

# **Issues in sarcoma**

## **The treatment of uterine sarcomas**

Peter Reichardt  
HELIOS Klinikum Berlin-Buch  
Sarcoma Center Berlin-Brandenburg  
Germany

# Disclosure slide

## 1. Employment or Leadership Position

no

## 2. Consultant or Advisory Role

Novartis, Pfizer, Bayer, MSD, PharmaMar, Infinity

## 3. Stock Ownership

no

## 4. Honoraria

Novartis, Pfizer, Bayer, MSD, PharmaMar, Amgen, Eisei, GlaxoSmithKline

## 5. Research Funding

Novartis

## 6. Expert Testimony

no

## 7. Other Remuneration

no

# Uterine sarcomas

- 3% of all uterine cancers
- 7% of all adult soft tissue sarcomas
- Leiomyosarcoma
- Endometrial stromal sarcoma
- Undifferentiated sarcoma
- Pure heterologous sarcomas
- Carziniosarcoma (mixed Mullerian tumor)
- Adenosarcoma (+/- sarcomatous overgrowth)

# Uterine sarcomas – FIGO staging (1)

Stage	Definition
	Leiomyosarcomas and endometrial stromal sarcomas
I	Tumor limited to uterus
IA	$\leq 5$ cm
IB	$> 5$ cm
II	Tumor extends beyond the uterus, within the pelvis
IIA	Adnexal involvement
IIB	Involvement of other pelvic tissues
III	Tumor invades abdominal tissues (not just protruding into the abdomen)
IIIA	One site
IIIB	More than one site
IIIC	Metastasis to pelvic and/or para-aortic lymph nodes
IV	
IVA	Tumor invades bladder and/or rectum
IVB	Distant metastasis

# Uterine sarcomas – FIGO staging (2)

## Adenosarcomas

I	Tumor limited to uterus
IA	Tumor limited to endometrium/endocervix with no myometrial invasion
IB	Less than or equal to half myometrial invasion
IC	More than half myometrial invasion
II	Tumor extends beyond the uterus, within the pelvis
IIA	Adnexal involvement
IIB	Tumor extends to extrauterine pelvic tissue
III	Tumor invades abdominal tissues (not just protruding into the abdomen)
IIIA	One site
IIIB	More than one site
IIIC	Metastasis to pelvic and/or para-aortic lymph nodes
IV	
IVA	Tumor invades bladder and/or rectum
IVB	Distant metastasis

## Carcinosarcomas

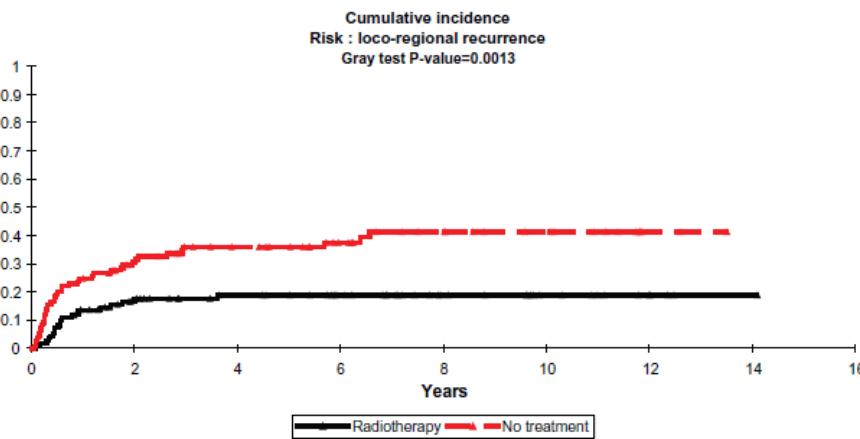
Carcinosarcomas should be staged as carcinomas of the endometrium

# Uterine sarcomas

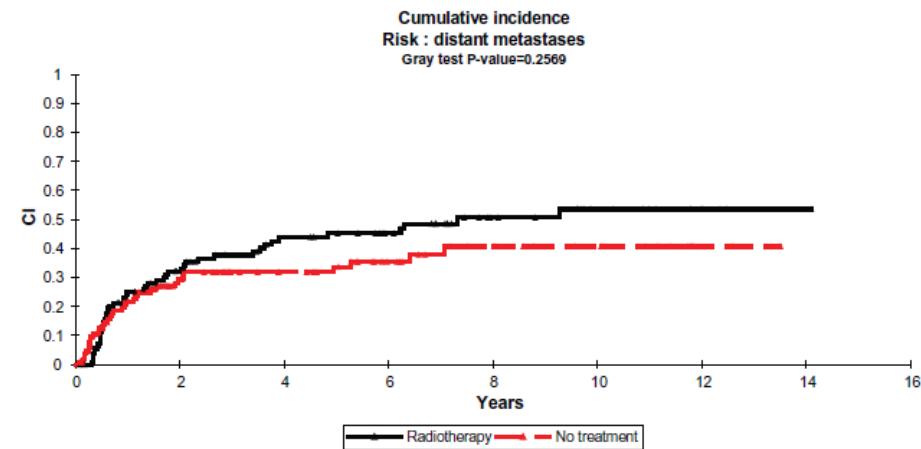
- Leiomyosarcoma
- most frequent uterine sarcoma (~40%)
- Local therapy:
  - total hysterectomy
  - bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy and LN dissection not recommended
- LN involvement in <3% of cases
- Hematogenous metastases, mostly in the lungs



Phase III randomised study to evaluate the role of adjuvant pelvic radiotherapy in the treatment of uterine sarcomas stages I and II: An European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer Gynaecological Cancer Group Study (protocol 55874)



# Leiomyosarcoma postoperative radiation



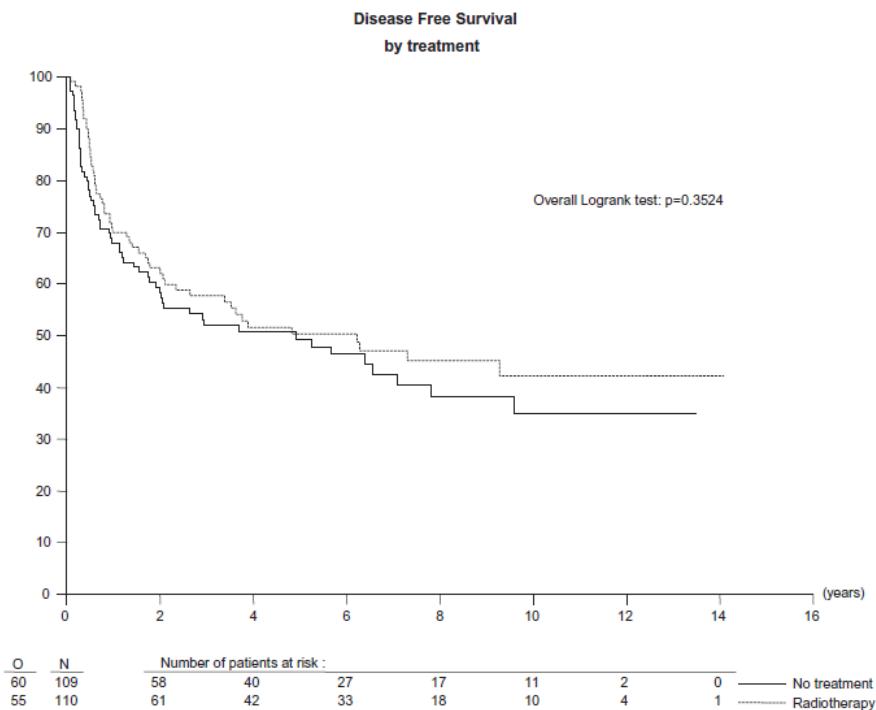
103 leiomyosarcomas, 91 carcinosarcomas and 28 endometrial stromal sarcomas.

Patients were randomised to either observation or pelvic radiation, 51 Gy in 28 fractions over 5 weeks.

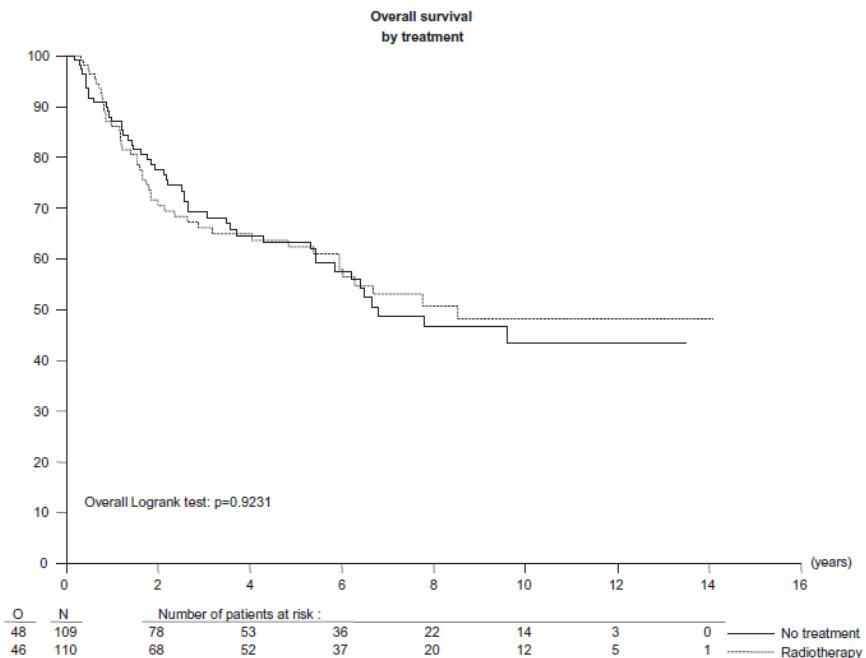
Reed NS et al., Eur J Cancer 2008



Phase III randomised study to evaluate the role of adjuvant pelvic radiotherapy in the treatment of uterine sarcomas stages I and II: An European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer Gynaecological Cancer Group Study (protocol 55874)



# Leiomyosarcoma postoperative radiation



# Adjuvant Chemotherapy in Soft Tissue Sarcomas 1973-1997

## Meta-analysis

14 Randomized Trials: 1568 Patients

Local RFI       $p = 0.016$       HR = 0.73 (0.56-0.94)

RFS               $p = 0.0001$       HR = 0.75 (0.64-0.87)

OS               $p = 0.12$       HR = 0.89 (0.76-1.03)

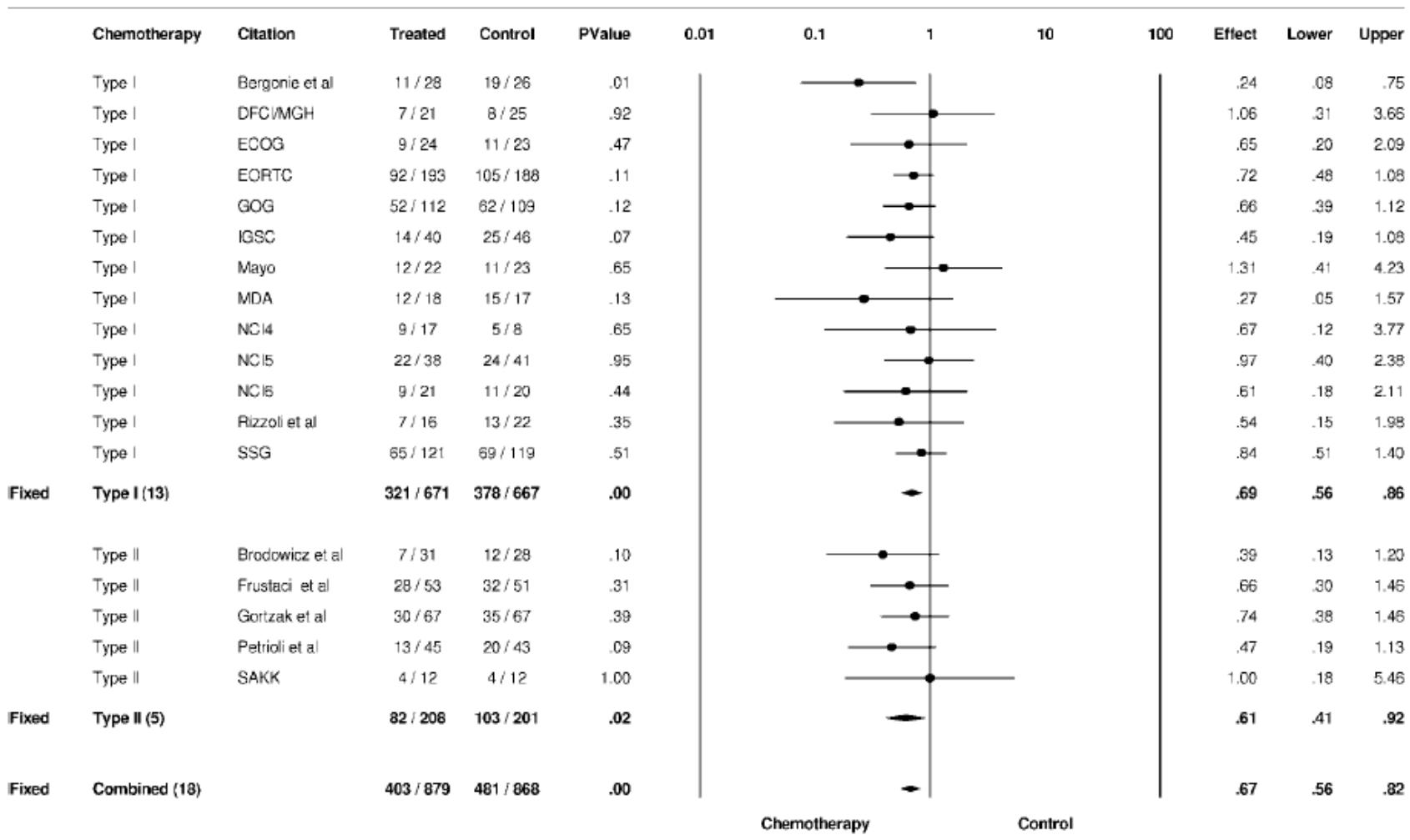
ASCO | Annual '09  
Meeting

Sarcoma Meta-analysis Collaboration, Lancet, 1997

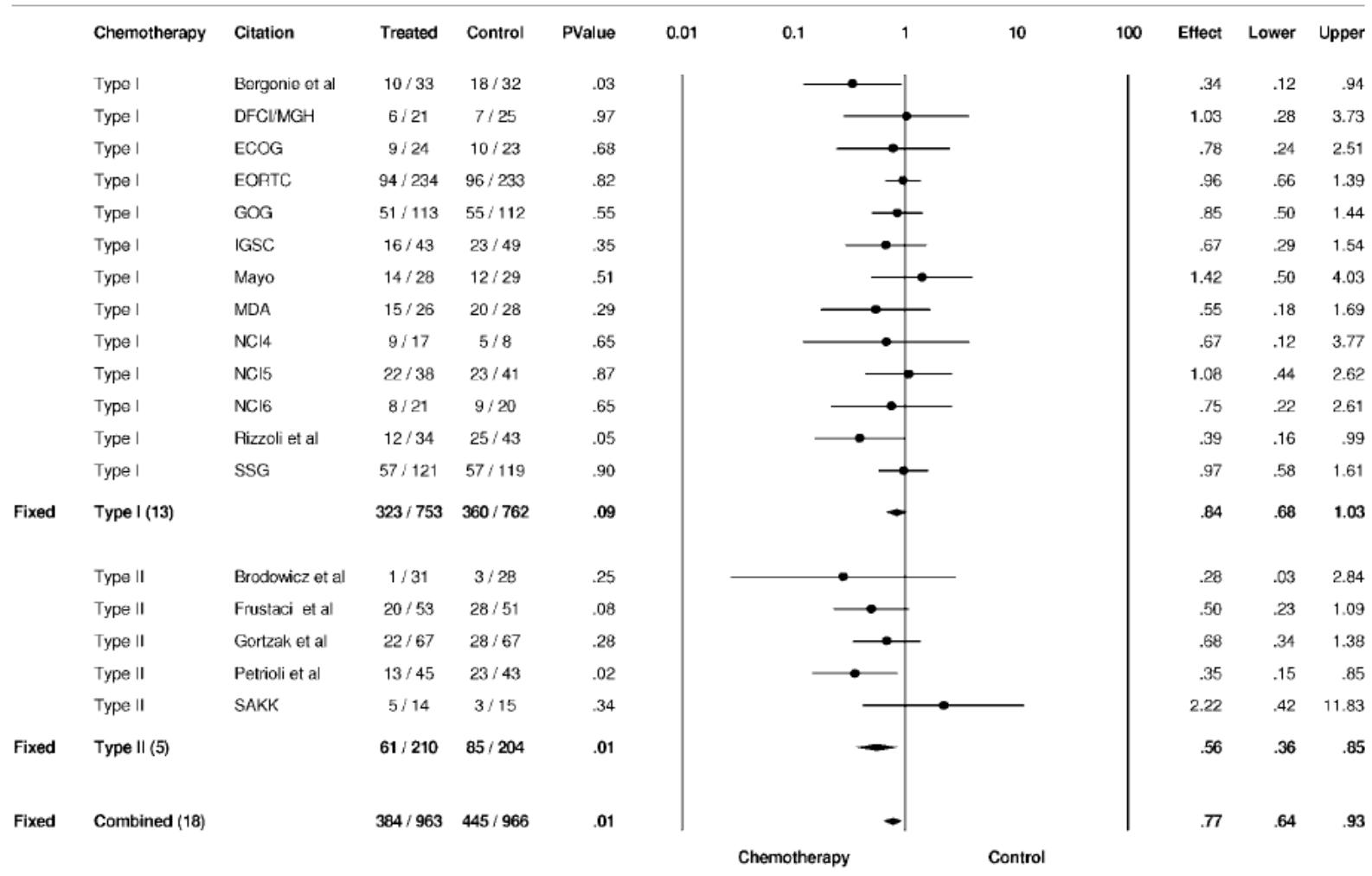
VIENNA  
2012 | ESMO congress

[www.esmo2012.org](http://www.esmo2012.org)

# Meta-analysis 2008 - RFS



# Meta-analysis 2008 - OS



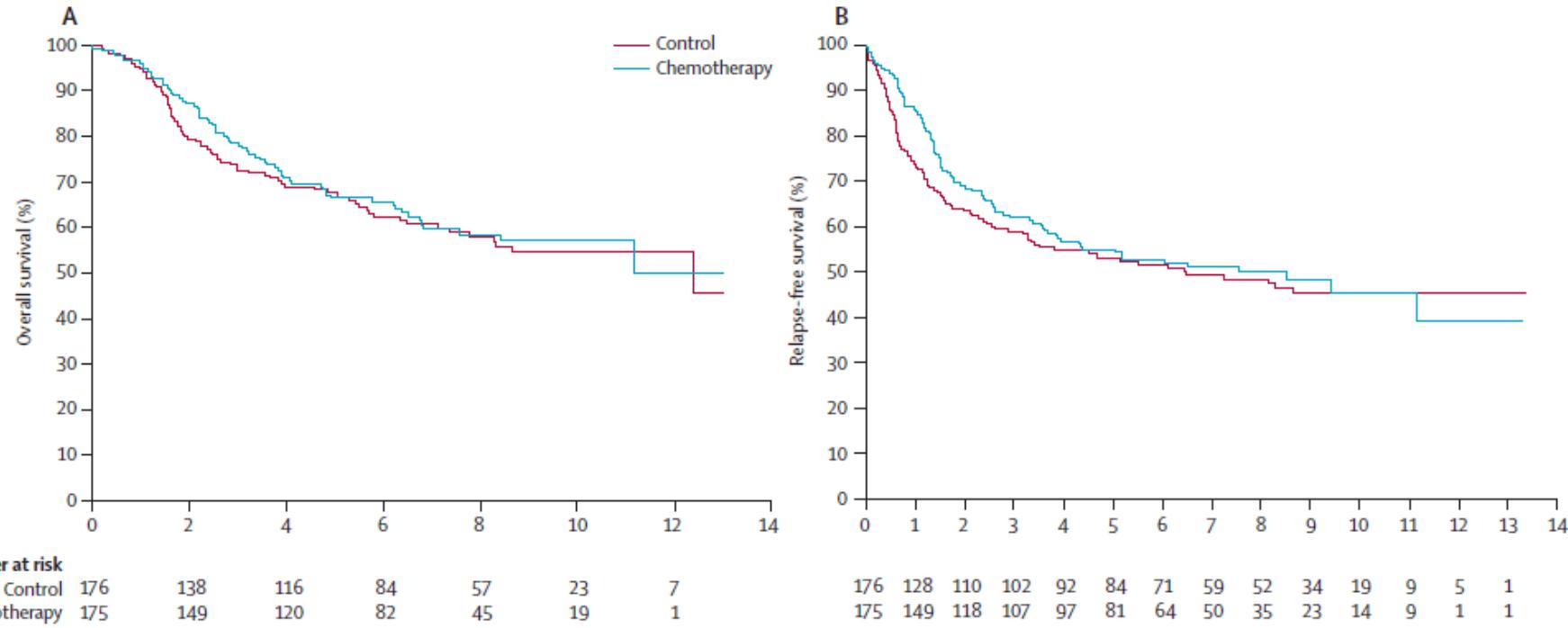
**Effect of adjuvant chemotherapy on survival in FNCLCC grade 3 soft tissue sarcomas: a multivariate analysis of the French Sarcoma Group Database**

# Soft tissue sarcoma adjuvant chemotherapy

- Retrospective analysis of 1.513 patients with localised soft tissue sarcoma
- Central review of histology and grading according FNCLCC system
- median follow-up 9 years
- Impact of adjuvant chemotherapy:
  - multivariat analysis shows a significant improvement in
    - 5-year MFS: 58 % vs 49 %, HR 0.7, p = 0.01
    - 5-year OS: 58 % vs 45 %, HR 0.6, p = 0.0002
  - for patients with grade 3 soft tissue sarcomas only
  - (no difference in patients with grade 2 soft tissue sarcomas)



# Soft tissue sarcoma adjuvant chemotherapy



**Interpretation** Adjuvant chemotherapy with doxorubicin and ifosfamide in resected soft-tissue sarcoma showed no benefit in relapse-free survival or overall survival. Future studies should focus on patients with larger, grade III, and extremity sarcomas.

# Uterine leiomyosarcoma – adjuvant chemotherapy

- Interesting phase II data



Adjuvant treatment of high risk uterine leiomyosarcoma with gemcitabine/docetaxel (GT), followed by doxorubicin (D): results of phase II multi-center trial  
SARC 005

ML Hensley, K Wathen, RG Maki, DM Araujo, G Sutton,  
DA Priebat, S George, LH Baker

*Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY; MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX; St Vincent Hosp and Health, Indianapolis, IN; Washington Hosp Ctr, Washington, DC; Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA; Univ of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI*

## Progression-Free Survival (n=47)

% of patients progression-free at 2 years	78.4%	95% confidence Interval	67-99%
Median Progression-Free Survival	39.3 months	Range	31.6 – not reached
Median Overall Survival	Not yet reached	Range	NA

- No randomised trial available, yet
- No standard, shared decision making

*Hensley et al., ASCO 2010, #10021*

# Uterine sarcomas

- Leiomyosarcoma
- Adjuvant therapy:
  - postoperative radiation not recommended
  - chemotherapy no standard, tested vs control in ongoing randomised trial

clinical practice guidelines

Annals of Oncology 23 (Supplement 7): vi692–vi699, 2012  
doi:10.1093/annonc/mds253

**Soft tissue and visceral sarcomas: ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up<sup>†</sup>**

The ESMO / European Sarcoma Network Working Group\*

# Uterine sarcomas

- Leiomyosarcoma
- Advanced disease:
  - chemotherapy
  - targeted therapy
  - hormonal treatment

# Chemotherapy in STS

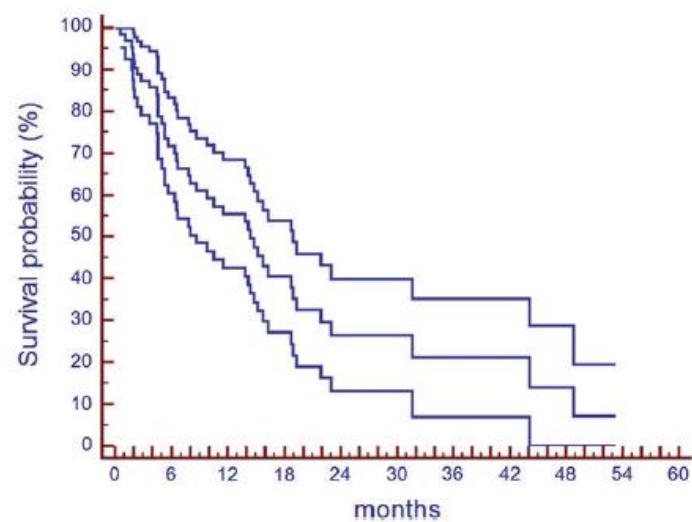
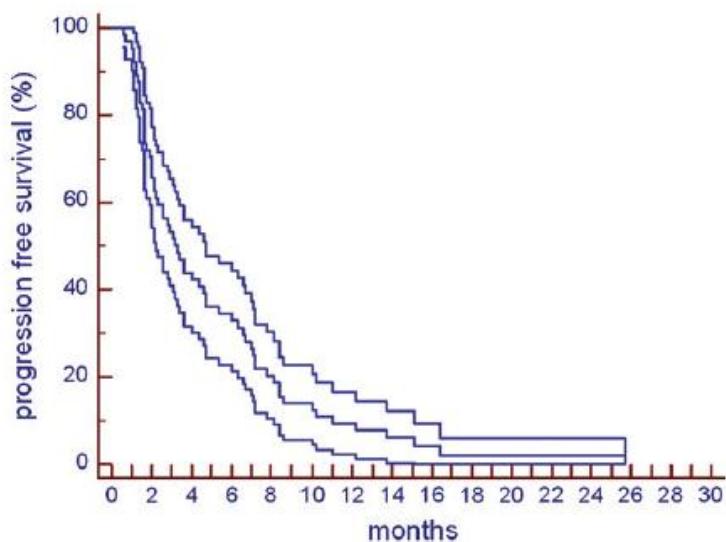
Active single agents:

- >20 % response rate:  
ifosfamide, doxorubicin, epirubicin
- <20 %: DTIC, *temozolomide*, *gemcitabine*,  
*docetaxel*, *trofosfamide*, trabectedin,  
pazopanib



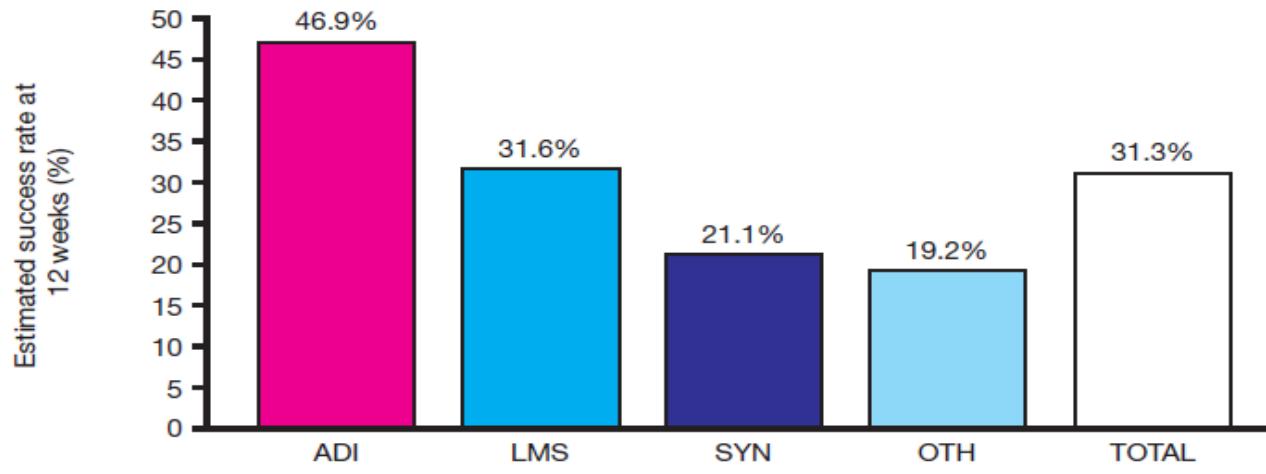
Trabectedin in advanced uterine leiomyosarcomas: A retrospective case series analysis from two reference centers<sup>☆</sup>

# Uterine leiomyosarcoma trabectedin



# Eribulin: PFR at 12 weeks

Figure 2. Success rate at 12 weeks after the start of therapy  
(efficacy population, N=115)



## Success rate

Number (n)	15	12	4	5	36
90% 1-sided CI	34.5, 100	21.6, 100	9.5, 100	9.7, 100	25.6, 100
90% 2-sided CI	29.1, 65.3	17.6, 48.7	6.1, 45.6	6.6, 39.4	22.9, 40.6

ADI, adiposytic sarcoma; LMS, leiomyosarcoma; SYN, synovial sarcoma; OTH, other type of sarcoma;  
CI, confidence interval

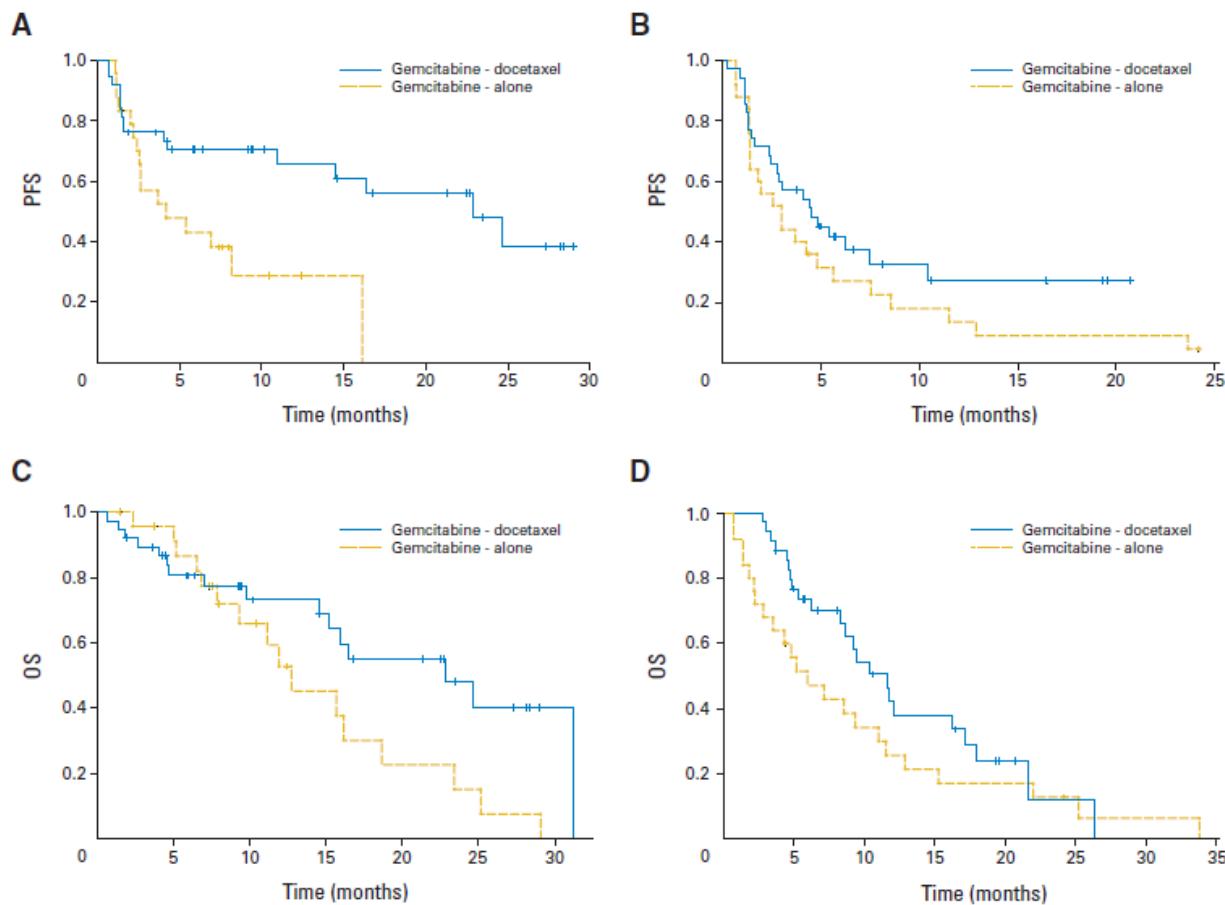
Schöffski et al; J Clin Oncol. 2010;28: Abstract 10031.

# Combination chemotherapy in STS

- combination of doxorubicin or epirubicin with ifosfamide  $\pm$  DTIC results in response rates of up to 50 % (appr. 10% CR)
- significantly higher response rate and progression-free survival compared to single agent therapy
- significantly higher toxicity
- no significant improvement of overall survival in first-line therapy so far (EORTC 62012: doxo vs. doxo / ifos pending)

Randomized Phase II Study of Gemcitabine and Docetaxel Compared With Gemcitabine Alone in Patients With Metastatic Soft Tissue Sarcomas: Results of Sarcoma Alliance for Research Through Collaboration Study 002

# Combination chemotherapy randomized trial



# Uterine leiomyosarcoma gemcitabine / docetaxel phase II trials

	N (non uterine)	prior therapy	RR
monocentric <sup>1</sup>	34 (5)	0-2	53%
multicentric <sup>2</sup>	42	0	36%
multicentric <sup>3</sup>	48	1	27%

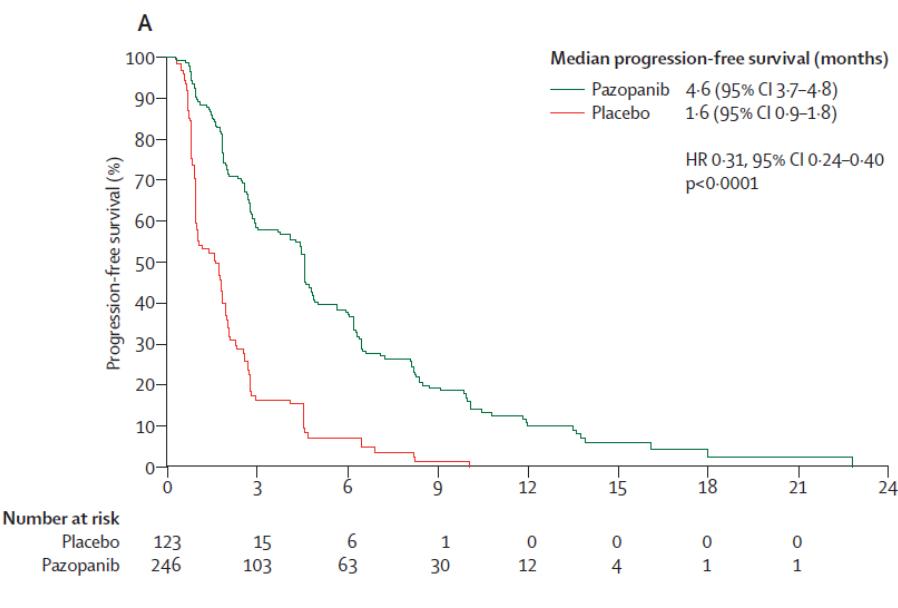
<sup>1</sup>Hensley ML et al., JCO 2002

<sup>2</sup>Hensley ML et al., Gynecol Oncol 2008

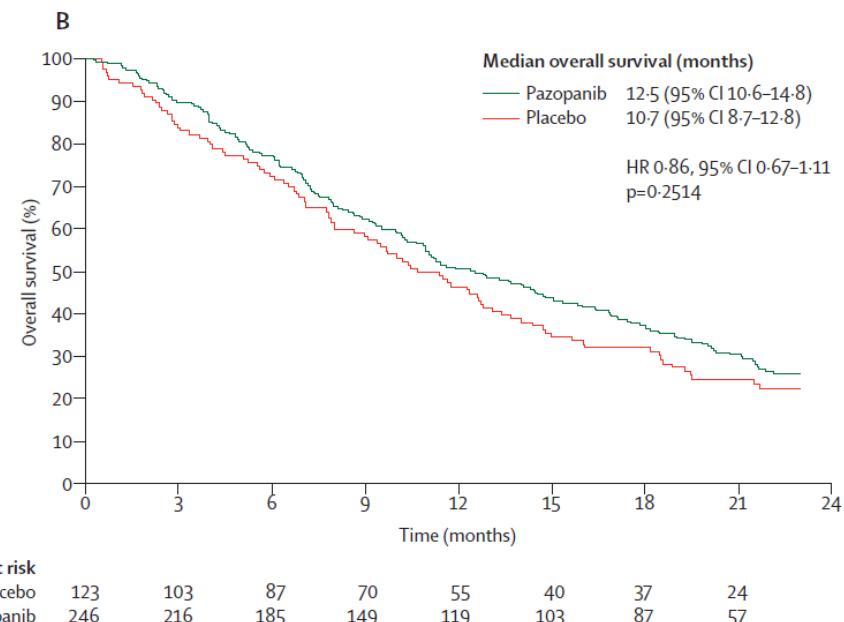
<sup>3</sup>Hensley ML et al., Gynecol Oncol 2008



Pazopanib for metastatic soft-tissue sarcoma (PALETTE):  
a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 3 trial



# Pazopanib in STS randomized trial



# Leiomyosarcoma targeted therapies

RR

Gem / Doce + Bevacizumab      11/25<sup>1</sup>

*Cave: toxicity, phase III ongoing*

Sunitinib                                2/23<sup>2</sup>

Sorafenib                                1/37<sup>3</sup>

Pazopanib                                1/41<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Verschraegen et al., JCO 2008 (abstract)

<sup>2</sup>Hensley ML et al., Gynecol Oncol 2009

<sup>3</sup>Maki RG et al., J Clin Oncol 2009

<sup>4</sup>Sleijfer S et al., J Clin Oncol 2009

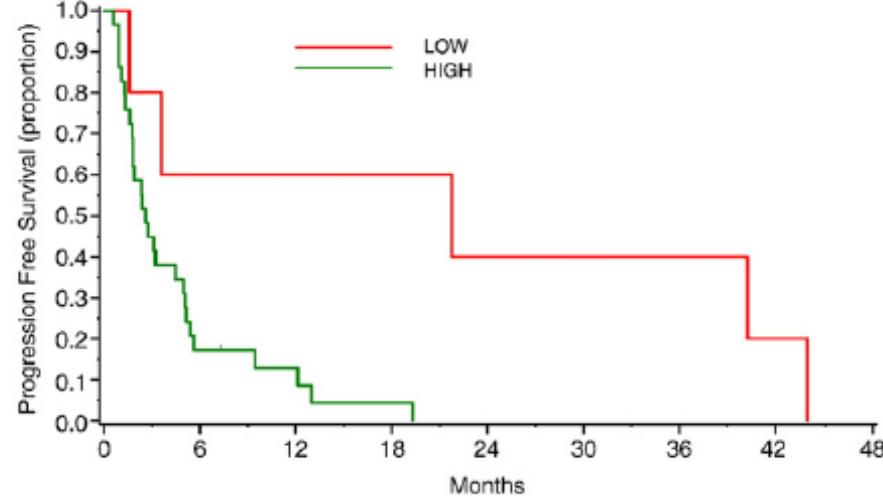
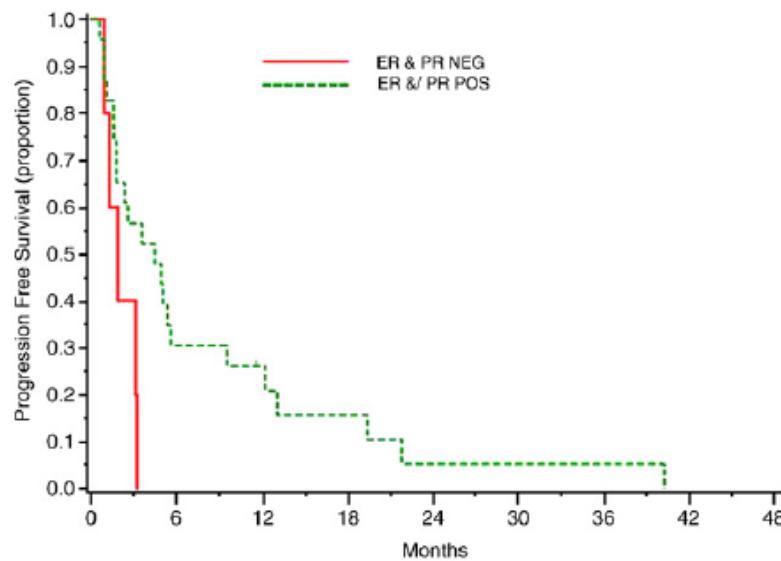
# Estrogen and progesteron receptor expression in uterine leiomyosarcoma

Author	Patients	ER+	PR+
Wade et al. [36]	16	60%	60%
Mittal et al. [38]	12	–	17%
Kitaoka et al. [39]	22	36%	36%
Leitao et al. [40]	25	40%	38%
Akhan et al. [41]	19	26%	37%
Bodner et al. [42]	21	57%	43%



# Uterine leiomyosarcoma hormonal therapy

Treatment of advanced uterine leiomyosarcoma with aromatase inhibitors



# Uterine Sarcomas

- Endometrial stromal sarcoma (ESS)
- 10 to 15% of all uterine sarcomas
- Local therapy:
  - total hysterectomy
  - bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy recommended (no randomized data)
  - postoperative radiation results in reduction of local recurrence rate (not recommended due to lack of OS improvement)
- Generally hormonal responsive



Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

SCIENCE @ DIRECT<sup>®</sup>

Gynecologic Oncology xx (2005) xxx – xxx

Gynecologic  
Oncology  
[www.elsevier.com/locate/gyno](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/gyno)

# Endometrial stromal sarcoma hormonal therapy

Harm or benefit of hormonal treatment in metastatic low-grade endometrial stromal sarcoma: Single center experience with 10 cases and review of the literature

Daniel Pink <sup>a</sup>, Tanja Lindner <sup>a</sup>, Alicia Mrozek <sup>a</sup>, Albrecht Kretzschmar <sup>a</sup>,  
Peter C. Thuss-Patience <sup>b</sup>, Bernd Dörken <sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Peter Reichardt <sup>a,b,\*</sup>

- Patients with a history of ESS must not be treated with estrogens or tamoxifen
- Withdrawal can result in disease stabilization
- Medroxyprogesterone acetate (2/3) and aromatase inhibitors, in particular (4/5) lead to sustained disease control in most cases
- NCCN guidelines recommend adjuvant hormonal therapy in stages II-IV (no randomized data)

Pink D et al., *Gynecol Oncol* 2005

[http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/uterine.pdf](http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/uterine.pdf)

# Uterine Sarcomas

- Undifferentiated sarcoma
- Pure heterologous sarcomas
- 5 to 10% of all uterine sarcomas
- Local therapy:
  - total hysterectomy
  - bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy and dissection of pelvic and para-aortal LN not recommended
- Treatment according recommendations for adult soft tissue sarcomas

# Uterine Sarcomas

- Carzinosisarcoma (mixed Mullerian tumor)
- ~40% of all uterine sarcomas
- Local therapy:
  - total hysterectomy
  - bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy
  - dissection of pelvic and para-aortal LN (diagnostic +, design postoperative treatment +, impact on OS ?)
- Dedifferentiated or metaplastic endometrial carcinoma

# Uterine Sarcomas

- Carzinosarcoma (mixed Mullerian tumor)
- Adjuvant therapy
  - Chemotherapy:
    - lower mortality rate with 3 cycles of cisplatin / ifosfamide compared to radiation<sup>1</sup>
    - superior PFS and OS with carboplatin / paclitaxel compared to radiation alone<sup>2</sup>
    - Ongoing trial: ifosfamide / paclitaxel vs carboplatin / paclitaxel<sup>3</sup>
  - Pelvic radiation:
    - improved local control, no benefit in PFS and OS<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Wolfson AH et al., *Gynecol Oncol* 2007

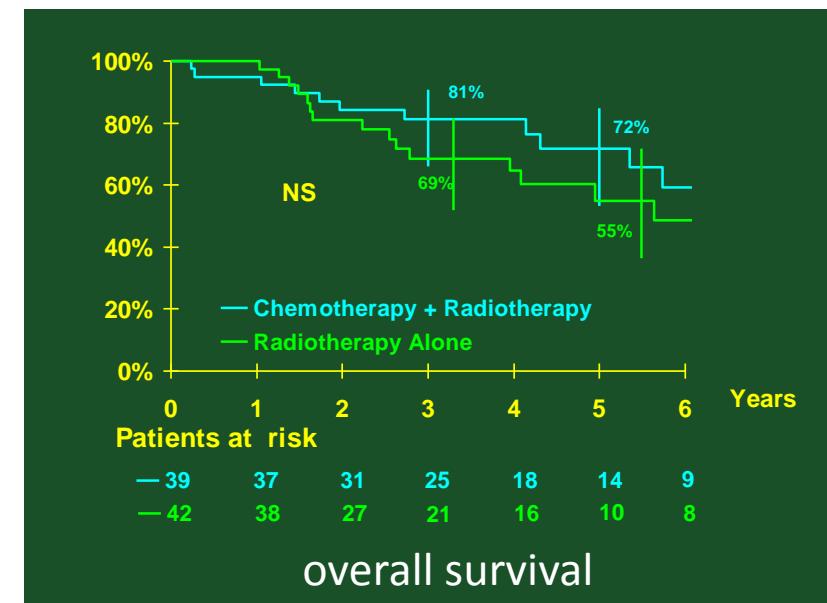
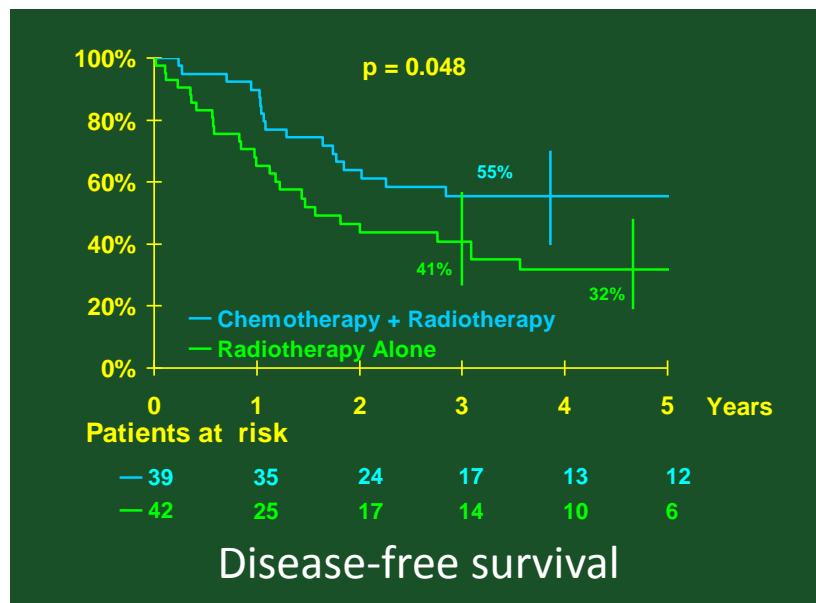
<sup>2</sup>Makker V et al., *Gynecol Oncol* 2008

<sup>3</sup>ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT00954174

<sup>4</sup>Reed NS et al., *Eur J Cancer* 2008

# A randomized clinical trial of adjuvant chemotherapy with doxorubicin, ifosfamide, and cisplatin in localized uterine sarcomas. Results on 81 patients

- Patients with FIGO stage  $\leq$ III after complete surgery
- Stratification carcinosarcoma vs. others
- Pelvic radiation with 45 Gy, brachytherapy optional
- Chemotherapy: doxorubicin, ifosfamide, cisplatin
- 2 toxic deaths
- Trial stopped due to low recruitment



# Uterine Sarcomas

- Carzinosarcoma (mixed Mullerian tumor)
- Advanced disease

Single agent chemotherapy:

- cisplatin (18-42%), ifosfamide (18-32%), paclitaxel (18%), topotecan (10%)

Combination chemotherapy:

- cisplatin / ifosfamide vs ifosfamide                54 vs. 36%<sup>1</sup>
- paclitaxel / ifosfamide vs ifosfamide                45 vs. 29%<sup>2</sup>
- paclitaxel / carboplatin                                54%<sup>3</sup>

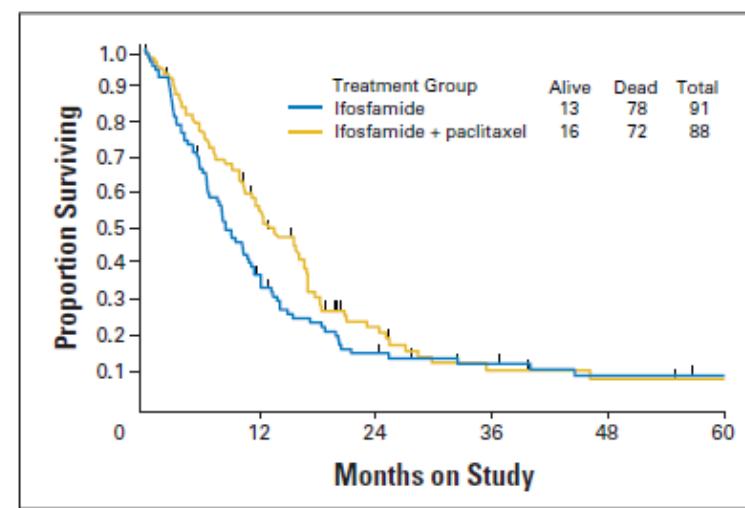
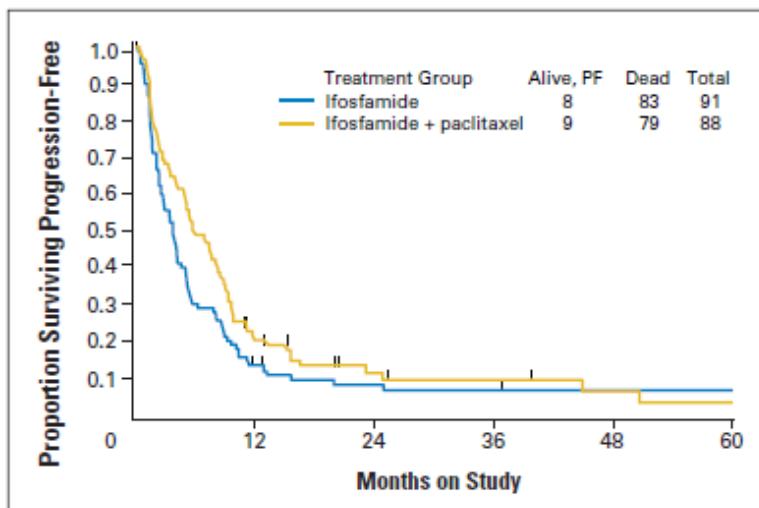
<sup>1</sup>Sutton G et al., *Gynecol Oncol* 2000

<sup>2</sup>Homesley HD et al., *J Clin Oncol* 2007

<sup>3</sup>Powell MA et al., *J Clin Oncol* 2010

Phase III Trial of Ifosfamide With or Without Paclitaxel in Advanced Uterine Carcinosarcoma: A Gynecologic Oncology Group Study

# Carcinosarcoma randomized trial



# Uterine Sarcomas

- Adenosarcoma (+/- sarcomatous overgrowth)
- Local therapy:
  - total hysterectomy
  - (bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy ?)
  - (dissection of pelvic and para-aortal LN ?)
- Sometimes atypical but benign epithelial component + low grade sarcoma (ESS)
- Sarcomatous overgrowth >25% high-grade sarcoma

# Uterine Sarcomas

- Adenosarcoma (+/- sarcomatous overgrowth)
- Systemic therapy:
  - adenosarcoma
    - no adjuvant treatment
    - hormonal therapy may be an option in advanced or recurrent disease
  - sarcomatous overgrowth
    - according recommendations for adult high-grade soft tissue sarcomas