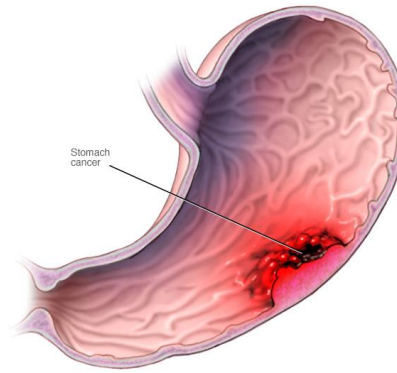


## Targeted therapy in Gastric Cancer: Scarcity to plenty ; How and when to best use them?


Prof. (Dr) Ghanashyam Biswas, DM  
Sparsh-AOI and Sum Hospital  
Bhubaneswar, Odisha



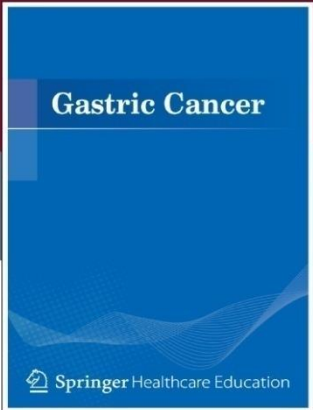
© MAYO FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



# Proud to be a part of this Journey




**BOOK  
LAUNCH**



**Gastric Cancer**

Springer Healthcare Education


Date: 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
Time: 7:00 pm




Honourable  
Chief Guest:  
**Dr. Jitendra Singh**

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge),  
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region;  
Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office;  
Minister of State, Ministry of Personnel,  
Public Grievances and Pensions;  
Minister of State, Department of Atomic Energy; and  
Minister of State, Department of Space  
Government of India

**Editor:**  
**Dr. Ashok K Vaid**  
Chairman, Medical Oncology and Hematology  
Medanta, The Medicity, Gurugram

Book launch will be part of:  
 Virtual Conference on  
**UPDATES IN  
ONCOLOGY 2020**

Organized by:  
 **IOF**  
Indian Oncology Foundation

## Chemotherapy and Targeted Treatment as Later Line Therapy

5.3

Dr. Ghanashyam Biswas

### ABSTRACT

The development of progressive disease post first line therapy is seen in almost all the metastatic cancer patients. The implementation of second line therapeutic regimen in relatively fit patients is combination of taxane and ramucirumab or else alone. Thereafter only few patients remain as a candidate for later lines of therapy like apatinib, immunotherapy, or re-challenge of previously received treatment.

**Keywords:** Apatinib, immunotherapy, antiangiogenesis, vascular endothelial growth factor, 1000 Genome Project

### INTRODUCTION

*You beat cancer by how you live, why you live, and in the manner in which you live. Live your life by your own terms, not cancers'.*

– Stuart Scott, anchor at ESPN and a cancer patient

The seeds for gastric adenocarcinoma management had been sown nearly two centuries earlier. It was during 1800s that Dr. John Jones, the first Professor of surgery at King's College, and an author of the first American textbook on surgery,

Dr. Ghanashyam Biswas, MD DM  
Executive Director, Sparsh Hospital, Consultant Medical Oncology, American Oncologic Institute, Bhubaneswar

© Springer Nature India Private Limited 2019  
Ashok K Vaid (ed.), *Gastric Cancer*

# Stomach cancer facts

- **1/3** are detected early
- **2/3** will have metastatic disease at some point
- Incidence is decreasing in developed countries and more proximal cancers are reported
- A shift from distal to proximal as the site of disease has not been reported from India
- **Intestinal type:** Males , older age, prevalent in high-risk areas & linked to environmental factors.

Declining incidence in developing countries, HER2 (31.8%)

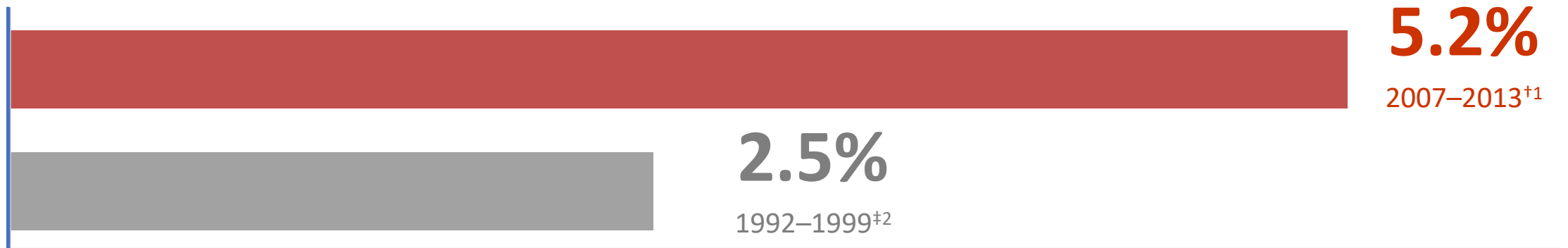
- **Diffuse or infiltrative type:** Both sexes, younger age and carries a worse prognosis. Rising incidence globally,

HER2 (6.2%)

# Gastric Cancer survival in the last two decades

## Gastric Cancer Survival Rates: 2 Decades of “improvements”

### 5-Year Relative Survival Rates for Patients With Distant Gastric Cancer



Howlader N, et al. SEER Cancer Statistics Review (CSR) 1975–2014. [https://seer.cancer.gov/archive/csr/1975\\_2014](https://seer.cancer.gov/archive/csr/1975_2014). Accessed September 26, 2018.

Ries LAG, et al. SEER Cancer Statistics Review (CSR) 1975–2000. [https://seer.cancer.gov/archive/csr/1975\\_2000](https://seer.cancer.gov/archive/csr/1975_2000). Accessed September 26, 2018.

Altekruse SF, et al. SEER Cancer Statistics Review (CSR) 1975–2007. [https://seer.cancer.gov/archive/csr/1975\\_2007](https://seer.cancer.gov/archive/csr/1975_2007). Accessed September 26, 2018.

National Cancer Institute. Distant. SEER training modules Web site. <https://training.seer.cancer.gov/staging/systems/summary/distant.html>. Accessed September 26, 2018.

# Genetic types of Gastric Cancers

CIN

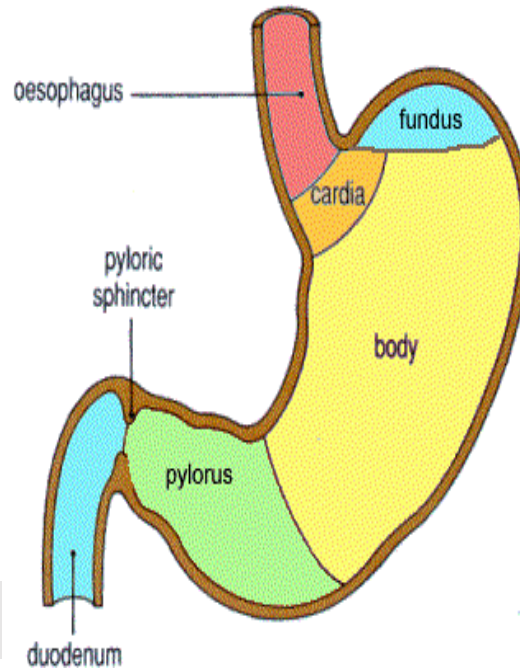
## Chromosomal instability

- Intestinal histology
- Aneuploidy
- RTK amplification
- *TP53* mutations
- *HER2*, *EGFR*, *MET*

GS

## Genomically stable

- Diffuse histology, young age
- *CDH1*, *RHOA* mutations (mobility, adhesion)
- Sensitivity to m-TOR inhibitors in vitro



EBV

High EBV burden  
Extensive DNA hypermethylation

- Amplification of *PD-L1/2*
- *PIK3CA* mutations

MSI

## Microsatellite unstable

- Older age, High MSI
- Elevated mutation rate
- Hypermethylation (*MLH1*)

# Sorting Gastric Cancers

**Table 3.** TCGA Subtypes

| Subtypes              | EBV-positive  | MSI   | GS  | CIN                                      |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Frequency             | 8.8%  | 21.7%   | 19.7%   | 49.8%                                    |
| Demographic           | Male patients (81%)                                     | Old age (median 72 years)   | Young age (median 59 years)                   | No special                               |
| Histology             |   |   | Diffuse histology                             | Intestinal histology                     |
| Main location         | Fundus or body (62%)                                    |   |   | Gastro-esophageal junction/cardia (65%)  |
| Molecular alterations | EBV-CpG island methylator phenotype (CIMP)              | Gastric-CIMP  | <i>CDH1</i> , <i>RHOA</i> mutation            | <i>TP53</i> mutation                     |
|                       | <i>PD-L1/2</i> , <i>JAK2</i> overexpression             | Hypermutation in <i>TP53</i> , <i>PIK3CA</i> , <i>ERBB3</i> , <i>ARID1A</i> | <i>CLDN18-ARHGAP</i> fusion                   | RTK-RAS activation                       |
|                       | Mutation in <i>PIK3CA</i> , <i>ARID1A</i> , <i>BCOR</i> | <i>MLH1</i> silencing   | Cell adhesion, angiogenesis pathways enriched | Mutations of <i>SMAD4</i> and <i>APC</i> |
|                       | <i>CDKN2A</i> silencing                                 | Mitotic pathways activation   | Rare <i>TP53</i> mutations                    |  |
|                       | Immune cell signaling                                   | Commune changes in the genes of CMHI  |   |  |
|                       | Rare <i>TP53</i> mutations                              |   |   |  |
| Potential targets     | PIK3CA, JAK2, PD-L1/PD-L2                               | PIK3CA, ERBB2/3, EGFR, PD-L1, MLH1 silencing                                | RHOA, CLDN18                                  | RTKs, EGFR, VEGFA, CCNE1, CCND1, CDK6    |
| Treatment reaction    |   | No response to adjuvant chemotherapy  |   |  |

# Molecular Testing in Gastric Cancer

- **Standard**

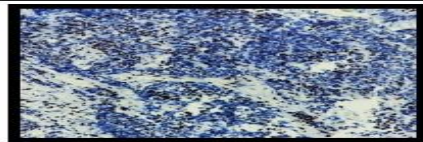
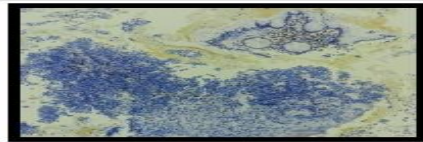
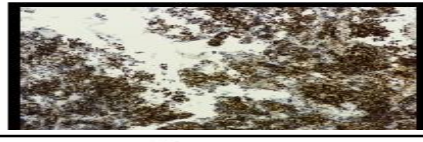
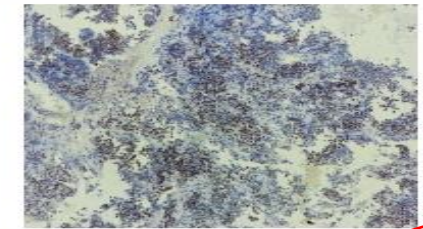
- HER2 (IHC or FISH, NGS for amplification)
- MSI (variety of techniques)
- PD-L1 (IHC, CPS)
- NTRK (RNA fusion)

- **Germline**

- CDH-1 and a long list of others (FAP, Lynch, etc)



# Some real life reports (MSI)

| Markers       | Result                     | Image   |
|---------------|----------------------------|---|
| hMSH-6(EP-49) | LOSS OF NUCLEAR EXPRESSION |  |
| hMSH-2(RED2)  | LOSS OF NUCLEAR EXPRESSION |  |
| hMLH-1(GM011) | INTACT NUCLEAR EXPRESSION  |  |
| Markers       | Result                     | Image   |
| hPMS-2(EP-51) | INTACT NUCLEAR EXPRESSION  |  |

## IHC INTERPRETATION AND RESULT

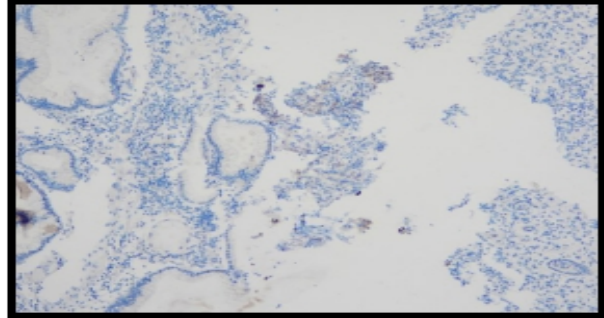
- Loss of nuclear expression of one or more MMR proteins: deficient mismatch repair (high probability of MSI-H)
- Loss of nuclear expression of MSH2 and MSH6: high probability of Lynch syndrome (sequencing and/or large deletion/duplication testing of germline MSH2 may be indicated, and, if negative, sequencing and/or large deletion/duplication testing of germline MSH6 may be indicated).

**#There are exceptions to the above IHC interpretation. These results should not be considered in isolation and clinical correlation with genetic counselling is recommended to assess the need for germline testing.**

- (Reference: Colon and Rectum- Biomarkers Colon Biomarkers (v 1.2.0.0 - CAP Protocol).



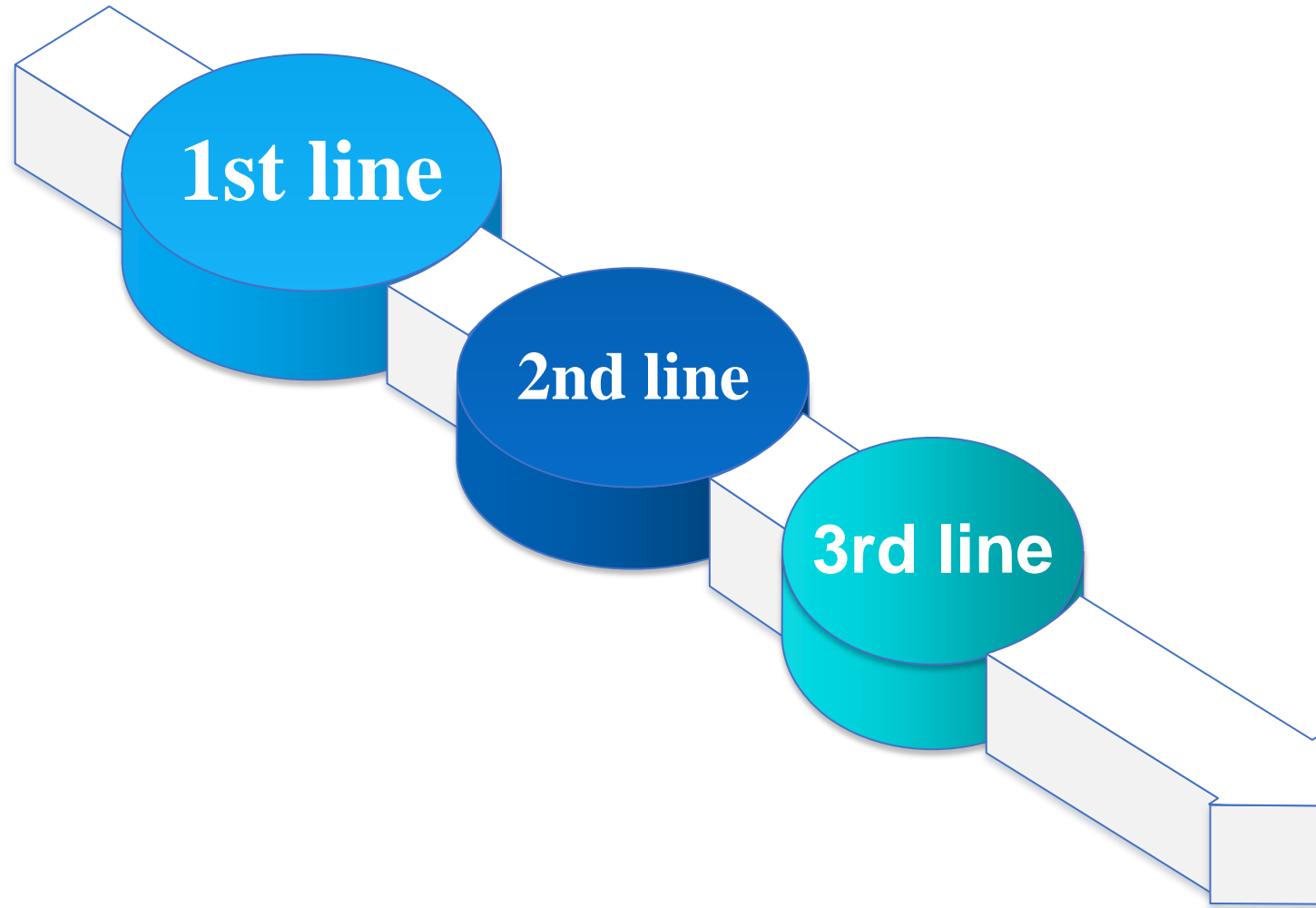
# Some real life reports (CPS)

| MARKERS (CLONES)             | RESULT                      | IMAGES  |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| PD-L1<br>(DAKO 22C3 pharmDx) | COMBINED POSITIVE SCORE:03% |  |

## INTERPRETATION

1. Combined Positive Score (CPS), which is the number of PD-L1 staining cells (tumor cells, lymphocytes, macrophages\*) divided by the total viable tumor cells, multiplied by 100. Although the result of the calculation can exceed 100, the maximum score is defined as CPS 100.
2. Recurrent/ metastatic head and neck squamous cell carcinoma<sup>1</sup>:  
The specimen should be considered to have PD-L1 expression if  $CPS \geq 1$ .
3. Gastric or Gastroesophageal Junction (GEJ) Adenocarcinoma<sup>2</sup>:  
The specimen should be considered to have PD-L1 expression if  $CPS \geq 1$ .
4. Cervical cancer<sup>3</sup>:  
The specimen should be considered to have PD-L1 expression if  $CPS \geq 1$ .
5. Urothelial cancer<sup>4</sup>:  
The specimen should be considered to have PD-L1 expression if  $CPS \geq 10$ .
6. Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma<sup>5</sup>:  
CPS greater than or equal to 10 PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx is indicated as an aid in identifying esophageal squamous cell cancer patients for treatment with KEYTRUDA® (pembrolizumab).

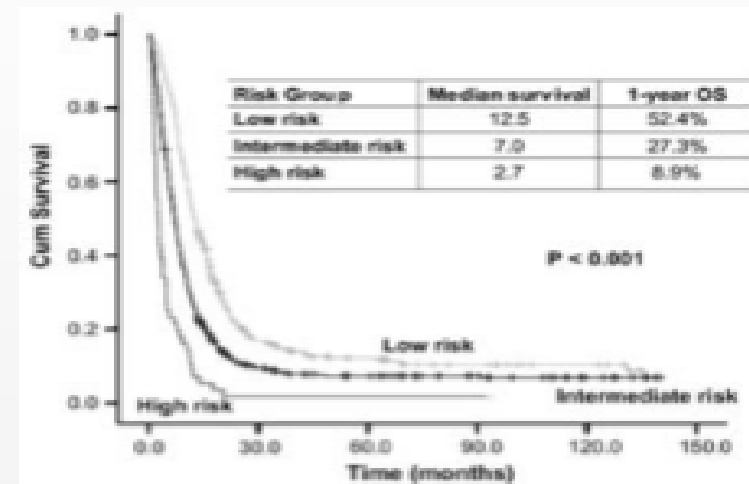
1st line treatment decision is key



# Clinical prognostic factors

- Among 1445 Asian patients treated with different first-line regimens, the factors associated with worse OS:

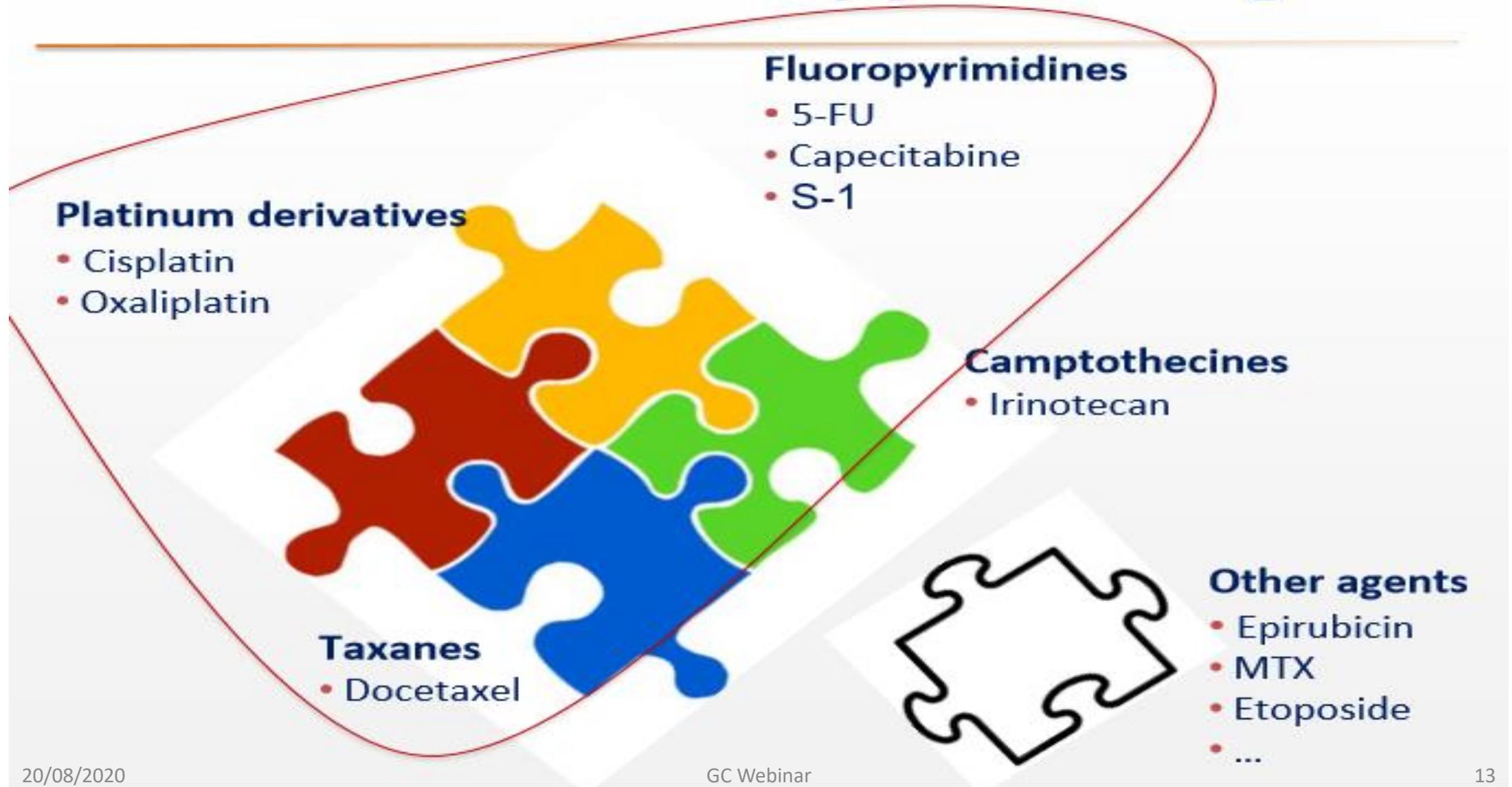
- ✓ ECOG performance status  $\geq 2$
- ✓ bone metastases
- ✓ no prior gastrectomy
- ✓ ascites
- ✓ alkaline phosphatase  $>85$  U/L
- ✓ albumin  $<3.6$  g/dL



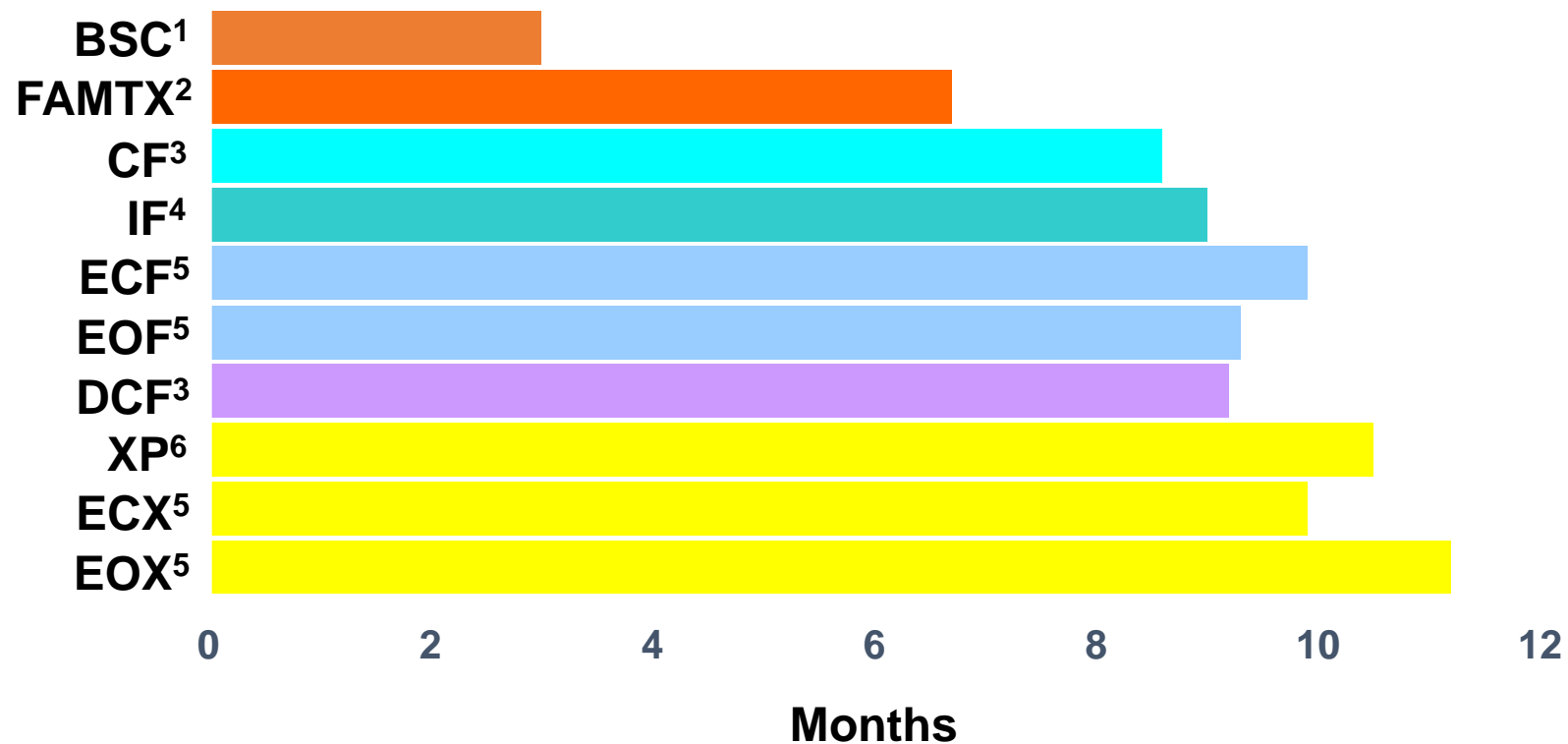
Good risk: 0-1 risk factors  
Moderate risk: 2-4 risk factors  
Poor risk: 5-6 risk factors

- Advanced Gastric Cancer (First line)
  - HER2 negative

# First-line chemotherapy: active agents



# Impact on survival of Cytotoxics in advanced Gastric Cancer



❖ Cytotoxics: Modest impact: Median survival of doublets/triplets usually <12 mo

1. Murad et al. Cancer 1993; 2. Vanhoefer et al. J Clin Oncol 2000; 3. Van Cutsem et al. J Clin Oncol 2006  
4. Dank et al. Ann Oncol 2008; 5. Cunningham et al. N Engl J Med 2008; 6. Kang et al. Ann Oncol 2009

# Standard first line treatment of Gastric Cancer

|         | <u>3-Drug Regimens</u> |                       |                  |                  | <u>2-Drug Regimens</u> |                  |                      |                      |
|---------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|         | EOX/EOF <sup>1</sup>   | ECX/ EOX <sup>1</sup> | DCF <sup>2</sup> | ECF <sup>3</sup> | XP <sup>4</sup>        | FLO <sup>5</sup> | FOLFIRI <sup>6</sup> | S-1/Cis <sup>7</sup> |
| N       | 489                    | 513                   | 221              | 126              | 160                    | 112              | 209                  | 305                  |
| ORR, %  | 44                     | 45                    | 37               | 45               | 46                     | 35               | 39                   | 54                   |
| TTP, mo | 6.7                    | 6.5                   | 5.6              | 7.4              | 5.6                    | 5.8              | 5.3                  | 6.0                  |
| OS, mo  | 10.4                   | 10.9                  | 9.2              | 8.9              | 10.5                   | 10.7             | 9.5                  | 13.0                 |

1. Cunningham D, et al. N Engl J Med. 2008;358:36-46. 2. Van Cutsem E, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2006;24:4991-4997. 3. Webb A, et al. J Clin Oncol. 1997;15:261-267  
4. Kang YK, et al. Ann Oncol. 2009;20:666-673. 5. Al-Batran SE, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2008;26:1435-1442. 6. Guimbaud R, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2014;32:3520-3526.  
7. Koizumi W, et al. Lancet Oncol. 2008;9:215-221.



# Standard first line treatment of Gastric Cancer

Are Taxanes needed to achieve  
the best results in advanced Gastric Cancer?

| Study                 | n   |      | OS, Months |                   | PFS,<br>Months |                    | ORR |        |
|-----------------------|-----|------|------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----|--------|
| V325 <sup>1</sup>     | 445 | DCF  | 9.2        | HR 1.29<br>p 0.02 | 5.5            | HR 1.47<br>p<0.001 | 37  | p 0.01 |
|                       |     | CF   | 8.6        |                   | 3.7            |                    | 25  |        |
| JCOG1013 <sup>2</sup> | 741 | DCS1 | 14.2       | HR 0.99<br>p 0.47 | 7.4            | HR 0.99<br>p 0.92  | 59  | p 0.5  |
|                       |     | CS1  | 15.3       |                   | 6.5            |                    | 56  |        |

<sup>1</sup>Van Cutsem E et al. JCO 2006.

<sup>2</sup>Yamada Y et al. Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol 2019



### PRINCIPLES OF SYSTEMIC THERAPY

#### Systemic Therapy for Unresectable Locally Advanced, Recurrent or Metastatic Disease (where local therapy is not indicated)

- Trastuzumab<sup>a</sup> should be added to first-line chemotherapy for HER2 overexpressing metastatic adenocarcinoma  
([See Principles of Pathologic Review and Biomarker Testing \[GAST-B\]](#))
  - ▶ Combination with fluoropyrimidine and platinum (category 1 in combination with cisplatin;<sup>11</sup> category 2A in combination with other platinum agents)
  - ▶ Trastuzumab is not recommended for use with anthracyclines

#### First-Line Therapy

- Two-drug cytotoxic regimens are preferred because of lower toxicity.
- Three-drug cytotoxic regimens should be reserved for medically fit patients with good PS and access to frequent toxicity evaluation.
- Oxaliplatin is generally preferred over cisplatin due to lower toxicity.

#### Preferred Regimens

- Fluoropyrimidine (fluorouracil<sup>c</sup> or capecitabine) and oxaliplatin<sup>12-14</sup>
- Fluoropyrimidine (fluorouracil<sup>c</sup> or capecitabine) and cisplatin<sup>12, 15-17</sup>

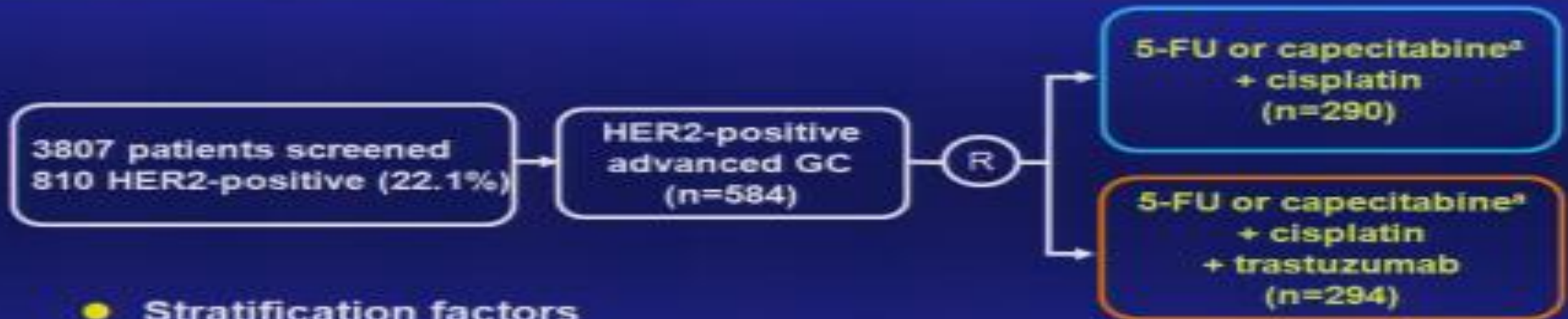
#### Other Recommended Regimens

- Fluorouracil<sup>c,f</sup> and irinotecan<sup>18</sup>
- Paclitaxel with cisplatin or carboplatin<sup>19-21</sup>
- Docetaxel with cisplatin<sup>22,23</sup>
- Fluoropyrimidine<sup>16,24,25</sup> (fluorouracil<sup>c</sup> or capecitabine)
- Docetaxel<sup>26,27</sup>
- Paclitaxel<sup>28,29</sup>
- DCF modifications
  - ▶ Docetaxel, cisplatin, and fluorouracil<sup>c,30</sup>
  - ▶ Docetaxel, oxaliplatin, and fluorouracil<sup>31</sup>
  - ▶ Docetaxel, carboplatin, and fluorouracil (category 2B)<sup>32</sup>
- ECF (epirubicin, cisplatin, and fluorouracil) (category 2B)<sup>33</sup>
- ECF modifications (category 2B)<sup>34,35</sup>
  - ▶ Epirubicin, oxaliplatin, and fluorouracil
  - ▶ Epirubicin, cisplatin, and capecitabine
  - ▶ Epirubicin, oxaliplatin, and capecitabine

- Advanced Gastric Cancer (First line)
  - HER2 positive

# ToGA trial design

Phase III, randomized, open-label, international, multicenter study



- **Stratification factors**

- advanced vs metastatic
- GC vs GEJ
- measurable vs non-measurable
- ECOG PS 0-1 vs 2
- capecitabine vs 5-FU

Van Cutsem E, et al. ASCO 2009 abstract 4509



## ToGA study: trastuzumab global study



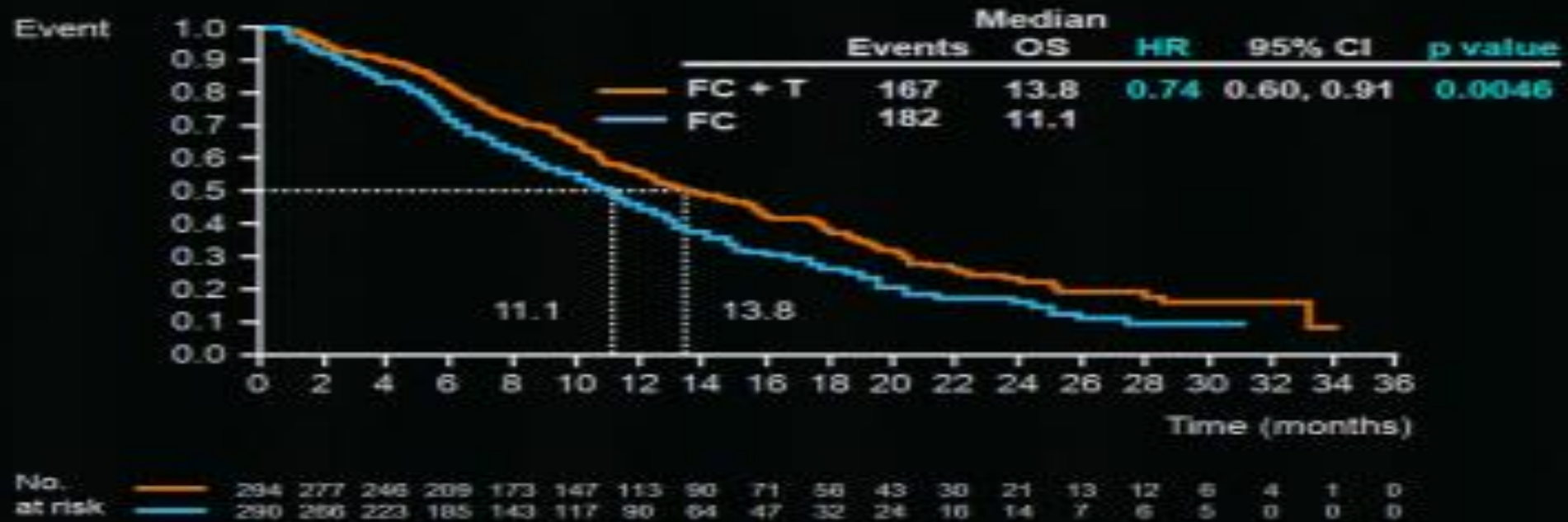
**Required sample size = 584**

Primary endpoint; Overall survival

Participants; 120 centers / 22 countries

**Primary endpoint has met !**

## Primary end point: OS



T, trastuzumab

Van Cutsem, et al. ASCO, 2009

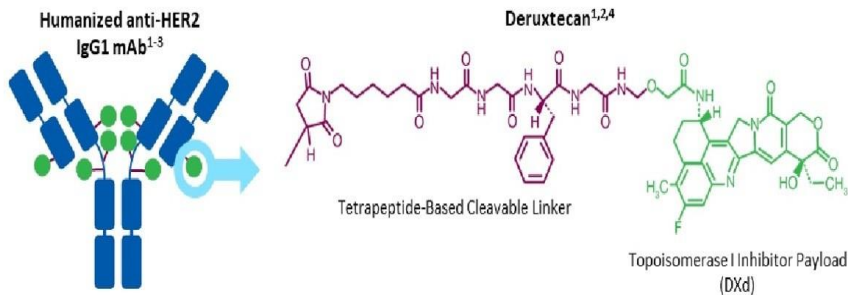
- Advanced Gastric Cancer (Second line)
  - HER2 positive



# Trastuzumab deruxtecan (T-DXd)

## T-DXd is an ADC with 3 components:

- A humanized anti-HER2 IgG1 mAb with the same amino acid sequence as trastuzumab
- A topoisomerase I inhibitor payload, an exatecan derivative
- A tetrapeptide-based cleavable linker



Payload mechanism of action:  
topoisomerase I inhibitor

High potency of payload

High drug to antibody ratio  $\approx 8$

Payload with short systemic half-life

Stable linker-payload

Tumor-selective cleavable linker

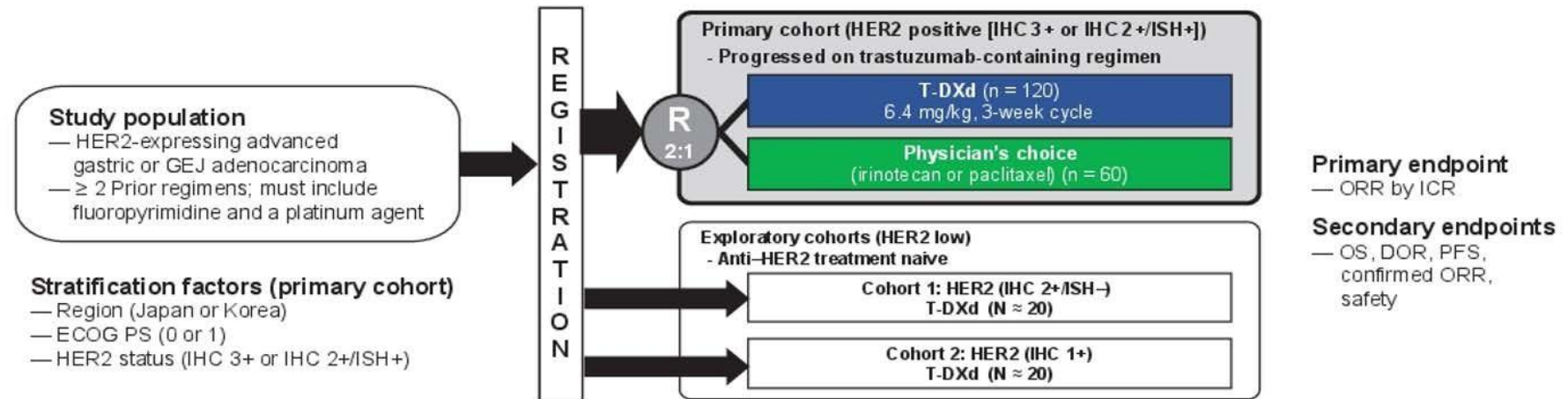
Membrane-permeable payload

*The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE*

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Trastuzumab Deruxtecan in Previously Treated HER2-Positive Gastric Cancer

Shitara K et al, NEJM 2020  
382: 2419-2430



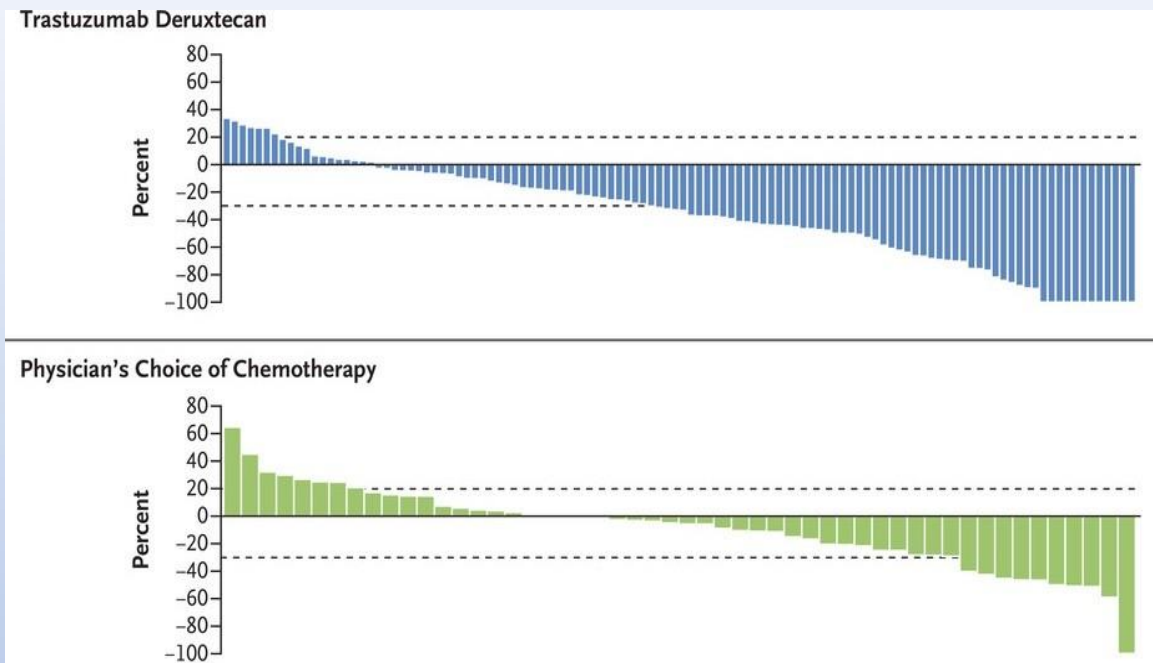
DOR, duration of response; EGOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; GEJ, gastroesophageal junction; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; ICR, independent central review; IHC, immunohistochemistry; ISH, in situ hybridization; ORR, objective response rate; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan.

20/08/2020

GC Webinar

23

# DESTINY-Gastric 01: A Potential Option for Refractory GEC?



|                      | T-DXd<br>(n=119) | PC<br>(n=56) |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------|
| <b>ORR</b>           | <b>51.3%</b>     | <b>14.3%</b> |
| <b>Confirmed ORR</b> | <b>42.9%</b>     | <b>12.5%</b> |
| CR                   | 8.4%             | 0%           |
| PR                   | 34.5%            | 12.5%        |
| SD                   | 42.9%            | 50.0%        |

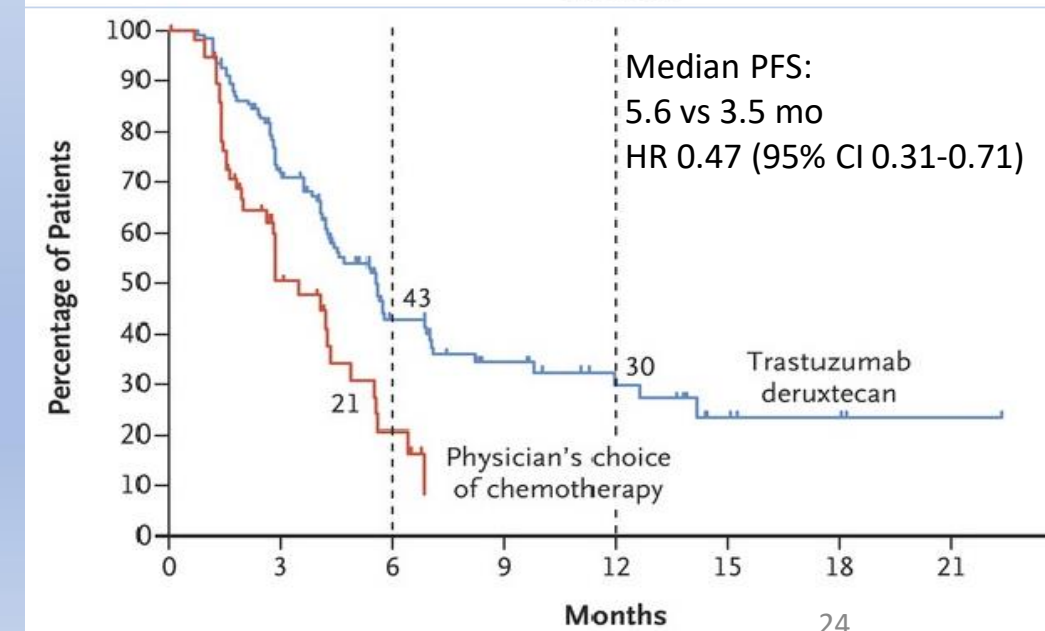
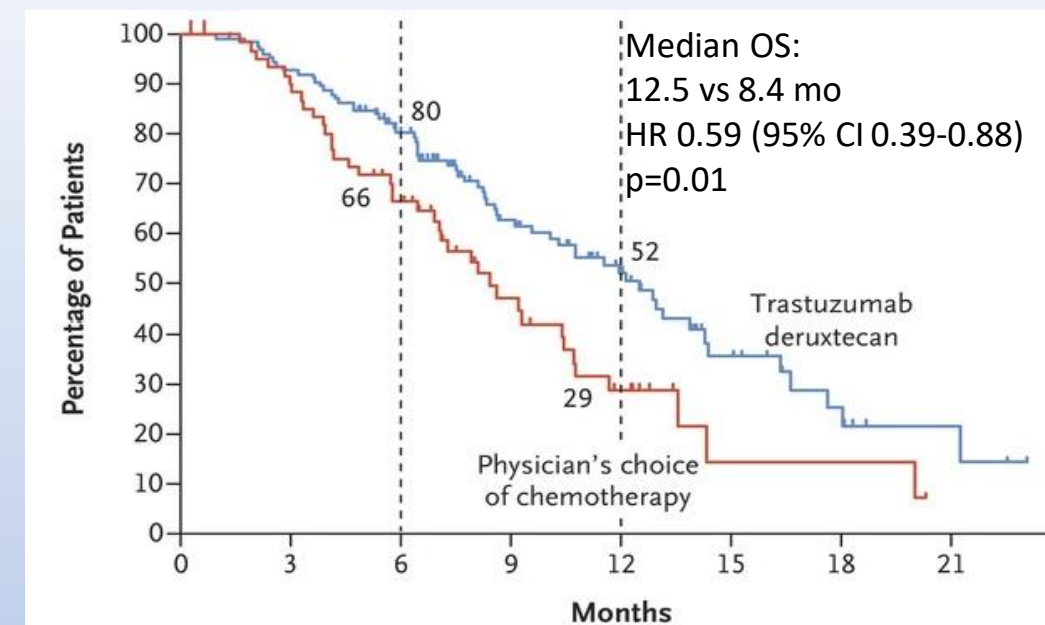
20/08/2020

## Disease control:

- T-DXd: 86% with median 11.3 mo
- PC: 62% with median 3.9 mo

GC Webinar

Shitara et al, *NEJM* (2020), Slide courtesy of Yelena Jangigian



24

Courtesy of Crystal Denlinger, MD, F.A.C.P.

- Advanced Gastric Cancer (Second line)

- Pre Ramucirumab
- Post Ramucirumab

# Standard Second Line Treatment Before Ramucirumab Trials

|                                       | n   | medOS<br>(months) | HR vs BSC<br>(95%CI) | medPFS<br>(Months) | ORR<br>(%) | DC<br>(%) |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>Docetaxel 75<sup>1</sup></b>       | 84  | 5.2               | 0.67 (0.49-0.92)     | 3.0                | 7          | 53        |
| <b>CPT-11<sup>2</sup></b>             | 21  | 4.0               | 0.48 (0.25-0.92)     | 2.5                | 0          | 53        |
| <b>CPT11/ Docetaxel<sup>3</sup></b>   | 133 | 5.2 /6.5          | 0.66 (0.48-0.89)     | NR                 | 8/11       | 43/38     |
| <b>Paclitaxel / CPT11<sup>4</sup></b> | 219 | 9.5/8.4           | NA                   | 3.6/2.3            | 20.9/13.6  | NR        |

<sup>1</sup>Ford The Lancet 2014.. <sup>2</sup>Thuss-Patience EJC 2011.. <sup>3</sup>Kang JCO 2012. <sup>4</sup>Hironaka JCO 2013





# Ramucirumab offers two regimen choices for 2<sup>nd</sup>-line treatment of GC and GEJ

- Both phase III trials showed statistically significant improvements in survival and progression-free survival with ramucirumab<sup>1,2</sup>
  - For eligible patients, ramucirumab extends survival when combined with paclitaxel<sup>2</sup>
  - For patients who have progressed on first-line chemotherapy, ramucirumab extends survival vs best supportive care<sup>1</sup>



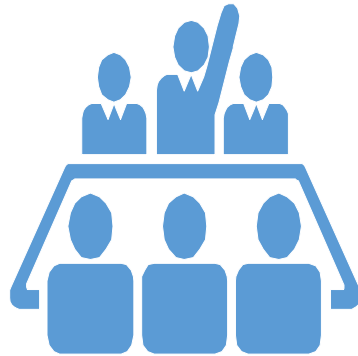
|                      | Overall survival benefit | Progression-free survival benefit | Indication          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| REGARD <sup>1</sup>  | ✓                        | ✓                                 | Monotherapy         |
| RAINBOW <sup>2</sup> | ✓                        | ✓                                 | Combination therapy |

1. Fuchs CS et al. *Lancet* 2014;383:31–39  
2. Wilke H et al. *Lancet Oncol* 2014;15:1224–1235

# RAM+PACLI vs PACLI: RAINBOW study



**Generally Well  
Tolerated**



**RR 28% vs 16%  
DCR 80% vs 63%**



**PS 0/1 to PS 2  
10 mos vs 8.6 mos**

**Toxicity**

**RR/DCR**

**PS Deterioration**

Adverse reactions occurring at incidence rate  $\leq 5\%$  and a  $\leq 2\%$  difference between arms  
in patients receiving CYRAMZA in combination with paclitaxel (RAINBOW).



# Summary of efficacy of the RAINBOW and REGARD trials

|                                    | <b>RAINBOW<sup>1</sup><br/>Ramucirumab +<br/>paclitaxel<br/>(vs placebo +<br/>paclitaxel)</b> | <b>REGARD<sup>2</sup><br/>Ramucirumab<br/>(vs placebo)</b> |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Number of patients                 | 665   | 355  |
| Overall survival (months)          | 9.6 (vs 7.4)<br>( $p=0.017$ )   | 5.2 (vs 3.8)<br>( $p=0.047$ )                              |
| Progression-free survival (months) | 4.4 (vs 2.9)<br>( $p<0.0001$ )  | 2.1 (vs 1.3)<br>( $p<0.0001$ )                             |

**1 yr Survival in RAINBOW Ram+Pacli arm 40% vs Pacli 30%**

1. Wilke H et al. *Lancet Oncol* 2014;15:1224–1235

2. Fuchs CS et al. *Lancet* 2014;383:31–39



### PRINCIPLES OF SYSTEMIC THERAPY

#### Systemic Therapy for Unresectable Locally Advanced, Recurrent or Metastatic Disease (where local therapy is not indicated)

##### Second-Line or Subsequent Therapy

- Dependent on prior therapy and PS

##### Preferred Regimens

- Ramucirumab and paclitaxel (category 1)<sup>36</sup>
- Docetaxel (category 1)<sup>26,27</sup>
- Paclitaxel (category 1)<sup>28,29,37</sup>
- Irinotecan (category 1)<sup>37-40</sup>
- Trifluridine and tipiracil (category 1)<sup>41</sup>

##### ‣ For third-line or subsequent therapy

- Fluorouracil<sup>c,f</sup> and irinotecan<sup>38,42,43</sup>
- Pembrolizumab<sup>9</sup>
  - For second-line or subsequent therapy for MSI-H or dMMR tumors<sup>44,45</sup>
  - For third-line or subsequent therapy for gastric adenocarcinoma with PD-L1 expression levels by CPS of  $\geq 1$ <sup>h,46</sup>

##### Other Recommended Regimens

- Ramucirumab (category 1)<sup>47</sup>
- Irinotecan and cisplatin<sup>13,48</sup>
- Entrectinib or larotrectinib for *NTRK* gene fusion-positive tumors<sup>49,50</sup>
- Docetaxel and irinotecan (category 2B)<sup>51</sup>

##### Useful in Certain Circumstances

- Fluorouracil and irinotecan + ramucirumab (category 2B)<sup>c,f,52</sup>

- Advanced Gastric Cancer (Third line & beyond...)

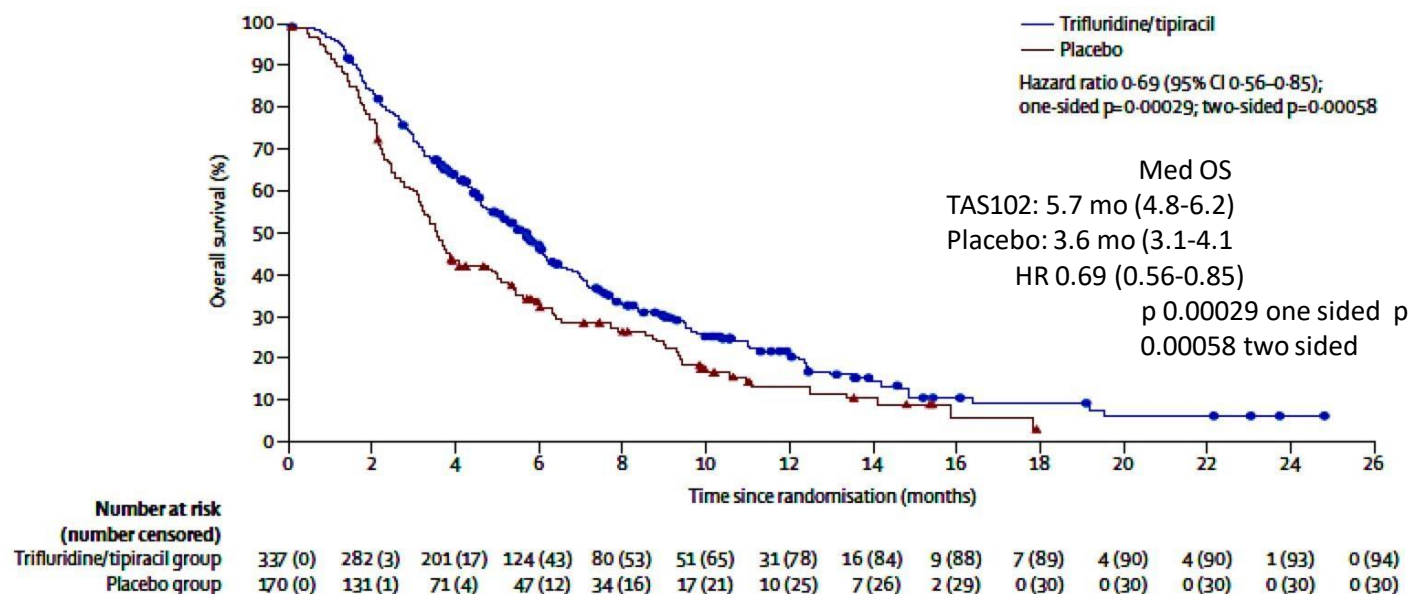
## Third Line Treatment and Beyond....

- TAS 102 (Trifluridine/Tipiracil)
- Pembrolizumab (anti PD-1)
- Nivolumab (anti PD-1)
- Apatinib (Anti-VEGFR2) (\* China)
- Dealer's Choice

# Third line treatment and beyond...TAS-102

## Trifluridine/tipiracil versus placebo in patients with heavily pretreated metastatic gastric cancer (TAGS): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial

Kohei Shitara, Toshihiko Doi, Mikhail Dvorkin, Wasat Mansoor, Hendrik-Tobias Arkenau, Aliaksandr Prokharau, Maria Alsina, Michele Ghidini, Catia Faustino, Vera Gorbunova, Edvard Zhavrid, Kazuhiro Nishikawa, Ayumu Hosokawa, Şuayib Yalçın, Kazumasa Fujitani, Giordano D Beretta, Eric Van Cutsem, Robert E Winkler, Lukas Makris, David H Ilson, Josep Tabernero



|  | Trifluridine/tipiracil group (n=337) | Placebo group (n=170) |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| (Continued from previous column)         |                                      |                       |
| HER2 status                              |                                      |                       |
| Positive                                 | 67 (20%)                             | 27 (16%)              |
| Negative                                 | 207 (61%)                            | 106 (62%)             |
| Not assessed or unknown                  | 63 (19%)                             | 37 (22%)              |
| Number of metastatic sites               |                                      |                       |
| 1–2                                      | 155 (46%)                            | 72 (42%)              |
| ≥3                                       | 182 (54%)                            | 98 (58%)              |
| Peritoneal metastases                    | 87 (26%)                             | 53 (31%)              |
| Previous gastrectomy                     | 147 (44%)                            | 74 (44%)              |
| Number of previous chemotherapy regimens |                                      |                       |
| 2  | 126 (37%)                            | 64 (38%)              |
| 3  | 134 (40%)                            | 60 (35%)              |
| ≥4                                       | 77 (23%)                             | 46 (27%)              |
| Previous systemic anticancer agents      |                                      |                       |
| Platinum                                 | 337 (100%)                           | 170 (100%)            |
| Fluoropyrimidine                         | 336 (>99%*)                          | 170 (100%)            |
| Taxane†                                  | 311 (92%)                            | 148 (87%)             |
| Irinotecan†                              | 183 (54%)                            | 98 (58%)              |
| Ramucirumab                              | 114 (34%)                            | 55 (32%)              |
| Anti-HER2 therapy                        | 60 (18%)                             | 24 (14%)              |
| Immunotherapy (anti-PD-1 or anti-PD-L1)  | 25 (7%)                              | 7 (4%)                |
| Other                                    | 77 (23%)                             | 41 (24%)              |

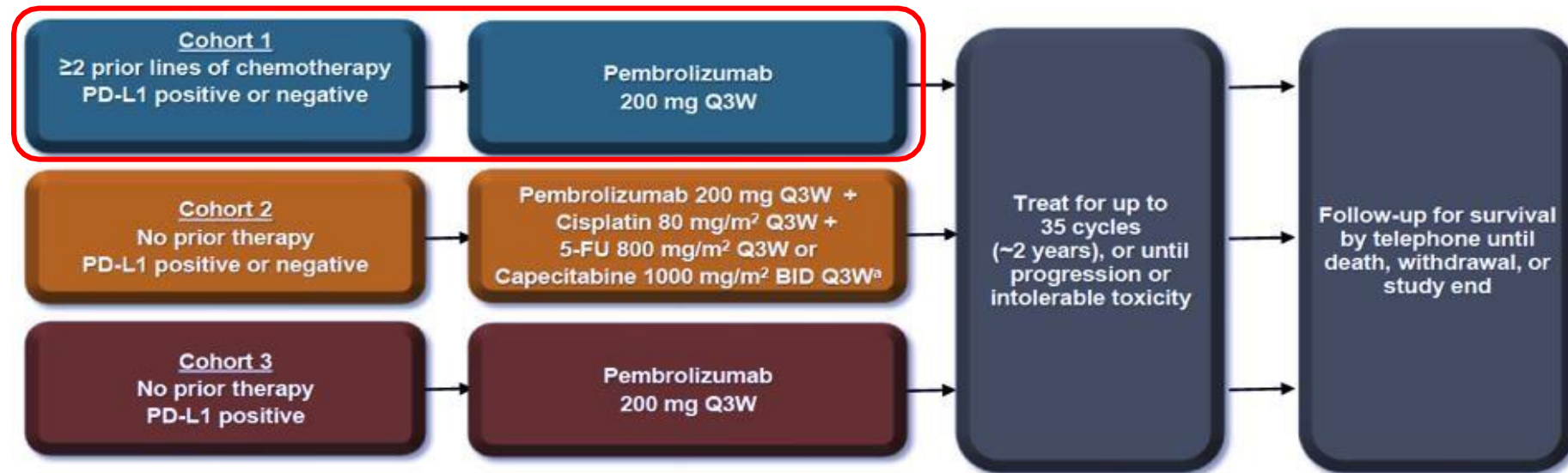
# Third line treatment and Beyond...Pembrolizumab



## KEYNOTE-059: Efficacy and Safety of Pembrolizumab Alone or in Combination With Chemotherapy in Patients With Advanced Gastric or Gastroesophageal Cancer

JAMA Oncology | Original Investigation

## Safety and Efficacy of Pembrolizumab Monotherapy in Patients With Previously Treated Advanced Gastric and Gastroesophageal Junction Cancer Phase 2 Clinical KEYNOTE-059 Trial



PD-L1 positive was defined as combined positive score (CPS)  $\geq 1$  (previously reported as and equivalent to CPS  $\geq 1\%$ ), where CPS = the number of PD-L1-positive cells<sup>b</sup> (tumor cells, lymphocytes, and macrophages) divided by the total number of tumor cells  $\times 100$

Fuchs CS, et al. ASCO 2017. Abstract 4003.

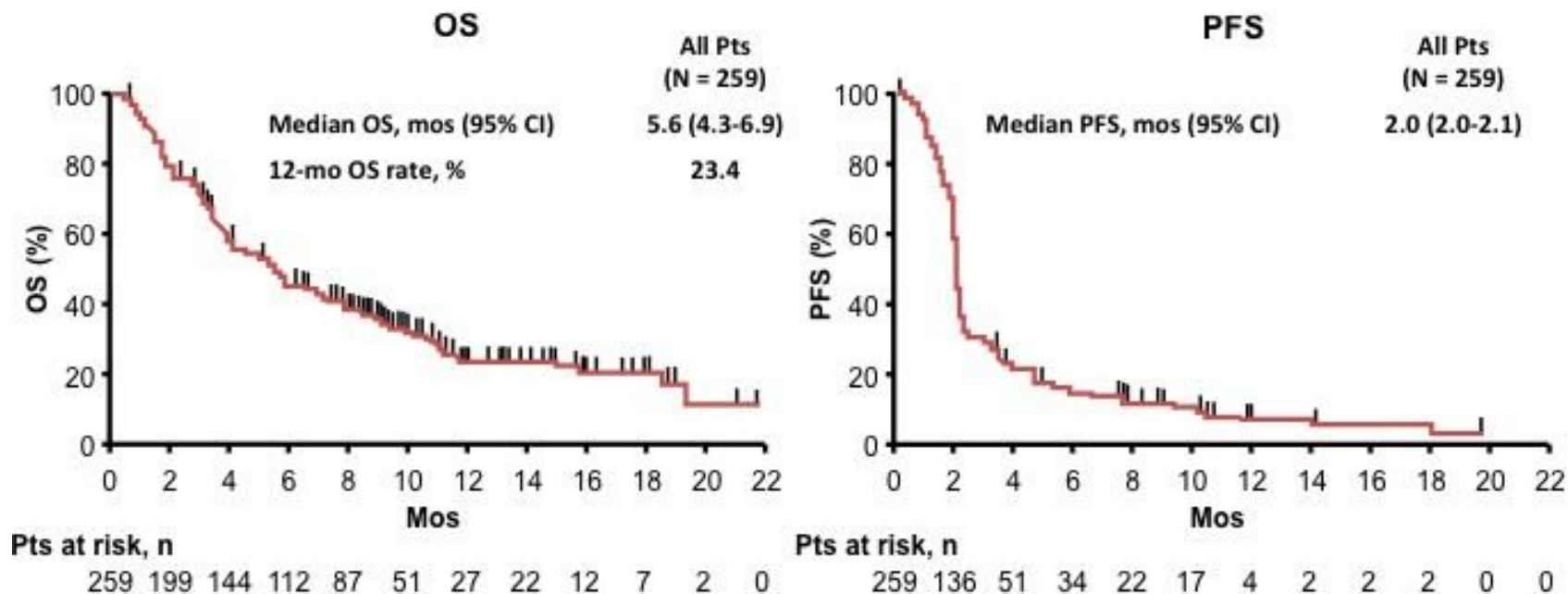
Fuchs CS, et al. JAMA Oncology 2018.



# Third line treatment and beyond... Pembrolizumab

JAMA Oncology | Original Investigation

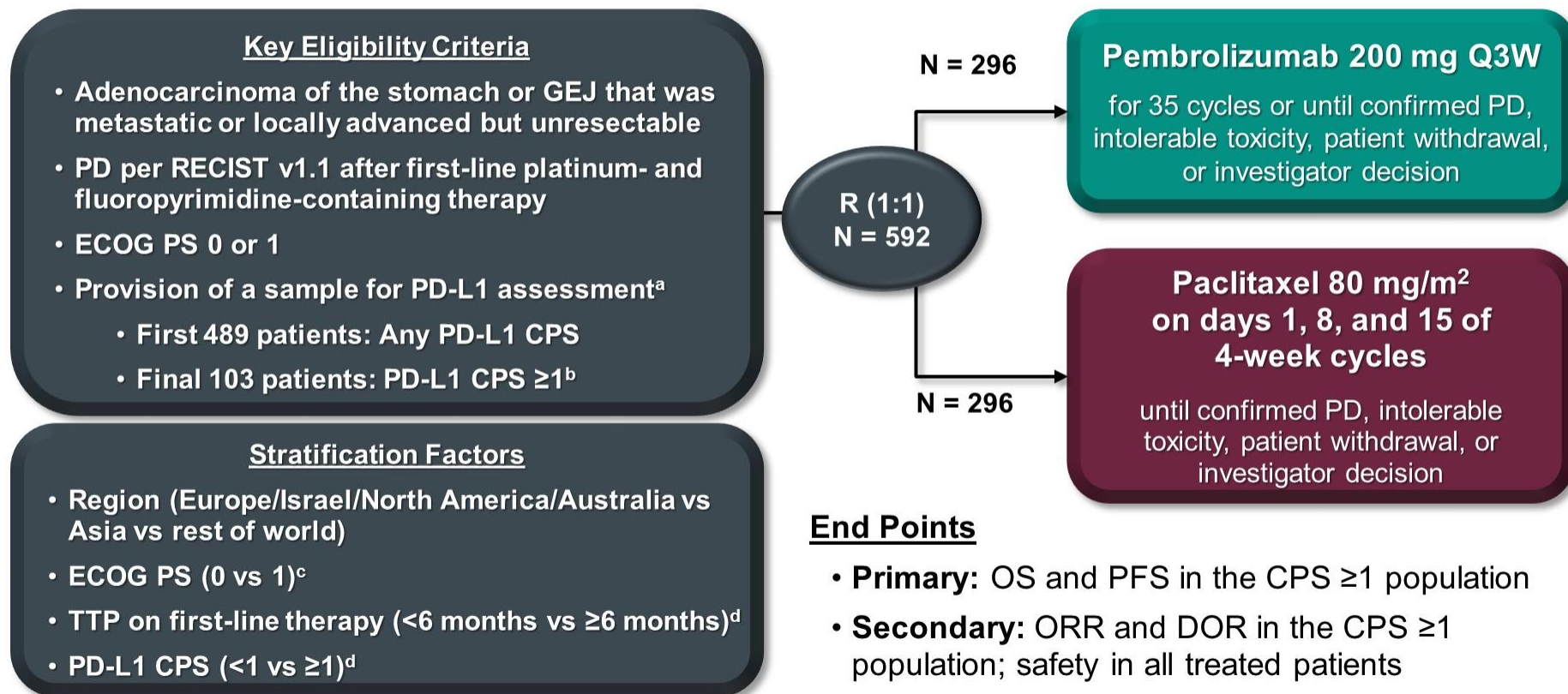
## Safety and Efficacy of Pembrolizumab Monotherapy in Patients With Previously Treated Advanced Gastric and Gastroesophageal Junction Cancer Phase 2 Clinical KEYNOTE-059 Trial



| Objective Responses<br>% (95% CI) | % (N = 259)      |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| ORR                               | 11.6 (8.0-16.1)  |
| CR                                | 2.3 (0.9-5.0)    |
| PR                                | 9.3 (6.0-13.5)   |
| ED/NC                             | 16.2 (11.9-21.3) |
| PD                                | 56.0 (49.7-62.1) |

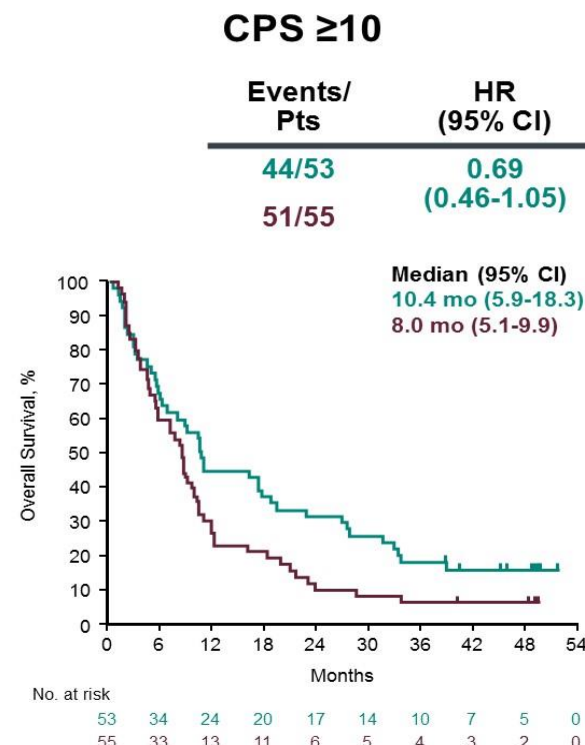
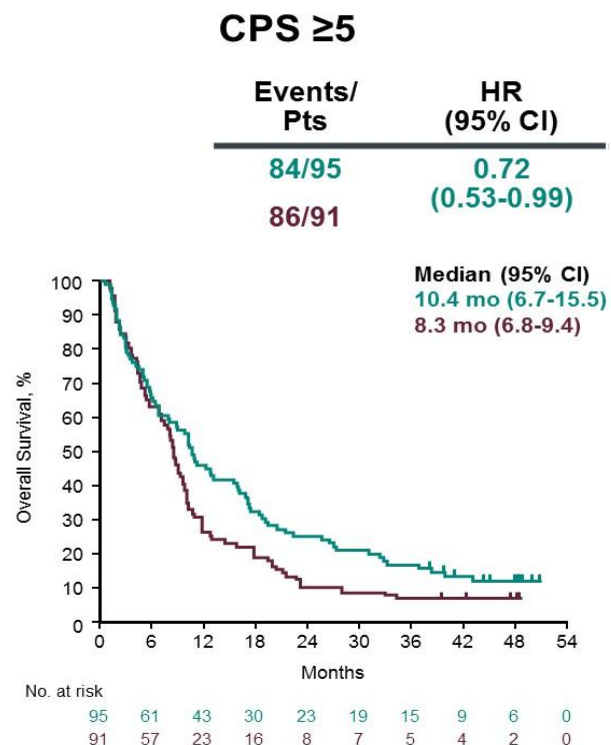
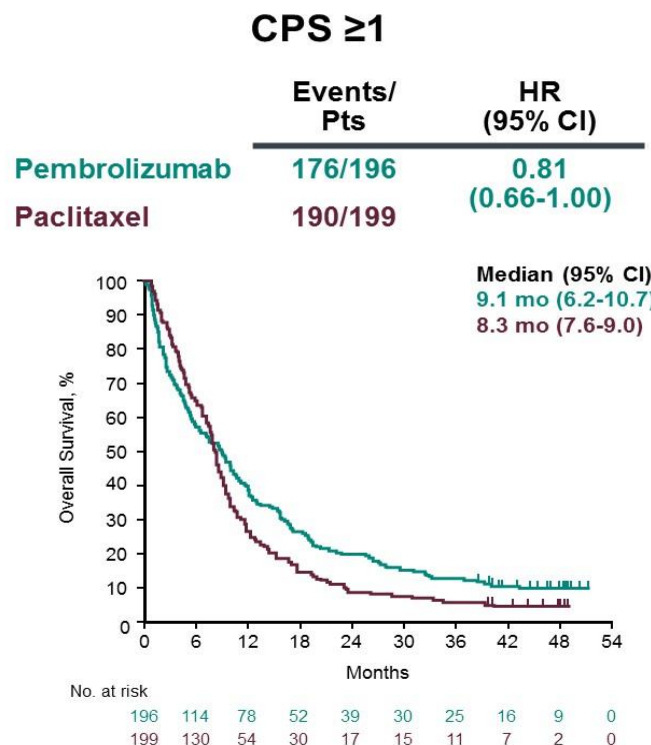


# KEYNOTE-061 Study Design (NCT02370498)



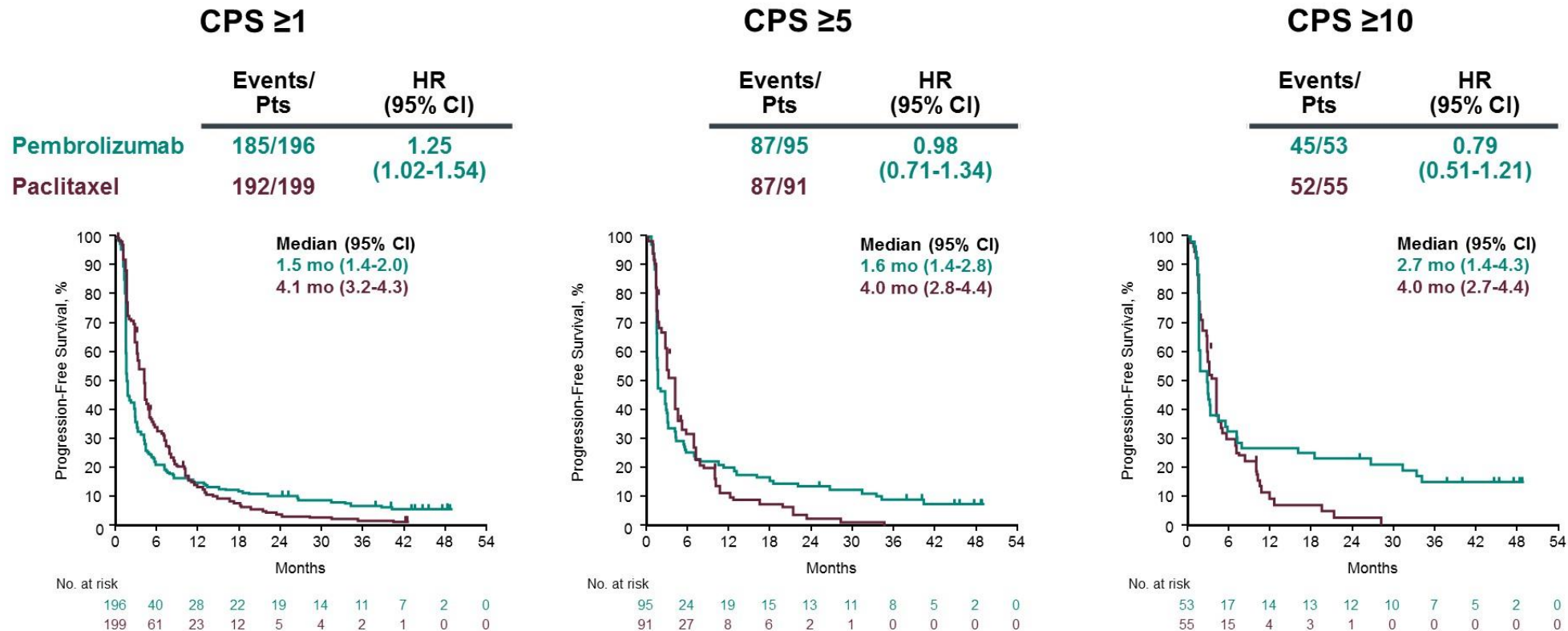
<sup>a</sup>PD-L1 was assessed using the PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx assay (Agilent). Measured as CPS, defined as the number of PD-L1-positive cells (tumor cells, lymphocytes, and macrophages) divided by the total number of tumor cells  $\times 100$ . <sup>b</sup>At the recommendation of the independent external monitoring committee. <sup>c</sup>First 125 patients only. <sup>d</sup>Final 467 patients only.

# Overall Survival by CPS



Data cutoff date: Oct 7, 2019.

# Progression-Free Survival by CPS



Data cutoff date: Oct 7, 2019.

# Pembrolizumab in Advanced Gastric or Gastro-esophageal Cancer

- Accelerated approval of pembrolizumab monotherapy as third- or later- line therapy was based on the Phase II KEYNOTE-059 study
  - ORR: 11.6% (all patients); 15.5% (PD-L1-positive); 57% (MSI-high)
- Phase III KEYNOTE-061 trial of pembrolizumab versus paclitaxel as second-line therapy did not meet its primary endpoint of OS in patients with CPS  $\geq 1$ 
  - Median OS: Pembrolizumab 9.1 mo, paclitaxel 8.3 mo (HR 0.82;  $p = 0.042$ )

# Third line treatment and beyond... Nivolumab

A phase III study (ATTRACTION-2)

## Study objective

- To evaluate the long-term efficacy and safety of nivolumab in patients with previously treated advanced Gastric or GEJ cancer

### Key patient inclusion criteria

- Unresectable, advanced or recurrent Gastric or GEJ cancer
  - Refractory to or intolerant to  $\geq 2$  standard therapy regimens
  - ECOG PS 0–1
- (n=493)

R  
2:1

Nivolumab 3 mg/kg iv  
q2w  
(n=330)

PD

### Stratification

- Country (Japan vs. S. Korea vs. Taiwan)
- ECOG PS (0 vs. 1)
- No. of organs with metastases (<2 vs.  $\geq 2$ )

Placebo q2w  
(n=163)

PD

## PRIMARY ENDPOINT

- OS

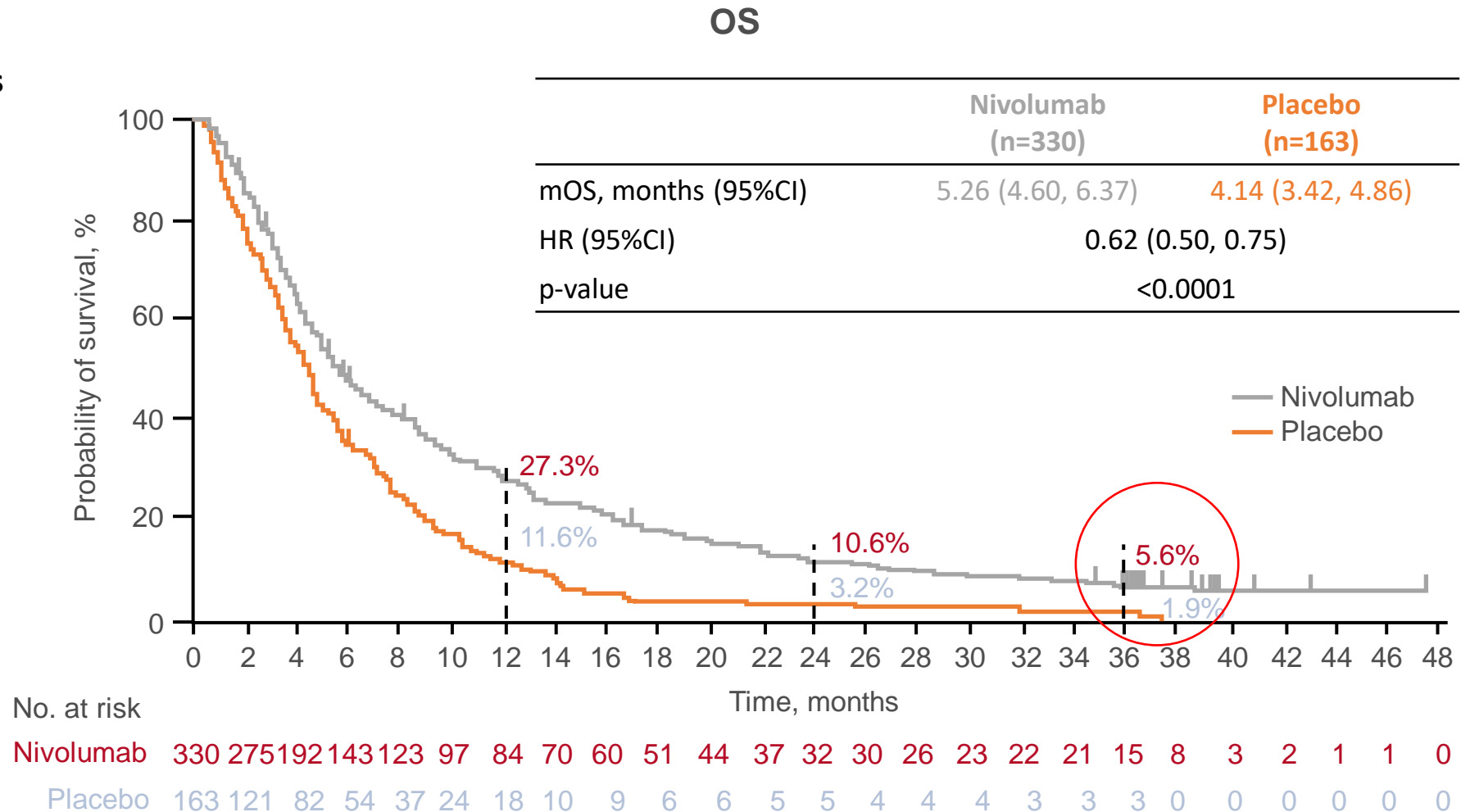
## SECONDARY ENDPOINTS

- PFS, BOR, ORR, TTR, DoR, DCR, safety

# Third line treatment and beyond... Nivolumab

A phase III study (ATTRACTION-2)

## Key results

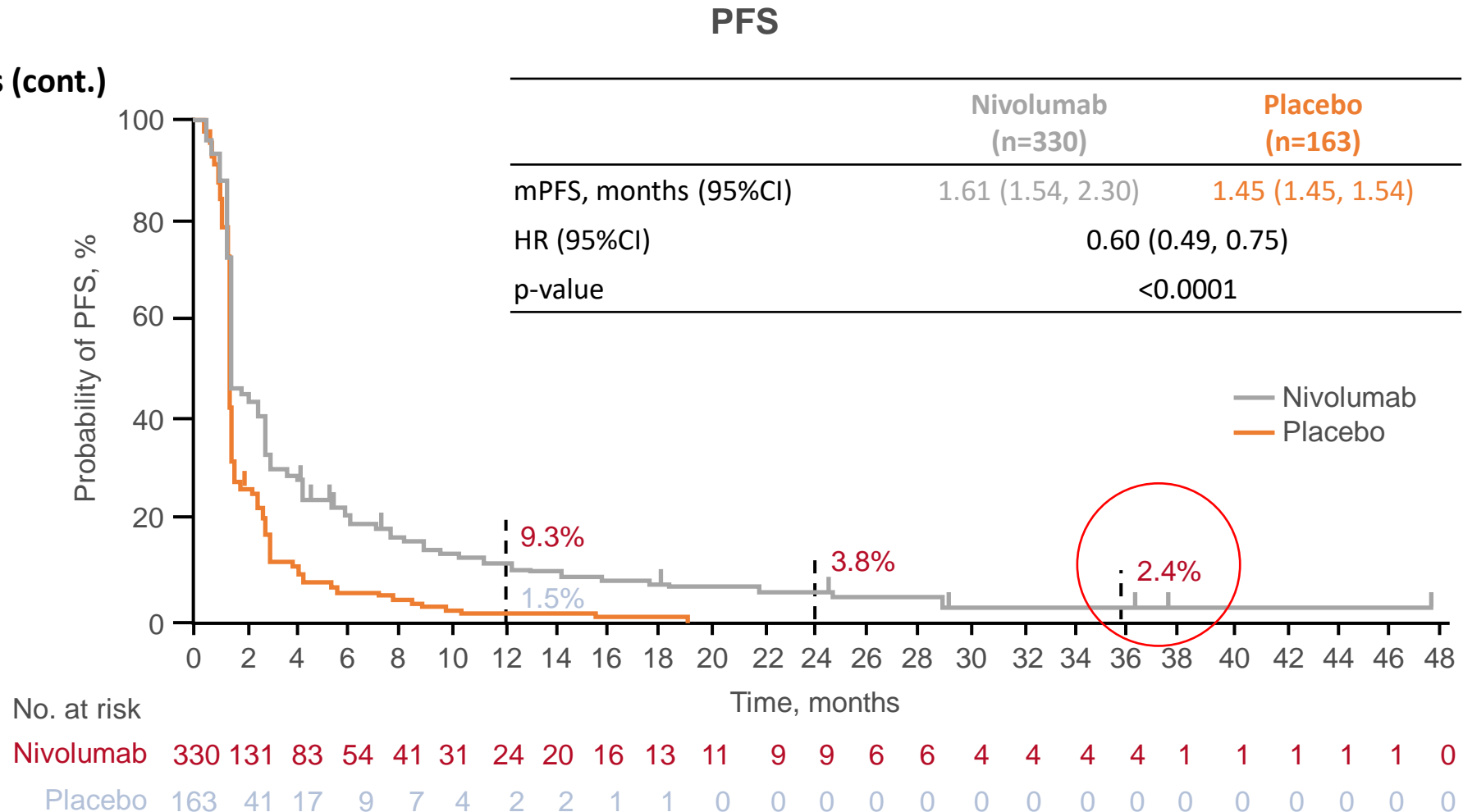




# Third line treatment and beyond... Nivolumab

A phase III study (ATTRACTION-2)

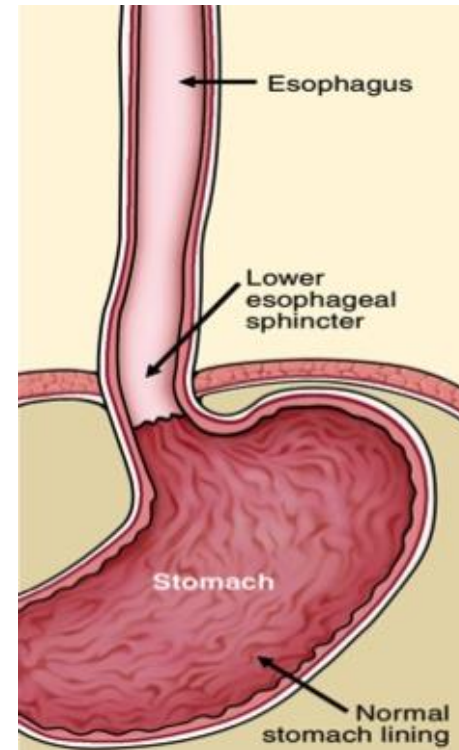
## Key results (cont.)



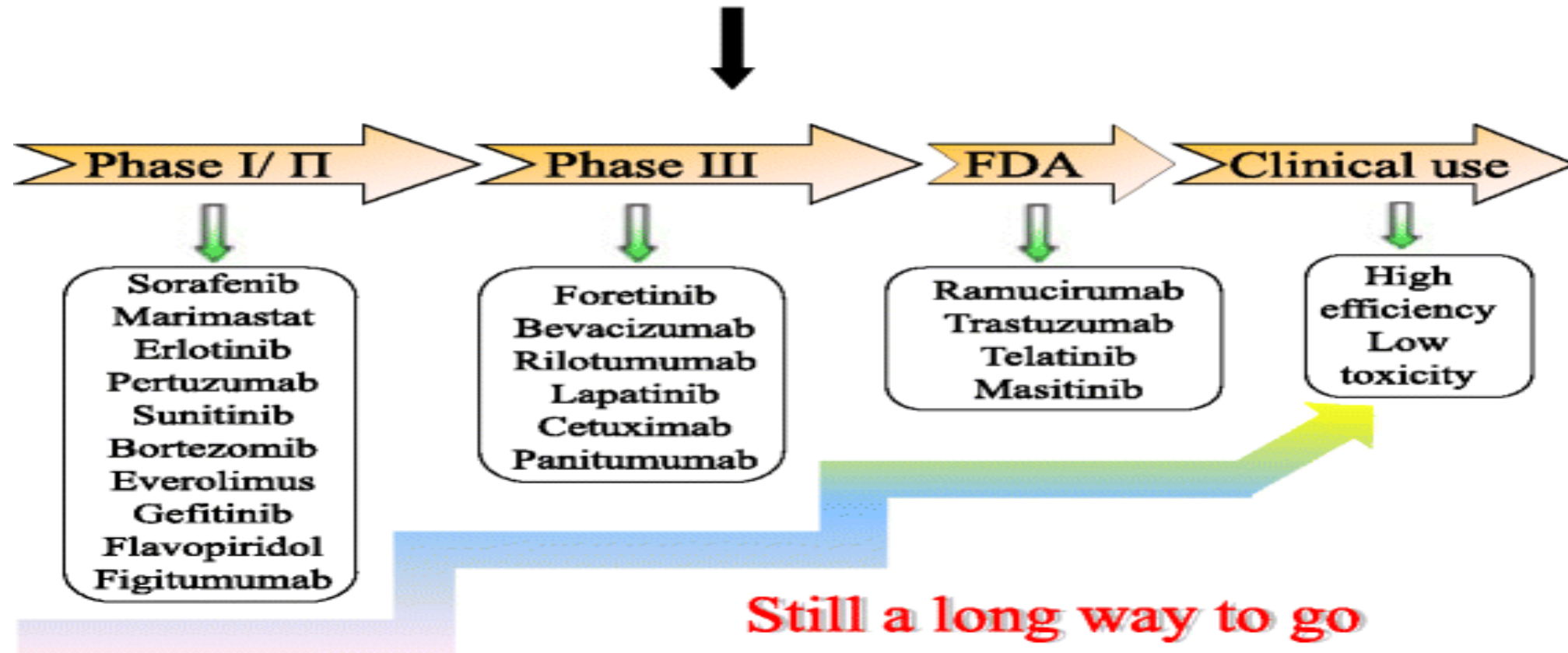
# Other targets in Gastric Cancer

## ❖ Other targets

- EGFR
- mTOR
- cMET
- FGFR
- Claudine
- Stemcell: STAT3
- MMP9
- PARP
- .....



## Molecular targeted agents for gastric cancer



# Select Ongoing Biomarker-Based Trials in Gastric, GEJ, and Esophageal Cancers

| Biomarker  | Phase (NCT)                | Population                            | Planned N | Agents and Comparisons  |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| PD-L1/PD-1   | III (NCT02494583)          | Gastric/GEJ cancer (first line)       | 763       | Pembrolizumab vs pembrolizumab + SoC chemo vs placebo + SoC chemo   |
|  | III (NCT04342910)          | Gastric/GEJ cancer (second line)      | 550       | Camrelizumab + afatinib vs paclitaxel or irinotecan   |
| HER2 overexpression and HER2/neu (ERBB2) amplification | Phase III (NCT03615326)    | Gastric/GEJ cancer (first line)       | 732       | Trastuzumab + chemo + pembrolizumab vs trastuzumab + chemo + placebo  |
|  | Phase II/III (NCT04082364) | Gastric/GEJ cancer (first line)       | 850       | Cohort A: Margetuximab + MGA012;<br>Cohort B: Margetuximab + MGA012 + chemo vs margetuzimab + MGD013 + chemo vs margetuzimab + chemo vs trastuzumab + chemo |
| EGFR overexpression                                    | II (NCT03400592)           | Gastric cancer (second line)          | 55        | Nimotuzumab + irinotecan  |
| Claudin 18.2   | III (NCT03504397)          | Gastric/GEJ cancer (first line)       | 550       | Zolbetuzimab + mFOLFOX6 vs placebo + mFOLFOX6   |
| FGFR2  | III (NCT03694522)          | Gastric cancer (first line)           | 548       | Bemarituzumab + mFOLFOX6 vs placebo + mFOLFOX6  |
| FGFR   | II (NCT01719549)           | Gastric cancer (second or third line) | 19        | Dovitinib   |

# Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab in patients with advanced gastric cancer in the first-line or second-line setting (EPOC1706): an open-label, single-arm, phase 2 trial



Akihito Kawazoe\*, Shota Fukuoka\*, Yoshiaki Nakamura, Yasutoshi Kuboki, Masashi Wakabayashi, Shogo Nomura, Yuichi Mikamoto, Hikari Shima, Noriko Fujishiro, Tsukiko Higuchi, Akihiro Sato, Takeshi Kuwata, Kohei Shitara

## Summary

**Background** Pembrolizumab, an anti-PD-1 antibody, results in tumour response in around 15% of patients with advanced gastric cancer who have a PD-L1 combined positive score of at least 1. Lenvatinib, a multikinase inhibitor of VEGF receptors and other receptor tyrosine kinases, substantially decreased tumour-associated macrophages and increased infiltration of CD8 T cells, resulting in enhanced anti-tumour activity of PD-1 inhibitors in an in-vivo model. We aimed to assess the combination of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab in patients with advanced gastric cancer in a phase 2 study.

**Methods** This study was an open-label, single-arm, phase 2 trial undertaken at the National Cancer Center Hospital East (Chiba, Japan). Eligible patients were aged 20 years or older and had metastatic or recurrent adenocarcinoma of the stomach or gastro-oesophageal junction, an Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status of 0 or 1, and measurable disease according to the Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors (RECIST version 1.1), irrespective of the number of previous lines of treatment. Patients received 20 mg oral lenvatinib daily plus 200 mg intravenous pembrolizumab every 3 weeks until disease progression, development of intolerable toxicity, or withdrawal of consent. The primary endpoint was objective response rate according to RECIST, analysed in all patients who were eligible and received protocol treatment at least once. The safety analysis included all those who received protocol treatment at least once, regardless of eligibility. This study is registered at ClinicalTrials.gov, NCT03609359, and enrolment is complete.

**Findings** Between Oct 15, 2018, and March 25, 2019, 29 patients were enrolled in the first-line or second-line settings. At data cutoff (March 20, 2020), the median follow-up was 12·6 months (IQR 10·5–14·3). 20 (69%, 95% CI 49–85) of 29 patients had an objective response. The most common grade 3 treatment-related adverse events were hypertension (in 11 [38%] patients), proteinuria (five [17%]), and platelet count decrease (two [7%]). No grade 4 treatment-related adverse events, serious treatment-related adverse events, or treatment-related deaths occurred.

**Interpretation** Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab showed promising anti-tumour activity with an acceptable safety profile in patients with advanced gastric cancer. On the basis of these results, a confirmatory trial will be planned in the future.

- To Conclude...



## Validated Targets in GC

- HER2 (ToGA trial of Trastuzumab + Chemotherapy)
- VEGF (REGARD, RAINBOW trials with Ramucirumab)
- Checkpoint inhibitors (KEYNOTE -059 & ATTRACTION-2)

## GC: Markers Negative

- 1<sup>st</sup> Line: Doublet chemo preferably (5FU or Cape/Platinum)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Line: Ramucirumab + Paclitaxel/ Ramucirumab
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Line: Dealer's choice - TAS-102, Irinotecan , Apatinib, IO...

## GC: HER2+

- 1<sup>st</sup> Line: Doublet chemo (5FU OR Cape/Platinum) + **Trastuzumab**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Line: Ramucirumab + Paclitaxel/ Ramucirumab/New drug
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Line: Dealer's choice

## GC: MSI-H

- 1<sup>st</sup> Line: Doublet chemo (5FU/platinum)/ IO
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Line: IO
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Line: Dealer's choice including IO

## GC: PD-L1 > 10 CPS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Line: Doublet chemo (5FU/platinum)/ IO
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Line: IO
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Line: Dealer's choice including IO

