

One tumour, many faces: Optimising testing, targeting and monitoring oncogene-addicted NSCLC beyond EGFR

RET-fused NSCLC: State of the art treatment of advanced disease, including sanctuary sites

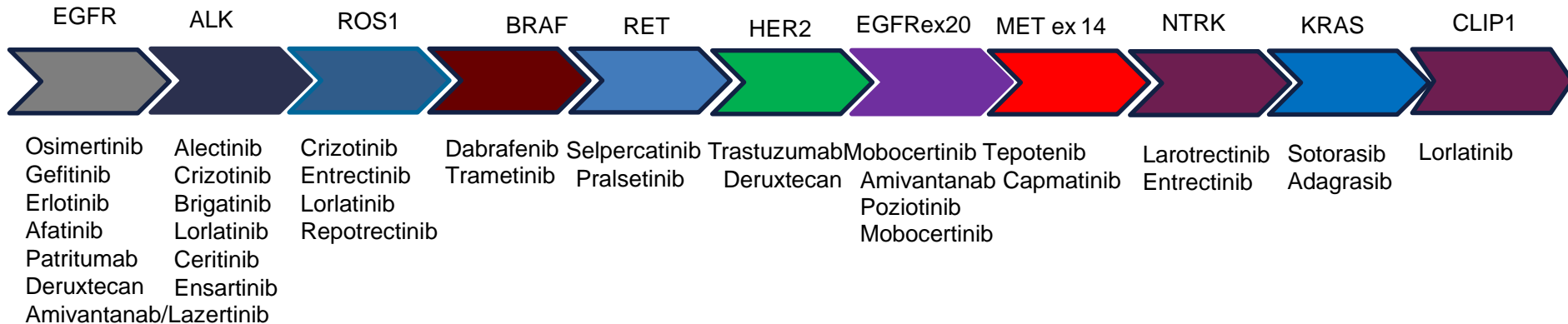
Vikas Talreja

Regency Hospital

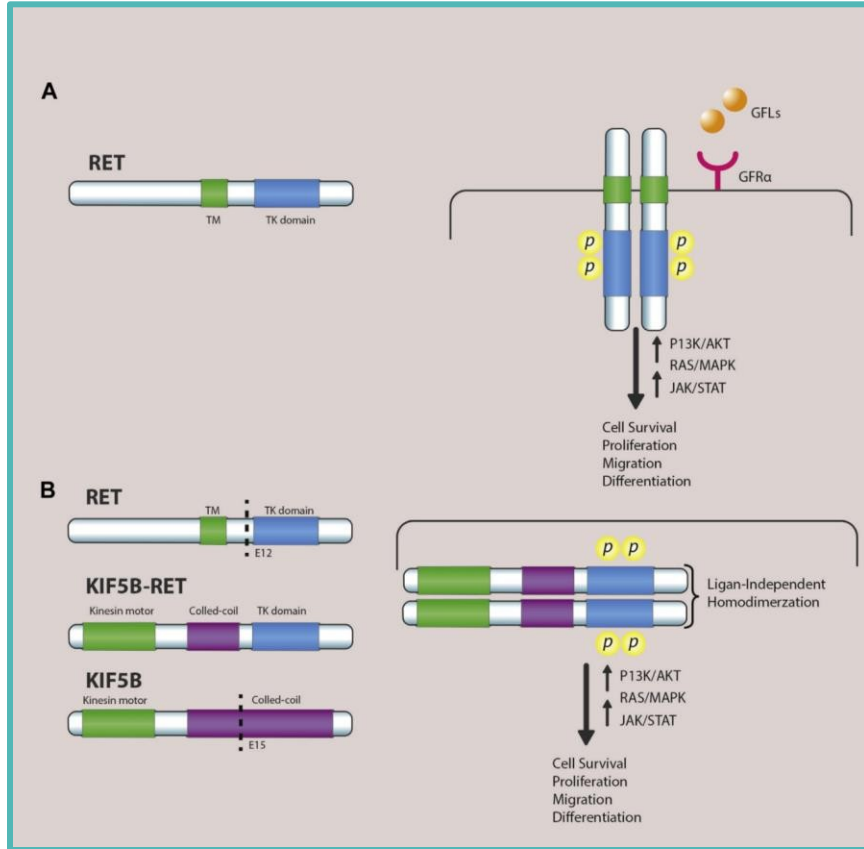
Kanpur



Scenario in 2022



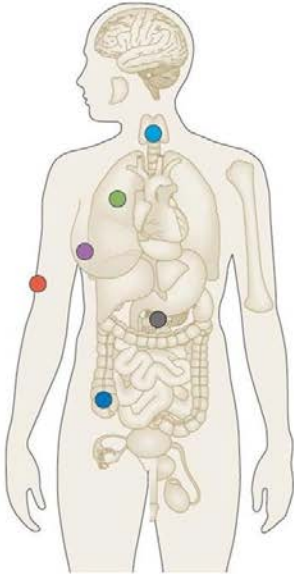
RET (REarranged during Transfection) gene



- Identified In 1985 as a novel transforming gene as result of transfection of the NIH 3T3 cell with high molecular weight DNA of a human T-cell lymphoma
- Maps on chromosome 10q11.2 and encodes a RTK consisting of three domains (extracellular, transmembrane domain and intracellular kinase)
- The primary RET ligands belong to the glial-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF) family, including GDNF, artemin, neurturin, and persephin
- Ligand binding activates RET through the formation of homodimers and autophosphorylation of the kinase dom.
- Downstream pathways (RAS/MAPK/ERK, PI3K/AKT, and JAK/STAT) are associated with cellular proliferation, migration and differentiation
- RET is expressed in neurons, sympathetic and parasympathetic ganglia, thyroid C cells, adrenal medullary cells, urogenital tract cells, and testis germ cells
- Plays an important role in organogenesis and development of the enteric nervous system

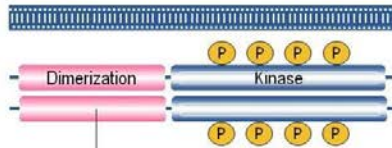
RET activation in cancer

RET fusions



Non-small cell lung cancer (2%)
Papillary and other thyroid cancers (10–20%)

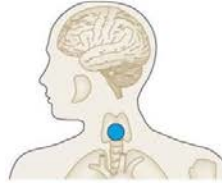
Pancreatic cancer (<1%)
Salivary gland cancer (<1%)
Spitz tumors (<1%)
Colorectal cancer (<1%)
Ovarian cancer (<1%)
Myeloproliferative disorders (<1%)
Many others (<1%)



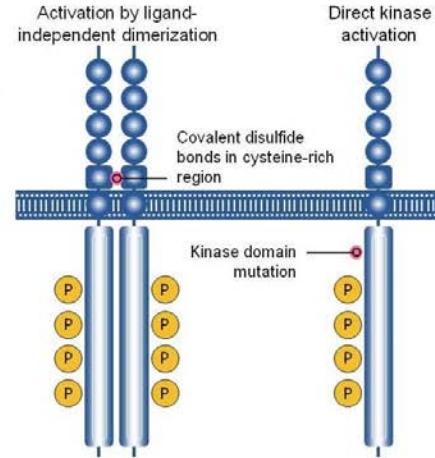
KIF5B (most common in lung cancer)

CCDC6 or NCOA4 (most common in thyroid cancer)

RET mutations



Medullary thyroid cancer
sporadic (>60%)
hereditary (>90%)



Common mutation: **RET M918T**



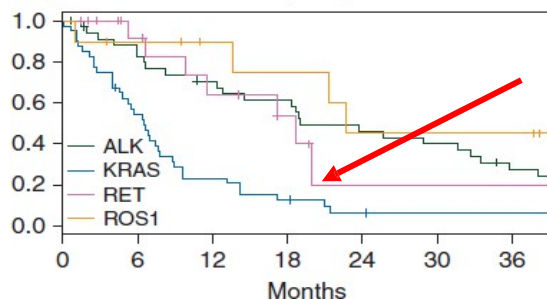
RET+ NSCLC:

Clinical and pathological characteristics

- Median age < 60 years
- Never smokers
- Women
- Often metastatic at diagnosis also with a small primary
- Frequent brain mets
- Adenocarcinoma
- Radiological presentation: GGO, pneumonitis, multiple bilateral micronodules, pleural effusions
- Chemo-sensitive (platinum-pemetrexed)
- Poorly responsive to immunotherapy

RET+ NSCLC and chemotherapy

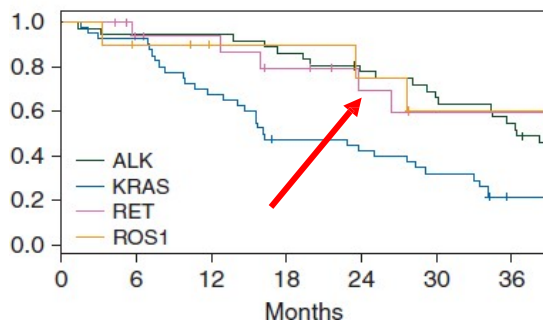
Progression free survival (PFS)



	<i>n</i>	Median PFS	(95% CI)
<i>RET</i>	18	19 mo	(12–NR)
<i>ROS1</i>	10	23 mo	(14–NR)
<i>ALK</i>	36	19 mo	(15–36)
<i>KRAS</i>	40	6 mo	(5–9)
<i>KRAS</i> vs <i>ALK</i>			<i>P</i> < 0.001
<i>KRAS</i> vs <i>ROS1</i>			<i>P</i> = 0.002
<i>KRAS</i> vs <i>RET</i>			<i>P</i> = 0.005
<i>ALK</i> vs <i>ROS1</i> vs <i>RET</i>			<i>P</i> = 0.57
All			<i>P</i> < 0.001

NR: not reached

Overall survival



	<i>n</i>	Median OS	(95% CI)
<i>RET</i>	18	NR	(24–NR)
<i>ROS1</i>	10	NR	(24–NR)
<i>ALK</i>	36	37 mo	(30–63)
<i>KRAS</i>	40	16 mo	(14–33)
<i>KRAS</i> vs <i>ALK</i>			<i>P</i> < 0.001
<i>KRAS</i> vs <i>ROS1</i>			<i>P</i> = 0.08
<i>KRAS</i> vs <i>RET</i>			<i>P</i> = 0.004
<i>ALK</i> vs <i>ROS1</i> vs <i>RET</i>			<i>P</i> = 0.43
All			<i>P</i> < 0.001

NR: not reached

Patients	ORR (PR)	DCR (PR + SD)
<i>RET</i> -rearranged	45% (<i>n</i> = 5/11)	91% (<i>n</i> = 10/11)
<i>ROS1</i> -rearranged	78% (<i>n</i> = 7/9)	90% (<i>n</i> = 8/9)
<i>ALK</i> -rearranged	50% (<i>n</i> = 14/28)	93% (<i>n</i> = 26/28)
<i>KRAS</i> -mutant	26% (<i>n</i> = 9/35)	86% (<i>n</i> = 30/35)
<i>P</i> value	0.02	0.91

The overall response rate (ORR) and disease control rate (DCR) with pemetrexed-based systemic therapy in 83 patients with evaluable disease are summarized. These outcomes were compared between patient groups, with the *P* values reflecting an overall comparison of the four molecular subgroups listed. Only partial responses (PR) and no complete responses were observed.

SD, stable disease.

Drilon, Ann Oncol 2016

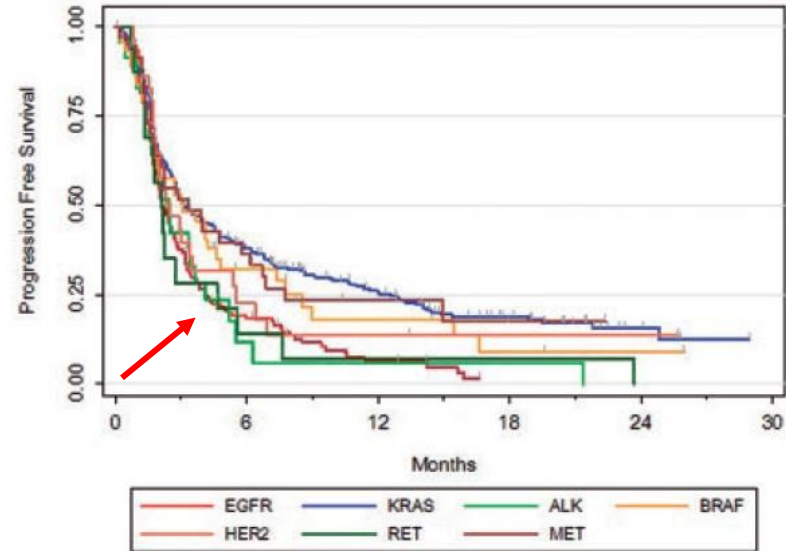
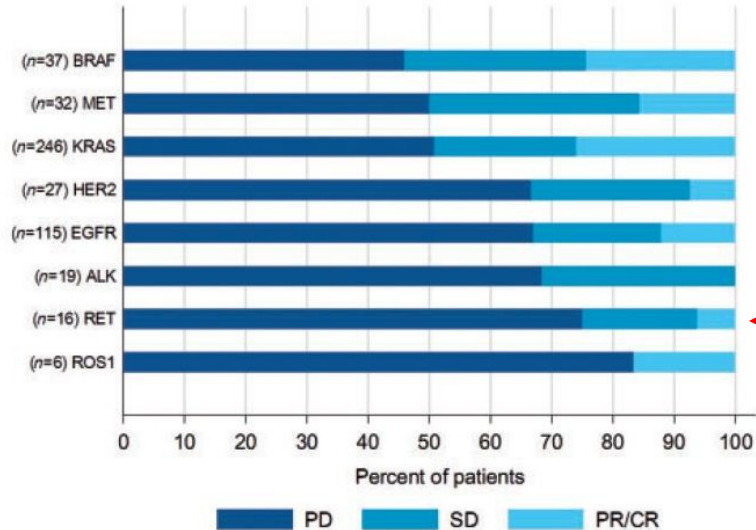
Table 4. Clinical Outcomes With First-Line Chemotherapy

Outcome	All Chemotherapy Agents (n = 108)	Platinum Doublet (n = 84)	Platinum + Pemetrexed (n = 66)
Best response (95% CI)	52% (39.8 to 64.4) 36 of 69 evaluable	51% (38.1 to 63.4) 33 of 65 evaluable	49% (35.4 to 62.9) 27 of 55 evaluable
Disease control rate (95% CI)	75% (63.5 to 84.9) 52 of 69 evaluable	75% (63.1 to 85.2) 49 of 65 evaluable	75% (61.0 to 85.3) 41 of 55 evaluable
Median PFS (95% CI)	6.6 months (5.1 to 9.3)	7.8 months (5.3 to 10.2 months)	6.4 months (4.3 to 8.8 months)
Median OS (95% CI)	23.6 months (13.6 to 30.8)	24.8 months (13.6 to 32.3 months)	23.6 months (13.4 to 33.2 months)

NOTE. The best response, disease control rate, median PFS, and median OS of patients with advanced non-small-cell lung cancer and first-line chemotherapy are summarized.

Abbreviations: OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival.

Immune checkpoint inhibitors for patients with advanced lung cancer and oncogenic driver alterations: results from the IMMUNOTARGET registry



Multi-TKIs in RET+ NSCLC

Drug	Phase	n.	Screening assays	ORR (%)	PFS (months)	mOS/1-year OS
Vandetanib ^{1,2,3}	II	19	RT-PCR/FISH	47	4.7	11.1 mo/47%
	II	18	RT-PCR/FISH	18	4.5	11.6 mo/33%
	Registry	11	RT-PCR/FISH/NGS#	18	2.9	10.2/NA
Cabozantinib ^{3,4}	II	26	FISH/NGS	28	5.5	9.9 mo/38%
	Registry	31	#	33	3.6	4.9 mo/NA
Lenvatinib ^{3,5}	II	25	FISH or RT-PCR/NGS	16	7.3	NR
	Registry	2	#	50	NA	NA
Sunitinib ³	Registry	10	#	22	2.2	6.8 mo/NA

¹ Yoh K, Lancet Respir Med 2017; ² Lee SH, Ann Oncol 2017; ³ Gautschi O, J Clin Oncol 2017; ⁴ Drilon A, Lancet Oncol 2016; ⁵ Hida T, Lung Cancer 2019;



NEW RET Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors

- Pralsetinib (Blu-667)
- Selpercatinib (Loxo 292)

Pralsetinib versus Selpercatinib in NSCLC cell lines

Selectivity for VEGFR-2

Cellular activity against p-VEGFR-2 (IC_{50} , nM)

Anti-target	p-VEGFR-2
Pralsetinib	65 nM
Loxo-292	54 nM

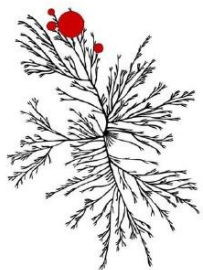
Inhibition of gatekeeper mutations predicted to drive resistance

Cellular anti-proliferative activity against KIF5B-RET the most common RET fusion in NSCLC [IC_{50} , nM (fold difference)]

RET fusion	KIF5B-RET	KIF5B-RET V804L	KIF5B-RET V804M	KIF5B-RET V804E
Pralsetinib	10.1 nM (1x)	8.1 nM (0.8x)	14.1 nM (1.4x)	8.1 nM (0.8x)
Loxo-292	10.5 nM (1x)	28.4 nM (2.7x)	78.8 nM (7.5x)	126 nM (12x)

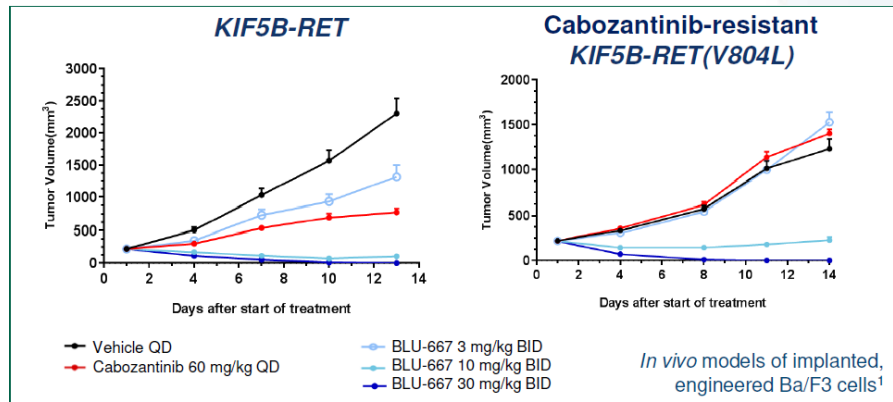
BLU-667: activity and tolerability in RET+ NSCLC

BLU-667: High kinome selectivity for RET^a



BLU-667 vs. pharmacologically relevant kinases:

- ~90-fold more selective for RET than VEGFR2
- 20-fold more selective for RET than JAK1



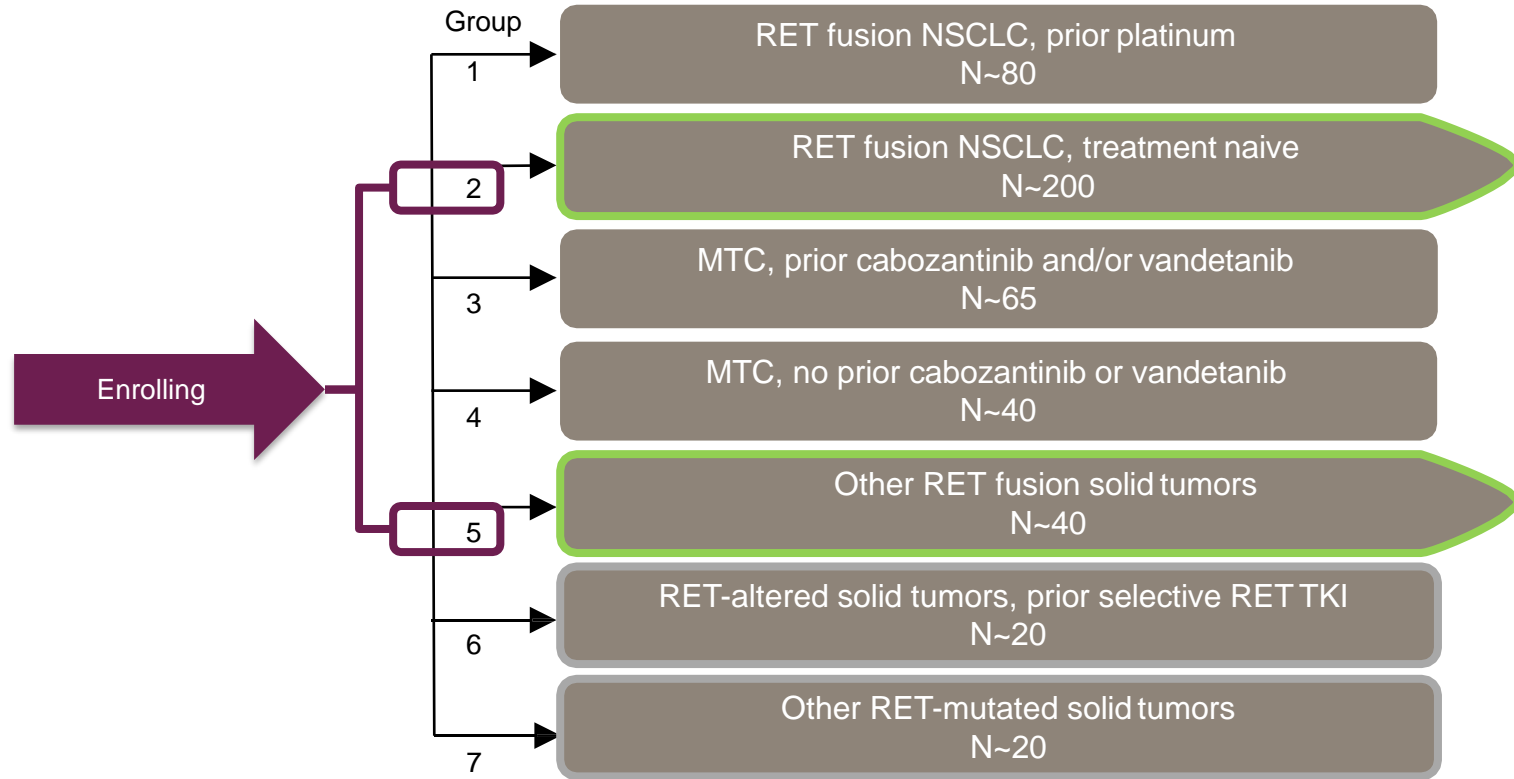
	Pralsetinib IC ₅₀	Cabozantinib IC ₅₀	Vandetanib IC ₅₀
Wild-type RET	0.4	11	4
RET V804L Gatekeeper resistance	0.3	45	3597
RET V804M Gatekeeper resistance	0.4	162	726
RET M918T Mutation	0.4	8	7
CCDC6-RET Fusion	0.4	34	20
VEGFR2 Anti-target	35	2	4

Subbiah V et al, Cancer Discov 2018



ARROW study progress

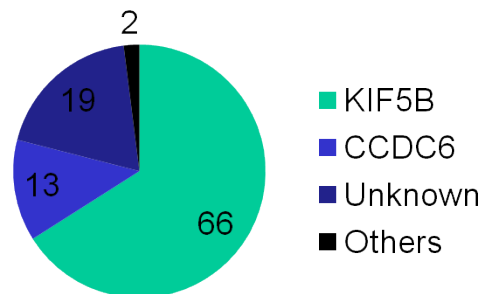
Phase 2, dose-expansion, N~465, ongoing



Patient characteristics (NSCLC cohort)

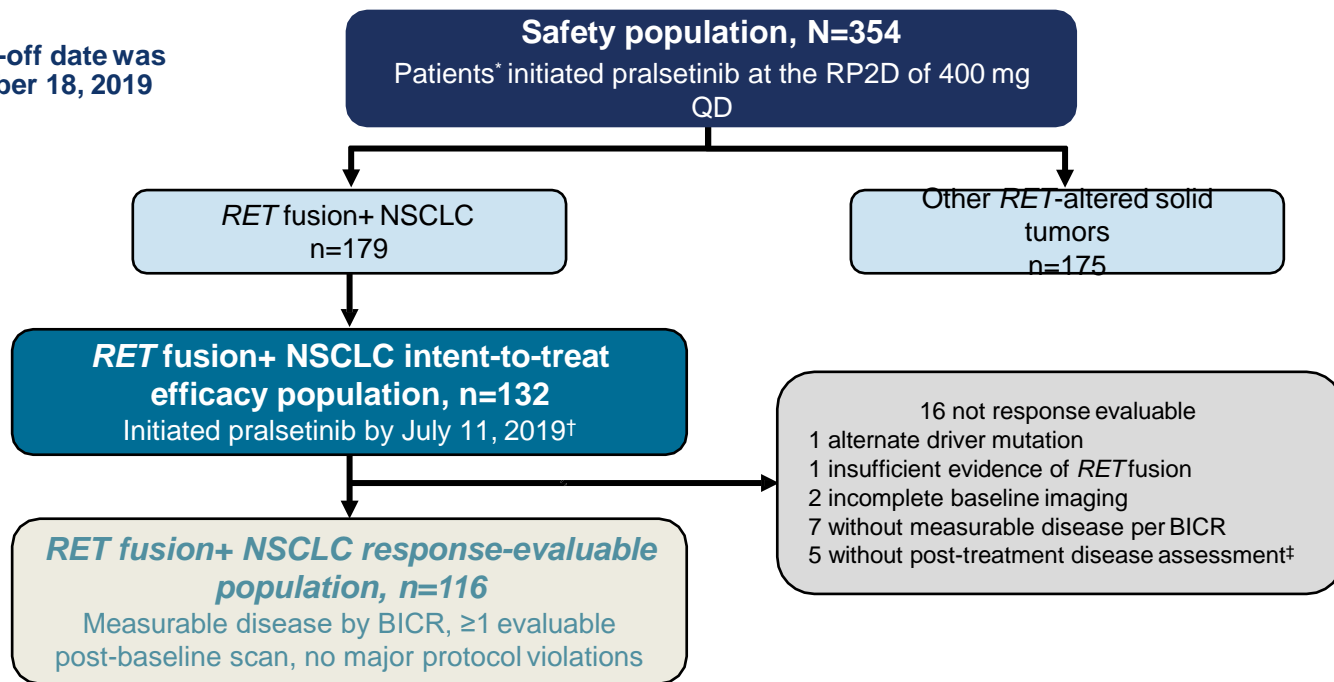
Characteristic	RET-Fusion+ Advanced NSCLC 400 mg QD Starting Dose	
	All (N=120)	Prior Platinum (N=91)
Age (years), median (range)	60 (28-87)	60 (28-85)
Male, n (%)	59 (49)	45 (49)
ECOG PS, n (%)		
0	46 (38)	33 (36)
1-2	74 (62)	58 (64)
Brain metastases, n (%)	48 (40)	36 (40)
Prior systemic regimens, median (range)	2 (0-11)	2 (1-11)
Any prior anticancer treatment	101 (84)	91 (100)
Chemotherapy, n (%)	92 (77)	91 (100)
PD-1 or PD-L1 inhibitor, n (%)	47 (39)	41 (45)
Chemotherapy + PD-(L)1 combination, n (%)	41 (34)	41 (45)
Multikinase inhibitor, n (%)	21 (18)	20 (22)
Smoking history ^a		
Current/Prior	41 (34)	33 (36)
Never	78 (65)	57 (63)
Histology		
Adenocarcinoma	114 (95)	87 (96)
Other	6 (5)	4 (4)

RET fusion partner

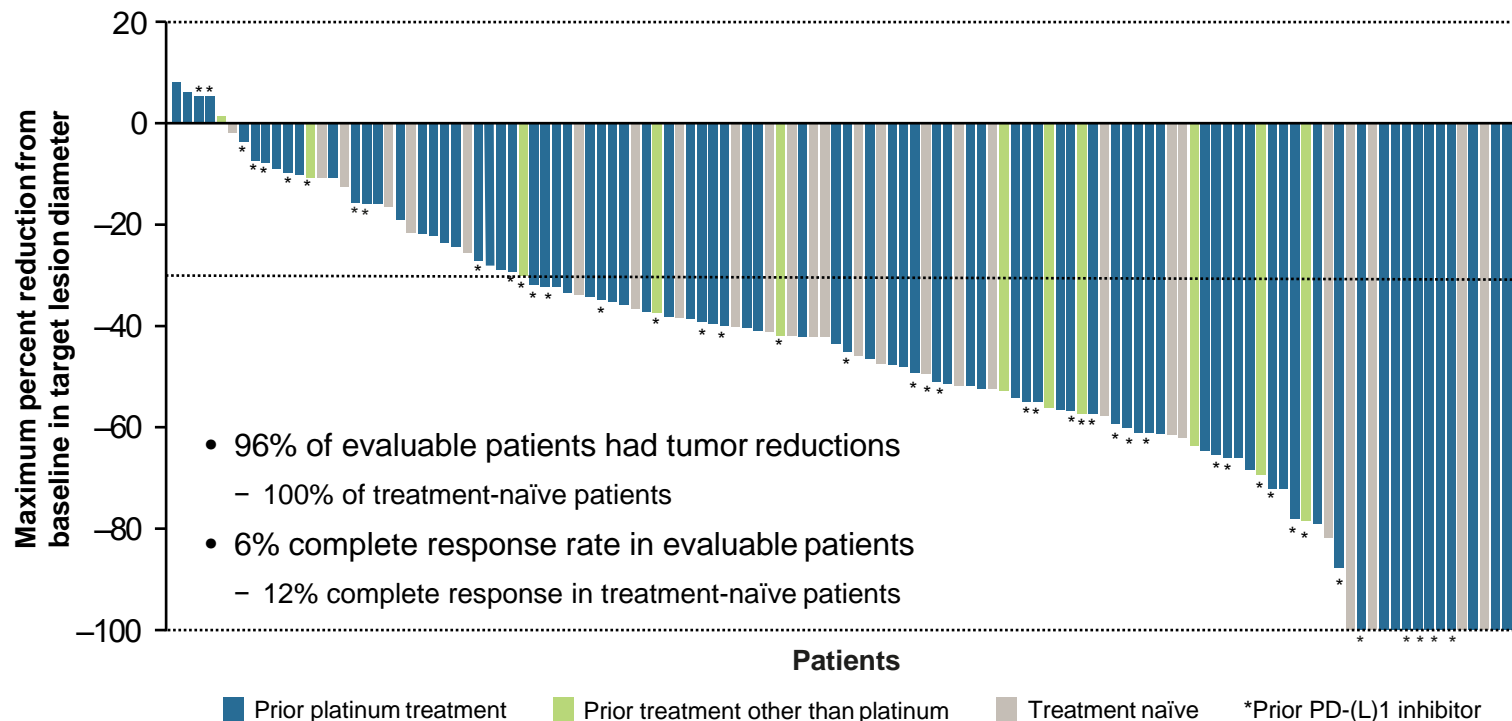


ARROW: Patient disposition/analysis population

Data cut-off date was
November 18, 2019



ARROW: Tumor shrinkage (Blinded Independent Centralized Review) RET Fusion Positive NSCLC (400mg starting dose)



Gainor J, Lancet Oncology 2021

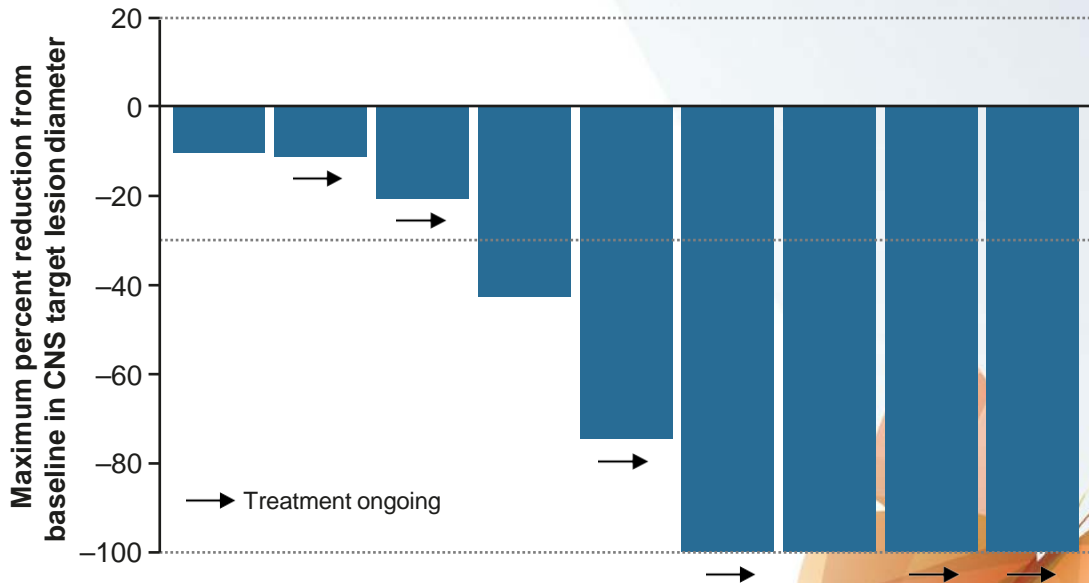
Safety and efficacy of pralsetinib in NSCLC: Update Arrow

Key results

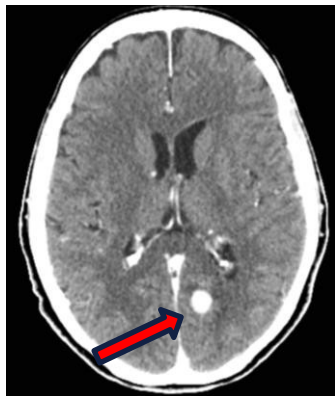
	RET fusion+ NSCLC (n=216)	All (n=68)	Treatment naïve		Prior treatment	
			Pre-eligibility revision (n=43)	Post eligibility revision (n=25)	Prior platinum (n=126)	Prior non- platinum (n=22)
ORR, % (95%CI)	69 (62, 75)	79 (68, 88)	74 (59, 87)	88 (69, 98)	62 (53, 70)	73 (50, 89)
BOR, n (%)						
CR	9 (4)	4 (6)	4 (9)	0 (0)	5 (4)	0 (0)
PR	139 (64)	50 (74)	28 (65)	22 (88)	73 (58)	16 (73)
SD	50 (23)	9 (13)	7 (16)	2 (8)	37 (29)	4 (18)
PD	10 (5)	3 (4)	3 (7)	0 (0)	5 (4)	2 (9)
NE	8 (4)	2 (3)	1 (2)	1 (4)	6 (5)	0 (0)
DCR, % (95%CI)	92 (87, 95)	93 (84, 98)	91 (78, 97)	96 (80, 100)	91 (85, 96)	91 (71, 99)
CBR, % (95%CI)	77 (71, 82)	82 (71, 91)	79 (64, 90)	88 (69, 98)	74 (65, 81)	77 (55, 92)
Median DoR, months (95%CI)	22.3 (15.1, NR)	NR (9.0, NR)	11.0 (7.4, NR)	NR (NR, NR)	22.3 (15.1, NR)	NR (9.2, NR)
mPFS, months (95%CI)	16.4 (11.0, 24.1) n=233	13.0 (9.1, NR) n=75	10.9 (7.7, NR) n=47	NR (NR, NR) n=28	16.5 (10.5, 24.1) n=136	12.8 (9.1, NR) n=22

ARROW: CNS activity (Blinded Independent Centralized Review) RET Fusion Positive NSCLC (400mg starting dose)

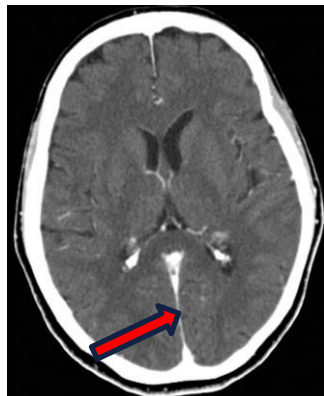
- Intracranial overall response rate in 9 patients with measurable CNS metastases at baseline was 56%
- Three patients (33%) with intracranial complete response



ARROW: CNS activity (Blinded Independent Centralized Review) RET Fusion Positive NSCLC (400mg starting dose)



Baseline



After 8 months

- 71 year-old female previous smoker with *RET-CCDC6* fusion-positive metastatic NSCLC
- No response and disease progression at 6 months on prior pembrolizumab monotherapy
- Metastatic disease in brain, bone, adrenal gland, and lymph nodes at study entry
- Complete resolution of a 12.6 mm brain target lesion observed at 1.6 months on pralsetinib
- As of May 1, 2020, continues pralsetinib for 10+ months with ongoing overall partial response



Courtesy of G. Curigliano

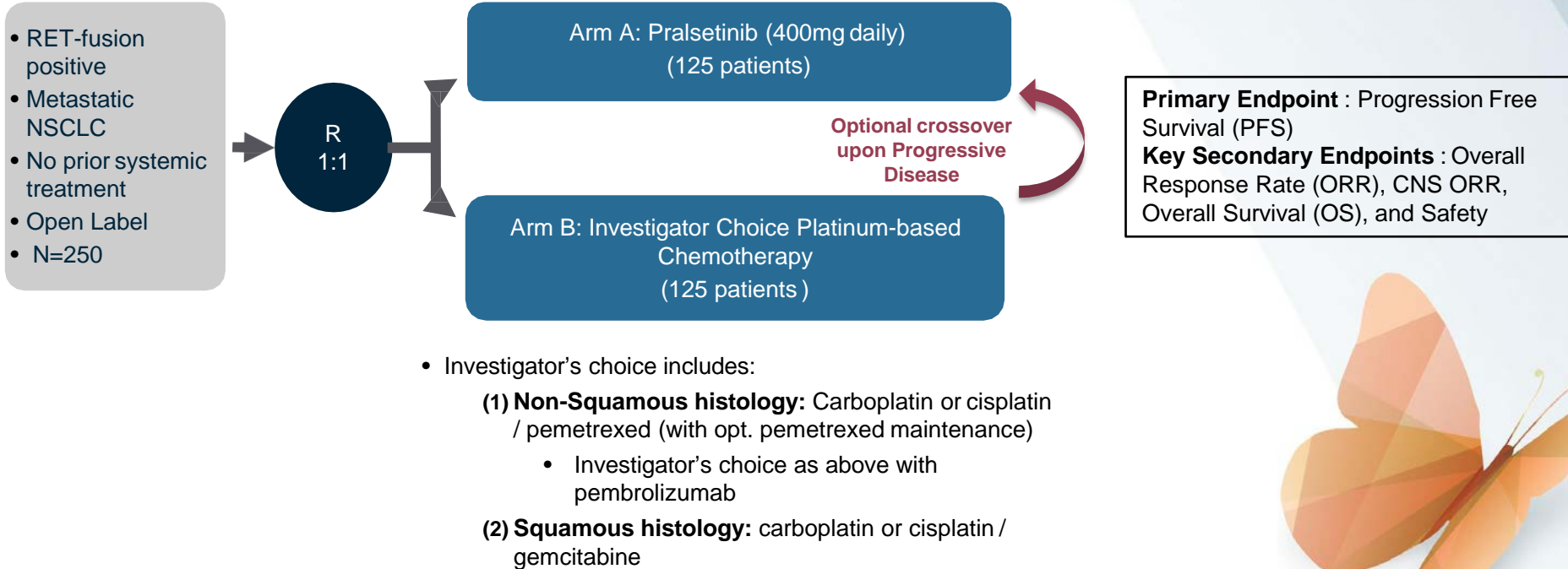
ARROW: Safety

All ARROW patients (400 mg starting dose)

- Pralsetinib 400 mg QD had a treatment duration between 0.1- 22.3 months and median (range) dose intensity of 92% (18–100)
- Only 4% of patients discontinued due to treatment-related adverse events

Treatment-related adverse events in ≥10% of patients	All patients (N=354)*	
	Any grade	Grade ≥3
AE preferred term		
AST increased	31	2
Anemia	22	8
ALT increased	21	1
Constipation	21	1
Hypertension	20	10
Neutropenia	19	10
Diarrhea	14	1
White blood cell count decreased	14	3
Dysgeusia	13	0
Blood creatinine increased	12	0
Fatigue	12	1
Neutrophil count decreased	12	4
Dry mouth	11	0
Hyperphosphatemia	11	<1
Asthenia	10	1

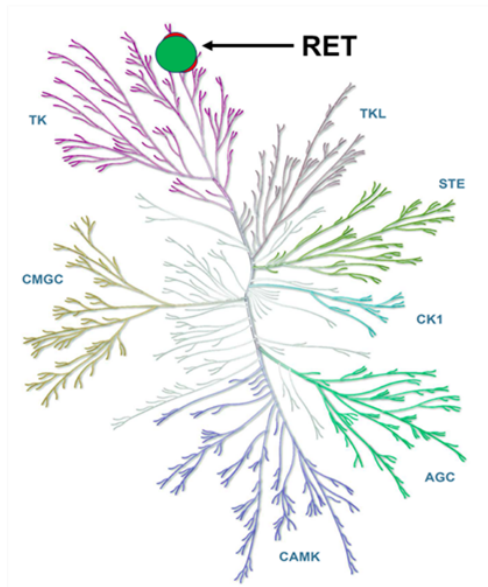
AcceleRET Phase 3 Study Design



Selpercatinib* (LOXO-292) is a Potent and Selective RET Inhibitor

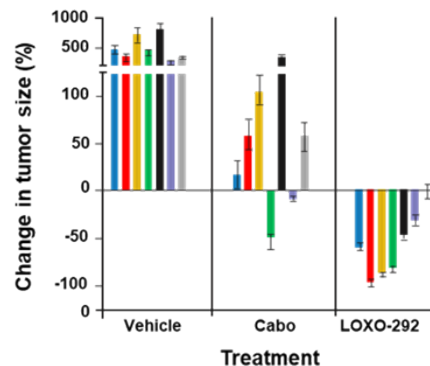
Kinome selectivity

Highly selective for RET



Xenograft models

Multiple fusions/mutations/histologies

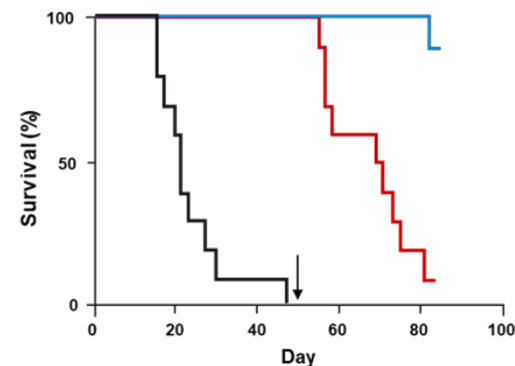


Tumor models

- KIF5B-RET (PDX-NSCLC)
- CCDC6-RET (PDX-CRCA)
- CCDC6-RET-V804M (PDX-CRCA)
- KIF5B-RET (NIH-3T3)
- KIF5B-RET-V804M (NIH-3T3)
- RET C634W (TT cell line-MTC)
- CCDC6-RET (LC-2/ad cell line-NSCLC)

Orthotopic brain model

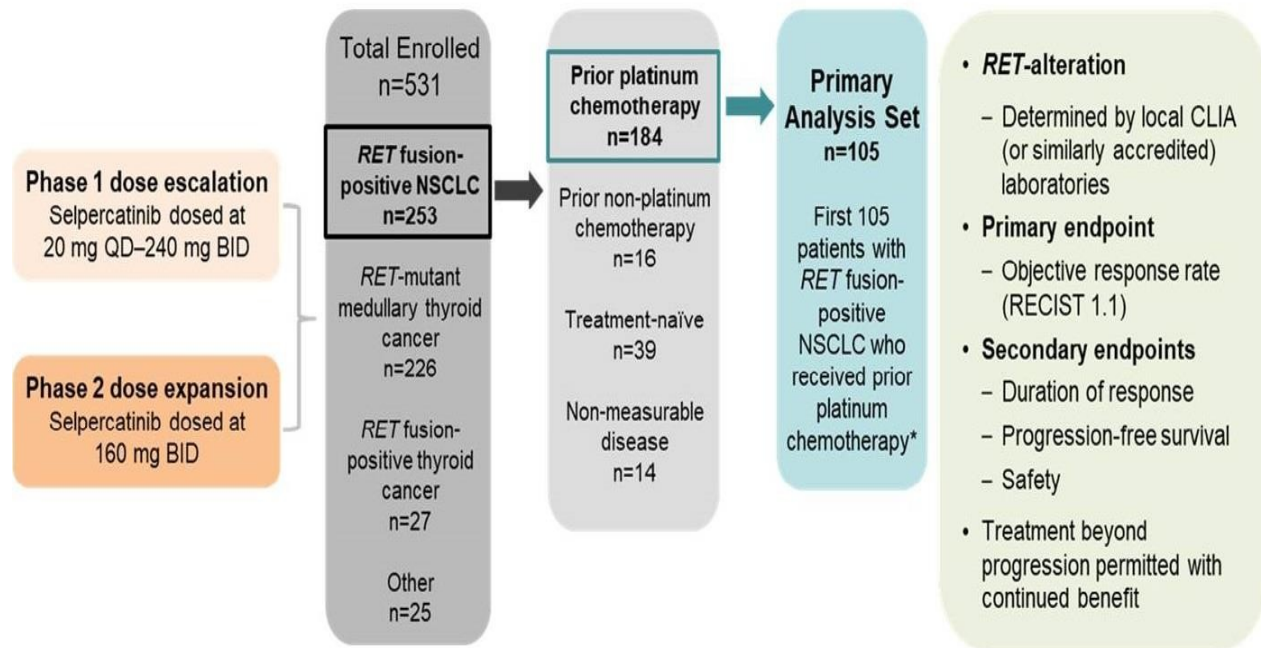
CCDC6-RET orthotopic brain PDX



Treatments

- Vehicle
- LOXO-292 30 mg/kg BID → Day 52 → 3 mg/kg BID
- Ponatinib 20 mg/kg QD → Day 52 → 2 mg/kg QD

LIBRETTO-001: Selpercatinib in RET-altered cancers

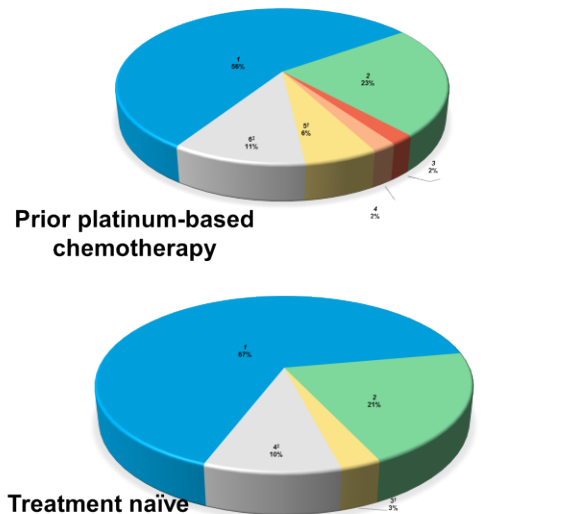


Drilon A et al, NEJM
2020

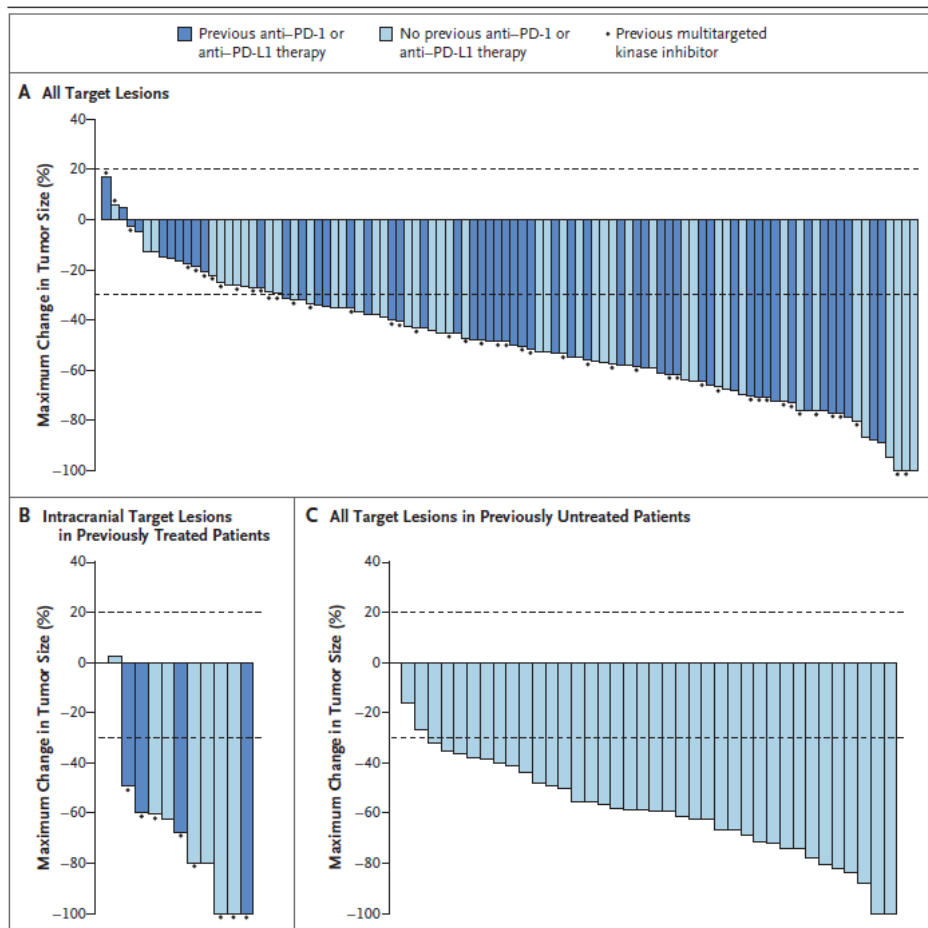
Baseline Patient Characteristics

Characteristic	Prior Platinum-based Chemotherapy (n=105)	Treatment Naïve (n=39)
Age, median (range), years	61 (23–81)	61 (23–86)
Sex		
Female	62 (59)	22 (56)
Male	43 (41)	17 (44)
Race		
White	55 (52)	28 (72)
Asian	40 (38)	7 (18)
Black or African American	5 (5)	3 (8)
Other	3 (3)	1 (3)
Missing	2 (2)	0
Smoking status		
Never smoker	75 (71)	29 (74)
Former smoker	29 (28)	9 (23)
Current smoker	1 (1)	1 (3)
ECOG performance status		
0	31 (30)	18 (46)
1	72 (69)	21 (54)
2	2 (2)	0
NSCLC histological subtype		
Adenocarcinoma	90 (86)	34 (87)
Large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma	2 (2)	0
Squamous cell carcinoma	1 (1)	0
Not otherwise specified	12 (11)	5 (13)
Prior systemic regimens, median (range)	3 (1–15)	0
Prior platinum-based chemotherapy	105 (100)	–
Prior anti-PD-1/PD-L1 therapy	58 (55)	–
Prior multitargeted kinase inhibitor*		
1	50 (48)	–
≥2	37 (74)	–
Brain metastases	38 (36)	7 (18)
Measurable disease	104 (99)	39 (100)

RET Gene Fusion



*Multitargeted kinase inhibitors (MKIs) administered included cabozantinib (16 patients), vandetanib (8), lenvatinib (7), and others (36). Patients may have received more than one MKI. †Other fusions identified in single tumors included *CLIP1-RET*, *RBPMS-RET* and *DOCK1-RET*, *ARHGAP12-RET*, *CCDC88C-RET*, *TRIM24-RET*, *PRKAR1A-RET* and *ERC1-RET*. ‡RET fusion indicated by molecular analysis but fusion partner not identified. Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance status scores range from 0 to 5, with higher scores indicating greater disability. Total % may be different than the sum of the individual components due to rounding. Abbreviations: NSCLC, non-small-cell lung cancer.



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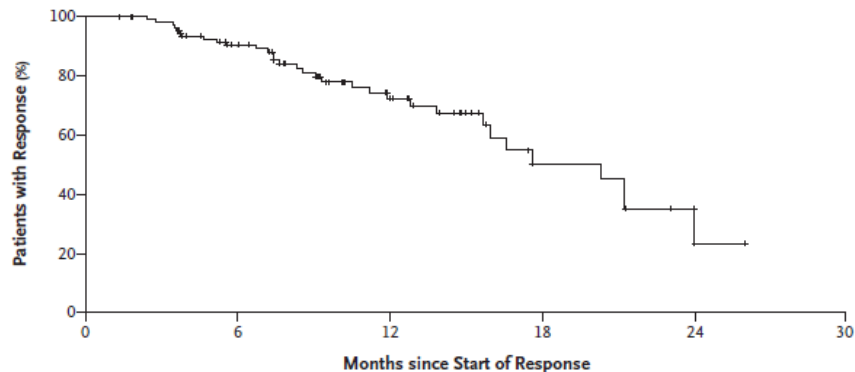
VOL. 383 NO. 9

Efficacy of Selpercatinib in *RET* Fusion–Positive Non–Small-Cell Lung Cancer

A. Drilon, G.R. Oxnard, D.S.W. Tan, H.H.F. Loong, M. Johnson, J. Gainor, C.E. McCoach, O. Gautschi, B. Besse, B.C. Cho, N. Peled, J. Weiss, Y.-J. Kim, Y. Ohe, M. Nishio, K. Park, J. Patel, T. Seto, T. Sakamoto, E. Rosen, M.H. Shah, F. Barlesi, P.A. Cassier, L. Bazhenova, F. De Braud, E. Garraza, V. Velcheti, M. Satouchi, K. Ohashi, N.A. Pennell, K.L. Reckamp, G.K. Dy, J. Wolf, B. Solomon, G. Falchook, K. Ebata, M. Nguyen, B. Nair, E.Y. Zhu, L. Yang, X. Huang, E. Olek, S.M. Rothenberg, K. Goto, and V. Subbiah

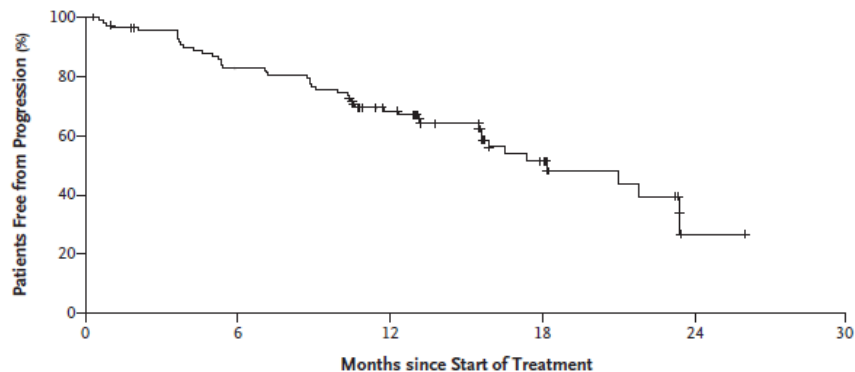
	Pre-treated # 105	Untreated # 39
OR # (%)	67 (64)	33 (85)
mDOR (mo)	17.5	NE
Time to OR (mo)	1.8	
CNS OR% (#11)	91	

A Duration of Response among Patients with a Response



No. at Risk 73 71 67 62 56 45 34 26 14 10 10 6 1 0

B Progression-free Survival among All Patients



No. at Risk 105 95 89 82 79 74 54 36 35 20 10 10 8 1 0

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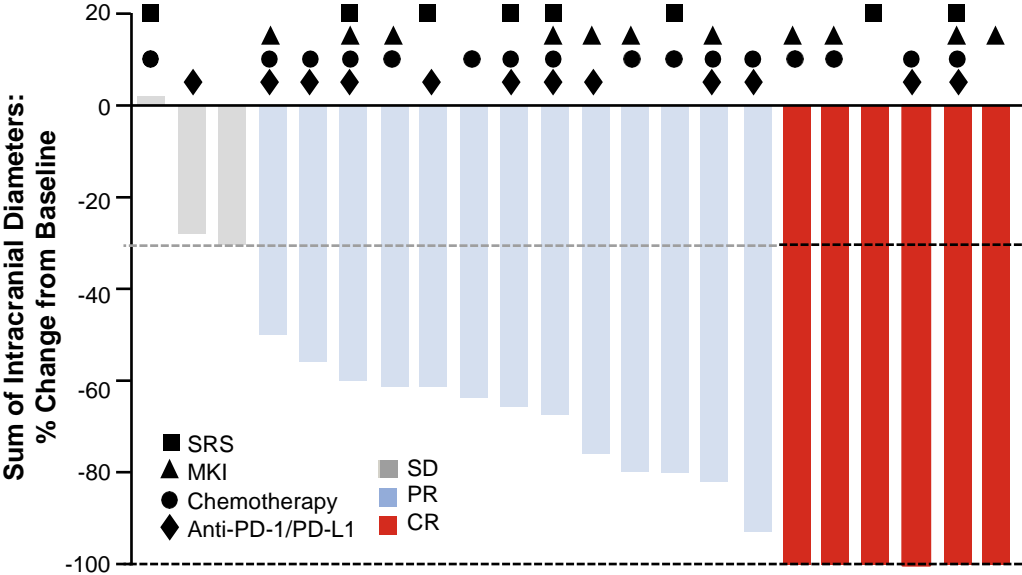
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	All patients # 105
1Y PFS	66 %
mPFS (mo)	16.5

Intracranial Responses were Observed Across a Variety of Prior Treatment Histories

Measurable baseline intracranial metastatic disease (n=22)	
Intracranial response	
ORR (95% CI), %	82 (60-95)
Best intracranial response, n (%)	
CR	5 (23)
PR	13 (59)
SD	4 (18)
PD	0
Intracranial DCR, n (%)	22 (100)



Subbiah V, et al. Clin Cancer Res 2021; 27(15):4160-4167. Intracranial Efficacy of Selpercatinib in RET Fusion-Positive Non-Small Cell Lung Cancers on the LIBRETTO-001 Trial.

Intracranial Responses Occurred Regardless of Prior Cranial Radiotherapy in Patients with Measurable Disease

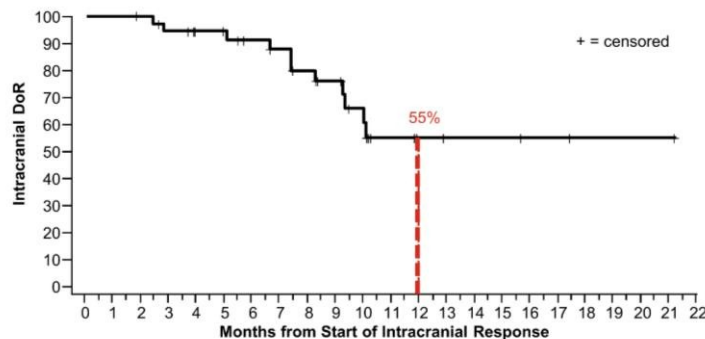
	Measurable baseline intracranial metastatic disease (n=22)		
	All patients (n=22)	Patients without prior intracranial radiotherapy (n=14)	Patients with prior intracranial radiotherapy (n=8) ^a
Intracranial response			
ORR, n (%)	18 (82)	12 (86)	6 (75)
95% CI	60-95	57-98	35-97
Best intracranial response, n (%)			
CR	5 (23)	4 (29)	1 (13)
PR	13 (59)	8 (57)	5 (63)
SD	4 (18)	2 (14)	2 (25)
PD	0	0	0

- Intracranial responses, including CRs, occurred regardless of prior history of cranial radiotherapy in patients with measurable baseline intracranial metastatic disease

Intracranial Duration of Response and PFS

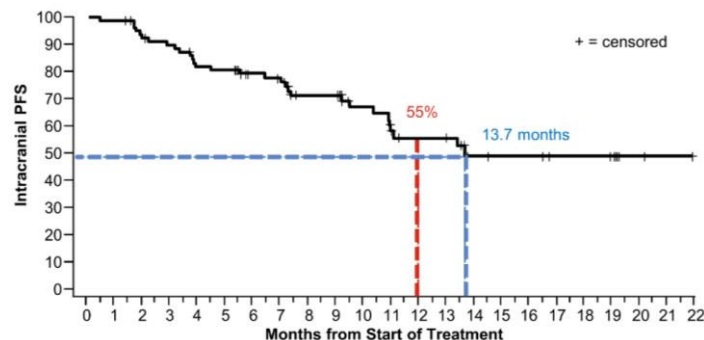
- There were a total of 38 intracranial responders
 - 18 patients with measurable baseline intracranial metastatic disease who achieved CR or PR
 - 20 patients with nonmeasurable baseline intracranial metastatic disease who achieved CR
- At 1-year, 55% of intracranial responses were ongoing
- The median PFS is immature due to limited follow-up time and limited number of events

Intracranial responders (n=38) ^a	
Intracranial DoR	
Median follow-up, mo (IQR)	9.5 (5.7-12.0)
Median DoR, mo (95% CI)	NE (9.3-NE)
12-month DoR rate, % (95% CI)	55 (32-73)



No. at risk: 38 38 37 34 30 29 25 23 20 17 12 7 5 4 4 2 2 1 1 1 0

All patients with baseline intracranial metastatic disease (n=80)	
Intracranial PFS	
Median follow-up, mo (IQR)	11.0 (7.4-16.5)
Median PFS, mo (95% CI)	13.7 (10.9-NE)
12-month PFS rate, % (95% CI)	55 (41-67)



No. at risk: 80 79 72 69 62 61 52 50 38 38 30 26 21 21 11 10 10 8 8 7 2 1 0

Safety profile

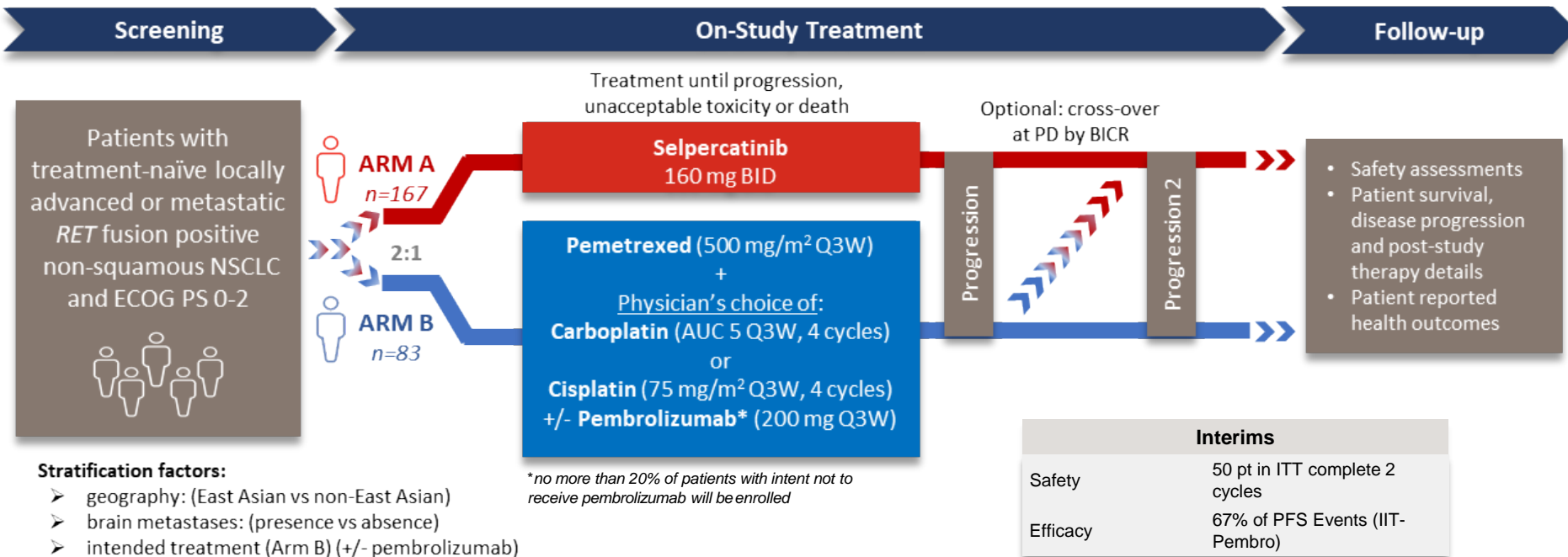
+ Hypersensitivity reactions 7%
Mc Coach, JTO 2021

LIBRETTO-001 Safety Database, n=531								
	Treatment-emergent AEs (≥15% overall)					Treatment-related AEs		
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Total	Grade 3	Grade 4	Total
Dry mouth	29%	4%	–	–	32%	–	–	27%
Diarrhea	21%	8%	2%	–	31%	1%	–	16%
Hypertension	4%	11%	14%	<1%	29%	8%	<1%	18%
Increased AST	17%	5%	6%	1%	28%	4%	1%	22%
Increased ALT	13%	4%	7%	1%	26%	6%	1%	21%
Fatigue	15%	9%	1%	–	24%	<1%	–	14%
Constipation	19%	3%	<1%	–	22%	<1%	–	11%
Headache	15%	4%	1%	–	20%	<1%	–	7%
Nausea	15%	4%	<1%	–	19%	<1%	–	8%
Peripheral edema	16%	4%	<1%	–	19%	–	–	10%
Increased creatinine	14%	4%	–	<1%	18%	–	–	10%

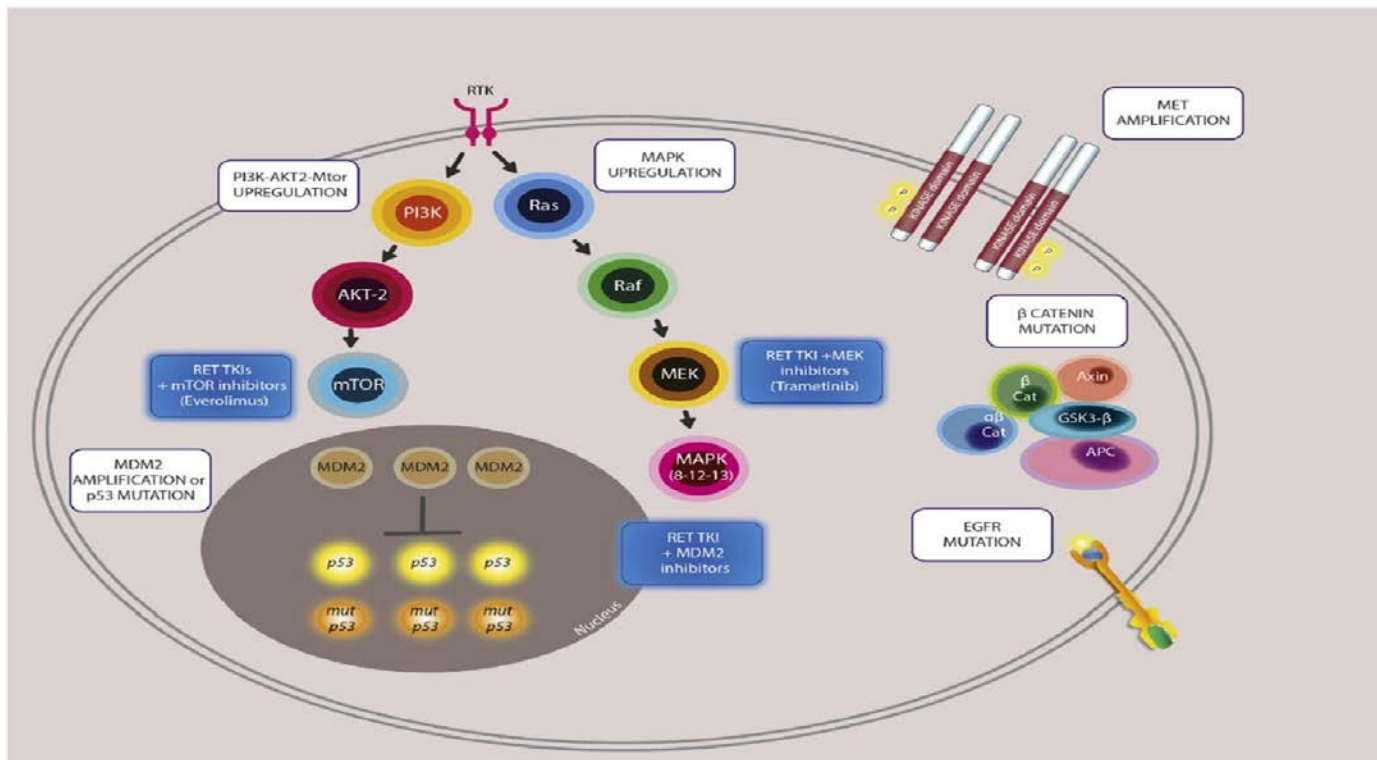
9 patients (1.7%) discontinued due to treatment-related AEs

Drilon A et al, WCLC 2019

LIBRETTO 431 - Study Design



Escape mechanisms to rearranged during transfection proto-oncogene (RET) inhibition



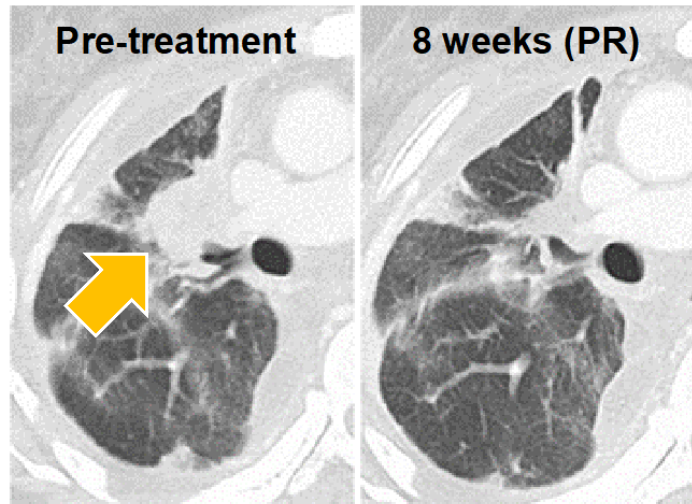
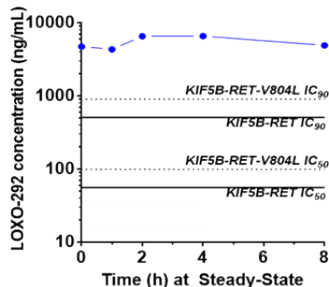
Overcoming Acquired RET Gatekeeper Resistance

Selpercatinib Overcomes Acquired Gatekeeper Resistance

42-year-old woman with *KIF5B-RET* fusion-positive NSCLC

- 15 prior systemic therapy regimens
 - chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and investigational kinase inhibitors
- Acquired **RET V804L gatekeeper mutation** post-vandetanib therapy

Initiated selpercatinib at 160 mg BID



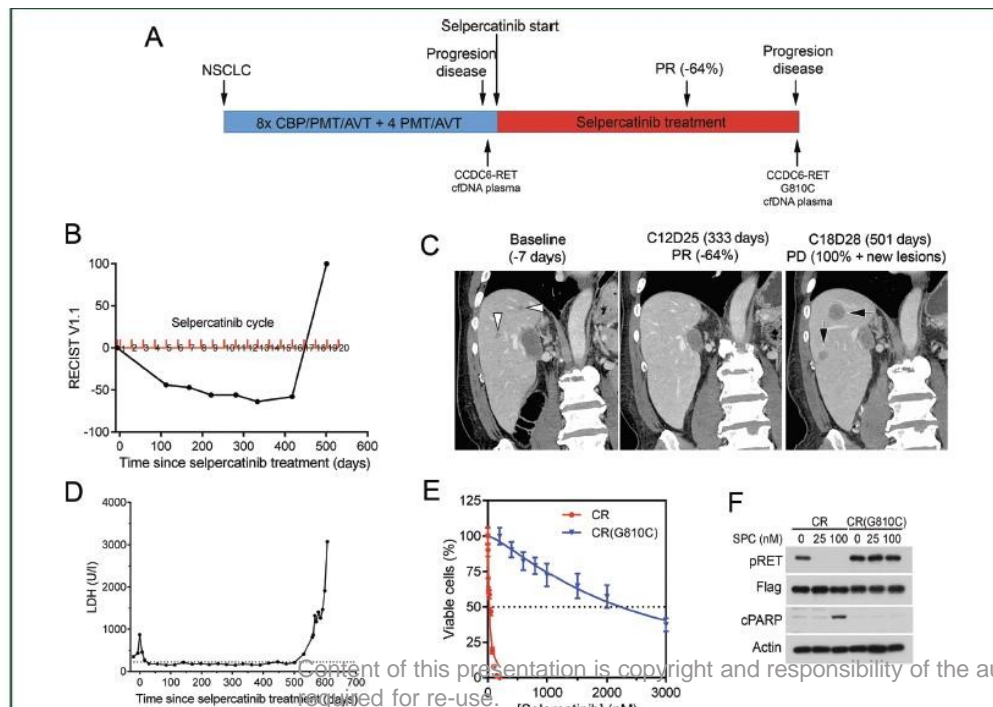
Decreased shortness of breath
Confirmed PR by RECIST 1.1
Remains on treatment at 11 months

Data cut-off: June 17th, 2019; Wirth et al, JCO Precision Oncology, In Press. Images courtesy of K. Goto.

Structural basis of acquired resistance to selpercatinib and pralsetinib mediated by non-gatekeeper RET mutations

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Conclusions

- RET fusions are driver alterations in 1-3% NSCLC (mutations are in thyroid ca)
- More frequent in non smokers and with younger age
- Poorly responsive to immunotherapy
- Selpercatinib and Pralsetinib are RET TKIs with remarkable and long lasting activity
- Demonstrated anti-cranial activity
- Toxicity is mild (of note hypertension and hypersensitivity reactions)
- Mechanisms of resistance are almost unknown (gatekeeper and non gatekeeper)

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