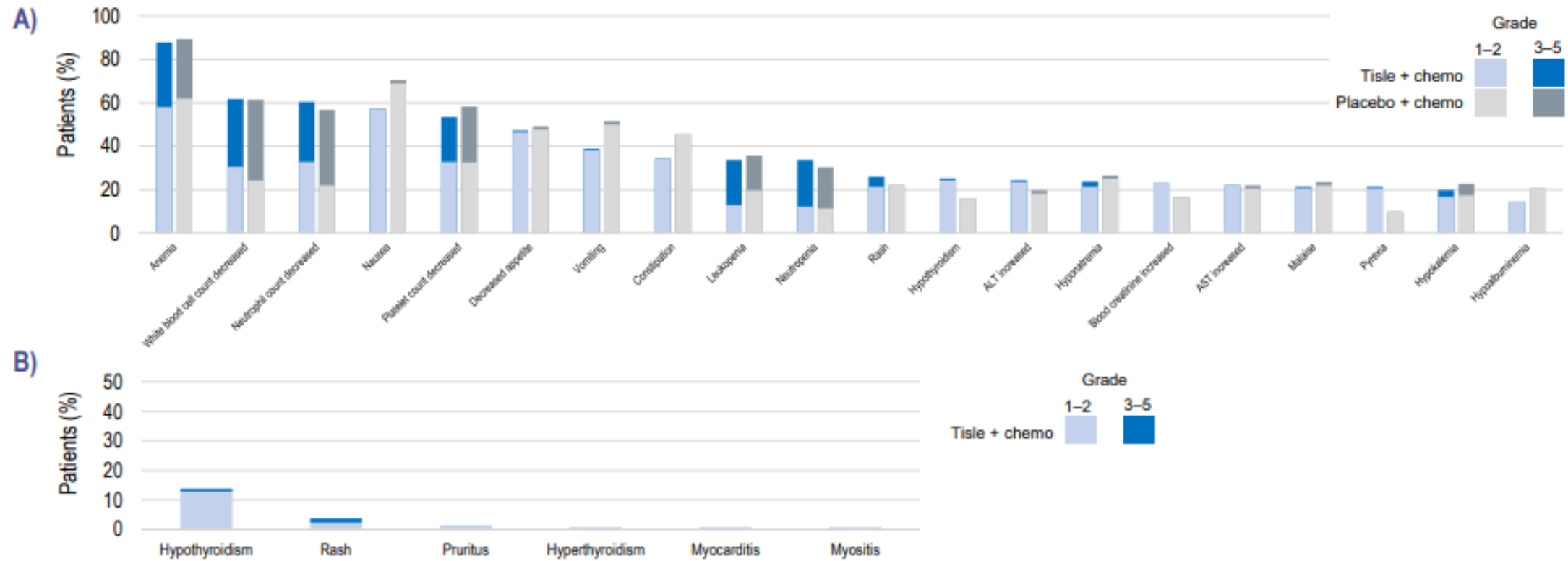
# Rationale-309: PFS2 data



As cross-over was allowed, these data also advocate that antiPD1 should be used in first line, and not after PD on chemo

# Rationale-309: toxicity

A) TEAEs ( $\geq 20\%$  patients for all grades) and B) immune-mediated TEAEs (safety population)





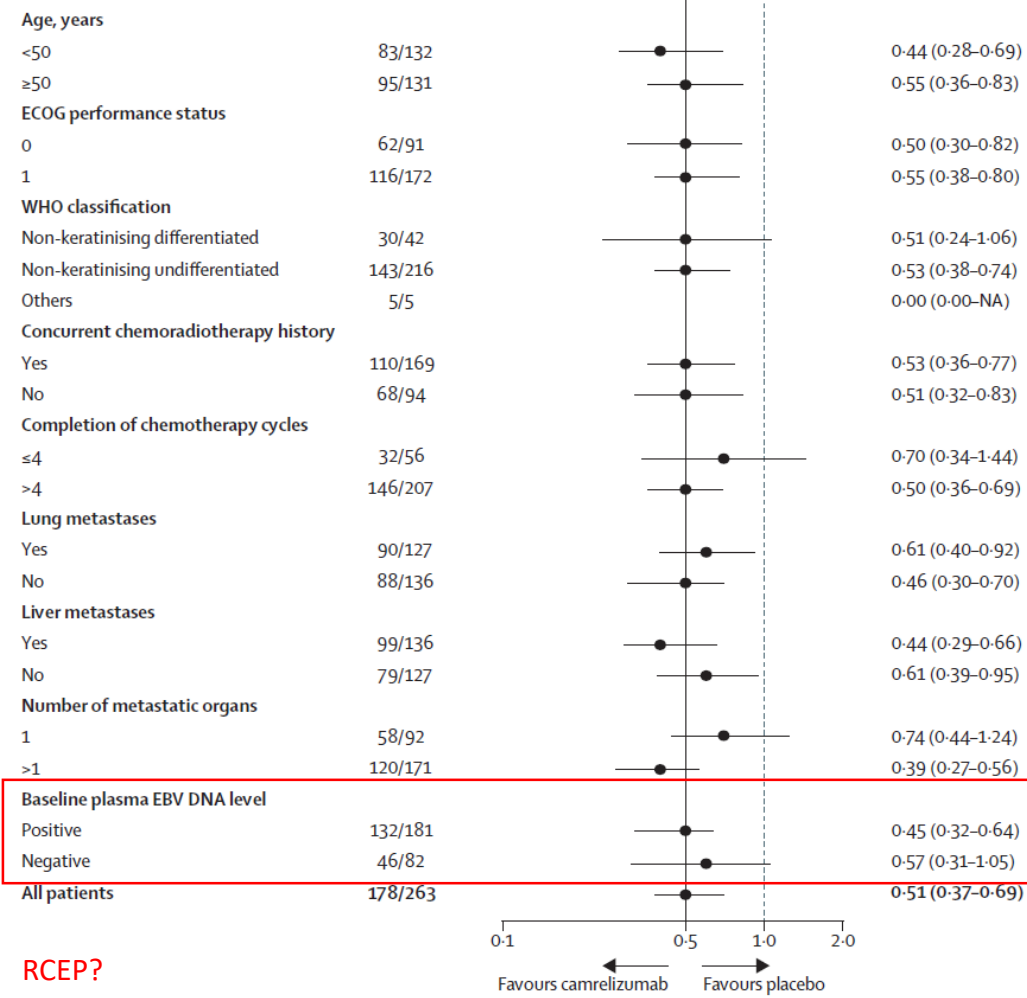
# ICI in 1st line NPC:

	SHR-1210-101 Feng, Lancet Oncol 2018	CAPTAIN-1st(camrelizumab) Yang, Lancet Oncol 2021		Jupiter-02 (toripalimab) Mai, Nature med 2021		Rationale-309 (Tislelizumab) Zhang, ASCO virtual plenary 2022 ab384950	
design	1b	ph3 randomized double blind		ph3 randomized double blind		Ph3 randomized double blind	
Primary outcome	Safety	PFS superiority BIRC (HR<0,63)		PFS superiority (HR<0,67)		PFS superiority (HR<0,65)	
Regimen	Cis + Gem +Camrelizumab	Cis + Gem + Camrelizumab	Cis + Gem	Cis + Gem + Toripalimab	Cis + gem	Cis + gem + tislelizumab	Cis+gem
N	23	134	129	146	143	131	132
ORR	91%	87%	81%	77,4%	66,4%	69%	55%
DCR	100%	96,3%	94,6%	87,7%	79,7%	89%	84%
mDOR	NA	8,5m	5,6m	18,0m	6,0m	8,5m	6,5m
mPFS months (95%CI)	NA	10,8m	6,9m	21,2m (11,0-NE)*	8,2m (7,0-9,5)*	9,6m	7,4m
mOS Months (95%CI)	NA	NR	22,6	NR	NR	NR	23,0m
Trial result	<b>Positive</b>	<b>PFS: HR 0,50 (0,37-0,68)</b>		<b>PFS: HR 0.52 (95% CI: 0.37–0.73)</b>		<b>PFS: HR, 0.50 (95% CI, 0.37-0.68)</b>	

\*AACR 2022 abstract CT226

# Markers of response?

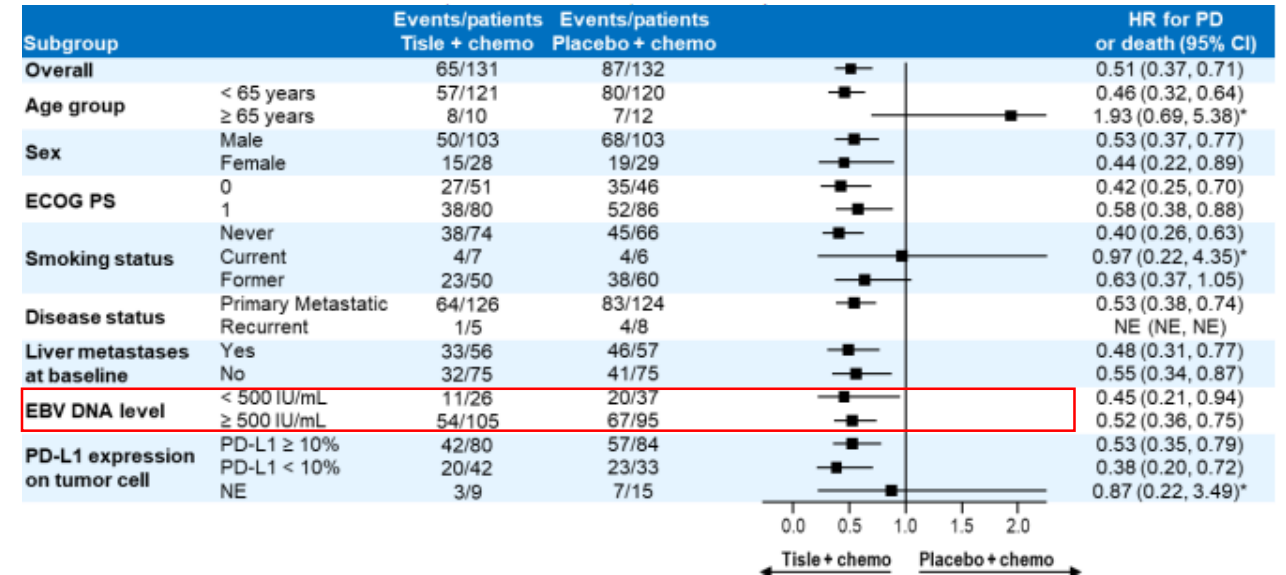
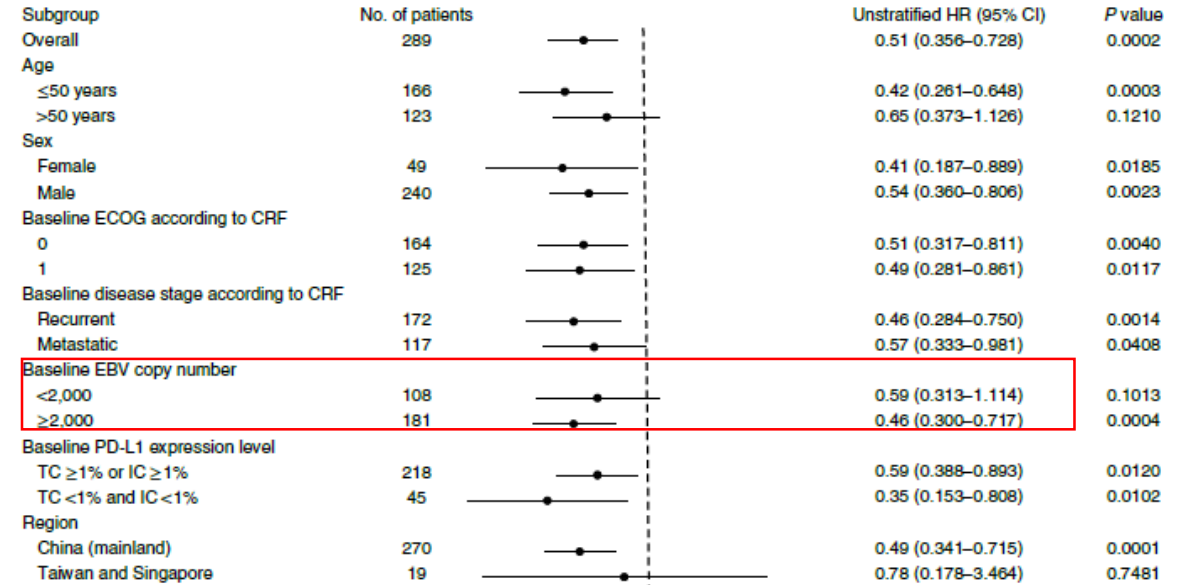
## CAPTAIN-1st

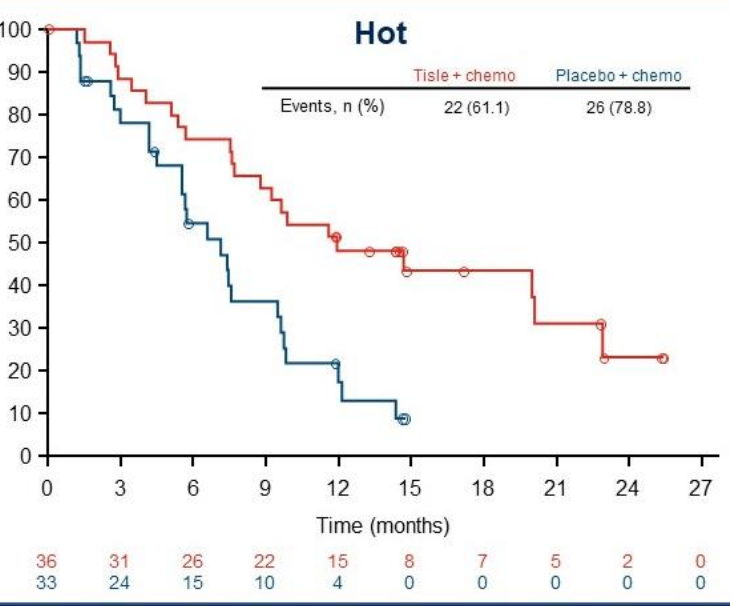
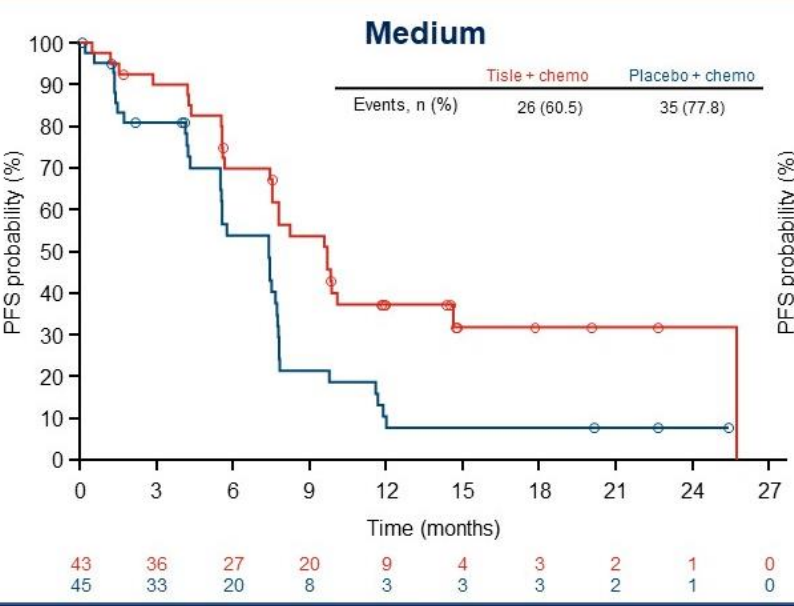
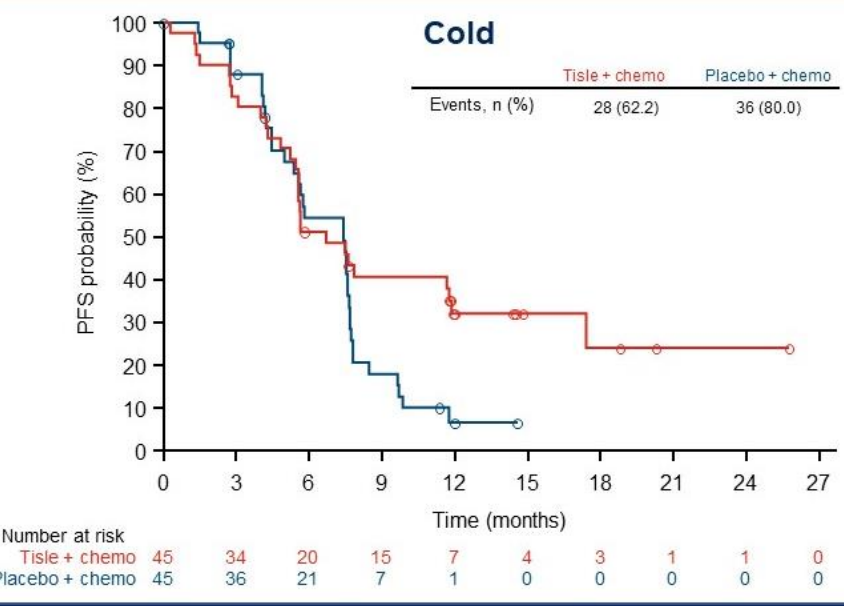
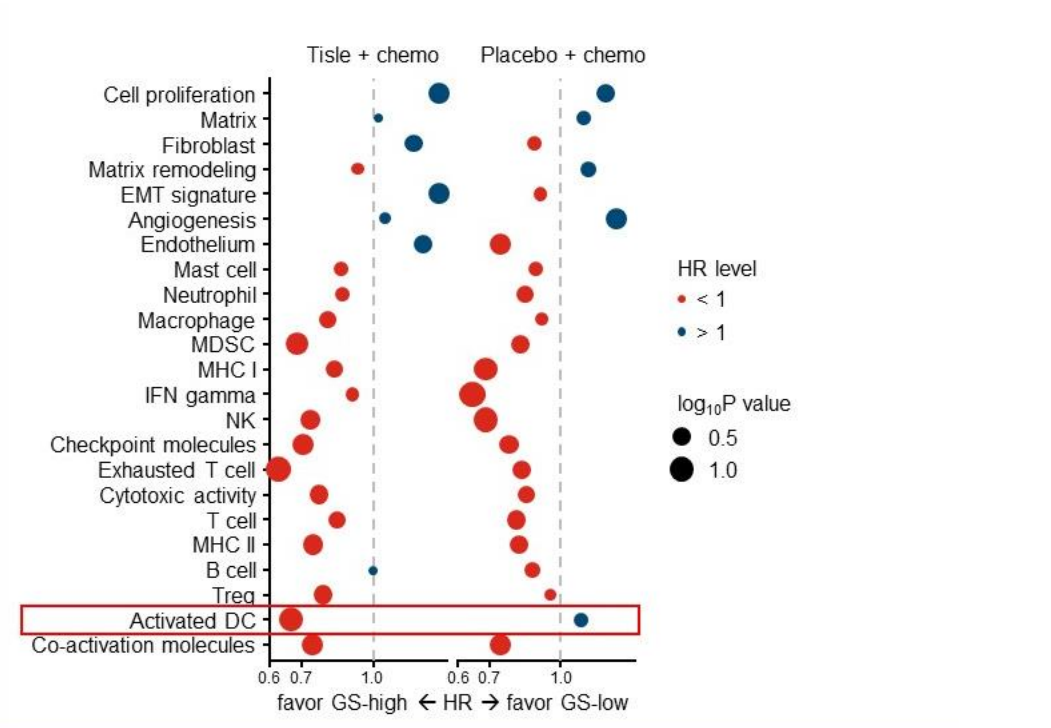
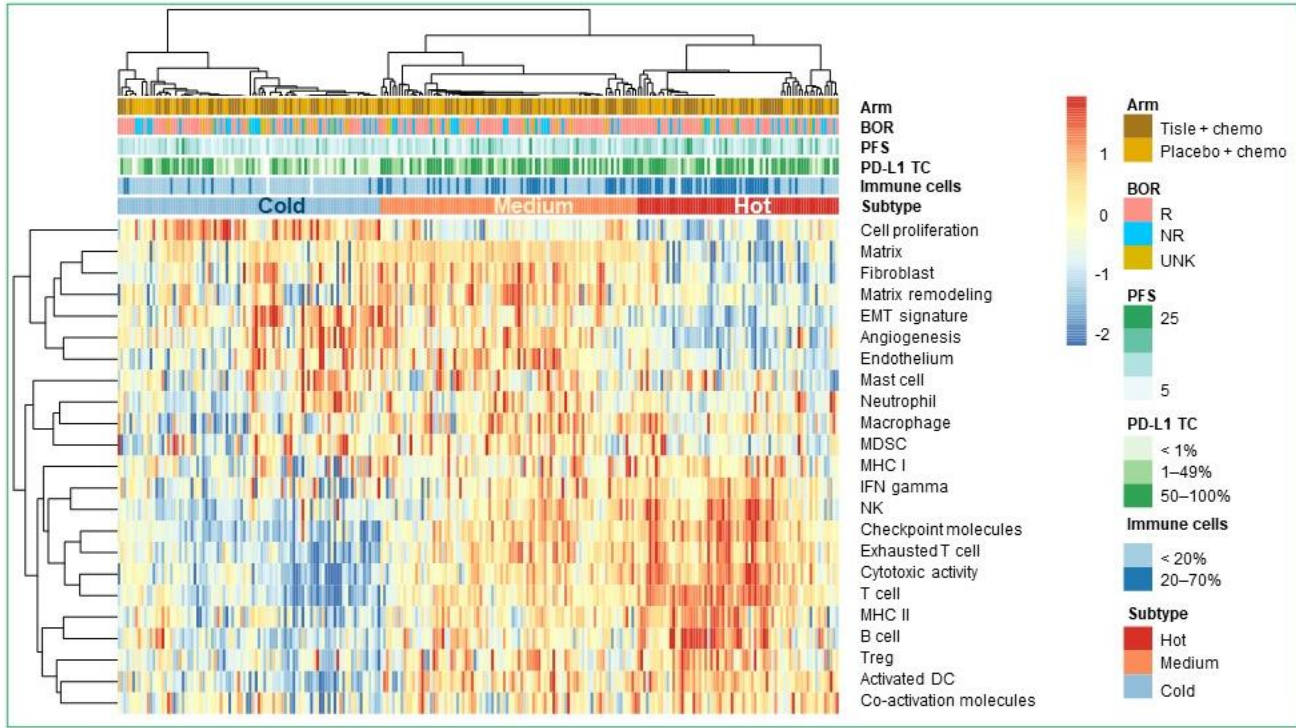


RCEP?

## Jupiter02

Treatment effect (PFS by BICR) by subgroup.





Highest expression of tumor proliferation and endothelium; lowest expression of immune profiles

Higher expression of IFN $\gamma$ , macrophages, and fibroblast gene signatures

Highest expression of T, NK and dendritic cells, and MHC and IFN $\gamma$  signatures

# Future directions

Type	NCT	Phase	Regimen	outcome	Location	Est completion
Neoadjuv	NCT04458909	3	cis+gem+nivolumab vs cis+gem	OS	China, Canada, US	2028
	NCT04974398	3	cis+gem+penpulimab vs cis+gem	PFS	China	2023
IO+RT	NCT03734809	2	Cis+gem+pembro x3 → cis+pembro+RT → pembro	PFS	Hong Kong, singapore	2024
	NCT03984357	2	Cis+Gem+nivo x3 → cis+nivo+RT	FFS	China	2026
	NCT03925090	2	Toripalimab → cis+toripalimab+RT vs pbo+cis+RT	PFS	China	2023
	NCT03427827	3	Cis+RT → camrelizumab vs cis+RT → observation	DFS	China	2026
	NCT03700476	3	Cis+gem+sintilimab → cis+sin+RT → sin vs cis+gem → cis+RT	FFS	China	2025
	NCT04447612	2	Cis+gem+durvalumab → cis+dur+RT → durv vs cis+gem → cis+RT	PFS	Hong Kong	2025
IO+VEGF	NCT05063552	3	atezo+beva vs atezo beva carbo doce	PFS, OS	USA	2027
	NCT04562441	2	avelumab+axitinib	ORR	Hong Kong	2026
	NCT04548271	2	camrelizumab + apatinib	ORR	China	2023
	NCT03813394	1 / 2	pembrolizumab + bevacizumab	ORR	Singapore	2023
	NCT05020925	1 / 2	SHR-1701 + famitinib	ORR	China	2022
	NCT04872582	2	sintilimab + bevacizumab	ORR	China	2022
	NCT04996758	2	toripalimab + anlotinib	ORR	China	2023
	IO+PARP	NCT04978012	2	Camrelizumab + fluzoparib	ORR	China
NCT04825990		2	Pembrolizumab + olaparib	ORR	Italy	2024
NCT05162872		2	Sintinlimab + niraparib	ORR	China	2023
Other	NCT05222035	2	Camrelizumab + G-CSF vs camrelizumab	ORR	China	2023
	NCT05166577	1 / 2	Pembrolizumab + nanatinostat + valganciclovir	Safety	US, Aus, Can, asia	2024
	NCT04945421	1 / 2	Sintilimab + IBI310	ORR	China	2022

# Conclusions

Cis-Gem as preferred 1<sup>st</sup> line regimen in R/M HNSCC (ESMO MCBS I, GRADE A)  
if used as induction regimen=?

Add RT to primary if de novo M+ and response (ESMO MCBS II, GRADE A),  
Role of maintenance capecitabine=?

Chemo+IO combo provide PFS benefit in 1st line R/M NPC, OS data immature

Toripalimab: EMA submission filed  
questions: Concomitant vs maintenance? Biomarkers?

ICI in second line: promising ph 2, RCT's > NEGATIVE

Asian population, new drugs!

ICI in frontline management are under investigation

# Michael Saerens, MD

Dept of Medical Oncology  
Ghent University Hospital

E            michael.saerens@ugent.be

T            +32 9 332 2692

        msaerens01



# References

Chen, Y. P., Chan, A. T., Le, Q. T., Blanchard, P., Sun, Y., & Ma, J. (2019). Nasopharyngeal carcinoma. *The Lancet*, 394(10192), 64-80.

Chan A. T., et al. 8580 Results of KEYNOTE-122: A phase III study of pembrolizumab (pembro) monotherapy vs chemotherapy (chemo) for platinum-pretreated, recurrent or metastatic (R/M) nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC). *Annals of Oncology*, 2021, 32: S786.

Even C., et al. Phase II, Randomized Study of Spartalizumab (PDR001), an Anti-PD-1 Antibody, versus Chemotherapy in Patients with Recurrent/Metastatic Nasopharyngeal Cancer. *Clin Cancer Res* 2021;27:6413–23

Mai H, et al. Toripalimab or placebo plus chemotherapy as first-line treatment in advanced nasopharyngeal carcinoma: a multicenter randomized phase 3 trial. *Nature Medicine*, 2021, 27.9: 1536-1543.

Yang et al. Camrelizumab versus placebo in combination with gemcitabine and cisplatin as first-line treatment for recurrent or metastatic nasopharyngeal carcinoma (CAPTAIN-1st): a multicentre, randomised, double-blind, phase 3 trial, *Lancet Oncol* 2021; 22: 1162–74

# ICI in pretreated NPC: randomized trials

	Keynote 122 (Chan, ESMO2021)		NCT02605967 (Even, clin can res 2021)	
	Pembro	Chemo IC	Spartalizumab	Chemo IC
Phase	3, all pretreated		2, all pretreated	
Primary outcome	OS superiority		PFS superiority	
N	117	116	84	39
ORR	21%	23%	17%	35%
DCR	50%	64%	42%	70%
mPFS months(95%CI)	4,1 m	5,5 months	1,9 months	6,6 months
mOS months(95%CI)	17,2m	15,3 months	17,2 months	15,3 months
Trial result	HR 0,90 (95%CI 0,67-1,19) → <b>NEG</b>		HR 1,62 (95% CI 0.87–2.12) → <b>NEG</b>	

\*Humanized antiPD1 MOAB escalating doses of 1 mg/kg, 3 mg/kg, and 10 mg/kg Q2w, finally 200mg Q2w

\*\*Humanized antiPD1 MOAB at 3mg/kg Q2w