

# Associated PAH – Comments and proposals

Olivier SITBON

*Centre de Référence de l'Hypertension Pulmonaire Sévère  
Hôpital Universitaire de Bicêtre – INSERM U999  
Université Paris-Sud – Le Kremlin-Bicêtre – France*

# Disclosures

- Olivier Sitbon acknowledges the following associations during the past 3 years:
- Honoraria and clinical trials:  
Actelion Pharmaceuticals, Bayer HealthCare, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck, United Therapeutics
- Advisory boards:  
Actelion Pharmaceuticals, Bayer HealthCare, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck

# Associated forms of pulmonary arterial hypertension

## I. Pulmonary arterial hypertension

I.1 Idiopathic

I.2 Heritable

I.2.1 BMPR2 mutation

I.2.2 Other mutations

I.3 Drugs and toxins induced

I.4 Associated with:

I.4.1 Connective tissue disease

I.4.2 Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection

I.4.3 Portal hypertension

I.4.4 Congenital heart disease (Table 6)

I.4.5 Schistosomiasis

# Associated forms of pulmonary arterial hypertension

- Idiopathic (1.1), heritable (1.2), D & T induced (1.3) and associated PAH (1.4) in the same PH group because they share:
  - similar pathophysiological mechanism
  - similar pathological findings
  - similar clinical presentation
  - similar management
- Is it really true?
  - YES for idiopathic and heritable PAH
  - Maybe for D & T-induced PAH
    - YES for appetite suppressants,
    - Debatable for some other drugs (dasatinib, interferon...)
  - Probably NO for associated forms of PAH

# Recommendations for PAH associated with connective tissue diseases (CTD)

	Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>	Ref. <sup>c</sup>
Treatment algorithm	In patients with PAH associated with CTD, the same treatment algorithm as for patients with IPAH is recommended	I	C	46
Screening (Echo)	Resting echocardiography is recommended as a screening test in asymptomatic patients with SSc, followed by annual screening with echocardiography, DLCO and biomarkers	I	C	46
Diagnosis (RHC)	RHC is recommended in all cases of suspected PAH associated with CTD	I	C	46,327
Anticoagulant issue	Oral anticoagulation may be considered on an individual basis and in the presence of thrombophilic predisposition	IIb	C	175,339

# PAH associated with connective-tissue diseases: Questions

- Are all PAH associated with CTD the same?
  - SSc
  - Lupus erythematosus
  - MCTD
  - Others...
- They are different...
  - Mechanisms
  - Clinical presentation
  - Response to immunosuppressive therapy
  - Survival (poorer in PAH-SSc)

# PH associated with connective-tissue diseases: various possible mechanisms

<p><b>I. Pulmonary arterial hypertension</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I.1 Idiopathic</li> <li>I.2 Heritable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I.2.1 BMPR2 mutation</li> <li>I.2.2 Other mutations</li> </ul> </li> <li>I.3 Drugs and toxins induced</li> <li>I.4 Associated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>I.4.1 Connective tissue disease SSc, LES, others...</b></li> <li>I.4.2 Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection</li> <li>I.4.3 Portal hypertension</li> <li>I.4.4 Congenital heart disease (Table 6)</li> <li>I.4.5 Schistosomiasis</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>3. Pulmonary hypertension due to lung diseases and/or hypoxia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease</li> <li><b>3.2 Interstitial lung disease SSc, others...</b></li> <li>3.3 Other pulmonary diseases with mixed restrictive and obstructive pattern</li> <li>3.4 Sleep-disordered breathing</li> <li>3.5 Alveolar hypoventilation disorders</li> <li>3.6 Chronic exposure to high altitude</li> <li>3.7 Developmental lung diseases (Web Table III)</li> </ul>
<p><b>I'. Pulmonary veno-occlusive disease and/or pulmonary capillary haemangiomatosis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I'.1 Idiopathic</li> <li>I'.2 Heritable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I'.2.1 EIF2AK4 mutation</li> <li>I'.2.2 Other mutations</li> </ul> </li> <li>I'.3 Drugs, toxins and radiation induced</li> <li>I'.4 Associated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>I'.4.1 Connective tissue disease SSc</b></li> <li>I'.4.2 HIV infection</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>4. Chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension and other pulmonary artery obstructions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>4.1 Chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension LES</b></li> <li>4.2 Other pulmonary artery obstructions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.2.1 Angiosarcoma</li> <li>4.2.2 Other intravascular tumors</li> <li>4.2.3 Arteritis</li> <li>4.2.4 Congenital pulmonary arteries stenoses</li> <li>4.2.5 Parasites (hydatidosis)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>I''. Persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn</b></p> <p><b>2. Pulmonary hypertension due to left heart disease</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Left ventricular systolic dysfunction</li> <li><b>2.2 Left ventricular diastolic dysfunction SSc</b></li> <li><b>2.3 Valvular disease LES</b></li> <li>2.4 Congenital / acquired left heart inflow/outflow tract obstruction and congenital cardiomyopathies</li> <li>2.5 Congenital /acquired pulmonary veins stenosis</li> </ul>	<p><b>5. Pulmonary hypertension with unclear and/or multifactorial mechanisms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1 Haematological disorders: chronic haemolytic anaemia, myeloproliferative disorders, splenectomy</li> <li>5.2 Systemic disorders: sarcoidosis, pulmonary histiocytosis, lymphangioleiomyomatosis, neurofibromatosis</li> <li>5.3 Metabolic disorders: glycogen storage disease, Gaucher disease, thyroid disorders</li> <li>5.4 Others: pulmonary tumoral thrombotic microangiopathy, fibrosing mediastinitis, chronic renal failure (with/without dialysis), segmental pulmonary hypertension</li> </ul>

Simonneau G, et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2013; 62: D34–41.

Galiè N, Humbert M, et al. 2015 ESC/ERS Guidelines. *Eur Respir J* 2015 & *Eur Heart J* 2016.

# PH incidence in SSc is > 1%

## Almost a half are post-capillary PH...

The Three-Year Incidence of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension  
Associated With Systemic Sclerosis in a  
Multicenter Nationwide Longitudinal Study in France

	Estimated incidence (No. of cases per 100 patient-years)	95% CI
All forms of PH	1.37	0.74 – 2.00
PAH	0.61	0.26 – 1.20
Among patients with limited SSc	0.40	0.11 – 1.03
Among patients with diffuse SSc	1.25	0.34 – 3.20
Postcapillary PH	0.61	0.26 – 1.20
PH secondary to pulmonary fibrosis	0.15	0.02 – 0.55

# Why is prognosis so poor in PAH-SSc?

- Older patients (>10 years / IPAH)
- Lower RV compliance
- Mechanisms may be multiple
  - Frequent occult LV dysfunction
  - Association with ILD
  - Pulmonary vein involvement

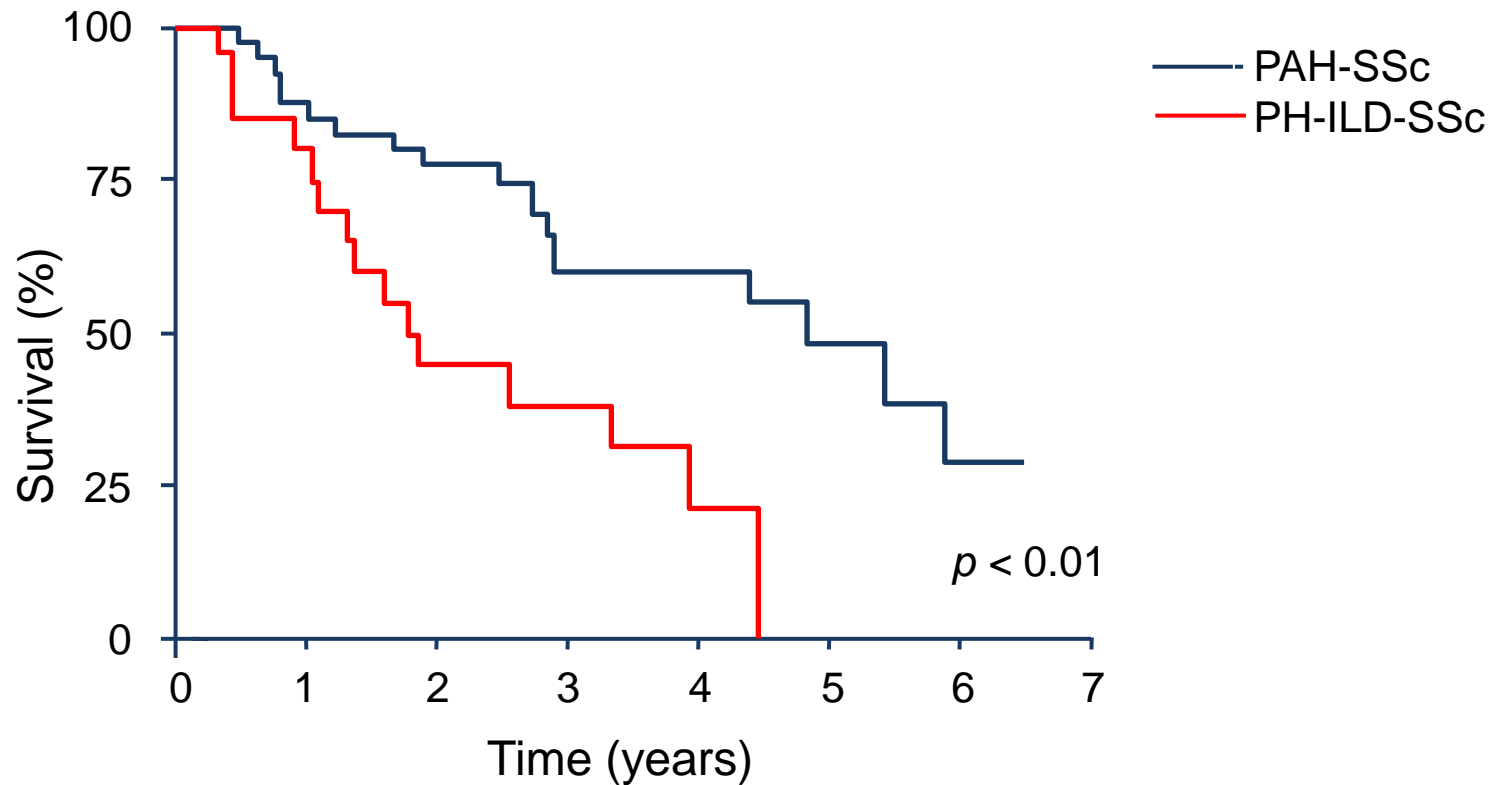
Mathai S, et al. *Arthritis Rheum* 2009;60:569-77.

Mathai S, et al. *Eur Respir J* 2010;35:95-104.

Le Pavec J, et al. *Arthritis Rheum* 2011;63:2456-64.

Günther S, et al. *Arthritis Rheum* 2012; 64:2995-3005.

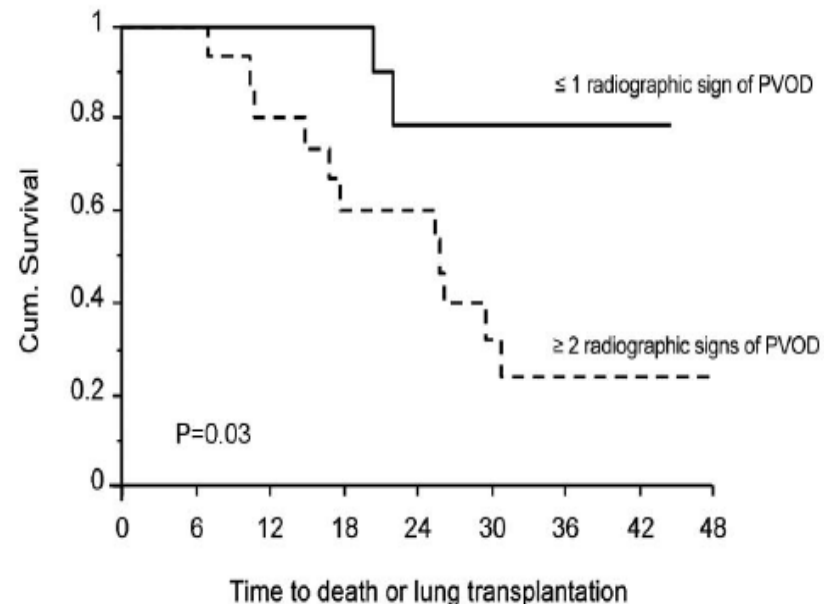
# Survival is worse for SSc patients with PH-ILD than for SSc patients with PAH alone



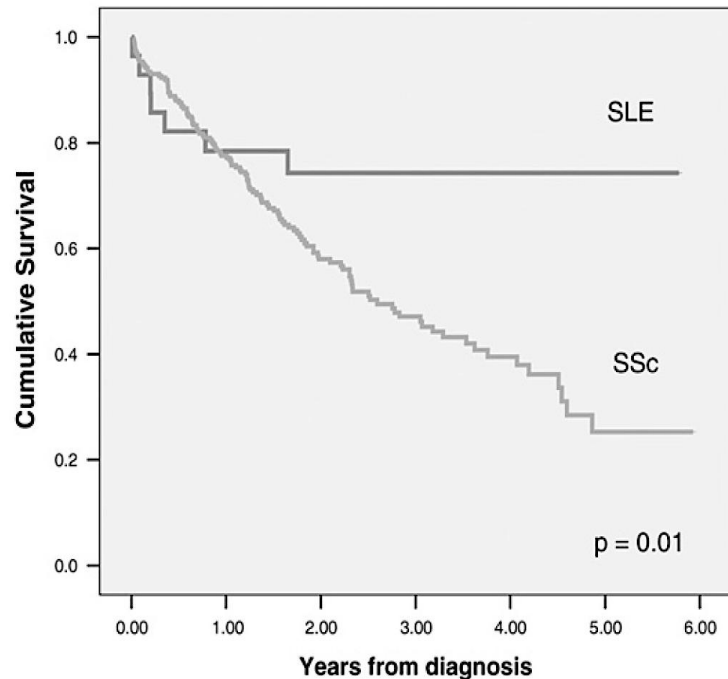
# “PVOD” is frequent in severe PH associated with SSc and prognosis is poor

## Suggests pulmonary vein involvement in patients with severe PH & SSc

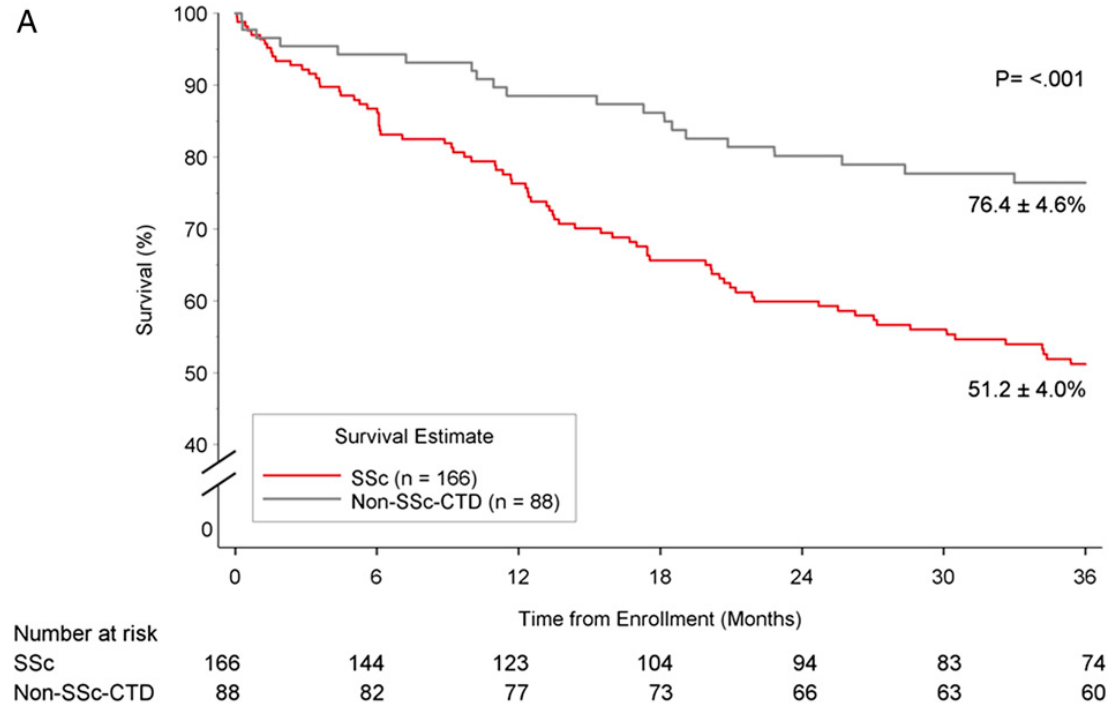
- Clinical
  - More severe (NYHA III-IV)
  - History of pulmonary oedema (on PAH therapy +++)
- HRCT
  - Lymph node enlargement
  - Centrilobular ground-glass opacities
  - Septal lines
- PFTs & ABG
  - Lower DLCO
  - Lower PaO<sub>2</sub>
- BAL
  - Hemosiderin-laden macrophages



# Survival is much better in PAH associated with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)

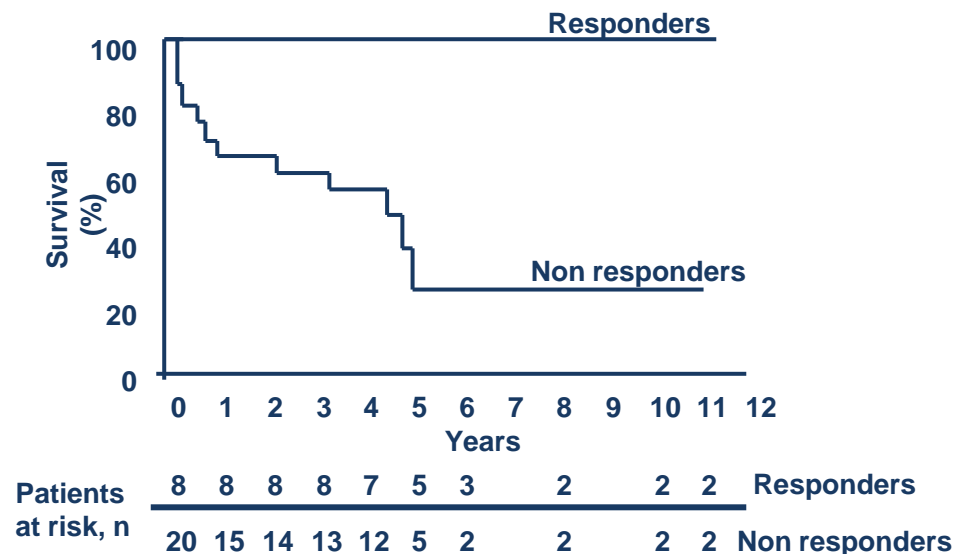


Patients at risk						
28	21	15	12	9	2	SLE
259	179	94	53	27	6	SSc

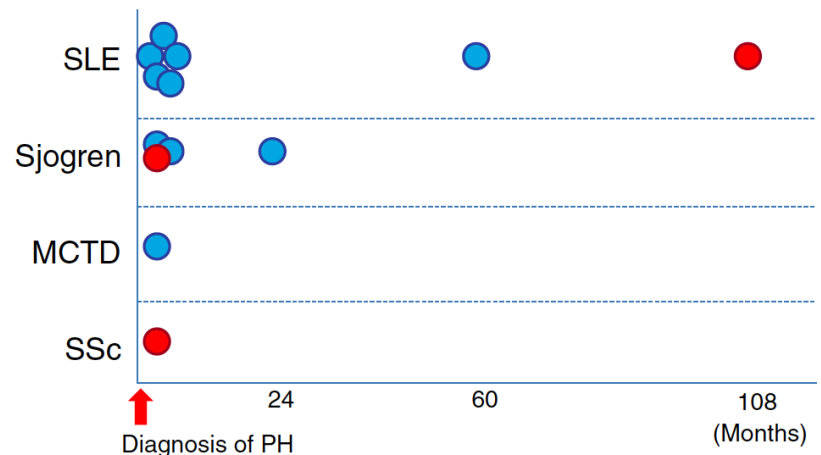
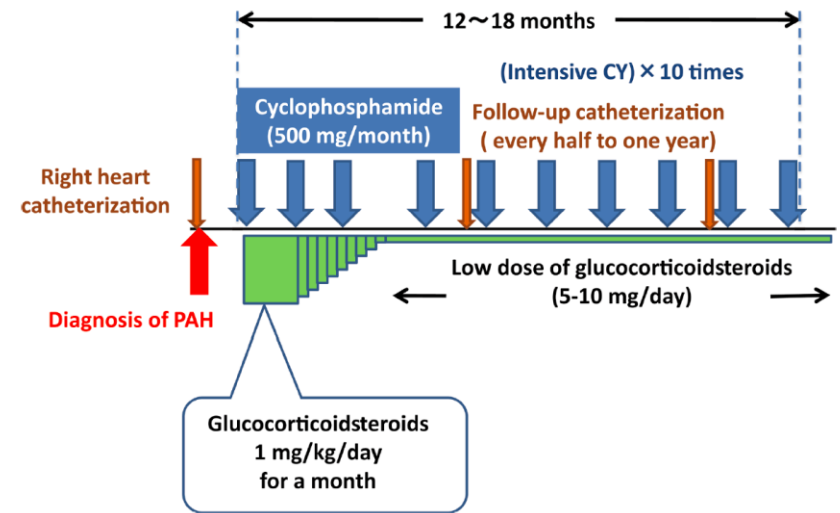
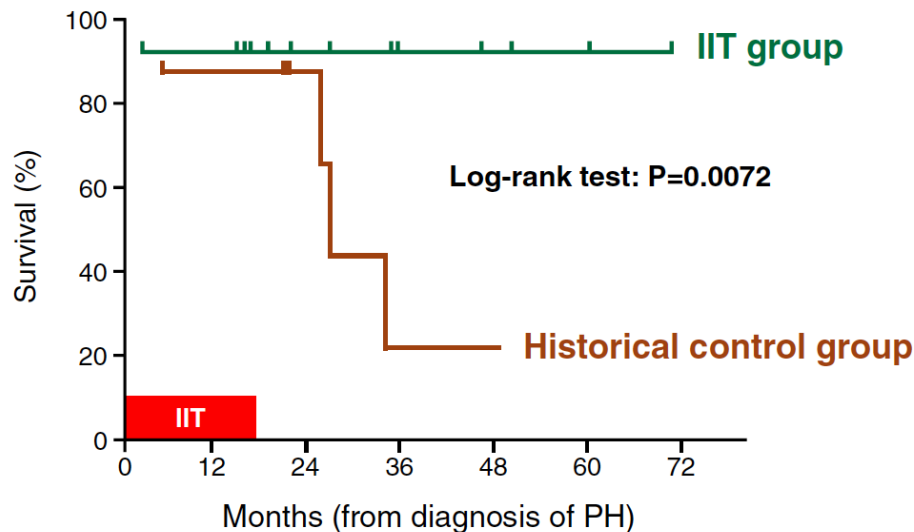
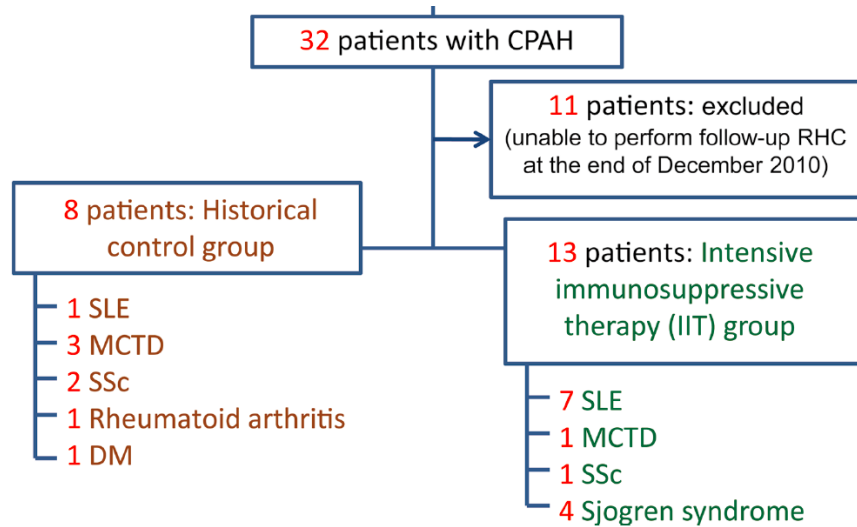


# And a substantial proportion of patients with SLE- or MCTD-PAH respond to immunosuppressive therapy

- First line immunosuppressive therapy
  - Monthly IV cyclophosphamide pulses (600 mg/m<sup>2</sup>)
  - Steroids (prednisone 0.5 - 1 mg/kg/j)
- Eight out of 28 patients (32%) were “responders” (NYHA I-II after 1 yr)
- No patient with systemic sclerosis responded
- 38% of SLE and MCTD patients responded after 7 ± 6 CYC pulses
  - SLE n = 5 / 13
  - MCTD n = 3 / 8
  - SSc n = 0 / 6



# And a substantial proportion of patients with SLE- or MCTD-PAH respond to immunosuppressive therapy



# PAH associated with connective-tissue diseases: Proposal

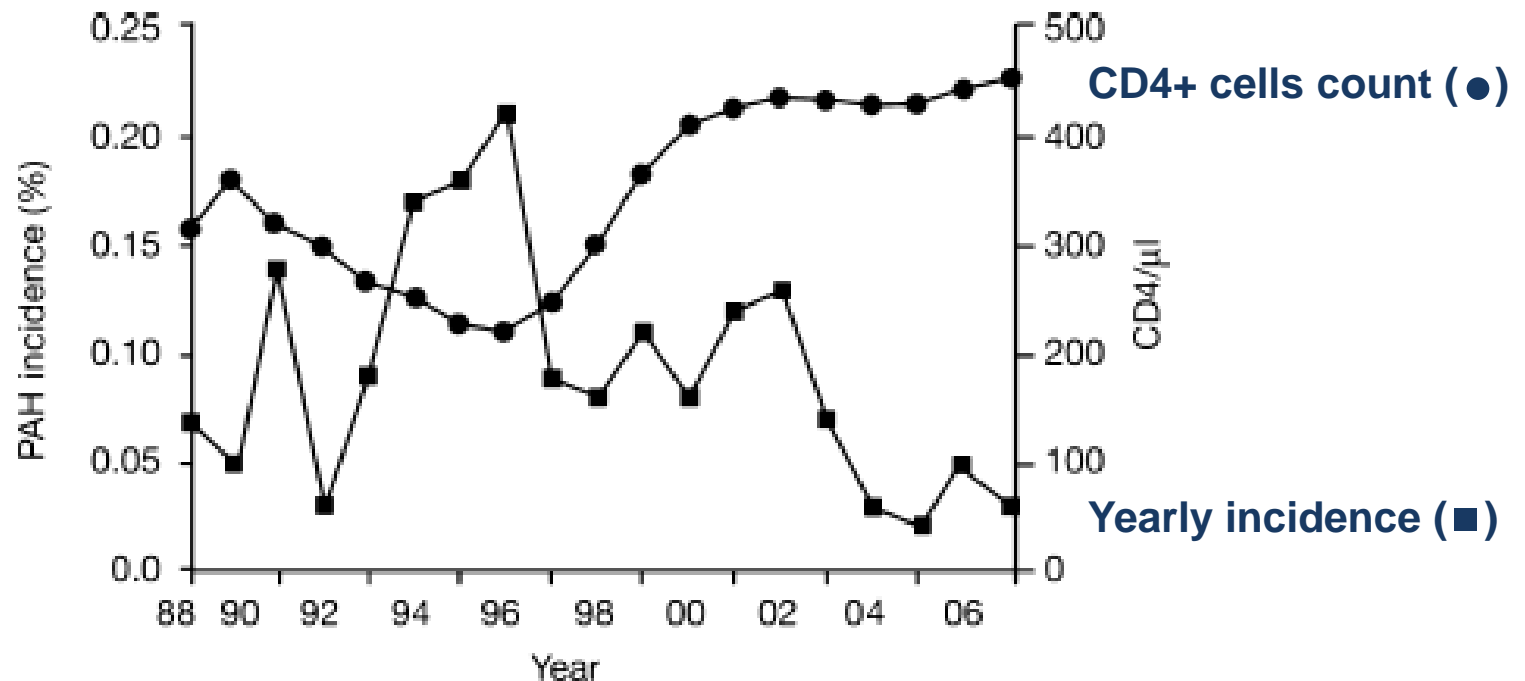
- Improve classification of PH associated with SSc
  - Group 1 or Group 3 when ILD?
  - How to handle with LV dysfunction when associated with pre-capillary PH?
  - How to handle with PH with venous involvement?
    - Better selection of patients before inclusion in RCTs
- Non-SSc CTD (Lupus, MCTD...) are different
  - Much better survival
  - Efficacy of immunosuppressive therapy
  - Cases of haemodynamic normalization
    - Not to merge with SSc in RCTs

# Recommendations for PAH associated with HIV infection

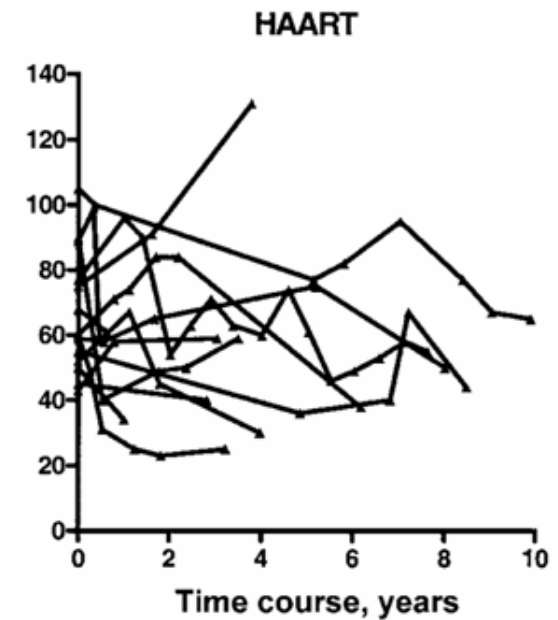
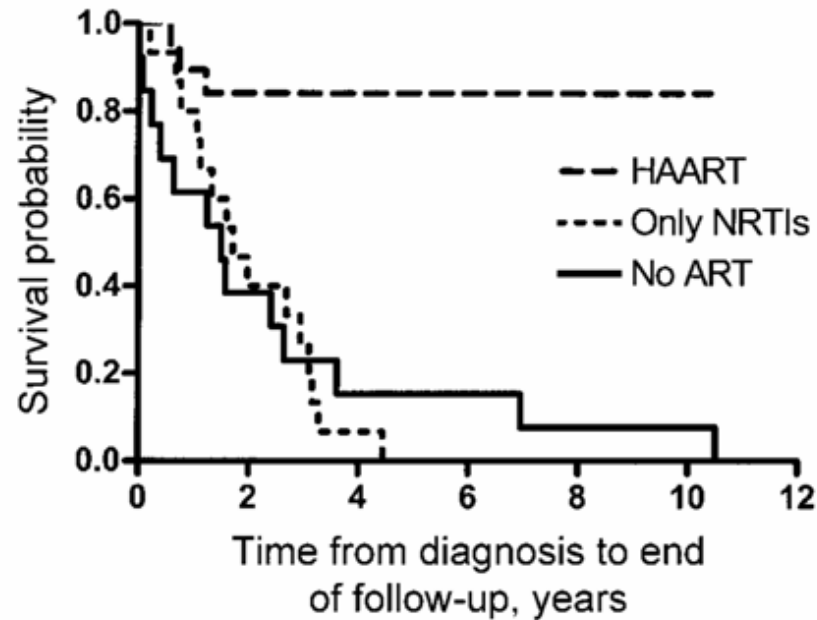
	Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>	Ref. <sup>c</sup>
Screening (Echo)	Echocardiographic screening in asymptomatic HIV patients to detect PH is not recommended	III	C	369
Treatment algorithm	In patients with PAH associated with HIV infection, the same treatment algorithm used for patients with PAH should be considered, taking into consideration co-morbidities and drug–drug interactions	IIa	C	194, 367
Anticoagulant issue	Anticoagulation is not recommended because of a lack of data on the efficacy:risk ratio	III	C	175,367

# PAH-HIV: stable prevalence (0.5%) but much lower incidence...

## Incidence of PAH-HIV as a function of time and CD4+ cells count

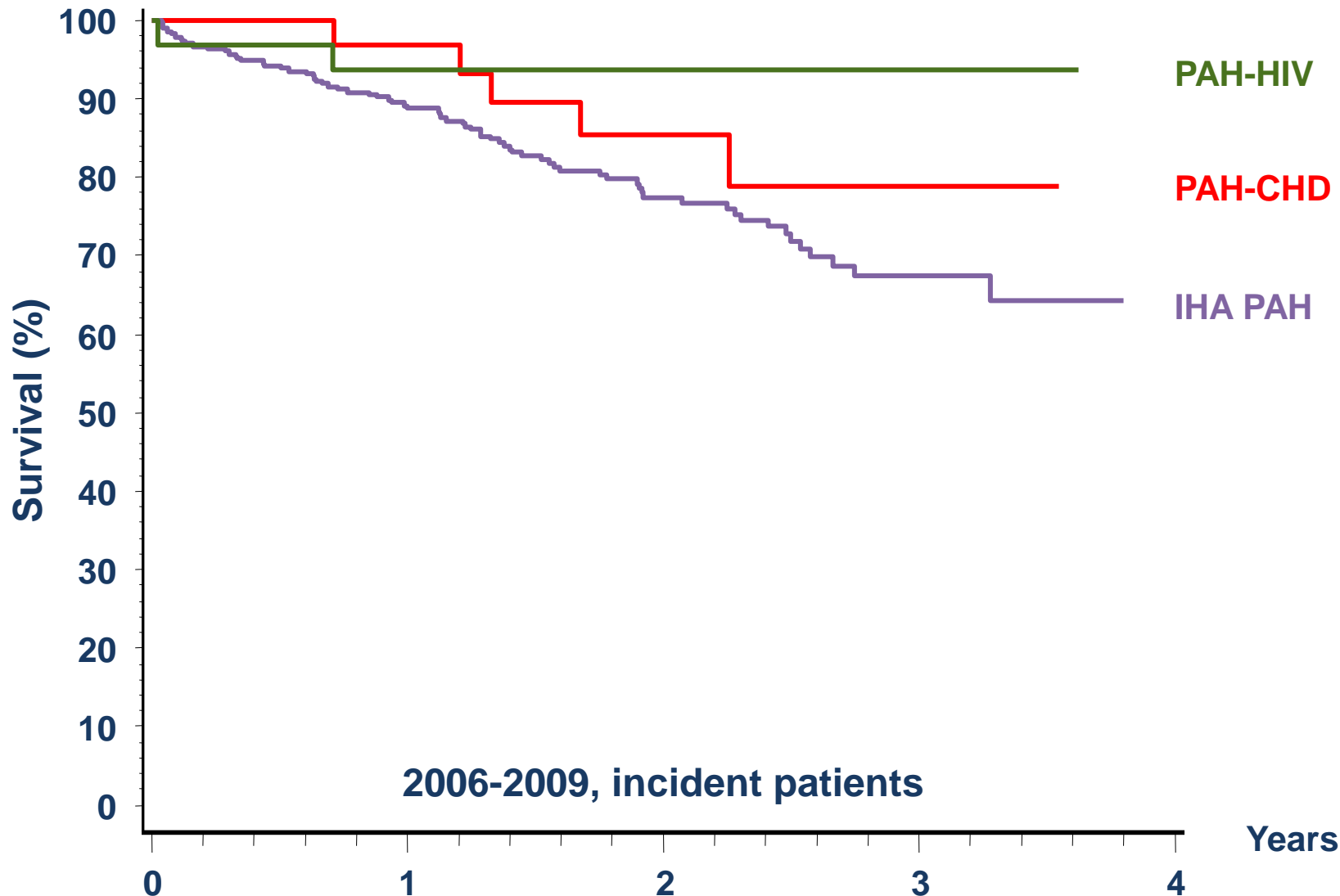


# PAH-HIV: Positive effect of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART)



# PAH-HIV: Today the best form of PAH!

## At least in western world...



2006-2009, incident patients

CHD: congenital heart diseases

IHA: idiopathic, heritable and anorexigen-induced PAH

Sitbon O, *et al.* Presented at ERS Congress 2011.

# Recommendations for PAH associated with portal hypertension (PoPH)

## Screening and assessment

Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>	Ref. <sup>c</sup>
Echocardiographic assessment for signs of PH is recommended in symptomatic patients with liver disease or portal hypertension and in all candidates for liver transplantation	<b>I</b>	<b>B</b>	344
It is recommended that patients affected by PAH associated with portal hypertension should be referred to centres with expertise in managing both conditions	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	344

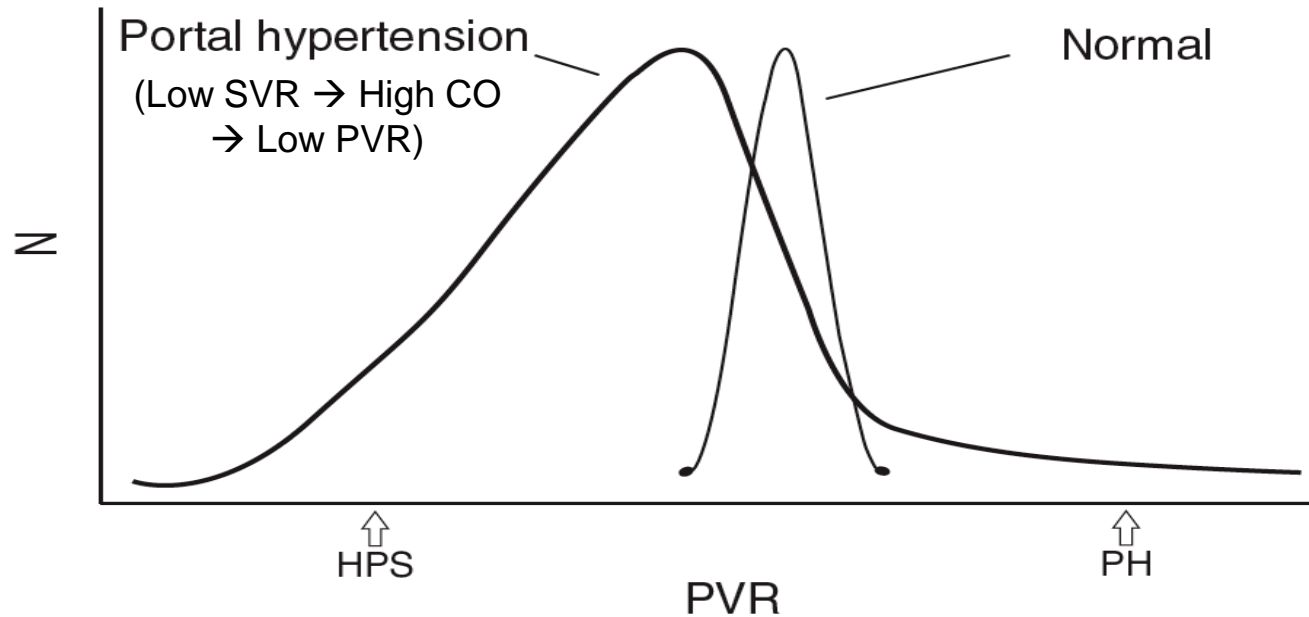
## Treatment

Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>	Ref. <sup>c</sup>
It is recommended that the treatment algorithm for patients with other forms of PAH should be applied to patients with PAH associated with portal hypertension, taking into account the severity of liver disease	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	214, 350–356
Anticoagulation is not recommended in patients with PH associated with portal hypertension	<b>III</b>	<b>C</b>	365

## Liver transplantation issue

Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>	Ref. <sup>c</sup>
Liver transplantation may be considered in selected patients responding well to PAH therapy	<b>IIb</b>	<b>C</b>	361–363
Liver transplantation is contraindicated in patients with severe and uncontrolled PAH	<b>III</b>	<b>C</b>	361–363

# Distribution of PVR in Portal Hypertension



## Hepatopulmonary syndrome

- Pulmonary vasodilatation
- Right-to-left intrapulmonary shunt
- Diffusion impairment

## Portopulmonary hypertension

- Precapillary pulmonary hypertension
- Vascular remodelling

# Pulmonary hemodynamics in portal hypertension

	PAP	PAWP	CO	PVR
Hyperdynamic	↗	N or ↗	↗↗	↘
Volume overload	↗	N or ↗	N or ↗	↘
PoPH	↗↗	N	↗, N, or ↘	↗

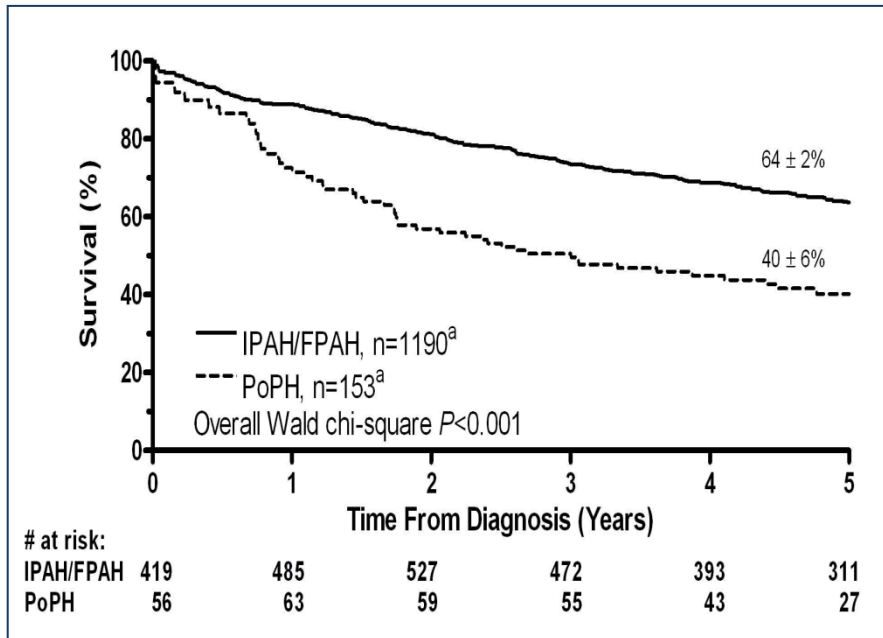
## Current definition of portopulmonary hypertension

- Portal hypertension (with or w/o cirrhosis).  
HPG > 5 mmHg if intrahepatic block
- Resting mPAP > 25 mmHg
- PAWP < 15 mmHg
- PVR > 3 Wood units

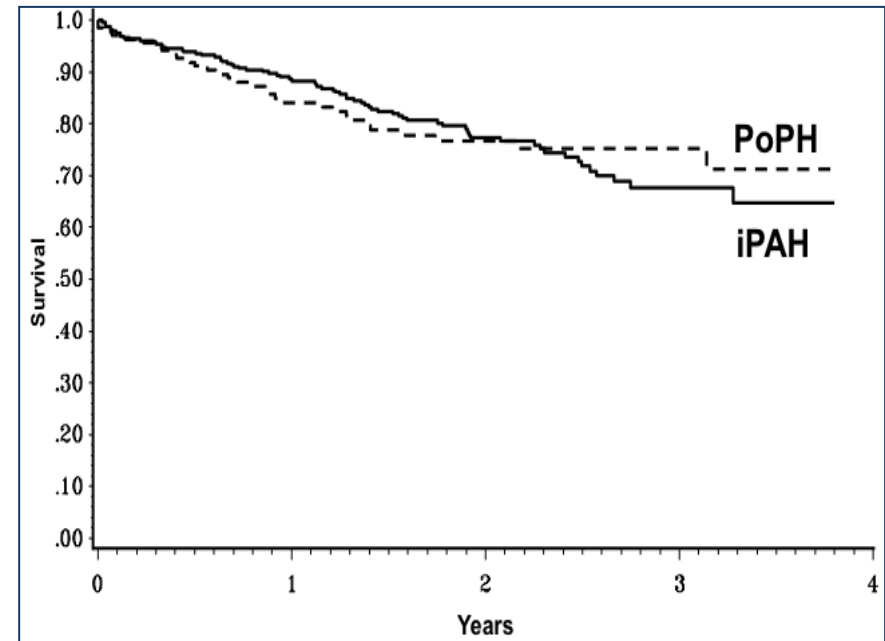
Patients with portal HT usually have a high CO  
→ Do we have to choose a PVR threshold of 2 WU to define PoPH?

# Why survival of patients with PoPH is so different in the US and in France?

## US cohort

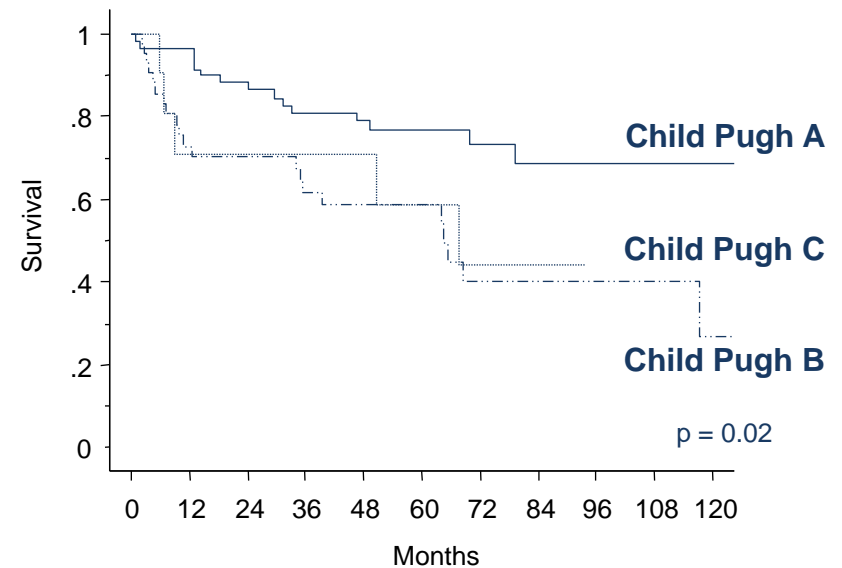
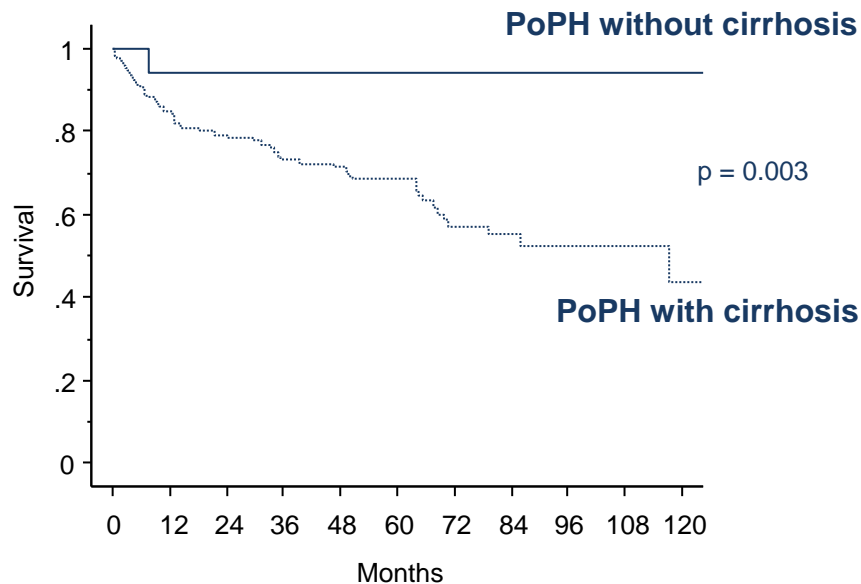


## French cohort



50% ← 3-year survival → 75%

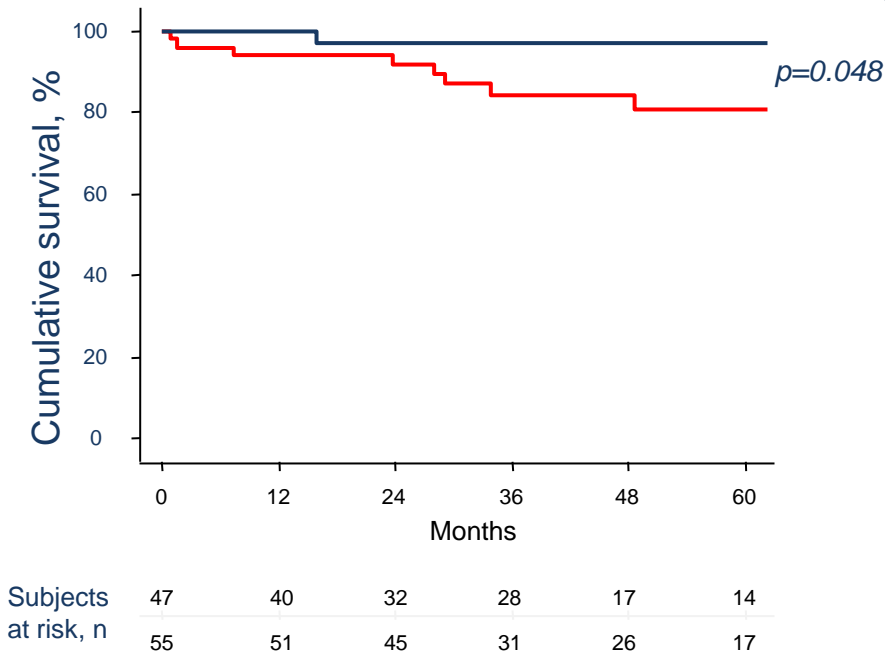
# Survival of patients with PoPH in mainly due to the severity of liver disease



Variables	Hazard Ratio	95% Confidence Interval	P-value
Absence of cirrhosis	0.20	0.07 – 0.59	0.003
Cirrhosis Child Pugh B	2.05	1.22 – 3.43	0.007
Cirrhosis Child Pugh C	2.42	1.26 – 4.65	0.008
Cardiac index	0.56	0.38 - 0.83	0.004

# PAH-targeted therapy may improve survival of PoPH patients with mild cirrhosis or non-cirrhotic portal HT

## Cirrhosis CP-A or non cirrhotic PoH



Why to not include patients with mild cirrhosis and non-cirrhotic portal HT in future long-term RCTs assessing efficacy/safety of PAH-targeted therapies?

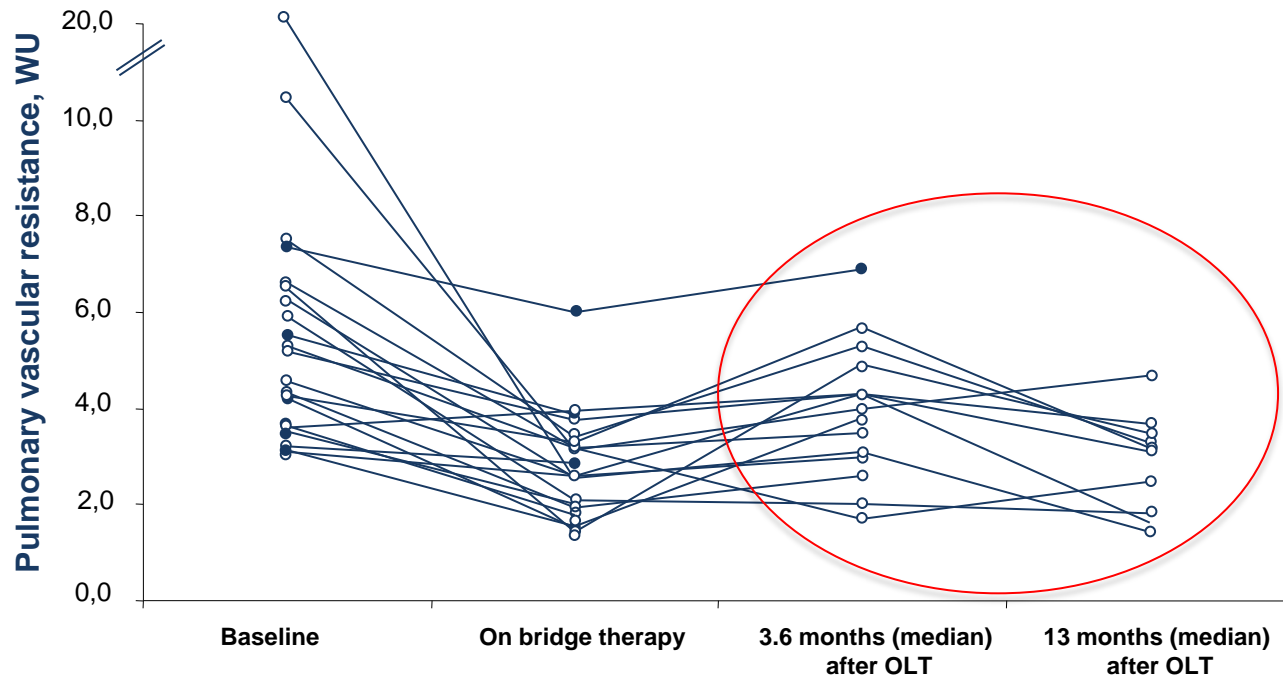


— Patients treated with PAH-targeted medications

— Untreated patients

# Combination of PAH-targeted therapy and liver transplantation in patients with PoPH

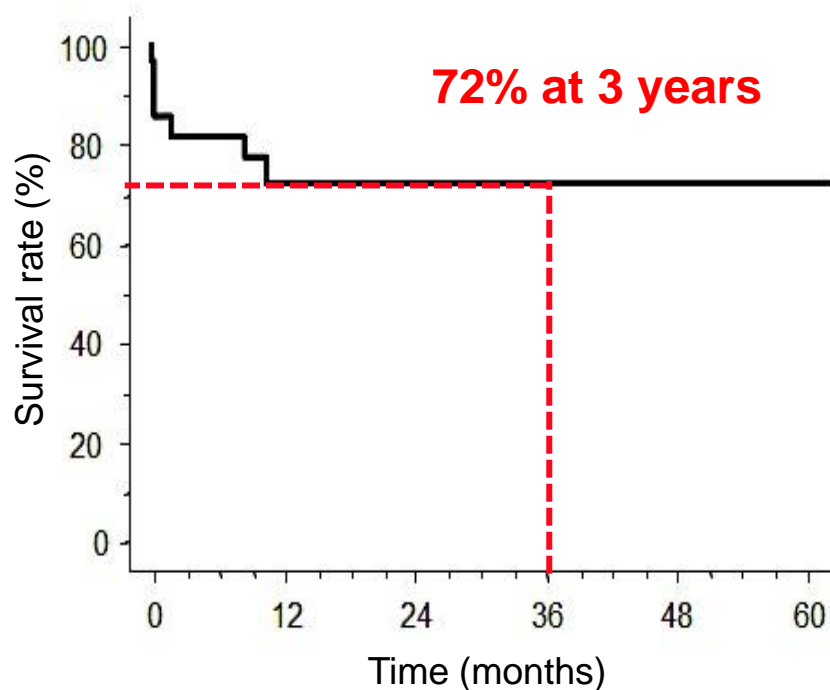
- 6 deaths including 3 PAH-related (D7, M2, M6 post-op.)
- Epoprostenol weaning off in all survivors, 6 months after LT



mPAP < 25 mmHg  
N=7/19 (37%)

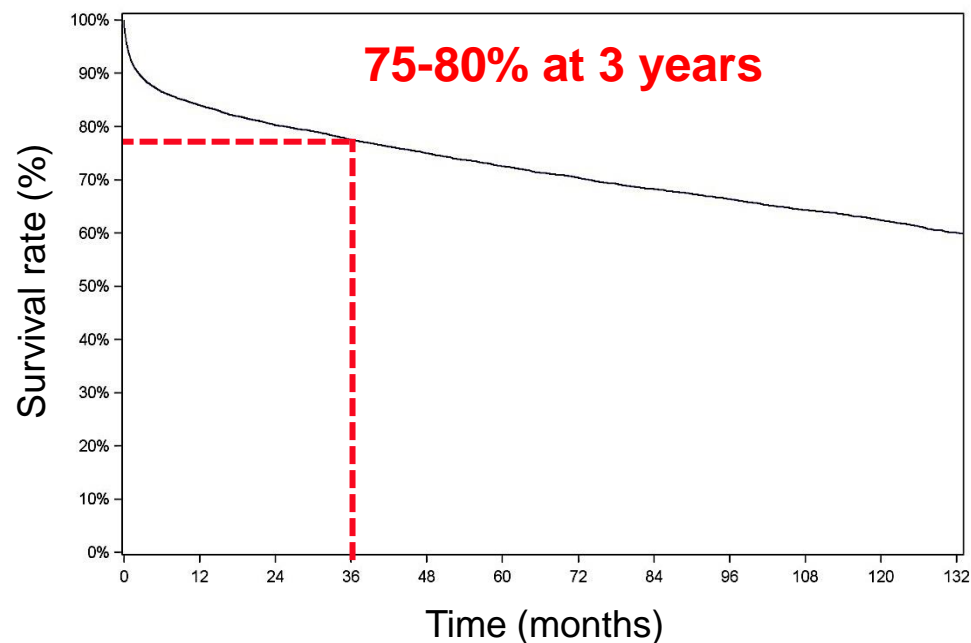
# PoPH: Survival after liver transplantation

## Liver transplant PoPH

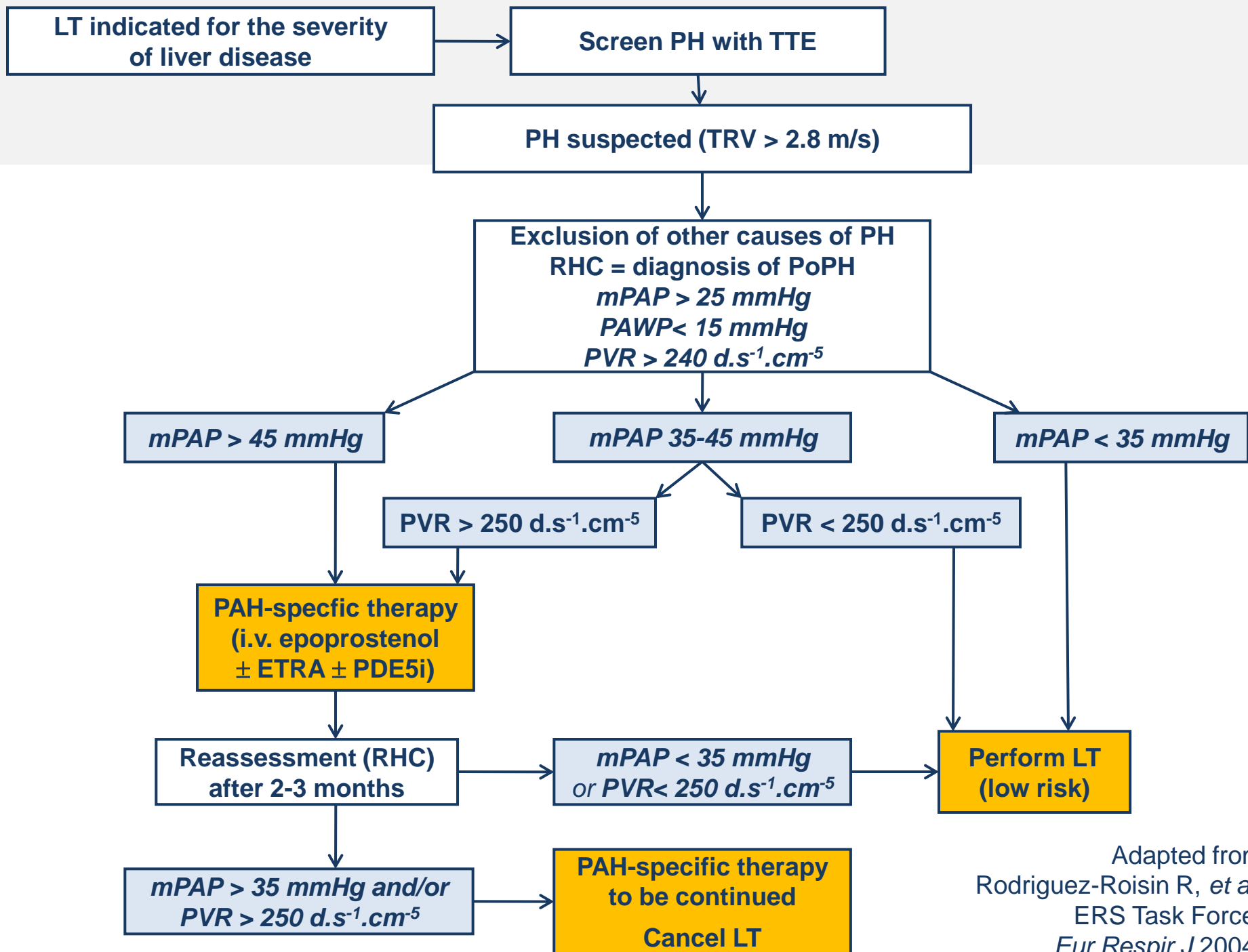


Patients (n) 29 14 13 11 8 8

## Overall LT in France




Data from French  
“Biomedicine Agency”



Adapted from  
Rodriguez-Roisin R, et al.  
ERS Task Force.  
*Eur Respir J* 2004.

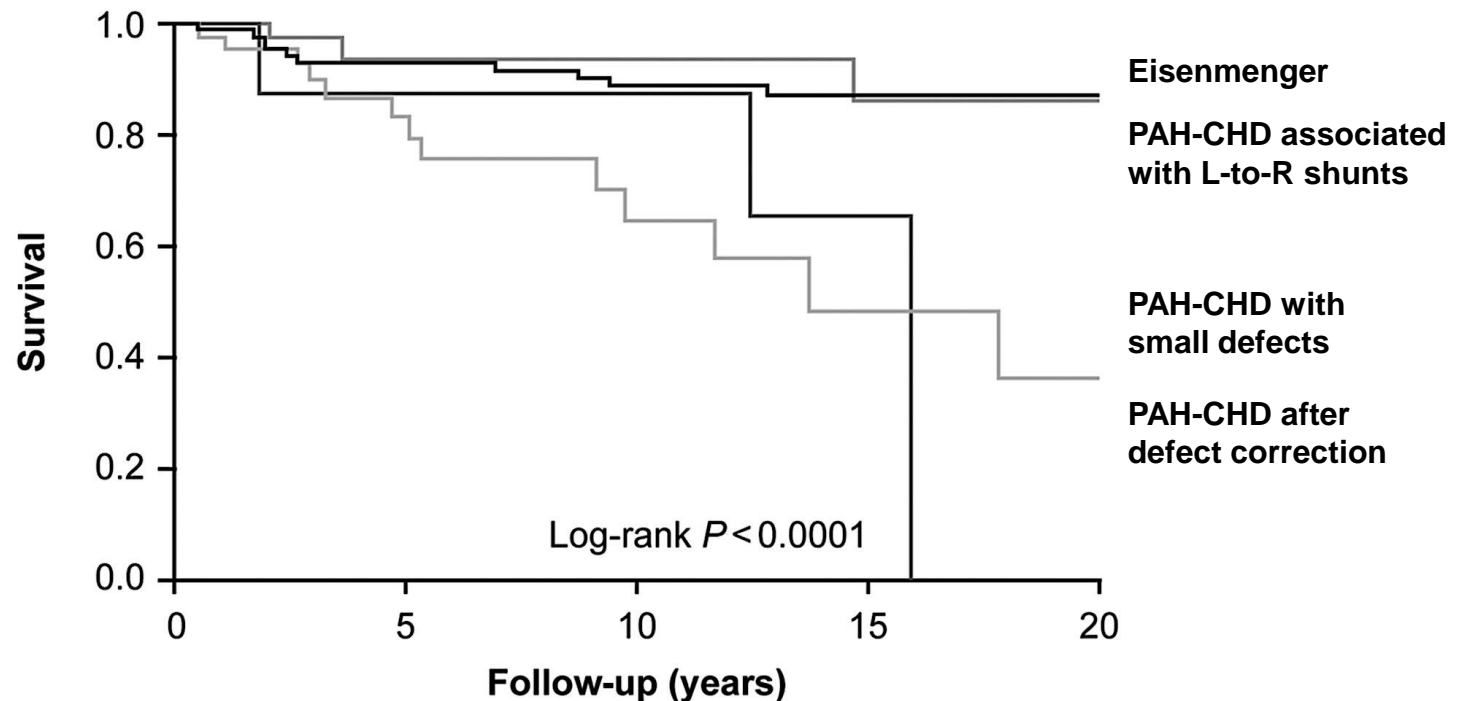
# Comprehensive clinical classification of pulmonary hypertension Group 1

I. Pulmonary arterial hypertension	
I.1 Idiopathic	
I.2 Heritable	
I.2.1 BMPR2 mutation	
I.2.2 Other mutations	
I.3 Drugs and toxins induced	
I.4 Associated with:	
I.4.1 Connective tissue disease	
I.4.2 Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection	
I.4.3 Portal hypertension	
I.4.4 Congenital heart diseases (Table 5)	
I.4.5 Schistosomiasis	
I'. Pulmonary veno-occlusive disease and/or pulmonary capillary haemangiomatosis	
I''. Persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn	

- 
- Eisenmenger's syndrome
  - PAH associated with prevalent S to P shunt
  - PAH with small/coincidental findings
  - PAH after defect correction

# Survival of patients with PAH associated with CHD according to clinical subgroups

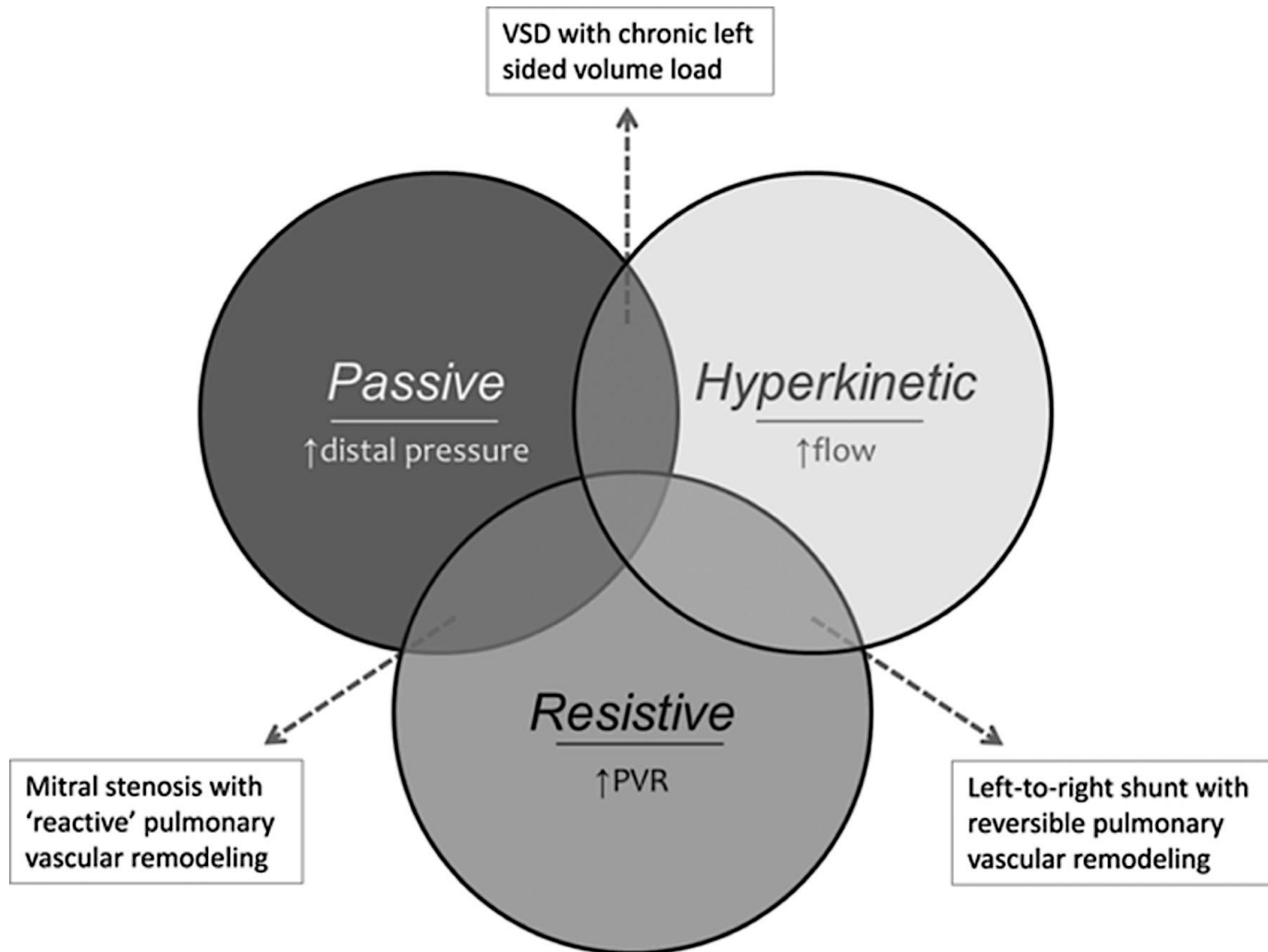
Single-center retrospective analysis in N= 192 patients



Patients at risk

Eisenmenger	90	71	59	52	48
PAH-CHD with L-to-R shunts	48	22	18	11	10
PAH-CHD with small defects	10	4	4	2	0
PAH after defect correction	44	22	12	4	3

# The three major hemodynamic causes of PH and their intersections in patients with CHD



Examples of overlap in patients with CHD

# Recommendations for correction of CHD with prevalent systemic-to-pulmonary shunts

<b>PVRi (WU • m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>PVR (WU)</b>	<b>Correctable<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Class<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Level<sup>b</sup></b>
<4	<2.3	Yes	<b>Ila</b>	<b>C</b>
>8	>4.6	No	<b>Ila</b>	<b>C</b>
4–8	2.3–4.6	Individual patient evaluation in tertiary centres	<b>Ila</b>	<b>C</b>

PVR = pulmonary vascular resistance; PVRi = PVR index; WU= Wood units.

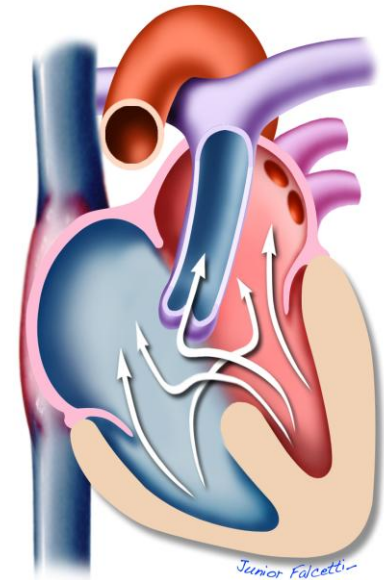
<sup>a</sup> Class of recommendation. <sup>b</sup> Level of evidence

<sup>c</sup> With surgery or intravascular percutaneous procedure

- Long-term impact of defect closure in the presence of PAH with already increased PVR is unknown.
- Presence of exercise-induced and resting desaturation is concerning
- There is no evidence that a « treat-and-repair » approach in patients with PAH and high PVR is associated with long-term benefit

# Short and long-term outcomes depend on several issues ...

- Nutritional status
- Extracardiac syndromes and comorbidities
  - Airway and lung disease
- Complexity of the anomaly
  - Possibility of significant residual lesions
- Pulmonary vascular disease
- Postoperative support
- Assistance after hospital discharge
  - Social / Economic issues



# Recommendations for PAH associated with congenital heart diseases (CHD)

**PAH-targeted therapy in Eisenmenger syndrome**

**Anticoagulant issue**

**Oxygen therapy issue**

Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>	Ref. <sup>c</sup>
Bosentan WHO Class IIb			22
Other EP prostanoid in patient syndrome			14, 24
In the absence of significant haemoptysis, oral anticoagulant treatment may be considered in patients with PA thrombosis or signs of heart failure	IIb	C	
The use of supplemental O <sub>2</sub> therapy should be considered in cases in which it produces a consistent increase in arterial O <sub>2</sub> saturation and reduces symptoms	IIa	C	179

Only one RCT with bosentan.  
Another one ongoing (Maestro)

No RCT with other drugs in monotherapy

# Recommendations for PAH associated with congenital heart diseases (CHD)

**Hyperviscosity issue**

**Supplemental iron treatment issue**

**Combination therapy in ES**

**CCBs not recommended**

Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>	Ref. <sup>c</sup>
If symptoms of hyperviscosity are present, phlebotomy with isovolumic replacement should be considered, usually when the haematocrit is >65%	<b>IIa</b>	<b>C</b>	183
The use of supplemental iron treatment must be individualized in patients with low iron levels			
Combination therapy should be considered in patients with Eisenmenger syndrome			4
The use of CCBs is not recommended in patients with Eisenmenger syndrome			189

PAH-CHD: <10% of patients in RCTs with combination therapy

Vast majority of CHD with corrected shunts

# Proposal for goals in PAH – CHD

Determinant of prognosis	Better prognosis	Worse prognosis
Right ventricular failure	Not applicable	Yes, guarded
Syncope	No	Uncertain
WHO FC	I/II	III/IV
6MWD	Longer (>350 m)	Shorter (<300 m)
Oxygen saturation	> 85%	$\leq 85\%$ or drop $\geq 2\%$ per year
Iron deficiency	Transferrin saturation $\geq 20\%$	Transferrin saturation < 20%
BNP levels	Normal or near-normal	> 30 pmol/L
Echocardiography	TAPSE > 1.5 cm, RA area < 25 cm <sup>2</sup> , RA/LA < 1.5	TAPSE $\leq 1.5$ cm, RA area $\geq 25$ cm <sup>2</sup> , RA/LA $\leq 1.5$
Haemodynamics	RAP < 8 mmHg and CI $\geq 2.5$ L/min/m <sup>2</sup>	RAP > 15 mmHg and CI $\leq 2.0$ L/min/m <sup>2</sup>

# PAH-CHD: Summary

- Guidelines provide guidance for Eisenmenger syndrome treatment in adults
- PAH-targeted therapies show benefit in Eisenmenger syndrome
- Treat-to-target strategy is necessary in Eisenmenger syndrome as patients seem not to be as stable as previously reported. However there is a need for defining specific targets for this population
- Guidelines and classification need to be implemented to include children and other forms of CHD-PAH