



NCCN 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress:  
**Hematologic Malignancies™**

## **Early-stage Classical Hodgkin Lymphoma (CHL): Can We Eliminate Radiation Therapy for Most Patients?**

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**NCCN.org** – For Clinicians | **NCCN.org/patients** – For Patients

## Learning Objectives

- Describe the challenges associated with the management of early stage CHL and the need to develop individualized treatment options
- Review the evidence from recent clinical trials evaluating the use of chemotherapy alone for early stage CHL
- To understand the evolving criteria used in interpretation of PET scans (Deauville Criteria)
- To understand the potential use and limitations of PET scans in guiding treatment decisions in early stage CHL

## **Stage I-II Classical Hodgkin Lymphoma (CHL) Evolution of “The Gold Standards”**

- Late 1960's-1970's: Extensive Radiation Therapy (RT)
- Late 1970's-1990's: Aggressive combined modality therapy (CMT) with extended field RT
- Mid 1990's: Reduced intensity CMT with involved field RT
- Current CMT: Further reduction in chemotherapy with involved nodal/involved site RT
- Current focus: PET-adapted strategies to assess if RT can be eliminated

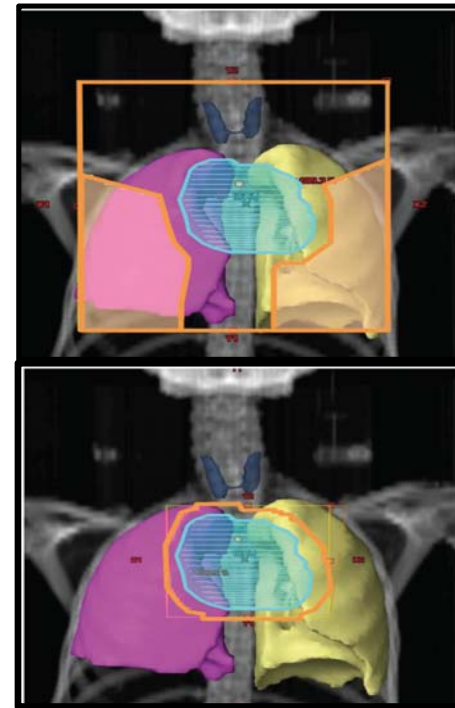
## Evolution of Radiation Therapy

- Involved Field Radiation Therapy (IFRT)
  - Treats entire lymphoid regions defined by arbitrary anatomic landmarks
- Involved Site Radiation Therapy (ISRT)
  - Targets only the specific volume initially involved with minimal margins
- Involved Nodal Radiation Therapy (INRT)
  - Special case of ISRT where pre-chemo PET-CT in treatment position required
  - More accurate volume definition of treatment field

## Evolution of RT: IFRT vs INRT



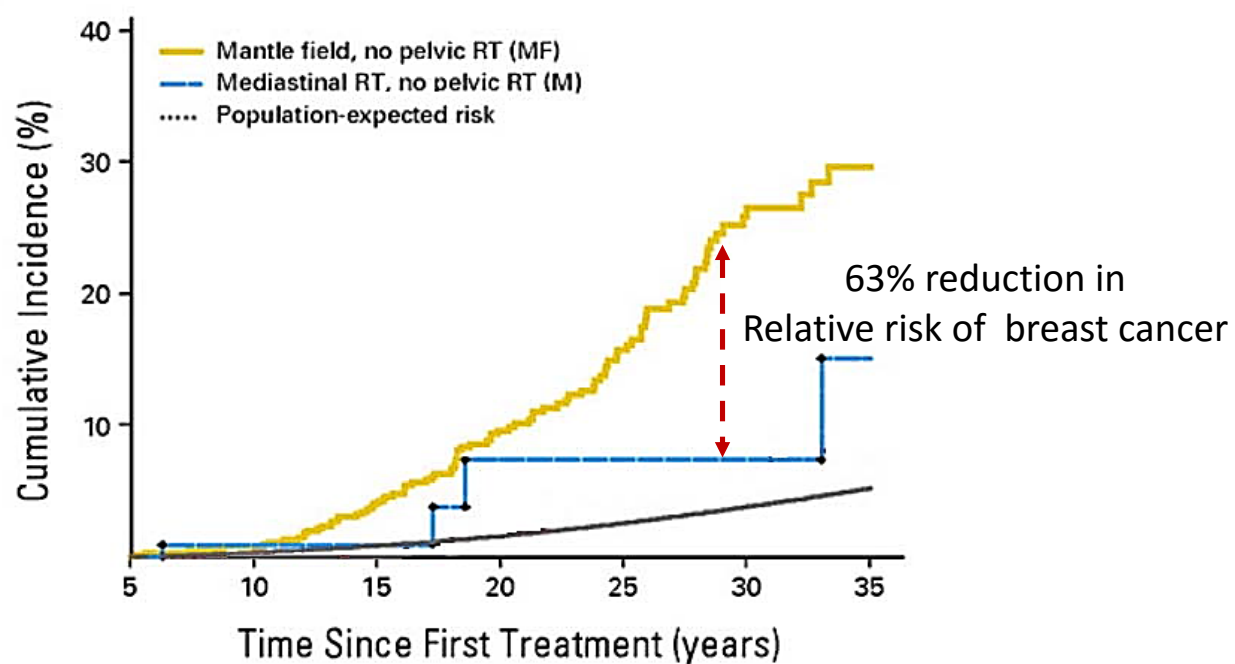
Maraldo MV, et al. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys.* 2013;85(4):1057-1065.



Campbell BA, et al. *Ann Oncol.* 2012;23(5):1259-1266.

## Implications for Transition to IFRT

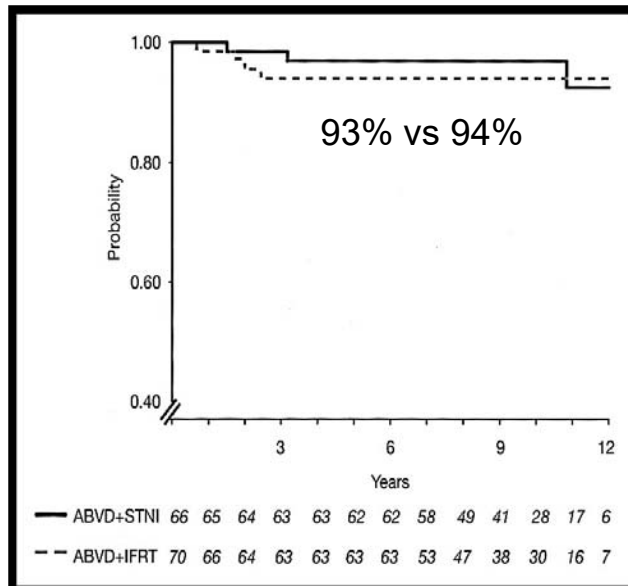
### Clinical Evidence of Reduction in Breast Cancer Risk



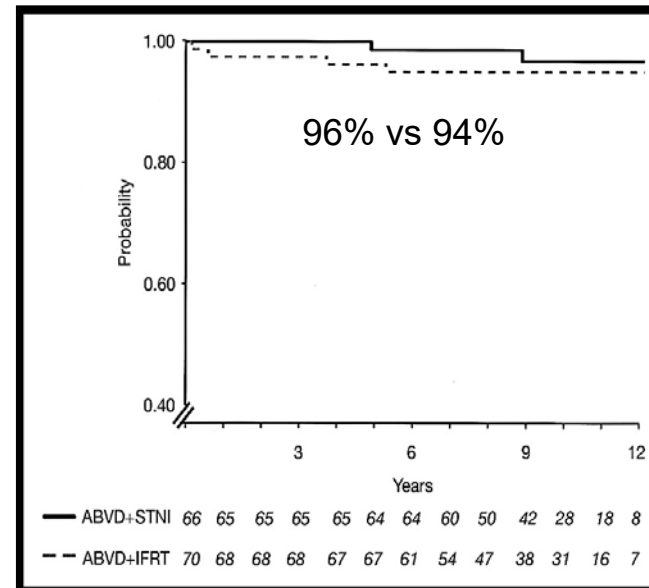
De Bruin M L et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2009;27(26): 4239-4226.

# **Stage I-II CHL** **ABVD X 4 + IFRT: Established Standard of Care** **Long-Term Results (12 years)**

Freedom From Progression (FFP)



Overall Survival (OS)



Bonadonna G, et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2004;22(14):2835-2841.

## Stage I-II CHL: Key Issues

- Definition of “favorable” vs “unfavorable” early stage disease
- Can risk-adapted strategies be employed to omit radiation therapy?
- Considerations for the treatment of patients with bulky mediastinal disease
- Future considerations
  - Incorporation of novel agents
  - Identification of biological subsets to guide therapy



## Stage I-II CHL: Key Issues

- Definition of “favorable” vs “unfavorable” early stage disease

# Risk Factors in Early Stage CHL

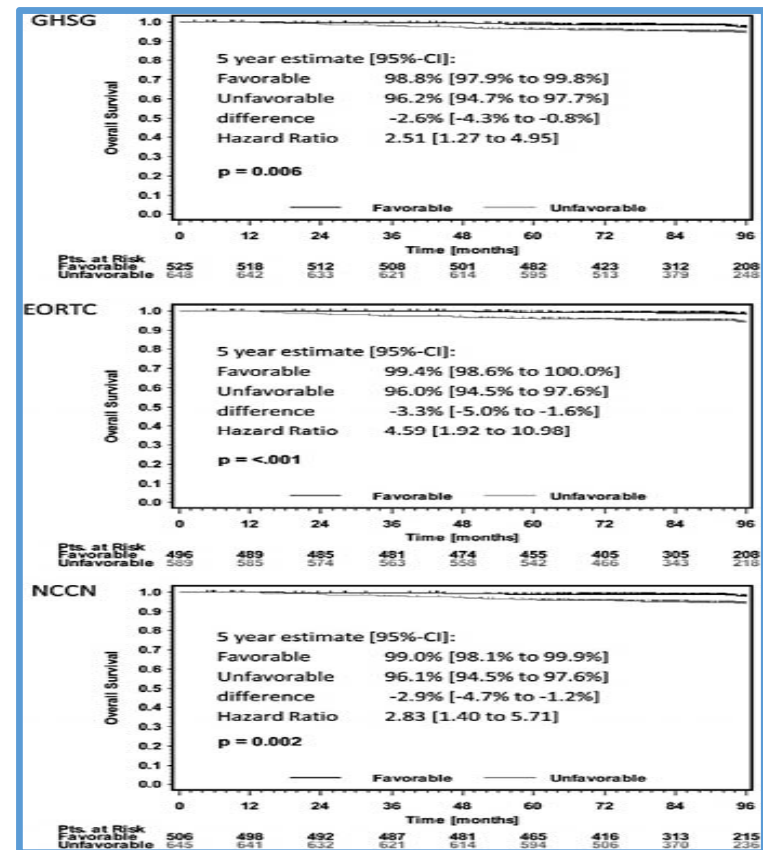
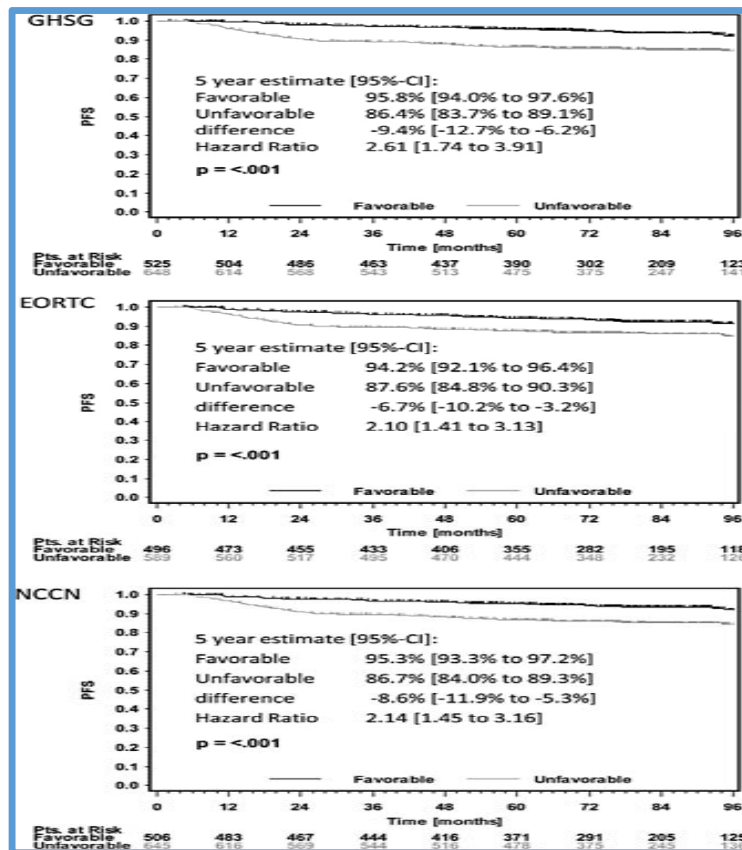
## Risk Factors: Variably defined

GHSG	EORTC	NCCN
Large mediastinal mass (ratio $\geq 1/3$ )*	Large mediastinal mass (ratio $\geq 0.35$ )	Large mediastinal mass (ratio $> 1/3$ ) Bulk $> 10$ cm
$\geq 1$ extranodal lesion*	Age $\geq 50$ years	
ESR $\geq 50$ (A) or $\geq 30$ (B)	ESR $\geq 50$ (A) or $\geq 30$ (B)	ESR $\geq 50$ (A) B-symptoms
$\geq 3$ nodal areas (out of 11 GHSG areas)	$\geq 4$ nodal areas (out of 5 supra-diaphragmatic EORTC areas)	$\geq 4$ nodal regions (out of 17 Ann Arbor regions)

Klimm B, et al. *Ann Oncol.* 2013;24(12):3070-3076.

## Outcomes in Early stage CHL Using Risk Definitions: GHSG, EORTC, or NCCN

All definitions work largely because of significant overlap in risk factors



Klimm B, et al. *Ann Oncol.* 2013;24(12):3070-3076.

# HL Clinical Trial Treatment Groups

## Europe vs North America

Europe (GSHG, GELA, EORTC)	USA/Canada	
Early favorable	Stage CS I, IIA, B No risk factors	Limited stage
Early unfavorable	CS I, IIA, B	
(Intermediate)	<div>B Sx</div> <div>ESR &gt; 50 mm</div> <div>Bulky disease</div> <div>&gt; 2-3 nodal sites</div> <div>Men over 40 y of age</div>	
Advanced stage	CS III-IV, Selected CS IIB	Advanced stage

Courtesy Connors JM, et al. *53rd ASH Annual Meeting*. 2010 education session.

# Early Stage Classical Hodgkin Lymphoma (CHL)

## Expected outcomes and goals of therapy in 2016

	% Cure Rate	Therapeutic Priority
Early Favorable (Stage I-II)	90	Reduce Toxicity
Early Unfavorable (stage I, II with risk factors)	80-85	Increase Efficacy <i>without</i> any increase in toxicity

- Risk Factors: Variably defined
- Large mediastinal mass
  - Extranodal lesions
  - $\geq 3$  nodal sites
  - $\uparrow$  ESR
  - age > 40
  - MC histology

## Case 1: Early Stage CHL

- 36-year-old woman presents with a 2-month h/o pruritus. She denies fevers, night sweats, or weight loss
- Exam: well appearing and has a 2 cm L neck mass
- PET/CT scan: bilateral supraclavicular nodes measuring ~ 2 cm (SUV 6-8) and an upper mediastinal node measuring 5 x 2 cm (SUV 11.1)
- Excisional biopsy: classical HL, nodular sclerosing type
- Labs: WBC 5.6 K/ $\mu$ L with a normal differential, Hgb 12.7 g/dL, plt 154 K/ $\mu$ L, ESR 45, normal renal and hepatic function
- Final Diagnosis: Stage II A CHL

## Case 1: Therapy Choices for Stage IIA disease

1: ABVD x 2 + 20 Gy ISRT

2: ABVD x 4 + 30 Gy ISRT

3: Stanford V 8 weeks + 30 Gy ISRT

4: ABVD x 2 + Esc BEACOPP x 2 + ISRT

5: ABVD x 3-4

6: ABVD x 6

Bonadonna G, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2004;22(14):2835-2841, Engert A, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2010;363(7):640-652  
Eich HT, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2010;28(27):4199-4206, von Tresckow B, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2012;30(9):907-913  
Advani RH, et al. *Ann Oncol*. 2013;24(4):1044-1048, Radford J, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2015;372(17):1598-1607  
Meyer RM, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2012; 366(5):399-408, Raemaekers JM, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2014;32(12):1188-1194

## Combined Modality Therapy in CT Era Overall Survival > 94% in Early stage CHL

Study	N	Chemo	RT	OS (%)	Years
Milan INT	70	ABVD	IF 30 Gy	94	12
GHSB HD10	1190	ABVD	IF 20-30 Gy	94.5	10
GHSB HD11	1395	ABVD Esc BEACOPP	IF 30 Gy	94.5	10
GHSB HD14	1431	ABVD 2+2	IF 30 Gy	95	5
EORTC H9U	277	ABVD	IF 30 Gy	95	4
Stanford/Kaiser G4	87	Stanford V	IF 30 Gy	94	12

Bonadonna G, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2004;22(14):2835-2841, Engert A, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2010;363(7):640-652.  
 Eich HT, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2010;28(27):4199-4206., von Tresckow B, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2012;30(9):907-913.  
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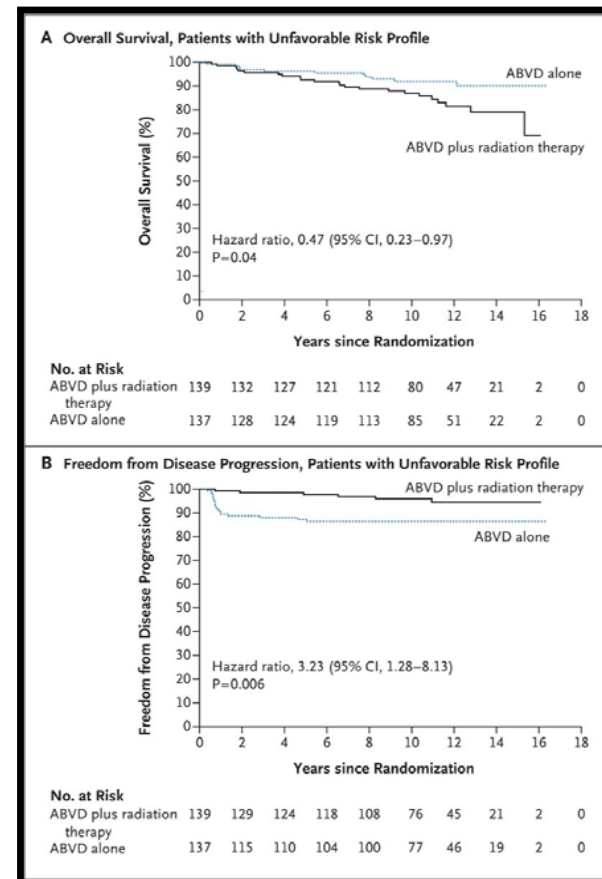
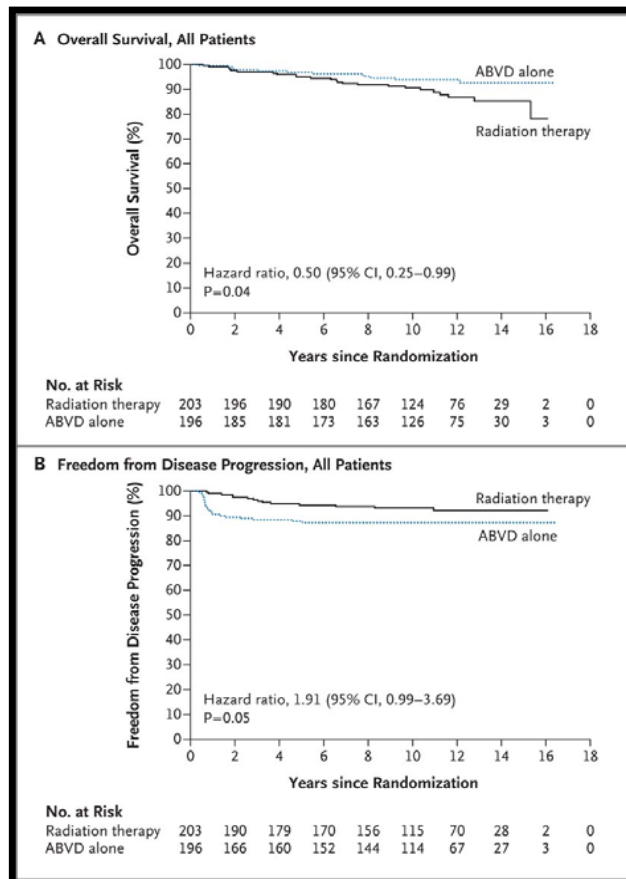


## Questions

- Can favorable patients receive less treatment?
- Should early stage unfavorable patients receive more treatment?
- Can we better select patients for chemotherapy alone?

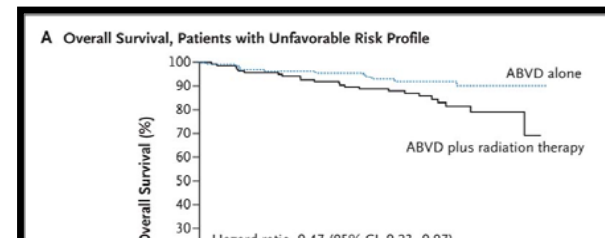
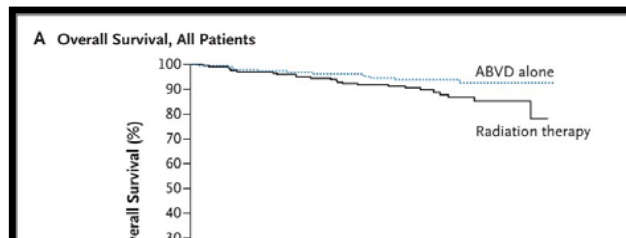
# NCIC H6 Trial: CT Adapted Therapy

## Overall Survival and Freedom From Disease Progression



Meyer RM, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2012;366(5):399-408.

## NCIC H6 Trial: CT Adapted Therapy Overall Survival and Freedom From Disease Progression



**CT scans used to define response which is different from  
current paradigms which use PET scans**

**Question:  
Can PET help identify patients in whom RT can be omitted?**

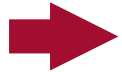
No. at Risk										
Radiation therapy	203	190	179	170	156	115	70	28	2	0
ABVD alone	196	166	160	152	144	114	67	27	3	0

No. at Risk										
ABVD plus radiation therapy	139	129	124	118	108	76	45	21	2	0
ABVD alone	137	115	110	104	100	77	46	19	2	0

Meyer RM, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2012;366(5):399-408.

## PET/CT Imaging Potential Uses In CHL

- Staging: YES
- Response assessment: YES
  - End of therapy (EOT)



- *Treatment modification based on PET/CT*
  - *EOT*
  - *Interim*
- Can modification of Rx based on EOT or interim PET/CT have the potential to select patients for treatment escalation or de-escalation?
- Do these modifications have the potential to improve outcomes?

## **Report 'Wording' Nightmares for Clinicians**

### Common report

- Excellent response, there is minimal residual uptake in a para aortic node which could represent treated disease. Residual lymphoma cannot be excluded.

## Deauville 5-Point Scoring System

### Score

1 No uptake

2 Uptake  $\leq$  mediastinum

3 Uptake  $>$  mediastinum but  $\leq$  liver

4 Uptake moderately higher than liver

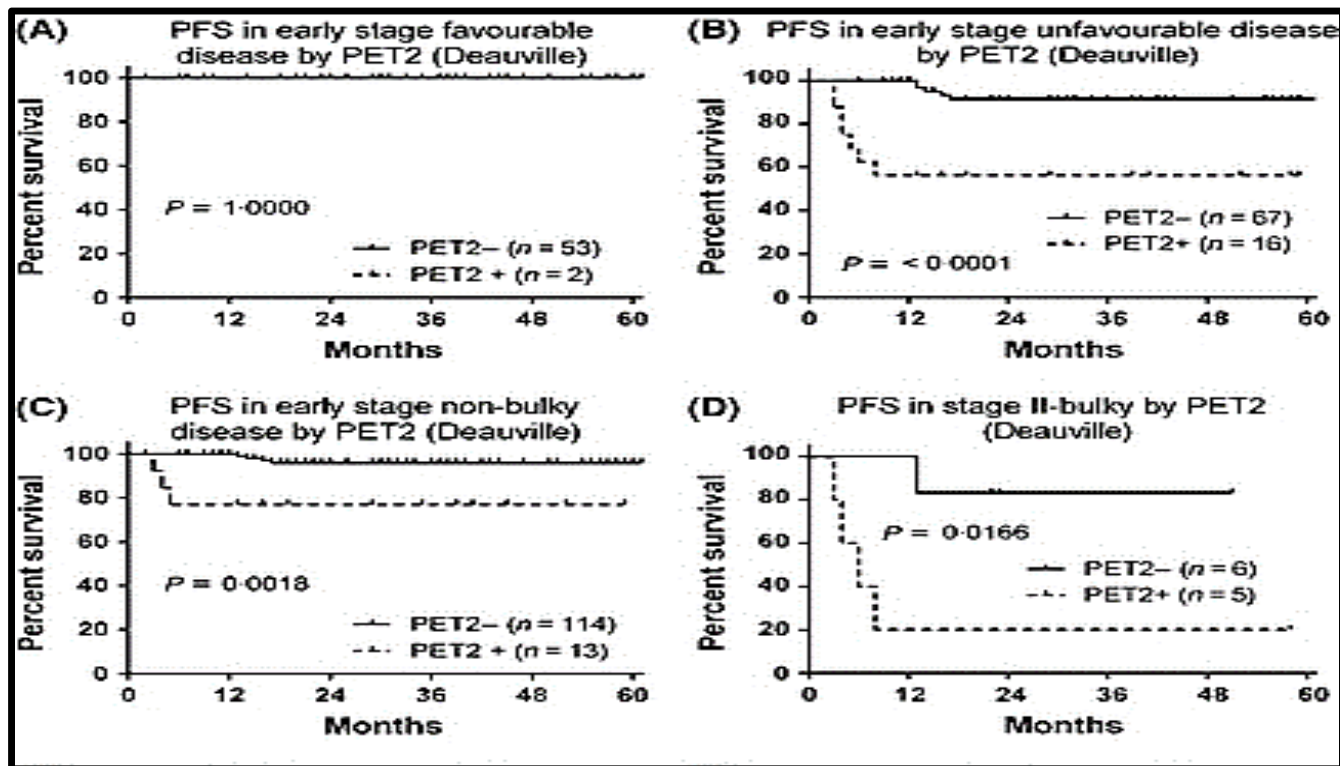
5 Uptake markedly higher than liver and/or new lesions

X New areas of uptake unlikely to be related to lymphoma

Barrington SF, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2014;32(27):3048-3058.

# The Prognostic Value of Interim PET Scan in Patients With Early Stage CHL

MD Anderson retrospective study using Deauville Criteria



Oki Y, et al. *Br J Haematol.* 2014;165(1):112-116.

## **Early Stage CHL**

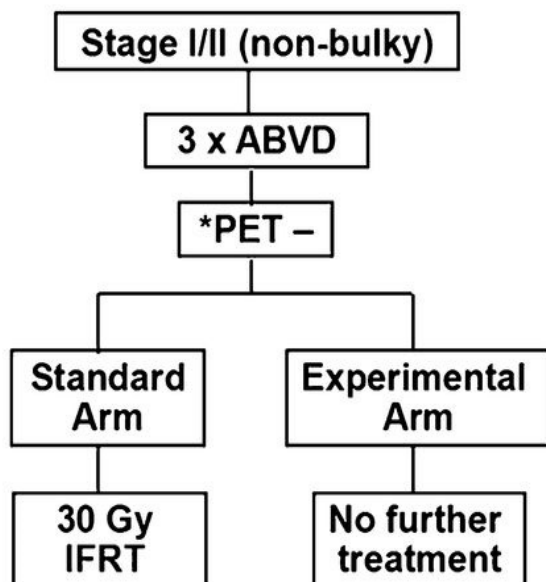
**Does a reduction in therapy based upon a  
negative interim PET impact PFS?**

**Prospective Studies**



# UK NCRI RAPID Trial: Stage I-IIA Non-Bulky

C.



## PET scores after 3 cycles ABVD and treatment allocation

- Following 3 cycles ABVD 571 pts had a PET scan:
  - Score 1, 301 (52.7%)
  - Score 2, 125 (22.0%)
  - Score 3, 90 (15.7%)
  - Score 4, 32 (5.6%)
  - Score 5, 23 (4.0%)
- 420 of 426 PET -ve pts randomised to IFRT (209) or NFT (211)
  - 6 not randomised; pt choice 3, clinician choice 2, error 1
- 25 of 209 pts randomised to IFRT did not receive this treatment:
  - patients declined 19
  - died 5
  - pneumonia 1

≥7% difference in PFS

~ 36% would have been considered unfavorable by GHSG or EORTC criteria

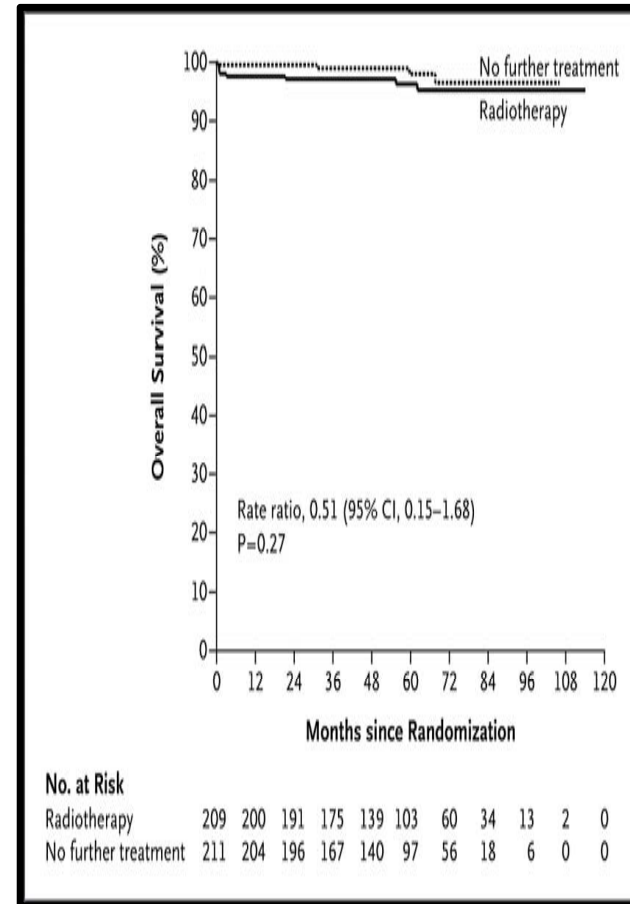
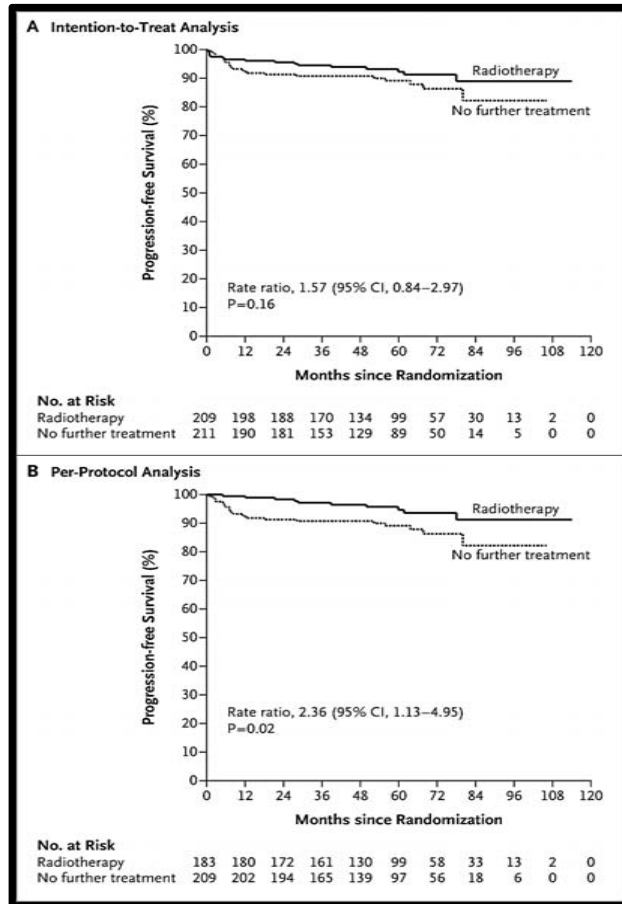
Radford J, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2015;372(17):1598-1607.

## UK NCRI RAPID Trial: Patient Characteristics

Characteristic	Negative PET Findings		Positive PET Findings (N=145)
	Radiotherapy (N=209)	No Further Treatment (N=211)	
Age — yr			
Median	34	34	36
Range	16–74	16–75	18–75
Sex — no. (%)			
Male	103 (49.3)	107 (50.7)	96 (66.2)
Female	106 (50.7)	104 (49.3)	49 (33.8)
Ann Arbor stage — no. (%)*			
IA	69 (33.0)	70 (33.2)	48 (33.1)
IIA	140 (67.0)	141 (66.8)	97 (66.9)
Favorable pretreatment features — no./total no. (%)†			
EORTC criteria <sup>14</sup>	118/184 (64.1)	122/185 (65.9)	85/158 (53.8)
GHSG criteria <sup>15,24</sup>	114/175 (65.1)	136/184 (73.9)	97/153 (63.4)

Radford J, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2015;372(17):1598-1607.

## UK NCRI RAPID Trial: Stage I-IIA Non-Bulky

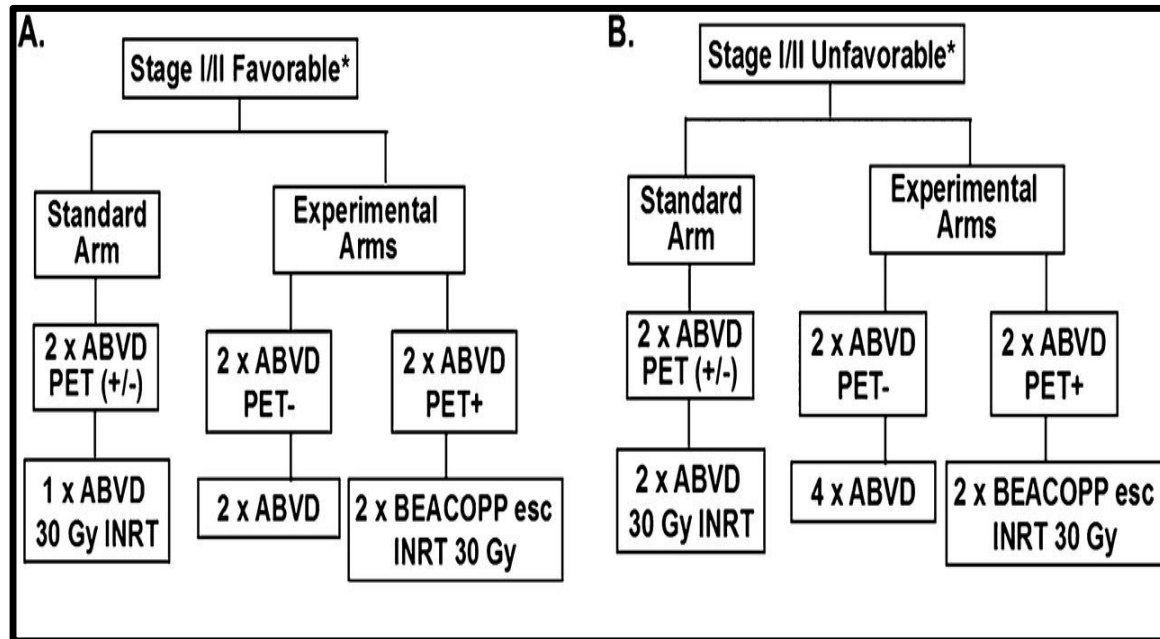


Radford J, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2015;372(17):1598-1607.

## **UK NCRI RAPID Trial: Conclusions**

- Overall excellent outcomes
- PET score after 3 cycles ABVD had prognostic value in terms of EFS but EORTC/GHSG pre-treatment stratification did not
- PET score 5 is a particularly adverse feature
  - 5 episodes of progression and 3 HL deaths in 23 patients
- Findings need to be validated in other series of patients with early stage CHL
- If confirmed the role of PET in individualized treatment planning is strengthened

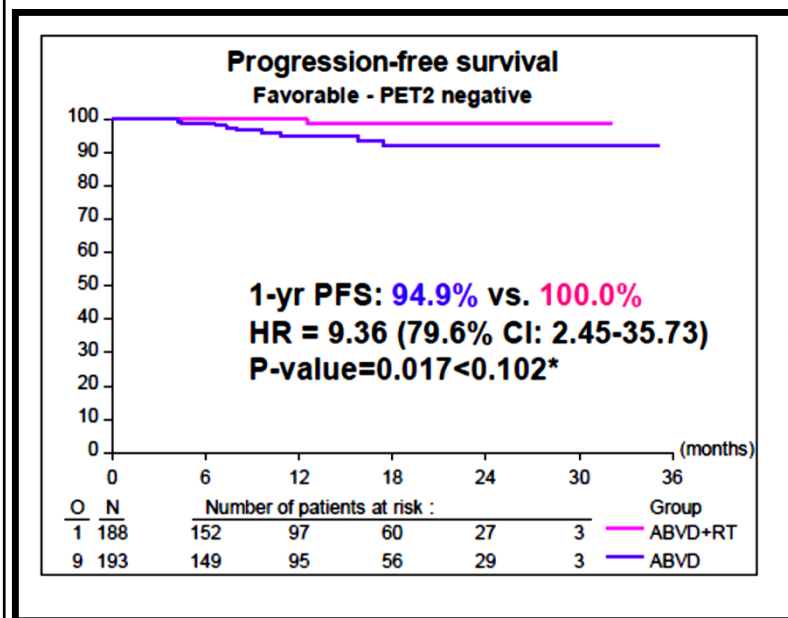
## EORTC H10 Trial: Randomized Trial Early FDG-PET Scan Guided Treatment Adaptation



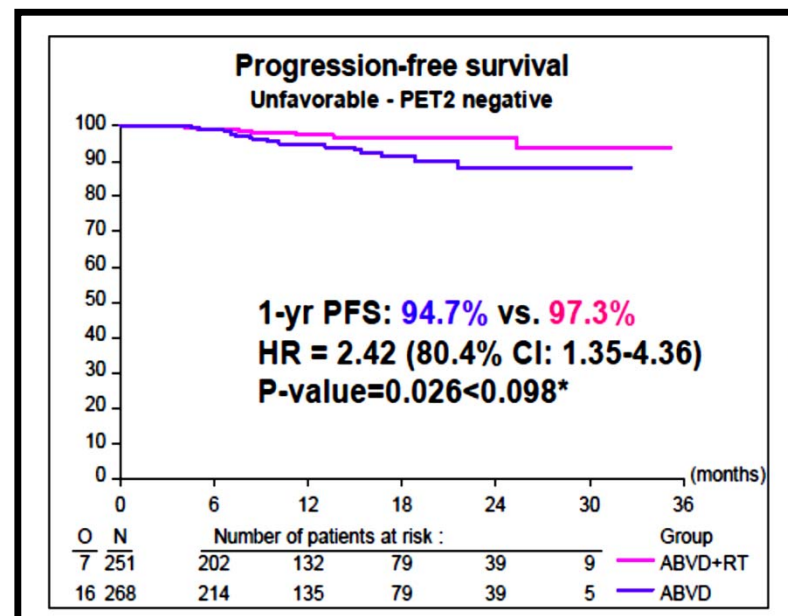
- PET scans scored according to the International Harmonization Project criteria
  - PET negative: Deauville score 1 or 2

Raemaekers JM, et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2014;32(12):1188-1194.

## EORTC H10 Trial: PET– Group Futility Confirmed in Both Arms



Events	1	9
Relapse	1	9
Death w/o relapse	0	0



Events	7	16
Relapse	7	15
Death w/o relapse	0	1

Raemaekers JM, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2014;32(12):1188-1194.

## 5-Point Scale (Deauville Criteria) for Interpretation of Interim-PET scans

1. No uptake
2. Uptake  $\leq$  mediastinum
3. Uptake  $>$  mediastinum but  $\leq$  liver

Negative  
scan



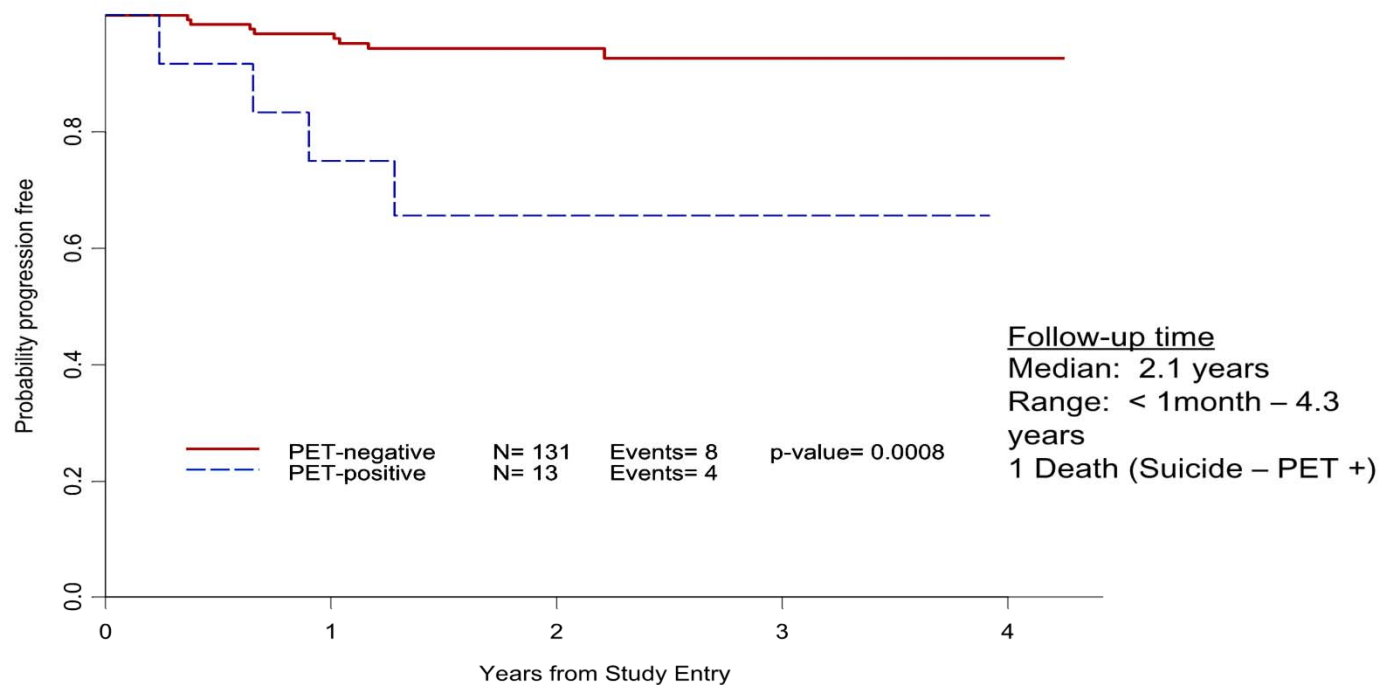
4. Moderately increased uptake compared to liver
5. Markedly increased uptake compared to liver or new areas of FDG uptake

Positive  
scan

Barrington SF et al. *J Clin Oncol* 2014;32(27):3048-3058.

# CALGB 50604 Progression Free Survival

## Post cycle 2 ABVD PET- and PET+ Patients



	Est. 3-yr PFS	Hazard Ratio
<b>PET -</b>	<b>92% (84%-96%)</b>	<b>6.04 (1.82-20.08)</b>
<b>PET +</b>	<b>66% (32%-86%)</b>	

Courtesy Dr Strauss ASH 2015



## Stage I-II CHL: Key Issues

### Considerations in patients with bulky mediastinal disease

- Responses not reported separately for bulk vs other factors in most studies
- Therapy varies across different study groups
  - GHSG: bulk alone: treated on early stage unfavorable studies
    - ie, HD11 and HD14
  - GHSG: bulk + EN/B symptoms: treated on advanced stage studies
    - HD15 (esc BEACOPP x 6)
  - North America: By and large treated as advanced disease

## Randomized Phase III Studies Which Included Stage I-II X CHL

Table Results of Randomized Phase III Trials That Include Patients With Stage I-II Hodgkin Lymphoma						
Study (% bulky mediastinal mass)	Treatment Arm	N	Median Follow-up (yrs)	Overall Response Rate (%)	Outcome (% of pts)	Overall Survival (%)
<b>North American Trials</b>						
ECOG 2496 (subset with stage I-II X mediastinal HL)[33] (100%)	ABVD × 6–8 + 36 Gy IFRT	136	5.47	82	5-yr FFS: 85	5-yr: 95
	Stanford V	131	5.47	86	5-yr FFS: 77	5-yr: 92
<b>European Trials (Bulky subsets were not separately reported.)</b>						
EORTC H9-U[35,36] (NR)	ABVD × 6 + 30 Gy IFRT	276	NR	87	4-yr EFS: 94	4-yr: 96
	ABVD × 4 + 30 Gy IFRT	277	NR	86	4-yr EFS: 89	4-yr: 95
	BEACOPP × 4 + 30 Gy IFRT	255	NR	84	4-yr EFS: 91	4-yr: 93
EORTC H10-U[37] (NR)	ABVD × 4 + 30 Gy INRT	251	1.1	NR	1-yr PFS: 97.3	NR
	ABVD × 2; if PET negative, ABVD × 4 (total 6); if PET positive, escalated BEACOPP × 2 + 30 Gy INRT	268	1.1	NR	1-yr PFS: 94.7	NR
GHSG HD11[25] (17% to 22%)	ABVD × 4 + 30 Gy IFRT	356	7.6	94.7	5-yr PFS: 87.2	5-yr: 94.3
	ABVD × 4 + 20 Gy IFRT	347	7.6	92.8	5-yr PFS: 82.1	5-yr: 93.8
	BEACOPP × 4 + 30 Gy IFRT	341	7.6	94.4	5-yr PFS: 87.9	5-yr OS: 94.6
	BEACOPP × 4 + 20 Gy IFRT	351	7.6	94.6	5-yr PFS: 87.0	5-yr OS: 95.1
GHSG HD14[19] (18.7%)	ABVD × 4 + 30 Gy IFRT	765	3.6	95.0	5-yr PFS estimate: 89.1	5-yr estimate: 96.8
	Escalated BEACOPP × 2 + ABVD × 2 + 30 Gy IFRT	763	3.6	95.7	5-yr PFS estimate: 95.4	5-yr estimate: 97.2
<b>GHSG Advanced-Disease Protocols (Includes patients with stage I-II X plus extranodal sites or B symptoms. Bulky subsets were not separately reported.)</b>						
GHSG HD9[39] (bulky disease in 58% to 68% of pts; stage IIB in 9% to 16%)	COPP/ABVD × 8	261	10.2	85	10-yr FFTF: 64	10-yr: 75
	Baseline BEACOPP × 8	469	9.3	88	10-yr FFTF: 70	10-yr: 80
	Escalated BEACOPP × 8	466	8.9	96	10-yr FFTF: 82	10-yr: 86
GHSG HD12[40] (large mediastinal mass in 27.6% to 29.2%; stage IIB in 12.7% to 17.1%)	Escalated BEACOPP × 8	787	6.5	93.0	5-yr FFTF: 86.4	5-yr: 92
	Escalated BEACOPP × 4 followed by baseline BEACOPP × 4	787	6.5	91.1	5-yr FFTF: 84.8	5-yr: 90.3
GHSG HD15[41] (large mediastinal mass in 29% to 30%; stage IIB in 15% to 17%)	Escalated BEACOPP × 8	705	4.0	90.1	5-yr FFTF: 84.4	5-yr: 91.9
	Escalated BEACOPP × 6	711	4.0	94.2	5-yr FFTF 89.3	5-yr: 95.3
	Baseline BEACOPP × 8	710	48 mo	92.4	5-yr FFTF 85.4	5-yr: 94.5

Percival ME, et al. *Oncology*.2014;28(3):253-256, 258-260, C3.

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E2496: reported outcomes specifically in patients with bulky disease

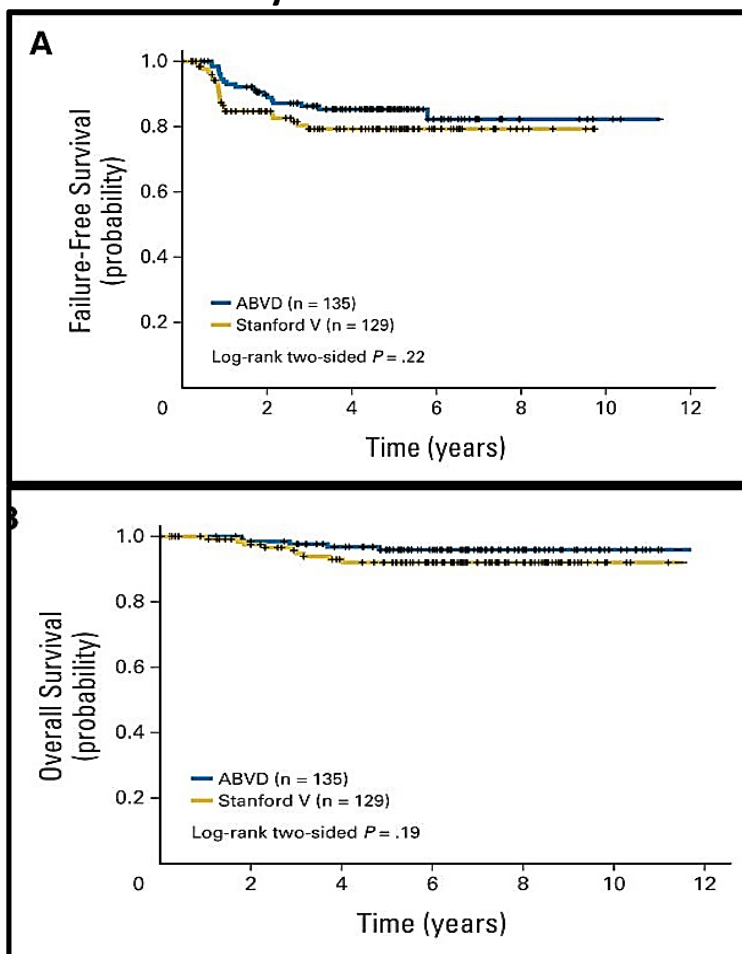
Other studies have included 9-25% of patients with bulky disease

GHSG HD14 [19] (18.7%)	BEACOPP × 4 + 20 Gy IFRT	351	7.6	94.6	5-yr PFS: 87.0	5-yr OS: 95.1
	ABVD × 4 + 30 Gy IFRT	765	3.6	95.0	5-yr PFS estimate: 89.1	5-yr estimate: 96.8
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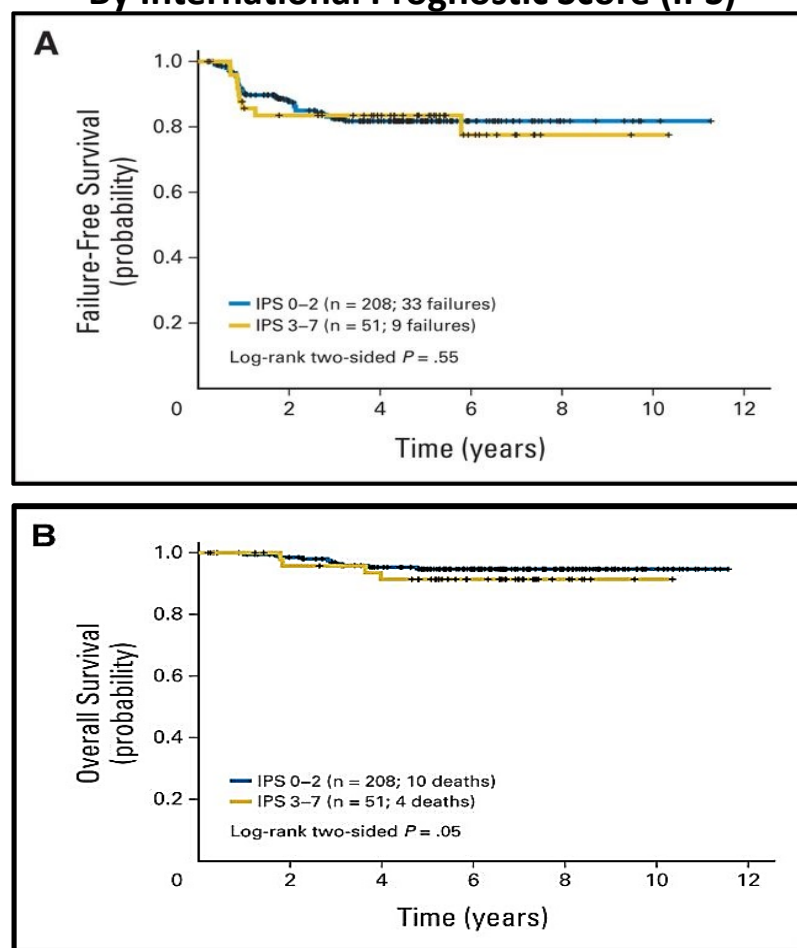
Percival ME, et al. *Oncology*.2014;28(3):253-256, 258-260, C3.

## E2496: Results in Stage I-II Bulky Mediastinal CHL

By Treatment Arm

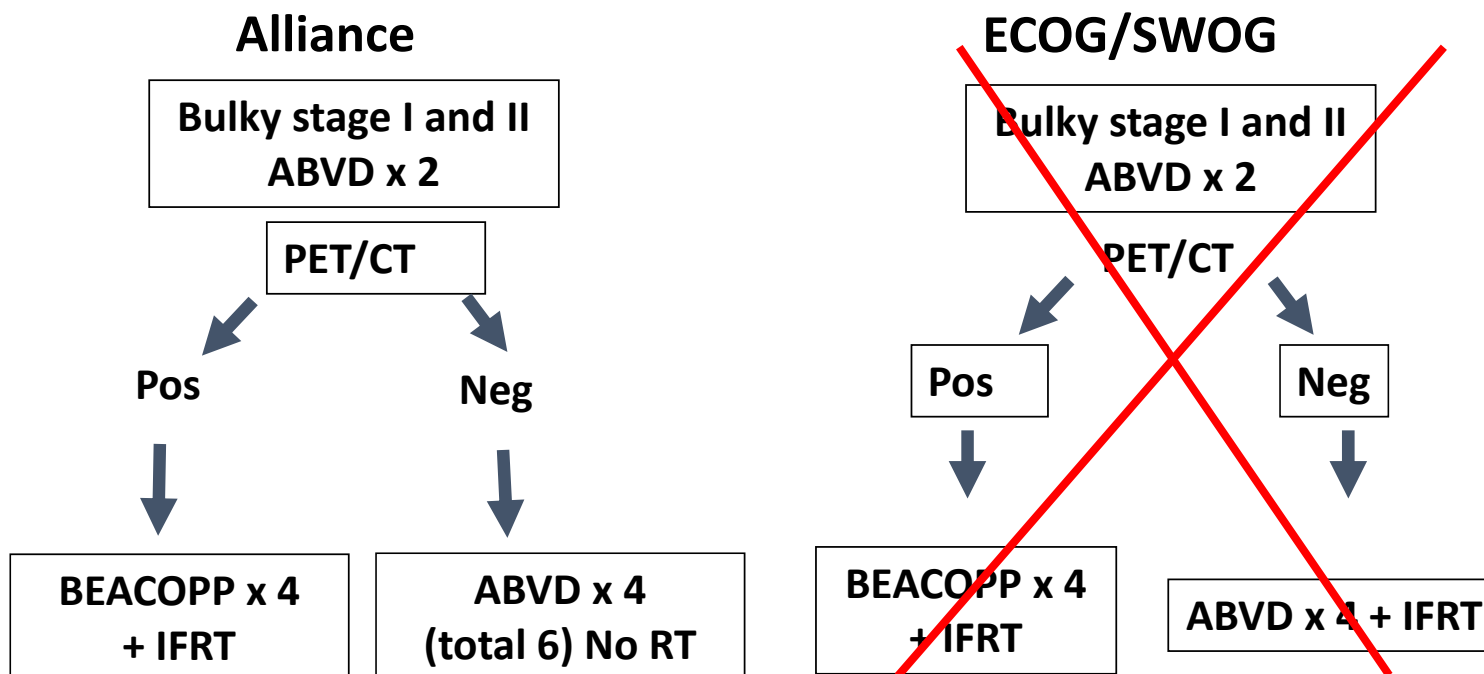


By International Prognostic Score (IPS)



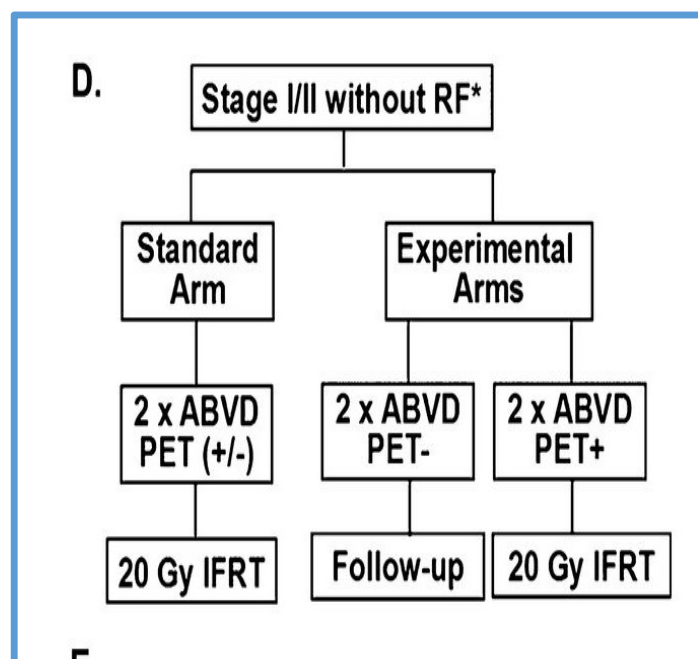
Advani RH, et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2015;33(17):1936-1942.

## North American Studies in Bulky CHL: Risk- and PET-Adapted

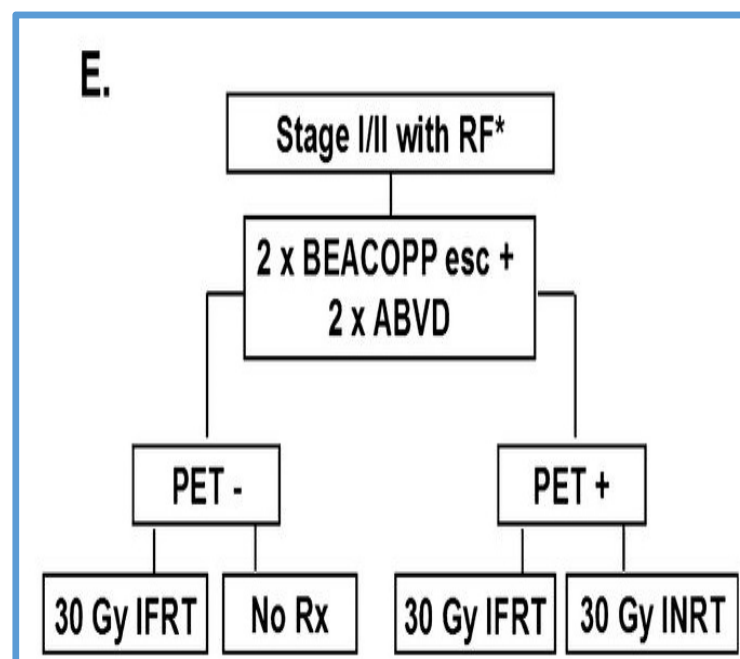


# GHSB: Ongoing Trials in Early Stage CHL

HD 16



HD 17



Risk Factors: > 2 nodal areas, ESR  $\geq$  50 (no B sympt)  
 ESR  $\geq$  30 (B sympt), MMR > 0.33 (no B sympt/or EN sites)

Evens AM and Kostakoglu L. *Blood*. 2014;124(23):3356-3364.

## Early Stage CHL: Summary of Prospective Trials

- Prognosis of patients with early favorable and unfavorable CHL is excellent
- PET negative patients (Deauville 2) after 2-3 cycles of ABVD
  - Excellent outcome, but experience slightly more treatment failure than those receiving RT
  - INRT/ISRT appears adequate to prevent relapse and may have fewer long-term/late effects than previously seen with IFRT
  - No difference in OS, but follow-up of PET-adapted therapy is very short
- CALGB: Deauville 3
  - Avoids RT in more patients.
  - Esc BEACOPP does not improve outcomes in PET positive patients
  - Need better front line therapy

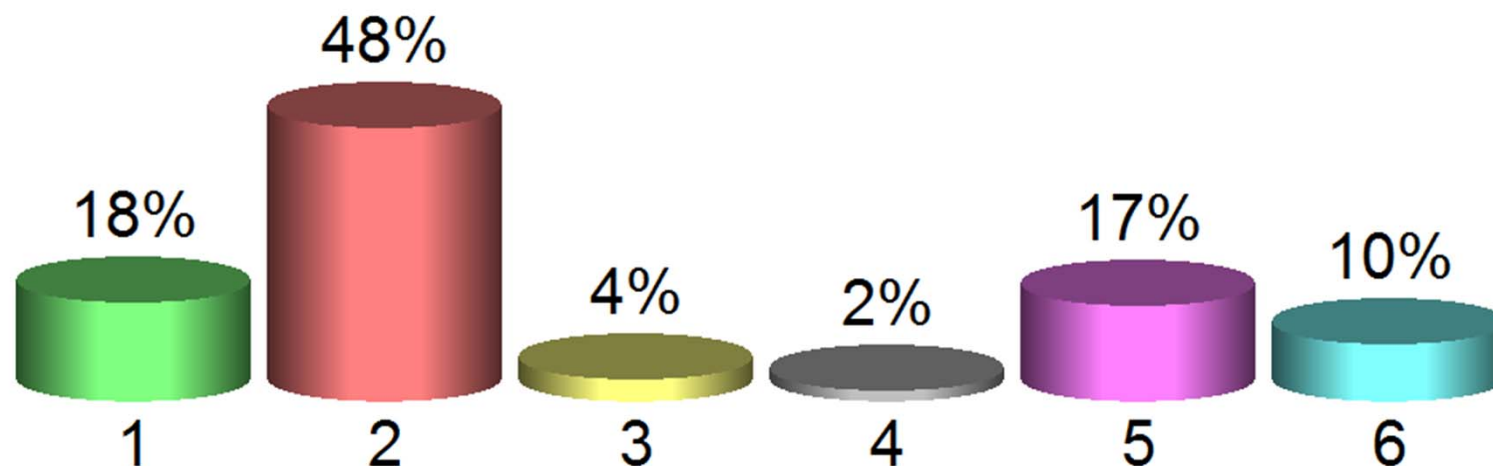
***CRITICAL TO HAVE PET-CT REPORTS BASED ON DEAUVILLE CRITERIA IF RESPONSE ADAPTED THERAPY IS BASIS FOR TREATMENT DECISIONS***



## Audience Polling Results

### Case 1: Therapy Choices for Stage IIA disease

- 1: ABVD x 2 + 20 Gy ISRT
- 2: ABVD x 4 + 30 Gy ISRT
- 3: Stanford V 8 weeks + 30 Gy ISRT
- 4: ABVD x 2 + Esc BEACOPP x 2 + ISRT
- 5: ABVD x 3-4
- 6: ABVD x 6



Bonadonna G, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2004;22(14):2835-2841, Engert A, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2010;363(7):640-652  
Eich HT, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2010;28(27):4199-4206, von Tresckow B, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2012;30(9):907-913  
Advani RH, et al. *Ann Oncol*. 2013;24(4):1044-1048, Radford J, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2015;372(17):1598-1607  
Meyer RM, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2012; 366(5):399-408, Raemaekers JM, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2014;32(12):1188-1194



## Case 1: Therapy Choices for 36 y female with Stage IIA disease

3 nodal sites (bil neck and upper mediastinum)

GHSg: unfavorable

NCCN and EORTC: favorable

1: ABVD x 2 + 20 Gy ISRT

2: ABVD x 4 + 30 Gy ISRT

3: Stanford V 8 weeks + 30 Gy ISRT

4: ABVD x 2 + Esc BEACOPP x 2 + ISRT

5: ABVD x 3-4 (If interim PET negative)

6: ABVD x 6

## Early-stage CHL: Can We Eliminate Radiation Therapy for Most Patients?

### Optimizing Therapy

#### Considerations

##### Chemotherapy Alone

- Females < age 35 yr
- Axillary and mediastinal involvement

#### Considerations

##### Combined Modality Therapy

- Patients with favorable disease, especially when it is possible to limit the duration of chemotherapy
- Patients with a positive interim PET scan (~ 25%)
- Patients with bulky mediastinal adenopathy

# **Early-stage CHL**

## **Can We Eliminate Radiation Therapy for Most Patients?**

**Balancing Risk With Benefit for the Individual**

**Disease Control**



**Optimal  
Survivorship**

## **Stage I-II CHL: Future Considerations**

- Incorporation of novel agents
- Identification of biological subsets to guide therapy

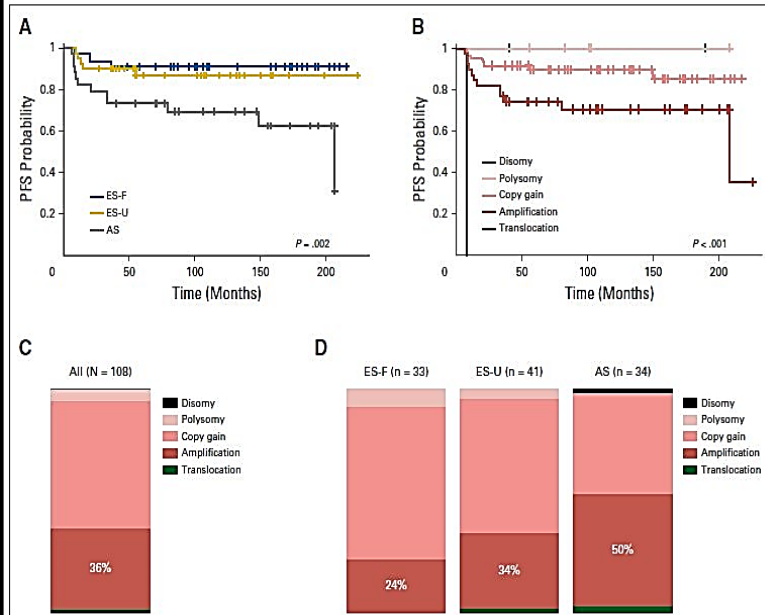
## **Incorporation of Novel Agents**

- Brentuximab Vedotin
- Check Point Inhibitors (Nivolumab, Pembrolizumab)
- Studies combining these agents with AVD (doxorubicin, vinblastine, and dacarbazine) are ongoing in the front line setting

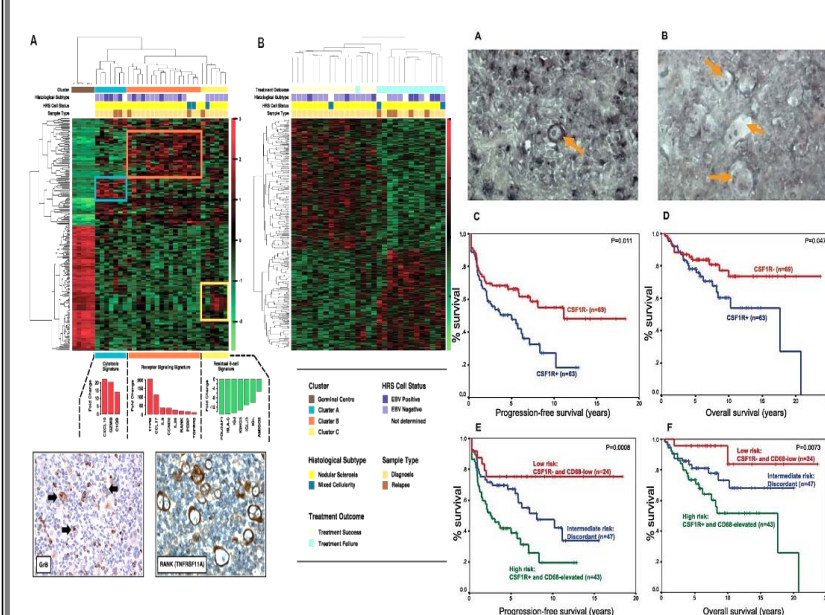
# Identification of biological subsets to guide therapy

## Molecular markers to define risk

### Frequency of 9p24.1 Genetic Alterations and Outcomes



### GEP of mico dissected Hodgkin RS cells correlates with treatment outcome in CHL



Roemer et al *J Clin Oncol.* 2016;34(23):2690-2697.

Steidl et al *Blood.* 2012; 120: 3530-3540.

# NCCN Member Institutions

