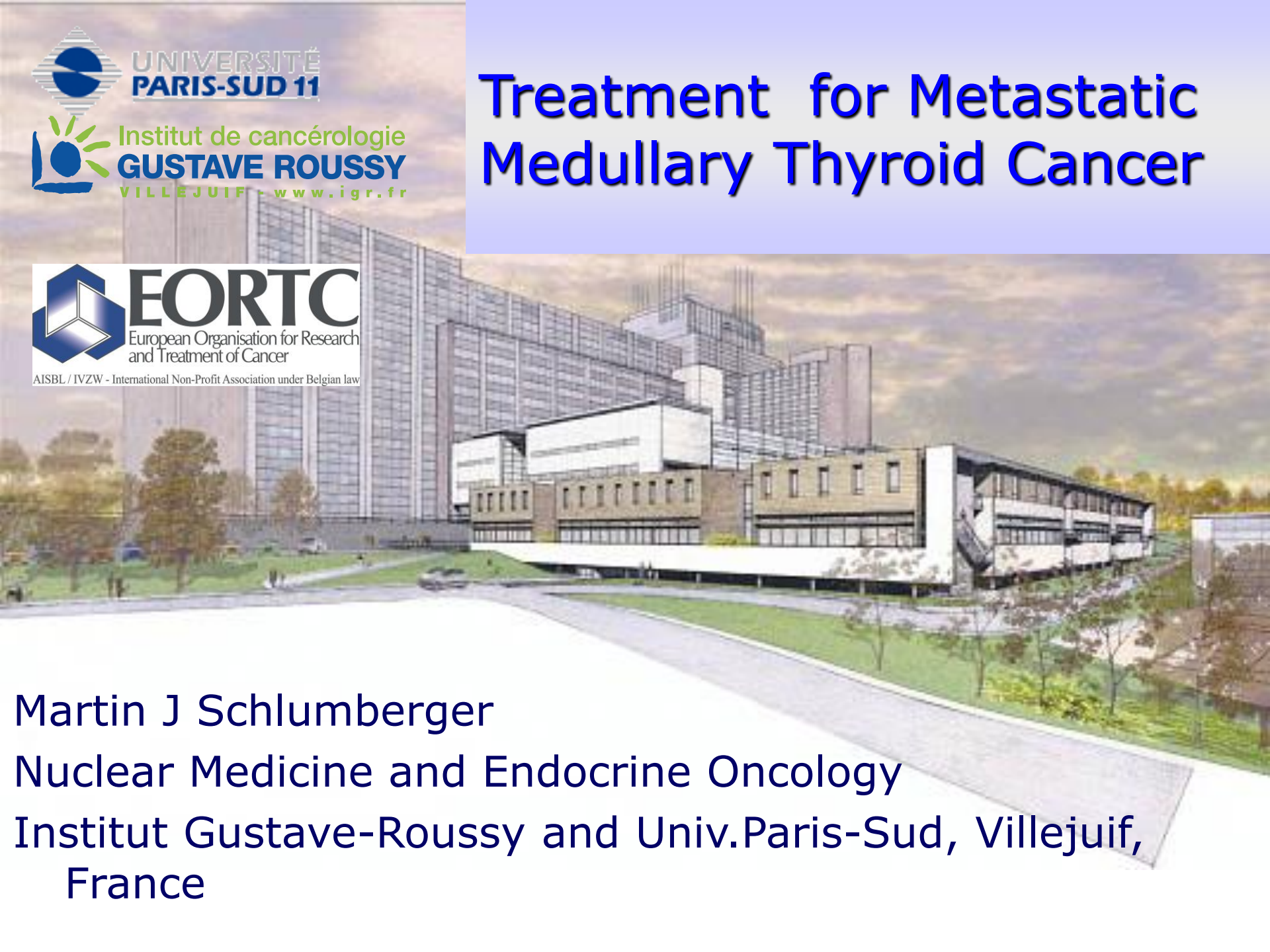


# Treatment for Metastatic Medullary Thyroid Cancer



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France

## Relevant Financial Relationships

Company Name: Amgen, Astra-Zeneca, Bayer, BI, Eisai, Exelixis, Genzyme, GSK, Roche.

Nature of Relationship: research grants

## Objectives

Medullary thyroid cancer: definition and role of RET

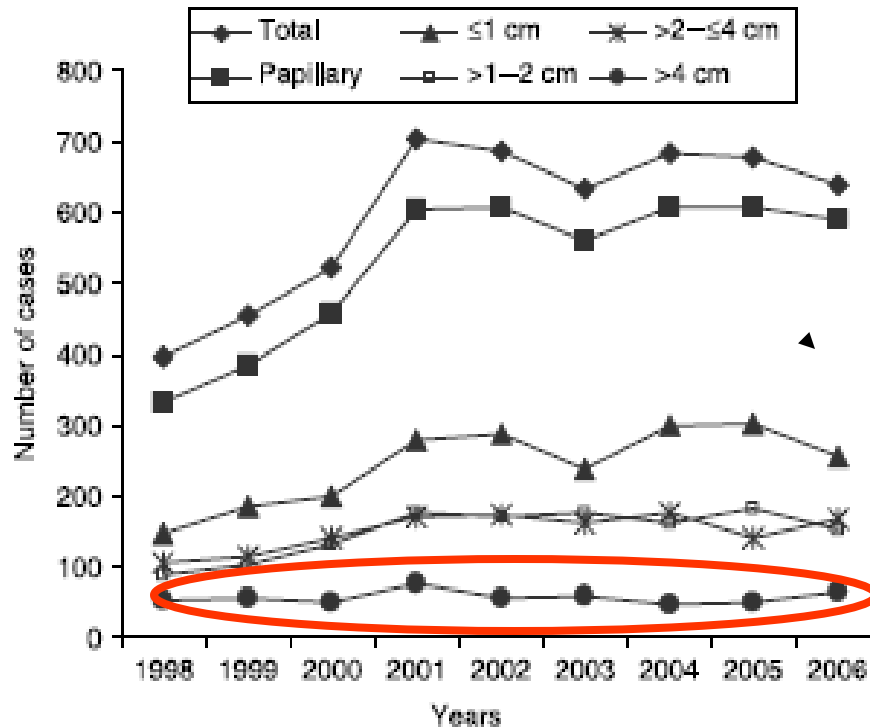
Treatment of metastatic disease

Use of TKI:

- benefits

- adverse events and resistance

# Thyroid cancer: incidence and extent of disease

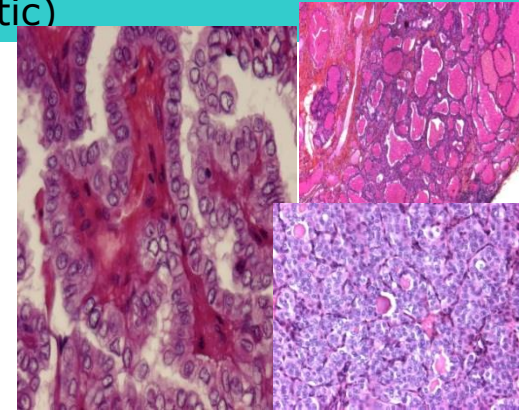
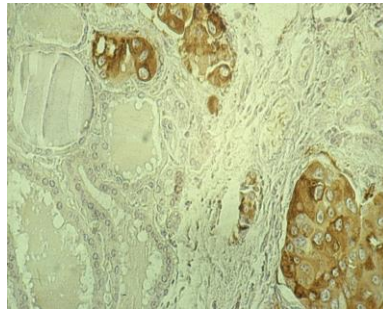
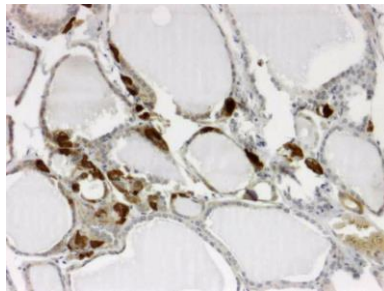
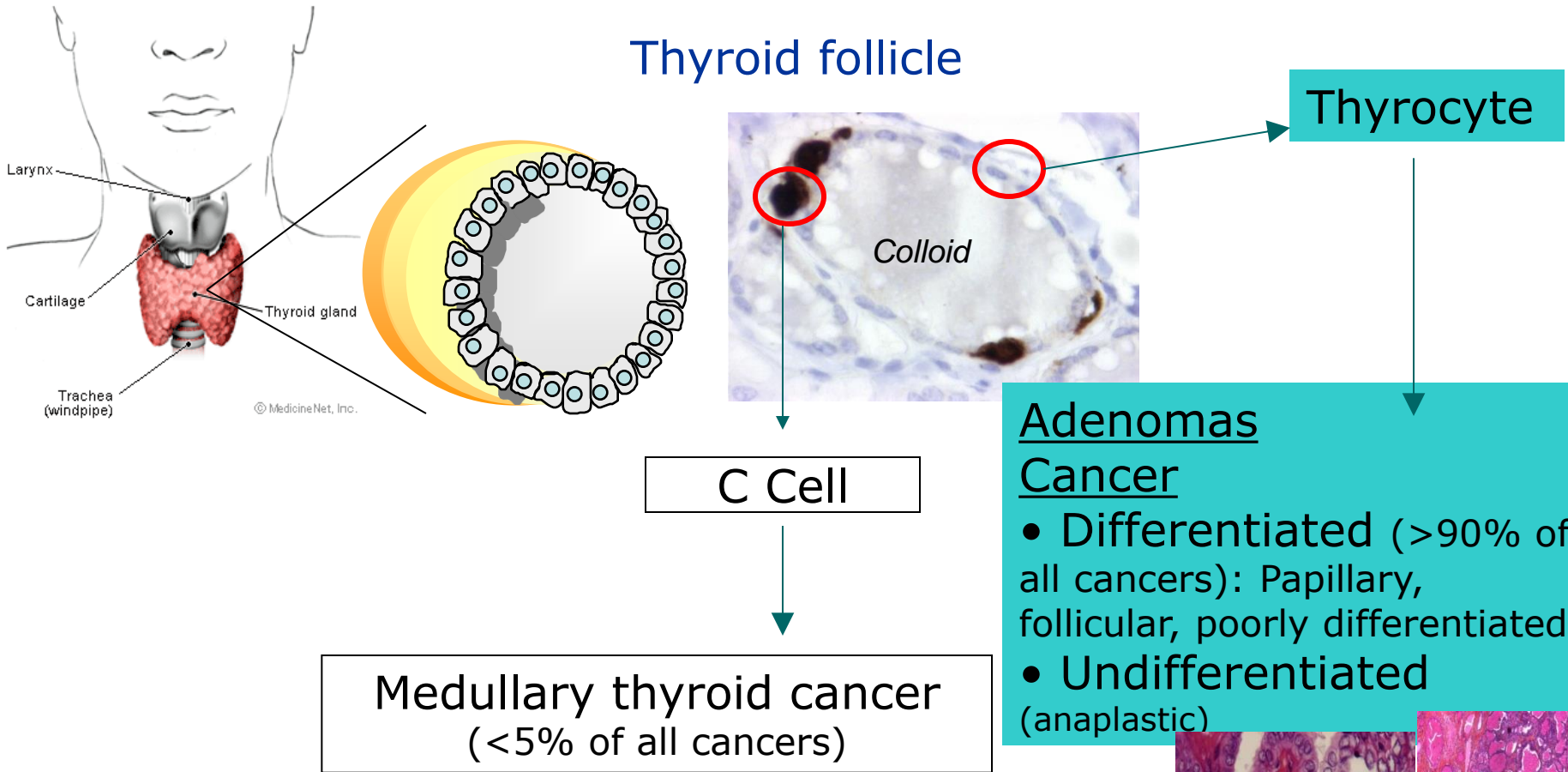


Increasing incidence of cancers (3%-6%/year for 30 years).

Attributed mainly to improved screening

Cancer is present in only 5% of all thyroid tumors: diagnosis is first based on FNAC

# Thyroid tumors: classification



# Epidemiology of medullary thyroid cancer

- Incidence

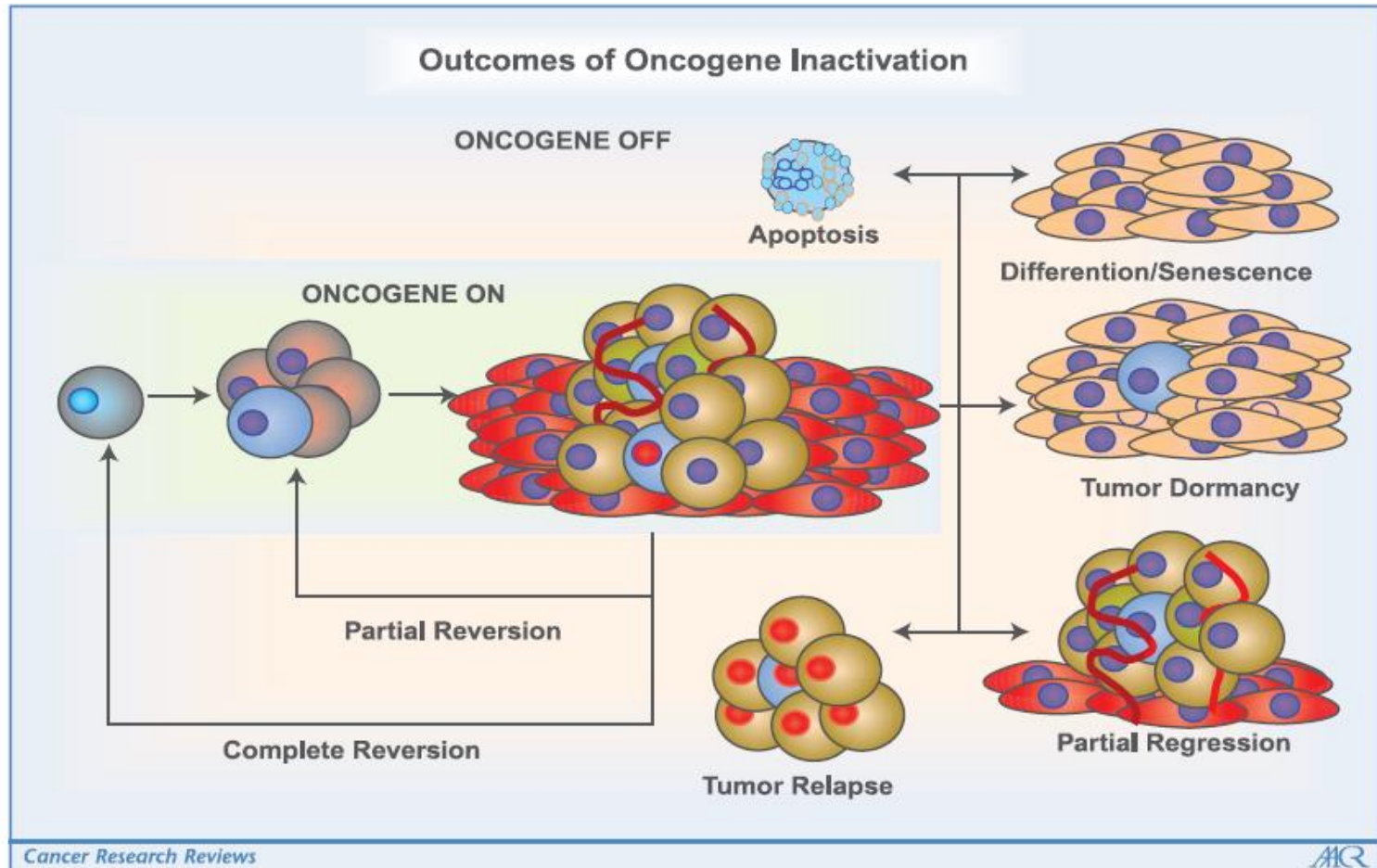
- <5% of all thyroid cancers (1500-2000 cases/year in Europe)
- Distant metastases requiring systemic treatment: 1 / 1.5 million population (~50 cases/year in France)

- Genetics

- MTC may be hereditary:
  - Germline RET mutation. Autosomic dominant trait
  - Identification of gene carriers: prophylactic treatment
- MTC is sporadic in >2/3 of cases:
  - Discovery at a clinical stage
  - Somatic RET mutation in >40% of tumors

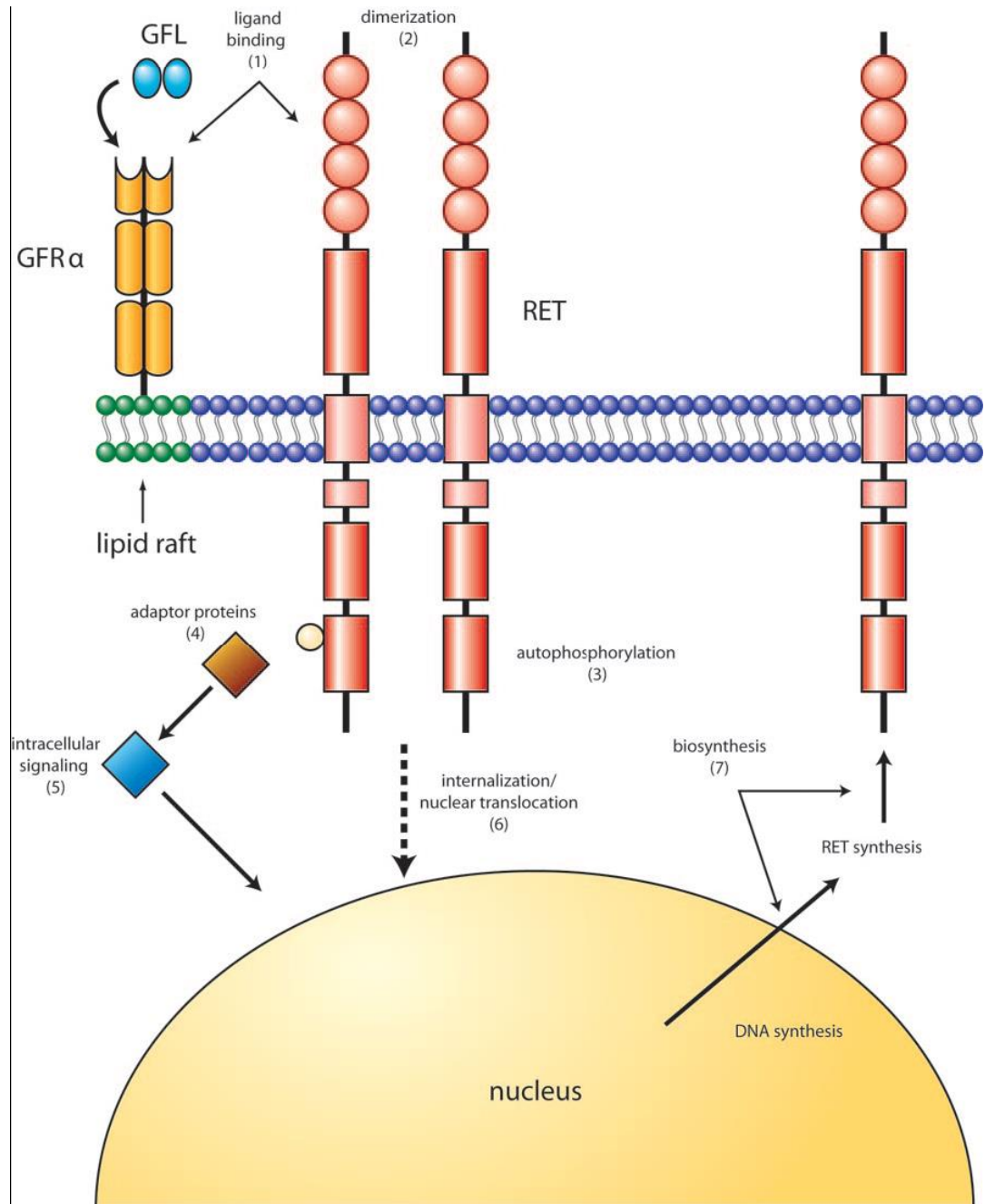


# Oncogenic Addiction

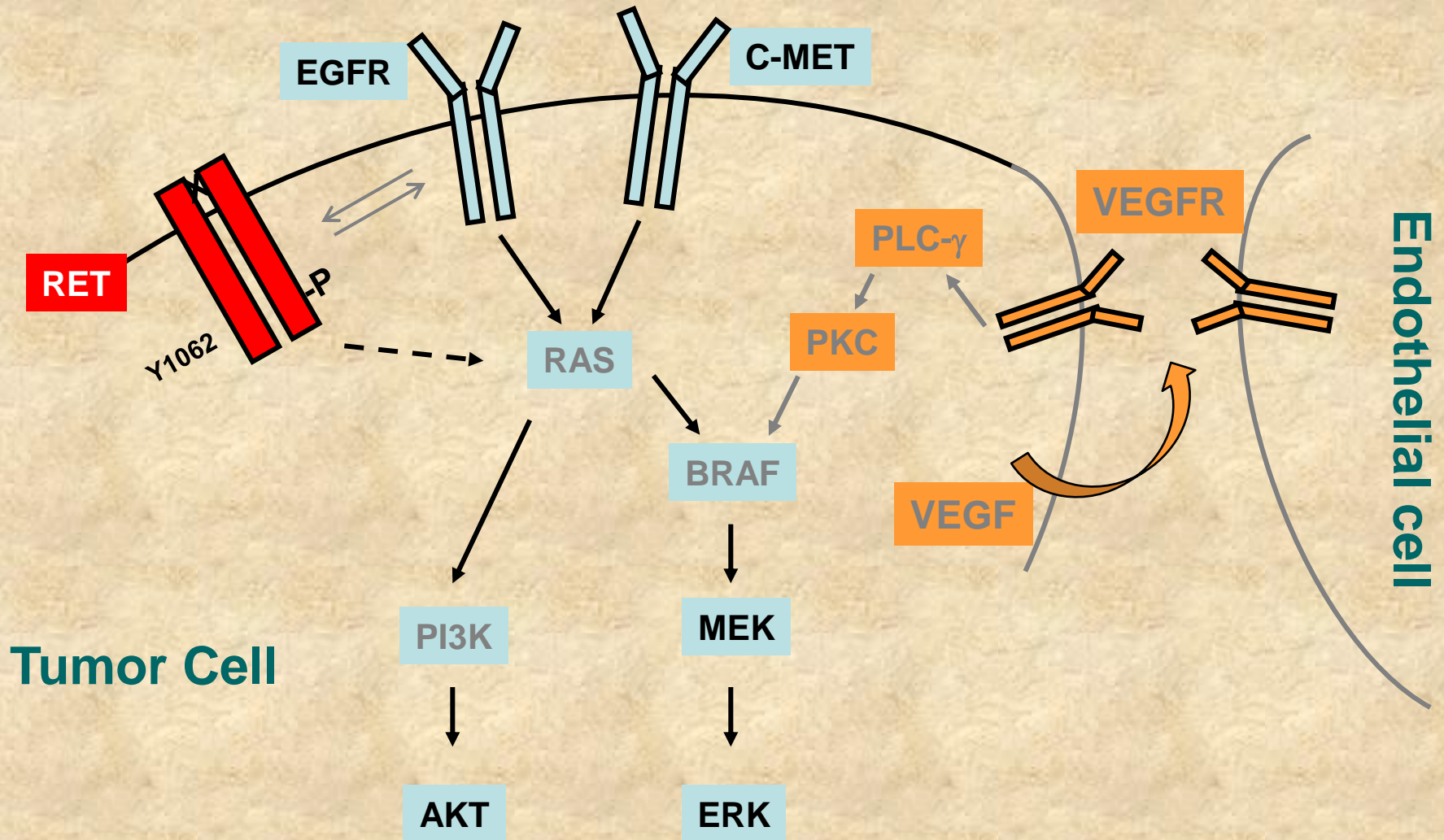


**Figure 1.** Many possible outcomes to oncogene inactivation: no effect, complete, or partial tumor reversion. Tumor death, dormancy, differentiation, or relapse.

Ret (1993):  
transmembrane  
receptor with tyrosine  
kinase activity.  
Ligand: GDNF  
Co-receptor: GFR alpha  
Ligand binding induces  
its dimerisation and TK  
activation  
This in turn activates  
several transduction  
pathways including the  
MAP kinase pathway



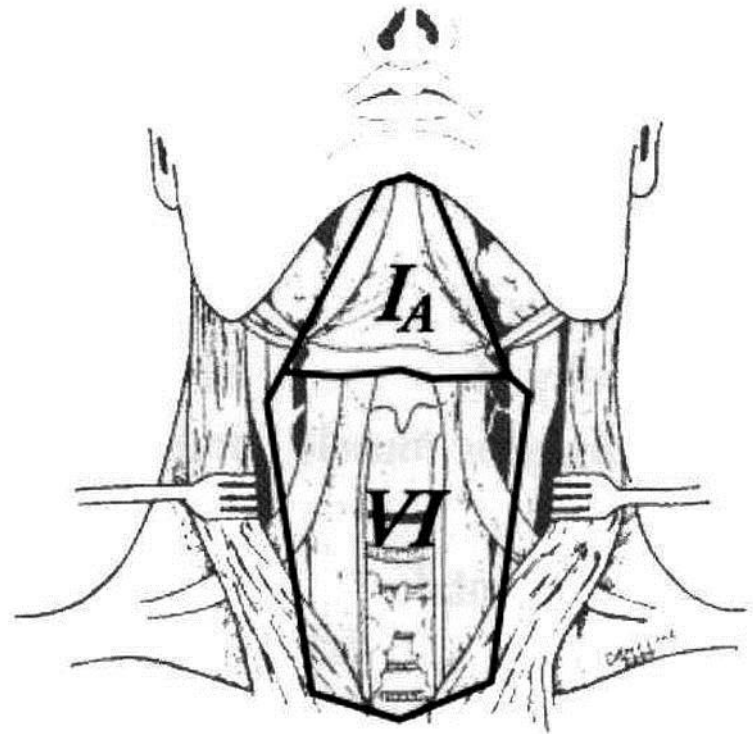
# Signal transduction pathways in thyroid cancers

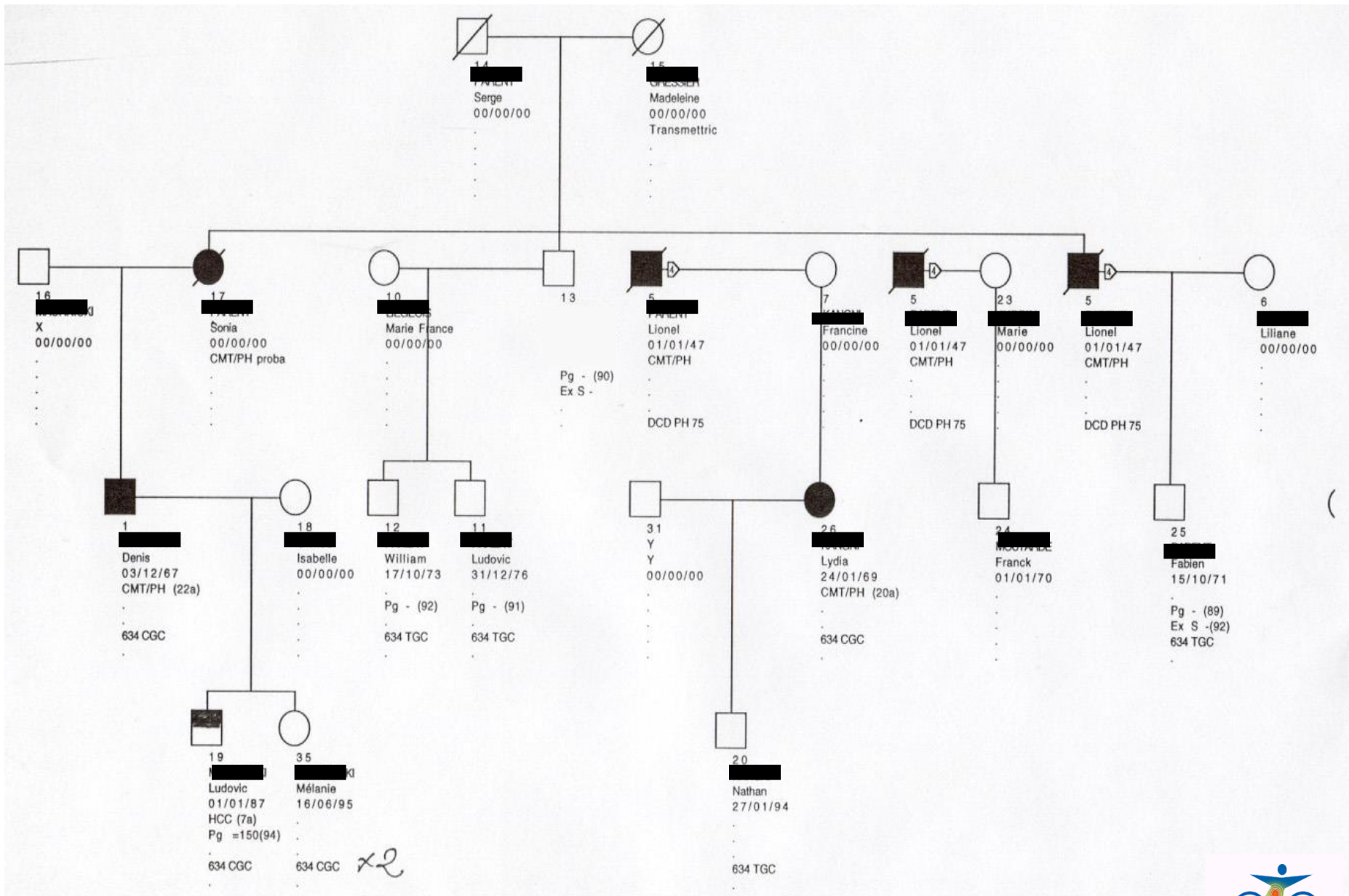




# MTC: initial surgery

- Surgery consists for all MTCs in:
  - Total thyroidectomy
  - Bilateral dissection of lateral and central compartments.
- Success is mainly dependent upon the adequacy of the initial operation (**complete protocol/skilled hands**).



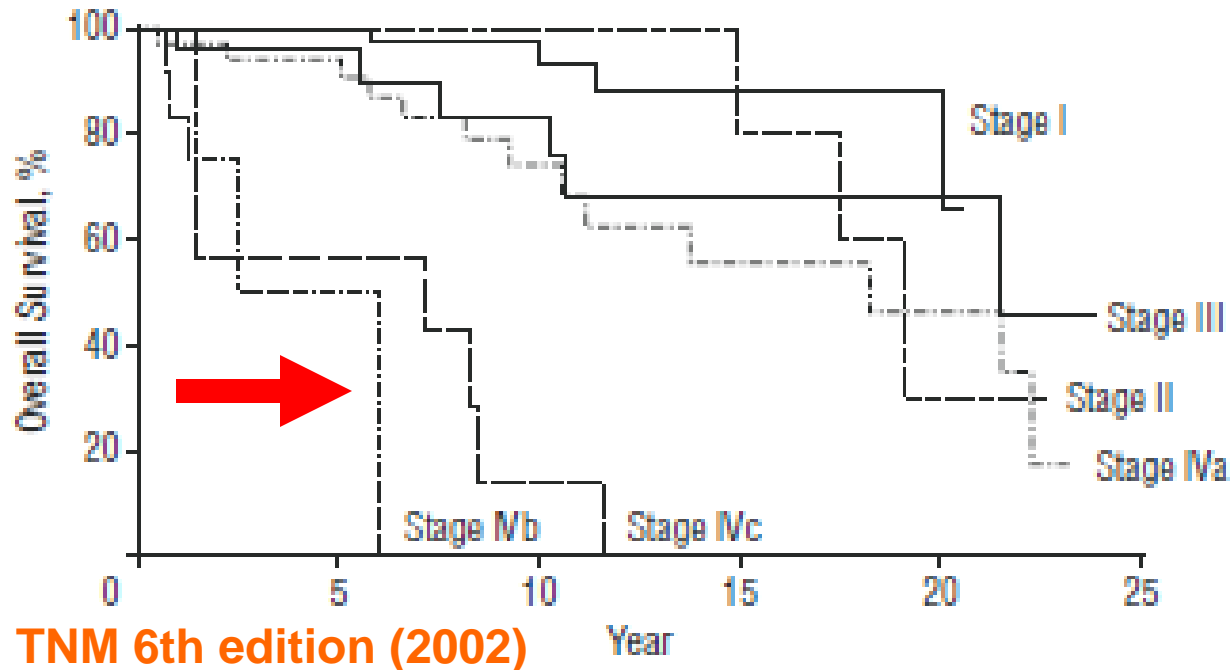


RET 634 CGC

# MTC management based on stratified genetic testing

- Genetic testing permits prophylactic surgery with cure rates >95%
- MEN 2B.
  - Thyroidectomy within the first year of life, preferably within the first month.
- RET codon 634 mutation.
  - Thyroidectomy before the age of 5 years
- RET codon 611, 618, 620 mutation and RET codon 609, 768, 790, 804 or 891 mutation.
  - Thyroidectomy possibly later than 5 years if Ct is normal, neck US is normal, familial history is not aggressive and family preference

# Focus on advanced MTC



**Stage IVb:** T4b (tumor invades prevertebral fascia or encases carotid artery or mediastinal vessels), Any N, M0.

**Stage IVc:** Any T, Any N, M1

## MTC: distant metastases

- At MTC discovery: 2% (Mayo Clinic) - >15% (IGR) of patients
- During the 10 first years of follow-up, DM are detected in ~30-50% of patients with post-operative detectable Ct levels
- Diarrhea: ~30%; flushes: ~15%.
- Often present in several sites
- Often multiple in each site.

*Guidelines ATA (2009) and ETA (2012)*



# MTC: natural history

GP  
Endocrinologist  
Nuclear Med  
Surgeon

Thyroid nodule +/- N1: surgery

MDT

Post-operative calcitonin (Ct)

Detectable: 10-yr survival rate >90%

Undetectable = cure

Neck persistence / neck recurrence

Distant metastases

Stable disease → follow-up

Progressive disease → treatment

MDT

Oncologist

## Three problems

- Recognizing aggressive MTC
- Therapy inertia vs treatment
- Selecting adequate treatment

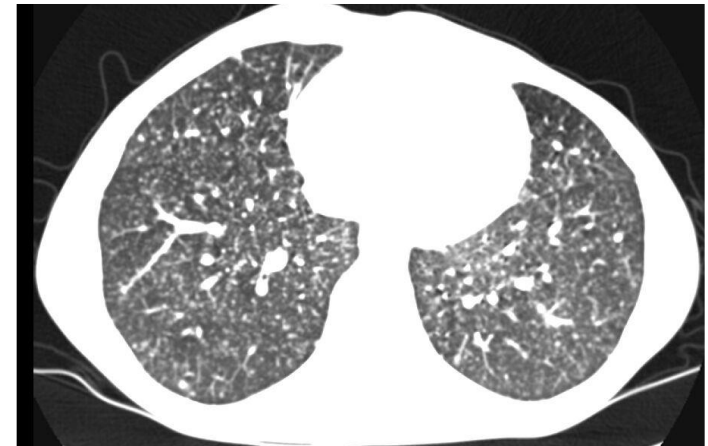
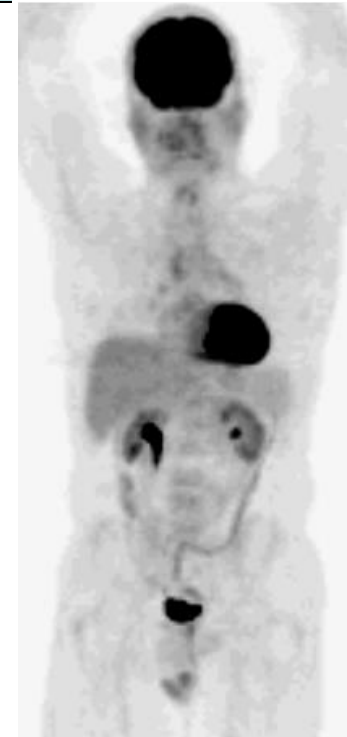
# MTC: distant metastases

- Assessment of disease extent – standardized imaging
  - Neck: US-spiral CT scan
  - Mediastinum and lung: spiral CT scan with contrast medium
  - Liver: MRI, and if not feasible, dual-phase CT scan
  - Bone: bone scintigraphy + axial MRI
  - Brain: MRI or spiral CT scan
  - FDG or FDOPA-PET scan?
- MTC patients
  - post-operative serum Ct levels  $\geq 150$  pg/mL: imaging techniques to evaluate for distant metastases.
  - If negative, should be repeated when Ct level increases by  $>20$ -100%.

# MTC: FDG-PET scan



- Slowly progressive disease: **low FDG uptake in metastases (standardized uptake value <6)**
- Low diagnostic sensitivity/not appropriate for assessing progression or tumor response

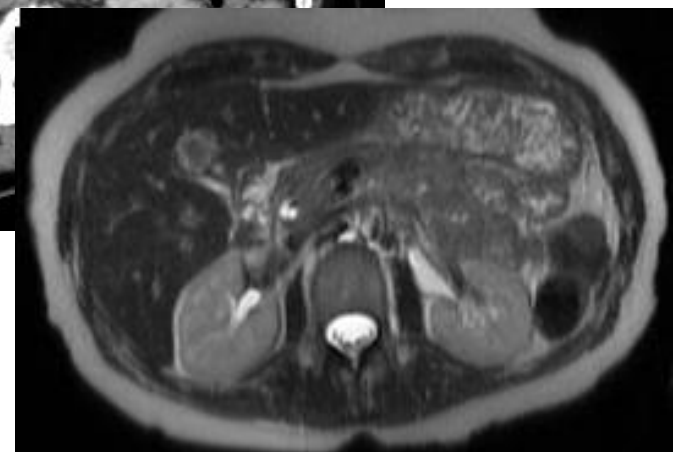
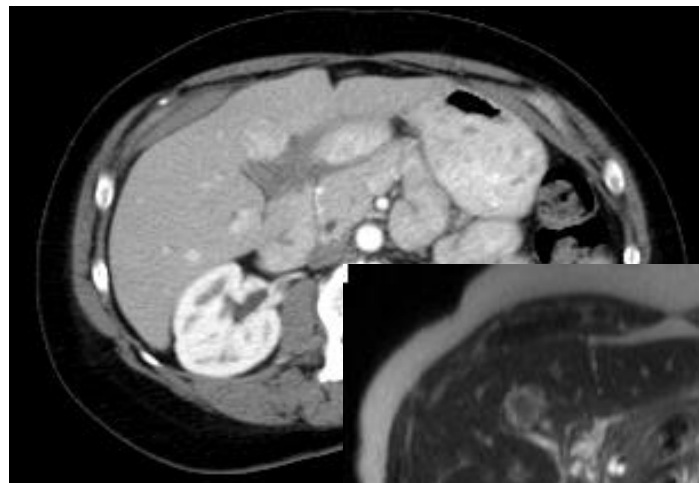


## MTC: FDG-PET scan

- Slowly progressive disease: **low FDG uptake in metastases (standardized uptake value <6)**
- Low diagnostic sensitivity/not appropriate for assessing progression or tumor response
- Exceptions: MTC patients with rapidly progressive disease
- Role of F-DOPA: expensive/does it improve sensitivity of the complete imaging

# MTC: liver metastases

- Liver metastases may be difficult to visualize
- US: angiomatic appearance
- MRI scan (T1, T2) with arterial phase > CT scan with arterial and venous phases
- MRI is more reliable than CT scan for assessment during treatment with antiangiogenic agents



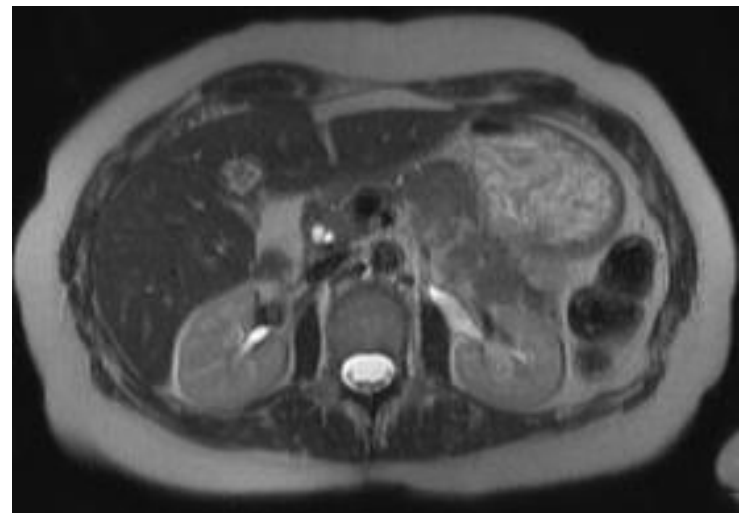
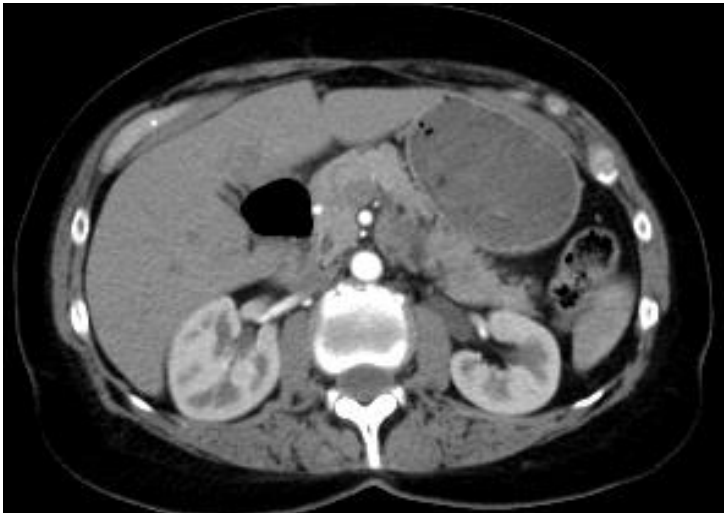
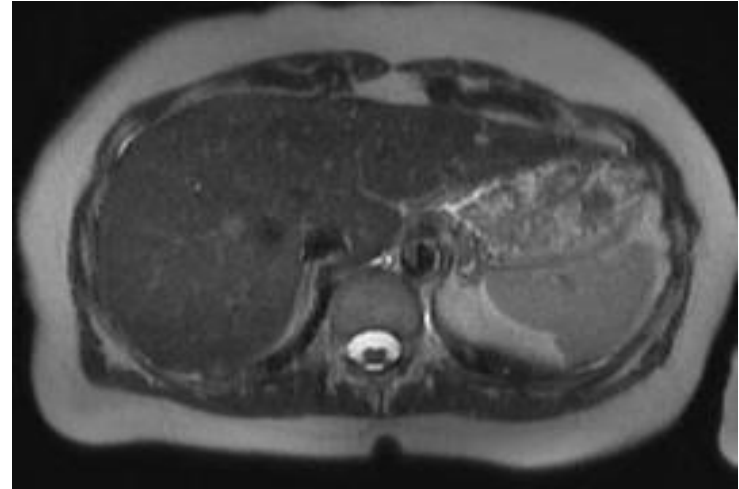
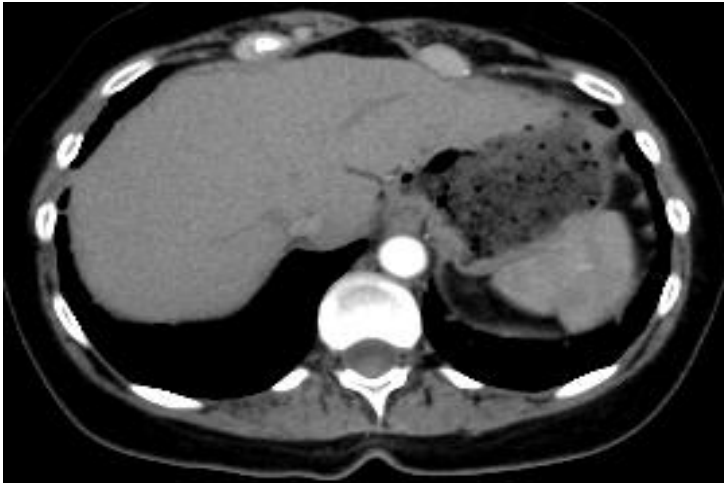
25 MTC patients with liver metastases; miliary in 18 patients

	US	CT	MRI	PET
<b>Patients</b>	18	21	<b>25</b>	12
<b>Lesions</b>	164	178	<b>233</b>	52



# Liver metastases: vandetanib treatment

- During antiangiogenic treatment, liver metastases may not be visible on CT but still be visible on MRI



# Metastatic MTC: prognosis

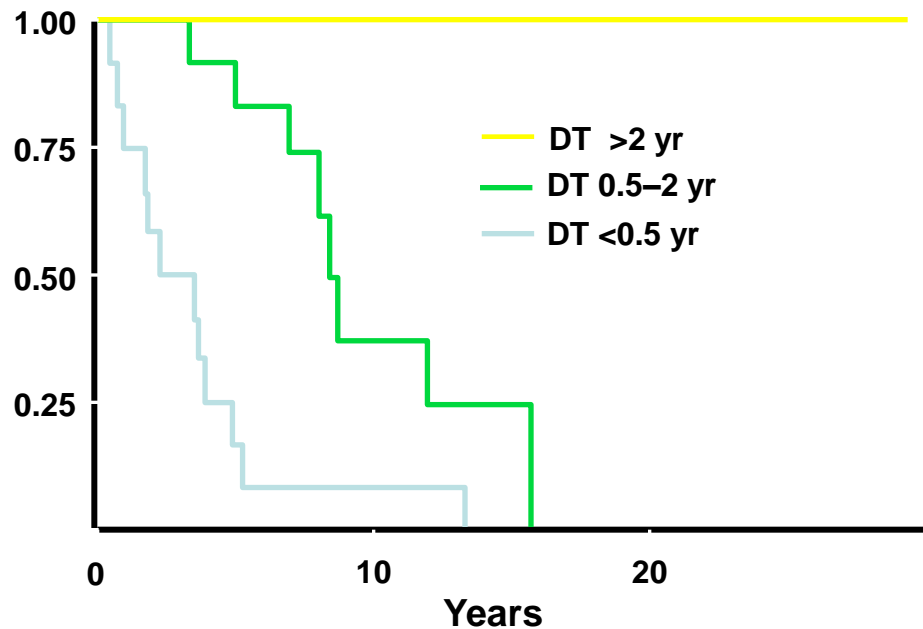
- Tumor burden: complete imaging
- Progression
  - There is no evidence that the efficacy of a systemic treatment at an early stage may be better than at a later stage
  - FU and local treatment modalities should be used as long as reasonably possible

## Candidates for systemic treatment

- Large tumor burden: imaging
- Symptomatic or progressive disease on imaging (not only on DT-Ct and CEA)

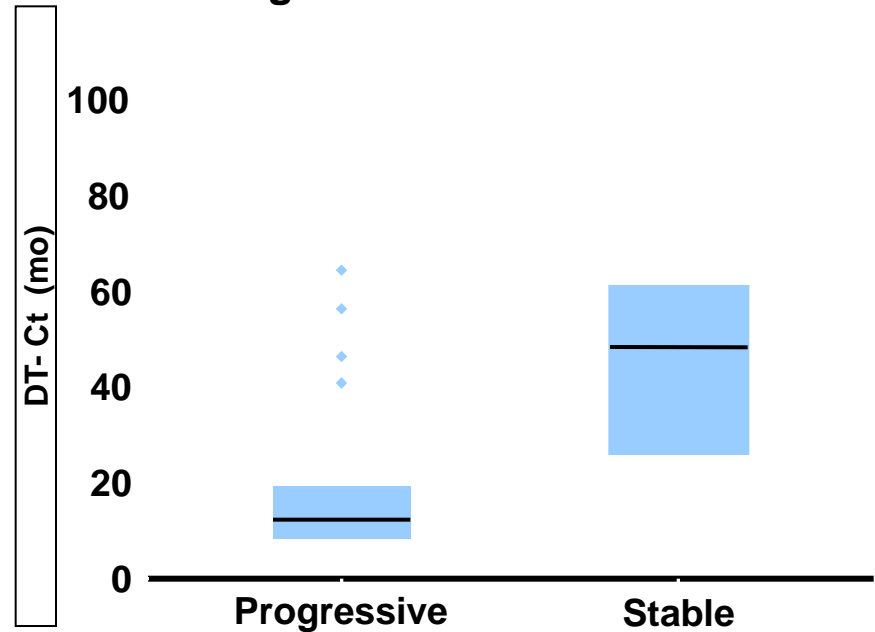
# Ct: doubling time (DT)

Survival rate and DT (n=65)



DT < 2 years in 24/65 patients

Progression and DT-Ct



IGR: Progression at 1 year (RECIST: 24/45)

- DT <2 years: 94% had progressive disease
- DT >2 years: 86% had stable disease

# Why is imaging so important?

During treatment with vandetanib, serum Ct and CEA levels decrease in > 80% of patients. This decrease is related to the inhibition of the ret tyrosine kinase.

It may be not paralleled by a decrease in tumor masses on imaging (efficacy).

What to do in a patient with stable disease before and on treatment when toxicity appears?

Indication for treatment: progressive disease on imaging

Efficacy: tumor targets on imaging (RECIST)

Do not treat: elevated Ct levels, patients with small tumor burden; patients with no evidence of progression on imaging

# Metastatic MTC: prognosis

- Candidates for local treatment modalities:
  - Before any systemic treatment
  - Local symptoms or risk of local complication:
    - Surgery
    - External radiation beam therapy,
    - Percutaneous intervention (Therapeutic imaging):
      - Radiofrequency ablation, cryoablation
      - Cement injection
      - Hepatic embolization
- Candidates for systemic treatment
  - Large tumor burden: imaging
  - Symptomatic or progressive disease on imaging (not only on DT-Ct and Dt-CEA)



# Initiation of systemic treatment in patients with metastatic MTC

	Tumor burden	
	Small <1cm	Large/Multiple >1.5-2 cm
Progression		
<12-14 months	No	Yes
>12-14 months	No	?? (High SUV? Symptoms?)

# Metastatic MTC: systemic treatment

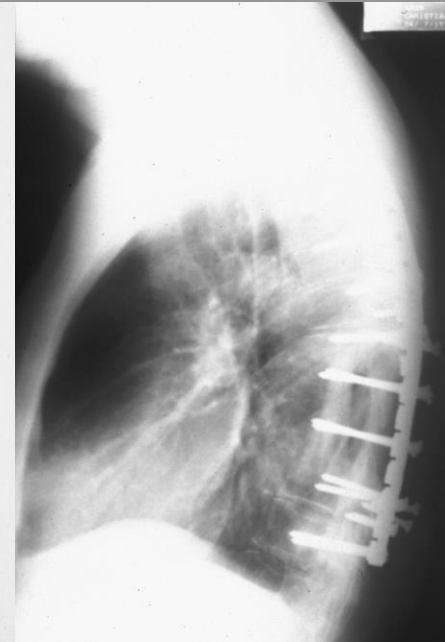
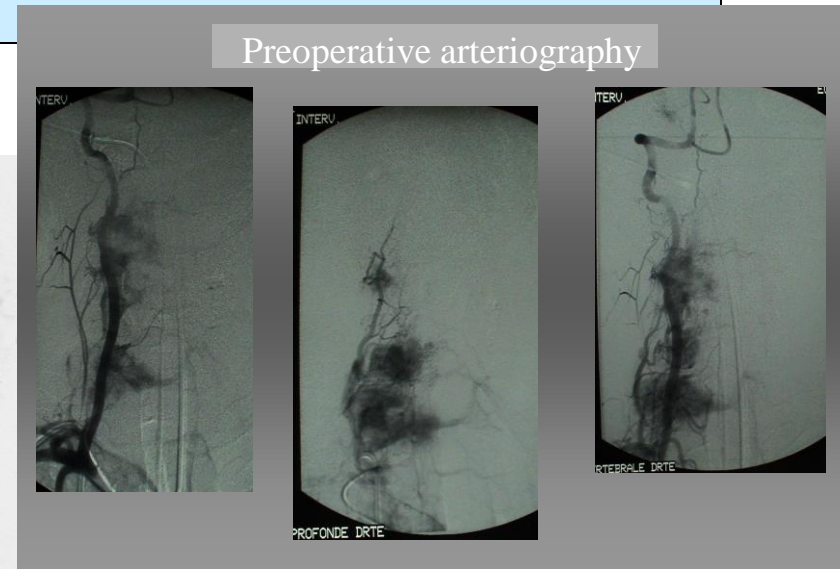
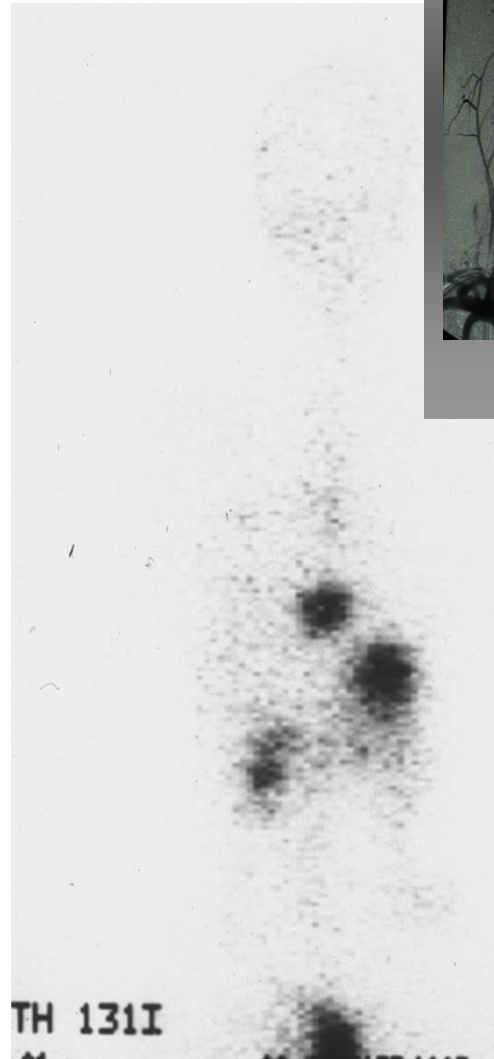
- Symptomatic treatment (pain, diarrhea)
- Somatostatin analogs: no benefits
- Chemotherapy (ADR or 5FU/DTIC)
  - Low efficacy (ORR < 5-20%; no demonstrated benefits on survival); high toxicity
- Metabolic radiation therapy (anti CEA mAb, <sup>90</sup>Yttrium-DOTA-TOC) (Chatal JF, J Clin Oncol 2006;24:1705)
  - Low efficacy, potential toxicity
- Targetted therapy (Kloos et al, Thyroid. 2009 ;19:565)

# Local treatment for advanced disease

- Brain metastases:
  - Surgery and/or external radiation beam therapy
- Bone metastases with imaging abnormalities:
  - Surgery and ERBT
  - Radiofrequency-cryoablation, cement injection
- Lung metastases, in case of predominant lesions:
  - Radiofrequency ablation
  - Surgery
- Local treatment modalities may be used alone or in combination with systemic treatment

# Surgery for bone metastases

- Single vertebral metastasis:  
 $^{131}\text{I}$  (3.7GBq x 6) and EBRT:  
persistent  $^{131}\text{I}$  uptake.
- Surgical resection after embolization:  
cure.

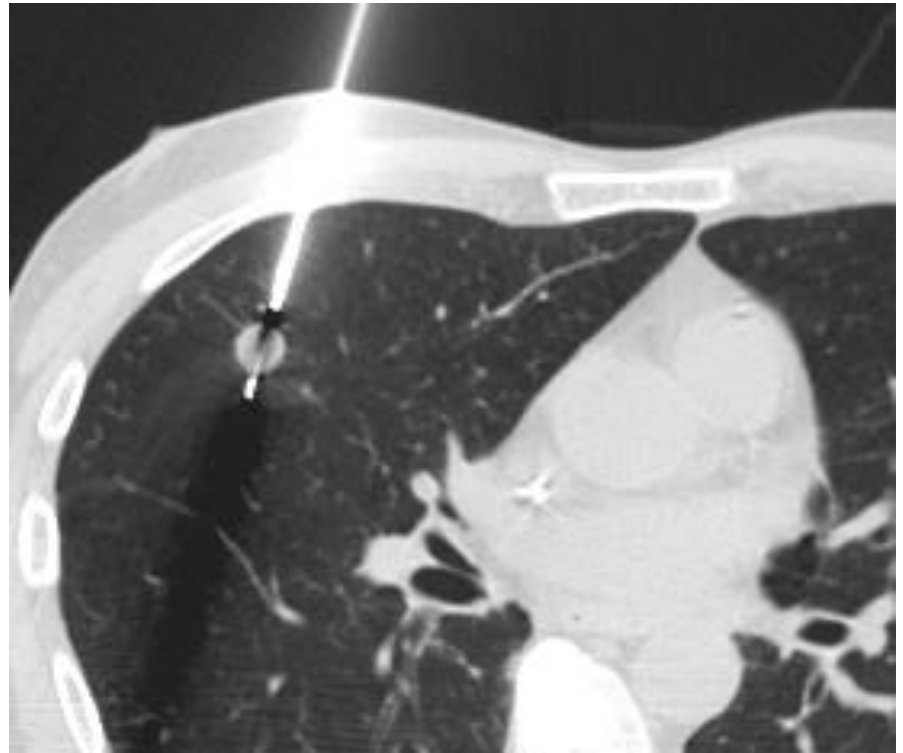


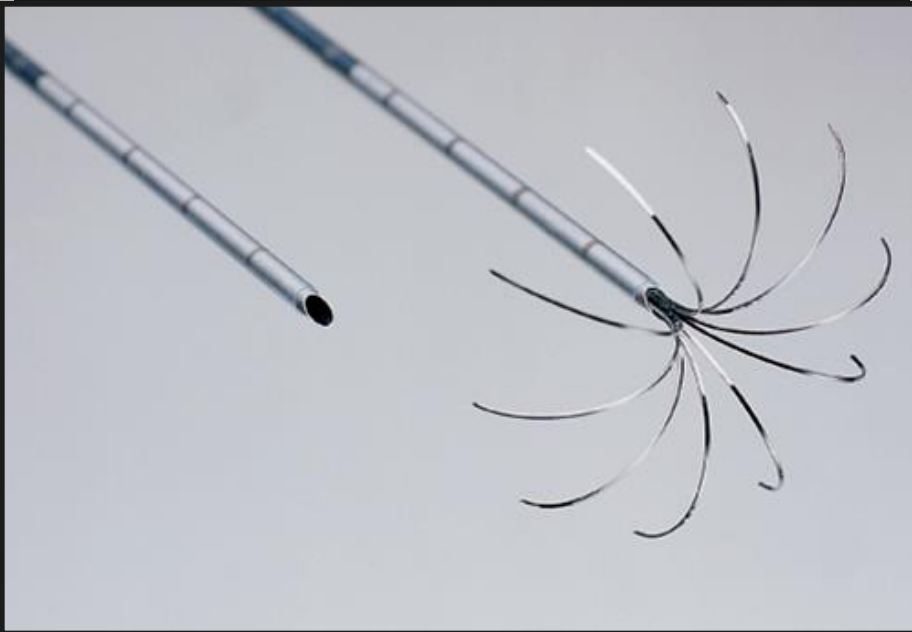
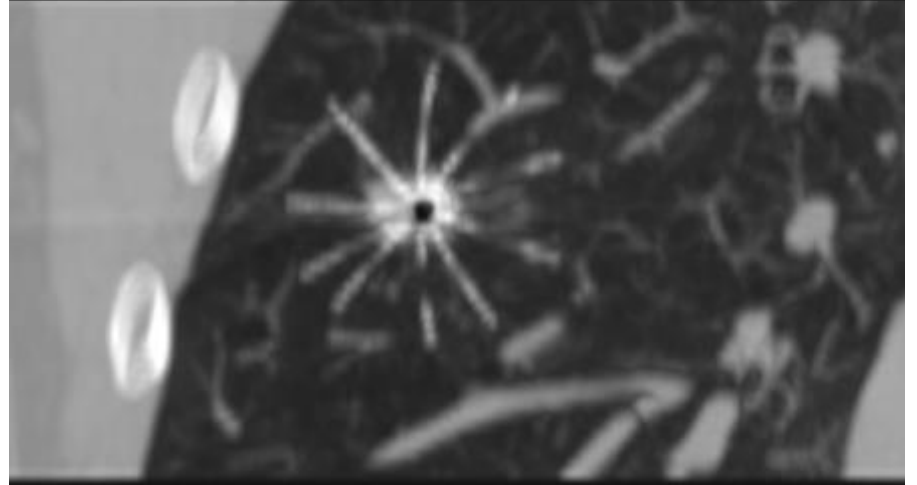
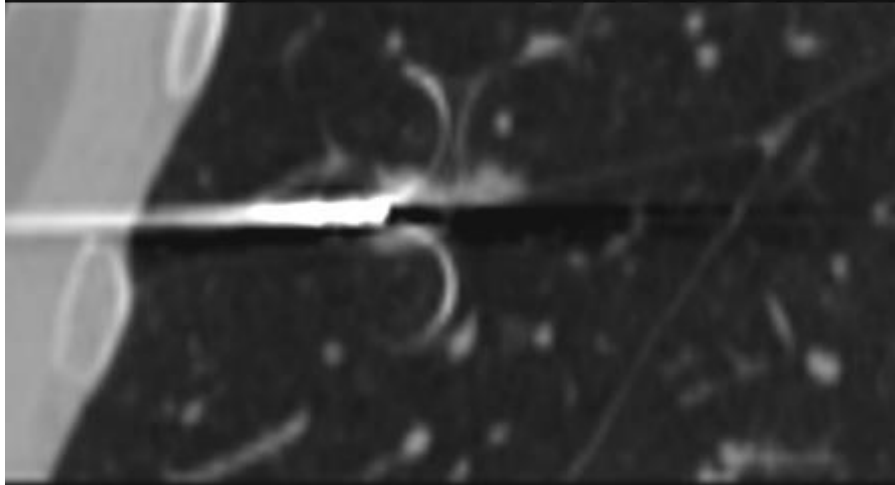
# CT-guidance

« Real time »

Anesthésie générale

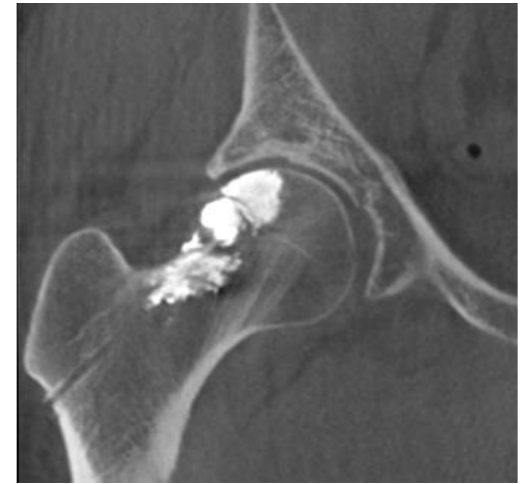
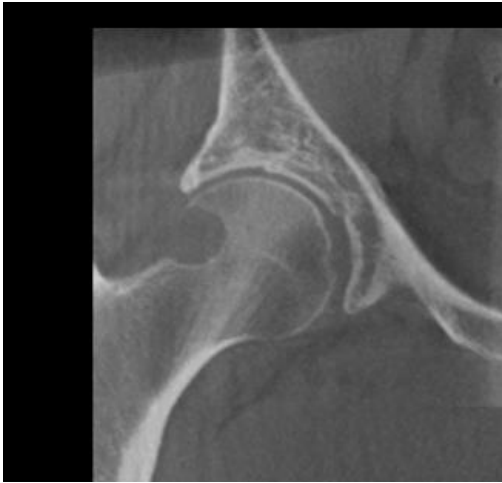
Biopsie si indiquée



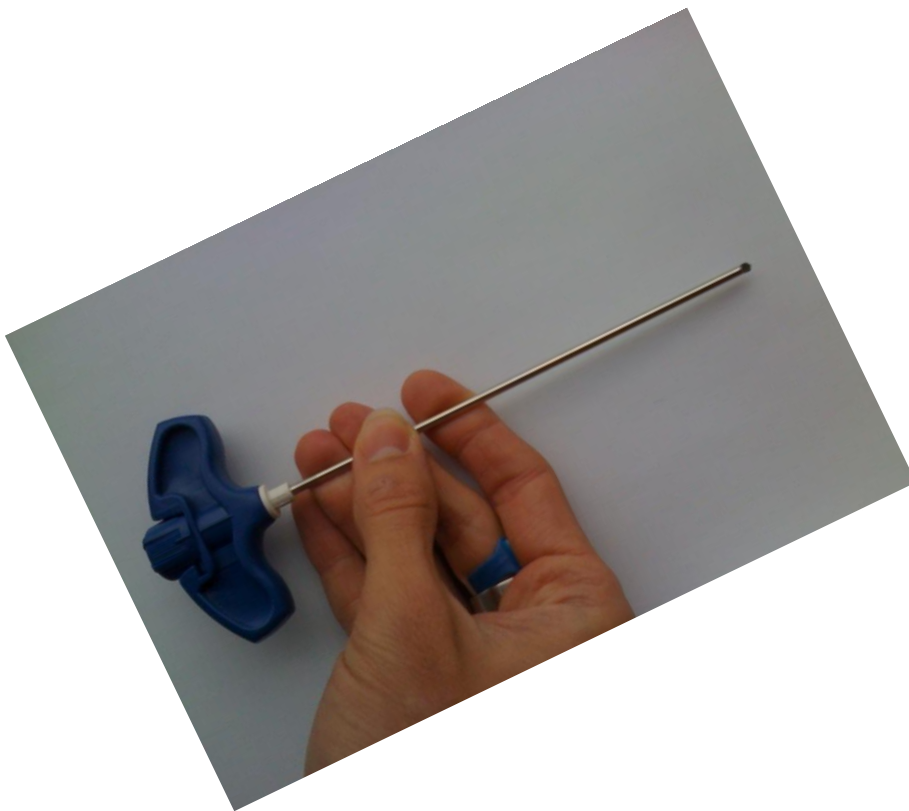


Ablation par radiofréquence d'une méta pulmonaire





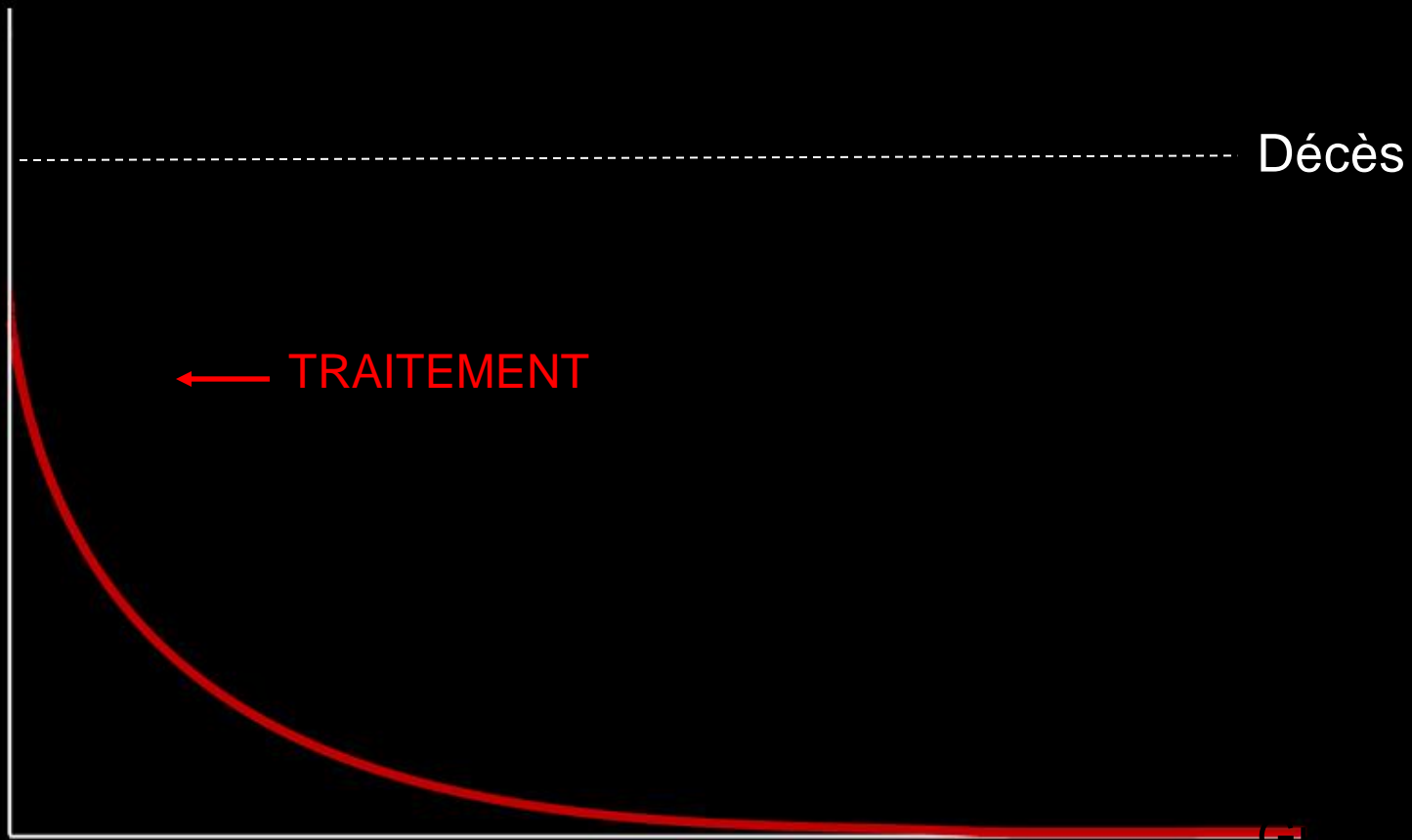
Résultats à 1 an



Cryothérapie  
suivie de  
cimentoplastie

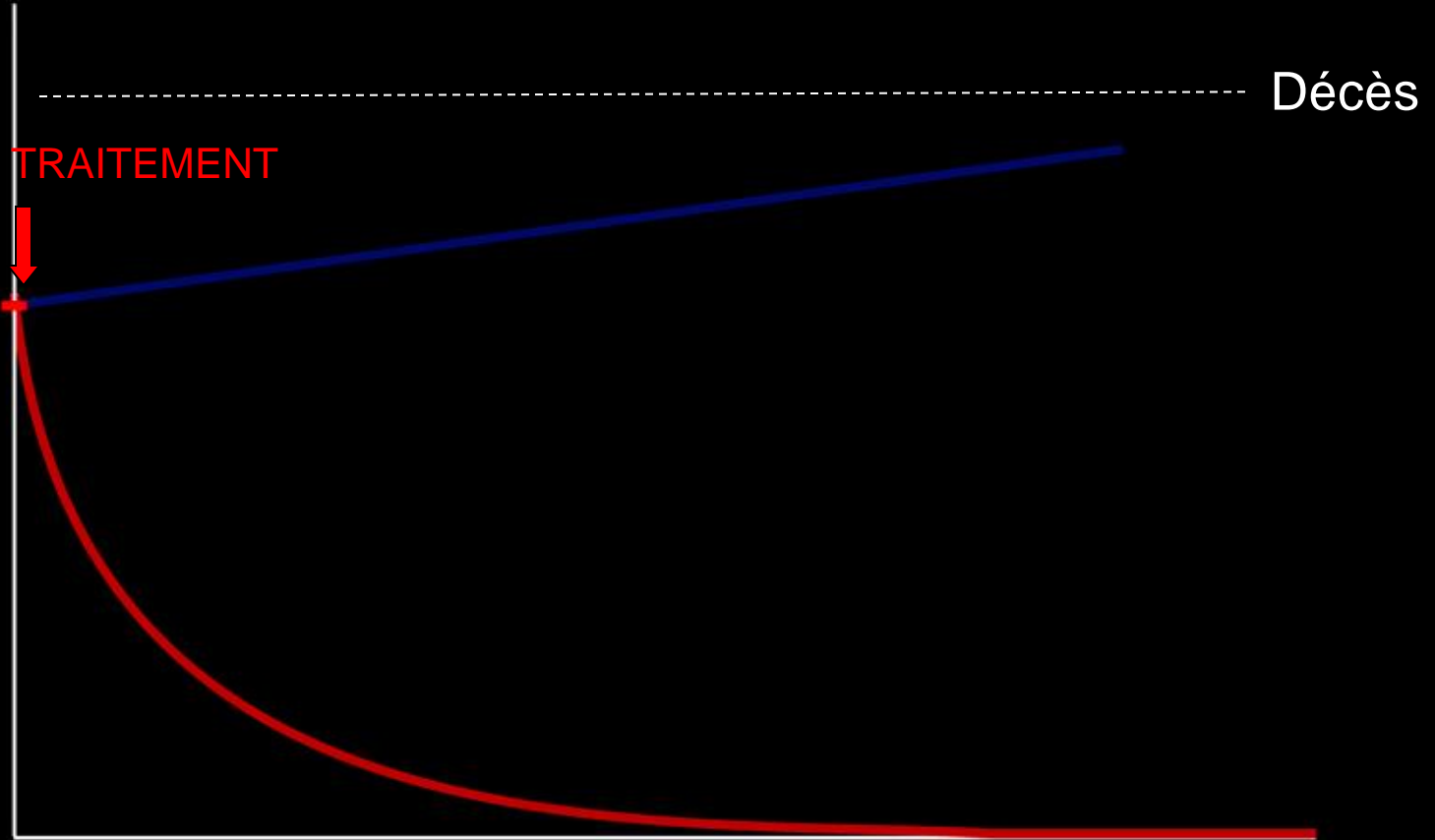
# Tumor response, a surrogate marker of survival

<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Marker</b>	<b>Aim</b>
Anti-hypertension	Blood pressure	Stroke
Anti-osteoporosis	Bone mineralisation	Fracture
Anti-neoplastic	Tumor response (ORR, PFS)	Survival



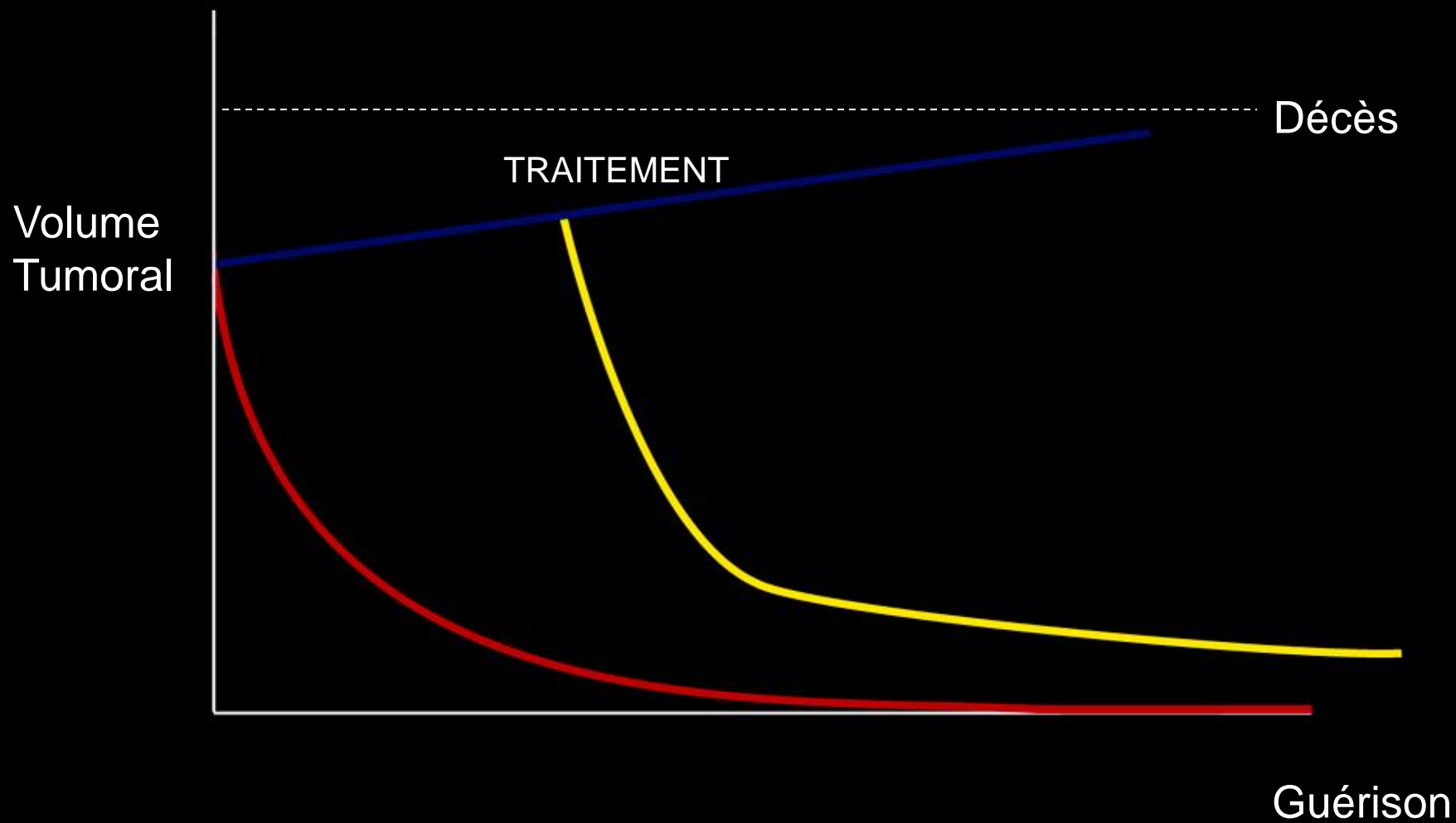
Volume  
Tumoral

TRAITEMENT



Décès

Guérison

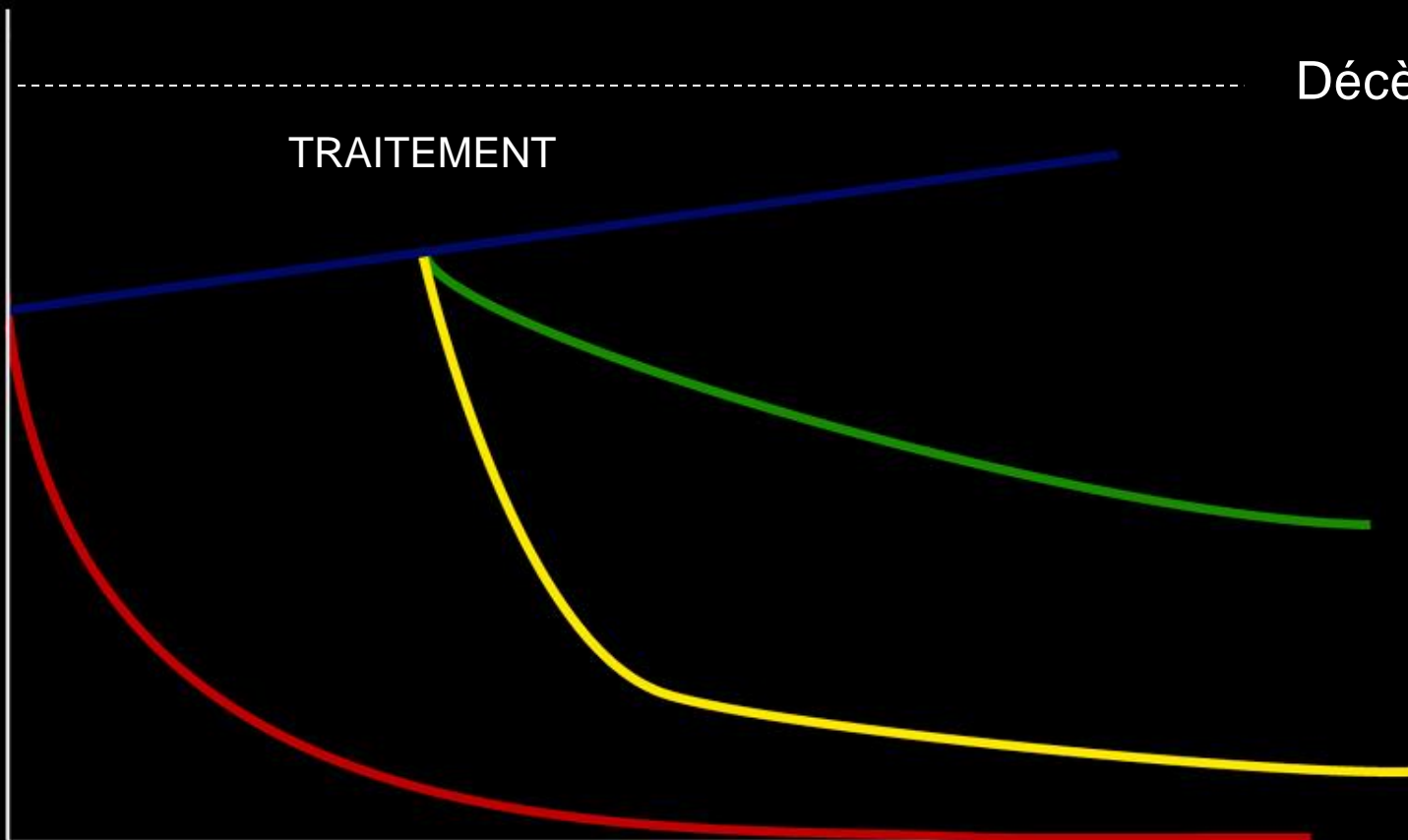


Volume  
Tumoral

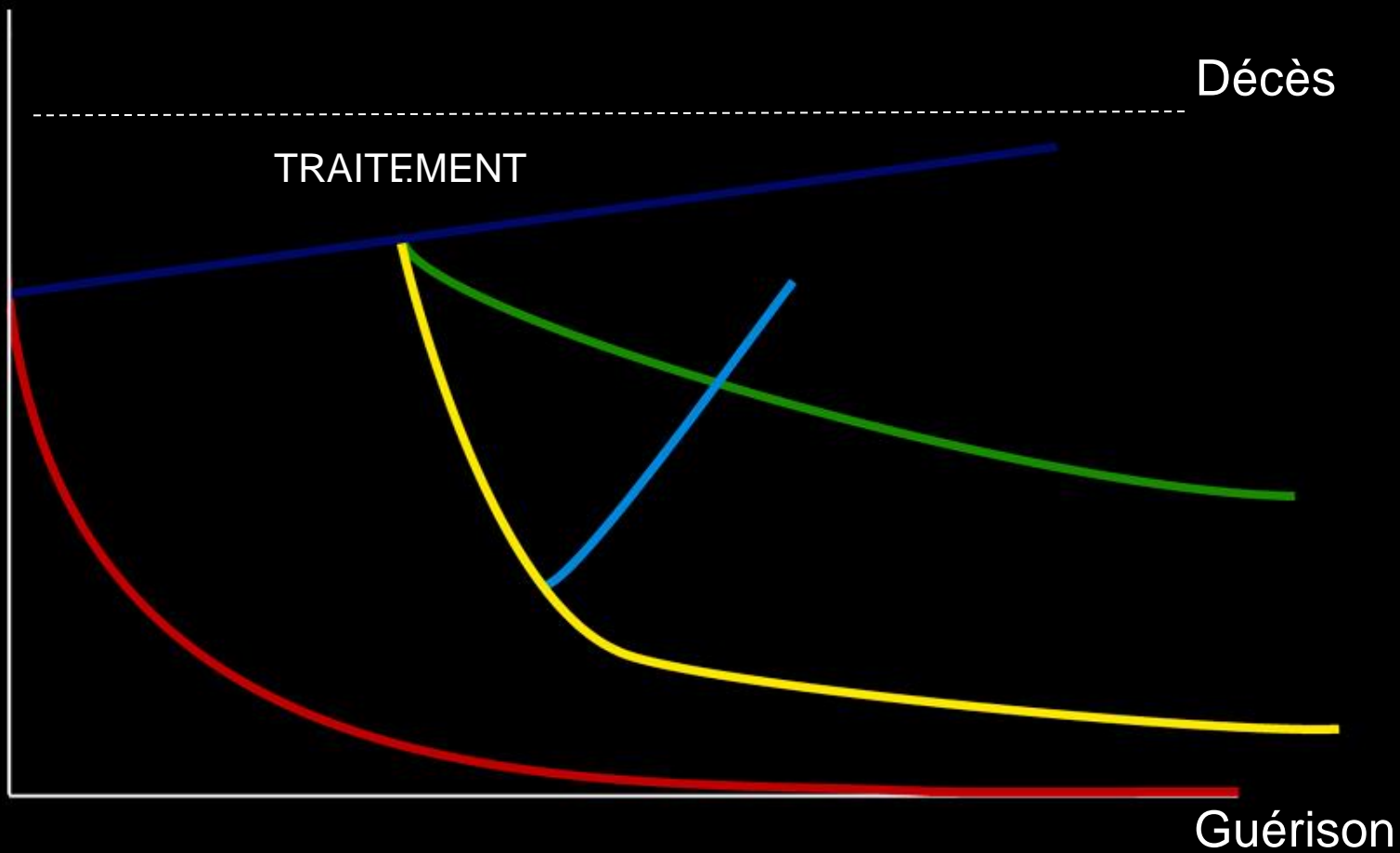
TRAITEMENT

Décès

Guérison



Volume  
Tumoral





# Tumor response: a surrogate marker of survival

Benefits on survival may be difficult to demonstrate, and this is the case for patients with a significant life expectancy who will receive several lines of treatment

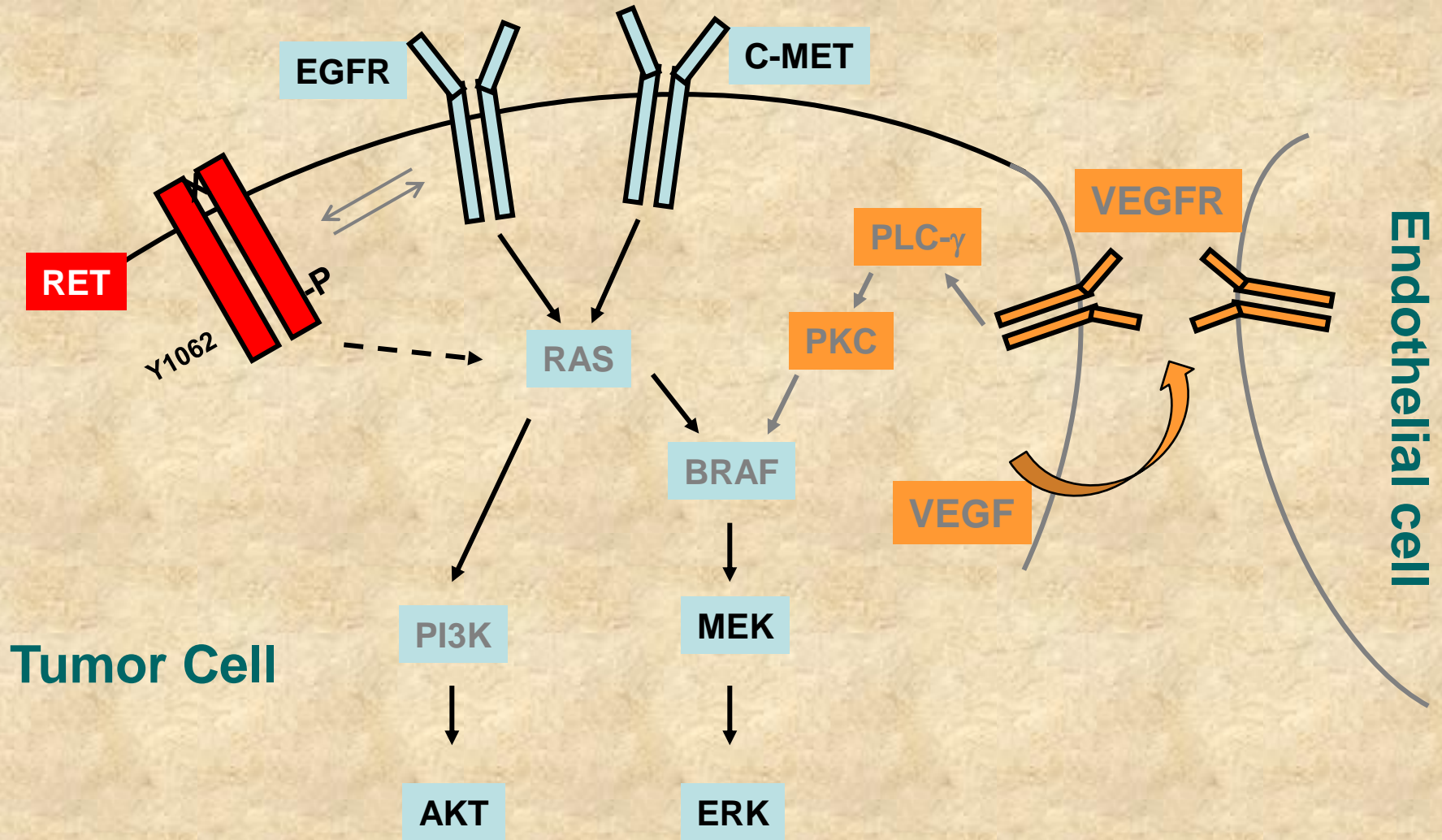
Objective response rate (ORR) that includes CR, PR and SD is measured in phase II trial but is poorly related to overall survival

Progression free survival is better related to OS: it takes into account response duration: improvement of PFS can only be measured in randomized trials

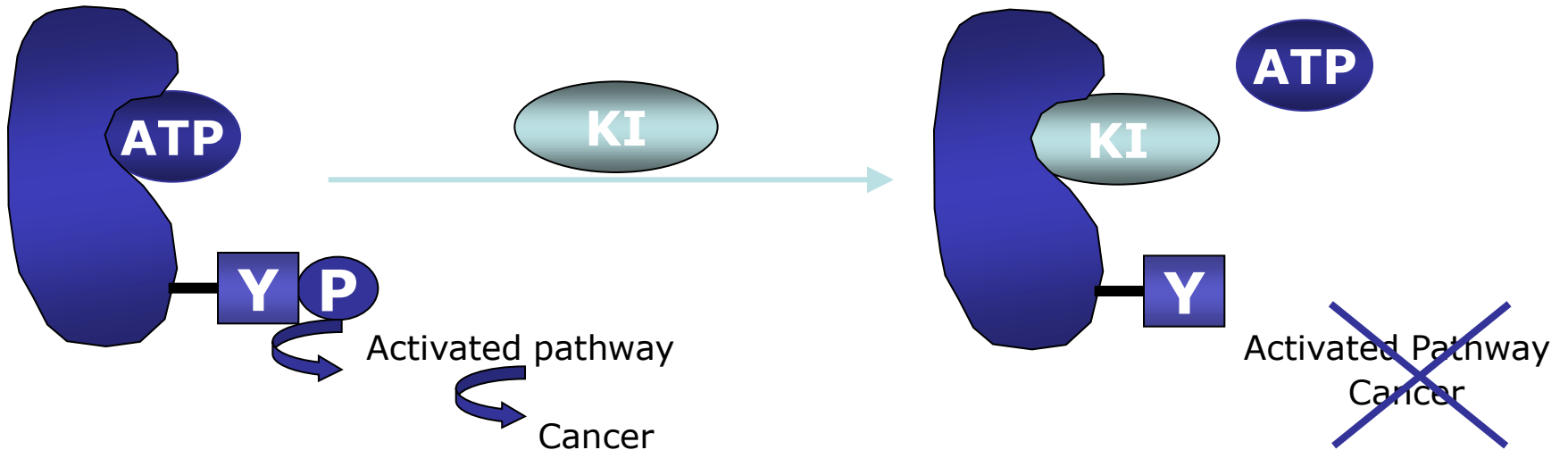
# MTC

Activating RET mutation: 100% hereditary, > 40% sporadic MTCs

Activating RAS mutation: > 2/3 of MTCs without RET mutation

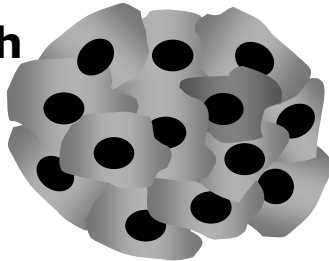


# Kinase Inhibitors



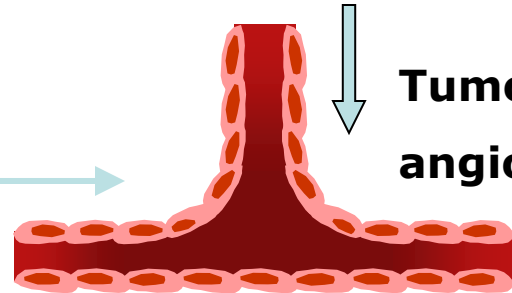
**RET, .....  
inhibition**

**Tumor growth**



**VEGFR inhibition**

**Tumor  
angiogenesis**



**VEGF**

# Kinase inhibitors and MTC

Compound	IC <sub>50</sub> (nm)						
	VEGFR1	<b>VEGFR2</b>	VEGFR3	RET	RET/PTC3	RAF	Other targets
Axitinib	1.2	<b>0.25</b>	0.29	-	-	-	-
Vandetanib	1600	<b>40</b>	110	100	50-100	-	EGFR
Motesanib diphosphate	2	<b>3</b>	6	59	-	-	PDGF-R, C-KIT
Sunitinib	2	<b>9</b>	17	41	224	-	-
Sorafenib	-	<b>90</b>	20	49	50	6	-
Lenvatinib (E7080)	22	<b>4</b>	5	35			PDGF-R, FGFR-1
Cabozantinib (XL184)	-	<b>0.035</b>	14	4	-	-	C-MET, C-KIT
Pazopanib	10	<b>30</b>	47				PDGF-R, C-KIT

# CMT: phases 1-2. Inhibiteurs de kinases

	Cibles	n	RP (%)	SD > 6 mo (%)
Vandetanib (Wells)	VEGFR, RET, EGFR	30	30	53
Sorafenib (Lam)	VEGFR, BRAF	19	11	68
Motesanib (Schlumberger)	VEGFR, PDGFR, C-KIT	83	2	43
Axitinib (Cohen)	VEGFR1,2,3	12	22	50
Sunitinib (Carr)	VEGFR, RET	6	50	
Cabozantinib (XL-184) (Kurzrock)	VEGFR, RET, C-MET	35	49	
<b>Lenvatinib (E7080)</b> (Schlumberger)	VEGFR, RET	59	36	
Gefitinib (Pennell)	EGFR	4	0	
Imatinib (De Groot, Frank-Raue)	C-KIT, PDGFR	15	0	27
		9	0	56

# Toxicities associated with inhibition of kinases

Cardiovascular

**Hypertension**

QT prolongation

CHF

Acute coronary syndrome

**Diarrhea**

**Fatigue**

Weight loss

**Skin toxicity:** rashes,  
folliculitis, HFS, squamous cell  
skin cancer

**Hypothyroidism: frequent  
serum TSH determination/  
Increased need in LT4**

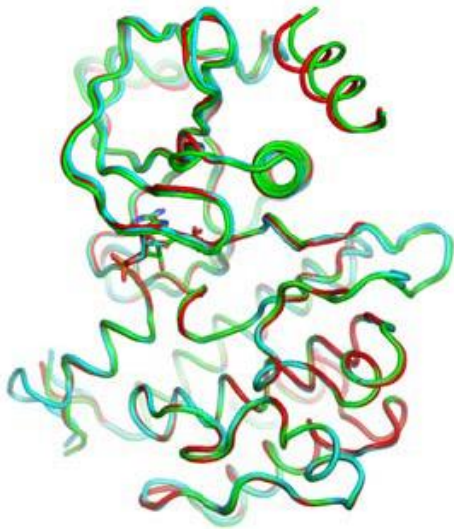
Dose reduction: 11-73%  
Drug withdrawal: 7-25%



## Two phase 3 trials vs placebo

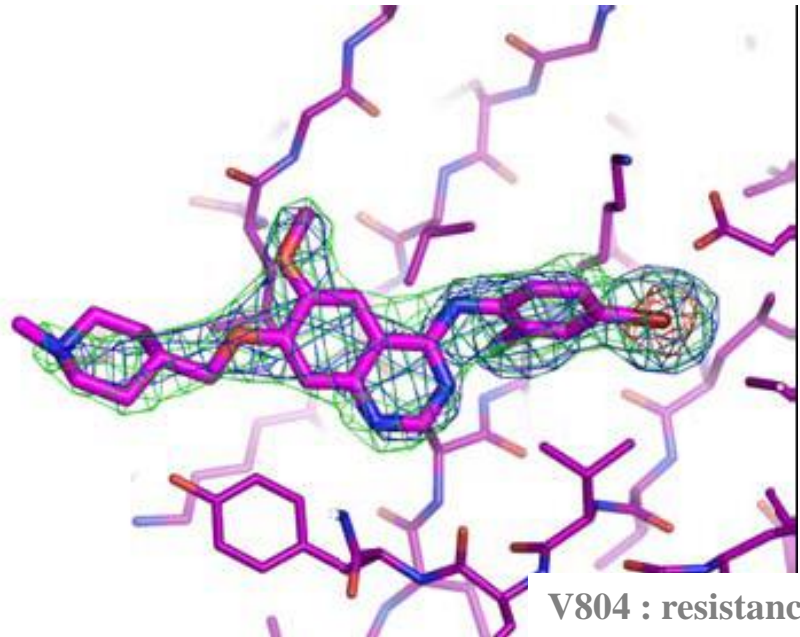
- Vandetanib (300mg/d) vs placebo with cross over in 331 advanced MTCs: PFS
- XL-184 (175mg/d) vs placebo without cross-over in progressive MTCs: OS
  - Improved PFS- 4.0 (placebo) vs 11.2 months (treatment) (HR: 0.28 (95%CI: 0.19-0.40,  $p<0.0001$ ))

# Vandetanib inhibits tyrosine kinase of VEGFR2-3, EGF et RET



RET protein

KNOWLES, JBC 2006



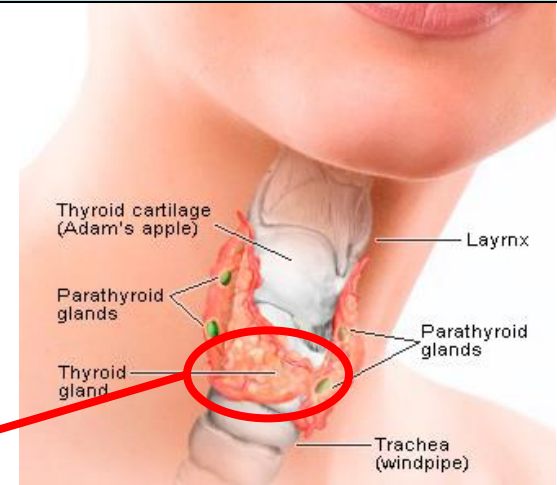
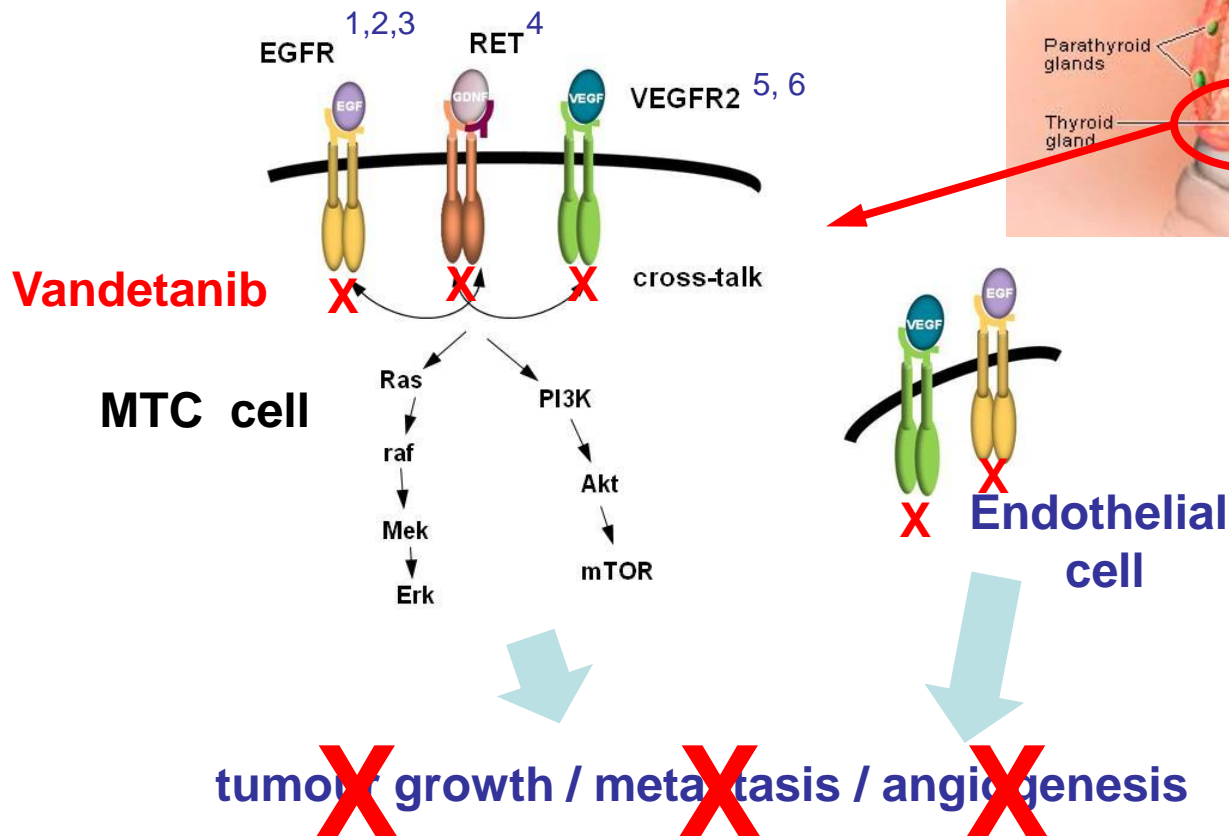
V804 : resistance ?  
(Carlomagno et al 2004)

ZD6474



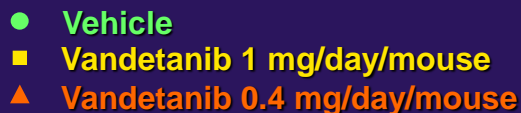
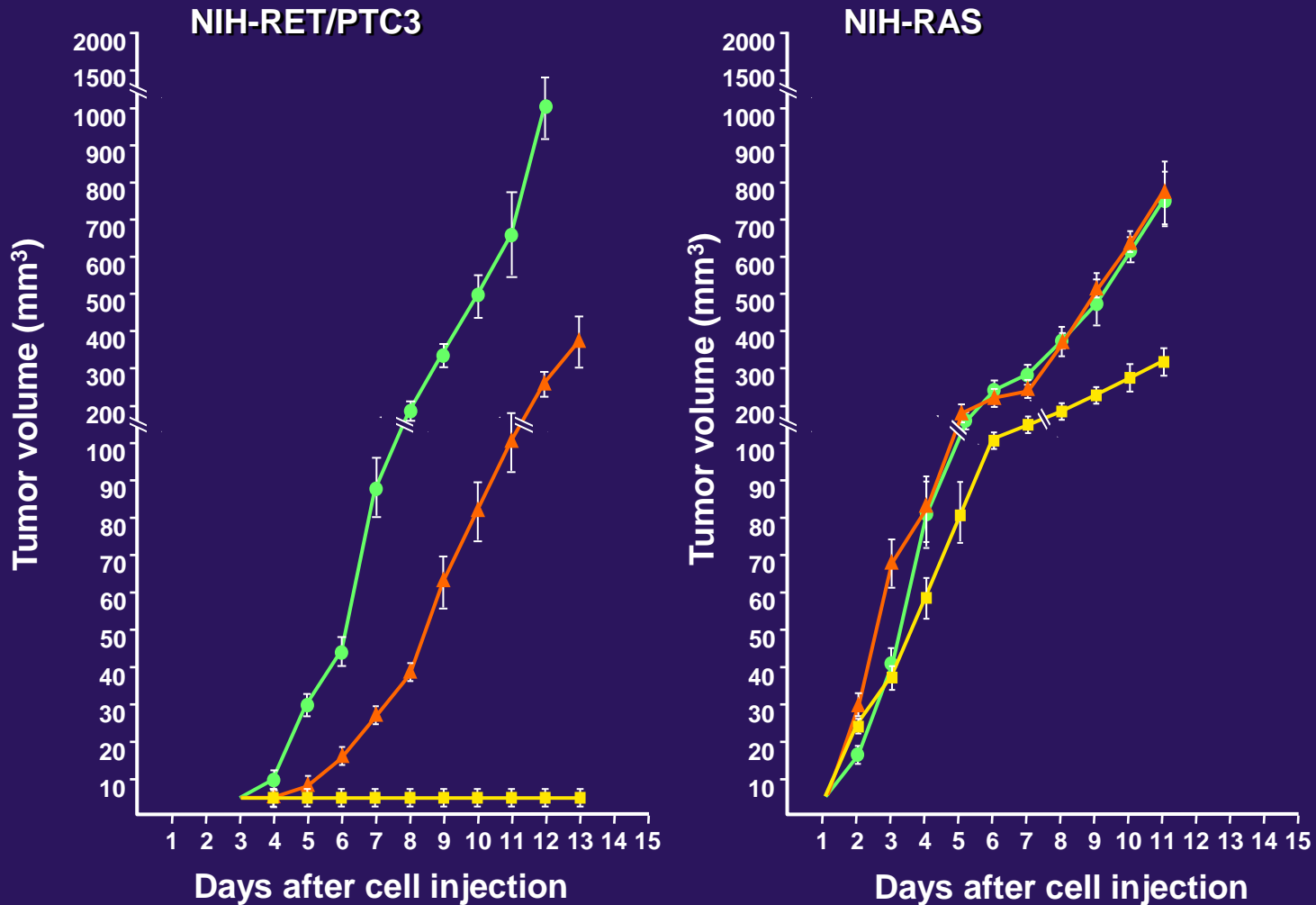
# Vandetanib Inhibits Key Molecular Targets in MTC

Vandetanib inhibits EGFR, VEGFR2, wild type and mutated RET



<sup>1</sup>Rodriguez-Antona *et al* 2010; <sup>2</sup>Gorla *et al*, 2008; <sup>3</sup>Croyle *et al*, 2008;  
<sup>4</sup> Akeno-Stuart *et al* 2007, <sup>5</sup> Vitagliano *et al* , 2011; <sup>6</sup>Capp *et al* 2010

# Vandetanib treatment of nude mice



# Vandetanib treatment of nude mice



**NIH-RET/PTC3-injected mice**

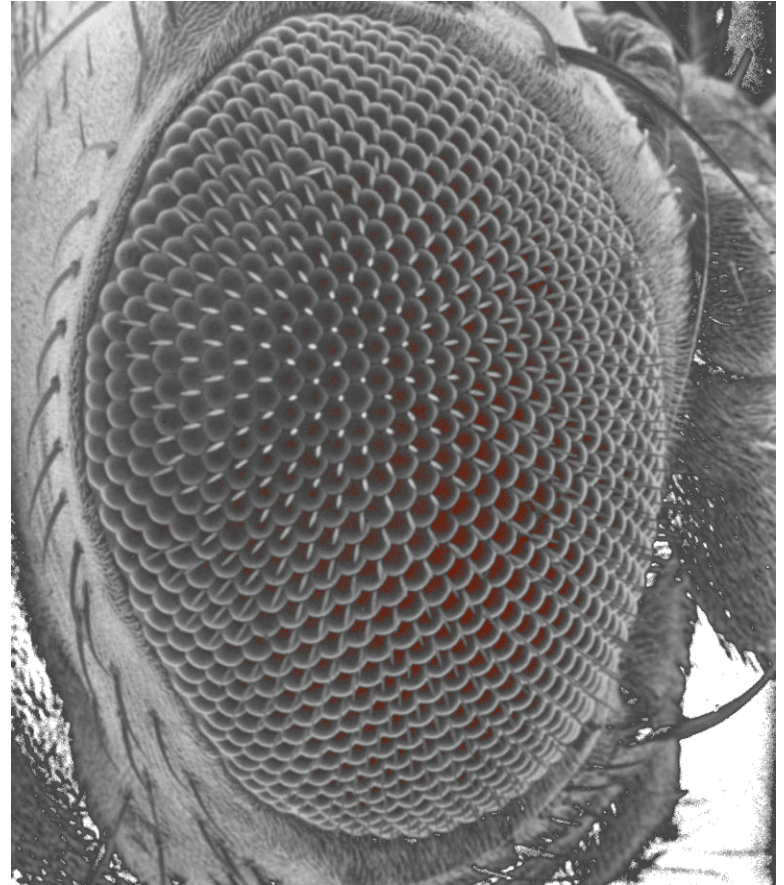
# Fly eye – a model for cancer

## The *Drosophila* retina

- Simple epithelium; few cell types
- Much is known about signaling pathways that guide development

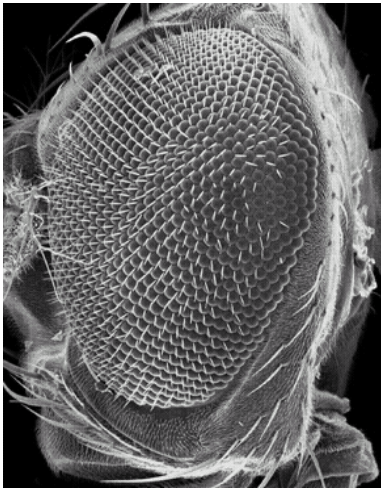
## Two cancer models

- Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type 2
- *Csk/Src* (breast, colon, etc)





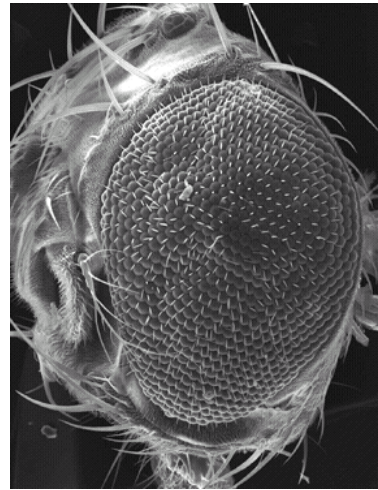
# Vandetanib suppresses RET signaling *in vivo*



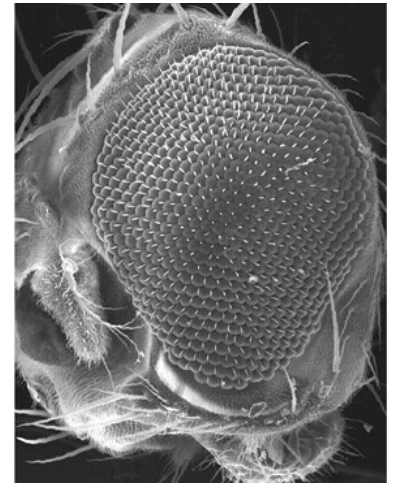
**Wild type**



**RET<sup>MEN2B</sup>**



**RET<sup>MEN2B</sup>  
+ 0.2 mM vandetanib**



**RET<sup>MEN2B</sup>  
+ 1 mM vandetanib**

# Vandetanib in metastatic hereditary medullary thyroid cancer: follow-up results of an open-label Phase II trial

**SA Wells,<sup>1</sup> JE Gosnell,<sup>2</sup> RF Gagel,<sup>3</sup> J Moley,<sup>1</sup> D Pfister,<sup>4</sup> JA Sosa,<sup>5</sup>  
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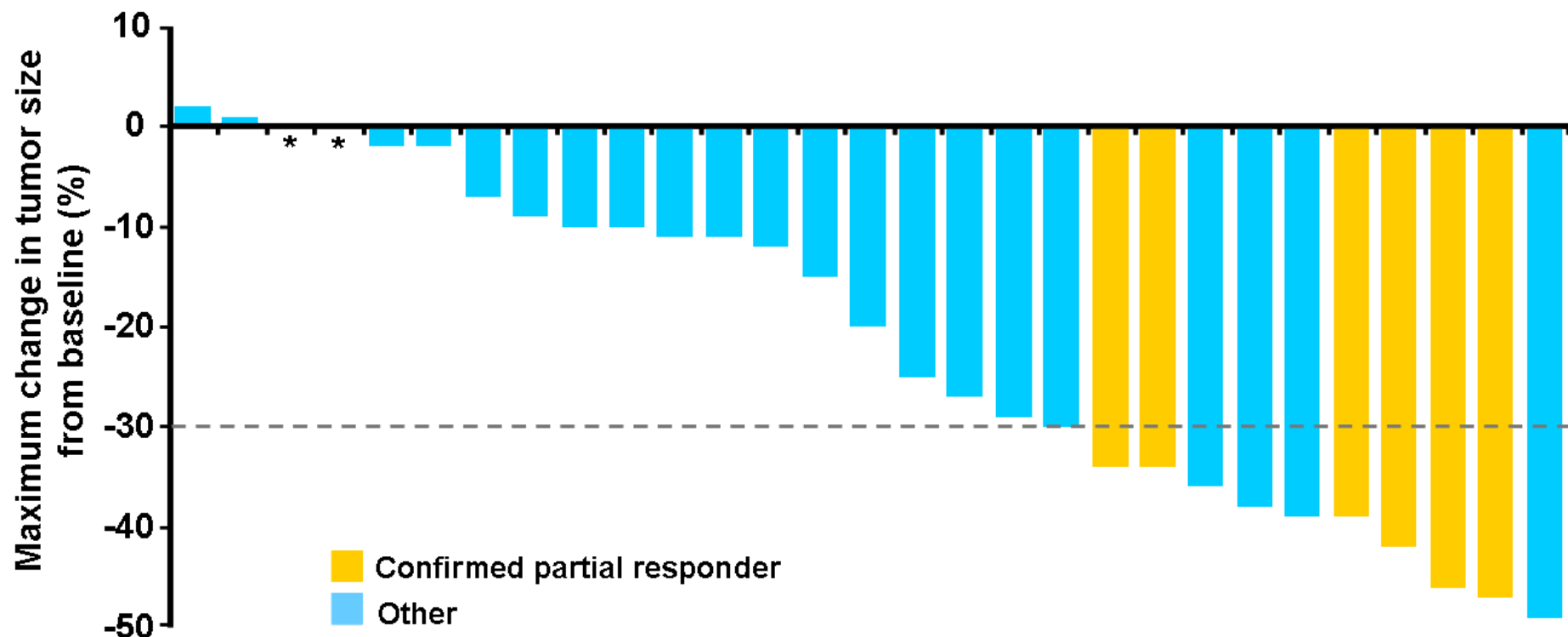
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# Vandetanib (300 mg): phase II, 30 patients with hereditary MTC



PR 10/30; confirmed PR: 6/30 (mean duration: 311 days+)  
Stable disease > 24 weeks: 16/30 (53%)

# Vandetanib in Locally Advanced or Metastatic MTC: Randomized, Double-Blind Phase III Trial (ZETA)

Patients with unresectable locally advanced or metastatic MTC  
(N = 331)

Primary endpoint: PFS

2:1 Randomization

Vandetanib 300 mg/day  
n = 231

Placebo  
n = 100

Follow for progression

Follow for progression

Discontinued blinded treatment at progression

Optional open-label vandetanib 300 mg/day

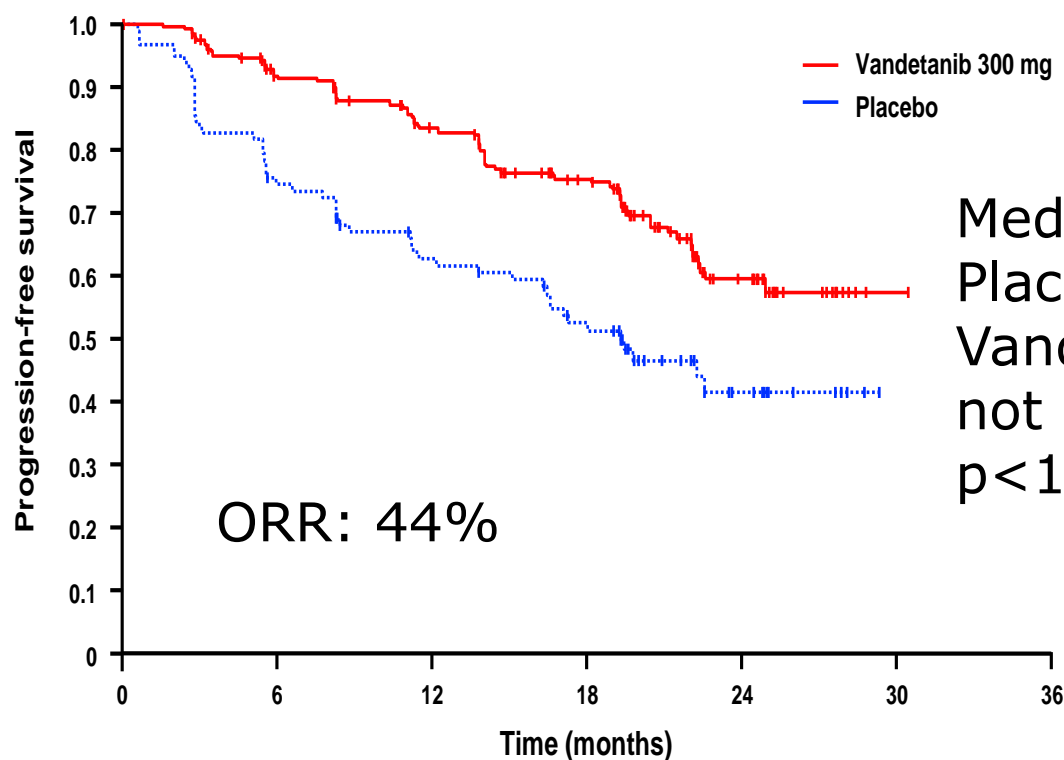
Follow for survival

PFS, Progression-free survival

Wells SA, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2010;28(15S): Abstract 5503. Wells SA Jr, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2012;30(2):134-141.



# Phase 3 trial: vandetanib vs placebo (Zeta study)



Median PFS:  
Placebo: 19.3 mo  
Vandetanib: >30.5 mo,  
not reached (HR: 0.46;  
 $p < 10^{-4}$ )

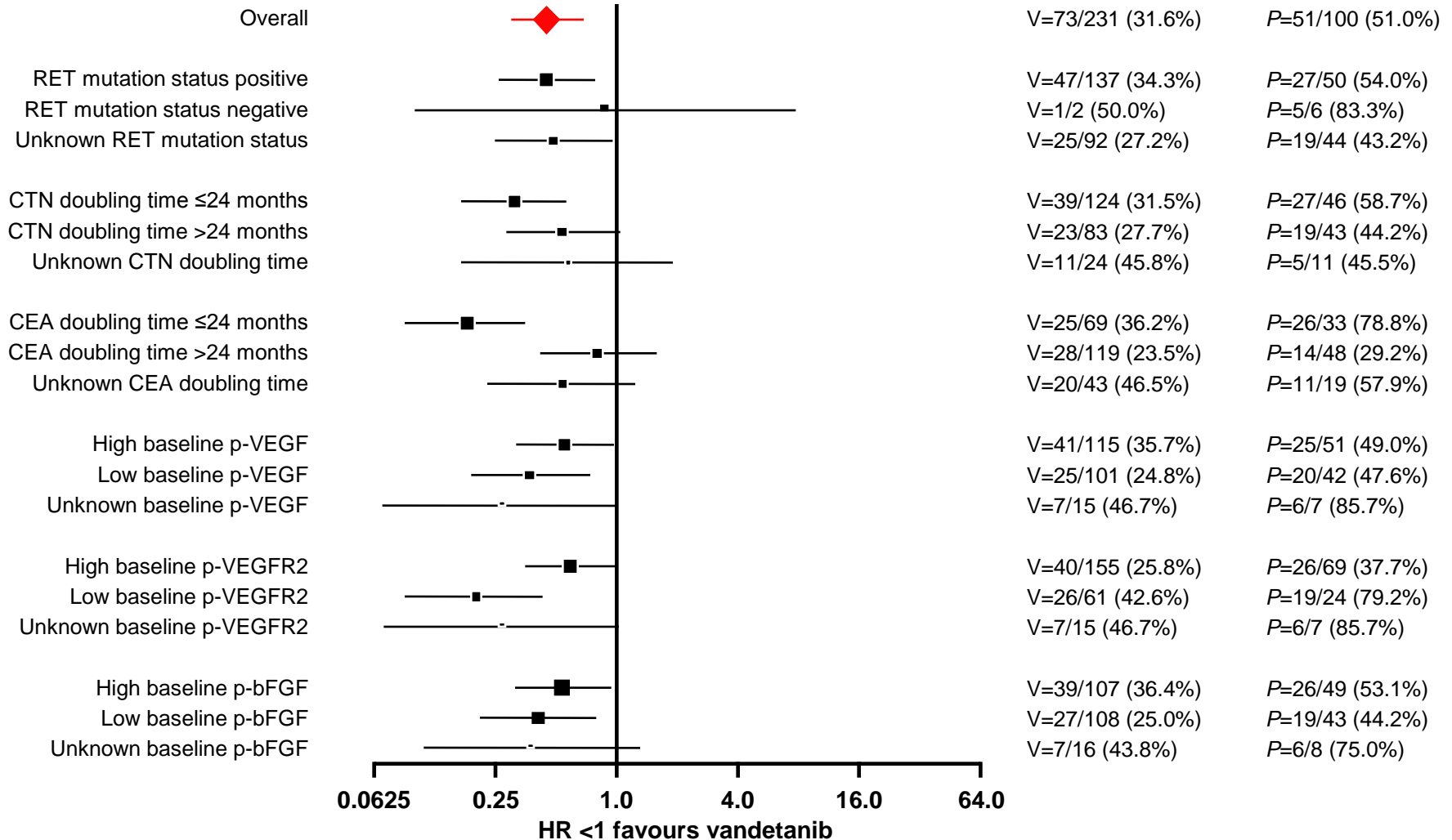
Number of patients

Vandetanib 300 mg	231	198	171	141	42	1	0
Placebo	100	72	57	45	13	0	0

# Vandetanib: toxicity

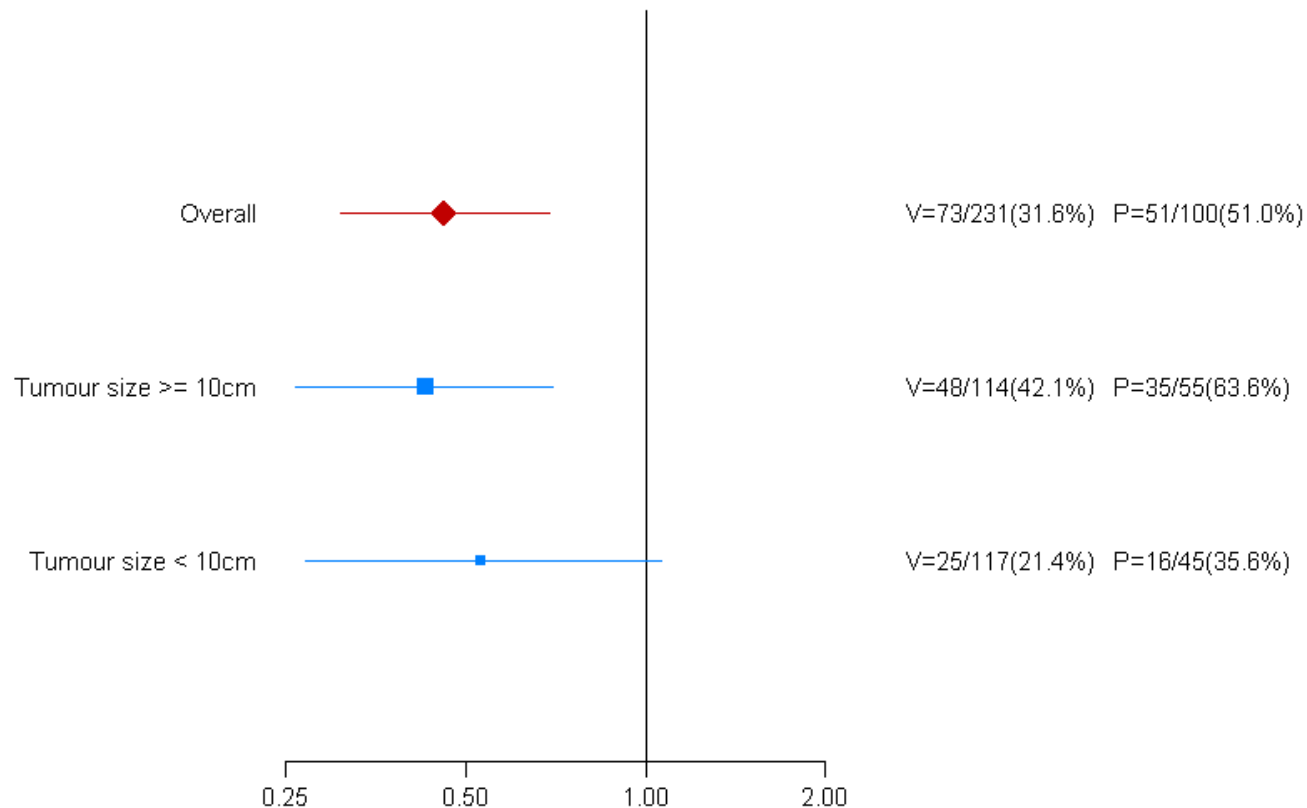
- Adverse event profile consistent with EGFR and VEGFR inhibition: diarrhea, rash and folliculitis, nausea, hypertension, fatigue
- QT prolongation common ( $>20\text{ms}$  in 90% of patients): (long QTc before treatment (450ms), other treatments, electrolyte abnormalities (diarrhea)), but “torsades de pointes” and sudden death are rare
- Long median duration of treatment (21 months): AEs managed with dose reduction / standard medical treatment. Tolerance is usually good
- Rate of discontinuation for AE – 13%

# Vandetanib benefited all patient groups in a predefined subgroup analysis of PFS



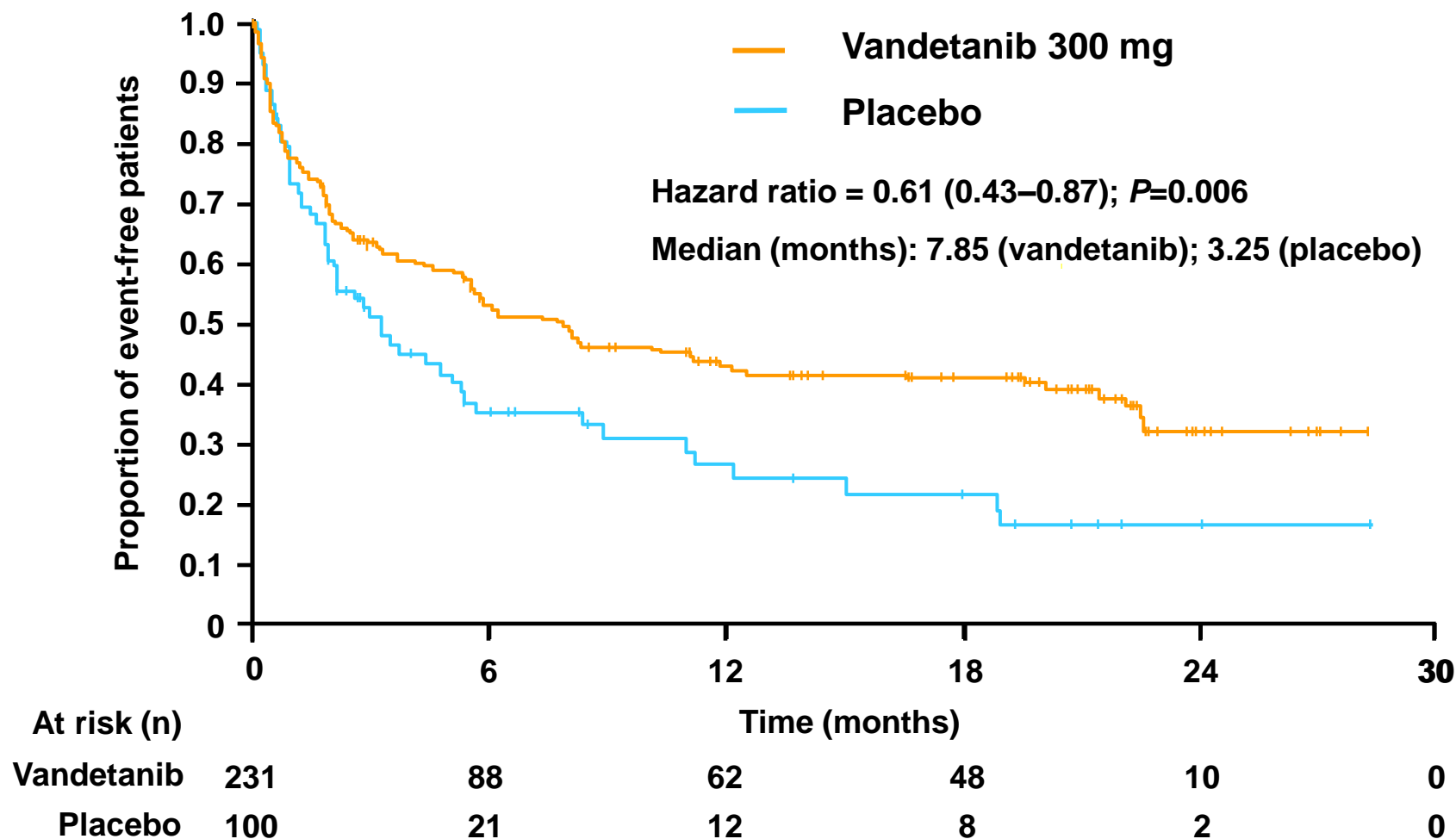
The analyses were performed using a log-rank test with treatment as the only factor

# PFS by tumor size at baseline



Group	n	ORR
Tumor size $\geq 10$ cm (n=114)	57	50.0%
Tumor size $< 10$ cm (n= 17)	47	40.2%

# Vandetanib treatment significantly prolonged time to worsening of pain\*

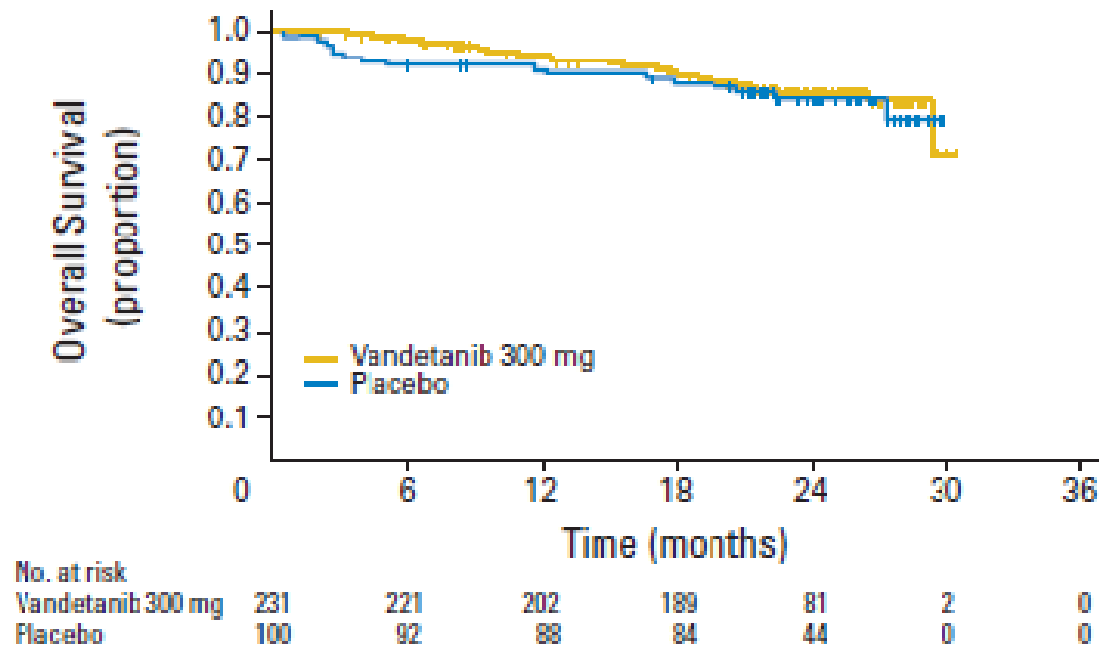


\*Determined from patient-reported opioid analgesic use and responses to the Brief Pain Inventory questionnaire

Hazard ratio <1 favours vandetanib

# Vandetanib : overall survival

A delay of 11 months in initiating vandetanib treatment does not alter OS in a “Vandetanib-phase III MTC patients”



OS is affected by the cross over (93% in the placebo group)

Mature OS analysis :  $\geq 2012$

# Data on RET mutation status (Study 58)

- 298 Sporadic MTC Patients on Study 58
  - 155 proven RET mutation positive – 92% with 918T mutation
  - **79 proven to have No mutation at M918T and No other mutation identified:**
    - 8 patients found negative by all other mutation tests
    - 71 patients had some or all of the other tests failed, but those that worked demonstrated no mutation
  - 64 No information on M918T mutation

# Benefit in 79 M918T mutation negative patients

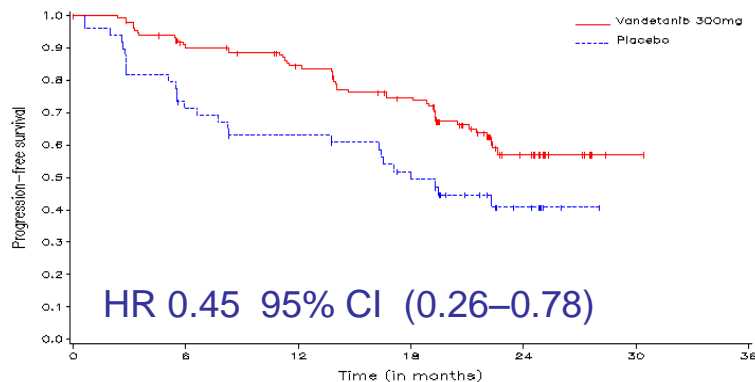
	RET Mutation Positive Patients  (n=187)*	Patients with No M918T Mutation and No Other Identified Mutation (n=79)
Efficacy Endpoint PFS HR (95%) confidence interval)	0.45 (0.26, 0.78)	0.57 (0.29, 1.13)
Predicted Median PFS (months) (vandetanib vs placebo)	29 vs 18	28 vs 18
Objective Response Rate (vandetanib arm)	52%	35%
Duration of Response (months)	22	18

\* This includes RET mutation positive hereditary MTC patients

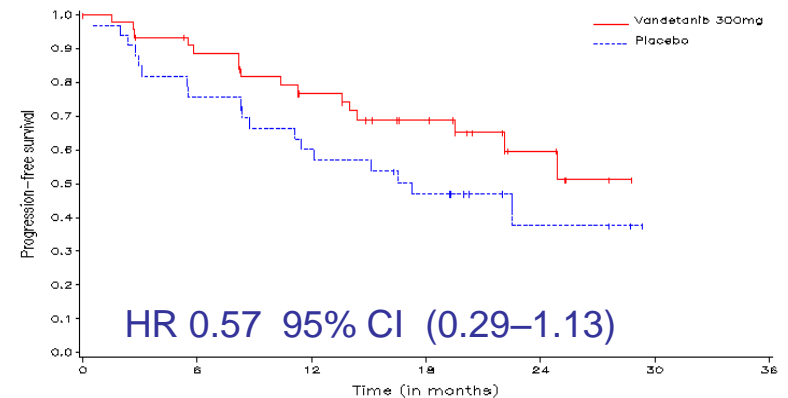


# Kaplan-Meier plot of PFS and RET M918T

## PFS in RET positive patients

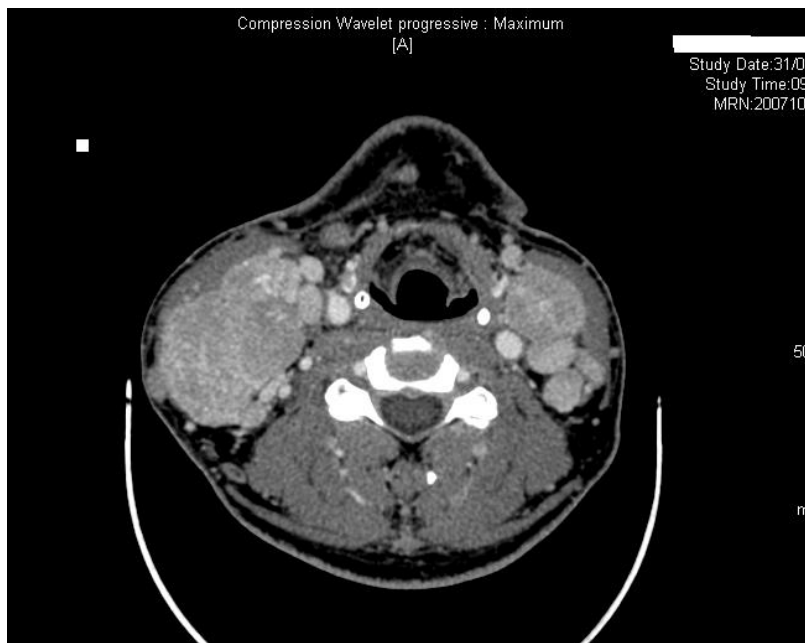


## PFS in RET M918T negative patients



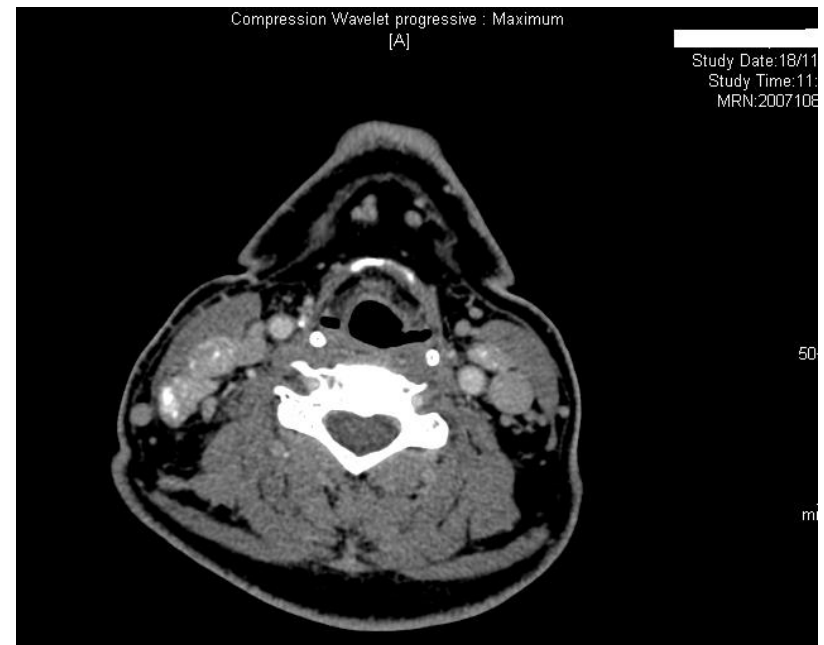
# RET mutation negative MTC: patient 2801035

**Baseline November 2008**



Calcitonin: 35,000pg/mL

**Vandetanib 300mg/d. November 2009**



850 pg/ml

# Molecular Biological Rationale for Vandetanib Activity in RET Mutation Negative MTC

## Vandetanib- multi-kinase inhibitor: VEGFR, EGFR and RET:

RET: Vandetanib inhibits Non Mutated RET  
RET mutation negative MTC – express Non-Mutated RET  
Functional role of Non-Mutated RET carried over to MTC<sup>1</sup>  
– Calcitonin secretion decreases on RET inhibition

VEGFR: Expressed by MTC cells<sup>2</sup>  
Increased expression in both hereditary and sporadic MTC<sup>3</sup>  
Increased expression in RET mutation negative MTC<sup>4</sup>

EGFR: Evidence for amplification and overexpression in MTC<sup>4, 5</sup>  
Cross talk between EGFR and RET leading to trans-activation of the receptors has also been described<sup>6</sup>

RAS: Frequent in RET<0 MTCs. Paradigms of EGFR/KRAS mutations in colon carcinoma may not apply

<sup>1</sup> Akeno-Stuart *et al* 2007 <sup>2</sup> Vitagliano *et al* , 2011; <sup>3</sup>Capp *et al* 2010; <sup>4</sup>Rodriguez-Antona *et al* 2010;

<sup>5</sup>Gorla *et al*, 2008; <sup>6</sup>Croyle *et al*, 2008

# Metastatic MTC: vandetanib

- Higher efficacy than any other systemic treatment:
  - High ORR with many long lasting responses (> 3-5 years)
  - Significantly prolonged PFS
  - Symptomatic benefits in many patients
- Vandetanib was available in the frame of an Autorisation Temporaire d'Utilisation (ATU) in France since august 2010: on august 2011, 47 MTC patients have been included (1/1.5 millions/year). 30 AEs have been reported, including 18 serious AEs, but no unexpected toxicities.
- Vandetanib was approved
  - By FDA in april 2011
  - By EMA in november 2011 for the treatment of aggressive and symptomatic MTC in patients with unresectable locally advanced or metastatic disease, but further data are needed to quantify drug benefits in patients with no RET mutation in their metastatic tissue.
  - By France in april 2012.

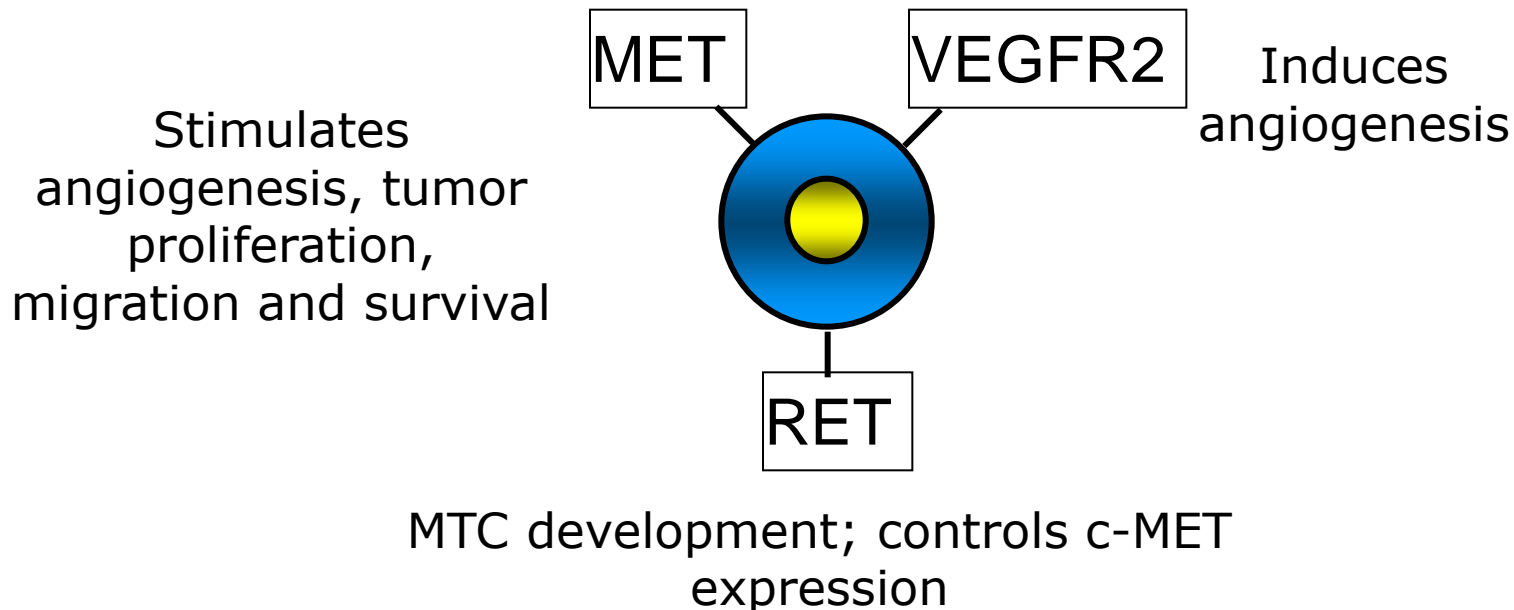
# Pour mieux soigner : des médicaments à écarter

le *vandétanib* (Caprelsa°), sans efficacité démontrée sur la survie dans les cancers médullaires de la thyroïde, expose à des effets indésirables graves chez 1 patient sur 3 (diarrhées, pneumonies, hypertensions) et à des morts subites (n° 342 p. 256-259) ;



# XL184: preclinical rationale

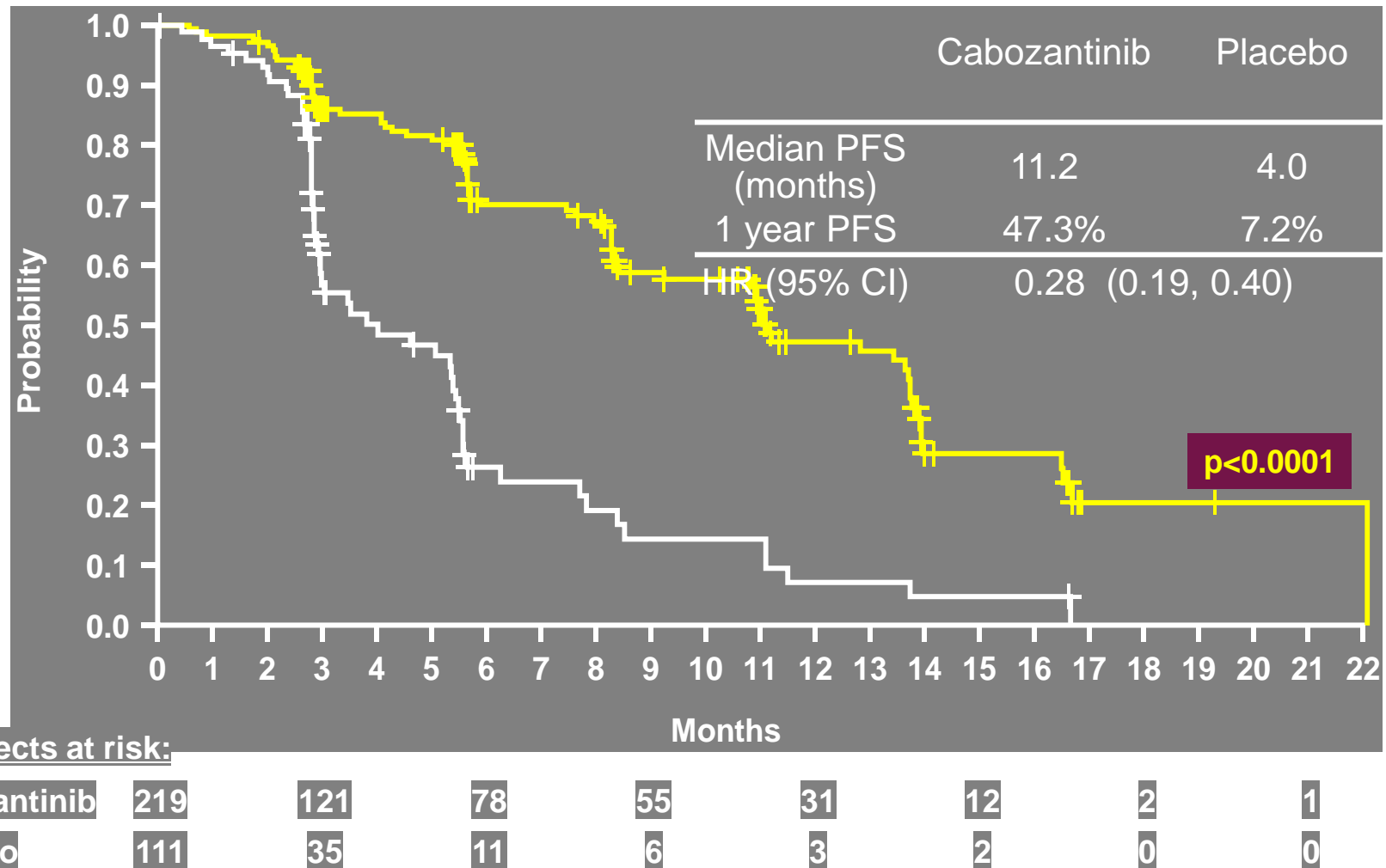
- Inhibits MET, VEGFR2, RET
- Including usual mutants of MET and RET
- Active in animal models
  - *In vivo: inhibition of MET, VEGFR2, RET*
  - *Regression of tumors*



## MTC phase 3 trial : cabozantinib vs placebo

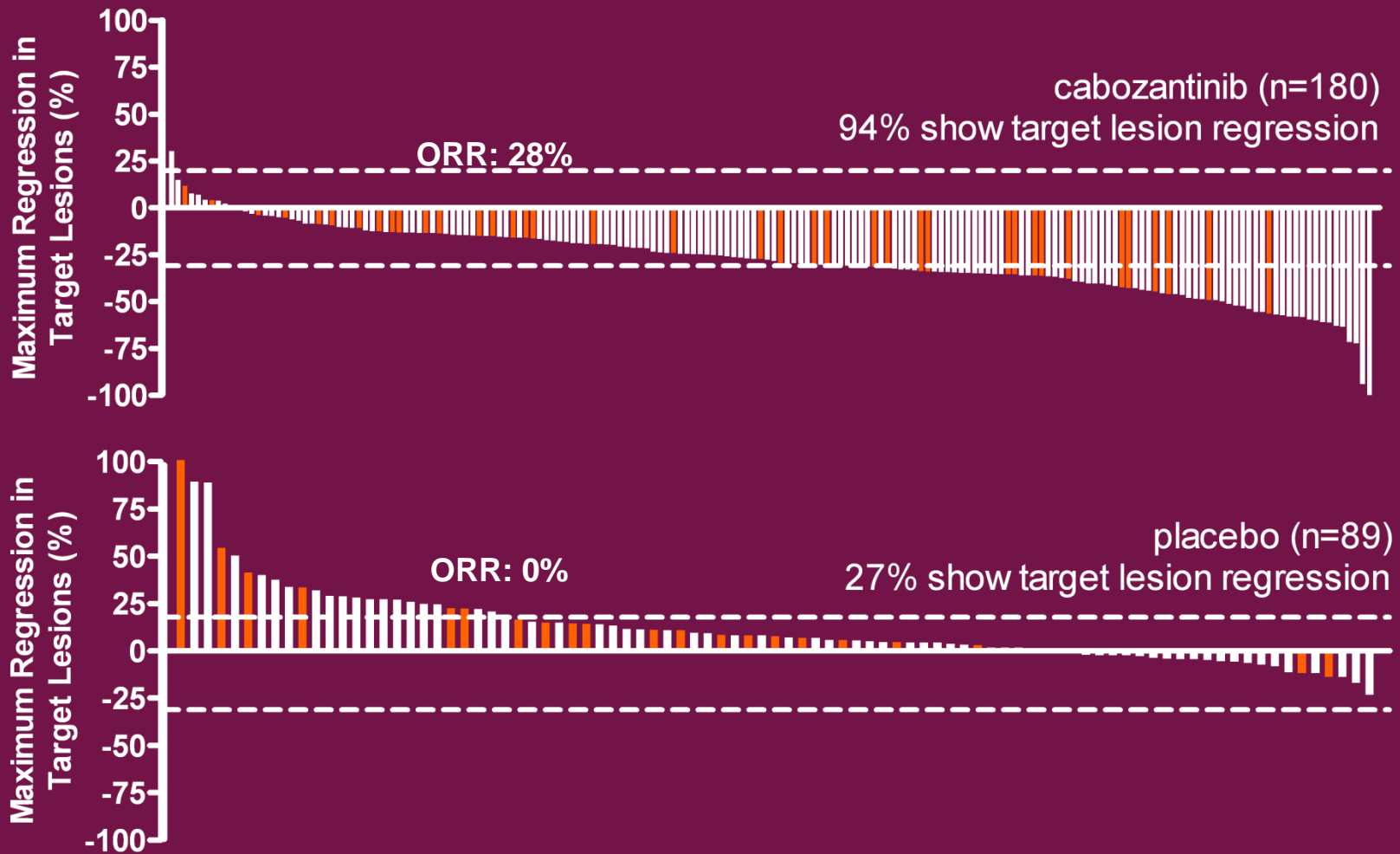
- Cabozantinib (XL-184) (175mg/d) vs placebo without cross-over:
  - 330 patients with progressive disease in <14 months
  - Randomization 2/1
  - ORR: 28%.
  - PFS: 4.0 (placebo) vs 11.2 months (cabozantinib) (HR: 0.28 (95%CI: 0.19-0.40,  $p < 0.0001$ ))
  - OS not mature

# Phase 3. Cabozantinib: progression free survival





# Cabozantinib: best tumor response



■ Prior tyrosine kinase inhibitor therapy (21% of patients)  
Median response duration: 14.7 months

# Cabozantinib: adverse reactions

Adverse reactions observed in  $\geq 25\%$  and grade 3-4 in  $\geq 5\%$ : diarrhea, stomatitis, palmar-plantar erythrodysesthesia syndrome (PPES), decreased weight, decreased appetite, nausea, fatigue, hypertension, abdominal pain.

Laboratory abnormalities ( $\geq 25\%$ ): increased AST- ALT, lymphopenia, increased alkaline phosphatase, hypocalcemia, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, hypophosphatemia, and hyperbilirubinemia.

The following serious adverse reactions attributed to cabozantinib included osteonecrosis of the jaw (n=1), reversible posterior leukoencephalopathy syndrome (n=1), pancreatitis (n=3), nephrotic syndrome (n=1), fatal hemorrhage (n=2), and fatal perforation/fistula (n=2).

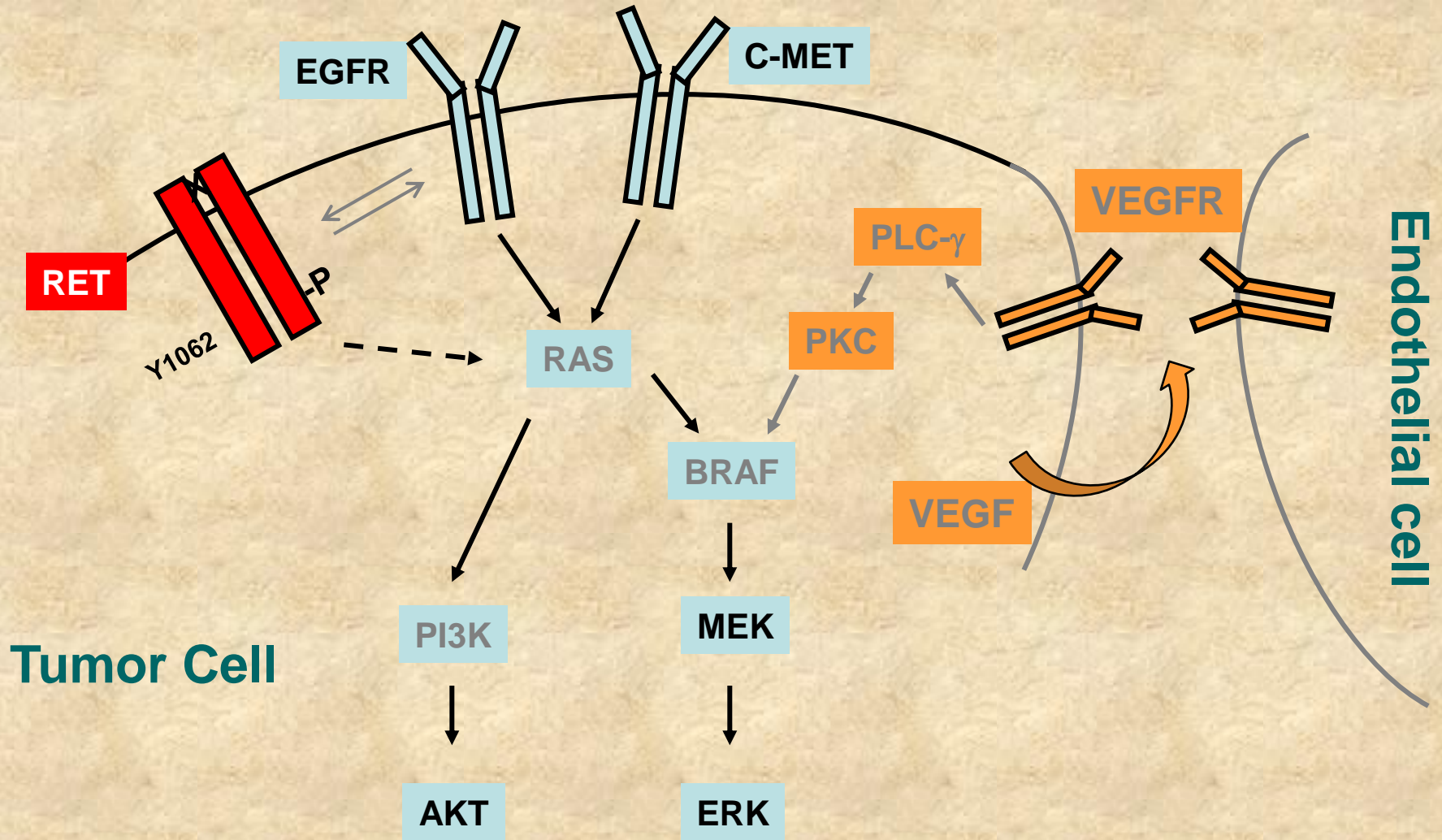
Dose reduction was required in 79% of patients.

	ZETA Vandetanib	EXAM Cabozantinib
Dose reduction (%)	35	79
Discontinuation for toxicity (%)	12	16
Grade 3 & 4 toxicity (%)		
Diarrhea	11	15.9
HFS	N/A	12.6
Rash	4	0.9
Hypertension	9	8.4
QTc prolongation	8	N/A
Fatigue	6	9.3
Decreased appetite	4	4.7

# MTC

Activating RET mutation: 100% hereditary, > 40% sporadic MTCs

Activating RAS mutation: > 2/3 of MTCs without RET mutation



# Response to cabozantinib and mutational status

(ASCO, 2013)

- *RET* status was determined in 216/330 pts
- 79% harbored an activating mutation, and 21% were mutation negative.
- All *RET* mutational subgroups (positive, negative, and unknown) showed hazard ratios indicating PFS benefit from cabo treatment, and an ORR between 22% and 32%.
- Pts with *RET* M918T mutation showed a statistically significant longer median PFS on cabo treatment (61 weeks) than other *RET* mutation positive pts (36 weeks,  $p=0.049$ ).
- 16/85 tested pts with negative or unknown *RET*-mutation status had a RAS gene mutation: the RAS-positive pts showed a similar ORR (31%) and PFS (47 weeks) as the *RET* positive population.

# Cabozantinib: FDA approval

On November 29, 2012, the U. S. Food and Drug Administration approved cabozantinib (COMETRIQ capsules, Exelixis, Inc), for the treatment of patients with progressive metastatic medullary thyroid cancer (MTC).

On March 2014 by EMA.

# Natural history of a 52-year-old sporadic MTC patient

1986

Total thyroidectomy + lymph node dissection (T4, N1, M0)  
Radiation therapy to the neck

1987

Ct = 134 pg/mL  
Negative imaging

1993

Ct = 698 pg/mL  
Liver mets: 7, 7, 7 mm

1996

Ct = 1,500 pg/mL  
Liver mets: 12, 16, 17 mm

1999

Ct = 3,400 pg/mL  
Liver mets: 10, 15, 16, 20 mm

Local treatment

2012

2002

Ct = 5,500 pg/mL  
Liver mets: 14, 18, 15, 24 mm  
Good quality of life, no diarrhea

2004

Ct = 12,200 pg/mL  
Lung and bone mets  
Bone surgery and chemotherapy (no benefits)

TKI

2005

Brain mets  
Radiation therapy

July 2006

Death

Ct and tumor doubling times ~3 years

# Metastatic MTC: molecular targeted therapies

- Duration of treatment (years?), short and long-term toxicity, quality of life, improvement of survival are still under evaluation: *local treatment modalities of distant metastases may control the disease and delay the initiation of systemic treatment*
- There is no indication:
  - For patients with elevated Ct and or CEA levels and no other evidence of disease
  - For patients with minimal disease (< 2cm), when asymptomatic and stable
- Decision to treat has to be validated by a multidisciplinary team
- Control of toxicities



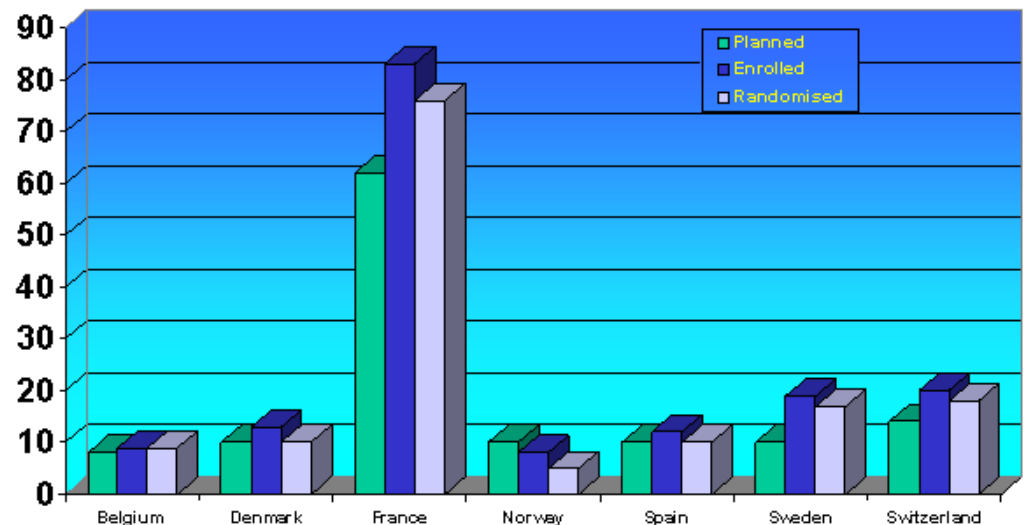
## Advanced MTC's new unmet need: progression following treatment with TKIs

- Patients progress, but maintain good performance status
- Many patients respond, then progress in a new lesion or a subset of lesions.
- Need for studies:
  - Get tissue! – Perform translational analysis - perform trials
    - Sequential treatment with MKIs, but all molecules are anti-angiogenic
    - Find other targets. New agents in development may also play a role in the treatment of thyroid cancer in the first- or second-line settings (PI3K) and PD-1-PDL-1

# French network for rare cancers: TUTHYREF: TUMeurs de la THYroïde REfractaires supported by the French Institut National du Cancer

- Referral center: IGR
- 30 competence centres
- Web conference every 2 weeks, annual meeting, protocols
- Objectives:
  - Recommendations: ATA/ETA
  - Research
  - Access to innovation for all patients

Recruitment status per country, per 29-October-2008 Final



# Networks for refractory thyroid cancers: a need for a new era

- Several compounds are partially effective, and there is a need for:
  - Improving drug efficacy
  - Decreasing drug toxicity
  - Predicting drug efficacy (biomarkers, ....)
- Need for large series of patients (Phase II and III trials) in National, European (Endocrine Group of the EORTC) and International (ITOG) networks



- Inclusion of patients in trials rather than off label use of drugs.
- Getting the right drug to each patient