

# The metronomic chemotherapy in patients with NSCLC

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PragueONCO 2019

# Overview

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Why metronomic > Biological background

How metronomic > Pharmacologic background

When metronomic > First-line setting as ideal

Who metronomic > Patient selection

What's new with metronomic > 2018(9) clinical data

# Why metronomic Biological background

## Metronomic chemotherapy(mCT) : definition

“Indeed, metronomic chemotherapy may be better defined as a frequent, regular administration of drug doses designed to maintain low, but active, range of concentrations of chemotherapeutic drugs during prolonged periods of time without inducing excessive toxicities.”

Bocci & Kerbel. Nat Rev Clin Oncol, 2016

“Metronomic chemotherapy is defined as the minimum biologically effective dose of a chemotherapeutic agent given as a continuous dosing regimen with no prolonged drug-free breaks that leads to antitumour activity ”

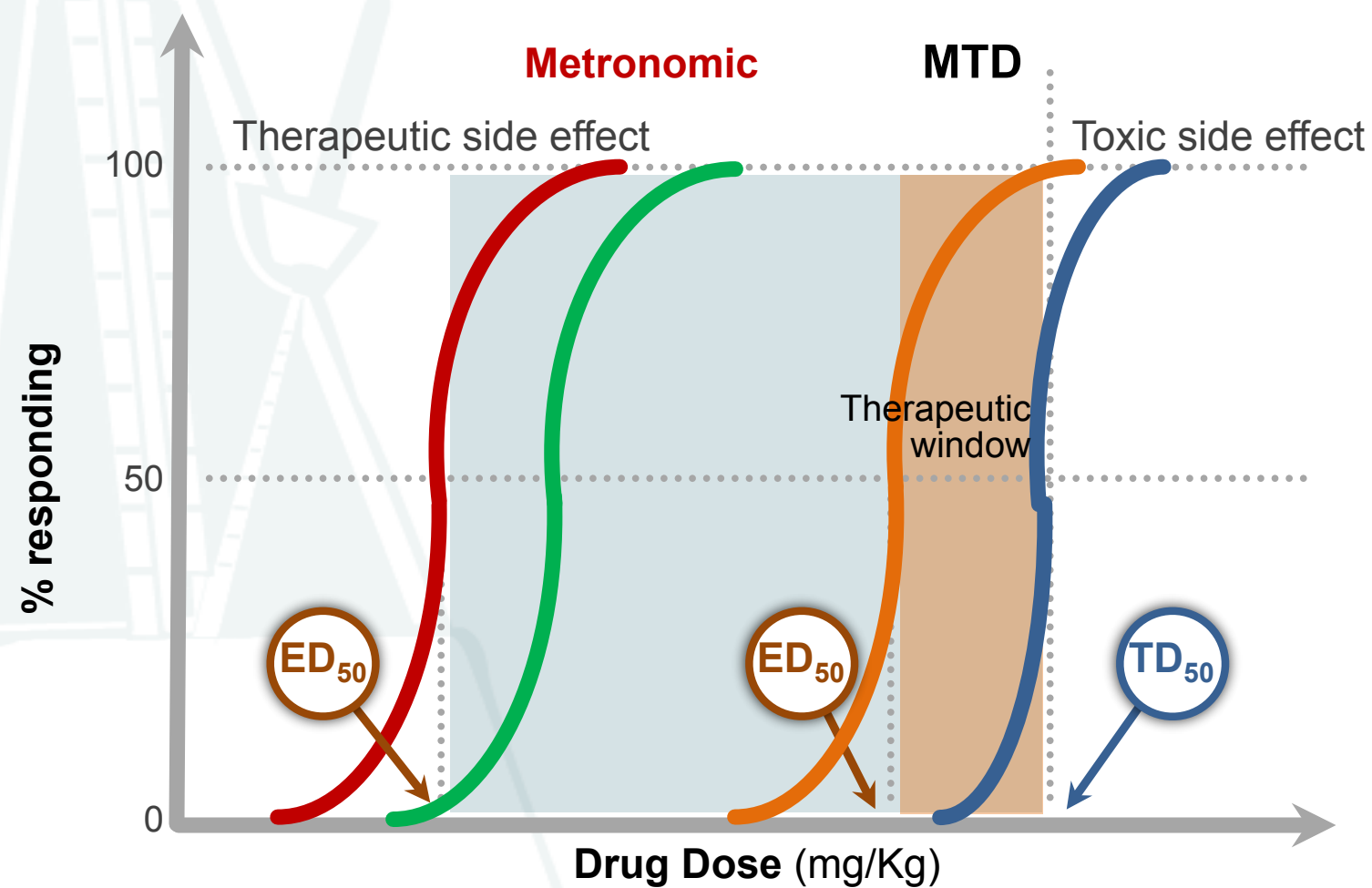
Klement G.L & Kamen BA J Paediatr. Haematol. Oncol 2011

“The cumulative doses administered over the course of long-term metronomic treatments can be similar or even higher than those administered in conventional MTD regimens, making the terminology ‘low dose chemotherapy’ somewhat misleading.”

André N, et al. Nat Rev Clin Oncol 2014



# The therapeutic index of chemotherapeutic agents



Tumor cells cytotoxicity/  
Myelosuppression

$$TI = TD_{50} / ED_{50} \approx 1.5$$

ImmuneStimulation/  
Antiangiogenic activity

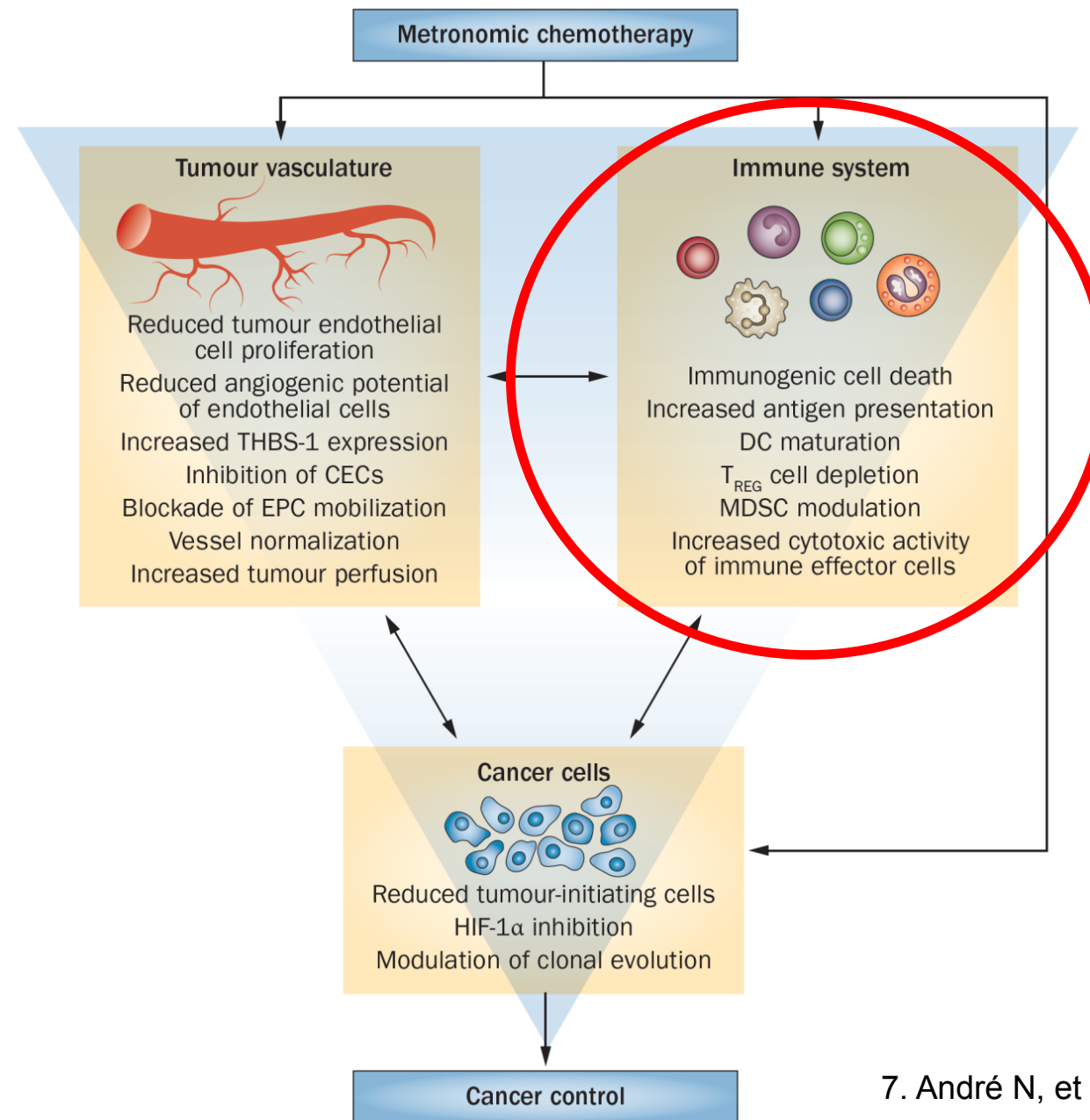
$$TI = TD_{50} / ED_{50} \approx 5$$

TD: toxic dose  
ED: effective Dose

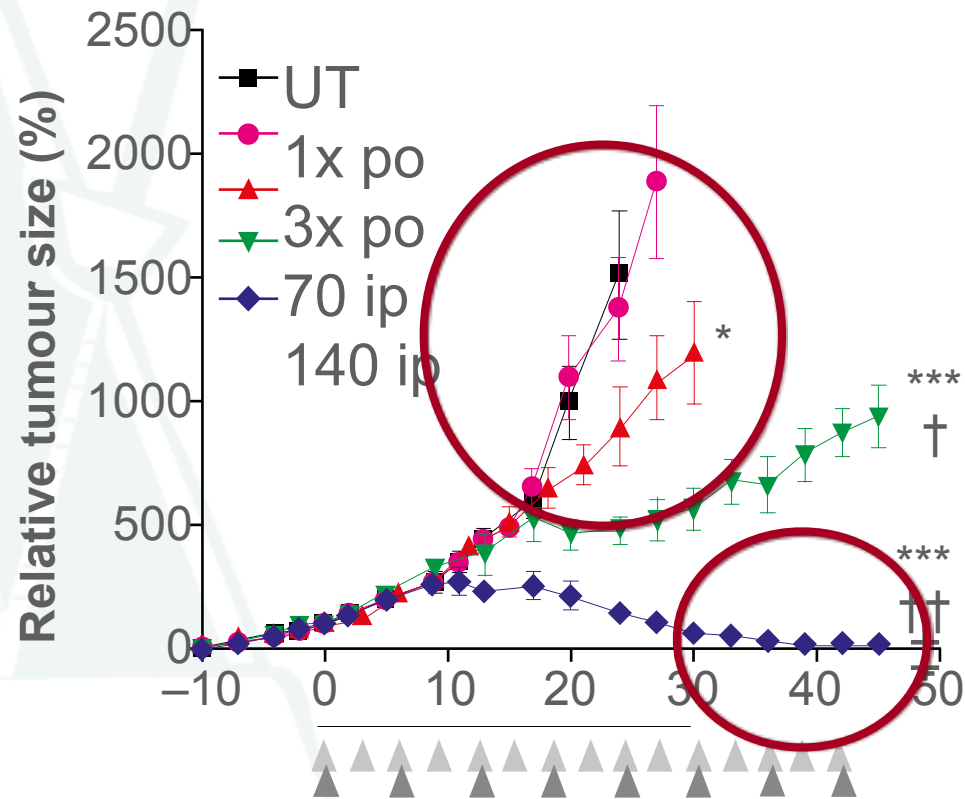
MTAs administered with a right dose, lower than MTD,  
are active on tumor vasculature and immune system



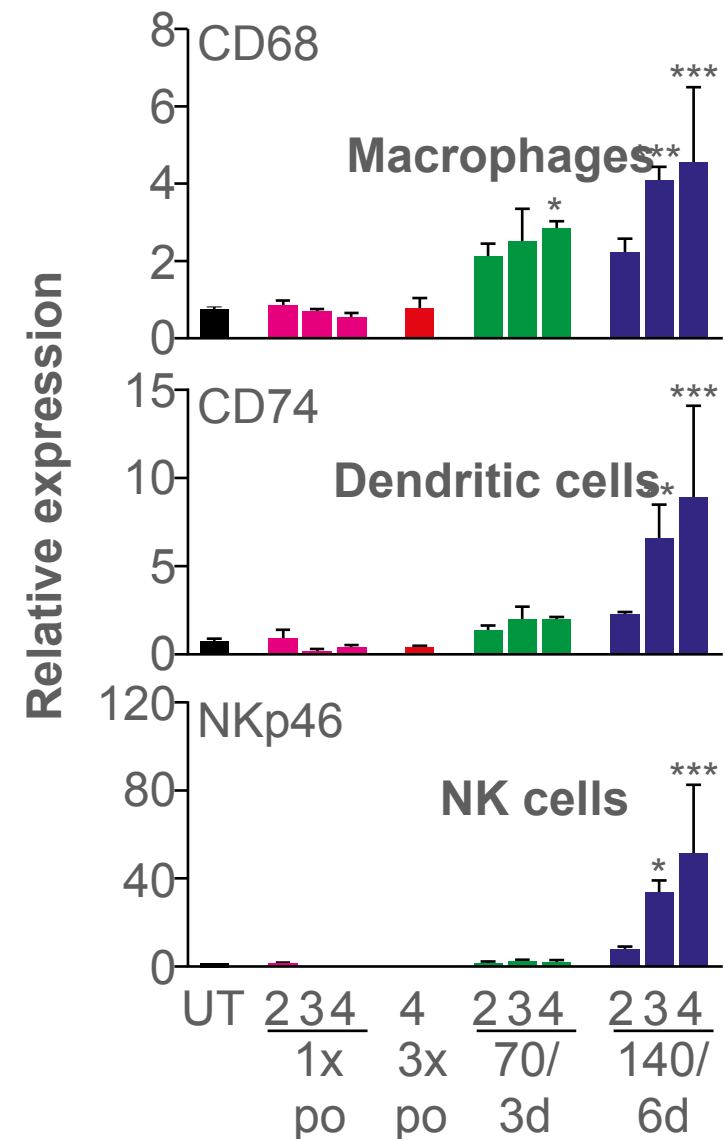
# mCT: immuno-stimulation



# Correlation between mCT& Immunity



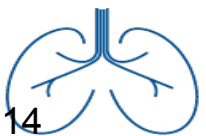
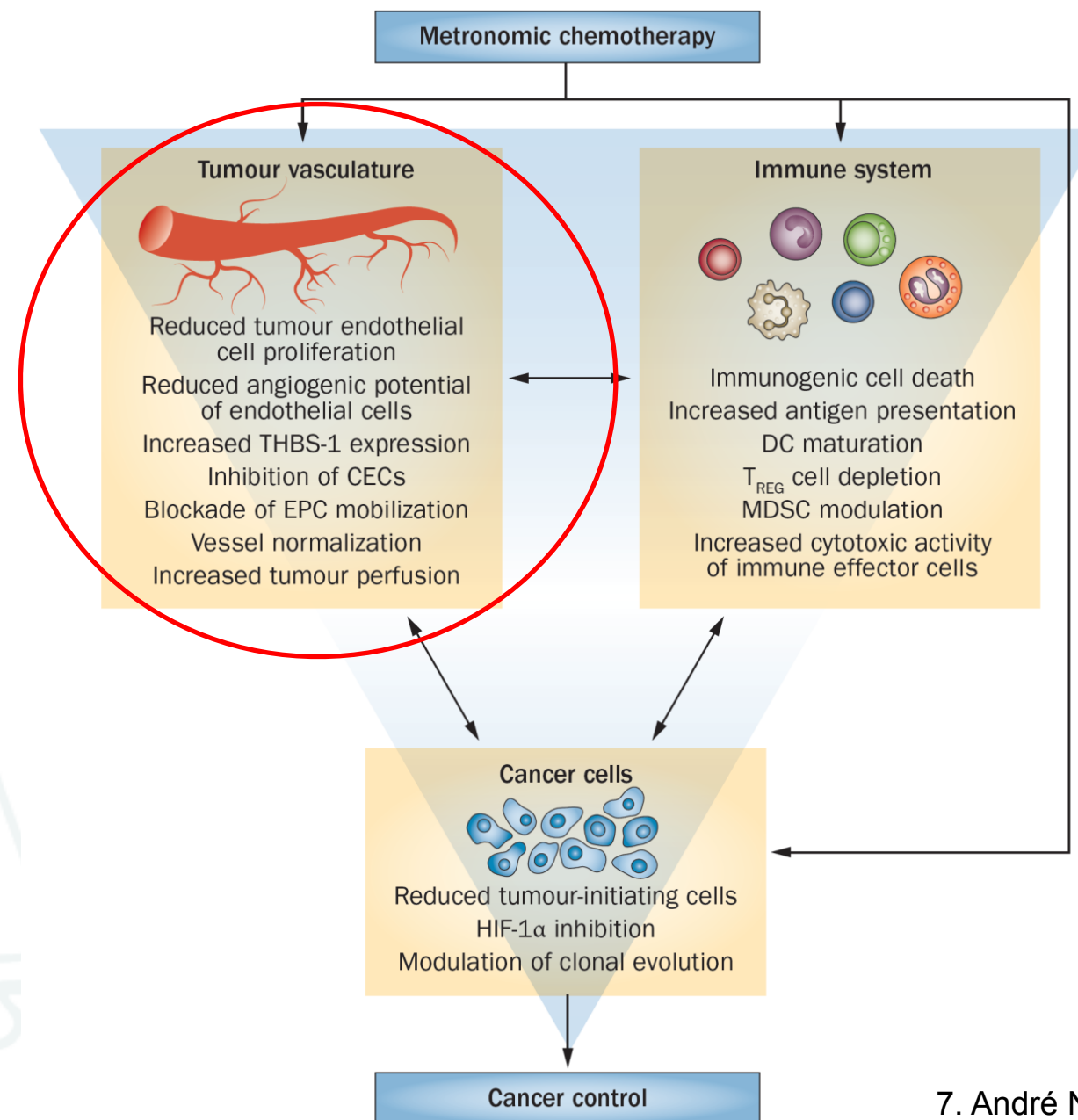
- \*p<0.05; \*\*p<0.01; \*\*\*p<0.001 vs. UT on Day 24
  - †p<0.01; ††p<0.001 vs 3x po schedule on Day 30
  - ‡p<0.05 vs 70 ip schedule on Day 30
- ip = intraperitoneal injection; po = oral treatment; UT = untreated



Chen CS et al. Neoplasia



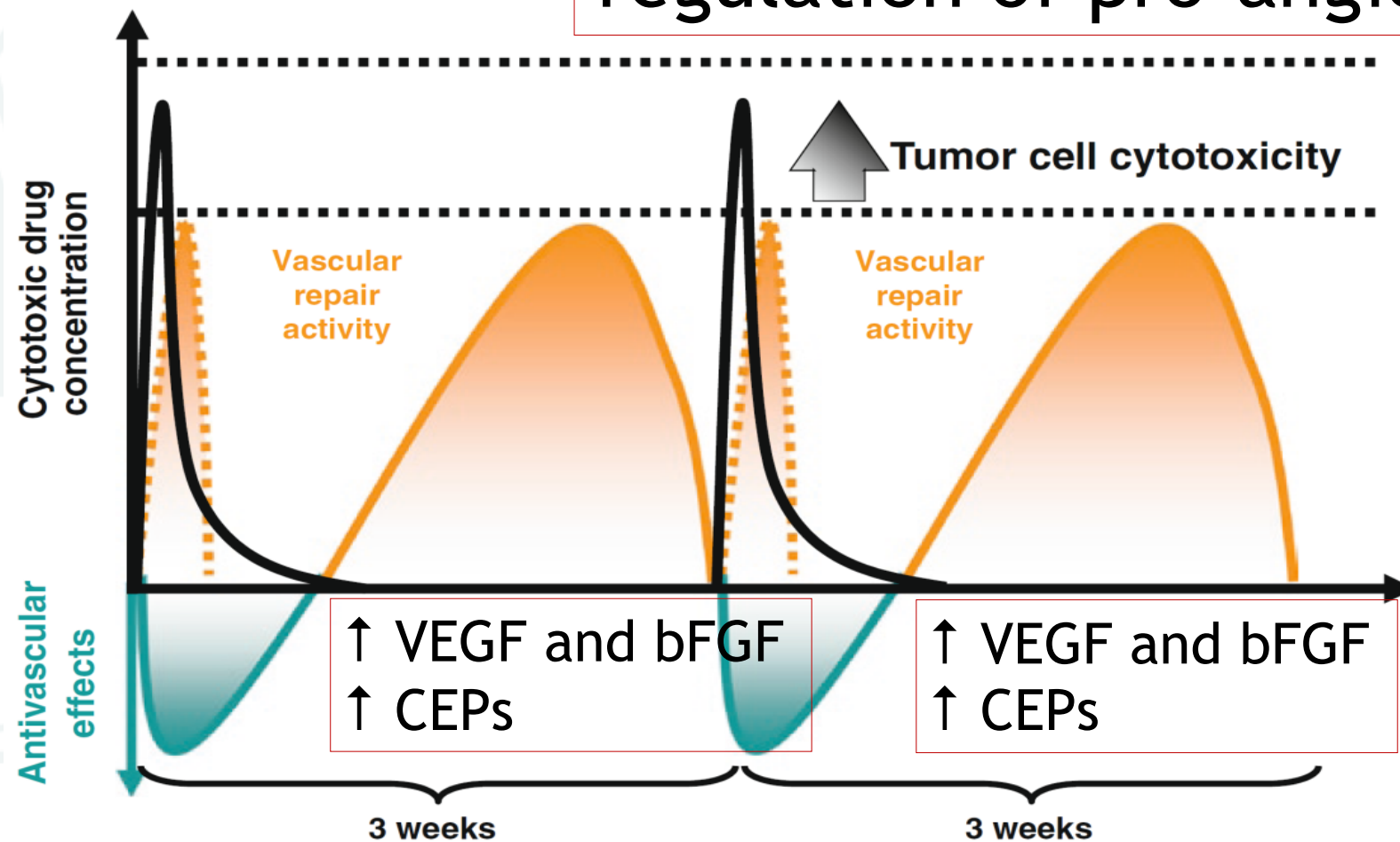
# Metronomic chemotherapy: a multitarget therapy



# MTD Chemotherapy

MTD regime →

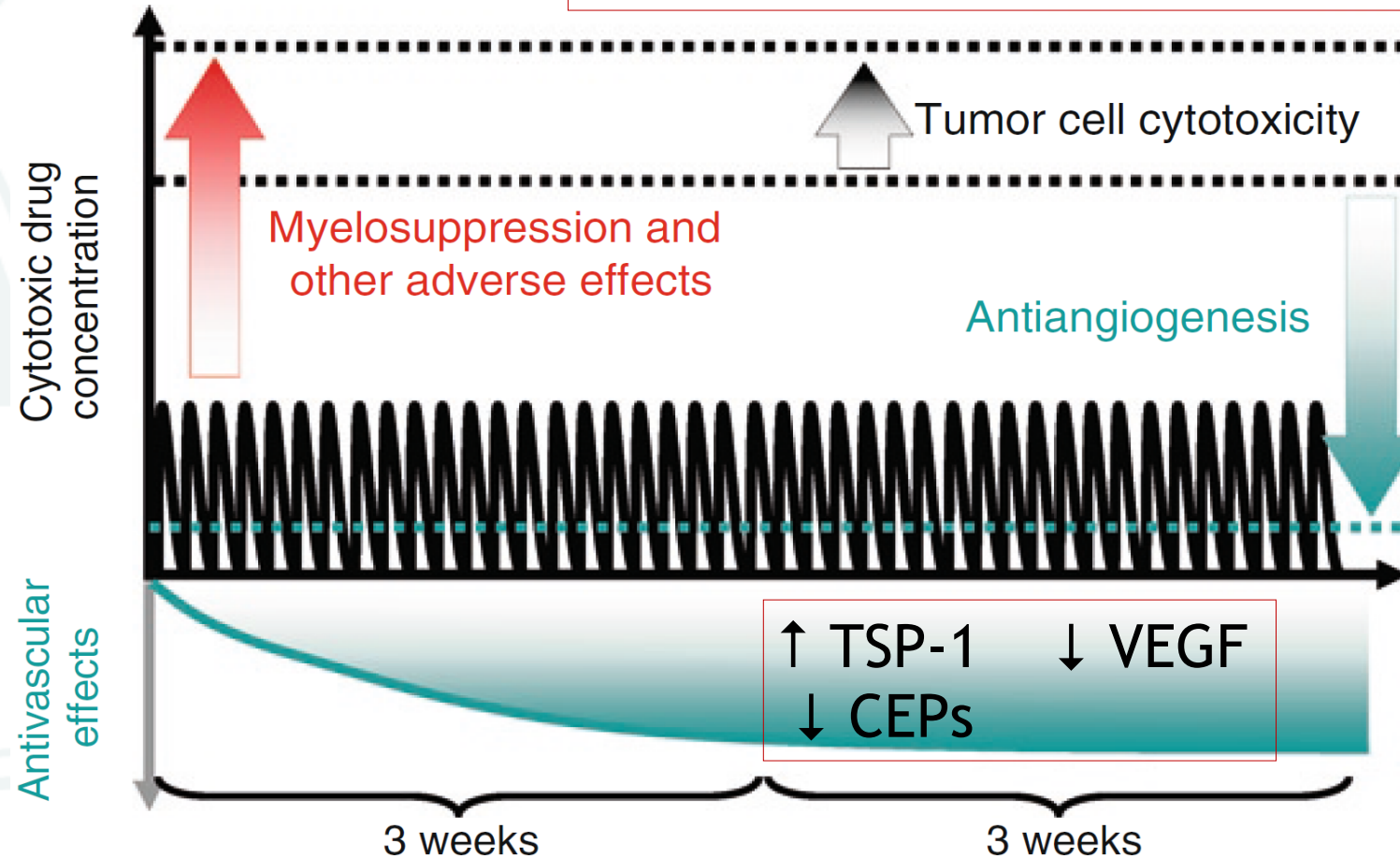
Vascular repair activity during the drug-free periods because of up-regulation of pro-angiogenic factors



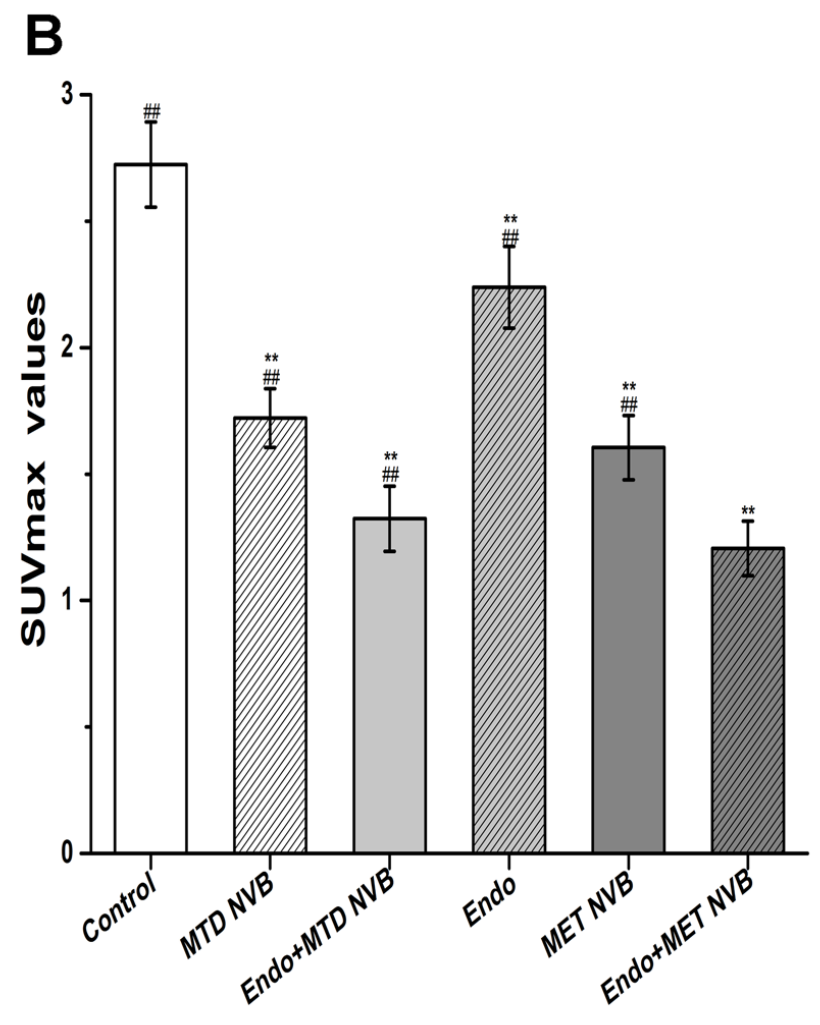
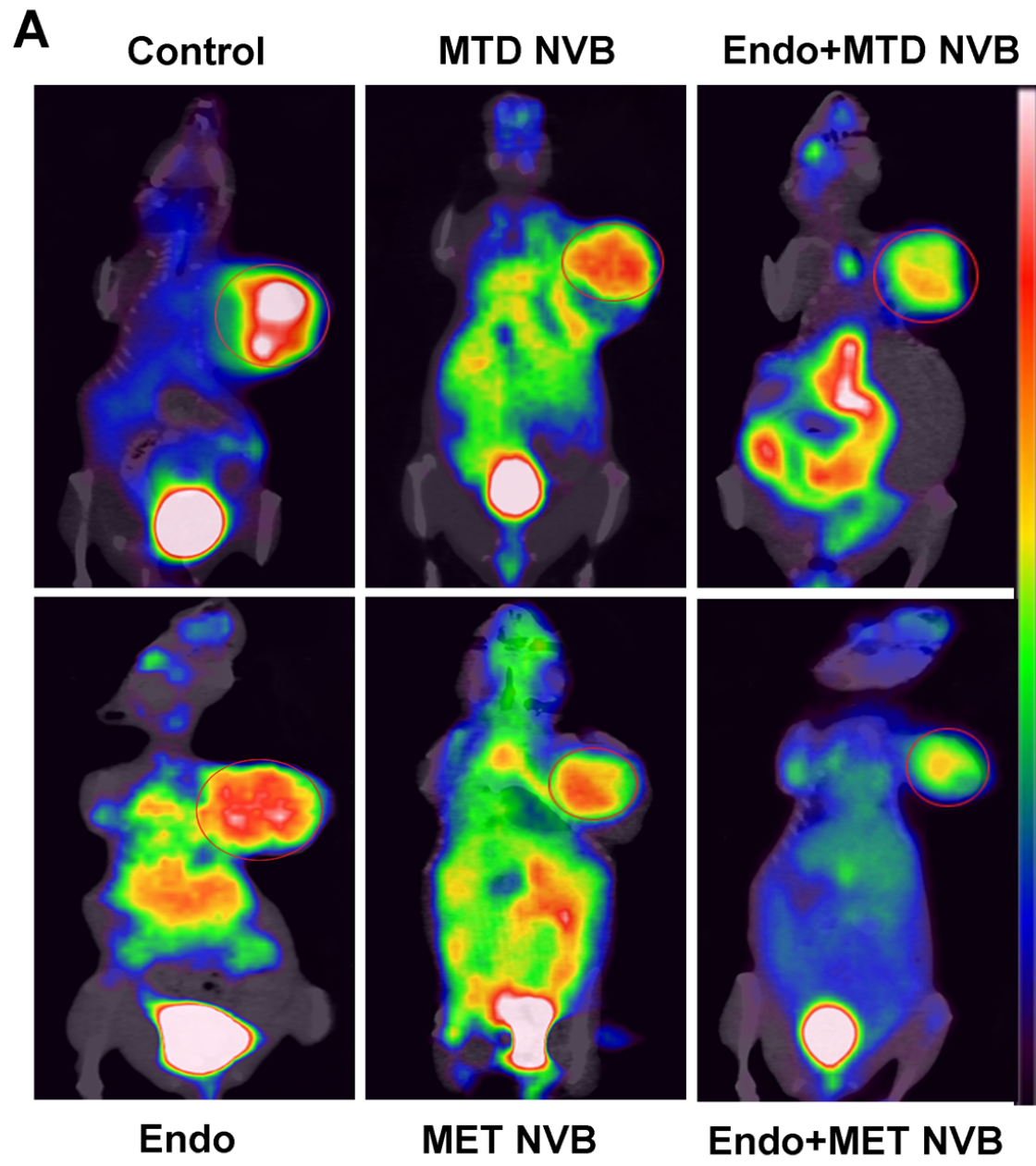
# Metronomic Chemotherapy

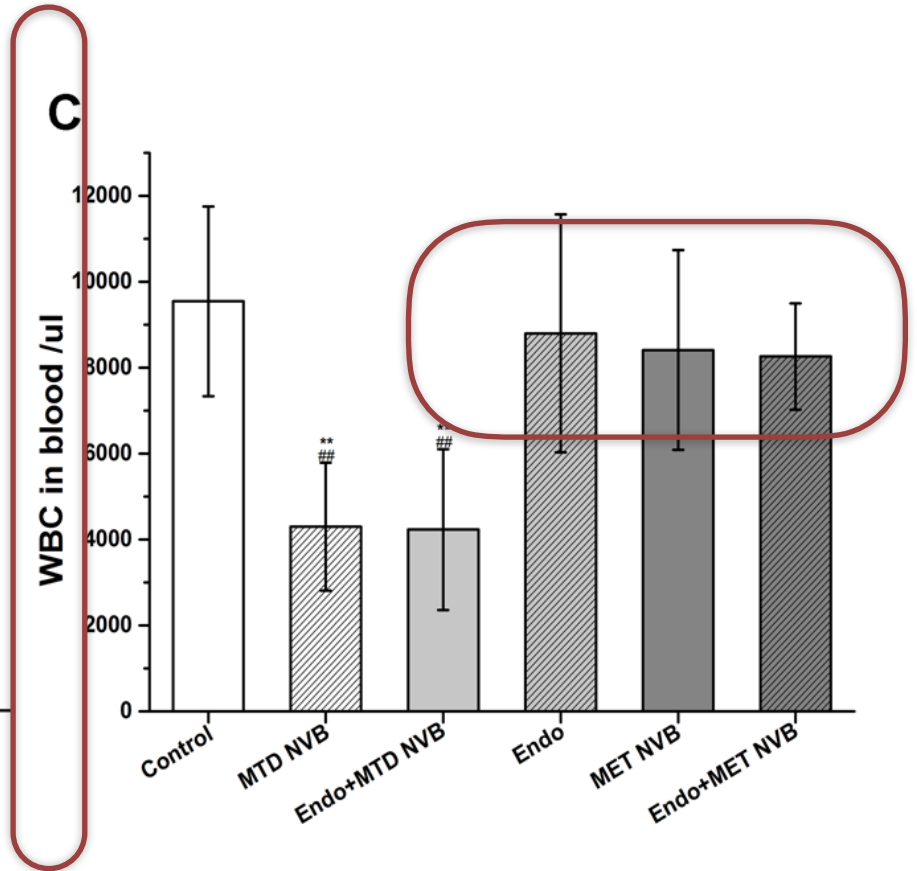
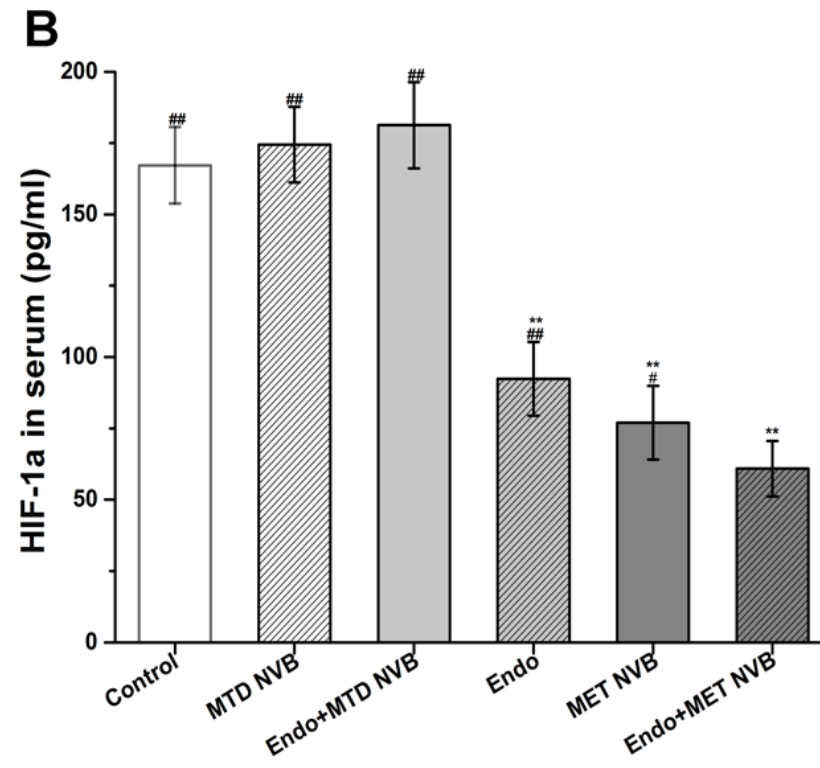
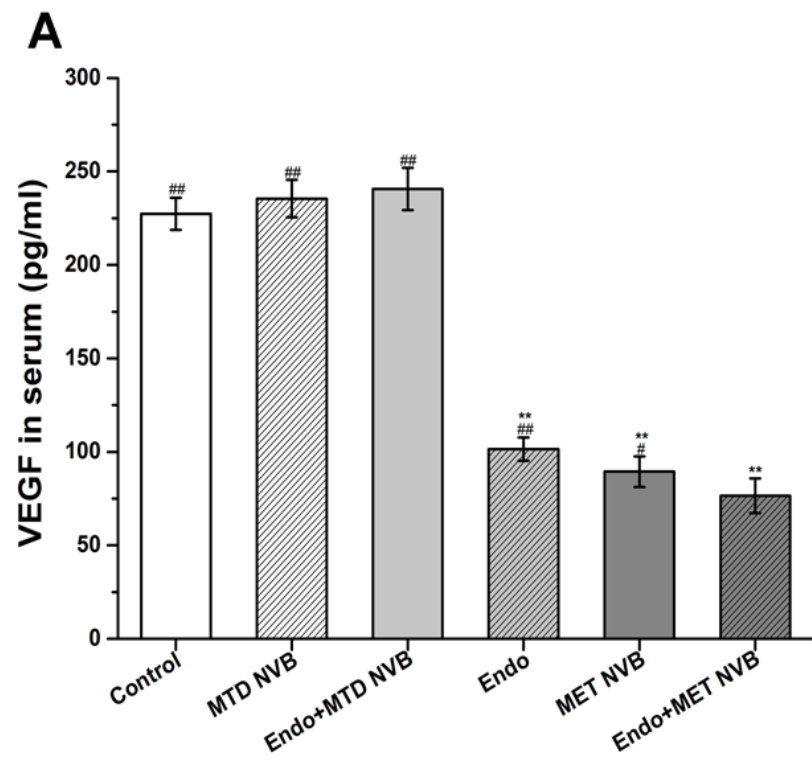
**Metronomic administration** →

Increase of the antivascular effects by blocking the recovery of new vascularization without increasing adverse events









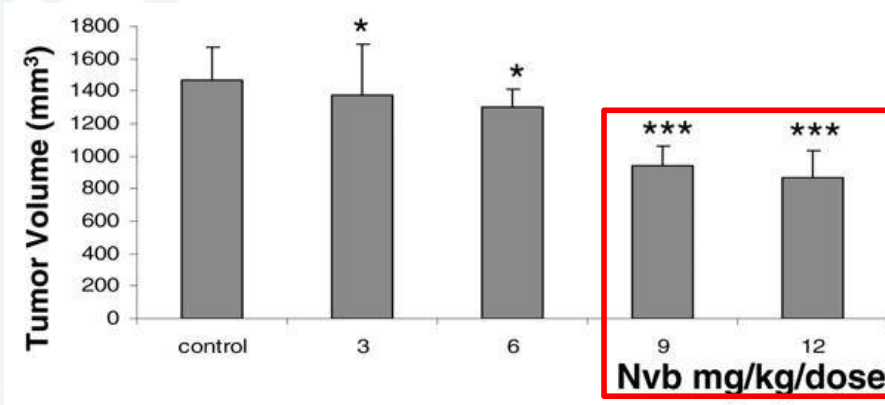


# Personal view #1

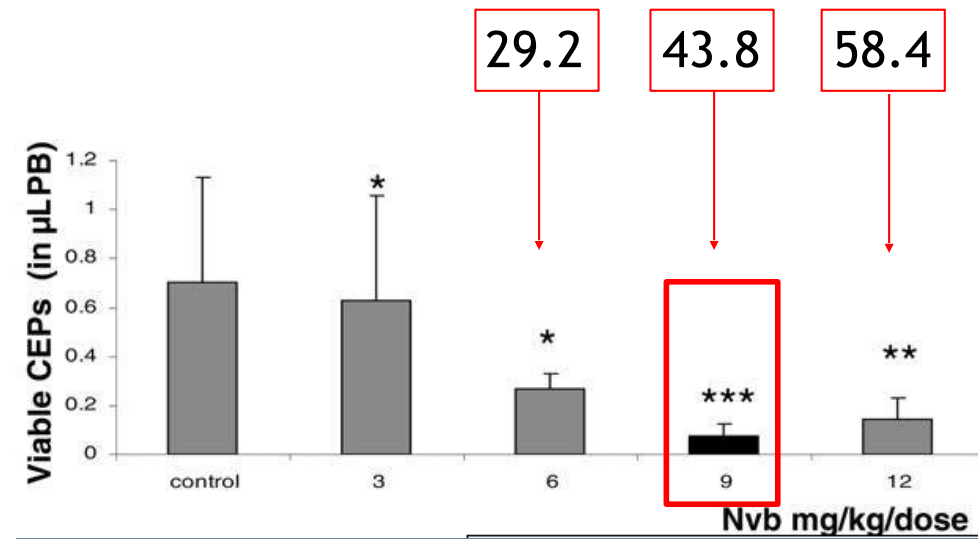
- Metronomic therapy is not chemotherapy!
- Metronomic therapy is an anti-angiogenic and immunological treatment!

How metronomic  
Pharmacological background

## Optimal biological dose of metronomic VNR CEPs as pharmacodynamic marker



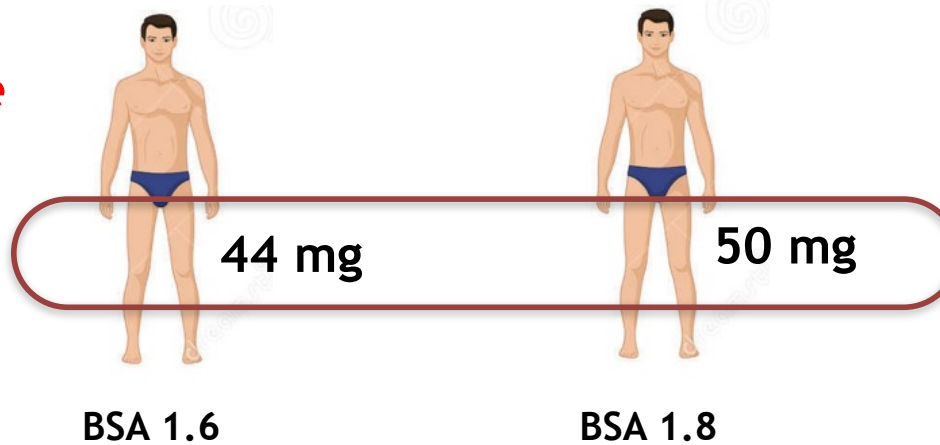
MDA-MB-231/LM2-4 human breast cancer treated with oral VNR administered by gavage 3 times a week, at the indicated doses <sup>(1)</sup>



Black columns represent the optimal therapeutic doses in each case that induce the most significant decline in viable CEP levels and a reduction in tumor volumes, with minimal or no toxicity <sup>(1)</sup>

Shaked Y et al. Blood 2005

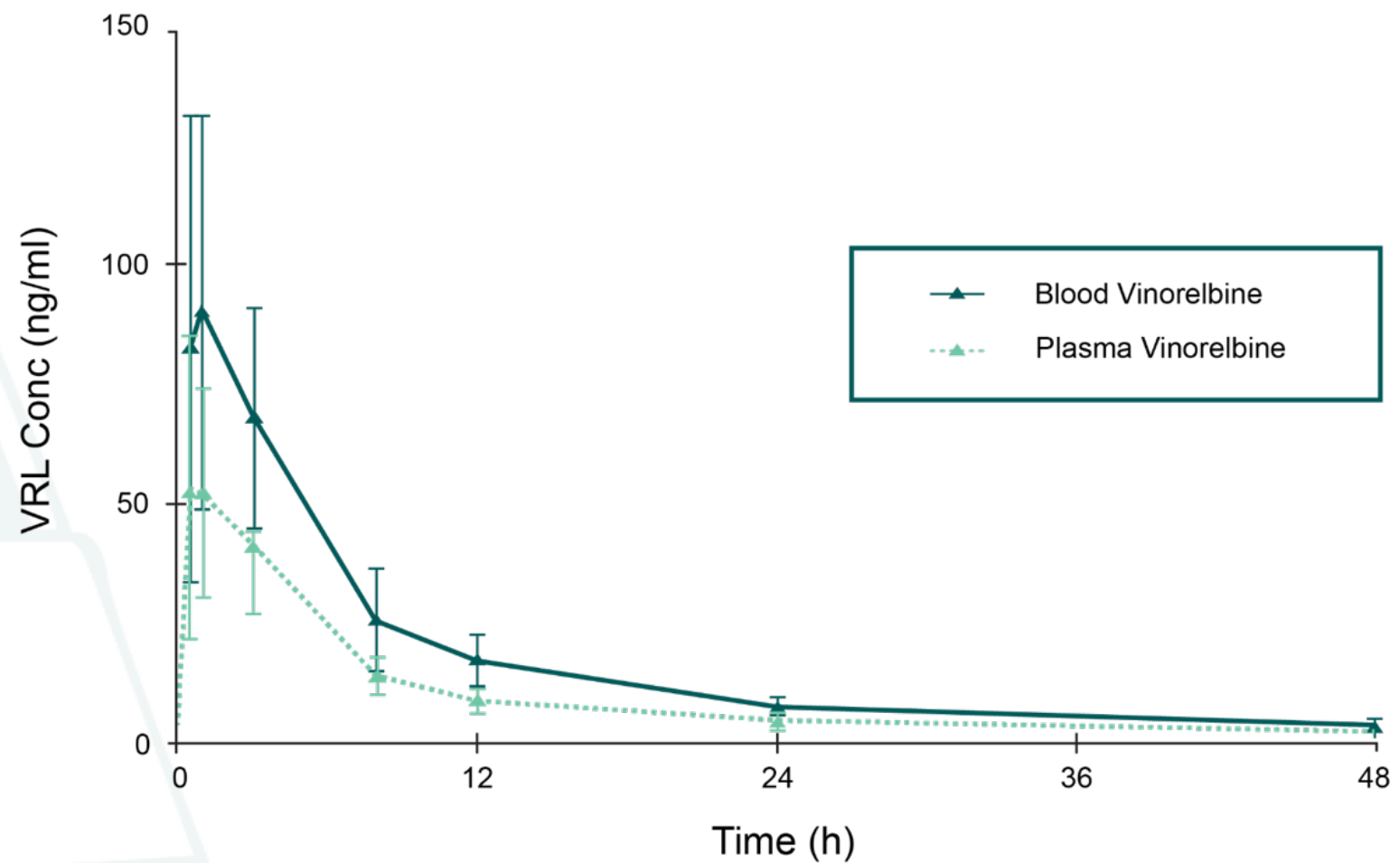
9 mg/kg **human equivalent dose (HED)**



Reagan-Shaw, et al. FASEB 2007



## mVNR AS SINGLE-AGENT CT: RATIONALE FOR TIW CONTINUOUSLY ORAL NAVELBINE ADMINISTRATION



**Elimination half-life: about 40 hours**



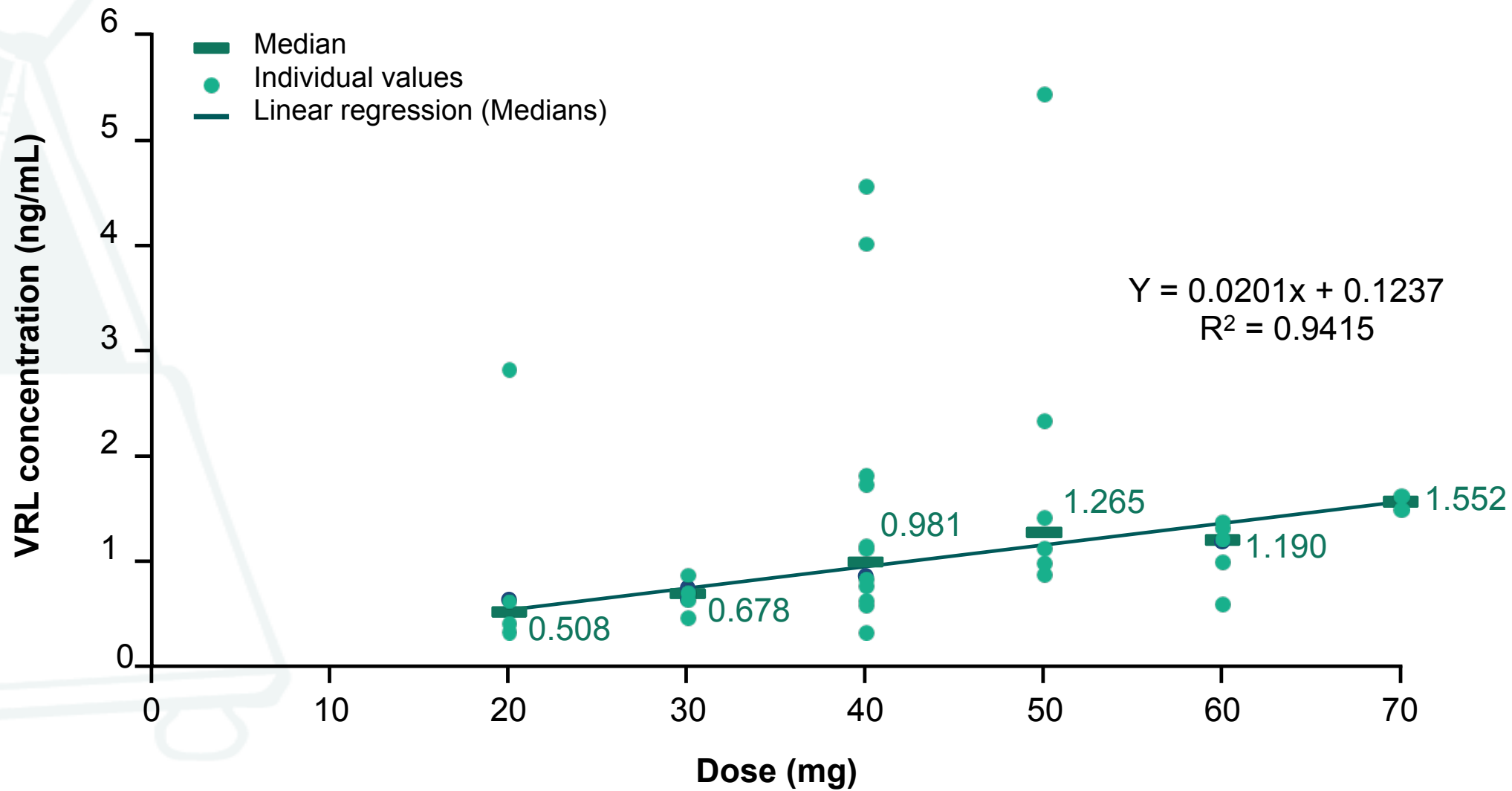
# PHARMACOKINETICS OF mVNR

Standard dose 30 mg/m<sup>2</sup> i.v. → C<sub>max</sub> 1130±636 ng/ml

Leveque et al. Clin Pharmacokinet 1996,31: 184

vinorelbine displayed  
linear pharmacokinetics

VNR T<sub>1/2</sub> = 40h

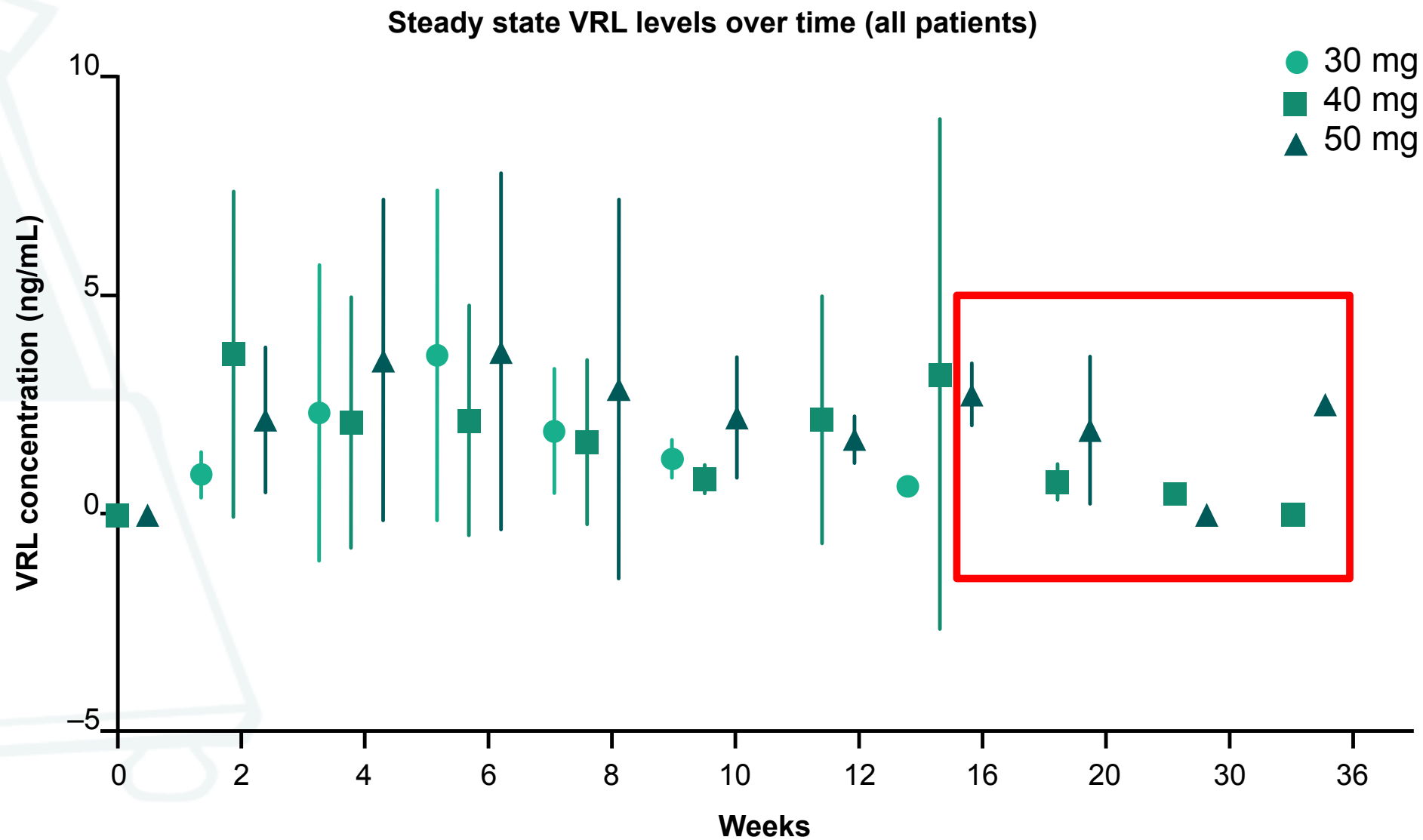


Briasoulis E. et al, Clin Cancer Res 2009



# STEADY-STATE VNR CONCENTRATIONS FOLLOWING METRONOMIC ORAL DOSING

the blood  $C_{ss}$  for vinorelbine was attained after 14 days of treatment, and this compound did not show any evidence of accumulation during months of successive treatment



## Personal view #2

- Lots of data with mVNR showing **a linear and foreseeable** pharmacokinetics!
- Strong **biological/pharmacological background** for dosing in human!

When metronomic  
First-line setting as ideal



## mVNR: Phase IA Study

- **62 Patients with advanced refractory cancer (14 NSCLC)**
- **Schedule: escalating doses 40-70 mg total dose 3 times a week continuously**

Briasoulis E. et al, Clin Cancer Res 2009

## mVNR: Phase IA Study

- **19 Patients with advanced refractory cancer (14 NSCLC)**
- **Schedule: escalating doses 20-50 mg total dose 3 times a week continuously**

Rajdev L et al. Cancer Chemother Pharmacol 2011

## mVNR: Phase IB Study

- **73 Patients with advanced refractory cancer (31 NSCLC)**
- **Schedule: 30 or 40 or 50 mg total dose 3 times a week continuously**

Briasoulis E. et al, BMC Cancer 2013

# MOVE TRIAL

Camerini *et al. BMC Cancer* (2015) 15:359  
DOI 10.1186/s12885-015-1354-2



**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**Open Access**

## Metronomic oral vinorelbine as first-line treatment in elderly patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer: results of a phase II trial (MOVE trial)

Andrea Camerini<sup>\*</sup>, Cheti Puccetti, Sara Donati, Chiara Valsuani, Maria Cristina Petrella, Gianna Tartarelli, Paolo Puccinelli and Domenico Amoroso



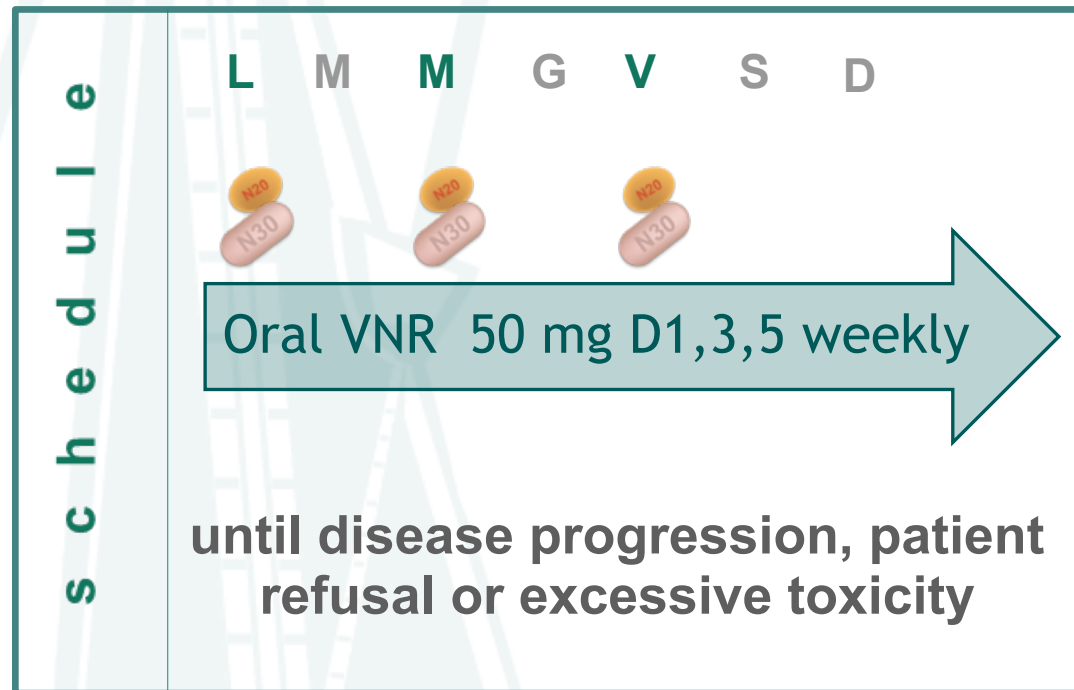


Table 1 Baseline study population characteristics (n = 43)	
Age (yrs)	
median (range)	80 (70 - 92)
Sex (M/F)	36/7
ECOG PS (0/1/2)	0/16/27
Stage (IIIB/IV)	16/27
Smoke (never/past/current)	1/23/19
Serious co-morbid illnesses	
median (range)	3 (0 - 6)
Histology (n/%)	
Squamous cell carcinoma	24/43 (55.8%)
Adenocarcinoma	11/43 (25,6%)
Large-cell carcinoma	4/43 (9,3%)
Undifferentiated	4/43 (9.3)

**Primary end points:**

- Clinical Benefit (CR+PR+SD>12wks)
- Safety

**Secondary end points:**

- TTP
- OS
- QoL



# Efficacy

Table 2 Clinical efficacy data at final analysis on 43 patients	
median Number of cycles [range]	5 [1 - 21]
Treatment response (n - %)	
CR	1/43 - 2.3%
PR	7/43 - 16.3%
SD	17/43 - 39.5%
PD	18/43 - 41.9%
<b>Clinical benefit (CR+PR+SD&gt;12)</b>	<b>25/43 - 58.1%</b>
ORR	8/43 - 18.6%
mTTP [range] months	5 [2 - 21]
mOS [range] months	9 [3 - 29]
Percentage of alive patients (n - %)	
year 1	16/43 - 37.2%
year 2	4/43 - 9.3%

# Safety

Treatment-related toxicities at final analysis (n = 43)		
Toxicity NCI-CTCv3	All grade	Grade 3-4
<b>Non-hematological</b>		
Fatigue	32.4%	0.1%*
Nausea	8.0%	0%
Vomiting	5.0%	0%
Diarrhea	10.5%	0.1%*
Mucositis	4.5%	0.1%*
Sensorial neuropathy	2.4%	0%
<b>Hematological</b>		
Anemia	44.0%	0.1%*
Leukopenia	3.2%	0%
Neutropenia	4.0%	0.1%*

\*Rounded to 0.1%

# Prospective clinical trials with metronomic Vinorelbine

Author/ Year	Phase/ Line	Schedule	n	RR/DCR* (%)	mPFS (mo)	mOS (mo)
Briasoulis 2009	Phase IA Pretreated	<b>mVNR</b> 20-70 mg D1,3,5 /weekly	62 (14 NSCLC)	15 / 47	ND	ND
Briasoulis 2013	Phase IB I, II, III lines	<b>mVNR</b> 30 or 40 or 50 mg D1,3,5 /weekly	73 (31 NSCLC)	5.5 / ND	Median TTF 8 weeks	ND
Kontopodis 2013	Phase II Pretreated	<b>mVNR</b> 50 mg D1,3,5 /weekly	46	11 / 30.5	2.2	9.4
Camerini 2015	Phase II 1 <sup>st</sup> line	<b>mVNR</b> 50 mg D 1,3,5 /weekly	43	CB** 18.6 / 58**	TTF: 5	9
Lumachi 2016	Phase II 1 <sup>st</sup> line	<b>mVNR</b> 40 or 50 mg D 1,3,5 / weekly	20	20 / 45	TTP: 3	7.8
Tzimopoulos 2016	Phase II 1 <sup>st</sup> line	<b>mVNR</b> 40 mg D 1,3,5 /weekly	34	20 / 60	PFS: 7	NR
De Juliis 2016	Phase II 1 <sup>st</sup> line	<b>mVNR</b> 50 mg D 1,3,5 /weekly	16	81 / 100	PFS: 6	15
Mencoboni 2017	Phase II 1 <sup>st</sup> line	<b>mVNR</b> 50 mg D 1,3,5 /weekly	76	14.5 / 50	3	8
Banna 2018	Phase II I-n line	<b>mVNR</b> 30 mg D 1,3,5 /weekly	50	8 / 32	2.7	7.3
Bilir 2018	Phase II 1 <sup>st</sup> line	<b>mVNR</b> 30 mg D 1,3,5 /weekly	35	26 / 69	4	7

\*\*CB (Clinical Benefit): CR  
+PR+SD > 12 weeks

\*DCR (Disease Control  
Rate): CR+PR+SD

NR: not reported

## Focus on safety of metronomic vinorelbine

Author/ Year	Phase/ Line	Schedule	n	RR/DCR* (%)	mPFS (mo)	mOS (mo)	G3/4 Tox
Camerini 2015	Phase II 1 <sup>st</sup> line	<b>mVNR</b> 50 mg D 1,3,5 / weekly	43	CB** 18.6 / 58**	TTF: 5	9	0,5%
Lumachi 2016	Phase II 1 <sup>st</sup> line	<b>mVNR</b> 40 or 50 mg D 1,3,5 /weekly	20	20 / 45	TTP: 3	7.8	0%
Tzimopoulos 2016	Phase II 1 <sup>st</sup> line	<b>mVNR</b> 40 mg D 1,3,5 / weekly	34	20 / 60	PFS: 7	NR	0%
De Juliis 2016	Phase II 1 <sup>st</sup> line	<b>mVNR</b> 50 mg D 1,3,5 / weekly	16	81 / 100	PFS: 6	15	0%
Mencoboni 2017	Phase II 1 <sup>st</sup> line	<b>mVNR</b> 50 mg D 1,3,5 / weekly	76	14.5 / 50	3	8	7%
Banna 2018	Phase II 1 <sup>n</sup> line	<b>mVNR</b> 30 mg D 1,3,5 / weekly	50	8 / 32	2.7	7.3	11%
Bilir 2018	Phase II 1 <sup>st</sup> line	<b>mVNR</b> 30 mg D 1,3,5 / weekly	35	26 / 69	4	7	6%

## Differences in toxicities among treatments\*

Toxicity	MTD CT	Targeted	Immuno	Metronomic
Neutropenia / thrombocytopenia	+++	-	-	+
Anaemia	+++	-	-	-
Diarrhoea / constipation	+	++	+++	+
Hypothyroidism	-	+	++	-
Pneumonitis	-	+	++	-
Fatigue	++	++	++	+
Rash	+	+++	++	+
Nausea	+++	+	+	+
Vomiting	+++	+	+	+
Alopecia	+++	+	-	+

\*Adapted from IASLC update: Immunotherapy for Lung Cancer 2016 (M. O'Brien) 2016, 01, 13

## Personal view #3

- Metronomic vinorelbine is a real option in first-line setting!
- Safety is a cornerstone of mVNR!



Who metronomic  
Patient selection

# The (half) dark side



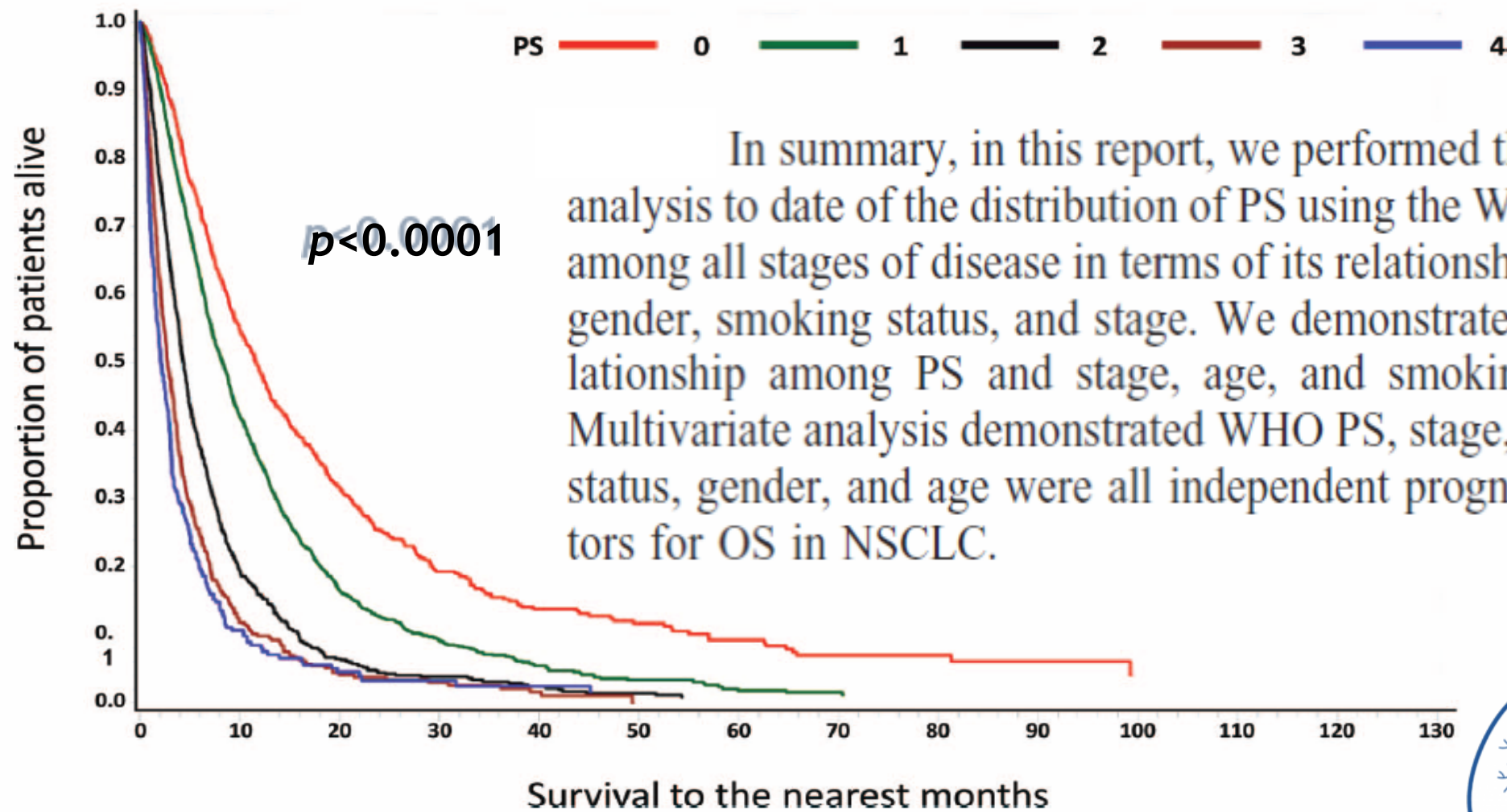
The dark side of the moon Pink Floyd 1973

# Performance Status and Smoking Status Are Independent Favorable Prognostic Factors for Survival in Non-small Cell Lung Cancer

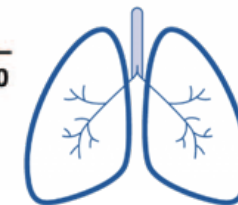
*A Comprehensive Analysis of 26,957 Patients with NSCLC*

**D**

Kaplan-Meier survival curves of stage IV patients according to PS



In summary, in this report, we performed the largest analysis to date of the distribution of PS using the WHO scale among all stages of disease in terms of its relationship to age, gender, smoking status, and stage. We demonstrated interrelationship among PS and stage, age, and smoking status. Multivariate analysis demonstrated WHO PS, stage, smoking status, gender, and age were all independent prognostic factors for OS in NSCLC.



### Age and Comorbidity As Independent Prognostic Factors in the Treatment of Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer: A Review of National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group Trials

Timothy R. Asmis, Keyue Ding, Lesley Seymour, Frances A. Shepherd, Natasha B. Leighl, Tim L. Winton, Marlo Whitehead, Johanna N. Spaans, Barbara C. Graham, and Glenwood D. Goss

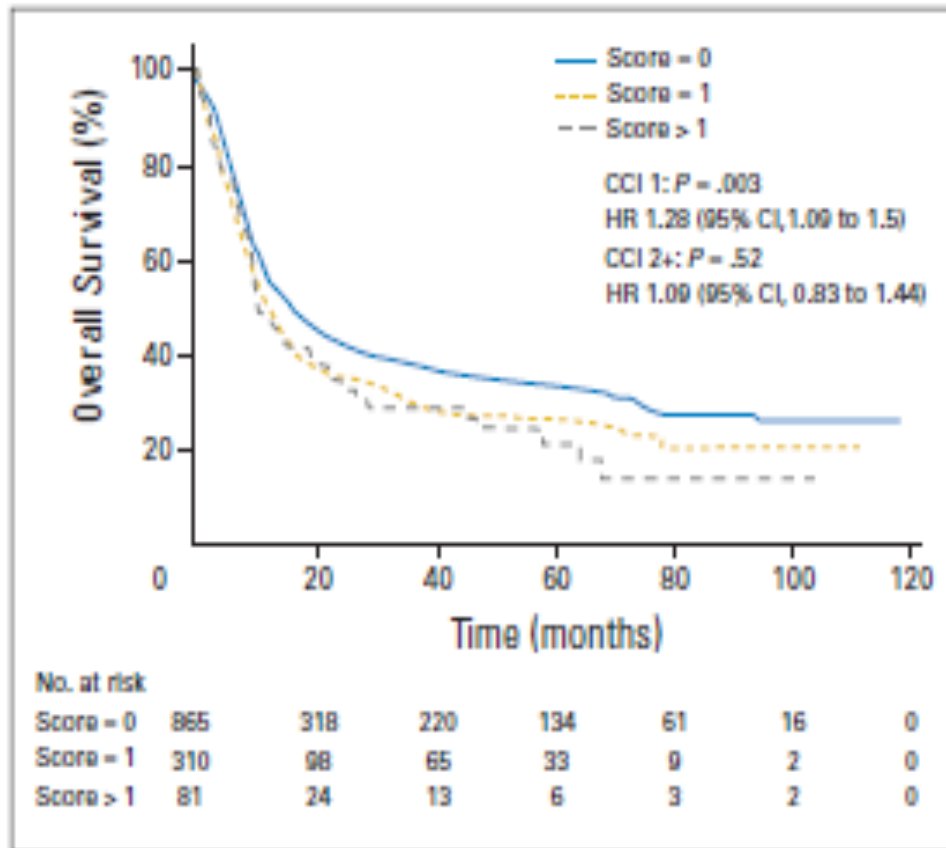


Fig 2. Overall survival by Charlson comorbidity index (CCI) score. HR, hazard ratio.

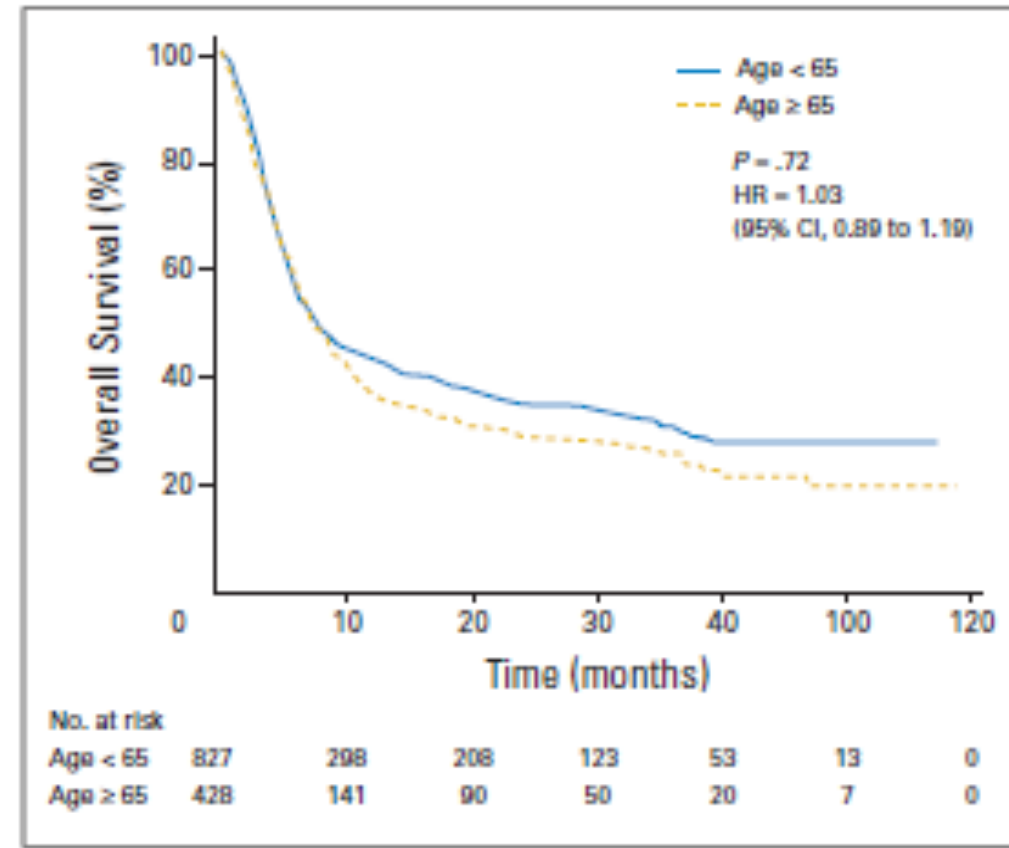


Fig 1. Overall survival by age. HR, hazard ratio.

**Conclusion**

In these large, randomized trials, the presence of comorbid conditions (CCIS ≥ 1), rather than age more than 65 years, was associated with poorer survival.



# Treatment of Unfit Patients With Advanced Non–Small-Cell Lung Cancer: Definition Criteria According an Expert Panel

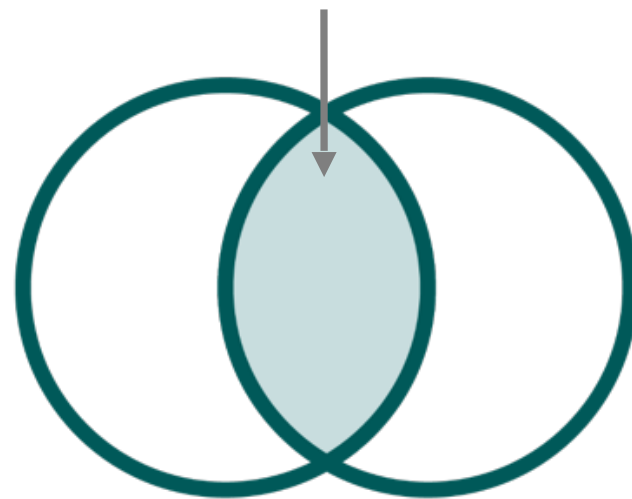
Filippo De Marinis,<sup>1</sup> Emilio Bria,<sup>2</sup> Paul Baas,<sup>3</sup> Marcello Tiseo,<sup>4</sup> Andrea Camerini,<sup>5</sup>  
Adolfo Gino Favaretto,<sup>6</sup> Cesare Gridelli<sup>7</sup>

Factor	Unfit for Cisplatin-Based Chemotherapy	Unfit for Carboplatin-Based Chemotherapy	Unfit for Single-Agent Chemotherapy
Age	Not any cutoff, but alert if >75 years, on the basis of unexpected toxicities, competitive risks, and relative benefit of chemotherapy	Not any cutoff, but alert if >80 years, on the basis of: unexpected toxicities, competitive risks, and relative benefit of chemotherapy	Not any cutoff
PS	PS >1 according to ECOG	PS >2 according to ECOG	PS >2 according to ECOG
Renal function	Creatinine clearance (measured or calculated) <60 mL/min	No absolute restriction; alert if creatinine clearance (measured or calculated) <45 mL/min	No absolute restriction, unless specific drug restriction
Heart failure	NYHA >I	NYHA >II	NYHA >II
Previous cerebrovascular event	Exclusion criteria	No absolute restriction	No absolute restriction
Uncontrolled HTN	Exclusion criteria for severe uncontrolled HTN	No absolute restriction	No absolute restriction
Neuropathy	CTCAE v4 >1: exclusion criteria	No absolute restriction	No absolute restriction, unless specific drug restriction
Hearing loss	CTCAE v4 >1: exclusion criteria	No absolute restriction	No absolute restriction
Symptomatic brain metastases	Exclusion criteria due to forced hydration	No absolute restriction	No absolute restriction
Severe psychiatric disorders	Exclusion criteria due to low compliance to toxicity	No absolute restriction	No absolute restriction
Absence of caregiver support	Exclusion criteria due to the high chance to need of home supportive care	No absolute restriction	No absolute restriction

Abbreviations: CTCAE = Common Toxicity Criteria for Adverse Events; ECOG = Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; HTN = hypertension; NYHA = New York Heart Association; PS = performance status.

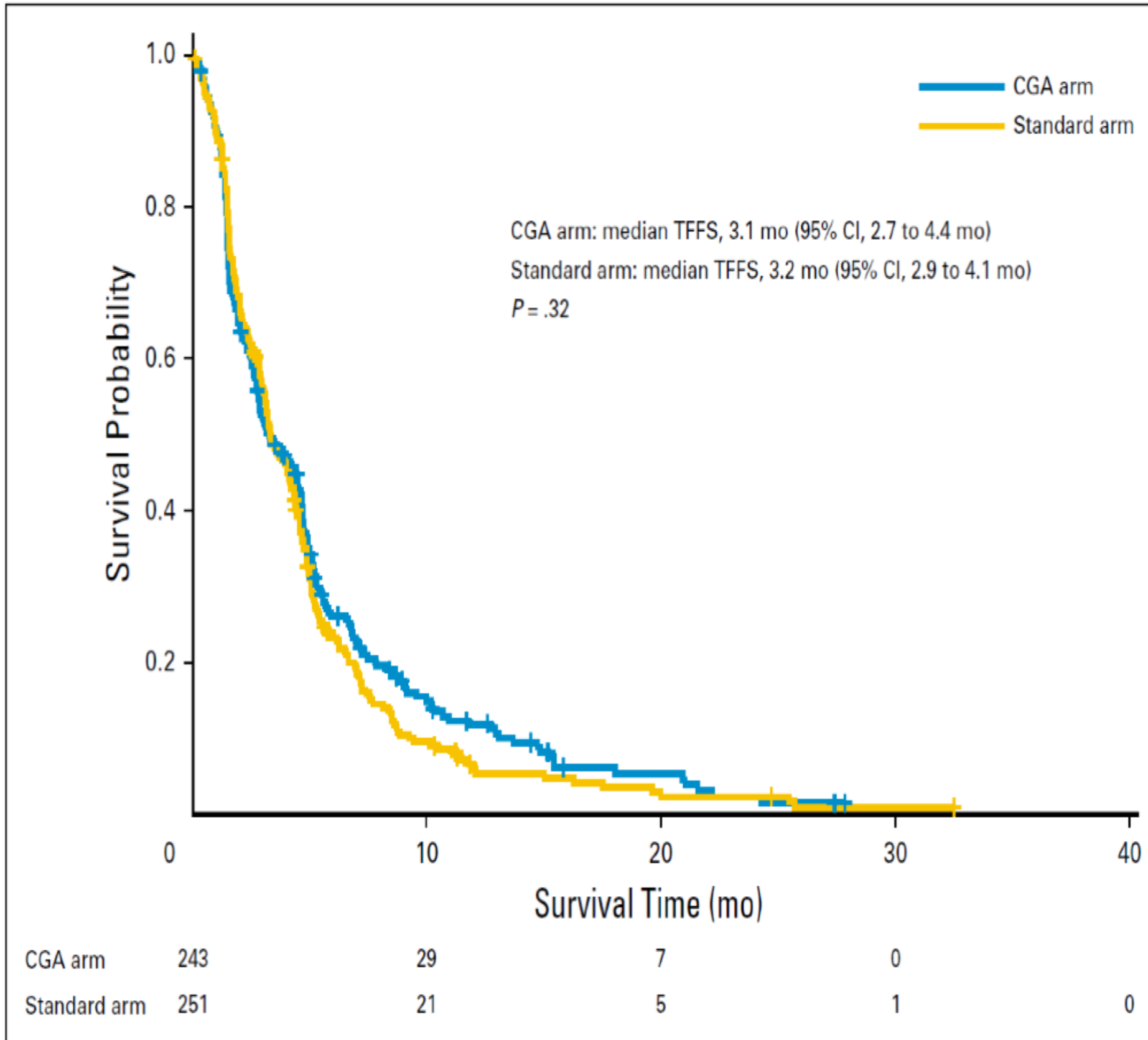
# SUMMARY OF “FIT MonoCT” CHARACTERISTICS

- Elderly (age > 75-80y)
- ECOG PS > 1
- Heart Failure (NYHA > 1)
- Renal Failure (CrCl < 60-45 mL/min)
- Neuropathy/Earing loss (CTCAE v4 > 1)
- Bone Marrow “fragility”



Co-morbidity







Elderly (low PS)  
all w/ PDLI < 50%

Screening

- G8<sup>(1)</sup>
- VES-13<sup>(2)</sup>
- Flemish<sup>(3)</sup>

CGA<sup>(4)</sup>  
Age/PS<sup>(5)</sup>

Direct<sup>(6-8)</sup>  
treatment

BSC

Single

Single

Doublet

20%

40%

40%

(1) Bellera et al. *Ann Oncol* 2012

(2) Saliba et al. *J Am Geriatr Soc* 2001

(3) Braes et al. *Age Ageing* 2009

(4) Wildiers et al. *JCO* 2014

(5) Corre et al. *JCO* 2016

(6) Extermann et al. *Cancer* 2012

(7) De Marinis et al. *Clin Lung Cancer* 2015

(8) Hurria et al. *JCO* 2011

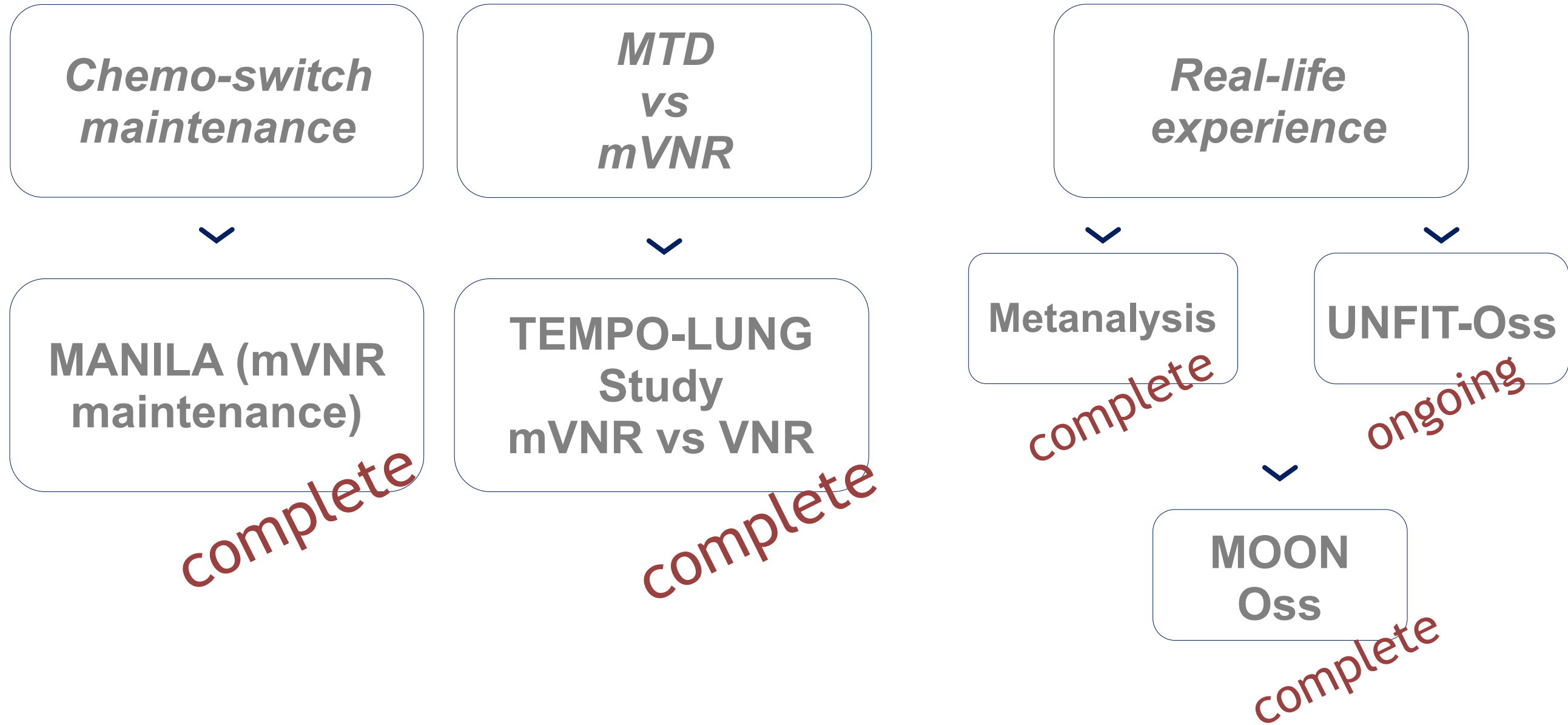


## Personal view #4

- We can offer **different treatment options** in elderly and low-Ps patients!
- **Treatment should be tailored** based on (molecular) clinical items helped by scores!

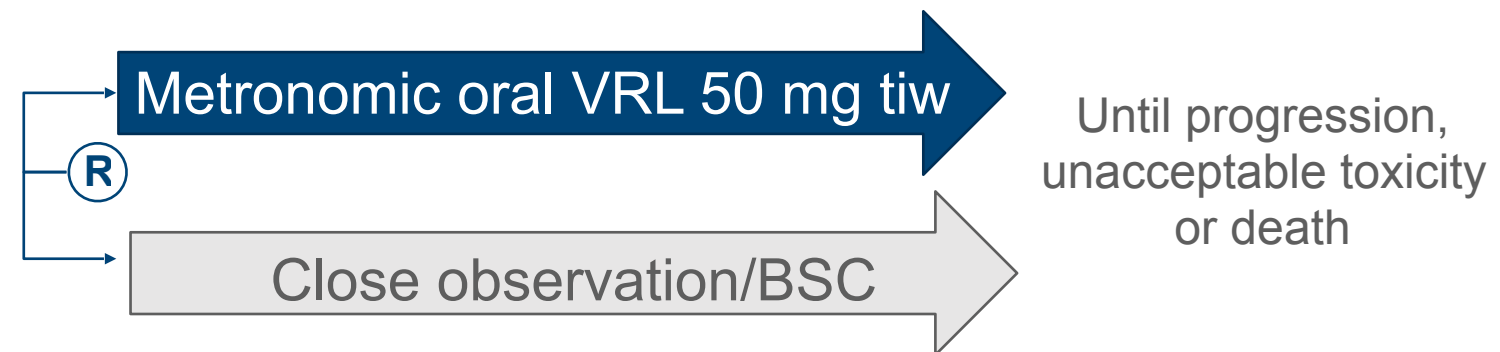
What's new with metronomic  
2018/19 clinical data

# Metronomic vinorelbine “Pipeline”



# Metronomic oral VRL as chemo-switch maintenance (ONC-MANILA study)

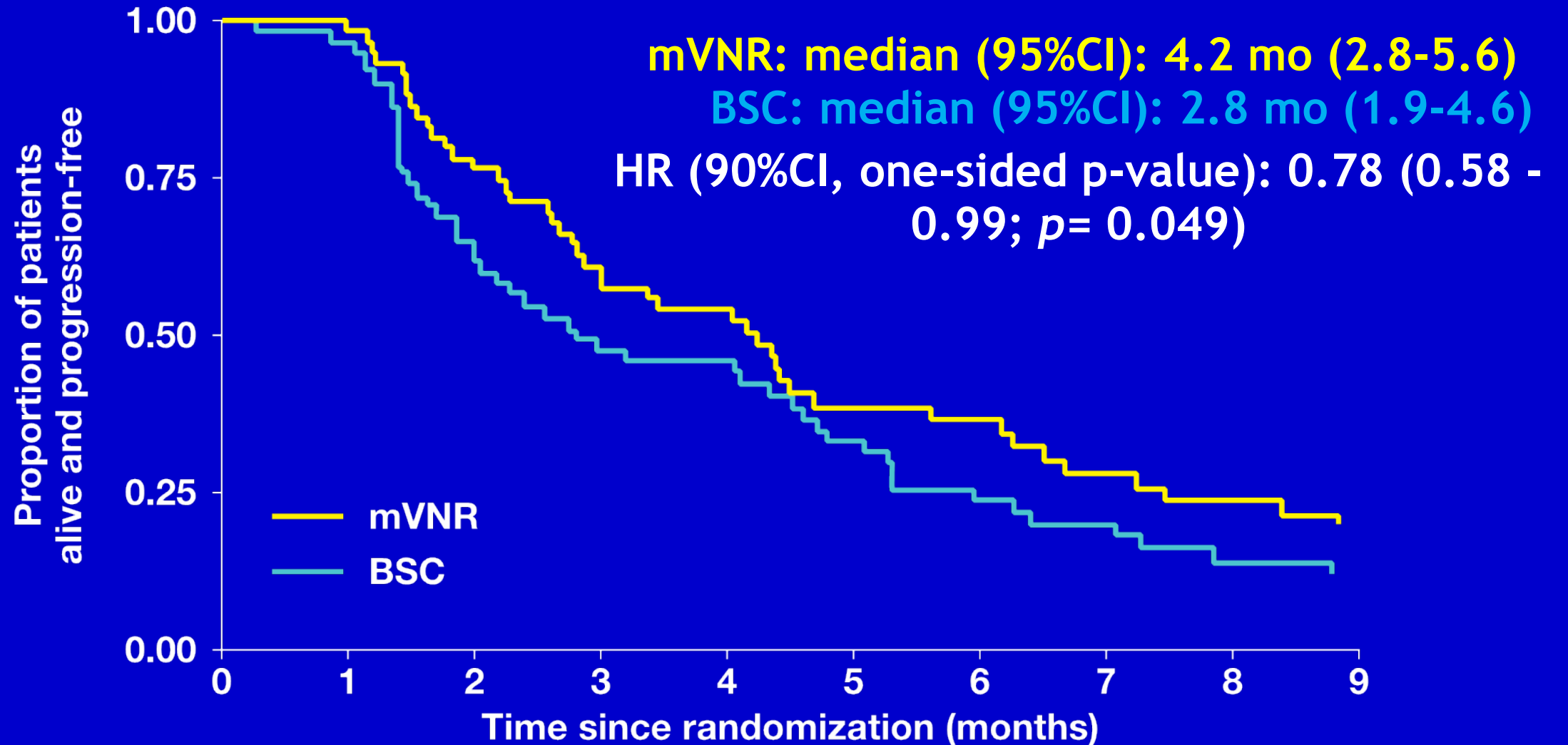
Estimated enrolment:  
120 patients with  
stage IIIB/IV NSCLC  
and stable disease  
after prior 1st-line  
platinum-based  
chemotherapy



- Primary endpoint: PFS
- Key secondary endpoints
  - OS
  - ORR
  - Duration of response
  - Duration of post-progression survival
  - Quality of life
  - Safety

# MA.NI.LA. : Progression Free Survival ITT

PFS events: VNR 51/61 (84%); BSC 54/59 (92%)



Number at Risk				
mVNR	61	34	17	9
BSC	59	27	13	6

# mVNR in unfit\* NSCLC TEMPO LUNG Trial

Accrual  
complete

•RANDOMISATION

- ARM A:
- NAVELBINE 60 mg/m<sup>2</sup> weekly, for cycle 1, then 80 mg/ m<sup>2</sup> weekly for subsequent cycles according to haematological tolerance and investigator's decision.
- Until disease progression

- ARM B:
- NAVELBINE Oral 50 mg total dose 3 days/week
- Until disease progression

Expected feb 19  
good feelings!!

\*Appropriate previous adjuvant platinum-based chemotherapy for resected NSCLC within 6-12 months; Creatinine Clearance < 60 ml/min; Heart Failure NYHA class II-III; Hearing Loss > Grade 2; Medical condition impairing platinum-based chemotherapy according to physician's opinion



## Metronomic oral vinorelbine for the treatment of advanced non-small cell lung cancer: a multicenter international retrospective analysis

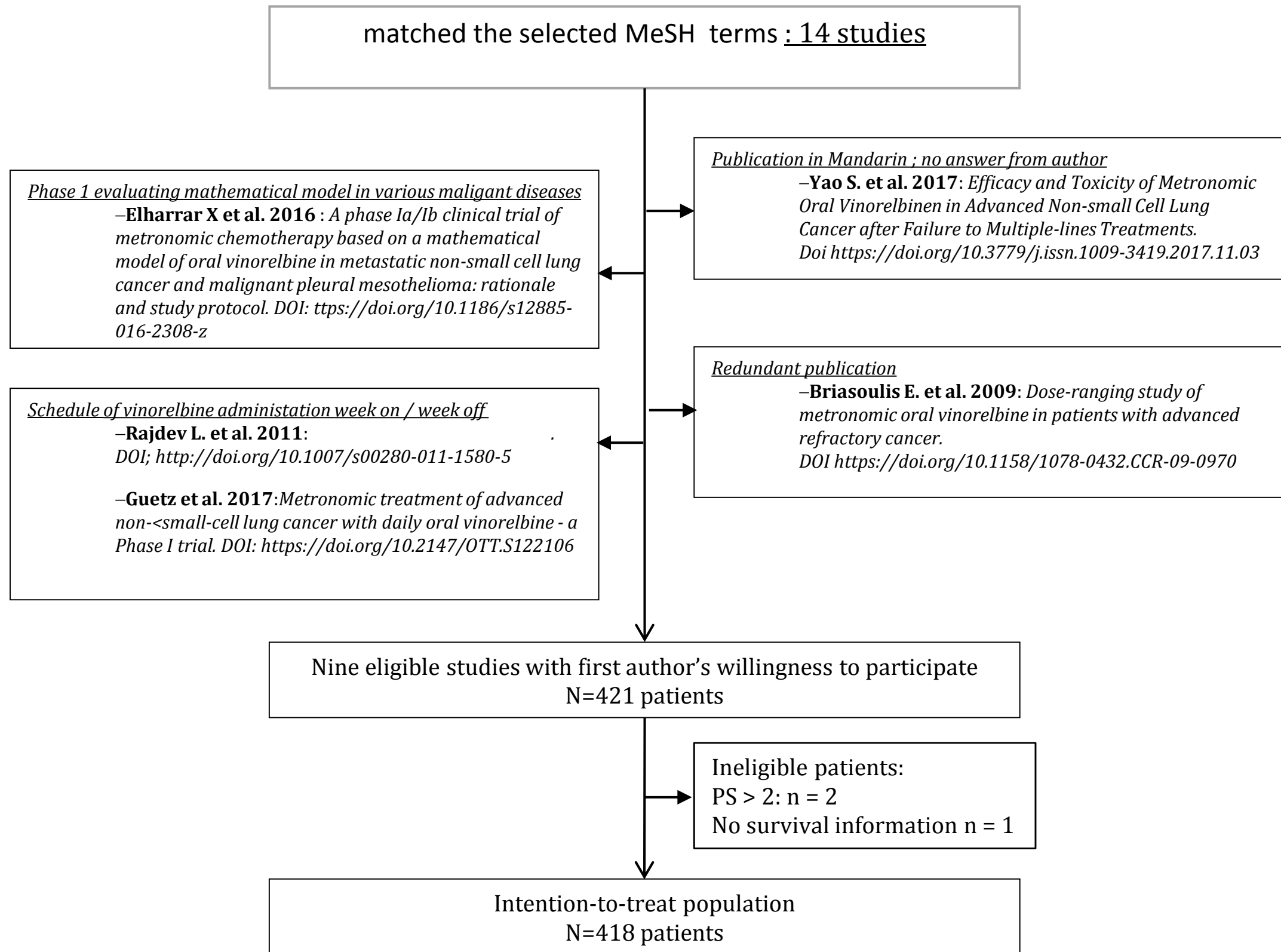
A. Camerini<sup>1</sup> · G. L. Banna<sup>2</sup> · S. Cinieri<sup>3</sup> · A. Pezzuto<sup>4</sup> · M. Mencoboni<sup>5</sup> · F. Rosetti<sup>6</sup> · A. Figueiredo<sup>7</sup> · P. Rizzo<sup>3</sup> · A. Ricci<sup>8</sup> · L. Langenhoven<sup>9</sup> · A. Santo<sup>10</sup> · A. Addeo<sup>11</sup> · D. Amoroso<sup>1</sup> · F. Barata<sup>7</sup>

Table 2: Clinical efficacy data.

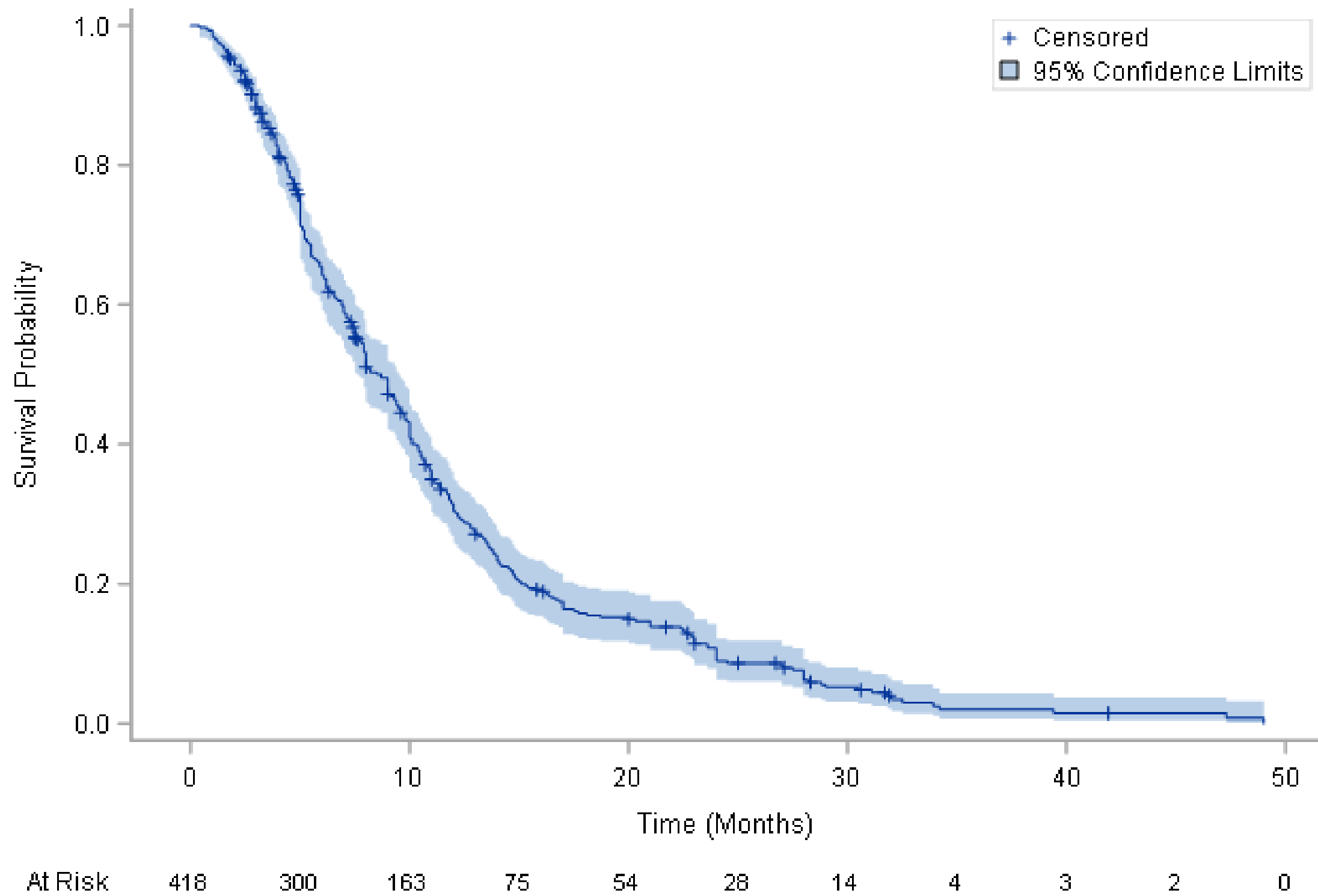
Number of cycles (median - range)	6 [1 - 25]
Treatment response (n - %)	
CR	2/270 (0.7%)
PR	46/270 (17.1%)
SD	119/270 (44.1%)
PD	103/270 (38.1%)
ORR	48/270 (17.8%)
DCR	167/270 (61.9%)
Overall TTP (median - range)	5 [1 - 21] months
TTP first-line	7 [1 - 21] months
TTP second-line	5.5 [1 - 19] months
TTP subsequent-line	4 [1 - 19] months
Overall OS (median - range)	9 [1 - 36] months
OS first-line	10 [1 - 31] months
OS second-line	8 [1 - 36] months
OS subsequent-line	6.5 [2 - 29] months
OS sequence (median - range)	
metronomic - immunotherapy	14 [7 - 36] months

Table 3: All grade (left column) and grade 3/4 (right column) treatment-related toxicities (n = 270, total delivered cycles 1253).

Toxicity (n/%)	All grade 790/1253 (49%)	Grade 3-4 25/1253 (2%)
Overall		
<b>Non-haematological</b>		
Fatigue	25%	0.5%
Nausea	15%	0.2%
Vomiting	6%	0.2%
Diarrhea	6%	0.2%
Mucositis	7%	0.2%
Sensorial neuropathy	6%	0%
Constipation	12%	0%
<b>Haematological</b>		
Anemia	19%	0.4%
Leuko/neutropenia	8%	0.3%
Thrombocytopenia	4%	0%
Dose reduction (n/%)		20/270 (7.4%)
Dose delay (n/%)		29/270 (10.1%)







**MOVIDA trial:** Metronomic oral vinorelbine + durvalumab in first-line platinum unfit NSCLC (Phase II Italy/Swiss)

**IFCT trial:** Metronomic oral vinorelbine + atezolizumab in second-line post platinum NSCLC (Phase II France)

Metronomic oral vinorelbine + Nivolumab in post platinum NSCLC (Phase II Singapore)

Table 3  
Studies of metronomic therapy.

Setting	Population	Study (ref)	Regimen	Outcome
Advanced breast cancer	No minimum age	Dellapasqua et al. [67]	Cyclophosphamide 50 mg/d Capecitabine 500 mg tid Bevacizumab 10 mg/kg q 14d	RR 48% Median TTP 42 weeks Minimal toxicity
	T2 + ER + ve pts aged >70 yrs unsuited to conventional chemotherapy	Bottini et al. [68]	Letrozole with or without cyclophosphamide 50 mg/d	RR higher (88% versus 72%) in pts receiving additional cyclophosphamide; and VEGF expression significantly less than with letrozole monotherapy
	Women with at least one prior endocrine therapy for M+ disease; mean age 65 yrs ER + ve, postmenopausal women; no lower age limit	Schwartzberg et al. [69] Aurilio et al. [70]	Capecitabine 1500 or 2000 mg given in divided doses, added to intravenous (i.v.) fulvestrant Cyclophos 50 mg/d and methotrexate 2.5 mg bd on d 1 and 4 added to im fulvestrant	Activity described as substantial and toxicity as low; HFS most frequent AE, but Gr3 or greater in fewer than 10% Long term disease control achieved with minimal toxicity
Advanced cancer phase I	No lower limit on age	Rajdev et al. [71]	Metronomic oral vinorelbine	Activity reported; drug well tolerated
NSCLC stage IIIb/IV	First line; aged over 70 years (median 79 years); median 3.5 serious comorbidities	Camerini et al. [63]	Oral vinorelbine 50 mg three times per week until progression	ORR only 13% but 50% had SD for >12 weeks; median OS 9.5 months. Only 4 episodes of Gr 3 (and no Gr 4) toxicity in 32 pts
Ovarian cancer	Recurrent, platinum resistant Recurrent	Barber et al. [72] Garcia[73]	Cyclophosphamide 50 mg/d plus bevacizumab	RR 42%: OS 20 months in responders, but only 9mo in non-responders Median OS 17 months



## General recommendations paper on the management of older patients with cancer: the SEOM geriatric oncology task force's position statement

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Finally, oral chemotherapy is an appealing option in seniors, due to better compliance in administering it and greater convenience compared to intravenous chemotherapy. Metronomic chemotherapy can represent a means of decreasing toxicity [48–50], thereby enhancing quality of life; moreover, several studies have pointed out the antiangiogenic and immunomodulating effects of this mode of administration [51].

# Take-home messages

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Metronomic approach **is not chemotherapy!**

**Sound data** on oral mVNR in first (and later) line!

Clinical **patient selection** is a cornerstone

Metronomic treatment **is safer than MTD and (at least) as effective**

From a great 2018 to **combos with immunotherapy, guidelines and random**