

16<sup>th</sup>  
**CONGRESS**  
*Lung* **ON**  
**CANCER**

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**Is the future conjugated? ADCs in lung cancer treatment**

**Francesca Fusco, M.D.**

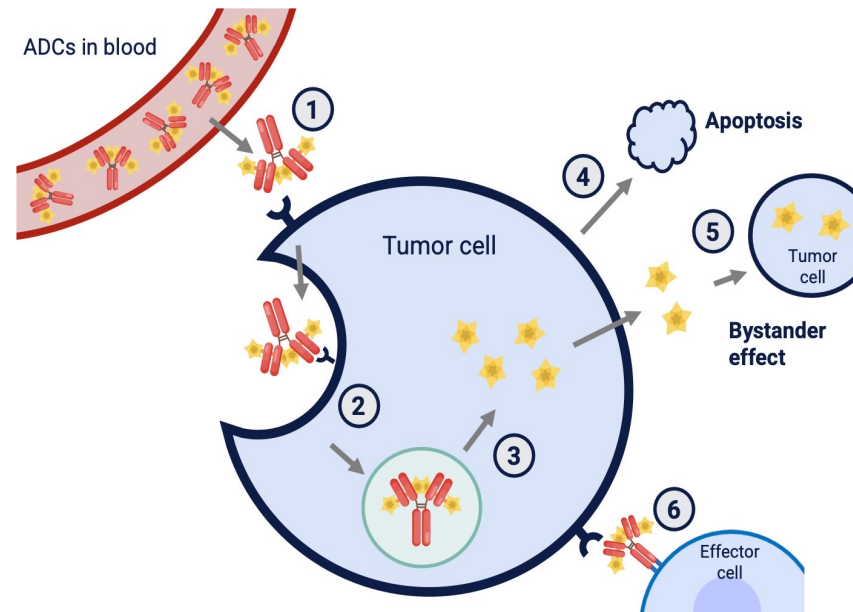
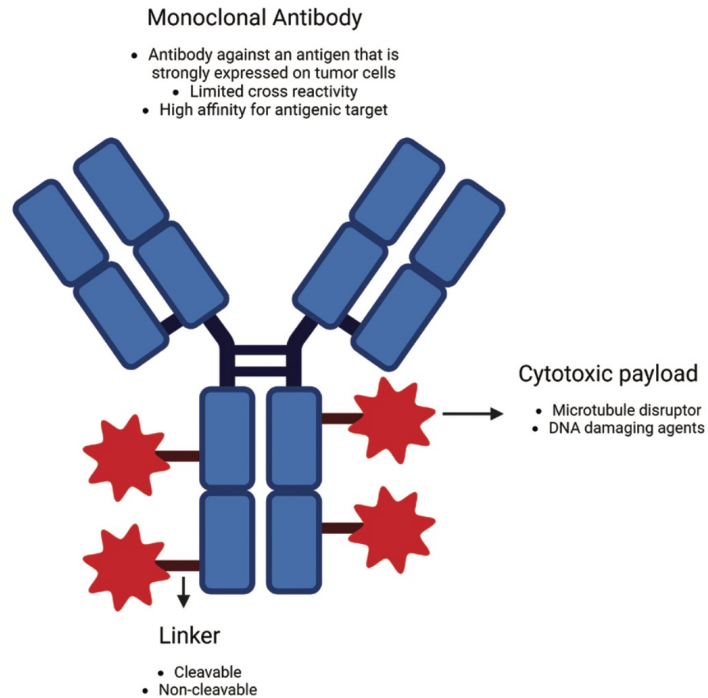
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# Declaration of interests

Dr. Fusco discloses the following conflicts of interest:

- Fees for lectures from Regeneron and Pierre Fabre
- Travel and accomodation expenses from Johnson & Johnson, Roche, AstraZeneca

# ADCs: How they work

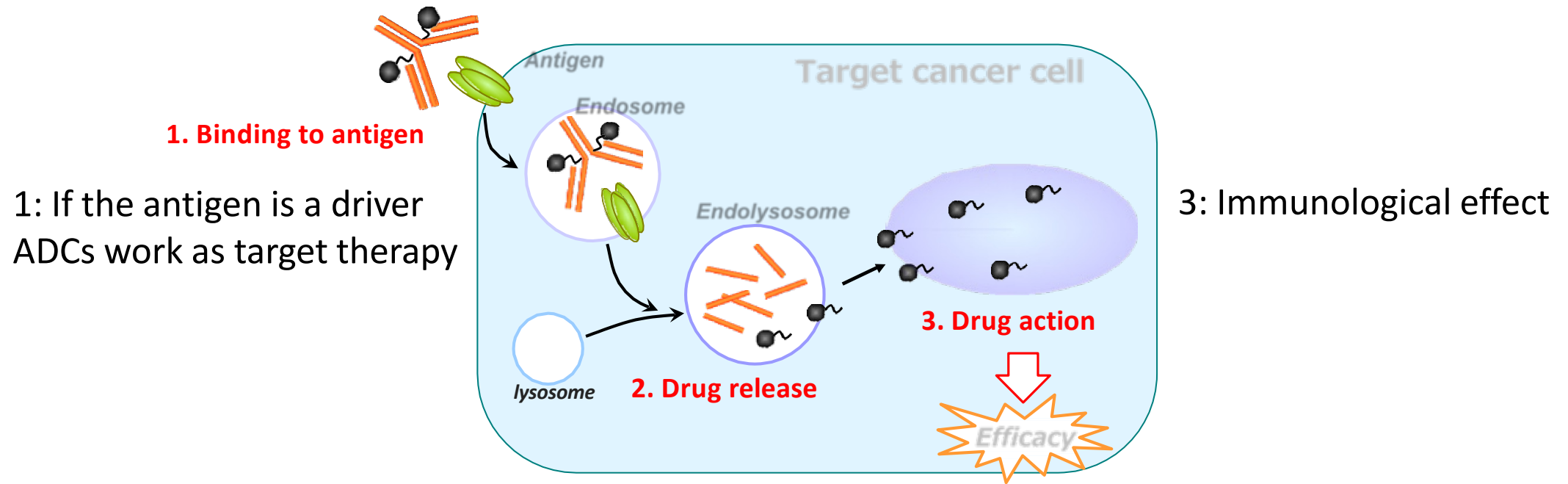


- 1 The antibody binds selectively to an antigen on the surface of a tumor cell<sup>1-4</sup>
- 2 Once bound to its target on the tumor cell, it is internalized<sup>1-4</sup>
- 3 The internalized ADC is degraded within the lysosome, releasing the cytotoxic payload<sup>1-4</sup>
- 4 The cytotoxic payload leads to cell death via several pathways, e.g., apoptosis<sup>5</sup>
- 5 Membrane-permeable payloads may act on adjacent cancer cells to elicit a bystander effect<sup>5</sup>
- 6 The antibody component of the ADC may engage with immune effector cells to elicit anti-tumor immunity<sup>5</sup>

ADC, antibody–drug conjugate.

1. Drago JZ, et al. Nat Rev Clin Oncol. 2021; 2. Khongorzul P, et al. Mol Cancer Res. 2020; 3. Coleman N, et al. NPJ Precis Oncol. 2023; 4. Kostova V, et al. Pharmaceuticals. 2021; 5. Fu Z, et al. Signal Transduct Target Ther. 2022; Bhardwaj PV, et al. The Oncologist 2023

# ADCs: Chemotherapy, targeted therapy, or immunotherapy?



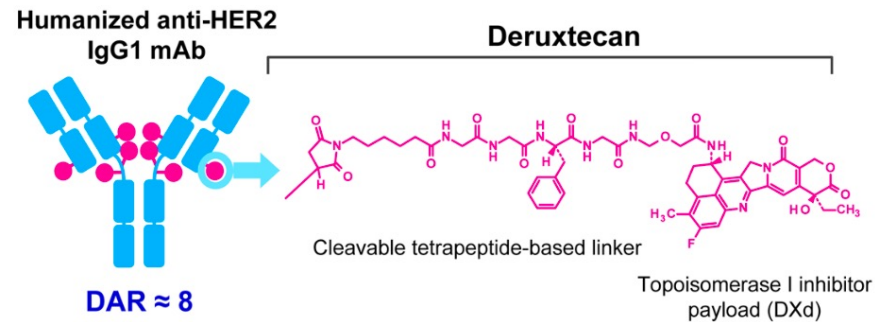
1: If the antigen is a driver  
ADCs work as target therapy

2: If the activity is dependent on drug release  
ADCs work as chemotherapy (bystander effect included)

3: Immunological effect

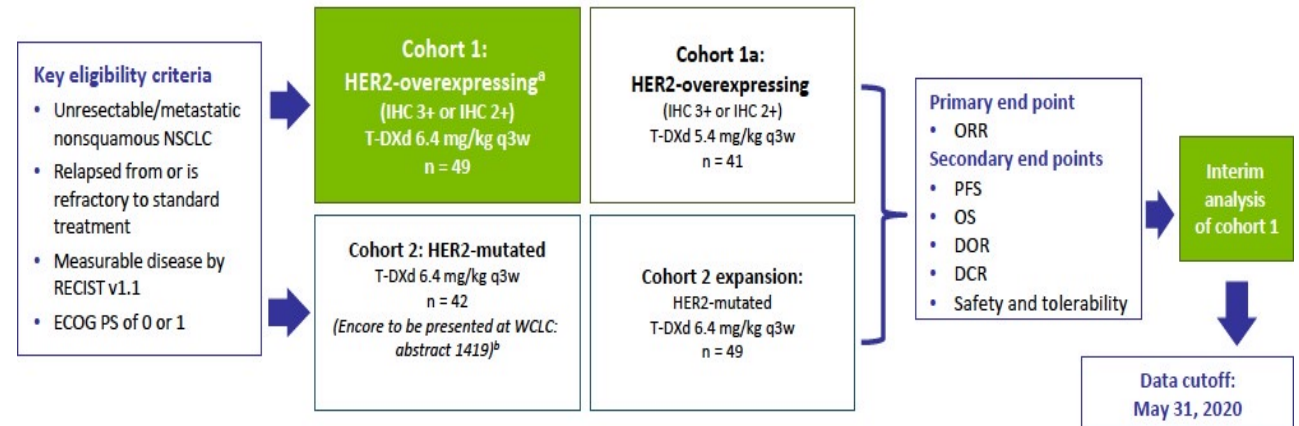
# Targeting HER2 in NSCLC

## Tratuzumab Deruxtecan (T-DXd)



## DESTINY-Lung01 trial

Phase 2 study of T-DXd, a novel antibody-drug conjugate, in patients with HER2-overexpressing or HER2-mutated metastatic NSCLC (NCT03505710)





# DESTINY-Lung03: Phase 1b, multicenter, open-label, dose-escalation study of T-DXd in HER2-OE NSCLC

## Patient population

- Aged  $\geq 18$  years
- Centrally assessed HER2-OE (IHC 3+/2+)\* unresectable, locally advanced or metastatic nonsquamous NSCLC
- Measurable disease per RECIST v1.1
- WHO/ECOG performance status 0–1
- Patients in Part 1 had one or two prior lines of therapy; those with therapy-targetable alterations must have had prior appropriate targeted therapy

## Part 1: dose escalation† (enrollment complete)

- Arm 1A: T-DXd + durvalumab + cisplatin
- Arm 1B: T-DXd + durvalumab + carboplatin

## Part 1: T-DXd monotherapy (enrollment complete)

- Arm 1D: T-DXd 5.4 mg/kg IV Q3W (N=36)

## Part 3: dose confirmation and expansion (currently recruiting)

- T-DXd + volrustomig  $\pm$  carboplatin

## Part 4: safety run-in and expansion (currently recruiting)

- T-DXd + rilvegostomig  $\pm$  carboplatin

## Key endpoints: T-DXd monotherapy (arm 1D)

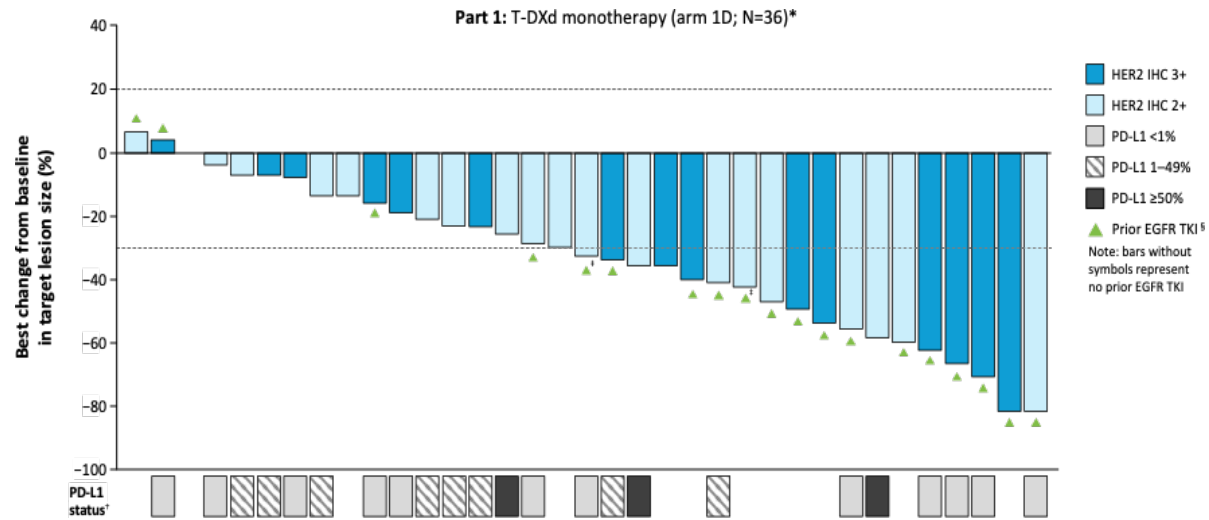
### Secondary:

- ORR
  - DOR
  - DCR
  - PFS
  - OS
  - Safety and tolerability
- Investigator assessed

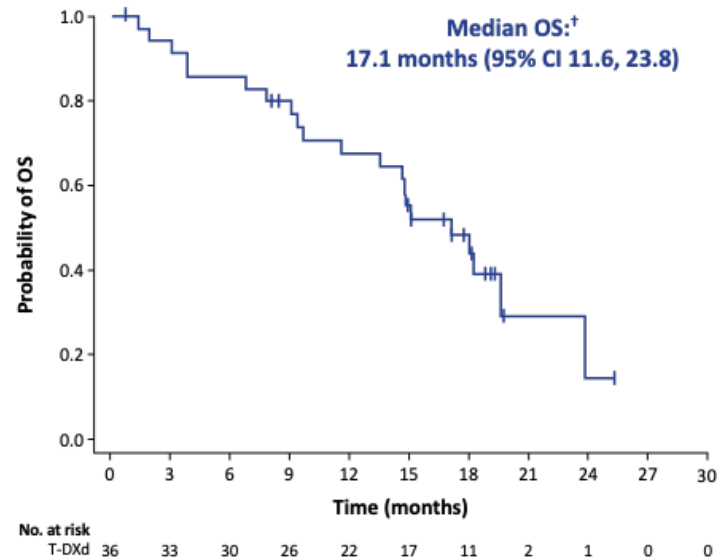
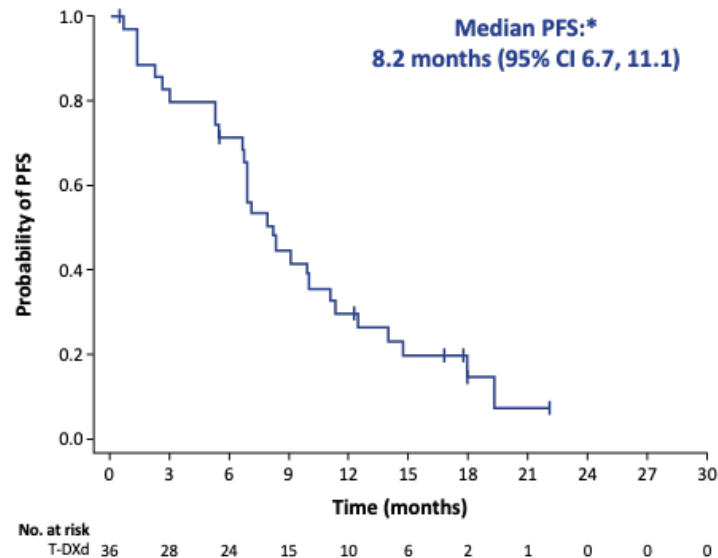
### Exploratory:

- Efficacy outcomes by:
  - HER2 IHC status
  - Prior EGFR TKI exposure‡

# DESTINY-Lung03: Efficacy



**Confirmed ORR=44.4%**

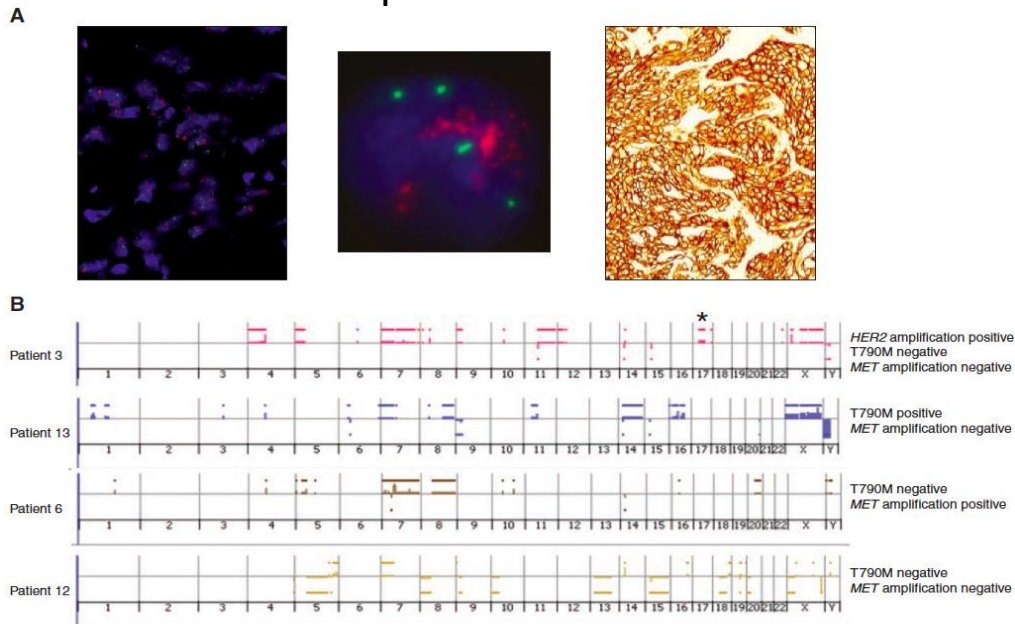


# Efficacy driven by EGFR mutations

Part 1: T-DXd monotherapy (arm 1D)	HER2 IHC 3+ (n=16)	HER2 IHC 2+ (n=20)	Prior EGFR TKI (n=19)**	No prior EGFR TKI (n=17)**
Confirmed ORR, % (n)* <sup>†</sup> 95% CI	56.3 (9) 29.9, 80.3	35.0 (7) 15.4, 59.2	68.4 (13) 43.5, 87.4	17.6 (3) 3.8, 43.4
DCR at 12 weeks, % (95% CI)* <sup>‡</sup>	81.3 (54.4, 96.0)	75.0 (50.9, 91.3)	84.2 (60.4, 96.6)	70.6 (44.0, 89.7)
Median DOR, months (95% CI)* <sup>§</sup>	12.5 (5.5, NE)	6.6 (4.5, 11.0)	11.7 (5.5, NE)	4.6 (4.5, NE)
Median PFS, months (95% CI)* <sup>¶</sup>	6.9 (5.3, 17.9)	8.2 (5.4, 10.0)	8.2 (6.7, 19.3)	7.1 (1.4, 10.0)
Median OS, months (95% CI) <sup>  </sup>	16.4 (6.8, NE)	17.1 (9.4, 23.8)	19.6 (13.5, NE)	14.7 (3.9, 18.0)

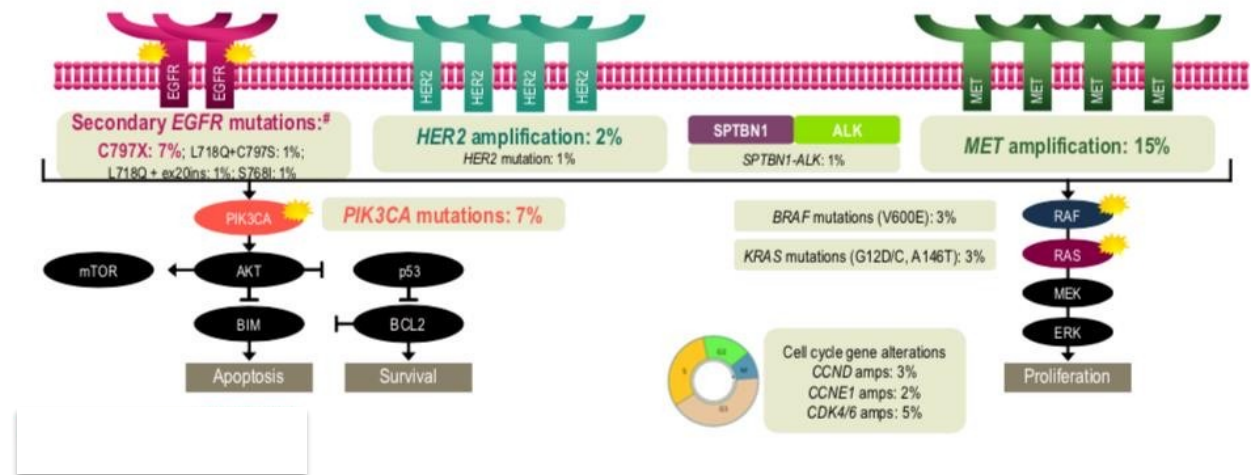
# HER2 gene copy number modulates EGFR-TKI sensitivity and it is a mechanism of resistance

High levels of *HER2* amplification induces acquired resistance



*HER2* amplification is a mechanism of resistance to osimertinib

- The most common resistance mechanisms were *MET* amplification and EGFR C797S mutation
- Other mechanisms included *HER2* amplification, *PIK3CA* and *RAS* mutations



## **Need for options after resistance to TKIs and immunotherapy: The challenge is to BEAT DOCETAXEL**

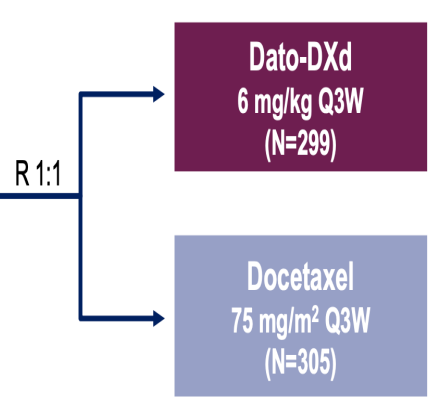


**Docetaxel**

# In non-oncogene addicted NSCLC anti-TROP2 ADCs work as chemotherapy: TROPION LUNG01 (Dato-DXd versus TXT)

## Key Eligibility Criteria

- NSCLC (stage IIIB, IIIC, or IV)
- ECOG PS of 0 or 1
- No prior docetaxel
- Without actionable genomic alterations<sup>a</sup>
  - 1 or 2 prior lines, including platinum CT and anti-PD-(L)1 mAb therapy
- With actionable genomic alterations
  - Positive for *EGFR*, *ALK*, *NTRK*, *BRAF*, *ROS1*, *MET* exon 14 skipping, or *RET*
  - 1 or 2 prior approved targeted therapies + platinum-based CT, and ≤1 anti-PD-(L)1 mAb



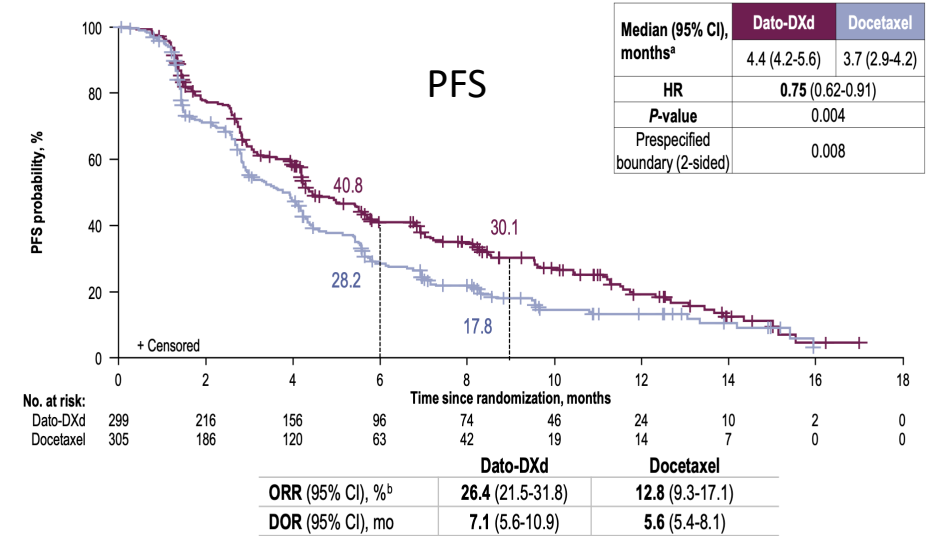
## Dual Primary Endpoints

- PFS by BICR
- OS

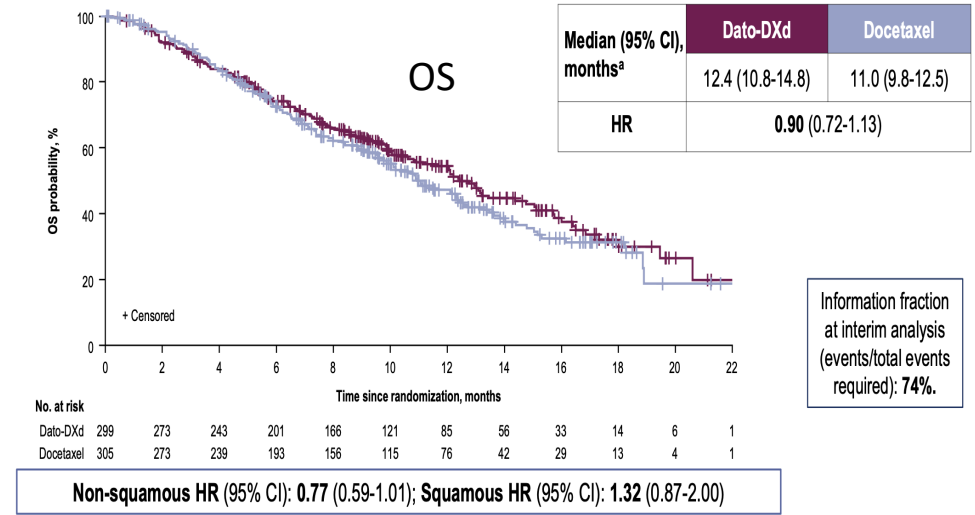
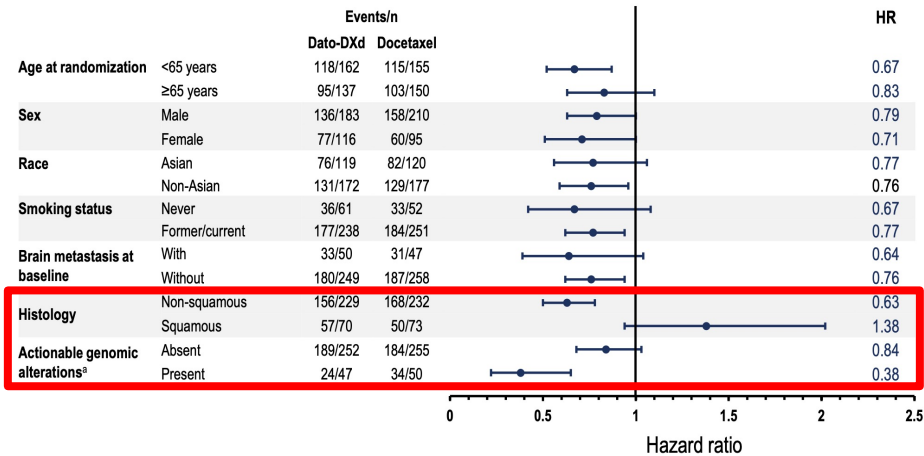
## Secondary Endpoints

- ORR by BICR
- DOR by BICR
- Safety

Stratified by: histology,<sup>b</sup> actionable genomic alteration,<sup>c</sup> anti-PD-(L)1 mAb included in most recent prior therapy, geography<sup>d</sup>

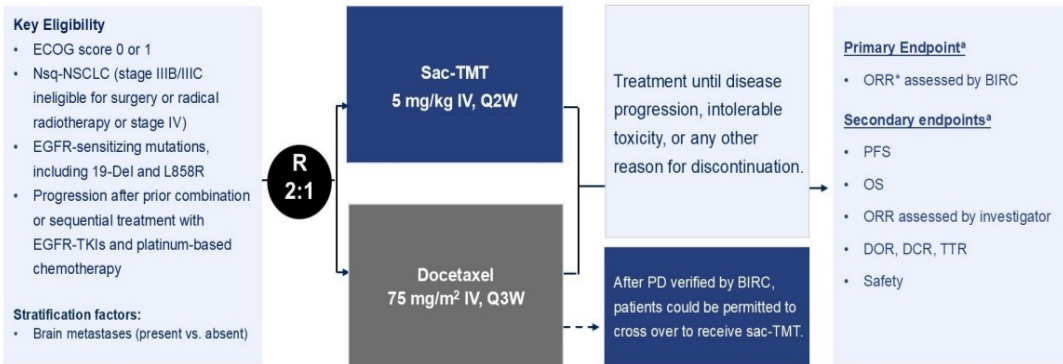


## PFS in subgroups



# Sacituzumab tirumotecan in pretreated EGFR mutant NSCLC

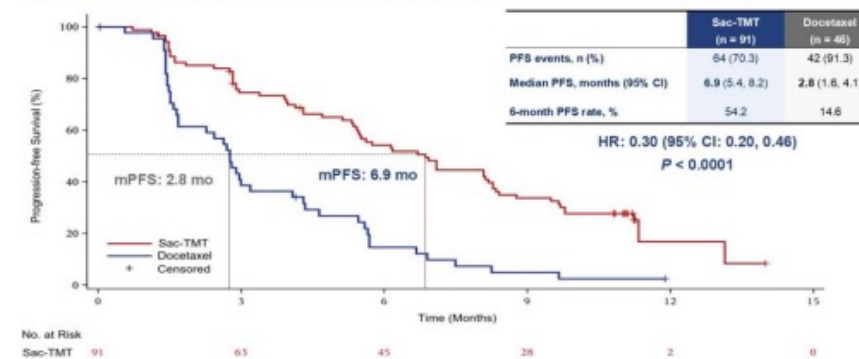
## OptiTROP-Lung03



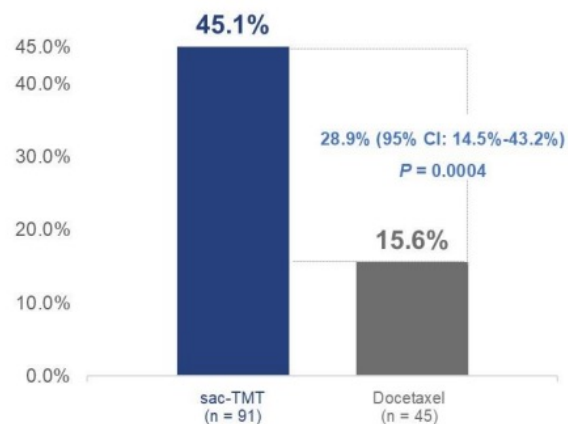
• Tumor assessments will be performed every 6 weeks (± 7 days) within 48 weeks after randomization  
 • After 48 weeks of randomization, tumor assessments will be performed every 12 weeks (± 7 days).

## Progression-Free Survival by BIRC

Sac-TMT significantly improved PFS over docetaxel with 70% lower risk of disease progression or death.

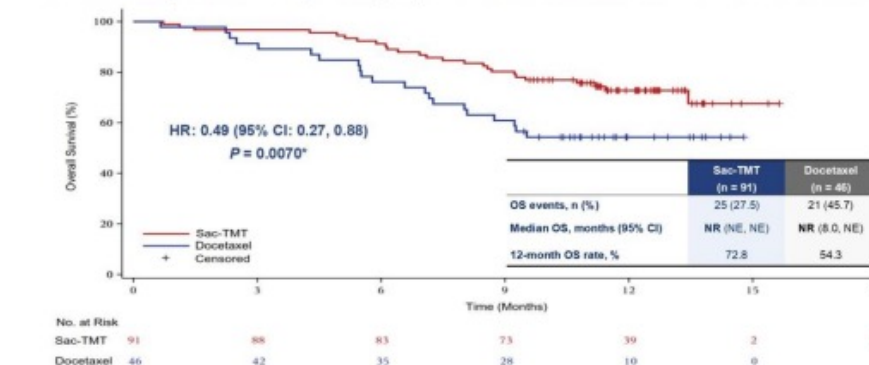


## ORR (BIRC assessment)



## Overall Survival

At the interim analysis, Sac-TMT significantly improved OS over docetaxel with 51% lower risk of death.

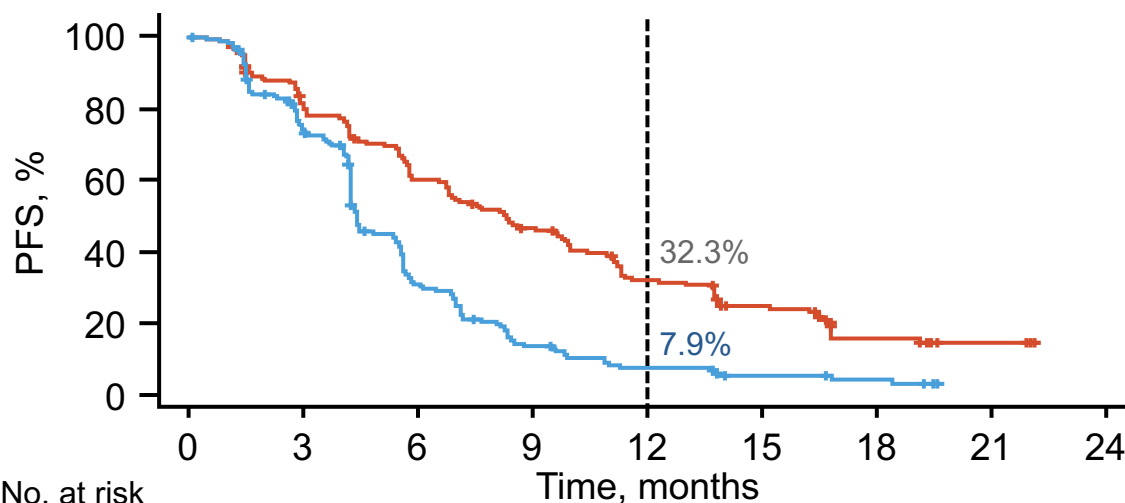


# Sacituzumab tirumotecan in pretreated EGFR mutant NSCLC

OptiTROP-Lung04, phase III trial

**PFS by BICR**

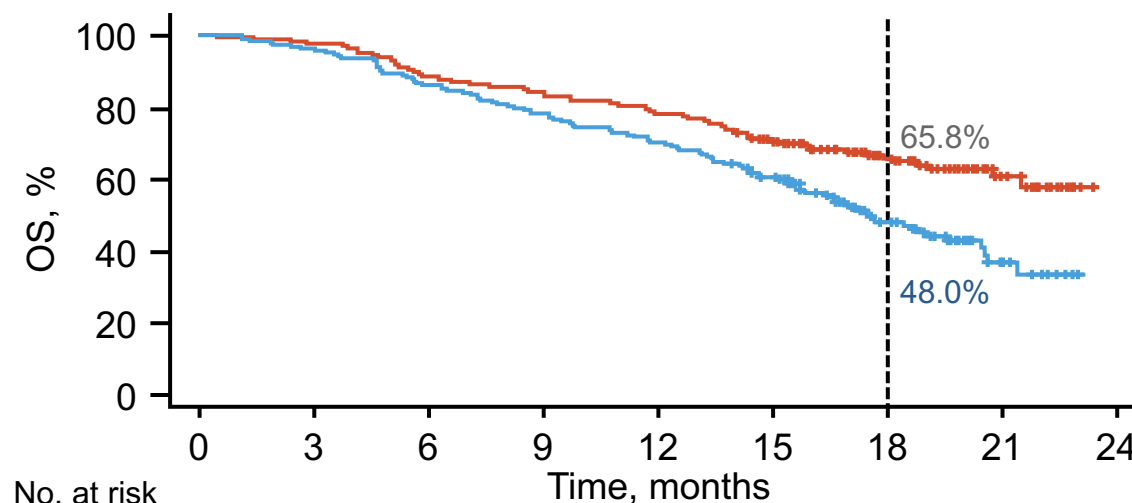
	Sacituzumab tirumotecan (n=188)	Chemotherapy (n=188)
PFS events, n (%)	144 (76.6)	159 (84.6)
mPFS, mo (95%CI)	8.3 (6.7, 9.9)	4.3 (4.2, 5.5)
12-mo PFS, mo (95%CI)	32.3 (25.5, 39.2)	7.9 (4.4, 12.8)
HR (95%CI); p-value	0.49 (0.39, 0.62); <0.0001	



No. at risk	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24
— Sac-TMT 188	188	144	108	82	55	35	14	5	0
— Chemotherapy 188	188	125	51	22	12	6	4	0	0

**OS**

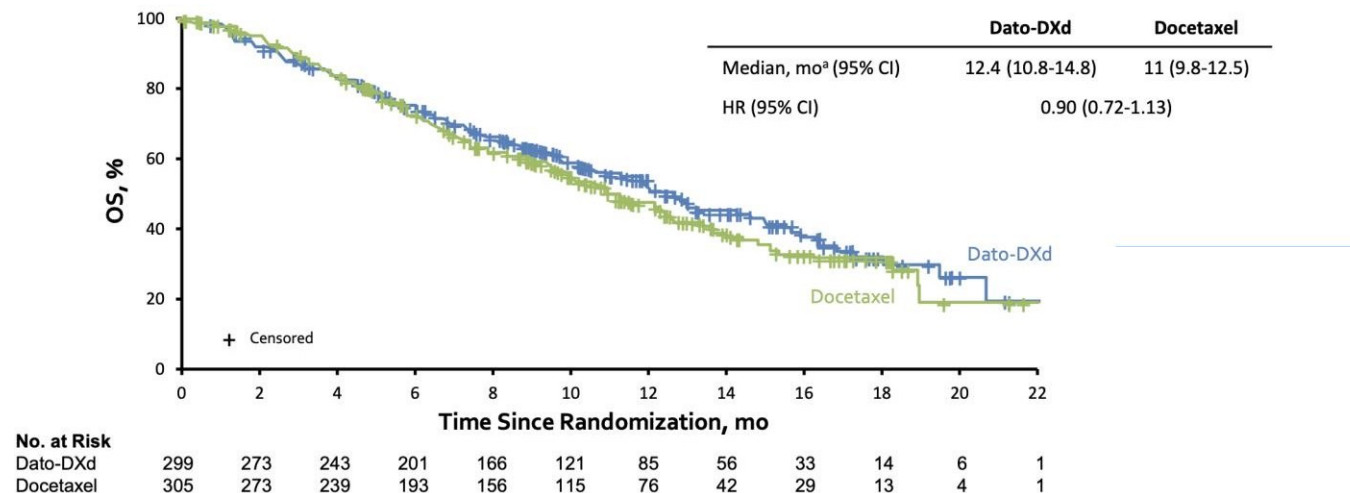
	Sacituzumab tirumotecan (n=188)	Chemotherapy (n=188)
OS events, n (%)	67 (35.6)	101 (53.7)
mOS, mo (95%CI)	NR (21.5, NE)	17.4 (15.7, 20.4)
18-mo OS, mo (95%CI)	65.8 (58.3, 72.3)	48.0 (40.2, 55.4)
HR (95%CI); 2-sided p-value*	0.60 (0.44, 0.82); 0.001*	



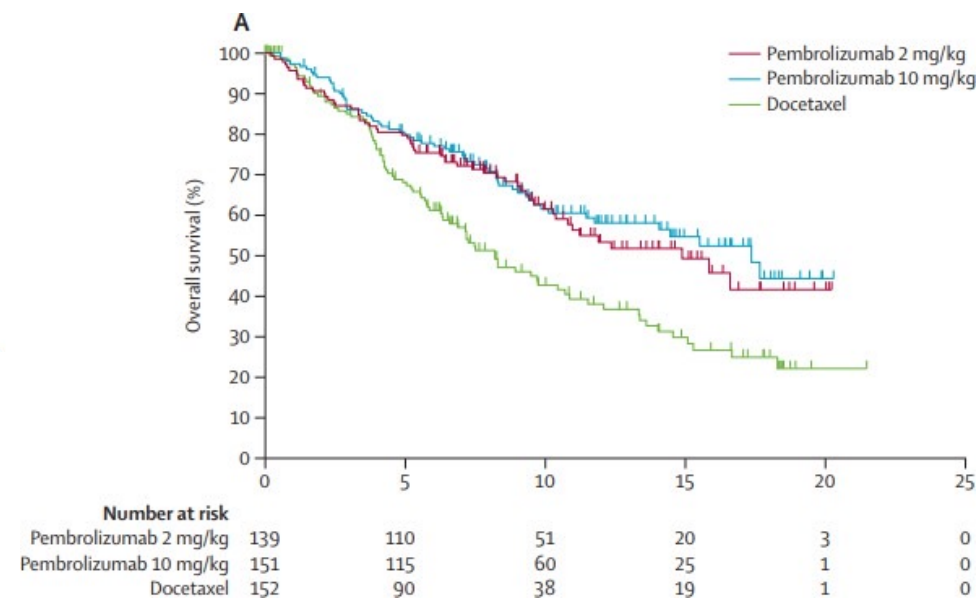
No. at risk	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24
— Sac-TMT 188	188	184	167	158	147	127	75	25	0
— Chemotherapy 188	188	180	162	147	132	110	57	13	0

# Do ADCs work as immunotherapy? No evidence of effect on long-term survival

Dato DXd in TROPION Lung 01



Pembrolizumab in pretreated NSCLC\*, KEYNOTE-010

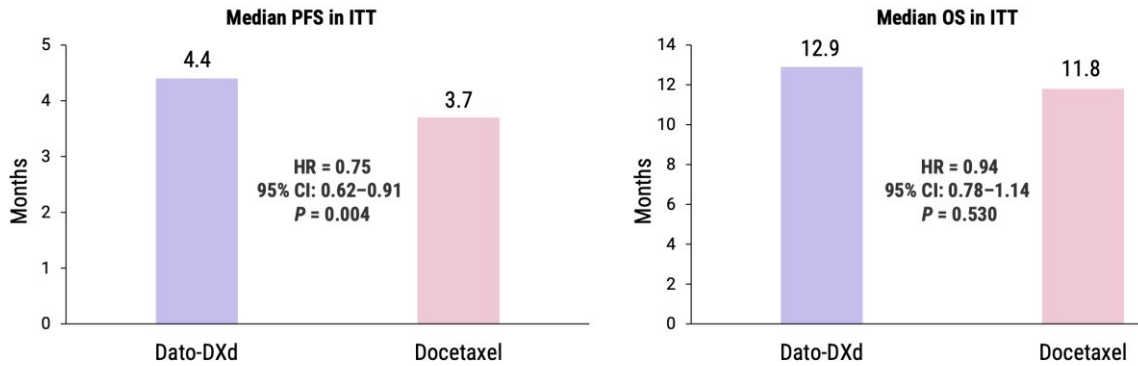


\*PD-L1 tumour proportion score of 50% or greater

# No ADCs showed OS improvement over standard chemotherapy in non-oncogene-addicted NSCLC in phase III trials

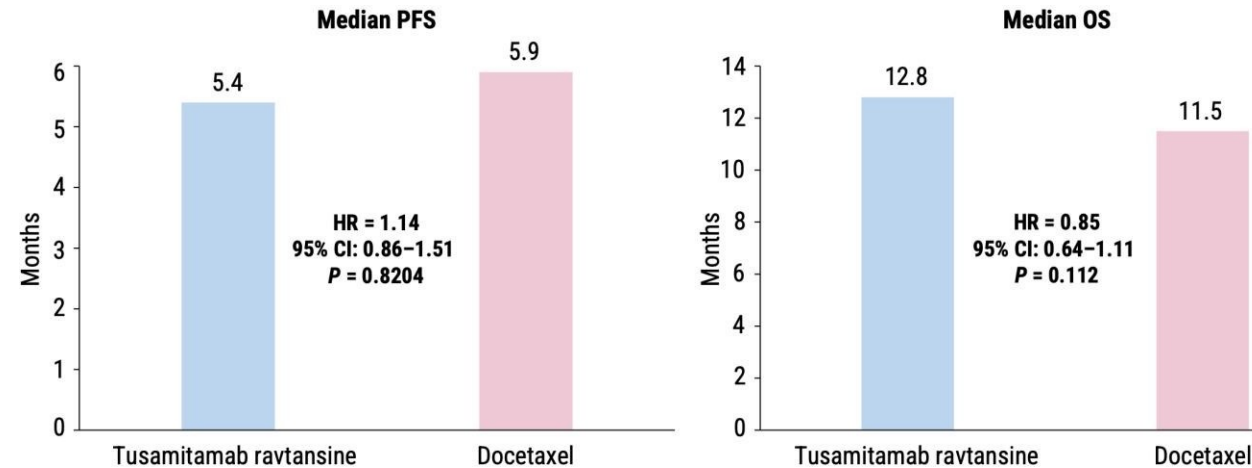
## TROPION-Lung01: Results

Phase 3 study examining datopotamab deruxtecan vs docetaxel in pre-treated patients with advanced/metastatic NSCLC with or without actionable genomic alterations



## CARMEN-LC03: Results<sup>1,2</sup>

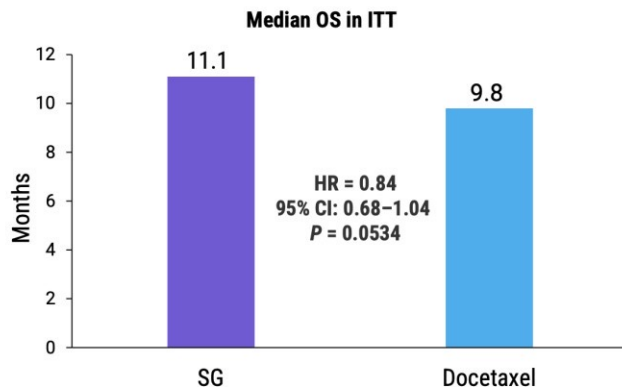
Phase 3, randomised, open-label, study examining tusamitamab ravtansine vs docetaxel in patients with pretreated, advanced, non-squamous CEACAM5-positive NSCLC



## EVOKE-01: Efficacy

Phase 3 study examining sacituzumab govitecan vs docetaxel in patients with mNSCLC progressing on or after PBC and anti-PD-(L)1 treatment

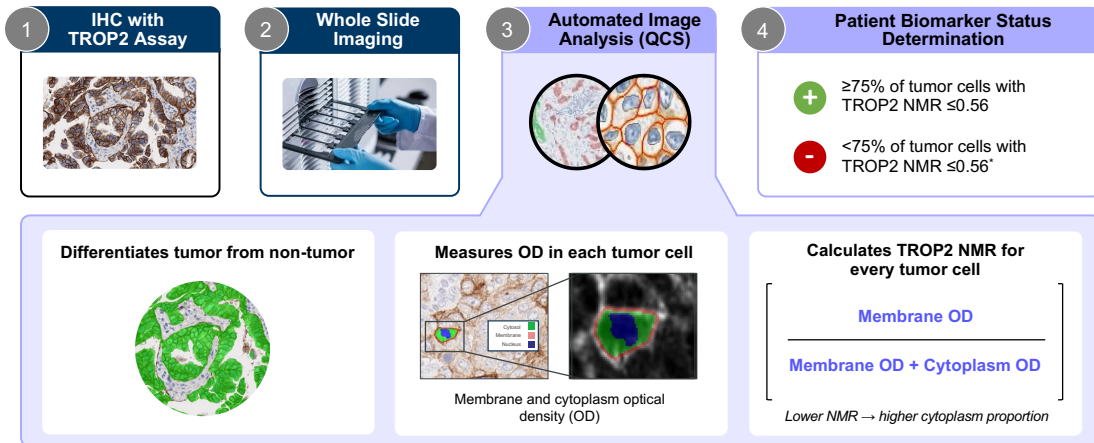
- Patients were randomised to receive either 10 mg/kg sacituzumab govitecan on Day 1 and 8 or 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup> docetaxel on Day 1 of each 21-day cycle



# Improving ADCs efficacy: are Biomarkers and Digital Pathology the key?

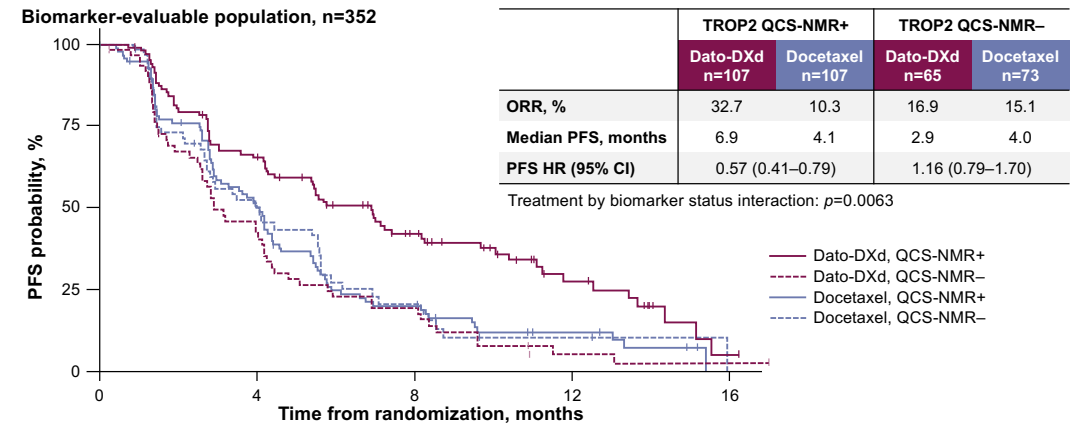
## TROPION-Lung01 TROP2 QCS: TROP2 Normalized Membrane Ratio (NMR) Measured by Quantitative Continuous Scoring (QCS)

QCS is a novel, fully-supervised computational pathology approach that precisely quantifies and locates targets like TROP2



\*Or  $> 25\%$  of cells with an NMR  $> 0.56$ .  
IHC, immunohistochemistry; NMR, normalized membrane ratio; OD, optical density (a measure of staining intensity); QCS, quantitative continuous scoring; TROP2, trophoblast cell-surface antigen 2.

TROP2 QCS-NMR positivity is predictive for longer PFS with Dato-DXd in the biomarker-evaluable population



Data cutoff: March 29, 2023. PFS HR (95% CI) by TROP2 QCS-NMR status (+ vs -) within treatment: Dato-DXd: 0.48 [0.33-0.69]; Docetaxel: 0.97 [0.66-1.39].  
BEP, biomarker evaluable population; CI, confidence interval; Dato-DXd, datopotamab deruxtecan; HR, hazard ratio; NMR, normalized membrane ratio; ORR, objective response rate; PFS, progression-free survival; QCS, quantitative continuous scoring; TROP2, trophoblast cell-surface antigen 2; vs, versus.

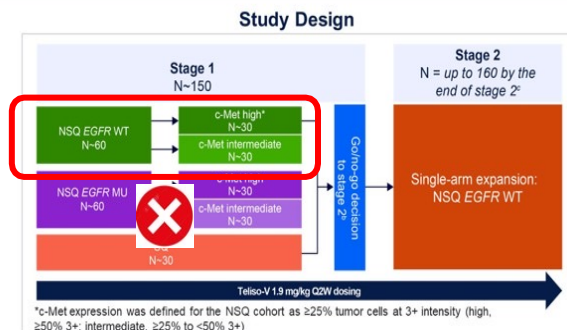
# Improving ADCs efficacy: biomarker selection

## Telisotuzumab Vedotin in MET overexpressing NSCLC

**LUMINOSITY is a phase 2, multicenter, non-randomized, 2-stage study (NCT03539536)**

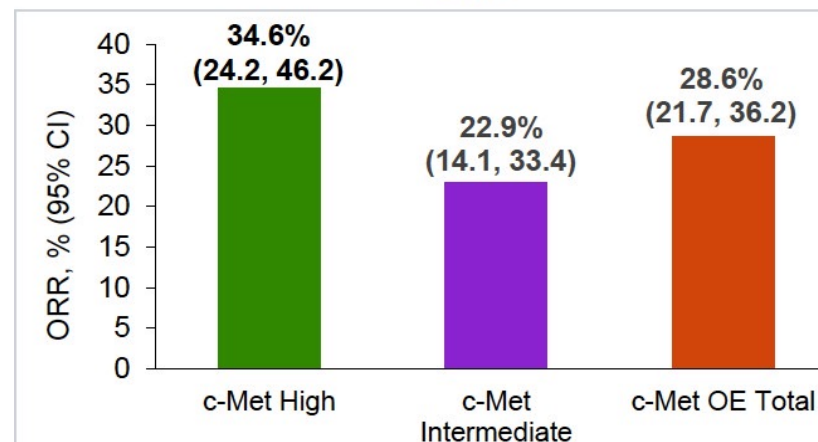
- Eligible Patients**
- ≥18 years
  - Advanced/metastatic NSCLC
  - c-Met OE by IHC\*
  - Received ≤2 prior lines of systemic therapy in the advanced/metastatic setting, including cytotoxic CTx (≤1 line), immunotherapy (sequential or combined with CTx), and therapy targeting driver gene alterations (if eligible)

- Primary Endpoint**
- ORR assessed by ICR per RECIST v1.1
- Secondary Endpoints**
- DCR, DOR, PFS, and OS

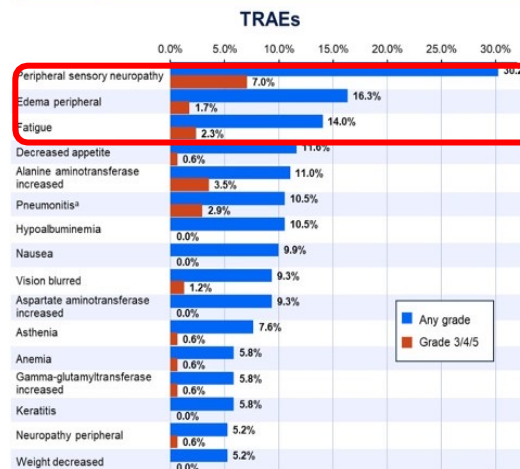


- The SQ and EGFR MU NSQ cohorts met stopping criteria
- The EGFR WT NSQ cohort met criteria for expansion in stage 2

### ORR



### Safety: Treatment-related adverse events occurring in >5% of patients



Events (N=172)	TRAE <sup>o</sup>
Any grade	140 (81.4)
Grade ≥3	48 (27.9)
Serious	21 (12.2)
Leading to Teliso-V discontinuation	37 (21.5)
Leading to death	2 (1.2)

- No new safety signals were observed with Teliso-V
- TRAEs leading to death were ILD and respiratory failure in one patient each
- Possible pneumonitis/ILD cases were formally adjudicated retrospectively (see slide 11)

# ADCs: First-Line Potential?

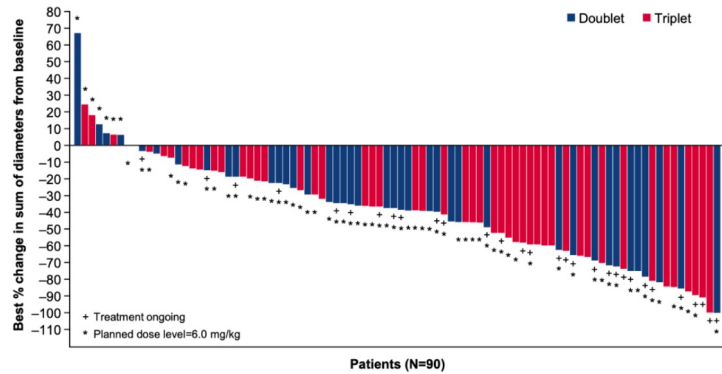


**Work in progress...**

# Anti-TROP2 ADC - Ready for the first LINE?

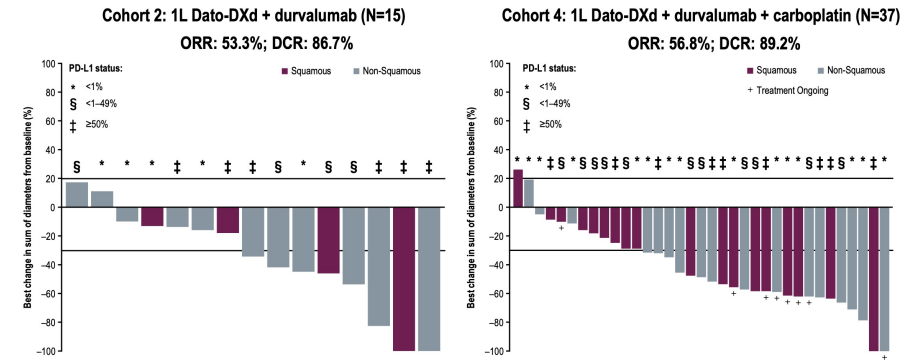
## TROPION-Lung02: First-line

- Dato-DXd + chemo/pembro: RR 56%, DCR 89%
- Dato-DXd + pembro: RR 52%, DCR 88%



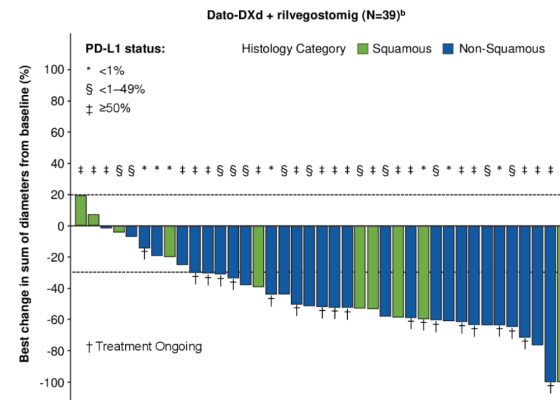
## TROPION-Lung04: First-line

- Dato-DXd + durva: RR 53.3%, DCR 86.7%
- Dato-DXd + chemo/durva: RR 56.8%, DCR 89.2%



## TROPION-Lung04: First-line

Cohort 5 Dato-DXd + Rilvegostomig: ORR 57.5%, DCR 95%

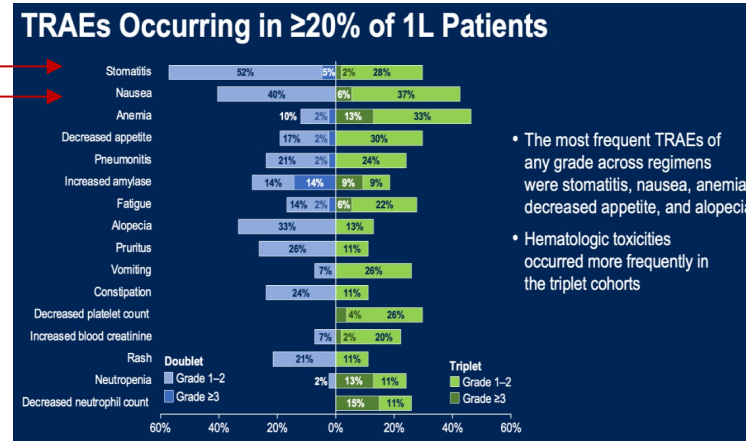


# Anti-TROP2 ADC - Ready for the first LINE?

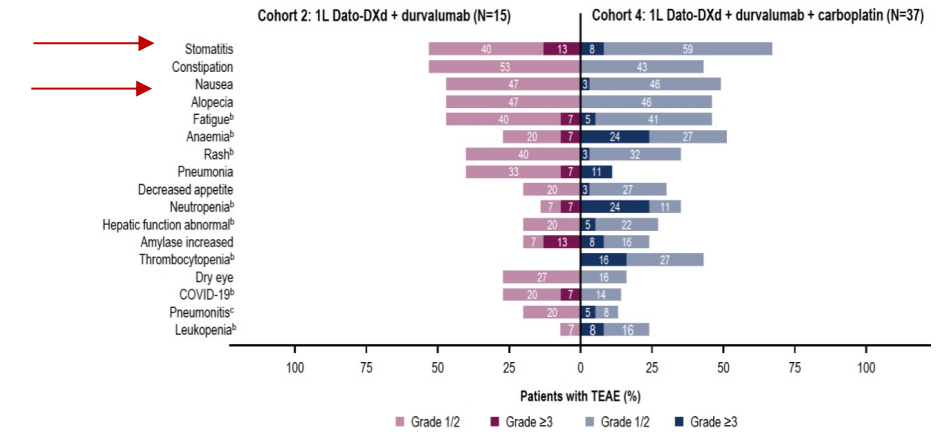


Toxicity

## TROPION-Lung02: First-line Dato-DXd + pembro +/- chemo

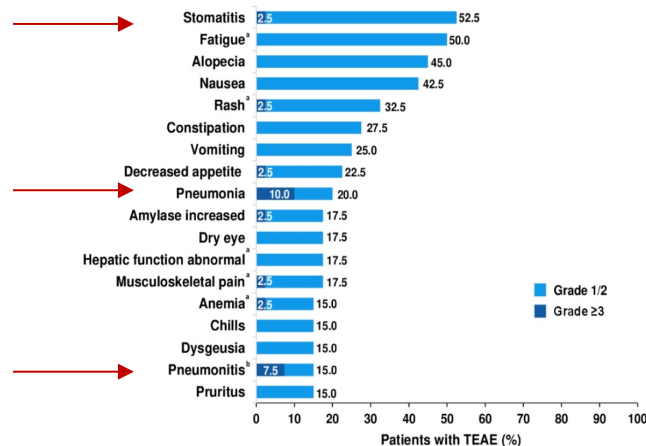


## TROPION-Lung04: First-line Dato-DXd + durva +/- chemo



## TROPION-Lung04: First-line Cohort 5 Dato-DXd + Rilvegostomig

Figure 2. TEAEs reported in ≥15% of patients



n (%)	Cohort 2 (Dato-DXd + durvalumab) N=15	Cohort 4 (Dato-DXd + durvalumab + carboplatin) N=37
<b>TEAEs</b>	15 (100)	37 (100)
Treatment-related	15 (100)	37 (100)
<b>Grade ≥3 TEAEs</b>	9 (60.0)	26 (70.3)
Treatment-related	7 (46.7)	23 (62.2)
<b>Serious TEAEs</b>	7 (46.7)	19 (51.4)
Treatment-related	6 (40.0)	10 (27.0)
<b>TEAEs leading to discontinuation of any study drug</b>	4 (26.7)	9 (24.3)
Related to Dato-DXd	4 (26.7)	8 (21.6)
Related to durvalumab	2 (13.3)	7 (18.9)
Related to carboplatin	0	3 (8.1)
<b>TEAEs associated with death of any study drug</b>	0	2 (5.4) <sup>a</sup>
Related to Dato-DXd	0	2 (5.4)
Related to durvalumab	0	2 (5.4)
Related to carboplatin	0	0
<b>Stomatitis</b>	8 (53.3)	25 (67.6)
Grade ≥3	2 (13.3)	3 (8.1)
<b>Ocular surface events</b>	4 (26.7)	14 (37.8)
Grade ≥3	0	1 (2.7)
<b>Adjudicated drug-related ILLD/pneumonitis<sup>a</sup></b>	3 (20.0)	6 (16.2)
Grade ≥3	1 (6.7) <sup>a</sup>	1 (2.7) <sup>a</sup>

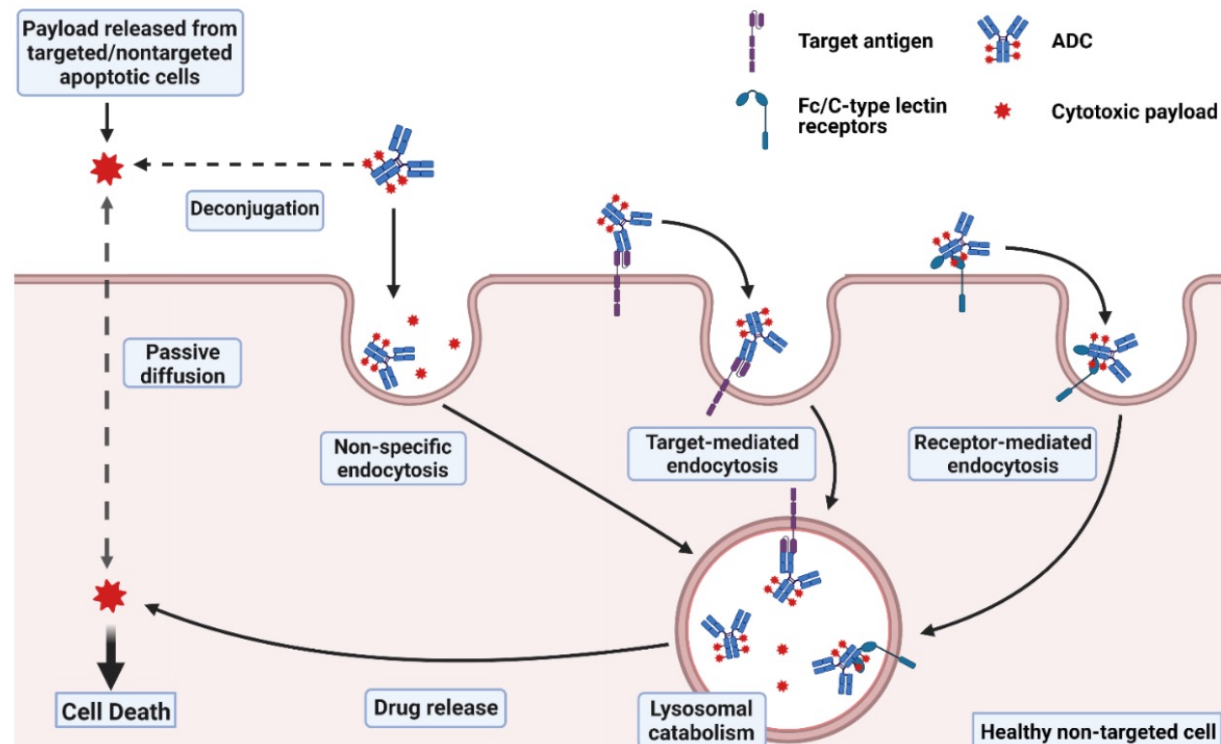
# If ADCs are so specific, why do they have toxicity?

## On target, off tumour toxicity

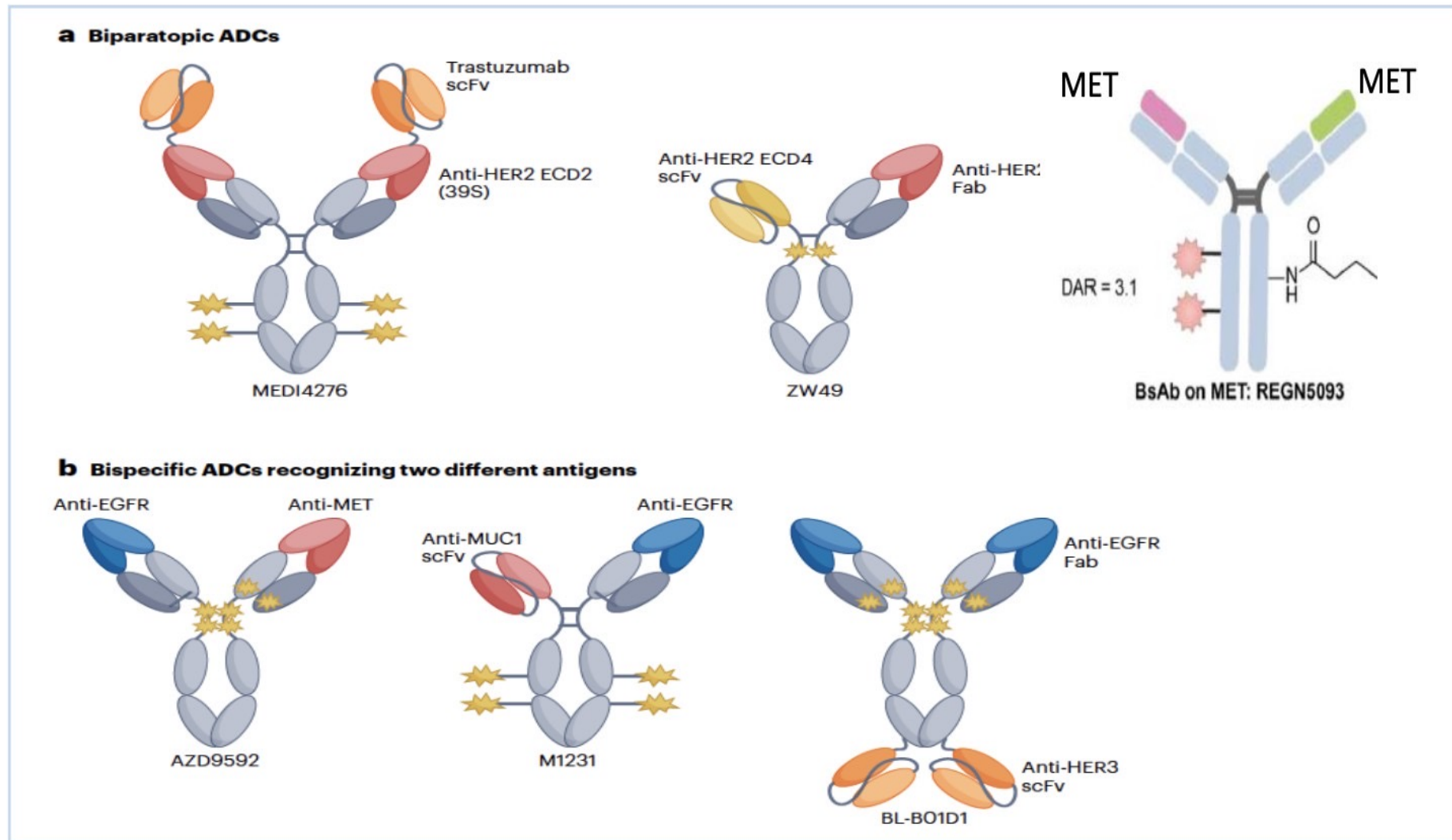
- Presence of the target in normal cells

## Off target, off tumour toxicity

- Related to the payload and the linker



# Improving ADCs efficacy: New agents



# Conclusions



ADCs are effective in oncogene-addicted NSCLC

- The best sequence in the therapeutic strategy remains undefined



For non oncogene-addicted NSCLC, no long term OS benefit has been shown to date

- Define optimal biomarkers
- Define the optimal population for treatment intensification

Safety could be critical



- Second-line: AEs are an issue in a frail population
- First-line: Risk of toxicity when combined with other agents
- Neoadjuvant or adjuvant: Safe agents are needed



New generation ADCs are under investigation

# Thank you for your attention!

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BARCELONA  
27 / 28  
NOVEMBER 2025



**Regina Elena National Cancer Institute – Rome  
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