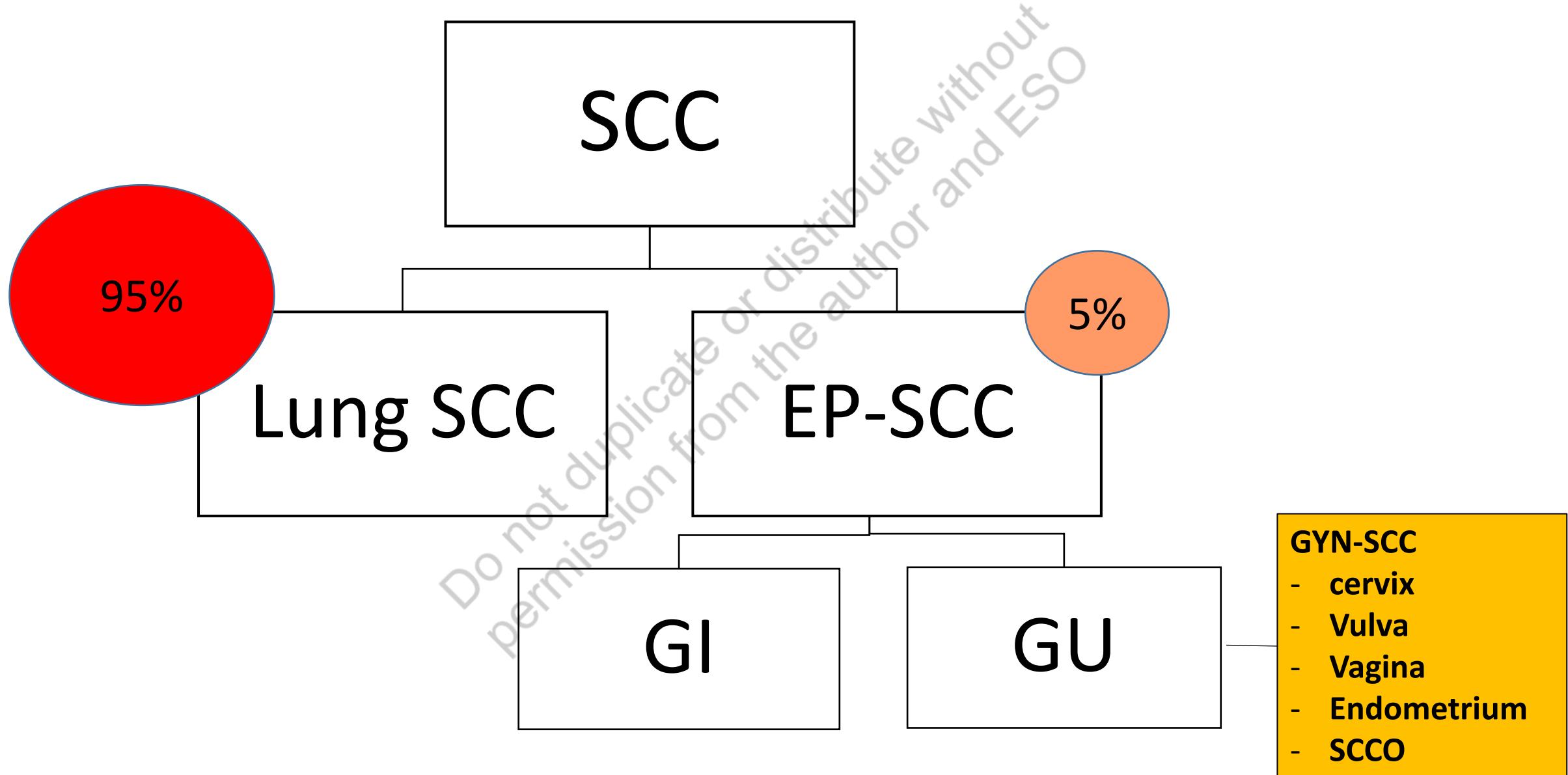




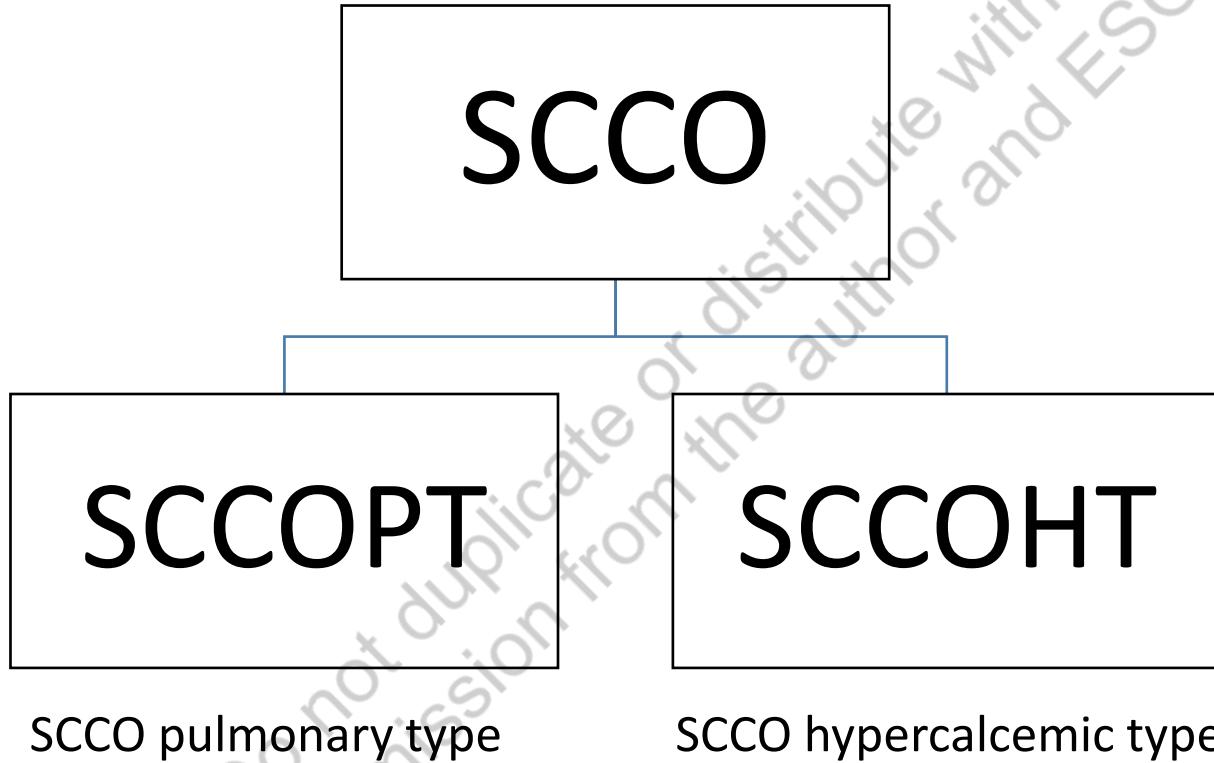
Small cell carcinomas of the genital tract: ovary vs cervix

Alice Bergamini, MD
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
IRCCS San Raffaele Hospital, Milan, Italy

Extrapulmonary small cell carcinomas



SCCO classification



The only gyn SCC not
belonging to NECs

SCCOPT

Extremely rare – few cases reported in literature
not possible to make recommendations!

- Present in women with a mean age of 51 (22-81 years)
- 50% bilateral disease
- PATHOLOGY: difficult to distinguish SCCOPT from SCC of the lung (metastatic vs primary?)
 - Neuroendocrine markers: Chr A, NSE, CD56, synaptophysin
- MOLECULAR FEATURES: BRCA2 (not pathogenic), TP53
- TREATMENT: surgery + chemotherapy (regimens derived from lung SCC)

Cisplatin/carboplatin + etoposide

Alkylating agents

Paclitaxel

Irinotecan

SCCOHT - Epidemiology

- The only subtype of gyn SCC not belonging to NECs.
- First described in 1979 by Scully – fewer than 500 cases reported in literature
 - PATHOLOGY: Typical morphologic appearance of small hyperchromatic cells with scant cytoplasm and brisk mitotic activity
 - Hypercalcemia present in 2/3 of the patients – expression of Parathyroid hormone-related protein
- It mainly affects adolescents and young women (mean age 24 years)

Clinical presentation

Presenting symptoms/signs:

- Abdominal pain
- Detection of abdominal mass
- Enlarged waist
- Nausea- Vomiting
- Weight loss

- Stage distribution

I	39%
II	10%
III	45%
IV	6%

Staging

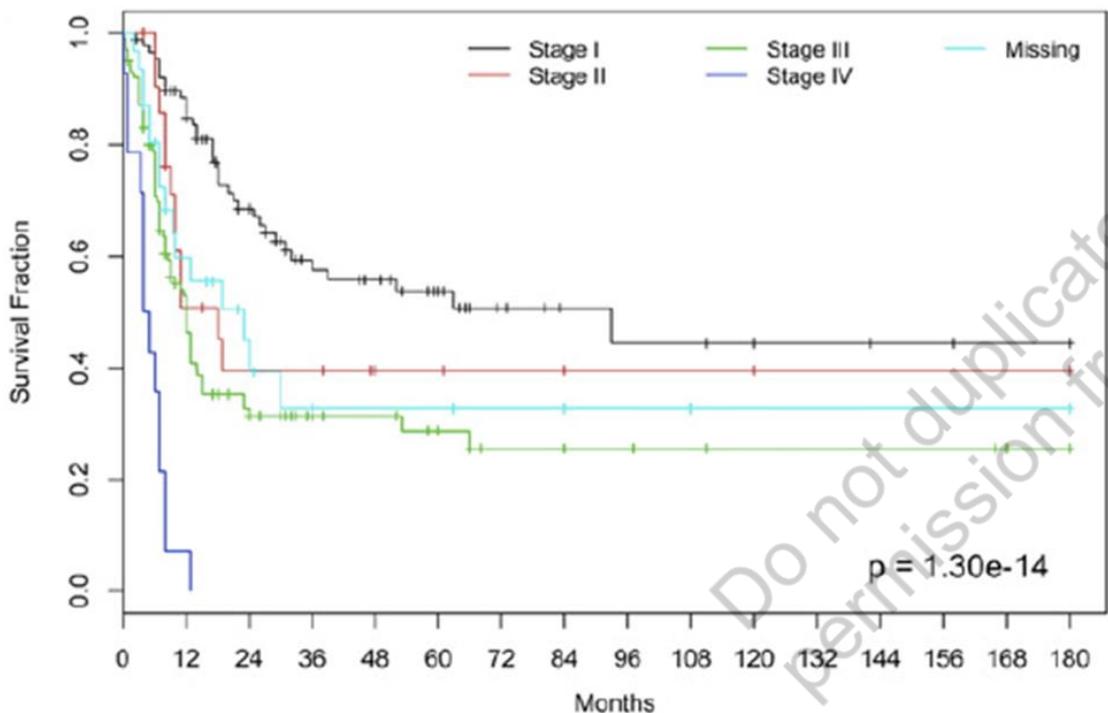
I	Tumor confined to ovaries or fallopian tube(s)	T1
IA	Tumor limited to one ovary (capsule intact) or fallopian tube, No tumor on ovarian or fallopian tube surface No malignant cells in the ascites or peritoneal washings	T1a
IB	Tumor limited to both ovaries (capsules intact) or fallopian tubes No tumor on ovarian or fallopian tube surface No malignant cells in the ascites or peritoneal washings	T1b
IC	Tumor limited to one or both ovaries or fallopian tubes, with any of the following: IC1 Surgical spill intraoperatively IC2 Capsule ruptured before surgery or tumor on ovarian or fallopian tube surface IC3 Malignant cells present in the ascites or peritoneal washings	T1c
II	Tumor involves one or both ovaries or fallopian tubes with pelvic extension (below pelvic brim) or peritoneal cancer (Tp)	T2
IIA	Extension and/or implants on the uterus and/or fallopian tubes/and/or ovaries	T2a
IIB	Extension to other pelvic intraperitoneal tissues	T2b
III	Tumor involves one or both ovaries, or fallopian tubes, or primary peritoneal cancer, with cytologically or histologically confirmed spread to the peritoneum outside the pelvis and/or metastasis to the retroperitoneal lymph nodes	T3
IIIA	Metastasis to the retroperitoneal lymph nodes with or without microscopic peritoneal involvement beyond the pelvis	T1,T2,T3aN1
IIIA1	Positive retroperitoneal lymph nodes only (cytologically or histologically proven)	
IIIA1(i)	Metastasis \leq 10 mm in greatest dimension (note this is tumor dimension and not lymph node dimension)	T3a/T3aN1
IIIA1(ii)	Metastasis $>$ 10 mm in greatest dimension	
IIIA 2	Microscopic extrapelvic (above the pelvic brim) peritoneal involvement with or without positive retroperitoneal lymph nodes	T3a/T3aN1
IIIB	Macroscopic peritoneal metastases beyond the pelvic brim \leq 2 cm in greatest dimension, with or without metastasis to the retroperitoneal lymph nodes	T3b/T3bN1
III C	Macroscopic peritoneal metastases beyond the pelvic brim $>$ 2 cm in greatest dimension, with or without metastases to the retroperitoneal nodes (Note 1)	T3c/T3cN1
IV	Distant metastasis excluding peritoneal metastases	Any T, Any N,
	Stage IV A: Pleural effusion with positive cytology	M1
	Stage IV B: Metastases to extra-abdominal organs (including inguinal lymph nodes and lymph nodes outside of abdominal cavity) (Note 2) (Note 1: includes extension of tumor to capsule of liver and spleen without parenchymal involvement of either organ) (Note 2: Parenchymal metastases are Stage IV B)	T3c/T3cN1)

Notes:

1. Includes extension of tumor to capsule of liver and spleen without parenchymal involvement of either organ.
2. Parenchymal metastases are Stage IV B.

Prognosis

- Poor , 30-40% long term survivors with standard treatment
Even if initial responses to chemotherapy are frequent, chemoresistant relapses are common.



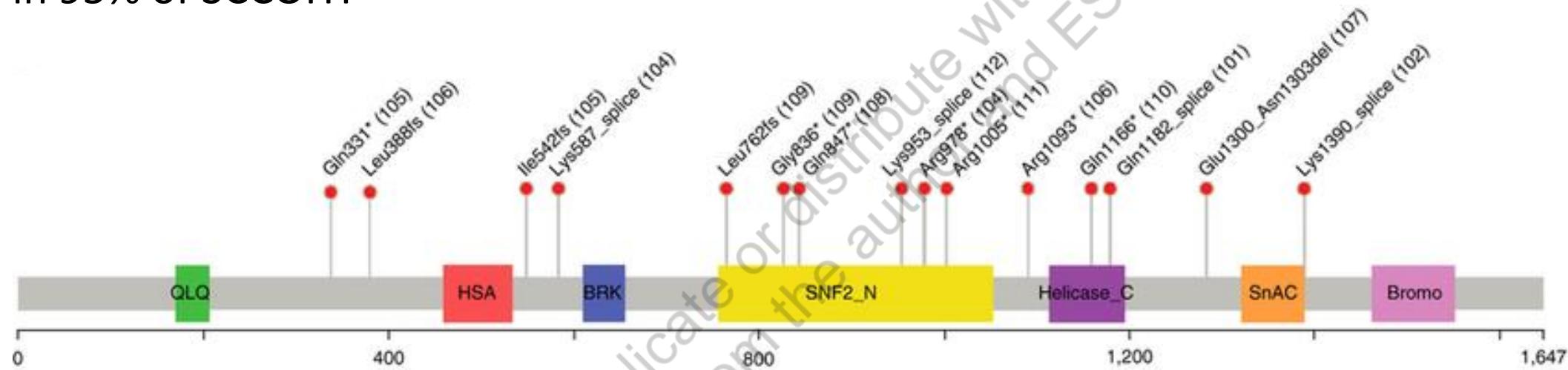
PROGNOSTIC FACTORS

- STAGE (IA vs others)
- AGE (>30)
- Preoperative calcium levels (lower vs higher)
- Tumor size (<10 cm)
- Absence of large cells
- Optimal cytoreduction (vs TR>0)

Reed NS et al, *Int J Gynecol Cancer* 2014
Bristow RE et al, *J Clin Oncol* 2002
Witkoswki L et al., *Gynecol Oncol* 2016

SCCOHT - Pathogenesis

SMARCA4 germline/somatic inactivating mutation → loss of function of SMARCA4/BRG1 protein
Present in 95% of SCCOHT



SMARCA4/BRG1 is part of the chromatin remodeling complex SWI/SNF that makes DNA accessible to transcriptional regulators/repressors



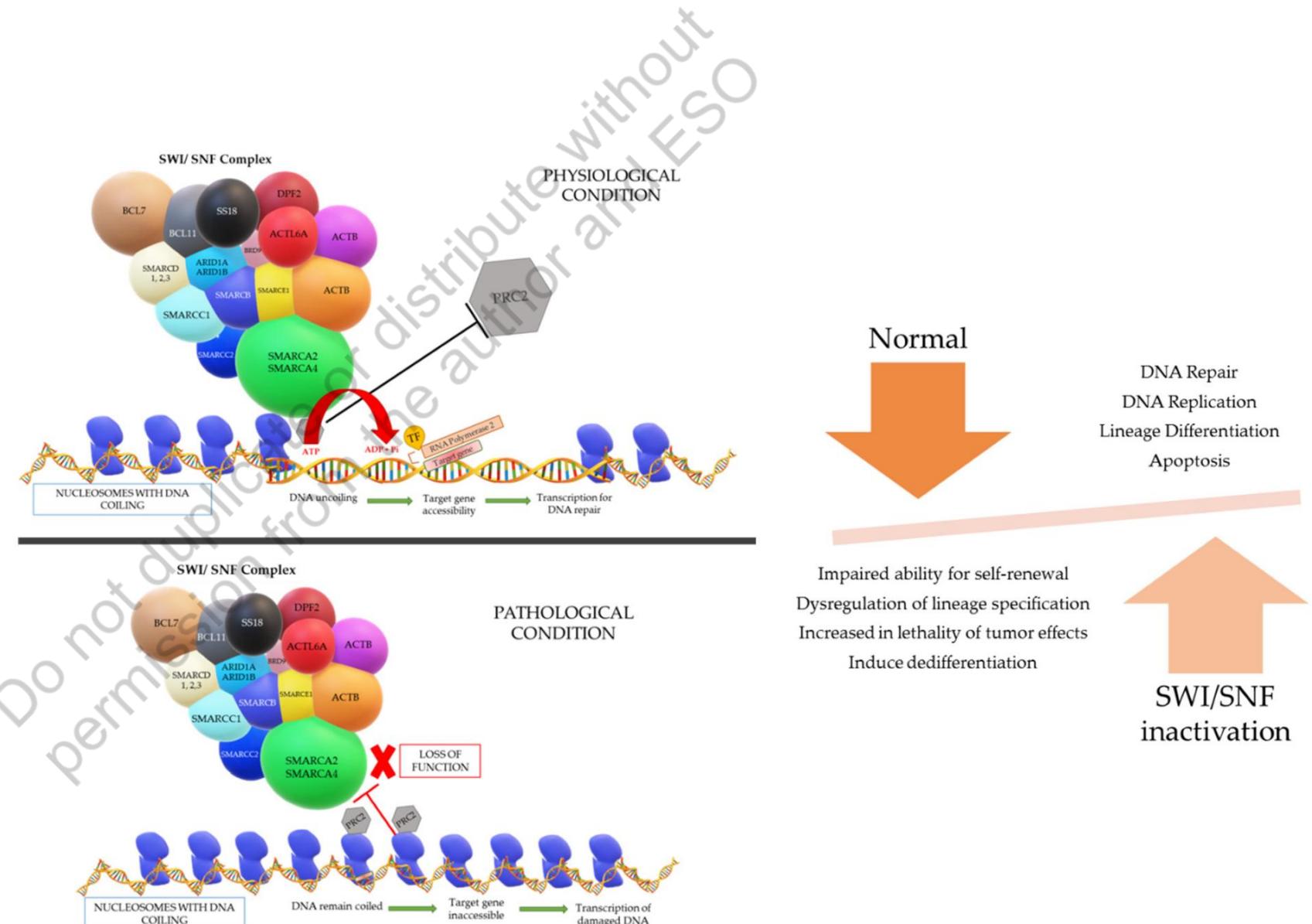
- DNA transcriptional regulation
- DNA damage repair
- Cell Differentiation
- Mitosis

SCCOHT - Pathogenesis

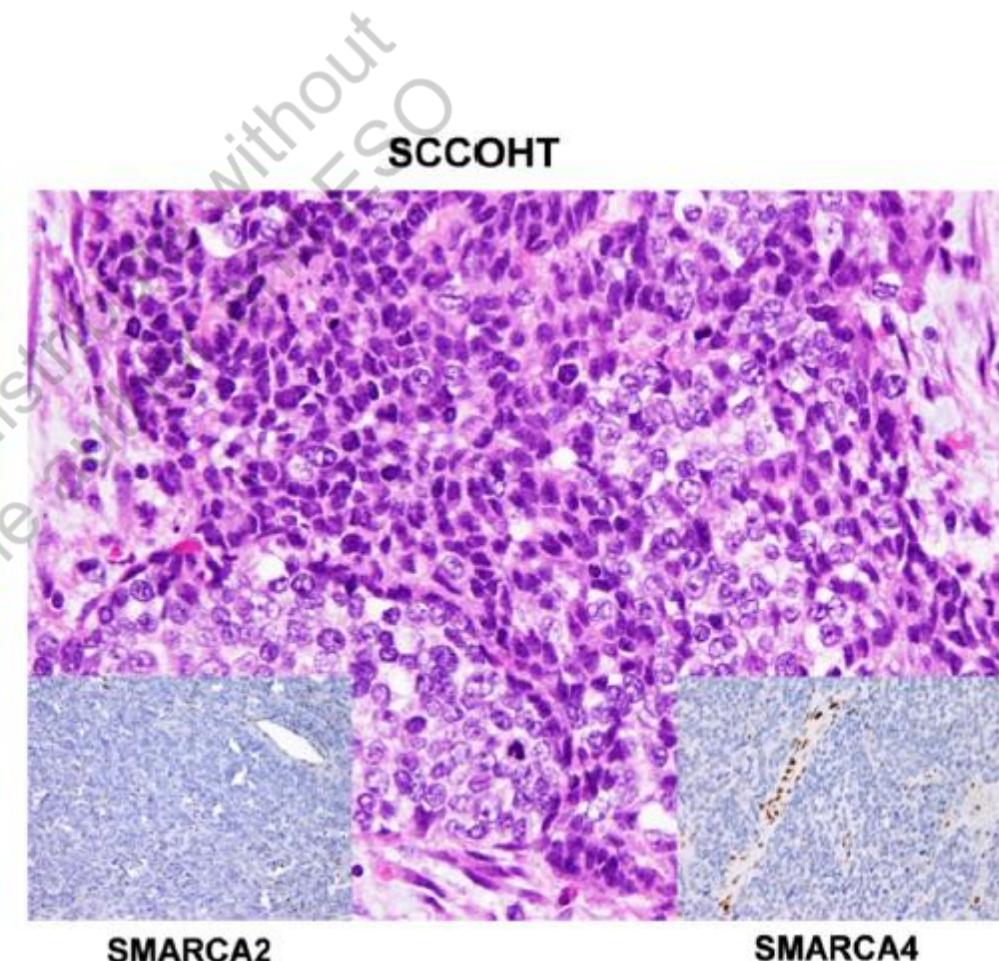
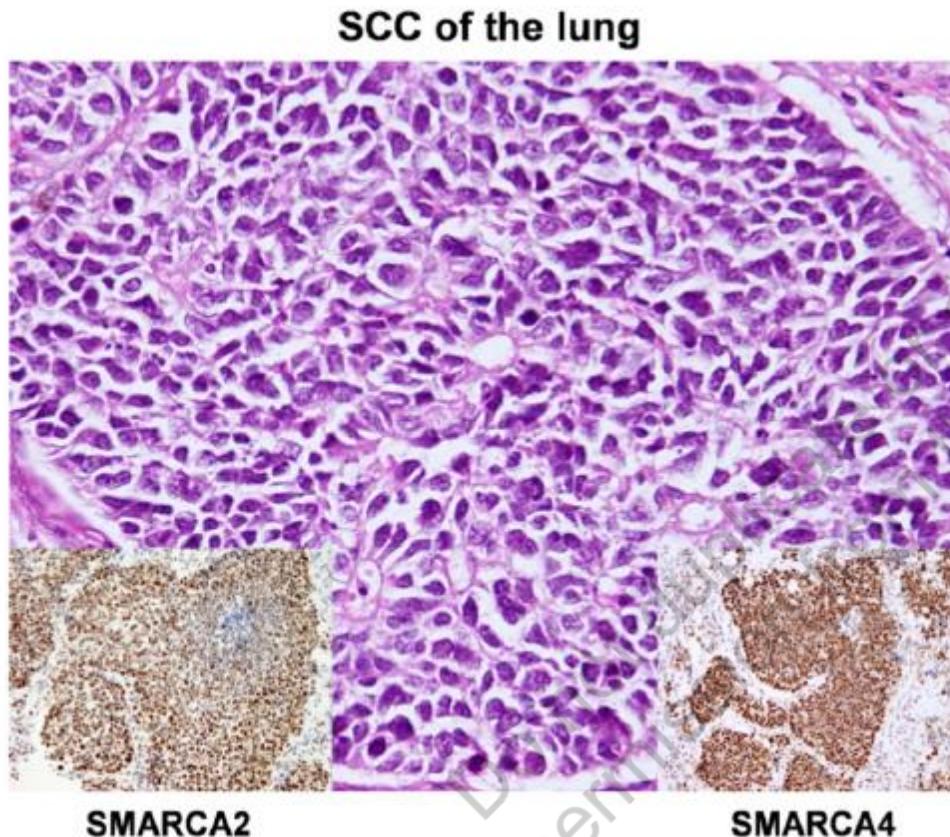
SMARCA4 and SMARCA2 are mutually exclusive tumor suppressors

Occasionally tumors exhibit loss of SMARCA2 and retention of SMARCA
4.

The concomitant loss of SMARCA4 and SMARCA2 (via epigenetic silencing) is pathognomonic of SCCOHT



Pathology



Differential diagnoses

Ovarian Granulosa cell tumors

MOGCT

ESS

Neuroblastoma

SMARCA4 IHC

Expert gyn pathologist

Intraabdominal desmoplastic small round cell tumor

Lymphoma

Ovarian metastases melanoma/SCLC

ISC recommendations on Genetic counselling

International SCCOHT Consortium

Molecular feature of SCCOHT
is SMARCA4
germline/somatic inactivating
mutation

Germline mutation(up to
40%): younger onset, family
history generally silent

Risk of other tumors:
uncertain

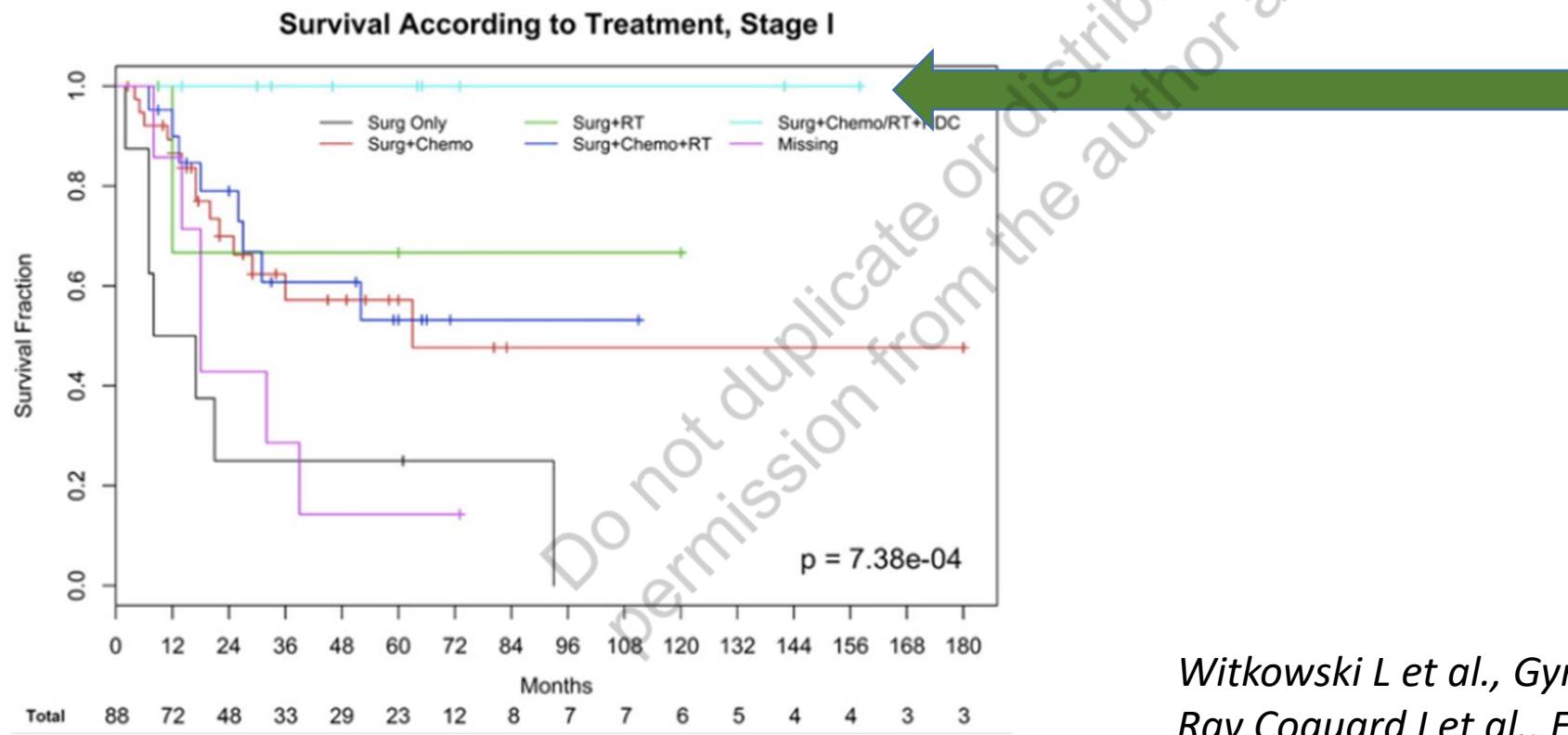
Genetic Counseling

- Refer all SCCOHT patients to a clinical genetics service and offer testing for germline *SMARCA4* PVs.
- Discuss risk-reducing contralateral oophorectomy in SCCOHT patients with a germline *SMARCA4* PV, due to increased risk of second primary malignancy. Tumor sequencing can confirm diagnosis and serve as a reference for germline sequencing. If no *SMARCA4* mutation is detected, SCCOHT diagnosis should be reconsidered.
- Germline sequencing without prior somatic sequencing can be performed where there is a confirmed diagnosis of SCCOHT through loss of SMARCA4 on IHC coupled with appropriate histologic findings.
- Offer genetic counseling and predictive testing to all at-risk relatives of SCCOHT patients with germline *SMARCA4* PVs.

Treatment

Lack of prospective studies – treatment based on retrospective case series with heterogeneous management

MULTIMODAL APPROACH RECOMMENDED



Witkowski L et al., *Gynecol Oncol* 2016
Ray Coquard I et al., *ESMO Guidelines, Ann Oncol* 2018
Tischkowitz M et al. *Clin Cancer Res* 2020

Surgical treatment- stage I

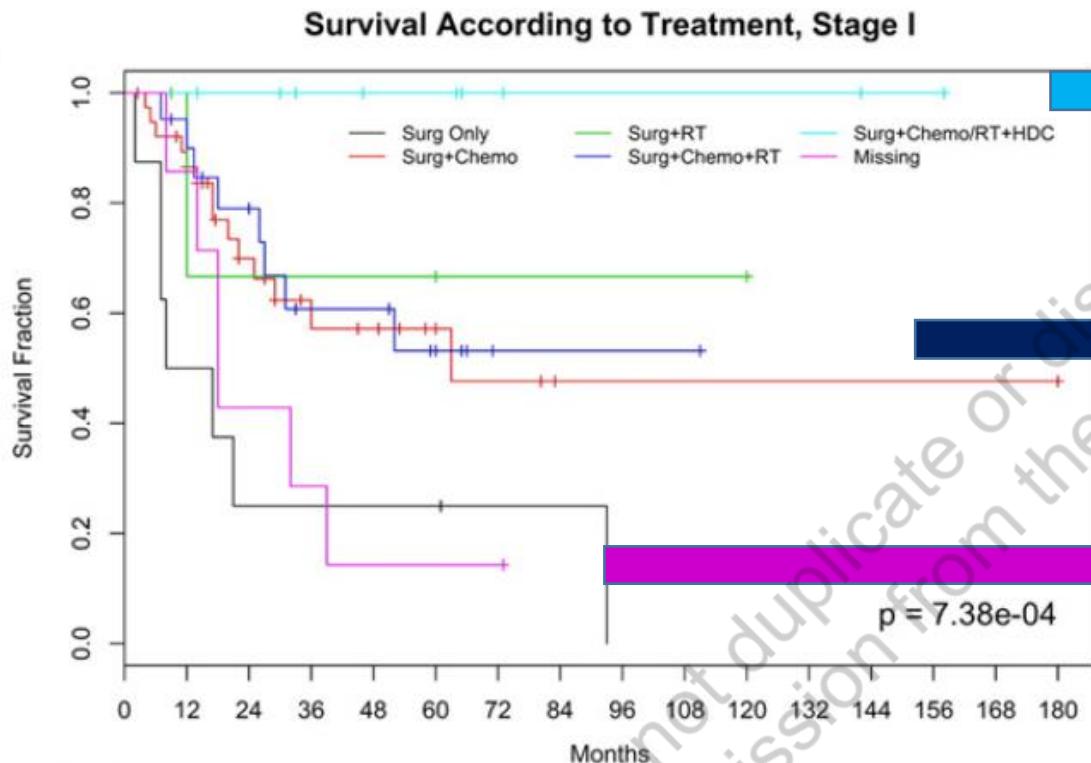
Author, year	Number cases total	Recurrences in USO	Recurrences in BSO
Young, 1994	150	16/21	6/14
Callegaro Filho, 2015	47	6/8	4/8
Total	197	22/29 (75.8%)	10/22 (45.4%)

No pregnancies reported
Gonadotoxic effect of chemotherapy

Young et al., Am J Surgical Pathol 1994
Callegaro-Filho et al. Gynecol Oncol 2015

Treatment - stage I

B



Best outcome obtained with surgery+chemo/RT+ HDCT (100% OS on 9 patients)C

No advantage of adding RT to surgery+chemo

Surgery alone: worse prognosis

	88	72	48	33	29	23	12	8	7	7	6	5	4	4	3	3
Total	88	72	48	33	29	23	12	8	7	7	6	5	4	4	3	3
Surg Alone	8	4	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surg + Chemo	39	32	19	12	10	7	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Surg+RT	4	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Surg + Chemo + RT	21	18	14	9	9	6	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Surg + Chemo/RT + HDC	9	9	8	6	5	5	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0
Missing	7	6	3	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

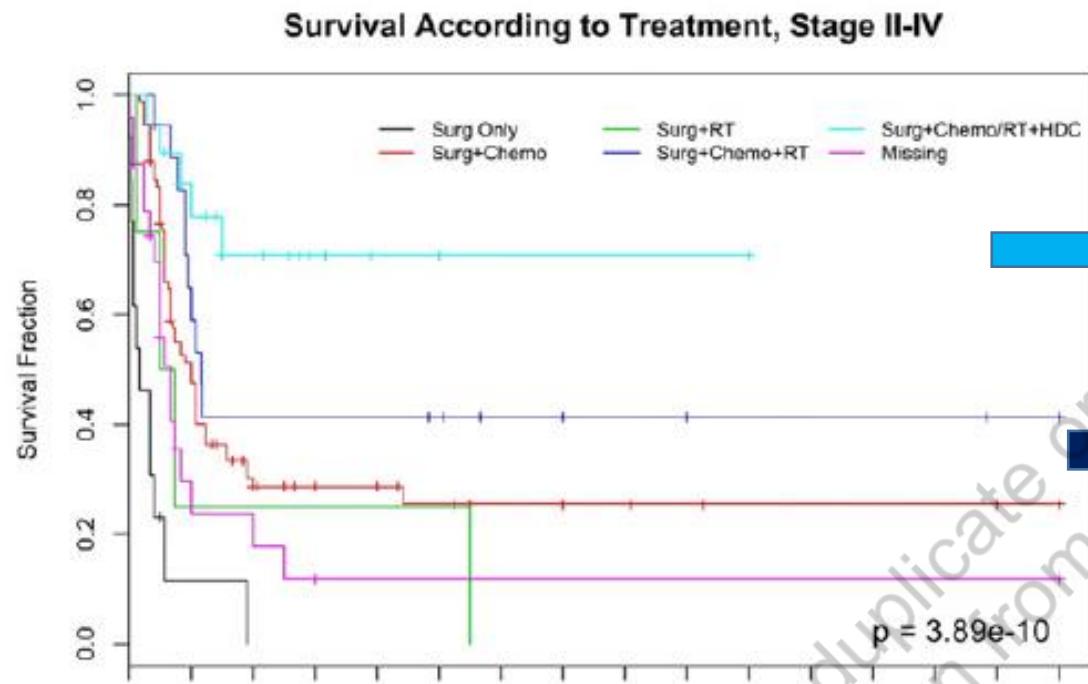
Witkowski L et al., *Gynecol Oncol* 2016

Ray Coquard I et al., *ESMO Guidelines, Ann Oncol* 2018

Tischkowitz M et al. *Clin Cancer Res* 2020

Treatment - stage II-IV

C



Best outcome obtained with
surgery+chemo/RT+ HDCT
(71% OS on 19 patients)

No advantage in adding RT
to surgery + chemotherapy

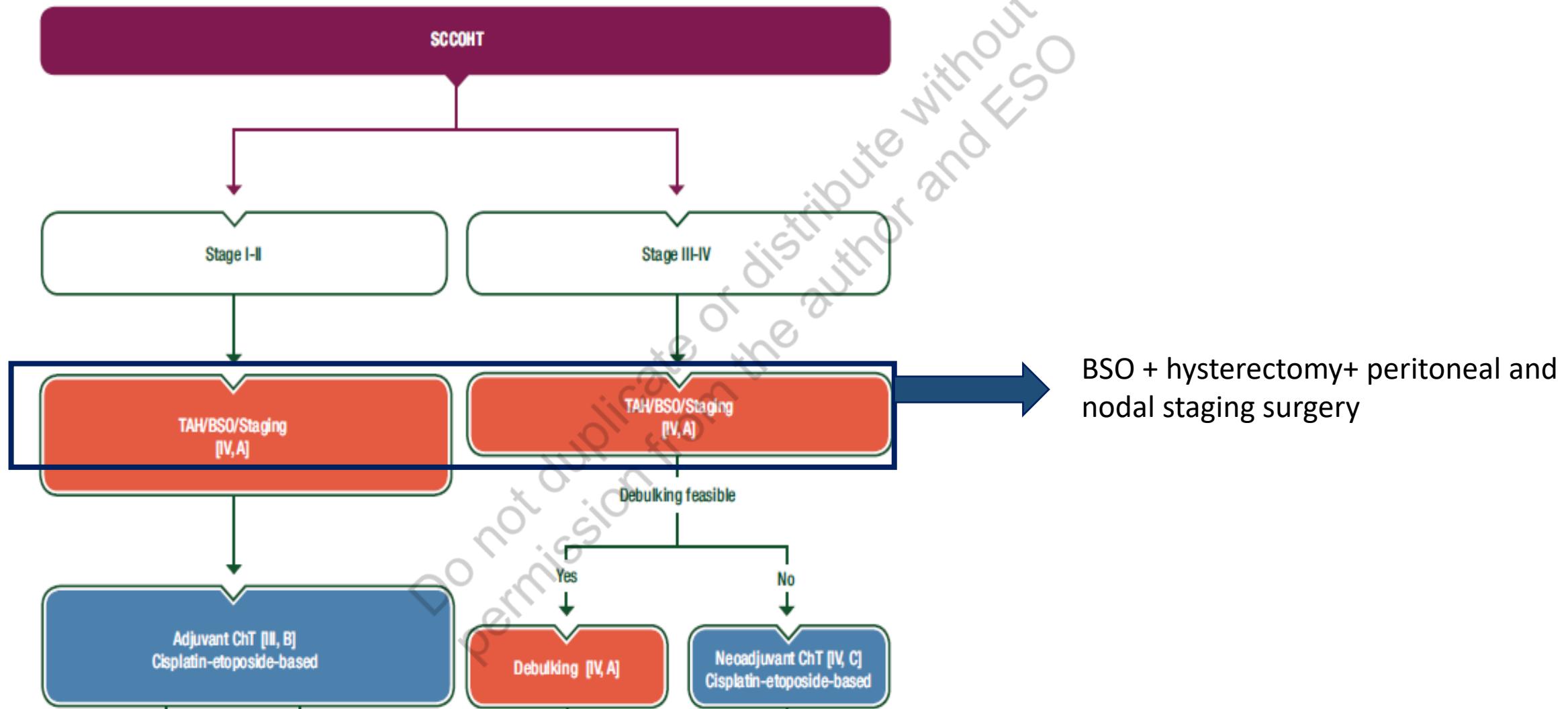
	Months															
Total	169	73	40	27	22	18	12	12	9	8	6	5	5	5	4	3
Surg Alone	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surg + Chemo	91	41	19	12	11	8	6	6	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	1
Surg+RT	4	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surg + Chemo + RT	18	11	7	7	7	6	4	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	1
Surg + Chemo/RT + HDC	19	14	9	5	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Missing	24	5	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Witkowski L et al., *Gynecol Oncol* 2016

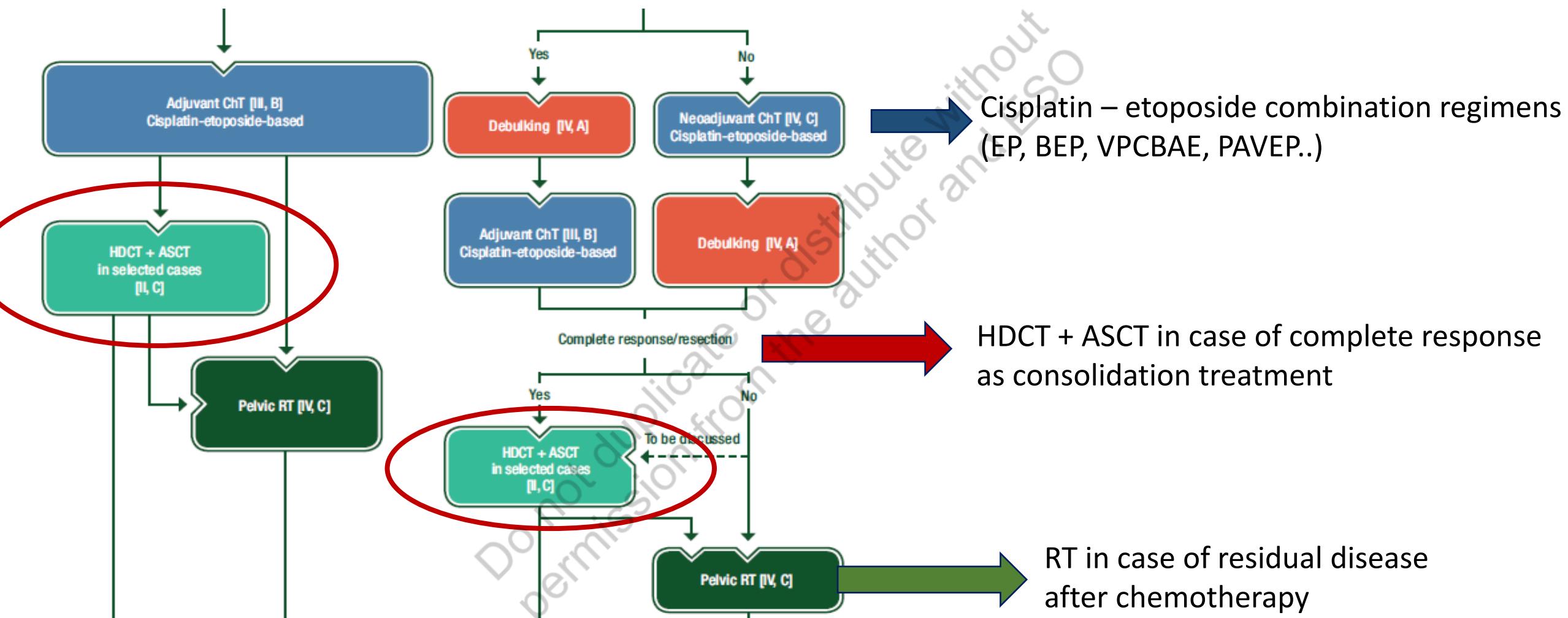
Ray Coquard I et al., *ESMO Guidelines, Ann Oncol* 2018

Tischkowitz M et al. *Clin Cancer Res* 2020

ESMO Guidelines - Surgery



ESMO Guidelines - Adjuvant treatment



Ray Coquard I, et al. ESMO Guidelines, Ann Oncol 2018
Pautier P et al. Ann Oncol 2017
Witkowski L et al. Gynecol Oncol 2016

Treatment of recurrent disease

Prolonged remissions not achievable with second line chemotherapy

Cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine

Carboplatin paclitaxel (also dose dense)

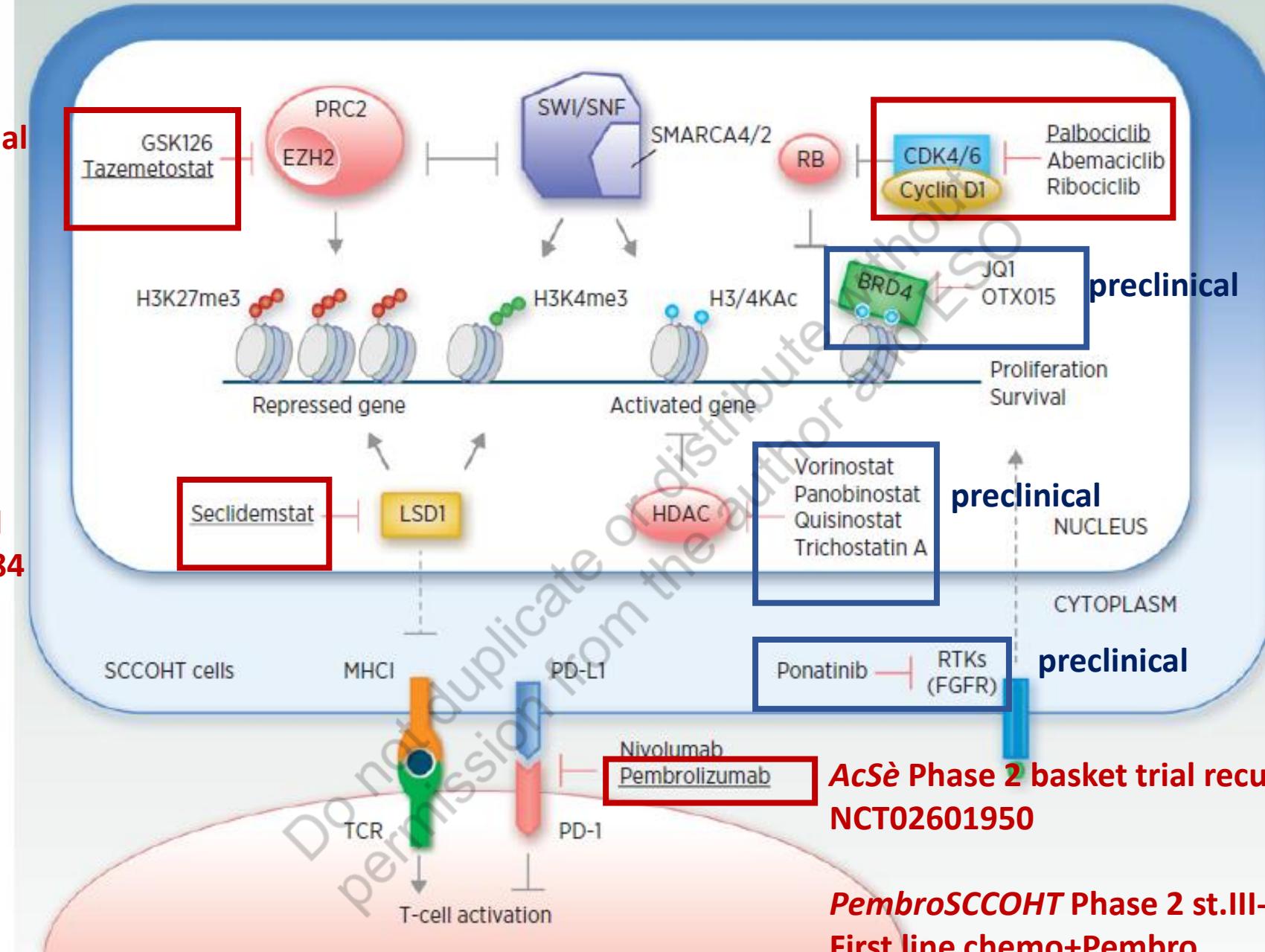
Topotecan

Phase I trials

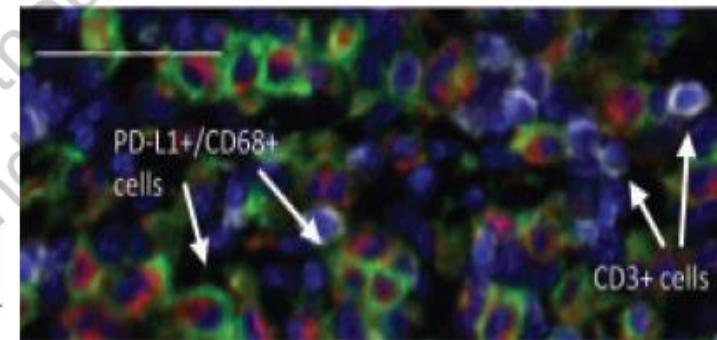
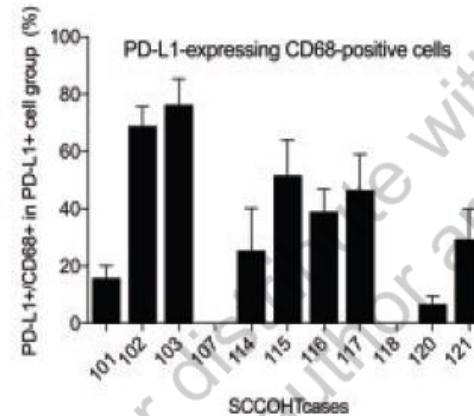
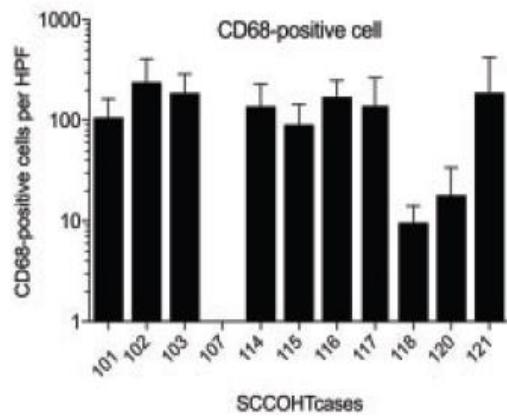
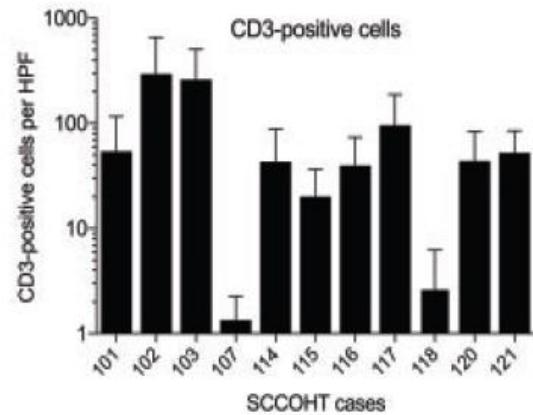
Oncologic Management: Recurrent Disease

- Obtain biopsy as clinically indicated and/or to help with ongoing translational research^a.
- Enroll in clinical trial, if available (see Table 2).
- Consider radiotherapy if disease field allows.
- Consider additional chemotherapy with cisplatin and etoposide combination regimens if disease-free interval > 6 months.
- Alternative chemotherapy regimens (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine; or carboplatin, paclitaxel; or topotecan; or similar).
- Consider secondary surgical cytoreduction if disease can be completely resected and disease-free interval > 12 months^b.
- Consider off-label immune checkpoint blockade treatment after radiotherapy based on drug availability (69).
- Consult with members of the ISC regarding off-label drug use based on unpublished data.

Phase 2 basket trial
NCT02601950



Immune checkpoint inhibitors in SCCOH



AcSè - NCT03012620

Phase 2 basket trial with Pembrolizumab in recurrent rare OC

PembroSCCOHT - NCT04602377-

Phase 2 trial of chemotherapy + Pembrolizumab for stage III-IV SCCOH

SCCOHT-Conclusions

- Rare tumors, with aggressive disease course and poor prognosis
- Referral to reference centers is mandatory – expert gyn pathological review at diagnosis
- Multimodality treatment recommended
- Mainstay of treatment is cytoreductive surgery followed by platinum/etoposide based chemotherapy
- Role of radiotherapy still unclear
- High dose chemotherapy+ASCT as consolidation may improve outcome after response to chemotherapy
- Promising approaches: Target therapies to SWI/SNF complex, immunotherapy (phase I-II trials)
- **Promotion of international collaborations for registries and future clinical research.**



Small cell carcinoma of the uterine cervix

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permission from the author and ESO

Pathology

WHO Classification of neuroendocrine tumors (NETs) of the uterine cervix (1.4% of CC)

Uterine cervix	Neuroendocrine tumors	Carcinoid Atypical carcinoid
	Neuroendocrine carcinoma	Small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma Large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma
		Adenocarcinoma/squamous cell carcinoma Admixed with neuroendocrine carcinoma

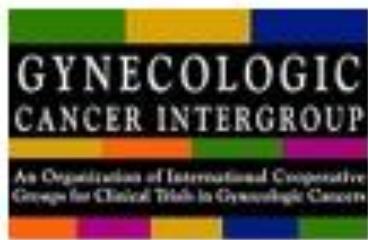
Most common:
NET of small cell type
(SCNET)

Differential diagnoses

- Lymphomas
- Squamous cell carcinoma of small cell type

Colgan TJ et al, IARC press, 2014
Howitt BE, Curr Oncol Report 2017

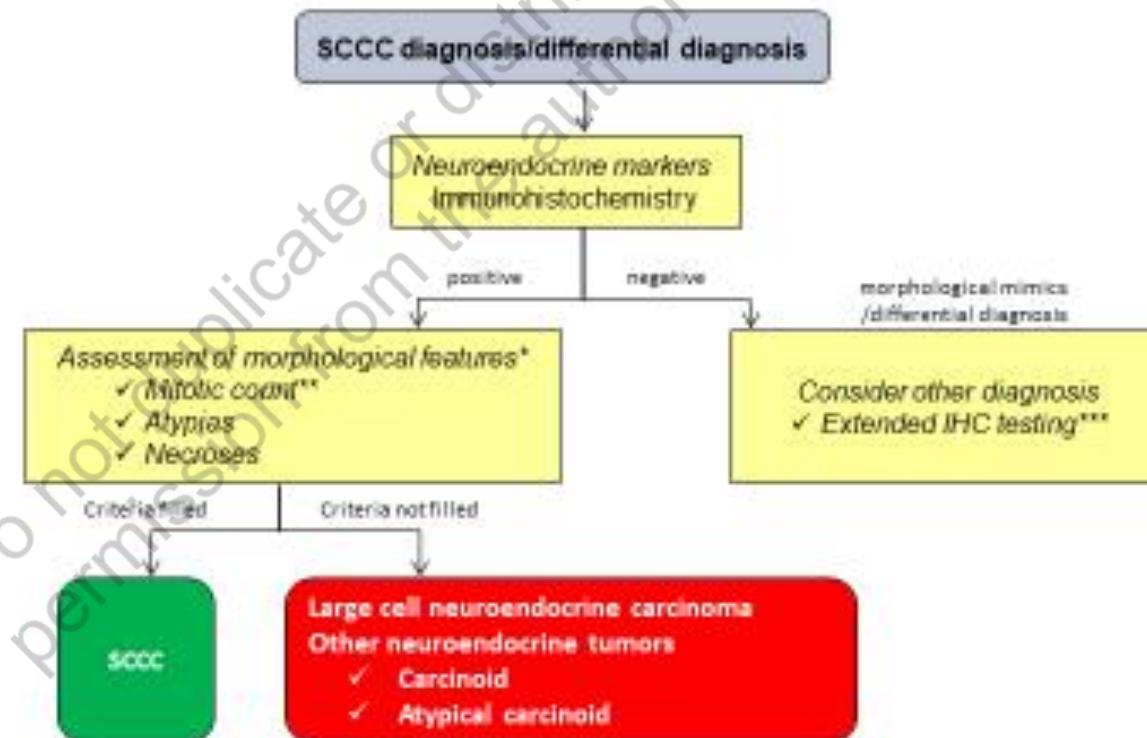
Pathological diagnosis



SCCC Specific needs for histology diagnosis



Specific IHC need to be done
Neuroendocrine markers
✓ Synaptophysin
✓ Chromogranin
✓ CD56 (low specificity)



*Exclude morphological mimics such as Ewing sarcoma / PNET; additional tests may be needed.

**Criteria for mitotic count are suggested (SCCC > 20 mitoses / 50 HPF; or > 10 mitoses / 10 HPF) but not exactly established

***Negativity of neuroendocrine markers is not excluding SCCC; consider complex results of IHC antibodies panel

IHC profile

	SCNET	Squamous cell carcinoma	Endocervical adenocarcinoma
Pankeratin	+	+++	+++
CK7	/+	-/+	+++
Neuroendocrine markers	30-50%+	Usually -	Usually -
P16	+++	+++	+++
TTF1	+/-	-	-
P63	-/+	+++	-
CEA	-	-	+++
ER-PR	-	+	-
HPV	HPV 18(53%)>HPV 16	HPV 16>18 (15%)	18 (50%)>16

IHC expression of neuroendocrine markers not required for diagnosis

Epidemiology SCNEC

	Small cell carcinoma	Squamous cell carcinoma	Endocervical adenocarcinoma
Incidence, % cases	1-5%	75%	20-25%
Mean age at diagnosis, years	49 (14-78)	52	46
Behaviour	Aggressive		
Disease spread	Lymph nodes 50% Distant metastases (lung, liver, bone, brain)	Lymph nodes 15-50% Pelvic recurrences Distant metastases rare, lung 6%	Lymph nodes 20% Ovary 5% Lymph nodes, adrenal glands, lung

FIGO staging for carcinoma of the cervix

Stage I: The cancer has spread from the cervix lining into the deeper tissue but is still just found in the uterus. It has not spread to other parts of the body. This stage may be divided into smaller groups to describe the cancer in more detail (see below).

Stage IA: The cancer is diagnosed only by viewing cervical tissue or cells under a microscope. Imaging tests or evaluation of tissue samples can also be used to determine tumor size.

Stage IA1: There is a cancerous area of less than 3 millimeters (mm) in depth.

Stage IA2: There is a cancerous area 3 mm to less than 5 mm in depth.

Stage IB: In this stage, the tumor is larger but still only confined to the cervix. There is no distant spread.

Stage IB1: The tumor 5 mm or more in depth and less than 2 centimeters (cm) wide. A centimeter is roughly equal to the width of a standard pen or pencil.

Stage IB2: The tumor is 2 cm or more in depth and less than 4 cm wide.

Stage IB3: The tumor is 4 cm or more in width.

Stage II: The cancer has spread beyond the uterus to nearby areas, such as the vagina or tissue near the cervix, but it is still inside the pelvic area. It has not spread to other parts of the body. This stage may be divided into smaller groups to describe the cancer in more detail (see below).

Stage IIA: The tumor is limited to the upper two-thirds of the vagina. It has not spread to the tissue next to the cervix, which is called the parametrial area.

Stage IIA1: The tumor is less than 4 cm wide.

Stage IIA2: The tumor is 4 cm or more in width.

Stage IIB: The tumor has spread to the parametrial area. The tumor does not reach the pelvic wall.

Stage III: The tumor involves the lower third of the vagina, and/or has spread to the pelvic wall, and/or causes swelling of the kidney, called hydronephrosis, or stops a kidney from functioning, and/or involves regional lymph nodes. There is no distant spread.

Stage IIIA: The tumor involves the lower third of the vagina, but it has not grown into the pelvic wall.

Stage IIIB: The tumor has grown into the pelvic wall and/or affects a kidney.

Stage IIIC: The tumor involves regional lymph nodes. This can be detected using imaging tests or pathology. Adding a lowercase "r" indicates imaging tests were used to confirm lymph node involvement. A lowercase "p" indicates pathology

Stage IIIC1: The cancer has spread to lymph nodes in the pelvis.

Stage IIIC2: The cancer has spread to para-aortic lymph nodes. These lymph nodes are found in the abdomen near the base of the spine and near the aorta, a major artery that runs from the heart to the abdomen.

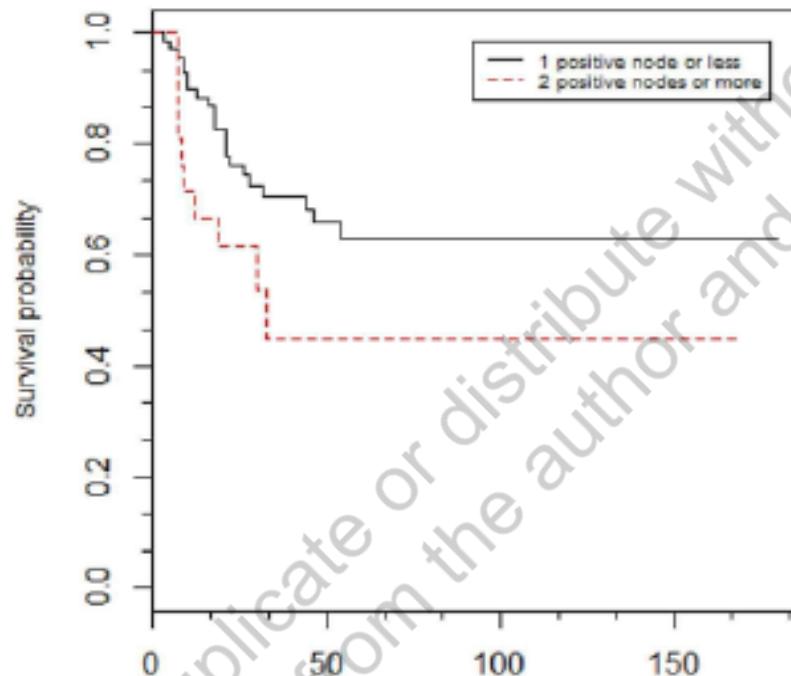
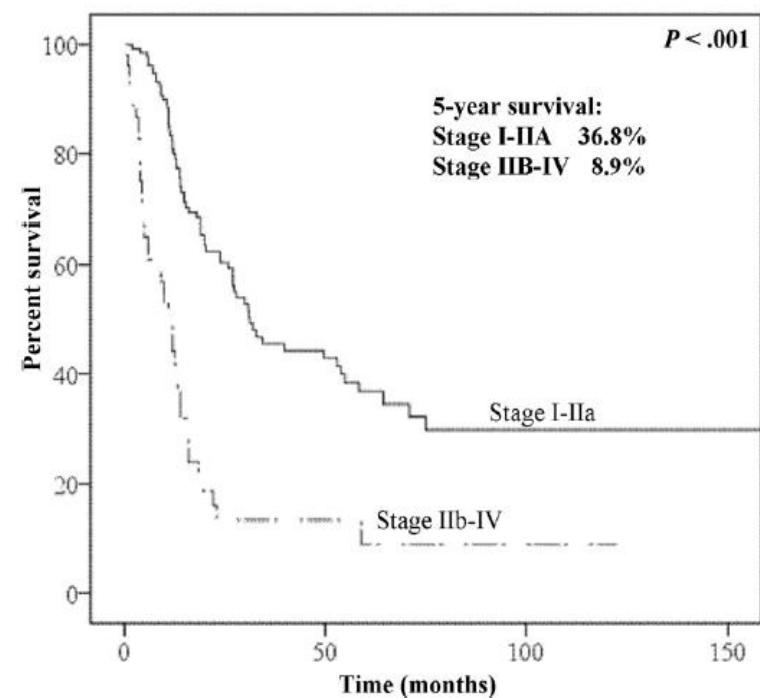
Stage IVA: The cancer has spread to the bladder or rectum, but it has not spread to other parts of the body.

Stage IVB: The cancer has spread to other parts of the body.

***Source:** Bhatla N, et al. Revised FIGO staging for carcinoma of the cervix uteri. Int J Gynecol Obstet 2019; 1-7.

29
Solheim O et al. GCIG guidelines 2021, presented at ESGO 2021

Prognosis



5 y OS

- all stages 20-30%
- Stage I-II 30-50%
- Stage III-IV 0-10%

PROGNOSTIC FACTORS

- **STAGE**
- **Pure small cell histology**
- Tumor size
- **LN status**
- **Age**
- LVSI
- Depth of invasion
- Margin status

Solheim O et al, GCIG guidelines, ESGO 2021
Cohen GJ et al. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2010
Li J. Et al, Int J Gynecol Cancer 2020
Gadducci et al, Gynecol Oncol 2017

Clinical staging

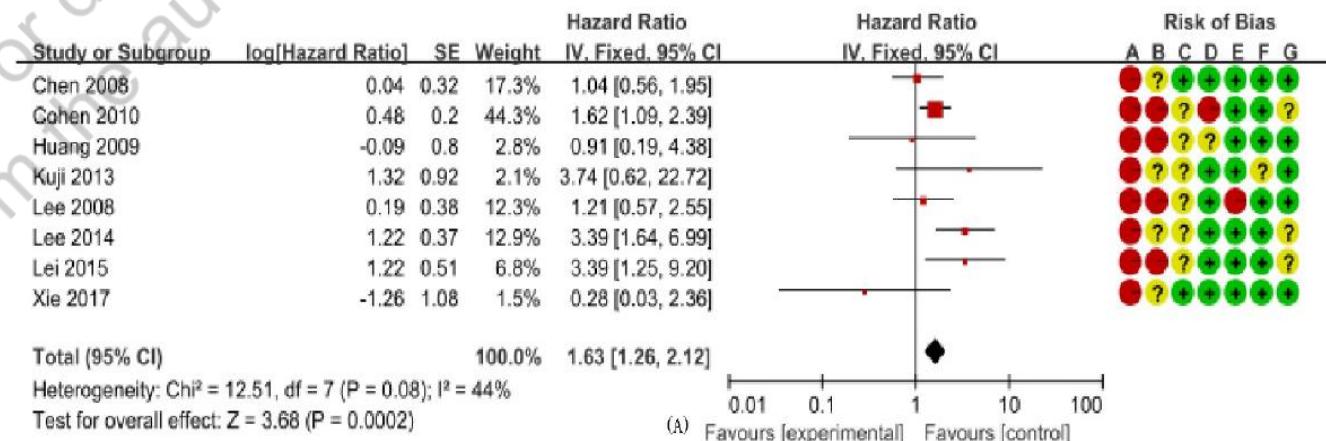
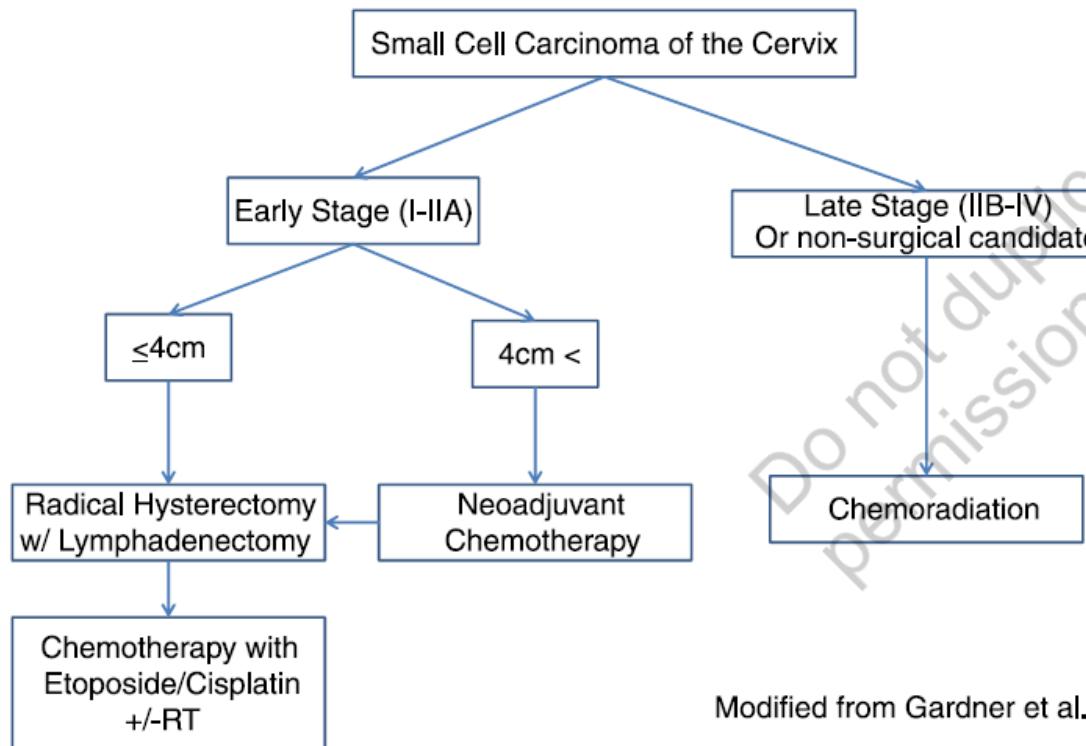
1. Physical examination
2. Imaging
 - pelvic MRI/ gyn US
 - PET/CT – WB MRI + CT chest , Brain MRI if clinically indicated
3. Blood hem+chemistry



Treatment

Lack of prospective studies – treatment based on retrospective case series with heterogeneous management and on management of lung SCNEC

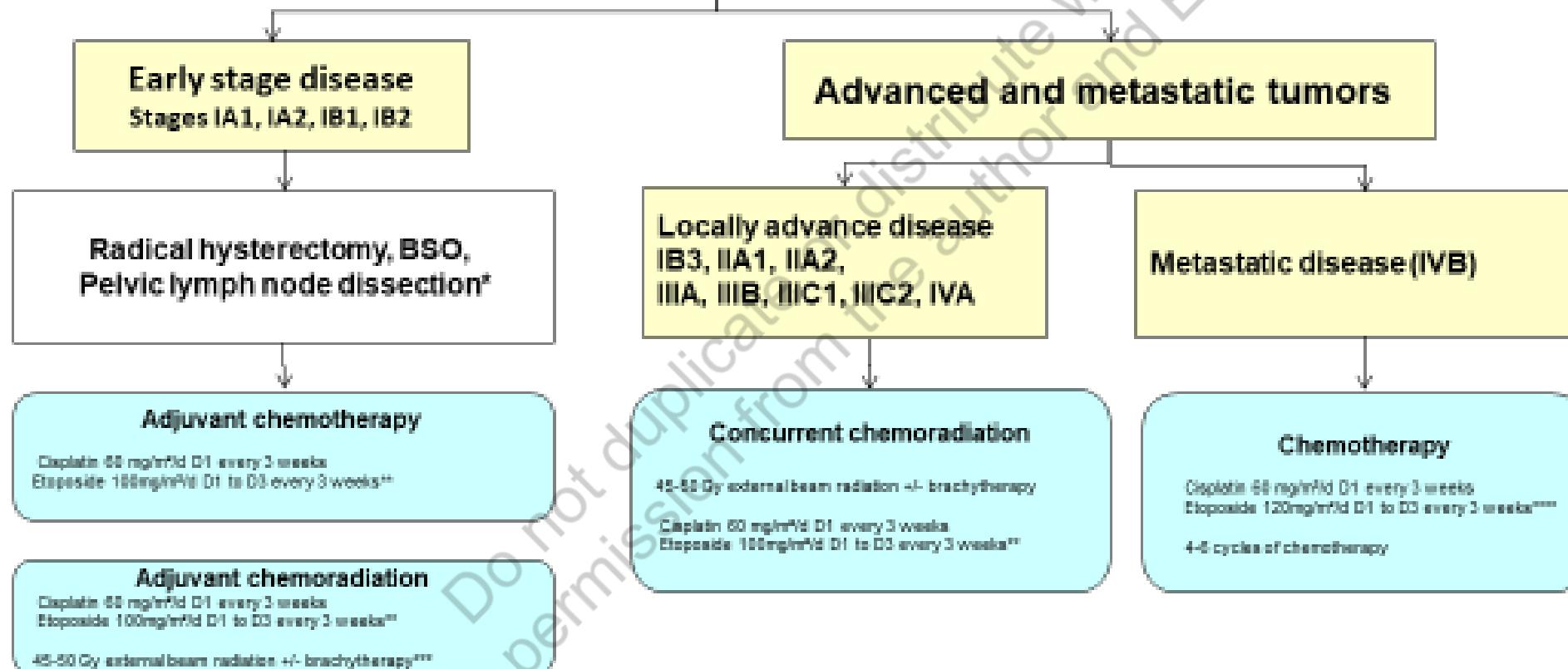
MULTIMODALITY TREATMENT RECOMMENDED even in early stage disease



Modified from Gardner et al. 2011

Satoh T et al, GCIG guidelines, 2014

SCCC Management



* Ovarian preservation and transposition can be considered in stage I premenopausal patients

** If possible six cycles of chemotherapy, with a minimum of five cycles total; consider Carboplatin/Etoposide if Creatinine clearance <60ml/min

*** Docetaxel

**** Etoposide 100mg/m²/d for those who are getting XRT or plan XRT

Chemotherapy regimens

Table 5

Chemotherapy regimens used for small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma of the uterine cervix.

Author ref.	Settings	CT regimen
Boruta [33]	Adjuvant CT after surgery (N: 34)	PE (N: 15); VAC (N: 7); VAC/PE (N: 2); others (N: 10)
Chang [38]	Adjuvant CT after surgery (N: 23)	VAC/PE (N: 14); PVB (N: 8); others (N: 1)
Viswanathan [39]	NACT to RT (N: 8) CT/RT (n. 2)	PAE (N: 7); PE (N: 1) P (N: 1); P-FU (N: 1)
Zivanovic [40]	Adjuvant CT after surgery (N: 4) Adjuvant CT after surgery or CT/RT (N: 6)	PAE (N: 4) PE (N: 5); CE (N: 1)
Nagao [63] ^a	Adjuvant CT after surgery (N: 9) Adjuvant CT/RT after surgery (N: 7)	PI (N: 8); CP (n: 1) Nedaplatin (N: 6); P (N: 1)
Futagami [49]	Adjuvant concurrent CT/RT after surgery followed by adjuvant CT	Nedaplatin + PE
Bermúdez [50]	NACT (N: 13)	PVB (N: 13)
Nasu [48]	NACT to surgery followed by adjuvant CT	PI (N: 1)
Dongol [41]	NACT to surgery (N: 3) Adjuvant CT after surgery (N: 4)	PE (N: 1); PVB (N: 1); carboplatin-based CT (N: 1) ^b PE (N: 2); PVB (N: 1); CP (N: 1)
Lewandowski [61]	NACT to surgery (N: 2) Adjuvant CT (N: 1)	PAE (N: 2) PAE
Cohen [64]	CT for metastatic disease (N: 1) NACT or adjuvant CT or CT/RT (N: 81)	PAE PE (N: 42); other P-based CT (N: 21); P (N: 6); others (N: 12)
Hoskins [37]	CT/RT (N: 31)	PE (N: 17); CP (N: 14)
Wang [42]	NACT or adjuvant CT or CT/RT (N: 144)	PE (N: 70); other platinum-based CT (N: 54); others (N: 20)

Most used:

EP

Cisplatin 60 mg/mq d1

Etoposide 80-100 mg/mq d1,2,3 q 21/28d

Others:

Carboplatin/cisplatin + paclitaxel

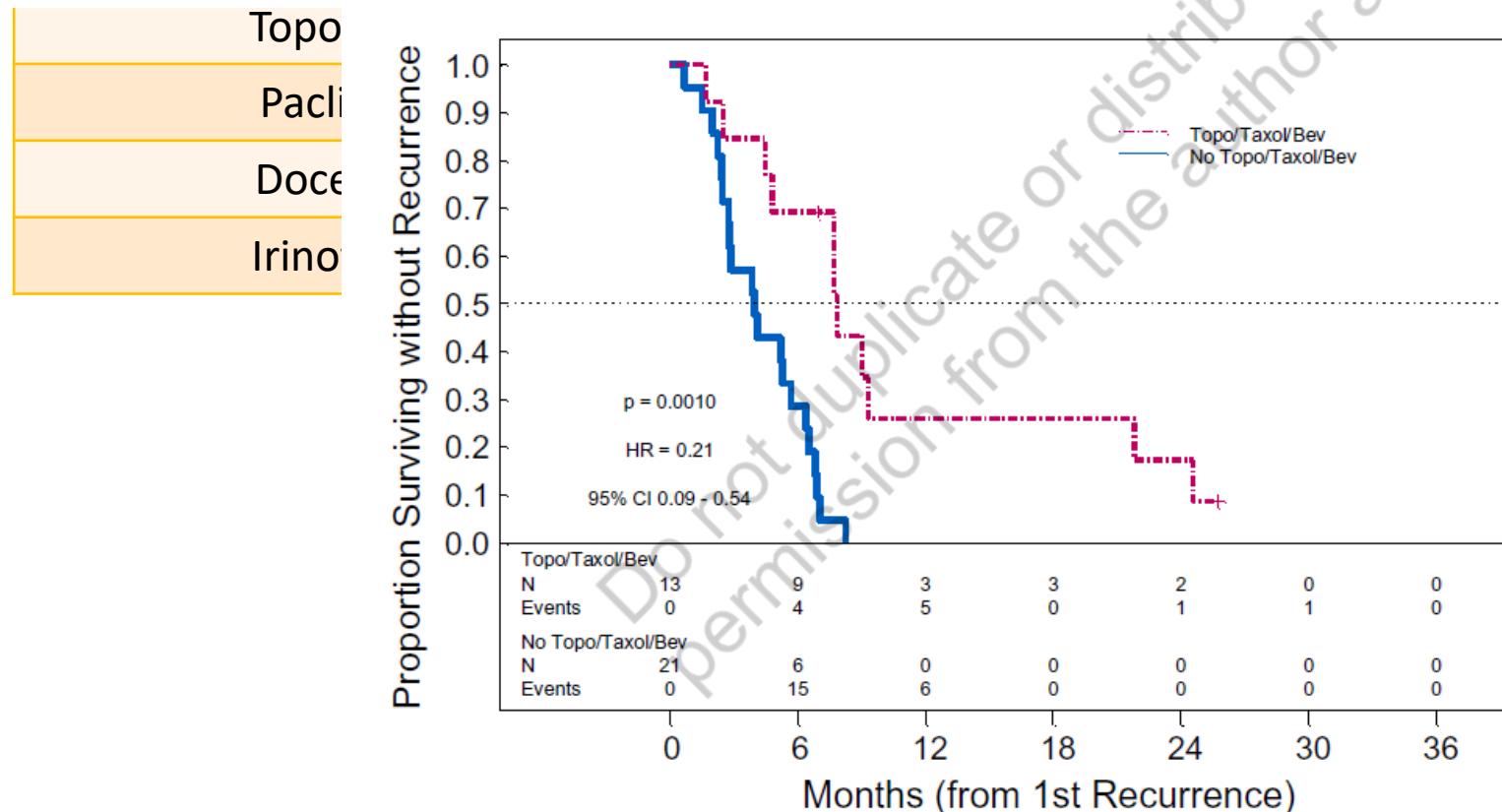
Vincristine, cisplatin, bleomycin

Recurrent disease

Combination therapy with topotecan, paclitaxel, and bevacizumab improves progression-free survival in recurrent small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma of the cervix



M. Frumovitz ^{a,*}, M.F. Munsell ^b, J.K. Burzawa ^a, L.A. Byers ^c, P. Ramalingam ^d, J. Brown ^e, R.L. Coleman ^a



Treatment of recurrent disease – GCIG guidelines



High-grade neuroendocrine cervical carcinoma First recurrence



Clinical staging:

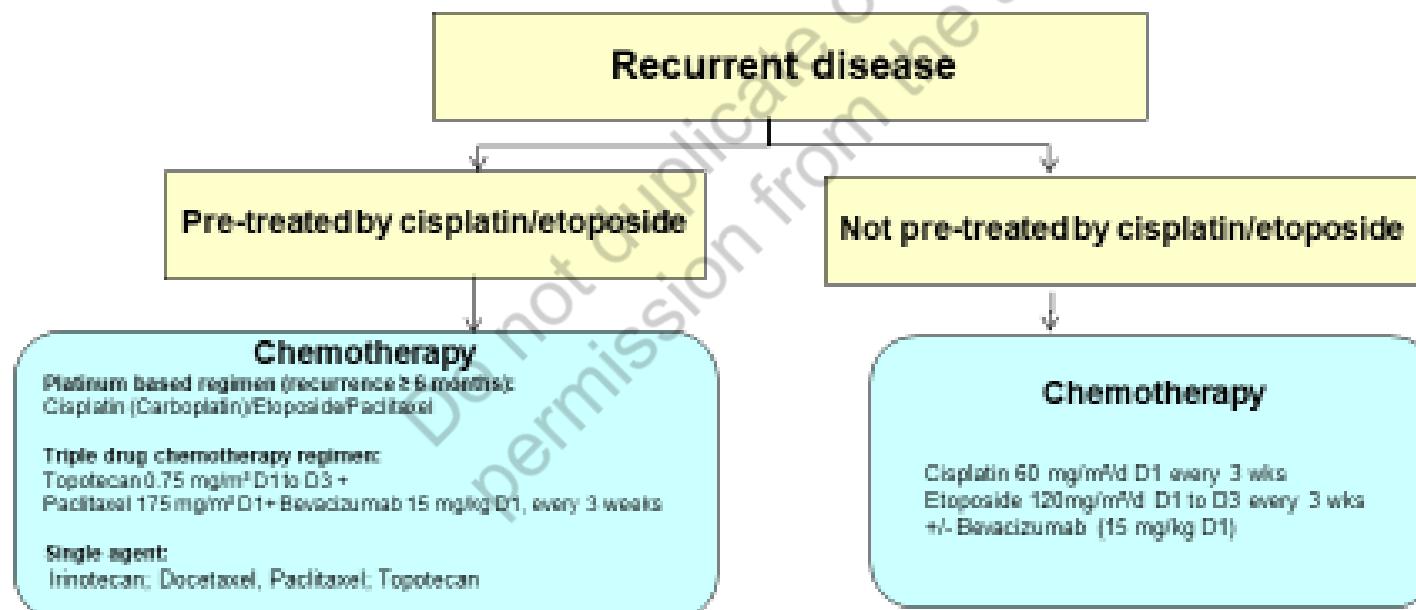
Physical exam and symptoms

Local staging: pelvic MRI or expert ultrasound to assess tumor size, parametrial, and nodal disease

Distant staging: PET/CT scan or WB MRI or CT scan of chest, abdomen and pelvis (if PET or MRI is not available)

MRI of the brain

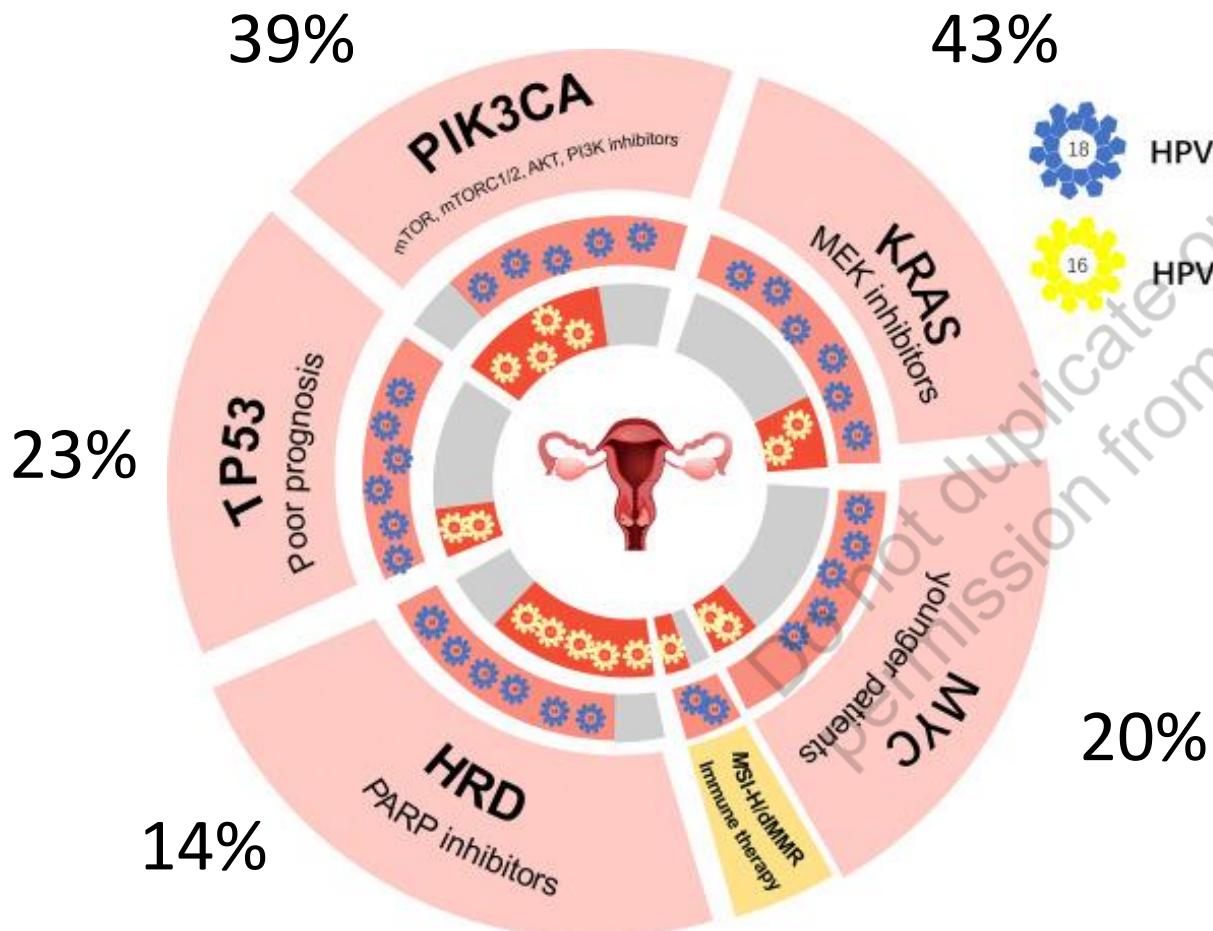
Blood counts and chemistries to assess critical organ function, including renal and hepatic function



Future perspectives

The next generation sequencing of cancer-related genes in small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma of the cervix

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Xiaoyan Zhou ^{b,e}, Huijuan Yang ^{a,b,*}



Metastatic small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma of the cervix treated with the PD-1 inhibitor, nivolumab: a case report

Sarah E. Paraghalian, Teresa C. Longoria and Ramez N. Eskander*

Pei X et al, *Gynecol Oncol* 2021

Paraghalian et al, *Gyn Oncol Res Pract* 2017

SCNET Conclusions

- Rare tumors with aggressive disease course and poor prognosis
- Multimodality treatment recommended: surgery + EP based chemo/radiotherapy
- Recurrent disease: single agent chemotherapy, topotecan/paclitaxel/bevacizumab
- Promising approaches: Immunotherapy, MEK-inhibitors, PIK3CA inhibitors need further investigation
- **International collaborations for clinical research**