

Antiviral therapy in compensated cirrhosis and
liver transplant
who knows...the state of play ?



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PHC Workshop Jan 2014

Disclosures: there is no middle ground...

- Pharma support:
Janssen/ MSD/ Gilead/ BMS/
GSK/ Novartis/ Roche/ AbbVie/
Astellas
- This is a two-sided conversation...
- Spectrum in audience
- Personal opinion as a Clinician
- I will take the '*Why not*' viewpoint



If you risk nothing you risk everything...



Opportunities to treat HCV in patients undergoing liver transplantation

Listed

Transplant

Chronic hepatitis

Graft loss

Prevent graft infection

Prevent infection or ↓ risk of disease progression

Prevent cirrhosis and graft failure

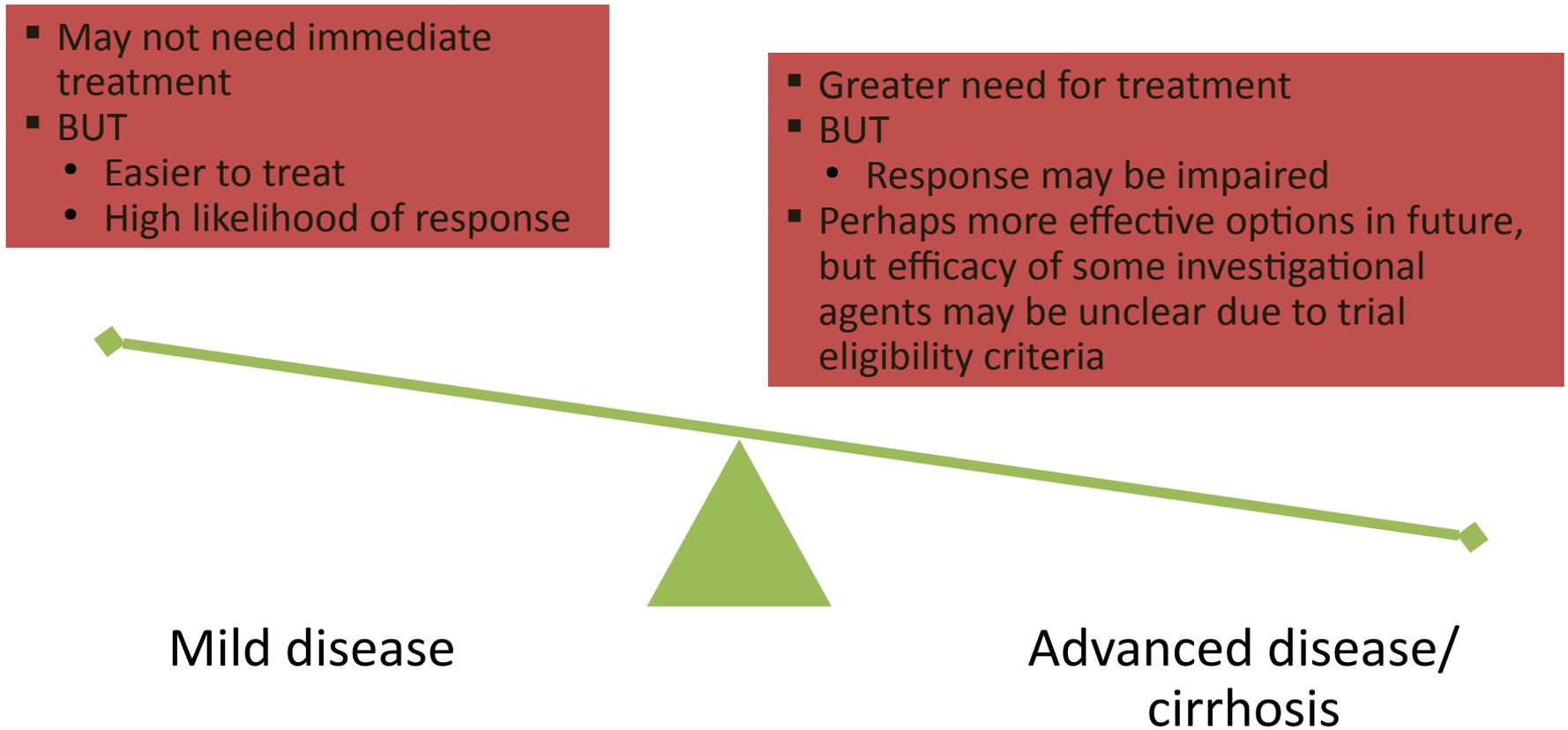
Pre-transplant anti-viral therapy

Prophylactic or pre-emptive therapies

Antiviral therapy for recurrent disease

Re-transplant

Severity of Disease Increases Need for HCV Therapy but Also Impairs Response



How not to do it - 2011

Male, 44 years, Caucasian

Cirrhosis . Previously listed for OLT in US but recompensated

2 previous treatments courses with Peg Interferon and Ribavirin – Relapser

Genotype 1A

Baseline HCV RNA – 385,000 IU/ml

IL 28B genotype CT

Well compensated pre treatment

Viral Response and Tolerability

TW 1 - 16 HCV RNA - < 15 IU/ml

Tolerates treatment reasonably well

Completes 12 weeks of Telaprevir with no major problems

Tolerability

TW16

Bili 53

Alb 32

AST 468/ALT 181

ALP 215, GGT 1902

PLTs 20

INR 1.05

Minimal jaundice, no HE, weight stable, felt reasonable

Tolerability

TW17 (5 days later)

Bili 124 (Conjugated 93)

Alb 32

AST 269

ALP 236, GGT 1719

PLTs 42

INR 1.1

Ascites?

Tolerability

US – small- moderate ascites

Ammonia - 62

No Drugs/ETOH/concurrent illness

Viral screen negative (Hep A,B,C,E, CMV/EBV/HSV)

Autoantibodies and Immunoglobulins normal

Sodium and renal function normal

Develops chest infection – Rx antibiotics (bili – 180)

Sudden bereavement – needs to go to USA

Back from US Feb 2012

Bili 26

Alb 39

AST 36

ALP 104, GGT 216

PLTs 201

INR 1.13

HCV RNA < 15 iu/ml initially

No ascites on repeat US

CT – no decompensation

Chest infection resolved

Mr HA

- 65 year old, G4
- 12 yrs post LT (x2)– Boujoun
- Treated Peg/riba IGD (HCV rna –ve) salvaged by AKB
- BR 89 alb 30
- Meld 12
- Rx on list -LADR full dose RNA at week 8 – 3 months
- iMeld 42 ascites +/- encephalopathy
- LITU x2

- Negative RNA till 8 weeks post

Grp B+ DBD – 14 months

Was transplantation an extension of antiviral Rx?

Treating patients with DAAs in the real world

Real world

CUPIC¹

Proportion of patients with liver disease grading **100%**

EAP²

44% **55%**

TARGET³

62% other **38%**

German cohort⁴

84% other **16%**

Clinical trials

F0

F1

F2

F3

F4

Liver cancer

ADVANCE⁵

36% **42%** **15%** **6%**

REALIZE⁶

22% **29%** **22%** **26%**

SPRINT ⁷

86% **5%** **6%**

RESPOND ⁸

73% **7%** **12%**

1. Hézode C, et al. J Hepatol. 2013;59:434–41; 2. Colombo M, et al. AASLD: 2012. LB-15
 3. Fried M, et al. EASL 2013: Abstract 818; 4. Berg T, et al. EASL 2013: Abstract 793
 5. Jacobson I, et al. N Eng J Med 2011;364:2405–16; 6. Zeuzem S, et al. N Eng J Med 2011;364:2417–28
 7. Poordad F, et al. N Eng J Med 2011;364:1195–206; 8. Bacon BR, et al. N Eng J Med 2011;164:1207–17

Albumin and MELD Score Predict Decompensation in Patients with HCV Cirrhosis and Thrombocytopenia on Interferon Therapy: Analysis from the ENABLE Studies

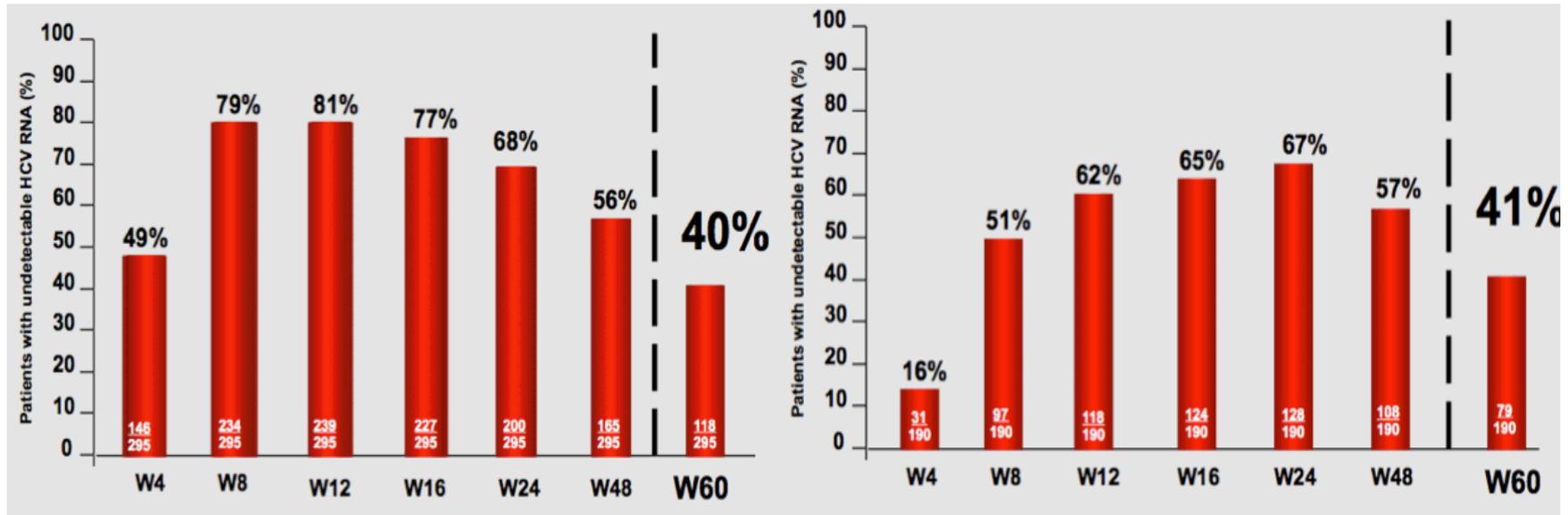
Nezam Afdhal¹, Edoardo G Giannini², Samuel Sigal³, Stuart Gordon⁴, Gregory T Everson⁵, Abdullah MS Al-Osaimi⁶, Geoffrey M Dusheiko⁷, Teresa Casanovas⁸, Norbert Brau⁹, Sandra Y Vasey¹⁰, Malini Iyengar¹⁰, Ulla Forssen¹⁰, Fiona Campbell¹¹, Dickens Theodore¹²

Table 3. Adverse Events Suggestive of Hepatic Decompensation by Baseline MELD Score

Number of patients (%)	Baseline MELD Score <10		Baseline MELD Score ≥10	
	Eltrombopag + AVT (N=541)	Placebo + AVT (N=264)	Eltrombopag + AVT (N=400)	Placebo + AVT (N=213)
Any event	38 (7)	11 (4)	85 (21)	24 (11)
Ascites	13 (2)	2 (<1)	41 (10)	12 (6)
Hepatocellular carcinoma	12 (2)	3 (1)	15 (4)	9 (4)
Death	6 (1)	2 (<1)	16 (4)	5 (2)
Hepatic encephalopathy	7 (1)	1 (<1)	16 (4)	3 (1)
Variceal hemorrhage	4 (<1)	3 (1)	9 (2)	1 (<1)
Other decompensation events	3 (<1)	0	12 (3)	1 (<1)
Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis	0	0	7 (2)	2 (<1)

AVT, antiviral therapy; MELD, model for end-stage liver disease.

CUPIC study: efficacy



- 15–20% less than what you would expect according to phase three results and the baseline characteristics
- Moderate but still reasonable efficacy

CUPIC: safety overview at Week 60

Outcomes, %	TVR N=299	BOC N=212
Serious adverse event	53.8	44.3
Premature discontinuations due to serious adverse events	23.8	17.5
Death, n (%)	8 (2.7)	3 (1.4)
Infections (grade 3/4)	9.7	2.4
Hepatic decompensation	4.7	4.2
EPO use	56.5	56.1
Transfusion	17.7	11.8
RBV dose reduction	27.8	23.6

CUPIC: SVR12 and the risk of occurrence of severe complications*

		Platelets count ≤100,000/mm ³	Platelets count >100,000/mm ³
Albumin <35 g/L	N	37	31
	Complications, n (%)	19 (51.4)	5 (16.1)
	SVR12, n (%)	10 (27.0)	9 (29.0)
Albumin ≥35 g/L	N	74	306
	Complications, n (%)	9 (12.2)	19 (6.2)
	SVR12, n (%)	27 (36.5)	168 (54.9)

Protease-Inhibitor (PI) Triple Therapy in Mildly Decompensated Cirrhotics

- Aims: To assess responses and safety of triple therapy in mildly decompensated (CP \geq 6) cirrhotics.
- Methods: Two-center retrospective cohort of all CP \geq 6 cirrhotics treated with (P/R) with telaprevir (70%) or boceprevir (30%) since PI approval.
- For safety outcomes, all compensated cirrhotics (CP=5) treated with TT during the same time period were used for comparison.
- 61 patients (median age 60yrs, 28% female, 66% G1A, 19% IL28B-CC, 28% previous null/partial responders) with mildly decompensated cirrhosis: CP 6 (range 6-11), MELD 10 (range 6-20] were followed for median 174days (IQR: 92-332) from start of PI (N=31 evaluable for SVR12)

Protease-Inhibitor (PI) Triple Therapy in Mildly Decompensated Cirrhotics

- RVR in 35%,
- EOTR in 60% (28/47)
- SVR12 in 35% (11/31).

- In univariate analysis, SVR12 was associated with:
 - IL28B-CC, treatment naïve/relapse status, RVR, lower baseline total bilirubin and higher baseline platelet count.

- Negative predictive value for SVR:
 - bilirubin (>1.8) 100%,
 - baseline platelets (<100) 78%
 - lack of RVR 83%

Protease-Inhibitor (PI) Triple Therapy in Mildly Decompensated Cirrhotics

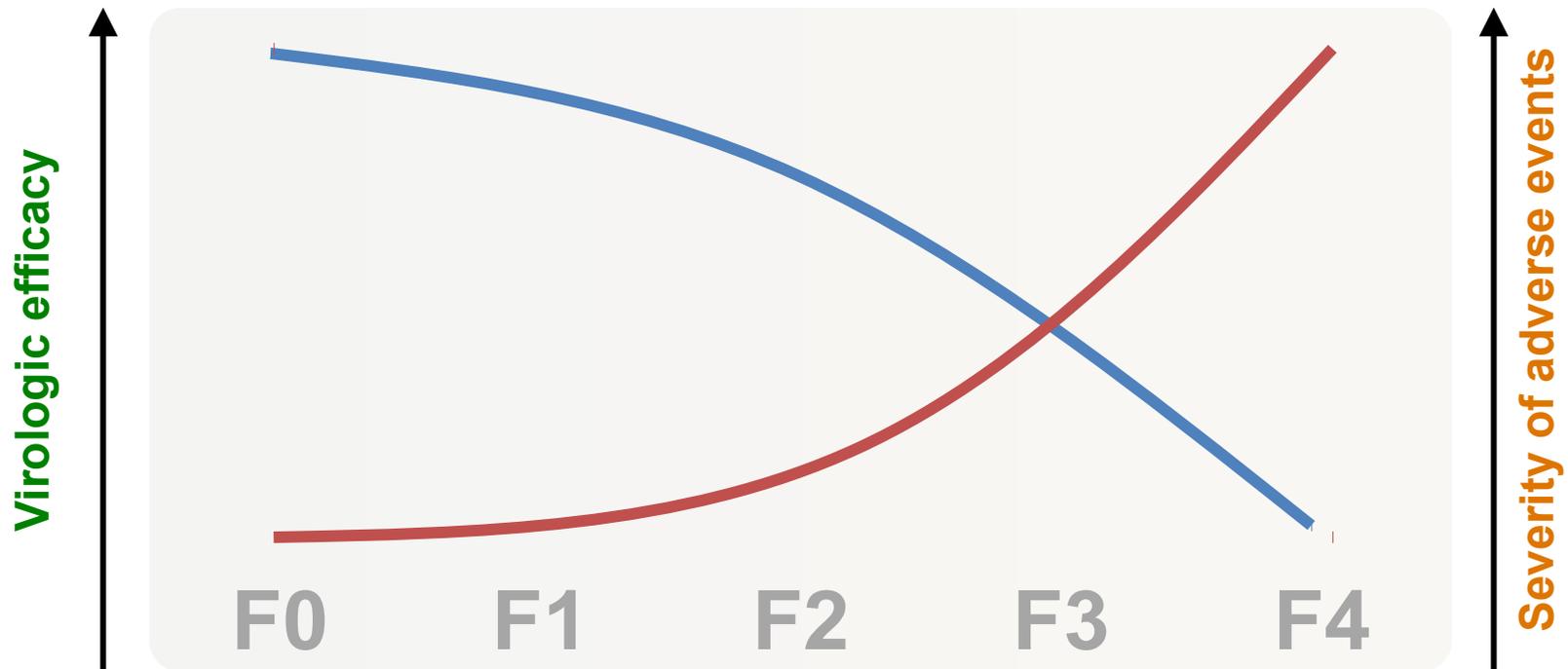
- Compared to cirrhotics with CP=5 (n=45), CP \geq 6 pts required more:
 - P/R dose reductions (48% vs 94%),
 - GCSF use (20% vs 44%),
 - eltrombopag use (4% vs 34%)
 - transfusions (7% vs 21%)
- 20 (33%) CP \geq 6 pts stopped TT early due to adverse events (15%) and due to virologic failure (18%).
- 50% (10/20) experienced decompensation (MELD increased \geq 2) in the CP \geq 6 group vs 15% (2/13) in CP=5 group

Protease-Inhibitor (PI) Triple Therapy in Mildly Decompensated Cirrhotics

Conclusions

- Low SVR rates (35%)
- High stopping rate (33%)
- 50% decompensate further after early stopping
- Modest benefit and significant risk
- Urgent need for alternative therapies

Safety worsens in advanced liver disease



High Early Response Rates with Protease Inhibitor Triple Therapy in a Multicenter Cohort of HCV-Infected Patients Awaiting Liver Transplantation (Verna EC et al)

- 8 (29%) have undergone LT

Verna et al AASLD 2012

MELD at LT, median (range)		CTP Class (%)	
Laboratory	10 (7-18)	A	3 (38)
UNOS	29 (18-35)	B	5 (63)
		C	0 (0)
HCC (%)	7 (88)	Previous Rx (%)	6 (75)
LDLT (%)	2 (25)	IL28B CC/CT/Unk	2/4/2
Lead-in (%)	3 (38%)	TPV as PI (%)	8 (100)
Weeks on Rx prior to LT, median (range)			
Total time			19 (3-46)
Time on triple therapy			16 (3-46)
Weeks follow-up post-LT, median (range)			12 (5-23)

Results: Transplanted Patients

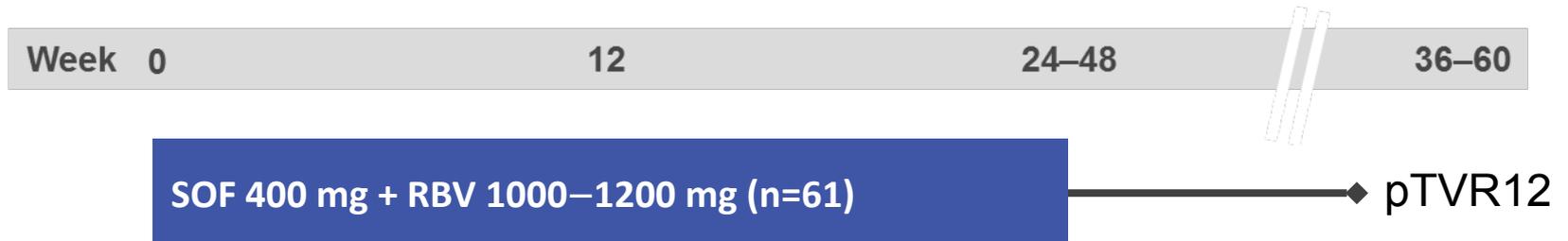
	At LT	Week 2	Week 4	Week 8	Week 12
Total N	8	8	8	7	6
Positive	1	2	2	1	1
<LLOQ*, Detected	0	0	0	0	0
<LLOD**	7	6	6	6	5
% <LLOD**	86%	75%	75%	86%	83%

Pretransplant Sofosbuvir and Ribavirin to Prevent Recurrence of HCV Infection After Liver Transplantation

Michael P. Curry¹, Xavier Fornis², Raymond Chung³, Norah Terrault⁴, Robert Brown Jr⁵, Jonathan M. Fenkel⁶, Fredric Gordon⁷, Jacqueline O'Leary⁸, Alexander Kuo⁹, Thomas Schiano¹⁰, Gregory Everson¹¹, Eugene Schiff¹², Alex Befeler¹³, John G. McHutchison¹⁴, William T. Symonds¹⁴, Jill Denning¹⁴, Lindsay McNair¹⁴, Sarah Arterburn¹⁴, Dilip Moonka¹⁵ Edward Gane¹⁶, Nezam Afdhal¹

¹Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA; ²The Liver Unit, Barcelona, Spain; ³Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA; ⁴University of California, San Francisco, CA; ⁵Columbia University, New York, NY; ⁶Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA; ⁷Lahey Clinic, Burlington, MA; ⁸Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, TX; ⁹University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA; ¹⁰Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY; ¹¹University of Colorado, Denver, CO; ¹²University of Miami, Miami, FL; ¹³St Louis University, St. Louis, MO; ¹⁴Gilead Sciences, Inc., Foster City, CA; ¹⁵Henry Ford Health System, Detroit, MI; ¹⁶Auckland City Hospital, Auckland, New Zealand

Study Design



Patient population

- DDLT candidates with HCV and HCC meeting MILAN criteria
- MELD exception for HCC
- CPT ≤ 7

Enrollment at 16 sites

- 8 UNOS regions
- 2 international sites

61 patients enrolled

Original protocol: until LT or up to 24 weeks of treatment

- Amendment: extend treatment duration to 48 weeks or LT

Baseline Characteristics

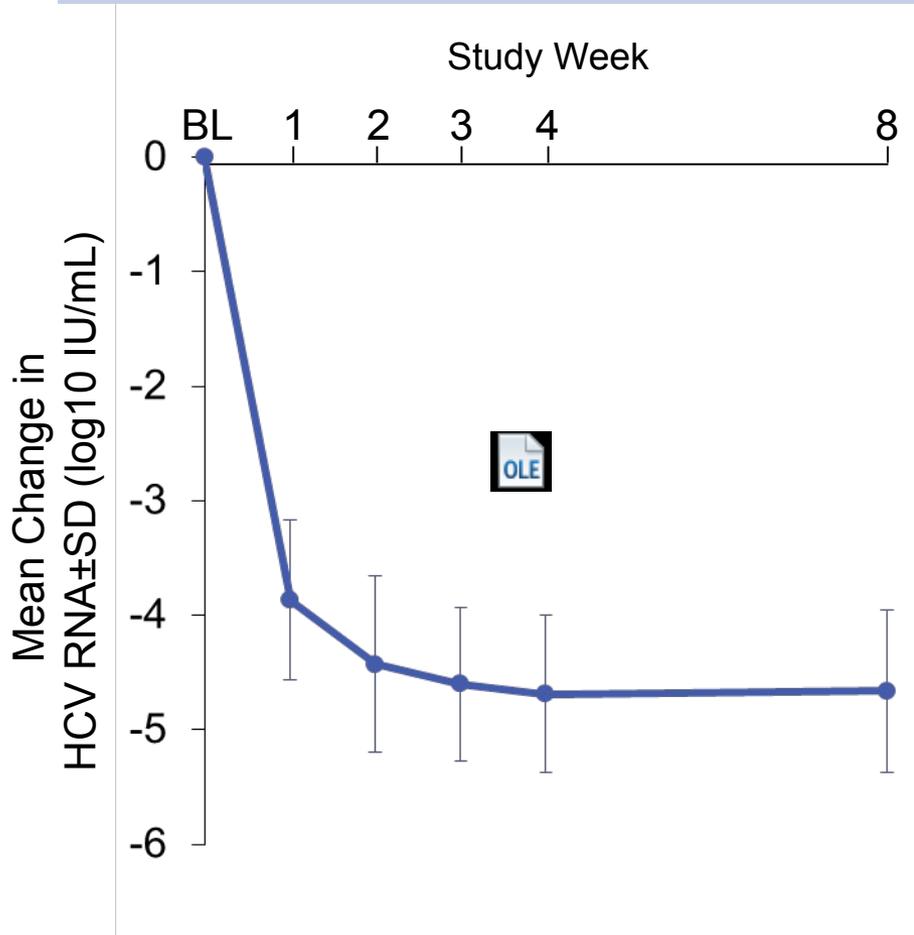
	SOF + RBV (n=61)
Male, n (%)	49 (80)
Median age, y (range)	59 (46-73)
White, n (%)	55 (90)
BMI <30 kg/m ² , n (%)	43 (70)
HCV RNA >6 log ₁₀ IU/mL, n (%)	41 (67)
Genotype, n (%)	
1a	24 (39)
1b	21 (34)
2	8 (13)
3a	7 (12)
4	1 (2)
Non-CC allele, n (%)	47/60 (78)
CTP score, n (%)	
5	26 (43)
6	18 (30)
7	14 (23)
8	3 (5)
Median MELD score, (range)	8 (6-14)
Prior HCV treatment, n (%)	46 (75)

Patient Disposition

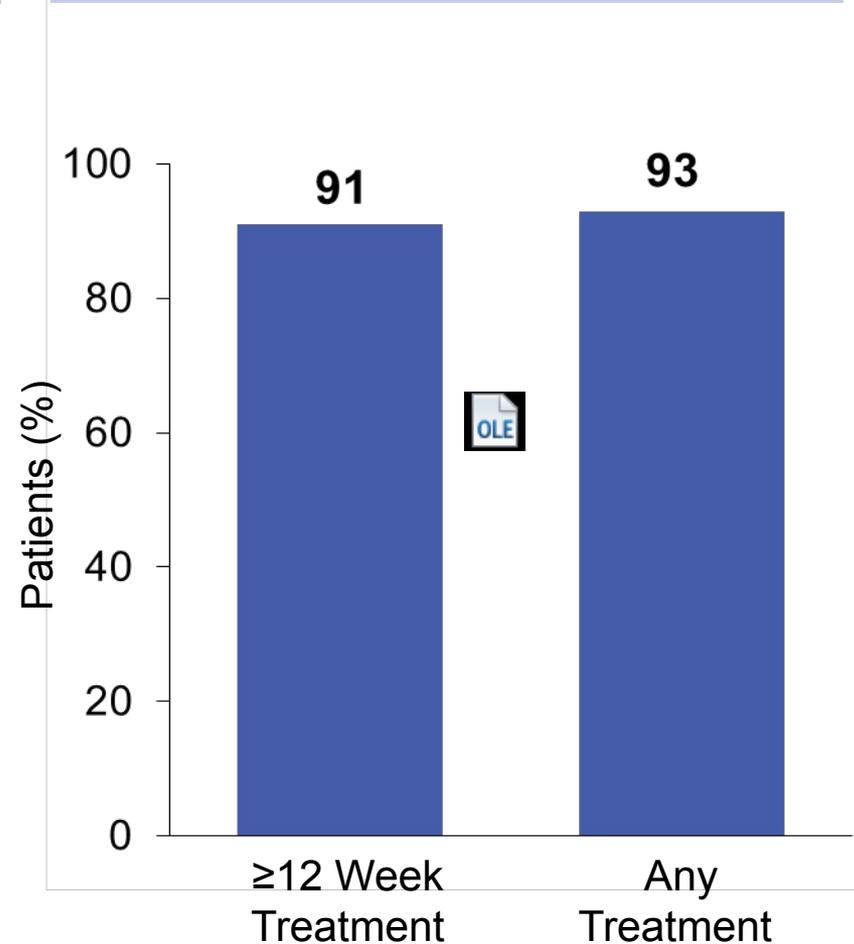
	SOF+ RBV n=61
Patients receiving a liver transplant with HCV RNA <LLOQ	41
Remaining on treatment	1
Post treatment, awaiting transplant	4
Discontinued treatment	10
HCC progression	2
HCV RNA >LLOQ at transplant	3

Results: On-Treatment Viral Response

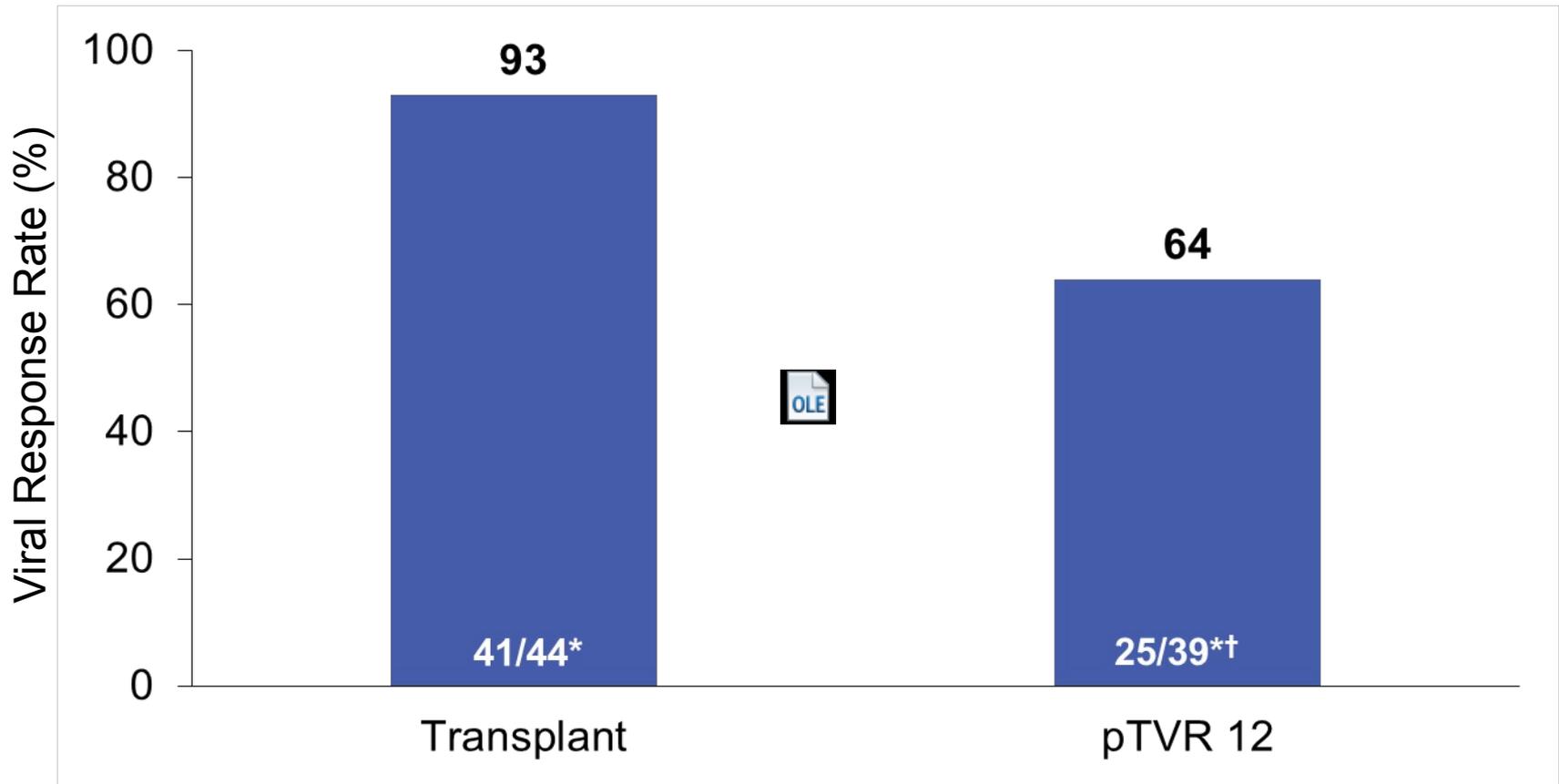
HCV RNA Change from Baseline (n=61)



HCV RNA <LLOQ at Transplant



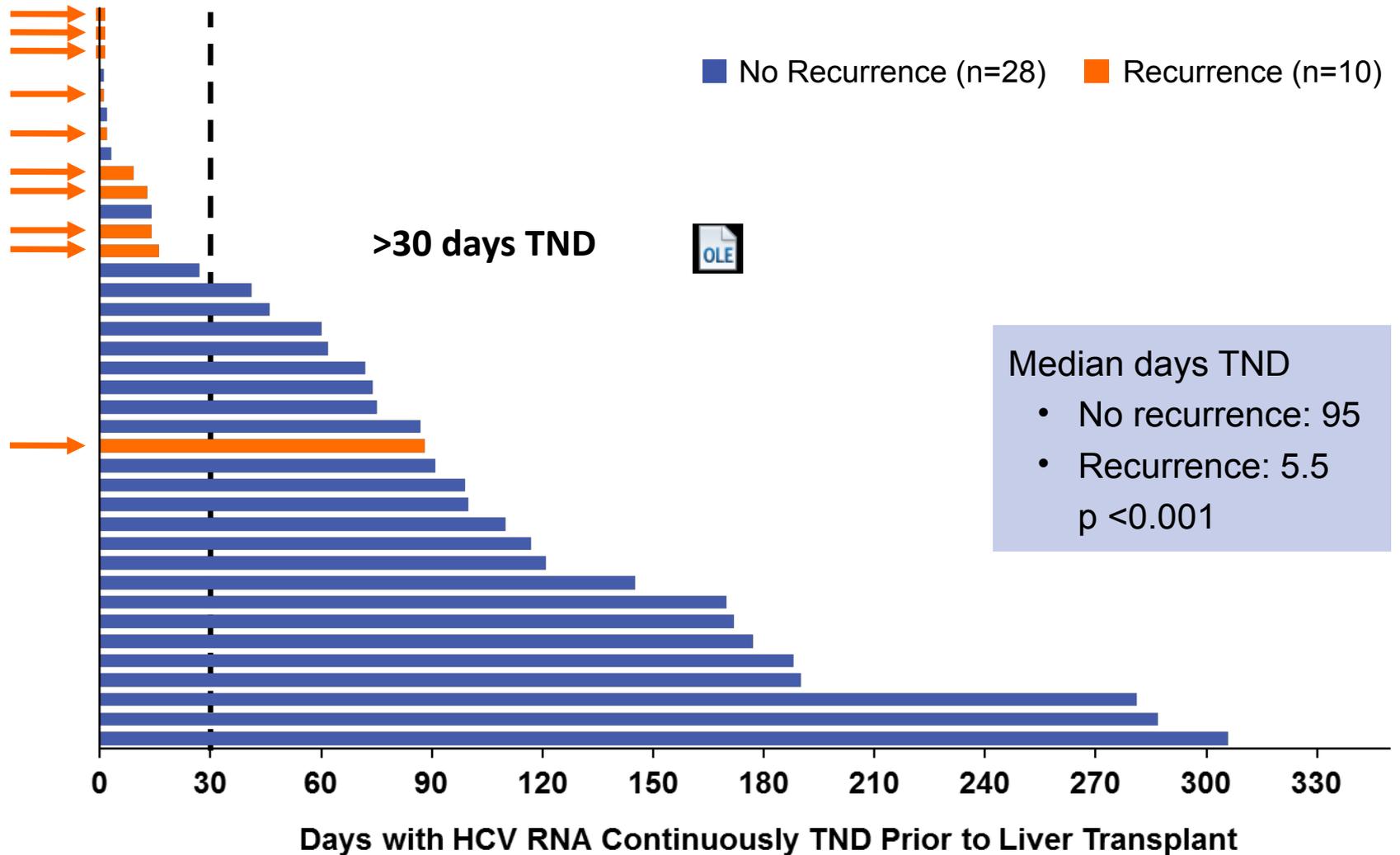
Results: Post-Transplant Virologic Response



*3 subjects were >LLOQ at transplant.

†1 subject has not reached pTVR12, 1 subject LTFU at Week 8 post transplant.

Days Continuously TND Prior to Transplant: No Recurrence vs Recurrence in GT 1-4



Results: Adverse Events

n (%)	SOF + RBV (N=61)
SAEs*	11 (18)
Deaths	
Pre transplant	2 (3)
Post transplant	3 (5)
AEs leading to DC of study treatment	2 (3)
AEs in ≥10% of patients	
Fatigue	23 (38)
Anemia	14 (23)
Headache	14 (23)
Nausea	10 (16)
Rash	9 (15)
Dyspnea	7 (11)
Insomnia	7 (11)

*No SAEs were deemed related to SOF.

Conclusions

- ◆ SOF + RBV treatment prior to transplantation prevented HCV recurrence in the majority (64%) of patients who were HCV RNA <LLOQ at transplant
- ◆ The number of consecutive days with HCV RNA TND prior to transplant appears to be the strongest predictor of pTVR
- ◆ On treatment HCV RNA suppression was rapid and similar to other patient populations on SOF regimens
- ◆ Treatment with SOF + RBV was generally safe and well tolerated

Patients awaiting LT (HCV)

Child-Pugh < 8 (MELD < 18)

Child-Pugh ≥ 8 (MELD ≥ 18)

Genotype 2,3 o 4

No treatment
Consider clinical trial IFN-free (DAA)

2014 Shouldn't all peri-transplant receive Peg free?

Peg-IFN + RBV ^a

No treatment ^a

Naïve
Relapser
Partial responder

Null responder

↓ CV > 1 log₁₀
after lead-in

↓ CV < 1 log₁₀
after lead-in

Peg-IFN + RBV+ TVP/BOC^{a,b}

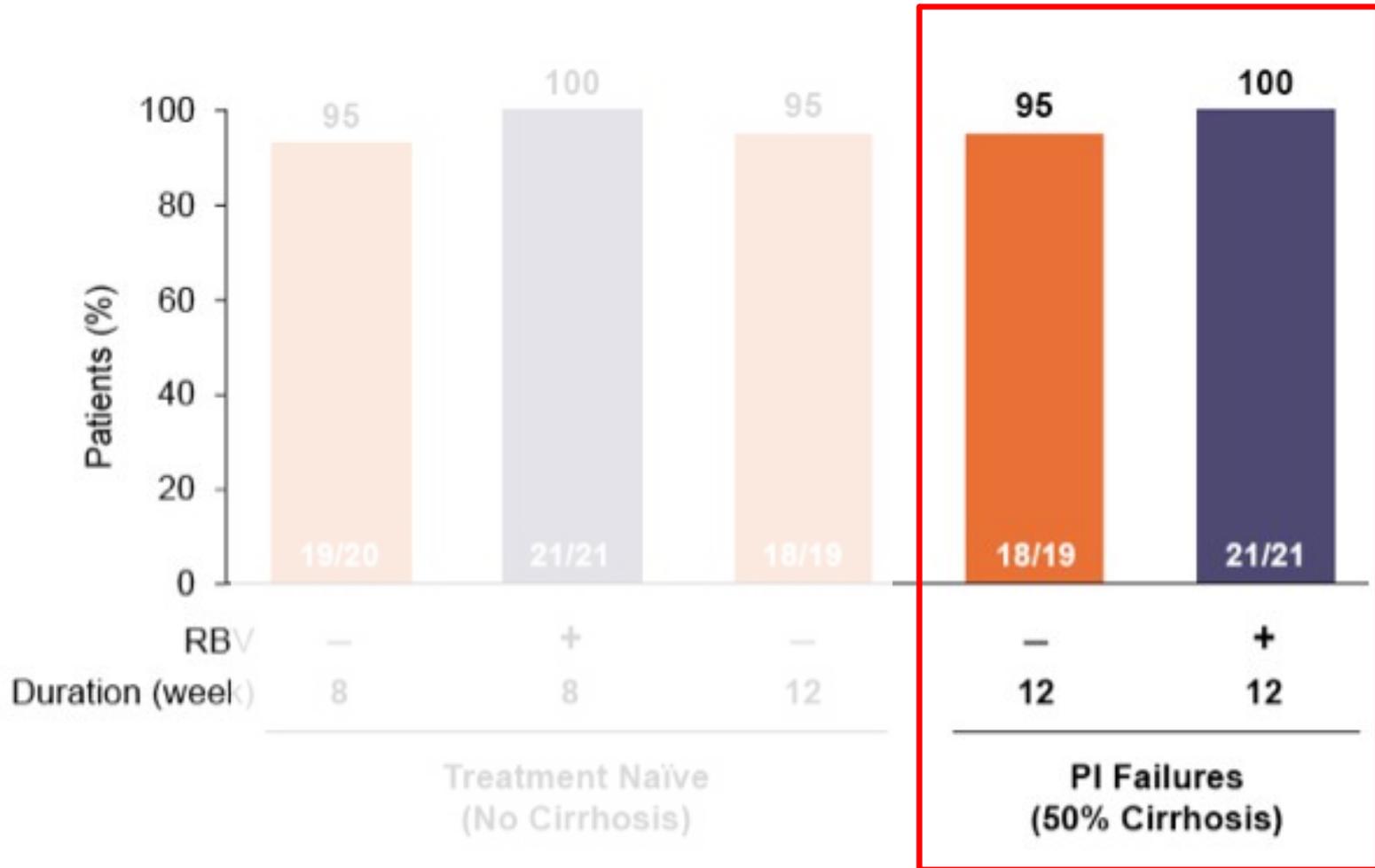
Peg-IFN + RBV+ TVP/BOC^{a,b}

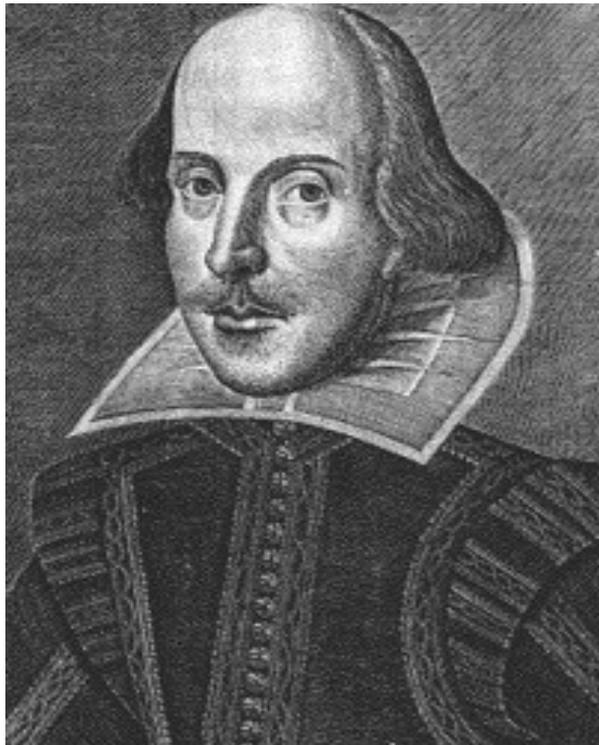
No therapy ^a

^a Consider clinical trial

^b Do not add PI if portal hypertension and albumin < 35g/L

SVR12





There is a tide in the affairs
of men, which, taken at the
flood, leads on to fortune...'

William Shakespeare

EASL & ILTS London 2014

Thought:

‘He who strives to
utmost, for him there
is salvation...’

Johann Wolfgang von
Goethe (1749-1832)

