

# ADVANCED HEPATOMA

## Sequence of therapies

CLINICAL CASE DISCUSSION

**Arndt Vogel**

Klinik für Gastroenterologie, Hepatologie & Endokrinologie  
Medizinischen Hochschule Hannover (MHH), Hannover

Germany

[esmo.org](http://esmo.org)

# DISCLOSURE

Speaker, consultancy and advisory role:

Roche, Bayer, Sanofi, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Lilly, Novartis,  
EISAI, AstraZeneca, Merck, Incyte, Medac, Ipsen, Servier,  
Pierre Fabre, Merck Sharp & Dohme, BTG, Janssen

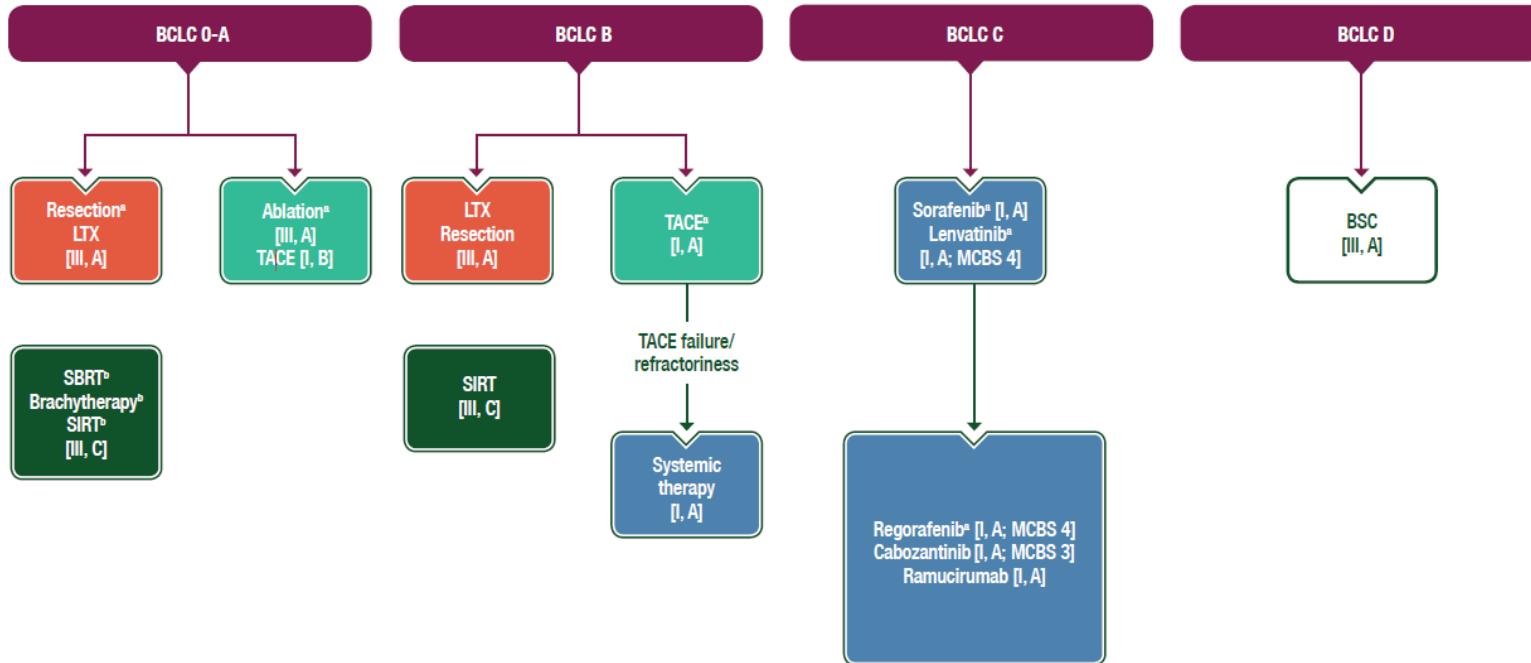
Research funding:

Servier

Commercial medical education provider:

OncLive

# Treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma



Vogel et al. 2018, Annals of Oncology

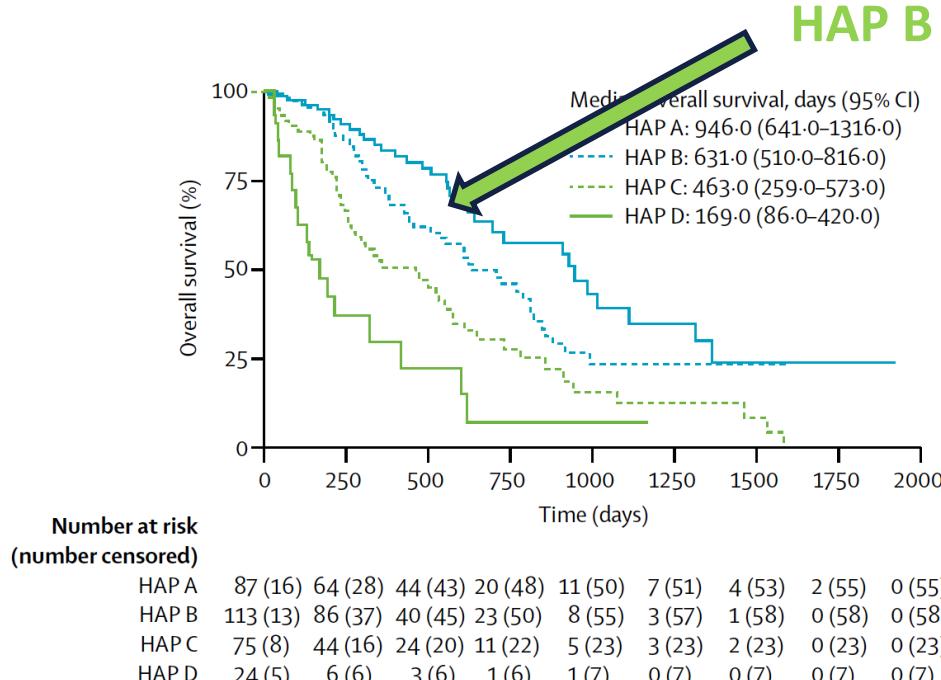
# Patient selection for TACE: HAP Score

## Impact of liver function and tumour burden

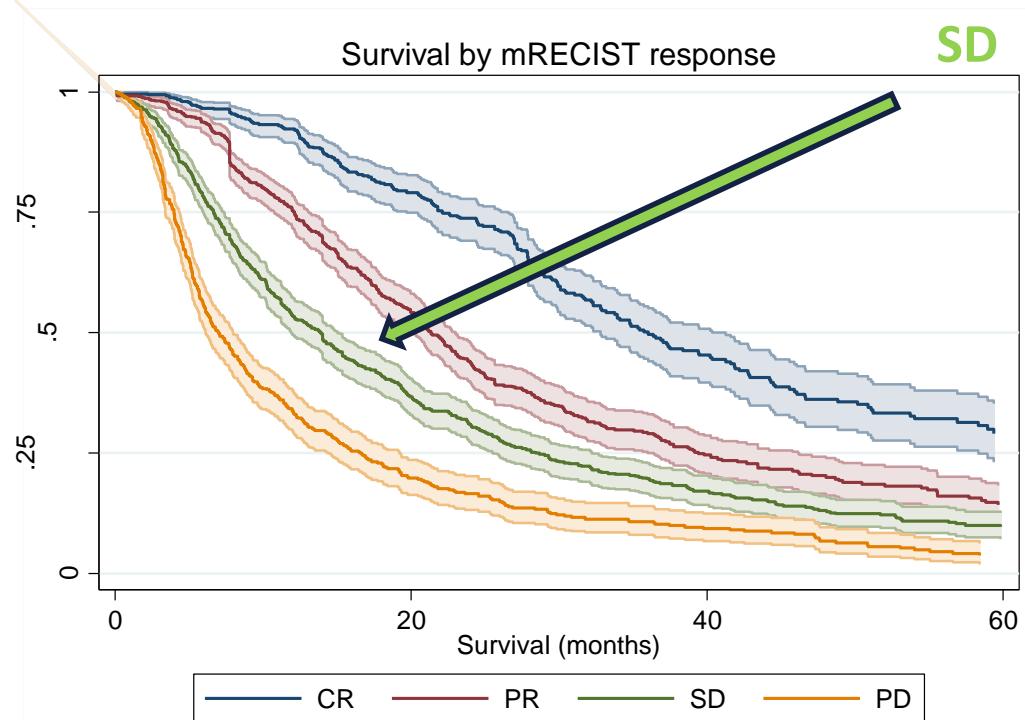
Albumin < 36 g/dl  
Bilirubin > 17 µmol/l  
AFP > 400 ng/ml  
Max. tumour > 7 cm

HAP	Points
HAP A	0
HAP B	1
HAP C	2
HAP D	>2

Kadalayil et al. Ann Oncol. 2013, Meyer et al. et al. Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology 2017



# Overall Response matters! Validated in GO-TREAT HCC cohort

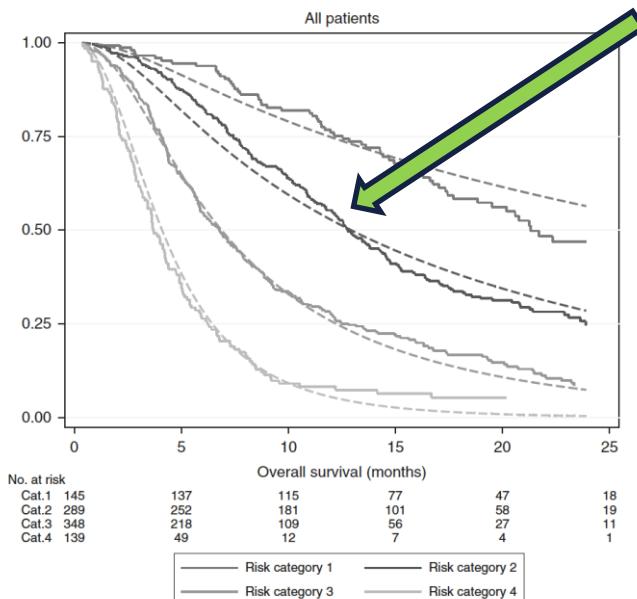


T. Labeur et al. Hepatology, in press

# Patient selection for sorafenib: PROSASH Score

PRediction Of Survival in Advanced Sorafenib-treated HCC

1130 patienten from 2 phase-III (Brivanib and Sunitinib)



<https://jscalc.io/calc/oGSDLHDsDg9g2XBF>

Linear Predictor:

3.399

Risk group:

intermediate low risk

Survival Probabilities

6 months	12 months	24 months	36 months
75.2%	49.9%	24.9%	13.4%

Berhane et al. BJC 2019

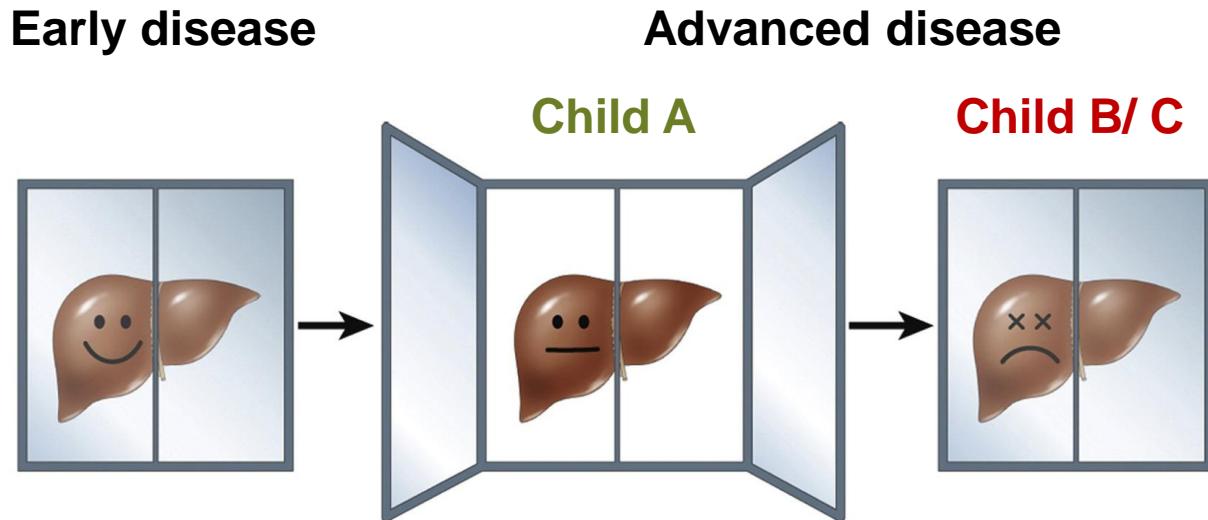
BARCELONA 2019 **ESMO** congress

Linear predictor;  $n = (0.327 * \text{vascular invasion}) + (-0.0231 * (\text{Age} - 60)) + (0.0303 * ((\text{Age} - 60) * \text{vascular invasion})) + (0.455 * \text{ECOG}) + (0.0831 * \ln(\text{AFP})) + (-0.0553 * \text{albumin}) + (0.709 * \ln(\text{creatinine})) + (0.349 * \ln(\text{AST}) + 0.298 * \text{extra-hepatic spread}) + (0.526 * \text{HBV}) + (0.507 * \text{other aetiology if not HCV/HBV})$

AFP, alpha foetoprotein; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; HBV, hepatitis B virus; Group; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; HCV, hepatitis C virus

# What do we need to consider in HCC?

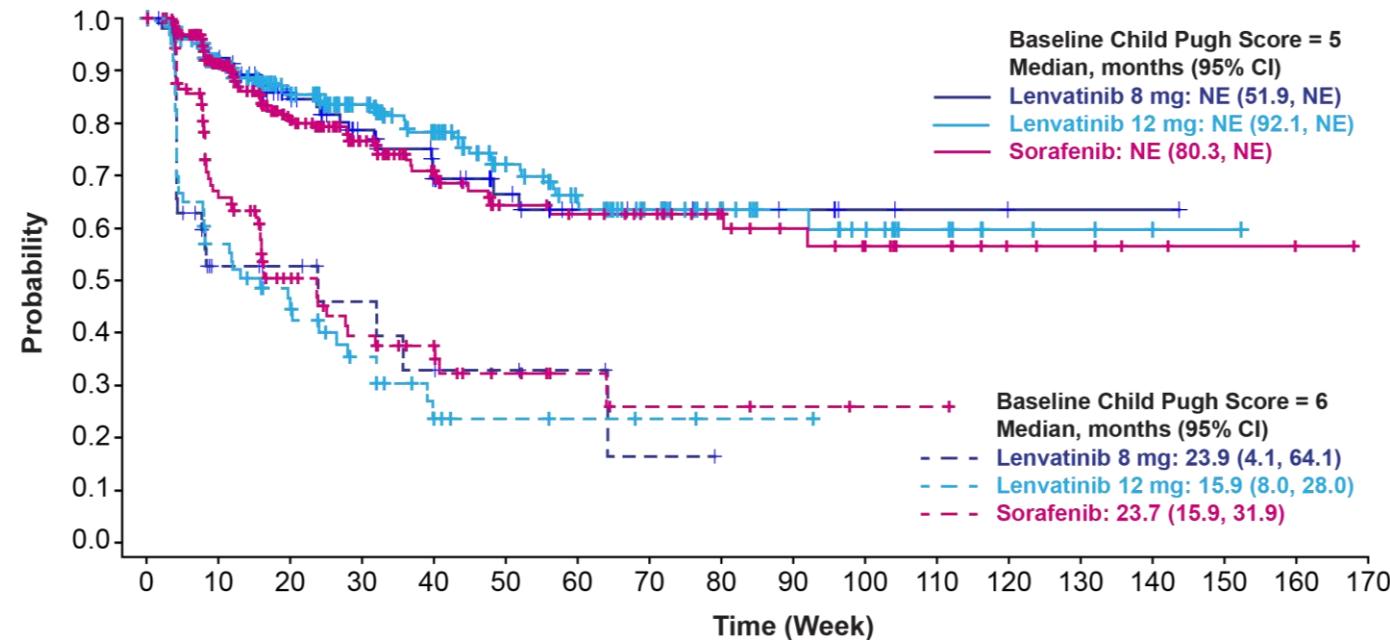
- ✓ Maintenance of liver function and the “window of opportunity”!



Modified from Ge et al.  
Gastroenterology 2014

# The “Window of Opportunity” in 1<sup>st</sup> line

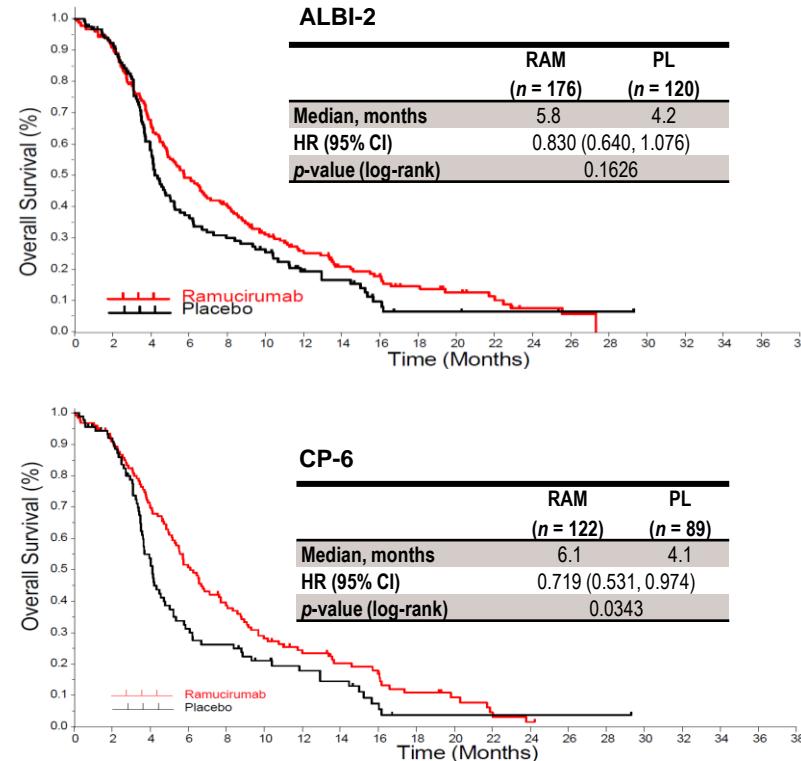
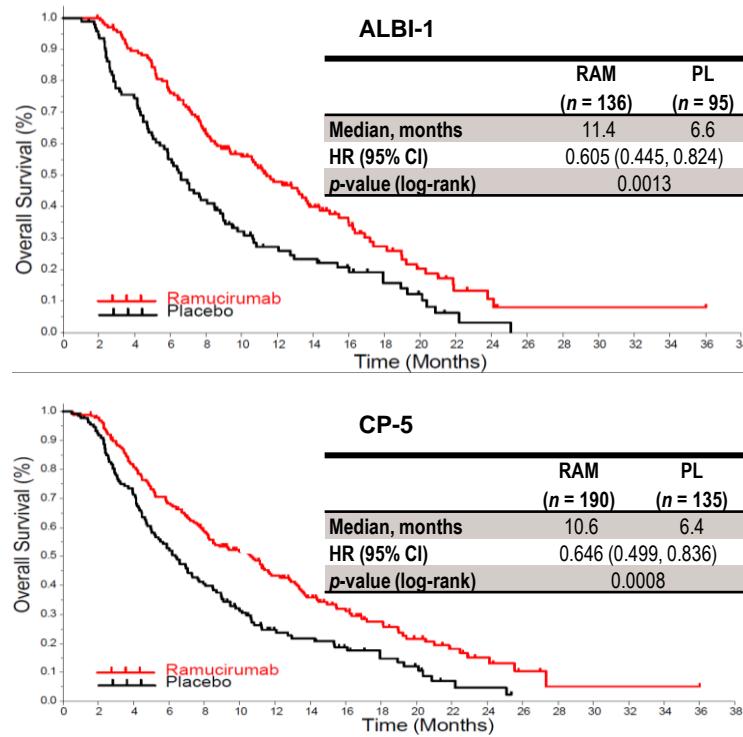
Decline of liver function during systemic treatment



Time to deterioration to Child-Pugh Score  $\geq 7$  in the REFLECT study

# The “Window of Opportunity” Liver function: Prognostic and Predictive

Ramucirumab mOS benefit in  
REACH-2/REACH

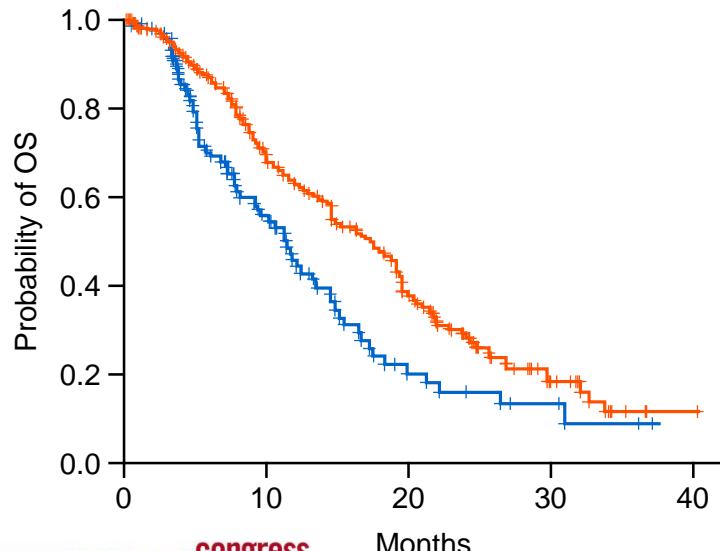


# The “Window of Opportunity”/ CELESTIAL

## ALBI Grade 1

	Median OS months	No. of Deaths (%)
Cabozantinib (N=186)	17.5	106 (57)
Placebo (N=102)	11.4	62 (61)

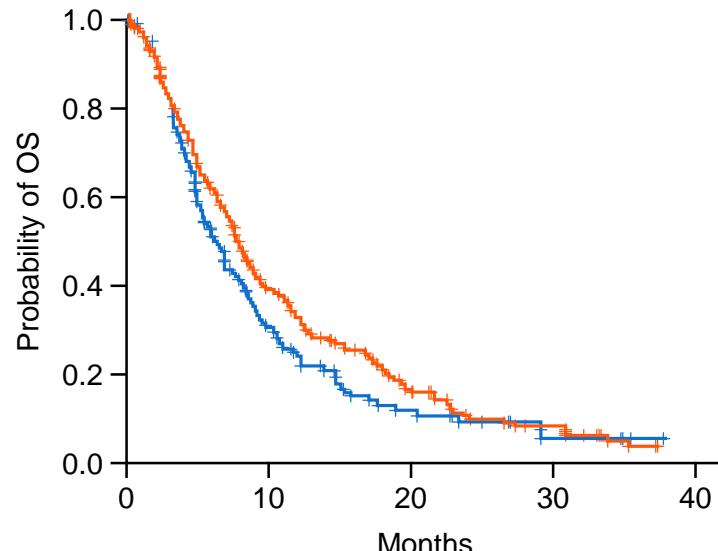
Hazard ratio = 0.62 (95% CI 0.44-0.88)



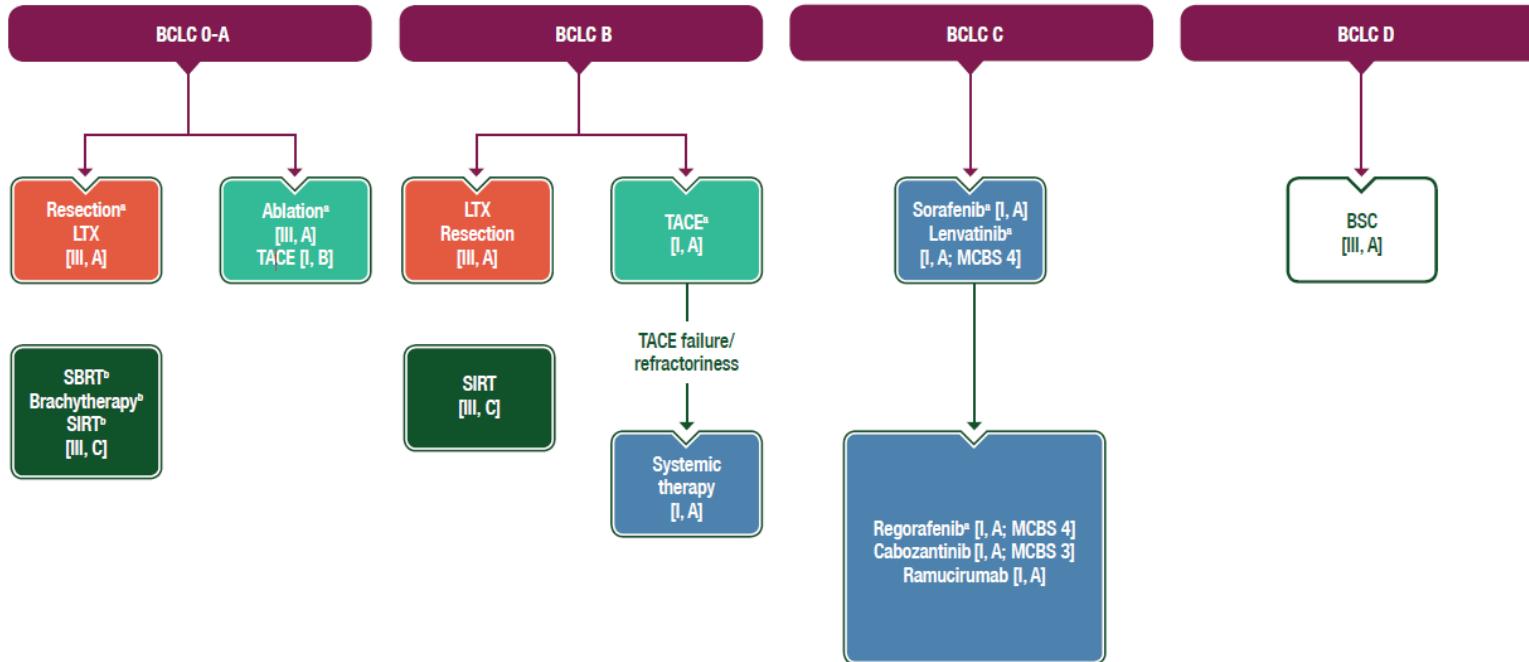
## ALBI Grade 2

	Median OS months	No. of Deaths (%)
Cabozantinib (N=282)	8.0	209 (74)
Placebo (N=133)	6.4	103 (77)

Hazard ratio = 0.79 (95% CI 0.62-1.06)



# Treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma

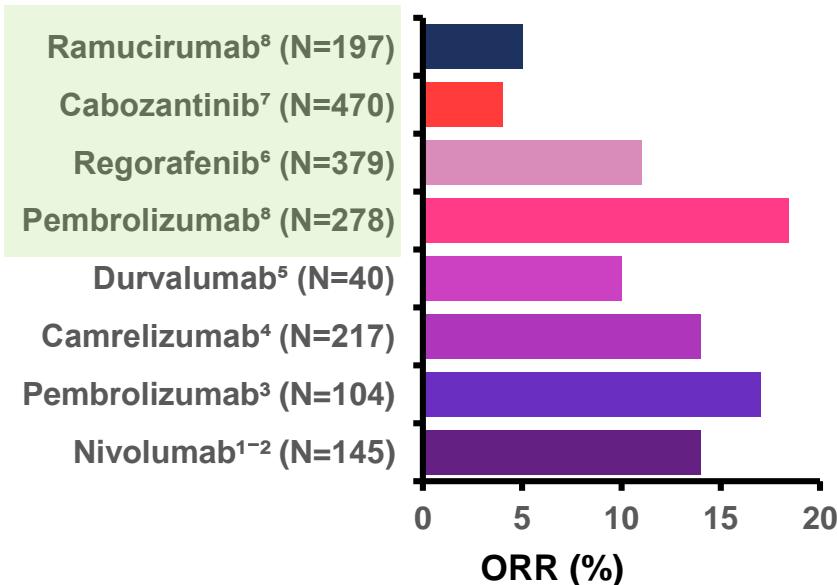


Vogel et al. 2018, Annals of Oncology

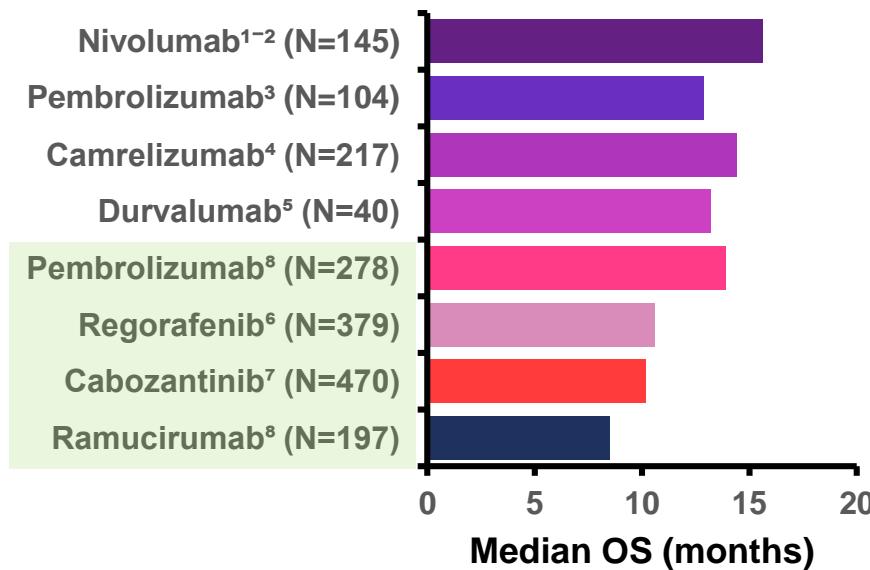
# Options in second line

## Response rate and survival

### Objective response rate



### Overall survival



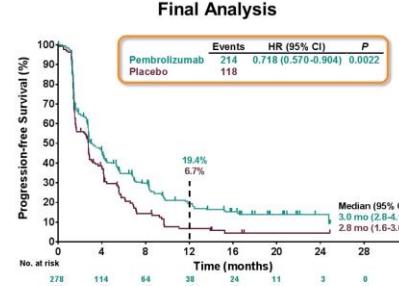
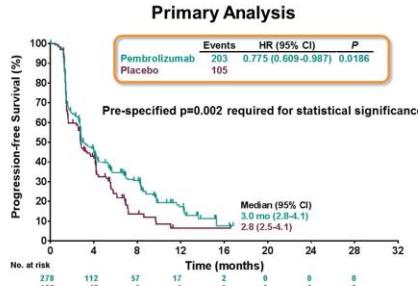
1. El-Khoueiry et al. Lancet 2017; 2. Crocenzi et al. ASCO 2017; 3. Zhu et al. ASCO 2018 4. Qin et al. ESMO 2018; 5. Wainberg et al. ASCO 2017; 6. Bruix et al. Lancet 2017 7. Abou-Alfa et al. N Engl J Med 2018; 8. Zhu et al. Lancet Oncol 2019

ORR, overall response rate; OS, overall survival

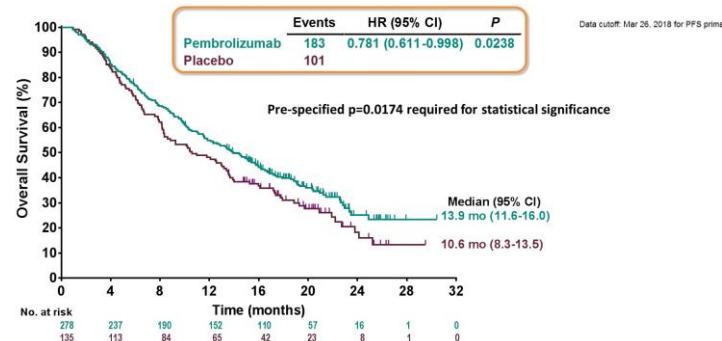
# Keynote-240 Phase-III: IO in 2<sup>nd</sup> line

	Keynote-224	Keynote-240
Phase-II		Phase-III
n	104	278
ORR	17%	18.4%
PFS	4.9 Mo.	3 Mo.
OS	12.9 Mo.	13.9 Mo

## Progression-Free Survival

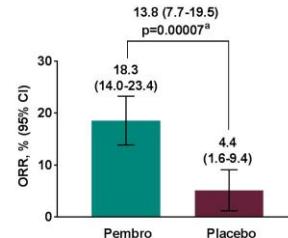


## Overall Survival



Data Cutoff: Jan 2, 2019.

## Objective Response Rate at Final Analysis (RECIST 1.1, BICR)

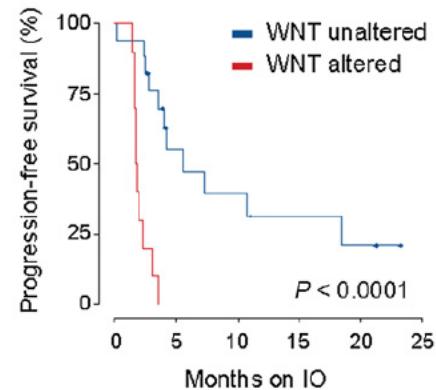
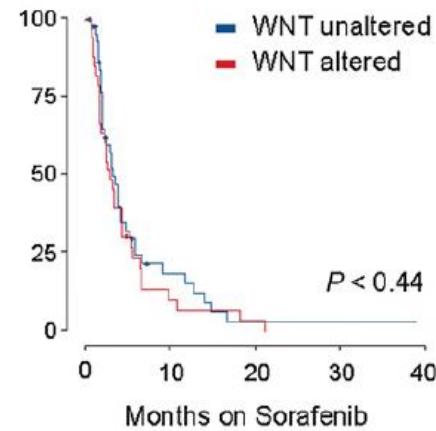
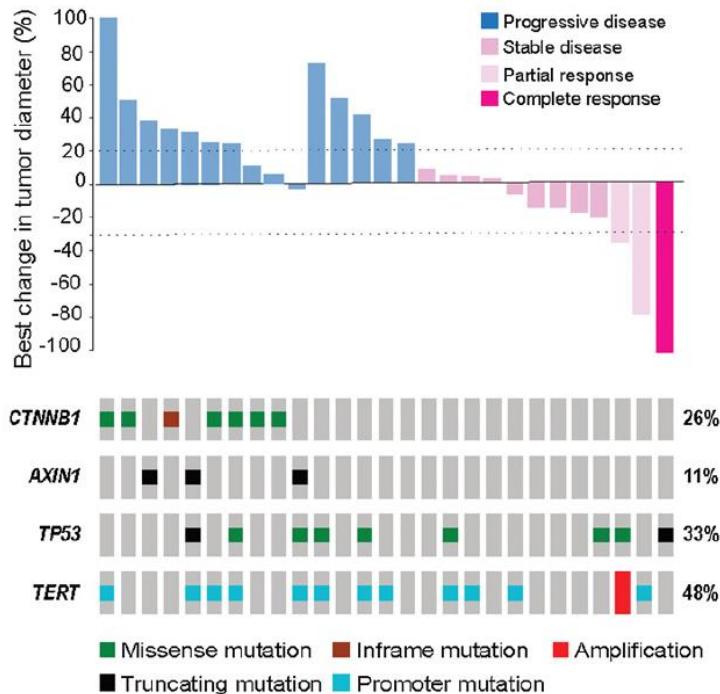


### Duration of response, median (range)<sup>b,c</sup>:

- Pembrolizumab: 13.8 mo (1.5+ mo - 23.6+ mo)
- Placebo: not reached (2.8 mo-20.4+ mo)

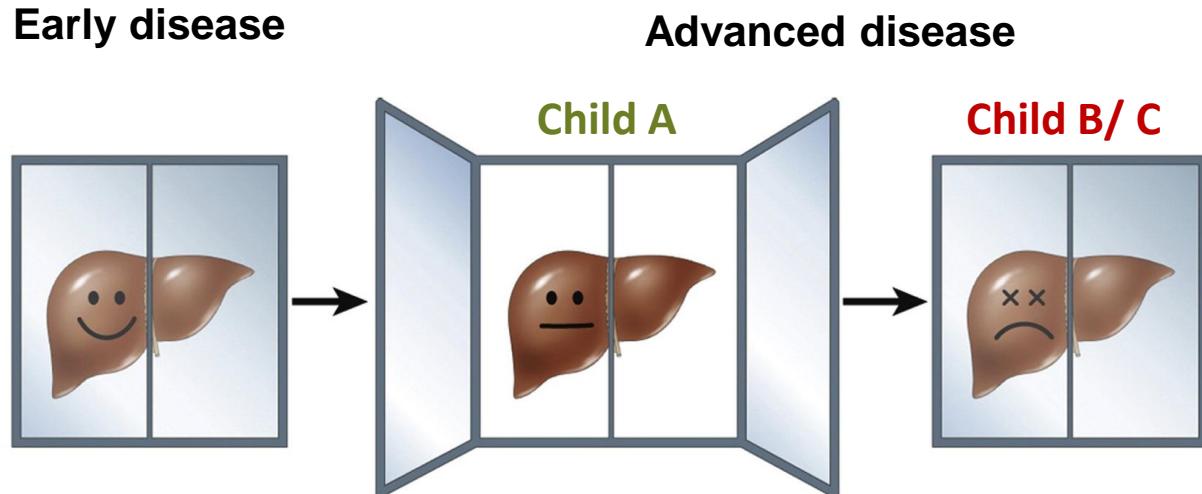
Response n (%)	Pembrolizumab N=278	Placebo N=135
<b>Best Overall Response</b>		
CR	6 (2.2)	0 (0.0)
PR	45 (16.2)	6 (4.4)
SD	122 (43.9)	66 (48.9)
SD ≥23 wks	37 (18.3)	20 (14.8)
Progressive Disease	90 (32.4)	57 (42.2)
<b>Disease Control Rate (CR+PR+SD)</b>		
	173 (62.2)	72 (53.3)

# IO Resistance mechanism in HCC Immune Exclusion-Wnt/CTNNB1 class



# *My take home...*

- ✓ Multidisciplinary evaluation is mandatory
- ✓ Patients for local therapies need to be identified
- ✓ We have a small “Window of Opportunity” for systemic therapies



# *My take home continued...*

- ✓ Multidisciplinary evaluation is mandatory
- ✓ Patients for local therapies need to be identified
- ✓ We have a (small) “Window of Opportunity” for systemic therapies
- ✓ Survival, side effects, QoL and liver function need to be considered
- ✓ Around 50% and 30% of patients can receive subsequent therapies after 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> line
  - So far no positive phase-III for IO, but negative ≠ negative trials
- ✓ Significant benefit for the responders, moderate side effect profile and minor liver toxicity: I still consider IO as a part of the “HCC sequence” and there many ongoing studies to include patients
- ✓ We need biomarkers!