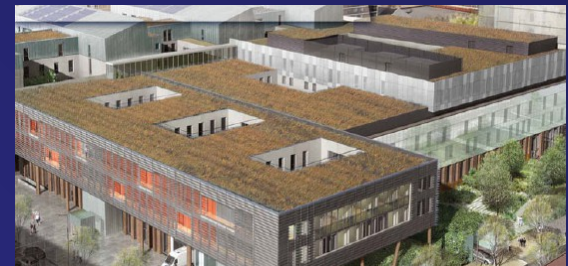
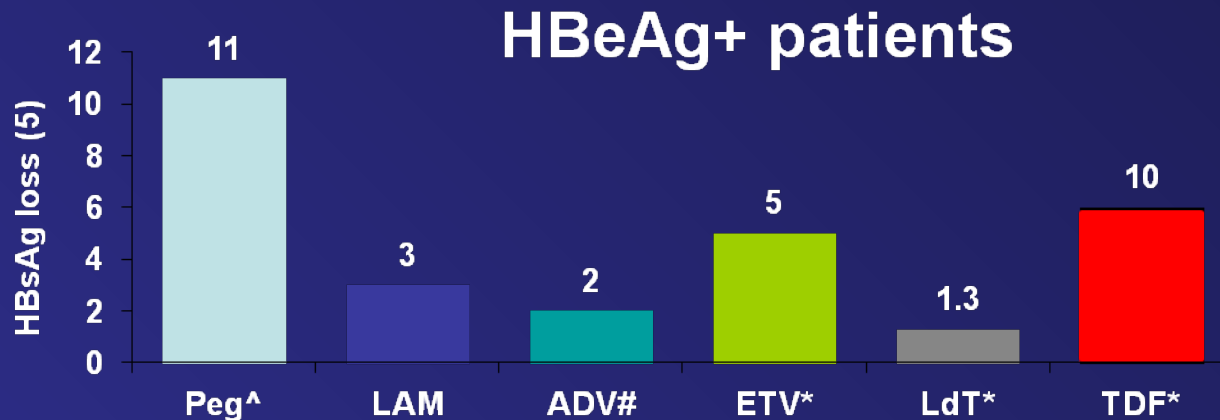


# How find a solution for alternative to indefinite nucleoside analogue therapy in patients chronic HBV infection?

Philippe Halfon, MD,PhD  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Hôpital Européen  
Marseille, France



# HBsAg loss after 2-5 years of treatment



Peg = peginterferon

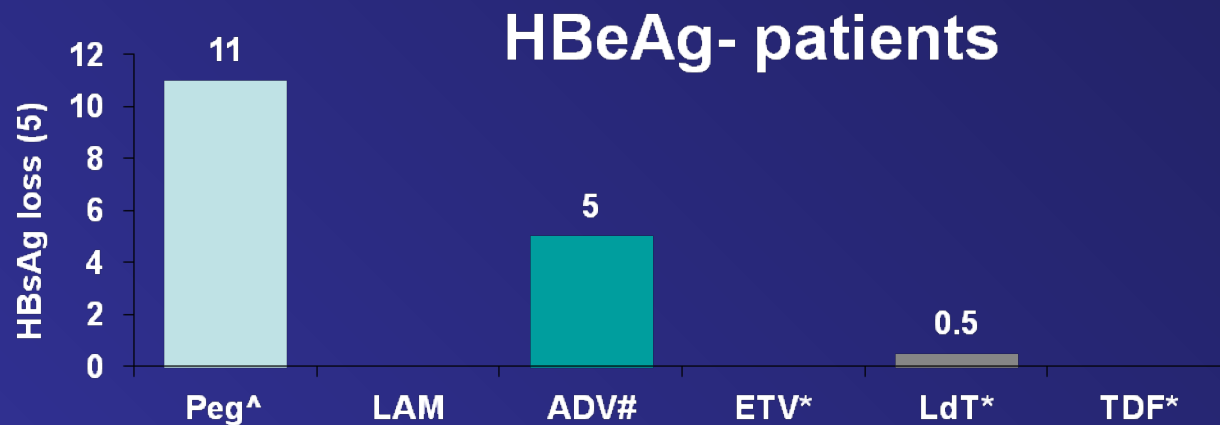
LAM = lamivudine

ADV = adefovir

ETV = entecavir

LdT = telbivudine

TDF = tenofovir



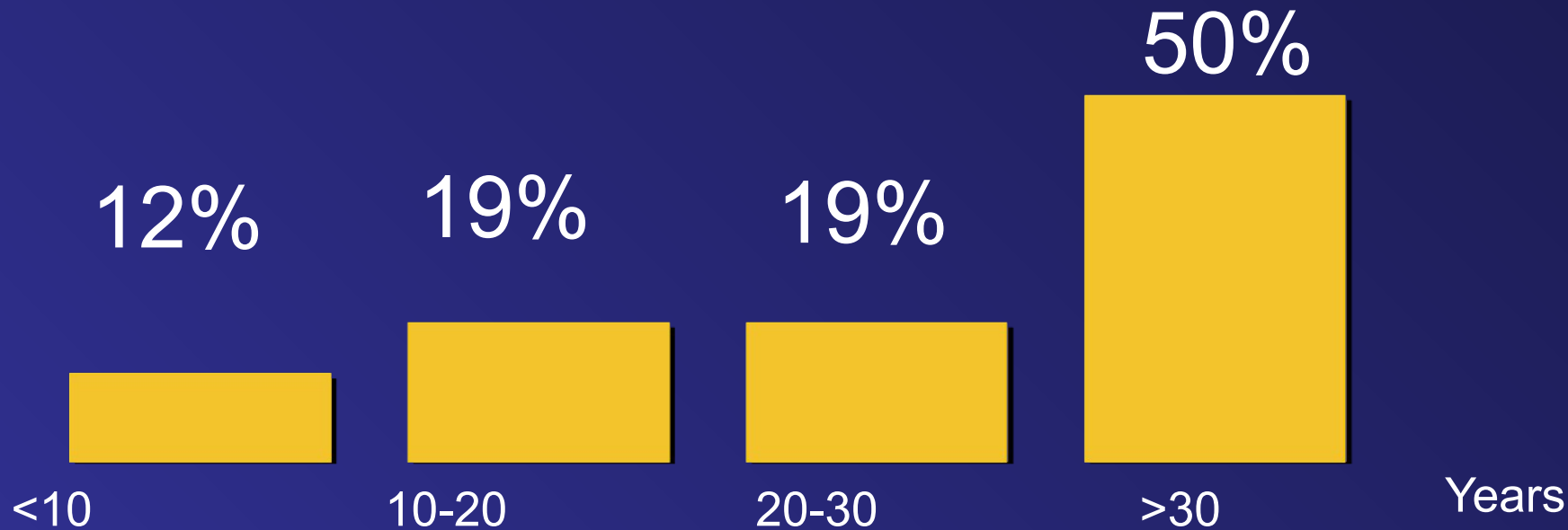
<sup>^</sup> 3-4 Years off Rx

<sup>#</sup> 4-5 Years on Rx

<sup>\*</sup> 2 Years on Rx

# Finite treatment duration unlikely

Patients receiving long-term NUCs therapy  
Prediction of HBs loss after achieving undetectable  
HBV DNA



Average decline/year  $0.11 \log_{10}$  (0.02-0.42)

*Doctor, for how long should  
I take the pills ?*

*Well, let's talk in 2064...*



**How find a solution for alternative to indefinite nucleos(t)ide analogue (NA) therapy in patients chronic hepatitis B, two concepts were developed**

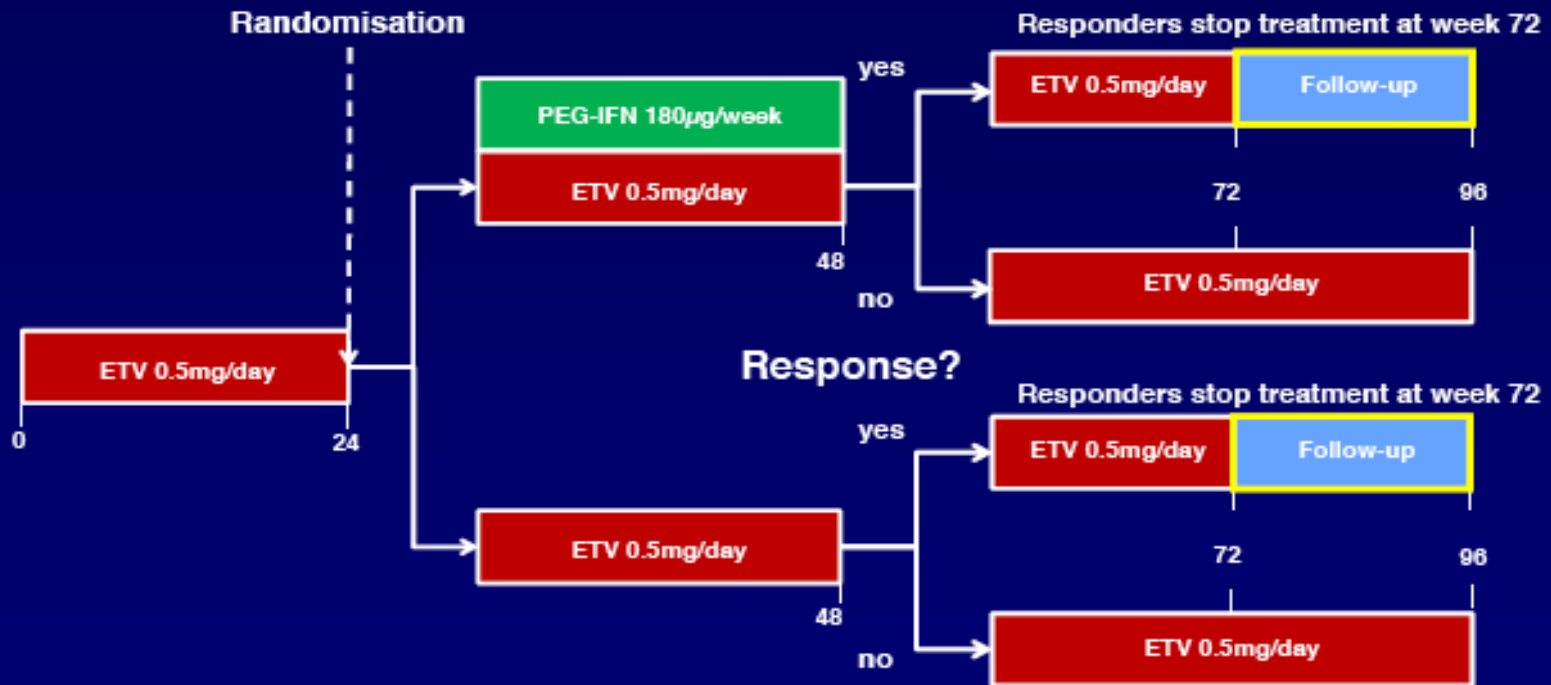
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▶ **Add-on Therapy**

▶ **Switching Therapy**

# ADDING PEGINTERFERON TO ENTECAVIR INCREASES RESPONSE RATES IN HBEAG-POSITIVE CHRONIC HEPATITIS B PATIENTS: WEEK 96 RESULTS OF A GLOBAL MULTICENTER RANDOMISED TRIAL (ARES STUDY)

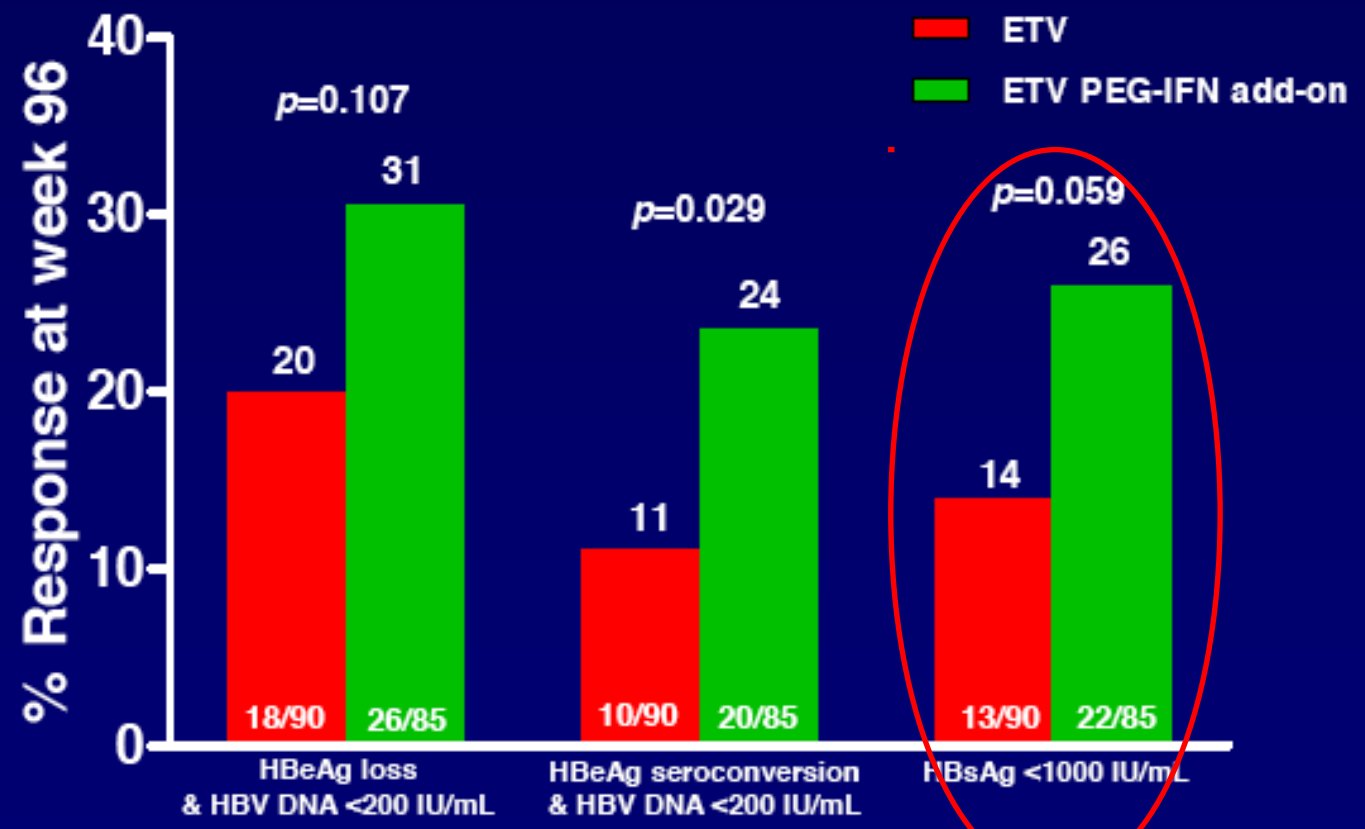
## Study design



- Major criteria:
  - Adults with HBeAg-positive CHB, compensated liver disease, ALT >1.3 x ULN
  - No treatment with lamivudine or telbivudine for more than 6 months

# ADDING PEGINTERFERON TO ENTECAVIR INCREASES RESPONSE RATES IN HBEAG-POSITIVE CHRONIC HEPATITIS B PATIENTS: WEEK 96 RESULTS OF A GLOBAL MULTICENTER RANDOMISED TRIAL (ARES STUDY)

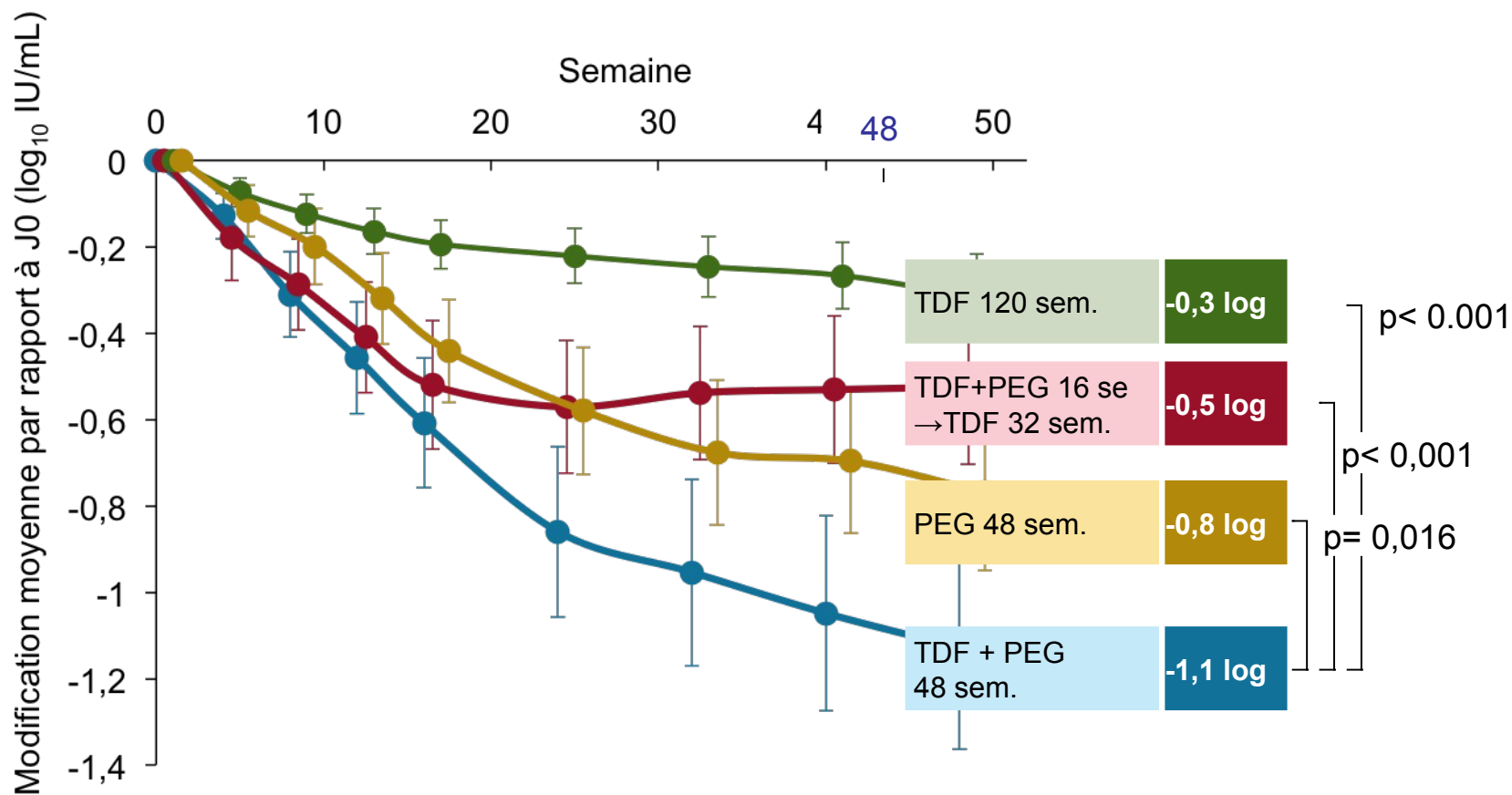
## Week 96: PEG-IFN add-on results in more response



Note: patients with a response at week 48 stopped all treatment at week 72. This is a cross-sectional analysis at week 96

# TDF + PEG-IFN $\alpha$ -2a in HBV patients

## Modification du titre AgHBs à S48





# Add-on of peg interferon to a stable nucleoside regimen



30 centers

Pegasys 180 µg  
48 weeks

Analogues 48  
weeks

Analogues 96 weeks

Assesment of  
HBsAg loss



NUCs

Randomisation



Analogues 144 weeks

≥ 1 an

\*HBV DNA  
undetectable

# Add-on of peg interferon to a stable nucleoside regimen

## Loss HBsAg W48

	Analogs	PEG-IFN + analogs	p
Loss HBsAg ITT	1/93 (1 %)	7/90 (8 %)	0,0327
Loss HBsAg in patients with complete dosage	1/91 (1 %)	7/82 (9 %)	0,0276

At W 48 : Add-on Peg IFN increase the loss of Hbs Ag specifically in the subgroup of patient with abselie titer < 1000 UI/ml

**How find a solution for alternative to indefinite nucleos(t)ide analogue (NA) therapy in patients chronic hepatitis B, two concepts were developed**

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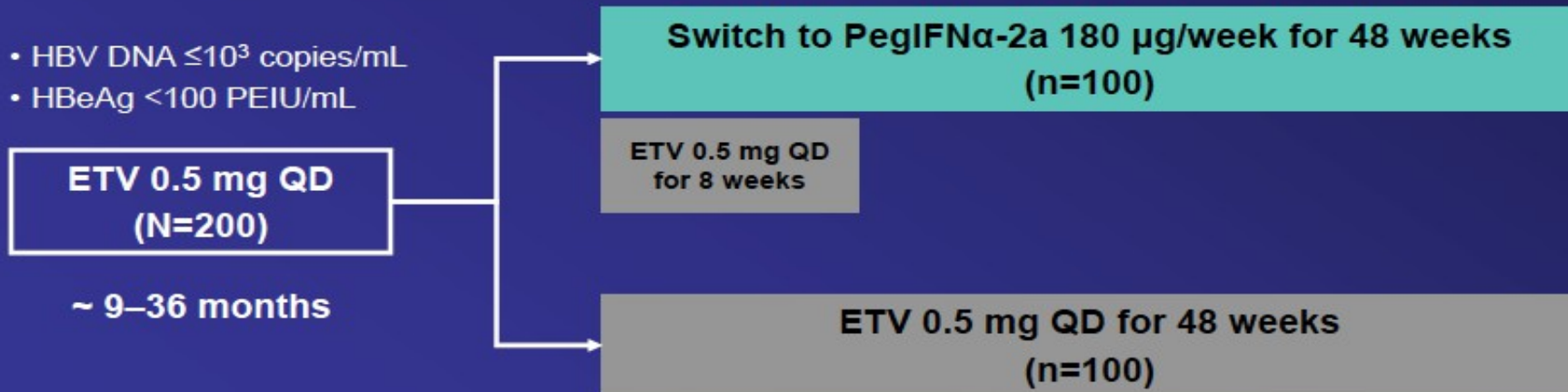
▶ **Add-on Therapy**

▶ **Switching Therapy**

# Switching from long-term entecavir to peginterferon alfa-2a (40 kD) induces HBeAg seroconversion/HBsAg loss in patients with HBeAg-positive chronic hepatitis B (The OSST study)

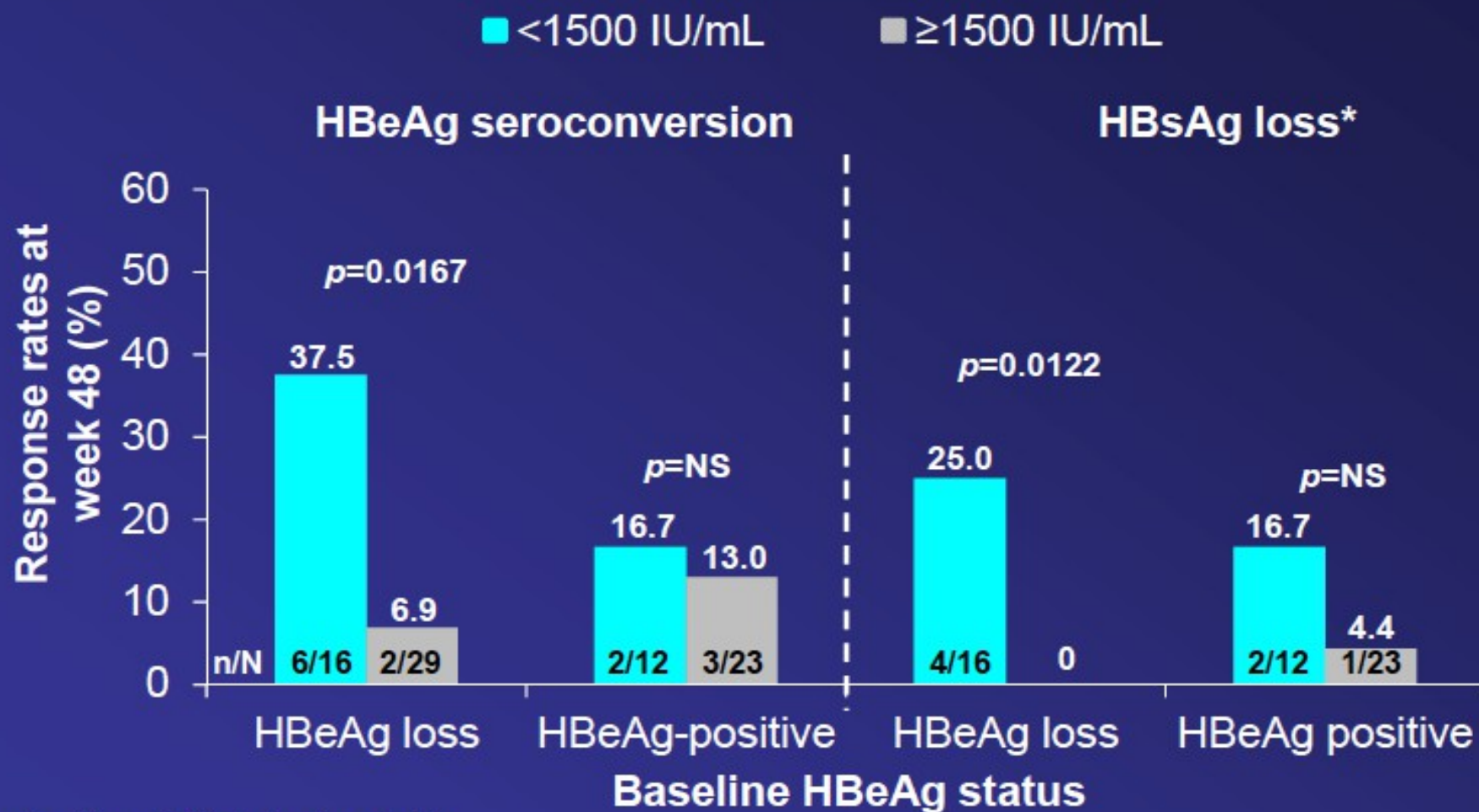
## Study design

- ▶ Randomized, multicenter, open-label study
- ▶ Primary endpoint: HBeAg seroconversion at end of treatment (week 48)
- ▶ Secondary endpoint: HBsAg loss at week 48



QD = once daily; PEIU = validated with in-house reference standards obtained from Paul Ehrlich Institute

**HBeAg loss + HBsAg <1500 IU/mL at baseline was associated with HBeAg seroconversion (37.5%) and HBsAg loss (25.0%) at week 48 (PegIFN $\alpha$ -2a arm)**



Patients with available data at week 48

\* Two patients with HBsAg loss had missing data at baseline and were excluded from this analysis

HBsAg <1500 IU/mL was determined by ROC analysis as the optimal cut-off in predicting HBsAg loss at week 48

This cut-off is updated from time of abstract submission

**How find a solution for alternative to indefinite nucleos(t)ide analogue (NA) therapy in patients chronic hepatitis B, two concepts were developed**

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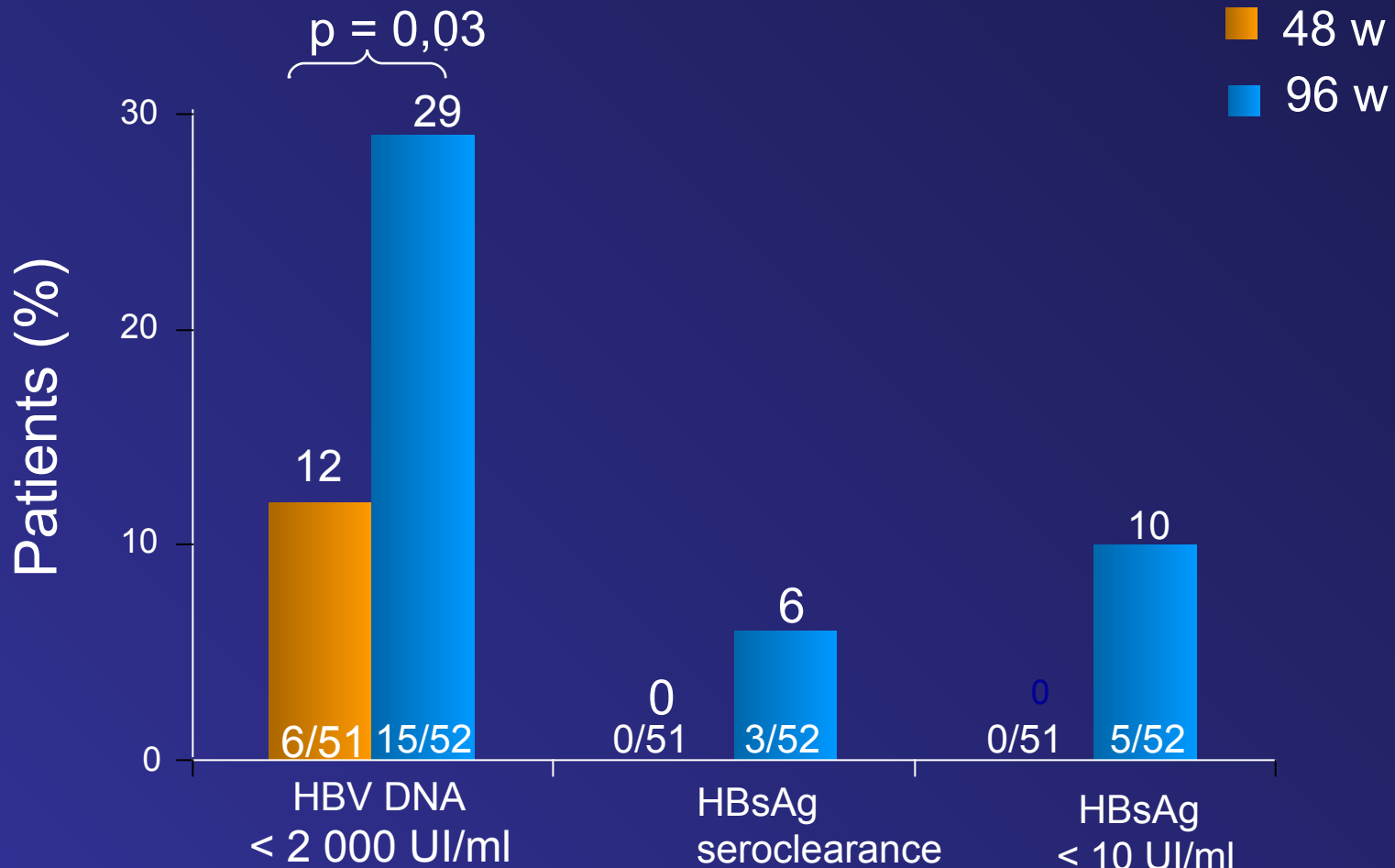
▶ **Add-on Therapy**

▶ **Switching Therapy**

▶ **Add-on therapy with Extention of duration based on HBsAg Kinetics**

# HBeAg negative :PEG-IFN $\alpha$ -2a : 96 w > 48w

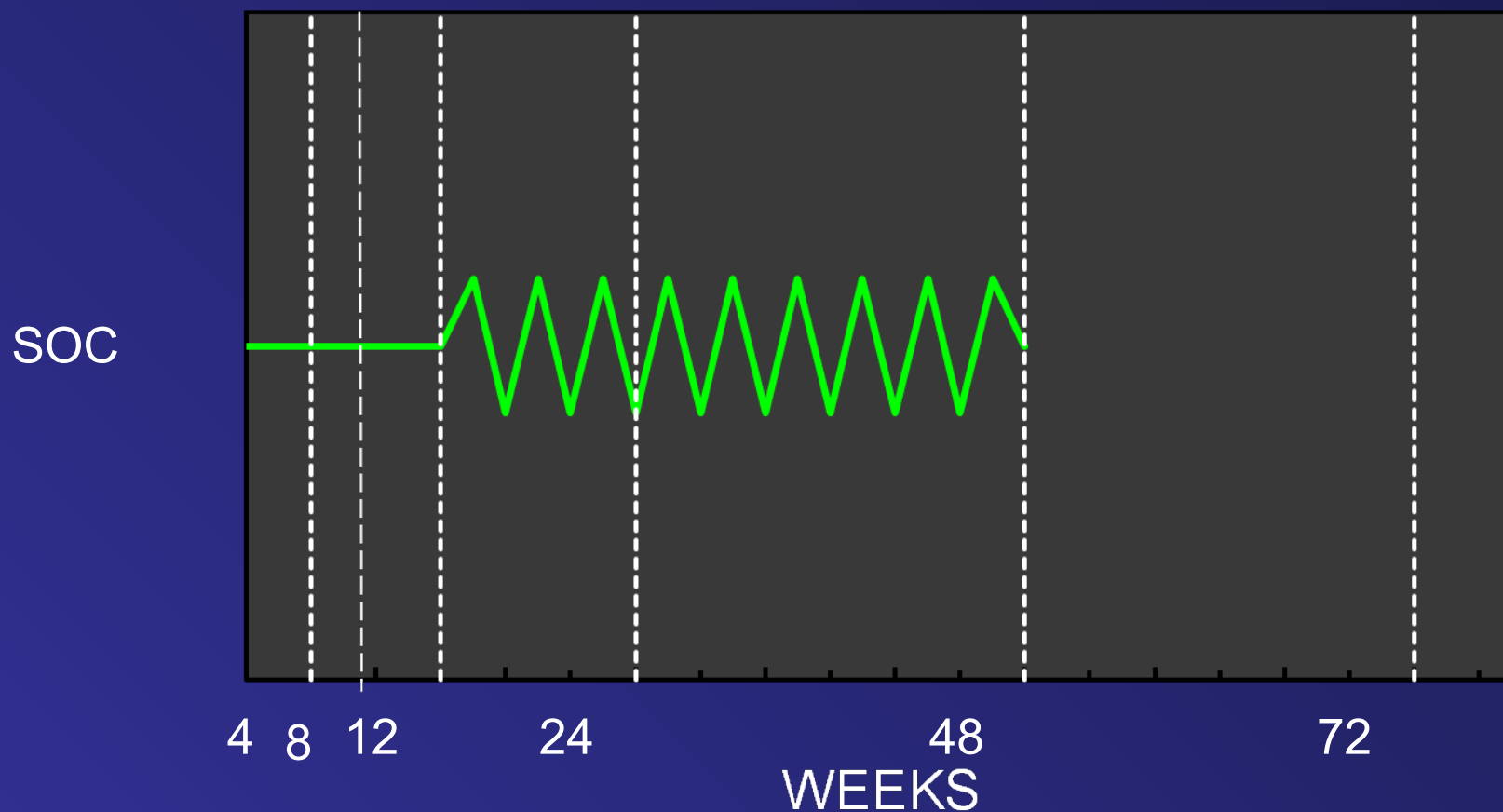
Results 12 month after stopping therapy PEG-IFN $\alpha$ -2a



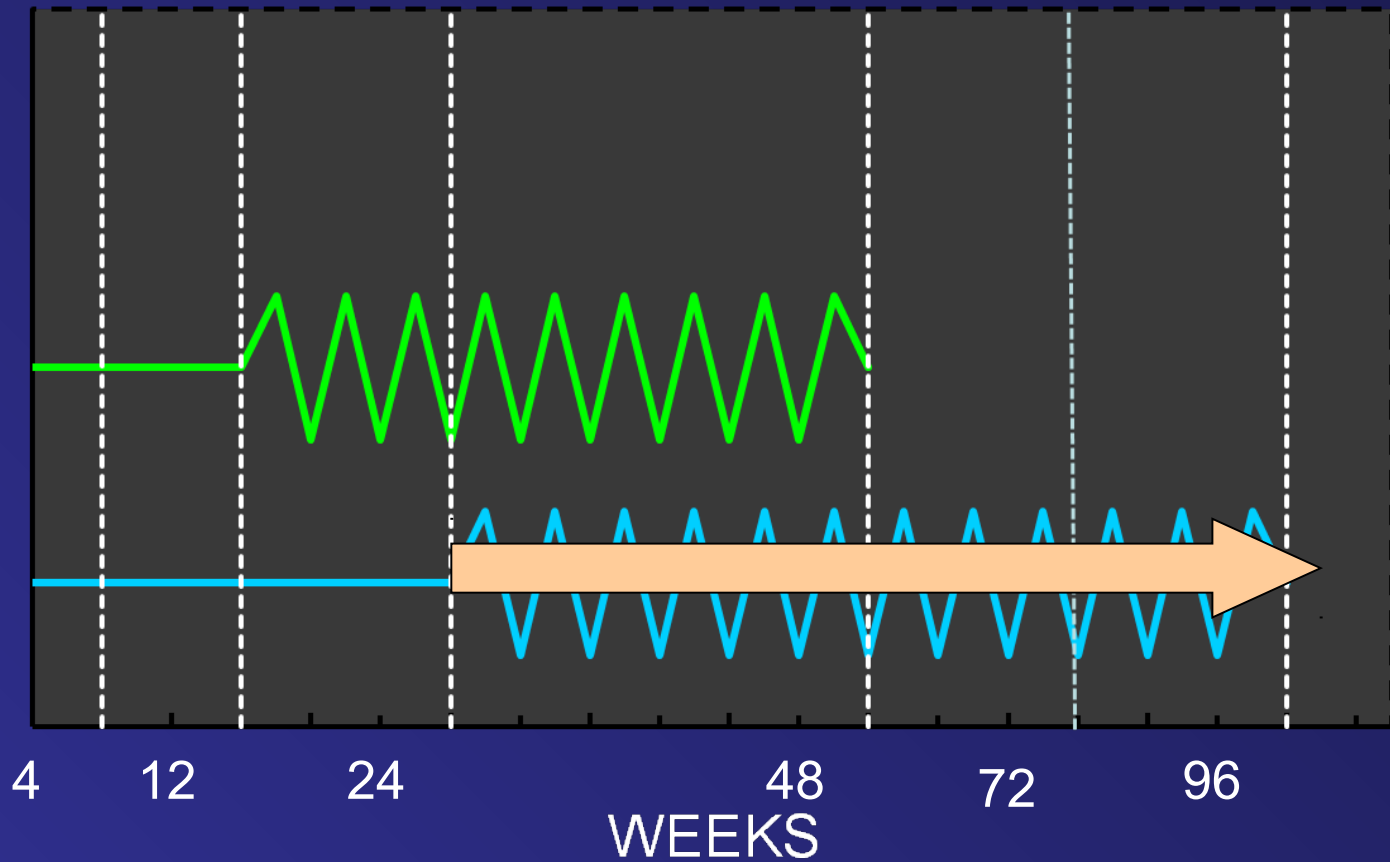
**A response-guided approach based on HBsAg kinetics may identify patients with the greatest chance of success**



# The concept of “Time-individualized Peg-IFN treatment” according to the evolution of HBsAg titer



# TIME TO BECOME HB<sub>s</sub>AG NEGATIVE EXTEND DURATION OF TREATMENT:



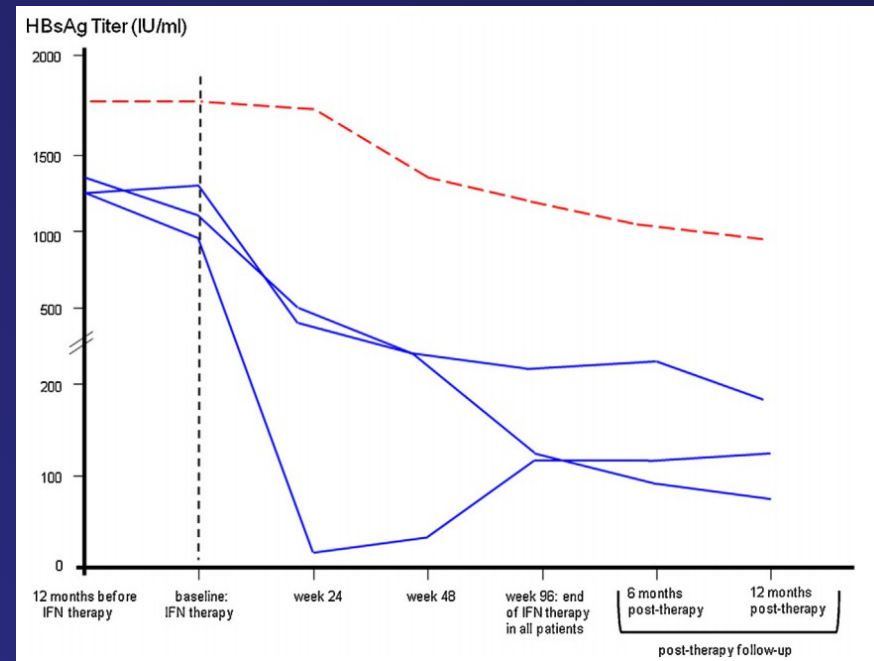
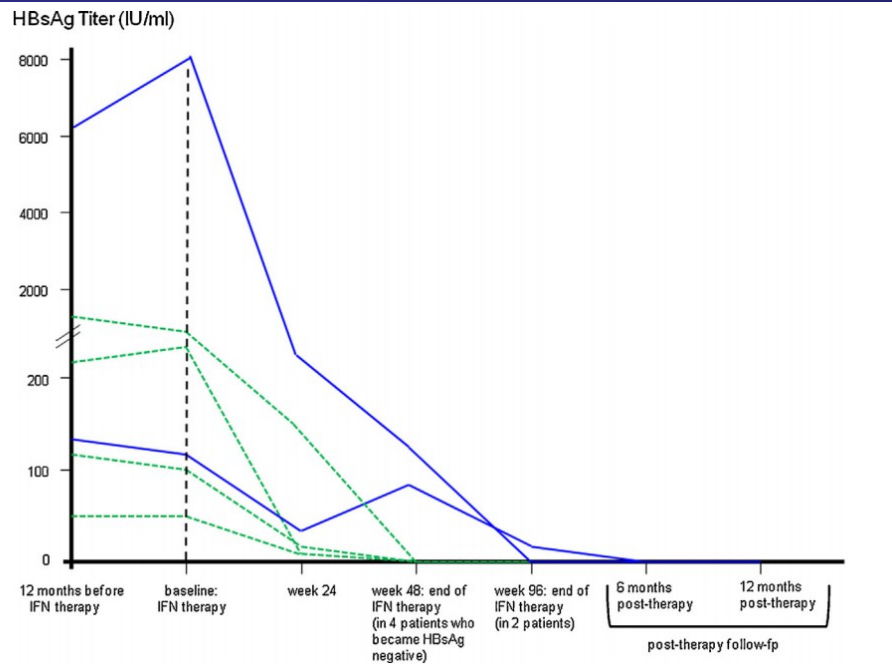
Short Communication

Add-on peg-interferon leads to loss of HBsAg in patients with HBeAg-negative chronic hepatitis and HBV DNA fully suppressed by long-term nucleotide analogs



Denis Ouzan<sup>a,\*\*</sup>, Guillaume Pénaranda<sup>b</sup>, H el ene Joly<sup>a</sup>, Hac ene Khiri<sup>b</sup>, Antonnella Pironti<sup>a</sup>, Philippe Halfon<sup>b,c,\*</sup>

HBs Ag levels of 10 HBe Ag negative patients who received additional Peg-interferon alpha2a during 48- 96 weeks to a stable NUCs therapy  
 All patients were treated with NUCs (3-7yrs) with HBVDNA neg since more than three years



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All patients were treated with NUCs (3-7yrs) with HBVDNA neg since more than three years

An new add-on IFN treatment strategy based on tailored HBsAg monitoring allowed for the first time :

- a loss of HBsAg in 60% of patients
- persistence of loss > 18 mo after end of therapy
- seroconversion in 40%

# HBsAg monitoring during interferon treatment for chronic hepatitis delta in four patients

Adapting interferon treatment duration through HBsAg titer monitoring provides a loss of HBs Ag and the cure of chronic HDV

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**HBsAg titer decline constitutes a useful tool to predict the loss of HBsAg and the optimal duration of Peg-IFN therapy and add-on therapy**

# Nationwide large survey on HBs antigen quantification use in real life clinical practice in France

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- 135 Practitioners (Hepatologists and Gastroenterologists)
- Survey conducted from march 2014 to may 2014
- Questions were related on :
  - Reason for prescription of HBsAg quantification,
  - Reasons for no-prescription
  - Knowledge of the assay used for the HBsAg quantification
  - Site where the analyses were performed
  - Interest of the practitioner in HBsAg quantification

# Reason for prescription of HBsAg quantification among the 102 (76%) practitioners that uses the test

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- 88% of the practitioners prescribe HBsAg quantification before treatment
- 76% prescribe HBsAg quantification at week 12 or week 24 of treatment, or for stopping rules
- 73% prescribe HBsAg quantification in combination with HBV viral load



# Reason for no-prescription of HBsAg quantification among the 30 (24%) practitioners that do not use the test

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- 50% of the practitioners did not prescribe HBsAg quantification because of a difficult access to the test
- 27% did not prescribe HBsAg quantification because they thought the test is not refunded

# Conclusions :

## The usefulness of quantitative HBsAg

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- ▶ Decisional algorithms based on HBsAg and HBV DNA kinetics leading to response guided therapy are needed
- ▶ “Time-individualized Peg-IFN treatment” according to the evolution of HBsAg titer should be validated in large clinical trial
- ▶ HBsAg monitoring have to be considered in EASL, APASL and AASLD recommandations