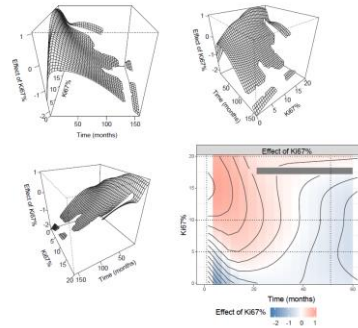


Investigación con RWD: aspectos clave en tumores neuroendocrinos

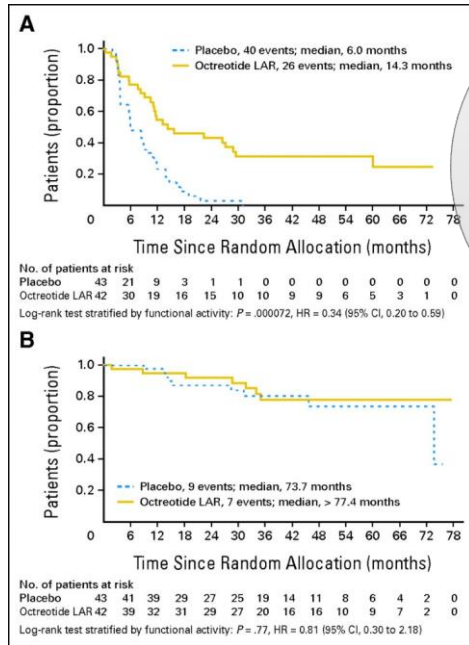


Dr. Alberto Carmona Bayonas.

Hospital General Universitario Morales Meseguer, Murcia

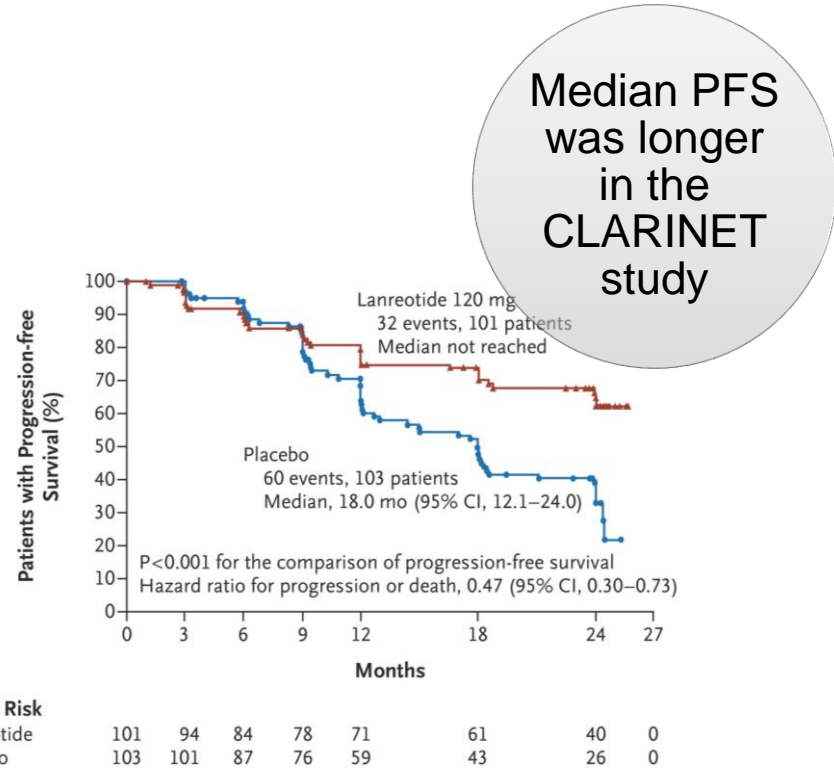


Here we had a clinical conundrum.
Even in supposedly well characterized tumors...



Approximately 25% of the tumors show progression to SSA at six months

(A) Conservative intent-to-treat analysis of time to progression or tumor-related death. (B) Intent-to-treat analysis of overall survival. HR, hazard ratio, in patients with midgut NETs with Ki-67 $\leq 2\%$



The only covariate predictive of PFS in the PROMID trial was a liver burden >10%

Factor	Bivariate Analysis			Multivariate Analysis		
	P	HR	95% CI	P	HR	95% CI
Octreotide LAR v placebo*				< .0001	0.27	0.14 to 0.49
Functional active tumor v inactive tumor	.2420	1.38	0.81 to 2.37			
Liver involvement > v ≤ 10%	.0009	2.81	1.53 to 5.18	.0023	2.63	1.41 to 4.90
Chromogranin A elevated v not elevated	.3098	1.36	0.75 to 2.48			
Karnofsky performance status ≤ v > 80%	.6518	1.21	0.54 to 2.71			
Age ≥ v < 63 years	.1709	1.47	0.85 to 2.56			
Primary tumor not resected v resected	.1040	1.60	0.91 to 2.80	.6784	1.45	0.60 to 2.20
Time since diagnosis ≥ v < 4.3 months	.0806	0.62	0.36 to 1.06	.2883	0.71	0.38 to 1.34

Unplanned subgroup analysis

The CLARINET study showed benefit to be independent of the hepatic load, tumor grade (G1 vs. G2), and location

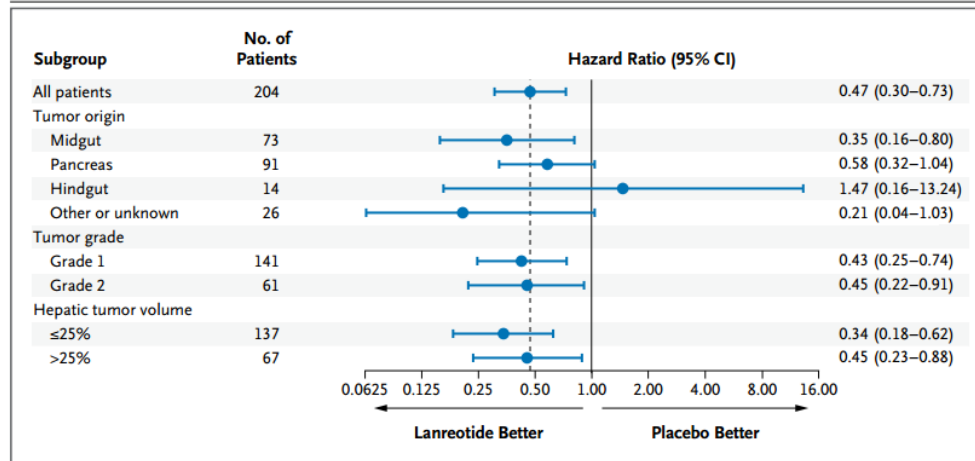


Figure 2. Progression-free Survival, According to Subgroups (Intention-to-Treat Population).

Shown are the hazard ratios for centrally assessed disease progression or death in subgroups defined according to baseline tumor origin and grade and hepatic tumor volume. Subgroup variables were predefined in all cases, although the number of categories for hepatic tumor volume was simplified post hoc from five (estimated hazard ratios ranging from 0.24 to 0.54) to two. The hazard ratio for “all patients” was derived from a Cox proportional-hazards model with terms for study treatment, presence or absence of tumor progression at baseline, and receipt or nonreceipt of previous therapy. The hazard ratio for each subgroup was derived from a Cox proportional-hazards model with a single term for study treatment.

Perhaps in the future,
we should administer risk-based treatments



Targeted therapies
PRRT
Several combinations...

Don't be boring & do things lovingly

© original report

Prediction of Progression-Free Survival in Patients With Advanced, Well-Differentiated, Neuroendocrine Tumors Being Treated With a Somatostatin Analog: The GETNE-TRASGU Study

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PURPOSE Somatostatin analogs (SSAs) are recommended for the first-line treatment of most patients with well-differentiated, gastroenteropancreatic (GEP) neuroendocrine tumors; however, benefit from treatment is heterogeneous. The aim of the current study was to develop and validate a progression-free survival (PFS) prediction model in SSA-treated patients.

PATIENTS AND METHODS We extracted data from the Spanish Group of Neuroendocrine and Endocrine Tumors Registry (R-GETNE). Patient eligibility criteria included GEP primary, Ki-67 of 20% or less, and first-line SSA monotherapy for advanced disease. An accelerated failure time model was developed to predict PFS, which was represented as a nomogram and an online calculator. The nomogram was externally validated in an independent series of consecutive eligible patients (The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester, United Kingdom).

RESULTS We recruited 535 patients (R-GETNE, n = 438; Manchester, n = 97). Median PFS and overall survival in the derivation cohort were 28.7 (95% CI, 23.8 to 31.1) and 85.9 months (95% CI, 71.5 to 96.7 months), respectively. Nine covariates significantly associated with PFS were primary tumor location, Ki-67 percentage, neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio, alkaline phosphatase, extent of liver involvement, presence of bone and peritoneal metastases, documented progression status, and the presence of symptoms when initiating SSA. The GETNE-TRASGU (Treated With Analog of Somatostatin in Gastroenteropancreatic and Unknown Primary NETs) model demonstrated suitable calibration, as well as fair discrimination ability with a C-index value of 0.714 (95% CI, 0.680 to 0.747) and 0.732 (95% CI, 0.658 to 0.806) in the derivation and validation series, respectively.

CONCLUSION The GETNE-TRASGU evidence-based prognostic tool stratifies patients with GEP neuroendocrine tumors receiving SSA treatment according to their estimated PFS. This nomogram may be useful when stratifying patients with neuroendocrine tumors in future trials. Furthermore, it could be a valuable tool for making treatment decisions in daily clinical practice.

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ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Data Supplement
Author affiliations and support information (if applicable) appear at the end of this article.

Accepted on July 3, 2019 and published at jco.org on August 7, 2019. DOI: [10.1200/JCO.19.00980](https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.19.00980)

INTRODUCTION

Gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (GEP-NETs) are a heterogeneous group of neoplasms that follow a variable clinical course and are defined by the WHO 2010 classification into three subgroups on the basis of proliferation index¹; however, within each category, cases with a different clinical and biologic behavior continue to coexist.²

Somatostatin analogs (SSAs) are currently the recommended first-line treatment of most patients who are diagnosed with advanced, well-differentiated GEP-NETs³⁻⁵ as they provide prolonged progression-free survival (PFS) with an acceptable toxicity profile. PFS is often used as an outcome measure of patients with GEP-NETs because it is a surrogate variable for overall survival (OS).^{6,8} Despite SSAs being the

TRASGU

PREDICTIVE TOOL IN NEUROENDOCRINE TUMORS TREATED WITH SOMATOSTATIN ANALOGUE



We successfully overcame the challenge of placing an asturian mythological creature at the top of international oncological literature

Study GETNE-TRASGU (Treated With Analog of Somatostatin in Gastroenteropancreatic and Unknown Primary NETs)



TRASGU-GETNE AFT model

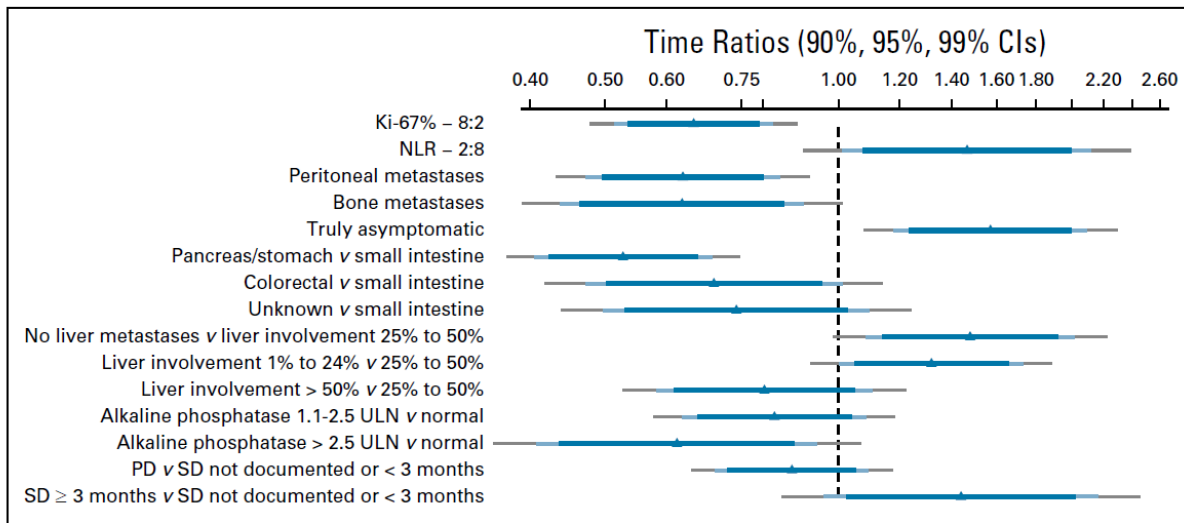


FIG 2. Effect of GETNE-TRASGU (Spanish Group of Neuroendocrine and Endocrine Tumors–Treated With Analog of Somatostatin in Gastroenteropancreatic and Unknown Primary Neuroendocrine Tumors) covariates on progression-free survival. Adjusted time ratios are derived from a multivariable log-normal accelerated failure time model and represent its exponentiated coefficients (Table 2). Interpretation of the adjusted time ratios (TR): TR > 1 means that an increase in the value of the covariate is associated with longer survival. TR < 1 means that an increase in the value of the covariate is associated with shorter survival. NLR, neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio; PD, progressive disease; SD, stable disease; ULN, upper limit of normal.

GETNE-TRASGU calculator

TRASGU PREDICTIVE TOOL IN NEUROENDOCRINE TUMORS TREATED WITH SOMATOSTATIN ANALOGUES [START!](#) **[CALCULATOR](#)** [INSTRUCTIONS](#) [SCOPE](#) [CONTACT](#)

CALCULATOR

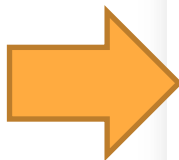
Ki67%	5 ▾
Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (NLR)	2 ▾
Primary tumor location	Pancreas, stomach ▾
Hepatic burden disease	>0-24% ▾
Peritoneal metastases	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bone metastases	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alkaline phosphatase	1.1-2.5 ULN ▾
Documented progression status prior to SSA	Stable disease not documented, or <3 months ▾
Symptoms from the tumor	No symptoms ▾






Median progression-free survival: **33.9 months**

12-month progression-free survival rate: **84.1%**

24-month progression-free survival rate: **63.1%**

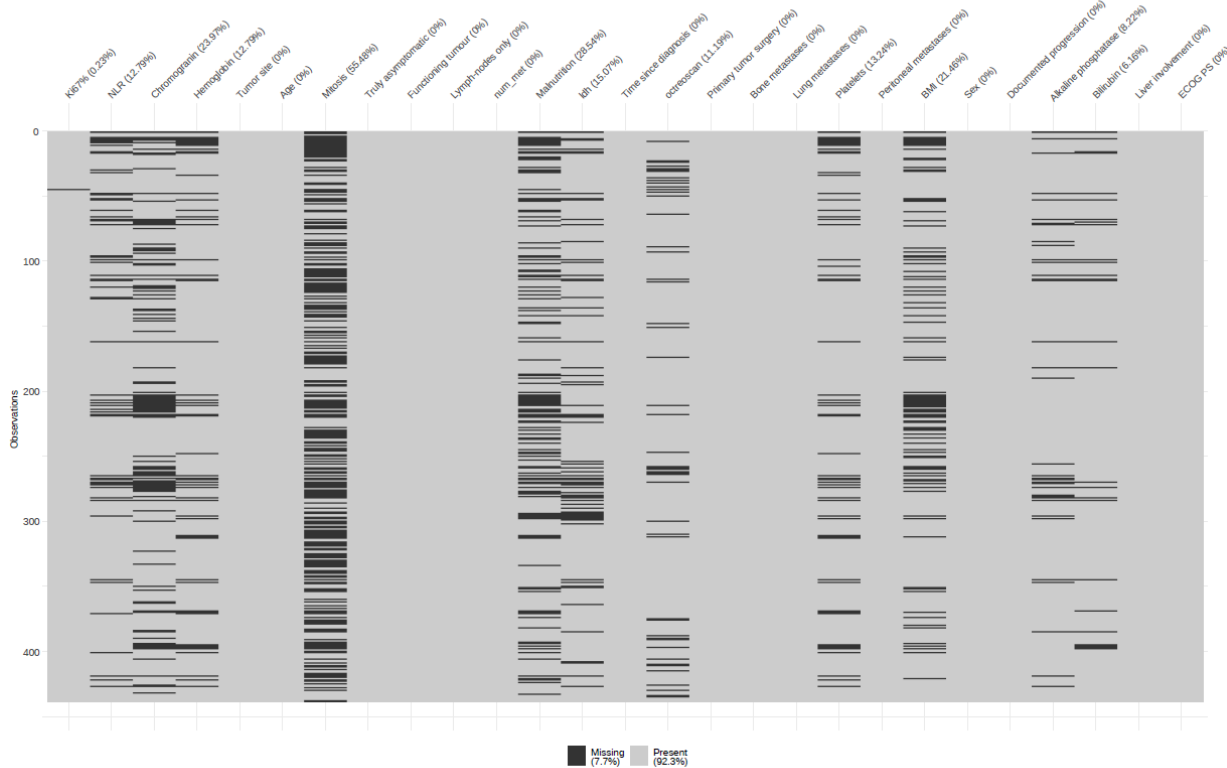
Predictions are only orientative, and often approximate, so decisions should be taken at the discretion of the attending physician. In particular, clinical trials have included only patients with Ki67% up to 10%. Therefore, predictions based on proliferation indices greater than 10% may be subject to more uncertainty, and be overestimated.



 	<h3>Cisne Calculator</h3> <p>Clinical Index Of Stable Febrile Neutropenia</p> <p>See the Calculator</p>
	<h3>Agamenon Calculator</h3> <p>Prediction of survival in patients with advanced gastric cancer</p> <p>See the Calculator</p>
	<h3>Trasgu Calculator</h3> <p>Prediction of median progression-free survival in patients with histologically confirmed unresectable or metastatic neuroendocrine tumor</p> <p>See the Calculator</p>
	<h3>Vtrap Calculator</h3> <p>Prediction of overall survival in patients receiving second-line chemotherapy with FOLFIRI/eflirbecpt for advanced colorectal cancer</p> <p>See the Calculator</p>

Challenges begin now; not considering missing data produces bias...

Annex Table 1. Pattern of missing values in the data set



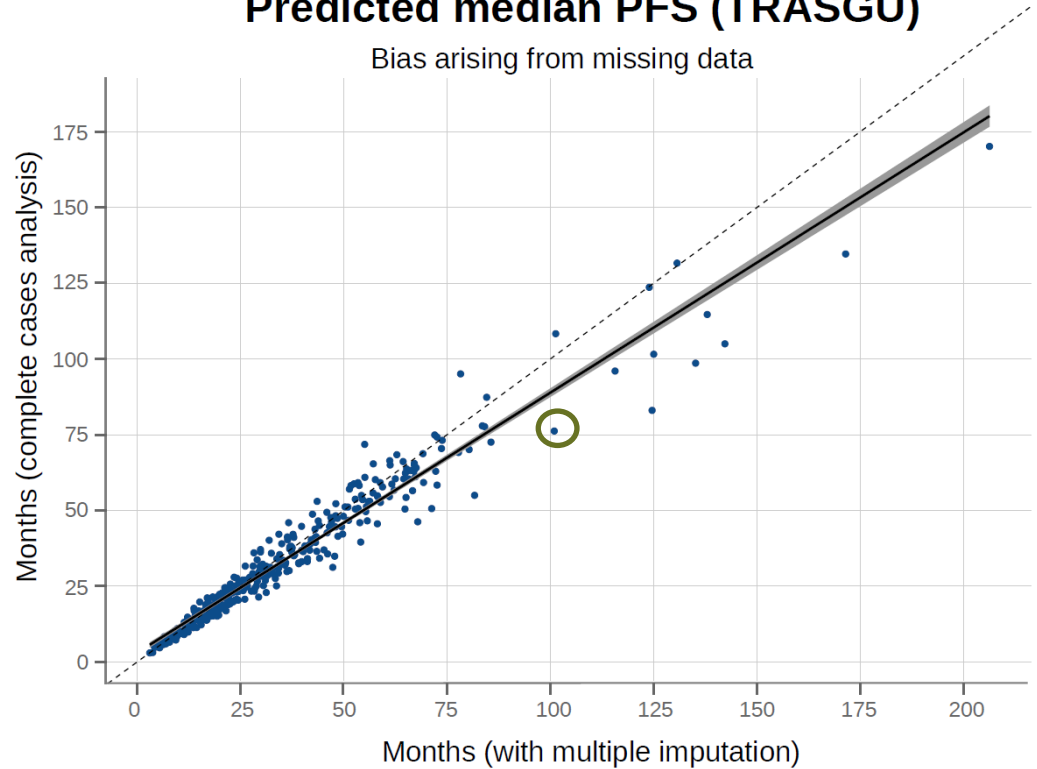
Multiple imputation is required to preserve the message of what is seen from the influence of what is not seen

PFS predicted in the TRASGU study (complete cases vs imputed data analysis)



Predicted median PFS (TRASGU)

Bias arising from missing data



Prolonged OS in NET patients means dynamic effects should not be neglected



*“There is nothing permanent
except change”*

Heraclitus of Ephesus
(535 BC – 475 BC)

Reasons for not detecting non-PH in NETs are:

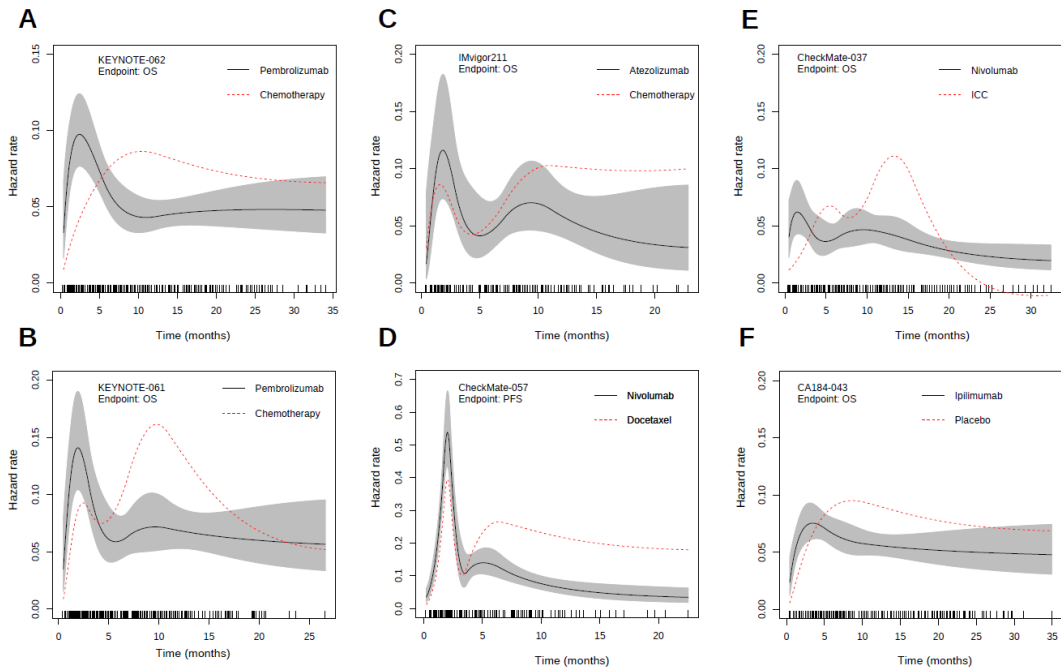
- Nobody checks it
- Dichotomization
- Small series
- No antiangiogenic for GINETs
- Short follow-up...

Flexible models for non-proportional hazards: seeking inspiration from shipbuilders



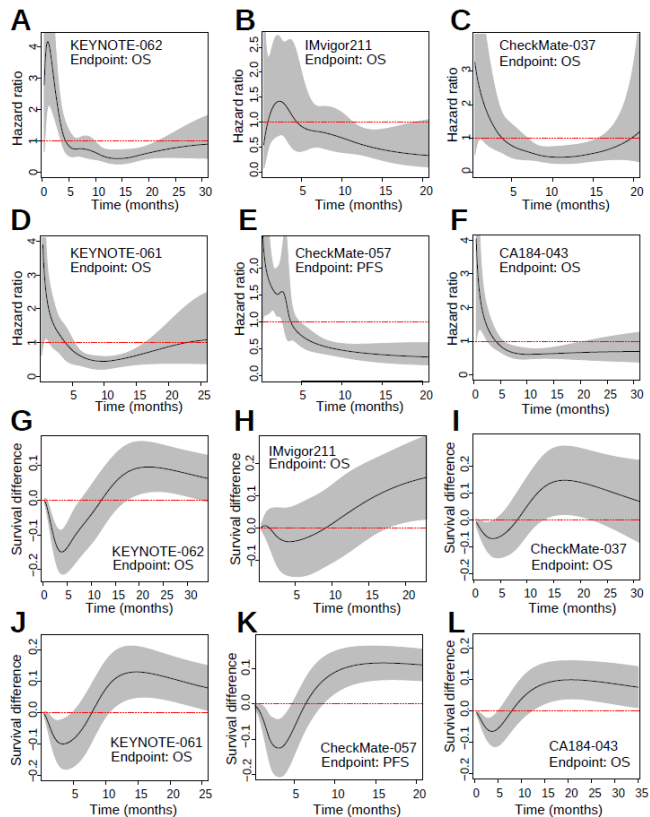
If the PH assumption is not fulfilled we will have to be honest and recognize that collapsing a complex effect to a single number does not correctly reflect reality

Non-proportional hazards will be a burning issue in the next years



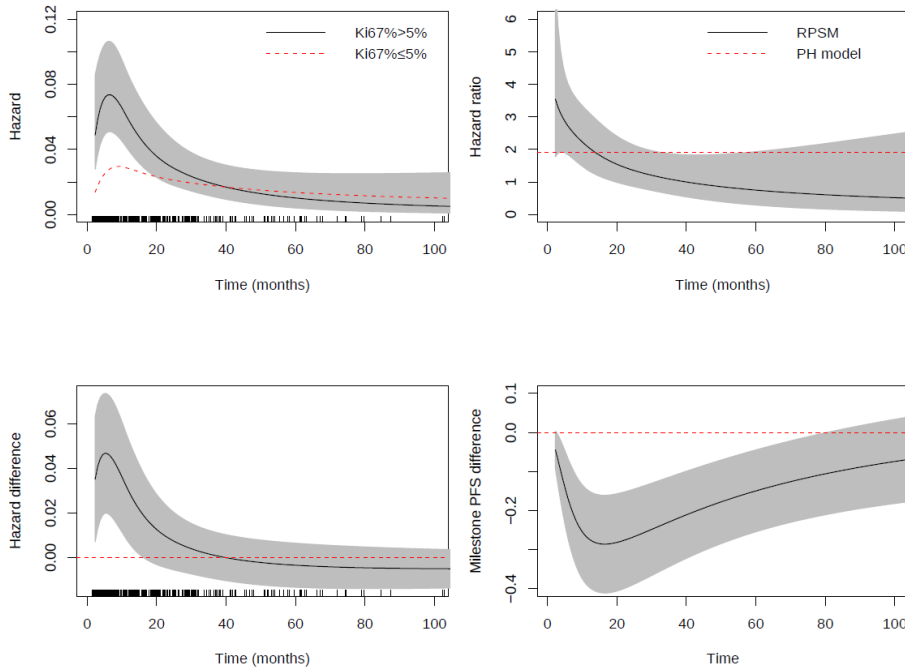
Example: 6 recent phase III trials with ICIs declared negative, despite the existence of benefit
Flexible model to assess fluctuating hazard rates during immunotherapy

Time-varying hazard ratios and milestone survival rates suggest real benefit!

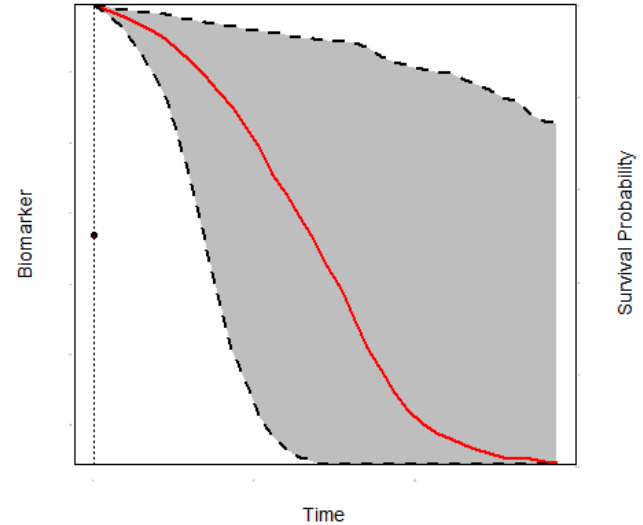


Ki67% against time interactions (study GETNE-TRASGU)

Time dependent hazards (Ki67% >5%)



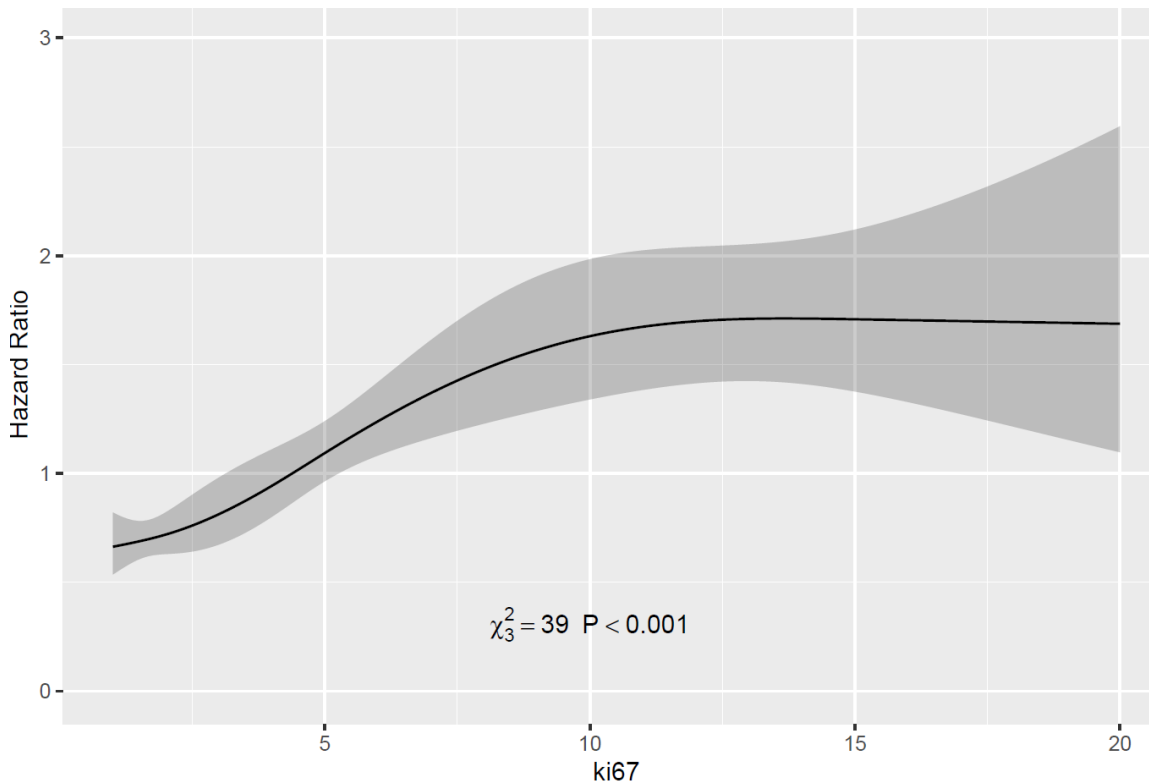
Dynamic Predictions
updated predictions with extra measurements



(Hypothetical)

Data are non-proportional (dynamic effect)

Ki67% as a continuous non-linear biomarker



True discontinuities are infrequent in nature or knowledge:
cut-off points based on Ki67% yields biologically implausible findings

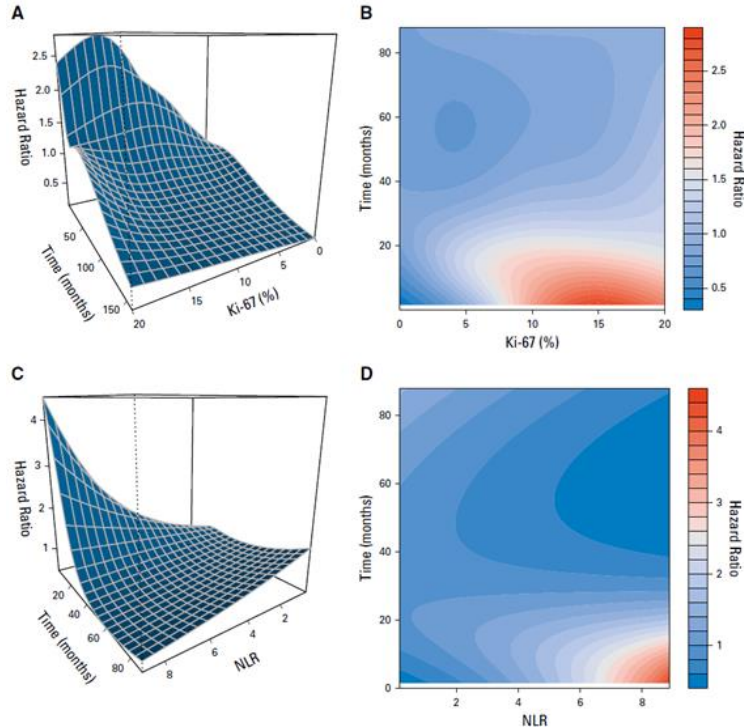
WHO 2%
WHO 2017 3%
Scarpa 5%
Panzuto 5%
Nuñez 10%




"There may be said to be two classes of people in the world; those who constantly divide the people of the world into two classes, and those who do not".

Robert Benchley ('Vanity Fair', 1920)

Continuous variables interact with hazards in non-linear ways, and both the baseline hazard and variable effects are dynamic: the silliness of thresholds !




Retwitteaste

 **Frank Harrell**
@f2harrell





Beautiful analyses by @kimtruss showing continuous time-dependent effect of CONTINUOUS biomarker. Good example of (1) silliness of thresholds and (2) community-assisted analysis:

[Traducir Tweet](#)

 Hazard ratio plots with non-linear & time-varying effects in R I am pretty sure they have a zero width confidence interval at the reference value when using rcs in rms and applying ...
discourse.datamethods.org

3:22 p. m. · 1 sept. 2019 · [TweetDeck](#)

8 Retweets 50 Me gusta

Our GETNE-TRASGU classification proposal (ie., trial stratification)

Location – histology – Ki67% (average/maximum – timepoint)

Examples:

r-NEC-60

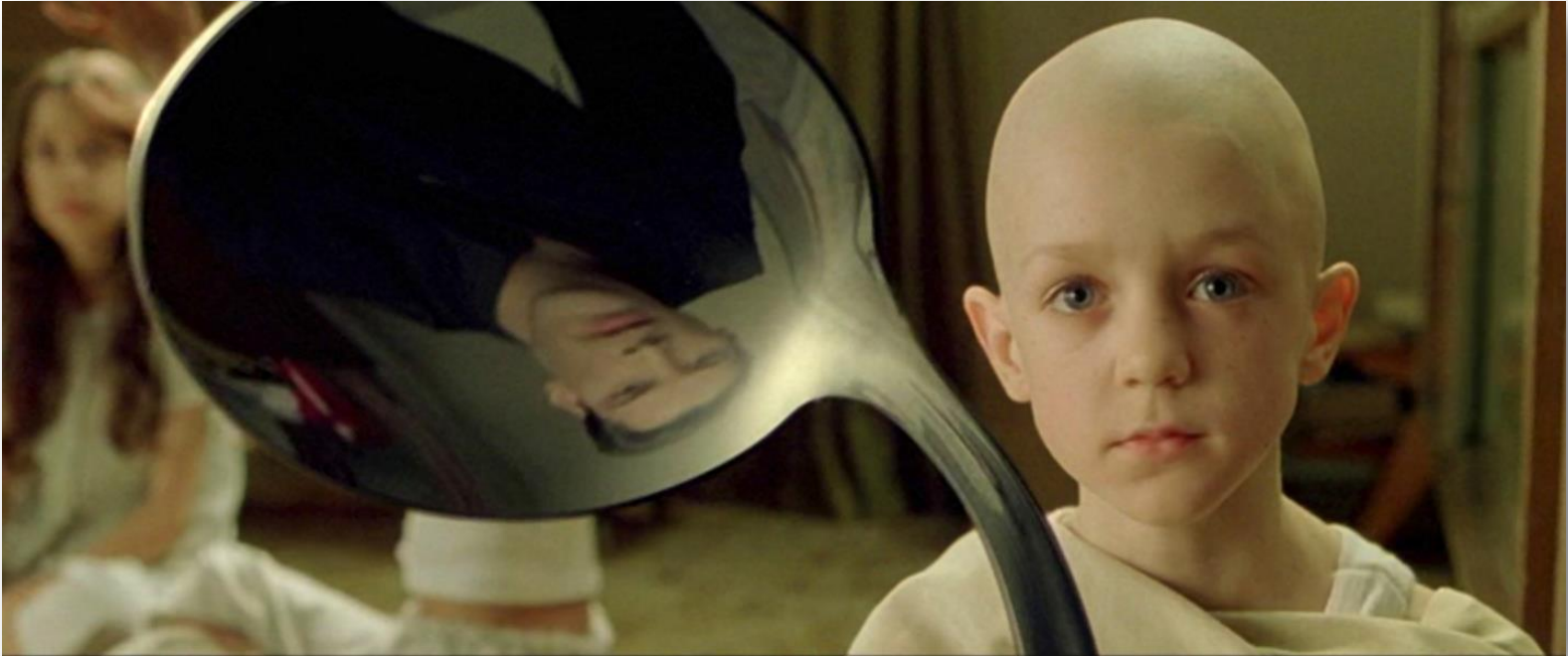
i-NET-1

p-NET-5

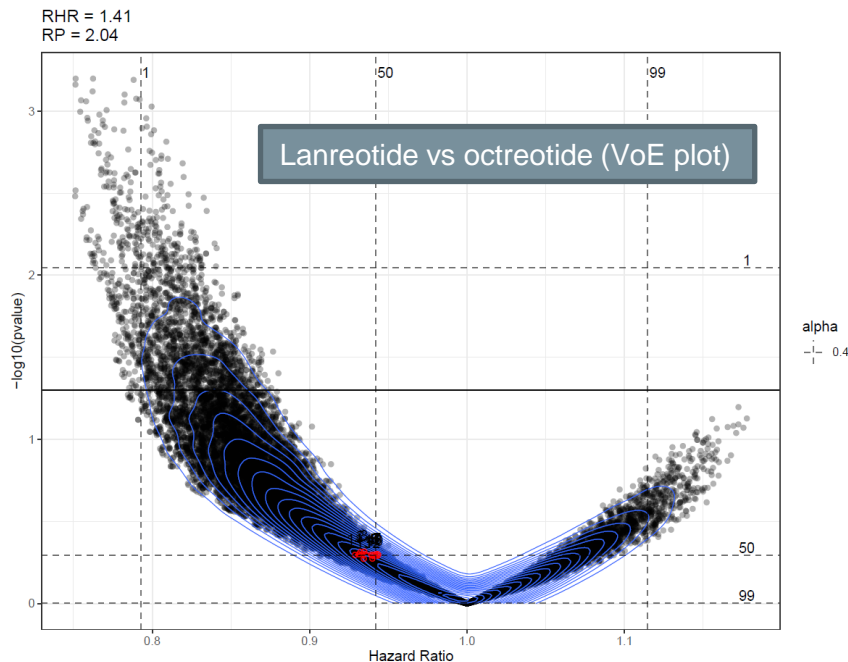
p-NET-20

Etc

Let's be honest, a single parameter measuring treatment effects may not even exist



The comparison between octreotide and lanreotide is a possible natural development of TRASGU

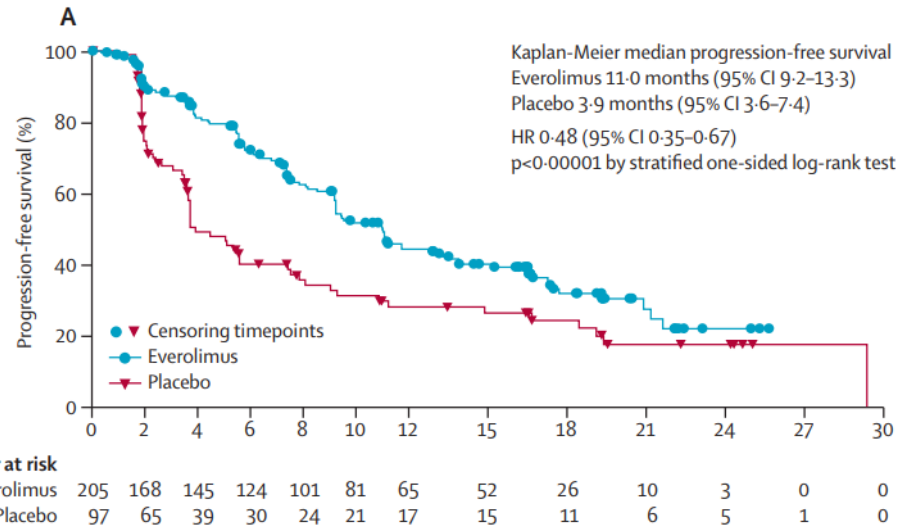
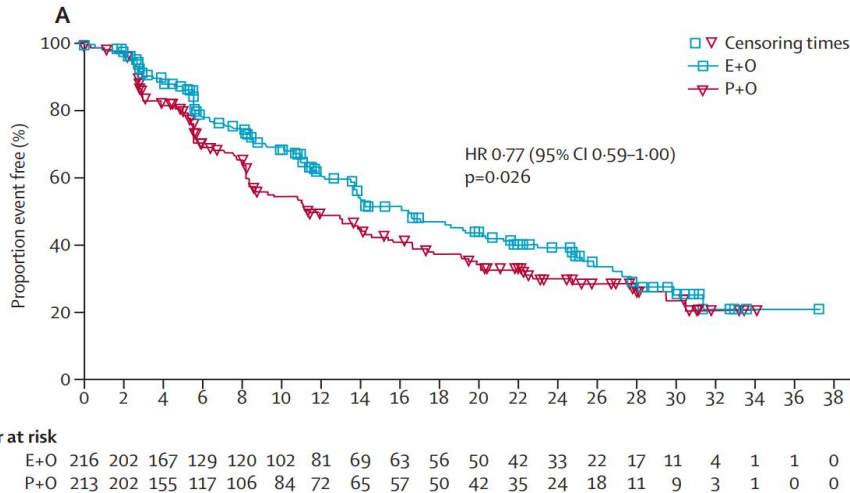


!?



Model specification has a decisive influence on the results of observational studies

Adjustment for known prognostic covariates can lead to substantial increases in model efficiency, and may be incorporated into the analysis of RCTs



RADIANT-2
Multivariate (pos hoc) analysis:
HR 0.62; 95% CI 0.51-0.87; p=0.003

RADIANT-4
Análisis estratificado

In the field of RWD, a dishonest analyst can wreak havoc...

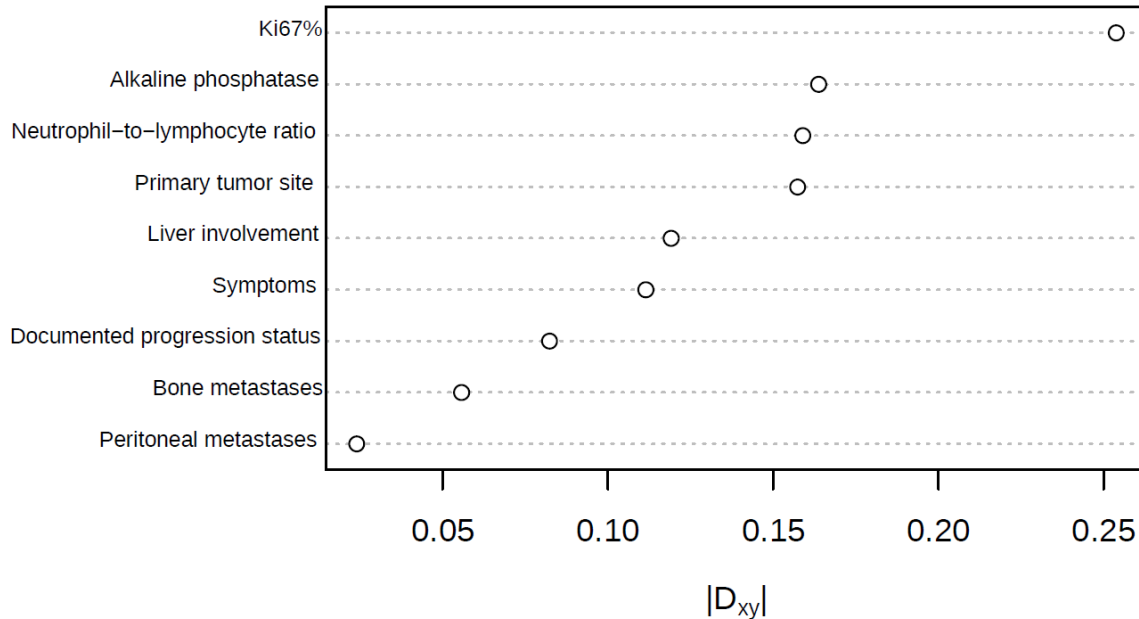


Modern procrustean analysis

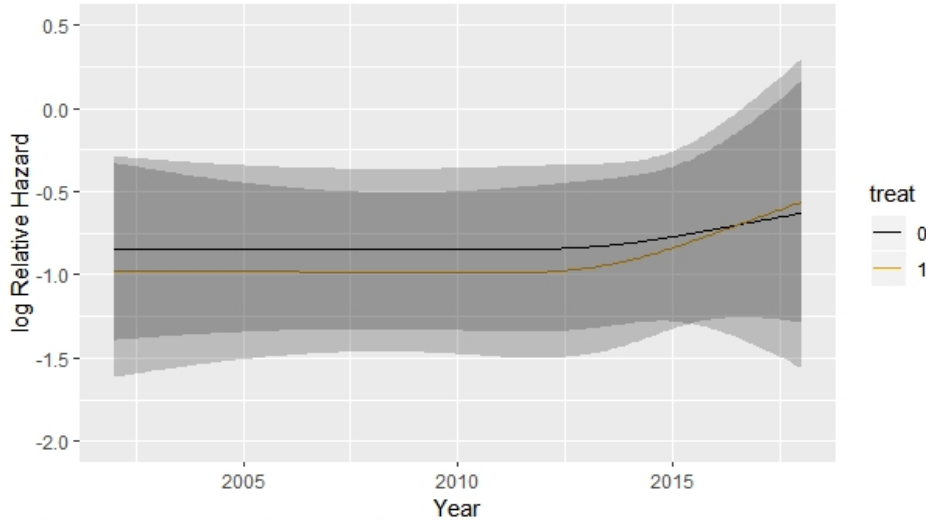
"If you torture your data long enough, they will tell you whatever you want to hear"
NEJM 1993, 329:1196-1199

The selection of confounding factors is one of the most important issues and should be theoretical

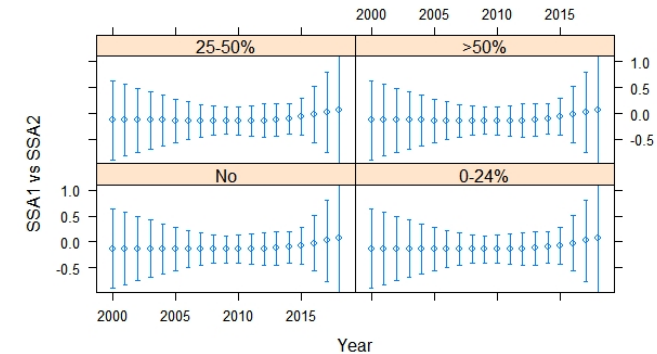
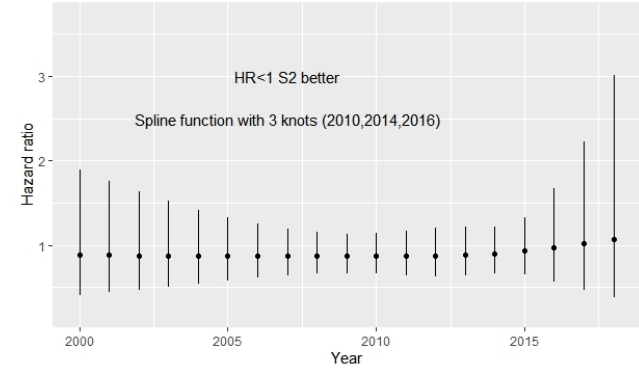
Annex 3. Somers' Dxy rank correlation between predictors and progression-free survival



Explore interactions with year of treatment



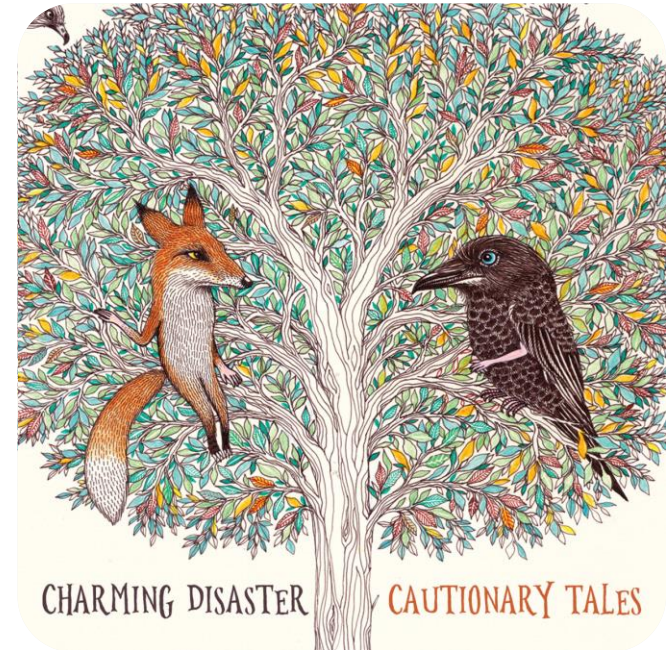
The stability of treatment effects over time in different subgroups is complex to analyze in a clinical trial



Effect by year & liver burden

No estimate obtained from RWD is an island in itself; covariate effects are a piece of a continent, a part of a whole

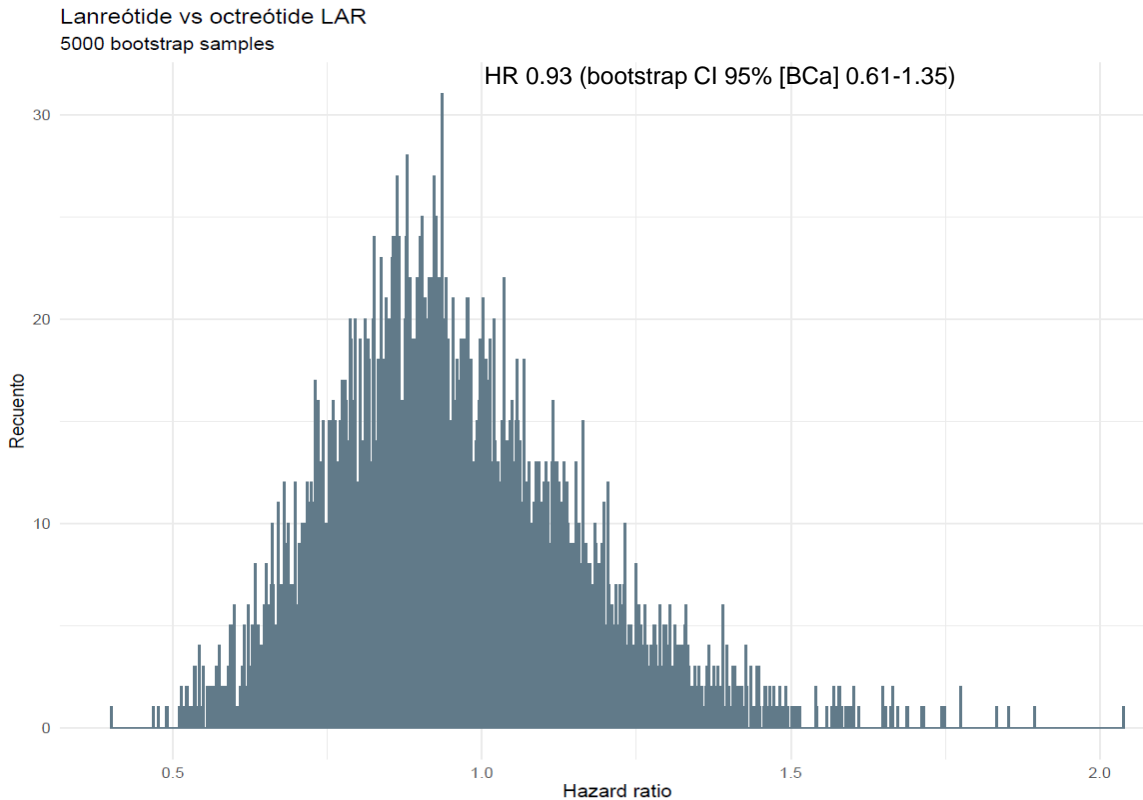
- What is RWD in NETs for?
 - ✓ Not just a rebranding for bias-prone observational studies !!
- Cautionary tales from RWD
- Results should not interpreted aloof from the previous evidence (e.g, no data, solid RCT, weak evidence, etc.)
 - ✓ There's a method that fits great



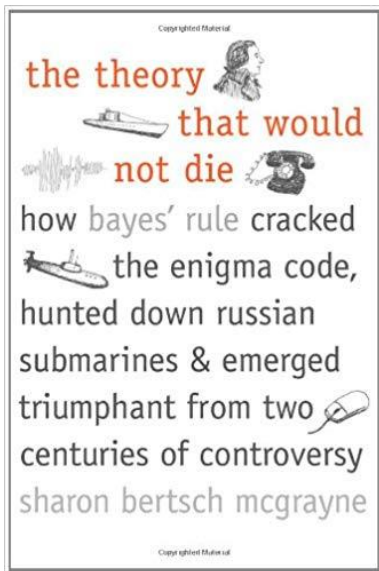
CHARMING DISASTER

CAUTIONARY TALES

Lanreotide vs octreotide (PFS; Bootstrapping Cox's Regression Model)

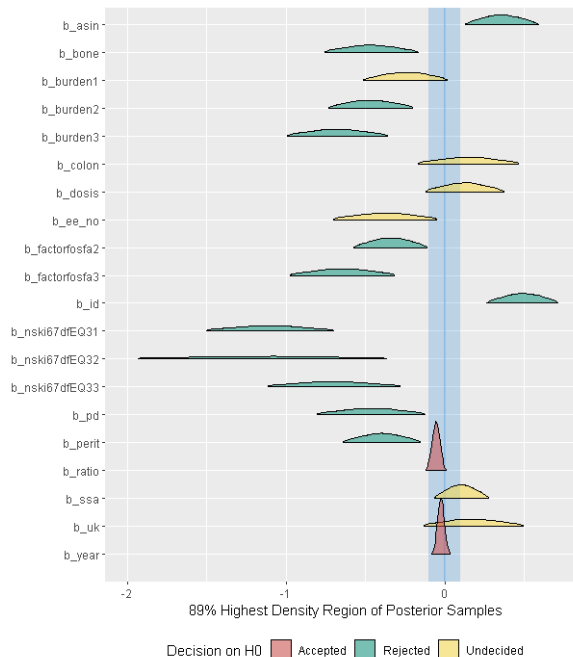


There's a better method to gradually reveal the truth from RWE



Bayesian methods are a rational choice for registry analysis

Are lanreotide & octreotide similar or different?



- Prob dirección= 84%
- Prob ROPE= 47%
- Prob superior >30% = 2%

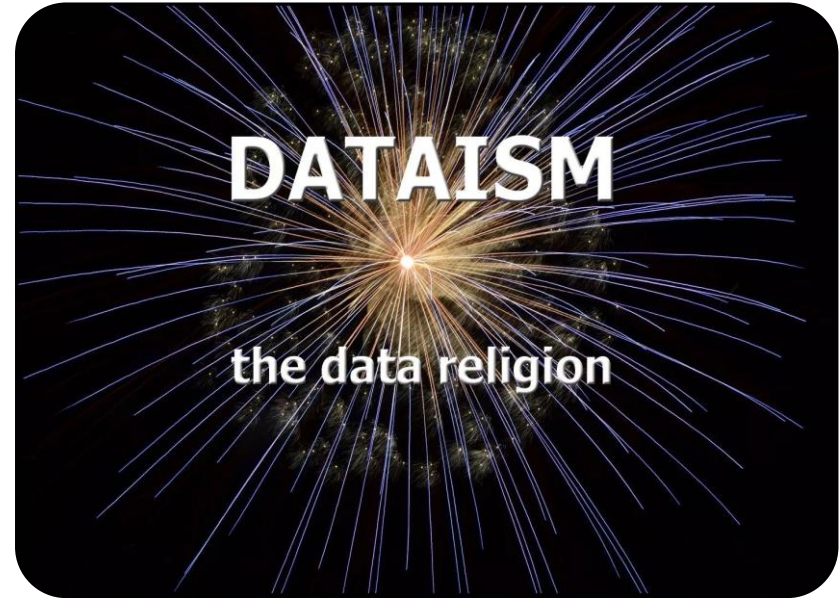
It is essential to support the correct interpretation of data in clinical registries

“Dataism declares that the universe consists of data flows, and the value of any phenomenon or entity is determined by its contribution to data processing”

- *Yuval Noah Harari*

“Dataism is nihilism. It gives up on any and all meaning. Data are numbers and not narrative; they are additive. Meaning, on the other hand, is based on narration. Data simply fills up the senseless void”

- *Byung-Chul Han*



RGETNE is fun + phenomenal = funomenal

Thanks!!!

