



## **La chemio-radioterapia nel trattamento del carcinoma del retto.**

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**U.O. Radioterapia Oncologica, Ferrara**

**Ferrara 16/04/2011**

# Local Recurrence

- Usually seen within 2 years, seldom cured
- Factors influencing local recurrence include:
  - TNM Stage
  - Surgical experience/technique and completeness of resection (spillage)
  - Use of adjuvant therapy
  - Tumor differentiation and macroscopic appearance (circumferential, ulceration)
  - LVI, NVI

Stage	5 year, no adjuvant XRT
T1	10%
T2	15-35%
T3	20-45%
T4	>50%
N+	40-65%

McCall J, et al. Int J Colorectal Dis **1995** 10. 126-132

Bokey EL, et al. BJS **1999**; 86:1164.

Shirouzu et al., Am J. Surg **1993**; 165:233

## **RADIOTERAPIA: migliorare i risultati della chirurgia**



RADIOTERAPIA POSTOPERATORIA  
da sola o in associazione a  
chemioterapia

RADIOTERAPIA  
PREOPERATORIA

## RCTs



## Clinical practice



Selected	Patient population	All comers
No	Comorbidity	Very frequent
Very high	Compliance	Variable
Experts	Providers	Usual caregivers
Often undetected	Adverse drug reactions	Usual setting of detection
Limited	Generalizability	Broad

# Typical exclusion criteria in registrative RCTs

**Age < 18 yrs**  
**Age > 65 yrs**  
**Normal ALT levels**  
**Low hemoglobin (<12 g/dl)**  
**Low WBC count (<3,000/mm<sup>3</sup>)**  
**Neutropenia (<1,500/mm<sup>3</sup>)**  
**Thrombocytopenia (< 100,000/mm<sup>3</sup>)**  
**Decompensated liver disease**  
**Bilirubin >2.0 mg/dL**  
**Albumin <3.5 g/dL**  
**Protine >2 sec prolonged**  
**Creatinine >1.5 mg/dL**  
**Alphafetoprotein >50 mg/dL**  
**HBsAg+**  
**Any other known liver disease**

**Depression**  
**Psychiatric disease**  
**Coronary artery disease**  
**Cerebral vascular disease**  
**Neurologic illness**  
**Seizure disorders**  
**Alcohol abuse**  
**IV drug use**  
**Methadone treatment**  
**Hemophilia**  
**Hemoglobinopathy**  
**Autoimmunity**  
**Thyroid diseases**  
**Mental retardation**  
**Institutionalization**  
**Children**

# EVIDENCE BASED MEDICINE

## EFFECTIVENESS

è il risultato che lo stesso intervento produce in condizioni di reale pratica assistenziale, al di fuori del contesto sperimentale

CLINICAL  
PRACTICE

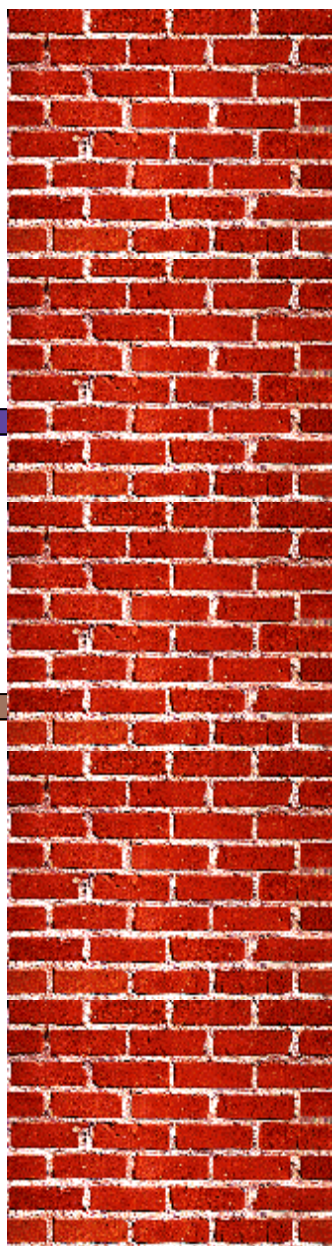
**Bassa External  
validity**

## EFFICACY

è l'efficacia di un intervento sanitario in condizioni sperimentali

RCTs MA

**Alta Internal  
validity**



## Preoperative Radiotherapy With or Without Concurrent Fluorouracil and Leucovorin in T3-4 Rectal Cancers: Results of FFCD 9203

Jean-Pierre Gérard, Thierry Conroy, Franck Bonnetain, Olivier Bouché, Olivier Chapet, Marie-Thérèse Clason-Dejardin, Michel Umerieiner, Bernard Leduc, Étienne Francois, Jean Maurel, Jean-François Seta, Bruno Buecher, Rémy Mackiewicz, Michel Ducreux, and Laurent Badenne

From the Centre Antoine Lacazeigne, Nice; Centre Alexis Vautrin, Vandœuvre de Nancy; Fédération Francophone de Cancérologie Digestive, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Dijon, Dijon; Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Reims, Reims; Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Lyon "Pierre Bénite," Lyon; Clinique Claude Bernard, Metz; Centre Hospitalier de Brive, Brive; Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Côte de Meuse, Caen; Centre Hospitalier Universitaire La Trinité, Marseille; Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Hôtel Dieu Nantes, Nantes; Clinique Générale, Valencia; Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France; and France University Hospital, Liège, Belgium.

Submitted March 20, 2006; accepted May 23, 2006.

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0732-183X/06/24-4620-4625/\$20.00

DOI: 10.1200/JCO.2006.08.7629

### ABSTRACT

#### Purpose

In 1992, preoperative radiotherapy (RT) was shown to be superior to surgery alone for T3-4 rectal cancers. The present random-

#### Patients and Methods

Patients were eligible if accessible to digital rectal examination, T3 or T4 tumor with no evidence of distant metastases; age younger than 75 years; and WHO performance status of 0 or 1. All patients provided written informed consent and ethical committee permission was obtained. Eligible patients were randomly allocated to either preoperative RT alone or concurrent CT-RT.

#### Results

A total of 733 patients received preoperative RT alone (14.8%) or concurrent CT-RT (18.1% v 16.6%;  $P = .05$ ).

#### Conclusion

Preoperative chemoradiotherapy (CT-RT) significantly improved overall survival in patients with T3-4 rectal adenocarcinoma.

*J Clin Oncol* 24:4620-4625.

### INTRODUCTION

In the early 1990s, after randomized trials showed that preoperative radiotherapy (RT) improved overall survival in patients with T3-4 rectal cancers, when compared with surgery alone, the National Institutes of Health recommended concurrent chemotherapy and radiotherapy (CT-RT) as an attractive field of research. Pilot studies were conducted by European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) to determine the recommended dose of bolus fluorouracil (FU) modulated with leucovorin (LV).<sup>1</sup> The aim of this study was to evaluate if concurrent CT-RT in a neoadjuvant schedule could increase overall survival (OS) when compared with RT alone. The Fédération Francophone de Cancérologie Digestive

## PATIENTS AND METHODS

### Eligibility Criteria and Randomization

Patients were eligible if they presented with a histologically confirmed, previously untreated rectal adenocarcinoma accessible to digital rectal examination; T3 or resectable T4 tumor with no evidence of distant metastases; age younger than 75 years; and WHO performance status of 0 or 1. All patients provided written informed consent and ethical committee permission was obtained. Eligible patients were randomly allocated to either preoperative RT alone or concurrent CT-RT.

#### Eligibility Criteria and Randomization

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#### Work-Up

Before random assignment, patients underwent digital rectal proctoscopy. The distance from the lower pole of

# EVIDENCE BASED RADIO THERAPY

EFFECTIVENESS

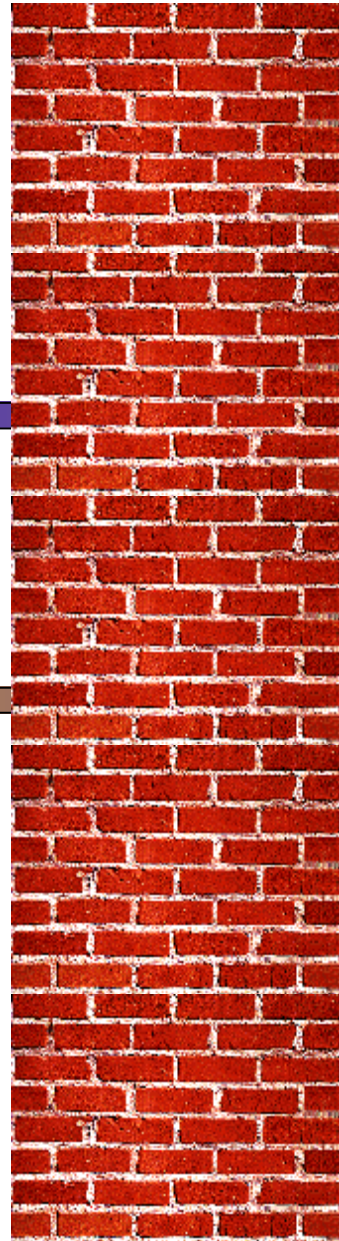
EFFICACY

CLINICAL  
PRACTICE

RCTs MA

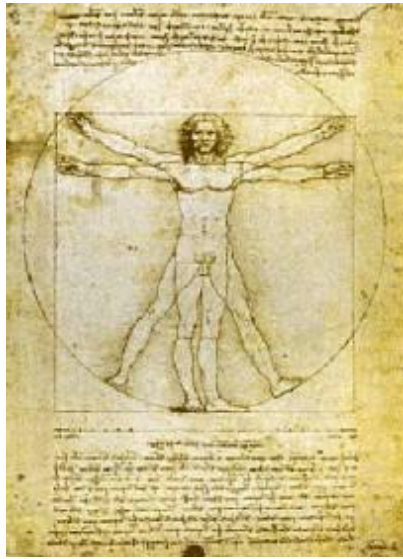
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validity

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validity





# STATISTICAL



**oggettivo**

**preciso e misurabile**

**definibile**

**standardizzabile**

**VERSUS**

# CLINICAL



**soggettivo**

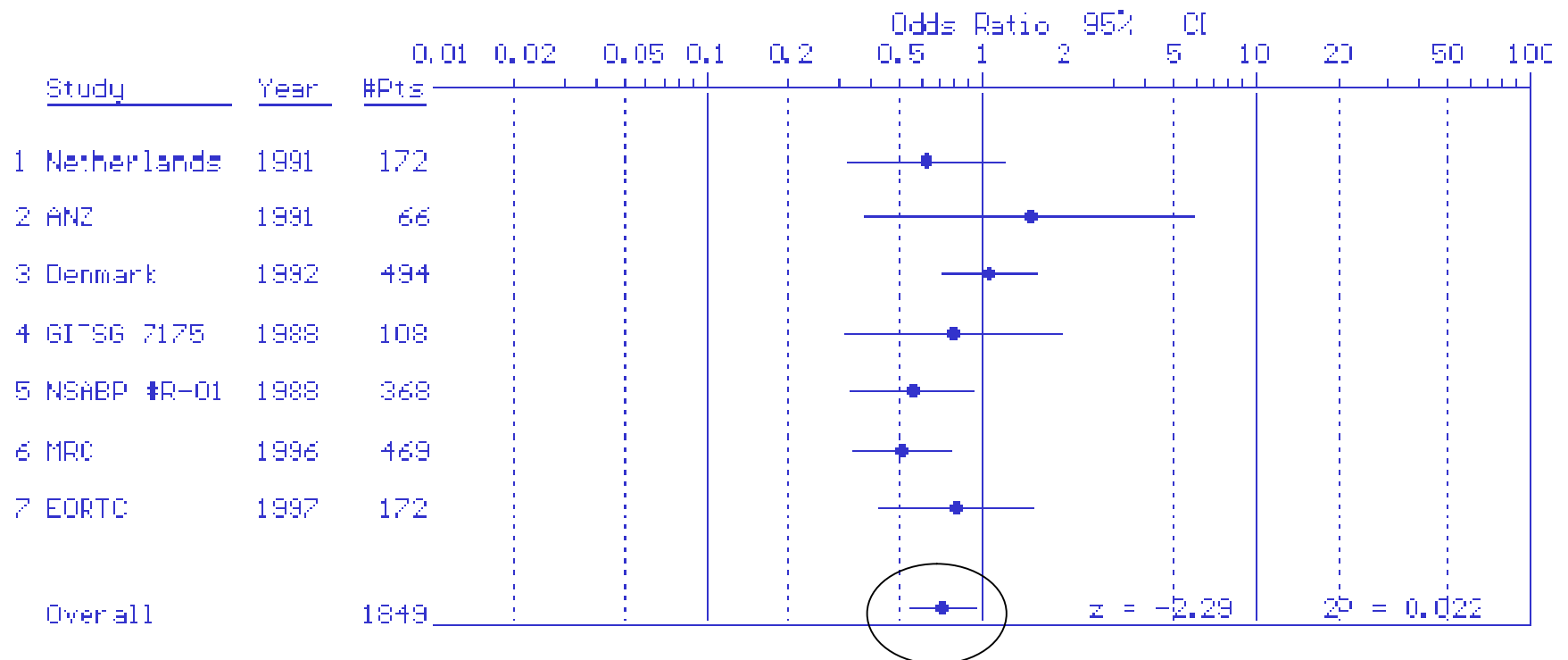
**impreciso e non  
quantificabile**

**difficilmente definibile**

**non standardizzabile**

# RADIOTERAPIA POSTOPERATORIA

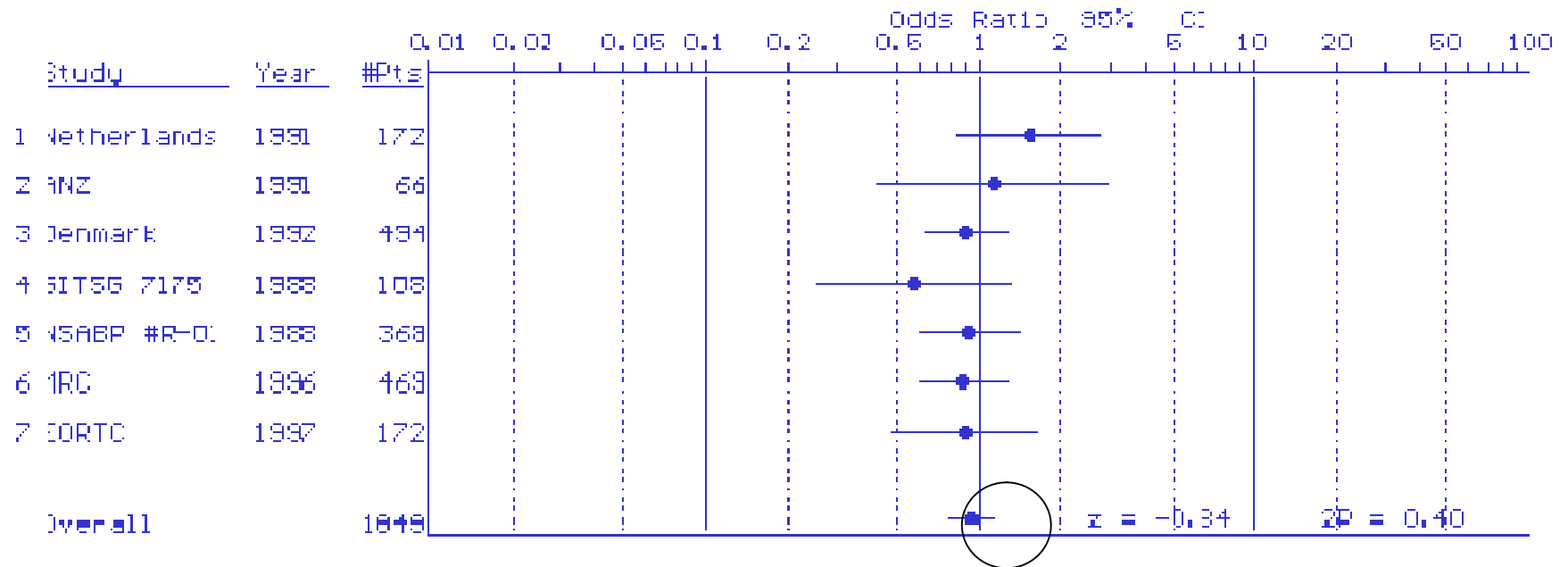
## Meta-analysis of RCTs of Radiotherapy versus Observation Local Failure Odds Ratio (Random Effects Model)



favours radiotherapy ← → favours observation  
**Odds Ratio = 0.73 (95% CI, 0.55 to 0.96; p=0.022)**

# RADIOTERAPIA POSTOPERATORIA

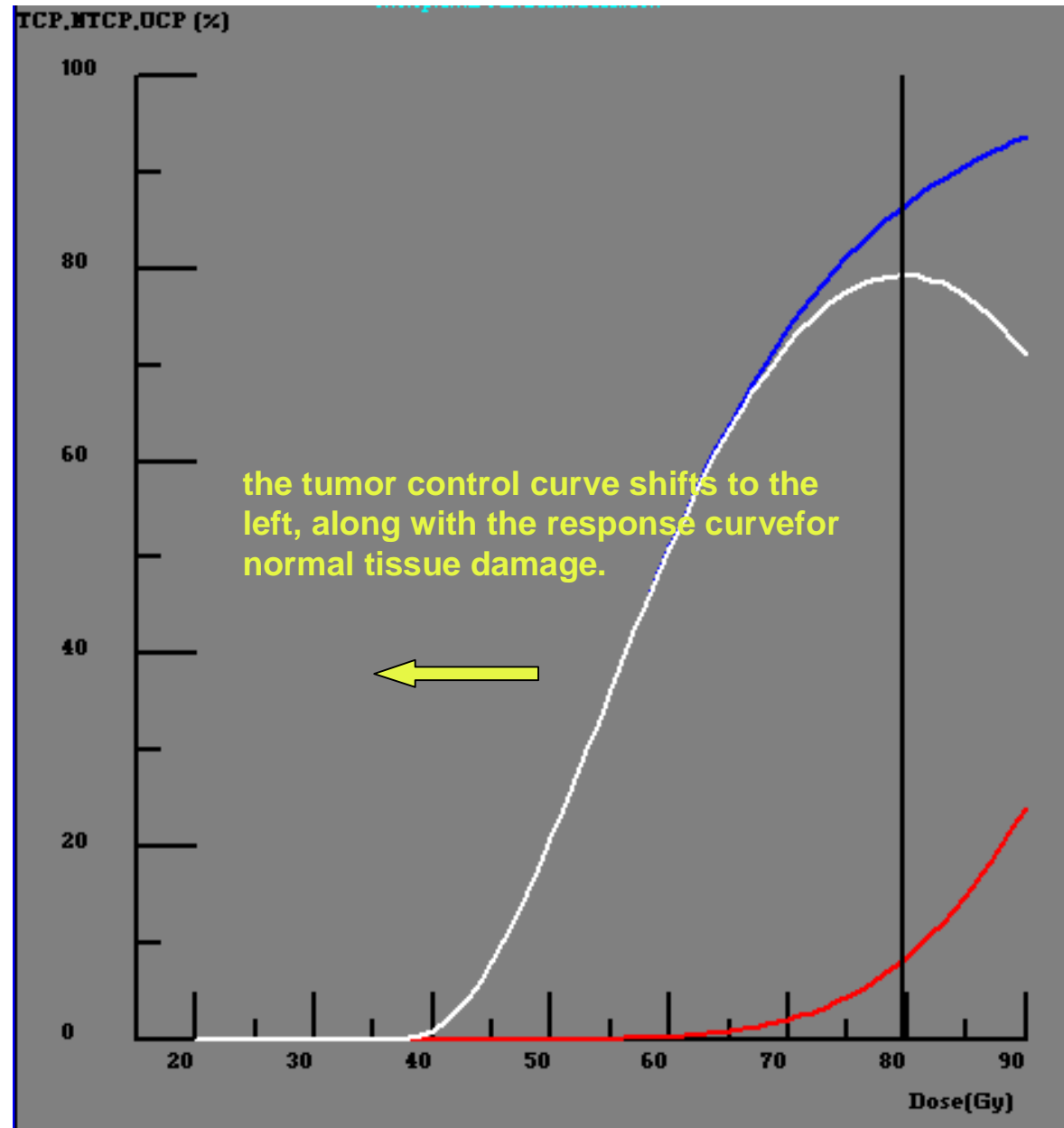
## Meta-analysis of RCTs of Radiotherapy versus Observation Mortality Odds Ratio (Random Effects Model)



favours radiotherapy ← → favours observation  
 Odds Ratio = 0.92 (95% CI, 0.77 to 1.11; p=0.40)

When CT is combined with RT:

The goal is to **obtain a positive therapeutic ratio**, and thus to **enhance the antitumor effect** while **minimizing toxicity** to critical normal tissues.



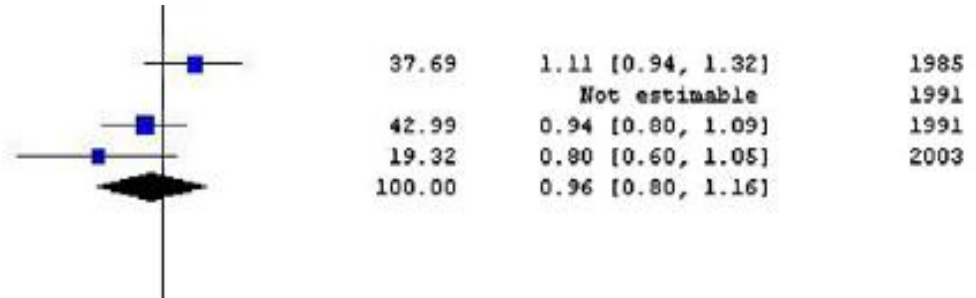
# RADIOTERAPIA POSTOPERATORIA + CHEMIOTERAPIA

## 5 yrs local recurrence

02 postoperative RT vs postoperative CRT

Study	RT (n/N)	CRT (n/N)
GTSG (17)	41/46	40/50
ECOG study EST 4276 (18)	0/82	0/83
Krook et al. (19)	77/104	79/100
PAR study group (21)	47/110	58/108
Subtotal (95% CI)	342	341

Total events: 165 (combined treatment), 177 (radiotherapy)  
 Test for heterogeneity:  $\text{Chi}^2 = 5.53$ ,  $\text{df} = 2$  ( $P = 0.06$ ),  $I^2 = 63.8\%$   
 Test for overall effect:  $Z = 0.44$  ( $P = 0.66$ )

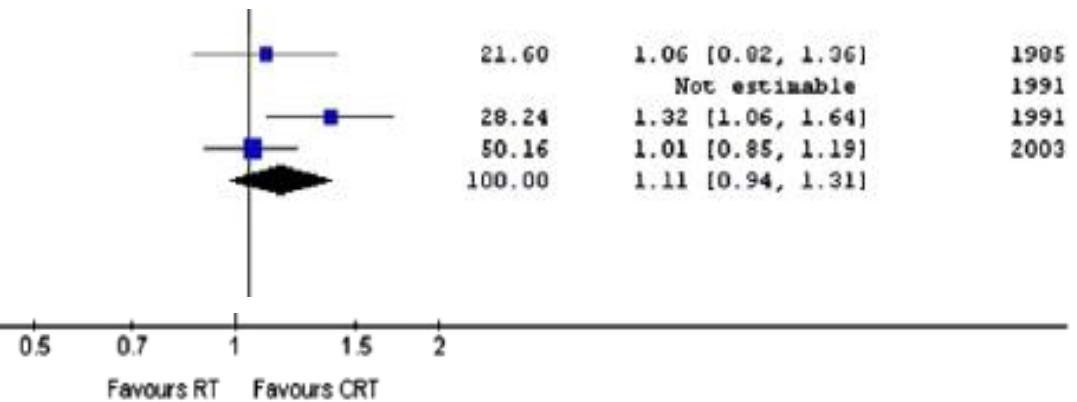


## 5 yrs distant metastases

02 postoperative RT vs postoperative CRT

Study	RT (n/N)	CRT (n/N)
GTSG (17)	34/46	35/50
ECOG study EST 4276 (18)	0/82	0/83
Krook et al. (19)	74/104	54/100
PAR study group (21)	80/110	78/108
Subtotal (95% CI)	342	341

Total events: 188 (combined treatment), 167 (radiotherapy)  
 Test for heterogeneity:  $\text{Chi}^2 = 3.95$ ,  $\text{df} = 2$  ( $P = 0.14$ ),  $I^2 = 49.4\%$   
 Test for overall effect:  $Z = 1.22$  ( $P = 0.22$ )



# RADIOTERAPIA POSTOPERATORIA + CHEMIOTERAPIA

## 5 yrs overall survival

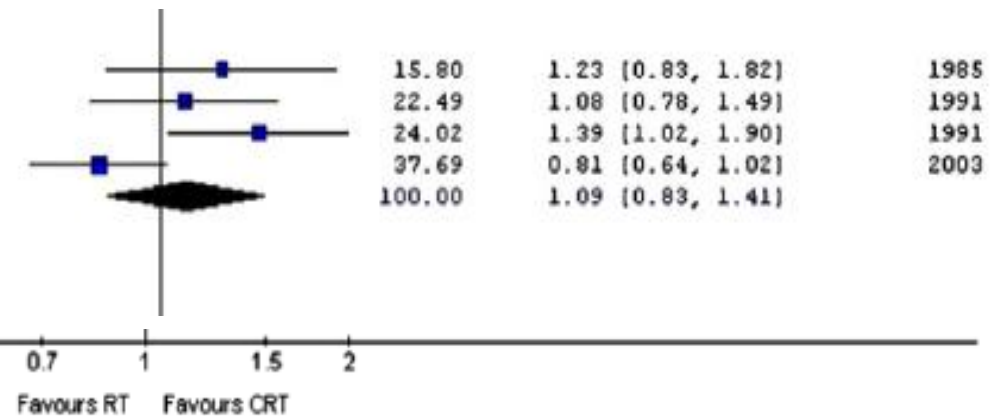
02 postoperative RT vs. postoperative CRT

GTSG (17)	26/46	23/50
ECOG study EST 4276 (14)	46/106	41/102
Krook et al. (19)	55/104	38/100
PAR study group (21)	56/110	68/108
Subtotal (95% CI)	366	360

Total events: 183 (combined treatment), 170 (radiotherapy)

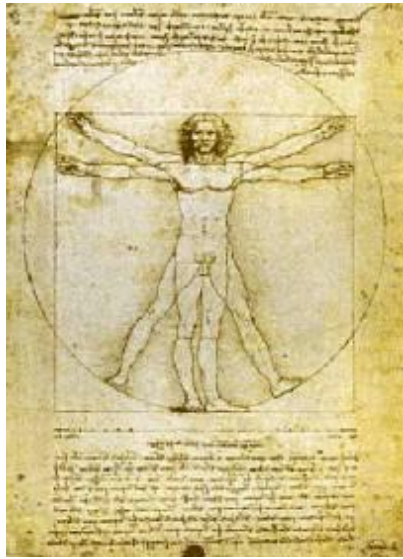
Test for heterogeneity:  $\text{Chi}^2 = 8.70$ ,  $\text{df} = 3$  ( $P = 0.03$ ),  $I^2 = 65.5\%$

Test for overall effect:  $Z = 0.61$  ( $P = 0.54$ )





# STATISTICAL



**oggettivo**

**preciso e misurabile**

**definibile**

**standardizzabile**

**VERSUS**

# CLINICAL



**soggettivo**

**impreciso e non  
quantificabile**

**difficilmente definibile**

**non standardizzabile**

## **RADIOTERAPIA: migliorare i risultati della chirurgia**

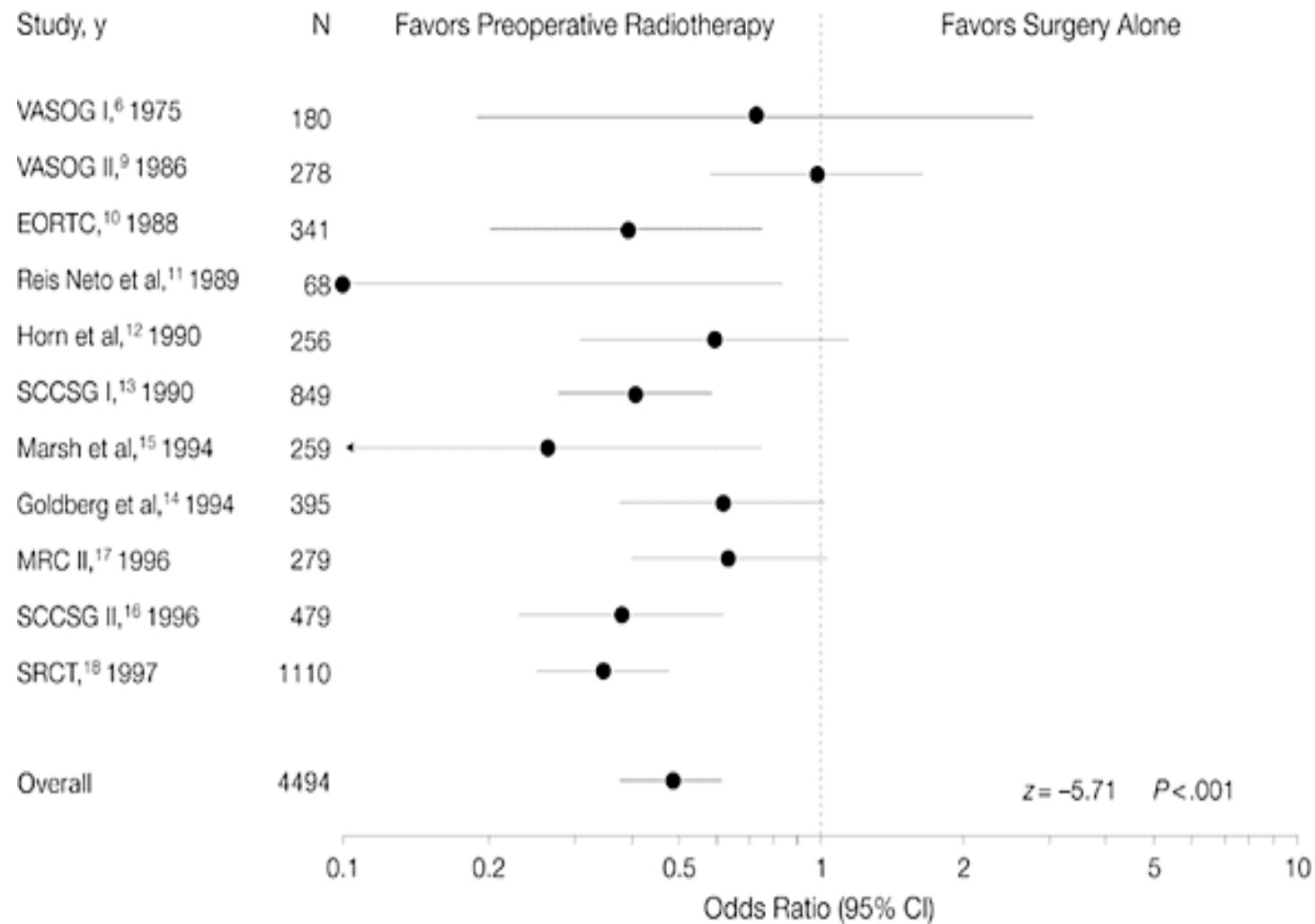


RADIOTERAPIA POSTOPERATORIA  
da sola o in associazione a  
chemioterapia

RADIOTERAPIA  
PREOPERATORIA

# RADIOTERAPIA PREOPERATORIA

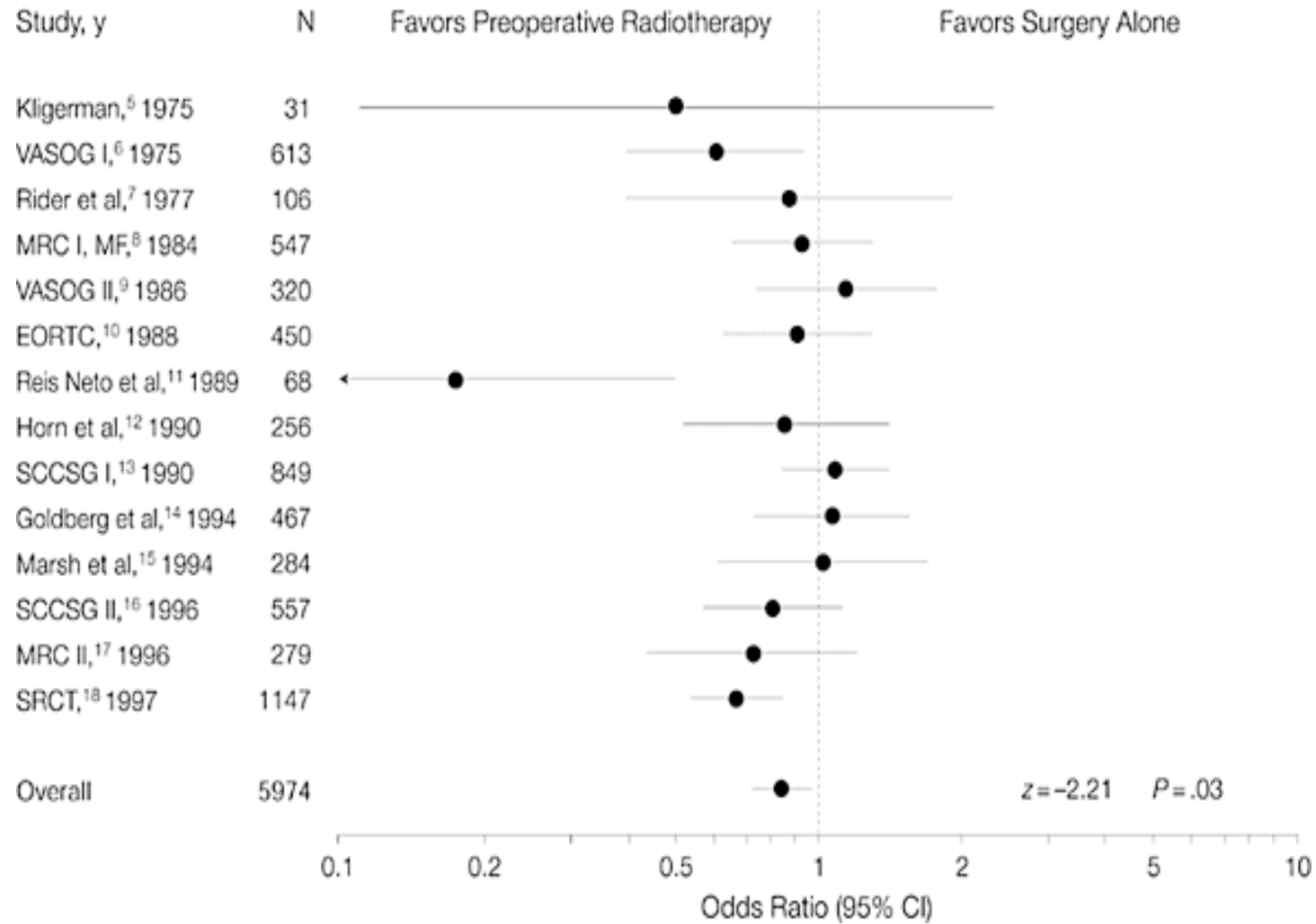
## 5 yrs local recurrence



Cammà, Fiorica JAMA 2000

# RADIOTERAPIA PREOPERATORIA

## 5 yrs overall survival

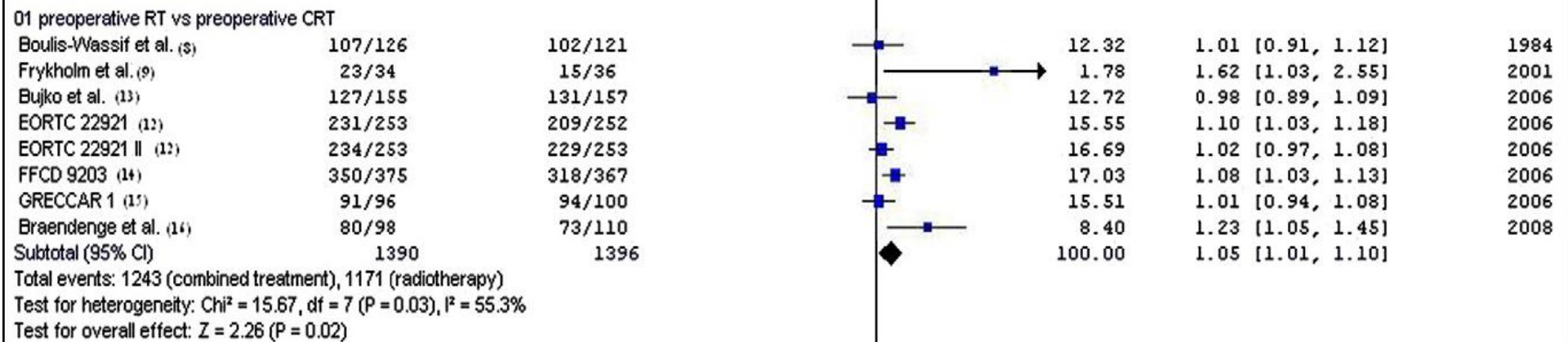




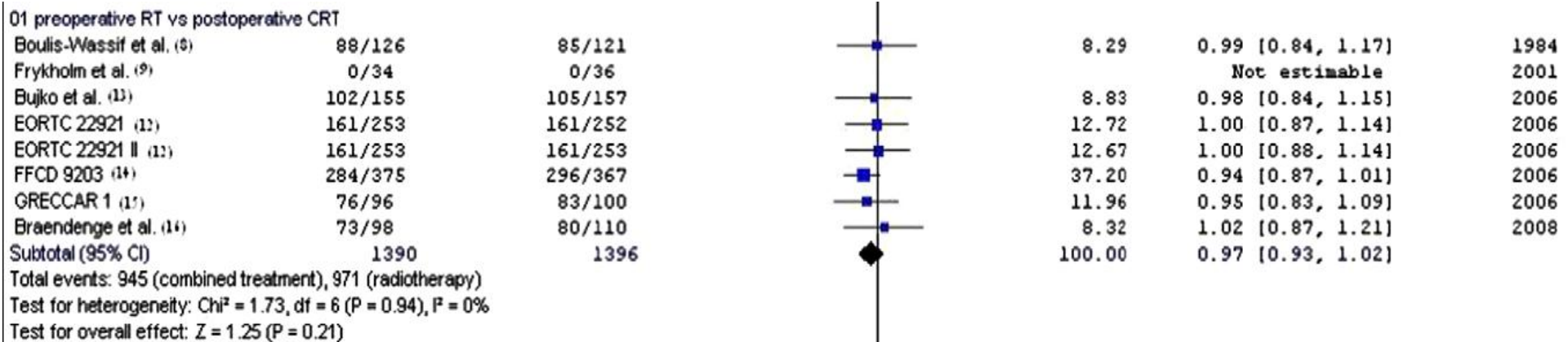
Introduzione della chemioterapia nei regimi pre-operatori

# RADIOTERAPIA PREOPERATORIA + CHEMIOTERAPIA

## 5 yrs local recurrence



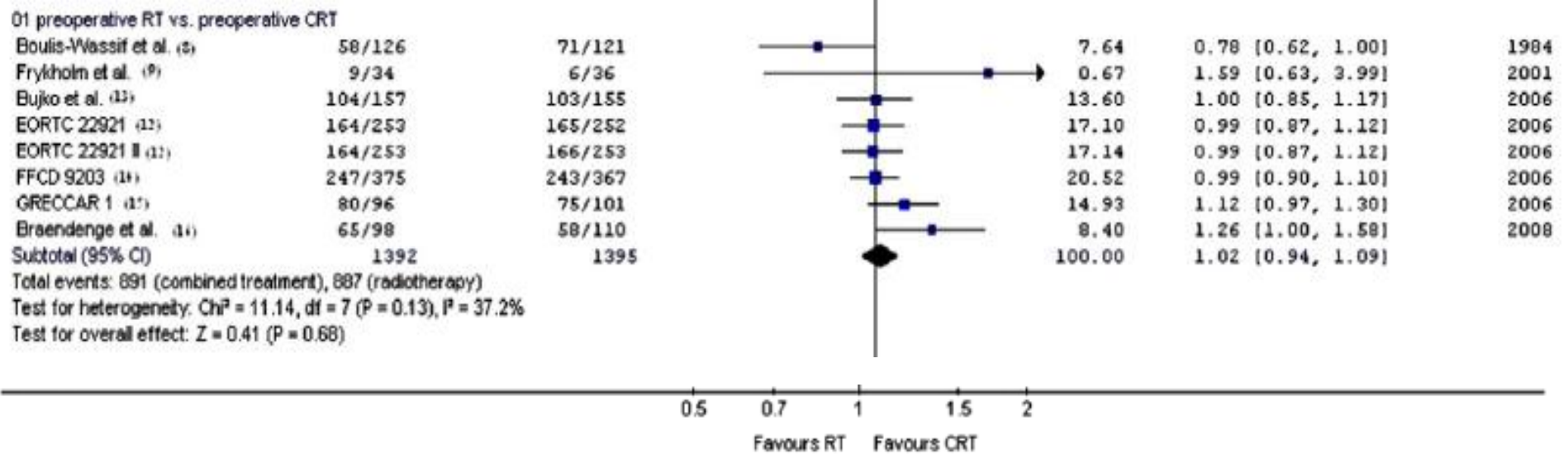
## 5 yrs distant metastases



0.5 0.7 1 1.5 2  
 Favours RT Favours CRT

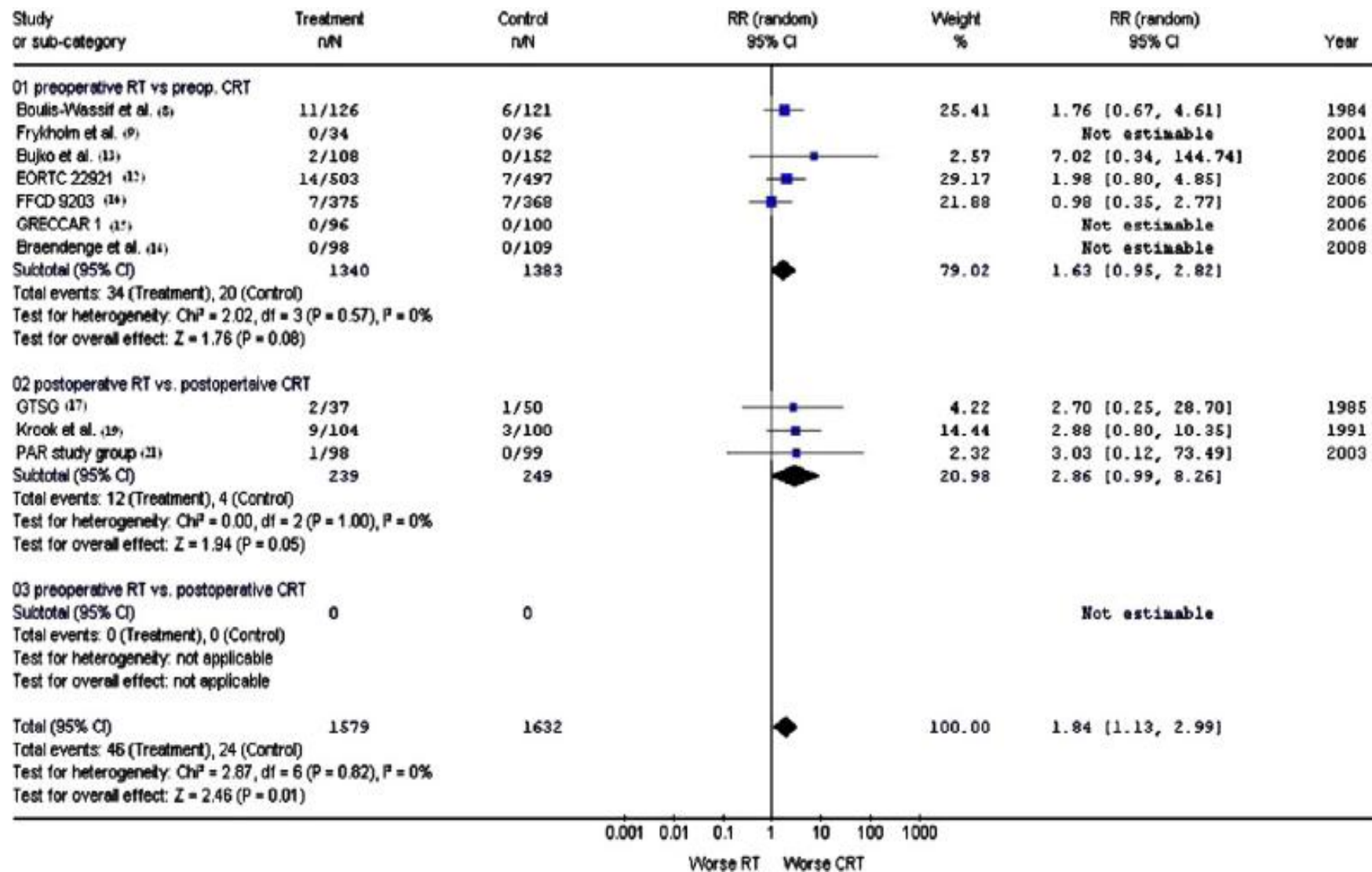
# RADIOTERAPIA PREOPERATORIA + CHEMIOTERAPIA

## 5 yrs overall survival



# RADIOTERAPIA PREOPERATORIA + CHEMIOTERAPIA

## Mortalità da eventi tossici

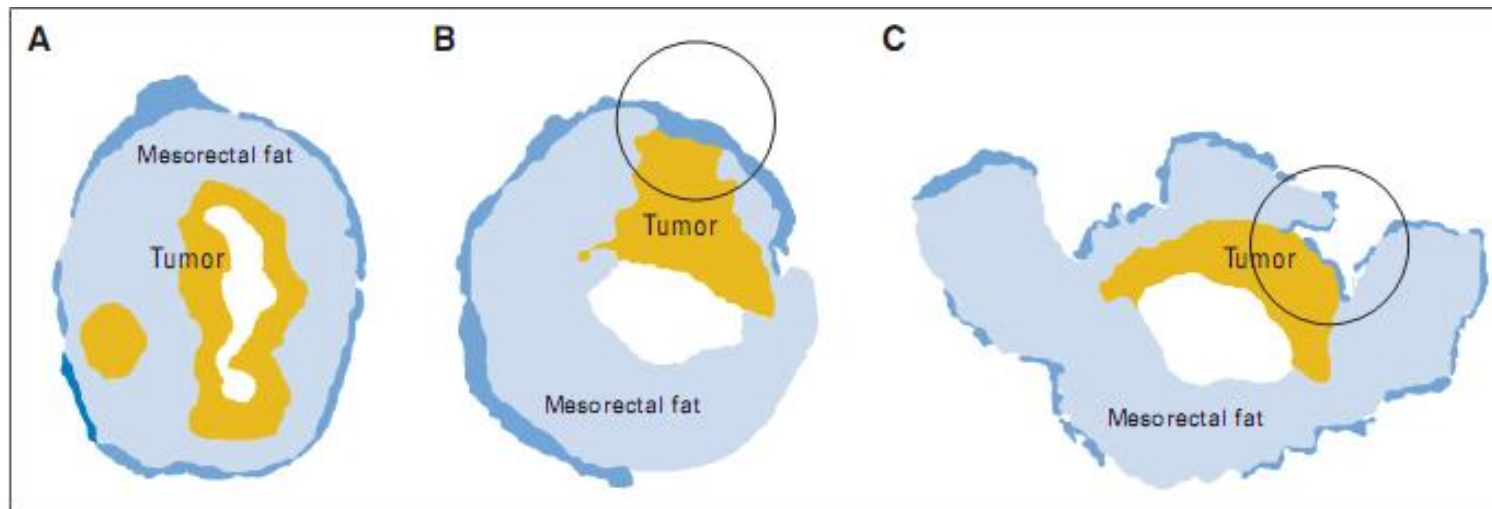




## HA UN RUOLO LA RADIOTERAPIA NELL' ERA TME?

TME is sub-optimal in more than 40% of patients where positive circumferential margin was detected.

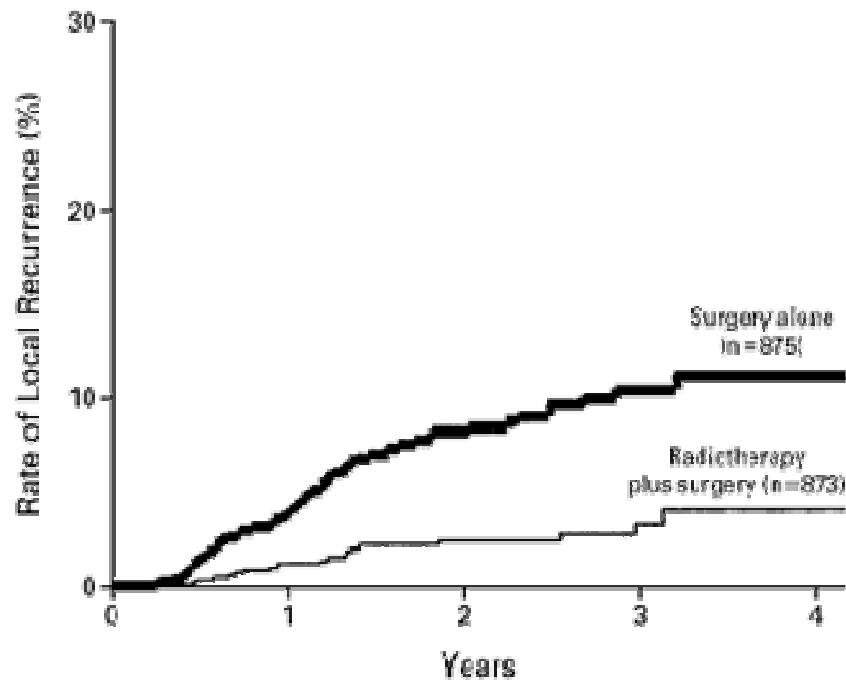
Nagtegaal, JCO 2008



Positive circumferential margin is associated with a 51% increase in the likelihood of local Recurrence

Nagtegaal, JCO 2008

# RADIOTERAPIA PREOPERATORIA E TME



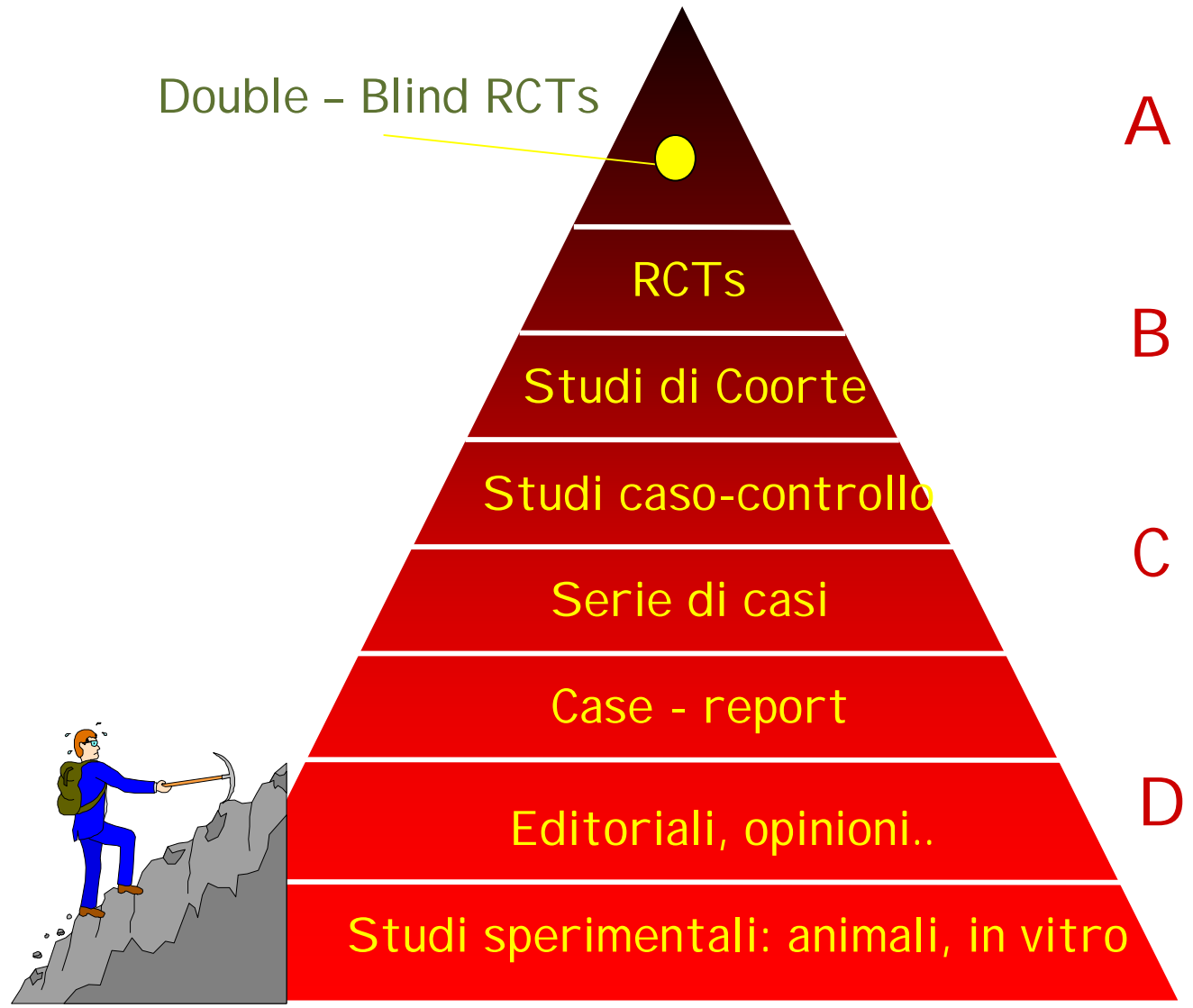
Kapiteijn, NEJM 2001

No. at Risk					
Radiotherapy plus surgery	873	691	407	170	30
Surgery alone	875	688	406	173	37

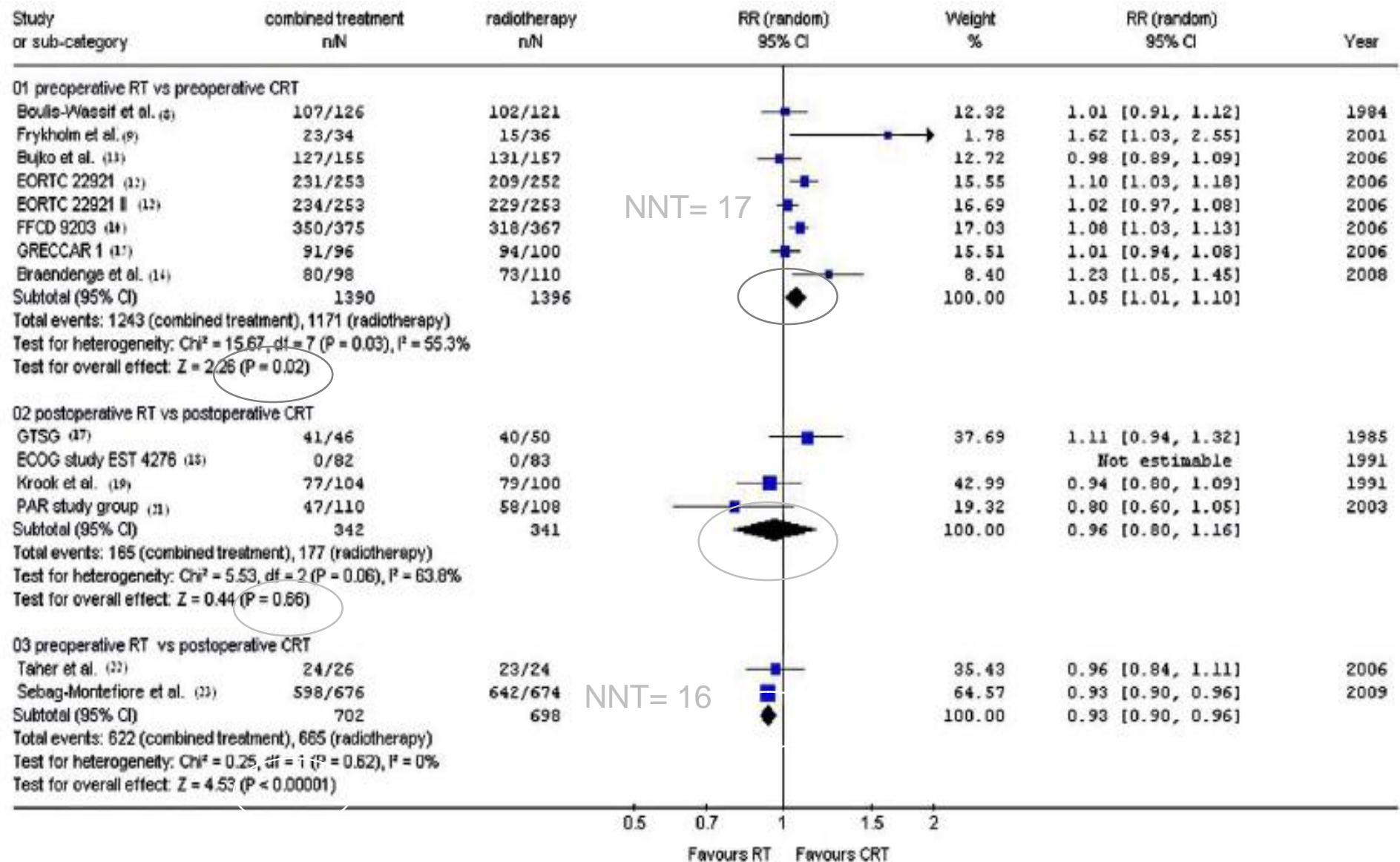
Exclusion of trials with  $\leq 50\%$  TME

5-yr local control	$\geq 50\%$ TME (1459)	13,14,15,16	1.05 (0.98-1.13)	0.15
5-yr overall survival	$\geq 50\%$ TME (1459)	13,14,15,16	1.06 (0.97-1.16)	0.22

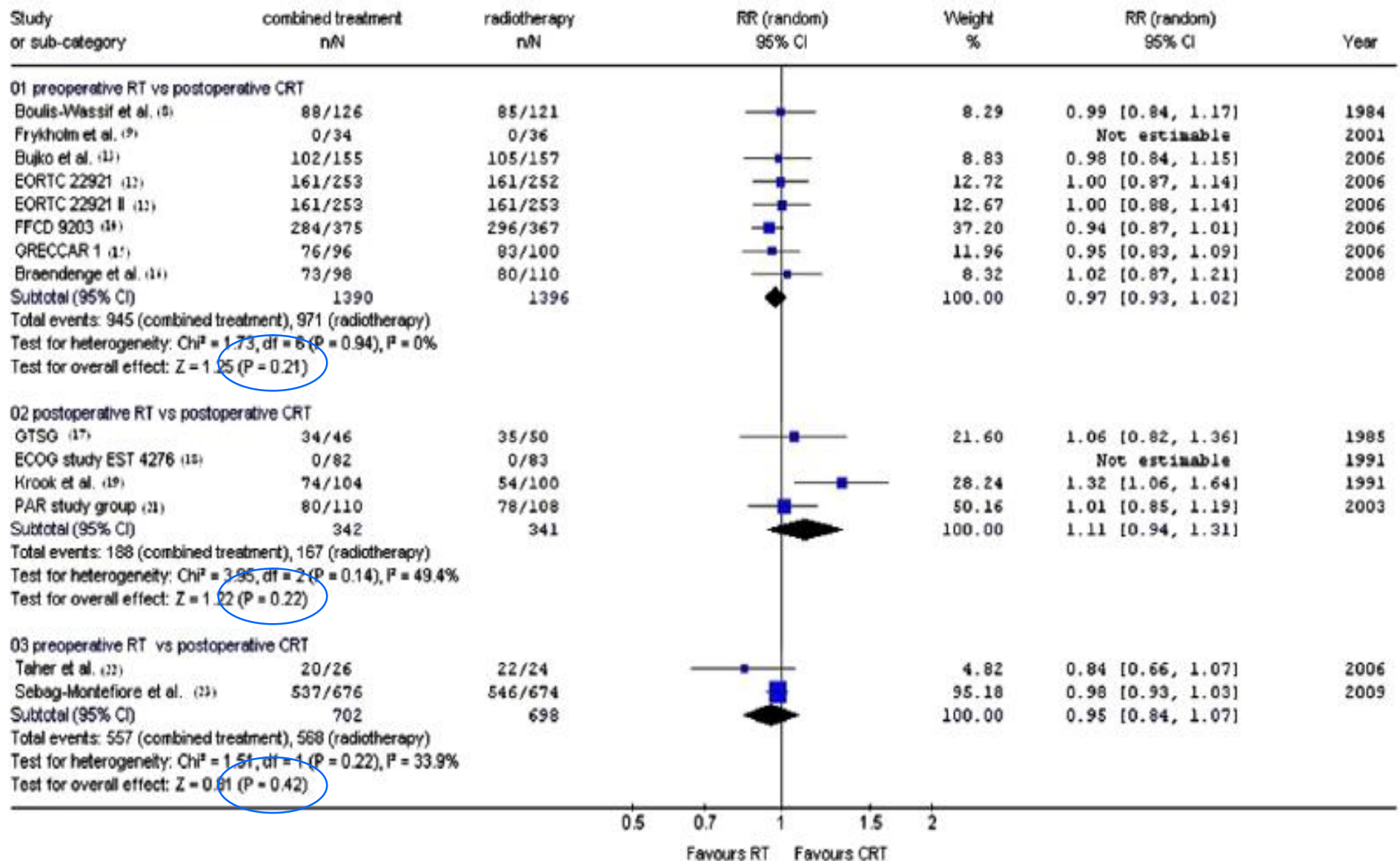
Fiorica, Cancer Treat Rev. 2010



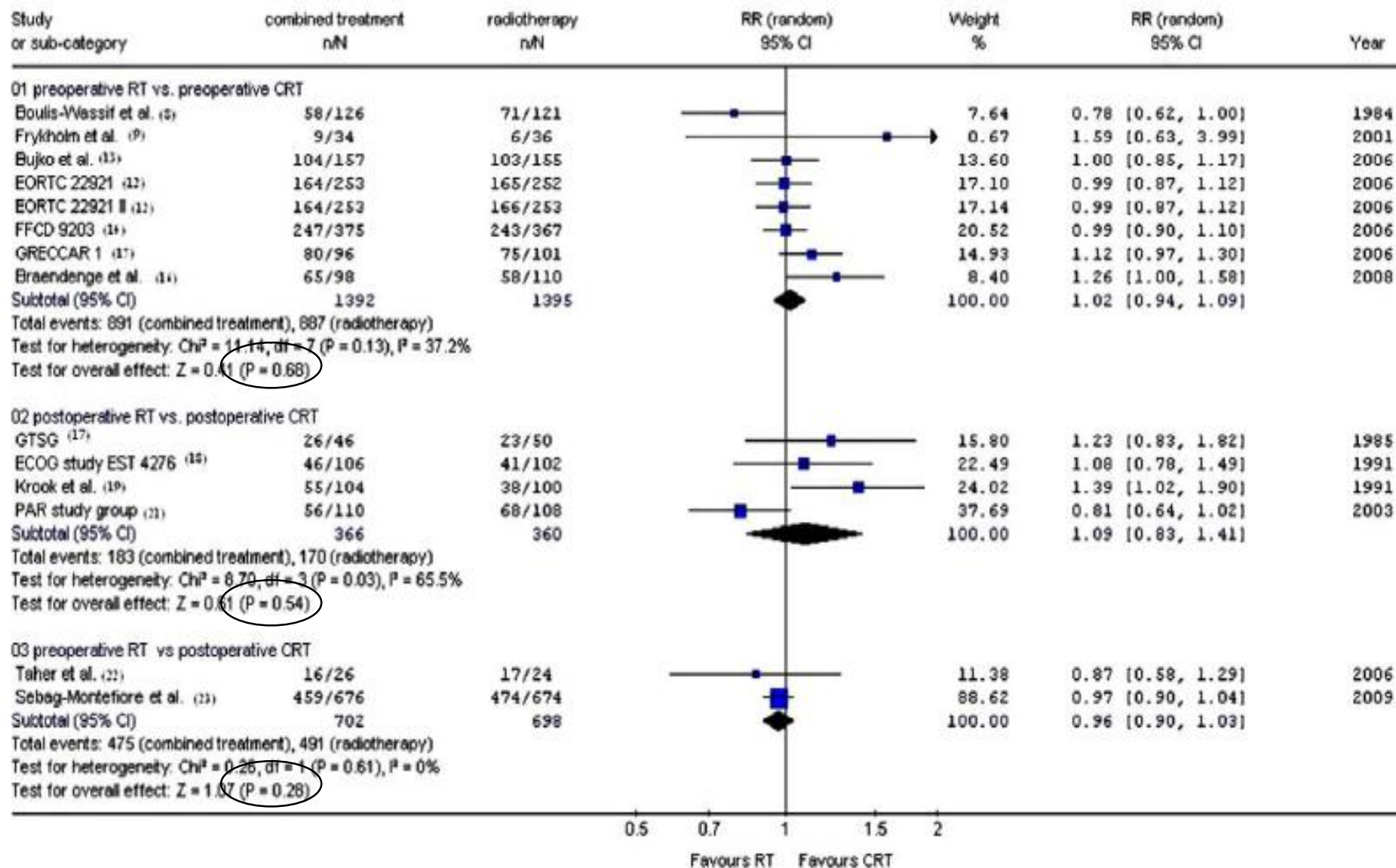
# 5-year local control



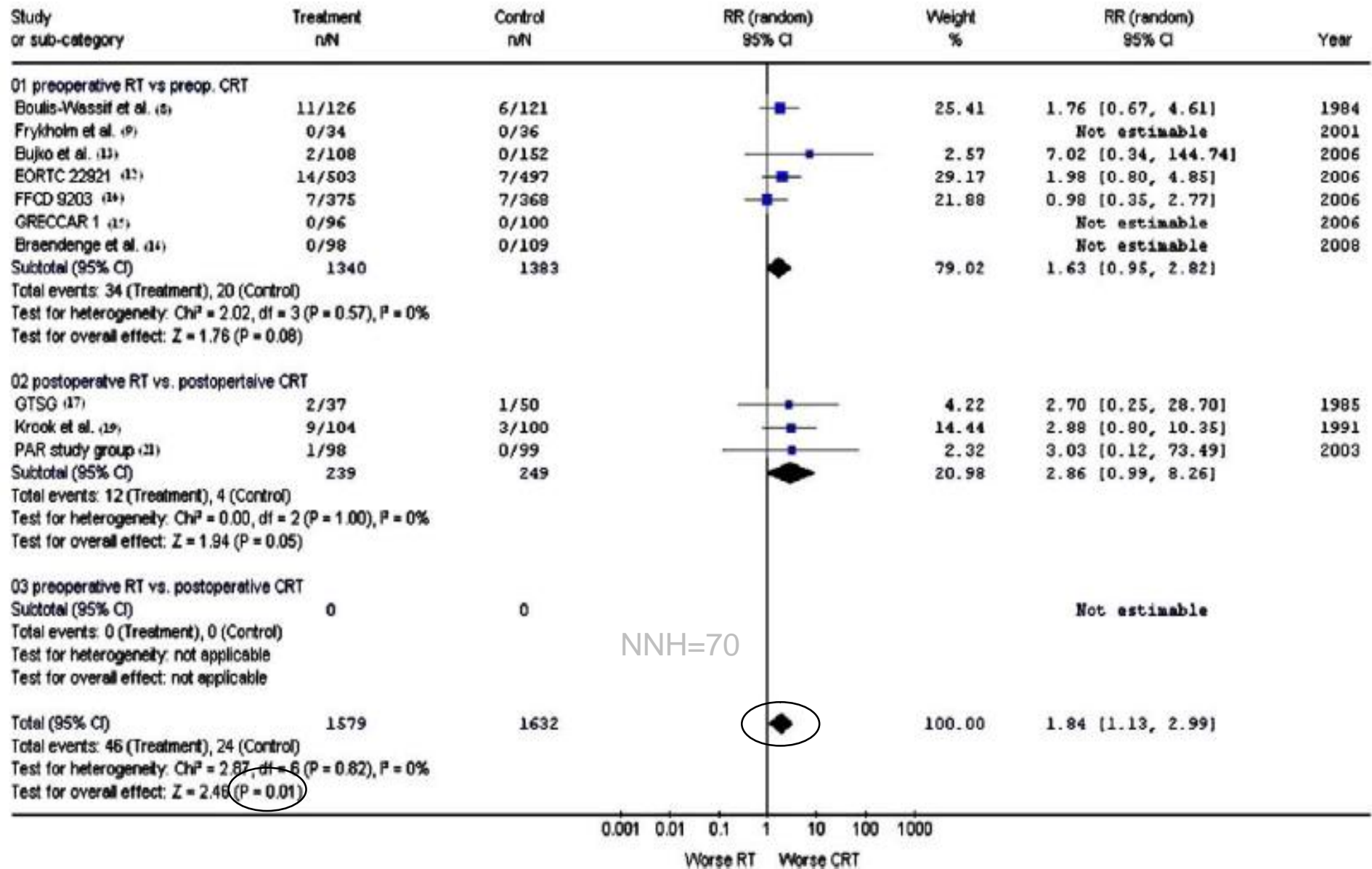
# 5-year distant metastases control



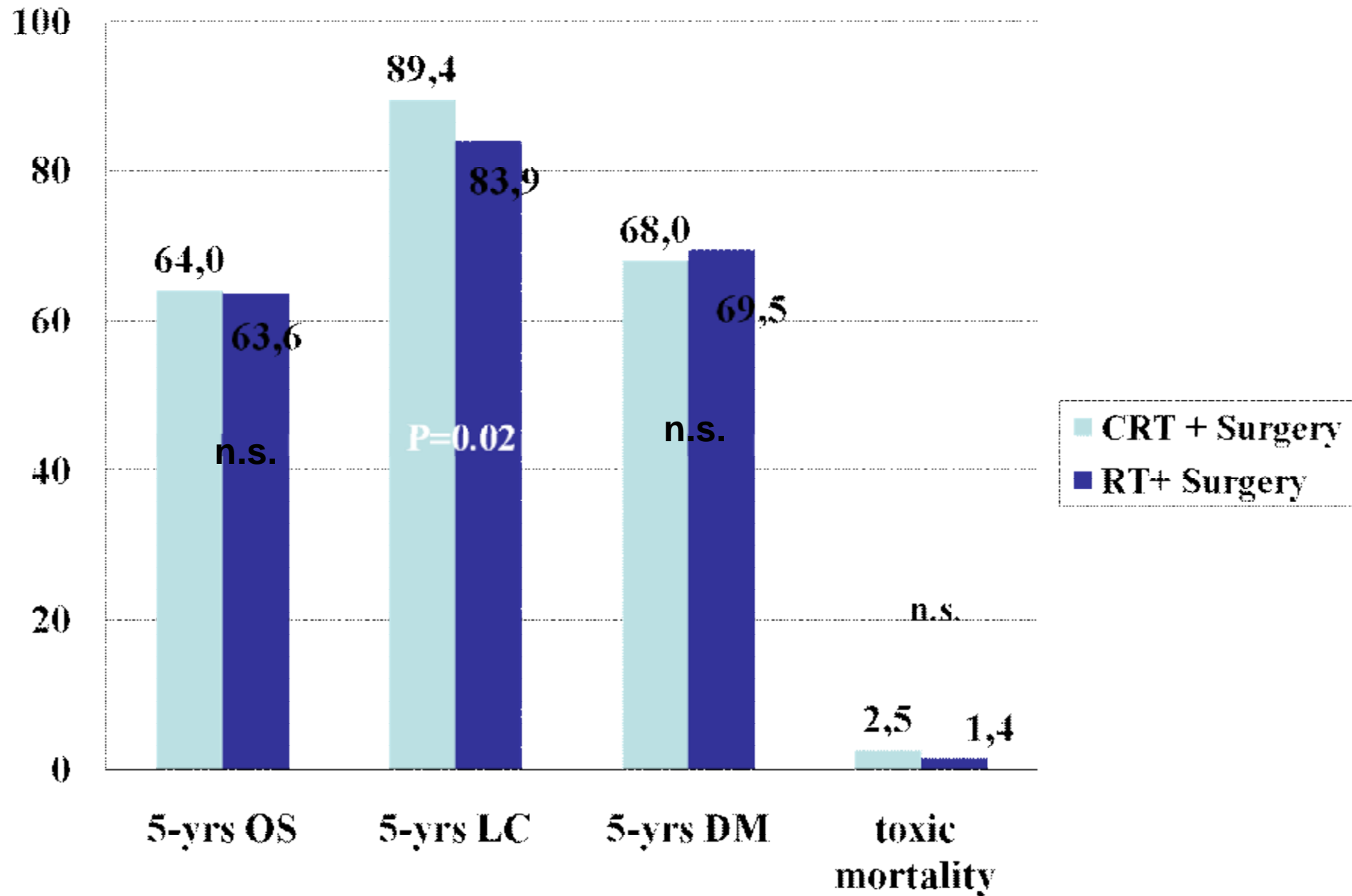
# 5-year overall survival



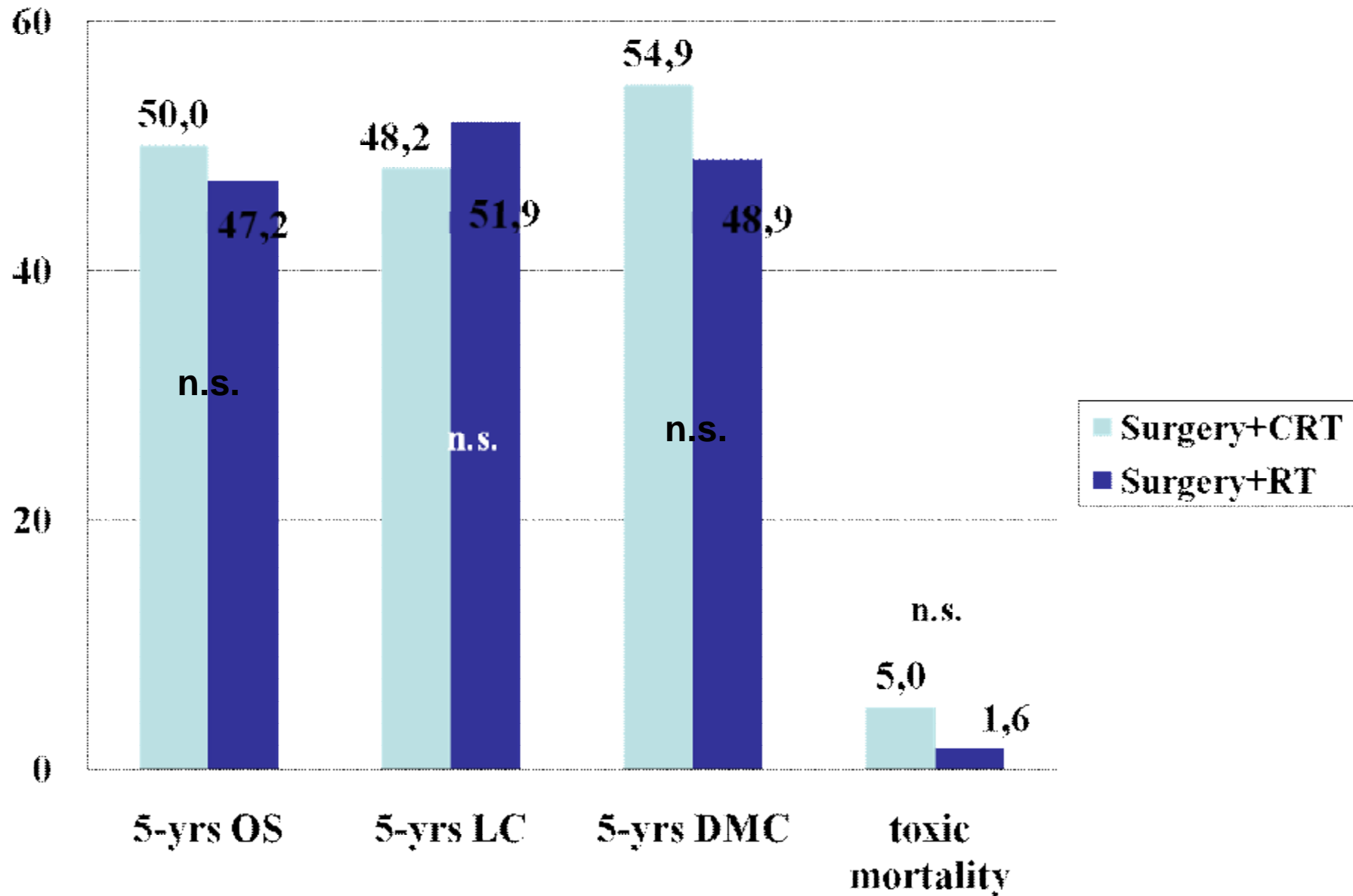
# mortality related to toxic events mortality related to toxic events



# Meta-analysis summary for preoperative approach



# Meta-analysis summary for postoperative approach



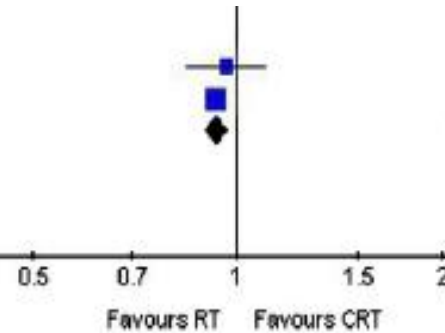
# CRT PREOPERATORIA VS. CRT POSTOPERATORIA

## 5 yrs local recurrence

03 preoperative RT vs postoperative CRT

Author (Year)	RT (n/N)	CRT (n/N)	Events (%)	OR	95% CI	Year
Taher et al. (2006)	24/26	23/24	35.43	0.96	[0.84, 1.11]	2006
Sebag-Montefiore et al. (2009)	598/676	642/674	64.57	0.93	[0.90, 0.96]	2009
<b>Subtotal (95% CI)</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>[0.90, 0.96]</b>	

Total events: 622 (combined treatment), 665 (radiotherapy)  
 Test for heterogeneity:  $\text{Chi}^2 = 0.25$ ,  $\text{df} = 1$  ( $P = 0.62$ ),  $I^2 = 0\%$   
 Test for overall effect:  $Z = 4.53$  ( $P < 0.00001$ )

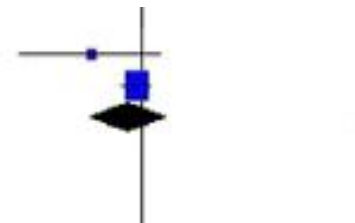


## 5 yrs distant metastases

03 preoperative RT vs postoperative CRT

Author (Year)	RT (n/N)	CRT (n/N)	Events (%)	OR	95% CI	Year
Taher et al. (2006)	20/26	22/24	4.82	0.84	[0.66, 1.07]	2006
Sebag-Montefiore et al. (2009)	537/676	546/674	95.18	0.98	[0.93, 1.03]	2009
<b>Subtotal (95% CI)</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>[0.84, 1.07]</b>	

Total events: 557 (combined treatment), 568 (radiotherapy)  
 Test for heterogeneity:  $\text{Chi}^2 = 1.51$ ,  $\text{df} = 1$  ( $P = 0.22$ ),  $I^2 = 33.9\%$   
 Test for overall effect:  $Z = 0.81$  ( $P = 0.42$ )

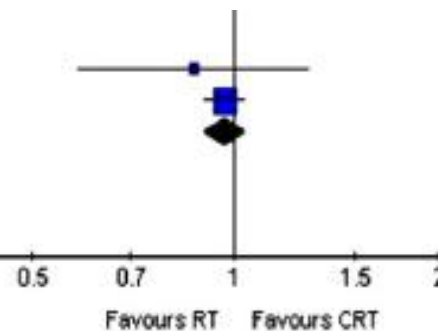


## 5 yrs overall survival

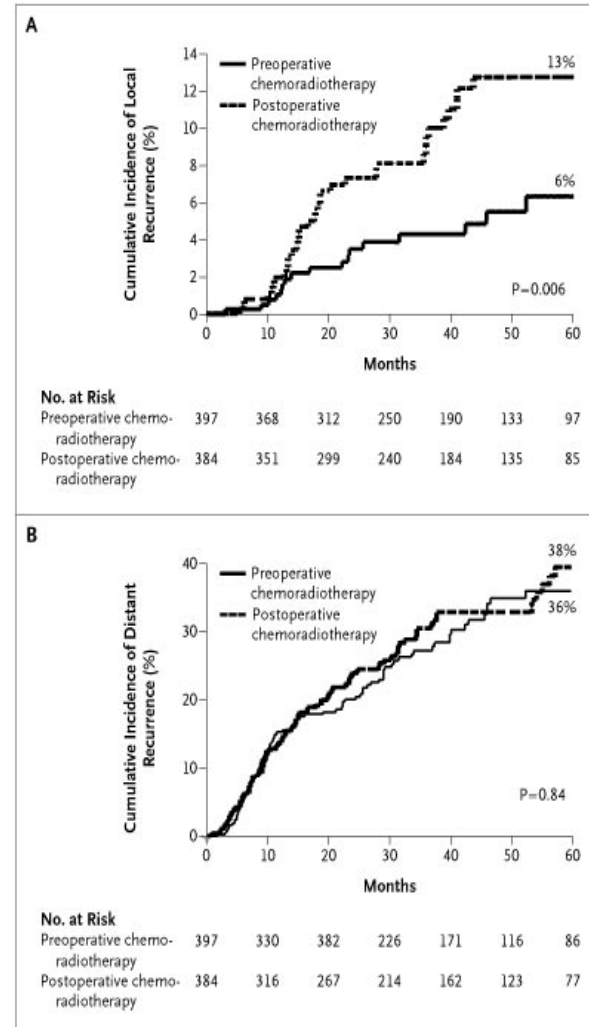
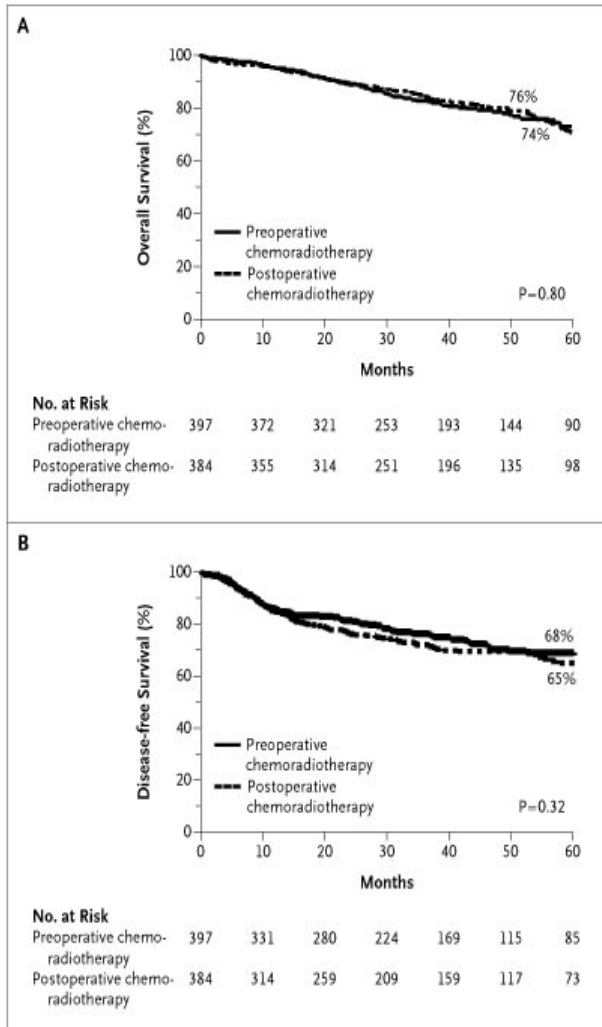
03 preoperative RT vs postoperative CRT

Author (Year)	RT (n/N)	CRT (n/N)	Events (%)	OR	95% CI	Year
Taher et al. (2006)	16/26	17/24	11.38	0.87	[0.58, 1.29]	2006
Sebag-Montefiore et al. (2009)	459/676	474/674	88.62	0.97	[0.90, 1.04]	2009
<b>Subtotal (95% CI)</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>[0.90, 1.03]</b>	

Total events: 475 (combined treatment), 491 (radiotherapy)  
 Test for heterogeneity:  $\text{Chi}^2 = 0.26$ ,  $\text{df} = 1$  ( $P = 0.61$ ),  $I^2 = 0\%$   
 Test for overall effect:  $Z = 1.07$  ( $P = 0.28$ )



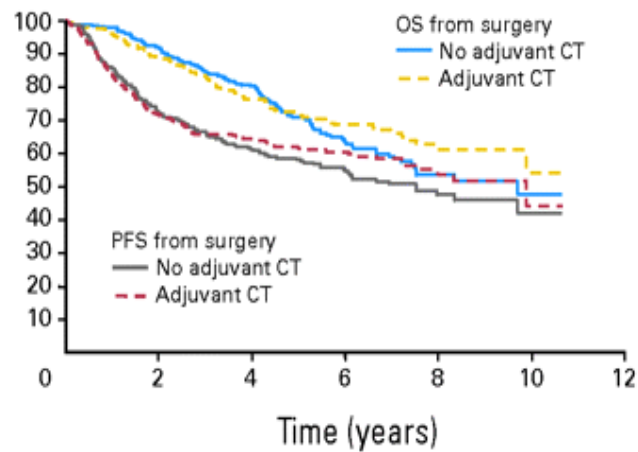
# CRT PREOPERATORIA VS. CRT POSTOPERATORIA



Sauer,  
NEJM,2004

Overall survival and DFS

Local recurrence and DM



<u>OS</u>		<u>O</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>No. of patients at risk</u>				
No adjuvant CT	119	403	332	208	108	41	9	
Adjuvant CT	102	382	300	199	110	37	7	
<u>PFS</u>		<u>O</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>No. of patients at risk</u>				
No adjuvant CT	170	403	264	164	99	37	8	
Adjuvant CT	145	382	244	173	101	33	5	

Bosset, JCO 2010

*Exclusion of trials with no adjuvant CT*

5-yr local control	Adjuvant CT (1961)	12,14,16	1.08 (1.02-1.14)	0.005
5-yr overall survival	Adjuvant CT (1961)	12,14,16	1.02 (0.94-1.10)	0.69

Fiorica, Cancer Treat Rev. 2010

# Conclusions 1

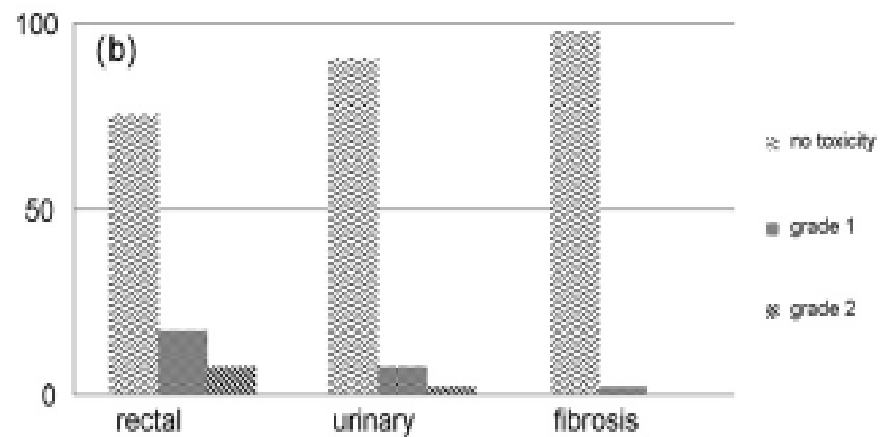
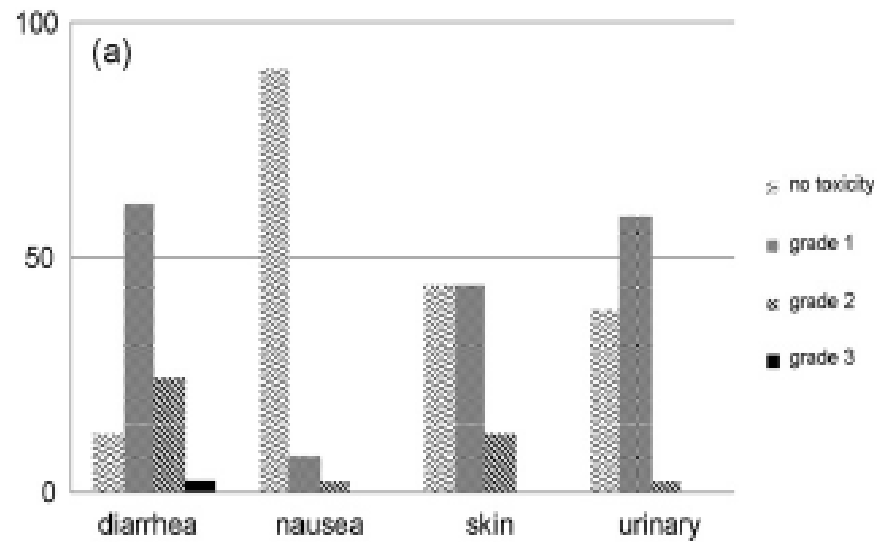
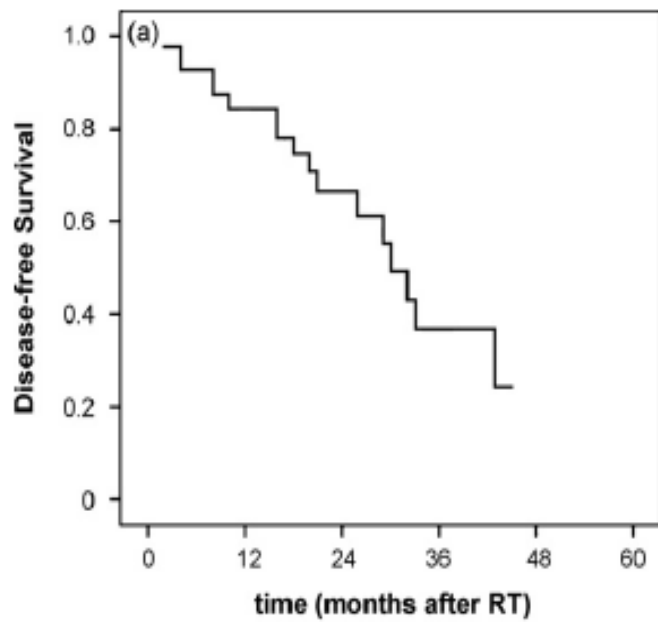
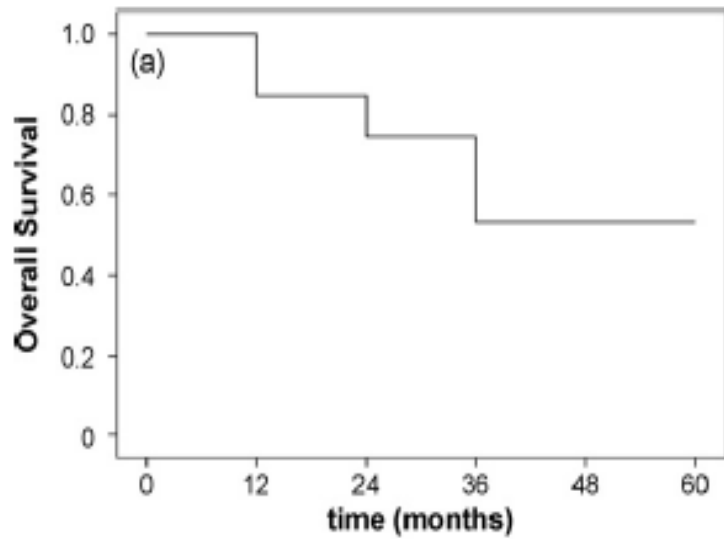
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In patients with resectable rectal cancer, CRT does not increase overall survival, despite the fact that preoperative CRT significantly reduces the risk of the local recurrence.

No reduction in the distant metastases rate was found.

Toxicity-related mortality is significantly increased by the concomitant approach, emphasizing the need for safer treatment combinations.



# Conclusions 2

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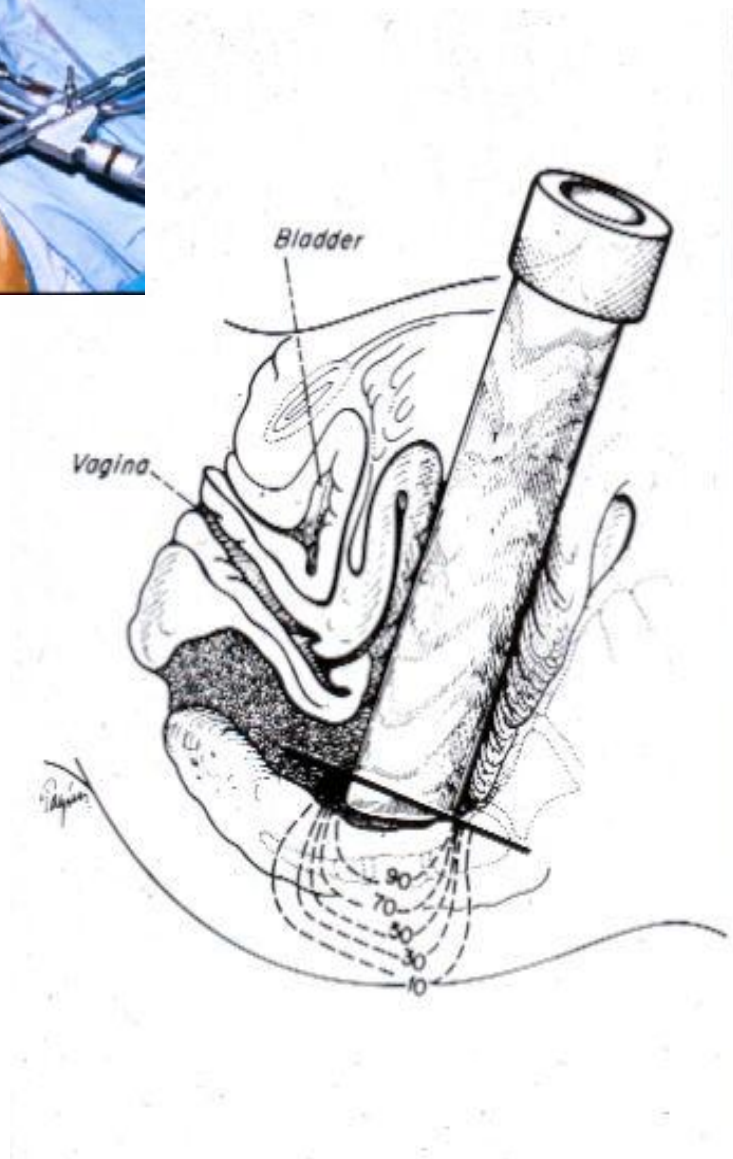
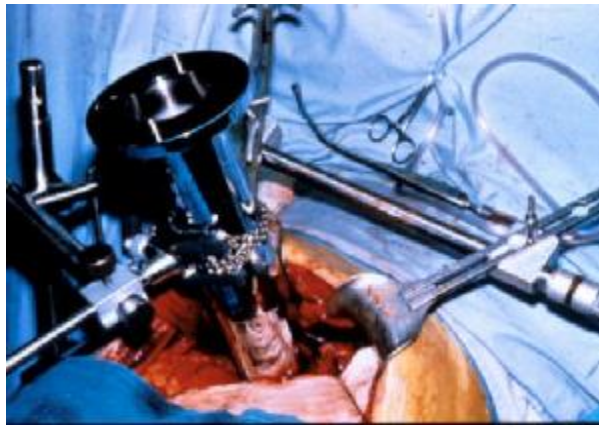
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In elderly patients

compliance with radiotherapy is good and rate of toxicity is acceptable

patients with no or mild co-morbidities have a significantly better survival

Increasing severity of co-morbidity may sufficiently shorten remaining life expectancy to cancel gains with adjuvant radiotherapy.



# Conclusions 3

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The addition of IORT to conventional treatment methods has improved local control as well as survival in recatal cancer in both the primary and locally recurrent disease settings

# Use of Novel and Molecular –targeted chemo-therapies combined to RT

Capecitabina

Oxaliplatino

Cetuximab

Bevacizumab



RT

## Capecitabine

RCT: XELODA vs 5FU + RT (50.40 Gy)

An higher rates of pathological T and N downstaging ... but these differences did not reach statistical significance.

Hofheinz, JCO 2009

A n ongoing trial NSABP R-04 trial

## Oxaliplatin

RCT: Studio Terapia Adiuvante Retto (STAR-01)

RT + 5FU with or without Oxaliplatin weekly

No statistical differences in outcome, only an increase of toxicities in Oxaliplatin group (24%vs 8%).

Aschele, JCO 2009

RCT: ACCORD 12/0405-Prodige 2

RT + Xeloda with or without Oxaliplatin weekly

An higher rate of complete response, but an increase of toxicity

Gerard, JCO 2010

## Cetuximab

Glynne-Jones reviewed a series of phase 1 and 2 studies with cetuximab incorporated in neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy.

- Increase of diarrhea
- Complete response rate 9.1%

Glynne-Jones, Acta Oncol 2010

Ongoing XERXES study

## Bevacizumab

Willet et al. : RT +5FU + Bevacizumab

High rate of pathological downstaging

Willet JCO 2009

Crane et al. 32% of pathologic complete response

Crane , IJROBP 2010

ECOG 3204: phase 2

Pathological response 33%

Landry IJROBP 2009

## Biomarkers for Response to Neoadjuvant Chemoradiation for Rectal Cancer

### p53

The majority of studies revealed **no correlation between p53 and treatment outcome**. Four of 21 studies claimed a positive correlation; one claimed that p53 staining (mutation) predicted good response, whereas the other three claimed that p53 staining was a predictor of poor response. These data suggest that p53 is unlikely to serve as a predictor of response to neoadjuvant CRT

### EGFR

Only one study revealed **an association between positive/negative EGFR staining and treatment outcome**. It may be more valuable to quantitatively measure EGFR expression rather than assessing whether biopsies stain positive or negative for EGFR. Two of the four studies, involving 87 and 183 patients, that evaluated.

## Biomarkers for Response to Neoadjuvant Chemoradiation for Rectal Cancer

### TYMS

Four of five studies evaluating TYMS expression **revealed significant associations with clinical endpoints**. Three studies revealed better outcome with low or absent pretreatment TYMS expression, whereas one study revealed better outcome with high TYMS expression. The study that found a correlation between low TYMS expression and downstaging failed to reveal a correlation with local recurrence or survival. The single study that found a correlation between high pretreatment TYMS expression and improved response involved only 19 patients who received both 5-FU and oxaliplatin. The extremely small number of patients and addition of oxaliplatin may have confounded this study's results. The two remaining studies supporting TYMS expression levels with outcome included small patient numbers. If there is an effect of TYMS on outcome, it could be due to enhancing 5-FU's effect. There is not enough evidence to support the use of TYMS protein quantification as a predictor of treatment response in rectal cancer. However, TYMS DNA may have value as a predictive biomarker, and its clinical utility should be evaluated as an adjunct in larger trials involving neoadjuvant CRT for rectal cancer.

## Biomarkers for Response to Neoadjuvant Chemoradiation for Rectal Cancer

### Ki-67

On the basis of the literature, it seems unlikely that Ki-67 has any utility in predicting outcome to treatment for rectal cancer

### p21

Two studies revealed improved outcomes with low or negative p21 expression, whereas two different studies showed improved outcomes in tumors with high or positive p21 expression . On the basis of *in vitro* studies, it would be predicted that tumors with low or absent p21 expression would be more radio- and/or chemosensitive, leading to better outcomes. The two studies that found a correlation between decreased or absent p21 staining and poor outcome involved treatments in addition to 5-FU and external-beam radiotherapy. The additional treatments may have confounded the results.

Larger, prospective clinical trials should be conducted to determine the ability of low p21 expression to predict better outcome.

## **Biomarkers for Response to Neoadjuvant Chemoradiation for Rectal Cancer**

### **bax/bcl-2**

More studies evaluating bax as a predictive biomarker are needed owing to the limited data available for bax. Because only one of 12 studies showed a significant correlation between bcl-2 expression and treatment outcome, it is unlikely that bcl-2 is a useful clinical marker.

### **Microarray**

Both studies and reported the ability to accurately determine responders and nonresponders on the basis of microarray-determined gene expression profiles. Between the 54 genes differentially expressed in the Ghadimi study and the 43 genes differentially expressed in the Rumkus study, there was no concordance with even one gene between the two studies. Although gene array expression data generate interesting results that may lead to the further exploration of candidate genes, the complexity and magnitude makes the results difficult to interpret. Two studies with a small number of patients are not enough to validate the use of microarray-determined gene expression profiles to predict response to neoadjuvant CRT in rectal cancer.

## Biomarkers for Response to Neoadjuvant Chemoradiation for Rectal Cancer

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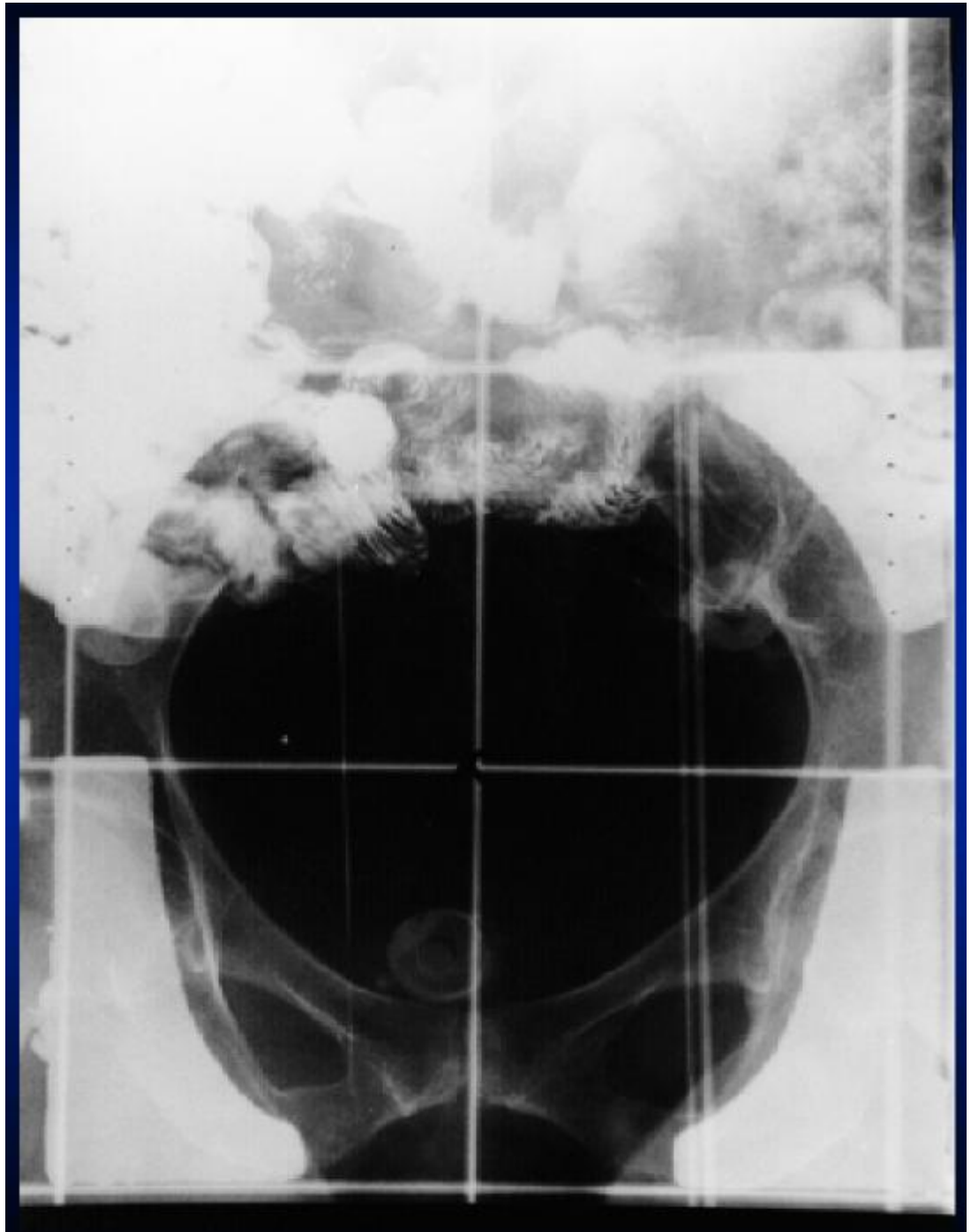
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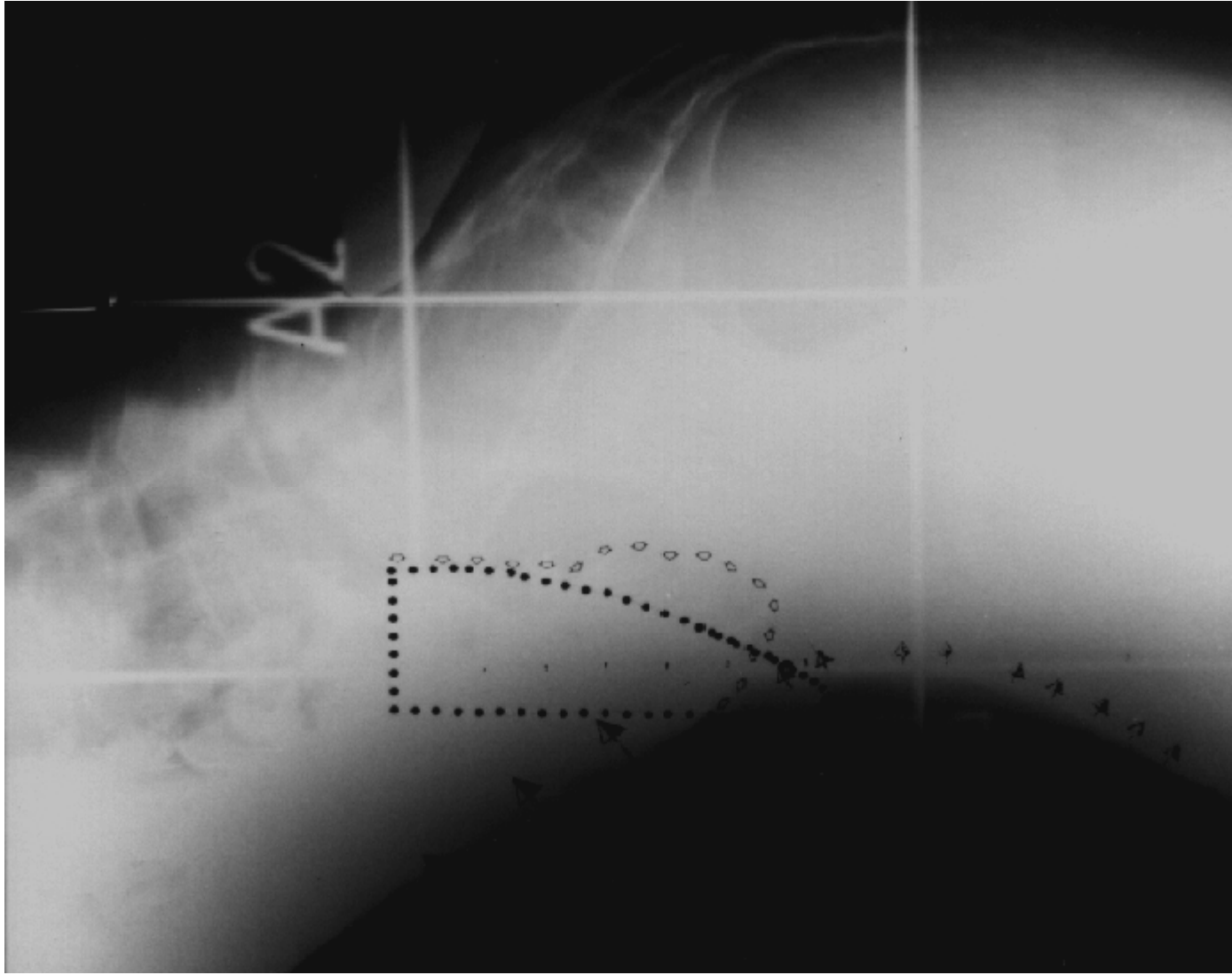


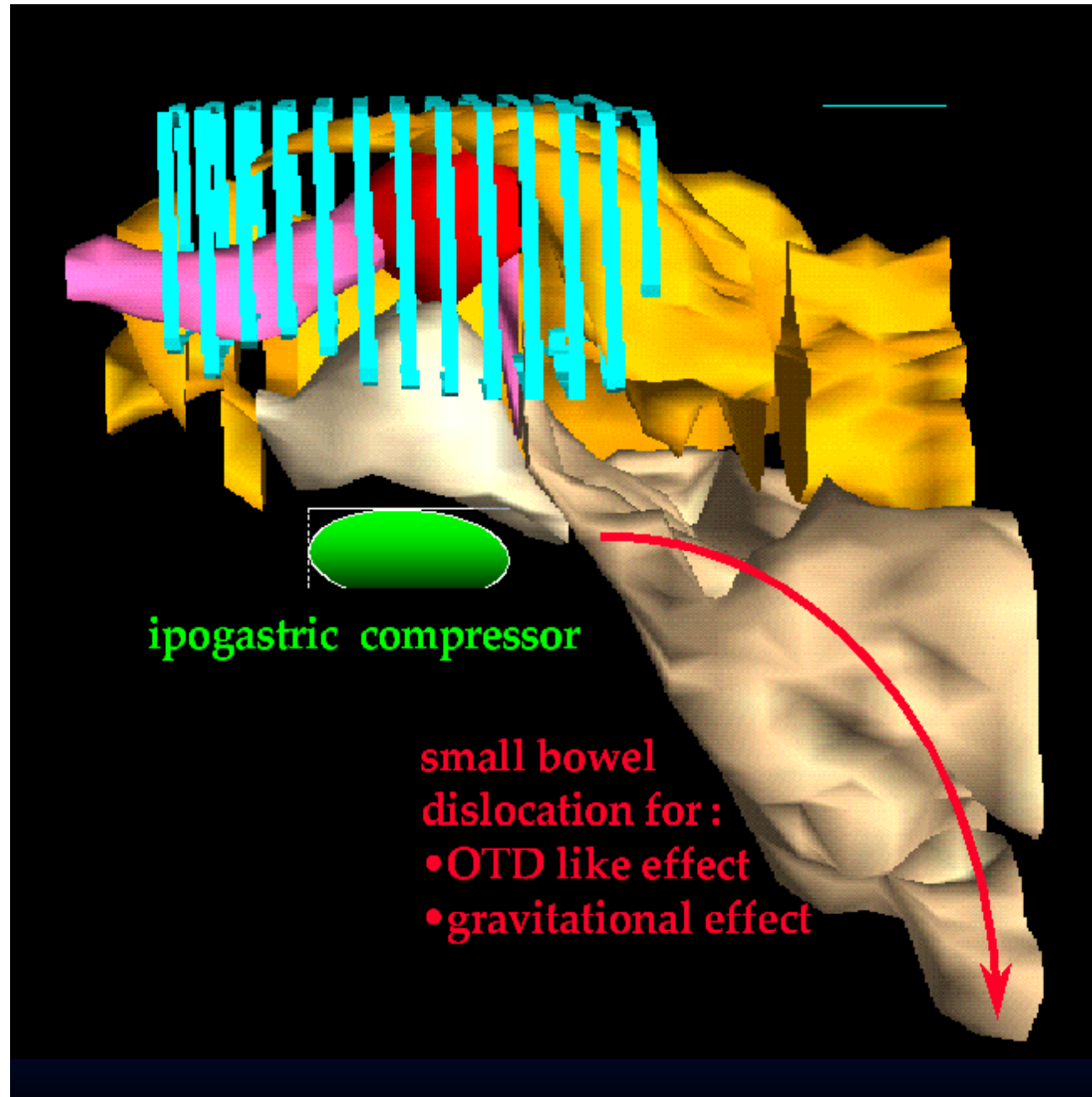










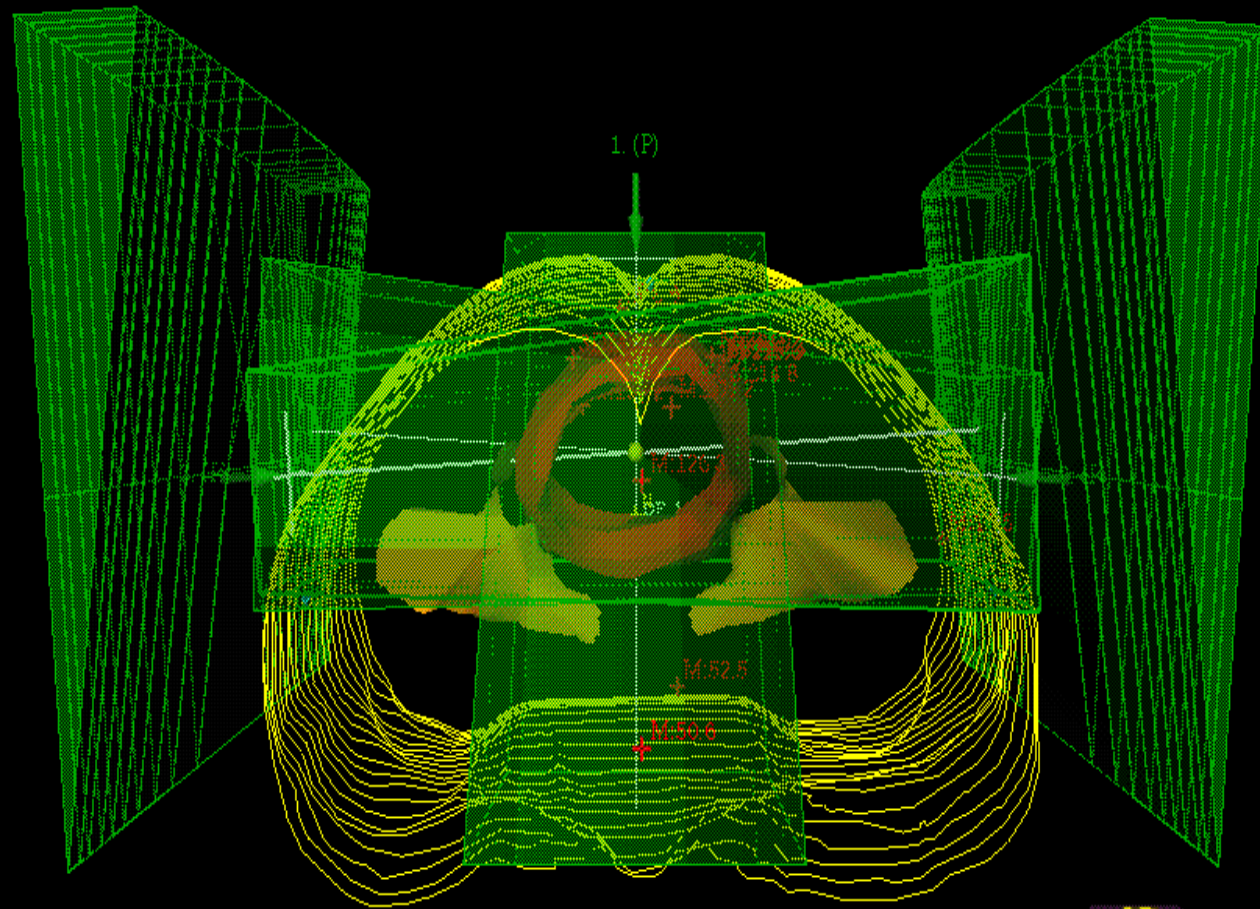


ipogastric compressor

small bowel  
dislocation for :  
•OTD like effect  
•gravitational effect



OEV



# External validity

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REVIEW

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## Randomized Trials Stopped Early for Benefit A Systematic Review

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Victor M. Montori, MD, MSc

**Context:** Randomized clinical trials (RCTs) that stop earlier than planned because of an...

**Conclusions:** RCTs stopped early for benefit are becoming more common, often fail to adequately report relevant information about the decision to stop early, and show implausibly large treatment effects.

These findings suggest clinicians should view the results of such trials with skepticism.

*JAMA. 2005;294:2203-2209*