

# GU Liquid Biopsy Updates

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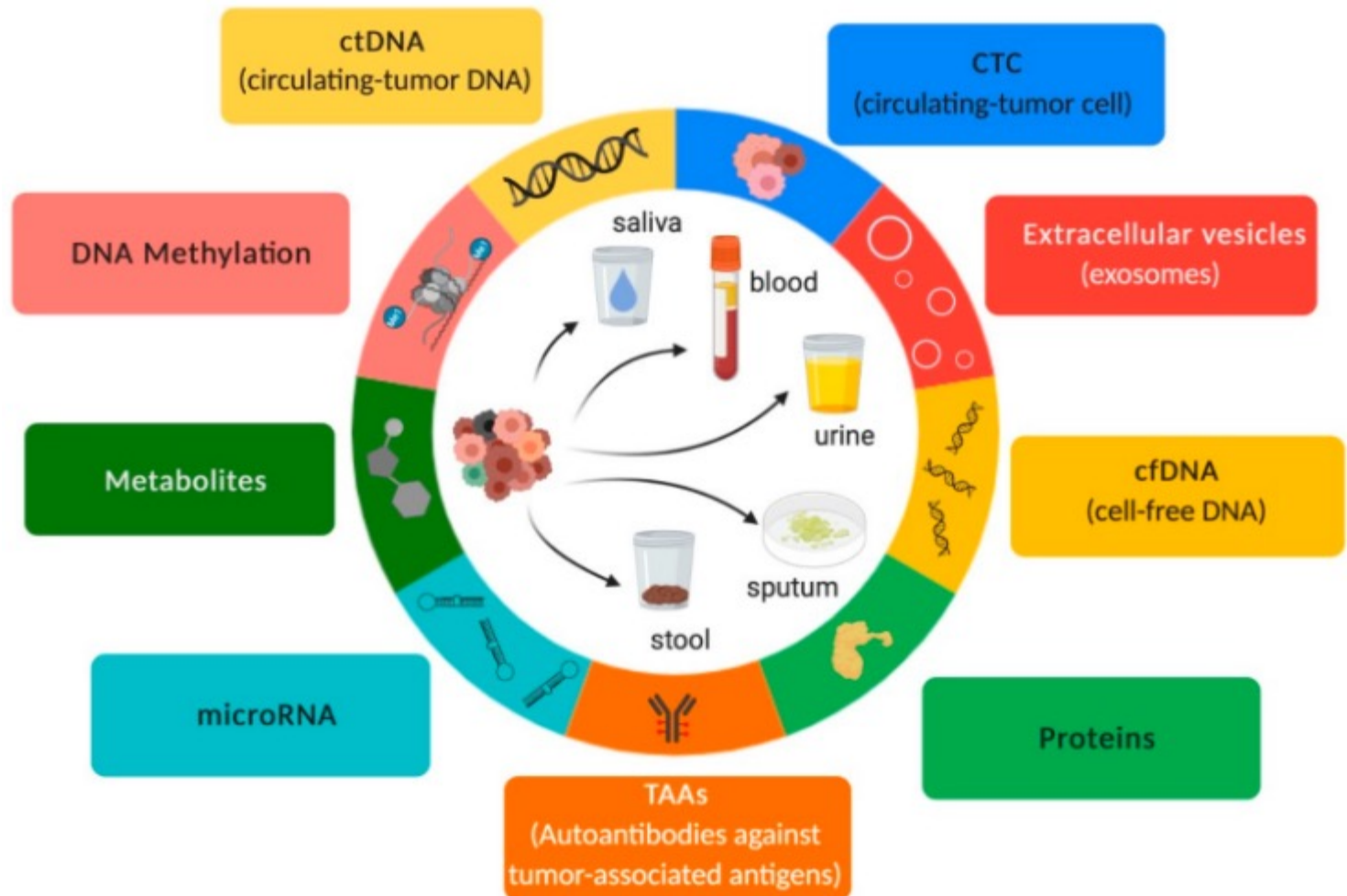
# Agenda

1. Liquid Biopsy Overview
2. Tumor Informed vs Tumor Agnostic
3. CHIP mutation
4. Urothelial Cancer
5. Prostate Cancer
6. Research Questions for the future

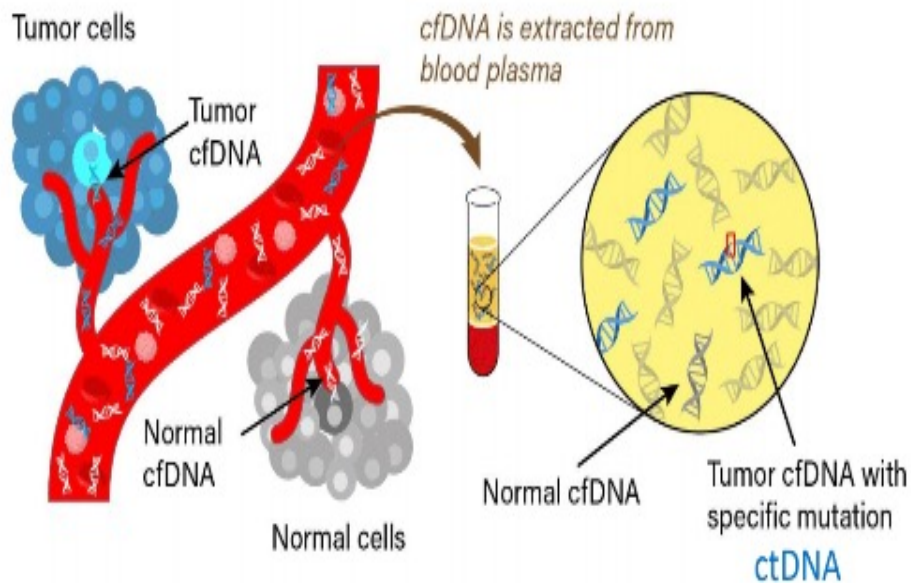


# Liquid Biopsy Overview

# Liquid Biopsy



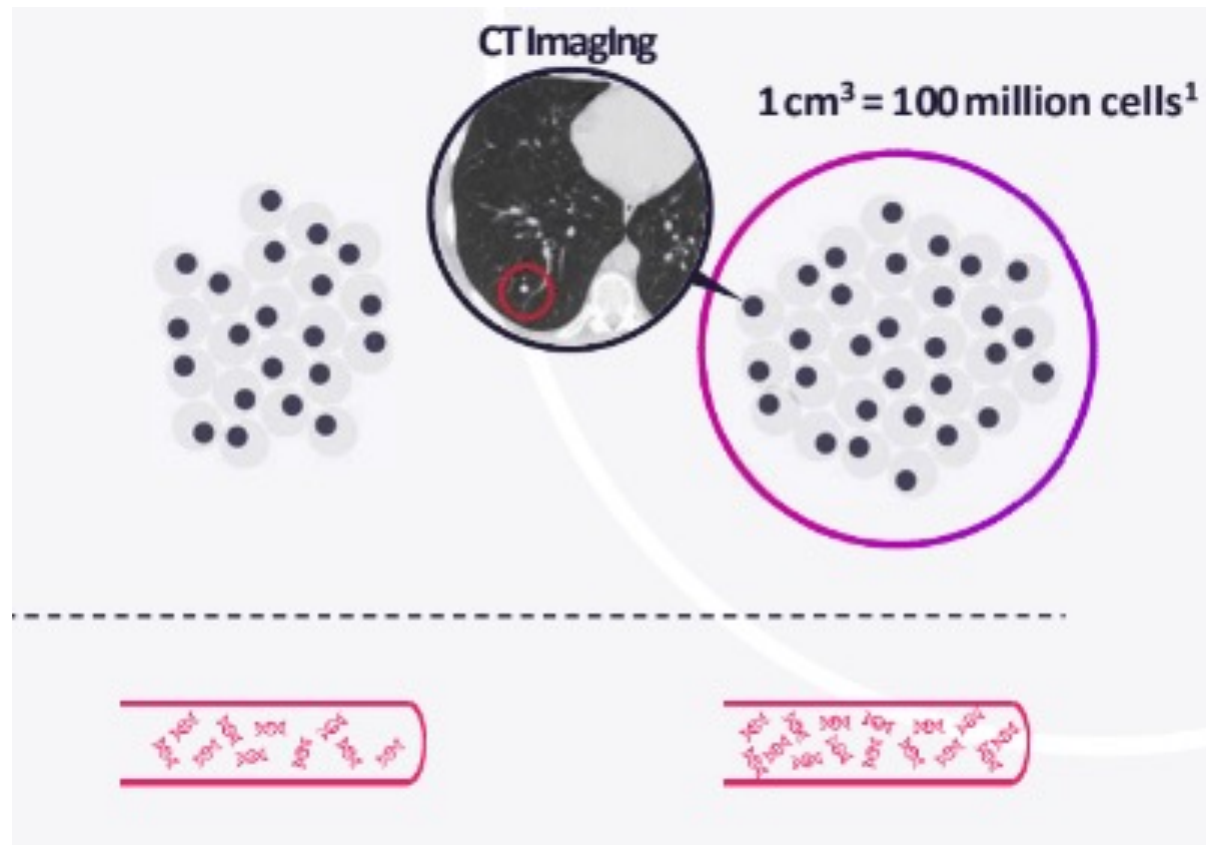
# What is ctDNA

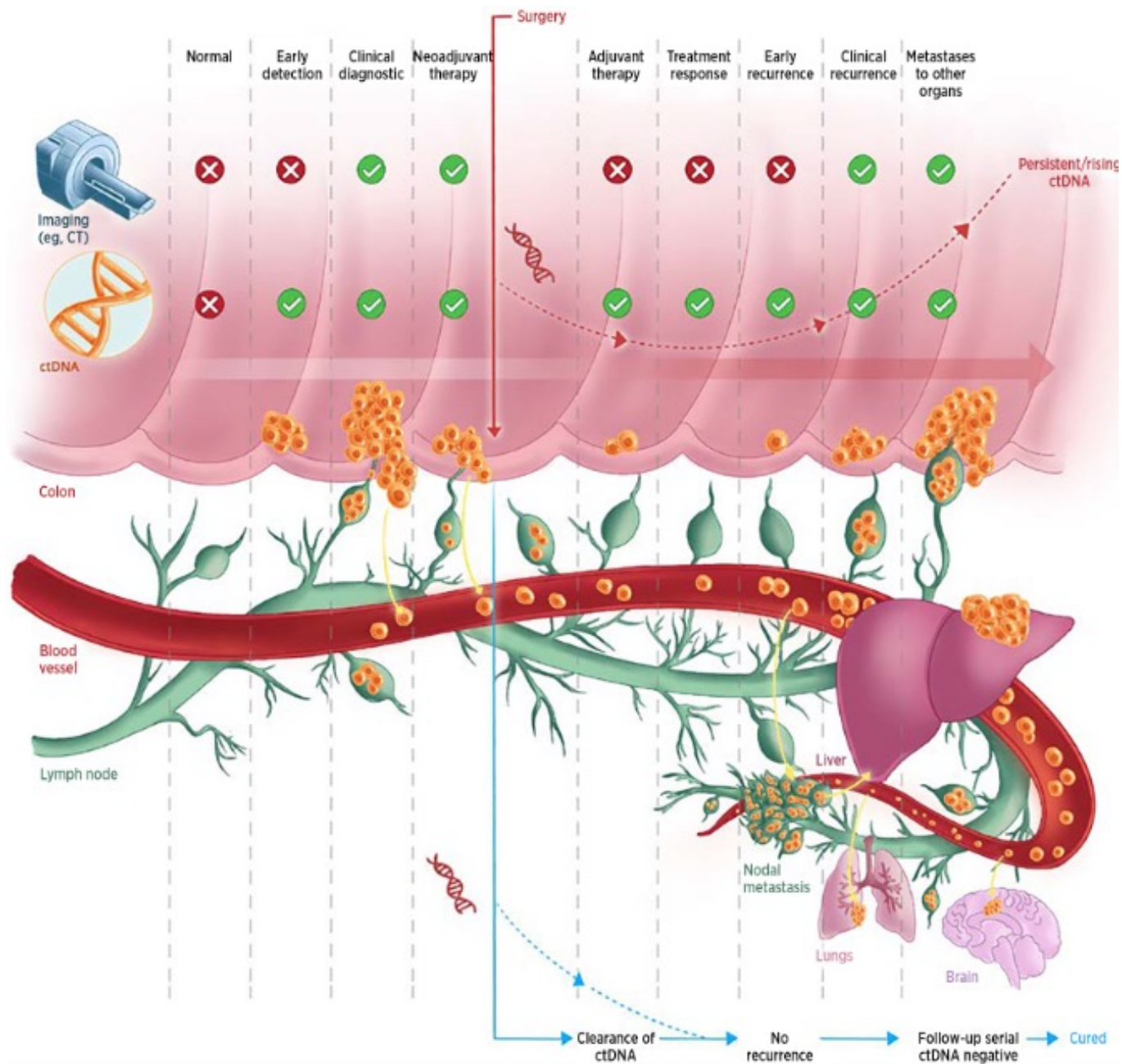


- Small fragments of tumor derived DNA
- Half-life – 2 hours
- Proliferative cancers

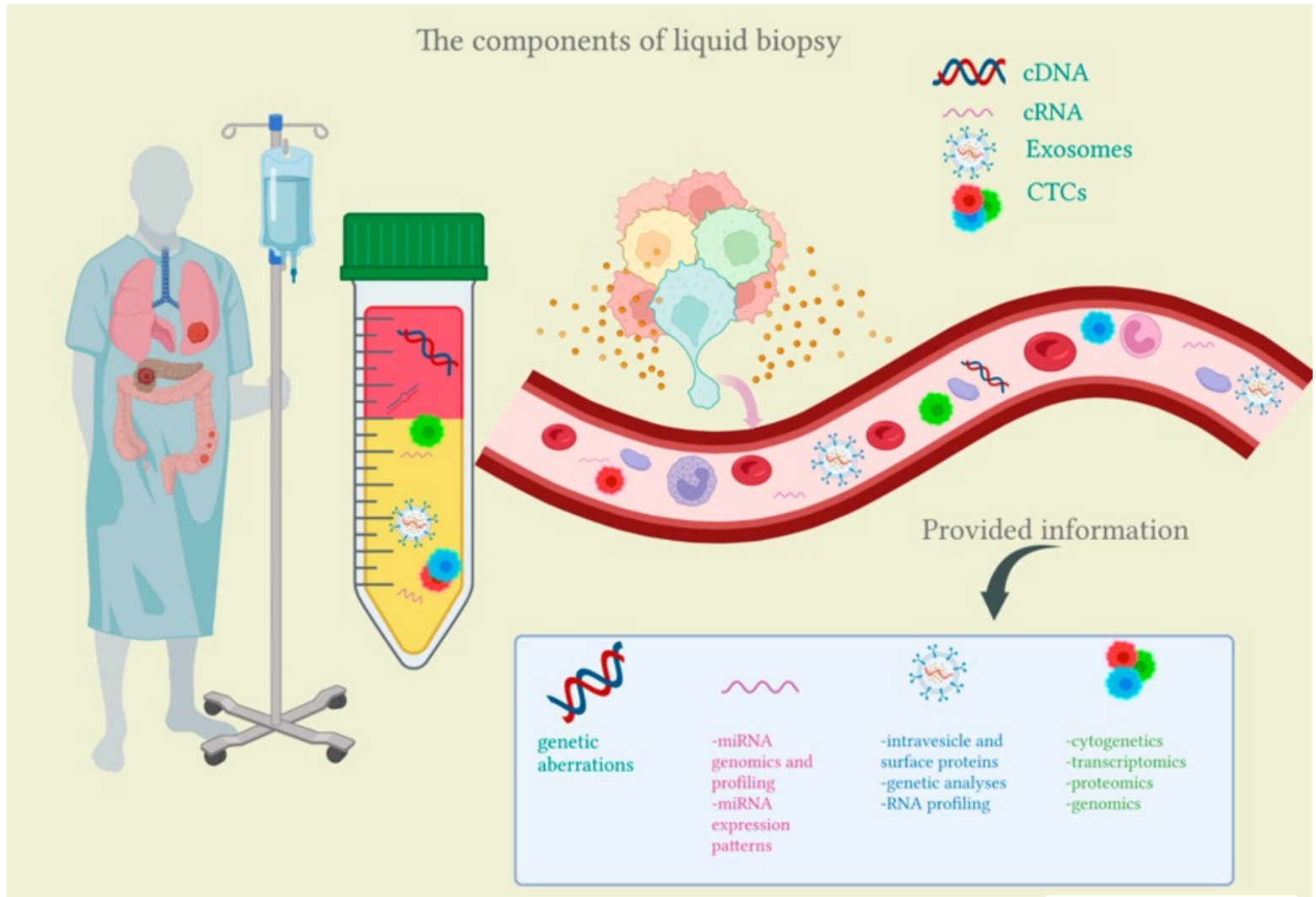


# Imaging to ctDNA



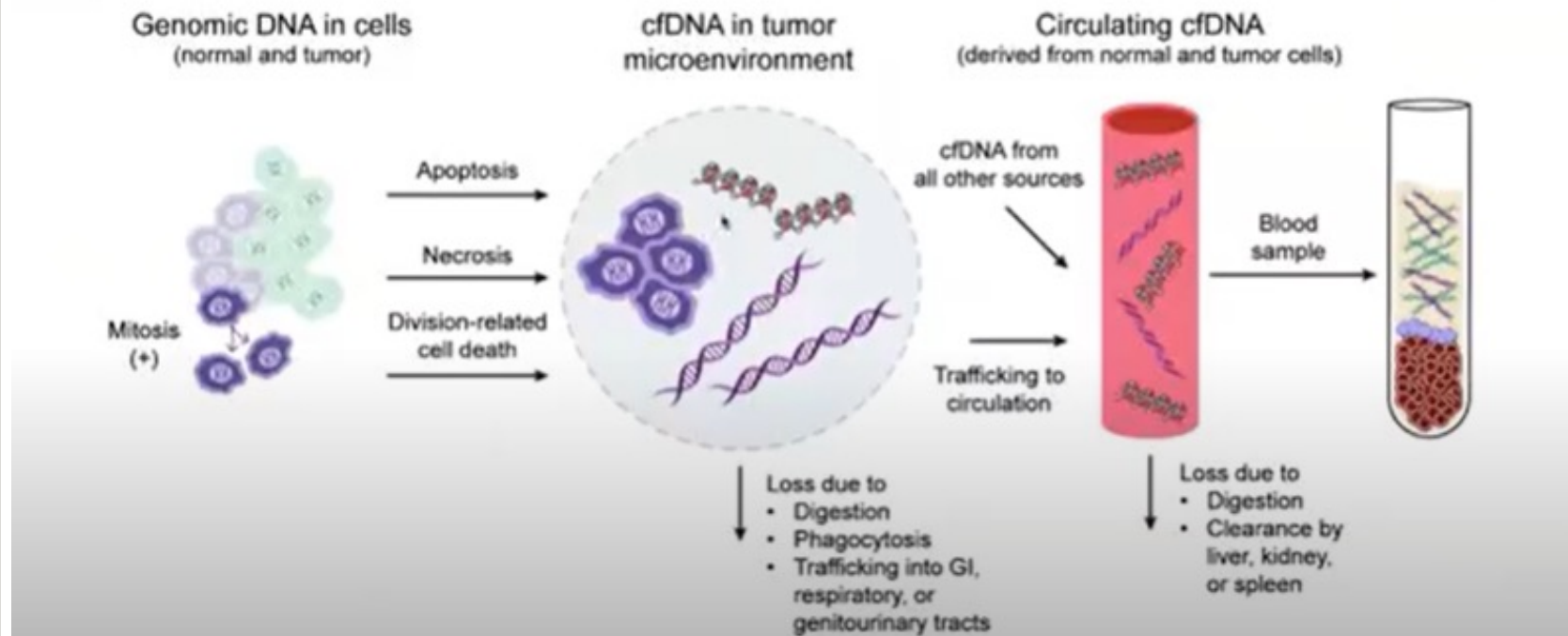


# Components of liquid biopsy



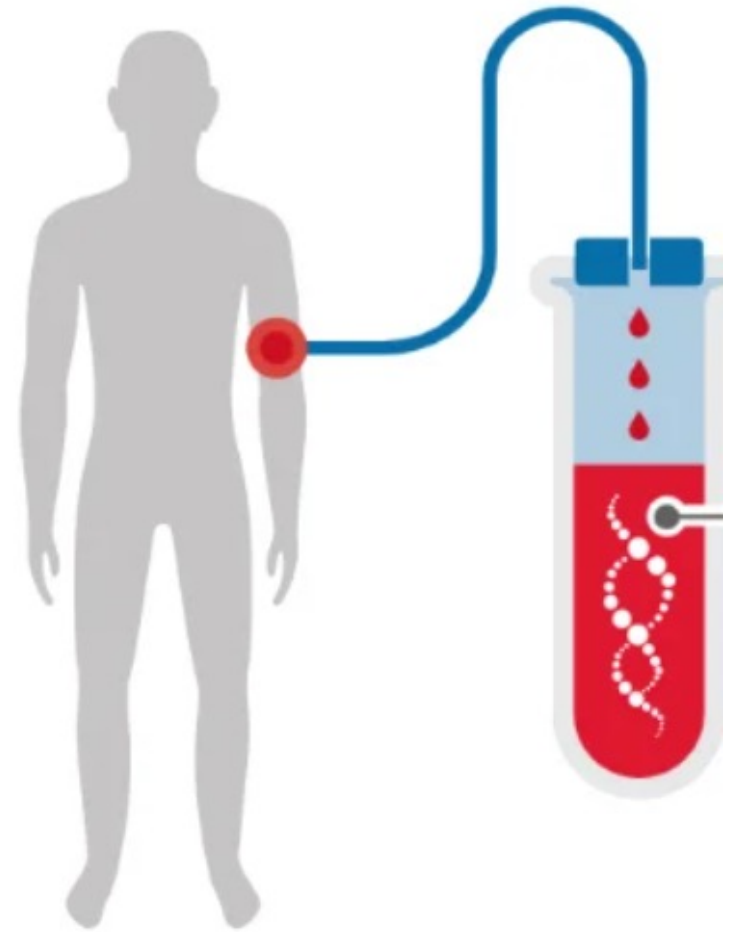


## Depiction of origin and fates of circulating tumor DNA relative to cell-free DNA



# What is included in cell free DNA?

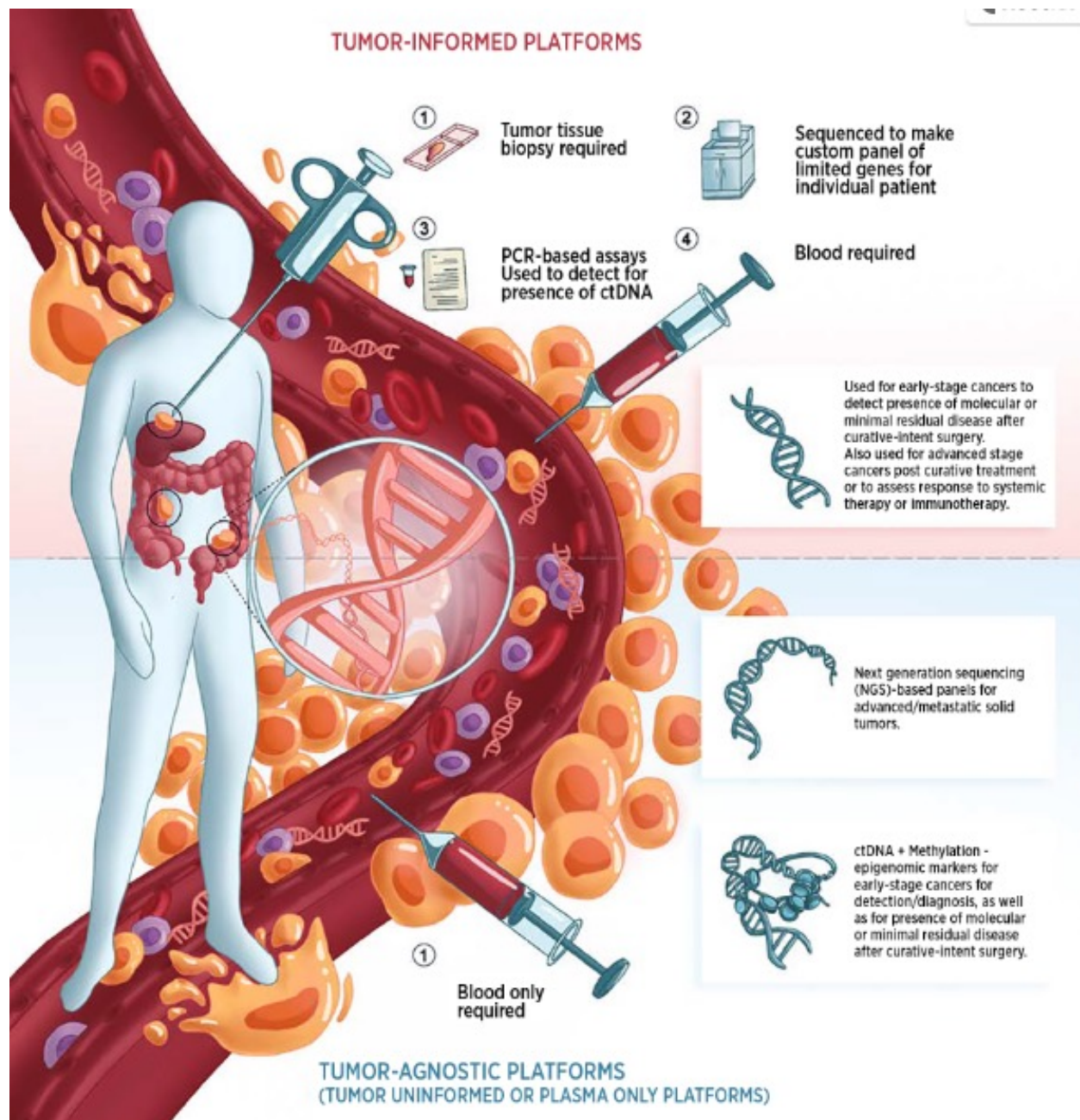
- ctDNA – cancer cells, multiple locations
- Normal cell free DNA from hematopoietic cells (and non-hematopoietic cells)
- Clonal hematopoietic mutations with mutations (CHIP)





# ctDNA Platforms

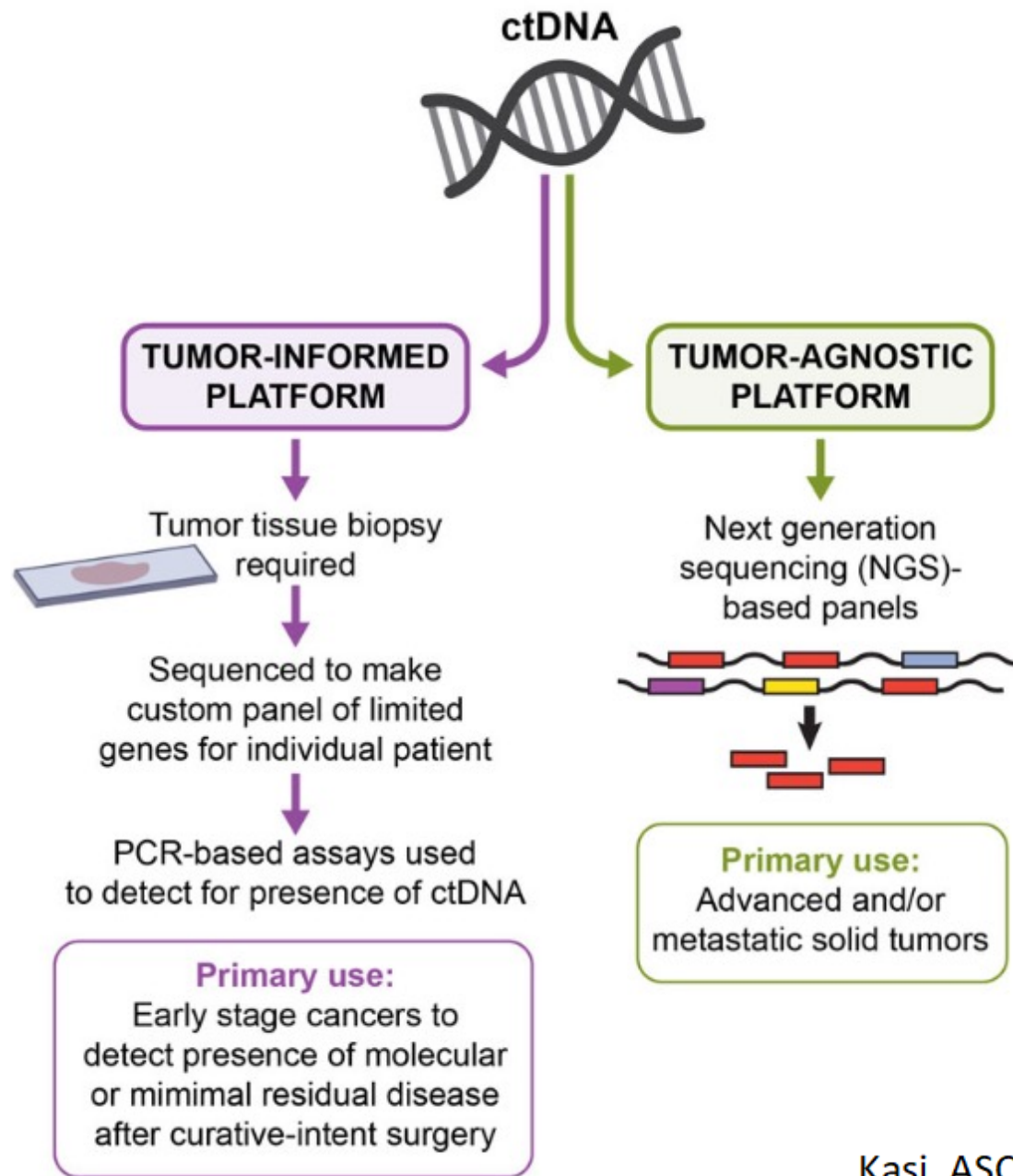
## Tumor informed vs Tumor Agnostic





# ctDNA testing Platforms

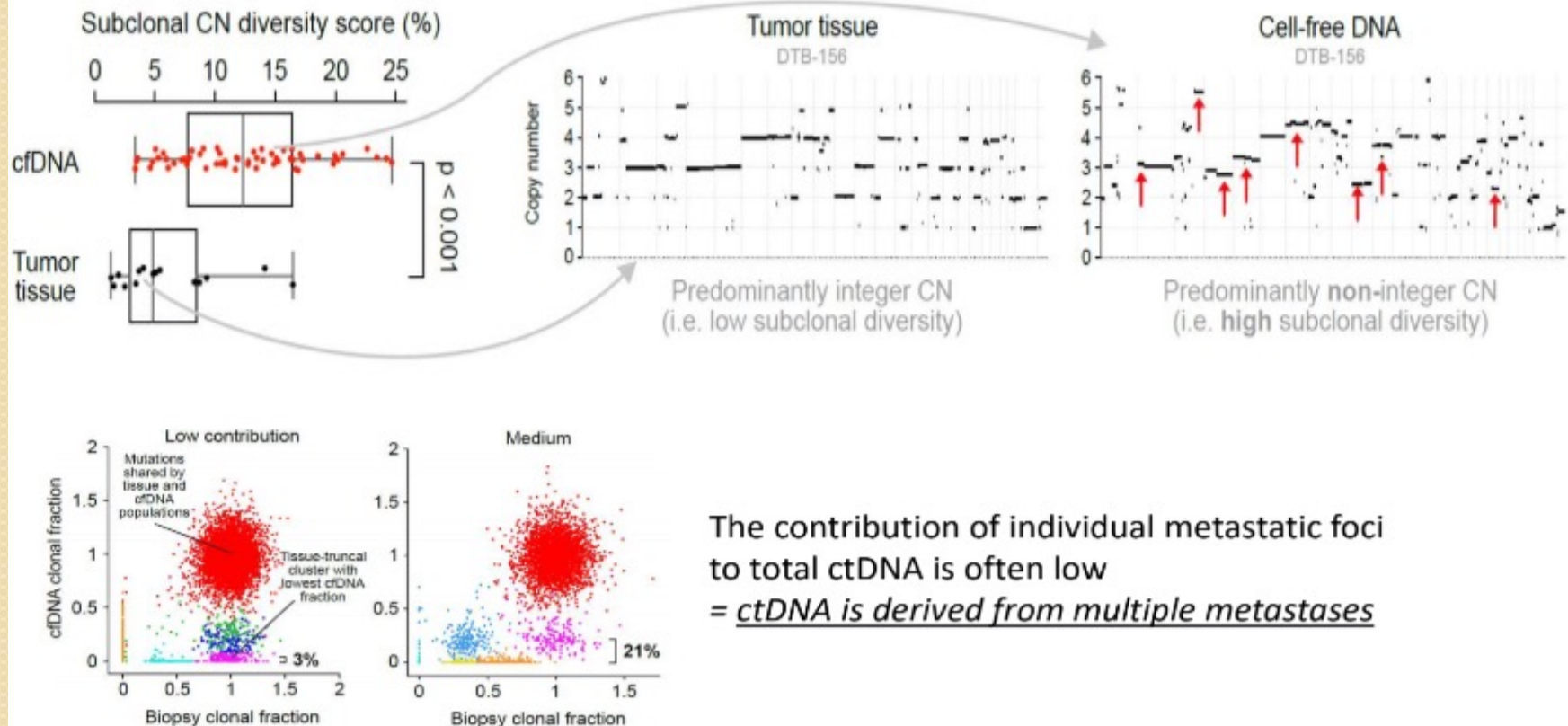
- Tumor Informed
  - Personalized for each cancer patient
  - Tissue biopsy sent to create a “barcode”
  - Liquid biopsy picks up barcode from serial blood tests
  - Example: Bladder Cancer
- Tumor Agnostic
  - ctDNA +Epigenetic markers
  - Methylation signatures
  - Example: Prostate Cancer somatic mutations





# CHIP Mutation: Cautionary Tale

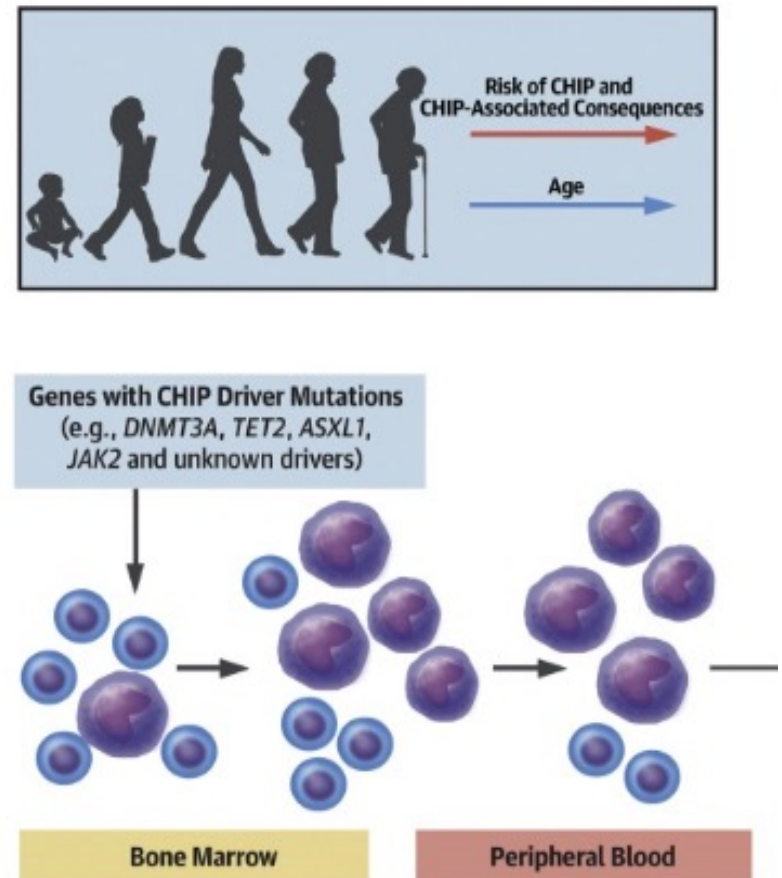
# ctDNA is multiple metastatic foci





# CHIP

- Clonally expanded hematopoietic cells that occur during aging
- Included in liquid biopsies
- Can harbor somatic mutations including ATM, BRCA.



# Association of Clonal Hematopoiesis in DNA Repair Genes With Prostate Cancer Plasma Cell-free DNA Testing Interference

Kendal Jensen, MD, PhD; Eric Q. Konnick, MD; Michael T. Schweizer, MD; Alexandra O. Sokolova, MD; Petros Grivas, MD, PhD; Heather H. Cheng, MD, PhD; Nola M. Klemfuss, MHA; Mallory Beightol, BS, MB; Evan Y. Yu, MD; Peter S. Nelson, MD; Bruce Montgomery, MD; Colin C. Pritchard, MD, PhD

**DESIGN, SETTING, AND PARTICIPANTS** We report a case series of 69 patients with advanced prostate cancer (metastatic disease or with rising PSA following localized therapy) who had cfDNA variant testing with a large panel cancer next generation sequencing assay (UW-OncoPlexCT). To determine the source of variants in plasma, we tested paired cfDNA and whole blood control samples. The study was carried out in an academic medical center system reference laboratory.

**MAIN OUTCOMES AND MEASURES** Prevalence and gene spectrum of CHIP interference in patients with prostate cancer undergoing cfDNA testing.

**RESULTS** We detected CHIP variants at 2% or more variant fraction in cfDNA from 13 of 69 men with prostate cancer (19%; 95% CI, 10%-30%). Seven men (10%; 95% CI, 4%-20%) had CHIP variants in DNA repair genes used to determine PARPi candidacy, including *ATM* (n = 5), *BRCA2* (n = 1), and *CHEK2* (n = 1). Overall, CHIP variants accounted for almost half of the somatic DNA repair gene variants detected. Participant CHIP variants were exponentially correlated with older age ( $R^2 = 0.82$ ). CHIP interference variants could be distinguished from prostate cancer variants using a paired whole-blood control.

# CHIP Mutation

- In case series, up to 10% of patients had CHIP interference used for eligibility of PARP inhibitor.
- Prostate cancer patients are at risk of being misdiagnosed as eligible for PARP therapy.
- Look for liquid biopsy that provide match profiling of WBC as a control



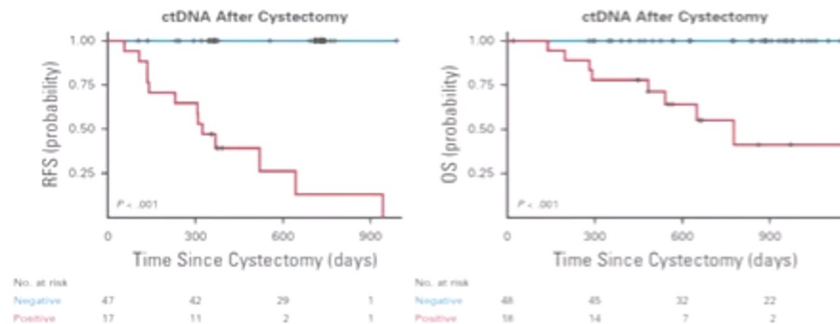
# Urothelial Cancer



# Residual disease

## Detection of ctDNA indicates residual cancer

- Locally advanced bladder cancer (n = 68)
  - Neo-adjuvant chemo → Cystectomy → Surveillance
- ctDNA detection after Cx = imminent relapse; median lead time = 96d



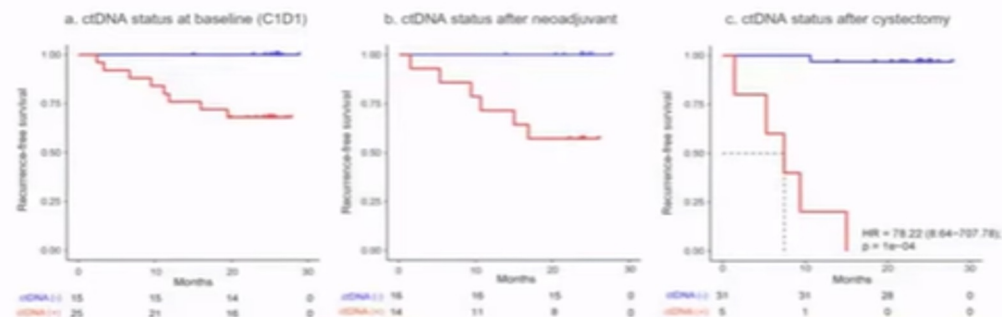
Christensen et al.. J Clin Oncol 2019



# Abacus study

## Detection of ctDNA indicates residual cancer: neoadjuvant setting

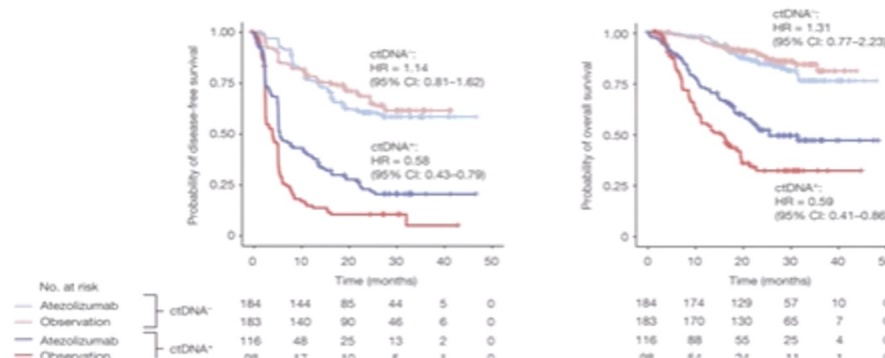
- ABACUS phase II of neoadjuvant atezo in MIBC (T<sub>2</sub>-4aN0M0)
- Presence of ctDNA associated with shorter RFS pre-treatment, after neoadjuvant therapy, and after surgery



# IMvigor010

## Detection of ctDNA indicates residual cancer: adjuvant setting

- IMvigor010 randomized phase III of atezolizumab versus observation after surgery for MIBC
- Longer disease-free and overall survival for ctDNA-positive patients when treated with atezolizumab



ctDNA to identify patients at increased risk of relapse, who may benefit from adjuvant atezolizumab to treat MRD?

# ASCO GU 2023

Utility of ctDNA in predicting outcome and pathological complete response in patients with bladder cancer as a guide for selective bladder preservation strategies

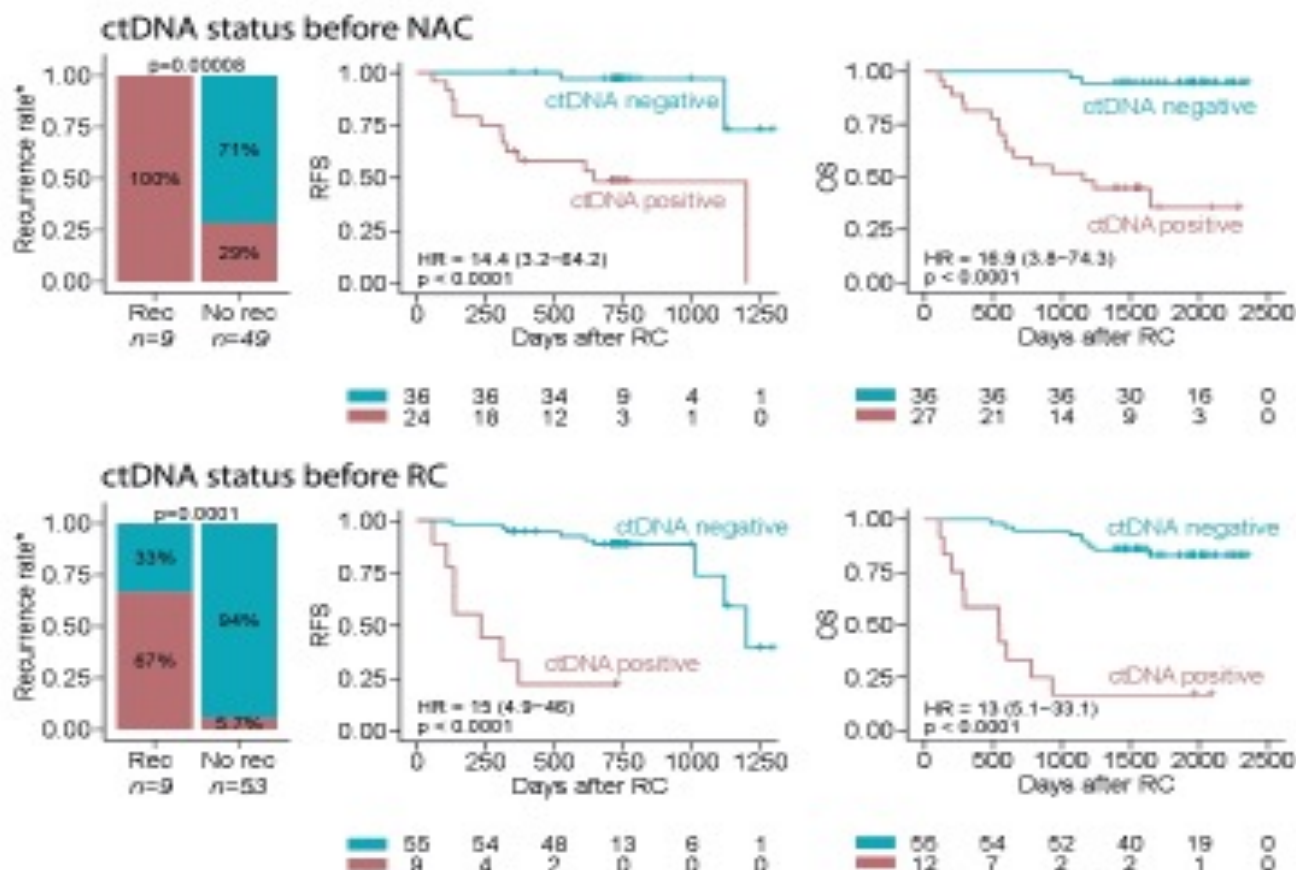


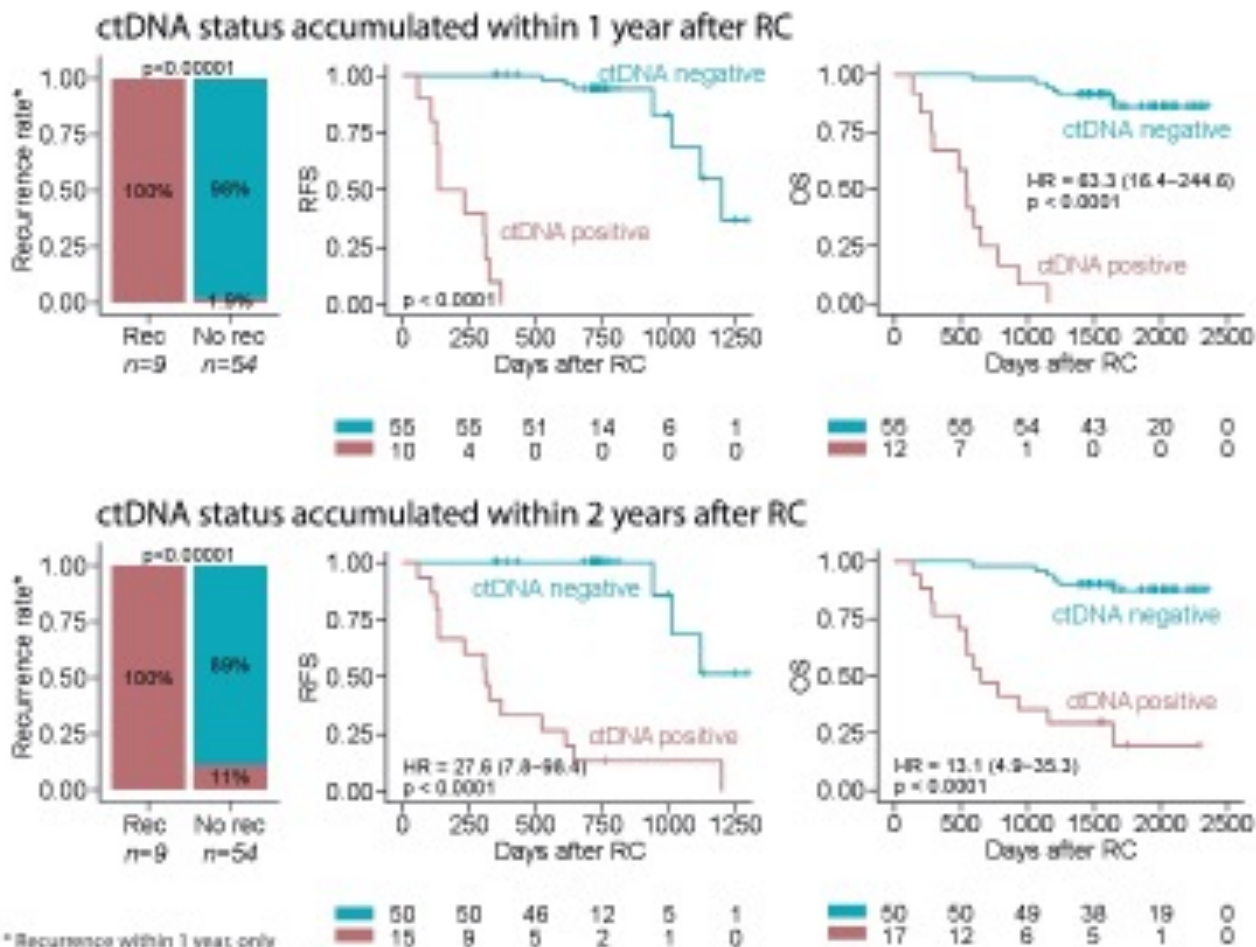
# Methods

- 68 patients w/ MIBC who received NAC prior to cystectomy.
- Updated median follow-up of 58.94 months (range: 7.19-81.77) post-cystectomy.
- ctDNA was analyzed at baseline (before NAC; N=64), and prior to cystectomy (N=65) using a commercially available assay . . . Pathway analysis was used to compare ctDNA-positive and ctDNA-negative patients who failed to achieve pCR.

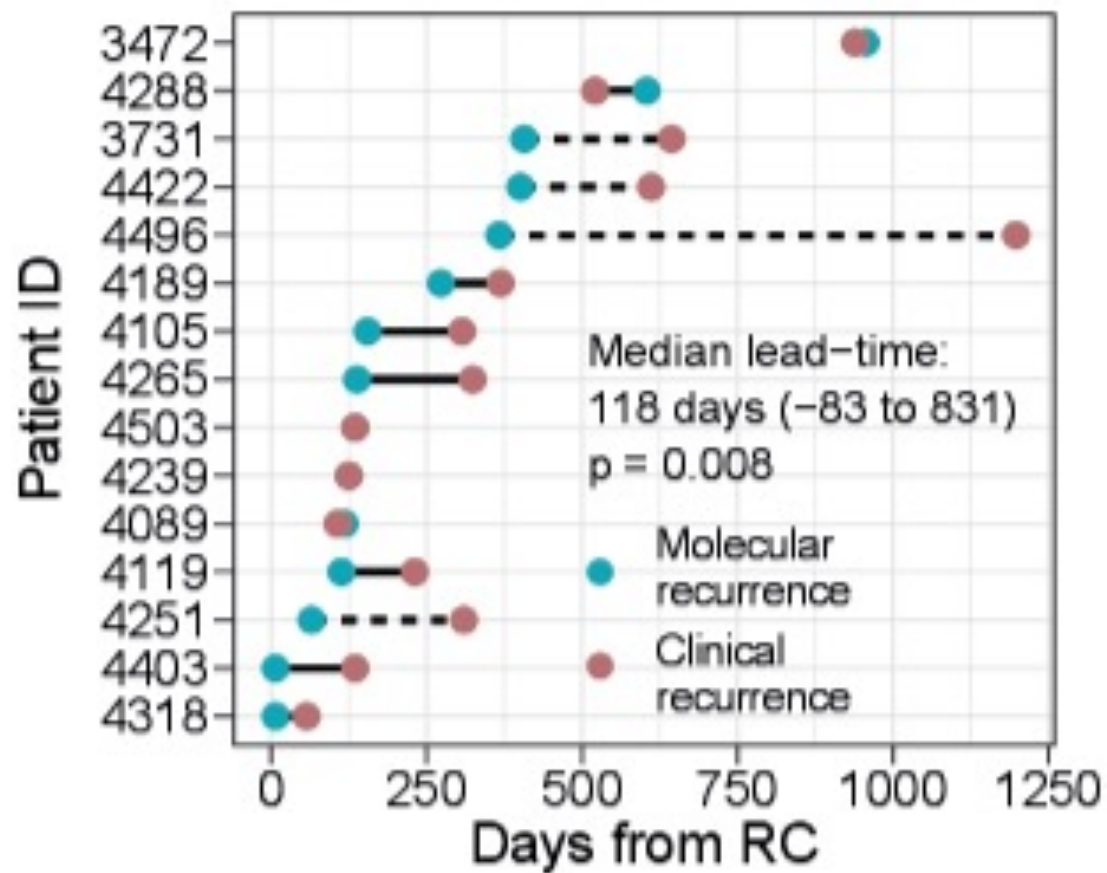
# Utility of ctDNA

## A: ctDNA status and outcome prediction





\*Recurrence within 1 year, only  
 including patients with at least 1 year  
 of follow-up after RC.

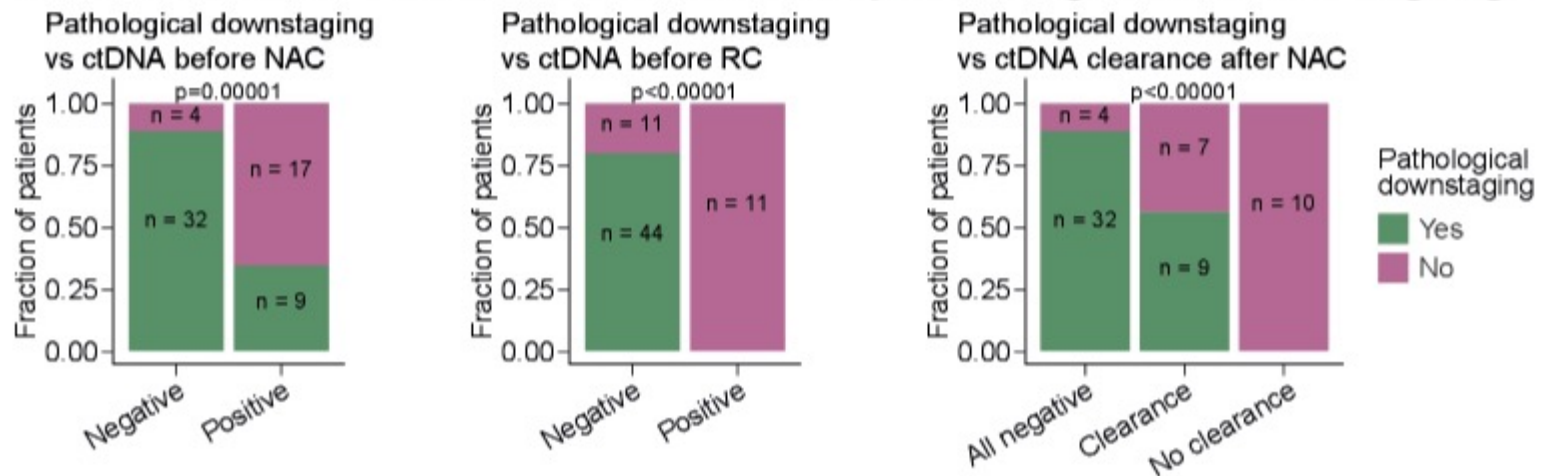


Lead-time in days between molecular recurrence (ctDNA positive) and clinical recurrence (radiographic imaging positive)



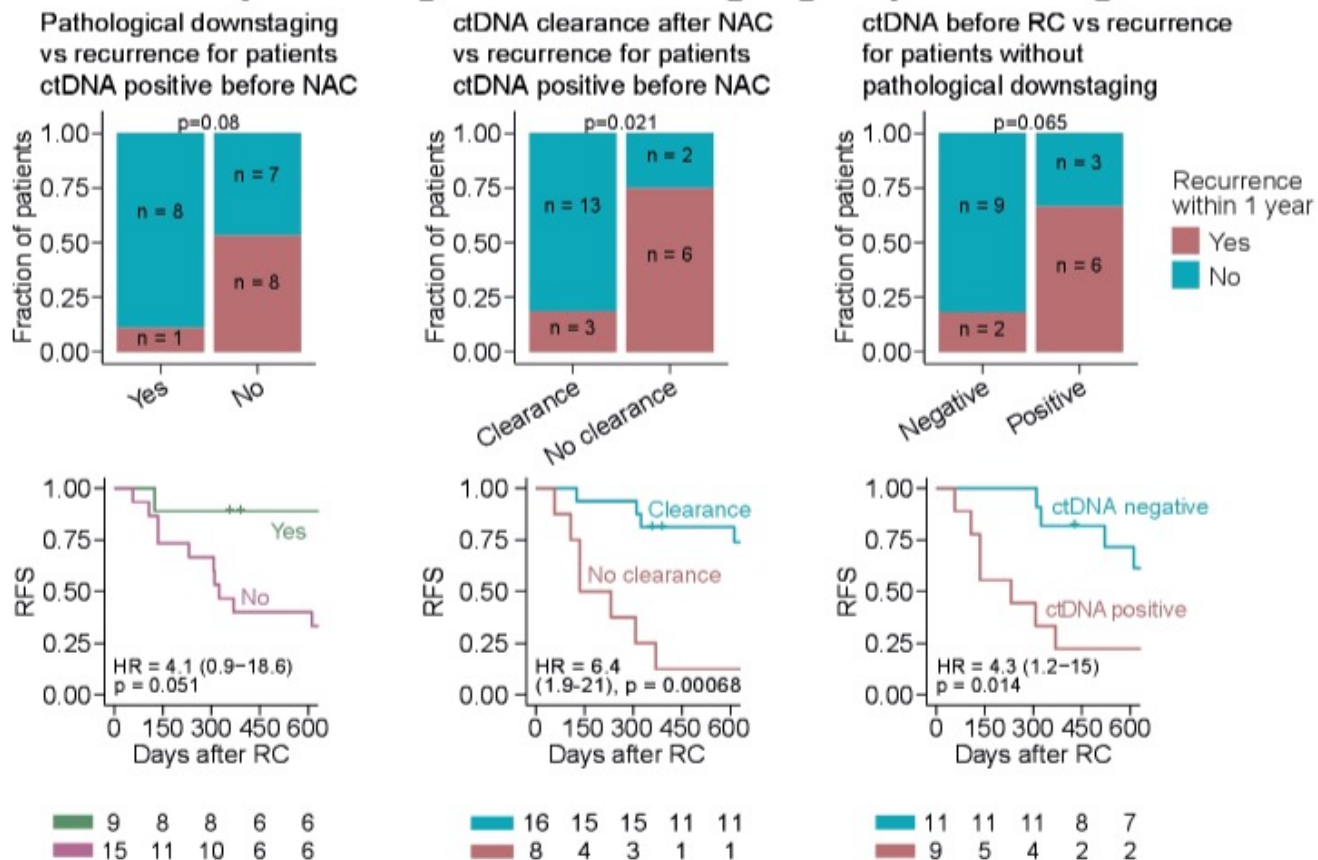
# ctDNA and pathology downstaging

## C: Association between ctDNA and pathological downstaging



# Outcomes

## D: ctDNA vs pathological downstaging in predicting outcome



# Results

- 64 patients with ctDNA results available at baseline, 59.4% (38/64) tested ctDNA-negative, and of these 84.2% (32/38) achieved pCR.
- Furthermore, 40.6% (26/64) tested ctDNA-positive, and only 34.6% (9/26) achieved pCR.
- Prior to cystectomy, 83.9% (52/62) of patients were ctDNA-negative, and 80.7% (42/52) achieved pCR, while none of the ctDNA-positive patients achieved pCR (positive predictive value 100%; negative predictive value 80.8%).

# Results

- Probability of ctDNA-negative patients to achieve pCR was significantly higher than ctDNA-positive patients ( $p<0.0001$ ).
- Notably, ctDNA-positive patients without pCR demonstrated significantly poorer RFS and OS compared to the ctDNA-negative patients,
- Prior to cystectomy: RFS; HR=5.2,  $p=0.0078$ , OS; HR=4.8,  $p=0.012$ ).
- ctDNA status at baseline and before cystectomy was a better predictor of RFS compared to pCR (HR=8.5,  $p<0.0001$ , HR=14,  $p<0.0001$ , respectively).



# Conclusion

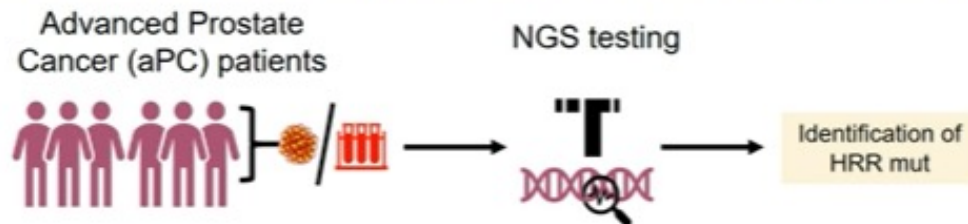
- Absence of ctDNA was significantly associated with pCR both at baseline and prior to cystectomy
- Larger cohorts are warranted to test the prognostic value of ctDNA for patient selection for avoiding cystectomy



# Prostate Cancer

# HRR mutation concordance between liquid biopsy and tissue

## Homologous Recombination Repair (HRR) mutation concordance as a tool in prostate cancer (PC) testing



In a large real-world (RW) database, we determined:

- **Concordance** between plasma ctDNA and primary tumor tissue (PT) and/or metastatic tissue (MT)

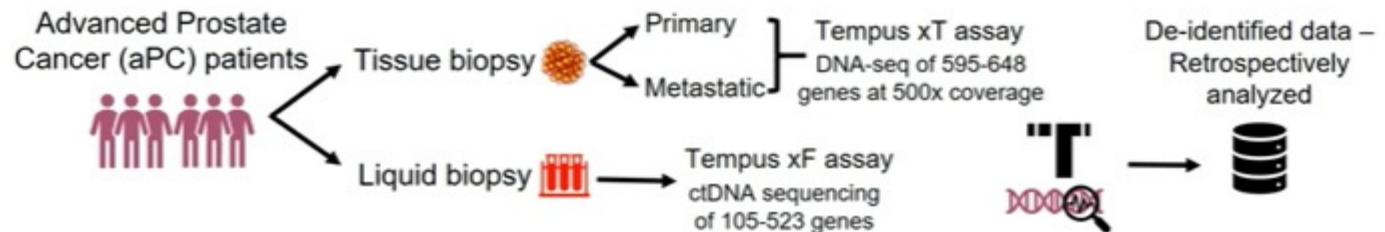
**Genes of interest** – *BRCA1*, *BRCA2*, and *ATM*

**Patient cohort** – Prostate Cancer patients who received both LB and tissue NGS any time during standard of care (SOC) management

- The **utility of LB** to detect **actionable mut** in these **HRR genes** and demonstrate the utility of combined LB and tissue testing

# Methodology

## Methodology adopted to evaluate Homologous Recombination Repair (HRR) mutation concordance



- Paired analysis from Primary Tumor (PT), Metastatic Tumor (MT) and Liquid Biopsy (LB) of patients
- The prevalence of a germline and/or somatic mut in *BRCA1*, *BRCA2*, or *ATM* was reported
- The sensitivity of the LB to identify observed HRR mut in tissue was also reported
- Concordance between pairs was evaluated by Cohen's kappa statistic with 95% CI.



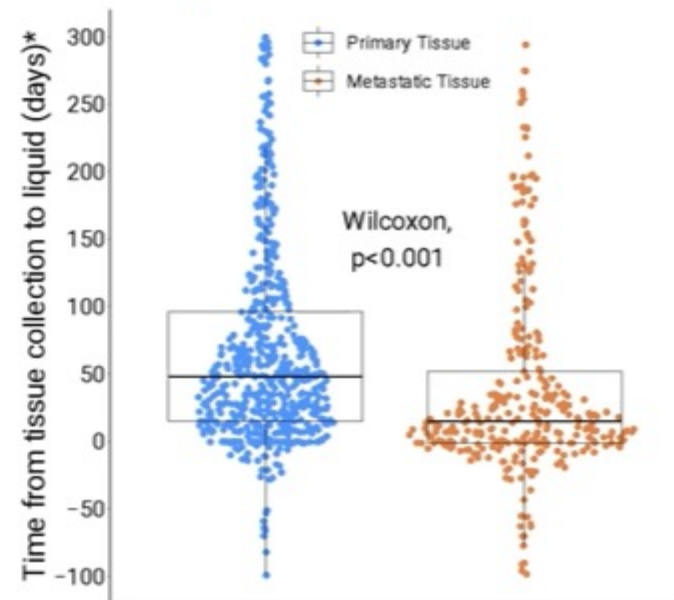
# Demographic

**Time from tissue collection to liquid was significantly shorter in MT vs LB analyses compared to PT vs LB**

Characteristic	PT vs LB, N = 1074 <sup>1</sup>	MT vs LB, N = 451 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Age at Diagnosis</b>	66 (60, 72)	64 (58, 72)
Unknown	3	12
<b>Race</b>		
White	434 (69%)	197 (70%)
Black or African American	147 (23%)	54 (19%)
Other	27 (4.3%)	20 (7.1%)
Asian	24 (3.8%)	12 (4.2%)
Unknown	442	168
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Hispanic or Latino	80 (19%)	40 (25%)
Unknown	648	291
<b>Match Type</b>		
tumor/normal match	975 (91%)	403 (89%)
tumor only	99 (9.2%)	48 (11%)
HRR+, tissue (PT/MT)	94 (8.8%)	46 (10%)
HRR+, liquid (LB)	67 (6.2%)	47 (10%)

<sup>1</sup> Median (IGR), n (%)

Demographic characteristics of the patient cohort analyzed



\*y-axis truncated at 300 and -100  
Median: PT vs LB – 174 days, MT vs LB – 21 days

ASCO Genitourinary  
Cancers Symposium

#GU23

PRESENTED BY: John Shen, MD

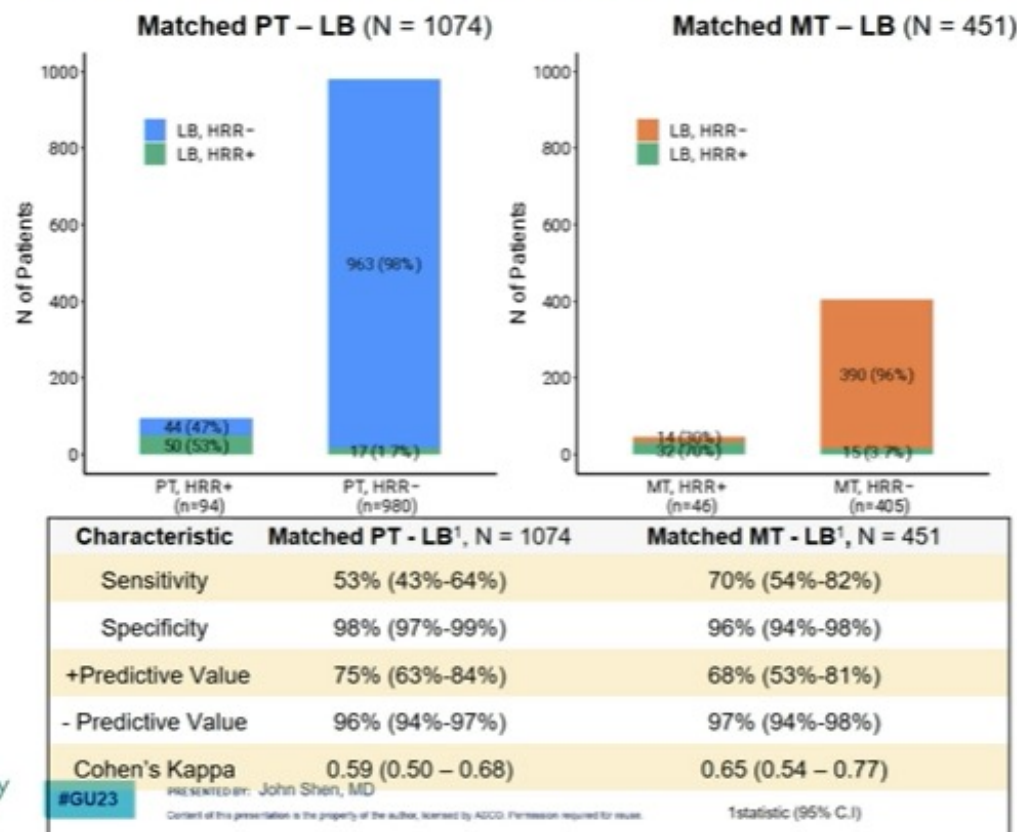
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KNOWLEDGE CONQUERS CANCER

Shen, ASCO GU 2023

# Results

## Agreement of HRR detection between tissue and liquid



# Conclusion

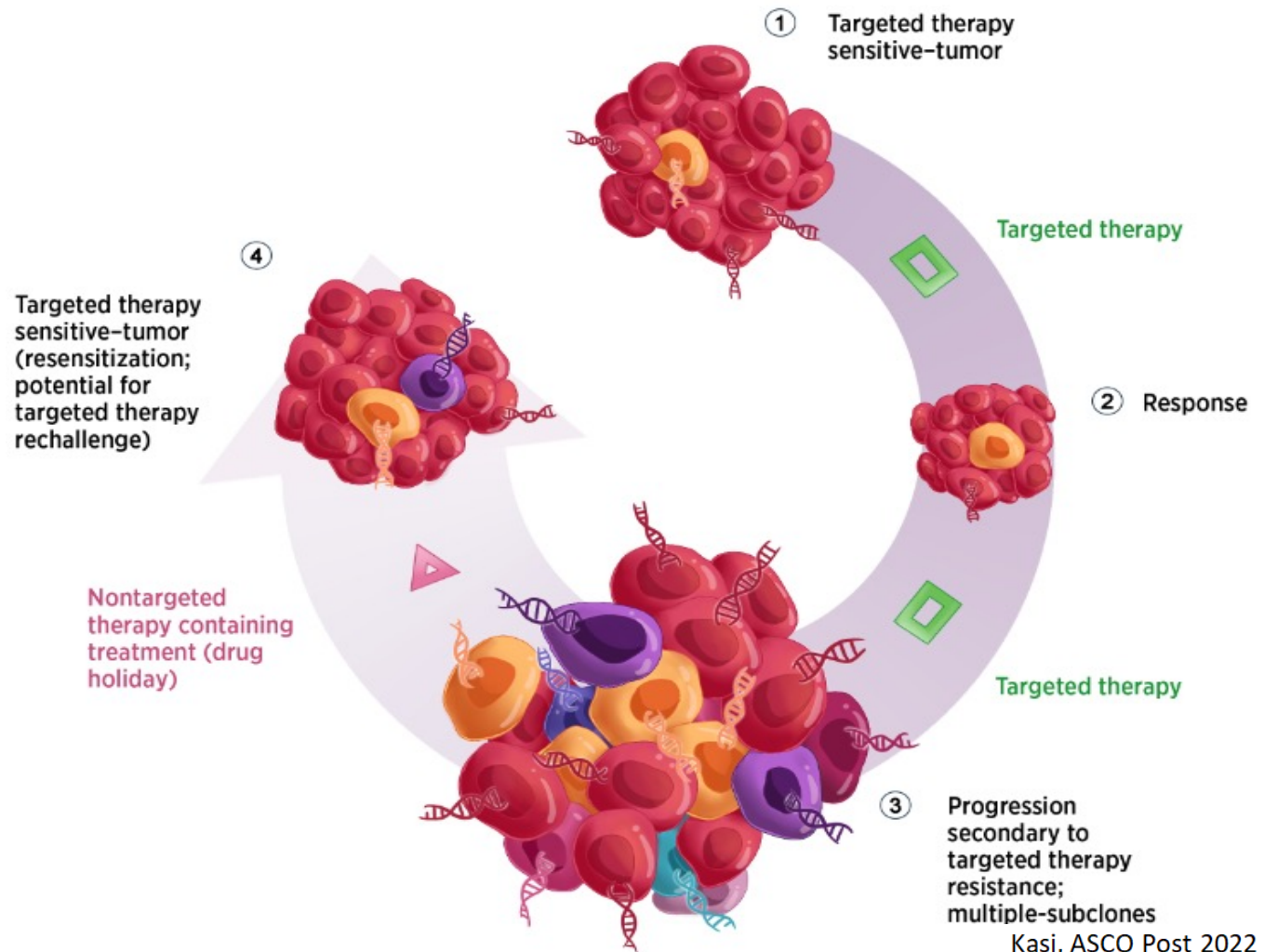
- Blood ctDNA from study showed BRCA1, BRCA2, and ATM somatic mutations showed greater concordance with liquid biopsy and metastatic tissue
- Liquid biopsy identifies up to 70% of mutations in metastatic tissue
- Negative liquid biopsy result could be non diagnostic (rather than a TRUE negative)
- Consider tissue biopsy



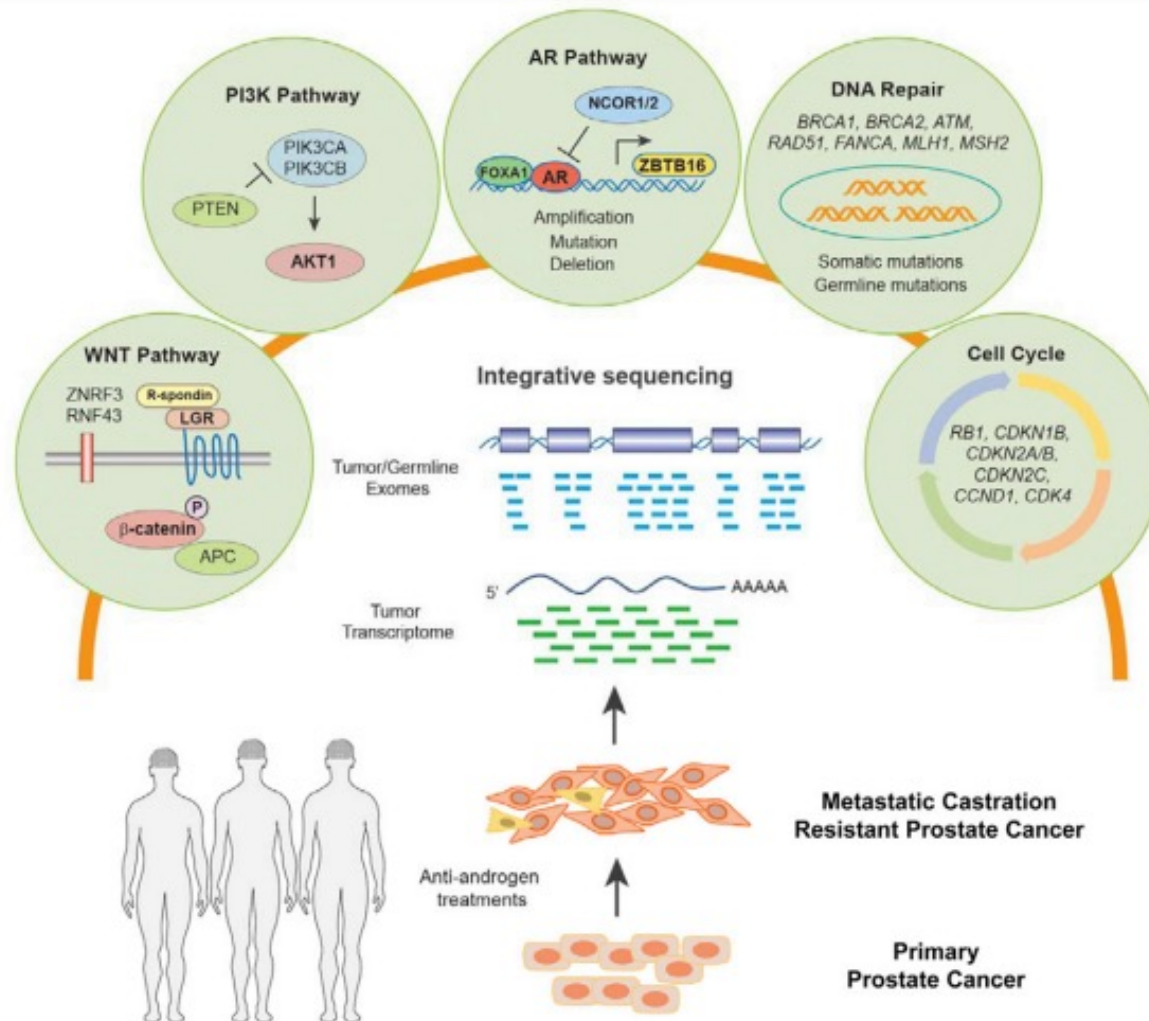
# Research questions for the future



# Recycle Treatments?



# Alpelisib? Capivasertib? Abemaciclib? Platinum Doublet? PARP inhibitor?







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