



# **International Conference on the Management of Liver Diseases**

## **HCC today and the future?**

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# Financial Disclosures

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Advisory committees: Merck, Roche, Novartis, Bayer, BMS, Gilead Sciences,  
Tibotec, Vertex, Janssen Cilag, Achillion, Lundbeck, GSK,  
GenSpera, AbbVie, Alfa Wasserman, Intercept

Speaking and teaching: Tibotec, Roche, Novartis, Bayer, BMS, Gilead  
Sciences, Vertex, Merck, Janssen, AbbVie

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# Incidence Changes of Liver Cancer 1990-2016

## Global Burden of Disease

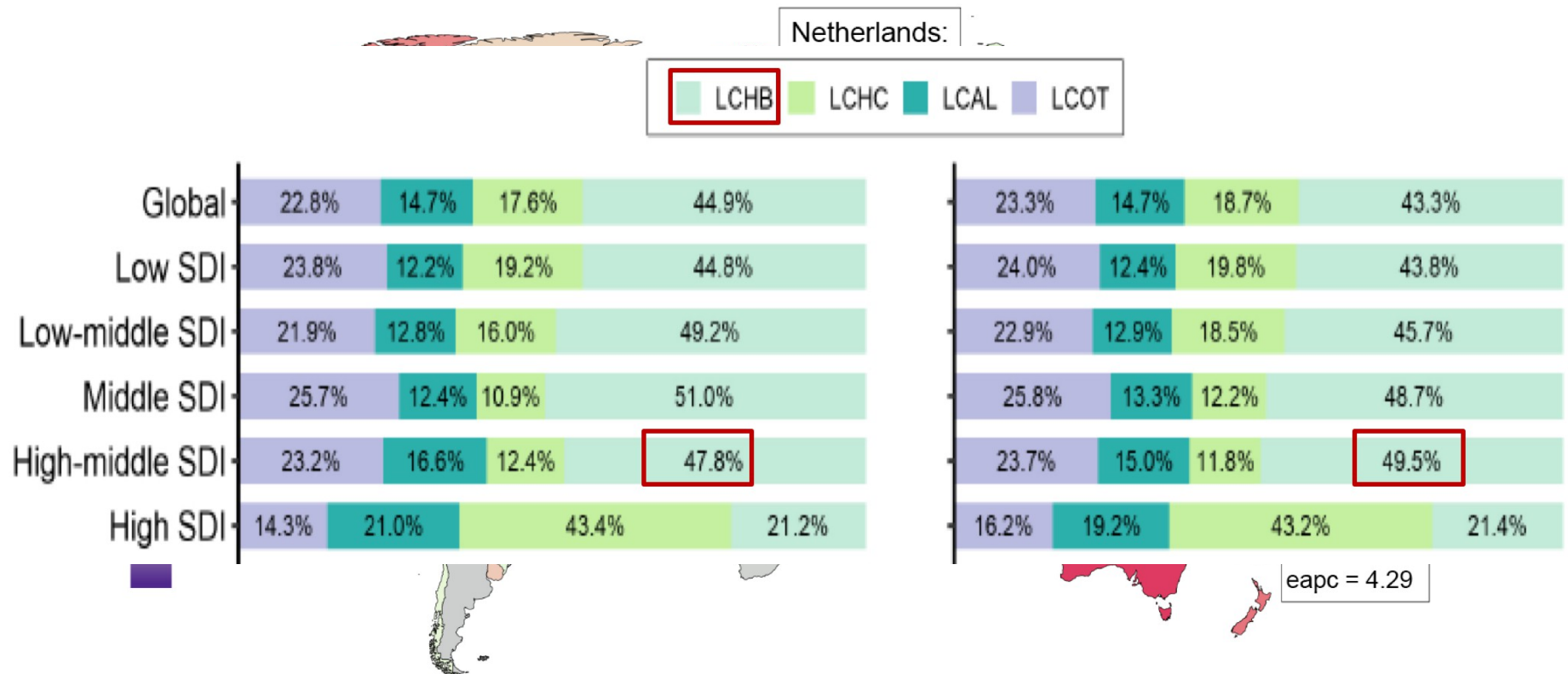
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- Liver cancer is the 16th leading cause of death globally. Incident cases increased 114% from 471,000 in 1990 to 1,007,800 in 2016, causing 810,000 related deaths.
- 47% of increase is explained by changing population age structures, 35% by population growth and 8% to changing age-specific incidence rates.
- The EAPC for HBV was 0.22 (95% CI 0.08–0.36), 0.57 for HCV (95% CI 0.48–0.66), and 0.51 for other causes (95% CI 0.41–0.62), respectively.
- The most pronounced increases were generally observed in countries with high socio-demographic index including the Netherlands, the UK, and the USA.

# Incidence Changes of Liver Cancer 1990-2016




## Global Burden of Disease

Global Health Data Exchange (GHDx) from 195 countries and territories

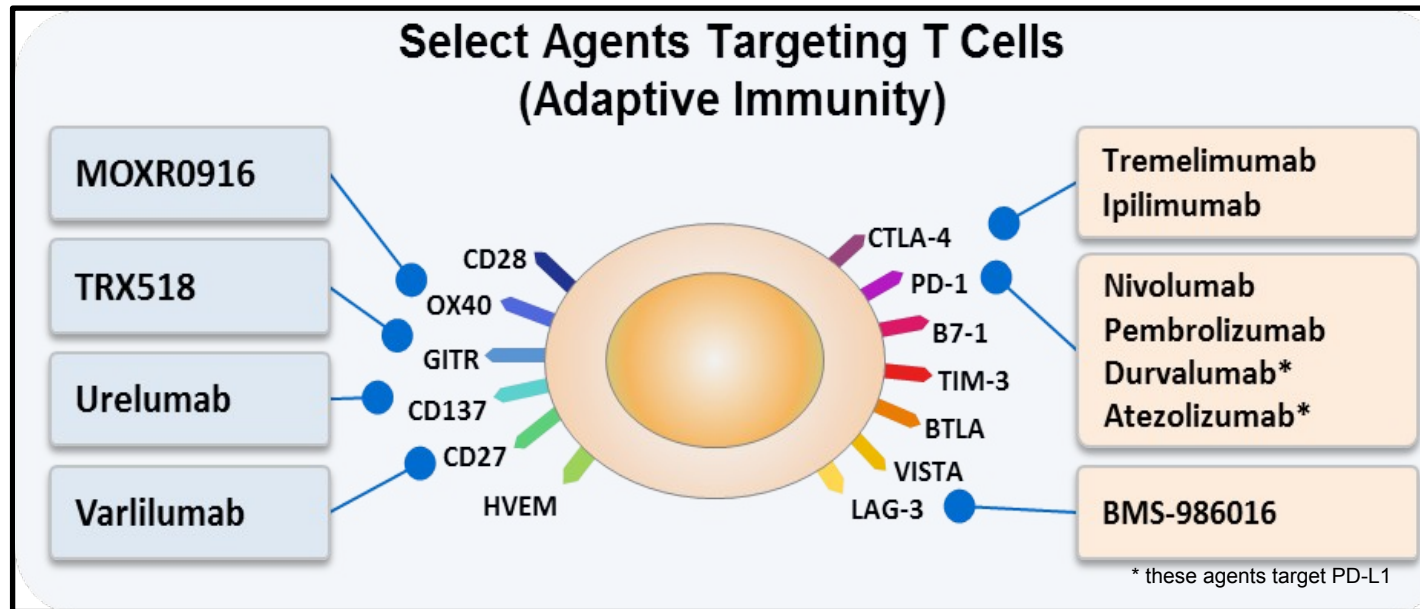


# Treatment Approach to HCC by Disease Stage Migration. The Sequential Concept

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TREATMENT		BCLC	SURVIVAL
Resection/Transplantation/Ablation		Liver only disease Limited tumor burden	> 5 years
Chemoembolization		Liver only disease No vascular invasion PS 0 Selective approach	>2.5 years
Sorafenib / Lenvatinib		No tumor burden limit Preserved liver function PS 0-2	+/- 10 mo.
Rego / Cabo / Ramu (high AFP) Nivolumab		No tumor burden limit Preserved liver function PS 0-2	up to 16 mo.

# The “Gold Rush” of Cancer Immunotherapy Trials Triggering a Reversal of T Cell Exaustion



Checkpoint inhibitors approved in : Melanoma, NSCLC, renal cell ca., Merkel cell ca, bladder ca.

SCCHN, Hodgkin's lymphoma, MSI-high tumors & HCC

# Nivolumab in the Treatment of HCC. CheckMate 040



2<sup>nd</sup> line therapy

		Patients	Months	95% CI
RESORCE	Placebo	193	7.8	6.3-8.8
CheckMate 040	<b>Nivolumab</b>	145	15.6	13.2-18

Courtesy of Prof. B.Sangro

# LT for HCC.Expanding Beyond Milan Criteria Respecting the Paradigm of Utility

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## Factors Predictive of Recurrence after LT

**EASL** Imaging : tumor burden and macrovascular invasion (portal & hepatic veins)

Histology : microvascular invasion, satellites & high tumor grading



Downstaging: tumor progression despite loco regional therapy

**AASLD** Pre-transplant AFP > 50 ng/ml

Explant : high tumor grading and/or lympho-vascular invasion.



Down-staging :tumor progression despite loco regional therapy

gest

*TTV, total tumor volume*



# Beyond Milan Criteria. Integrating Transplant Benefit Criteria into Societies Guidelines

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## EASL

- LT is the first-line option for unresectable HCC within Milan criteria(MC).  
*(Level of evidence high, strenght of recommendation strong)*
- Patients outside MC considered after successful down-staging to within MC.  
*(Level of Evidence moderate, strenght of recommendation weak)*

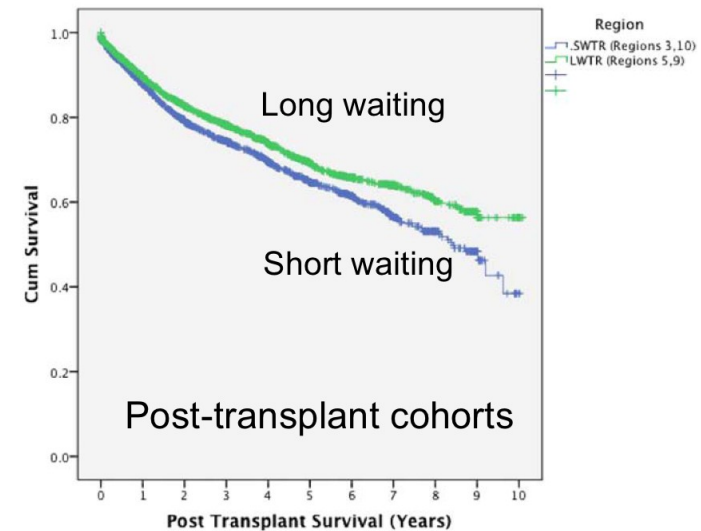
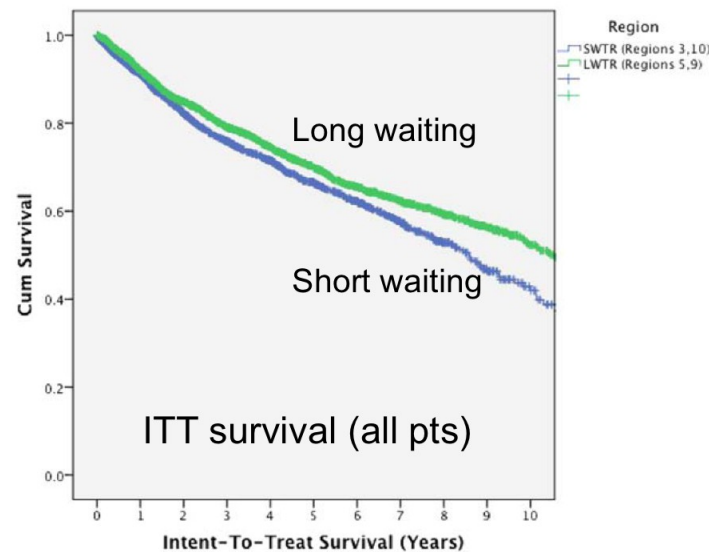
## AASLD

- LT is the treatment of choice for patients with early stage HCC and clinically significant portal hypertension and/or decompensated cirrhosis.
- Patients outside MC considered after successful down-staging to within MC.  
*(Level of evidence very low, strenght of recommendation conditional)*

# Prioritizing Patients with HCC. Results of the UNOS Natural Geographic Experiment

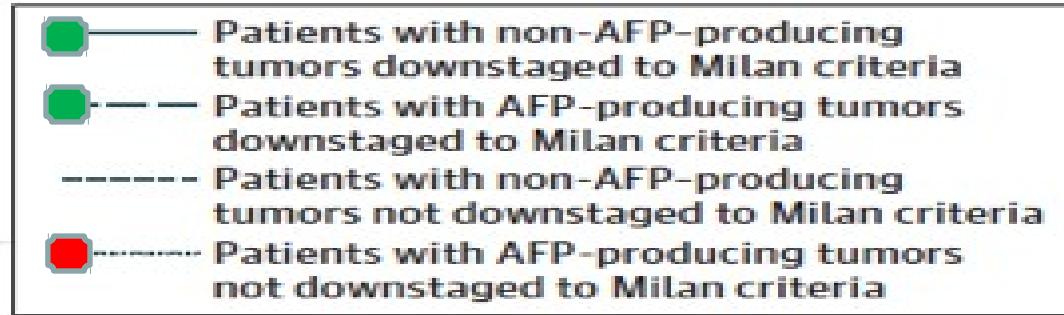
Long-waiting time regions (median 7.6 mo.) vs short waiting time regions (median 1.6 mo.)

T2 HCCs (4,759 pts) and **downstaged T3** who received exception points (1,387 pts)

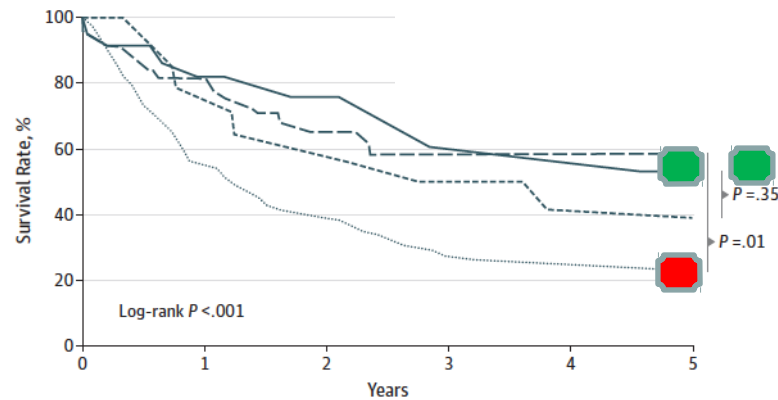


Listed/transplanted in an short-waiting time region was an independent predictor of poor patient survival.

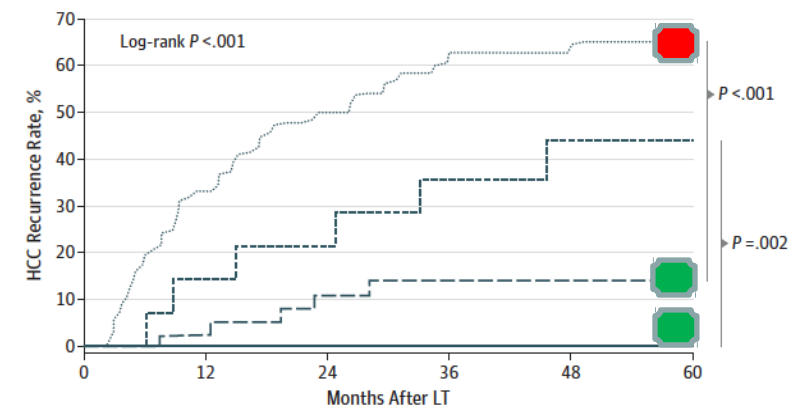
# AFP Response to Downstaging Predicts Survival of HCC Patients Outside Milan Criteria



**A** Recurrence-free survival outside Milan criteria



**B** Incidence of HCC recurrence outside Milan criteria



# HCC.Future Directions

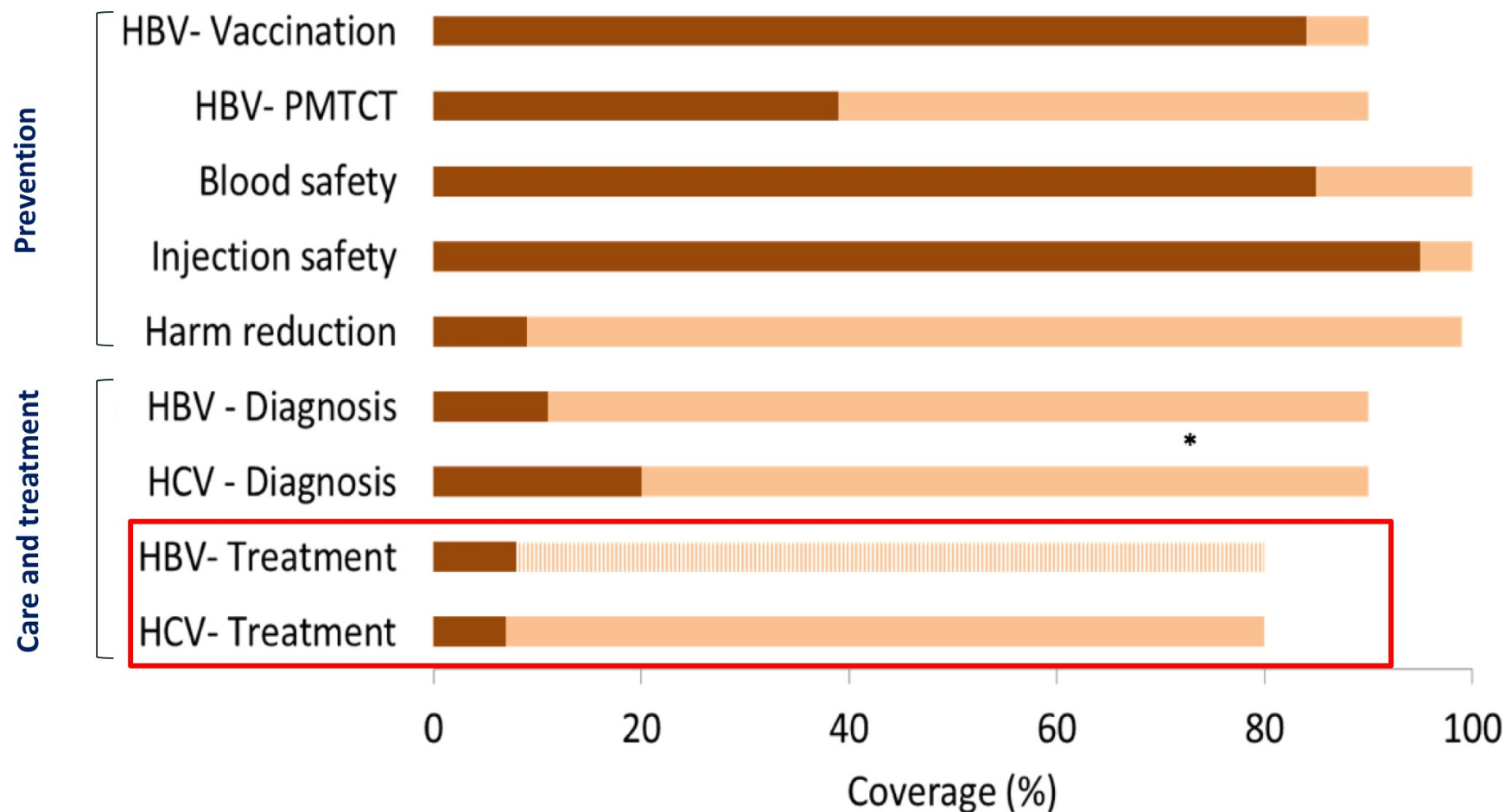
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## 2018 EASL Recommendations

1. Public health policies to prevent, detect, and treat chronic liver disease
2. Appropriate cancer surveillance to detect HCC in a stage amenable to curative treatment
3. Link molecular subclasses in clinical trials to therapeutic response and outcome

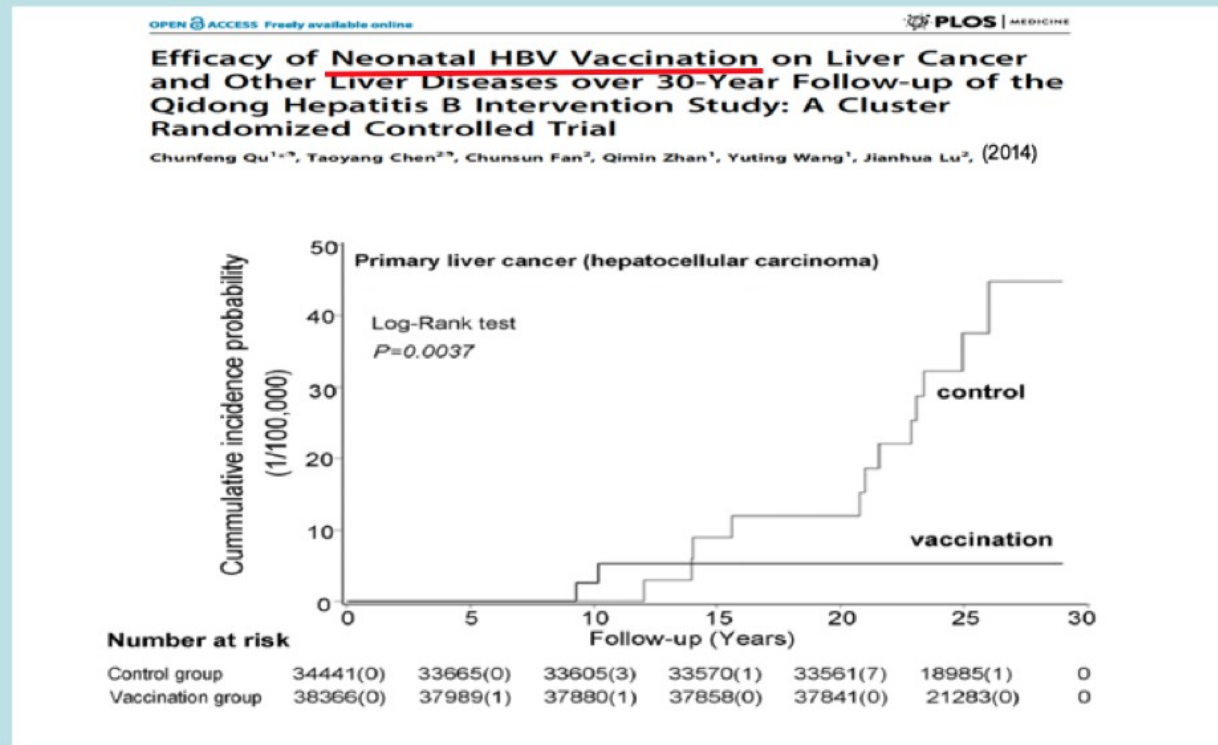
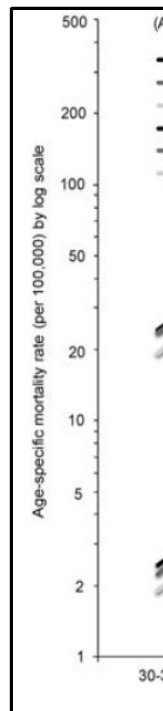
# Global Strategy of Viral Hepatitis Elimination

## 2015 Baseline Towards 2030 Targets



# The National Viral Hepatitis Program in Taiwan

## Decline of HCC Following HBV Therapy



mortality and 0.86 for HCC incidence vs 2000-2003

# HCC.Future Directions

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# Surveillance Increases Survival of Patients at Risk Suboptimal Uptake in Developed World

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**The lesson from Japan** : Screening rose from 12.9% (1966-1979) to 77.6% (2000-2013)  
curative treatments from 3.3% to 62.8%. OS from 16.6 to 52 mo.

## **BUT**

**France** < 25% of HCC are diagnosed in the context of cirrhosis surveillance  
<30% are amenable to curative treatment .

**Hong-Kong** no screening, OS of HCC was 17.8 months during the period 2003-2014.

**USA** HCC patients missing US surveillance:HCV 13%,ETOH 40%,NAFLD 50%.  
Meta-analysis by Singal(2012):18.4% uptake of surveillance in cirrhotics.



# The Real-life Lesson from VA. Primary Prevention Outperformed Secondary Prevention

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## 15,059 Patients with advanced HCV<sup>1</sup>

**Death Rates\*** SVR (-) 12.5 vs SVR (+) 2.4 ,  $p < 0.001$

**Incident HCC\*** SVR (-) 9.7 vs SVR (+) 2.4 ,  $p < 0.001$

\* x 100 patient/year

## Case/control study of surveillance uptake in cirrhosis<sup>2</sup>

**238 who died with HCC** 52.9%

**238 who died w/o HCC** 54.2 %

**BUT** : 2.1 US exams in 4-yr study period >50% "Milan in" < 15% resected or ablated, only. None transplanted.

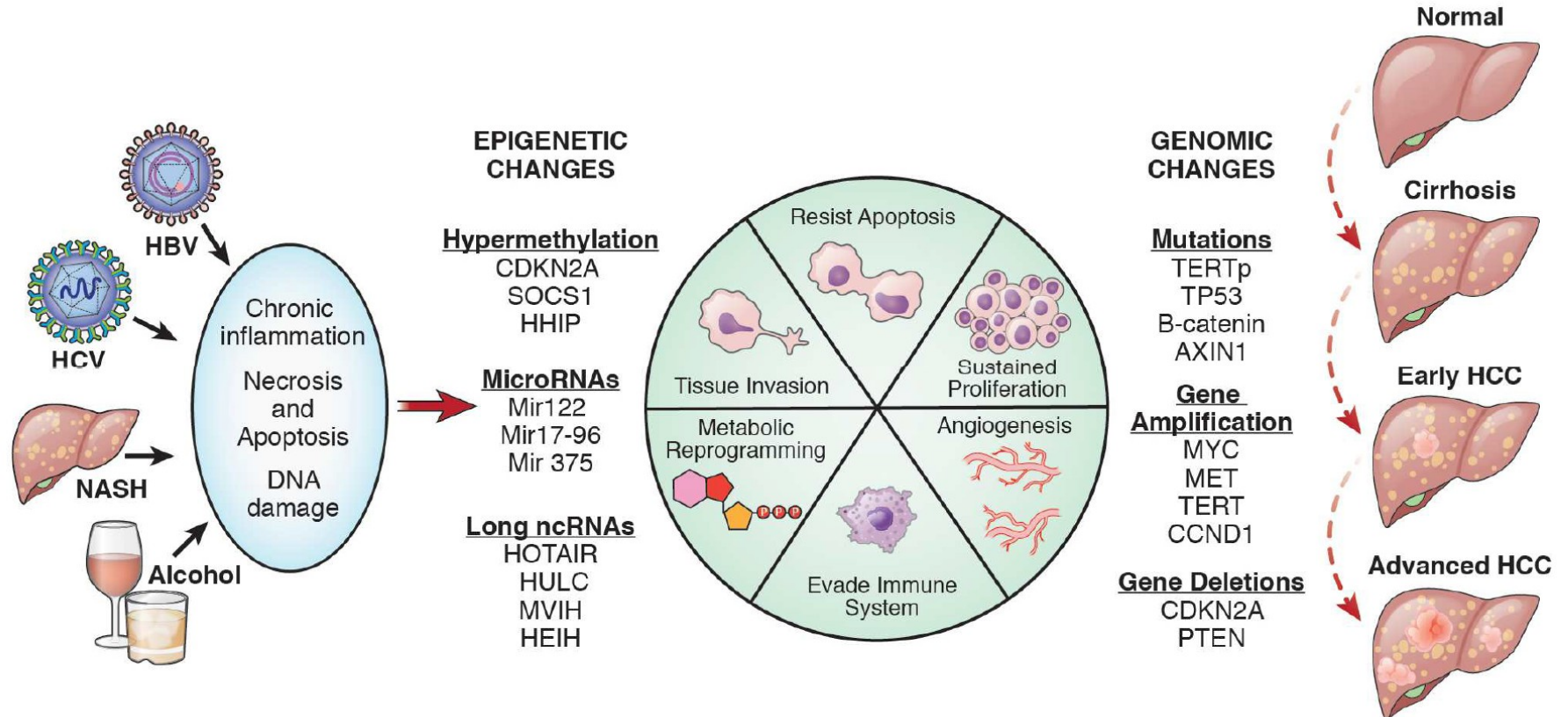
# HCC.Future Directions

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## 2018 EASL Recommendations

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# Epigenetic and Genomic Changes in the Pathogenesis of HCC



# Genotype and Phenotype Classification of HCC

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## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

### Liquid biopsy

- Use : diagnosis,disease stratification and monitoring response to treatment.
- Candidates : extracellular vesicles,cell-free nucleic acids and tumor cells.

*Mann J et al Gut 2018;67:2204-2012*

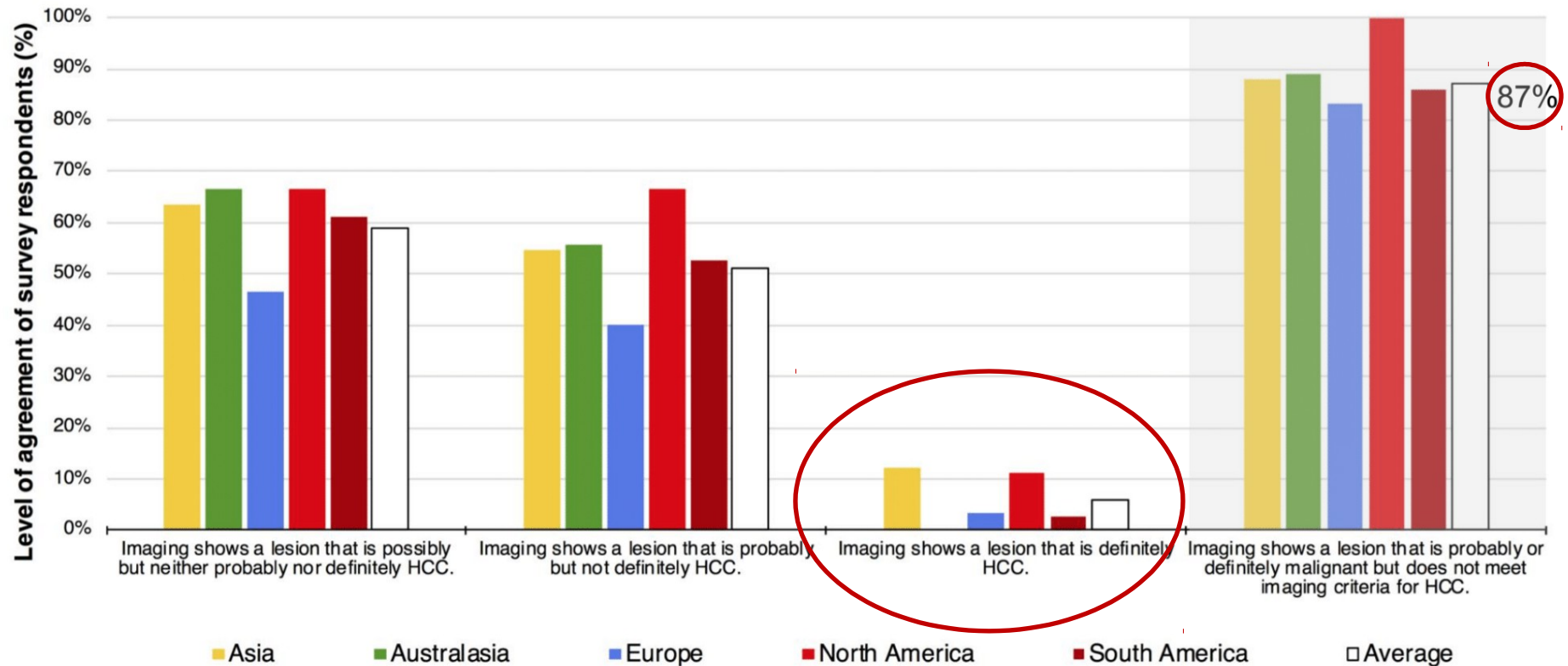
### Personalized Medicine

- Use HCC subclasses to select the optimal therapy for patients
- Biomarkers to identify the subsets of patients with highest rates of response to specific targeted therapies

*Dhanasekaran R et al Gastroenterology 2018*

# Diagnostic Biopsy Indications for Lesions by Region

## More 'Routine' Biopsies to Confirm HCC ?



# Should We Use More Routine Liver Biopsies to Diagnose HCC in Cirrhosis?

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- EASL, AASLD & APASL recommend multiphase CT or multiphase MRI because of similar performance characteristics.
- Radiological diagnosis of HCC (wash-in / wash-out) : 100% specificity and PPV, 71% sensitivity for 1-2 cm tumors.

## Wash-in / wash-out in iCCA

- CCA and HCC in cirrhotic livers may share similar enhancement patterns at multiphase dynamic MR imaging (Huang et al Radiology 2016)
- Prevalence and clinical significance of iCCA with radiological enhancement patterns mimicking HCC (Viganò et al submitted)

# EASL Consortium for Regenerative Hepatology Aiming at a Bioengineered Liver

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## Core Founding Members

Editorial

JOURNAL  
OF HEPATOLOGY

**The EASL International Liver Foundation: A growing pup with missions that are distinct yet integrated with those of its mother**

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