

# Piecing Together the Oncology Pharmacy Puzzle

# Objectives

- List examples and characteristics of oncology drug reversals and revisions
- Describe the evolution of antineoplastic drug use over the lifespan of a drug
- Create a process for critiquing new oncology drug approvals or uses

# Keynote Who?

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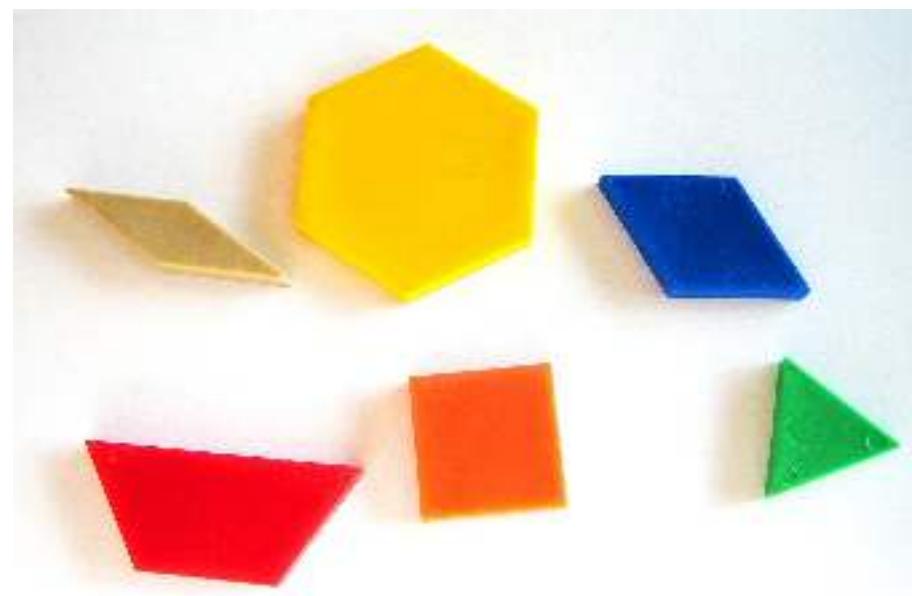
Prologue







# Puzzling Memories

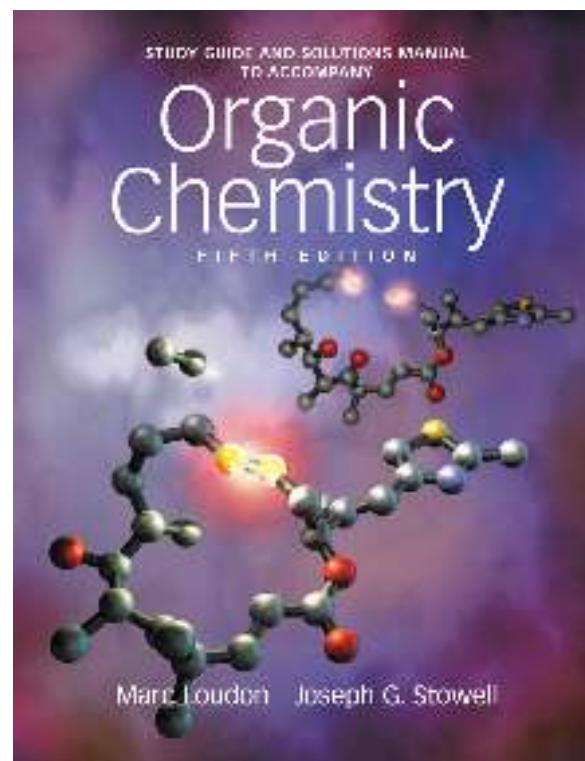


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# Pharmacy School



Wetherill 200 Lecture Hall, Purdue University



# MUSC

## PGY1



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## PGY2



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# New Practitioner & Educator

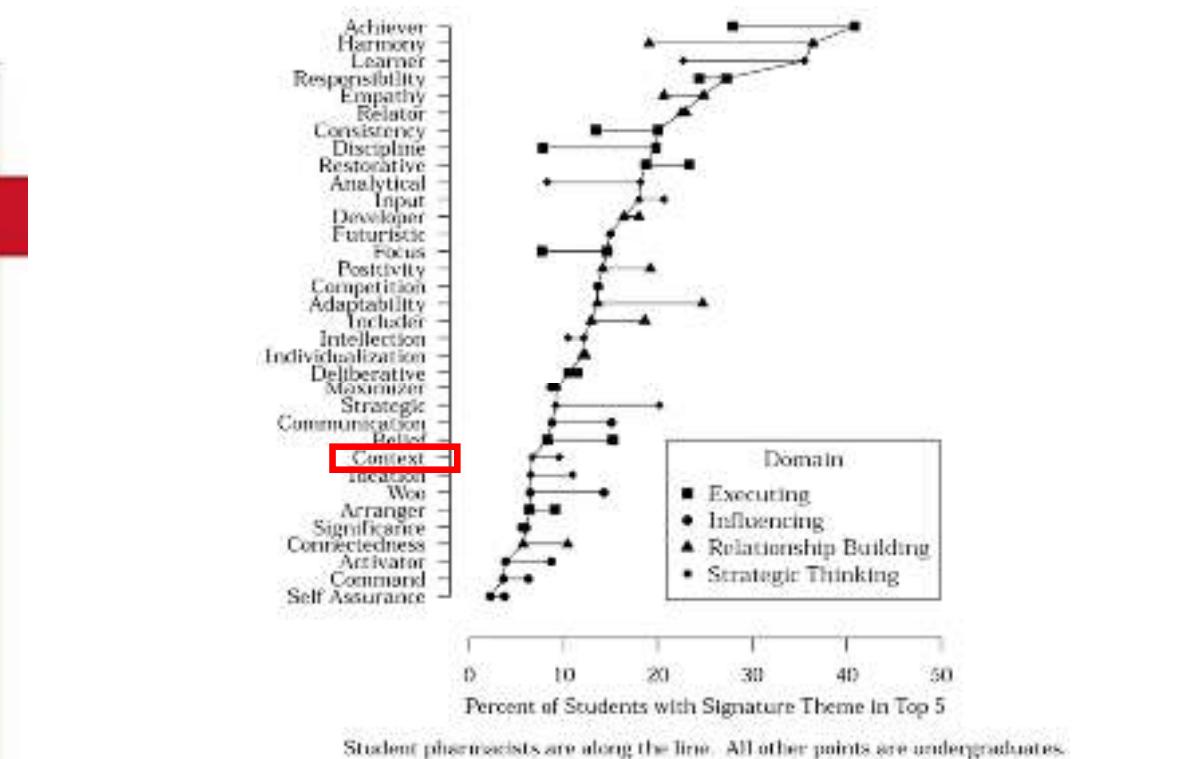
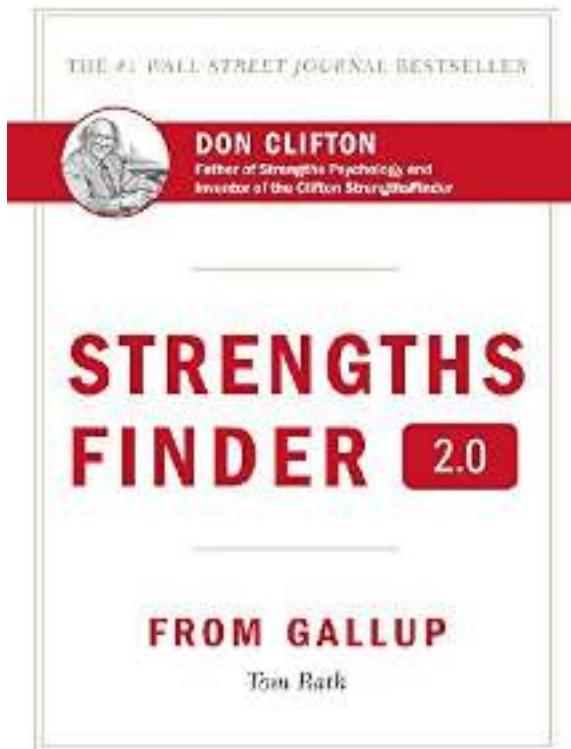
- Clinical Practice
  - Prior training mostly malignant Heme
  - New practice mostly medical oncology
- Teaching
  - Pedagogical Novice

*"I'll just figure it out."*



BILL GATTON  
COLLEGE *of* PHARMACY  
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

“Context focuses on understanding the past in order to make sense of the present and to chart a course forward.”



<https://www.gallup.com/cliftonstrengths/en/249824/context-theme-productively-aim-your-cliftonstrengths-talent.aspx>

Janke KK, et al. StrengthsFinder Signature Themes of Talent in Doctor of Pharmacy Students in Five Midwestern Pharmacy Schools. Am J Pharm Ed 2015;79(4):Article 49.





Chapter 1  
Doses Matter

# Ponatinib's Story

Dec. 2012

Accelerated approval (CP-CML)

- Resistance/intolerance to 2+ TKIs
- First TKI approved with T315I activity
- **45 mg PO**

2013

2014

2015

2016

2024

Pulte, ED, et al. The Oncologist 2022;27:149-157.  
FDA Drug Safety Communication, Dec. 20, 2013.

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Voluntary withdrawal

- Higher rates of arterial thrombotic events in post-marketing data

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Dec. 2013

Revised Approval

- CML (any phase); Ph<sup>+</sup> ALL
  - T315I mutation
  - No other TKI option
- Warnings/Precautions updates
- REMS
- “Optimal dose not identified...”

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Nov. 2016

Regular Approval

- NOT indicated newly diagnosed CP-CML
- 45 mg PO daily
- *"Consider reducing dose...patients who have achieve a major cytogenetic response"*

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- REMS
- **"Optimal dose not identified..."**

2015

Mar. 2024

Current Approval

- CML-CP: **45 mg → 15 mg** ( $\leq 1\%$  BCR-ABL)
- Ph<sup>+</sup> ALL: **30 mg → 15 mg** ( $\leq 0.1\%$  BCR-ABL)

2016

2024

Pulte, ED, et al. The Oncologist 2022;27:149-157.

FDA Drug Safety Communication, Dec. 20, 2013.

# Ponatinib Phase I Data

**Phase 1 Primary Objective:** Determine MTD (or recommend daily PO dose) based on DLTs detected in **Cycle 1**

Dose	Number of Patient	DLTs
2 mg	3	0
4 mg	6	0
8 mg	7	0
15 mg	8	0
30 mg	7	0
45 mg	31	1 (rash)
60 mg	6	4 (pancreatitis) 1 (fatigue) 1(↑ LFTs)

Cortes JE, et al. N Engl J Med 2012;367:2075-88.

MTD, maximum tolerated dose; DLT, dose-limiting toxicity  
pCRKL, a surrogate marker for BCR-ABL inhibition

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**Theoretical/Alternative Phase 1 Primary Objective:**  
Minimum effective dose where majority of patients have significant BCR-ABL inhibition

Dose	Number of Patients	50% pCRKL Reduction
2 mg	2	%
4 mg	1	0%
8 mg	6	67%
15 mg	3	67%
30 mg	4	100%
45 mg	10	90%
60 mg	17	100%

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# Ponatinib Phase I Data

*Recommended Phase II Dose: 8 mg?*

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# Dasatinib Phase I (?) Study

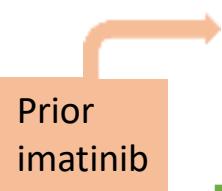


Prior imatinib	CP-CML	MCyR
	15 mg QD	0
	30 mg QD	0
	50 mg QD	2/3
	75 mg QD	0/3
	105 mg QD	1/3
	140 mg QD	1/3
	180 mg QD	2/3
	25 mg BID	0
	35 mg BID	1/7
	50 mg BID	1/3
	75 mg BID	4/6

CP-CMP, chronic phase CML; MCyR, major cytogenetic response

Talpaz M, et al. N Engl J Med 2006;354:2531-41.

# Dasatinib Phase I (?) Study



CP-CML	MCyR
15 mg QD	0
30 mg QD	0
50 mg QD	2/3
75 mg QD	0/3
105 mg QD	1/3
140 mg QD	1/3
180 mg QD	2/3
25 mg BID	0
35 mg BID	1/7
50 mg BID	1/3
75 mg BID	4/6

While we shouldn't be evaluating efficacy based on Phase I data....  
But, no clear or obvious trend of higher dose → better outcomes

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Prior imatinib

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15 mg QD	0
30 mg QD	0
50 mg QD	2/3
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140 mg QD	1/3
180 mg QD	2/3
25 mg BID	0
35 mg BID	1/7
50 mg BID	1/3
75 mg BID	4/6

Recommended Phase II Dose?

- Toxicity

- Grade 3/4 neutropenia: 45%
  - "We cannot tell whether the myelosuppression was solely the result of the action of dasatinib.... or a of a more general hematopoietic toxic effect. Myelosuppression typically resolved in patients who had cytogenetic remission and has not been a complication of dasatinib treatment in patient with solid tumors."*
- Pleural effusion (15 patients)
- Grade 3/4 transaminitis (7 patients)
- Grade 1/2 hypocalcemia (60%)

CP-CMP, chronic phase CML; MCyR, major cytogenetic response

Talpaz M, et al. N Engl J Med 2006;354:2531-41.

# “Intermittent target inhibition with 100 mg daily...”

CP-CML	100 mg QD	50 mg BID	140 mg QD	70 mg BID
Imatinib duration > 3 years	46%	36%	41%	42%
Prior therapy				
Interferon-alpha	52%	52%	56%	49%
Chemotherapy	23%	31%	25%	26%
<b>Efficacy</b>				
MCyR	59%	54%	56%	55%
CCyR	41%	42%	44%	45%
<b>Toxicity</b>				
Pleural effusion	7%	11%	15%	16%

“Treatment with 100 mg once daily provides the most favorable overall benefit-risk profile, with improved tolerability and consistent efficacy to the recommended 70 mg twice daily dose...”

On the basis of these findings, the 100 mg once daily regimen should be used for patients with CP-CML...”

# Dasatinib: Daily vs. BID

- “An **extensive** phase II program confirmed the efficacy and safety of dasatinib 70 mg twice daily in all phases of CML...”
- Prior dose finding studies found
  - 140 mg daily looks more effective
  - 70 mg BID looks more toxic (pleural effusions)

AP-CML	140 mg QD (n = 158)	70 mg BID (n = 159)
<b>Imatinib status</b>		
Resistant	74%	73%
Intolerant	26%	27%
<b>Efficacy</b>		
MCyR	39%	42%
CCyR	32%	33%
<b>Toxicity</b>		
Pleural effusion	20%	<b>39%</b>

# Dasatinib Label Today

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use SPRYCEL® safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for SPRYCEL.

SPRYCEL (dasatinib) tablets, for oral use

Initial U.S. Approval: 2006

### RECENT MAJOR CHANGES

Warnings and Precautions (5.11) 2/2023

### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

SPRYCEL is a kinase inhibitor indicated for the treatment of

- newly diagnosed adults with Philadelphia chromosome-positive (Ph+) chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) in chronic phase. (1, 14)
- adults with chronic, accelerated, or myeloid or lymphoid blast phase Ph+ CML with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy including imatinib. (1, 14)
- adults with Philadelphia chromosome-positive acute lymphoblastic leukemia (Ph+ ALL) with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy. (1, 14)
- pediatric patients 1 year of age and older with Ph+ CML in chronic phase. (1, 14)
- pediatric patients 1 year of age and older with newly diagnosed Ph+ ALL in combination with chemotherapy. (1, 14)

### DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Chronic phase CML in adults: 100 mg once daily. (2)
- Accelerated phase CML, myeloid or lymphoid blast phase CML, or Ph+ ALL in adults: 140 mg once daily. (2)

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## • Warnings and Precautions

- Myelosuppression
- Fluid retention
- Cardiovascular Toxicity
- Pulmonary Artery Hypertension
- QT Prolongation
- Severe Dermatologic Reactions
- Tumor Lysis Syndrome
- Embryo-Fetal Toxicity
- Effects on Growth & Development in Pediatric Patients
- **Hepatotoxicity**

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## • Warnings and Precautions

### 5.11 Hepatotoxicity

SPRYCEL may cause hepatotoxicity as measured by elevations in bilirubin, aspartate aminotransferase (AST), alanine aminotransferase (ALT), and alkaline phosphatase [see Adverse Reactions (6.1)]. Monitor transaminases at baseline and monthly or as clinically indicated during treatment. Reduce dose, withhold, or permanently discontinue SPRYCEL based on severity [see Dosage and Administration (2.5)]. When SPRYCEL is administered in combination with chemotherapy, liver toxicity in the form of transaminase elevation and hyperbilirubinemia has been observed. Monitor hepatic function when SPRYCEL is used in combination with chemotherapy.

## • Hepatotoxicity

Sprycel (package insert). 2023. Bristol-Myers Squibb. Princeton, NJ. Updated.

# Dasatinib Dosing, cont.

Reference	Design	Results	
Gener-Ricos, et al <i>“Based on the findings from the phase I trial and the anecdotal evidence that lower dose dasatinib....”</i>	Single-arm (n = 83), 50 mg daily. 5-year f/u	MMR: 95% MMR <sup>+</sup> : 82% 5-year OS: 96%	
E Jabbour, et al	50 mg (n = 83) vs. 100 mg (n = 150). Propensity score analysis. Median f/u = 5 years	<u>3-year MMR</u> • D50: 92% • D100: 84%	<u>MR 4.5</u> • D50 77% • D100 62%
		<u>4-year OS</u> • D50 97% • D100 96%	

Gener-Ricos, et al. Clin Lymphoma Myeloma Leuk 2023;23:742-748.  
 Jabbour E, et al. Am J Hematol 2022;97:1413-1418

# Nilotinib PPI Drug-Drug Interaction: One Puzzle Piece

- Drug Interactions: PPIs
  - “[Nilotinib] displays pH-dependent aqueous solubility. Coadministration of multiple doses of esomeprazole (a PPI) decreased the nilotinib AUC by 34%.”
  - “Avoid concomitant use of PPIs with [nilotinib]”

The screenshot shows a digital interface for drug interactions. At the top, there's a navigation bar with icons for back, search, and refresh, followed by the text "LexiComp" and "June". Below the navigation is a section titled "Interaction" with a dropdown arrow. Underneath, it lists "Nilotinib / Inhibitors of the Proton Pump (PPIs and PCABs)" with another dropdown arrow. A "Risk Rating" section indicates "Dose-dependent therapy modification". A "Summary" section states: "Inhibitors of the Proton Pump (PPIs and PCABs); may decrease the serum concentration of Nilotinib." It is labeled "Severity Major" and "Reliability Fair: Existing data/reports are inconsistent". A "Management" section advises: "Avoid this combination when possible since separation of doses is not likely to be an adequate method of minimizing this interaction. If acid-suppressing therapy is necessary, consider use of histamine H2 receptor antagonists (H2RAs) given 10 hours before or 2 hours after nilotinib, or antacids given 2 hours before or 2 hours after nilotinib."

Tasigna (package insert). 2024. Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Corp. East Hanover, NJ. LexiComp Interactions. Accessed April 30, 2024. Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc.

# Nilotinib PPI Drug Interaction: Additional Puzzle Pieces

Nilotinib 34% AUC decrease with PPI based on single dose nilotinib study...

Design	Nilotinib Dose	PPI or famotidine (n = 94)	No PPI or H2RA (n = 373)	p-value
Retrospective analysis of ENESTnd trial	400 mg BID	1-year MMR: 44.4%	1-year MMR: 40.4%	0.13
	300 mg BID	1-year MMR: 55.1%	1-year MMR: 41.7%	0.14*

Design	Nilotinib Dose	PPI or famotidine (n = 77 )	No PPI or H2RA (n =170 )	p-value
Retrospective analysis of CAMN107A2101 trial	400 BID	1-year MCyR: 62.3%	1-year MCyR: 57.6%	0.40 0.82*

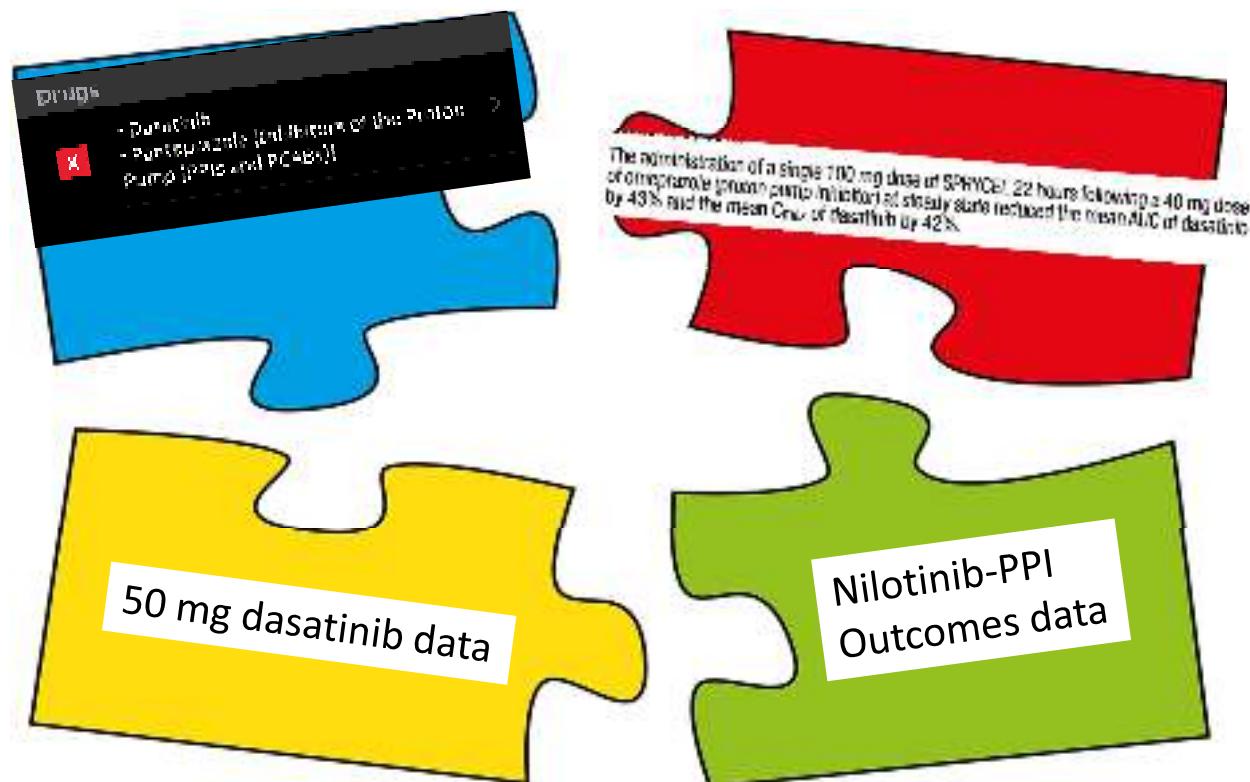
\*(sensitivity analysis for > 50% PPI possession time)

Yin OQ, et al. J Clin Pharmacol 2010;50:960-967.

Yin OQ, et al. Cancer Chemother Pharmacol 2012;70:345-350.

# Putting the pieces together....

- A 30-year-old male with newly diagnosed chronic phase CML
  - Initial Rx:
  - dasatinib 100 mg
  - PMH:
    - GERD
  - Meds:
    - pantoprazole



Fulvestrant



Cabazitaxel



Dosing?

375 mg/m<sup>2</sup> origin

1° CNS Lymphoma

Rituximab

Methotrexate





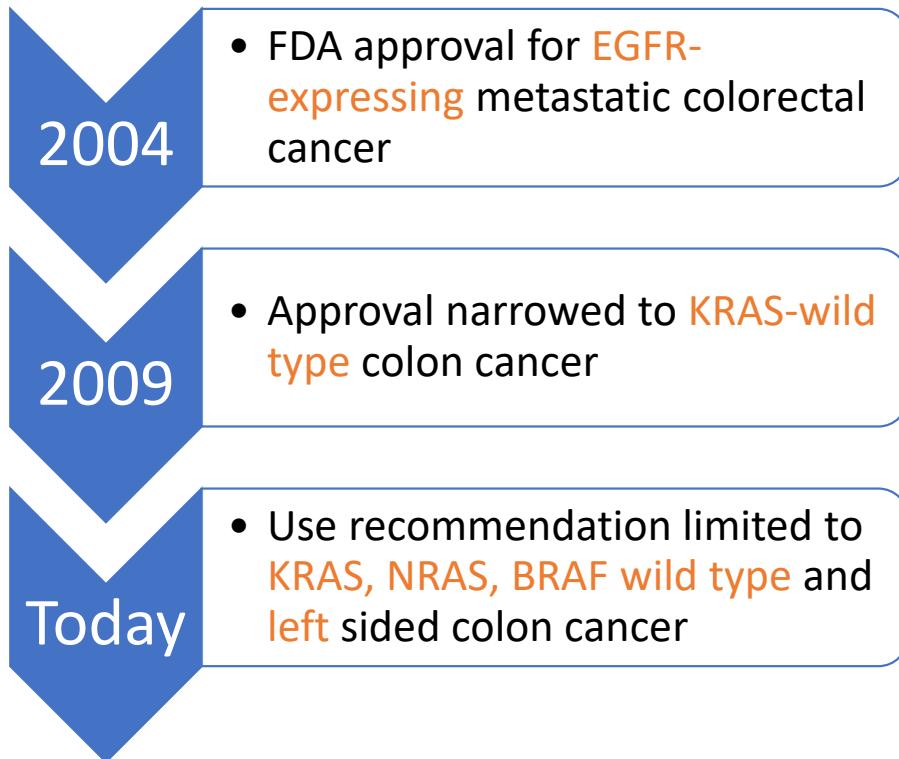
# Drug Use Evolution Mirrors Biologic Insights

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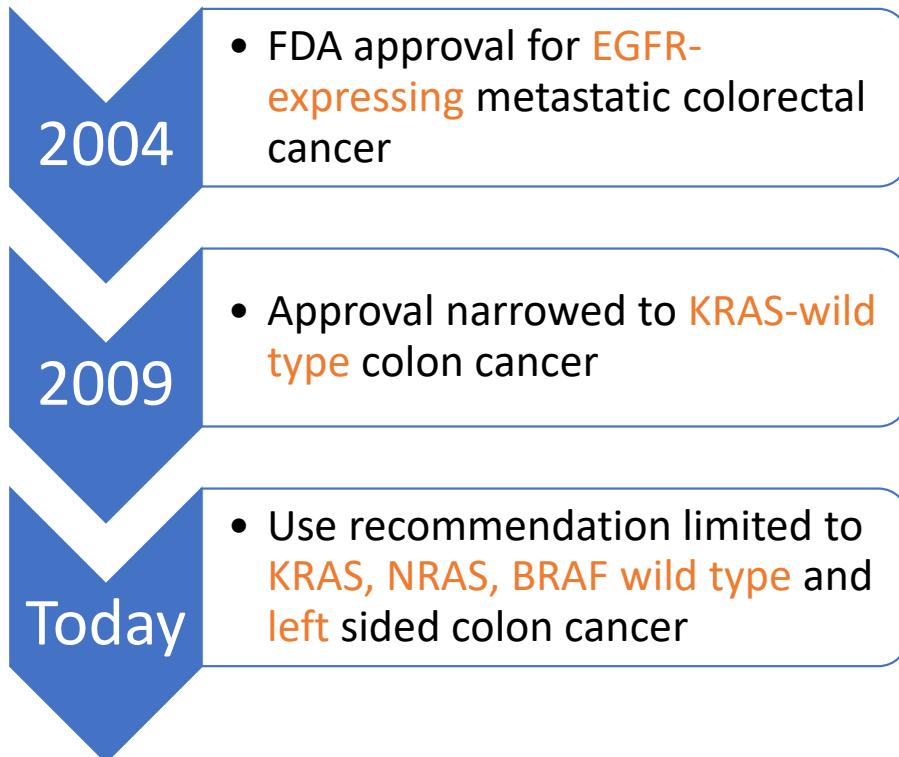
Chapter 2



# Cetuximab Story



# Cetuximab Story



PROSECUTING MARTHA STEWART: THE DRUG COMPANY

## **PROSECUTING MARTHA STEWART: THE DRUG COMPANY; Product at Center of the Trading Case Shows New Promise**



By Andrew Pollack

June 5, 2013

Erbilitux, the experimental cancer drug developed by ImClone Systems, was shown to shrink tumors at a conference here on Sunday. Today it helped inoculate ImClone from any ill effects of Martha Stewart's indictment.

Analysts say ImClone's future is now associated more with the prospects for Erbitux and less with the insider trading scandal that has dogged the company for 18 months. Imclone's former top executive, Samuel D. Waksal, has admitted to selling shares just before the government's initial rejection of Erbitux was made public, and Ms. Stewart was indicted yesterday on charges related to her sale of ImClone shares at the same time.

[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

Tamoxifen

Cetuximab

Narrowed  
Scope

Erlotinib

Mechlorethamine

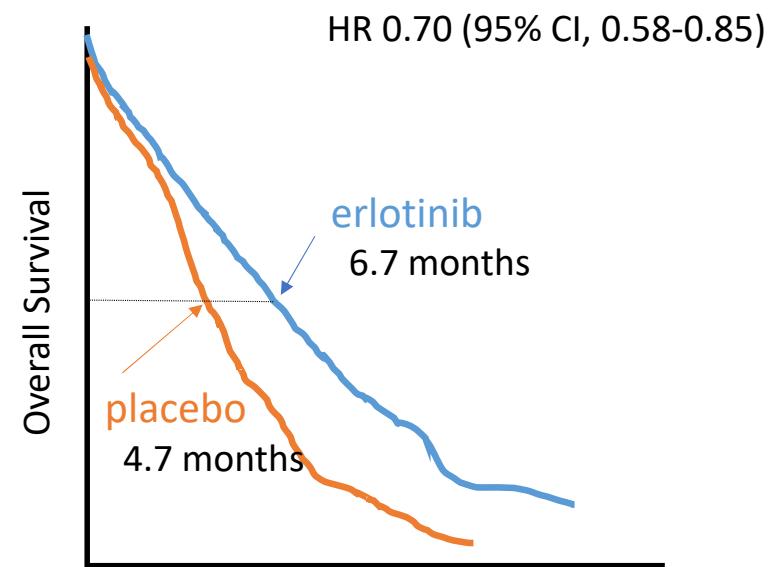
# EGFR Inhibiting TKIs in NSCLC: One Step Forward for All

	Erlotinib (n = 488)	Placebo (n = 243)
Age, median	62	59
Asian race/ethnicity	13%	12%
Histology		
Adenocarcinoma	50%	49%
Squamous cell	30%	32%
Prior chemotherapy		
1 regimen	51%	50%
2 <sup>+</sup> regimens	49%	50%
Smoking status		
Current smoker	73%	77%
Never smoker	31%	17%
EGFR Expression Unknown	57%	53%

Shepherd FA, et al. N Engl J Med 2005;353:123-132.

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Pivotal trial that established erlotinib as SOC in third line metastatic NSLCL

Image adapted from Shepherd FA, et al. N Engl J Med 2005;353:123-132.

# IPASS: Two Steps Forward for Fewer

	Gefitinib (n = 609)	Chemo* (n = 608)
Age, median	57	57
Female	80%	79%
East Asian race/ethnicity	99.7%	99.2%
Histology		
Adenocarcinoma	95%	97%
Stage		
IIIB	27%	27%
IV	70%	68%
Smoking status		
Never smoker	94%	94%

\*Carboplatin/paclitaxel

Previously Untreated Advanced NSCLC

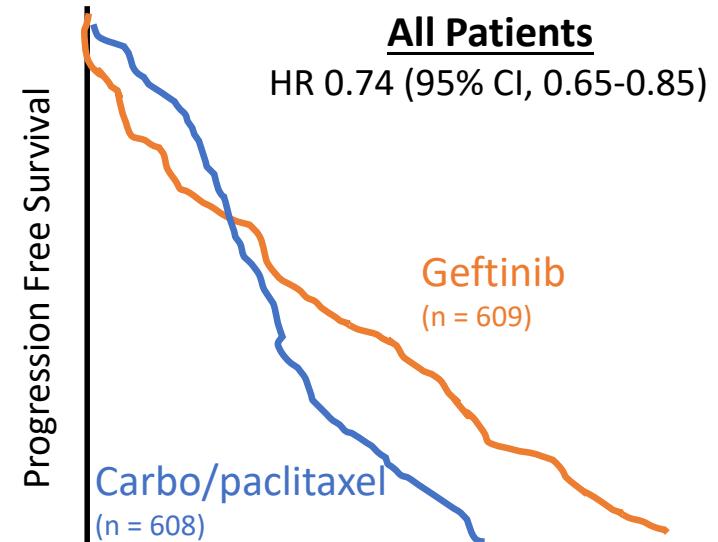
EGFR TKIs seemed to work better in patients with certain characteristics

- Adenocarcinoma histology
- East Asian
- Female
- Never Smoker

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Smoking status		
Never smoker	94%	94%

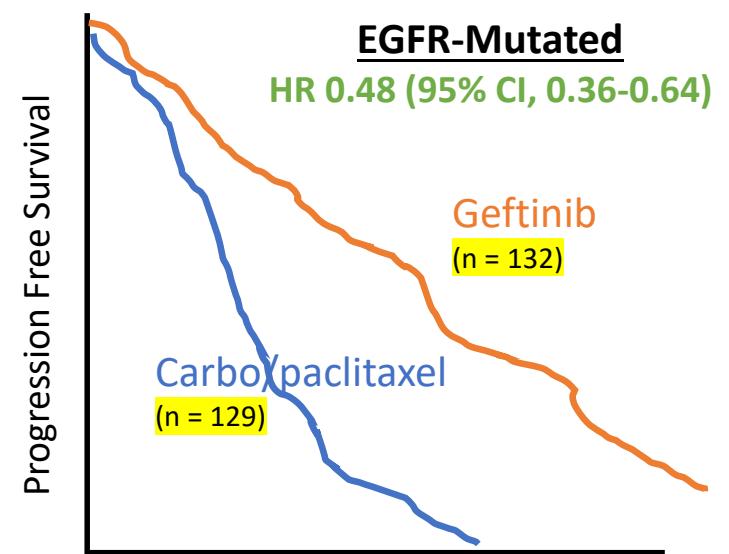
\*Carboplatin/paclitaxel



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Smoking status		
Never smoker	94%	94%

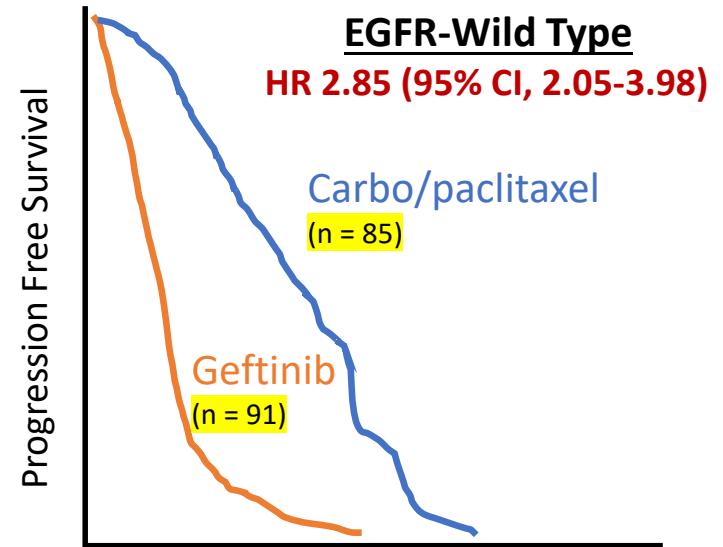
\*Carboplatin/paclitaxel



# IPASS: Two Steps Forward for Fewer

	Gefitinib (n = 609)	Chemo* (n = 608)
Age, median	57	57
Female	80%	79%
East Asian race/ethnicity	99.7%	99.2%
Histology		
Adenocarcinoma	95%	97%
Stage		
IIIB	27%	27%
IV	70%	68%
Smoking status		
Never smoker	94%	94%

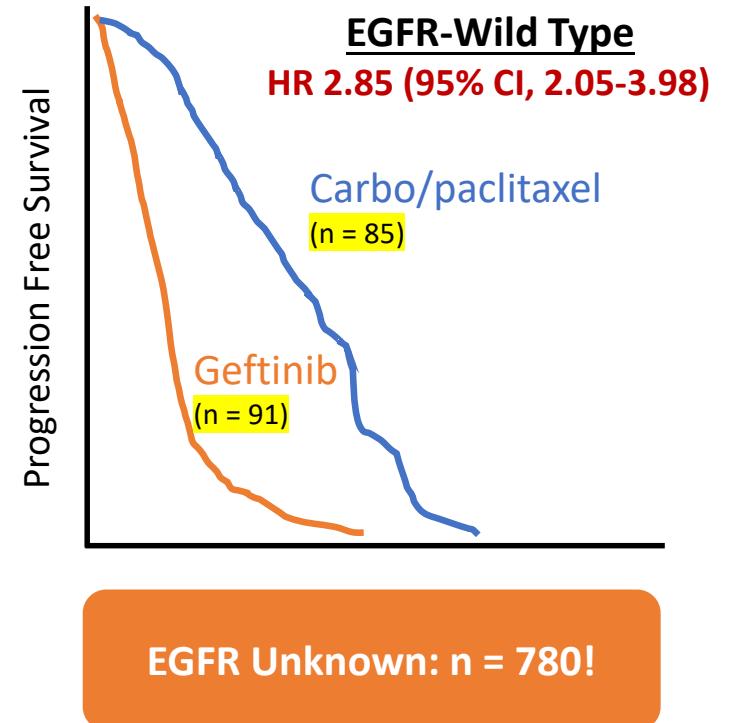
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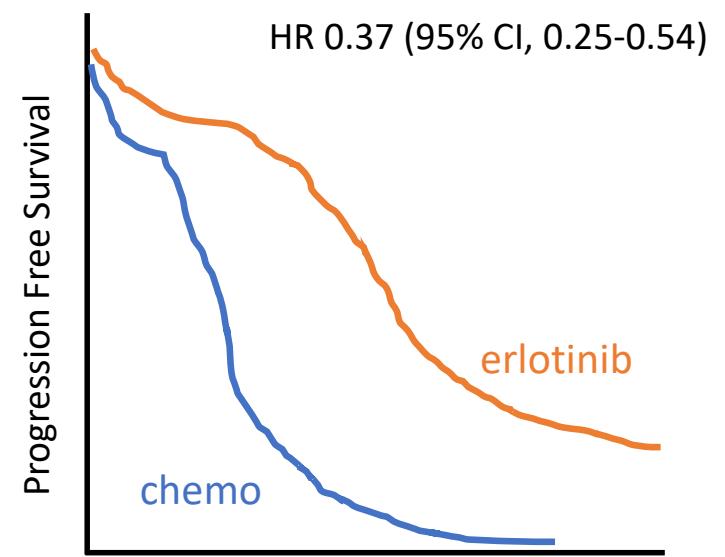
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# EURTAC: Three Steps Forward for Even Fewer

	Erlotinib (n = 86)	Chemo (n = 87)
Age, median	63	64
Female	67%	78%
Histology		
Adenocarcinoma	95%	90%
Stage		
IV	91%	94%
Smoking status		
Never smoker	66%	72%
Former smoker	26%	14%
EGFR mutation		
Exon 19 deletion	66%	67%
L858R (exon 21 mutation)	34%	33%



EURTAC, European Tarceva® (erlotinib) vs. Chemotherapy

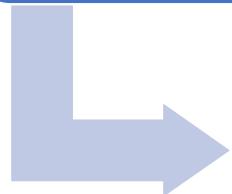
Image adapted from Rosell R, et al. Lancet Oncol 2012;13:239-46.

# EGFR TKIs in NSCLC Recap

Beneficial in All!

- But small benefit
- Rash as a predictor of response
- Gefitinib accelerated approval, then removal

Discarded Puzzle Pieces



# EGFR TKIs in NSCLC Recap

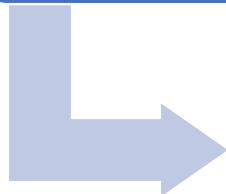
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Enriched  
Population

- Adenocarcinoma
- East Asian
- Female
- Non-smokers



# EGFR TKIs in NSCLC Recap

Beneficial  
in All!

- But small benefit
- Rash as a predictor of response
- Gefitinib accelerated approval, then removal

Enriched  
Population

- Adenocarcinoma
- East Asian
- Female
- Non-smokers

EGFR  
Mutation<sup>+</sup>

- Only Pts who Benefit



# Expanded Uses & Indications

Chapter 3



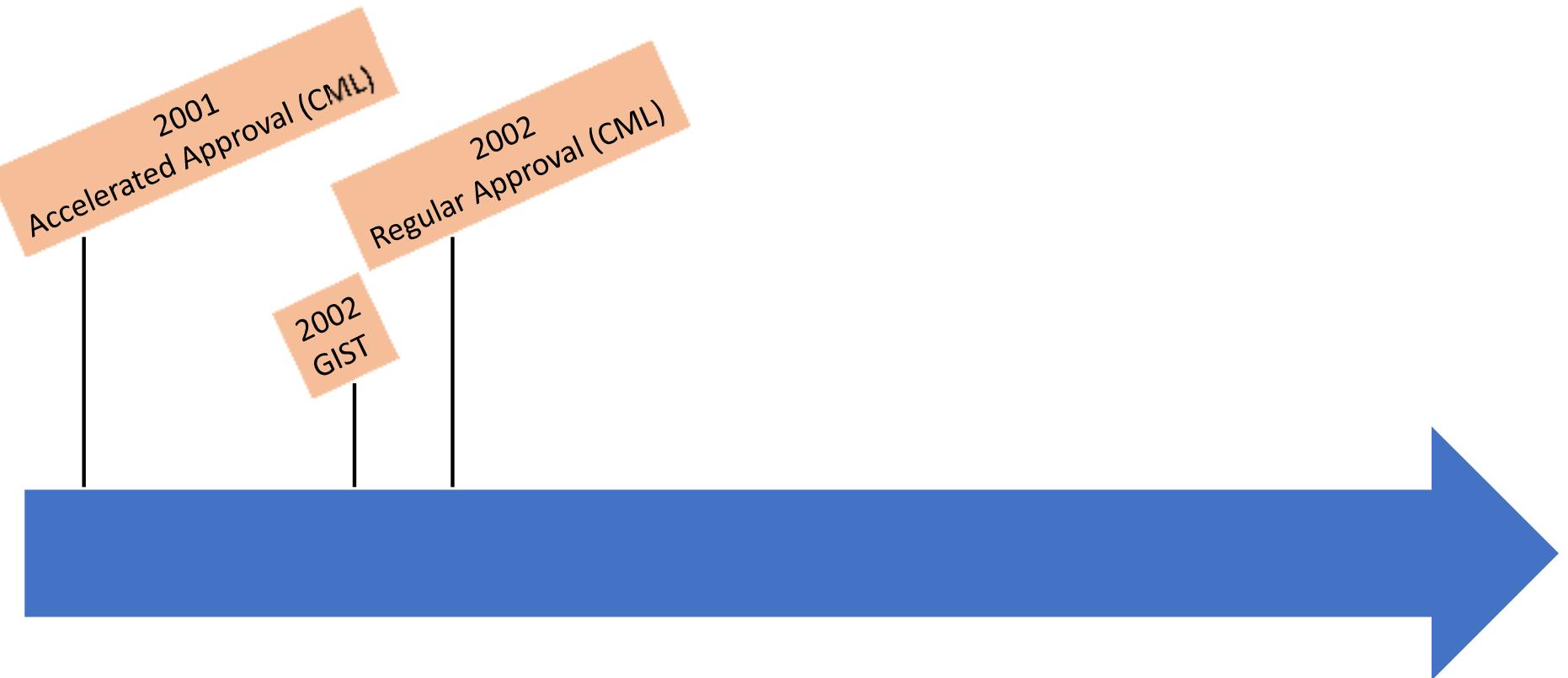
# The Imatinib Era (of Expanded Indications)



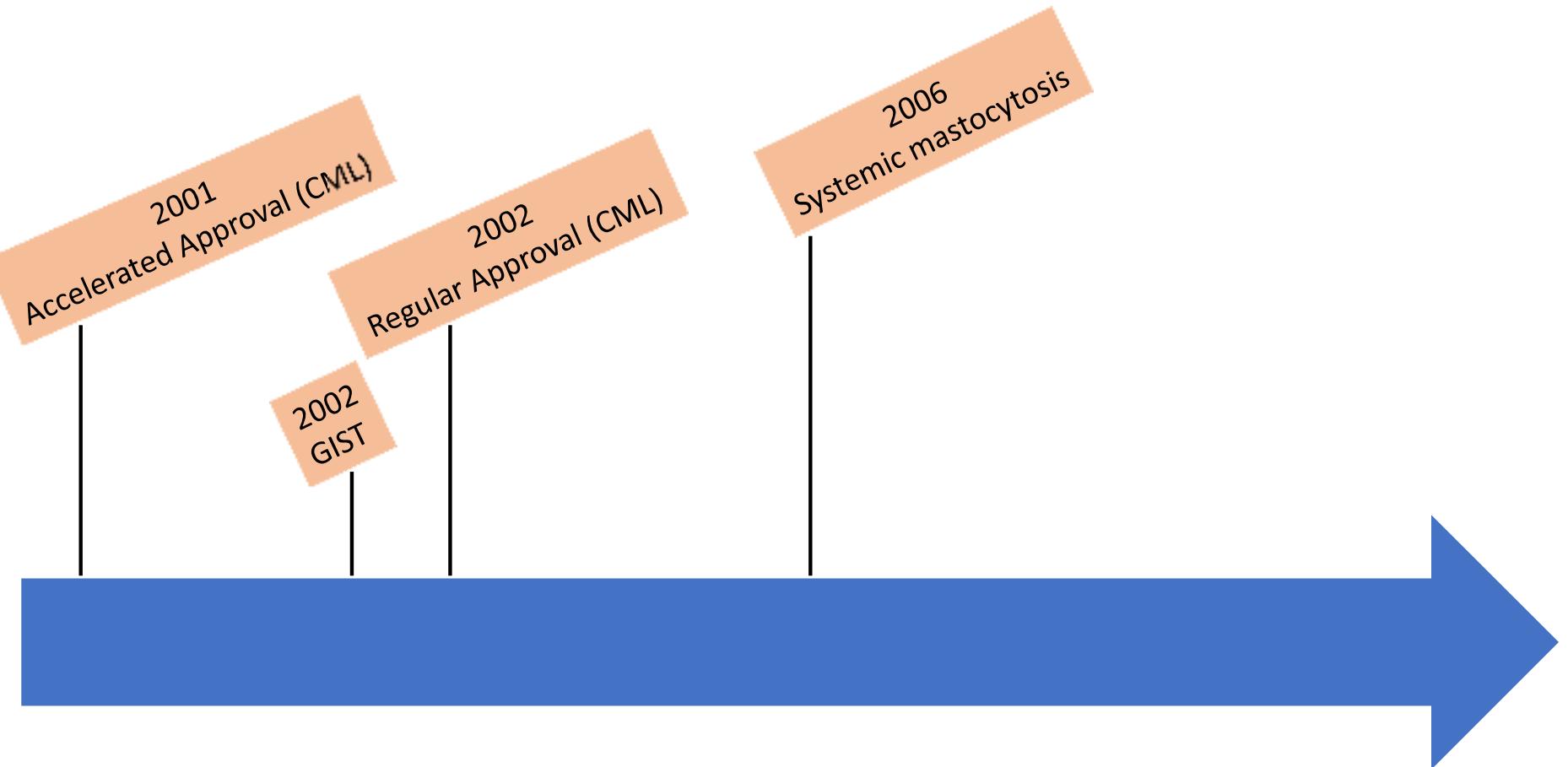
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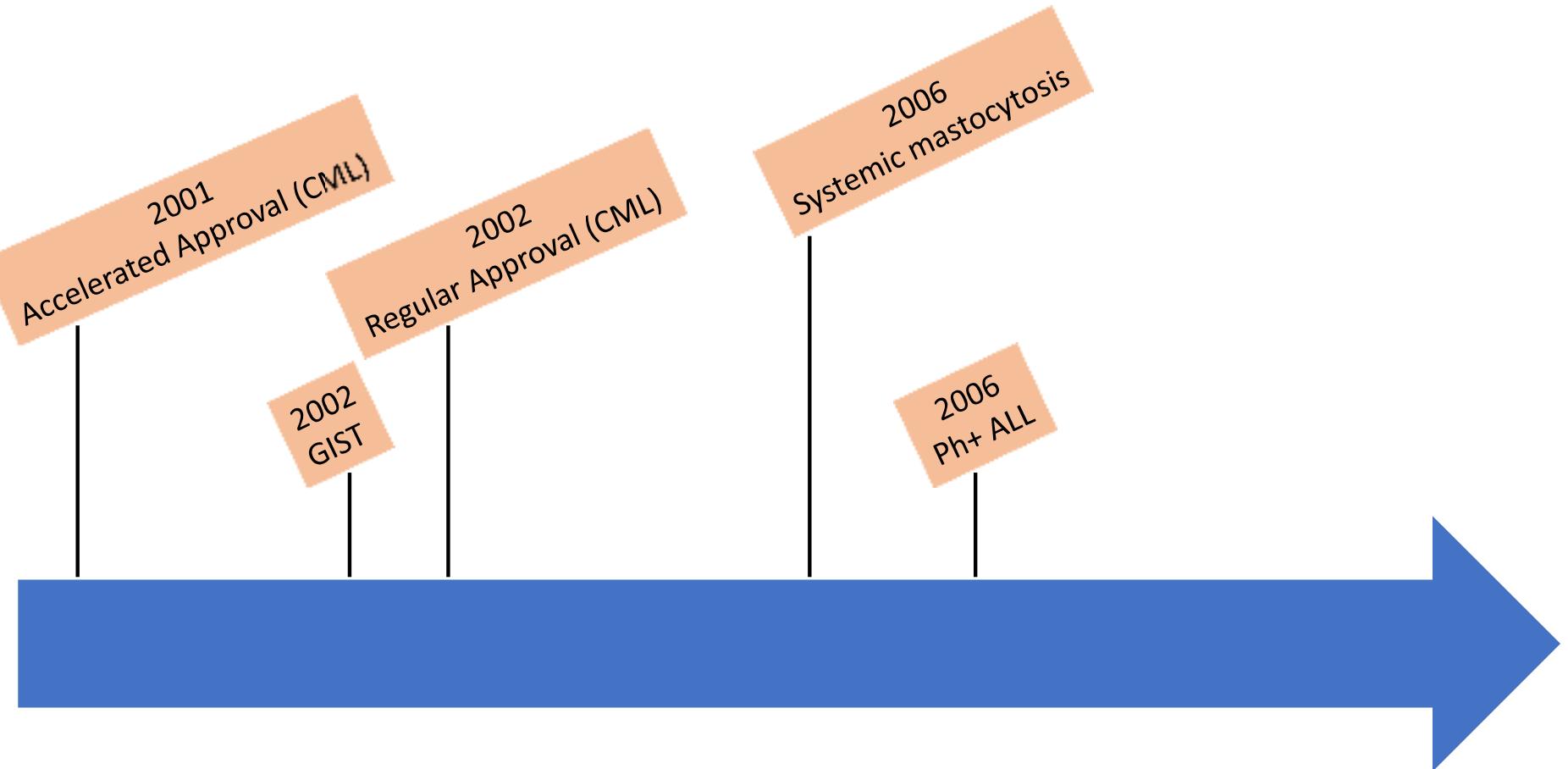
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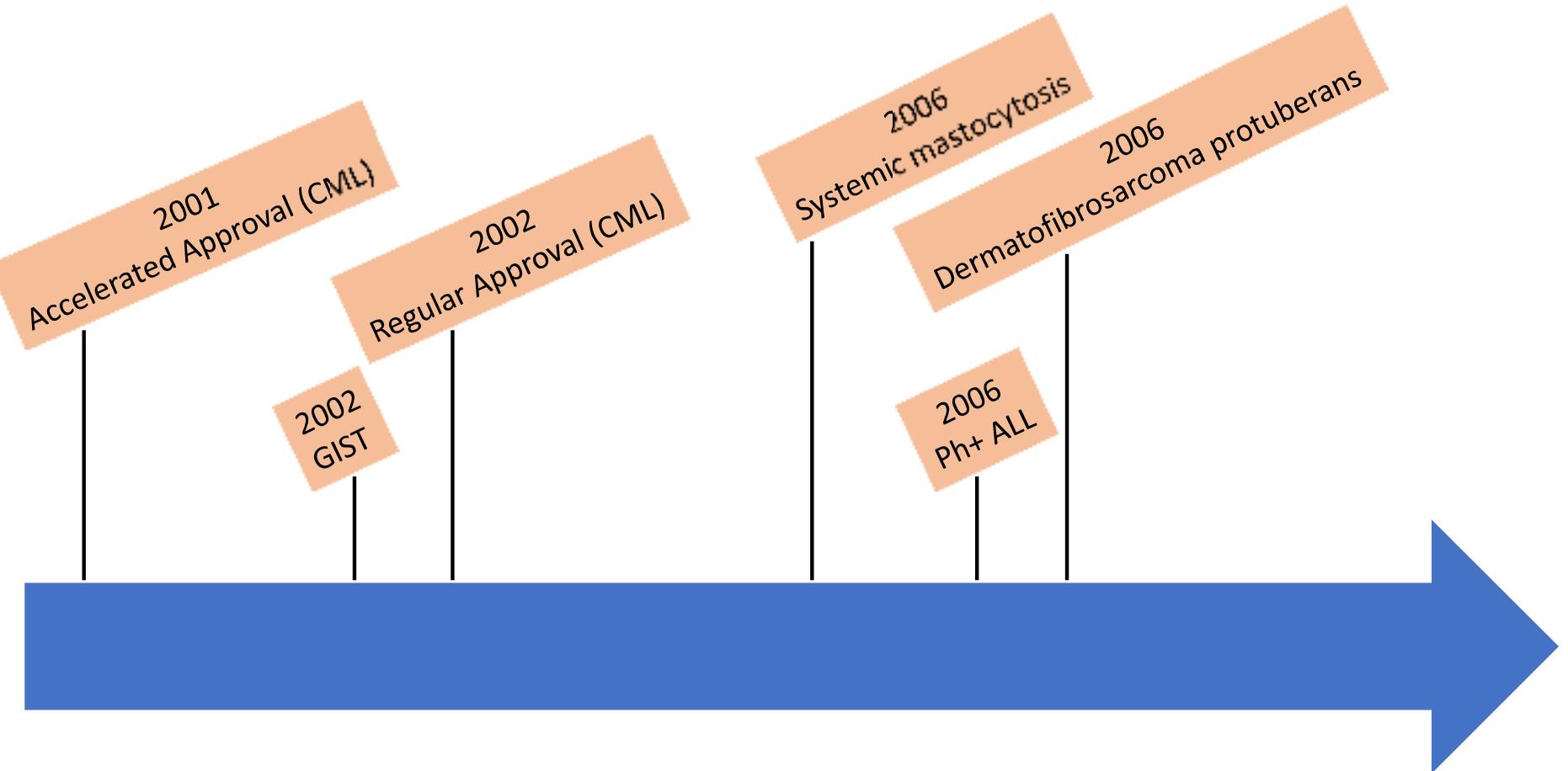
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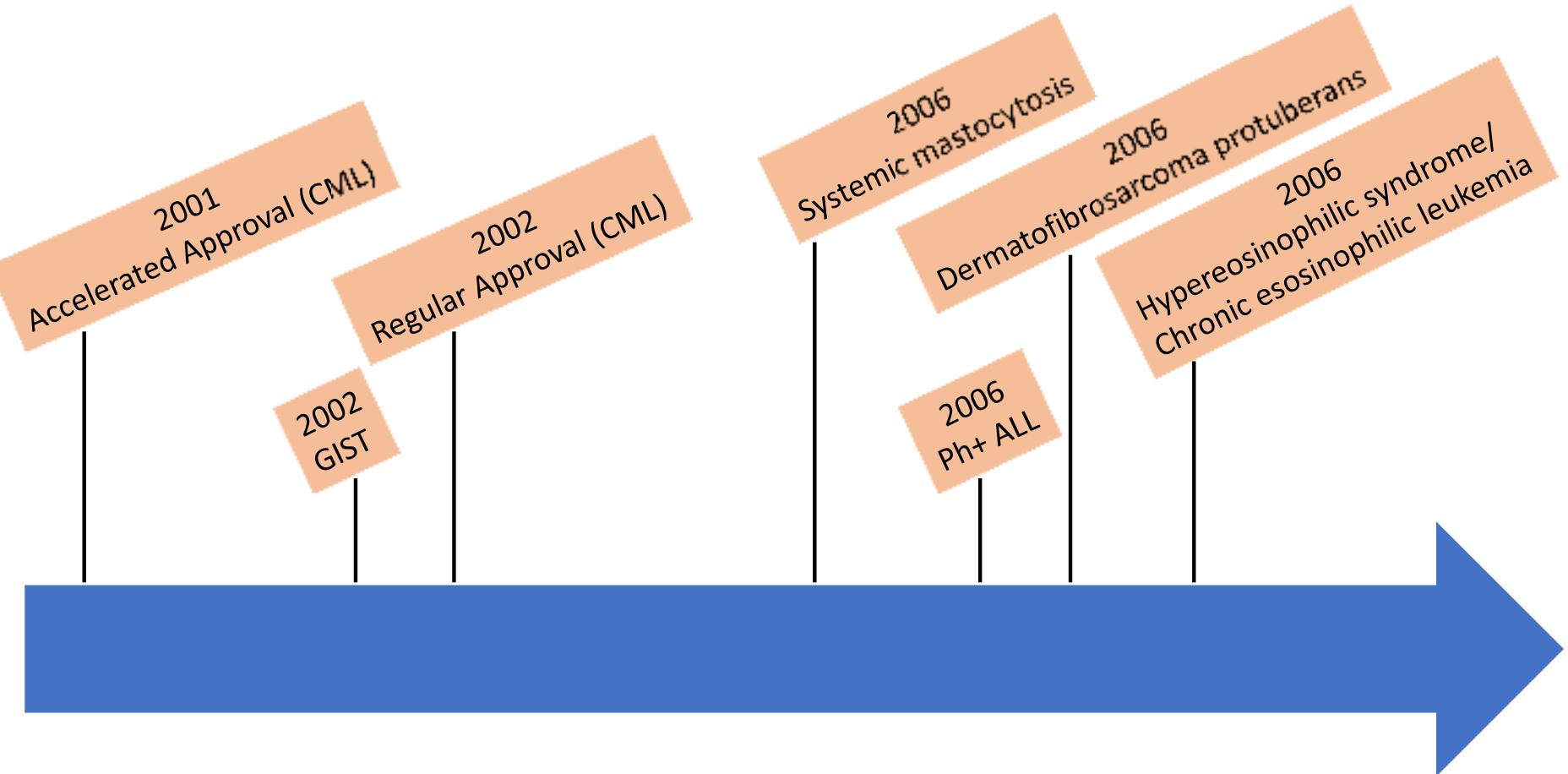
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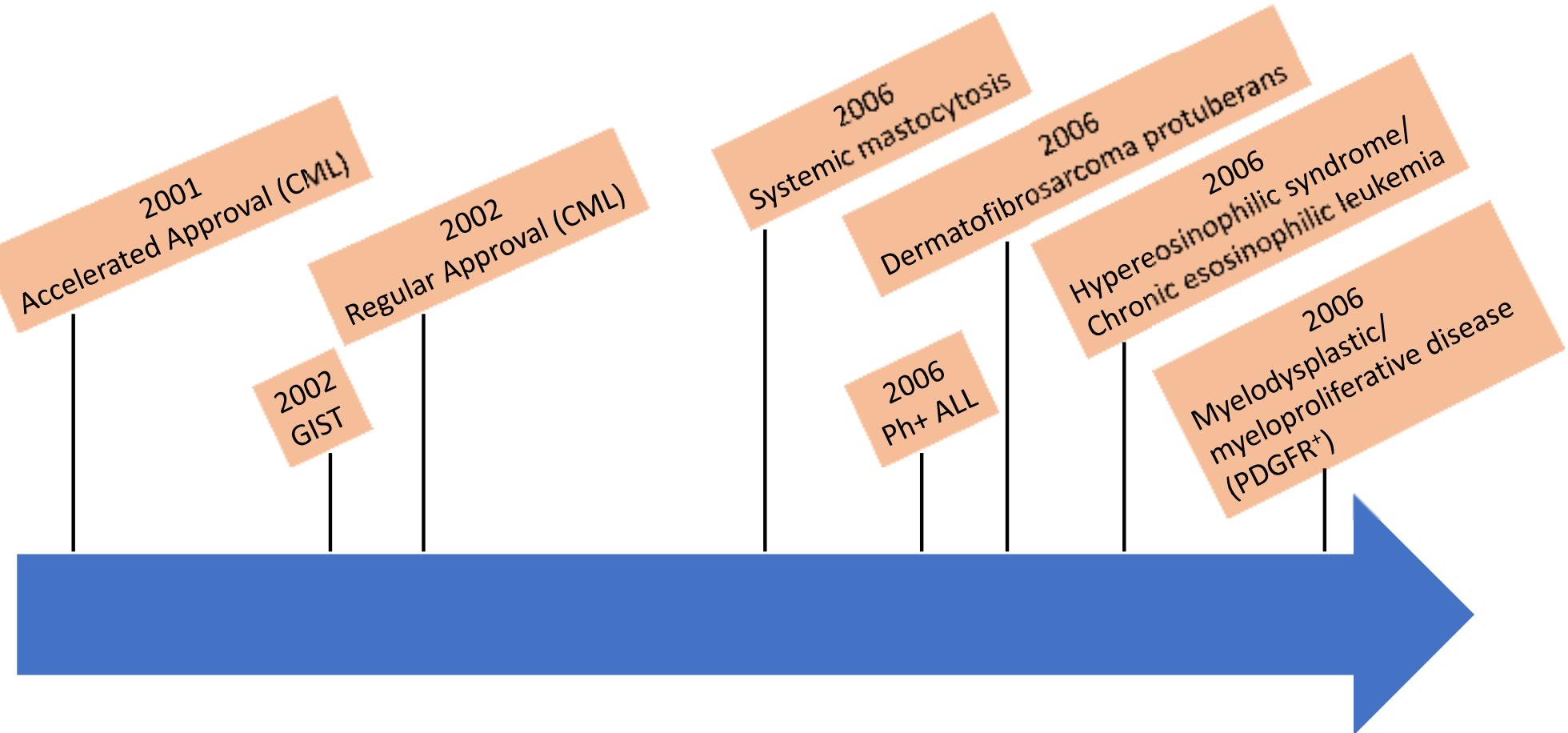
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# Pembrolizumab FDA-Approved Uses

## 2014

- Metastatic Melanoma

- Prior ipilimumab
- Prior BRAF inhibitor (if BRAF V600 mutation positive)

## 2024

- Melanoma
- NSCLC
- Head/Squamous Cell Cancer
- Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Primary Mediastinal B-Cell Lymphoma
- Urothelial Cancer
- MSI-h/MMRd Cancer
- MSI-h/MMRd Colorectal Cancer
- Gastric Cancer
- Esophageal Cancer
- Cervical Cancer
- Hepatocellular Cancer
- Biliary Tract Cancer
- Merkel Cell Carcinoma
- Renal Cell Carcinoma
- Endometrial Cancer
- TMB-h Cancer
- Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma
- TNBC

# Pembrolizumab Evolution in Bladder Cancer

**FDA Alert:** Decreased survival in pembrolizumab (Keynote-361) arms vs. platinum-based chemo in PD-L1 low patients

5/18



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**FDA Restricts**  
pembrolizumab to patients not eligible for cisplatin-based therapy

5/18    6/18



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**FDA Alert:** Decreased survival in pembrolizumab (Keynote-361) arms vs. platinum-based chemo in PD-L1 low patients

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5/18    6/18    8/18



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5/18    6/18    8/18

8/21



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5/18    6/18    8/18

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12/23

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**Neoadjuvant?  
No Surgery?**

5/18

6/18

8/18

8/21

12/23

Future

How confident are we in PD-L1 as a biomarker for ICIs?

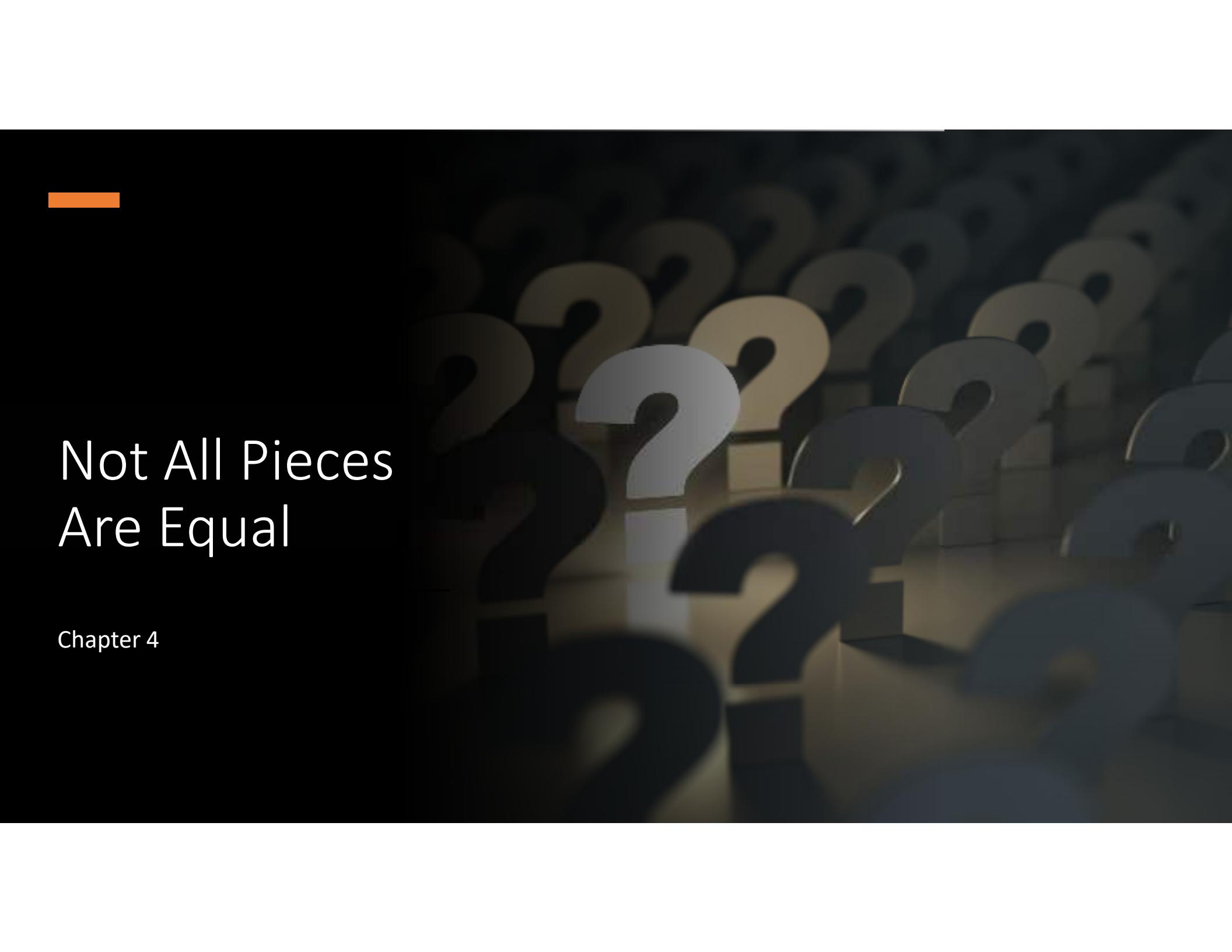


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How confident are we in PD-L1 as a biomarker for ICIs?





# Not All Pieces Are Equal

Chapter 4

# Olaparib Phase I Study

- BRCA Mutated Ovarian Cancer
  - 200 mg BID or higher
  - ORR = 63.6% (n = 11)
- BRCA Wild Type (solid tumors)
  - ORR = 0% (n = 38)

# Olaparib Phase I Study

- BRCA Mutated Ovarian Cancer
  - 200 mg BID or higher
  - ORR = 63.6% (n = 11)
- BRCA Wild Type (solid tumors)
  - ORR = 0% (n = 38)
- Hype!
- Strong evidence PARPi benefit limited to BRCA-mutated

# CLL Puzzle Pieces

## Drug A: Phase I/II Data

- Overall response rate = 72%
  - PR = 72%
  - CR = 0%

## Drug B: Phase I/II Data

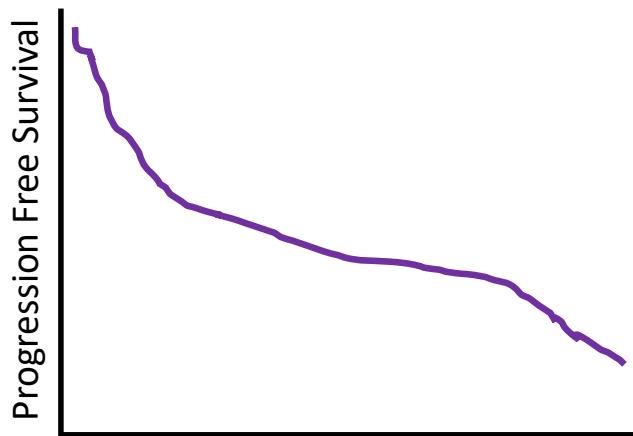
- Overall response rate = 71%
  - PR = 67%
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Byrd JC, et al. N Engl Med 2013;369(1):32-42  
Brown JR, et al. Blood 2014;123(22):3390-3397

# CLL Puzzle Pieces

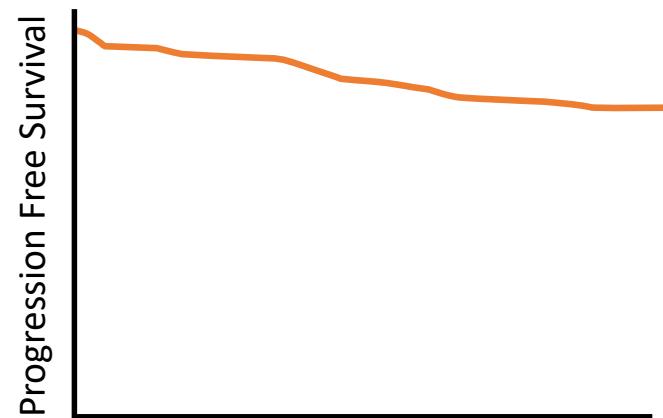
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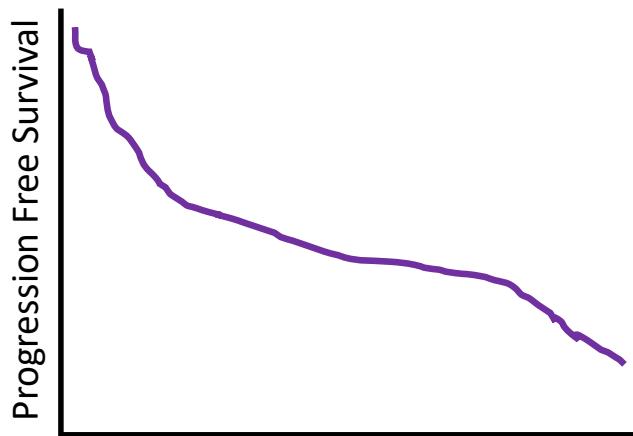


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# CLL Puzzle Pieces

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# Olaratumab's Story: Phase II Hype

- Phase II Soft Tissue Sarcoma



- Median PFS
  - DO: 6.6 months
  - D: 4.1 months
  - **HR 0.672**, 95% CI, 0.442-1.021
- Median OS
  - DO: 26.5 months
  - D: 14.7 months
  - **HR 0.463**, 95% CI, 0.301-0.710

Tap WD, et al. Lancet 2016;388:488-497  
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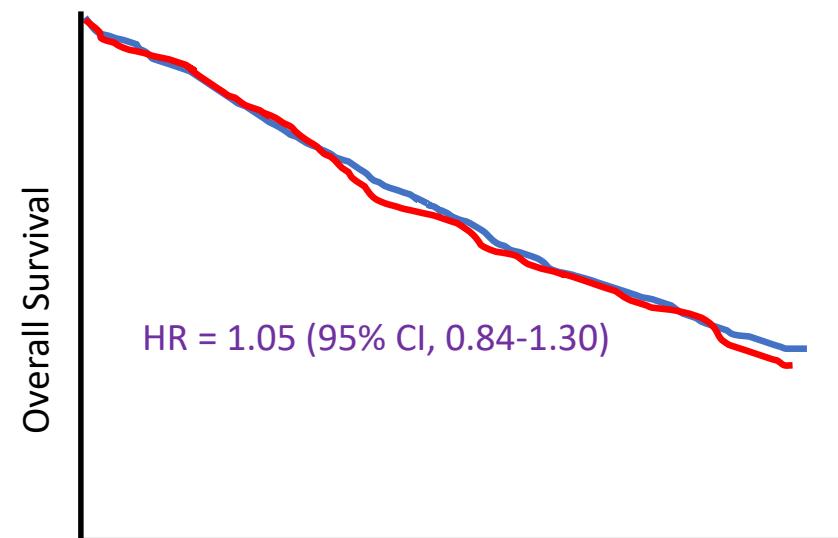
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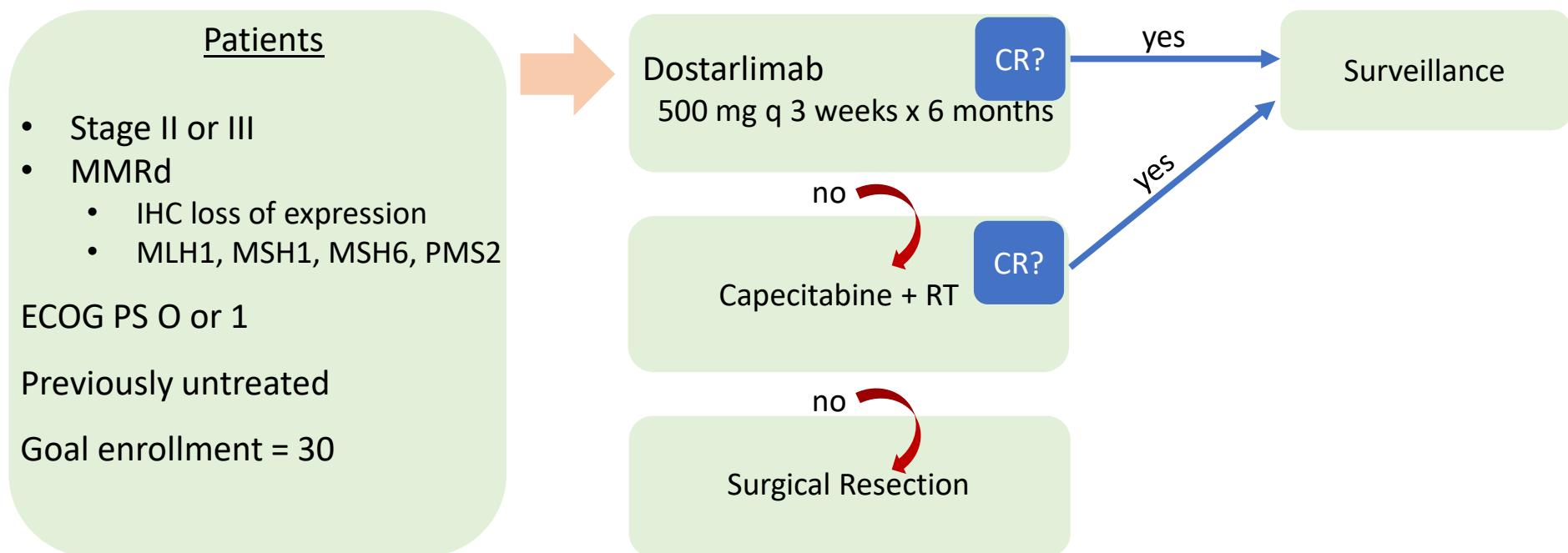


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# Dostarlimab in dMMR Rectal Cancer: More Phase II Hype

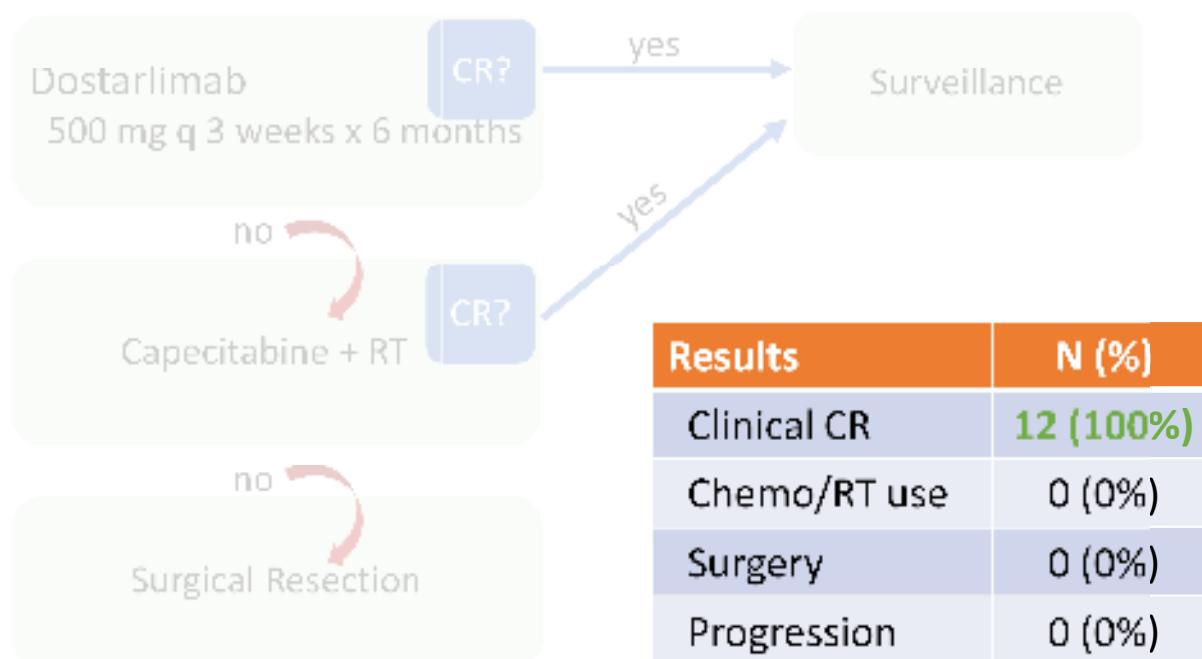
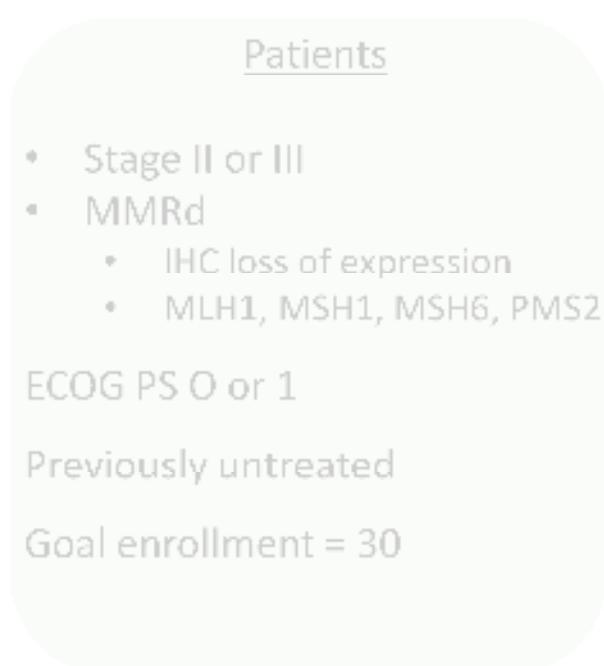


5-10% of rectal cancers may be dMMR

CR, complete response: no residual disease on digital & endoscopic exam & MRI

Cerek A, et al. N Engl J Med 2022;386:2263-2376

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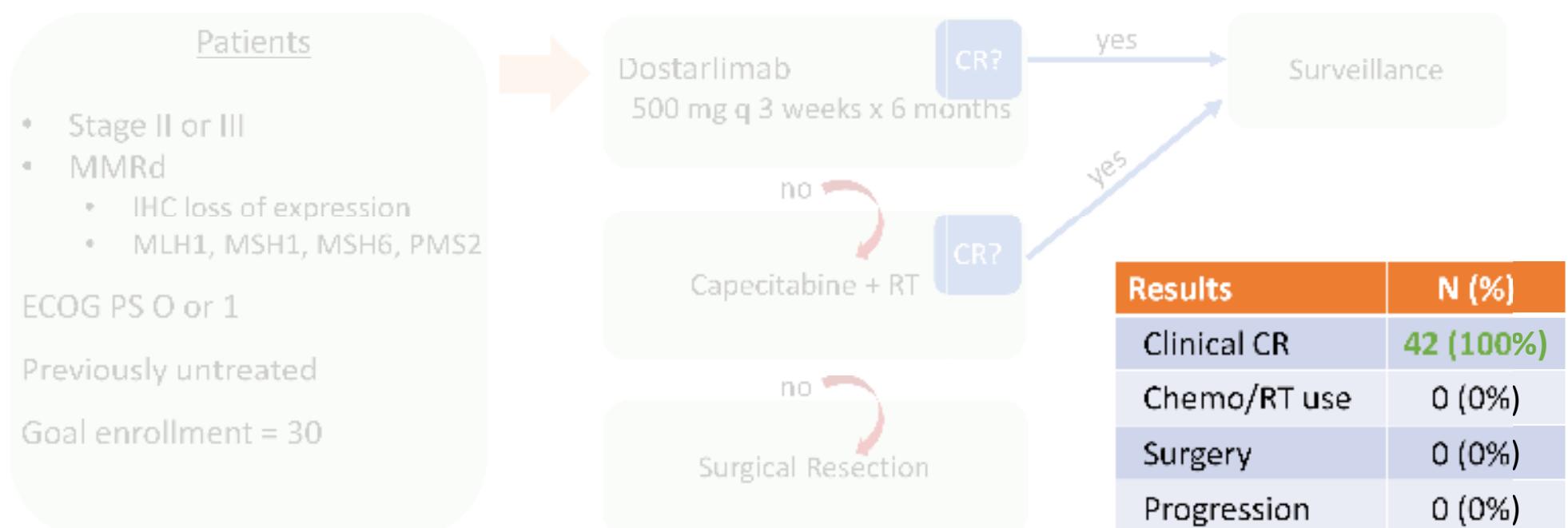


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Cerck A, et al. J Clin Oncol 42, 2024 (suppl 17; LBA3512)

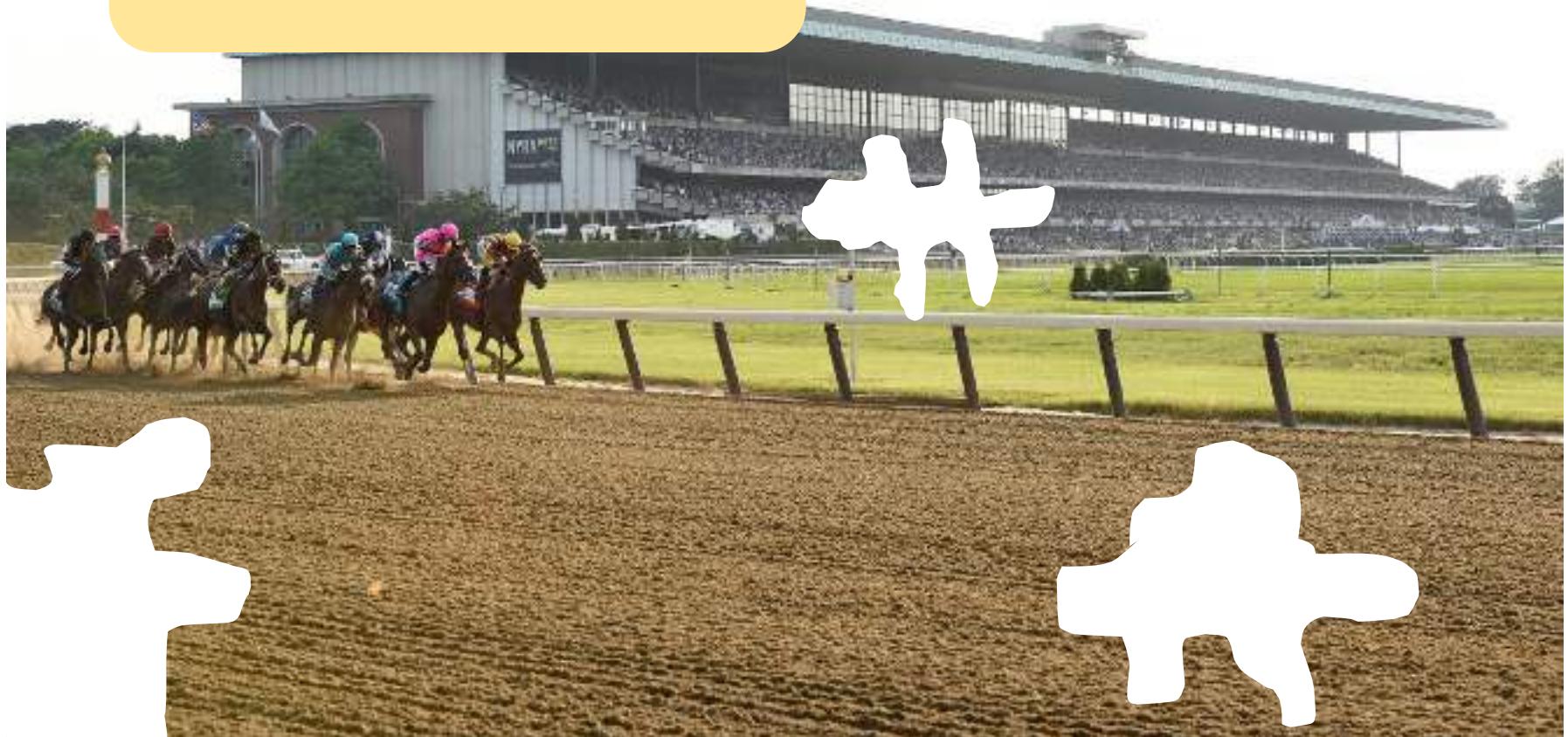
# Don't Force the Pieces to Fit...

- Common Pitfalls when evaluating new evidence
  - Overvaluing surrogate endpoints
  - Overvaluing phase II data (or similar small  $n$  studies)
  - Acceptances of control arm as “standard of care”

# How to keep track of all the new puzzle pieces?

- Email Table of Contents (eTOC)
  - Title > Abstract > Skim > Deep Dive
- Podcasts
- Professional Meetings
- Social Media
- **Active** Reading of Clinical Trial Publications
  - Control arm appropriateness/history, baseline demographic composition
  - Reference mining, introduction critiques, awareness of author “damage control” or spin

Who wins?



## Questions?

---

Epi	Pen	Dauno	Ret
Ice	Ida	Chop	Axl
Carb	Met	Matrix	Mono
Vegfr	Doxo	Ceph	Epoch



# Questions?

Beta-lactam class prefixes

\_\_\_\_ rubicin

Lymphoma regimens

Cabozantinib targets

Pen	Carba	Ceph	Mono
Doxo	Dauno	Ida	Epi
CHOP	ICE	Matrix	EPOCH
Vegfr	Axl	MET	RET