

# Treatment of hepatitis C in 2015

Whom? When? How

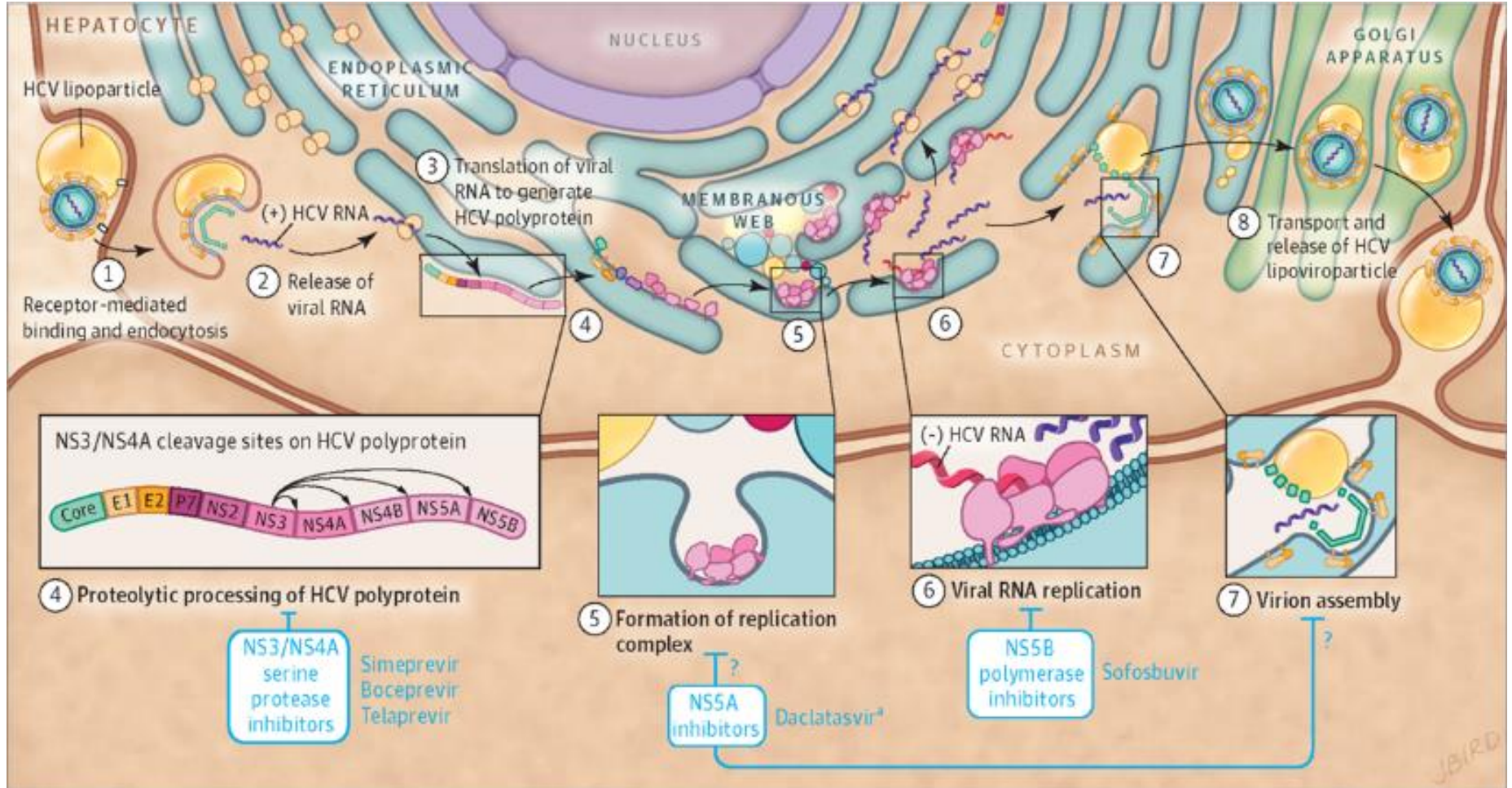
G Dusheiko

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Royal Free Hospital

London

# Overview of the hepatitis C virus (HCV) lifecycle and antiviral targets



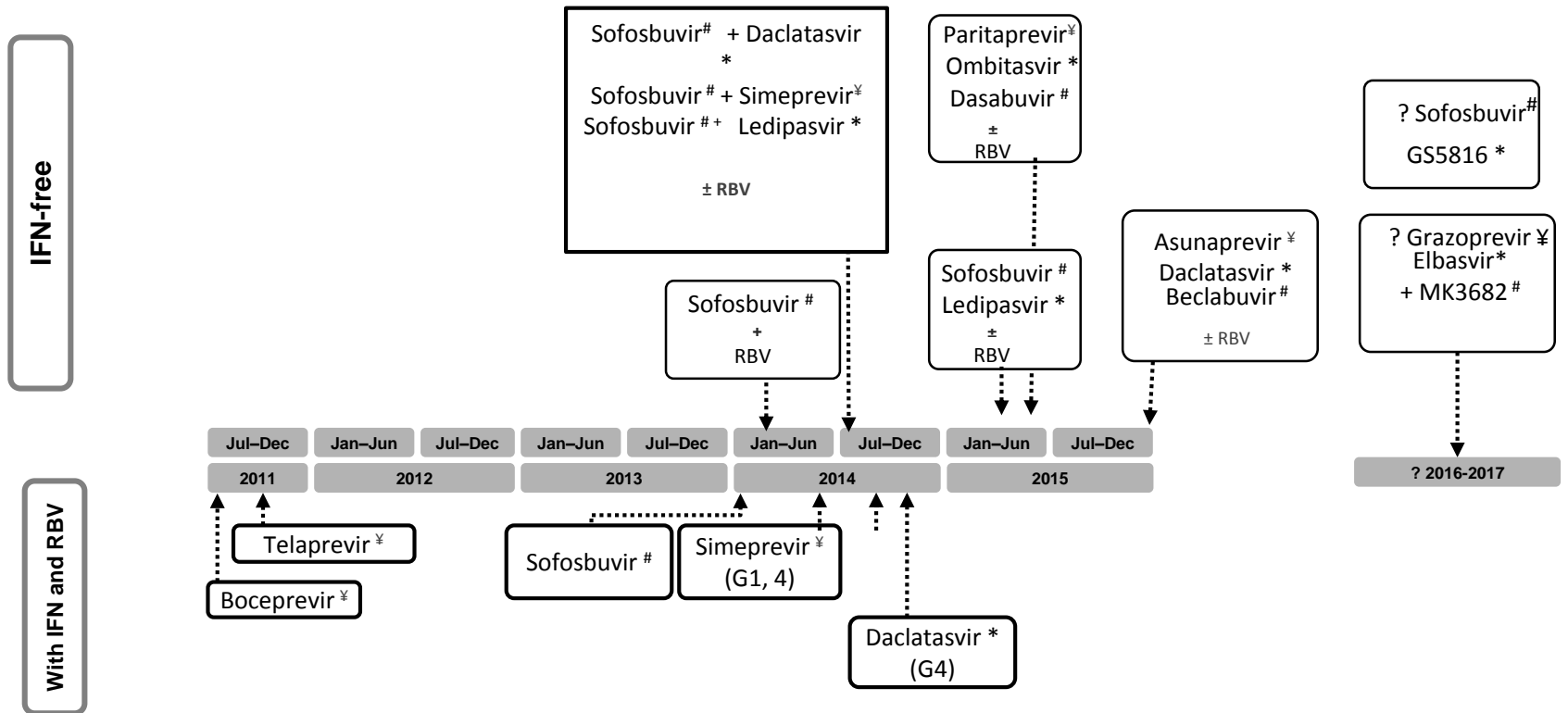
...previrs  
Protease inhibitors

...asvirs  
NS5a inhibitors

...buvirs  
NS5b nucleotide inhibitors

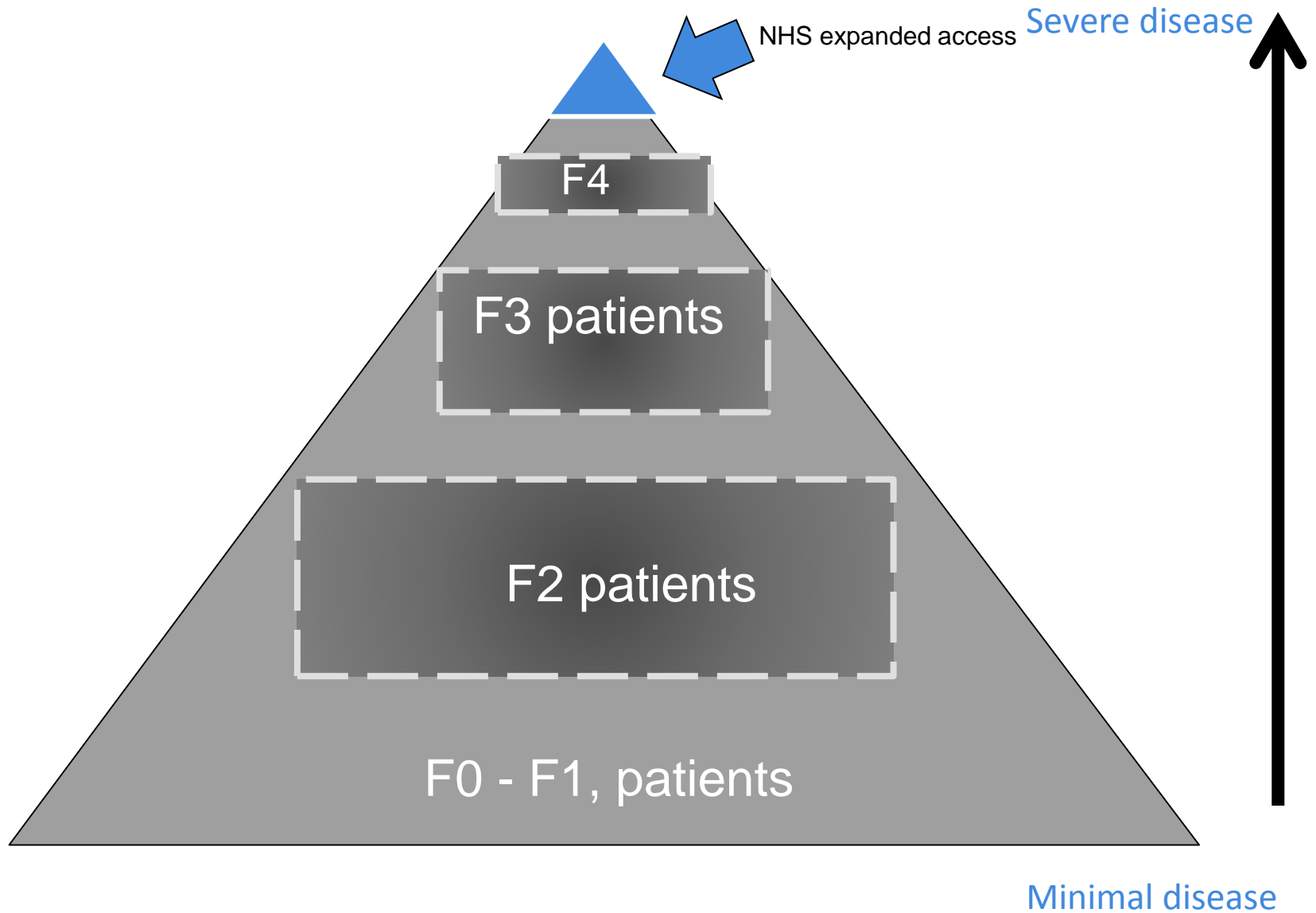
# HCV treatments 2015

Approved or imminent approvals: Protease, NS5B and NS5A inhibitors



¥ protease inhibitor # NS5B inhibitor \* NS5A inhibitor

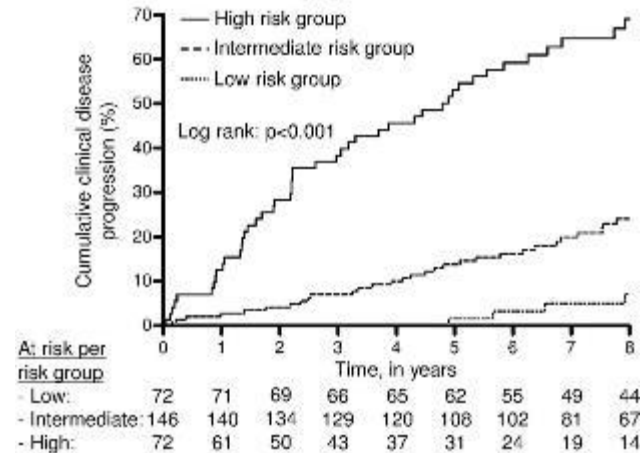
# How will we make treatment choices in the future: Will we have to stratify and select patients because of cost?



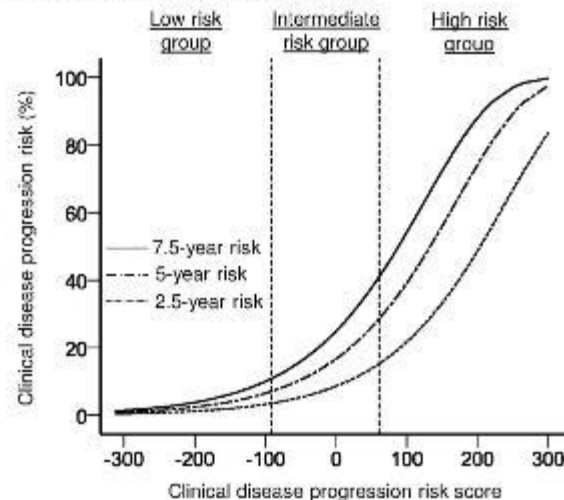
# Prognosis of patients with chronic HCV infection and compensated advanced liver disease can be accurately assessed with a risk score

van der Meer A J et al. Gut 2014

**A. Cumulative clinical disease progression**



**B. Absolute clinical disease progression risk**



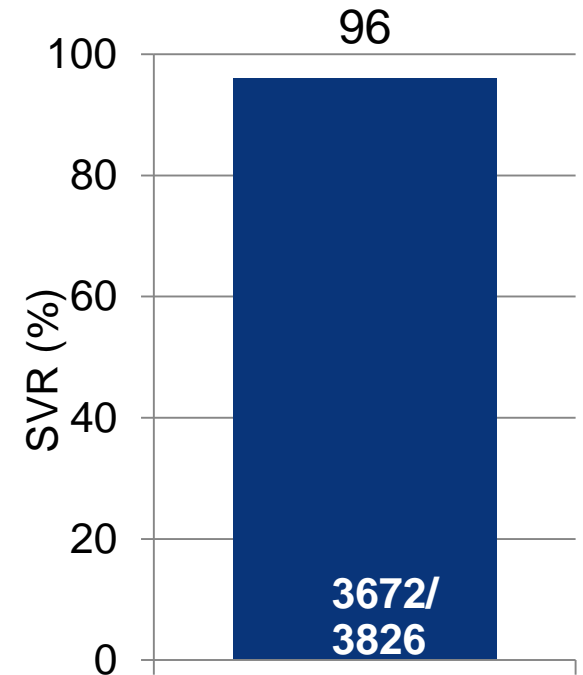
The risk score for clinical disease progression is represented by  $R_c = (5.2 * \text{age in years}) - (2.8 * \text{platelet count per } 10^9/\text{L}) + (5.17 - 3 * (\text{platelet count per } 10^9/\text{L})^2) + (358.2 * \log_{10}(\text{AST}/\text{ALT})) + (83.7 \text{ for male patients}) + (60.6 \text{ in case of HCV genotype 3})$ .

# IFN-free therapy combinations high efficacy

## Genotype 1

### GT 1 IFN free studies published in 2014

Trial	Regimen
ION-1	LDV/SOF ± RBV
ION-2	LDV/SOF ± RBV
ION-3	LDV/SOF ± RBV
SAPPHIRE-I	ABT-450/r/OMB + DAS + RBV
SAPPHIRE-II	ABT-450/r/OMB + DAS + RBV
PEARL-III	ABT-450/r/OMB + DAS ± RBV
PEARL-IV	ABT-450/r/OMB + DAS ± RBV
TURQUOISE-II	ABT-450/r/OMB + DAS + RBV
COSMOS	SOF + SMV ±RBV



(Treatment regimens 8–24 weeks) Included treatment-naïve and -experienced patients

heterogeneous  
Phase 3 studies

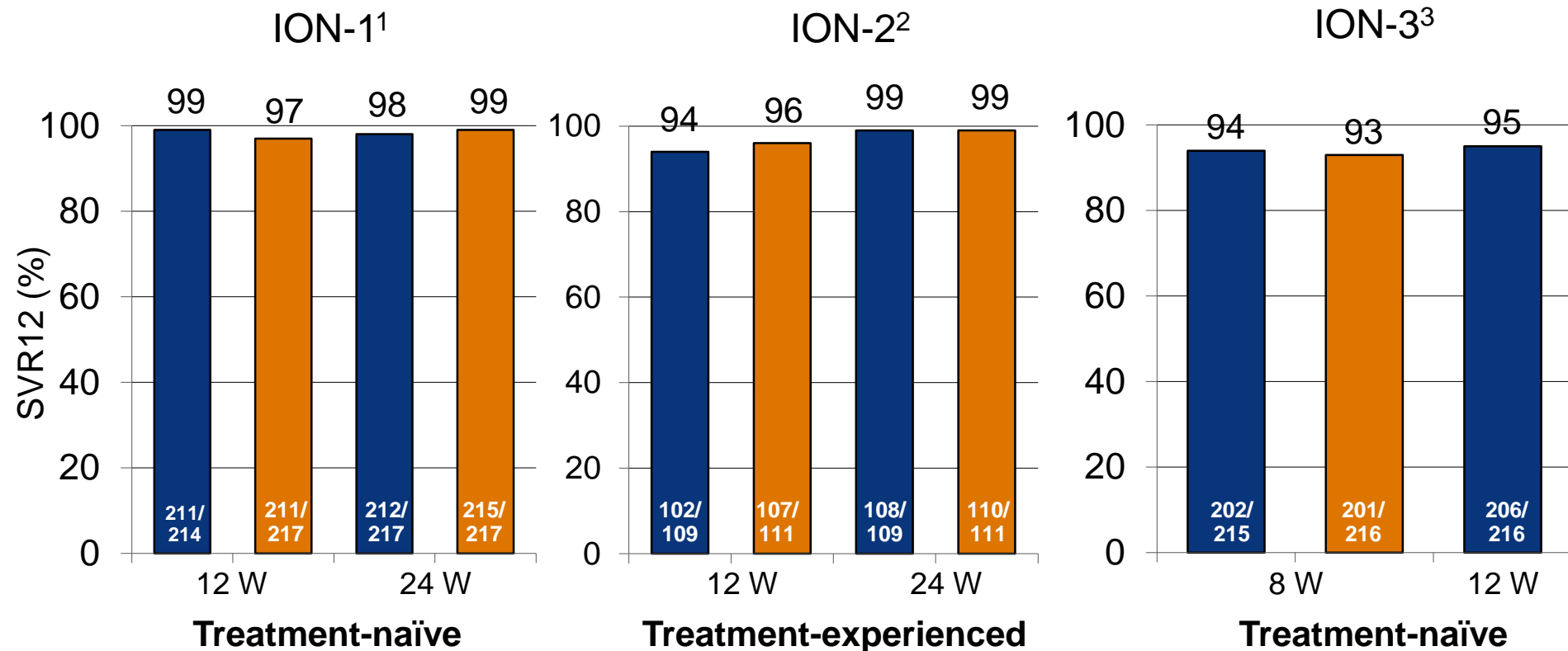
DAS: dasabuvir; LDV: ledipasvir; OMB: ombitasvir

Liang J, Ghany MG. N Engl J Med 2014;370:2043–7.

# Data that provide confidence that RBV is not required for many: but will it be used?

LDV/SOF ± RBV for 8, 12 or 24 weeks in GT 1 patients

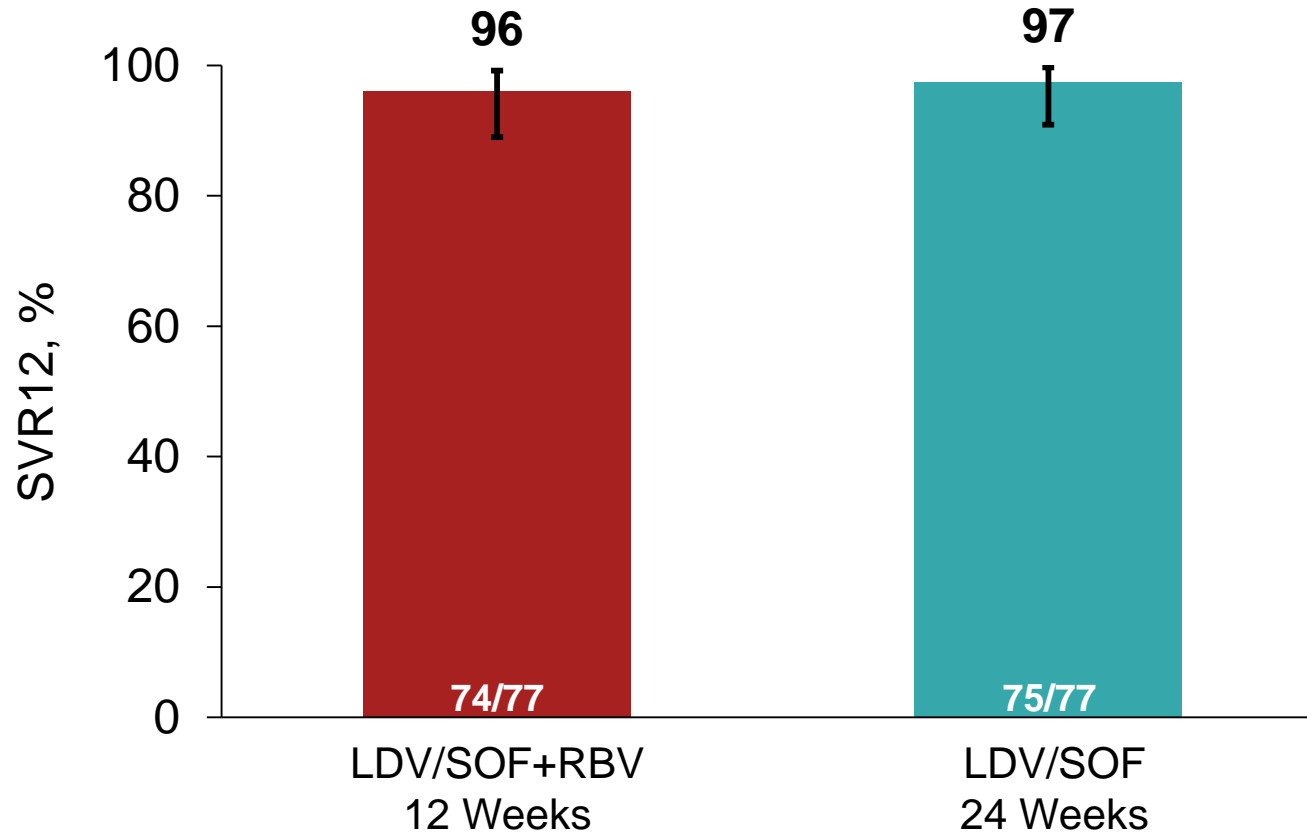
■ RBV-free      ■ + RBV



1. Afdhal N, et al. N Engl J Med 2014;370:1889–98;  
 2. Afdhal N, et al. N Engl J Med 2014;370:1483–93;  
 3. Kowdley KV, et al. N Engl J Med 2014;370:1879–88.

# SIRIUS: SOF LDV ± RBV

## Childs A Cirrhosis treatment experienced



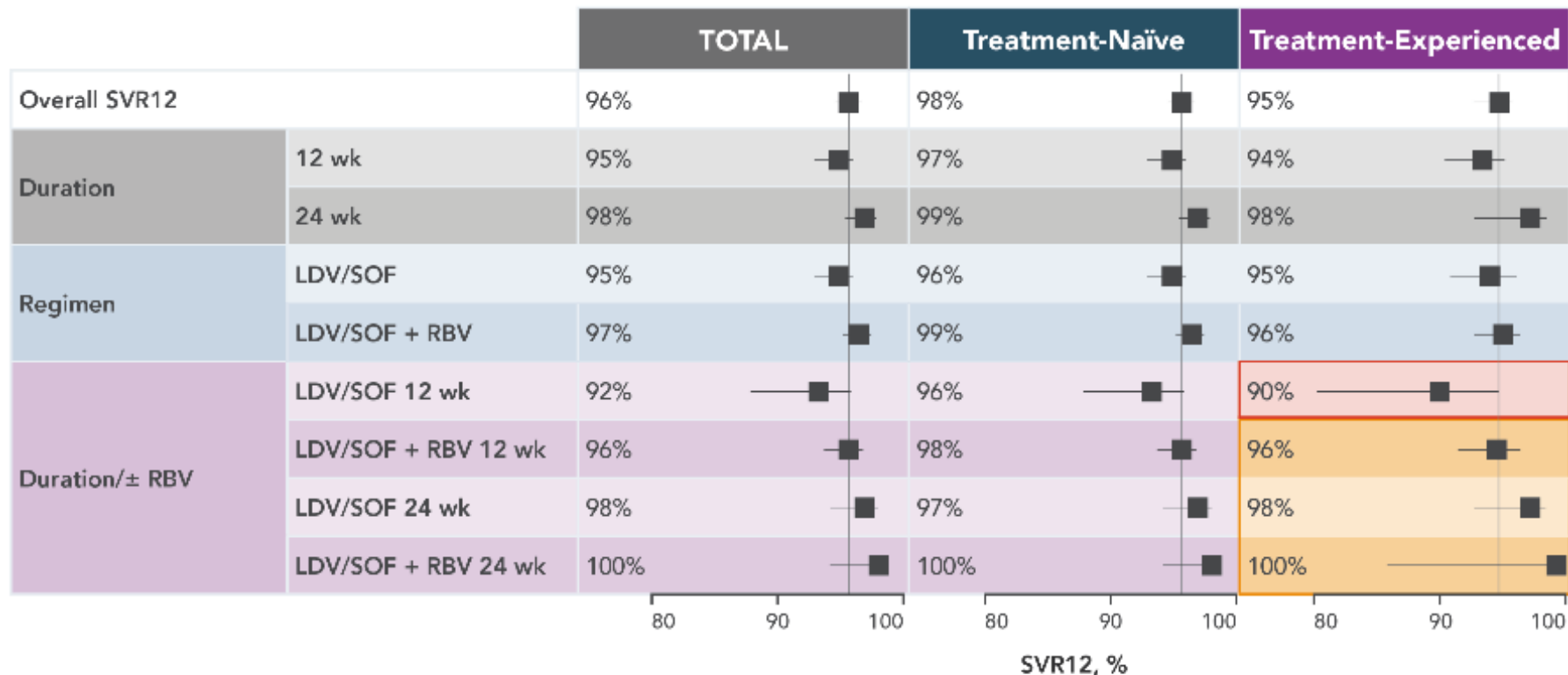
LDV/SOF in treatment experienced cirrhotic patients: 12 vs 24 weeks

Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.



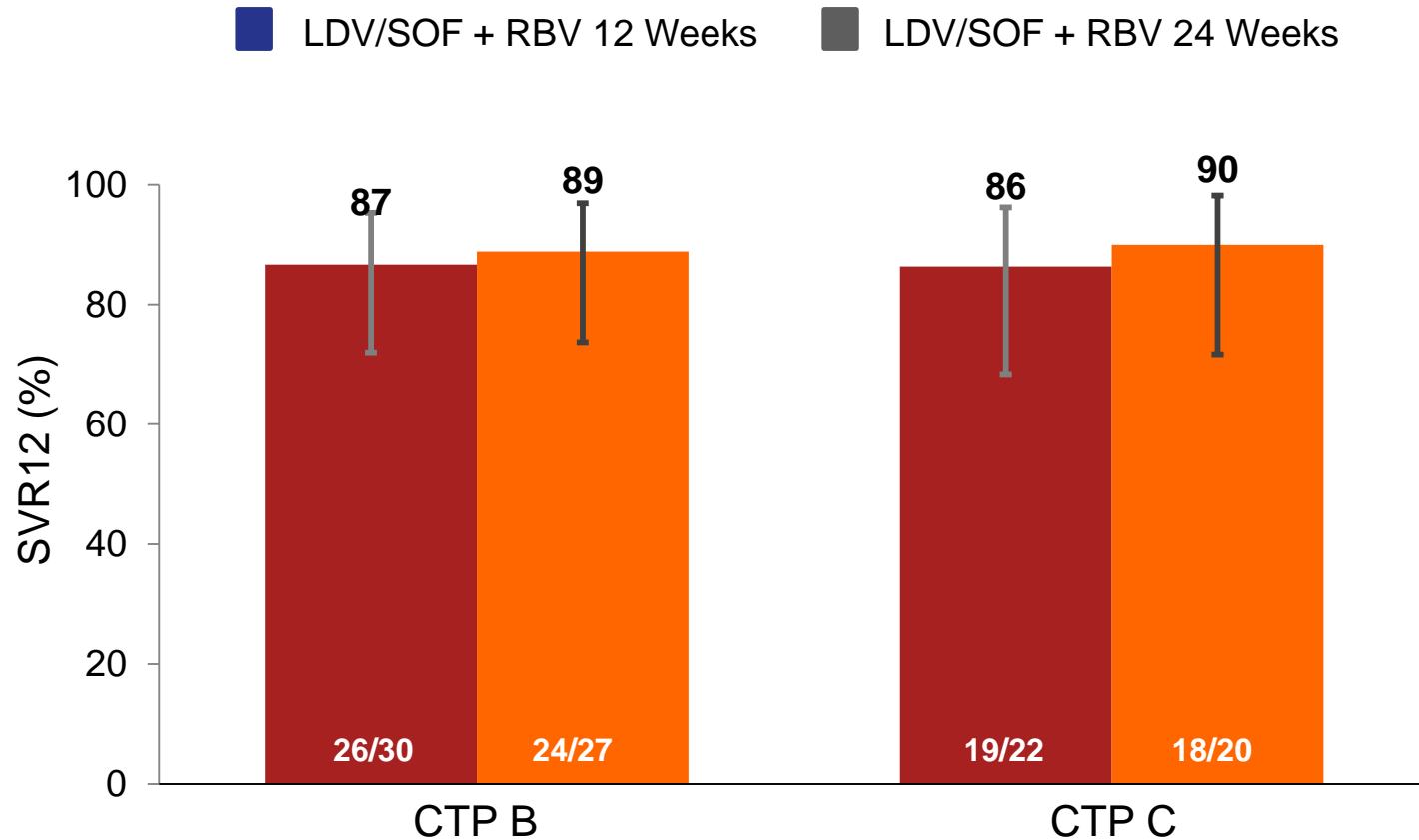
# An analysis of > 500 patients compensated cirrhosis treated with ledipasvir + sofosbuvir ± RBV

## Results: SVR12 by Treatment Regimen



# SOLAR-1: LDV/SOF + RBV in decompensated cirrhosis

## SOF LDV + RBV for 12 or 24 weeks

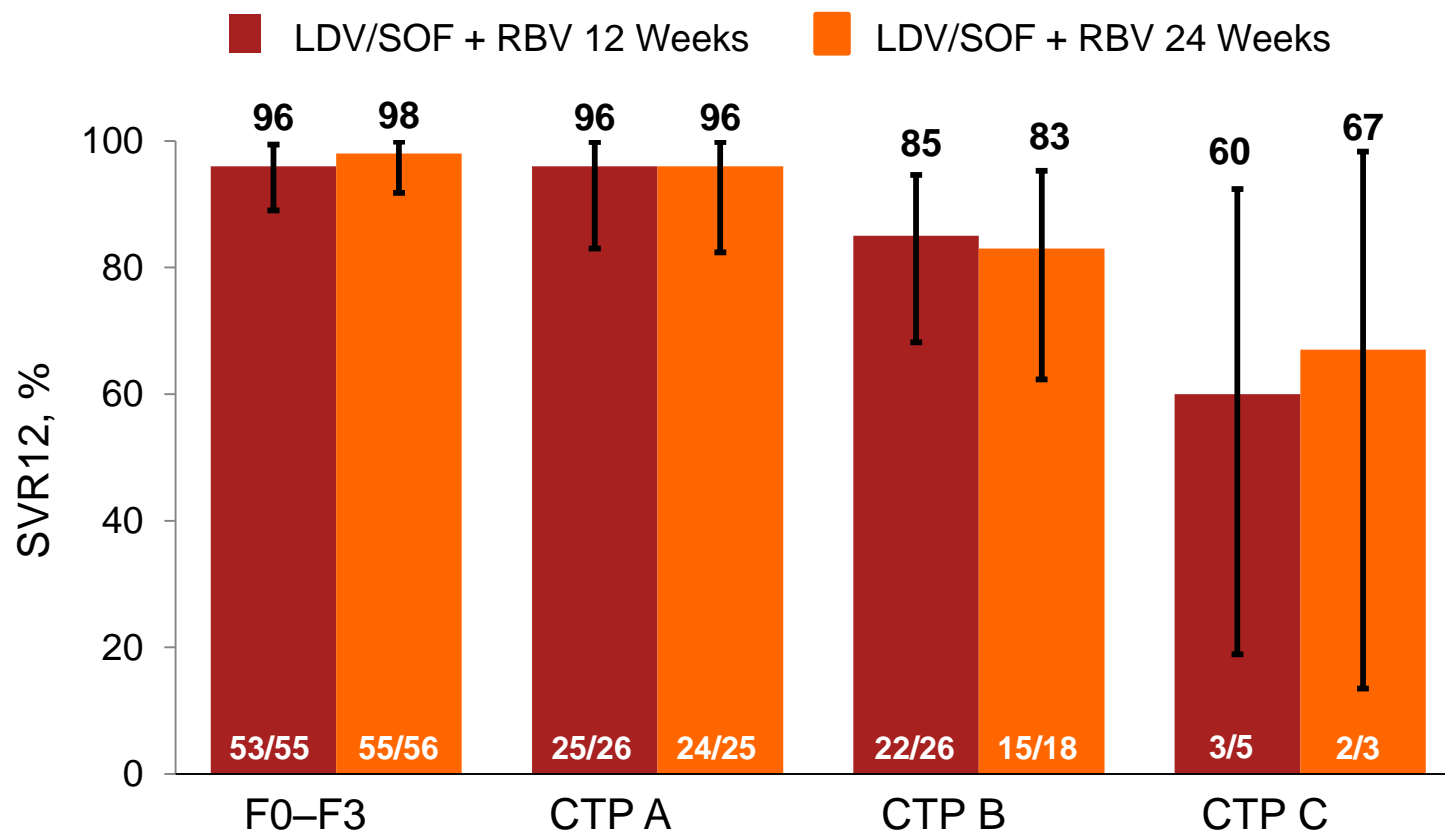


Error bars represent 90% confidence intervals.



# SOLAR-1: LDV/SOF + RBV in post-transplant

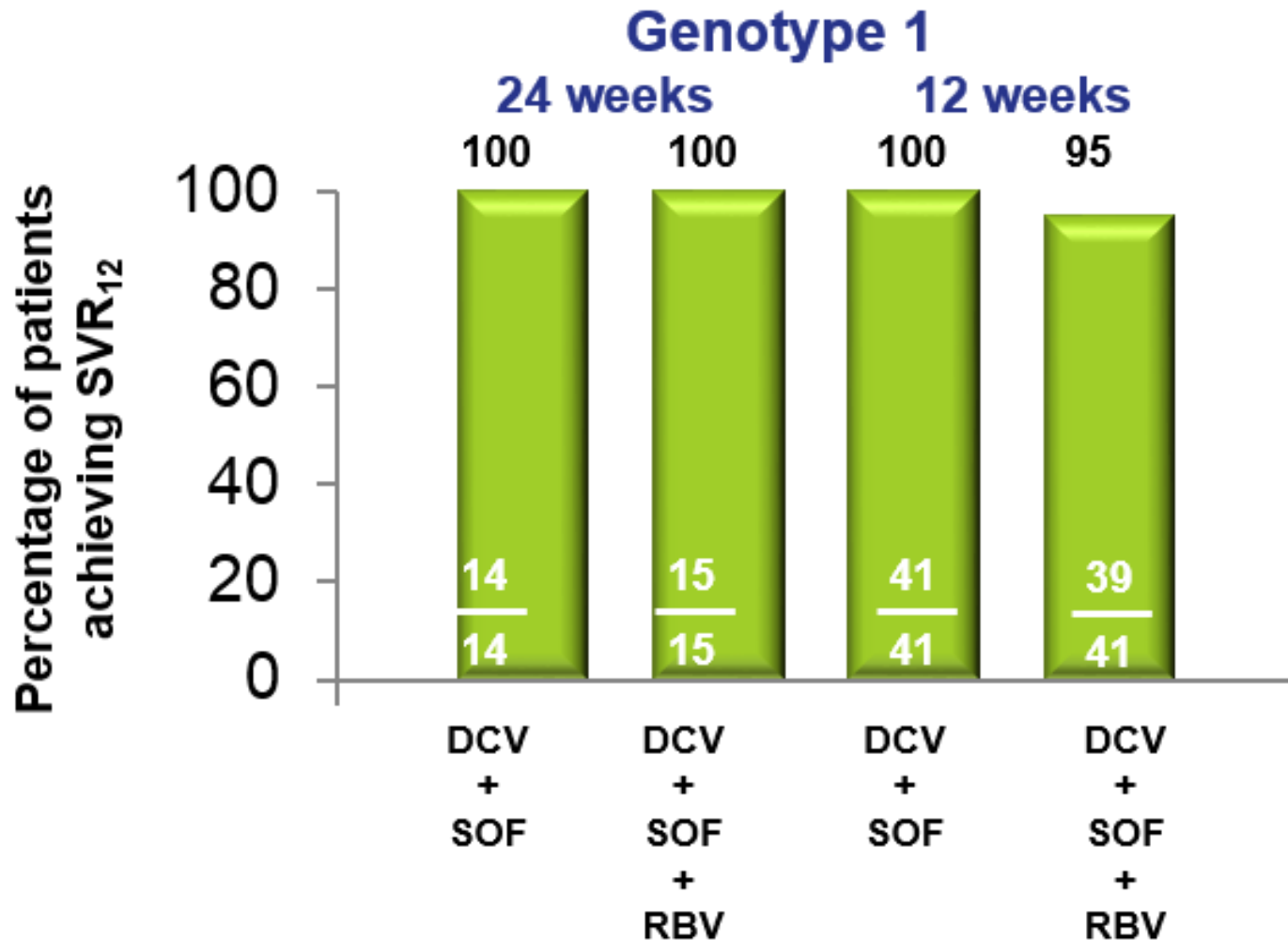
## Results: SVR12



**SVR rates were similar with 12 or 24 weeks of LDV/SOF + RBV**

Error bars represent 2-sided 90% exact confidence intervals.

# DCV + SOF in GT1 treatment naïve patients



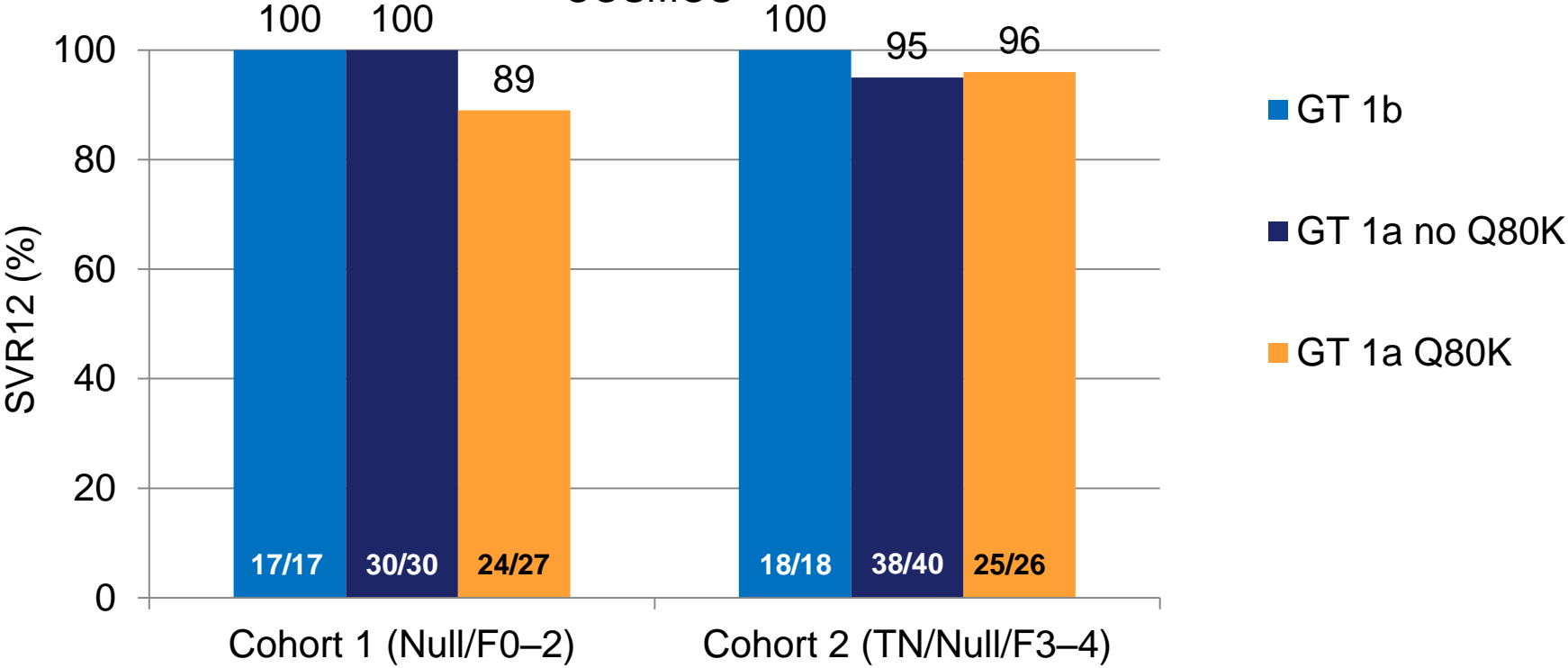
1. Sulkowski MS, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2014;370:211–21 . 3. Daclatasvir summary of product characteristics.

# SOF + simeprevir ± RBV in GT 1 patients

12 or 24 weeks of simeprevir + SOF ± RBV

SVR12 (excluding non-virological failures)

COSMOS

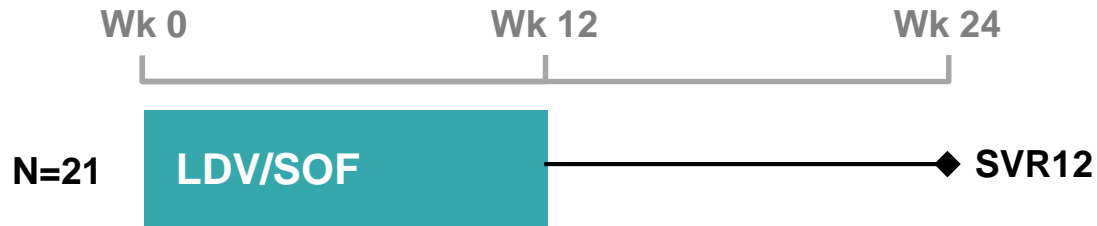


TN: treatment-naïve

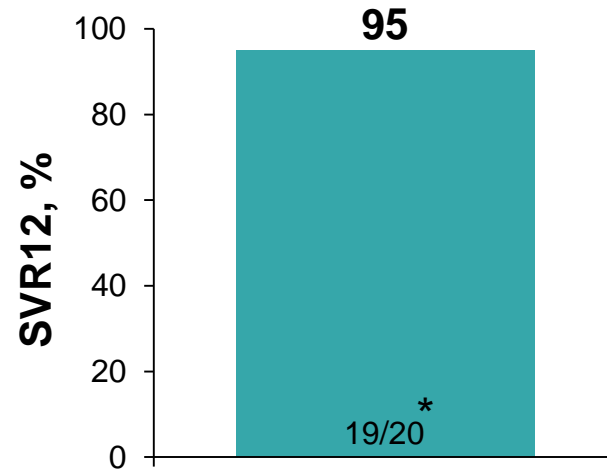
Lawitz E, et al Lancet July 26 2014 epub ahead of print

# Treatment for GT 4 with LDV/SOF

Interim results from a single center, open-label, Phase 2a trial of LDV/SOF in HCV GT 4



Demographics	
Age	55 ± 10
Male, n (%)	14 (67)
Black, n (%)	9 (43)
Country of Origin	
Egypt, n (%)	6 (29)
United States, n (%)	5 (24)
Ethiopia, n (%)	4 (19)
Cameroon, n (%)	3 (14)
HCV RNA > 800,000 IU/mL, n (%)	13 (62)
Treatment Experienced, n (%)	8 (38)
Cirrhotic, n (%)	7 (33)



**95% SVR12 with LDV/SOF for GT 4 HCV**  
**No patient discontinued due to an AE**

\*One patient has not reached SVR12 timepoint yet

# EU Recommendation treatment (SOF + LDV) Harvoni<sup>®</sup>, or daclatasvir Genotype 1 or 4

Patient population	Treatment	Duration	Note
Patients without cirrhosis	SOF + LDV	12 weeks	8 weeks in naïve G1 24 weeks in naïve uncertain retreatment option
	SOF + DCV	12 weeks	Consider 24 weeks for TE
Patients with compensated cirrhosis	SOF + LDV	24 weeks	
	SOF + DCV	24 weeks	Shorten 12 weeks TN cirrhosis favourable Consider adding RBV
Patients with decompensated cirrhosis	SOF + LDV + RBV	24 weeks	

# Sofosbuvir based regimens NS5a inhibitor G1: Usage

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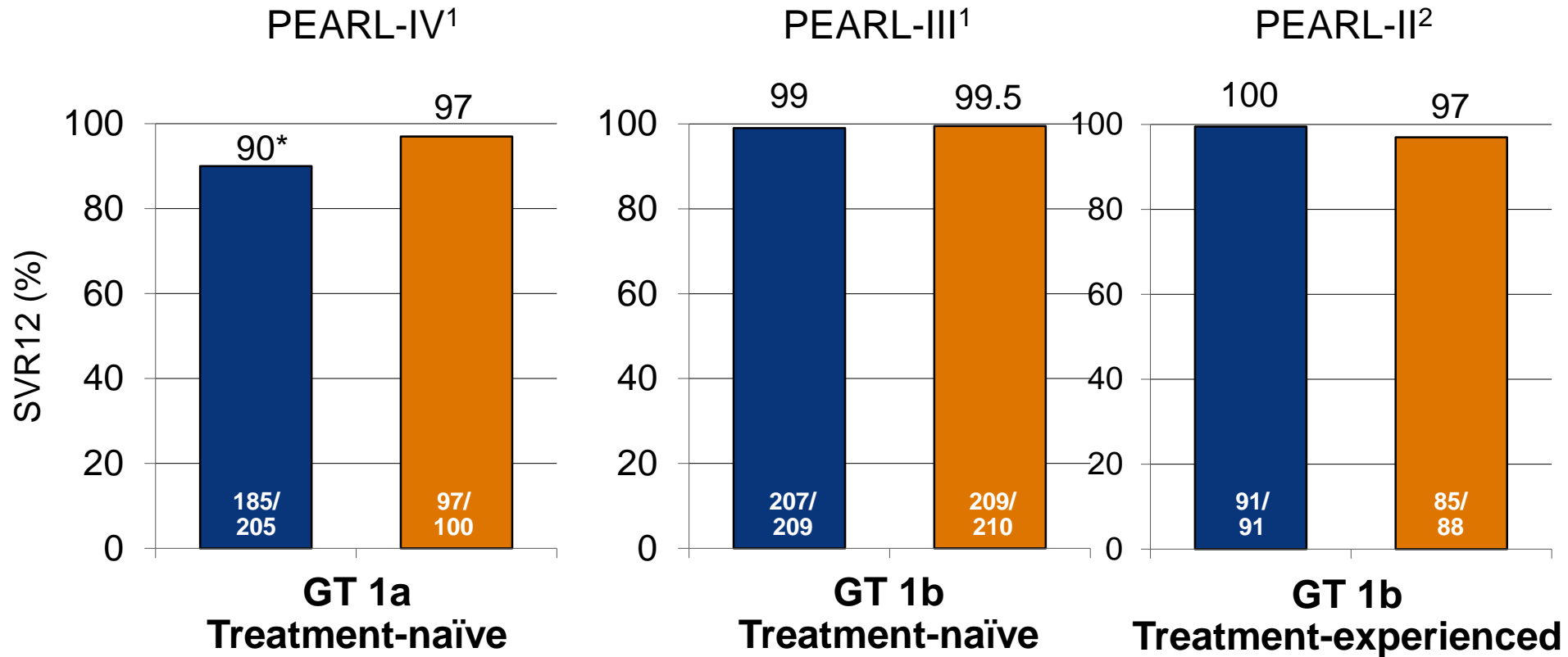
- Sofosbuvir + ledipasvir genotype 1
  - treatment naïve without cirrhosis
    - 8-12 weeks without RBV
- Treatment naïve or experienced patients with cirrhosis
  - Compensated cirrhosis: 12 weeks plus ribavirin
- Decompensated cirrhosis (Childs B and C)
  - 12 weeks or 24 weeks with RBV
  - Urgent need to specify duration
  - Pre-treatment and on treatment host and viral factors that presage relapse and to adjust
    - Aim to use regimen that reduces relapses to a minimum (< 10%)
- Sofosbuvir + daclatasvir
  - As above?
- Sofosbuvir + simeprevir: 12 weeks no RBV ? Exposure SMV decompensated



# SVR ± RBV with paritaprevir, ombitasvir + dasabuvir in GT 1 patients

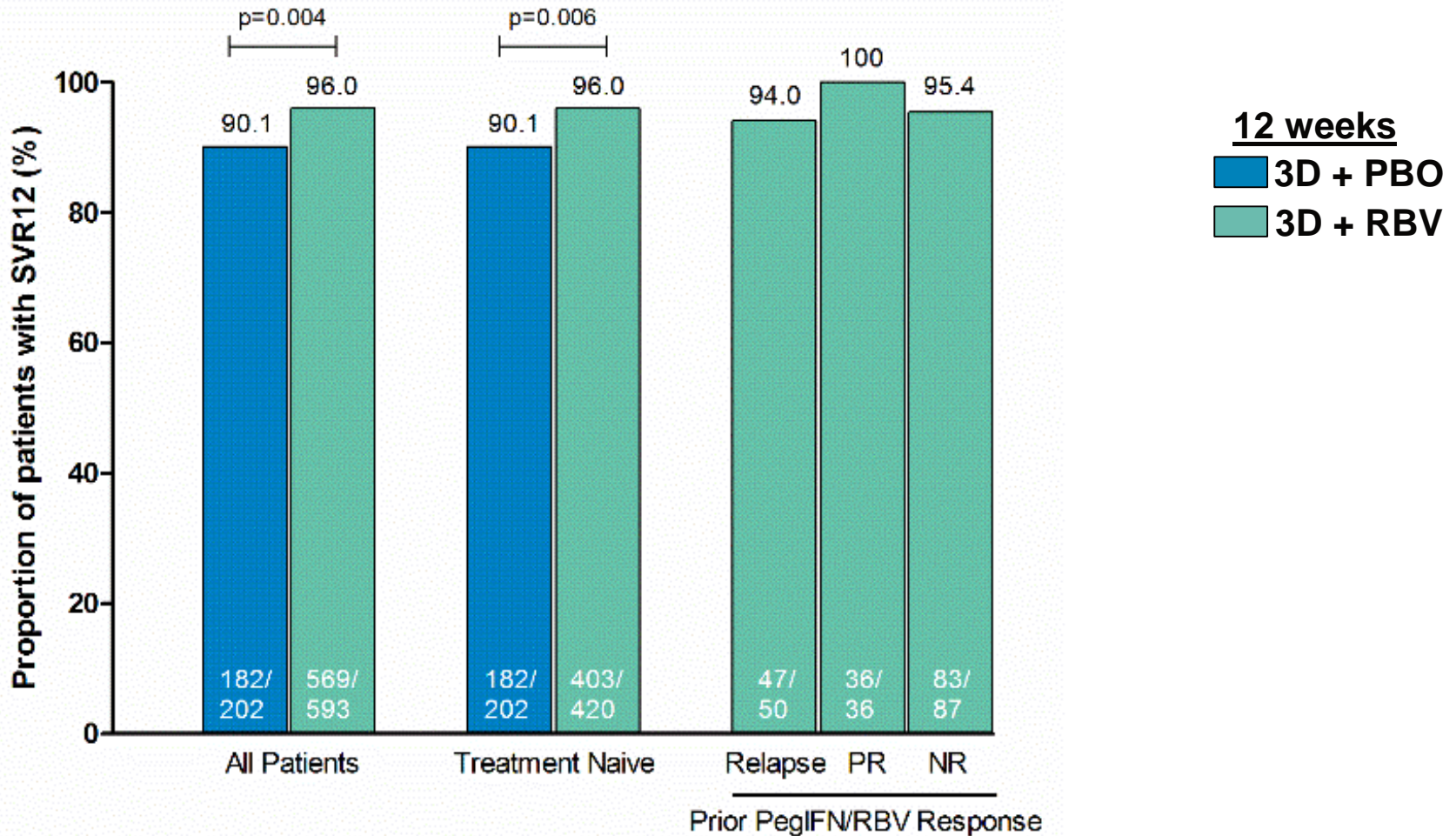
Paritaprevir ombitasvir + dasabuvir for 12 weeks in GT 1 patients

■ RBV-free ■ + RBV



\* RBV-free arm did not meet non-inferiority vs RBV-containing arm

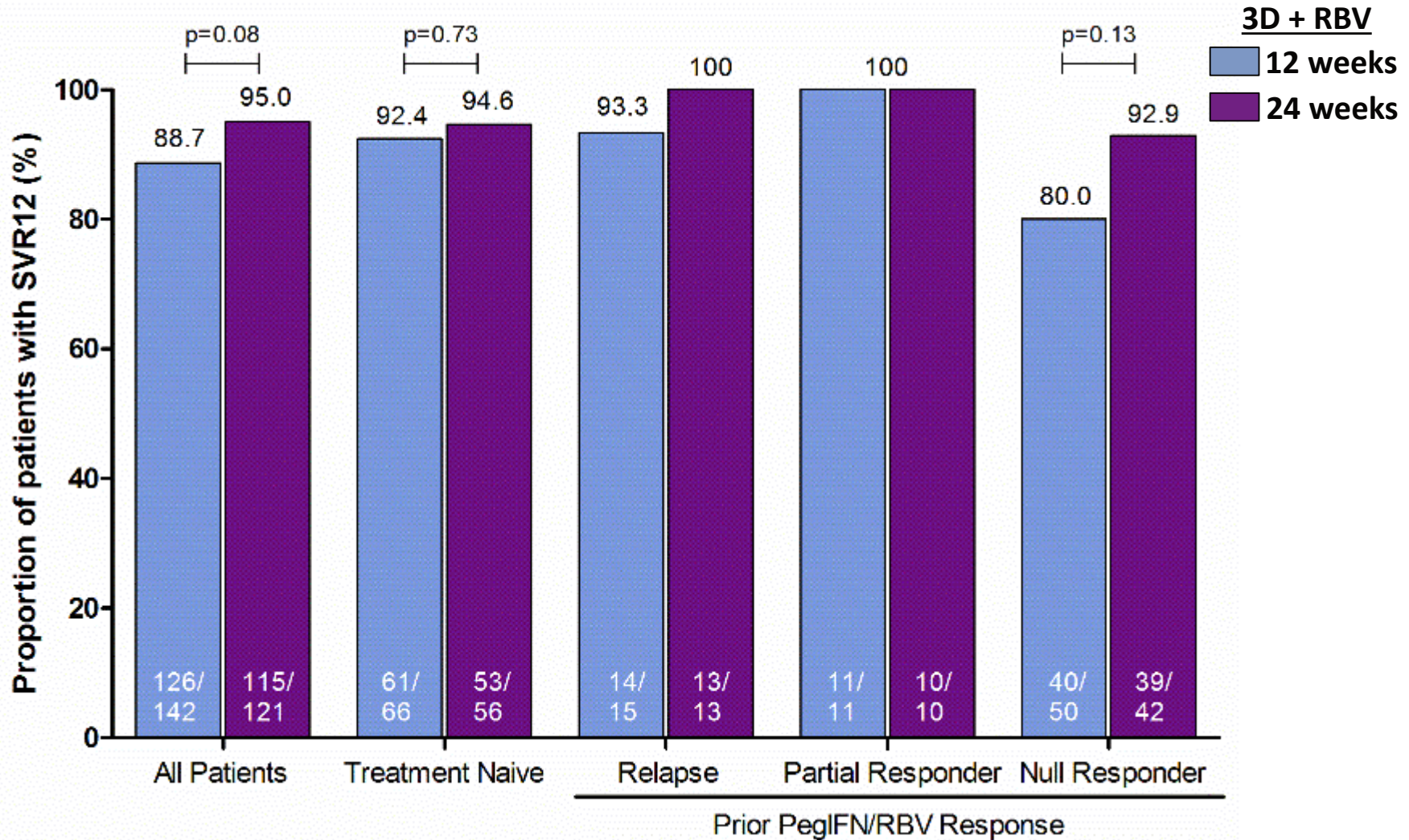
# Paritaprevir ombitasvir + dasabuvir SVR12 in GT 1a



$p$  values from Fisher's exact test

All 3D-treated patients were treatment-naïve at baseline

# Paritaprevir ombitasvir + dasabuvir SVR12 in GT 1a cirrhosis TN and TE



p values from Fisher's exact test

Everson et al AASLD 2014

# AbbVie Viekirax + Exviera ± RBV G1

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## Genotype 1b:

Pooled analysis of Phase 3 trials in HCV GT 1b-infected patients without cirrhosis:

- RBV did not increase SVR 12 rates in GT 1b-infected patients and is not required in the treatment of non cirrhotic HCV GT 1b
- RBV recommended for treatment of 1b with cirrhosis

## Genotype 1a

Pooled analysis of HCV GT 1a-infected patients with or without cirrhosis from four phase 3 trials:

- GT 1a-infected patients without cirrhosis benefit from inclusion of RBV with SVR 12 rates of 96% with 12 weeks of therapy
- GT1a- infected patients with cirrhosis: longer duration 24 weeks

# IFN-free regimens of paritaprevir + ombitasvir ± RBV in G4 patients: PEARL-I study results

## ■ Treatment naive (randomized)

**ABT-450/r/OMB  
(n=44)**

**ABT-450/r/OMB + RBV  
(n=42)**

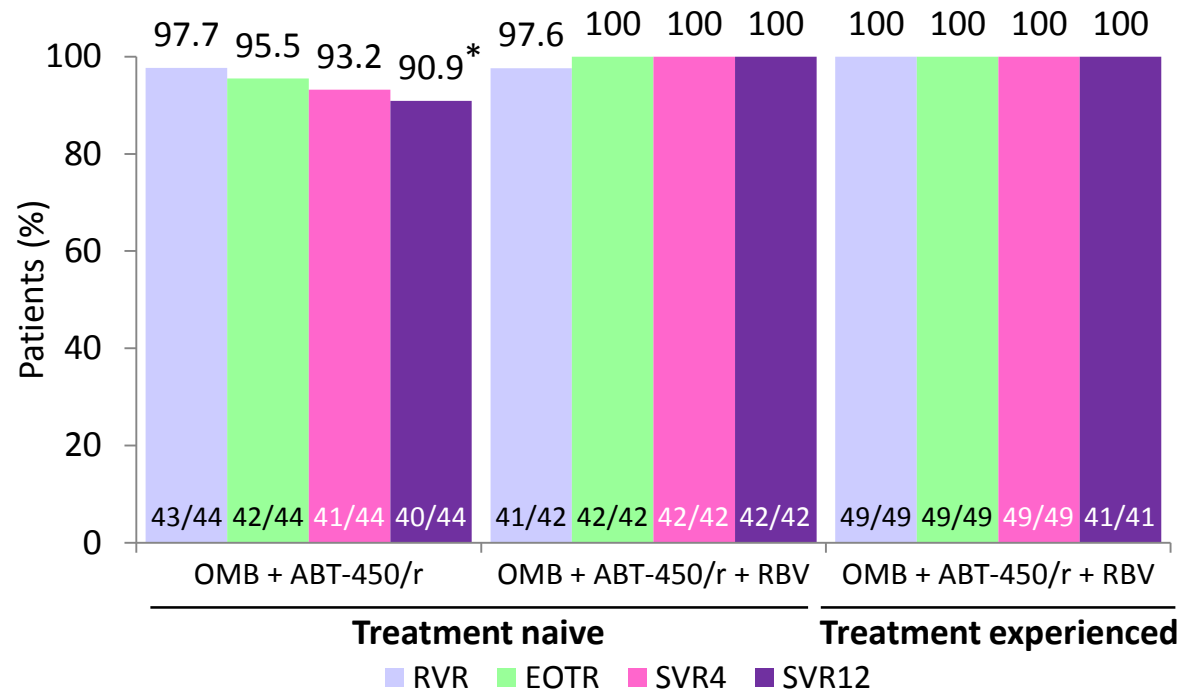
## ■ Treatment-experienced

**ABT-450/r/OMB + RBV  
(n=49)**

12 weeks

ABT-450: 150; r: 100 mg; ombitasvir (OMB) 25 mg QD  
RBV 1000–1200 mg (BID dosing)

Efficacy in pts receiving OMB + ABT-450/r ± RBV



\*3 non-SVR naive patients without RBV had VF: 1 breakthrough, 2 relapses.  
2/3 had BL NS5A RAVs

93% F0–2 (no cirrhosis)

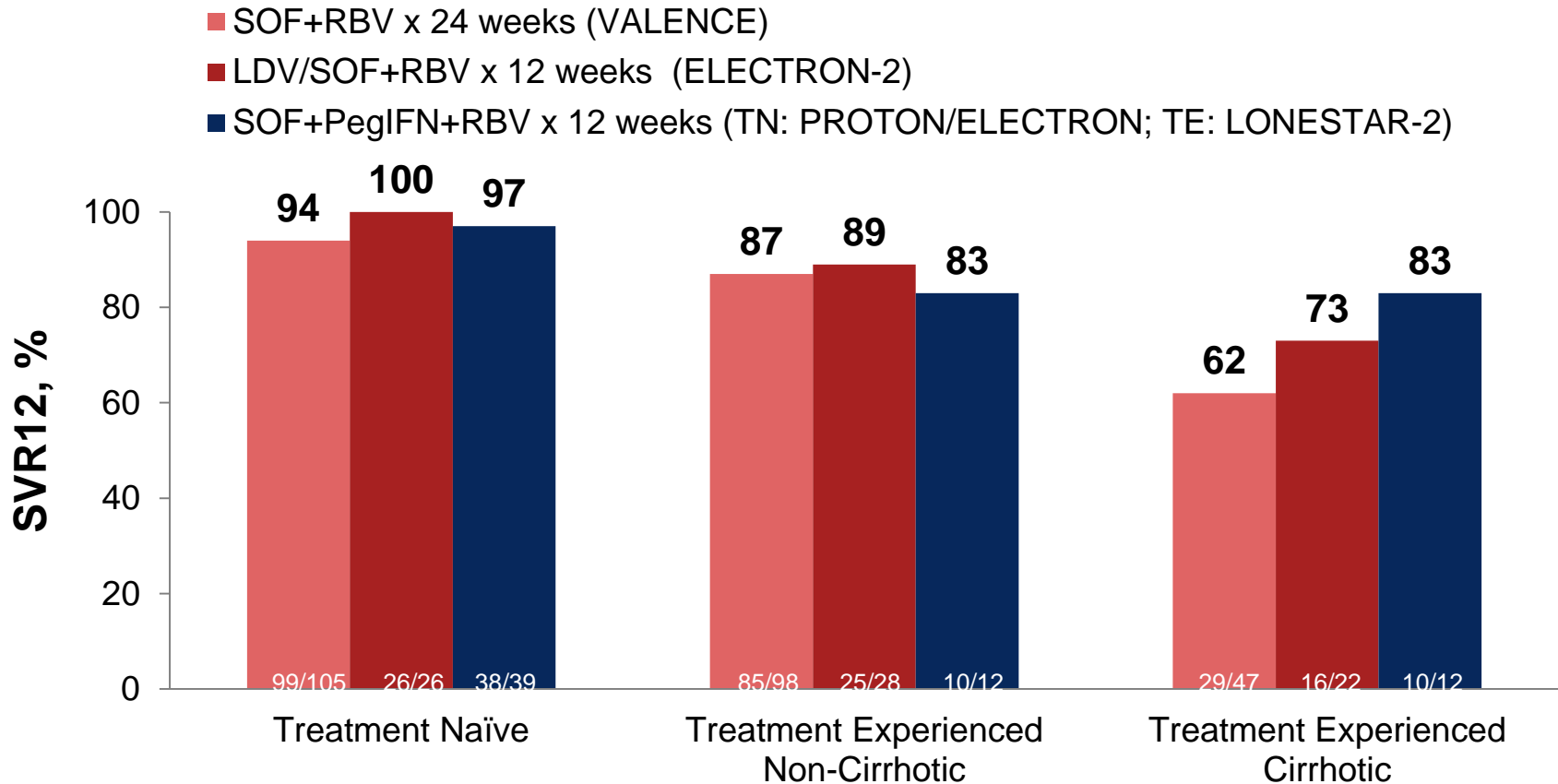
Most common AEs: Headache, asthenia, fatigue, nausea  
Safety and tolerability of regimen consistent with 3D + RBV regimen in G1

# EU prescribing information Viekirax + Exviera

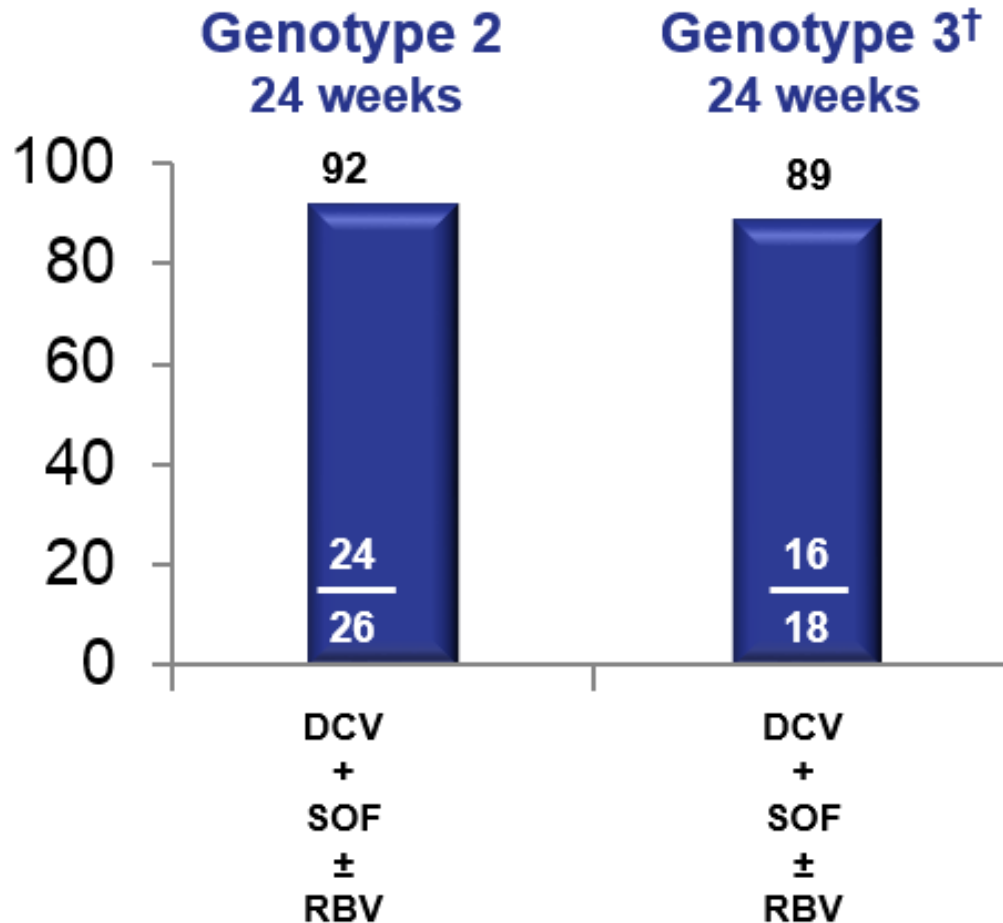
	Cirrhosis	Regimen	RBV	Duration
1b	No	Viekirax + Exviera	No	12 weeks
1b	Yes	Viekirax + Exviera	Yes	12 weeks
1a	No	Viekirax + Exviera	Yes	12 weeks
1a	Yes	Viekirax + Exviera	Yes	24 weeks
4	No	Viekirax	Yes	12 weeks
4	Yes	Viekirax	Yes	24 weeks

# SOF-Based Regimens for HCV GT 3

## Cross study comparison



# Sofosbuvir + Daclatasvir Genotype 2 or 3 naive

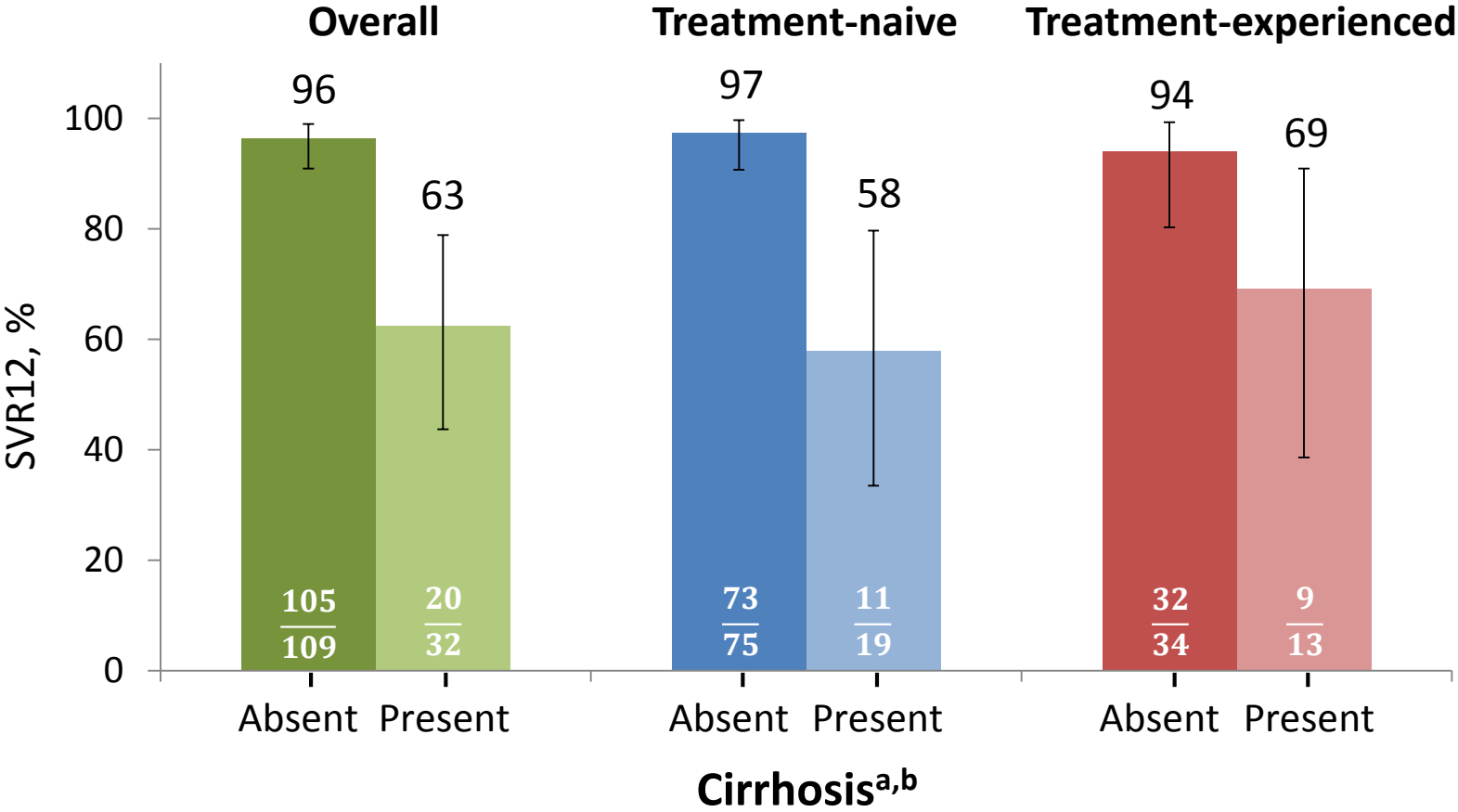


Sulkowski MS, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2014;370:211–21 . Daclatasvir SmPc Use of RBV

Daclatasvir product summary



# All-Oral 12-Week Combination Treatment With Daclatasvir and sofosbuvir in Patients Infected With HCV Genotype 3: ALLY-3 Phase 3



■ Among patients with cirrhosis, 34% (11/32) had baseline platelet counts < 100,000/mm<sup>3</sup>

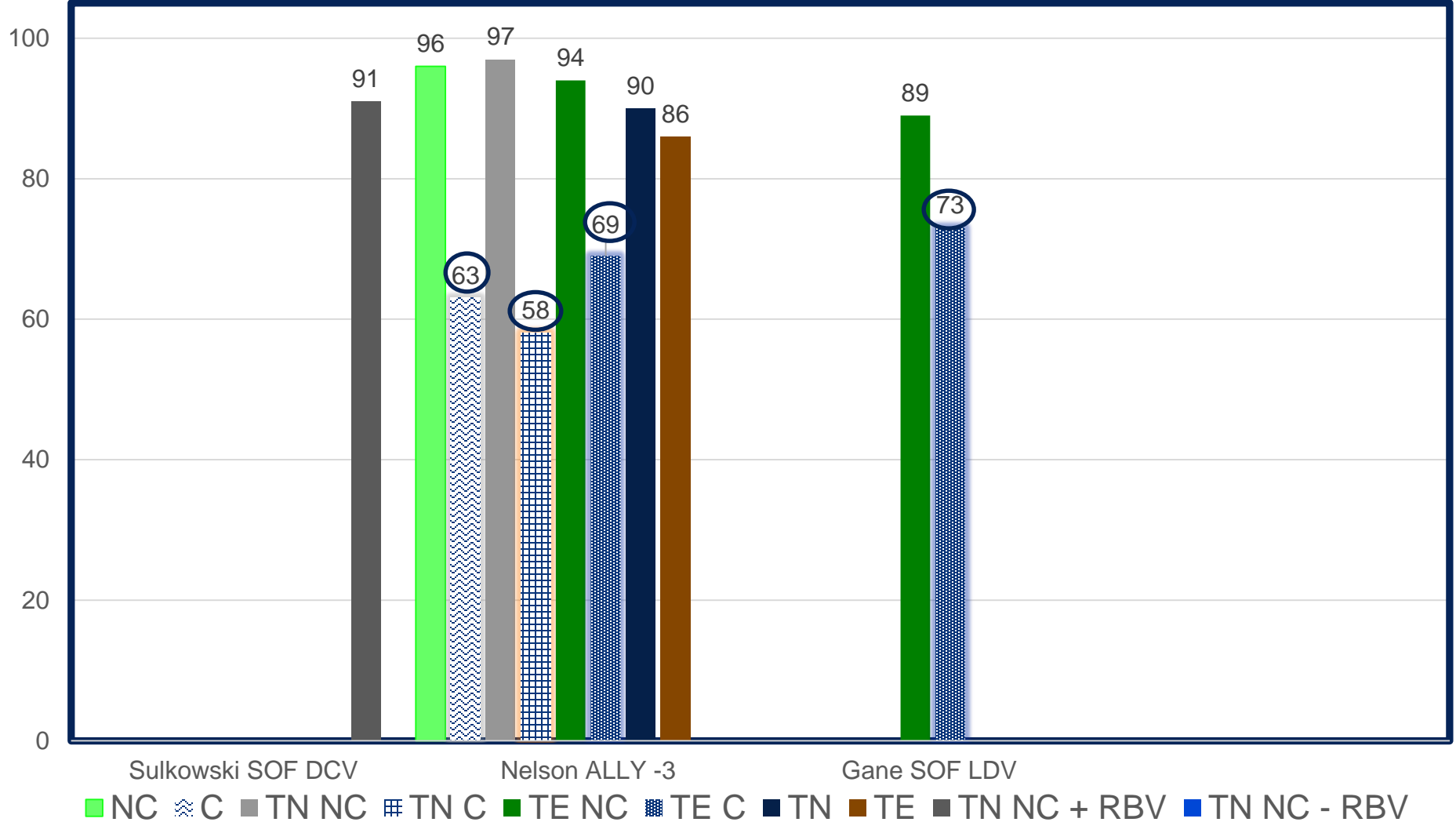
<sup>a</sup> Cirrhosis status determined in 141 patients by liver biopsy (METAVIR F4), FibroScan (> 14.6 kPa), or FibroTest score ≥ 0.75 and APRI (aspartate aminotransferase to platelet ratio index) > 2.

<sup>b</sup> Cirrhosis status for 11 patients was inconclusive (FibroTest score > 0.48 to < 0.75 or APRI > 1 to ≤ 2).

# Genotype 3 sofosbuvir + NS5A inhibitor: LDV or DCV ± RBV:

Non comparative studies with varying populations and regimens

Percent SVR



# EU Recommendation treatment (SOF + LDV) Harvoni<sup>R</sup> or sofosbuvir + daclatasvir Genotype 3

Patient population	Treatment	Duration
Cirrhosis and/or prior treatment failure	SOF + LDV + RBV	24 weeks
	SOF + DCV + RBV	24 weeks

SmPC Gilead Sciences 21 Nov 2014; Daclatasvir SmPC

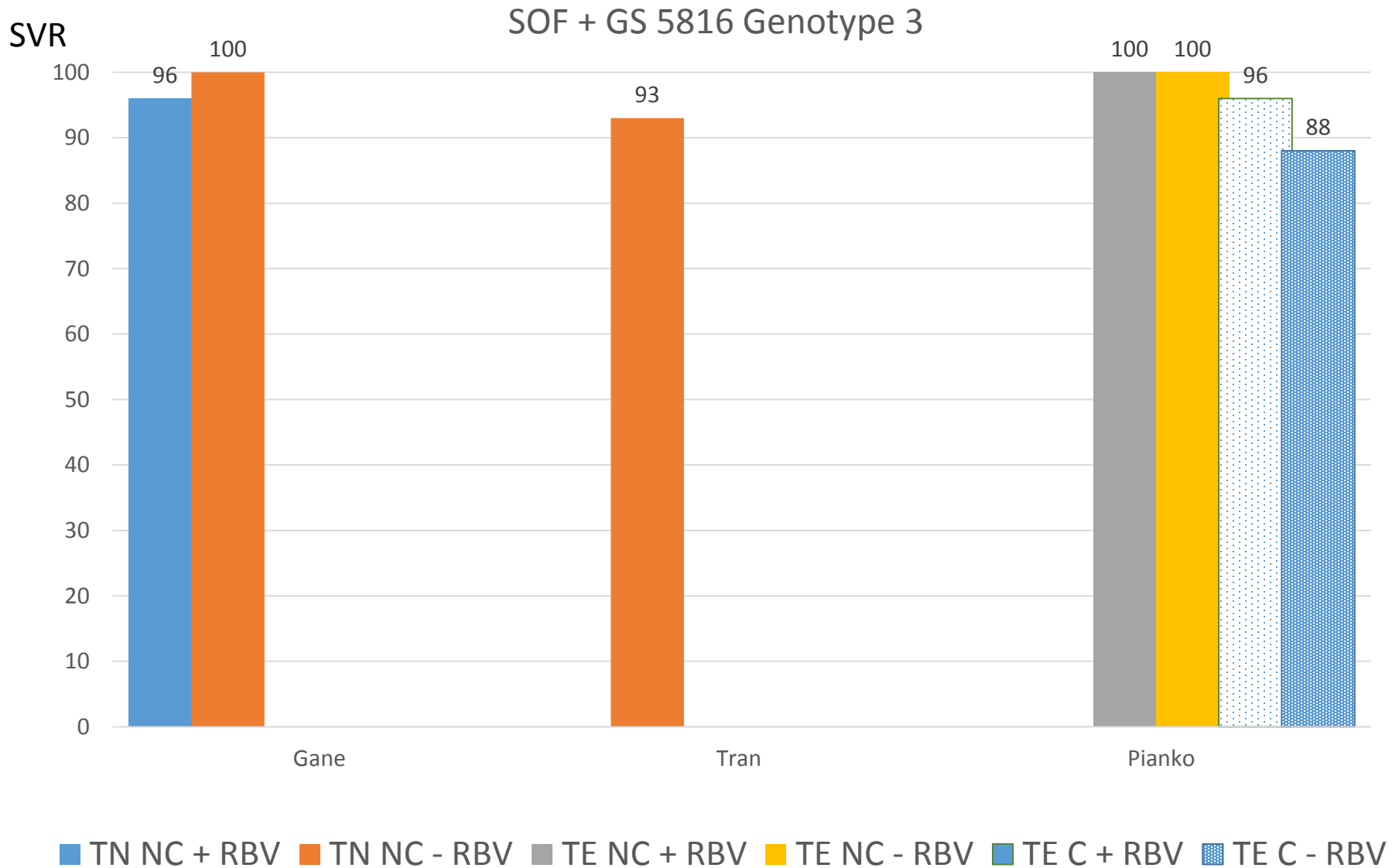
## Conclusion: SOF + NS5a inhibitor for genotype 3

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- Satisfactory response (> 90%) can be achieved in treatment naïve non cirrhotic: (94-97%)
    - EU licence is silent?
    - 12 weeks without RBV?
  - Higher relapse rates treatment experienced, cirrhosis
  - Patients with cirrhosis
    - Lower results without RBV or shorter duration?
    - 58% - 69-73%
    - SmPCs suggests 24 weeks (plus RBV)
  - Decompensated cirrhosis
    - Expanded access (UK) will inform
-

# New agents: SOF + GS5816 Genotype 3

Non comparative studies with varying populations and regimens



# Urgent lessons to be learned from DAA IFN free therapy in decompensated cirrhosis

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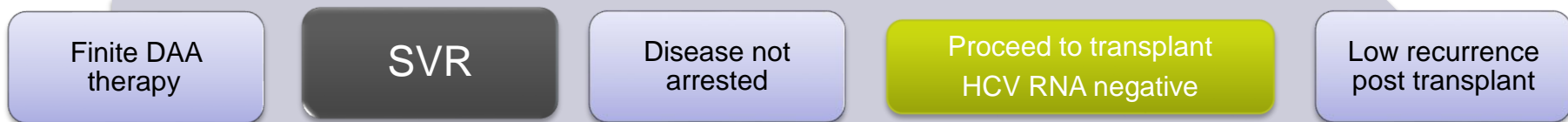
- What degrees of cirrhosis impair response?
    - Higher rates of relapse observed
  - What are the consequences of relapse?
  - Are pre-existent resistant variants more critical in this group?
  - Are there higher rates of adverse events in patients with decompensated cirrhosis?
  - What is the optimal duration of therapy for different stages of cirrhosis?
  - What is the optimal timing?
  - To what degree is disease reversible?
-

# Pre – transplant DAA therapy: strategies and outcomes

A



B



C



D



# Resistance-Associated Variants Present at Time of Virologic Failure in Patients Receiving 3D+RBV

Development of resistance-associated variants occurred in 8/473 (1.7%)

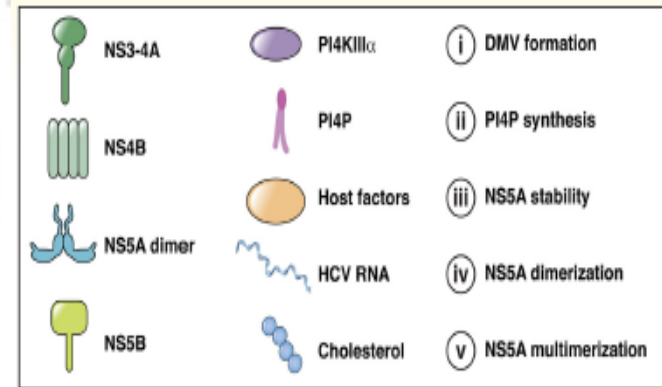
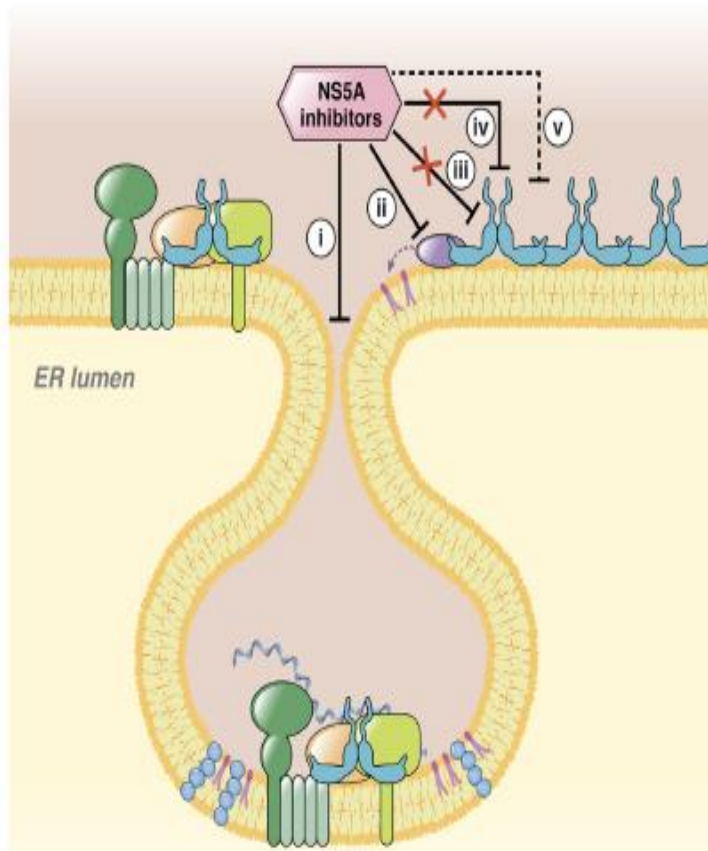
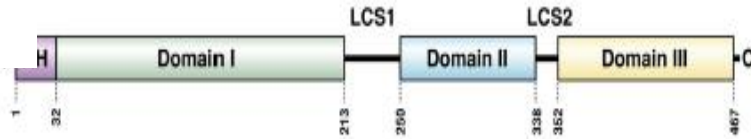
Patient	GT	Type of Virologic Failure	NS3	NS5A	NS5B
1	1a	On-treatment failure at Week 12	R155K, D168V	Q30R	S556G, 559N
2	1a	Relapse at PT Week 2	D168V	M28T	S556G
3	1a	Relapse at PT Week 2	V36A, D168V	M28T	none
4	1a	Relapse at PT Week 8	none	M28V*, H58P*	none
5	1a	Relapse at PT Week 8	D168V	Q30R	Y561H
6	1a	Relapse at PT Week 8	D168V	Q30R	none
7	1a	Relapse at PT Week 12	D168V	Y93N*	S556G
8	1b	Relapse at PT Week 2	Y56H, D168V	L31M*, Y93H*	S556G*

\*Variant also present at baseline

Kindly provided by Feld et al NEJM 370: 1594-603 2014

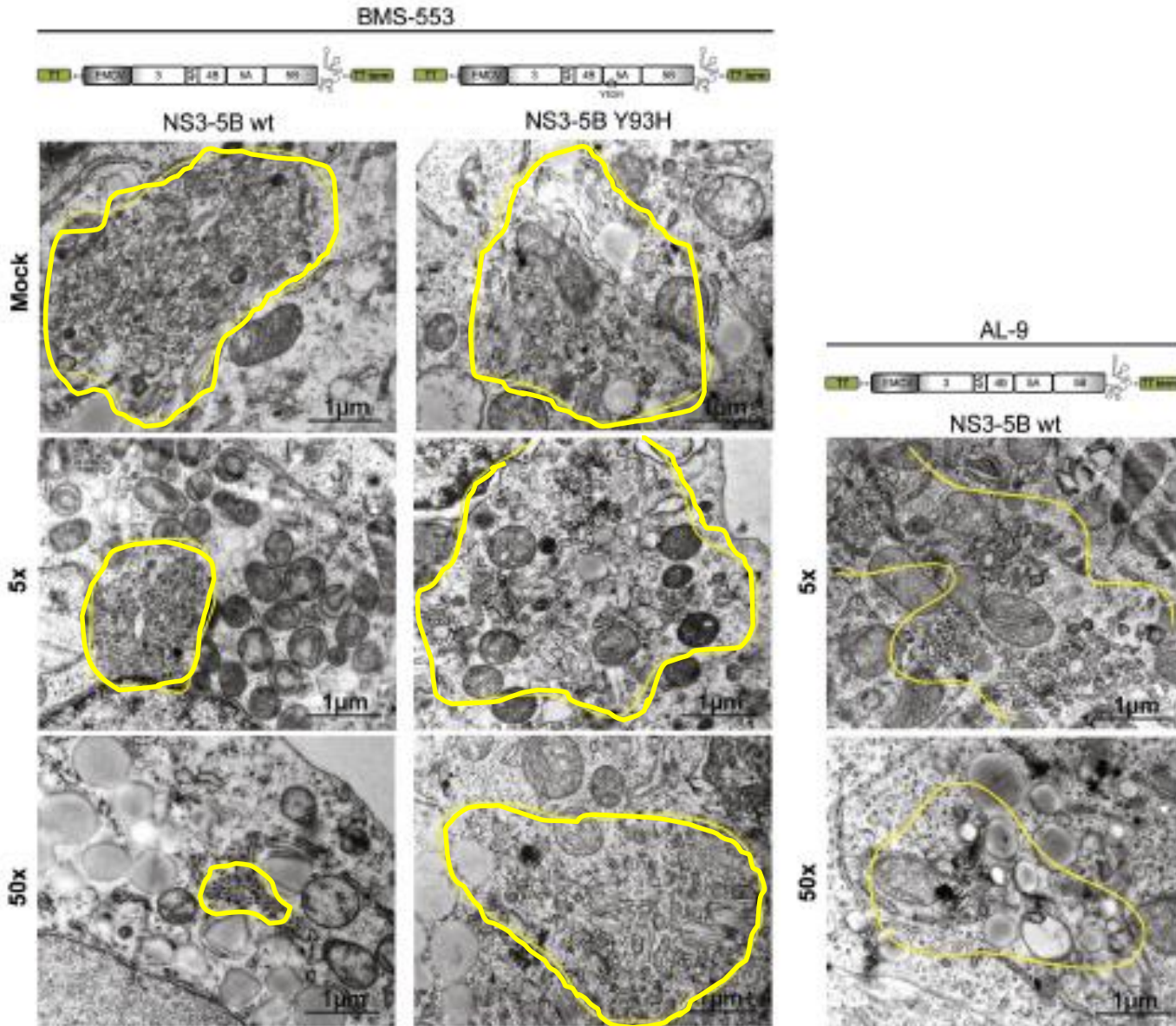


# Disruption of virus-induced replication compartment formation by NS5A inhibitors

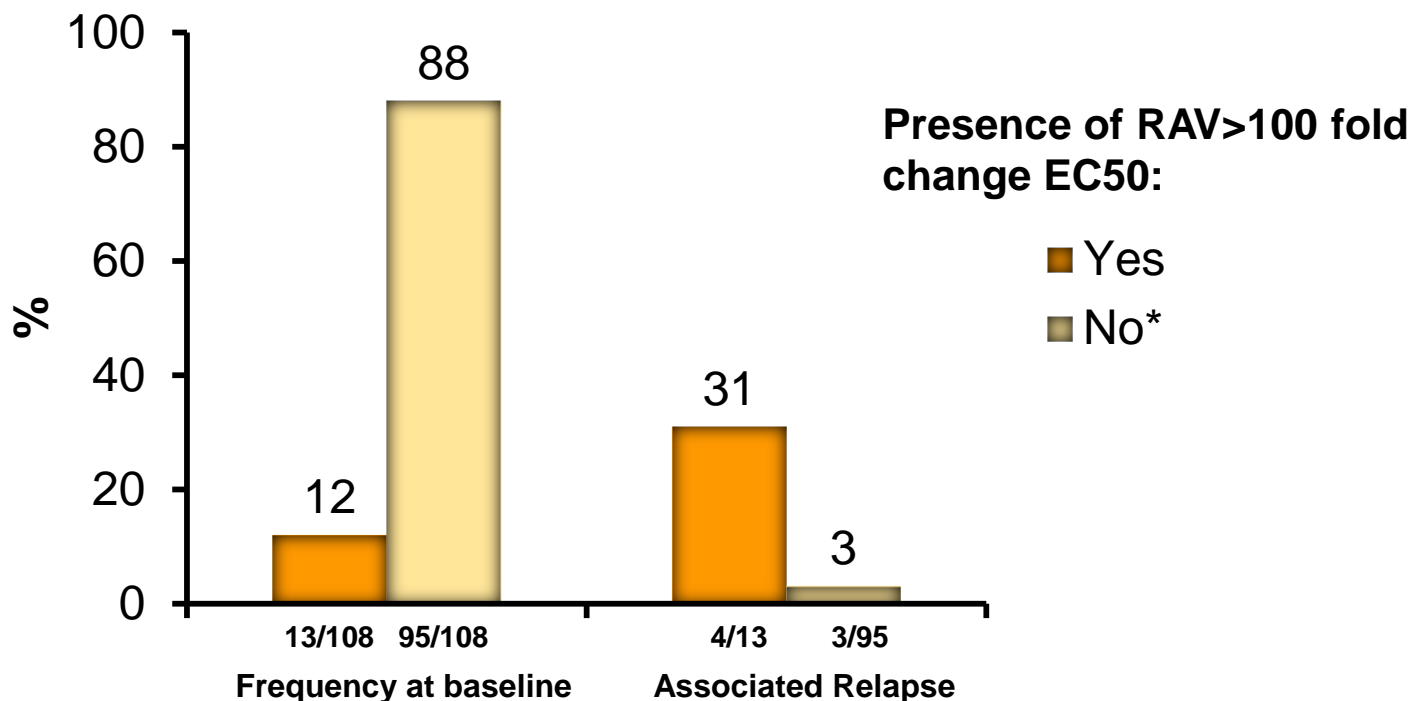


# Effect of NS5a inhibitor on membranous web biogenesis

## Wild type versus Y93H



## ION2: effect of baseline HCV RAVs on treatment outcome with SOF/LDV (12 weeks) in HCV genotype 1 treatment-experienced patients



In the pooled analysis of the **Phase 3 studies**, 16% of patients had baseline NS5A RAVs identified by population or deep sequencing irrespective of subtype.

**Baseline NS5A RAVs were overrepresented in patients who experienced relapse in the Phase 3 studies**

NS5A RAVs that conferred > 100-fold shift in EC50 and were observed in patients were the following substitutions in genotype 1a (M28A, Q30H/R/E, L31M/V/I, H58D, Y93H/N/C) or in genotype 1b (Y93H).

\*or conferring < 100 FC EC50

RAV: resistance-associated variant

# Re-treatment after prior exposure to NS5a inhibitor

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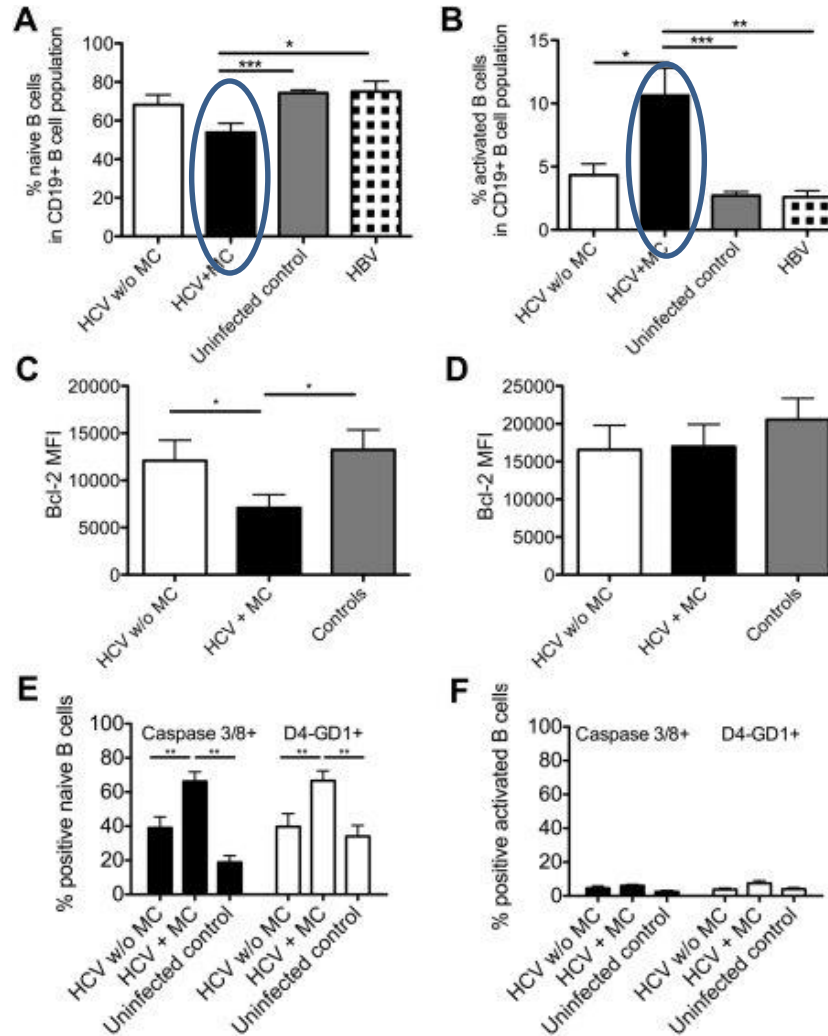
- Majority of patients with pre existing NS5A RAVs respond to NS5A inhibitors
  - Selection of NS5A resistance mutations that reduce the susceptibility to LDV or DCV is seen in most failing treatment with SOF LDV or SOF DCV
  - Data indicate that such NS5A mutations do not revert on long term follow up
    - Presently no data to prove efficacy of LDV or DCV against high level NS5A resistant mutations
    - Such patients may therefore be dependent on SOF RBV, (longer duration) or other drug classes for clearance of HCV infection
    - Innate immune response?
-

# HCV and cryoglobulinaemia

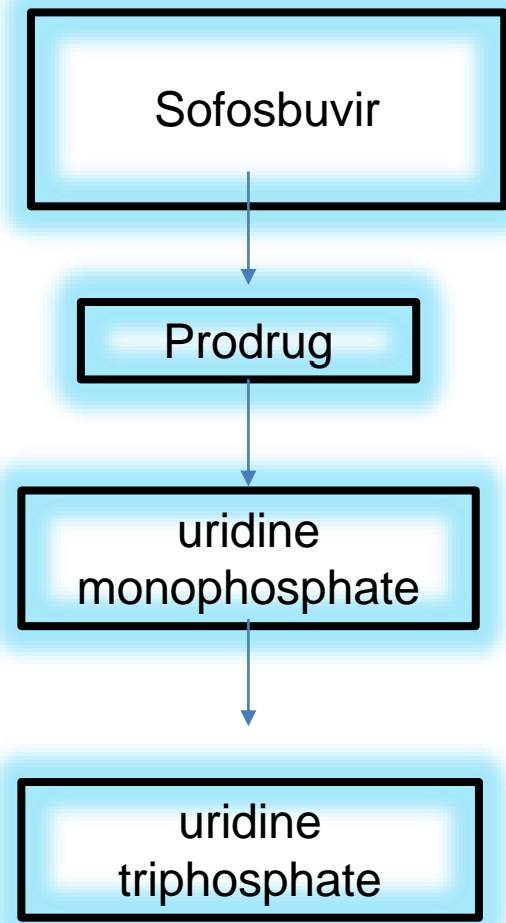
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- Cirrhosis, membranous glomerulonephritis, mixed essential cryoglobulinaemia and vasculitis associated chronic hepatitis C.
  - HCV continuous stimulus for production of circulating immune complexes which may form cryoprecipitates
  - Complement:
    - cold-insoluble immune complex -mediated vasculitis
    - involving small blood vessels different tissues including skin, kidney, peripheral, and central nervous system.
  - ***B-cell clonal selection may arise as a result of antigen stimulation***
    - May lead to malignant B-cell proliferation.
  - Optimal treatment relies on reducing HCV RNA as the driver of the process?
-

# B cell homeostasis in chronic hepatitis C virus–related mixed cryoglobulinemia is maintained through naïve B cell apoptosis



B cell numbers paradoxically reduced in HCV-infected patients with MC  
 Increased sensitivity of naive B cells to apoptosis: reduction in size of naive B cell subset.



## Hepatocyte

### Metabolism

GS-461203  
uridine – triphosphate

1. Hydrolysis of the carboxyl ester moiety
2. Phosphoramidate cleavage
3. Phosphorylation by pyrimidine nucleotide biosynthesis pathway

↓  
Dephosphorylation

↓  
GS331007

80%, 14%, and 2.5% recovered in urine, faeces, and expired air  
Urine: recovered: GS331007 (78%) 3.5% as sofosbuvir.

# Sofosbuvir pharmacokinetics in renal impairment

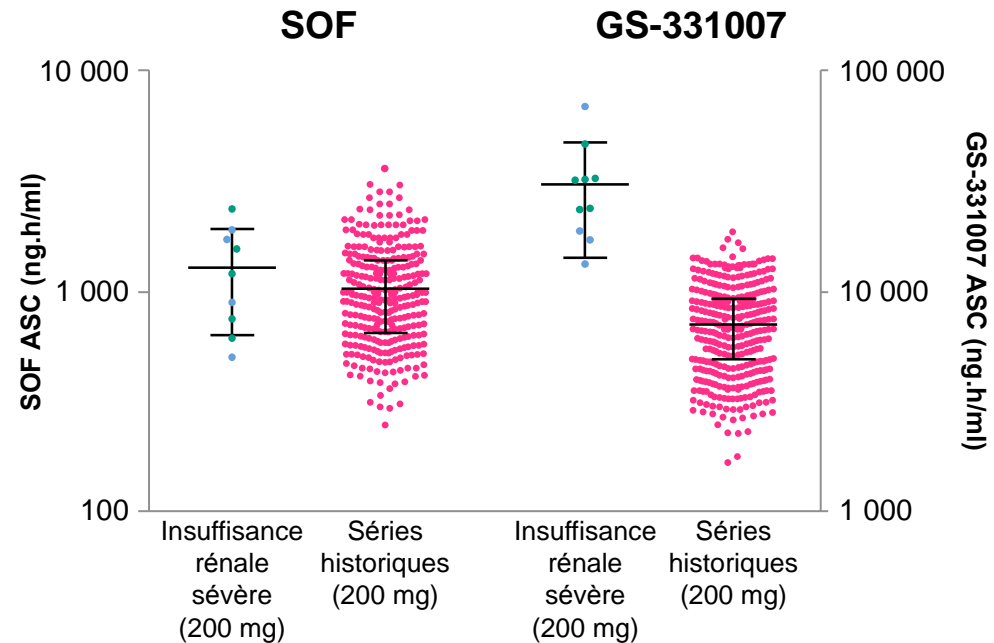
	Sofosbuvir	GS331007	Mild eGFR $\geq$ 50 and $<$ 80	Moderate eGFR $\geq$ 30 and $<$ 50	Severe (eGFR $<$ 30)	ESRD
Plasma half life	0.48-0.75 hrs	7.2 - 11.8 hrs				
Cmax ng/ml	603	1378				
AUC ng/ml	539	9369				
Sofosbuvir AUC			61%	107%	171%	28% pre 60% post
GS331007			55%	88%	451%	



# Safety, efficacy and pharmacokinetics of Sofosbuvir in ESKD

## Pharmacokinetics of sofosbuvir and his metabolite : GS-331007

- 10 patients with ESKD (eGFR < 30 ml/mn) and HCV (GT-1, 7GT-1a, 2 GT-1b and 7 GT-3) without cirrhosis. 7/10 were naive ,were treated with SOF 200 mg/j and RBV 200 mg/j.
- Efficacy :
  - HCV RNA undetectable at w2, W4.
  - **SVR 12 = SVR 24 = 40 %**
  - No relation between AUC and SVR 12
- Safety :
  - 20 % AE (anemia)
  - 4 dose reduction and 1 RBV stopped
  - No SOF discontinuation



→ **Despite favorable pharmacokinetics and good tolerance, efficacy is poor due to partly difficulty of managing ribavirin ?**

AUC appears to be equivalent for sofosbuvir and X4 for GS-331007 compared to patients with normal eGFR but without clinical impact so far.

# ABT-450/, ombitasvir with or without dasabuvir in subject with renal impairment

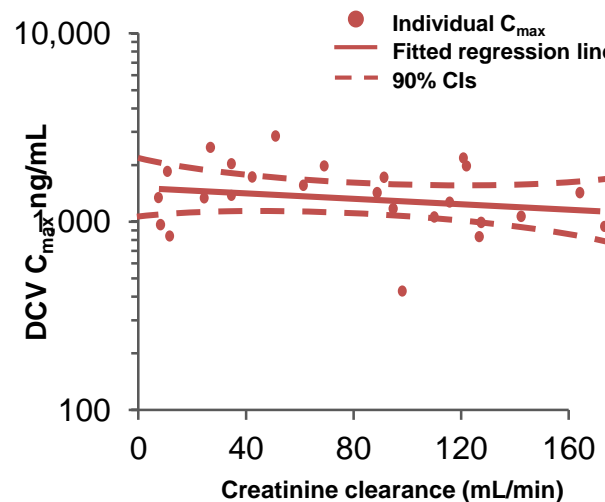
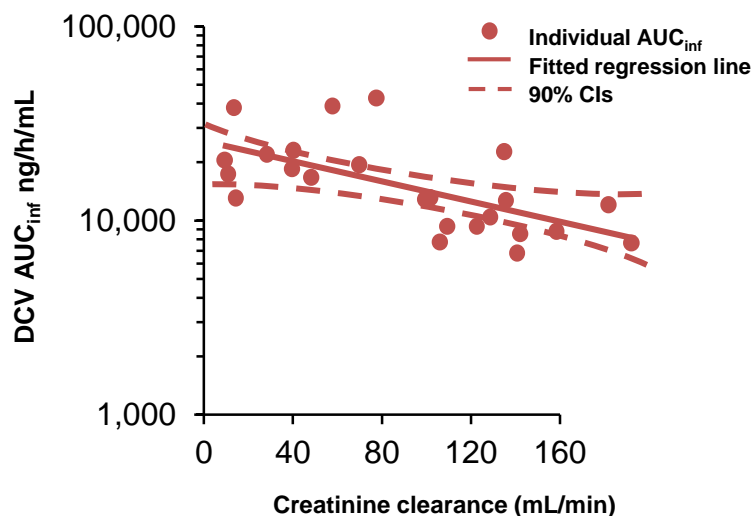
- Phase I multicenter, single dose non fasting open label, 2 period study of 3D and 2D in patients with renal impairment compared to subject with normal renal function.
- 24 subjects without HCV were compared according to renal function in 4 groups according to creatinine clearance:  $\geq 90$  ml/min, between 60 – 89ml /min, between 30-59 ml/min and between 15-29 ml/min.

Compared with subjects with normal Renal function	Mild renal Impairment	Moderate renal impairment	Severe renal impairment
AUC ombitasvir	comparable	comparable	comparable
AUC ABT-450 et dasabuvir	↗ 20 %	↗ 37 %	↗ 50 %
AUC ritonavir	↗ 42 %	↗ 80 %	↗ 114 %

- None of the changes in drug exposures were clinically relevant
- Change in DAA exposure are not clinically relevant for safety

- **None of the changes in drug exposures were clinically relevant and they do not require dose adjustment.**
- **Clinical studies in HCV infected patients with renal insufficiency are planned in light of these pharmacokinetic results**

# Daclatasvir: dose adjustment not required in subjects with renal impairment



- Compared with a normal creatinine clearance (CrCL; 90 mL/min), AUC<sub>inf</sub> estimated to increase 1.3-, 1.6- and 1.8-fold for subjects with CrCL values of 60, 30 and 15 mL/min, respectively
  - Similar estimated increases in the AUC<sub>inf</sub> of unbound free DCV were also observed
  - Increased DCV exposure was within the exposures observed in the population PK and exposure-safety assessment, which has not shown a correlation between higher exposures and adverse events (AEs)
- DCV was generally well-tolerated in subjects with normal renal function or renal impairment of varying degree
- DCV can be administered in subjects with renal impairment without dose modification

# Simeprevir: dose adjustment not required in subjects with renal impairment

Parameter	LS means <sup>a</sup>		LS means ratio	90% CI
	Renal impaired (test)	Healthy controls (reference)		
$C_{\min}$ , ng/mL	985.5	577.5	1.71	0.65, 4.50
$C_{\max}$ , ng/mL	3459	2588	1.34	0.66, 2.72
$AUC_{24h}$ , ng.h/mL	51710	32010	1.62	0.73, 3.59
	Median <sup>a</sup>		Treatment difference median	90% CI
$t_{\max}$ , h	6.0	6.0	0.0	0.0, 2.0

- For subjects with severe renal impairment, SMV  $C_{\min}$ ,  $C_{\max}$  and  $AUC_{24h}$  were about 71%, 34% and 62% higher, respectively, compared with matched healthy controls
  - For  $t_{\max}$ , no relevant differences were observed between the groups

$AUC_{24h}$ , area under the plasma-time curve; CI, confidence interval;  $C_{\max}$ , maximum plasma concentration;  $C_{\min}$ , minimum plasma concentration;  $t_{\max}$ , time to reach  $C_{\max}$

<sup>a</sup>N: 8 for reference (healthy controls) and N: 8 for test (renal impaired)

# What are the expectations of treatment?

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- ◆ Likelihood of clinical improvement post SVR
- ◆ Other determinants will affect outcome
  - Alcohol, diabetes mellitus, HIV, steatosis?
- ◆ Treat before or after transplant?
  - Another instance of informed deferral?
  
- ◆ Longer term outcome: HCC risk
  - Genetic alterations?
  - HCC surveillance

# Eradication of HCV disease requires:

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- Preventing transmission of incident infection
  - Preventing progression to clinical disease
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- Watershed moment in the epidemic

# Treating: prioritisation strategy

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- Population impact:
  - *Key outcomes:*
    - Incident cases of chronic infection
    - Severe liver disease and morbidity
      - In the next 20 years
- Prioritize treatment to either
  - People who inject drugs?
  - Persons with moderate or advanced fibrosis?
- Which approach?

## Managing hepatitis C: a few remaining questions for today

- Has an irrevocable switch to interferon free regimens arrived?
- Likelihood of clinical improvement post SVR?
  - Liver function, HCC surveillance
- Other determinants affect outcome
  - Alcohol, diabetes mellitus, HIV, steatosis?
- Treat before or after transplant?
  - Another instance of informed deferral?
- How can the near 100% SVR rates in clinical trials be translated and back engineered in clinical practice?
- How can the same rates be achieved in patients with
  - Decompensated cirrhosis?
  - Patients with relapse following a NS5A containing regimen?
  - Genotype 3 infection?
- How can reinfection be prevented
- How do we align policy strategies?