

ANNUAL Advances and Innovations in Endoscopic Oncology and Multidisciplinary Gastrointestinal Cancer Care

## ctDNA's Role in Shaping the Present and Future of

#### **GI Cancer Treatment**

#### Pashtoon Kasi, MD, MS

Medical Director of GI Oncology Rad Family Chair in Gastrointestinal Oncology City of Hope Orange County kasi@coh.org X: @pashtoonkasi

## Disclosures

Founder of Precision BioSciences

*This disclosure has been deemed as irrelevant, as this presentation is limited to basic science research, such as pre-clinical research and drug discovery, or the methodologies of research, and I will not make care recommendations.* 

- Consultant for Agenus, Astellas, AstraZeneca, Bayer, BostonGene, Daiichi Sankyo, Eli Lilly, Elicio Therapeutics, Foundation Medicine, Guardant Health, Illumunia, Merck, Natera, Neogenomics, Regeneron, SAGA Diagnostics, SeaGen, Taiho, Tempus, Xilio
- Grant/Research for Agenus, Merck, Novartis; and Scientific Board Advisor for Elicio Therapeutics

*The presentation and/or comments will be free of any bias toward or promotion of the above referenced companies or their product(s) and/or other business interests.* 

*This presentation and/or comments will provide a balanced, non-promotional, and evidence-based approach to all diagnostic, therapeutic and/or research related content.* 

This presentation has been peer-reviewed and no conflicts were noted.



2025 Annual Advances and Innovations in Endoscopic Oncology and Multidisciplinary Gastrointestinal Cancer Care

## Cultural Linguistic Competency (CLC) & Implicit Bias (IB)

#### STATE LAW:

The California legislature has passed <u>Assembly Bill (AB) 1195</u>, which states that as of July 1, 2006, all Category 1 CME activities that relate to patient care must include a cultural diversity/linguistics component. It has also passed <u>AB 241</u>, which states that as of January 1, 2022, all continuing education courses for a physician and surgeon **must** contain curriculum that includes specified instruction in the understanding of implicit bias in medical treatment.

The cultural and linguistic competency (CLC) and implicit bias (IB) definitions reiterate how patients' diverse backgrounds may impact their access to care.

#### EXEMPTION:

Business and Professions Code 2190.1 exempts activities which are dedicated solely to research or other issues that do not contain a direct patient care component.

#### The following CLC & IB components will be addressed in this presentation:

- Barriers to uptake of liquid biopsies into standard of care.
- Address disparities due to perceptions and treatment decisions relating to utility of liquid biopsies.

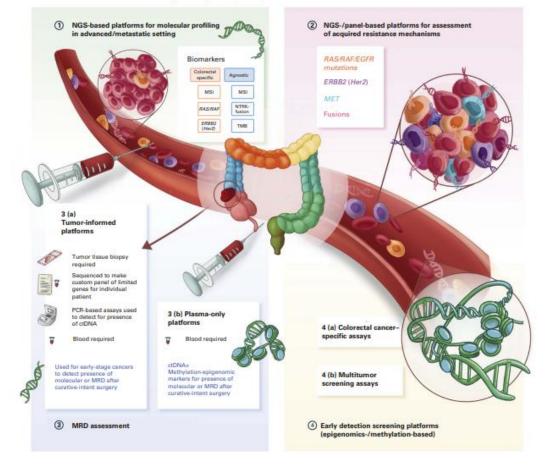


#### SPECIAL SERIES: PRECISION MEDICINE AND IMMUNOTHERAPY IN GI MALIGNANCIES Using Circulating Tumor DNA in Colorectal Cancer: Current and Evolving Practices

Midhun Malla, MD, MS<sup>1</sup>; Jonathan M. Loree, MD, MS<sup>2</sup>; Pashtoon Murtaza Kasi, MD, MS<sup>3</sup>; and Aparna Raj Parikh, MD<sup>4</sup>



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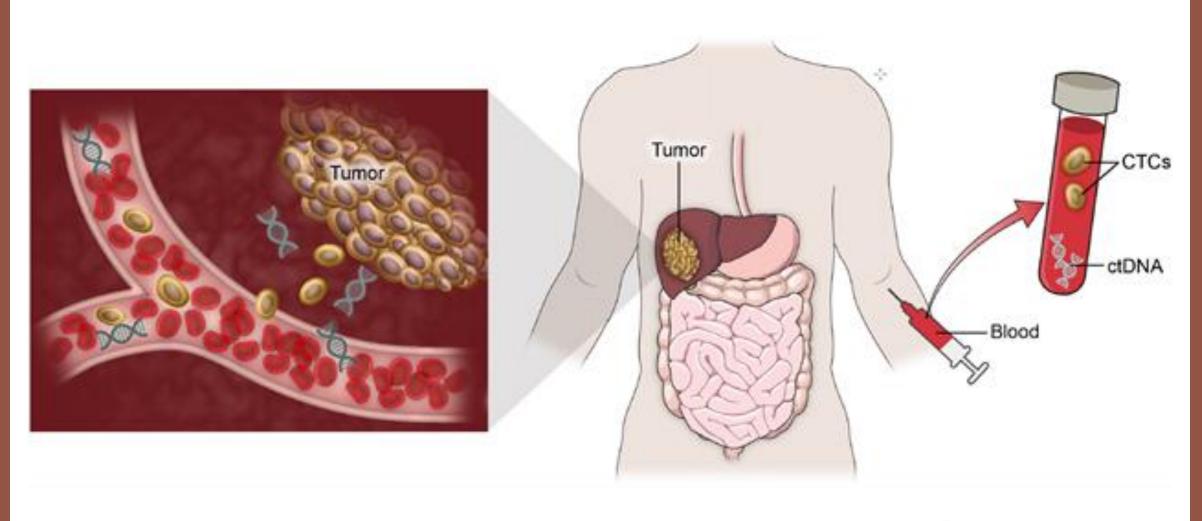
#### Liquid Biopsies (ctDNA) in Clinic for Colorectal Cancer

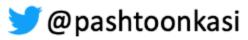
## CTDNA: Dawn of a New Era



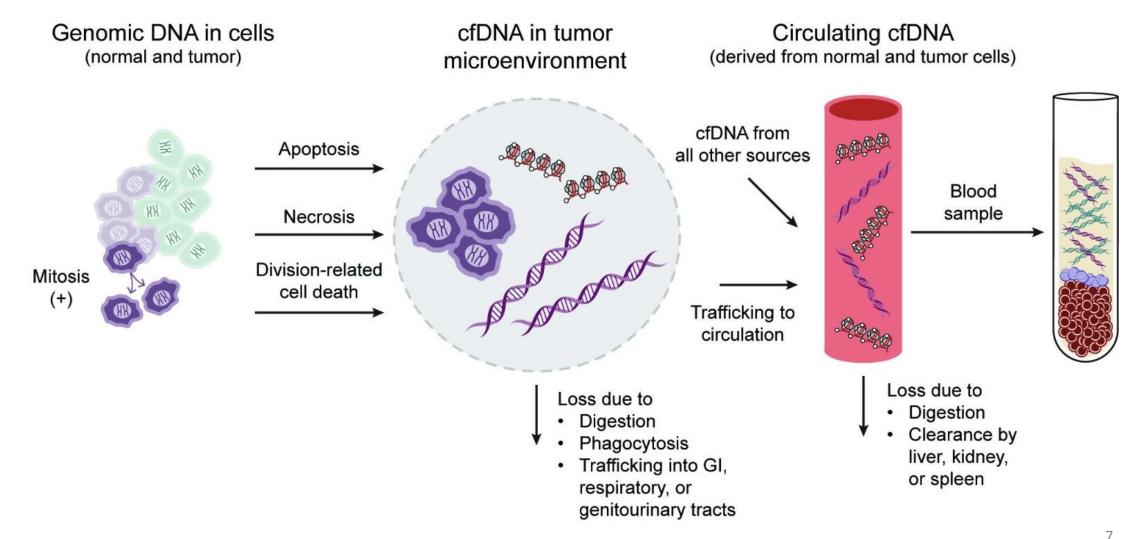
Location	Available On Demand			
Time	Sat, Jun 4, 2022   9:00 AM – 10:30 AM EDT			
Track(s)	Special Sessions			



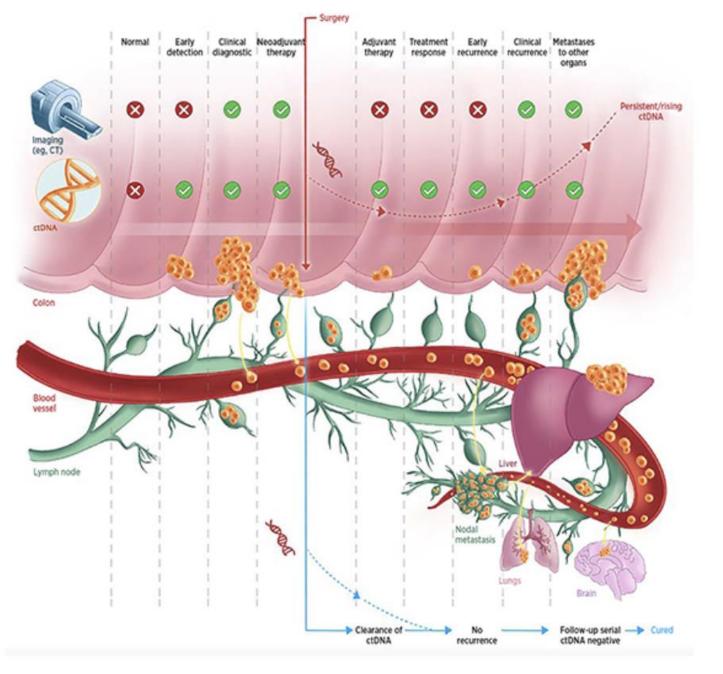


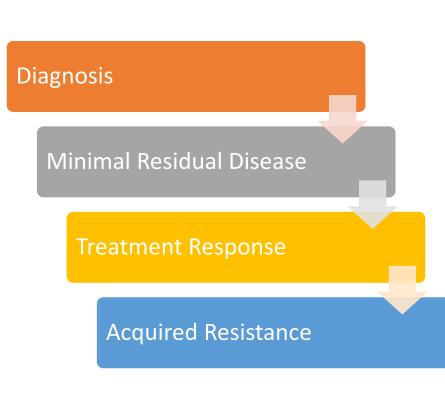


#### Depiction of origin and fates of circulating tumor DNA relative to cell-free DNA



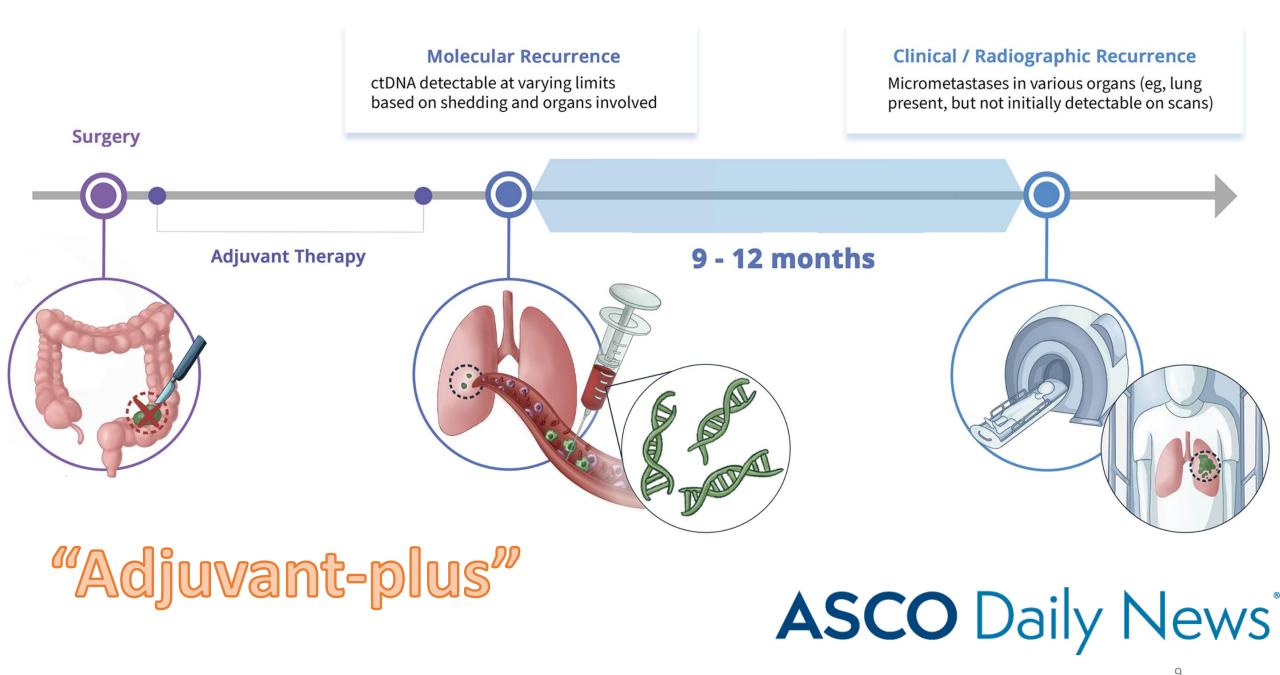
Bredno, J. et al, 2021. Clinical correlates of circulating cell-free DNA tumor fraction. PLOS ONE 16, e0256436.





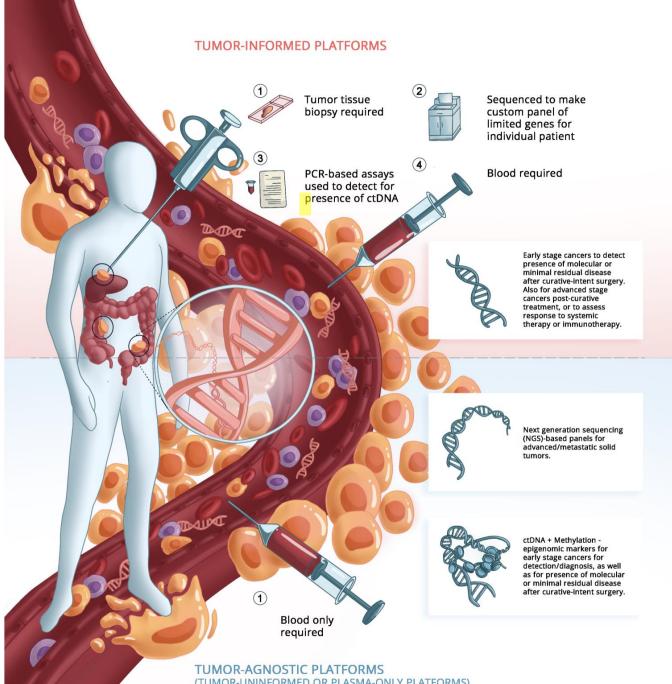


Kasi PM. ctDNA Assays: Exploring Their Clinical Use in Oncology Care. January 2022. ASCO Daily News.



Kasi PM. Utility and Debate of Liquid Biopsy Assays in Surveillance Setting. March 2023. ASCO Daily News.

## Settings/Platforms/Biology

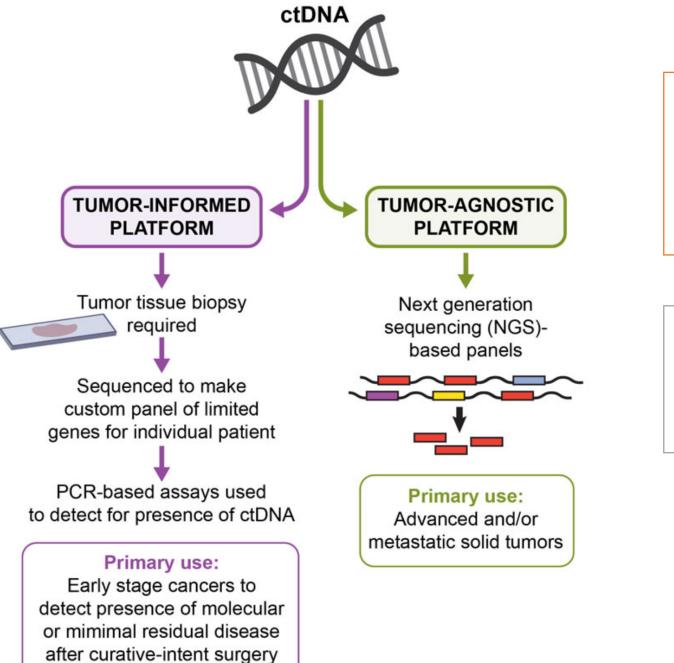


Tumor-informed Platforms Versus Tumor-agnostic (tumor-uninformed or plasma-only) Platforms

## **ASCO** Daily News<sup>®</sup>

(TUMOR-UNINFORMED OR PLASMA-ONLY PLATFORMS)

Kasi PM. ctDNA Assays: Exploring Their Clinical Use in Oncology Care. January 2022. ASCO Daily News.



# Tumor-informed Personalized for each patient's tumor Needs tumor tissue sent Tumor-naïve ctDNA + Epigenetic signatures

• Methylation markers

## **ASCO** Daily News<sup>®</sup>

Kasi PM. ASCO Daily News. Kinetics of Liquid Biopsies in Predicting Response to Immunotherapy. Oct 1, 2020.

🕃 HOME 🔍 SEARCH

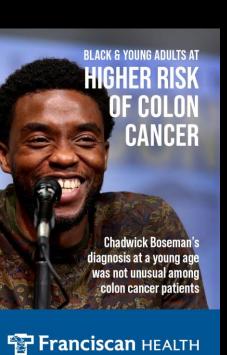
The New York Times

WELL | LIVE

### More Young People Are Dying of Colon Cancer











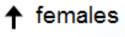






## RIGHT vs. LEFT

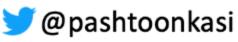


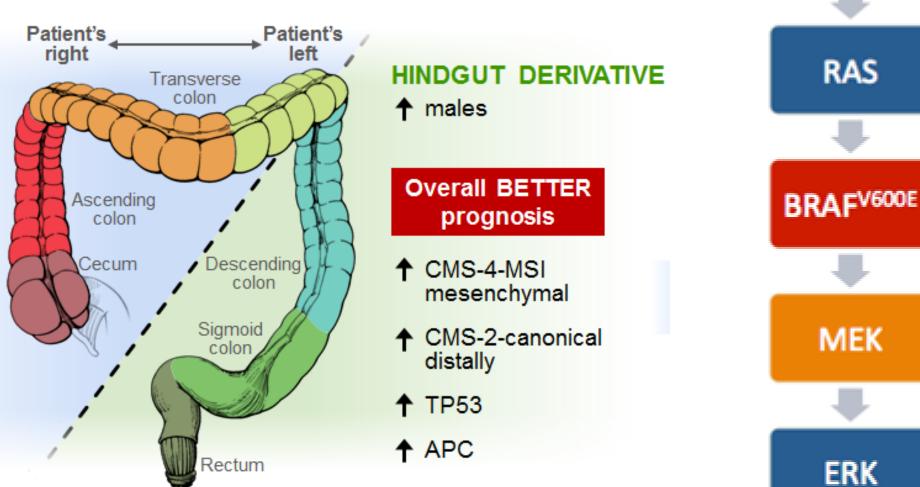


- sessile serrated lesions
- mucinous tumors

Overall WORSE prognosis

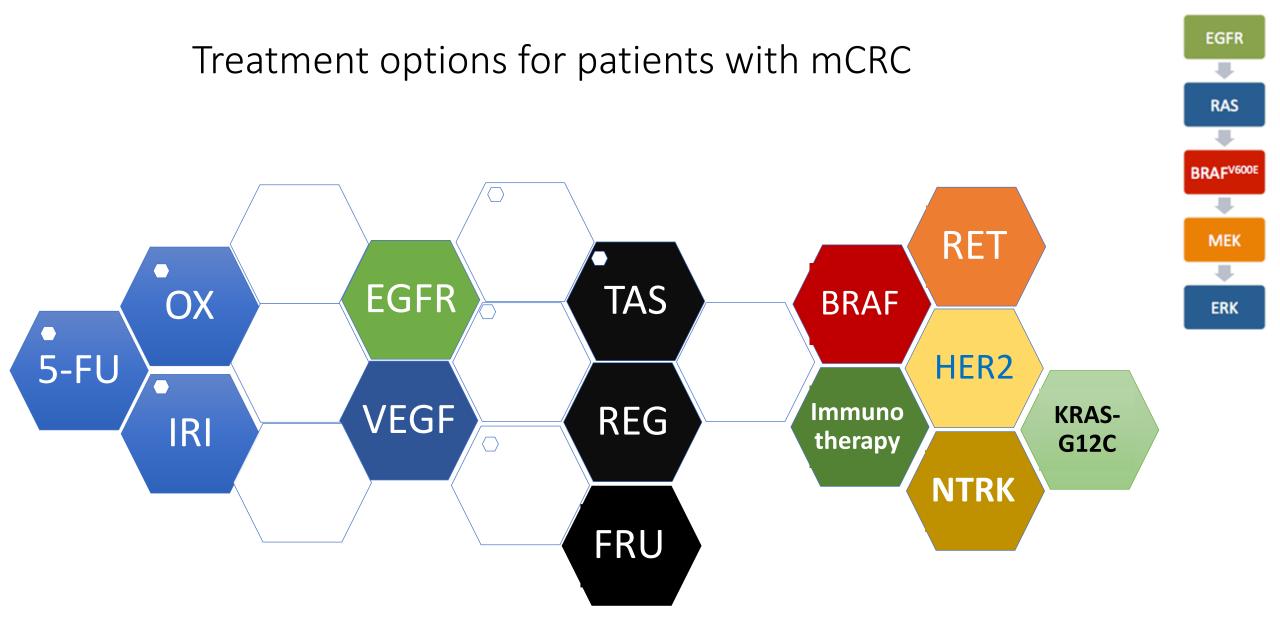
- ↑ CIMP-high
- ↑ BRAF
- ↑ MSI-high
- CMS-1-MSI immune tumors
- CMS-3-metabolic tumors (↑KRAS)





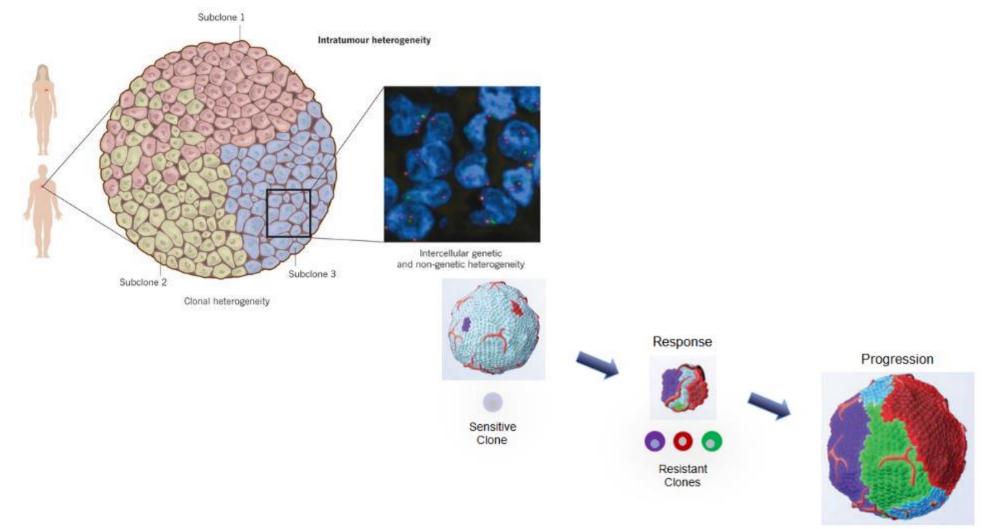
14 Kasi PM et al. Colorectal Cancer. Lancet Oct 2019.

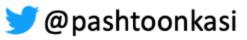
EGFR





## Intratumoral and temporal heterogeneity





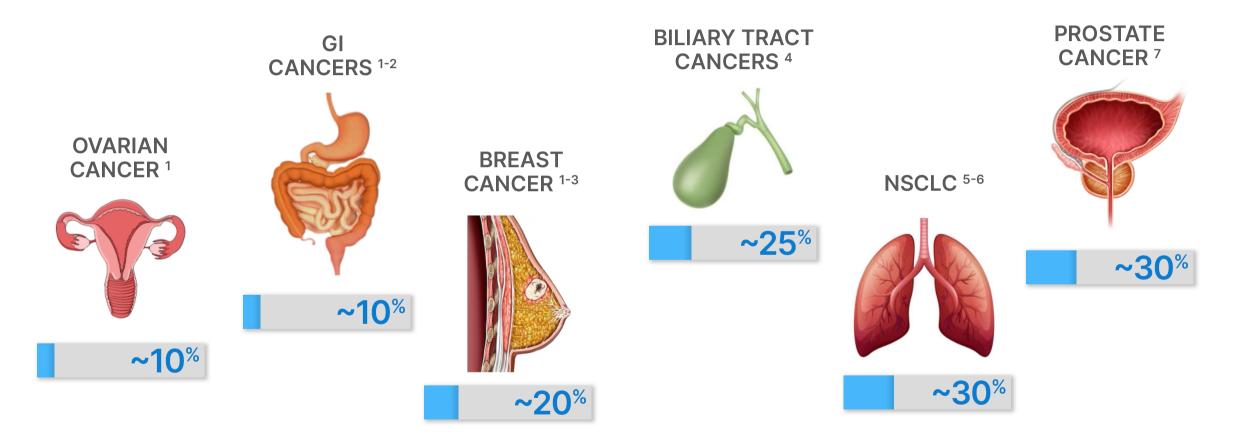
Burrell RA, et al. *Nature*. 2013;591:338. Misale S, et al. *Cancer Discov*. 2014;4:1269.

## 1<sup>st</sup> line metastatic setting

Liquid biopsy as a complimentary and adjunct tool to tissue testing

#### **Opportunities for Precision Medicine are Missed Up to 30% of the Time**

**Frequency of tissue insufficiency** 



#### GI = gastrointestinal, NSCLC = non-small cell lung cancer

1. Zehir A, Benayed R, Shan RH, et al. Nat Med. 2017;23(6):703-713; 2. Nakamura Y, Taniguchi H, Ikeda M, et al. Nat Med. 2020;26(12):1859-1846; 3. Meric-Bernstam F, Brusco L, Shaw K, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2015;33(25):2753-2762; 4. Lamarca A, Kapacee Z, Breeze M, et al. J Clin Med. 2020;9(9):2854; 5. Hagemann IS, Devarakonda S, Lockwood CM, et al. Cancer. 2015;121(4):631-639; 6. Aggarwal C, Thompson JC, Black TA, et al. JAMA Oncol. 2019;5(2):173-180; 7. Hussain M, Corcoran C, Sibilla C, et al. Clin Cancer Res. 2022;28(8):1518-1530.

## 1<sup>st</sup> line Anti-EGFR therapy selection

- <u>Selection</u> of the patient for anti-EGFR – tissue
  - LEFT
  - RAS-wildtype
  - BRAF-wildtype
  - HER2-negative
- Role for liquid biopsies (YES)

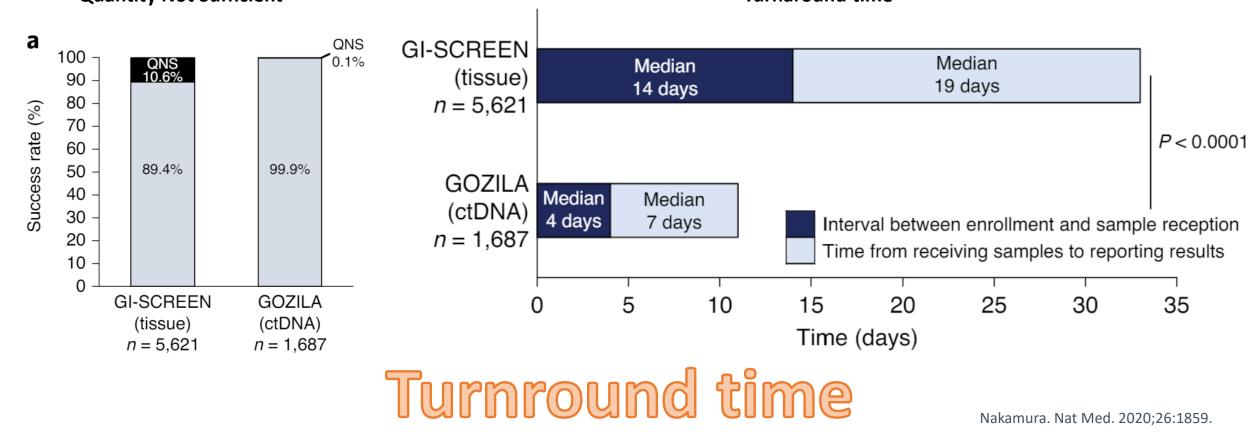
	<u>Anti-EGFR</u> <u>OS (months)</u>	<u>Anti-VEGF</u> <u>OS (months)</u>
NCDB	<u>42.9</u>	27.5
CALGB 80405	<u>39.3</u>	32.6
PEAK	<u>43.4</u>	32.0
FIRE-3	<u>38.3</u>	28.0
PARADIGM	<u>37.9</u>	34.7
PARADIGM (ctDNA hyper- selected)	<u>42.1</u>	35.5

Shitara K et al.

Negative hyperselection of patients with RAS wild-type metastatic colorectal cancer for panitumumab: A biomarker study of the phase III PARADIGM trial. DOI: 10.1200/JCO.2023.41.4\_suppl.11 Journal of Clinical Oncology 41, no. 4\_suppl (February 01, 2023)

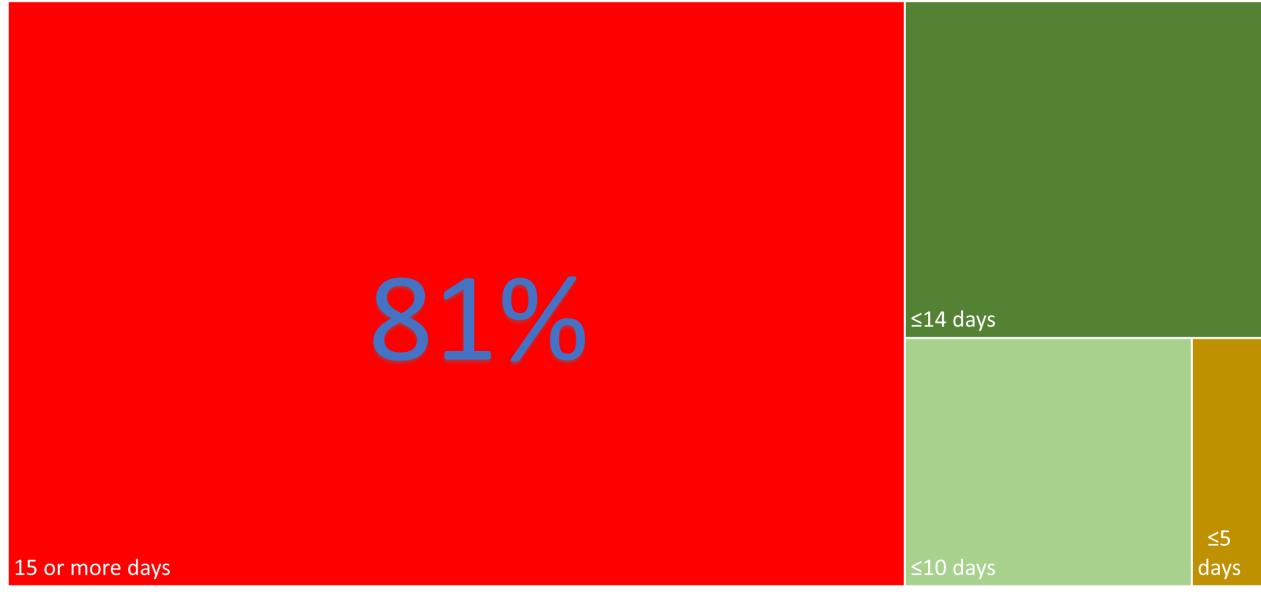
# Potential Advantages of Using ctDNA Assays to Assess Actionable Mutations

 Analysis of trial enrolment of patients with advanced GI cancers using ctDNA sequencing (GOZILA, n = 1687) vs tumor tissue sequencing (GI-SCREEN, n = 5621)
 Quantity Not Sufficient

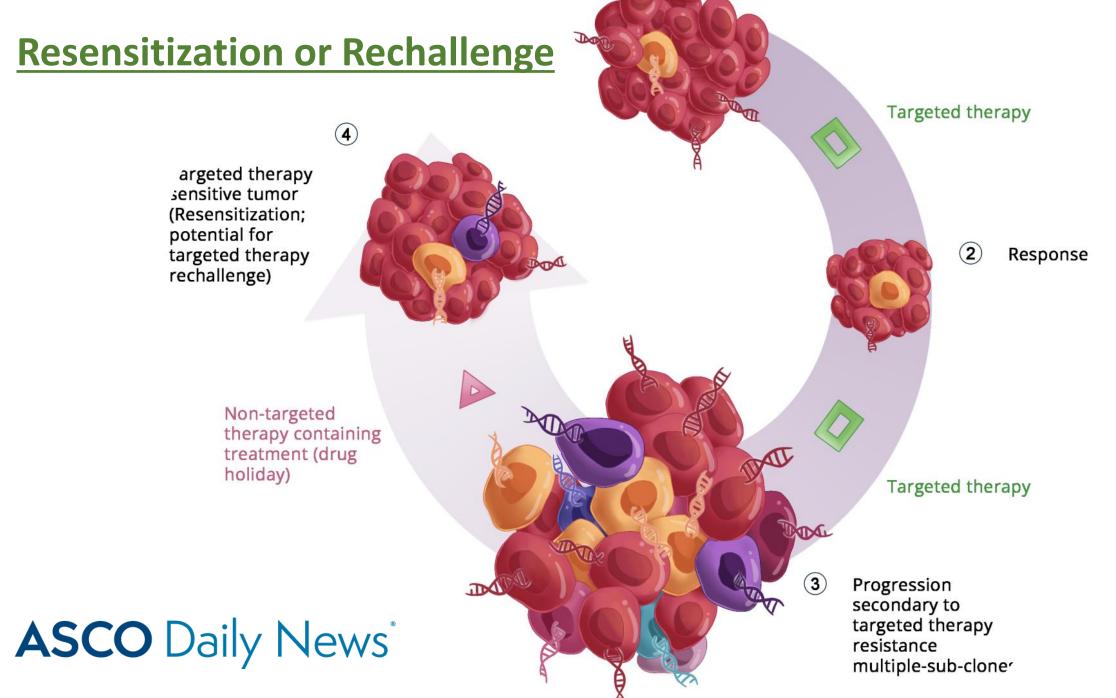


#### RAS-testing and turnaround times

■ ≤5 days ■ ≤10 days ■ ≤14 days ■ 15 or more days



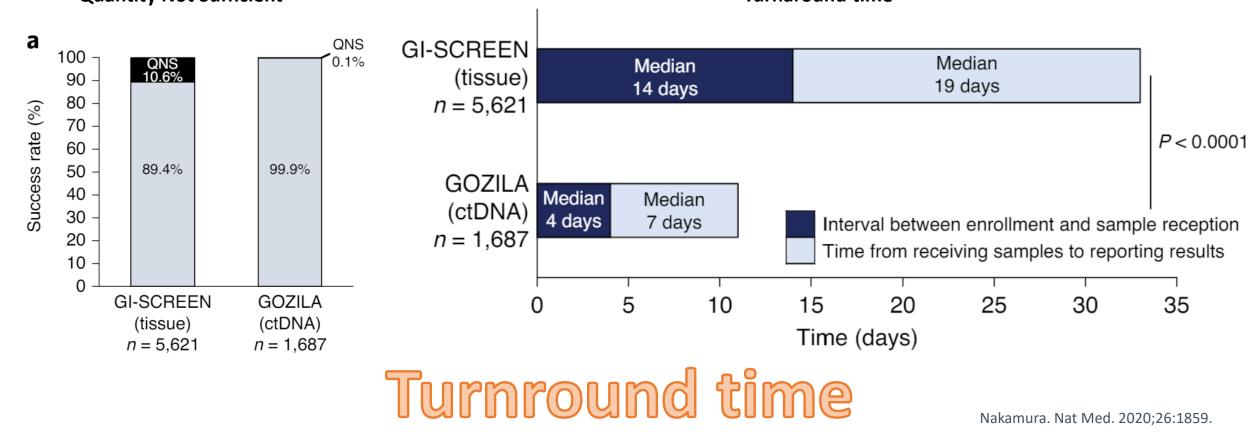
Sangaré L, Delli-Zotti K, Florea A, Rehn M, Benson AB, Lowe KA. An evaluation of *RAS* testing among metastatic colorectal cancer patients<sub>1</sub> in the USA. Future Oncol. 2021 May;17(13):1653-1663. PMID: 33629919.

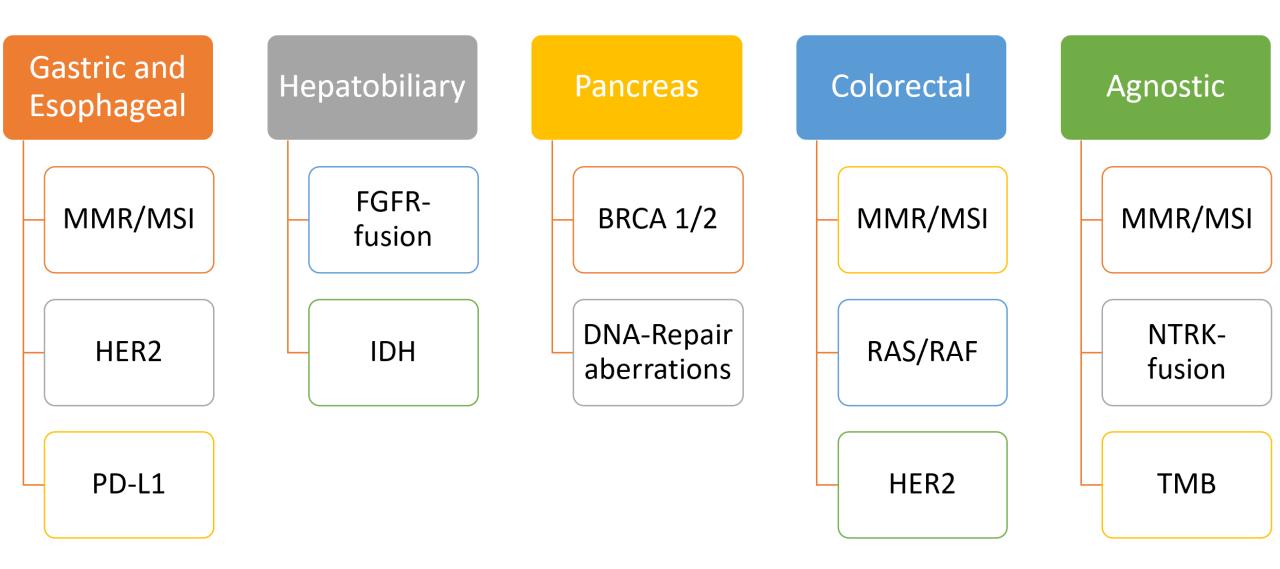


Kasi PM. ctDNA Assays: Exploring Their Clinical Use in Oncology Care. January 2022. ASCO Daily News.

# Potential Advantages of Using ctDNA Assays to Assess Actionable Mutations

 Analysis of trial enrolment of patients with advanced GI cancers using ctDNA sequencing (GOZILA, n = 1687) vs tumor tissue sequencing (GI-SCREEN, n = 5621)
 Quantity Not Sufficient







## Blood TMB or Liquid TMB (bTMB)

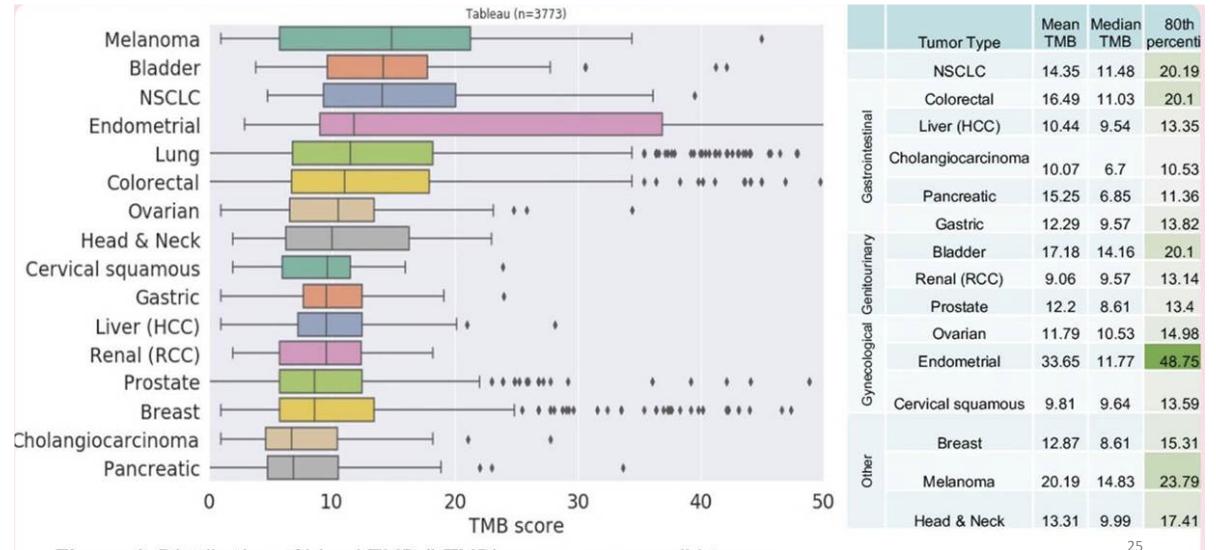
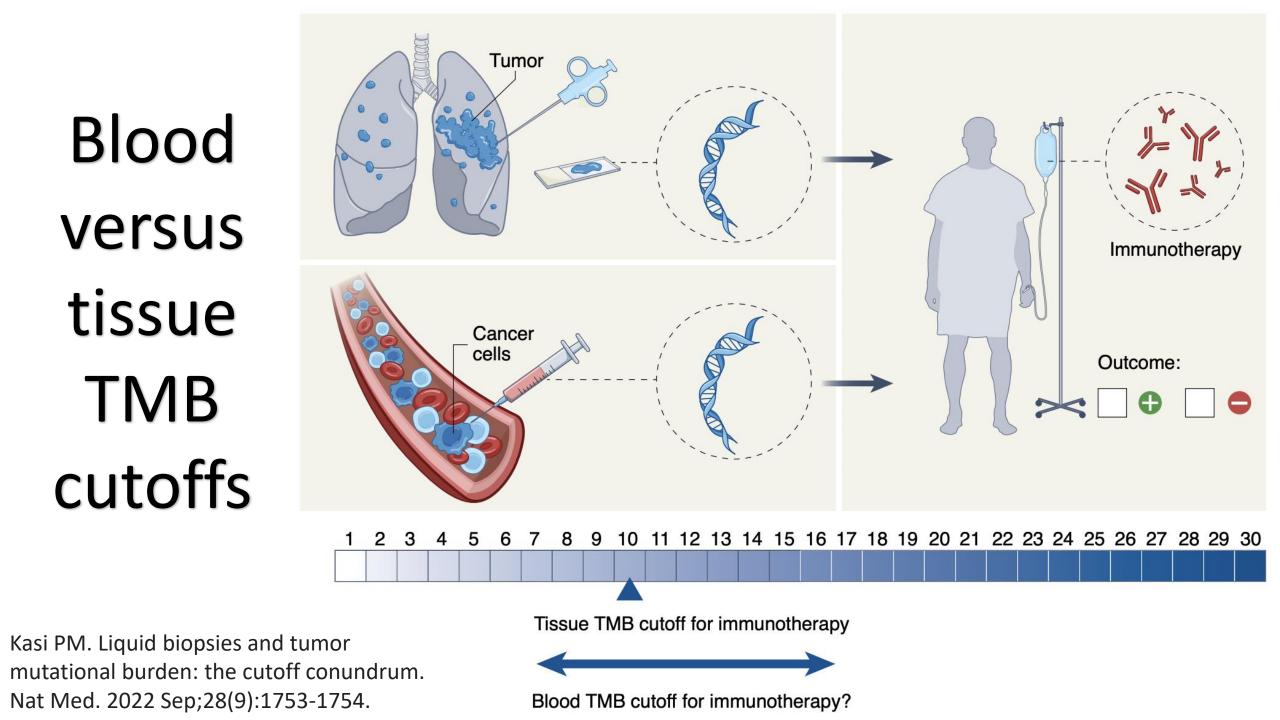
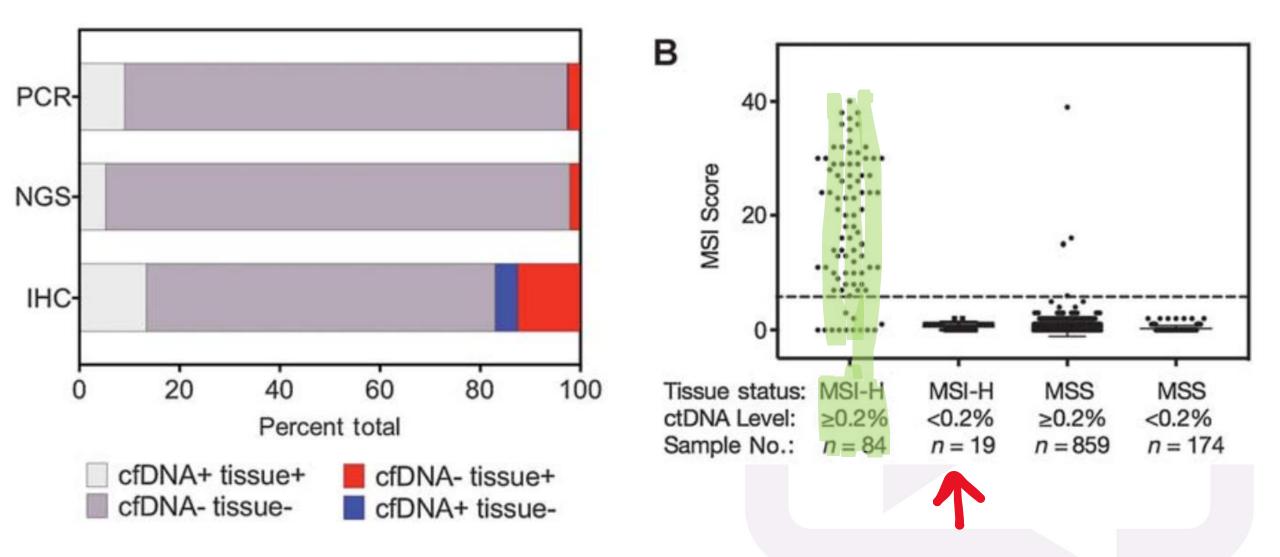


Figure 1: Distribution of blood TMB (bTMB) scores across solid tumors

Table 1: Distribution of TMB scores (defined as r



## Microsatellite Instability - Plasma



Validation of Microsatellite Instability Detection Using a Comprehensive Plasma-Based Genotyping Panel. Clin Cancer Res. 2019 Dec 1;25(23):7035-7045. PMID: 31383735.

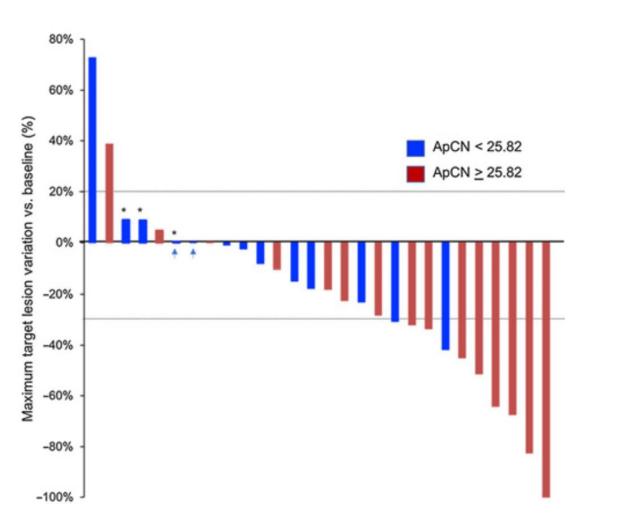
CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH

#### HER2-targeted therapies in patients with HER2+ metastatic colorectal cancer

Regimen	Trial (n) – year	<u>ORR</u>	<u>PFS</u>	<u>OS</u>	Most common Grade 3+ AEs
Trastuzumab + Iapatinib	HERACLES-A (n=32) – 2016	<u>28%</u>	<u>4.7m</u>	<u>10m</u>	Fatigue 16% Decreased LVEF 6%
Trastuzumab + pertuzumab	MyPathway (n=84; 57 evaluable) – 2019	<u>32%</u>	<u>2.9m</u>	<u>11.5m</u>	Hypokalemia 5% Abdominal pain 5%
Pertuzumab and T- DM1	HERACLES-B (n=31) – 2020	<u>9.7%</u>	<u>4.1m</u>	<u>Not</u> reported	Thrombocytopenia 7%
Trastuzumab deruxtecan	DESTINY-CRC01 (N=78; 53 HER2+) – 2021	<u>45.3%</u>	<u>6.9m</u>	<u>15.5m</u>	Neutropenia 15% Anemia 13%
Tucatinib + trastuzumab	MOUNTAINEER (n=117) *FDA Approved	<u>38.1%</u>	<u>8.2m</u>	<u>24.1m</u>	Hypertension 7% Diarrhea 3.5%



## HER2/ERBB2 - Plasma



Results:

- 47 of 48 samples had detectable ctDNA
- <u>46 of 47 samples were ERBB2-</u> <u>amplified</u> on the basis of cfDNA [2.55–122 copies];
- **97.9% sensitivity** (95 Cl, 87.2%–
- An adjusted ERBB2 pCN of 25.82 copies correlated with ORR and PFS (P = 0.0347)

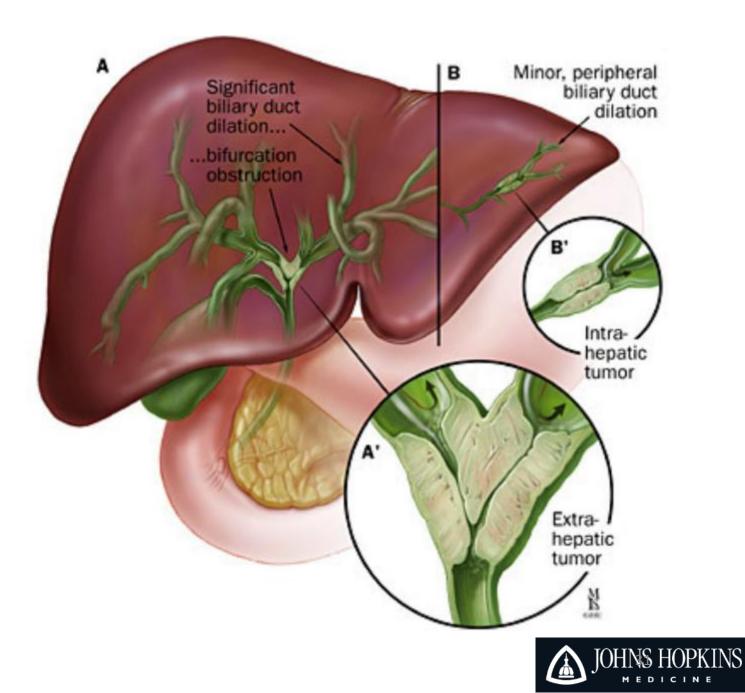
**CLINICAL CANCER** 

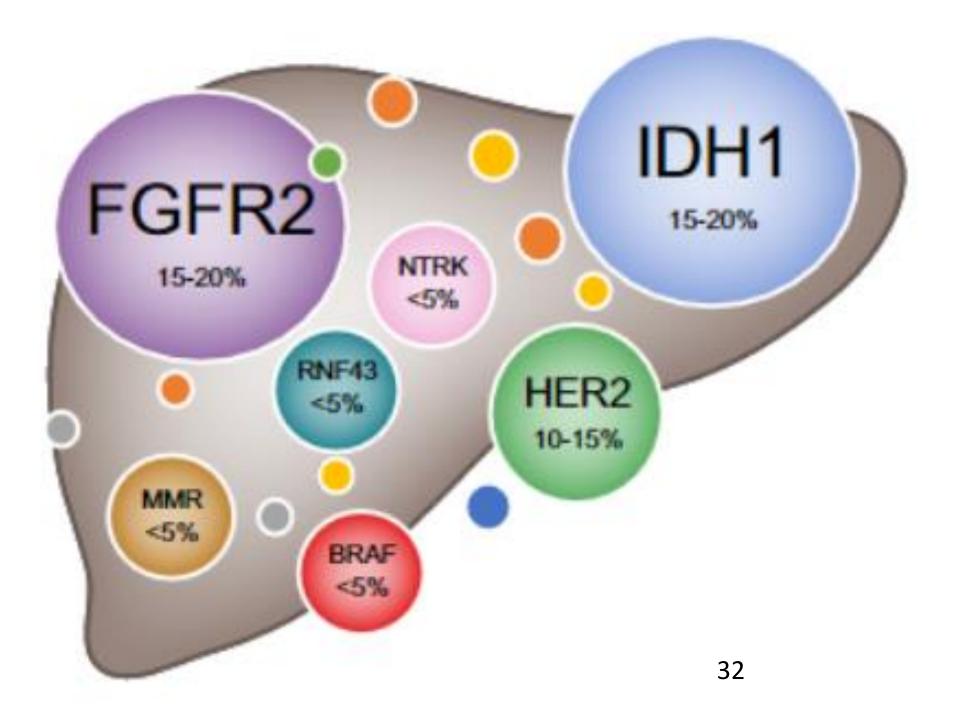
RESEARCH

Plasma HER2 (*ERBB2*) Copy Number Predicts Response to HER2-targeted Therapy in Metastatic Colorectal Cancer. Clin Cancer Res. 2019 May 15;25(10):3046-3053. PMID: 30808777.

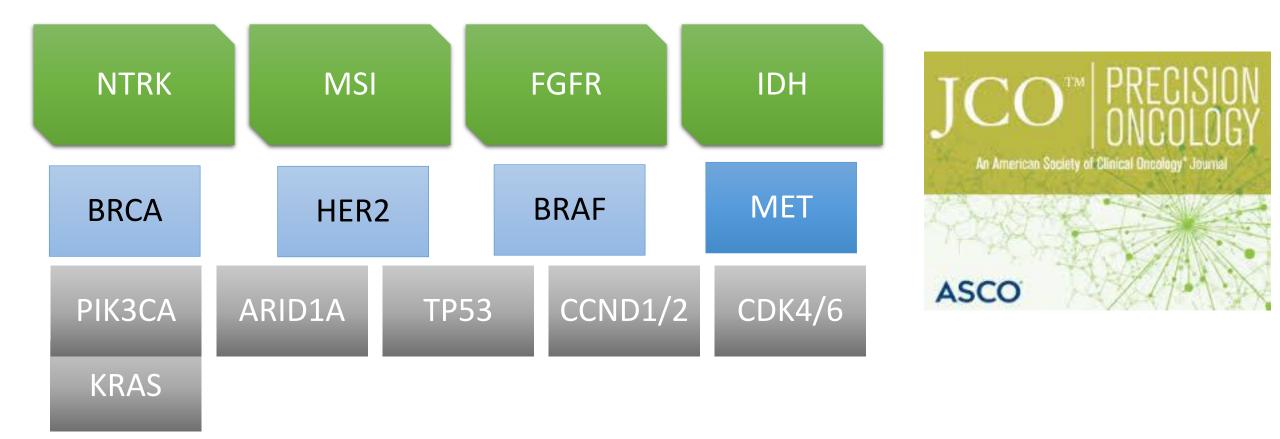
#### Dual-HER2 blockade Trastuzumab + Pertuzumab

#### Cholangiocarcinoma: Target-rich disease





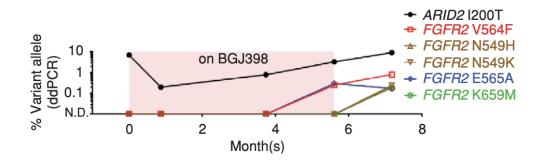
Real-time circulating tumor DNA profiling of advanced cholangiocarcinoma (CCA)



Kasi PM et al. JCO PO January 2019 & Journal of Clinical Oncology 36, no. 15\_suppl (May 2018) 4089-4089.

	Tissue	Liquid	Combined
FGFR2 fusions	3.40%	11.30%	6.80%
IDH1/2	8.10%	7.50%	8.40%
BRAF V600E	1.00%	3.00%	2.50%
HER2	3.80%	_	3.00%
MET	1.30%	_	0.70%
BRCA1/2/ATM	2.60%	_	2.00%
PIK3CA	3.00%	8.80%	4.70%
ERRFI1	-	2.50%	0.70%
Total actionable	23.20%	33.10%	28.80%

Kasi PM et al. ASCO GI 2021. Comparative landscape of actionable somatic alterations in advanced cholangiocarcinoma from circulating tumor and tissue-based DNA profiling.

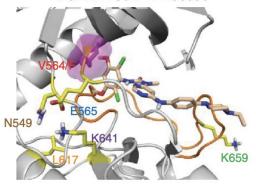


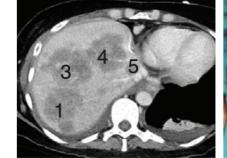
#### **RESEARCH BRIEF**

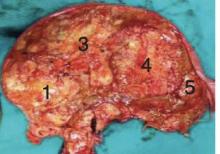
Polyclonal Secondary FGFR2 Mutations Drive Acquired Resistance to FGFR Inhibition in Patients with FGFR2 Fusion-Positive Cholangiocarcinoma

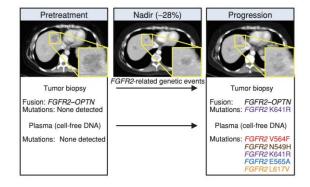
#### 252 | CANCER DISCOVERY MARCH 2017











# Can we reliably use ctDNA kinetics?

Does it correspond with outcomes (response/overall survival)?

### ctDNA as a rapid surrogate of tumor response

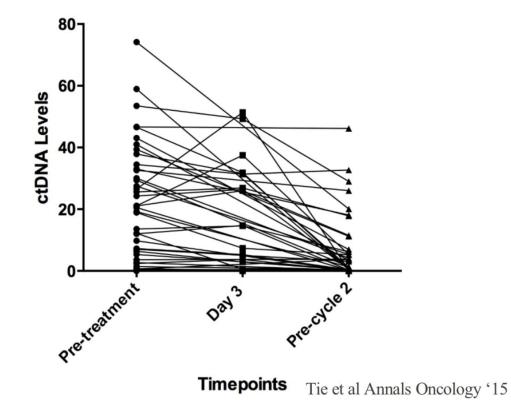
Half-life of ctDNA in circulation is measured in minutes/hours



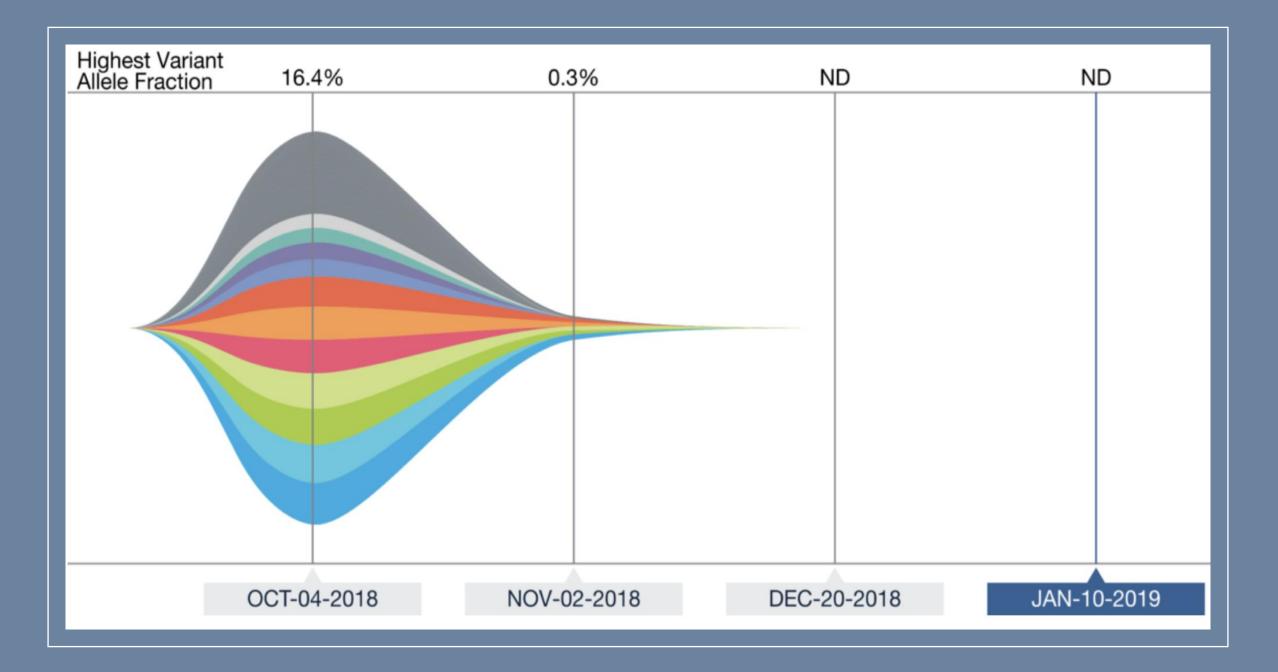
Protein markers (CEA) may have half-life of days, with post-treatment spikes

Similar findings also seen in urinary ctDNA.

ctDNA levels fall >90% in 2 weeks in responding CRC patients

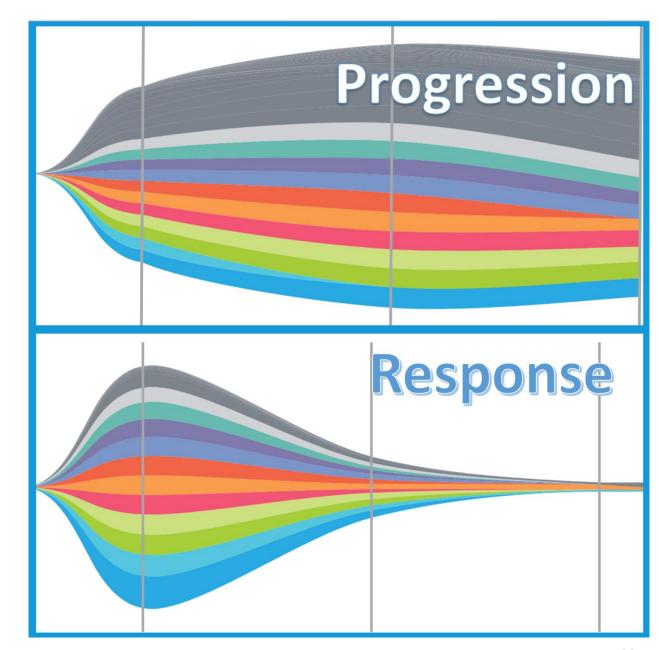


Husain et al CCR '17



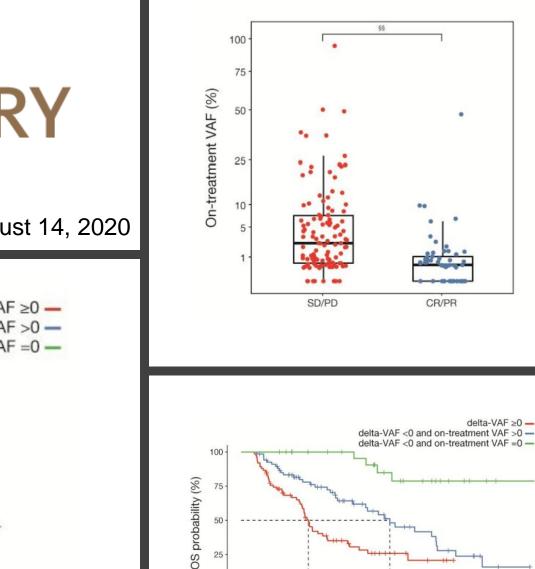
Circulating tumor DNA and plasma microsatellite instability during PD-1 blockade

J Gastrointest Oncol Aug 17 2020; 11(4):826-828



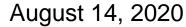
#### **Circulating tumor DNA and plasma microsatellite instability during PD-1 blockade**

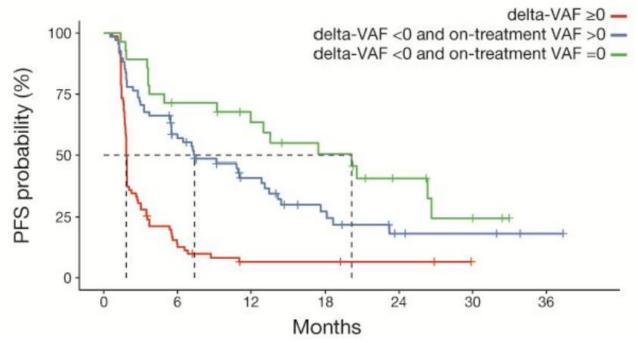
		Baseline	Week2	Week3	Week4	Week6	Week8	Week10	Week12	Imaging
Patient 1 – MSI-High Pancreas	CtDNA Highest VAF	0.7%	WCCR2	TTECKS	ND	WEEKO	ND	Weekio	ND	Response
	MSI-High Plasma	+			X		X		X	
Patient 2 – MSI-High CRC	CtDNA Highest VAF	0.4%				ND				Response
	MSI-High Plasma	+				Х				
Patient 3 – MSI-High CRC	CtDNA Highest VAF	0.7%					ND			Response
	MSI-High Plasma	+					Х			
Patient 4 – MSI-High Gastric	CtDNA Highest VAF	16.4%			0.3%			ND	ND	Response
	MSI-High Plasma	+			+			X	X	
Patient 5 – MSI-High CRC	CtDNA Highest VAF	42.2%		0.6%				0.9%		Response
	MSI-High Plasma	+		+				X		
Patient 6 – MSI-High Esophageal	CtDNA Highest VAF	ND							ND	Response
	MSI-High Plasma	+							X	
Patient 7 – MSI-High CRC	CtDNA Highest VAF	31.2%		4.4%				0.3%		Response
	MSI-High Plasma	+		+				+		
Patient 8 – MSI-High CRC	CtDNA Highest VAF	11.7%		20.9%		18.1%				Progression
	MSI-High Plasma	+		+		+				
Patient 9 – MSI-High CRC	CtDNA Highest VAF	0.2%							0.8%	Progression
	MSI-High Plasma	+							+	
Patient 10 – MSI- High CRC	CtDNA Highest VAF	4.4%	2%					10.5%		Progression
	MSI-High Plasma	+	+					+		
Patient 11 – MSI- High CRC	CtDNA Highest VAF	0.2%		ND		0.3%			0.6%	Progression
	MSI-High Plasma	+		+		+			+	
Patient 12 – MSI- High CRC	CtDNA Highest VAF	2.4%		2.7%		1.7%				40 Progression
	MSI-High Plasma	+		+		+				



Months

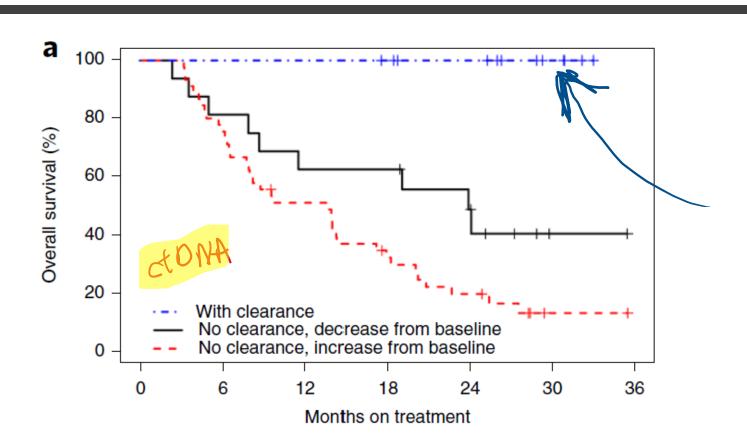
## **CANCER DISCOVERY**

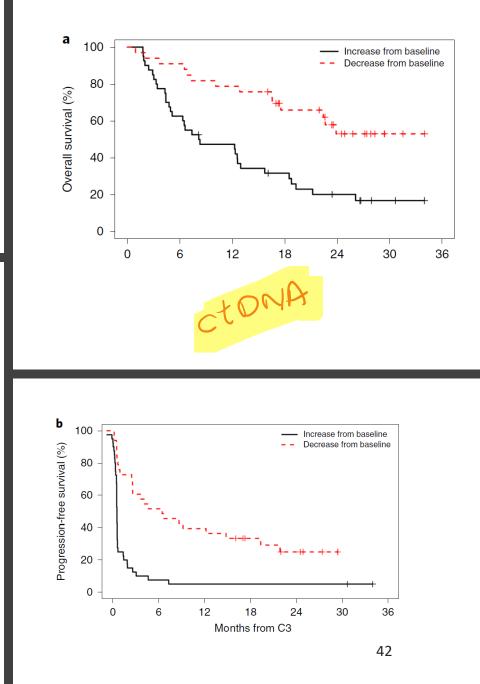




# nature cancer

03 August 2020





# **ASCO** Daily News<sup>®</sup>

## Kinetics of Liquid Biopsies in Predicting Response to Immunotherapy

October 1, 2020

Pashtoon M. Kasi, MD, MS





Platforms and updates

## Tumor heterogeneity "Shedding"

Cannot forget biology; high shedders versus low shedders

🔰 @pashtoonkasi

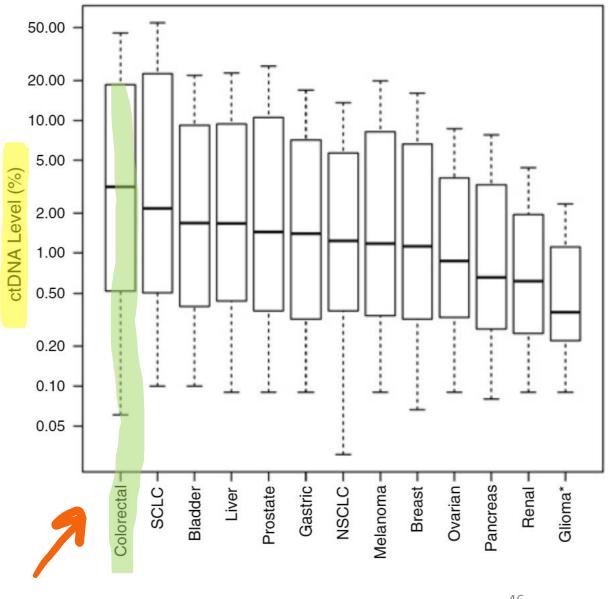
Clinical Cancer Research

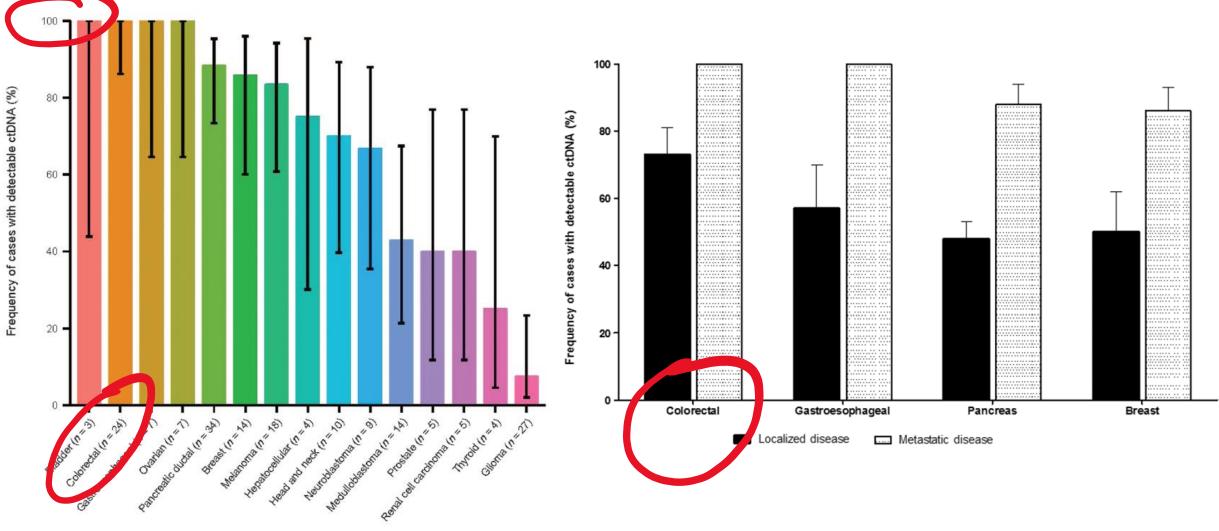
#### The Landscape of Actionable Genomic Alterations in Cell-Free Circulating Tumor DNA from 21,807 Advanced Cancer Patients ©

Oliver A. Zill<sup>1</sup>, Kimberly C. Banks<sup>1</sup>, Stephen R. Fairclough<sup>1</sup>, Stefanie A. Mortimer<sup>1</sup>, James V. Vowles<sup>1</sup>, Reza Mokhtari<sup>1</sup>, David R. Gandara<sup>2</sup>, Philip C. Mack<sup>2</sup>, Justin I. Odegaard<sup>1</sup>, Rebecca J. Nagy<sup>1</sup>, Arthur M. Baca<sup>1</sup>, Helmy Eltoukhy<sup>1</sup>, Darya I. Chudova<sup>1</sup>, Richard B. Lanman<sup>1</sup>, and AmirAli Talasaz<sup>1</sup>

## **Clinical Cancer Research**

August 2018 Volume 24, Issue 15

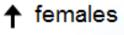




- Detectable levels of ctDNA
  - Varies between different tumors and between different stages of the tumor
  - 49 to 78% of patients with localized tumors and in 86 to 100% of patients with metastatic tumors of these four types

## RIGHT vs. LEFT



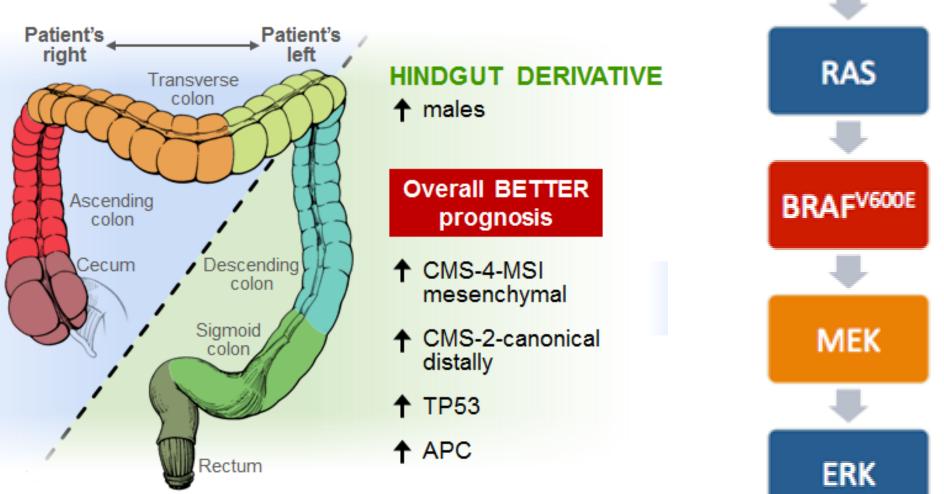


- sessile serrated lesions
- mucinous tumors

Overall WORSE prognosis

- ↑ CIMP-high
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48 Kasi PM et al. Colorectal Cancer. Lancet Oct 2019.

EGFR

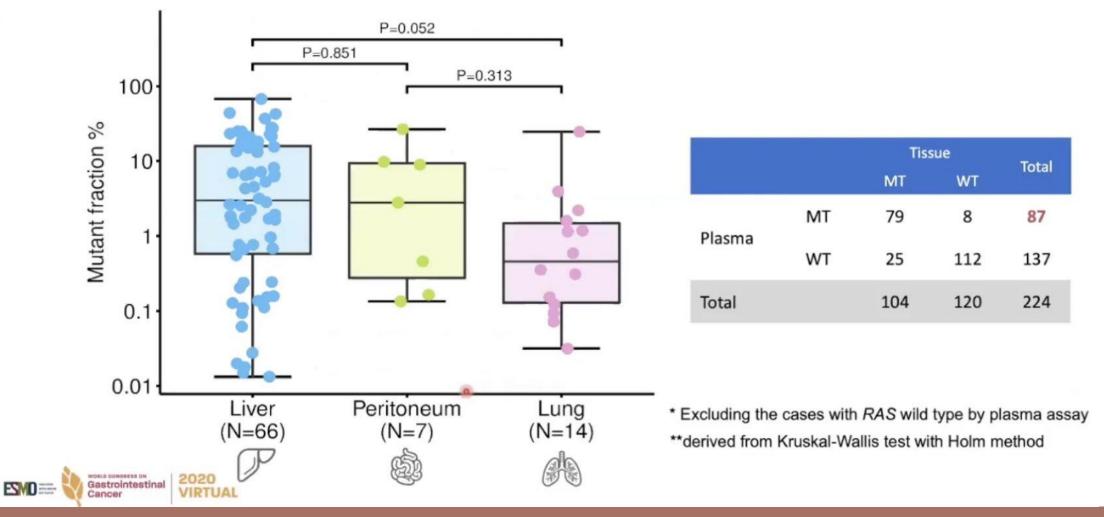


Lee J, et al: Multimodal circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) colorectal neoplasia detection assay for asymptomatic and early-stage colorectal cancer (CRC). Journal of Clinical Oncology 39:3536-3536, 2021

### ctDNA excretion from each metastatic site



#### Among cases with RAS mutation by plasma-BEAMing (n=87)\*



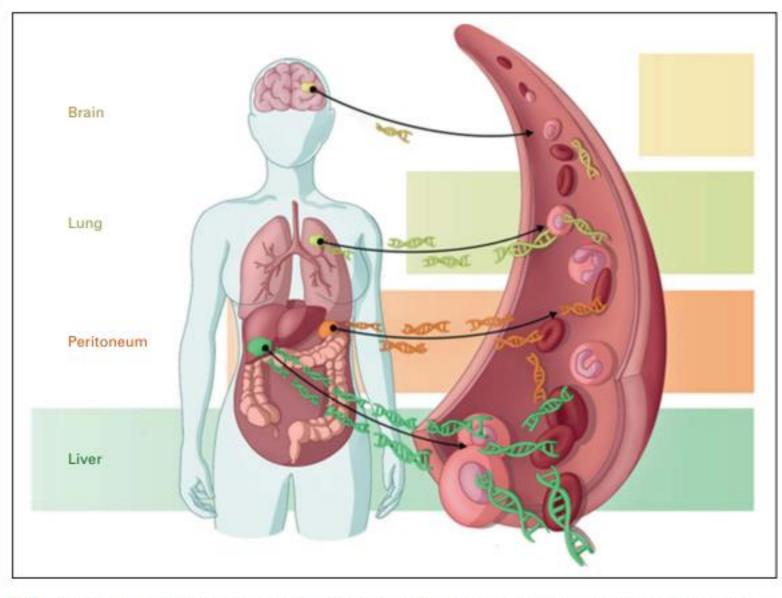
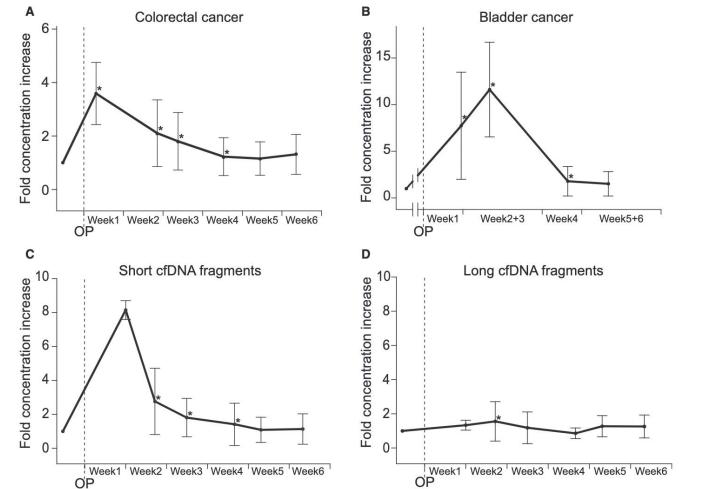


FIG 1. Shedding and amount of detectable circulating tumor DNA varies by location of metastatic site. Liver metastases appear to shed the most DNA, followed by the peritoneum and lung.

Kasi PM, Fehringer G, Aleshin A, Kopetz S. Reply to F. Dayyani et al. JCO Precis Oncol. 2022 Jul;6:e2200275. doi: 10.1200/PO.22.00275. PMID: 35834757.

T. V. Henriksen et al.



Henriksen TV. The effect of surgical trauma on circulating free DNA levels in cancer patients-implications for studies of circulating tumor DNA. Mol Oncol. 2020 Aug;14(8):1670-1679.

Surgical

trauma

induced

cfDNA affects

**ctDNA** 

detection

## Timing is key

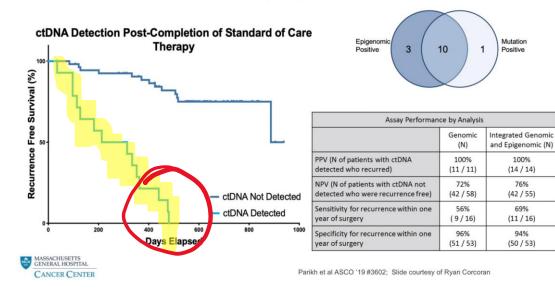
Finding the needle in the haystack

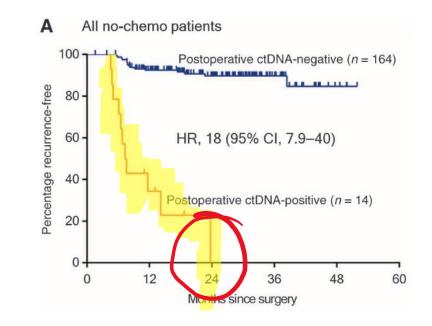
> Immediate postoperative period – bigger haystack

# Do ctDNA+ patients recur?

Does it correspond with outcomes (recurrence)?

#### Prediction of relapse post-SOC in CRC



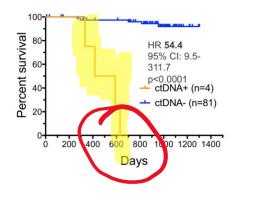


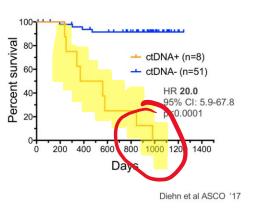
#### NGS Assay

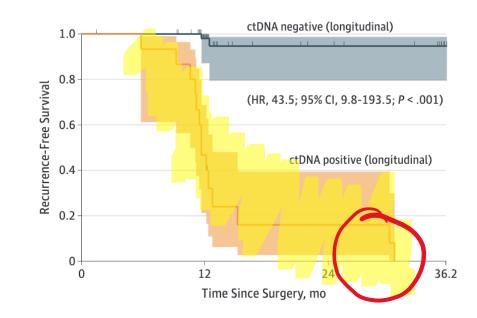
Assay with 197 genes; at least one mutation detected 99.3% of tumor tissue 57% sensitivity for recurrence; 100% specificity

Stage III (16% prevalence of ctDNA+)

Stage II (5% prevalence of ctDNA+)



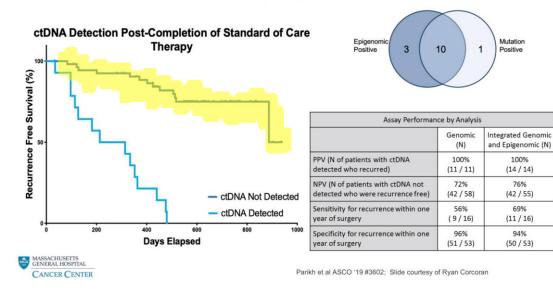


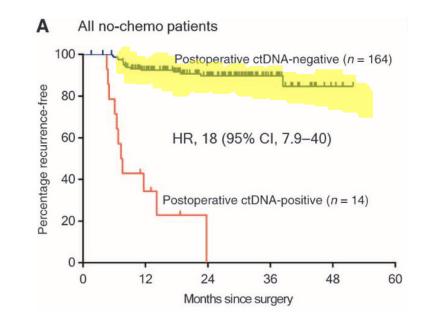


# Do ctDNA- patients recur?

Does it correspond with outcomes (recurrence)?

#### Prediction of relapse post-SOC in CRC



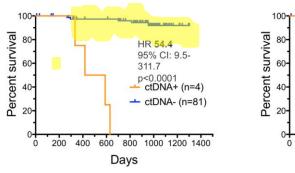


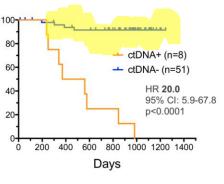
#### NGS Assay (Roche Molecular)

Assay with 197 genes; at least one mutation detected 99.3% of tumor tissue 57% sensitivity for recurrence; 100% specificity

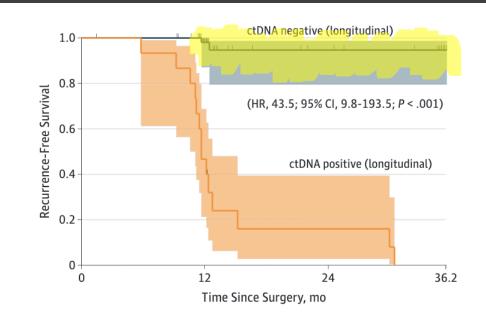
Stage III (16% prevalence of ctDNA+)

Stage II (5% prevalence of ctDNA+)

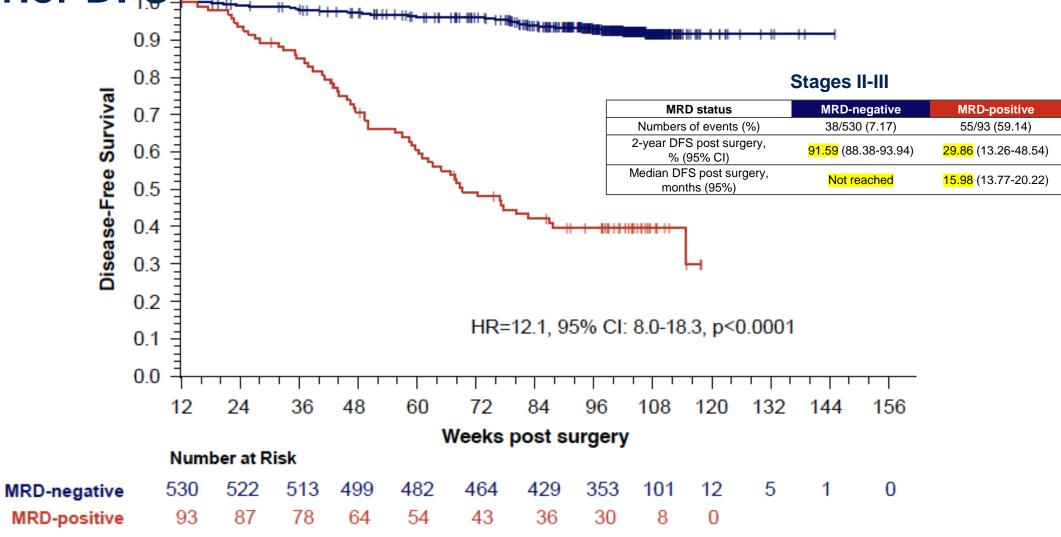




Diehn et al ASCO '17



## ctDNA-positivity at MRD time point is predictive of inferior DFS



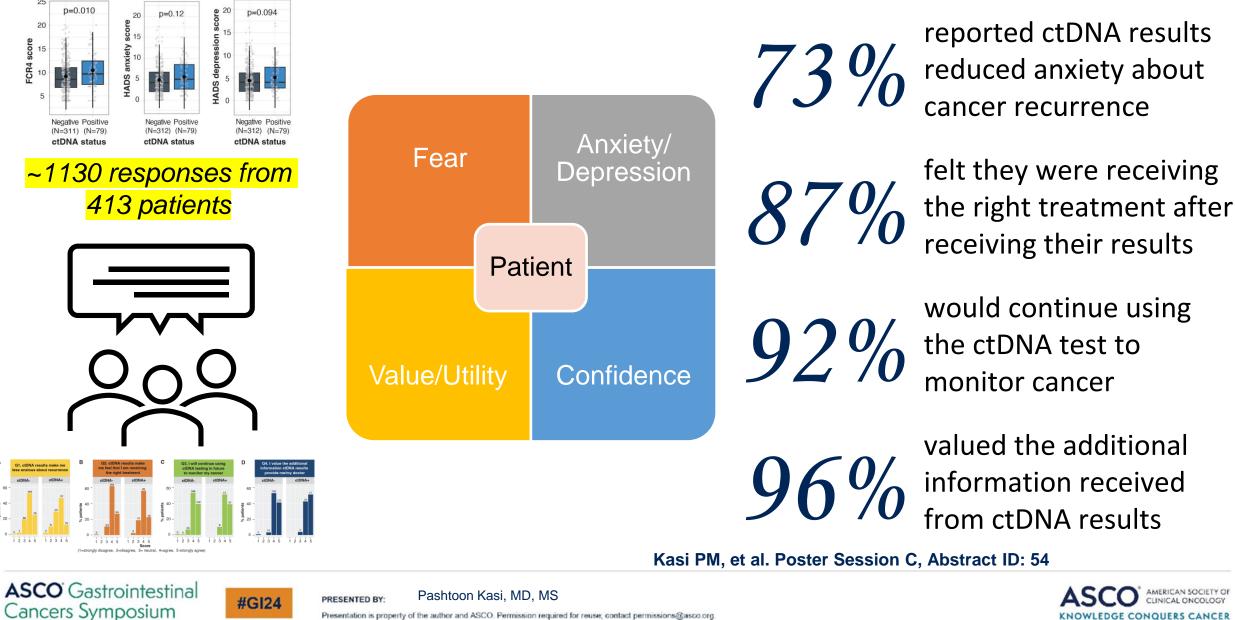
**ASCO** Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium



PRESENTED BY: Pashtoon Kasi, MD, MS



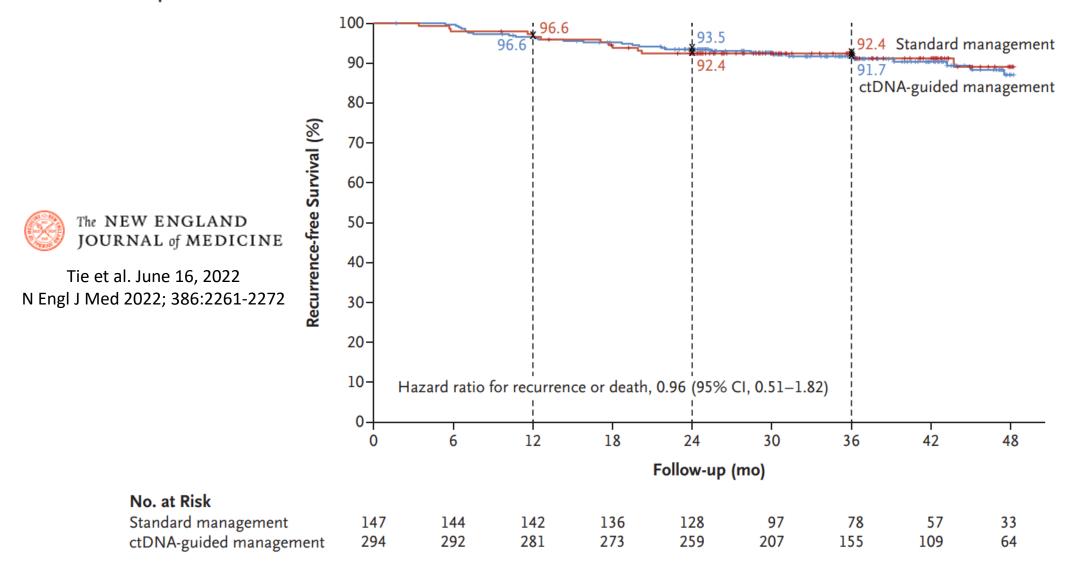
#### Perceived utility of ctDNA testing and dimensions of well-being

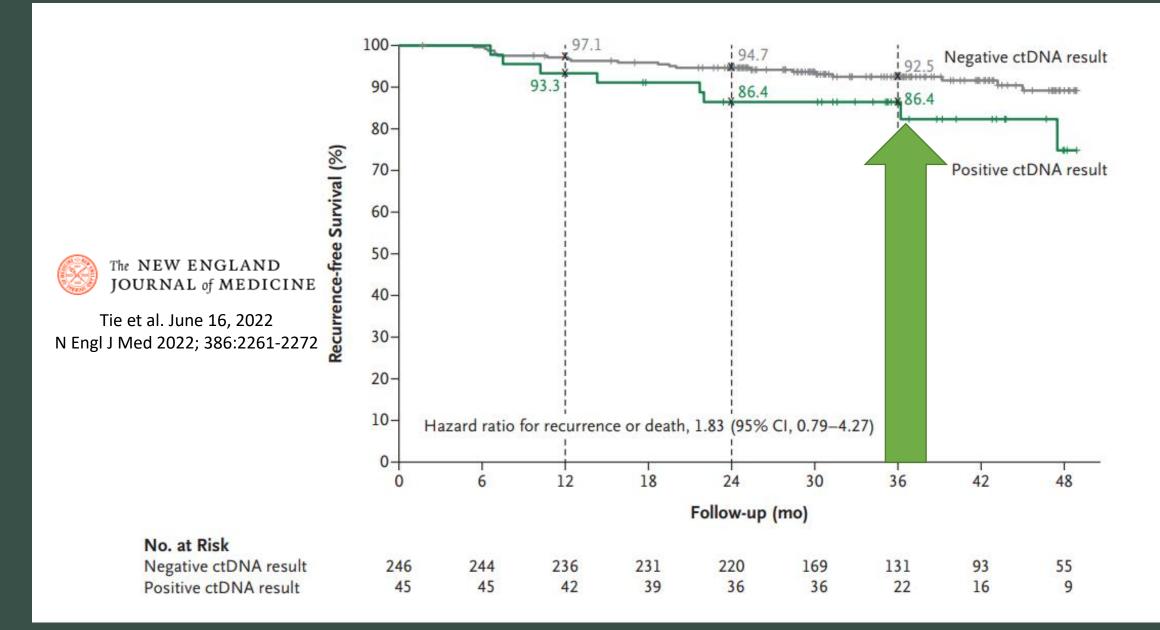


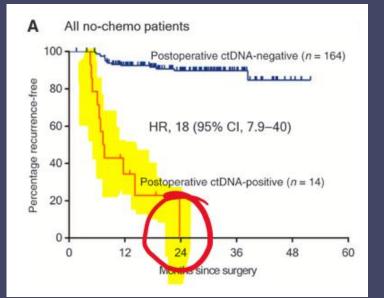
NOWLEDGE CONQUERS CANCER

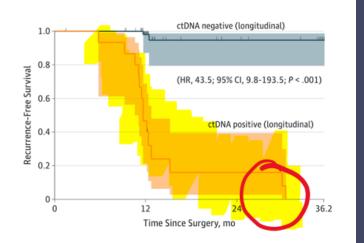
Presentation is property of the author and ASCO. Permission required for reuse; contact permissions@asco.org.

#### **B** Kaplan–Meier Estimates of Recurrence-free Survival

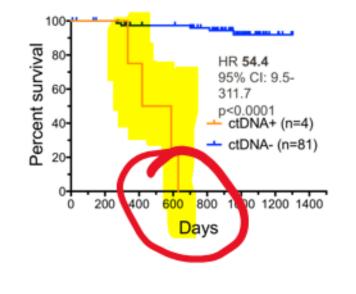


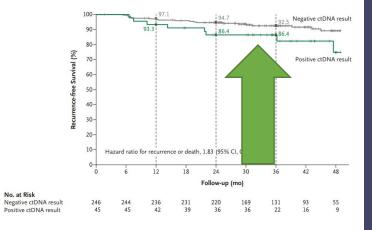






#### Stage II (5% prevalence of ctDNA+)

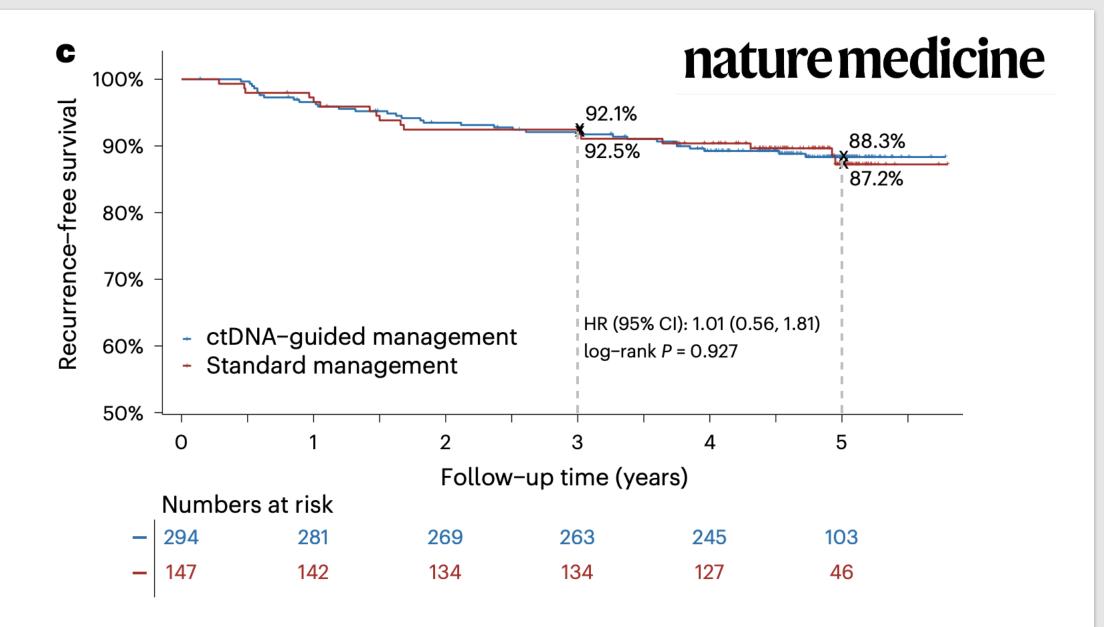






The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

Tie et al. June 16, 2022 N Engl J Med 2022; 386:2261-2272



## Units of Measurement

#### VAF%

Variant Allele
 Fraction

VAF represents the percentage of sequencing reads that support a specific variant allele relative to the total number of reads at that genomic locus

#### MTM

 Mean Tumor Molecules/ml

Absolute measurement

Focuses on the number of target molecules in a given volume million

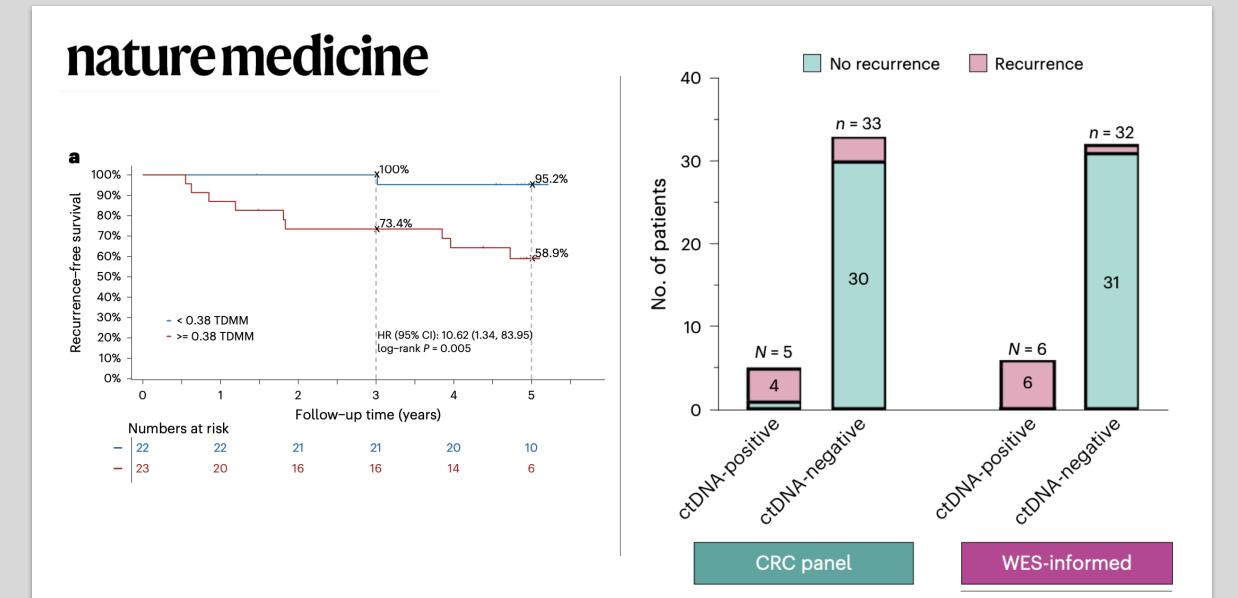
Parts per

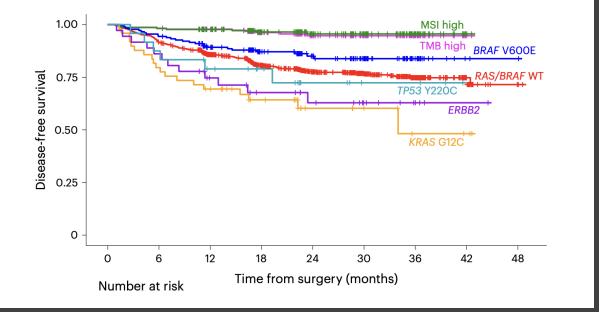
PPM

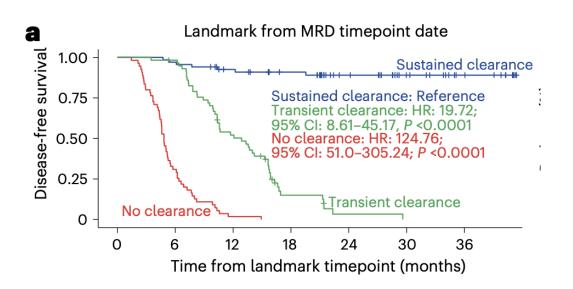
Relative measurement

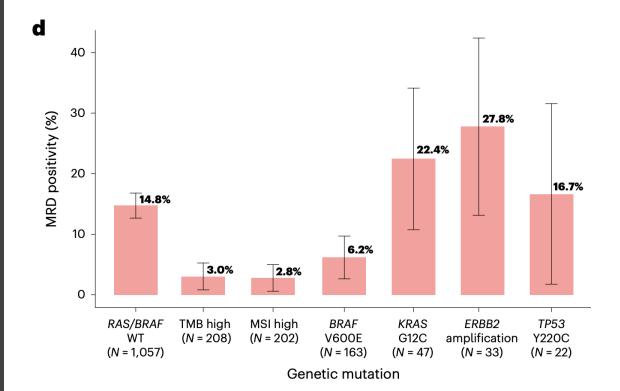
Focuses on the ratio of ctDNA molecules containing MRD targets out of the total cfDNA molecules measured (ctDNA + normal cfDNA)

1.67 parts per million (PPM) =  $1.67 \times 10^{-6}$  tumor fraction = 0.000167% VAF









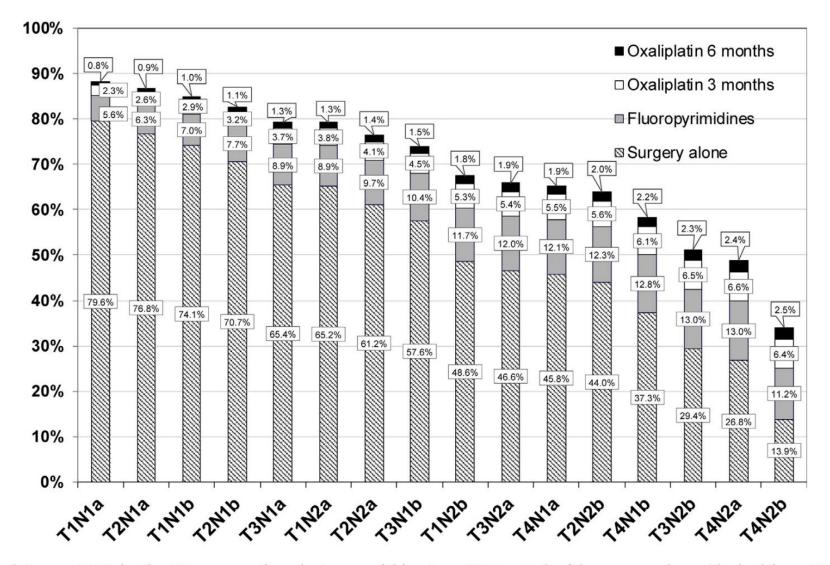
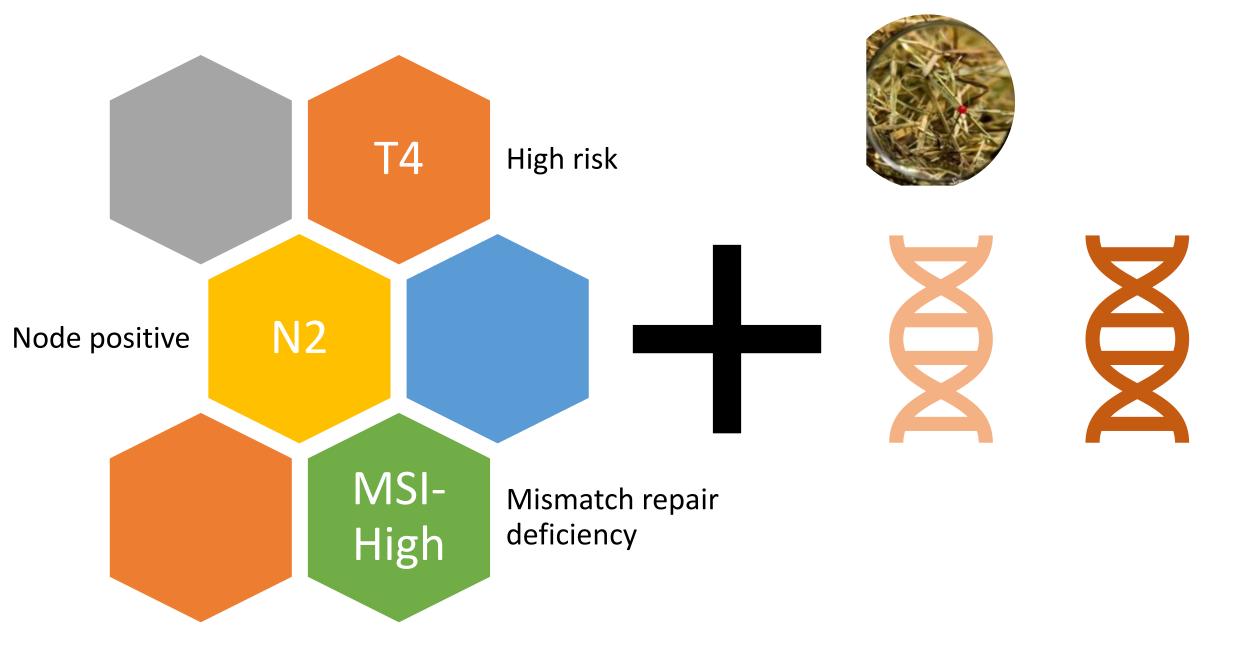
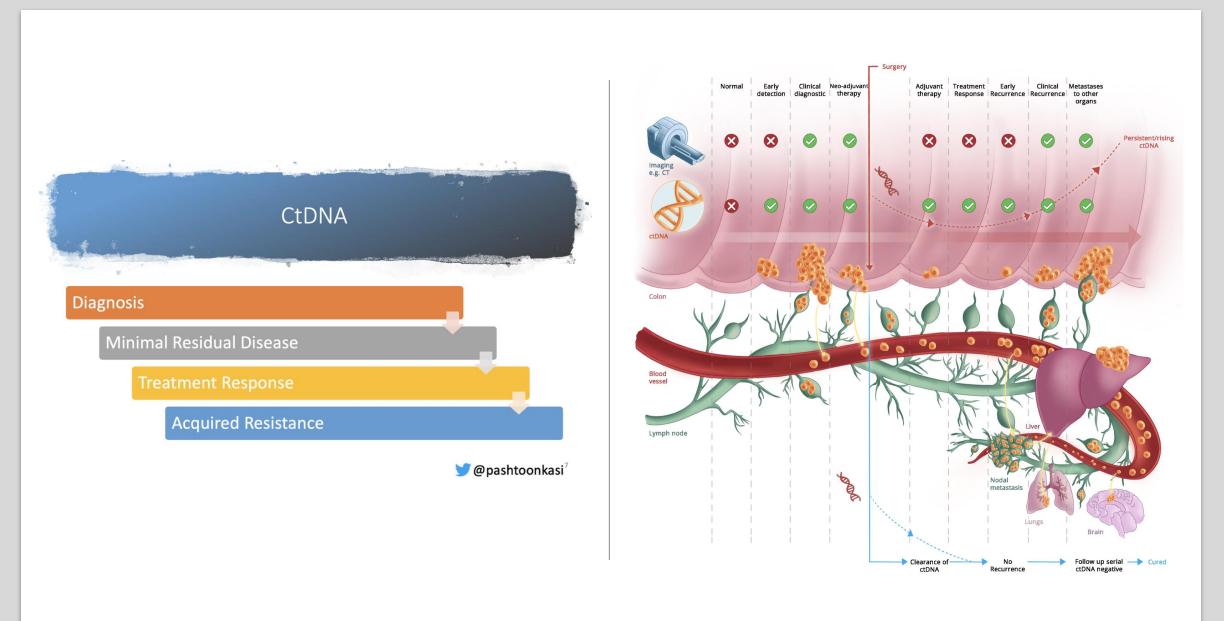


Fig. 2. Predicted 5-year DFS in the 16 prognostic sub-stages within stage III treated with surgery alone (dashed bar, HR = 0.7); fluoropyrimidine alone (light grey bar, HR = 0.78); oxaliplatin-based doublet for 3 months (white bar, HR = 0.93), oxaliplatin-based doublet for 6 months (black bar).





## Summary/Future Directions

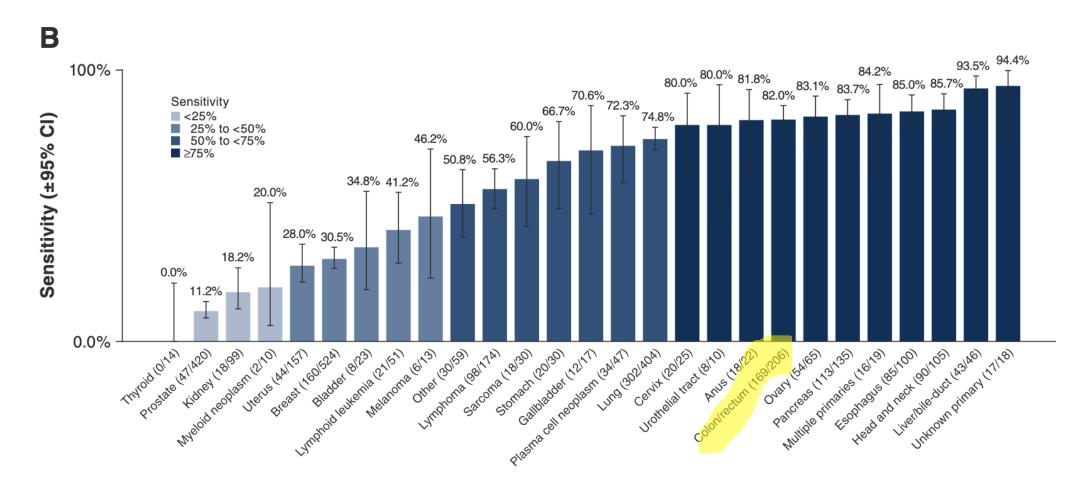


Tumor DNA-Based Screening Approaches for Colorectal Cancer

# 1. Colorectal Cancer specific tests

# 2. Multi-tumor agnostic tests

### Targeted methylation-based multi-cancer early detection test (MCED)



Klein EA, et al. Clinical validation of a targeted methylation-based multi-cancer early detection test using an independent validation set. Annals of Oncology 2021;32(9):1167-77

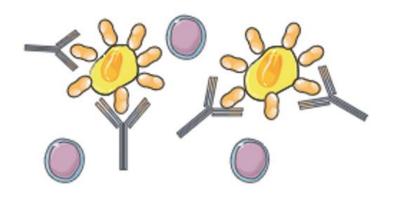
## Circulating Tumor Cells

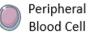


## CTC Isolation Techniques

Surface independent approaches

### Surface dependent approaches





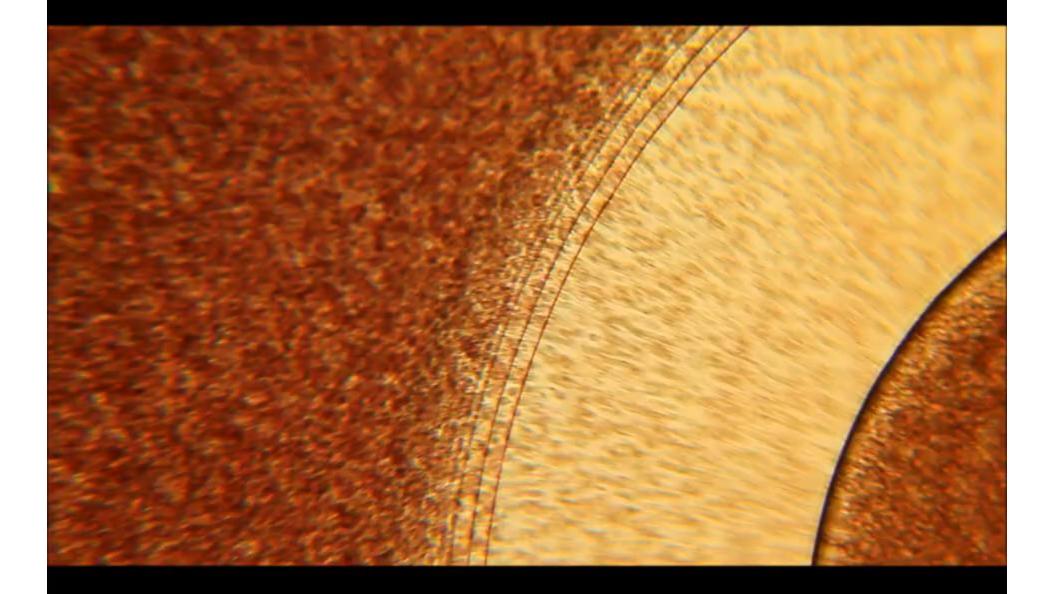


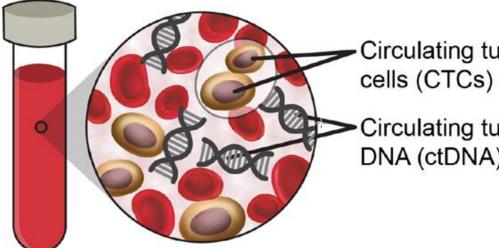
CTC

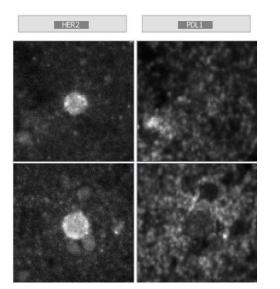
🖯 ЕРСАМ 🛁

Anti-EPCAM

Antibody



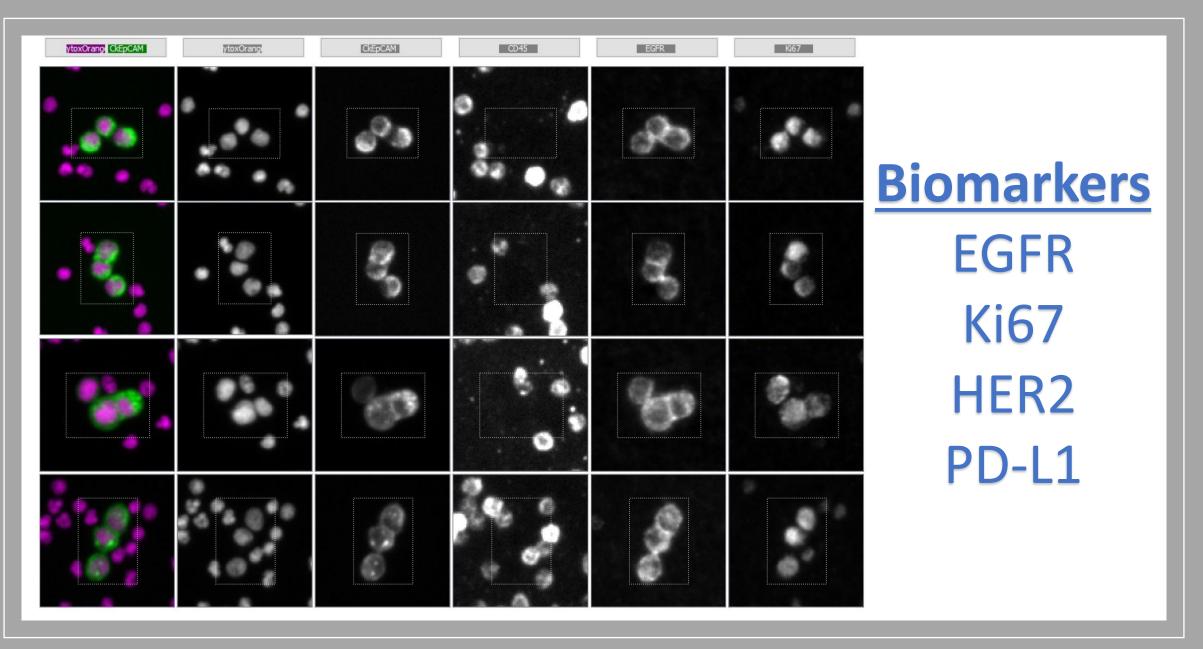


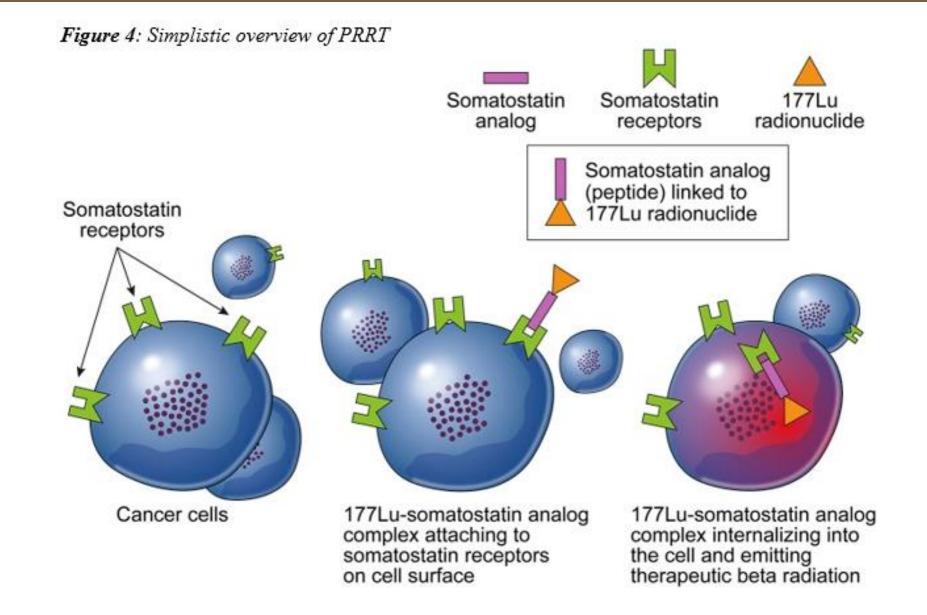


Circulating tumor

 Circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA)

# CK/EpCAM/Sytox Sytox CK/EpCAM CD45





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doi: 10.1200/JCO.21.02615. Journal of Clinical Oncology<sup>®</sup> PMID: 35839443. An American Society of Clinical Oncology Journal SPECIAL SERIES: PRECISION MEDICINE AND IMMUNOTHERAPY IN GI MALIGNANCIES **Using Circulating Tumor DNA in Colorectal Cancer: Current and Evolving Practices** 

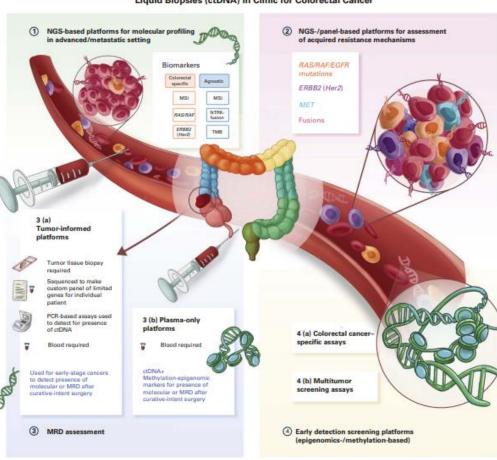
Midhun Malla, MD, MS<sup>1</sup>; Jonathan M. Loree, MD, MS<sup>2</sup>; Pashtoon Murtaza Kasi, MD, MS<sup>3</sup>; and Aparna Raj Parikh, MD<sup>4</sup>

## THE LANCET

doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(19)32319-0. PMID: 31631858.

### **Colorectal cancer**

Evelien Dekker, Pieter J Tanis, Jasper L A Vleugels, Pashtoon M Kasi, Michael B Wallace



Liquid Biopsies (ctDNA) in Clinic for Colorectal Cancer

## ctDNA's Role in Shaping the Present and Future of GI Cancer Treatment

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