

ctDNA as a Biomarker for Monitoring of CRC



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ctDNA for Monitoring of Recurrent CRC



Tumor Directed?

- Agnostic panel
- Guided by mutational analysis of tumor
- Genomic: SNV/indels
- Epigenetic/Protein Markers

MRD: Minimal Residual Disease

- Leukemia/lymphoma – residual cancer cells post treatment
- Solid tumors: prognostic marker - likelihood of recurrence
- ctDNA+ sign of MRD

RESEARCH ARTICLE

CANCER

Circulating tumor DNA analysis detects minimal residual disease and predicts recurrence in patients with stage II colon cancer

Jeanne Tie,^{1,2,3,4,*†} Yuxuan Wang,^{5†} Cristian Tomasetti,^{6,7} Lu Li,⁶ Simeon Springer,⁵ Isaac Kinde,⁸ Natalie Silliman,⁵ Mark Tacey,⁹ Hui-Li Wong,^{1,3,4} Michael Christie,^{1,3,10} Suzanne Kosmider,² Iain Skinner,² Rachel Wong,^{1,11,12} Malcolm Steel,¹¹ Ben Tran,^{1,2,3,4} Jayesh Desai,^{1,3,4} Ian Jones,^{4,13} Andrew Haydon,¹⁴ Theresa Hayes,¹⁵ Tim J. Price,¹⁶ Robert L. Strausberg,¹⁷ Luis A. Diaz Jr.,⁵ Nickolas Papadopoulos,⁵ Kenneth W. Kinzler,⁵ Bert Vogelstein,^{5,*†} Peter Gibbs^{1,2,3,4,17,*†}

ctDNA in Stage II CRC

N=250, post-op and serial plasma

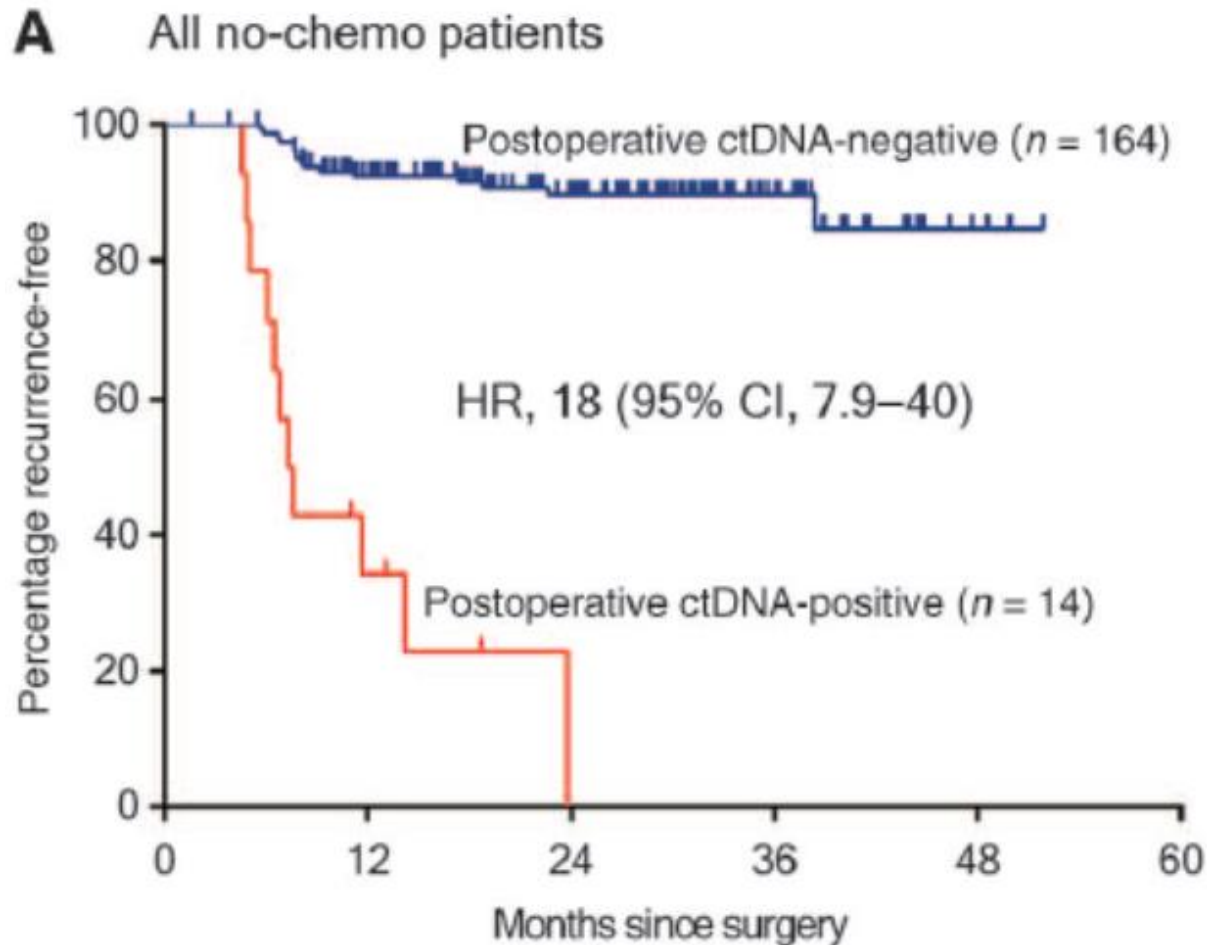
23% adj chemo Rx at clinician direction

- Targeted 15 genes using safe-SeqS
- 20/231 +ctDNA post op (9 p53, 8 APC, 3 KRAS)
- Median f/u 27 mo
- 34 (14.8%) radiologic recurrence

27/178 (15%) no chemo Rx

7/52 (13%) with chemo Rx

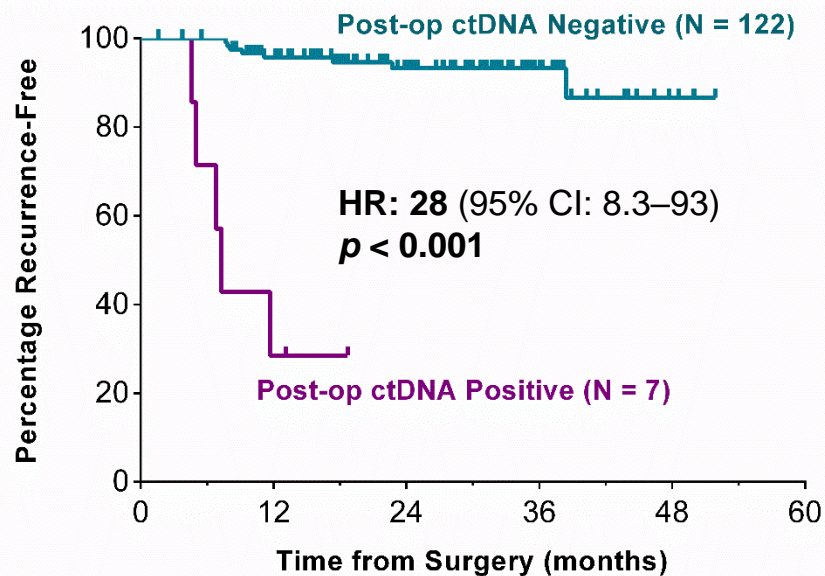
Recurrence Free Survival (RFS) in Stage II CRC Patients not treated with adjuvant chemotherapy



Recurrence-Free Survival: Stage II CRC

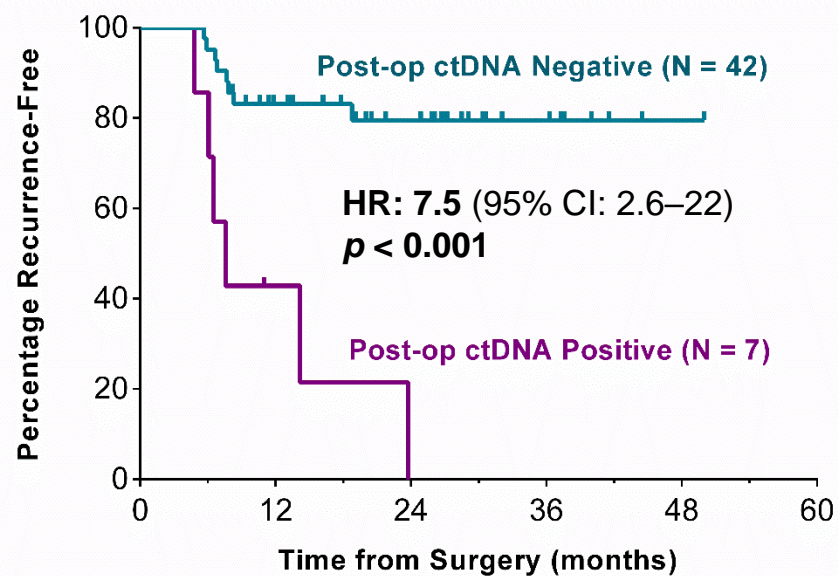
Clinical Low-Risk

(dMMR or pMMR + no poor prognostic features)

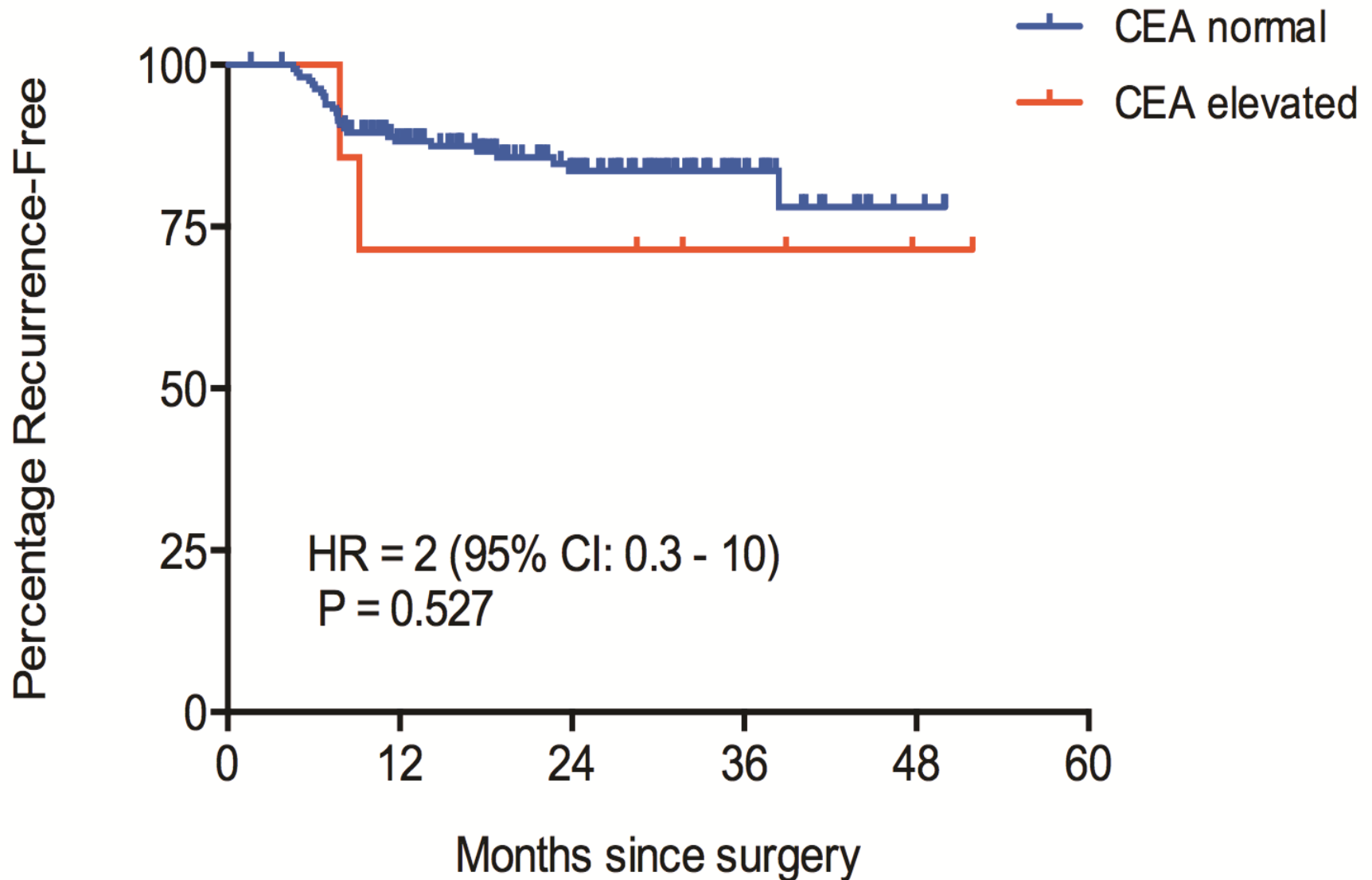


Clinical High-Risk

(pMMR + at least one poor prognostic features)

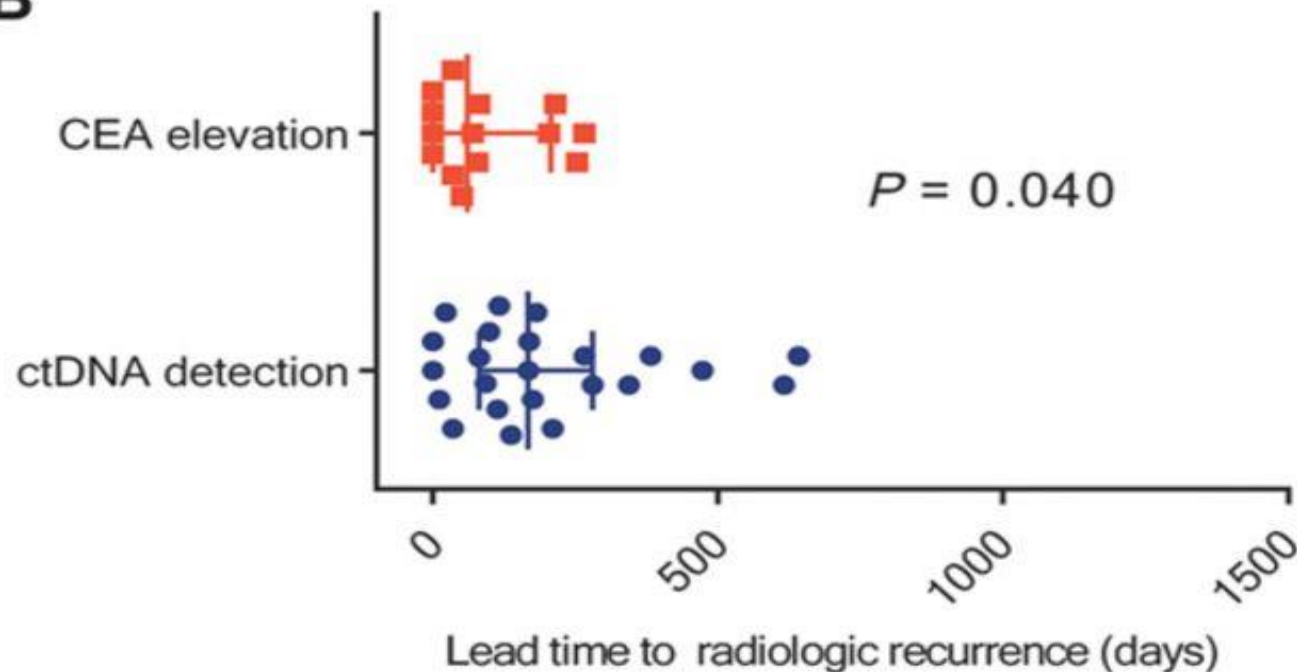


Recurrence Free Survival (RFS) in patients not treated with adjuvant chemotherapy by CEA level



Lead Time to Radiological Recurrence: ctDNA vs. CEA

B



**Time from detection to recurrence:
ctDNA 167 days vs. CEA 61 days, $p=.04$**

Conclusions

- ctDNA is an excellent marker for recurrence in patients with stage II CRC
- ctDNA findings discriminate within clinicopathologic subgroups
- But: Does it make a therapeutic difference to know prognosis?

“DYNAMIC” Study

**Circulating Tumour DNA Analysis Informing
Adjuvant Chemotherapy in Stage II Colon Cancer**

“DYNAMIC” Study

❖ Study Design

- Randomised multi-centre biomarker-driven adjuvant treatment study

❖ Primary end-points

- Number of patients treated with adjuvant chemotherapy
- Recurrence-free survival

DYNAMIC Study

Stage II Colon Cancer (n = 450)

Post-op ctDNA

2:1 Randomization

Stratification: T-stage,
Type of hospital (metro
vs regional)

Arm A
Biomarker Driven Group
(n = 300)

Post-op
ctDNA
Positive

Adjuvant
chemo

Monthly
ctDNA during
chemo

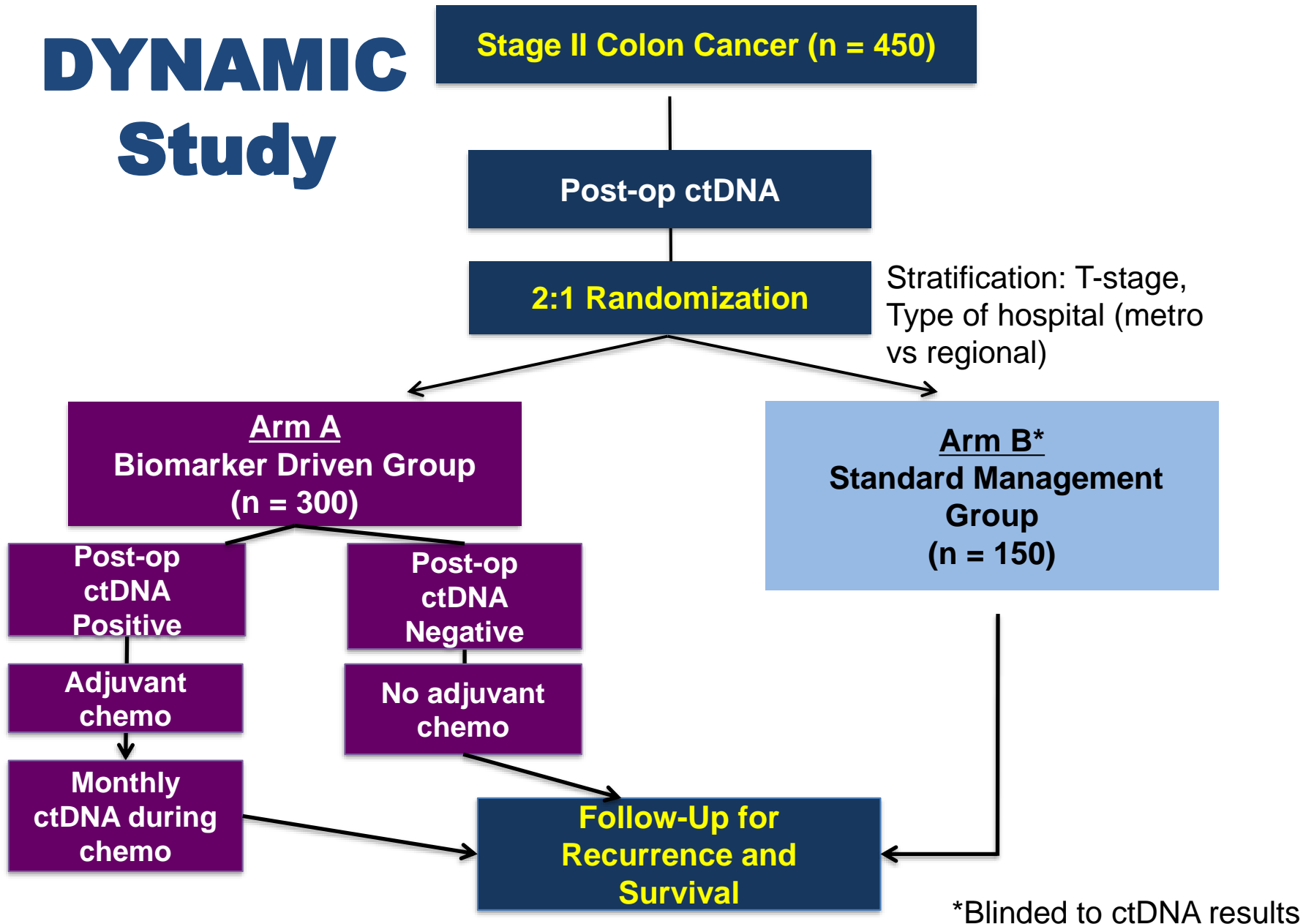
Post-op
ctDNA
Negative

No adjuvant
chemo

Arm B*
Standard Management
Group
(n = 150)

Follow-Up for
Recurrence and
Survival

*Blinded to ctDNA results



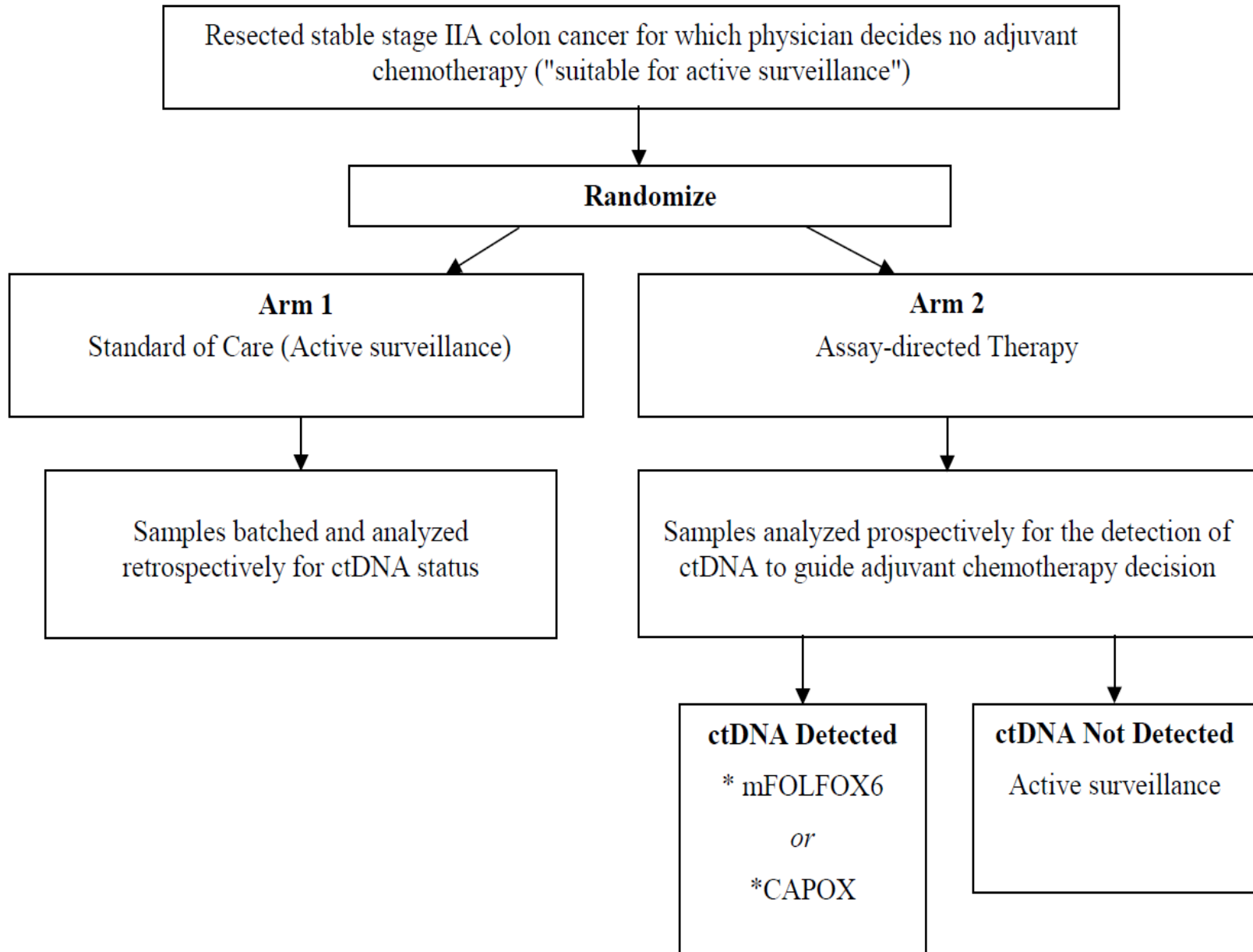
NRG GI005 - COBRA Trial: Guardant LUNAR Assay

- N=1400, resected stage II CRC
- No adj chemoRx planned
- Randomized to SOC vs ctDNA directed
- +ctDNA → FOLFOX or CAPOX x 6 mos
- LUNAR: genetic and epigenetic

Endpoints

- (phase II) - clearance of ctDNA
- (phase III) – RFS for +ctDNA treated with adj chemoRX

COBRA Trial

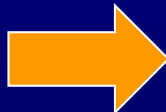


“Signatera” ctDNA Assay

- Assay targeting 16 clonal, somatic mutations known to be present in tumor
- Selecting clonal, tumor-specific variants enables deeper sequencing and a higher probability of ctDNA detection
- Quantitative sampling: copies/ml plasma informative mutation and average for all informative mutations

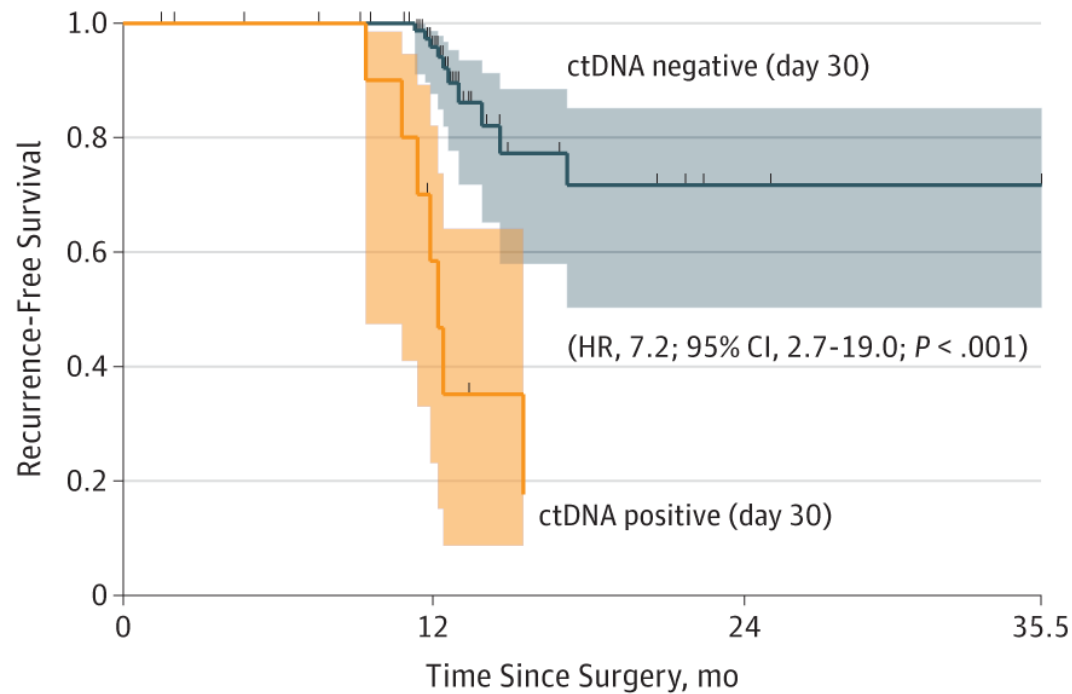
Signatera: ctDNA in Stage I-III CRC

Denmark: N=130 (5 stage I, 39 II, 81 III) –
blood q 3 mos, 16 SNP or Indels

Stage	% Pre-op positive		
I	40		10/94 (10.6%) positive on post-op day 30
II	92		
III	90		
Recurrence:	7/10 ctDNA+ (70%) 10/84 ctDNA- (12%)		HR=7.2 (2.7-19)

Recurrence Free Survival by ctDNA+ at Day 30

A Day 30 RFS



No. at risk				
Negative	84	78	13	9
Positive	10	9	1	1

Denmark: ct DNA+ - Post-chemo rx

Post-chemo ctDNA status as predictor of relapse (n=58)

Relapse

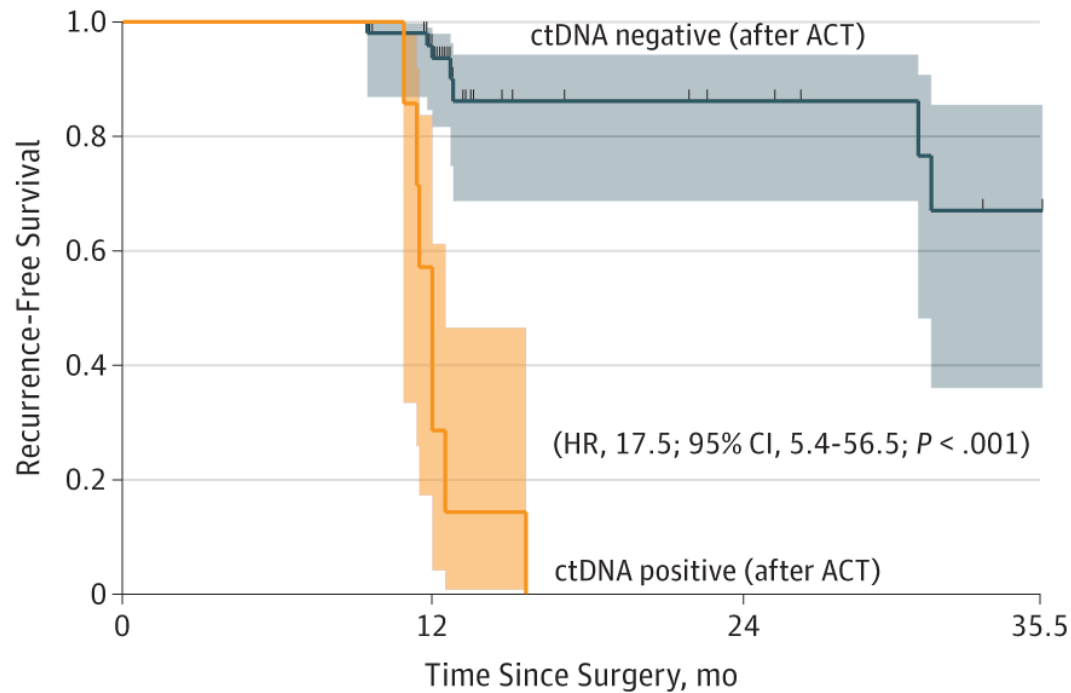
ct DNA+: 7/7 (100%)

ct DNA-: 7/51 (14%)

HR=17.5 (5.4-56.5)

Post-adjuvant ChemoRx ctDNA Status as Predictor of Relapse

C Post-ACT RFS



No. at risk

Negative	51	40	11	5
Positive	7	2	0	0

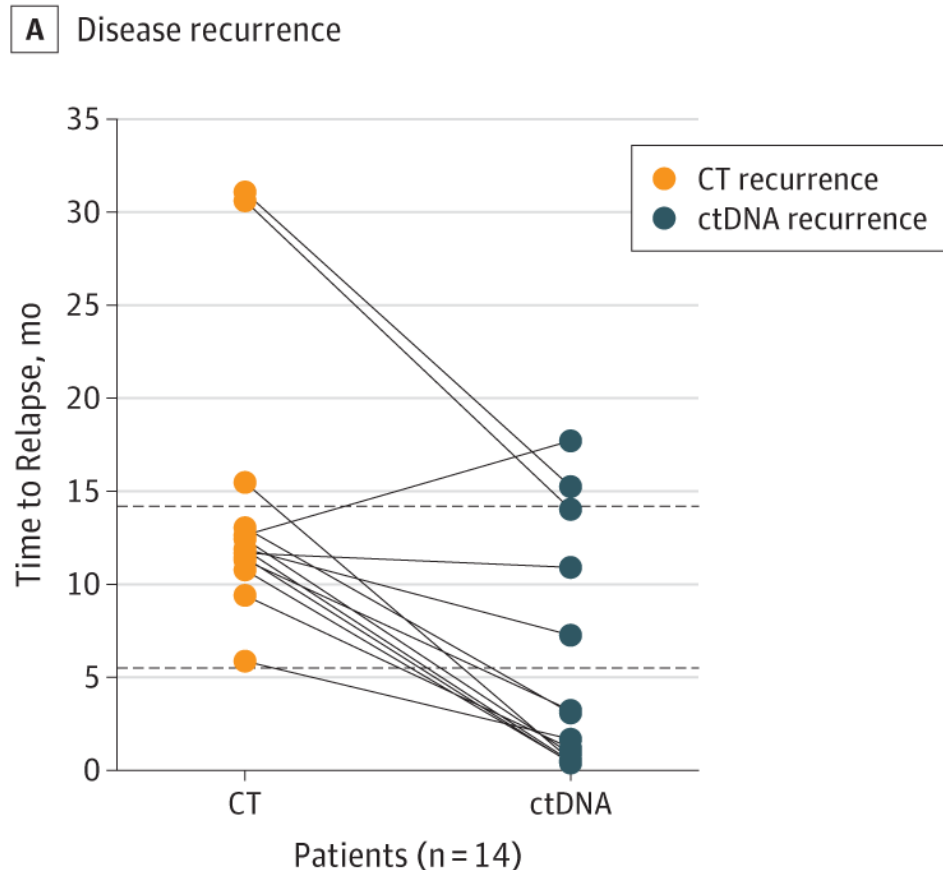
ctDNA: Lead time to CT Detected Radiologic Recurrence

Mean Time to Recurrence:

ctDNA - 8.7 mo.
CEA - None

Mean Time from Surgery to CT Relapse:

ctDNA – 5.5 mo.
CT – 14.2 mo



Denmark: ctDNA vs CEA

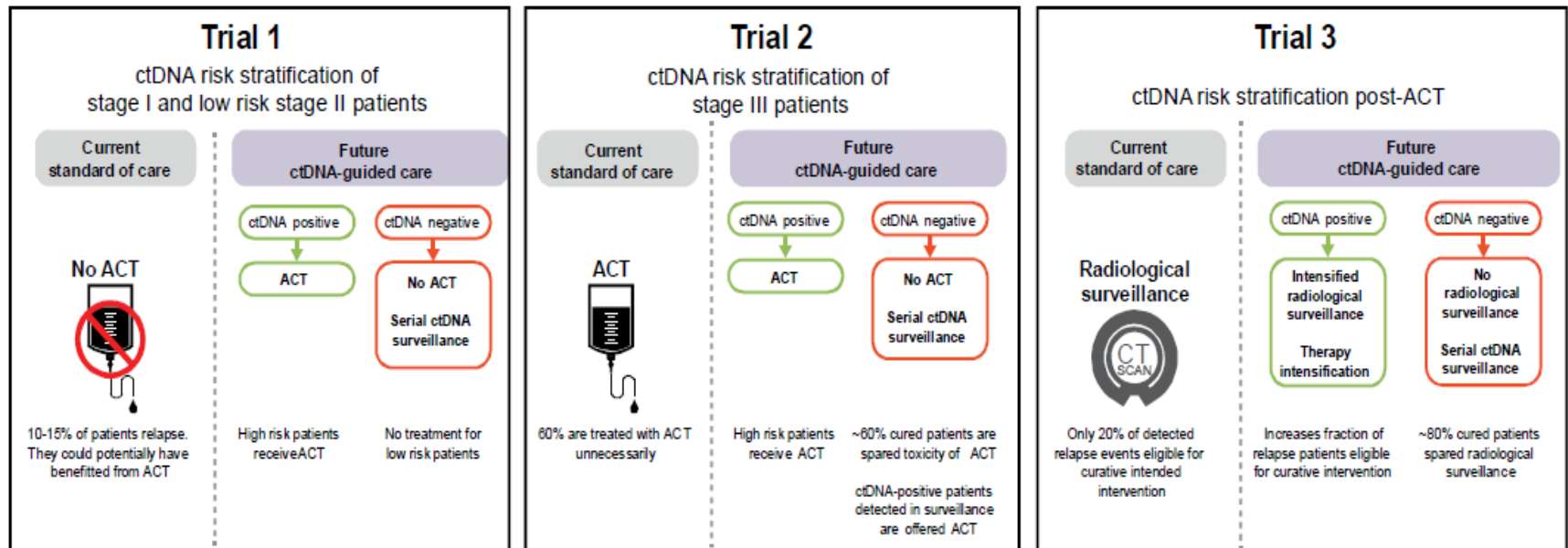
CEA:	Sensitivity	69%
	Specificity	64%

In multivariable analysis including age, stage, histology, CEA:

Only ctDNA associated with RFS

HR=39.9 (7.5-211)

Clinical Trial Proposals for Integrating ctDNA into CRC Treatment



ctDNA and Stage III CRC

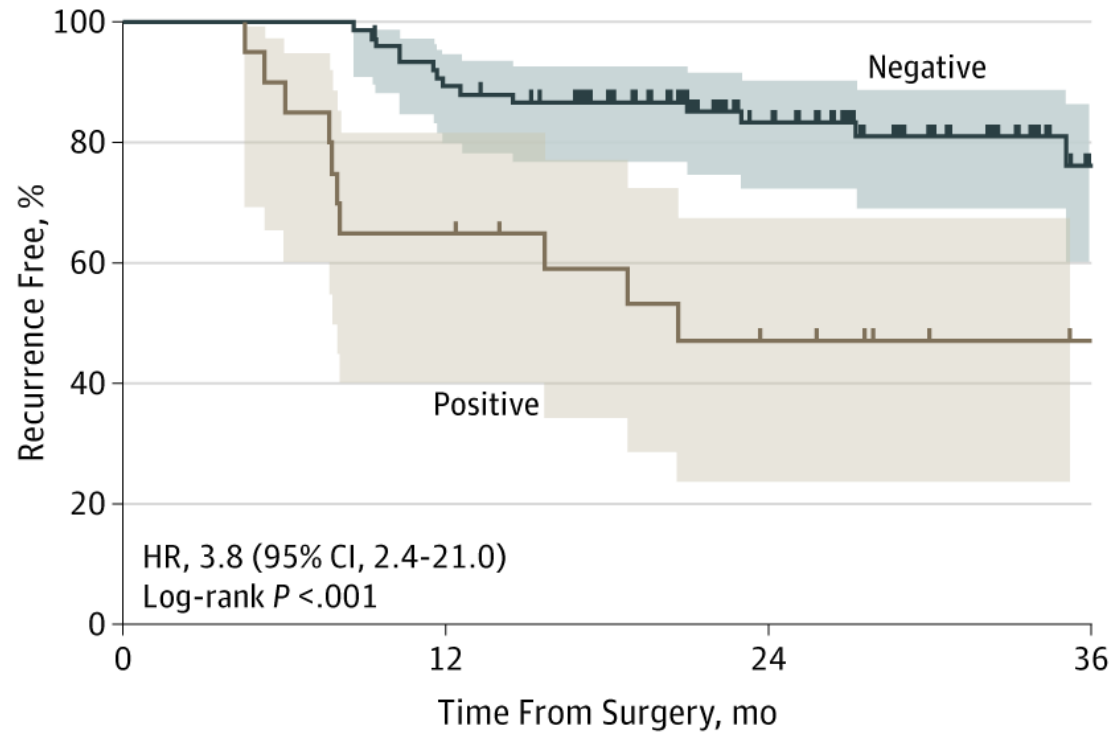
- Evaluate prognostic significance of ctDNA post-op and post chemoRx
- N=96, Australia
- 15 gene panel for somatic mutations on tumor specimen to select 1 mutation for plasma ctDNA measurement
- Median f/u 28.9 mo

ctDNA and Outcome

- +ctDNA in 20/96 (21%) post-surgery
- No association of +ctDNA with demographic/pathologic characteristics
- +ctDNA post surgery - ↑ HR recurrence 3.8 (2.4-21, $p < .001$)
- RFI: 47% +ctDNA vs 76% -ctDNA

+ctDNA and Post Op Recurrence Free Interval (RFI)

A Postoperative ctDNA



No. at risk

Negative 76

68

44

14

Positive 20

13

7

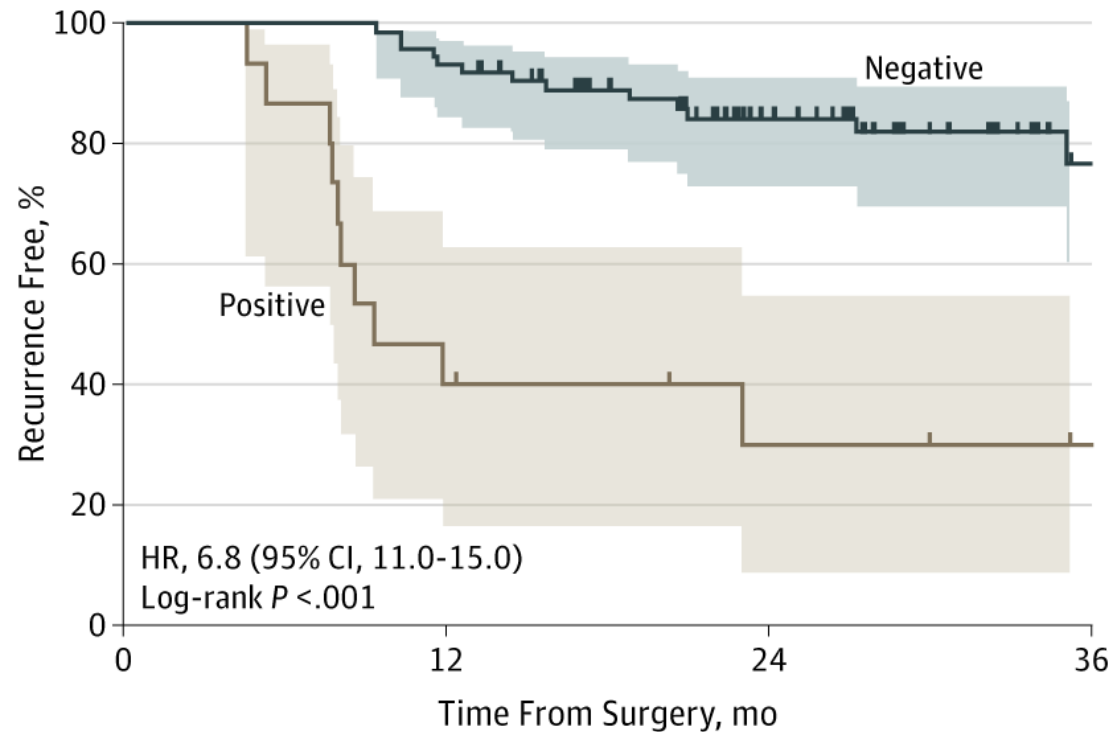
2

ctDNA and post-ChemoRx Outcome

- +ctDNA in 15/88 (17%) post chemoRx
- +ctDNA post chemo - ↑ HR for recurrence
6.8 (1.1-15.7, $p < .001$)
- 3 year RFI (Recurrence Free Interval):
30% +ctDNA vs 77% -ctDNA

+ctDNA Post ChemoRx Stage III: Recurrence Free Interval (RFI)

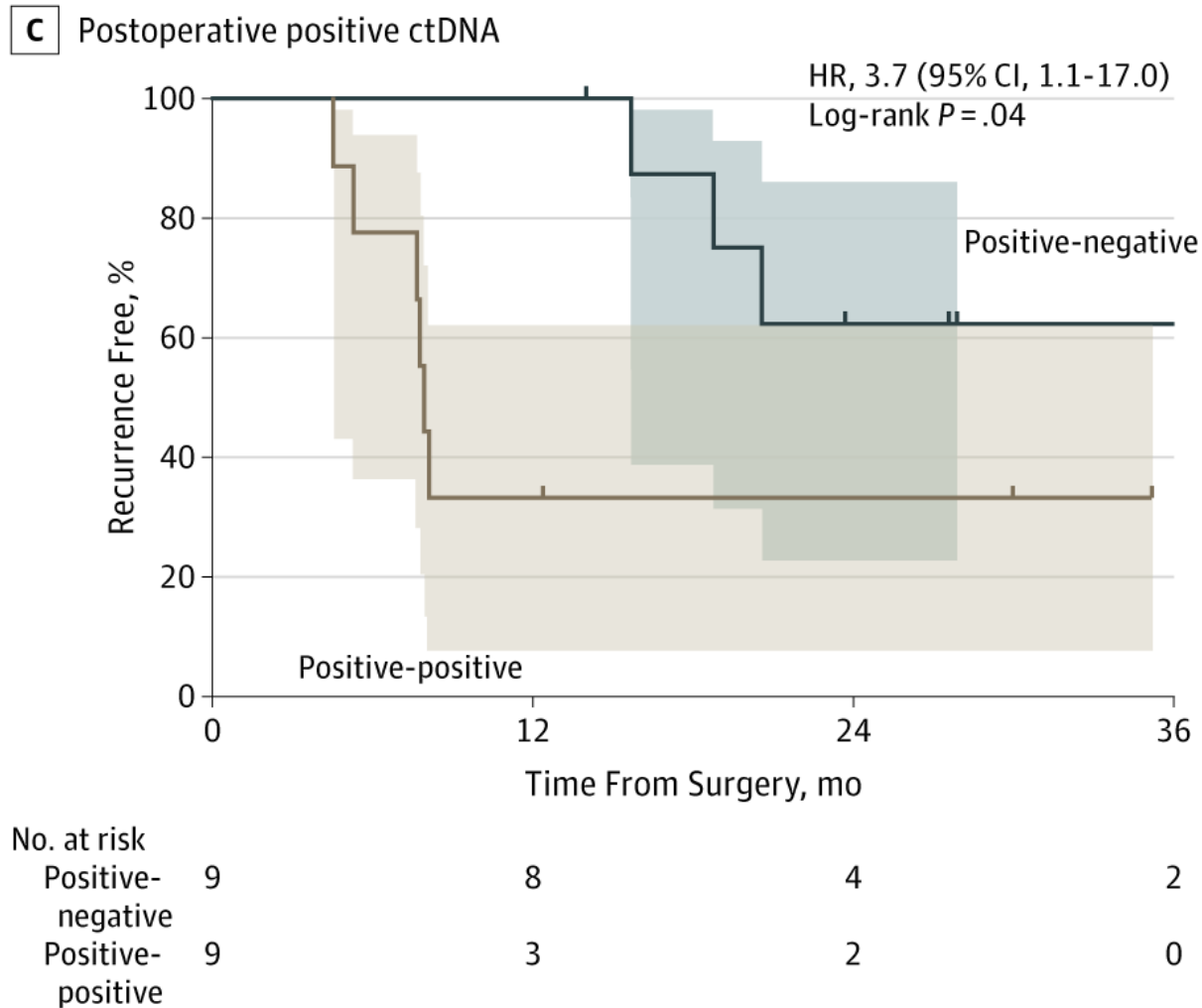
B Postchemotherapy ctDNA



No. at risk

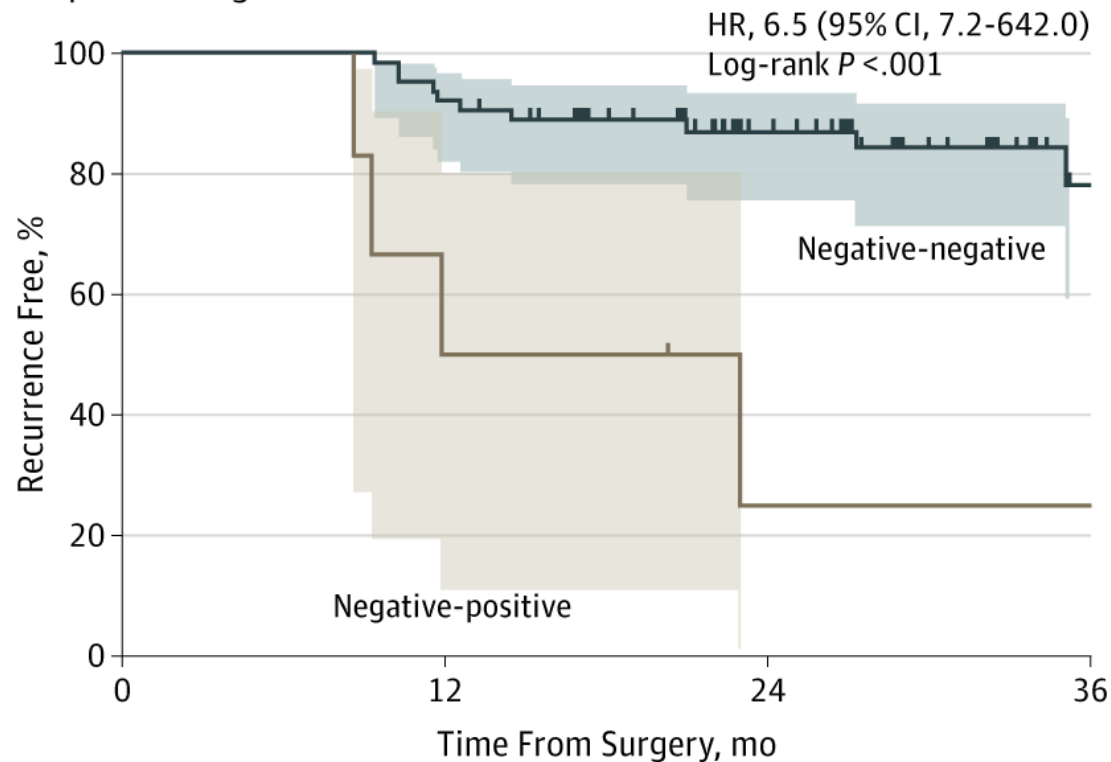
Negative	73	68	43	14
Positive	15	6	3	1

+ctDNA Post Op Stage III: Δ to Negative vs. Remain Positive



Post Op ctDNA Stage III: Δ to Positive vs. Remain Negative

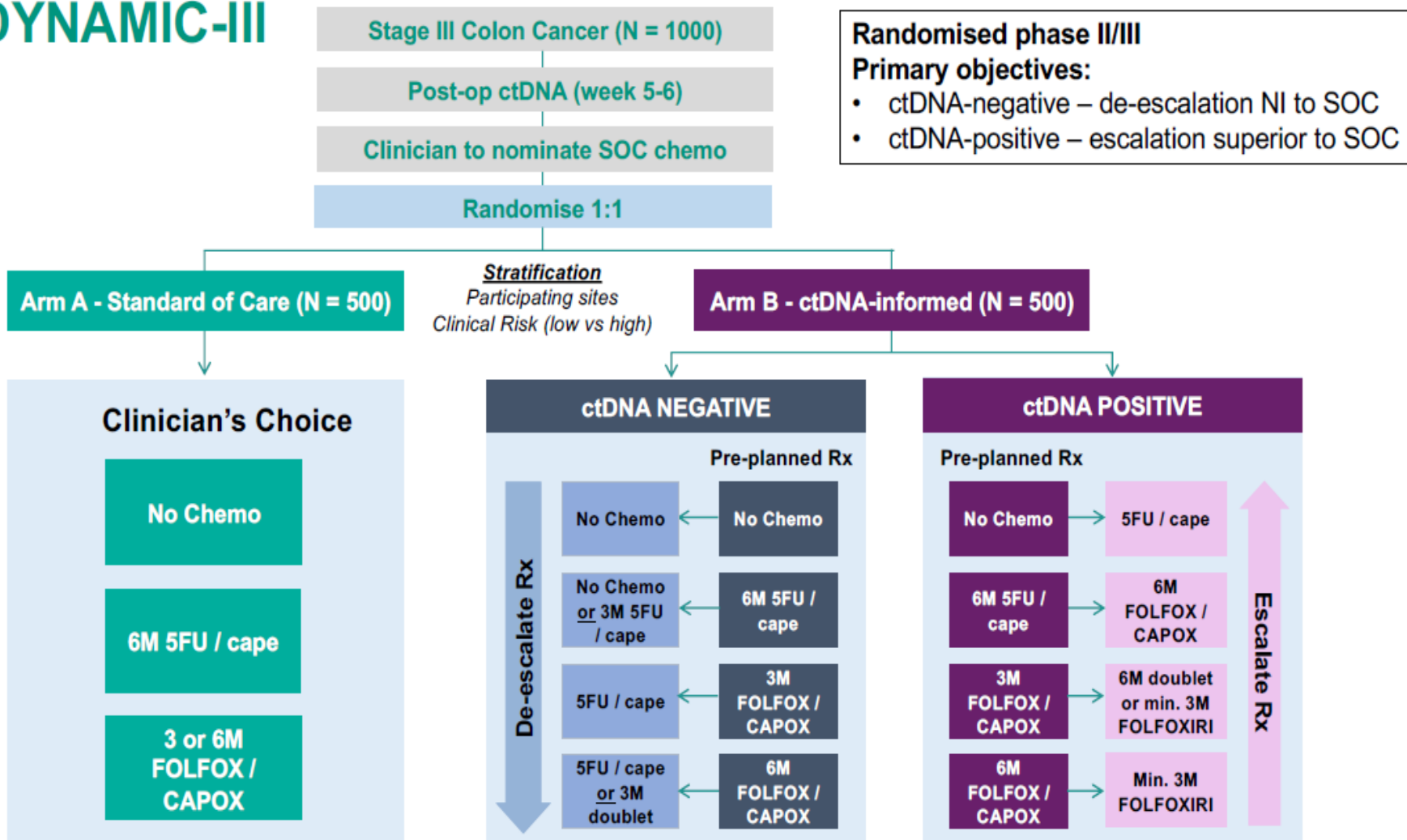
D Postoperative negative ctDNA



No. at risk

Negative-negative	64	59	39	12
Negative-positive	6	3	1	1

DYNAMIC-III



Cape = capecitabine

Iri = irinotecan

F = 5FU

Ox = oxaliplatin

FOL = leucovorin

Our CRCIII Study: Aims

- To evaluate relationship between time course of ctDNA and progression free and overall survival in stage III CRC
- To compare ctDNA to CEA in stage III CRC

UPMC Clinical Trials Network

N=137 in 19 UPMC sites

Arnold Palmer - Mt View, Arnold Palmer - Mt Pleasant, Arnold Palmer – Norwin, Altoona – UPMC CC, Beaver - UPMC CC, Greenville- UPMC CC, Hillman – UPMC CC, Indiana - UPMC CC, McKeesport - UPMC CC, Monroeville - UPMC CC, Murtha - UPMC CC, New Castle - UPMC CC, Northwest - UPMC CC, Passavant (HOA) - UPMC CC, Passavant (OHA) - UPMC CC, St Margaret - UPMC CC, Uniontown - UPMC CC, Upper St Clair - UPMC CC, and Washington - UPMC CC.

Collection Protocol

- Identify Stage III CRC prior to onset of chemoRx
- Tumor block
- Large volume plasma prior to Rx and q3 months x 3 years, q 6 months yrs 4-5
- Streck tubes – stabilize WBC to prevent release of genomic DNA
- CEA (Quest) with each blood draw

Follow Up

- N=137, Mean f/u 1.5 yrs (range: 0.3-3.5)
- Mean age 64
- Of 128 with known recurrence status: 18/128 (14% recurred)

# Draws	# Patients	Post-Recurrence Draws
≥ 7	7	1-7 in 12 pts
4 - 6	6	
≤ 3	5	

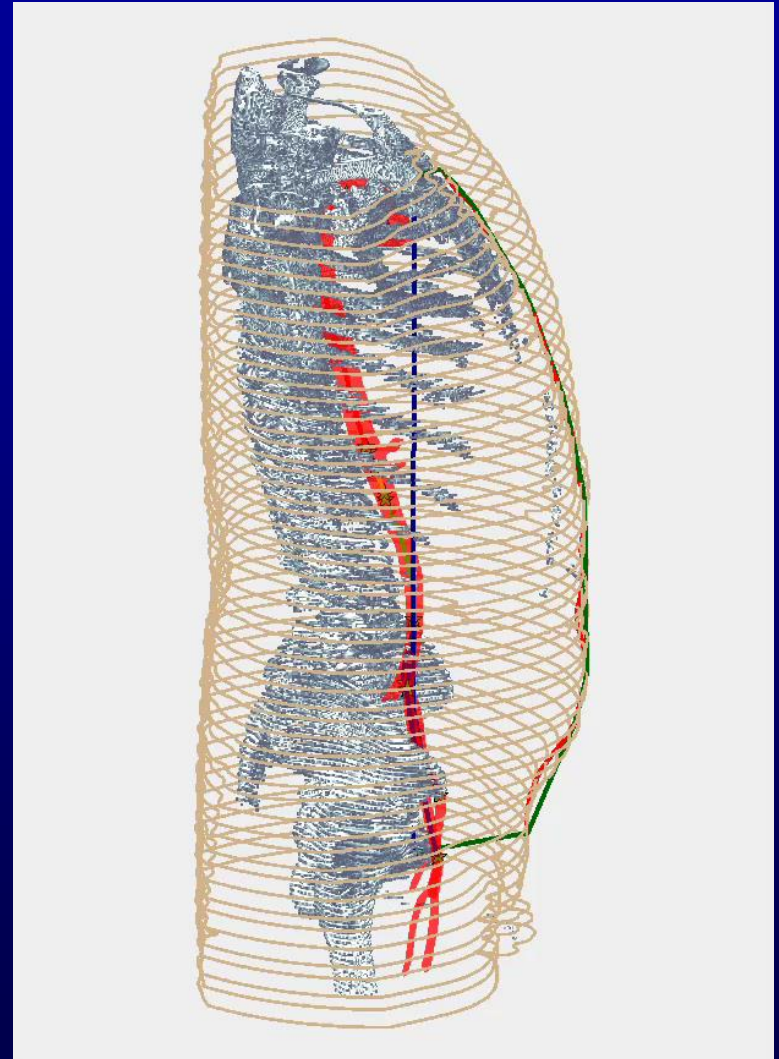
Image Guided Biomarkers for CRC Recurrence

CT-scan A/P: Parameters

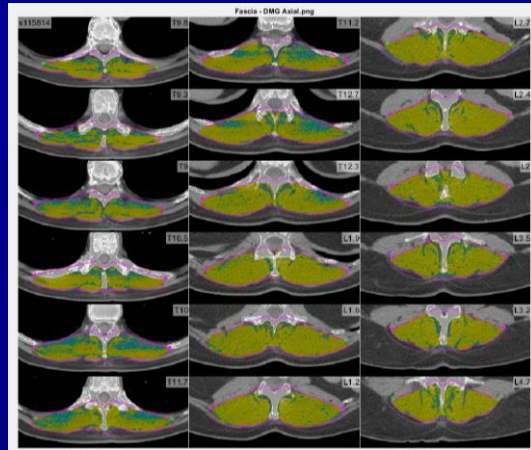
- Radiomic
- Morphomic

Analytic Morphomics

- Platform for image processing for high throughput data extraction which maintains geospatial information
- Morphomics platform: Nested cycles of artificial intelligence and supervised anatomic indexing/measurements



Morphomics Measurements

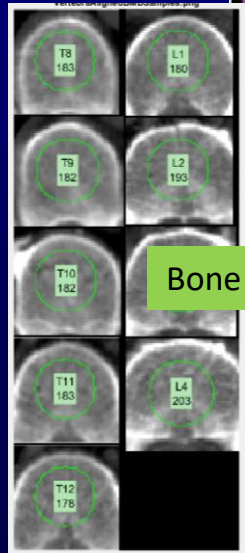


Muscle Features

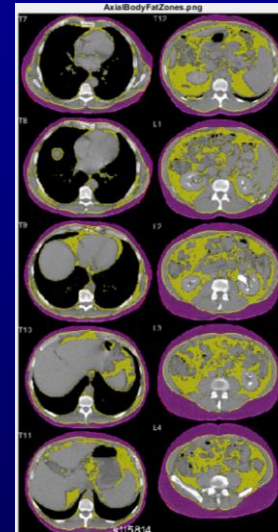
Anatomic Indexing



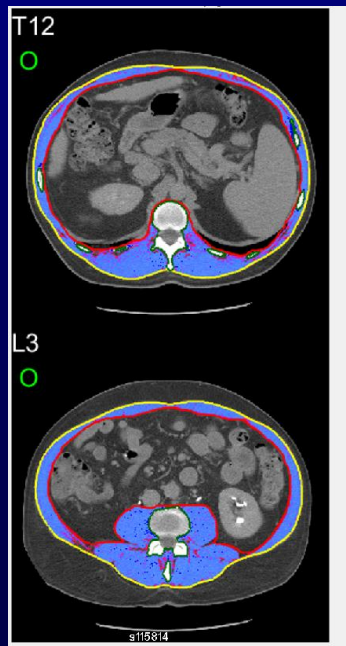
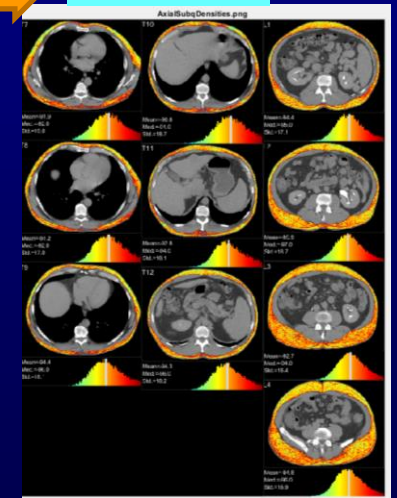
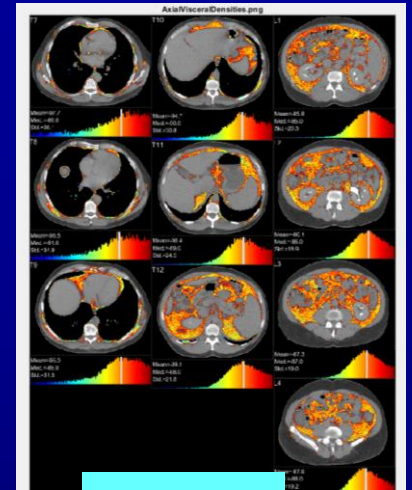
Bone Features



Fat features:
Visceral and SQ



Fat Density



Building Comprehensive Dataset for Prediction of Recurrence

Machine Learning combining clinical,
longitudinal biomarker ctDNA, CEA, &
CT parameters

Conclusions

- Monitoring for cancer recurrence – ctDNA performs better than current testing, such as CEA
- Lead time to CT (but don't always have simultaneous CT/ctDNA measurement)
- Studies ongoing to assess impacts on treatment

Colleagues and Collaborators

U. of Pitt

- O. Finn
- B. Diergaarde
- M. Saul
- M. Morris
- L. Dzubinski
- A. Borhani

UPCI

- D. Haney
- S. Tamburro
- N. Bahary
- D. Normolle

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- K. Kinzler
- B. Vogelstein
- N. Papdapoulous

NCI

- P. Pinsky
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- A. Umar
- L. Rodriguez

U. of Mich

- G. Su
- S. Wang

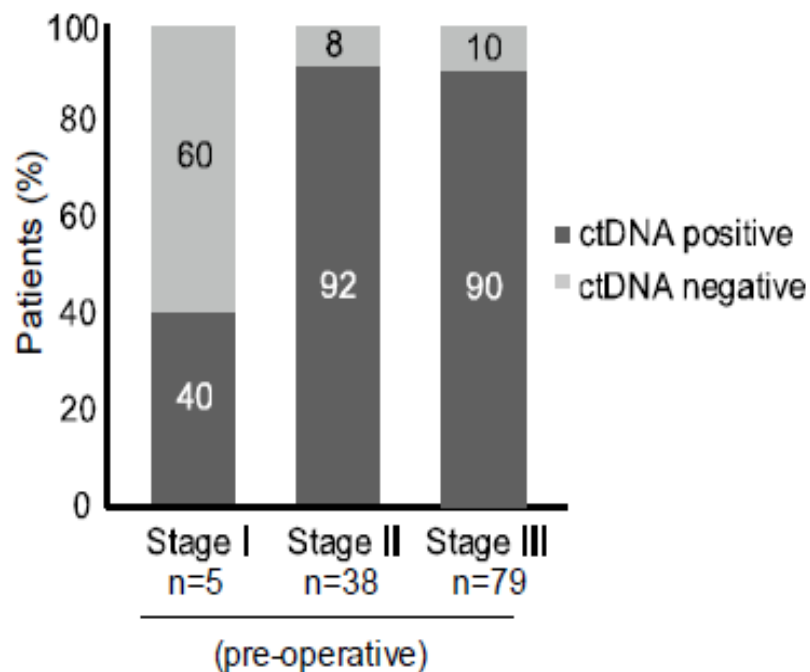
Mayo Clinic

- P. Limburg
- CPN staff
- CPN Collaborators

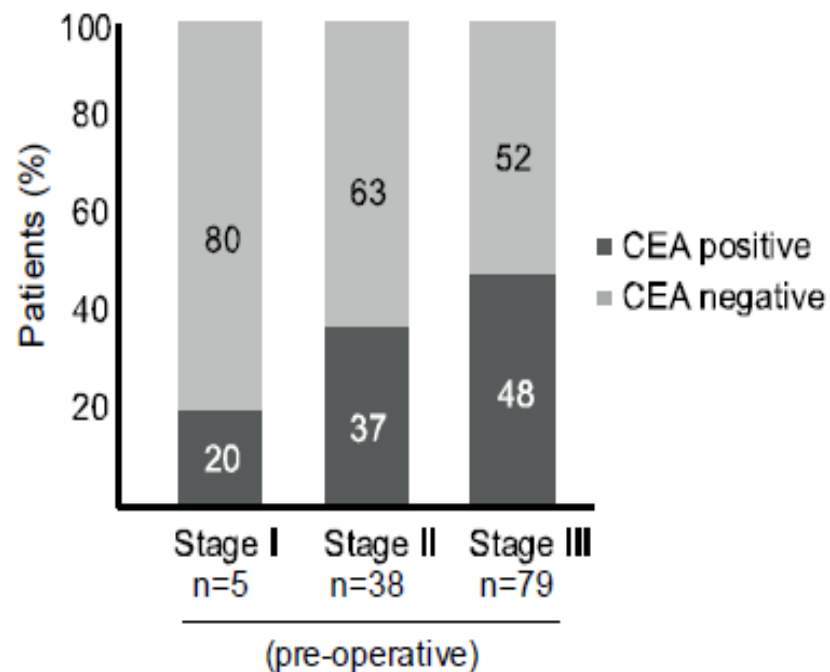
Pre-operative ctDNA and CEA

N=122

A



B





5 minute Q&A

Chair/Co-Chair/NCI

feed Zoom Chat questions to presenter
and Track Time

NCI and Production Team

answer Chat questions not related to presentations
and use Slack