

# 78P Association between obesity, sex, and overall survival in patients with metastatic cancers treated with first- or second-line immune checkpoint inhibitors

Authors: [Mingjia Li](#), Songzhu Zhao, Janet Guo, Marium Husain, Johanna Schafer, Karthik Chakravarthy, Gabriella Lopez, Daniel Spakowicz, Lai Wei, Erin Bertino, Asrar Alahmadi, Regan Memmott, Jacob Kaufman, Kai He, Carolyn J. Presley, Peter G. Shields, David P. Carbone, Gregory A. Otterson, Dwight H. Owen. The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbus, OH, USA.

## Introduction

- Obesity exerts a wide arrange of physiological effects on health<sup>1</sup>.
- Obesity influences oncogenesis, and impact on cancer outcomes is not completely understood<sup>1,2</sup>.
- Adipose tissue is known to play a critical role in androgen and estrogen metabolism<sup>3</sup>, and recent evidence established a link between male sex and T-cell exhaustion, both of which may affect the responsiveness of the immune system to immunotherapy<sup>4,5</sup>.
- We studied the association between obesity, sex, and overall survival (OS) in cancer patients who were treated with a checkpoint inhibitor-based regimen.

## Methods

- We retrospectively studied 688 pts with metastatic cancers treated with first or second-line ICI between 2011-2017 at Ohio State University.
- Pre-treatment BMI was collected. Cox proportional hazards models were used to assess the association between variables.
- Effect modification by sex was assessed using an interaction term. Analyses were performed in SAS 9.4.

## Demographics

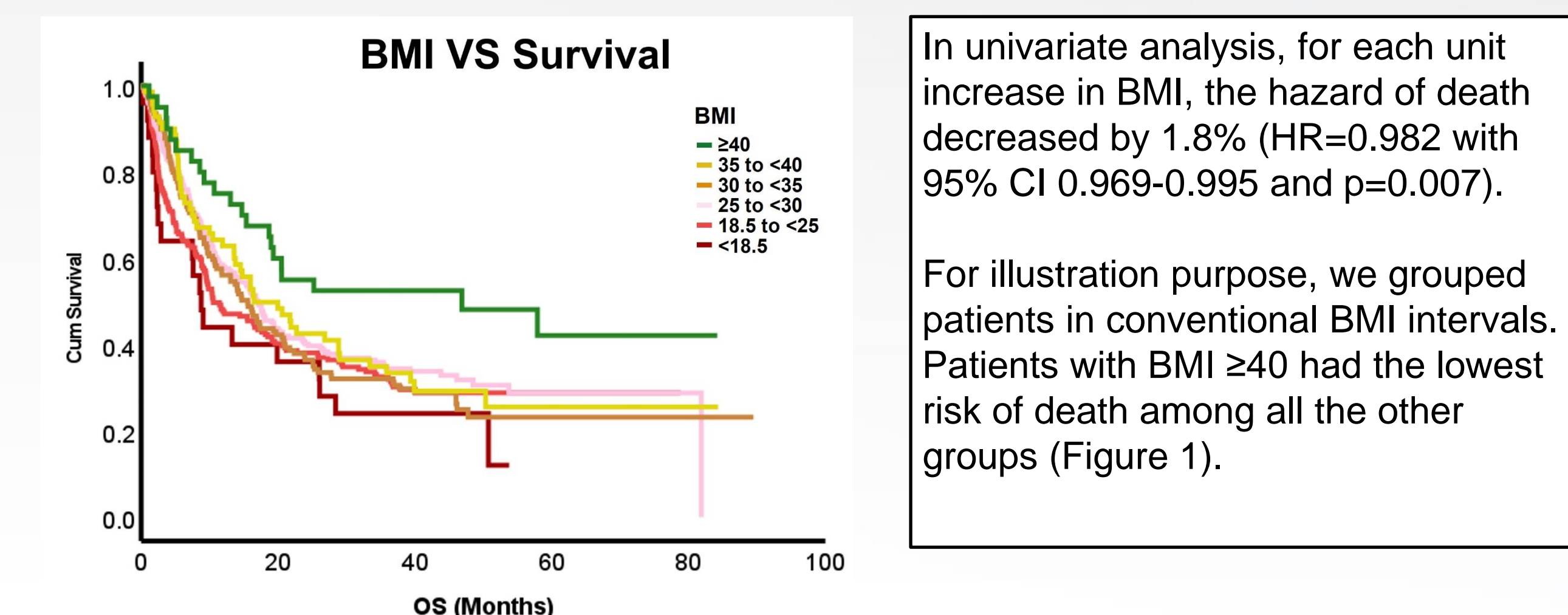
Table 1. Patient Demographics of all 688 patients

Race			Line of Therapy			BMI		
White	649	94%	First	360	52%	Mean	28.8	
Black	31	5%	Second	328	48%	Median	28.0	
Other	8	1%				Std Deviation	7.1	
Sex			Age			BMI		
Female	285	41%	Mean	61.9	years	<18.5	25	4%
Male	403	59%	Median	62.0	years	18.5 to <25	189	27%
						25 to <30	224	33%
						30 to <35	140	20%
						35 to <40	70	10%
						≥40	40	6%
Cancer Type			ECOG					
Melanoma	277	40%	0	286	42%			
NSCLC	157	23%	1	283	41%			
Renal Cell	67	10%	≥2	102	15%			
Other	187	27%	Unknown	12	2%			

## Results

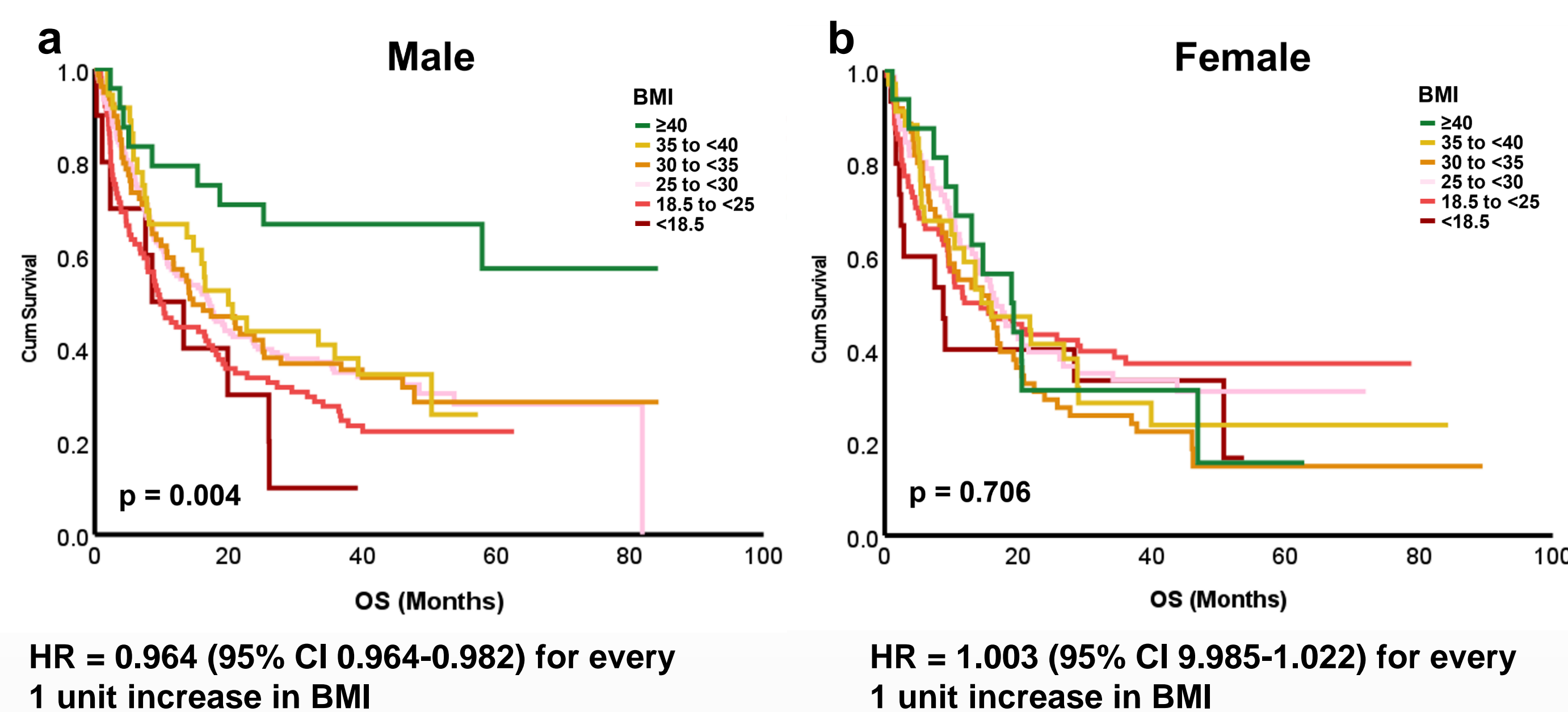
Higher BMI is associated with longer overall survival

Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier survival analysis for BMI groups



In subgroup analysis, high BMI in male patients is associated with longer survival. A reversed non-significant trend was seen in female patients.

Figure 2. Overall survival by KM plot for a). Male patients b). Female patients



In Multivariate analysis, BMI remain a significant prognostic factor for survival in male patients after adjusting for ECOG, line of therapy, and cancer types.

Table 2. HR of BMI as a continuous variable after adjusting for ECOG, Line of therapy, Cancer type,

Sex	HR	95% CI		p value
Female	0.9915	0.9733	1.0100	0.3653
Male	0.979	0.96	0.998	0.0308

## Results

In a separate cohort, high BMI was associated with longer OS in NSCLC<sup>5</sup>

Figure 3. KM plot of normal vs BMI ≥ 40 in a separate NSCLC cohort.

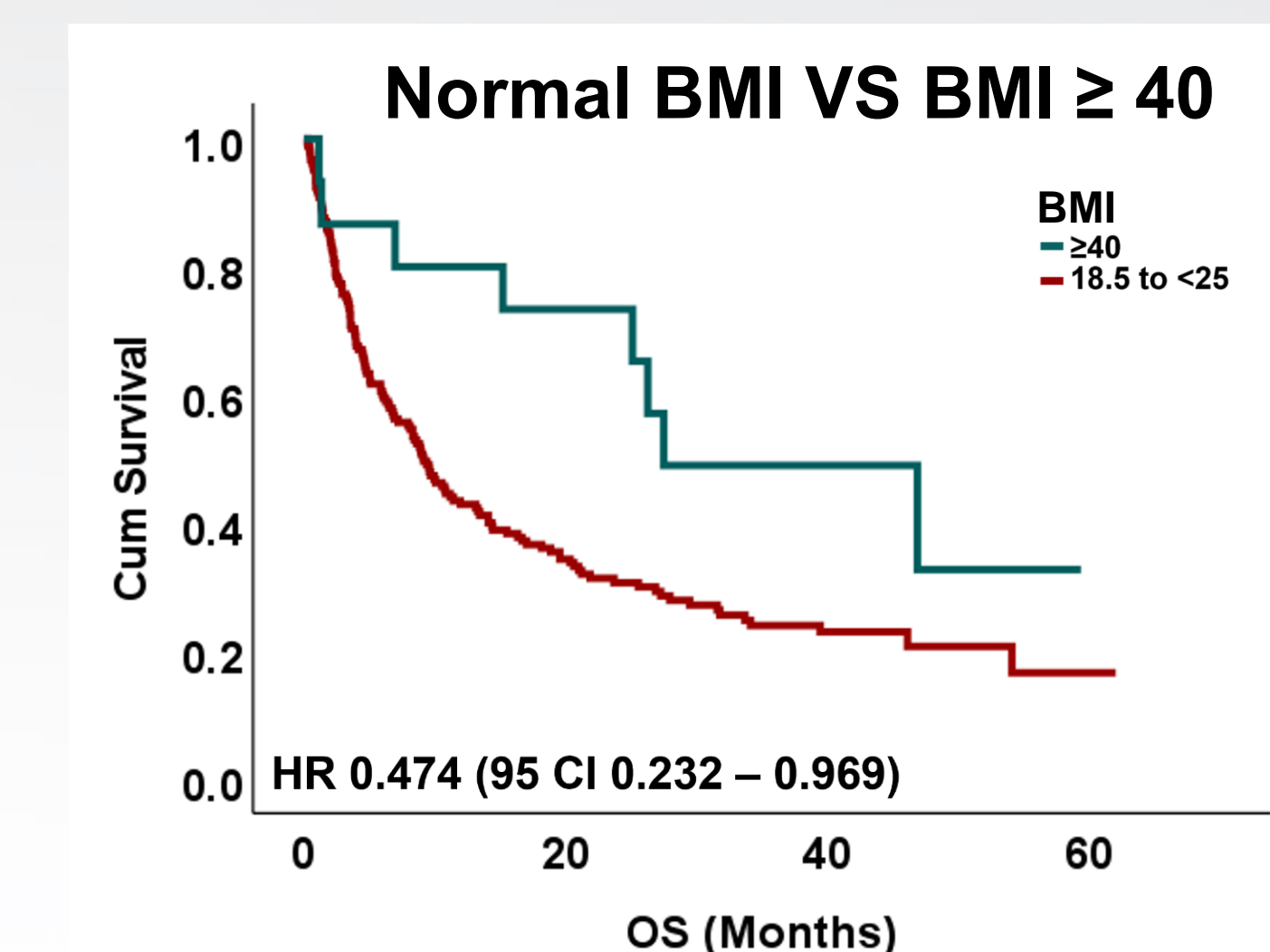


Table 3. Demographics data of patients with normal BMI VS ≥40

	Normal	BMI ≥40
Patient Count	185	15
Median OS	9.1 mos.	27.5 mos.
Median Age	63.5	60
ECOG		
0	32 (17%)	1 (7%)
1	98 (53%)	11 (73%)
≥2	54 (29%)	2 (13%)
Unknown	1 (1%)	1 (7%)
Line of Therapy		
1	109 (59%)	9 (60%)
2	54 (29%)	4 (27%)
≥3	20 (11%)	2 (13%)
Unknown	2 (1%)	0 (0%)

## Conclusion

High BMI in male, but not female, was associated with improved overall survival in pts with metastatic cancer treated with ICIs.



This study was supported by the National Institutes of Health (P30CA016058). Research support provided by the REDCap project and The Ohio State University Center for Clinical and Translational Science grant support (National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, Grant UL1TR002733). Dr. Owen is supported by a LUNGevity Career Development Award. There is no additional conflict of interest to declare.

Scan the QR code for the contact Information:

Mingjia Li, [Mingjia.Li@osum.edu](mailto:Mingjia.Li@osum.edu)  
Dwight Owen, [Dwight.Owen@osu.edu](mailto:Dwight.Owen@osu.edu)

## Reference:

- Ahima RS, Lazar MA. Physiology. The health risk of obesity—better metrics imperative. Science. 2013 Aug 23;341(6148):856-8. doi: 10.1126/science.1241244. PMID: 23970691.
- Woodall MJ, Neumann S, Campbell K, Pattison ST, Young SL. The Effects of Obesity on Anti-Cancer Immunity and Cancer Immunotherapy. Cancers (Basel). 2020 May 14;12(5):1230. doi: 10.3390/cancers12051230. PMID: 32422865; PMCID: PMC7281442.
- Blouin K, Veilleux A, Liu-The V, Tohernot A. Androgen metabolism in adipose tissue: recent advances. Mol Cell Endocrinol. 2009 Mar 25;301(1-2):97-103. Epub 2008 Nov 5. PMID: 19022338.
- Kwon H, Schafer JM, Song NJ, Kaneko S, Li A, Xiao T, Ma A, Allen C, Das K, Zhou L, Riesenber B, Chang Y, Weltge P, Velegraki M, Oh DY, Fong L, Ma Q, Sundi D, Chung D, Li X, Li Z. Androgen conspires with the CD8+ T cell exhaustion program and contributes to sex bias in cancer. Sci Immunol. 2022 Jul;7(7):eabq2630. Epub 2022 Jul 1. PMID: 35420889.
- Mingjia Li, Songzhu Zhao, Janet Guo, Timothy Gauntner, Johanna Schafer, Karthik Chakravarthy, Gabriella Lopez, Austin Secor, Parthib Das, Nitya Surya, Marium Husain, Sandip Patel, Madison Grogan, Daniel Spakowicz, Abdul Miah, Lai Wei, Kai He, Erin Bertino, Asrar Alahmadi, Regan Memmott, Jacob Kaufman, Carolyn J. Presley, Peter G. Shields, David P. Carbone, Gregory A. Otterson, Dwight H. Owen. Body mass index, immune related adverse events (irAEs) and survival in patients with metastatic non-small cell lung cancer treated with immunotherapy; World Conference on Lung Cancer, 2022; Vienna Austria.