

2021
14th PARIS
HEPATOLOGY
CONFERENCE

PHC 2021
8 - 9 - 10 March 2021
The Digital Paris Hepatology Conference

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

Organised by
Pr Patrick Marcellin

Association for the Promotion
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PROGRAM

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Evolving concepts for trans-arterial radioembolization (TARE) or selective internal radiation therapy (SIRT) in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)

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UNIVERSITÀ
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DI MILANO



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Safety and technology of Y⁹⁰ radiating microspheres: a 47 year old story

From safety concern due to limited technology...

Treatment of Inoperable Primary Pancreatic and Liver Cancer
by the Intra-Arterial Administration of Radioactive
Isotopes (Y⁹⁰ Radiating Microspheres) °

Ariel IM, Ann Surg 1965

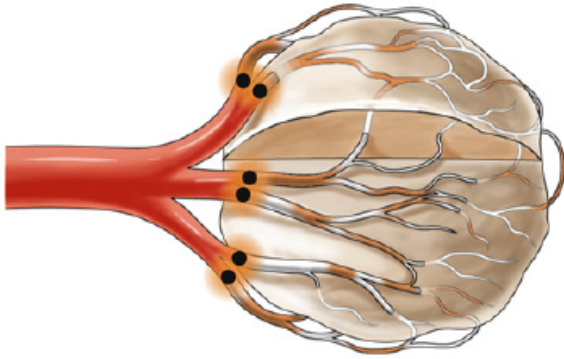
...to phase II experiences demonstrating safety and efficacy



**Safety and Efficacy of ⁹⁰Y Radiotherapy for
Hepatocellular Carcinoma With and Without
Portal Vein Thrombosis**

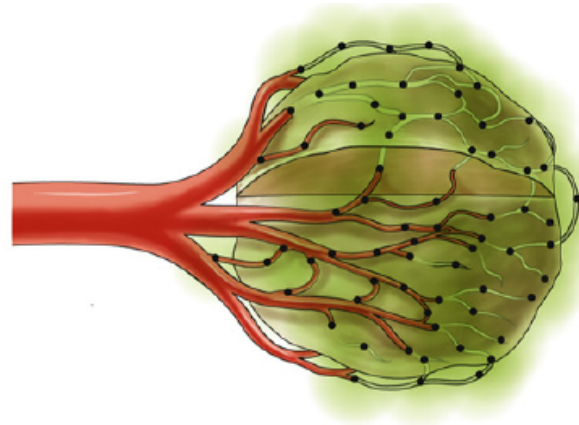
Kulik LM, Hepatology 2008

TARE has a peculiar non-embolizing mechanism of action



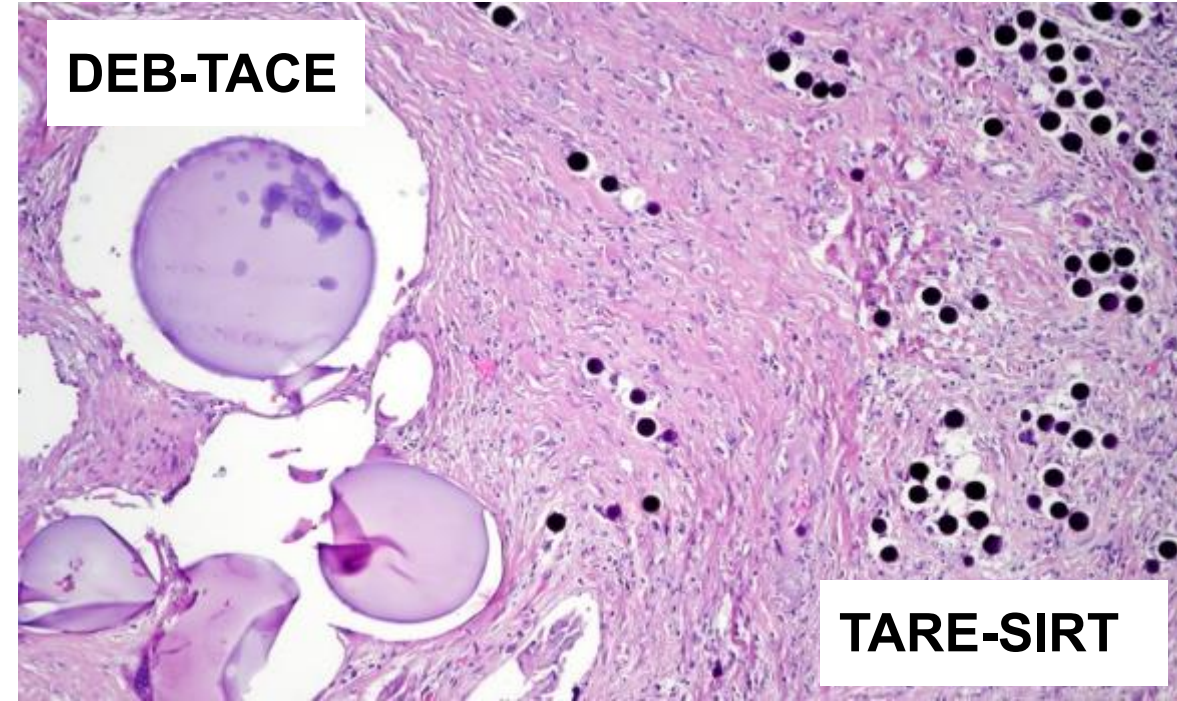
DRUG-ELUTING BEAD CHEMOEMBOLIZATION

- **MECHANISM OF ACTION:** Delivery of drug-loaded microspheres that provide local, sustained tumor drug delivery combined with tumor ischemia/hypoxia. The drug distributes up to 0.06 mm from the microspheres (orange).
- **PARTICLE SIZE:** 100–300 μm



RADIOEMBOLIZATION

- **MECHANISM OF ACTION:** Delivery of β -emitting microspheres that provide local, high dose tumor radiation. The radiation affects tissues 2.5–11 mm from the delivered microsphere (green).
- **PARTICLE SIZE:** 20–60 μm



Initial large series of TARE in HCC (phase II)

Reference	Child	Intermediate Stage		Branch PVT		Main PVT		Branch or Main PVT	
		N	OS (95%CI)	N	OS (95%CI)	N	OS (95%CI)	N	OS (95%CI)
Hilgard 2010 (N=108)	A/B	51	16.4 (12.1-n.c.)					33	10 (6-n.c.)
Salem 2010 (N=291)	A	48	17.3 (13.7-32.5)	19	16.6 (8.8-24)	16	7.7 (3.3-13.2)	35	10.4 (7.2-16.6)
	B	35	13.5 (6.4-25.4)	27	6.5 (5-8.5)	30	4.5 (2.9-6.6)	57	5.6 (4.5-6.7)
Sangro 2011 (N=325) *	A	82	18.4 (13.6-23.2)	44	10.7 (8.3-17.1)	32	9.7 (4.8-11.8)	76	10.2 (7.7-11.8)
	B	5	3.6 (2.4-10.8)						
Mazzaferro 2012 (N=51)	A	15	18(13-38)	23	17(13-21)	5	9 (4-n.c.)		
	B	2	--	6	8(5-10)	1	5		

First large series of TARE in HCC

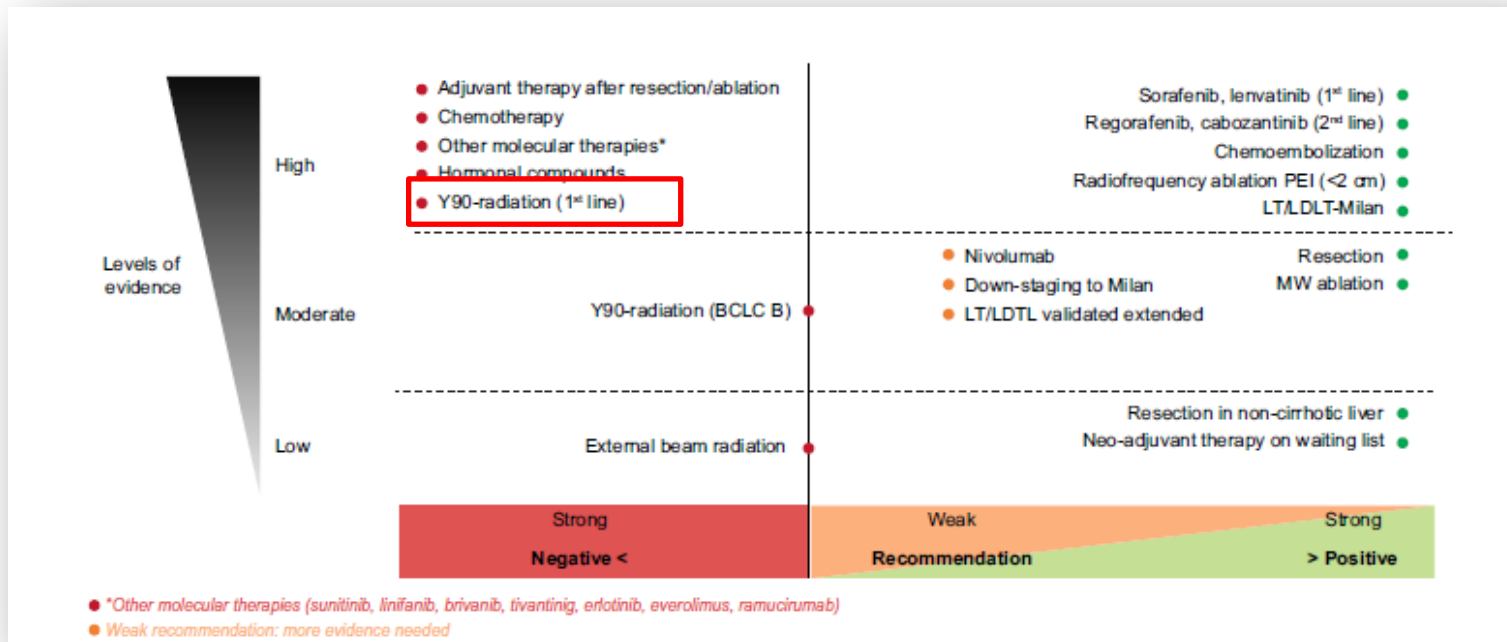
Reference	Child	Intermediate Stage		Branch PVT		Main PVT		Branch or Main PVT	
		N	OS (95%CI)	N	OS (95%CI)	N	OS (95%CI)	N	OS (95%CI)
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	B	2	--	6	8(5-10)	1	5		

The phase III studies from hypothesis generating data failed

Acronym	NCT ID	Phase	Countries	N	Endpoint	Experimental Arm	Comparator	Estimated Completion Date	Status
PREMIERE	00956930	II	USA	124	TTP	Y90	cTACE	Aug 2018	Halted
SIRveNIB	01135056	III	Asia-Pacific	360	Survival	Y90	Sorafenib	Jul 2015	Negative
SARAH	01482442	III	France	400	Survival	Y90	Sorafenib	Mar 2015	Negative
STOP	01556490	III	USA-Europe	400	Survival	Y90 + Sorafenib	Sorafenib	Oct 2016	Halted
SORAMIC	01126645	III	Europe	375	Survival	Y90 + Sorafenib	Sorafenib	Feb 2014	Negative
YES-p	pending	III	Europe, Asia, USA	328	Survival	Y90	Sorafenib	-	Halted

EASL HCC GUIDELINES 2018

Representation of EASL recommendations for treatment according to levels of evidence and strength of recommendation (adaptation of the GRADE system)



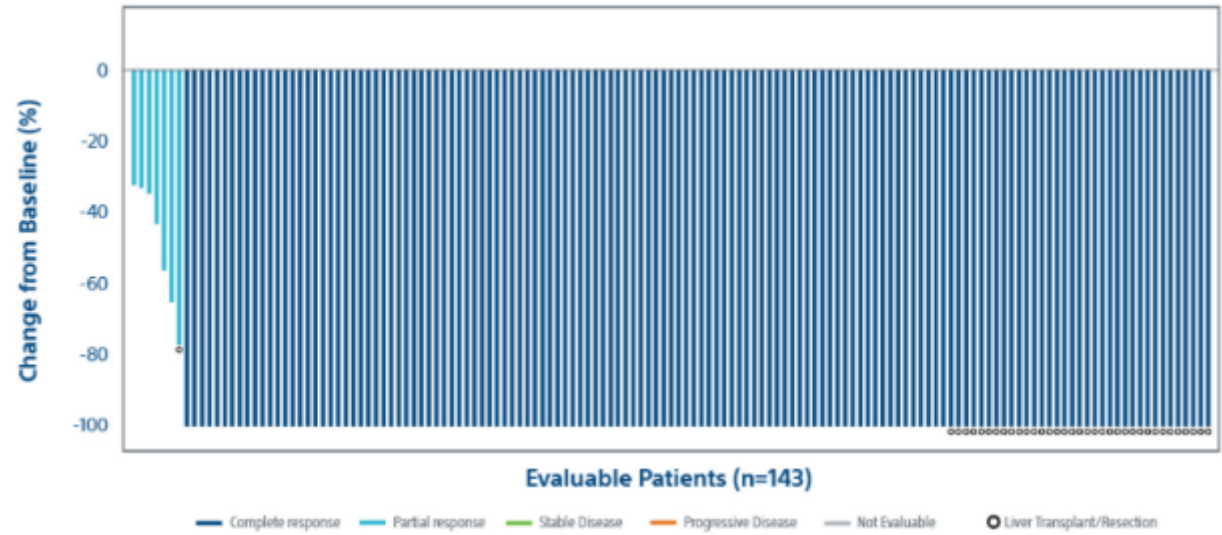
SIRT IN FIRST LINE IN ADVANCED STAGE
 “At present, the survival benefit of RE compared to sorafenib in advanced **HCC** is still not proven...”

Yttrium-90 glass microspheres in the treatment of early and advanced solitary HCC: The LEGACY study

Endpoints: Local tumor control (ORR) and duration of response (DoR: CR+PR) in unresectable HCC following TARE as either a neoadjuvant or stand-alone therapy. Eligibility: Child-Pugh A; ECOG score of 0 or 1; BCLC A or C; solitary tumor >2 and ≤8 cm

162 pts in 3 US Centers (2014-2017)

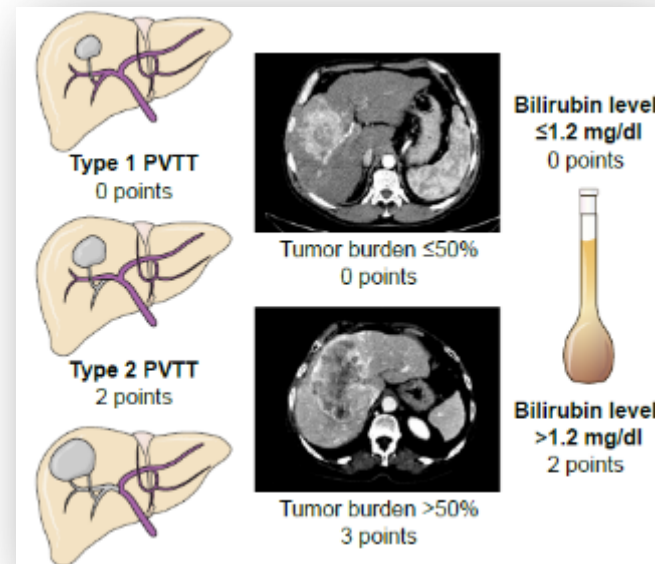
- **ORR: 72.2%**
- **3-year OS: 86.6%**
- **DoR >6mo: 76.1%**
- For 45/162 (27.8%) of patients, Y⁹⁰ treatment served as neoadjuvant therapy (resection-transplant): 3-year OS: 92.8%
- For the 117/162 (72.2%) patients who did not go on to surgical treatment: 3-year OS: 83.5%
- Liver function were maintained throughout the study (92.9% for albumin and 85.3% for bilirubin)



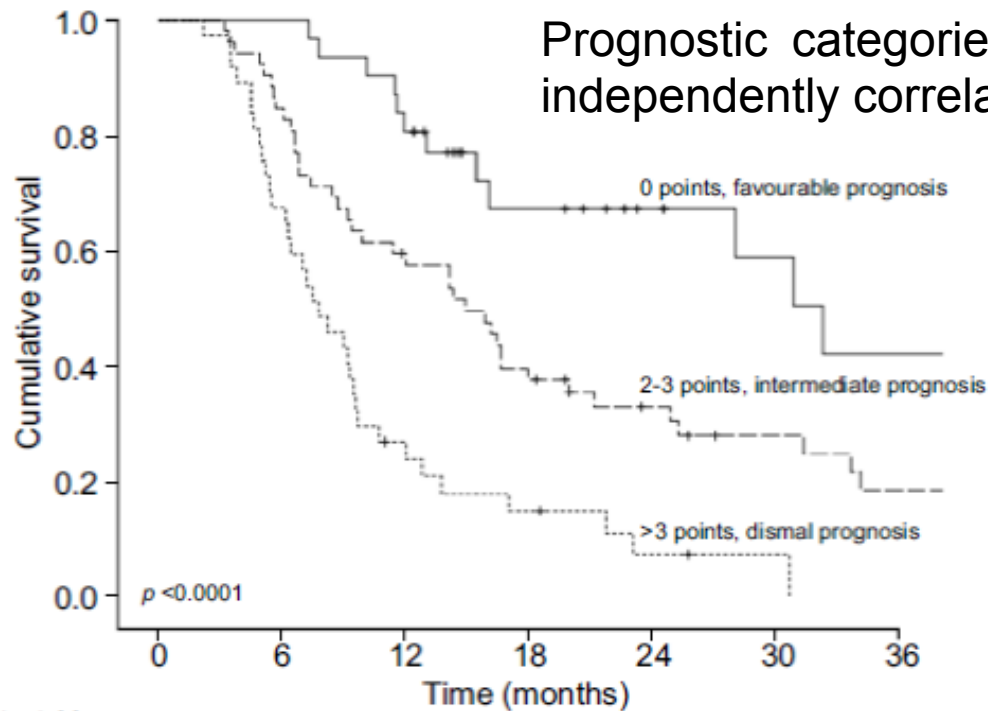
88% demonstrated rate of best response by TheraSphere (i.e. CR, PR) by localized mRECIST.

Radiation treatment with Y90 glass microspheres is an effective means of treating solitary HCC while preserving liver function

Variable	HR (95% CI)	p value	β	Points
Bilirubin serum level				
≤1.2 mg/dl	ref.	0.037		0
>1.2 mg/dl	1,636 (1,030-2,597)		0.492	2
PVTT extension				
PV1 (segmental)	ref.	<0.0001		0
PV2 (second order)	1,900 (1,126-3,205)		0.642	2
PV3 (main right/left)	3,017 (1,793-5,074)		1.104	3
Tumor burden				
≤50% liver volume	ref.	<0.0001		0
>50% liver volume	2,642 (1,608-4,342)		0.972	3

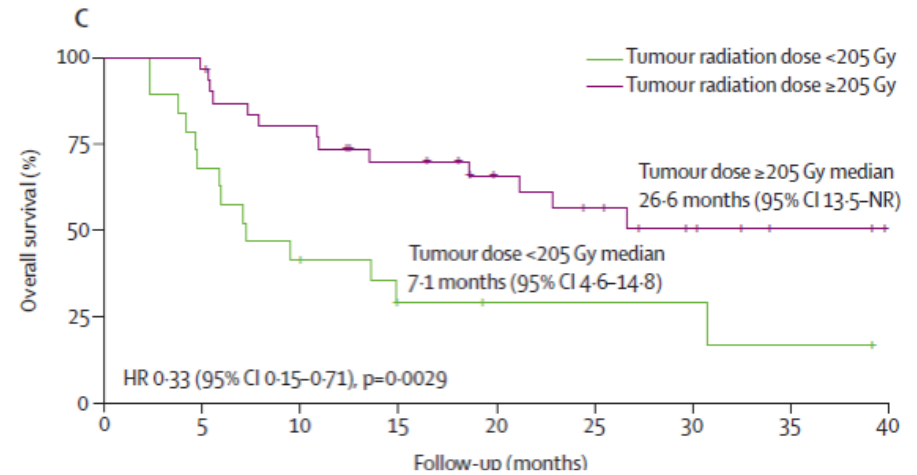
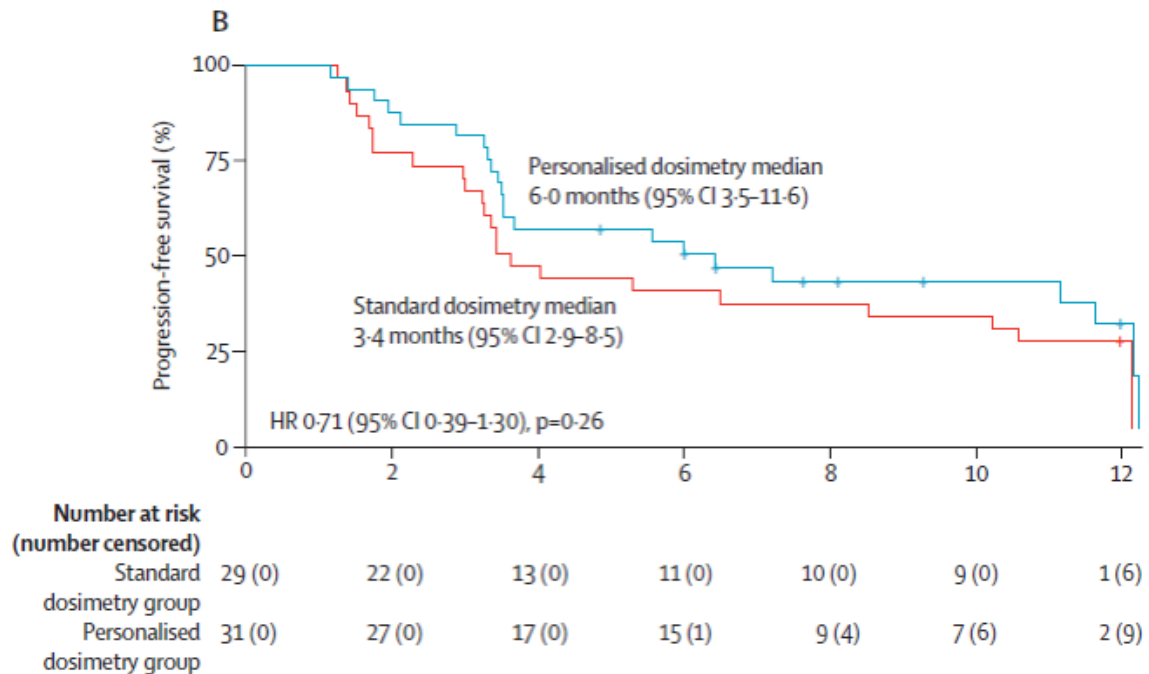
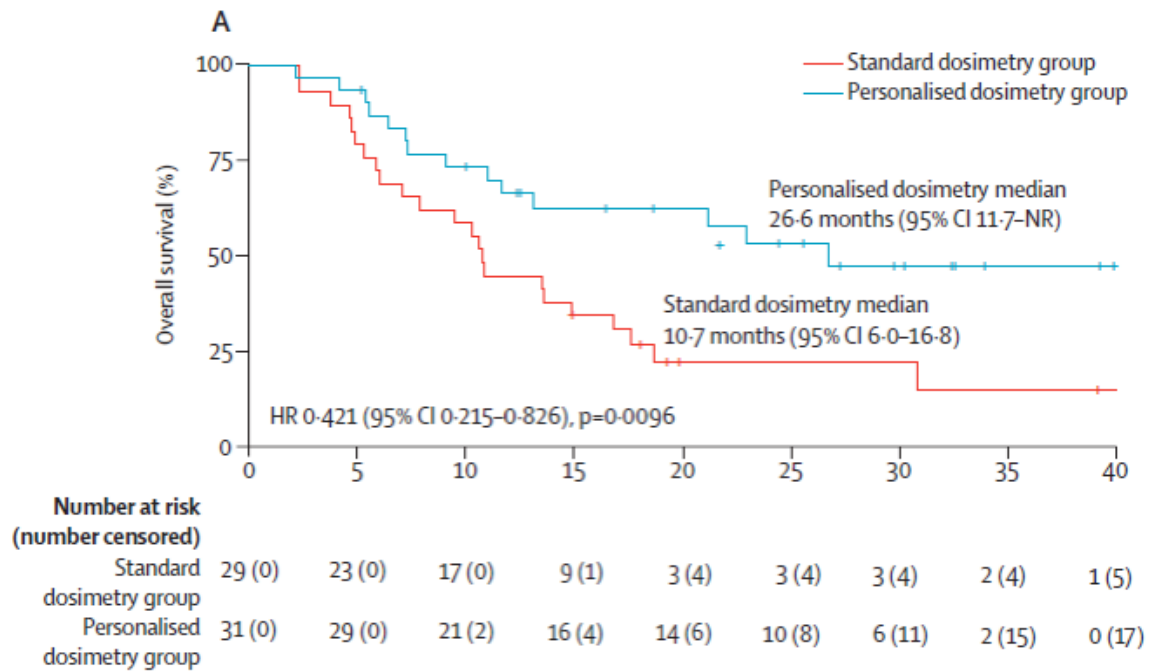


TARE and PVT



- Radioembolization with Yttrium⁹⁰ is effective in patients with HCC and PVT.
- The prognostic stratification may help to better identify good candidates for the treatment, and those for whom TARE may be futile.

60 locally advanced HCC (at least one lesion $\geq 7\text{cm}$) randomly assigned to receive either standard dosimetry ($120\pm 20\text{ Gy}$) targeted to the perfused lobe or personalised dosimetry ($\geq 205\text{ Gy}$ targeted to the index lesion)



Personalised dosimetry significantly improves the objective response in patients with locally advanced HCC. Personalised dosimetry is likely to improve outcomes in clinical practice

ESMO HCC GUIDELINES 2018

In the phase III studies, SIRT was associated with higher response rates, delayed tumour progression in the liver and fewer adverse events (AEs) compared with sorafenib. Thus, in exceptional circumstances, for patients with liver-confined disease and preserved liver function in whom neither TACE nor systemic therapy is possible, SIRT may be considered.

Vogel A, Ann Oncol 2018

(ESMO update 2020, accessed March 2021)

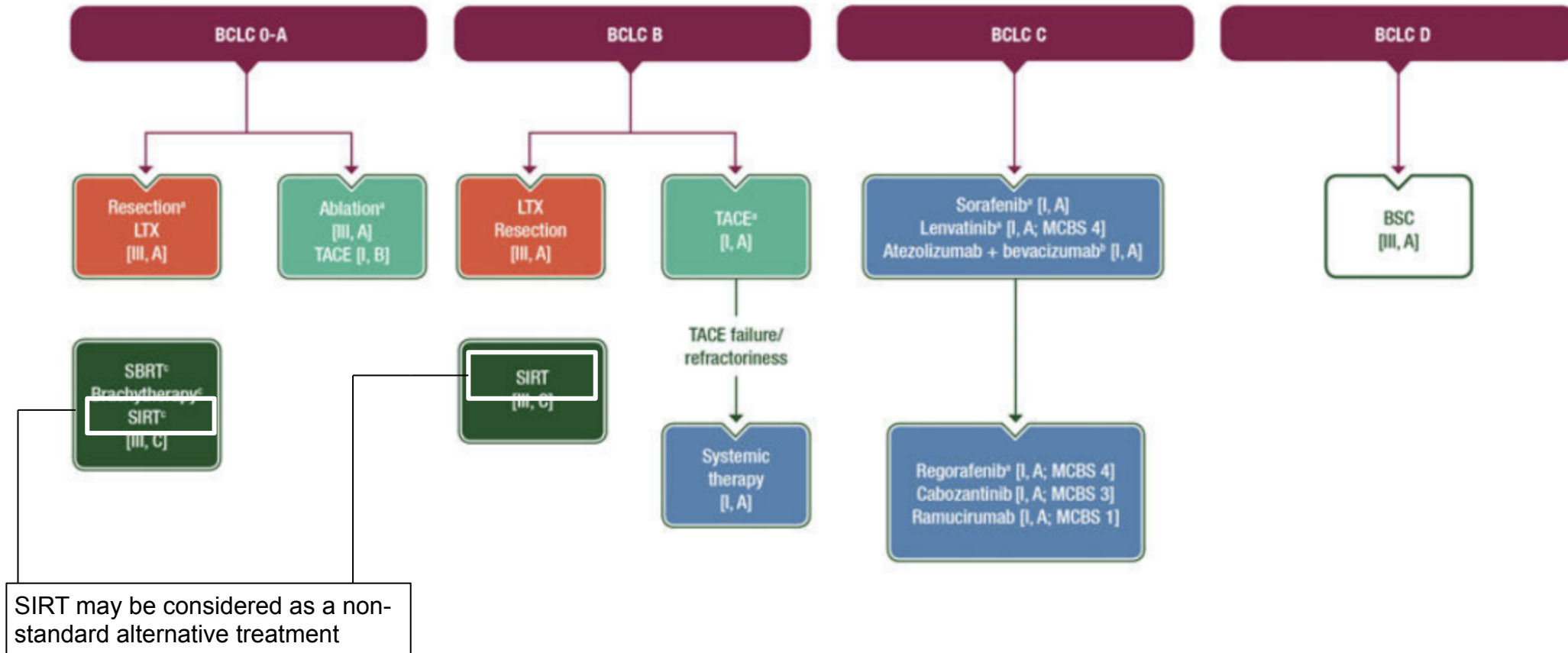
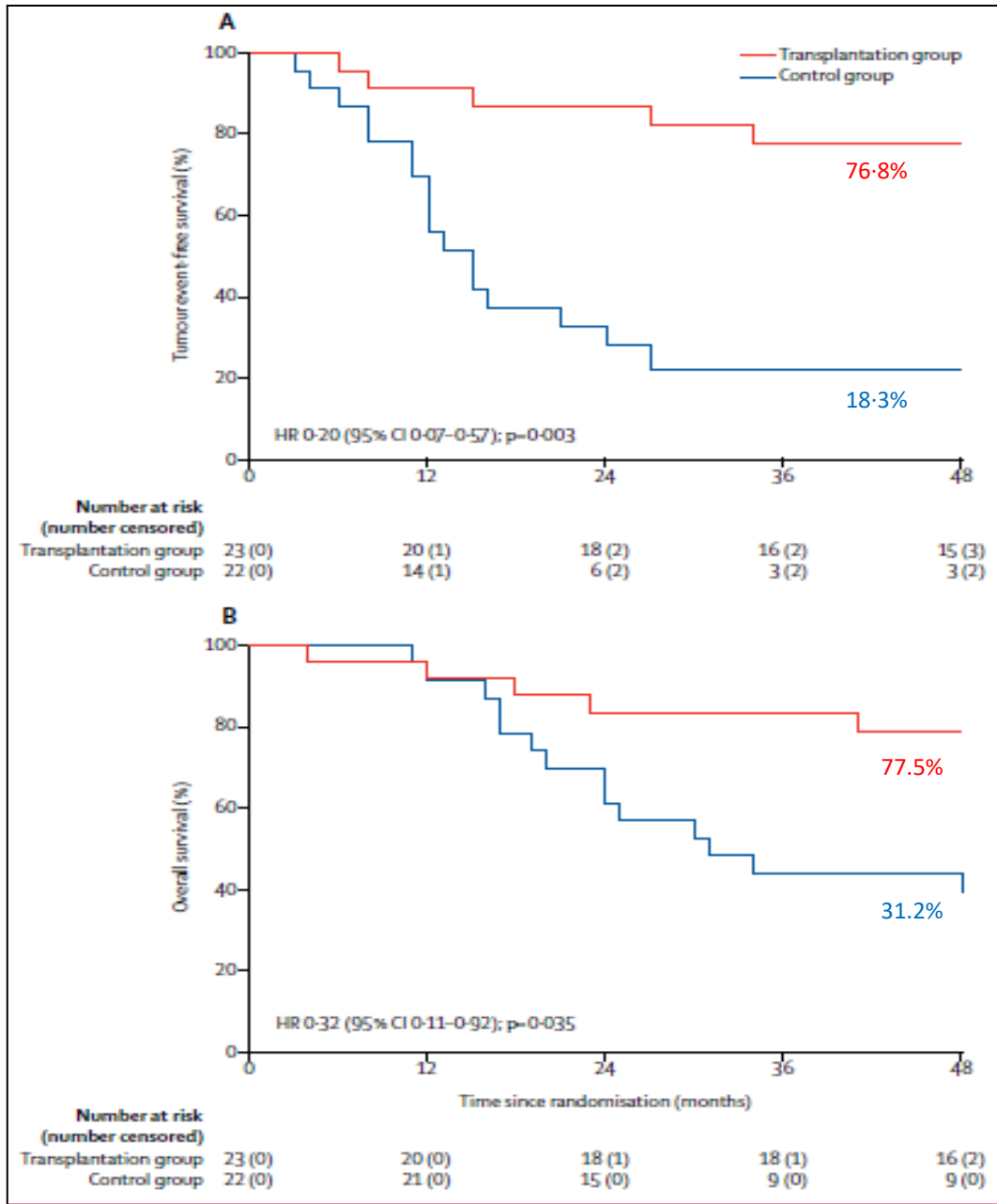


Table 4. Summary of Asian treatment guidelines according to corresponding BCLC staging

BCLC	0/A Very early/early	B Intermediate HCC	C Advanced HCC	D	
	Single or ≤ 3 cm \times 2–3	Multiple nodules	MVI and/or EHM	Child-Pugh C	
KLCSG ⁸	Single/ ≤ 2 cm (I) Single/ > 2 cm (IIa)	Multiple/ ≤ 2 cm/MVI– (IIb) Multiple/ > 2 cm/MVI– (IIIa)	MVI+ (IIc/IIIB/IVa) Single Multiple	EHM+ IVa (LN)/IVb (others)	
	LR RFA (size ≤ 3 cm) OLT (≤ 5 cm) (TACE/TARE, EBRT)	TACE (SIRT as alternative) RFA (< 3 cm & < 3 nodules) OLT (within Milan's criteria) [LR (≤ 2), EBRT (≤ 3) nodules]	TACE (SIRT) \pm EBRT Sorafenib Lenvatinib (LR, $\times 1-3$, Vp1-3) (CT, HAIC if MKI failed or not available)	Sorafenib Lenvatinib (TACE/EBRT)	
HKLCS ¹⁴	Early (I/IIa) ≤ 5 cm & ≤ 3 nodules	Intermediate (IIb/IIIa) > 5 cm or ≥ 4 nodules Locally advanced (IIIb) > 5 cm & ≥ 4 nodules	Intermediate I/IIa + Vp 1–3 Locally advanced IIb/IIIa + Vp 1–3	EVM (IVa/IVb) Vp 4 and/or EHM	Milan's Others
	LR/OLT/ablation	LR (IIb/IIIa, CP A) TACE (IIb/IIIa, CP B or IIIb)		Systemic	OLT BSC
China ¹²	Milan's criteria (Ia, Ib) Single ≤ 5 cm (Ia)	> 3 cm \times 2–3 (IIa) ≥ 4 nodules (IIb)	MVI+ (IIIa)	EHM+ (IIIb)	
	LR/ablation TACE (Ib), OLT	LR TACE, OLT (UCSF)	TACE LR, systemic	MKI or FOLFOX TACE, RT	BSC
JSH ⁹	Single or < 3 cm \times 2–3	> 3 cm \times 2–3 ≥ 4 nodules	MVI+	EHM+	Milan's Others
	LR/ablation	LR TACE	TACE HAIC, MKI	MKI	OLT BSC
TLCA ¹¹	Single or < 3 cm \times 2–3	> 3 cm \times 2–3 ≥ 4 nodules	MVI+	EHM+	Milan's Others
	LR/ablation/TACE SIRT (> 3 cm \times 2–3 nodules) (EBRT)	LR/TACE/SIRT	LR/MKI TACE + RT SIRT, HAIC	MKI \pm (TACE/SIRT/LR) Chemotherapy	OLT BSC

BCLC, Barcelona Liver Cancer; BSC, best supportive care; CP A, Child-Pugh score A; CP B, Child-Pugh score B; CT computed tomography; EBRT, external beam radiation therapy; EHM, extrahepatic metastases; EVM, extrahepatic vascular metastasis; HAIC, hepatic arterial infusion chemotherapy; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; HKLCS, Hong Kong Liver Cancer Staging system; JSH, Japanese Society of Hepatology; KLCSG, Korean Liver Cancer Study Group; LN, lymph node; LR, liver resection; MKI, multi-kinase inhibitor; MVI, macrovascular invasion; OLT, orthotopic liver transplantation; RFA, radiofrequency ablation; RT, radiation therapy; SIRT, selective internal radiotherapy; TACE, transarterial chemoembolization; TARE, transarterial radioembolisation; TLCA, Taiwan Liver Cancer Association; Vp 1–3/4 portal vein thrombosis with unilateral 3rd (Vp1), 2nd (Vp2) or 1st branch (Vp3) of portal vein/bilateral 1st branches or main (Vp4) portal vein involvement.

Liver Transplantation after successful HCC downstaging

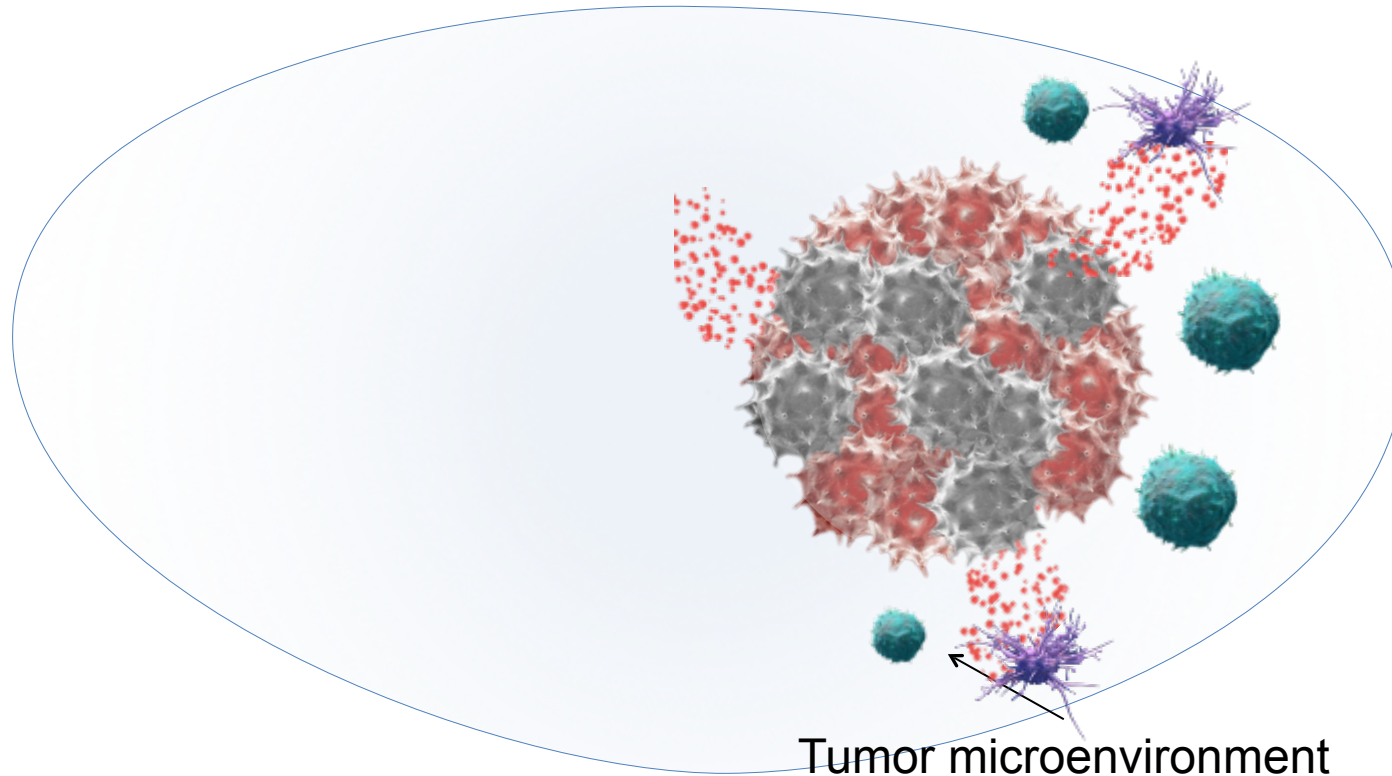


Downstaging procedures		
TACE only	12 (52%)	10 (45%)
RFA, SIRT, or surgery only	5 (22%)	3 (14%)
RFA	2 (9%)	2 (9%)
SIRT	1 (4%)	0 (0%)
Surgery*	2 (9%)	1 (5%)
Combinations of treatments	6 (26%)	9 (41%)
At least one of:		
TACE	17 (74%)	18 (82%)
RFA	8 (35%)	9 (41%)
SIRT	1 (4%)	1 (5%)
Surgical resection	4 (17%)	3 (14%)
Number of treatment sessions		
1	10 (43%)	8 (36%)
2	8 (35%)	5 (23%)
3	4 (17%)	3 (14%)
>3	1 (4%)	6 (27%)

- The study shows significantly longer patient survival and fewer tumor events in patients receiving LT after successful tumor downstaging of HCC beyond Milan criteria
- Different schemes and combinations of neoadjuvant locoregional therapies might be proposed to patients with HCC beyond MC who can be transformed into transplant candidates according to the end-treatment tumour response.

Rationale behind immunotherapy +LRT

Locoregional therapy (TACE/TARE/RT/RFA/PEI)

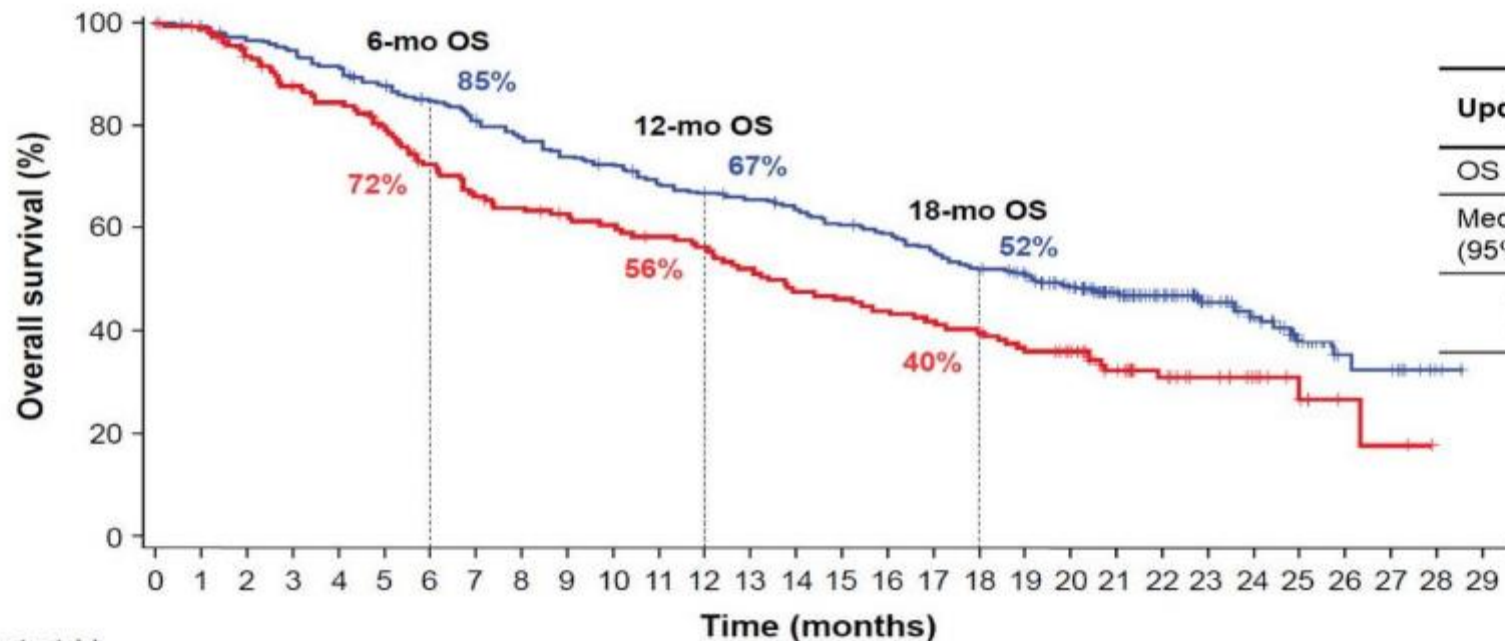


Following physical tumor destruction:

- release of high antigen load and trigger of tumor-specific T-cell response (CD8 and NK)
- release of heat shock proteins in the peripheral blood (activation of DC)
- changes in the TME

All conditions associated to an improved antitumor response and survival

Updated OS



Updated OS	Atezo + Bev (n = 336)	Sorafenib (n = 165)
OS events, n (%)	180 (54)	100 (61)
Median OS, mo (95% CI)	19.2 (17.0, 23.7)	13.4 (11.4, 16.9)
Stratified HR (95% CI) ^a	0.66 (0.52, 0.85) <i>P</i> = 0.0009 ^b	

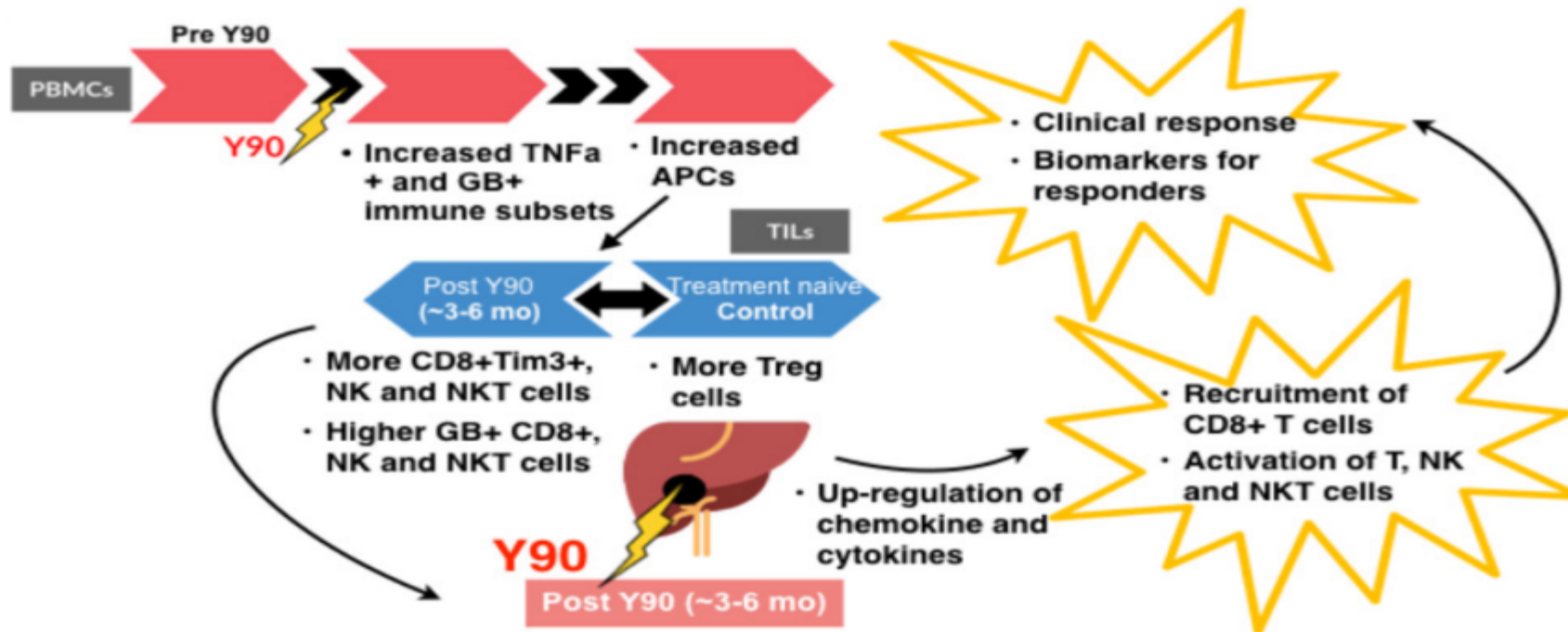
No. of patients at risk

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Atezo + Bev	336	329	320	312	302	288	276	263	252	240	233	221	214	209	202	192	186	175	164	156	134	105	80	57	42	24	12	11	2	NE
Sorafenib	165	158	144	133	128	119	106	96	92	88	85	81	78	72	66	64	61	58	55	49	44	32	24	18	12	7	3	2	NE	NE

Clinical cutoff: August 31, 2020; median follow-up: 15.6 mo.

^a Stratification factors included in the Cox model are geographic region (Asia excluding Japan vs Rest of World), AFP level (< 400 ng/mL vs ≥ 400 ng/mL) at baseline and MVI and/or EHS (Yes vs No) per interactive voice/web response system (IxRS). ^b *P* value for descriptive purposes only.

The immunological impact of SIRT with Y90



Analysis of the tumor and systemic immune landscapes at different time points before and after SIRT with Y90, both in tumor (TIL) and in peripheral blood cells (PBMCs)

In both TILs (tumor infiltrating lymphocytes) and in peripheral blood cells, increase of:

- infiltration of granzyme B (GB)-expressing CD8
- natural killer (NK) cells
- upregulation of chemokines for TCELL priming

Manuel de la Torre-Alaez¹, Ana Matilla², Maria Varela³, Mercedes Iñárraiaegui⁴, Maria Reig⁵, Jose Luis Lledo⁶, Juan Arenas⁷, Sara Lorente⁸, Milagros Testillano⁹, Carlos Gomez-Martin¹⁰, Laura Marquez², Leonardo da Fonseca², Jose I Bilbao¹¹, **Bruno Sangro**^{*4}

¹Clinica Universidad de Navarra, ²Hospital Universitario Gregorio Marañón, CIBEREHD, Madrid, ³Hospital Universitario Central de Asturias, Oviedo, ⁴Clinica Universidad de Navarra and CIBEREHD, Pamplona, ⁵BCLC group, Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, IDIBAPS, CIBEREHD, Barcelona, ⁶Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal, Madrid, ⁷Hospital Universitario de Donostia, San Sebastian, ⁸Hospital Clínico Lozano Blesa, Zaragoza, ⁹Hospital Universitario de Cruces, Baracaldo, ¹⁰Hospital Universitario ¹² de Octubre, Madrid, ¹¹Clinica Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona, Spain

Introduction: The success of immunotherapy in advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) has led to the investigation of its use in earlier stages in combination with intraarterial therapies. Here we report safety, tolerability and efficacy of Nivolumab in this phase 2, single-arm trial testing the combination of SIRT using SIR-Spheres (Y90-loaded resin microspheres) and the anti-PD-1 antibody Nivolumab (NCT03380130).

Methods: Enrollment included patients (pts) with unresectable HCC not good candidates to transarterial chemoembolization because of single large tumors > 5 cm; multiple tumors in the BCLC-B2 substage; or predominantly unilobar tumors with segmental or lobar portal vein invasion. Three weeks after SIRT, patients received Nivolumab (240 mg IV Q2W for a maximum of 24 doses, each course consisting of 3 doses of Nivolumab). Safety was the primary objective and toxicity was graded by CTCAE v 4.0. Key secondary endpoints were overall response rate (ORR) and disease control rate (DCR) by investigator evaluation using RECIST v1.1, and time to progression (TTP).

Results: Results are presented for 42 patients treated with SIRT, since 1 out of 43 pts was withdrawn from study due to high lung shunt. Lobar extended or whole-liver SIRT was performed in 12 pts (31%) and median injected Y90 activity was 1.3 GBq (range 0.64-3.4 GBq). Median follow-up was 7.8 months (range 2.5-16.3). One patient did not receive Nivolumab due to early liver abscess formation following SIRT. The median number of Nivolumab courses was 3.5 (IQR 2-7). Treatment-related adverse events (TRAE) occurred in 33 patients (79%). TRAE were considered to be related with SIRT in 24 pts (57%) and with Nivolumab in 15 pts (36%). TRAE grade ≥3 appeared in 20 pts (48%). TRAE grade ≥3 were considered to be related with SIRT in 9 pts (21%) and with Nivolumab in 10 pts (24%). Few pts experienced serious TRAE (n=5, 12%) and TRAEs leading to transient (n=11, 26%) or permanent (n=1, 2.5%) Nivolumab discontinuation. There were no treatment-related deaths. No events of radioembolization-induced liver disease were recorded. Eight patients (19%) experienced immune-mediated AE. ORR was 38% including 11.9% complete responses, while DCR was 81%. TTP was 9.3 months (95%CI 7.84-10.1) and median overall survival was 20.6 months (95%CI 17.3-24.0). Four patients had a liver resection to treat residual tumor (one had a complete pathological response).

Conclusion: In this phase 2 trial, HCC pts treated with SIRT and Nivolumab showed a favorable safety profile with no signs of synergistic toxicity. The encouraging efficacy data warrant further exploration in controlled trials.

Nivolumab after SIRT using SIR-resin spheres in patients with HCC: the NASIR study

Multicenter phase 2 single-arm clinical trial conducted at -academic hospitals in Spain.

Safety, tolerability, and preliminary antitumoral efficacy of SIRT and anti PD-1 in 42 patients with HCC.

Favorable safety profile with no signs of synergistic toxicity

ORR of 40% of patients (12.5% with CR and 27.5% with PR)

Future randomized controlled trials are needed to further explore and confirm the efficacy of SIRT treatment followed by nivolumab

ASCO 2021

Atezo + Beva + TARE vs. TARE



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HEPATOBIILIARY CANCER

A phase II study of atezolizumab (ATEZO) and bevacizumab (Bev) in combination with Y90 TARE in patients (Pts) with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

Open-label, multicenter, randomized **phase II study** of Y90 TARE and BEV plus ATEZO compared with Y90 TARE alone in pts with unresectable HCC.

The **primary study objective** is to assess and compare the **progression-free survival** (PFS) (per mRECIST 1.1) of pts in each arm.

The main secondary objective is to determine the safety and tolerability (CTCAE v5) of TARE combined with ATEZO and BEV in pts with HCC.

Clinical trials of new combination therapies including SIRT

Clinical Trial Gov # ID	Study	Country
NCT04541173	Study of Atezolizumab and Bevacizumab With Y-90 TARE in Patients With Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC)	Georgetown University Genentech, Inc.
NCT04522544	Durvalumab (MEDI4736) and Tremelimumab in Combination With Either Y-90 SIRT or TACE for Intermediate Stage HCC With Pick-the-winner Design	Germany
NCT04124991	Safety and Efficacy Study of Radioembolization in Combination With Durvalumab in Locally Advanced and Unresectable HCC (SOLID)	Seoul
NCT03812562	Nivolumab and Yttrium-90 in Treating Patients With Liver Cancer Undergoing Surgical Resection neoadjuvant	Northwestern
NCT03099564	Pembrolizumab Plus Y90 Radioembolization in HCC Subjects	MSD and Hoosier Cancer Research Network
NCT03033446	Study of Y90-Radioembolization With Nivolumab in Asians With Hepatocellular Carcinoma	Singapore
ROWAN study	Combination therapy of radioembolization and immunotherapy in early and intermediate hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) patients not eligible for curative treatments	Mayo + Georgetown

Conclusions

- SIRT has not gained a positive recommendation in the last EASL guidelines but results in retrospective studies have set the basis for its wide use worldwide.
- Refinements to the definition of “ideal candidate” for SIRT should be further investigated.
A biologic/clinical/physical markers is an unmet need. In this respect there is room for work “beyond the genome” thanks to the development of new technologies (metabolomics, epigenetics, non-coding RNA studies, artificial intelligence).
- The use of SIRT is a valuable option for downstaging strategies; if successful and sustained, downstaging represents a strong selection tool for transplantation and resection in HCC beyond conventional criteria
- Immunotherapy has now a proven activity in advanced HCC. There is a strong rationale for its combination with SIRT in earlier stages of disease, as LRTs increase the tumoral antigenic release and favor immunotherapeutic strategies.

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APHP - INSERM CRI - Université de Paris

Thank you very much for your attention !

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