
Unresectable Metastatic Disease Considerations and Outcomes in Transplant Oncology

Gonzalo Sapisochin MD, PhD, MSc
Associate Professor of Surgery
LeGresley Chair in Transplant Oncology at UHN
University of Toronto
Abdominal Transplant & HPB Surgical Oncology
University Health Network, Toronto

What is Transplant Oncology?

- Revisited area of Transplantation Medicine
- Includes 4 E's (4 pillars)

In Toronto and other centers cancer indications represent 40-50% of Liver Transplants

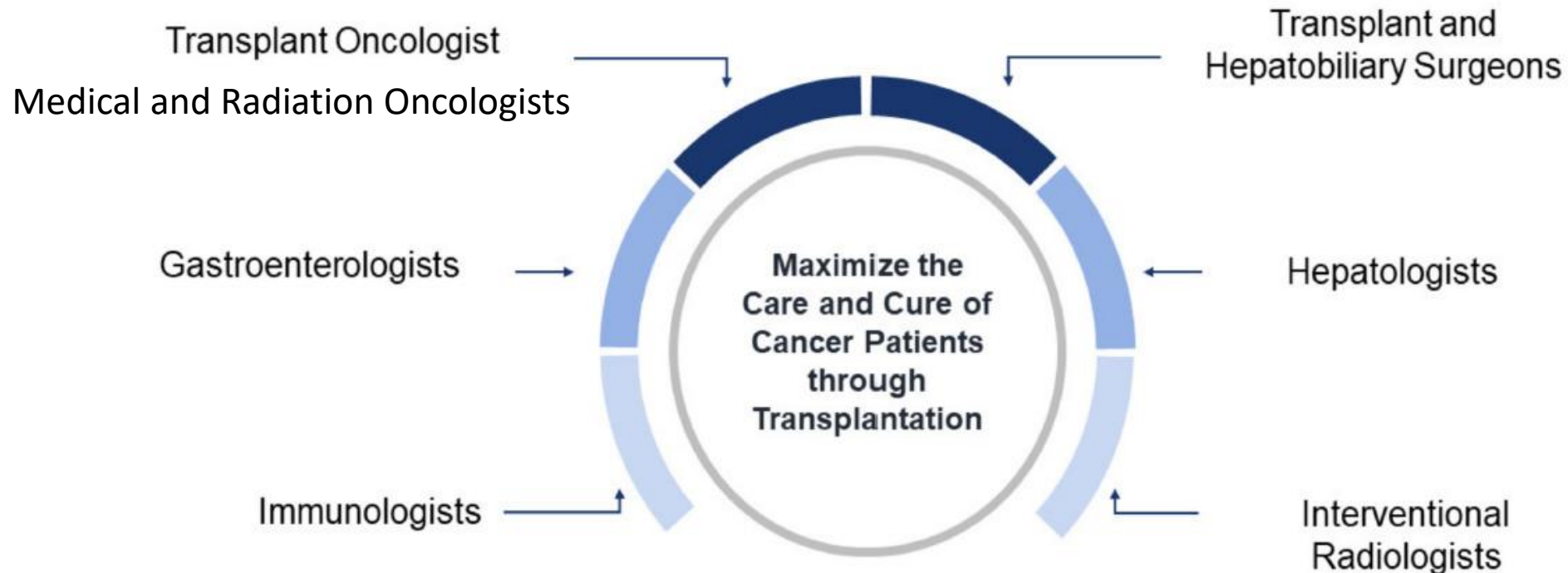


Principles and Controversies of Transplant Oncology

- LT contributes to cure liver tumors by **extending conventional margins of surgical oncology** and eliminating concurrent cancer progression-favoring conditions.
- Successful strategy of LT for cancer depends on reliable determination of the **exclusive liver-restricted** tumor location and growth.
- LT efficacy is increased in tumors with objective and sustained response to **neoadjuvant treatments**.
- In transplanting patients with cancer, **minimal inclusion/exclusion criteria** and achievable endpoints needs to be defined a-priori.

Principles and Controversies of Transplant Oncology

- Randomized controlled trials are impeded by the complexity and heterogeneity of transplant activities and waiting-list dynamics. The current framework of pharmacology-oriented clinical research poorly applies to transplant oncology: a field in need of **alternative methodologies to prove the associated benefits.**

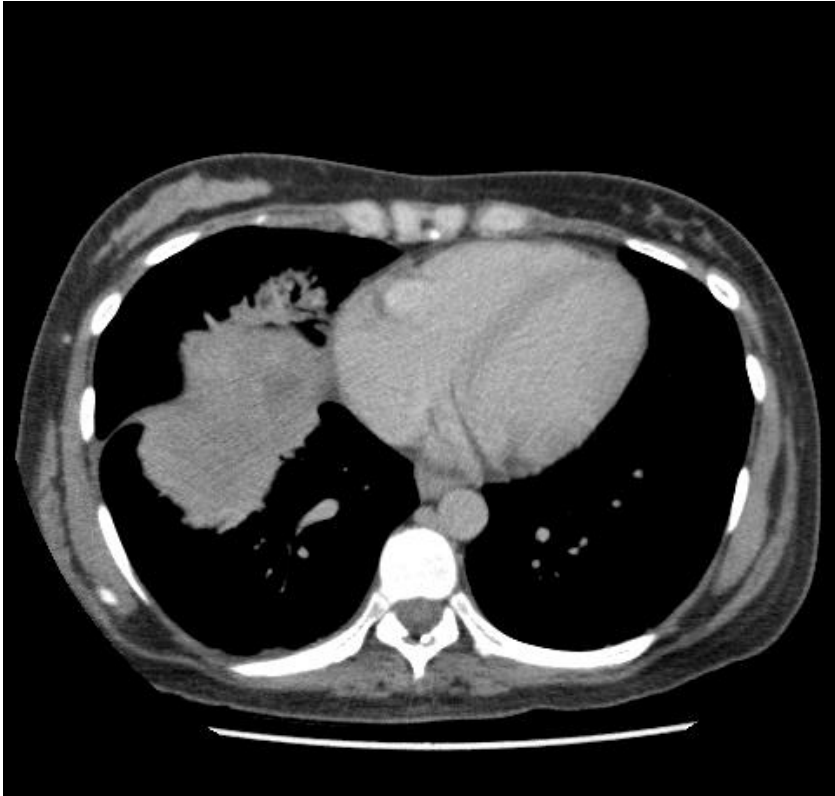


This is the Patient Population I will be Discussing

37 years old patient.

Sigmoid cancer (KRAS wt, BRAF wt, MSS) Synchronous liver metastasis

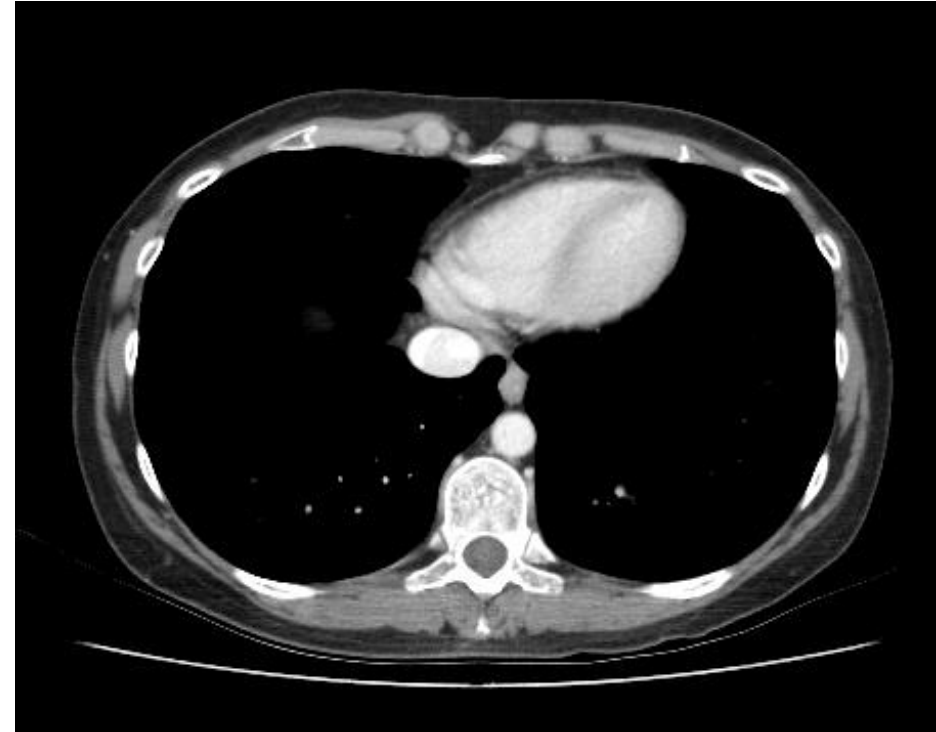
CEA: 3000 ng/mL



Folfinirox + Panitimumab
Hepatic Artery Infusion Pump
Colon Resection



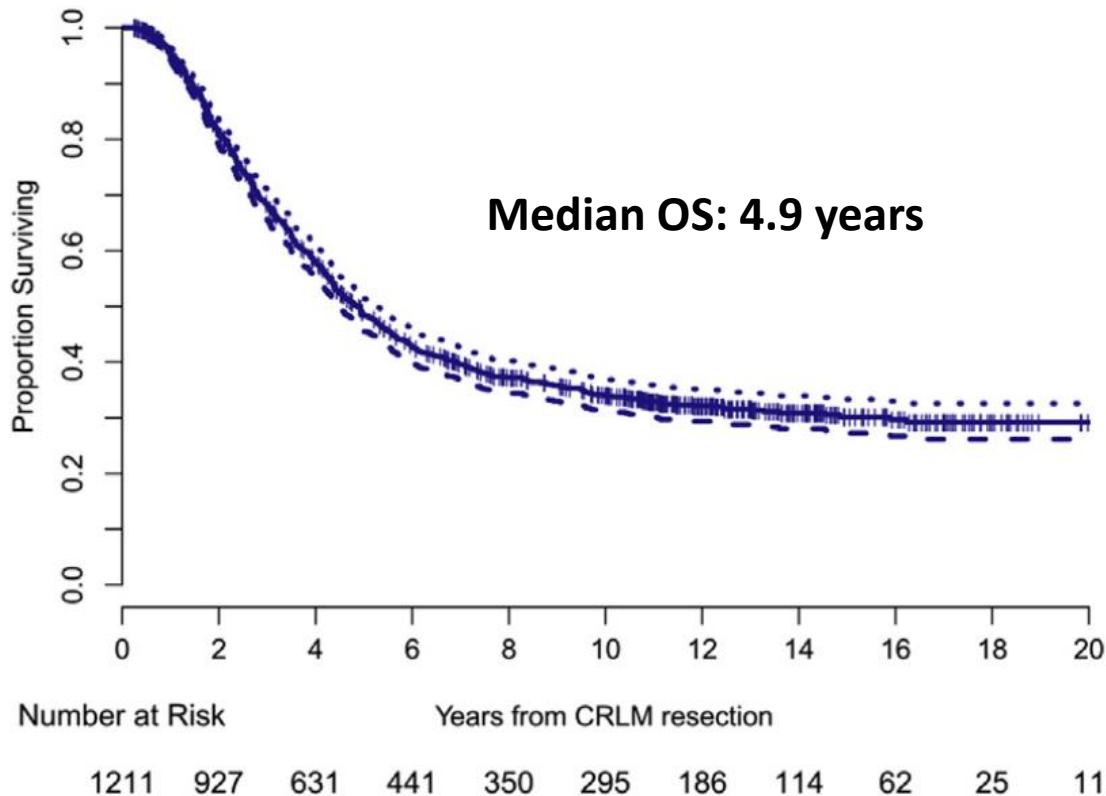
20 months later
CEA 1.4 ng/mL



Outcomes after Liver resection for LM from CRC

50% of patients with CRC develop LM

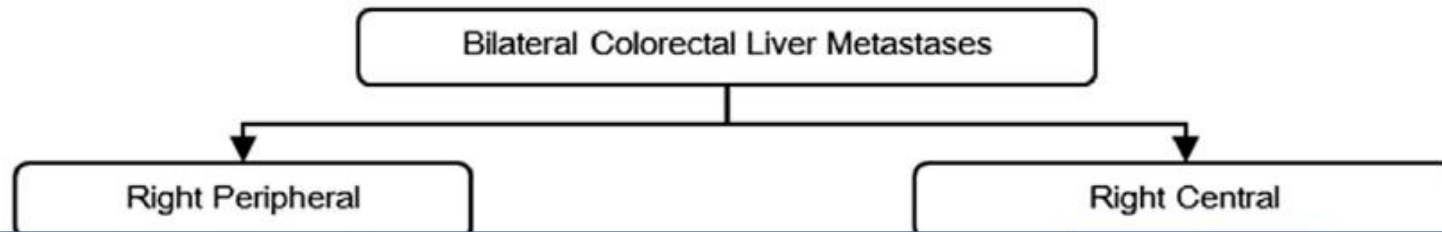
Surgical resection of LM provides the highest chance of cure
 Only a minority 20-40% are candidates for surgery



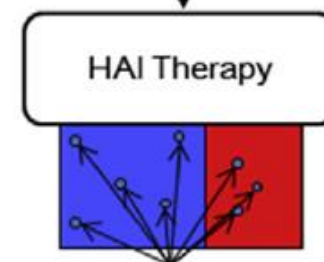
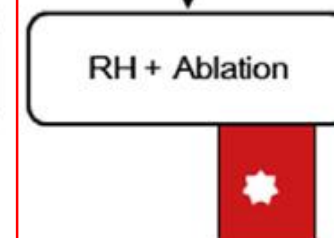
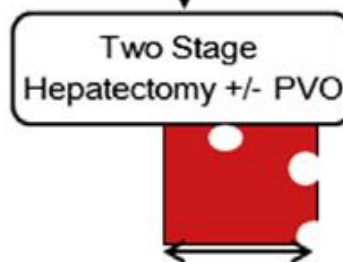
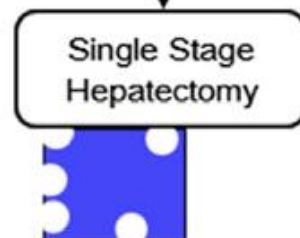
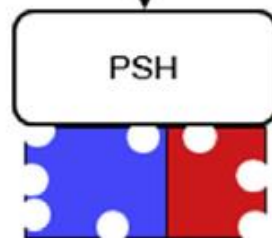
Author	Arm	n	5-Year Overall Survival (%)
Portier et al, ¹²² 2006	Surgery	85	42
	surgery → 5FU + leucovorin	86	51
Mitry et al, ¹²³ 2008	Surgery	140	40
	surgery → 5FU + Leucovorin	138	53
Ychou et al, ¹²⁴ 2009	Surgery → 5FU + leucovorin	153	72*
	surgery FOLFIRI	153	73*
Nordlinger et al	Surgery	182	48
	FOLFOX → surgery → FOLFOX	182	51

Lykoudis PM, et al. *Br J Surg* 2014
 Manfredi S, et al. *Ann Surg* 20016
 Adam R, et al. *Cancer Treatment Reviews* 2015
 Padmanachan C, et al. *Surg Oncol Clin N* 2021

The combination of Chemotherapy & Resection Is the only potential for “cure”



LIVER TRANSPLANTATION IS RESERVED FOR
UNRESECTABLE DISEASE



Transplant??

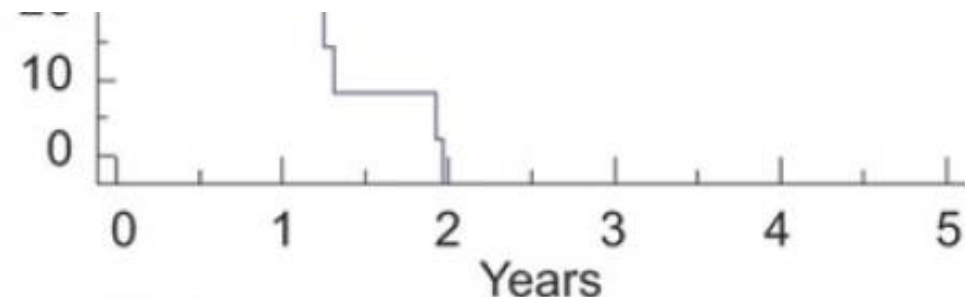
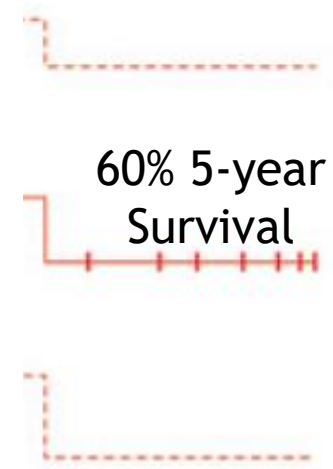
Liver Transplantation for Nonresectable Liver Metastases From Colorectal Cancer

Morten Hagness, MD,*† Aksel Foss, MD, PhD,*† Pål-Dag Line, MD, PhD,* Tim Scholz, MD, PhD,*
 Pål Foyn Jørgensen, MD, PhD,* Bjarte Fosby, MD,*† Kirsten Muri Boberg, MD, PhD,‡
 Øystein Mathisen, MD, PhD,§ Ivar P. Gladhaug, MD, PhD,†§ Tor Skatvedt Egge, MD,¶
 Steinar Solberg, MD, PhD,|| John Hausken, MD,** and Svein Dueland, MD, PhD††

urg 2013

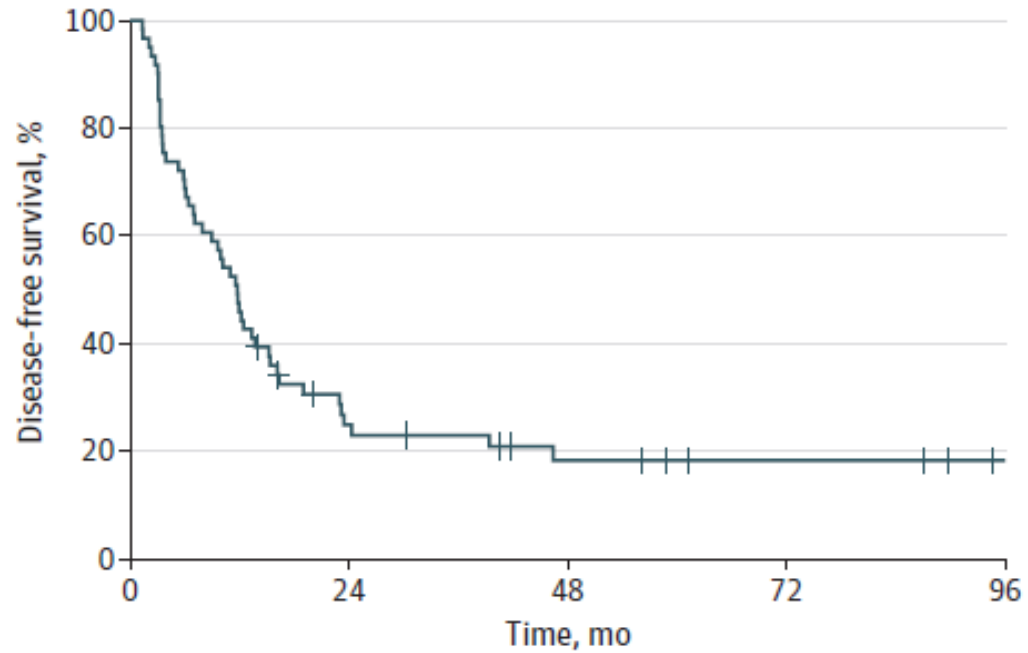
Oslo Trial:
 Nov 2006 - Mar 2007
 • 25 included in trial
 • 4 drop-outs
 =21 patients transplanted

Oslo Score	
Maximal Tumor diameter > 5,5 cm	1
Pre transplant CEA > 80 µg/l	1
Progression on chemotherapy	1
Time interval: diagnosis to tx < 2 yrs	1
Summary score	0-4



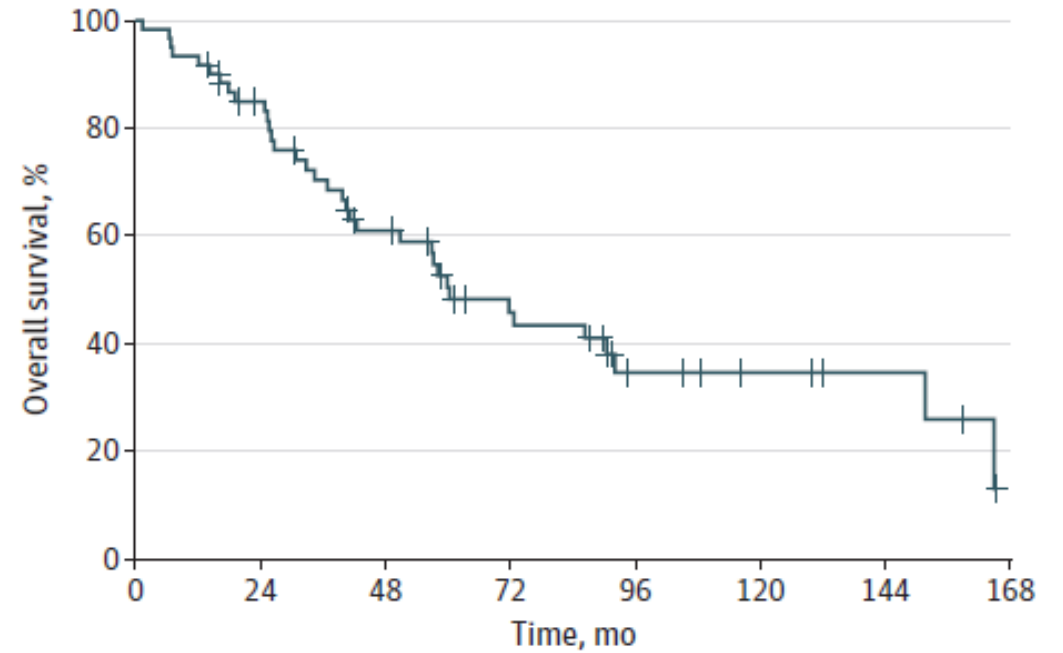
Long-term Outcomes of Oslo Patients

A Disease-free survival



No. at risk 61 13 7 4 1

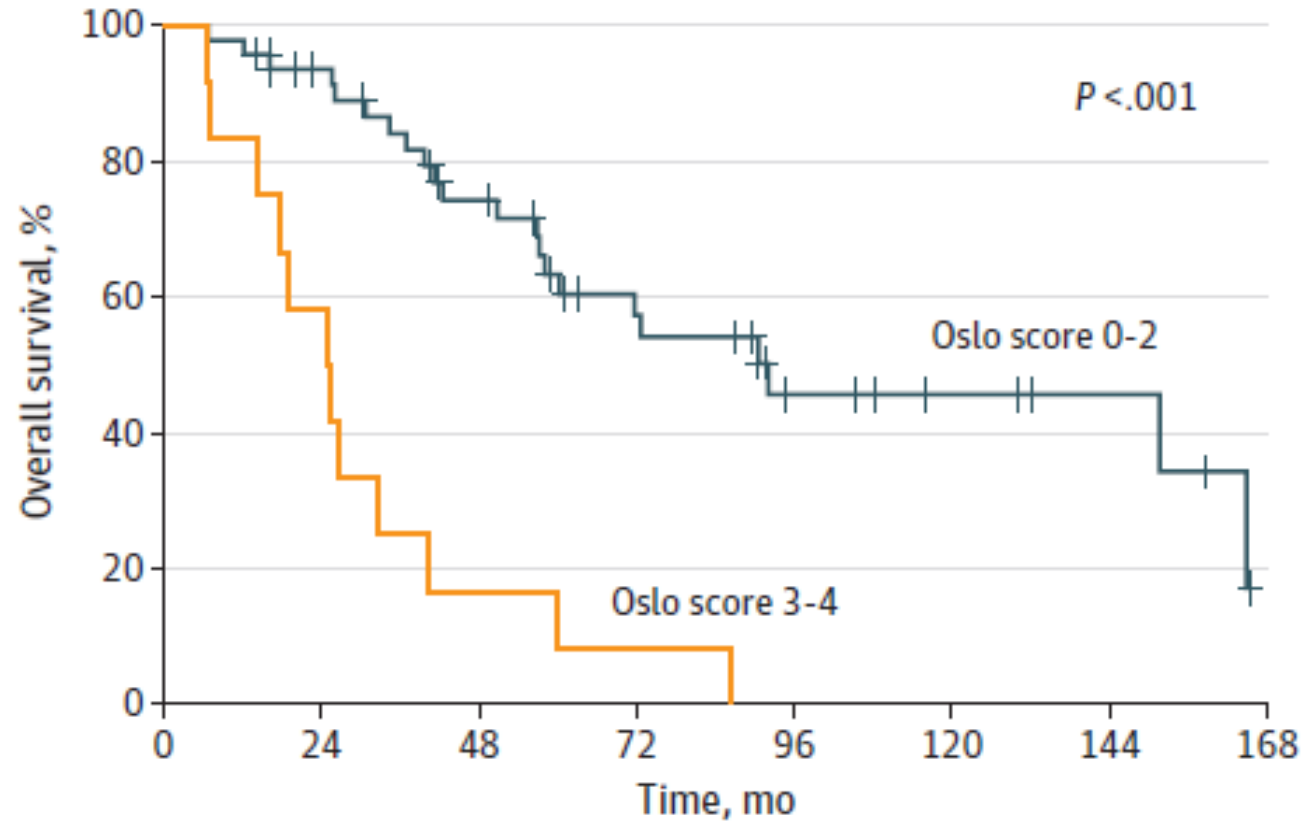
B Overall survival



No. at risk 61 47 31 19 9 6 4 0

Prognostic Factors

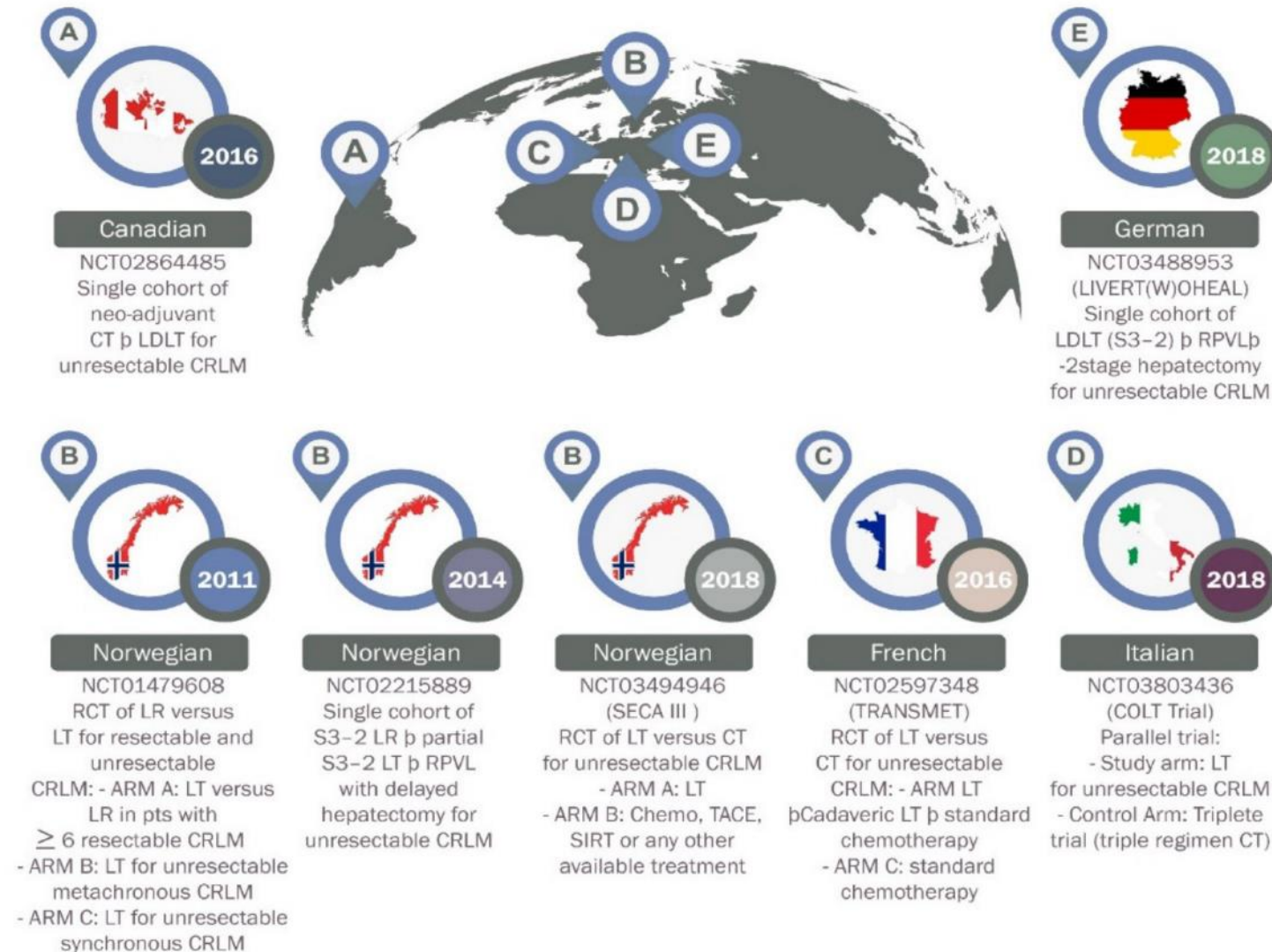
A Oslo score



No. at risk

Oslo score 0-2	48	40	29	18	9	6	4	0
Oslo score 3-4	12	7	2	1	0	0	0	0

Current Active Trials



Toronto Protocol for LDLT CRC LM

Primary in situ – 3 m systemic
primary resection if response
Primary resected

First
Assessment



Transplant
Assessment



Donor
Assessment



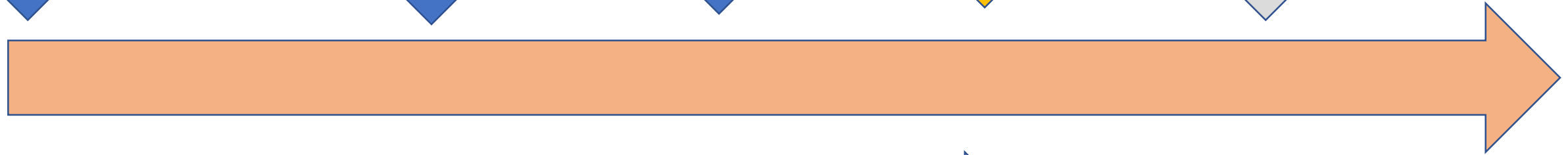
Ex. Lap



~7 days



LDLT



Systemic Chemotherapy



PET-CT

PET-CT

University of Toronto Protocol - LDLT for CRC Mets

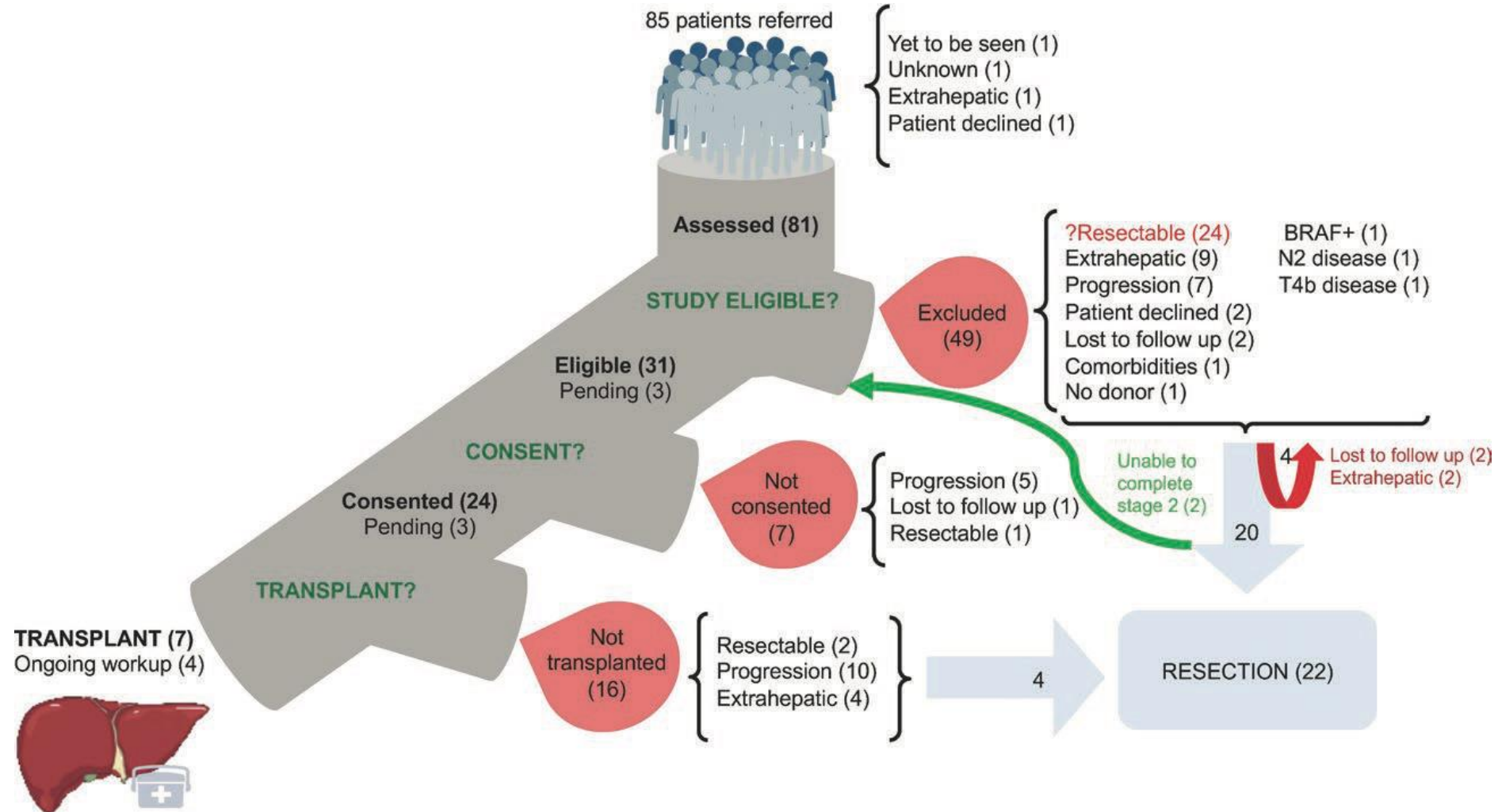
Main Inclusion Criteria

1. Age 18-68
2. Non-resectable CRC LM. Liver ONLY disease
3. Primary CRC Resected >6 months
4. No major vascular invasion
5. Stable or responsive disease on SOC Chemotherapy (FOLFOX/FOLFIRI) for at least 6 months
6. Potential Living Donor Available

Main Exclusion Criteria

1. Metastatic disease outside the liver
2. BRAF V600E mutation
3. Progression on chemotherapy treatment

Toronto Protocol for LDLT CRC LM



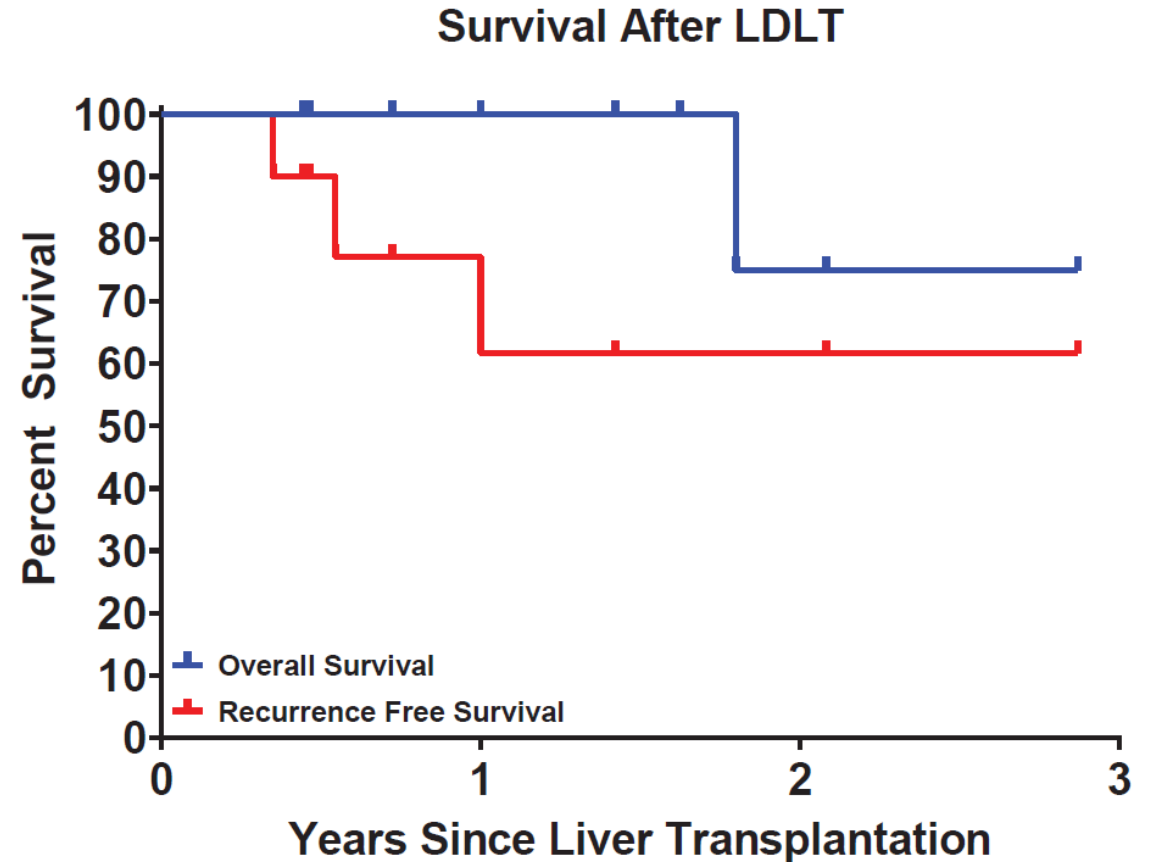


	Chemo type, line, # of cycles prior to initial assessment, total cycles pre-transplant	HAIP (Y/N), time from insertion to transplant	RAS mutation	Tumour type	Explant pathology	Recurrence (Y/N) site, time, treatment	Oslo Score	Post-transplant follow-up
1	FOLFIRI/Panitumumab, first, 10 cycles, total: 25 cycles	No	No	Left colon	3x foci with ~50% treatment effect	Yes, intra-abdominal nodes, 12.4 months, chemo	2	30.9
2	FOLFIRI/Bevacizumab, first, 18 cycles; total: ~60 cycles	Yes, 25.0	Yes	Left colon	6x foci with variable treatment effect	No	1	38.0
3	FOLFIRINOX/Panitumumab, first, 12 cycles, total: 21 cycles	Yes, 14.6	No	Left colon	6x foci + satellites, 95-100% necrosis/ fibrosis	No	1	30.2
4	FOLFIRI/Panitumumab, first, 12 cycles, total: ~20 cycles	No	No	Rectal	2x foci, one viable <50% treatment effect	No	0	34.5
5	FOLFIRI/Bevacizumab, first, 14 cycles, total: 30 cycles	No	No	Right colon	14x foci, 90-100% necrosis	Yes, lung, 3.3 months, chemo	1	39.4 DECEASED
6	FOLFIRI/Bevacizumab, first, 19 cycles; total: 32 cycles	Yes, 19.0	No	Left colon	11x foci, rare viable cells	No	1	53.7 DECEASED
7	FOLFOX, Second, 12 cycles, total: ~32 cycles	No	No	Left colon	1 foci, <50% necrosis	No	0	22.8
8	FOLFIRI/ Bevacizumab, Second, 3 cycles, total: ~16 cycles	No	No	Rectal	5x foci, 3 lesions >50% necrosis; 2 lesions <50% necrosis	No	1	19.3
9	FOLFIRI/Bevacizumab, first, 15 cycles; total: ~29 cycles	No		Left colon	2 foci, ~50% necrosis	Yes, mediastinal mass, 11.0, surgery	2	12.5
10	FOLFIRI/Panitumumab/Bevacizumab, first, 43 cycles, total: ~54 cycles	No	Yes	Left colon	8x foci, 6 lesions >50% treatment effect (3/6 + trans-capsular extension), 1 lesion >90% treatment effect, 1 lesions <50% treatment effect	Yes, lung, 7.3 months, surgery	0	14.1
11	FOLFIRI/Panitumumab, first, 8 cycles; total: ~31 cycles	Yes, 20.9	No	Left colon	5x foci, <50% necrosis and focal bile duct invasion	No	0	10.2
12	Capecitabine/Irinotecan/Bevacizumab, third, 23 cycles; total: ~30 cycles	No		Left colon	2 foci, complete necrosis; no viable tumour	No	0	8.0
13	FOLFIRI/Panitumumab, first, 20 cycles; total: ~30 cycles	Yes, 18.5	No	Left colon	Multiple foci, >85% necrosis	No	1	6.1
14	FOLFIRI/Panitumumab, first, 15 cycles; total: 27	No	No	Left colon	Single, <50% necrosis; MVI (LHV) and PNI	No	0	4.4
15	FOLFIRI/Panitumumab, first, 7 cycles; total: ~37cycles	No	No	Rectal	2 foci, <25% necrosis and bile duct invasion	No	0	1.0

Recipient and Donor Outcomes After Living-Donor Liver Transplant for Unresectable Colorectal Liver Metastases

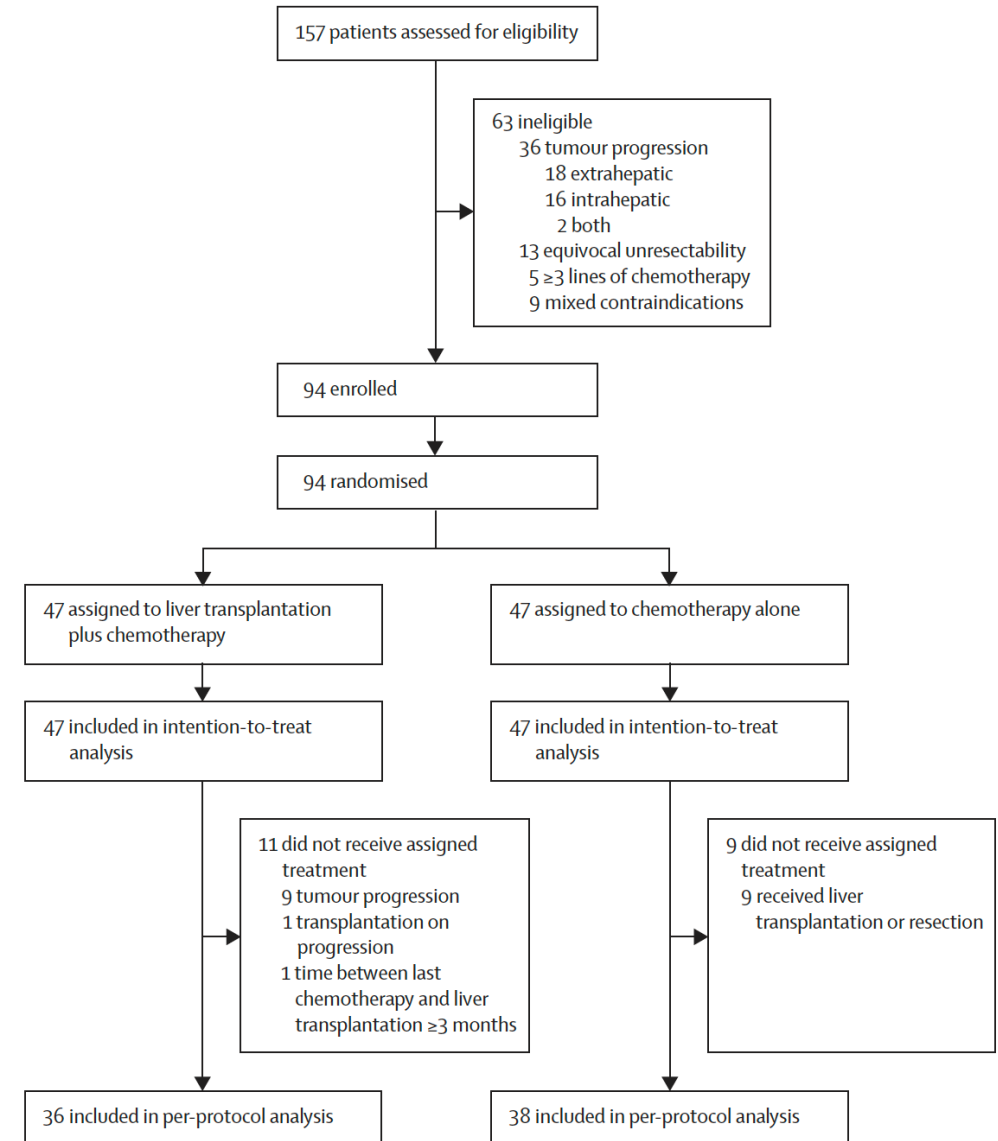
Roberto Hernandez-Alejandro, MD; Luis I. Ruffolo, MD; Kazunari Sasaki, MD; Koji Tomiyama, MD, PhD; Mark S. Orloff, MD; Karen Pineda-Solis, MD; Amit Nair, MD; Jennie Errigo, BS; M. Katherine Dokus, MPH; Mark Cattral, MD; Ian D. McGilvray, MD, PhD; Anand Ghanekar, MD, PhD; Steven Gallinger, MD, MSc; Nazia Selzner, MD, PhD; Marco P. A. W. Claasen, MD; Ron Burkes, MD; Koji Hashimoto, MD, PhD; Masato Fujiki, MD; Cristiano Quintini, MD; Bassam N. Estfan, MD; Choon Hyuck David Kwon, MD, PhD; K. V. Narayanan Menon, MD; Federico Aucejo, MD; Gonzalo Sapisochin, MD, PhD, MSc

Pre-transplant Treatment and Tumor Characteristics		Unresectable CRLM (n=10)
Chemotherapy Cycles		22.5 (6-37)
Liver Resection		4 (40%)
HAI Pump		3 (30%)
Ablation		3 (30%)
Positive Mutation Status		
	KRAS	3 (30%)
	TP53	1 (10%)
	SMAD4	1 (10%)
	BRAF	1 (10%)
Clinical Risk Score		2.5 (1-4)
Oslo Score		1.5 (0-2)
CEA at time of LT (ng/ml)		7.7 (1.6-56.4)
Time from CRLM Dx to LT (years)		1.7 (1.1-7.8)
MELD-Na		6 (6-23)
Maximum Tumor Diameter (cm)		3.85 (1.4-5.9)
Distribution of CRLM		
	Unilobar	2 (20%)
	Bilobar	8 (80%)
Radiographic or Chemical Response to Treatment		10 (100%)



Liver transplantation plus chemotherapy versus chemotherapy alone in patients with permanently unresectable colorectal liver metastases (TransMet): results from a multicentre, open-label, prospective, randomised controlled trial

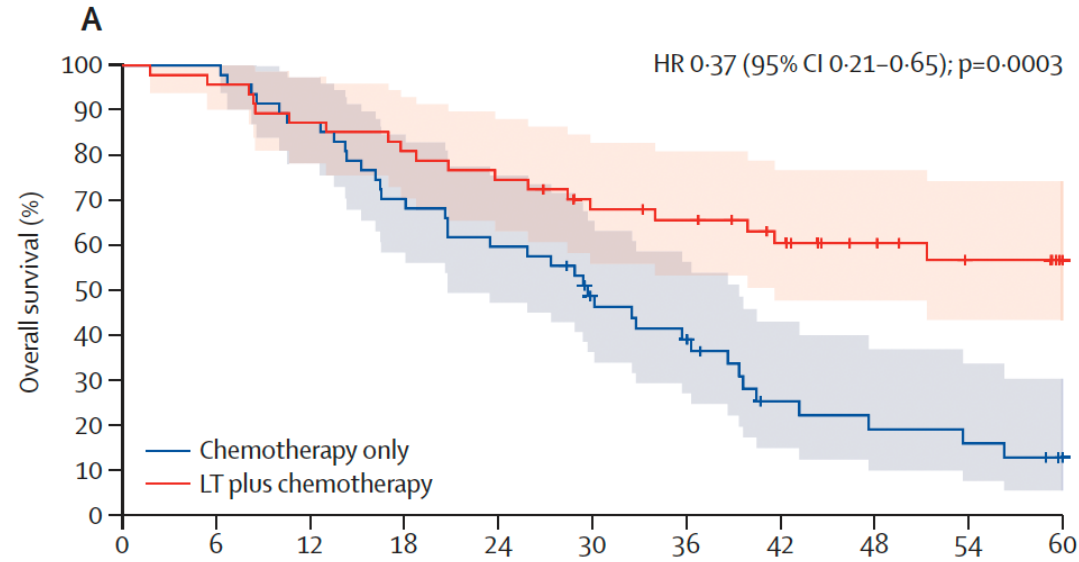
Adam R, et al. Lancet 2024



	Liver transplantation plus chemotherapy (n=47)	Chemotherapy alone (n=47)
Primary tumour		
Primary tumour site*		
Right	7 (15%)	7 (15%)
Left	25 (53%)	29 (62%)
Rectum	15 (32%)	11 (23%)
(y)pT3-T4		
Yes	37 (79%)	38 (81%)
No	9 (19%)	9 (19%)
Missing	1 (2%)	0
(y)pN status		
N0	21 (45%)	16 (34%)
N+	26 (55%)	31 (66%)
RAS mutation status		
Yes	17 (36%)	13 (28%)
No	29 (62%)	32 (69%)
Missing	1 (2%)	2 (4%)
Mismatch repair status		
Proficient mismatch repair	47 (100%)	46 (98%)
Deficient mismatch repair	0	1 (2%)
Liver metastases at diagnosis		
Timing of metastases		
Synchronous†	47 (100%)	45 (96%)
Metachronous	0	2 (4%)
Number of colorectal liver metastases		
<10	20.0 (14.0–25.0)	20.0 (12.0–25.0)
10–20	5 (11%)	7 (15%)
>20	19 (40%)	18 (38%)
	23 (49%)	22 (47%)
Diameter of largest colorectal liver metastases, mm		
	55.0 (43.0–76.0)	50.0 (27.0–83.0)
CEA level, ng/mL	305.0 (32.9–762.0)	81.0 (20.0, 530.0)
CA19–9 level, IU/mL	96.0 (19.7–800.0)	193.0 (20.9–1949.0)

	Liver transplantation plus chemotherapy (n=47)	Chemotherapy alone (n=47)
Age, years	52.0 (47.0–59.0)	55.0 (47.0–59.0)
Sex		
Male	27 (57%)	28 (60%)
Female	20 (43%)	19 (40%)
ECOG performance status		
0	38 (81%)	37 (79%)
1	9 (19%)	10 (21%)
Number of colorectal liver metastases		
<10	14.0 (8.0–25.0)	15.0 (5.0–25.0)
10–20	12 (26%)	16 (34%)
>20	20 (43%)	17 (36%)
	15 (32%)	14 (30%)
Diameter of largest colorectal liver metastases, mm		
	27.0 (18.0–42.0)	27.0 (16.0–45.0)
CEA, ng/mL	3.6 (2.2–12.4)	3.6 (2.0–22.1)
CA19–9, IU/mL	11.4 (5.9–30.0)	15.0 (6.5–28.7)
Fong's clinical risk score*		
Low (0–2)	20 (43%)	13 (28%)
High (3–5)	27 (57%)	34 (72%)
Time between diagnosis and randomisation, months	15.9 (11.8–25.7)	13.5 (9.0–19.4)

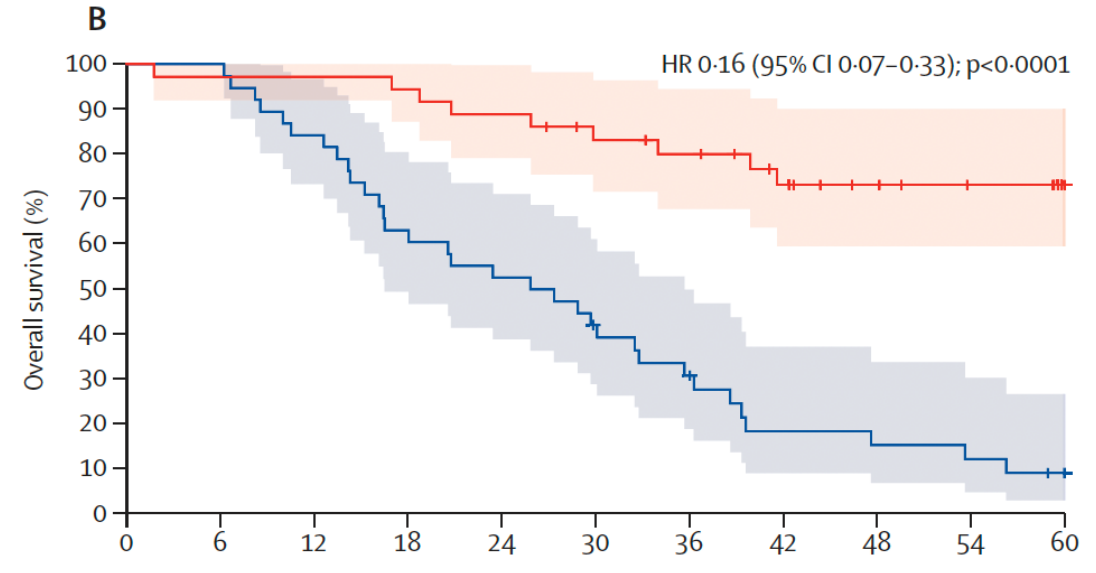
Intention to Treat OS



Number at risk
(number censored)

Chemotherapy only	47 (0)	47 (0)	41 (0)	33 (0)	28 (0)	20 (3)	16 (3)	8 (6)	6 (6)	5 (6)	2 (8)
LT plus chemotherapy	47 (0)	45 (0)	41 (0)	38 (0)	35 (0)	30 (2)	28 (3)	23 (6)	18 (11)	14 (14)	10 (18)

Per Protocol OS

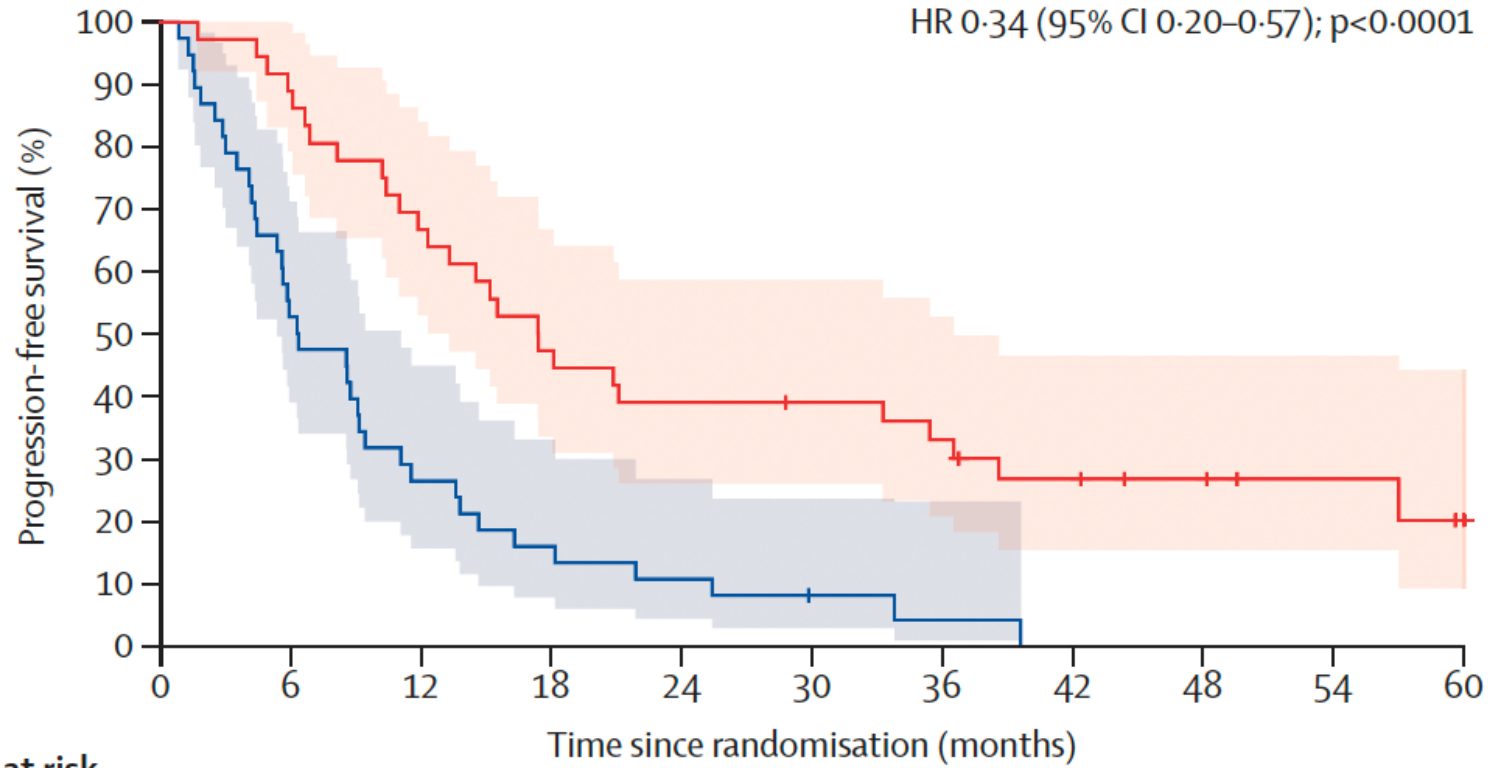


Number at risk
(number censored)

Chemotherapy only	38 (0)	38 (0)	32 (0)	24 (0)	20 (0)	15 (1)	11 (1)	6 (2)	5 (2)	4 (2)	2 (3)
LT plus chemotherapy	36 (0)	35 (0)	35 (0)	34 (0)	32 (0)	28 (2)	26 (3)	21 (6)	17 (10)	14 (13)	10 (17)

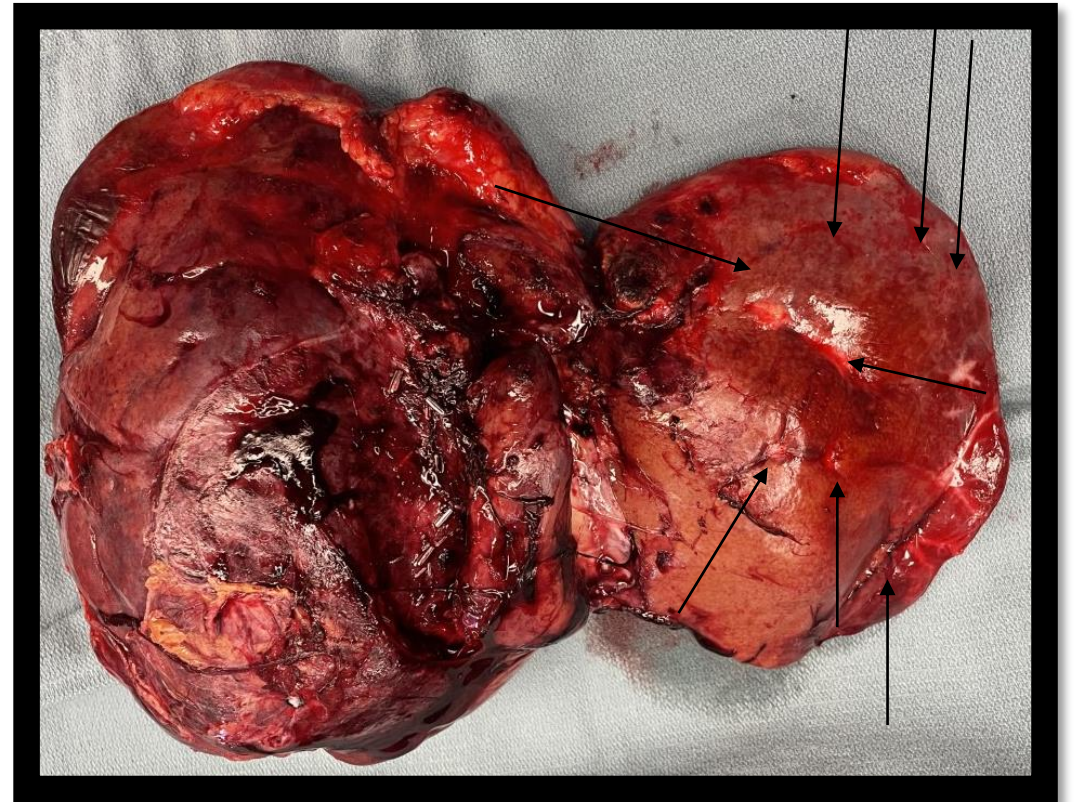
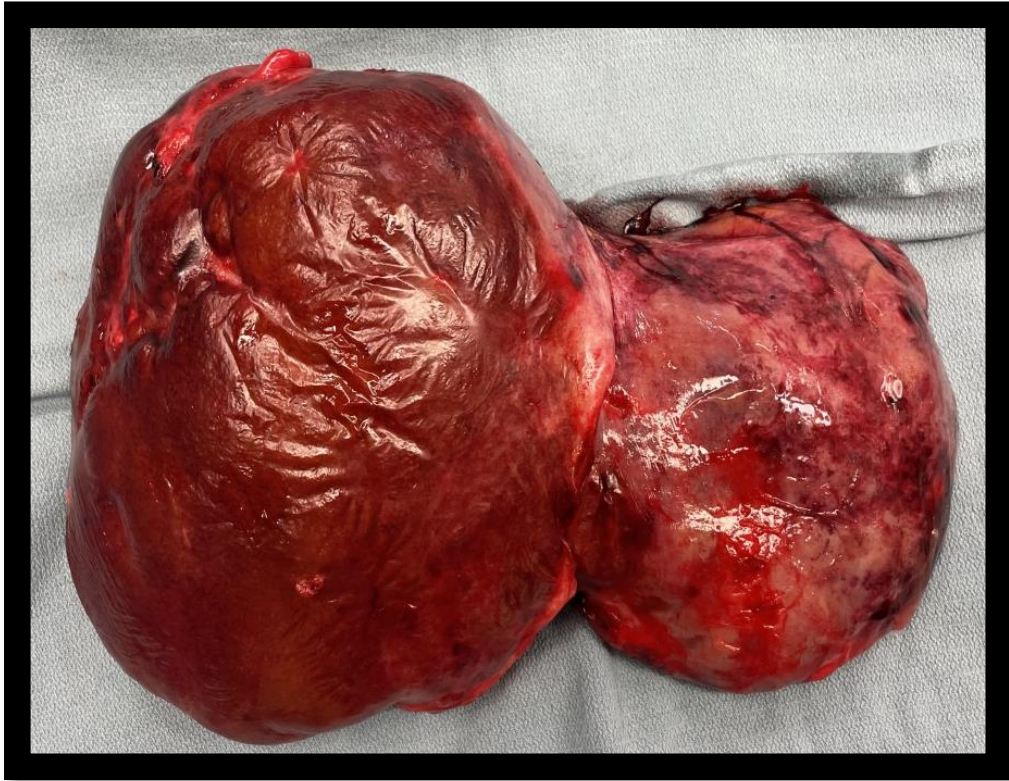
PFS

C



	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
Number at risk (number censored)											
Chemotherapy only	38 (0)	20 (0)	10 (0)	6 (0)	4 (0)	2 (1)	1 (1)	0 (1)
LT plus chemotherapy	36 (0)	32 (0)	24 (0)	17 (0)	14 (0)	13 (1)	11 (1)	8 (2)	6 (4)	4 (6)	2 (7)

**Our patient – LDLT 35 months ago
Doing well - No recurrence**



**Explant Pathology Assessment Demonstrated Extensive Tumor Necrosis but
Viable Disease in Many Metastases**

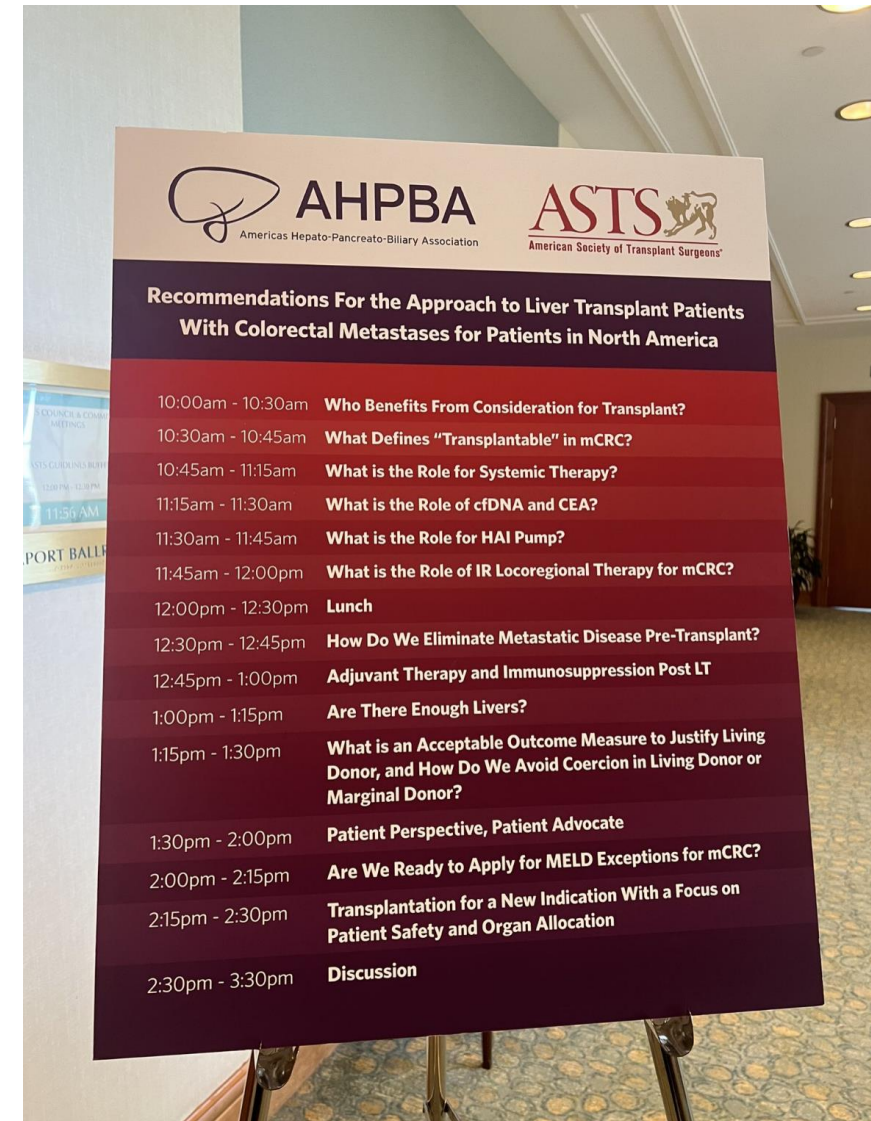
Challenges and Future Directions

- Current approach not generalizable?? – need more data from trials... This probably just changed with TransMet...
- Exception points vs. LDLT?
- Populations of resectable CRC LM that may benefit from LT?
- Better biomarkers – ctDNA?

Challenges and Future Directions

- Management of synchronous disease with complex colorectal surgeries. Timing? Indication?
- Utilization of HAIP in this setting.
- Expansion to a larger population – borderline resectable? >9 metastases?

ASTS – AHPBA Recommendations White Paper – Oct 24, 2023



How to Prioritize in the List



Exception points

Median MELD at Transplant -20, minimum 15

Table 1. Proposed inclusion/exclusion criteria for MELD exception points

Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria
No progression of hepatic disease (need CT or MRI every 3 months)	Local relapse of the primary disease
No development of extrahepatic disease (need CT or MRI every 3 months)	Extra-hepatic disease after primary tumor resection
CEA Levels < 80 µg/l (Need testing every 3 months)	CEA Levels > 80 µg/l



34 points in Ontario
Similar in Quebec
France – top of the list

Transplant expected within 4 weeks of stopping the systemic chemotherapy



Gonzalo.Sapsochin@uhn.ca