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# Opportunities and risk related to companion diagnostics: *The MET biomarker story*

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-  Outcome in entire program and beyond

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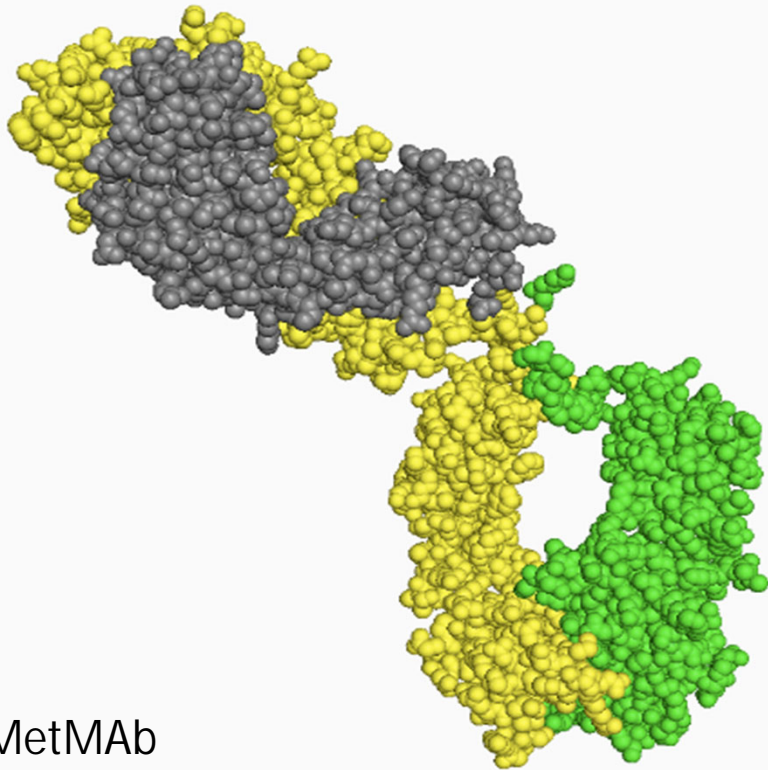
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# MET pathway: Promising target for anti-cancer drug development?

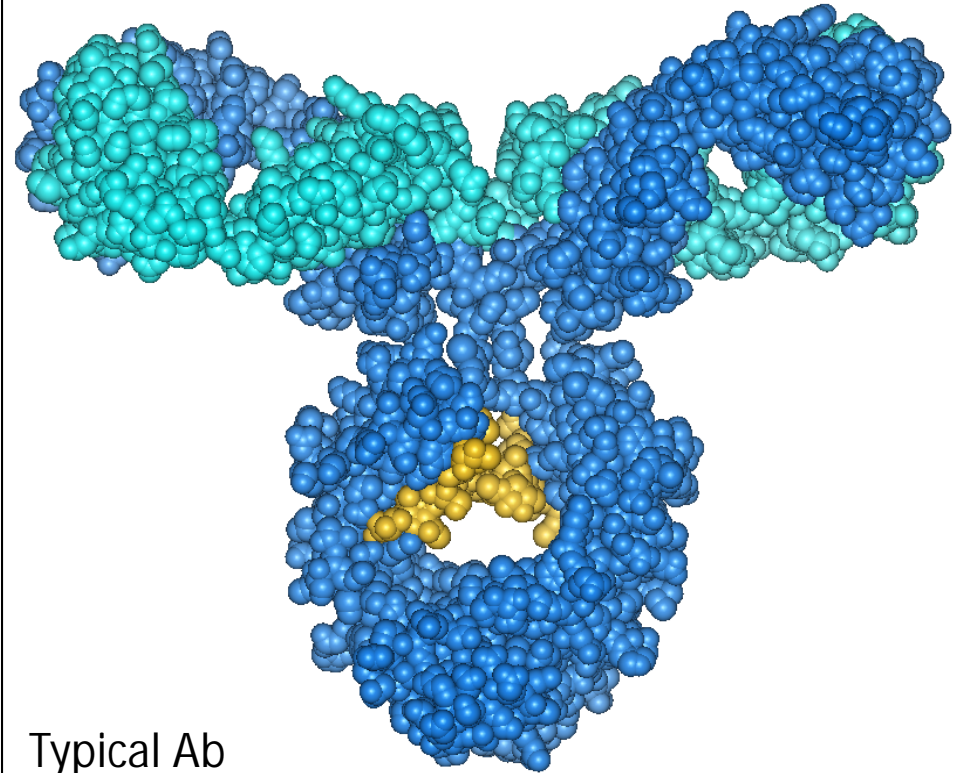


- Upon binding and activation by HGF (hepatocyte growth factor) , **MET** (mesenchymal-epithelial transition factor) **elicits cell signaling that results in cell proliferation and survival, and can promote metastasis in tumors**
- MET pathway can be dysregulated by MET receptor mutations or amplification, and overexpression of its ligand HGF
- High levels of MET and/or HGF have been associated with poor prognosis in multiple cancer settings
  
- MetMAb (Onartuzumab) was the first anti-MET antibody to reach late stage clinical development
- First one-armed antibody to be tested in a global series of studies

# MetMAb (Onartuzumab)



MetMAb



Typical Ab

- Monovalent: does not dimerize Met\*
- Non-glycosylated (No ADCC\*\*)

- Bivalent: Potential for Met dimerization\*
- Glycosylated antibody (ADCC\*)

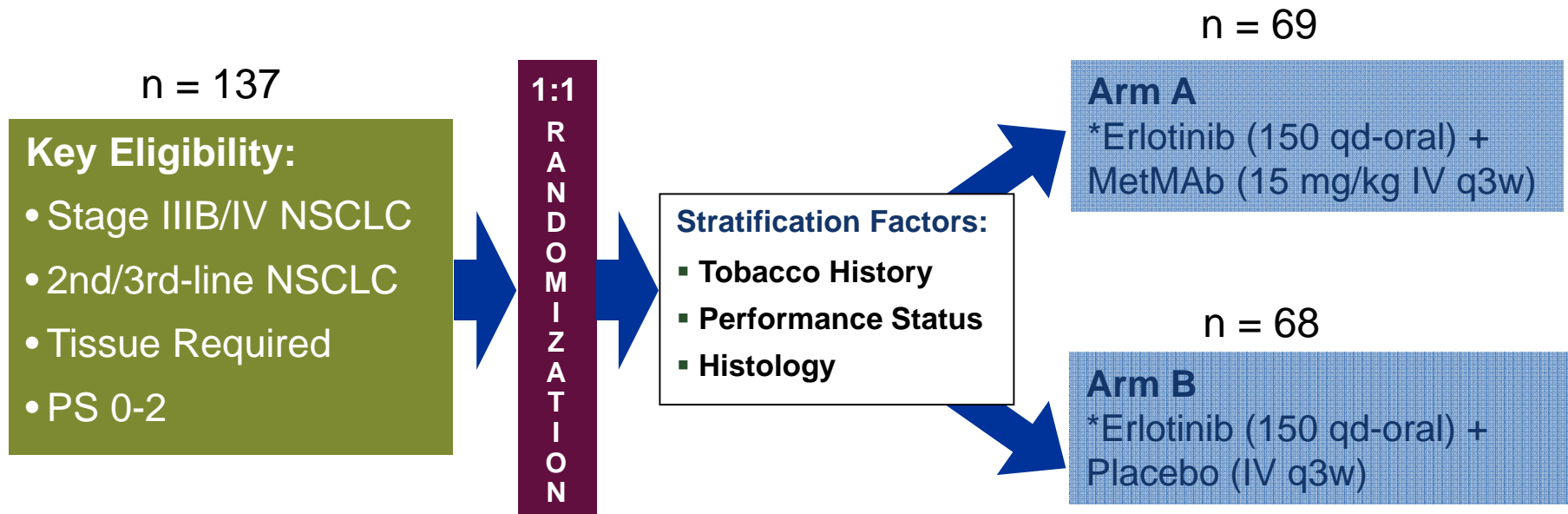
\*Targeting MET with bivalent antibodies can mimic HGF agonism via receptor dimerization

\*\*No ADCC: No antibody dependent cellular cytotoxicity against normal MET-expressing cells

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# PoC Phase II\*\* Study Design (OAM4558g)



## Co-Primary Objectives:

- **PFS in “Met High” patients**
- PFS in overall ITT population

## Other Key Objectives:

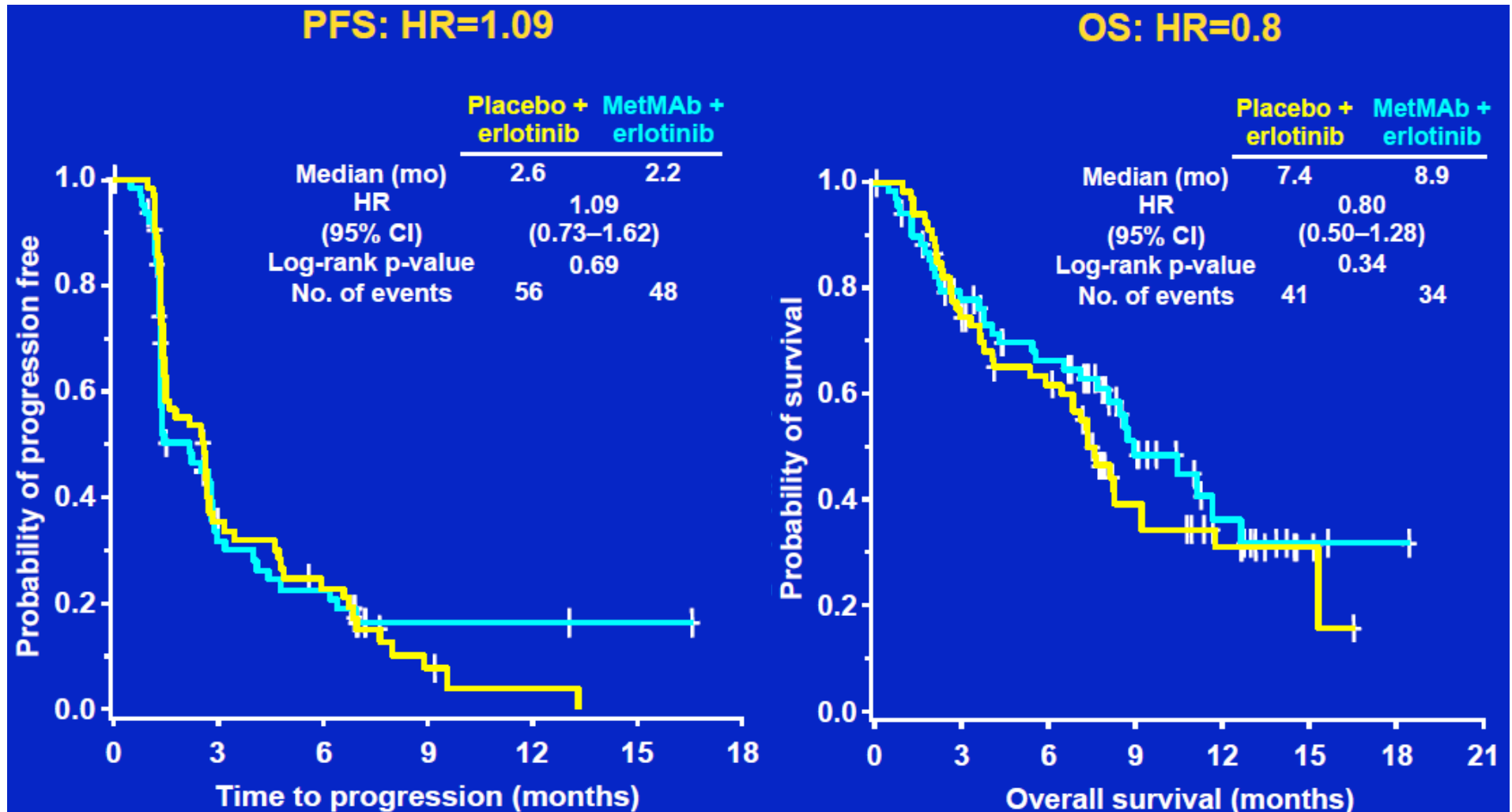
- **OS in “Met high” patients**
- OS in Overall ITT patients
- Overall Response Rate
- Safety/Tolerability

**Met as stratification factor: Met diagnostic status was assessed after randomization and prior to unblinding**  
*Met diagnostic positive (Dx+) defined as ≥50% of tumour cells with 2+/3+ staining*

\*Combination of Erlotinib & MetMAb showed promising efficacy in xenograph models

\*\* Spigel, Ervin et al, JCO 2013, “Randomized Phase II Trial of Onartuzumab in Combination With Erlotinib in Patients With Advanced Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer”

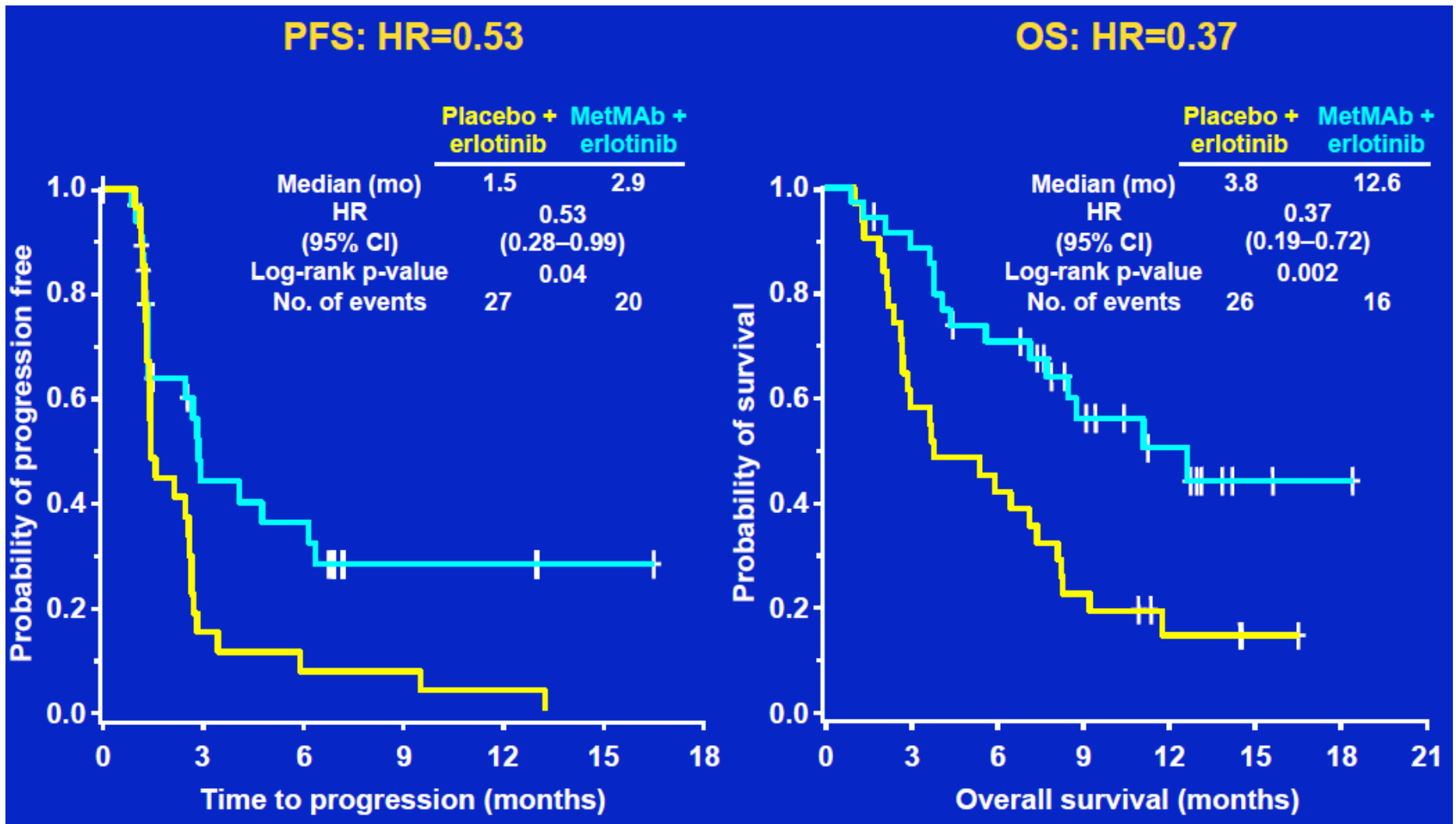
# PFS and OS: ITT Population



REF: Spigel, Ervin et al, JCO 2013, "Randomized Phase II Trial of Onartuzumab in Combination With Erlotinib in Patients With Advanced Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer"

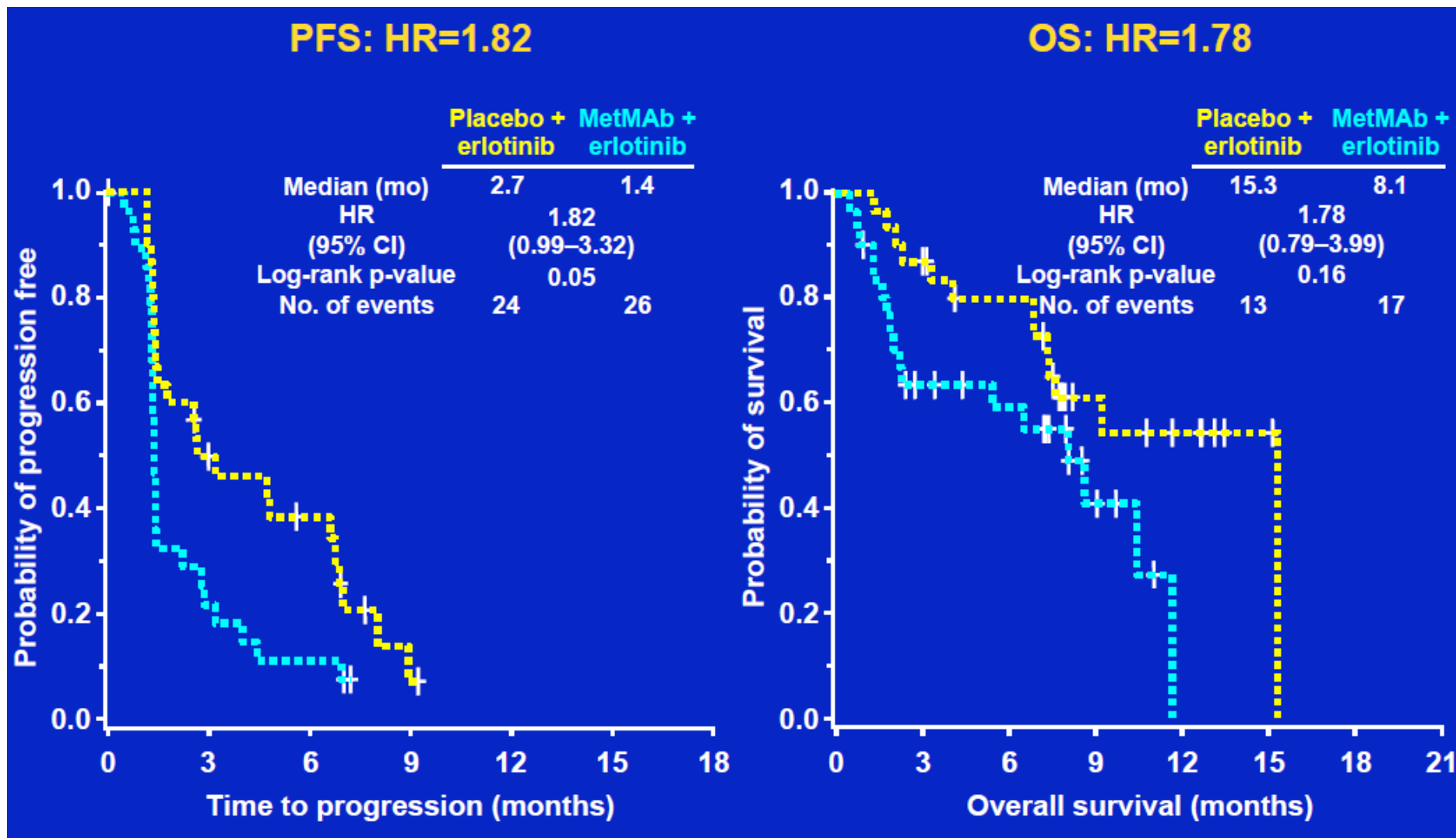


# PFS and OS: Met High (Dx+) Patients



REF: Spigel, Ervin et al, JCO 2013, "Randomized Phase II Trial of Onartuzumab in Combination With Erlotinib in Patients With Advanced Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer"

# PFS and OS: Met Low (Dx-) Patients

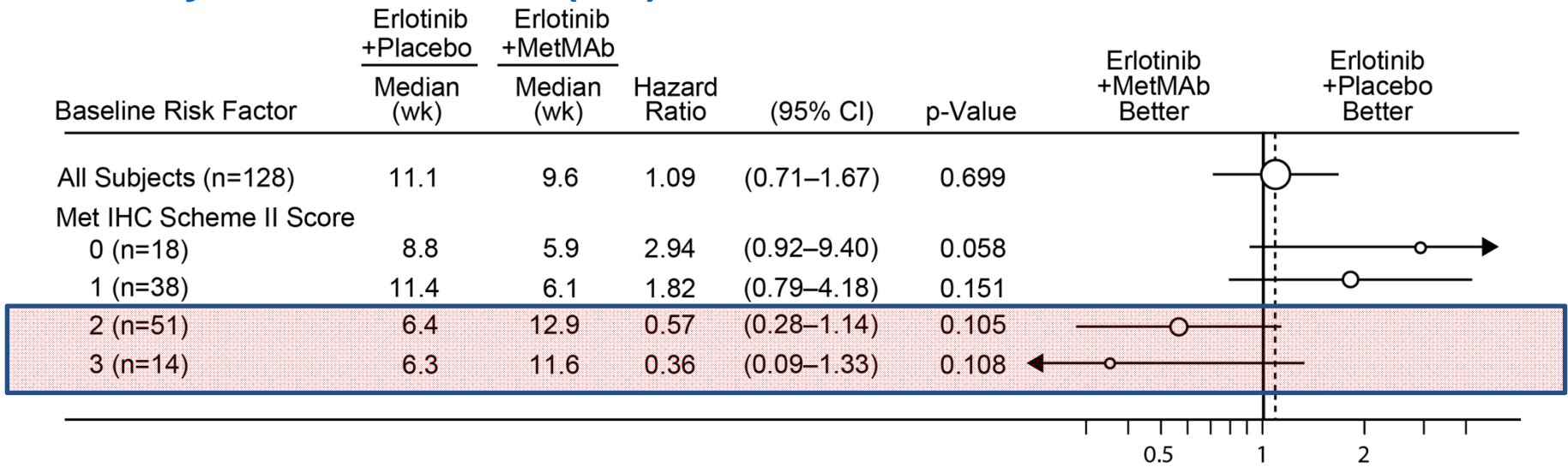


REF: Spigel, Ervin et al, JCO 2013, "Randomized Phase II Trial of Onartuzumab in Combination With Erlotinib in Patients With Advanced Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer"

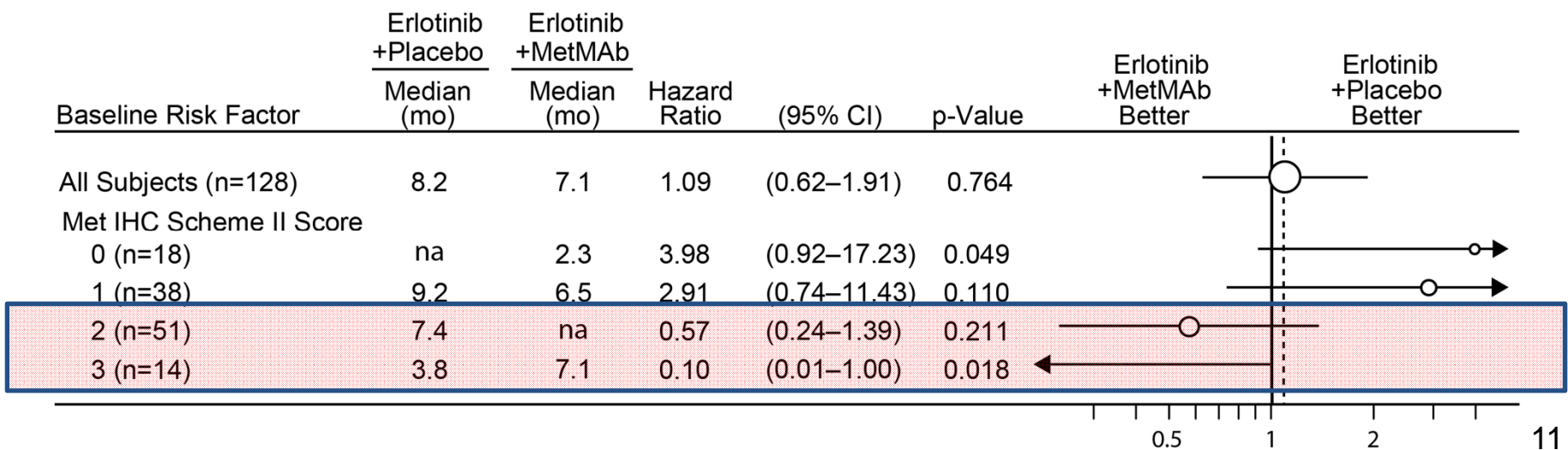
# IHC Met Cut-off



## PFS by MET IHC Score (ITT)



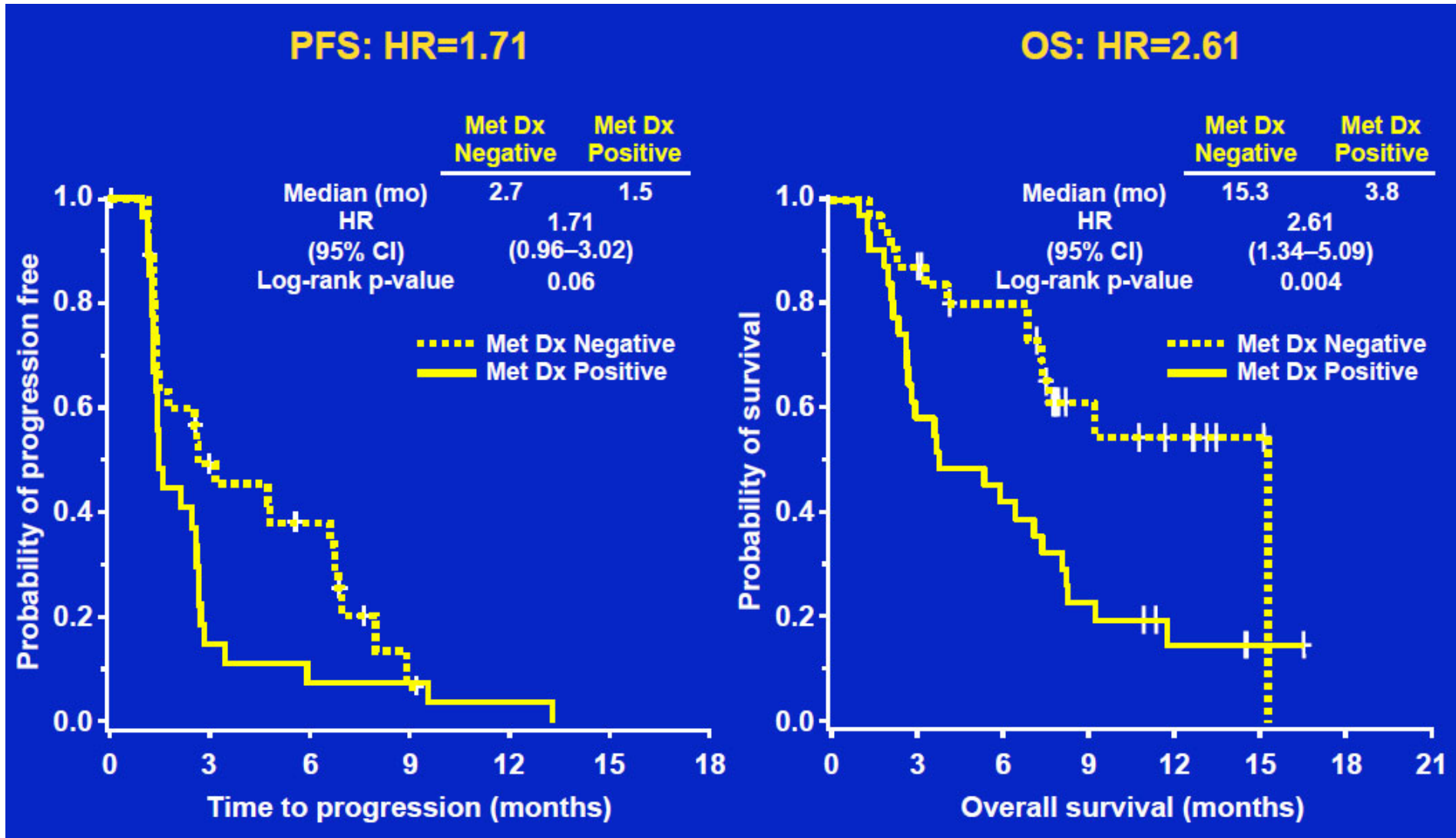
## OS by MET IHC Score (ITT)



# Met biomarker prognostic



Analysis of patients treated with erlotinib + placebo



REF: Spigel, Ervin et al, JCO 2013, "Randomized Phase II Trial of Onartuzumab in Combination With Erlotinib in Patients With Advanced Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer"

## Summary Phase II PoC study

- Met expression by IHC correlated inversely with prognosis
- MetMab + erlotinib led to improved outcomes in both PFS and OS in Met Diagnostic Positive patients
  - Effect was not driven by key subpopulations or imbalances in baseline characteristics
- Outcomes in the diagnostic subpopulation highlighted the importance of diagnostic development
  
- **Next steps:** A Phase III study testing Metmab+ erlotinib in Met Dx+ patients was anticipated to start enrolling soon after the previous results became available

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## Large investment

- NSCLC and TNBC were planned to be investigated in 2010
- In 2014, program was much larger consisting among others of trials in NSCLC, TNBC, gastric, CRC, GMB etc.

# Phase III trial replicated Phase II with only minor changes in design and conduct

## Design changes

- Treatment schema unchanged
- Same target patient population but selected by MET status
- Primary endpoint of OS rather than PFS

## Conduct changes

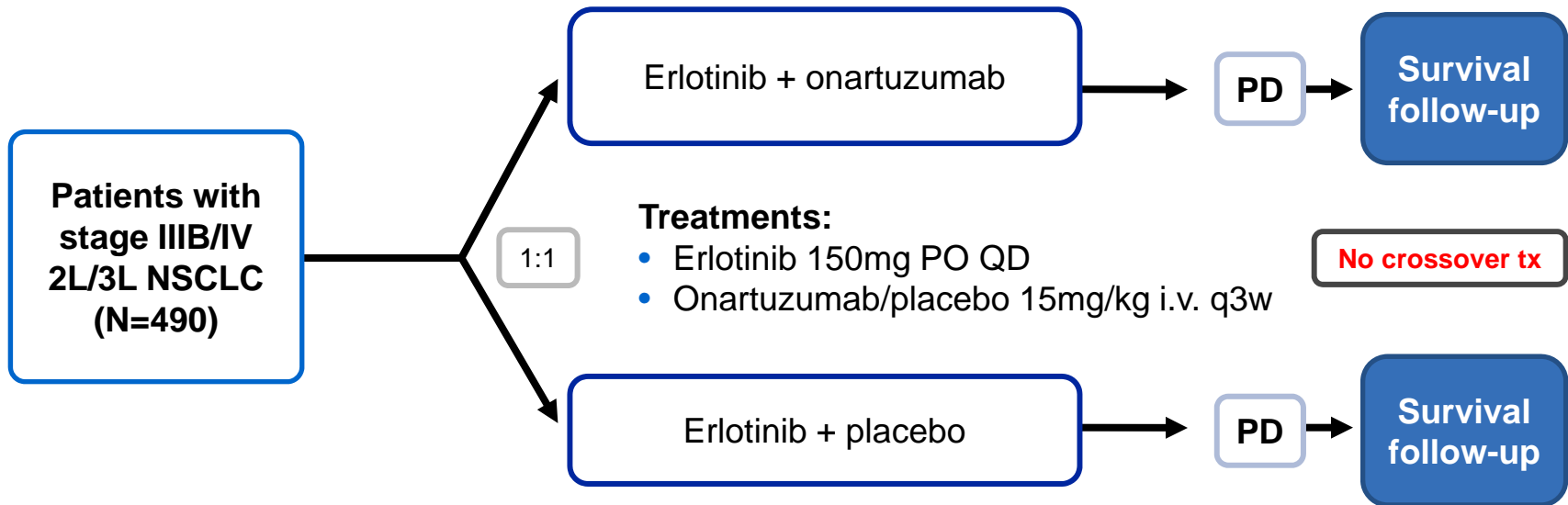
- Asian and South American sites added, though as in phase 2 majority of enrollment came from North America and Europe



# MetLung trial (OAM4971g) design based on Phase II design (OAM4558g)



Minor changes from Phase II design are highlighted in red



## Stratification criteria

- EGFR mut vs wt
- MET 2+ vs 3+
- Number of prior treatments
- Histology

## Key eligibility criteria

- MET-positive (2+ or 3+)
- 1 prior Pt-based treatment
- ECOG PS 0–1
- Central testing for
  - MET IHC status
  - EGFR mutation status

## Primary endpoint

- OS

## Secondary endpoints

- PFS
- ORR
- QoL
- Safety
- PK

\*MetLung (OAM4971g, NCT01456325); EGFR = epidermal growth factor receptor; ECOG PS = Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; IHC = immunohistochemistry; i.v. = intravenous; NSCLC = non-small-cell lung cancer; ORR = overall response rate; OS = overall survival; PD = progression of disease; p.o. = by mouth; PFS = progression-free survival; Pt = platinum; QoL = quality of life; q3w = every 3 weeks

\*Spigel, Edelman, JCO 2017, "Results From the Phase III Randomized Trial of Onartuzumab Plus Erlotinib Versus Erlotinib in 17 Previously Treated Stage IIIB or IV Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer: METLung"

# MetLung recruited patient population similar to Ph II: Comparison of demographics/disease characteristics

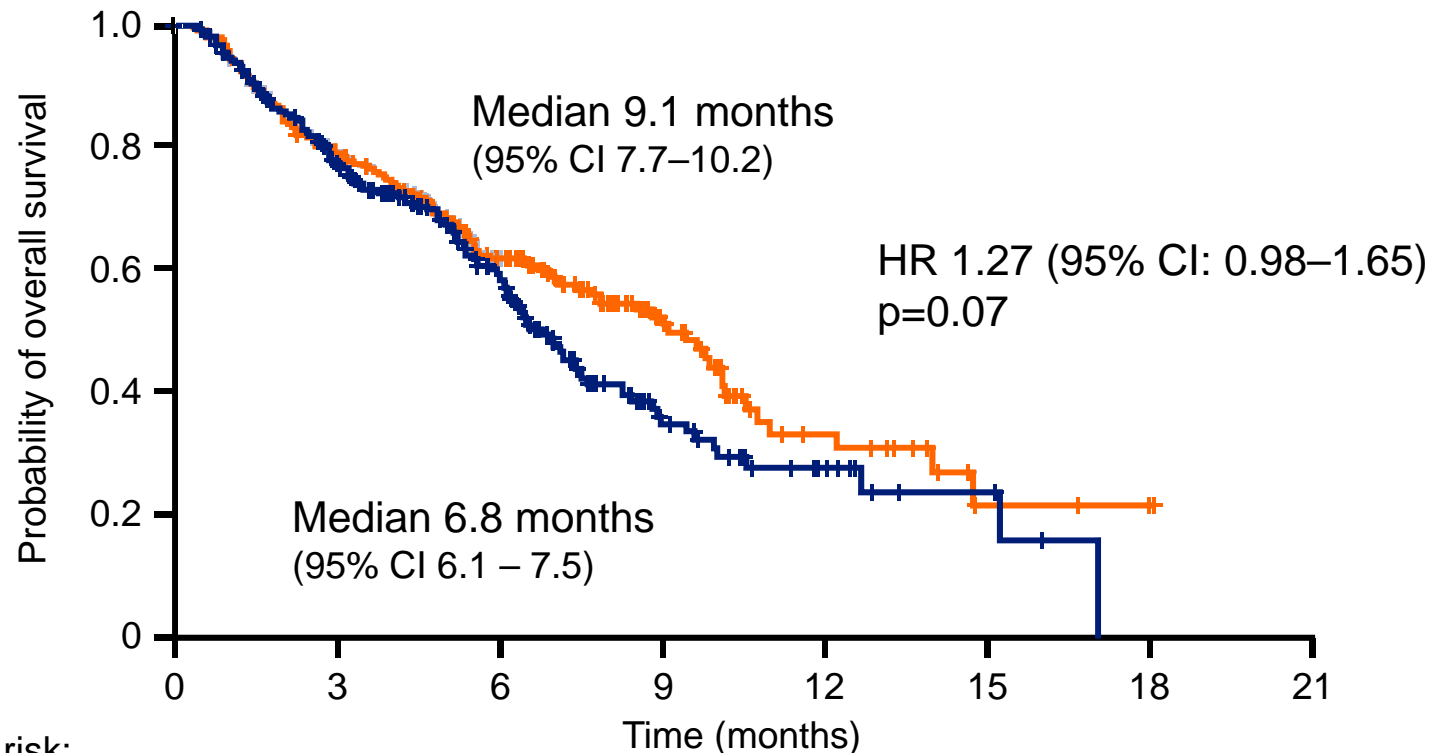


	MetLung (Ph 3)		OAM4558g Ph 2 (MET+)	
	Pcbo + Erl N=249	Onar + Erl N=250	Pcbo + Erl N=31	Onar + Erl N=35
Age, median yrs	63	62	64	66
Gender (M%/F%)	56/44	56/44	65/35	51/49
White/Asian (%)	72 / 15	73 / 14	90 / 3	91 / 3
Non-Squam/ Sq (%)	88 / 12	84 / 16	84 / 16	86 / 14
EGFR Mut+ (%)	11.6	11.2	8	23
MET IHC 2+/3+ (%)	78 / 22	79 / 21	81 / 19	74 / 26
2L/3L (%)	63 / 37	64 / 36	71 / 29	63 / 37
ECOG 0-1 / 2 (%)	99.2 / 0.4	98.4 / 1.6	94 / 6	97 / 3
Time from Ca Dx→ Randomization (months, range)	12.7 (1.9-97.3)	11.7 (1.1-90.7)	10.6 (3-96)	12.6 (3-42)

\*Spigel, Edlmann, JCO 2017, "Results From the Phase III Randomized Trial of Onartuzumab Plus Erlotinib Versus Erlotinib in Previously Treated Stage IIIB or IV Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer: METLung"

Spigel, Ervin et al, JCO 2013, "Randomized Phase II Trial of Onartuzumab in Combination With Erlotinib in Patients With Advanced Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer"

# MetLung Phase III did not reproduce benefit observed in Phase II in MET+ patients



Number of patients at risk:

	0	3	6	9	12	15	18
Placebo + erlotinib	249	183	110	43	14	3	1
Onartuzumab + erlotinib	250	177	100	29	12	4	

- Placebo + erlotinib (n=249)
- Onartuzumab + erlotinib (n=250)

Trial terminated early for crossing futility boundary at recommendation of IDMC at 244/364 OS events

# No treatment effect seen in any efficacy endpoint in MetLung trial



	MetLung (Phase 3)		OAM4558g (Phase 2)			
			ITT		MET+	
	Pcbo + Erl (n=249)	Onar + Erl (n=250)	Pcbo+ Erl (n=68)	Onar + Erl (n=69)	Pcbo+ Erl (n=31)	Onar + Erl (n=35)
<b>OS</b> median months (95%CI)	9.1 (7.7 – 10.2)	6.8 (6.1-7.5)	7.4 (5.9-9.2)	8.9 (7.1-12.7)	3.8 (2.7-7.4)	12.6 (7.1-NE)
HR (95% CI, p value) stratified	1.27 (0.98-1.65, p=0.07)		0.80 (0.50,1.28, p=0.34)		0.37 (0.19,0.72,p=0.002)	
<b>PFS</b> median months (95%CI)	2.6 (1.5-2.8)	2.7 (2.4-2.9)	2.6 (1.5-2.8)	2.2 (1.4-2.9)	1.5 (1.4-2.6)	2.9 (1.4-6.2)
HR (95% CI, p value) stratified	0.99 (0.81,1.20, p=0.92)		1.09 (0.73,1.62,p=0.69)		0.53 (0.28,0.99, p=0.04)	
<b>Confirmed ORR (%)</b>	8.8	6.4	4.4	5.8	3.2	8.6

\*Spigel, Edelman, JCO 2017, “Results From the Phase III Randomized Trial of Onartuzumab Plus Erlotinib Versus Erlotinib in Previously Treated Stage IIIB or IV Non–Small-Cell Lung Cancer: METLung”

Spigel, Ervin et al, JCO 2013, “Randomized Phase II Trial of Onartuzumab in Combination With Erlotinib in Patients With Advanced Non–Small-Cell Lung Cancer”

# Final analyses from other trials: Clinical benefit observed only in PoC study



Indication	Treatment	PFS (ITT)	PFS (MET+)	OS (ITT)	OS (MET+)
<b>OAM4558g 2L/3L NSCLC</b>	Erlotinib +/- Onartuzumab	1.09	0.53	0.80	0.37
<b>OAM4861g 1L/2L TNBC</b>	Pac +/- Onartuzumab	1.74	*	1.92	*
	Pac + Bev +/- Onartuzumab	1.08	*	1.36	*
<b>GO27821 1L NSCLC Nsq</b>	Pt + Pac + Bev +/- Onartuzumab	1.24	1.71	1.34	2.00
	Pt + Pem +/- Onartuzumab	1.23	1.25	1.15	1.17
<b>GO27820 1L NSCLC Sq</b>	Pt + Pac +/- Onartuzumab	0.95	1.27	0.90	0.81
<b>GO278219 rGBM</b>	Bev +/- Onartuzumab	1.06	*	1.45	*
<b>GO27827 1L mCRC</b>	FOLFOX + Bev +/- Onartuzumab	0.75	1.03	0.96	1.24
<b>YO28252 1L Her2- GC</b>	FOLFOX +/- Onartuzumab	1.08	1.38	1.06	1.12

\*Insufficient sample size to evaluate MET 2+/3+ population

**REFERENCES:** All published studies

# Any other reasons for discrepancy?



## 1) Robustness of PFS and OS results meant that the Phase II sample size was not an issue

- Because of the strength of results, increasing sample size unlikely to have changed outcome/decision
- Extensive simulations & modeling done

## 2) Absence of single agent activity in the clinic

## 3) MET IHC measured only one part of the MET pathway, but did not account for other variables (i.e. level of local ligand HGF)

- Uncovered potential role of HGF as biomarker only later (due to technical advancements)

## 4) Negative prognostic effect not definitively proven despite results from Phase II

- Evaluation from prior NSCLC studies inconclusive
- Prospective data at that time was weighted stronger than retrospective data
- Subsequent NSCLC trials of MetMAb did not confirm negative prognostic effect of Met

# Met biomarker outcomes beyond the MetMAb program



- **Correlated risk beyond a single company?**
- **Negative study data have been published for**
  - **Rilotumumab** (example **REF**: Cunningham & Tebbutt et al. Phase III, randomized, double-blind, multicenter, placebo (P)-controlled trial of rilotumumab (R) plus epirubicin, cisplatin and capecitabine (ECX) as first-line therapy in patients (pts) with advanced MET-positive (pos) gastric or gastroesophageal junction (G/GEJ) cancer: RILOMET-1 study. *J Clin Oncol.* 2015;33)
  - **Ficlatuzumab** (example **REF**: Mok & Geater et al. A Randomized Phase 2 Study Comparing the Combination of Ficlatuzumab and Gefitinib with Gefitinib Alone in Asian Patients with Advanced Stage Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma *J Thorac Oncol.* 2016 )
  - both of which are biologics and block hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) binding to MET receptor

# Summary



- The Ph III METLung Study was a well-conducted, well-balanced study with a patient population that was consistent with the Phase II study population.
- The MET IHC companion diagnostic performed well.
- No clinical variables were identified that account for the large discrepancy in outcomes between the Ph II & III
- “Conclusion”: Phase II study was an outlier, in which PFS and OS appeared to correlate with increasing MET expression (IHC 0 through 3+), a pre-specified biomarker-defined subset, leading to the false conclusion that MET expression was a clear predictive marker for MetMAb activity.

## Key Lessons

- When a biomarker hypothesis is evaluated in a trial, its association with outcome should be treated cautiously until confirmed in a second study.
- For broad programs there is a correlated risk that should be assessed to fully understand potential risk-adjusted value of a program



*Doing now what patients need  
next*