

New Advances in Research and Clinical Insights in Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST)

Ping Chi, M.D., Ph.D.

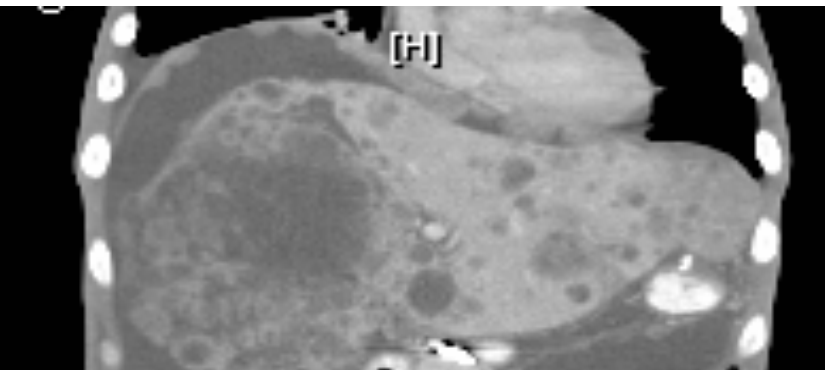
**Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program (HOPP) &
Department of Medicine, Sarcoma Medical Oncology
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**

May 24, 2017



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Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST)



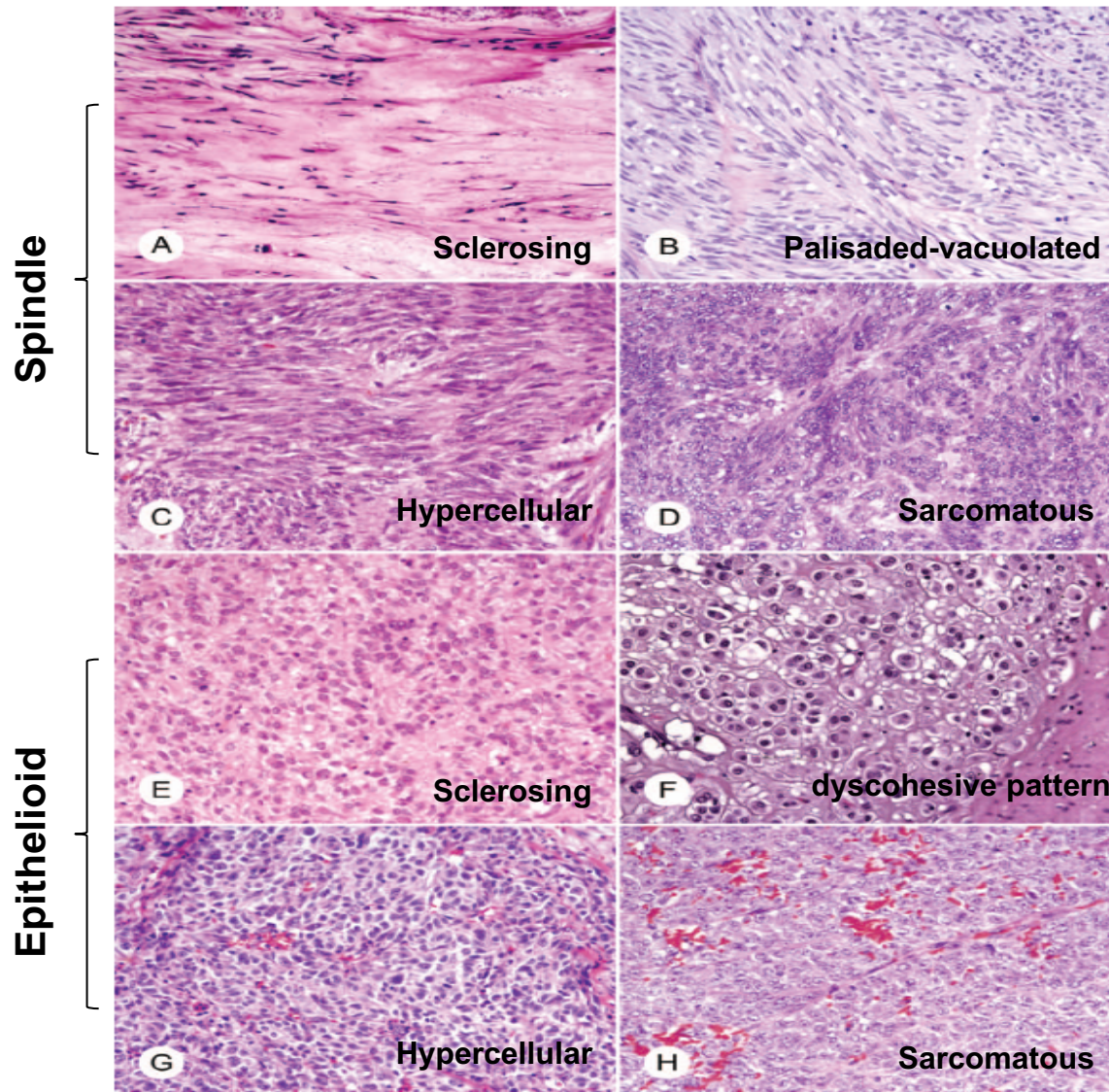
Management

- Surgery mainstay treatment
- Recurrence or metastatic disease - fatal
- Refractory to chemotherapy and radiation

- ~5,000 cases diagnosed per year in the US.
- One of the most common subtypes of soft tissue sarcomas, the most common mesenchymal neoplasm in the GI tract.
- Can arise anywhere from the entire GI tract; stomach is the most common primary site (2/3), then small bowel (1/4), esophagus/colon/rectum (the rest).
- Peak incidence 50-65 year old.
- Familial syndromes

Pre-KIT ERA: GIST- A clinicopathological challenge

GIST has broad morphological spectrum



•Difficult to diagnose!

•Difficult to treat!

**Clinicopathologically
distinct entity!**

Miettinen, M. and Lasota, Arch Pathol Lab Med 2006

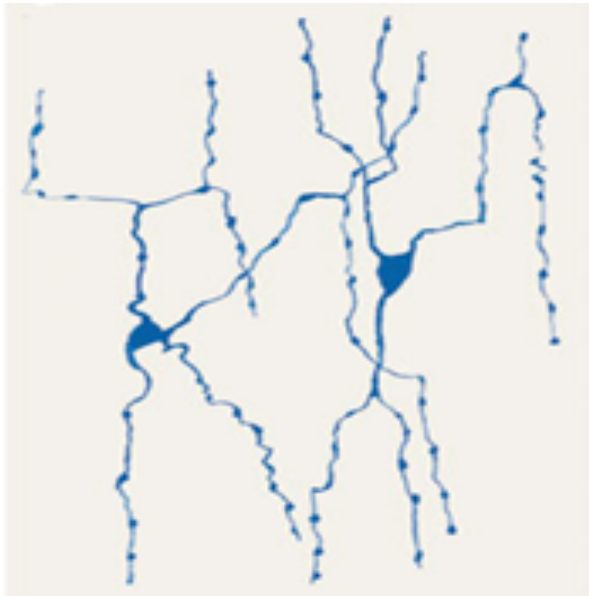


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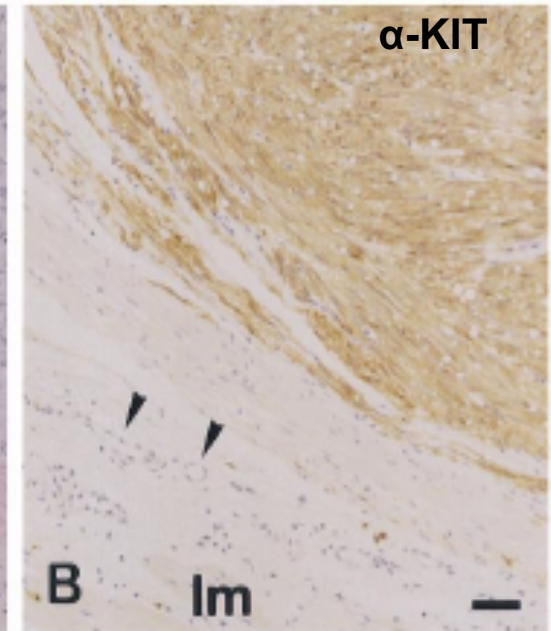
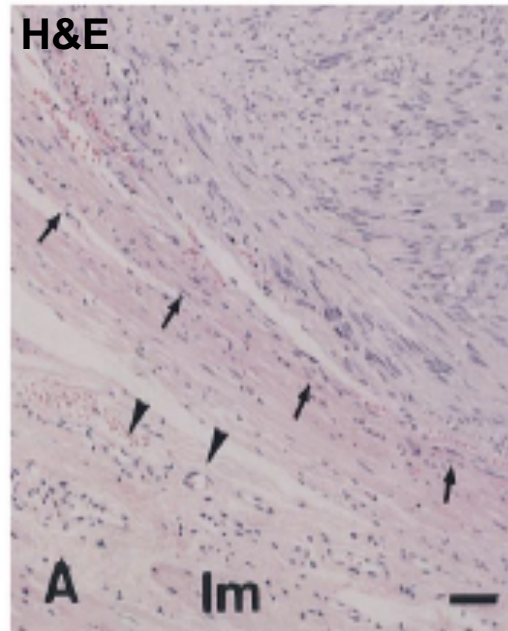
GIST originates from ICC and highly expresses KIT

- Originates from the Interstitial Cells of Cajal (ICCs) of the GI tract
- Characterized by KIT positive IHC and activating mutations in KIT or PDGFRA...

**Interstitial Cell of Cajal (ICC)-
Pacemaker cells of the GI tract**



GIST of stomach



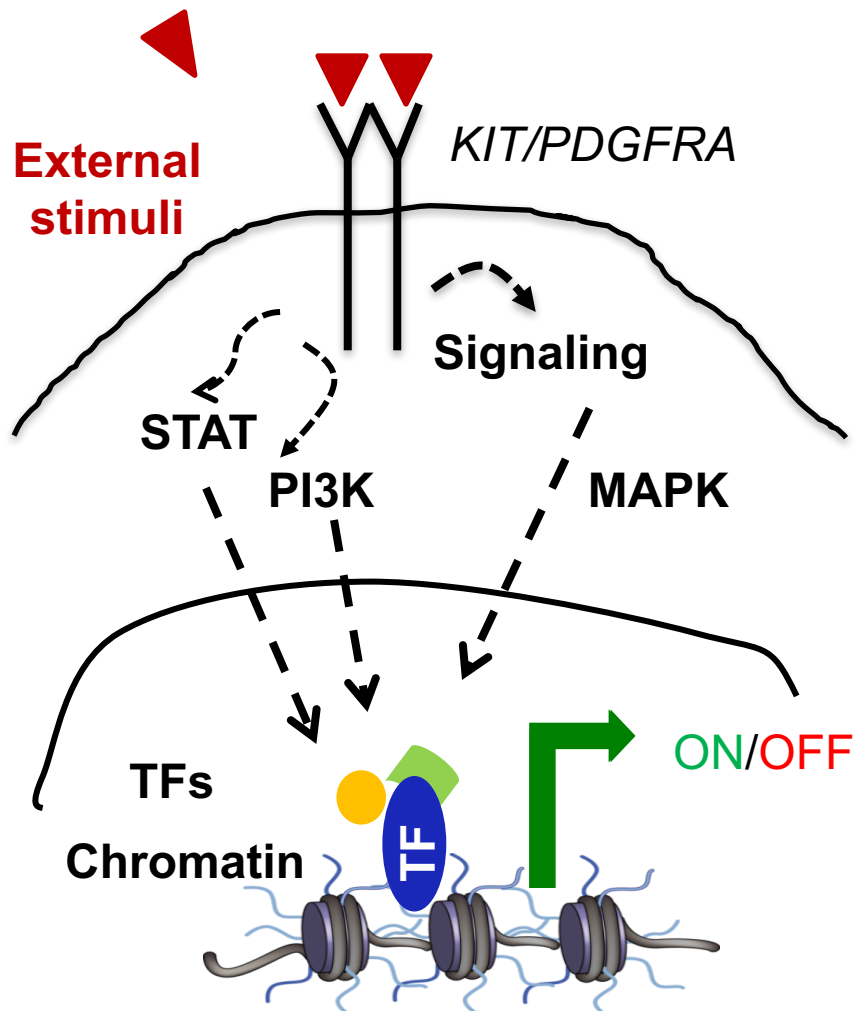
Hirota, S., et al., Science, 1998



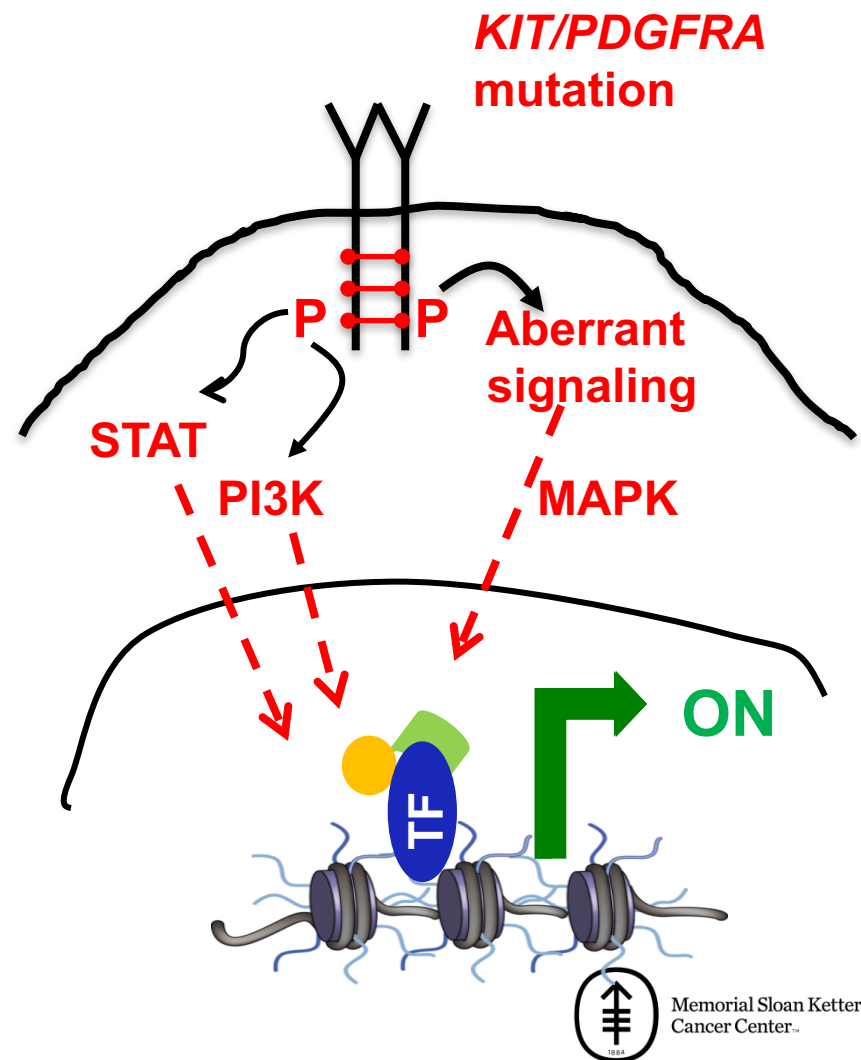
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A Paradigm: Normal ICC development vs. GIST

Normal ICC development



GIST



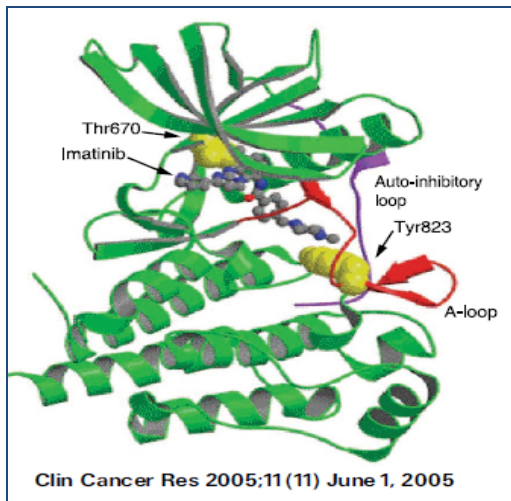
Molecular characterization of GIST

Table 1 | **Molecular classification of GISTs**

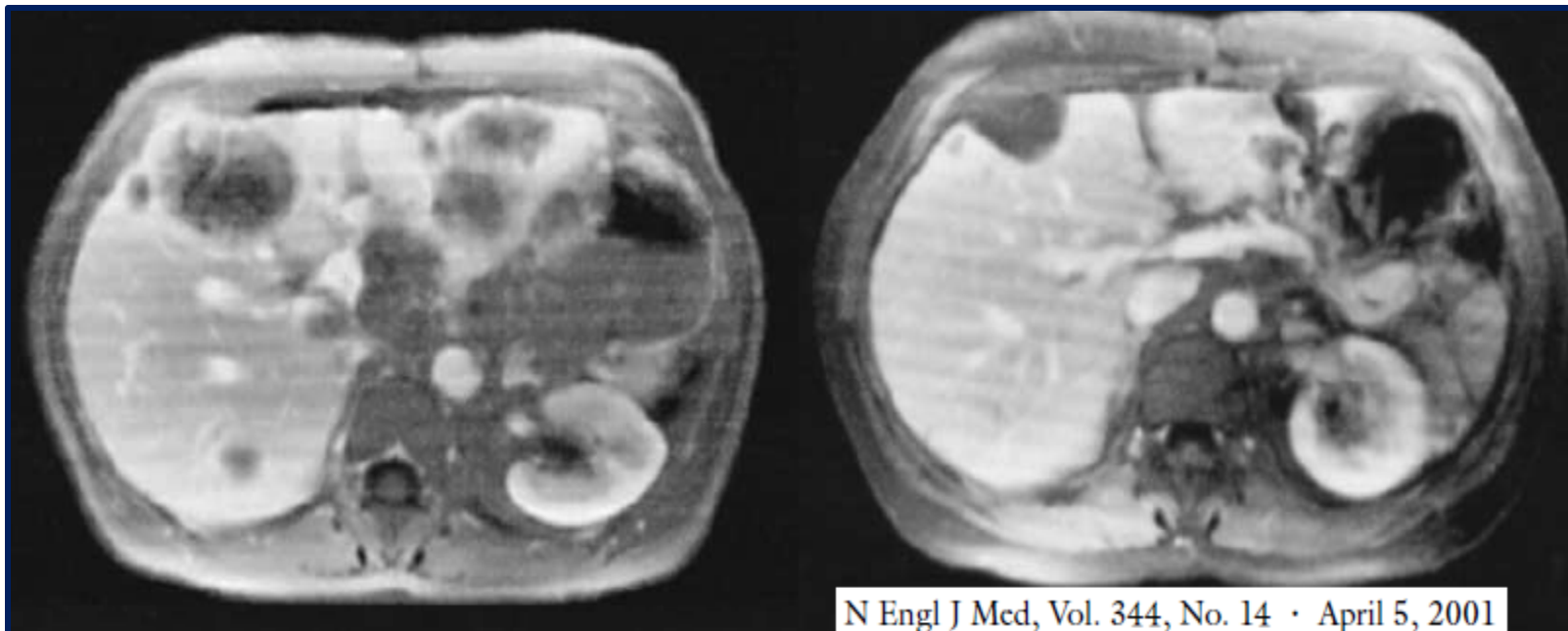
Genetic type	Relative frequency	Anatomic distribution	Germline examples
KIT mutation (relative frequency 75–80%)			
Exon 8	Rare	Small bowel	One kindred
Exon 9 insertion AY502-503	10%	Small bowel and colon	None
Exon 11 (deletions, single nucleotide substitutions and insertions)	67%	All sites	Several kindreds
Exon 13 K642E	1%	All sites	Two kindreds
Exon 17 D820Y, N822K and Y823D	1%	All sites	Five kindreds
PDGFRA mutation (relative frequency 5–8%)			
Exon 12 (such as V561D)	1%	All sites	Two kindreds
Exon 14 N659K	<1%	Stomach	None
Exon 18 D842V	5%	Stomach, mesentery and omentum	None
Exon 18 (such as deletion of amino acids IMHD 842–846)	1%	All sites	One kindred
KIT and PDGFRA wild-type (relative frequency 12–15%)			
BRAF V600E	~7–15%		
SDHA, SDHB, SDHC and SDHD mutations	~2%	Stomach and small bowel	Carney–Stratakis
HRAS and NRAS mutation	<1%		
Sporadic paediatric GISTs	~1%	Stomach	Not heritable
GISTs as part of the Carney triad	~1%	Stomach	Not heritable
NF1-related	Rare	Small bowel	Numerous

GIST, gastrointestinal stromal tumour; NF1, neurofibromatosis type I; PDGFRA, platelet-derived growth factor receptor- α ; SDH, succinate dehydrogenase.

Imatinib (Gleevec) in GIST



- Activity – Abl kinase, *KIT*, *PDGFRA*



EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF IMATINIB MESYLATE IN ADVANCED GASTROINTESTINAL STROMAL TUMORS

GEORGE D. DEMETRI, M.D., MARGARET VON MEHREN, M.D., CHARLES D. BLANKE, M.D.,
ANNICK D. VAN DEN ABEELE, M.D., BURTON EISENBERG, M.D., PETER J. ROBERTS, M.D., MICHAEL C. HEINRICH, M.D.,
DAVID A. TUVESON, M.D., PH.D., SAMUEL SINGER, M.D., MILOS JANICEK, M.D., PH.D., JONATHAN A. FLETCHER, M.D.,
STUART G. SILVERMAN, M.D., SANDRA L. SILBERMAN, M.D., PH.D., RENAUD CAPDEVILLE, M.D., BEATE KIESE, M.Sc.,
BIN PENG, M.D., PH.D., SASA DIMITRIJEVIC, PH.D., BRIAN J. DRUKER, M.D., CHRISTOPHER CORLESS, M.D.,
CHRISTOPHER D.M. FLETCHER, M.D., AND HEIKKI JOENSUU, M.D.

N Engl J Med, Vol. 347, No. 7 · August 15, 2002

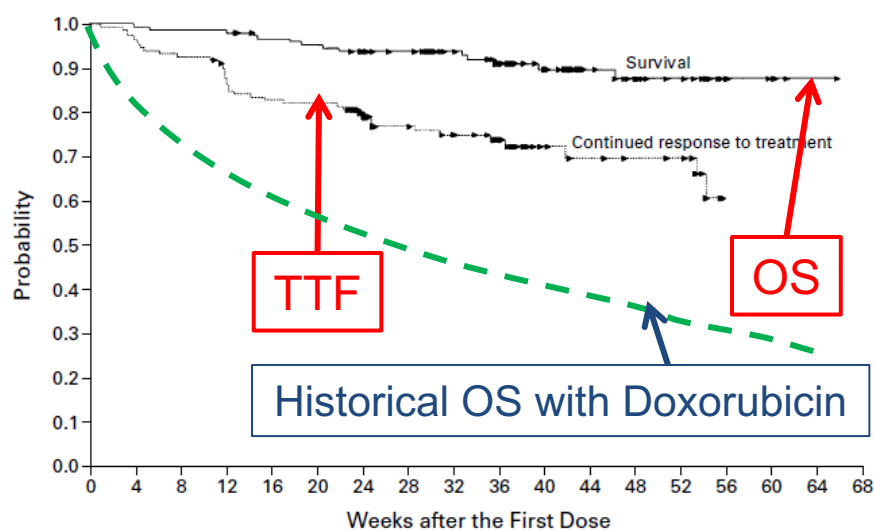
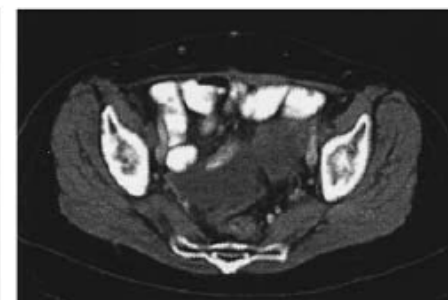


Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier Estimates of Overall Survival and Time to Treatment Failure for All Patients. Each arrowhead represents the point at which a patient's data were censored.

EORTC-62005
Phase III Trial (n = 377)⁶⁹

SWOGS0033/CALGB150105
Phase III Trial (n = 428)⁷⁰



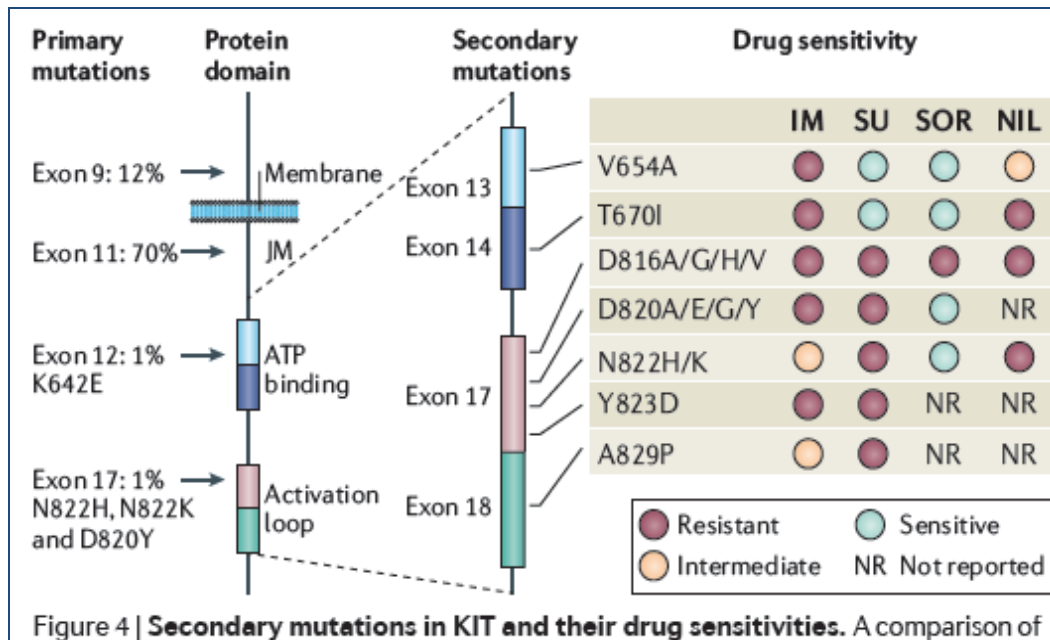
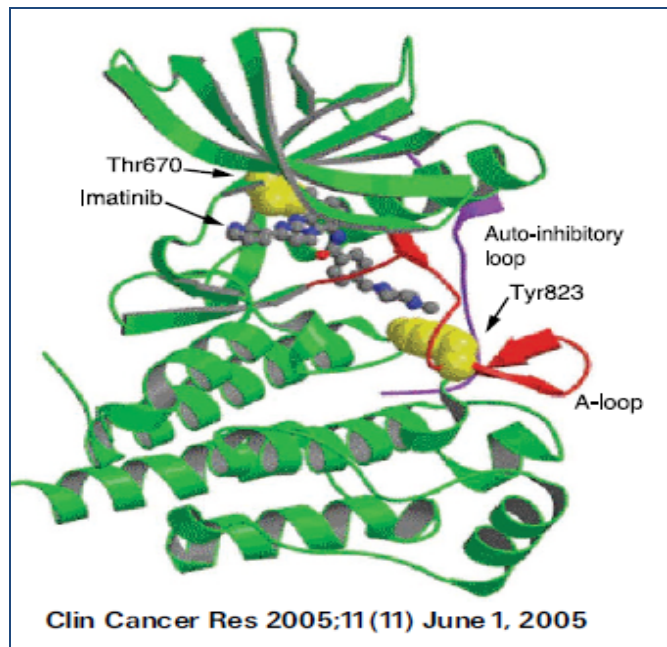
Imatinib-FDA approved as 1st line therapy for GIST 2002!



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Challenges - Imatinib resistance in GIST

14% - Primary resistance; 50% - Develop imatinib resistance



Corless et al, NRC, 2011

Resistance Mechanisms:

1. Secondary mutations (50-65%)
2. Genomic Amplification of RTKs
3. Activation alternative signaling pathways
4. Kit-low, imatinib-resistant GIST stem/progenitors
5. Others...



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How to overcome imatinib resistance?

1) More effective first line therapy than imatinib

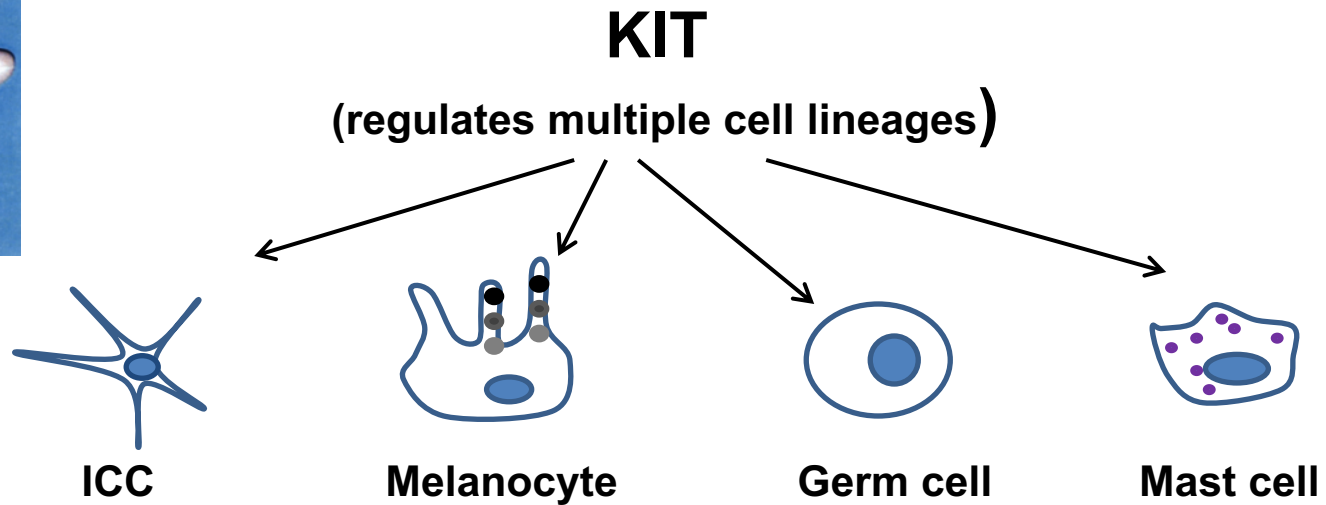
- Reduce the persistence of disease**
- Reduce the adaptive responses to imatinib**

2) Next generation of targeted therapy for imatinib resistant mutations, KIT exon 14 and exon 17 secondary mutations, PDGFRA D842V mutation





A Clinical Conundrum



**Familial
GIST**

GIST

activating *KIT* mutants

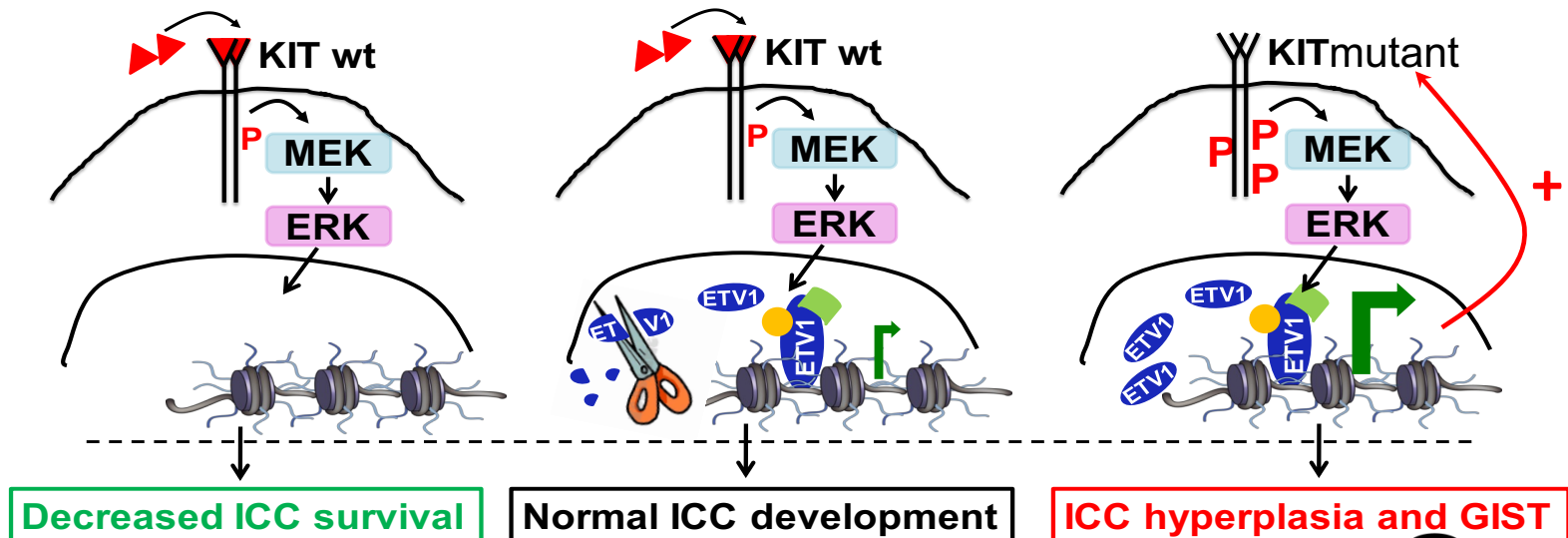
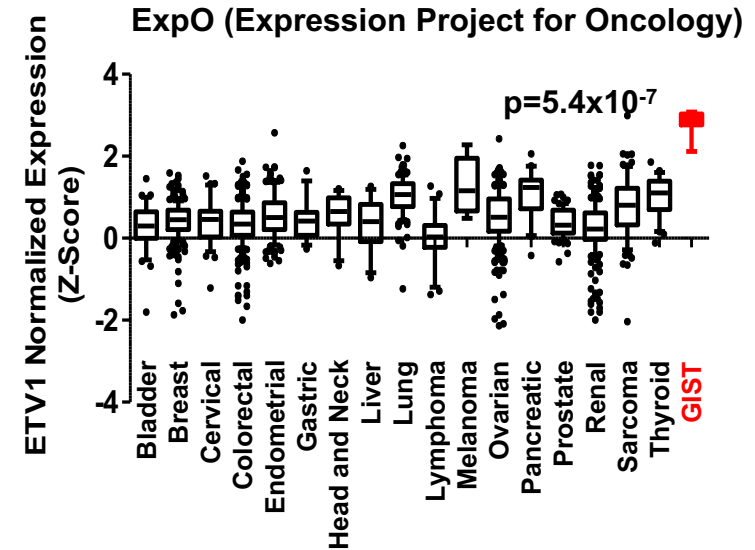
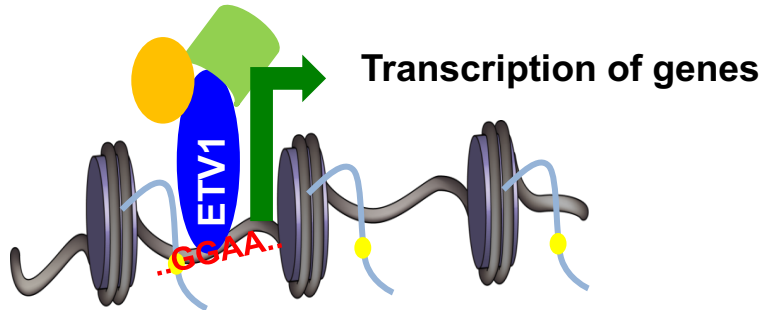
What is special about the ICC lineage and GIST?



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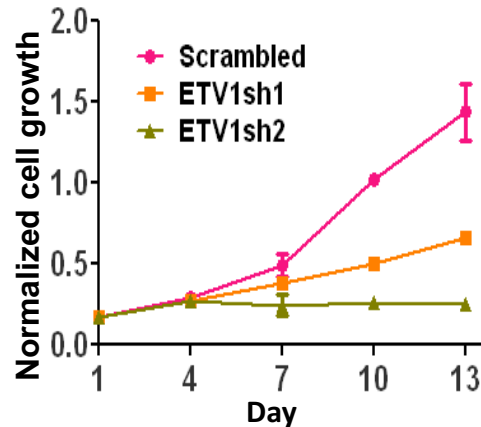
ETV1- A Lineage specific survival factor in GIST and ICC

ETV1: an “ETS family transcription factor”

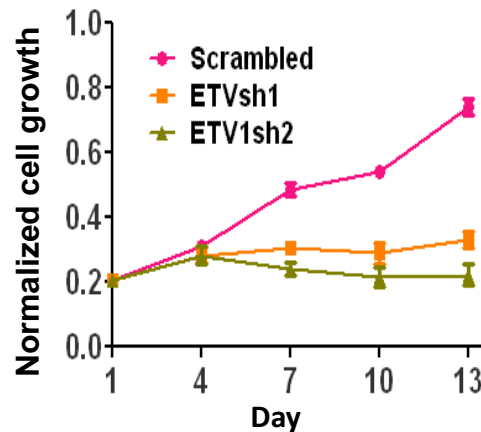


ETV1 is required for GIST growth and survival

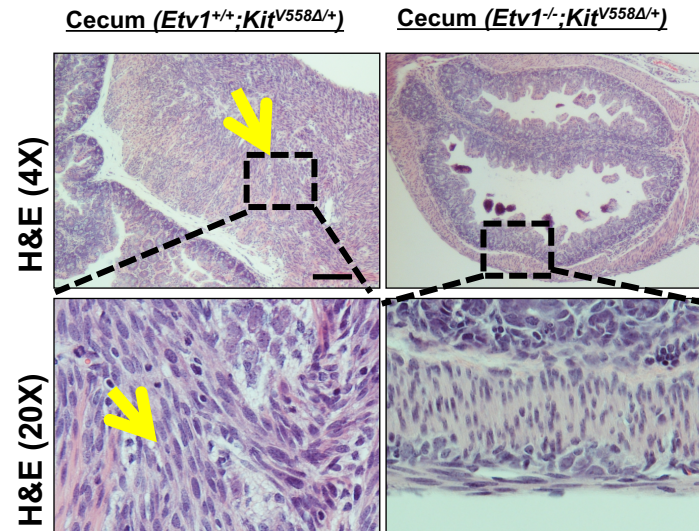
GIST882 cell (imatinib sensitive)



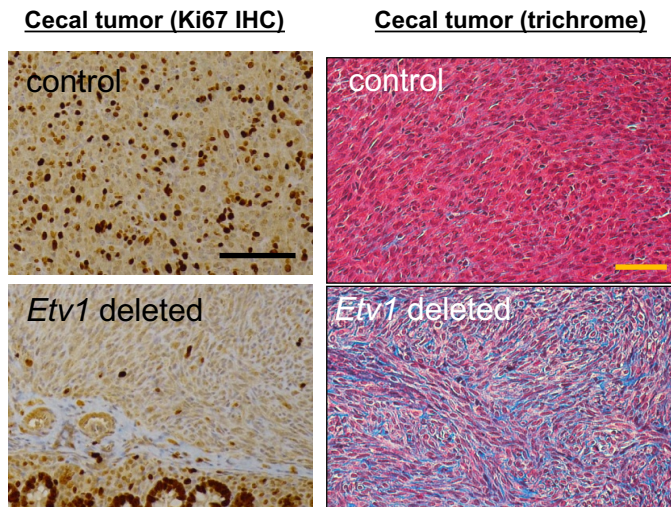
GIST48 cell (imatinib resistant)



GEMM: *Kit*^{Δ558/+}

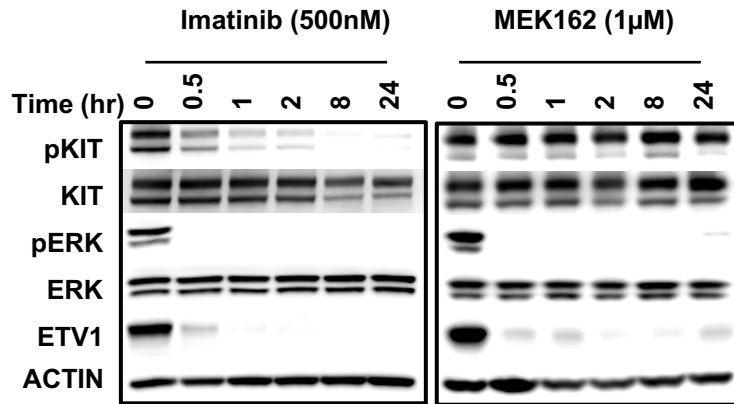


GEMM: *Kit*^{Δ558/+}; *Etv1*^{flox/flox}; *Rosa26*^{CreERT2/CreERT2}

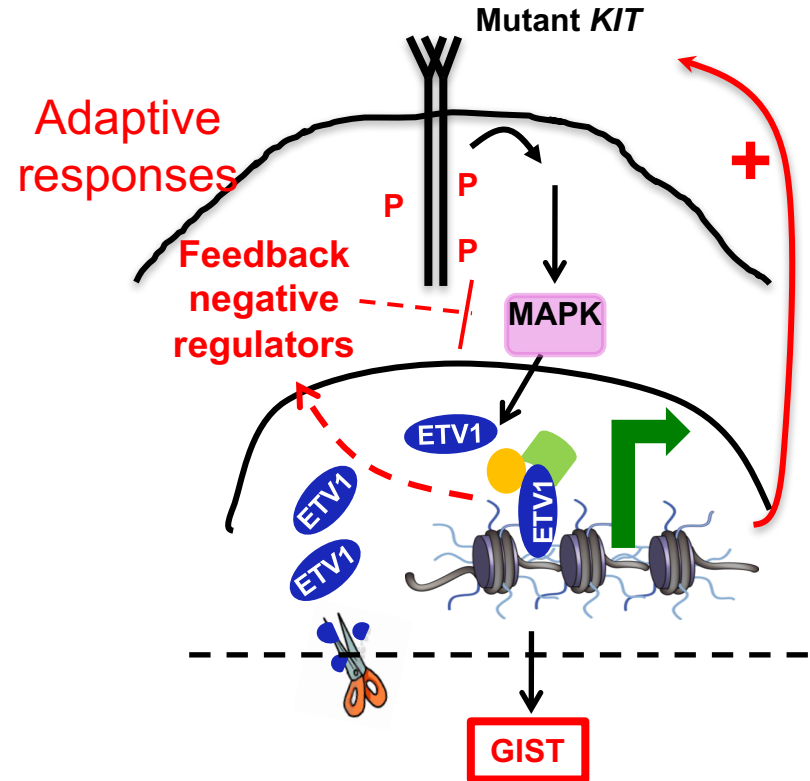
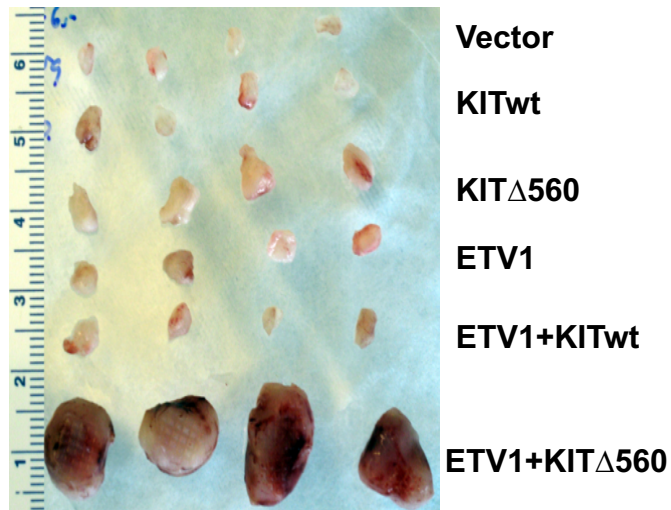


ETV1 and KIT forms a positive feedback circuit in GIST

GIST882 cells



Excised 3T3 allograft tumors

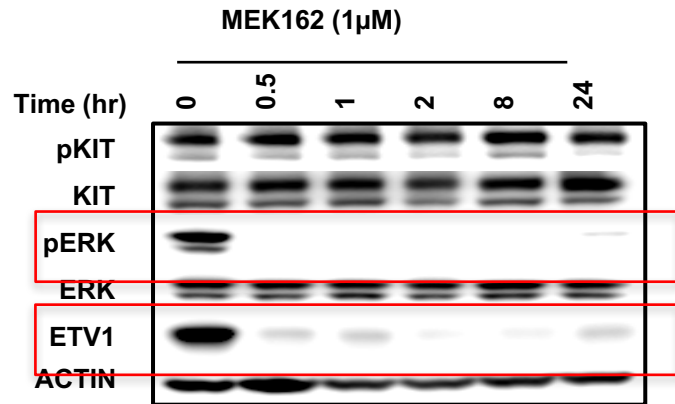


ETV1 cooperates with KIT/MAPK signaling in GIST

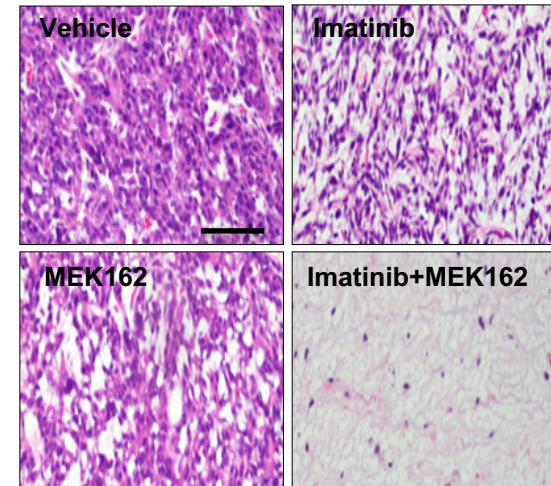
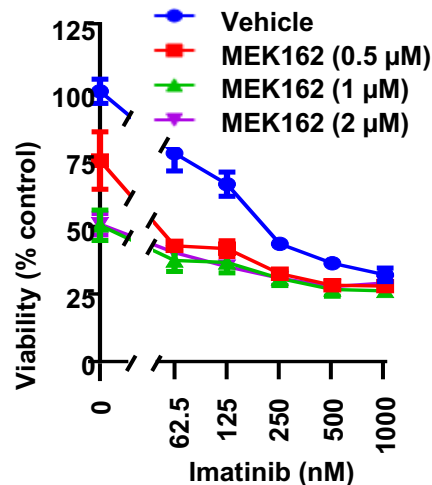
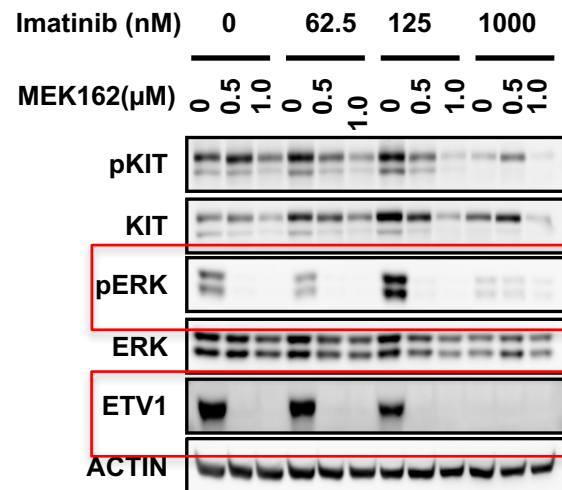
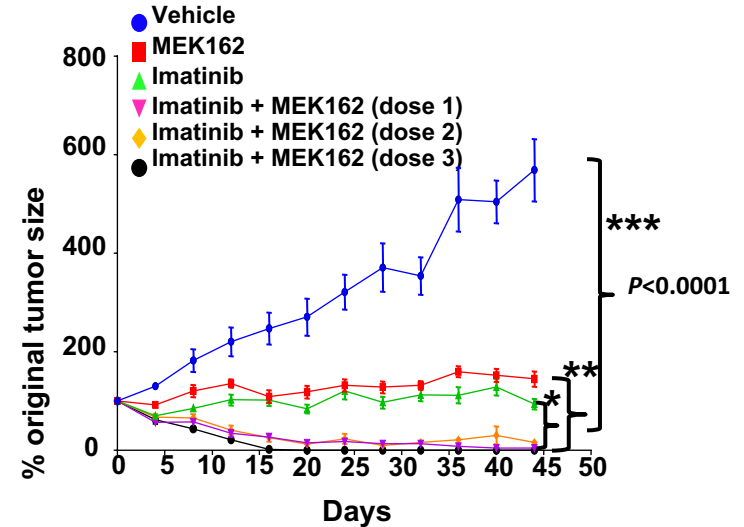
- KIT/MAPK activation stabilizes ETV1 protein
- ETV1 directly upregulates KIT expression
- Positive feedback (ETV1 and mutant KIT)
- Target the adaptive responses in response to TKIs
- Targeting ETV1 protein stability – novel therapeutic approach

Synergy of combined MAPK and KIT pathway inhibition

GIST882 cells



GIST882 xenografts



Molecular biomarker driven novel therapies in GIST

More effective first line therapy than imatinib

- A phase Ib/II study of MEK162 (binimetinib) in combination with imatinib in patients with advanced gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST) (Clinicaltrials.gov#: NCT01991379)
- Phase Ib-completed and defined safety and tolerability and modest efficacy in imatinib-resistant GIST, presented in the 2015 ASCO sarcoma oral abstracts.
- **Phase II in imatinib-naïve patient population is actively accruing.**

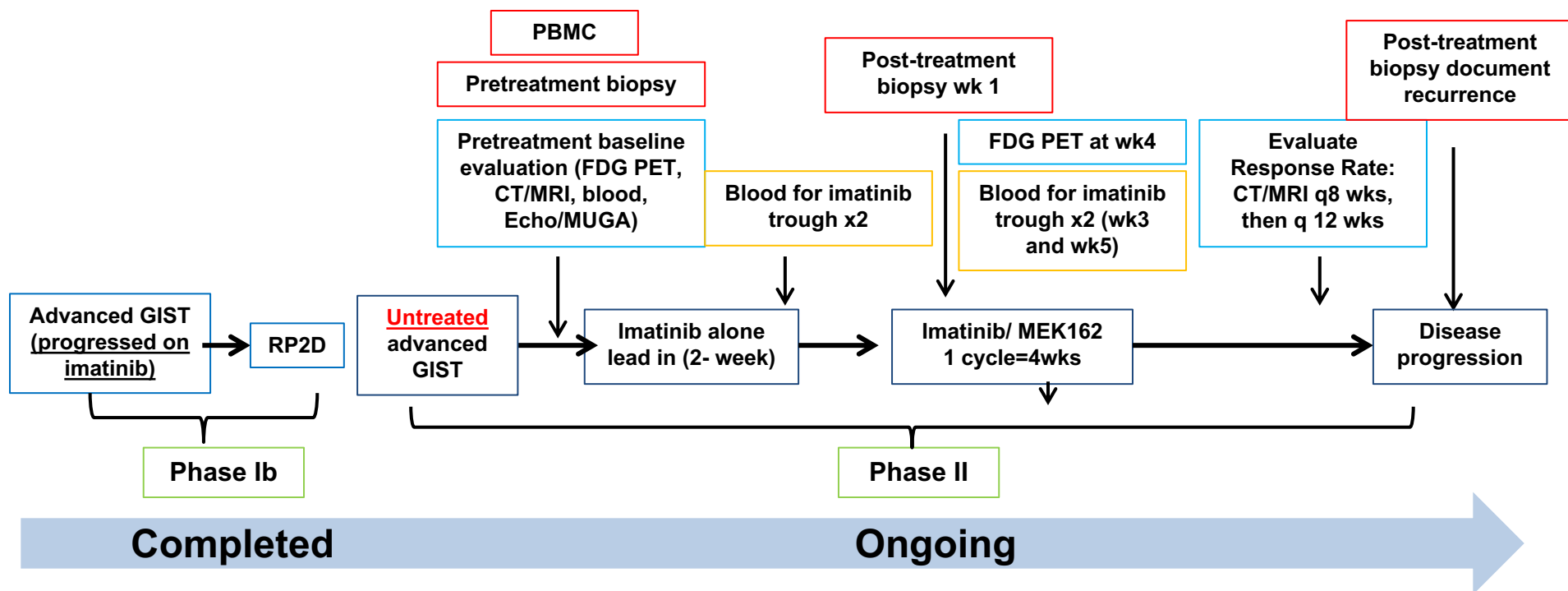


Phase Ib/II study of MEK162 in combination with imatinib in patients with untreated locally advanced and metastatic GIST

Primary Objective:

Phase Ib: safety and tolerability of combining MEK162 (a MEK inhibitor) and imatinib, MTD and the recommended Phase II dose (RP2D) in GIST patients.

Phase II: ORR (CR + PR) by both RECIST 1.1

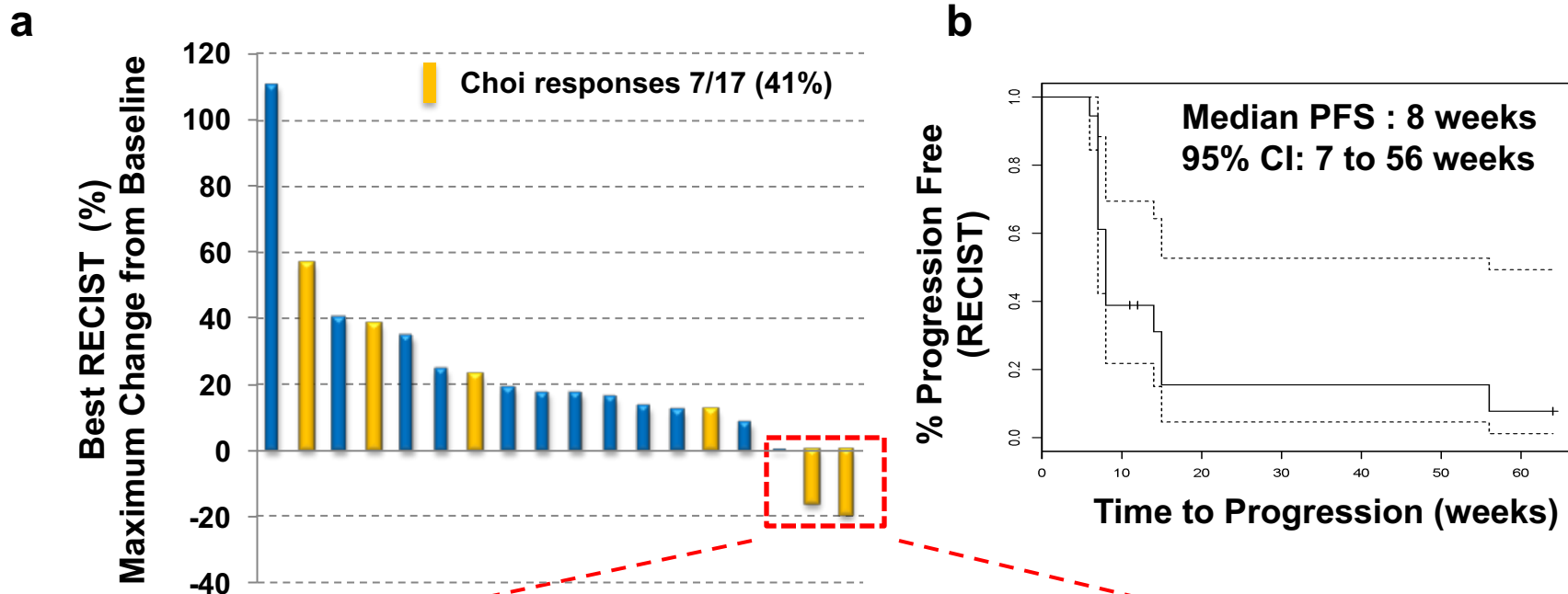


Patient Characteristics (Phase Ib)

Characteristics	All Patients n=18
Age (yrs)	Median: 60; Range: 30-74
Sex	Female: 8; Male: 10
ECOG status	0-1
Number of prior therapy	Median: 3; Range: 1-6; 15/18 pts \geq 3 prior therapies
Prior therapies:	
Imatinib	18
Sunitinib	16
Regorafenib	9
Sorafenib	7
Pazopanib	4
Vemurafenib	1
Dasatinib/Ipilimumab trial	2
Linsitinib trial	1
Molecular characteristics:	<i>KIT</i> (13, 10/13 with known imatinib-resistant <i>KIT</i> mutations); <i>NF1</i> loss (1); <i>BRAFV600E/NF1</i> loss (1); <i>SDH-deficient</i> (1), Unknown (2)



Efficacy signal from phase Ib trial of MEK162+Imatinib in GIST



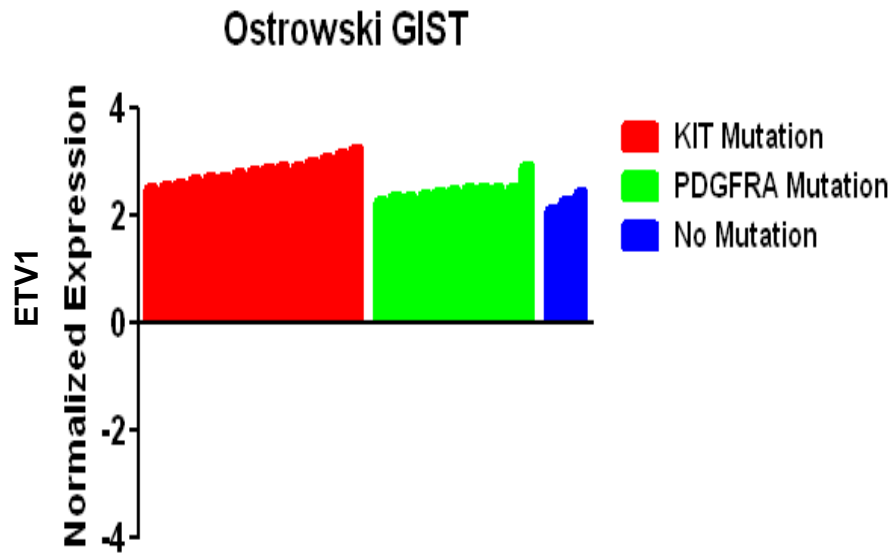
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Dose Escalation Cohort	Pt #	Prior Therapies	Mutational Status	Duration (wks)	Best RR (RECIST)	Best RR (CHOI)
Imatinib 400mg QD + MEK162 45mg BID	4	Imatinib, Sunitinib, Linsitinib trial	SDHA R31X;SDHB loss by IHC	>135 (active)	SD (-20%)	PR
	8	Imatinib, Sunitinib, Sorafenib	KIT exon11, L576P	55	SD (-16%)	PR

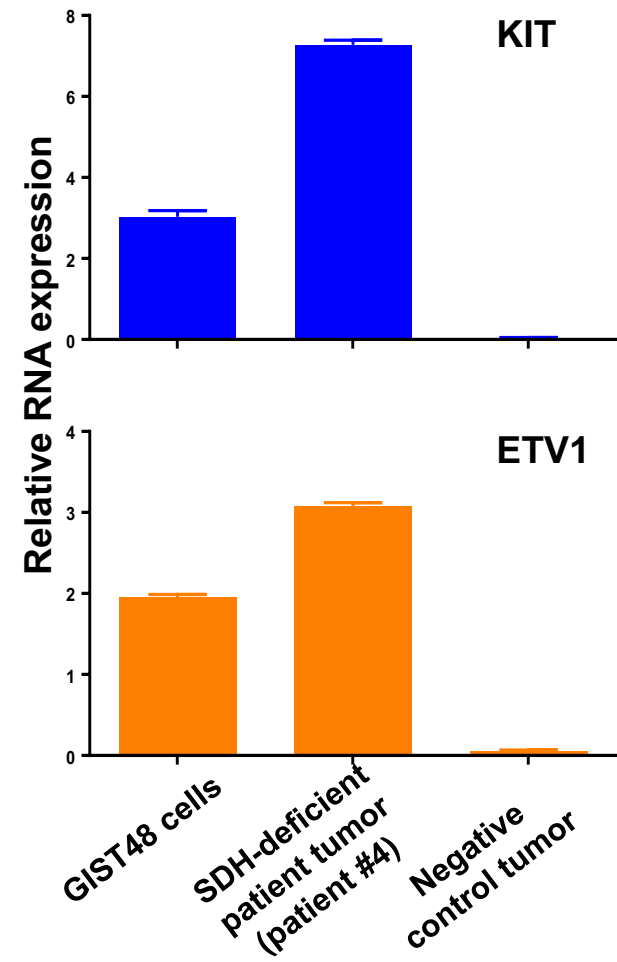
Patients who have imatinib-resistant *KIT* mutations all progressed within 16 weeks.



ETV1 is highly expressed in *KIT*/*PDGFRA* wild-type GIST

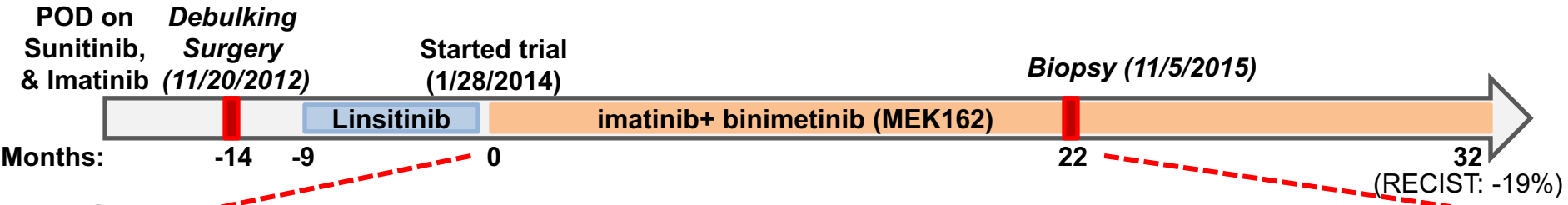


Ostrowski J et al., BMC Cancer 2009

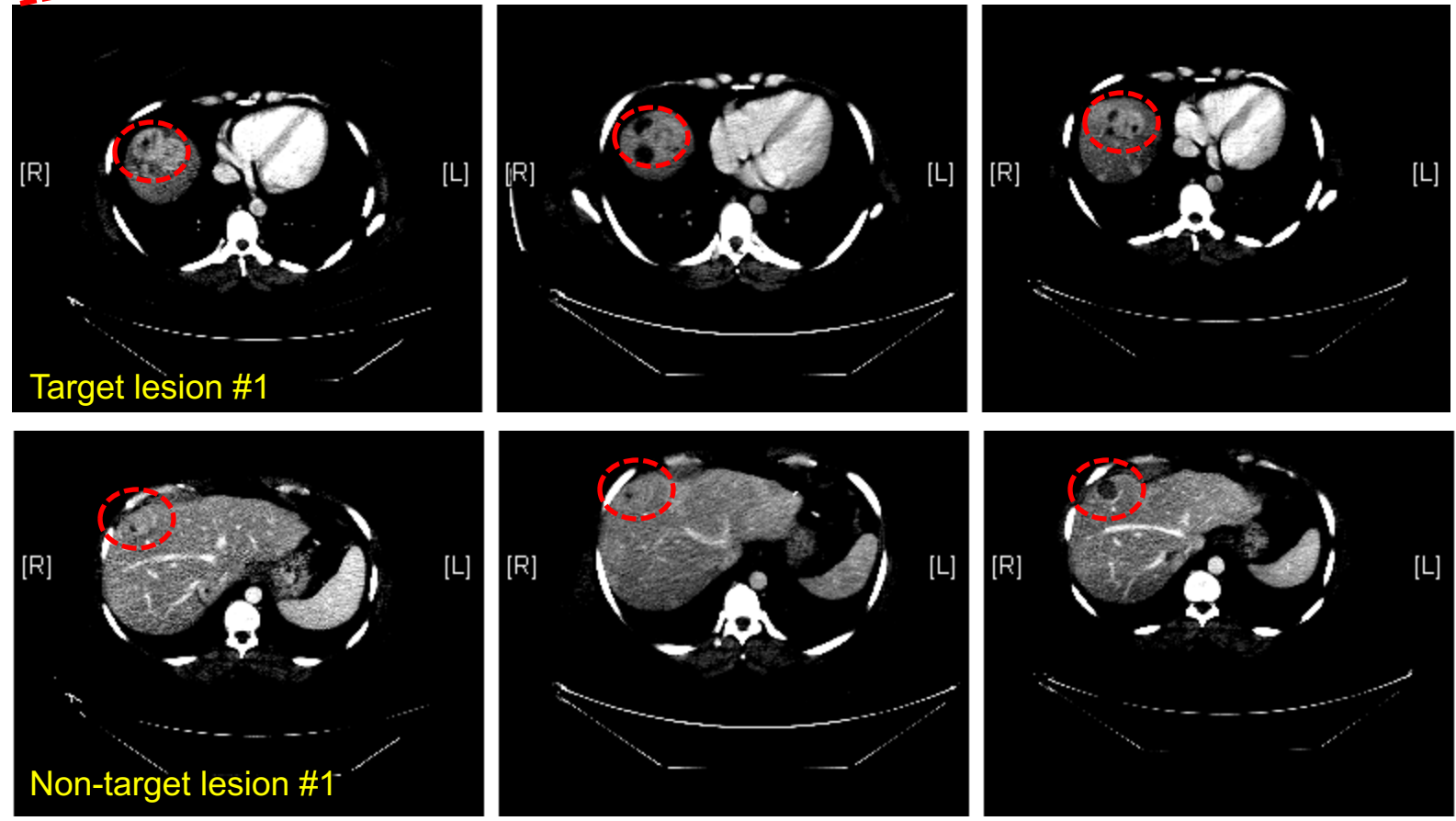


Combination Treatment of Imatinib and Binimetinib (MEK162)

Timeline of Rx



CT scans of the liver lesions (liver window)



Before treatment

~12 months
(RECIST: -20%)

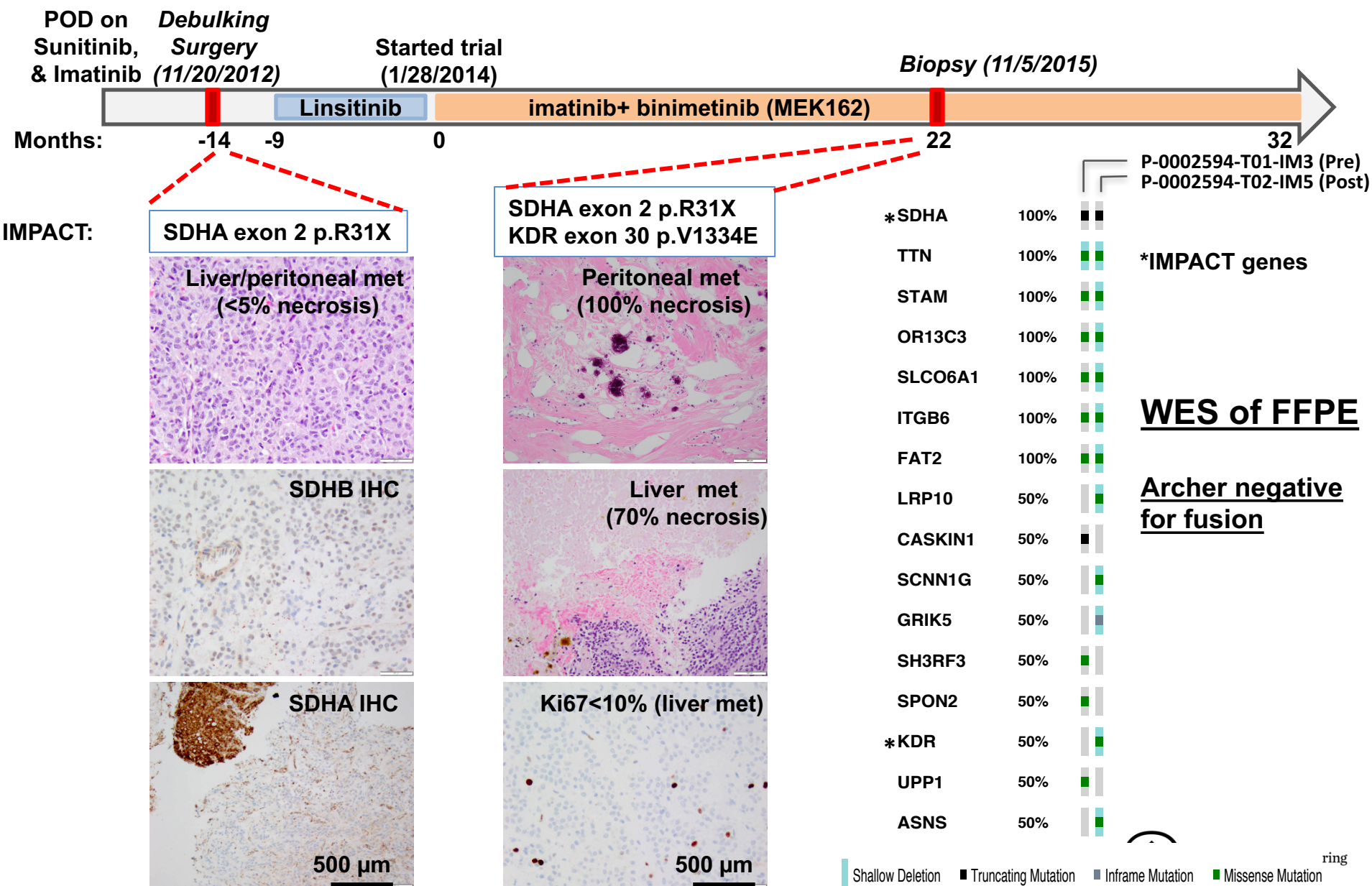
~24 months
(RECIST: -44%)



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Exceptional response in a patient with SDH-deficient GIST

Timeline of Rx



Cristina R. Antonescu

Camacho Ordonez/Berger

How to overcome imatinib resistance?

1) More effective first line therapy than imatinib

- Reduce the persistence of disease
- Reduce the adaptive responses to imatinib

2) Next generation of targeted therapy for imatinib resistant mutations, KIT exon 14 and exon 17 secondary mutations, PDGFRA D842V mutation



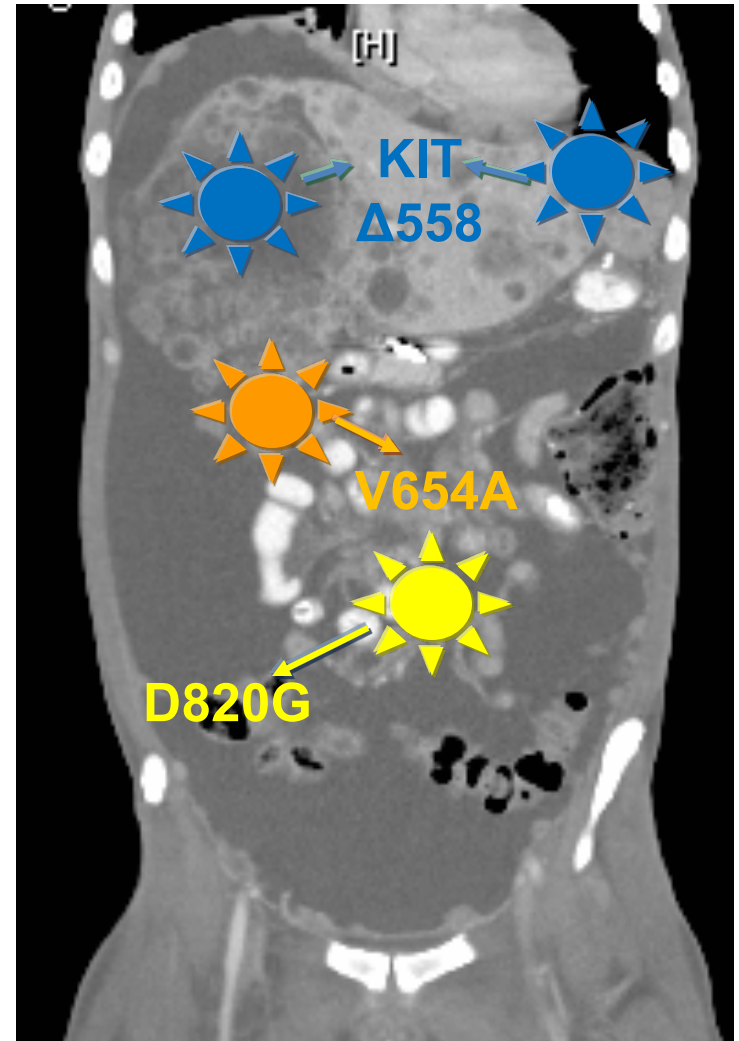
Molecular biomarker driven novel therapies in GIST

Polyclonal Resistance – much like CML
Single TKI may only effect one mutation

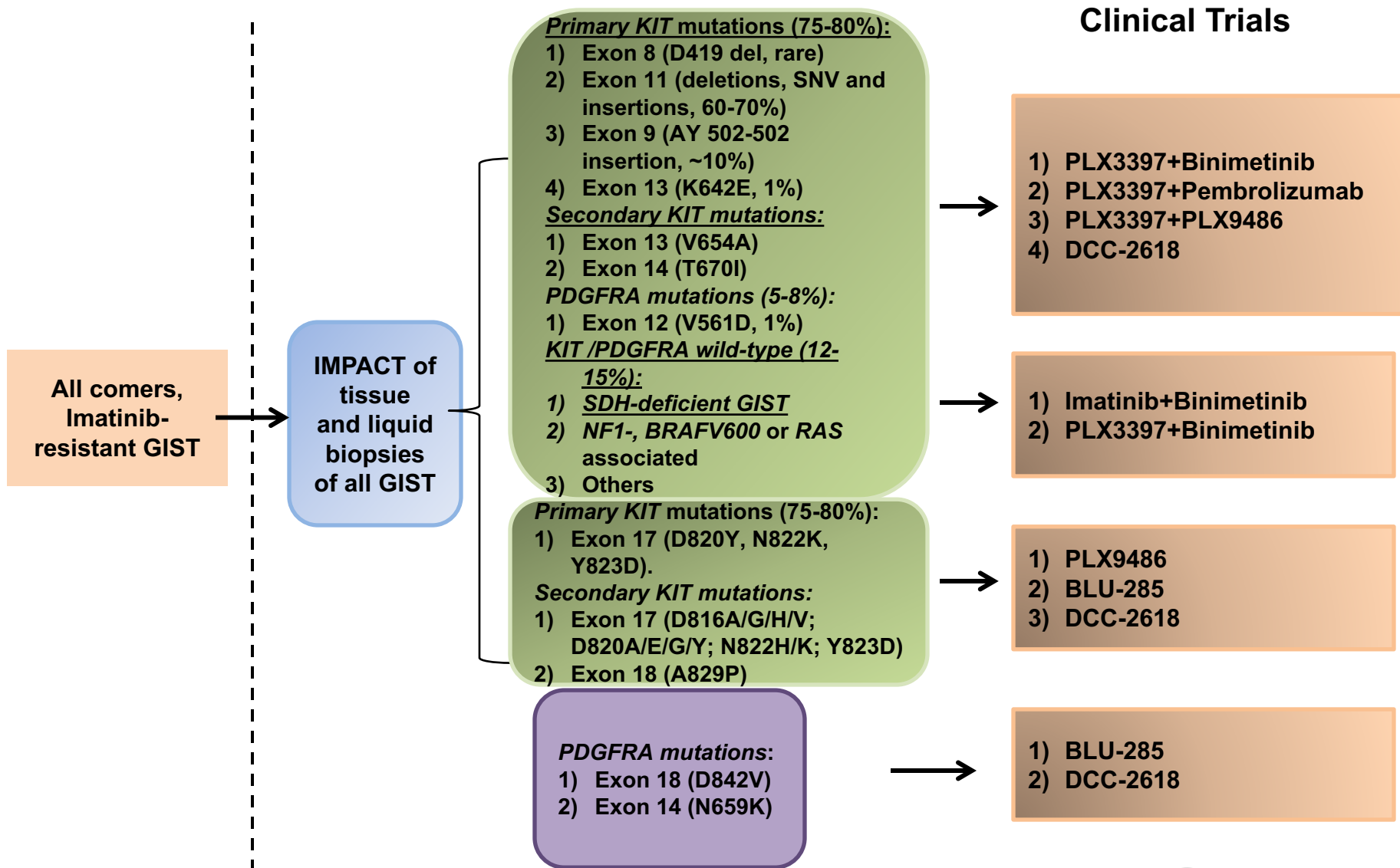


Next generation of targeted therapy for imatinib resistant mutations

- KIT exon 17 secondary resistant mutations
PLX9486 (open); BLU-285 (phase I open)
- KIT exon 13/14 mutations
PLX3397+/- PLX9486 (open soon)
- PDGFRA D842V mutation
BLU-285 (phase I open)
- PLX3397 + Pembrolizumab (open soon)
- DCC2618, an allosteric inhibitor of KIT/PDGFRα (phase I open)....



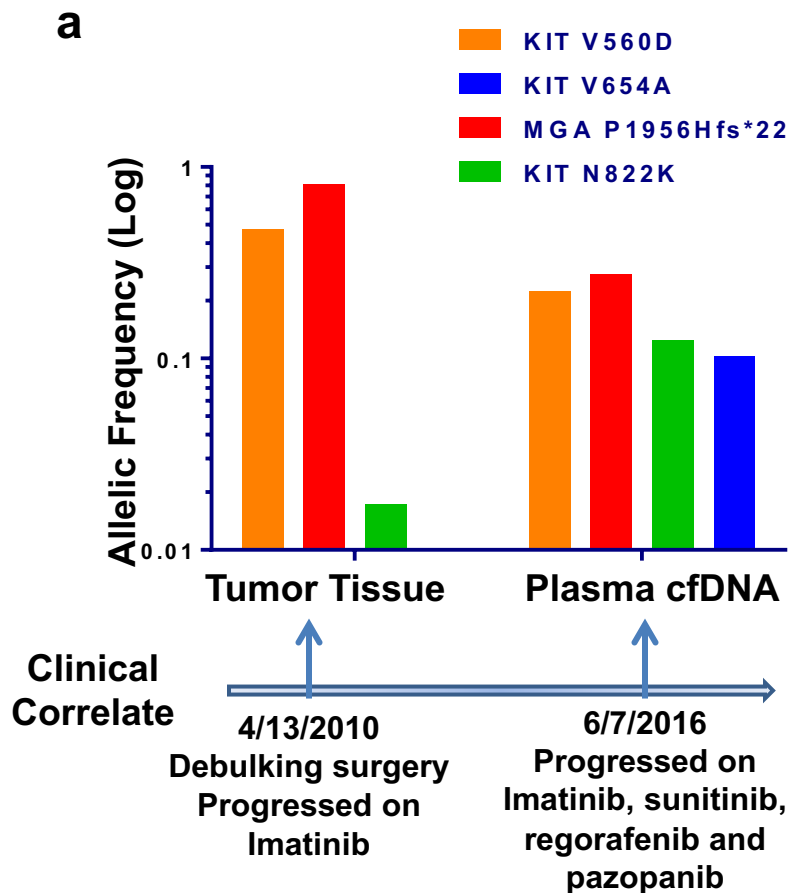
Precision therapy in imatinib-resistant setting



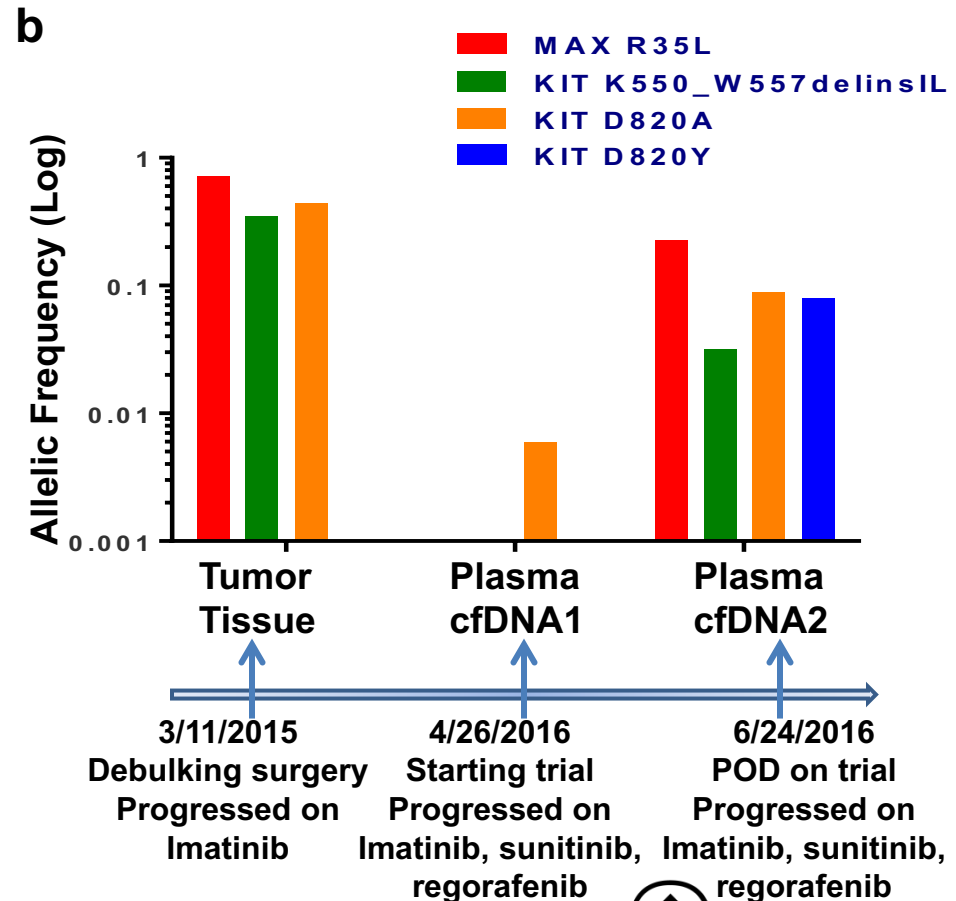
Tumor-derived cfDNA to detect tumor heterogeneity and subclonal dynamics

6/10 patients with detectable tumor-derived cfDNA consistent with IMPACT

Patient #20



Patient #3



Thanks...



Sarcoma Service

William D. Tap
Mary Louise Keohan
Sandra P. D'Angelo
Mark A. Dickson
Mrinal M. Gounder

Sam Singer (Surgery)

Aimee Crago (Surgery)

Sam Yoon (Surgery)

Ronald DeMatteo (Surgery)

Peter Besmer (SKI)

Ferdinand Rossi
Benedikt Bosbah

Neal Rosen (SKI)

MSKCC

Ping Chi (HOPP)

Leili Ran

Yuanyuan Xie

Jessica Sher

Thomas Wiesner

Elissa Wong

Amish Patel

Edward Walczak

Yu Chen (HOPP)

Zhen Cao (former member)

Shipra Shukla

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Priya Koppikar

Lindsay Saunders

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Lulu Wang

James A. Fagin (HOPP)

Inigo Landa-Lopez

Michael F. Berger (Pathology/HOPP)

The Rockefeller University

C. David Allis

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Deyou Zheng (computational genomics & bioinformatics)

Dana Farber Cancer Institute

Kimberly Stegmaier

Brigham and Women's Hospital

Jonathan A. Fletcher

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For Ian GIST research fund



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