

# Deciphering the paradigm of thrombosis in MPN

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**1st Annual Florence Meeting  
on Myeloproliferative  
Neoplasms &  
the Annual IWG-MRT Workshop**

*Supported by an unrestricted education  
grant from Mary and Salomon Ternier*

**April 16th 2011  
Palazzo Vecchio, Florence**

Jean Luc Vileval, Institut Gustave Roussy, Paris, France

<http://mpn-florence.com>

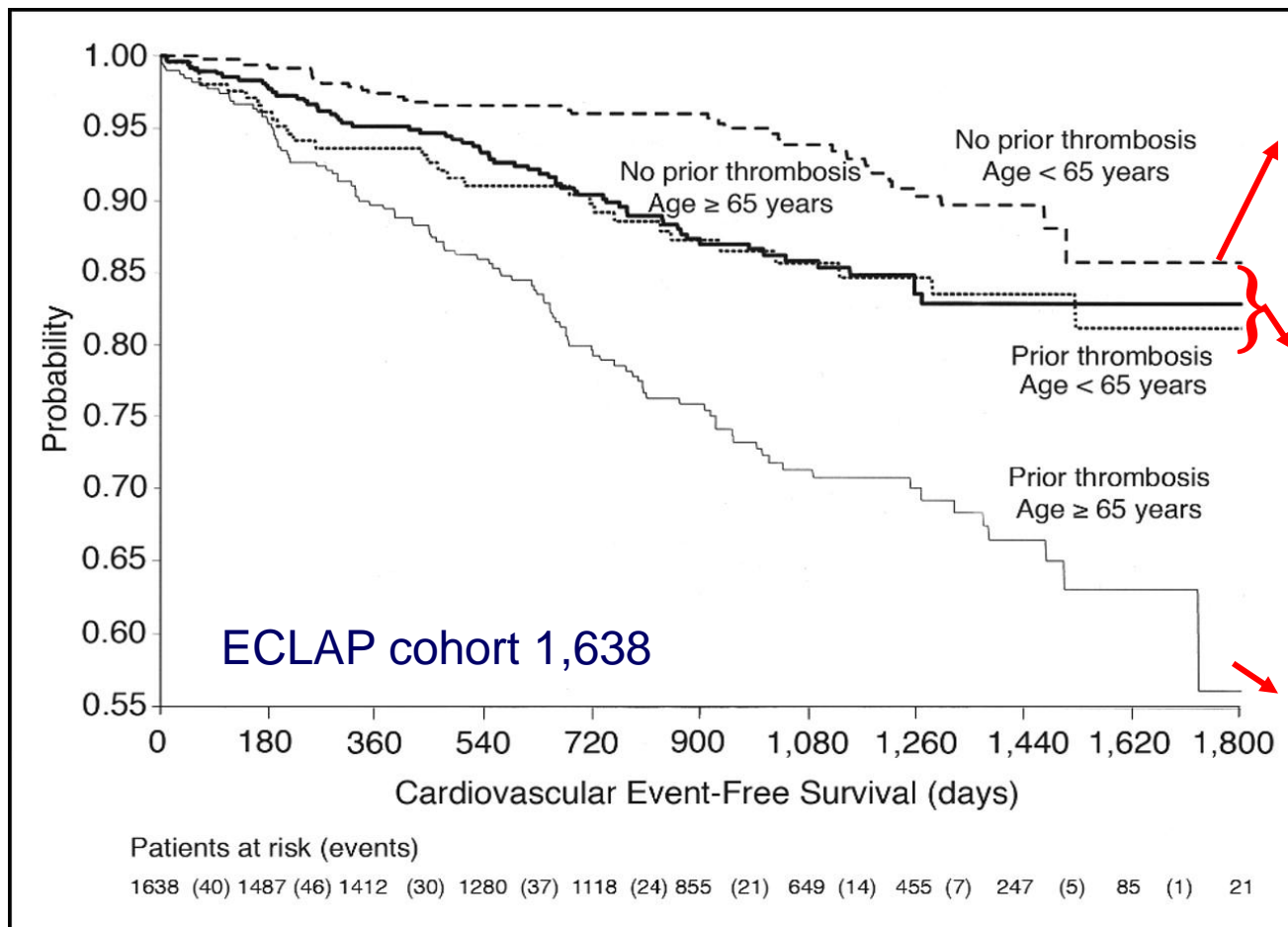


**Deciphering the paradigm  
of thrombosis in MPN**

**What is known**

**What should be done**

# PV: Major Vascular Events During Follow-up in ECLAP study



Low-risk	
Events/100 persons/yr	HR
2.5	1
Intermediate-risk	
Events/100 persons/yr	HR
5.0	2.00
4.9	1.96
High-risk	
Events/100 persons/yr	HR
10.9	4.35

## **Definition of “High-risk”:**

risk of a serious vascular event  
more than about 3% per annum  
because of previous occlusive disease  
or a predisposing condition

# Risk Factors for Thrombosis in ET: Age and History of Thrombosis

*Events During Follow-up in BVF study*

***Low-risk*** (*n=517*)  
(left untreated)

Rate: 1.5 (%/patients/year)

***High risk*** (*n=546*)  
(100% treated)

2.0 (%/patients/year)

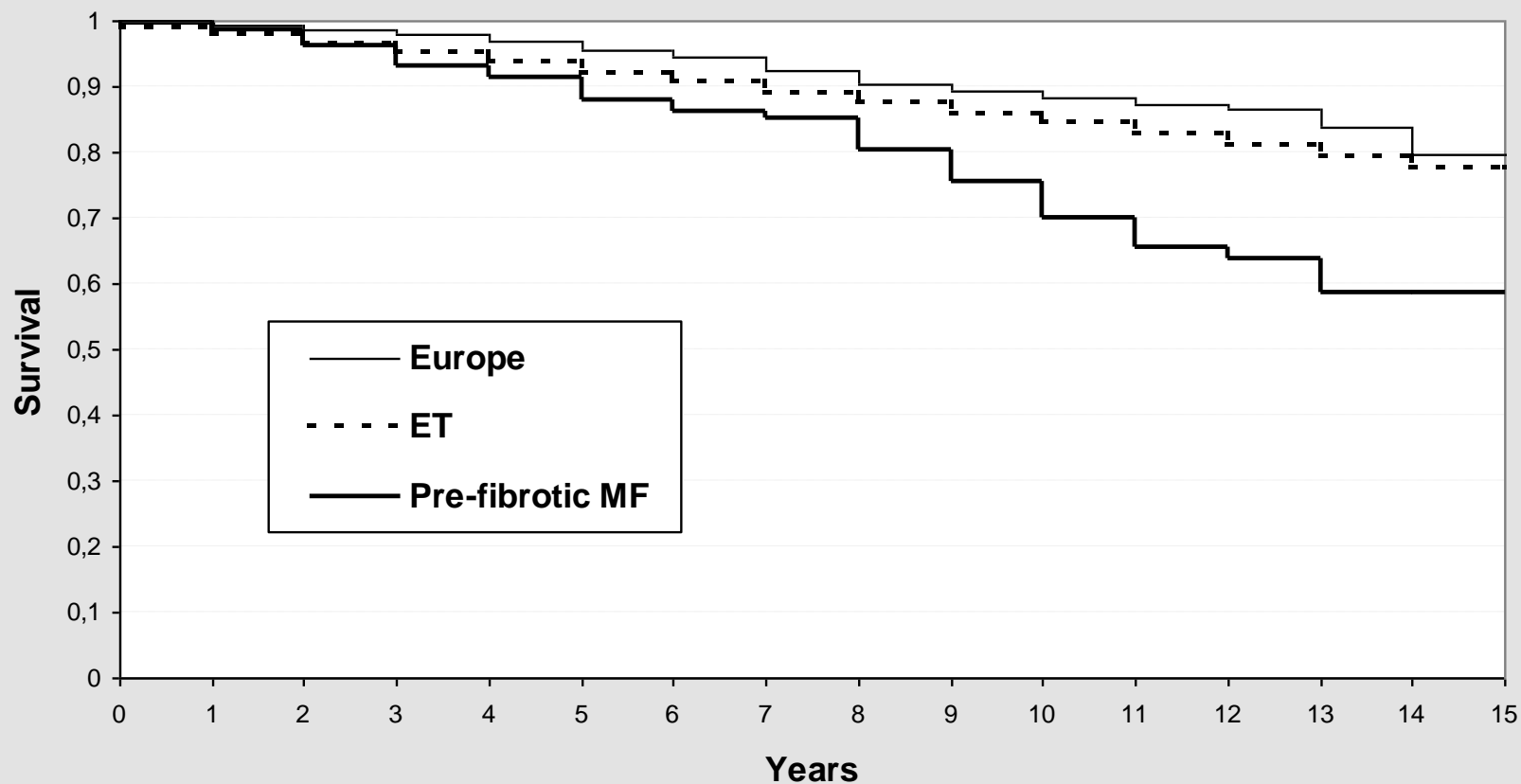
# Main outcome events during follow-up in 891 strictly defined WHO-ET patients

	No	%	Rate, % patient-years (95% CI)
<b>Patients with nonfatal thrombotic events</b>	109	12	1.7 (1.4-2.1)
<b>Arterial</b>	79	9	1.2 (1.0-1.5)
<i>AMI</i>	17	2	0.26 (0.16-0.42)
<i>Stroke-TIA</i>	47	5	0.73 (0.54-0.97)
<i>PAT</i>	15	2	0.23 (0.14-0.38)
<b>Venous (VTE)</b>	37	4	0.6 (0.4-0.8)
<b>Patients with fatal and nonfatal thrombotic events</b>	<b>119</b>	13	<b>1.9 (1.6-2.3)</b>

Barbui et al, JCO 2011, Carobbio et al, Blood in press

# ET and pre-fibrotic MF vs Europe\*

Age- and sex-adjusted actuarial survival curves

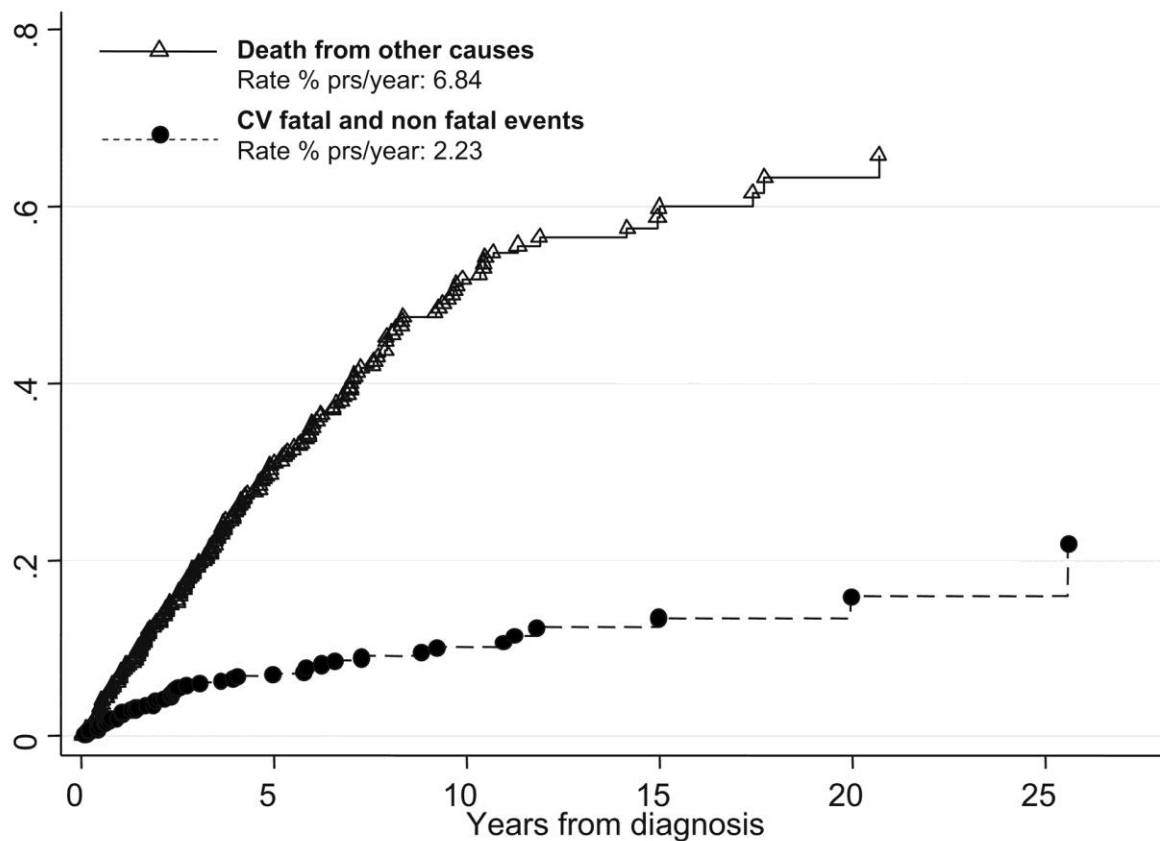


\*EUROSTAT 2008

(crude death rates, all causes of death, EU 27 countries)

Barbui T, Thiele J et al, JCO 2011

**Figure 1 Cumulative incidence of fatal and nonfatal thrombotic events versus deaths from other causes (competing risk analysis) in 707 patients with primary myelofibrosis**



**Barbui, T. et al. Blood 2010;115:778-782**



# **Rate of incident thrombosis in MPN**

**PV..... 6% pts per year**

**ET..... 2 % pts per year**

**PMF..... 2 % pts per year**

# Philadelphia–Negative Classical Myeloproliferative Neoplasms: Critical Concepts and Management Recommendations from European LeukemiaNet

**Authors:** *Tiziano Barbui, Giovanni Barosi, Gunnar Birgegard, Francisco Cervantes, Guido Finazzi, Martin Griesshammer, Claire Harrison, Hans Carl Hasselbalch, Rudiger Hehlmann, **Ronald Hoffman**, Jean-Jacques Kiladjian, Nicolaus Kröger, **Ruben Mesa**, Mary F. Mc Mullin, **Animesh Pardanani**, Francesco Passamonti, Alessandro M. Vannucchi, Andreas Reiter, **Richard T. Silver**, **Srdan Verstovsek**, **Ayalew Tefferi**.*

*Barbui et al, JCO 2011*

**Deciphering the paradigm  
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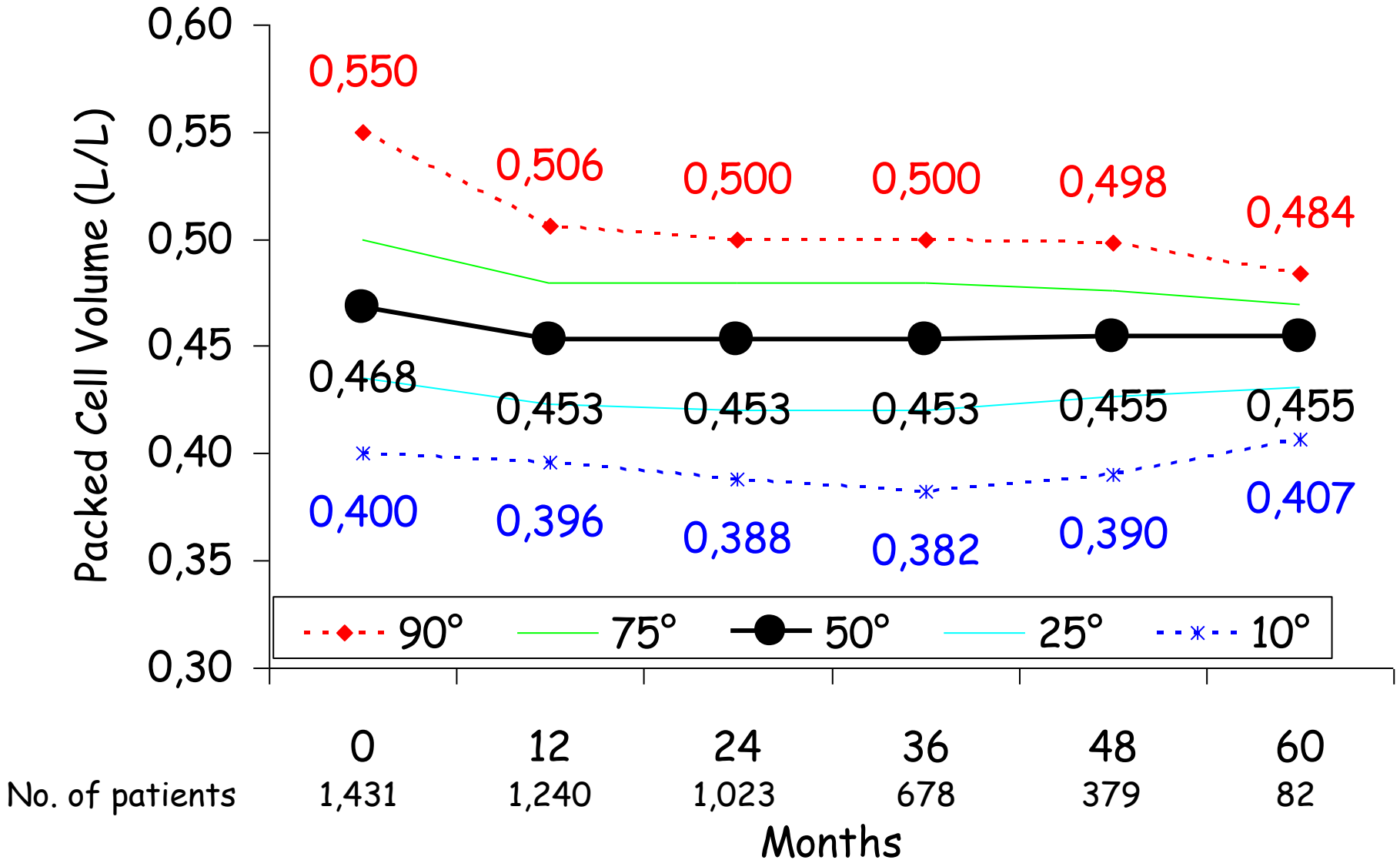
**What is known**

**What should be done**

***HEMATOCRIT***

***< 45% ?***

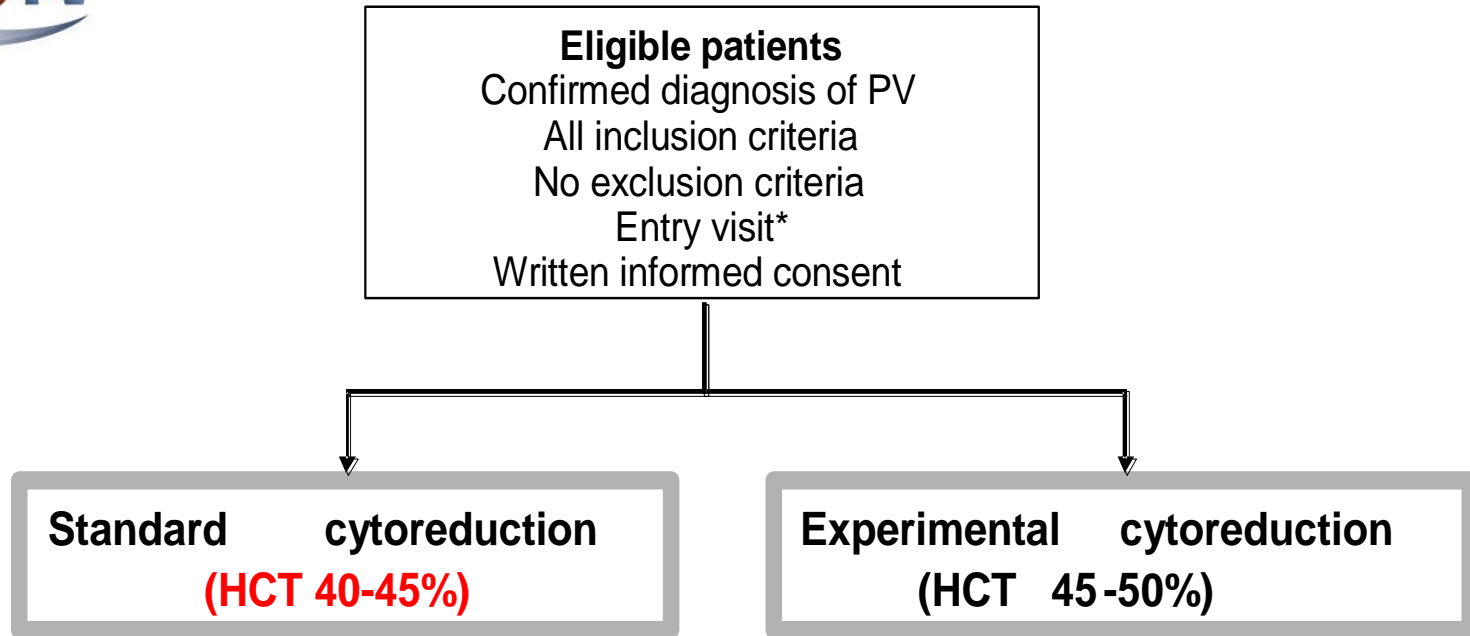
# Hematocrit



**Time-dependent multivariate analysis** on the relative risk of major thrombosis among men and women with Polycythemia Vera  
(N = 1,638)\*

		Hazard ratio (95% CI), P-value
<b>Hematocrit (%)</b>	≤ 45 (N=556)	1 (Reference)
	46-50 (N=530)	0.89 (0.6-1.3), 0.6
	> 50 (N=345)	1.04 (0.6-1.8), 0.9

\*Model adjusted for: age, gender, time from PV diagnosis to recruitment, thrombotic or hemorrhagic events prior to recruitment, smoking, history of diabetes, hypertension, claudicatio intermittens, erythromelalgia, splenomegaly, circulating immature cells, leukocyte count, total blood cholesterol, phlebotomy use, interferon use, hydroxyurea use, antiplatelets use, anticoagulants use, <sup>32</sup>P use, busulfan use, chlorambucil use, and pipobroman use



A patient can be randomized in the trial, provided she/he meets all recruitment criteria.

Clinical visits at 3\*, 6\*, 12\*, 18, 24\*, 30, 36\*, 42, 48\*, 54, 60\* months.

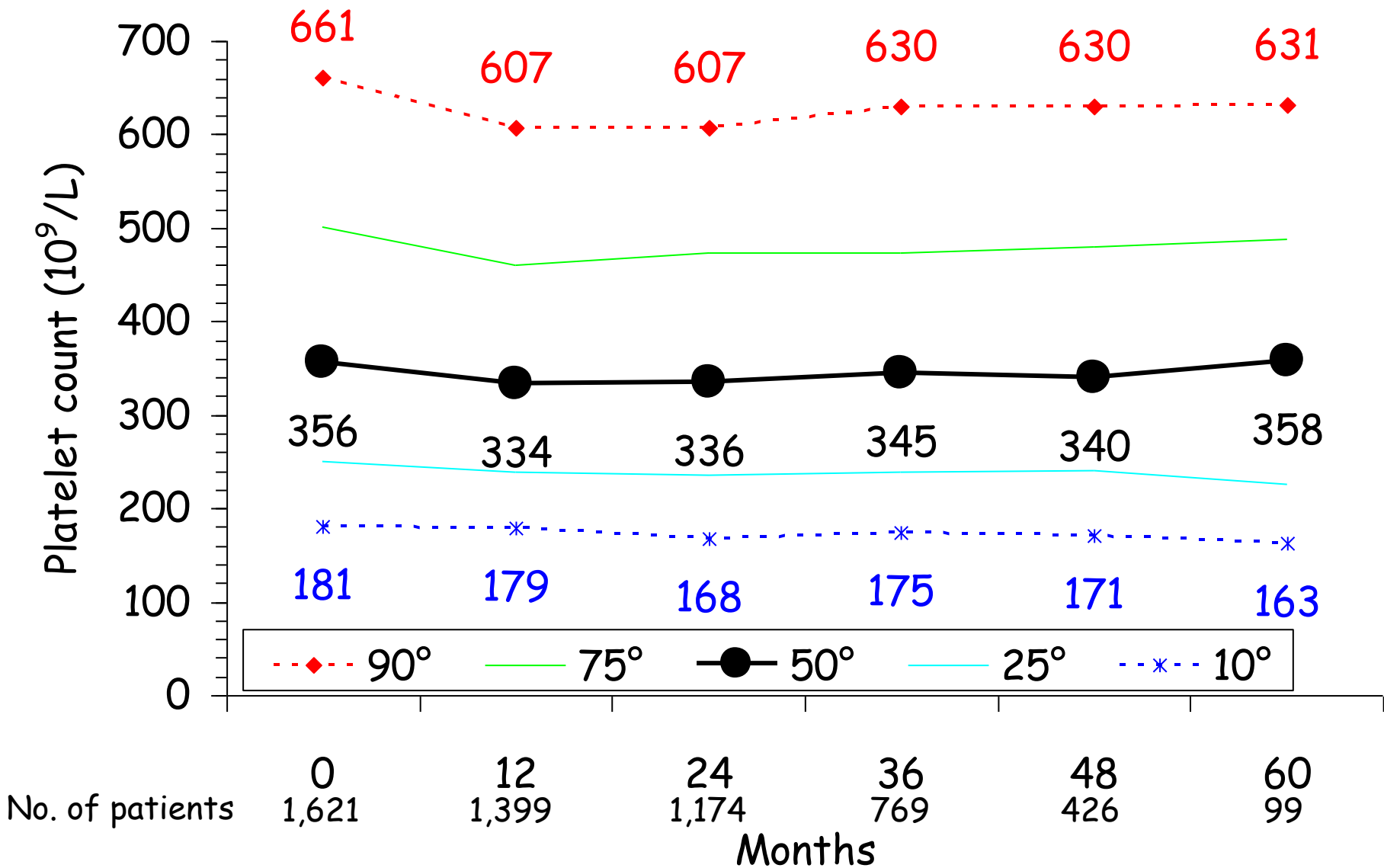
\* the following laboratory tests must be performed: hematocrit, hemoglobin, red and white cell count, total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, triglycerides, uricoemia, glucose levels, total CK, ALT, AST, creatinine, potassium, sodium, fibrinogen, spleen and liver ultrasonography (specific tests for PV to added).

Figure 1 – Study design

***Platelet count < 400,000***  
***Leukocytes < 10,000***



# Platelets



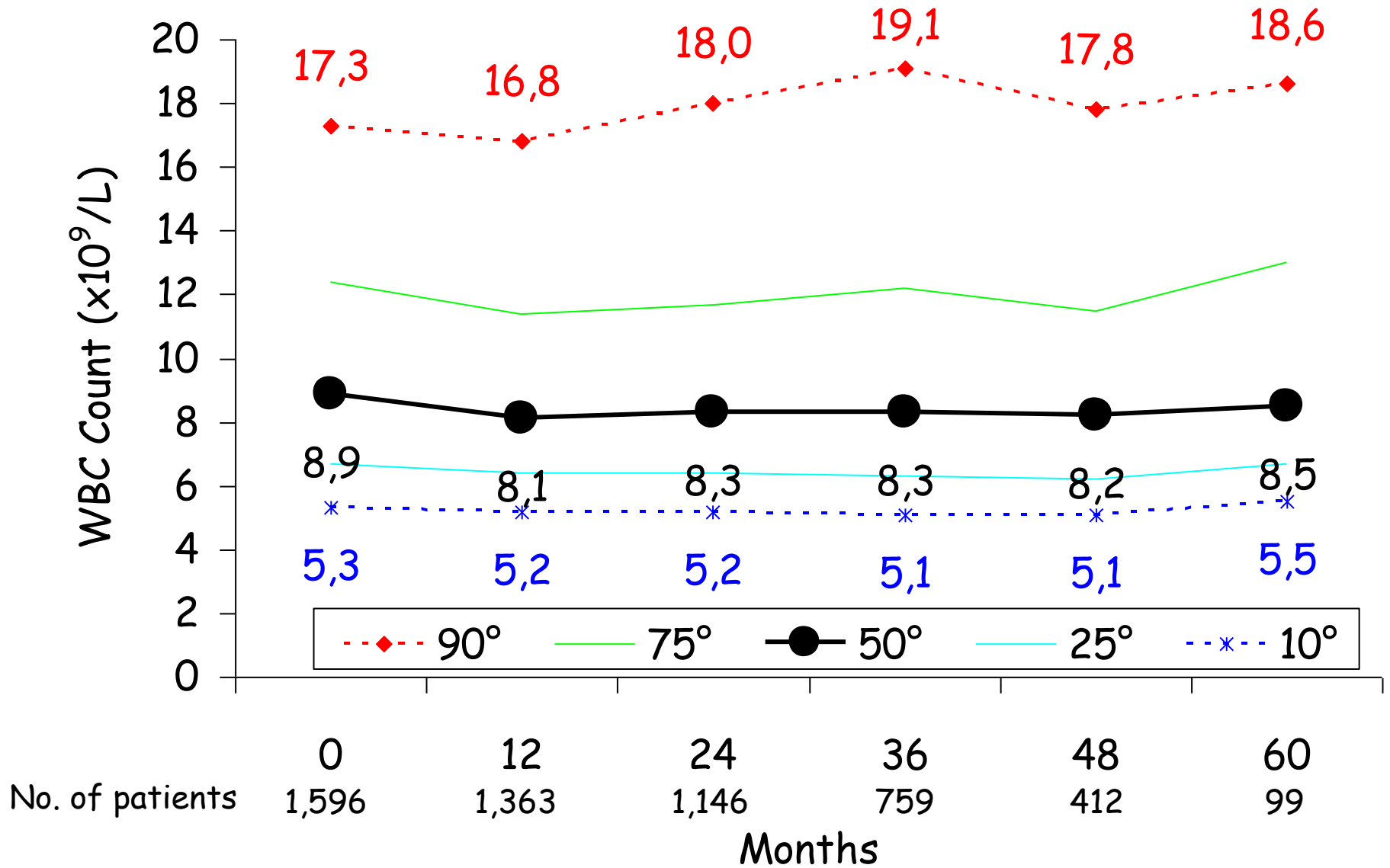
# Time-dependent multivariate analysis on the relative risk of major thrombosis among men and women with Polycythemia Vera (N = 1,638)\*

Hazard ratio (95% CI), P-value

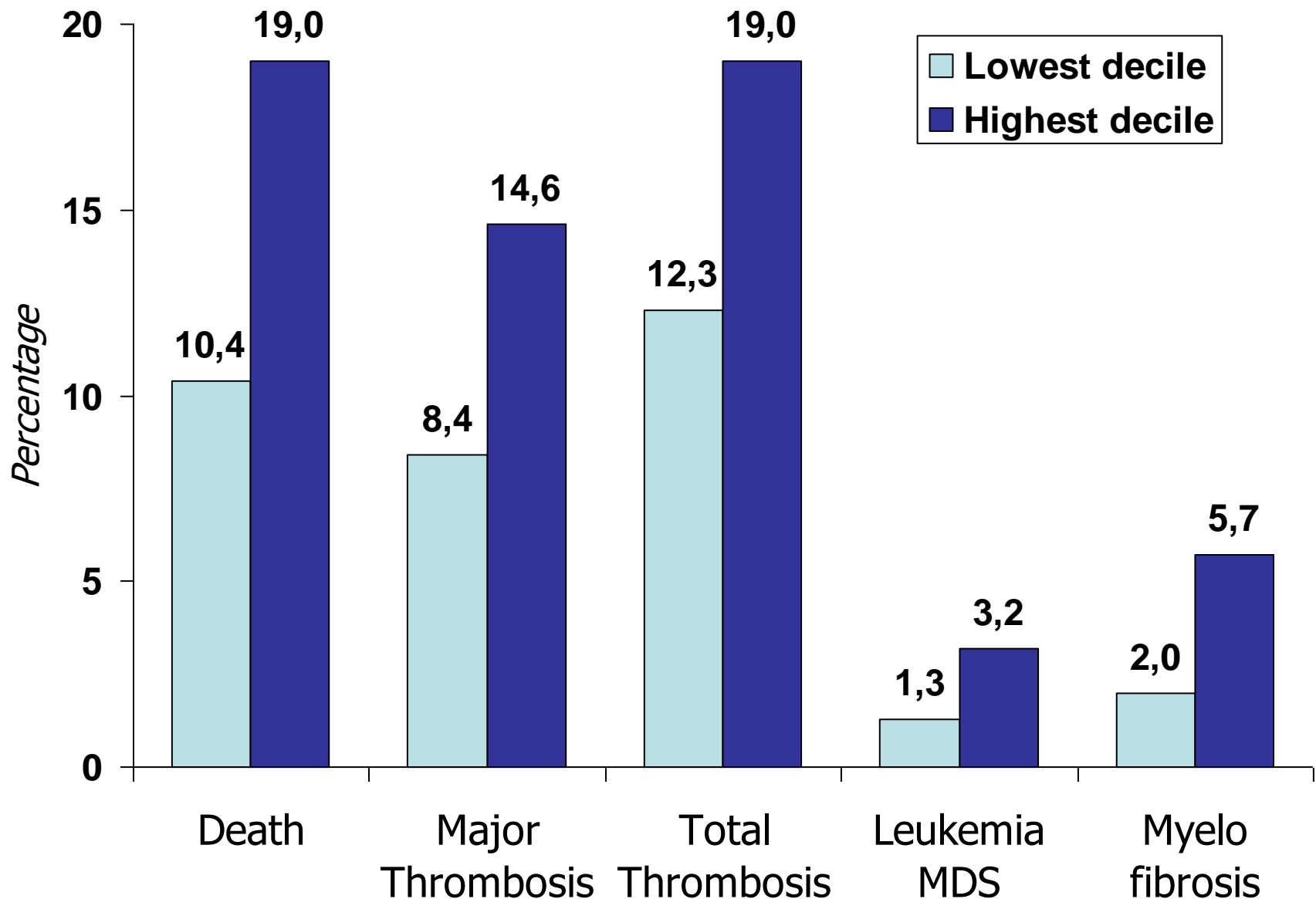
Platelet number (x10 <sup>9</sup> /l)		
≤ 300 (N=592)		1 (Reference)
301-500 (N=622)		0.78 (0.5-1.2), 0.2
> 500 (N=407)		0.67 (0.4-1.1), 0.1

\*Model adjusted for: age, gender, time from PV diagnosis to recruitment, thrombotic or hemorrhagic events prior to recruitment, smoking, history of diabetes, hypertension, claudicatio intermittens, erythromelalgia, splenomegaly, circulating immature cells, leukocyte count, total blood cholesterol, phlebotomy use, interferon use, hydroxyurea use, antiplatelets use, anticoagulants use, <sup>32</sup>P use, busulfan use, chlorambucil use, and pipobroman use

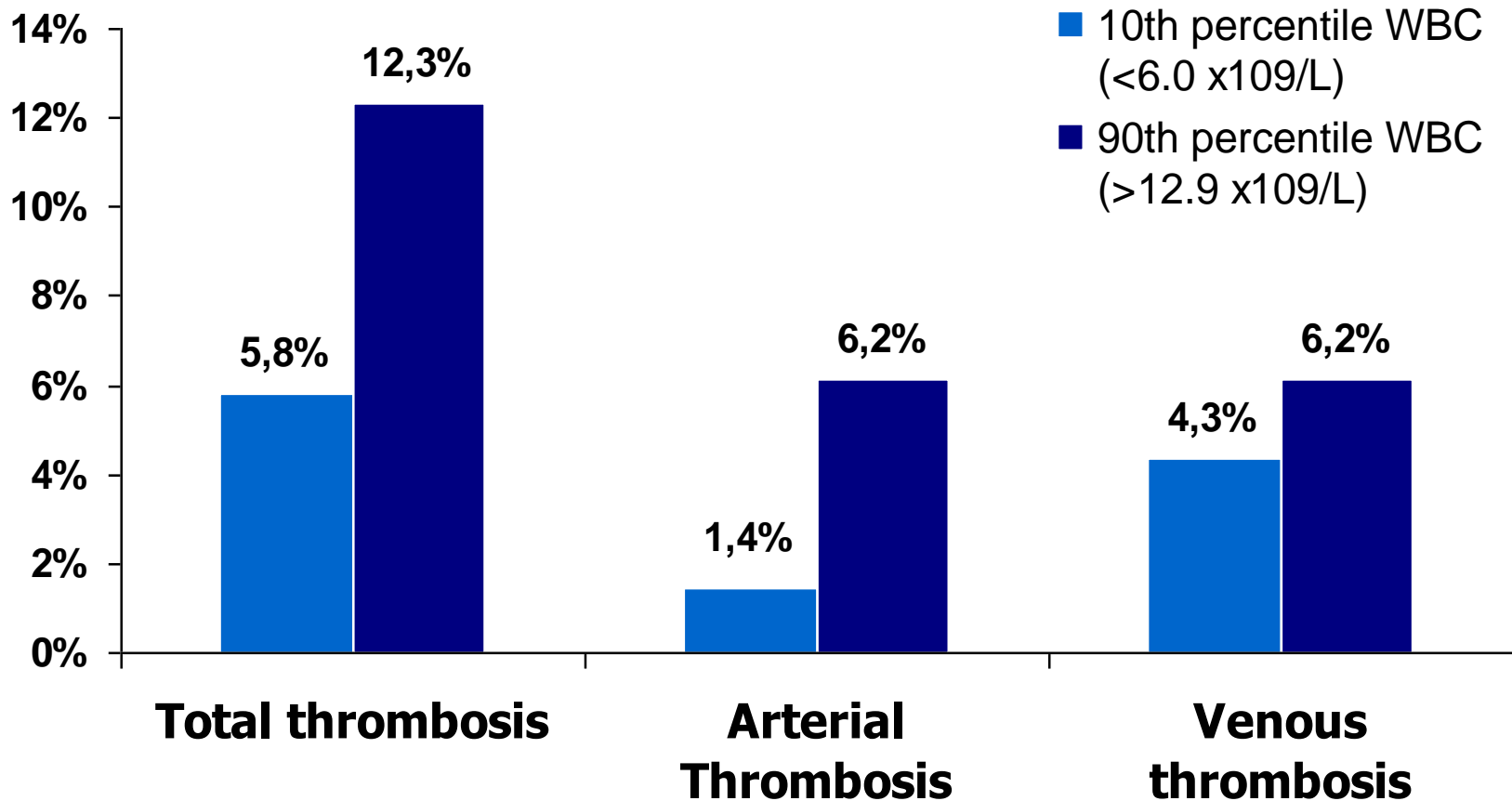
# White Blood Cells



# Outcome events – ECLAP study



# Outcome events - ET



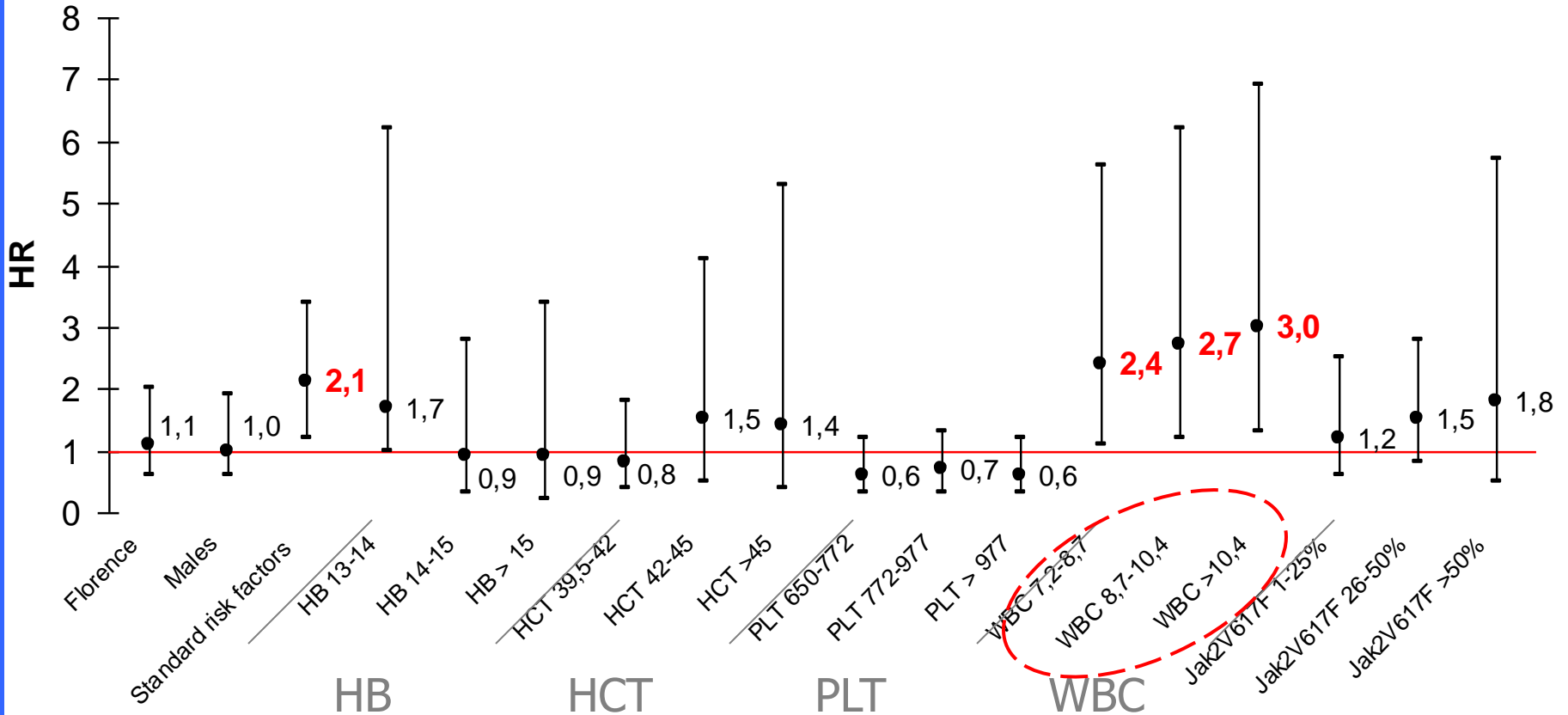
## Time-dependent multivariable analysis on the relative risk of major thrombosis in ECLAP study (N = 1,638)\*

		Hazard ratio (95% CI), P-value
White blood cell count (x10 <sup>9</sup> /l)	≤ 10 (N=990)	1 (Reference)
	10.1-15 (N=365)	1.06 (0.7-1.6), 0.8
	> 15 (N=241)	<b>1.71 (1.1-2.6), 0.02</b>

\***Model adjusted for:** age, gender, time from PV diagnosis to recruitment, thrombotic or hemorrhagic events prior to recruitment, smoking, history of diabetes, hypertension, claudicatio intermittens, erythromelalgia, splenomegaly, circulating immature cells, leukocyte count, total blood cholesterol, phlebotomy use, interferon use, hydroxyurea use, antiplatelets use, anticoagulants use, <sup>32</sup>P use, busulfan use, chlorambucil use, and pipobroman use

# Risk factors for thrombosis

## Cox Multivariable Analysis



**\* Reference categories:**

Bergamo centre; Females; Low risk factors; HB < 13 g/dL; HCT < 39.5 %; PLT < 650 (x10<sup>9</sup>/L); WBC <7.2 (x10<sup>9</sup>/L); Absence of JAK2<sup>V617F</sup>

# PT-1 randomized clinical trial in high risk ET patients

*(Hydroxyurea+asa vs Anagrelide+asa)*

**WBC & major hemorrhage**

p=0.01

**WBC & thrombosis**

**p=0.05**

**Plts & major hemorrhage**

p =0.0005

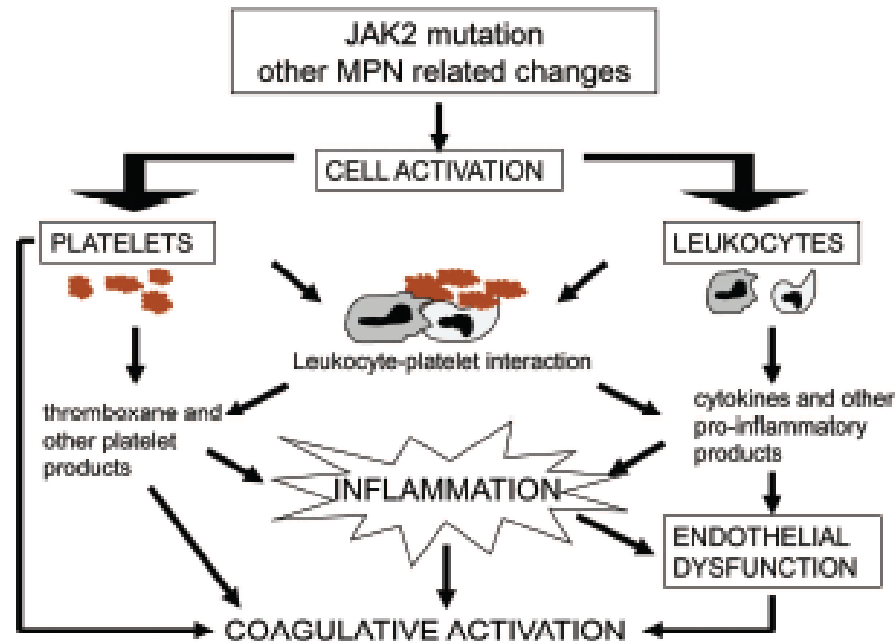
**Plts & thrombosis**

**NS**



# Mechanisms of thrombogenesis in MPN

## Role of inflammation



**Figure 1.** Mechanisms which, in myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN), can increase the thrombotic risk through cell activation and inflammation.

Landolfi, Haematologica 2011

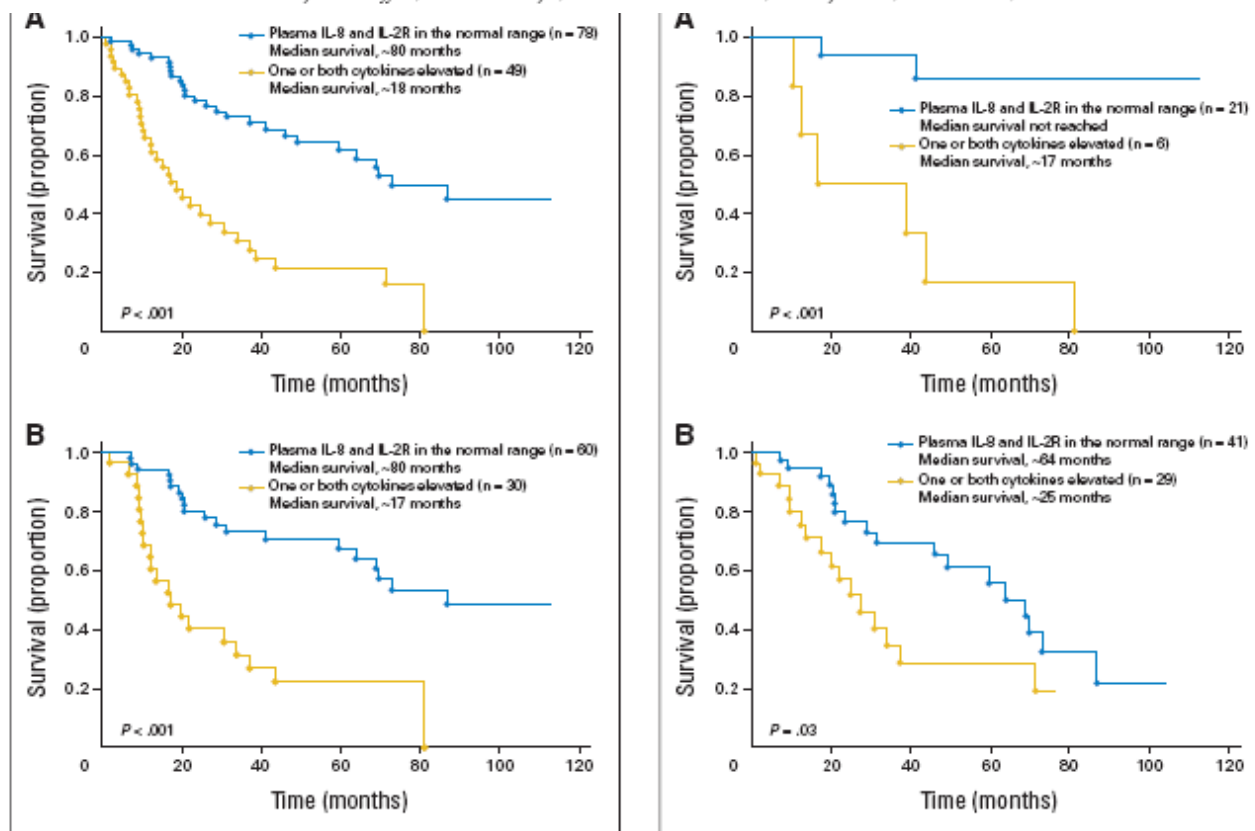
## OTHER BIOMARKERS

Linking inflammation to thrombosis



## Circulating Interleukin (IL)-8, IL-2R, IL-12, and IL-15 Levels Are Independently Prognostic in Primary Myelofibrosis: A Comprehensive Cytokine Profiling Study

Ayalew Tefferi, Rakhee Vaidya, Domenica Caramazza, Christy Finke, Terra Lasho, and Animesh Pardanani



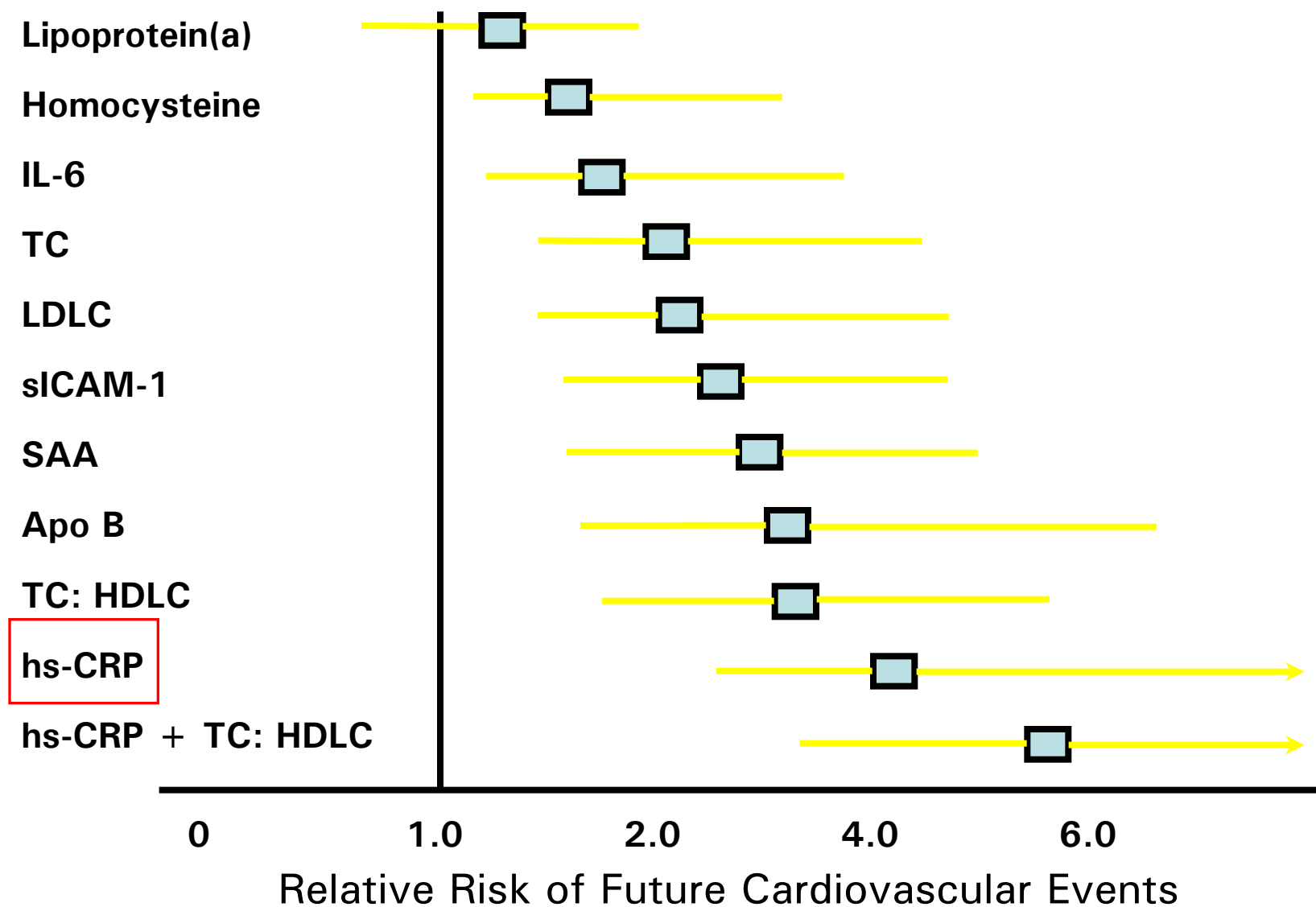
**Fig 1.** Survival data of (A) all 127 patients and (B) 90 treatment-naïve patients with primary myelofibrosis stratified by the presence or absence of interleukin 8 (IL-8) and IL-2R levels that exceed three standard deviations above the normal mean.

**Fig 2.** Survival data of (A) 27 intermediate-1-risk patients and (B) 70 intermediate-2-risk patients with primary myelofibrosis stratified by the presence or absence of interleukin 8 (IL-8) and IL-2R levels that exceed three standard deviations above the normal mean. Risk categorization is according to the Dynamic International Prognostic Scoring System plus model.<sup>6</sup>

# C-Reactive Protein

- **CRP is an acute-phase protein** produced by the liver in response to cytokine production (IL-6, IL-1, tumor necrosis factor) during tissue injury, inflammation, or infection.
- **Standard CRP tests** determine levels which are increased up to 1,000-fold in response to infection or tissue destruction.
- **High sensitivity CRP assays** detect levels of CRP within the normal range. These levels were proven to predict future cardiovascular events.

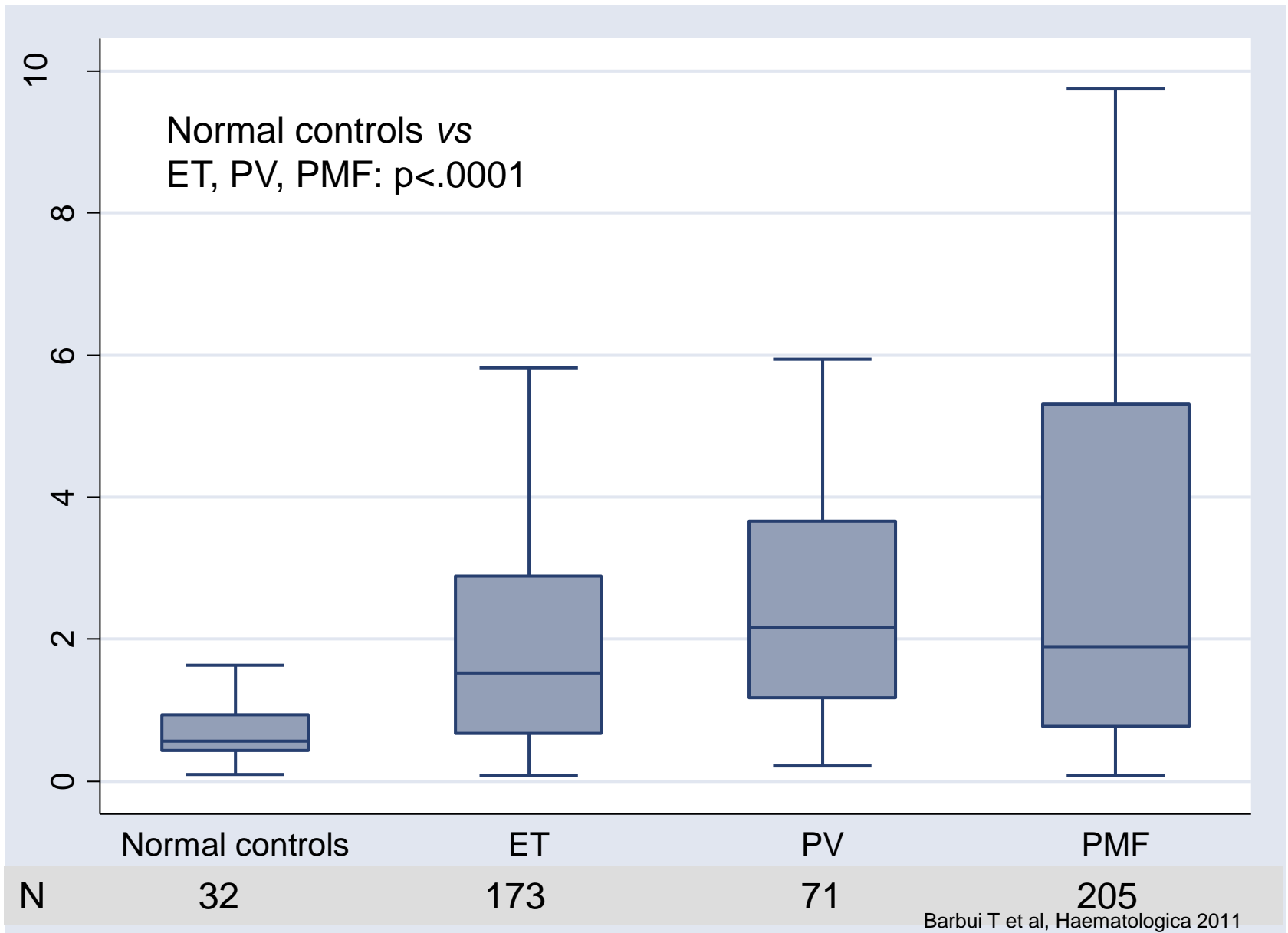
# Risk Factors for Future Cardiovascular Events: WHS



# Hs-CRP in MPNs

- We tested the hypothesis that blood levels of hs-CRP could be correlated with thrombotic complications in patients with ET and PV and explored the relationship with JAK2V617F mutation.

# High sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP)





# hs-CRP tertiles and risk of thrombosis

	1.0 to 3.0 mg/L hs-CRP			More than 3.0 mg/L hs-CRP		
	<b>OR*</b>	<b>95% CI</b>	<i>P</i>	<b>OR*</b>	<b>95% CI</b>	<i>p</i>
<b>Unadjusted</b>	1.89	0.89-3.99	0.10	<b>2.59</b>	<b>1.21-5.51</b>	<b>0.014</b>
<b>Adjusted for</b>						
+ <b>Age</b>	1.82	0.86-3.86	0.12	<b>2.27</b>	<b>1.04-4.95</b>	<b>0.039</b>
+ <b>Sex</b>	1.83	0.86-3.91	0.12	<b>2.36</b>	<b>1.08-5.18</b>	<b>0.032</b>
+ <b>Disease</b>	1.80	0.84-3.85	0.13	<b>2.25</b>	<b>1.02-4.96</b>	<b>0.045</b>
+ <b>JAK2V617F burden</b>	1.60	0.73-3.47	0.23	2.11	0.93-4.80	0.074

\*Reference categories: hs-CRP < 1.0 mg/L

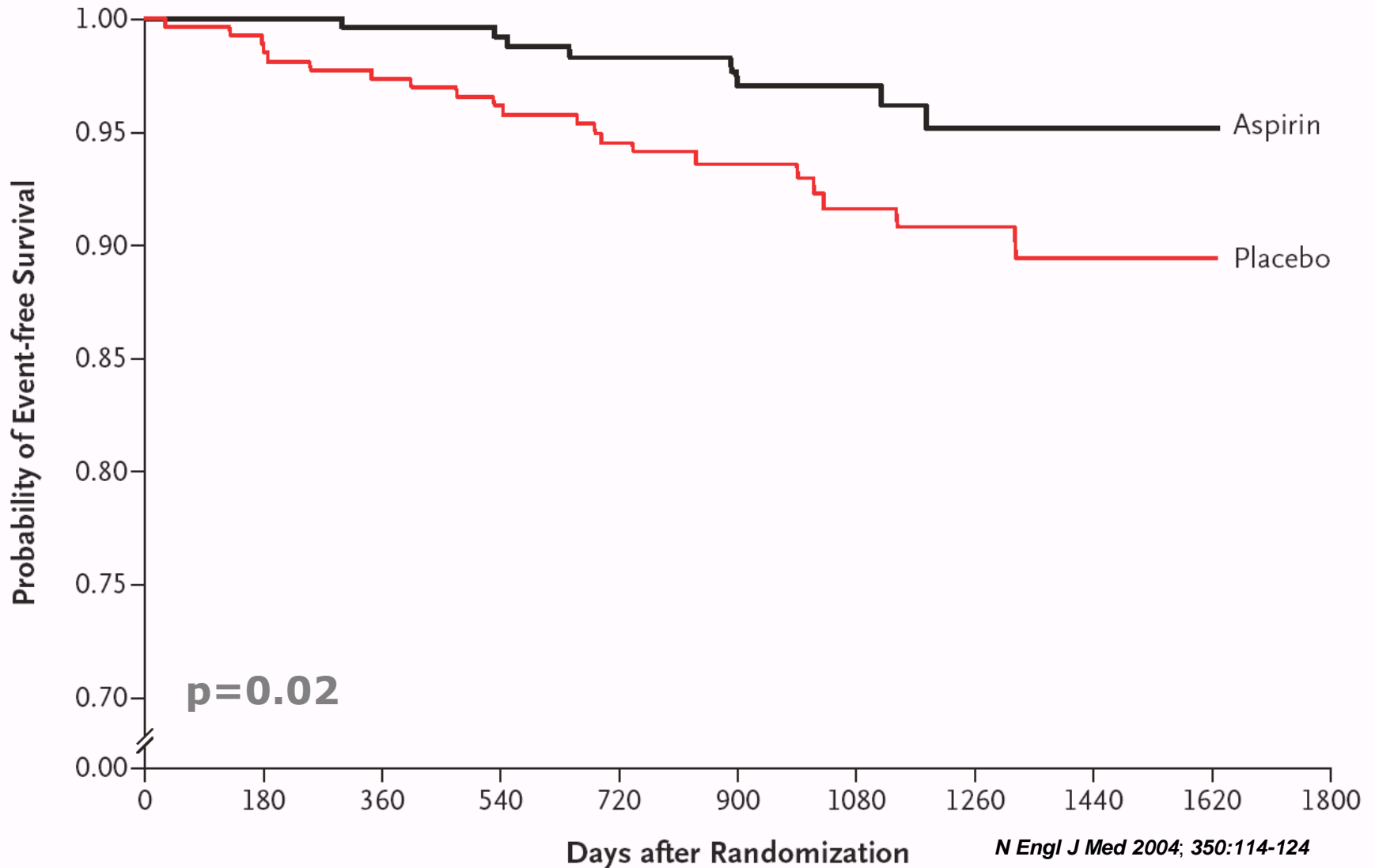
# QUESTION

Does the strength of association between these biomarkers and thrombosis justify their use as surrogate of primary end-points in clinical trials?

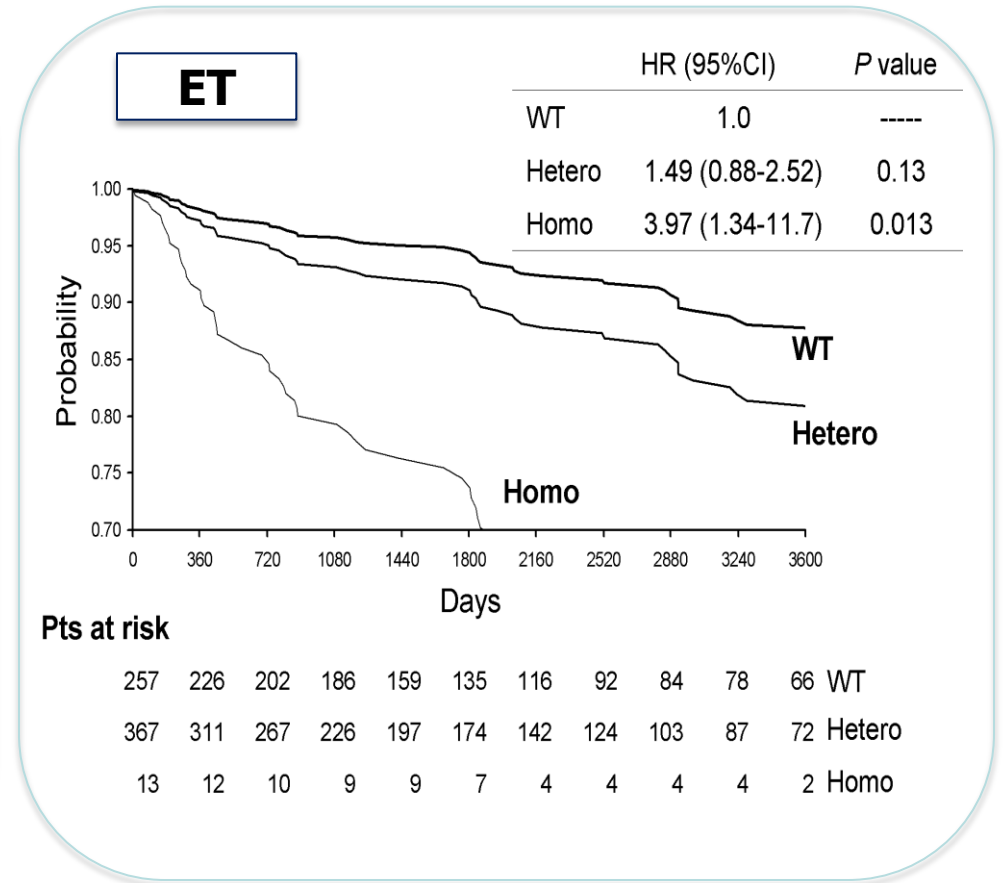
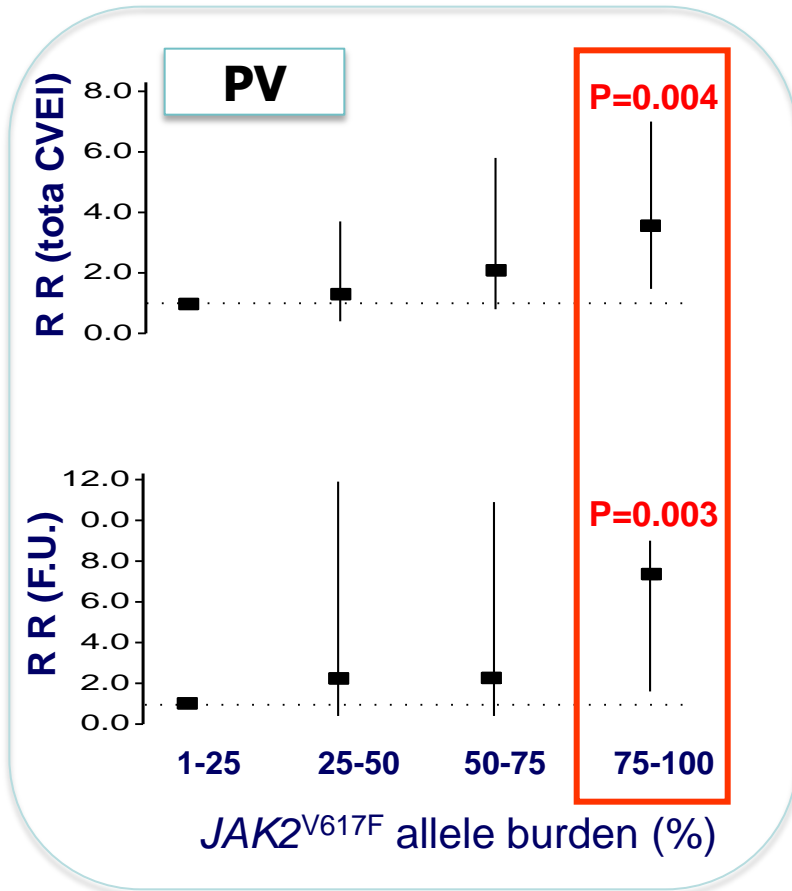
# Surrogate endpoint: definition

- A surrogate endpoint of a clinical trial is a **laboratory measurement or a physical sign** used as a substitute for a clinically meaningful endpoint
- **Changes** induced by a therapy on a surrogate endpoint **are expected to reflect changes in a clinically meaningful endpoint.**
- **Surrogate end points can be useful in phase 2 screening trials** for identifying whether a new intervention is promising enough to justify a large definitive trial with clinically meaningful outcomes.
- **Definitive phase 3 trials are required**, except for rare circumstances in which the validity of the surrogate end point has already been rigorously established.

PROBABILITY OF SURVIVAL FREE  
OF MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION,  
STROKE, AND DEATH FROM CARDIOVASCULAR CAUSES,  
PULMONARY EMBOLISM AND DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS

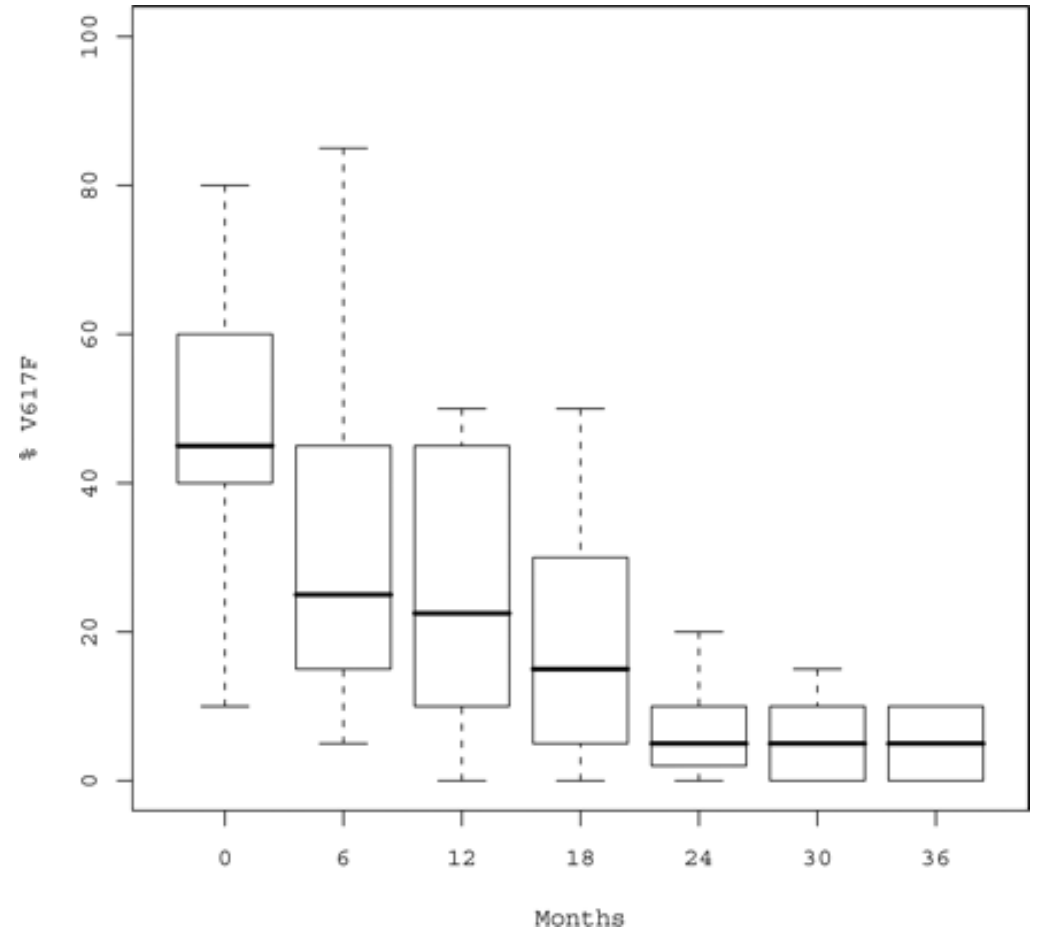


# JAK2 V617F and Thrombosis in PV or ET



# Pegylated interferon-alfa-2a induces complete hematologic and molecular responses with low toxicity in PV

Evolution of %V617F during treatment with peg-IFN-2a



*Randomised Trial of Pegylated Interferon Alfa -2a versus Hydroxyurea for the treatment of high risk polycythemia vera and high risk essential thrombocythemia( MPD-RC trial)*

***Primary end points***

*To evaluate the ability of therapy (Pegylated Interferon  $\alpha$  2a vs. Hydroxyurea) to achieve **Complete Response** (By LeukemiaNet Criteria) in patients with either high risk polycythemia vera or high risk essential thrombocythemia (stratified by disease group) **after 24 months of therapy.***

***Secondary end points***

*Partial response, JAK2 V617F allele burden, toxicity and tolerability, **major cardiovascular events, evolution to AML or MF, overall survival***



## **Study population -**

CYTO-PV is a multicenter, randomized, controlled trial with diagnosis of PV (WHO 2008)

designed to be conducted, without need of special facilities. It is an independent, investigator-generated, pragmatic trial with broad selection criteria

**to mimic clinical practice in order to strengthen the transferability of its results to the population of PV patients.**





## **Sample size calculation**

Time to death and major thrombotic events are the primary endpoints(PEP) of the study

### **Assumption for PEP**

In the ECLAP study (median follow-up 2.8 years) the cumulative incidence of PEP was

- 5.5% per year in the overall population of PV pts
- 6.95% per year in high-risk PV group

### **Number of patients to be recruited**

The minimum follow-up is set at 5 years.

The expected cumulative rate of PEP is 5%

( 25% in 5 years).The minimum clinically relevant beneficial effect is set at 30% reduction of PEP.

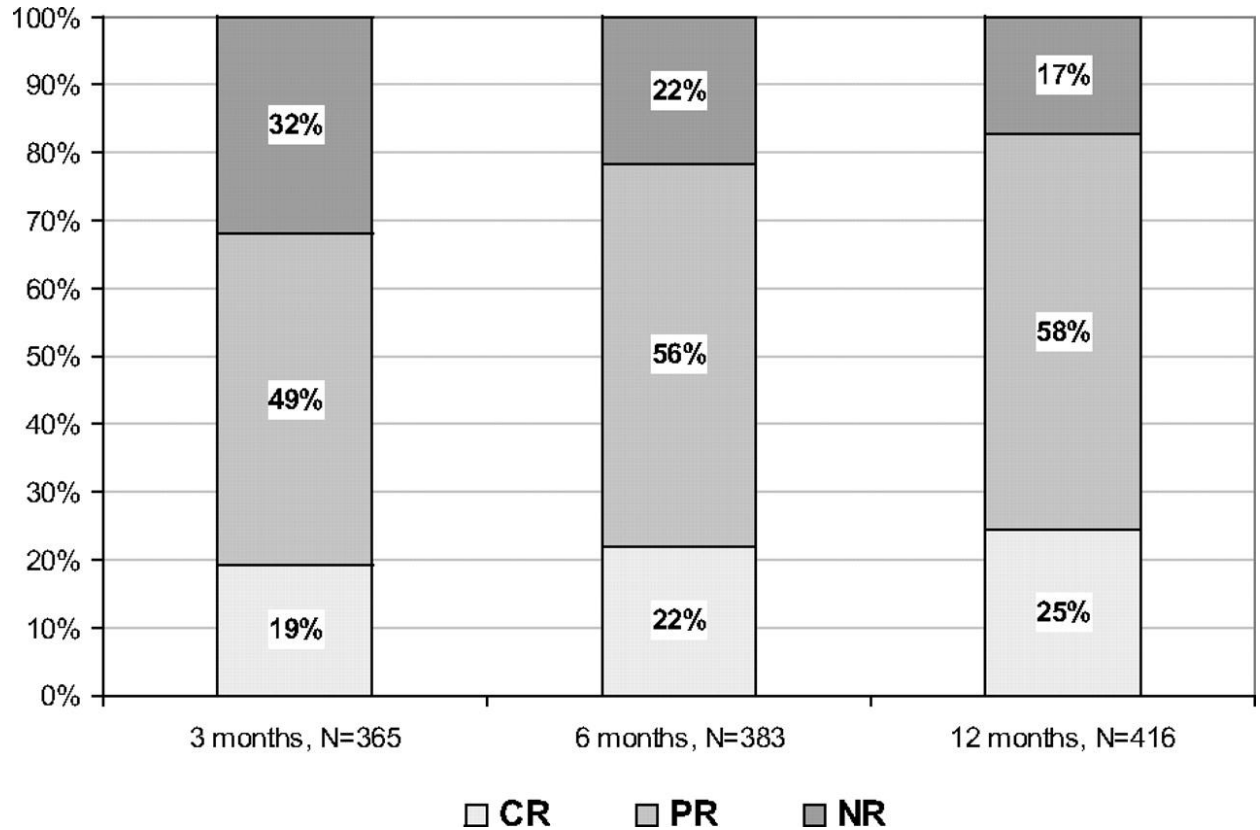
Number of patients to be recruited is 1000.

## Definition of clinico-hematologic response in ET

Response grade	Definition
Complete response	1. Platelet count $\leq 400 \times 10^9/L$ AND 2. No disease related symptoms AND 3. Normal spleen size on imaging AND 4. WBC count $< 10 \times 10^9/L$
Partial response	In patients who do not fulfill the criteria for complete response: Platelet count below $600 \times 10^9/L$ or decrease $> 50\%$ of baseline
No response	Any response that does not satisfy partial response

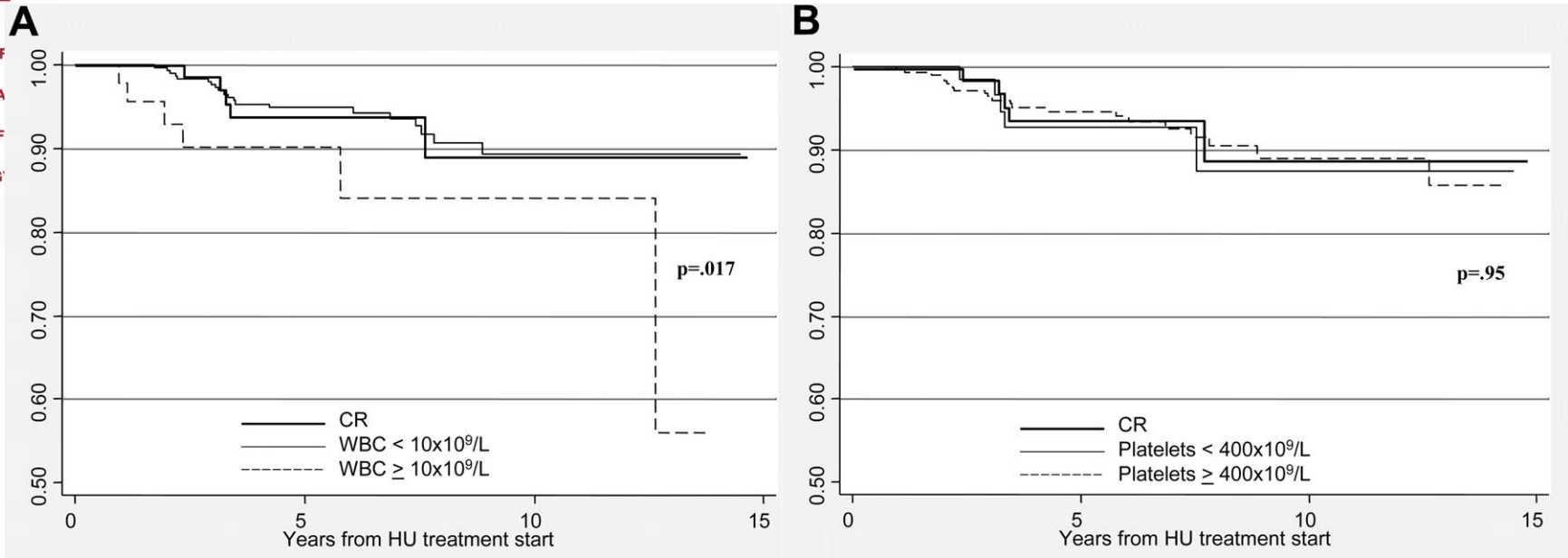
# Hydroxyurea in essential thrombocythemia:

## Figure 1 Rate of responses according to ELN criteria



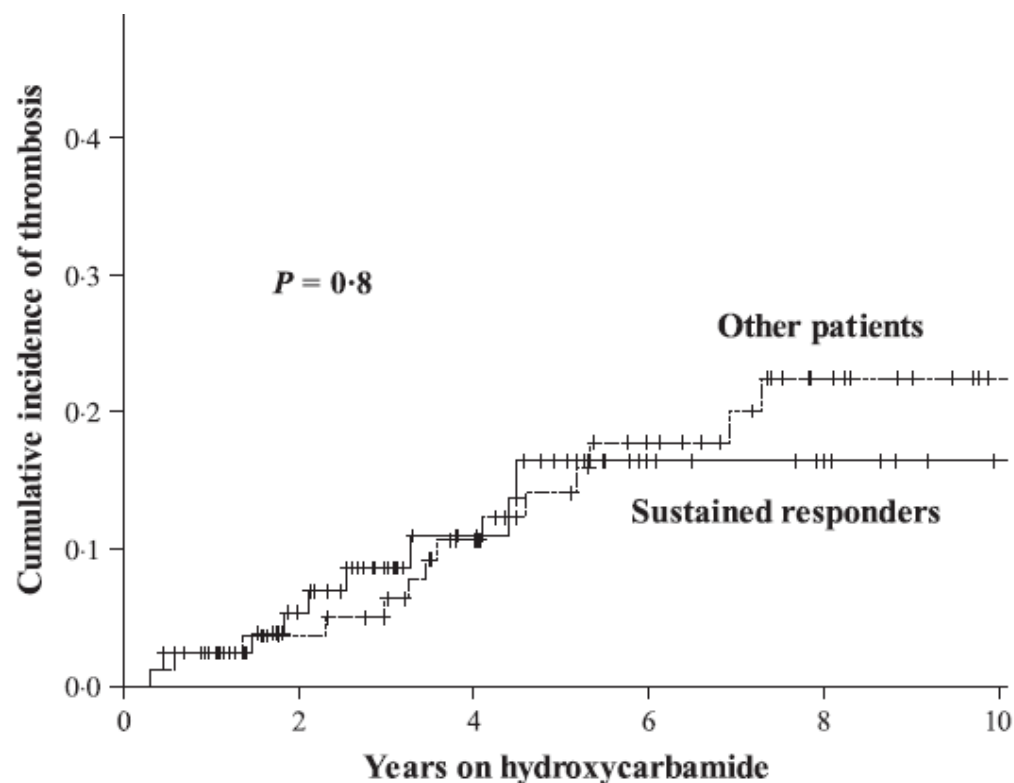
Carobbio, A. et al. Blood 2010;116:1051-1055

Figure 2 Thrombosis-free survival



Carobbio, A. et al. Blood 2010;116:1051-1055

# Clinical evaluation of the European LeukaemiaNet criteria for clinicohaematological response and resistance/intolerance to hydroxycarbamide in essential thrombocythaemia



# Definition of clinically relevant end points in Ph-neg Myeloproliferative Neoplasms

ELN-WP9 2011 project

*To provide guidance in the **definition of clinically relevant end-points and appropriate surrogates** that can expedite new drug approvals for MPNs*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

<b>Bergamo</b>	S. Cortelazzo, G Finazzi, A Falanga, A Carobbio, A Rambaldi and our patients.
<b>Vicenza</b>	F Rodeghiero, M Ruggeri
<b>Firenze</b>	A Vannucchi
<b>Pavia:</b>	G Barosi and F Passamonti
<b>GIMEMA</b>	MPN Working Party

**ELN** and particularly JJ Kiladjian  
**Cologne** J Thiele

<b>Mayo Clinic</b>	A Tefferi and R Mesa
<b>MPD-Consortium</b>	R Hoffman and S Fruchtman