

# Role of surgery in very high-risk PCa

Steven Joniau, MD, PhD  
Dept of Urology  
University Hospitals Leuven  
Belgium



# Conflicts of interest

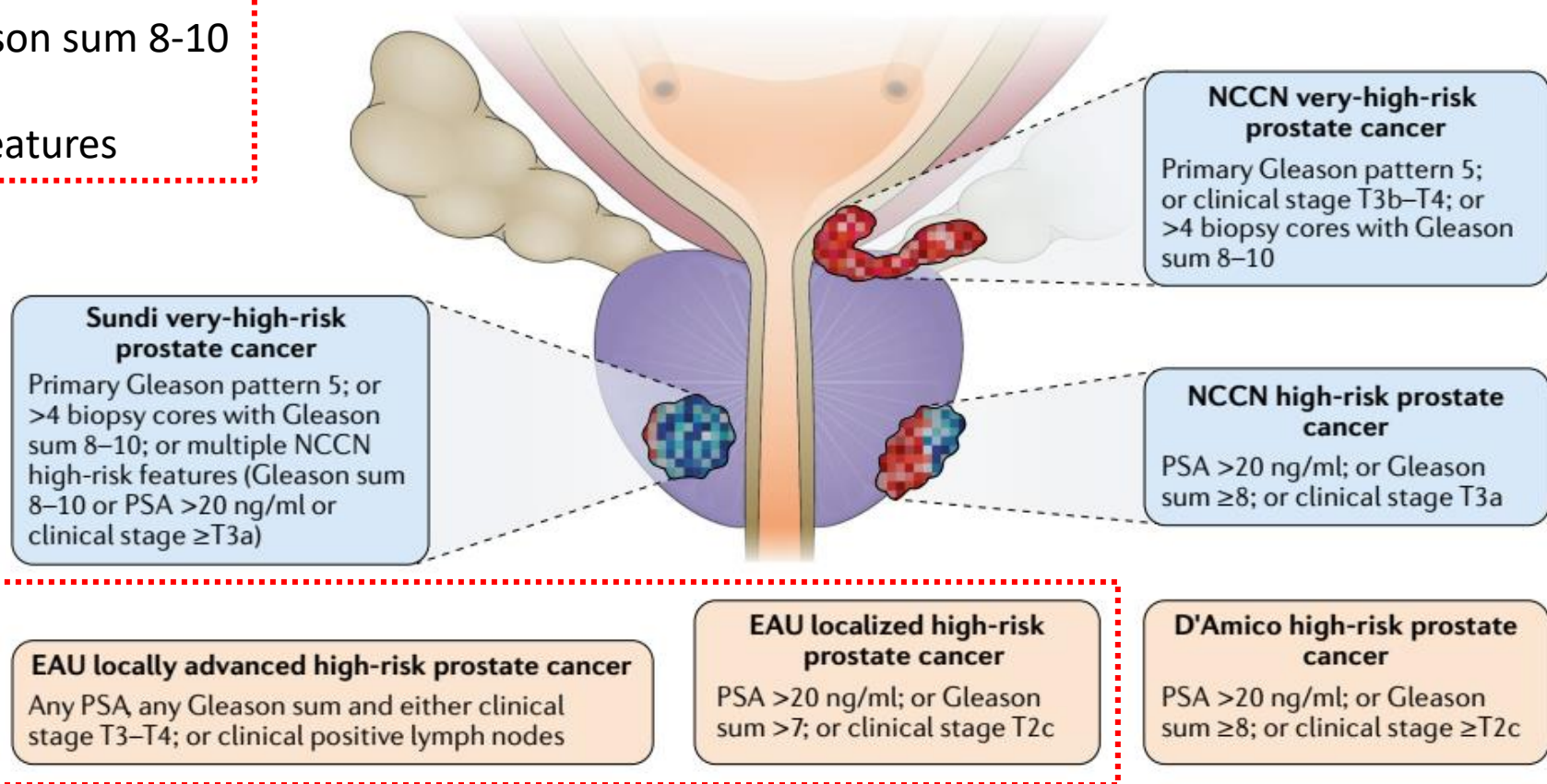
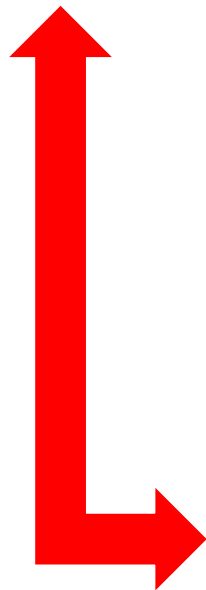


	Research Funding	Speakers Fee	Consultation Fee
Astellas	√	√	√
Astra Zeneca		√	
Bayer	√	√	√
Ferring	√	√	
GSK		√	
Ipsen		√	√
Janssen	√	√	√
MDX Health	√		
Pfizer		√	
Roche	√		√
Sanofi		√	

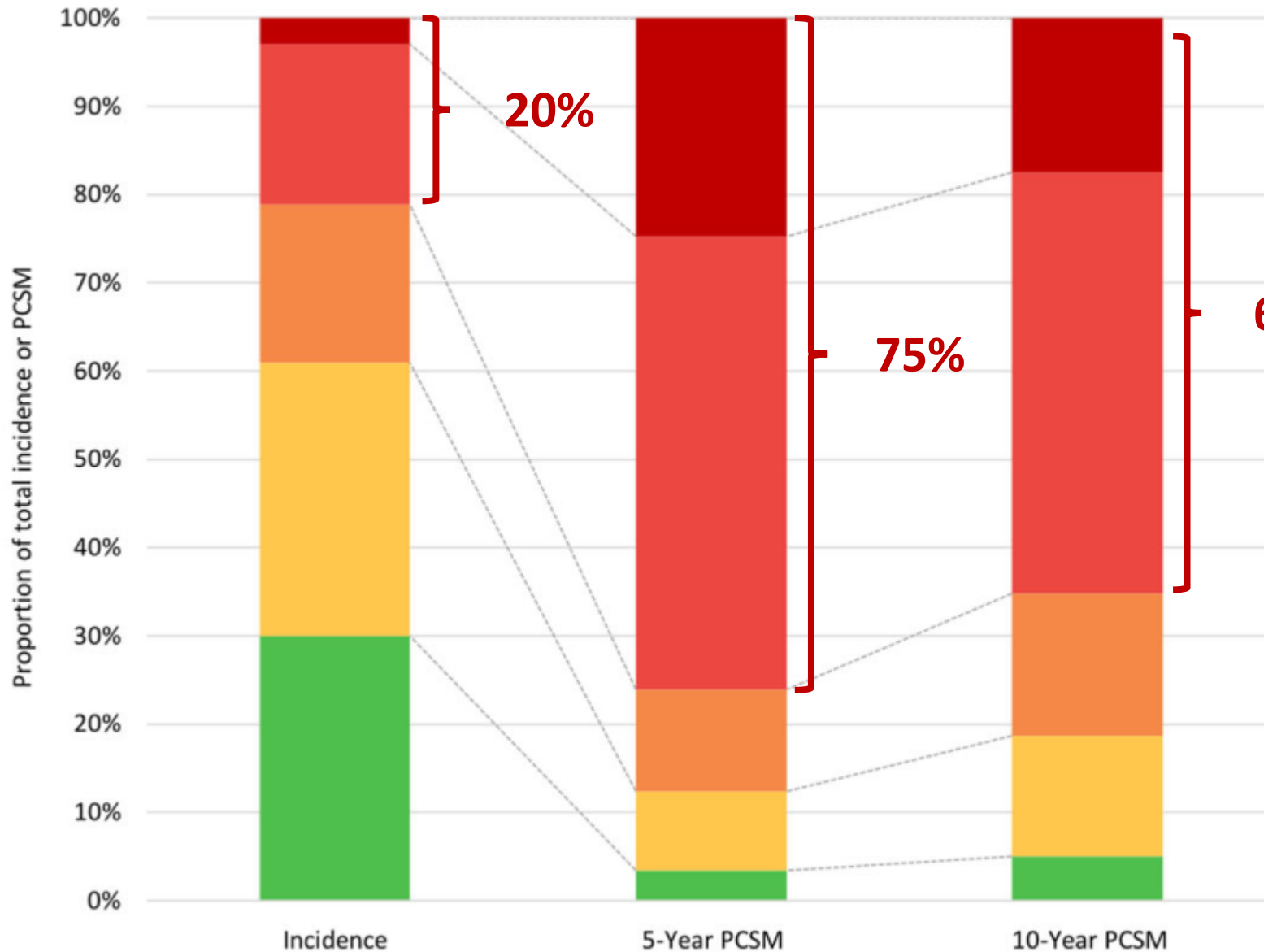
# Very high-risk Prostate Cancer

- Primary Gleason pattern 5
- >4 biopsy cores with Gleason sum 8-10
- Clinical stage T3b-T4
- Multiple NCCN high-risk features

Disease state does **not exist** in EAU PCa Guidelines !



# Background: High-Risk PCa



	2004-2015 SEER cohort	
	% of total diagnoses	% of total 10-y PCSM
Low	29.9	0.7
Favorable intermediate	31.1	2.0
Unfavorable intermediate	17.9	4.0
High	18.1	11.8
Very high	3.0	26.0
Total	100.0	100.0

- Very High
- High
- Unfavorable Intermediate
- Favorable Intermediate
- Low

# Who is at risk of prostate cancer mortality after surgery?

pN0 + 0-1 RF

3%

Good prognosis

pN1 + 0-1 RF

12%

Intermediate prognosis

HGLA ± pN1

24%

Poor prognosis

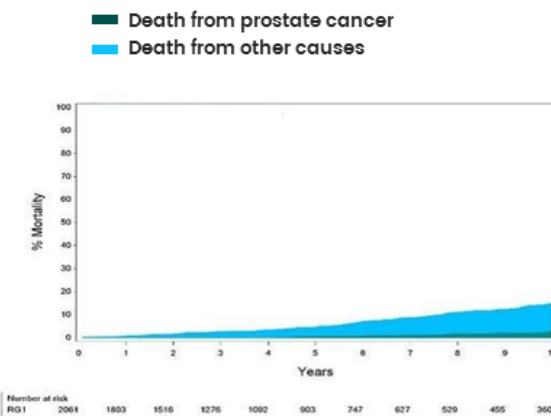
Risk factors:

HGLA

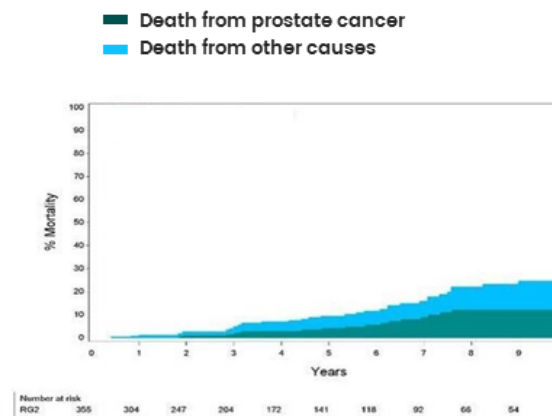
pT $\geq$ 3b vs <3b

pGS  $\geq$ 8 vs <8

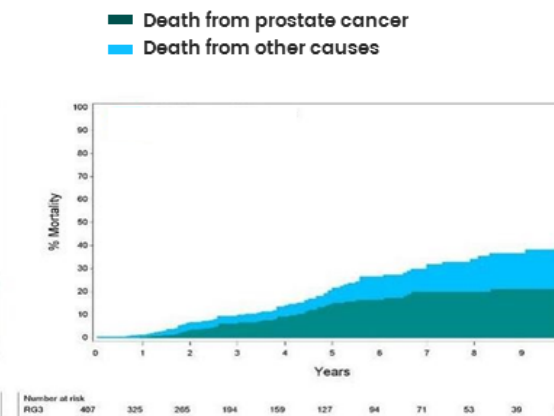
pN1 vs pN0



Mortality rates % (95% CI)		
Years	PCRD	OCM
5	0.82 (0.28-1.36)	3.89 (2.85-4.93)
10	3.05 (1.71-4.38)	11.83 (9.50-14.16)



Mortality rates % (95% CI)		
Years	PCRD	OCM
5	4.35 (1.52-7.18)	4.99 (2.03-7.95)
10	12.28 (6.62-17.93)	12.33 (6.32-18.35)



Mortality rates % (95% CI)		
Years	PCRD	OCM
5	15.31 (10.34-20.28)	6.31 (3.06-9.55)
10	23.81 (16.01-31.61)	16.89 (10.04-23.74)

ToscoL, et al. The EMPaCT Classifier: A Validated Tool to Predict Postoperative Prostate Cancer-related Death Using Competing-risk Analysis. Eur Urol Focus. 2017 Jan 17. doi: 10.1016/j.euf.2016.12.008.

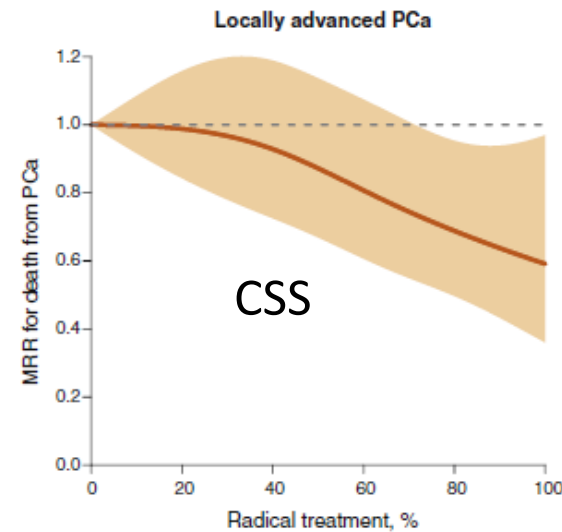
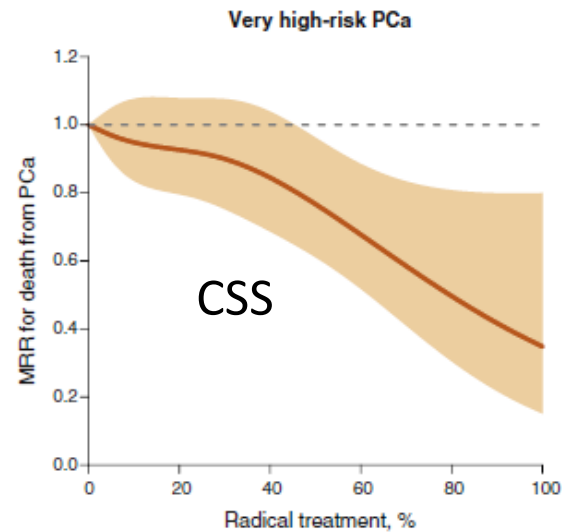
Adjuvant treatments	Overall n=2823		Good n=2061		Intermediate n=355		Poor n=407	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
None	1982	70.2	1651	80.1	160	45.1	171	42.0
RT	210	7.4	146	7.1	25	7.0	39	9.6
ADT	454	16.1	208	10.1	121	34.1	125	30.7
RT+ADT	177	6.3	56	2.7	49	13.8	72	17.7

# Role of local treatment in very high-risk and locally advanced PCa - PCBaSe



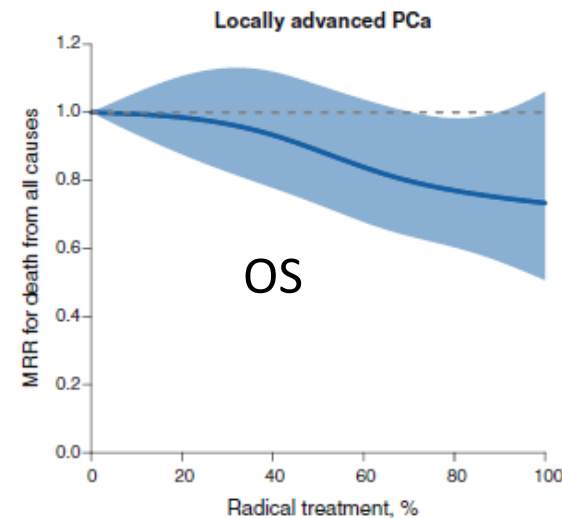
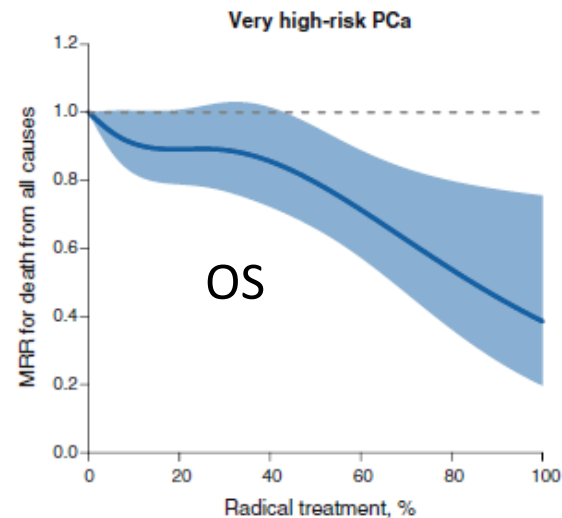
**T4 and/or PSA  
level 50–200 ng/ml,  
any N, and M0**

**N=7,500**



**T3 and PSA  
level <50 ng/ml,  
any N, and M0**

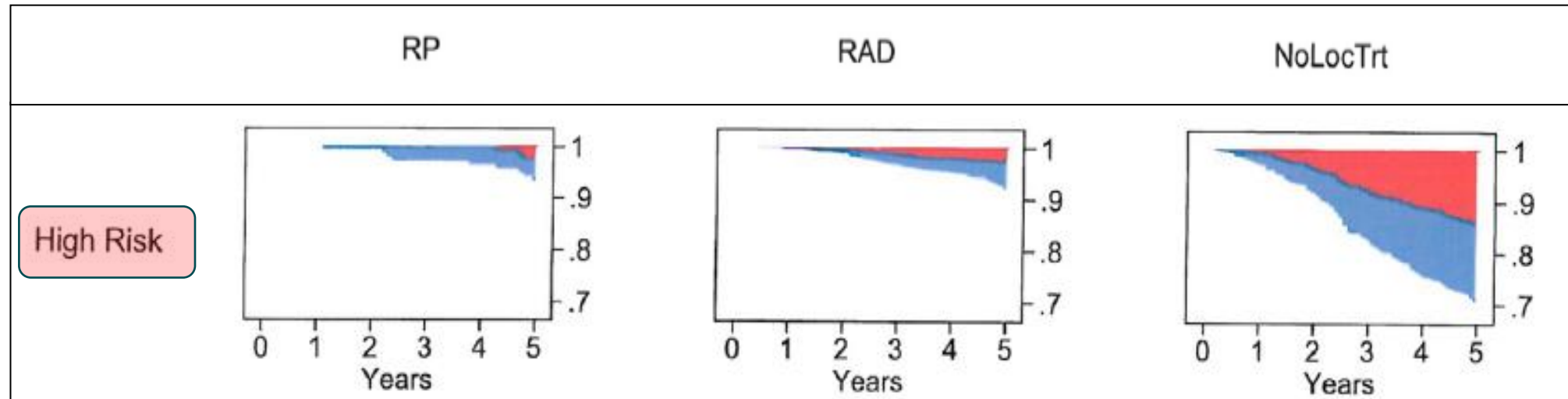
**N=10,316**



# Treatment and 5-year survival in patients with nonmetastatic PCa: the Norwegian experience



- Retrospective analysis of data from the Norwegian Prostate Cancer Registry, 2004–2005
- 3486 patients, RP (n=895), EBRT +/- ADT (n=1339), or no local treatment (n=1252)
- Clinical stage T1–T3, PSA  $\leq$ 100 ng/mL, D'Amico risk group stratification



■ Other cause mortality  
■ PCa mortality



Recommendations	Strength rating
<b>Radical prostatectomy (RP)</b>	
Offer RP to selected patients with high-risk localised PCa as part of potential multi-modal therapy.	Strong
<b>Extended pelvic lymph node dissection (ePLND)</b>	
Perform an ePLND in high-risk PCa.	Strong
Do not perform a frozen section of nodes during RP to decide whether to proceed with, or abandon, the procedure (see Section 6.2.4.1).	Strong

PROSTATE CANCER - LIMITED UPDATE MARCH 2022

# What does surgery offer?

---

1. Highly efficient locoregional disease debulking
2. Single-modality treatment in selected patients, thus opportunity for treatment de-escalation
3. Minimally invasive approach: robotics
4. Satisfactory functional and quality of life outcomes

# Backside of the coin...

---

1. More extensive surgery compared with low/intermediate risk PCa
  - Higher risk of incontinence/erectile dysfunction
  - Higher complication rates: lymphedema/lymphocele/...
2. Often first step in a multimodal approach
3. No Level 1 evidence (yet...)

# More extensive surgery

## SCALE OF AGGRESSIVENESS

LOW-RISK

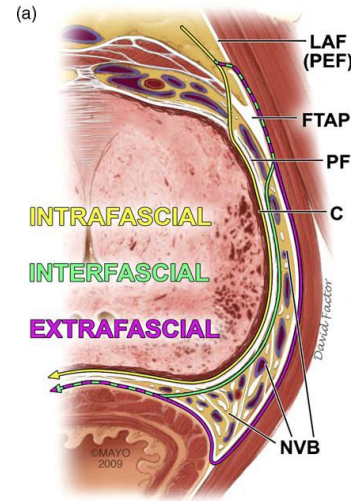
INTERMEDIATE RISK

HIGH-RISK

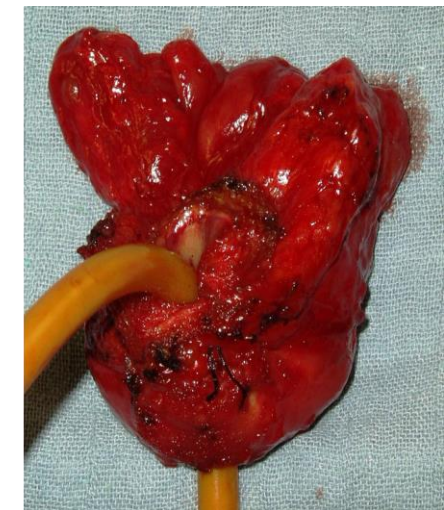
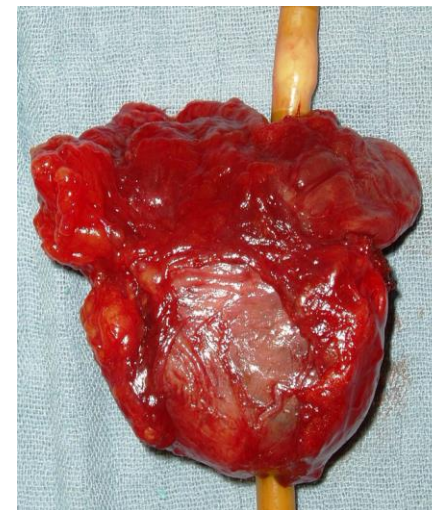
Nerve sparing, intrafascial  
'Peeling-out' of seminal vesicles  
No PLND



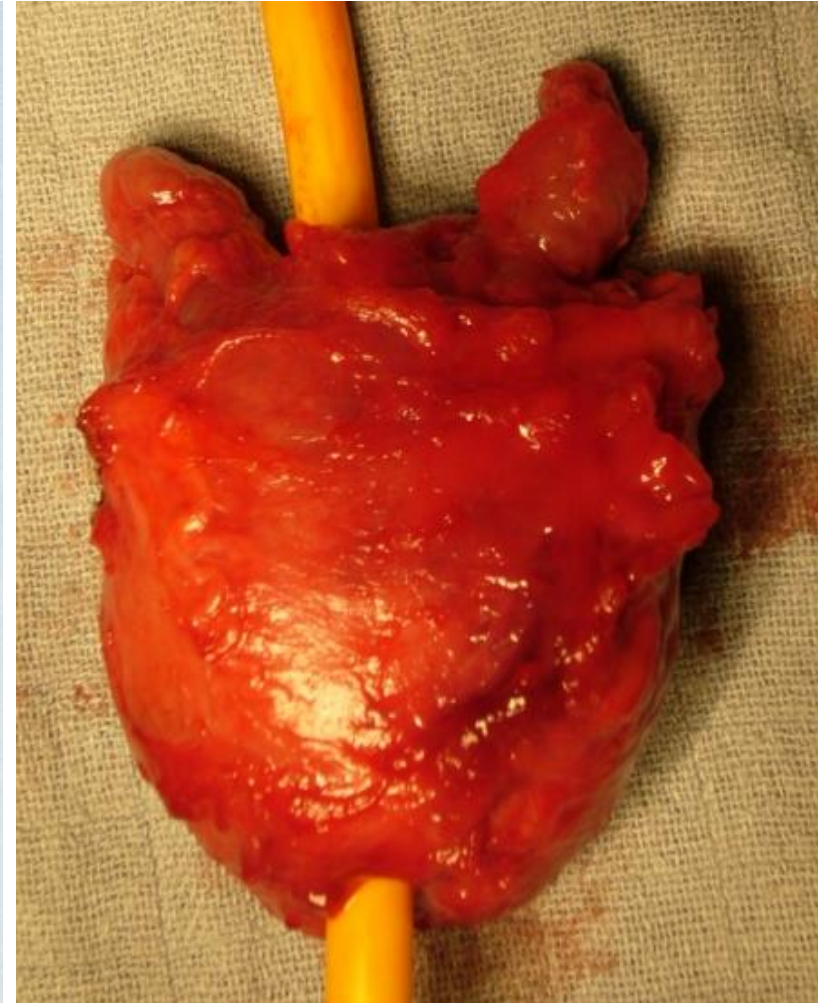
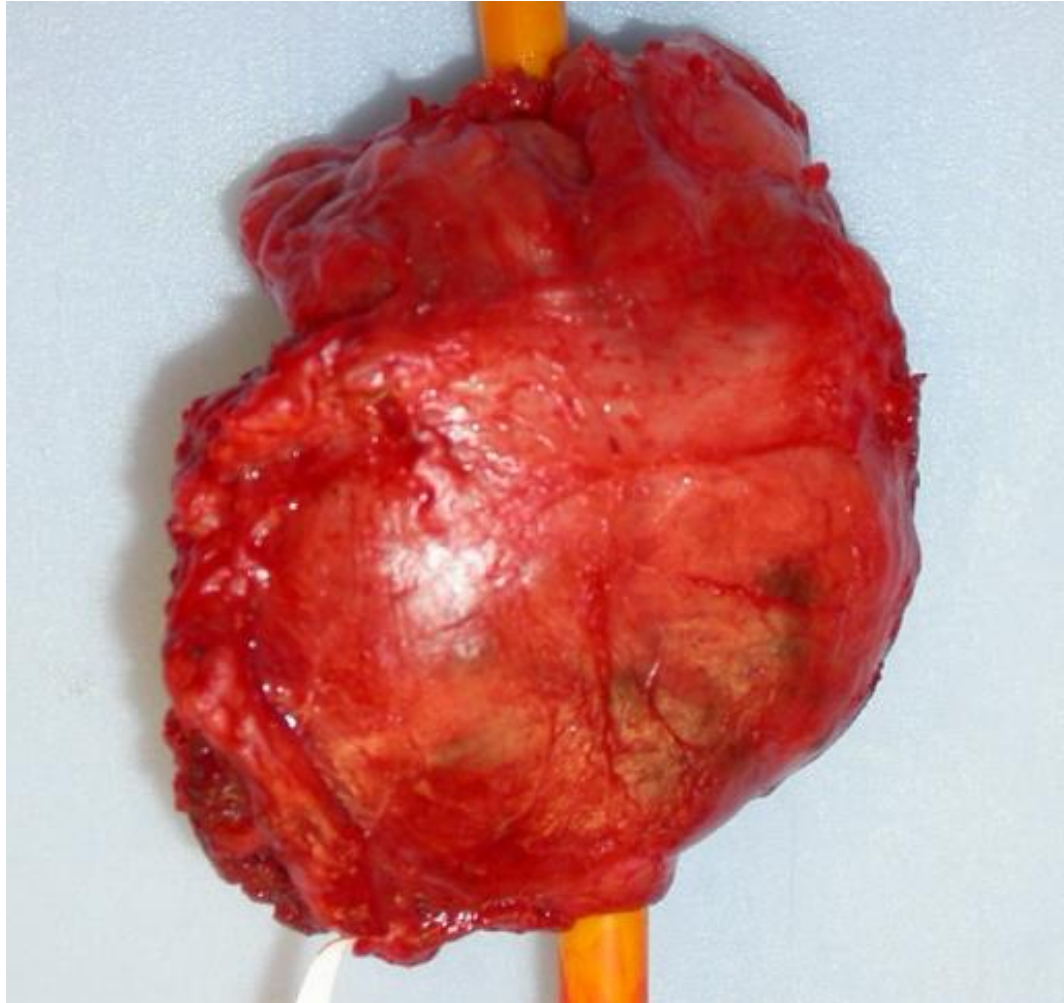
'Tailored' nerve-sparing  
Extended PLND if risk >7%



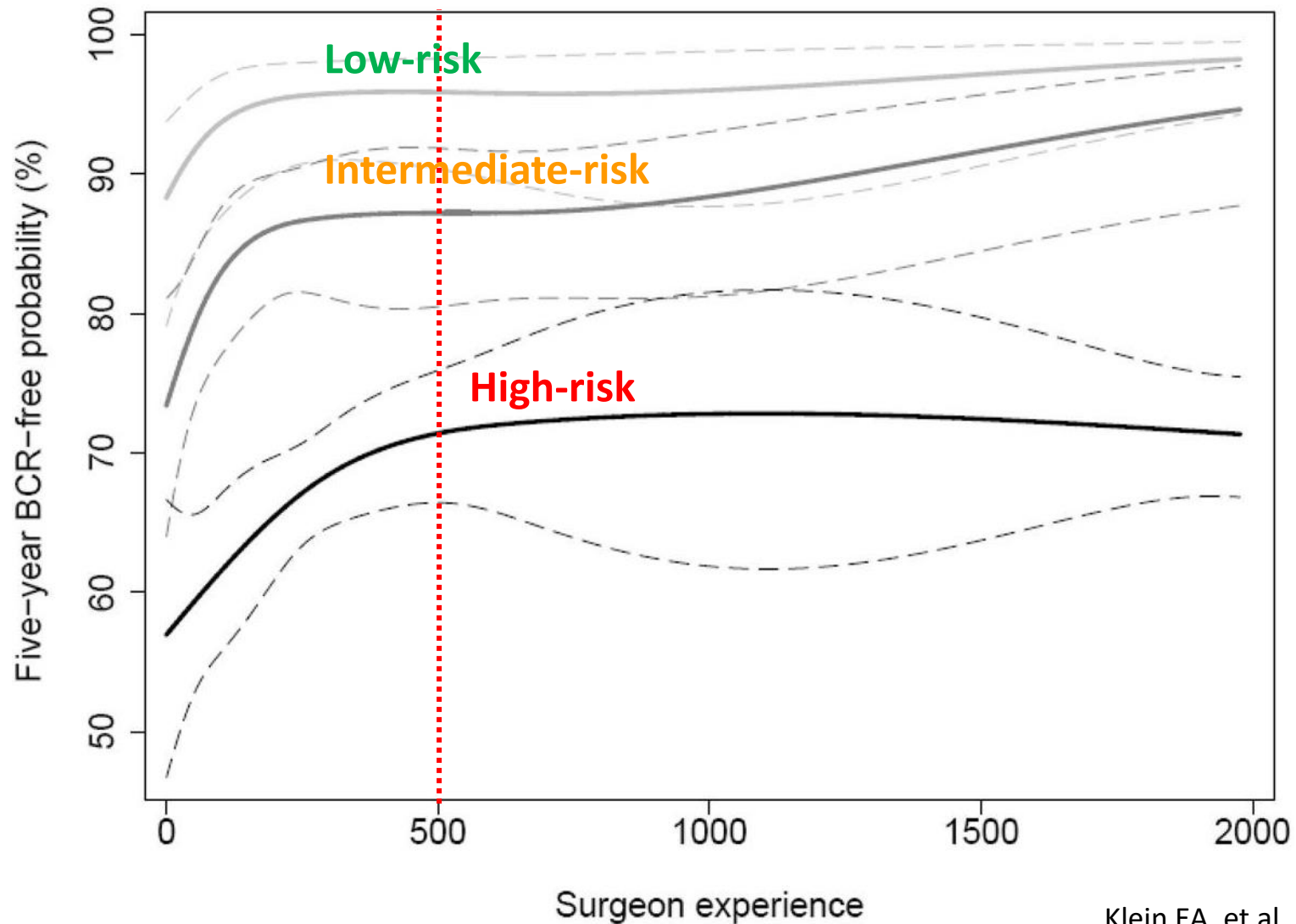
More often non-nerve sparing, extra-fascial  
Wide resection of seminal vesicles  
Extended PLND



However, NVB preservation is possible in  $>50\%$  of cases

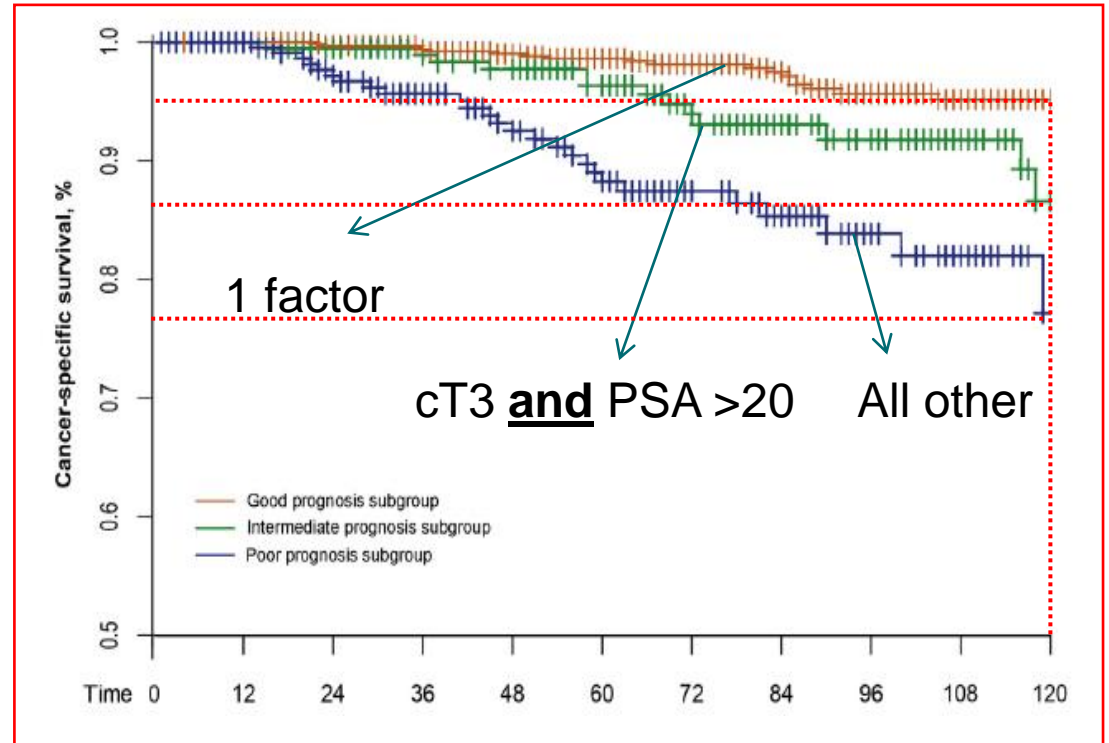
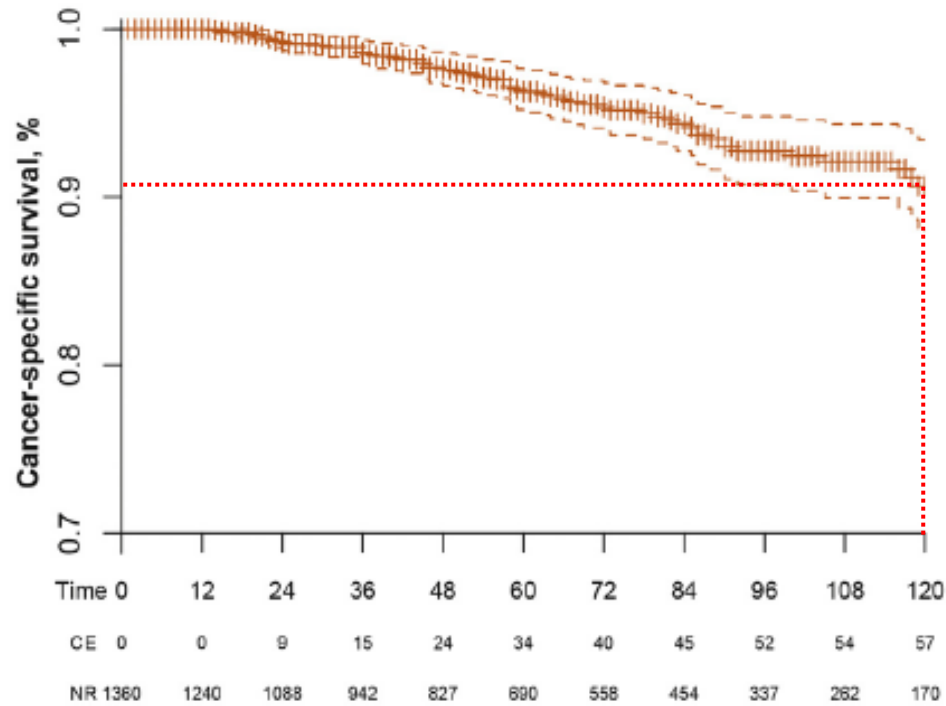


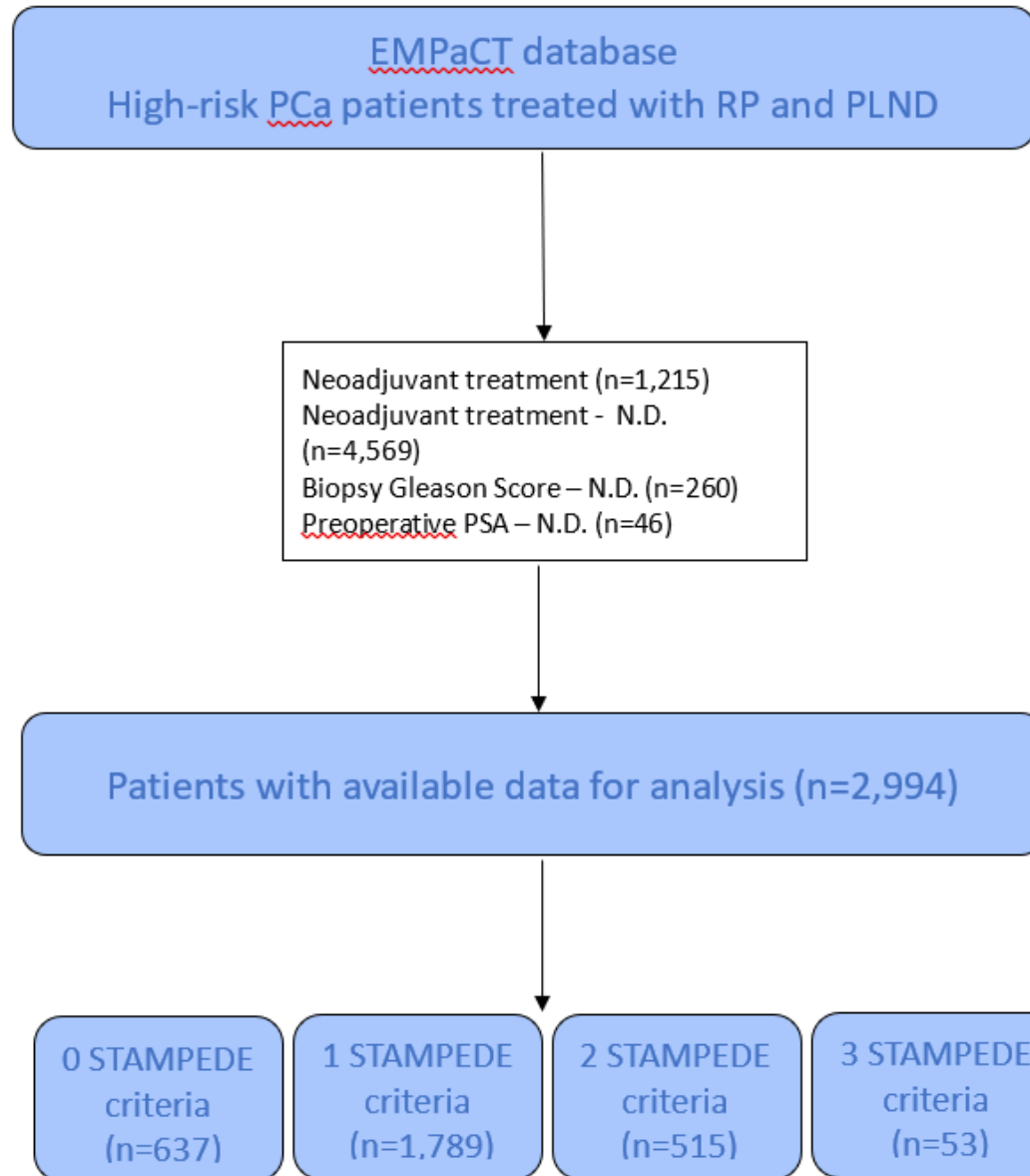
# The importance of surgeon experience



# Stratification of High-risk Prostate Cancer into Prognostic Categories: A European Multi-institutional Study

Steven Joniau<sup>a,\*†</sup>, Alberto Briganti<sup>b,†</sup>, Paolo Gontero<sup>c</sup>, Giorgio Gandaglia<sup>b</sup>, Lorenzo Tosco<sup>a</sup>, Steffen Fieuws<sup>d</sup>, Bertrand Tombal<sup>e</sup>, Giansilvio Marchioro<sup>f</sup>, Jochen Walz<sup>g</sup>, Burkhard Kneitz<sup>h</sup>, Pia Bader<sup>i</sup>, Detlef Frohneberg<sup>i</sup>, Alessandro Tizzani<sup>c</sup>, Markus Graefen<sup>g</sup>, Paul van Cangh<sup>d</sup>, R. Jeffrey Karnes<sup>j</sup>, Francesco Montorsi<sup>b</sup>, Hein Van Poppel<sup>a</sup>, Martin Spahn<sup>k</sup>,  
European Multicenter Prostate Cancer Clinical and Translational Research Group (EMPaCT)







# Patient characteristics



Clinical and pathological characteristics	EAU High-risk n=2994	STAMPEDE factors 0-1 (non-high-risk) n=2426	STAMPEDE factors 2-3 (high-risk) n=568
Age (year), median (IQR)	65 (60-70)	65 (60-70)	66 (61-70)
PSA (ng/ml), median (IQR)	13 (7-25)	12 (7-24)	19 (9-50)
PSA >40 ng/ml, n (%)	324 (11)	129 (5)	<b>195 (34)</b>
Clinical stage (cT), n (%)			
cT1	478 (16)	465 (19)	13 (2)
cT2	892 (30)	862 (36)	30 (5)
cT3-4	1624 (54)	1099 (45)	<b>525 (93)</b>
Biopsy Gleason Score (GS), n (%)			
GS 6	984 (33)	954 (39)	30 (5)
GS7	980 (33)	911 (38)	69 (12)
GS8-10	1030 (34)	561 (23)	<b>469 (83)</b>
Number of STAMPEDE criteria, n (%)			
0	637 (21)	637 (26)	-
1	1789 (60)	1789 (74)	-
2	515 (17)	-	515 (91)
3	53 (2)	-	53 (9)

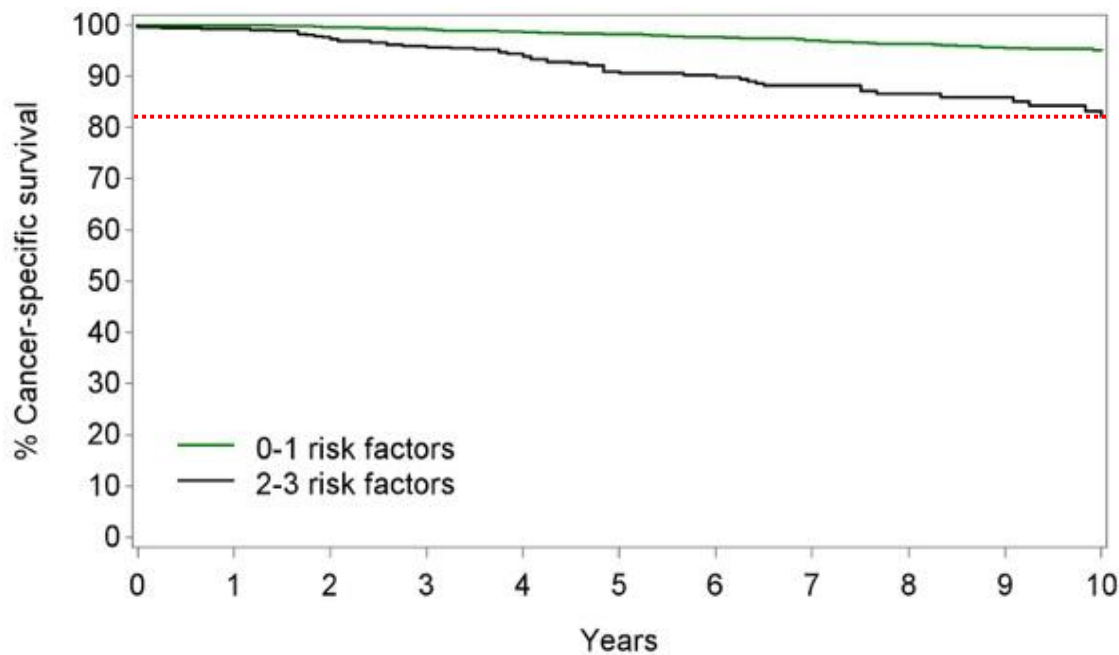
# Tumor characteristics

Clinical and pathological characteristics	EAU High-risk n=2994	STAMPEDE factors 0-1 (non-high-risk) n=2426	STAMPEDE factors 2-3 (high-risk) n=568
<b>Pathological stage (pT), n (%)</b>			
pT2	1178 (39)	1073 (44)	<b><u>105 (19)</u></b>
pT3a	1068 (36)	863 (36)	205 (36)
pT3b-4	742 (25)	484 (20)	258 (45)
NA	6 (0)	6 (0)	-
<b>Pathological Gleason Score (GS), n (%)</b>			
GS 6	600 (20)	567 (23)	<b><u>33 (6)</u></b>
GS 7	1364 (46)	1229 (51)	<b><u>135 (24)</u></b>
GS 8-10	1019 (34)	620 (26)	399 (70)
NA	11 (0)	10 (0)	1 (0)
<b>Pathological lymph nodes stage (pN), n (%)</b>			
pN0	2257 (75)	1947 (80)	<b><u>310 (55)</u></b>
pN1	710 (24)	455 (19)	255 (45)
pNx	27 (1)	24 (1)	3 (0)
<b>Number of nodes removed, median (IQR)</b>	12 (7-19)	11 (7-18)	13 (8-22)
<b>Surgical margins status, n (%)</b>			
Negative	1804 (60)	1535 (63)	<b><u>269 (47)</u></b>
Positive	1159 (39)	867 (36)	292 (52)
NA	31 (1)	24 (1)	7 (1)

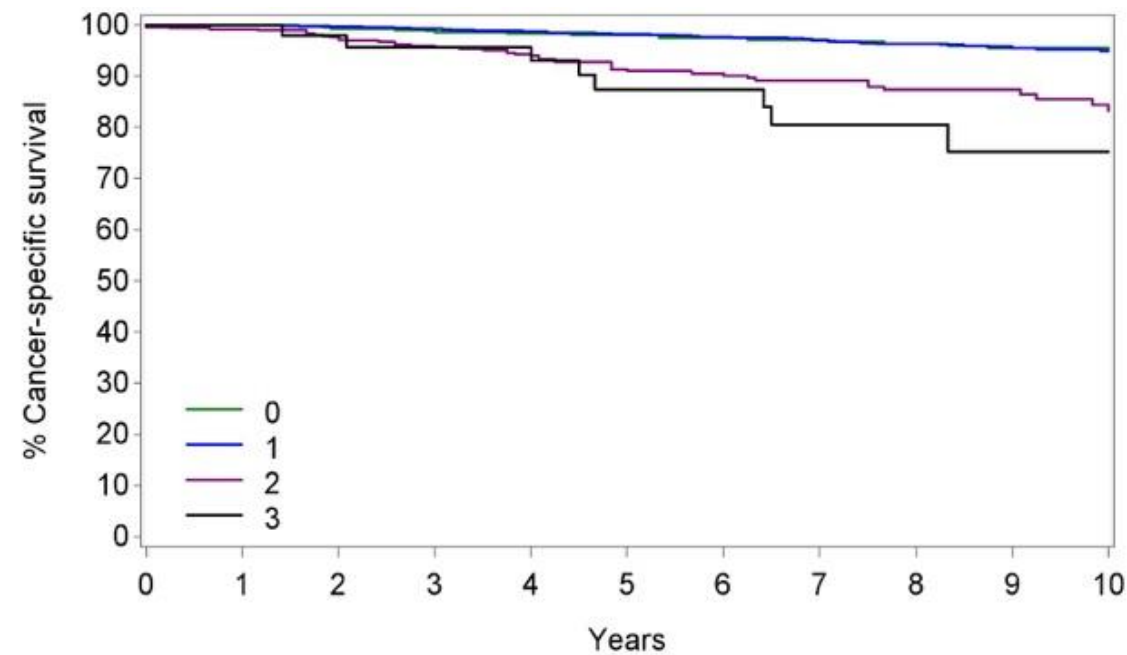
# Adjuvant treatments

Clinical and pathological characteristics	EAU High-risk n=2994	STAMPEDE factors 0-1 (non-high-risk) n=2426	STAMPEDE factors 2-3 (high-risk) n=568
<b>Adjuvant Radio Therapy, n (%)</b>			
No	2213 (74)	1859 (77)	<b><u>354 (62)</u></b>
Yes	441 (15)	305 (13)	136 (24)
NA	340 (11)	262 (10)	78 (14)
<b>Adjuvant Hormonal Therapy, n (%)</b>			
No	2081 (70)	1803 (74)	<b><u>278 (49)</u></b>
Yes	605 (20)	390 (16)	215 (38)
NA	308 (10)	233 (10)	75 (13)
<b>Follow-up (months), median (IQR)</b>	60 (28-100)	60 (28-102)	56 (29-89)
<b>Cancer related death, n (%)</b>	124 (4)	71 (3)	<b><u>53 (9)</u></b>
<b>Death by any cause</b>	400 (13)	285 (12)	115 (20)
<b>Year of surgery, n (%)</b>			
≤2005	1501 (50)	1230 (51)	271 (48)
≥2006	1493 (50)	1196 (49)	297 (52)

# Cancer-specific survival

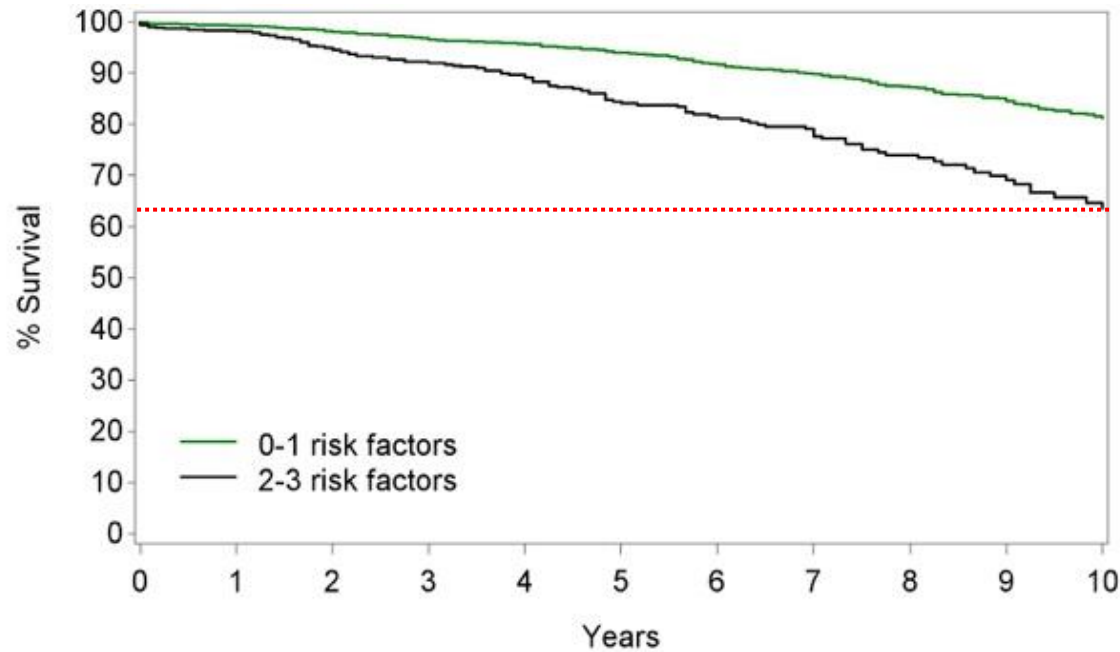


Number at risk	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0-1 risk factors	2426	2143	1906	1678	1486	1240	1014	846	685	557	414
2-3 risk factors	568	525	459	392	332	261	209	171	123	91	60

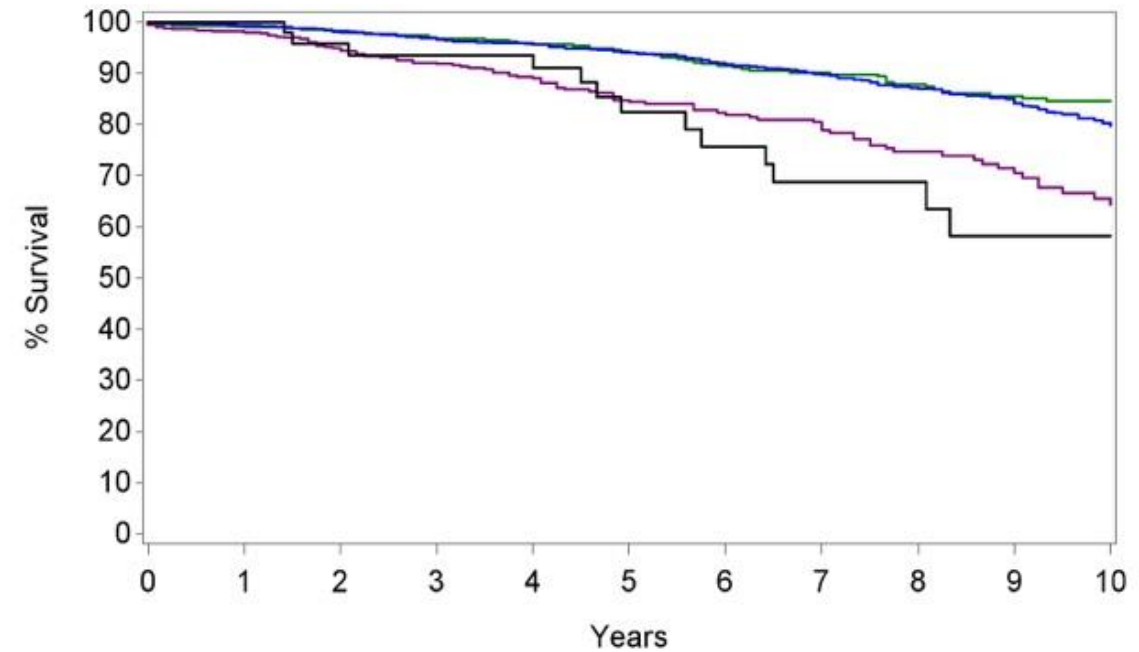


Number at risk	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	637	517	445	400	371	329	275	246	209	175	140
1	1789	1626	1461	1278	1115	911	739	600	476	382	274
2	515	474	415	352	295	234	187	152	110	81	56
3	53	51	44	40	37	27	22	19	13	10	4

# Overall survival



Number at risk	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0-1 risk factors	2426	2143	1906	1678	1486	1240	1014	846	685	557	414
2-3 risk factors	568	525	459	392	332	261	209	171	123	91	60



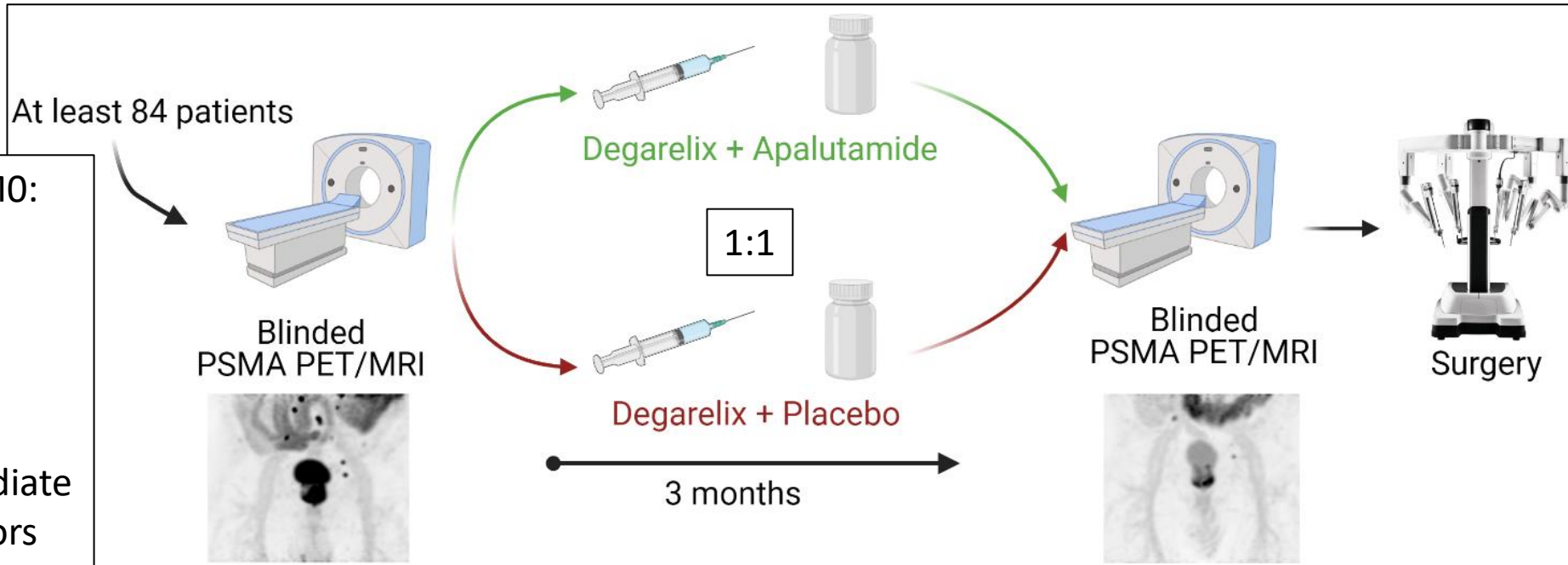
Number at risk	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	637	517	445	400	371	329	275	246	209	175	140
1	1789	1626	1461	1278	1115	911	739	600	476	382	274
2	515	474	415	352	295	234	187	152	110	81	56
3	53	51	44	40	37	27	22	19	13	10	4

STAMPEDE factors	Cancer Specific Survival		Overall Survival	
	5-year (95%CI)	10-year (95%CI)	5-year (95%CI)	10-year (95%CI)
All patients	96.7 (95.9-97.4)	92.8 (91.2-94.1)	92.1 (90.9-93.2)	78.0 (75.4-80.3)
0	98.1 (96.4-99.1)	95.5 (92.7-97.4)	94.0 (91.3-95.9)	84.6 (79.9-88.2)
1	98.2 (97.3-98.8)	95.0 (93.2-96.5)	94.0 (92.6-95.2)	79.7 (76.2-92.7)
<b>0+1 (non-high-risk)</b>	<b>98.2 (97.4-98.7)</b>	<b>95.2 (93.7-96.4)</b>	<b>94.0 (92.8-95.0)</b>	<b>81.2 (78.6-83.6)</b>
2	91.0 (87.8-93.7)	83.2 (77.4-88.2)	84.4 (80.3-87.7)	64.4 (56.5-71.2)
3	87.4 (75.1-95.5)	75.3 (58.6-89.1)	82.4 (66.3-91.3)	58.2 (37.2-74.4)
<b>2+3 (high-risk)</b>	<b>90.6 (87.5-93.3)</b>	<b>82.2 (76.7-87.1)</b>	<b>84.2 (80.2-87.4)</b>	<b>63.6 (56.3-70.1)</b>

# ARNEO: Study design & Endpoints



- High-risk, M0:
- cT3-4
  - PSA>20
  - GS 8-10
  - cN1
  - 2-3 intermediate risk factors



## Primary endpoint:

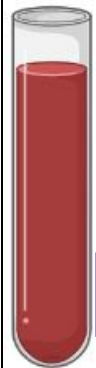
Difference in % Minimal Residual Disease (<0.25ml)

## Secondary endpoints:

- PSA kinetics
- Toxicity, QoL,
- Biomarkers for pathological response: PSMA PET/MRI and immunohistochemistry (ERG, PTEN, PSMA, Ki67, p53, GR) on diagnostic biopsies

# Results: Baseline patient characteristics

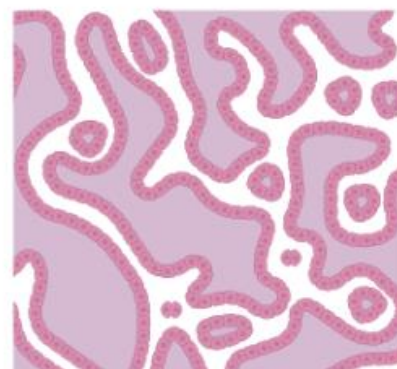
## Baseline characteristics: Degarelix + Placebo (n=44)



Median	11.2 ng/ml
<b>PSA &lt;10</b>	20 (45%)
<b>PSA 10-20</b>	14 (32%)
<b>PSA &gt;20</b>	10 (23%)



<b>≤cT2</b>	12 (27%)
<b>cT3a</b>	20 (46%)
<b>cT3b</b>	7 (16%)
<b>cT4</b>	5 (11%)
<b>cN1</b>	5 (11%)



<b>ISUP ≤ 3</b>	13 (29%)
<b>ISUP 4</b>	17 (39%)
<b>ISUP 5</b>	14 (32%)

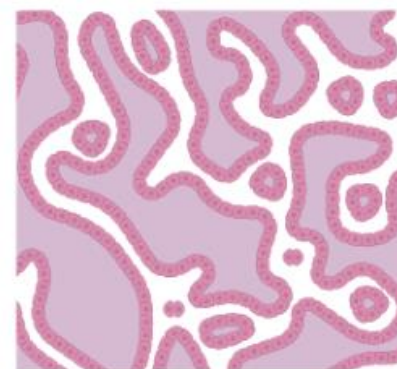
## Baseline characteristics: Degarelix + Apalutamide (n=45)



Median	12.6 ng/ml
<b>PSA &lt;10</b>	20 (44%)
<b>PSA 10-20</b>	14 (31%)
<b>PSA &gt;20</b>	11 (25%)



<b>≤cT2</b>	12 (26%)
<b>cT3a</b>	18 (40%)
<b>cT3b</b>	12 (27%)
<b>cT4</b>	3 (7%)
<b>cN1</b>	7 (16%)



<b>ISUP ≤ 3</b>	16 (35%)
<b>ISUP 4</b>	10 (22%)
<b>ISUP 5</b>	19 (43%)

± 25% PSA >20

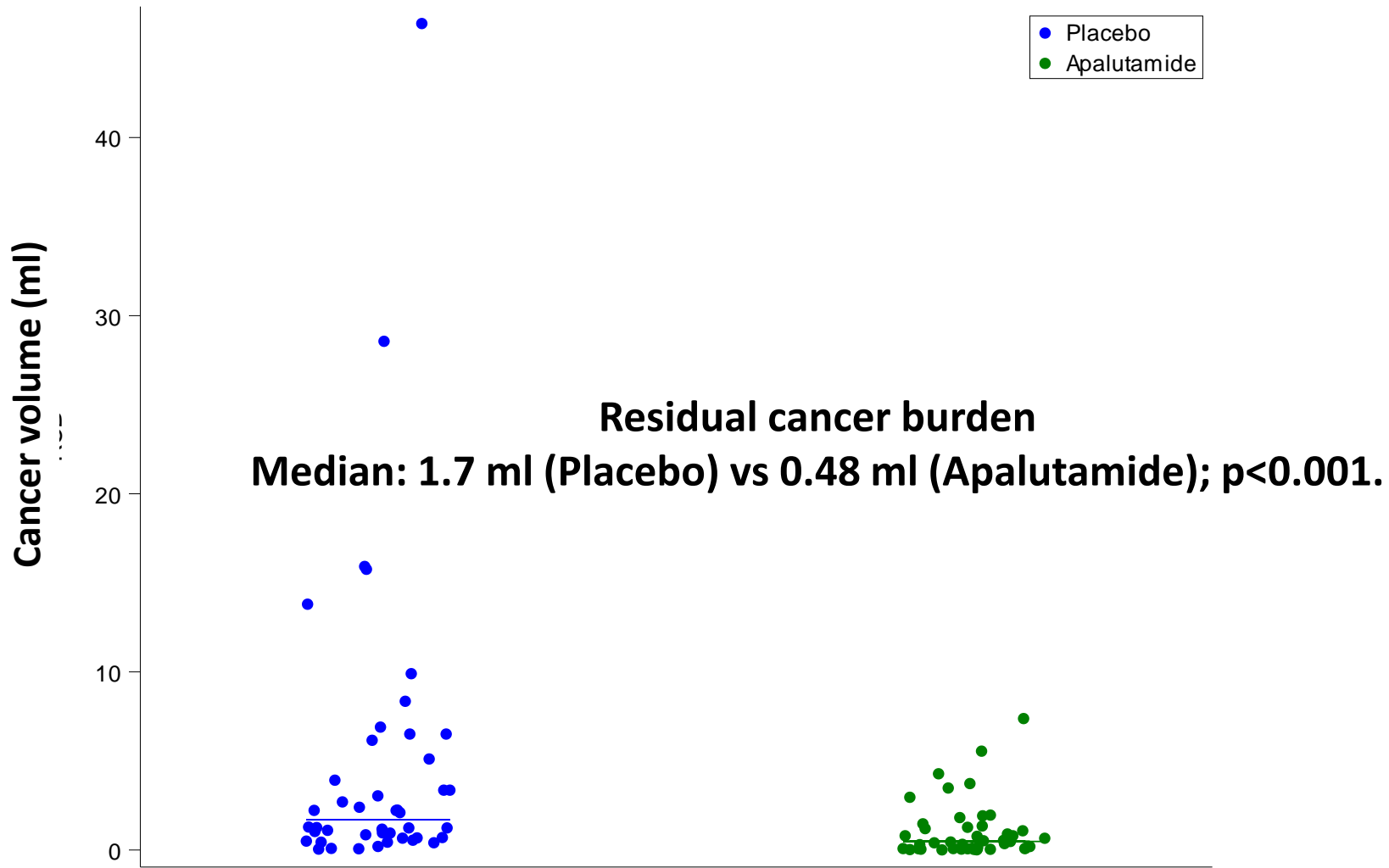
± 75% ≥ cT3a    10-15% cN1

± 65% ≥ ISUP 4





# Results: primary endpoint

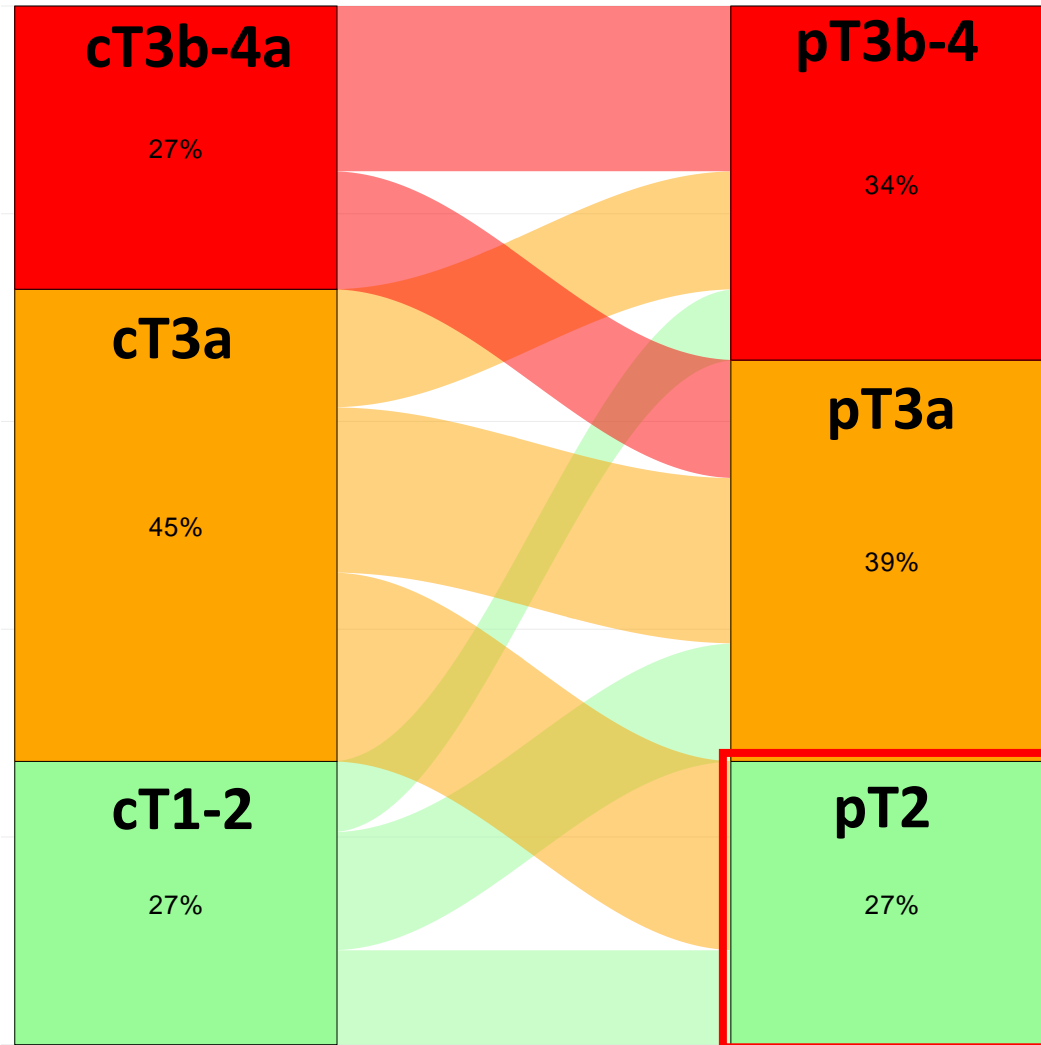


Minimal residual disease (<math>< 0.25\text{ml}</math>) was **38%** in the apalutamide arm vs. **9%** in the placebo arm.  $P=0.002$ , RR 4.2

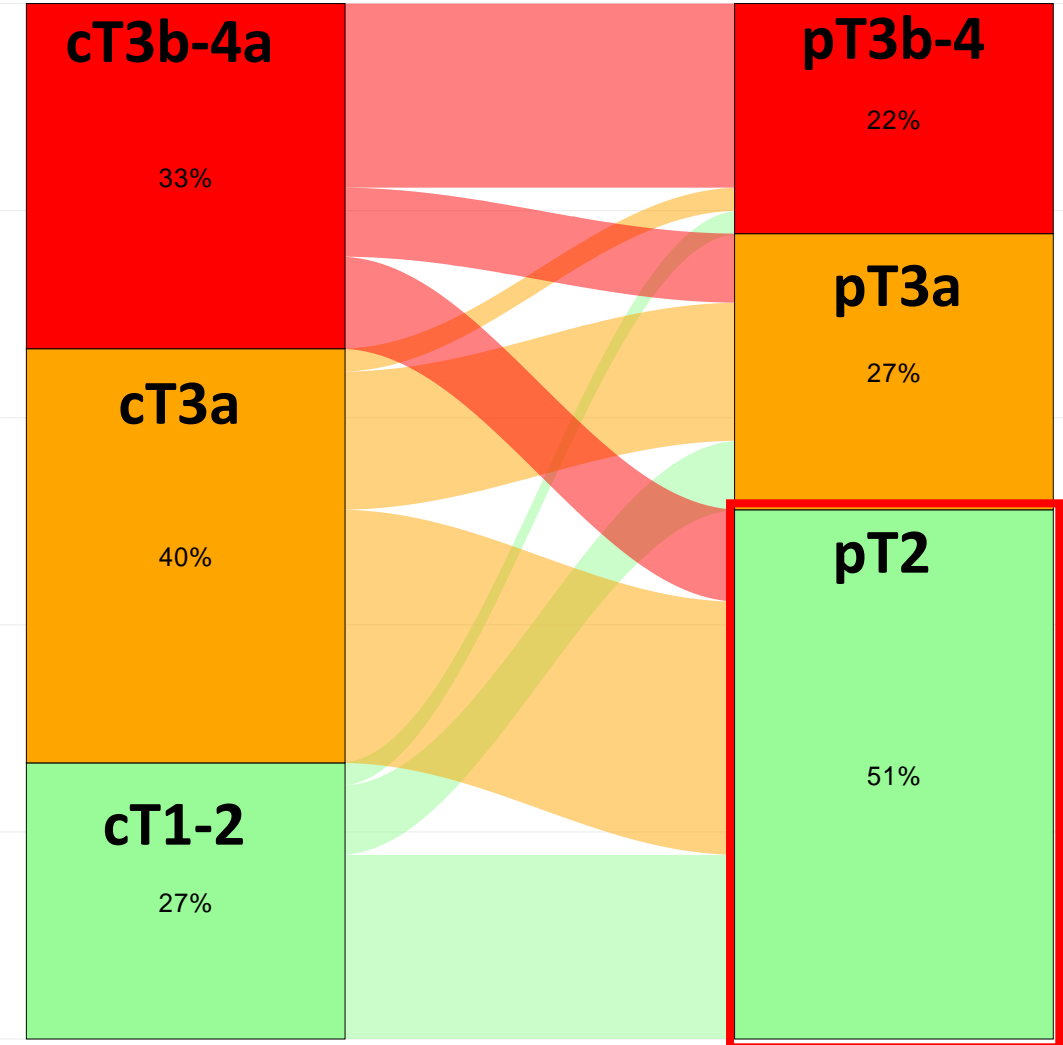
# Results: downstaging



## Degarelix + Placebo

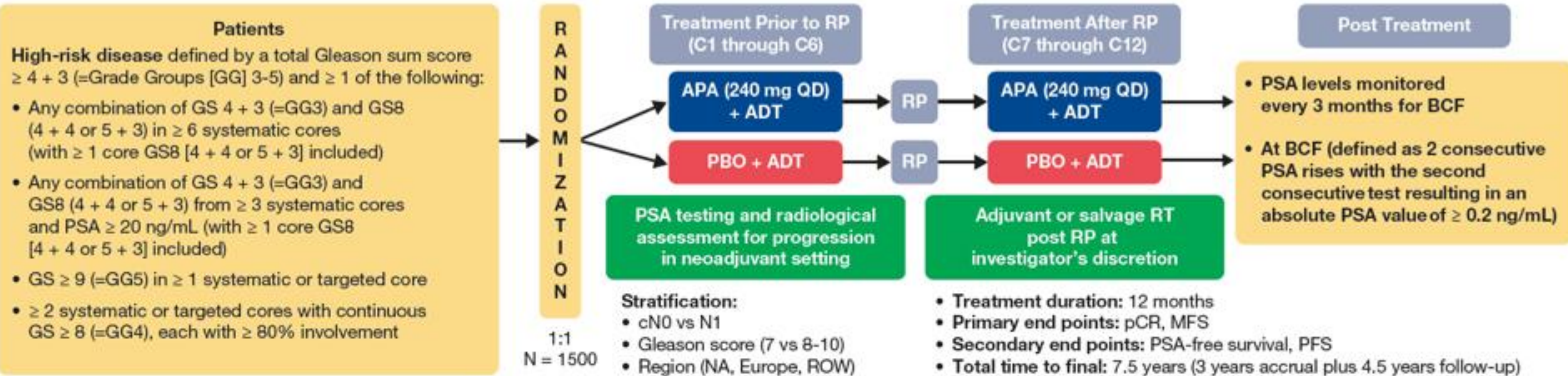


## Degarelix + Apalutamide



Downstaging to pT2-disease was significantly more frequent in the apalutamide arm (**51% vs. 27%, p=0.03**).

# Phase III PROTEUS trial



GS, Gleason score; PSA, prostate-specific antigen; C, cycle; QD, daily; PFS, progression-free survival; NA, North America; ROW, rest of world; RT, radiation therapy.

# Oncologic and Functional Outcomes after Radical Prostatectomy for High or Very High Risk Prostate Cancer: European Validation of the Current NCCN Guideline

Raisa S. Pompe, Pierre I. Karakiewicz, Zhe Tian, Philipp Mandel, Thomas Steuber, Thorsten Schlomm, Georg Salomon, Markus Graefen, Hartwig Huland and Derya Tilki\*

*From the Martini-Klinik Prostate Cancer Center (RSP, PM, TS, TS, GS, MG, HH, DT) and Department of Urology (PM, TS, DT), University Hospital Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany, and Cancer Prognostics and Health Outcomes Unit, University of Montreal Health Center, Montreal, Quebec, Canada (RSP, PIK, ZT)*

THE JOURNAL OF UROLOGY®

Vol. 198, 1-8, August 2017



- **2,672 high-risk and 1,369 very-high-risk** PCa patients who underwent RP
- Longitudinal assessment of **Erectile Function**: score of 3 or more on question 2 of IIEF-5: “...how often were your erections stiff enough for penetration?”
- Longitudinal assessment of **Continence**: 0 or maximum 1 safety pad per day
- **69%** of patients underwent unilateral (36%) or bilateral (33%) NVB preservation

# Oncologic and Functional Outcomes after Radical Prostatectomy for High or Very High Risk Prostate Cancer: European Validation of the Current NCCN Guideline



Raisa S. Pompe, Pierre I. Karakiewicz, Zhe Tian, Philipp Mandel, Thomas Steuber, Thorsten Schlomm, Georg Salomon, Markus Graefen, Hartwig Huland and Derya Tilki\*

*From the Martini-Klinik Prostate Cancer Center (RSP, PM, TS, TS, GS, MG, HH, DT) and Department of Urology (PM, TS, DT), University Hospital Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany, and Cancer Prognostics and Health Outcomes Unit, University of Montreal Health Center, Montreal, Quebec, Canada (RSP, PIK, ZT)*

THE JOURNAL OF UROLOGY®

Vol. 198, 1-8, August 2017

- Overall, **return of EF** was seen in **30%** of high-risk and **27%** of very-high-risk PCa patients at 1 year
- In preop potent patients with bilateral NS surgery, these figures were **45%** and **44%**, respectively
- Overall, **return of continence** was seen in **82%** of high-risk and **81%** of very-high-risk PCa patients at 1 year
- Age was a predictor of erectile function recovery
- Age  $\leq 60$  and bilateral NVB preservation were predictors of regaining continence

# Summary of surgery for very high-risk PCa

1. When performed by an **experienced surgeon**, surgery is a highly effective treatment for (very) high-risk PCa in men with a sufficient life expectancy.
2. **OS and CSS are convincing** and in line with RT based treatment.
3. Surgery is often the first step of a multimodal treatment strategy, but **offers an opportunity for treatment de-escalation** in a significant proportion of patients.
4. Regaining erectile function is achieved in 1/3 (total) and 1/2 (preop. potent) patients. **Surgeons should perform NS surgery whenever possible.**
5. Return of continence is in the range of 81% at 1 year after surgery.
6. Further efforts to improve CSS and OS are needed. (Neo-)adjuvant systemic treatment may be the optimal strategy to achieve this. RCT's are ongoing.