



The Role of SBRT in the Management of HCC

Laura Dawson

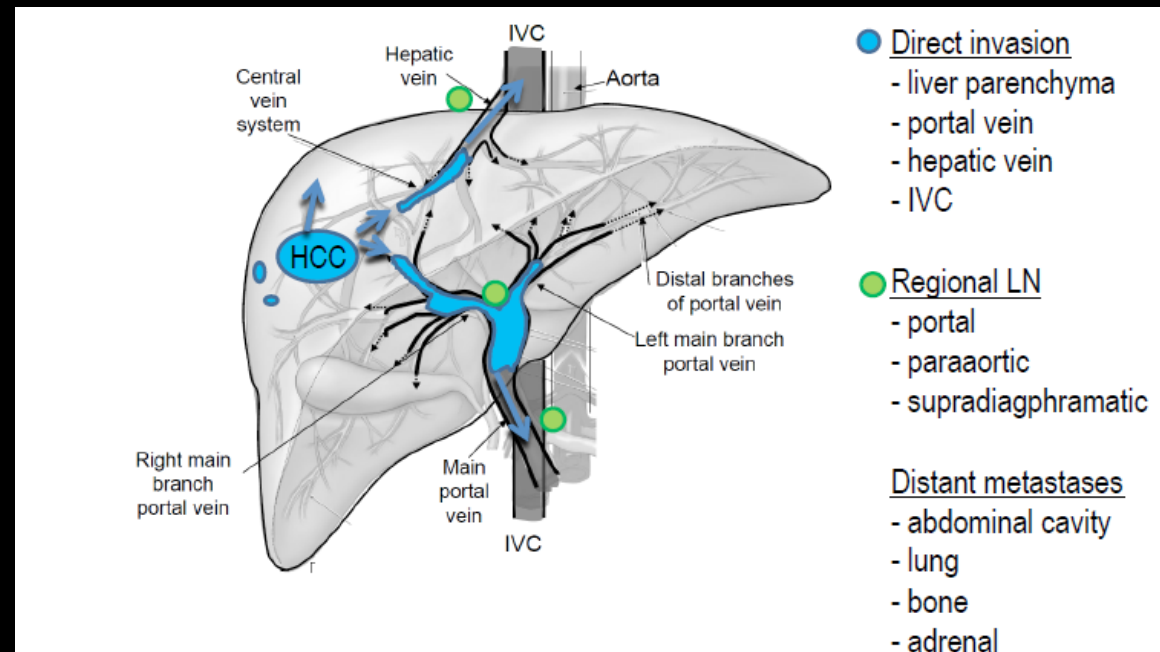
Radiation Medicine Program, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre,
University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario

Disclosures

- Licensing agreement from Raysearch, paid to institution
- Advisory board: Merck ongoing
- Advisory board: SIRTEX 2016
- Research funding from Merck, paid to institution

HCC Patterns of Recurrence

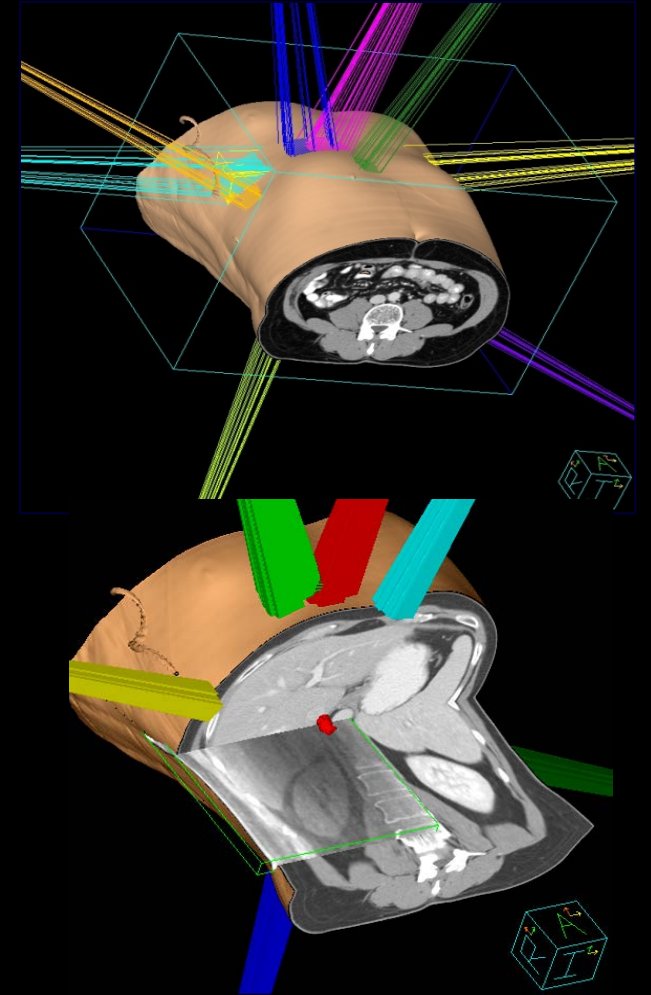
- Most common recurrence pattern: hepatic / vascular
- Majority of patients die of hepatic HCC progression
 - Including patients with extrahepatic HCC¹
 - Vascular invasion – a strong prognostic factor²
- Focal HCC, with or without vascular invasion, well suited for radiation therapy



1. Yoos JJ et al. PLoS One. 2014;9(11):e113926
2. Knox JJ et al. J Clin Oncol. 2015;33(16):1835–44

Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy, SBRT

- Very conformal dose distribution
- Highly potent doses
- High dose per fraction
- Motion management
- Image guidance ('stereotactic')
- Few number of fractions (~1-6)
 - Convenient, efficient, non-invasive
 - Widely available
 - SBRT techniques may be used for any fractionation



Biologic Rationale for SBRT/Hypofractionation







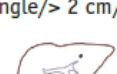


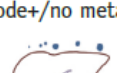
- High dose/fraction specific effects
 - Preclinical data
 - Threshold ~ 5-8 Gy/ fraction
- Postulated mechanisms of RT injury
 - Ablative direct cell kill
 - Endothelial target (Fuks)
 - Immune
 - RT increases tumor Ag-specific immune response ^{^*}
 - Abscopal effect
 - Local therapy causes systemic response
 - Elusive in practice

[^] Park Rad Research 2012 [^] Lugade et al, J Immunology 2005;174:7516-7523

* Finkelstein S, Timmerman R, et al. Clin Dev Immunol Nov 2011

Korean HCC Guidelines

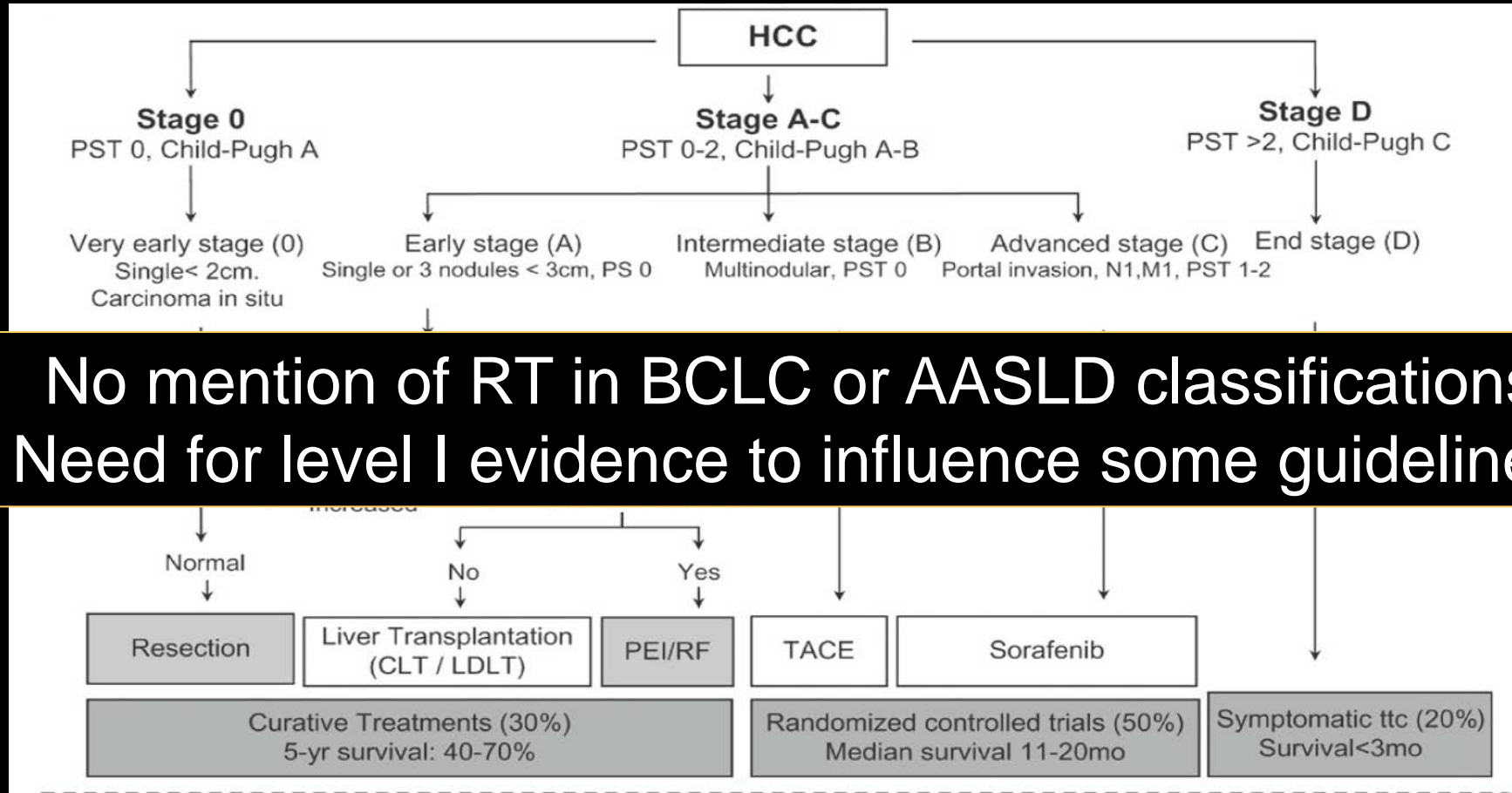
Topic	Recommendation
Transarterial chemoembolization and other transarterial treatments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TACE is recommended for patients with good performance status without major vascular invasion or extrahepatic spread who are ineligible for surgical resection, liver transplantation, RFA, or PEIT (A1). 2. TACE should be performed through tumor-feeding vessels using selective/superselective techniques to maximize antitumor activity and minimize hepatic damage (B1). 3. Chemoembolization using drug-eluting beads results in less systemic adverse events and has similar therapeutic efficacy compared with conventional TACE (B2). 4. In case of portal vein invasion, TACE can be considered for patients with localized tumor and well-preserved liver function (B2).
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EBRT can be performed in HCC patients if liver functions are Child-Pugh class A or superb B and the irradiated total liver volume receiving ≥ 30 Gy is $\leq 60\%$ (B1). 2. EBRT can be considered for HCC patients ineligible for surgical resection, liver transplantation, RFA, PEIT, or TACE (C1). 3. EBRT can be considered for HCC patients who exhibit incomplete response to TACE when the dose-volume criteria in Recommendation 1 are met (B2). 4. EBRT can be considered for HCC patients with portal vein invasion when the dose-volume criteria in Recommendation 1 are met (C1). 5. EBRT is performed to alleviate symptoms caused by primary HCC or its metastases (B1).
External-beam radiation therapy	
Systemic therapies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sorafenib is indicated for HCC patients with very well-preserved liver function (Child-Pugh class A), good performance status, and regional lymph node or extrahepatic spread or for patients with tumor progression on other therapies (A1). 2. Sorafenib is recommended for HCC patients with very well-preserved liver function (Child-Pugh class A), good performance status, and vascular invasion (A2). 3. Sorafenib is considered for HCC patients with liver function Child-Pugh class superb B and good performance status if the above conditions 1 and 2 are satisfied (B1). 4. Cytotoxic chemotherapy can be considered for HCC patients with advanced tumors who have with well-preserved liver function and, with good performance status, in whom sorafenib therapy has failed (C1). 5. Adjuvant TACE, sorafenib, or cytotoxic chemotherapy are not recommended for HCC patients treated with curative resection (B1).

mUICC stage	Best option	Alternative option
I 	Resection RFA	TACE PEIT EBRT
Single/ ≤ 2 cm/VI-		
II 	Resection RFA (tumor size ≤ 3 cm)	TACE LT EBRT
Single/ > 2 cm/VI-		
II 	DDLT (within Milan criteria) TACE RFA (tumor number ≤ 3)	Resection LDLT PEIT (tumor number ≤ 3)
Multiple/ ≤ 2 cm/VI-		
II 	TACE EBRT Sorafenib	Resection
Single/ ≤ 2 cm/VI+		
III 	TACE LT (within Milan criteria) RFA (tumor number ≤ 3 and size ≤ 3 cm)	Resection
Multiple/ > 2 cm/VI-		
III 	TACE EBRT Sorafenib	Resection
Single/ > 2 cm/VI+		
III 	TACE Sorafenib	
Multiple/ ≤ 2 cm/VI+		
IVa 	Sorafenib	TACE
Multiple/ > 2 cm/VI+		
IVa 	Sorafenib	EBRT TACE
Node+/no metastasis		
IVb 	Sorafenib	TACE EBRT
Metastasis+		

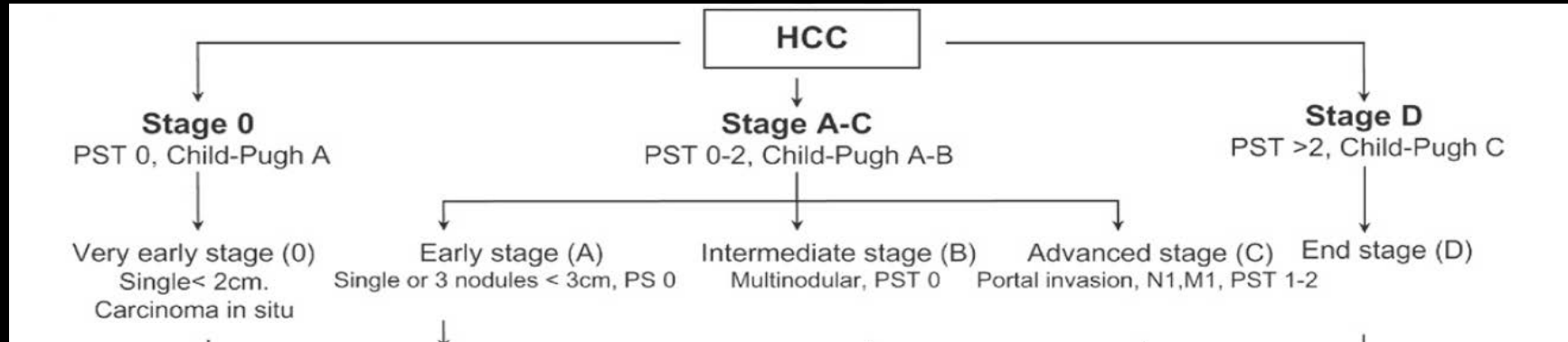
National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)

- Hepatocellular Carcinoma (OAO-B 17 of 32)
 - Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT)/Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy (SABR) should be considered for older patients, particularly those with comorbidities or compromised performance status, who may not be suitable for liver resection or transplantation. Because it is noninvasive, the successful completion rate of SBRT/SABR is high. Toxicity to treatment can be minimized by careful patient selection, appropriate radiation dosing, and optimized dosimetry to meet normal tissue constraints. Ideal patients are those with good liver function (Child Pugh Class A) and limited volume of disease.

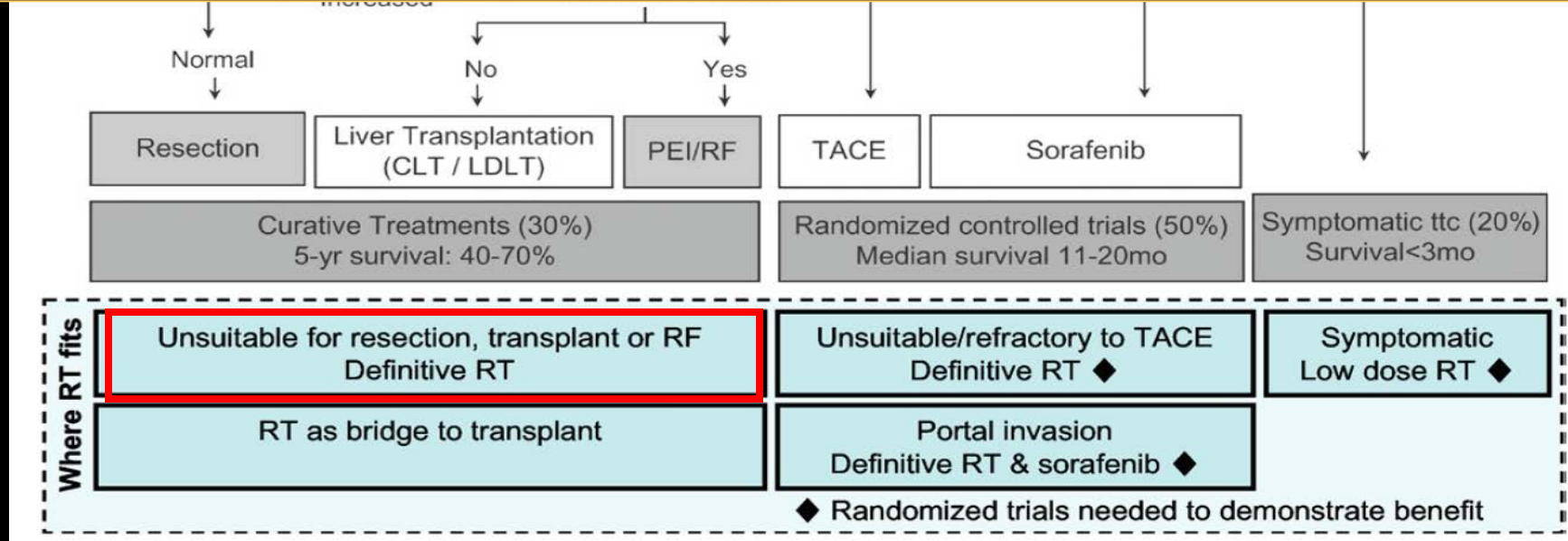
HCC BCLC: Where RT Fits



HCC BCLC: Where RT Fits



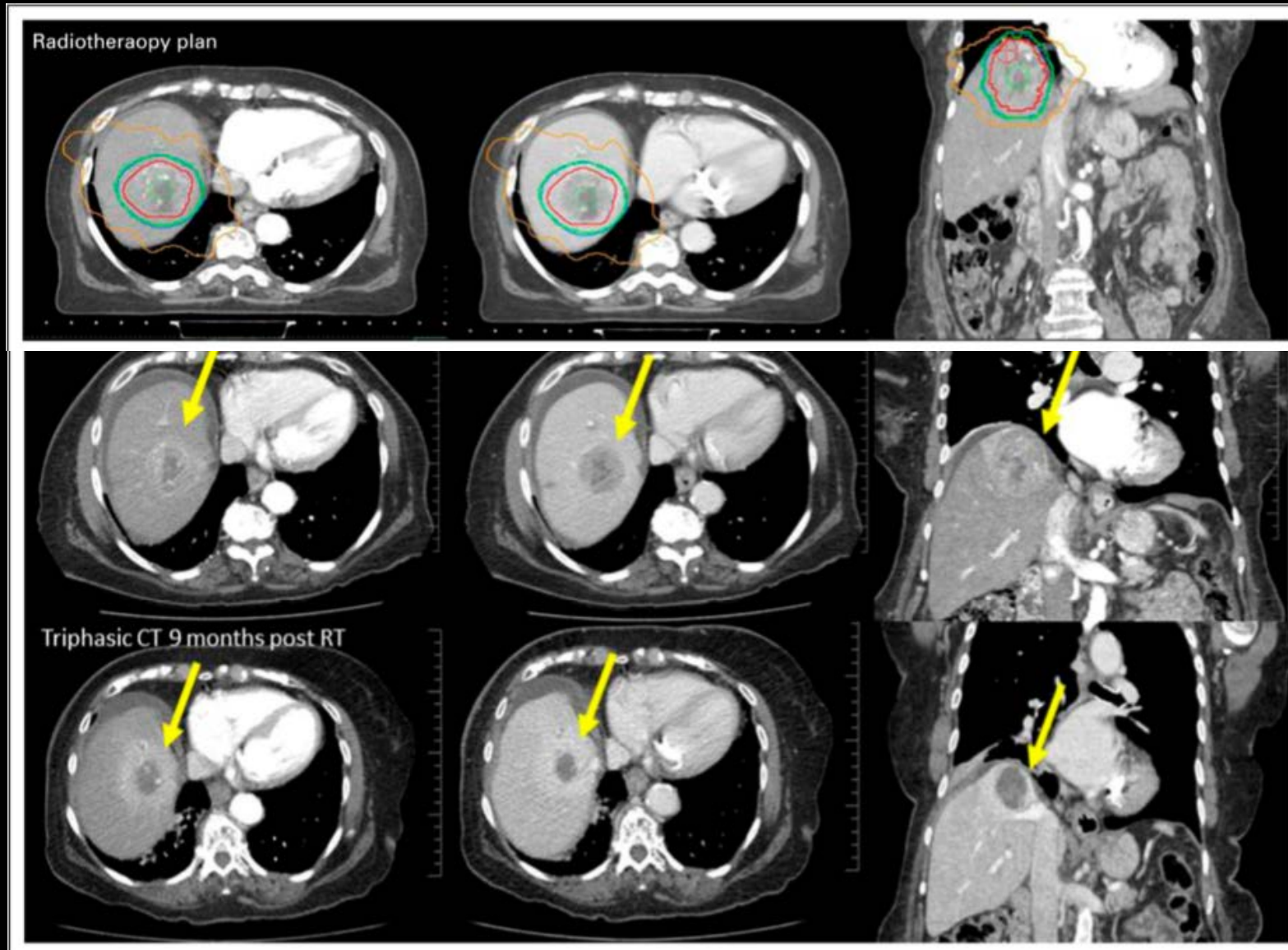
RT has a potential important role to play in the treatment of HCC across all stages.



Early stage HCC, unsuitable for standard curative therapies

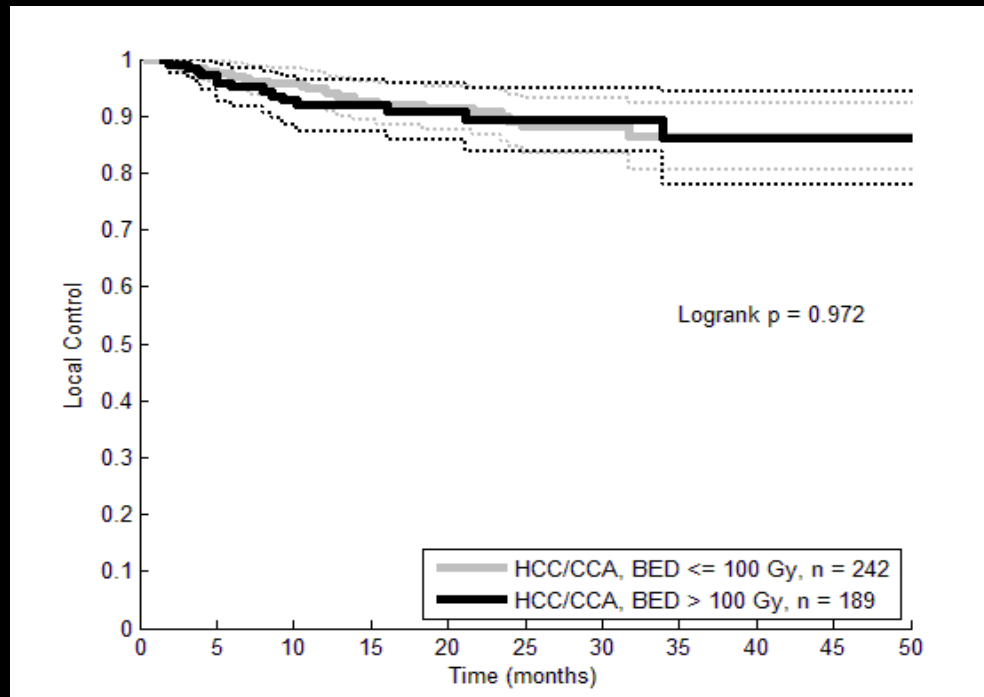
- 78 year old lady with single HCC, Hep C
- Laparotomy
 - Resection aborted due to cirrhosis
 - Decompensation post-op
- 8 weeks post op
 - Improving, but not at baseline
 - PS 2, Child Pugh B8
 - Growing HCC (4.8 cm)

SBRT 45 Gy in 5 #: no progression at month 24



HCC is a RT sensitive tumor

- No dose response for HCC (33-54Gy in 3-5#)
- 3 year local control 86%

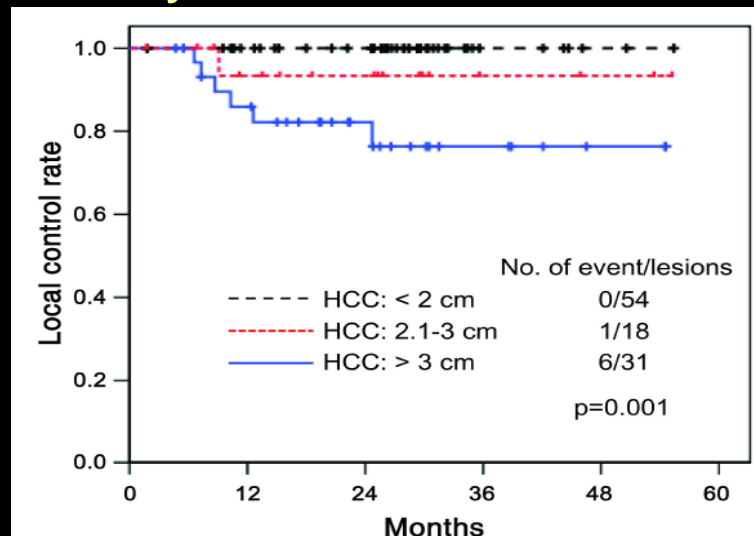


- Pooled analysis from 5 trials
- n = 431

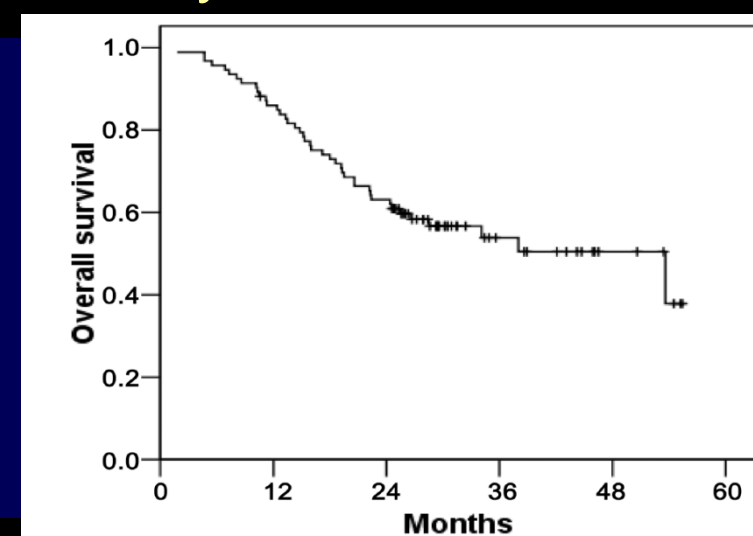
SBRT: Korean Registry

- N=93 HCC patients (26% CP B)
 - All refractory or unsuitable for TACE
- Dose: 30 - 40 Gy in 3- 4#
 - Size: median 2 cm (1-6 cm)
 - Improved local control for smaller tumors (100% < 2cm, 93% 2-3cm, 76% 3-6)
- Toxicity: Decline in CP score in 9.7% (gr 5, n=1 CP B pt)

3 yr local control 92%

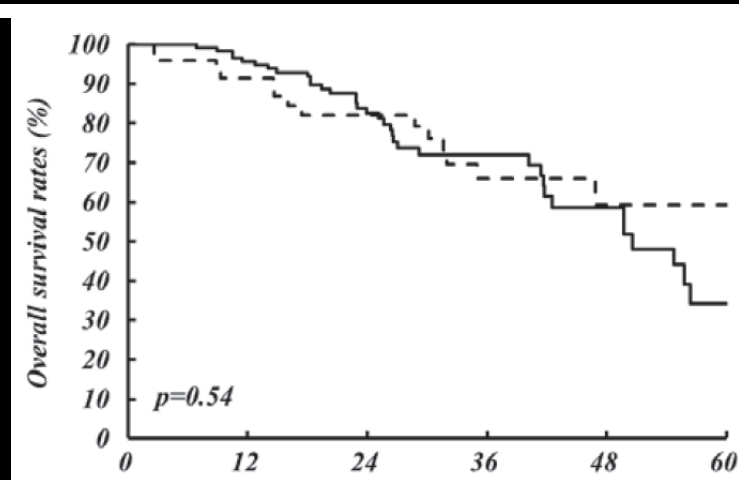
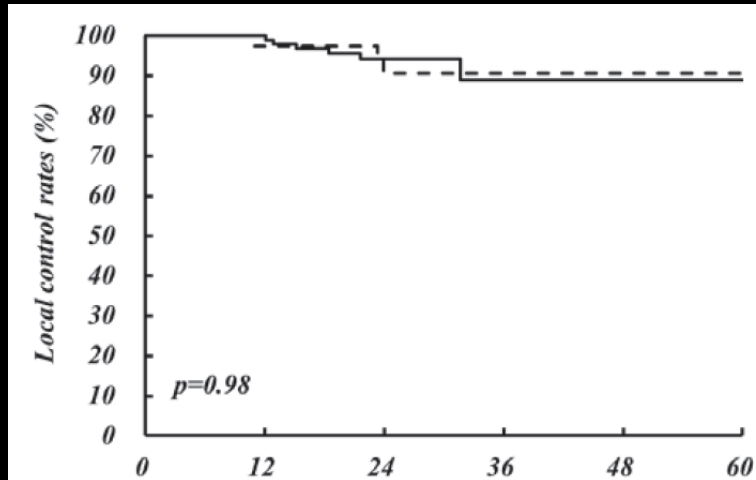


3 yr survival 54%



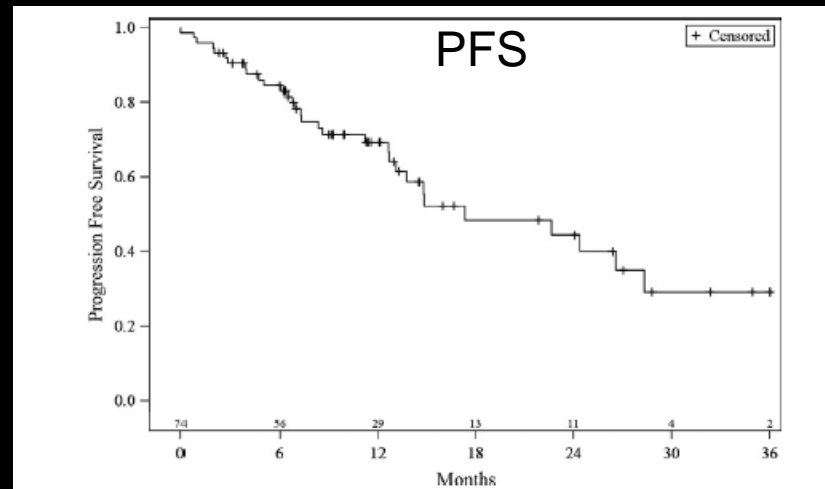
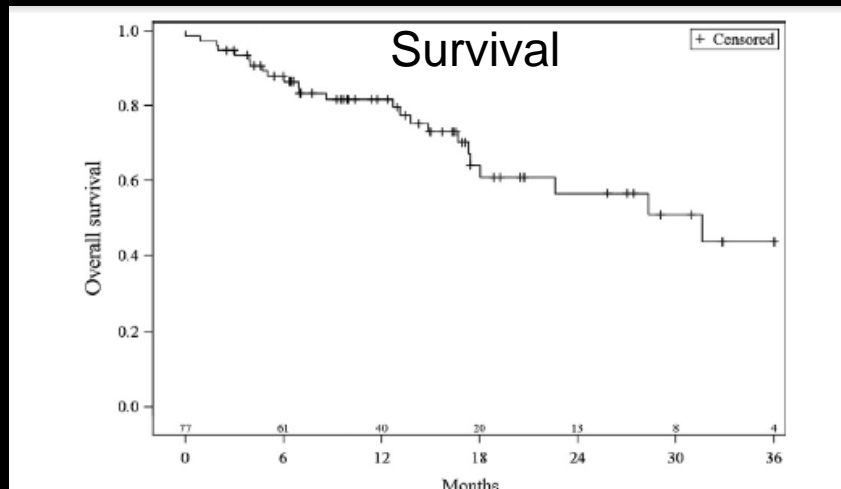
Japanese Retrospective Series-HCC SBRT

- N=221 (~84% T1) HCC patients (CP A:B=178:27)
 - 56–61% received TACE < 3 months prior to SBRT
 - Dose: 40 Gy in 5#
 - 35 Gy: for CP B, and so < 20% liver ≥ 20 Gy, n=48
 - Size: median 2.7 cm (35 Gy), 2.4 cm (40 Gy), max 5.0 cm
 - No sign. differences in outcomes for 35 vs 40 Gy
 - Toxicity: Decline in CP score ~10% (gr 5, n=2 CP B pts)
- 3 yr local control 91% 3 yr survival 70%



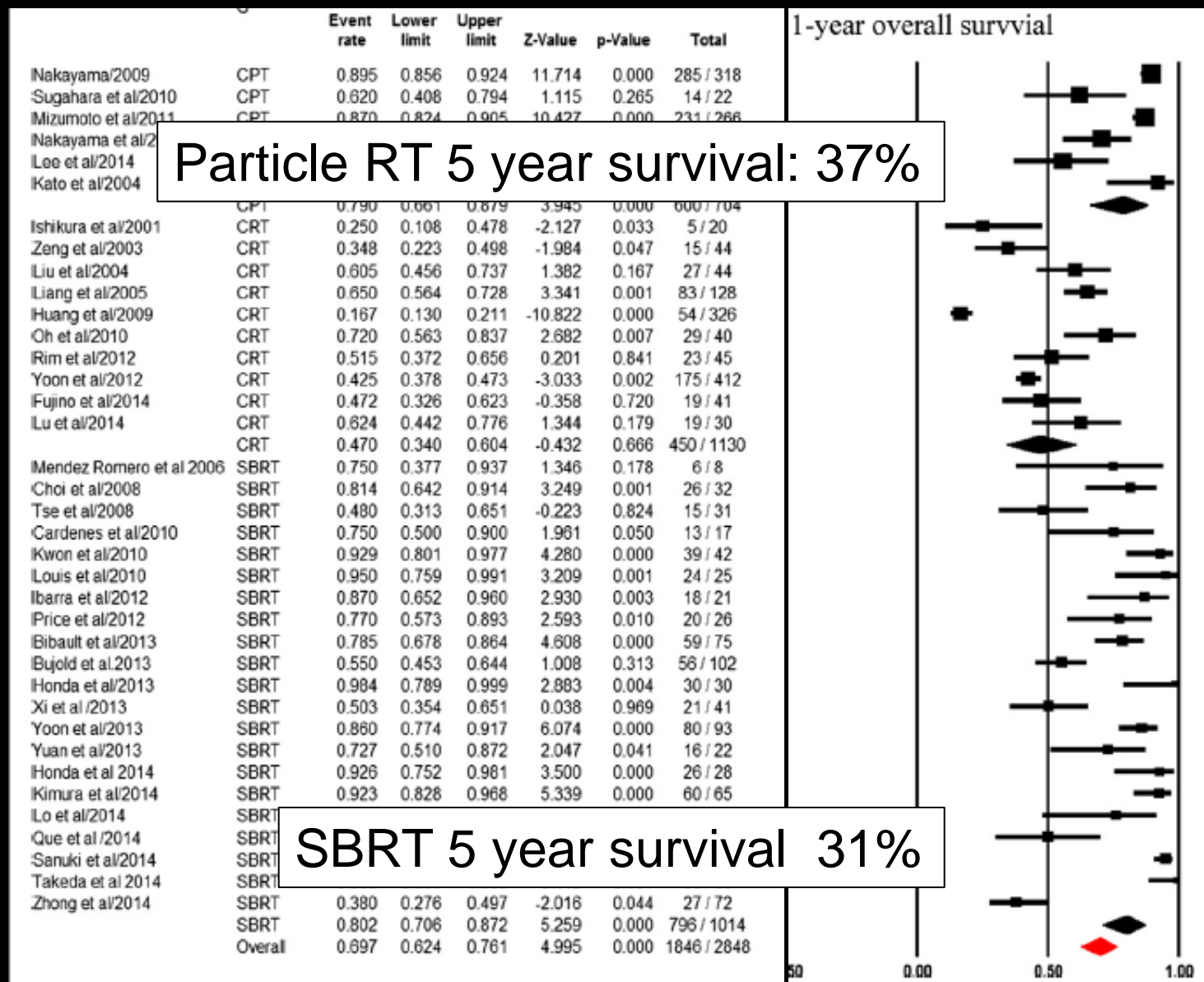
French Study: HCC SBRT

- N=77 (median size 2.4 cm)
- SBRT: 45 in 3 fractions
- Local control: 1 and 2 years 99%
- Survival: 1 and 2 years: 82% and 56%
 - CP B worse survival
- 8% with liver toxicity < 6 months



Meta-analysis (5204 patients)

1 Year Survival



Particle RT 5 year survival: 37%

SBRT 5 year survival 31%

Meta-analysis (5204 patients)

≥ Grade 3 Toxicity

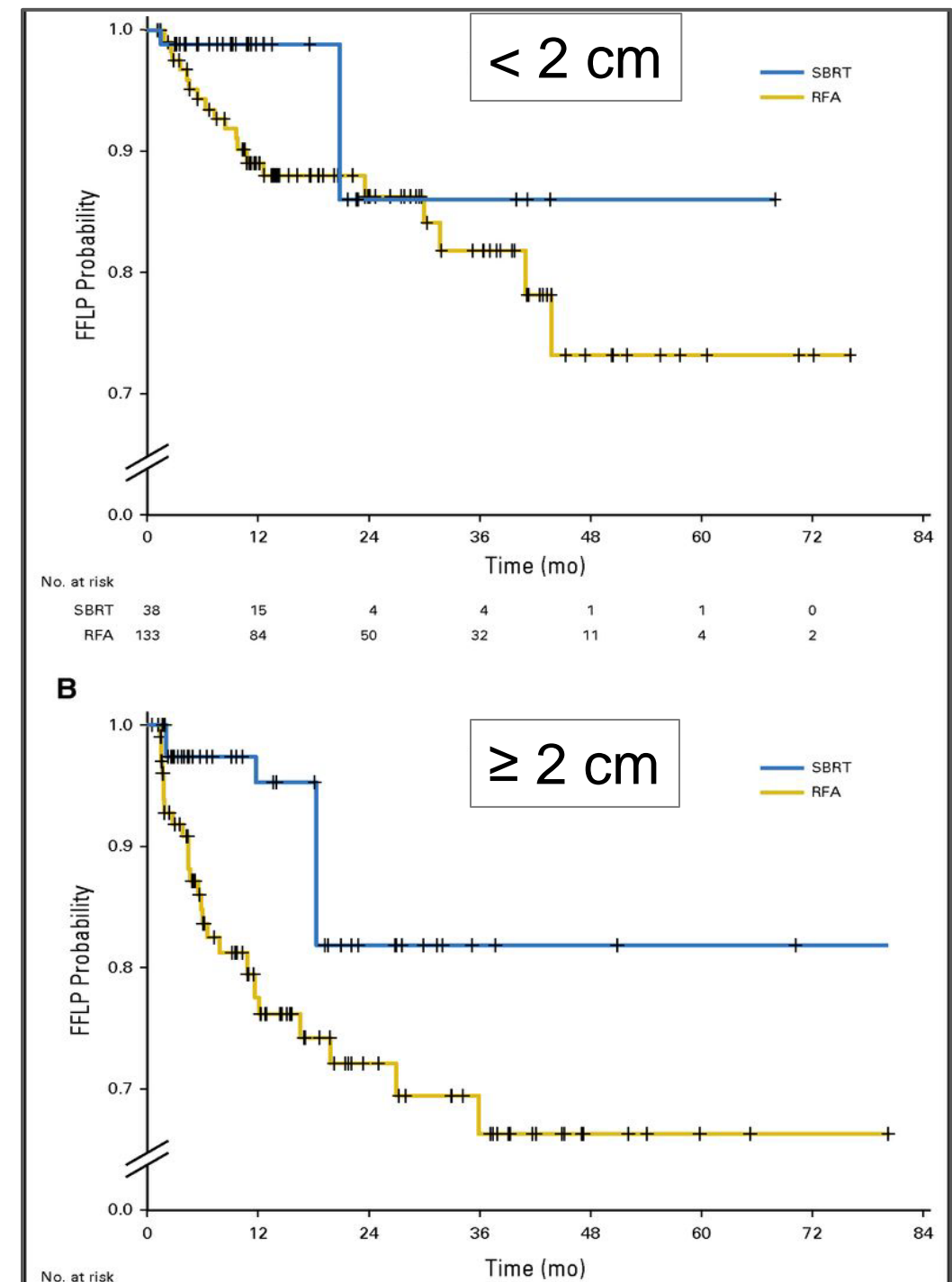
	Included study	Events	Total	Events rate (95%CI)	I^2	p
<i>Acute toxicity</i>						
<i>Hepatic</i>						
CPT	14	21	830	3.1% (1.3–7.6%)	73.8	–
SBRT	19	59	1164	4.9% (3.0–8.1%)	66.8	0.19
CRT	10	111	995	9.9% (6.0–16%)	75.1	0.014
<i>Bone marrow</i>						
CPT	14	40	805	5.1% (1.9–12.7%)	84.3	–
SBRT	11	23	644	4.9% (3.4–7.2%)	0	0.47
CRT	12	26	1015	6.1% (4.3–8.8%)	63.5	0.36
<i>Overall</i>						
CPT	16	68	1172	6.1% (2.8–12.6%)	83.8	–
SBRT	21	137	1221	9.6% (6.0–15.1%)	81.3	0.16
CRT	13	172	1023	20% (13.2–29.2%)	82.8	0.003
<i>Late toxicity</i>						
CPT	7	6	342	2.5% (1.3–4.9%)	0	–
SBRT	6	17	387	6.4% (4.0–10.1%)	50.6	0.011
CRT	5	11	293	6.9% (3.9–12.2%)	75.4	0.011

HCC: SBRT vs RFA

- 2004–2012: 224 patients with unresectable HCC treated with RFA or SBRT
 - 161 treated with RFA to 249 tumors
 - 63 treated with SBRT to 83 tumors
- Similar patients and outcomes

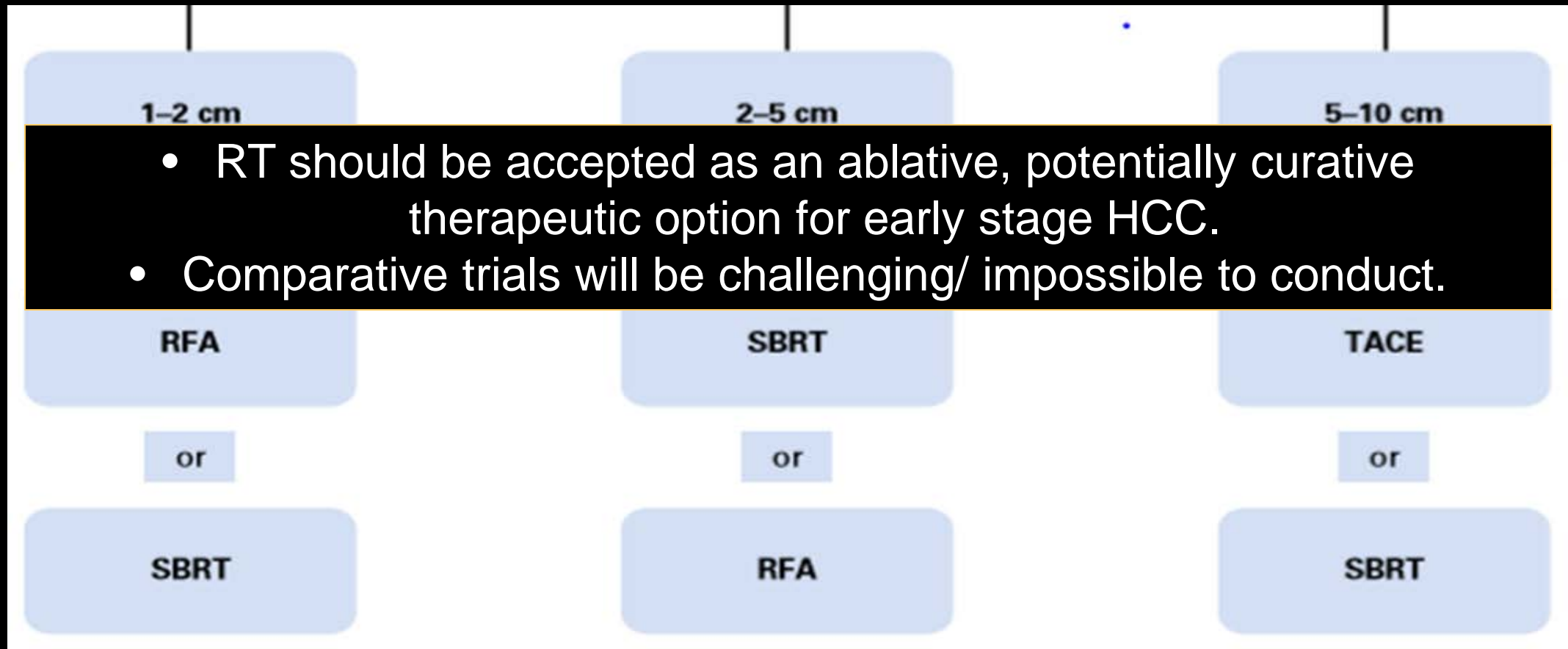
	RFA	SBRT
Failure from local progression (FFLP) 1 yr	84%	97%
FFLP 2 yr	80%	84%
Overall survival 1 yr	70%	74%
Gr 3+ toxicity	11%	5%

- Larger tumors less likely to be controlled by RFA
- No size dependency for SBRT

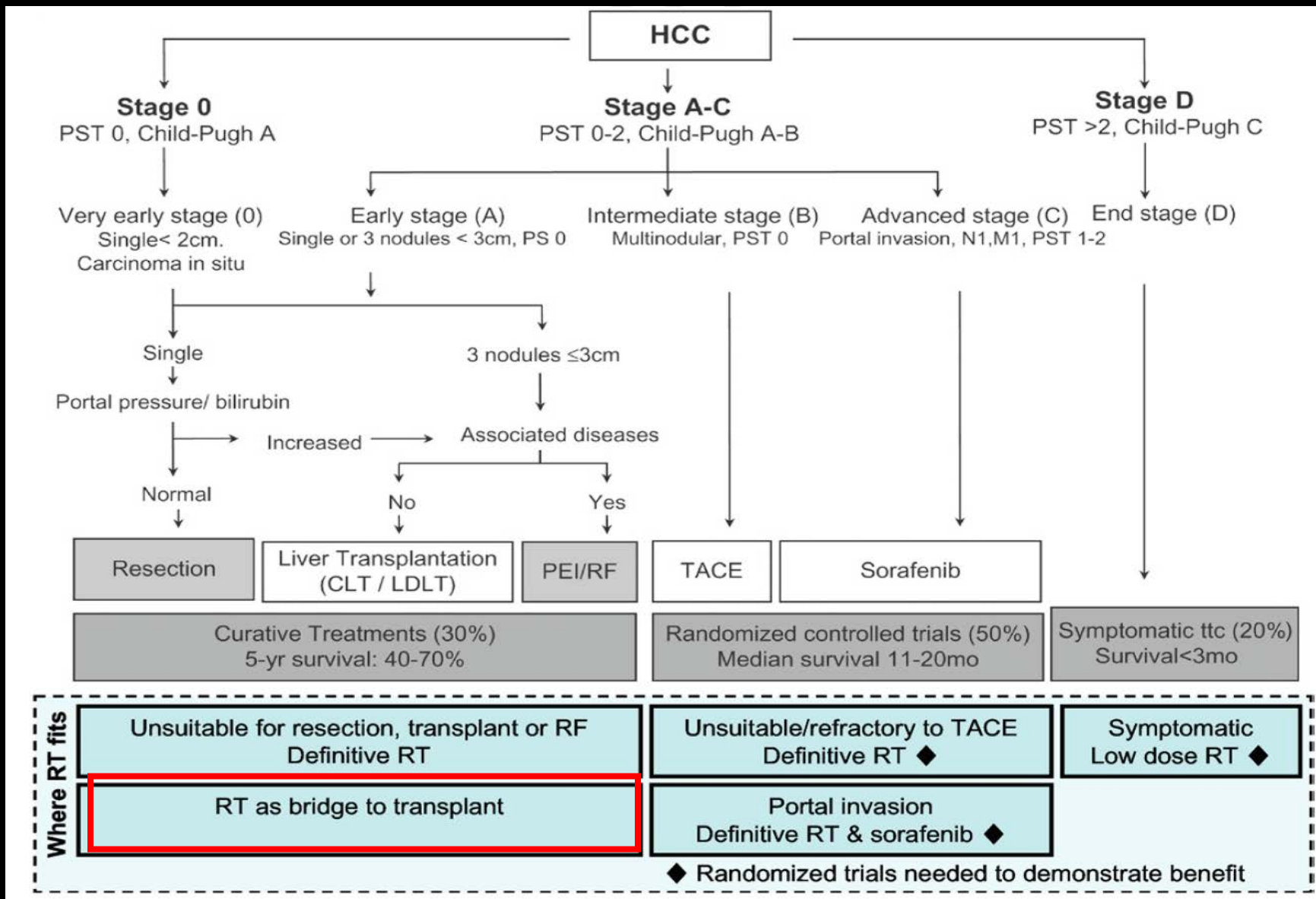


SBRT is an effective therapeutic option for early stage HCC, unsuitable for resection or transplant

Proposed treatment algorithm for unresectable HCC



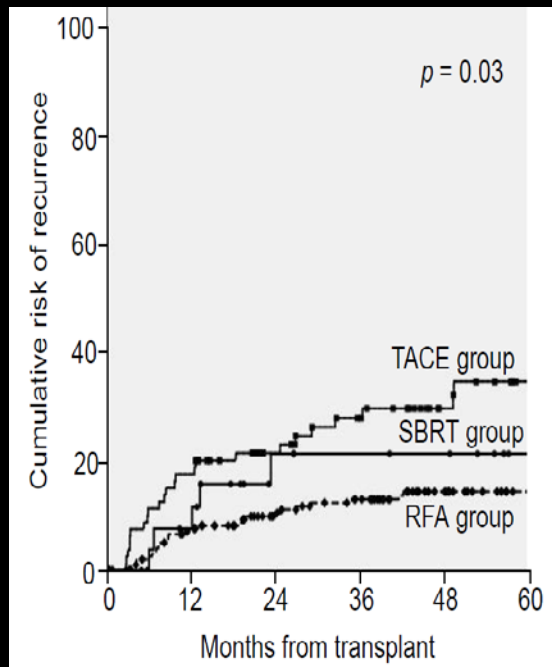
HCC BCLC: Where RT fits



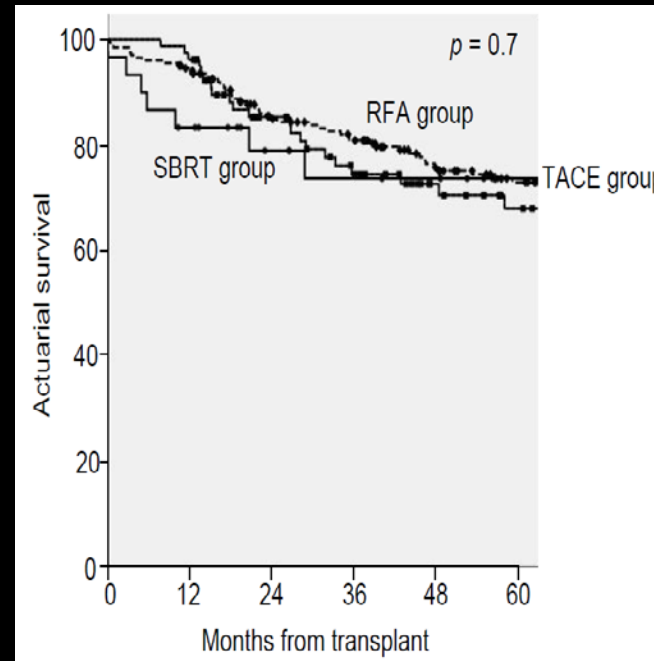
SBRT vs TACE & RFA: Bridge to Transplant

- Over 2007 – 2014, 406 / 594 (68%) HCC transplant patients received bridging therapies
 - RFA 60% , 88% within Milan
 - TACE 24% , 24% within Milan
 - SBRT 9% (if unsuitable for RFA or TACE) , 36% within Milan
 - 36 Gy in 6 fractions (quartile range 30 - 40Gy)

Recurrence

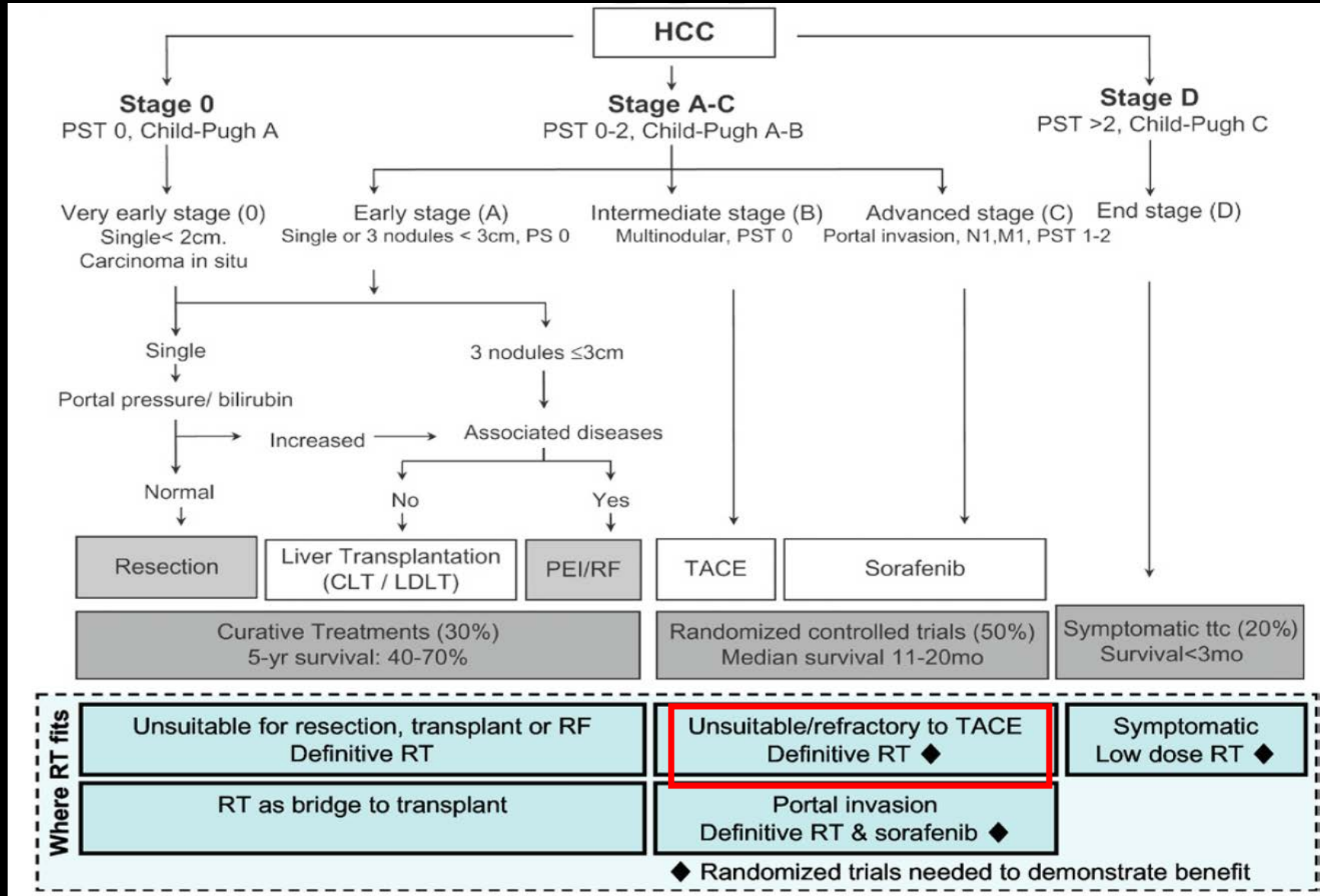


Actuarial survival

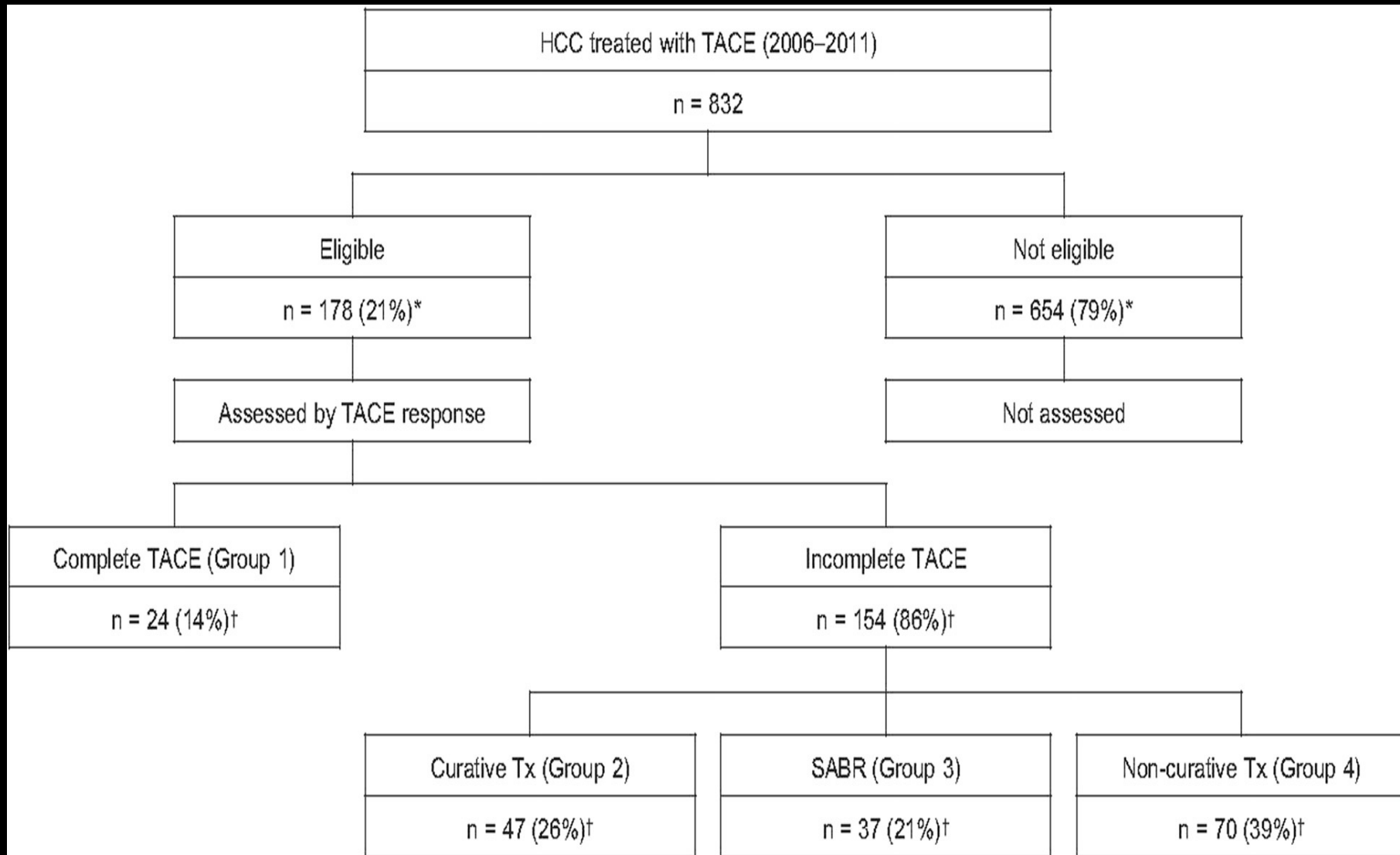


No
increased
toxicity at
time of
transplant

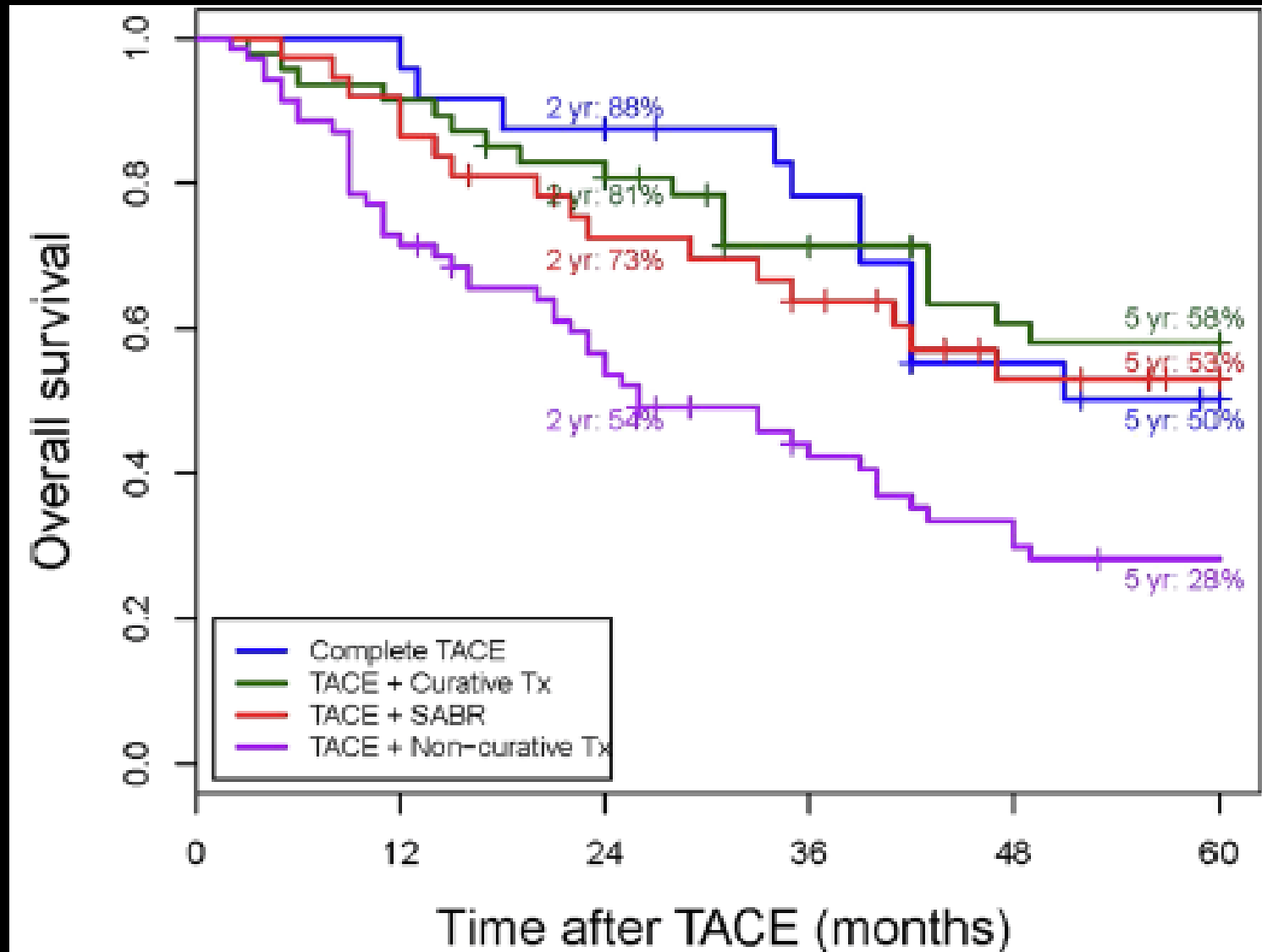
HCC BCLC: Where RT Fits



SBRT post TACE (Korea)

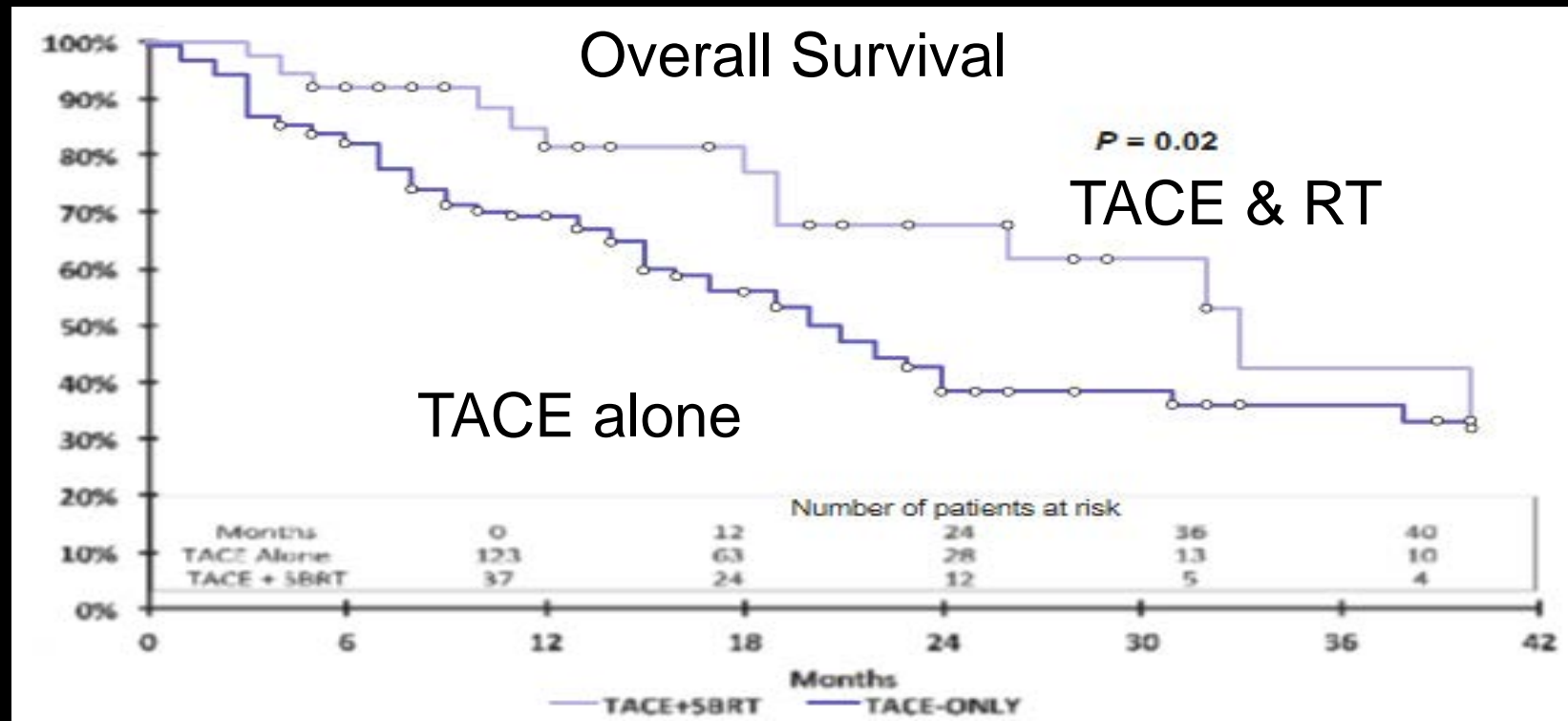


SBRT post TACE (Korea)

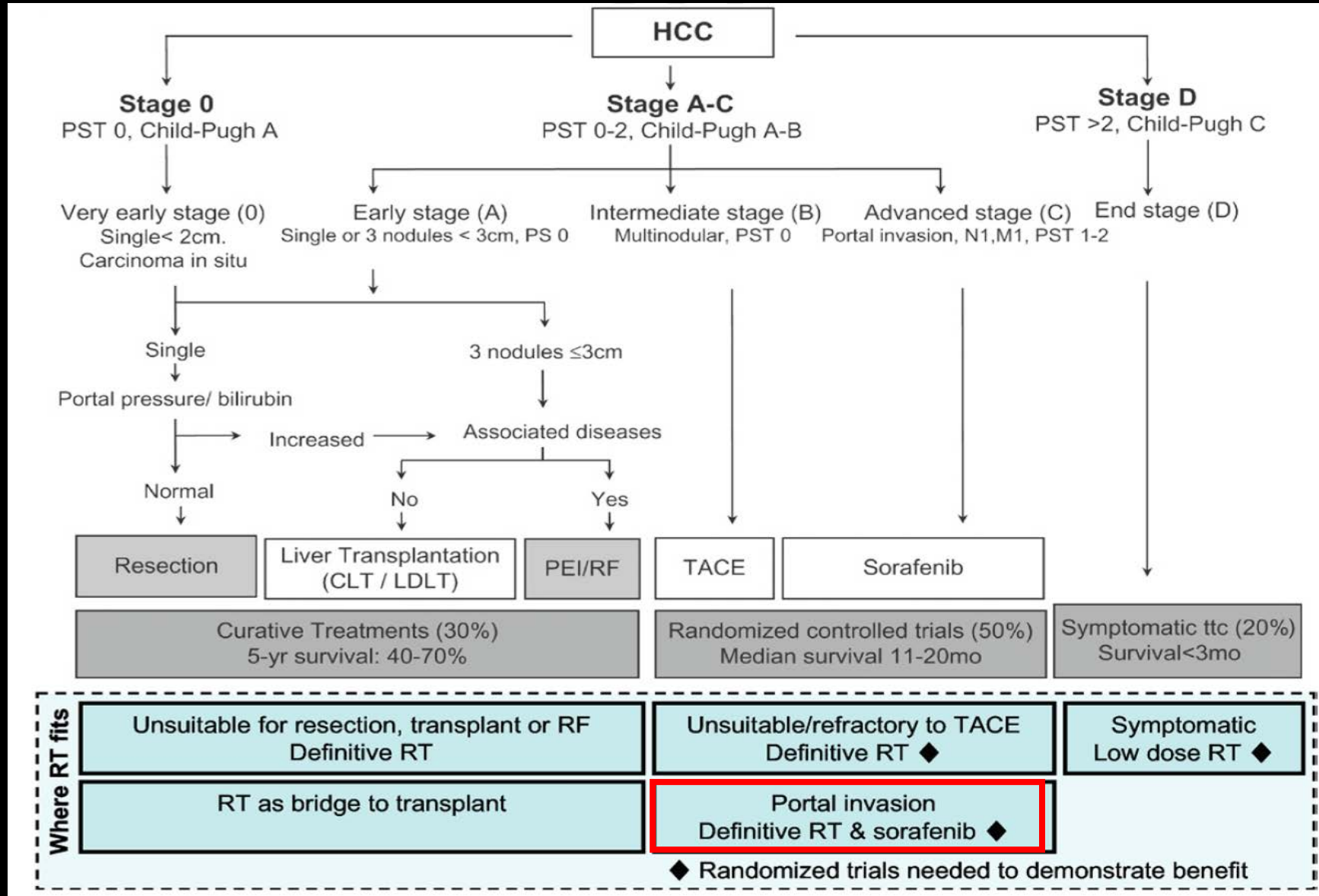


Alabama, Retrospective comparison of TACE +/- SBRT, for HCC > 3cm

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | Patients (161) | Local recurrence | Median survival |
| • | 124 TACE | 26% | 20 mo |
| • | 37 TACE & RT | 11% | 33 mo |



HCC BCLC: Where RT Fits



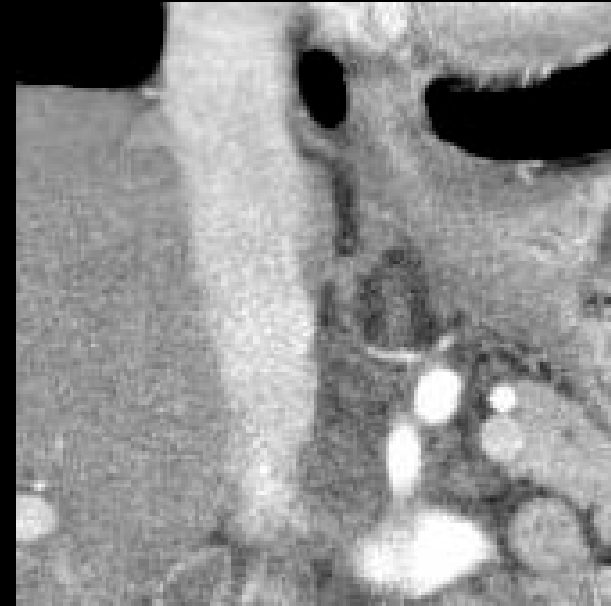
RT can effectively treat advanced HCC with main branch vascular invasion

Jan 2009
AFP 10,000



IVC HCC
thrombus

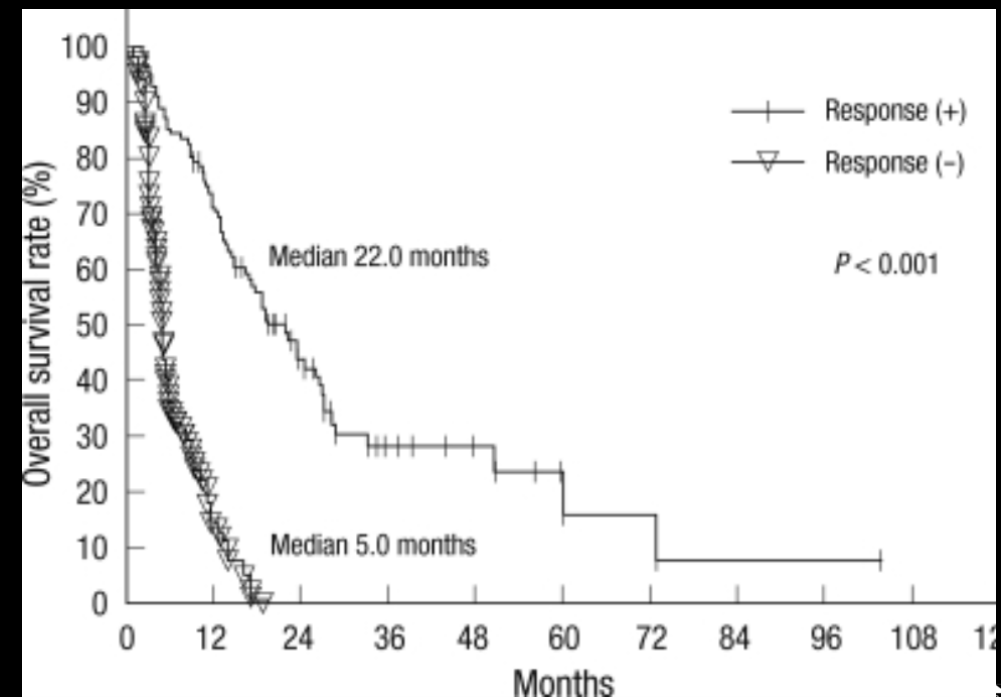
Sept 2009
AFP 24



Complete response
post RT

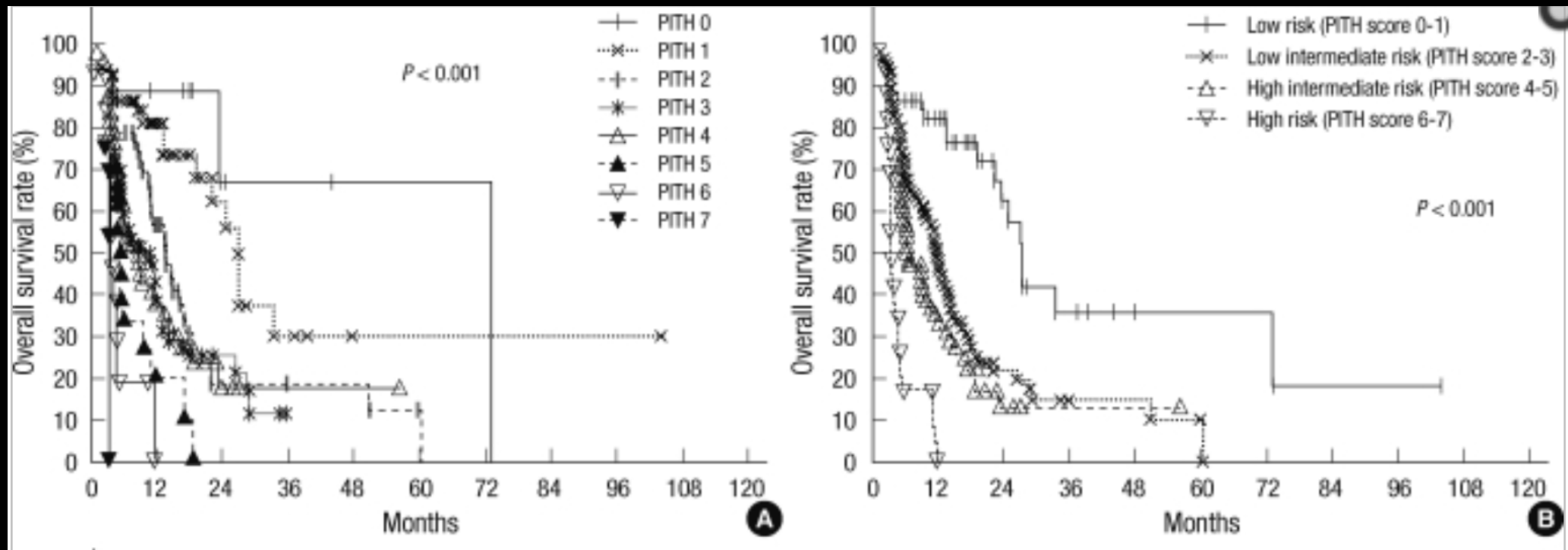
Korean series of HCC PVTT

- Retrospective review of 281 patients with HCC PVTT treated with RT 1998- 2008
- 84% Child Pugh A
- RT 30 – 54 Gy, med fraction size 3 Gy/ #
- 50% PR
- 3% CR
- Median survival 11.6 mo
 - Responders 22.0 mo
 - Non responders 5.0 mo



Korean series of HCC PVTT, n=281

- Prognostic factors for overall survival on MVA:
 - ECOG performance status, CP
 - Degree of PVTT: main branch, complete occlusion
 - Tumor size, multiplicity, LN metastases
 - Response to RT

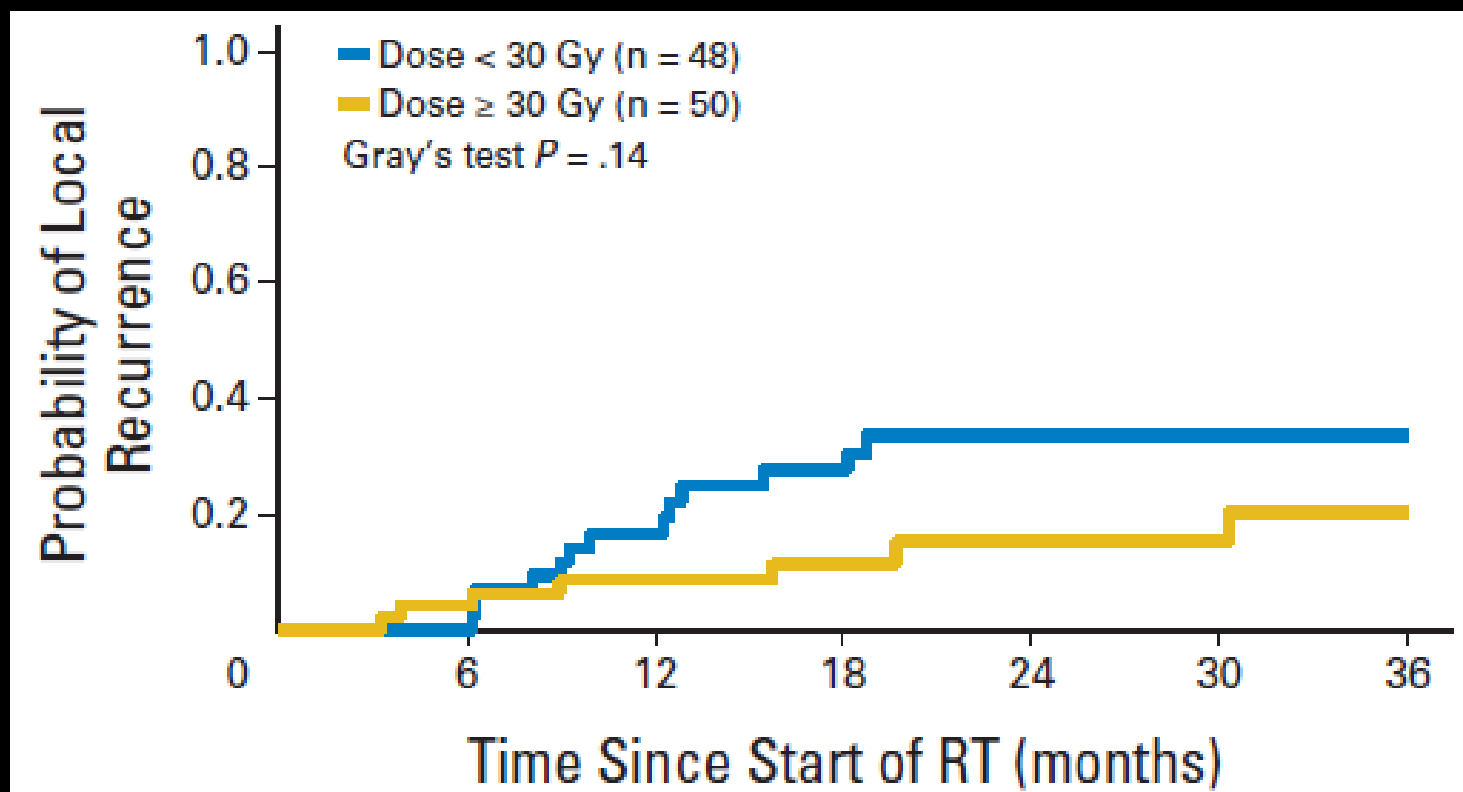


PMH Phase I/II HCC Study

- 102 HCC patients, unsuitable for transplant, resection, RFA or TACE
- Hep B: Hep C: alcohol 39%: 40%: 25%
- Prior therapies 50%
- Portal vein HCC thrombosis 55%
- Extrahepatic disease 12%
- Size: median 10 cm (2–43 cm)
- Median dose 36 Gy in 6# (7.5–54 Gy)
- 6 fractions, every other day

Local Control

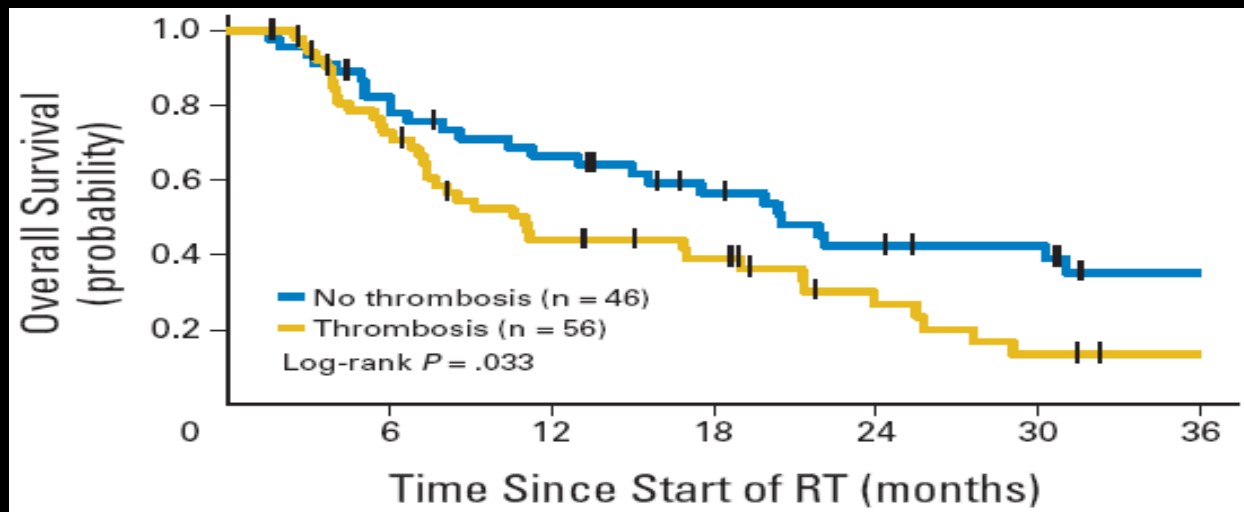
- 1 year local control 87% (95% CI 78–93%)
- Dose response observed (> 30 Gy in 6 #)



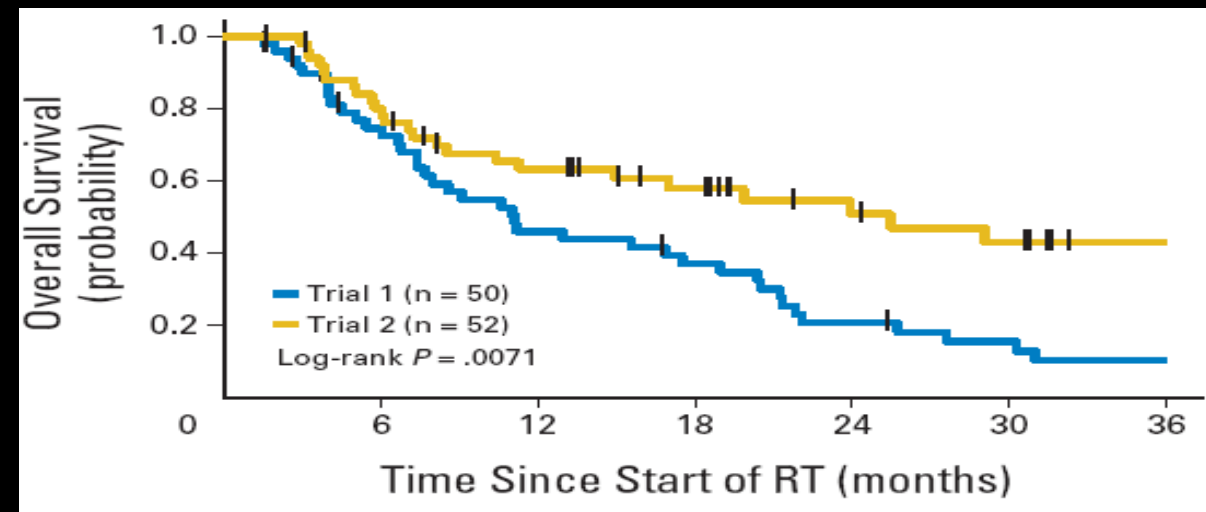
Survival

Median survival 17 months

Survival by thrombosis



Survival by trial



Median survival

No thrombosis 20.5 mo (95% CI 12.9, 36.9)

Thrombosis 11.0 mo (95% CI 11.3, NA)

Median survival

Trial 1 11.1 months (95% CI 7.4-19.0)

Trial 2 25.5 months (95% CI 11.3, NA)

Toronto Phase I HCC & Sorafenib

Strata I – Small HCC(s)

Liver volume irradiated: < 40%



Strata II – Large HCC

Liver volume irradiated: 40-60%



RT

Sorafenib: study doses

Sorafenib: standard doses

Week 1

Week 2

Week 8

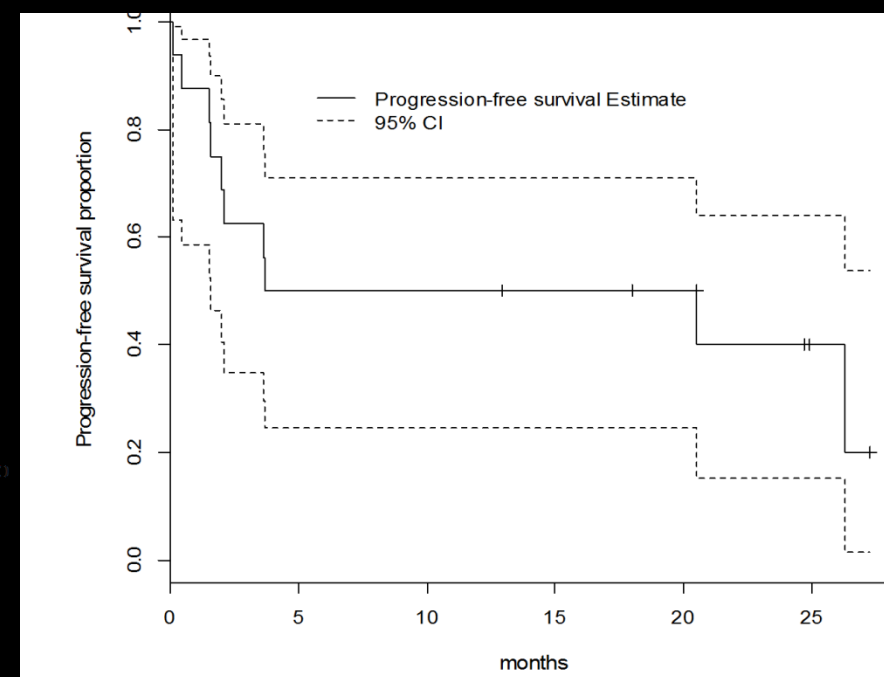
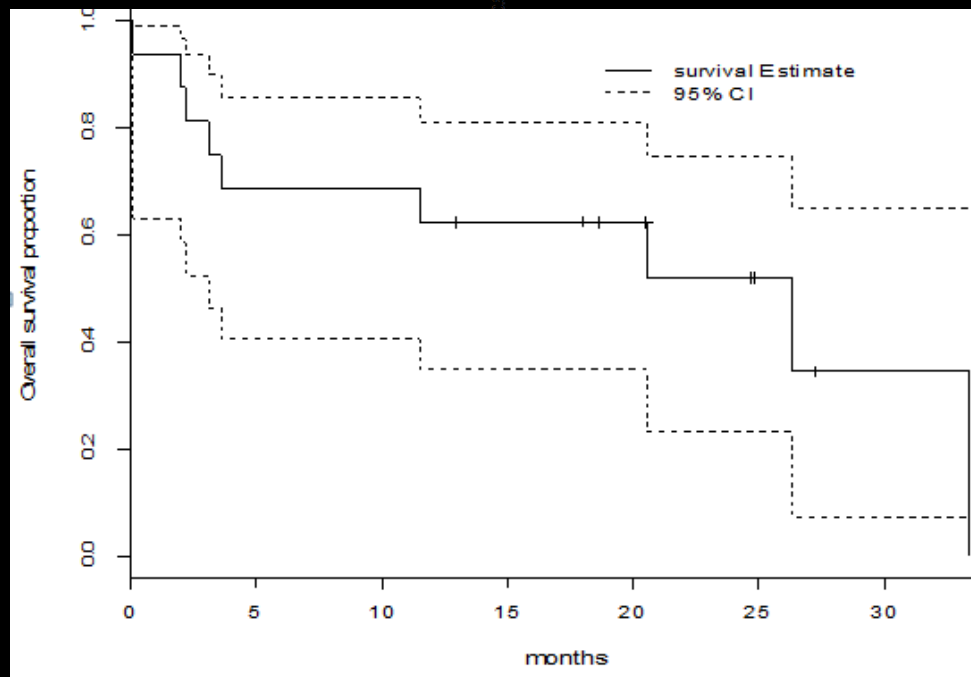
Ph I study Sorafenib and SBRT: Toxicity

- Strata I (Low Veff - < 40% liver volume)
 - 4 patients accrued at Dose Level 1 (200 mg bid)
 - All evaluable for DLT
 - *No dose limiting toxicity (DLT) observed*
 - Closed for slow accrual
- Strata II (High Veff – 40-60% liver volume)
 - 5 patients accrued at Dose Level 1 (200 mg bid)
 - 3 Evaluable for DLT
 - *2 DLT observed (GI Bleed, SBO)*
 - 7 patients accrued at Dose Level -1 (200 mg od)
 - 6 Evaluable for DLT
 - *1 DLT observed (Tumor rupture)*

Ph I Study Sorafenib and SBRT Overall Survival and PFS

Estimated median survival:
26.3 mo (3.1- not reached)

Estimated median PFS: 12.1 mo
(1.6 – not reached)



RTOG 1112 Phase III Study

R E G I S T R A T I O N	S T R A T I F Y	Vascular involvement (IVC, main portal vein/right or left main branch portal vein vs other vascular involvement vs none)	R A N D O M I Z E	<u>Arm 1</u> Daily sorafenib
		Hepatitis B vs C vs other		<u>Arm 2</u> SBRT alone (27.5 Gy – 50 Gy in 5 fractions)
		North American site vs Non-North American site		Followed by
		HCC volume/liver volume (<10% vs 10-40 vs >40%)		Sorafenib alone daily

Randomized phase III study

Sample size: 368

Primary endpoint: overall survival (10.5 → 14.5 mo)

RTOG1112 Key Eligibility

Inclusion Criteria

- Measureable HCC
- Unsuitable for or refractory to:
 - Surgery
 - RFA
 - TACE or DEB
- Child Pugh A
- BCLC B or C
- Platelets $> 70\,000$ bil/L
- INR < 1.7
- Albumin ≥ 28 g/L
- AST, ALT $< 6x$ ULN
- Any degree of vascular invasion permitted, if otherwise eligible

Exclusion Criteria

- Prior Sorafenib > 60 days
- Prior abdominal RT or Y-90
- > 15 cm single HCC
- > 20 cm sum of max diameters
- > 5 discreet definite HCC
- Extrahepatic (EH) HCC > 3 cm
- HCC extension to stomach
- HCC extension to CBD
- Thrombolytic therapy < 28 days
- Bleeding < 60 days requiring transfusion

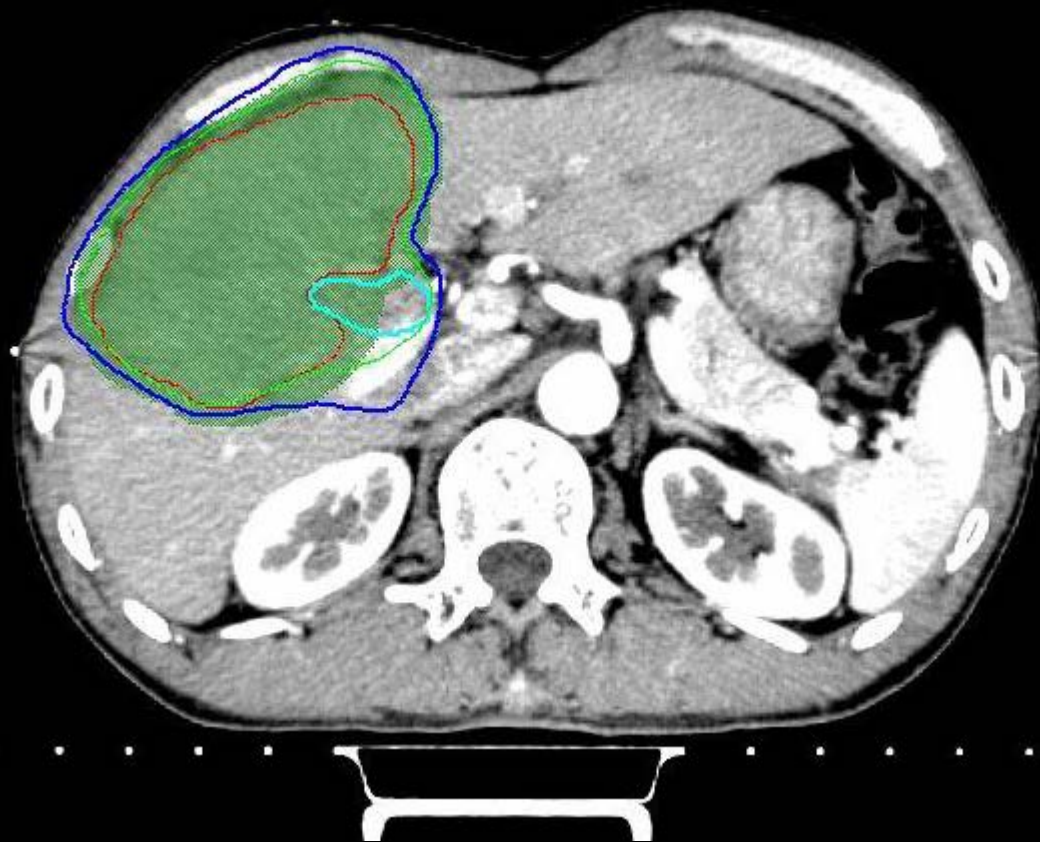
Case

HCC with Vascular Invasion

- 57 year old male, background Hep B +ve diagnosed 20 years ago, on treatment with Tenofovir
- Diagnosed 8.4cm HCC in segment 5/8, and a 1cm HCC in segment 7, along with portal vein thrombus in the right anterior branch.
- Child Pugh A5 liver function.
- Planned for 35 Gy in 5 fraction SBRT on RTOG 1112 study
- ABC exhale breath hold
- PTV expansion 5mm

Case

Absolute
3500.0 cGy
3335.9 cGy



Case



baseline

Case



3 months post SBRT

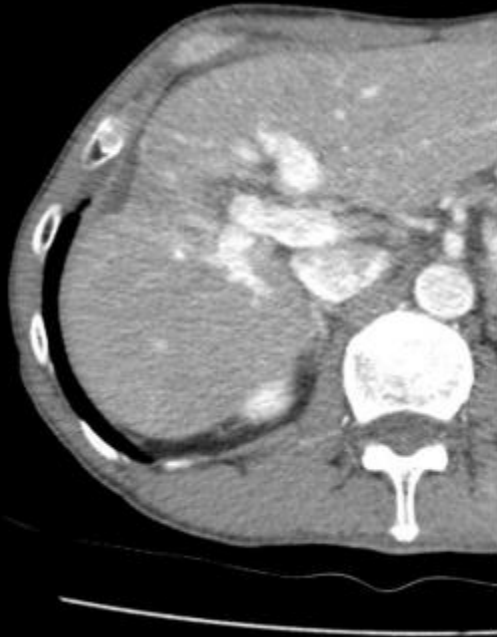
Case



18 months post SBRT

Sustained normalization of AFP at ~12 months

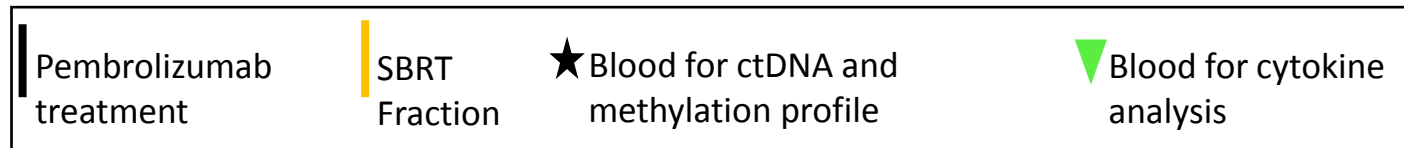
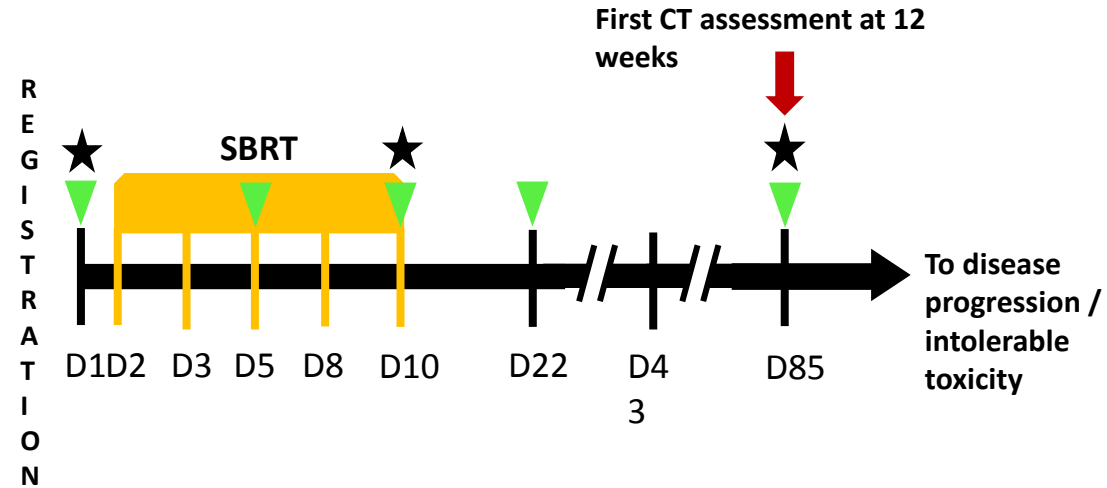
Case



36 months post SBRT

Planned Toronto Phase I Study: PEMRAD – Pembrolizumab + SBRT in HCC

- Advanced HCC post sorafenib, CP 5/6
- Disease amenable to SBRT
- Measurable disease by RECIST
- Fresh tissue biopsy for WES, RNAseq



- Single arm Investigator-initiated Phase II study, PI J Knox, L Dawson
- Primary endpoint is overall response (in-field plus systemic)
- Correlative components
- Aiming for 1st patient Summer 2017.

Conclusions

- HCC is a radiosensitive tumor
- RT has a role to play across all HCC stages
- SBRT is ready for prime time in selected HCC patients
 - SBRT outcomes best in CP A, small (< 8 cm) HCC
 - HCC with vascular invasion, if not suitable for other treatments
- There is a need for improved evidence regarding SBRT for HCC
- Randomized trials are ongoing
 - RTOG1112: Ph III study of SBRT for locally advanced HCC
 - Will benefit from international collaborations

Acknowledgements

Pablo Munoz
Aisling Barry
Andrew McPartlin
Sam Haddad
Monique Youl
Carol Haddad
Alexis Bujold
Anand Swaminath
Charles Cho
Mark Lee
Regina Tse
Maria Hawkins
John Kim
Anthony Brade
Rob Dinniwell
Jim Brierley
Rebecca Wong
Jolie Ringash
Bernard Cummings

PMH Foundation-Gerry Ruby
Elekta, Bayer, RMP

ASCO CDA, Canadian Cancer Society CIHR

Kristy Brock
Mike Velec
Tim Craig
Jean Pierre Bissonnette
David Jaffray
Doug Moseley
Catherine Coolens
Mike Sharpe
Teo Stanescu
Tom Purdie
Kawalpreet Singh
Debbie Tsuji
Andrea Marshall

Jen Knox

PMH HCC tumor boards
All patients & referring MDs