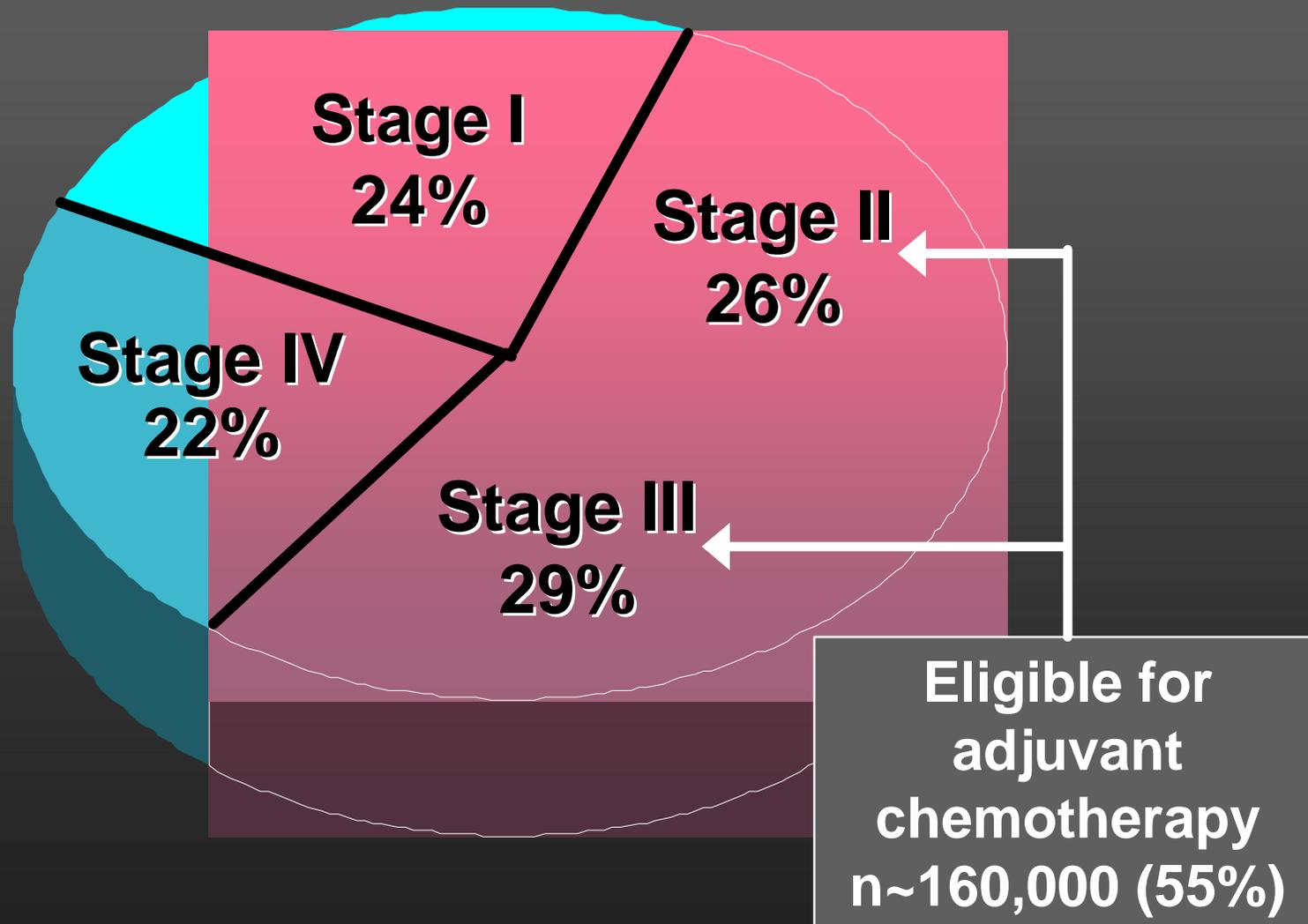


# Systemic adjuvant chemotherapy in colon cancer

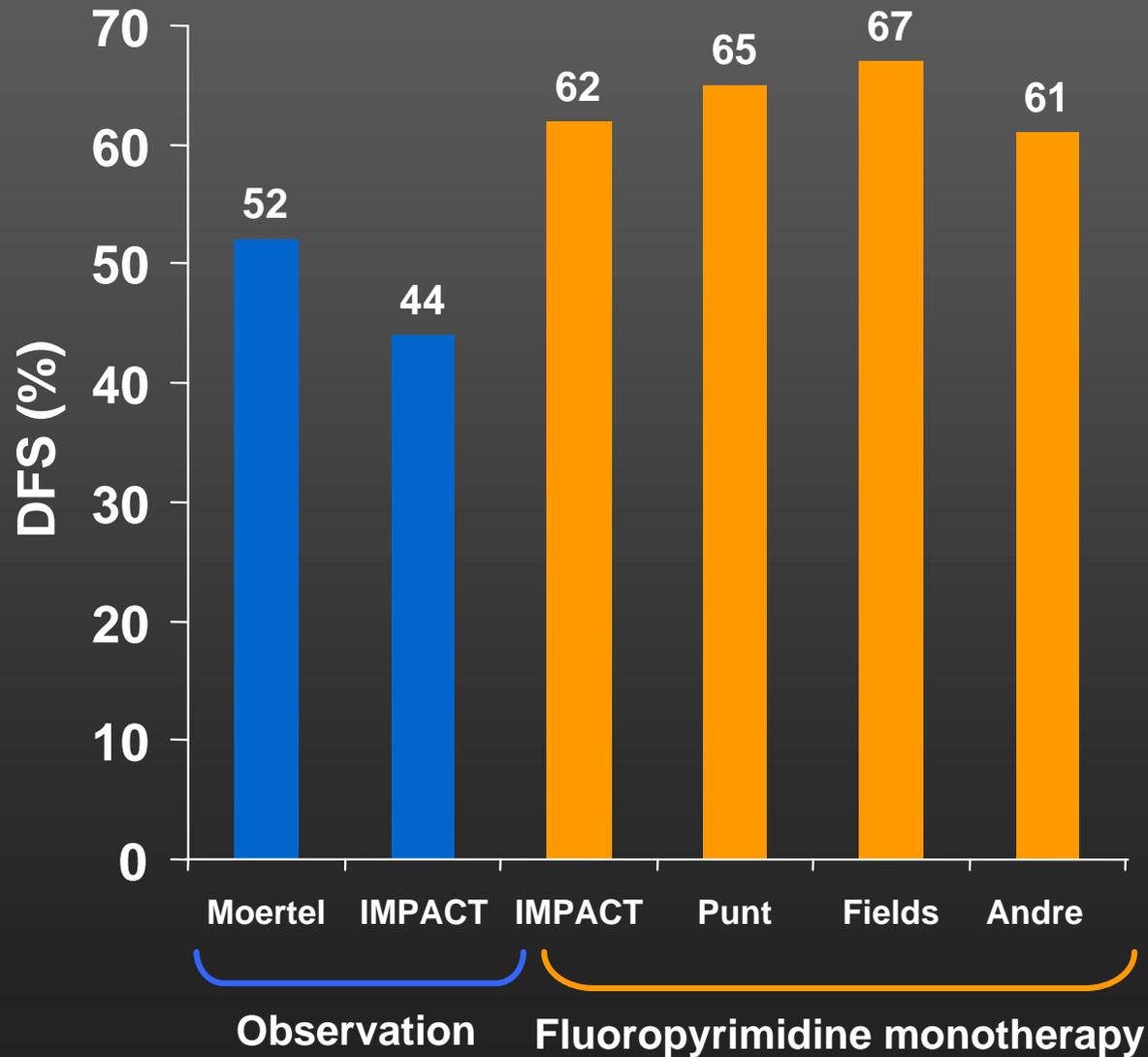
**Prof.Dr.Hans-Joachim Schmoll**  
**Director, Department of**  
**Haematology and Oncology**  
**Martin Luther University**  
**Halle, Germany**



# Incidence of colorectal cancer in the U.S. and Western Europe 2006 (n~300,000)



## 3-year DFS in stage III CRC 5FU +/- FA



# X-ACT trial in adjuvant treatment of stage III colon cancer

Recruitment  
1998–2001

Capecitabine  
1250mg/m<sup>2</sup> twice daily,  
d1–14, q21d  
n=1004

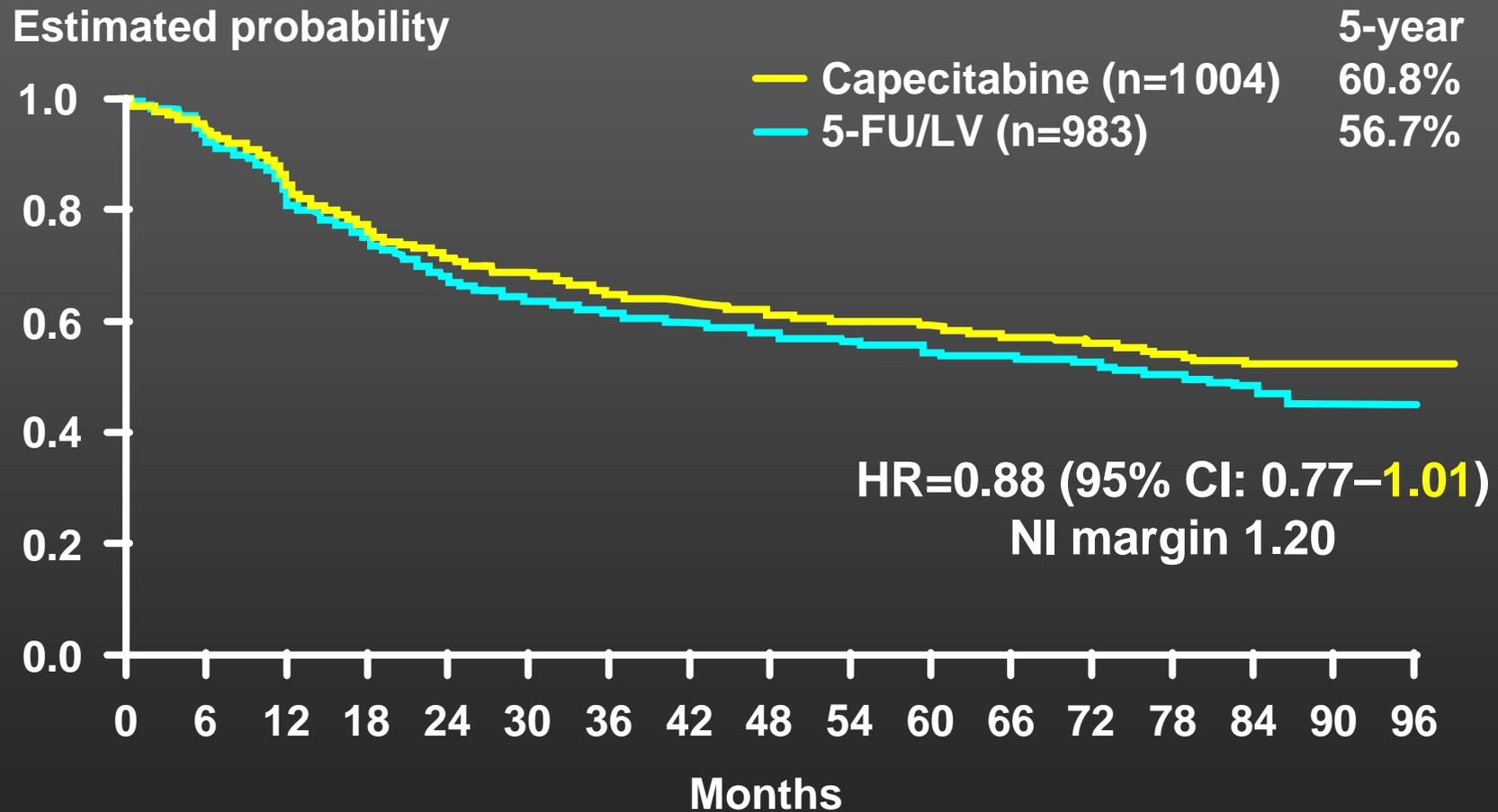
Chemo-naïve  
stage III,  
resection 18 weeks

24 weeks

Bolus 5-FU/LV  
5-FU 425mg/m<sup>2</sup> plus  
LV 20mg/m<sup>2</sup>, d1–5, q28d  
n=983

- 1° endpoint: disease-free survival (DFS)
- 2° endpoints
  - overall survival (OS)
  - relapse-free survival (RFS)
  - tolerability (NCIC CTG)
  - pharmacoeconomics
  - QoL

# Disease-free survival: 5-year update – median follow-up 6.8 years

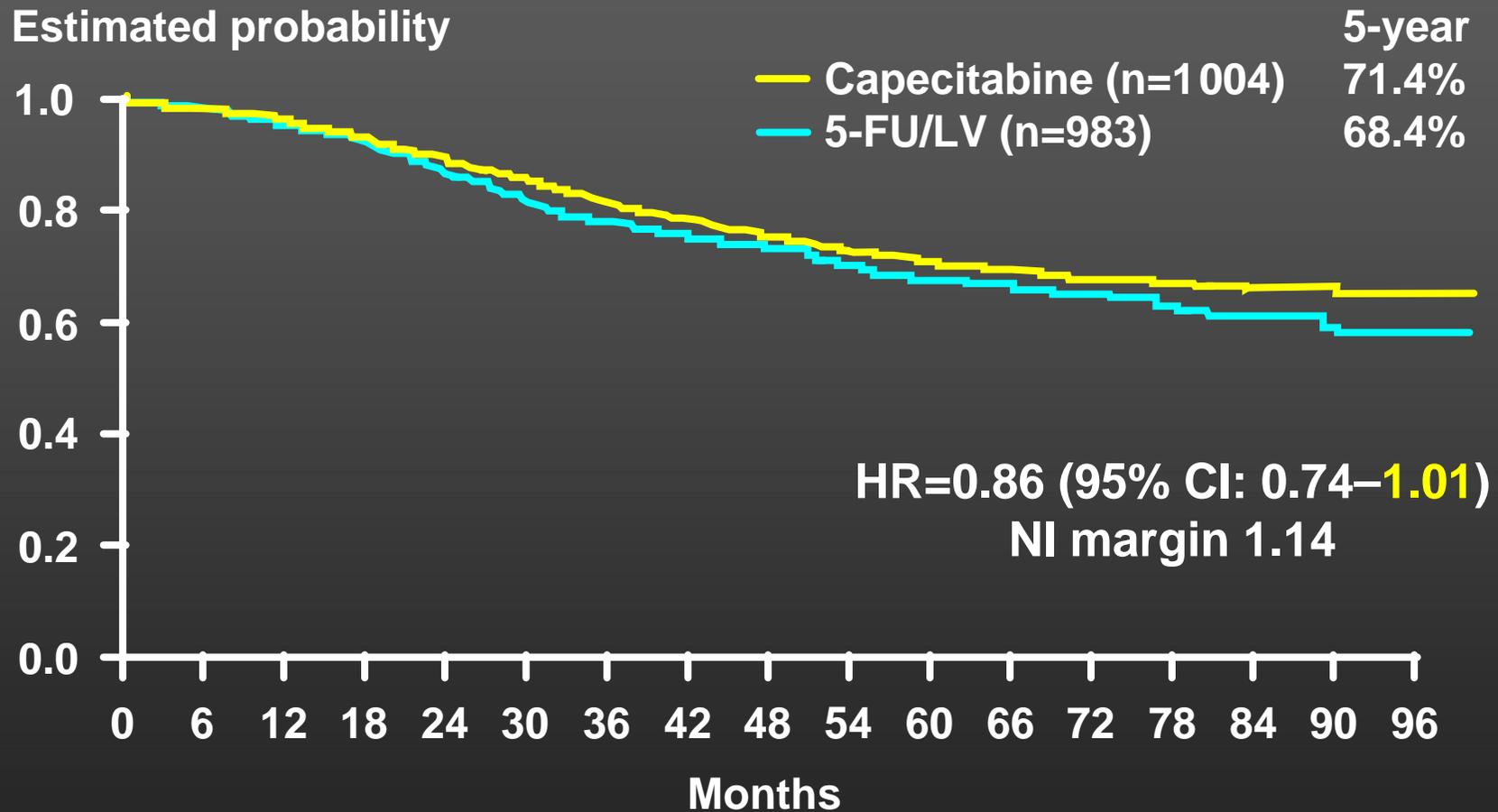


Test of non-inferiority  $p < 0.0001$

Test of superiority  $p = 0.0682$

ITT population Twelves et al., ECCO 2007

# Overall survival: 5-year update – median follow-up 6.8 years



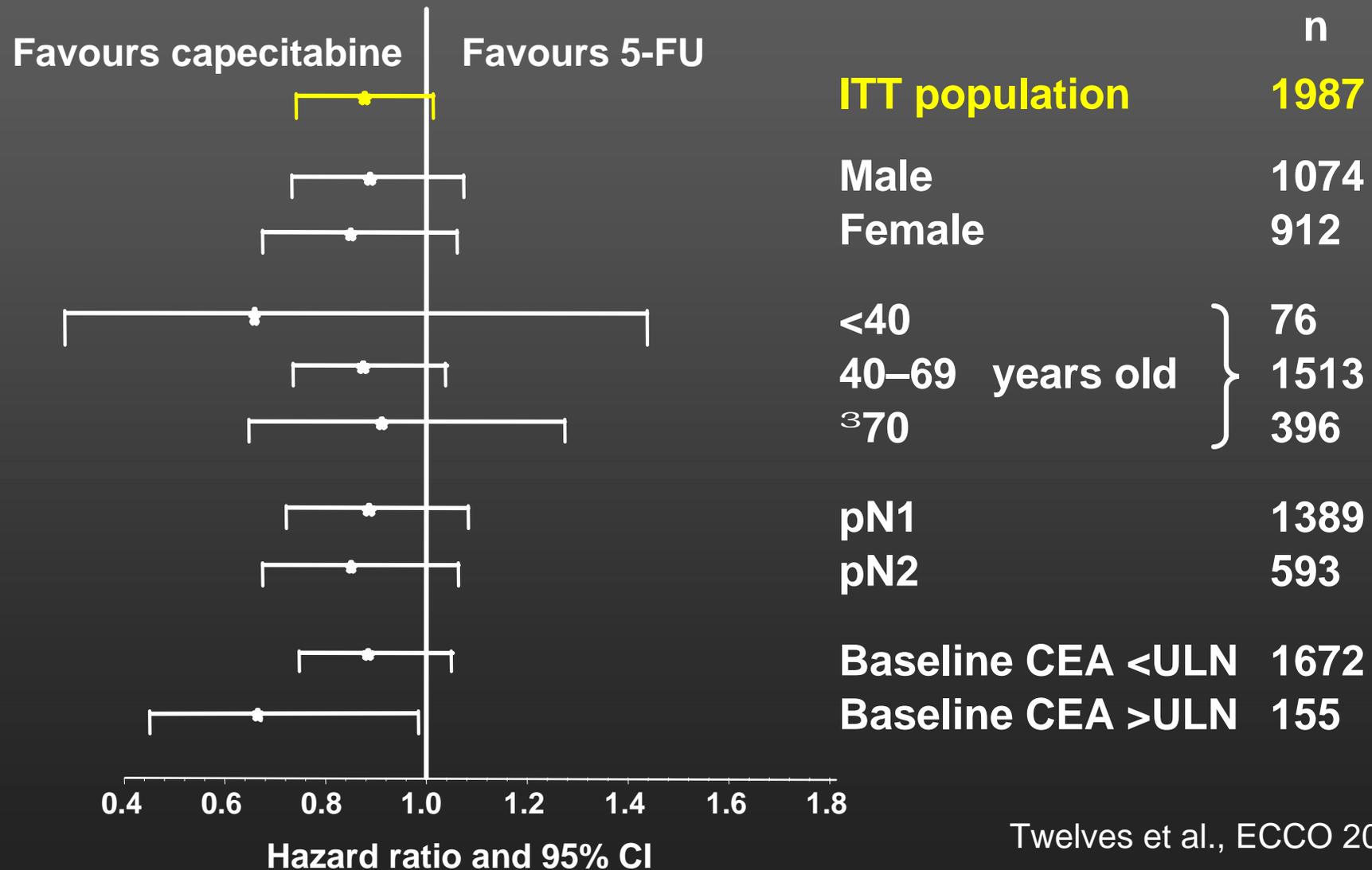
Test of non-inferiority  $p=0.000116$

Test of superiority  $p=0.06$

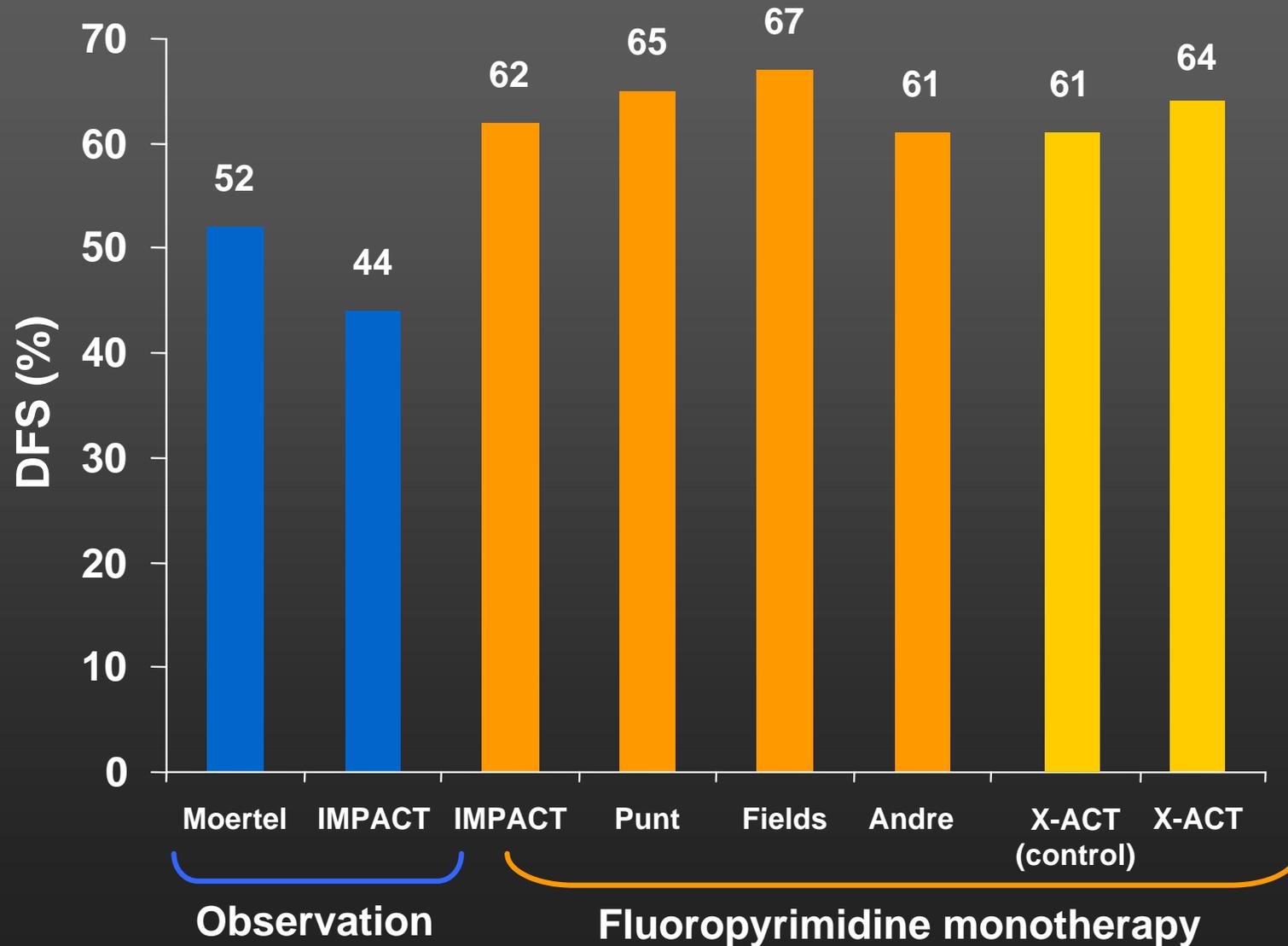
ITT population

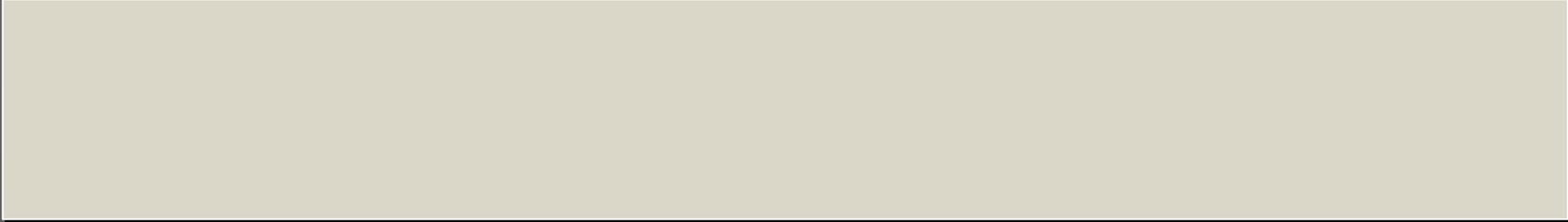
Twelves et al., ECCO 2007

# 5-year overall survival subgroup analysis



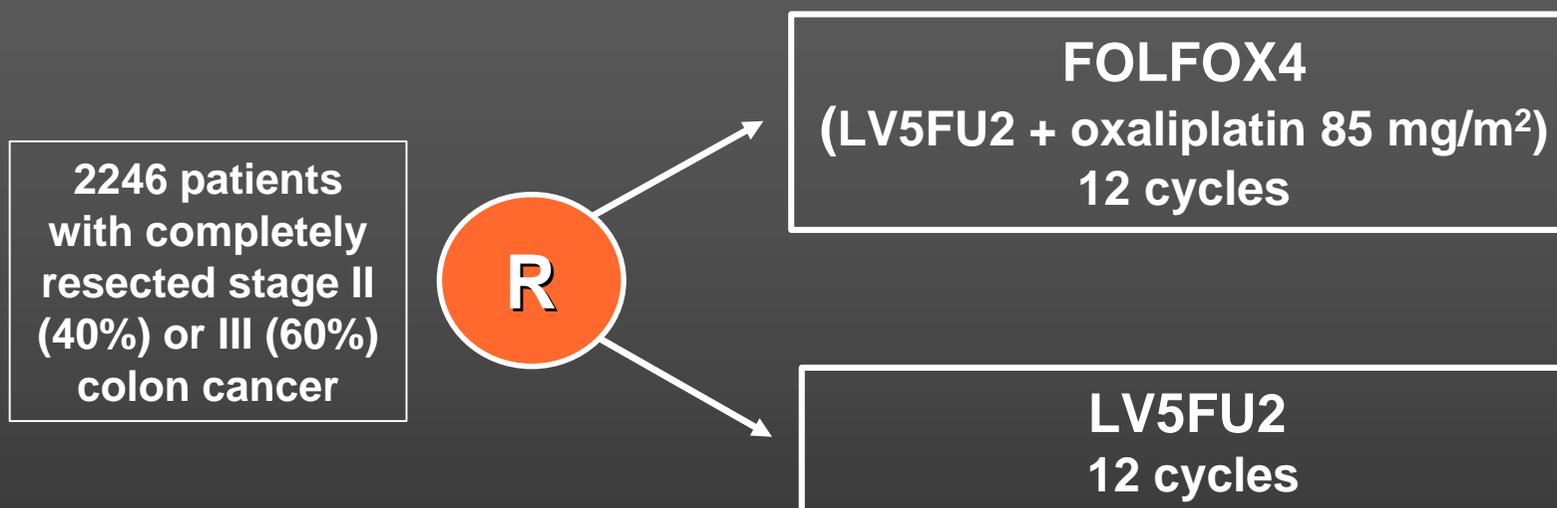
## 3-year DFS in stage III CRC





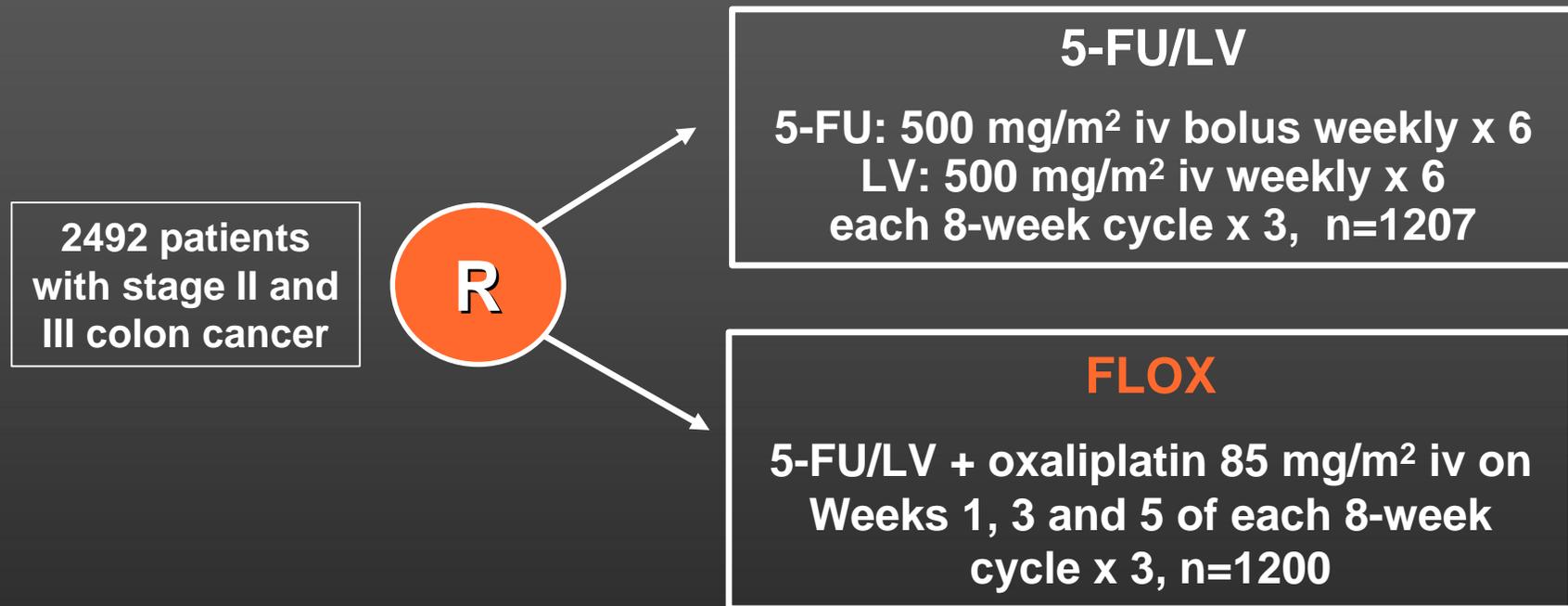
# **MOSAIC and NSABP C04**

# Oxaliplatin combinations: MOSAIC



- **Primary endpoint: DFS**
- **Secondary endpoints: safety, OS**

# Oxaliplatin combinations: NSABP C-07



- **Primary endpoint: 3-year DFS**

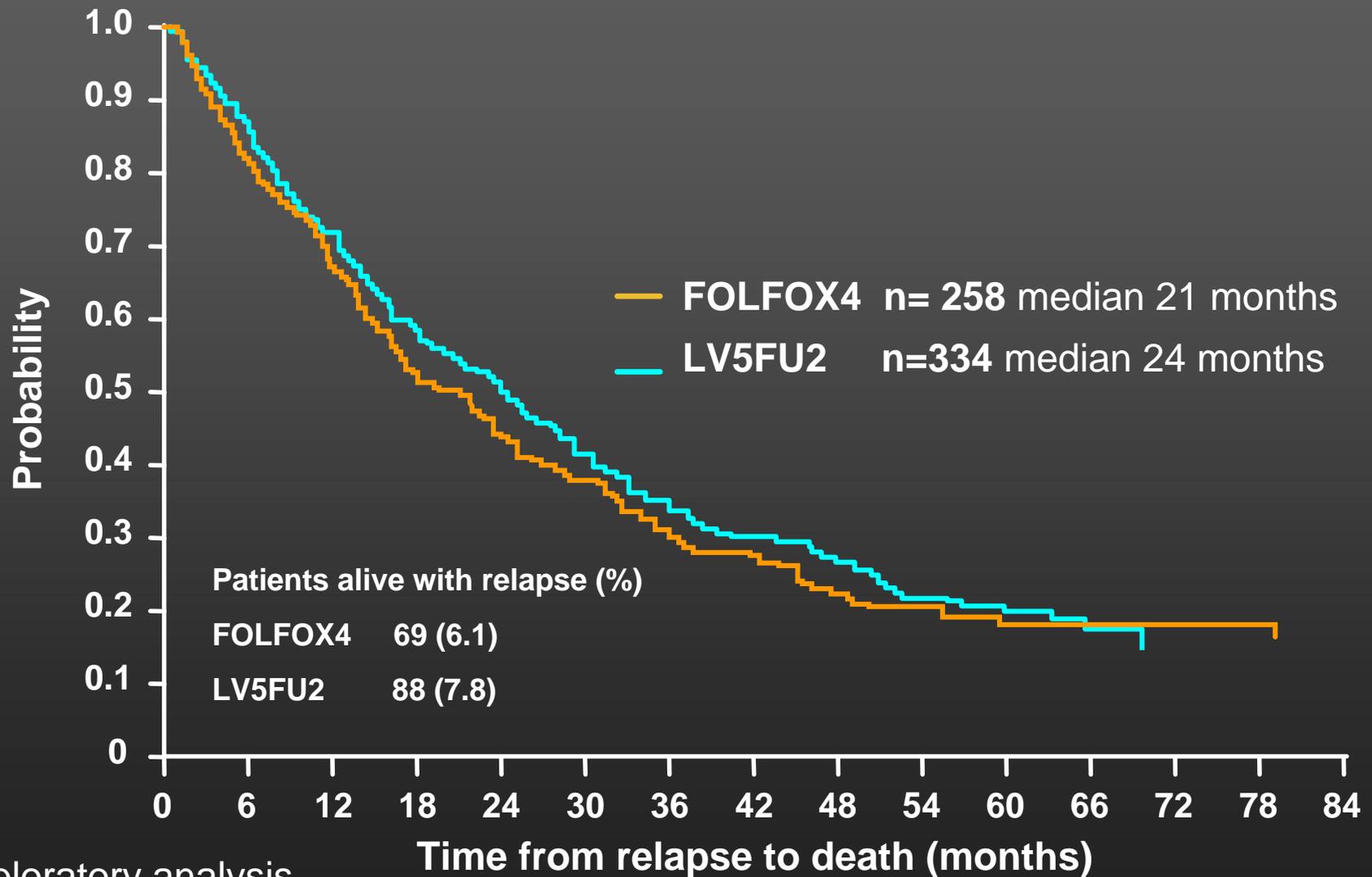
## 3-year DFS (stage II and III)

	3-year DFS	?	HR
<b>C-07</b>	<b>76.5%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>0.79</b>
<b>MOSAIC</b>	<b>78.2%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>0.77</b>

# Mosaic: Disease-free Survival - 2007 Update

	5-year DFS %		HR [95% CI]	p-value
	FOLFOX4	LV5FU2		
<i>Data cut-off: June 2006</i>				
ITT (overall population)	73.3	67.4	<b>0.80</b> <b>[0.68–0.93]</b>	<b>0.003</b>
Stage III	66.4	58.9	<b>0.78</b> <b>[0.65–0.93]</b>	<b>0.005</b>
Stage II	83.7	79.9	<b>0.84</b> <b>[0.62–1.14]</b>	<b>0.258</b>
High-risk stage II n=576	82.1	74.9	0.74 [0.52–1.06]	—
Low-risk stage II n=323	86.3	89.1	1.22 [0.66–2.26]	—

# Time from Relapse to Death



Exploratory analysis

## Treatment for Recurrence

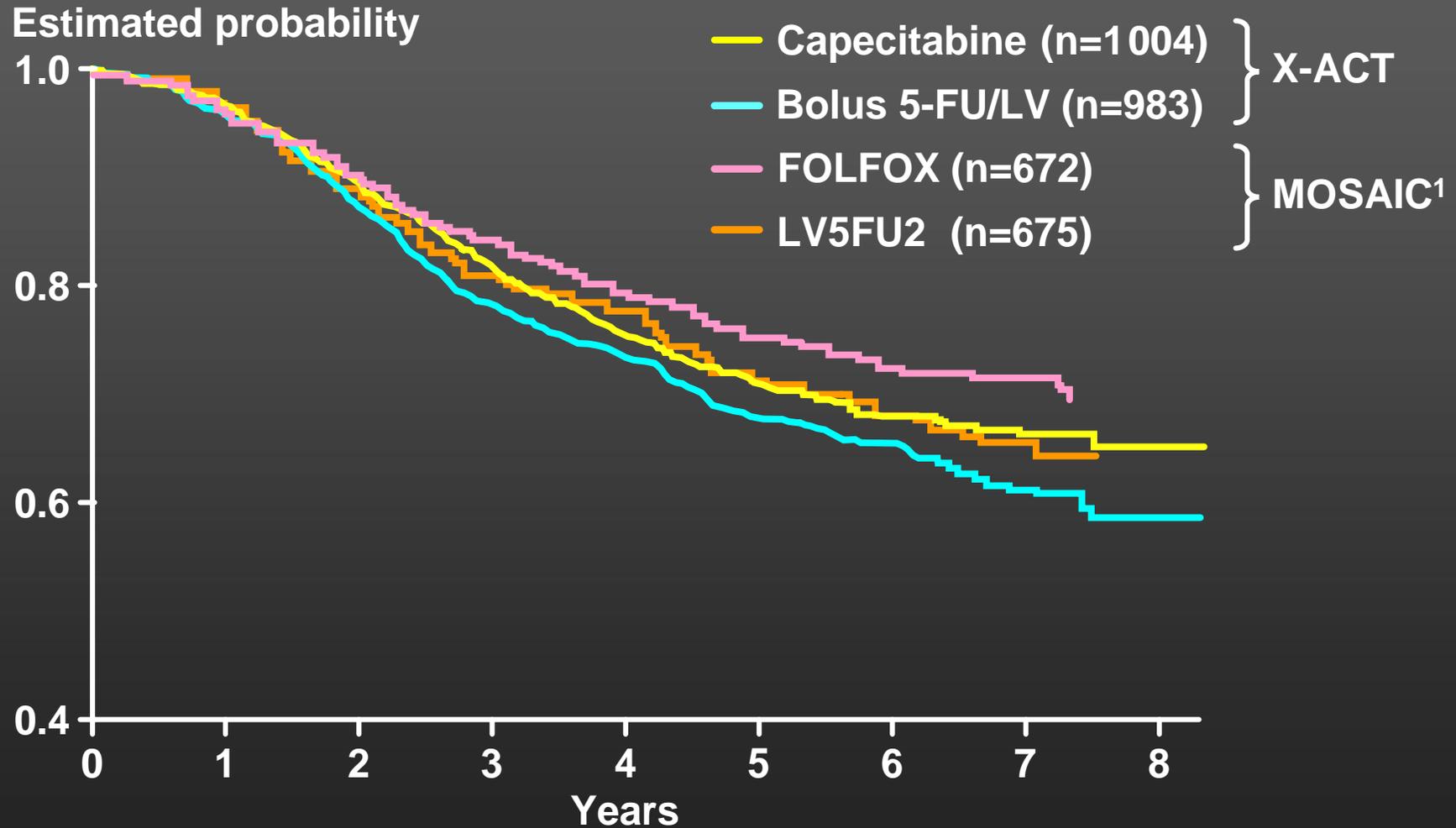
	FOLFOX4	LV5FU2
Number of patients with relapse	258	334
Any chemotherapy (%)	73.3	76.9
Oxaliplatin-based regimen* (%)	28.5	29.0
Irinotecan-based regimen* (%)	45.0	32.6
Other, including biologics (%)	14.3	13.5

\* first-line

## Deaths other than Colon Cancer

	FOLFOX4	LV5FU2
<b>Total number</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Other cancers</b>	<b>21 (44%)</b>	<b>11 (37%)</b>
<b>GI cancers</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Urologic cancers</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Lung cancers</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Breast-Gynecologic</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Hematological</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Other cancers</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Cardio-vascular</b>	<b>18 (37%)</b>	<b>11 (37%)</b>
<b>Pneumopathy</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>

# X-ACT and MOSAIC: overall survival in stage III patients



ITT population

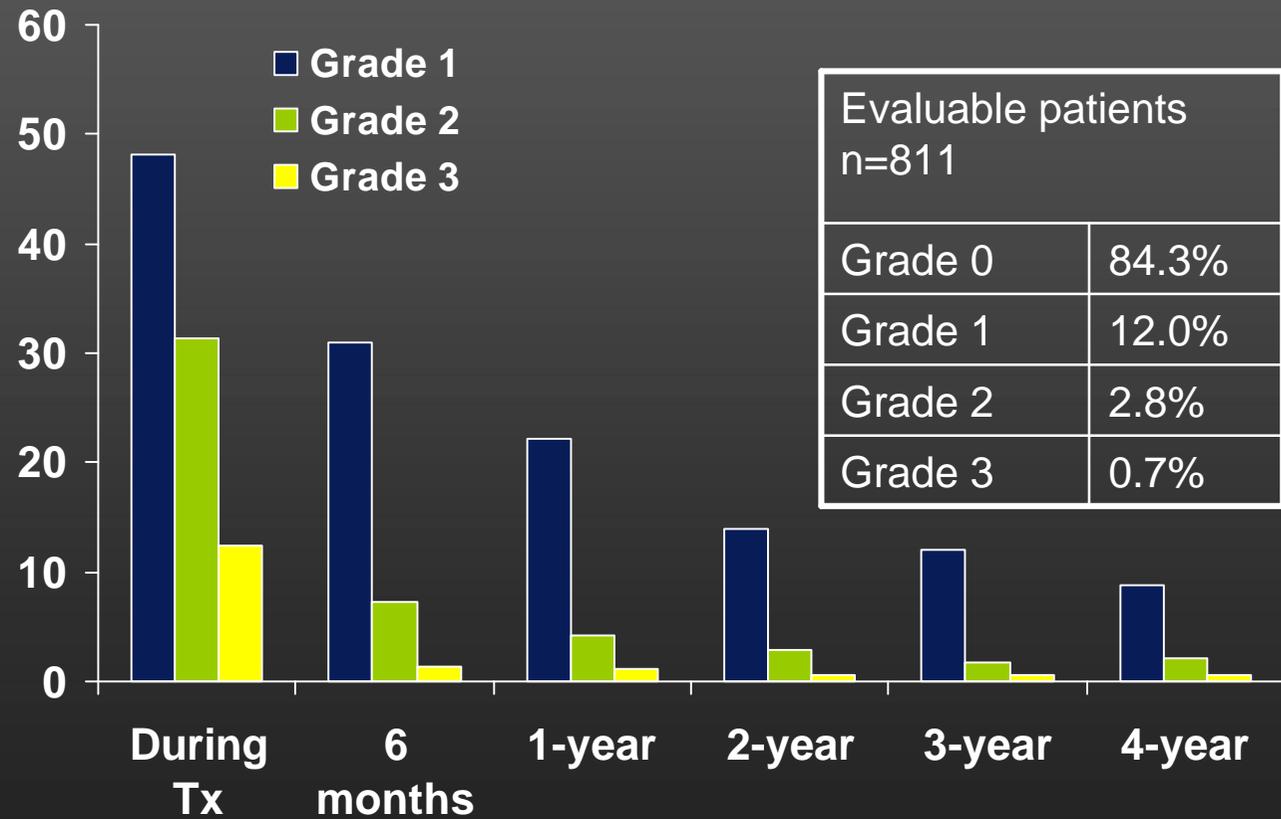
De Gramont et al., ASCO 2007; Twelves et al., ECCO 2007

# MOSAIC: Long-term Safety

Second cancer

	FOLFOX	LV5FU2
(% patients)	5.3	5.7

Peripheral Sensory  
Neuropathy



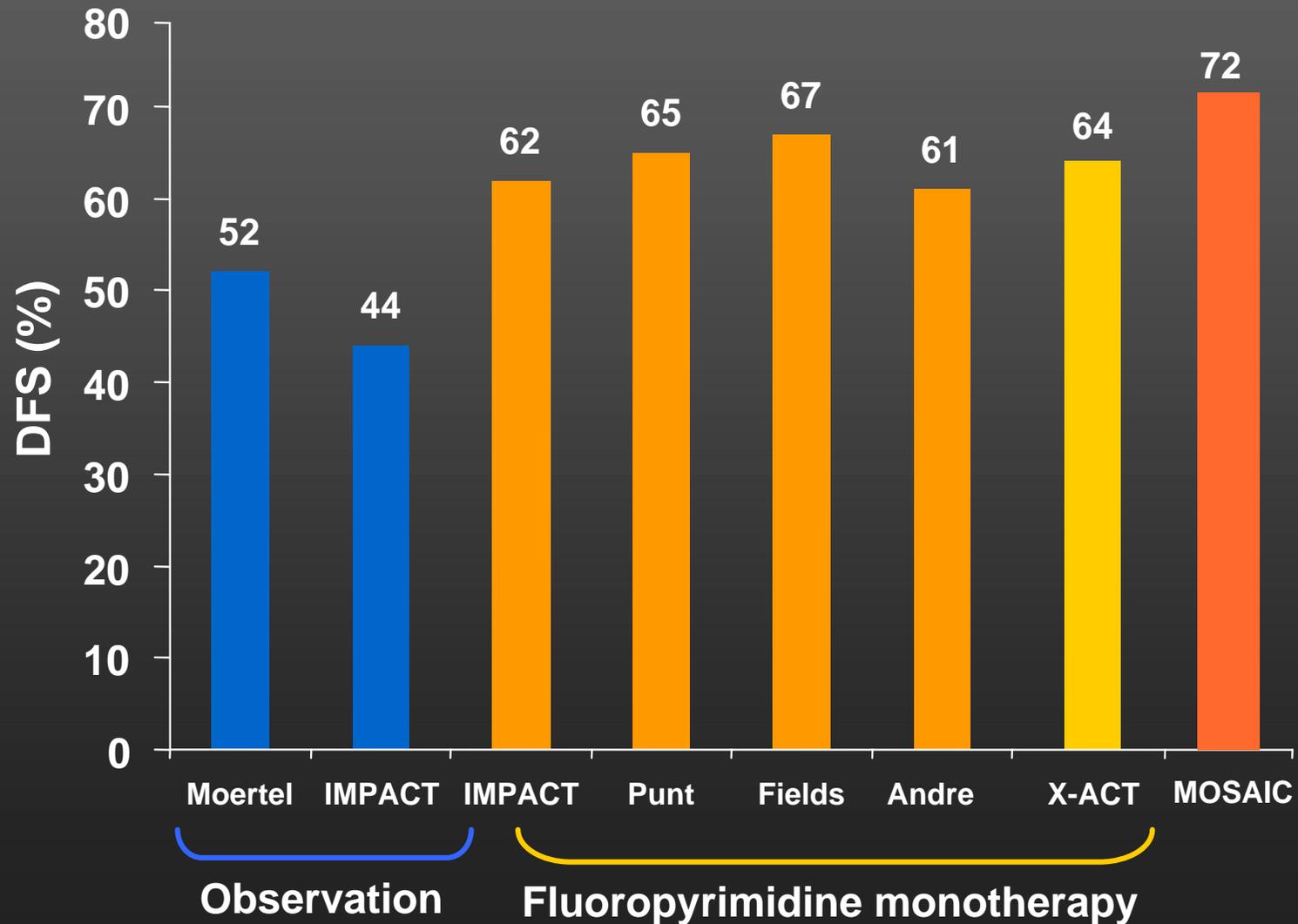
Evaluable patients n=811	
Grade 0	84.3%
Grade 1	12.0%
Grade 2	2.8%
Grade 3	0.7%

De Gramont et al, , ASCO 2007

## DFS in Phase III studies of adjuvant combination chemotherapy

	Bolus 5-FU	Infusional 5-FU
Oxaliplatin	NSABP C-07 +	MOSAIC +
Irinotecan	CALGB C89803 -	PETACC-3 - ACCORD-02 -

## 3-year DFS in stage III CRC





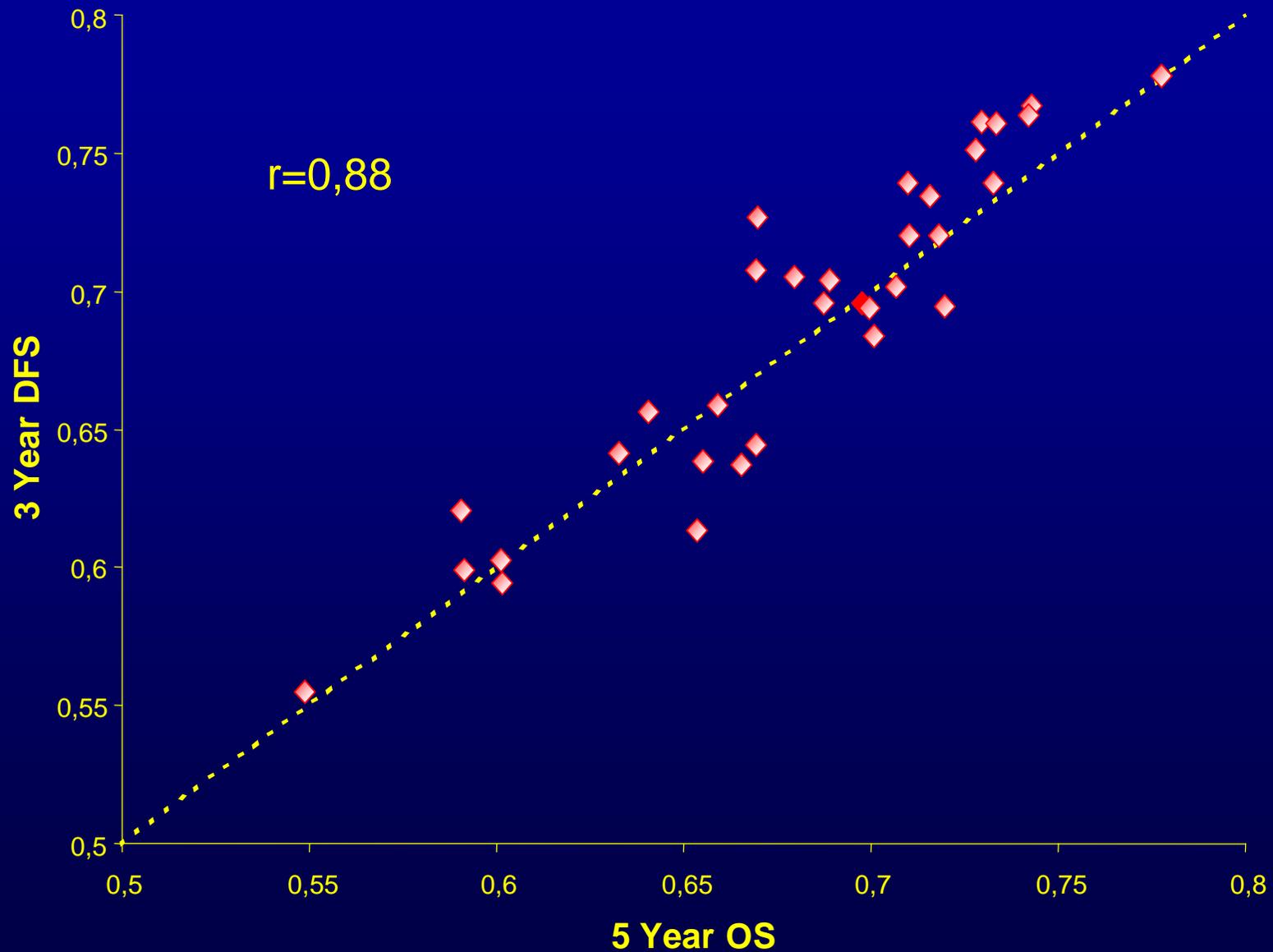
**...is DFS  
improvement „good  
enough“ to define  
the standard?**

## ACCENT-Group - Trials Included

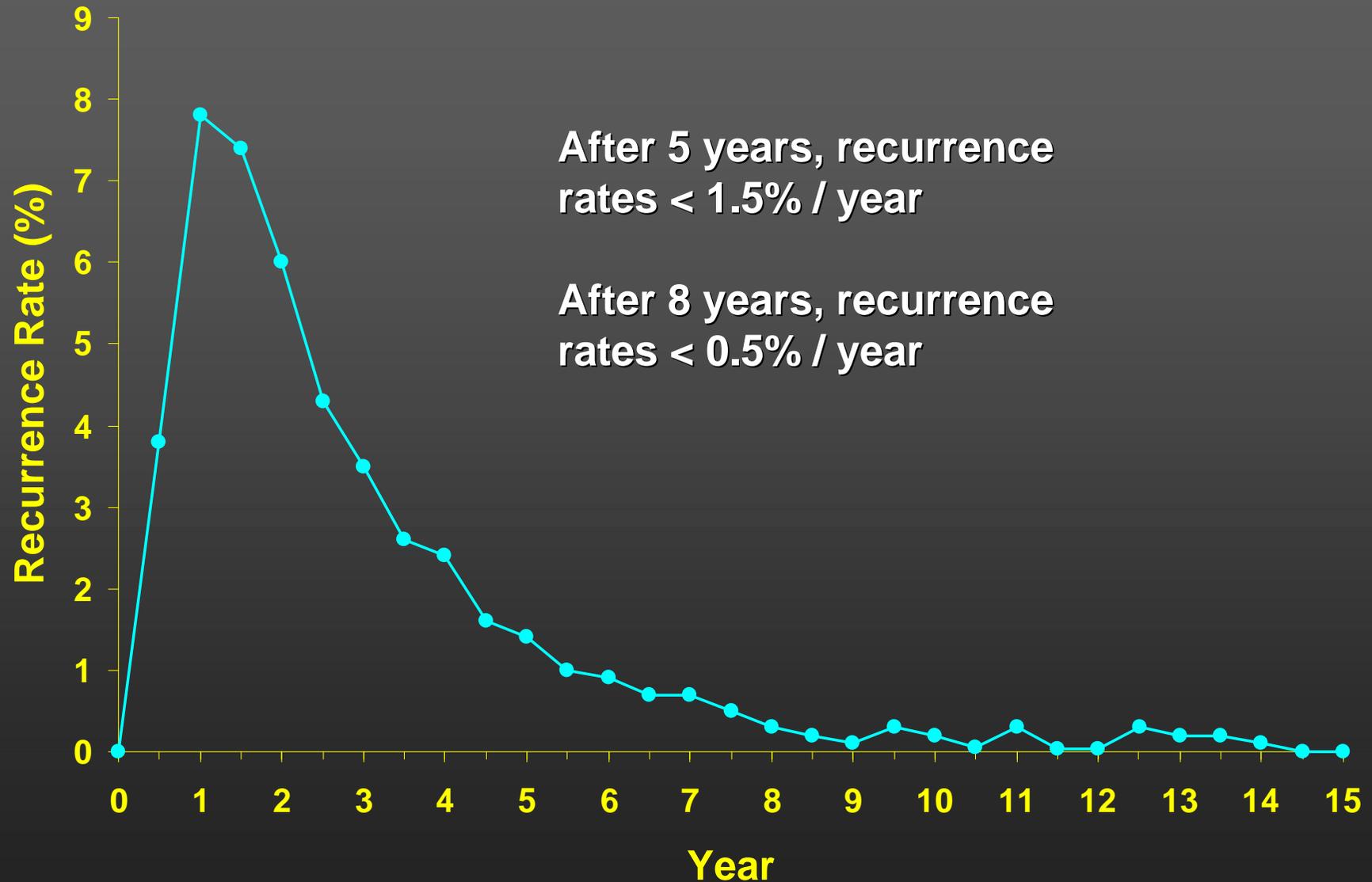
No Treatment Control		Active Control	
Trial	N	Trial	N
N784852	247	NSABP C03	1081
INT 0035	926	NSABP C04	2151
N874651	408	NSABP C05	2176
Siena	239	N894651	915
NCIC	359	N914653	878
FFCD	259	SWOG 9415	1078
NSABP C01	773	INT 0089	3547
NSABP C02	718	GERCOR	905
GIVIO	867	<b>QUASAR</b>	<b>3517</b>

**Total: 17 trials; 17,381 pts**

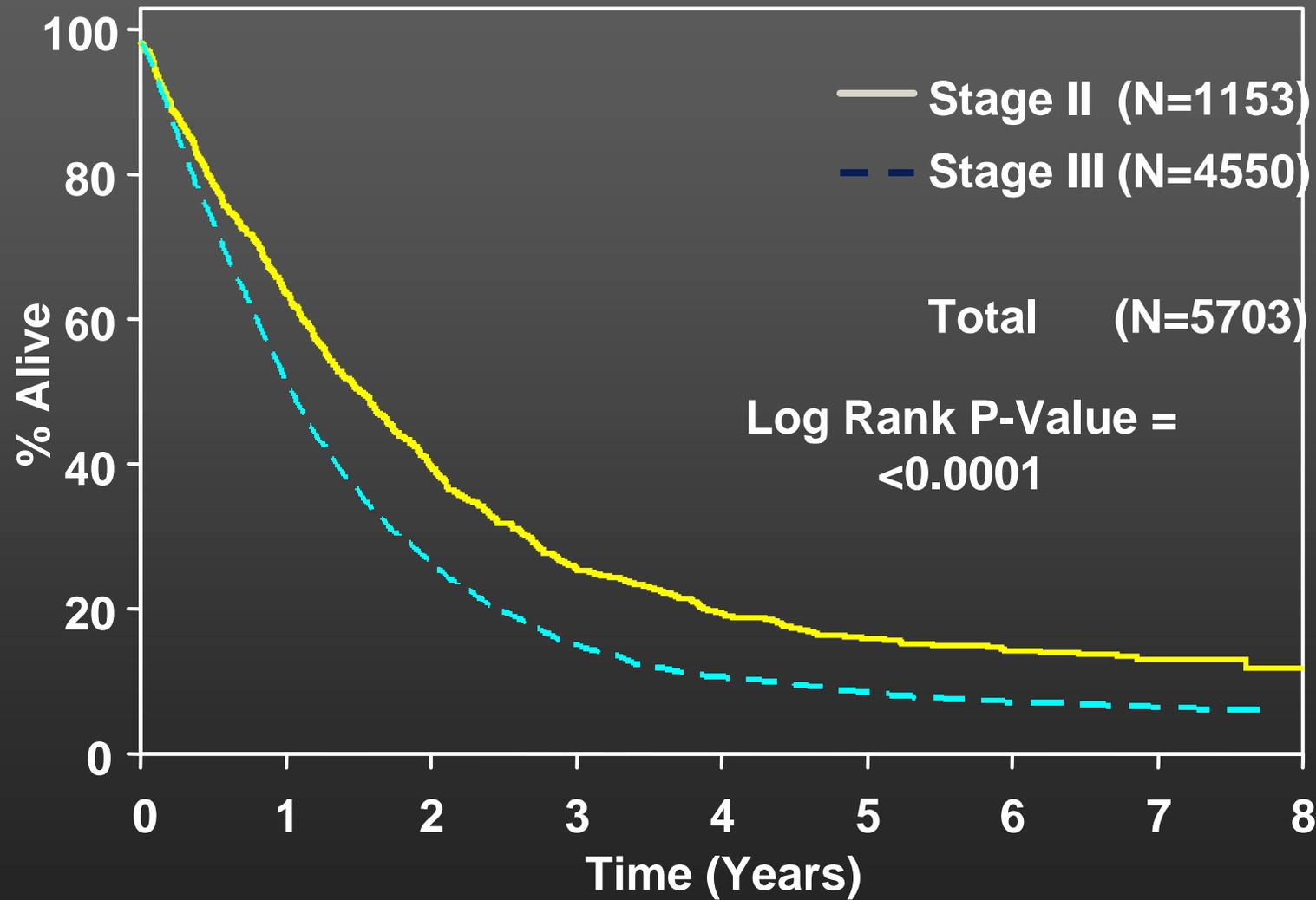
# 3 Year DFS vs 5 Year OS



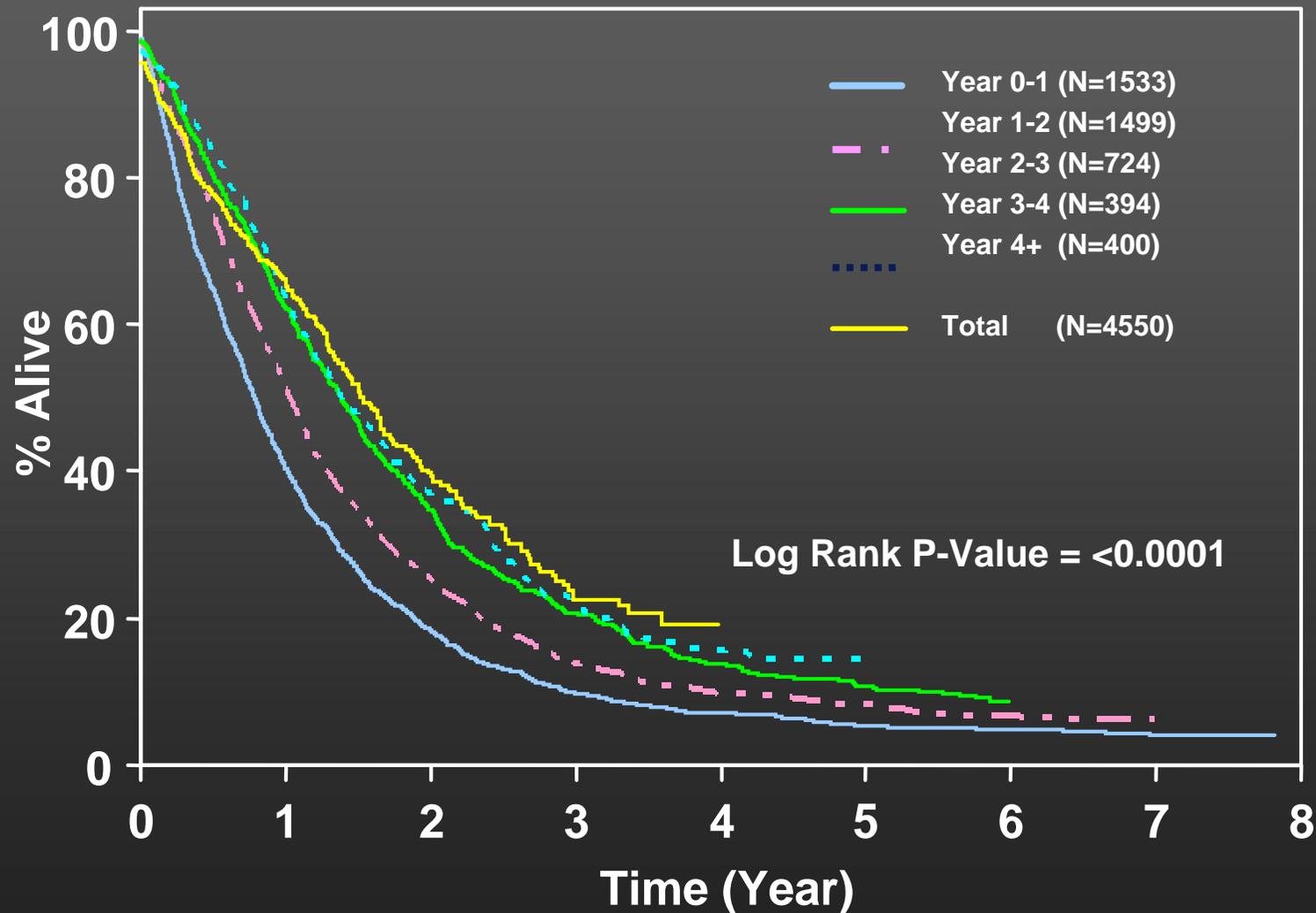
## Recurrence Rate by time from randomization (all pts)



# Time from Recurrence to Death by Stage



# Time from Recurrence to Death by Year of Recurrence for Stage III Patients





**XELOX**

# NO16968 study

## Stage III colon cancer



### **XELOX (n=938)**

Capecitabine 1000mg/m<sup>2</sup> bid d1–14 q3w  
+ oxaliplatin 130mg/m<sup>2</sup> i.v. d1 q3w

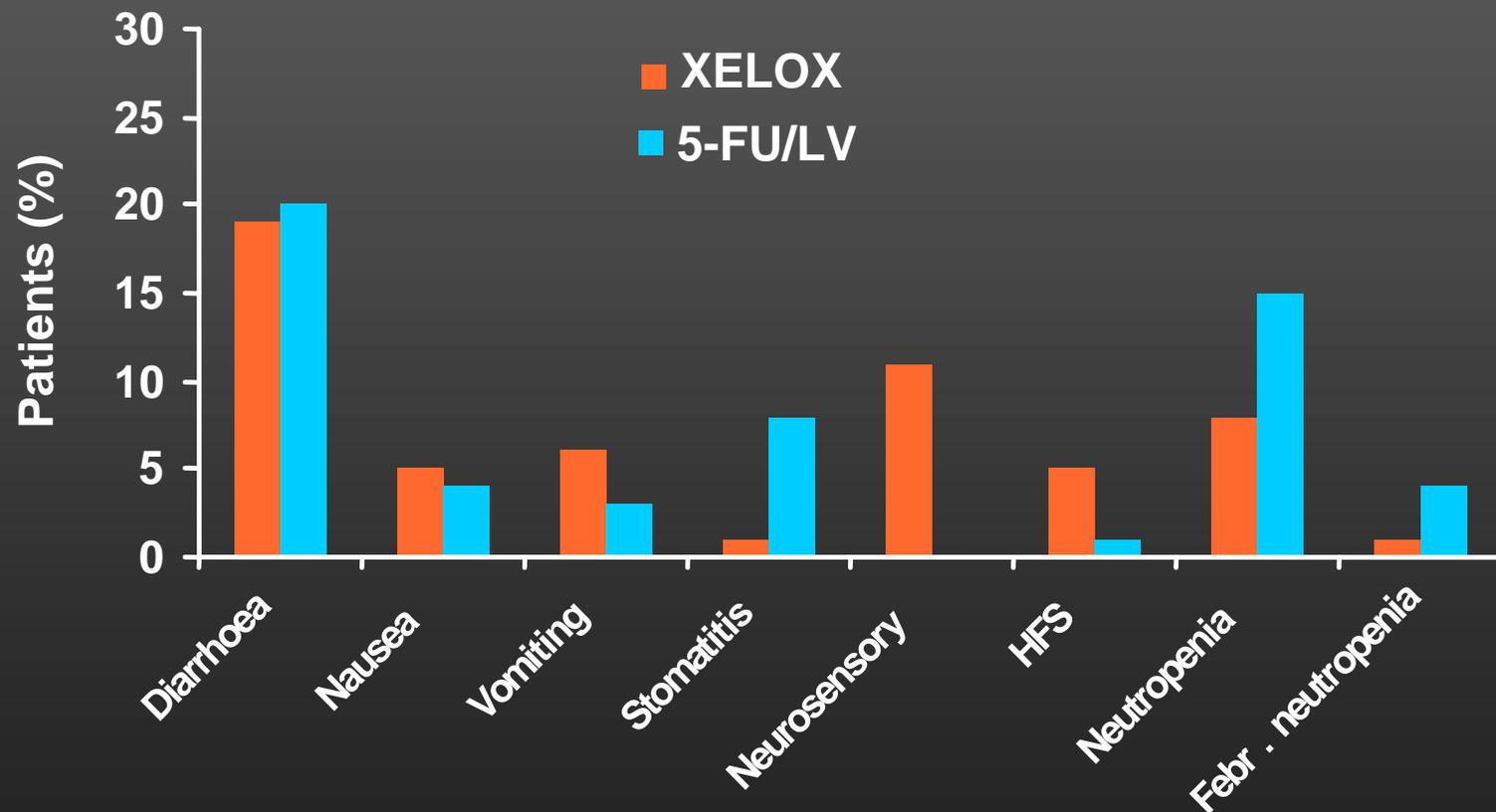


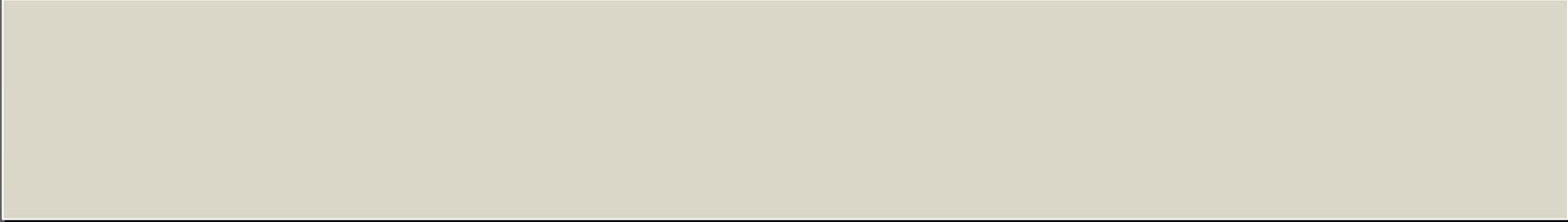
### **5-FU/LV (n=926)**

- Mayo Clinic bolus 5-FU/LV
- Roswell Park bolus 5-FU/LV

- XELOX is feasible and safe<sup>1</sup>
  - similar tolerability to bolus 5-FU/LV and FOLFOX4
  - better tolerability than FLOX
- Efficacy data are due at end of 2008

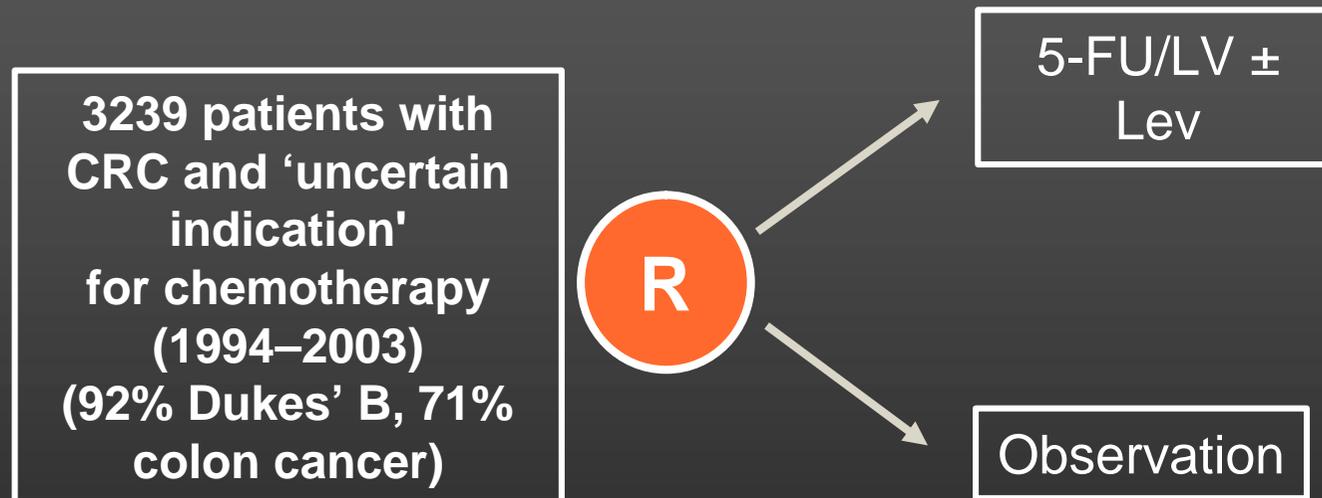
## XELOX vs bolus 5-FU/LV: main grade 3–4 treatment-related toxicities



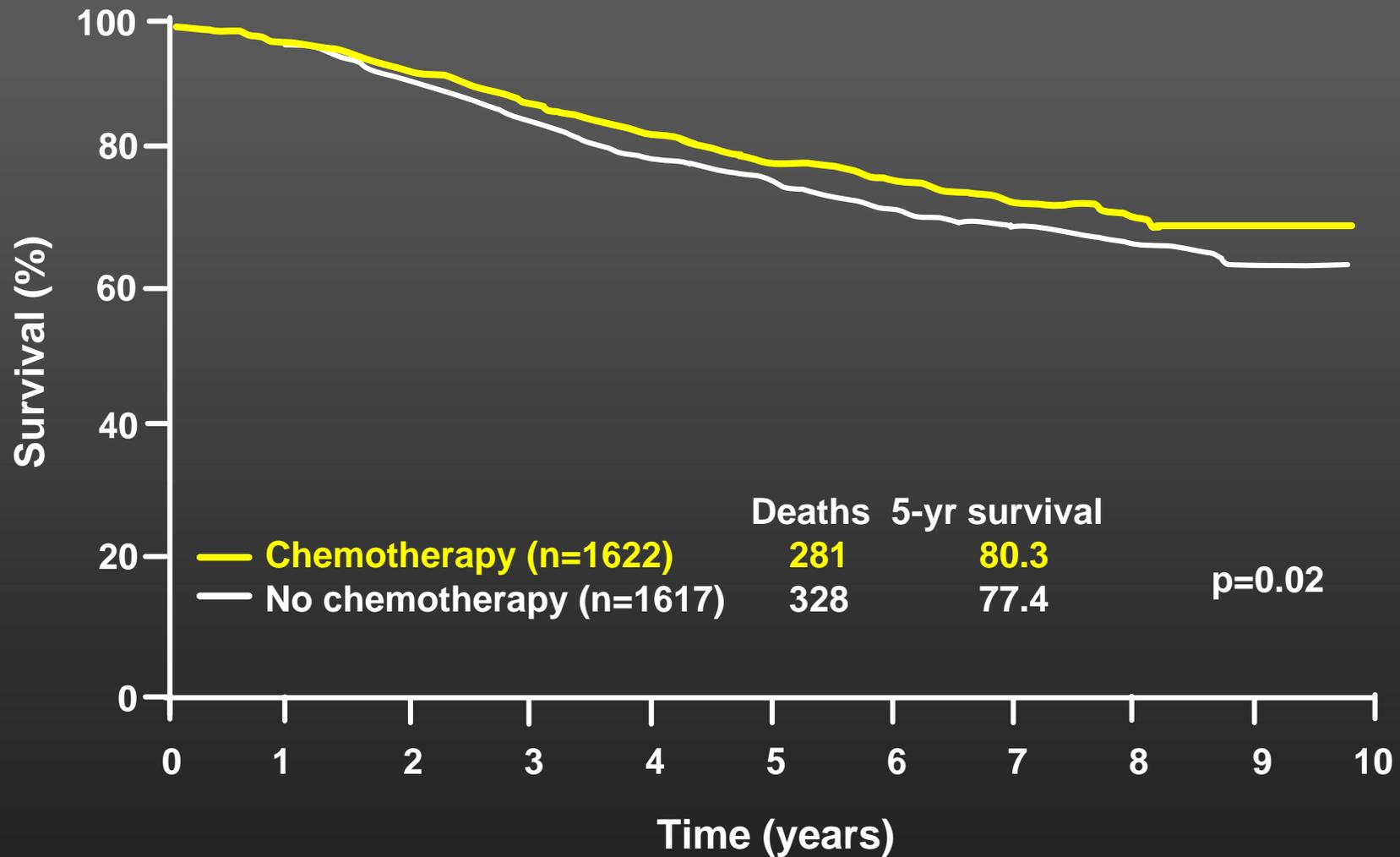


# Stage II

# QUASAR

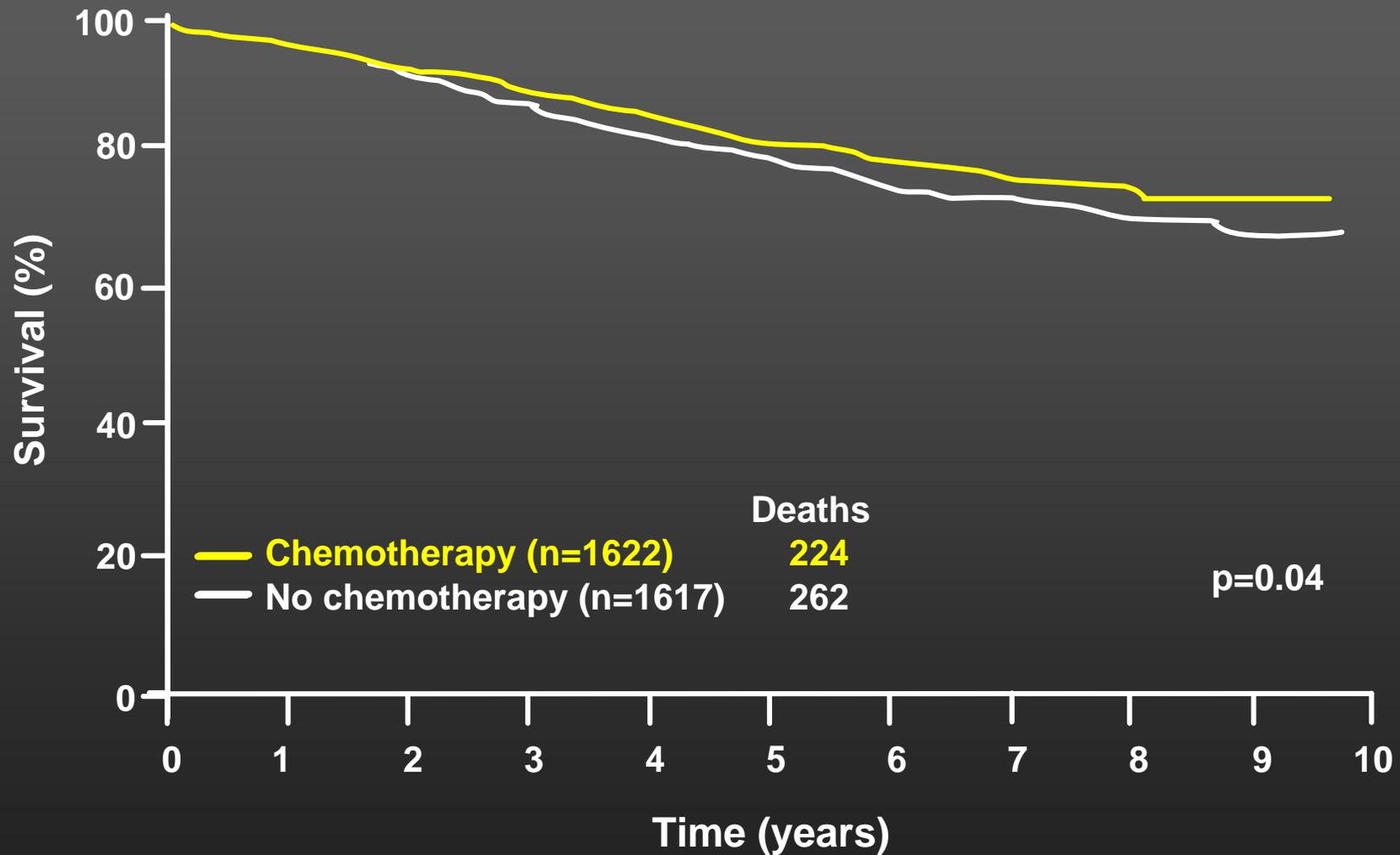


## QUASAR: survival in ITT population

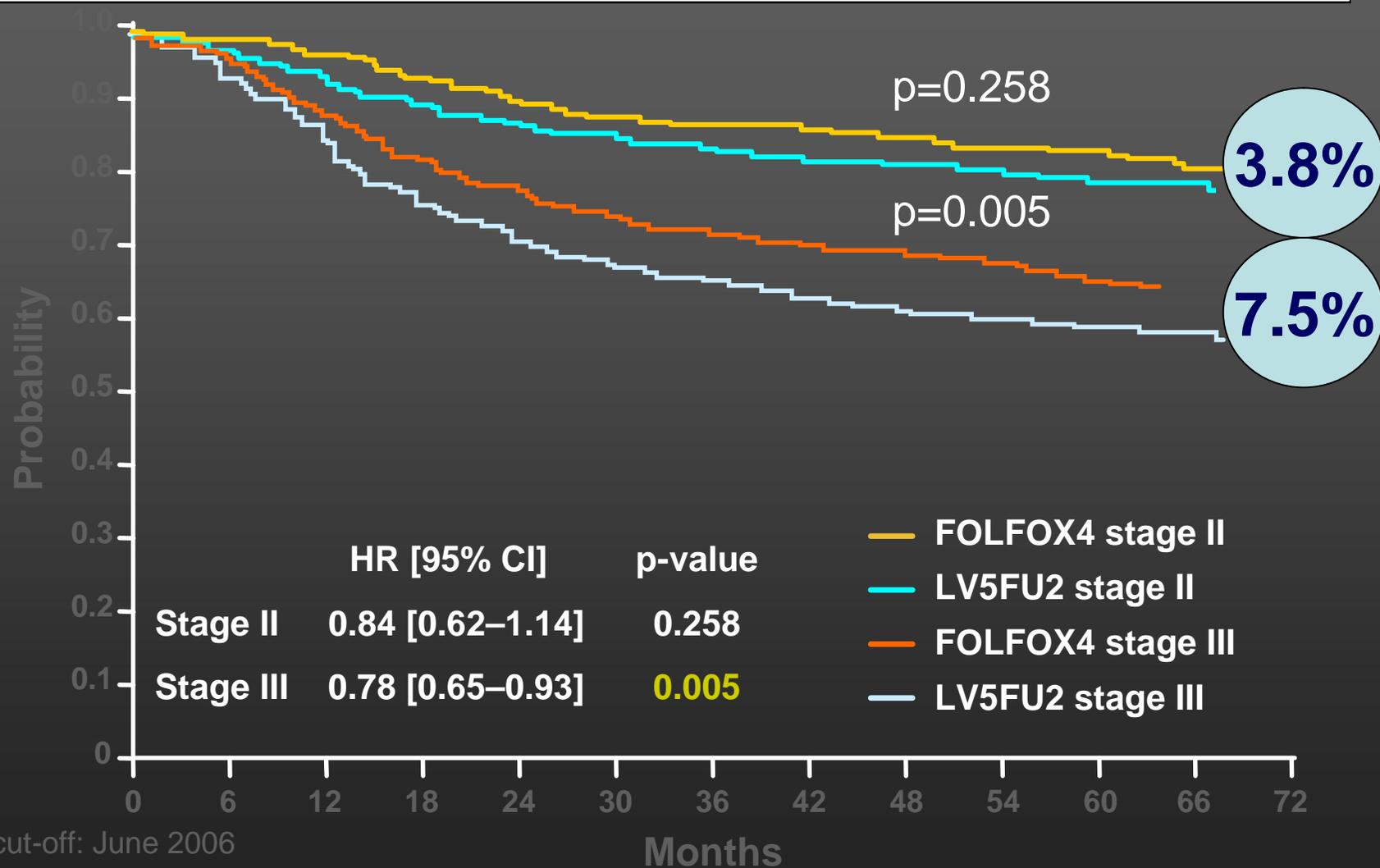


Gray et al. ASCO 2004 (Abstract 3501).

## QUASAR: survival in stage II patients



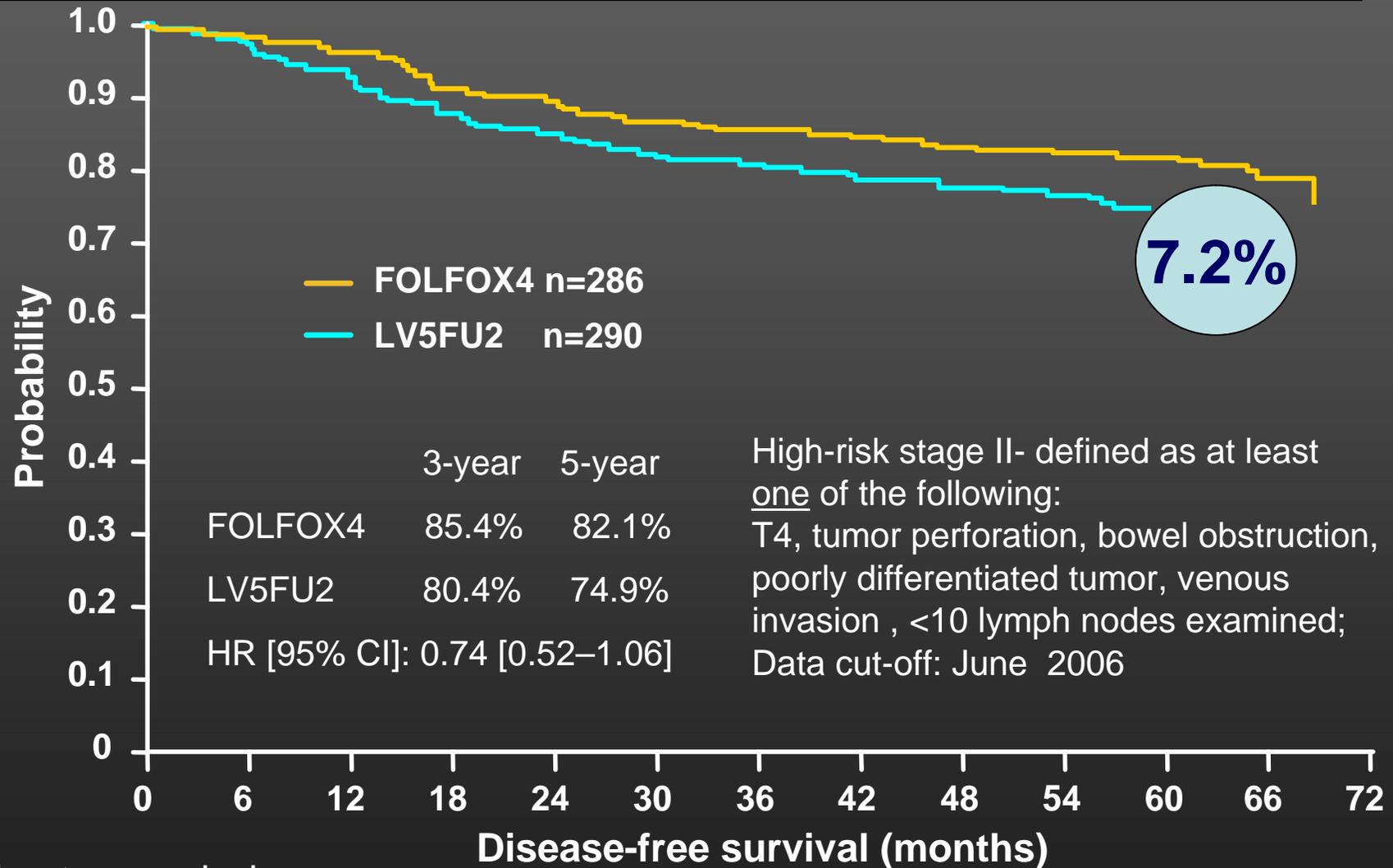
# Mosaic: Disease-free Survival Stage II and III



## **MOSAIC: high-risk stage II patients**

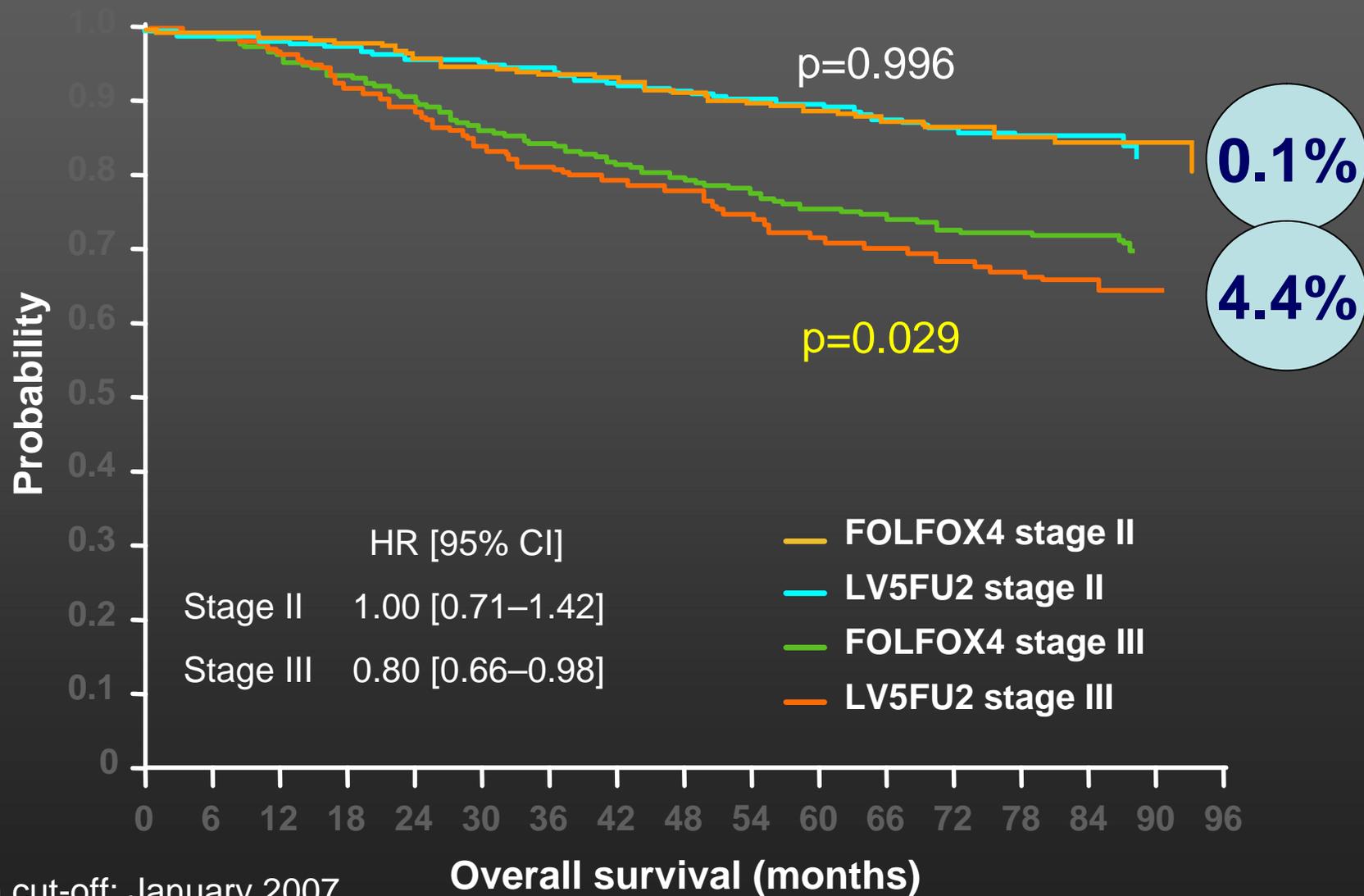
- 64% of stage II patients were defined as high-risk:
  - T4
  - Bowel obstruction
  - Tumour perforation
  - Poorly differentiated tumour
  - Venous invasion
  - Number of examined lymph nodes <10

# Disease-free Survival: High-risk Stage II Patients



Exploratory analysis

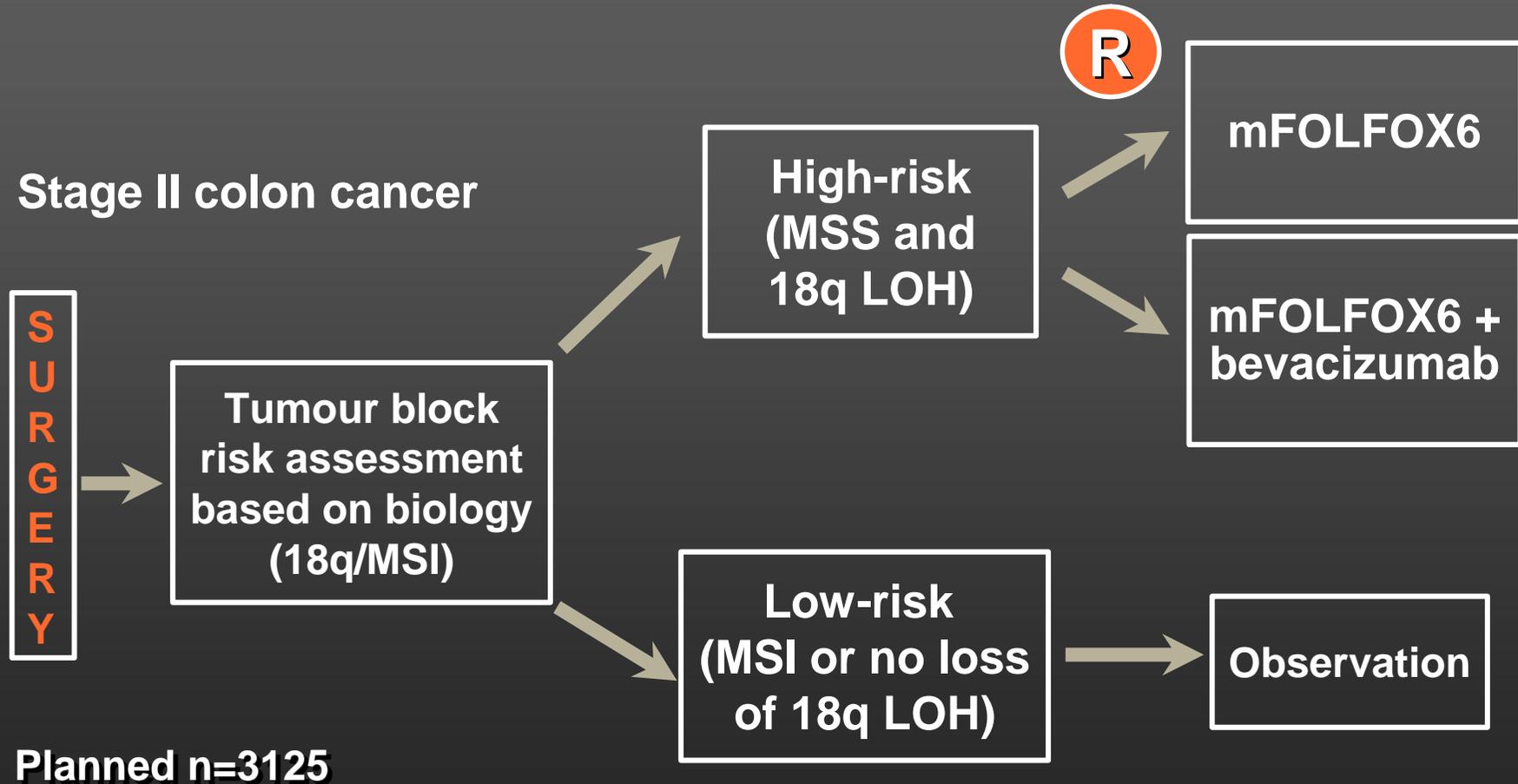
# Overall Survival: Stage II and Stage III



# New guidelines for adjuvant treatment of colon cancer: NCCN 2006

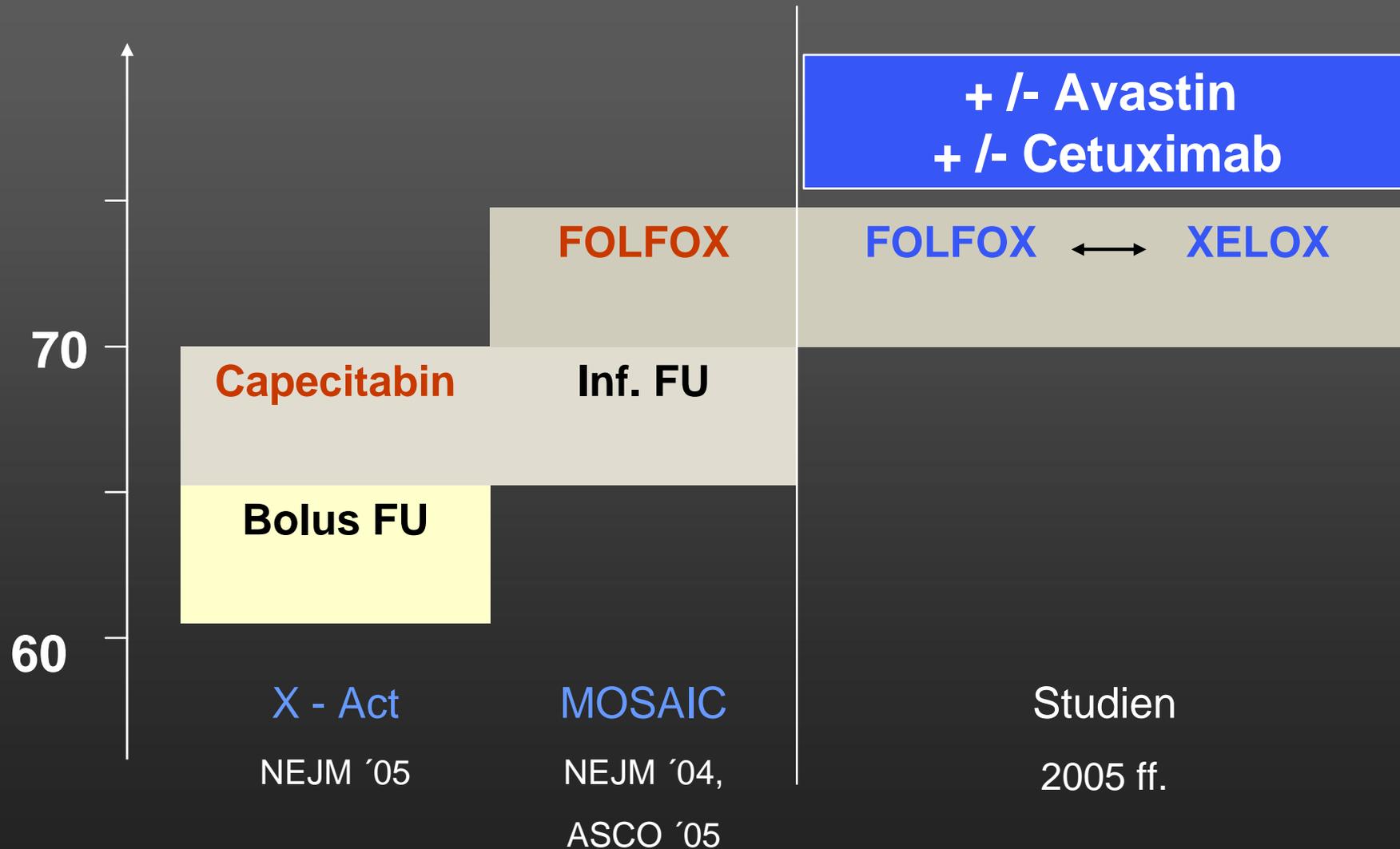
- T1, N0, M0 and T2, N0, M0 (stage I)
  - No chemotherapy
- T3, M0, N0 (stage II, no high-risk features)
  - Consider single-agent fluoropyrimidine or 5-FU/LV + oxaliplatin
  - **Deutscher Konsensus: keine Behandlung (im Einzelfall überlegen)**
- N0 high risk
  - FOLFOX (XELOX)
  - Deutscher Konsensus: im Einzelfall entscheiden  
FOLFOX 6 Monate**

# Future directions: E5202



# Adjuvante Therapie des Kolon-Ca.: Studienfragen

3y DFS, *DUKES C*



## Future directions: NSABP C-08

Stage II and III  
colon cancer  
n=2500



mFOLFOX6  
+ bevacizumab

mFOLFOX6

Primary endpoint: DFS

# AVANT: oxaliplatin-based chemotherapy + bevacizumab for stage II/III colon cancer

Stage II and III  
colon cancer  
n=3450 patients



FOLFOX4

FOLFOX4 + bevacizumab

XELOX + bevacizumab

Primary endpoint: DFS

# Future directions: NO147

Before ASCO 2005:

Planned  
n=4800



FOLFOX

FOLFIRI

FOLFOX? FOLFIRI



± cetuximab

Modification in June 2005:

Planned  
n=2400

FOLFOX



± cetuximab

# Future directions: PETACC-8

## Phase III trial

Fully resected stage III  
colon cancer

Planned n=2000

Primary endpoint: DFS



FOLFOX4 + cetuximab

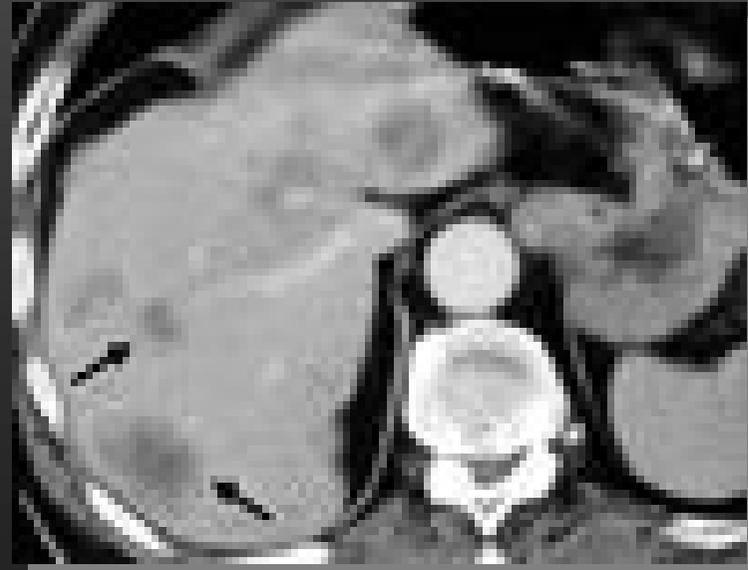
Treatment will be  
administered  
for 6 months

FOLFOX4



## Liver metastases in ACRC

**In 33%-35%: liver metastases only!**

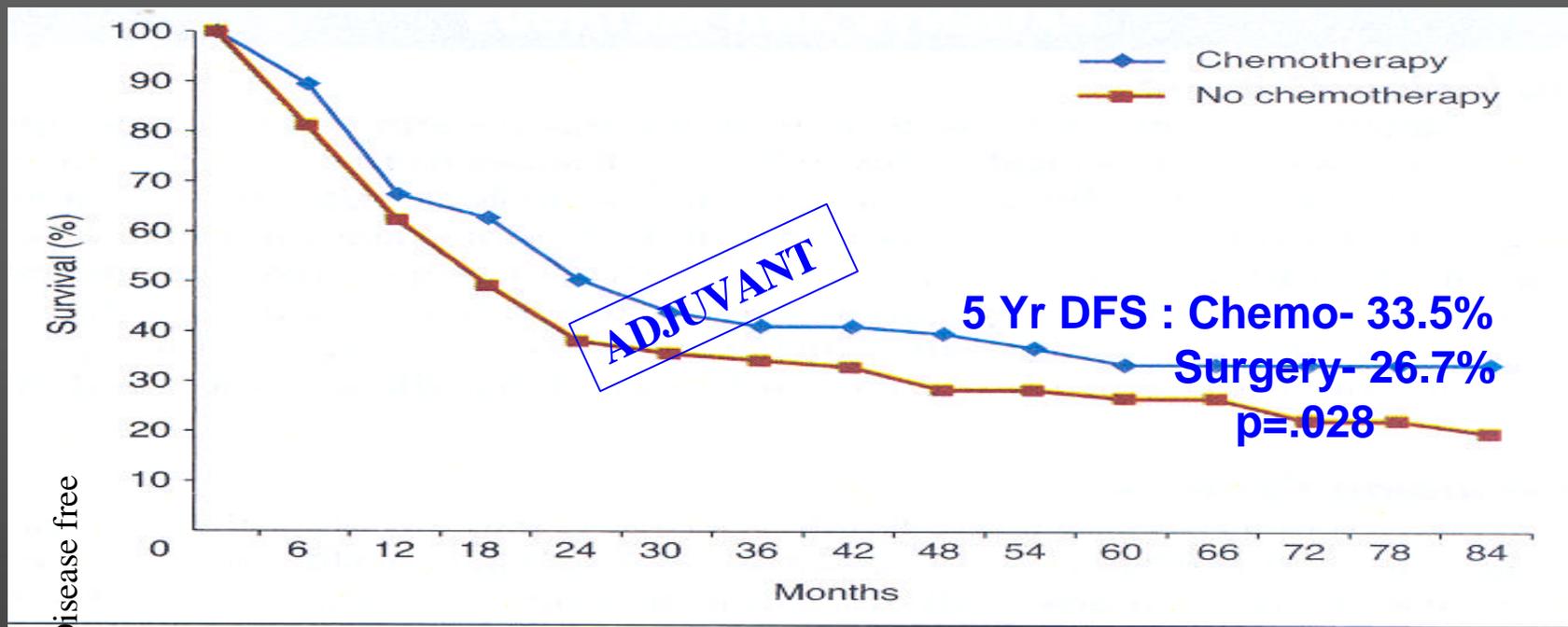


## Prognosis after resection: Fong-Score

**Table CLINICAL RISK SCORE FOR  
TUMOR RECURRENCE**

Score	Survival (%)					Median (mo)
	1-yr	2-yr	3-yr	4-yr	5-yr	
0	93	79	72	60	60	74
1	91	76	66	54	44	51
2	89	73	60	51	40	47
3	86	67	42	25	20	33
4	70	45	38	29	25	20
5	71	45	27	14	14	22

Each risk factor is one point: node-positive primary, disease-free interval <12 months, >1 tumor, Size >5 cm, CEA >200 ng/ml.



Portier et al, Multicenter Randomized Trial of Adjuvant Fluorouracil & Folinic Acid Compared with Surgery Alone After Resection of Colorectal Liver Metastases: FFCD ACHBTH AURC 9002 Trial, J Clin Oncol 24; 4976-4981, 2006

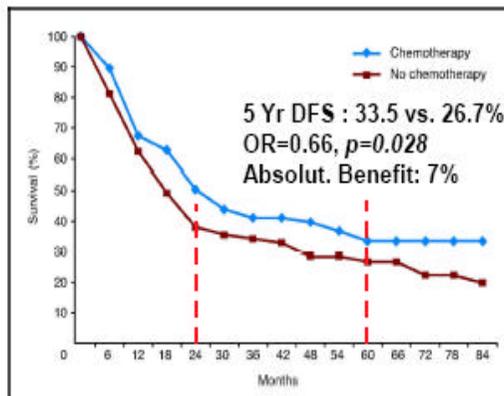
Enrolled 173 Pts of planned 200 Pts over 10 yrs. Slow accrual /trial stopped.

# Adjuvant CTX after resection of liver mets: really beneficial?

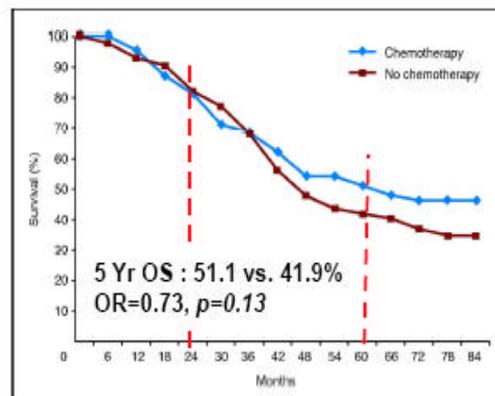
Autor	Design	n	DFS/OS
Langer 2002	5-FU/FS Bolus x6 M1 (1-4, Leber/Lunge)	129 (-22) (Ziel: 478)	HR: 1.28/1.30 <i>n.s.</i>
+ Portier 2002	5-FU/FS Bolus x6 M1 (Leber)	167 (-5) (Ziel: 200)	Diff: +9%/+7% <i>n.a.</i>
= Mitry 2006	Metaanalyse	278	HR: 1.33/1.30 <i>p=0.059 (PFS)</i>

„Meta analysis“,  
Mitry et al., ASCO 2006

DFS



OS

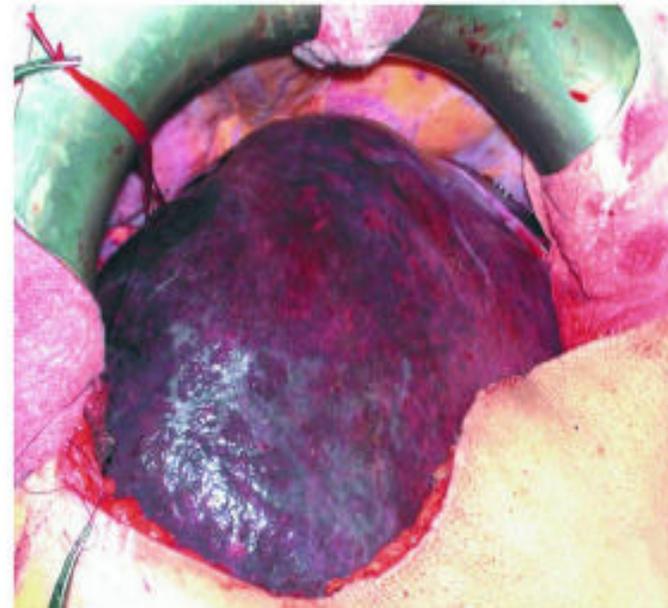


Portier et al.,  
J Clin Oncol 2006

## Preoperative chemotherapy: Liver damage



**CASH**  
V.a. Irinotecan



**„Blue Liver“**  
V.a. Oxaliplatin



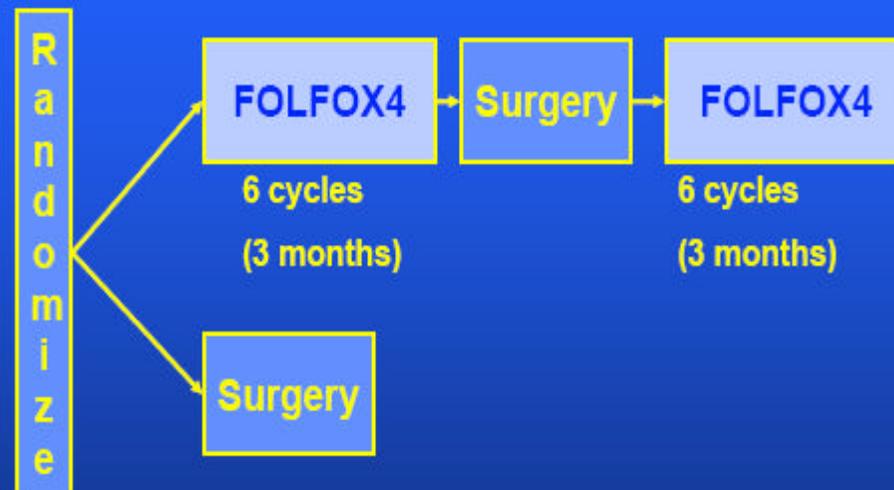
## Peri-operative FOLFOX4 chemotherapy and surgery for resectable liver metastases from colorectal cancer

### Final efficacy results of the E Intergroup phase III study 4

B. Nordlinger, H. Sorbye, B. Glimelius, G.J. Poston,  
P. Rougier, W.O. Bechstein, J. Primrose, E.T. Walpole,  
T. Gruenberger

Statistical analysis L. Collette

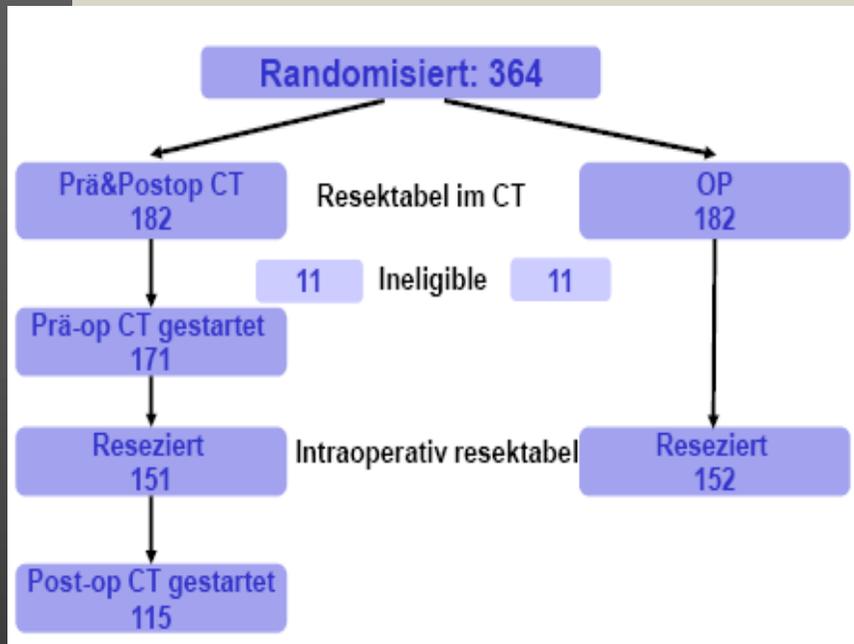
For the EORTC GI Group, CR UK, ALMCAO, A  
FFCD



**N=364 patients**

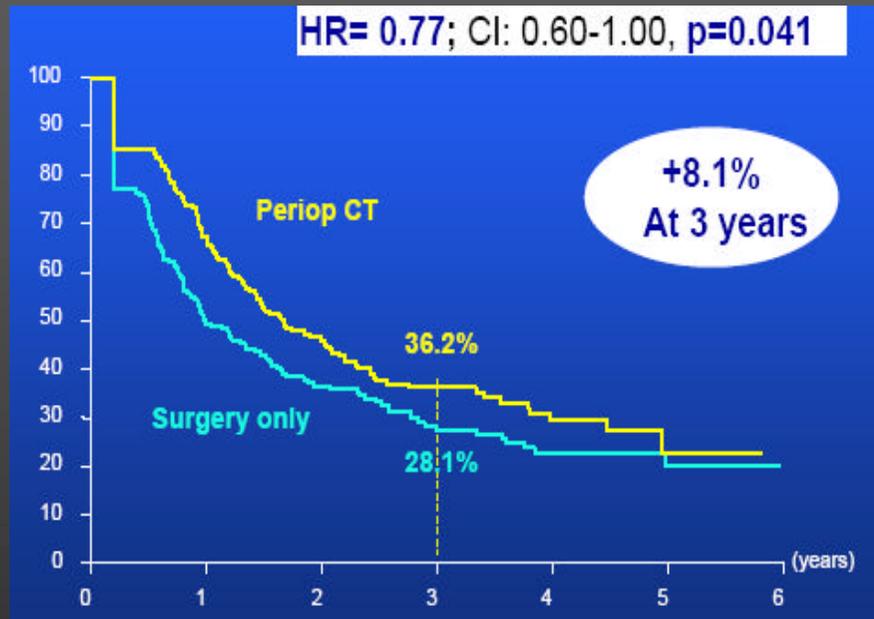
- Definition of progression
  - Recurrent or progressive disease
  - Metastases not resectable at surgery
  - Death of any cause if prior to progression
- Objective: to demonstrate a 40% increase in median PFS (HR=0.71) with 80% power and 2-sided significance level 5%
- Sample size: 330 patients (for 278 events)
- 364 patients (182 x 2) recruited from September '00 to July '04

# EORTC 40983: PFS

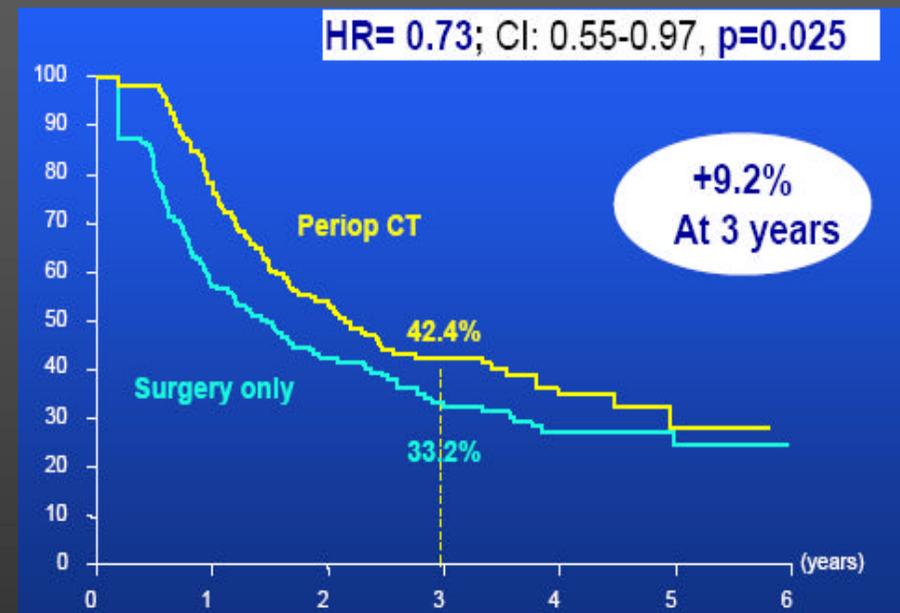


	N pts Surger y	% absolute difference in 3-year PFS	Hazard Ratio (Confidence Interval)	P-value
All patients	182	+7.2% (28.1%/ 35.4%)	0.79 (0.62-1.02)	P=0.058
All eligible Patients	171	+8.1% (28.1% / 36.2%)	0.77 (0.60-1.00)	P=0.041
All resected Patients	151	+9.2% (33.2% / 42.4%)	0.73 (0.55-0.97)	P=0.025

# EORTC 40983: Results and Conclusion

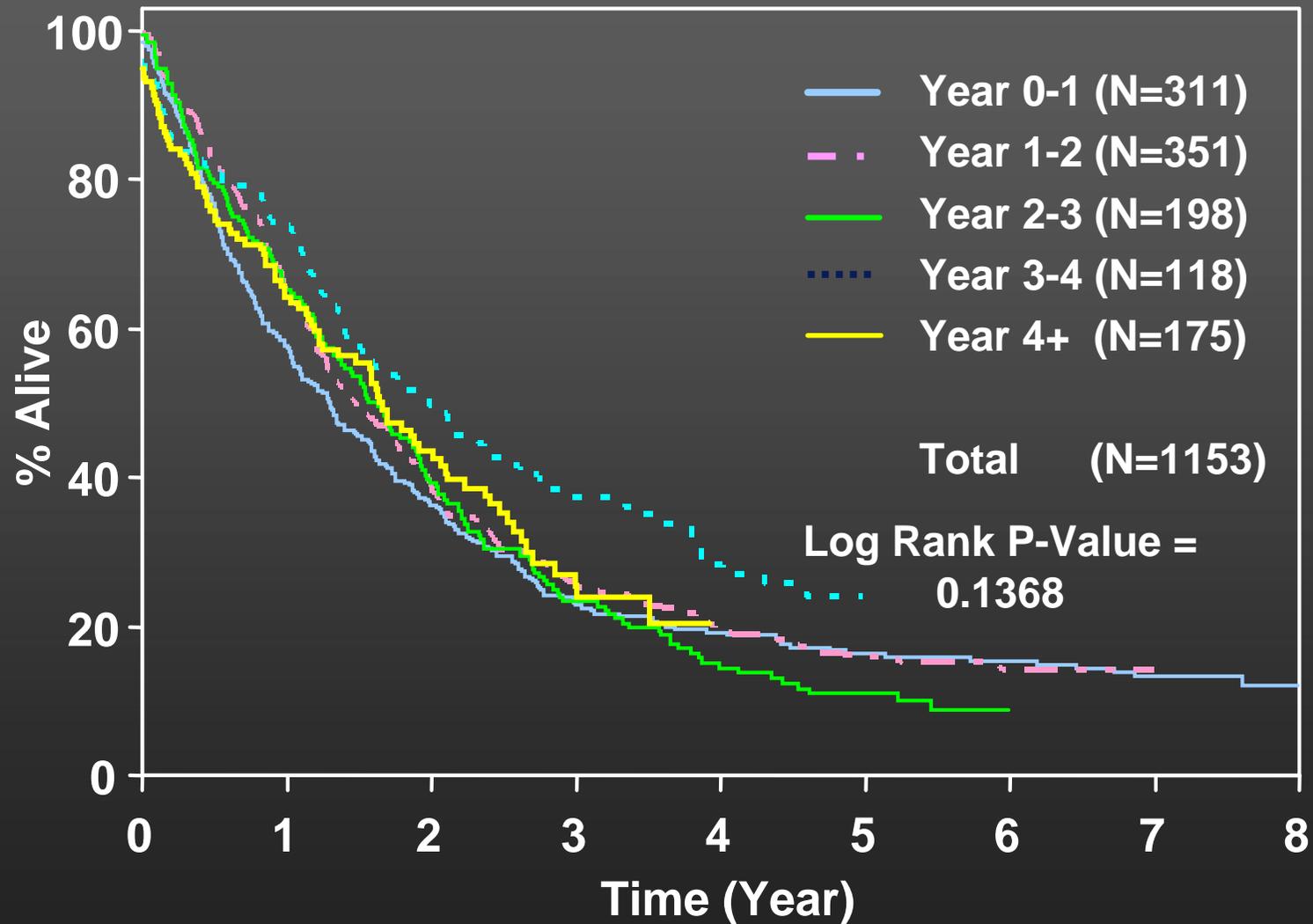


Eligible pts.



Resected pts.

# Time from Recurrence to Death by Year of Recurrence for Stage II Patients







# Rectal Cancer

# Possible role of chemotherapy in rectal cancer

In addition to perioperative radiotherapy:

enhance efficacy of radiation

↳ improve **local** control

enable resection and sphincter preservation

Adjuvant systemic therapy - after perioperative (chemo)radiation

eradicate micrometastasis

↳ reduce rate of distant relapse

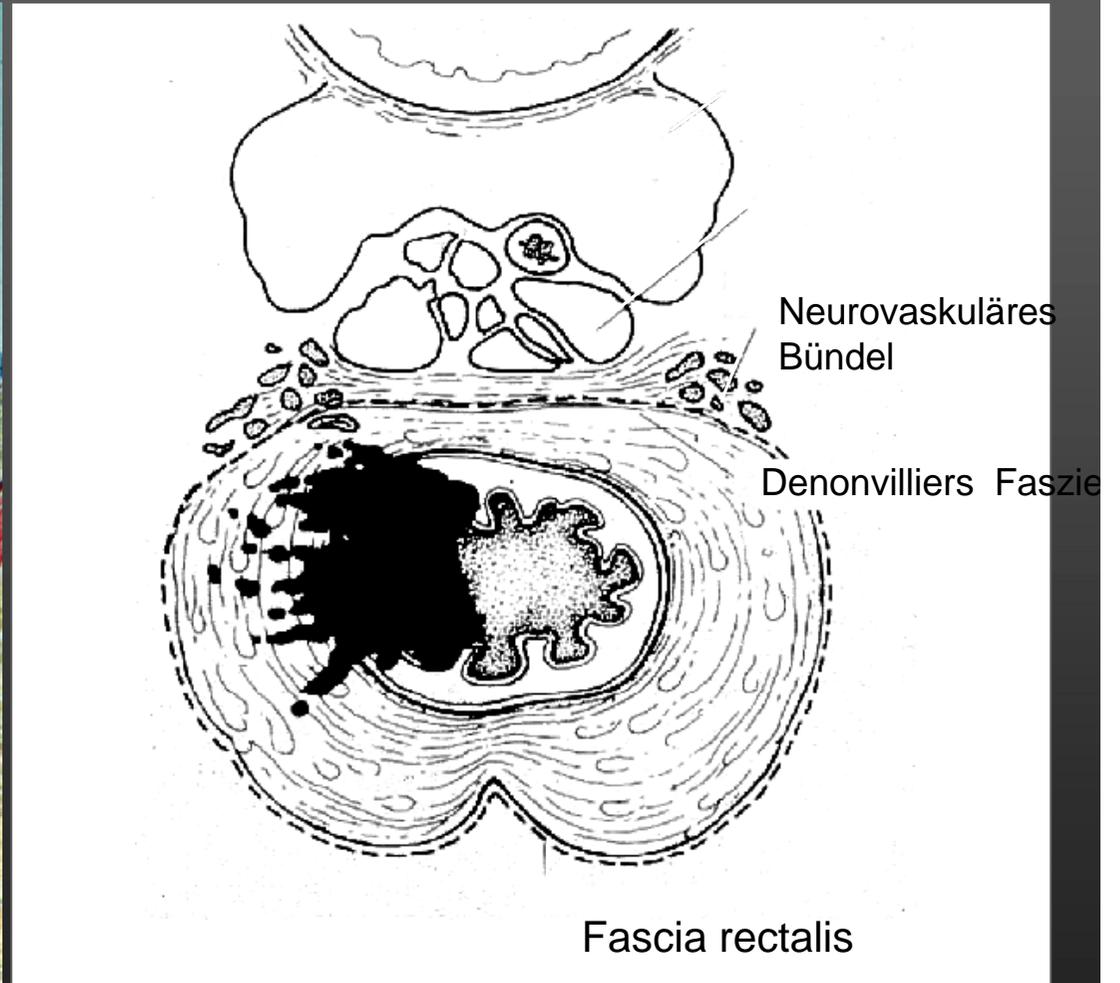
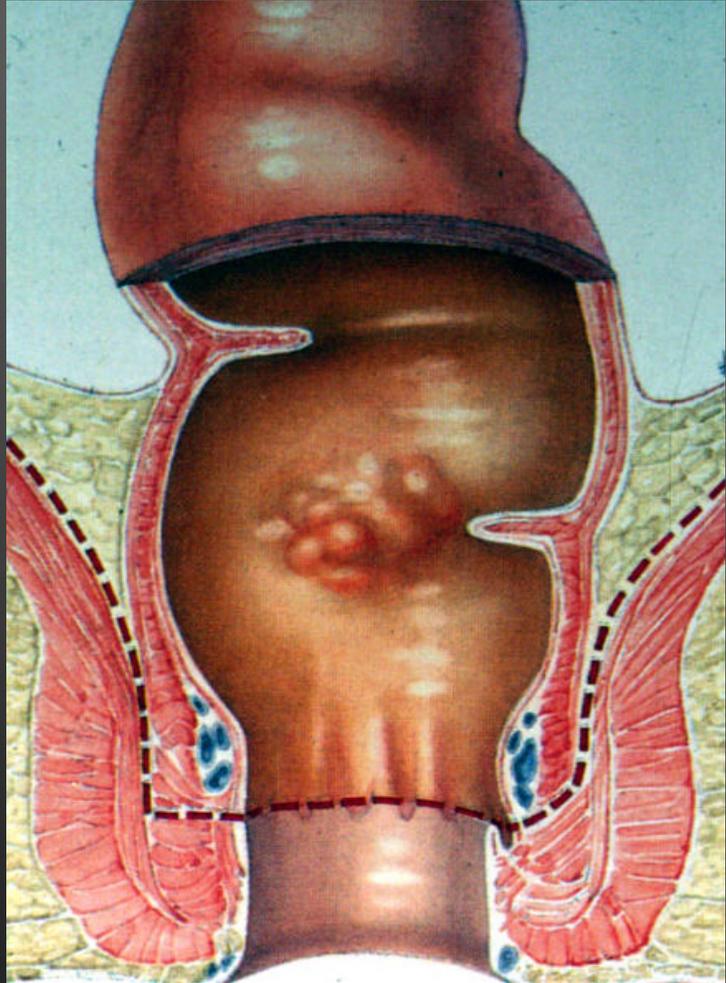
Before perioperative chemoradiation

reduce local tumor size **and** eradicate micrometastases

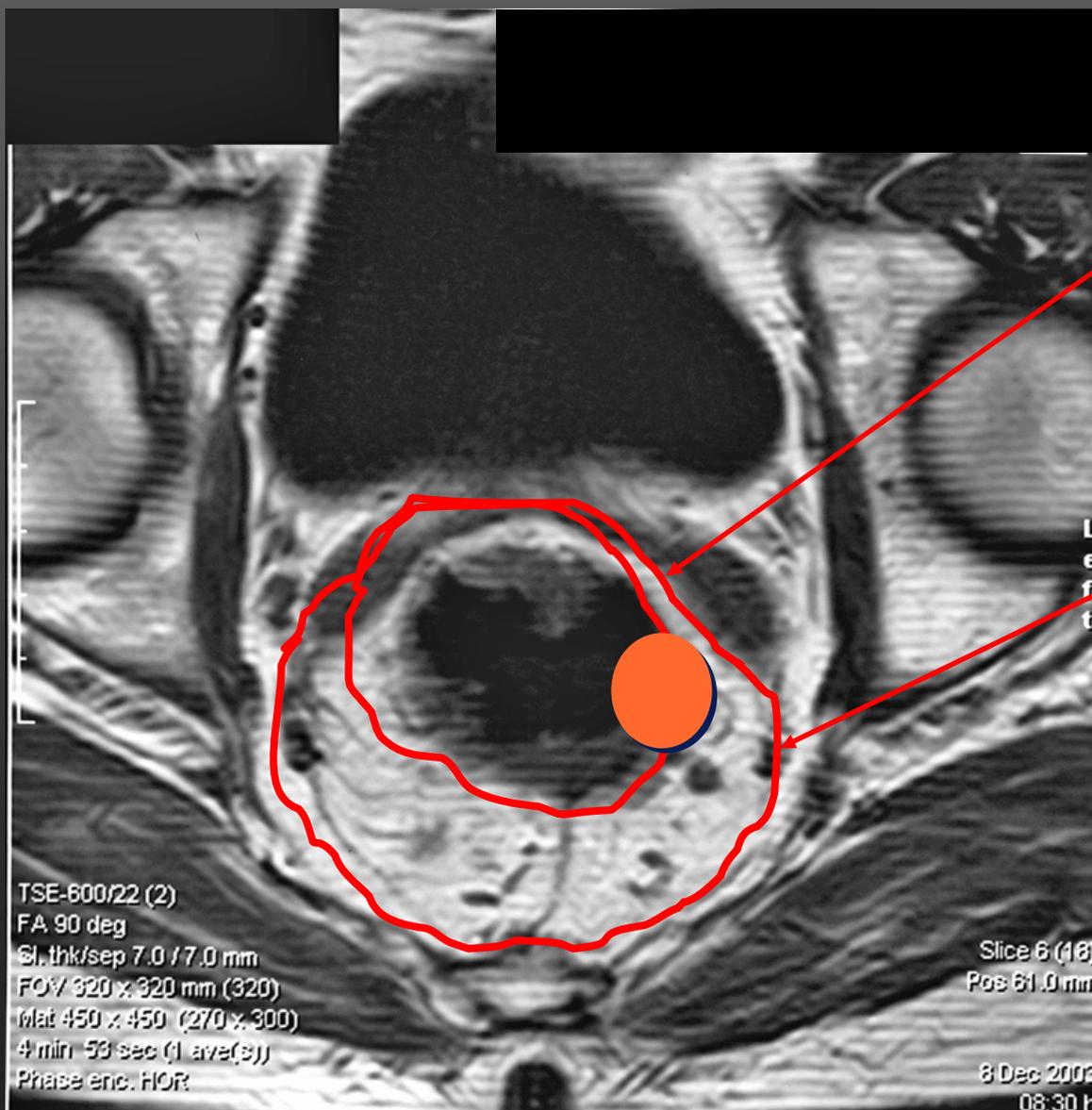
## Who cures rectal cancer?

- Surgeons: optimal = radical surgery (TME)  
is most important for cure
- Radiotherapists: high dose radiation +/-  
chemotherapy is most  
important for cure
- Medical Oncologists: systemic chemotherapy only  
may effectively eradicate  
micrometastes
- locoregional
  - systemic spread

# Rectal Cancer: „Mesorectum“



## From conventional surgery to TME



Conventional  
excision of the  
tumor.

TME:  
Sharp  
excision at  
mesorectal  
fascia (MRF).

## PreOP trials: Patterns of failure

		local failure vs.		distant mets. vs.		5y OS vs.	
FFCD ASCO 2005	RT vs. RChT	16%	8%	36%	38%	66%	67%
EORTC ASCO 2005	RT vs. RChT	17%	9%	32%	35%	65%	65%
AIO/CAO/ARO NEJM 2004	Pre vs. post	13%	6%	36%	38%	74%	76%*
Marijnen ASCO GI 2005	5x5	11%	6%	n.a.		63%	64%

Despite significant reduction of local relapse,  
no influence on distant mets. and survival observed

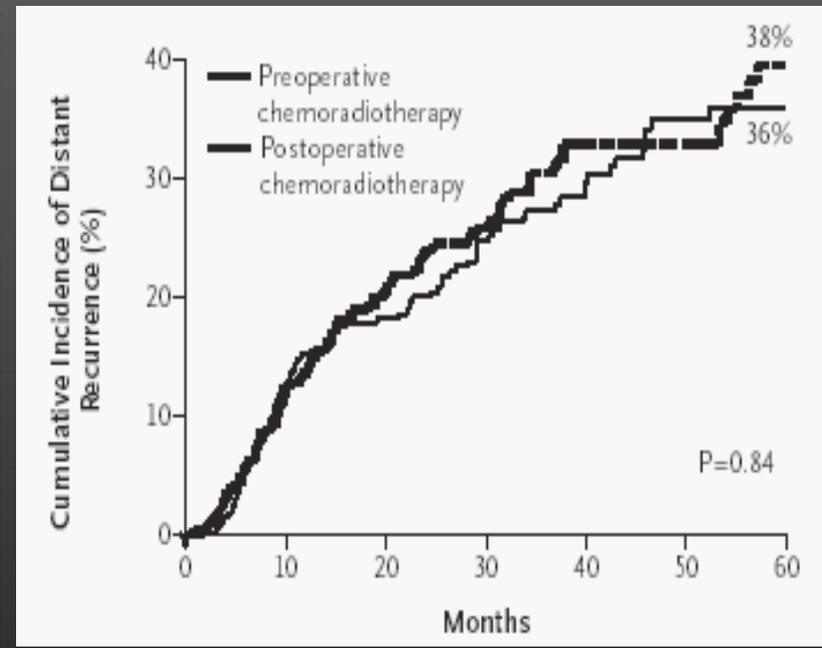
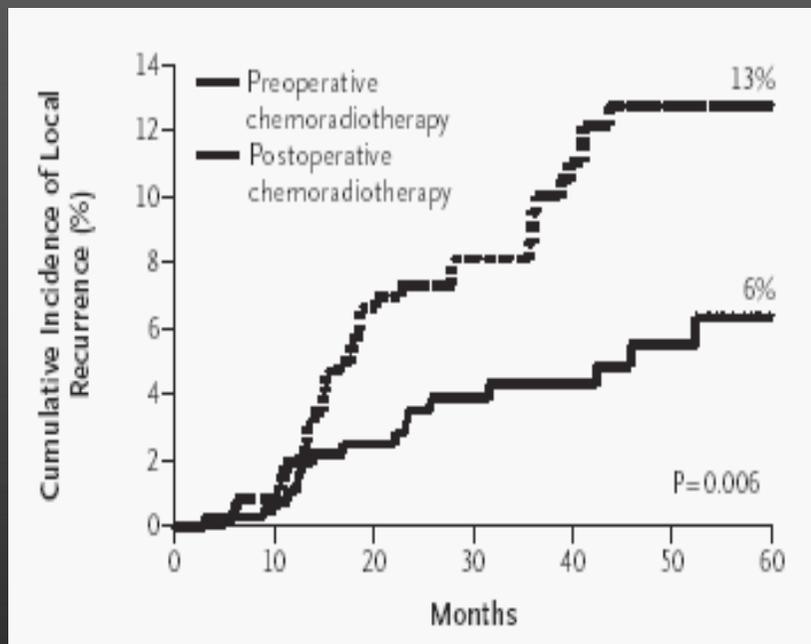
## Local Relapse Rates: Significantly Reduced

	<b>Preop</b> Chemo radiatio	<b>Preop</b> radiation	<b>Postop</b> Chemo radiatio	p
FFCD (%)	n 8	16.5	n	.003
EORTC (%)	9	17		.002
AIO/CAO/ARO* (%)	6		13	.006
Polish Trial	14	9 (5x5)		n.s.

Bosset et al. NEJM 2006; Gerard et al. ECCO 2005  
 Sauer et al., NEJM 2004; Bujko et al., Br J Surg 2006

# Local vs. distant relapse and survival

## AIO/ARO/CAO-94 trial



# Does the addition of chemotherapy influence the outcome?

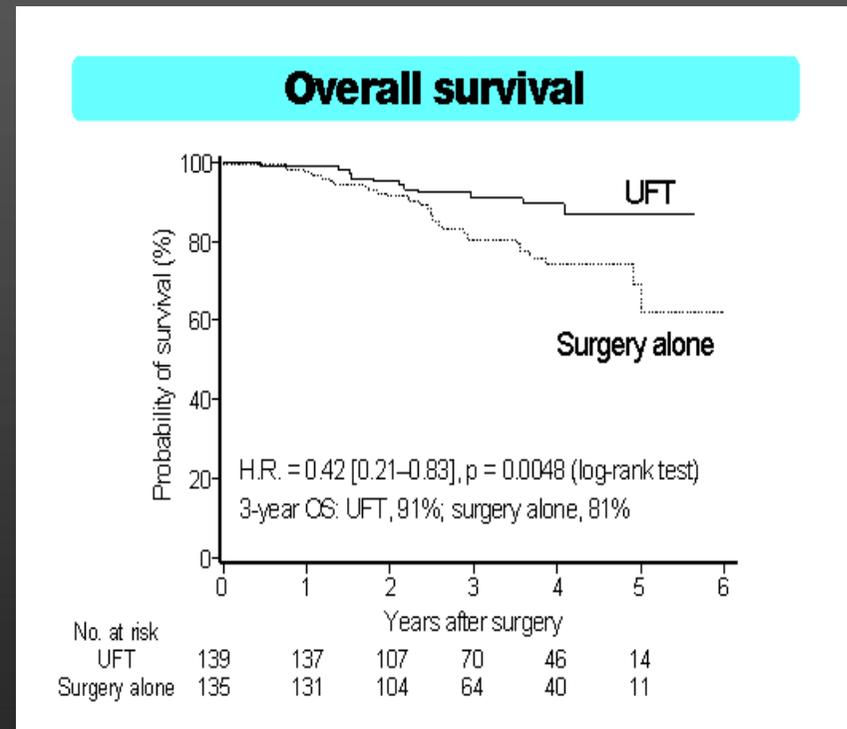
			Local failure	OS
GITSG (1985)	N= 227	Res Res + RT Res (+/- RT) + CTx	+	=
NSABP R01, 1988	N= 574	Res + RTx Res + CTx	=	+
NCCTG/Mayo, 1985	N= 204	Res + RT Res + RT + CTx	+	+
Tveit, 1997,	N= 144	Res + RT Res + RT + CTx	+	trend
QUASAR (2004)	N= 948	Res (+/- RT) Res (+/- RT) + CTx		+
EORTC (2005)	N=1011	RT → Res RT → Res + CTx	+	trend
Japan (2006)	N= 276	Res Res + CTx	trend	(RFS:) +

# Adjuvant UFT/FA after TME (no XRT!)

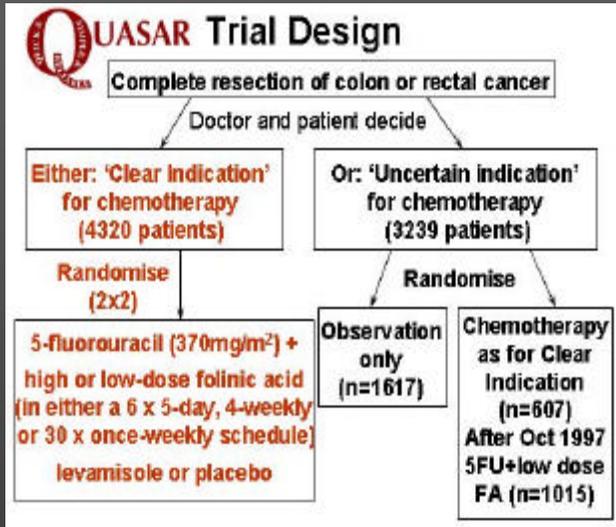
## Japanese NSAS-01 Trial

276 Pts., all Stage III; >80% pT3/4; 60% upper 1/3

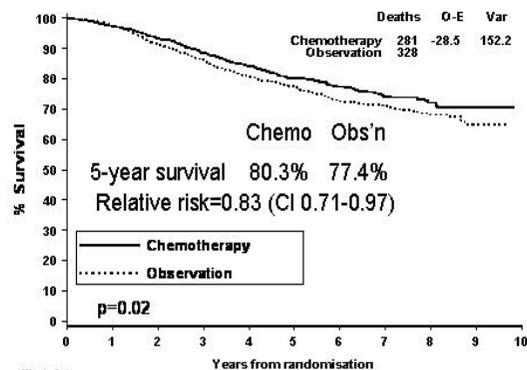
	TME	TME UFT/ LV	
Local failure	10%	6%	n.s.
RFS @ 3 yrs.	60%	78%	0.001



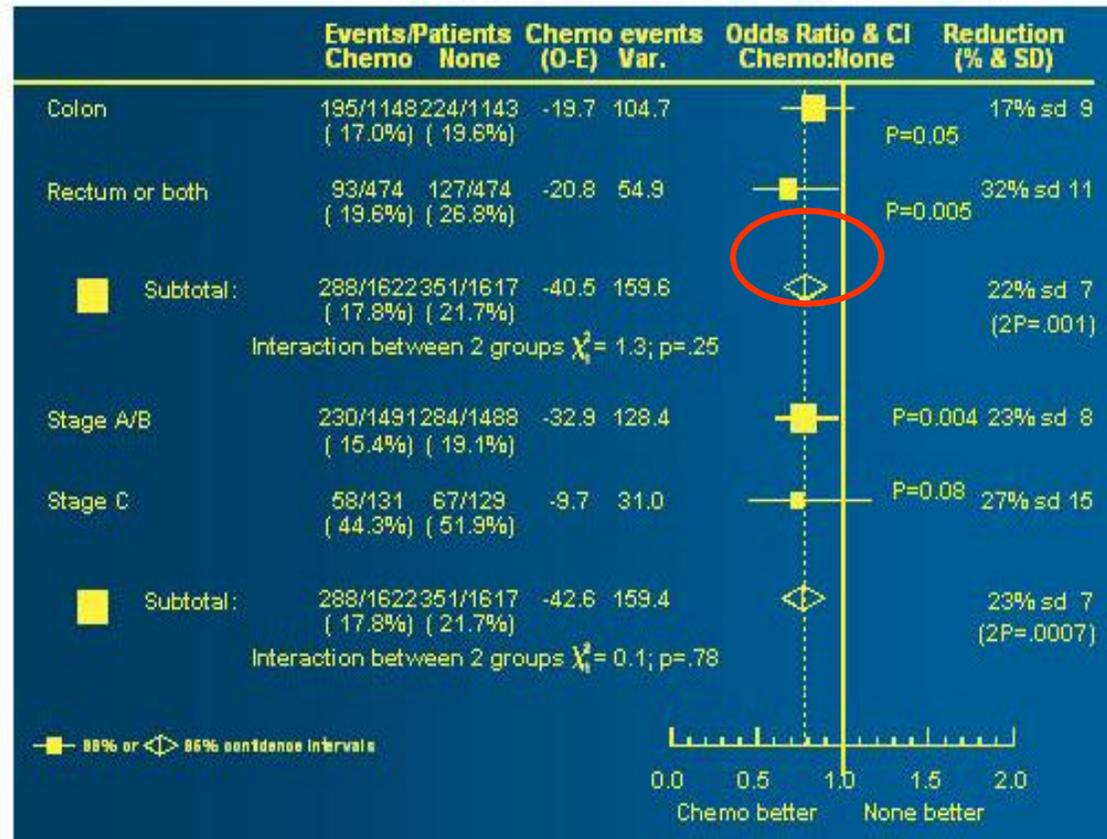
# QUASAR trial; n=948 rectal cancer pts.



QUASAR: survival by allocated treatment



## Recurrence by tumour site and stage



## Post OP systemic chemotherapy

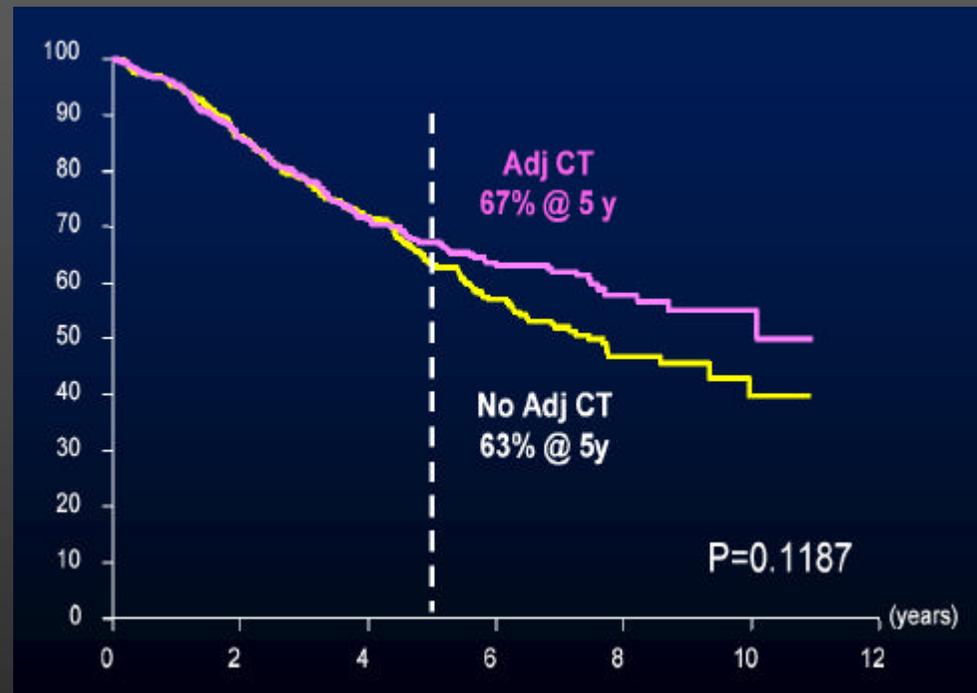
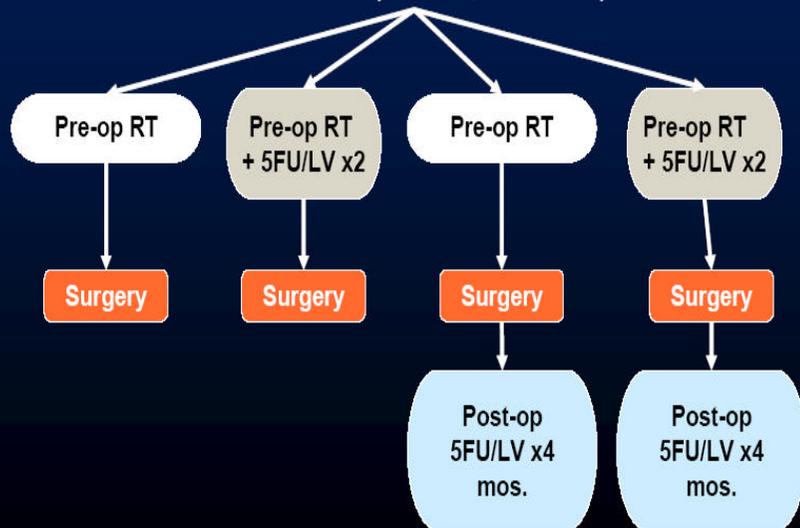
	year	N pts	pre OP	post OP
EORTC 22921	2005	1011	RT vs. RChT	+/- 5-FU/FA bolus
FFCD 9203	2005	733	RT vs. RChT	no chemo
AIO/CAO/ARO	2004	815	pre vs. post	5-FU bolus (all pts.)
Polish Trial	2005	311	RChT vs. 5x5	optional FU/FA

Bosset et al. NEJM 2006 & Colette et al. JCO 2007; Gerard et al. JCO 2006  
Sauer et al., NEJM 2004; Bujko et al., Br J Surg 2006

# EORTC Trial

Rectal cancer T3/T4 NX M0 (UICC 1987) by DRE or EUS  
judged resectable, WHO PS 0-1, age ≤ 80 y

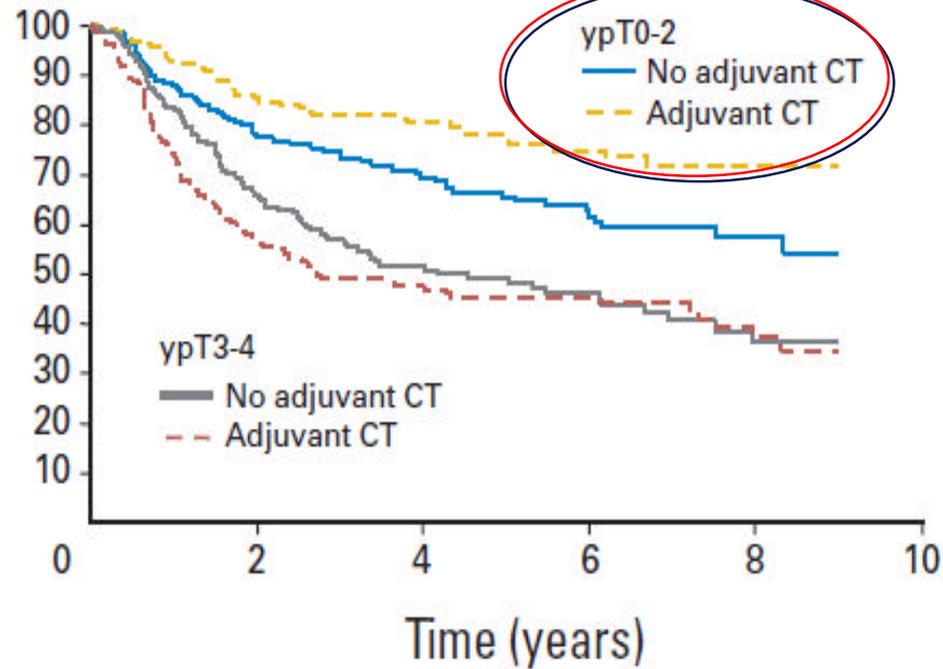
RANDOMIZE (n= 1011, 1993-2003)



Overall survival @ 5 yrs.

Bosset et al., NEJM 2006

# EORTC trial: Stage dependent DFS by adjuvant chemotherapy



ypT0-2	O	N	No. of patients at risk			
No adjuvant CT	77	225	157	101	57	22
Adjuvant CT	45	196	150	111	59	16
ypT3-4						
No adjuvant CT	92	176	107	63	42	15
Adjuvant CT	100	183	94	62	42	17

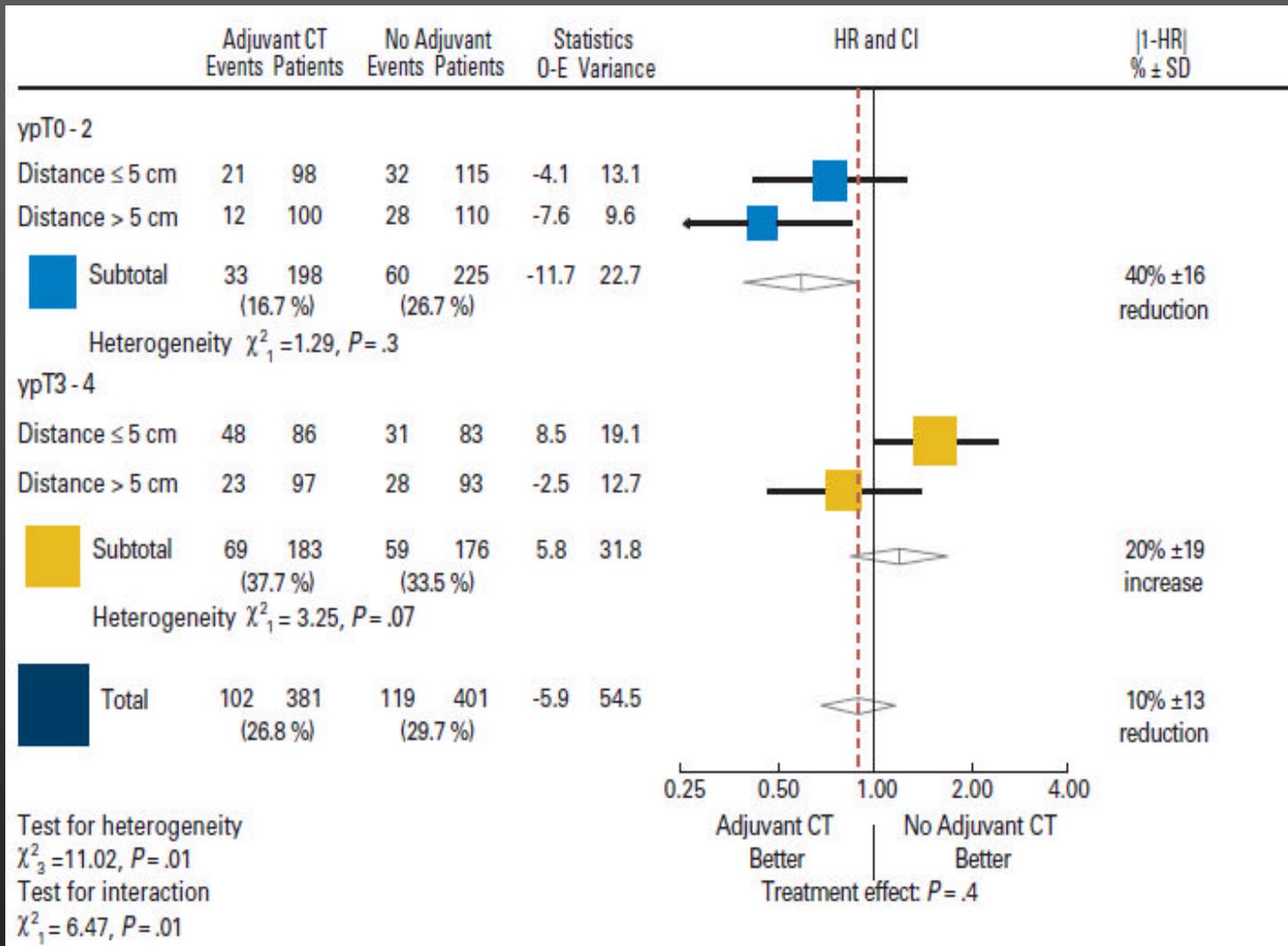
# Univariate analysis: Benefit from chemotherapy: Histopathology

Histopathology											
Tumor length, mm											
≤ 30	244	60.5	238	62.3							
> 30	143	36.5	132	34.6	.474	0.85	0.53 to 1.34	.780	0.92	0.53 to 1.60	
Missing	16	4.0	12	3.1							
WHO differentiation											
Well	174	43.2	153	40.1							
Poor/moderate	213	52.9	205	53.7	.419	0.83	0.52 to 1.31	.778	0.92	0.53 to 1.60	
Missing	16	4.0	24	6.3							
Histology											
Mucinous	23	5.7	18	4.7		Not tested			Not tested		
Other	380	94.3	363	95.0							
Missing	0	0.0	1	0.3							
Pathologic tumor stage											
ypT0-2	225	55.8	198	51.8							
ypT3-4	176	43.7	183	47.9	.008	1.87	1.18 to 2.98	.024	1.89	1.09 to 3.27	
Missing	2	0.5	1	0.3							
No. of examined lymph nodes											
< 8	188	46.7	167	43.7							
≥ 8	206	51.1	207	54.2	.714	0.92	0.59 to 1.44	.896	0.96	0.56 to 1.66	
Missing	9	2.2	8	2.1							
Pathologic nodal status											
ypN0	278	69.0	281	73.6							
ypN+	119	29.5	97	25.4	.818	1.06	0.67 to 1.66	.903	1.04	0.59 to 1.80	
Missing	6	1.5	4	1.0							
Venous, perineural, or lymphatic invasion											
No	310	76.9	294	77.0	.568	1.15	0.71 to 1.88	.423	1.28	0.70 to 2.32	
Yes	82	20.3	80	20.9							
Missing	11	2.7	8	2.1							

## Other factors: also no difference in benefit

Patient and disease characteristics at study entry										
Age, years										
Median		62.5		63.2						
Range		23.3-79.6		22.0-78.6						
≤ 60	175	43.4	161	42.1						
> 60	228	56.6	221	57.9	.983	1.01	0.64 to 1.58	.969	1.00	0.58 to 1.72
Sex										
Male	295	73.2	285	74.6						
Female	108	26.8	97	25.4	.588	1.16	0.68 to 1.97	.965	1.01	0.52 to 1.98
Distance between tumor and anal verge, cm										
0-5	198	49.1	185	48.4						
> 5	205	50.9	197	51.6	.202	0.75	0.48 to 1.17	.026	0.54	0.31 to 0.93
Clinical T category <sup>3</sup>										
T3	368	91.3	345	90.3						
T4	35	8.7	37	9.7	.757	0.90	0.44 to 1.81	.962	1.02	0.48 to 2.18
Preoperative treatment										
RT	199	49.4	190	49.7						
RT-CT	204	50.6	192	50.3	.763*	1.07	0.69 to 1.67	.482*	1.21	0.71 to 2.06
Worst WHO grade toxicity during preoperative treatment										
0-1	212	52.6	197	51.6						
≥ 2	178	44.2	176	46.1	.764	0.93	0.59 to 1.47	.879	0.96	0.56 to 1.67
Missing	13	3.2	9	2.4						
Surgery										
WHO performance status prior to surgery										
0	294	73.0	242	63.4						
> 0	101	25.1	123	32.2	.984	1.01	0.62 to 1.63	.398	0.78	0.43 to 1.39
Missing	8	2.0	17	4.5						
Time from end of the preoperative treatment to surgery, weeks										
≤ 6	271	67.2	262	68.6						
> 6	132	32.8	120	31.4	.398	0.81	0.50 to 1.32	.283	0.72	0.39 to 1.31
Surgical procedure										
APR	163	40.4	149	39.0						
AR or other	240	59.6	233	61.0	.146	0.72	0.46 to 1.12	.023	0.54	0.32 to 0.92

# EORTC trial: Effect of adjuvant chemotherapy on overall survival



- **“Good prognosis” patients may be retrospectively identified as being those who achieved down-staging by pre-operative treatment**
- **ypT0-2 (“good prognosis”) patients significantly benefit from post-operative chemotherapy**
- **Patients with no down-staging (“poor prognosis”) did not benefit of adjuvant CT**
- **Should these pts. be excluded from chemotherapy ?**
- **- or should these pts. receive more active chemotherapy ?**

## Adjuvant chemotherapy: Open questions

Should patients with no downstaging be *excluded* from chemotherapy?

- or should these patients receive *more active* therapy?

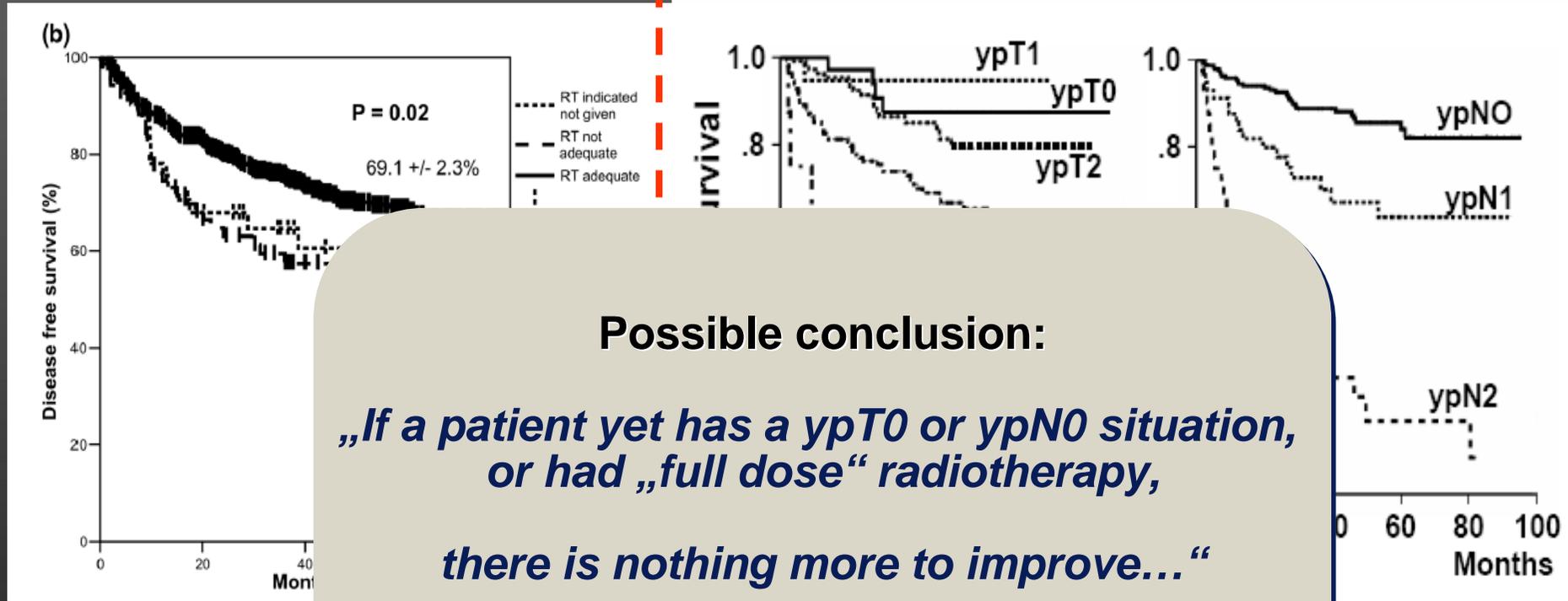
What could be regarded as a *standard* in stage II/III rectal cancer after preOP Rtx.?

Is rectal cancer *different from colon cancer*?

## **New questions**

- **Do all patients need postoperative chemotherapy?**
- **Do they need „5-FU-only“ chemotherapy**
- **or more intensive regimen ?**

# If adjuvant chemotherapy: Are all patients in need of it?



Possible conclusion:

*„If a patient yet has a ypT0 or ypN0 situation,  
or had „full dose“ radiotherapy,  
there is nothing more to improve...“*

But: most of these patients  
had chemotherapy !

RT Inter

Fietkau et al  
Int J Radiol  
2006

## Rectal Cancer different from Colon Cancer?

- **specific anatomical location:**
- yes, but only a risk for local relapse, not for survival
- **metastatic behavior different:**
- no data demonstrating real difference
- **different sensitivity to chemotherapy:**
- rectal vs colon primary tumor: no sign. difference
- **different biology/gene signature:**
- probably, but not related to clinical behavior,
- chemosensitivity etc.

# Which treatment should be administered?

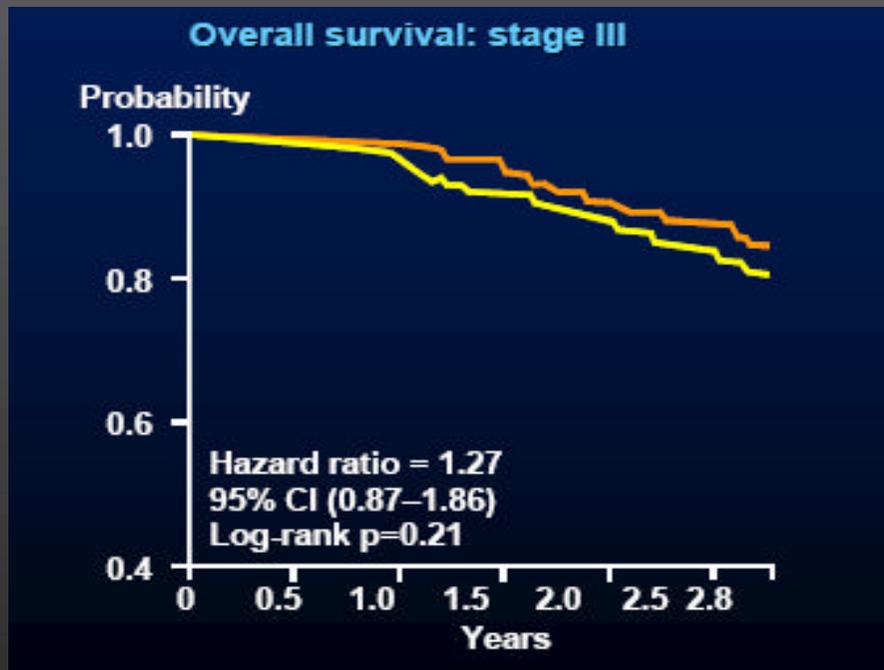
## 5-FU

bolus FU/(FA): Standard in post-OP trials

Positive trials: EORTC (trend), Quasar, Japan (with UFT)

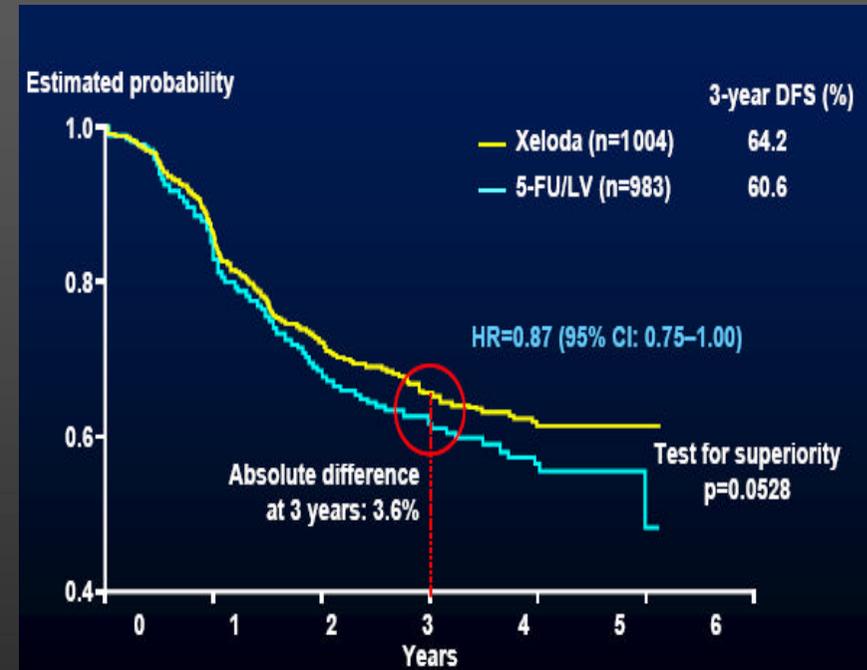
Capecitabine may be substitute (-> colon cancer experience)

# No Bolus 5-FU in adjuvant therapy of stage III colon cancer anymore



**5FU inf / FA**

André et al., J Clin Oncol 2003



**Capecitabine**

Twelves et al., NEJM 2005

# Which treatment should be administered?

## 5-FU

bolus FU/(FA): Standard in post-OP trials

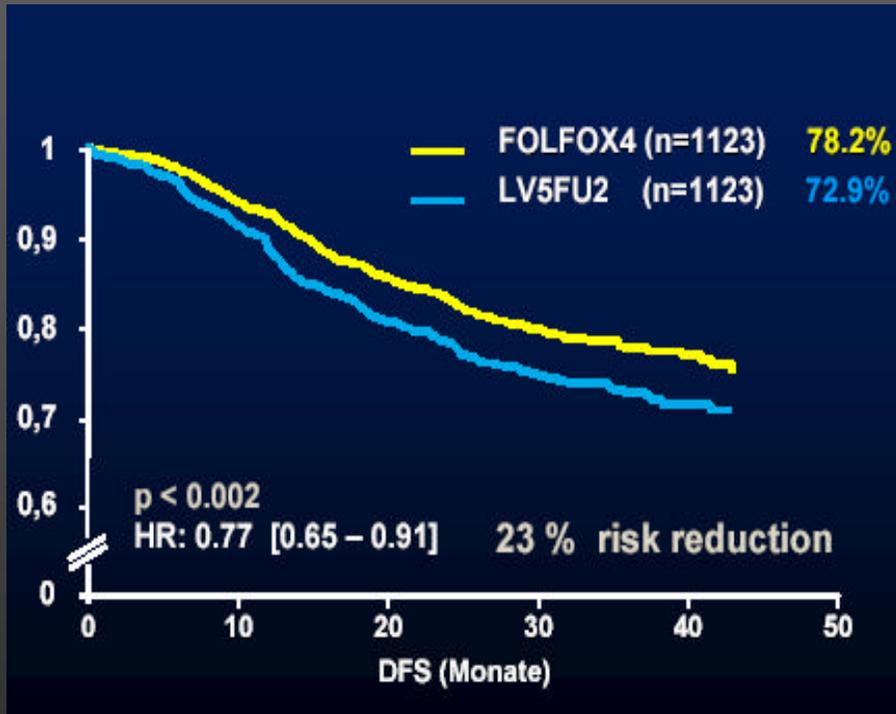
Positive trials: EORTC (trend), Quasar, Japan (with UFT)

Capecitabine may be substitute (-> colon cancer exp.)

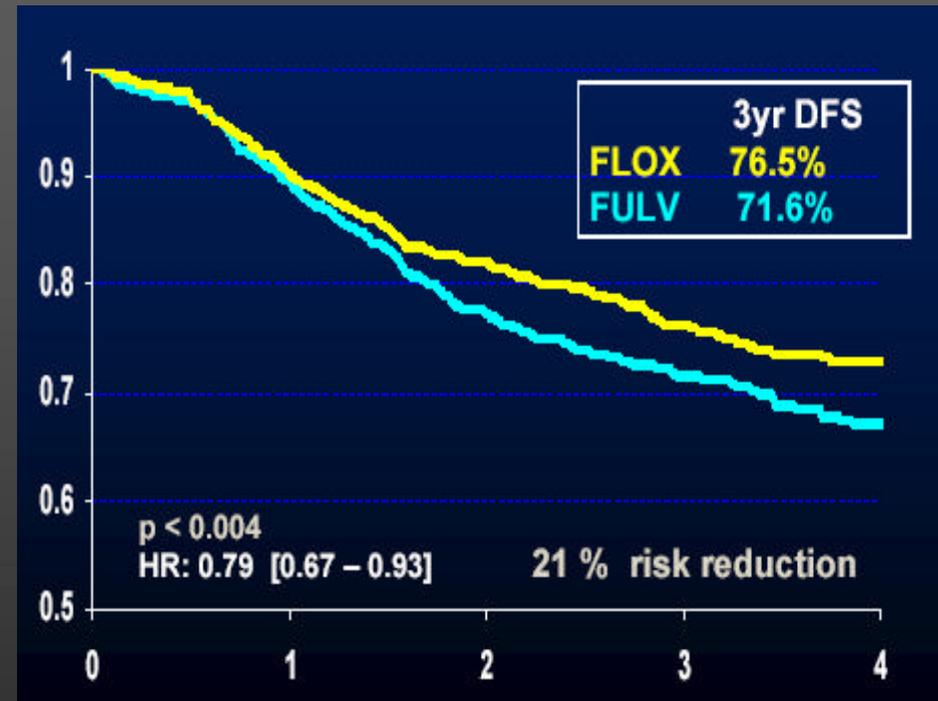
## 5-FU/ Oxaliplatin

Standard in colon cancer stage III/(II)

# Colon cancer stage II/III: Oxaliplatin combinations > FU/FA



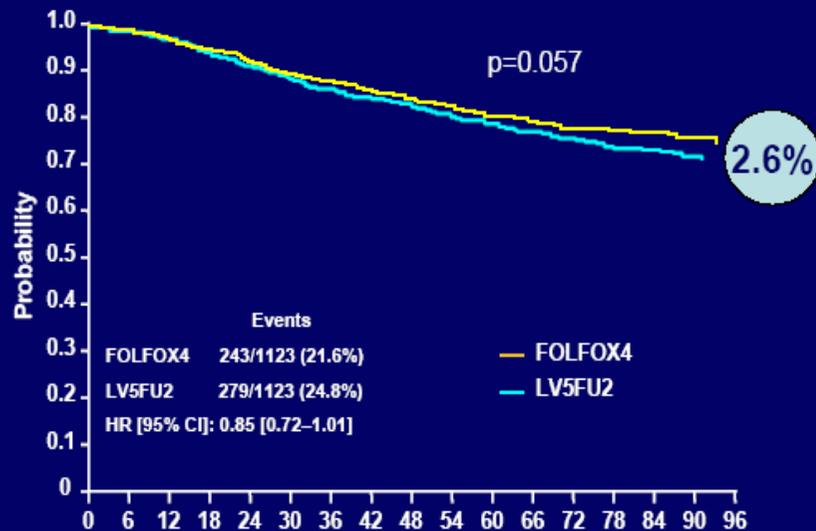
**MOSAIC**



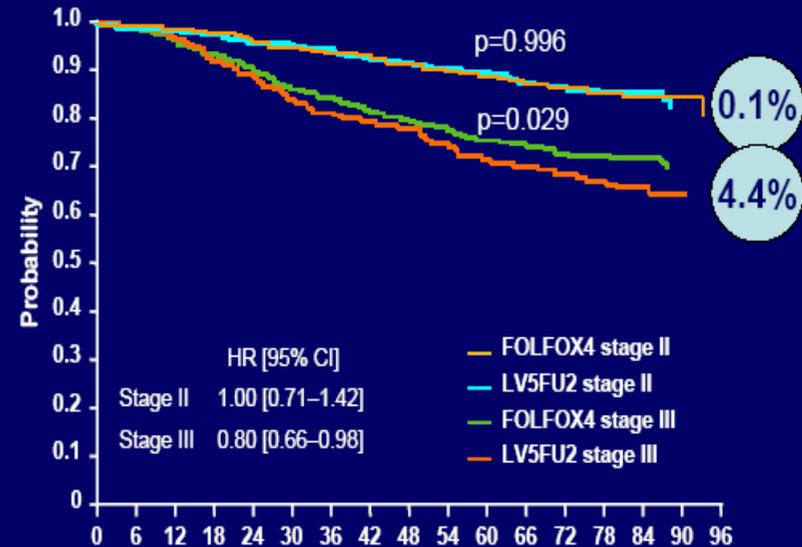
**NSABP C07**

# Recent Overall Survival Data: Supporting Oxaliplatin Combinations

## Overall Survival: ITT



## Overall Survival: Stage II and Stage III



# Which treatment should be administered?

## 5-FU

bolus FU/(FA): Standard in post-OP trials

Positive trials: EORTC (trend), Quasar, Japan (with UFT)

Capecitabine may be substitute (-> colon cancer exp.)

## 5-FU/ Oxaliplatin

Standard in colon cancer stage III/(II)

## Capecitabine / Oxaliplatin

well tolerated, effective

experience in colon (XELOX) and rectum (CORE, German)

## Grade 3/4 AEs: XELOX vs bolus 5-FU/LV (total, Mayo and RP regimens)

% of patients with  
grade 3/4 AE\*

Diarrhoea

Stomatitis

Nausea

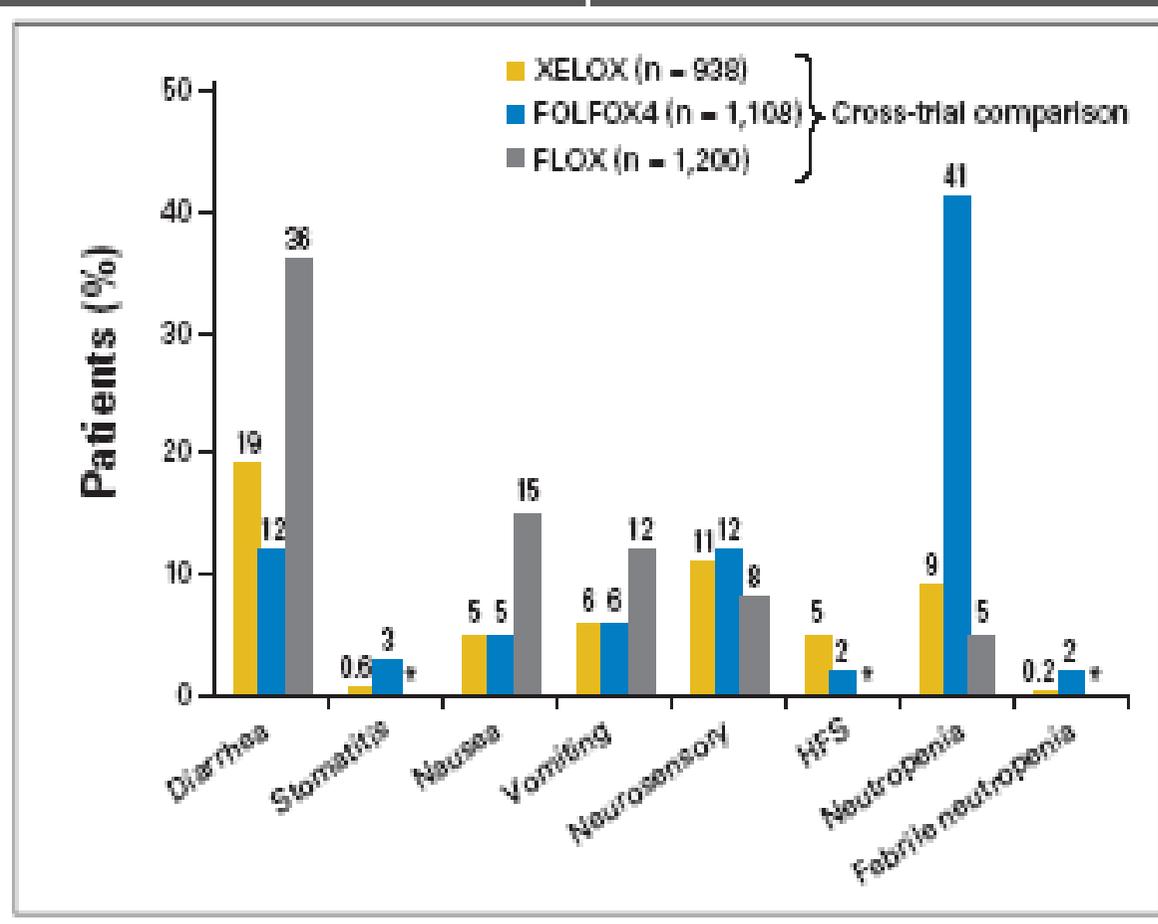
Vomiting

Neurosensory\*\*

Hand-foot syndrome

Neutropenia

Febrile neutropenia



## Pre- and post-OP chemotherapy withXELOX

- AIO/ARO/CAO trial (n=110, J Clin Oncol 2007)
- CORE trial (n= 93, ASCO 2006)
  - Post-operative combination with capecitabine and oxaliplatin is feasible
  - No increased perioperative complications when started after 4 weeks postoperatively or later

## XELOX pre- and postoperatively in rectal cancer: Phase II trial

	preOP chemorad		postOP adjuvant	
	Grade 1,2	Grade 3,4	Grade 1,2	Grade 3,4
Leukopenia	50	4	67	1
Diarrhea	55	12	33	12
Nausea	48	6	67	7
Stomatitis	7	1	7	0
Hand-Foot-syndrome	8	1	34	1
Infection	6	3	7	2

# Which treatment should be administered?

## 5-FU

bolus FU/(FA): Standard in post-OP trials

Positive trials: EORTC (trend), Quasar, Japan (with UFT)

Capecitabine may be substitute (-> colon cancer exp.)

## 5-FU/ Oxaliplatin

Standard in colon cancer stage III/(II)

## Capecitabine / Oxaliplatin

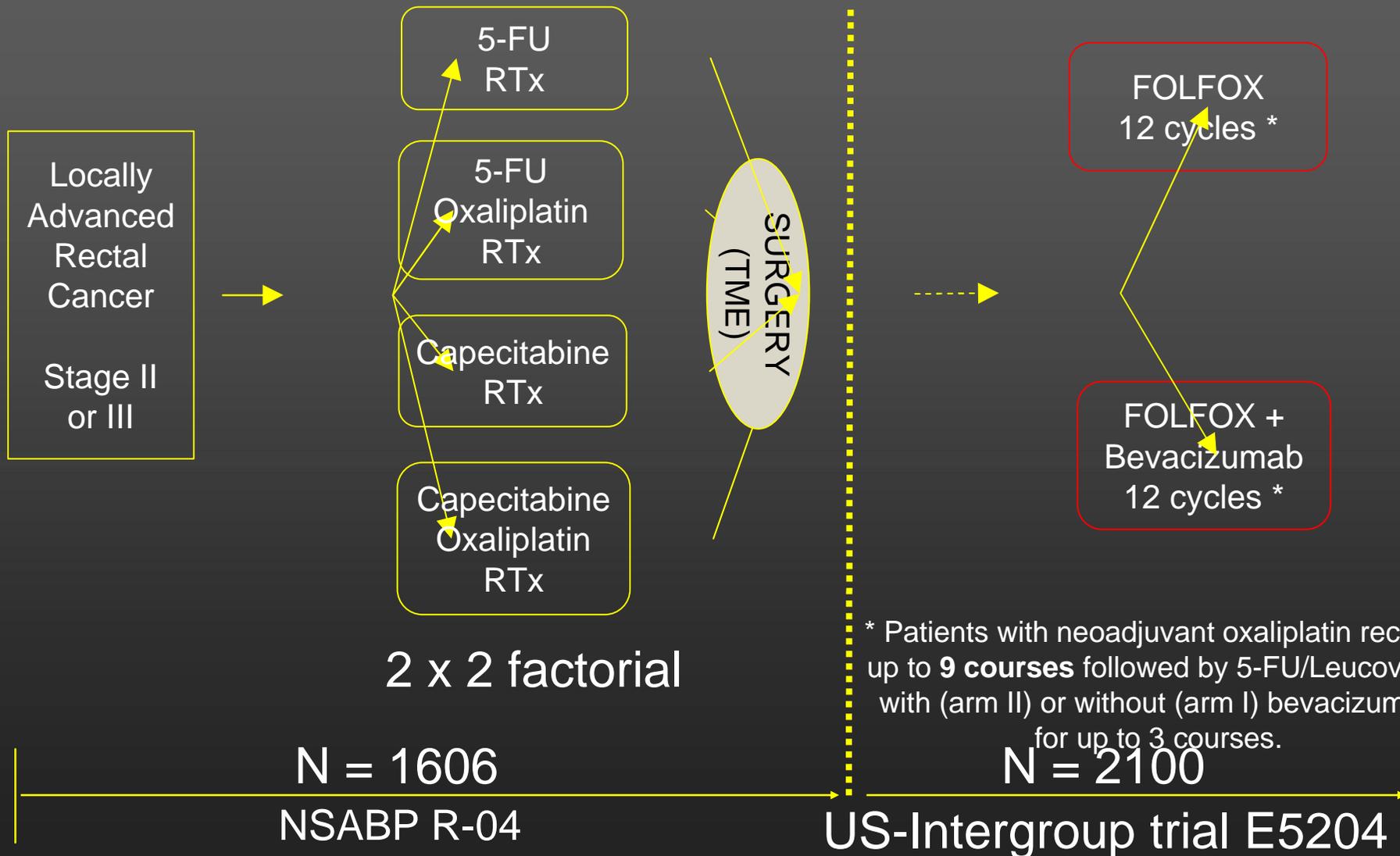
well tolerated, effective

experience in colon (XELOX) and rectum (CORE, German)

## „Targeted drug“ combinations

FOLFOX or XELOX with bevacizumab or cetuximab feasible

# NSABP US-Intergroup Trial - Rectal Cancer



# More data in favour of chemotherapy!

## 5-FU

bolus FU/(FA): Standard in post-OP trials

Positive trials: Quasar, Japan (with UFT), EORTC (subgr.)

Capecitabine may be substitute (-> colon cancer exp.)

## 5-FU/ Oxaliplatin

Standard in colon cancer stage III/(II)

## Capecitabine / Oxaliplatin

well tolerated, effective

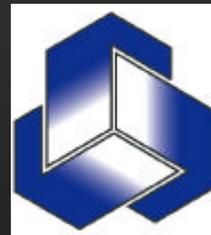
experience in colon (XELOX) and rectum (CORE, German)

## „Targeted drug“ combinations

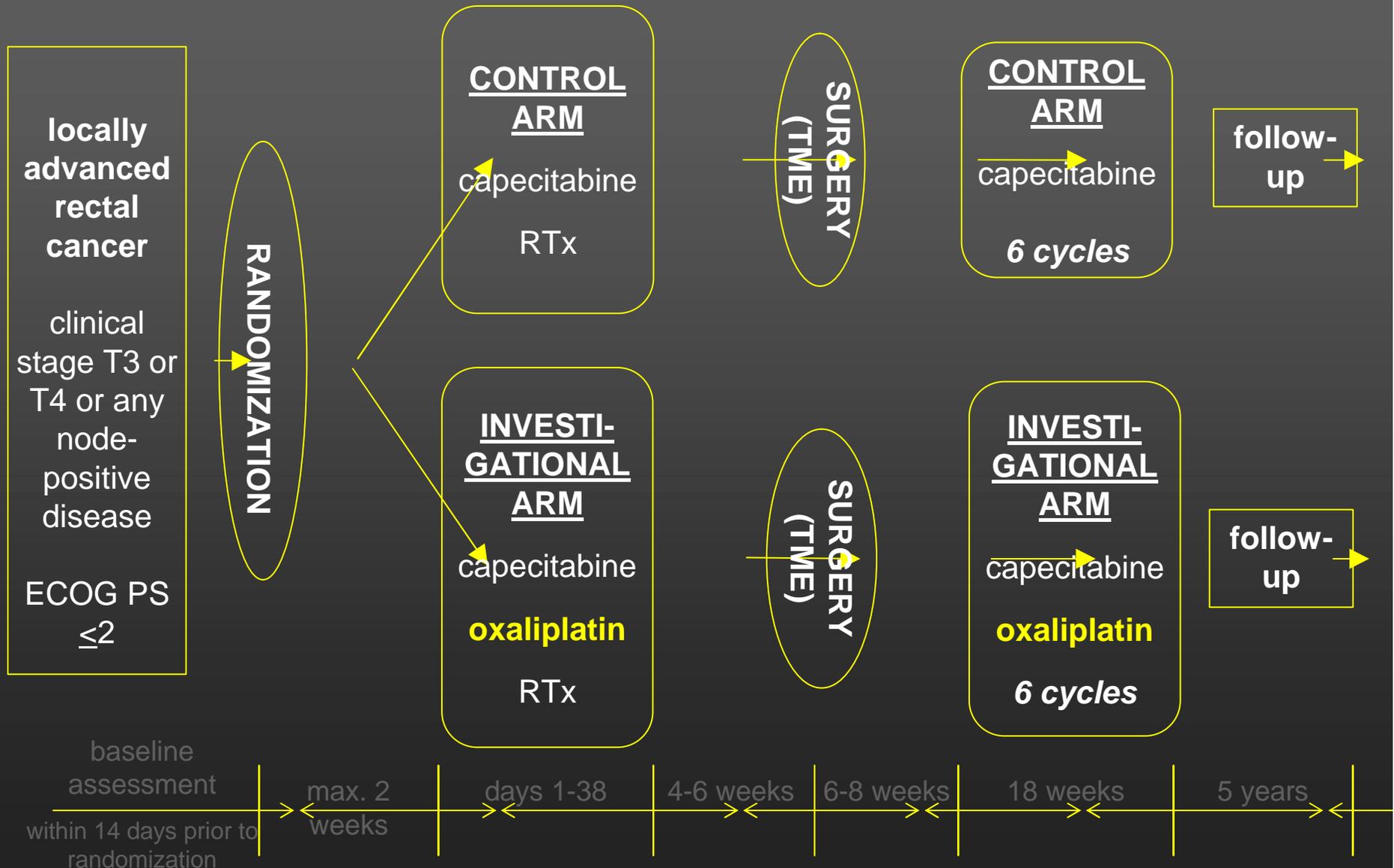
FOLFOX or XELOX with bevacizumab or cetuximab feasible

# PETACC-6 EORTC 40054-22062

Preoperative chemoradiotherapy and postoperative  
chemotherapy  
with capecitabine and oxaliplatin  
vs. capecitabine alone  
in locally advanced rectal cancer



# Treatment Arms in PETACC-6



# Endpoints

## Primary:

Disease-free survival (+7% at 3 years), defined as the interval from randomization to loco-regional failure, metastatic recurrence, the appearance of a secondary colorectal cancer or death, whichever occurs first. Loco-regional failure is defined as local or regional recurrence, inoperable disease, R1 or R2 resection.

## Secondary:

Overall survival

Pathological downstaging (ypT0-T2N0) rate

Pathological complete remission rate

Histopathological R0 resection rate

Tumor regression grading

Sphincter preservation rate

Perioperative surgical complication rate

Toxicity

Loco-regional failure rate

# German Multicenter Phase-II Study



Oxaliplatin: 50 mg/m<sup>2</sup>

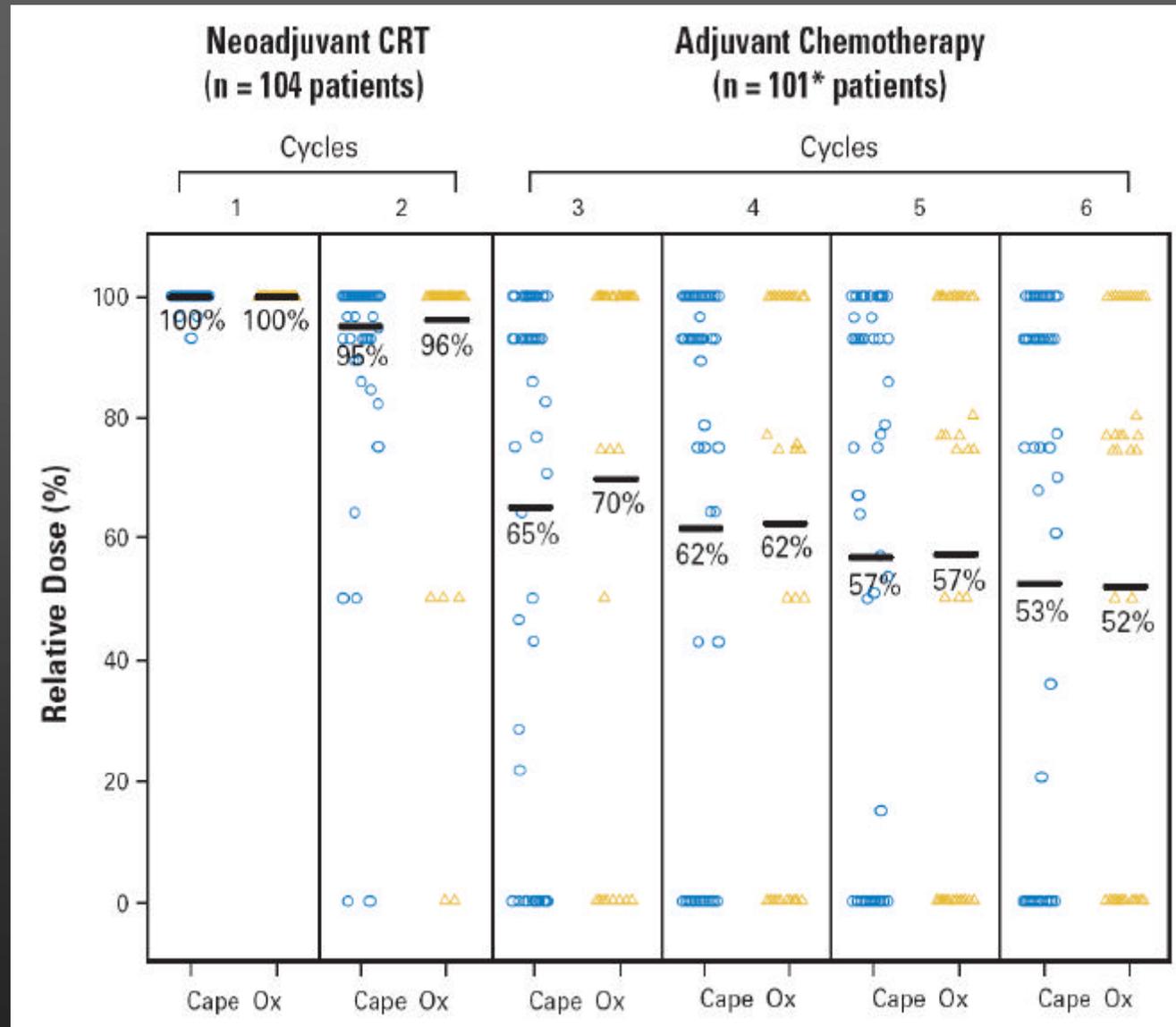
Capecitabine: 1650 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d

RT: 1.8 Gy to 50.4 Gy

Oxaliplatin: 130 mg/m<sup>2</sup>

Capecitabine: 2000  
mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d

# Mean relative dose-intensities



## Main eligibility criteria

- Histologically proven adenocarcinoma of the rectum
  - (tumour = 12 cm from the anal verge)
- cT3/4 or N+
- No evidence of metastatic disease
- No prior radiotherapy to the pelvis, for any reason
- The disease must be considered either resectable at the time of entry or thought to become resectable after preoperative chemoradiation
- ECOG Performance Status = 2
- No peripheral neuropathy = grade 2

## Organisation

- Sponsor/Database: EORTC
- Leading group is the EORTC GI Group
- Investigator fee of approximately 500€ per patient
- Capecitabine and oxaliplatin will be supplied free of charge
- Telephone Monitoring

# Evolution of rectal cancer approaches

1990's

OP

XRT

5FU

late 90's

XRT  
5x5 / 50

OP

2004/05

XRT  
5FU

OP

5FU

2005

XRT  
5FU(Cape)/ Ox (Iri)  
(+/- targeted)

OP

5FU(Cape) 5FU/ Ox (+/- beva)

>2006

XRT  
5FU (Cape)/ Ox (Iri) + biol.

OP

5FU(Cape)/ Ox + biol.

# Preoperative Regimens

	Control arm	Investigational arm
Capecitabine	825 mg/m <sup>2</sup> PO BID on days 1-33 w/o weekends	825 mg/m <sup>2</sup> PO BID on days 1-33 w/o weekends
Oxaliplatin		50 mg/m <sup>2</sup> IV on days 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
Radiation	45 Gy, 1.8 Gy on days 1-33 w/o weekends  <b>Optional:</b> 5.4 Gy day 36-38 with capecitabine 825 mg/m <sup>2</sup> PO BID *	45 Gy, 1.8 Gy on days 1-33 w/o weekends  <b>Optional:</b> 5.4 Gy day 36-38 with capecitabine 825 mg/m <sup>2</sup> PO BID *

\* Centres have to choose one option and adopt it for both arms for the entire study.

# Postoperative Regimens

Control arm	Investigational arm
<p><b>6 cycles of:</b></p> <p><b>Capecitabine</b> 1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> PO BID on days 1 to 14</p>	<p><b>6 cycles of:</b></p> <p><b>Capecitabine</b> 1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> PO BID on days 1 to 14</p> <p><b>Oxaliplatin</b> 130 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on day 1</p>
<p><i>Start next cycle on day 22 !</i></p>	<p><i>Start next cycle on day 22 !</i></p>

## **Translational Research**

- **GENEPI-2 – participation as a trial with a central storage of blood and tissue**
- **Pharmacogenomics studies related to capecitabine, or oxaliplatin.**
- **Immunohistochemical expression relevant biological markers in tumour tissue and gene expression arrays**
- **Proteomic analyses**
- **Blood/Tissue collection for further research.**

## Organisation

- **Sponsor/Database: EORTC**
- **Leading group is the EORTC GI Group**
- **Investigator fee of 458€ per patient**
- **Capecitabine and oxaliplatin will be supplied free of charge**

# Potential interests

Country / group	annual pts.
Australia	50-100
Austria	70
Belgium	80-100
Canada	100
Egypt	30-50
France FFCD/GERCOR	100-200?
Germany	1037-1220
Hungary	30-50
Israel	35
Italy	10

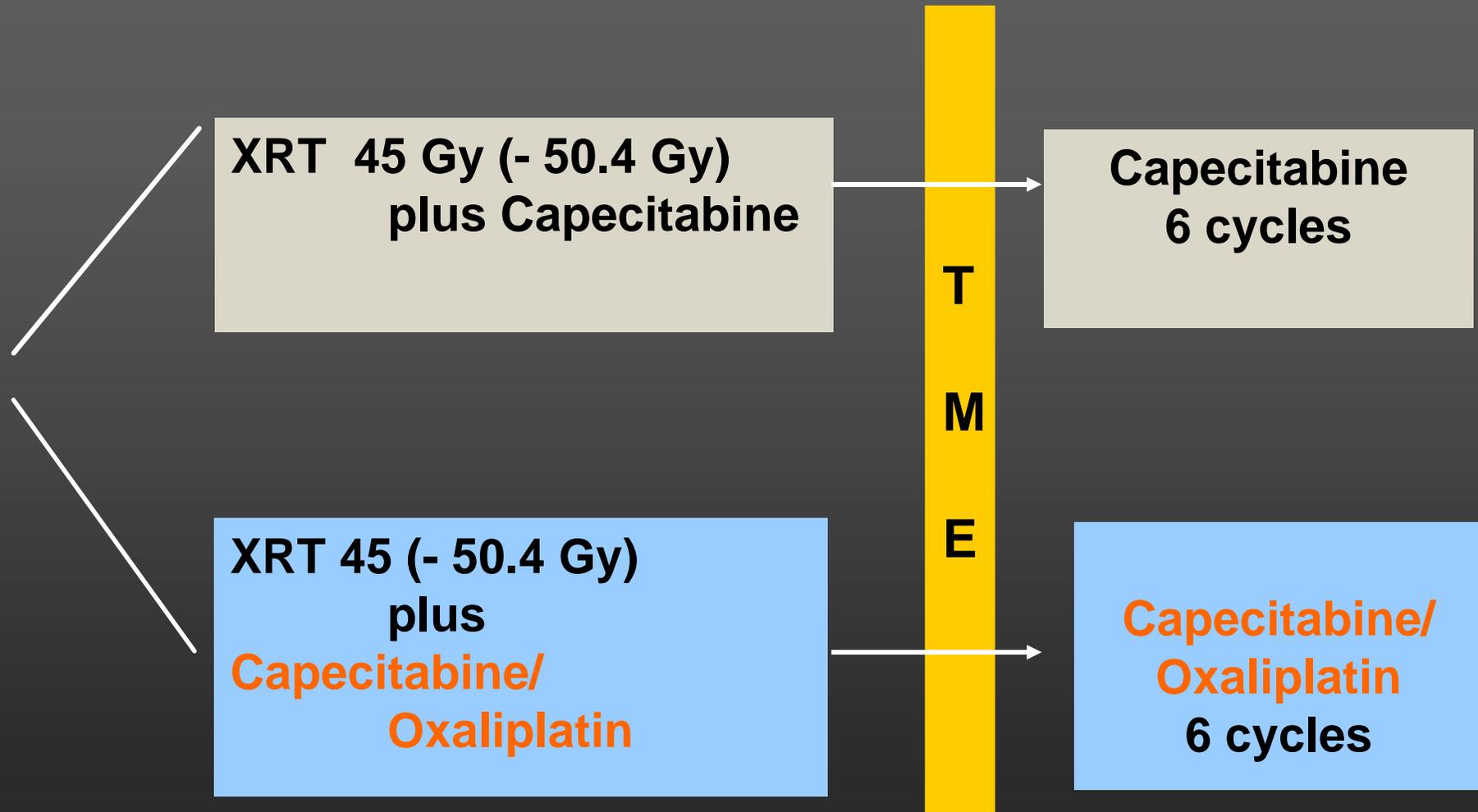
Country / group	annual pts.
Netherlands	<20?
Poland	50-100
Serbia and Montenegro	60
Slovenia	15
Sweden	30-50
Switzerland	17
Turkey	8
UK	150-200
<b>total</b>	<b>1872-2285</b>
<b>EORTC GI (overlapping)</b>	<b>368</b>

# Study Coordinators

---

- Chemotherapy: Hans-Joachim Schmoll  
(Chair Steering Committee)
- Radiotherapy: Karin Haustermans
- Surgery: Christophe Penna

# PETACC-6 trial: T3,4 or N+ (N=1120)



Endpoint: Disease free survival after 3 years (6%)

# Possible role of chemotherapy in rectal cancer

In addition to perioperative radiotherapy:

enhance efficacy of radiation

↳ improve **local** control

enable resection and sphincter preservation

Adjuvant systemic therapy - after perioperative (chemo)radiation

eradicate micrometastasis

↳ reduce rate of distant relapse

Before perioperative chemoradiation

reduce local tumor size **and** eradicate micrometastases

# Neoadjuvant chemotherapy as first modality

## Spanish trial

FOLFOX

RT: UFT/FA

OP

## Chau, Cunningham et al. (poor risk, JCO 2006)

XELOX

RT: FU

OP

XELOX

## UK trial

FOLFOX - Cetux

RT: FU - Cetux

OP

## US ACSOG

CapOx

RT: CapOx

OP

CapOx

RT: CapOx

OP

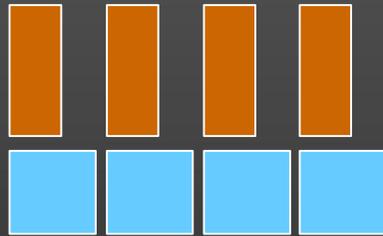


# Neoadjuvant XELOX followed by Chemoradiation in MRI-defined Poor-Risk Rectal Cancer

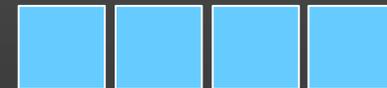
Poor Risk: = 5mm into perirectal fat  
or = 1mm to mesorectal  
fascia

T3 at or below levators  
T1-4N2

Oxaliplatin



xeloda



n=77

CR+PR:  
88%

CR+PR:  
97%

pCR:  
24%