

# Liquid biopsy and Precision Oncology

**Christian Rolfo, MD, PhD, MBA, Dr.hc**  
Professor in Medicine  
Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai  
Associate Director of Clinical Research  
Center for Thoracic Oncology  
The Tisch Cancer Institute  
Mount Sinai, New York, NY, US



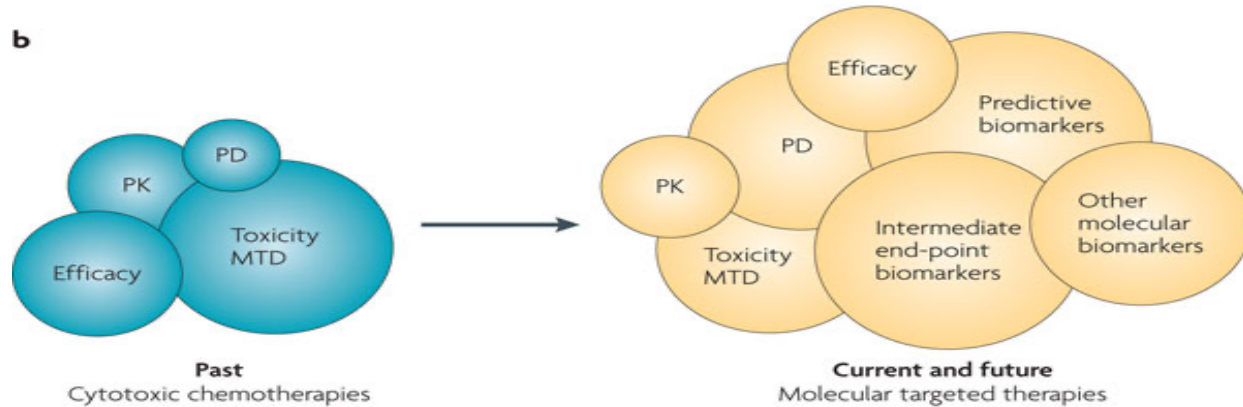
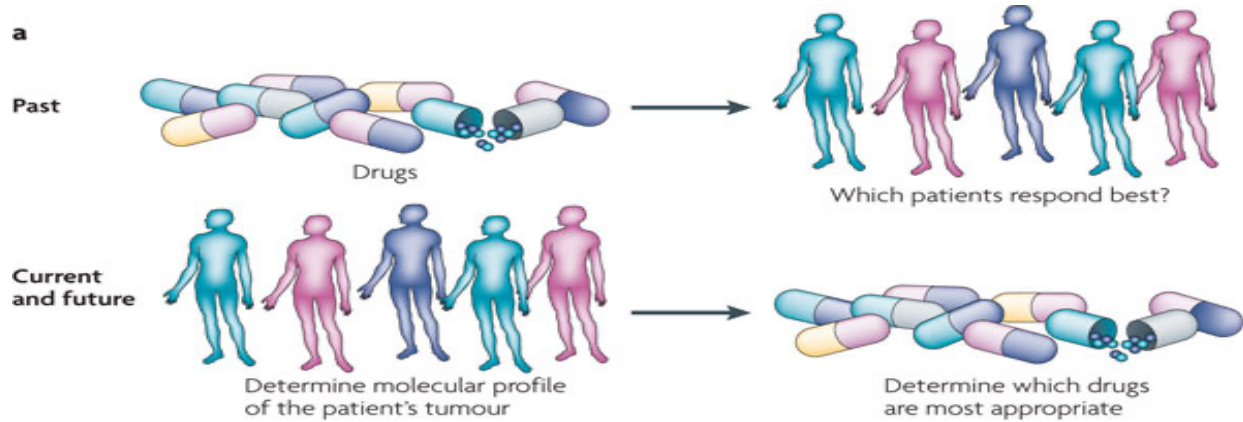
**Mount  
Sinai**

*The Tisch Cancer Institute*

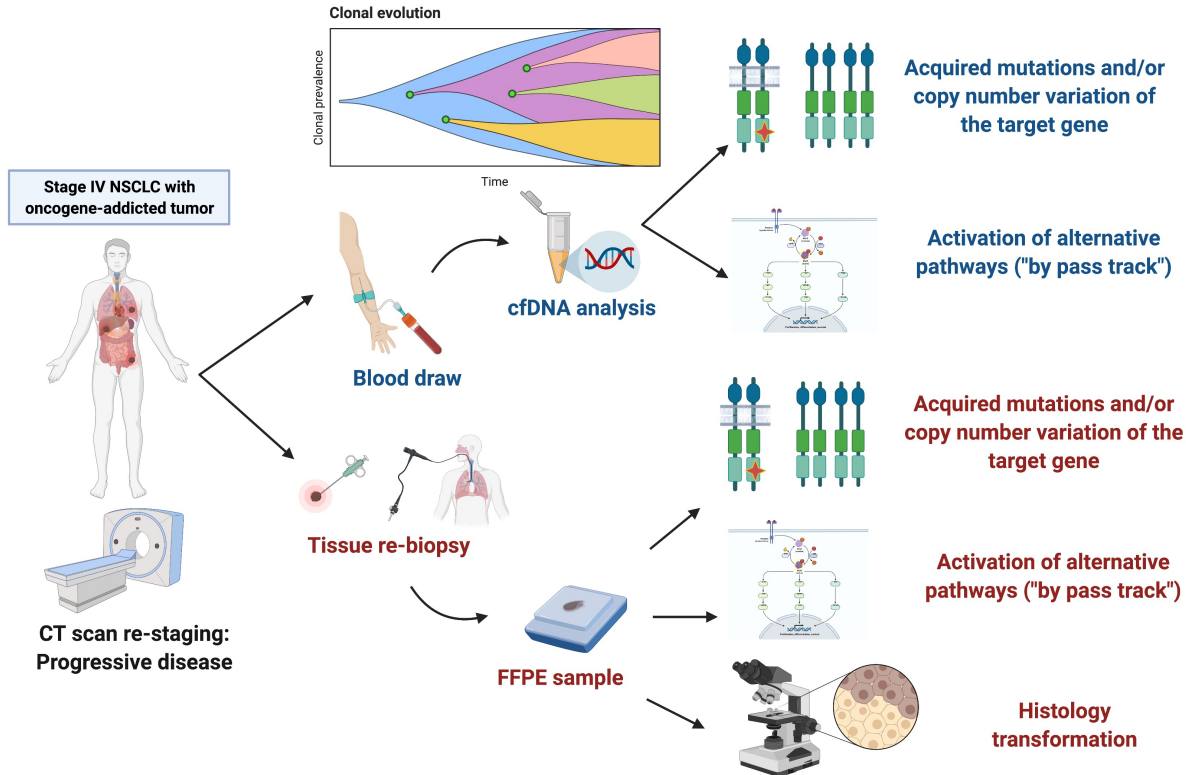


**Center for Thoracic Oncology**

# Current Treatment and Trial Paradigm



# Clinical utility of tissue and liquid biopsy in oncogene-addicted NSCLC



**Main liquid biopsy techniques used**

**NGS-based approaches:**

- ✓ High sensitivity
- ✓ Multiplex
- ✓ Gene rearrangements
- ✓ Gene amplifications

**PCR-based approaches:**

- ✓ Variable sensitivity
- ✓ Single gene testing
- ✓ Only for mutations

**Main techniques used for tumor tissue**

**NGS-based approaches:**

- ✓ High sensitivity
- ✓ Multiplex
- ✓ Gene rearrangements
- ✓ Gene amplifications

**FISH:**

- ✓ Gene rearrangements & amplifications

**PCR-based approaches:**

- ✓ Variable sensitivity
- ✓ Single/Multiplex gene testing
- ✓ Only for mutations

**IHC:**

- ✓ Protein expression

# The Traditional Drug Development Paradigm



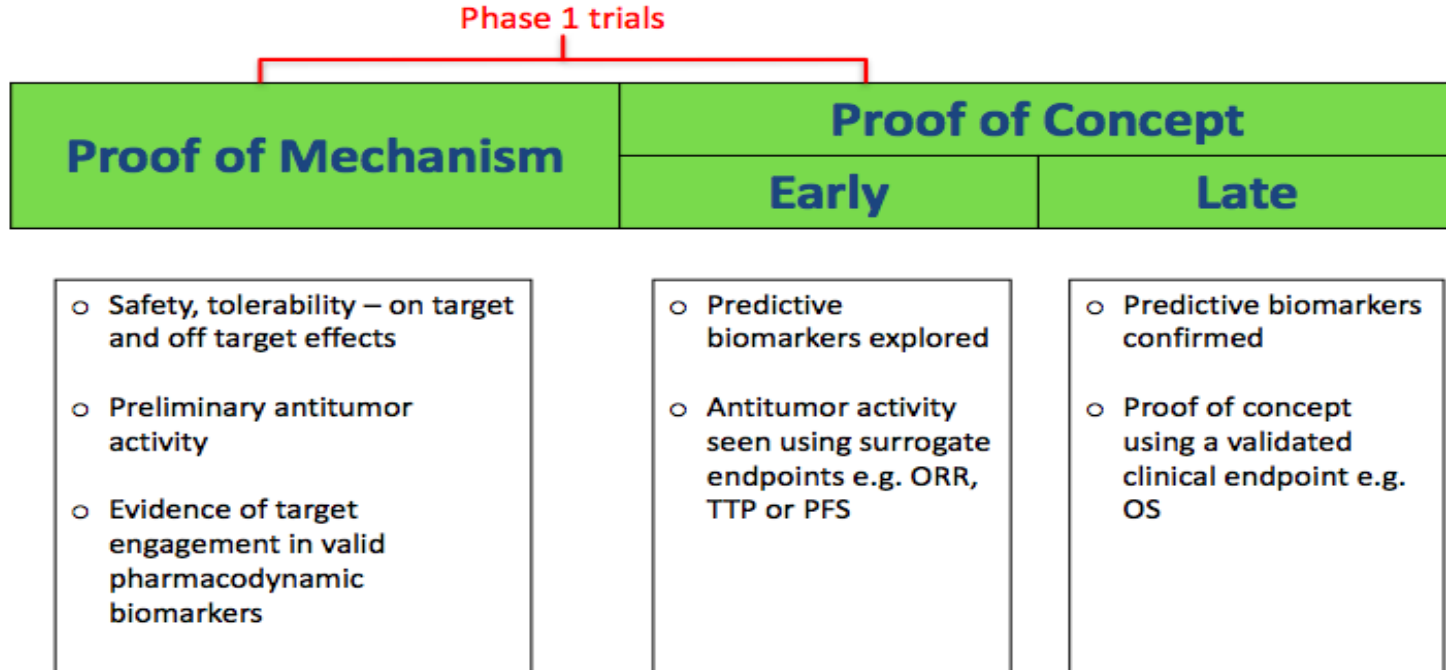
- Safety, tolerability
- Pharmacokinetics
- Pharmacodynamics
- Preliminary antitumor activity

- Efficacy observed in selected tumor types, e.g. ORR, TTP, PFS

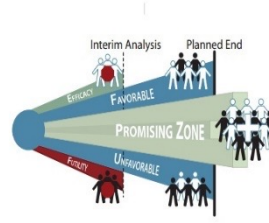
- Meaningful benefit obtained in a randomized setting against existent standard e.g. OS



# The Current Drug Development Paradigm



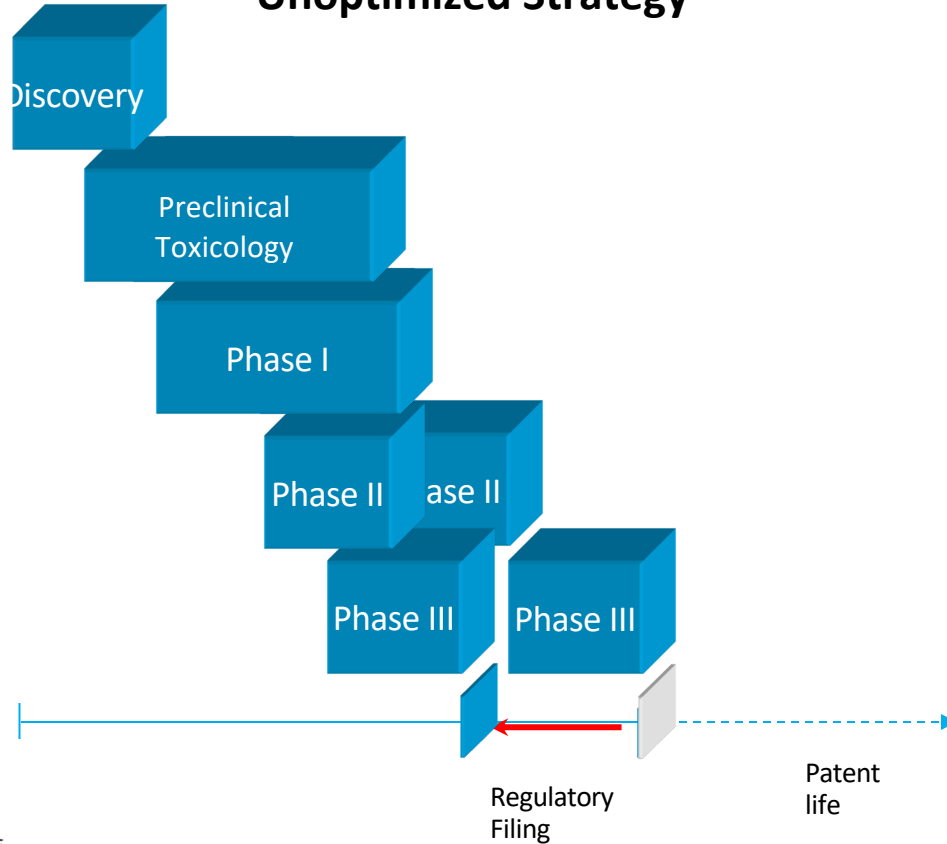
# Selected new designs in drug development



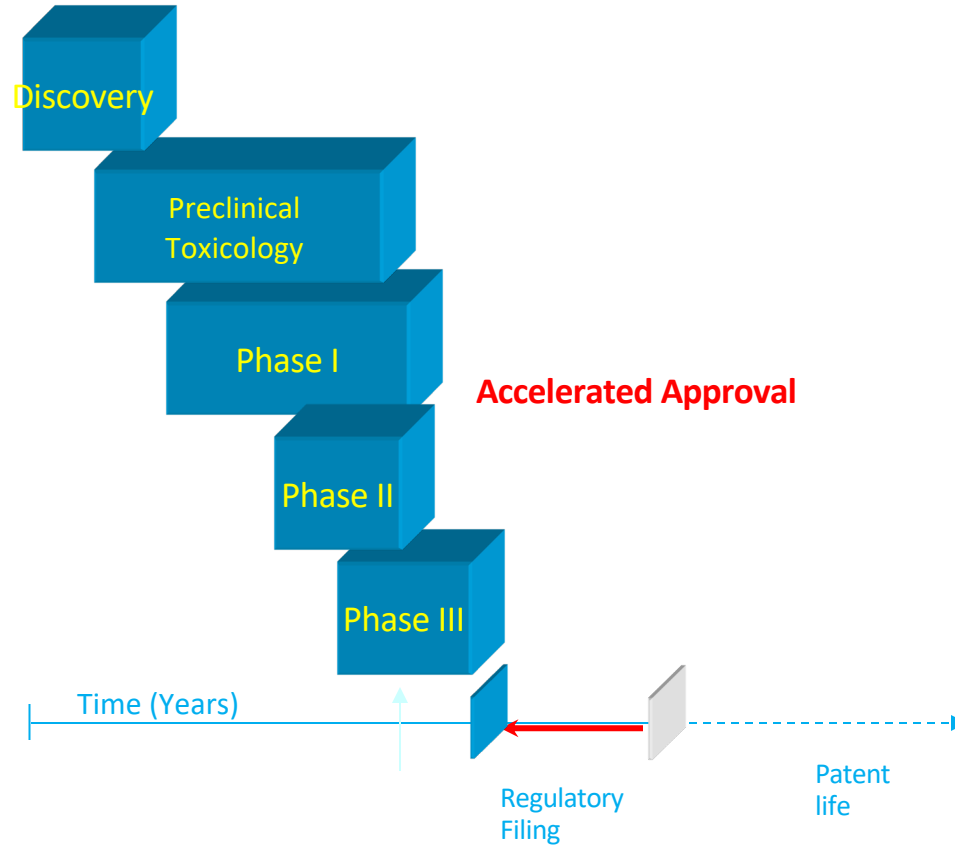
Genotype driven	<b>Basket trials</b>	Test the effect of one or more drugs on one or more single mutation in a variety of cancer types
	<b>Umbrella</b>	Test the impact of different drugs in different mutations in a single type of cancer
New designs	<b>Adaptative trial</b>	based on modifying parameters of a clinical trial evaluating a treatment according to outcomes in participants
	<b>N of 1</b>	Assessing the administration of an investigational agent over a short period of time
	<b>Windows of opportunity</b>	Assessing the administration of an investigational agent over a short period of time

# Efficiency Gain From A Thoughtful Scientific/Regulatory Strategy

## Unoptimized Strategy



# Efficiency Gain From A Thoughtful Scientific/Regulatory Strategy



A hypermutable phenotype caused by defective DNA mismatch repair

The total number of somatic variations per coding area of a tumor genome

Tumor fraction can be an indicator of the robustness of the report

The approximate percentage of ctDNA present in a cfDNA sample; take into consideration when interpreting VAFs

The number of times each DNA fragment is read during sequencing; the smaller the panel, the greater the depth

Follow-up germline testing may be required to distinguish between germline and somatic findings; considered more likely to be germline if VAF approximately 50% (the low VAF represented here suggests a subclonal somatic mutation)<sup>3</sup>

TUMOR TYPE Lung adenocarcinoma	COUNTRY CODE TW	REPORT DATE 28 July 2021	ORDER TEST # ORD-1147354-01
<b>PATIENT</b>			
DISEASE Lung adenocarcinoma			
NAME			
DATE OF BIRTH			
SEX			
MEDICAL RECORD #			
PHYSICIAN			
ORDERING PHYSICIAN Su, Wu-Chou			
<b>SPECIMEN</b>			
DATE OF COLLECTION 19 July 2021			
SEQUENCING DEPTH (2000X)			

<b>Biomarker Findings</b>	
Blood Tumor Mutational Burden - 3 Muts/Mb	
Microsatellite status - MSI-High Not Detected	
Tumor Fraction - 25%	
<b>Genomic Findings</b>	<b>VAF (%)</b>
EGFR L858R	20
EGFR T790M	15
EGFR amplification	NA
TP53 Q192*	4
BRCA2	1
DNMT3A	1.5

9 Therapies with Clinical Benefit    4 Therapies with Lack of Response    20 Clinical Trials

**SNVs** A single nucleotide change in DNA

**InDels** Insertion and/or deletion of nucleotides into/from DNA

**CNAs** Increase or loss in the number of copies of a particular gene

**REs** Movement of DNA sequences across the genome that may lead to gene fusions

Some ctDNA reports will have therapy recommendations for patients based on the genomic findings

CHIP: an age-related source of biological noise, due to hematopoietic cell variations that can falsely appear as ctDNA variations

**BIOMARKER FINDINGS**

Blood Tumor Mutational Burden-3 Muts/Mb

10 Trials

Microsatellite status: MSI-high not detected

MSI-High not detected.

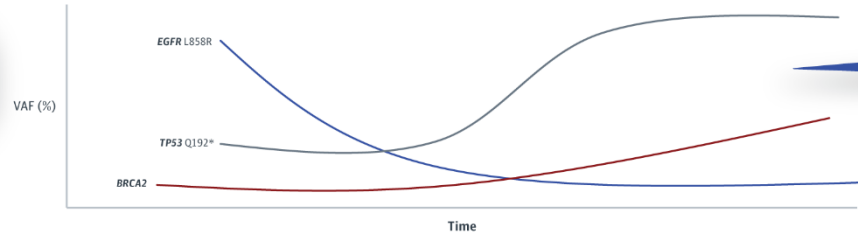
No evidence of MSI in this sample

Tumor fraction, 25%

Tumor fraction is an estimate of the percentage of ctDNA present in a cfDNA sample based on observed aneuploid instability.

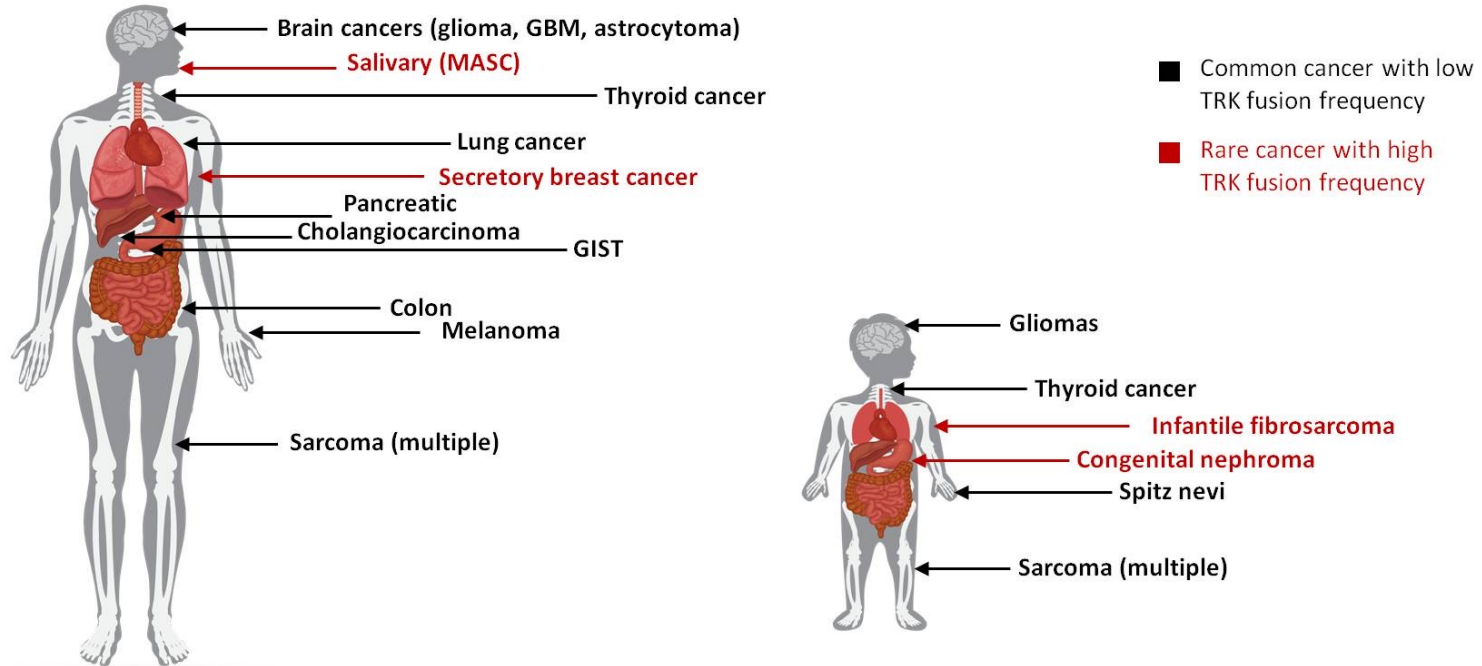
**BREADTH OF COVERAGE**

The number of genes sequenced (all reports will usually have a full list of genes sequenced; the more genes covered, the lower the depth)



Longitudinal changes in VAF of genomic alterations over time

# TRK fusions found in diverse cancer histologies

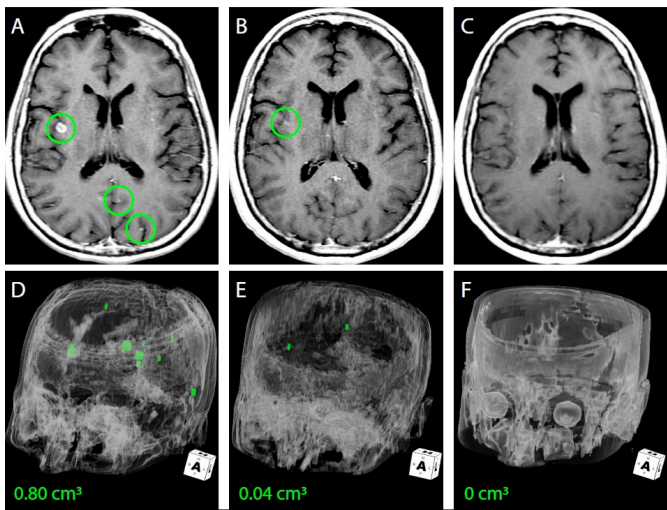


Estimated 1,500–5,000 patients harbor TRK fusion-positive cancers in the United States annually

Presented By David Hyman at 2017 ASCO Annual Meeting

# TRK Inhibitors Are Active in Brain Metastases

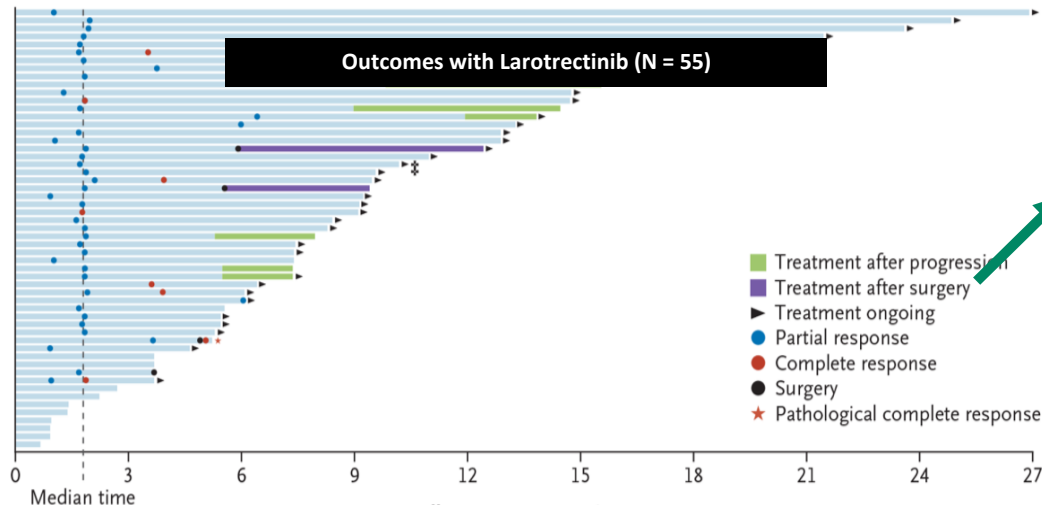
Patients With Brain Metastases	Larotrectinib <sup>1</sup>	Entrectinib <sup>2</sup>
ORR (at all sites), %	60% (n = 5)	50% (n = 12)
Intracranial ORR, %	66% (n = 3)	55% (n = 11)
Intracranial PFS, mo	Not reported	14.3



*TRK* Fusion–Positive Lung Cancer With Brain Metastases Treated With Larotrectinib<sup>3</sup>

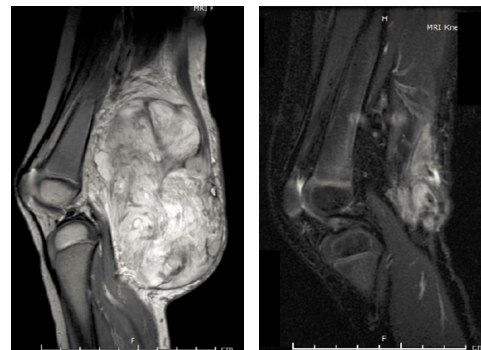
- Confirmed PR (-34%)
- Near intracranial CR (-95%, volumetric)
- Remains on therapy at 6+ mo

# Larotrectinib Trial Demonstrates Potential for Neoadjuvant Targeted Therapy in *TRK*+ Cancers



Median time to response: 1.8 mo

Treatment Duration, mo



Baseline

Cycle 3

## 2 year-old requiring leg amputation for *TRK* fusion-positive sarcoma

- dramatic response to larotrectinib
- underwent limb-sparing surgery with no functional deficits
- pathologic complete response

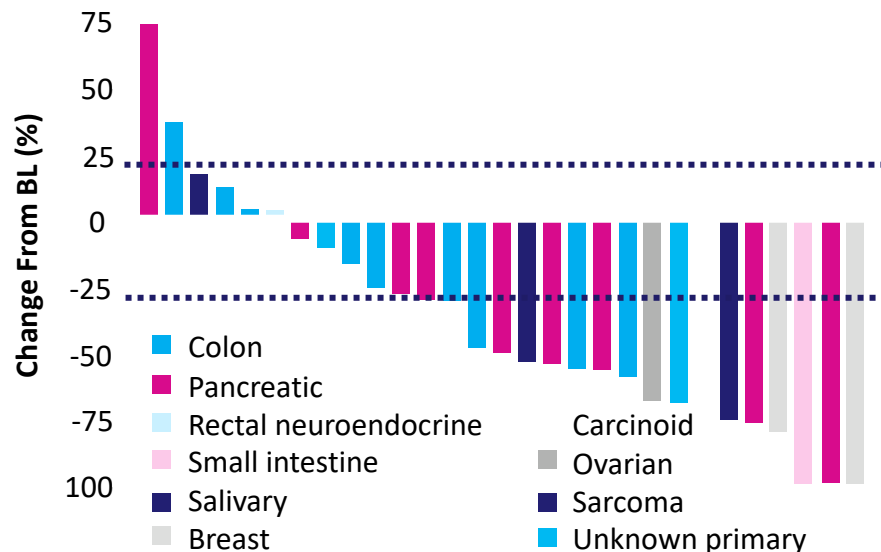
## 2-Yr-Old Requiring Leg Amputation for *TRK* Fusion-Positive Sarcoma

- Dramatic response to larotrectinib
- Limb-sparing surgery conducted with no functional deficits
- pCR achieved



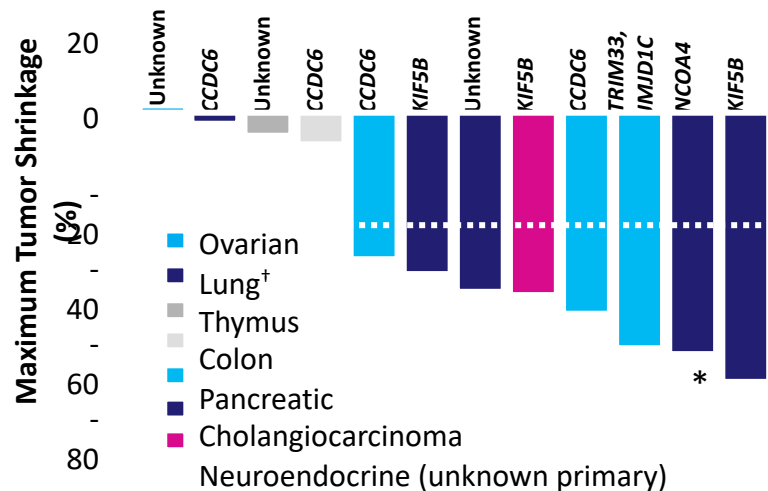
# RET Inhibitors Are Active in Fusion-Positive Cancers

**Tumor Response by Tumor Type: Selpercatinib (n = 32)**



- N = 32 response evaluable patients
  - ORR (95% CI): 47 (29-65)


**Tumor Response by RET Fusion Partner in Various Tumor Types: Pralsetinib (n = 12)**




\*Pt received alternate starting dose during dose escalation; transitioned to 400 mg QD. †Included mixed sarcoma/adenocarcinoma, mixed SCLC/NSCLC, atypical carcinoid.

- n = 12 response evaluable patients
  - ORR (95% CI): 50 (21-79); responses observed in all pts with pancreatic adenocarcinoma (n = 3) and cholangiocarcinoma (n = 2)



# Hypersensitivity Reactions to Selpercatinib Treatment with Prior Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapy



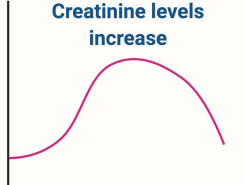
**Diffuse grade 3 skin rash**



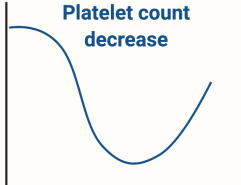
**Rapid improvement after <24h oral low-dose steroids**




**Lab results alterations**




**Creatinine levels increase**




**Platelet count decrease**



**Punch skin biopsy** revealed spongiotic dermatitis, superficial perivascular lymphocytic infiltrate, rare eosinophils, and pigment incontinence that favored drug reaction




**Grade 2 diarrhea with stool culture negative**



**Body temperature: Grade 1 fever (37.4°C)**

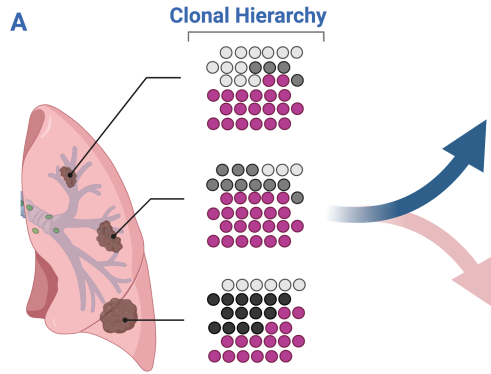
- 52-yr Caucasian, female, never smoker
- Lung adenocarcinoma, Stage IV
- *KIF5B-RET* fusion
- Selpercatinib as 4th line, after progressing on carboplatin/pemetrexed, nivolumab, and cabozantinib
- On C1D8 the patient presented with grade 2 diarrhea, grade 1 fever for 2 days, and grade 3 diffuse cutaneous rash. Labs revealed thrombocytopenia and creatinine increase



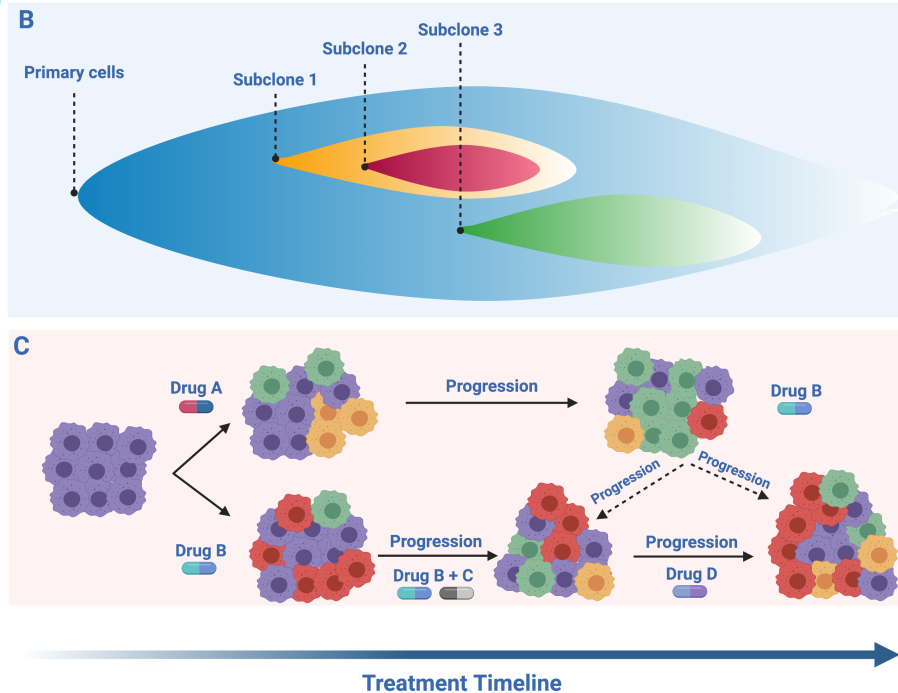
# Acquired resistance is a dynamic process

Mechanisms of acquired resistance might be heterogeneous and multiple mechanisms can simultaneously occur in the same patient, reflecting the clonal heterogeneity of the tumor

The clonal evolution of the tumor under the selective pressure of anticancer therapies

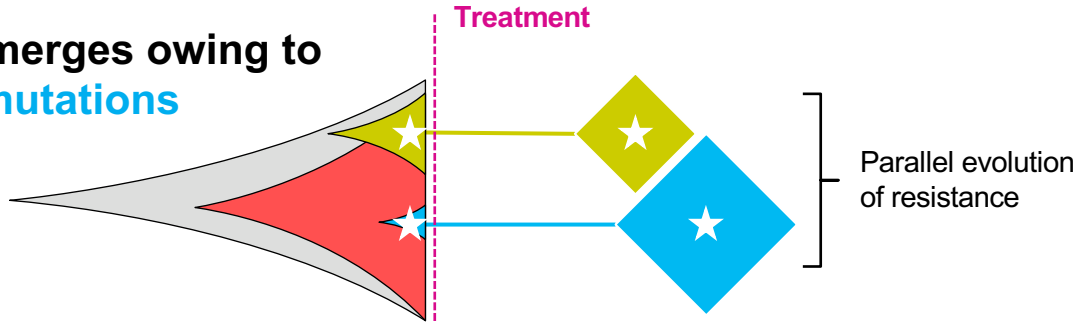


Tracking the clonal evolution of the tumor over time might allow the implementation of tailored therapeutic approaches

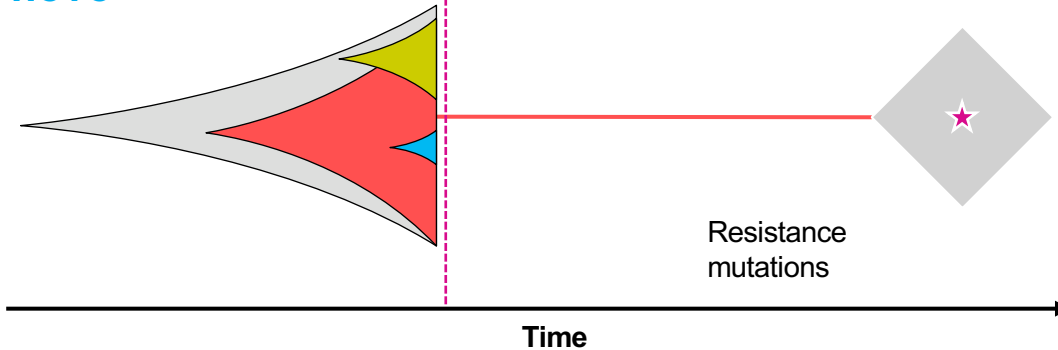


# Clonal evolution of treatment resistance

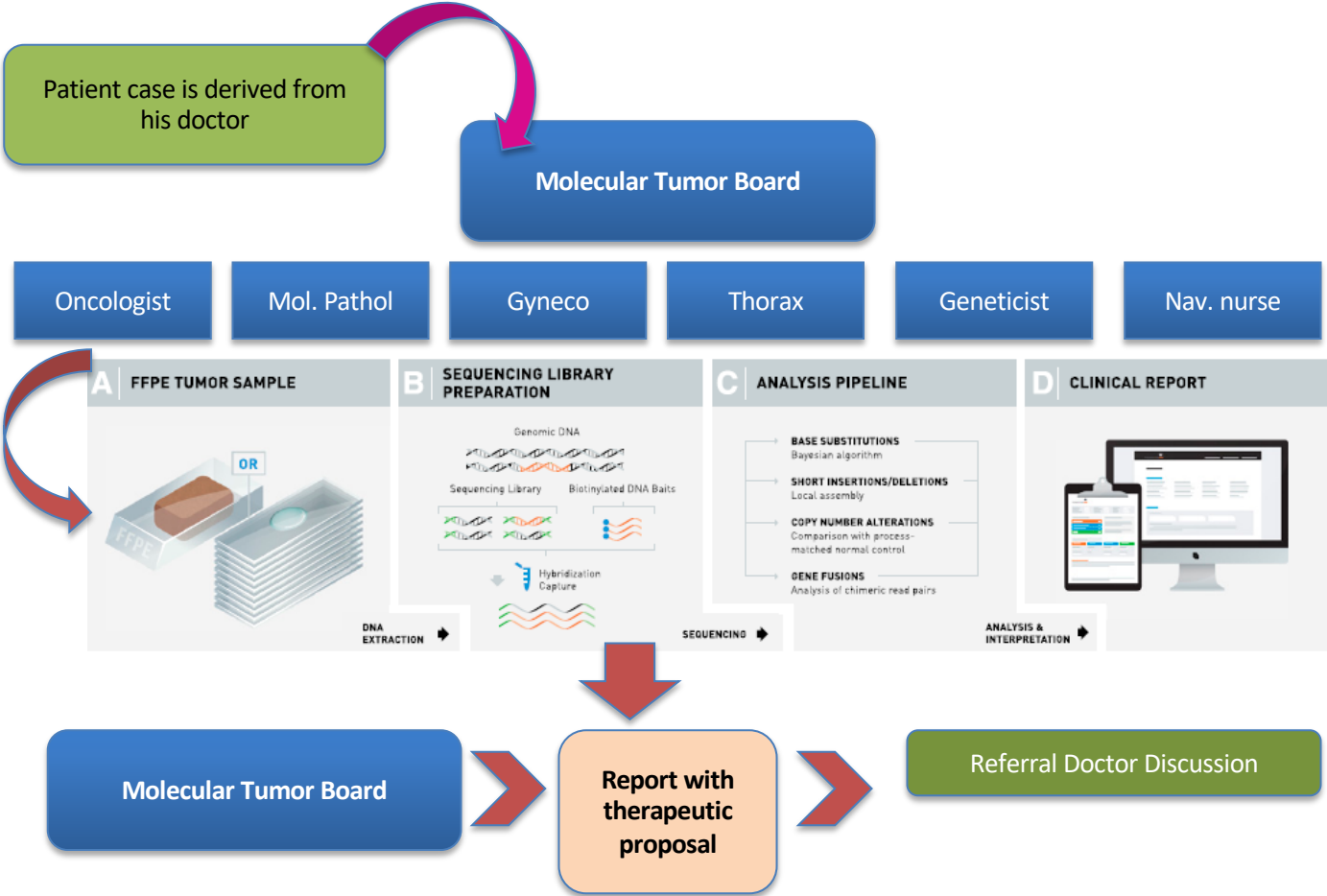
Resistance emerges owing to pre-existing mutations



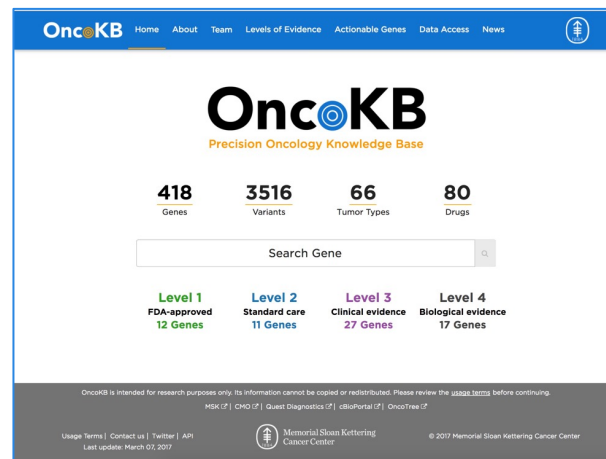
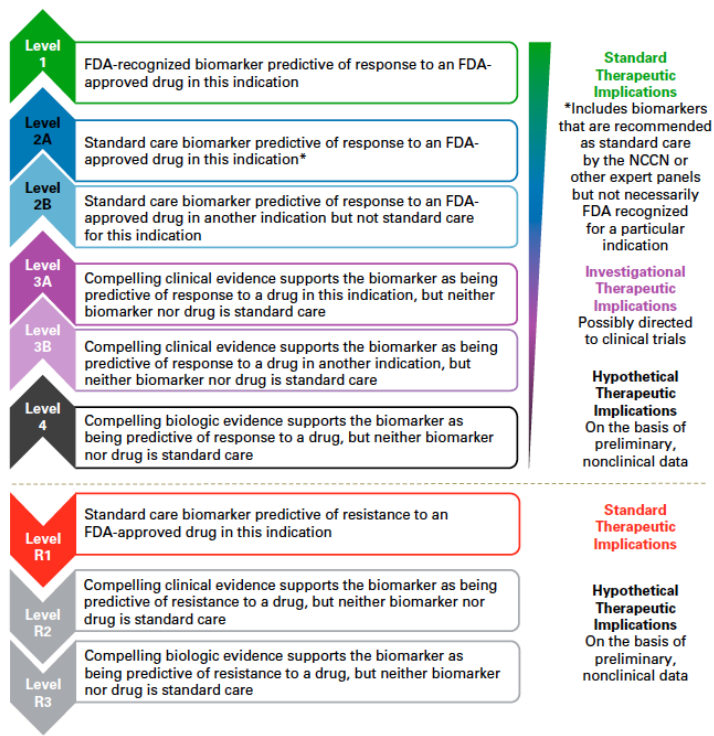
Resistance emerges owing to *de novo* mutations



# Our New Way to Work . . . Molecular Tumor Board



# Levels of evidence tools have been developed to rank genomic alterations: OncoKB



## Summary

418 genes fully annotated

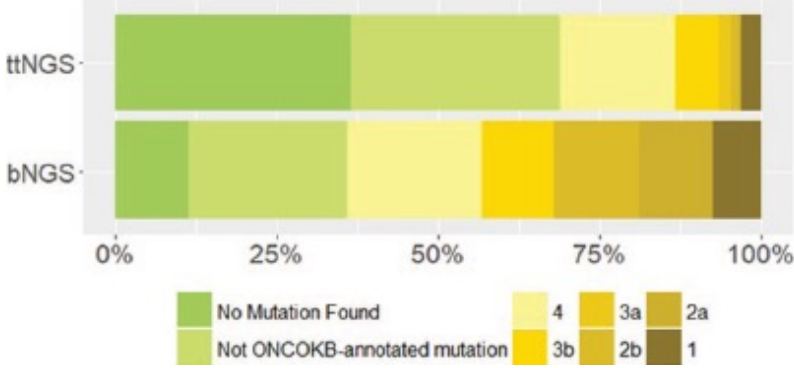
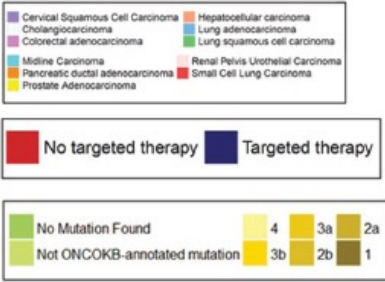
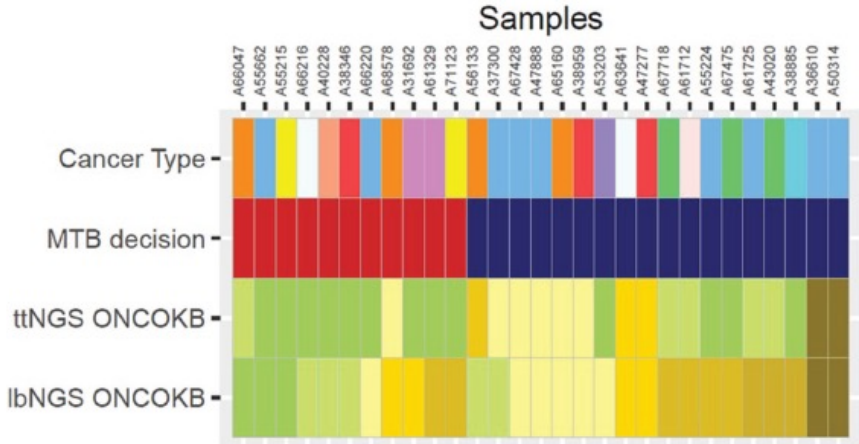
3516 functionally significant SNVs

80 drugs associated with a OncoKB Level of Evidence

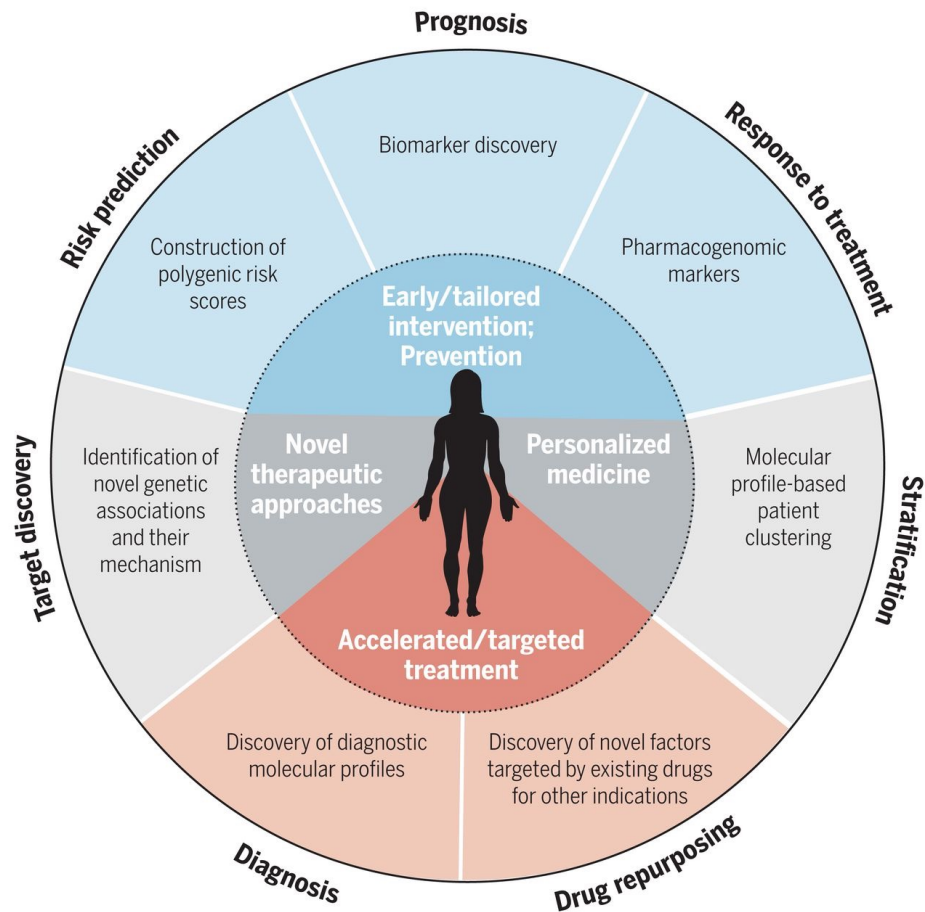
OncoKB annotation incorporated into MSK-IMPACT reports

~1,000 reports / month

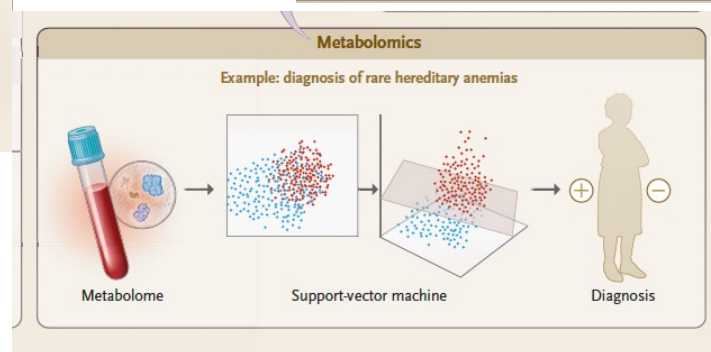
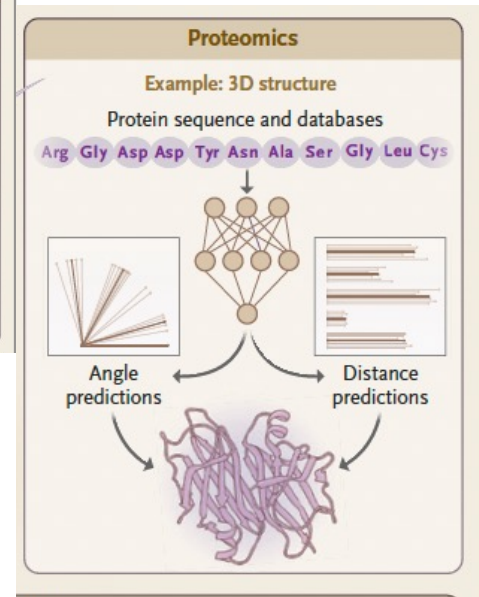
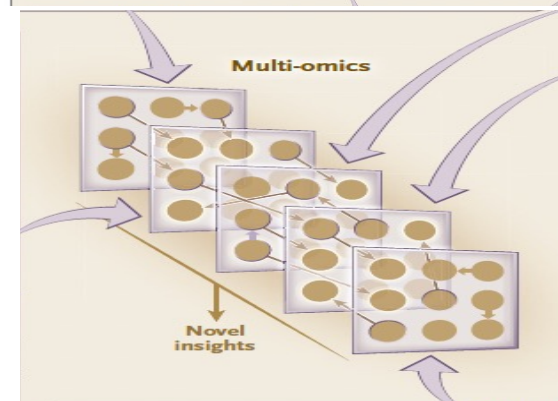
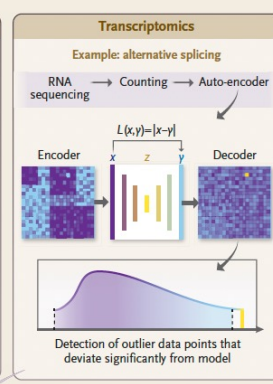
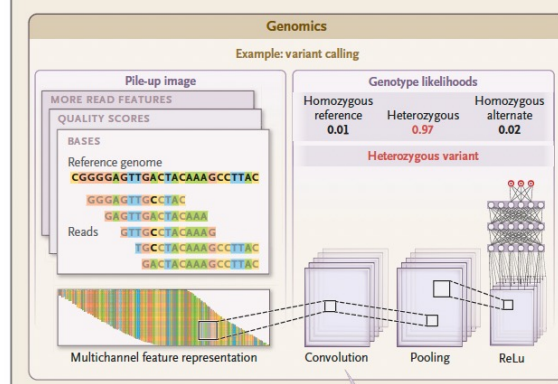
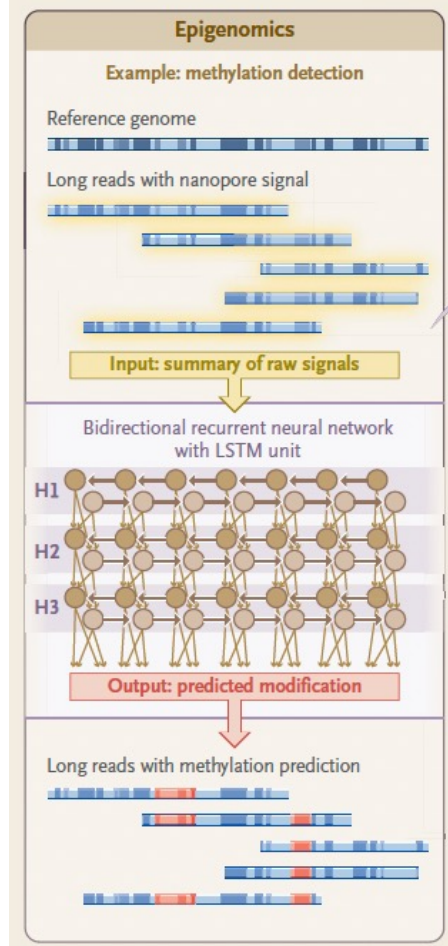
# Multidisciplinary molecular tumour board: a tool to improve clinical practice and selection accrual for clinical trials in patients with cancer



# Attributes of a Successful Precision Medicine Program



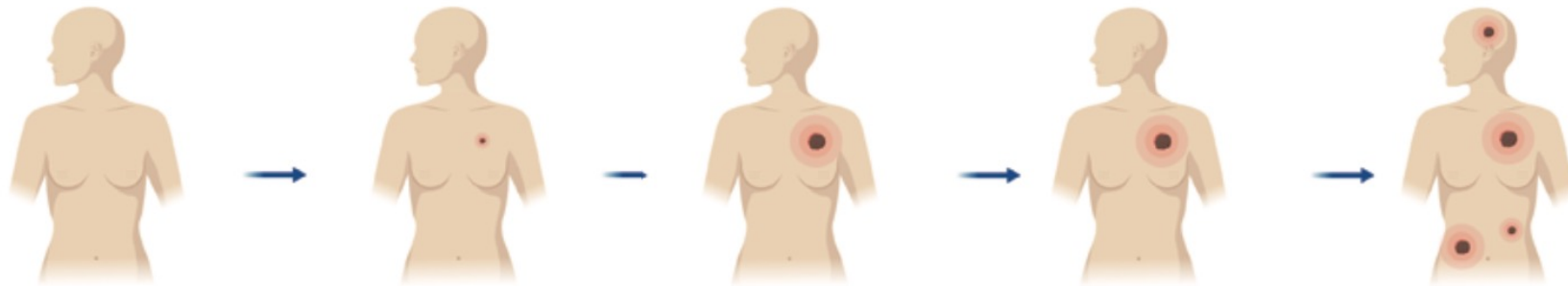




## Liquid vs. tissue biopsies in cancer interception

Model 1 for cancer interception  
(Avoiding cancer)

Model 2 for metastasis interception  
(Avoiding dissemination: metastasis interception)



Predisposition

Early diagnosis

Late detection

Monitoring

Dissemination

Liquid biopsy

Liquid biopsy

Tissue biopsy

Liquid biopsy

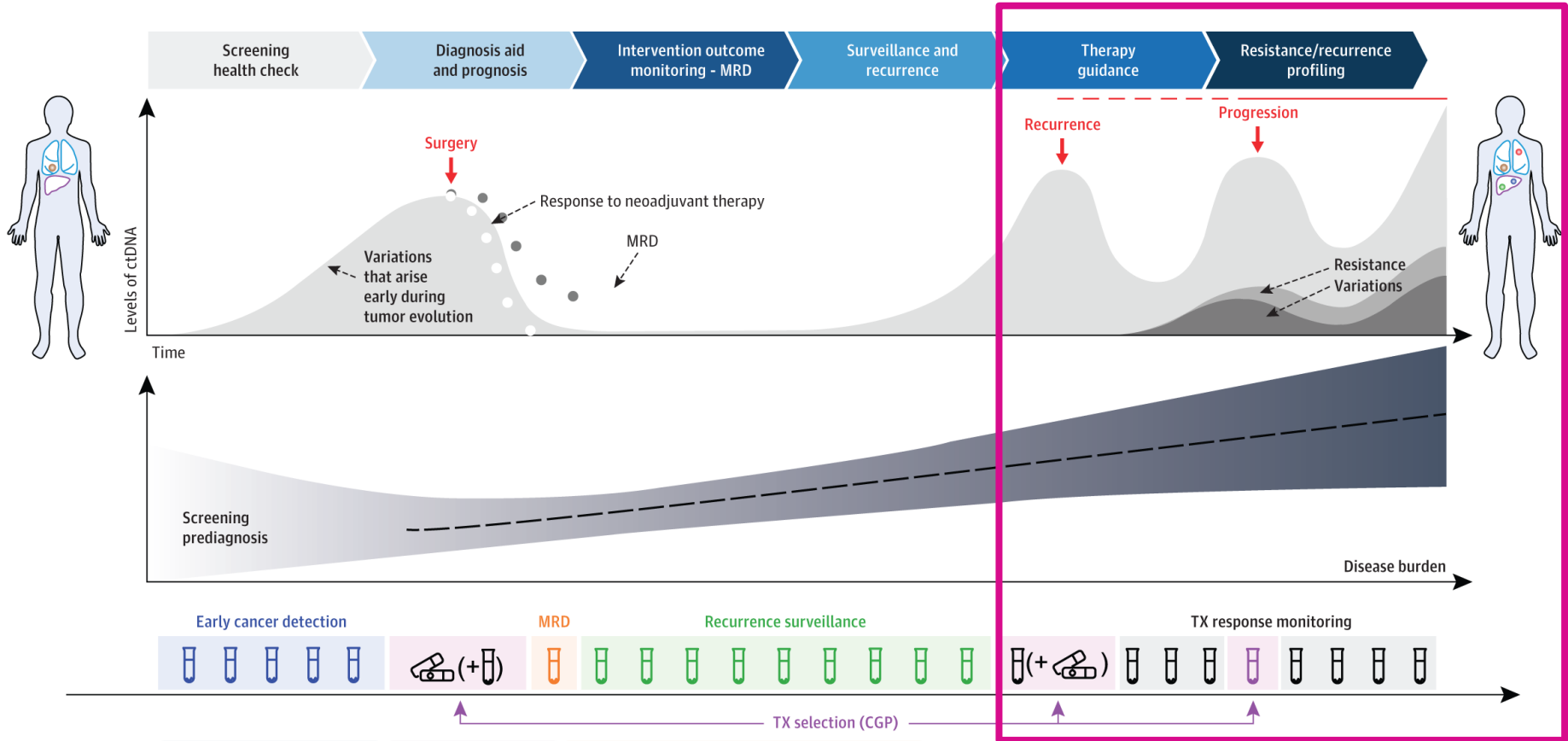
Tissue biopsy

Cancer interception

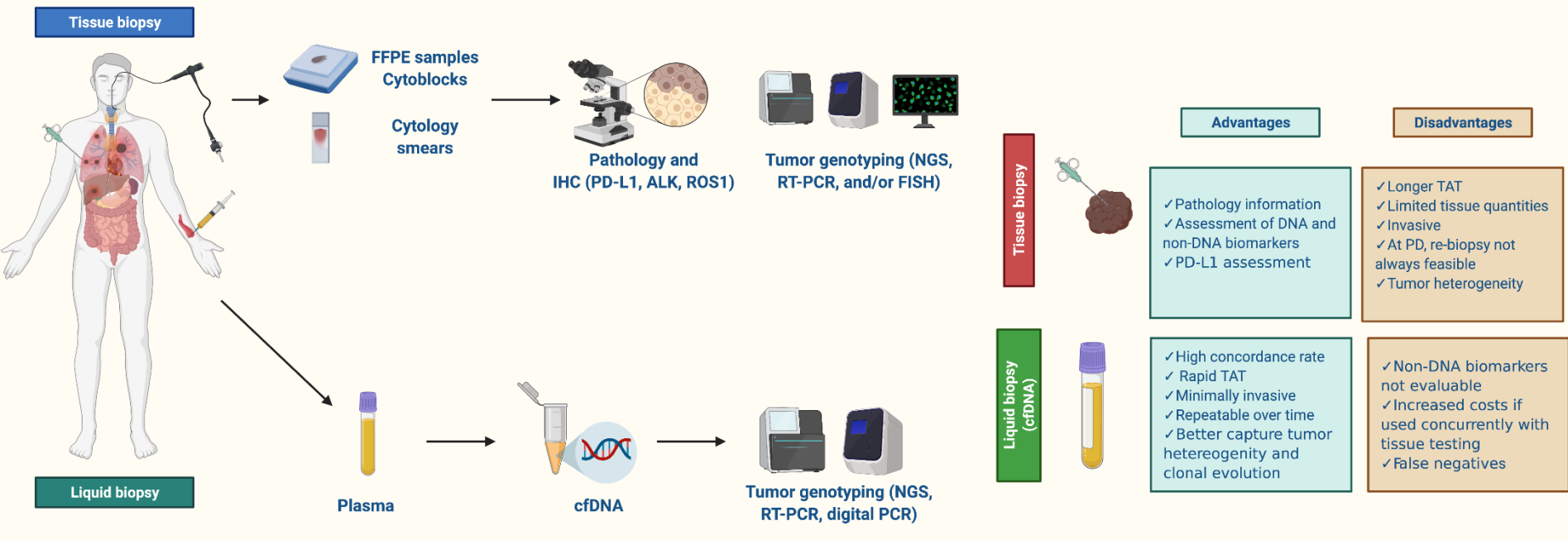
Survival rates

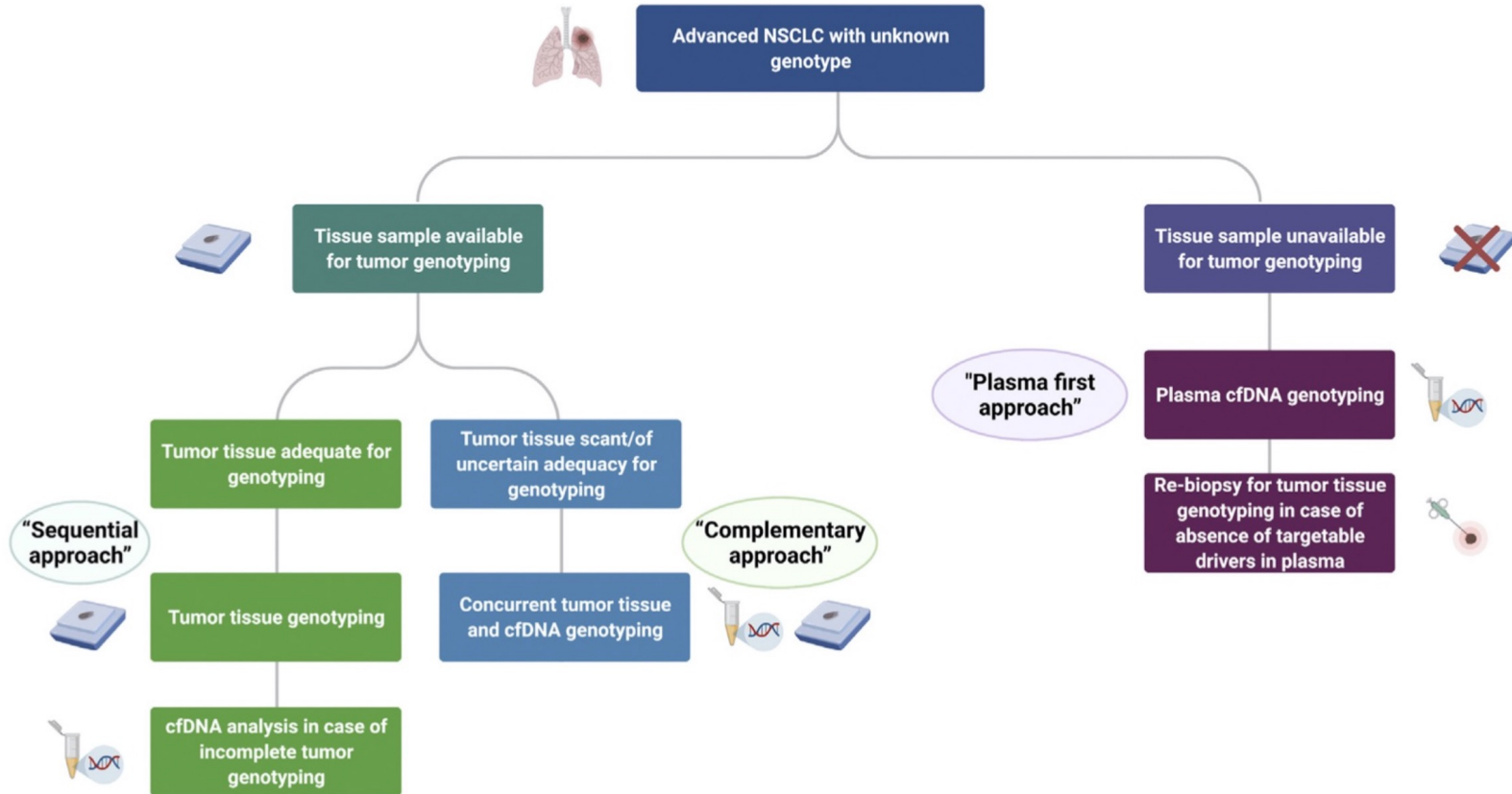
## Challenges to implementation of genomic medicine

- **Lack of familiarity and understanding** by patients and clinicians
- **Poor access to genomic medicine expertise and testing**
- **High cost and lack of reimbursement** for genetic or genomic tests and services
- **Potentially overwhelming and rapidly evolving** nature of genomic information
- **Need for extensive informatics and infrastructure** to integrate genomic results into electronic medical records
- **Non-acceptance of genomic medicine** by institutions and clinicians
- **Potential burden of following up genotyped patients** when the clinical significance of genomic variants changes or becomes clear



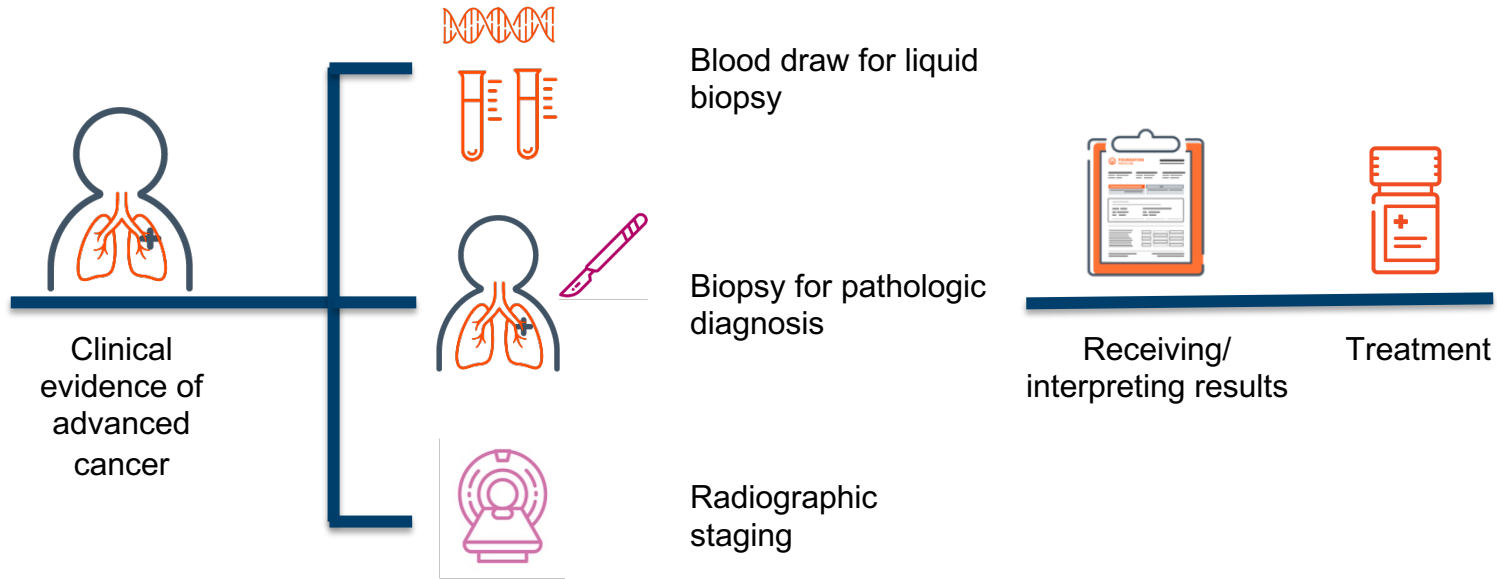
# Tissue vs. Liquid biopsy





# Expedited diagnostic odyssey

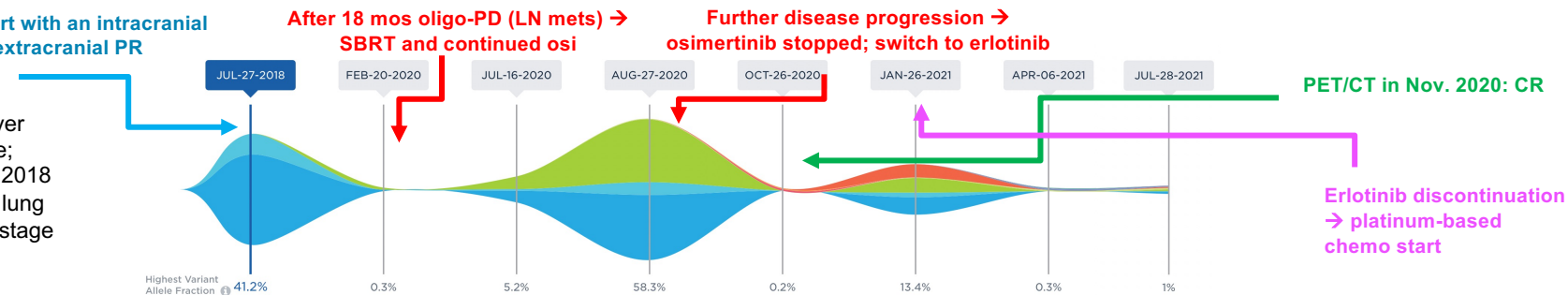
Stacking diagnostic steps may be able to shorten the diagnostic odyssey



# Tailoring treatment with Liquid Biopsy

Osimertinib start with an intracranial CR and extracranial PR

52-year-old never smoker female; diagnosed in July 2018 with cT4 N3 M1c lung adenocarcinoma (stage IVB).

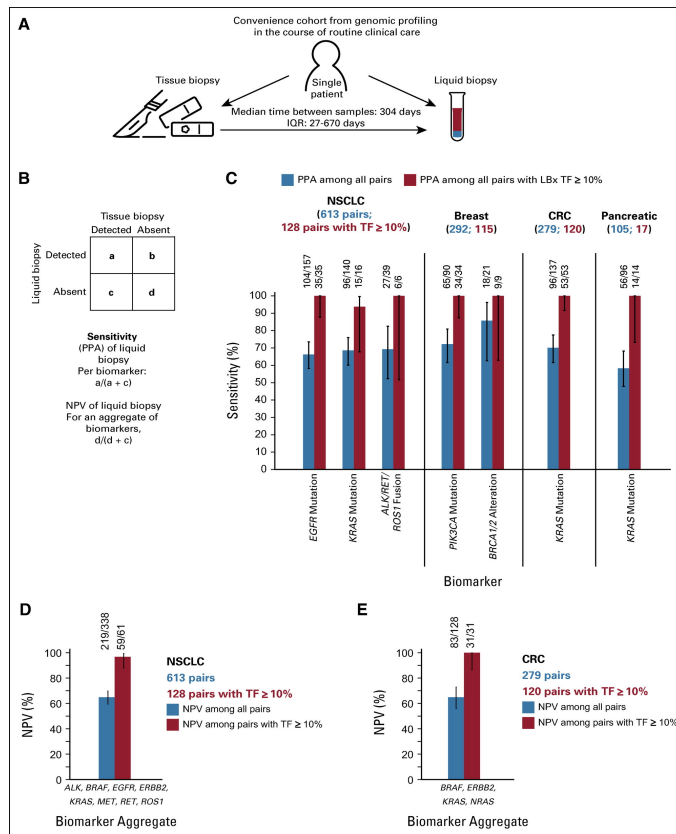
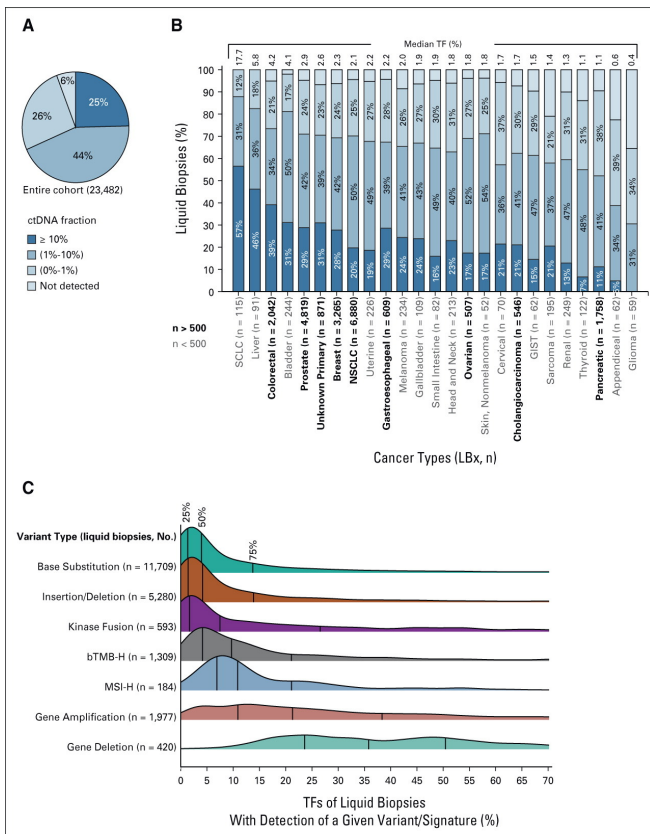


Genetic Alteration	% cfDNA or amplification							
<i>EGFR</i> E746_A750del	41.2%	0.2%	4.7%	58.3%	ND	13.4%	ND	1%
<i>EGFR</i> C797S	ND	0.3%	5.2%	5.6%	ND	10.7%	ND	0.7%
<i>ARID1A</i> Q456Q	ND	ND	ND	0.2%	ND	0.2%	0.3%	0.6%
<i>EGFR</i> T790M	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	9.6%	ND	0.4%
<i>TP53</i> C275Y	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.1%	0.2%
<i>ARID1A</i> F1728F	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.3%	0.2%
<i>TP53</i> S127F	6.5%	ND	0.4%	7.6%	ND	2.6%	ND	0.2%
<i>BRAF</i> Amplification	2.2%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
<i>CDK6</i> Amplification	2.2%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
<i>EGFR</i> Amplification	3.4%	ND	ND	4.2%	ND	ND	ND	ND
<i>NTRK2</i> L699L	-	-	-	-	0.2%	ND	ND	-
<i>EGFR</i> N338N	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.1%	ND	ND	ND
<i>FGFR1</i> V795I	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.1%	ND

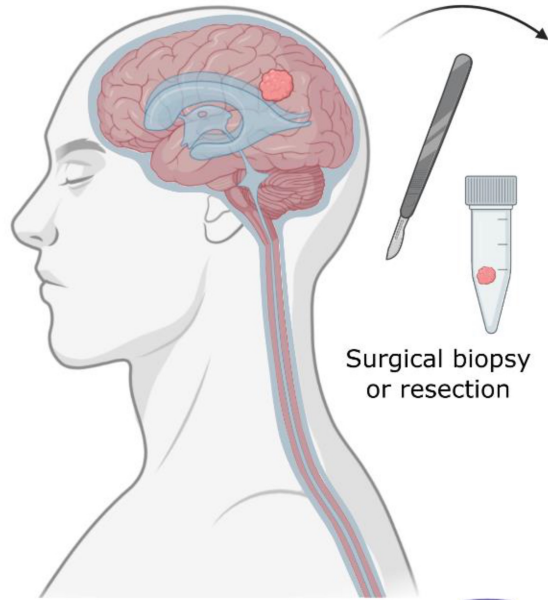




# Tumor Fraction Correlates with Detection of Actionable Variants Across > 23,000 Circulating Tumor DNA Samples



- Elevated ctDNA shed is associated with both high sensitivity and negative predictive value for detection of actionable Genomic Alterations .
- The presence of elevated TF suggests adequate tumor profiling and may reduce the value of subsequent reflex to confirmatory tissue testing in patients with negative LBx results.



## Solid biopsy (tumour specimen)

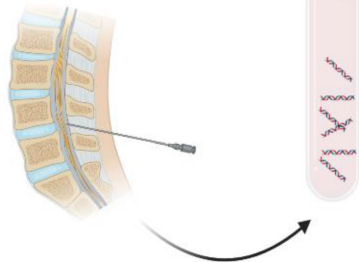
### Advantages

Allow histological diagnosis

### Limitations

Very invasive and risky procedure  
 Sometimes not feasible due to tumour anatomical location  
 Not representative of tumour heterogeneity  
 Static snapshot

## Lumbar puncture



## Liquid biopsy (CSF ctDNA)

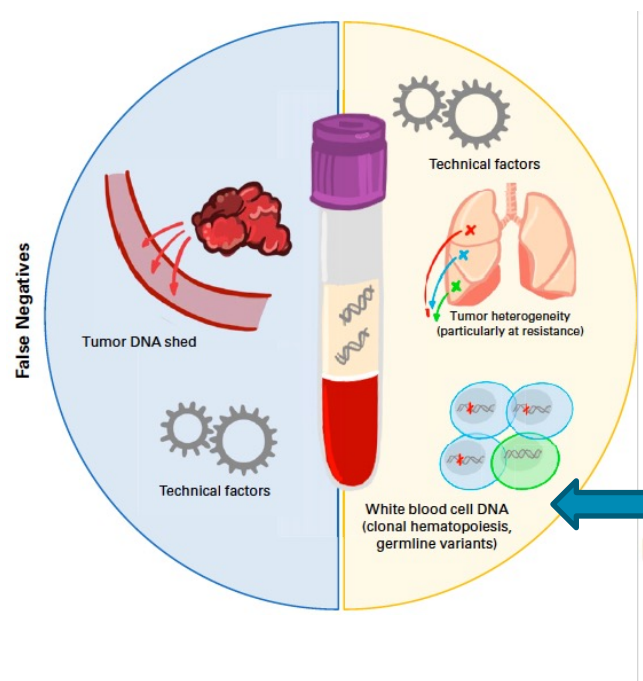
### Advantages

Less-invasive and easier to obtain than a tumour biopsy  
 CSF obtained as SOC for some patients  
 Concordance with tissue characterisation  
 Representative of intratumour and interlesion heterogeneity  
 Longitudinal real-time monitoring

### Limitations

No histological characterisation  
 Lack of standardisation  
 Contraindications for lumbar puncture  
 Limited sensitivity

# Sources of false positive and false-negative results in plasma NGS



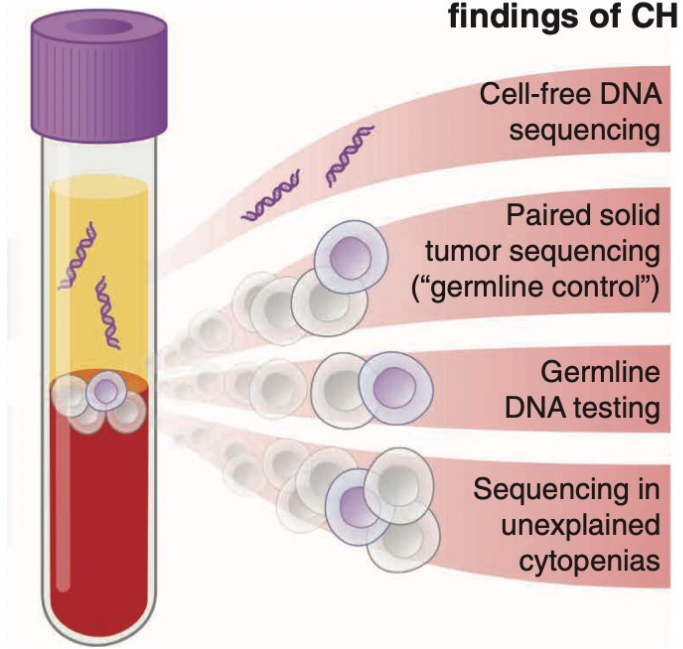
## “False Positives” in Liquid Biopsy

**Technical Factors:**  
**Sample differences**  
 (> 6 months from tissue to plasma sampling)

**WBC contamination:**  
 Germline Variants  
 Clonal Hematopoiesis

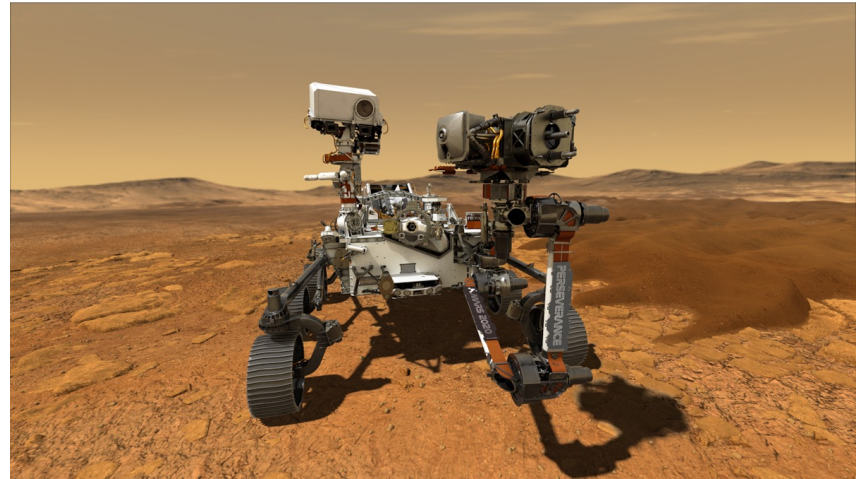
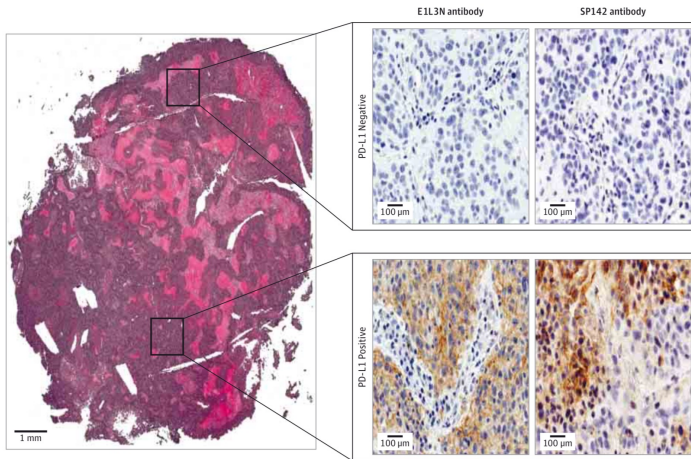
**Tumor Heterogeneity:**  
**Positive Plasma & Negative Tissue**  
 (assumes tissue is “Gold standard”)

## Source of incidental findings of CH



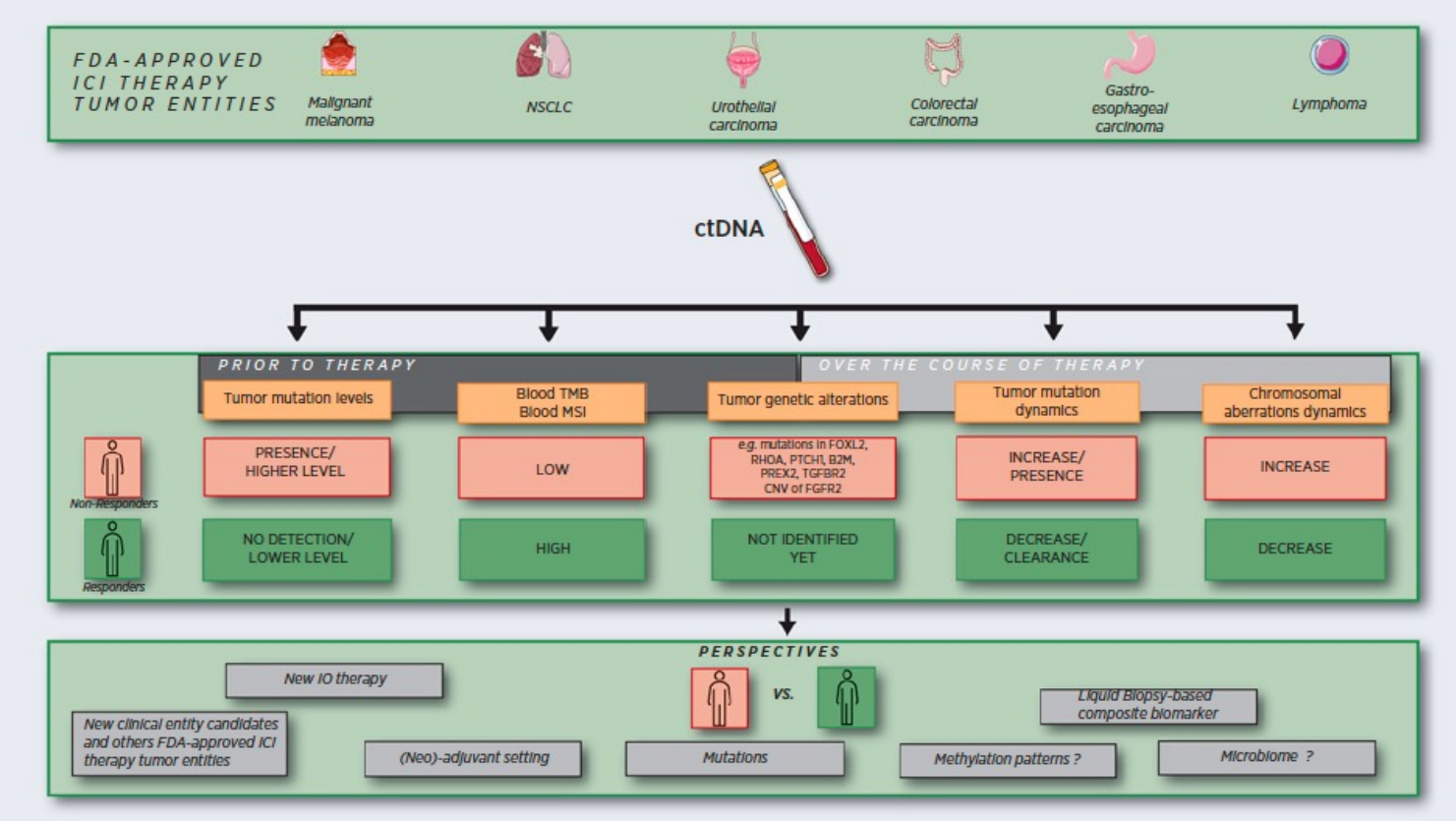
# Heterogeneity of PD-L1 Expression

An imperfect but useful biomarker



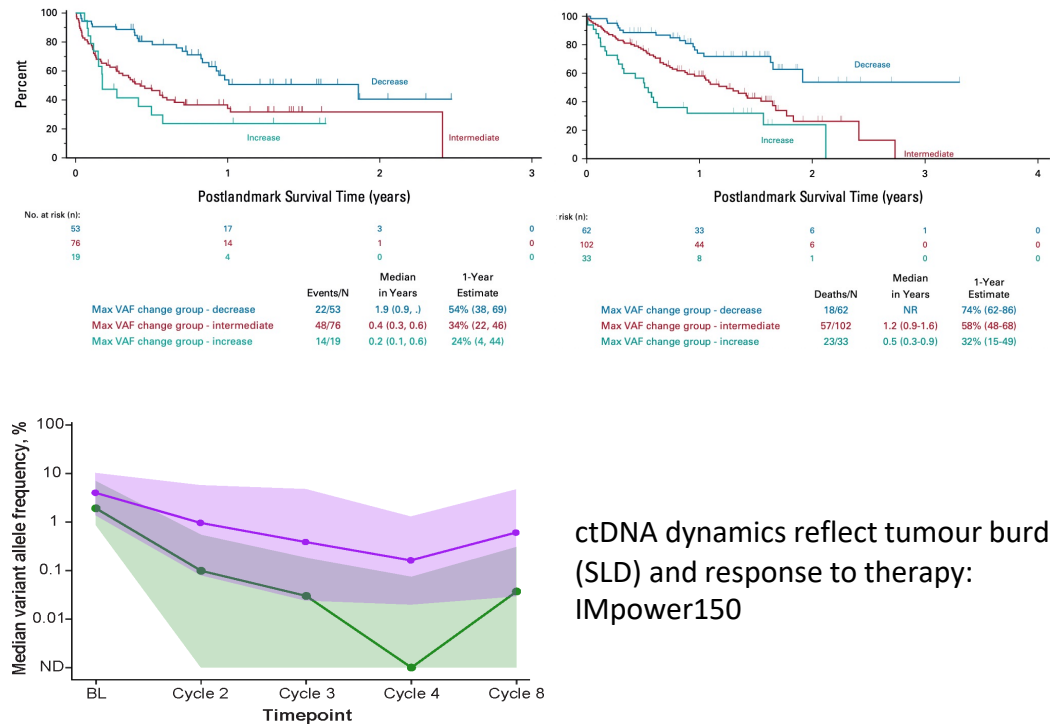
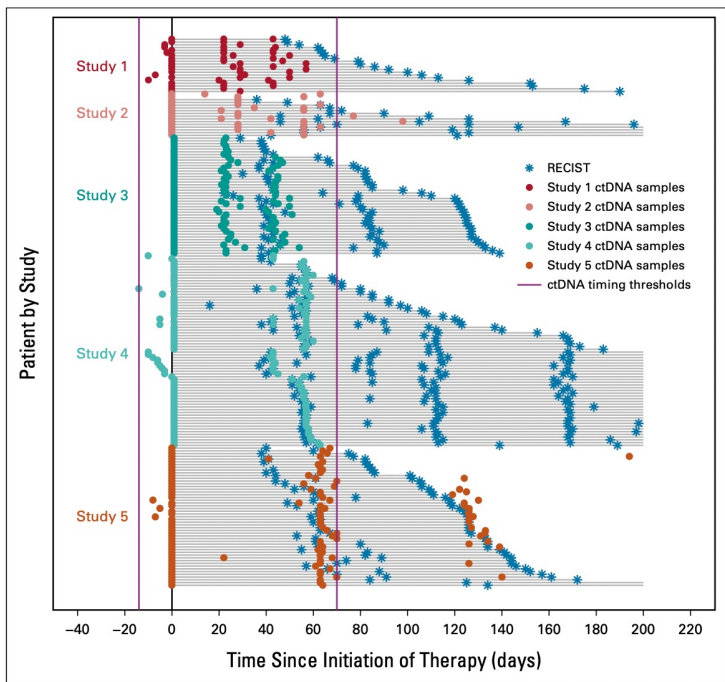
- **Intratumor** heterogeneity
- **Intrapatient** heterogeneity

# Use of Liquid Biopsy in Immunotherapy





# Changes in Circulating Tumor DNA Reflect Clinical Benefit Across Multiple Studies of Patients With Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer Treated With Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors

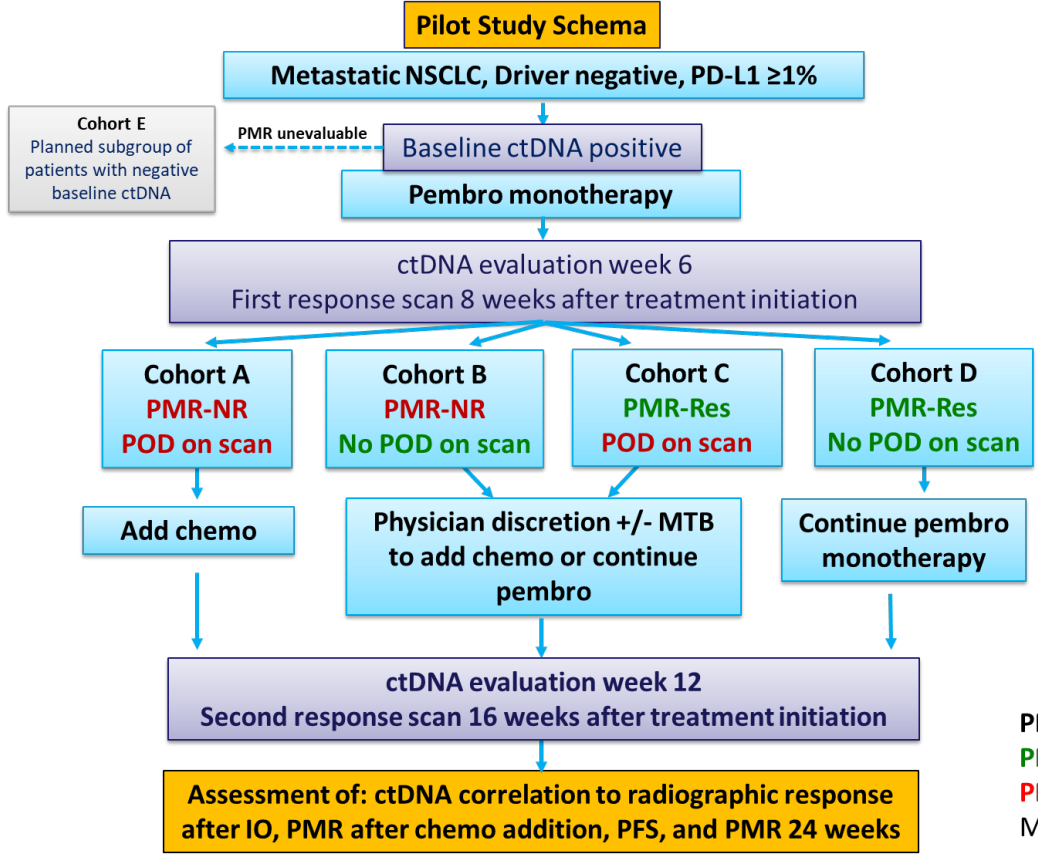


ctDNA dynamics reflect tumour burden (SLD) and response to therapy: IMpower150

**CtDNA may serve as an important tool in clinical development and an early indicator of treatment benefit**

# CITAN: ctDNA-guided Immunotherapy-based Therapy in Treatment Naïve Advanced NSCLC

PI: Dr. Mack – Dr Rolfo



## Translational Medicine Component

Baseline Tissue, PBMCs

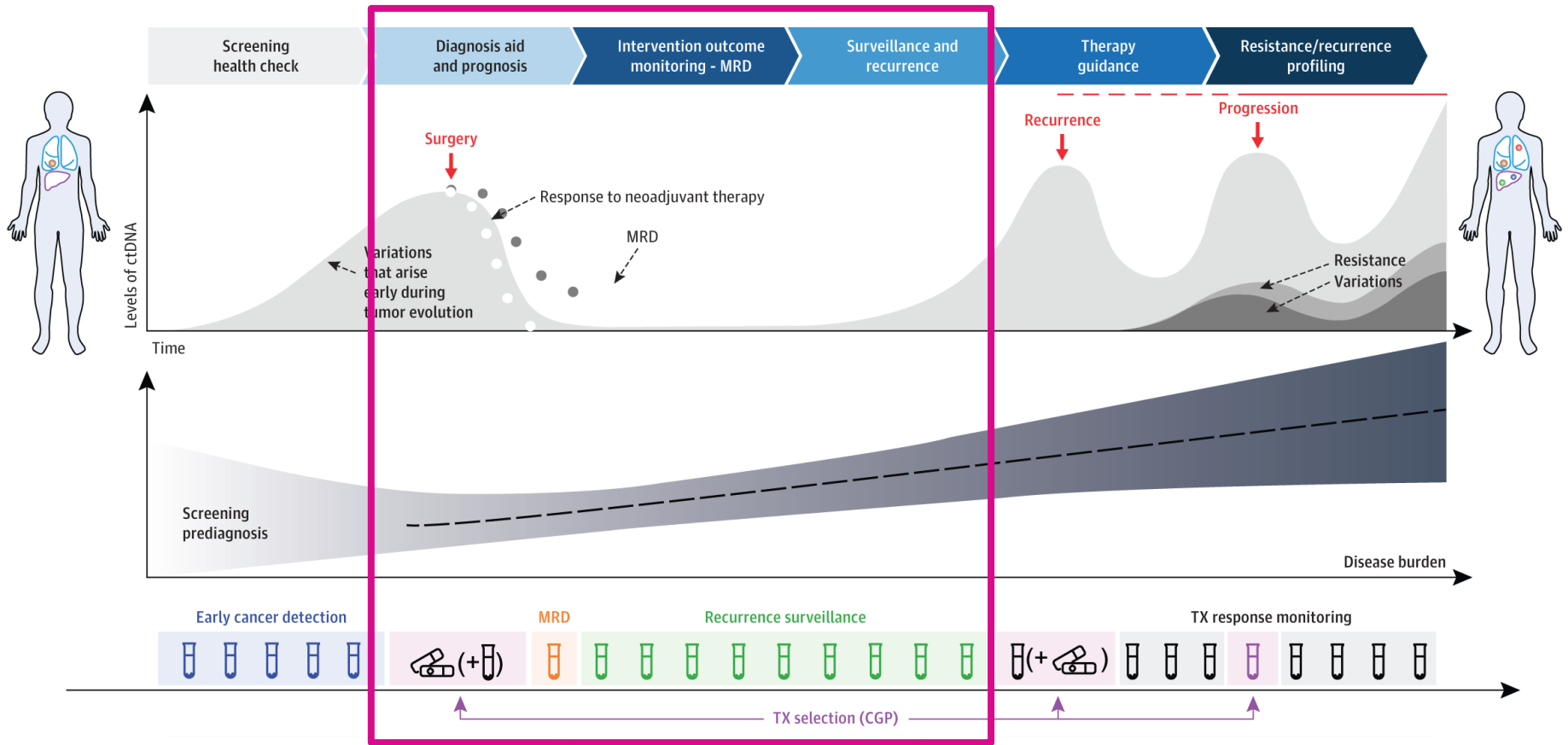
C2D1 ctDNA, PBMCs

C3D1 ctDNA, PBMCs

C4D1 ctDNA, PBMCs

Every 3 Cycles ctDNA

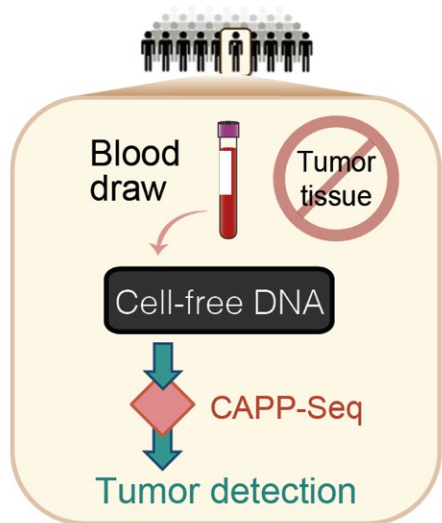
PMR = Plasma Molecular Response  
PMR-Res =  $\geq 50\%$  PMR (responsive)  
PMR-NR =  $< 50\%$  PMR (non-responsive)  
MTB = Molecular Tumor Board





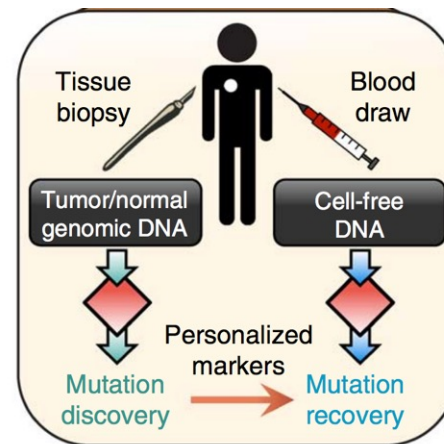
# Different types of ctDNA MRD Assays

## Tumor-naive



- Genotyping with no knowledge of tumor mutations (“off the shelf”)
- Faster, less expensive
- Limit of detection ~0.1%

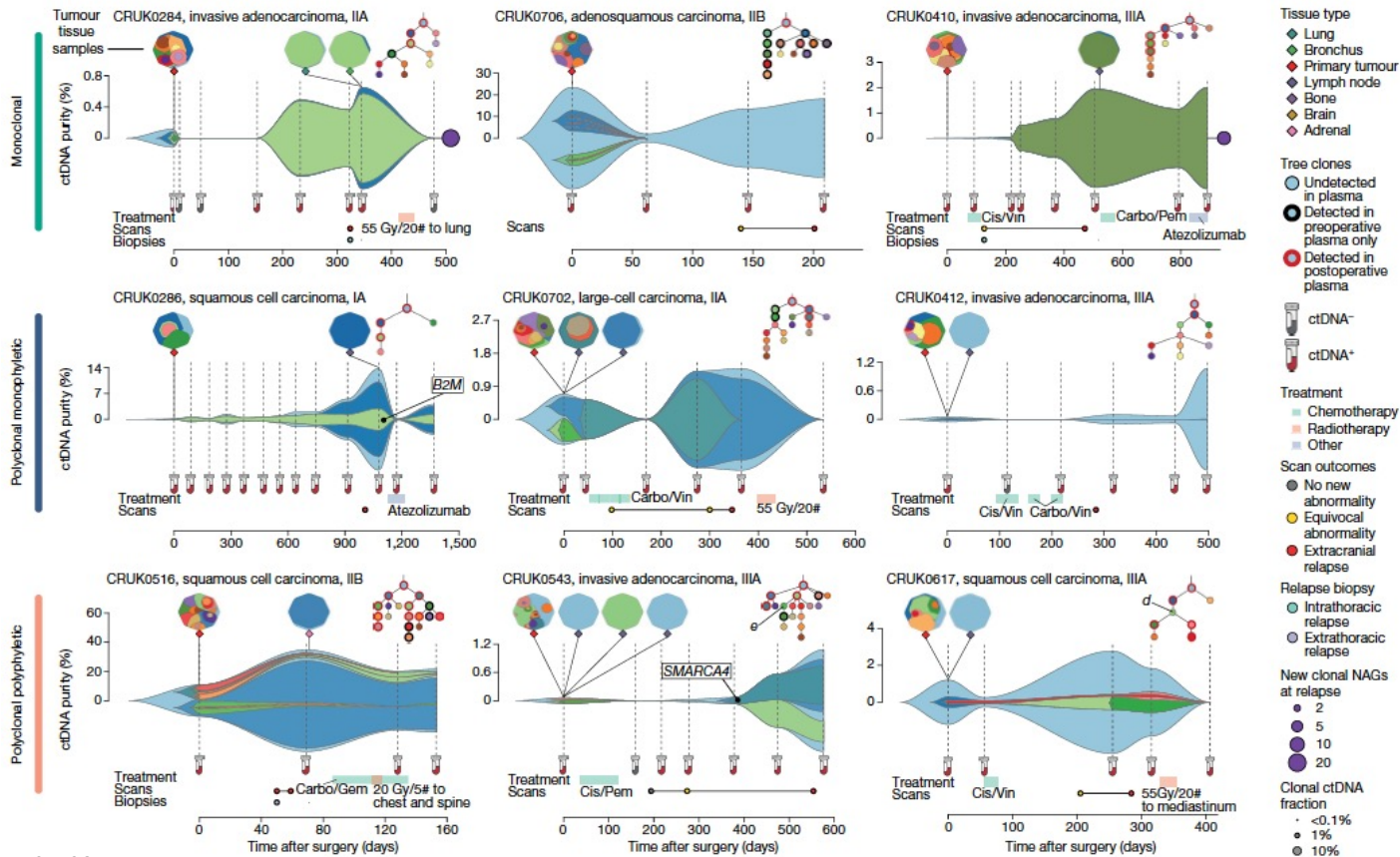
## Tumor-informed



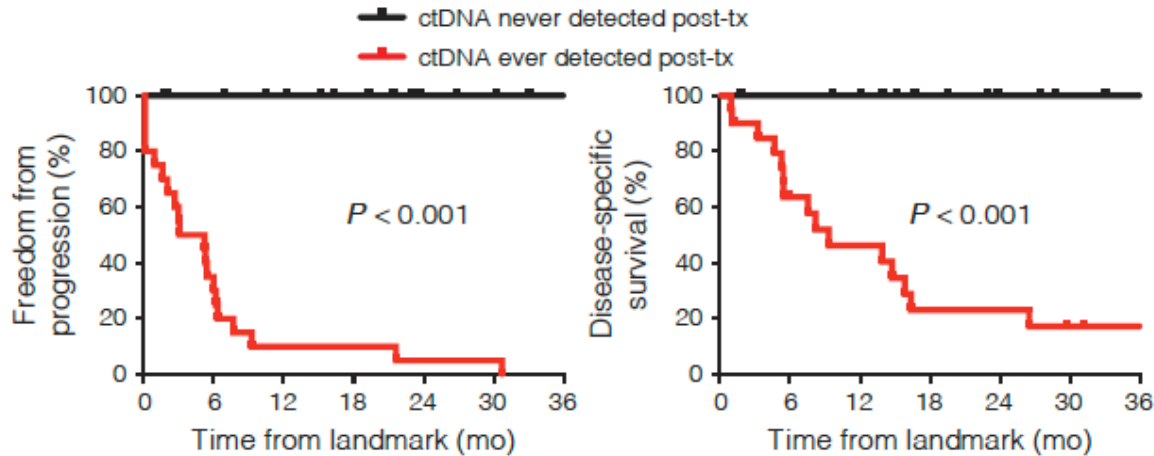
- Tracking multiple known mutations (bespoke or personalized)
- Requires tumor tissue, time, \$\$
- Limit of detection ~0.01%

# Longitudinal measurements of clonal evolution in the plasma from surgery to therapy and recurrence

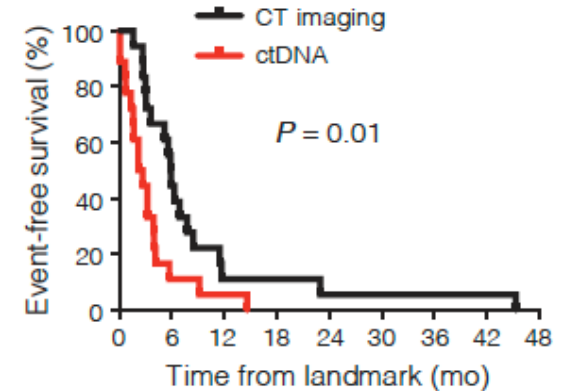
Depictions of longitudinal tumour evolution for examples of monoclonal, polyclonal monophyletic and polyclonal polyphyletic patterns.



# Application of ctDNA analysis for posttreatment surveillance in patients with localised lung cancer

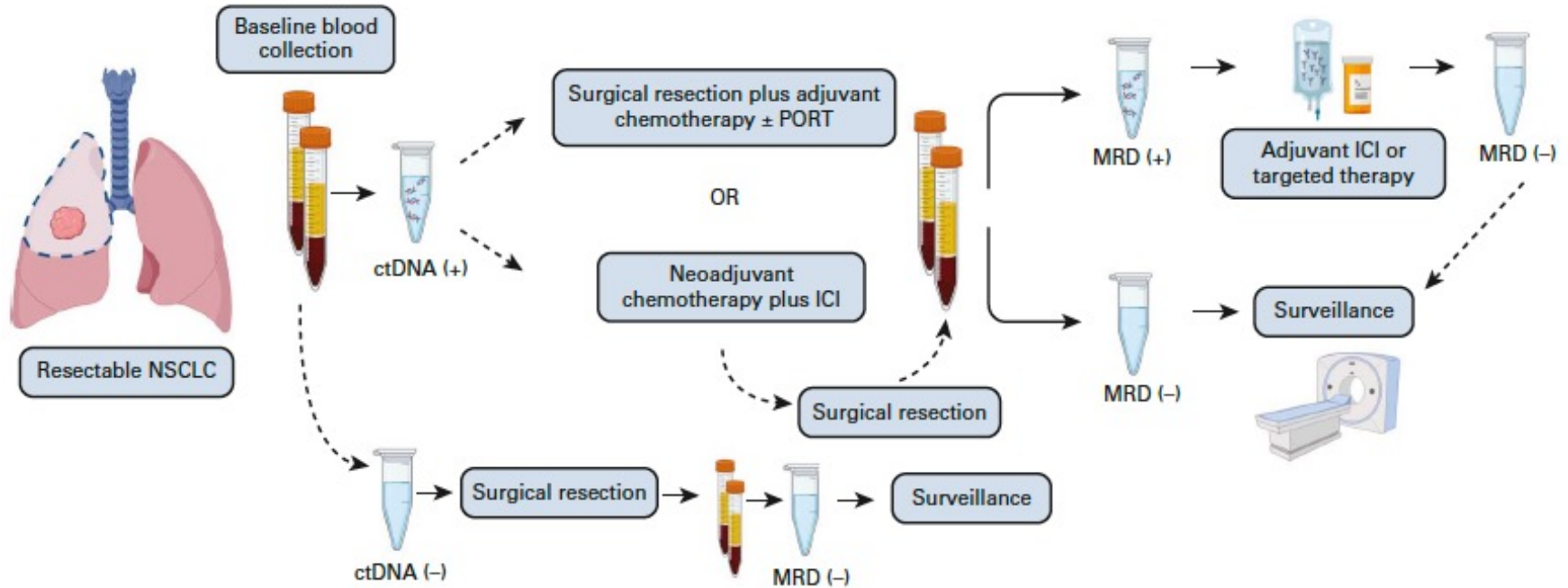


KM curves stratified by ctDNA detection status during posttreatment surveillance



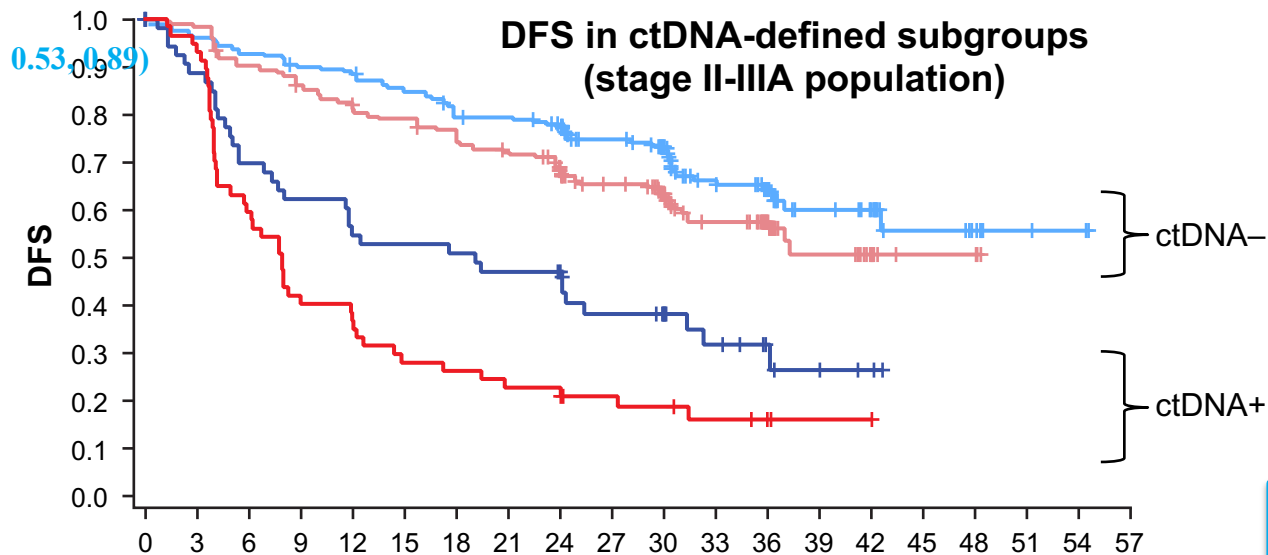
ctDNA detection and time to imaging progression

# Proposed clinical trial designs for early-stage NSCLC using ctDNA as a biomarker for treatment personalization



# ctDNA positivity was strongly prognostic, with DFS favouring atezo in both ctDNA+ and ctDNA- patients

In all ctDNA-evaluable stage II-IIIa patients, mDFS was NR (atezo) vs 31.4 months (BSC), with an HR of 0.69 (95% CI: 0.53, 0.89)

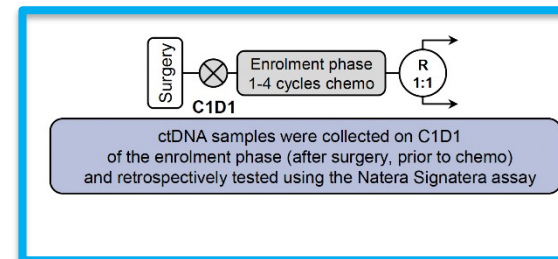


ctDNA-	Atezo (n=218)	BSC (n=204)
mDFS, mo	NR	NR
HR (95% CI)	0.72 (0.52, 1.00)	

ctDNA+	Atezo (n=53)	BSC (n=59)
mDFS, mo	19.1	7.9
HR (95% CI)	0.61 (0.39, 0.94)	

Plasma collection for ctDNA analysis

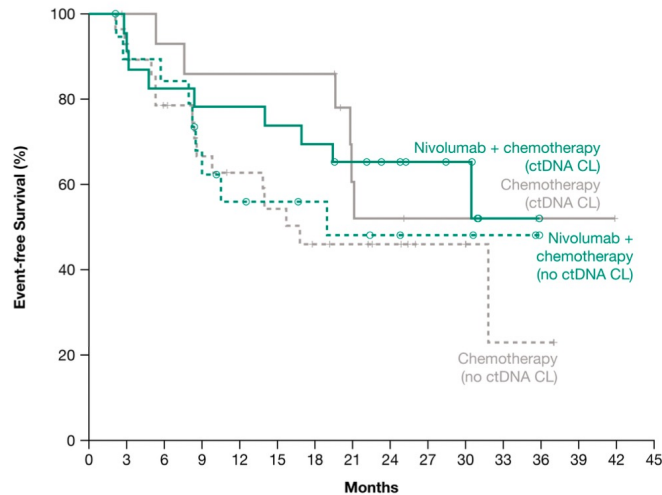


No. at risk	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45	48	51	54	57
Atezo, ctDNA-	218	206	199	192	189	180	170	166	151	131	112	73	58	33	24	12	8	3	2	0
Atezo, ctDNA+	53	47	37	33	29	28	27	25	23	17	14	10	6	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
BSC, ctDNA-	204	193	176	167	158	152	143	137	124	106	88	62	44	19	9	3	3	0	0	0
BSC, ctDNA+	59	53	34	24	21	16	15	13	13	9	8	6	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

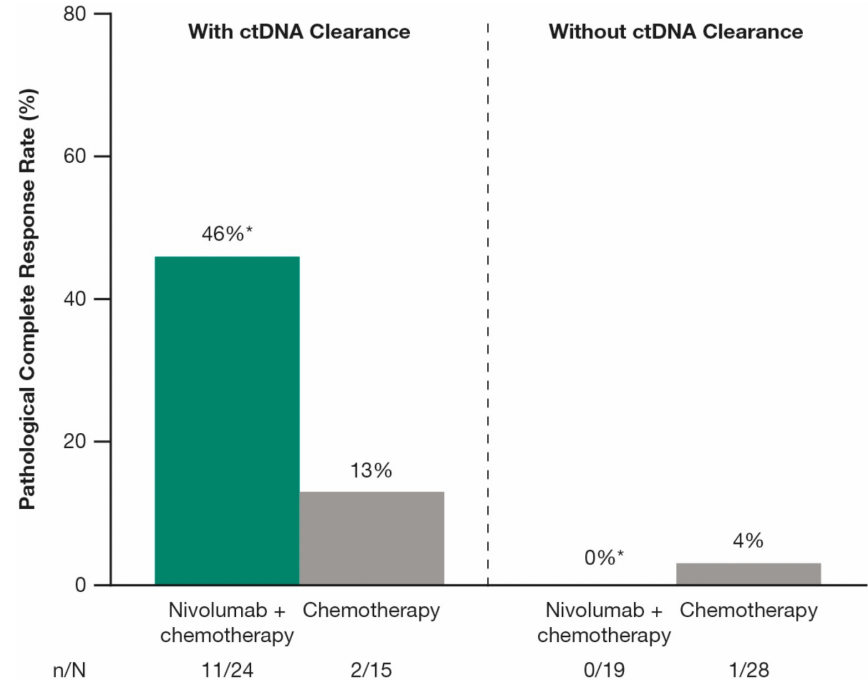
# Liquid Biopsy in Neoadjuvant IO + chemo combination

WES ctDNA in 89 pts

	Nivolumab + chemotherapy		Chemotherapy	
	ctDNA CL (n=24)	No ctDNA CL (n=19)	ctDNA CL (n=15)	No ctDNA CL (n=28)
<b>Median EFS, mo (95% CI)</b>	NR (16.8–NR)	18.9 (8.3–NR)	NR (19.6–NR)	16.8 (8.3–NR)
<b>HR (95% CI)</b>	0.60 (0.20–1.82)		0.63 (0.20–2.01)	



	No. at Risk															
	24	21	19	18	18	17	16	13	11	8	7	1	0	0	0	0
Nivolumab + chemotherapy (ctDNA CL)	24	21	19	18	18	17	16	13	11	8	7	1	0	0	0	0
Chemotherapy (ctDNA CL)	15	14	13	12	12	12	12	7	6	5	5	5	3	1	0	0
Nivolumab + chemotherapy (no ctDNA CL)	19	17	16	12	9	8	7	6	5	3	3	2	0	0	0	0
Chemotherapy (no ctDNA CL)	28	26	21	17	15	13	10	9	7	4	3	1	1	0	0	0



## Take Home Message

- **Liquid and tissue biopsy have a high concordance**
- **Liquid Biopsy is a great tool for real time monitoring in advance disease**
- **Liquid Biopsy is a perfect tool for MRD**
- **Tissue informed approach advantage , but also limitations**
- **Integrating liquid biopsy in clinical trials is a necessity**





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Madrid, Spain**



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Liquid Biopsy

19 - 21 November 2023 | Madrid, Spain

**Save the Date  
19-21, November  
2023**