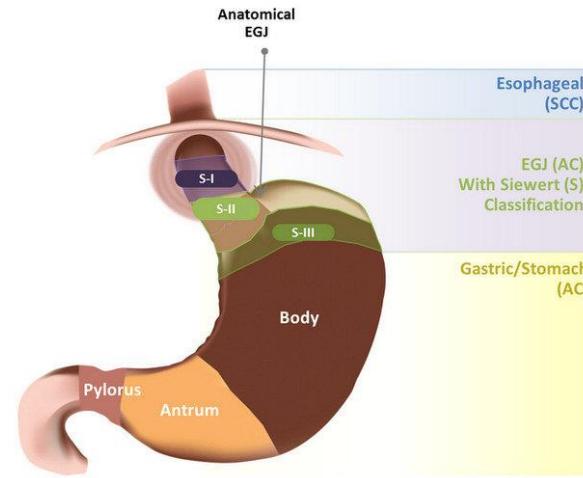


20<sup>th</sup> Annual California Cancer Consortium Conference  
August 24, 2024

# New Developments in Esophageal and Gastric Cancer

Sandy Algaze, MD



**USC** Norris  
Comprehensive  
Cancer Center  
Keck Medicine of **USC**

# Update of Esophagogastric Cancer

## Early Stage:

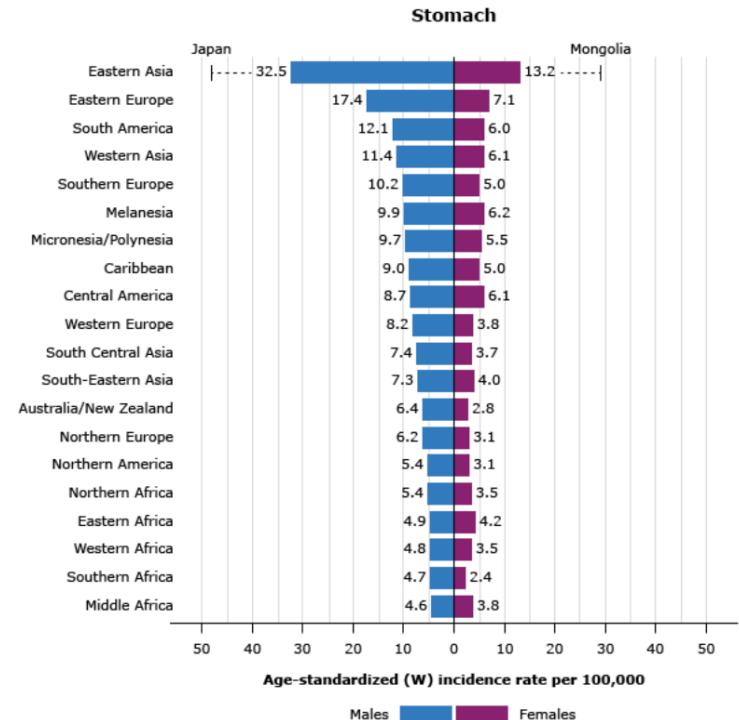
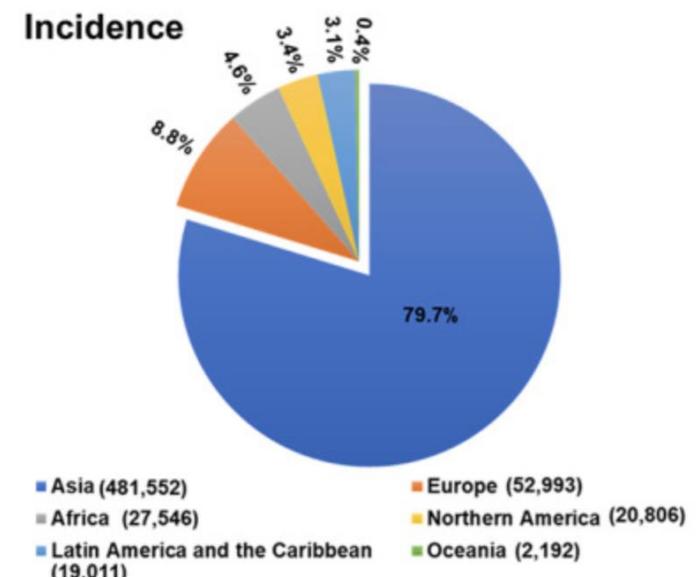
- Perioperative FLOT vs Chemoradiation
- Perioperative Chemotherapy and Immunotherapy

## Advanced:

- First line Chemotherapy and Immunotherapy
- Claudin 18.2 – New Target
- HER2 + Gastric Cancer
- Novel Targets

# Esophagogastric Cancers

- > 22,000 annual cases of esophageal cancer (EC) with > 16,000 deaths from the disease in the US
- Gastric cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer and fourth leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide
- incidence varies worldwide by geographic region



# Work up and Staging

## WORKUP

- H&P
- Upper gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy and biopsy<sup>a</sup>
- Chest/abdomen CT with oral and IV contrast
- Pelvis CT with contrast as clinically indicated
- FDG-PET/CT evaluation (skull base to mid-thigh) if no evidence of M1 disease
- Complete blood count (CBC) and comprehensive chemistry profile
- Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS), if no evidence of M1 unresectable disease
- Endoscopic resection (ER) is recommended for the accurate staging of early-stage cancers (T1a or T1b).<sup>a,b</sup> Early-stage cancers can best be diagnosed by ER
- Biopsy of metastatic disease as clinically indicated
  - Universal testing for microsatellite instability (MSI) by PCR/next-generation sequencing (NGS) or MMR by IHC is recommended in all newly diagnosed patients<sup>c</sup>
  - Programmed death ligand 1 (PD-L1) testing if advanced/metastatic disease is documented/suspected<sup>c</sup>
  - HER2 testing if metastatic adenocarcinoma is documented/suspected<sup>c</sup>
  - NGS should be considered<sup>c</sup>
  - Bronchoscopy, if tumor is at or above the carina with no evidence of M1 disease
  - Assign Siewert category<sup>d</sup>
  - Nutritional assessment and counseling
  - Smoking cessation advice, counseling, and pharmacotherapy as indicated<sup>e</sup>
  - Screen for family history<sup>f</sup>

## CLINICAL STAGE<sup>g</sup>

Stage I–IV<sup>g,h</sup> (locoregional disease, except T4b or unresectable N3<sup>h</sup>)

Squamous cell carcinoma → [ESOPH-2](#)

Adenocarcinoma → [ESOPH-11](#)

Stage IV<sup>g</sup> (includes T4b or unresectable N3 only) and IVB (metastatic disease)

Squamous cell carcinoma → [ESOPH-10](#)

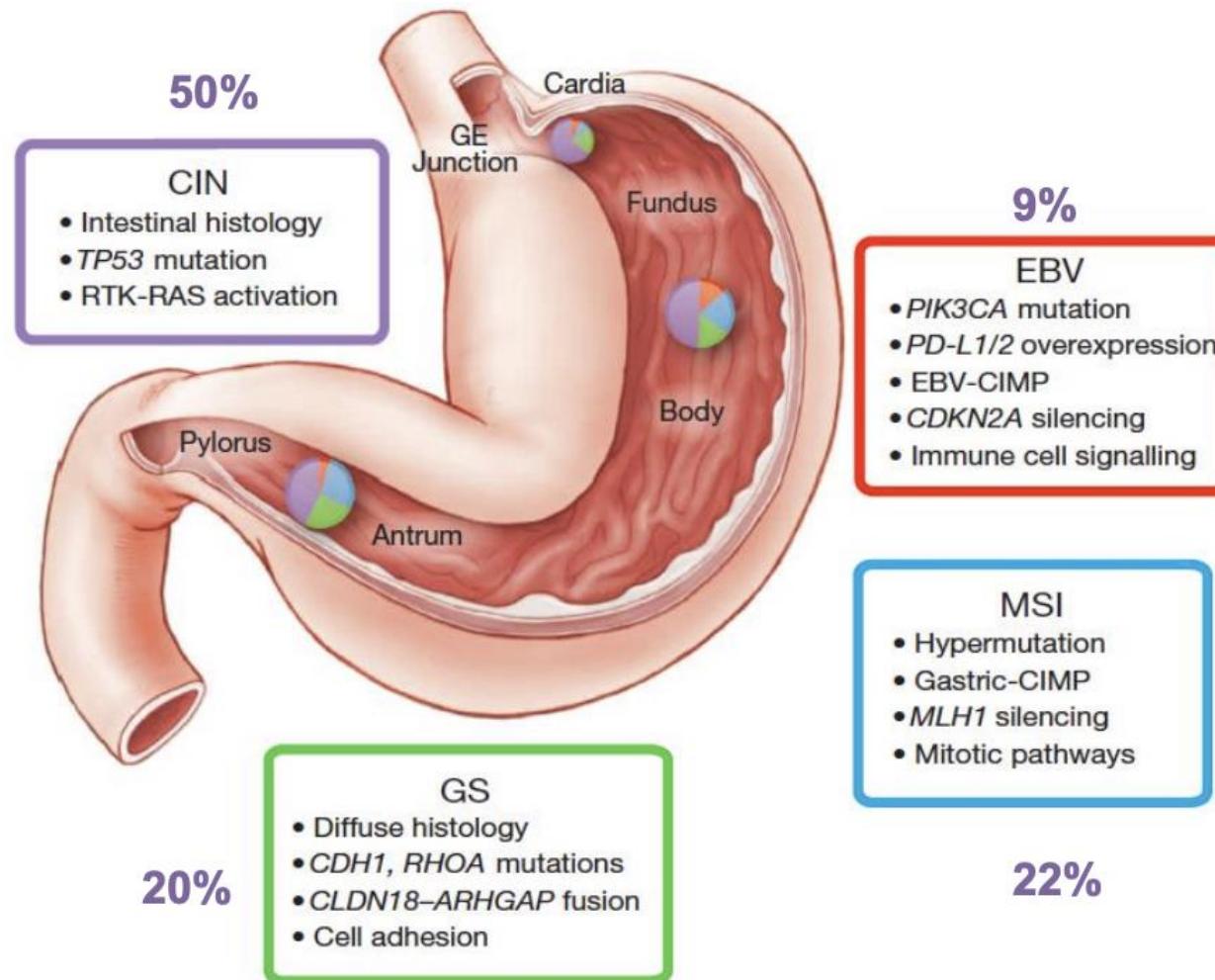
Adenocarcinoma → [ESOPH-19](#)

# Molecular Testing in Esophagogastric Cancer

- **MMR testing** in all Esophagogastric Cancers
- **PDL-1 CPS testing** in Esophagogastric CA
  - Nivolumab + chemo in CPS  $\geq 5$  HER2 negative GEA (CM649)
  - Pembrolizumab + chemo in CPS  $\geq 10$  esophageal CA (KN590)
  - Pembrolizumab + chemo in CPS  $\geq 1$  gastric, GEJ (KN859)
- **HER2 testing** in all Esophagogastric CA
  - Trastuzumab + chemo + pembrolizumab in 1L HER2+ GEA (KN-811) in CPS  $\geq 1$
  - Trastuzumab deruxtecan (DS-8201) in 2L+ HER2+ GEA (Destiny-Gastric-01/02)
- **CLDN18.2** – emerging treatment option
  - Zolbetuximab 1L (GLOW, SPOTLIGHT)

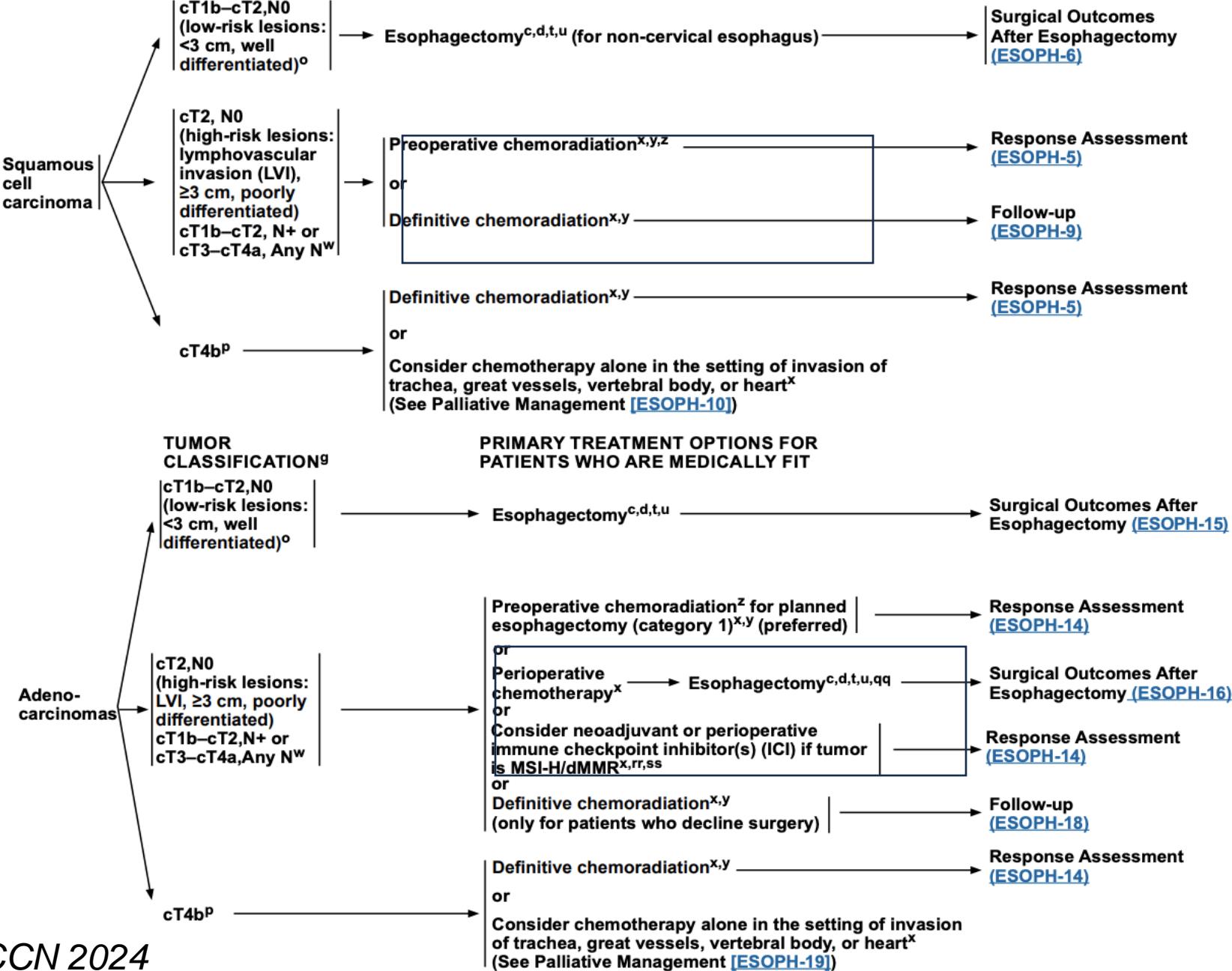
Patients' Characteristics	Total	CLDN18 < 75%	CLDN18 $\geq 75\%$	<i>p</i> Value
	n. (%)	Tot 233 n. (% of the Total)	Tot 117 n. (% of the Total)	
MMRd	Yes	54 (15.4)	39 (11.1)	0.2424
	No	296 (84.6)	194 (55.4)	
HER 2 status	Positive	52 (14.9)	35 (10.0)	1.000
	Negative	298 (85.1)	198 (56.6)	
PD-L1 CPS $\geq 1$	Yes	98 (28)	68 (19.4)	0.5685
	No	252 (72)	165 (47.14)	
PD-L1 CPS $\geq 5$	Yes	71 (20.29)	50 (14.29)	0.5290
	No	279 (79.71)	183 (52.29)	
EBER	Positive	8 (2.3)	1 (0.3)	0.0024
	Negative	342 (97.7)	232 (66.3)	
p53 status	Altered	168 (48.0)	111 (31.7)	0.9676
	wild type	181 (52.0)	121 (34.6)	
E-Cadherin status	Positive	268 (77.0)	177 (50.9)	0.9148
	Negative	80 (23.0)	54 (15.5)	

# Molecular Classification

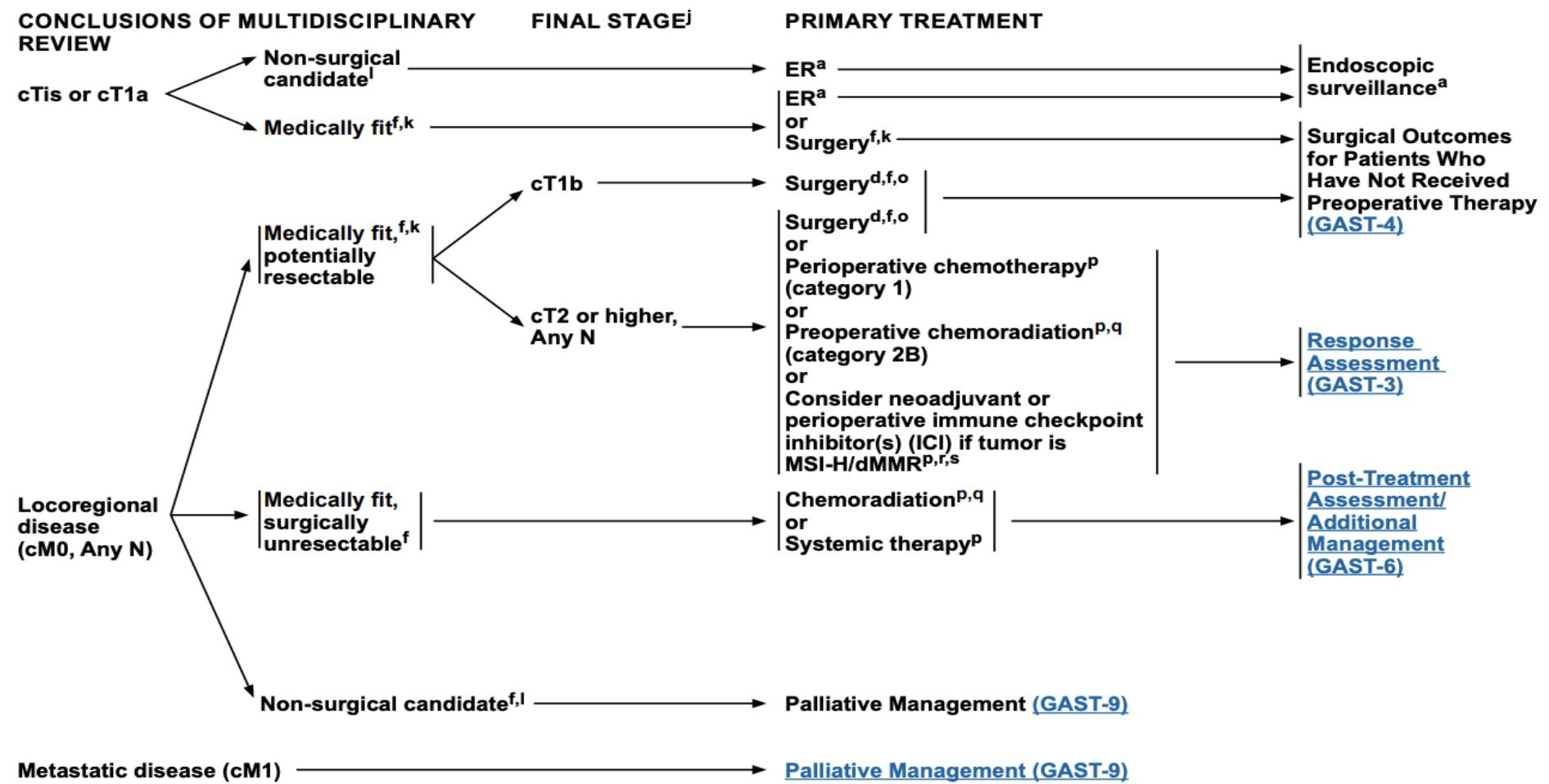


# Early Esophageal Cancer

NCCN 2024

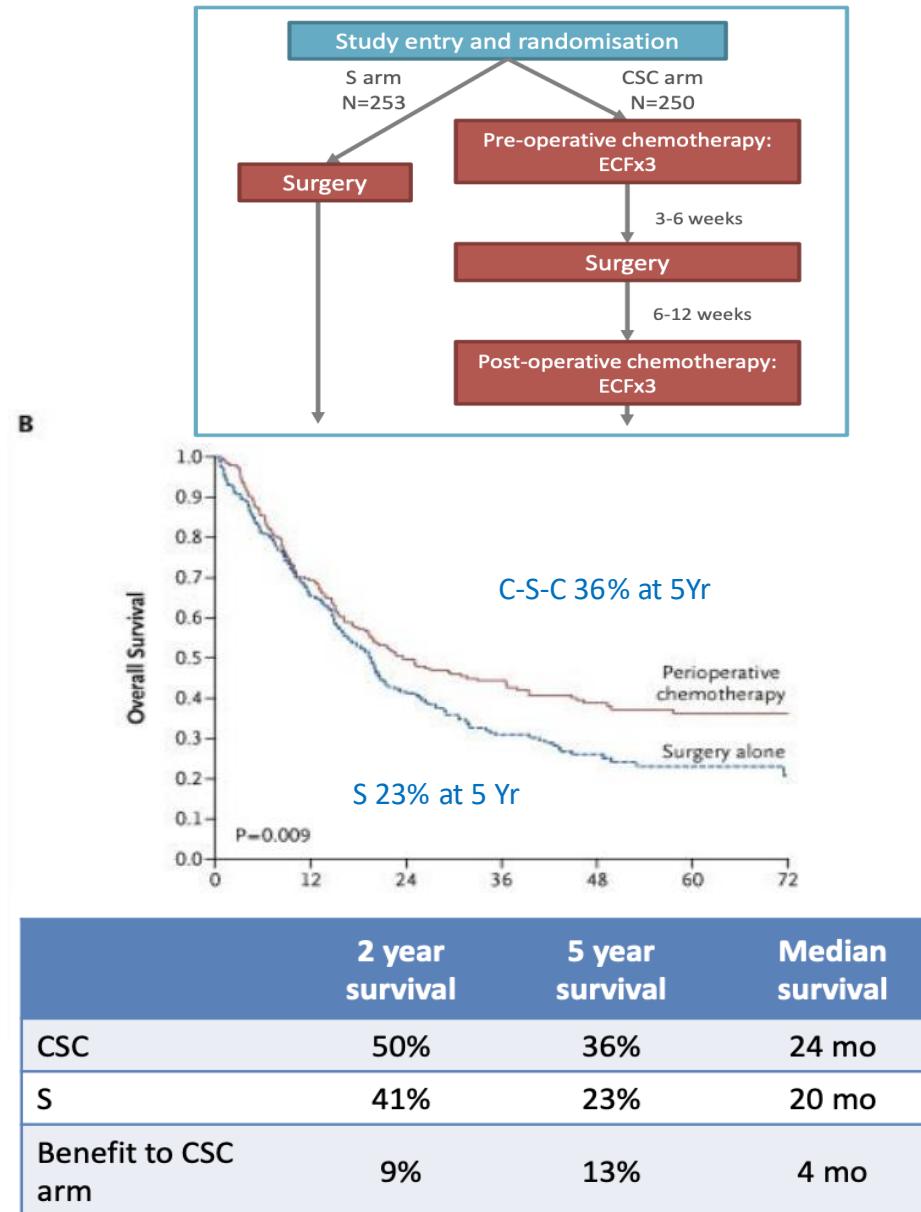


# Early Gastric Cancer



# Perioperative Chemotherapy

## MAGIC Trial

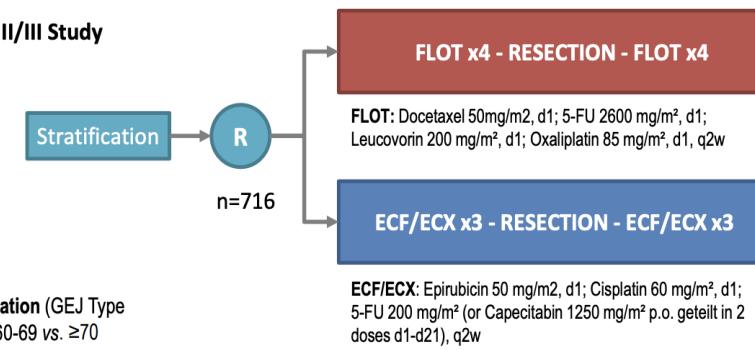


Cunningham et al. NEJM 2012

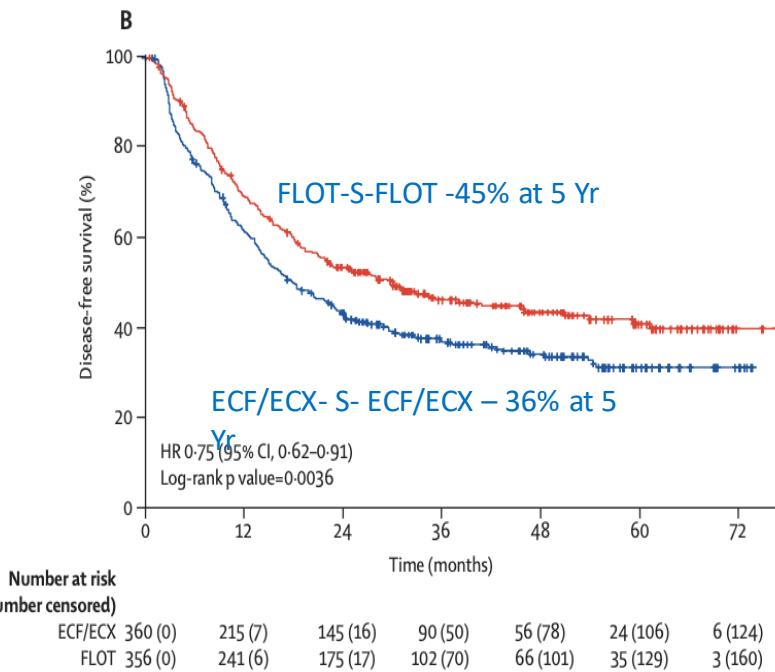
## FLOT4

### Randomised, multicentre, Phase II/III Study

- Gastric or EGJ cancer typ I-III
- Medically and anatomically operable
- cT2-4/cN-any/cM0 or cT-any/cN+/cM0



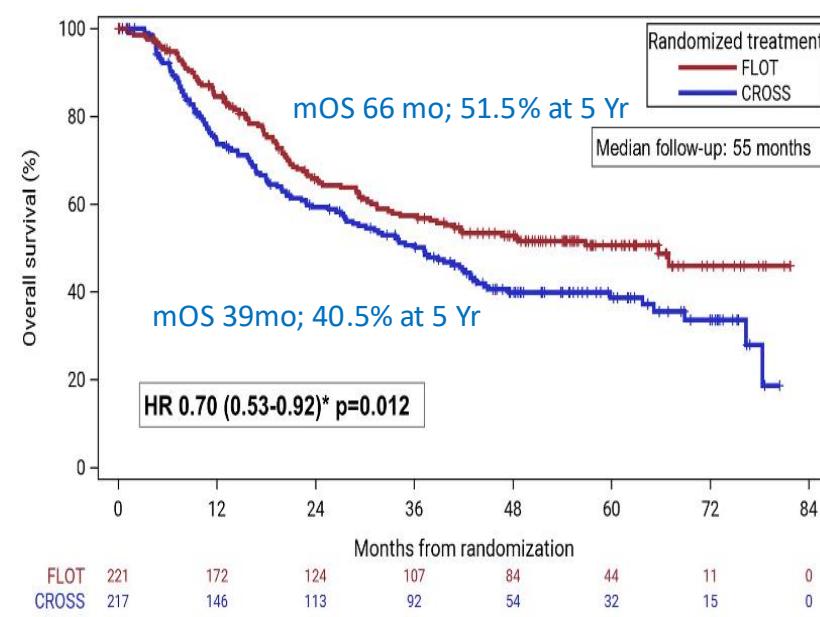
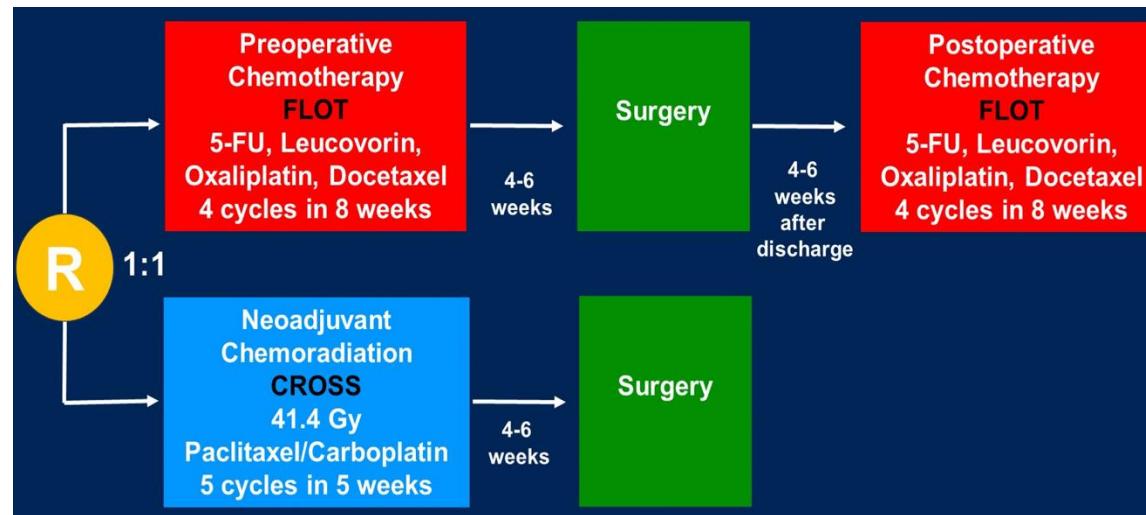
Stratification: ECOG (0 or 1 vs. 2), localisation (GEJ Type I vs. Type II/III vs. Gastric), age (< 60 vs. 60-69 vs. ≥70 years) and nodal status (cN+ vs. cN-)



Al-Batran et al. Lancet 2019

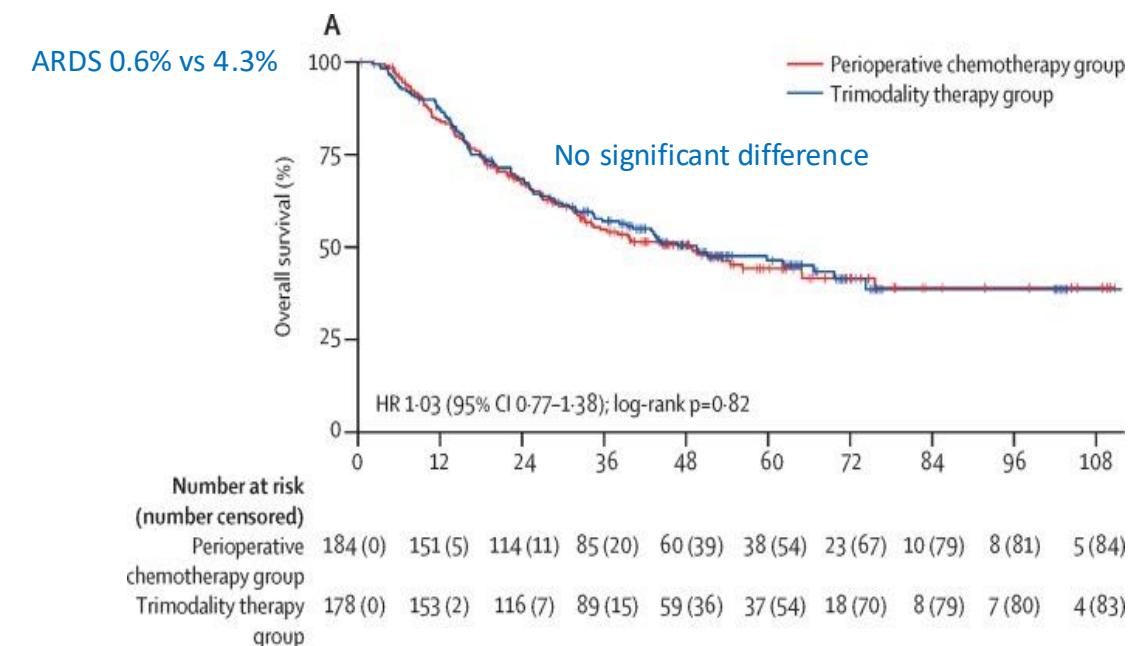
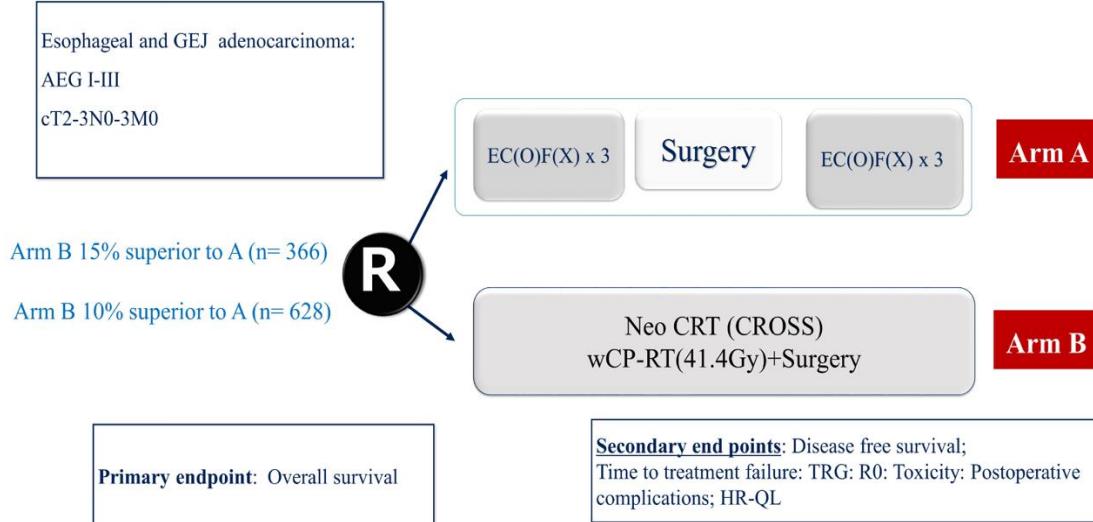
# Perioperative Chemotherapy

## ESOPEC



Hoeppner et al. ASCO 2024

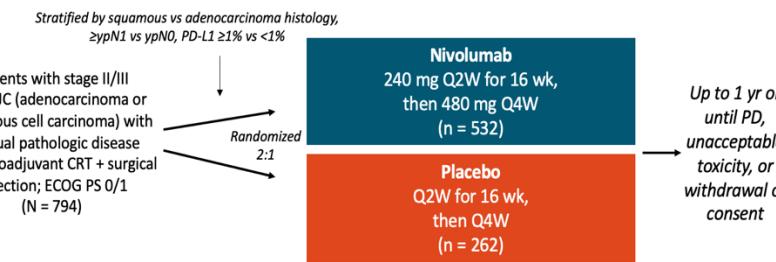
## Neo-AEGIS



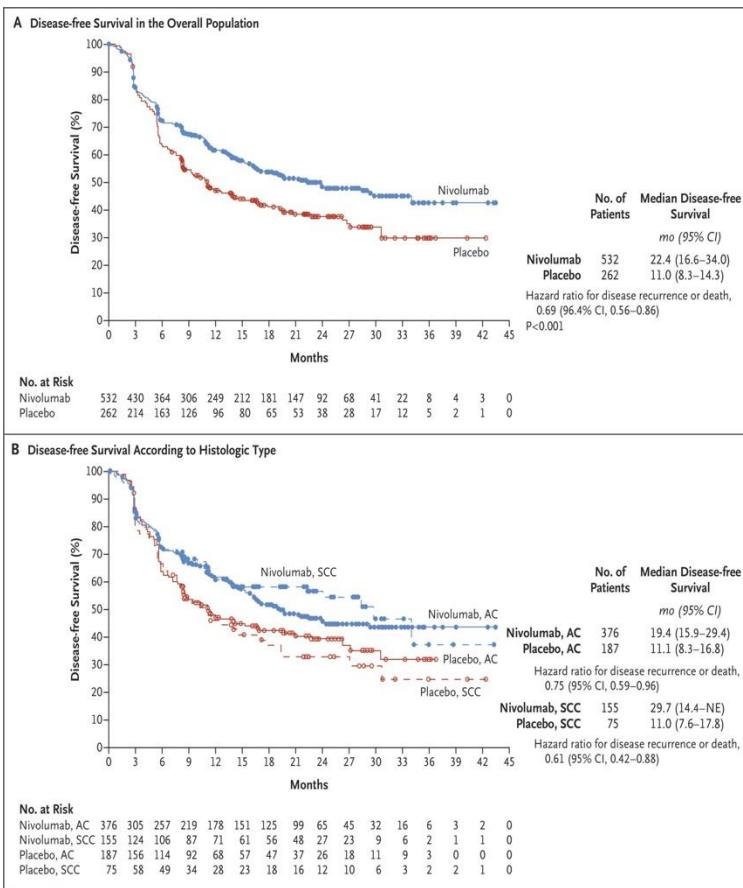
Reynolds et al. Lancet Gastro& Hep 2023

# Adjuvant Immunotherapy

## Checkmate 577



- Primary endpoint: DFS
- Secondary endpoints: OS, OS rate at Yr 1, 2, and 3
- Exploratory endpoints: safety, DMFS, PFS2, QoL



Kelly RJ et al. N Engl J Med 2021;384:1191-1203

## ATTRACTION-5

*Stratified by stage (IIIA/IIIB/IIIC) and country (Japan/Korea/other)*

Terashima et al. ASCO 2023

**Patients with pathological stage III G/GEJ cancer;  
D2 or more extended  
gastrectomy; ECOG PS 0-1;  
tumor tissue available for  
PD-L1 analysis  
(N = 755)**

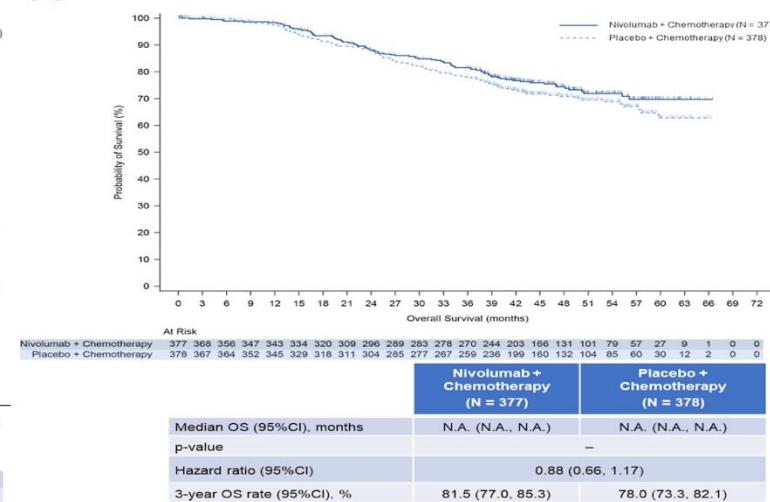
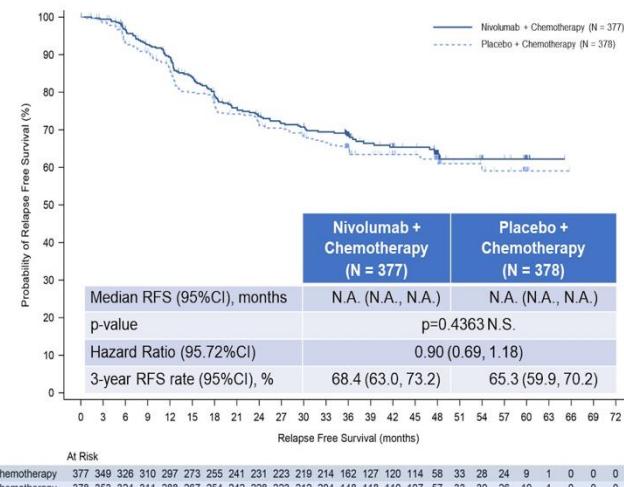
**Choice of adjuvant  
CT per investigator\***

\*S-1 40 mg/m<sup>2</sup> orally BID (Days 1-28) Q6W or CapeOX (oxaliplatin 130 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV daily [Day 1] and capecitabine 1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> orally BID [Days 1-14] Q3W).

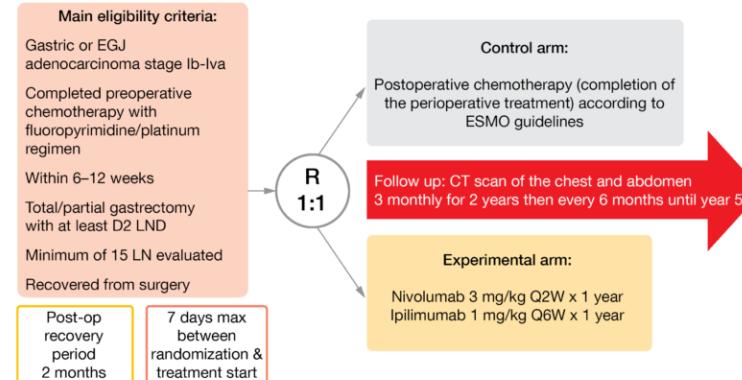
**Nivolumab 360 mg IV Q3W + CT  
(n = 377)**

**Placebo IV Q3W + CT  
(n = 378)**

**OS**



## EORTC 1707 VESTIGE



mDFS: 11.9 vs 23.3 mo (p=0.02)  
mOS: 25.1 vs NR mo (p=0.1)

Enrollment Closed Early

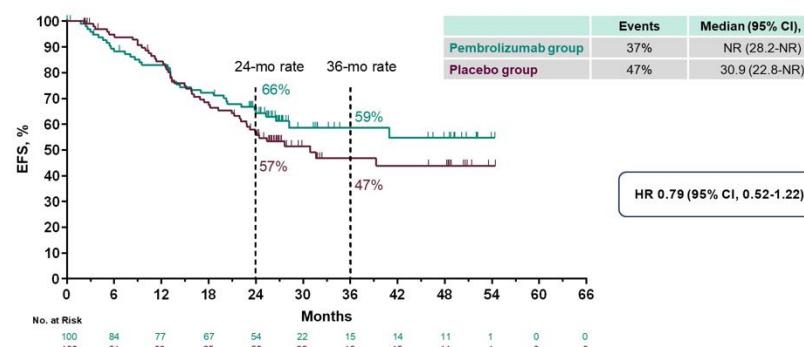
Smyth et al. Annals of Oncol ESMO 2023

**Key Eligibility Criteria**

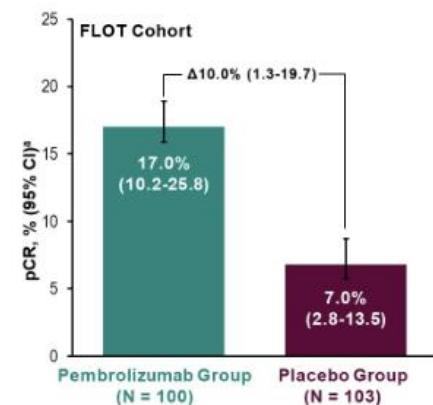
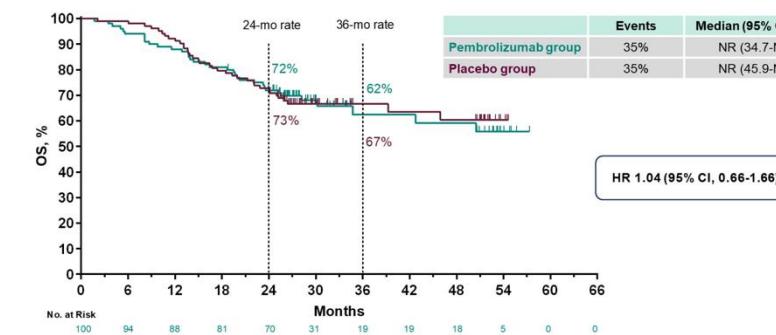
- Localized G/GEJ adenocarcinoma defined by T3 or greater primary lesion or presence of N+ nodes
- No prior therapy
- Able to undergo surgery
- Provision of tumor sample for PD-L1 testing<sup>a</sup>
- ECOG PS 0-1



### Event-Free Survival: FLOT Cohort



### Overall Survival: FLOT Cohort

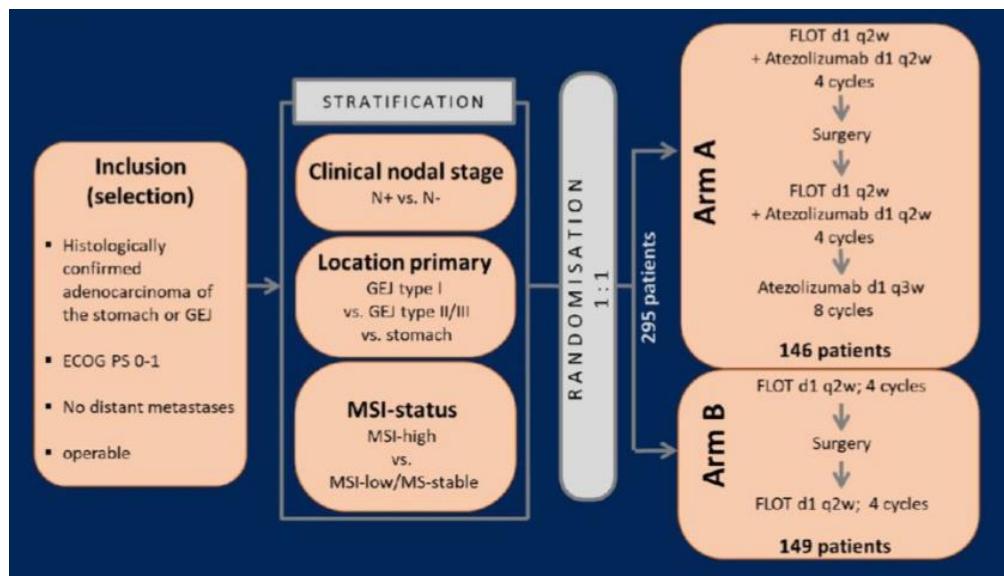


### Summary of AEs by Treatment Phase

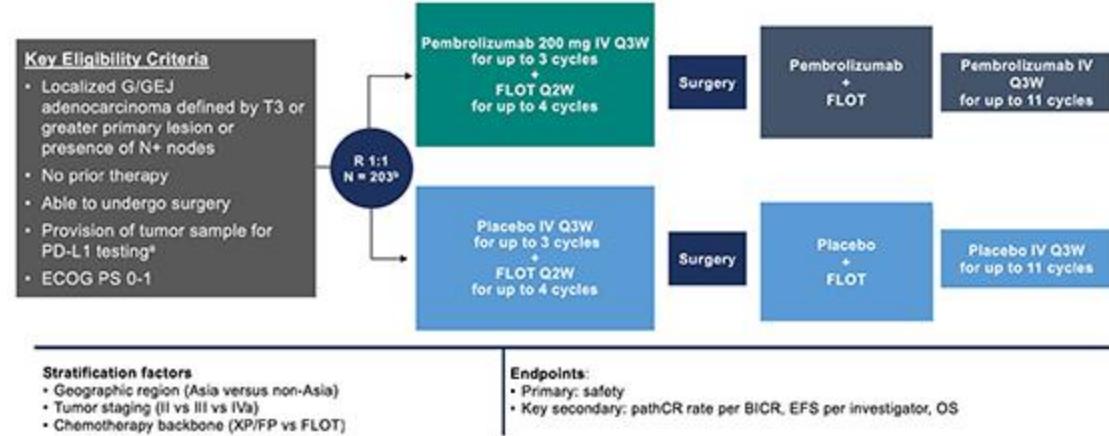
AEs, n (%)	Neoadjuvant Phase <sup>a</sup>		Adjuvant Phase	
	Pembrolizumab Group N = 99	Placebo Group N = 103	Pembrolizumab Group N = 77	Placebo Group N = 76
Any grade AEs	97 (98)	102 (99)	76 (99)	75 (99)
Treatment-Related AEs	96 (97)	96 (93)	73 (95)	68 (89)
Grade 3-4	54 (55)	56 (54)	43 (56)	33 (43)
Grade 5	2 (2)	1 (1)	1 (1)	0
Led to discontinuation of any drug	15 (15)	11 (11)	21 (27)	7 (9)
Surgery-Related AEs	19 (19)	13 (13)	1 (1)	2 (3)

# Neo-adjvant/Adjuvant Immunotherapy

## Dante Trial



## MATTERHORN



pCR 19% vs 7%      CR/nCR: 27% vs 14%  
pCR in Asia consistent with global outcomes.

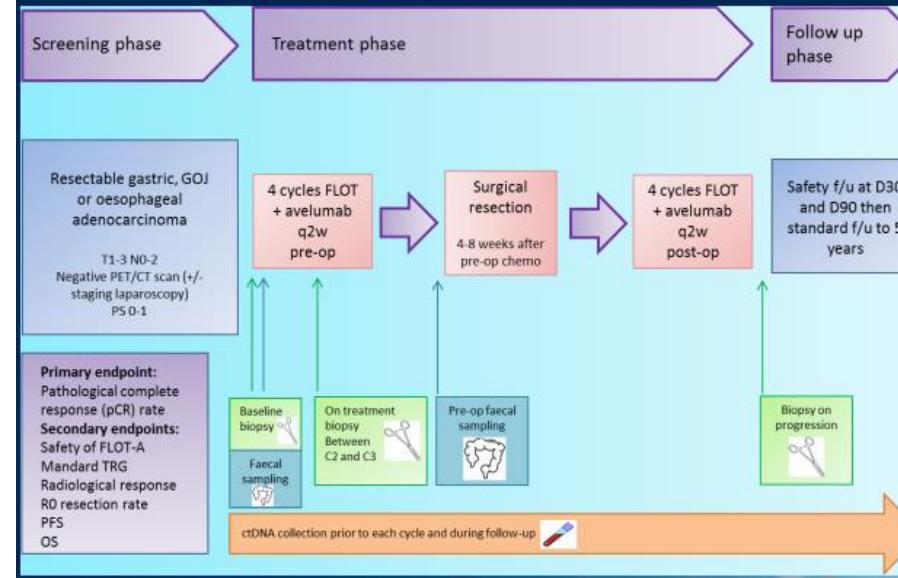
pCR/TRG1a:

All: 24% vs 15%

PD-L1 CPS ≥10: pCR 33 vs 12%

MSI-H: 63% vs 27%

## ICONIC Trial

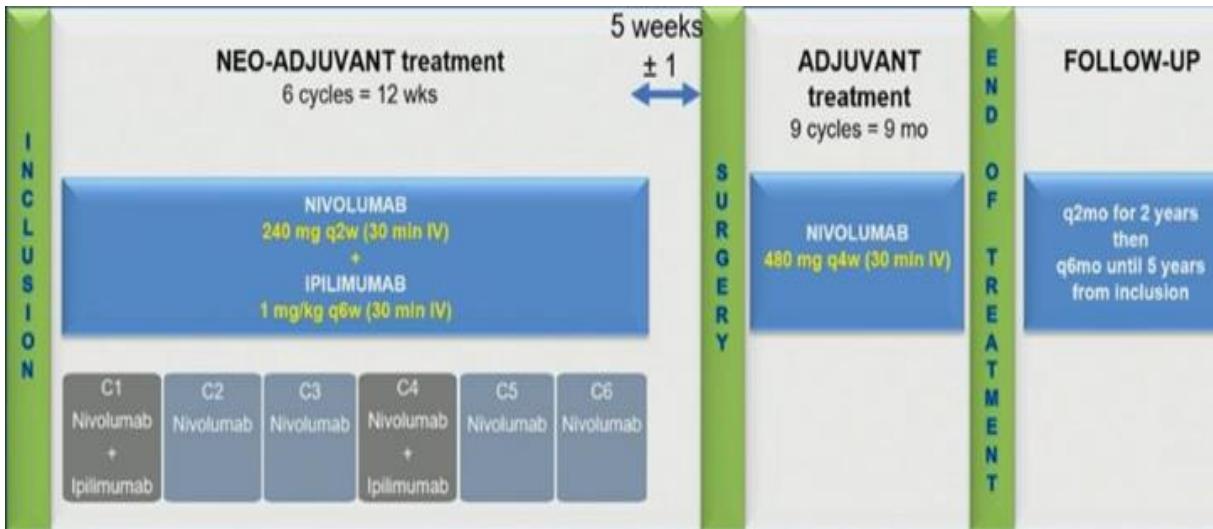


pCR: 15% for 34 pts

The trial closed early  
(pre-specified aim 25% in 40 pts)

# Neo-adjuvant Immunotherapy

## GERCOR NEONIPIGA

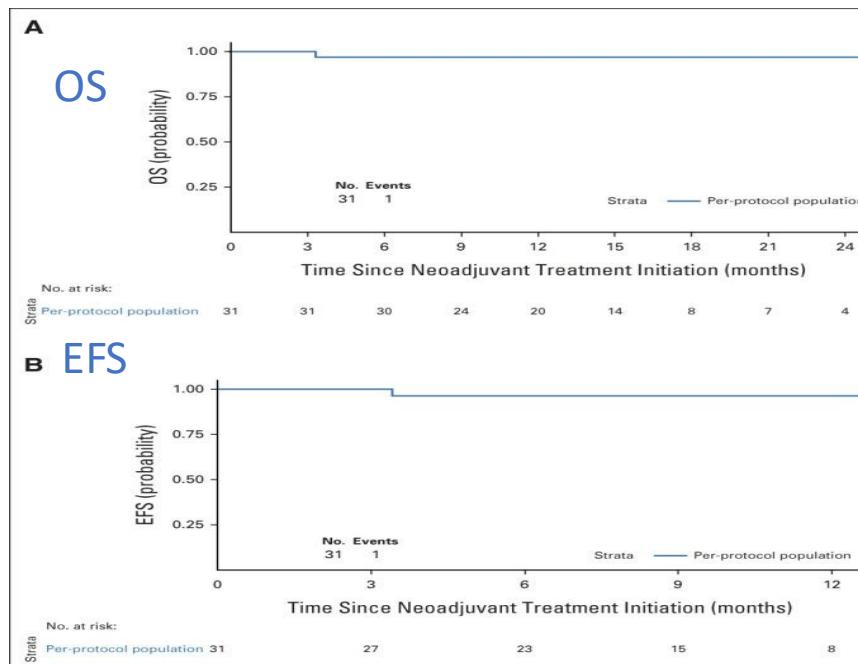


## Infinity Trial

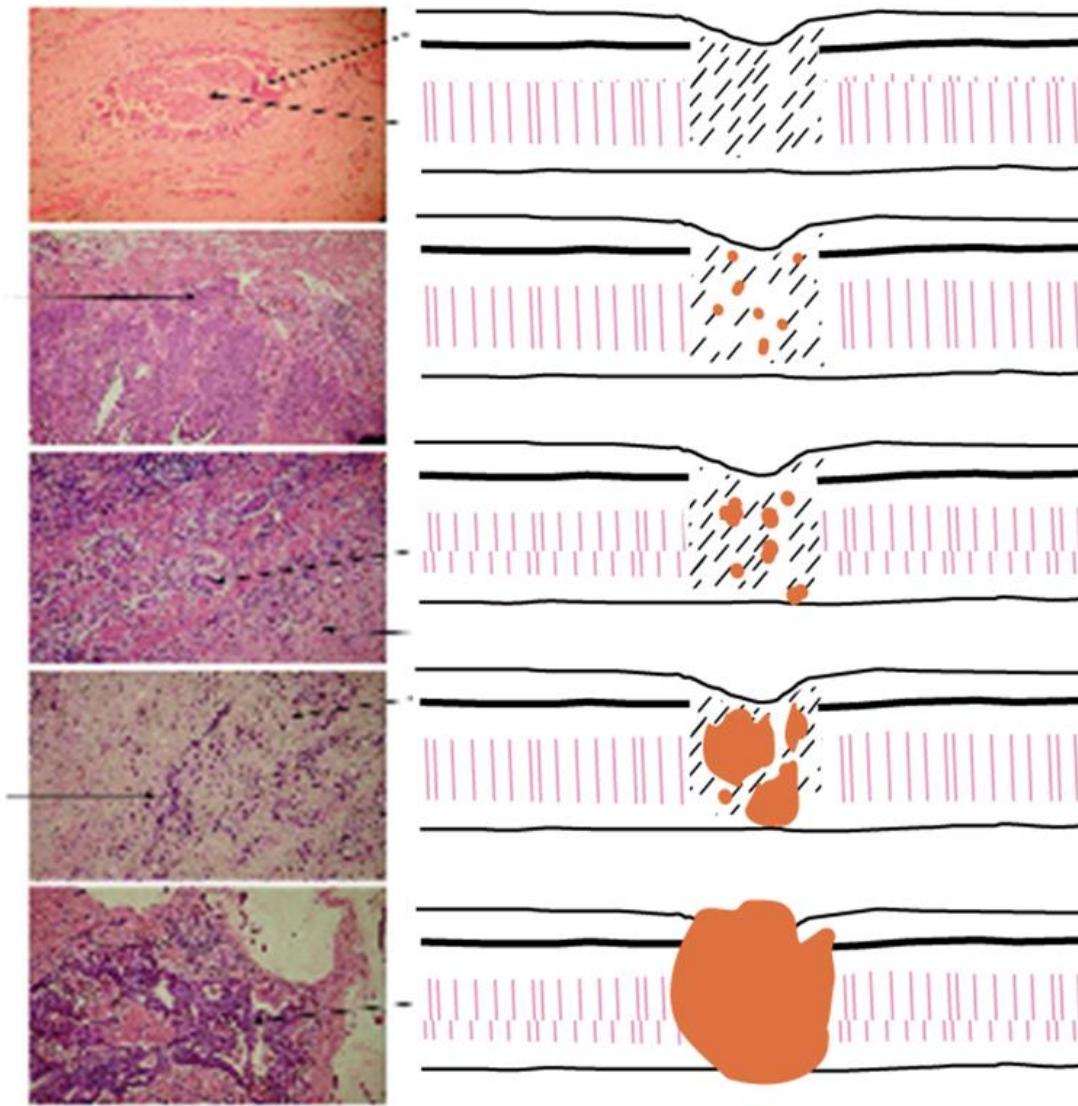
MSI/dMMR  
resectable cT2-4 Nx  
GAC/GEJAC

Durva/Trem(3)

15 evaluable patients, 14 underwent resection  
pCR 60%



# Tumor Regression (TRG)



**TRG 1**  
No residual cancer

**TRG 2**  
Rare residual cancer cells

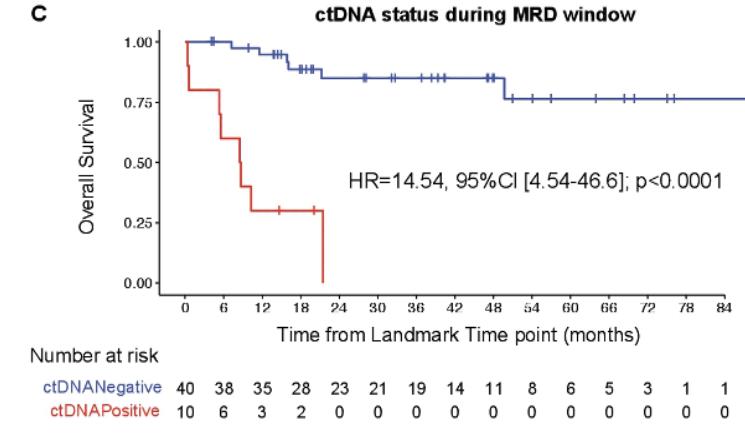
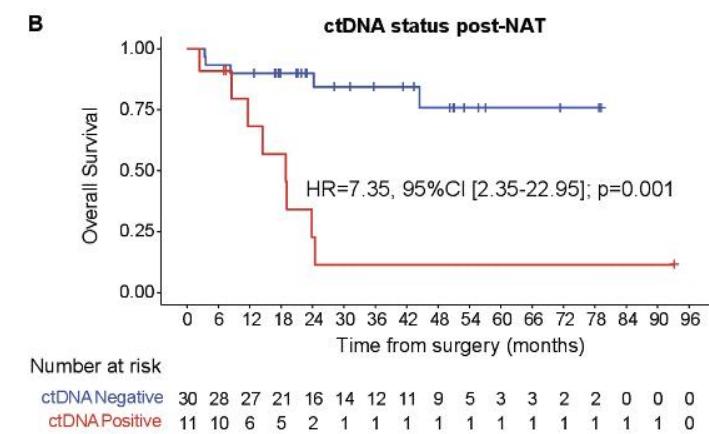
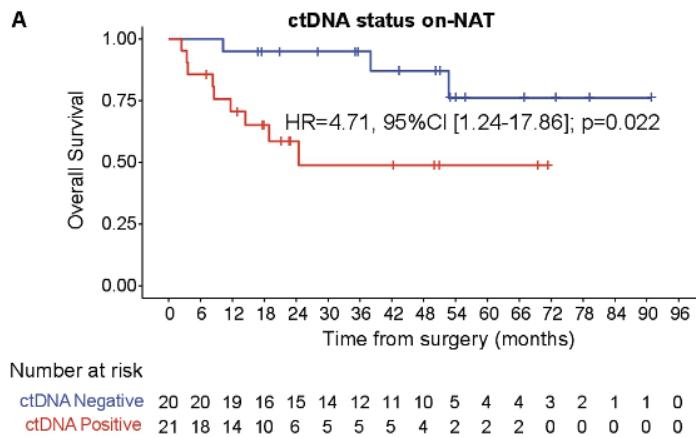
**TRG 3**  
Fibrosis outgrowing  
residual cancer

**TRG 4**  
Residual cancer  
outgrowing fibrosis

**TRG 5**  
Absence of  
regressive changes

# ctDNA

## Longitudinal analysis of ctDNA during treatment of locally advanced gastric/GEJ adenocarcinoma - Prospective biomarker study



# Perioperative Therapy - Summary

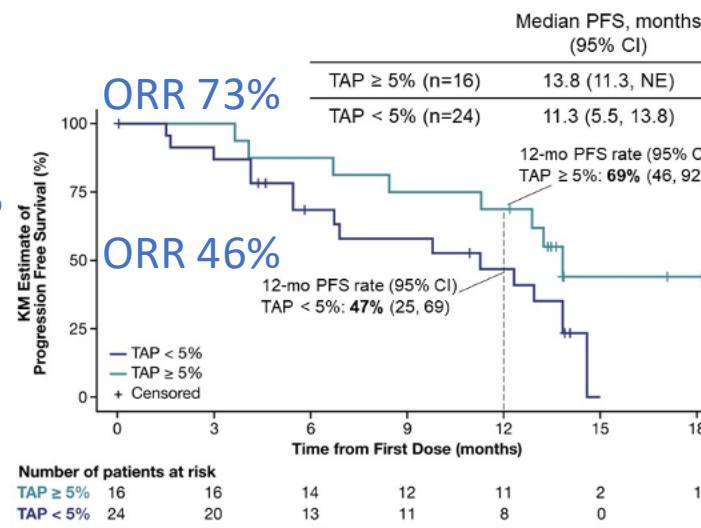
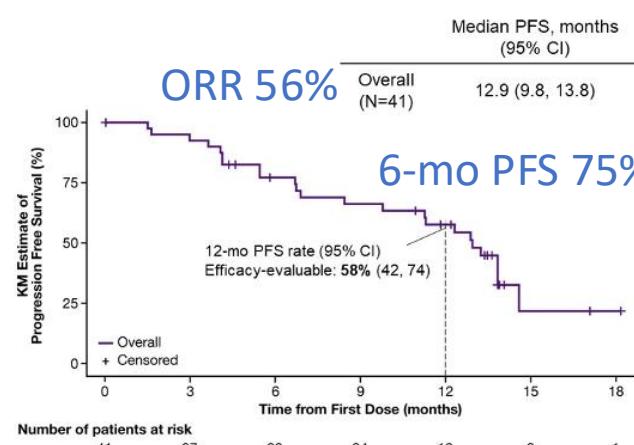
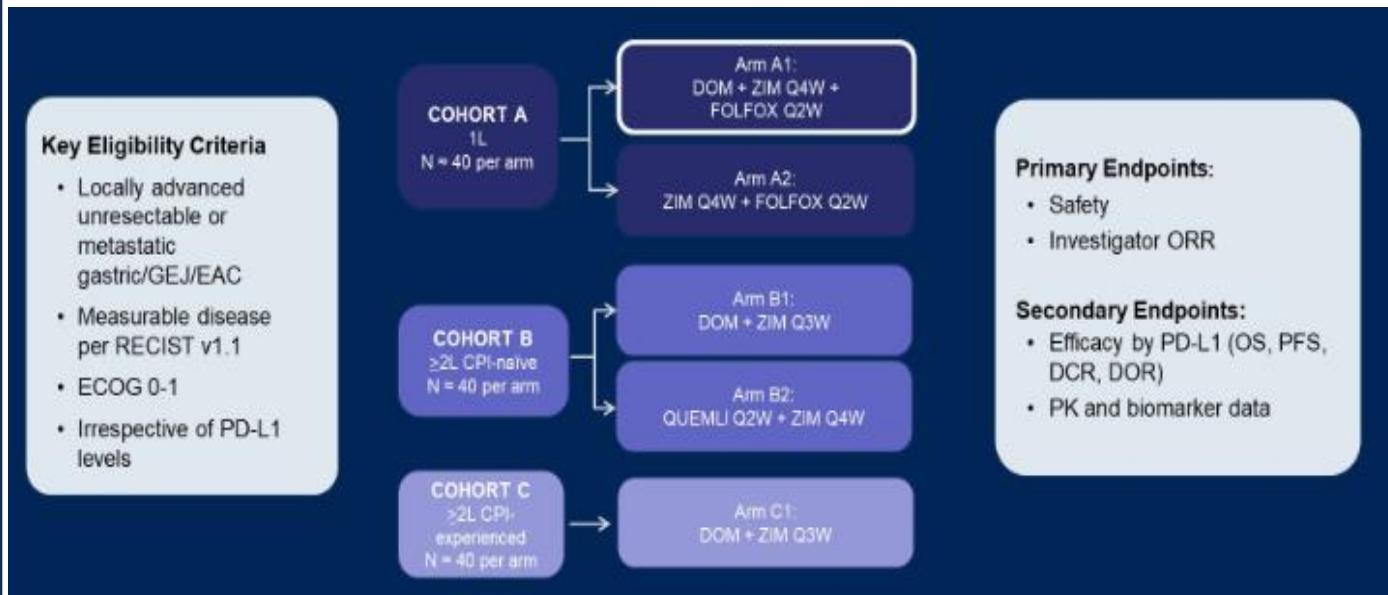
- Perioperative FLOT is the new standard for resectable cT2+/N+ esophageal adenocarcinoma
- Benefit of adjuvant immunotherapy in Esophageal Adenocarcinoma is unclear (CheckMate 577/ATTRACTION-5/ICONIC/VESTIGE)
  - Awaiting OS for Checkmate 577
- Addition of IO improves pCR, but unclear if this leads to improved OS/EFS (KEYNOTE 585, MATTERHORN)
- MSI High perioperative therapy – IO only; neonipiga and infinity
- ctDNA is being evaluated as a prognostic biomarker

# Update of Esophagogastric Cancer

Advanced:

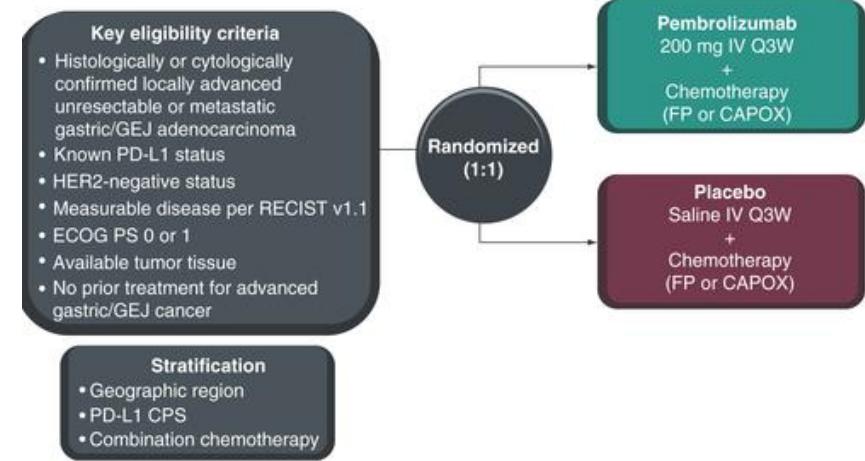
- First line Chemotherapy and Immunotherapy

## EDGE Gastric



Janjigian et al. JCO 2023

## Keynote-859



ORR 52.1% vs 42.6%

mDOR was 8.3 mo vs 5.6 mo

PD-L1 CPS ≥10

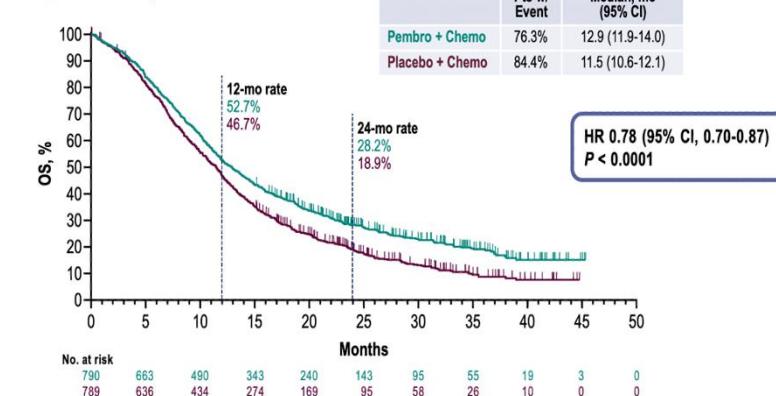
mOS 15.7 vs 11.8 mo

mPFS 8.1 vs 5.6 mo

ORR 60.6% vs 43%

mDOR 10.9 vs 5.8 mo

## OS, ITT Population



Rha et al. Lancet Oncology 2024

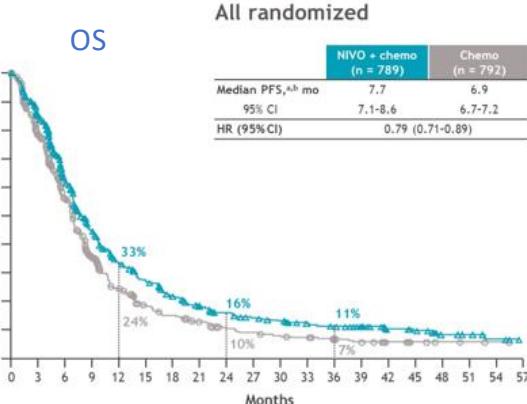
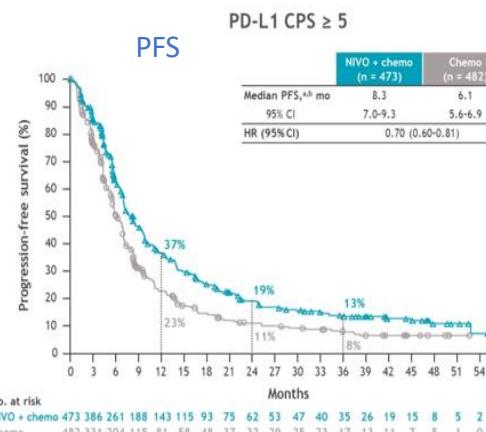
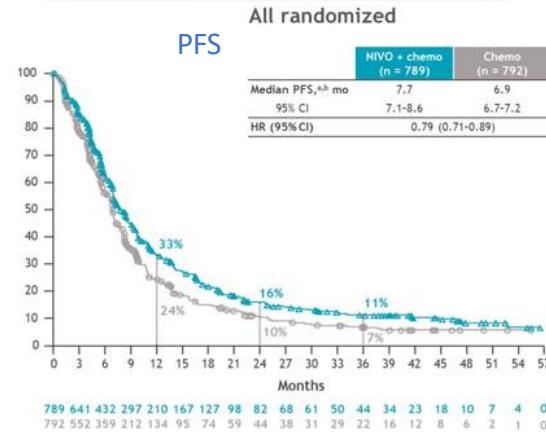
## Checkmate 649

## Key eligibility criteria

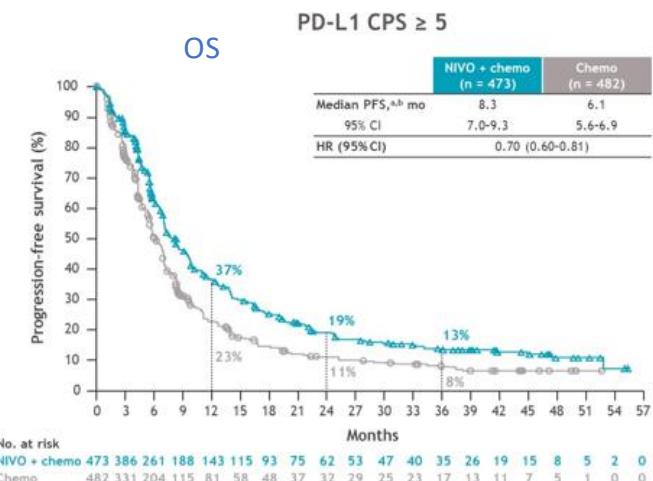
- Previously untreated, unresectable, advanced or metastatic gastric/GEJ/esophageal adenocarcinoma
- No known HER2-positive status
- ECOG PS 0-1

## Stratification factors

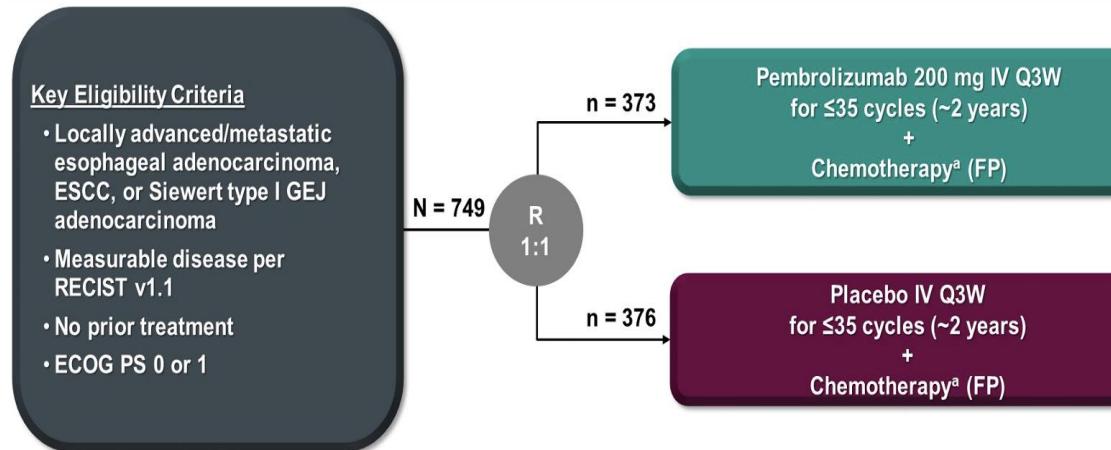
- Tumor cell PD-L1 expression ( $\geq 1\%$  vs  $< 1\%$ <sup>b</sup>)
- Region (Asia vs United States/Canada vs ROW)
- ECOG PS (0 vs 1)
- Chemo (XELOX vs FOLFOX)



Greater benefit in pts with MSI-H  
MSI-H – mOS 38.7 vs 12.3mo  
MSS mOS 13.8 vs 11.5 mo



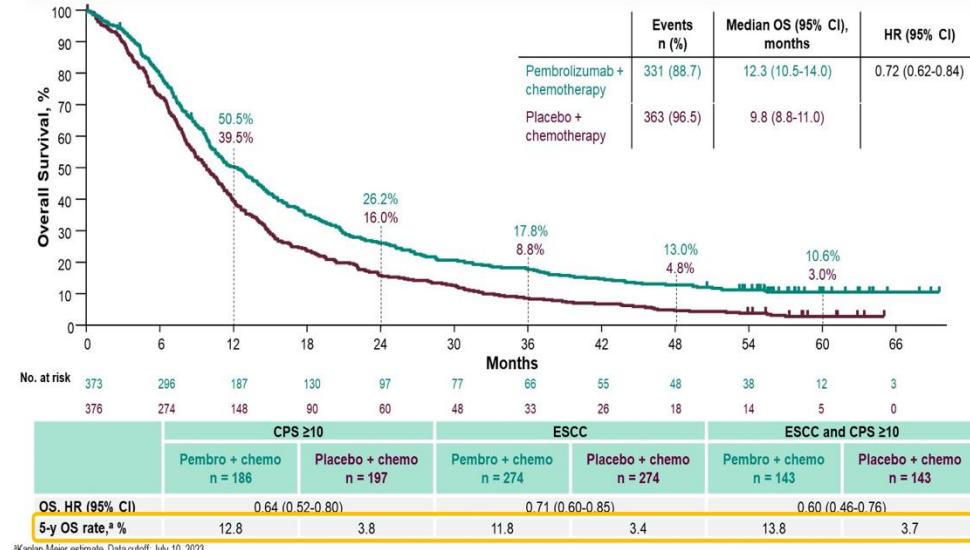
	PD-L1 CPS $\geq 5$		All randomized		
	Efficacy	NIVO + chemo (n = 473)	Chemo (n = 482)	NIVO + chemo (n = 789)	Chemo (n = 792)
mOS (95% CI) mo		14.4 (13.1-16.2)	11.1 (10.1-12.1)	13.7 (12.4-14.5)	11.6 (10.9-12.5)
HR (95% CI)		0.70 (0.61-0.81)		0.79 (0.71-0.88)	
48-mo OS rate (95% CI) %		17 (14-21)	8 (6-11)	13 (11-16)	8 (6-10)
mPFS <sup>a</sup> (95% CI) mo		8.3 (7.0-9.3)	6.1 (5.6-6.9)	7.7 (7.1-8.6)	6.9 (6.7-7.2)
HR (95% CI)		0.71 (0.61-0.82)		0.80 (0.71-0.89)	
ORR <sup>a,b</sup> (95% CI) %		60 (55-65)	45 (40-50)	58 (54-62)	46 (42-50)
mDuration of response <sup>a,c</sup> (95% CI) mo		9.6 (8.3-12.4)	7.0 (5.7-8.0)	8.5 (7.7-9.9)	6.9 (5.9-7.6)

**Stratification Factors**

- Geographic region (Asia vs rest of world)
- Histology (adenocarcinoma vs squamous cell carcinoma)
- ECOG PS (0 vs 1)

**End Points**

- Primary: OS<sup>b</sup>, PFS<sup>c,d</sup>
- Secondary: ORR<sup>d</sup>, DOR<sup>d</sup>, safety, PROs<sup>e</sup>

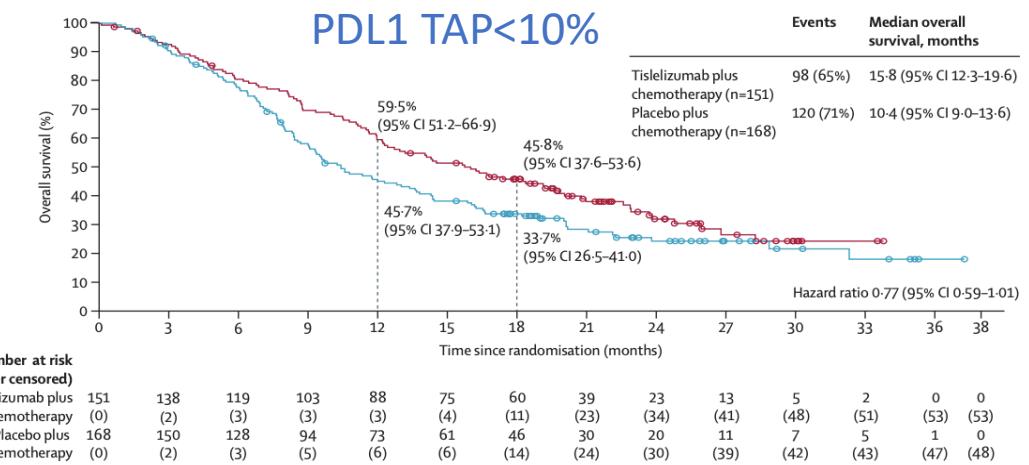
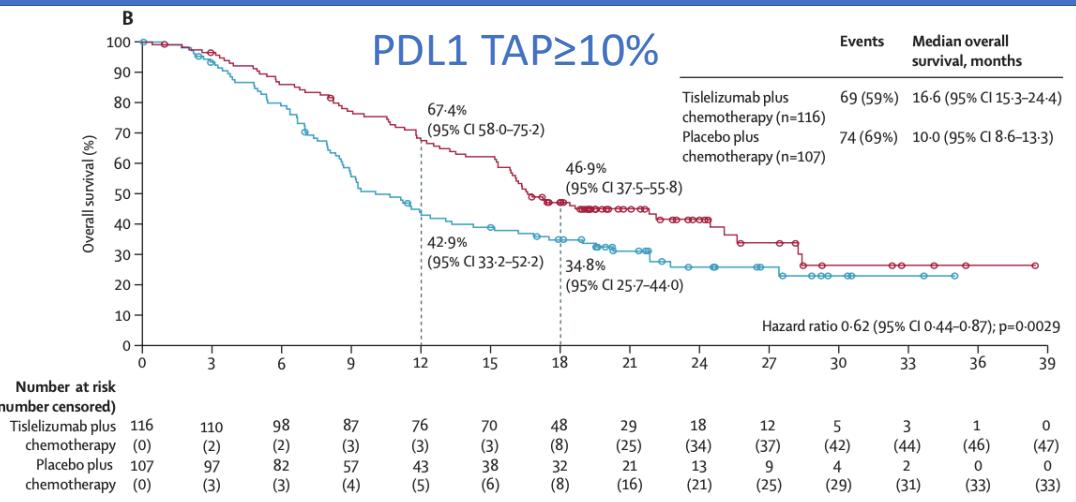
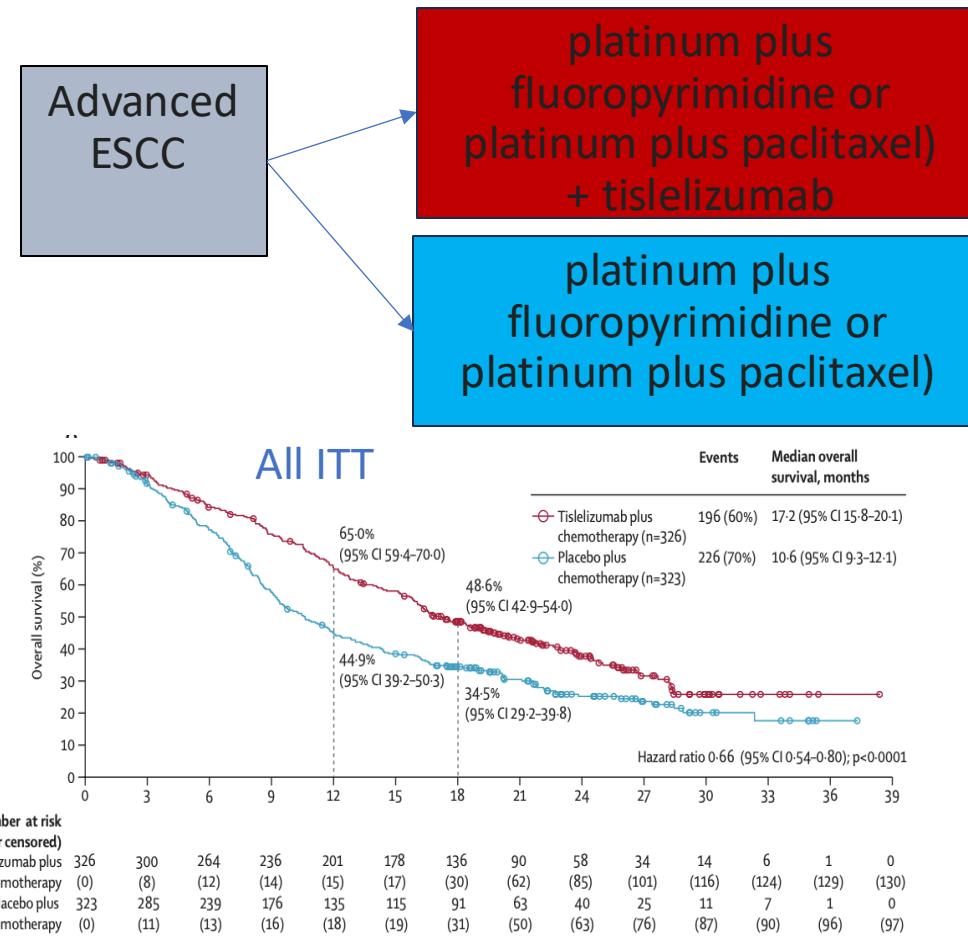
**Overall Survival: ITT Population**

	ITT n = 749	ESCC n = 548	CPS ≥10 n = 383	ESCC and CPS ≥10 n = 286
<b>OS and PFS</b>				
<b>OS, median, HR (95% CI)<sup>a,b</sup></b>	0.72 (0.62-0.84)	0.71 (0.60-0.85)	0.64 (0.52-0.80)	0.60 (0.46-0.76)
<b>5-yr OS rate,<sup>a,b</sup> %</b>	10.6 vs 3.0	11.8 vs 3.4	12.8 vs 3.8	13.8 vs 3.7
<b>PFS, median, HR (95% CI)<sup>a,b,c</sup></b>	0.64 (0.54-0.75)	0.65 (0.54-0.78)	0.51 (0.40-0.64)	0.53 (0.41-0.69)
<b>ORR,<sup>b,c</sup> %</b>	45.0 vs 29.3	43.8 vs 31.0	51.1 vs 26.9	51.0 vs 28.0
<b>DOR,<sup>a,b,c</sup> median, mo (range)</b>	8.3 (1.2+ to 65.9+) vs 6.0 (1.5+ to 31.1)	9.1 (1.2+ to 65.9+) vs 6.1 (1.5+ to 31.1)	10.4 (1.9 to 65.9+) vs 5.6 (1.5+ to 31.1)	10.4 (2.2+ to 65.9+) vs 4.4 (1.5+ to 31.1)

NR, not reached.

<sup>a</sup>Kaplan-Meier estimate.

# RATIONALE-306



	Arm A: TIS + chemo (n=326)	Arm B: PBO + chemo (n=323)
Median OS, mo (95% CI)	17.2 (15.8, 20.1)	10.6 (9.3, 12.0)
24-mo OS, % (95% CI)	37.9 (32.5, 43.2)	24.8 (20.1, 29.8)
36-mo OS, % (95% CI)	22.1 (17.6, 27.0)	14.1 (10.4, 18.4)
24-mo PFS, % (95% CI)	18.1 (13.6, 23.1)	7.2 (4.4, 11.0)
36-mo PFS, % (95% CI)	15.0 (10.8, 19.9)	2.9 (1.1, 6.2)
24-mo DoR, % (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>	19.9 (14.3, 26.3)	10.1 (5.0, 17.1)
36-mo DoR, % (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>	17.7 (12.3, 24.0)	5.0 (1.5, 11.8)

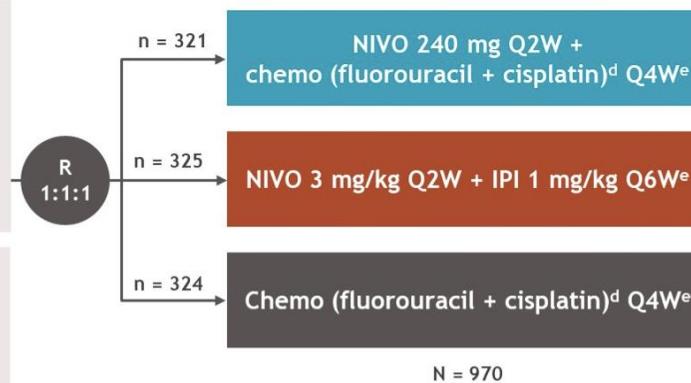
## CHECKMATE 648

### Key eligibility criteria

- Unresectable advanced, recurrent, or metastatic ESCC
- ECOG PS 0-1
- No prior systemic treatment for advanced disease
- Measurable disease

### Stratification factors

- Tumor cell PD-L1 expression ( $\geq 1\%$  vs  $< 1\%$ <sup>b</sup>)
- Region (East Asia<sup>c</sup> vs rest of Asia vs ROW)
- ECOG PS (0 vs 1)
- Number of organs with metastases ( $\leq 1$  vs  $\geq 2$ )



### Primary endpoints:

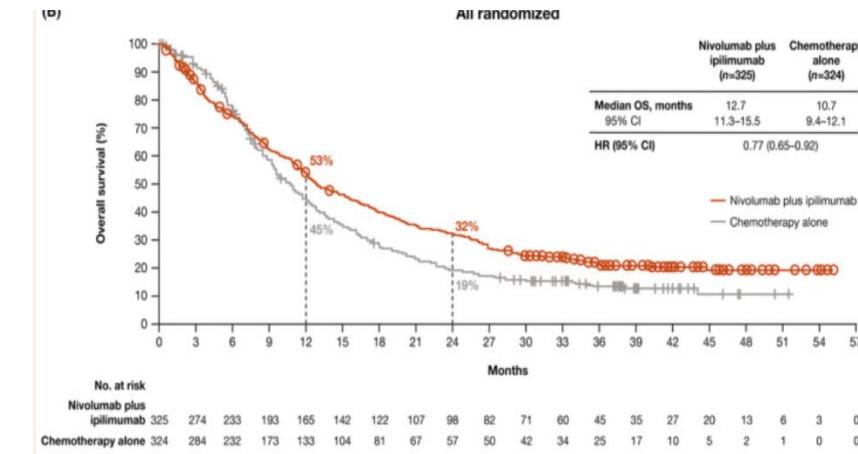
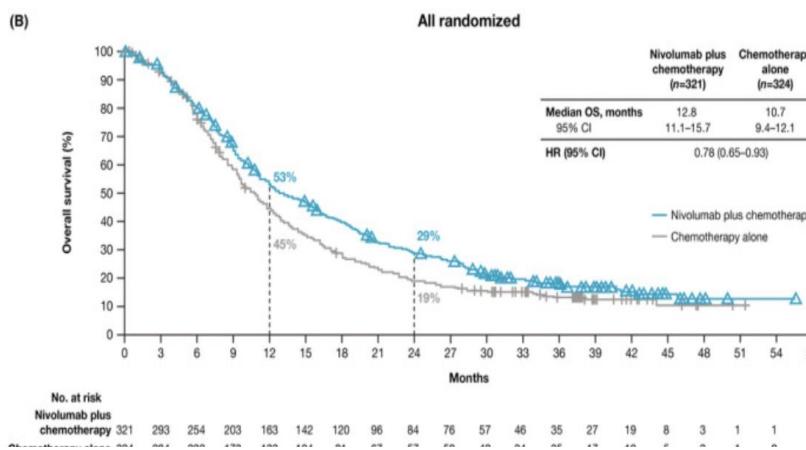
- OS and PFS<sup>f</sup> (tumor cell PD-L1  $\geq 1\%$ )

### Secondary endpoints:

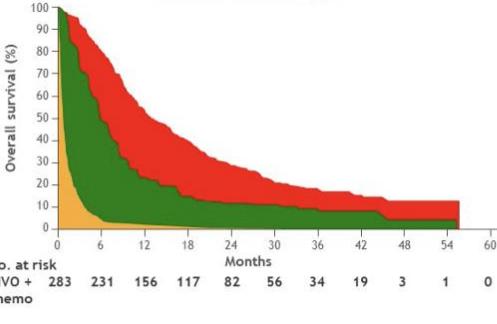
- OS and PFS<sup>f</sup> (all randomized)
- ORR<sup>f</sup> (tumor cell PD-L1  $\geq 1\%$  and all randomized)

### Exploratory endpoint:

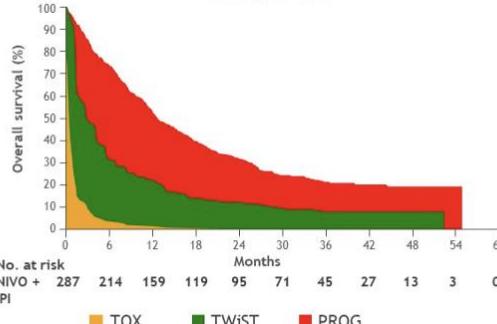
- Patient reported outcomes using EQ-5D-3L and FACT-E



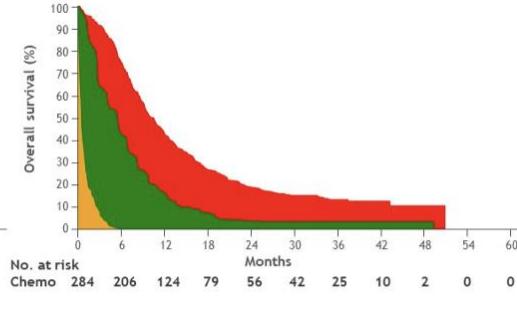
### NIVO + chemo



### NIVO + IPI



### Chemo



Overall survival was partitioned into 3 health states

Toxicity (TOX)  
Time spent with all-cause grade 3 or 4 adverse events after randomization and prior to disease progression

Time without symptoms or toxicity (TWiST)  
Time spent not in the toxicity or progression health states

Progression<sup>a</sup> (PROG)  
Time between progression and death

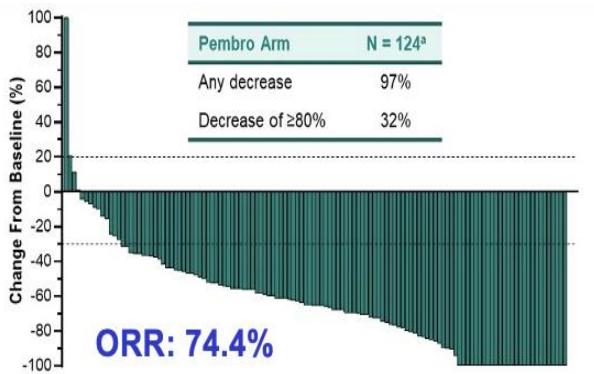
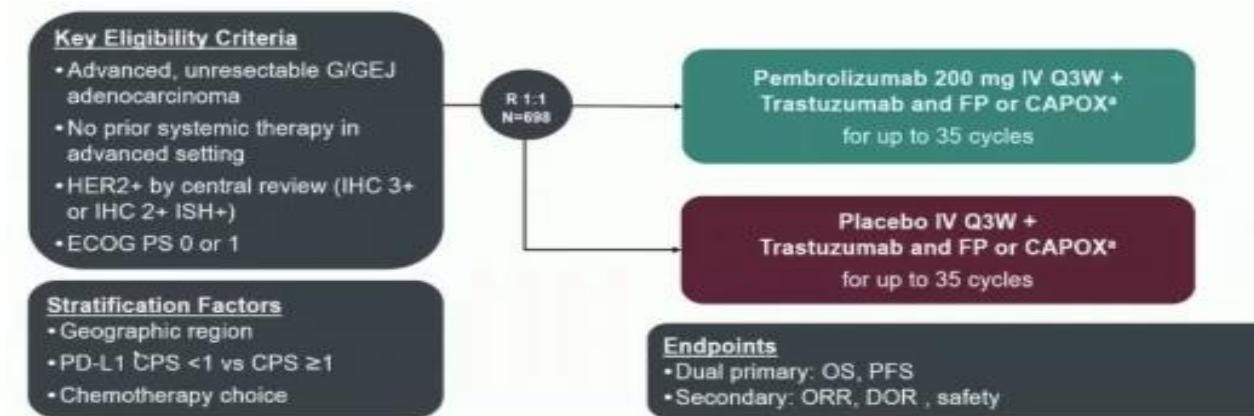
## Advanced Esophagogastric – Role of Immunotherapy

- First line immunotherapy in combination with chemotherapy superior to chemotherapy alone with longer follow up.
- Benefit across subgroups, enriched in higher PDL1
- MSI-H patients benefit more
- Chemo + PD-1 Inhibitor + TIGIT Inhibitor promising results in first line

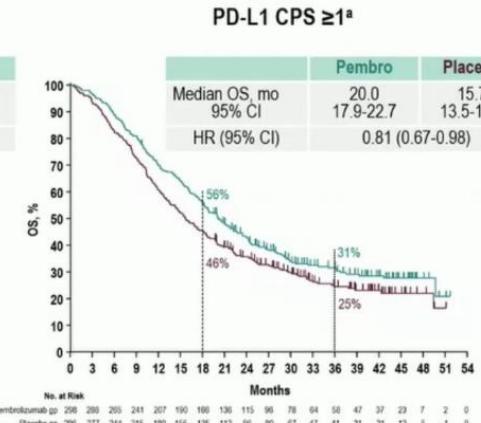
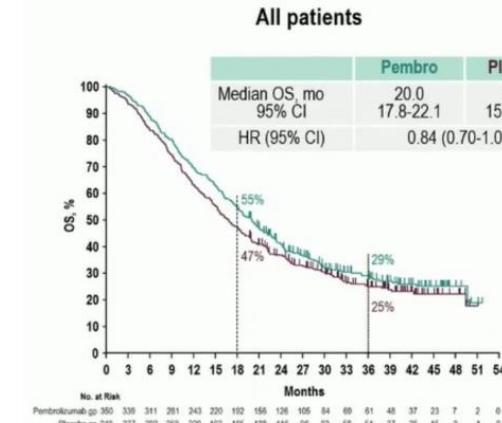
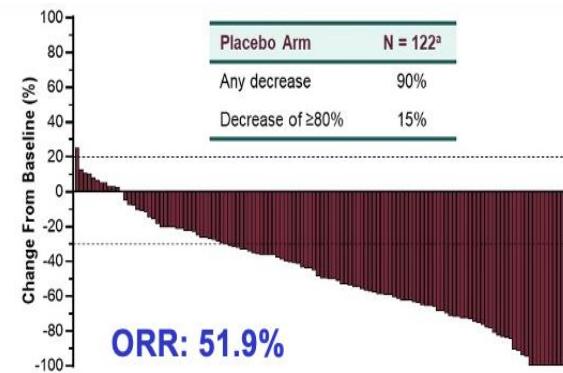
# Update of Esophagogastric Cancer

Advanced:

- HER2 + Gastric cancer

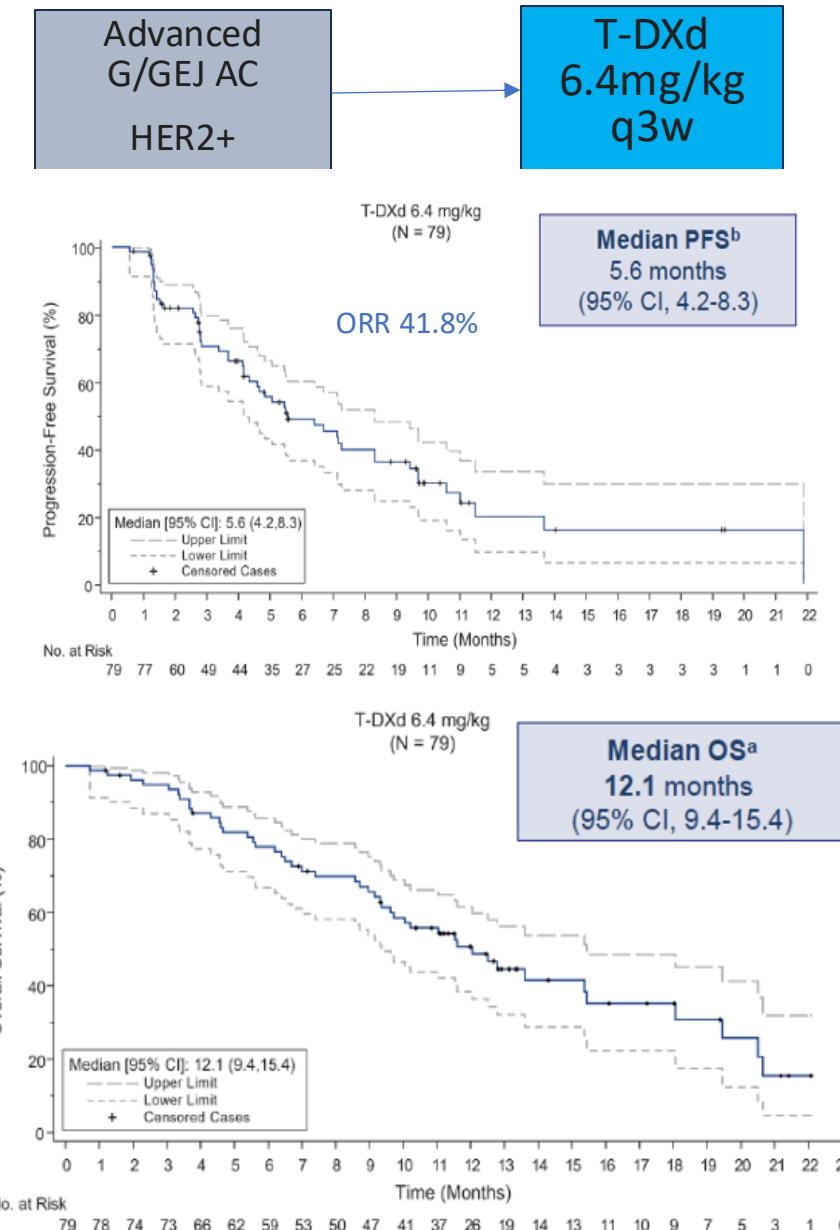


FDA granted accelerated approval to pembro plus trastuzumab and chemo

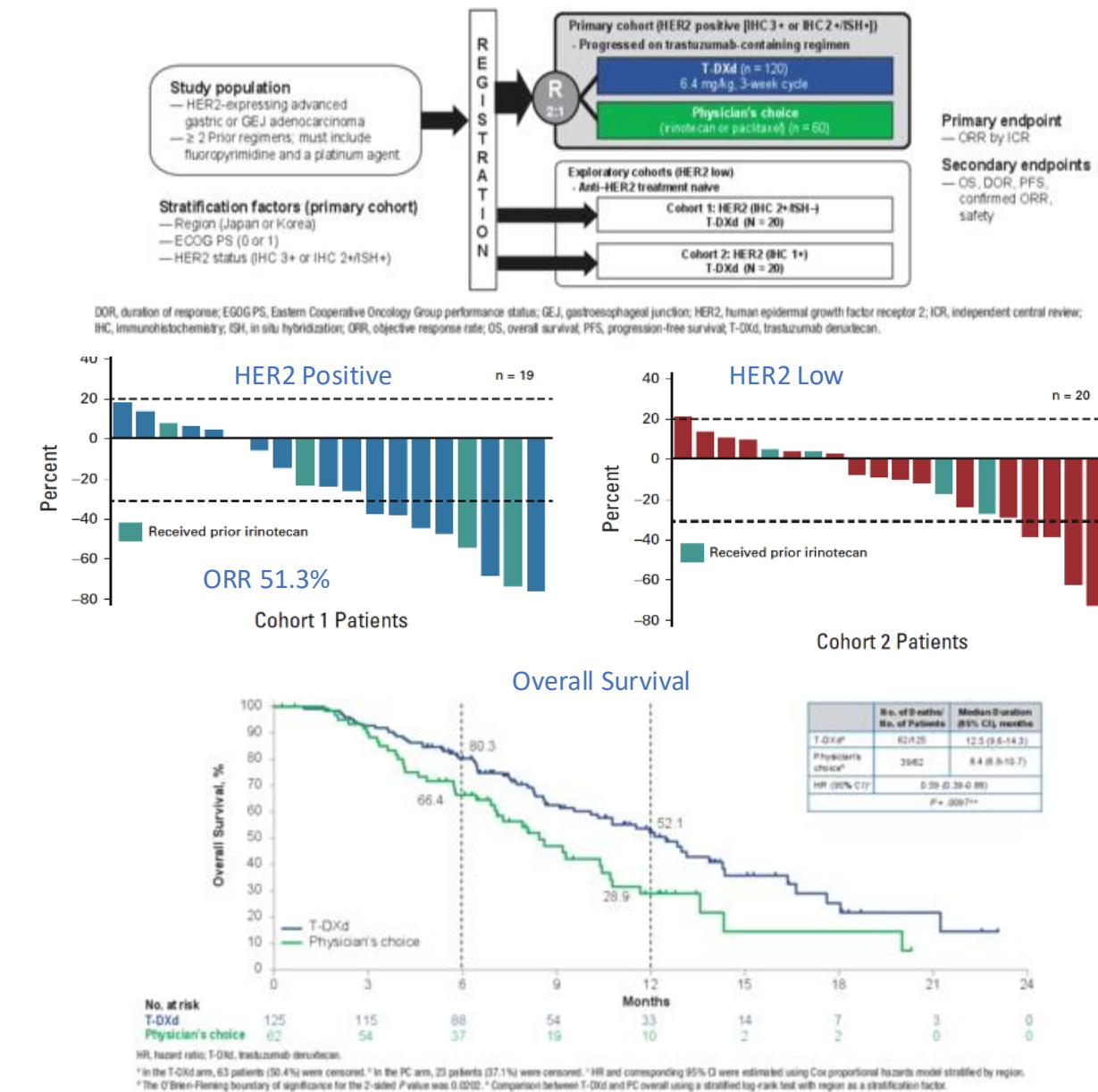


HER 2+

DESTINY GASTRIC-02



DESTINY GASTRIC-01



# Summary - HER2 Positive Cancer

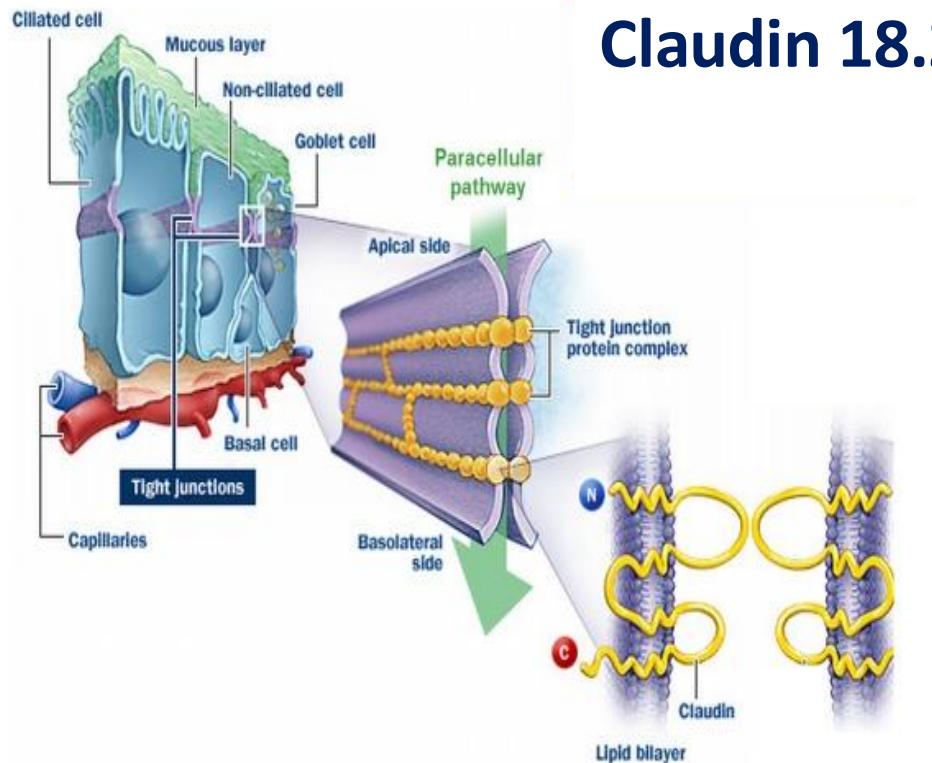
- Chemotherapy with Trastuzumab and Pembrolizumab improved ORR and PFS with PDL-1  $\geq$  patient
- Refractory options – Trastuzumab-deruxtecan
- HER2 **low** being investigated with Ab-drug conjugates
- Multiple investigational Agents – TKI, Antibody drugs, cell therapy

# Update of Esophagogastric Cancer

Advanced:

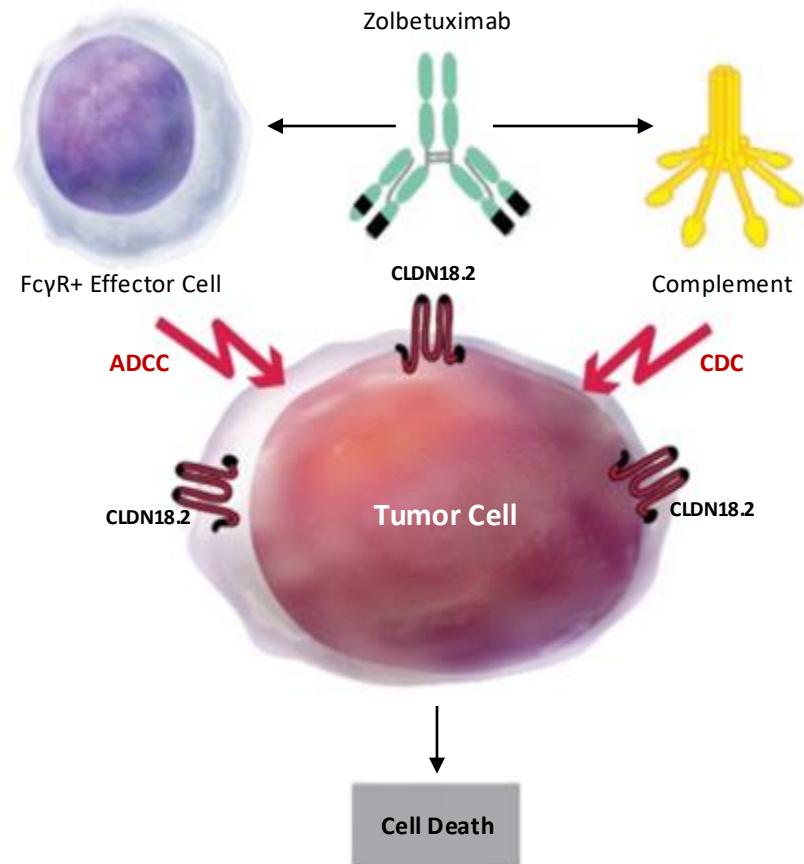
- Claudin 18.2 – New Target

# CLAUDIN18.2 – A NOVEL TARGET



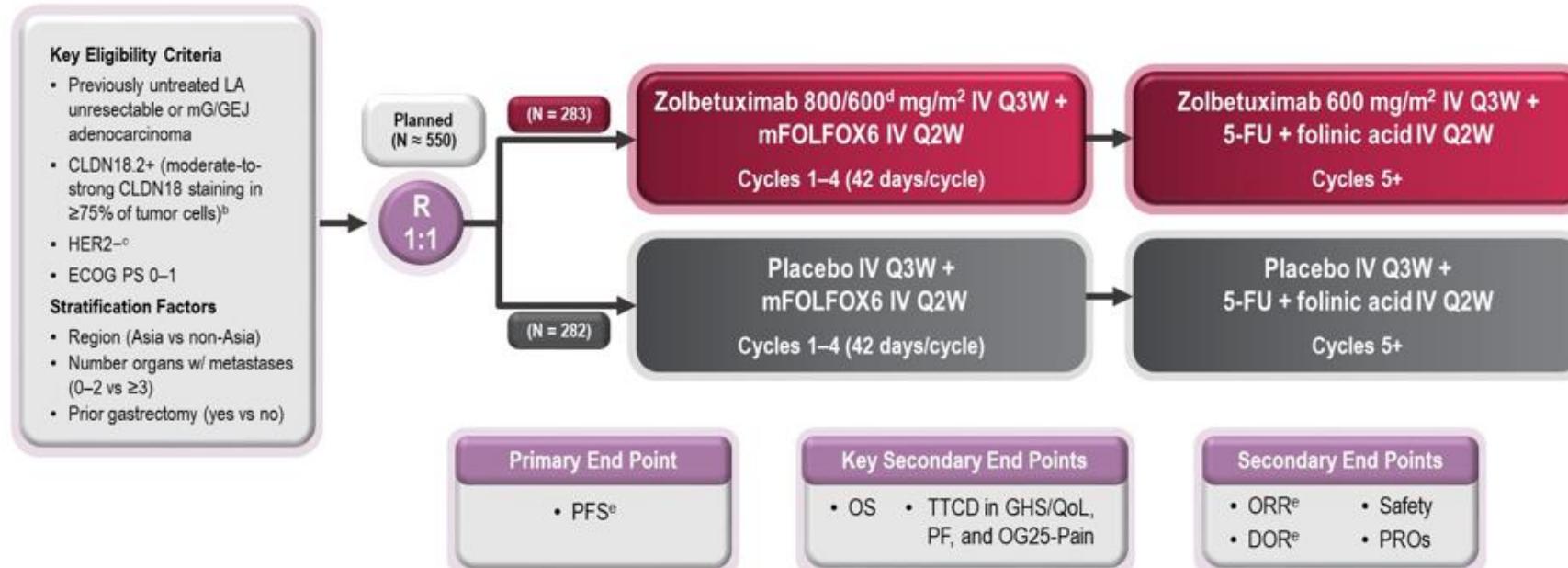
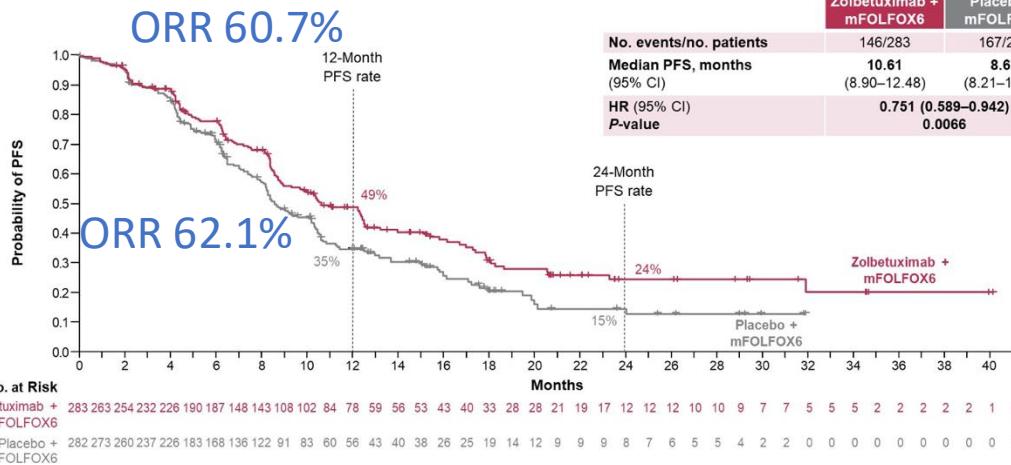
Claudin 18.2

## Mechanism of Action of Zolbetuximab

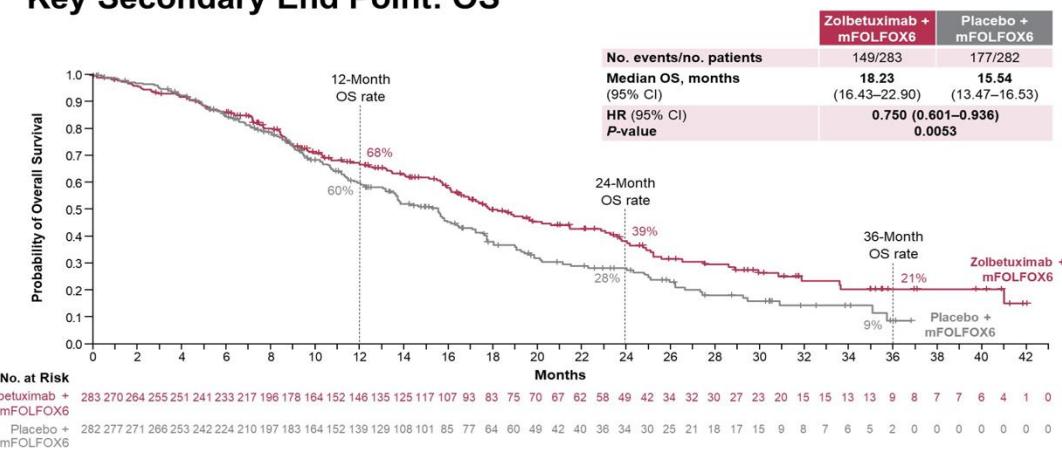


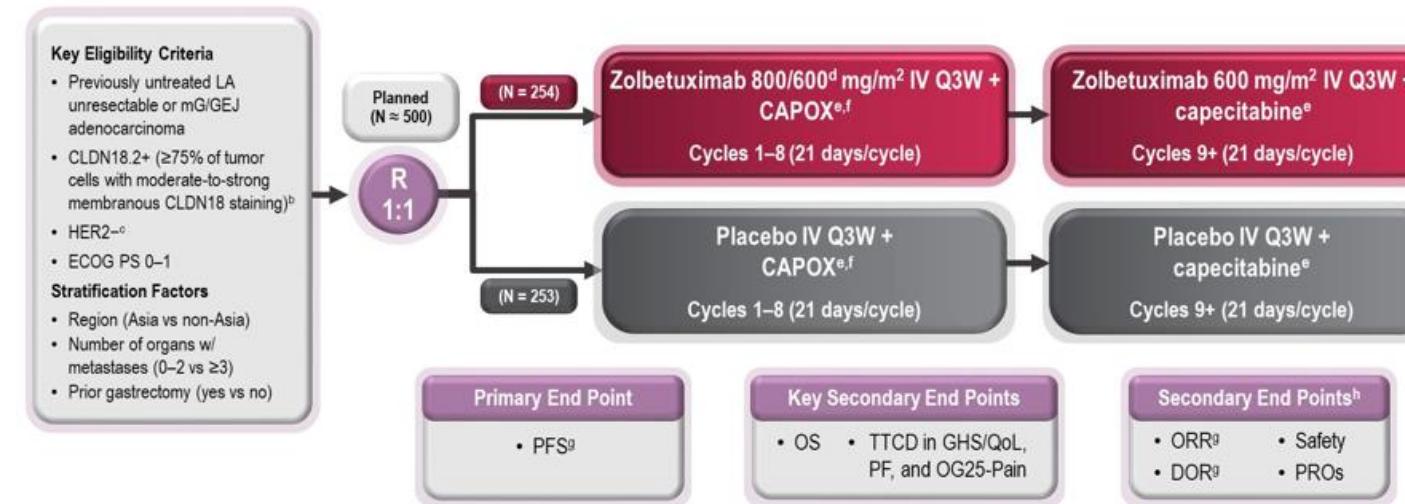
- ▶ Claudin 18.2 is a tight junction protein expressed in normal and malignant gastric mucosa cells
- ▶ During malignant transformation, CLDN18.2 is exposed on the surface of G/GEJ AC
- ▶ Zolbetuximab is a chimeric antibody targeting CLD18.2 and its ADCC/CDC

## SPOTLIGHT

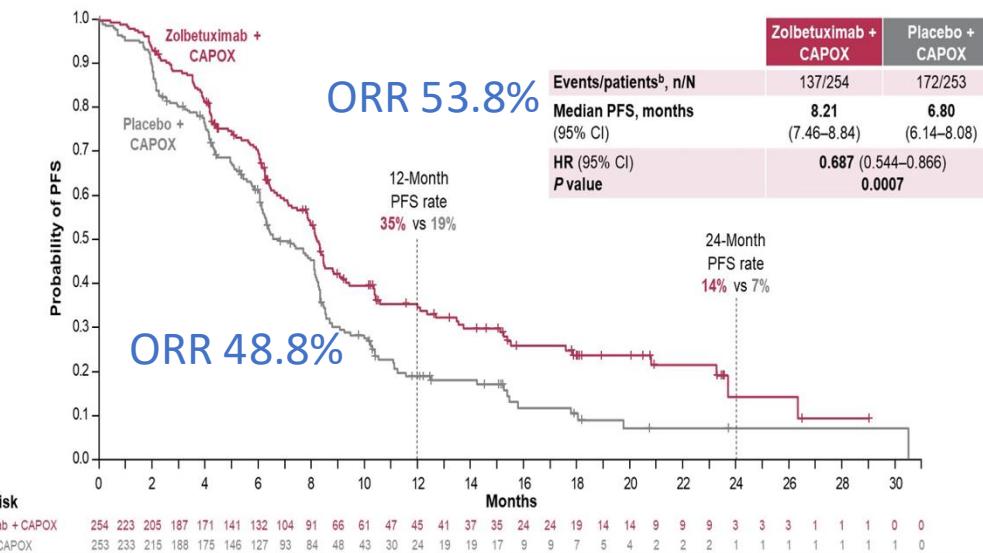
Primary End Point: PFS by Independent Review Committee<sup>a</sup>

## Key Secondary End Point: OS

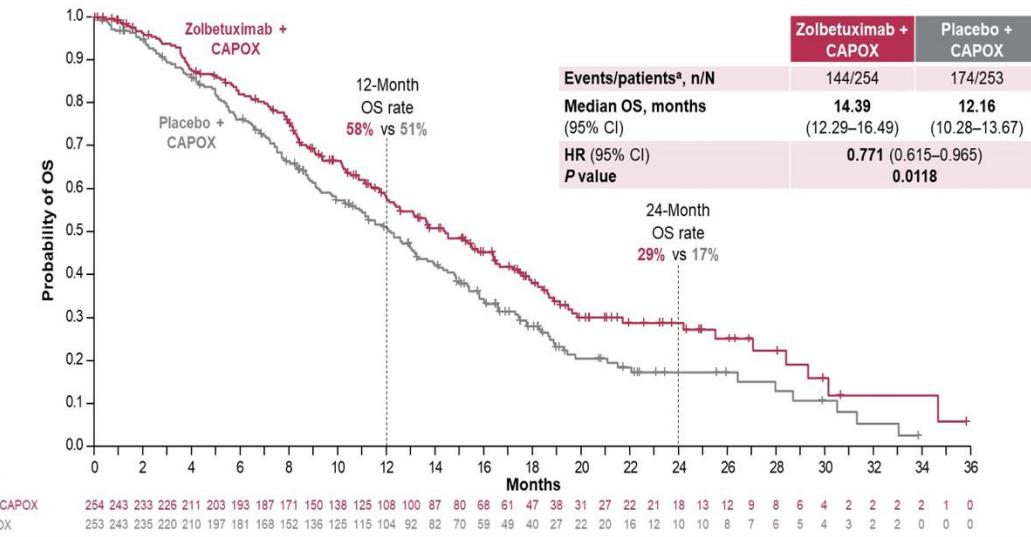




## Progression free Survival



## Overall Survival



Stomach more benefit than GEJ

Grade  $\geq 3$  AEs 72.8 vs 69.9%

Xu et al. JCO 2023;Abstract 405736.

## KYM-01 Claudin 18.2 ADC Trial

**Key Eligibility Criteria:**

- Pathologically confirmed advanced solid tumor, evaluable by RECIST v1.1
- Refractory/intolerant to standard therapies
- ECOG PS ≤1
- Part A dose escalation:
  - CLDN18.2 expression not required
- Part B dose expansion:
  - CLDN18.2 expression of ≥2+ membrane staining intensity in ≥5% tumor cells required

**Primary Endpoints**

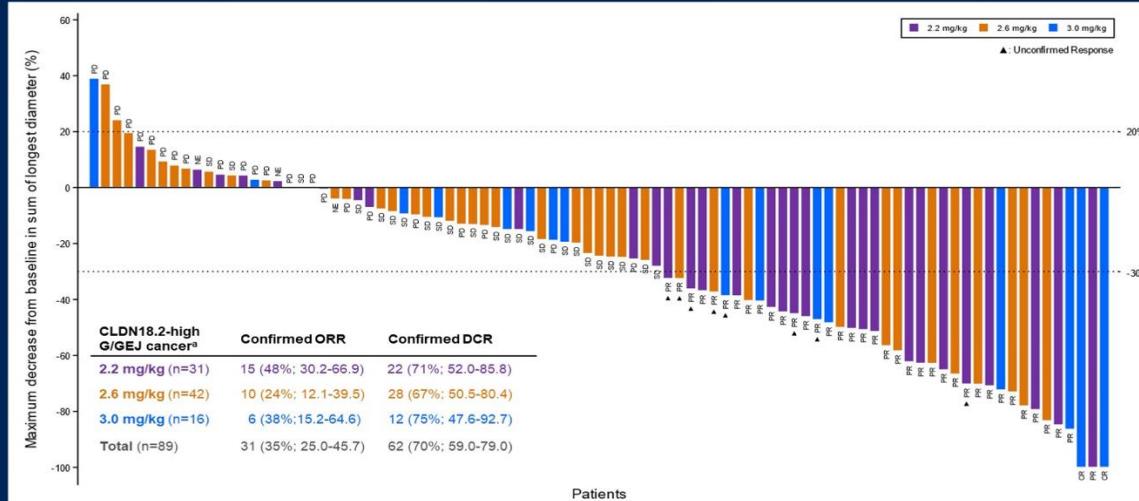
Part A: Adverse events and DLT  
Part B: ORR<sup>a</sup> and RP2D

Focus on the 113 patients with G/GEJ cancer dosed at 2.2-3.0 mg/kg (107 patients from part B plus 6 patients from part A).

Data cut-off: February 24, 2024

**Best Overall Response in CLDN18.2-High<sup>a</sup> G/GEJ Cancer**

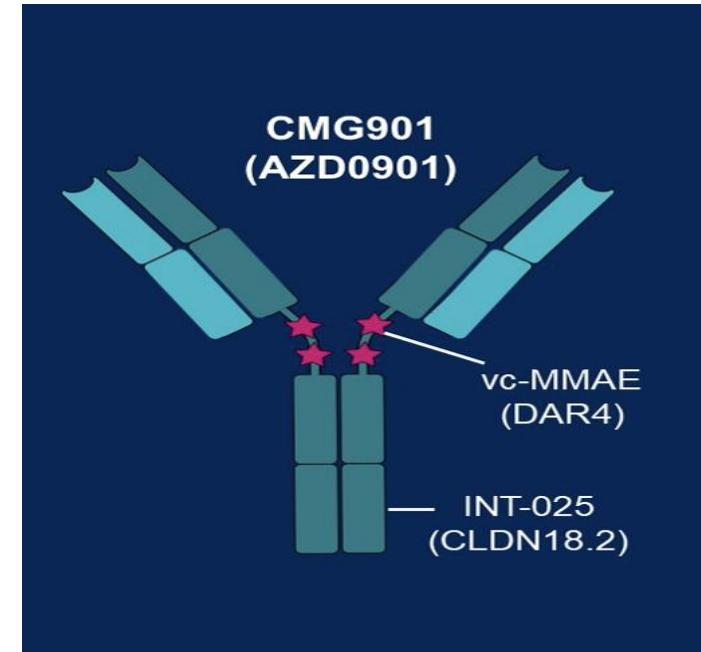
24-48% of patients achieved a confirmed objective response, and 67-75% of patients achieved a confirmed disease control



Data cut-off date: February 24, 2024.

Data are presented as n (%; 95%CI). <sup>a</sup>In patients with CLDN18.2 expression of ≥2+ membrane staining in ≥20% tumor cells, who received ≥1 dose of CMG901, with at least one post-treatment evaluation.

Abbreviations: CR, complete response; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease; PD, progressive disease; NE, not evaluable; DCR, disease control rate; CI, confidence interval; IHC, immunohistochemistry.

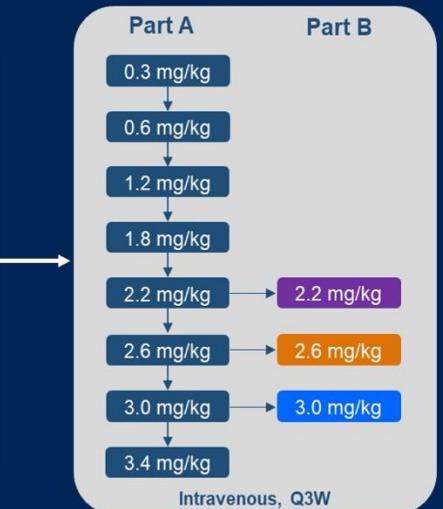


# Claudin 18.2

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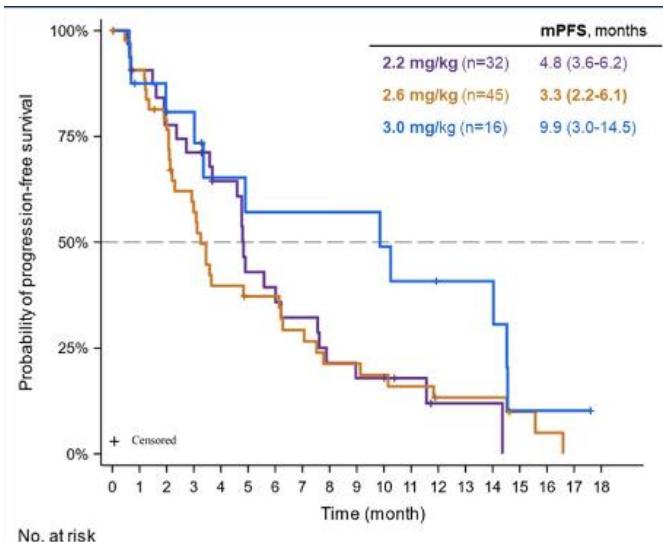


### Primary Endpoints

Part A: Adverse events and DLT  
Part B: ORR<sup>a</sup> and RP2D

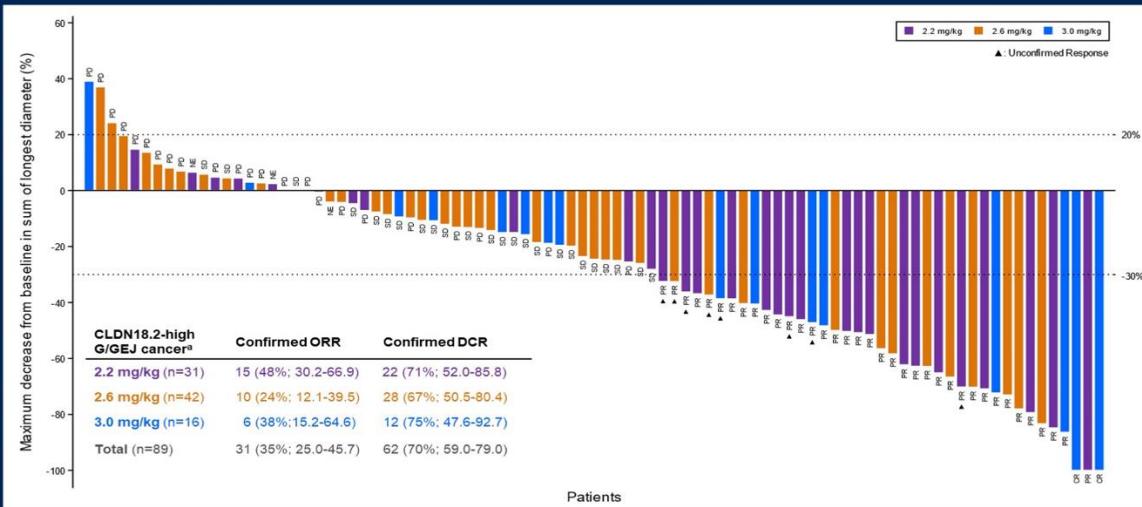
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Data cut-off: February 24, 2024



### Best Overall Response in CLDN18.2-High<sup>a</sup> G/GEJ Cancer

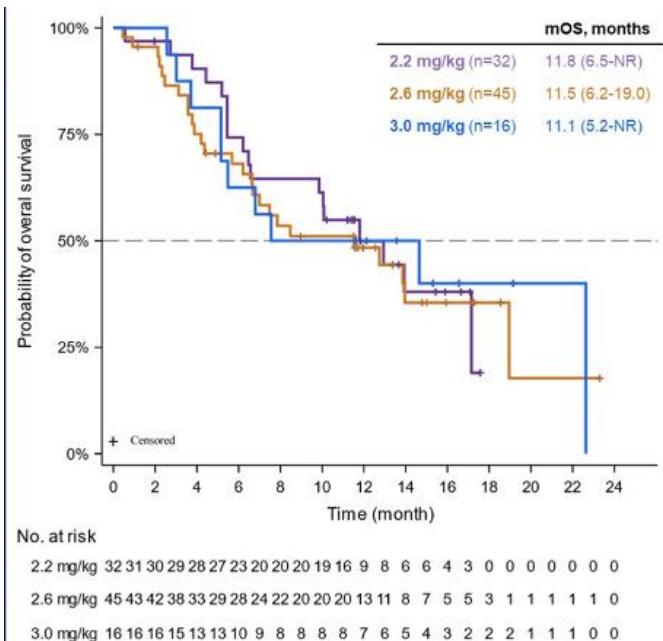
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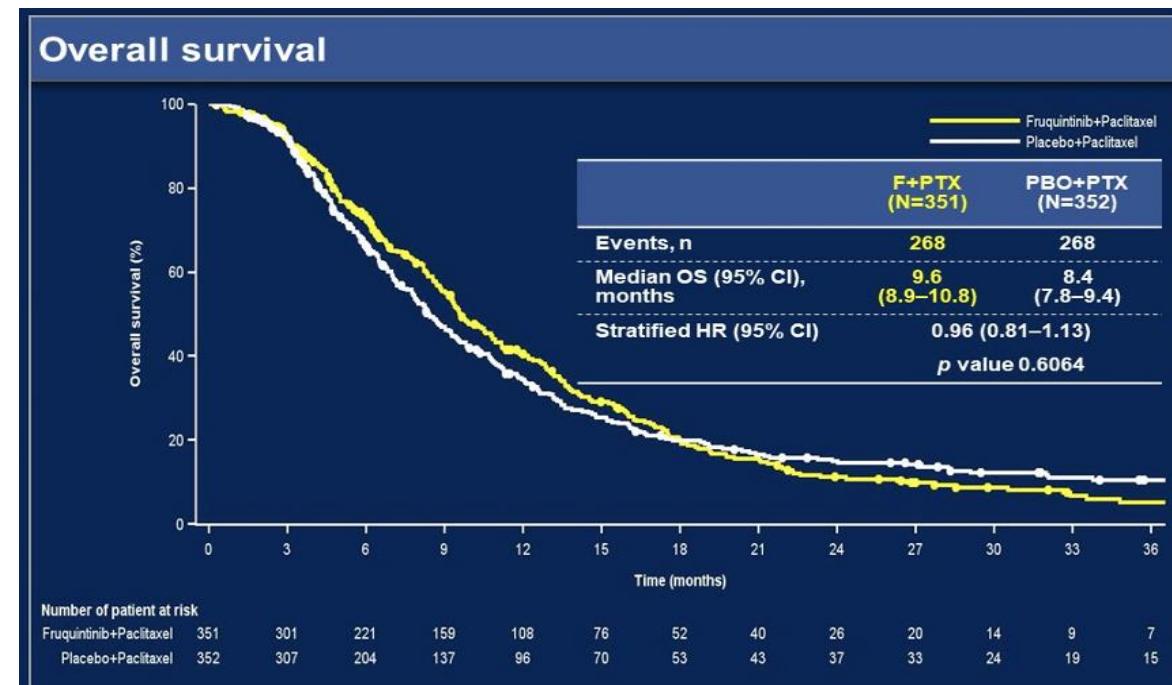
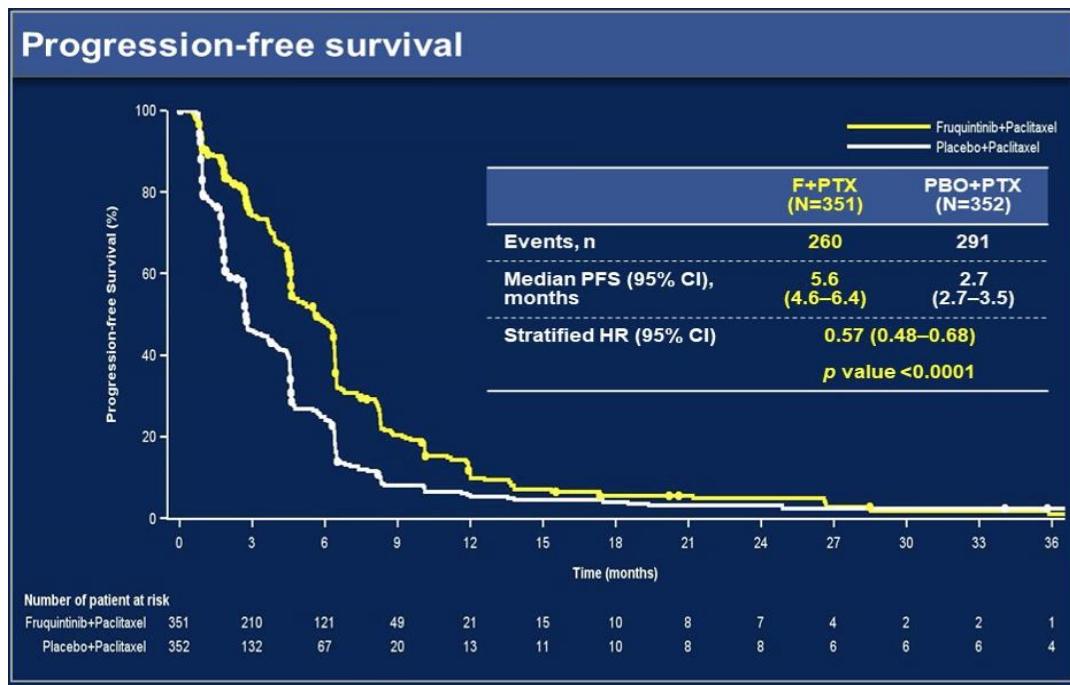
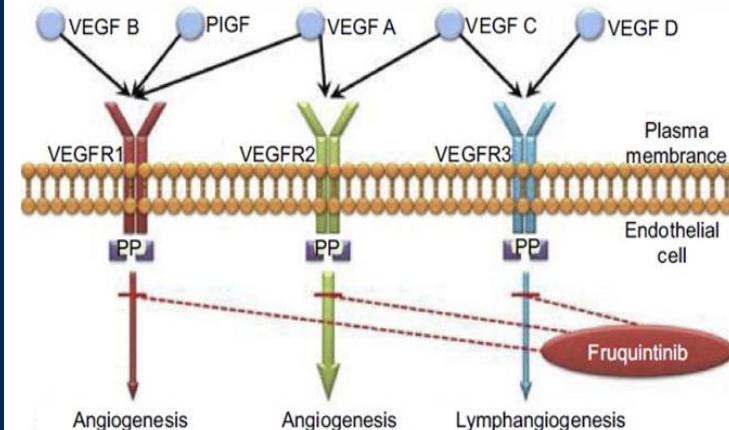
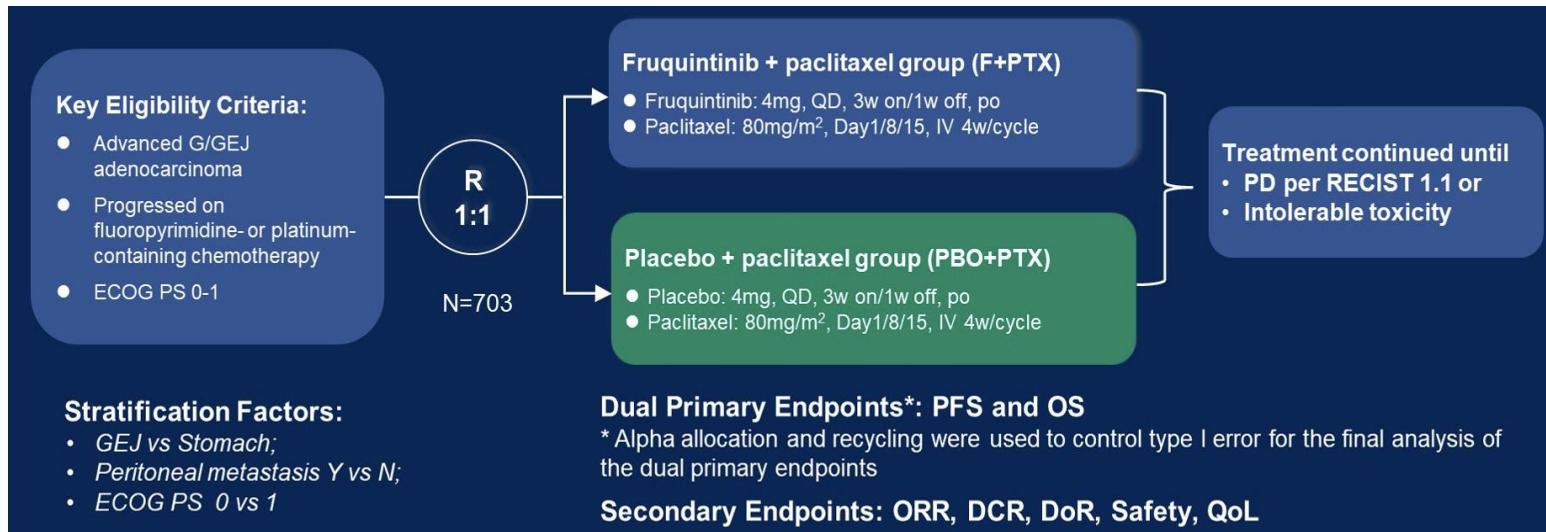


## CLDN 18.2 Summary

- Zolbetuximab with mFOLFOX6 and CAPOX with improvement in PFS and OS
- Toxicity profile includes GI toxicity – nausea/vomiting – but appears to be tolerable and manageable
- Awaiting FDA approval
- Claudin ADC
- Target for cell therapy, antibody drug conjugates and other trials

# Fruquintinib

## FRUTIGA



Improved outcomes in non-diffuse subtypes and with nodal involvement

# Thank you!

