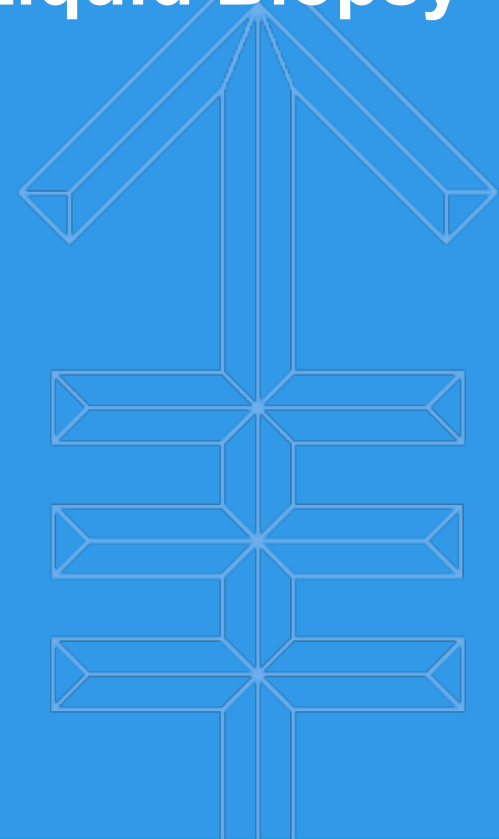




Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

# A Clear and Balanced Look at Liquid Biopsy

**Dana Tsui, Ph.D.**  
**Assistant Attending Faculty**  
Department of Pathology  
Center for Molecular Oncology

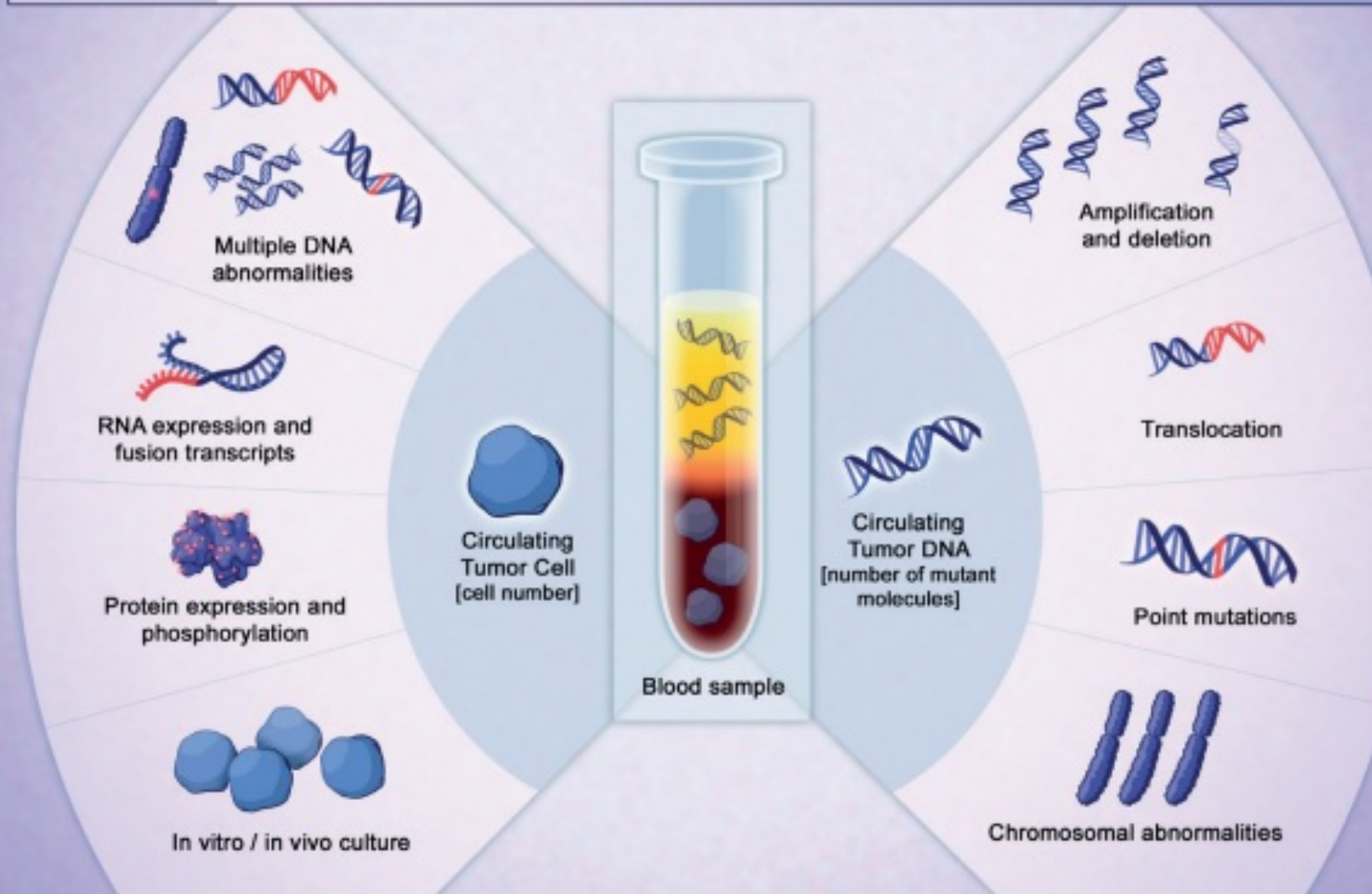


# Outline

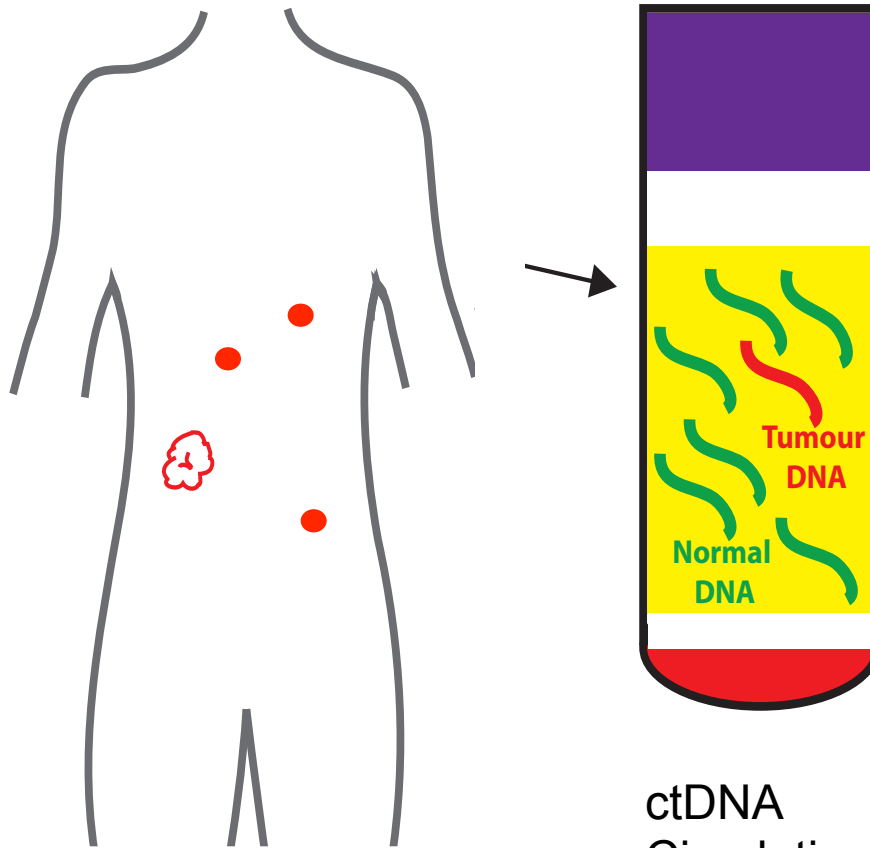
- Definition of liquid biopsy
- Clinical applications
- Current state of research
- Promises and challenges



Event	Cancer screening	Localized cancer	Metastatic cancer	Refractory cancer
Treatment Strategy	Early intervention	Risk of dissemination and detection of recurrence	Treatment selection and monitoring response	Mechanism of resistance and new treatment



# Cell-free circulating tumor DNA



ctDNA  
Circulating tumor DNA



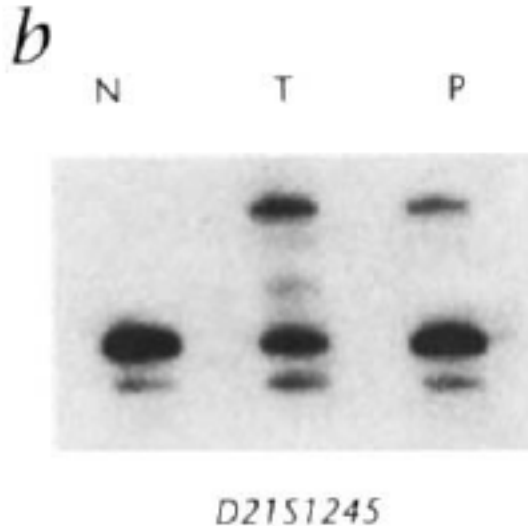
# Background about cfDNA

The potential of cfDNA profiling was long recognized

## Microsatellite alterations in serum DNA of head and neck cancer patients

HOMAIRA NAWROZ<sup>1</sup>, WAYNE KOCH<sup>1</sup>, PHILIPPE ANKER<sup>2</sup>,  
MAURICE STROUN<sup>2</sup> & DAVID SIDRANSKY<sup>1</sup>

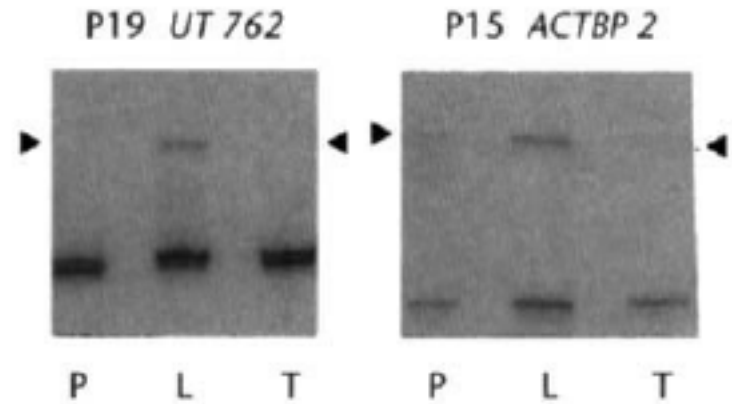
<sup>1</sup>Johns Hopkins, <sup>2</sup>Uni of Geneva



## Microsatellite alterations in plasma DNA of small cell lung cancer patients

XU QI CHEN<sup>1</sup>, MAURICE STROUN<sup>1</sup>, JEAN-LUC MAGNENAT<sup>2</sup>,  
LAURENT P. NICOD<sup>2</sup>, ANNE-MARIE KURT<sup>3</sup>,  
JACQUELINE LYAUTEY<sup>1</sup>, CHRISTINE LEDERREY<sup>1</sup> & PHILIPPE ANKER<sup>1</sup>

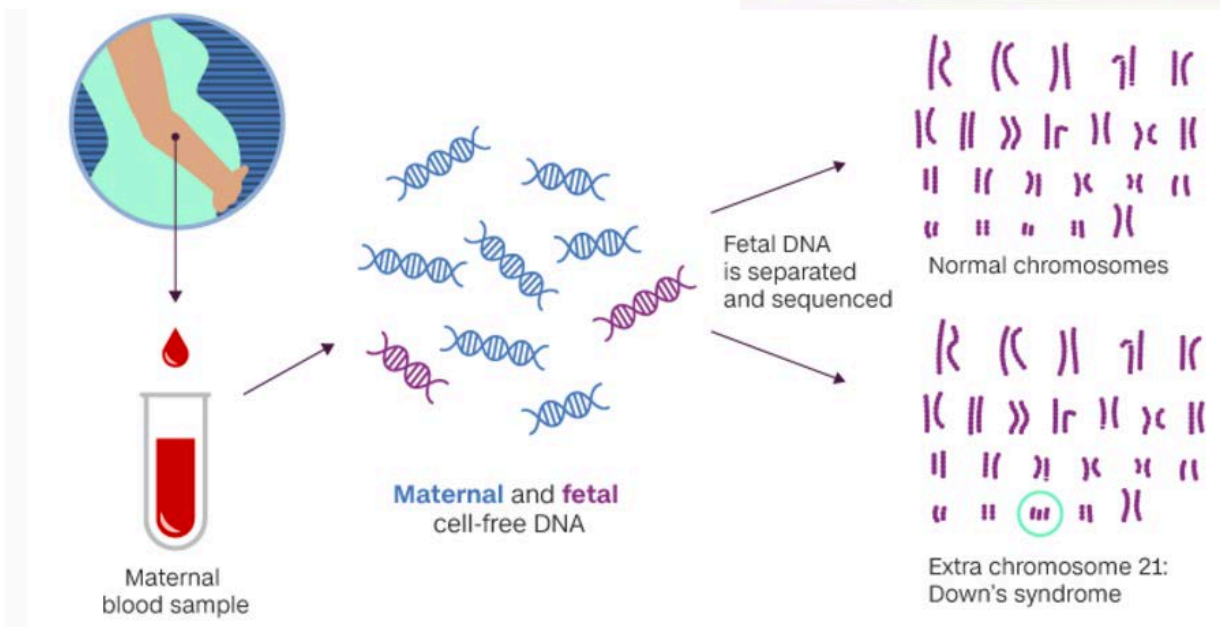
<sup>1</sup>Pavillon des Isotopes, <sup>2,3</sup>Uni of Geneva



# Blood test for Down's syndrome 'gives better results'

By James Gallagher  
Health editor, BBC News website

1 April 2015 | Health

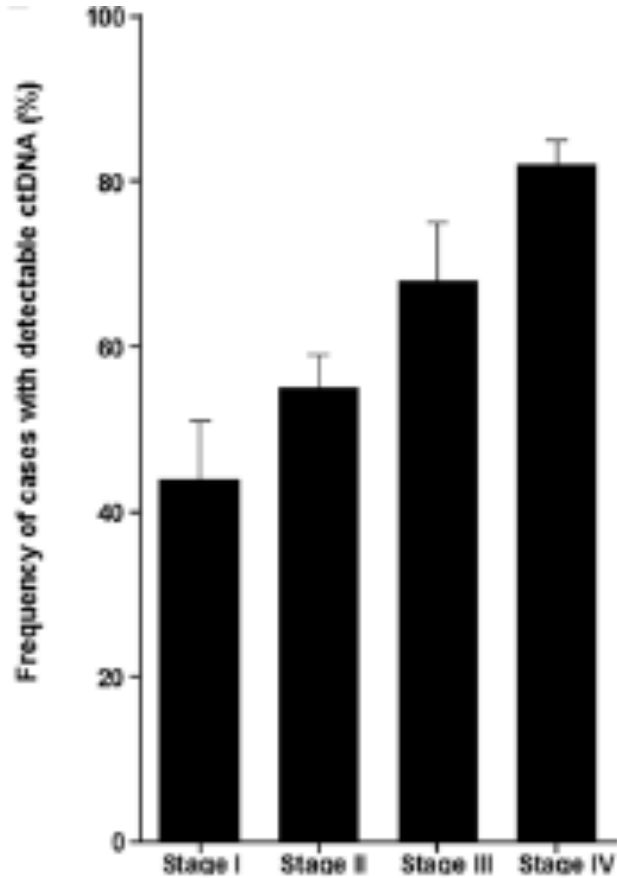


# A blood test before birth could predict your medical destiny

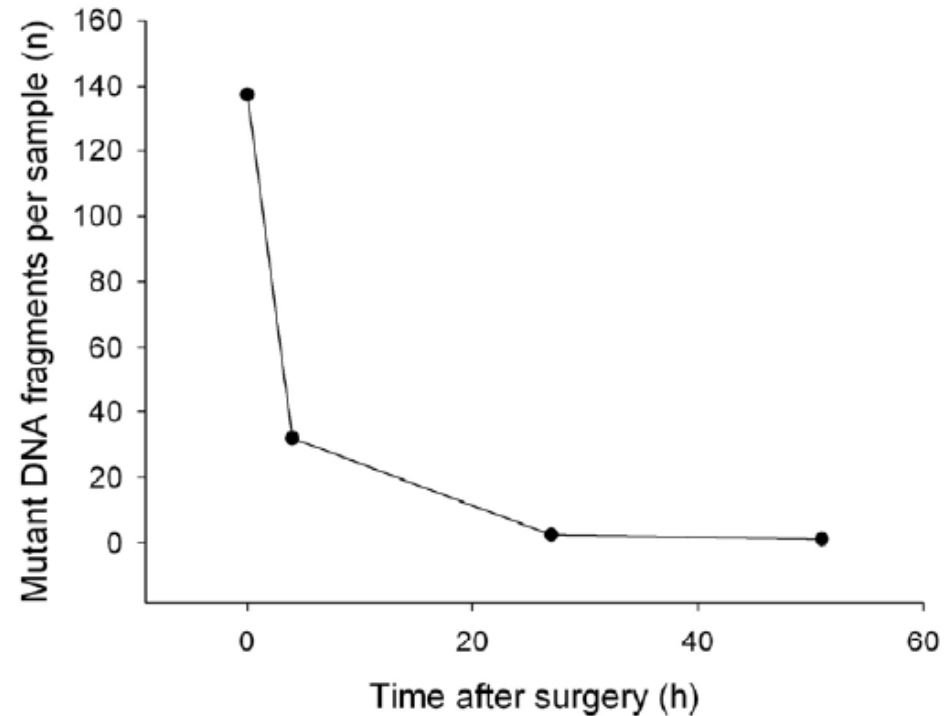
By Jenni Marsh, CNN  
Updated 7:39 AM ET, Tue March 29, 2016



# Dynamics of cfDNA in plasma correlate with clinical status



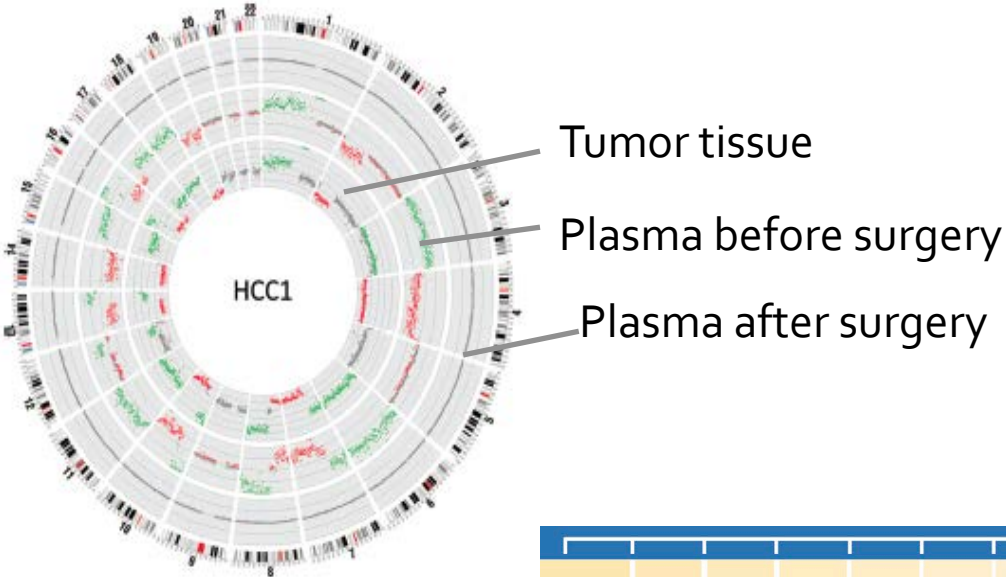
Bettgowda, Vogelstein, Diaz STM 2014



Diehl, Vogelstein, Diaz Nat Med 2008



# Comprehensive representation of cancer genome



Chan, Lo et al Clin Chem 2012

Gemcitabine  
Carboplatin →

Tissue biopsy      cfDNA draw

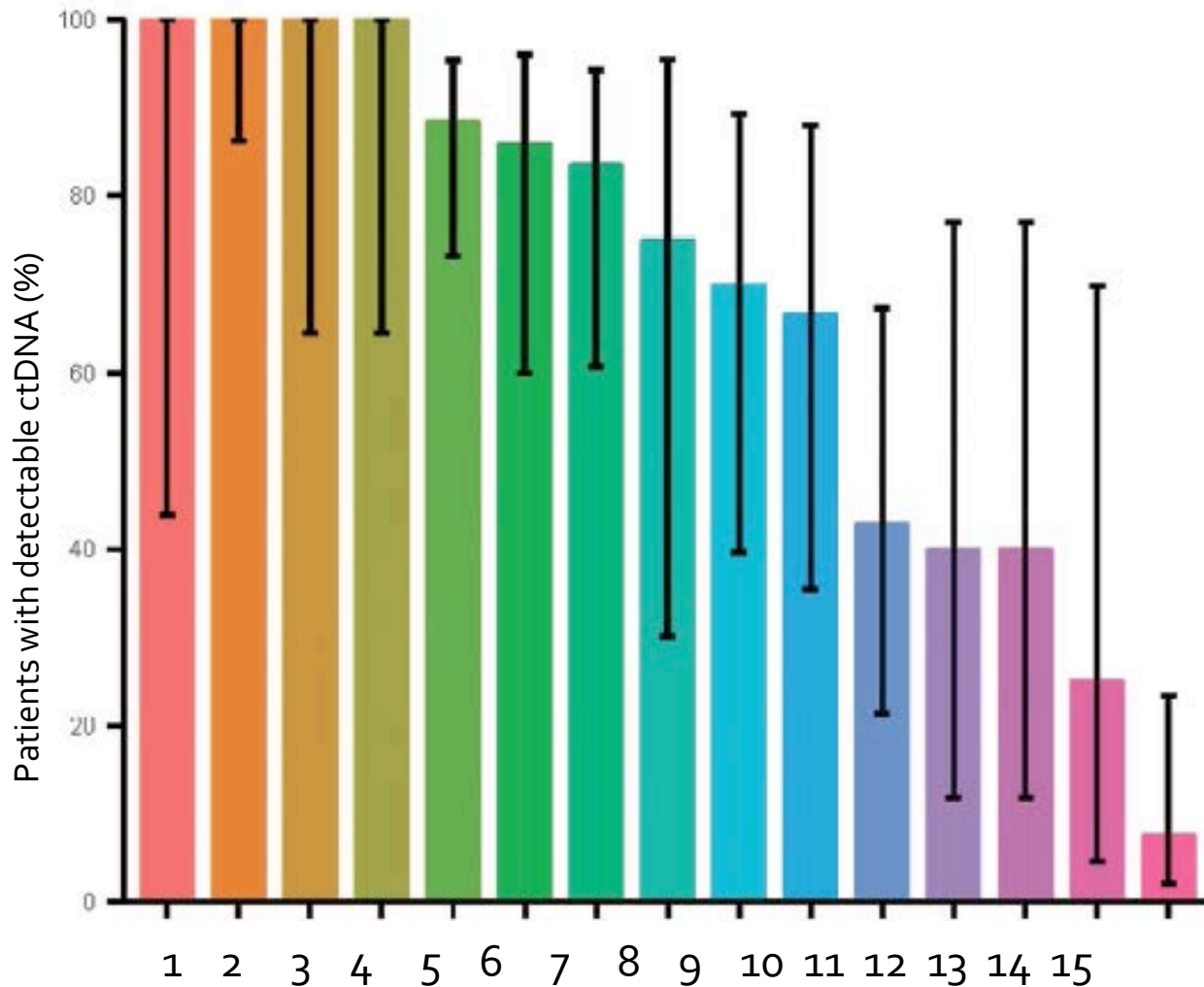
Gene	Allele fraction
<b>ERBB2 S310Y</b>	<b>0.772 (3852/4992)</b>
<b>PIK3CA E81K</b>	<b>0.268 (268/1000)</b>
ATRX splice	0.591 (159/269)
BRCA1 Q1396H	0.181 (143/790)
CTLA4 R70Q	0.142 (71/500)
MAX V9L	0.302 (304/1008)
KMT2A D2488N	0.330 (243/737)
PDGFRA E1065K	0.377 (339/899)
TERT promoter	0.712 (588/826)
TP53 splice	0.460 (291/632)
NUP93 E105D	0.258 (131/508)
FGF19 V133M	0.233 (275/1178)
ARID5B E765D	0.407 (468/1149)

Gene	Allele fraction
<b>ERBB2 S310Y</b>	<b>0.721 (1733/2405)</b>
<b>PIK3CA E81K</b>	<b>0.254 (543/2138)</b>
ATRX splice	0.506 (249/492)
BRCA1 Q1396H	0.147 (78/530)
CTLA4 R70Q	0.161 (120/745)
MAX V9L	0.258 (134/520)
KMT2A D2488N	0.281 (291/1037)
PDGFRA E1065K	0.302 (261/863)
TERT promoter	0.461 (514/1114)
TP53 splice	0.376 (213/566)
NUP93 E105D	0.155 (160/1033)
FGF19 V133M	0.194 (151/779)
ARID5B E765D	0.324 (112/346)

**Patient A:**  
**Tissue and plasma**  
**cfDNA concordance**  
 73yo female  
 metastatic urothelial  
 carcinoma to  
 lung, liver, bone,  
 and lymph nodes



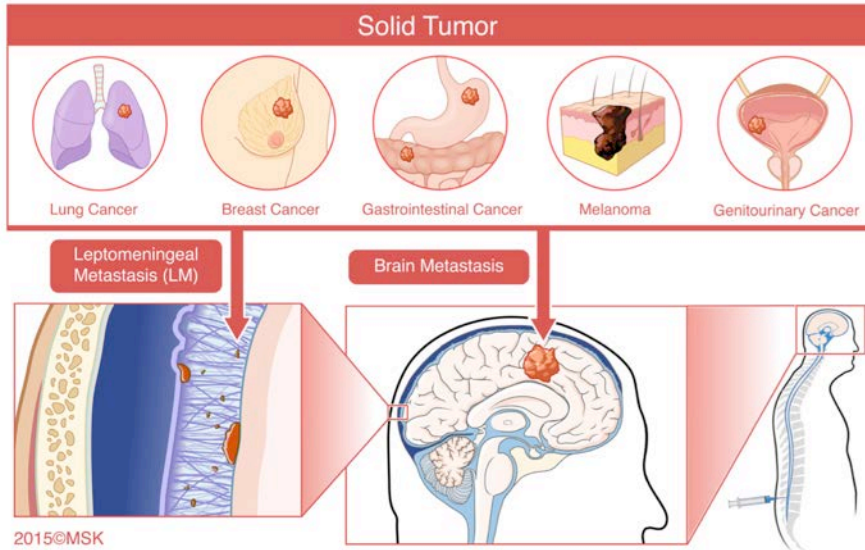
# Tumor-derived cfDNA in different types of cancers



- 1) Bladder
- 2) Colorectal
- 3) Gastroesophageal
- 4) Ovarian
- 5) Pancreatic ductal
- 6) Breast
- 7) Melanoma
- 8) Hepatocellular
- 9) Head and neck
- 10) Neuroblastoma
- 11) Medulloblastoma
- 12) Prostate
- 13) Renal cell carcinoma
- 14) Thyroid
- 15) Glioma

# cfDNA in multiple body fluids

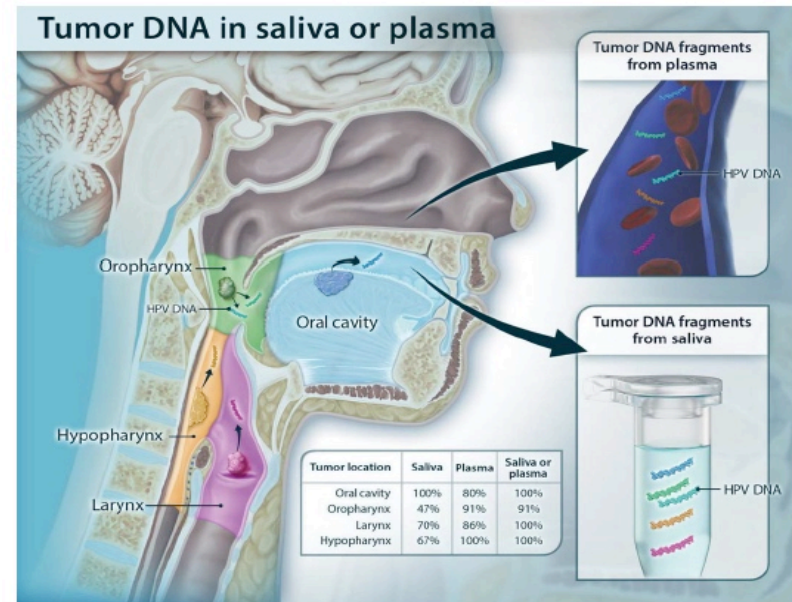
## Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF)



2015©MSK

Pentsova et al JCO 2016

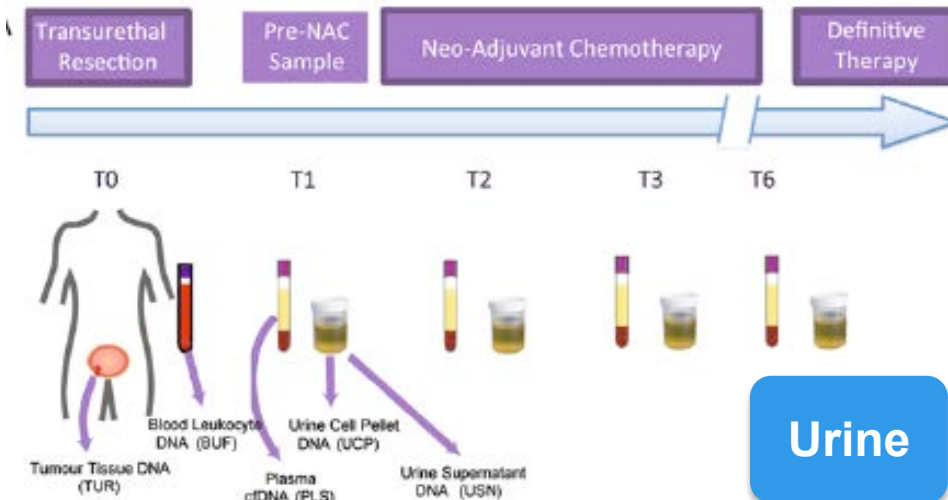
## Tumor DNA in saliva or plasma



Wang, Agrawal STM 2015

## Saliva

## Urine

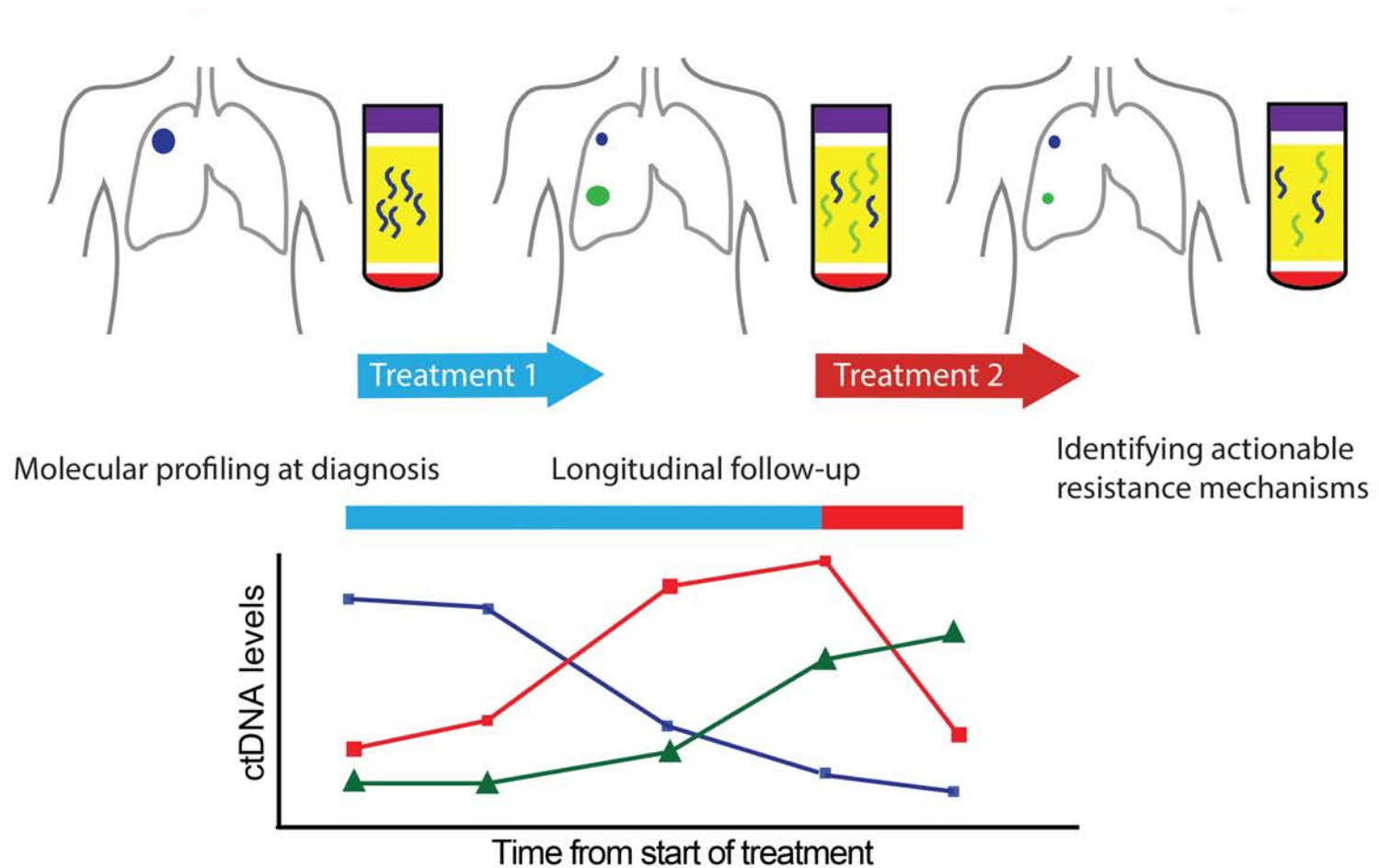


Petal et al Scientific Reports 2017

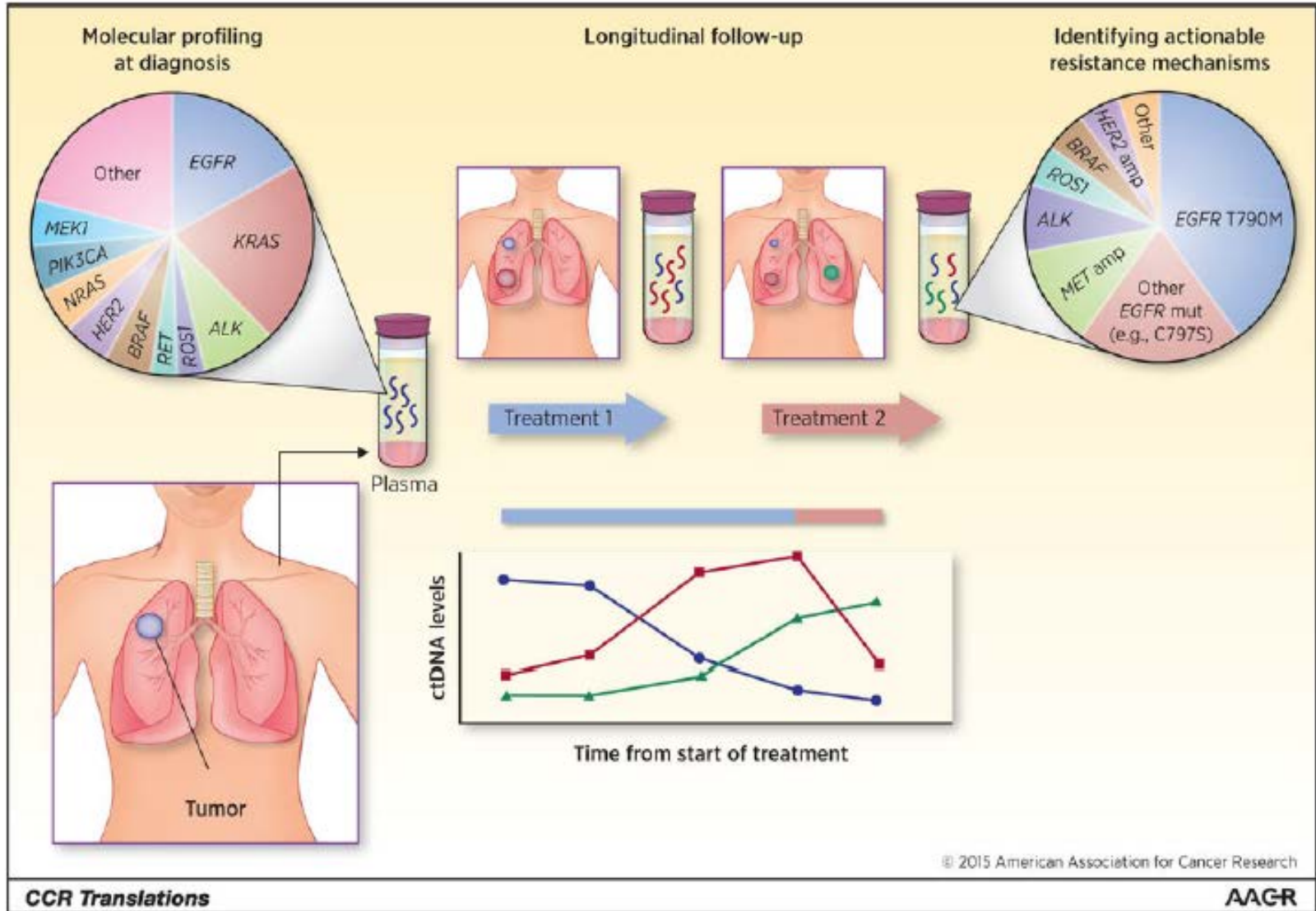


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# Clinical applications

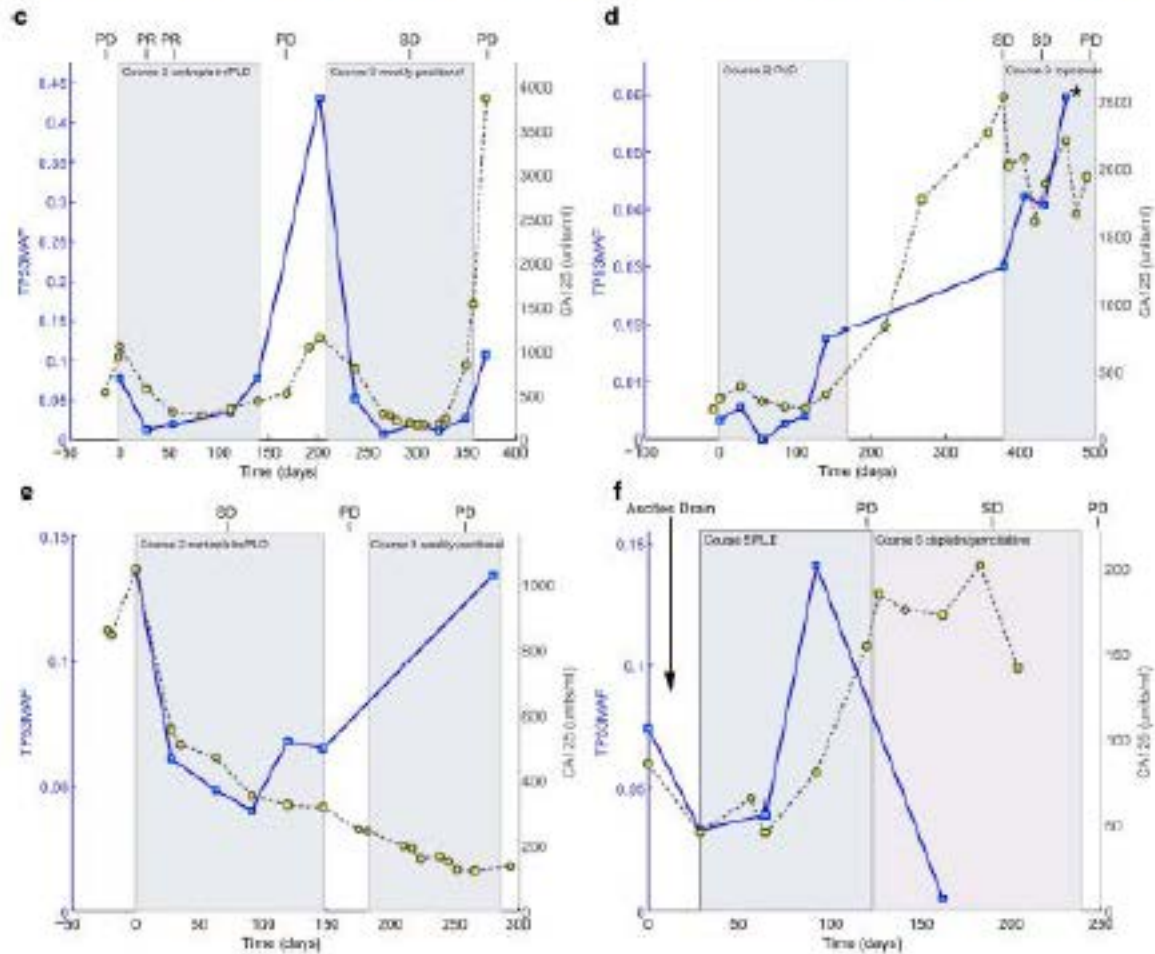


# Molecular profiling using plasma



# Molecular tumor responses

## Dynamics of *TP53* cfDNA in High-grade serous ovarian cancer

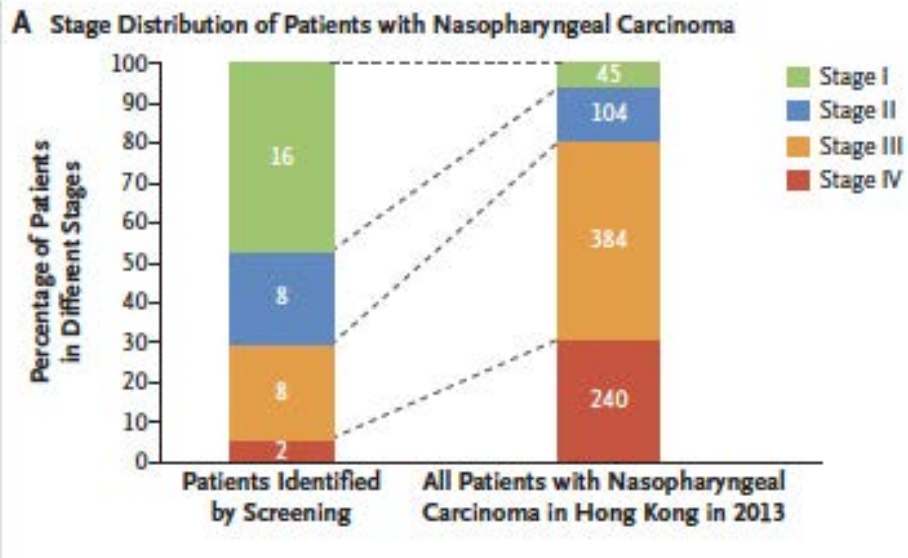


Parkinson et al PLoS Medicine 2016



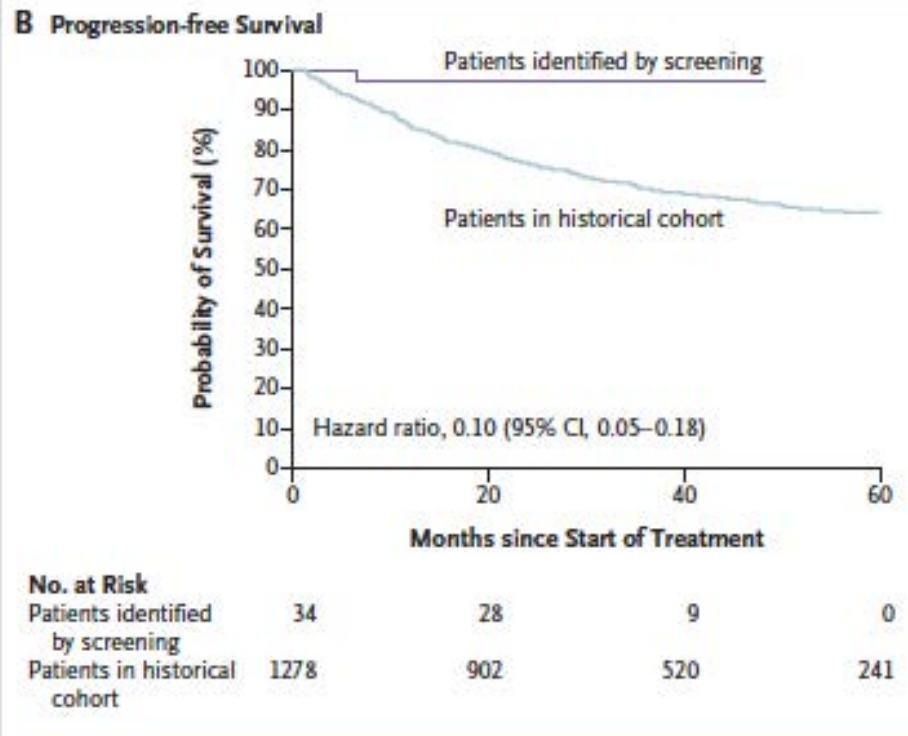
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# Early detection of cancer



Targeting cancer-specific markers:

Detecting EBV viral DNA in plasma for detection of nasopharyngeal carcinoma



Chan, Lo et al NEJM 2017



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**Figure 2. Stage Distribution and Progression-free Survival among the Participants with Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma Identified by Screening.**

# Analytical challenges: ctDNA present at a low fraction in plasma



Mutant allele fraction:

$$\frac{\text{Tumor-derived DNA}}{[\text{Normal+tumor derived DNA}]}$$

## Low total cfDNA yield from plasma

Healthy volunteers  
<1 – 12.5 ng/ml of plasma

Cancer patients  
10 ng DNA = ~3000 genome equivalent

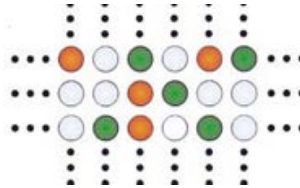
## Low fraction of tumor-derived DNA

Metastatic  
~5%, average 8-10%

Early stage  
<1%



# Analytical strategies



Single-locus assay



Targeted sequencing



Whole genome analysis

Genomic bases screened	1~10	$10^4$	$10^8$
Mutation detection	<0.1%	1%	10%

Increasing sensitivity for rare mutations



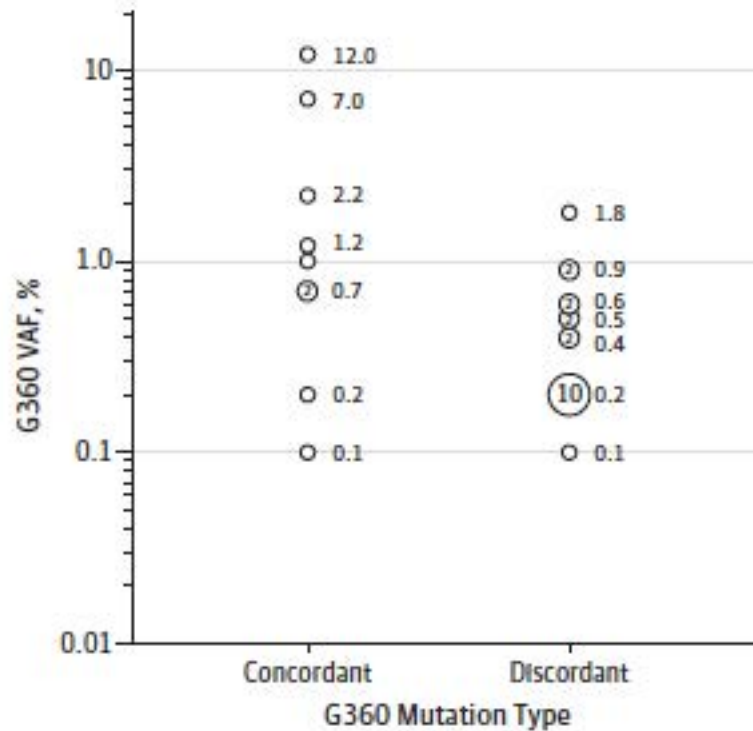
Increasing genomic coverage



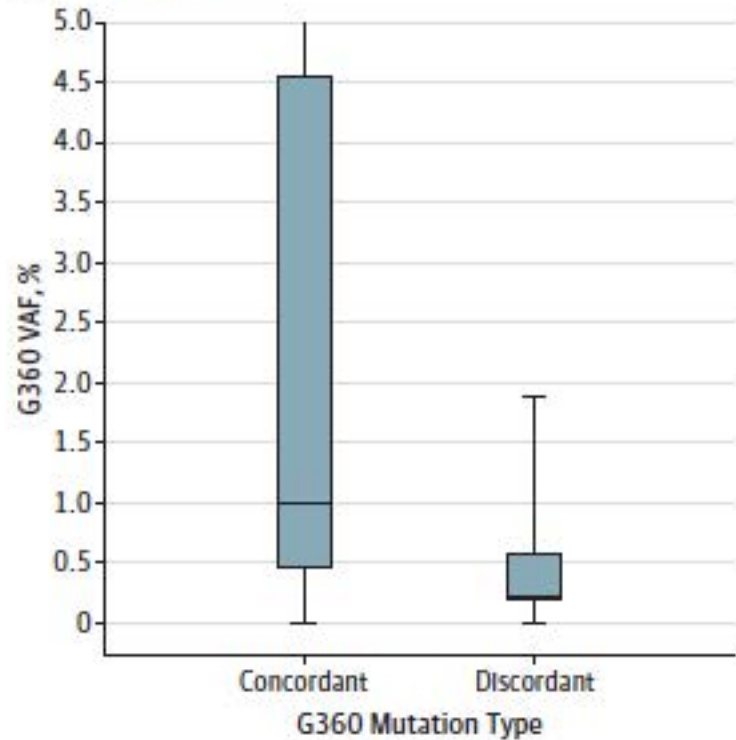


# False positives and negatives

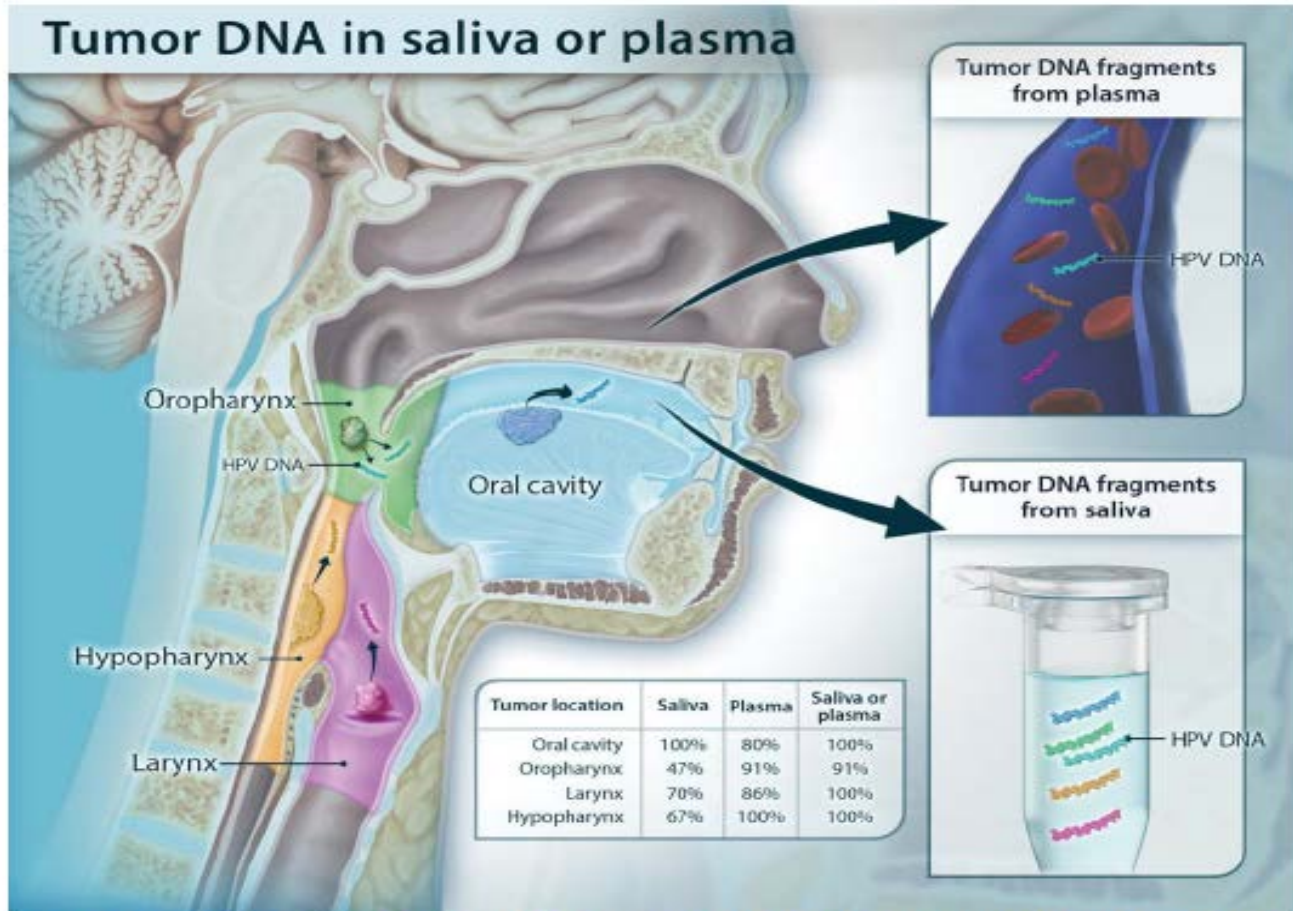
**A** Variant allele frequencies of variants by G360 testing



**B** Median VAF values



# Leverage the power of multiple body fluids



HPV – Human papillomaviruses

Wang, Agrawal STM 2015



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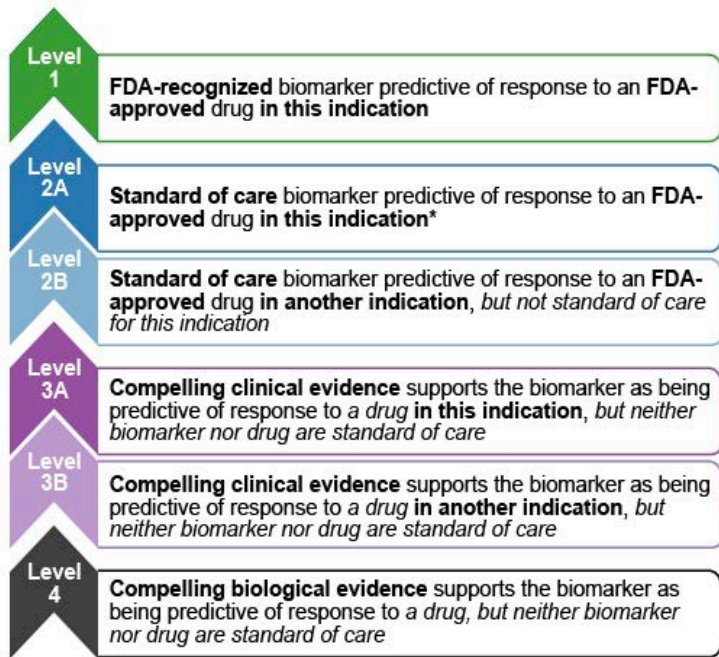
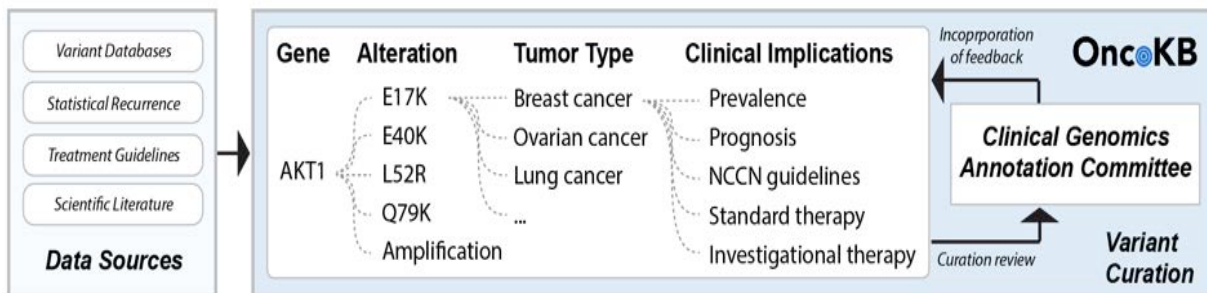
# Quality control: Assay validation

## New York State Department of Health NGS assay validation guideline

<b>NYSDOH Guidelines for NGS-based somatic genetic variant detection</b>	
<b>SOP</b>	Laboratory protocols
<b>QC</b>	Bioinformatic criteria for read quality, depth, coverage, etc.
<b>Controls</b>	No template control, negative control and positive control
<b>Reports</b>	Criteria for reporting
<b>Validaiton</b>	
<b>Accuracy</b>	A minimum of 3 well-characterized reference samples
<b>Initial validation</b>	A minimum of 50 patient samples of intended context
<b>Full validation</b>	10 positive samples for each type of intended variant
<b>Precision (within run)</b>	A minimum of 3 positive patient samples containing variants in the same run using different barcodes
<b>Reproducibility (Between runs)</b>	A minimum of 3 positive patient samples containing variants in three separate runs on 2 different days by 2 different technologists.
<b>Contamination assessment</b>	Verify no cross talk between samples and barcodes
<b>Analytical sensitivity</b>	Establish the analytical sensitivity for each type of variant using control materials

# What does it mean? Clinical annotations

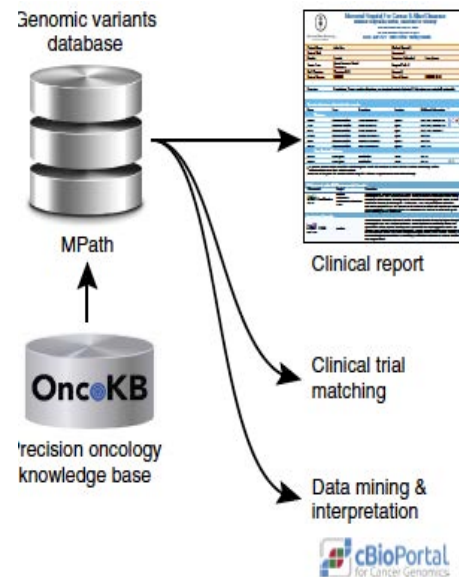
## OncoKB: MSK precision oncology knowledgebase of clinically relevant alterations



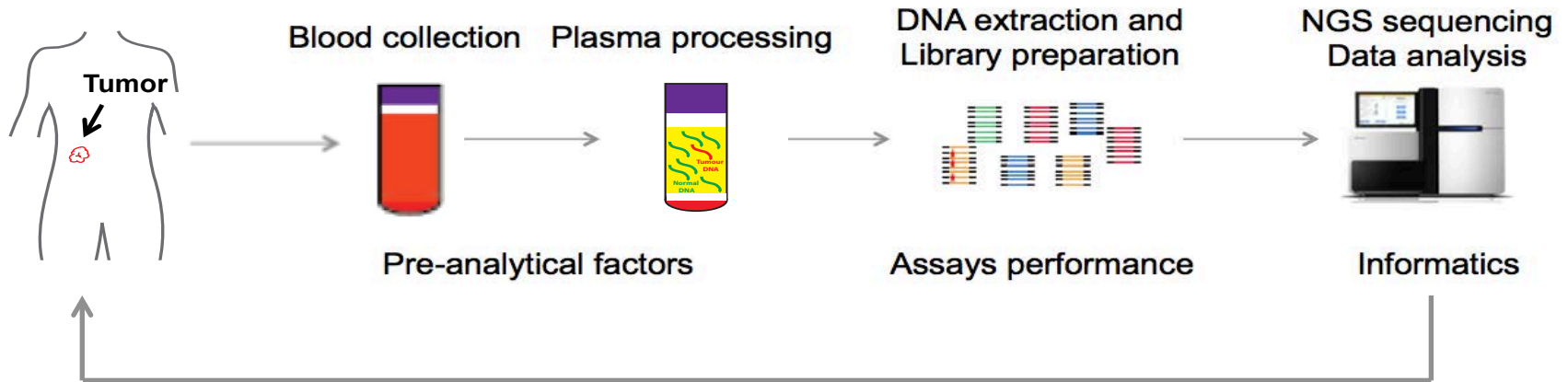
**Standard Therapeutic Implications**  
 \*Includes biomarkers that are recommended as standard of care by the NCCN or other expert panels but not necessarily FDA-recognized for a particular indication

**Investigational Therapeutic Implications**  
 possibly directed to clinical trials

**Hypothetical Therapeutic Implications**  
 based on preliminary, non-clinical data



# Liquid biopsy: promises and challenges



## Promises

Screen for actionable targets

Monitor response and resistance

Early detection

## Challenges

False positives and negatives

Clinical interpretation

Cost and reimbursement

