

XXXIII CONGRESSO NAZIONALE AIRO

AIRO2023

BOLOGNA,
27-29 OTTOBRE 2023
PALAZZO DEI CONGRESSI

Radioterapia Oncologica: l'evoluzione al servizio dei pazienti



PAPER LAB 1

Speaker: R.M. D'Angelillo, G. Pappagallo

Valutazione delle evidenze disponibili

- Momento fondamentale (mai esclusivo!) nel processo di formazione della proposta terapeutica.
- Tre componenti fondamentali:
 - **rilevanza degli effetti (desiderabili e non desiderabili) osservati**
 - ✓ indicatori, significatività statistica Vs rilevanza clinica
 - **trasferibilità delle evidenze disponibili alla situazione presente**
 - ✓ aderenza al P.I.C.O.
 - **affidabilità (*confidence*) degli effetti osservati**
 - ✓ imprecisione, rischio di bias, eterogeneità

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Variabili di comune riscontro negli studi clinici e indicatori comparativi di effetto

Endpoint	Tipo di variabile statistica	Indicatore comparativo di effetto	
		relativo	assoluto
Attività (CR, PR, SD, ecc.) Tossicità (eventi avversi)	nominale	RR (relative risk) OR (odds ratio)	RD (risk difference)
Punteggi di qualità di vita	intervallare	-	MD (mean difference)
OS (overall survival) PFS (progression-free survival) DFS (disease-free survival) TTD (time to deterioration...)	tempo a evento	HR (hazard ratio) - - -	differenza tra mediane differenza tra stime al tempo t... RMST (restricted mean survival time) RD (risk difference)

Risk, Odds...

Misure di
effetto relativo

Risk

$$70 \text{ risposte} / 100 \text{ pazienti} = 0.70$$

Risk Ratio

$$\frac{70 \text{ risposte} / 100 \text{ pazienti (braccio A)}}{30 \text{ risposte} / 100 \text{ pazienti (braccio B)}} = \frac{0.70}{0.30} = 2.33$$

Odds

$$65 \text{ risposte} / 35 \text{ non risposte} = 1.86$$

Odds Ratio

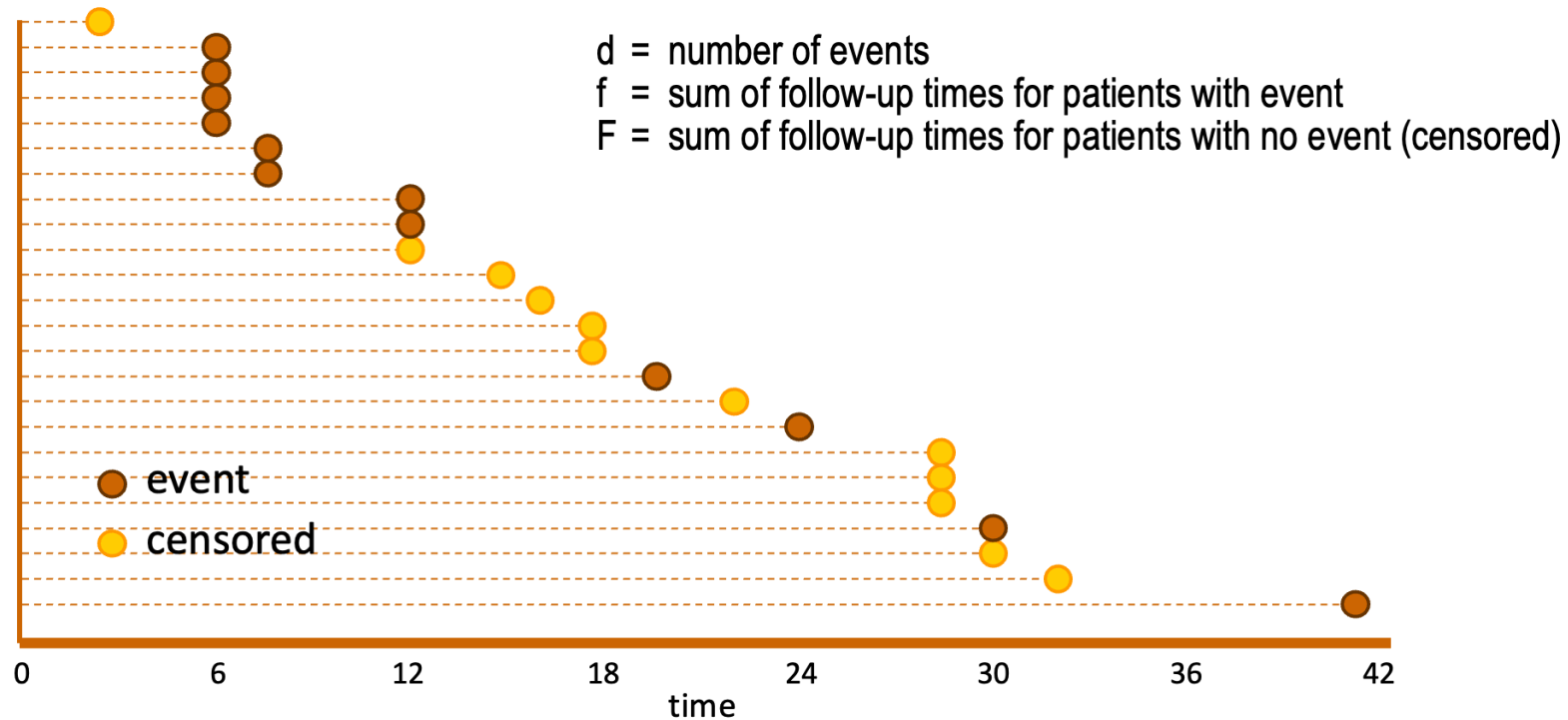
$$\frac{65 \text{ risposte} / 35 \text{ non risposte (braccio A)}}{25 \text{ risposte} / 75 \text{ non risposte (braccio A)}} = \frac{1.86}{0.33} = 5.63$$

Misura di
effetto assoluto

Risk Difference

$$0.70 - 0.30 = 0.40, \text{ ovvero: } 40 \text{ risposte } \textit{in pi\`u} \text{ ogni } 100 \text{ pazienti trattati}$$

... e hazard rate



$$d = 12$$

$$f = 6+6+6+6+8+8+12+12+20+24+30+42 = 180$$

$$F = 3+12+15+16+18+18+22+28+28+28+30+33 = 251$$

$$\text{hazard rate} = \frac{12}{431} = 0.0278$$

$$\text{Hazard Ratio} = \frac{\text{hazard rate trattamento sperimentale}}{\text{hazard rate trattamento di controllo}}$$

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Statistical Vs Clinical Significance

- **Statistical Significance**

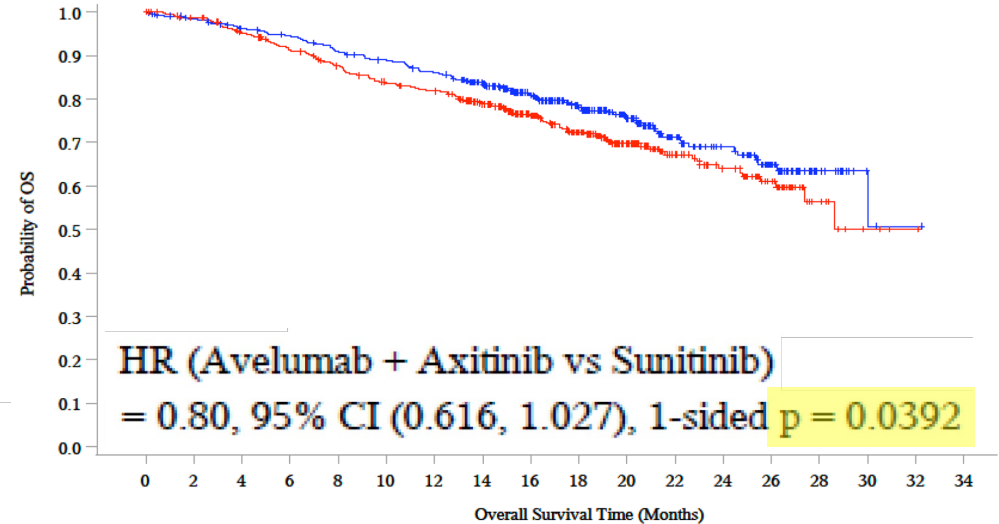
“Is an observed difference **likely to be real**”

- ✓ dependent on the magnitude of the number of patients NOT on whether the difference is meaningful for patients

- quando il valore di **p** risultante dal test di significatività è più piccolo del valore soglia (usualmente 5%), si considera lo studio (statisticamente) positivo;
- se il valore di **p** è maggiore del 5%, si considera lo studio (statisticamente) negativo

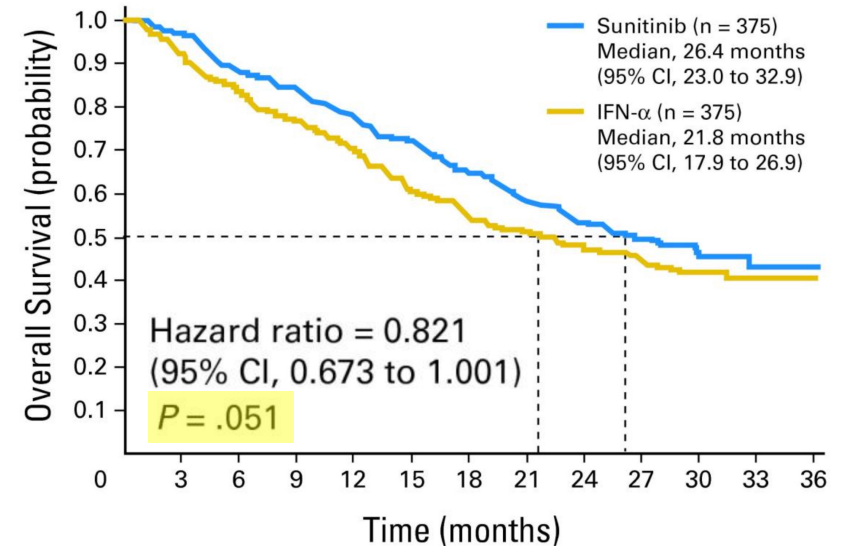
P-value is a measure of the probability that an observed difference could have occurred just by random chance.

- Don't base your conclusions solely on whether an association or effect was found to be "statistically significant".



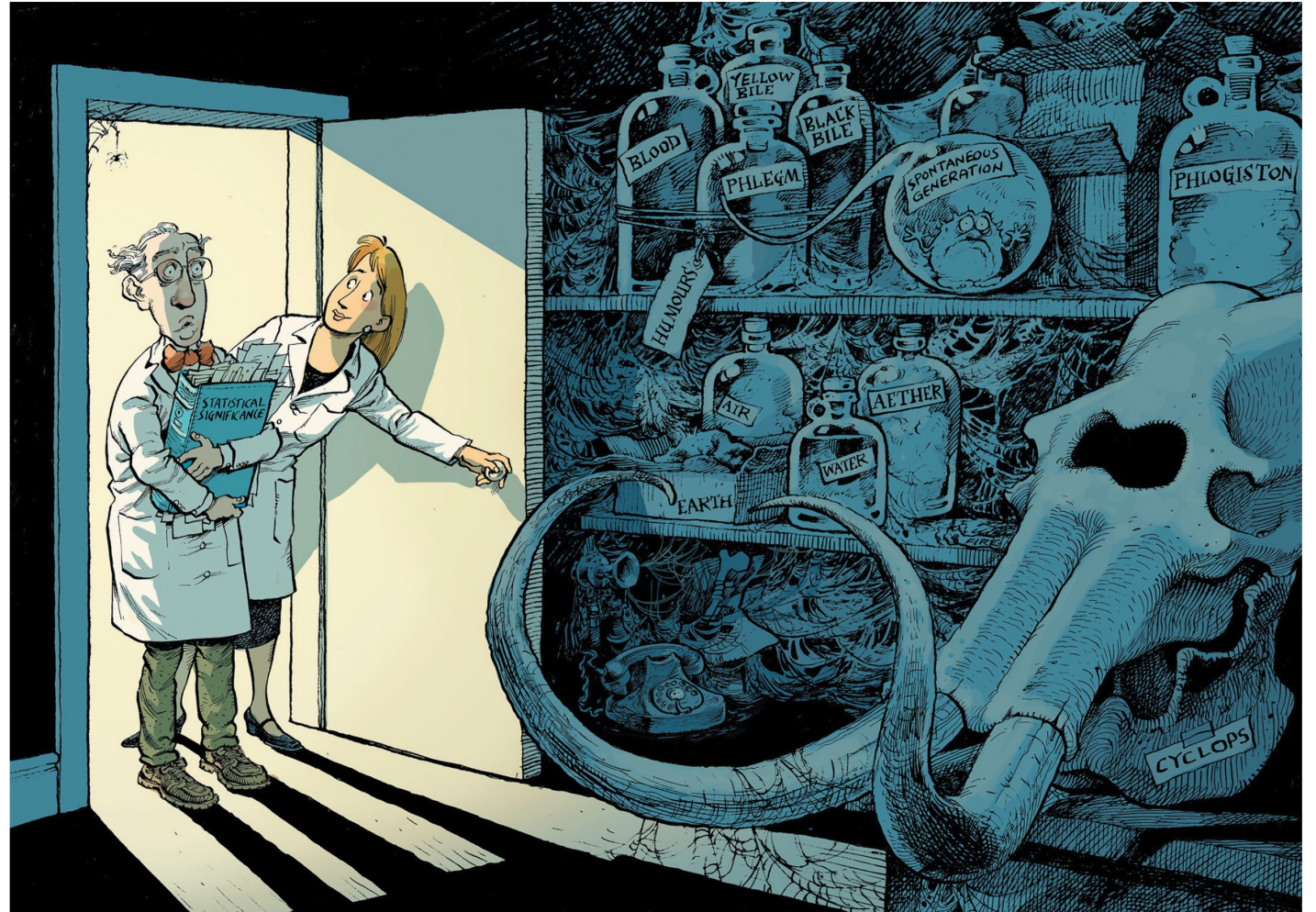
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- Don't believe that an association or effect is absent just because it was not statistically significant.



P-value is a measure of the probability that an observed difference could have occurred just by random chance.

- Don't base your conclusions solely on whether an association or effect was found to be "statistically significant".
- Don't believe that an association or effect is absent just because it was not statistically significant.
- **Don't conclude anything about scientific or practical importance based on statistical significance (or lack thereof).**



Retire statistical significance

Valentin Amrhein, Sander Greenland, Blake McShane and more than 800 signatories call for an end to hyped claims and the dismissal of possibly crucial effects.

Statistical Vs Clinical Significance

- **Statistical Significance**

“Is an observed difference likely to be real”

- ✓ dependent on the magnitude of the number of patients and/or the **magnitude of the difference** NOT on whether the difference is meaningful for patients

- **Clinical Significance**

“Is an observed difference likely **to be meaningful for patients**”

- ✓ dependent on the magnitude of the difference NOT the number of patients

Obiettivi di uno studio comparativo

Si ritiene che il trattamento in esame
“A” abbia le potenzialità per
migliorare il trattamento standard
“B” almeno di una **quantità Δ**

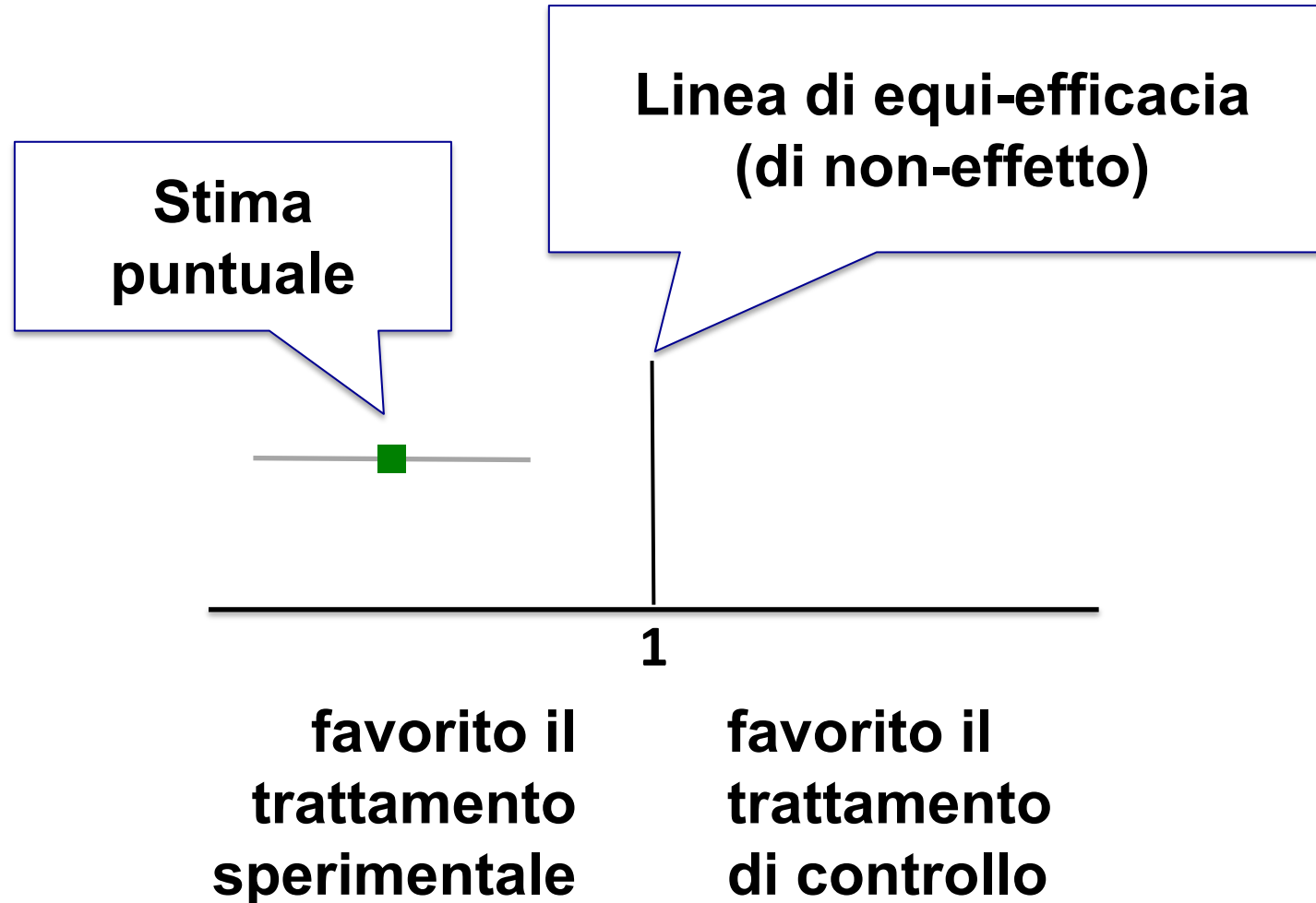
**studio di
superiorità**

**A > B di una
quantità Δ
di interesse
clinico**

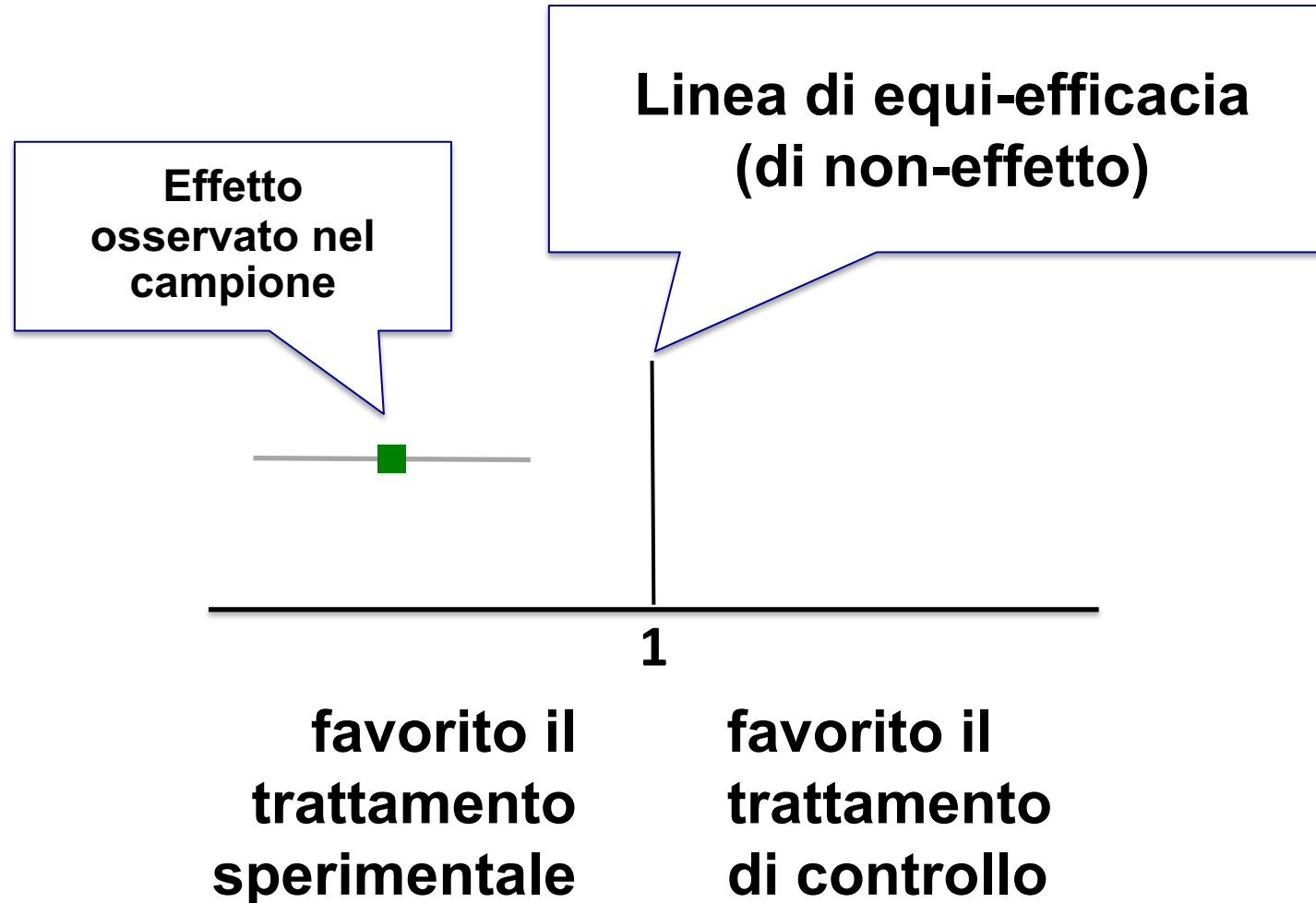
studio di
non inferiorità

A < B non oltre
una quantità M
di rilevanza
clinica

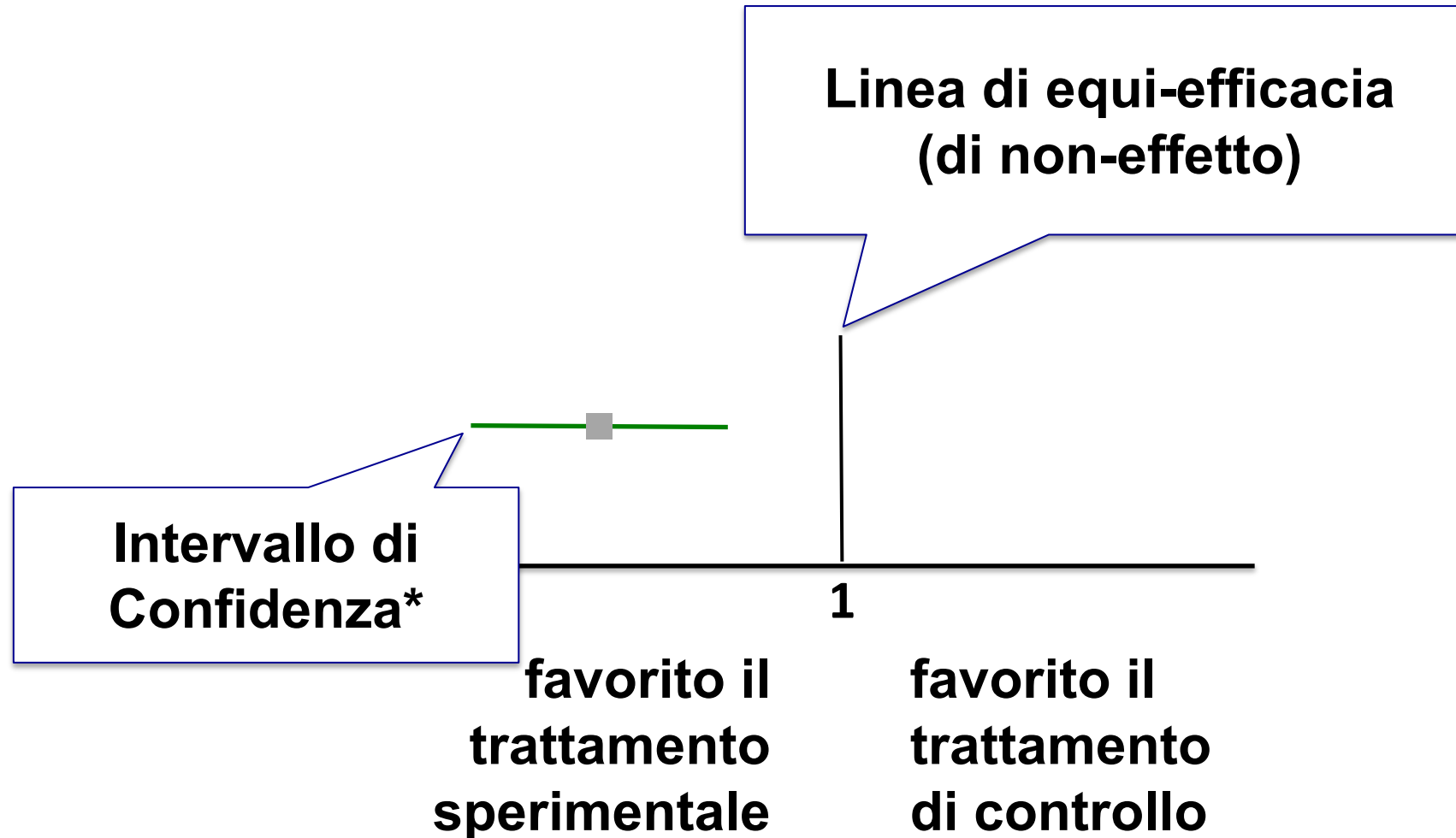
Interpretazione degli studi clinici mediante Forest Plot



Interpretazione degli studi clinici mediante Forest Plot

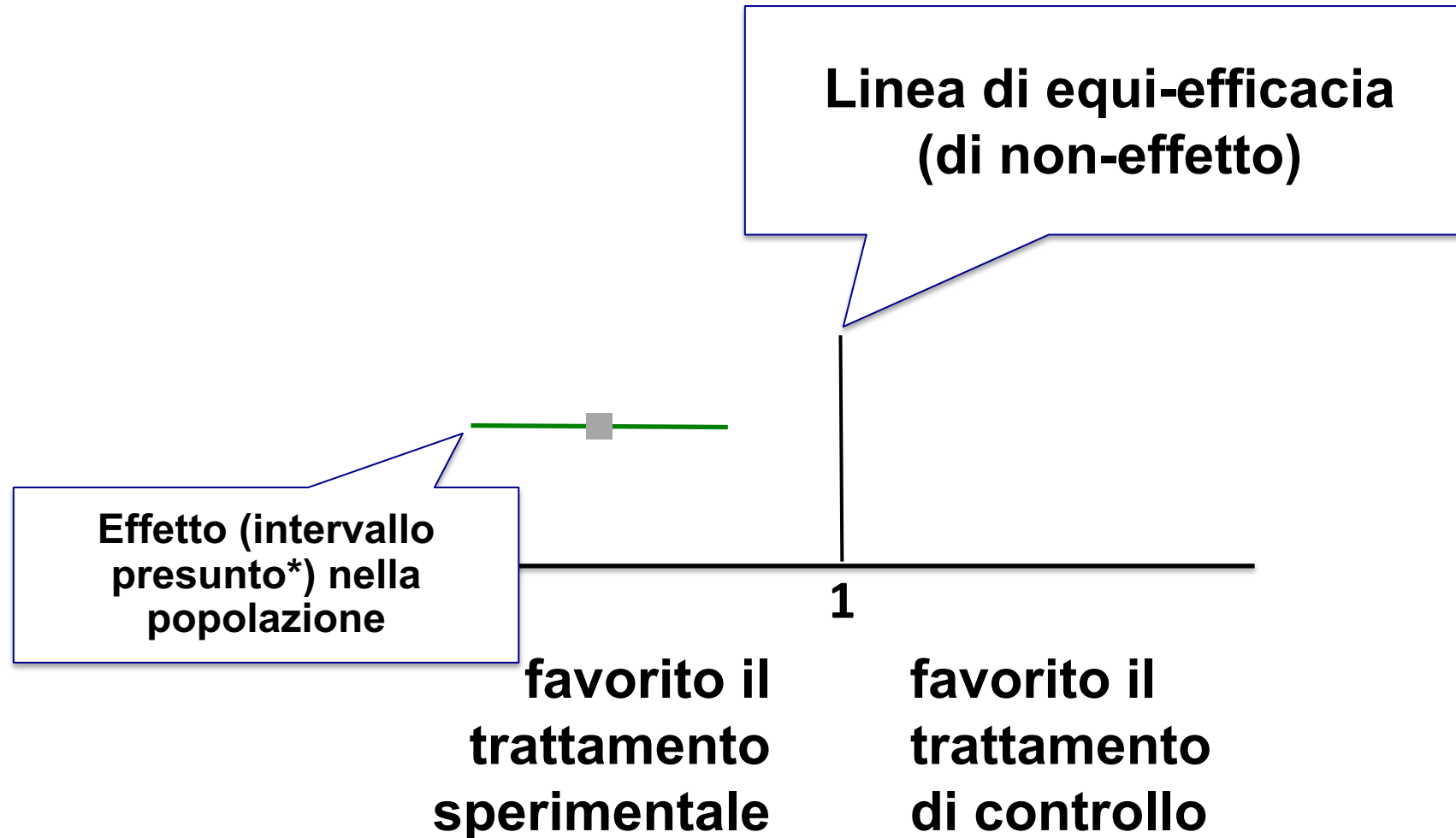


Interpretazione degli studi clinici mediante Forest Plot



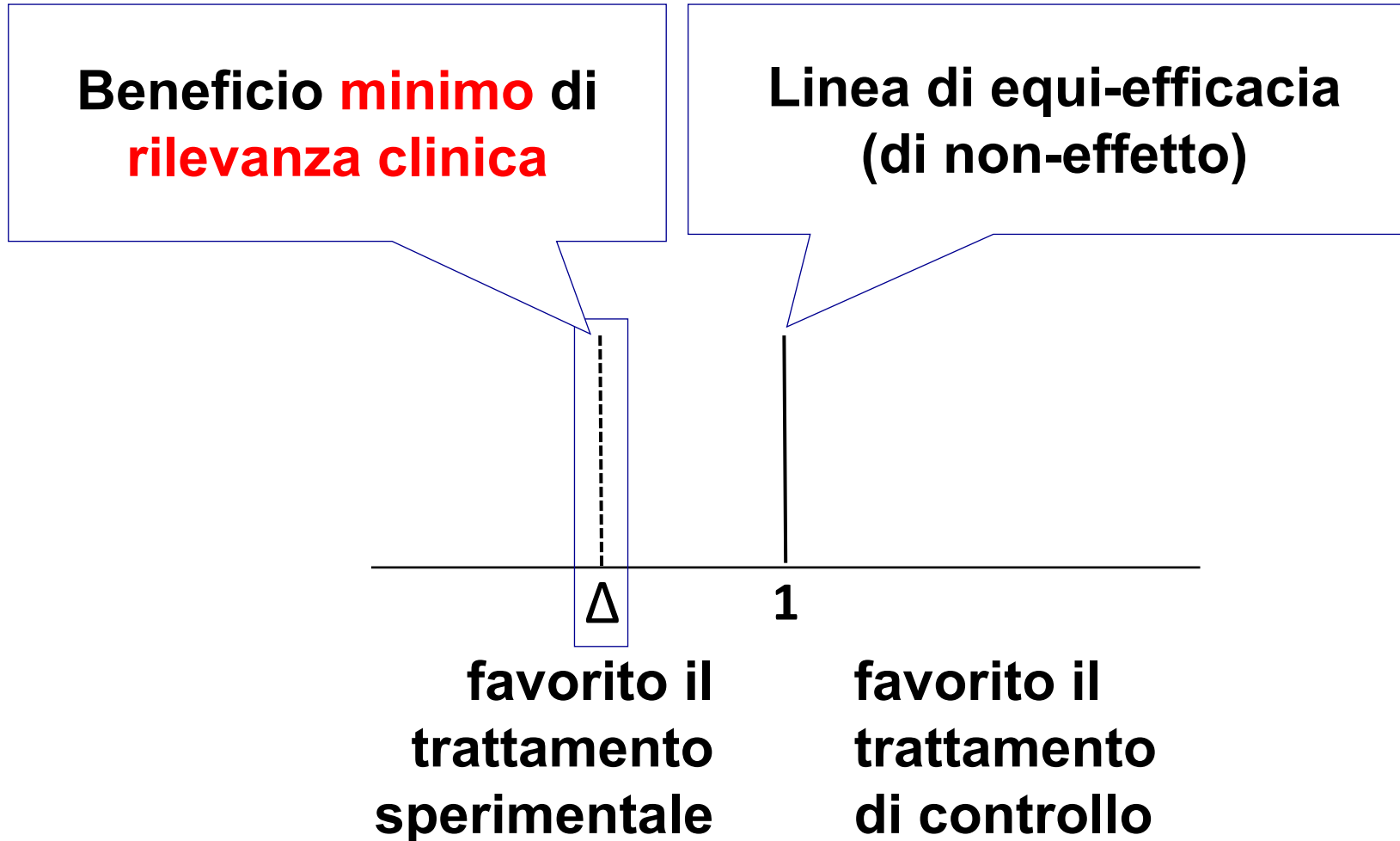
* convenzionalm. 95%

Interpretazione degli studi clinici mediante Forest Plot

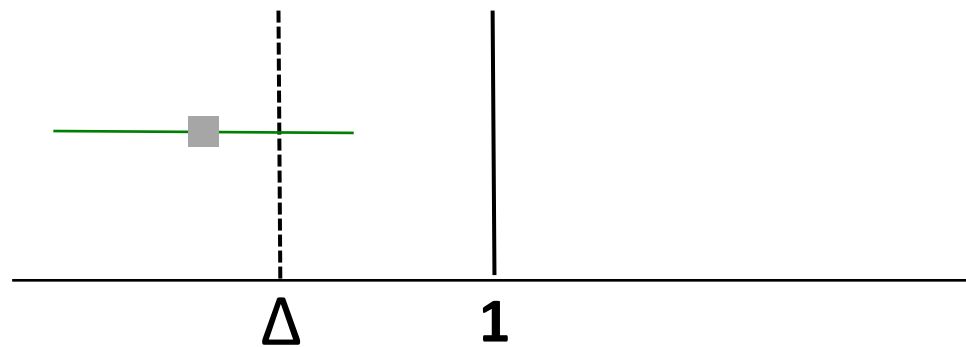


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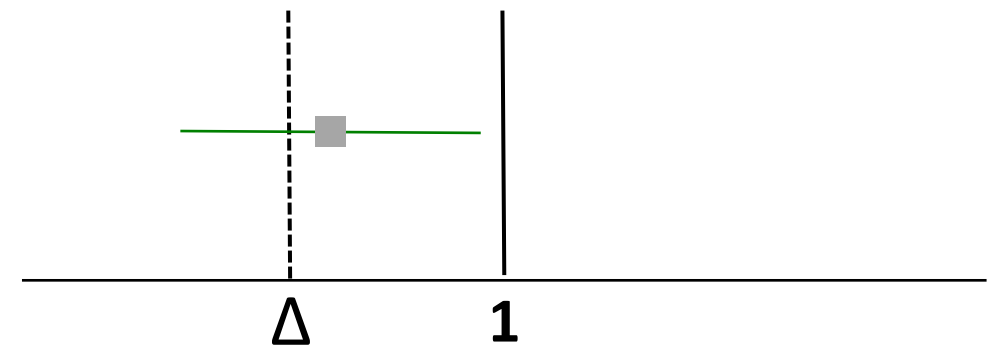


Interpretazione degli studi clinici mediante Forest Plot



**favorito il
trattamento
sperimentale**

**favorito il
trattamento
di controllo**



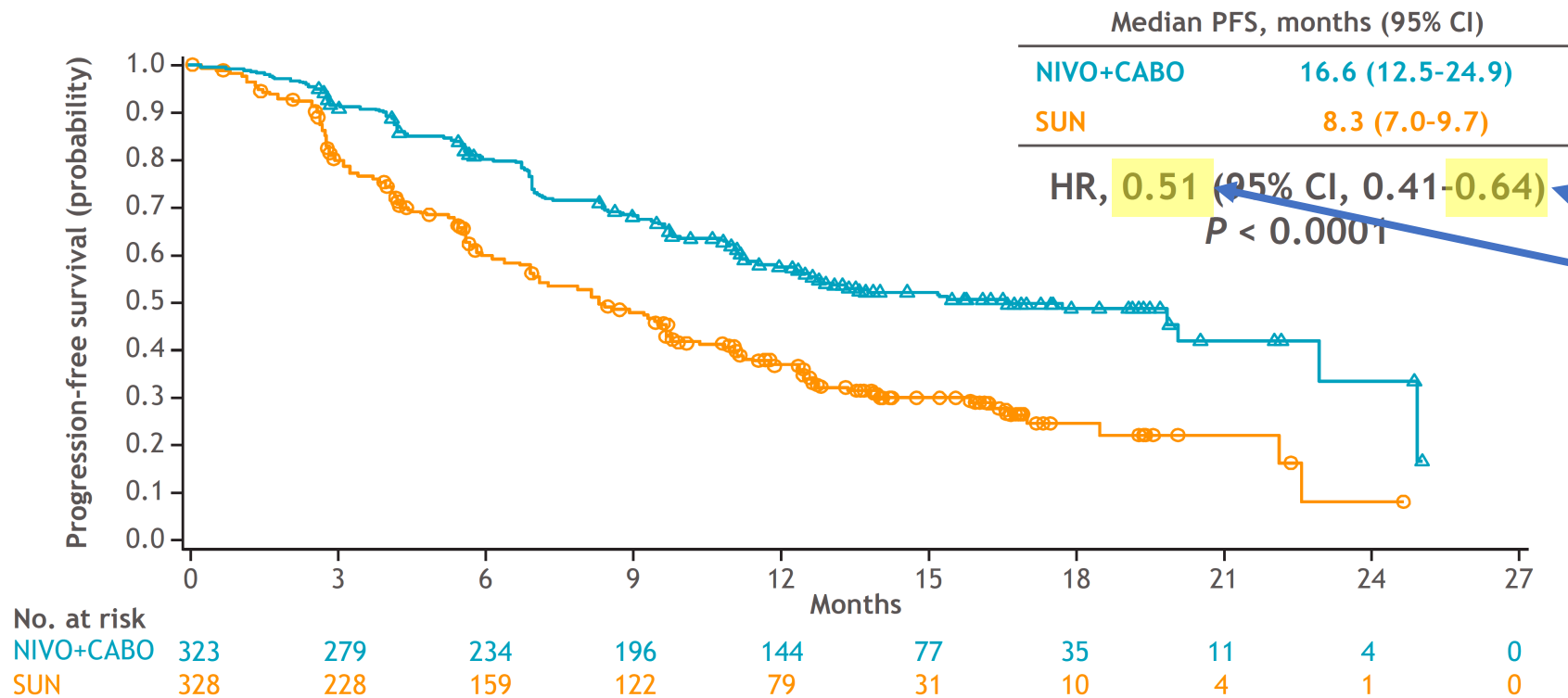
**favorito il
trattamento
sperimentale**

**favorito il
trattamento
di controllo**

Nivolumab plus cabozantinib versus sunitinib in first-line treatment for advanced renal cell carcinoma: first results from the randomized phase 3 CheckMate 9ER trial

Toni K. Choueiri,¹ Thomas Powles,² Mauricio Burotto,³ Maria T. Bourlon,⁴ Bogdan Zurawski,⁵ Víctor Manuel Oyervides Juárez,⁶ James J. Hsieh,⁷ Umberto Basso,⁸ Amishi Y. Shah,⁹ Cristina Suarez,¹⁰ Alketa Hamzaj,¹¹ Carlos Barrios,¹² Martin Richardet,¹³ David Pook,¹⁴ Yoshihiko Tomita,¹⁵ Bernard Escudier,¹⁶ Joshua Zhang,¹⁷ Burcin Simsek,¹⁷ Andrea B. Apolo,¹⁸ Robert J. Motzer¹⁹

Progression-free survival per BICR



It was estimated that ~350 progression or death events would result at least 95% power to detect a hazard ratio of 0.68

arativo

Vista la **migliore tollerabilità** del trattamento in esame “A”, si è disposti ad accettarne una eventuale minore efficacia rispetto al trattamento standard “B” purché questa non vada oltre un **margin** **M**

studio di superiorità

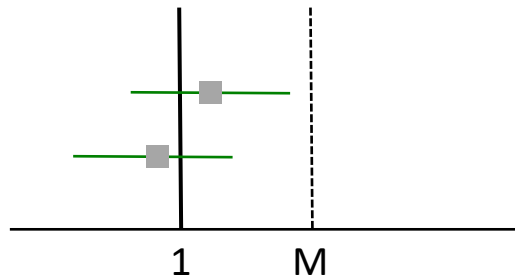
$A > B$ di una quantità Δ di interesse clinico

studio di non inferiorità

$A < B$ non oltre una quantità **M** di rilevanza clinica

Interpretazione clinica di uno Studio di Non-Inferiorità

(dato uno specifico M di interesse)

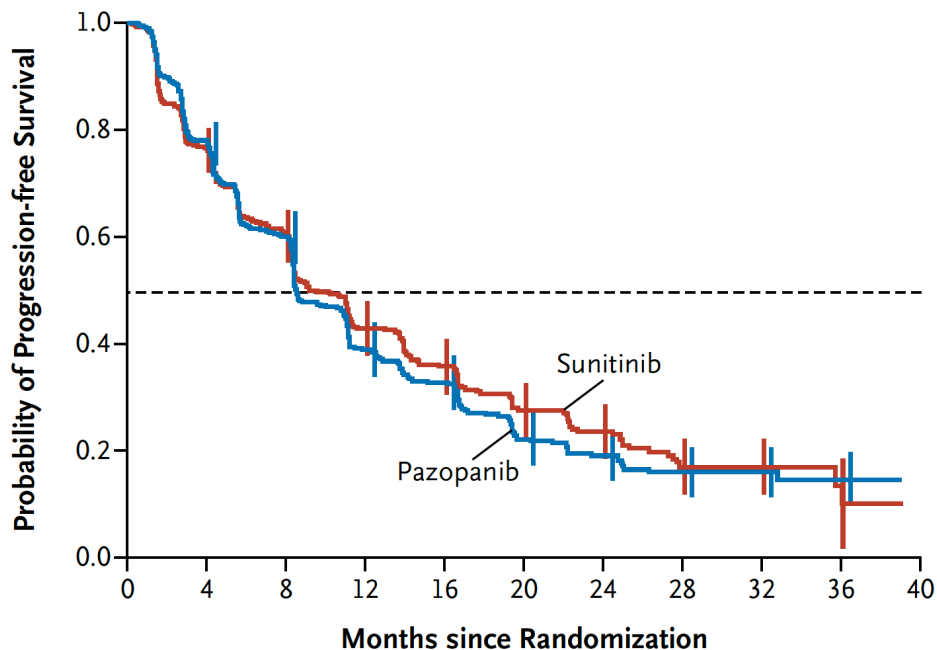


**Dimostrazione di
Non-Inferiorità**

Il limite superiore dell'intervallo di confidenza non interseca la linea di non-effetto ...indipendentemente da dove si colloca la stima puntuale dell'effetto

Pazopanib versus Sunitinib in Metastatic Renal-Cell Carcinoma

Robert J. Motzer, M.D., Thomas E. Hutson, D.O., David Cella, Ph.D., James Reeves, M.D., Robert Hawkins, M.B., B.S., Ph.D., Jun Guo, Ph.D., Paul Nathan, M.B., B.S., Ph.D., Michael Staehler, M.D., Paul de Souza, M.B., B.S., Ph.D., Jaime R. Merchan, M.D., Ekaterini Boleti, M.D., Ph.D., Kate Fife, M.D., Jie Jin, M.D., Robert Jones, Ph.D., Hirotugu Uemura, M.D., Ph.D., Ugo De Giorgi, M.D., Ulrika Harmenberg, M.D., Ph.D., Jinwan Wang, M.D., Cora N. Sternberg, M.D., Keith Deen, M.S., Lauren McCann, Ph.D., Michelle D. Hackshaw, Ph.D., Rocco Crescenzo, D.O., Lini N. Pandite, M.D., and Toni K. Choueiri, M.D.
N Engl J Med 2013;369:722-31



STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

We calculated that 631 disease-progression events were required for the study to have 80% power to reject the null hypothesis of an increased risk in the hazard of disease progression with pazopanib (hazard ratio, ≥ 1.25).

hazard ratio 1.05 (95% CI, 0.90 to 1.22)

Symptom Endpoints (Patient-Reported Outcomes)

- Blinding is often difficult
- Data are often missing or incomplete
- Clinical significance of small changes unknown
- Few validated instruments

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Table 2. Change in Health-Related Quality of Life during the First 6 Months for 927 Patients Treated in the Study.*

Instrument	Pazopanib	Sunitinib	Difference in Mean Change from Baseline Score with Pazopanib vs. Sunitinib [‡]	P Value [§]	Drug Favored According to Significant Difference [¶]	Effect Size
	<i>number of patients</i>					
FACIT-F**	377	403	2.32 ?	<0.001	Pazopanib	0.24
FKSI-19**						
Treatment side effects	351	382	0.31	0.03	Pazopanib	0.14
Disease-related physical symptoms	378	407	0.78	0.03	Pazopanib	0.13
Disease-related emotional symptoms	370	402	-0.05	0.41	Neither	-0.04
Functional well-being	378	403	0.31	0.10	Neither	0.09
Total score	377	408	1.41	0.02	Pazopanib	0.14

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FACIT-F**	377	403	2.32	<0.001	Pazopanib	0.24
FKSI-19**						
Treatment side effects	3	3		0.03	Pazopanib	0.14
Disease-related physical symptoms	3	3		0.03	Pazopanib	0.13
Disease-related emotional symptoms	3	3		0.41	Neither	-0.04
Functional well-being	378	403	0.31	0.10	Neither	0.09
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Rilevanza dell'effetto da riportare alla M.I.D. specifica

Minimal (Clinical) Interesting Difference (MID / MCID)

the smallest difference in score in the domain of interest which patients perceive as beneficial and which would mandate, in the absence of troublesome side effects and excessive cost, a change in the patient's management

- it's easily understood by clinicians as a key concept in the interpretability of PRO scores;
- will inform judgments about the success-fulness of an intervention;

The Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy (FACIT) Measurement System: properties, applications, and interpretation

Kimberly Webster, David Cella* and Kathleen Yost

Health and Quality of Life Outcomes 2003, 1:79

Table 1: Minimally important differences for select FACIT scales

Instrument	Scale/Subscale	MID (points)	Reference
FACT-G	PWB	2–3	[28]
	SWB	NA	
		EWB	2*
	FWB	2–3	[28]
	Total FACT-G	3–7	[27,28,30,31]
FACT-Anemia	Fatigue Subscale	3–4	[27,31]
	TOI-Fatigue	5	[27]
	TOI-Anemia	6	
	Total FACT-Anemia	7	
FACT-Breast	Breast cancer subscale	2–3	[30]
	TOI-Breast	5–6	
	Total FACT-Breast	7–8	
FACT-Colorectal	Colorectal cancer subscale	2–3	[32]
	TOI-Colorectal	4–6	
	Total FACT-Colorectal	5–8	
FACT-Head & Neck	Total FACT-Head & Neck	6–12	[33]
FACT-Lung	Lung cancer subscale	2–3	[34]
	TOI-Lung	5–6	

*This MID should be considered tentative as it may be revised based on future research.

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Direct evidence...

...comes from research that:

- is conducted in the **Population** that we are providing answers for;
- includes the **Intervention** that we are interested in...
- ...and compares these interventions with the appropriate **Alternatives**;
- measures the **Outcomes** in which we are interested

Un trial clinico non dovrebbe essere *letto così com'è*, ma avendo come riferimento uno specifico quesito clinico.

P Considering studies for this review
Types of participants
Randomised controlled trials were included with no time or language restrictions. Adults engaged in normal daily activities, including those suffering from drowsiness as defined by the trial authors, including described symptoms of drowsiness, reduced alertness, fatigue or lowered mood. Participants could be regular users of caffeine or non-users. Participants must have been in a normal state of arousal, including those suffering from symptoms such as fatigue, decreased alertness or increased stress. Participants under sleep-deprivation or taking other stimulants were excluded. Participants with any psychiatric disorder, chronic fatigue or postviral syndrome were excluded.

I Types of interventions
Any preparation or dose of caffeine was considered, including coffee, tea, chocolate; intravenous or pill preparations, e.g. instant, brewed, in single or multiple doses, and at any time of the day. Comparisons could include no intervention; a placebo intervention such as decaffeinated coffee; other interventions such as sleep, meditation, bright lights, or face washing.

C Types of outcome measures
Primary outcomes
The primary outcome was drowsiness (including any measure of fatigue, tiredness, sleepiness or lethargy). Outcomes could be self-reported or objectively measured at least 30 minutes after the intervention.

O Secondary outcomes
Secondary outcomes (including any measure of irritability, stress, depression)
• Alertness
• Cognitive performance (including attention, reaction time or accuracy)
• Adverse outcomes (including headaches, anxiety, sleep disturbance)
• Gastrointestinal irritation, heart palpitations, or psychotropic drug use
• Self-reported or objectively measured at least 30 minutes after the intervention.

• Population

Used to first develop the health care question

• Intervention

• Comparison

Used to determine if the evidence found directly answers the health care question

• Outcomes

High-dose radiotherapy with short-term or long-term androgen deprivation in localised prostate cancer (DART01/05 GICOR): a randomised, controlled, phase 3 trial

Almudena Zapatero, Araceli Guerrero, Xavier Maldonado, Ana Alvarez, Carmen Gonzalez San Segundo, Maria Angeles Cabeza Rodríguez, Victor Macias, Agustí Pedro Olive, Francesc Casas, Ana Boladeras, Carmen Martín de Vidales, Maria Luisa Vazquez de la Torre, Salvador Villà, Aitor Perez de la Haza, Felipe A Calvo

Lancet Oncol 2015; 16: 320–27

Findings Between Nov 7, 2005, and Dec 20, 2010, 178 patients were randomly assigned to receive short-term androgen deprivation and 177 to receive long-term androgen deprivation. After a median follow-up of 63 months (IQR 50–82), 5-year biochemical disease-free survival was significantly better among patients receiving long-term androgen deprivation than among those receiving short-term treatment (90% [95% CI 87–92] vs 81% [78–85]; hazard ratio [HR] 1.88 [95% CI 1.12–3.15]; $p=0.01$). 5-year overall survival (95% [95% CI 93–97] vs 86% [83–89]; HR 2.48 [95% CI 1.31–4.68]; $p=0.009$) and 5-year metastasis-free survival (94% [95% CI 92–96] vs 83% [80–86]; HR 2.31 [95% CI 1.23–3.85]; $p=0.01$) were also significantly better in the long-term androgen deprivation group than in the short-term androgen deprivation group.

P

- Population

clinical stage T2N0M0 prostate adenocarcinoma, Gleason 7, PSA 20 ng/ml

I

- Intervention

long-term androgen deprivation (LTAD)

C

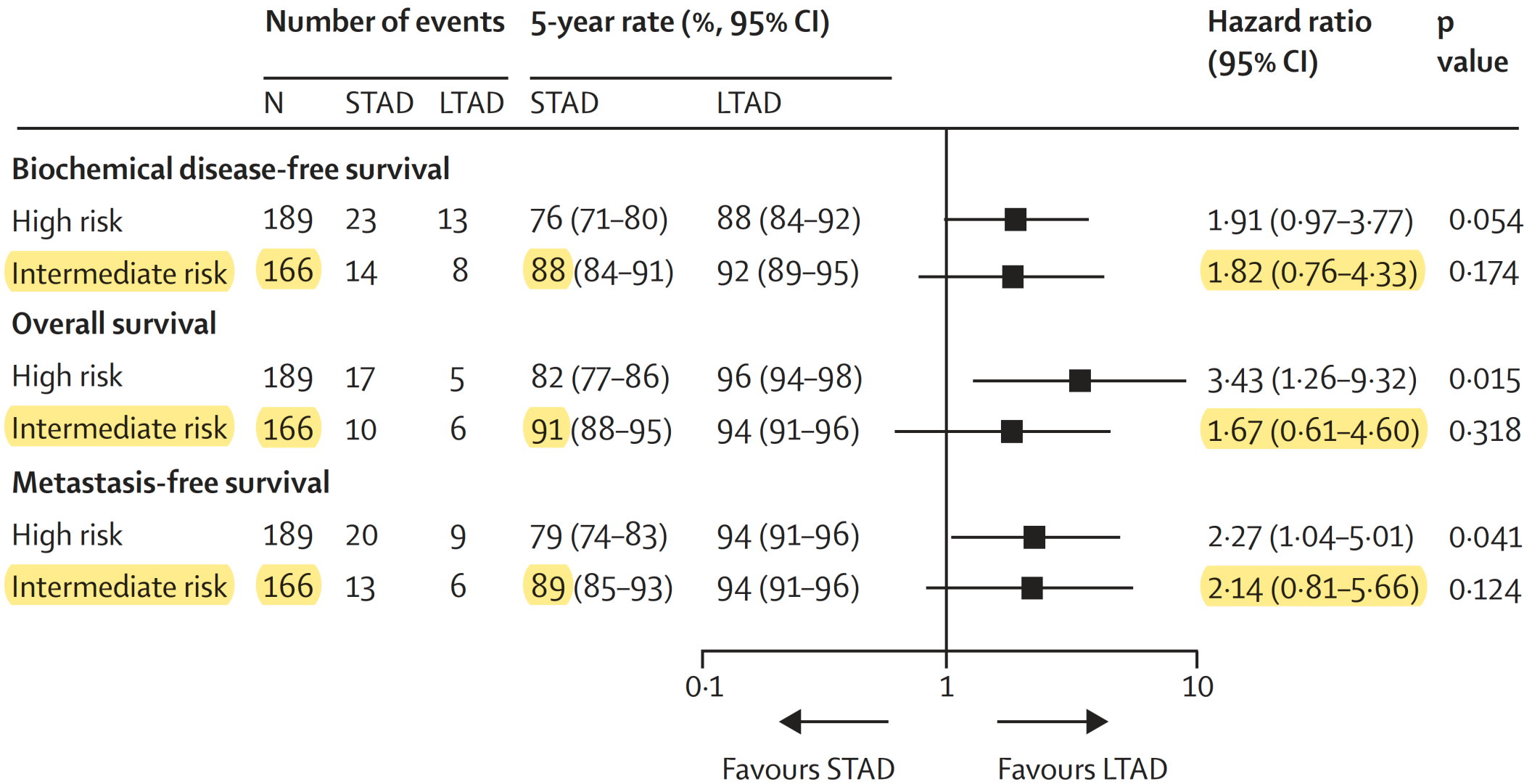
- Comparison

short-term androgen deprivation (STAD)

O

- Outcomes

OS, MFS, bDFS



Lancet Oncol 2015; 16: 320-27

Procedures

Radiotherapy was administered with three-dimensional conformal radiotherapy techniques done with a six-field isocentric beam setup based on a CT scan. The target volume included the prostate and the seminal vesicles. In view of the controversy regarding the role of prophylactic pelvic radiotherapy and the absence of definitive data, elective pelvic radiotherapy was left to the criteria of each participating centre.

Outcomes

The primary endpoint was biochemical disease-free survival, defined as the time from randomisation to progression of biochemical disease, or death from any cause, or censoring at the date of the last contact. The RTOG-ASTRO Phoenix Consensus Conference definition²⁰ (an increase in the PSA concentration of ≥ 2 ng/mL above the nadir) was used to define biochemical failure. Secondary endpoints included overall survival, distant metastasis-free survival, and cause-specific survival. Overall survival was defined as the time from

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Caso Vs Bias

CASO



Errore Random



Risultati Imprecisi

**Errore in diminuzione con
l'aumentare delle dimensioni
del campione**

BIAS



Errore Sistemático



Risultati Inesatti

**Errore non influenzato dalle
dimensioni del campione**

GRADE guidelines 6. Rating the quality of evidence—imprecision

Gordon H. Guyatt^{a,b,*}, Andrew D. Oxman^c, Regina Kunz^{d,e}, Jan Brozek^a, Pablo Alonso-Coello^f, David Rind^g, PJ Devereaux^a, Victor M. Montori^h, Bo Freyschussⁱ, Gunn Vist^c, Roman Jaeschke^b, John W. Williams Jr.^j, Mohammad Hassan Murad^h, David Sinclair^k, Yngve Falck-Ytter^l, Joerg Meerpohl^{m,n}, Craig Whittington^o, Kristian Thorlund^a, Jeff Andrews^p, Holger J. Schünemann^{a,b}

Key Points

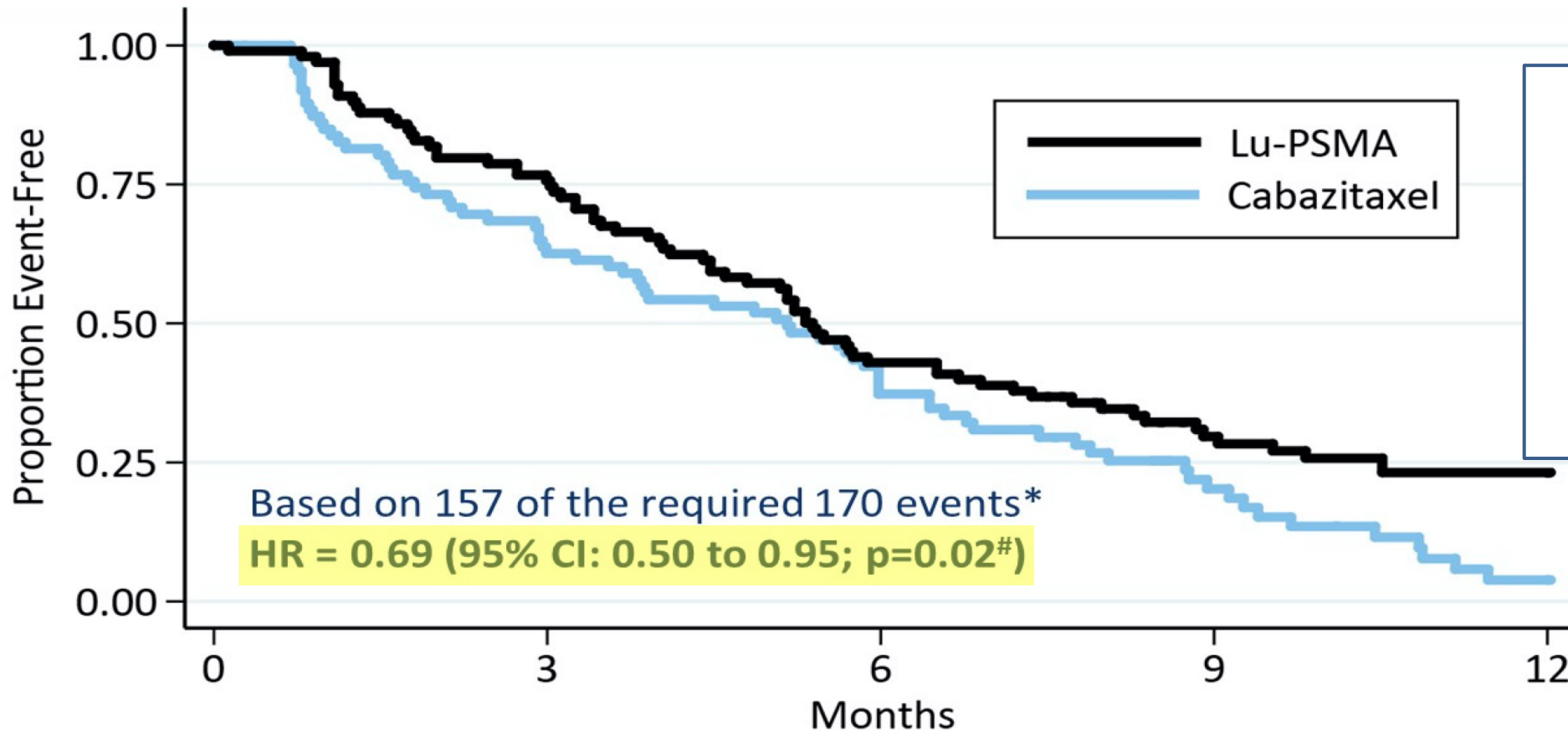
- GRADE's primary criterion for judging precision is to focus on the 95% confidence interval (CI) around the difference in effect between intervention and control for each outcome.
- In general, the CIs to consider are those around the absolute, rather than the relative effect.
- If a recommendation or clinical course of action would differ if the upper versus the lower boundary of the CI represented the truth, consider the rating down for imprecision.

A randomised phase II trial of ¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA-617 (Lu-PSMA) theranostic versus cabazitaxel in metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) progressing after docetaxel: Initial results

TheraP (ANZUP 1603)

Michael Hofman, Louise Emmett, Shahneen Sandhu, Amir Iravani, Anthony Joshua, Jeffrey Goh, David Pattison, Hsiang Tan, Ian Kirkwood, Siobhan Ng, Roslyn Francis, Craig Gedyre, Natalie Rutherford, Alison Zhang, Margaret McJannett, Martin Stockler, John Violet, Scott Williams, Andrew Martin, Ian Davis

- median follow-up: 13.3 months
- baseline risk: 95.1%
- absolute risk: 8 events fewer (95%CI: 1 fewer to 17 fewer)



95%CI of absolute effect consistent with opposite interpretations

Caso Vs Bias

CASO



Errore Random



Risultati Imprecisi

Errore in diminuzione con
l'aumentare delle dimensioni
del campione

BIAS



Errore Sistemático



Risultati Inesatti

Errore non influenzato dalle
dimensioni del campione

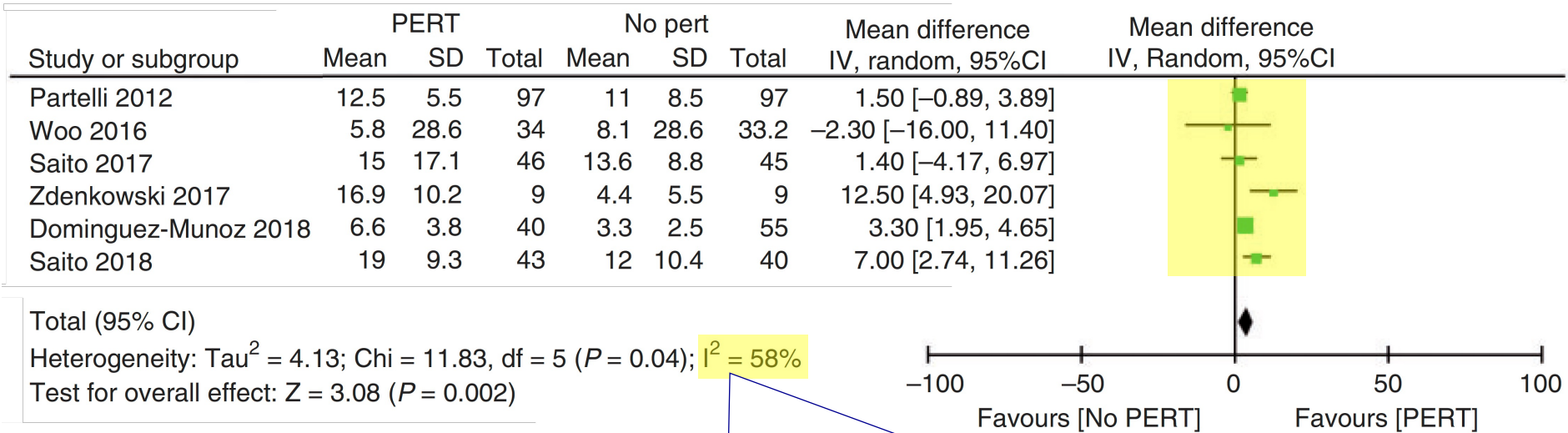
I *bias* fondamentali... in pillole

- selezione dei soggetti da assegnare a uno specifico trattamento, rimozione di alcuni pazienti dall'analisi, analisi non preordinata su sottogruppi di pazienti (***selection bias***)
rimedio: randomizzazione (e stratificazione)
- conoscenza da parte del paziente/medico/valutatore del trattamento in atto (***performance/detection bias***)
rimedio: mascheramento
- perdita dei pazienti alla valutazione di uno specifico outcome di interesse (***attrition bias***)
rimedio: disegno di studio e procedure di follow-up
- selezione dei risultati da comunicare a mezzo presentazione/pubblicazione (***reporting bias***)
rimedio: database degli studi clinici in corso

Valutazione delle evidenze disponibili

- Momento fondamentale (mai esclusivo!) nel processo di formazione della proposta terapeutica.
- Tre componenti fondamentali:
 - rilevanza degli effetti (desiderabili e non desiderabili) osservati
 - ✓ significatività statistica Vs rilevanza clinica
 - trasferibilità delle evidenze disponibili alla situazione presente
 - ✓ aderenza al P.I.C.O.
 - **affidabilità (*confidence*) degli effetti osservati**
 - ✓ imprecisione, rischio di bias, **eterogeneità**

Heterogeneity



- ✓ describes the percentage of the variability in effect estimates that is due to heterogeneity rather than sampling error (chance)
- ✓ 50% threshold (50%-75% moderate heterogeneity, 75%-100% considerable heterogeneity)