Adjuvant treatment in colon cancer: new ideas



Stefania Kokkali

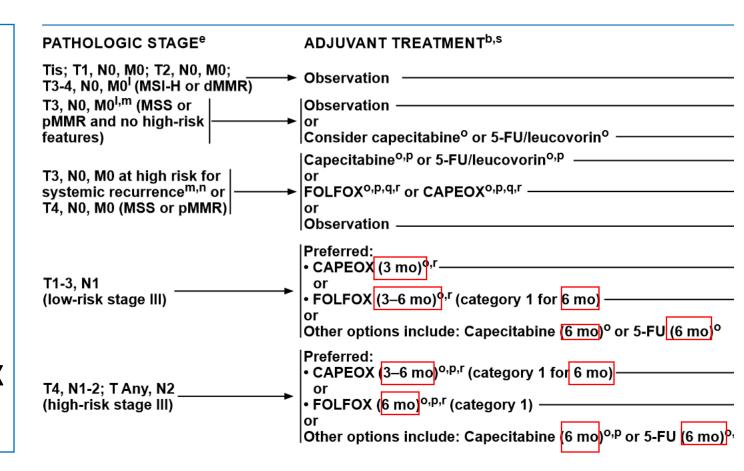
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Plan

- Introduction
- Better stratification of patients: biomarkers to guide adjuvant chemotherapy decision and confer prognostic information
- Which drugs to use in the adjuvant setting
- Duration of adjuvant chemotherapy

Current treatment recommendations

- <u>Stage I</u>: no adjuvant treatment
- Low-risk stage II: observation or 5-FU/LV or capecitabine
- High-risk stage II: observation or FOLFOX or CAPEOX or 5-FU/LV or capecitabine
- Low-risk stage III: CAPEOX or FOLFOX (or 5-FU/LV or capecitabine)
- High-risk stage III: CAPEOX or FOLFOX (or 5-FU/LV or capecitabine)



Risk factors

- Extramural vascular invasion, lymphatic invasion, perineural invasion
- Grade 3
- T4 stage/perforation
- Obstructive tumors
- Mucinous tumors
- <12 lymph nodes harvested</p>
- Tumor budding (foci of isoloated tumor cells at the invasive front): newly implemented factor
- (absence of MSI)

Biomarkers in early colon cancer

In which patients should I give adjuvant chemotherapy in stage II disease?

Heterogeneous prognosis in localized colon cancer

Stade UICC	Clasification TNM	Taux de survie à 5 ans (%)
Stade I	pT1N0	97,4
	pT2N0	96,8
Stade II		
IIA	pT3N0	87,5
пв	pT4aN0	79,6
IIC	pT4bN0	58.4
Stade III		
mA	pT1N1a	90,6
	pT1N1b	81
	pT1N2a	68,5
	pT2N1a	90,4
	pT2N1b	83,7
IIIB	pT1N2b	68.4
	pT2N2a	81,7
	pT2N2b	60,3
	pT3N1a	74,2
	pT3N1b	65,3
	pT3N2a	53,4
	pT4aN1a	67,6
	pT4aN1b	54
IIIC	pT3N2b	37,3
	pT4aN2a	40,9
	pT4aN2b	21,8
	pT4bN1a	38,5
	pT4bN1b	31,2
	pT4bN2a	23,3
	pT4bN2b	15,7

AJCC 7th Edition

Stage based

109 953 colon cancers

stage III>II (best prognosis)

Heterogeneity is present within the same stage

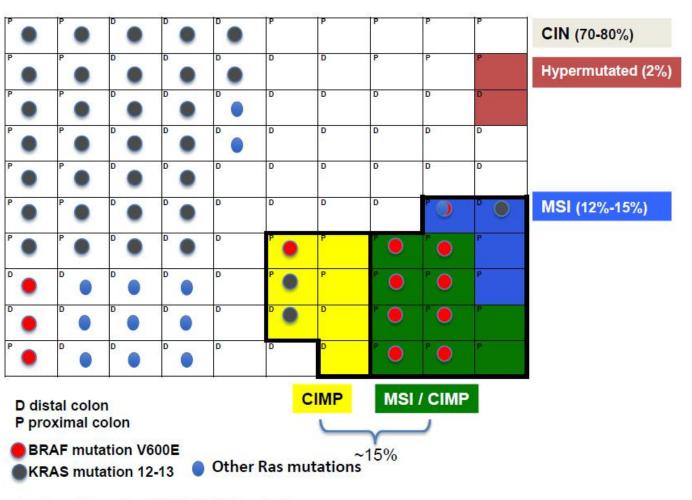
Need for other prognostic markers to better define the different patients populations and their therapeutic need

Colorectal Cancer Diversity

Diversity at the genomic level

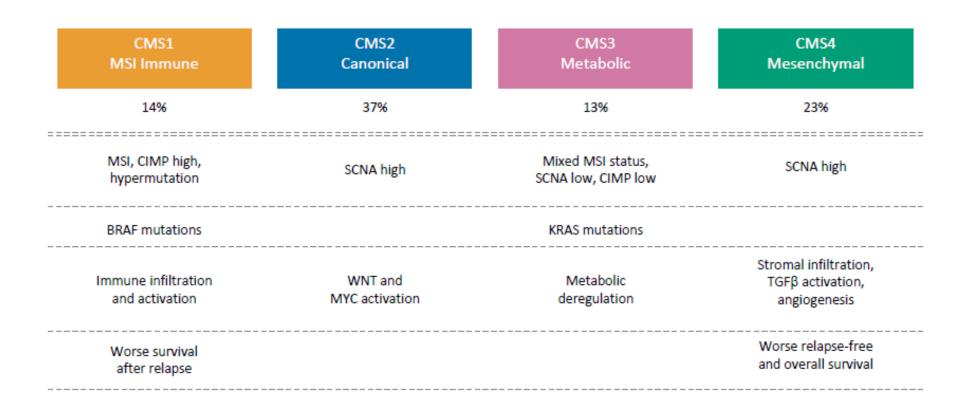
At least 4 distinct entities

- Microsatellite instable (MSI)
- Chromosomal instable (CIN)
- Hypermethylated (CIMP)
- Hypermutated



Barault et al. Cancer Res 2008;68:8541-46, Barault al. Int J cancer 2008:122:2255-59; & consortium colon CIT2

Predictive value? Role in the adjuvant setting?

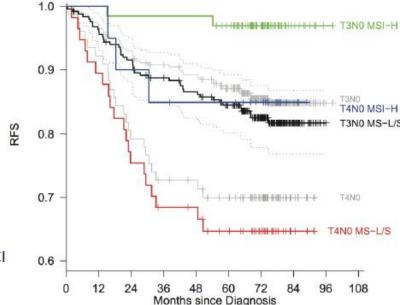


MSI-high (MMR-deficiency)

- Avoid chemotherapy with 5-FU in stage II colon cancer (no benefit, good prognosis)
- Stage III ?, oxaliplatin-based chemotherapy ?

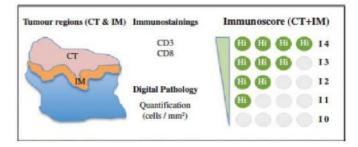
Stage II: MSI patients have low recurrence rates and good outcome without adjuvant treatment

→A further step towards personalized cancer care!

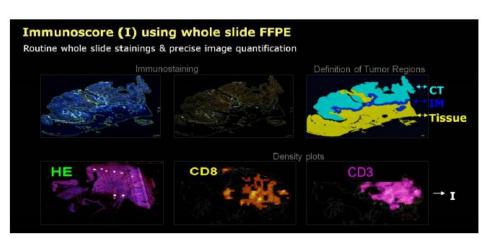


Immunoscore

Prognostic Lymphocite inflitrate score Immunoscore



CT: Tumor Center IM: Invasive Margin



Immunoscore is standardized, objective, quantitative

Article

Immunity

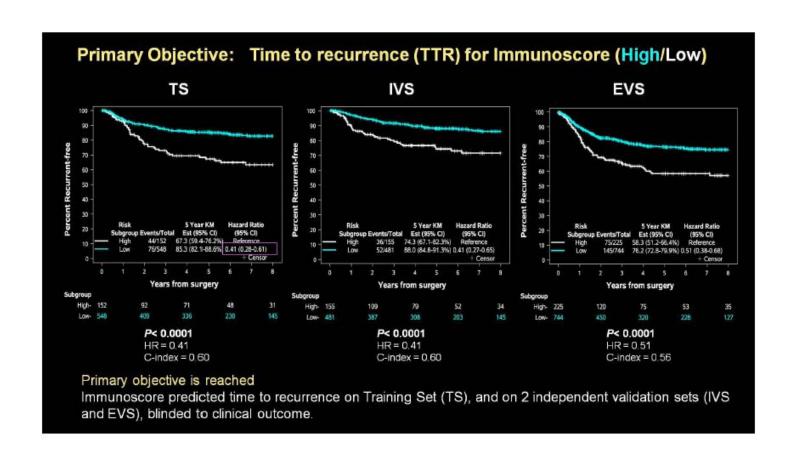
Integrative Analyses of Colorectal Cancer Show Immunoscore Is a Stronger Predictor of Patient Survival Than Microsatellite Instability

CANCER

The tumor microenvironment and Immunoscore are critical determinants of dissemination to distant metastasis

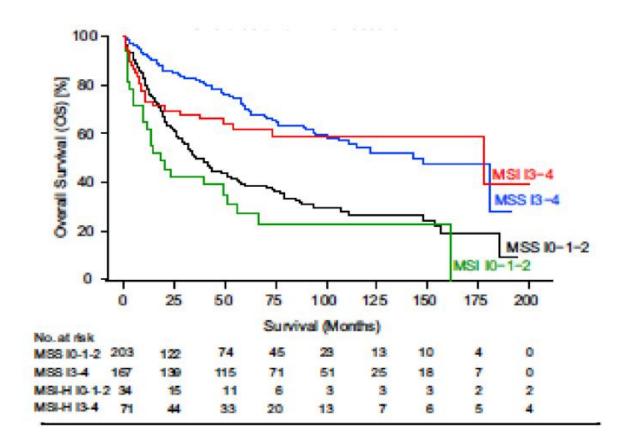
Bernhard Mlecnik, ^{1,2,3}* Gabriela Bindea, ^{1,2,3}* Amos Kirilovsky, ^{1,2,3}* Helen K. Angell, ^{1,2,3,4} Anna C. Obenauf, ⁵ Marie Tosolini, ^{1,2,3} Sarah E. Church, ^{1,2,3} Pauline Maby, ^{1,2,3} Angela Vasaturo, ^{1,2,3} Mihaela Angelova, ^{1,2,3} Tessa Fredriksen, ^{1,2,3} Stéphanie Mauger, ^{1,2,3} Maximilian Waldner, ⁶ Anne Berger, ⁷ Michael R. Speicher, ⁵ Franck Pagès, ^{1,2,3,8} Viia Valge-Archer, ⁹ Jérôme Galon ^{1,2,3†}

Immunoscore as a prognostic marker in stage II/III CC



MSI vs immunoscore status

- Subset of MSS tumors have high immunoscore and good prognosis
- Immunoscore is superior to MSI in predicting DFS



Genomic profiling

- Oncotype Dx
- Coloprint
- ColDX
- Colo Guide EX
- Onco Defender-CRC

Not available in the clinical practice, need validation..

Other biomarkers in the tumor

- BRAF V600E: independent prognostic factor in early stage colon cancer
- KRAS mutations: bad prognosis in stage III colon cancer (II?)
- PI3K mutation: predictive of benefit from aspirin

Liao, NEJM 2012; Domingo, JCO 2013

Popovici, BMC 2013; Gavin CCR 2012; Lochhead, JNCI 2013

Imamura, CCR 2012; Yoon, CCR 2014; Blons, Ann Oncol 2014; Hutchins, Jco 2011

Adjuvant aspirin treatment in PIK3CA mutated colon cancer patients Randomized double-blinded placebo-controlled phase III trial

(EORTC-SAKK 41/13; NCT02301286)

Stage II / III

- Ressected
- PIK3CA mut

Placebo

Aspirin is independent from administration of adjuvant chemotherapy

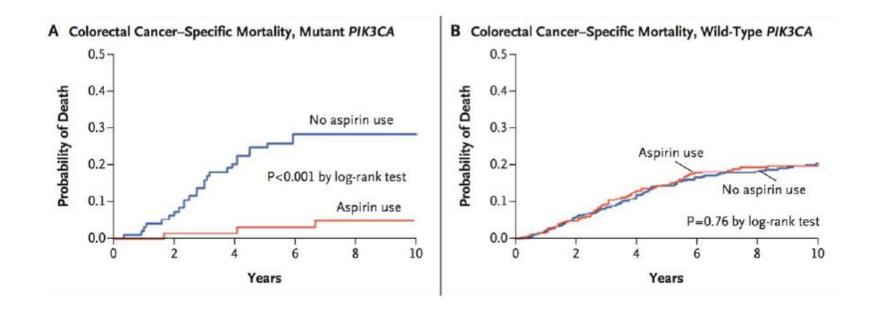
Primary Endpoint: **DFS**

Secondary Endpoints: Time-to-recurrence (TTR), OS, cancer specific survival (CSS), tolerability

Results by 2022

PIK3CA mutations

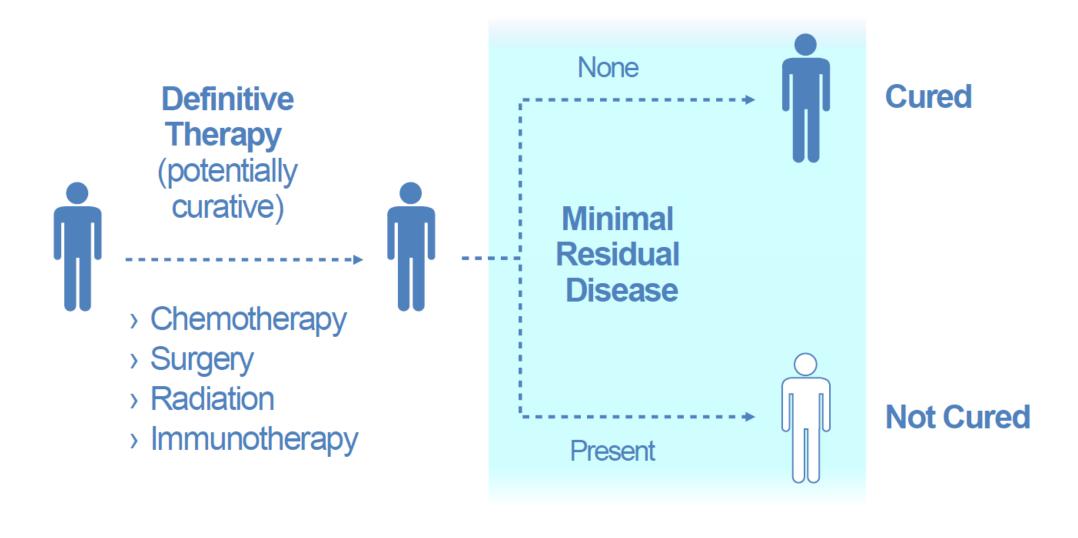
- Protective effect of regular use of aspirin in colon cancer
- Inhibition of COX2 by aspirin regulates PI3K signaling activity
- VICTOR trial (stage II-III) and prospective cohort (stage I-IV): Regular use of lowdose aspirin after diagnosis of CC decreased risk of tumor relapse in patients with PIK3CA mutated early-stage tumors, but not in PIK3CA wild-type



Prognostic biomarkers in the blood, not used in clinical practice

- CTCs preoperatively (association with OS, DFS) > postoperatively
- ct-DNA (IDEA trial): bad prognosis (mainly in the advanced setting)
- miRNAs: miR-21 associated with shorter DFS, miR-320e associated with recurrence, other .. (miR-20a-5p, miR103a-3p, miR-106a-5p...)

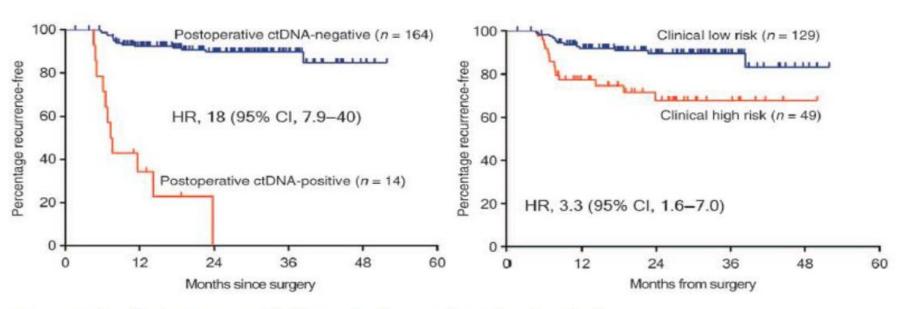
Minimal Residual Disease (MRD) Defined



ctDNA > prognostic markers > TNM?

- in patients plasma, tumor specific mutations are present as circulating tumor DNA, ctDNA
- Patients with colon cancer who are positive for ctDNA (still) after resection, have a very unfavourable prognosis
- In contrast, the prognosis of postoperatively ctDNA negative patients is very good

ctDNA and outcomes

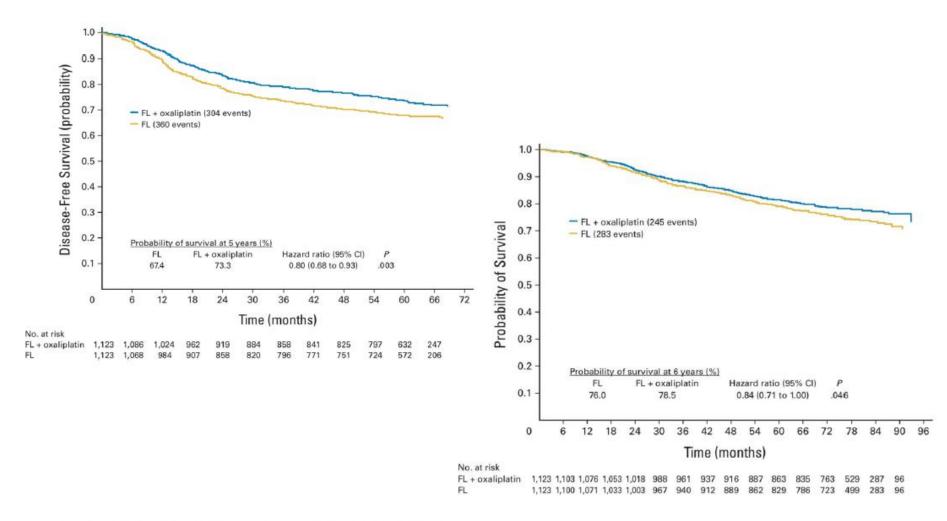


In patients with colon cancer stage II, plasma was sampled few weeks after resection and analyzed for the presence of mutations that were known from the mutational analysis of the resection specimen of the primary tumor. The Kaplan Meier curves demonstrate the survival of patients who did no receive chemotherapy.

Which drugs to use in the adjuvant setting

Adjuvant chemotherapy for stage III Colon Cancer

Fluoropyrimidine and oxaliplatin combination is the standard of care



Fluoropyrimidines and oxaliplatin

(X-ACT, MOSAIC, NSABP C07, XELOXA)

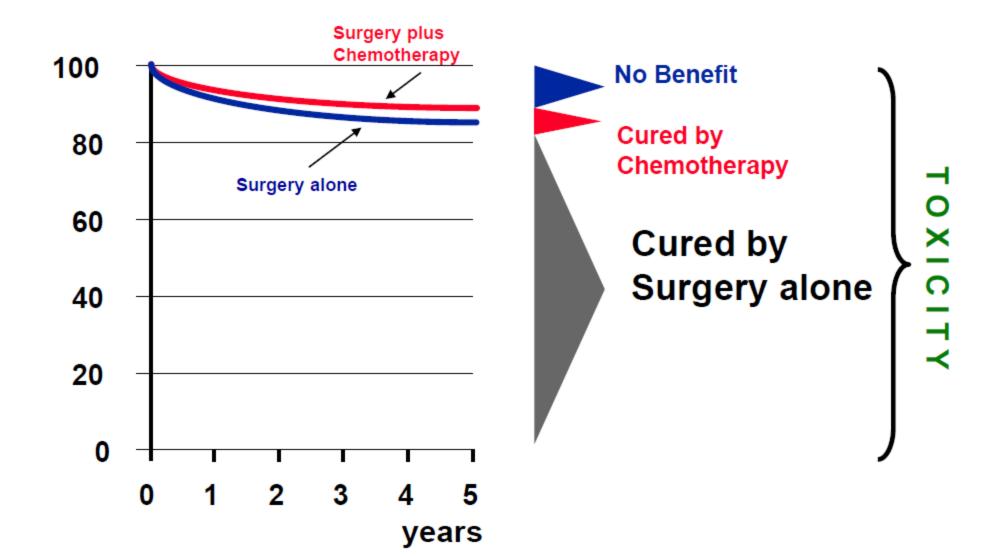
Benefit in **stage III** patients:

- •Fluoropyrimidines risk of death reduction: 10-15%
- •OXA addition to risk of death reduction: 4-6%
- Both FOLFOX and XELOX (CAPOX) acceptable
- Neurological toxicity is an issue

Findings in stage II

- Benefit of monotherapy
 - 3-4% in 5 yr DFS and 5% in 8 yr OS
 - Clinically meaningful?
- Additional benefit of Oxaliplatin
 - No benefit in overall survival
 - ~8% DFS in high risk stage II
- Need to improve tools (molecular biology, immuno profile) to inform decision
- Every decision must be discussed and shared with the patient

Stage II colon cancer

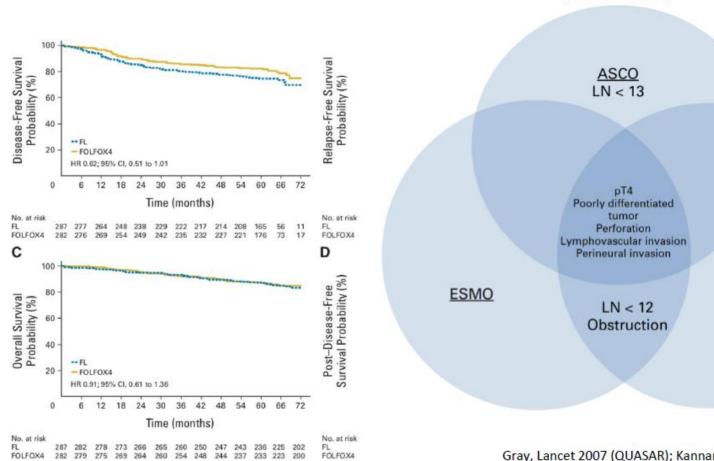


Adjuvant chemotherapy for stage II Colon Cancer

Benefit remains uncertain

Recommendation: Stage II with consensus definition for clinico-pathological high-risk

features / discuss with patient / 5FU alone



Gray, Lancet 2007 (QUASAR); Kannarkatt, J Oncol Pract 2017; O'Connor, JCO 2011; Tournigand, JCO 2012 (MOSAIC)

NCCN

Close,

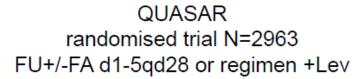
indeterminate,

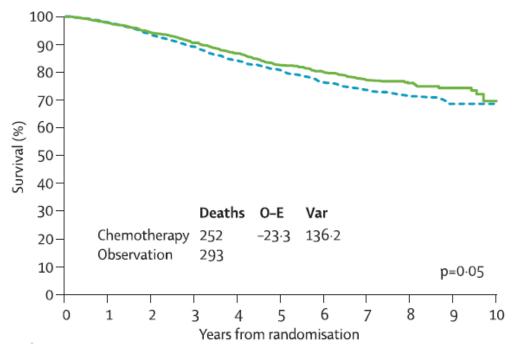
or positive

margins

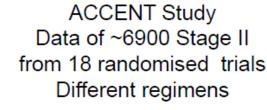
Guidelines

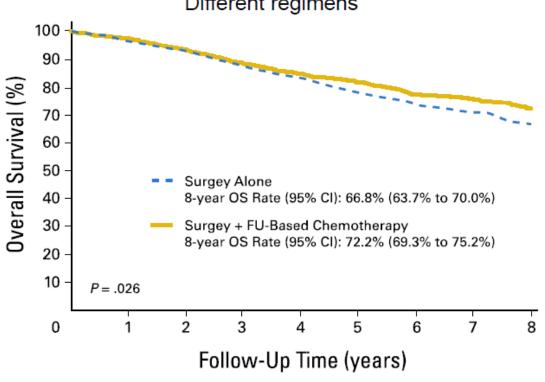
Adjuvant Therapy in Stage II (FU/FA)





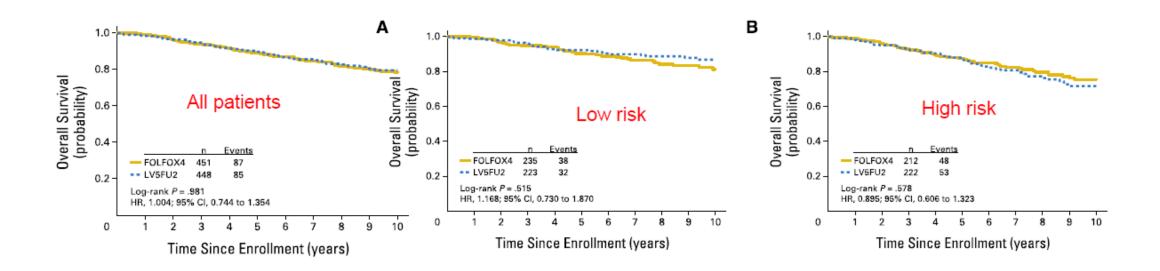
Estimated absolute gain @ 5 years ~3%





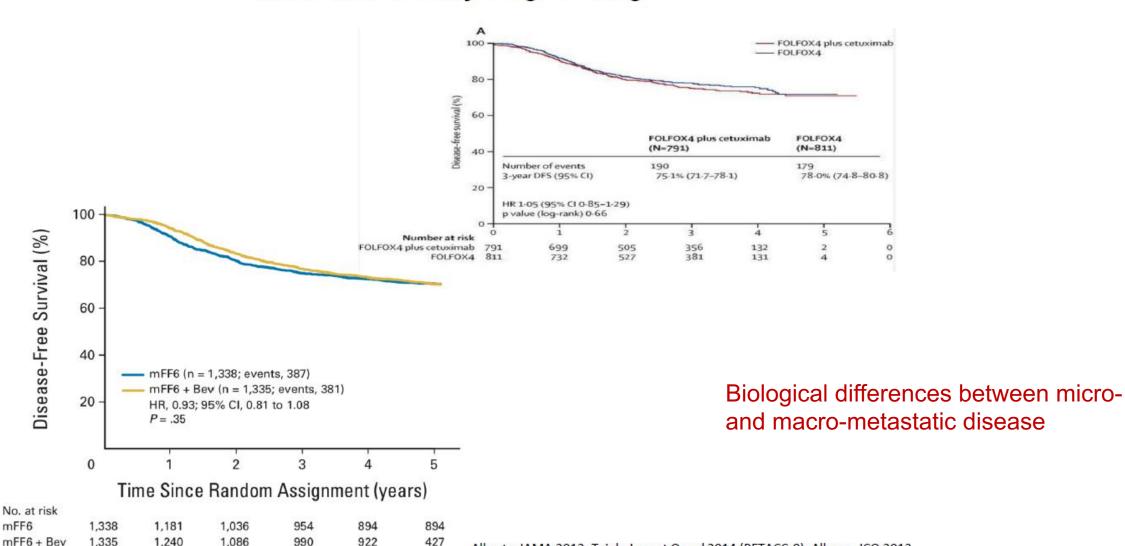
Estimated absolute gain @ 8 years ~5%

Updated MOSAIK Data Low Risk & High Risk Stage II FOLFOX vs. FU/LV



		5 y	DFS	6 y	os
	N Pat	HR P-value		HR	P-value
high risk	569	0.72 0.51-1.01	.062	0.91 0.6697	.648
low risk	330	1.36 0.76-2.45	1.01	1.36 0.67-2.5	.399

Failure to translate benefit from cetuximab or bevacizumab from metastatic to early-stage setting



Alberts, JAMA 2012; Taieb, Lancet Oncol 2014 (PETACC-8); Allegra, JCO 2013 (NSABP-C08); DeGramont, Lancet Oncol 2012 (AVANT); Midgley, Ann Oncol 2014 (QUASAR2)

Duration of adjuvant treatment

Stage III

Evolution of duration

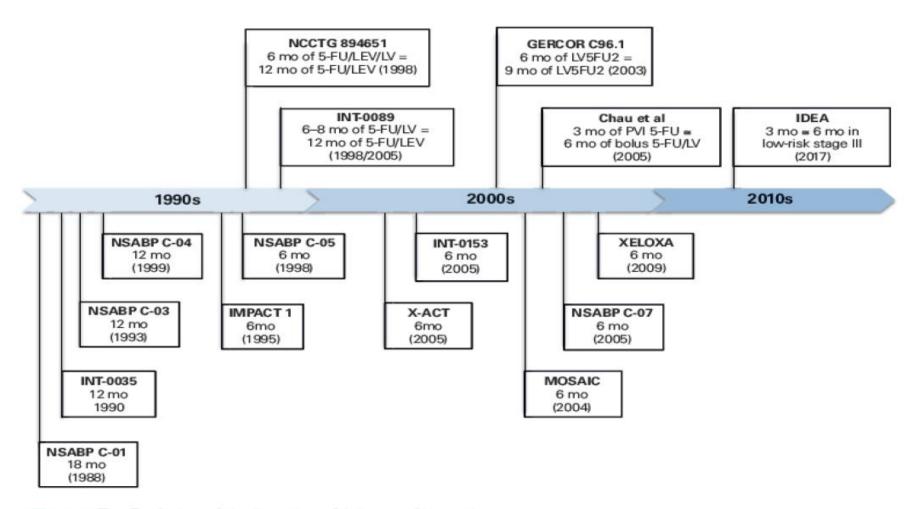
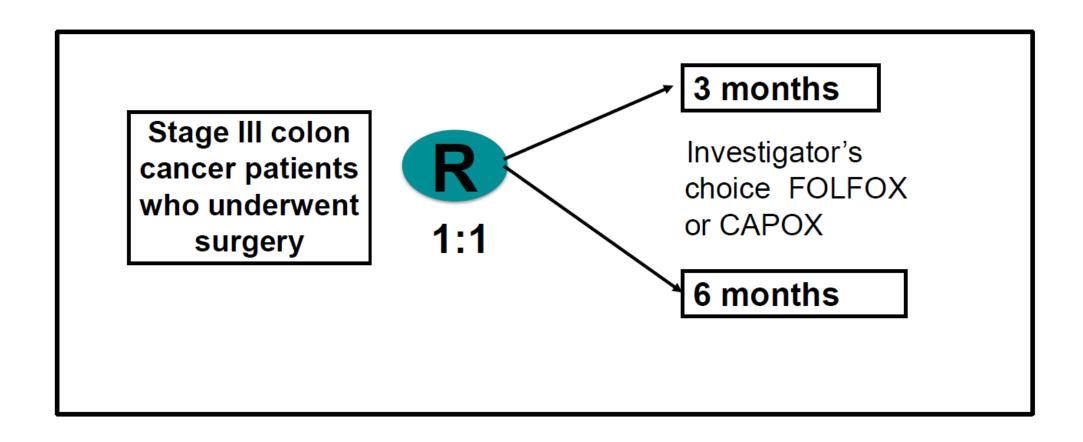


Figure. The Evolution of the Duration of Adjuvant Chemotherapy.

5-FU = fluorouracil; IDEA = International Duration Evaluation of Adjuvant; LEV = leucovorin; LV5FU2 = infusional 5-FU/LV; NCCTG = North Central Cancer Treatment Group; NSABP = National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project; PVI = protracted venous infusion; X-ACT = Xeloda in Adjuvant Colon Cancer Therapy.

Basic Scheme for IDEA



IDEA trial (International Duration Evaluation of Adjuvant Chemotherapy)

TABLE 1. Trials in the IDEA Collaboration

Trial	Regimen(s)	Patients With Stage II Colon Cancer	Patients With Stage III Colon Cancer	Enrolling Country
TOSCA (Three or Six Colon Adjuvant Trial)	CAPOX or FOLFOX4	1,268	2,402	Italy
SCOT (Short Course Oncology Therapy)	CAPOX or mFOLFOX6	1,078	3,983	United Kingdom, Denmark, Spain, Australia, Sweden, New Zealand
IDEA France	CAPOX or mFOLFOX6	N/A	2,010	France
CALGB/SWOG 80702	mFOLFOX6	N/A	2,440	United States, Canada
HORG (Haematology-Oncology Research Group)	CAPOX or FOLFOX4	413	708	Greece
ACHIEVE (Adjuvant Chemotherapy for Colon Cancer With High Evidence)	CAPOX or mFOLFOX6	514	1,291	Japan
Total patients		3,273	12,834	

Patient Characteristics by Study

Patient	TOSCA	SCOT	IDEA France	C80702	HORG	ACHIEVE
Characteristics	(N=2402)	(N=3983)	(N=2010)	(N=2440)	(N=708)	(N=1291)
Median Age, years	64	65	64	61	67	66
ECOG PS*						
0	95%	71%	74%	71%	82%	96%
1	5%	29%	25%	28%	18%	4%
T Stage						
T1-2	13%	12%	12%	18%	8%	15%
T3	75%	59%	70%	67%	78%	57%
T4	12%	29%	18%	15%	14%	28%
N Stage						
N1	73%	69%	75%	73%	67%	74%
N2	27%	31%	25%	27%	33%	26%
Median follow-up	62	37	51	35	48	37
time, m						

Patient Characteristics by Duration and Regimen

	FOL	FOX	CAPOX		
Patient characteristics	3m Arm	6m Arm	3m Arm	6m Arm	
Patient characteristics	(N=3870)	(N=3893)	(N=2554)	(N=2517)	
Median Age, years	64	64	65	65	
ECOG PS*					
0	77%	77%	82%	81%	
1	22%	22%	18%	19%	
T Stage					
T1-2	13%	14%	13%	12%	
Т3	68%	67%	63%	63%	
T4	19%	19%	24%	25%	
N Stage					
N1	72%	73%	71%	71%	
N2	28%	27%	29%	շ §‰et al /	

^{*1%} of PS 2 in FOLFOX treated patients

Adverse Events

Advance France		FOLFOX		CAPOX			
Adverse Events	3m Arm 6m Arm p-value ¹		3m Arm 6m Arm		p-value ¹		
Overall							
G2	32%	32%	<.0001	41%	48%	<.0001	
G3-4	38%	57%		24%	37%		
Neurotoxicity							
G2	14%	32%	<.0001	12%	36%	<.0001	
G3-4	3%	16%		3%	9%		
Diarrhea							
G2	11%	13%	<.0001	10%	13%	0.0117	
G3-4	5%	7%		7%	9%		

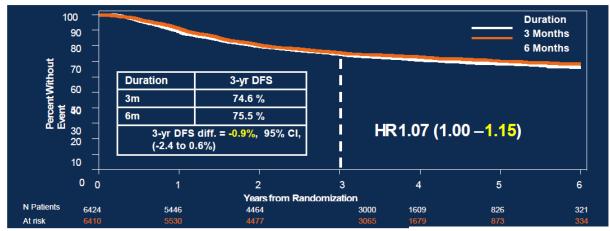
¹Chi-squared test for trend; Total of 19 grade 5 events; Adverse events only collected on first 617 patients enrolled to SCOT trial

3 y.-DFS

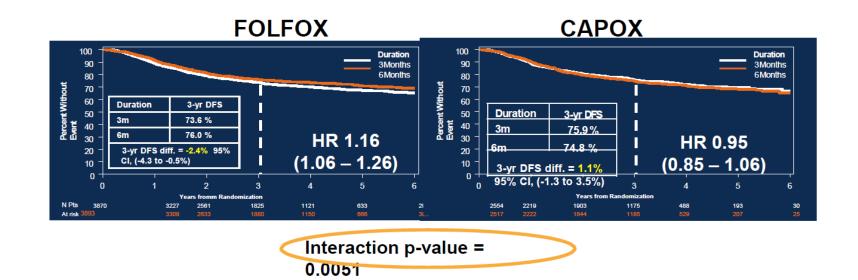
TABLE 2. Disease-Free Survival for Patients With Stage III Disease by Regimen and T and N Stage-Based Risk Groups

FOLFOX/CAPOX Combined			FOLFOX Treated			CAPOX Treated			
Study Group	3 Months, %	6 Months, %	HR (95% CI)	3 Months, %	6 Months, %	HR (95% CI)	3 Months, %	6 Months, %	HR (95% CI)
Overall IDEA stage III cohort	74.6	75.5	1.07 (1.00–1.15)	73.6	76.0	1.16 (1.06–1.26)	75.9	74.8	0.95 (0.85–1.06)*
Low-risk subgroup (T1-T3, N1)	83.1	83.3	1.01 (0.90–1.12)*	81.9	83.5	1.10 (0.96–1.26)	85.0	83.1	0.85 (0.71–1.01)*
High-risk subgroup (T4, N2)	62.7	64.4	1.12 (1.03–1.23)	61.5	64.7	1.20 (1.07–1.35)	64.1	64.0	1.02 (0.89–1.17)

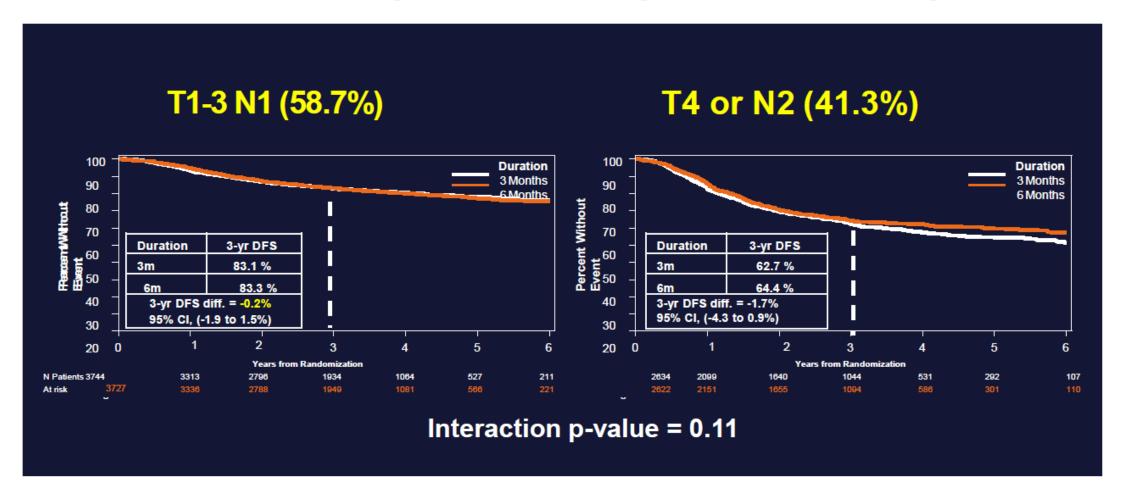
Primary DFS Analysis (mITT)



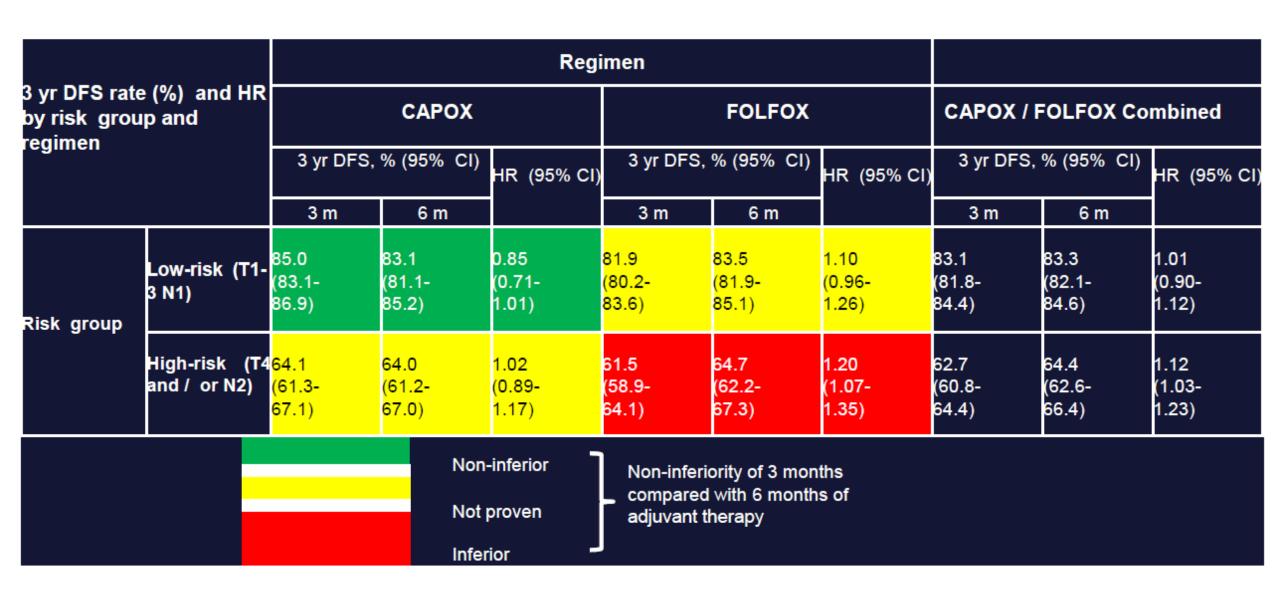
DFS Comparison by Regimen



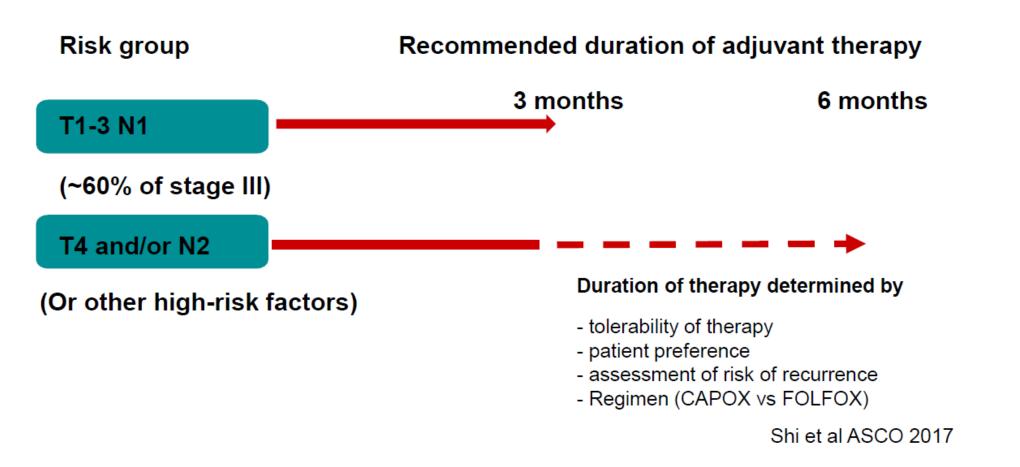
DFS Comparison by Risk Groups



IDEA findings in one slide



IDEA Clinical Consensus: Risk-based approach to adjuvant chemotherapy in stage III colon cancer



Duration of adjuvant treatment

Stage II

IDEA in stage II colon cancer

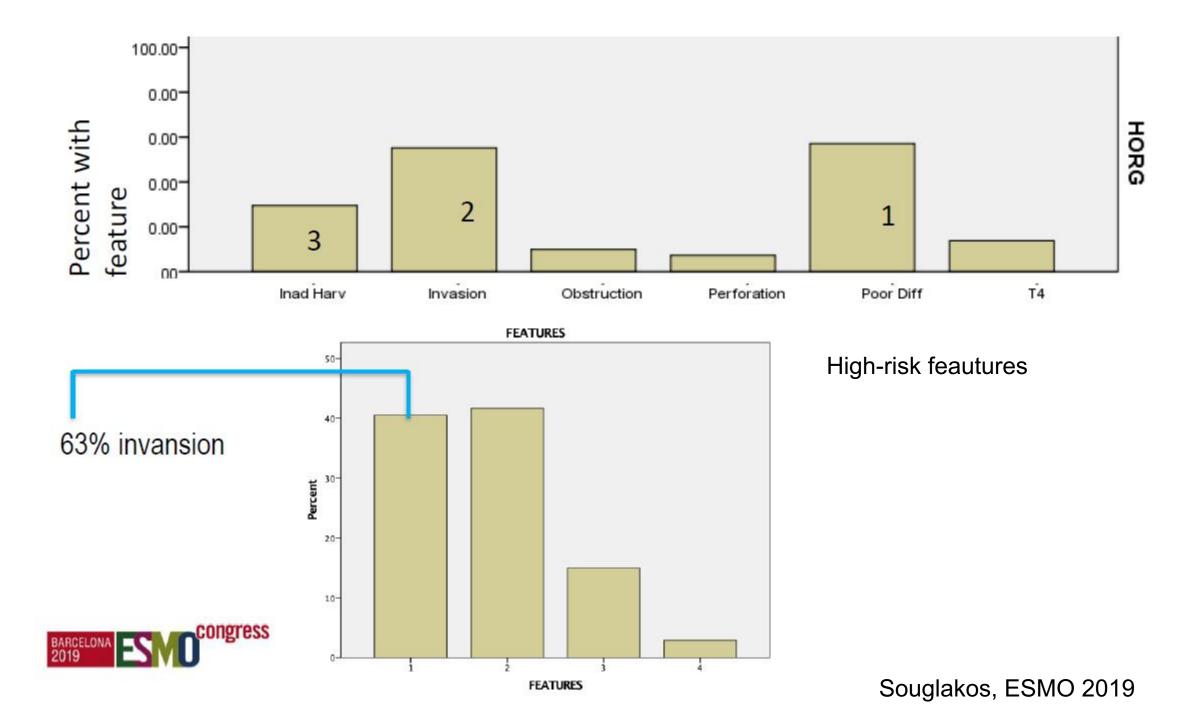
- Prospective pooled analysis of 4 R trials investigating the duration of adjuvant treatment in patients with high-risk stage II disease
- N=3272 (1254 FOLFOX, 2019 CAPEOX)
- mF.U. 60.2 months: 5y-DFS 80.7% (3 m. treatment) v. 84% (6 m. treatment)
- Overall population HR=1.18 (3 v. 6 months)
- CAPEOX HR=1.02, FOLFOX HR=1.42
- 3 months of CAPEOX are **non inferior** to 6 months, especially in the lower-risk group
- 3 months of FOLFOX are inferior to 6 months

IDEA collaboration for HR stage II:

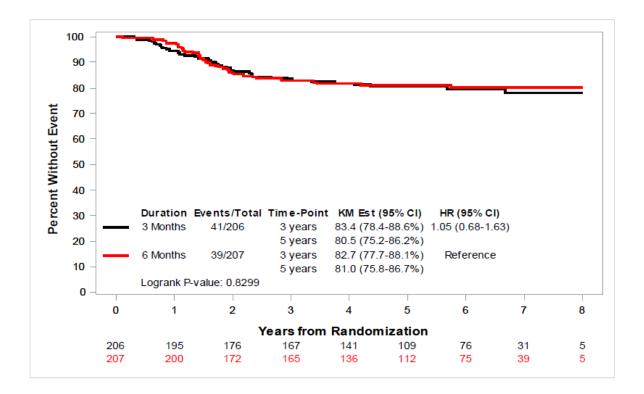
HORG TRIAL

Patients' Characteristics

	FOLFOX			CAPOX			
	3 Months	6 Months	Total	3 Months	6 Months	Total	
Patient characteristics	(N=48)	(N=49)	(N=97)	(N=158)	(N=158)	(N=316)	
Age, years							
Median (Range)	70.0 (40, 80)	64.0 (24, 80)	67.0 (24, 80)	66.0 (31, 81)	65.0 (36, 82)	65.0 (31, 82)	
Gender, n (%)							
Male	20 (41.7%)	26 (53.1%)	46 (47.4%)	87 (55.1%)	94 (59.5%)	181 (57.3%)	
Female	28 (58.3%)	23 (46.9%)	51 (52.6%)	71 (44.9%)	64 (40.5%)	135 (42.7%)	
ECOG Performance Status, n (%)							
0	32 (66.7%)	46 (93.9%)	78 (80.4%)	135 (86.0%)	142 (89.9%)	277 (87.9%)	
1	16 (33.3%)	3 (6.1%)	19 (19.6%)	22 (14.0%)	15 (9.5%)	37 (11.7%)	
2	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)	1 (0.3%)	
T Stage, n (%)							
Т3	38 (79.2%)	40 (81.6%)	78 (80.4%)	139 (88.0%)	139 (88.0%)	278 (88.0%)	
T4	10 (20.8%)	9 (18.4%)	19 (19.6%)	19 (12.0%)	19 (12.0%)	38 (12.0%)	
Number of Lymph Nodes Examined					,		
Mean (SD)	18.0 (11.83)	20.9 (12.13)	19.5 (12.01)	18.6 (11.61)	19.8 (13.51)	19.2 (12.59)	
Median (Range)	14.5 (3, 59)	18.0 (2, 49)	17.0 (2, 59)	16.0 (3, 79)	17.0 (2, 84)	16.0 (2, 84)	

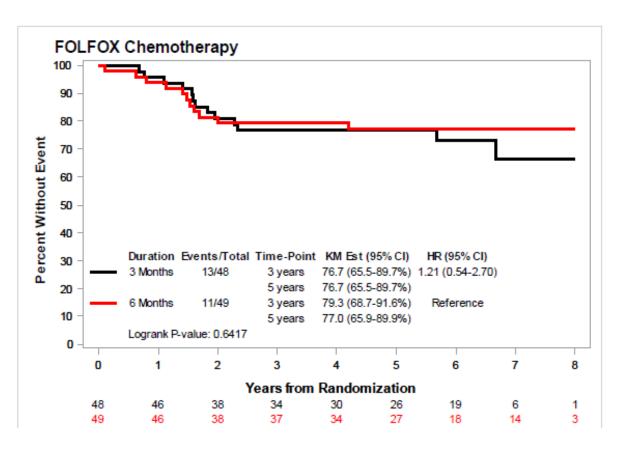


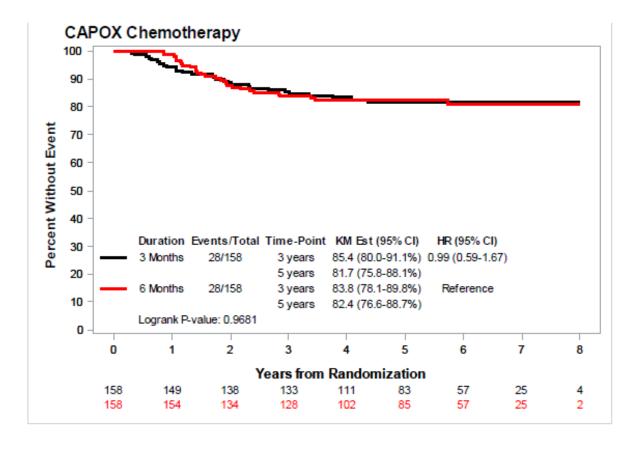
	3M (%)	6M (%)	<i>p</i> -value				
Residual Neuropathy at last follow-up visit							
2	1.4	6	0.001				
3	0.3	1.5	0.001				



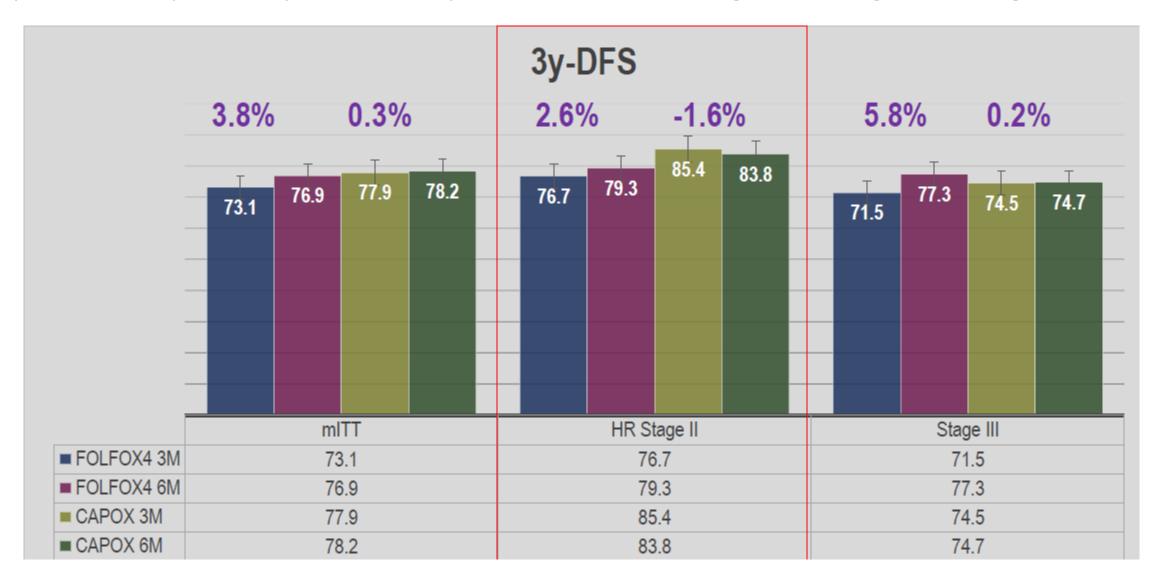
DFS at 3 and 5 years

DFS according to regimen





Exploratory analysis of 3 y-DFS according to stage & regimen



ACHIEVE-2 > japanese trial of stage 2, high-risk colon within IDEA

- No interaction observed between regimen and duration (but low number with FOLFOX)
- For patients with T4 tumors, 3 months → worse outcome
- For patients with T3 tumors, similar results
- Significant reduction of neuropathy with 3 months



Original Investigation | Oncology

Association Between Adjuvant Chemotherapy Duration and Survival Among Patients With Stage II and III Colon Cancer A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Devon J. Boyne, MSc; Colleen A. Cuthbert, PhD, RN, NP; Dylan E. O'Sullivan, MSc; Tolulope T. Sajobi, PhD; Robert J. Hilsden, MD, PhD, FRCPC; Christine M. Friedenreich, PhD; Winson Y. Cheung, MD, MPH, FRCPC; Darren R. Brenner, PhD

Figure 2. Meta-analysis of the Estimated Hazard of Death Among Patients With Stage III Colon Cancer Treated With 6 Months of Adjuvant Chemotherapy Relative to Those Who Received 3 Months of Adjuvant Chemotherapy

22 studies, N=43.671 omit stage II (factor of heterogeneity)

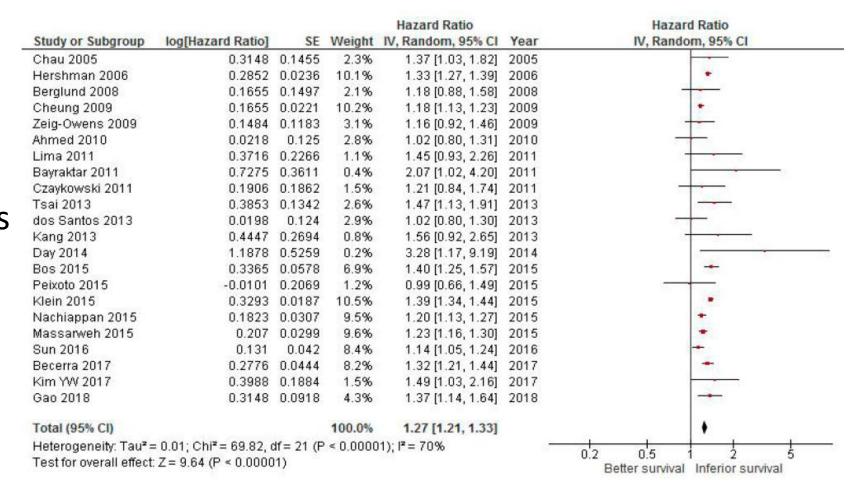
Monotherapy: 6 m. > 3 m.

Combination: equivalent

Source	Sample Size No.	Treatment Regimens	HR (95% CI)	Favors Favors 6 mo 3 mo	
Overall survival: included combination therapy					
van Erning et al, ⁴⁵ 2017	161	CAPOX	0.85 (0.51-1.43)		
Tsai, ⁴⁴ 2016	213	FOLFOX	0.52 (0.28-0.97)	-	
Kumar, 34 2015	616	FOLFOX	1.07 (0.71-1.62)		
Kim, ³² 2014	268	ALL	0.64 (0.32-1.27)		
Random-effects model: $I^2 = 27.7\%$; $\tau^2 = 0.03$; $P = .25$			0.80 (0.58-1.09)	-	
Overall survival: monotherapy only				•	
van Erning et al, ⁴⁵ 2017	191	Capecitabine monotherapy	0.50 (0.28-0.90)		
Chapuis, ²⁶ 2009	104	5-Fluorouracil	0.49 (0.26-0.94)		
Morris, 36 2007	416	5-Fluorouracil	0.50 (0.38-0.68)	-	
Neugut, ³⁷ 2006	1579	5-Fluorouracil	0.64 (0.54-0.75)	-	
Random-effects model: $I^2 = 0\%$; $\tau^2 = 0$; $P = .46$			0.59 (0.52-0.68)	♦	
Disease-free survival: included combination therapy					
IDEA, 1 2018 collaboration	10395	CAPOX	1.05 (0.93-1.19)	<u> </u>	
van Erning et al, ⁴⁵ 2017	161	CAPOX	0.70 (0.42-1.18)		
CAPOX only ($I^2 = 55.1\%$; $\tau^2 = 0.05$; $P = .14$)			0.93 (0.65-1.34)		
IDEA, 1 2018 collaboration	10395	FOLFOX	0.90 (0.82-0.99)	Ě	
Tsai, ⁴⁴ 2016	213	FOLFOX	0.57 (0.33-0.99)		
Kumar, 34 2015	616	FOLFOX	1.16 (0.82-1.64)	_	
FOLFOX only ($I^2 = 57.5\%$; $\tau^2 = 0.03$; $P = .10$)			0.90 (0.69-1.18)	-	
Random-effects model: $I^2 = 58.2\%$; $\tau^2 = 0.01$; $P = .05$			0.94 (0.80-1.09)	-	
Disease-free survival: monotherapy only					
van Erning et al, ⁴⁵ 2017	191	Capecitabine monotherapy	0.48 (0.26-0.90)		
					т.
				0.1 1 HR (95% CI)	1

Timing of adjuvant chemotherapy

- Classically within 6-8 weeks post-surgery
- Meta-analysis to assess the effect of delay on survival (OS)

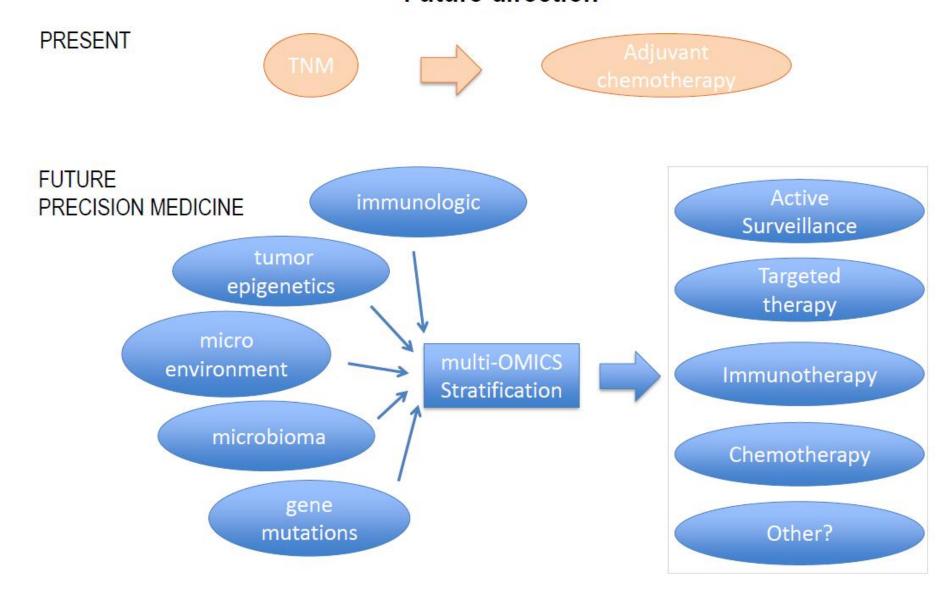


Conclusions

- In high risk stage II colon cancer there is some evidence for adjuvant chemotherapy
- Benefit from chemotherapy in stage II is limited in a small and undefined group (unknown if it is the group with poor prognostic factors) → need for **predictive** biomarkers
- Biological collections from randomized controlled trials have dramatically improved our knowledge on early colon cancer, but no valid test/biomarker in clinical practice yet
- When CAPEOX used in the adjuvant setting, it can be given for 3 months instead of 6 months (especially in low-risk stage III disease)

future

Adjuvant therapy in stage II/III colon cancer Future direction



Thank you very much for your attention.