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- BACKGROUND
- Frontline therapy for advanced NSCLC includes PD-1/L1 inhibition in most patients without activating mutations.
 - Although survival has improved with these therapies, resistance develops that requires additional therapy for most patients.
 - Acquired resistance to immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy is a major area of unmet need for patients with NSCLC.
 - Developing therapies to overcome resistance will become increasingly important as immunotherapy is incorporated across all stages of NSCLC.
 - VEGF is important in modulating the tumor immune microenvironment by induction of PD-L1 expression on dendritic cells and suppresses maturation; impeding T cell extravasation; inhibition of proliferation and cytotoxicity of cytotoxic T lymphocytes; stimulating the proliferation of T regulatory (Treg) cells; and mediating effects on myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSCs).
 - VEGFR2 inhibition decreases infiltration of suppressive immune cells while increasing mature dendritic cells.
 - Combination blockade of PD1 (pembrolizumab) and VEGFR2 (ramucirumab) may overcome resistance by reducing tumor neovascularization with upregulation of proinflammatory cytokines.
 - Vascular endothelial growth factor receptor (VEGFR) and ICI therapy has demonstrated benefit across multiple solid tumor types.
 - S1800A demonstrated improved overall survival with pembrolizumab and ramucirumab compared to standard-of-care following progression on prior platinum-based doublet and ICI in patients with advanced NSCLC (HR: 0.69 [80% CI, 0.51-0.92]; 1-sided p-value=0.05).

SCHEMA

Phase II randomized study of ramucirumab plus pembrolizumab versus standard of care for advanced non-small cell lung cancer previously treated with immunotherapy—Lung-MAP non-matched sub-study S1800A

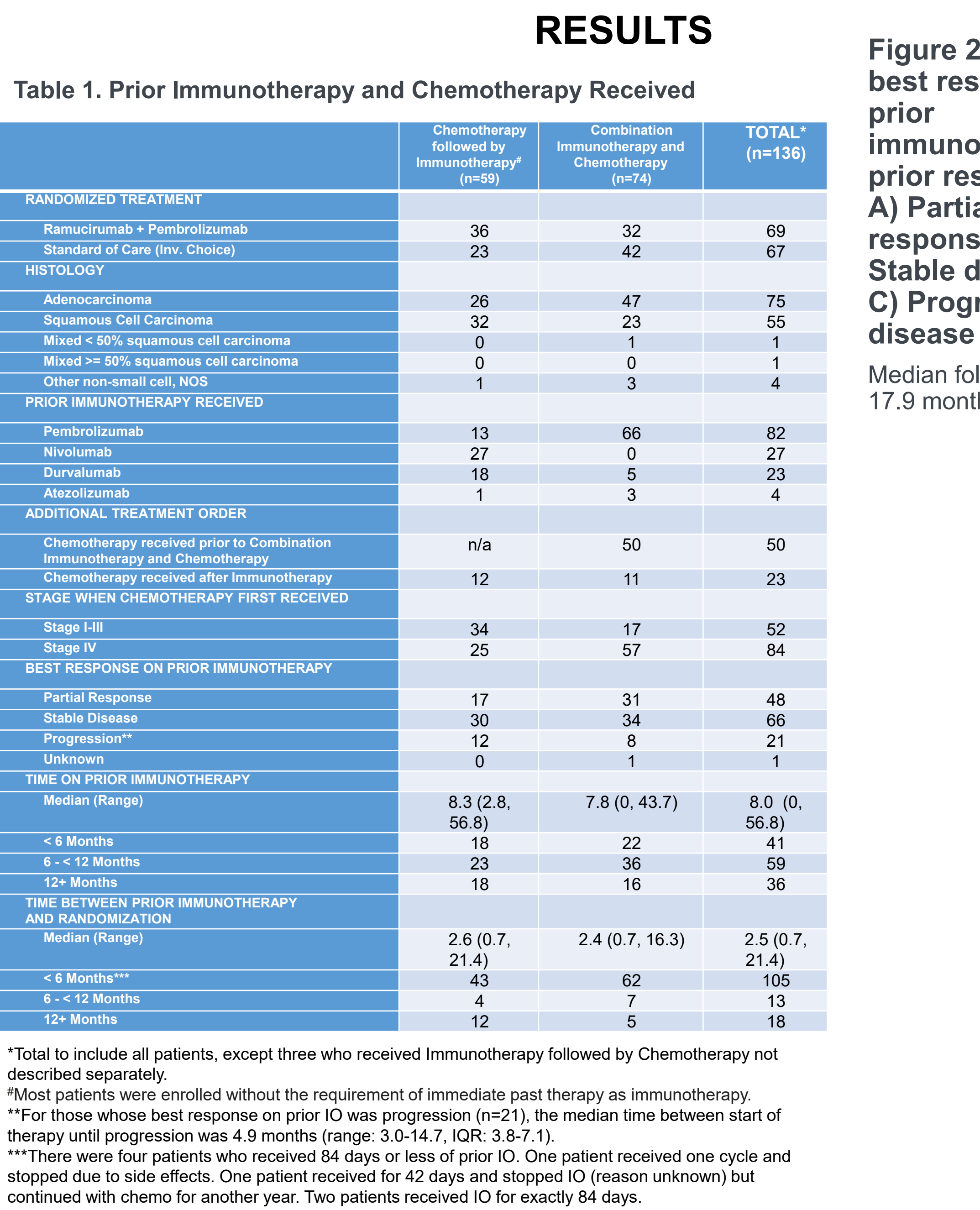
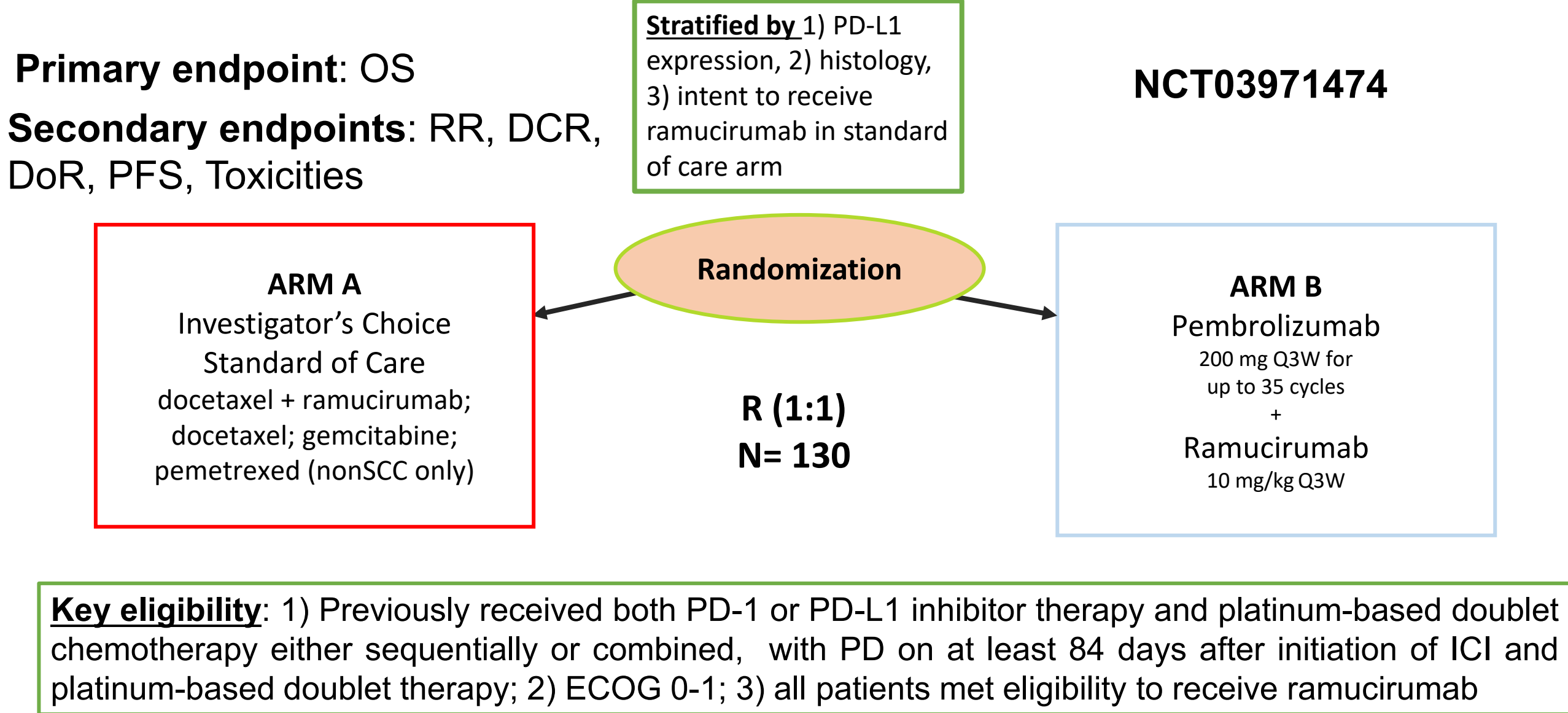


Figure 2. OS by best response to prior immunotherapy, prior response—A) Partial response; B) Stable disease; C) Progressive disease

Median follow up: 17.9 months

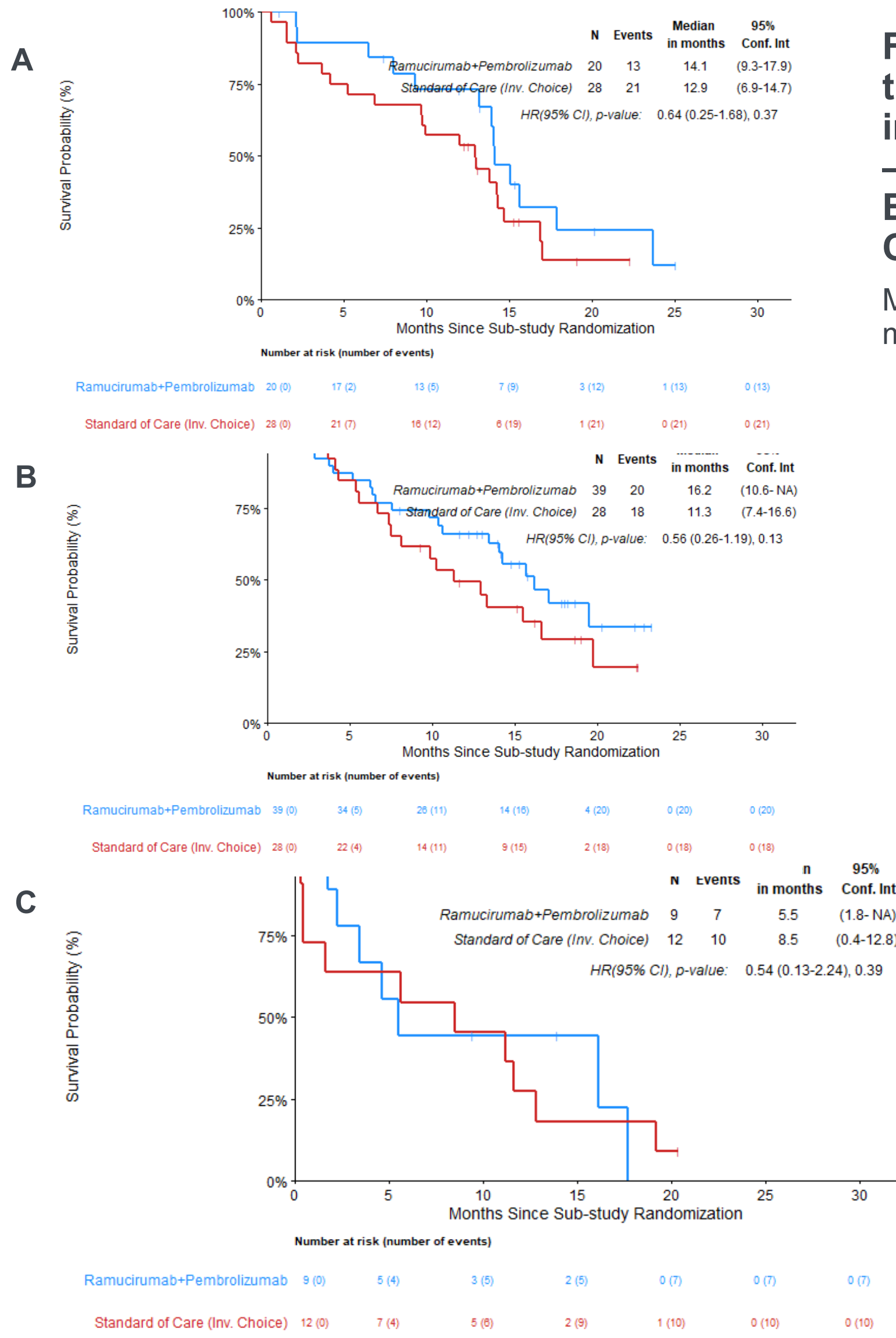
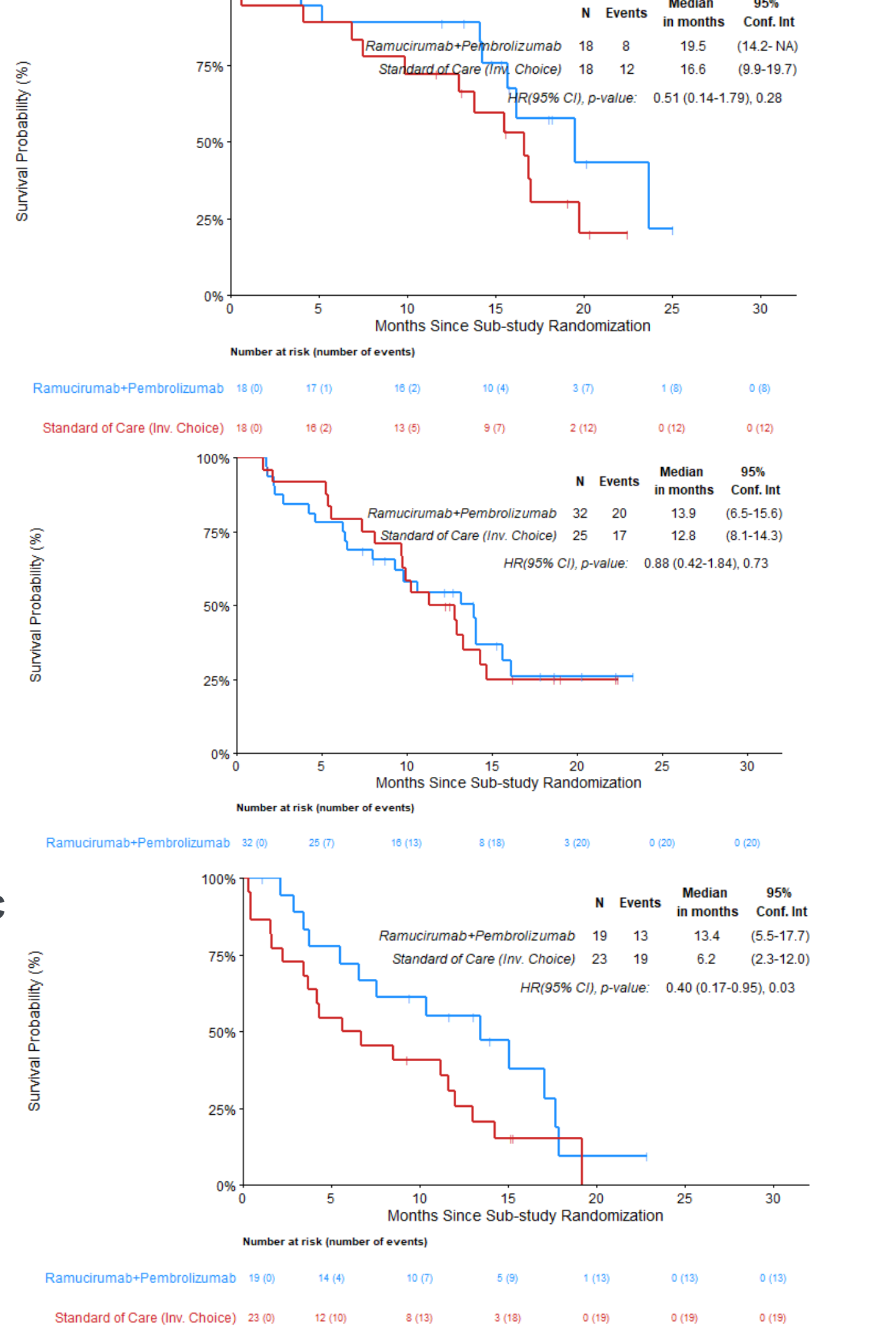


Figure 3. OS by time on prior immunotherapy —A) ≥12 months; B) 6-12 months; C) <6 months

Median follow up: 17.9 months



CONCLUSIONS

- Treatment with ramucirumab and pembrolizumab significantly increased OS compared to SOC in advanced NSCLC following progression on prior ICI.
- In this exploratory analysis, prior partial response and stable disease to previous ICI suggests a biological benefit from the combination in patients who develop acquired resistance to ICI.
- Prior time on ICI less than 6 months and more than 12 months showed greater benefit with ramucirumab and pembrolizumab.
- A larger randomized trial is required to confirm these findings.

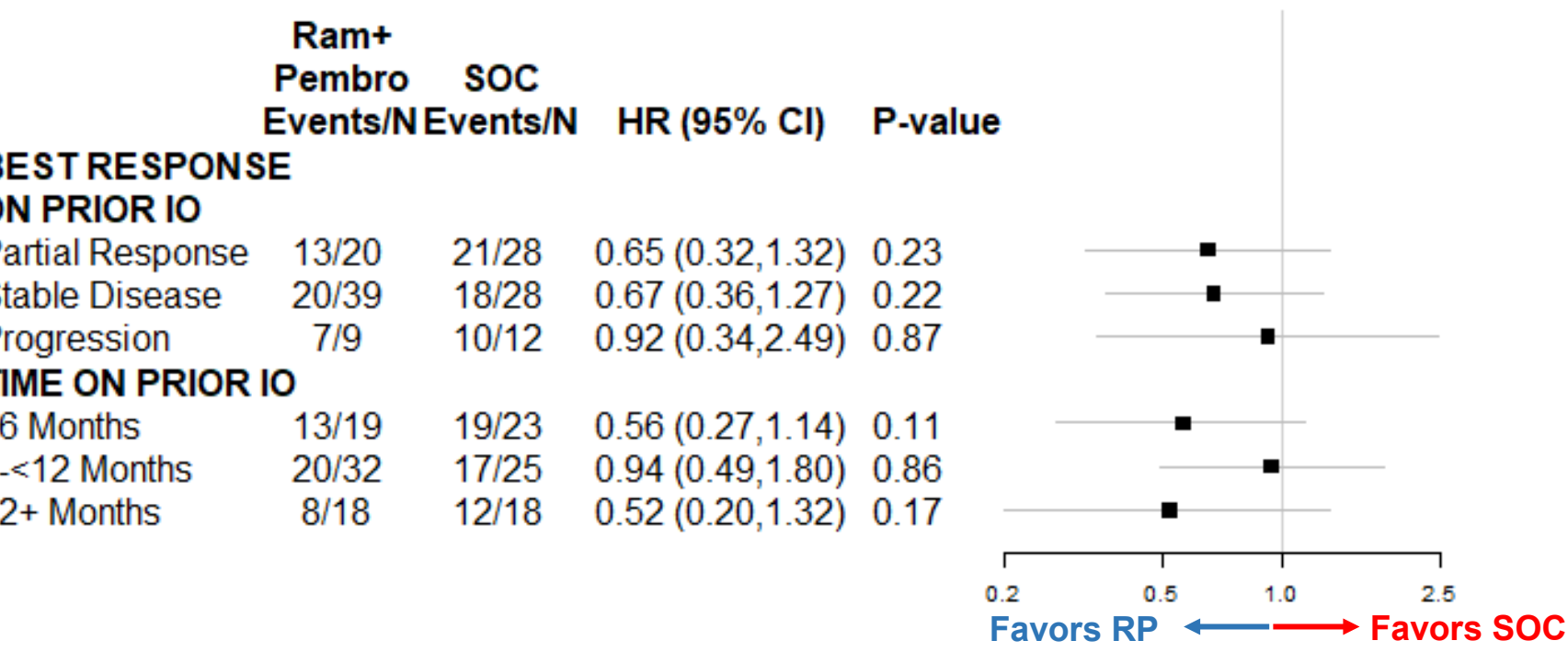


Figure 4. OS Forest Plot—Prior response to immunotherapy and time on prior immunotherapy

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 - Lung-MAP partners—NCI CTEP, FNHI, and FoCR
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DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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