

# Opzioni terapeutiche per il paziente ad alto rischio

Impossibile visualizzare l'immagine. La memoria del computer potrebbe essere insufficiente per aprire l'immagine oppure l'immagine potrebbe essere danneggiata. Riavviare il computer e aprire di nuovo il file. Se viene visualizzata di nuovo la x rossa, potrebbe essere necessario eliminare l'immagine e inserirla di nuovo.



Valeria Santini

UF Ematologia, Università di Firenze

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# Pathogenesis of MDS

HIGH RISK MDS

New genetic aberrations  
Epigenetic Modifications  
Block in maturation

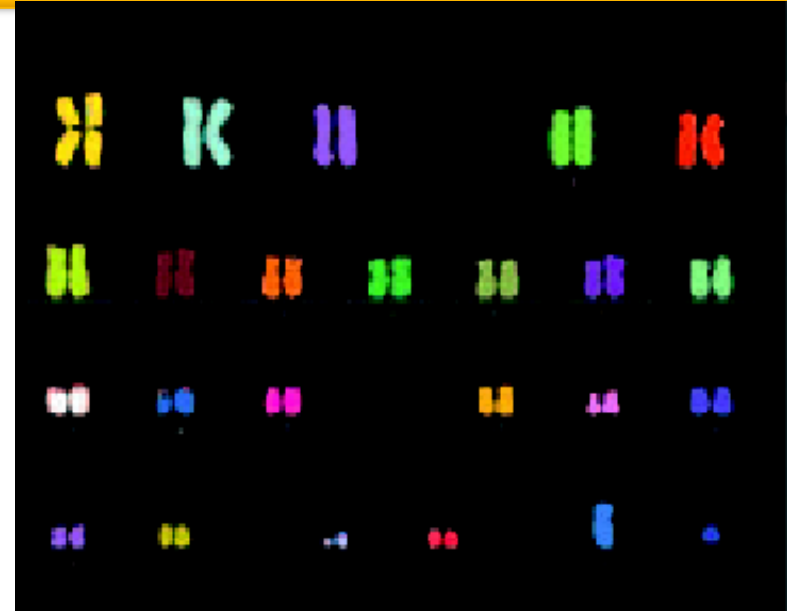
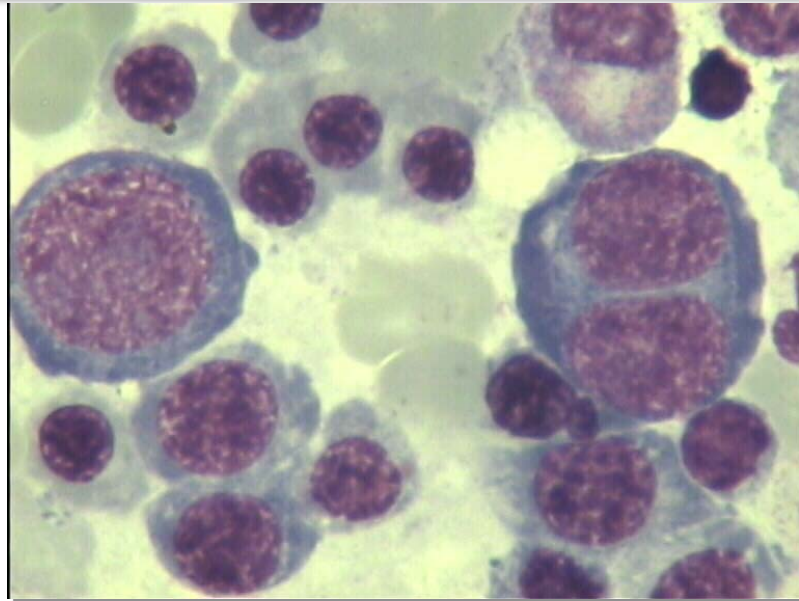
## Genetic Abnormalities

- Chromosomal (5q-, +8, -7, 7q-, 20q-, -Y, 11q23, 21q22)
- Mutations (TET2, SF3B1, ASXL-1, IDH1/2, EZH2, p53, PTPN11...)

Abnormal rate of apoptosis  
Disturbed cytokine signal transduction

LOW RISK MDS

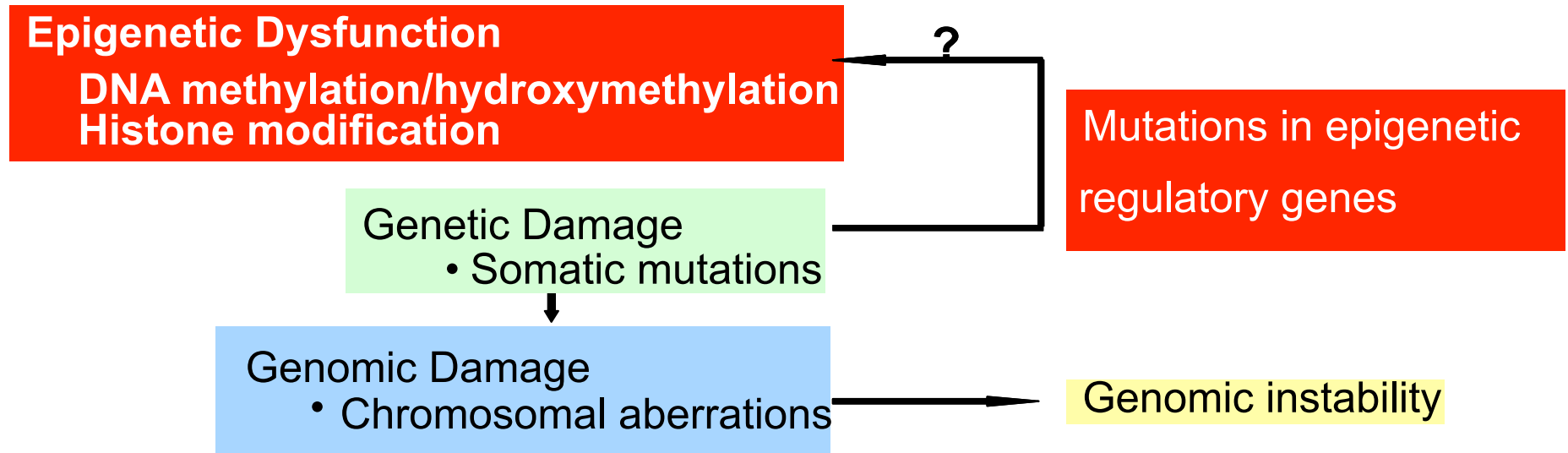
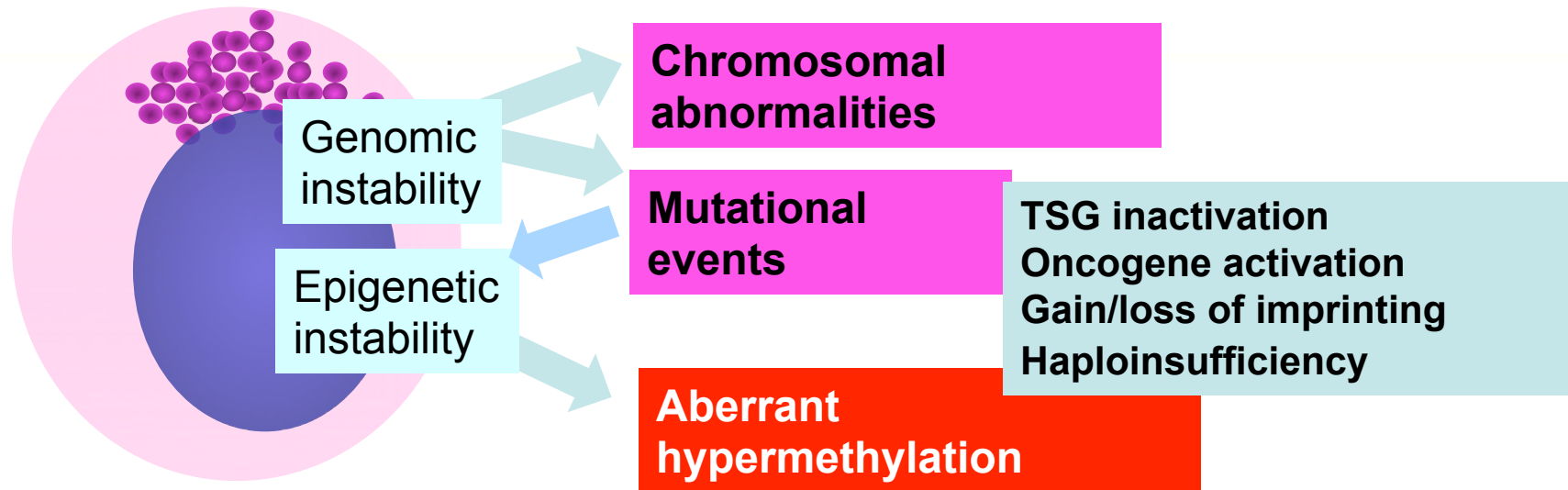
# Myelodysplastic syndromes are a constellation of cytopenias with difficult diagnosis



**An accurate diagnosis is the basis for successful prognostic stratification (and treatment) of MDS**

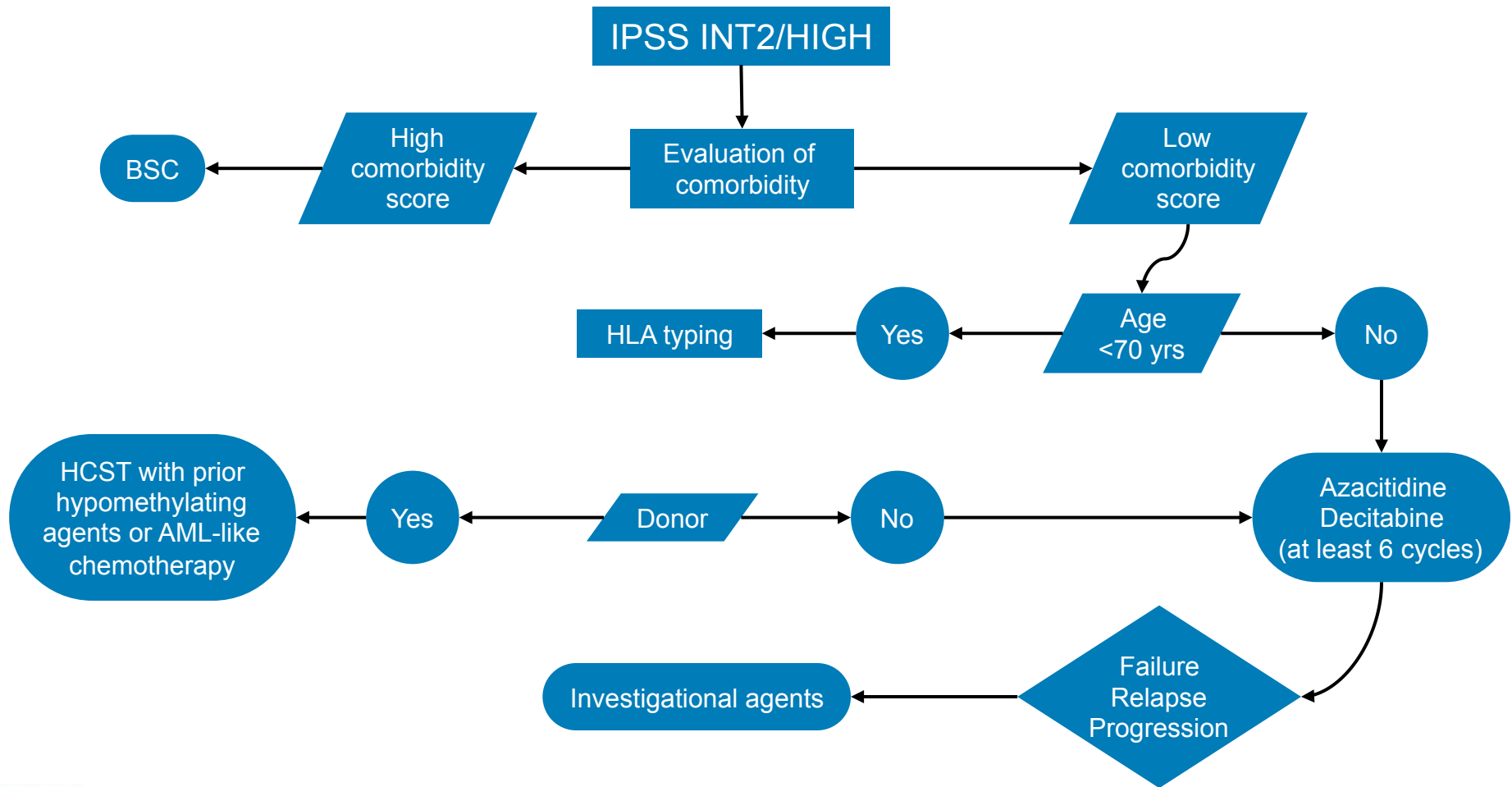
**Criteria: presence and number of dysplastic lineages , percentage of bone marrow blasts, cytogenetic abnormalities, somatic mutations**

# MOLECULAR PATHOGENESIS OF MDS

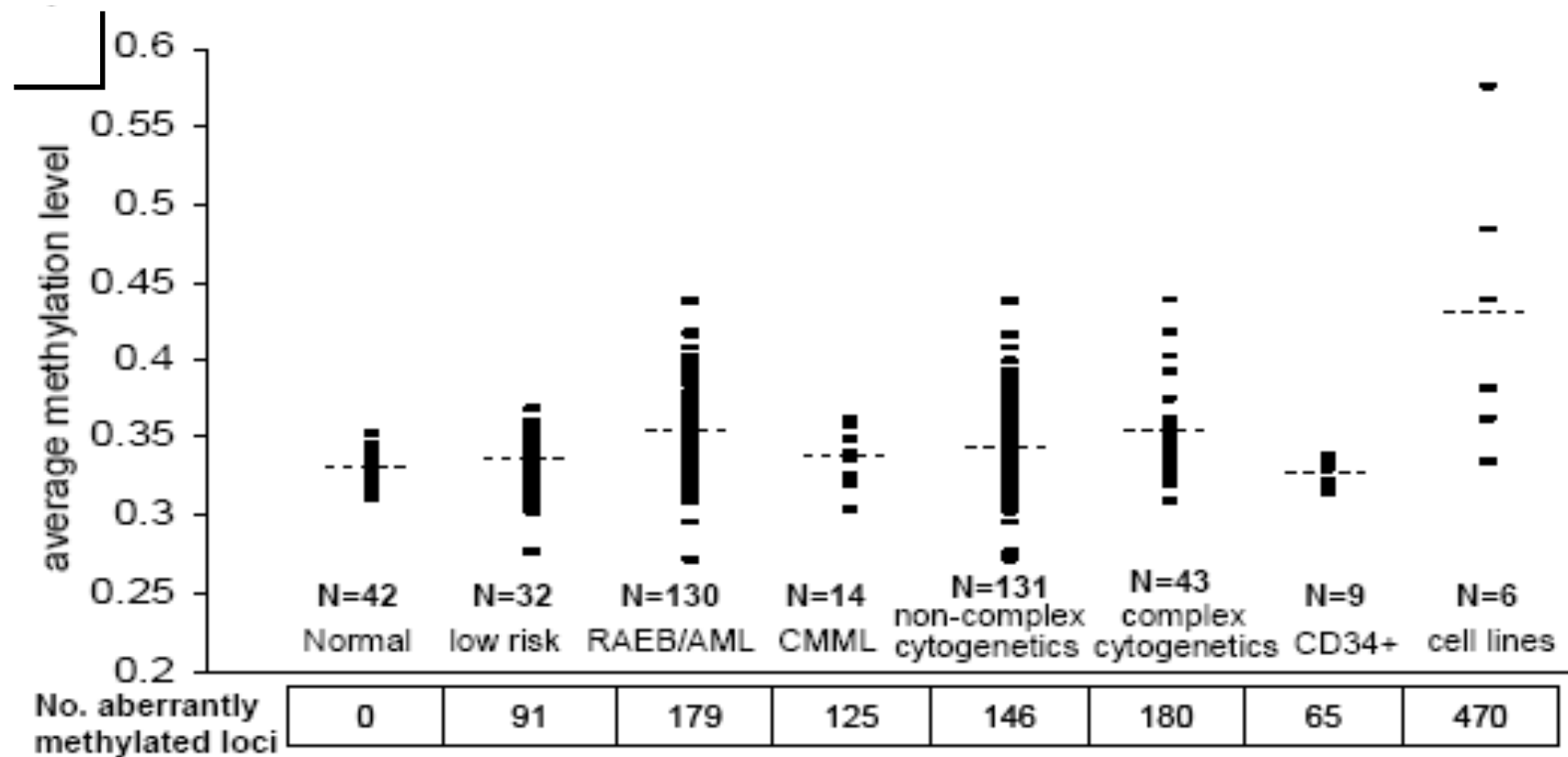




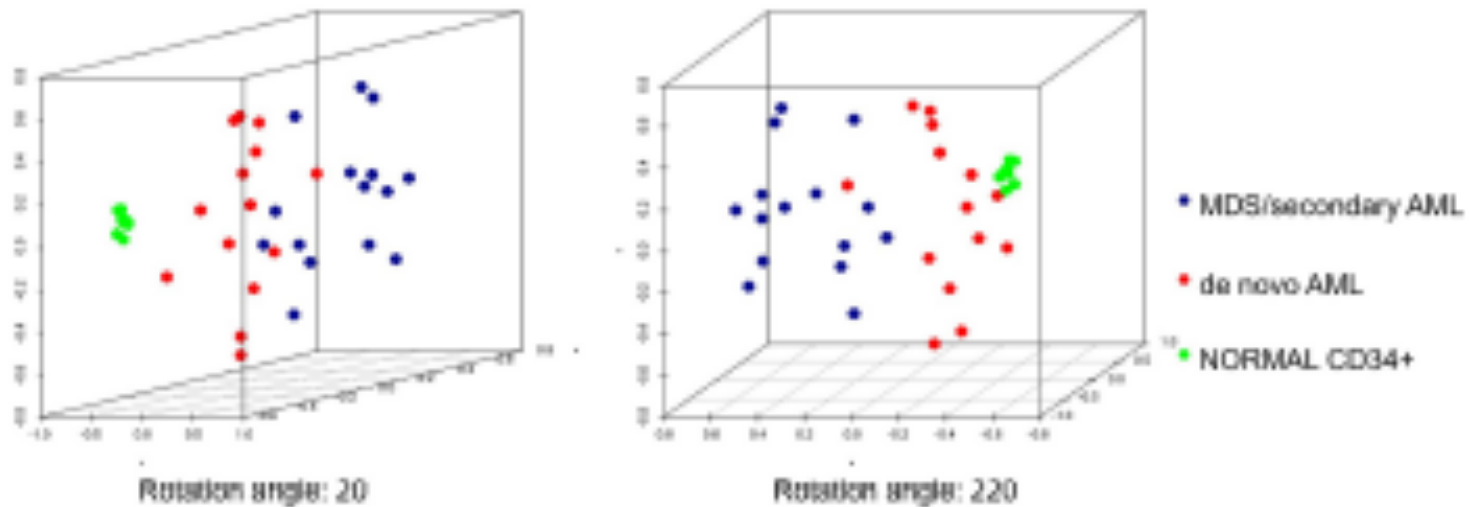
# Therapeutical options



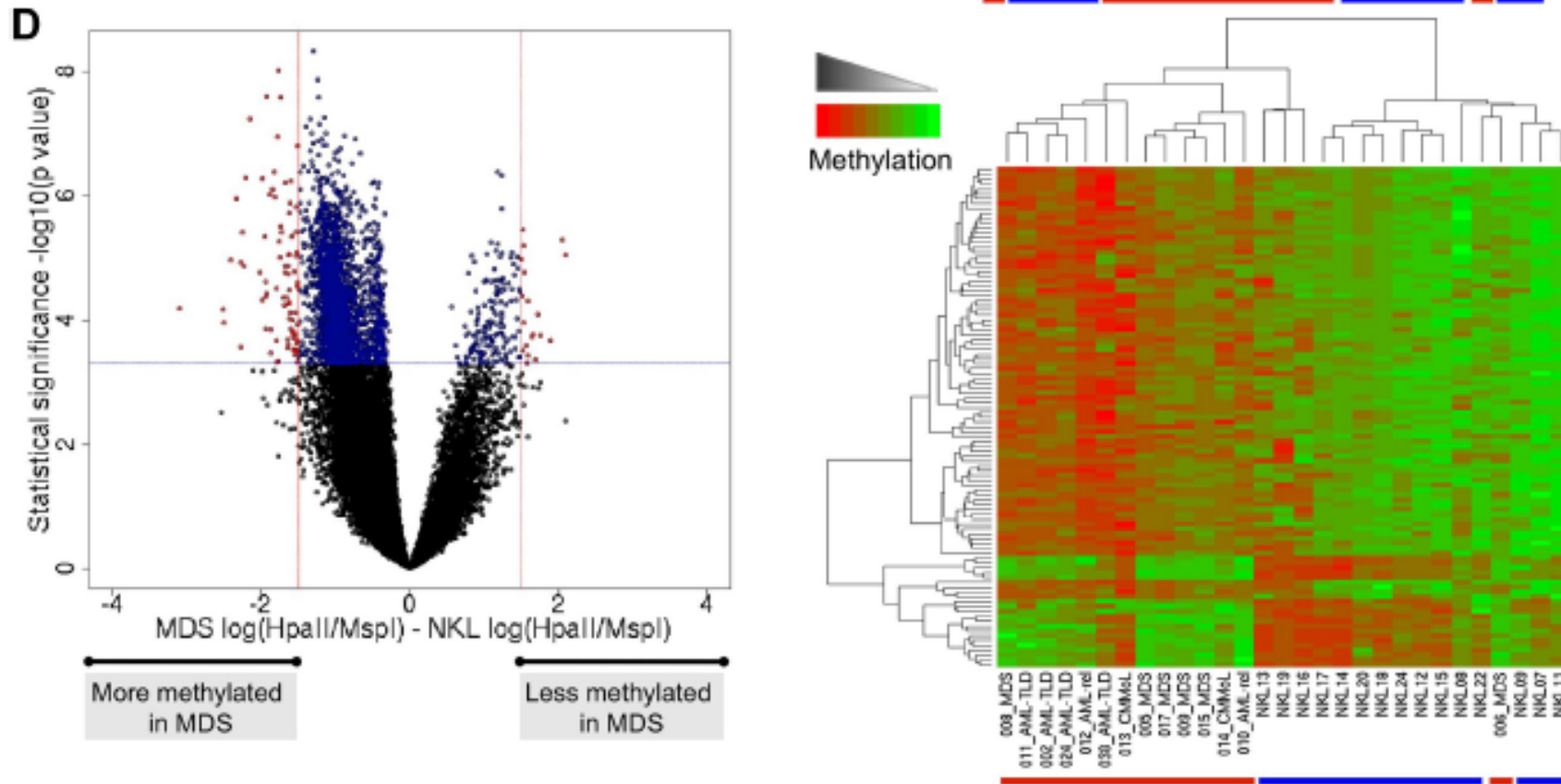
# Aberrant promoter methylation correlates with disease evolution (methylation array)



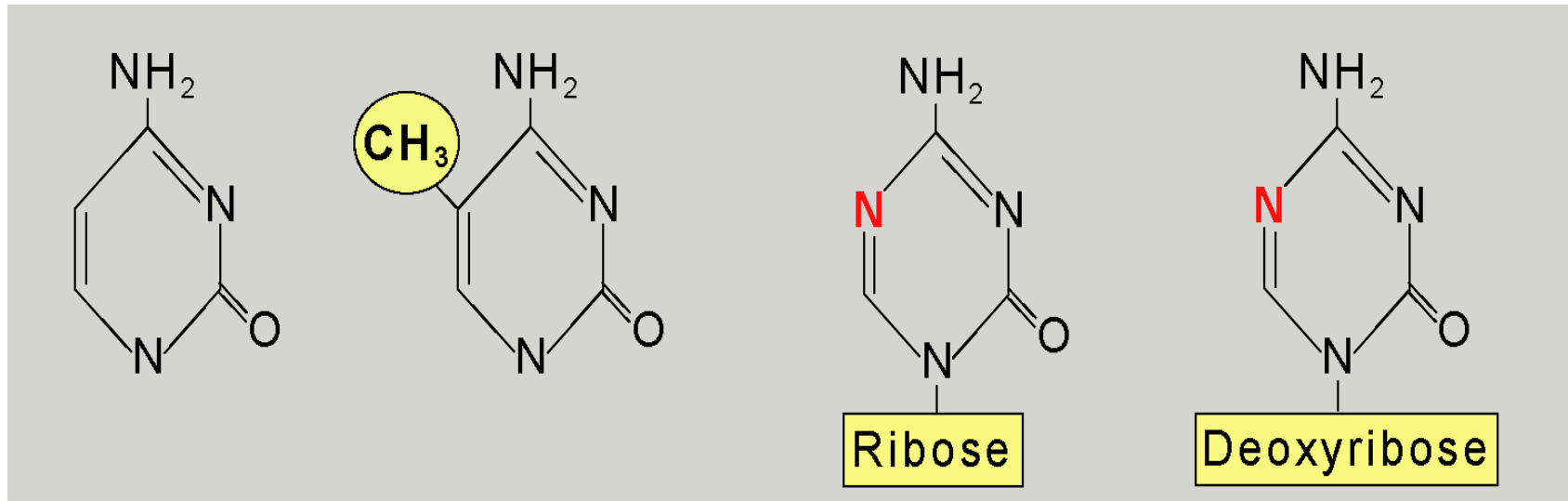
# Methylation is more abundant in MDS cells than in AML



# Methylation is more abundant in MDS cells than in AML



# Azanucleosides, Cytosine Analogues with hypomethylating properties



Cytosine

5-methyl-  
cytosine

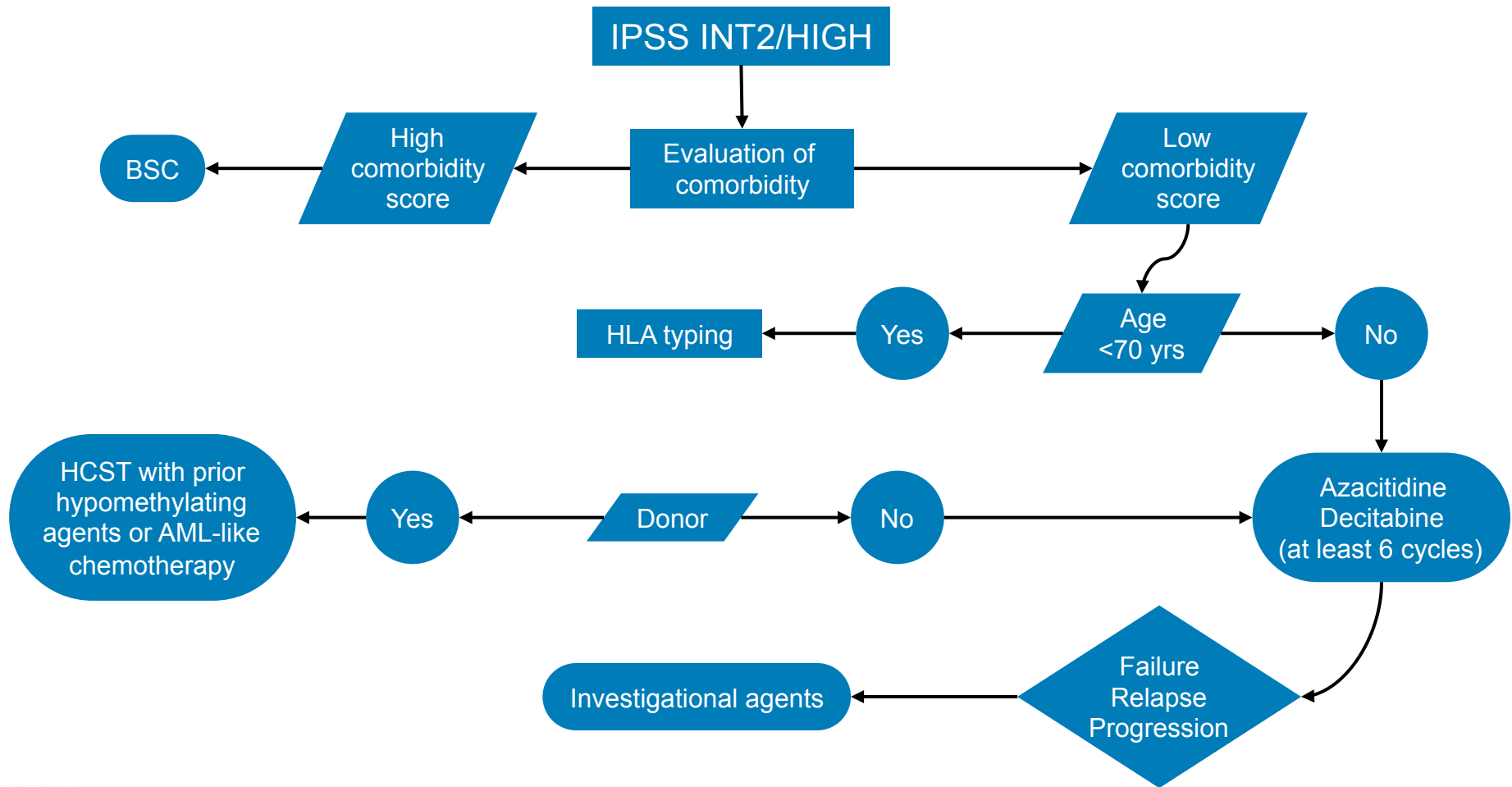
5-aza-  
cytidine

5-aza-2'-deoxy-  
cytidine

Azacitidine

Decitabine

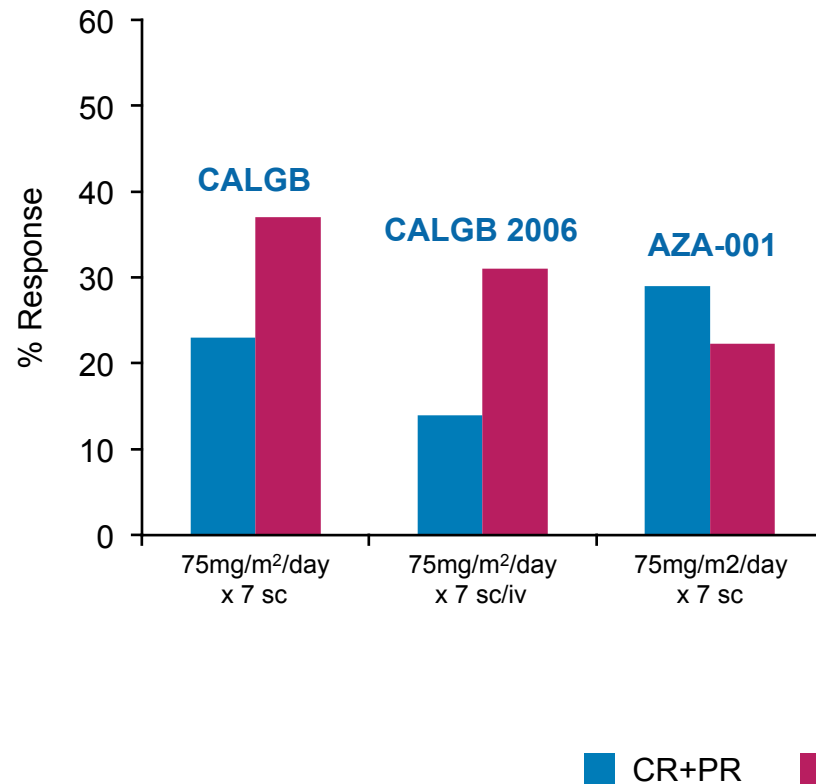
# Therapeutical options



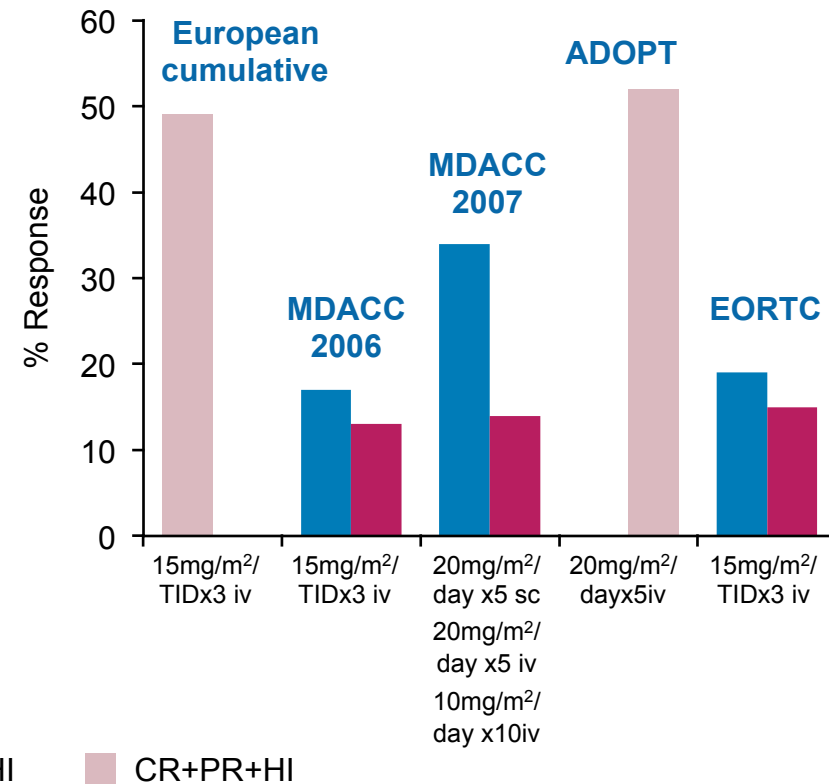


# Hypomethylating agents in higher risk MDS: response

## AZACITIDINE



## DECITABINE



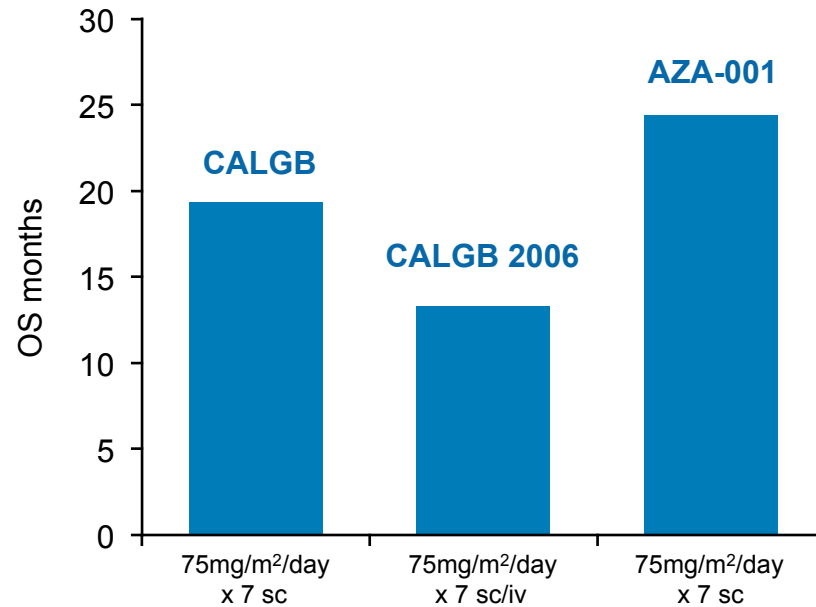
1) Silverman JCO 2002;20:2429  
 2) Silverman JCO 2006;24:3895  
 3) Fenaux Lancet Oncol 2009;10:223.

1) Wjermans Ann Hematol 2005;84:9  
 2) Kantarjian Cancer 2006;106:1794  
 3) Kantarjian Blood 2007;109:52  
 4) Steensma JCO 2009;24:3842  
 5) Luebbert JCO 2011;29:1987

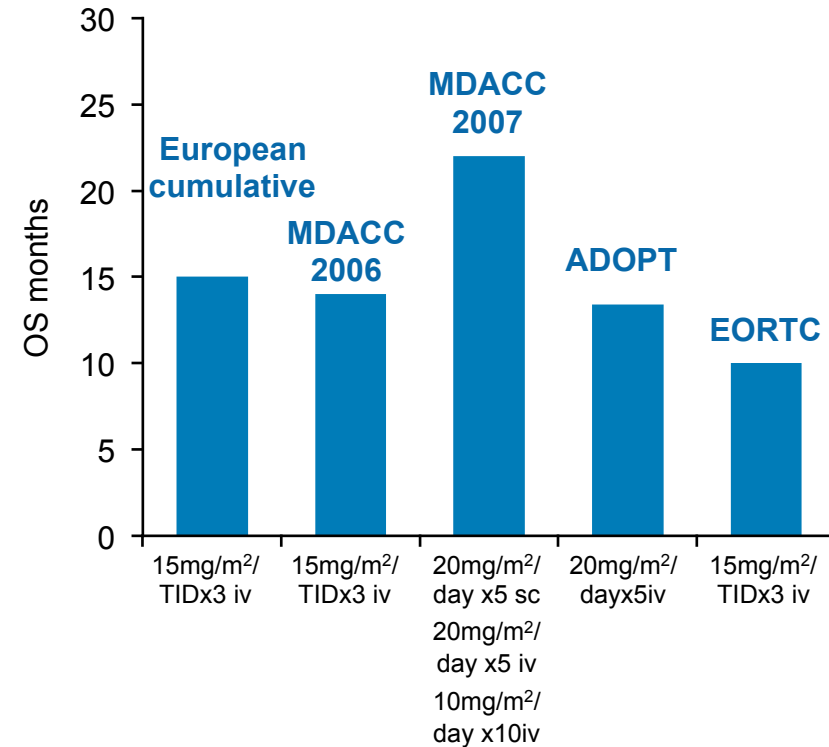


# Hypomethylating agents in higher risk MDS: Overall survival

## AZACITIDINE



## DECITABINE



1) Silverman JCO 2002;20:2429  
 2) Silverman JCO 2006;24:3895  
 3) Fenaux Lancet Oncol 2009;10:223

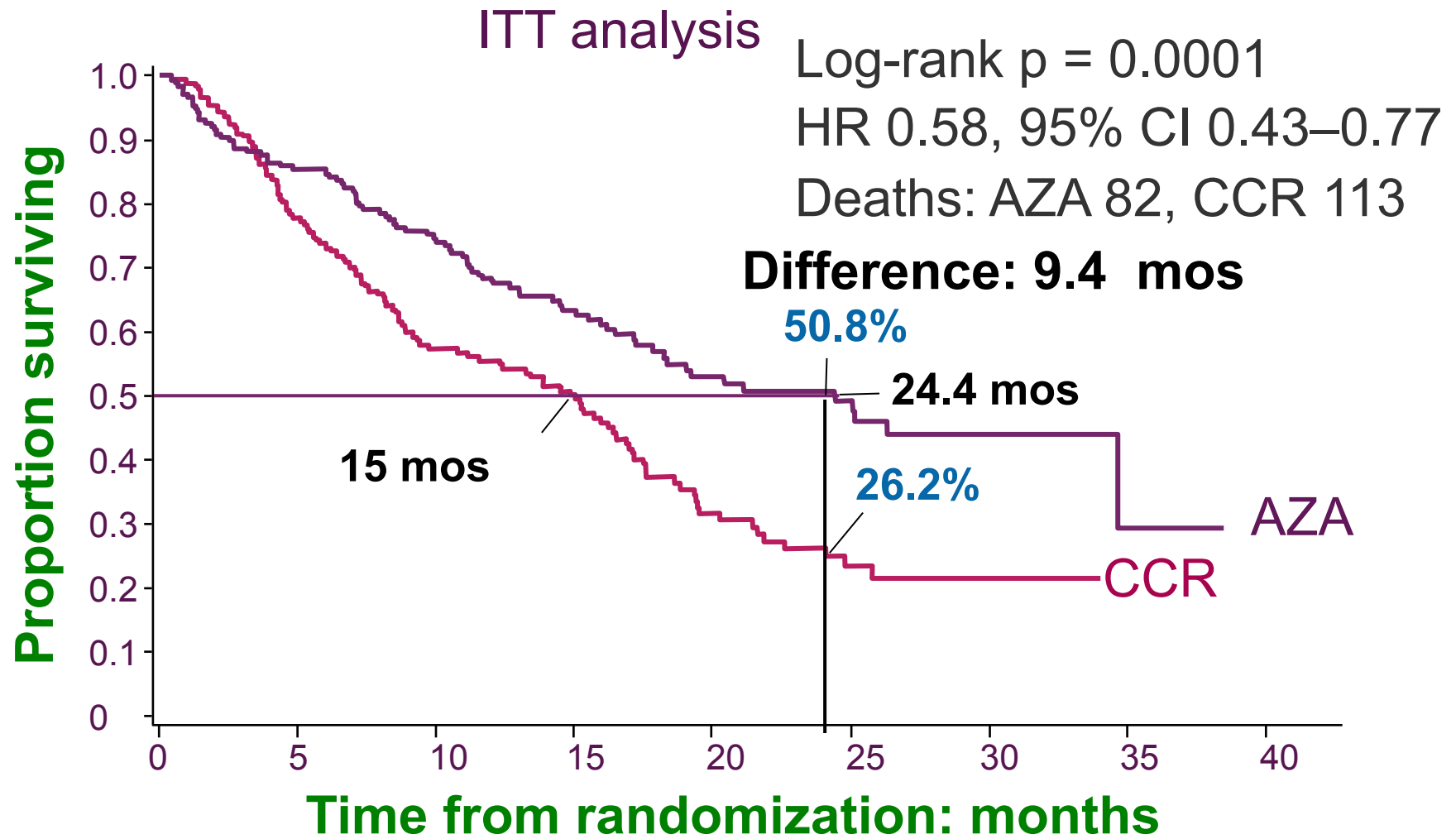
1) Wjermans Ann Hematol 2005;84:9  
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 3) Kantarjian Blood 2007;109:52  
 4) Steensma JCO 2009;24:3842  
 5) Luebbert JCO 2011;29:1987



**Response duration with decitabine  
or azacitidine therapy ranges from  
6 to 26 months**



# Overall survival: AZA vs CCR



## **Cosa sappiamo degli agenti ipometilanti**

**I loro effetti si notano dopo 2-4 cicli di terapia**

**Anche solo il raggiungimento del miglioramento  
ematologico garantisce prolungamento della  
sopravvivenza**

**I pazienti con cariotipo complesso possono avere  
risposta, ma di breve durata**

**L'interruzione della terapia provoca perdita della risposta  
MA...**

**I pazienti ricaduti or esistenti hanno una sopravvivenza  
estremamente breve**

# MDS: treatment with HMT

## **Advantages:**

prolonged survival

high rate hematologic improvement

no need of hospitalization

low toxicity

feasible in very elderly patients

## **Disadvantages:**

prolonged treatment

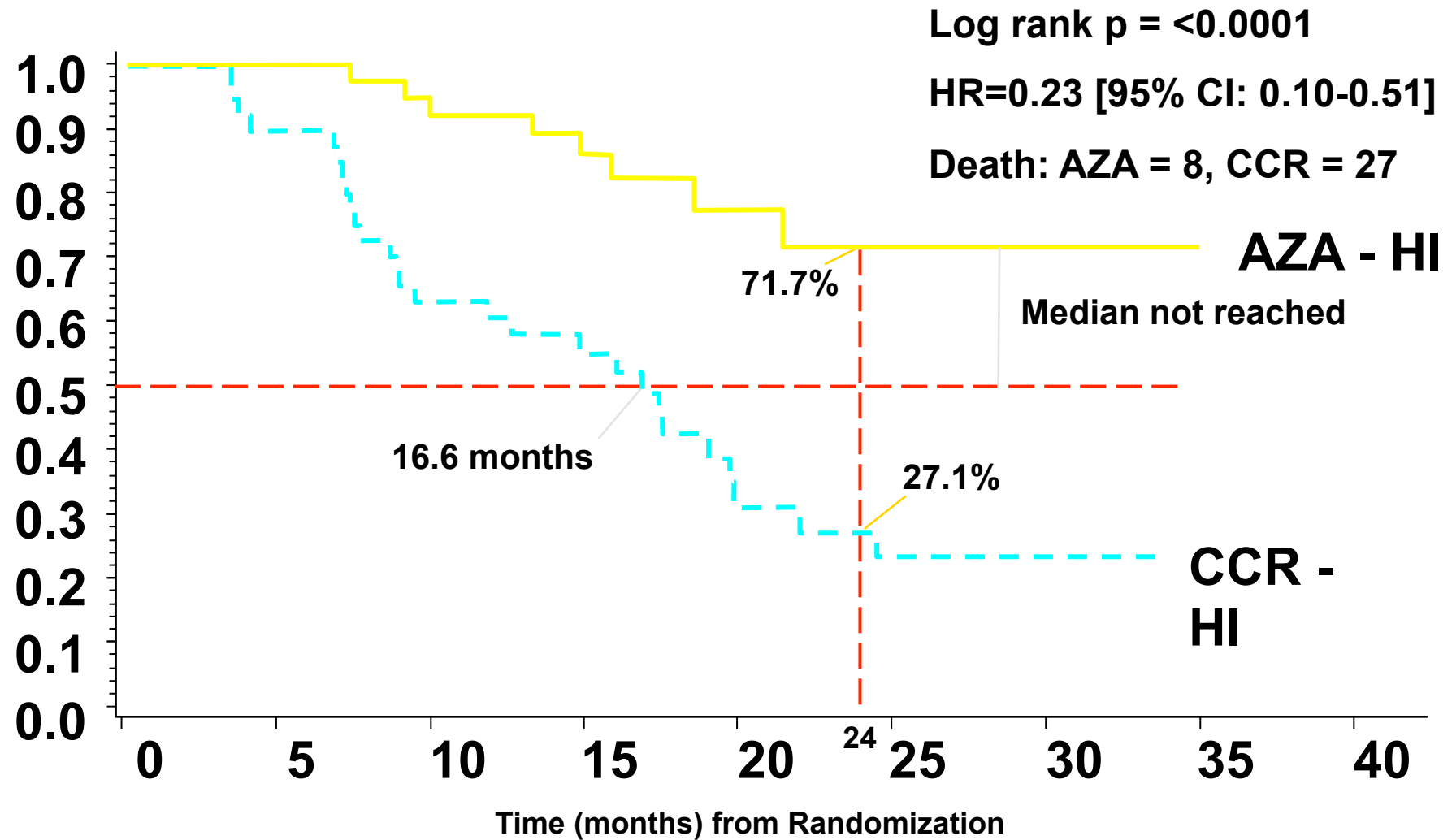
retarded effect

relapse/resistance

no eradication of the clone

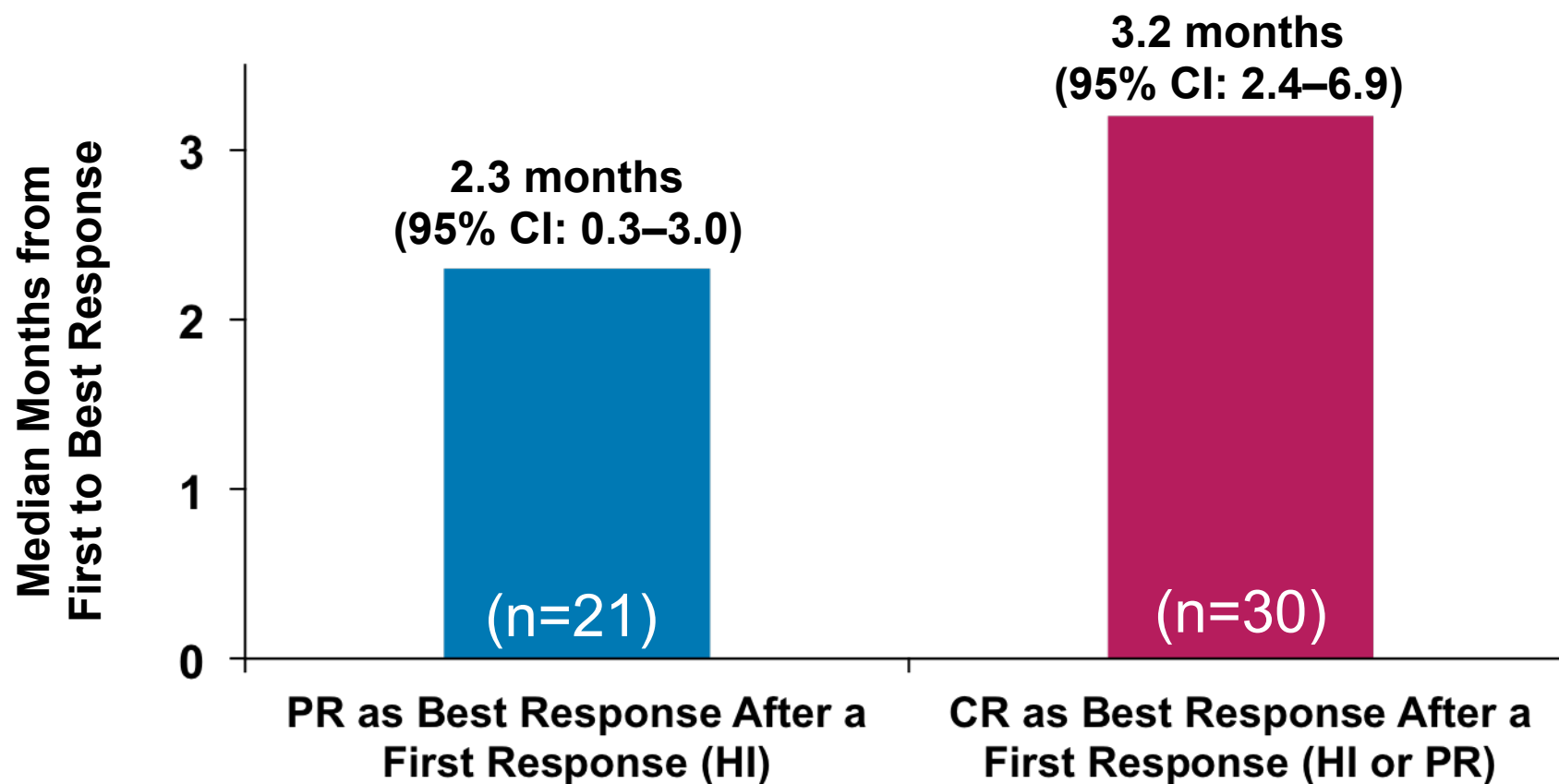


# AZA vs CCR: OS in Pts with Best Response of HI



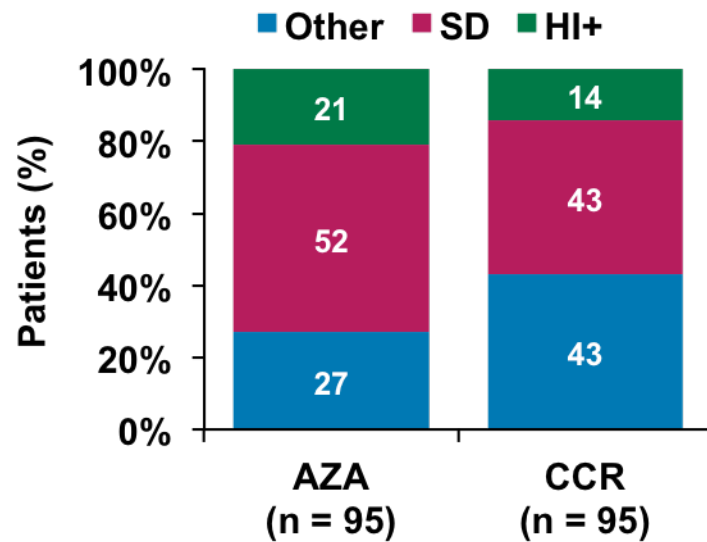
# AZA-001: time from first to best response

Continued azacitidine dosing led to a higher IWG response category in **48%** of patients

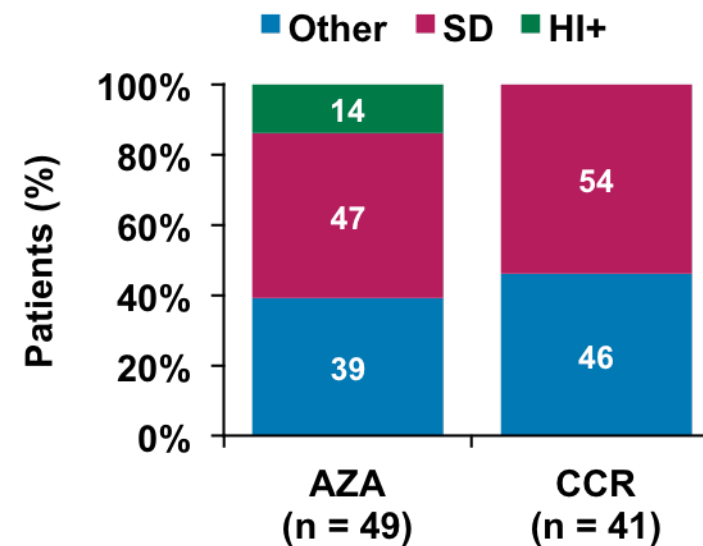


# AZA-001 – Multivariate Analysis: Continued AZA Improved Responses Beyond Stable Disease

**Response at 6 months for patients with SD at 3 months**



**Response at 9 months for patients with SD at 6 months**



- 21% of AZA-treated patients compared with 14% of CCR-treated patients with SD at 3 months achieved an HI+ by 6 months
- 14% of AZA-treated patients compared with 0% of CCR-treated patients with SD at 6 months achieved an HI+ by 9 months

AZA, azacitidine; CCR, conventional care regimen; CR, complete response/remission; HI, hematologic improvement; HI+, CR, PR, and/or HI; OS, overall survival; PR, partial response/remission; SD, stable disease.

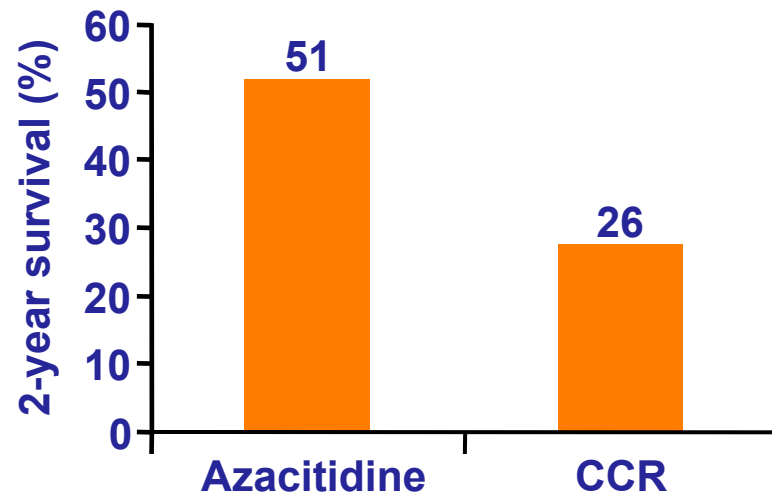
Gore S, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2010;28:abstract 6503.



# Elderly MDS patients respond to azacitidine treatment

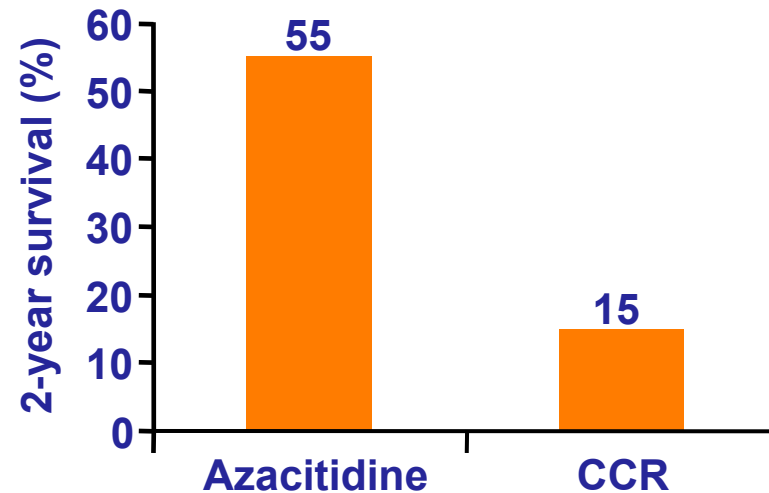
2-year survival  
(all patients)<sup>1</sup>

$p < 0.0001$



2-year survival  
(patients aged >75 years)<sup>2</sup>

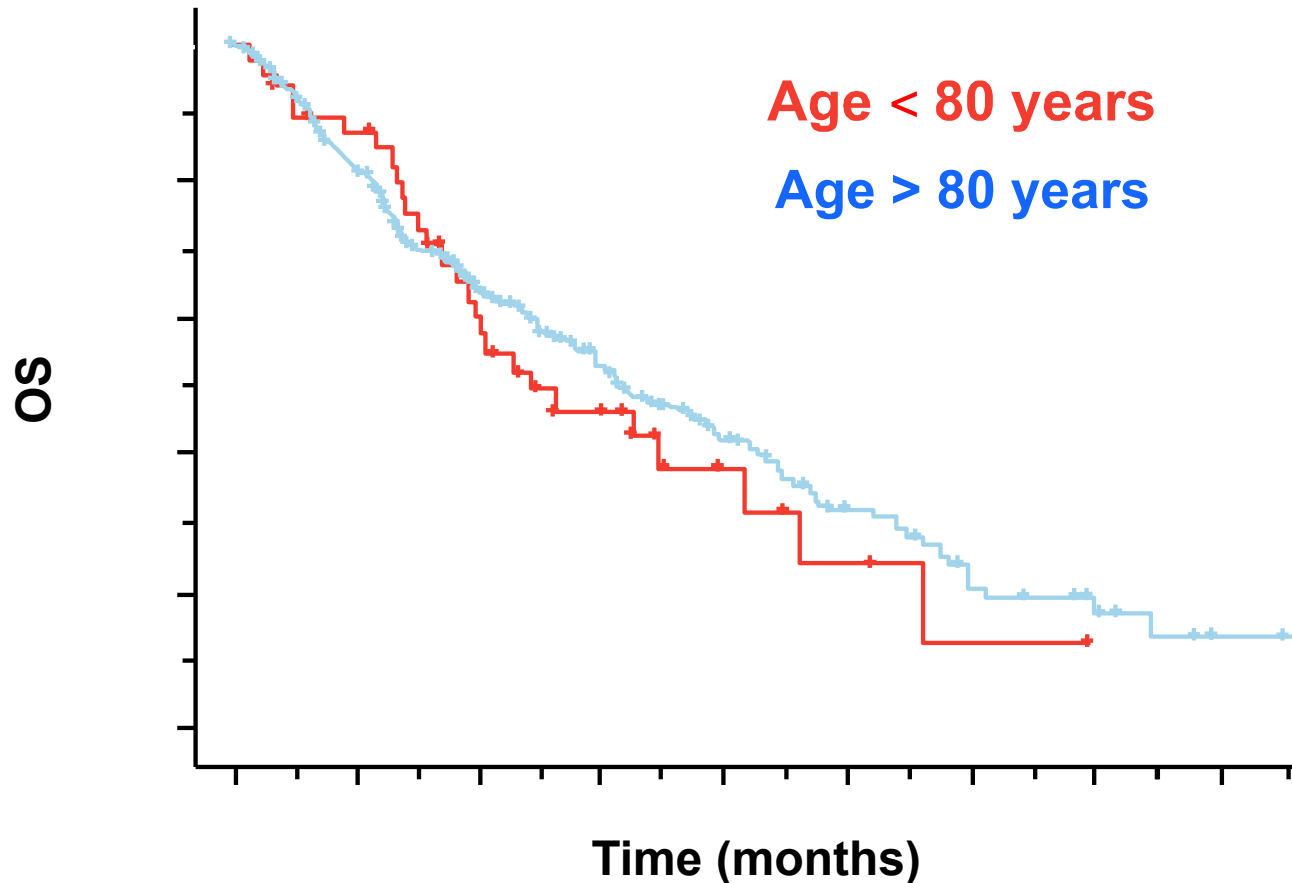
$p < 0.0003$



1. Fenaux P, et al. Lancet Oncol 2009;10:223–32

2. Seymour JF, et al. Poster presented at ASH 2008, San Francisco, CA, USA

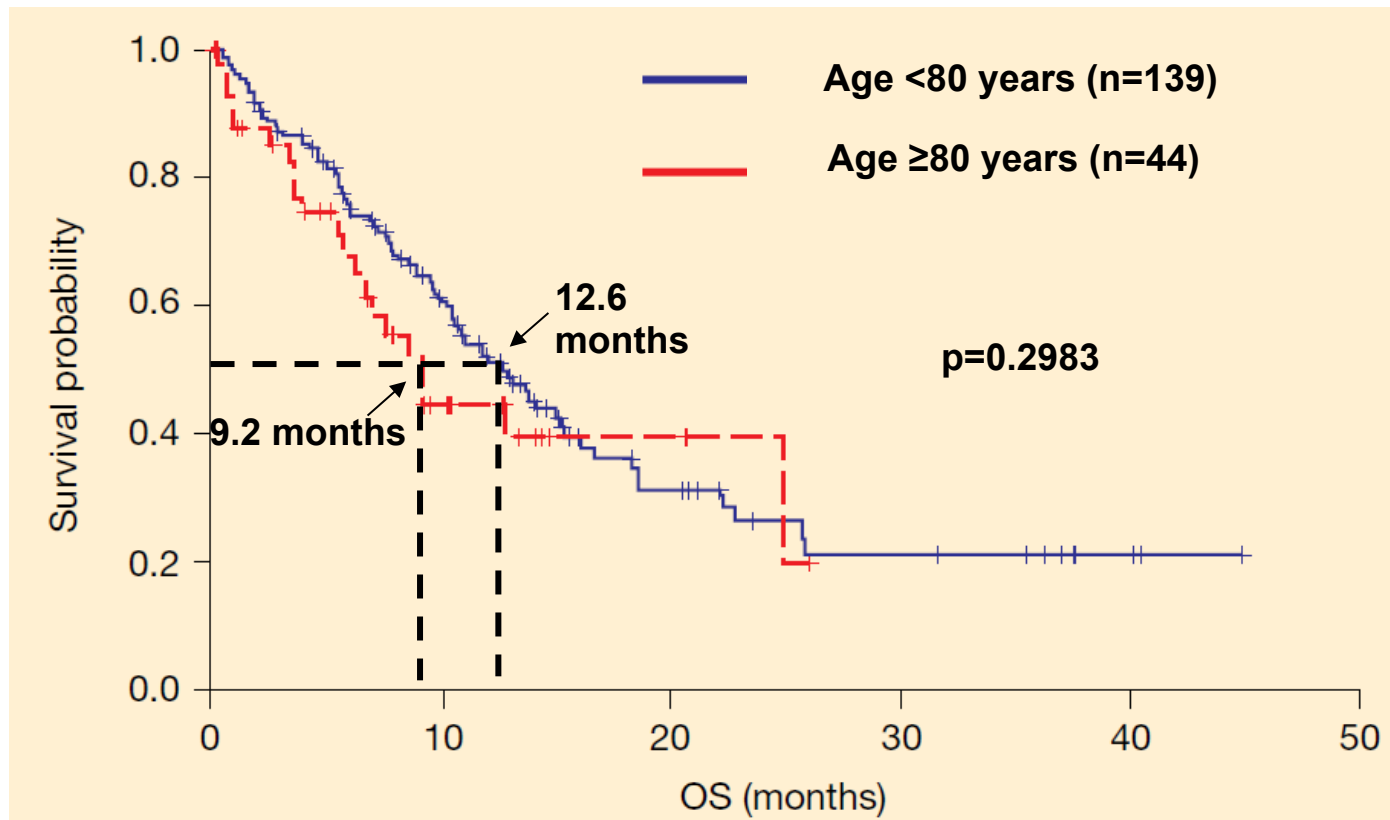
## Azacitidine (AZA) in Higher Risk MDS Patients (pts) Aged $\geq 80$ Years : OS



- OS similar in patients aged  $< 80$  and  $\geq 80$  years ( $P = .6$ )
- Median OS 12.1 months; 1- and 2-year OS: 50% and 23.2%

# 'Real-world' experience with azacitidine in patients with MDS, AML or CMML: Austrian Registry

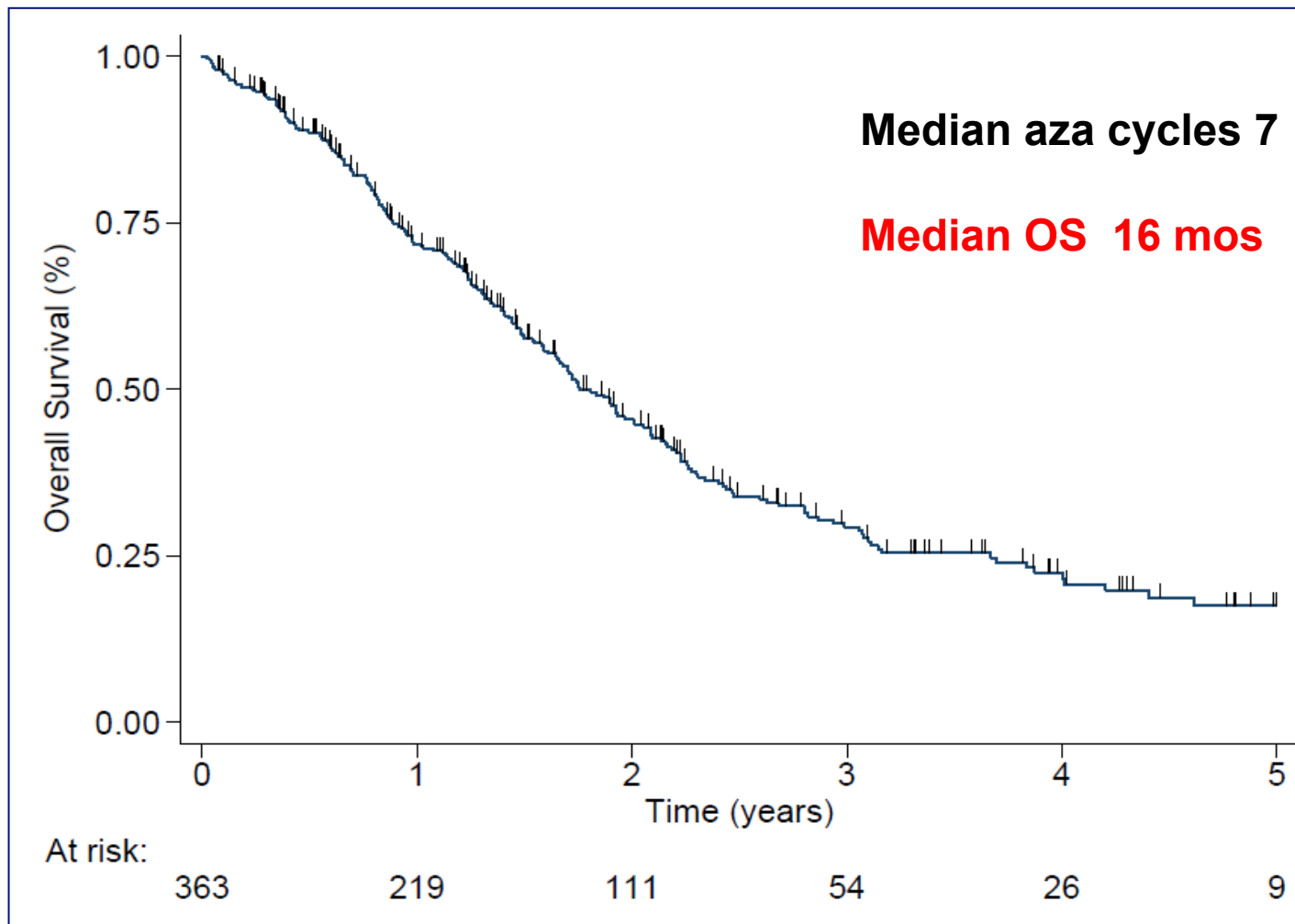
OS was similar in patients aged <80 years old and patients aged  $\geq 80$  years old





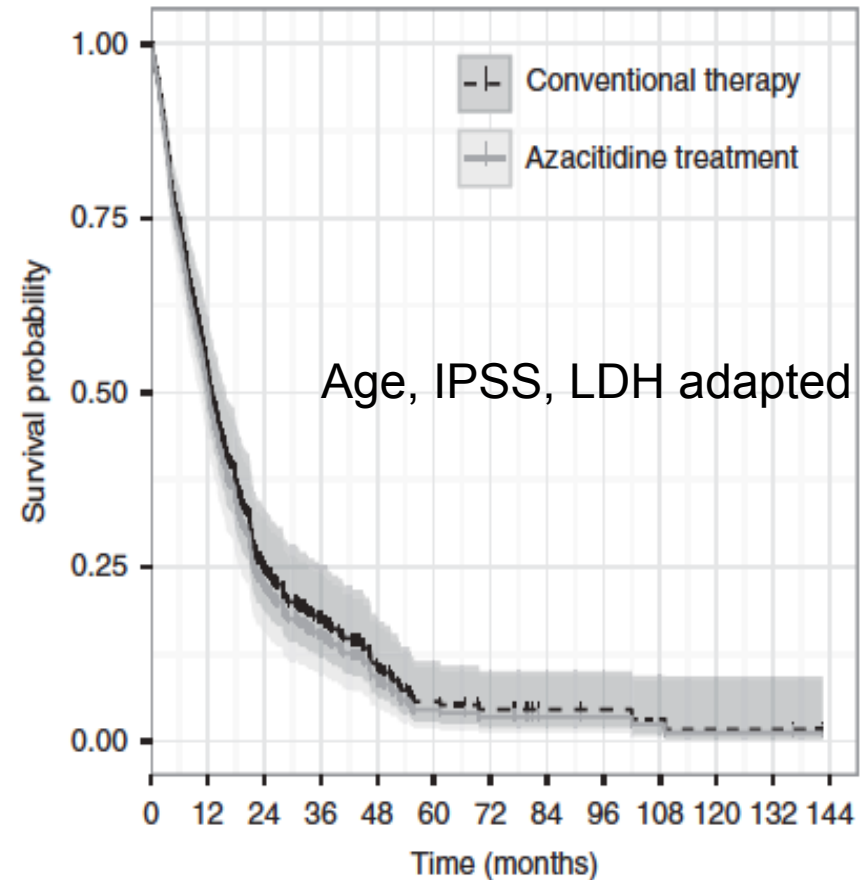
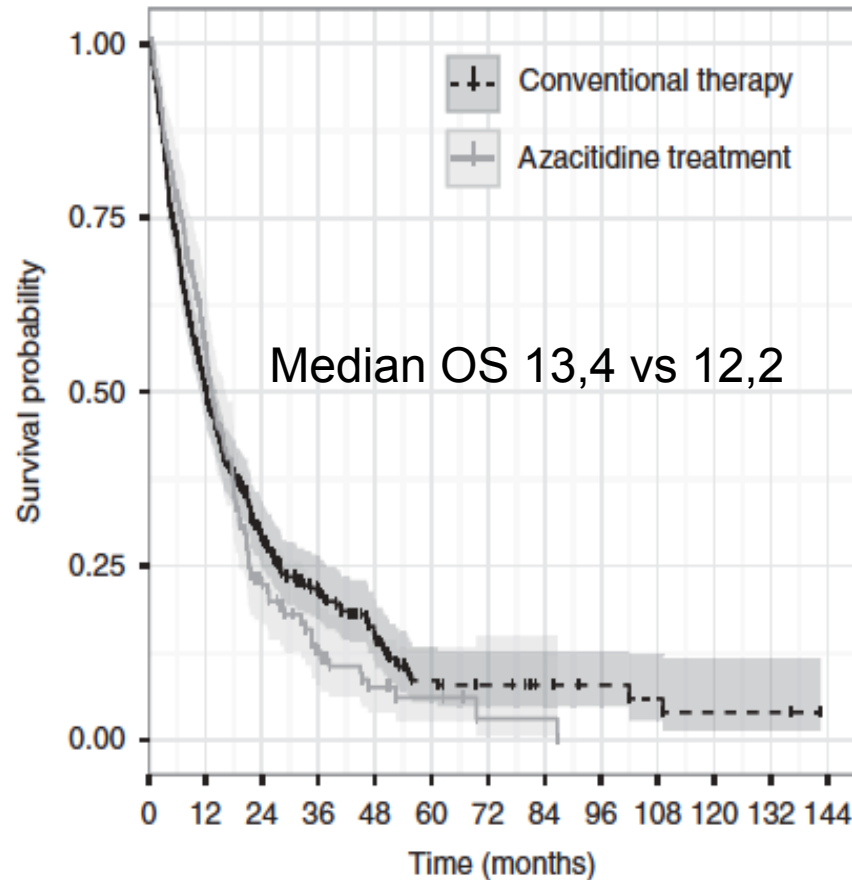
# What happens in real life?

## 370 higher risk MDS pts treated with AZA

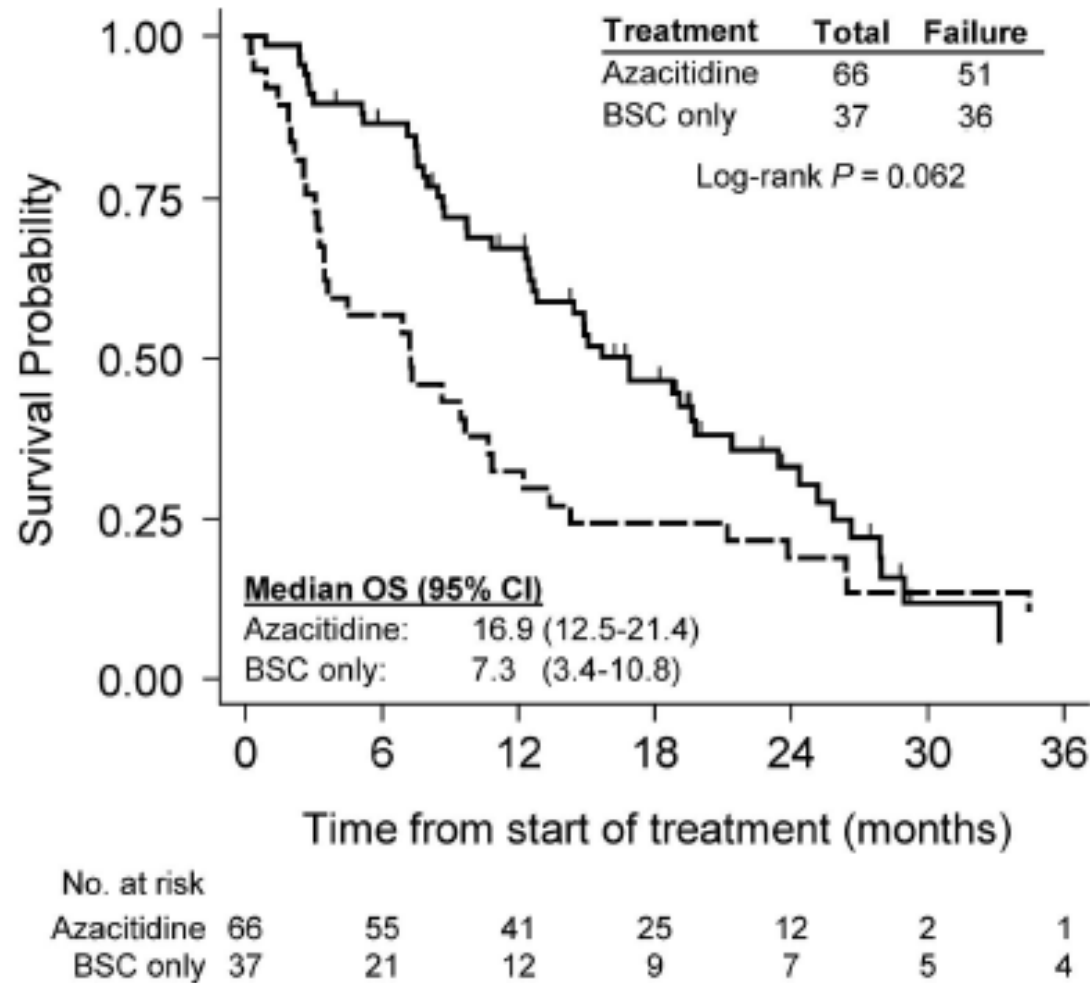


# What happens in real life?

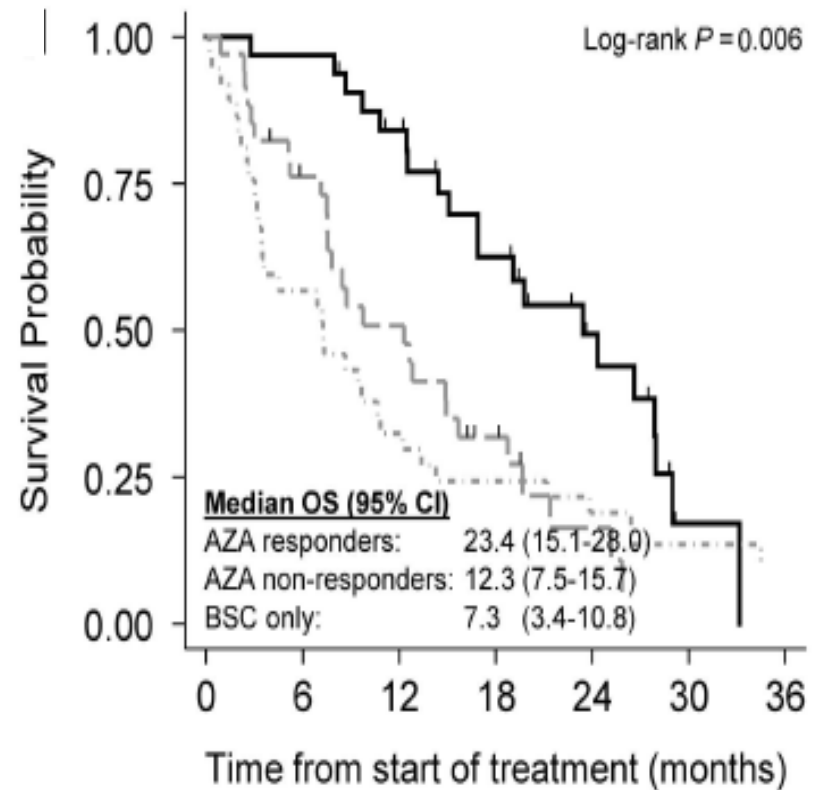
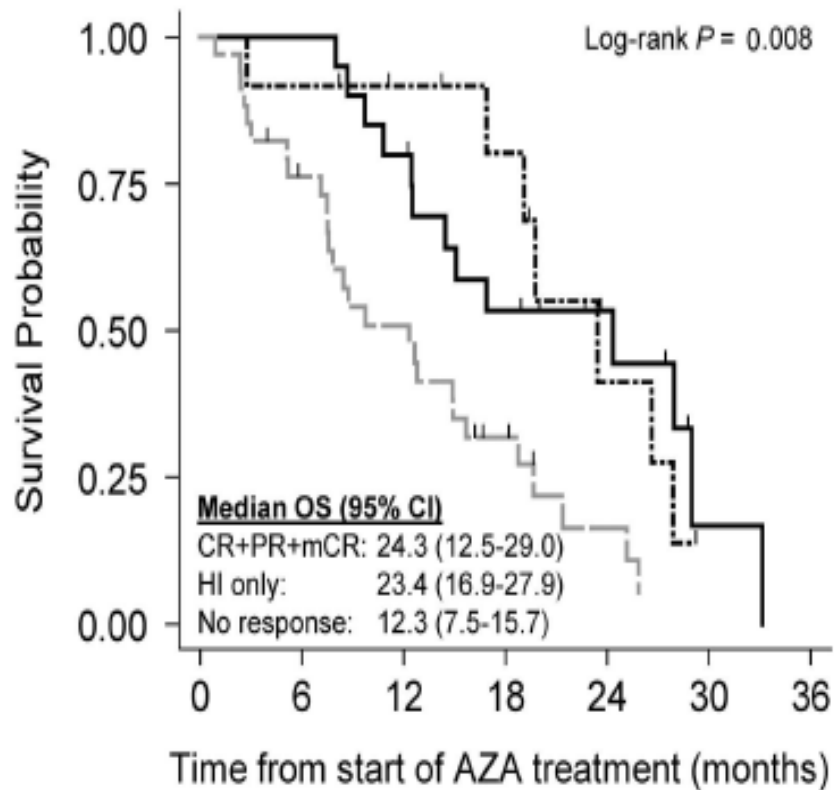
## AZA treatment/Spanish experience



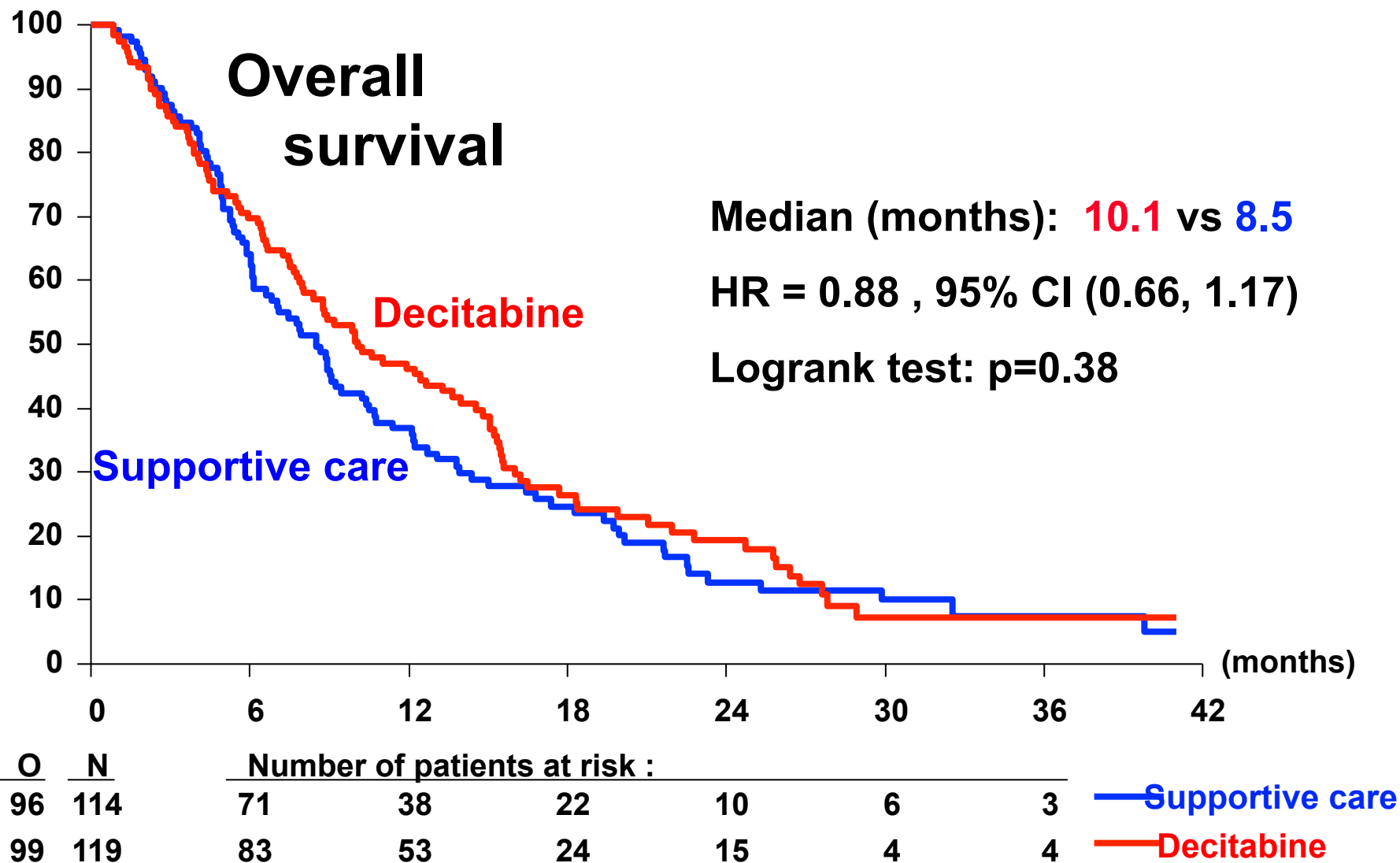
# What happens in real life? AZA treatment Dutch experience



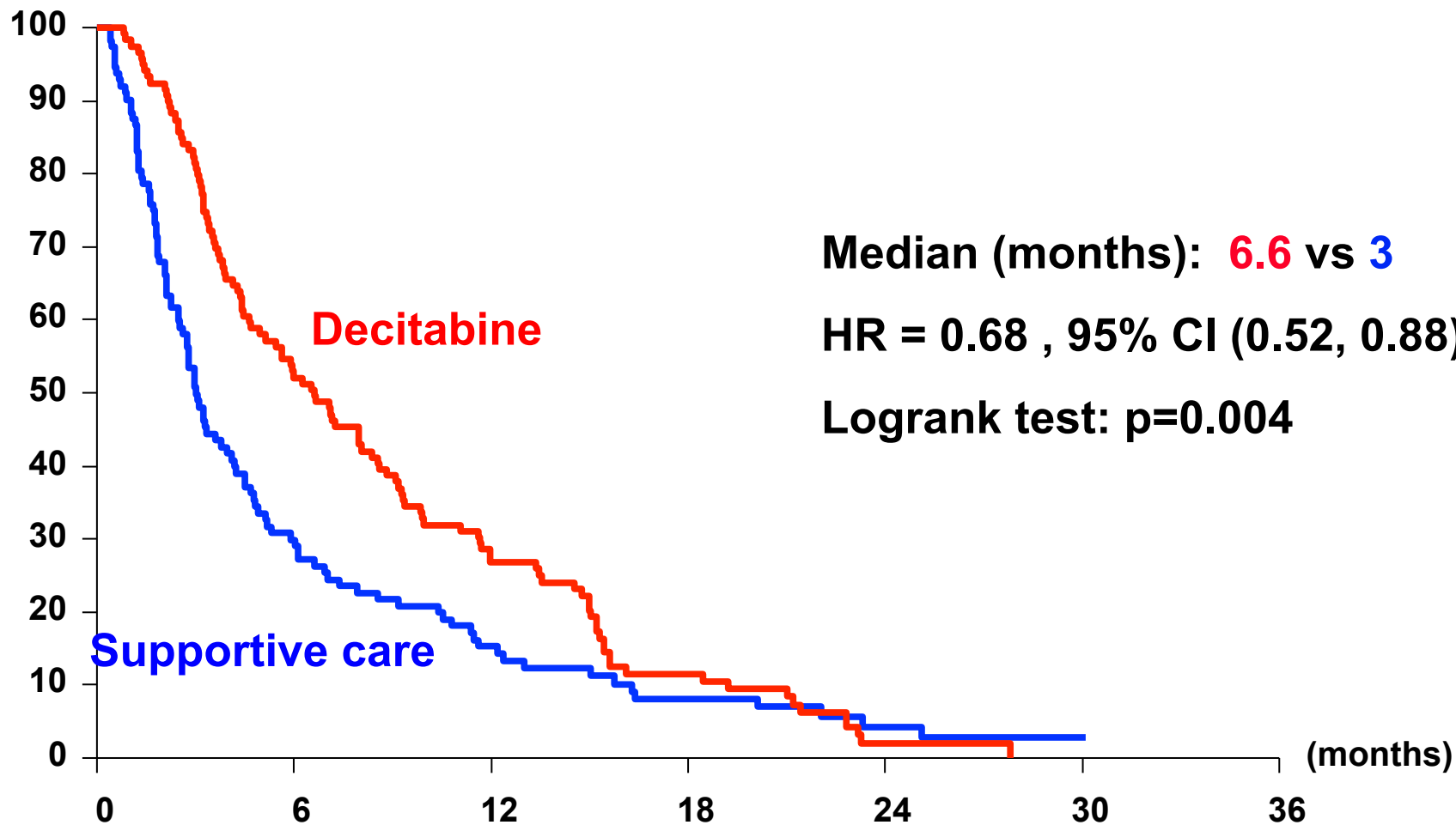
# What happens in real life? AZA treatment/Dutch experience



# Low dose decitabine vs. BSC in elderly patients with intermediate or high risk MDS not eligible for chemotherapy: Randomized Phase 3 Study



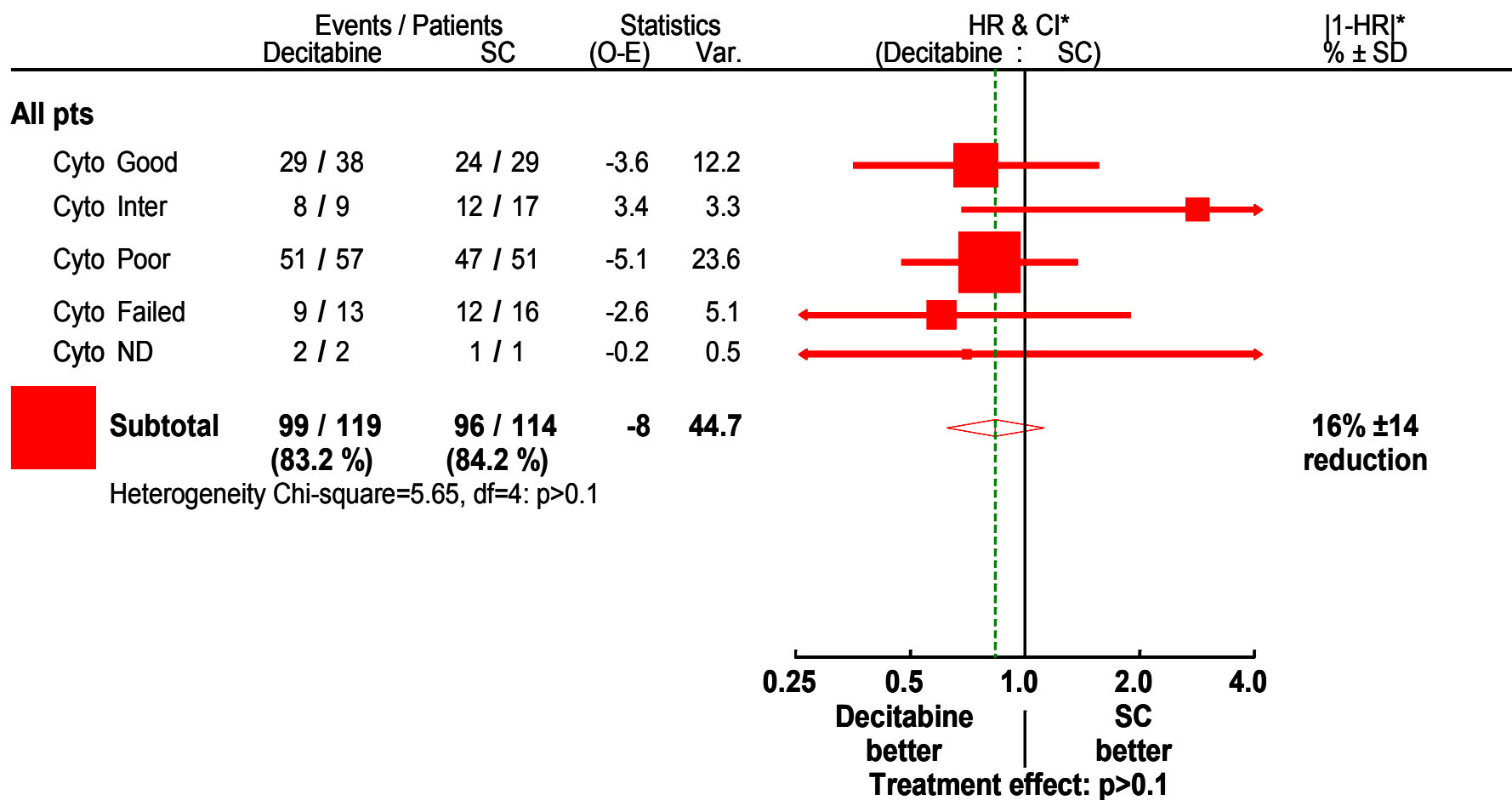
# Progression-Free Survival



O	N	Number of patients at risk :					
105	114	33	15	7	3	1	— Supportive care
113	119	62	32	11	2	0	— Decitabine

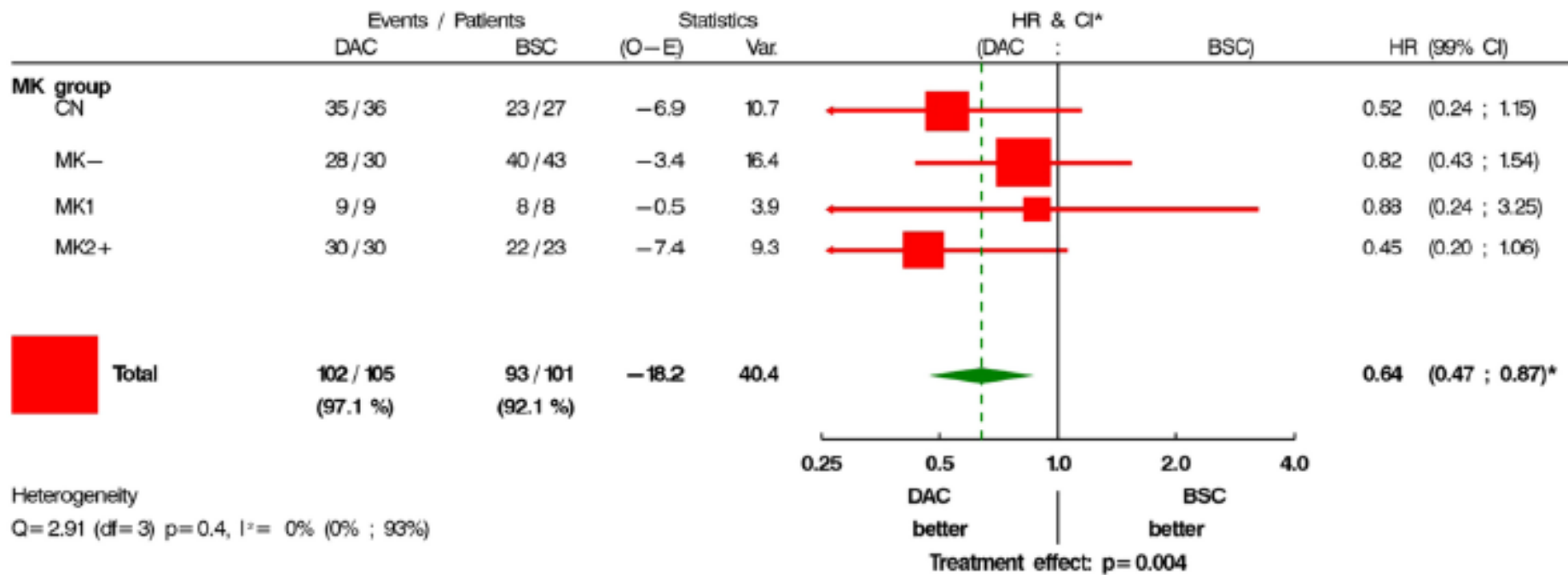


# Forest plot by Cytogenetics



\*95% CI for totals and subtotals, 99% CI elsewhere

# Progression-free survival after decitabine is strikingly prolonged in the presence of 2 or more monosomies



\*95% CI for totals and subtotals, 99% CI elsewhere

Lübbert, Suciú et al., 2016

# **Resistance/sensitivity to HMT:**

**40-60% of MDS patients fail to achieve a response to HMTs**

**Silverman LR et al JCO 2002;20:2429-40**

**Silverman LR et al Leukemia 1993;7 Suppl 1:21-9**

**Itkinson R et al Blood 2011;117:403-11**

**Kadia tm et al Semin Oncol 2011;38:682-92**

# **Resistance/sensitivity to HMT:**

**Clinical/individual**

**Disease related**

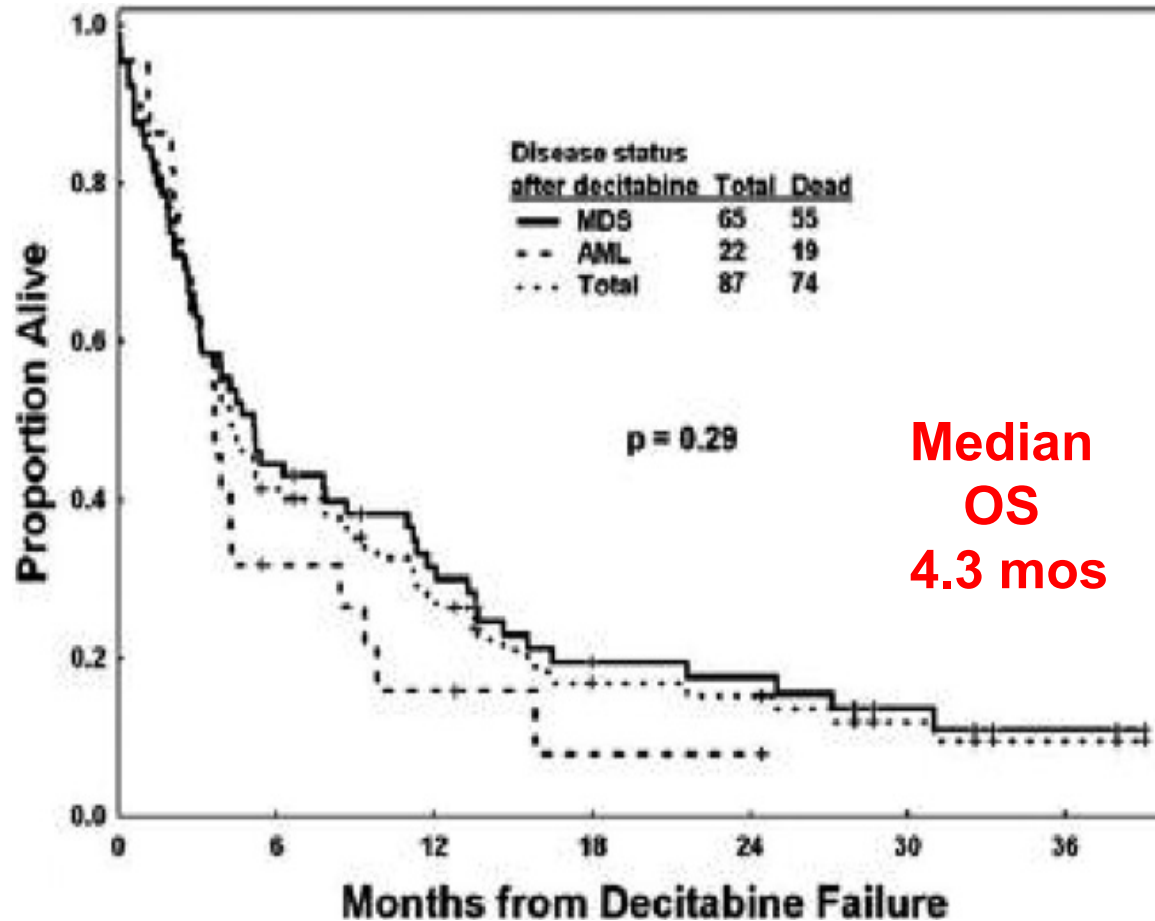
**cytogenetics**

**somatic mutations**

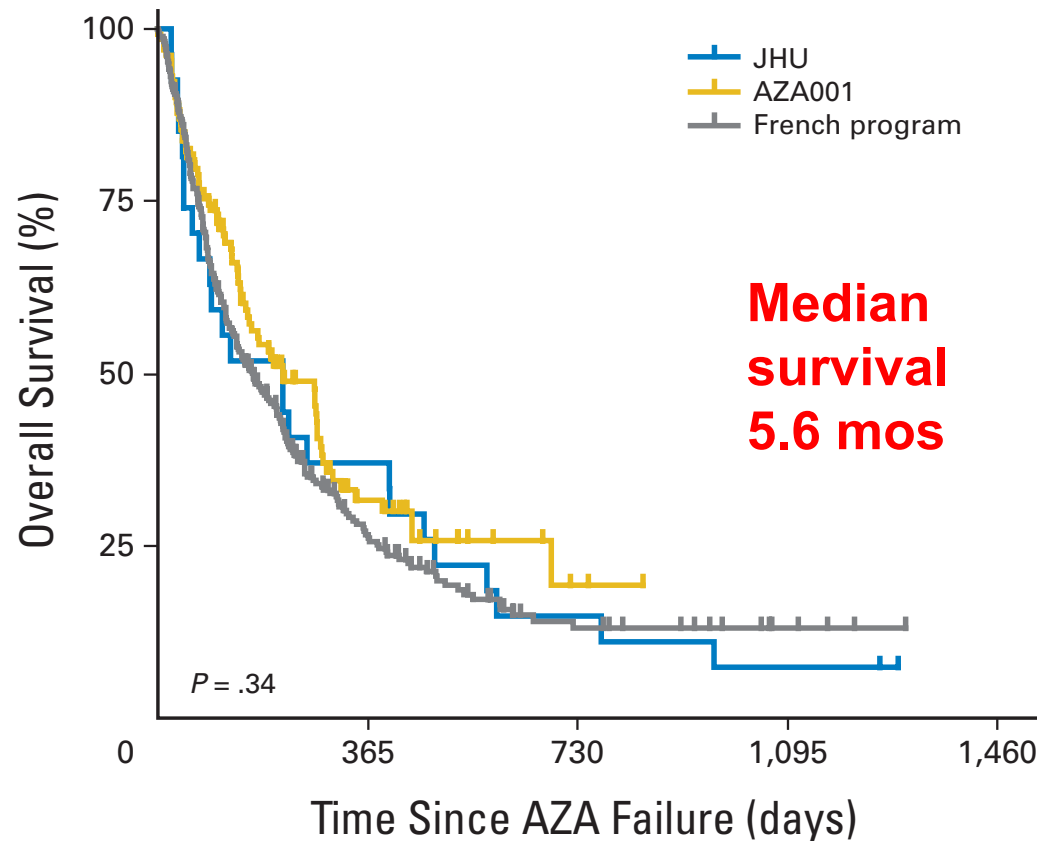
**drug metabolizing enzyme expressior**

**DNA methylation pattern baseline**

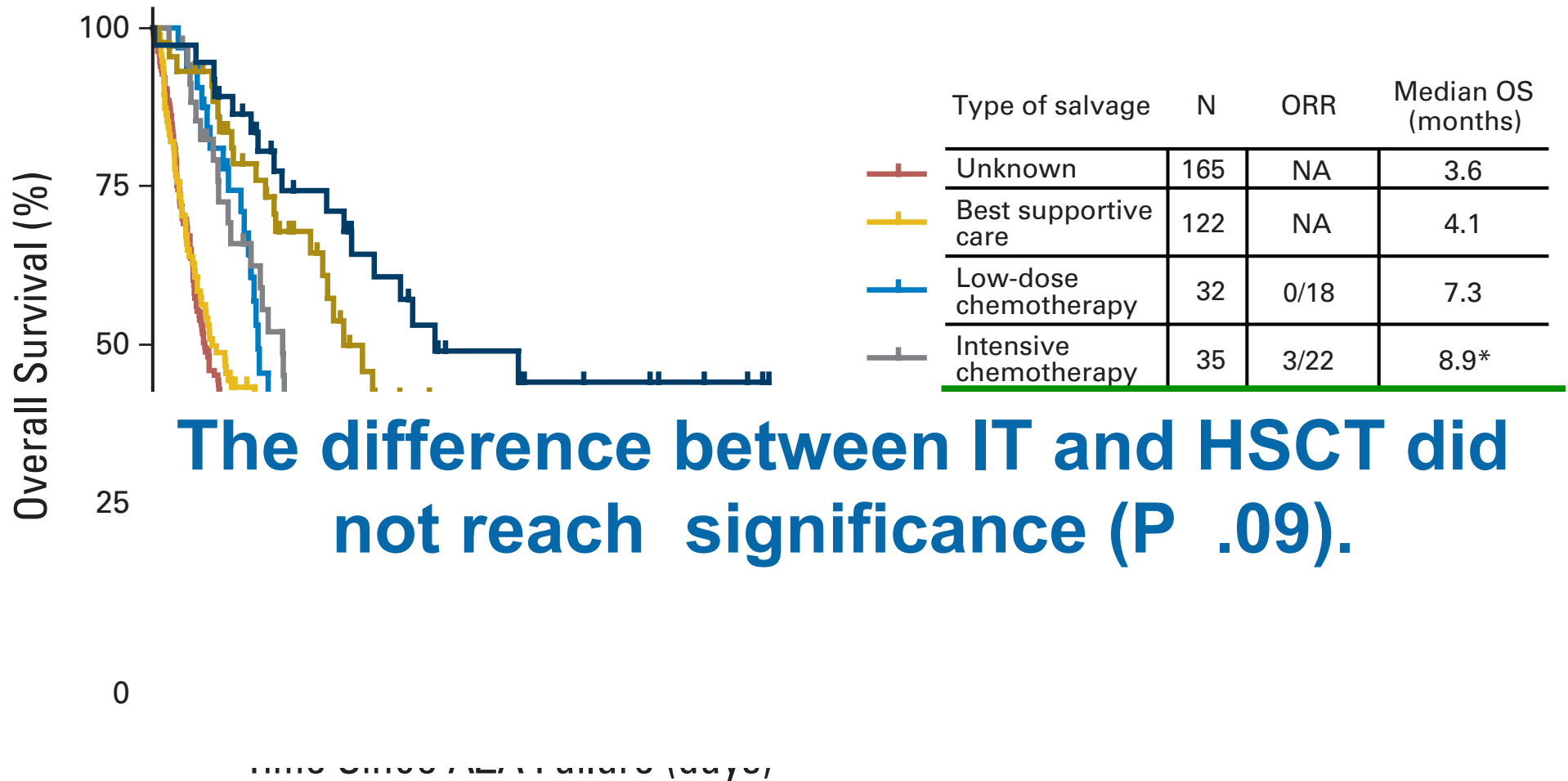
# Survival after decitabine failure in MDS/AML patients



# Survival after azacitidine failure in MDS/AML patients



# Survival according to salvage therapy



**Can we predict response  
to HMTs?**

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# **Resistance/sensitivity to HMT:**

**Clinical/individual**

**Disease related**

**cytogenetics**

**somatic mutations**

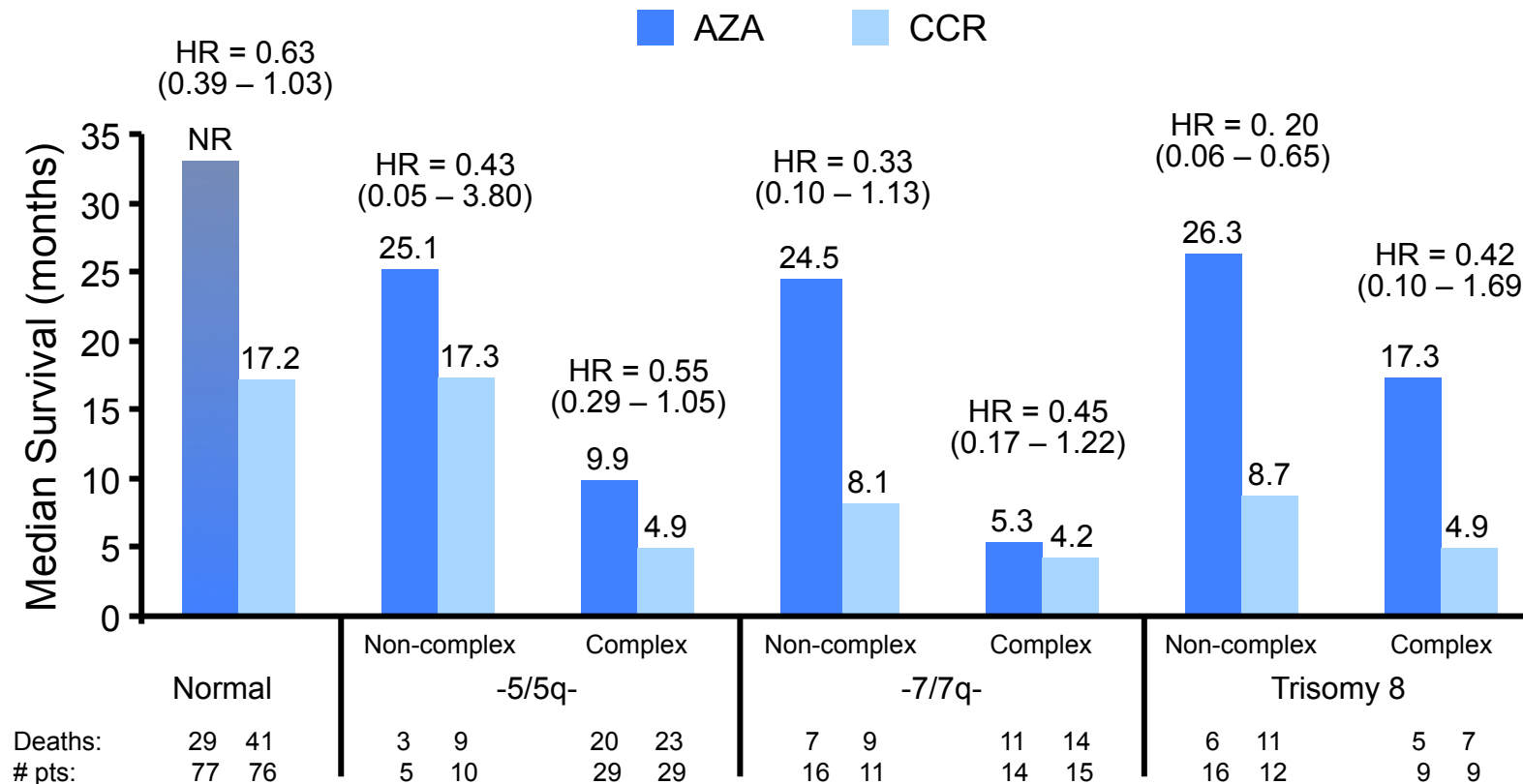
**drug metabolizing enzyme expressior**

**DNA methylation pattern baseline**

# Parameters predictive of HMT response

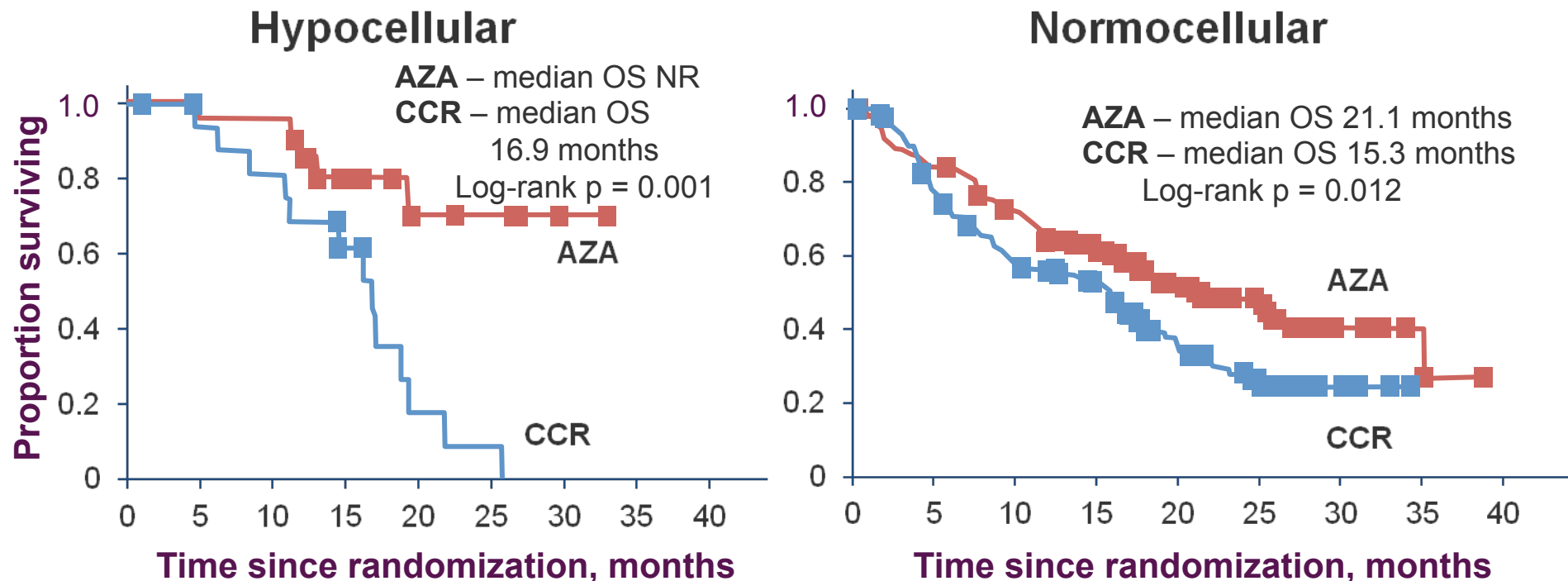
Clinical	Positive	Negative
	Doubling of platelets	BM blasts > 15%
		Previous therapy
		Transfusion dependency
		Marrow fibrosis grade 3
Molecular	Positive	Negative
	Mutated TET2	Mutated p53
	Mutated DNMT3a	Abnormal/complex Karyotype
		Low expression of UCK1
		Mutated ASXL1
		Overexpression of CXCL7 and CXCL4

# Effect of Cytogenetic Abnormalities on Overall Survival after azacitidine



- There was a trend for a survival advantage with AZA vs CCR in pts with normal karyotype
- Patients with non-complex karyotypes had a substantially longer OS than patients with complex karyotypes, regardless of treatment

# Impact of bone marrow cellularity on efficacy and tolerance of AZA



- No difference in HI rate (hypocellular 52.5% vs normocellular 48%)
- Median cycle duration (hypocellular 35.5 days vs normocellular 33 days)
- No difference in grade  $\geq 3$  haematological AEs

# Prognostic factors for response and OS in Int-2/High-risk MDS patients treated with AZA

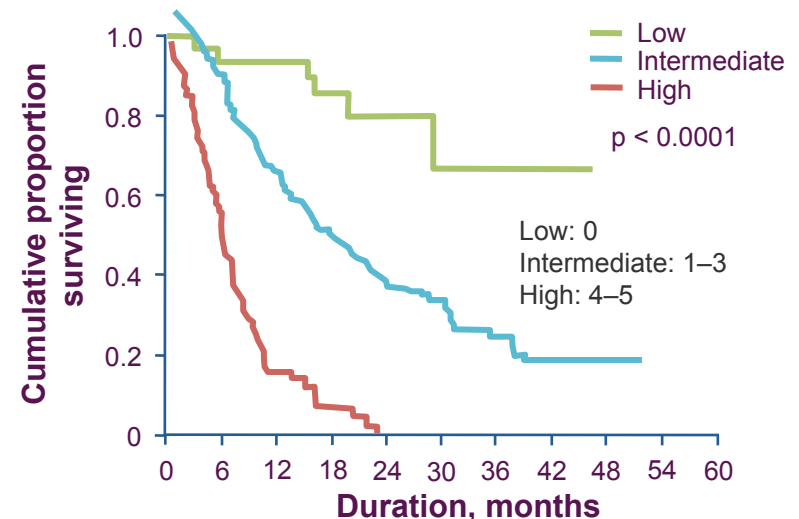
## GFM ATU compassionate use study (n = 282)

### AZA response score

Variable	Response rate, yes/no %	p value*
Prior LD ARA-C	24/46	0.009
Normal karyotype	51/39	0.003
Marrow blasts > 15%	35/50	0.004
<b>Response duration</b>		
Complex karyotype	4.6 vs 10.3 months	0.0003

### OS prognostic score

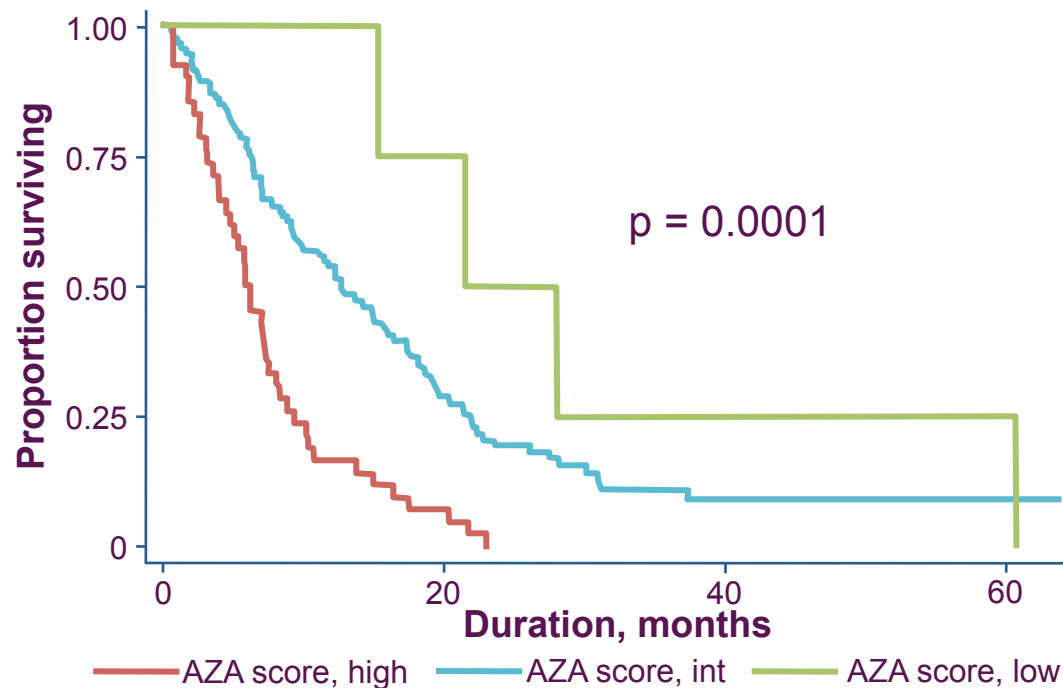
Variable	Score
Performance status $\geq 2$	1
Circulating blasts	1
RBC transfusion dependence $\geq 4$ U/8 wks	1
Intermediate karyotype	1
High-risk karyotype	2



\* Multivariate analysis.  
ATU, authorization for temporary use.

# OS in IPSS-R very poor-risk group according to French AZA scoring system

IPSS-R very poor-risk MDS



French AZA scoring system

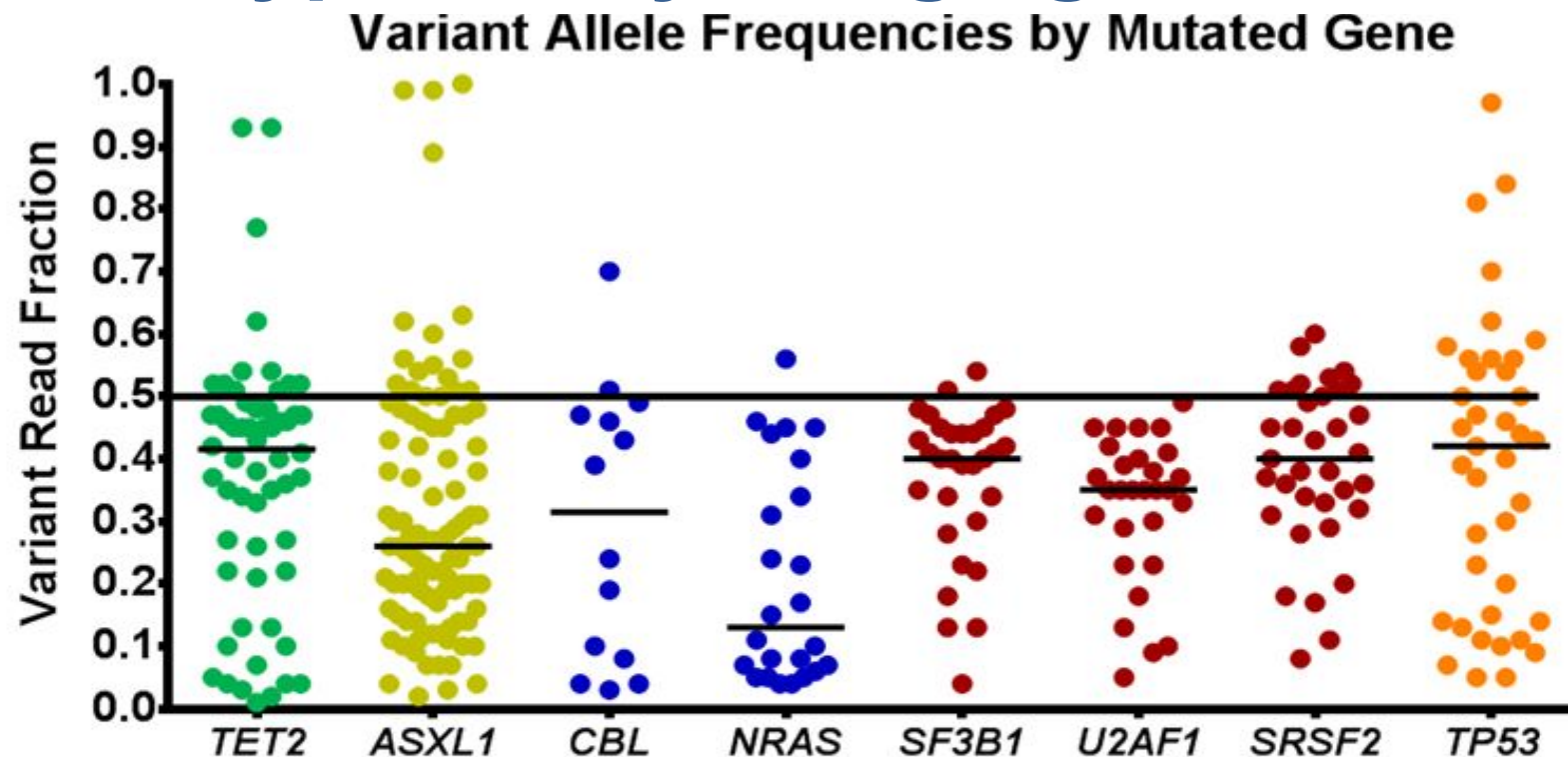
Risk factor	Score
ECOG performance status $\geq 2$	1
Intermediate-risk cytogenetics	1
Poor-risk cytogenetics	2
Transfusion dependence $\geq 4$ U/8 wks	1
Peripheral blood blasts present	1

Ades L, et al. Blood. 2012;120:abstract 422 and data presented at ASH 2012.

ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group.

Itzykson R, et al. Blood. 2011;117:403-11.

# TET2 mutations predict response to hypomethylating agents



Gene (n) <i>VAF</i> ≥ 0.1	Unadjusted OR (95% CI)	p-value	Adjusted OR (95% CI)	p-value
<b>TET2 (50)</b>	<b>1.99 (1.05, 3.80)</b>	<b>0.036</b>	<b>1.98 (1.02, 3.85)</b>	<b>0.044</b>
<b>TET2 mut + ASXL1 wt (23)</b>	<b>3.65 (1.38, 9.67)</b>	<b>0.009</b>	<b>3.64 (1.35, 9.79)</b>	<b>0.011</b>

Bejar R et al;  
Blood 2014; 124:2705

# Risk stratification in MDS patients treated with hypomethylating agents

Feature	Category	Score
Platelets, x10 <sup>9</sup> /L	≥100	0
	< 100	1
WBC, x10 <sup>9</sup> /L	<3.0	0
	≥3.0	1
TET2/DNMT3A mutation	One or both genes mutated	0
	Both genes wild type	1

Response to HMT

Total Score	Risk Group	N (%)	N (%) Response	p <sup>3</sup>
0 or 1	Favorable	23 (25%)	10 (43%)	
2	Intermediate	52 (57%)	12 (23%)	
3	Unfavorable	16 (18%)	-0-	<b>0.002</b>

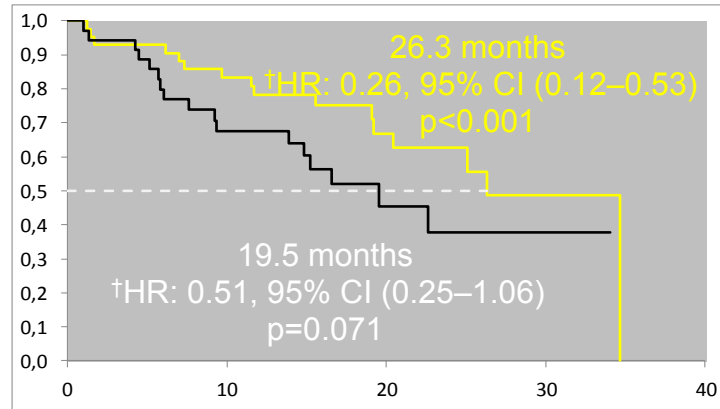
OS after HMT

Feature	Category	Score
Cytogenetic Risk	Good	0
	Intermediate or no growth	2
	Poor	5
ASXL1	Wild type	0
	Mutated	3
Hemoglobin, g/dL	≥10	0
	<10	2
Age	< 60	0
	≥ 60	4
SF3B1	Mutated	0
	Wild type	8

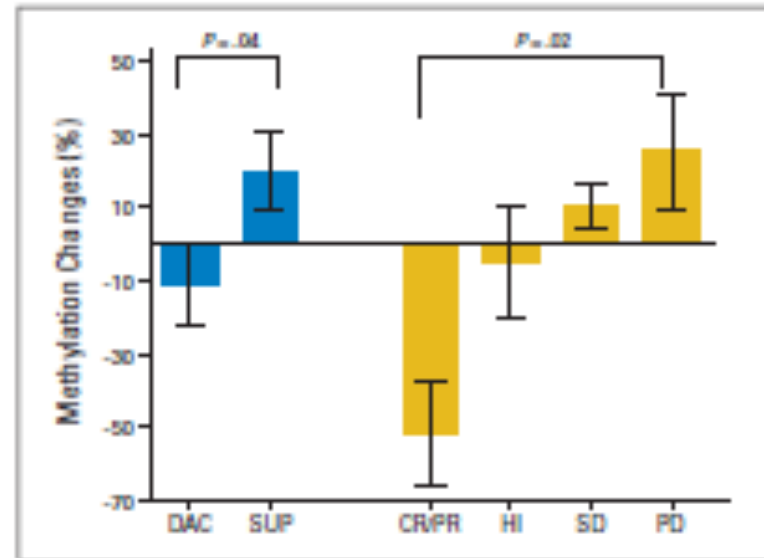
Total Score	Risk Group	N (%)	Median Survival (months)	p <sup>3</sup>
<12	Favorable	49 (53%)	30.7	
≥12	Unfavorable	43 (47%)	7.9	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>



# Methylation pattern and response to therapy

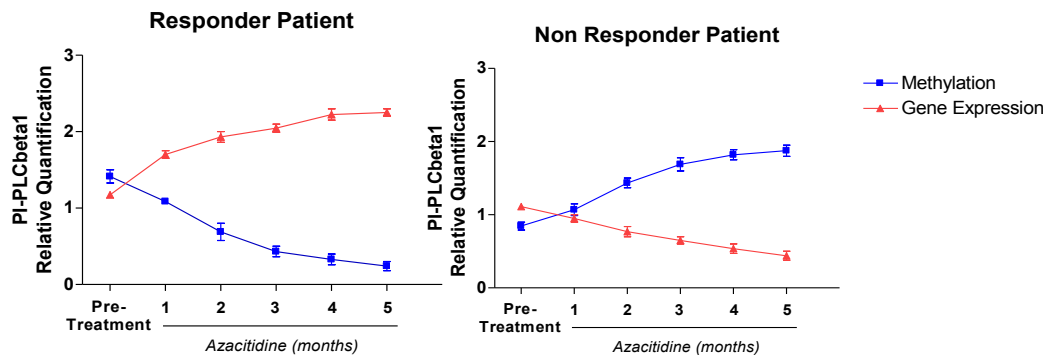


OS after AZA according to CDH1 methylation levels Herman JG, et al. Presented at AACR 2009 [Abstract 4746]



## Global methylation and response to Decitabine

Shen, J Clin Oncol. 2010 1;28(4):605-13



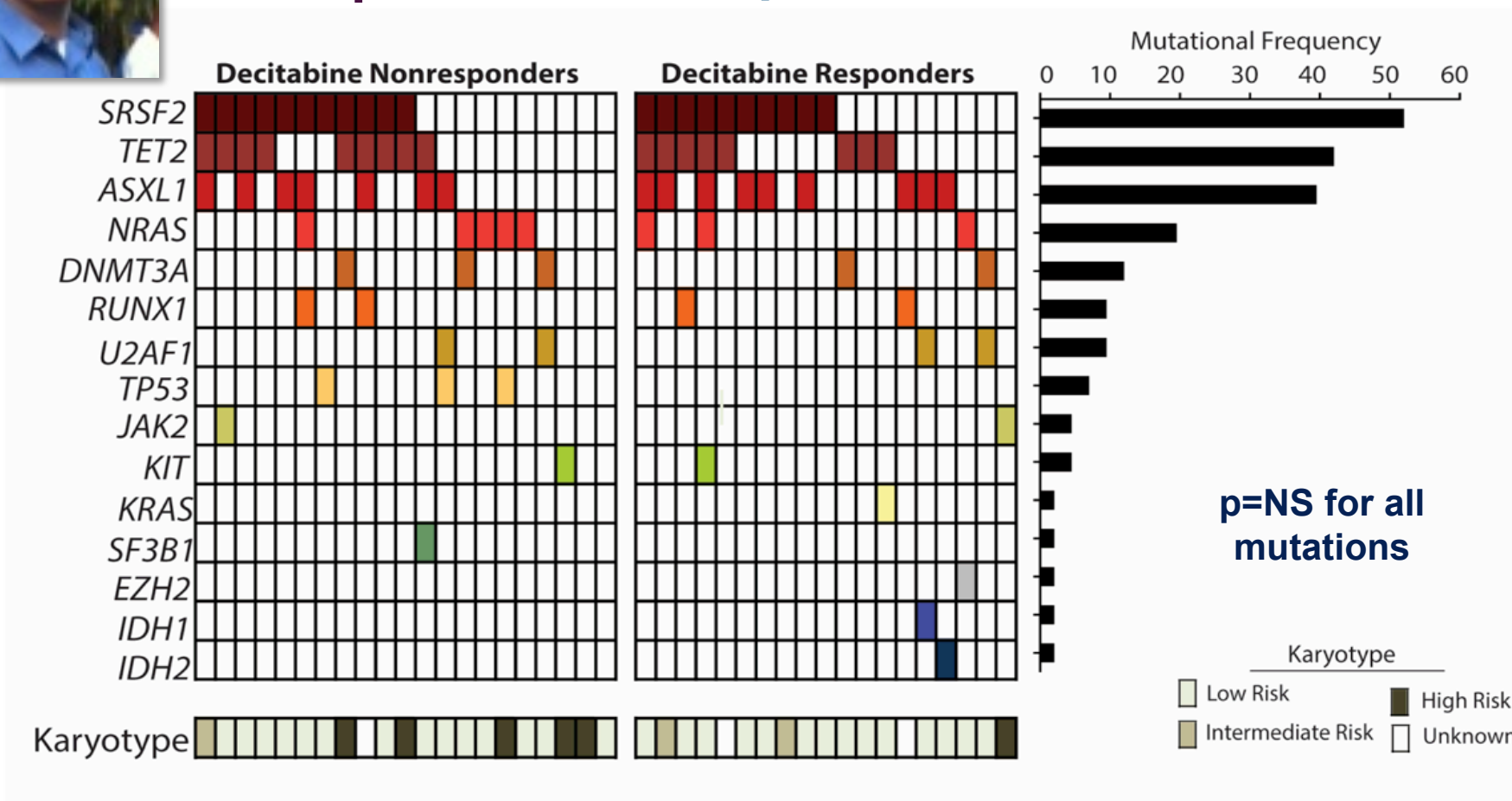
PI-PLCbeta1 promoter methylation and gene expression correlate with response to azacitidine Follo et al PNAS 2009 29;106(39):16811-6

# Mutational profiles do not correlate with response to DAC

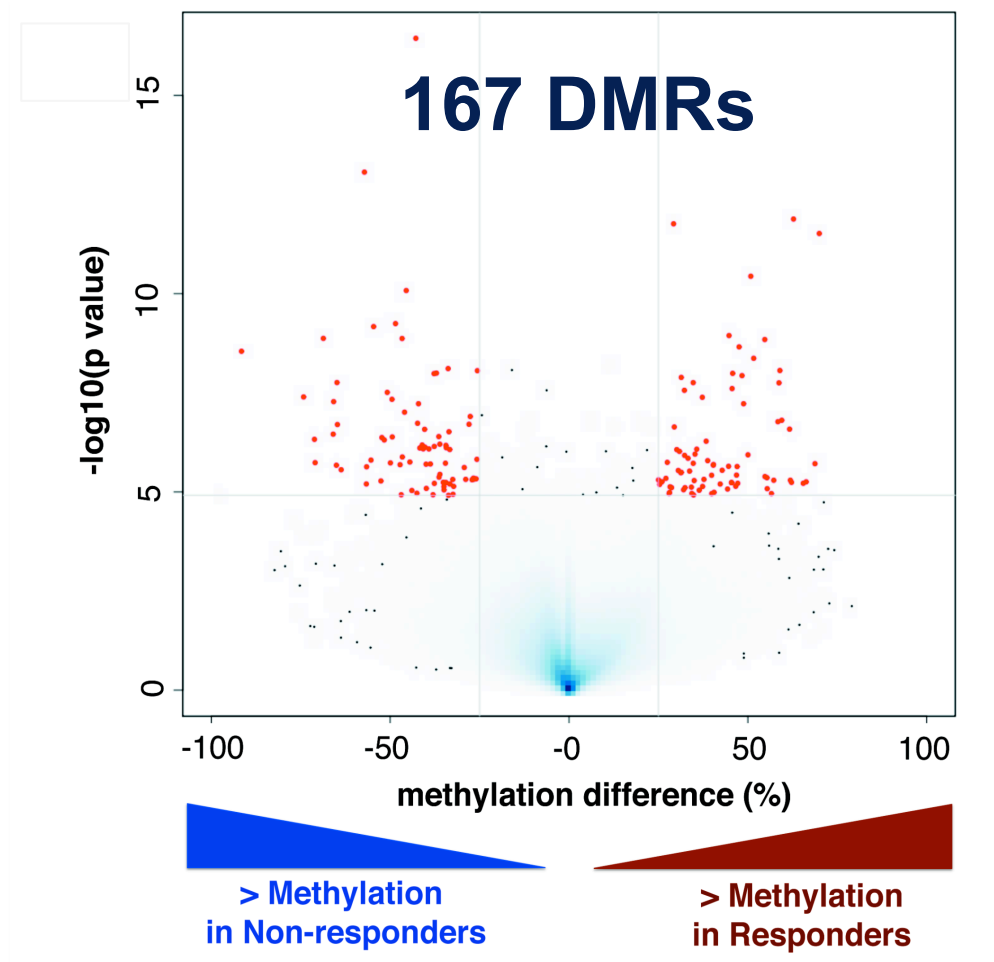


**Responders**

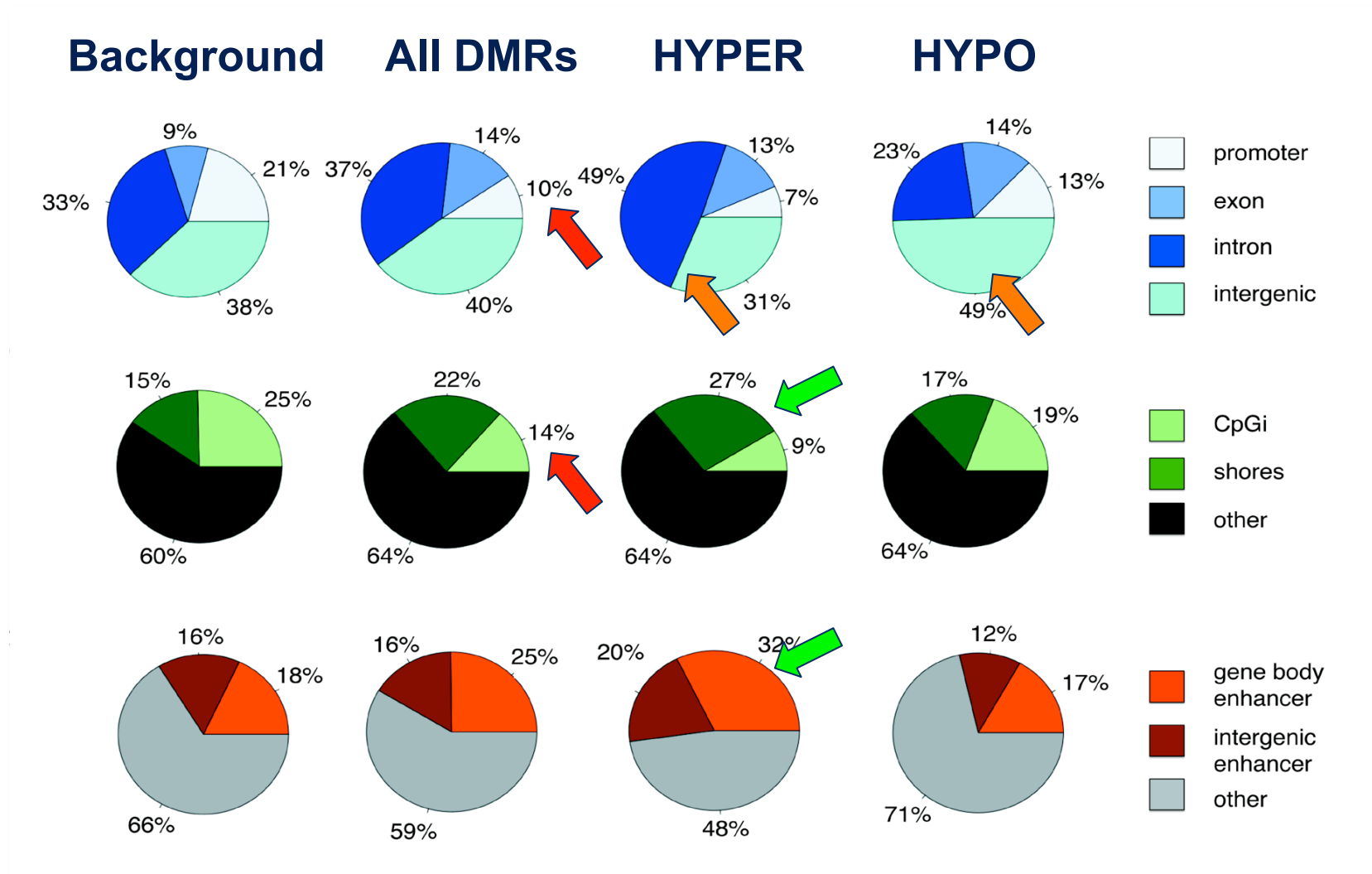
**Non-Responders**



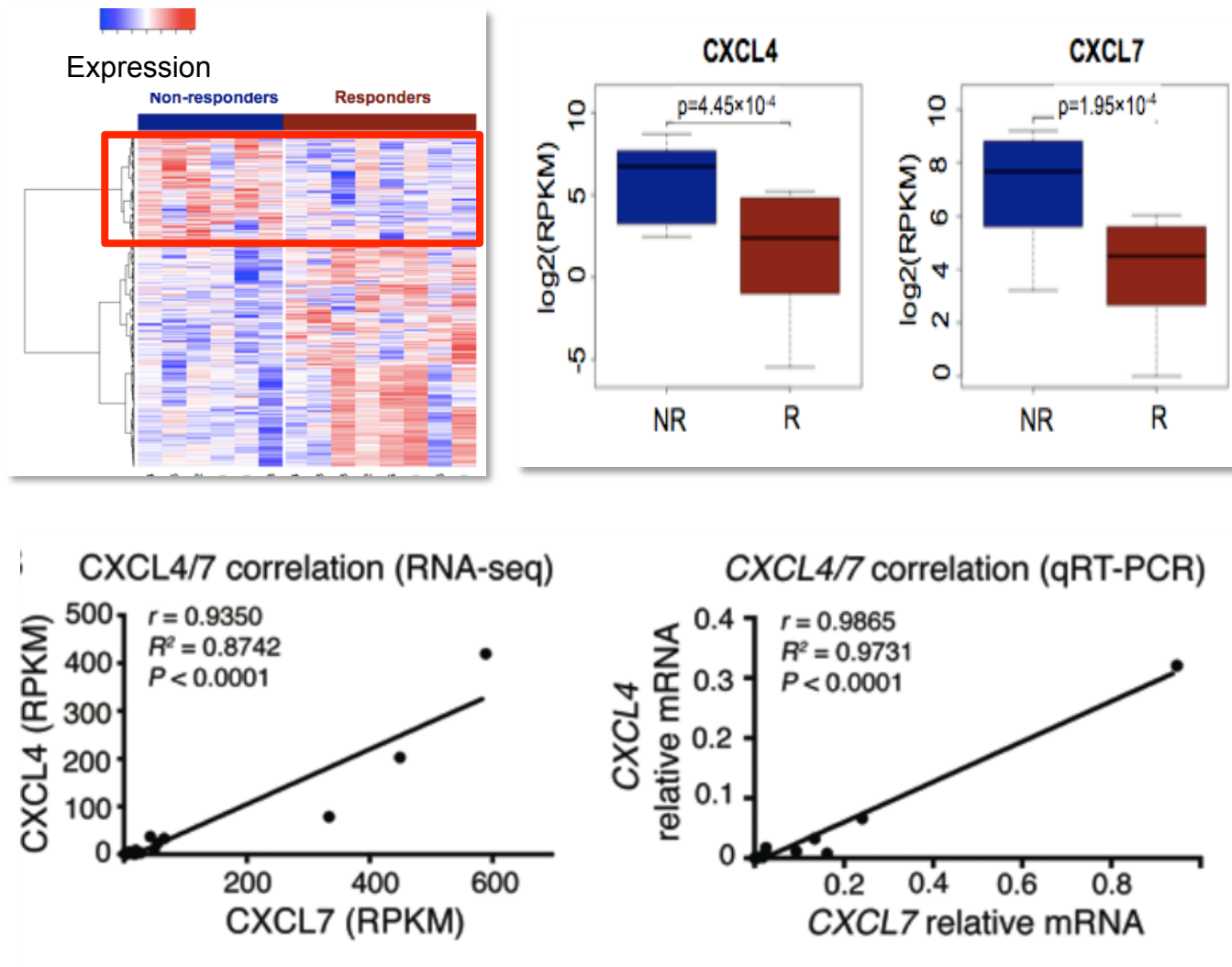
# Distinct DNA methylation profiles at diagnosis of CMML is associated with response to decitabine



# Differentially methylated regions are enriched at distal intergenic regions and enhancers



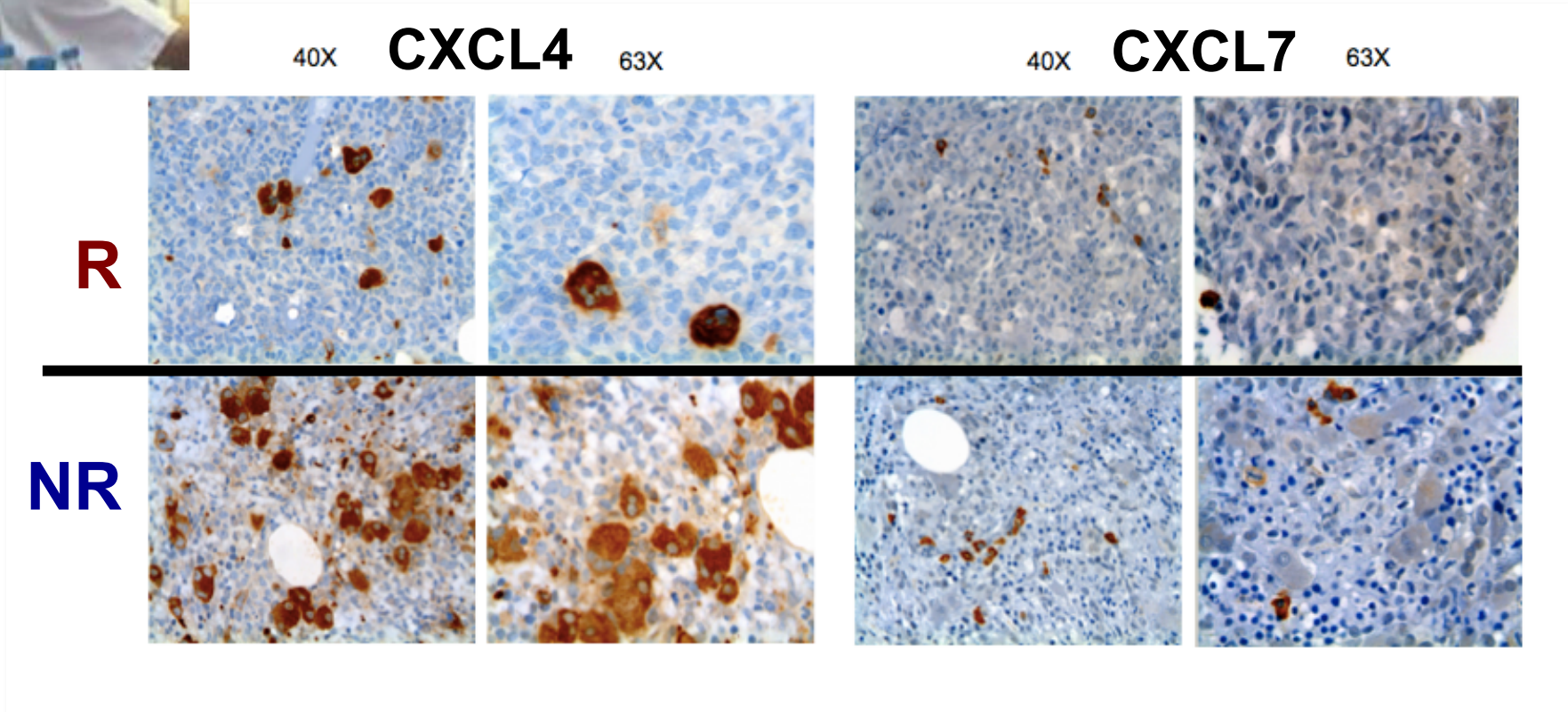
# CXCL4 and CXCL7 are up-regulated in the bone marrow of non-responders



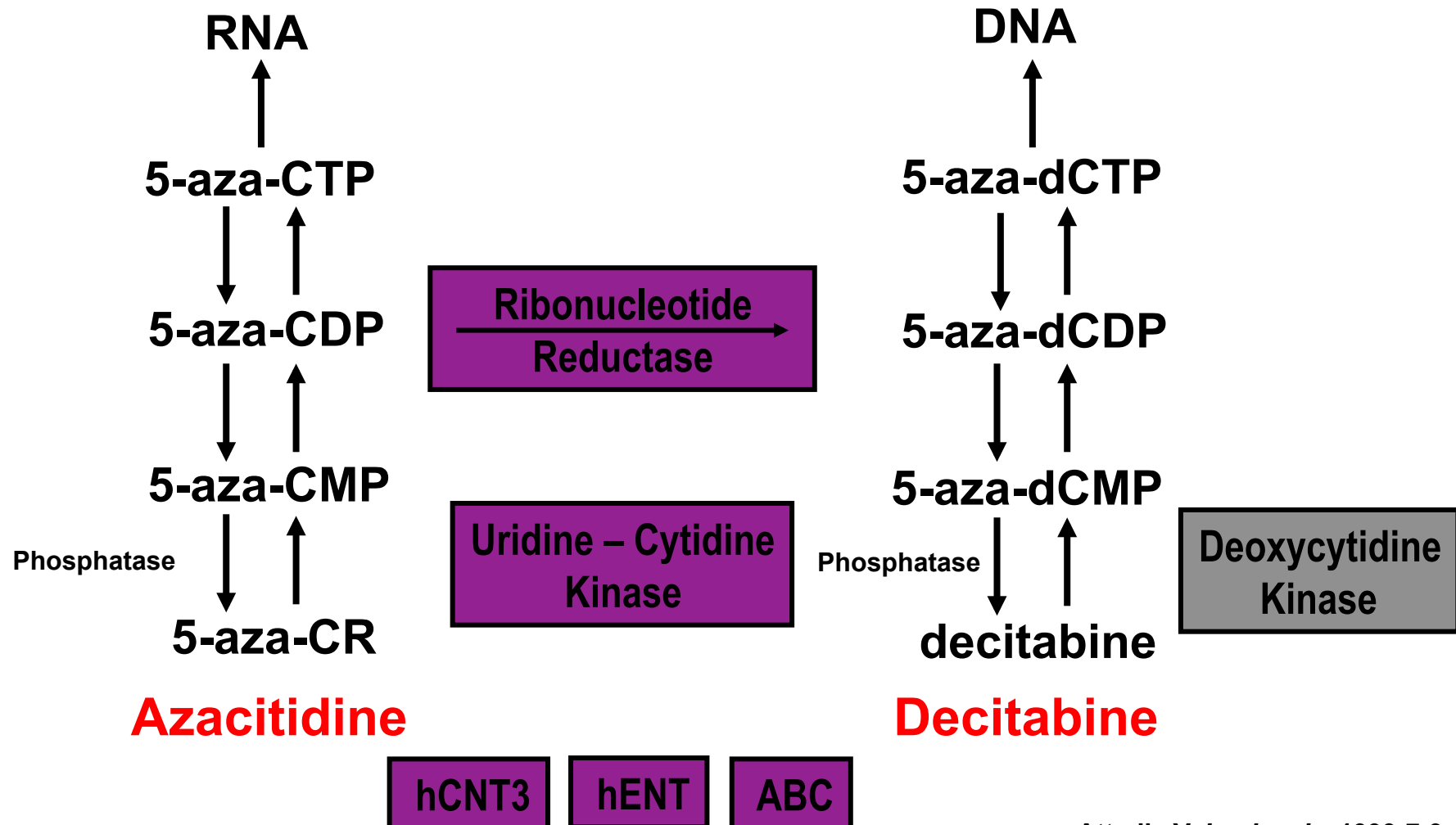
# CXCL4 and CXCL7 are up-regulated in the bone marrow of non-responders



Francesca Buchi



# RNA/DNA uptake of hypomethylating agents

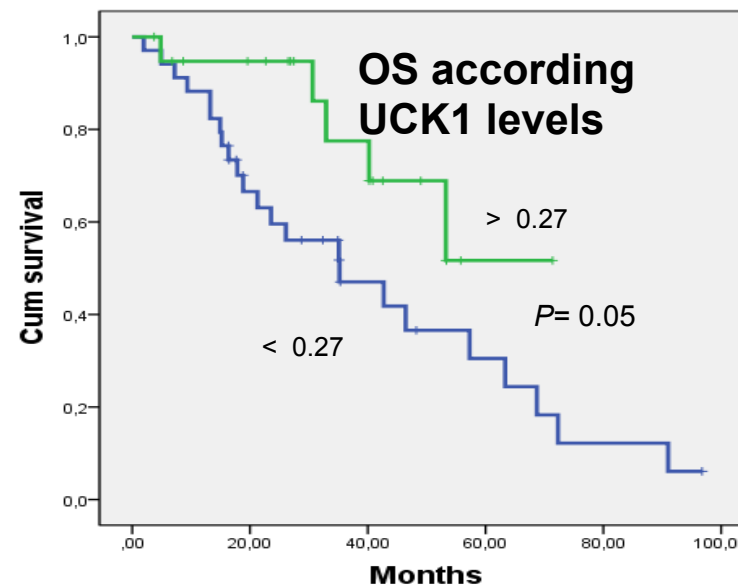
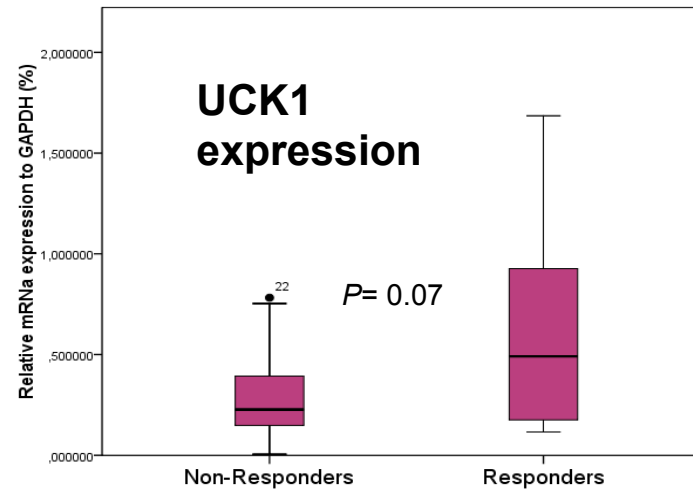


# UCK1 hyperexpression modulates response to Azacitidine in HR-MDS

Ana Valencia et al, Leukemia 2013

57 MDS pts  
↓  
Azacitidine  
75mg/m<sup>2</sup>/7 days  
every 28 gg

UCK1/2  
Gene expression  
Promoter methylation  
Gene sequence

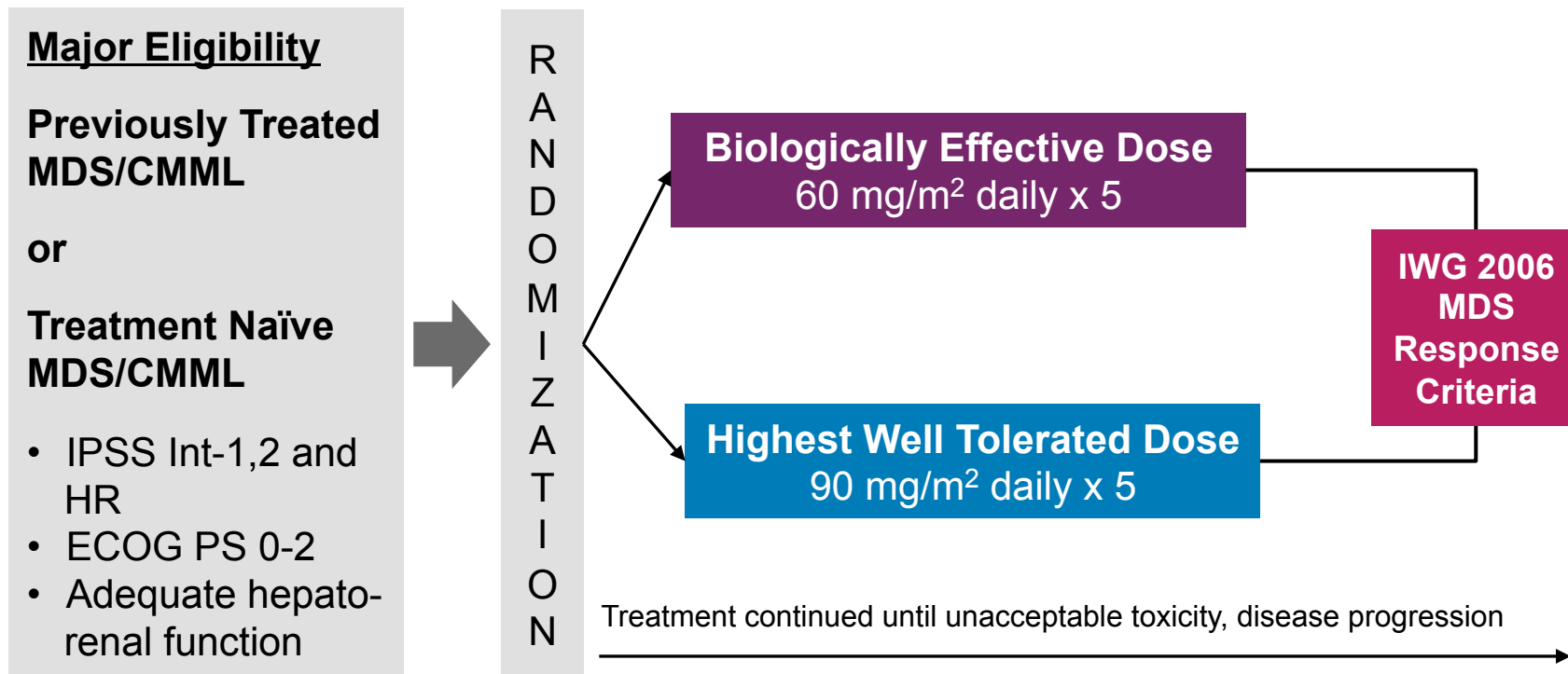




# Use new drugs?



# “Long acting “ Hypomethylating Agent : SGI-110



- Primary Endpoint: Overall Response Rate (CR, PR, mCR, HI)
- Secondary Endpoints: Transfusion independence, LINE-1 demethylation, time to AML, overall survival

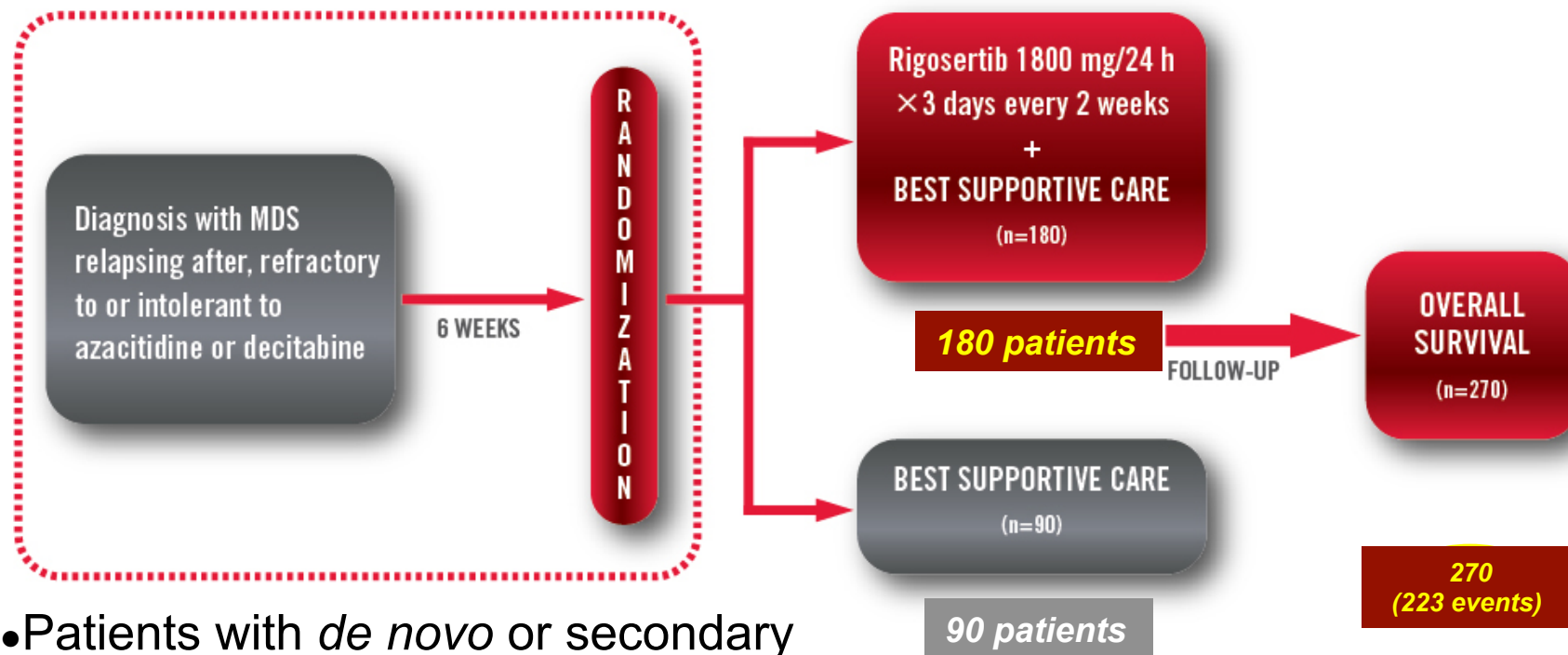
## Guadecitabine (Clinical Responses in Tx naïve MDS/ CMML) 60 and 90 mg/m<sup>2</sup> SC Dailyx5 combined

Response Category <sup>1</sup>	Tx Naïve (n=49)
	<b>Response rate n (%)</b>
CR	7 (14.3)
mCR	3 (6.1)
HI	9 (18.4)
CR+mCR	10 (20.4)
Overall Response Rate	19 (38.8)

<sup>1</sup>International Working Group 2006 MDS Response Criteria

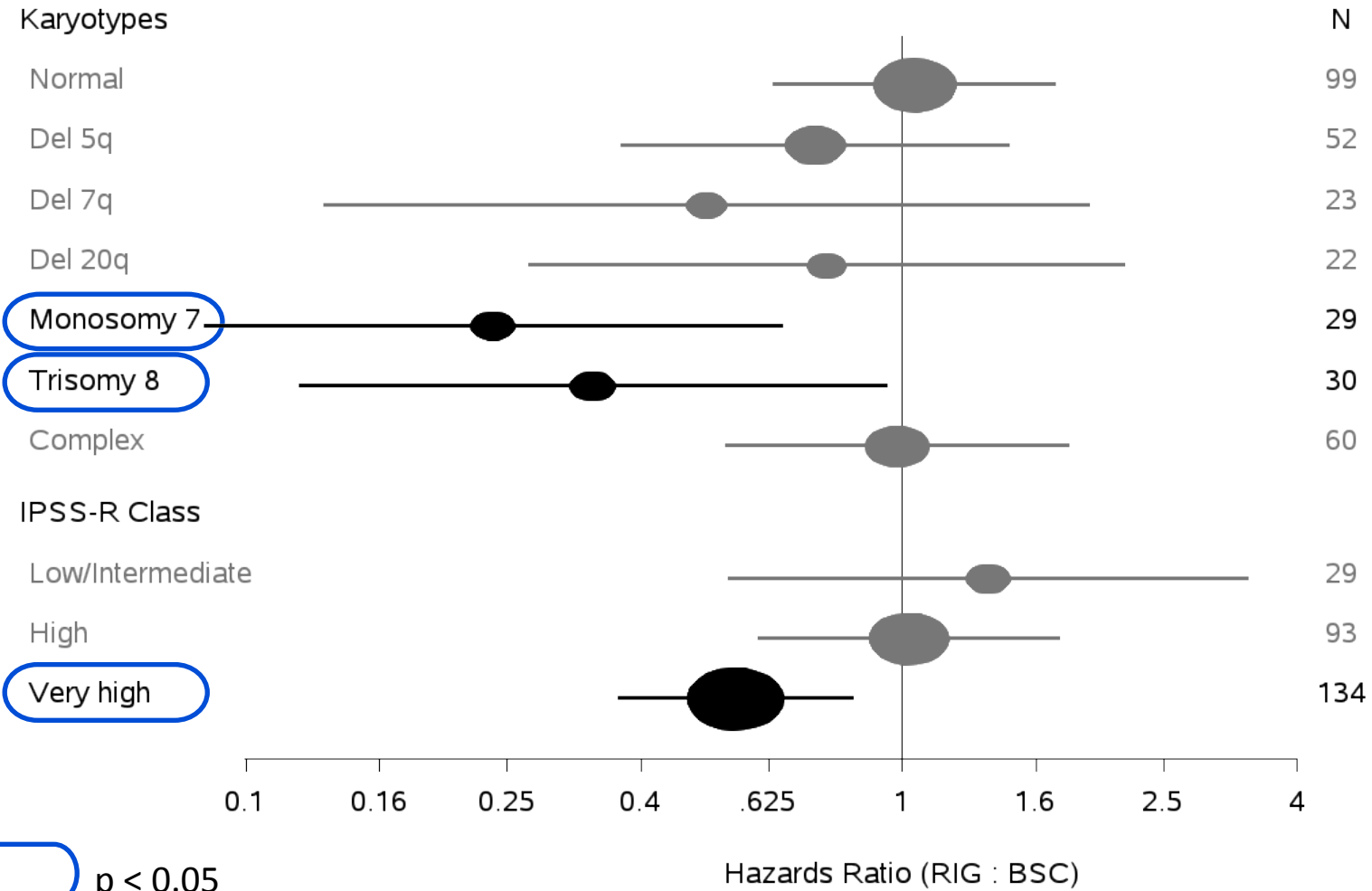
# Rigosertib

## Multicenter International Phase III ongoing Trial



- Patients with *de novo* or secondary MDS who **relapse** after, progress, are **refractory to azacitidine or decitabine**
  - Higher risk MDS, or chronic myelomonocytic leukemia (CMML)
-

# ONTIME Trial: Subgroups Correlated with Longer Median OS - ITT

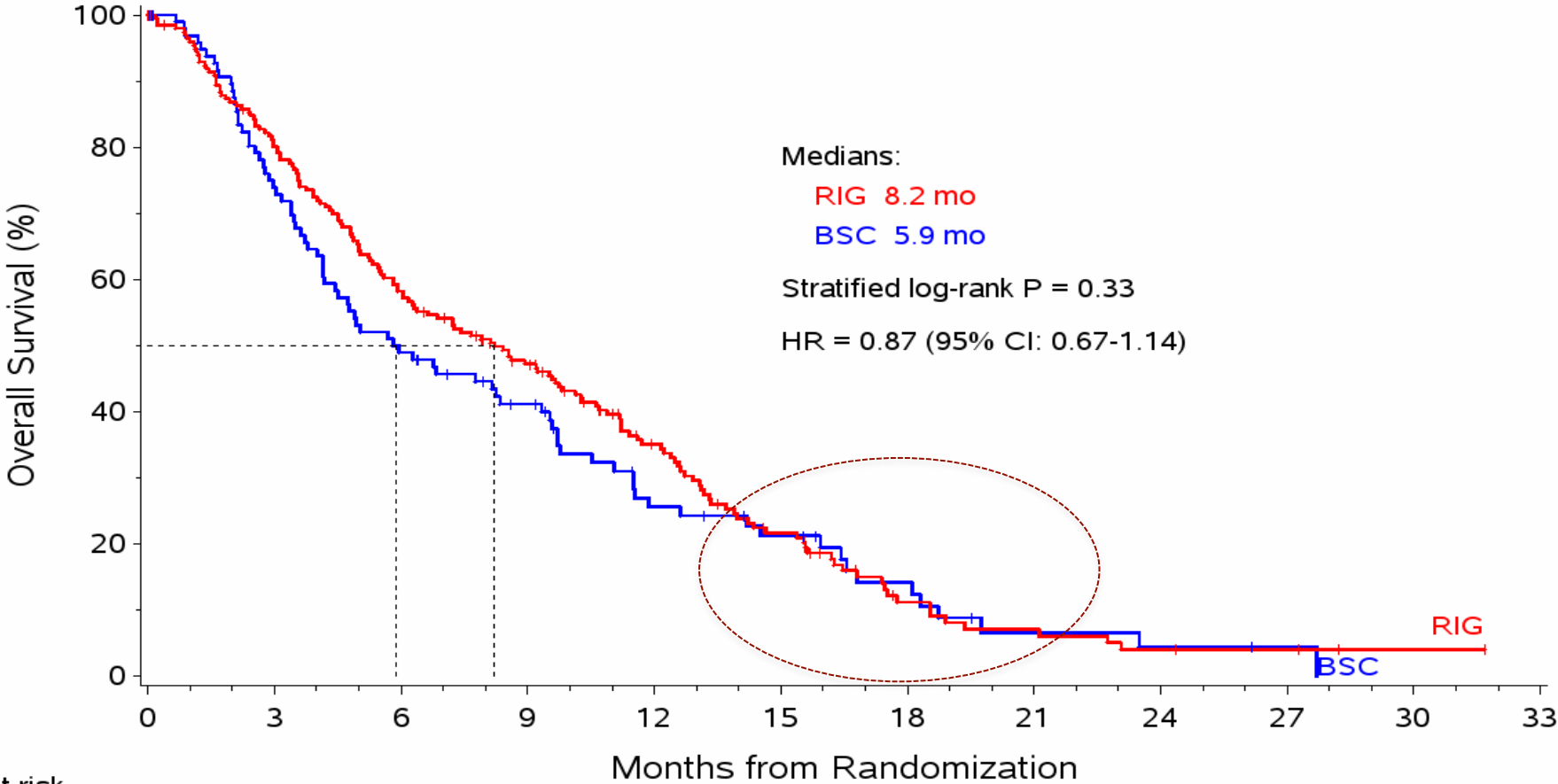


 p < 0.05



Additional information on the relationship between rigosertib and karyotype mutations is available in Poster #3258

# Study 04-21: Primary Efficacy Results – ITT

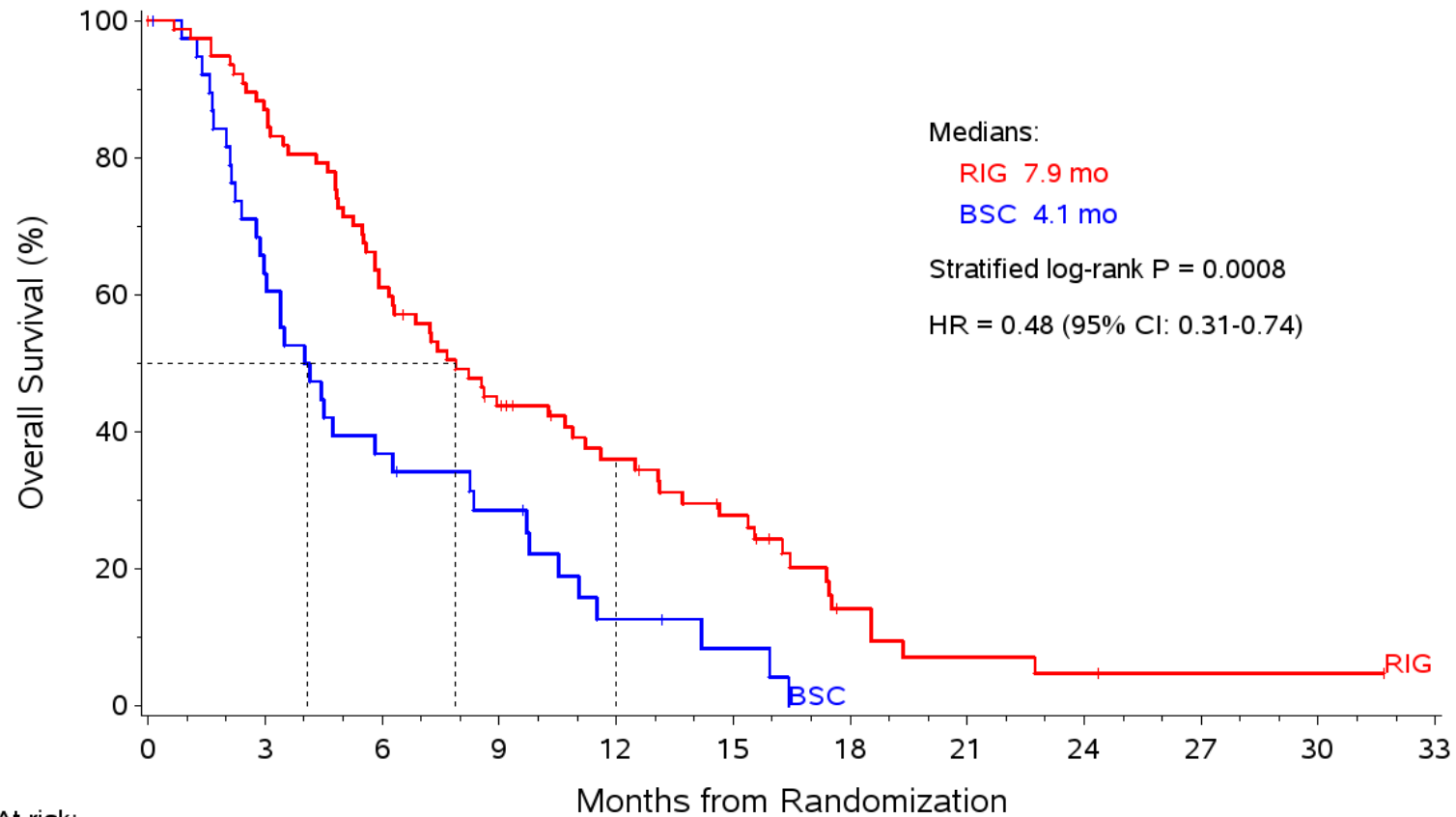


At risk

	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33
RIG	199	157	114	86	52	29	11	7	4	3	1	
BSC	100	71	47	35	19	14	8	3	2	1		



# 04-21: Proposed Patient Population ( $\leq 9$ HMA DoT; $< 80$ yrs; $< 6$ Month from HMA)



At risk:

RIG	77	67	47	32	23	16	6	3	2	1	1
BSC	39	24	14	10	4	2					



# IDH1/2 mutations in MDS

Present in ~4-12% of patients with MDS

Missense mutations: heterozygous; target highly conserved Arginine residues

IDH1: R132H mutations

IDH2: R172K or R140Q mutations

All variants produce 2-hydroxyglutarate (2-HG)

Mutations in IDH1/2 are associated with increased 5-methylcytosine

Initial reports: Unfavorable prognosis for IDH-mut MDS



# Response to AG221( IDH2m-inhibitor) in IDH2m AML and MDS patients

	RR-AML (n = 159)	Untreated AML (n = 24)	MDS (n = 14)	All (N = 209)
CR	29 (18%) [95%CI: 13%, 25%]	4 (17%) [5%, 37%]	3 (21%) [5%, 51%]	37 (18%) [13%, 24%]
CRp	1 (1%)	1 (4%)	1 (7%)	3 (1%)
CRi	3 (2%)	0	0	3 (1%)
mCR	9 (6%)	1 (4%)	3 (21%)	14 (7%)
PR	17 (11%)	4 (17%)	0	22 (11%)
SD	72 (46%)	9 (38%)	6 (53%)	96 (46%)
PD	10 (6%)	1 (4%)	0	11 (5%)
Not evaluable	18 (11%)	4 (17%)	1 (7%)	23 (11%)
Overall Response (CR, PR, CRp, CRi, mCR)	59 (37%) [95%CI: 30%, 45%]	10 (42%) [22%, 63%]	7 (50%) [23%, 77%]	79 (38%) [31%, 45%]

Stein EM, et al. Oral Presentation at ASH 2015. Abstract 323

**In MDS, upfront HSCT will cure  
20-30% of eligible patients**

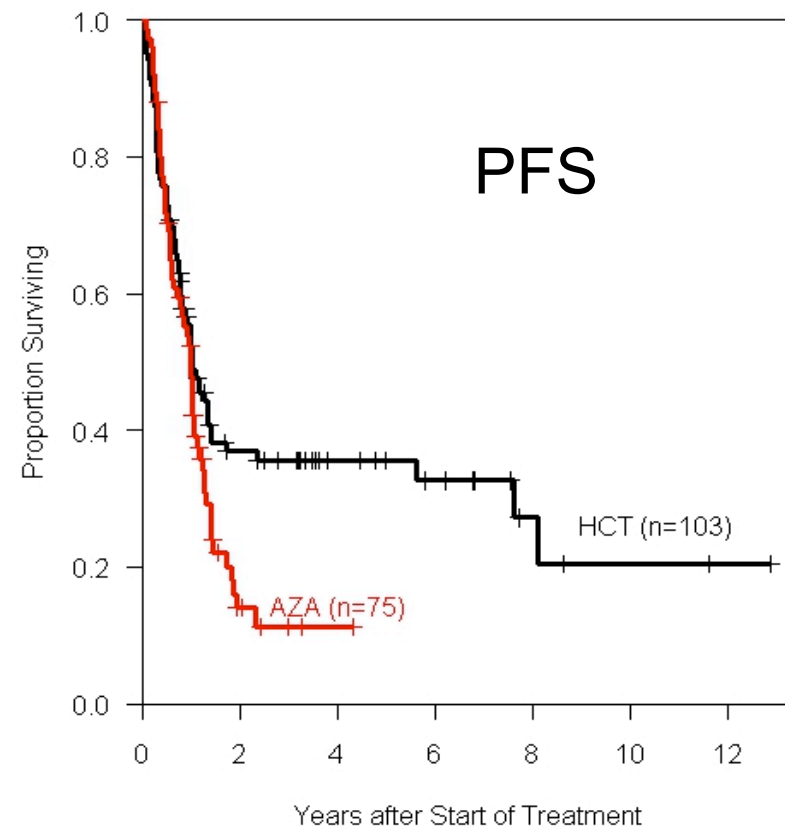
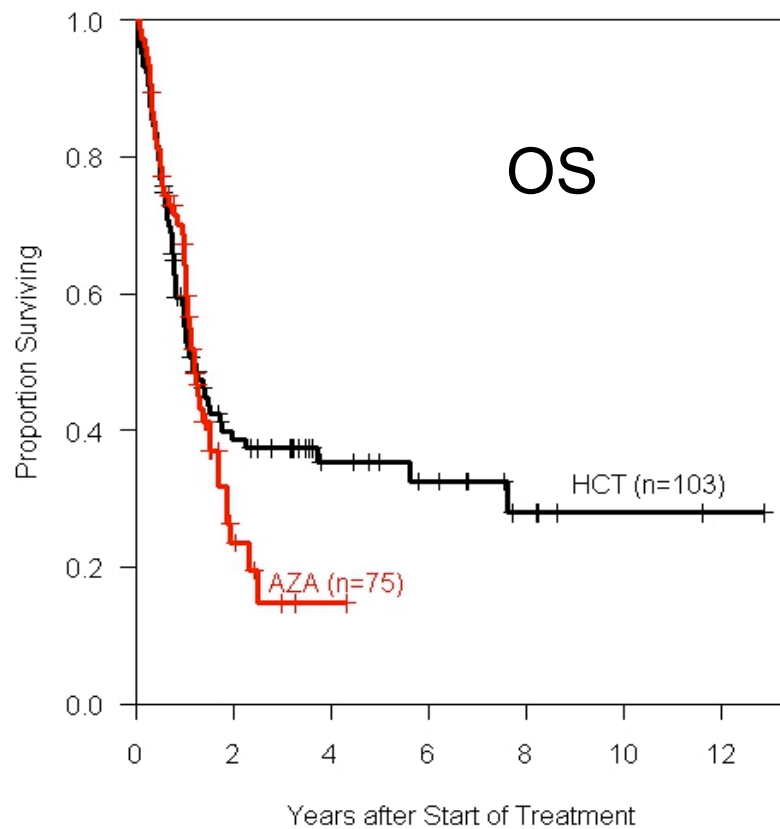
**How many of these MDS patients  
are really fit to undergo  
HSCT ???**

**37/270 in Prebet survey  
(14% )**

**28/37 with prior intensive therapy**

**19/37 evaluable**

# Allogeneic HSCT vs AZA in MDS patients 60-70 years of age



# Azacitidine as a bridge to HSCT

Study	Drug	M Age	Pts	ORR prior to HSCT	Outcome after allo HSCT
Mc Carty BMT 2008	AZA	58	25	52 %	nr
Field BMT 2010	AZA	56	30	45%	OS (1 yr) 47% RR 20%
Kim BMT 2012	AZA/ DAC	54	19	59%	OS (1yr) 90% RR 25%
Gerd BBMT 2012	AZA	60	68	nd	OS (1 yr) 57% RR 29%
Damaj JCO 2012	AZA	57	163	nd	OS (3yrs) 55% RR 40%

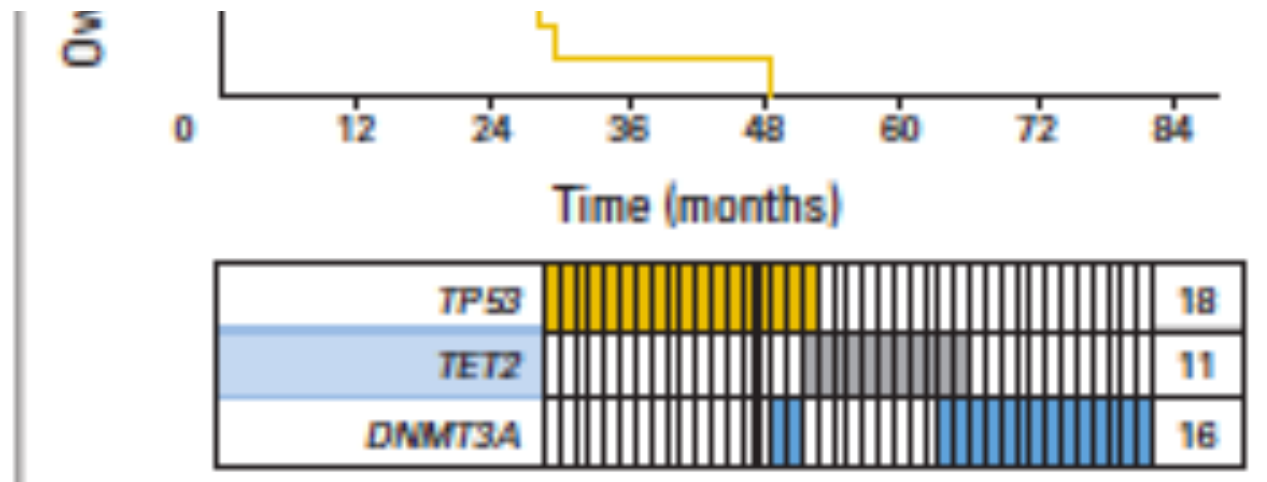
**No broad analysis of pre-transplant conditioning regimens was undertaken in patients who received HSCT after hypomethylating agents (all RIC?)**

**What about QoL, GVHD and EFS?**

# H SCT is curative , but outcome is influenced by *some* mutations



Mutated RUNX1, ASXL1, SRSF2, and U2AF1 are **not** associated with shorter OS



**Is haploidentical transplant  
our future for MDS?**

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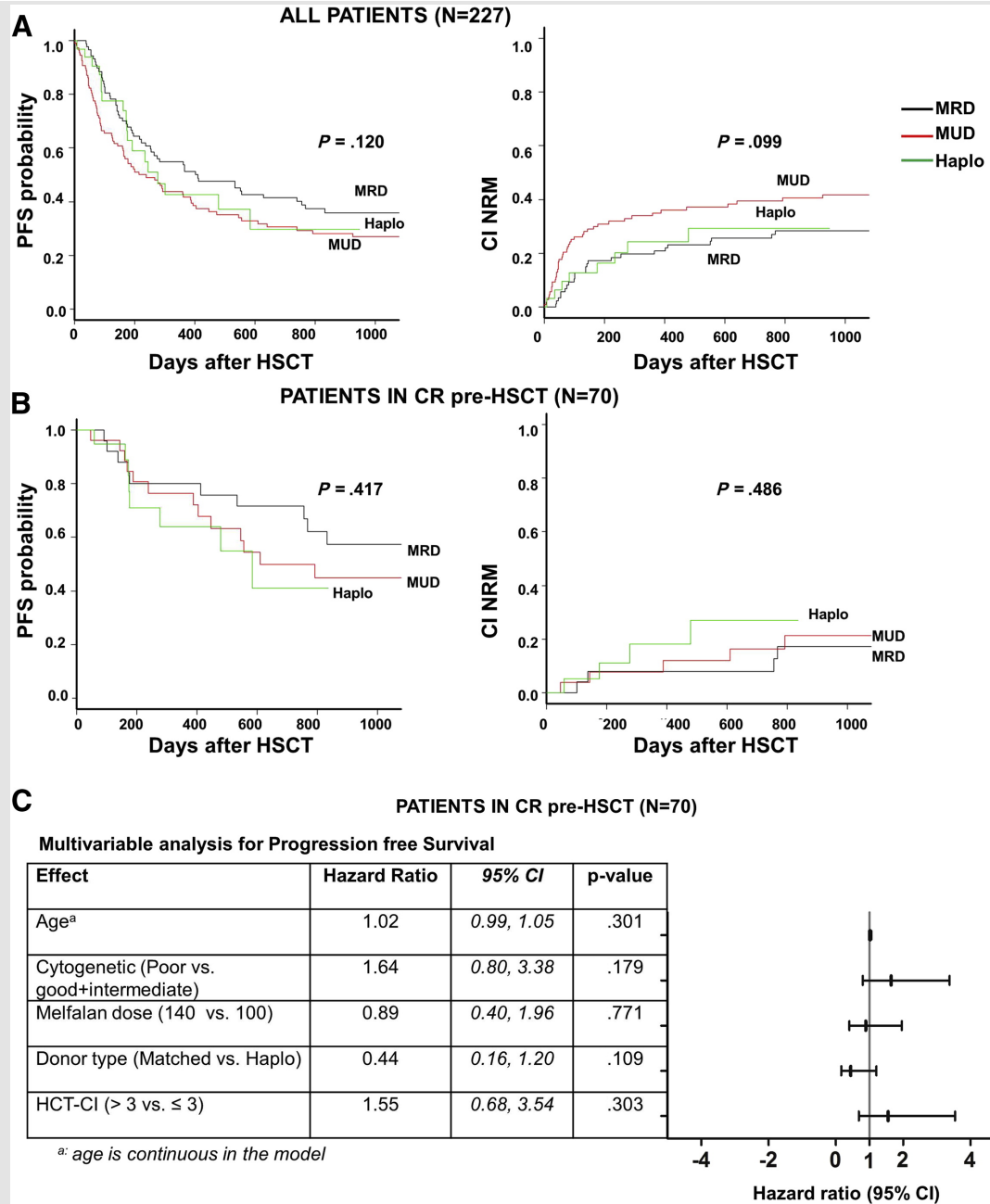


# *Similar Transplantation Outcomes for Acute Myeloid Leukemia and Myelodysplastic Syndrome Patients with Haploidentical versus 10/10 Human Leukocyte Antigen–Matched Unrelated and Related Donors*

*Antonio Di Stasi, Denái R. Milton, L.M. Poon, Amir Hamdi, Gabriela Rondon, Julianne Chen, Sai R. Pingali, Marina Konopleva, Piyanuch Kongtim, Amin Alousi, Muzaffar H. Qazilbash, Sairah Ahmed, Qaiser Bashir, Gheath Al-atrash, Betul Oran, Chitra M. Hosing, Partow Kebriaei, Uday Popat, Elizabeth J. Shpall, Dean A. Lee, Marcos de Lima, Katayoun Rezvani, Issa F. Khouri, Richard E. Champlin, Stefan O. Ciurea*

*Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation*  
Volume 20, Issue 12, Pages 1975-1981 (December 2014)  
DOI: 10.1016/j.bbmt.2014.08.013

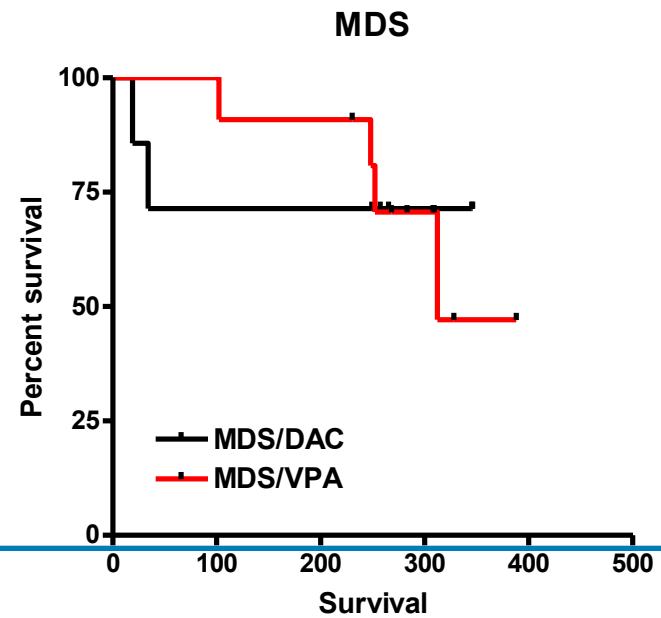
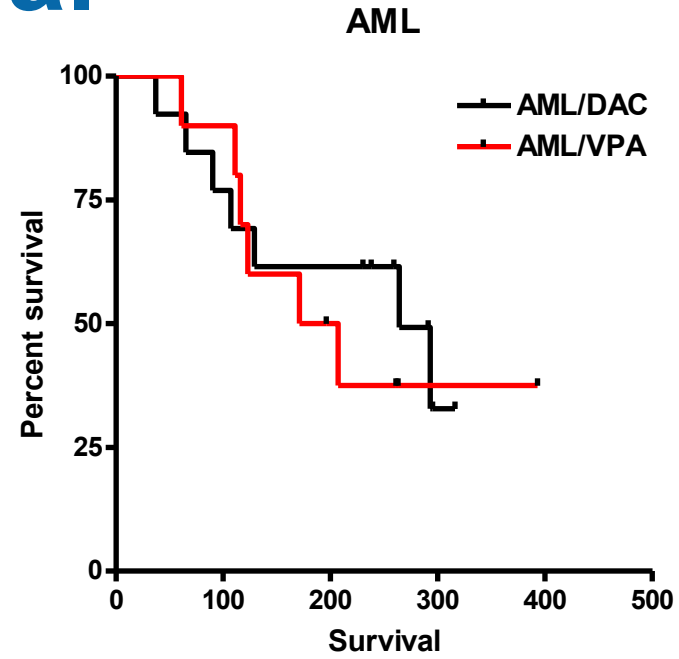
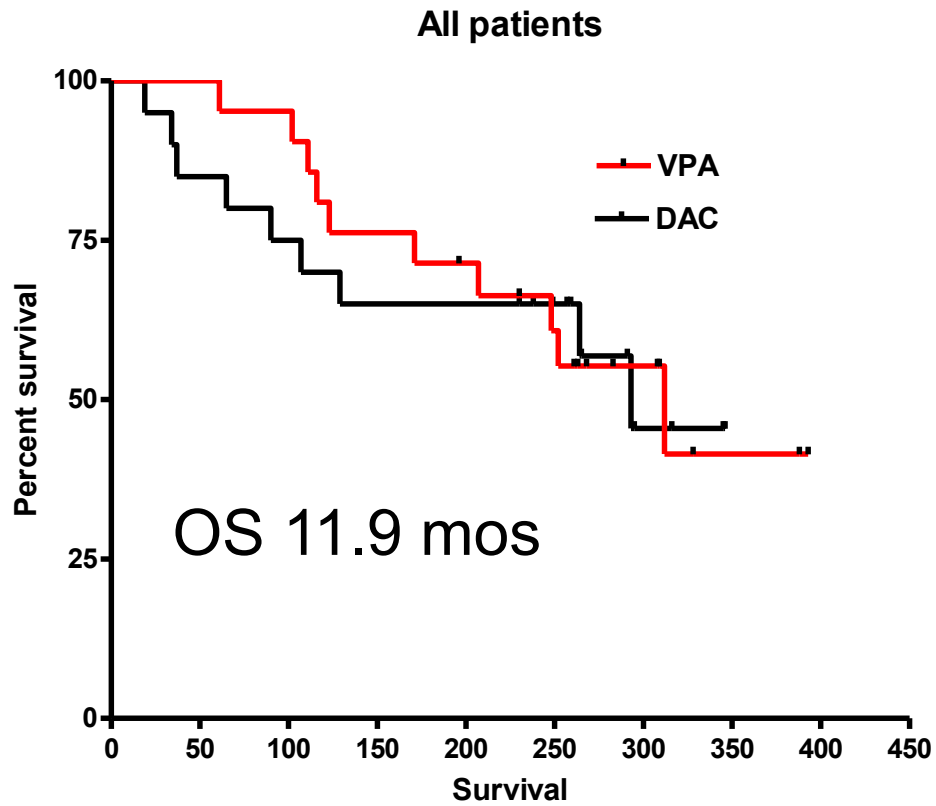




**Is there still hope for  
combination therapy?**

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# DAC +/- VPA Survival



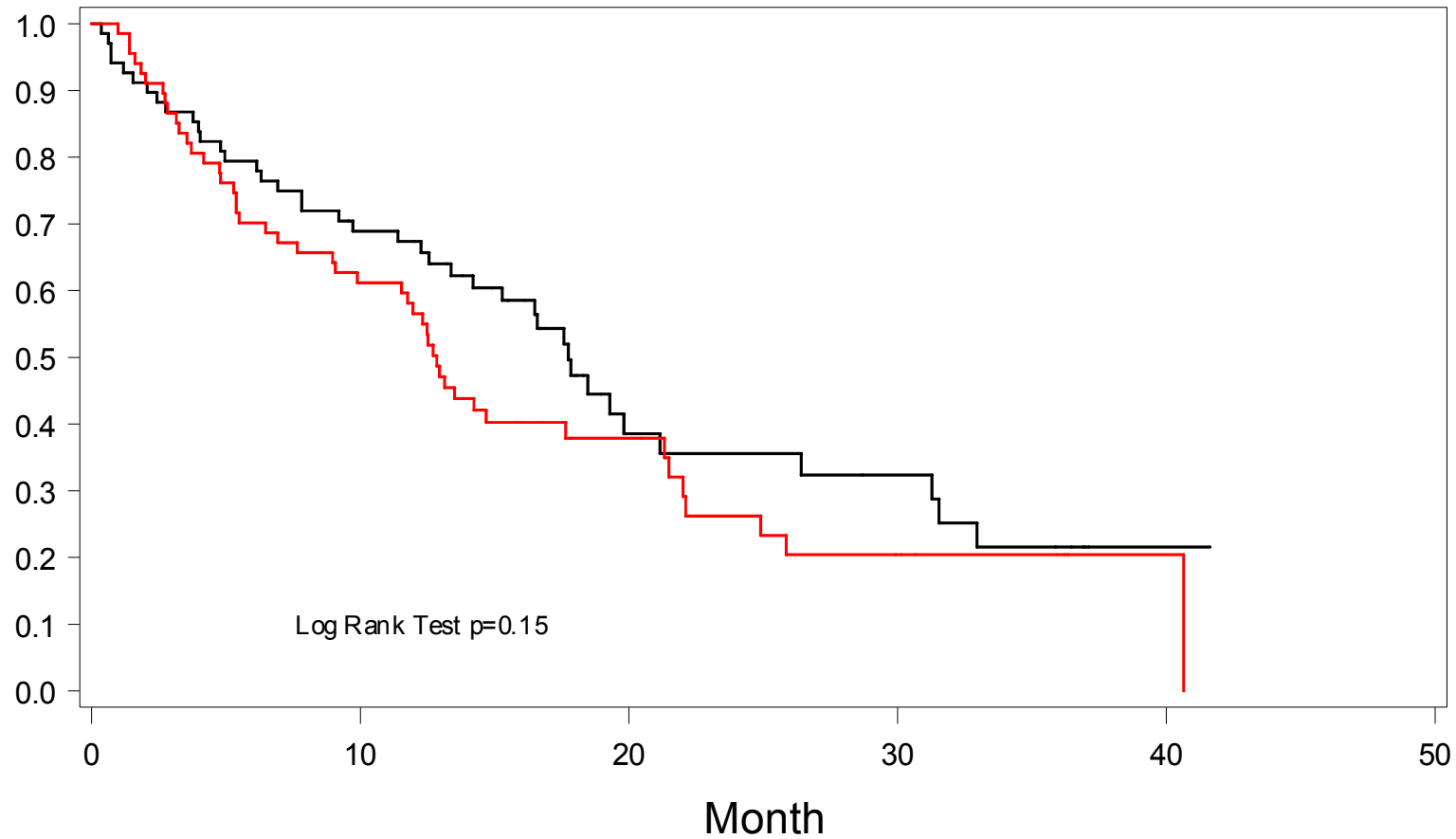
# Azacitidine with or without Entinostat

## Response evaluation (IWG 2000)

	Arm A AZA alone	Arm B AZA+ Entinostat
Complete Remission	Trilineage Response: 31%	Trilineage Response: 24%
Partial Remission		
Trilineage HI		
HI not trilineage	12%	19%
No response	57%	56%

# Analysis of overall survival

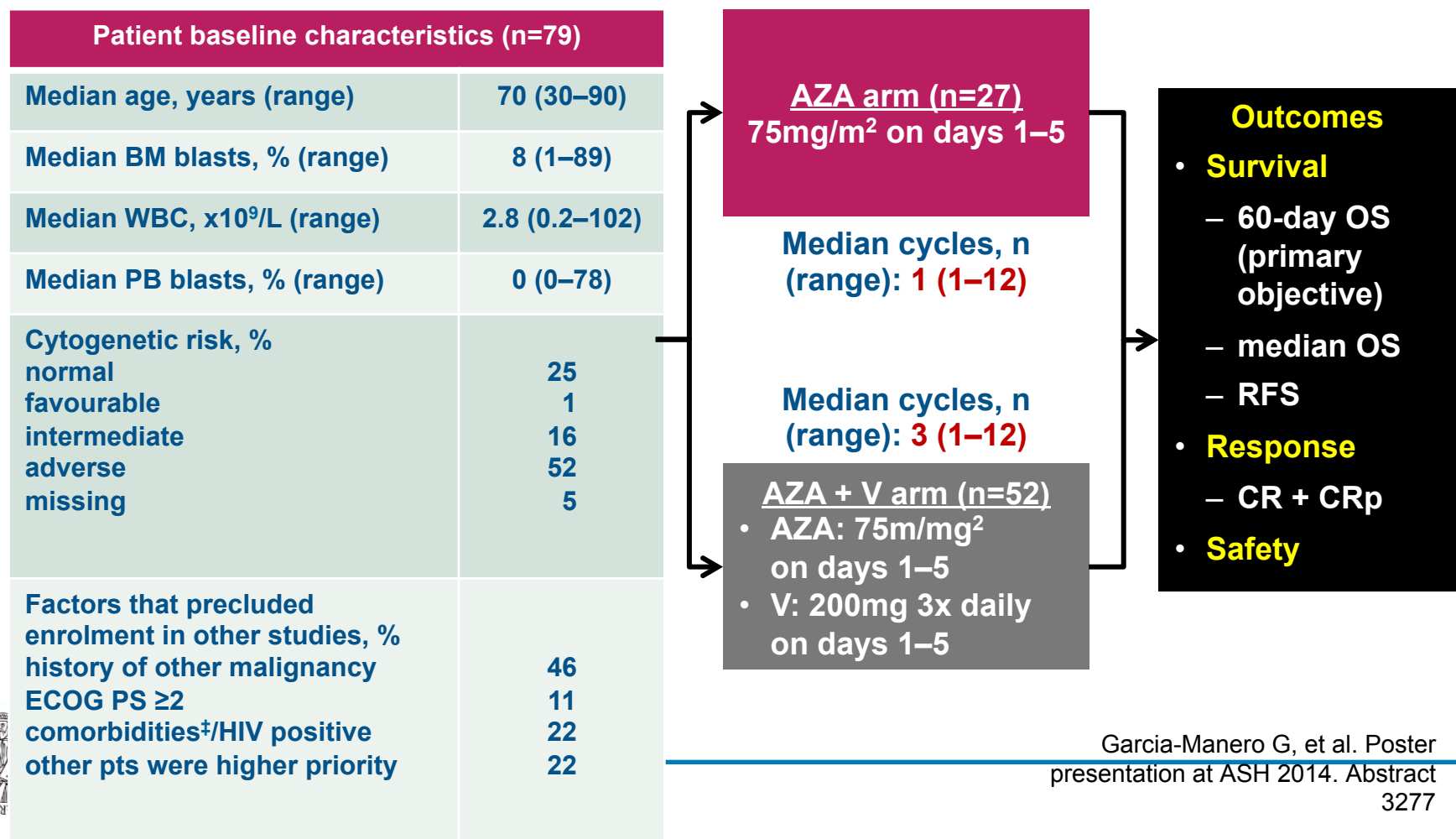
## OS Comparison



Treatment	TOTAL	FAIL	CNSR	MEDIAN
Azacitidine	68	40	28	17.7
Azacitidine+Entinostat	68	47	21	12.8

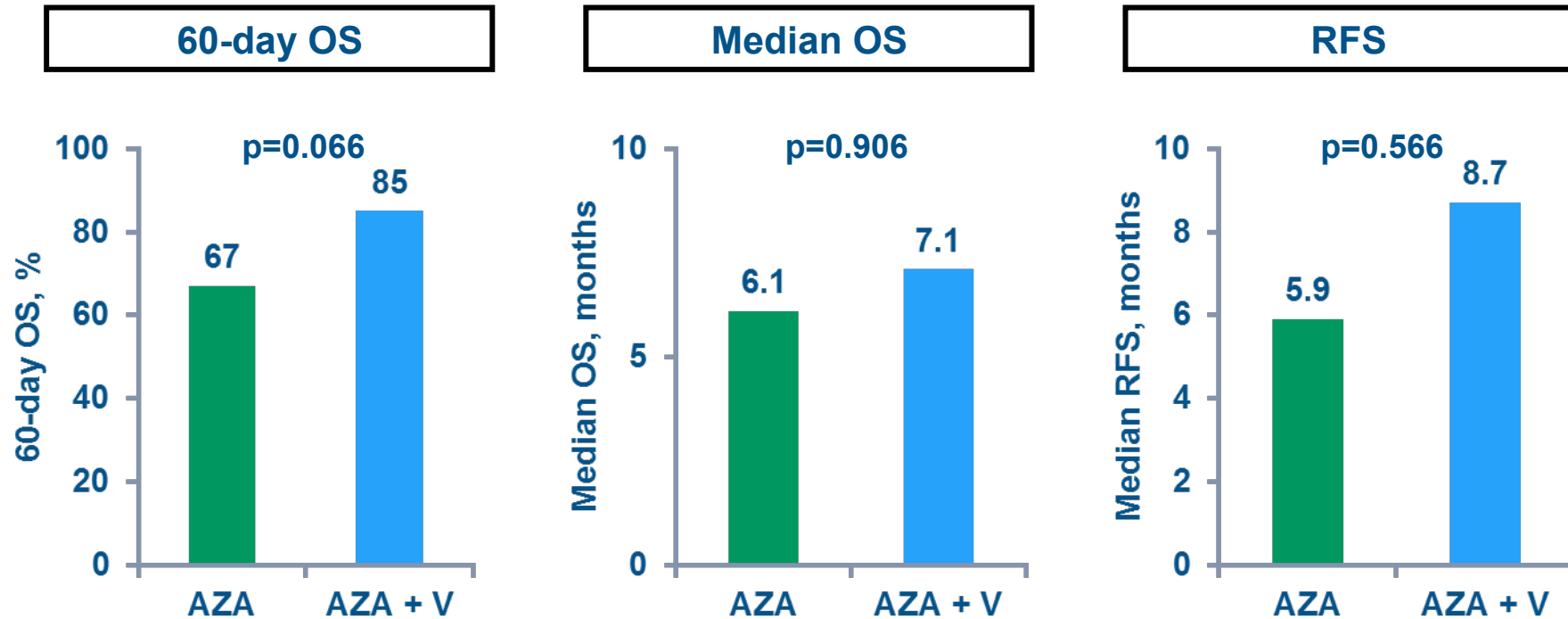
# AZA vs AZA + vorinostat in patients with MDS/AML and poor PS: phase II study

Phase II randomised\* study of AZA vs AZA + V in patients with higher-risk MDS or newly diagnosed AML† usually ineligible for clinical trials due to comorbidities, organ dysfunction or poor PS



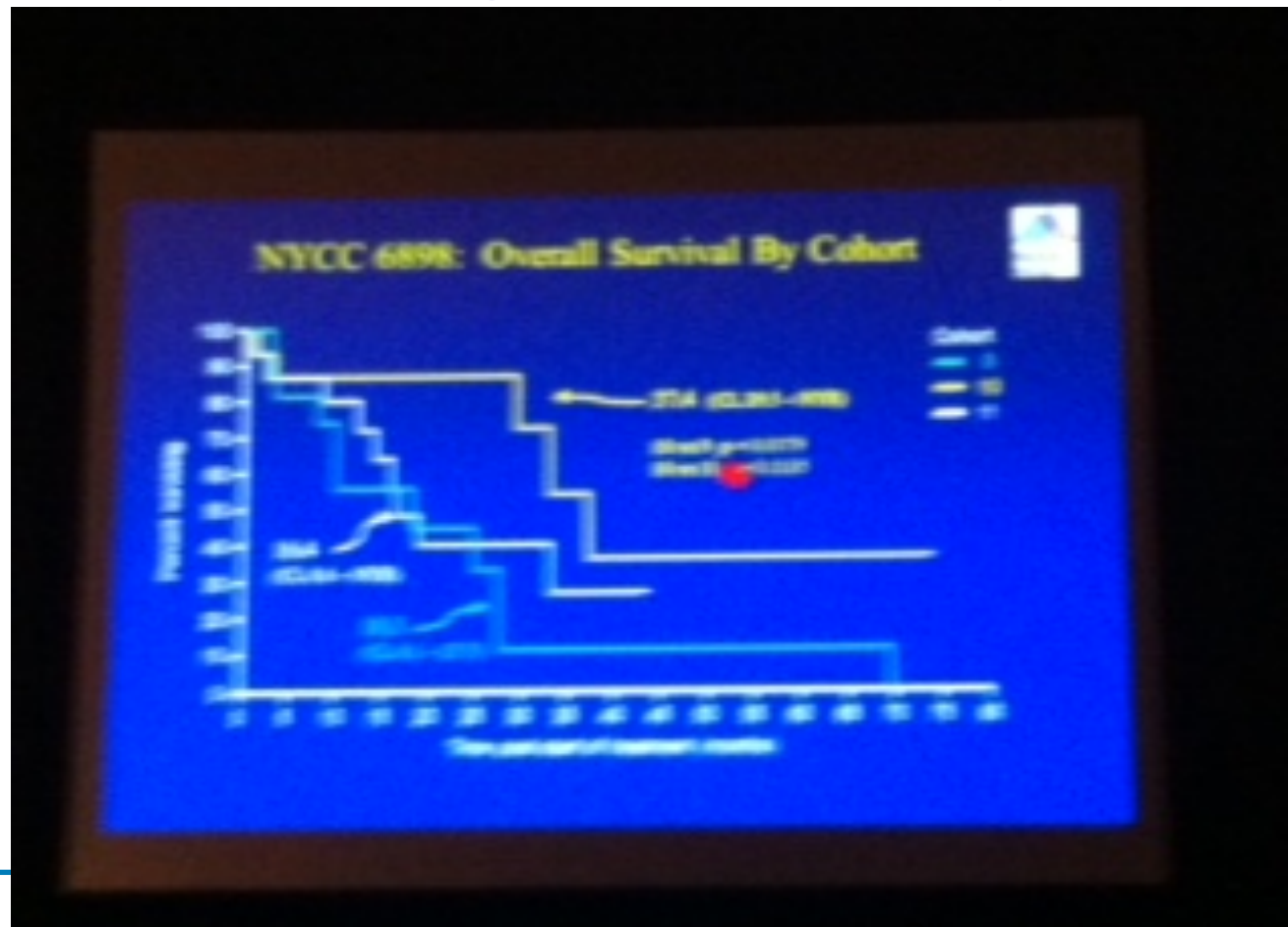
# AZA vs AZA + vorinostat in patients with MDS/AML and poor PS: phase II study

- Median follow-up: **9.5 months**
- Patients alive at last follow up, n (%): **23 (29)**



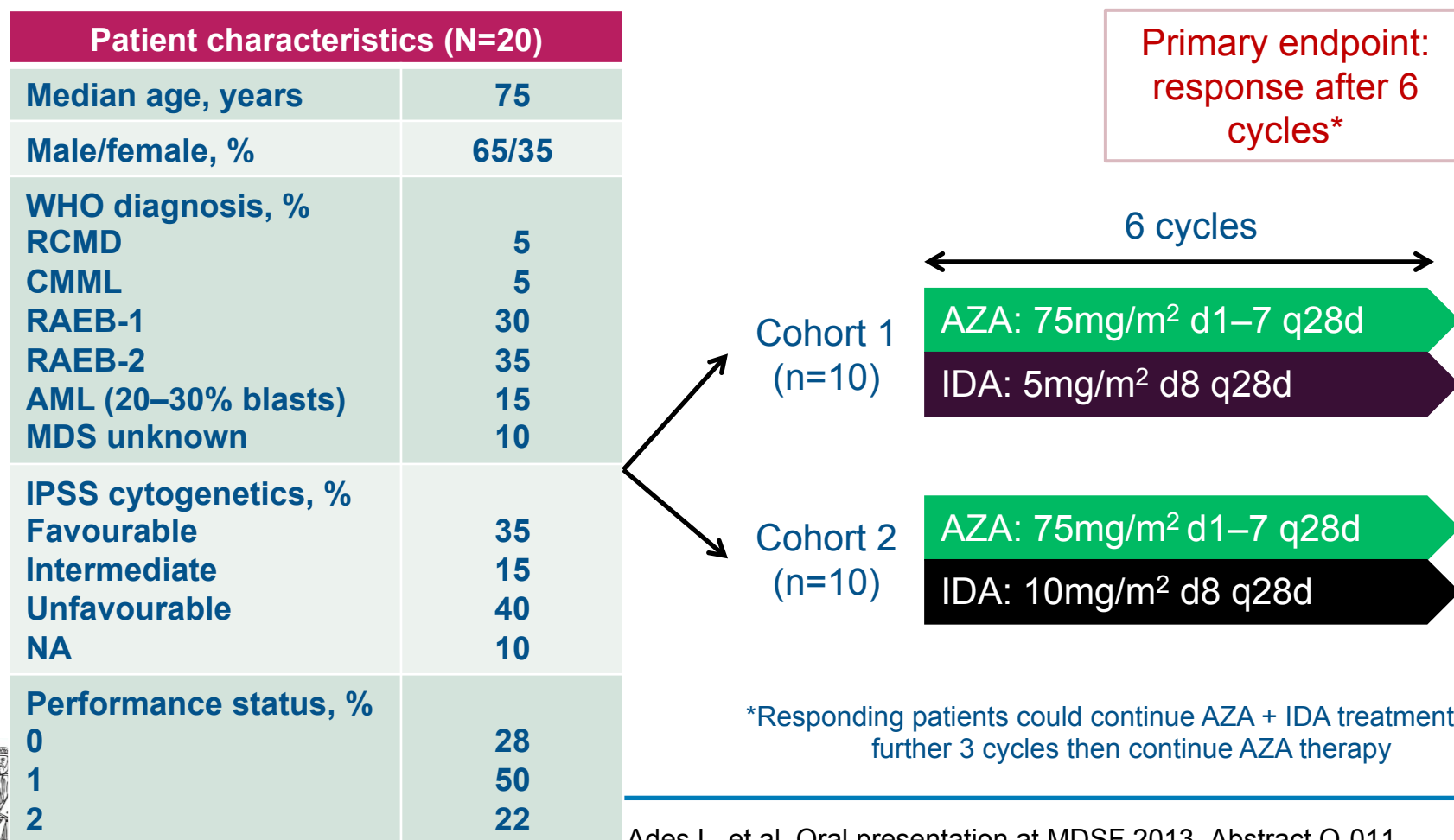


# Combination of azacitidine and vorinostat in high risk MDS patients aza 75mg/m<sup>2</sup>/die plus vorinostat 600mg/die for 7 days



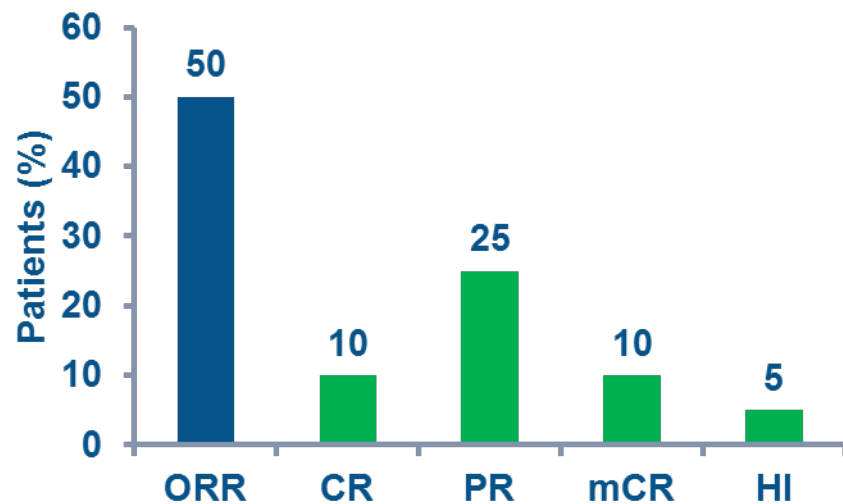
# Azacitidine + idarubicin combination therapy in patients with high-risk MDS or AML

Phase I/II trial of azacitidine (AZA) combined with idarubicin (IDA) in untreated patients with high-risk MDS or WHO-AML (20–30% blasts)

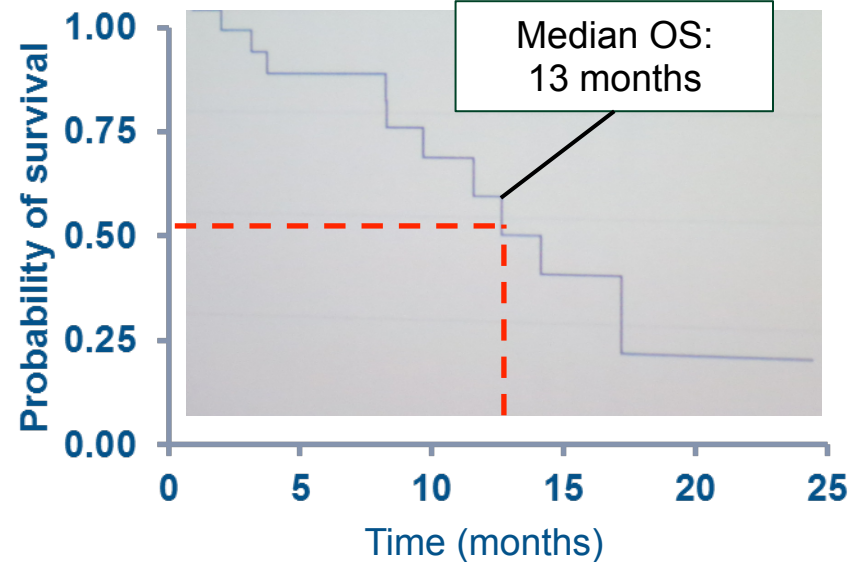


# Azacitidine + idarubicin combination therapy in patients with high-risk MDS or AML

Response after 6 cycles



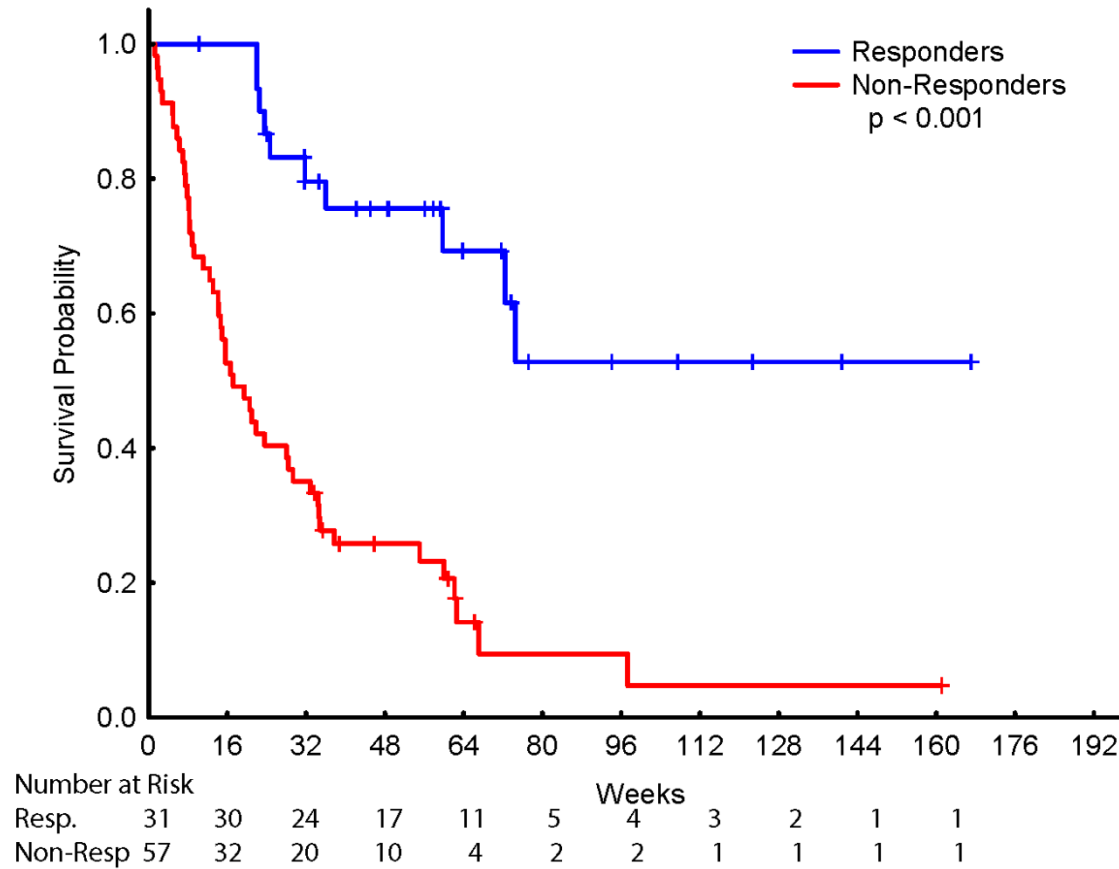
Overall survival



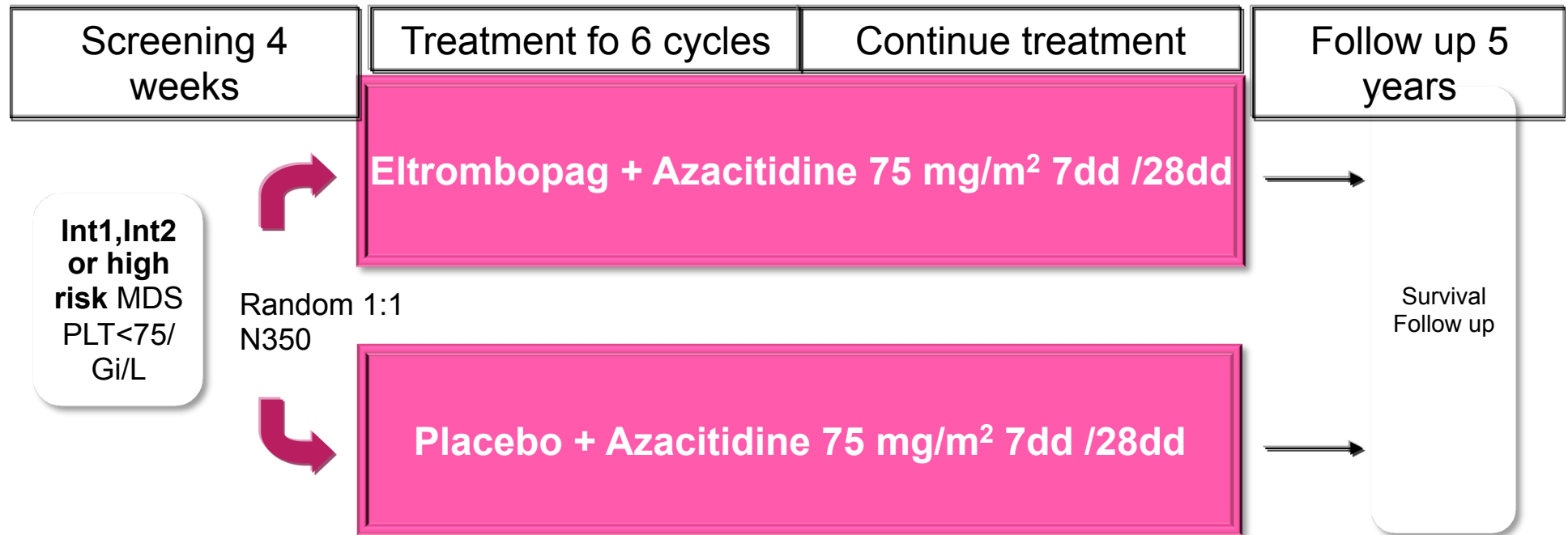
- Ten patients responded, six are still on study



# AZA + LEN. OS by Response



# Eltrombopag plus azacitidine: TRC112121 Support



# Eltrombopag plus azacitidine: TRC112121 Support

- On December 16<sup>o</sup> recommendation from the IDMC **to stop** the SUPPORT study based on a risk/benefit assessment:
- Primary reason: due to futility analysis
- Secondary reason: due to safety
- The results show that **the futility criterion has been met**. The observed p-value is  $>0.9$  and the estimated treatment effect favor to placebo.
- The IDMC noted that while there was no difference in overall deaths that would indicate harm, there is **a trend towards disease progression, favoring placebo**





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