



ATLANTA  
**LUNG CANCER SYMPOSIUM**

**Debate**

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Postgraduate Institute  
for Medicine





— ATLANTA —  
LUNG CANCER SYMPOSIUM

# Targeted therapy should not be used for unresectable stage III NSCLC



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# Disclosures

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## Advisory Board / Consultant:

*Abbvie, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Catalyst, Daiichi Sankyo, Eisai, Elevation Oncology, Genentech/Roche, Gilead, Guardant Health, Janssen, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Merck, Merus, Mirati, Novartis, Regeneron, Sanofi, Takeda, Turning Point Therapeutics*

## Research grant (to institution):

*Abbvie, Alkermes, Arcus, AstraZeneca, Elevation Oncology, Ellipses, Genentech, Gilead, Merck, Merus, Nuvalent, RAPT, Turning Point Therapeutics*

## Data Safety Monitoring Board:

*Candel Therapeutics*

# Disclosures



**Summary**

- Early diagnosis of lung cancer correlates with better prognosis; machine learning and AI tools are being developed to identify high-risk patients and improve screening.<sup>1,2,3</sup>
- Biomarker testing is a key stage in the patient journey and helps inform treatment decisions; it should be performed before initiation of systemic therapy in early-stage NSCLC.<sup>4-6</sup>
- Advanced disease: guidelines recommend screening for multiple biomarkers. blood-based NGS is a good option in this setting.<sup>7</sup>
  - > Early-stage disease: recommended testing for PD-L1, EGFR and ALK, using tissue-based testing<sup>8</sup>
- Blood-based NGS is more optimal in advanced disease as tumour DNA shedding is lower in early-stage disease, and may be below the detection limit of liquid assays.<sup>9</sup>



IASLC MEETING  
**FEB 21 - FEB 24 2024**  
 IASLC 2024 Targeted Therapies of Lung Cancer





# Unresectable Stage III NSCLC

More than 1 in 5 patients present with regional disease

*Surgery for resectable stage III (with perioperative therapy)*

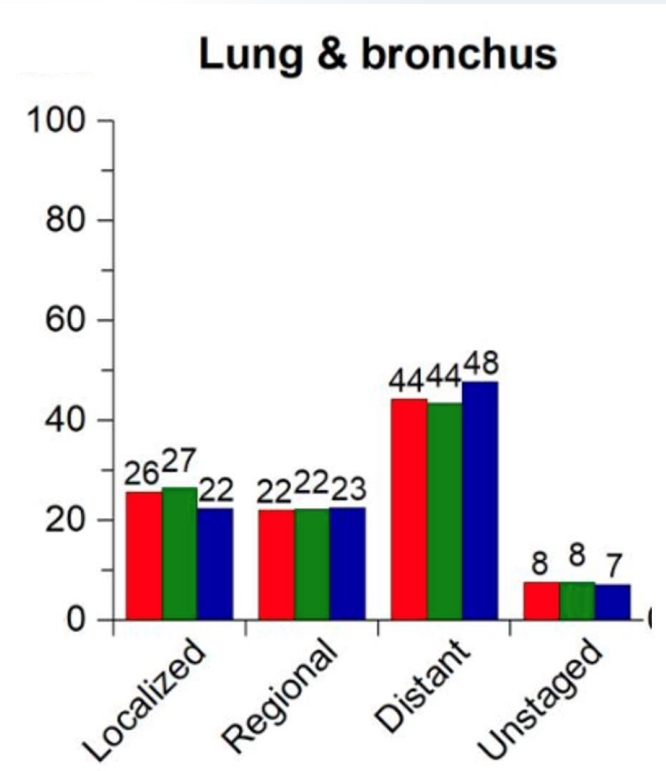
*Chemoradiation for unresectable stage III*

We pursue definitive therapy when possible

*Surgery if resectable despite higher relapse*

*Chemoradiation despite notable toxicity*

Why? Because we can cure stage III NSCLC.



Siegel, CA Cancer J Clin 2023



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# Chemoradiation for Stage III NSCLC

RTOG 0617: randomized phase III study

*Standard-dose versus high-dose chemoradiotherapy with or without cetuximab*

Explored intensification of therapy

*60 Gy or 74 Gy given 5 days a week in 2 Gy fractions*

*30 treatments in 6 weeks versus 37 treatments in 7+ weeks*

*Chemotherapy weekly with or without cetuximab*

Significant toxicities

*High grade toxicity in > 70%*

**Long-Term Results of NRG Oncology RTOG 0617:  
Standard- Versus High-Dose Chemoradiotherapy  
With or Without Cetuximab for Unresectable  
Stage III Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer**

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**TABLE 2.** Maximum Treatment-Related Adverse Events by Arm

Adverse Event	Arm, No. (%)			
	A: 60 Gy (n = 152)	B: 74 Gy (n = 107)	C: 60 Gy + Cetuximab (n = 137)	D: 74 Gy + Cetuximab (n = 100)
No grade $\geq$ 3 toxicity	42 (27.6)	32 (29.9)	20 (14.6)	10 (10.0)
Grade $\geq$ 3 toxicity	110 (72.4)	75 (70.1)	117 (85.4)	90 (90.0)
P*	.0002			

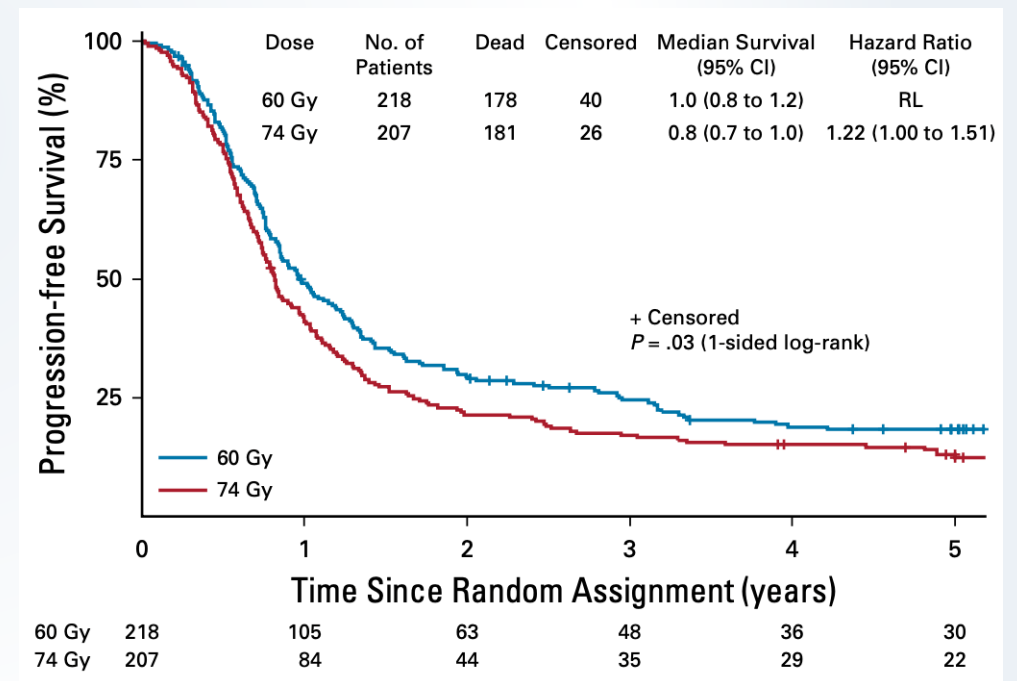
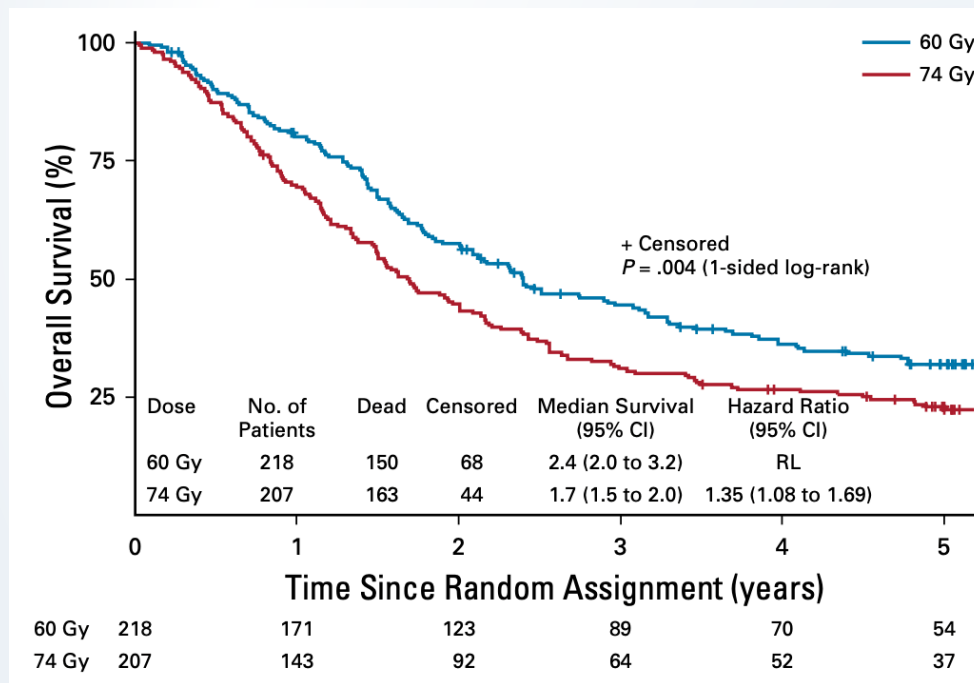
Bradley, JCO 2020

# Chemoradiation for Stage III NSCLC

## RTOG 0617: standard vs high-dose chemoradiation

*Toxicity balanced by efficacy and opportunity for **cure***

*In the standard arm, 5y survival rate 32.1%, 5y progression free rate 18.3%*



Bradley, JCO 2020



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## Chemoradiation for Stage III NSCLC

Some patients with unresectable stage III NSCLC are cured with chemoradiation.

*Bradley, JCO 2020*

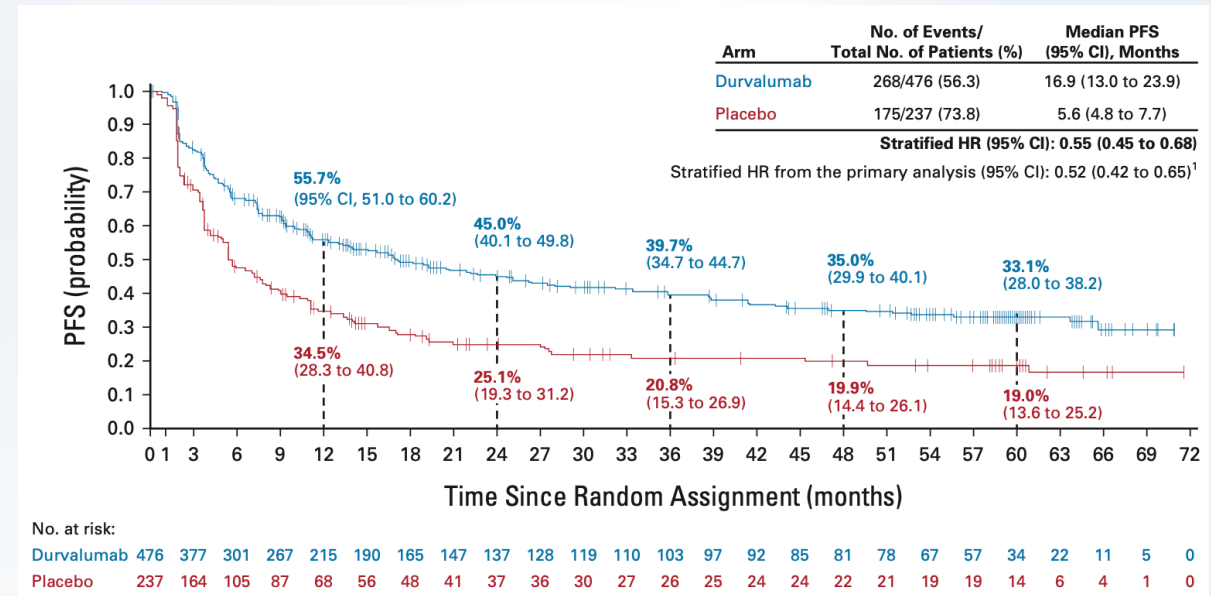
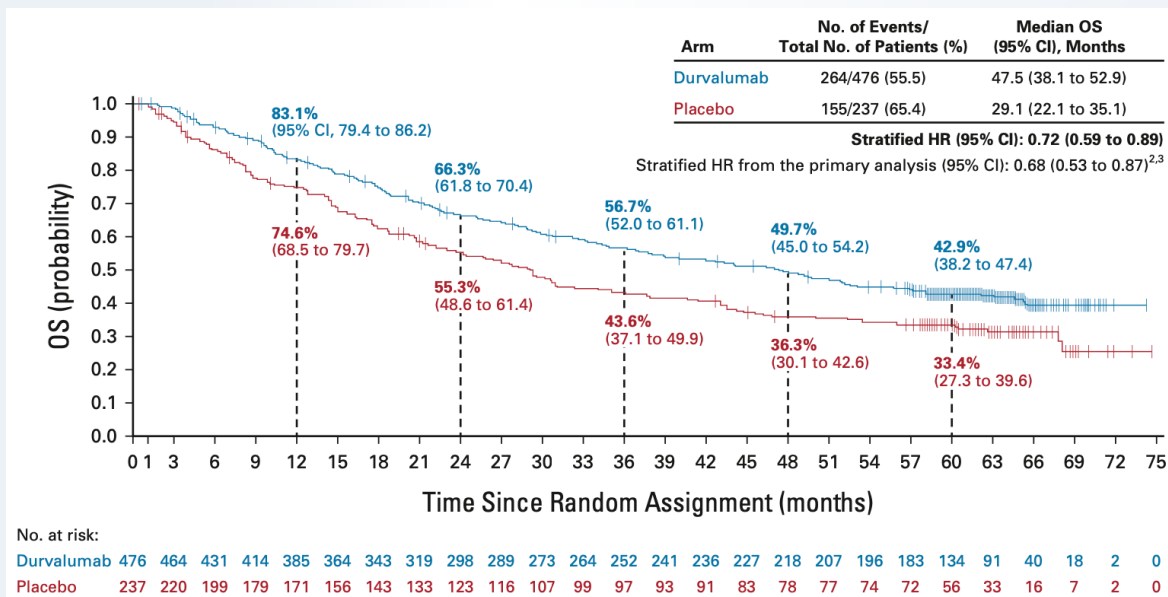


# PACIFIC: Immunotherapy Consolidation after Chemoradiation

## Durvalumab after chemoradiation improves survival

*With durvalumab, 43% alive, 33% progression free at 5 years*

*Even in the standard arm: 33% alive, 19% progression free at 5 years*



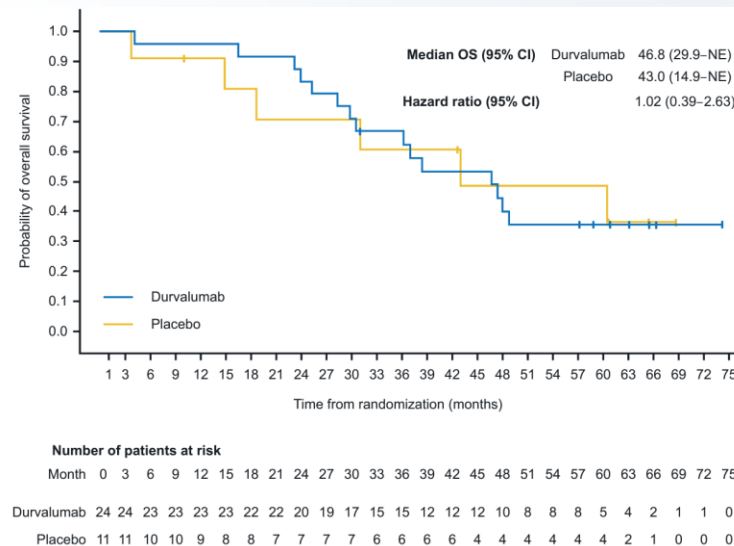
Spigel, JCO 2022

# PACIFIC: Immunotherapy Consolidation after Chemoradiation

## Durvalumab after chemoradiation improves survival

*But not all subsets derive the same benefit from consolidation immunotherapy  
EGFR / ALK positive with a wide confidence interval, not a clear benefit*

Group	No. of Events / No. of Patients (%)		Unstratified HR (95% CI)
	Durvalumab	Placebo	
All patients	264/476 (55.5)	155/237 (65.4)	0.72 (0.59 to 0.87)
<i>EGFR or ALK aberration status</i>			
Positive <sup>d</sup>	17/29 (58.6)	8/14 (57.1)	0.85 (0.37 to 1.97)
Negative	166/317 (52.4)	109/165 (66.1)	0.66 (0.52 to 0.84)
Unknown	81/130 (62.3)	38/58 (65.5)	0.85 (0.57 to 1.24)



There seems to be less benefit from consolidation immunotherapy in EGFR/ALK NSCLC

Spigel, JCO 2022; Naidoo, JTO 2023

# PACIFIC: Immunotherapy Consolidation after Chemoradiation

Unclear benefit with immunotherapy in EGFR mutant NSCLC

*Safety concern of giving immunotherapy followed by a need for targeted therapy*

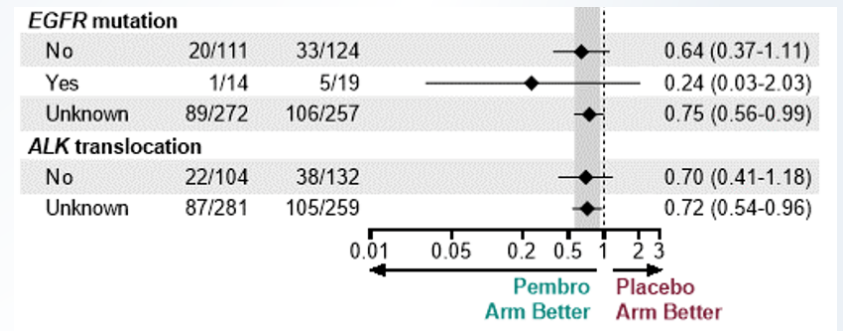
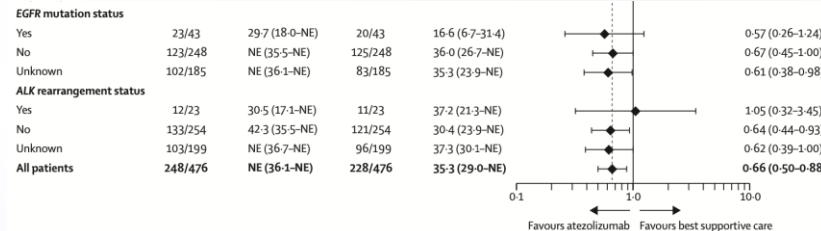
Understudied subset

*EGFR mutations uncommon in PACIFIC (of 713 randomized patients, 35 EGFR)*

Need to understand the impact of EGFR in early stage

*EGFR subset in IMpower 010 (adjuvant atezolizumab) did well*

*EGFR subset in KEYNOTE 671 (perioperative pembrolizumab) did well*



Naidoo, JTO 2023; Spicer, ESMO 2023; Felip, Lancet 2021

# Chemoradiation for Unresectable Stage III NSCLC

Chemoradiation is potentially curative for stage III NSCLC  
Consolidation immunotherapy needs further study in EGFR  
Targeted therapy now plays a role after surgery

*3 years of adjuvant osimertinib (ADAURA) improves DFS and OS*

*2 years of adjuvant alectinib (ALINA) improves DFS*

Should we use targeted therapy here?

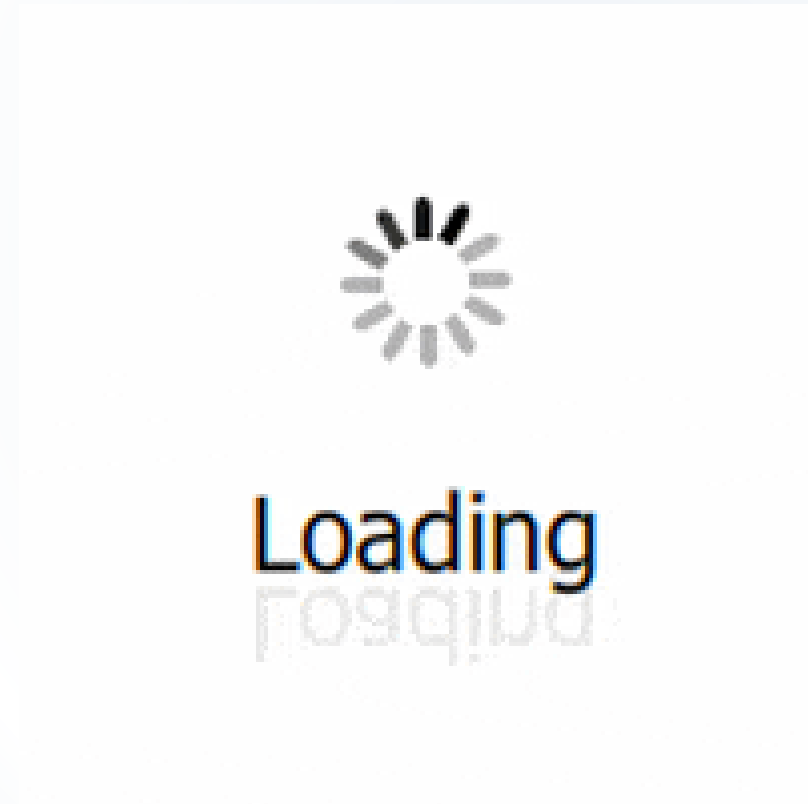
*Post-surgery, osimertinib (ADAURA) and alectinib (ALINA) improve DFS*

*Why not use targeted therapy post chemoradiation?*



# Targeted Therapy for Unresectable Stage III NSCLC? No!

Current data showing targeted therapy improves survival after chemoradiation for stage III NSCLC



# Targeted Therapy for Unresectable Stage III NSCLC? No!

## Follow the Data.

*Bradley, JCO 2020*



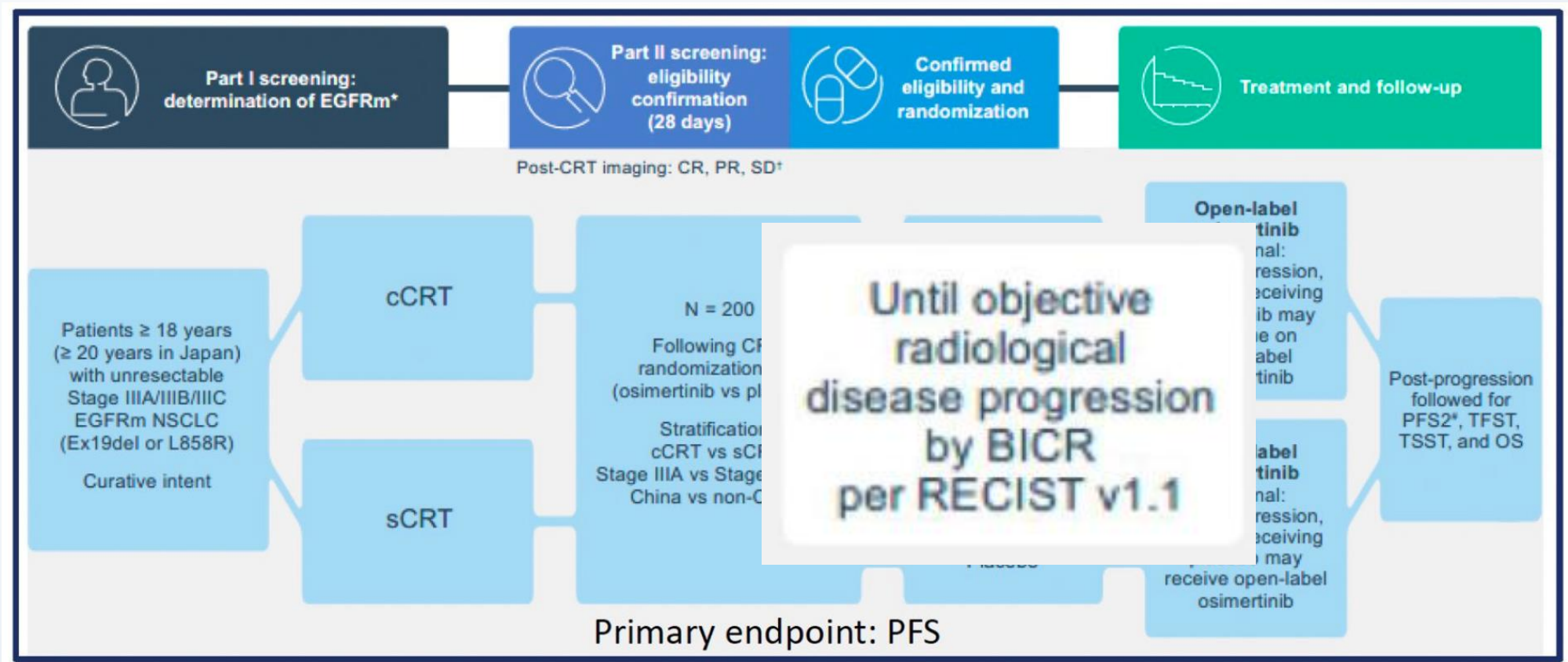
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# LAURA: Consolidation Osimertinib

## Post-chemoradiation for EGFR-mt NSCLC, role for osimertinib?

*Phase III registration trial, expecting results 2024*



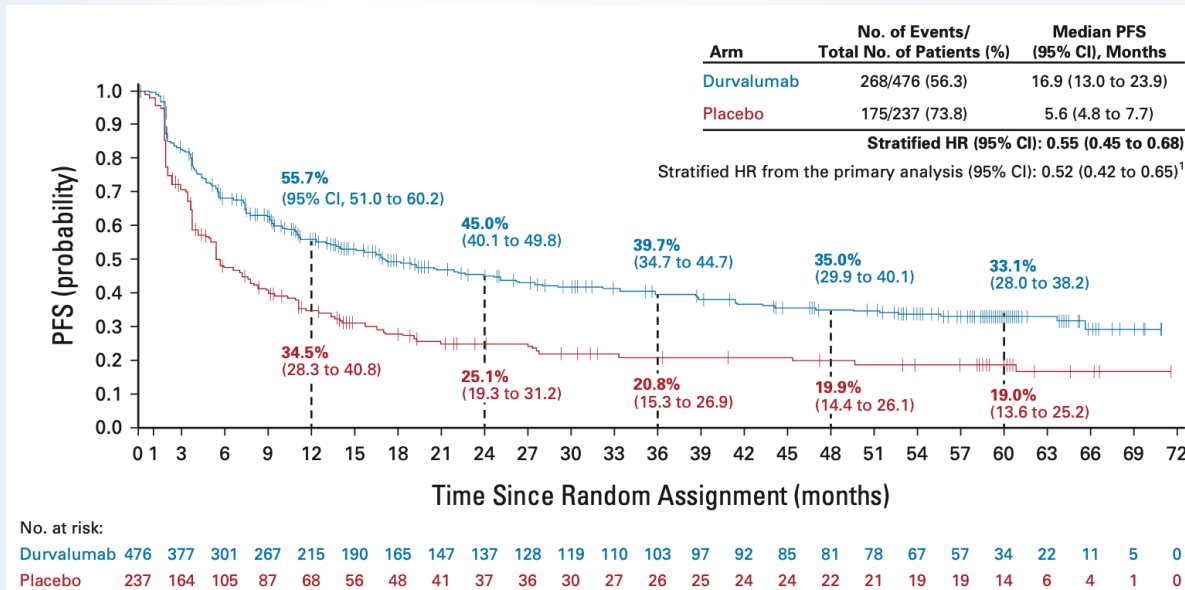
Lu, ESMO Asia 2020

# Targeted Therapy for Unresectable Stage III NSCLC? No!

## LAURA – osimertinib until progression

*Lifelong therapy* for patients, some already cured with chemoradiation

*5y progression free survival rate 19% with standard chemoradiation*



Spigel, JCO 2022



# Targeted Therapy for Unresectable Stage III NSCLC? No!

There are costs to overtreating  
our patients.

*Bradley, JCO 2020*



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# Targeted Therapy for Unresectable Stage III NSCLC? No!

LAURA – osimertinib until progression

*Lifelong therapy* for patients, some already cured with chemoradiation

USA pharmacy

~~\$19,373.25~~  
est. cash price

**\$16,080.12**  
with free coupon

*\$16,080.12 for 1 month of osimertinib  
x 60 months ~ \$1 million for 5y per patient*

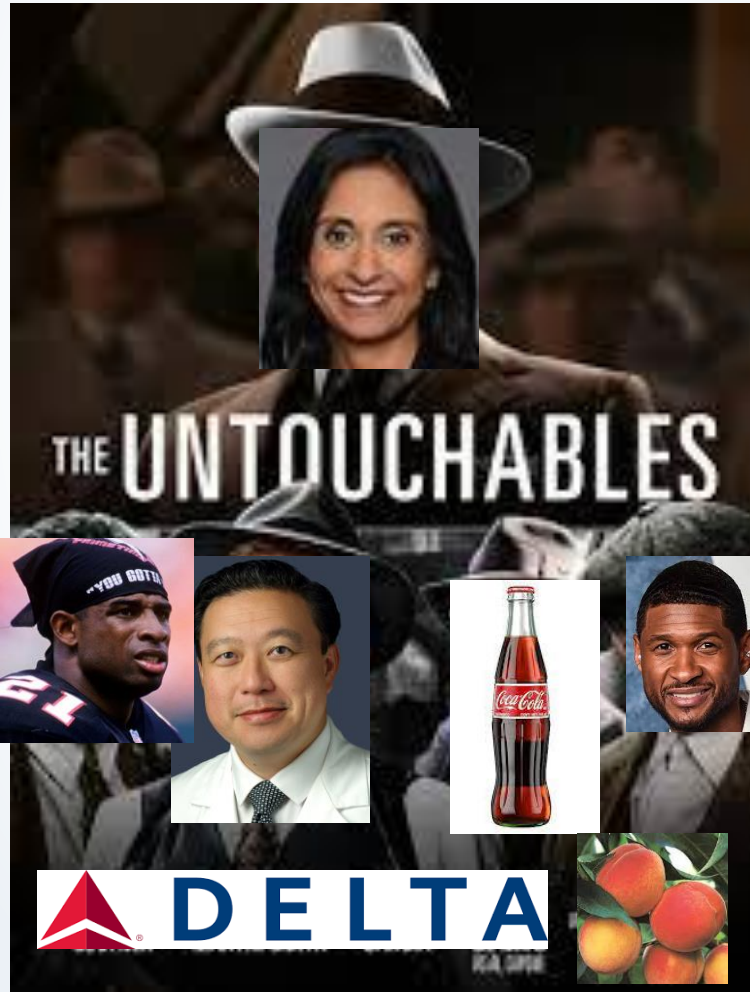
*238,340 new diagnoses in the US per year  
~20% sensitizing EGFR ~ 50K  
~22% locally advanced ~ 10K*

*Acceptable cost each year to treat patients already cured?*

Siegel, CA Cancer.J Clin 2023

# Targeted Therapy for Unresectable Stage III NSCLC? No!

Exorbitant financial cost to protect patients already cured



Spigel, JCO 2022



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# Targeted Therapy for Unresectable Stage III NSCLC? No!

LAURA trial recommends indefinite “adjuvant” osimertinib

*Is this what “cure” looks like?*

Some patients are already cured with chemoradiation

*Massive healthcare system costs*

*Even a fraction of that as an out-of-pocket co-pay is significant*

*Additional cost in the form of chronic toxicity*

Lu, ESMO Asia 2020



# Targeted Therapy for Unresectable Stage III NSCLC? No!

## Chronic toxicity in ADAURA

Adverse Event	Osimertinib (N=337)			
	Any Grade	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Diarrhea	156 (46)	116 (34)	32 (9)	8 (2)
Paronychia	85 (25)	31 (9)	50 (15)	3 (1)
Dry skin	79 (23)	75 (22)	3 (1)	1 (<1)
Pruritus	65 (19)	49 (15)	16 (5)	0
Cough	62 (18)	43 (13)	19 (6)	0
Stomatitis	59 (18)	35 (10)	18 (5)	6 (2)
Nasopharyngitis	47 (14)	30 (9)	17 (5)	0
Upper respiratory tract infection	45 (13)	24 (7)	19 (6)	2 (1)
Decreased appetite	44 (13)	29 (9)	13 (4)	2 (1)
Mouth ulceration	39 (12)	32 (9)	7 (2)	0
Dermatitis acneiform	37 (11)	29 (9)	8 (2)	0

CTCAE Term	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Diarrhea	Increase of <4 stools per day over baseline; mild increase in ostomy output compared to baseline	Increase of 4 - 6 stools per day over baseline; moderate increase in ostomy output compared to baseline; limiting instrumental ADL	Increase of ≥7 stools per day over baseline; hospitalization indicated; severe increase in ostomy output compared to baseline; limiting self care ADL
<b>Definition:</b> A disorder characterized by an increase in frequency and/or loose or watery bowel movements.			
Paronychia	Nail fold edema or erythema; disruption of the cuticle	Local intervention indicated; oral intervention indicated (e.g., antibiotic, antifungal, antiviral); nail fold edema or erythema with pain; associated with discharge or nail plate separation; limiting instrumental ADL	Operative intervention indicated; IV antibiotics indicated; limiting self care ADL
<b>Definition:</b> A disorder characterized by an infectious process involving the soft tissues around the nail.			

Wu, NEJM 2020

# Targeted Therapy for Unresectable Stage III NSCLC? No!

Another cost of lifelong targeted therapy?

Being a lifelong patient.

*If you are taking a cancer medicine every day – are you ever cancer free?*

Atlanta traffic among worst in the world, study finds



The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Gridlock Guy: Breaking down Atlanta's top bottlenecks



Is there a fix for I-85 traffic?



# Targeted Therapy for Unresectable Stage III NSCLC? No!

Are patients who require lifelong targeted therapy cured?

Do patients who will relapse without targeted therapy really have stage III NSCLC?

Can we instead work to identify who is and who is not cured?

# Targeted Therapy for Unresectable Stage III NSCLC? No!

Can we let patients who are cured from lung cancer – be cured?

*Bradley, JCO 2020*



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# Targeted Therapy for Unresectable Stage III NSCLC? No!

Can we save targeted therapy for the patients who need them?

*Bradley, JCO 2020*



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# Targeted Therapy for Unresectable Stage III NSCLC? No!



# Targeted Therapy for Unresectable Stage III NSCLC? No!

## Management of Stage III Non–Small-Cell Lung Cancer: ASCO Guideline

Megan E. Daly, MD<sup>1</sup>; Navneet Singh, MD, DM<sup>2</sup>; Nofisat Ismaila, MD, MSc<sup>3</sup>; Mara B. Antonoff, MD<sup>4</sup>; Douglas A. Arenberg, MD<sup>5</sup>; Jeffrey Bradley, MD<sup>6</sup>; Elizabeth David, MD<sup>7</sup>; Frank Detterbeck, MD<sup>8</sup>; Martin Früh, MD<sup>9,10</sup>; Matthew A. Gubens, MD, MS<sup>11</sup>; Amy C. Moore, PhD<sup>12</sup>; Sukhmani K. Padda, MD<sup>13</sup>; **Jyoti D. Patel**, MD<sup>14</sup>; Tanyanika Phillips, MD, MPH<sup>15</sup>; Angel Qin, MD<sup>5</sup>; Clifford Robinson, MD<sup>16</sup>; and Charles B. Simone II, MD<sup>17</sup>

### **Unresectable disease.**

**Recommendation 5.1.** Patients with stage III NSCLC who are medically or surgically inoperable and with good performance status should be offered concurrent instead of sequential chemotherapy and radiation therapy (Type: Evidence based; benefit outweighs harm; Evidence quality: high; Strength of recommendation: strong).

**Recommendation 5.2.** Concurrent chemotherapy delivered with radiation therapy for definitive treatment of stage III NSCLC should include a platinum-based doublet, preferably cisplatin plus etoposide, carboplatin plus paclitaxel, cisplatin plus pemetrexed (non-squamous only), or cisplatin plus vinorelbine (Type: Evidence based; benefit outweighs harm; Evidence quality: high; Strength of recommendation: strong).

Qualifying Statement: Carboplatin may be substituted for cisplatin in patients with contraindications to or deemed ineligible for cisplatin.

**Recommendation 5.3.** Patients with stage III NSCLC who are not candidates for concurrent chemoradiation but are candidates for chemotherapy should be offered sequential chemotherapy and radiation therapy over radiation alone (Type: Evidence based; benefit outweighs harm; Evidence quality: high; Strength of recommendation: strong).

**Recommendation 5.4.** Patients with stage III NSCLC receiving concurrent chemoradiation should be treated to 60 Gy (Type: Evidence based; benefit outweighs harm; Evidence quality: high; Strength of recommendation: strong).

**Recommendation 5.5.** Doses higher than 60 Gy and up to 70 Gy may be considered for selected patients, with careful attention to doses to heart, lungs, and esophagus (Type: Evidence based; benefit outweighs harm; Evidence quality: low; Strength of recommendation: strong).

**Recommendation 5.6.** Patients with stage III NSCLC receiving definitive radiation without chemotherapy in standard fractionation may be considered for radiation dose escalation and for modest hypofractionation from 2.15 to 4 Gy per fraction (Type: Evidence based; benefit outweighs harm; Evidence quality: low; Strength of recommendation: weak).

**Recommendation 5.7.** Patients with stage III NSCLC receiving concurrent chemoradiation without disease progression during the initial therapy should be offered consolidation durvalumab for up to 12 months (Type: Evidence based; benefit outweighs harm; Evidence quality: high; Strength of recommendation: strong).

Qualifying Statement: There is insufficient evidence to alter the recommendation for consolidation durvalumab following concurrent chemoradiation for molecularly defined subgroups (namely, patients with an oncogenic driver alteration or those with low or no expression of programmed death-ligand 1).

Daly, JCO 2022



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# Targeted Therapy for Unresectable Stage III NSCLC? No!

No – we should *not* use targeted therapies after chemoradiation

*I believe patients can be cured with this treatment*

*If cured, patients do not need lifelong targeted therapy*

*If patients need lifelong targeted therapy, they are not cured*

*Treat when and if needed*

*Avoid unnecessary toxicity and cost*



# Vote No!

