

Cholangiocarcinoma From Epidemiology to Therapy Through Its Biology

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Conflict of interests

Relationship	Company/organisation
Consulting/advisory role	Albireo Pharma, CIMABay, Ikan Biotech, OWL-Rubió Metabolomics, Jazz, Astra Zeneca, Servier
Honoraria/lectures	Incyte, Intercept, Astra Zeneca
Research funding	Albireo, Incyte, Roche

1. Epidemiology and general features

CHOLANGIOCARCINOMA (CCA)

2. Natural course

3. Novel therapeutic strategies

CHOLANGIOCARCINOMA (CCA)

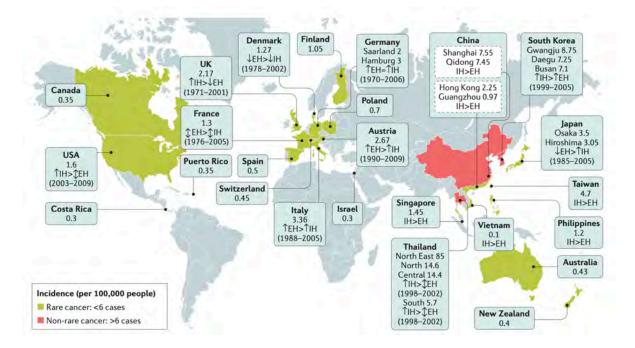
1. Epidemiology and general features

2. Natural course

3. Novel therapeutic strategies

Cholangiocarcinoma (CCA)

- Heterogeneous group of malignancies with features of biliary tract differentiation
- Second most common primary liver cancer; CCA incidence is increasing worldwide

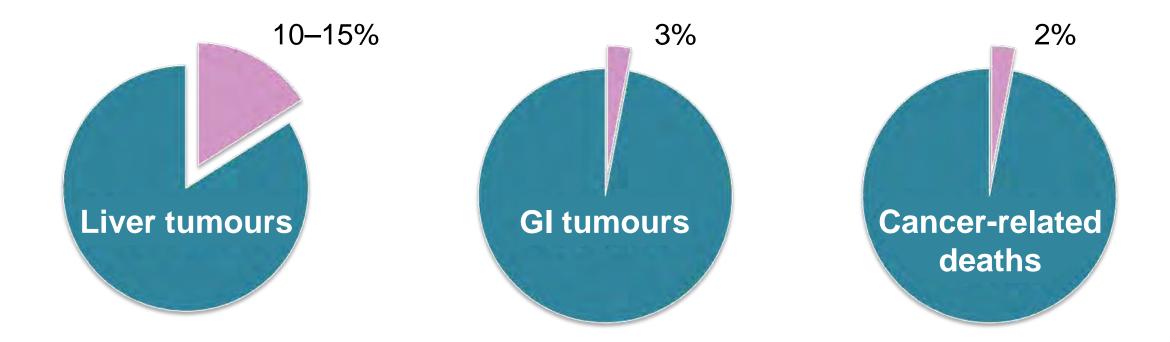


Worldwide CCA incidence rates

Eastern countries (Thailand, China and S Korea: >6/100,000)

Western countries (<4/100,000)

CCA, cholangiocarcinoma; EH, extrahepatic; IH, intrahepatic; S, South. Banales JM, et al. *Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2016 CCA



Underestimated: errors in diagnosis, coding and data retrieval

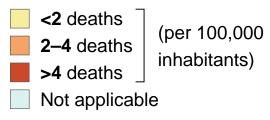
GI, gastrointestinal

Banales JM, et al. Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2020

Annual mortality

PERIOD

2000–2004 (**2002**) 2005–2009 (**2007**) 2010–2014 (**2012**)

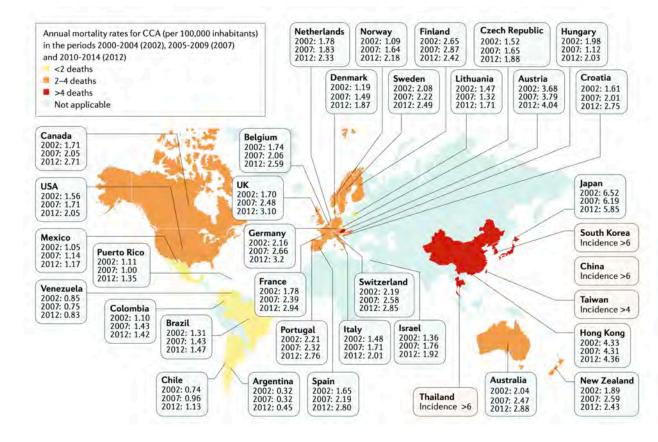


DATABASES

World Health Organization (WHO) Pan-American Health Organization

32 COUNTRIES²

(Europe, Americas, Asia and Oceania)



Worldwide CCA mortality rates

POTENTIAL CAUSES: increased knowledge/awareness, better diagnosis and increasing incidence

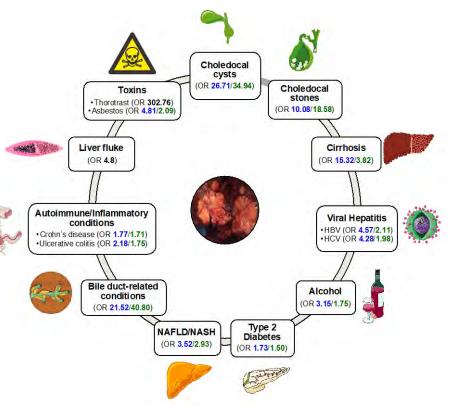
Banales JM, et al. Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2020

Risk factors

Unclear aetiology (>50%)

HIGH RISK¹

- Choledochal cysts
- Gallstones
- Cirrhosis
- Biliary diseases (Caroli, PSC)
- Virus (HBV, HCV)
- Liver flukes (O. viverrini and C. sinensis in Asia)



MODERATE RISK but HIGHLY PREVALENT¹

- Alcoholic liver disease
- Type II diabetes
- Tobacco use
- MASLD/MASH

AGE²: median age = 66 years (75% >58 years)

GERMLINE MUTATIONS^{3,4}: BRCA1/2, ATM, BAP1 > CCA risk (5% of cases)

GWAS in CCA

Coordinator: Dr. Lewis Roberts (Mayo Clinic, Rochester, USA)



Next: Validation Phase (on going)



Aspirin: preventive?

Systematic review and meta-analysis (9 studies) 12,535 CCAs 92,970,450 Controls



Study			%
D		ES (95% CI)	Weight
Choi.2016	•	0.34 (0.30, 0.39)	13.76
Petrick .2015	<u>i</u> +-	0.94 (0.70, 1.27)	11.76
Liu.2005		0.48 (0.19, 1.19)	8.99
Burr.2014		0.45 (0.22, 0.92)	10.94
Grainge.2009	+	1.00 (0.80, 1.26)	12.41
Coogan.2000	+++	0.50 (0.31, 1.10)	10.35
Peng.2015	÷.	1.13 (0.45, 1.67)	7.68
Altaii.2016	•	0.86 (0.82, 0.90)	13.77
Talboys.2011	-	0.55 (0.28, 1.07)	10.35
Overall (I-squared = 97.4%, p = 0.000)	\diamond	0.69 (0.43, 0.94)	100.00
NOTE: Weights are from random effects analysis			
-4	1	4	

Aspirin:

iCCA (OR=0.33)

eCCA (OR=0.56)

Xiong J, et al. Cancer Manag Res 2018

Aspirin: preventive?

The Asp-PSC trial

Asp-PSC: effect of aspirin on reducing cancer & improving outcomes in primary sclerosing cholangitis

Submission date 19/09/2023

Recruitment status Not yet recruiting

Registration dateOverall st14/11/2023Ongoing

Last Edited 01/12/2023

- Not yet recruiting ? Protocol not yet added Overall study status ? SAP not yet added
 - Results not yet expected
 - - Record updated in last year



Prof. Shahid Khan

Prof. Simon Rushbrook





Condition category

Digestive System

Taiwan¹ Case-control study (2002-2011) 3,174 CCAs and 3,174 Controls

Variable	Cases/Controls 3174/3174	OR	(95% CI)
Medications	n1/n2		
All statins	720/840	0.80	(0.71, 0.90)***
Individual statin			
Simvastatin	262/368	0.68	(0.57, 0.80)***
Lovastatin	244/337	0.69	(0.58, 0.83)***
Pravastatin	131/197	0.65	(0.52, 0.82)***
Fluvastatin	143/183	0.77	(0.61, 0.96) [*]
Atorvastatin	357/489	0.69	(0.60, 0.80)***
Rosuvastatin	141/210	0.65	(0.52, 0.82)***

n, number of persons on the medicine. **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001

UK² Case-control study (1990-2017) 3,118 CCAs and 15,519 Controls

Characteristic	Case (n=3118)	Control (n=15519)	Adjusted OR (95% CI)*
Any statin use			
Non-users	2159 (69.2)	10934 (70.5)	Ref
Ever	959 (30.8)	4585 (29.5)	0.92 (0.83 to 1.02)
Formert	199 (6.4)	831 (5.4)	1.10 (0.92 to 1.31)
Current	760 (24.4)	3754 (24.2)	0.88 (0.79 to 0.98

Statins ↓ CCA risk (12-20%) More pronounced among long-term users

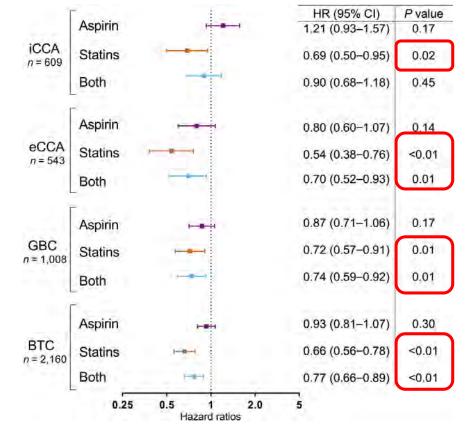
Aspirin and/or Statins: preventive?

Swedish population-based cohort

5.7 M people (without personal history of cancer)







2,160 individuals developed BTC

Low-dose aspirin \rightarrow NOT associated with CCA risk

Statins +/- **low-dose aspirin** $\rightarrow \downarrow$ risk iCCA & eCCA

Marcano-Bonilla L, et al. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2022

CHOLANGIOCARCINOMA (CCA)

1. Epidemiology and general features

2. Natural course

3. Novel therapeutic strategies

Diagnosis

- Incidental finding (~25% of cases)
- Unspecific symptoms











Jaundice

Fever

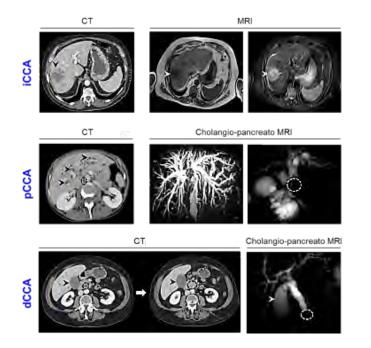
Weight loss

Fatigue

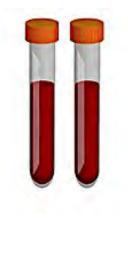
Abdominal pain

Diagnosis

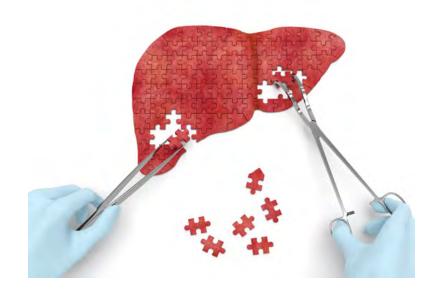
IMAGING^{1,2} (CT, MRI, MRCP, PET)



NON-SPECIFIC TUMOUR MARKERS¹ (CA19-9, CEA)



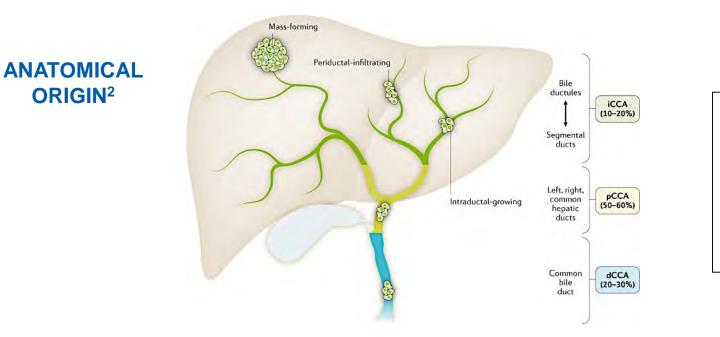
BIOPSY/CYTOLOGY³

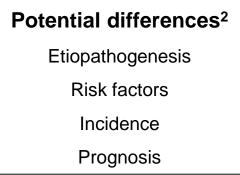


CA, carbohydrate antigen; CCA, cholangiocarcinoma; CEA, carcinoembryonic antigen; CT, computed tomography; dCCA, distal CCA; iCCA, intrahepatic CCA; MRCP, magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; PET, positron-emission tomography. 1. Van Beers BE. *HPB (Oxford).* 2008; 2. Oihane E,..., Banales JM. *Curr Drug Targets.* 2017; 3. Banales JM, et al. *Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol.* 2020

Classification

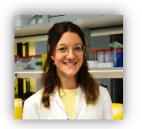
International Classification of Diseases, 11th Edition (ICD-11, 2019)¹ Effective: January 2022





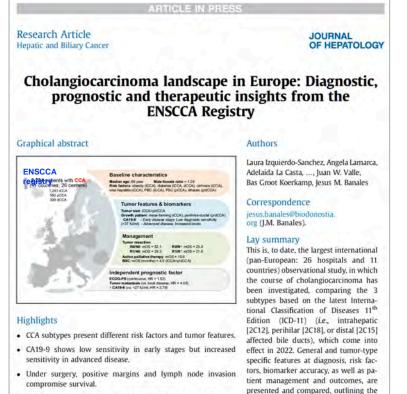
CCA, cholangiocarcinoma; dCCA, distal CCA; iCCA, intrahepatic CCA; pCCA, perihilar CCA.

1. World Health Organization. International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision. Version 02/2022. <u>https://icd.who.int/browse11/l-m/en</u> (accessed July 2022); 2. Banales JM, et al. *Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol.* 2020





Dr. Laura Izquierdo



 ECOG-PS, disease status and CA19-9 are independent prognostic factors.



European Network for the Study of Cholangiocarcinoma

Database

AIM

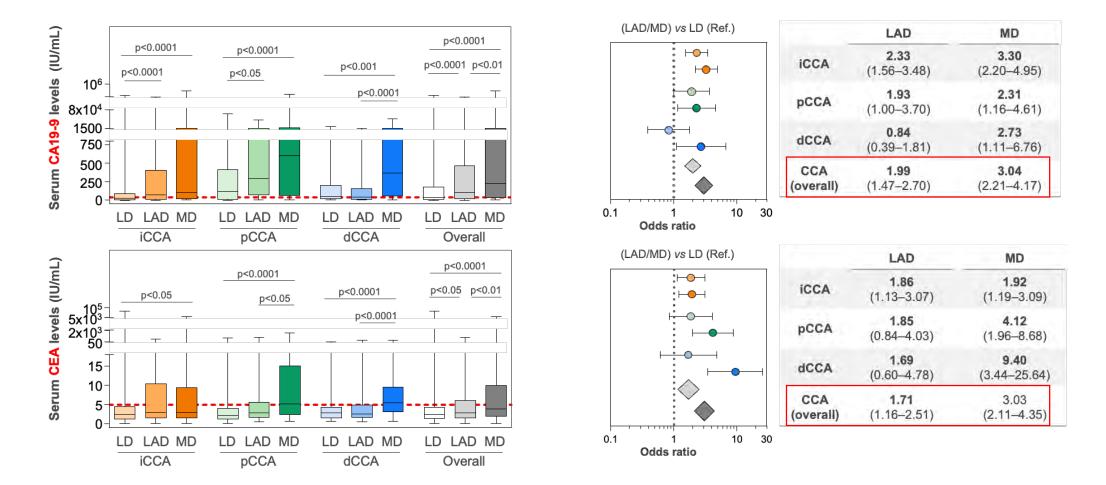
Investigate the **natural course** of CCA and its **subtypes** in hospitals from the ENSCCA

CA, carbohydrate antigen; CCA, cholangiocarcinoma; ECOG-PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; ENSCCA, European Network for the Study of CCA.

current clinical state of chol-

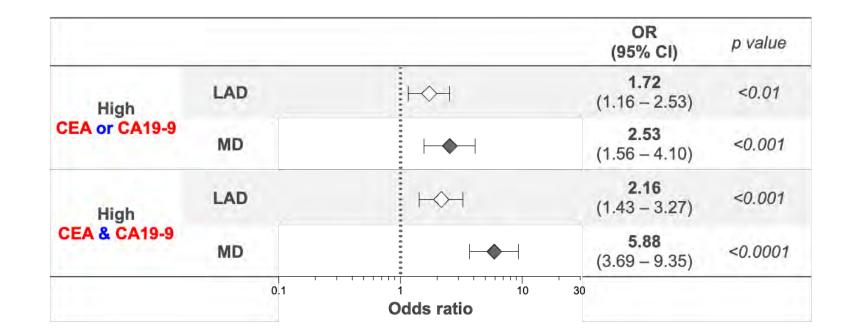
angiocarcinoma in Europe.

Serum tumour biomarkers – CA19.9 and CEA



CA, carbohydrate antigen; CCA, cholangiocarcinoma; CEA, carcinoembryonic antigen; dCCA, distal CCA; iCCA, intrahepatic CCA; LAD, locally advanced disease; LD, local disease; MD, metastatic disease; pCCA, perihilar CCA.

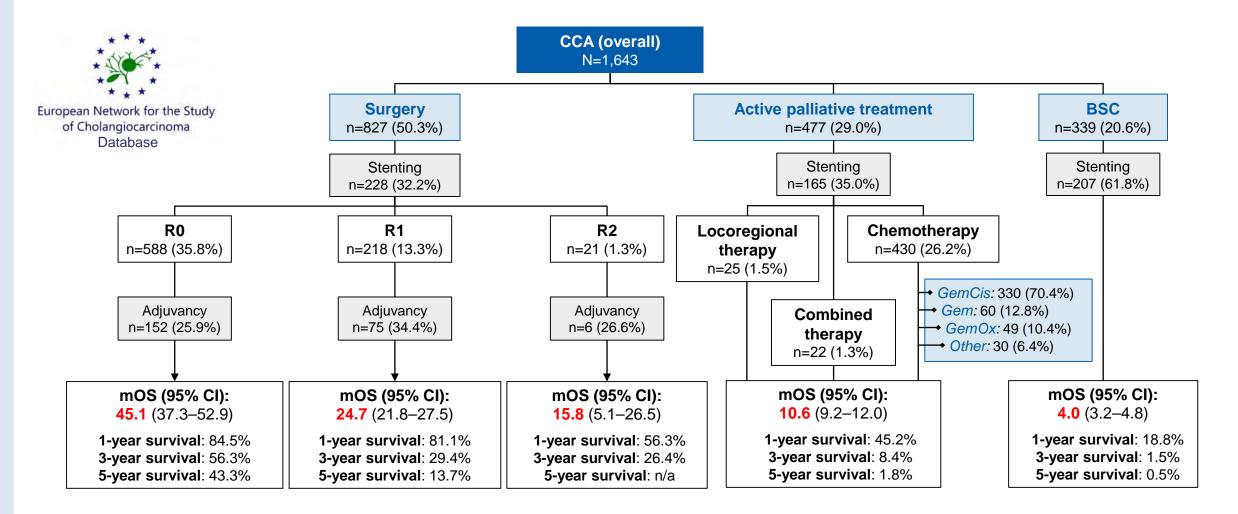
Serum tumour biomarkers – CA19.9 and CEA



Note: CA19.9 (Lewis Ag A) is not expressed in 10% population (FUT3 fucosyltransferase deficiency)

CA, carbohydrate antigen; CEA, carcinoembryonic antigen; CI, confidence interval; LAD, locally advanced disease; MD, metastatic disease; OR, odds ratio.

Clinical management and survival



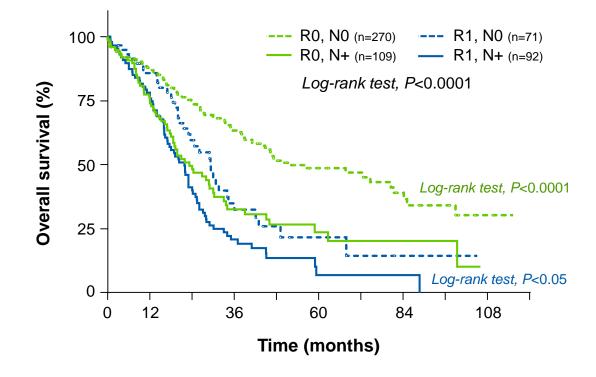
Prognosis

-	UNIVARIAT			E MULTIVARIATE			TE
COVARIABLES	Deaths, n(%)	HR	95% CI	p value	HR	95% CI	p value
Subtype of CCA, (vs pCCA) iCCA dCCA	1,348 (68.7)	0.74 0.67	0.65 – 0.84 0.57 – 0.78	<0.0001 <0.0001	1.48 1.31	0.74 – 2.97 0.50 – 3.44	ns ns
Age, ≥65 (vs <65)	1,348 (68.7)	1.28	1.15 - 1.42	<0.0001	1.24	0.70 - 2.22	ns
Sex, male (vs female)	1,348 (68.7)	1.12	1.00 - 1.24	<0.05	0.99	0.58 - 1.70	ns
ECOG-PS, (continuous)	1,247 (72.2)	1.66	1.56 - 1.78	<0.0001	1.52	1.01 - 2.31	<0.05
Disease status, (vs local disease) locally advanced disease metastatic disease	1,098 (72.9)	1.91 3.46	1.65 – 2.22 2.98 – 4.02	<0.0001 <0.0001	1.68 4.03	0.87 - 3.25 1.82 - 8.92	ns <0.01
CEA, ≥5 (vs <5)	487 (62.0)	2.02	1.67 – 2.43	<0.0001	1.19	0.65 - 2.19	ns
CA19-9 , ≥37 (vs <37)	660 (61.1)	2.02	1.70 - 2.37	<0.0001	2.79	1.46 - 5.33	<0.01
ALT , ≥45 (vs <45)	853 (63.5)	1.15	1.00 - 1.31	<0.05	1.26	0.62 - 2.59	ns
AST , ≥40 (vs <40)	1,180 (69.8)	1.43	1.27 – 1.61	<0.0001	0.48	0.21 - 1.09	ns
GGT , ≥71 (vs <71)	1,189 (70.1)	1.96	1.68 - 2.28	<0.0001	1.51	0.69 - 3.31	ns
ALP , ≥129 (vs <129)	1,014 (70.2)	1.80	1.57 – 2.06	<0.0001	1.24	0.57 - 2.71	ns
Albumin, <5.2 (vs ≥5.2)	556 (71.5)	0.26	0.08 - 0.82	<0.05	0.28	0.03 - 2.64	ns
Bilirubin, ≥1.3 (vs <1.3)	1,209 (70.0)	1.41	1.26 - 1.58	<0.0001	0.98	0.49 - 1.95	ns

Note: **bold and red** text signifies data of interest.

ALT, alanine aminotransferase; ALP, alkaline phosphatase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; CA, carbohydrate antigen; CCA, cholangiocarcinoma; CEA, carcinoembryonic antigen; CI, confidence interval; dCCA, distal CCA; ECOG-PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; GGT, gamma glutamyltransferase; HR, hazard ratio; iCCA, intrahepatic CCA; ns, not significant; pCCA, perihilar CCA.

Post-surgical evaluation: Lymph node invasion

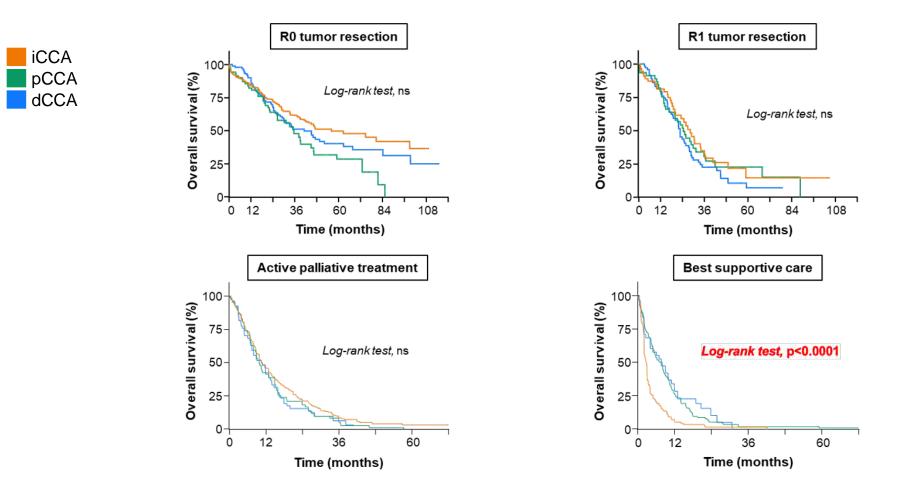


	R0		R1		
	N0	N+	N0	N+	
mOS, months (95% CI)	52.2 (33.5–71.0)	23.3 (15.5–31.0)	29.3 (23.1–35.5)	21.8 (17.9–25.8)	
HR	1 (Ref)	2.13 (1.55–2.94)	1.88 (1.28–2.76)	3.02 (2.22–4.11)	
(95% CI)	0.33 (0.24–0.45)	0.71 (0.50–0.99)	0.62 (0.42–0.93)	1 (Ref)	

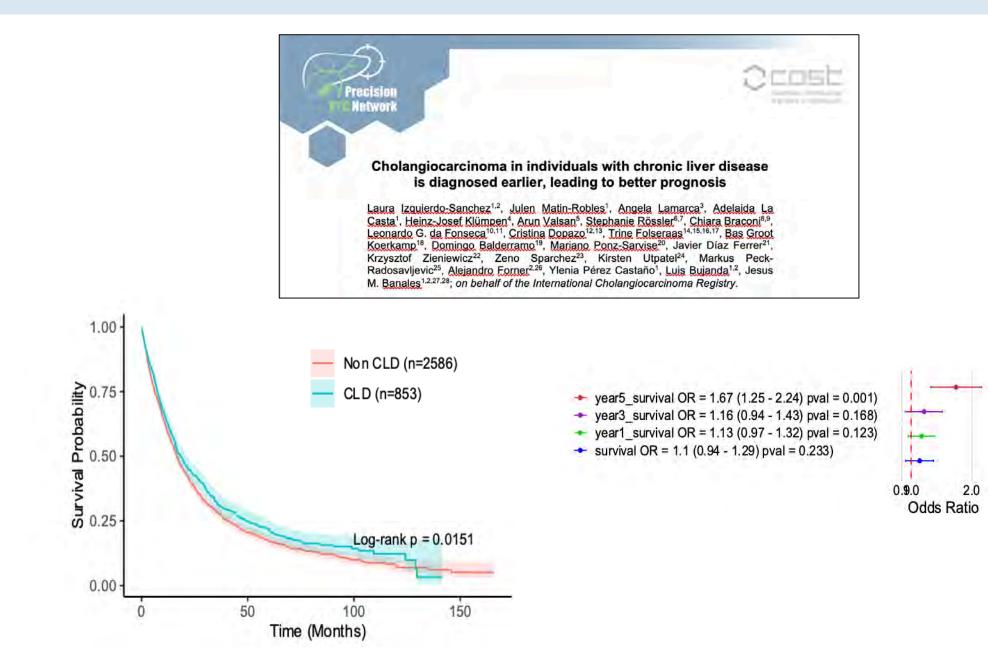
CI, confidence interval; ENSCCA, European Network for the Study of CCA; HR, hazard ratio; mOS, median overall survival;

N+, evidence of node invasion; N0, no evidence of node invasion; R0, null margin tumour resection; R1, microscopic residual disease tumour resection; ref, reference datapoint.

Clinical management and survival – CCA subtypes



CCA, cholangiocarcinoma; dCCA, distal CCA; iCCA, intrahepatic CCA; ns, not significant; pCCA, perihilar CCA; R0, null margin tumour resection; R1, microscopic residual disease tumour resection.



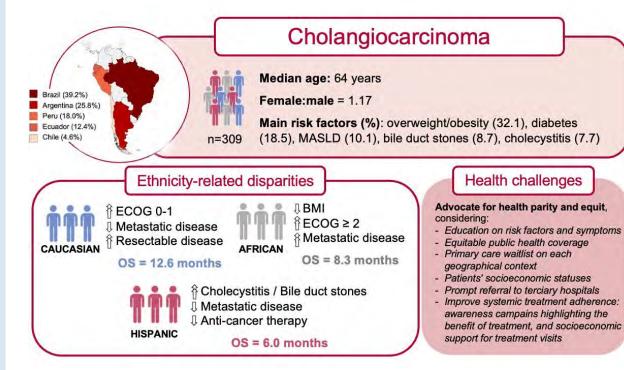
Manuscript under preparation

THE LANCET Regional Health Americas

Cholangiocarcinoma in Latin America: a multicentre observational study alerts on ethnic disparities in tumour presentation and outcomes

Leonardo G. da Fonseca,^{a,b,s} Laura Izquierdo-Sanchez,^{c,d,s} Pedro H. Hashizume,^a Yanina Carlino,^{*} Estefanía Liza Baca,¹ Cristina Zambrano,⁹ Santiago Sepulveda,^h Andrea Bolomo,^e Pedro M. Rodrigues,^{c,d,l} Ioana Riaño,^{c,d,l} Andre Boonstra,^k Jose D. Debes,^{k,Lm} Luis Bujanda,^{c,d} Flair J. Carrilho,^a Marco Arrese,^h Juan C. Roa,^{n,r} Enrique Carrera,^o Javier Díaz Ferrer,^f Domingo Balderramo,^e Claudia P. Oliveira,^p and Jesus M. Banales^{c,d,q,*}

oa





Dr. Leo Da Fonseca



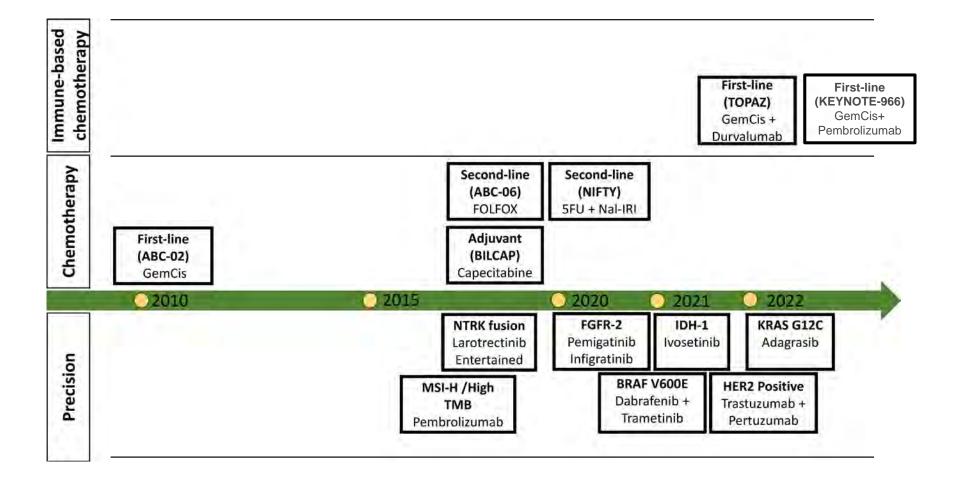
The Escalon team

ESCALON

Dr. Laura Izquierdo



Systemic therapies



Immunotherapy – Monotherapy

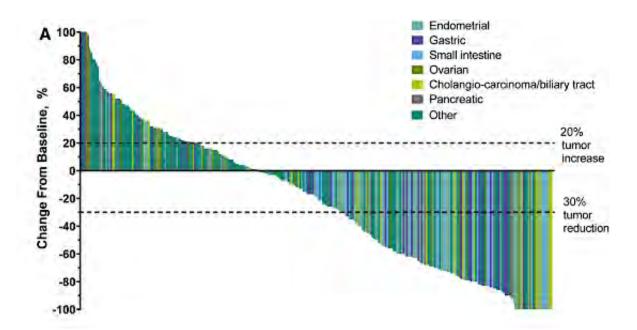
Low efficacy in BTC (CCA)

Immune Check-point Inhibitors (ICI) (PD-1, PD-L1, CTLA-4)

TREATMENT	POPULATION OF STUDY	ORR	REFERENCES
Durvalumab	Unselected BTC	4.8% (2/42)	loka et al. 2019
(Anti-PD-L1)	Asia		(NCT01938612)
Durvalumab + tremelimumab	Unselected BTC	10.8% (7/65)	loka et al. 2019
(Anti-PD-L1 + anti-CTLA4)	Asia		(NCT01938612)
Atezolizumab	Unselected BTC	2.9% (1/34)	CTEP10139
(Anti-PD-L1)	North America		(NCT03201458)
Nivolumab (Anti-PD1)	Unselected BTC China	20.0% (6/30)	Gou et al. 2019
Nivolumab	Unselected BTC	22% (10/45)	Kim et al. 2019
(Anti-PD1)	USA		(NCT02829918)
Nivolumab	Unselected BTC	3.3% (1/30)	Ueno et al. 2019
(Anti-PD1)	Japan		(JapicCTI-153098)
Pembrolizumab	Unselected BTC	5.8% (6/104)	Ueno et al. 2018
(Anti-PD1)	International		(KEYNOTE-158/NCT02628067)
Pembrolizumab	PD-L1* BTC	11.1% (4/36)	Kang et al. 2019
(Anti-PD1)	Korea		(NCT03201458)

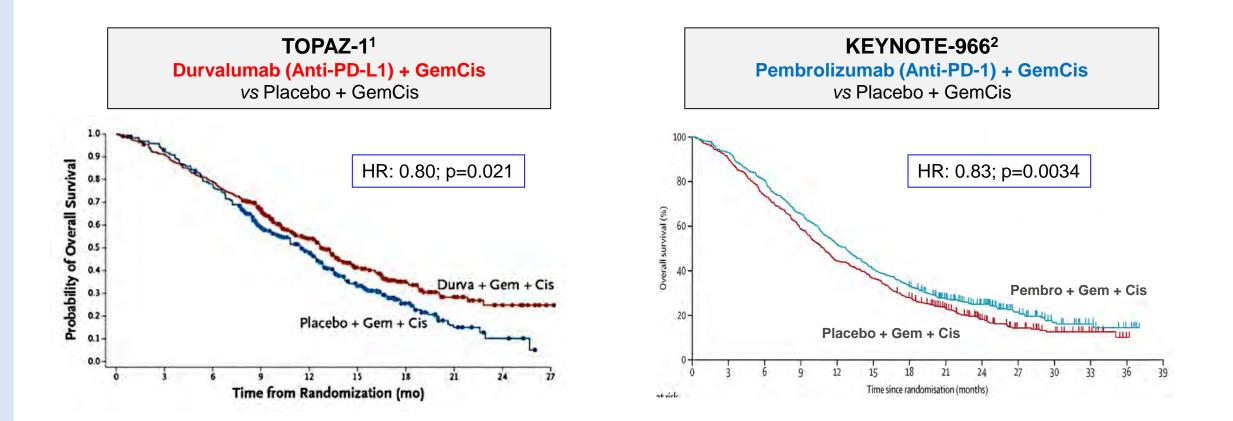
Immunotherapy – Monotherapy in patients with MSI-H/dMMR

Pembrolizumab (anti-PD1)



Keynote-158 study 22/351 patients with CCA Response rate: 40.9% Duration of response: 30.6 mo mPFS: 3.5 mo mOS: 19.4 mo

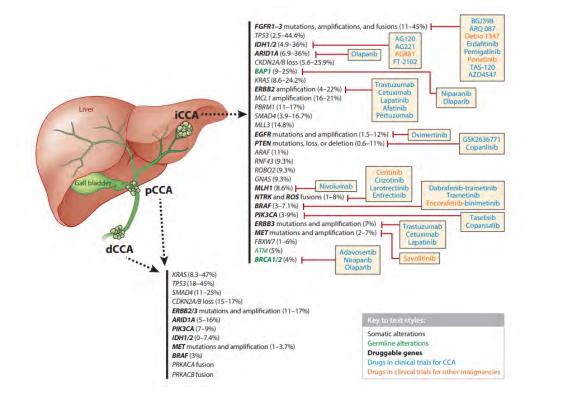
Immunotherapy – combination therapies (1st line)



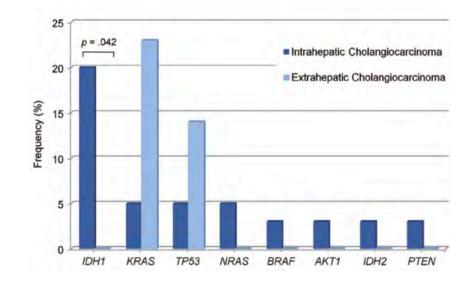
1. Do-Youn Oh, et al. N Engl J Med-Evidence 2022; 2. Kelly RK, et al. Lancet 2023

CCA tumors - highly heterogeneous (mut level)

Frequencies of most common genomic alterations in CCA and potential targeted therapies¹



Frequency across CCA subtypes: iCCA vs eCCA (p/dCCA)²

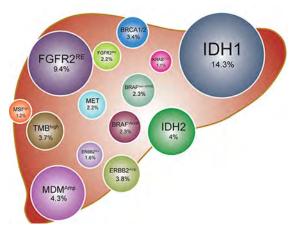


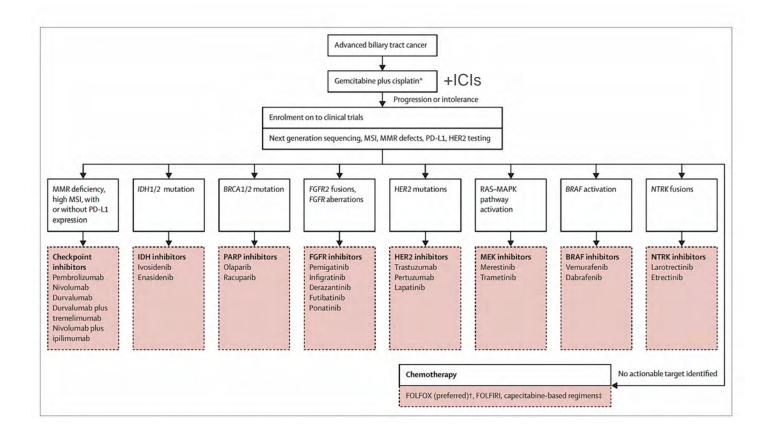
+FGFR2 fusions (10-15%) in iCCAs

CCA tumors – actionable alterations

2nd line drugs for advanced BTC²

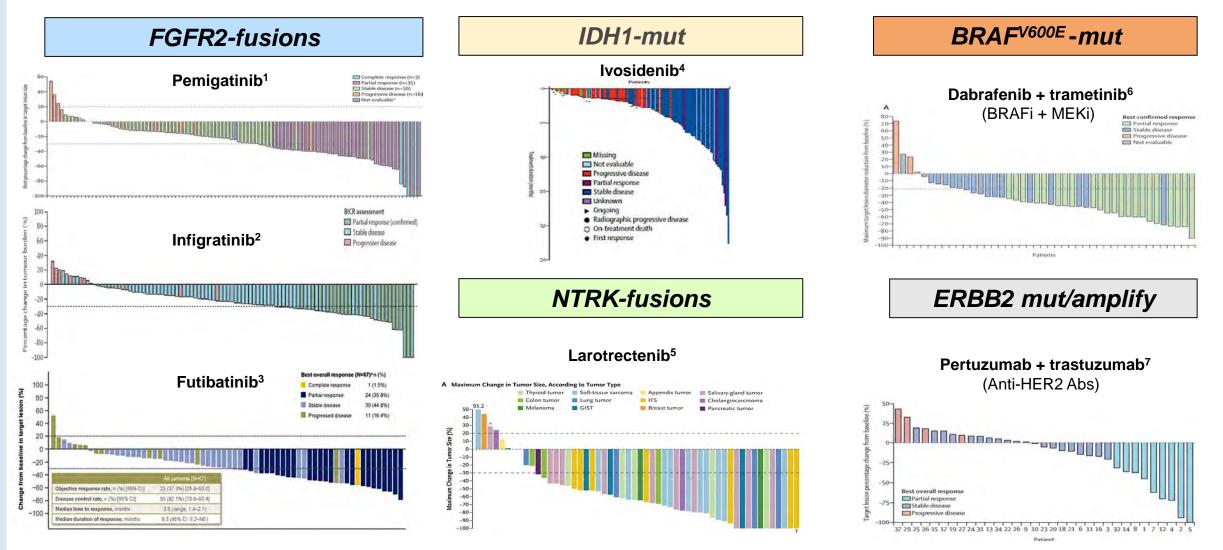
Precision medicine (40% mutated genes are actionable)¹





BTC, biliary tract cancer

Targeted therapies – 2nd line



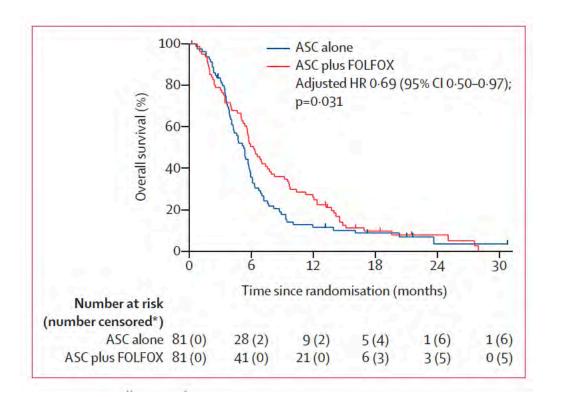
1. Abou-Alfa GK, et al. Lancet Oncol. 2020; 2. Javle M, et al. Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2021; 3. Meric-Bernstam F, et al. Cancer Discov. 2022; 4. Abou-Alfa GK, et al. Lancet Oncol. 2020; 5. Drilon A, et al. N Engl J Med. 2018; 6. Subbiah V, et al. Lancet Oncol. 2020; 7. Javle M. Lancet Oncol 2021

Systemic therapies – 2nd line

ABC-06 (UK): Phase III

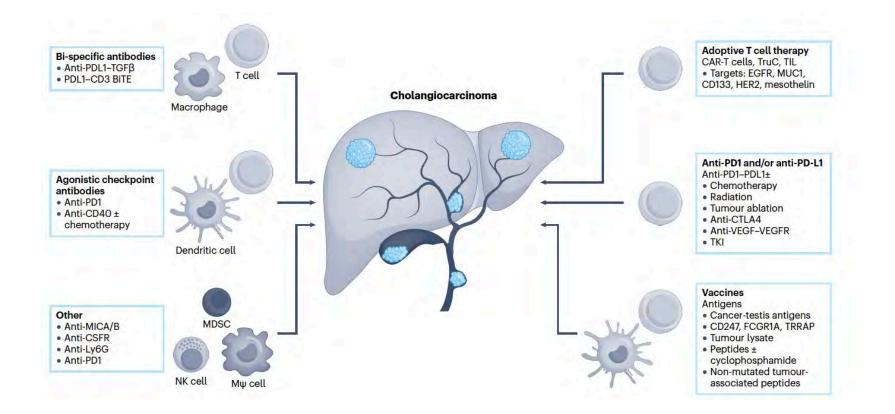
CCA & GBC (n=162)

Fluorouracile + Oxaliplatine (FOLFOX) vs Observational



Group	mOS
FOLFOX	6.2
Observational	5.3

Immunotherapy – *next directions*



CHOLANGIOCARCINOMA (CCA)

1. Epidemiology and general features

2. Natural course

3. Novel therapeutic strategies

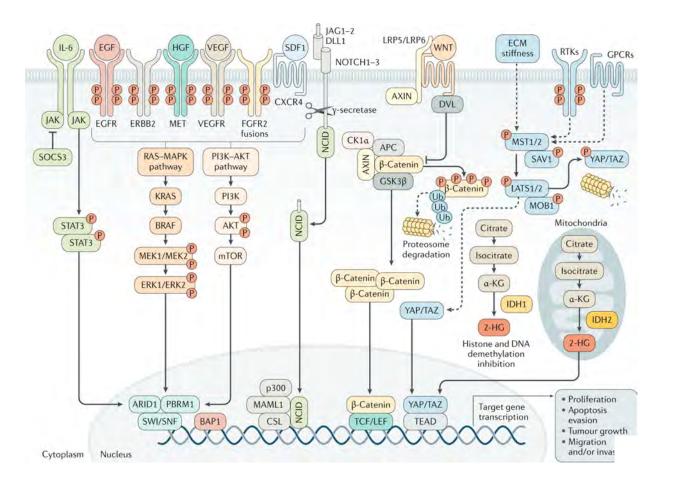
Signaling pathways and molecular networks



KEY SIGNALING PATHWAYS

- Inflammatory cytokines
- Growth factors
- NOTCH
- WNT/β-catenin
- HIPPO (YAP/TAZ)
- Bile acids

CCA develpment, evolution and progression

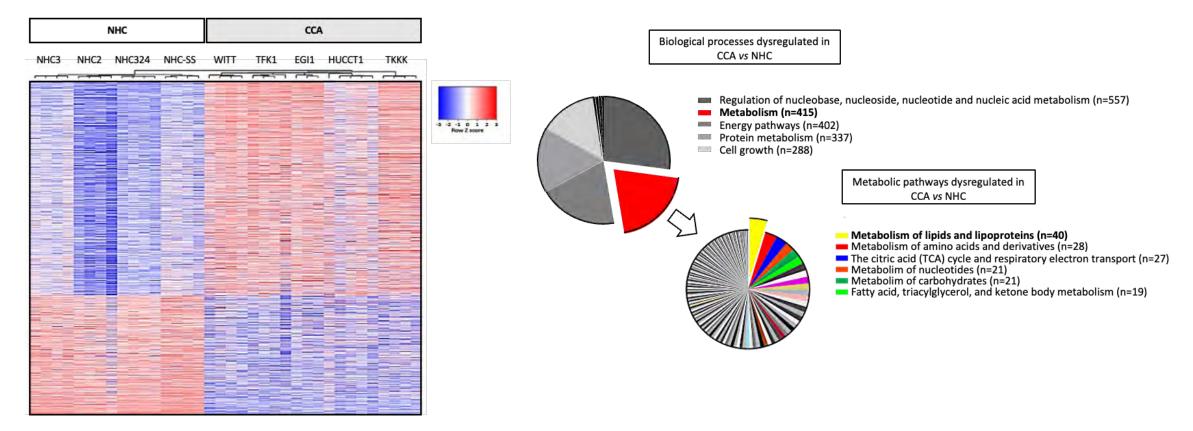




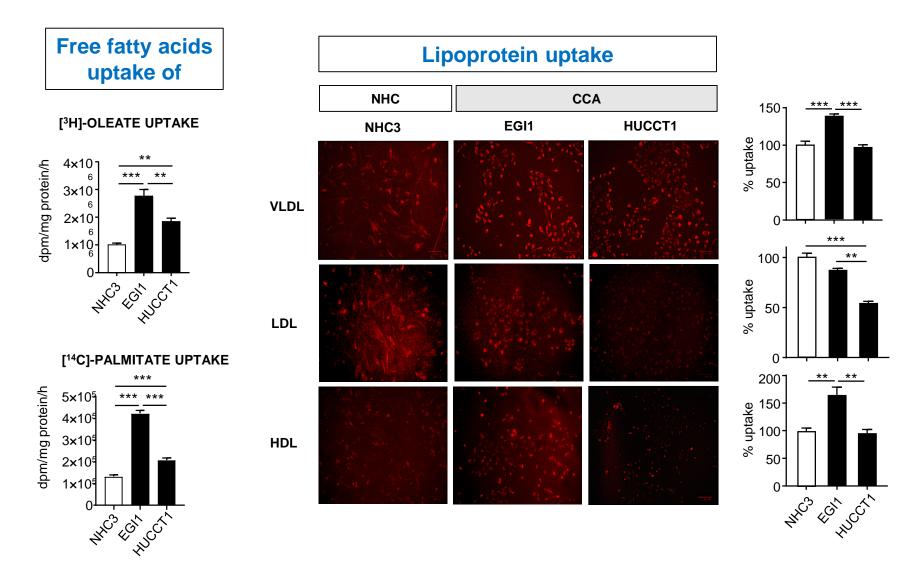
Dr. M. Ruiz de Gauna Prof. P. Aspichueta (UPV/EHU) (IIS Biobizkaia)

PROTEOME

CCA – *metabolic reprogramming*

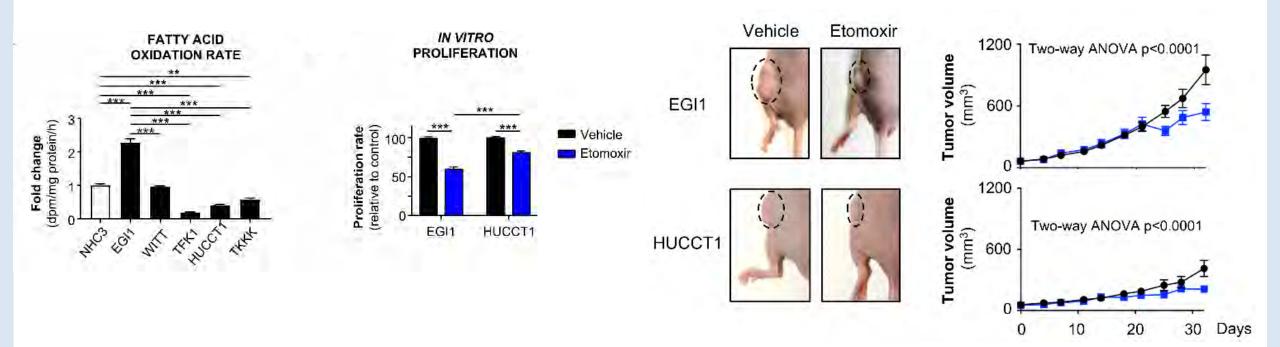


CCA – increased lipid uptake

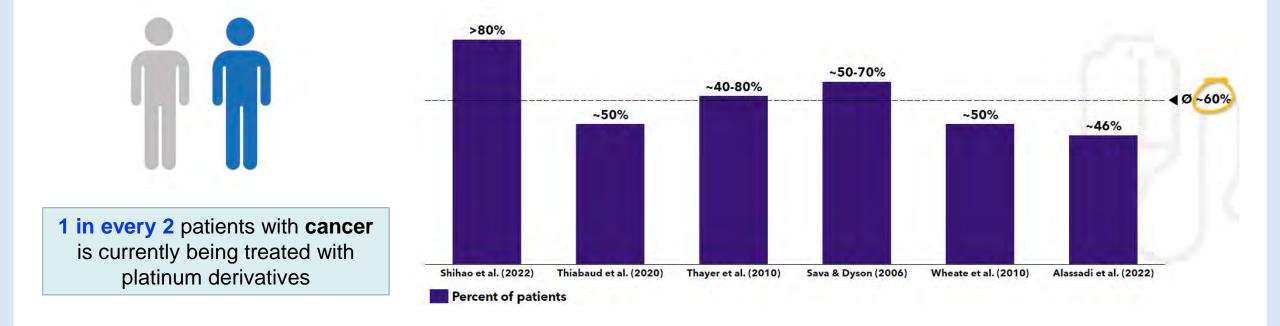


Ruiz de Gauna M,...,Banales/Aspichueta. Hepatology 2022

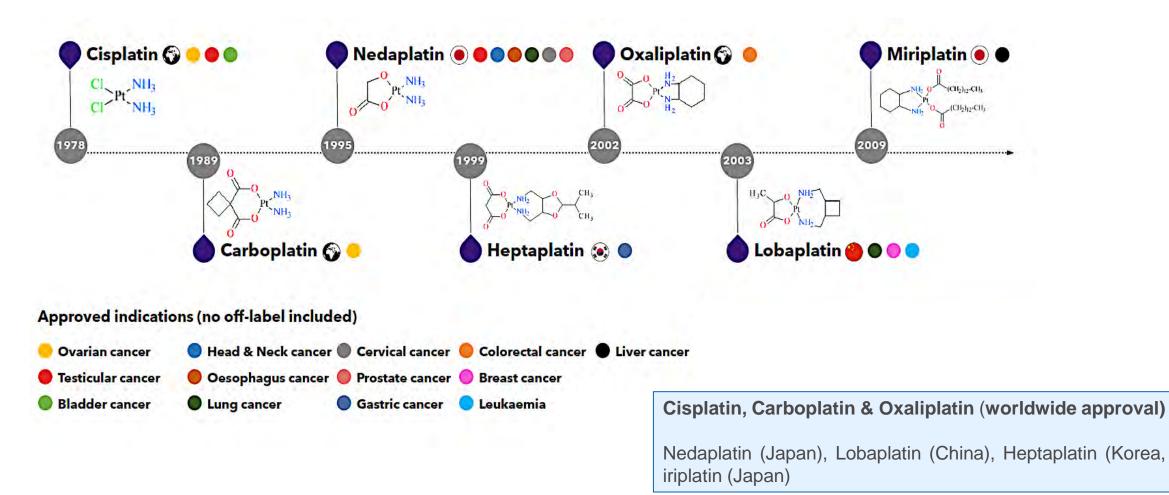
CCA – energy source



Use of platinum-based drugs in cancer treatment

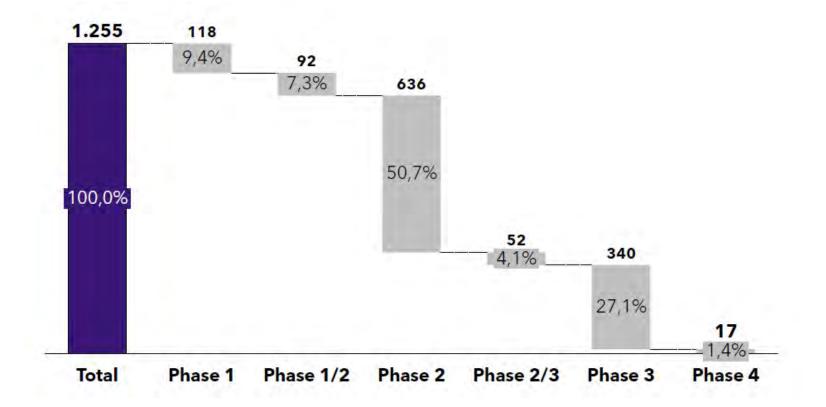


Evolution of approved platinum-based drugs over time



Cisplatin – *clinical trials (in 2024)*

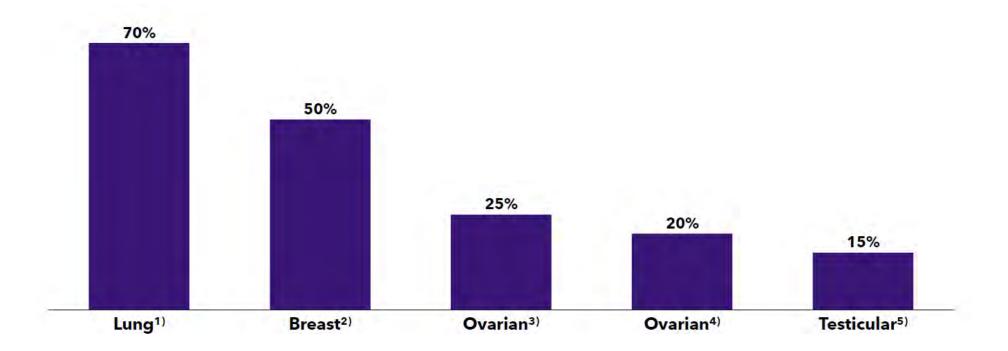
• Cisplatin is still under investigation in multiple clinical trials: **1.255** (mostly Phase 2)



F

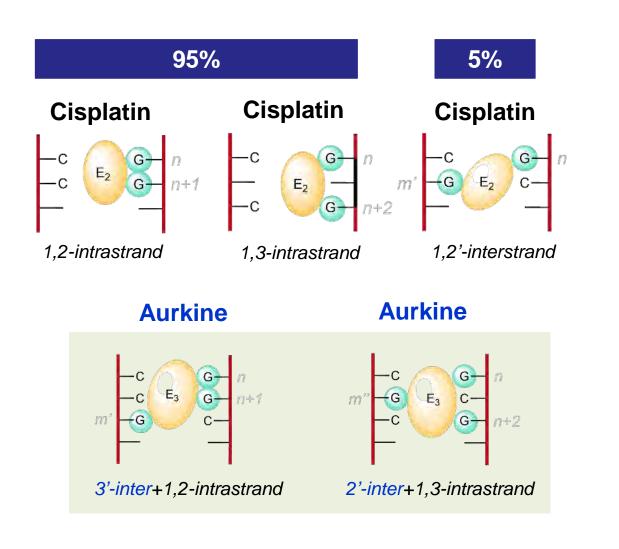
Cisplatin – *resistance*

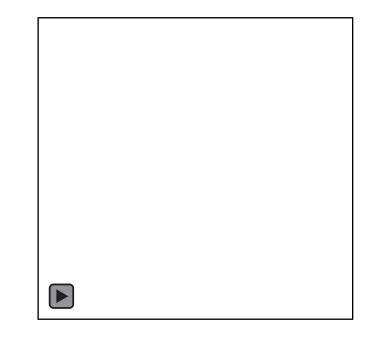
Major limitation in cancer treatment



1. Gonzalez Rajal A, et al. *Elife.* 2021; 2. Pogribny PI, et al. Cancer Cell Biology. 2010; 3. Atallah GA, et al. *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* 2023; 4. Pothuri B. *Clin. Adv. Hematol. Oncol.* 2023; 5. González-Barrios R, et al. *Cancers.* 2022.

New chemotherapeutic agents – Aurkine (Basque: to find/against to)







Prof. Fernando Cossío (UPV/EHU)

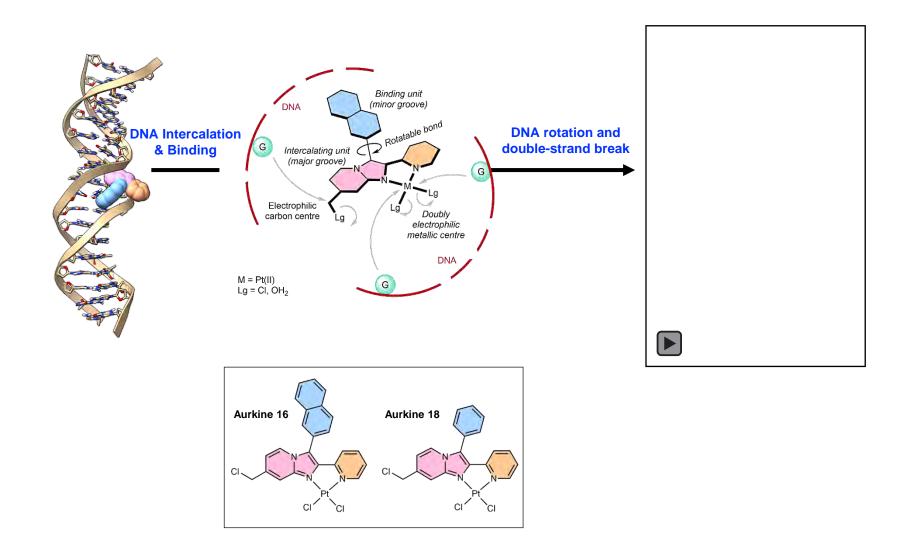


Dr. Ivan Rivilla

(DIPC)

Dr. Irene Olaizola (IIS Biogipuzkoa)

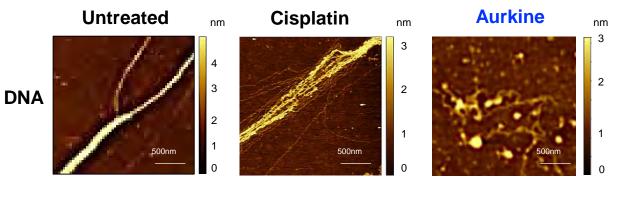
New chemotherapeutic agents – Aurkine



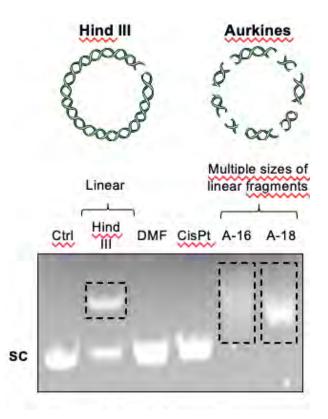
Aurkines completely disrupt the DNA structure

Isolated DNA from Escherichia Coli

AFM studies (Atomic Force Microscopy)

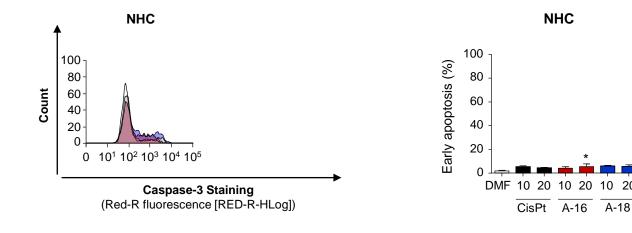


DNA bending ↑↑ DNA destruction

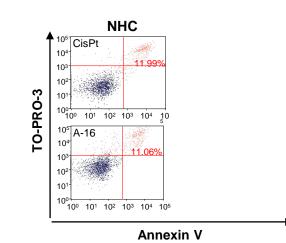


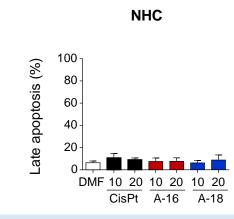
Aurkines promote apoptosis specifically in CCA cells

Early cell death (caspase-3)



Late cell death (annexin-V – TO-PRO-3)

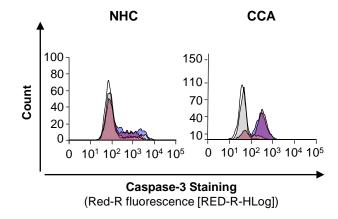


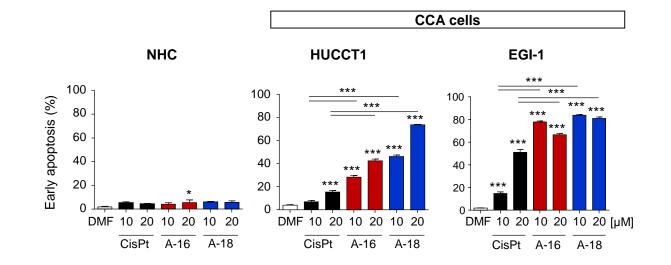


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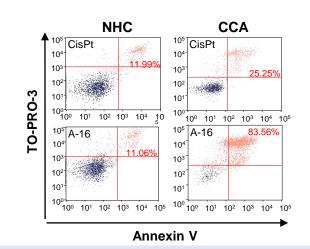
Aurkines promote apoptosis specifically in CCA cells

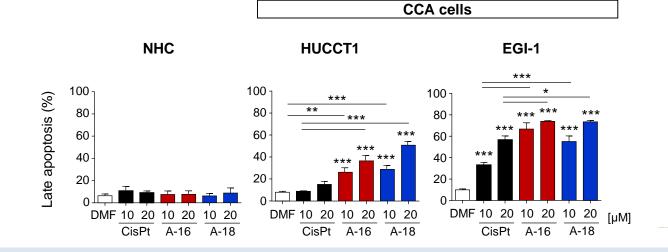
Early cell death (caspase-3)





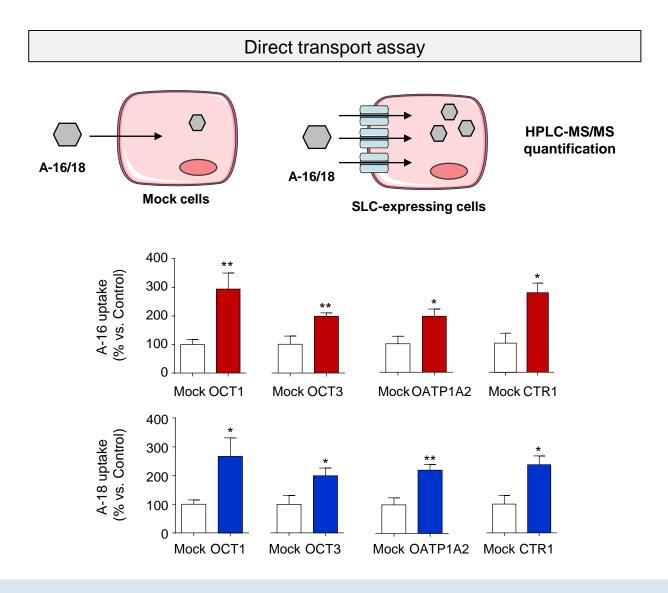
Late cell death (annexin-V – TO-PRO-3)



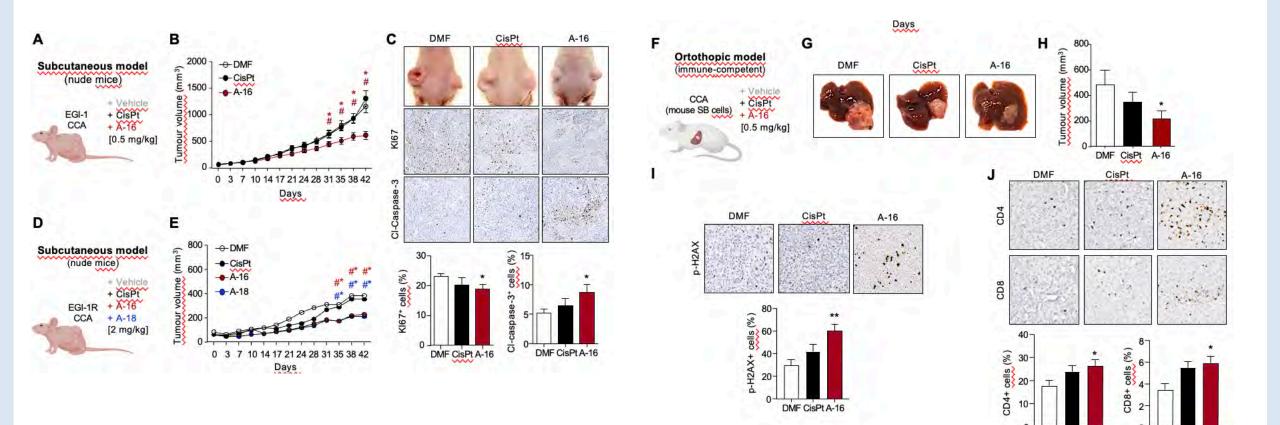


Aurkines uptake by cancer cells

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Aurkines inhibit CCA growth in vivo

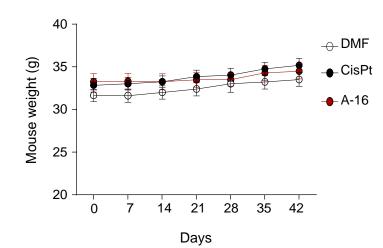


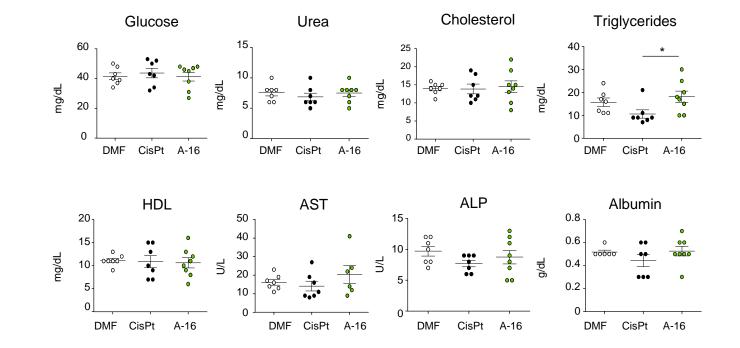
DMF CisPt A-16

DMF CisPt A-16

No evidence of toxicity

F





New platinum derivatives selectively cause double-strand DNA breaks and death in naïve and cisplatin-resistant cholangiocarcinomas. Olaizola I, Odriozola-Gimeno M, Olaizola P, Caballero-Camino FJ, Pastor-Toyos N, Tena-Garitaonandia M, Lapitz A, Val B, Guimaraes AR, Asensio M, Huici-Izagirre M, Rae C, de Sancho D, Lopez X, Rodrigues PM, Herraez E, Briz O, Izquierdo-Sanchez L, Eleta-Lopez A, Bittner AM, Martinez-Amesti A, Miranda T, Ilyas SI, Braconi C, Perugorria MJ, Bujanda L, Rivilla I, Marin JJG, Cossio FP, **Banales JM**.

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Conclusions

- The incidence of CCA is increasing globally
- Highly heterogenous (intra- & inter-tumor)
- Imaging methods (CT/MRI) may suggest the diagnosis but are not conclusive (biopsy needed)
- Surgery with curative intent, including liver transplantation in selective cases, is still the only potential curative options (but only ~30% candidates and high recurrence)
- CA19.9: Disease stage (disseminated), Prognosis, Surrogate marker (treatment)

 Chemotherapy (Unresectable Tumors): Ist line Immunotherapy + GemCis Immunotherapy (MSI) GemCis 	Adjuvant chemotherapy: Capecitabine (6	6 months)	
	 Chemotherapy (Unresectable Tumors): 	1 st line	 Immunotherapy + GemCis Immunotherapy (MSI) GemCis
2nd line - FOLFOX - FGFR2 inh; IDH1 inh - others: BRAF mut; HER2 mut/amp: NTRK fus		2 nd line	- FOLFOX - FGFR2 inh; IDH1 inh - others: BRAF mut; HER2 mut/amp: NTRK fus

• **RECOMENDATION: tumor mutational profile** (tissue/serum) at diagnosis!!







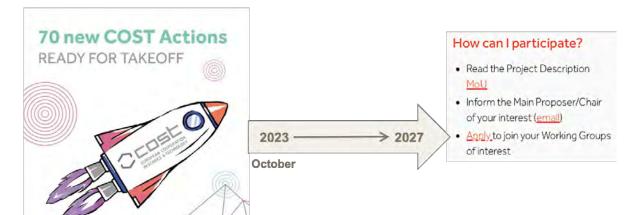
Cholanglocarcinomas (CCAs) are an heterogeneous group of cancers of the billary tree. CCA is considered one of the deadliest cancers and its incidence is increasing constantly and dramatically in Europe. Notably, CCA is the most frequent cause of cancer metastases of unknow origin, suggesting underestimation of the CCA problem. CCA heterogeneity has limited the discovery of biomarkers and novel therapeutic options, hampening the development of tools for early diagnosis and effective treatment. CCA constitutes a major challenge for researchers, clinicians, national healt systems and society Still, coordinated multidisciplinary pan-European studies are lacking. As such, the EURO-CHOLANGIO-NET (European Cholangiocarcinoma Network) alins to set up a pan-European-wide interdisciplinary co-operative network of stakeholders, including scientists;

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CA22125 - Precision medicine in biliary tract cancer (Precision-BTC-Network)

🐣 Downloads



https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22125/



Metabolomics



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