

XXXII CONGRESSO NAZIONALE AIRO
XXXIII CONGRESSO NAZIONALE AIRB
XII CONGRESSO NAZIONALE AIRO GIOVANI

AIRO2022

Radioterapia di precisione per un'oncologia innovativa e sostenibile

BOLOGNA, 25-27 NOVEMBRE
PALAZZO DEI CONGRESSI



La certezza delle Prove... (qualità delle evidenze)

Giovanni Pappagallo



Scuola di Metodologia della Ricerca Clinica
IRCCS "Sacro Cuore – Don Calabria"
Negrar di Valpolicella VR



“C’è un bias” ...

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

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

Il Bias

Distorsione dell'effetto di un intervento diagnostico-terapeutico per effetto di una componente estranea al caso:

- **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)

- perdita di pazienti alla valutazione (*attrition bias*)

rimedio: mascheramento

- conoscenza da parte del paziente/medico/valutatore del trattamento in atto (*performance/detection bias*)

rimedio: mascheramento

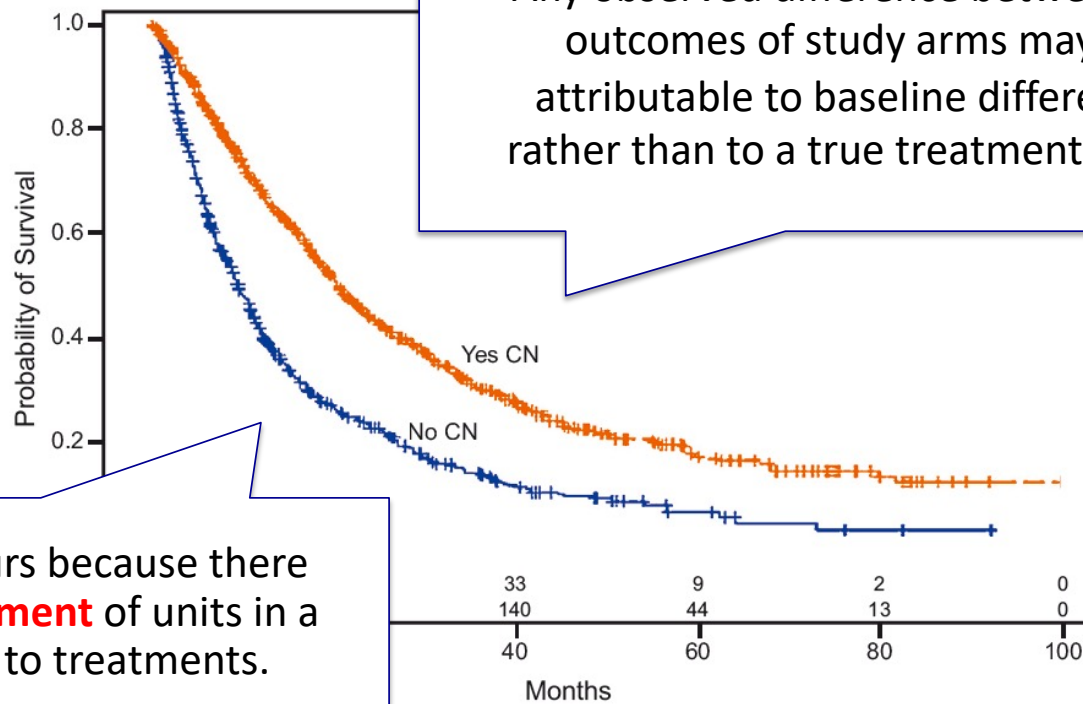
- selezione dei risultati da comunicare a mezzo presentazione/pubblicazione (*reporting bias*)

rimedio: database degli studi clinici in corso

Cytoreductive Nephrectomy in Patients with Synchronous Metastases from Renal Cell Carcinoma: Results from the International Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium

Daniel Y.C. Heng^{a,*†}, J. Connor Wells^{a,†}, Brian I. Rini^b, Benoit Beuselinck^c, Jae-Lyun Lee^d, Jennifer J. Knox^e, Georg A. Bjarnason^f, Sumanta Kumar Pal^g, Christian K. Kollmannsberger^h, Takeshi Yuasaⁱ, Sandy Srinivas^j, Frede Donskov^k, Aristotelis Bamias^l, Lori A. Wood^m, D. Scott Ernstⁿ, Neeraj Agarwal^o, Ulka N. Vaishampayan^p, Sun Young Rha^q, Jenny J. Kim^r, Toni K. Choueiri^s

EUROPEAN UROLOGY 66 (2014) 7



A possible **bias** occurs because there is **no random assignment** of units in a target population to treatments.

Reconciling the Use of Cytoreductive Nephrectomy in the Targeted Therapy Era

*Stephen H. Culp**

EUROPEAN UROLOGY 66 (2014) 711–712

Although retrospective, the results of this study are strengthened by the number of patients examined, inclusion of patients from institutions around the world, and lack of patient exclusion based on RCC histology or type of targeted agent.



Phase III Trial of Vinflunine Plus Best Supportive Care
 Compared With Best Supportive Care Alone After a
 Platinum-Containing Regimen in Patients With Advanced
 Transitional Cell Carcinoma of the Urothelial Tract

Joaquim Bellmunt, Christine Théodore, Tomasz Demkov, Boris Komyakov, Lisa Sengelov, Gedské Daugaard,
 Armelle Caty, Joan Carles, Agnieszka Jagiello-Gruszfeld, Oleg Karyakin, François-Michel Delgado,
 Patrick Hurteloup, Eric Winquist, Nassim Morsli, Yacine Salhi, Stéphane Culine, and Hans von der Maase

J Clin Oncol 27:4454-4461. © 2009

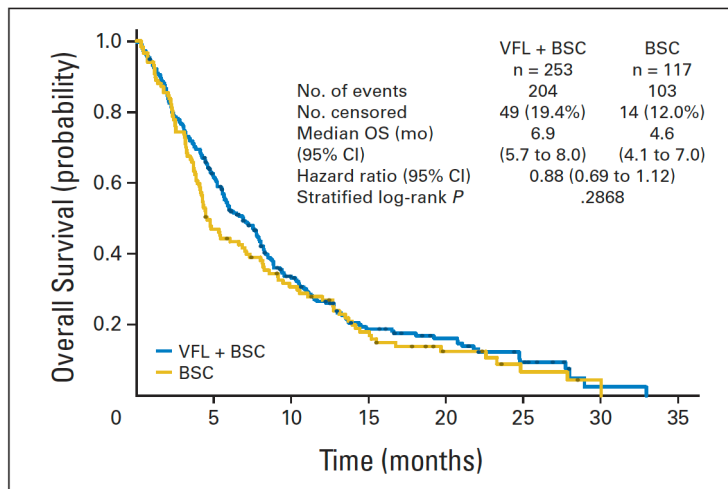


Fig 2. Overall survival (OS) in the intent-to-treat population (n = 370). VFL, vinflunine; BSC, best supportive care.

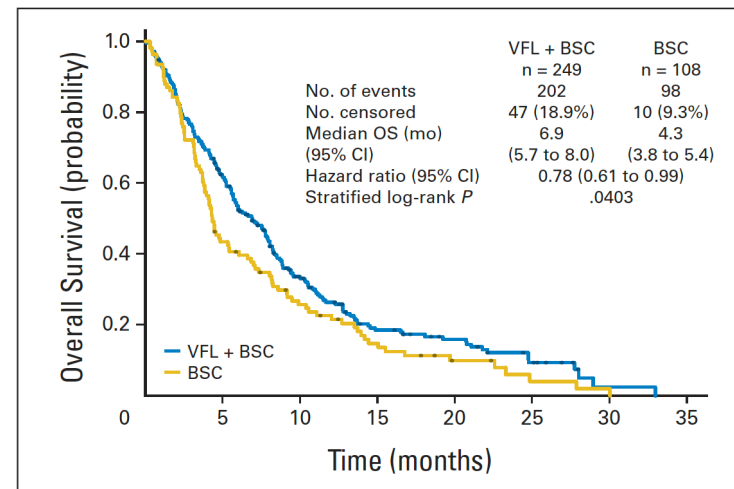


Fig 3. Overall survival (OS) in the eligible population (n = 357; 96.5% of intent-to-treat population). VFL, vinflunine; BSC, best supportive care.

Although the objective of the median 2-month survival advantage favoring VFL BSC versus BSC was achieved (6.9 v 4.6 months, respectively), this difference was not statistically significant (P .287; Fig 2).

In the **eligible population** (Fig 3), the objective of achieving a 2-month survival difference in OS between the VFLBSC and BSC arms was met (6.9 v 4.3 months, respectively), and this difference is statistically significant (P. 040).

Il Bias

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rimedio: randomizzazione (e stratificazione)
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Can trial quality be reliably assessed from published reports of cancer trials: evaluation of risk of bias assessments in systematic reviews

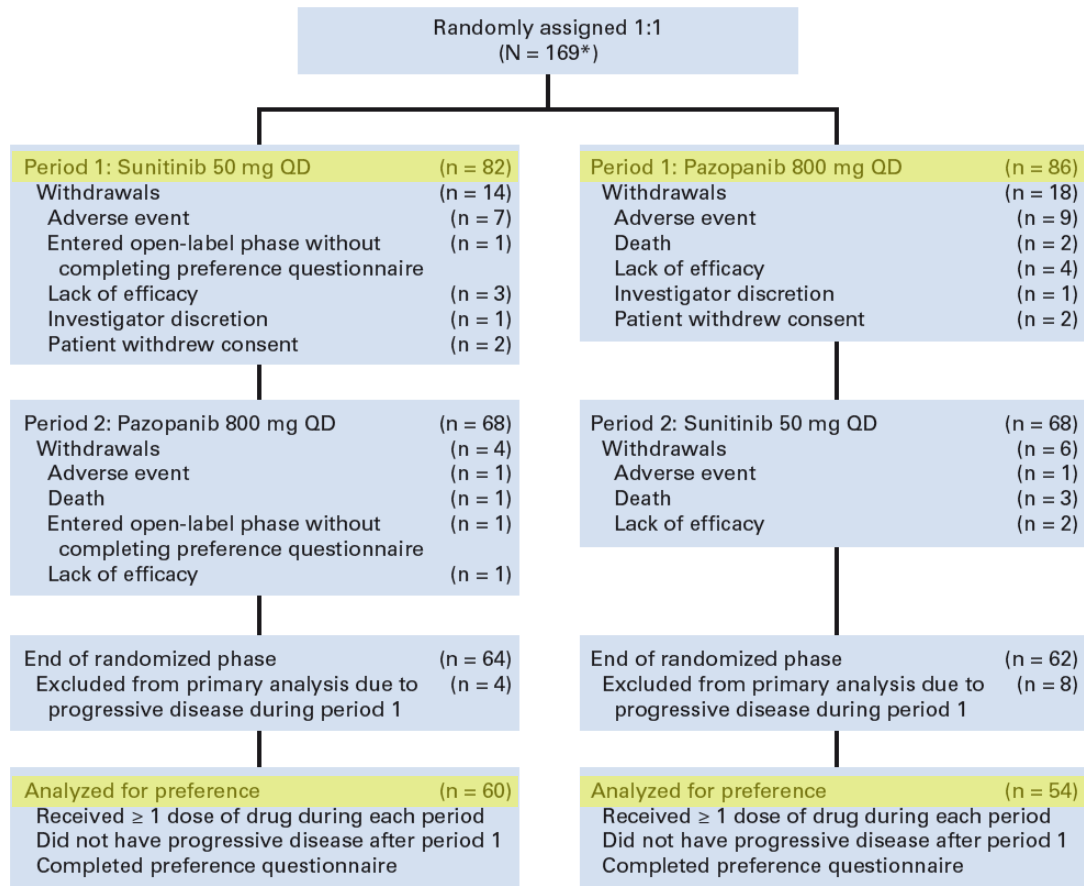
Claire L Vale *senior research scientist*, Jayne F Tierney *senior research scientist*, Sarah Burdett *senior research scientist*

BMJ 2013;346:f1798 doi: 10.1136/bmj.f1798 (Published 22 April 2013)

To evaluate attrition bias, on the basis of whether the outcome data were incomplete or not, the authors had to establish a rule of thumb to ensure consistency between assessments. Trials were assessed as **low risk of bias if less than 10% of patients were excluded overall and if similar proportions were excluded from both arms**. Trials were judged as **high risk of bias if there were considerable imbalances between arms or if more than 10% of randomised patients were excluded from the analysis**.

PISCES Study
 Randomized, Controlled, Double-Blind, Cross-Over Trial
 Assessing Treatment Preference for Pazopanib Versus
 Sunitinib in Patients With Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma:
 PISCES Study

Bernard Escudier, Camillo Porta, Petri Bono, Thomas Powles, Tim Eisen, Cora N. Sternberg,
 Jürgen E. Gschwend, Ugo De Giorgi, Omi Parikh, Robert Hawkins, Emmanuel Sevin, Sylvie Négrier,
 Sadiya Khan, Jose Diaz, Suman Reddy, Faisal Mehmud, and David Cella
 J Clin Oncol 32. © 2014 by American Society of Clinical Oncology

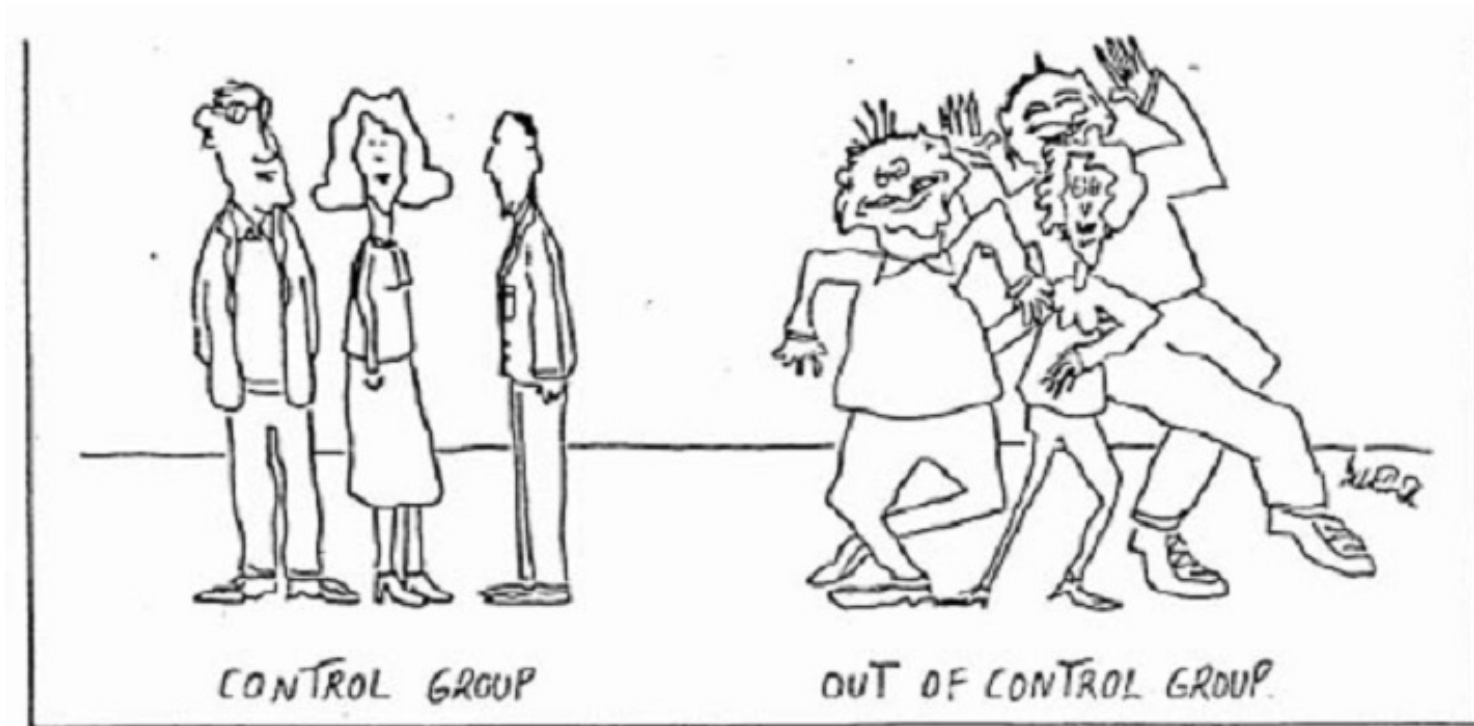


Il Bias

Distorsione dell'effetto di un intervento diagnostico-terapeutico per effetto di una componente estranea al caso:

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- **conoscenza da parte del paziente/medico/valutatore del trattamento in atto (*performance/detection bias*)**
rimedio: **mascheramento**
- selezione dei risultati da comunicare a mezzo presentazione/pubblicazione (*reporting bias*)
rimedio: database degli studi clinici in corso

If no patient blinding was performed...



... were they **unbiased** when filling the QoL questionnaire?

If no evaluator blinding was performed...



... was he (totally) **unbiased** when evaluating the scan?

Rischio di bias legato all'assenza di mascheramento

END POINTS AND ASSESSMENTS

The primary end point was **progression-free survival**, which was defined as the time from randomization to documented disease progression (as **evaluated by independent central review** by radiologists who were unaware of the treatment assignments) or death from any cause. Secondary end points included the **objective response rate**, **overall survival** (defined as the time from randomization to death from any cause), **safety**, and the side-effect profile.

Basso rischio di Detection Bias
(valutazione indipendente in cieco)

Alto rischio di Detection Bias

Alto rischio di Performance & Detection Bias

Basso rischio di Detection Bias
(per caratteristica intrinseca dell'outcome)

Il Bias

Distorsione dell'effetto di un intervento diagnostico-terapeutico per effetto di una componente estranea al caso:

- selezione dei soggetti da assegnare a uno specifico trattamento, rimozione di alcuni pazienti dall'analisi, analisi non preordinata su sottogruppi di pazienti (*selection bias*)
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rimedio: database degli studi clinici in corso



Trasferibilità dei risultati di uno studio

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

GRADE

P

• Population

Used to first develop the health care question

I

• Intervention

C

• Comparison

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

O

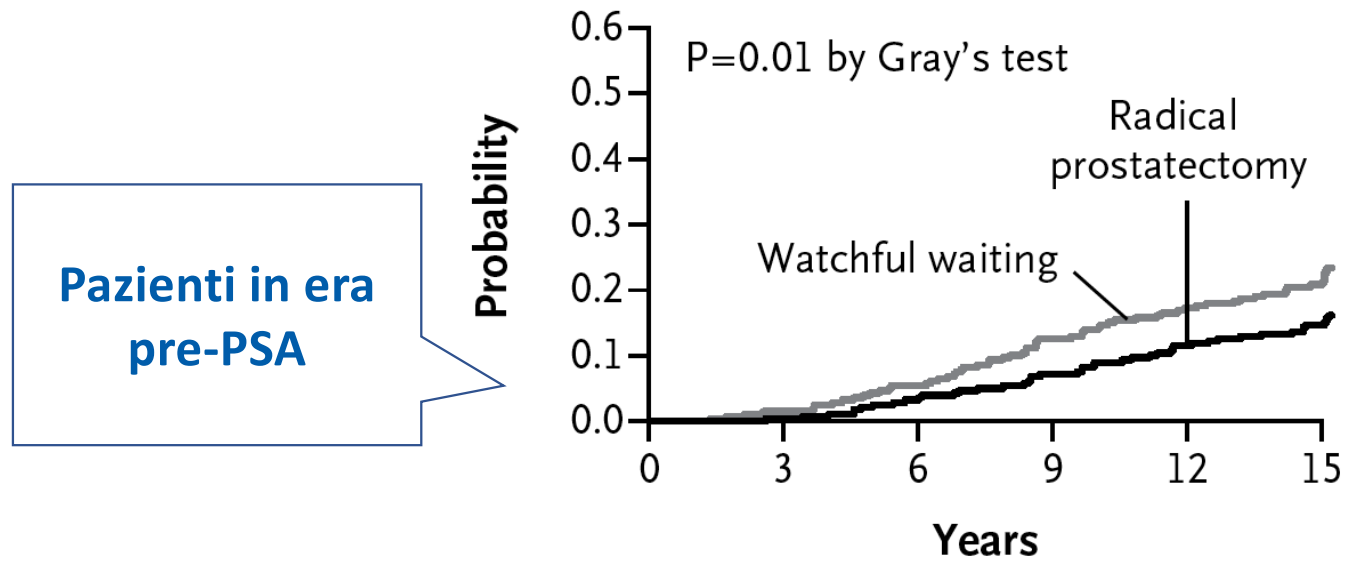
• Outcomes

Radical Prostatectomy versus Watchful Waiting in Early Prostate Cancer

Anna Bill-Axelson, M.D., Ph.D., Lars Holmberg, M.D., Ph.D.,
Mirja Ruutu, M.D., Ph.D., Hans Garmo, Ph.D., Jennifer R. Stark, Sc.D.,
Christer Busch, M.D., Ph.D., Stig Nordling, M.D., Ph.D.,
Michael Häggman, M.D., Ph.D., Swen-Olof Andersson, M.D., Ph.D.,
Stefan Bratell, M.D., Ph.D., Anders Spångberg, M.D., Ph.D.,
Juni Palmgren, Ph.D., Gunnar Steineck, M.D., Ph.D.,
Hans-Olov Adami, M.D., Ph.D., and Jan-Erik Johansson, M.D., Ph.D.,
for the SPCG-4 Investigators*

N Engl J Med 2011;364:1708-17.

Death from Prostate Cancer, Total Cohort



GRADE

P

• Population

Used to first develop the health care question

I

• Intervention

C

• Comparison

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

O

• Outcomes

Long-term oncologic outcomes of postoperative adjuvant versus salvage radiotherapy in prostate cancer: Systemic review and meta-analysis of 5-year and 10-year follow-up data

Ja Yoon Ku¹, Chan Ho Lee¹, Hong Koo Ha^{1,2}

Korean J Urol 2015;56:735-741.

The present systemic review has the following limitations that must be taken into account.

The first limitation is that we heterogeneously recruit randomized controlled studies and retrospective studies: in retrospective studies, the initiation timing of radiotherapy is somewhat different in each study.

The second limitation is that there is a difference in dose and modality (2-dimensional, 3-dimensional, or intensity modulated radiation therapy) of radiation compared to recent practice, which may alter oncologic outcomes.

The third limitation is that the patient characteristics were different in each study, and the definitions of long-term outcome were different in each study.

Indirectness per I. (di P.I.C.O.)

GRADE

P

• Population

Used to first develop the health care question

I

• Intervention

C

• Comparison

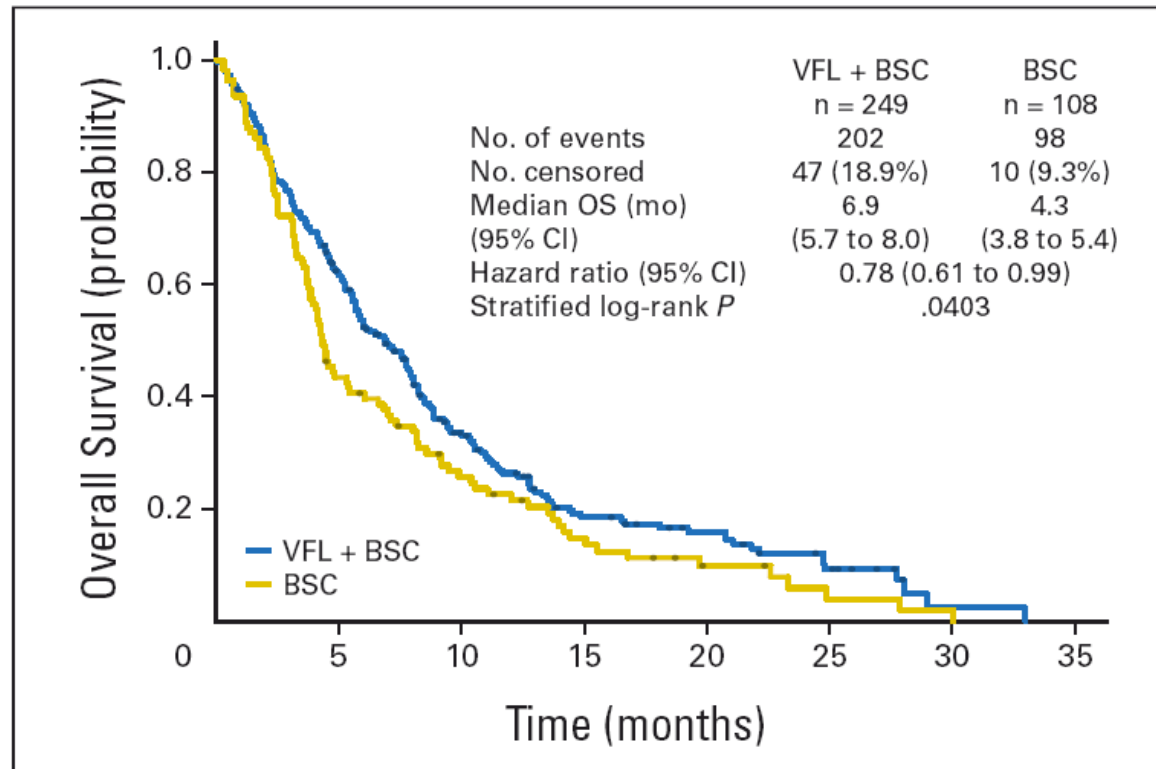
Used to determine if the evidence found directly answers the health care question

O

• Outcomes

Phase III Trial of Vinflunine Plus Best Supportive Care Compared With Best Supportive Care Alone After a Platinum-Containing Regimen in Patients With Advanced Transitional Cell Carcinoma of the Urothelial Tract

Joaquim Bellmunt, Christine Théodore, Tomasz Demkov, Boris Komyakov, Lisa Sengelov, Gedske Daugaard, Armelle Caty, Joan Carles, Agnieszka Jagiello-Gruszfeld, Oleg Karyakin, François-Michel Delgado, Patrick Hurteloup, Eric Winquist, Nassim Morsli, Yacine Salhi, Stéphane Culine, and Hans von der Maase
J Clin Oncol 27:4454-4461. © 2009 by American Society of Clinical Oncology



GRADE

P

• Population

Used to first develop the health care question

I

Non necessariamente coincidenti con gli outcome di efficacia delle evidenze disponibili

C

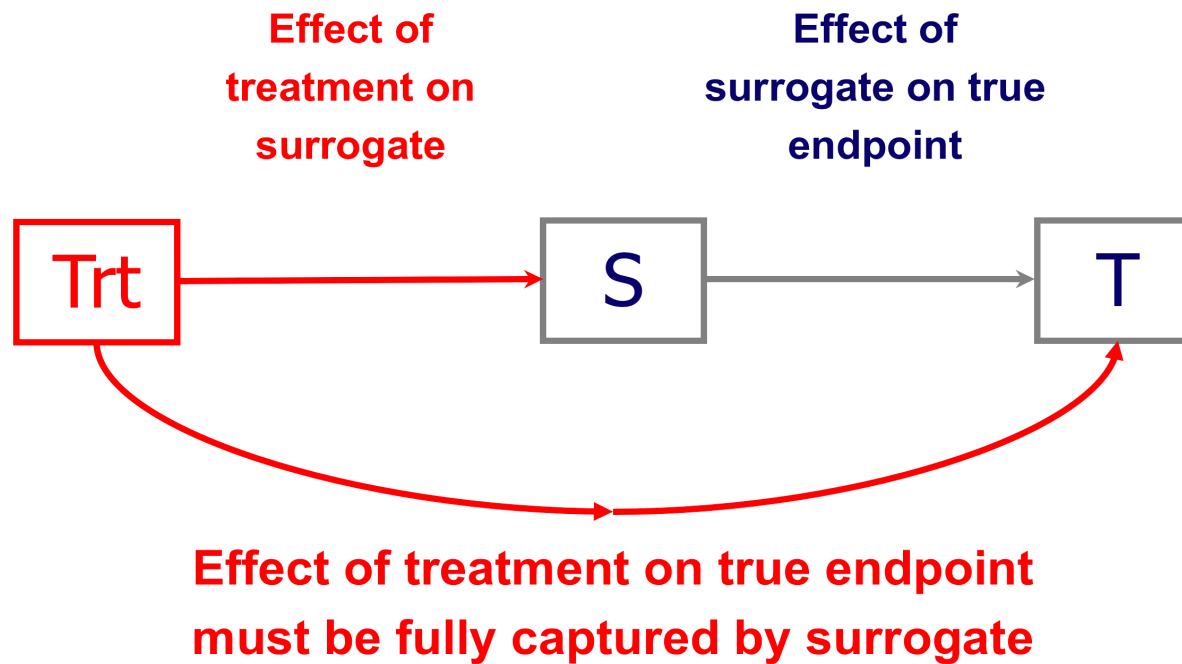
to determine if the evidence found directly answers the health care question

O

• Outcomes

Criteria for considering studies for this review
Types of studies
Randomised controlled trials were included with no time limit on follow-up.
Types of participants
Adults engaged in normal daily activities, including those with symptoms of drowsiness as defined by the trial authors, including those suffering from symptoms of drowsiness, reduced alertness, fatigue or lowered mood. Participants could be regular users of caffeine or non-users.
Types of interventions
Any preparation or dose of caffeine, tea, cola, chocolate, in single or multiple doses. Comparisons could be with placebo or other intervention.
Types of outcomes
Primary outcomes
The primary outcome was drowsiness or lethargy. Outcomes could be self-reported or objectively measured.
Secondary outcomes
• Psychological state (including irritability, stress, depression)
• Alertness
• Cognitive performance (including attention, reaction time)
• Adverse outcomes (including headaches, anxiety, sleep disturbance)
• Gastrointestinal irritation, heart palpitations, or psychotic symptoms
• Self-reported or objectively measured at least 30 minutes after the intervention.

VALIDATION OF SURROGATE ENDPOINTS: “FULL CAPTURE OF EFFECT”

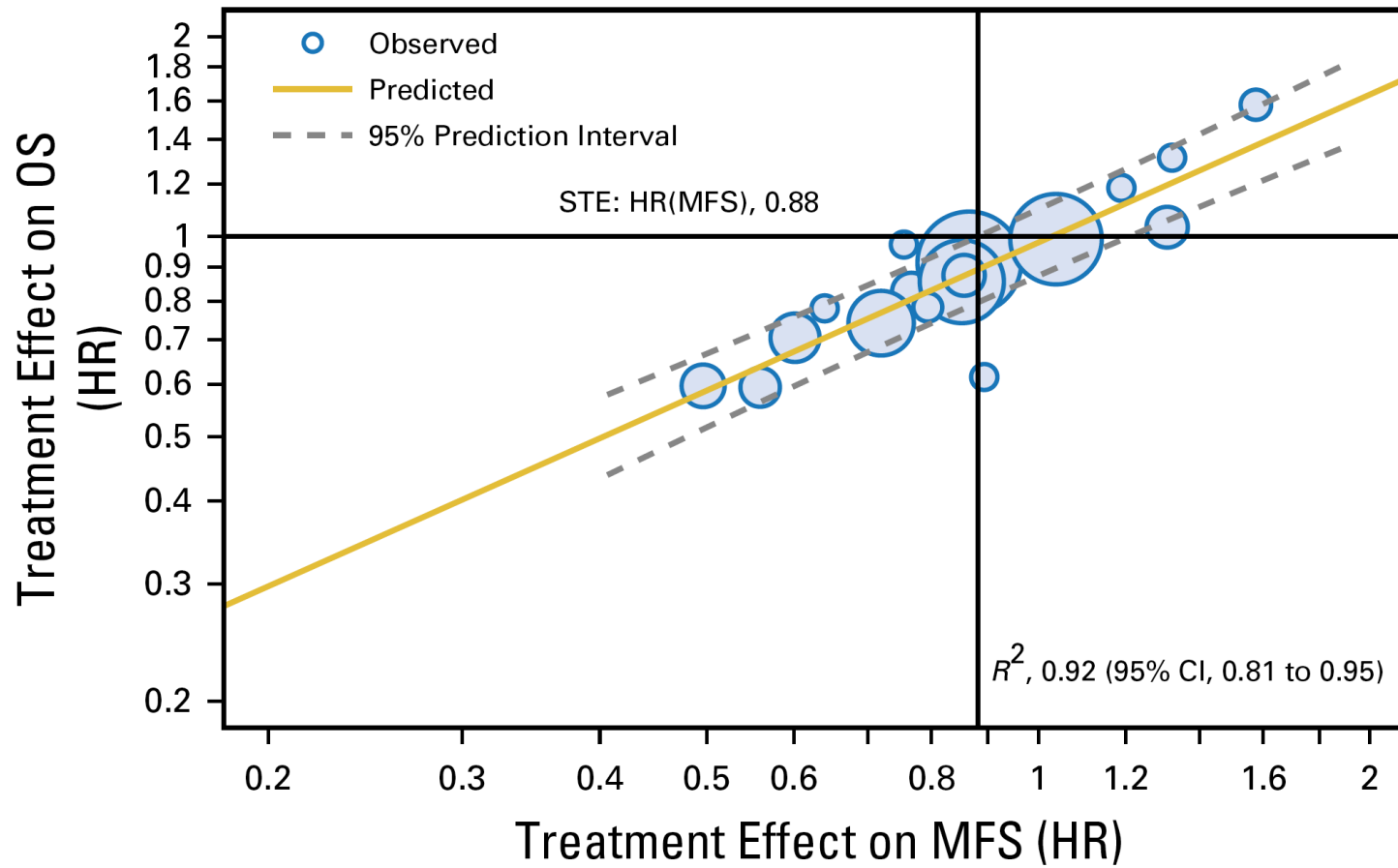


Prentice, Statist Med 1989;8:431.

Metastasis-Free Survival Is a Strong Surrogate of Overall Survival in Localized Prostate Cancer

Wanling Xie, Meredith M. Regan, Marc Buyse, Susan Halabi, Philip W. Kantoff, Oliver Sartor, Howard Soule, Noel W. Clarke, Laurence Collette, James J. Dignam, Karim Fizazi, Wendy R. Paruleker, Howard M. Sandler, Matthew R. Sydes, Bertrand Tombal, Scott G. Williams, and Christopher J. Sweeney, on behalf of the ICECaP Working Group

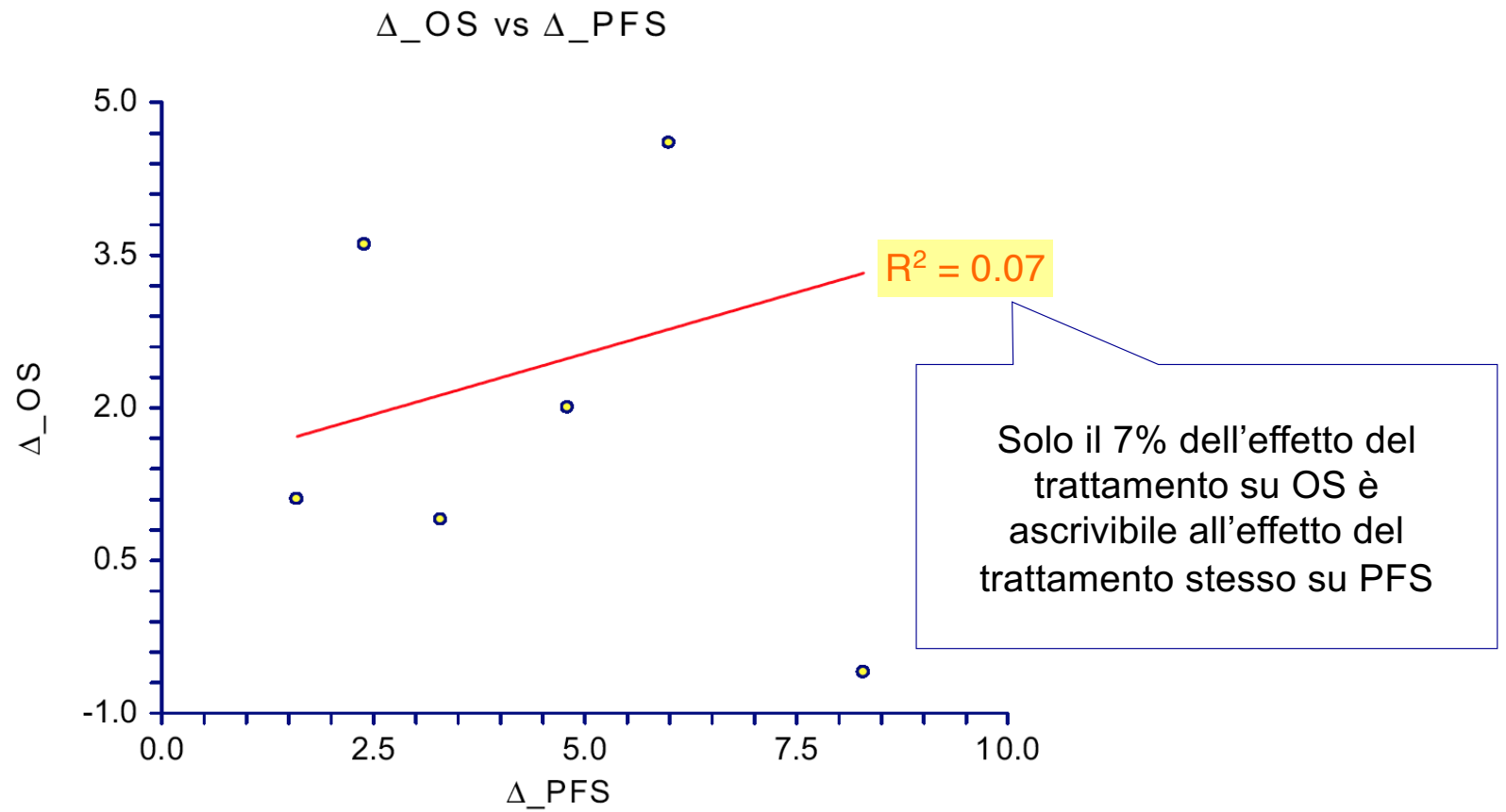
J Clin Oncol 35:3097-3104. © 2017 by American Society of Clinical Oncology



Surrogate End Points in Renal Cell Carcinoma: An Analysis of First-Line Trials With Targeted Therapies

Fausto Petrelli, Sandro Barni

Clinical Genitourinary Cancer, Vol. 11, No. 4, 385-9 © 2013 Elsevier Inc.





Analisi per sottogruppi

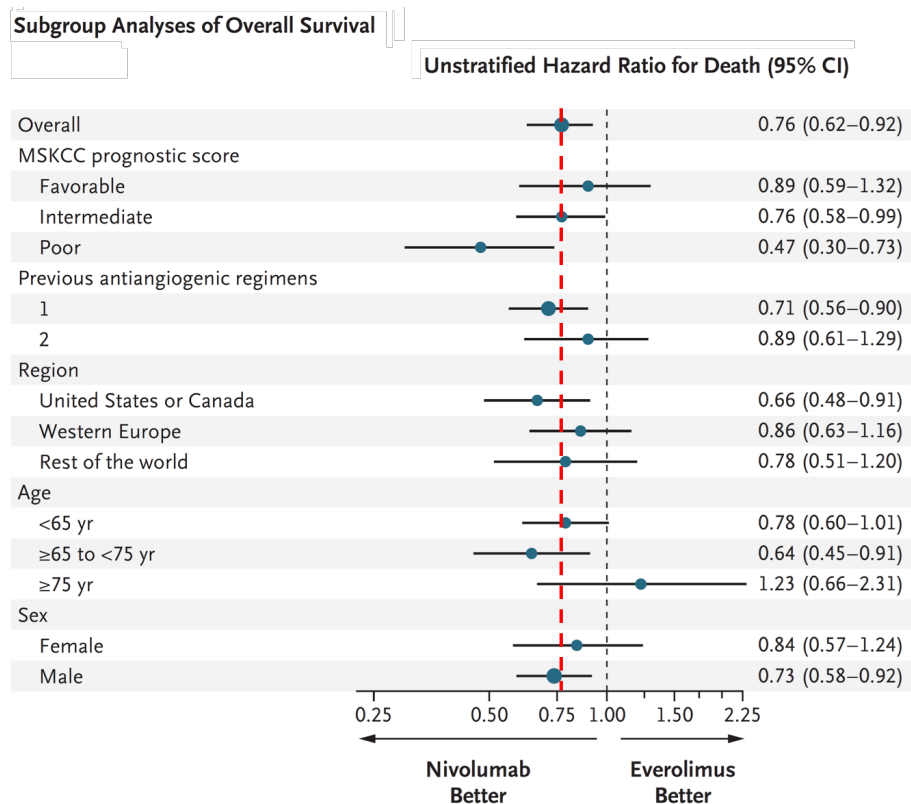
ANALISI PER SOTTOGRUPPI

- Il campione originale viene suddiviso in vari strati (**sottogruppi**) contraddistinti da caratteristiche peculiari.
- Tipologia di analisi:
 - **Post hoc** (analisi retrospettiva)
 - **Pre-specified (preannunciata)** (prevista dal protocollo di studio; criterio di stratificazione?)
 - **Pre-planned (pre pianificata)** (prevista dal protocollo di studio con piano di analisi specifico)

Nivolumab versus Everolimus in Advanced Renal-Cell Carcinoma

R.J. Motzer, B. Escudier, D.F. McDermott, S. George, H.J. Hammers, S. Srinivas, S.S. Tykodi, J.A. Sosman, G. Procopio, E.R. Plimack, D. Castellano, T.K. Choueiri, H. Gurney, F. Donskov, P. Bono, J. Wagstaff, T.C. Gauler, T. Ueda, Y. Tomita, F.A. Schutz, C. Kollmannsberger, J. Larkin, A. Ravaud, J.S. Simon, L.-A. Xu, I.M. Waxman, and P. Sharma, for the CheckMate 025 Investigators*

N Engl J Med 2015;373:1803-13.



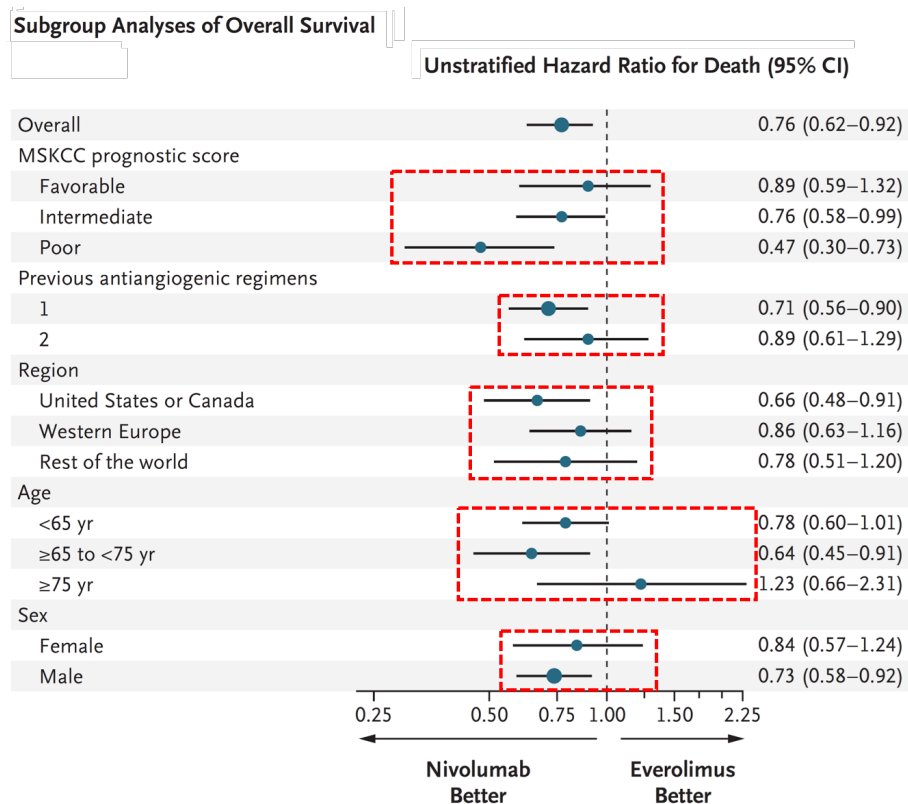
Il riferimento non è (più) la linea di non-effetto, bensì la linea tracciata in corrispondenza dell'effetto osservato sull'intero campione...

... un trattamento non dovrebbe essere limitato / escluso in una specifica sottopopolazione (solo) sulla base di un LC95% al di là (al di qua) della linea di non-effetto!

Nivolumab versus Everolimus in Advanced Renal-Cell Carcinoma

R.J. Motzer, B. Escudier, D.F. McDermott, S. George, H.J. Hammers, S. Srinivas, S.S. Tykodi, J.A. Sosman, G. Procopio, E.R. Plimack, D. Castellano, T.K. Choueiri, H. Gurney, F. Donskov, P. Bono, J. Wagstaff, T.C. Gauler, T. Ueda, Y. Tomita, F.A. Schutz, C. Kollmannsberger, J. Larkin, A. Ravaud, J.S. Simon, L.-A. Xu, I.M. Waxman, and P. Sharma, for the CheckMate 025 Investigators*

N Engl J Med 2015;373:1803-13.



The **heterogeneity** of the treatment effect within each subgroup shown in Figure 2A was **tested with** the use of an **interaction test** in a Cox proportional-hazards model with treatment, subgroup, and treatment-by-subgroup interaction as covariates. **None of the interaction terms were significant at the 0.05 level.**

Potenziali problemi...

- **High Risk of Bias** (sottogruppo non oggetto di stratificazione)
- **Multiplicity** (*type I error inflation* dovuta a confronti ripetuti)
- **Imprecision** (LC95% compatibili con interpretazioni cliniche di segno opposto)

Only one thing is
worse than doing
subgroup analyses...
believing the results!



R. Peto

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