

# Professor Stefan Zeuzem

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COMPETING INTEREST OF FINANCIAL VALUE $\geq$ £1,000:	
Speaker Name	Statement
Stefan Zeuzem	Acts in a consultancy capacity and has received speaker fees from Abbott, Actelion, AstraZenica, Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals, Boehringer Ingelheim, Gilead Sciences, Janssen, Merck, Novartis, Presidio, Roche, Vertex
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# HCV mono-infection: when to treat and when to wait ?

5<sup>th</sup> Annual BHIVA Conference for the  
Management of HIV/Hepatitis Co-Infection  
*in collaboration with BASL and BVHG*  
London – October 3, 2012

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# 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Protease-Inhibitors

- Telaprevir and Boceprevir are both linear ketoamid HCV-NS3/4A protease inhibitors
- Clinical trials: SOC + PI vs. SOC (PEG-IFN/RBV)

## Telaprevir (phase 3)

**ADVANCE**: tx-naive GT1 pts

**ILLUMINATE**: response-guided therapy in tx-naive GT1 pts

**REALIZE**: tx-experienced GT1 patients (relapsers, partial responders, null responders)

## Boceprevir (phase 3)

**SPRINT-2**: tx-naive GT1 patients

**RESPOND-2**: tx-experienced GT1 patients (relapsers and partial responders)

# **Treatment-naive Patients**

**The data**

# Virologic response rates in treatment naive patients (no head-to-head data)

	ADVANCE (TVR)		SPRINT-2 (BOC)	
	PR + TVR	PR	PR + BOC	PR
RVR (wk 4)	66-68%	9%	-	-
Wk 8 (LI + 4 wk)	-	-	Not reported	Not reported
eEVR <sup>1</sup>	57-58%	8%	44%	N/A
EoT	81-87%	63%	71-76%	53%
Relapse	9%	28%	9%	22%
SVR (all)	69-75%	44%	63-66%	38%

RVR, rapid virologic response; LI, lead-in; eRVR, extended RVR;  
EoT, end of treatment; SVR, sustained virologic response

<sup>1</sup> Different definitions of eEVR in ADVANCE and SPRINT-2

# SVR rates in treatment naive patients

## (no head-to-head data)

SVR	ADVANCE (TVR)		SPRINT-2 (BOC)	
	PR + TVR	PR	PR + BOC	PR
Lead-in < 1 log	-	-	28-38%	4%
Lead-in ≥ 1 log	-	-	79-81%	51%
eRVR <sup>1</sup> achieved	83-89%	97%	96%	93%
eRVR <sup>1</sup> not achieved	50-54%	39%	72-75%	66%
Caucasian, non-black	70-75%	46%	67-68%	40%
African Amer., black	58-62%	25%	42-53%	23%
Stage F0-2	73-78%	47%	67%	38%
Stage F3-4	53-62%	33%	41-52%	38%
IL28B CC	84-90%	64%	80-82%	78%
IL28B CT/TT	57-73%	23-25%	55-71%	27-28%

<sup>1</sup> Different definitions of eEVR in ADVANCE and SPRINT-2

# Telaprevir and Boceprevir - Safety

(no head-to-head data)

	ADVANCE (TVR)		SPRINT-2 (BOC)	
	TVR12/PR	PR	BOC RGT	PR
Discontinuation due to AEs	10%	7%	12%	16%
Discontinuation due to rash	7%	1%		
Anemia (<10 / < 8.5 g/dL)	36% / 9%	14% / 2%	45% / 5%	26% / 4%
Use of EPO	Not permitted		43%	24%

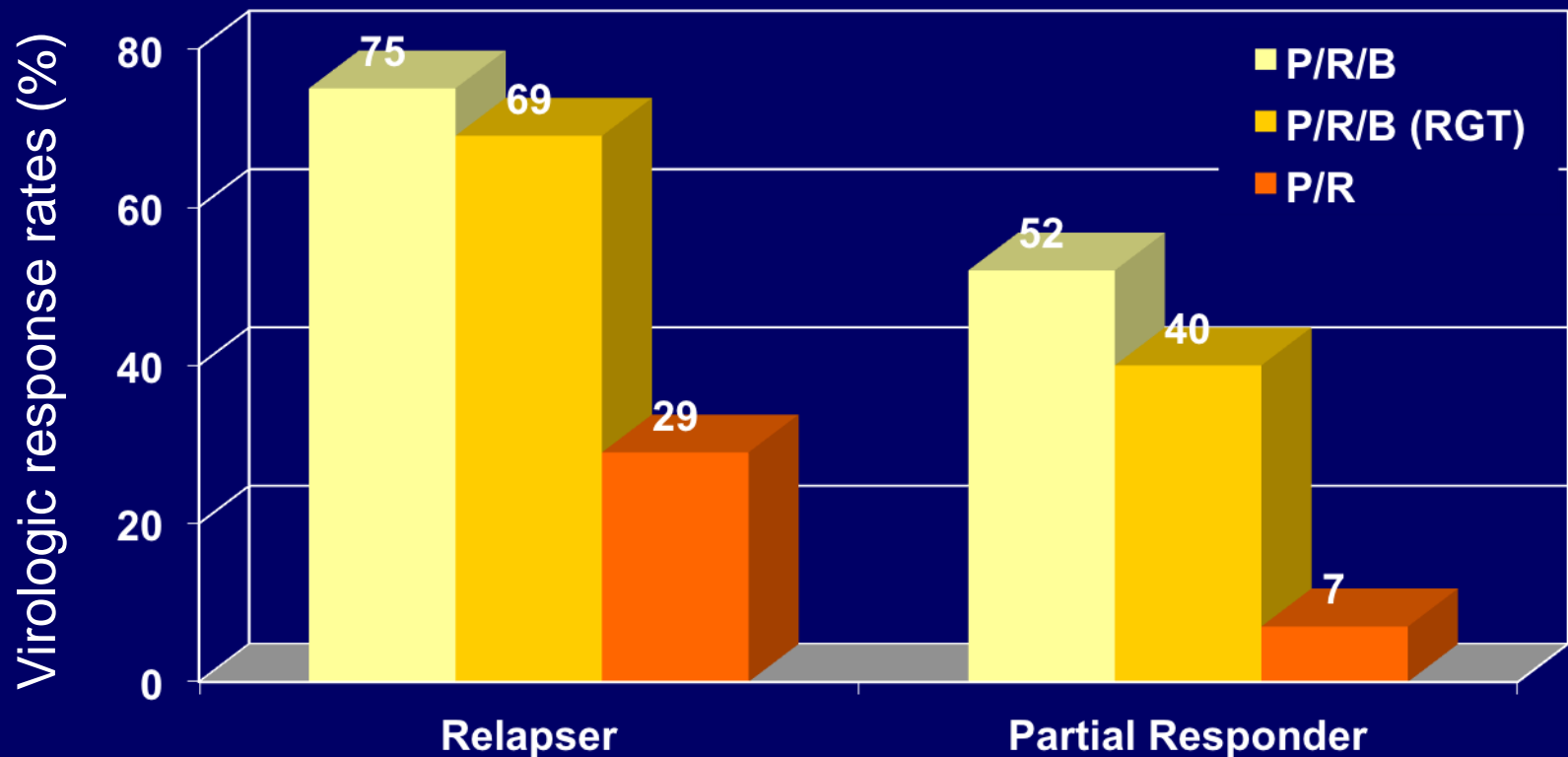
Jacobson et al., NEJM 2011  
Poordad et al., NEJM 2011



# **Treatment-experienced Patients**

**The data**

# RESPOND-2: Phase 3 Trial in Tx-Experienced\* HCV-1 Infected Patients

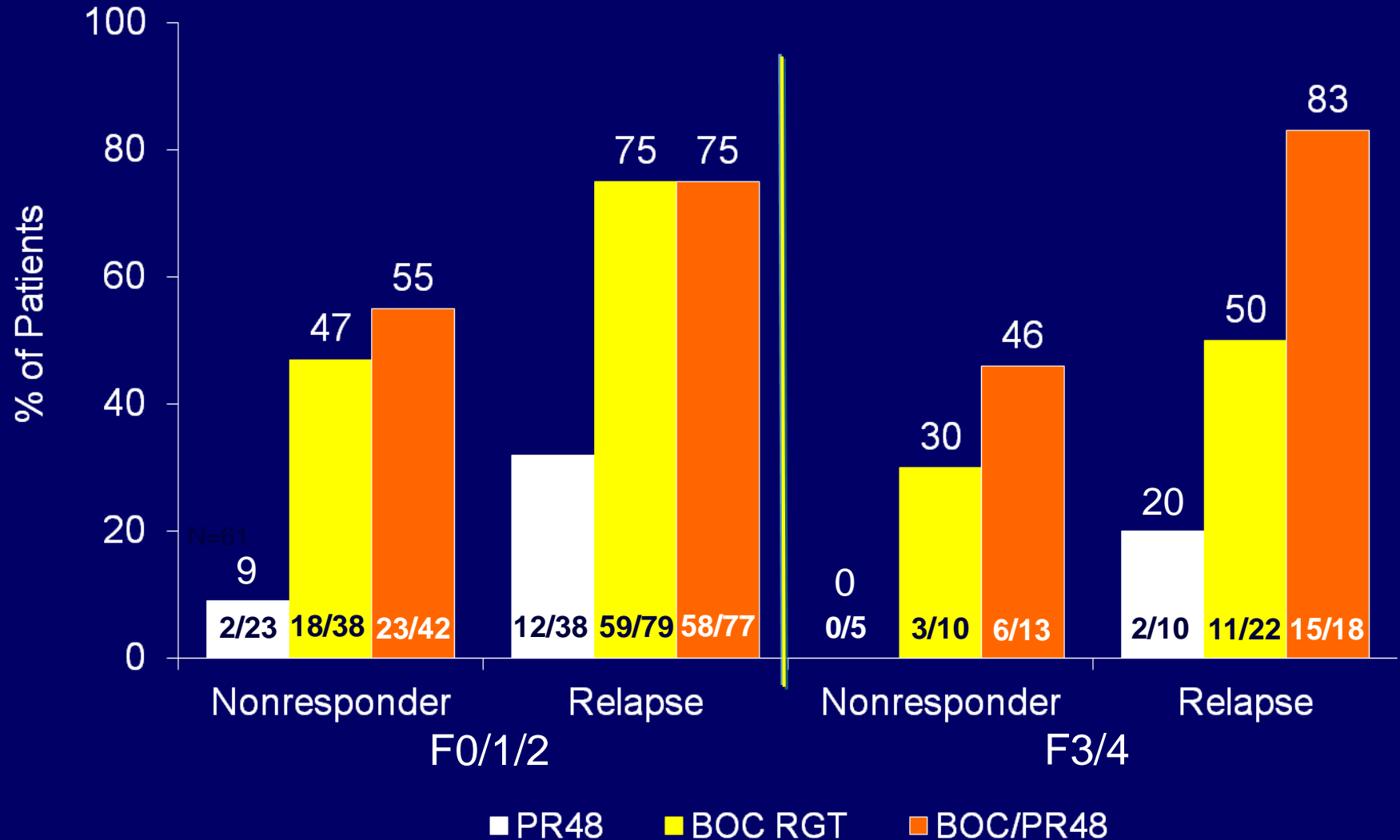


Peginterferon alfa-2b 1.5 µg/kg qw  
Ribavirin 600-1400 mg/day  
Lead-in phase  
Boceprevir 800 mg q8h

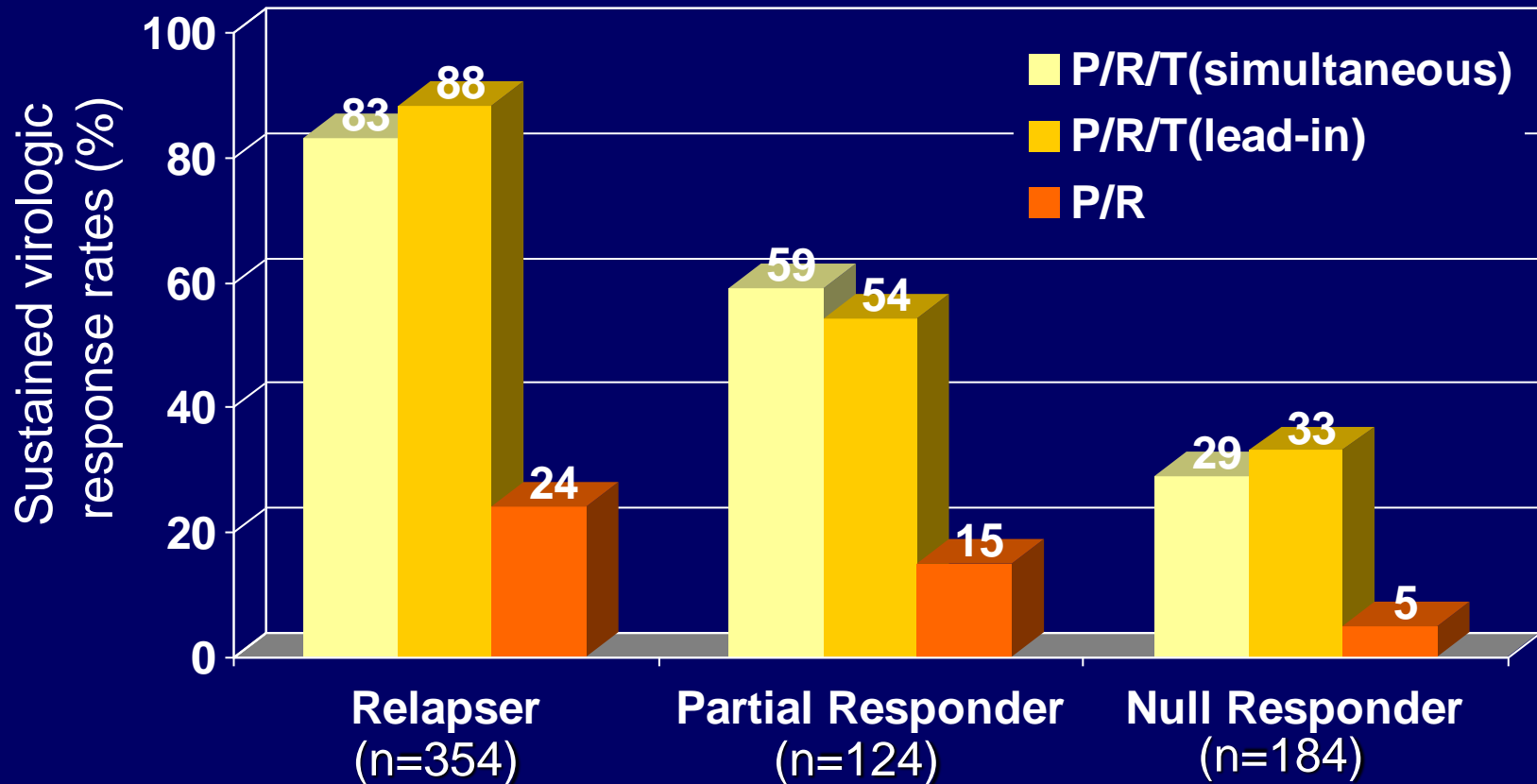
\* Only previous partial responders and relapsers enrolled (N=403)

Bacon et al., NEJM 2011

# RESPOND-2: SVR by Fibrosis Score and Historical Response



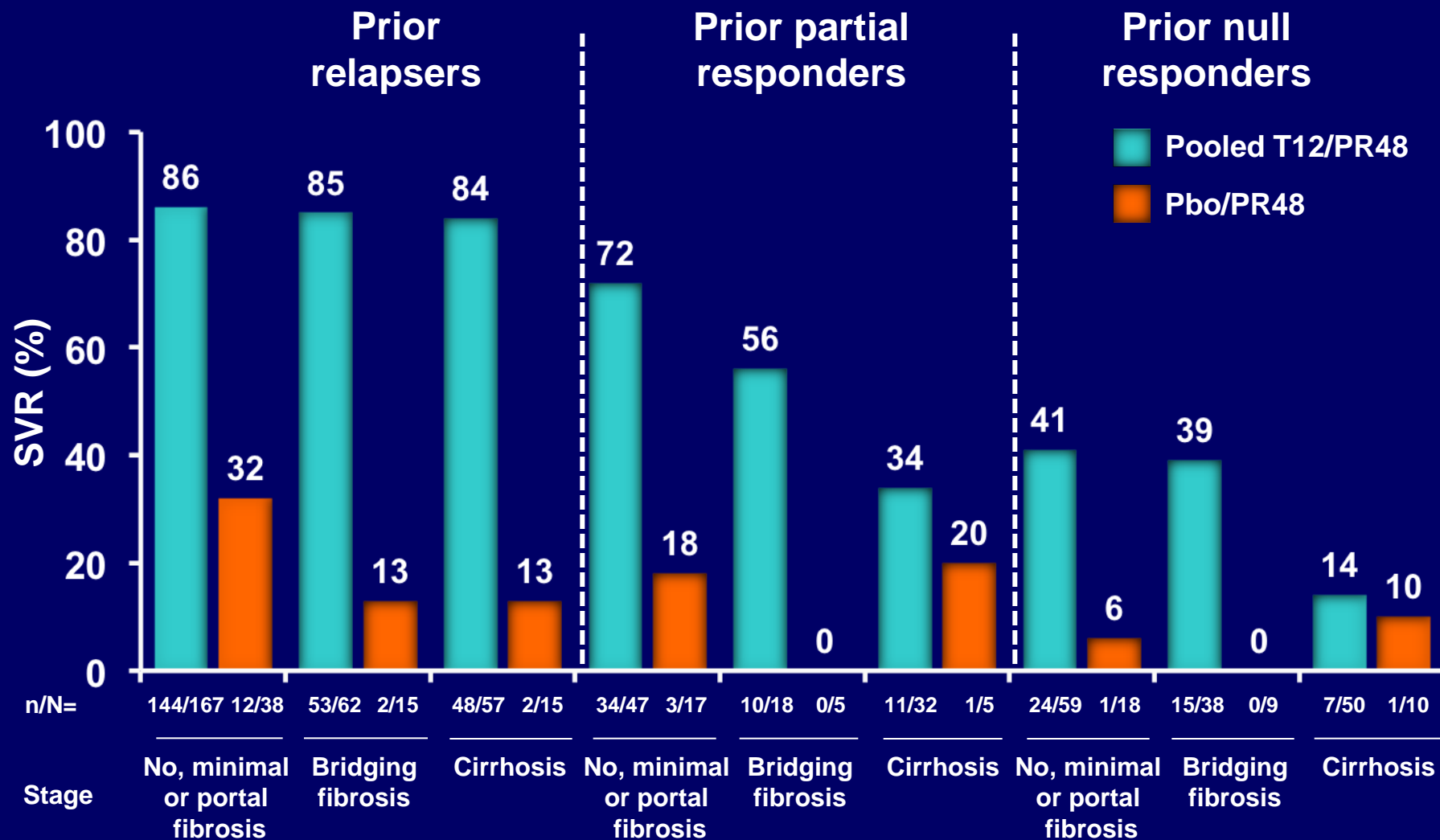
# REALIZE: Phase 3 Trial in Tx-Experienced HCV-1 Infected Patients



Peginterferon alfa-2a 180 µg qw  
Ribavirin 1000-1200 mg/day  
**Telaprevir** 750 mg q8h

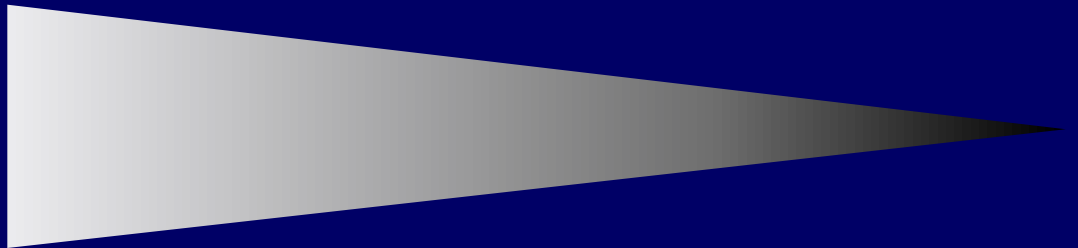
Zeuzem et al., NEJM 2011

# REALIZE: SVR by Baseline Fibrosis Stage and Prior Response

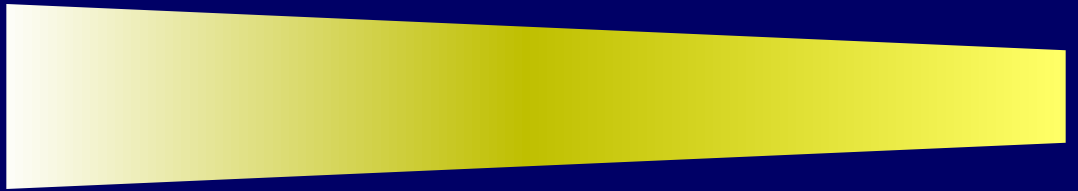


# Cirrhosis spectrum

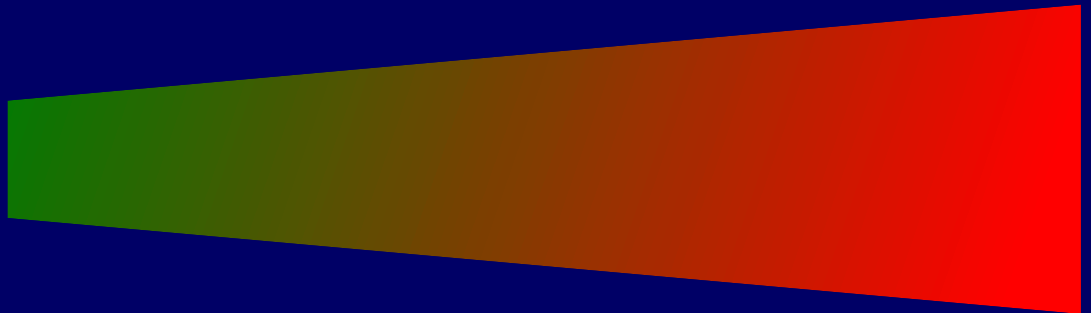
Number of prevalent  
patients



Efficacy of triple  
therapy



Side effects



CPT score

A

B

C

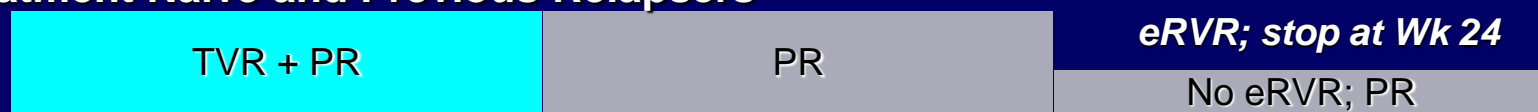
# **Telaprevir & Boceprevir**

## **Approved schedules**

# Telaprevir in Genotype 1 Patients

- 750 mg (two 375-mg tablets) q8hr with food (not low fat; standard fat meal is >20 g, eg, 1/2-cup nuts or 2-oz cheddar cheese)

## Treatment Naive and Previous Relapsers



## Previous Partial or Null Responders



- Treatment-naïve patients with compensated cirrhosis and eRVR may benefit from additional 36 wks of pegIFN + RBV (ie, to Wk 48)

Time Point	Criterion	Stopping Rule
Wk 4 or 12	HCV RNA > 1000 IU/mL	Discontinue all therapy
Wk 24	Detectable HCV RNA	Discontinue PR
Any	Discontinuation of PR for any reason	Discontinue TVR



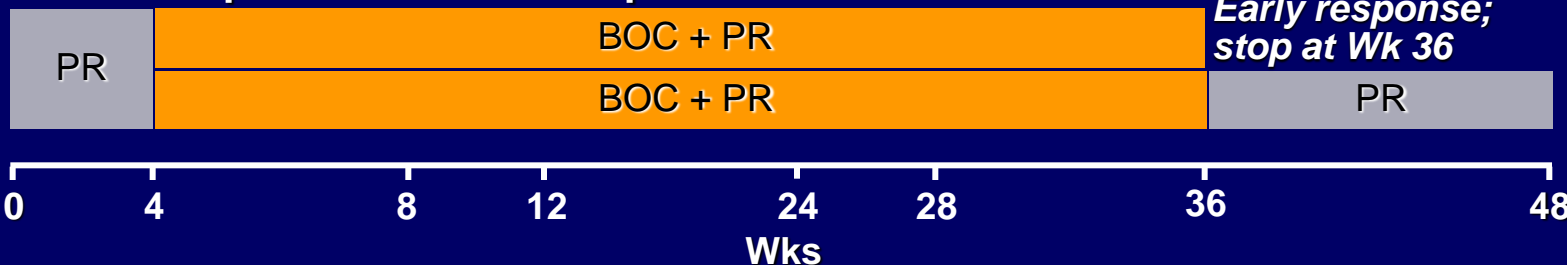
# Boceprevir in Genotype 1 Patients

- 800 mg (four 200-mg capsules) q8hr with meal or light snack

## Treatment Naive



## Previous Relapsers or Partial Responders



- All cirrhotic patients should receive lead-in followed by PR + BOC for 44 wks
- If considered for treatment, null responders should receive lead-in then PR + BOC for 44 wks
- EMA label recommends fixed-duration therapy for all tx-exprd patients: LI + 32 wks triple + 12 wks PR

Time Point	Criterion	Stopping Rule
Wk 12	HCV RNA $\geq$ 100 IU/mL	Discontinue all therapy
Wk 24	Detectable HCV RNA	Discontinue all therapy
Any	Discontinuation of PR for any reason	Discontinue BOC

# Choice between first generation protease inhibitors in HCV-1

## Boceprevir

- Tx duration 24-44 wks
- Total Tx duration in Relapsers always 48 wks
- Main side effects
  - Anemia
  - Dysgeusia
- Approved with LI phase
- 3 x 4 tablets/day with food
- DDI (perhaps less critical ?)

## Telaprevir

- Tx duration 12 wks
- Tx duration in Relapsers response-guided (24/48 wks)
- Main side effects
  - Rash (potentially severe)
  - Anemia
- LI phase not required, but possible
- Fatty meal required with intake, 3 x 2 tablets
- DDI

# **Practical Approach to Treatment**

# Treatment Indication

- Symptoms, extrahepatic manifestations
- Stage and progression of disease  
(in particular: cirrhosis, portal hypertension ?)
- Chances for SVR
- Concomitant diseases, Drug-drug interactions
- Motivation of the patient
- Contraindication

# Virologic Assessment and Previous Treatment

- Genotype, Subtype (HCV-1a, -1b, ...)
- Viral load
- Previous treatment response (if any)
  - Relapser
  - Partial Responder
  - Null Responder
- Tolerability and side effects of previous treatment
- Adherence and persistence to previous treatment

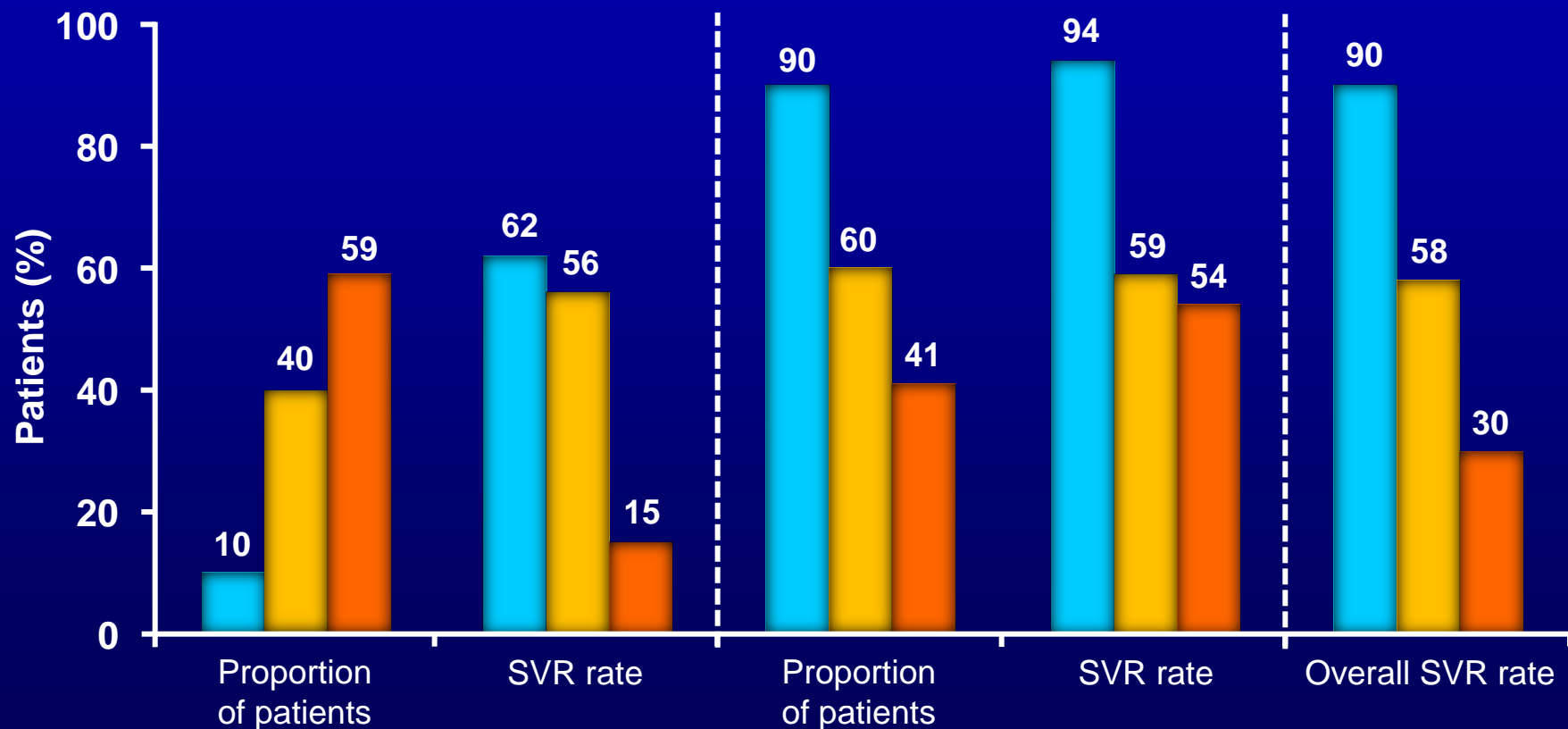
# SVR Rates in LI T12/PR48 Arm by HCV RNA Reduction at Week 4 and Prior Response

Prior relapsers    Prior partial responders    Prior null responders

<1 log<sub>10</sub> HCV RNA  
reduction at Week 4

≥1 log<sub>10</sub> HCV RNA  
reduction at Week 4

Overall



# Basic laboratory tests

- Full blood count
  - Anemia ?
  - Neutropenia? Thrombocytopenia?
- Liver function
  - Aminotransferases, GGT
  - Synthesis parameters
- Co-Infections (HBV, HIV ?)
- Exclusion of concomitant liver disease (autoimmune hepatitis)
- Thyroid function
- IL28B (tx-naive pts: YES; tx-experienced pts: NO)

# Counselling the patients about current and future treatment options

- Previously untreated patients
  - HCV1: Triple therapy,
  - Remaining indication for PEG-IFN/RBV dual therapy (?)
  - HCV2-6: no approved DAAs/HTAs; PEG-IFN/RBV
- Treatment-experienced patients
  - HCV1: Triple therapy
  - HCV2-6: no approved DAAs/HTAs; PEG-IFN/RBV
- Future options (when ?)
  - Quadruple treatment (SVR rates > 90%)
  - IFN-free regimen (SVR rates >80%)



# Some considerations concerning a lead-in phase

- Virologic value of LI phase is questionable
  - SPRINT-1: higher SVR rates with lead-in (but small number of patients)
  - REALIZE: Lead-in phase did not affect breakthrough, relapse and SVR rates
- Lead-in may be clinically useful if physician is willing to take decisions at week 4
  - only PEG/RBV, no PI in excellent initial virologic responders (RVR)
  - stop therapy in patients with poor initial virologic response ( $< 1$  log) to avoid treatment failure and selection of resistant variants
- Improve adherence

# Management of anemia

- Check frequently hemoglobin levels, however, avoid iatrogenic anemia
- Cave: patients with liver cirrhosis
- Never (!! ) dose reduce the protease inhibitor
- Use stepwise reduction of RBV
- Start RBV dose reduction early
- Consider the use of erythropoietin (Reimbursement ?) and blood transfusions
- Reduced efficacy of EPO in patients with cirrhosis (no studies)

# Rash management plan with TVR

- Rash primarily eczematous and resolves (slowly) upon cessation of therapy
- Explain 9er-rule for estimating BSA
- Preemptive (?) prescription of e.g. Cetirizine and highly potent steroid creme
- Moderate and severe rash with progression are managed by sequentially discontinuing TVR, followed by RBV and, if indicated, Peg-IFN for continued progression
- Potential risk of DRESS and SJS
- Establish collaboration with dermatologist

**TVR-associated rash during triple therapy (grade 3)**

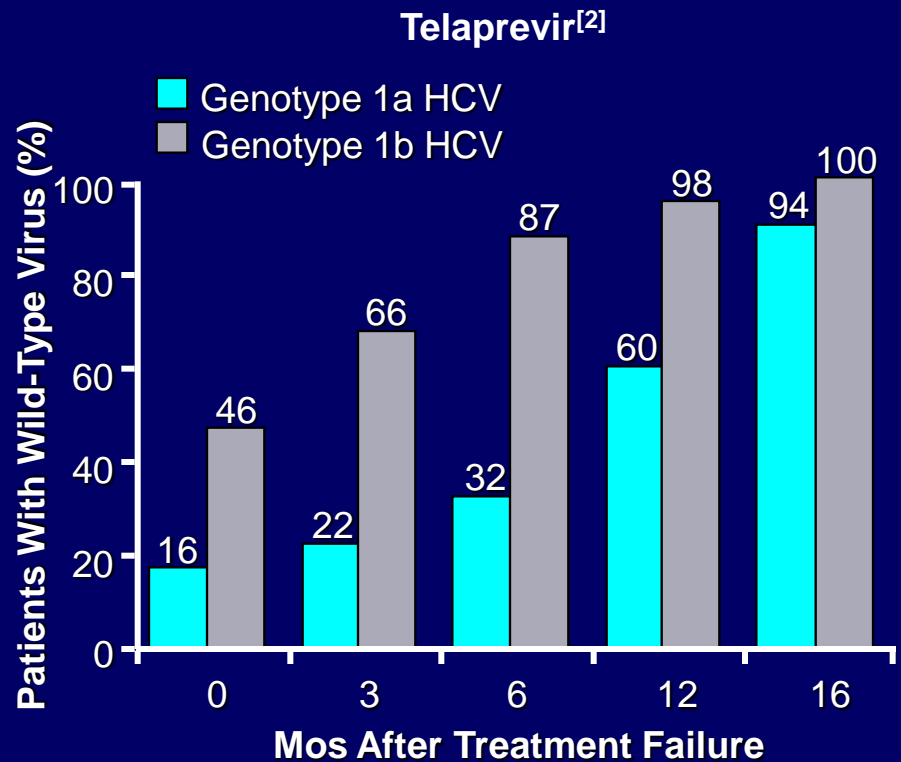
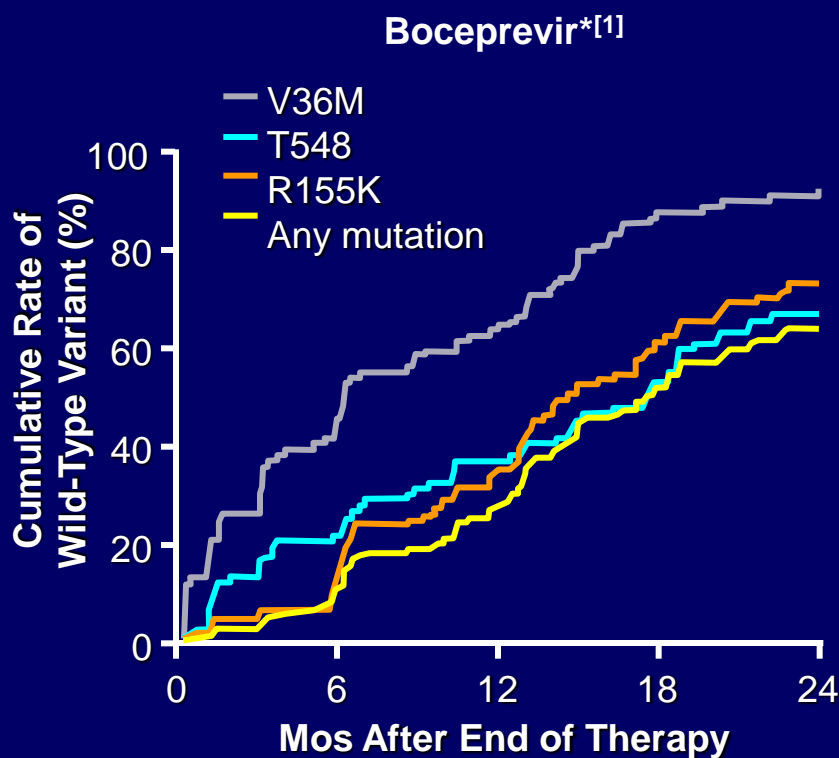


# Any role for switching the PI during therapy ?

- No role for switching from one PI to the other in case of emergence of resistant variants
- Switch from TVR to BOC in case of severe rash safety-wise not explored

	TVR	BOC
V36A/M	+	+
T54S/A	+	+
V55A	in vitro	+
R155K/T/Q	+	+
A156S	+	+
A156T/V	+	in vitro
D168A/V/T		
V170A/T	in vitro	+

# Loss of Detectable Resistance in Pts Stopping BOC or TVR + PegIFN/RBV



\*Data from phase II studies.



# Key messages

- First generation PIs allow for major improvement of SVR rates in GT1-infected patients with hepatitis C
- Treatment schedules are complex and require thorough planning for patient and physician
- Careful consideration of potential DDI
- Optimal management of side effects
- Follow virological (resistance) and clinical (side effects) stopping rules
- Don't be afraid of triple therapy, but be carefully prepared !!
- Know about future treatment developments and advice your patients accordingly

# Treat now !

- Good efficiency of current treatment options
  - Treatment naive pts and relapsers (HCV-1)
  - All HCV-2,3 infected patients
- Avoid progression of disease
  - In particular in pts with F3/4
  - Reduce the risk to develop HCC
- Side effects of current treatment regimen are manageable
- Approval date and price of new treatment options are unknown
- If the patient has no contraindications and is motivated, treat him now!



# Wait !

- Current SVR rates are suboptimal
  - Partial and null-responders
  - Pts with cirrhosis and concomitant disease
- Side effects with Peg-IFN, RBV, and BOC/TVR are hardly acceptable
- In most patients fibrogenesis is slow and incidence of HCC low
- Future treatments will be shorter, more efficacious, safer, more tolerable and more convenient
- IFN-free will become the new SOC
- Approval in 2-3 yrs, high competition, affordable

**No fixed rules !**

**Optimal counselling of  
patient required !**

**Personalized decision !**