



# BIOPSIA LIQUIDA E GENETICA

## Antonio Russo

**CUR.A.R.T.E.**  
ALIMENTAZIONE, RICERCA, TERAPIA, EMOZIONE

Convegno di Fondazione IncontraDonna | PRIMA EDIZIONE

**ROMA, 14 | 06 | 2023**  
BOSCOLO CIRCO MASSIMO

FONDAZIONE  
*Incontra*  
**Donna**  
OCUPIAMOCI DI SALUTE

*Con il contributo non condizionante di:*

**FUJIFILM**



# CURA.R.T.E.

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**A.O.U.P. "P. Giaccone"**  
**Dipartimento di Discipline Chirurgiche,  
Oncologiche e Stomatologiche**  
**UOC di Oncologia Medica**  
**(Dir.: Prof. Antonio Russo)**



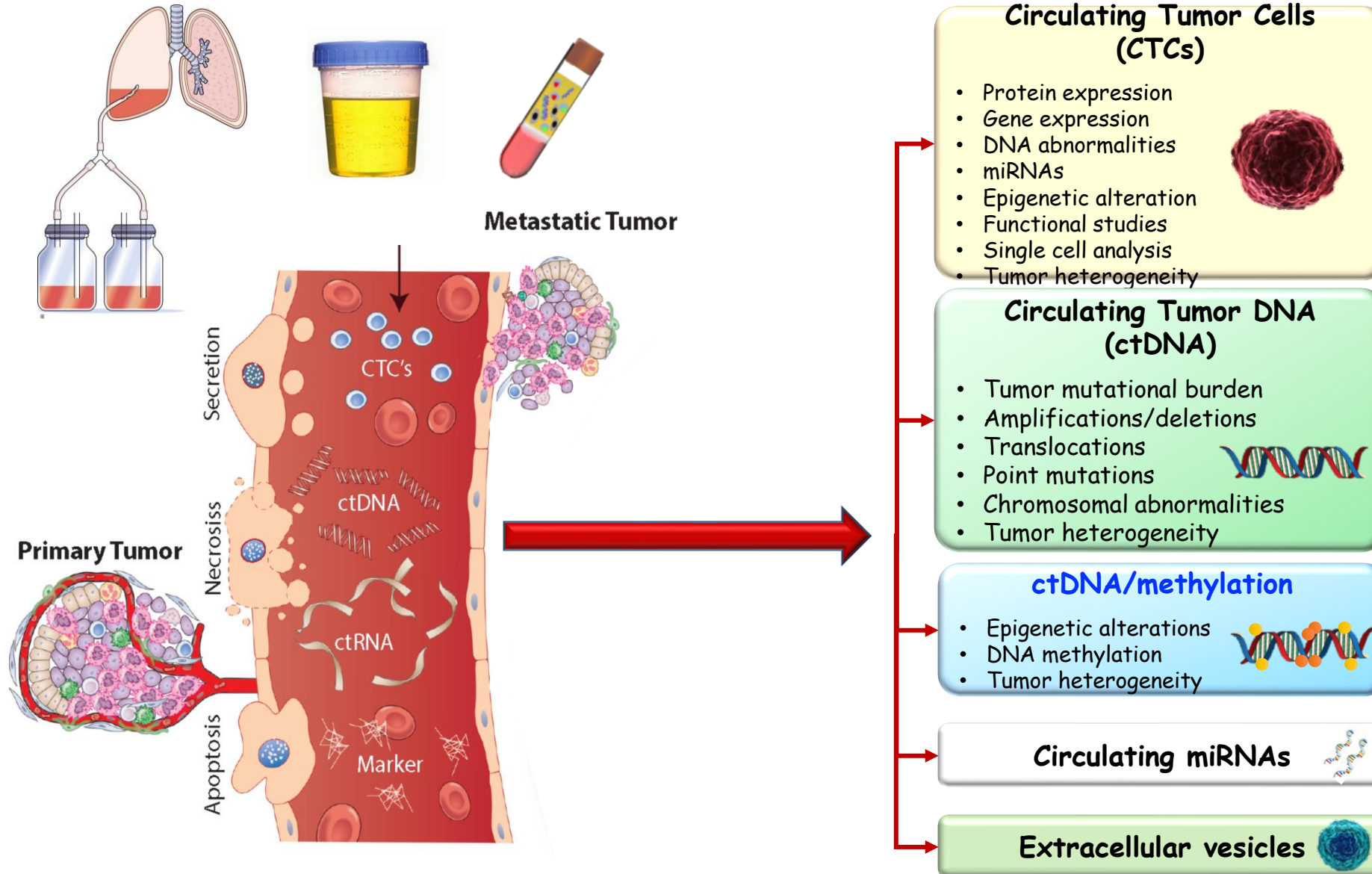
La biopsia liquida nell'era  
dell'oncologia di precisione  
**Antonio Russo**

# DISCLOSURE INFORMATIONS

## All financial reports made in the last two years

- **Honorarium for advisory boards:** Bristol, Pfizer, Bayer, Kyowa Kirin, Ambrosetti
- **Speaker honorarium:** Roche Diagnostic

# Liquid Biopsy Definition





# Liquid Biopsy

Where does the need for liquid biopsy come from?



## Liquid Biopsy

- Patient-friendly, Minimally invasive
- ↓ costs and risks of complications

Easily repeatable procedure

Rapid turnaround time

Representative of the tumor TUMOR HETEROGENEITY → GLOBAL INTEGRATED

SERIAL: Real-Time monitoring/Dynamic



Treatment selection and assignment to clinical trials. (larger sample sizes)

VS

## Tissue Biopsy

- Often invasive and expensive
- Risks of complications

Not always feasible (multiple sampling?)

Low turnaround time

Not always representative for the all tumor TUMOR HETEROGENEITY → LOCALIZED

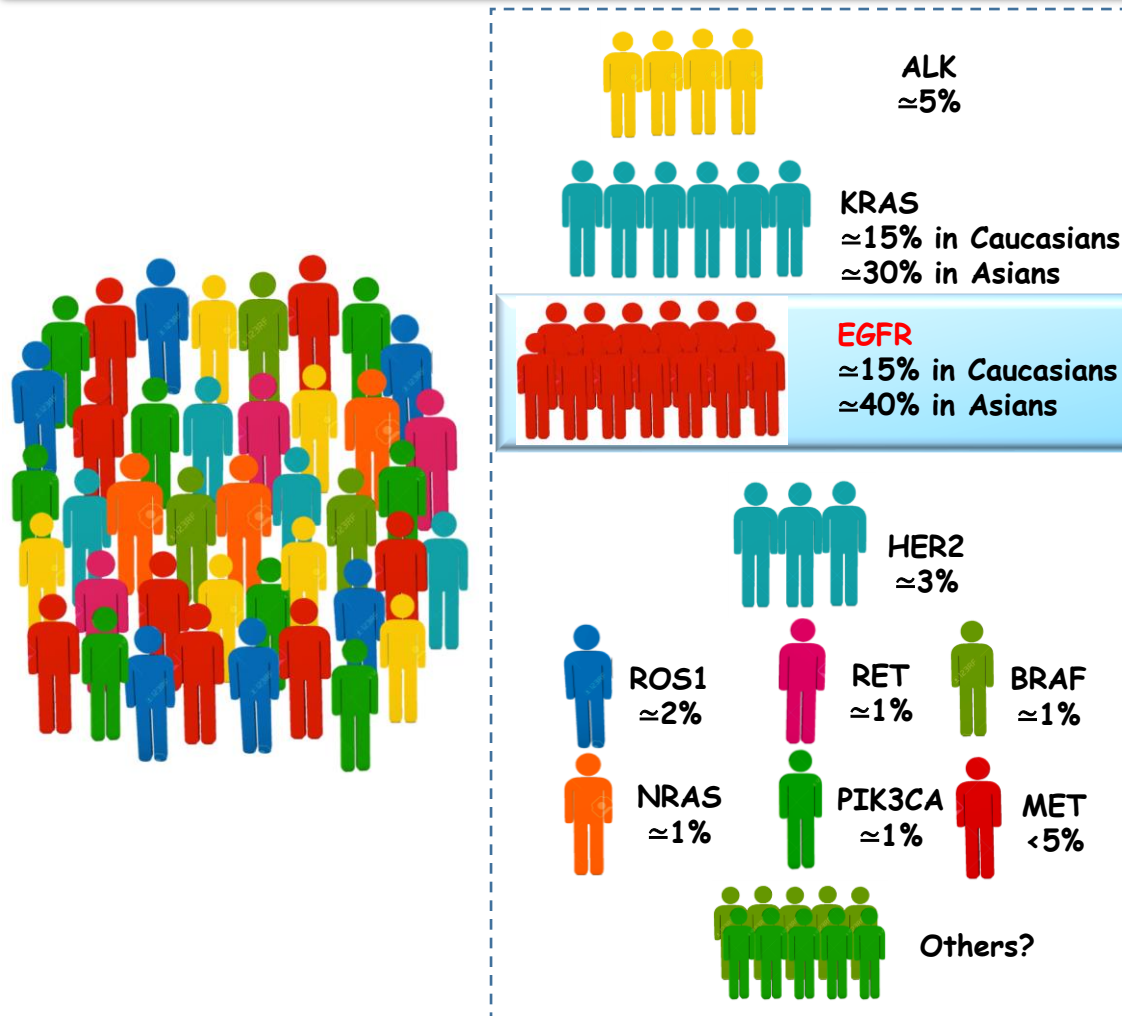
SINGLE (snapshot of the tumor)

Difficulties in tissue sampling (smaller sample sizes)

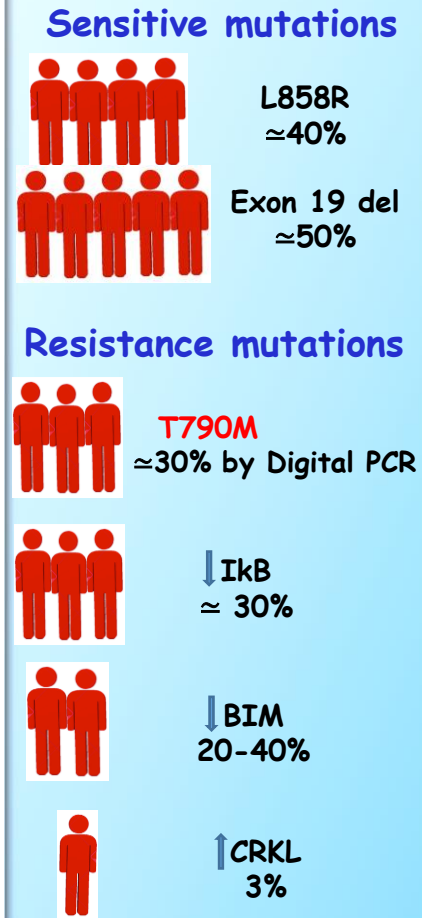
# Precision Oncology

The efficacy of target therapy is affected by... Tumor Heterogeneity

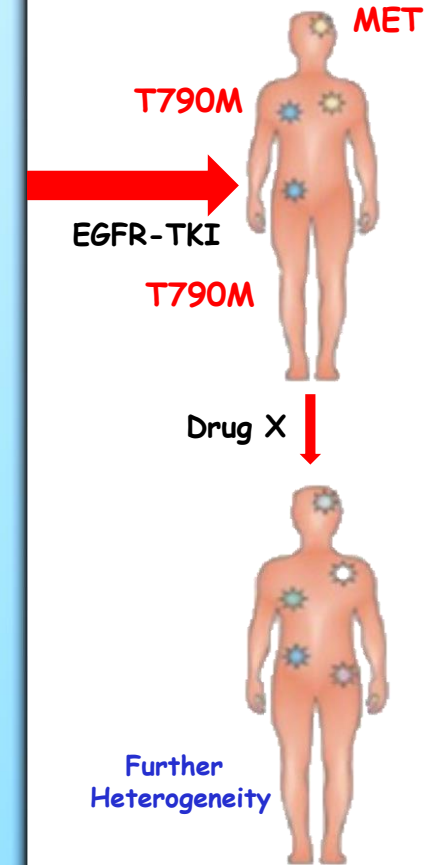
Heterogeneity in pts with NSCLC according to driver oncogenes



Heterogeneity within pts with EGFR mutations



Heterogeneity in resistance mechanism in one pt



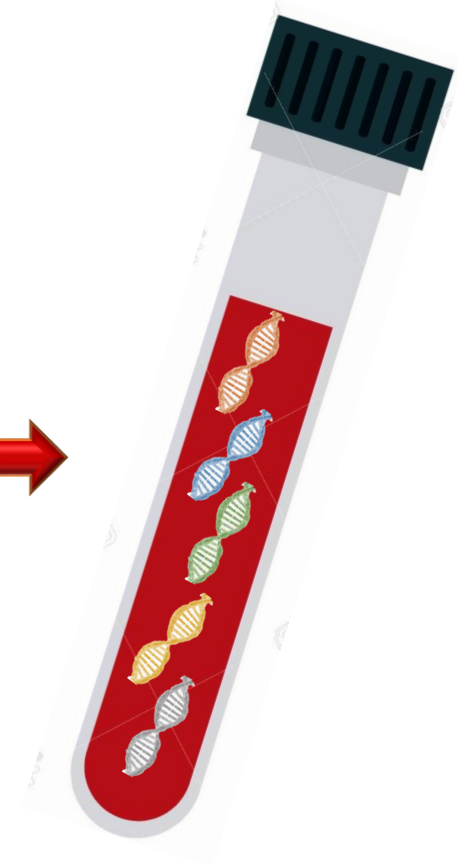
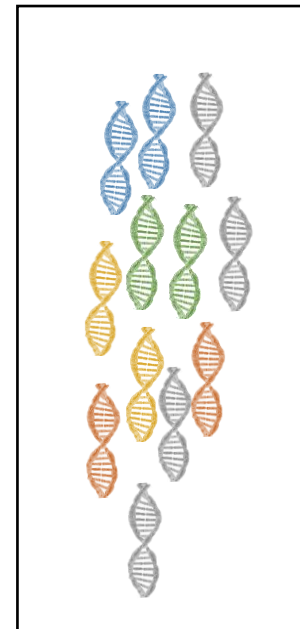
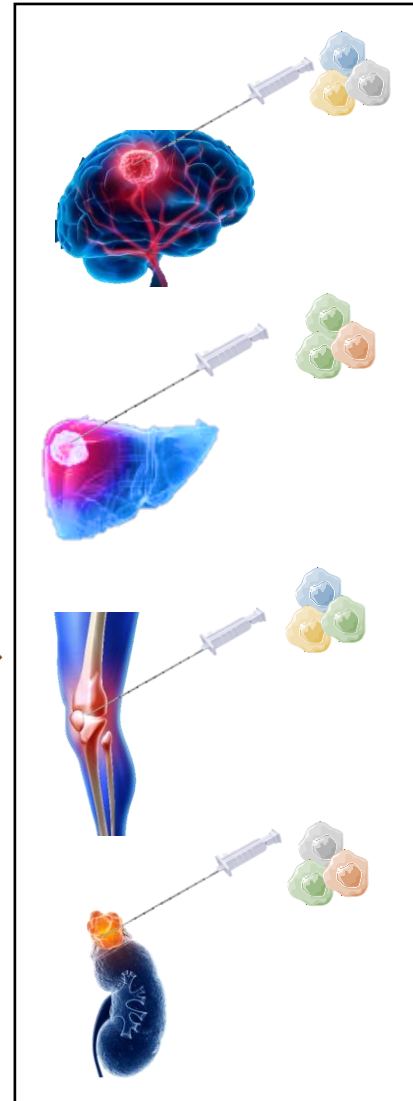
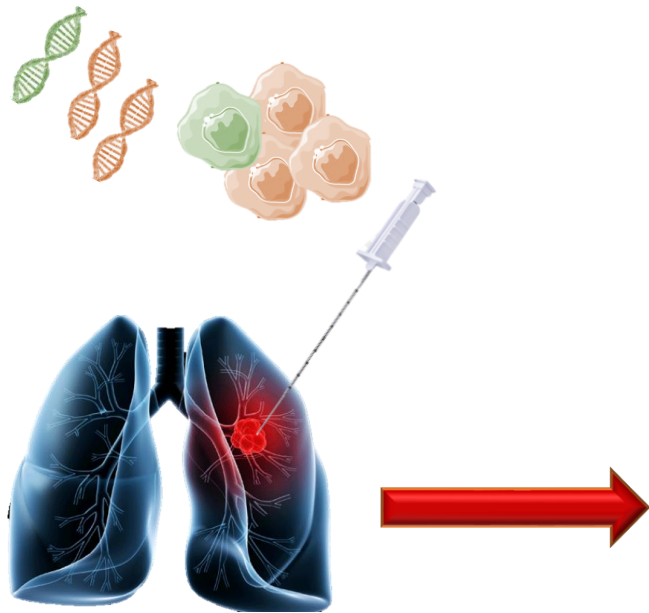
# Liquid Biopsy

Representative of the tumor TUMOR HETEROGENEITY

Primary tumor

Metastatic sites

Liquid biopsy



# Relevant issues to be considered...

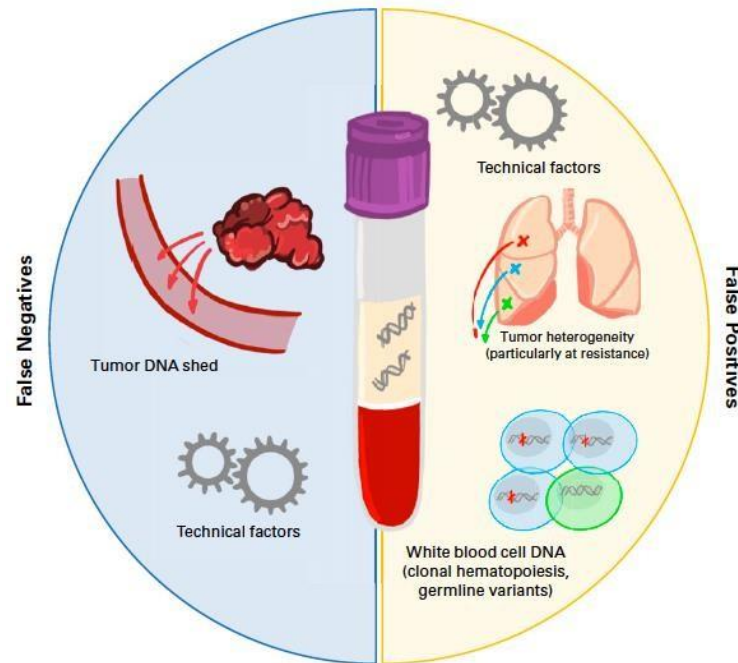
## Risk of false negative and false positive results

### «False Negatives» in Liquid Biopsy

**Insufficient DNA shed into plasma:**  
(low tumor volume, eliminated by therapy)

**cfDNA/ctDNA source:**  
Plasma,  
pleuric/peritoneal effusion, CSF

**Technical Issues:**  
Insufficient sensitivity  
in older assays



### «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**)

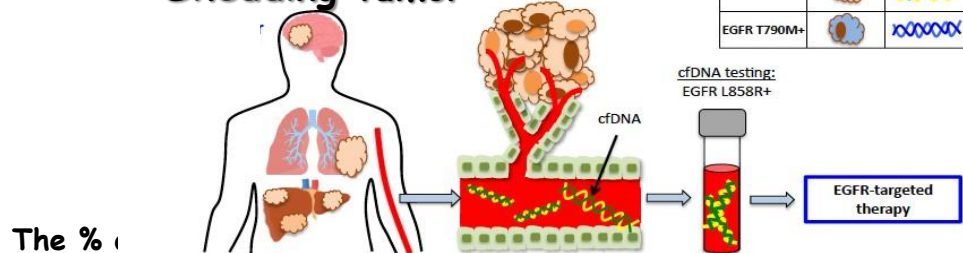


# Liquid Biopsy

## Shedding or non-shedding tumor?

### Shedding tumor

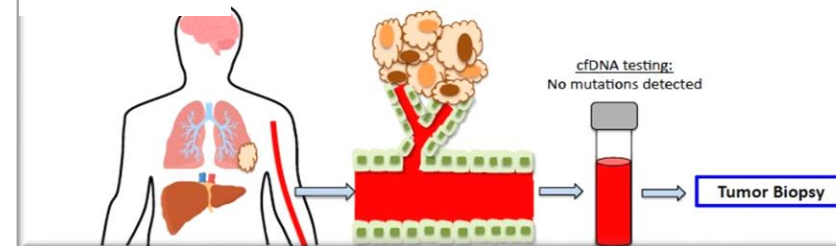
EGFR L858R+ tumor



The %

### Non-shedding tumor

EGFR L858R+ tumor



- Tumor stage, volume (Tumor burden)

Necrosis

- Tumor burden

- Proliferation index

- Histology (adeno K vs squamous for NSCLC)

- Tumor

Vascularity

- Anatomical site (i.e. blood-brain barrier for intracranial T.,

- Pt's renal

function

extratoracic vs intrathoracic for NSCLC)

- Type of biological fluid (i.e. cerebrospinal fluid vs plasma

for intracranial T.)

A negative biomarker result on ctDNA should be validated using a biomarker test on tissue biopsy

Tumor volume cm<sup>3</sup>:

1

10

100

Predicted VAF:

0,006%

0,1%

1,3%

95% CI

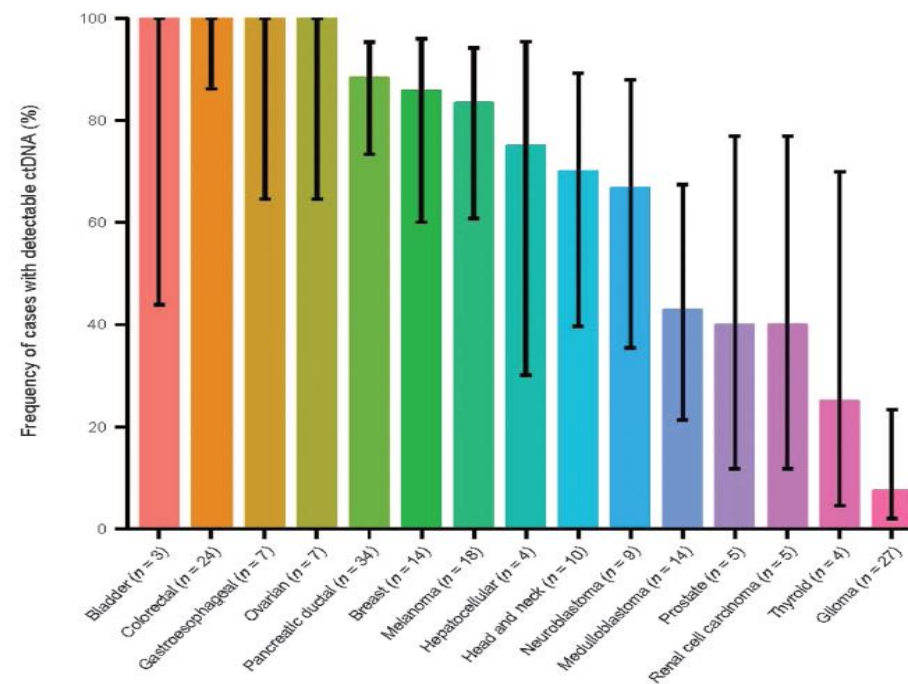
0,001 - 0,03%

0,05 - 0,17%

0,57 - 3,1%

Approx. 326 million malignant cells

ESMO 2018, mod from Abbosch et al. Nat 2017



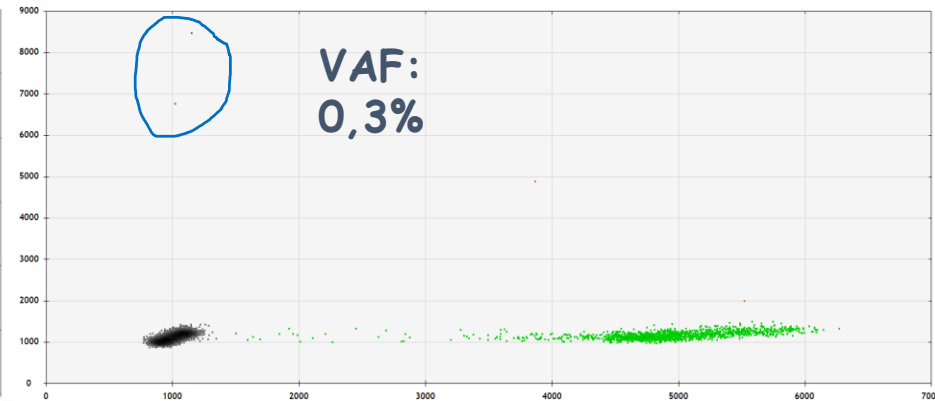
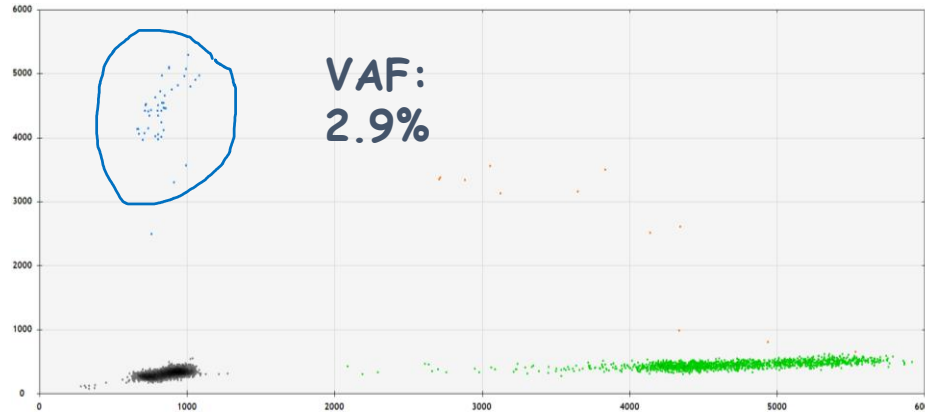
# Liquid biopsy: False negative results

Choose the appropriate source of cf/ctDNA: a real-life experience

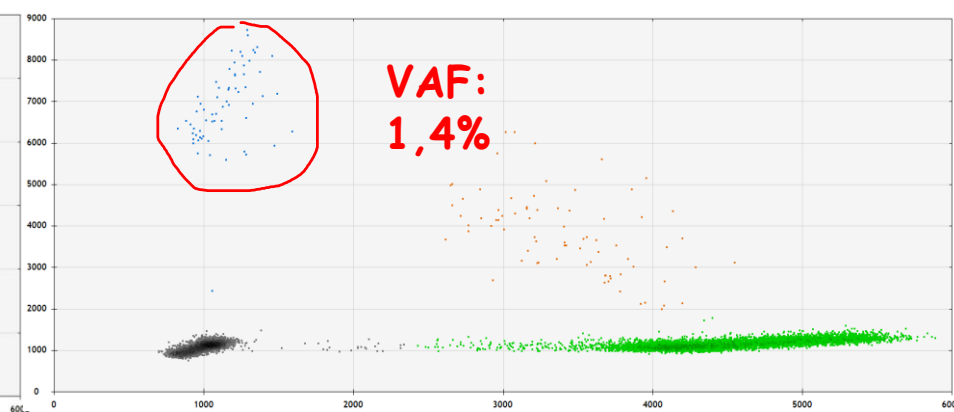
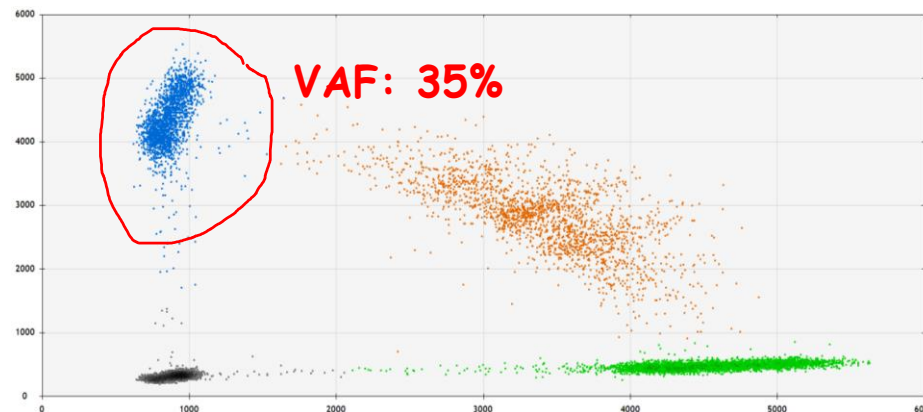
EGFR p.L858R

EGFR p.T790M

Plasma cf/ctDNA



Pleural fluid cf/ctDNA

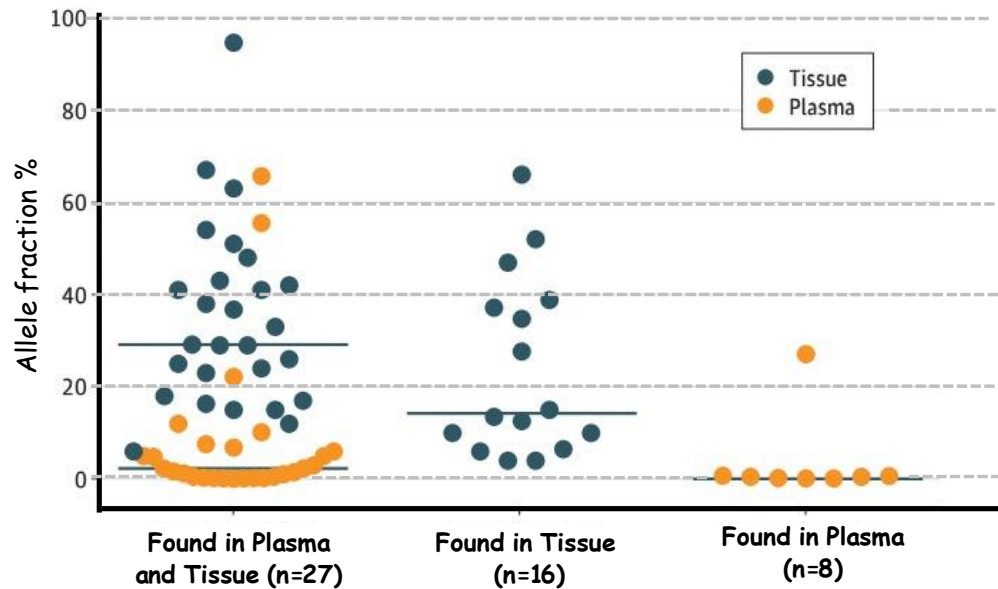


VAF = Variant Allele Frequency

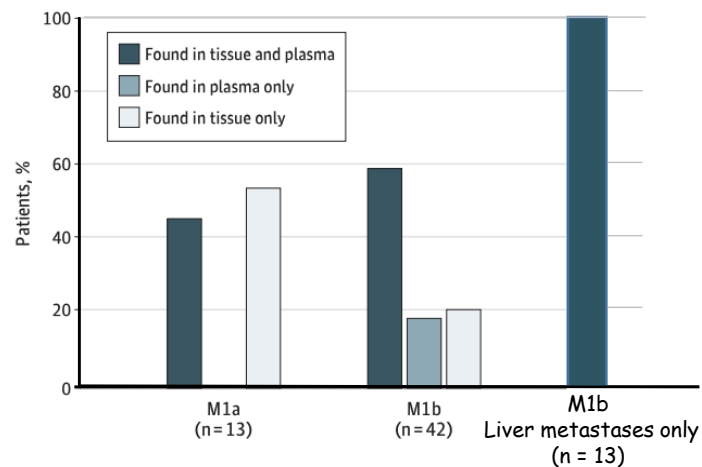


# Concordance rates between tissue and ctDNA testing

## Allele fraction



## Detection of therapeutically targetable mutation

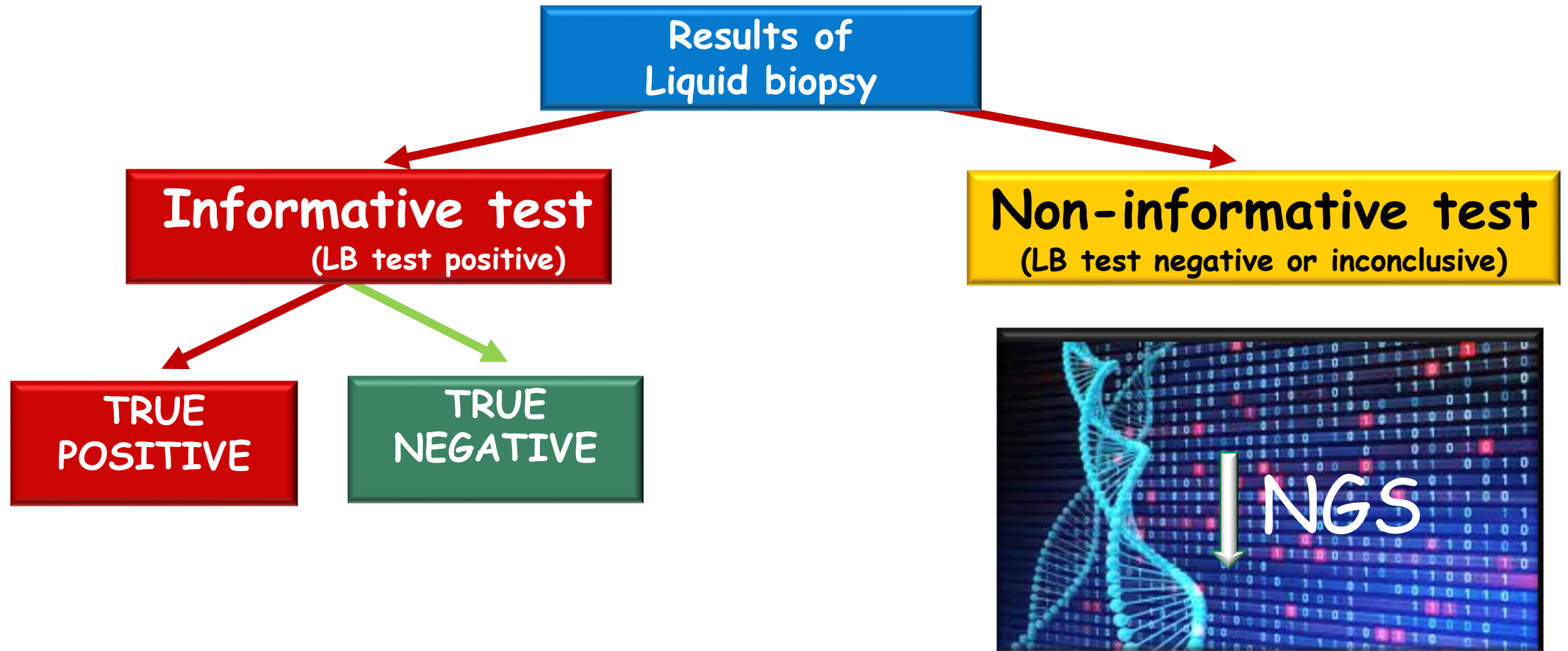


## Some considerations

- **Main actionable mutations**  
Higher concordance rates between tissue and ctDNA T.:  
Range: 80 to ~100%
- **All genetic alterations identified**  
Lower concordance rates between tissue and ctDNA T.:  
Range: 60 to ~70%
- **Pts at diagnosis vs pts at progression**  
Significantly higher concordance rates between tissue and ctDNA T. in pts at diagnosis

Literature review 2022

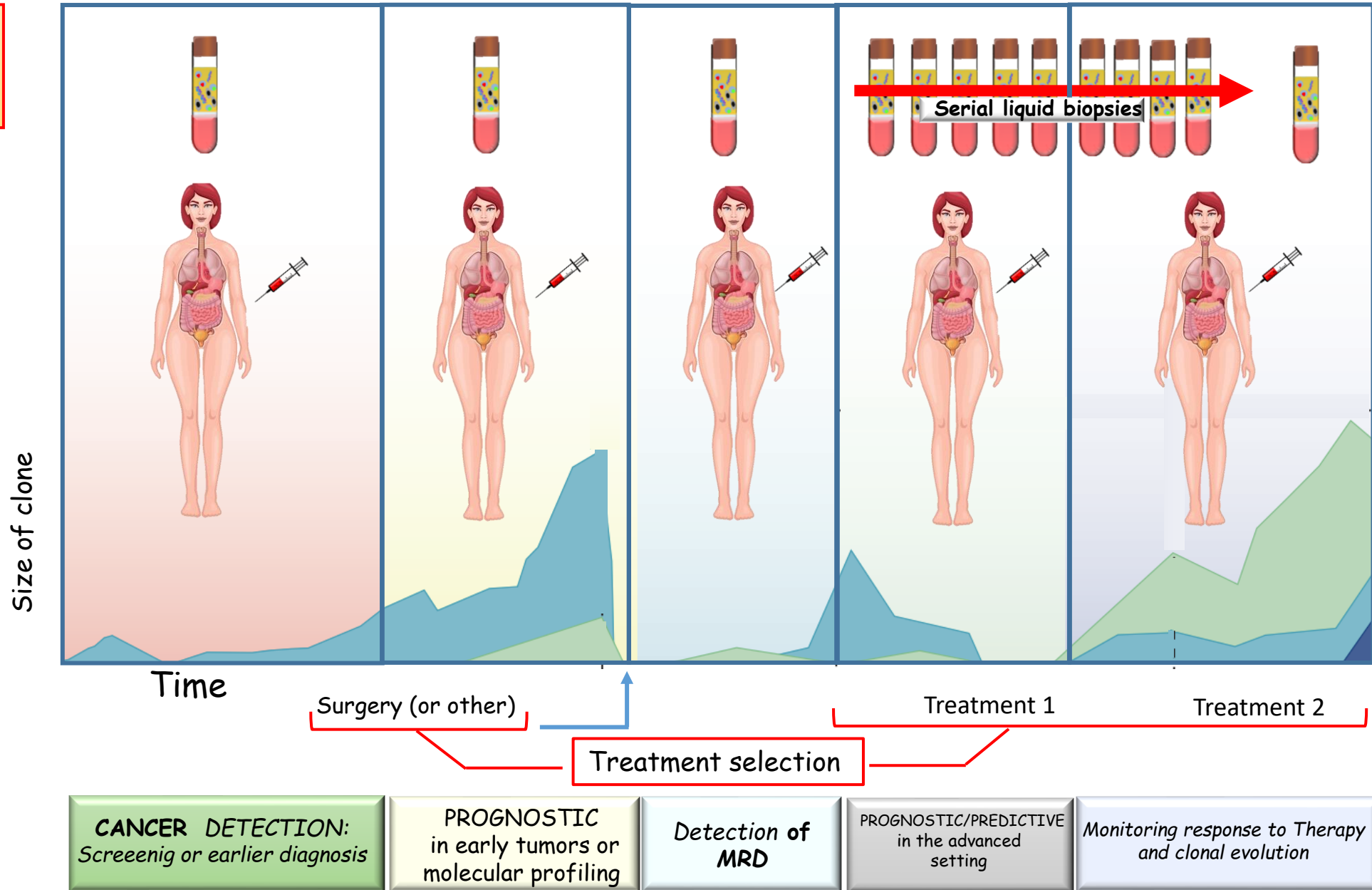
Liquid Biopsy  
Results of ctDNA testing



# Liquid Biopsy

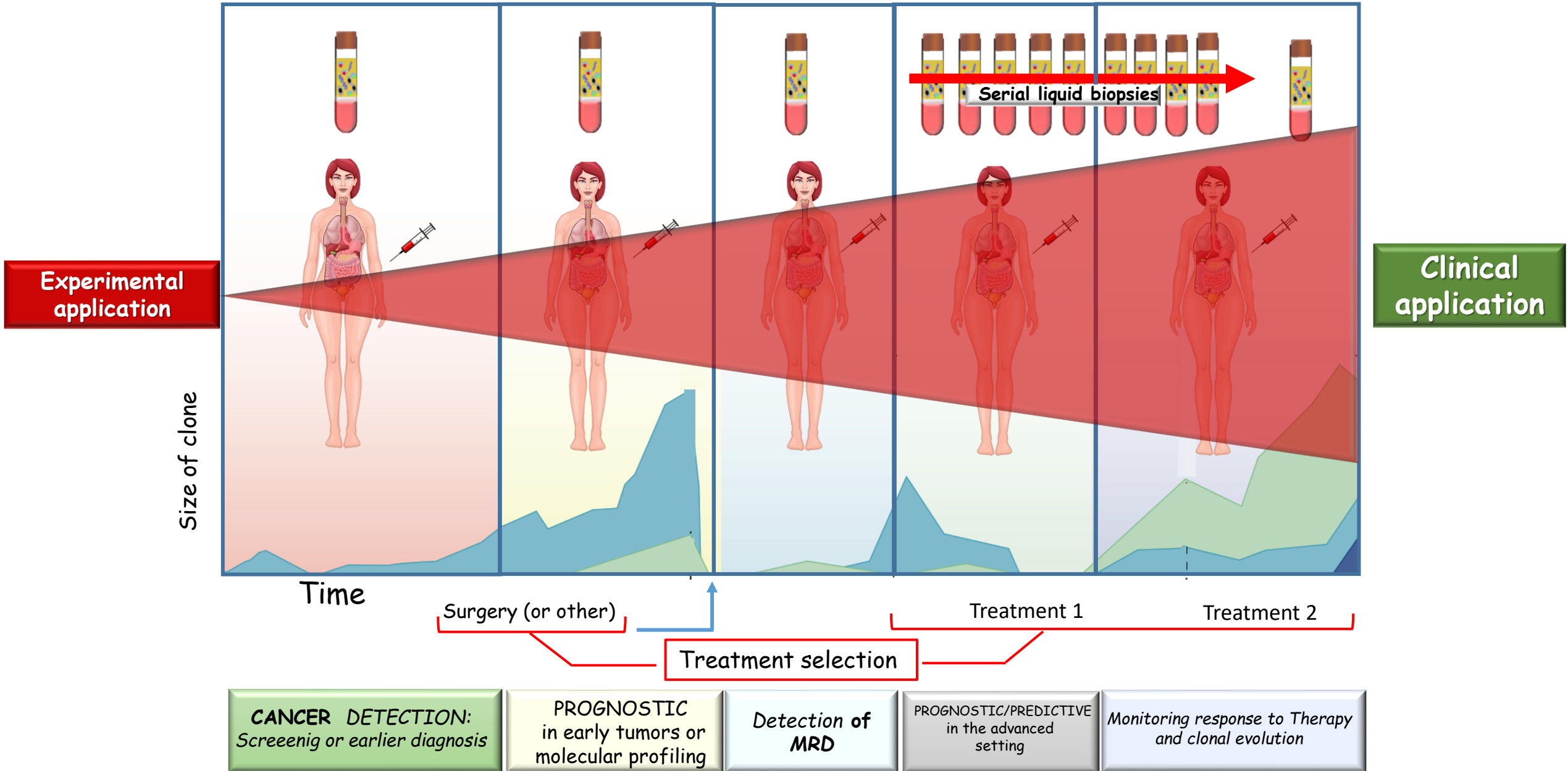
## Applications of ctDNA in solid tumors

- Clone 1
- Clone 2
- Clone 3



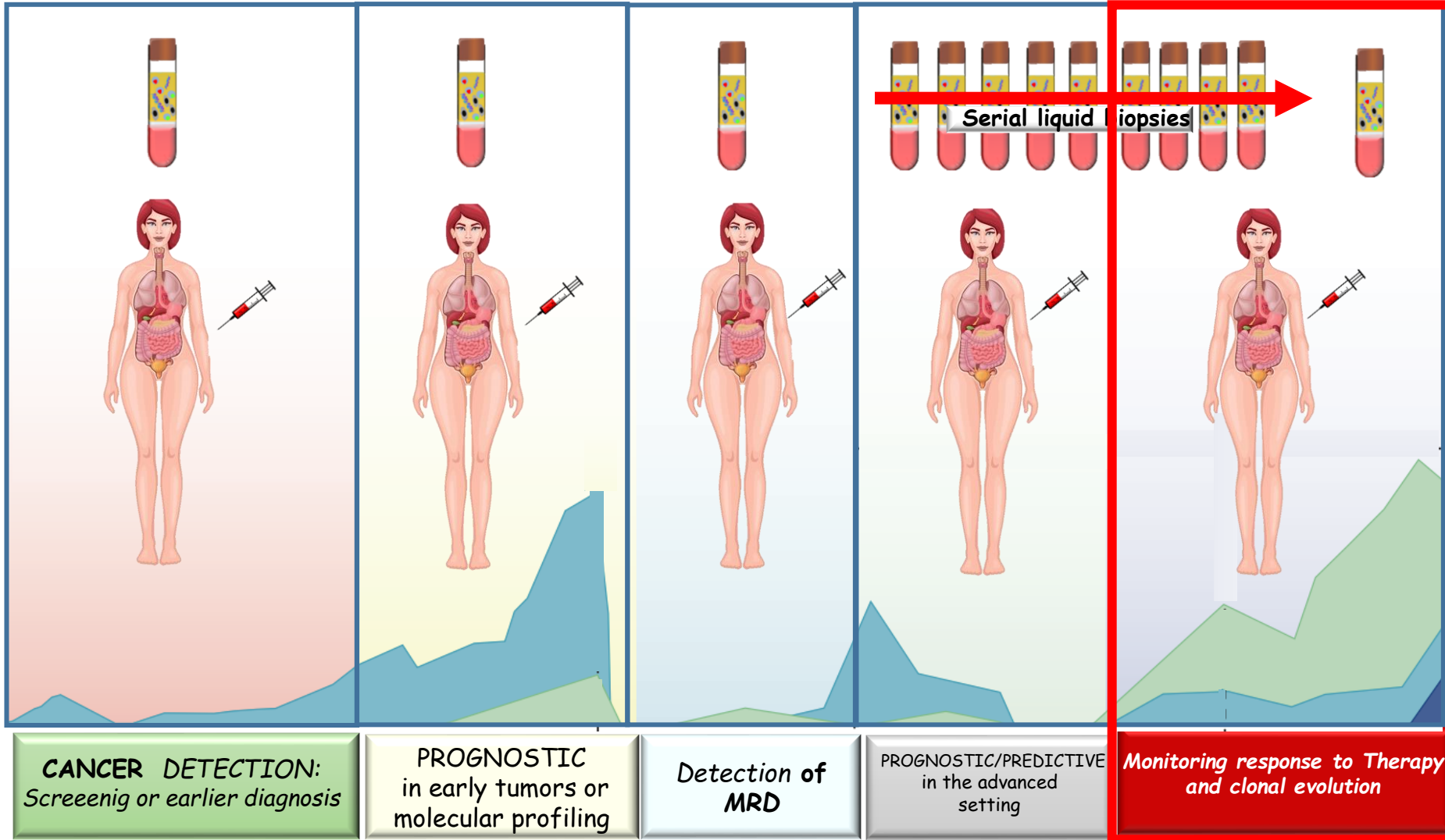
# Liquid Biopsy

## Applications of ctDNA in solid tumors



# Liquid Biopsy: Application of ctDNA in solid tumors

## MONITORING RESPONSE TO THERAPY AND CLONAL EVOLUTION



Raccomandazioni 2020 per l'esecuzione di Test Molecolari su Biopsia Liquida in Oncologia

A cura del Gruppo di Lavoro AIOM – SIAPEC-IAP – SIBIOC – SIF



Luglio 2020



Liquid biopsy indications



I clinical scenario



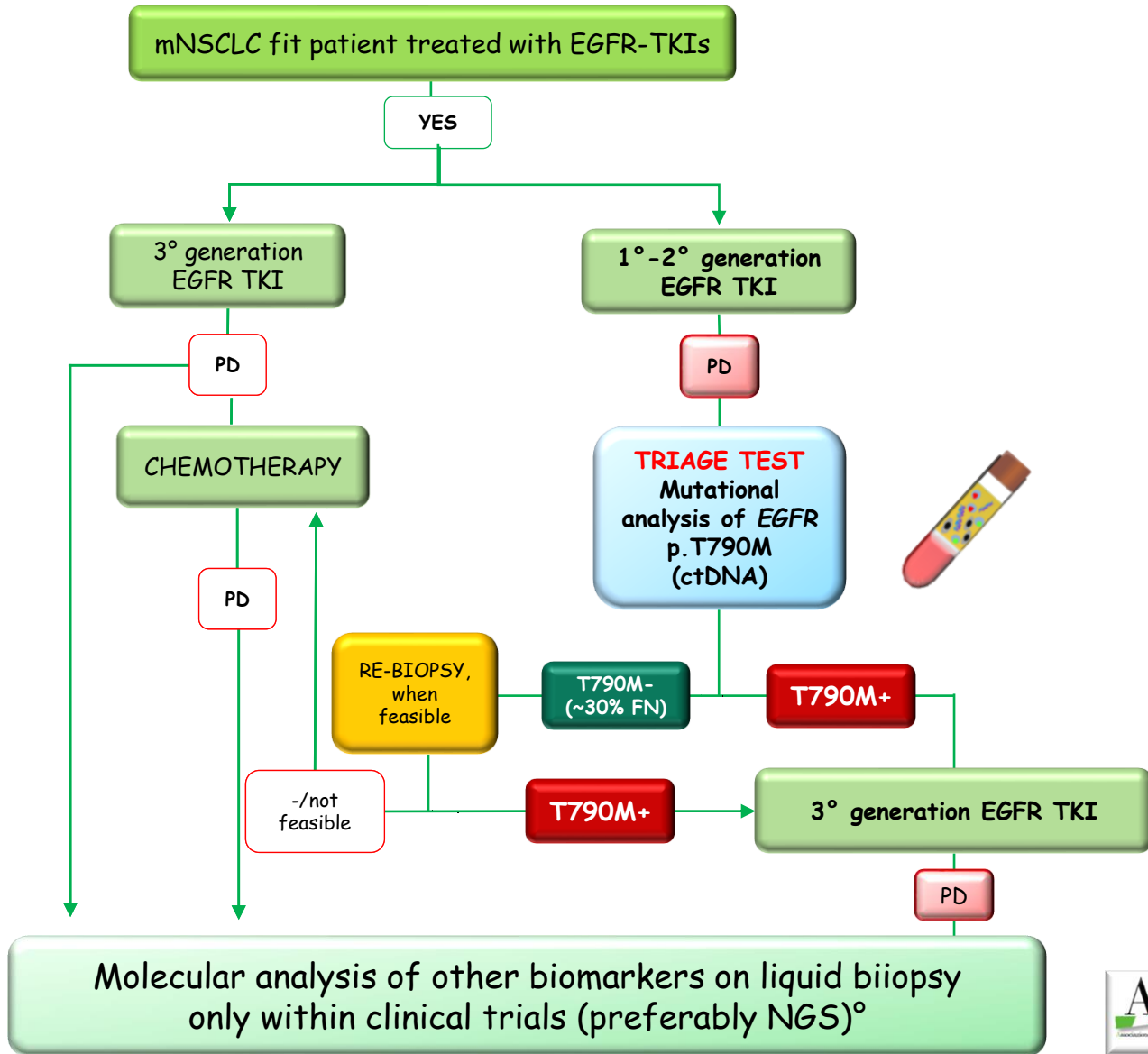
II clinical scenario





# Liquid Biopsy: AIOM-SIAPEC-IAP-SIBIOC-SIF 2020

## mNSCLC pts pre-treated with EGFR-TKI



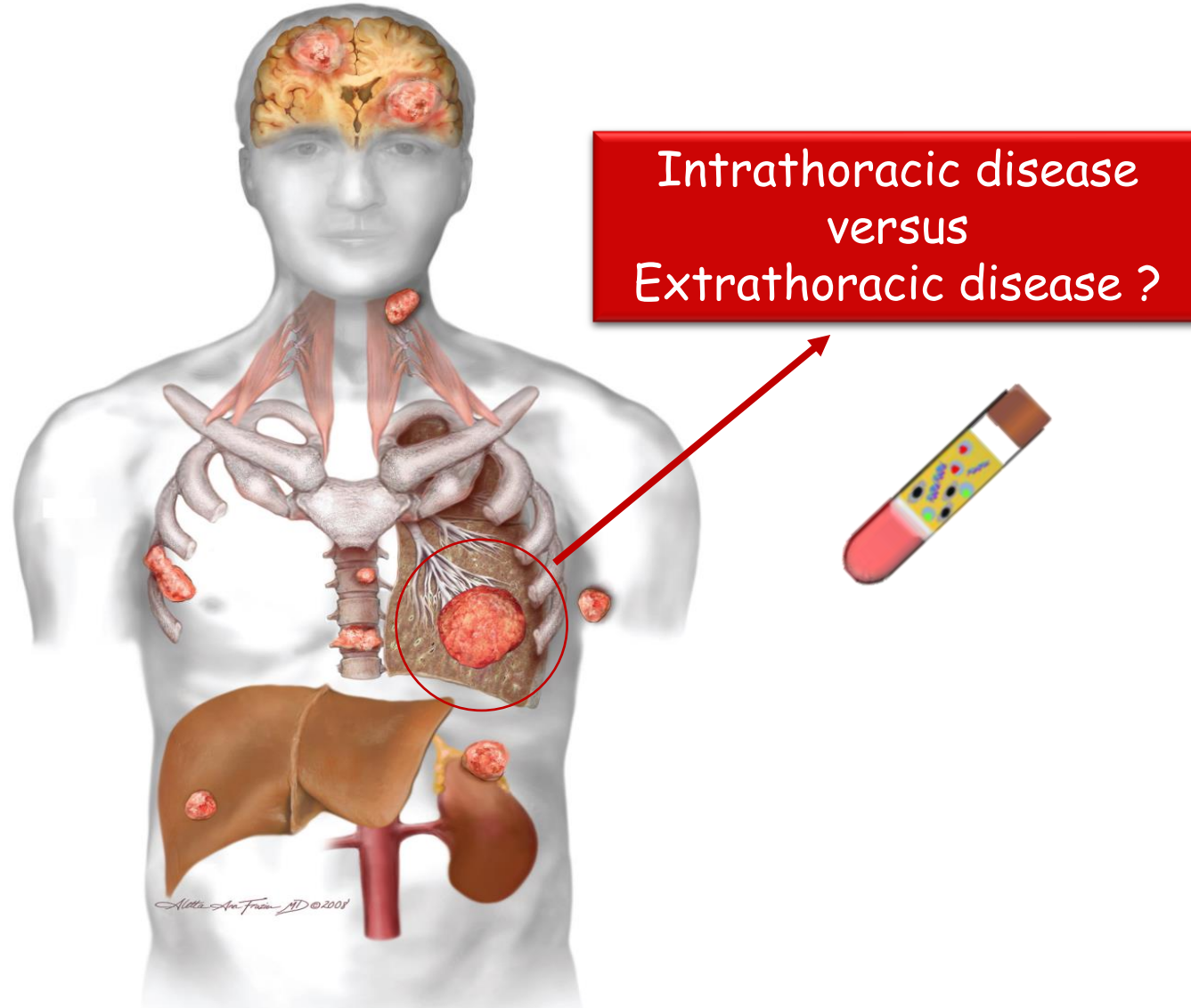
Raccomandazioni 2020 per l'esecuzione di Test Molecolari su Biopsia Liquida in Oncologia

A cura del Gruppo di Lavoro AIOM - SIAPEC-IAP - SIBIOC - SIF

Luglio 2020

# Liquid biopsy: Diagnostic accuracy of ctDNA in NSCLC

Does metastatic site influence ctDNA sensitivity?



# NSCLC: EGFR ctDNA sensitivity according to the METASTATIC SITE

## Meta-analysis of published trials 10 eligible studies, N= 1425 pts

**Metastatic Site Location Influences the Diagnostic Accuracy of ctDNA EGFR-Mutation Testing in NSCLC Patients: a Pooled Analysis**

Francesco Passiglia<sup>1,2</sup>, Sergio Rizzo<sup>3,4</sup>, Christian Rolfo<sup>5</sup>, Antonio Galvano<sup>6</sup>, Enrico Bionta<sup>1</sup>, Lorena Incurvati<sup>1</sup>, Angela Lisa<sup>1</sup>, Nadia Baracco<sup>7</sup>, Maria Castiglia<sup>1</sup>, Valentina Coko<sup>1</sup>, Viviana Barzan<sup>8</sup> and Antonio Russo<sup>1,2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Surgical, Oncological and Oral Sciences, Section of Medical Oncology, Palermo University Hospital, Palermo, Italy; <sup>2</sup>Phon 3 Early Clinical Trials Unit, Oncology Department and Multidisciplinary Oncology Center Area (MOCA), Arzobispo University Hospital, Edipon, Belgium

**Abstract:** Background: Recent studies evaluated the diagnostic accuracy of circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) in the detection of epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) mutations from the plasma of NSCLC patients, overall showing a high concordance as compared to standard tissue genotyping. However, it is less clear if the location of the metastatic site may influence the ability to identify EGFR mutations in plasma.

**Objective:** This pooled analysis aims to evaluate the association between the metastatic site location and the sensitivity of ctDNA analysis in detecting EGFR mutations in NSCLC patients.

**Methods:** Data from all published studies, evaluating the sensitivity of plasma-based EGFR-mutation testing, stratified by metastatic site location (extrathoracic (M1b) vs intrathoracic (M1a)) were analyzed by searching in PubMed, Cochrane Library, American Society of Clinical Oncology and World Conference of Lung Cancer meeting proceedings. Pooled Odds ratio (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (95% CI) were calculated for the ctDNA analysis sensitivity, according to metastatic site location.

**Results:** A total of ten studies with 1425 patients were eligible. Pooled analysis showed that the sensitivity of ctDNA-based EGFR-mutation testing is significantly higher in patients with M1b vs M1a disease (OR: 5.09, 95% CI: 2.93 - 9.04). A significant association was observed for both EGFR activating (OR: 4.30, 95% CI: 2.35-7.88) and inactive T790M mutations (OR: 11.89, 95% CI: 1.45-97.22), regardless of the use of digital PCR (OR: 5.83, 95% CI: 3.16-9.93) or non-digital PCR technologies (OR: 2.06, 95% CI: 2.28-1.91).

**Conclusions:** These data suggest that the location of metastatic sites significantly influences the diagnostic accuracy of ctDNA analysis in detecting EGFR mutations in NSCLC patients.

**Keywords:** EGFR, ctDNA, liquid biopsy, NSCLC, metastatic, intrathoracic, extrathoracic.

**INTRODUCTION**

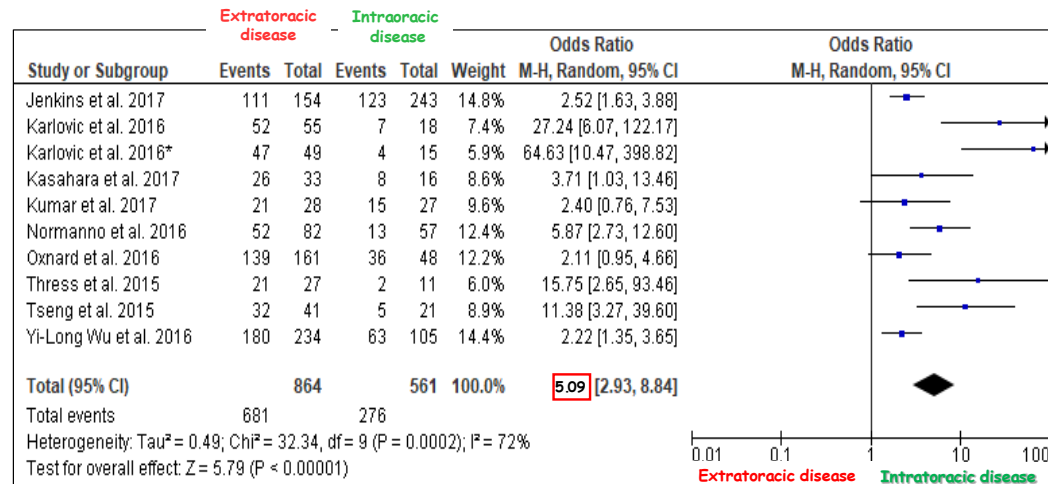
Targeting the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) by tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) has represented a milestone in the treatment of lung cancer. Eight phase III randomized studies have clearly demonstrated that EGFR-TKIs significantly improved overall survival (OS) compared to first-line platinum-based chemotherapy in patients with advanced NSCLC harboring EGFR activating mutations (1-8). Recently a pooled analysis of both LungLung (L3) and LungLung (L4) trials showed also an overall survival (OS) benefit in favour of the second generation EGFR-TKI.

Address correspondence to this author at the Section of Medical Oncology, Department of Surgical, Oncological and Oral Sciences, Palermo University Hospital, Via del Principe 10, 90128 Palermo, Italy; Tel: +39 091 645270; Fax: +39 091 645429; E-mail: antonio.russo@unipa.it

\*These authors equally contributed to this work.

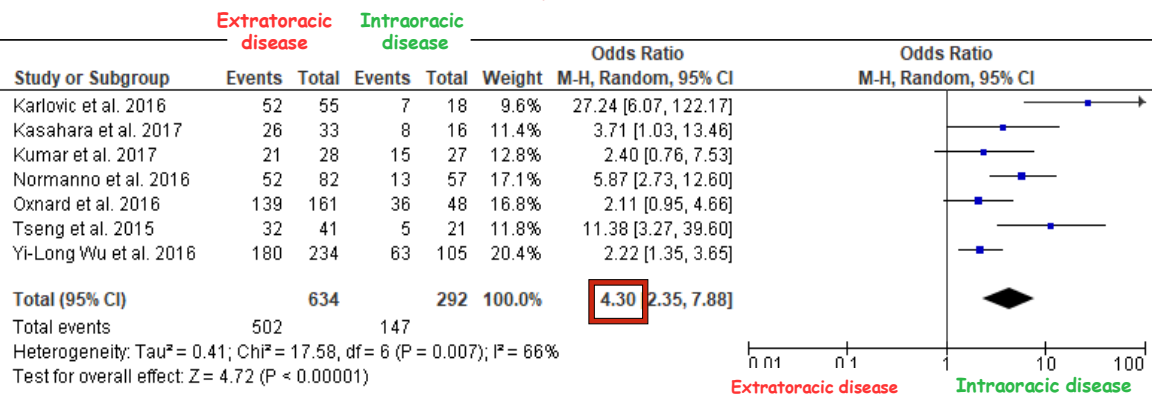
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### EGFR ctDNA sensitivity according to the metastatic site: Extrathoracic (M1b) vs Intrathoracic Disease (M1a)

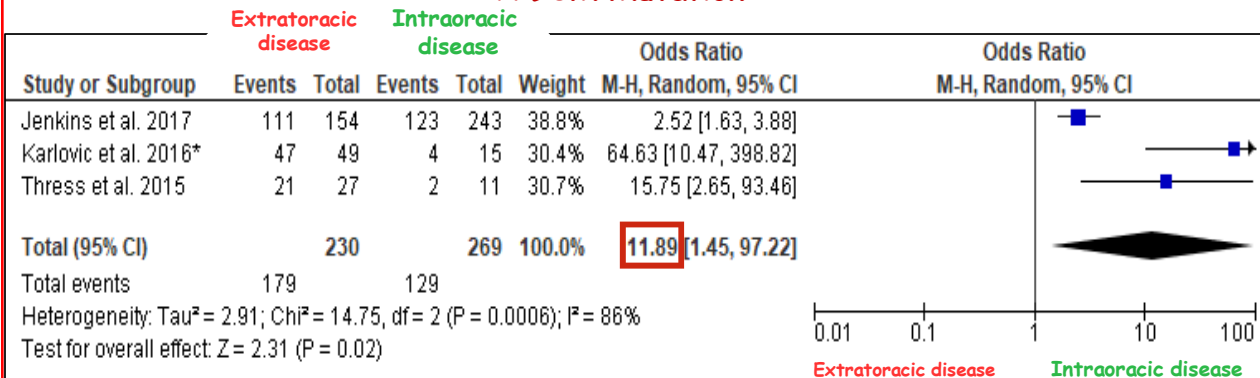


Forest plot showing odds ratio for overall sensitivity of plasma ctDNA EGFR-mutation testing by metastatic sites location (M1b vs M1a)

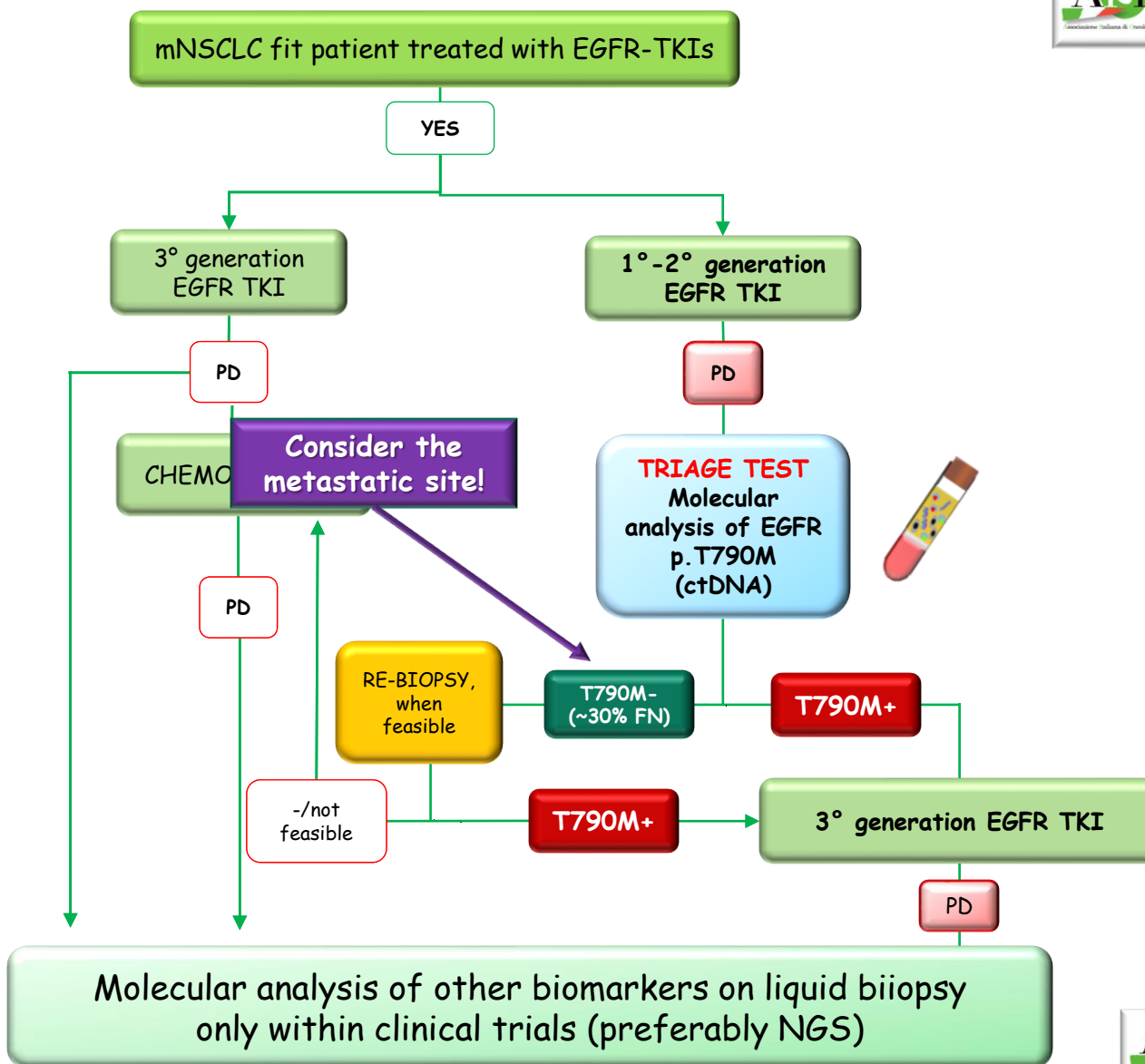
### EGFR mutation



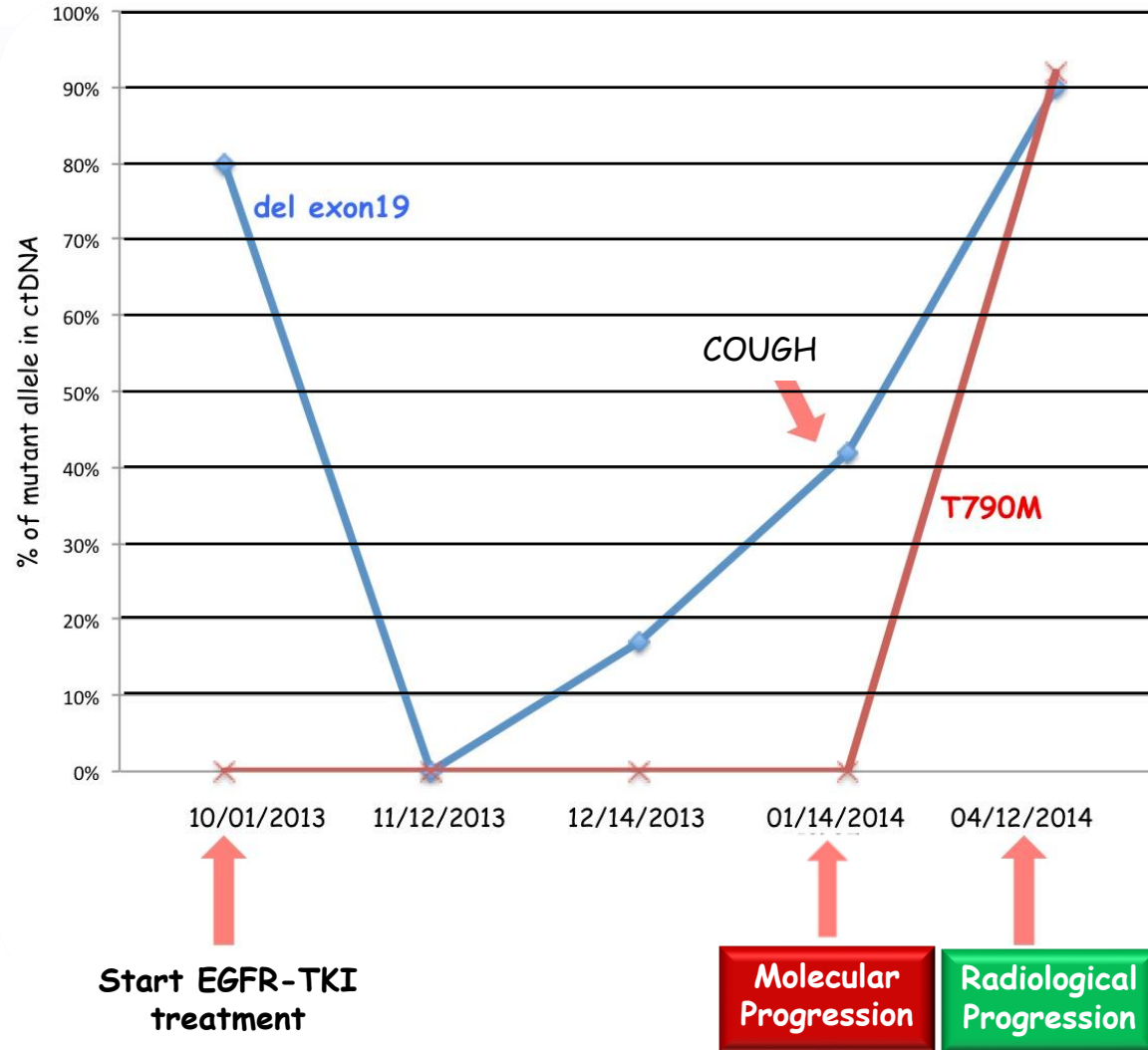
### T790M Mutation



Forest plot showing odds ratio for overall sensitivity of plasma ctDNA EGFR-mutation testing by metastatic sites location (M1b vs M1a) and EGFR or T790M mutation

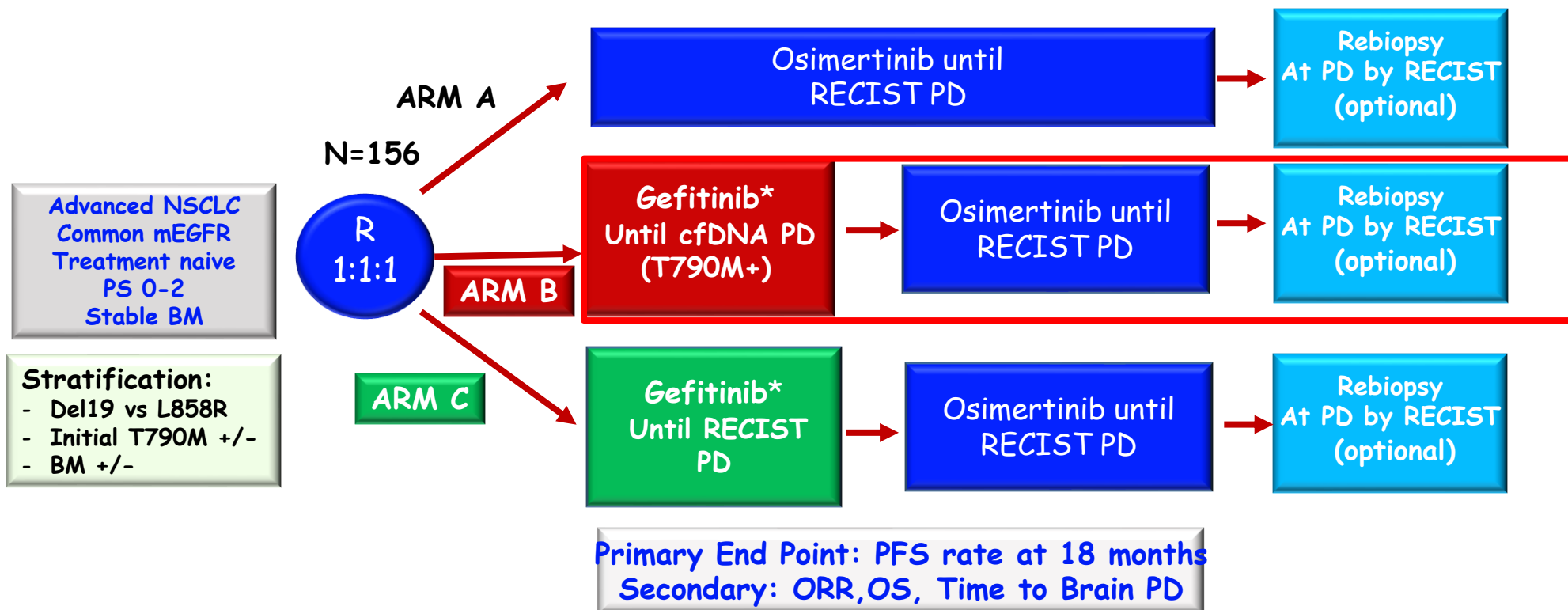


NSCLC: longitudinal monitoring of EGFR mutations  
When switch to 3<sup>rd</sup> gen TKI: RECIST PD o molecular PD?



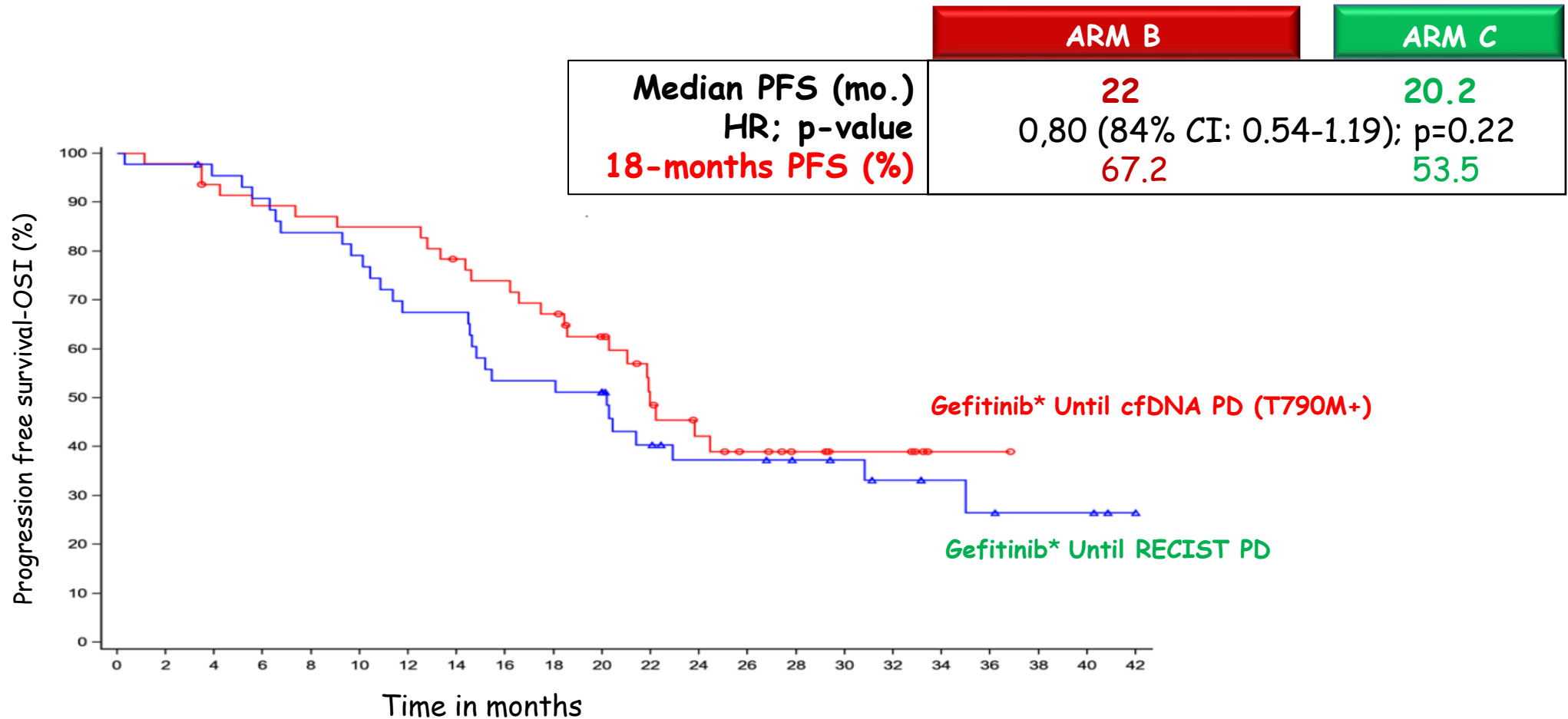
## APPLE Trial design

Randomized, open-label, multicenter, phase II trial (NTC02856893)



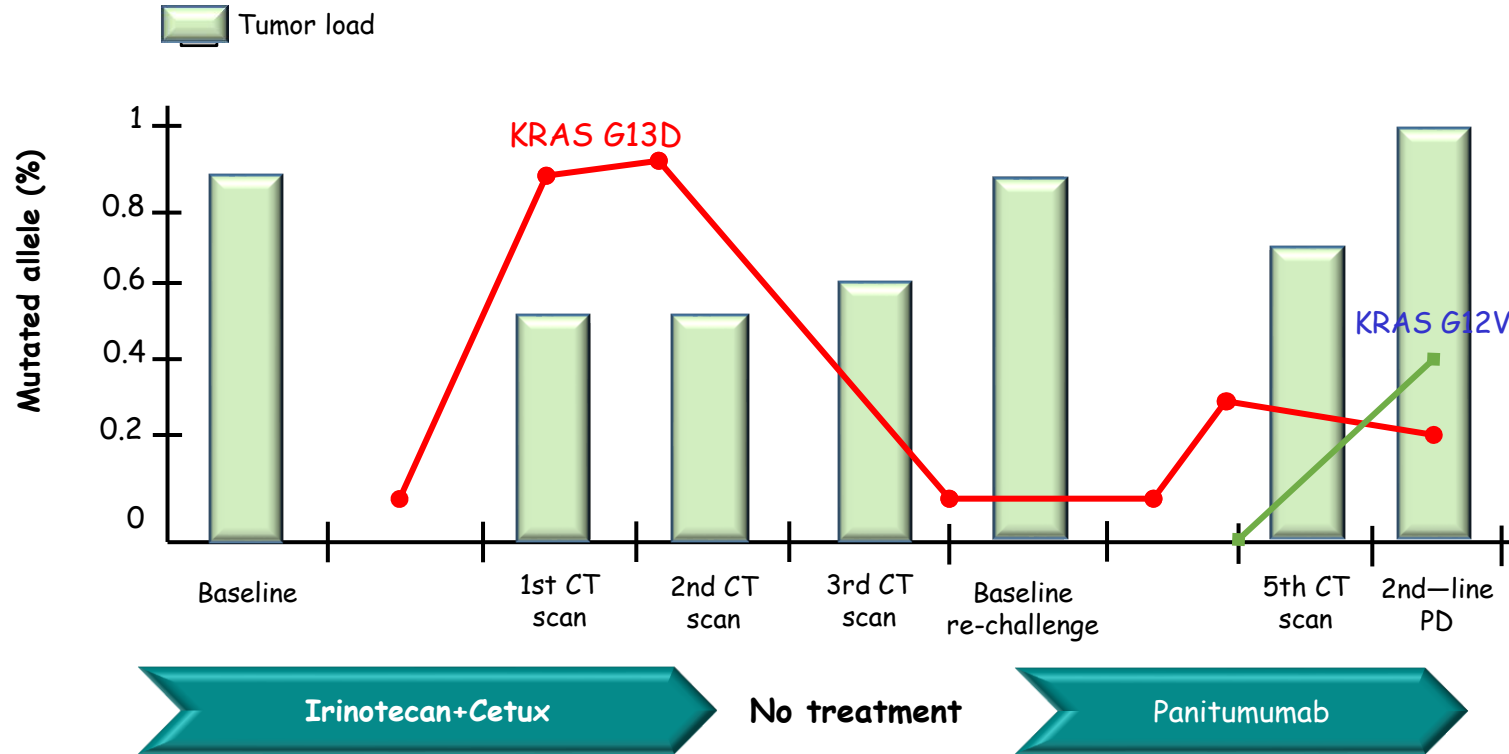
\* In case of RECIST PD without T790M+, pts will be switched

## PFS-OSI-18 rate by INV. in arm B vs C, exploratory



\* In case of RECIST PD without T790M+, pts will be switched

Dynamic change of KRAS during intermittent anti-EGFR treatment

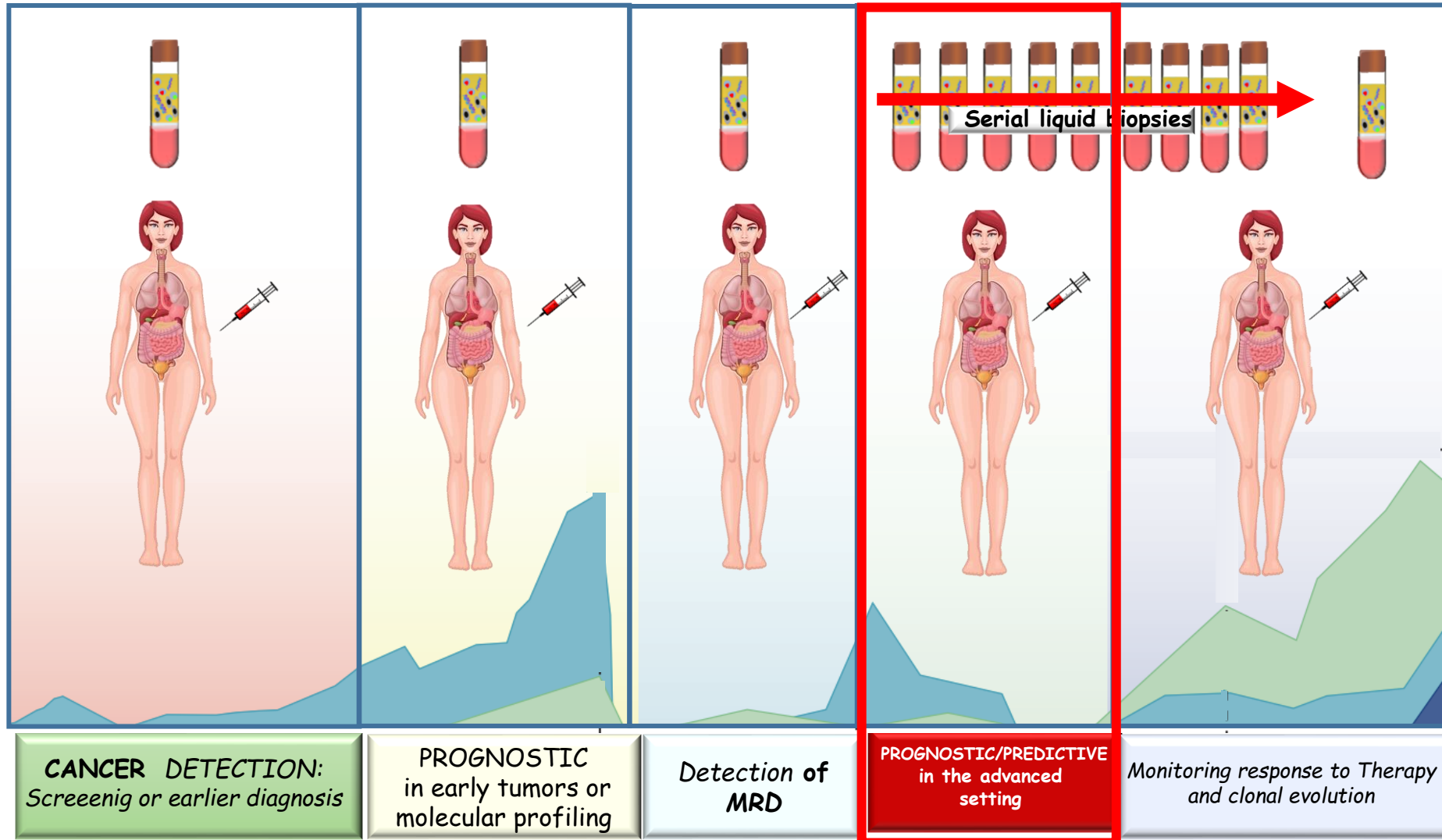


The change of KRAS during intermittent anti-EGFR treatment reflects the dynamic clonal selection → Re-challenge may be a real option?



# Liquid Biopsy: Applications of ctDNA in solid tumors

## PROGNOSTIC/PREDICTIVE in the advanced setting

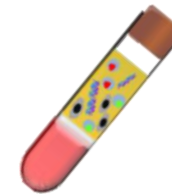


**Advanced NSCLC: 2 clinical scenarios**

**I clinical scenario**



Liquid biopsy  
**Indications**

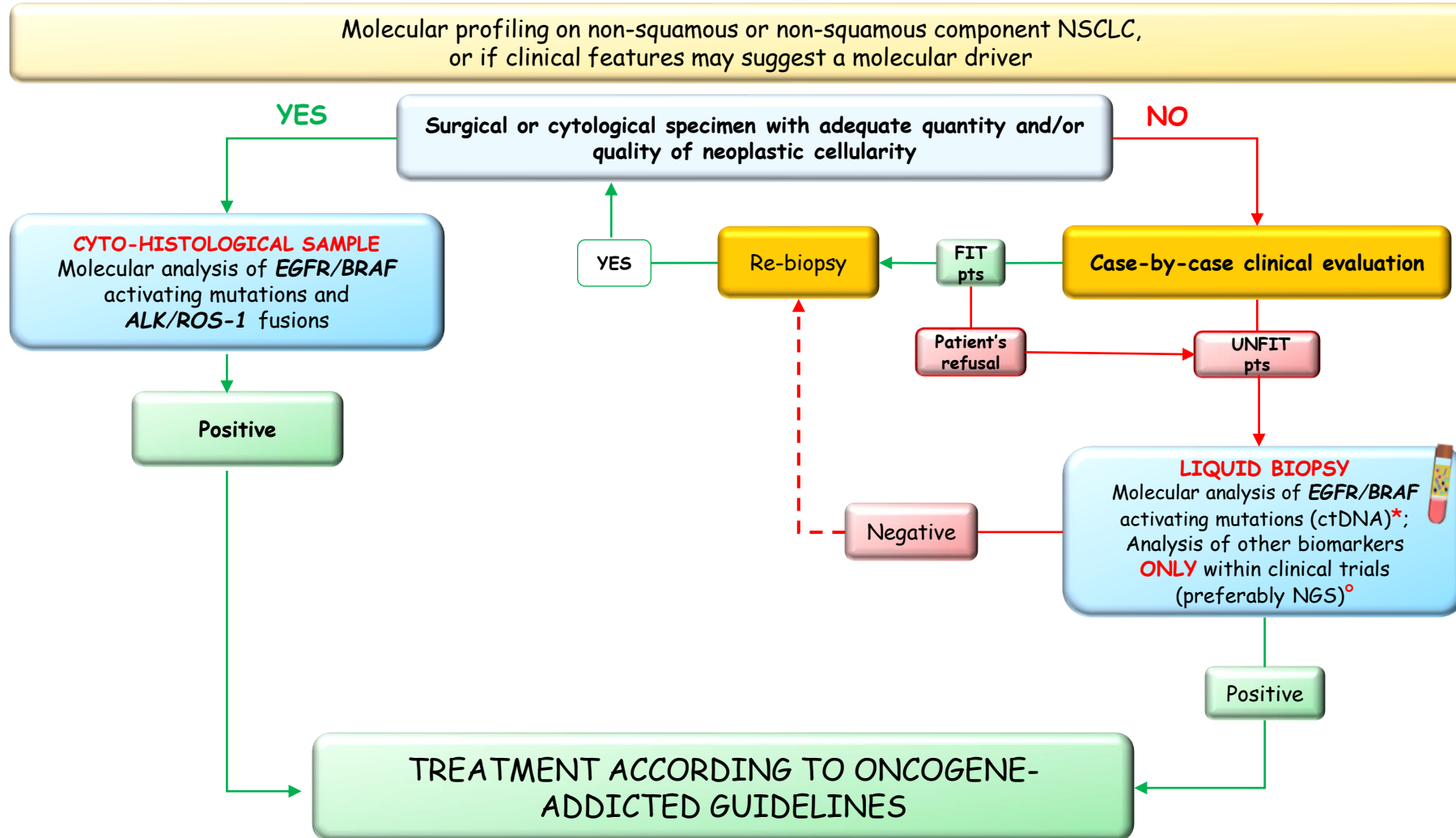


Raccomandazioni 2020 per l'esecuzione di Test Molecolari su Biopsia Liquida in Oncologia

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Luglio 2020

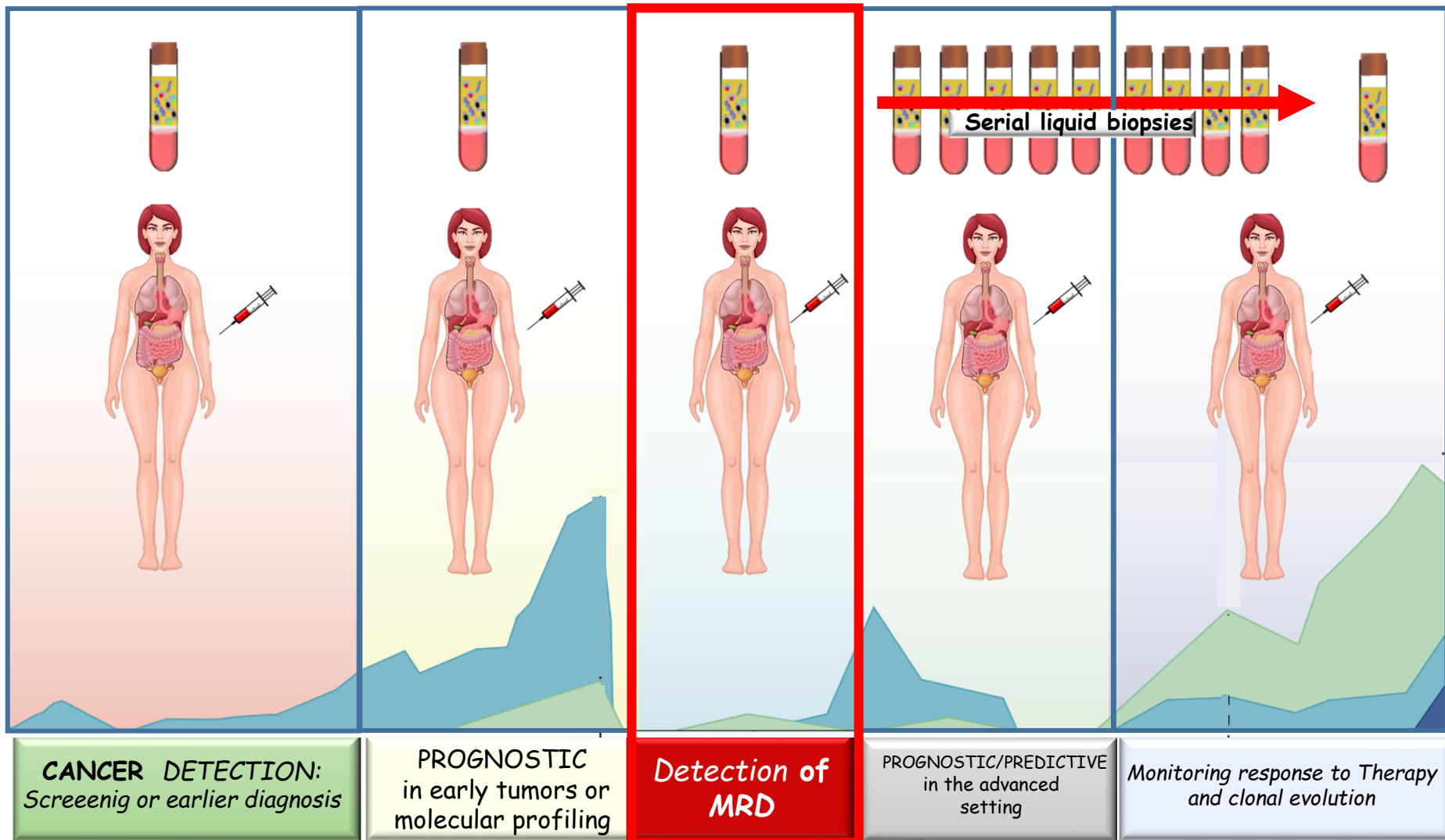


\* EGFR exon 18, 20, 21 point mutations and exon 19 deletions; BRAF p.V600 activating mutations

° ALK, ROS-1, RET, NTRK fusions; MET exon 14 skipping mutation and MET amplification, HER2 amplification, KRAS p.G12C point mutation

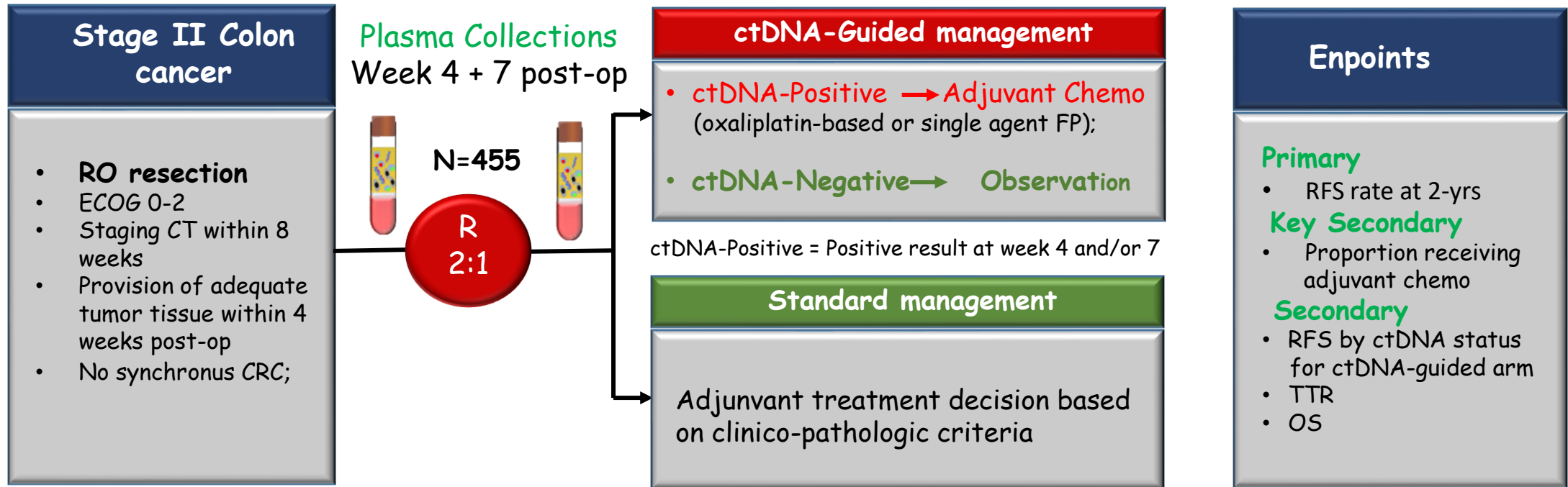
# Liquid Biopsy: applications of ctDNA in solid tumors

## Detection of MRD



**DYNAMIC Study design**

Multi-centre, randomised, phase II non-inferiority trial (ACTRN12615000381583)



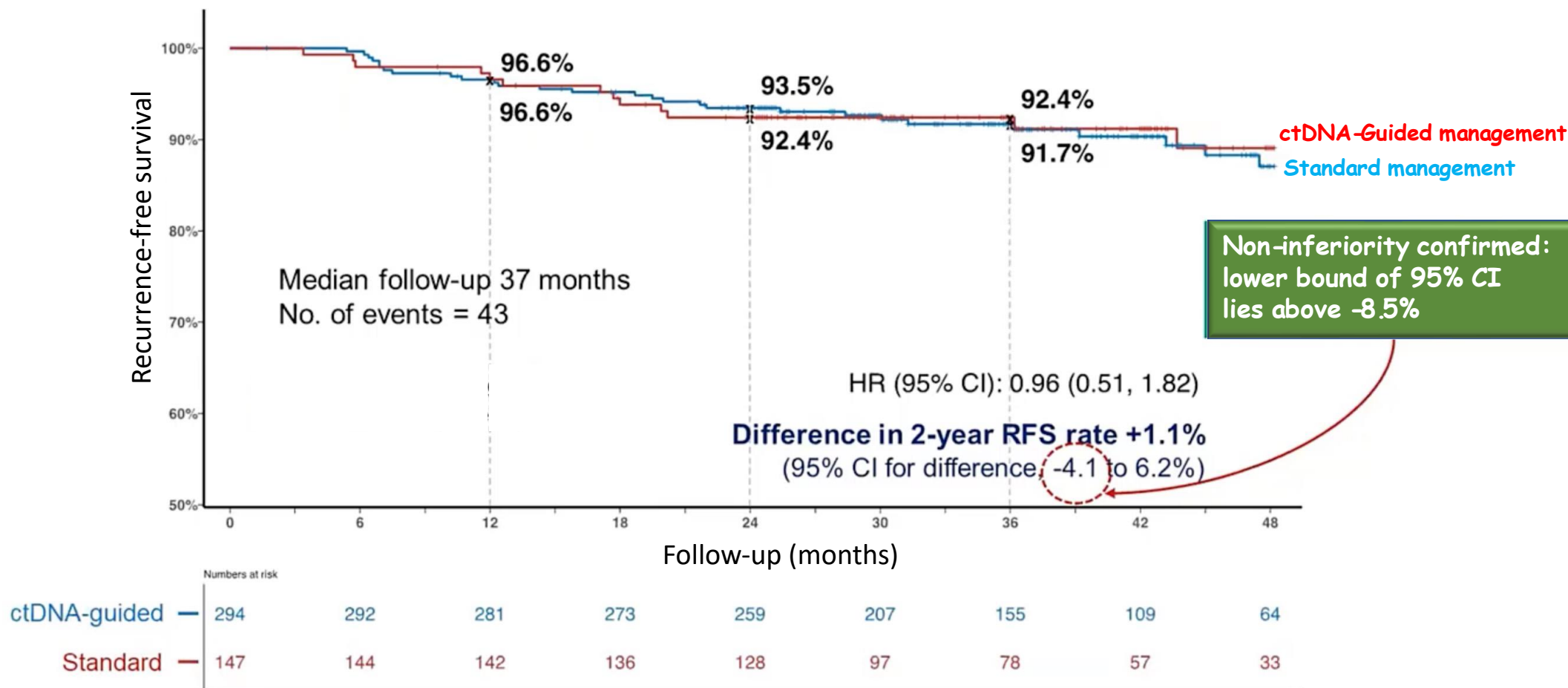
**Stratification Factors**

- T stage (T3 vs T4)
- Type of participating center (metropolitan vs regional)

**Surveillance:**

- CEA → 3-monthly for 24M, then 6-monthly for 36M
- CT C/A/P → 6-monthly for 24M, then at 36M

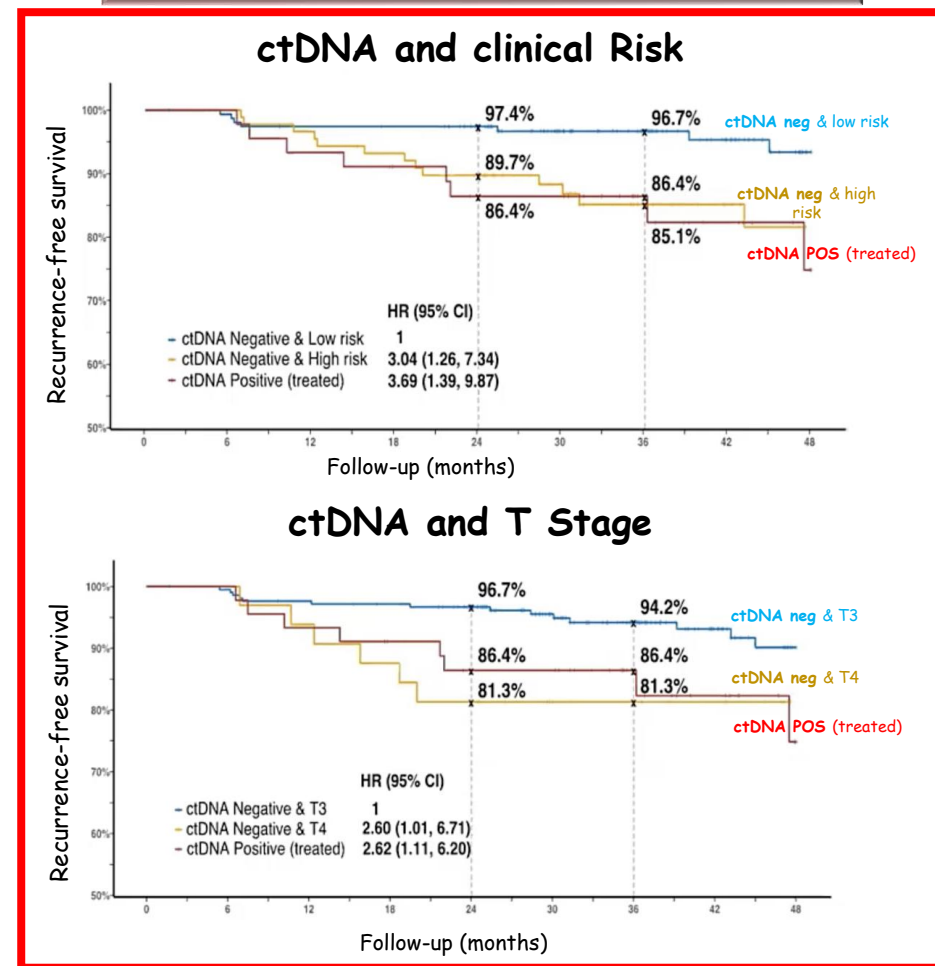
Recurrence-free survival



Adjuvant treatment delivery

Treatment information	ctDNA-Guided N = 294	Standard management N = 147	P-value
Adjuvant Chemo received, n	45 (15%)	41 (28%)	0.0017
Chemo regimen received, n Oxaliplatin-base doublet Single agent fluoropyrimidine	28/45 (62%) 17/45 (38%)	4/41 (10%) 37/41 (90%)	< 0.001
Time from surgery to commencing Chemo, median (IQR), days	83 (76, 89)	53 (49, 61)	< 0.001
Completed planned treatment, n	38 (85%)	38 (85%)	NS
Percentage of full dose delivered Median (IQR)	78 (56, 100)	84 (64, 100)	NS

RFS: ctDNA, clinical Risk & T Stage

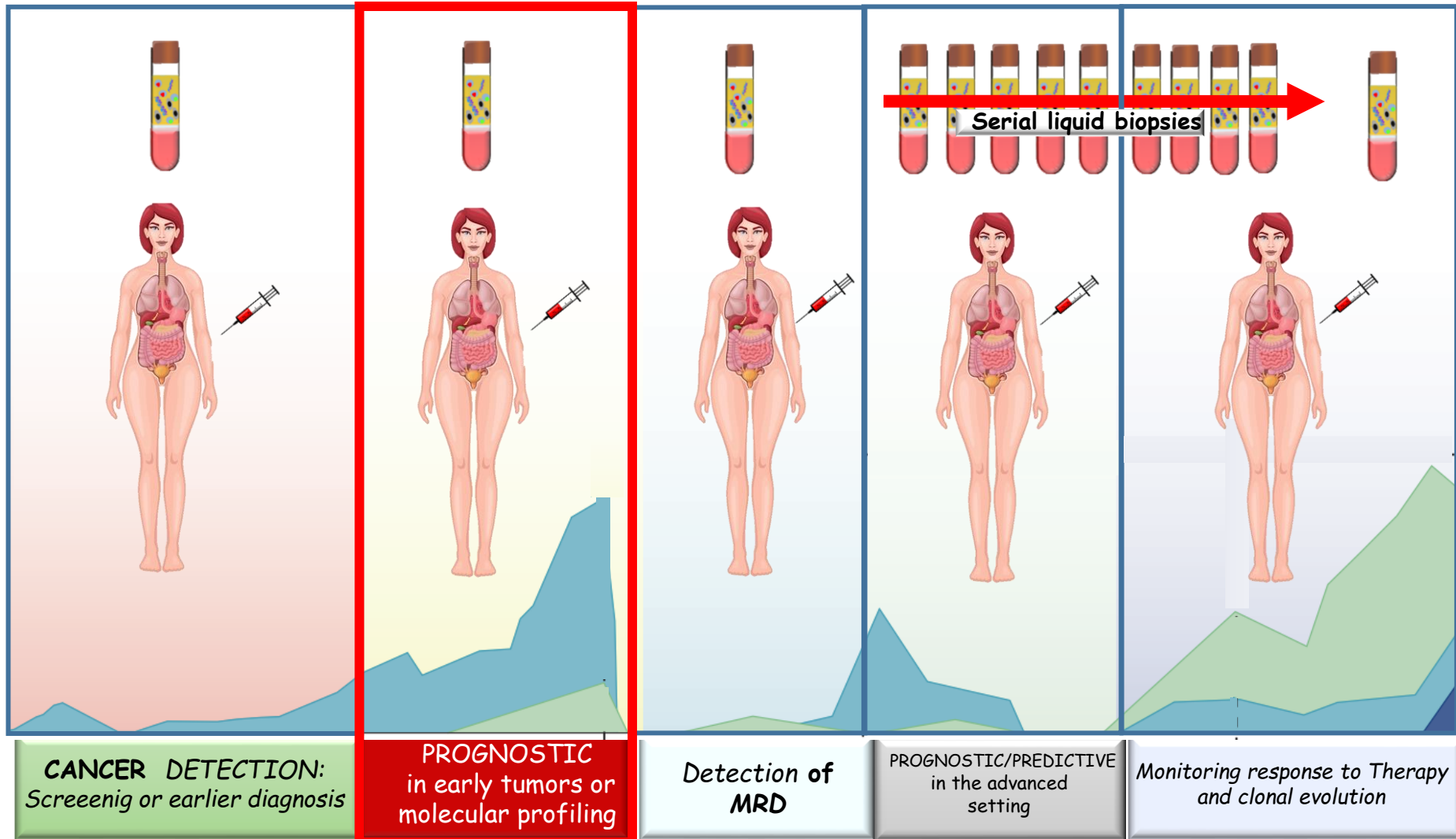


- VEGA (ctDNA negative) and ALTAIR (ctDNA pos) trials of CIRCULATE-JAPAN;
- NRG GI-005 (COBRA) - stage IIA colon cancer active surveillance versus assay directed therapy;
- CIRCULATE US - stage II (ctDNA+) or stage III → de-escalate in ctDNA- (CAPOX-FOLFOX v obs); escalate in ctDNA+ (CAPOX/FOLFOX v FOLFOXIRI);
- SU2C ACT3 trial - stage III ctDNA+ (FOLFIRI v obs); biomarker-directed exploratory cohorts.



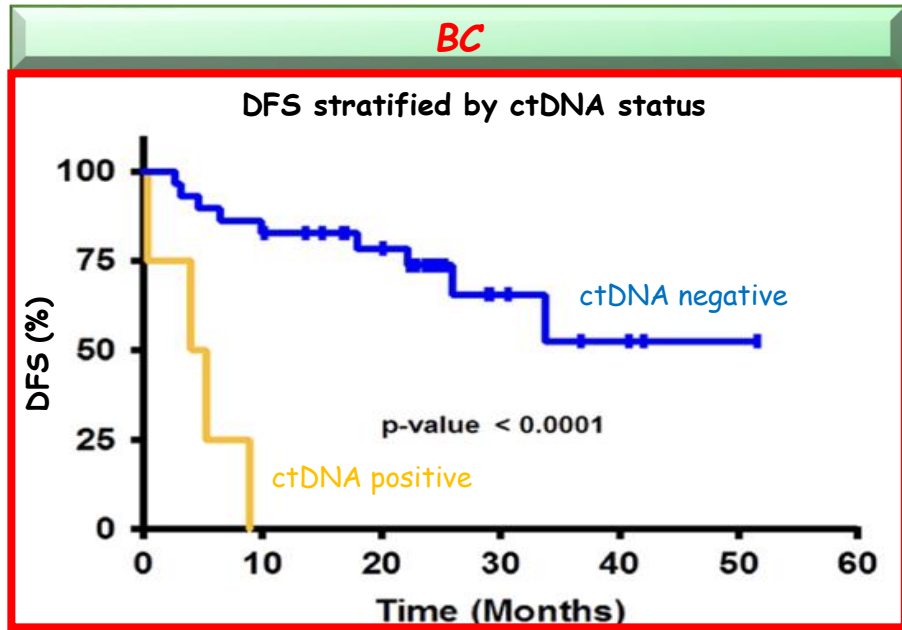
# Liquid Biopsy: Application of ctDNA in solid tumors

**PROGNOSTIC** in early tumors or molecular profiling

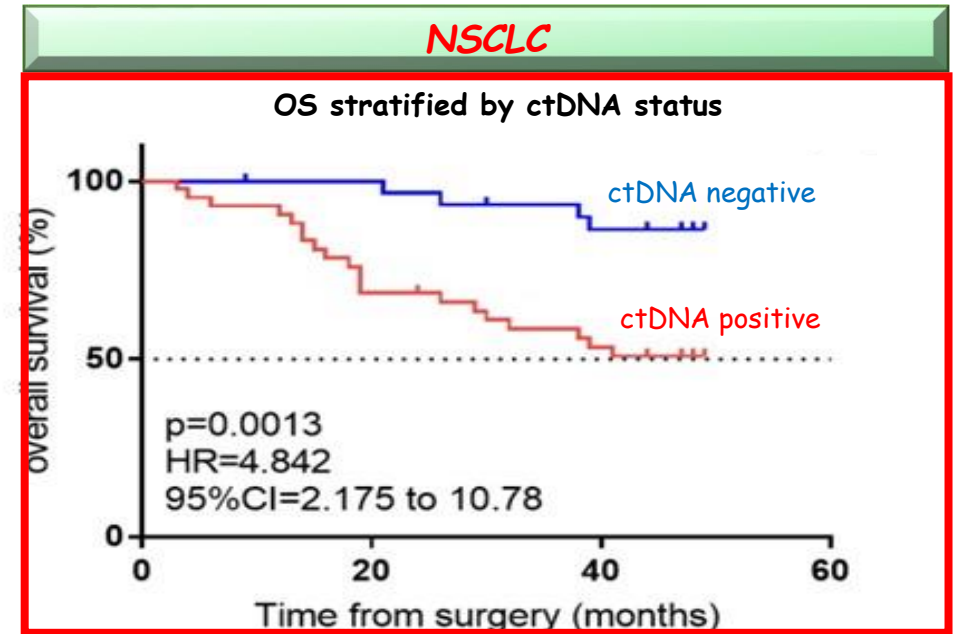


# Liquid Biopsy

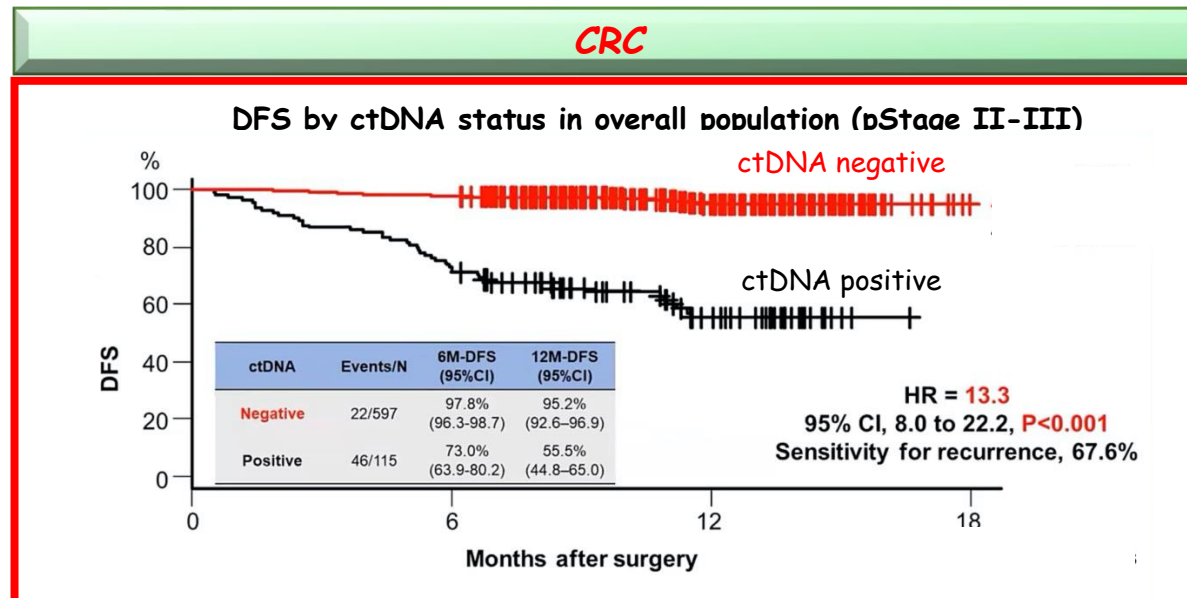
## PROGNOSTIC in early tumors or molecular profiling



Su-Jin Shin, Plos One 2017



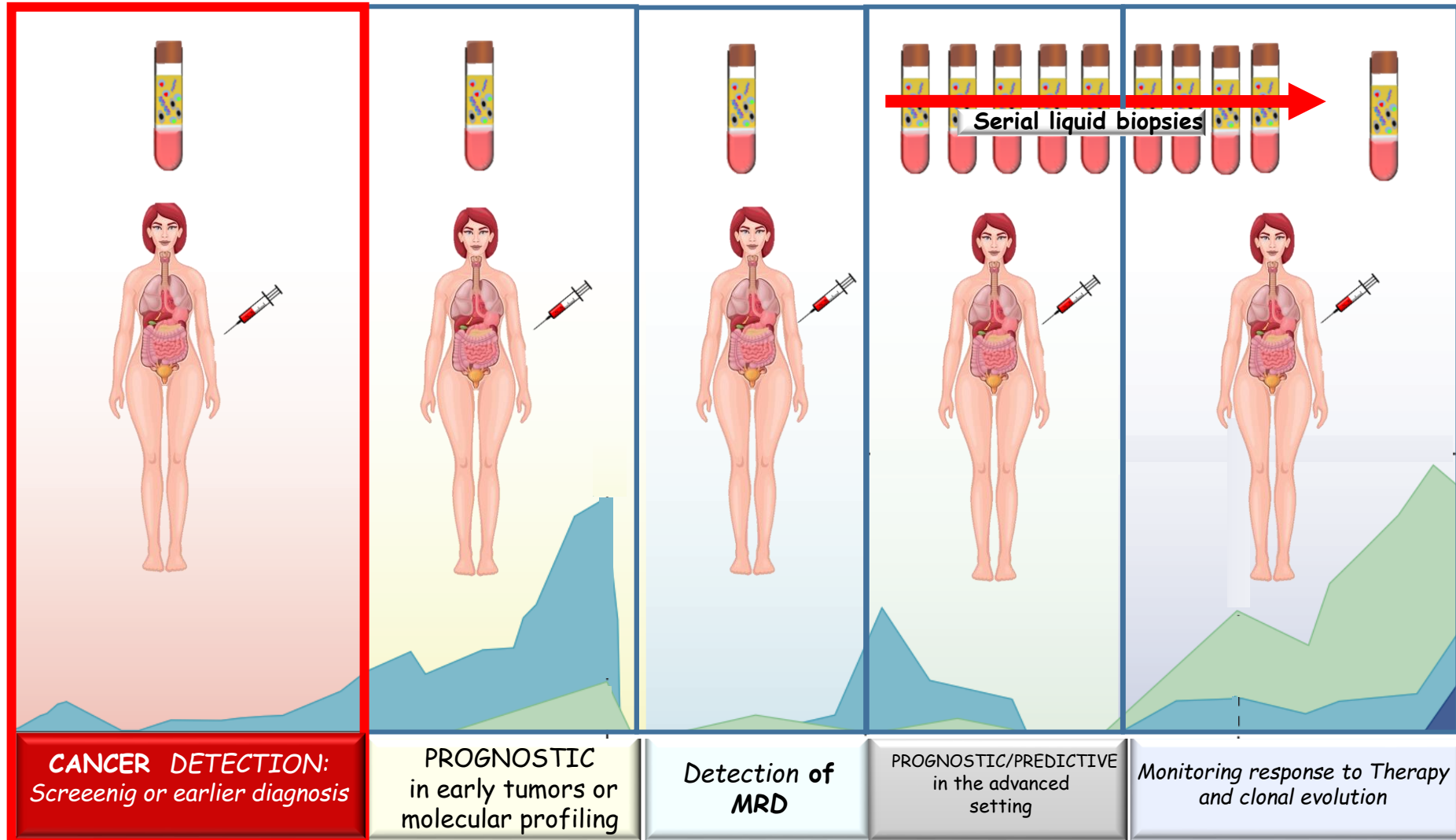
Wang B. et al, CROH 2022



Masahito Kotaka Et al ASCO GI, 2022

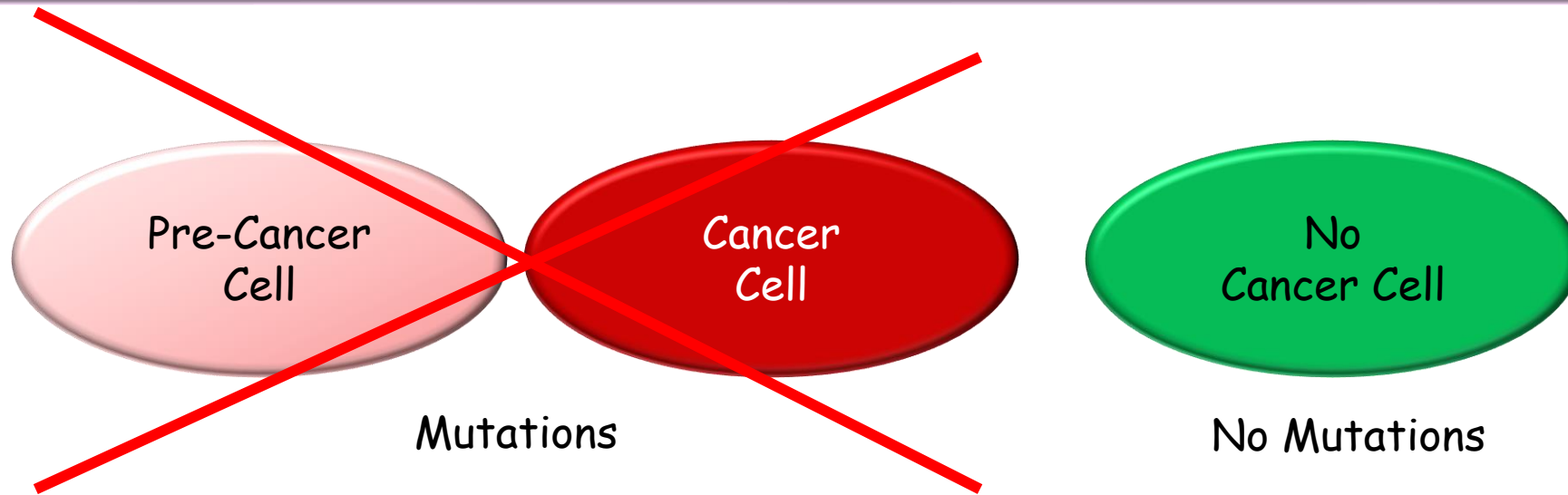
# Liquid Biopsy: Applications of ctDNA in solid tumors

## CANCER DETECTION: Screenig or earlier diagnosis



# Liquid biopsy: Screening or earlier diagnosis

Risk Not all somatic mutations are cancer...



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Cancer-Associated Mutations in Endometriosis without Cancer

M.S. Anglesio, N. Papadopoulos, A. Ayhan, T.M. Nazeran, M. Noë, H.M. Horlings, A. Lum, S. Jones, J. Senz, T. Seckin, J. Ho, R.-C. Wu, V. Lac, H. Ogawa, B. Tessier-Cloutier, R. Alhassan, A. Wang, Y. Wang, J.D. Cohen, F. Wong, A. Hasanovic, N. Orr, M. Zhang, M. Popoli, W. McMahon, L.D. Wood, A. Mattox, C. Allaire, J. Segars, C. Williams, C. Tomasetti, N. Boyd, K.W. Kinzler, C.B. Gilks, L. Diaz, T.-L. Wang, B. Vogelstein, P.J. Yong, D.G. Huntsman, and I.-M. Shih

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Clonal Hematopoiesis and Blood-Cancer Risk Inferred from Blood DNA Sequence

Giulio Genovese, Ph.D., Anna K. Köhler, Ph.D., Robert E. Handsaker, B.S., Johan Lindberg, Ph.D., Samuel A. Rose, B.S., Samuel F. Bakhoun, M.D., Ph.D., Kimberly Chambert, M.S., Eran Mick, B.S., Benjamin M. Neale, Ph.D., Menachem Fromer, Ph.D., Shaun M. Purcell, Ph.D., Oscar Svantesson, M.S., Mikael Landén, Ph.D., Martin Höglund, M.D., Ph.D., Sören Lehmann, M.D., Ph.D., Stacey B. Gabriel, Ph.D., Jennifer L. Moran, Ph.D., Eric S. Lander, Ph.D., Patrick F. Sullivan, M.D., Pamela Sklar, M.D., Ph.D., Henrik Grönberg, M.D., Ph.D., Christina M. Hultman, Ph.D., and Steven A. McCarroll, Ph.D.

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

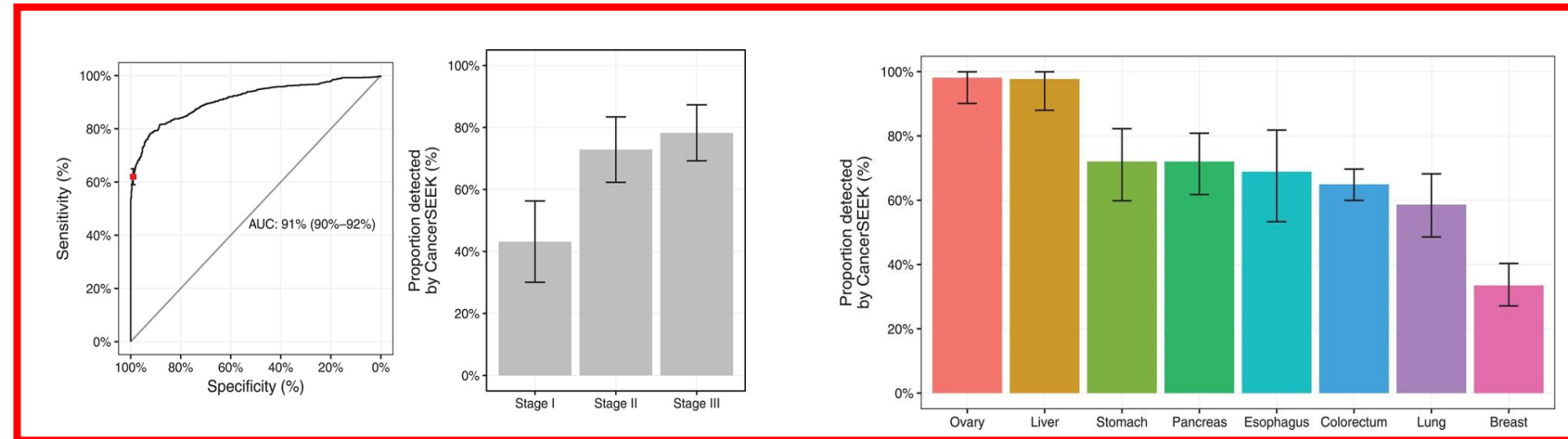
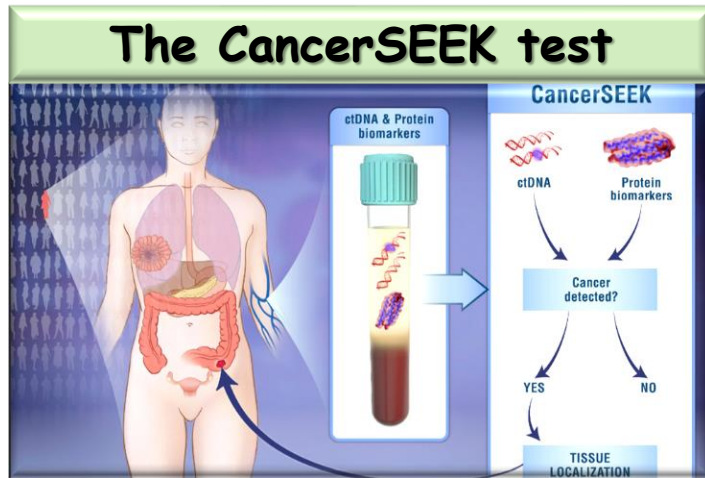
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Aneurysm Syndromes Caused by Mutations in the TGF- $\beta$ Receptor

Bart L. Loeys, M.D., Ph.D., Ulrike Schwarze, M.D., Tammy Holm, M.D., Bert L. Callewaert, M.D., George H. Thomas, Ph.D., Hariyadarshi Pannu, Ph.D., Julie F. De Backer, M.D., Gretchen L. Oswald, M.S., Sofie Symoens, B.S., Sylvie Manouvrier, M.D., Ph.D., Amy E. Roberts, M.D., Francesca Faravelli, M.D., M. Alba Greco, M.D., Reed E. Pyeritz, M.D., Ph.D., Dianna M. Milewicz, M.D., Ph.D., Paul J. Coucke, Ph.D., Duke E. Cameron, M.D., Alan C. Braverman, M.D., Peter H. Byers, M.D., Anne M. De Paepe, M.D., Ph.D., and Harry C. Dietz, M.D.

# Liquid biopsy: cancer screening and early detection

## The CancerSEEK test



### The CancerSEEK test

**Study test:** it can detect 8 common cancer types

**Methods:** assessment of *circulating proteins* and *mutations in cfDNA*

**Materials:** 1005 pts with nonmetastatic cancers (ovary, liver, stomach, pancreas, esophagus, colorectum, lung, or breast) and 812 healthy controls

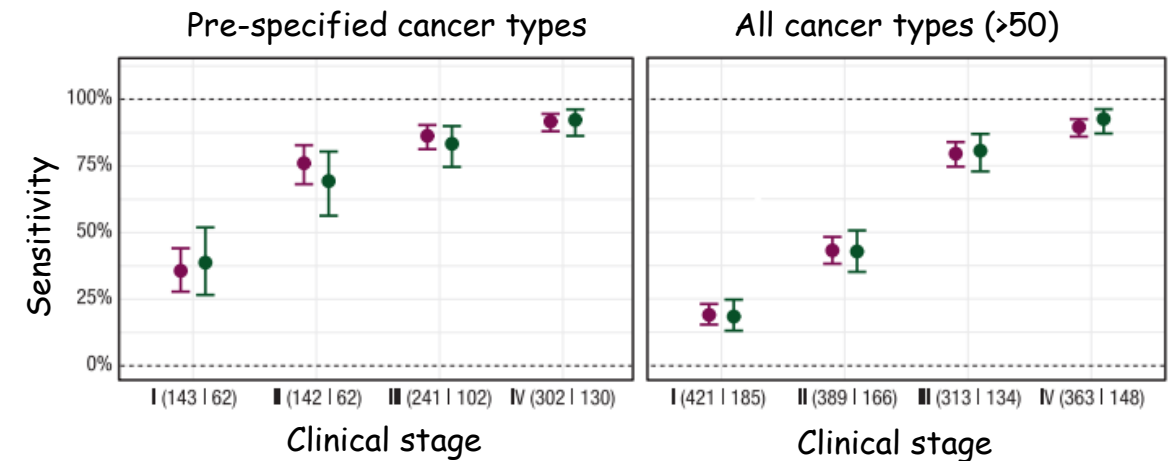
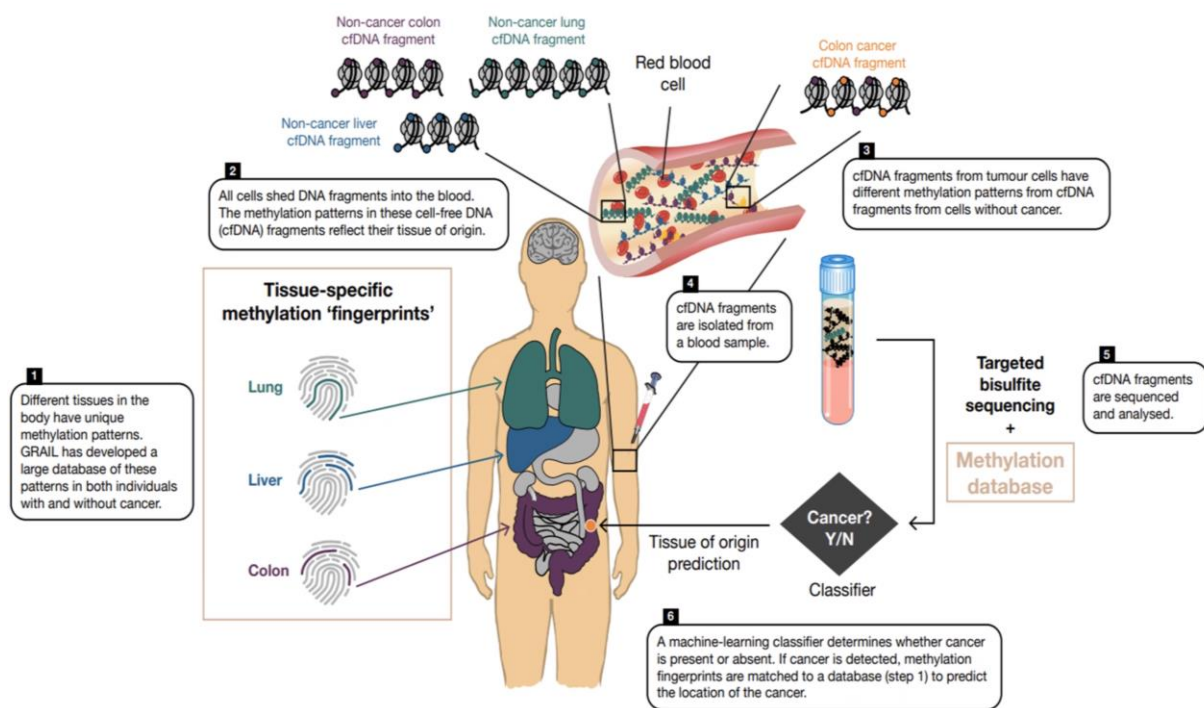
### SOME CONSIDERATIONS AND LIMITS

- Median performance: 70% (ranging from 98% in OCs to 33% in BCs)
- Specificity: > 90%
- Proportion of detected cancer: higher in more advanced stage (stage III)
- Technique: currently useful only on pts diagnosed with cancer
- The proteins used are not cancer-specific (arthritis)

# Liquid biopsy: cancer screening and early detection

## Multi-cancer detection using cfDNA-methylation signatures

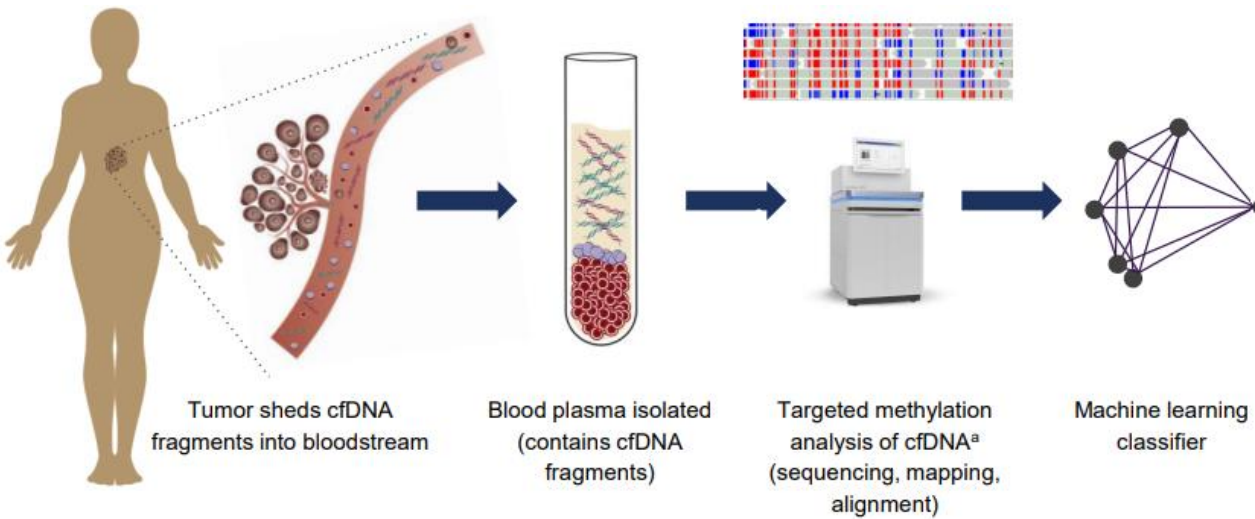
- Prospective, case-control, sub-study to assess the performance of cfDNA-targeted methylation analysis to detect and localize multiple cancer types
- N= 6689; 2482 cancer and 4207 non-cancer
- **Sensitivity in all cancer types:** 18% in stage I, 43% in stage II; 81% in stage III and 93% in stage IV



# Liquid biopsy: cancer screening and early detection

## PATHFINDER: Multi-Cancer Early Detection (MCED)

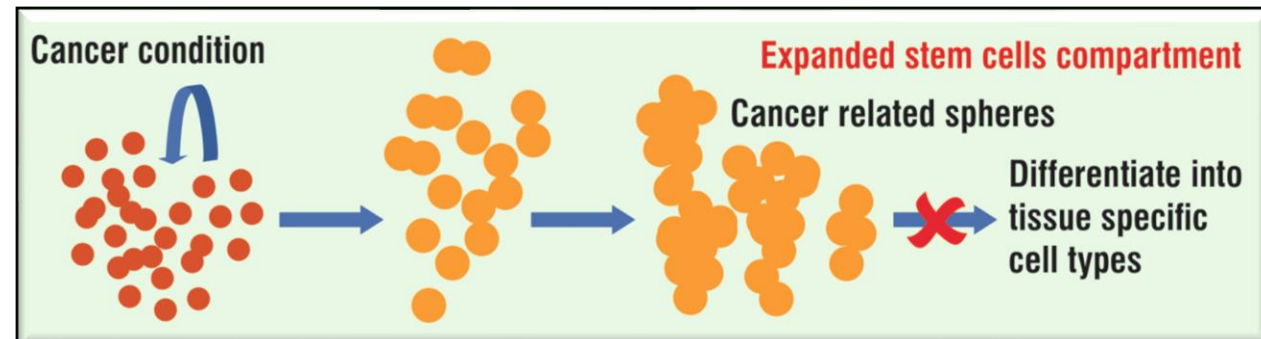
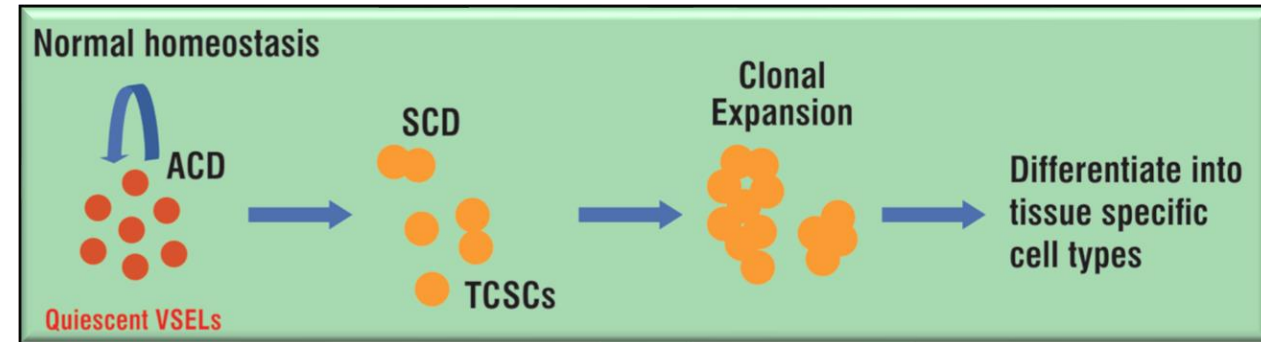
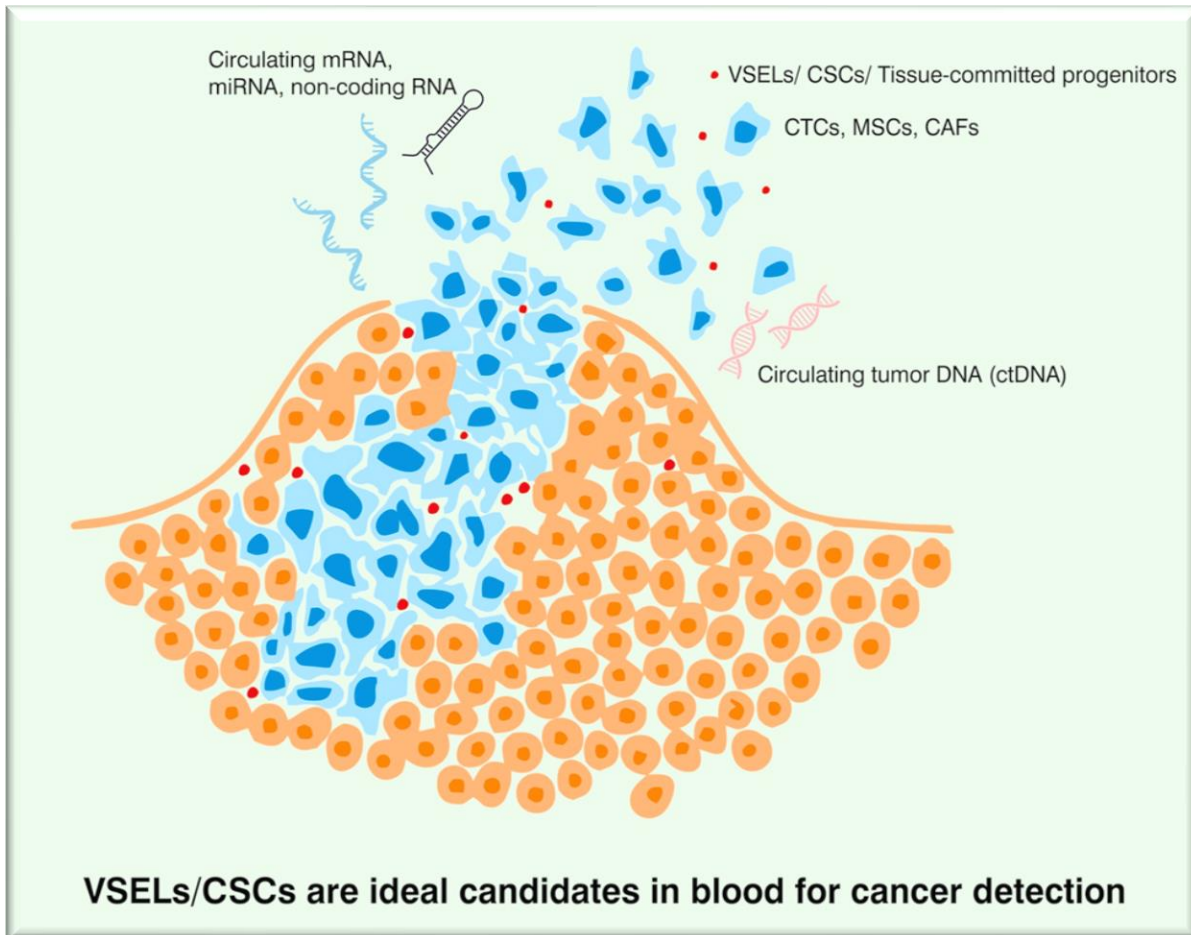
- Prospective, cohort study to assess MCED using targeted methylation NGS
- N= 6621 asymptomatic pts; 3681 with additional risk and 2940 without additional risk
- Cancer signal origin detected in 1.4%, Specificity 99.1%, PPV 38.0%, NPV 98.6%



Results: Multi-Cancer Early Detection (MCED)			
	TP (n)	FP (n)	Total (N)
	35	57	92
<b>Extent of Diagnostic Testing (Primary)</b>	33	57	90
>1 Imaging Test (%)	90.9	93.0	92.2
>1 Invasive Procedure (%)	81.8	29.8	48.9
Time to Resolution [median days (IQR)]	57 (33, 143)	162 (44, 248)	79 (37, 219)
<b>Test Performance (Secondary)</b>	<b>n/N</b>	<b>% (95% CI)</b>	
PPV	35/92	38.0 (28.8, 48.3)	
NPV	6235/6321	98.6 (98.3, 98.9)	
CSO Prediction Accuracy	33/34	97.1 (85.1, 99.8)	

# Liquid biopsy: cancer screening and early detection

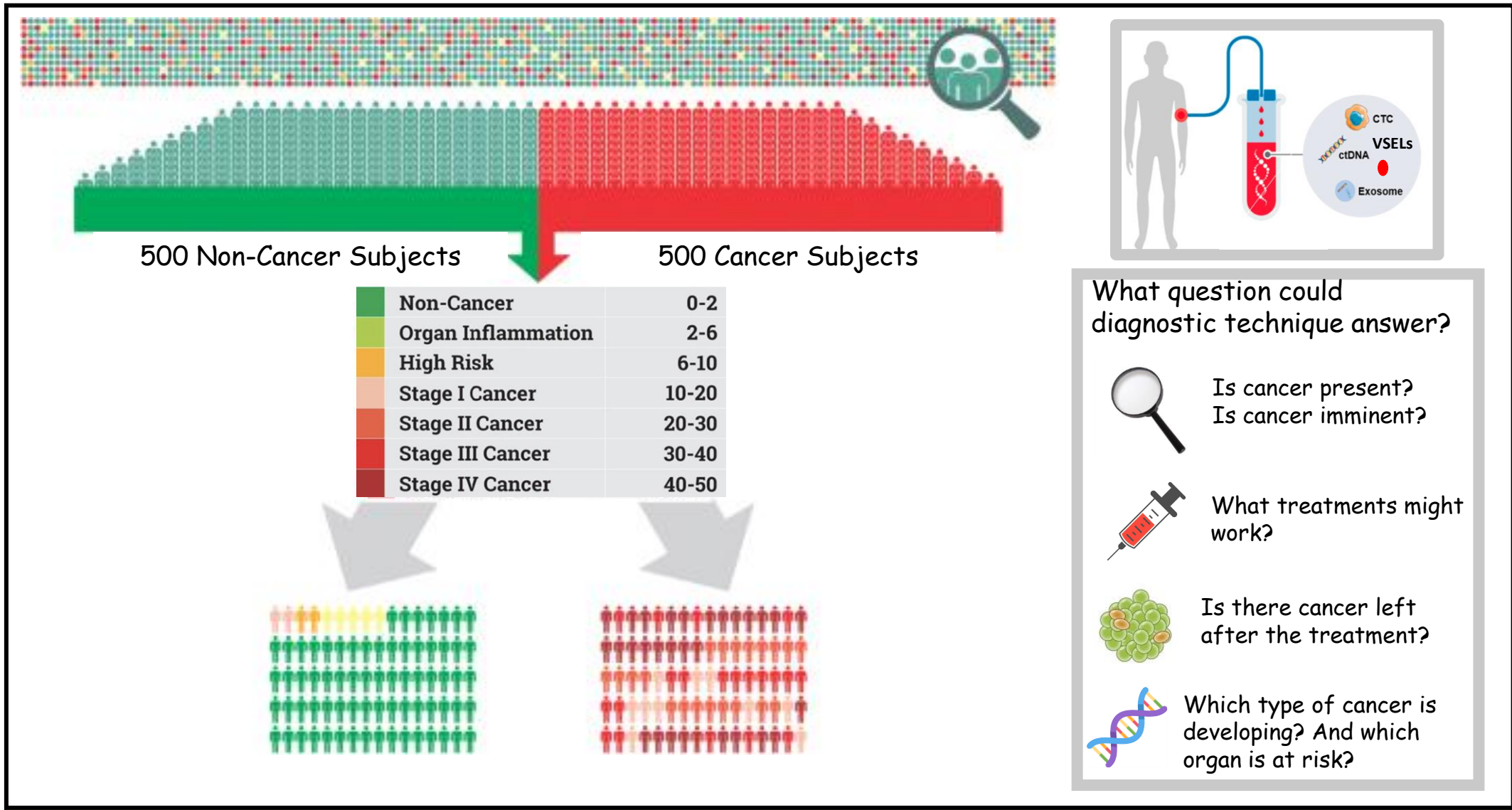
## Very Small Embryonic-Like Stem Cells: Novel Candidates for Detecting/Monitoring Cancer by LB





# Liquid biopsy: cancer screening and early detection

## Very Small Embryonic-Like Stem Cells: Novel Candidates for Detecting/Monitoring Cancer by LB



## Raccomandazioni 2020 per l'esecuzione di Test Molecolari su Biopsia Liquida in Oncologia

A cura del Gruppo di Lavoro AIOM – SIAPEC-IAP – SIBIOC – SIF

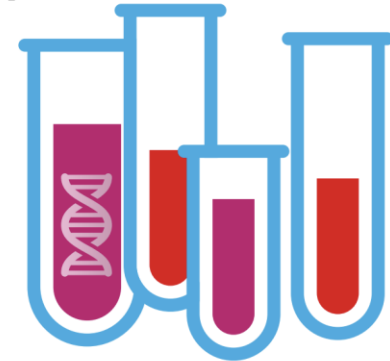


*Giordano Beretta, Ettore Capoluongo, Romano Danesi, Marzia Del Re, Matteo Fassan, Giuseppe Giuffrè, Stefania Gori, Valerio Gristina, Lorena Incorvaia, Umberto Malapelle, Antonio Marchetti, Nicola Normanno, Carmine Pinto, Giulio Rossi, Andrea Sartore Bianchi, Nicola Silvestri, Pierosandro Tagliaferri, Giancarlo Troncone e Antonio Russo.*

Luglio 2020

## RACCOMANDAZIONI PER L'ESECUZIONE DI TEST MOLECOLARI SU **BIOPSIA LIQUIDA** IN ONCOLOGIA

LUGLIO 2018



Current Clinical Pathology  
Series Editor: Antonio Giordano

Antonio Russo  
Antonio Giordano  
Christian Rolfo *Editors*

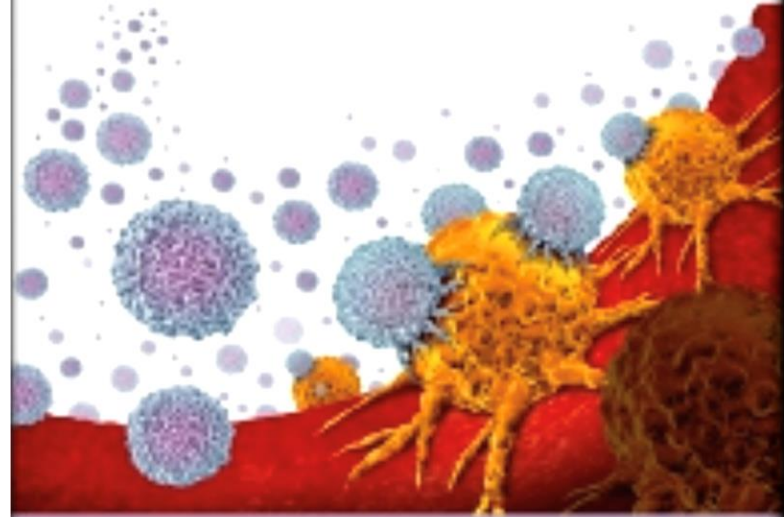
# Liquid Biopsy in Cancer Patients

The Hand Lens for Tumor Evolution

 Humana Press

# LIQUID BIOPSY

New Challenges in the Era of  
Immunotherapy and Precision Oncology



Edited by  
Antonio Russo, Ettore Capoluongo,  
Antonio Galvano, Antonio Giordano



# Liquid biopsy: Future Perspectives

## Potential detection and monitoring of IO biomarkers



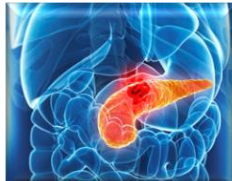
Therapeutic Advances in Medical Oncology 2019

Original Research

### Monitoring blood biomarkers to predict nivolumab effectiveness in NSCLC patients

Francesco Passiglia, Antonio Galvano [...], Viviana Bazan and Antonio Russo

*Ther Adv Med Oncol*  
2019, Vol. 11, 1–11  
DOI: 10.1177/  
1758835919839928  
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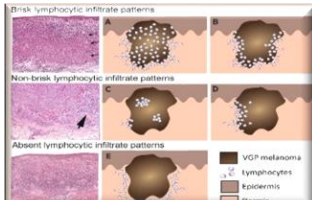
Taylor & Francis  
Taylor & Francis Group

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

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Prognostic significance of circulating PD1, PD-L1, pan-BTN3As, BTN3A1 and BTLA in patients with pancreatic adenocarcinoma

Benjamin Bian, Daniele Fanale [...], Antonio Russo and Juan Iovanna



Therapeutic Advances in Medical Oncology 2019

Original Research

### Can the plasma PD-1 levels predict the presence and efficiency of tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes in patients with metastatic melanoma?

Lorena Incorvaia, Giuseppe Badalamenti [...], Daniele Fanale and Antonio Russo

*Ther Adv Med Oncol*  
2019, Vol. 11, 1–11  
DOI: 10.1177/  
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ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Oncoimmunology 2020

OPEN ACCESS Check for updates

Baseline plasma levels of soluble PD-1, PD-L1, and BTN3A1 predict response to nivolumab treatment in patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma: a step toward a biomarker for therapeutic decisions

Lorena Incorvaia <sup>1†</sup>, Daniele Fanale <sup>1b†</sup>, Giuseppe Badalamenti <sup>b†</sup>, Camillo Porta <sup>1b†</sup>, Daniel Olive <sup>d</sup>, Ida De Luca <sup>b</sup>, Chiara Brando <sup>b</sup>, Mimma Rizzo <sup>1b†</sup>, Carlo Messina <sup>1</sup>, Mattia Rediti <sup>9</sup>, Antonio Russo <sup>2b\*</sup>, Viviana Bazan <sup>a\*</sup>,



cancers

MDPI


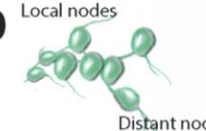
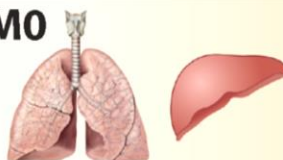
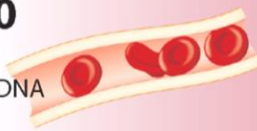

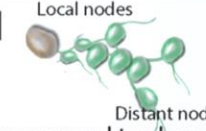



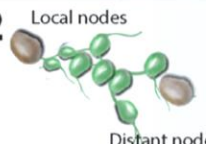
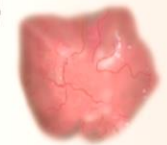
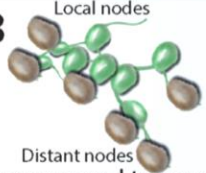
Article

### A “Lymphocyte MicroRNA Signature” as Predictive Biomarker of Immunotherapy Response and Plasma PD-1/PD-L1 Expression Levels in Patients with Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma: Pointing towards Epigenetic Reprogramming

Lorena Incorvaia <sup>1†</sup>, Daniele Fanale <sup>2†</sup>, Giuseppe Badalamenti <sup>2†</sup>, Chiara Brando <sup>2</sup>, Marco Bono <sup>2</sup>, Ida De Luca <sup>2</sup>, Laura Algeri <sup>2</sup>, Annalisa Bonasera <sup>2</sup>, Lidia Rita Corsini <sup>2</sup>, Salvatore Scurria <sup>3</sup>, Juan Lucio Iovanna <sup>4</sup>, Antonio Russo <sup>2b†</sup> and Viviana Bazan <sup>1†</sup>

# Liquid biopsy

## Is this the future?

<h1>T</h1> <p><b>Tumor Size</b></p>	<h1>N</h1> <p><b>Lymph Node</b></p>	<h1>M</h1> <p><b>Metastasis</b></p>	<h1>B</h1> <p><b>Blood</b></p>
<p><b>T1</b></p>  <p>Tumor size/local invasion</p>	<p><b>N0</b></p>  <p>No regional lymph node invasion</p>	<p><b>M0</b></p>  <p>No distant metastasis</p>	<p><b>B0</b></p>  <p>No ctDNA mutations in blood</p>
<p><b>T2</b></p>  <p>Tumor size/local invasion</p>	<p><b>N1</b></p>  <p>Tumor spread to closest or small number of regional lymph nodes</p>	<p><b>M1</b></p>  <p>Distant metastasis</p>	<p><b>B1</b></p>  <p>ctDNA mutations in blood (can be further defined with more detailed quantification in the future)</p>
<p><b>T3</b></p>  <p>Tumor size/local invasion</p>	<p><b>N2</b></p>  <p>Tumor spread to an extent between N1 and N3</p>		
<p><b>T4</b></p>  <p>Tumor of any size that invades to other organs</p>	<p><b>N3</b></p>  <p>Tumor spread to more distant or regional numerous lymph nodes</p>		



**A.O.U.P. "P. Giaccone" University Hospital**  
**DIPARTIMENTO DI DISCIPLINE CHIRURGICHE,**  
**ONCOLOGICHE E STOMATOLOGICHE**  
**MEDICAL ONCOLOGY UN.T**  
**(Dir.: Prof. Antonio Russo)**



**GRAZIE!!!**

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