

# *Nuove prospettive nella terapia del colangiocarcinoma*

**Congresso Trisocietario  
AIGO, SIED, SIGE,  
Firenze, December 16, 2023**

**D. ALVARO, La Sapienza, Roma**

FACOLTÀ DI MEDICINA  
E ODONTOIATRIA



**SAPIENZA**  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

# Conflict of Interest

**Domenico Alvaro, Univ. La Sapienza di Roma**

**Disclosures:**

**A: VESTA, USA: Biliary Stem cells, Research Grants**

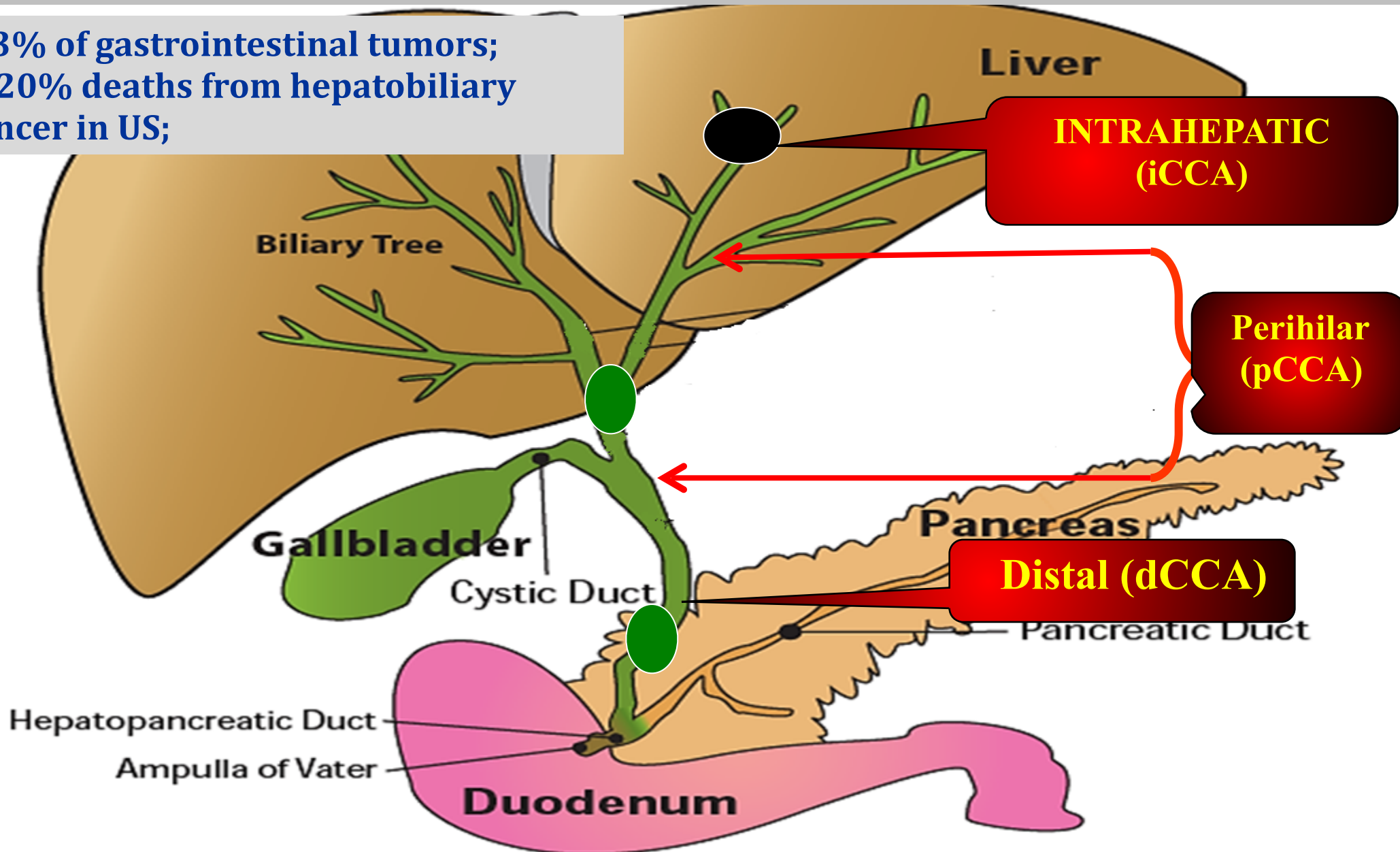
**B: InterceptPharma/Advanz/Pharma : -Research Grants  
-Consultant**

**C: Shionogi: Invited lectures**

**D: Aboca: -consultant  
-Invited lectures**

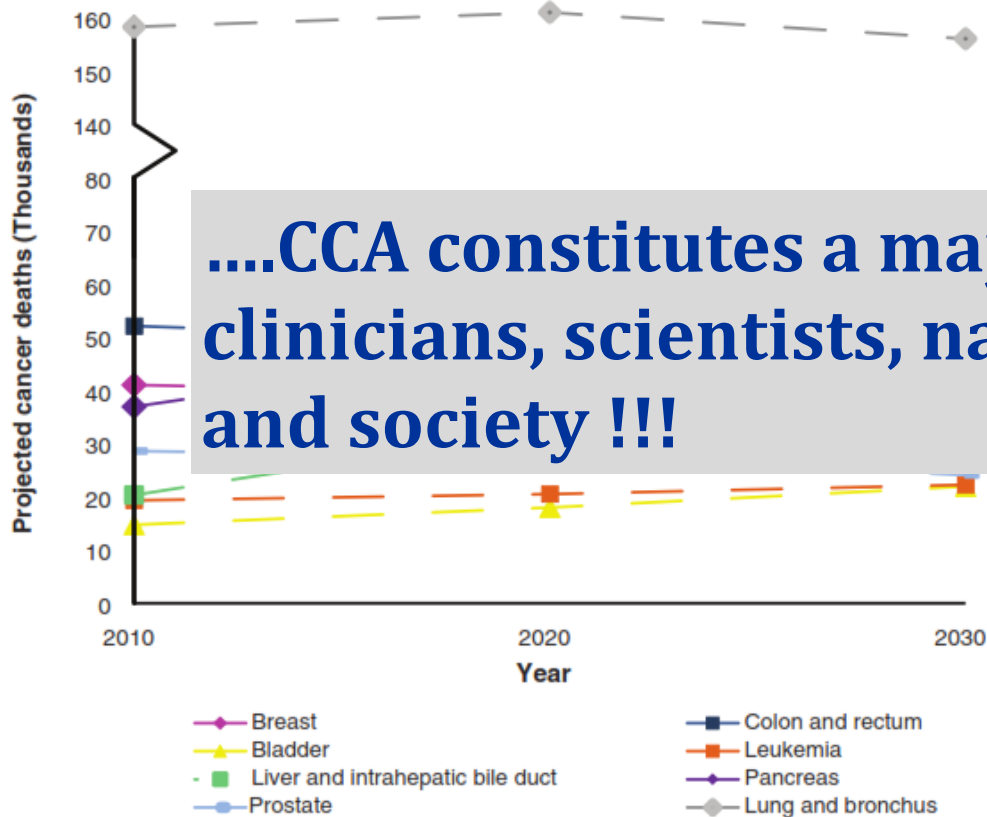
# CCA: a heteroneneous family of cancer !

\*..3% of gastrointestinal tumors;  
\*~20% deaths from hepatobiliary cancer in US;



## Projecting Cancer Incidence and Deaths to 2030: The Unexpected Burden of Thyroid, Liver, and Pancreas Cancers in the United States

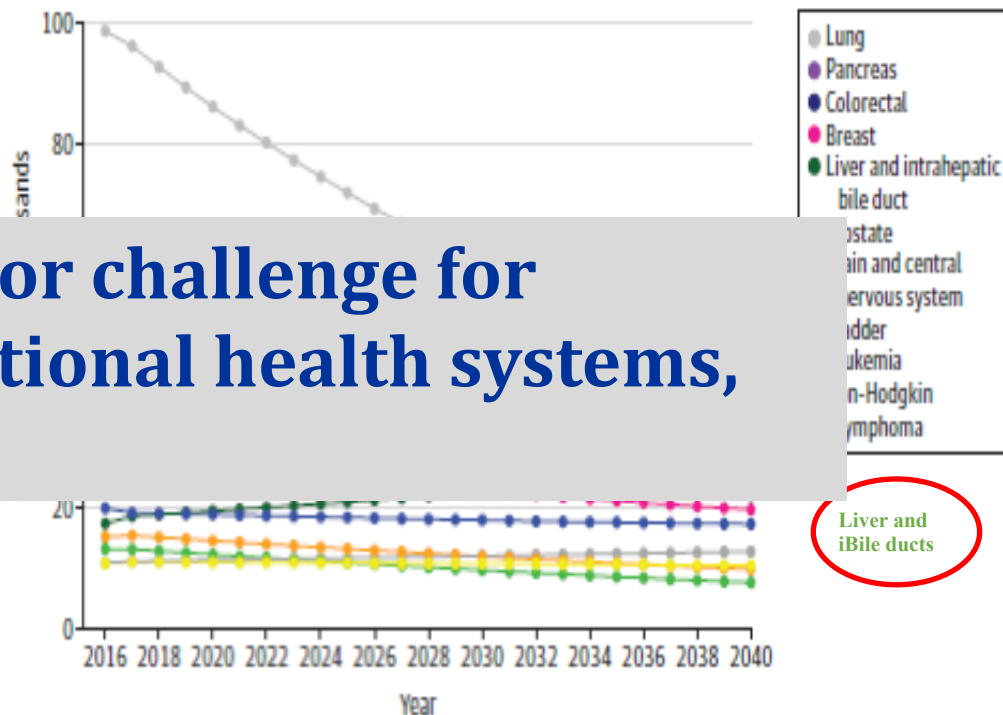
Lola Rahib<sup>1</sup>, Benjamin D. Smith<sup>2</sup>, Rhonda Aizenberg<sup>1</sup>, Allison B. Rosenzweig<sup>1</sup>, Julie M. Fleshman<sup>1</sup>, and Lynn M. Matrisian<sup>1</sup>



## Estimated Projection of US Cancer Incidence and Death to 2040

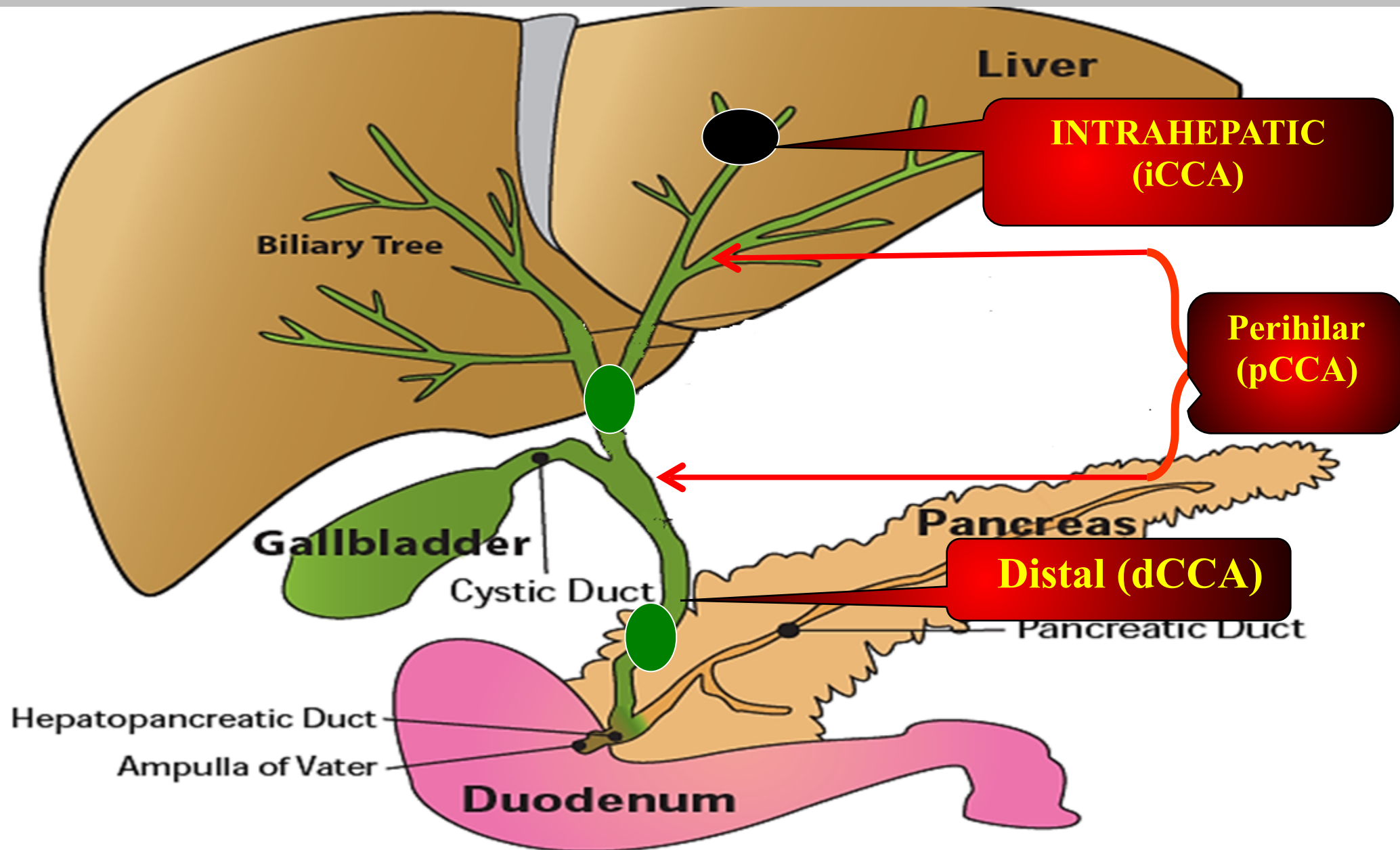
Lola Rahib, PhD; Mackenzie R. Wehner, MD, MPhil; Lynn M. Matrisian, PhD, MBA; Kevin T. Neale, MD, MPhil

**C** Men and women





# CCA: classification





SISTEMA NAZIONALE LINEE GUIDA DELL'ISTITUTO SUPERIORE DI SANITÀ



**Linea guida pubblicata nel Sistema Nazionale Linee Guida**

**Roma, 22 febbraio 2022**

*Associazione Italiana per lo Studio del Fegato (AISF)*

*International Hepato-Pancreato Biliary Association (IT-IHPBA)*

*Associazione Italiana di Oncologia Medica (AIOM)*



# European Network for the Study the CCA



- Creation: May 2015 (Vienna, Austria). 50<sup>th</sup> EASL Congress

## Members

- **70 Research groups**

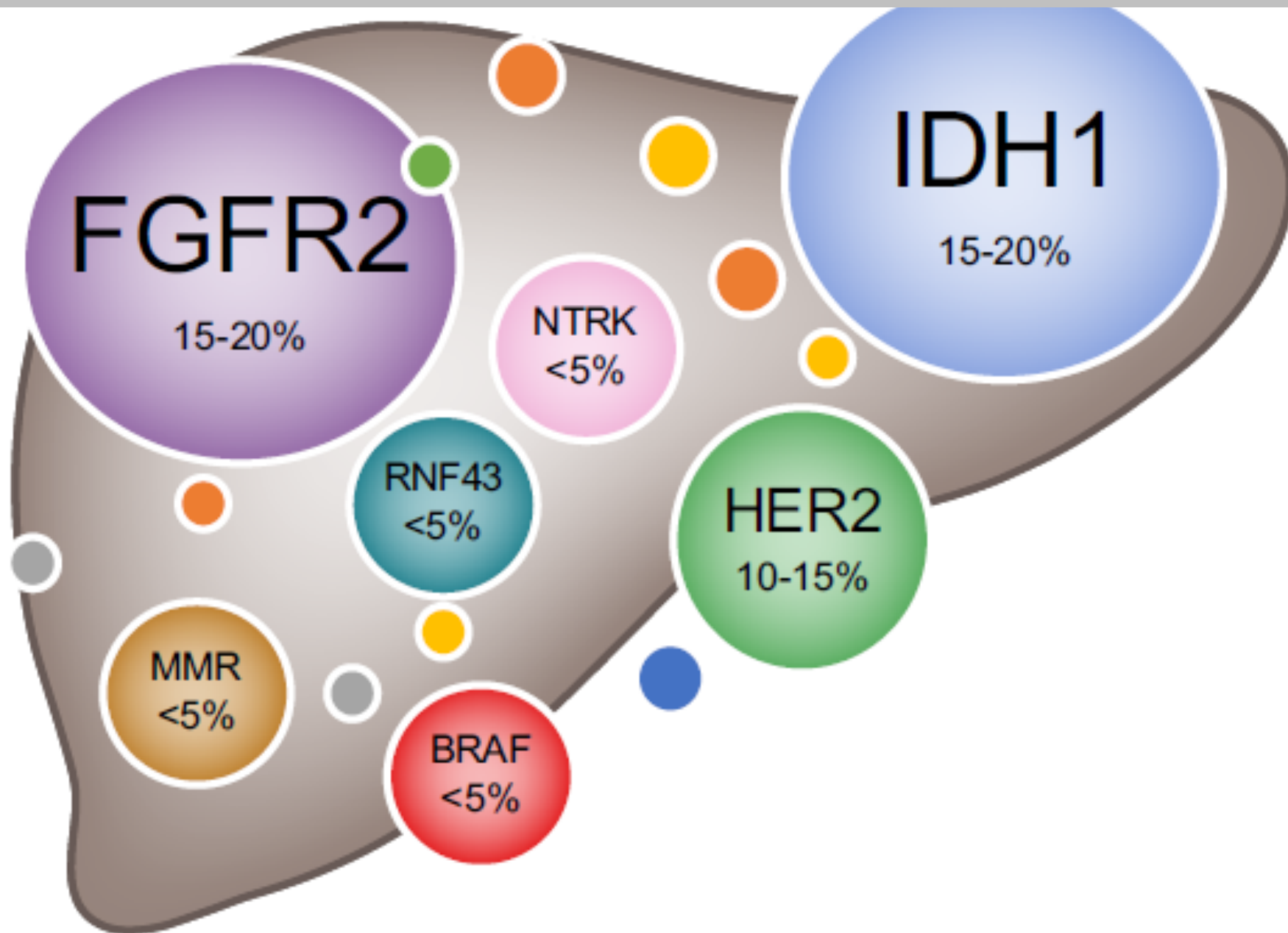
(60 European; 8 USA)

- **26 European countries**

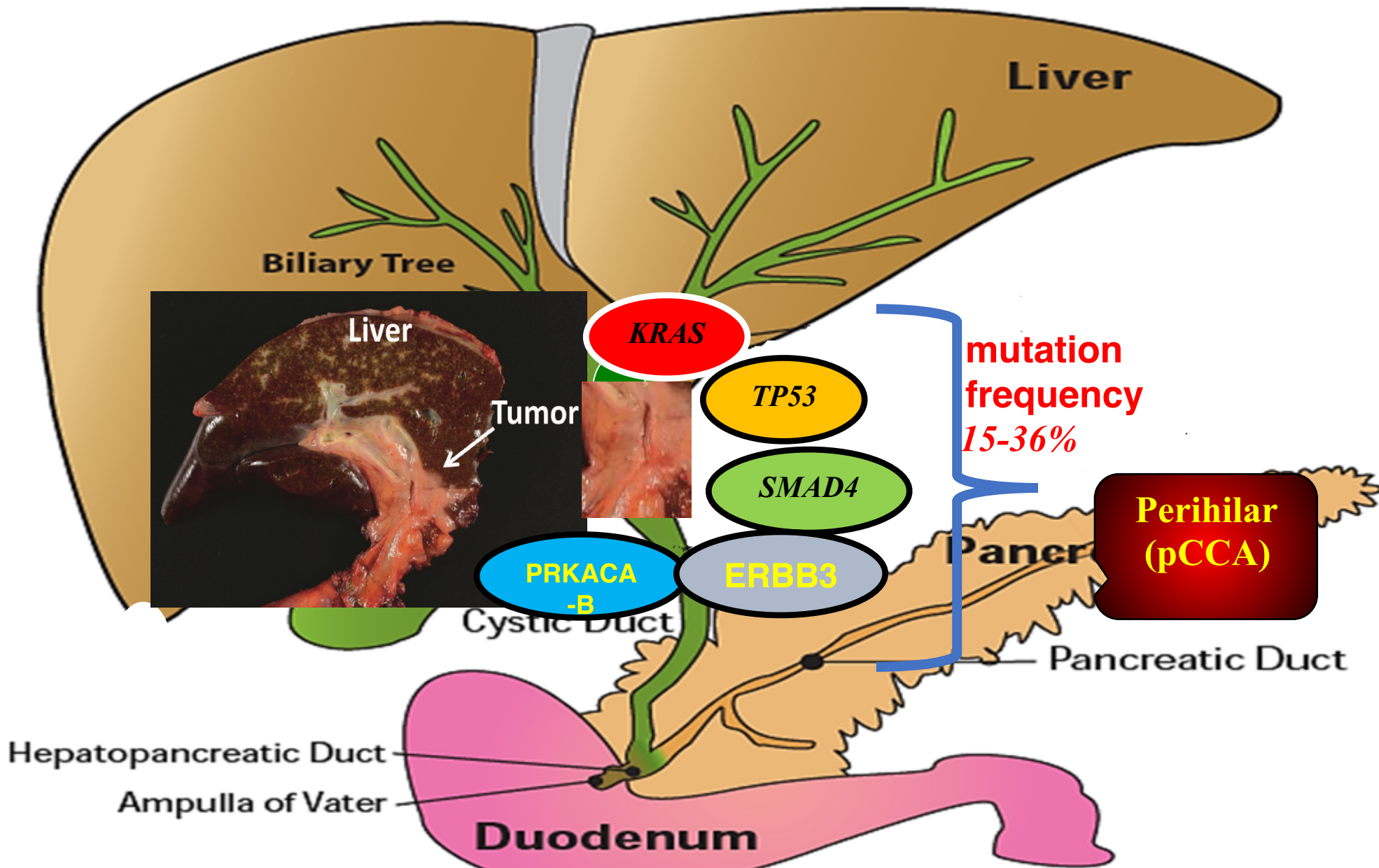
(Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands,, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and UK)



# iCCA: Molecular Landscape



# pCCA: Molecular Landscape





# CCA: clinical features

Research Article  
Hepatic and Biliary Cancer



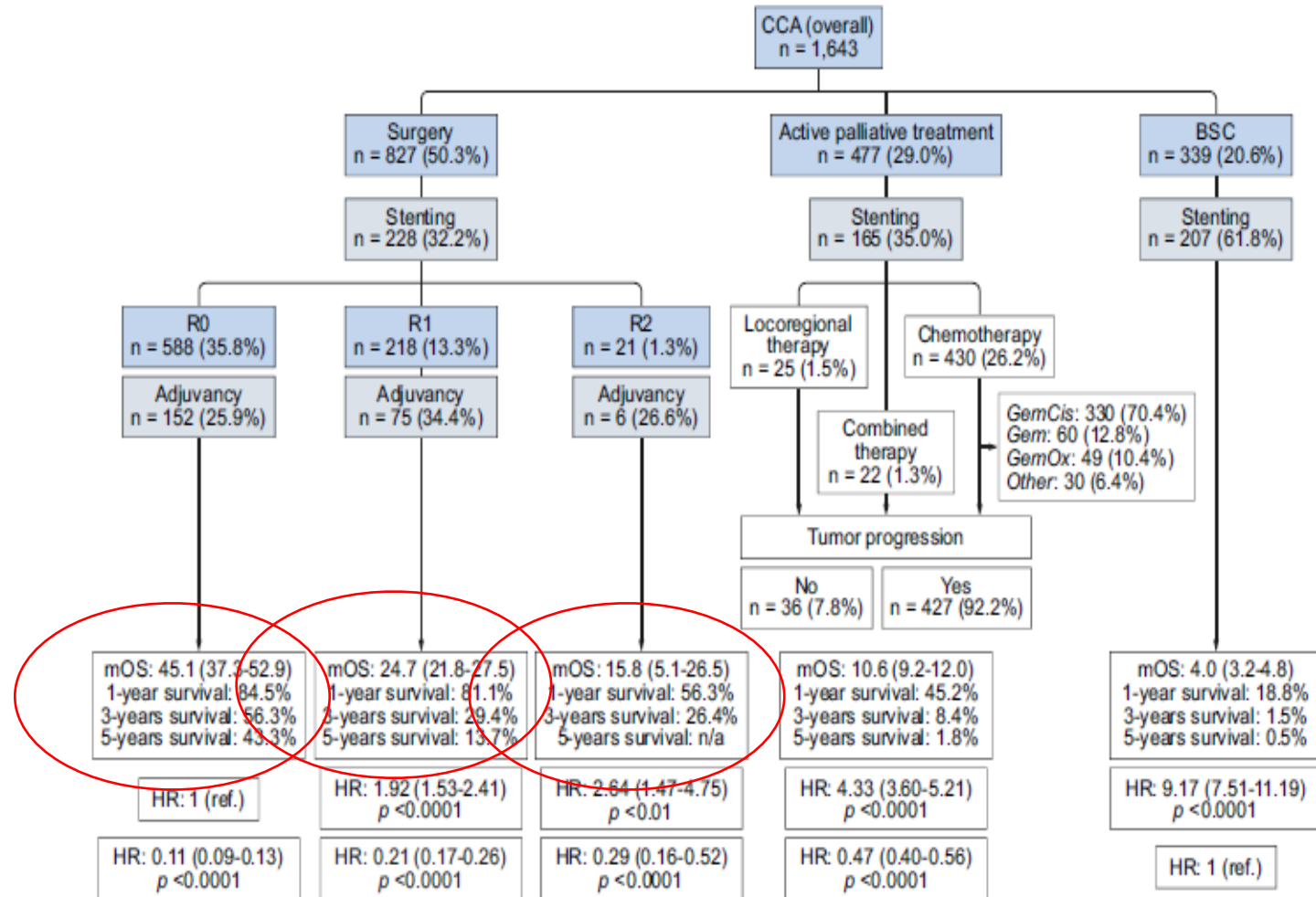
JOURNAL  
OF HEPATOLOGY

2021

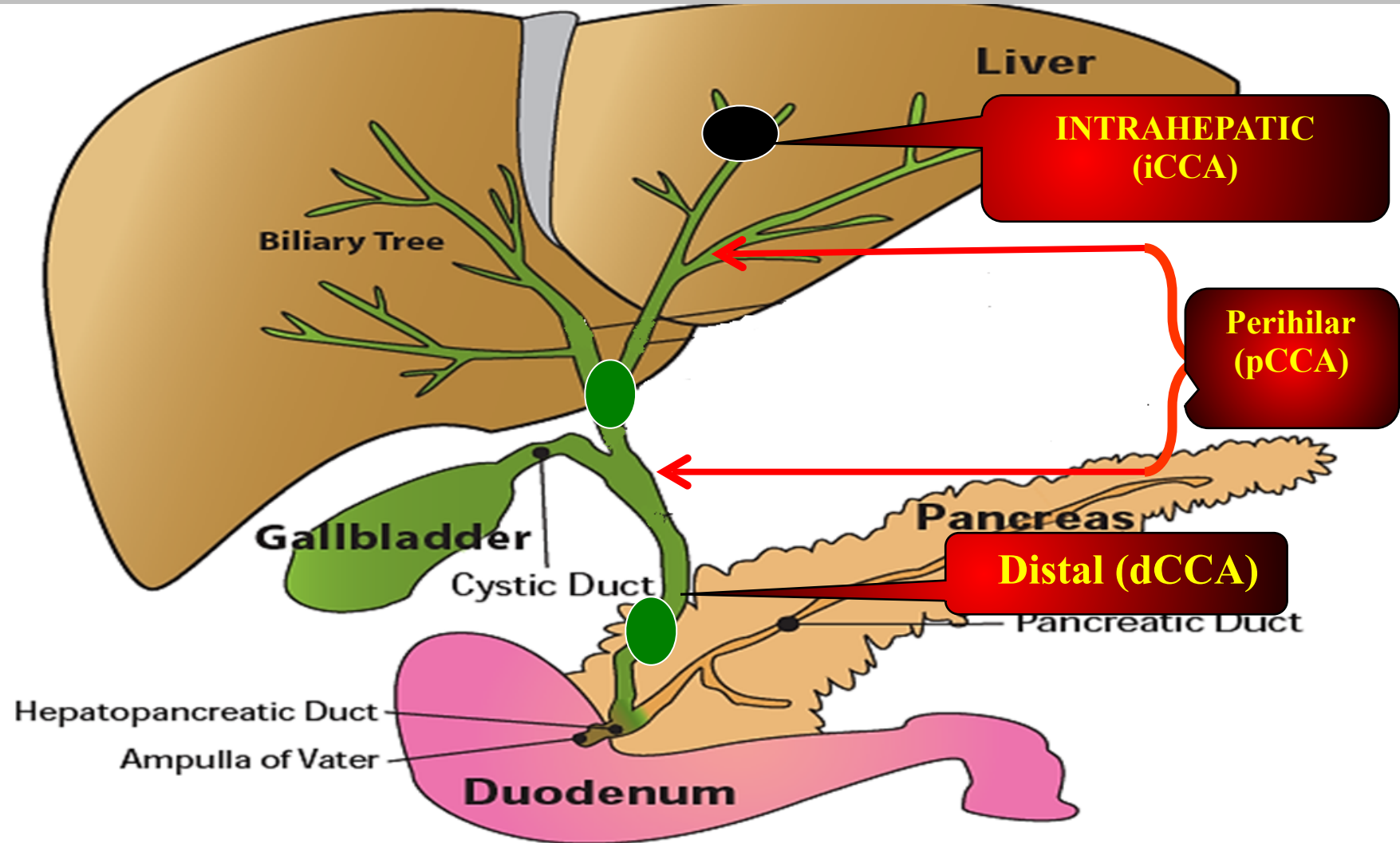
## Cholangiocarcinoma landscape in Europe: Diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic insights from the ENSCCA Registry

Laura Izquierdo-Sanchez<sup>1,2</sup>, Angela Lamarca<sup>3</sup>, Adelaida La Casta<sup>1</sup>, Stefan Buettner<sup>4</sup>, Kirsten Utpatel<sup>5</sup>, Heinz-Josef Klumpen<sup>6</sup>, Jorge Adeva<sup>7</sup>, Arndt Vogel<sup>8</sup>, Ana Lleo<sup>9</sup>, Luca Fabris<sup>10,11</sup>, Mariano Ponz-Sarvise<sup>12</sup>, Raffaele Brustia<sup>13</sup>, Vincenzo Cardinale<sup>14</sup>, Chiara Braconi<sup>15,16</sup>, Gianpaolo Vidili<sup>17</sup>, Nigel B. Jamieson<sup>15,18</sup>, Rocio IR. Macias<sup>2,19</sup>, Jan Philipp Jonas<sup>20,21</sup>, Marco Marzioni<sup>22</sup>, Waław Hołowko<sup>23</sup>, Trine Folseraas<sup>24,25,26,27</sup>, Juozas Kupcinskas<sup>28</sup>, Zeno Sparchez<sup>29</sup>, Marcin Krawczyk<sup>30,31</sup>, Łukasz Krupa<sup>32,33</sup>, Viorel Scripcariu<sup>34</sup>, Gian Luca Grazi<sup>35</sup>, Ana Landa-Magdalena<sup>1</sup>, Jan NM. Ijzermans<sup>4</sup>, Katja Evert<sup>5</sup>, Joris I. Erdmann<sup>36</sup>, Flora López-López<sup>7</sup>, Anna Saborowski<sup>8</sup>, Alexander Scheiter<sup>5</sup>, Alvaro Santos-Laso<sup>1</sup>, Guido Carpino<sup>37</sup>, Jesper B. Andersen<sup>38</sup>, Jose JG. Marin<sup>2,19</sup>, Domenico Alvaro<sup>39</sup>, Luis Bujanda<sup>1,2</sup>, Alejandro Forner<sup>2,40</sup>, Juan W. Valle<sup>3</sup>, Bas Groot Koerkamp<sup>4</sup>, Jesus M. Banales<sup>1,2,41,42,\*</sup>

# Clinical Management and Outcomes



# CCA Treatment: SURGERY !!!!!!!



## CCA Treatment: **SURGERY !!!!!!!**

**Raccomandazione N.23: Si suggerisce ciclo di chemioterapia adiuvante di sei mesi con capecitabina nei pazienti con CCA sottoposti a resezione chirurgica con intento curativo (R0, R1) (forza della raccomandazione: DEBOLE a favore; qualità delle evidenze: ALTA).**

**....a 6-month course of oral fluoropyrimidine (capecitabine or S-1) should be considered following potentially curative resection of iCCA. (LoE 2, strong recommendation, strong consensus )**

**Raccomandazione N.24: Si suggerisce di considerare la radioterapia adiuvante nei pazienti con pCCA con resezione microscopicamente positiva dei margini chirurgici (R1) (forza della raccomandazione: DEBOLE a favore; qualità delle evidenze: MODERATA).**



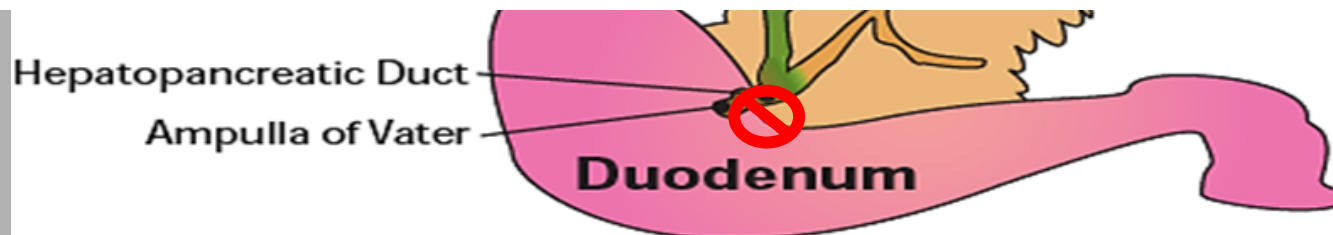
Duodenum

## CCA: Treatment of unresectable disease, LOCOREGIONAL THERAPIES THERAPIES



### Raccomandazione N. 26:

La raccomandazione al ricorso a RFA o TARE o TACE o DEB-TACE o MWA o elettroporazione reversibile per i pazienti affetti da iCCA avanzato ma, principalmente localizzato nel fegato, è MOLTO DEBOLE a favore e, il ricorso ad una di queste procedure od a diverse procedure in sequenza, potrà essere considerata solamente in casi selezionati, in centri di riferimento e dopo attenta valutazione multidisciplinare e del rapporto rischio-beneficio per il paziente (qualità delle

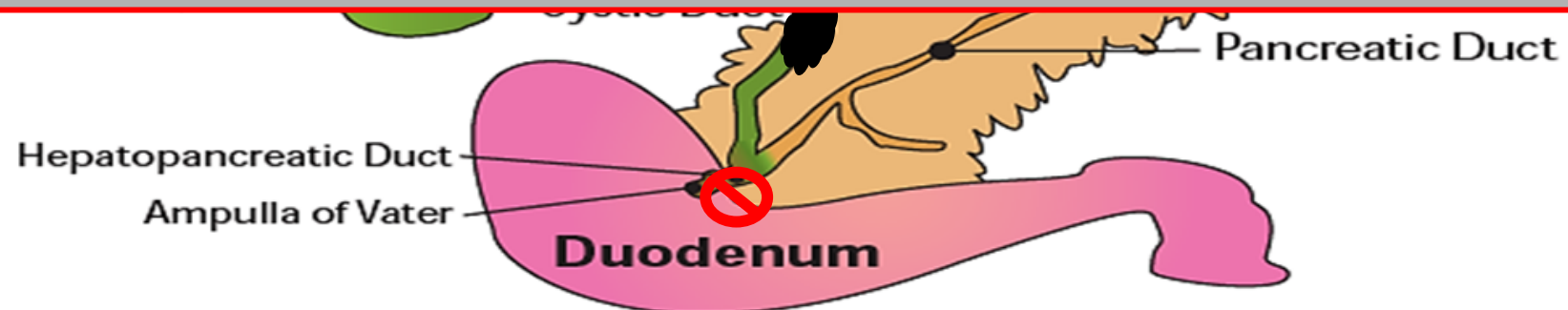




# Unresectable disease; First-line Systemic Therapies

Raccomandazione N. 27: Nei pazienti con CCA avanzato non resecabile e buon performance status (PS ECOG di 0-1), si raccomanda la combinazione di cisplatino e gemcitabina come chemioterapia di prima linea (forza della raccomandazione: FORTE a favore; qualità delle evidenze: ALTA).

...patients with unresectable iCCA and good performance status should be treated (first-line chemotherapy) with GemCis with the **addition of durvalumab** where available.  
(LoE 1, strong recommendation, strong consensus)



A

Median Overall Survival,  
mo (95% CI)

Hazard Ratio  
(95% CI)

Stratified Log-rank  
P Value

21 December 2022

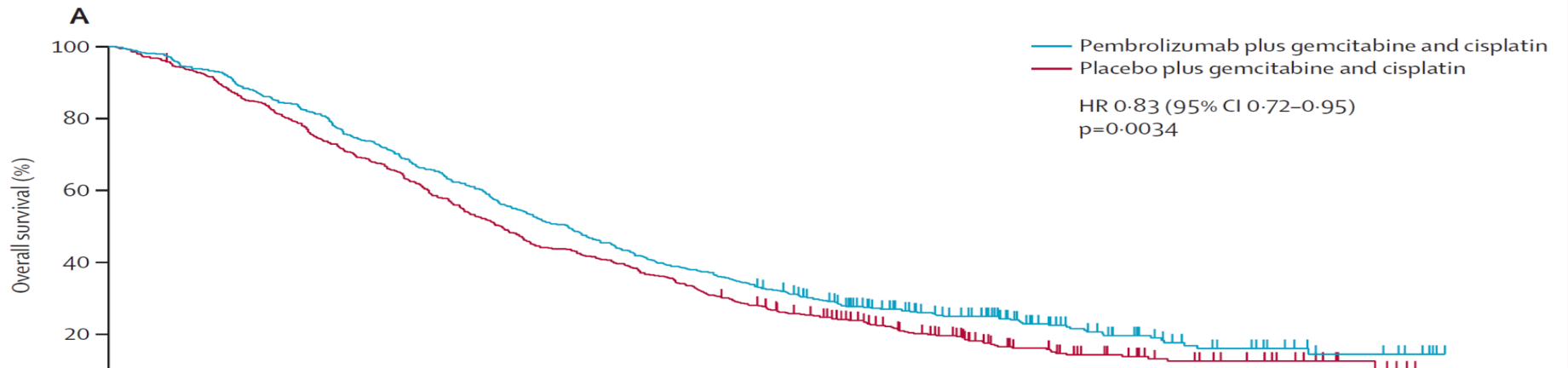
***Durvalumab (PD-L1 inhibitor) plus chemotherapy approved in the EU as first immunotherapy regimen for patients with advanced biliary tract***

**EASL-ILCA 2023 guidelines: Recommendation**

Patients with unresectable iCCA and good performance status should be treated with GemCis (as first-line chemotherapy), with the **addition of durvalumab** where available **(LoE 1, strong recommendation, strong consensus)**.

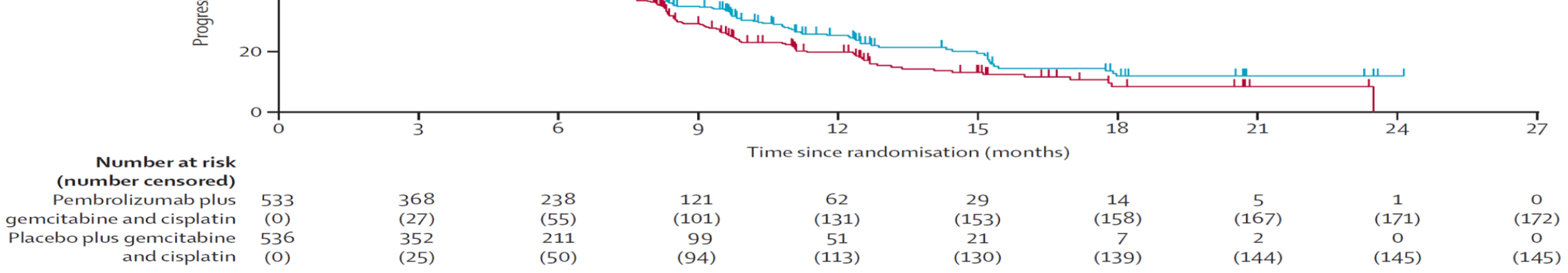
0.0 0 3 6 9 12 15 18 21 24 27

Time from Randomization (mo)



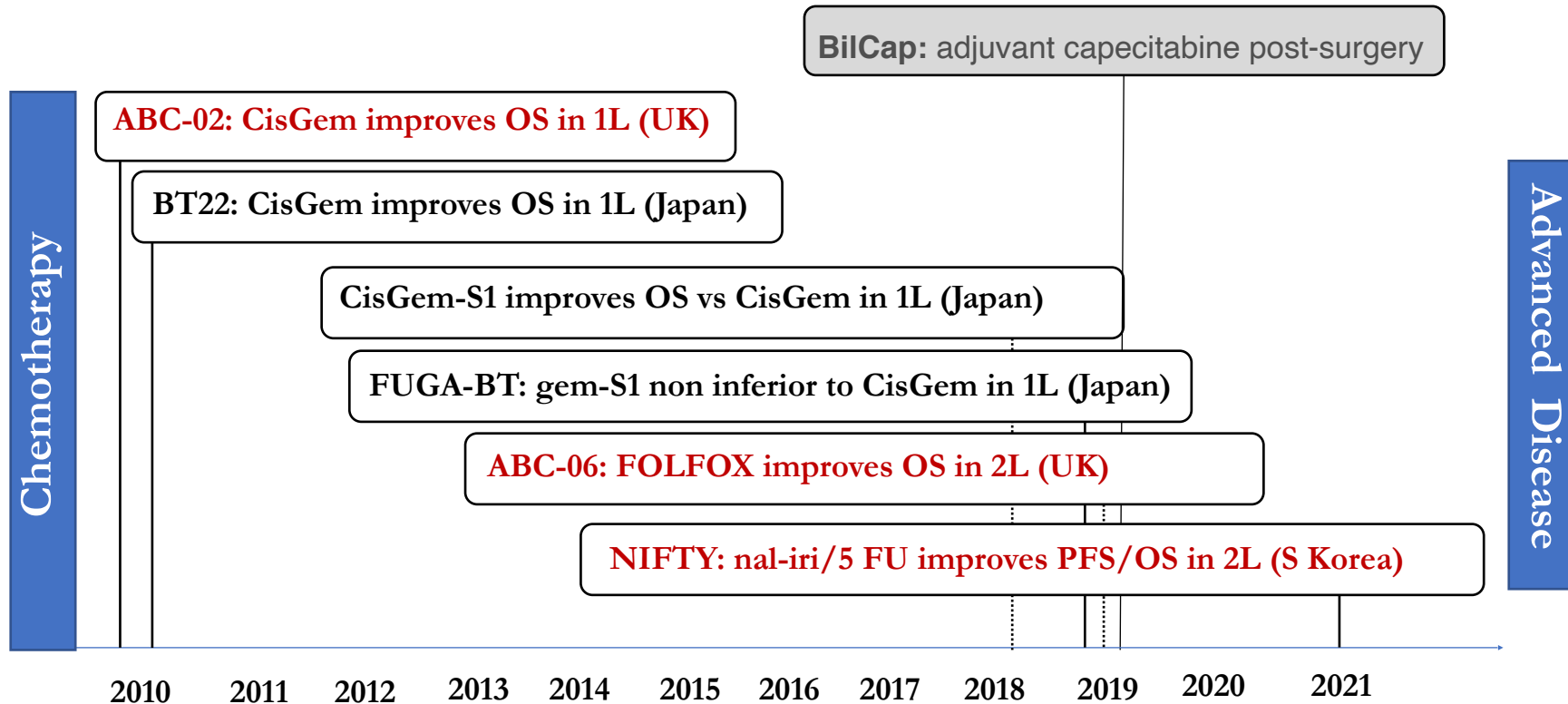
Site of origin		3	36	39
Extrahepatic	98 (18%)	105 (20%)	1	5
Gallbladder	115 (22%)	118 (22%)	0	0
Intrahepatic	320 (60%)	313 (58%)	4	92

Disease status		3	36	39
Locally advanced	60 (11%)	66 (12%)	0	0
Metastatic	473 (89%)	470 (88%)	4	92

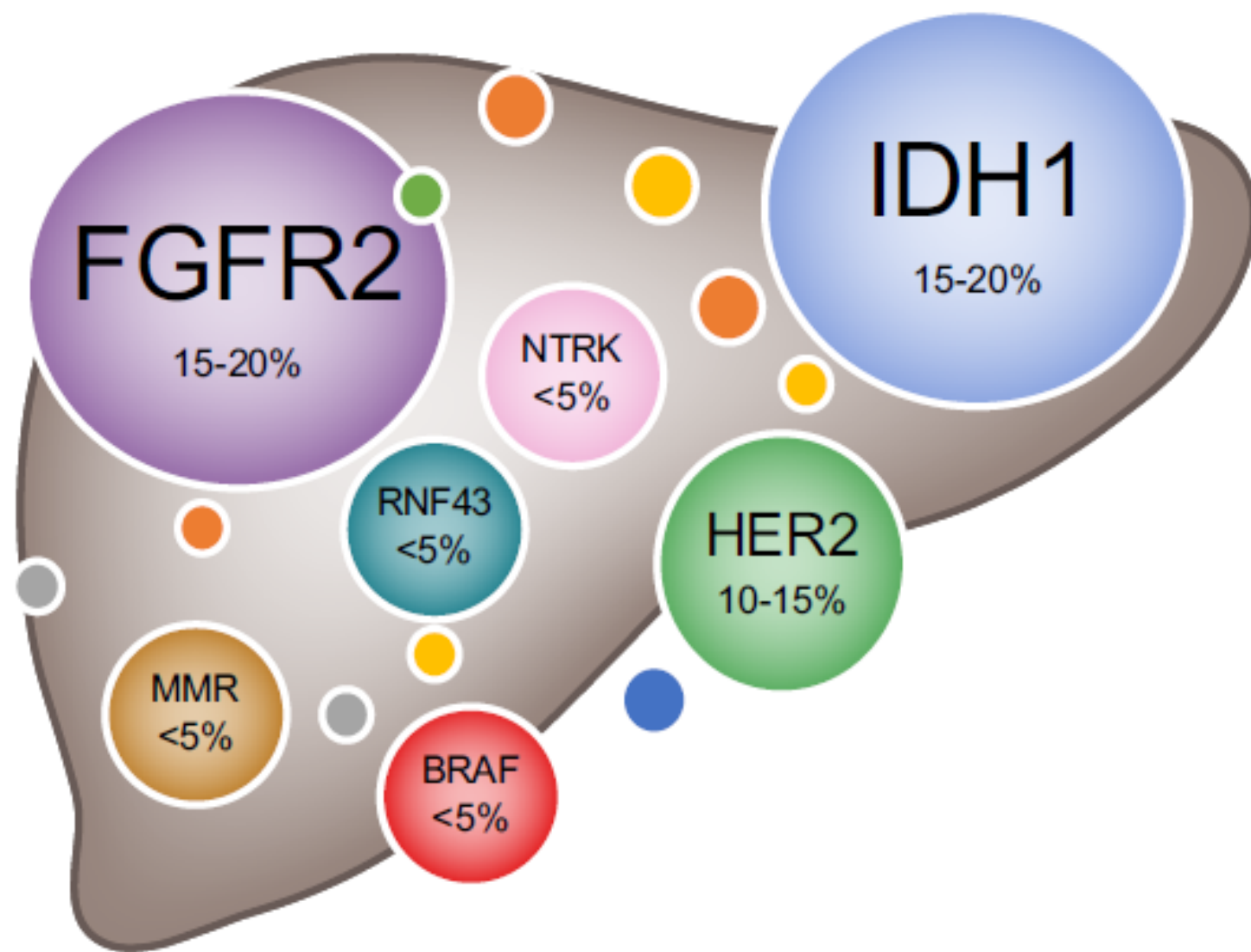


# Systemic chemotherapy for CCA: the history

Chemotherapy for **advanced disease: very slow progress**

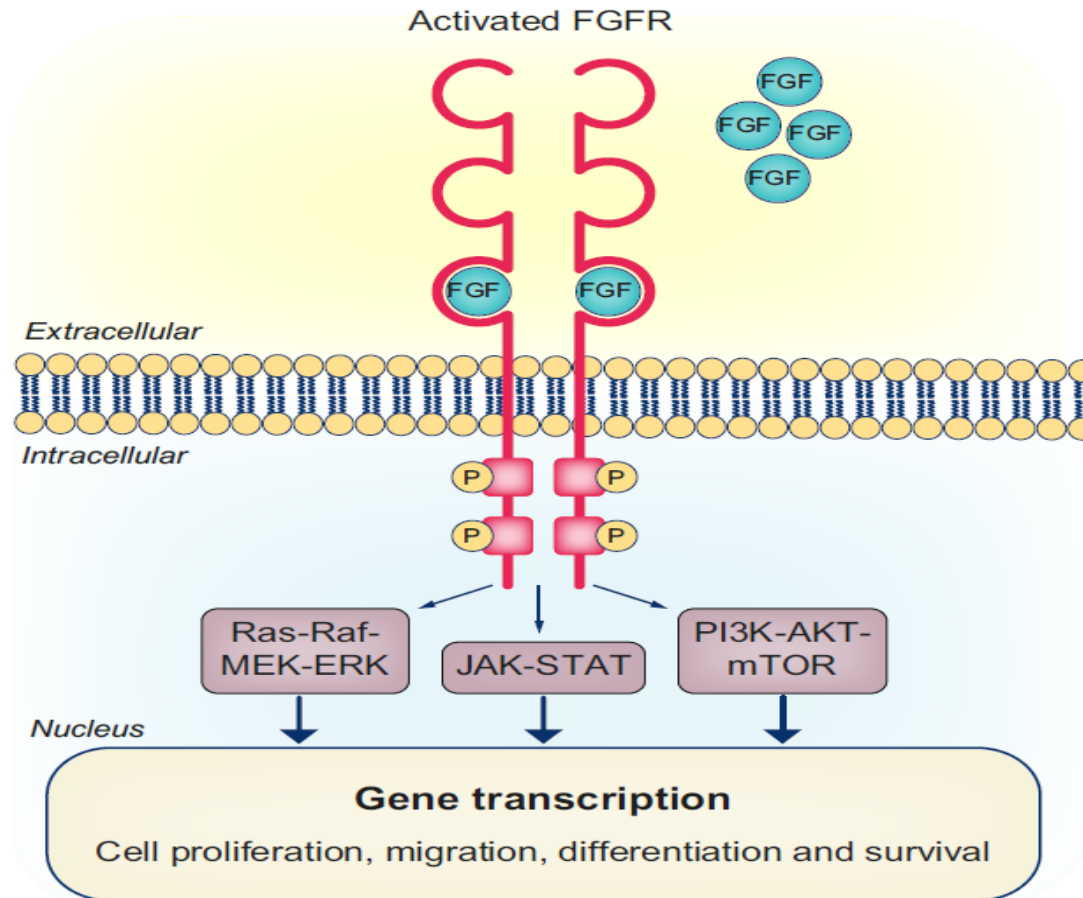


Adapted from Valle et al. Lancet 2021; 397 (10272): 428-444

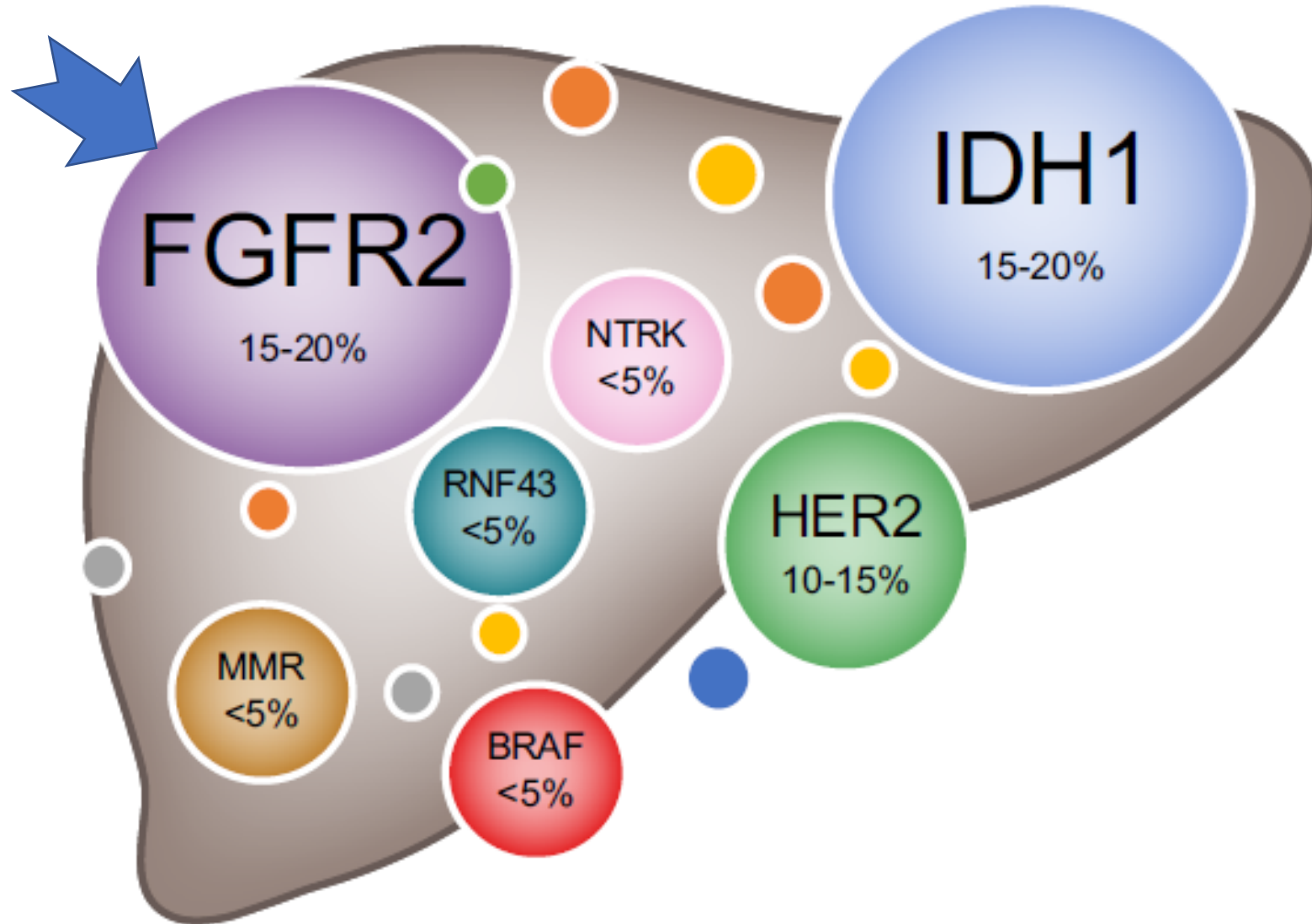


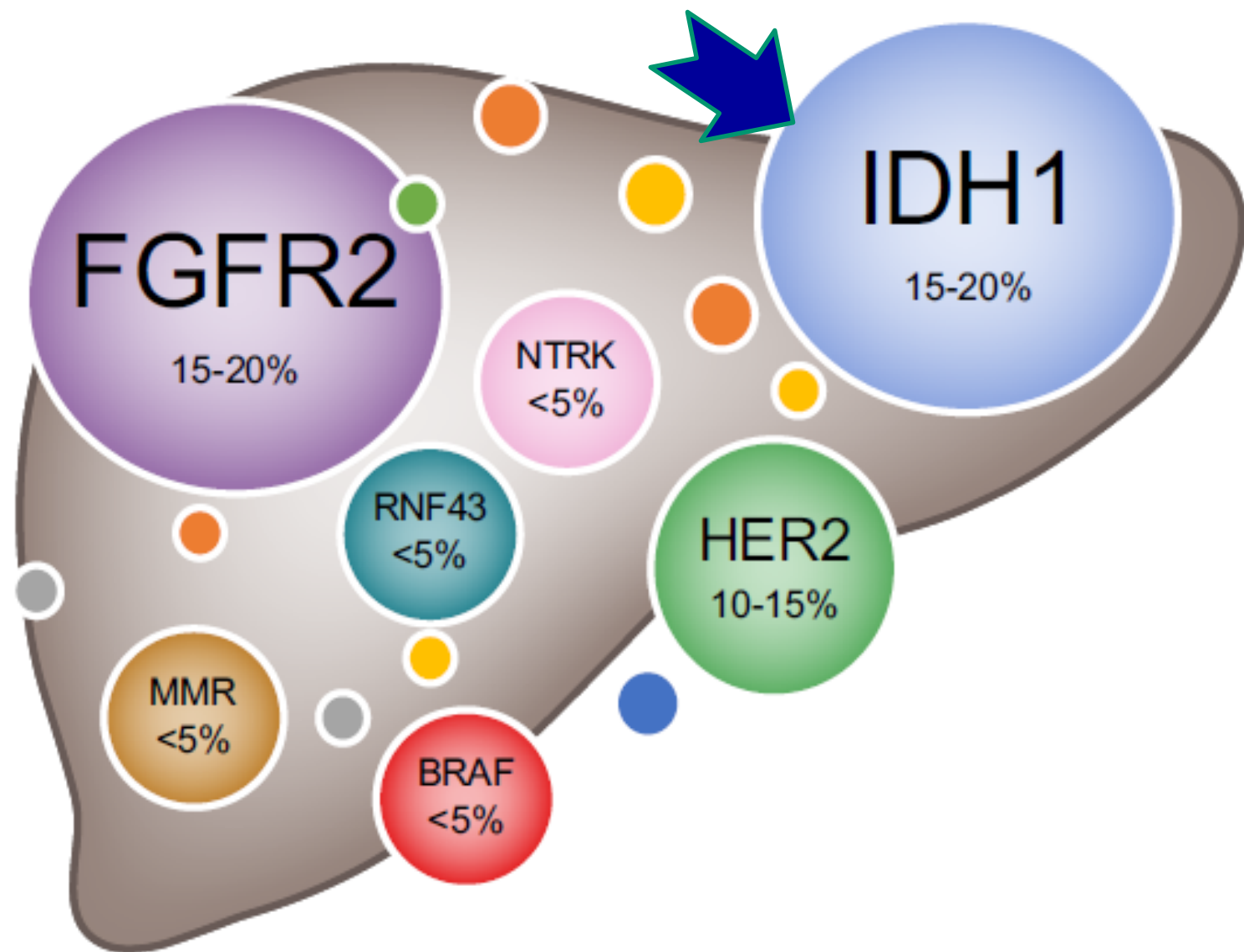


# FGFR PATHWAY

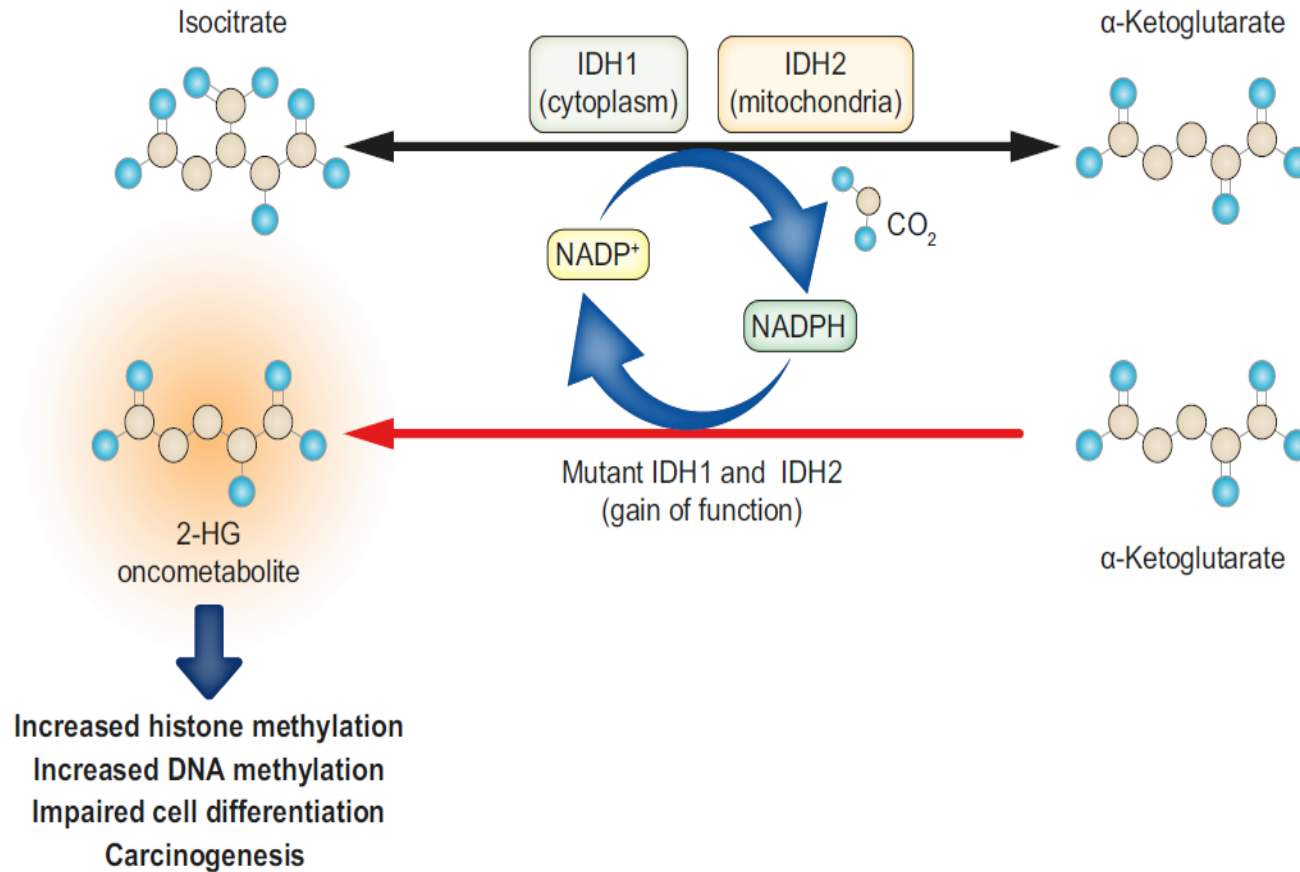


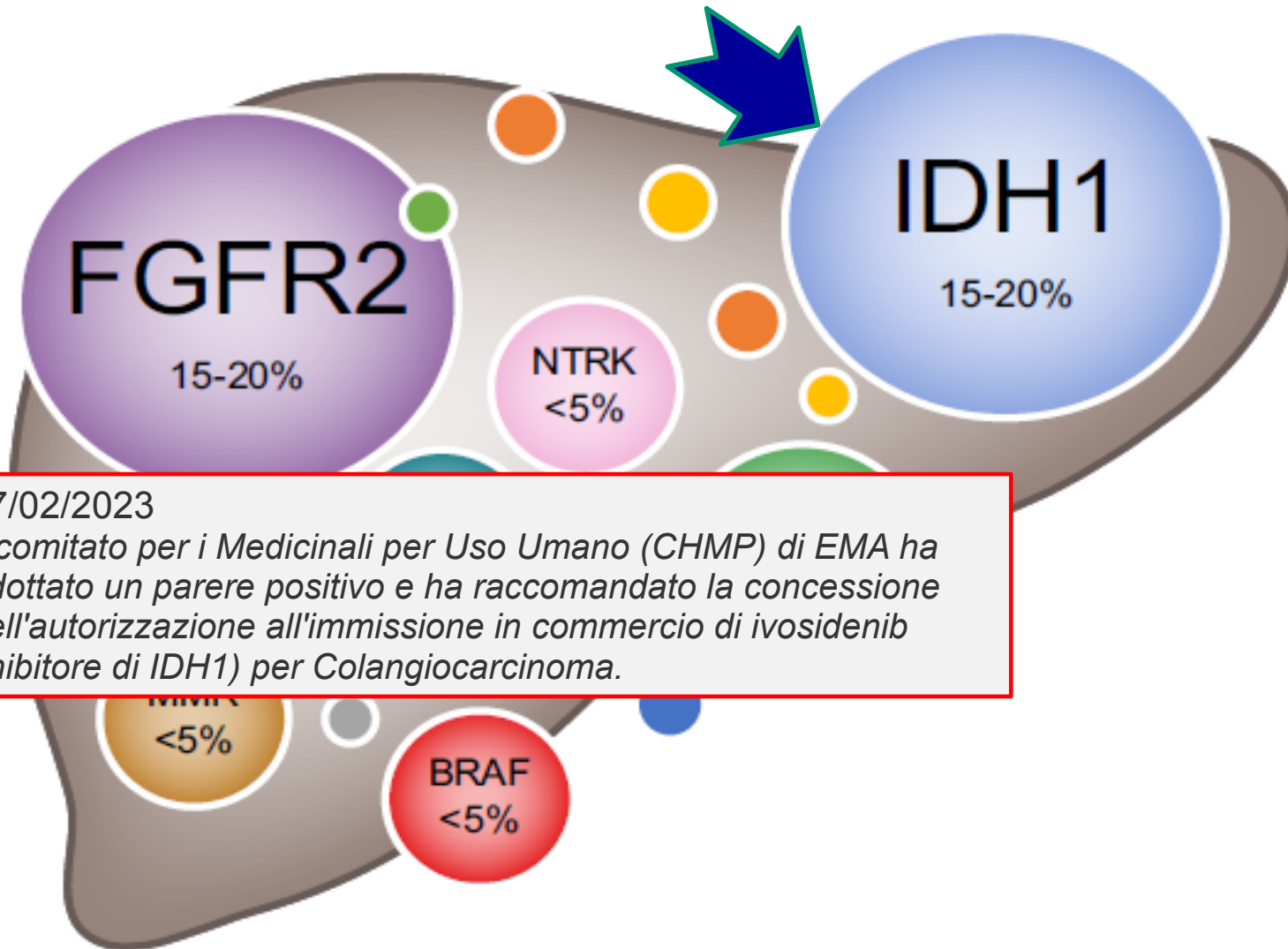
differentiation and survival. A constitutively activated FGFR may therefore produce pathological consequences of such consequences, such as cancer, osteoporosis, and other related diseases. A detailed





# ***IDH INVOLVEMENT IN CELL METABOLISM***





27/02/2023

*Il comitato per i Medicinali per Uso Umano (CHMP) di EMA ha adottato un parere positivo e ha raccomandato la concessione dell'autorizzazione all'immissione in commercio di ivosidenib (inibitore di IDH1) per Colangiocarcinoma.*

B

Number of events/  
number of patients

	Ivosidenib	Placebo
Previous lines of therapy	23/70	20/26

HR (95% CI)

Previous lines of therapy

0.77 (0.33, 0.64)





EASL-ILCA clinical practice guidelines on the management of intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma



## MOLECULAR PROFILING

KQ: For patients with iCCA, does molecular profiling at time of diagnosis improve the proportion who receive a targeted therapy based upon tumour biomarker results at any time point in disease course?

Recommendation:

• In pts ...at high risk for recurrence (e.g. node or margin positive, vascular invasion, or multifocal intrahepatic disease), molecular profiling with a comprehensive panel is suggested at the time of diagnosis (LoE 5; weak recommendation, consensus).

Ref: 1. Clinical Cancer Research 2018;24:4154–61. 2. Nat Genet 2015;47:1003–10. Hum Pathol 2012;43:1552–8. 3. Oncologist 2012;17:72–9. 4. Therap Adv Gastroenterol 2017;10:507–20. 5. Hepatology 2020;72:1253–66. 6. Hum Pathol 2014;45:1630–8. 7. Gastroenterology 2013;144:829–40. 8. Cancer and Metastasis Reviews 2015;34:157–64. 9. Annals of Oncology 2021;32:1111–26. 10. Clinical Cancer Research 2022;28:1662–71.

## Art. 96-bis.

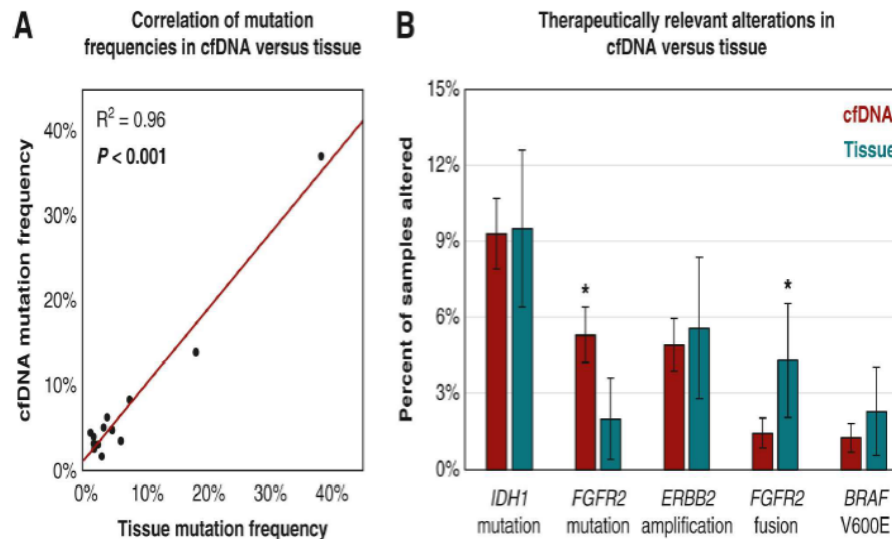
### ***(Incremento del Fondo per i test Next-Generation Sequencing per il colangiocarcinoma)***

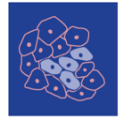
- i) 1. Lo stanziamento del Fondo per i *test Next-Generation Sequencing*, di cui al comma 684 dell'articolo 1 della legge 30 dicembre 2021, n. 234, è incrementato di 160 mila euro per l'anno 2023.
- ii) 2. L'incremento del Fondo di cui al comma 1 è finalizzato al potenziamento dei *test di Next-Generation Sequencing* di profilazione genomica del colangiocarcinoma.
- iii)
- iv)
- v)
- vi)
- vii)

## Results:

--Genetic alterations detected in cfDNA in 84% of patients, with targetable alterations detected in 44% of patients;

--Concordance between cfDNA and tissue for mutation detection was high for IDH1 mutations (87%) and BRAF V600E (100%), and low for FGFR2 fusions (18%).





Article

# Prevalence of *ARID1A* Mutations in Cell-Free Circulating Tissue vs. cfDNA: cholangiocarcinoma (N = 1537)

**Cholangiocarcinoma ~14% vs. 10.9%**  
**Hepatocellular carcinoma, ~ 12% vs. 10.6%;**  
**Carcinoma of unknown primary, ~15% vs. 8.5%;**

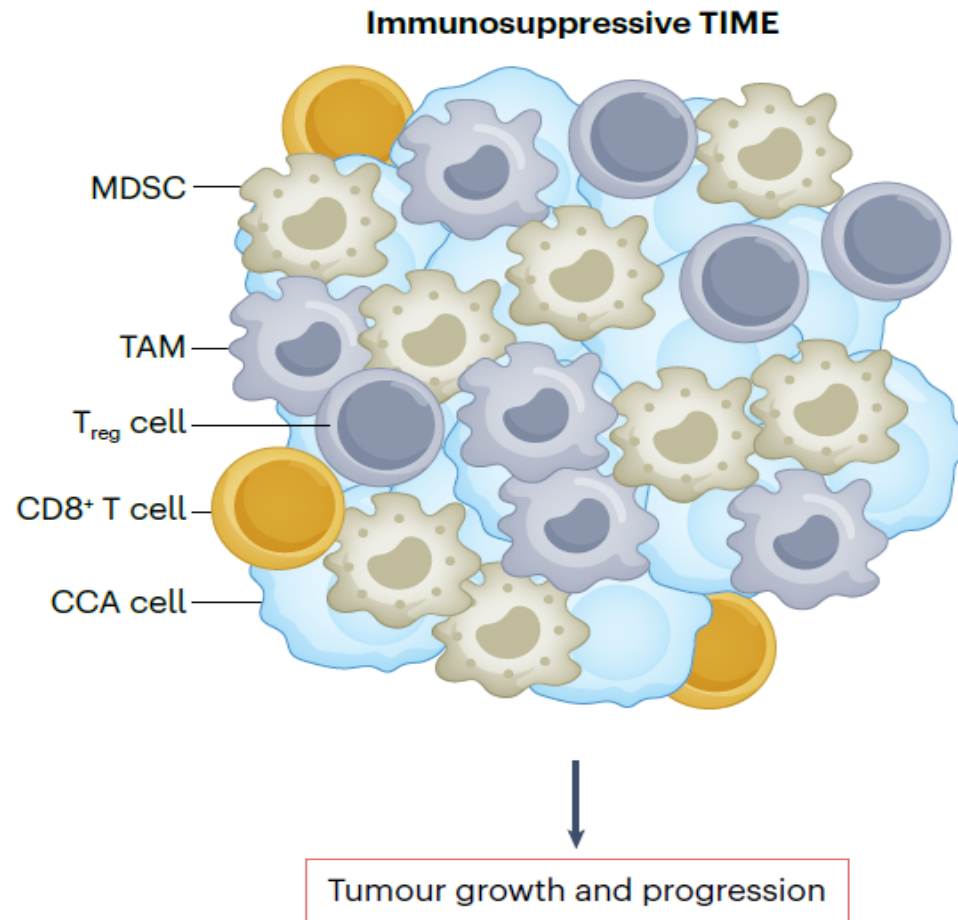
DNA Damage	<i>ATM, BRCA1, BRCA2, CCND1, and MLH1</i>
PI3K/AKT/mTOR	<i>AKT1, MTOR, PIK3CA, PTEN, STK11, and TSC1</i>
RAS/RAF/MAPK	<i>ARAF, BRAF, ERBB2, GNA11, HRAS, KRAS, MAP2K1, MAP2K2, MAPK1, MAPK3, NF1, NRAS, RAF1, and RIT1</i>
Signal Transduction	<i>ALK, AR, DDR, ESR1, GATA3, GNAS, GNAQ, MYC, NOTCH1, NTRK1, NTRK3, PTPN11, RET, RHOA, ROS1, and SMAD4</i>
WNT/ $\beta$ -Catenin	<i>APC and CTNNB1</i>

# CCA: Treatment of unresectable disease

## TARGET THERAPIES

Molecular Target	Compound	Recommendations from NCCN Guidelines for Hepatology Cancers	FDA Status	EMA Status
<i>BRAF</i> V600E mutations	Dabrafenib + Trametinib	<i>BRAF</i> V600E mutated tumor	Accelerated approval for <i>BRAF</i> V600E mutated tumors	Authorized for <i>BRAF</i> V600E mutated NSCLC and melanoma; not approved for use across all solid
<i>FGFR2</i> fusions or rearrangements	Infigratinib	CCA with <i>FGFR2</i> fusions or rearrangements	Accelerated approval for CCA with <i>FGFR2</i> fusions or rearrangements	Received orphan designation for use in BTC; not authorized for use
<i>FGFR2</i> fusions or rearrangements	Pemigatinib	CCA with <i>FGFR2</i> fusions or rearrangements	Accelerated approval for CCA with <i>FGFR2</i> fusions or rearrangements	Authorized for CCA with <i>FGFR2</i> fusions or rearrangements
HER2 positive	Trastuzumab + Pertuzumab	HER2 positive tumors	Approved for HER2-positive breast cancer; not approved for use across all solid tumors for CCA	Authorized for HER2-positive breast cancer; not approved for use across all solid tumors or CCA
<i>IDH1</i> mutations	Invosidenib	CCA with <i>IDH1</i> mutations	Approved for CCA with <i>IDH1</i> mutations	Received orphan designation for use in BTC; not authorized for use
MSI-H/dMMR	Dostarlimab-gly	MSI-H/dMMR tumors	Accelerated approval for dMMR tumors	Authorized for MSI-H/dMMR endometrial cancer; not approved for use across all solid tumors or CCA
MSI-H/dMMR/TMB-H	Pembrolizumab	MSI-H/dMMR/TMB-H tumors	Approved for MSI-H/dMMR/TMB-H tumors	Authorized for several MSI-H/dMMR/TMB-H Tumors, including BTC; not authorized for TMB-H
<i>NTRK</i> fusions	Entrectinib	<i>NTRK</i> gene fusions-positive tumors	Accelerated approval for <i>NTRK</i> gene fusion-positive tumors	Authorized for <i>NTRK</i> gene fusion-positive tumors
<i>NTRK</i> fusions	Larotrectinib	<i>NTRK</i> gene fusions-positive tumors	Accelerated approval for <i>NTRK</i> gene fusion-positive tumors	Authorized for <i>NTRK</i> gene fusion-positive tumors
<i>RET</i> fusions	Pralsetinib	<i>RET</i> fusions-positive tumors	Accelerated approval for <i>RET</i> fusion-positive NSCLC; not approved for use across all solid tumors or CCA	Authorized for <i>RET</i> fusion-positive NSCLC; not approved for use across all solid tumors or CCA

***CCAs are highly desmoplastic cancers characterized by:***  
***-tumour immune-microenvironment (TiME).. poorly immunogenic;***  
***-abundance of immunosuppressive cell types (myeloid-derived suppressor cells, tumour-associated macrophages (TAMs)***  
***-abundance of heterogeneous cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAFs).***

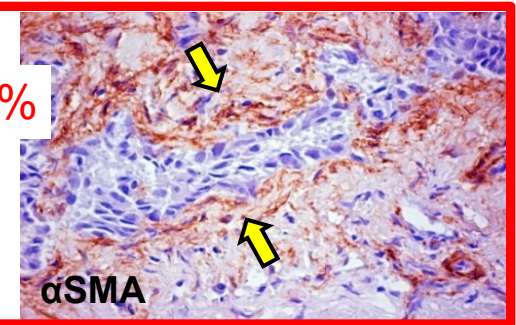
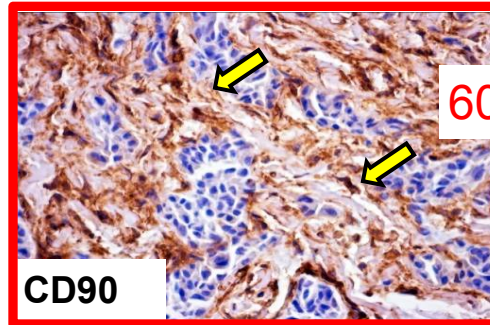
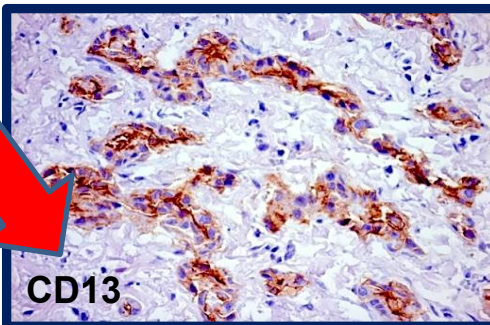
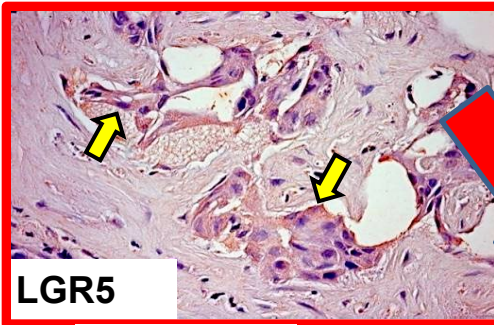
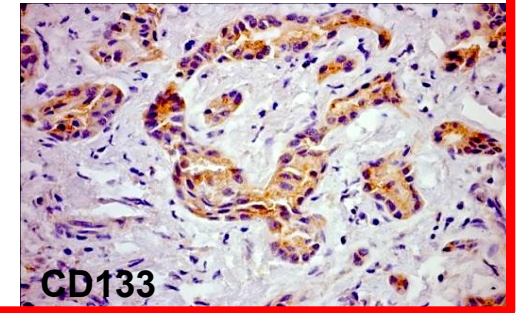
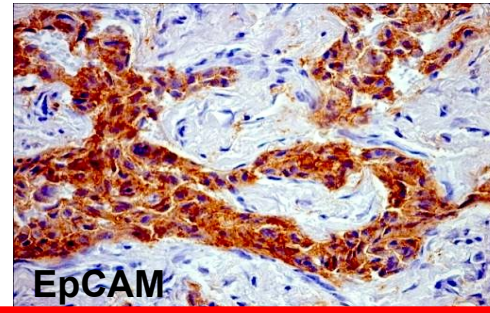
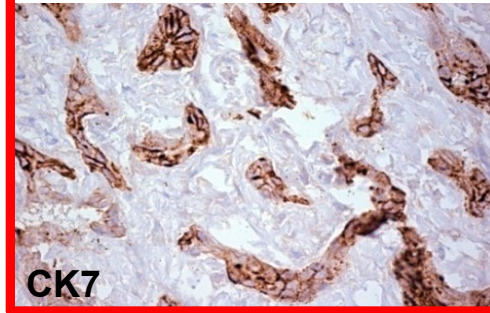
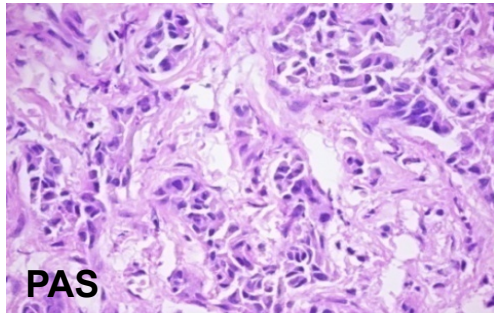




# Immunophenotype of small-duct iCCA

## Profile of Cancer Stem Cells

diffuse staining



Few cells

highly represented

\*Small-duct iCCA diffusely positive for K7, EpCAM, CD13 and CD133.

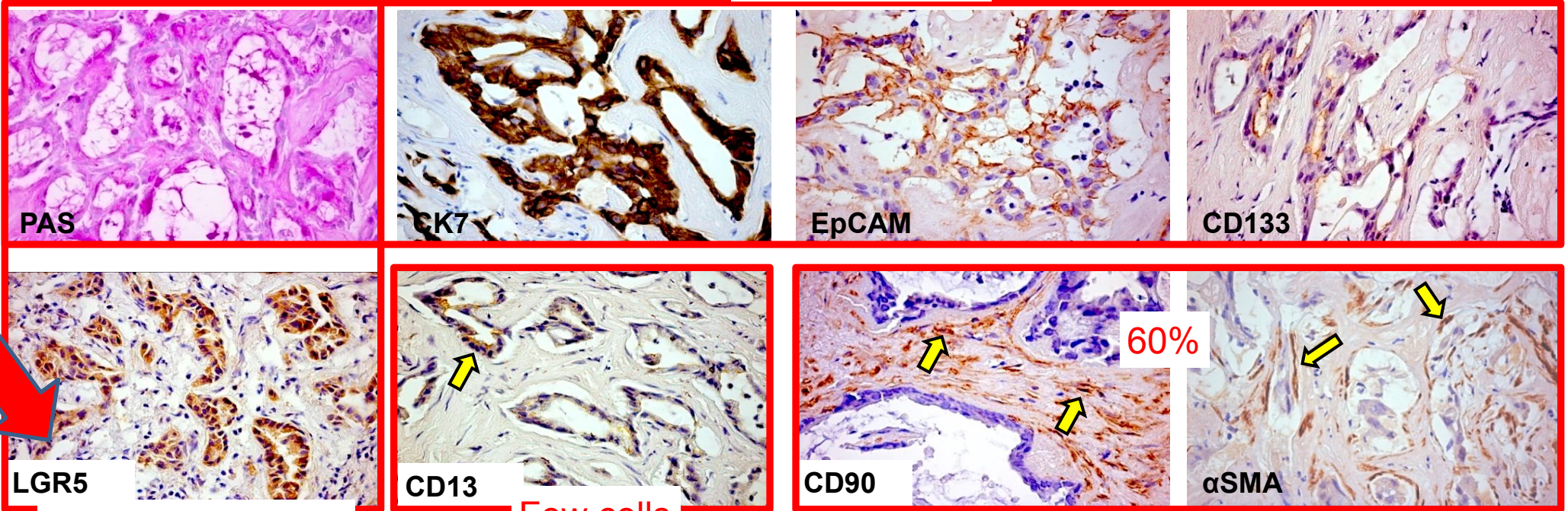
\*LGR5 restricted to few tumor epithelial cells (arrows).

\* CD90 and  $\alpha$ SMA mostly expressed by tumor stromal cells (arrows).



# Immunophenotype of large-duct iCCA: profile of Cancer Stem Cells

diffuse staining



- \*Large-duct iCCA diffusely pos. for K7, EpCAM, LGR5, CD133;
- \*CD13 restricted to few tumor epithelial cells (arrow);
- \*CD90 and αSMA mostly expressed by tumor stromal cells (arrows)

No difference between iCCA and pCCA.

**LGR5 = large duct > small duct iCCA (p<0.05)**

**CD13 = small duct > large duct iCCA (p< 0.05)**

Published in final edited form as:

*J Hepatol.* 2017 January ; 66(1): 102–115. doi:10.1016/j.jhep.2016.08.012.

## **Cholangiocarcinoma stem-like subset shapes tumor-initiating niche by educating associated macrophages**

Chiara Raggi<sup>1,†,\*</sup>, Margherita Correnti<sup>1,†</sup>, Antonio Sica<sup>3,4</sup>, Jesper B. Andersen<sup>5</sup>, Vincenzo

**.....cancer stem cells are able to manipulate stromal cells to their needs !**

# Identification of Four Immune Subtypes Characterized by Distinct Composition and Functions of Tumor Microenvironment in Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma

Sylvie Job,<sup>1\*</sup> D

Gérard Pascal,<sup>2,3</sup>

**The inflamed subtype (11%) presented a massive T lymphocyte infiltration, an activation of inflammatory and immune checkpoint pathways, and was associated with the longest patient survival. Potentially treatable with checkpoint blockade immunotherapy**

Table 1 | Immune classifications of iCCA based on RNA-sequencing data

Subclass	Proportion of iCCAs (%)	Key features	Prognostic association (median OS, months)
<b>Classification based on immune gene expression signatures<sup>79</sup></b>			
Immune-desert	46-48	TME signatures with weak expression of immune and myofibroblast signatures	42
Immunogenomic	9-13	Signatures of recruited innate immune cells, adaptive immune cells and activated fibroblasts Activation of inflammatory pathways	73
Myeloid	13-19	Strong expression of monocyte-derived and/or other myeloid signatures Low expression of lymphoid signatures	25
Mesenchymal	22-28	Strong expression of fibroblast signatures	19

# Novel microenvironment-based classification of intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma with therapeutic implications

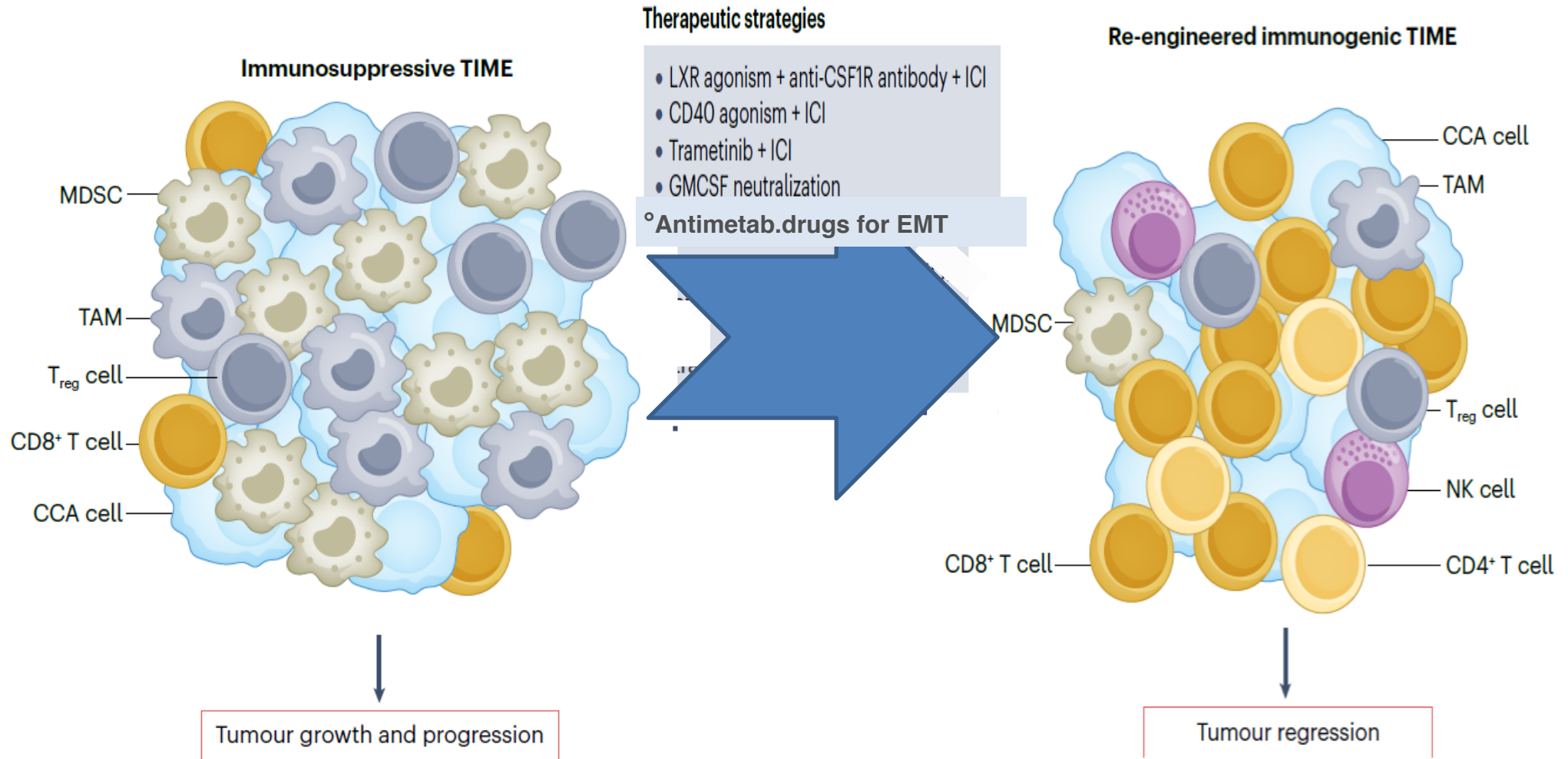
Miguel A Martin-Serrano,<sup>1</sup> Benjamin Kepecs,<sup>2</sup> Miguel Torres-Martin,<sup>3</sup> Emily R Brame,<sup>1,4</sup>

Subclass	Proportion of iCCAs (%)	Key features	
<b>Stroma, Tumour and Immune Microenvironment (STIM) classification<sup>57</sup></b>			
Immune classical	~10	High immune infiltration (63%) Moderate stromal infiltration (27%)	– <sup>a</sup>
Inflammatory stroma	~25	Moderate immune infiltration (43%) High stromal infiltration (50%) Abundant desmoplastic reaction and ECM deposition High stiffness Activated inflammatory stroma T cell exhaustion	–
Hepatic stem-like	~35	Low immune infiltration (28%) Low stromal infiltration (17%) Abundant tumour-promoting macrophages	–
Tumour classical	~10	Low immune infiltration (22%) Low stromal infiltration (12%) Activation of cell cycle pathways	–
Desert-like	~20	Low immune infiltration (22%) Low stromal infiltration (11%) Regulatory T cell enrichment	–

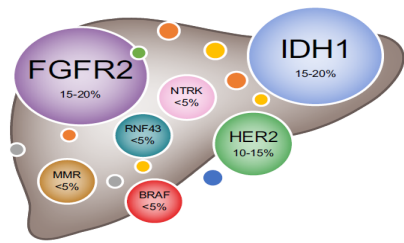
ECM, extracellular matrix; iCCA, intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma; OS, overall survival; TME, tumour microenvironment. <sup>a</sup>In a multivariate analysis, the STIM classes were not independent predictors of outcome.



# TARGETING THE TIME ! (Re-Engineering Immunogenic Time!)







## Take-home messages

- **Sub-classification of CCA (anatomical, radiologic, molecular) is a MUST !**
- The identification of **molecular subgroups** is expanding treatment options in selected sub-populations
  - FGFR2, IDH1, HER2, BRAF<sup>V600E</sup>, MSI-high, NTRK, etc.
- **Liquid-biopsy is promising .....in CCA !**
- **Co-mutational spectrum may act as a critical modifier of drug response.**
- **Re-Engineering Immunogenic tumor-microenvironment ..the next future ?!**
  - **Future efforts** are needed to explore:
    - Prognostic significance of molecular abnormalities
    - Impact of prior or post-study therapy
    - Primary and secondary resistance to target therapies
    - Rational therapeutic combinations

