

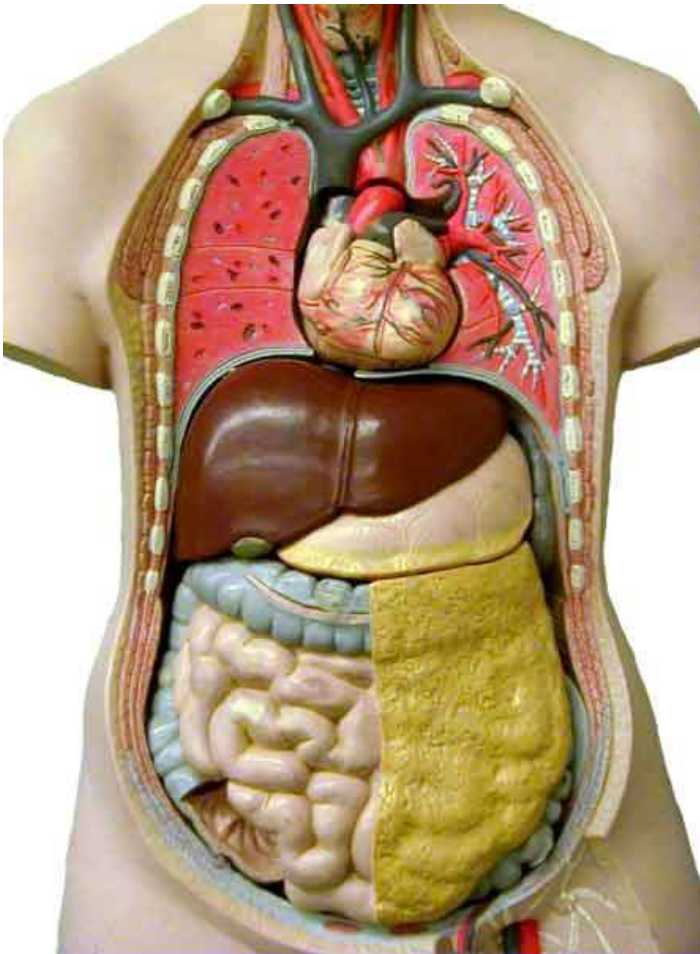
# **CARENZA ED ECCESSO DI FERRO: nuove conoscenze ed approccio terapeutico**

Ore 15,50-16,10

**Esperienze della chelazione nelle  
mielodisplasie e politrasfusi**

E. Angelucci- Genova

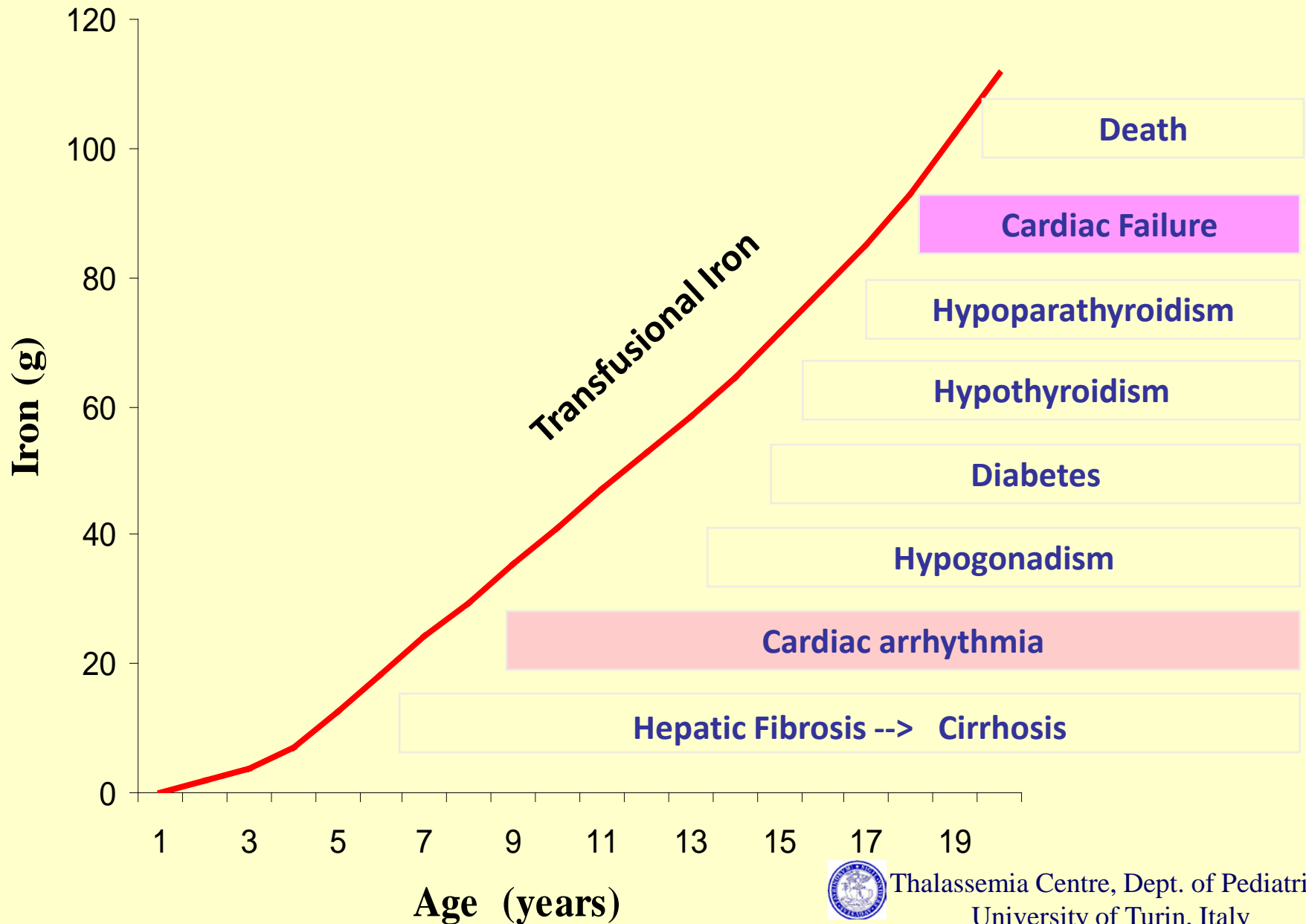
# Organ systems susceptible to iron overload



## Clinical sequelae of iron overload

Hypophyse	impaired growth hypogonadism hypothyroidism
Thyroid	hypothyroidism
Heart	cardiac failure arrythmias
Liver	hepatic cirrhosis, cancer
Pancreas	Diabetes mellitus
Bone	osteoporosis

# Iron overload progressively affects organ functions



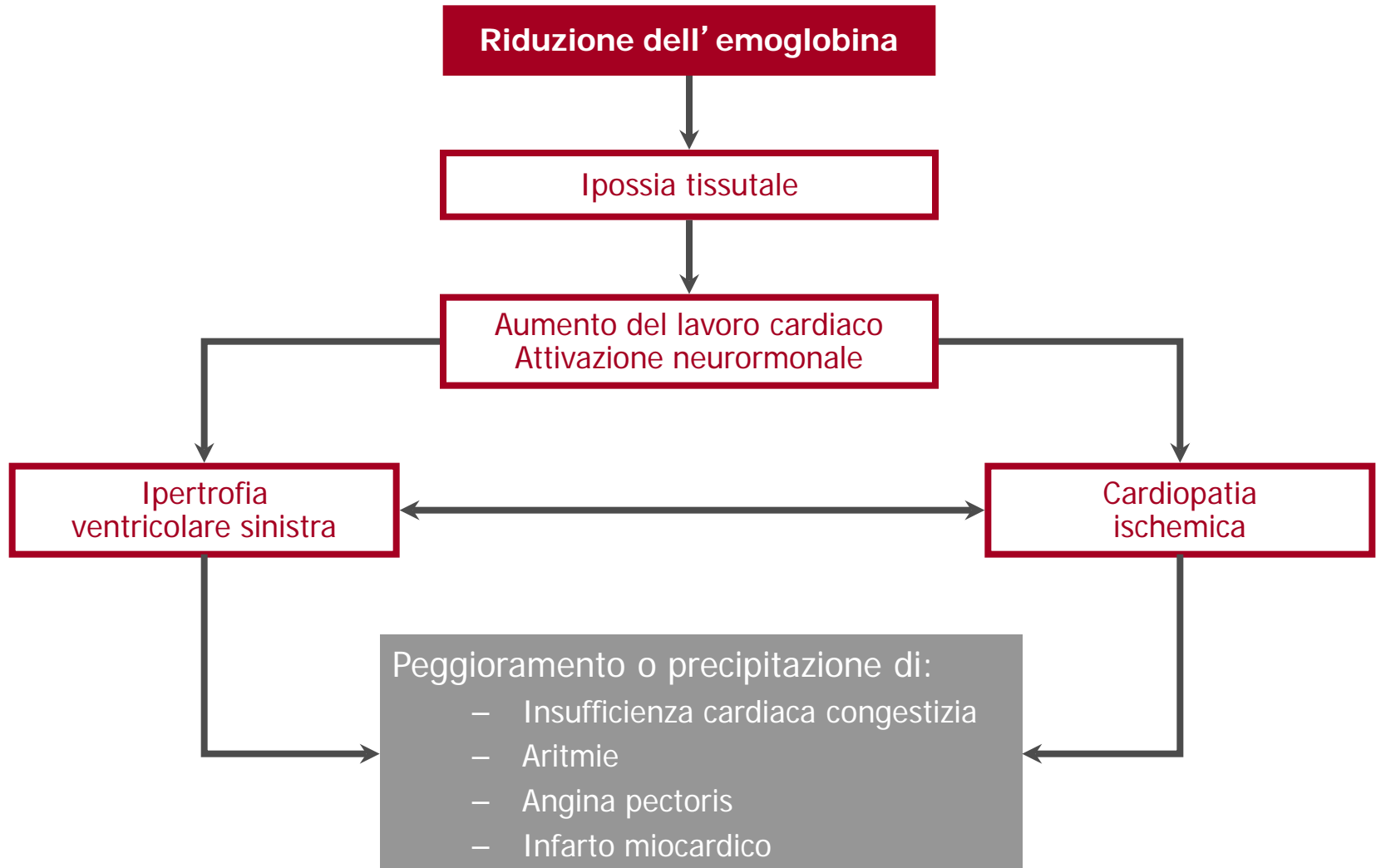
# Organ systems susceptible to iron overload



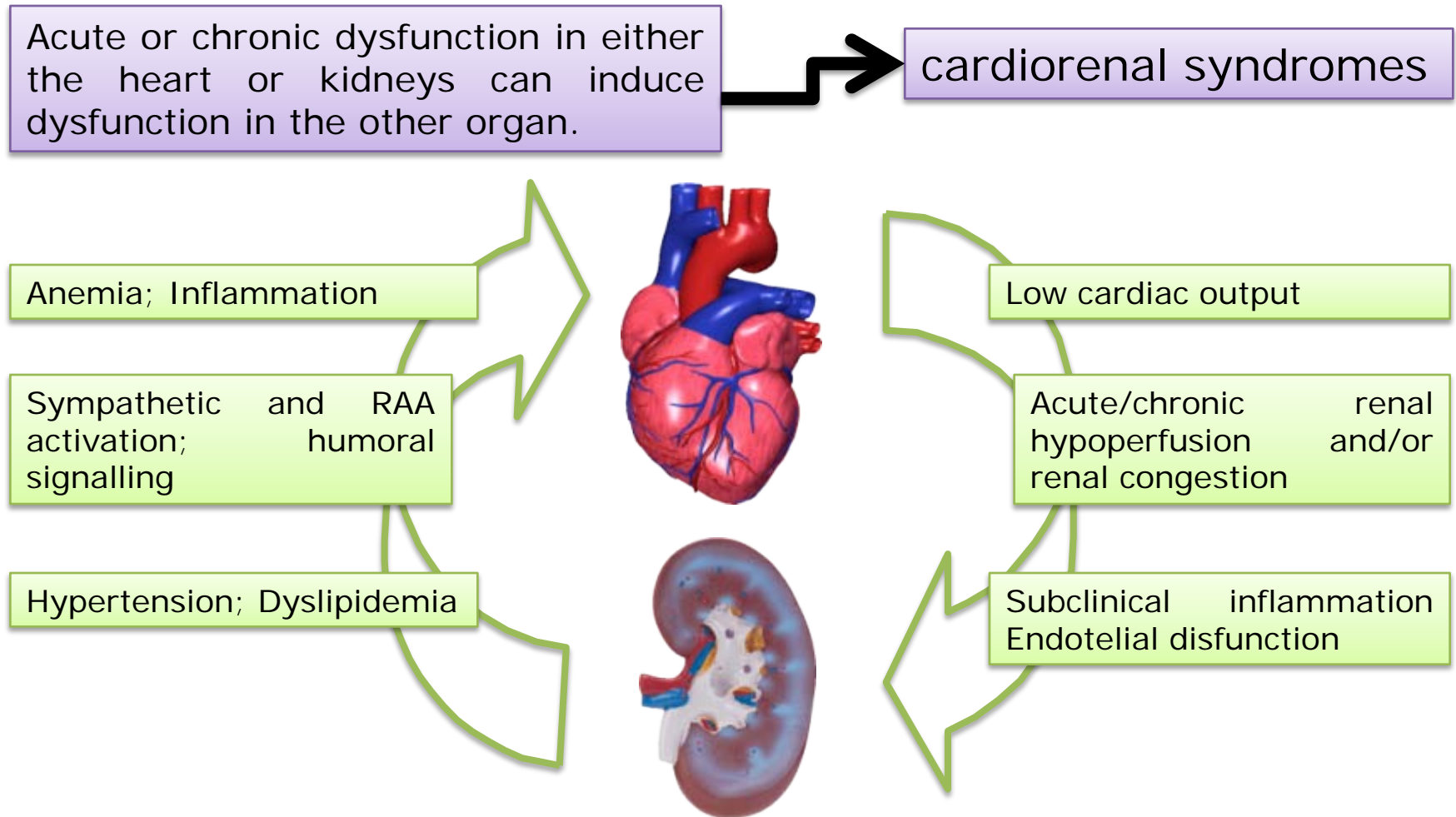
## Clinical sequelae of iron overload

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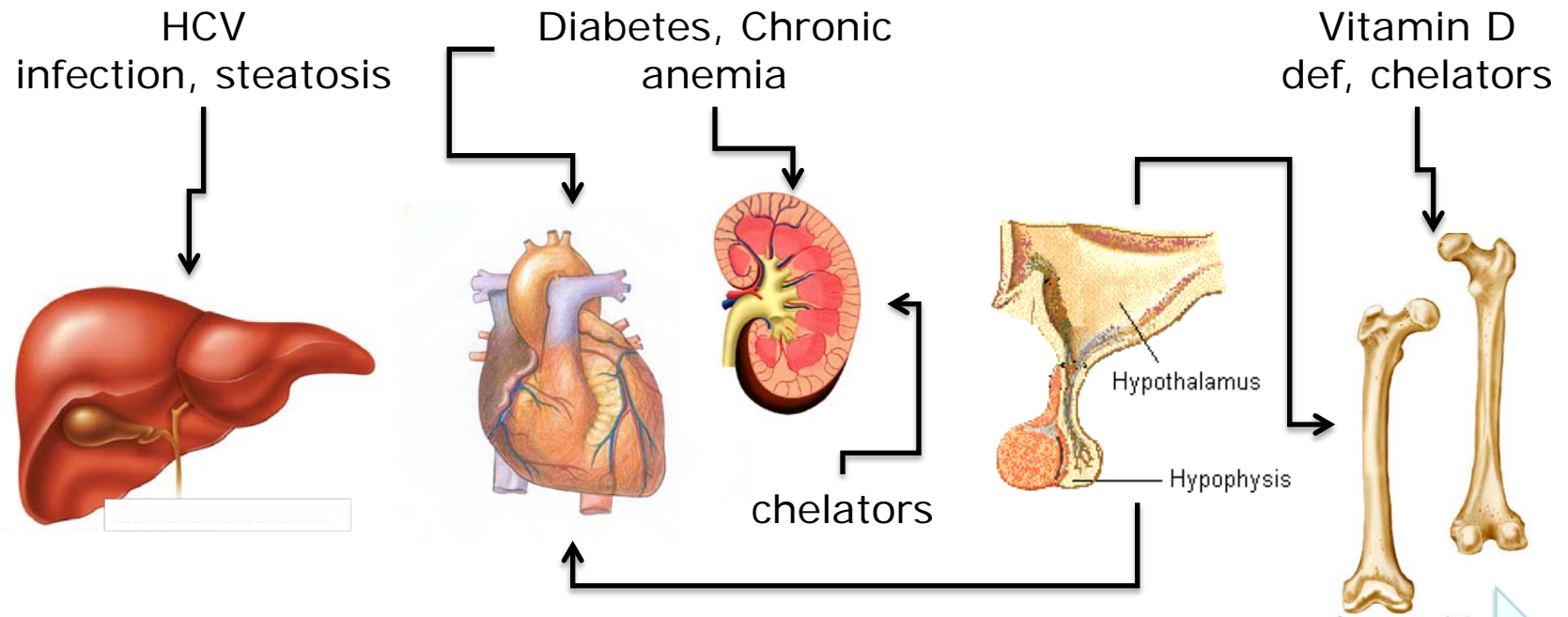
# Anemia and cardiac disease in adults



# Heart and kidney strongly interact in regulating blood volume homeostasis and systemic blood pressure



# One cause, different comorbidities



## Iron overload – Iron toxicity

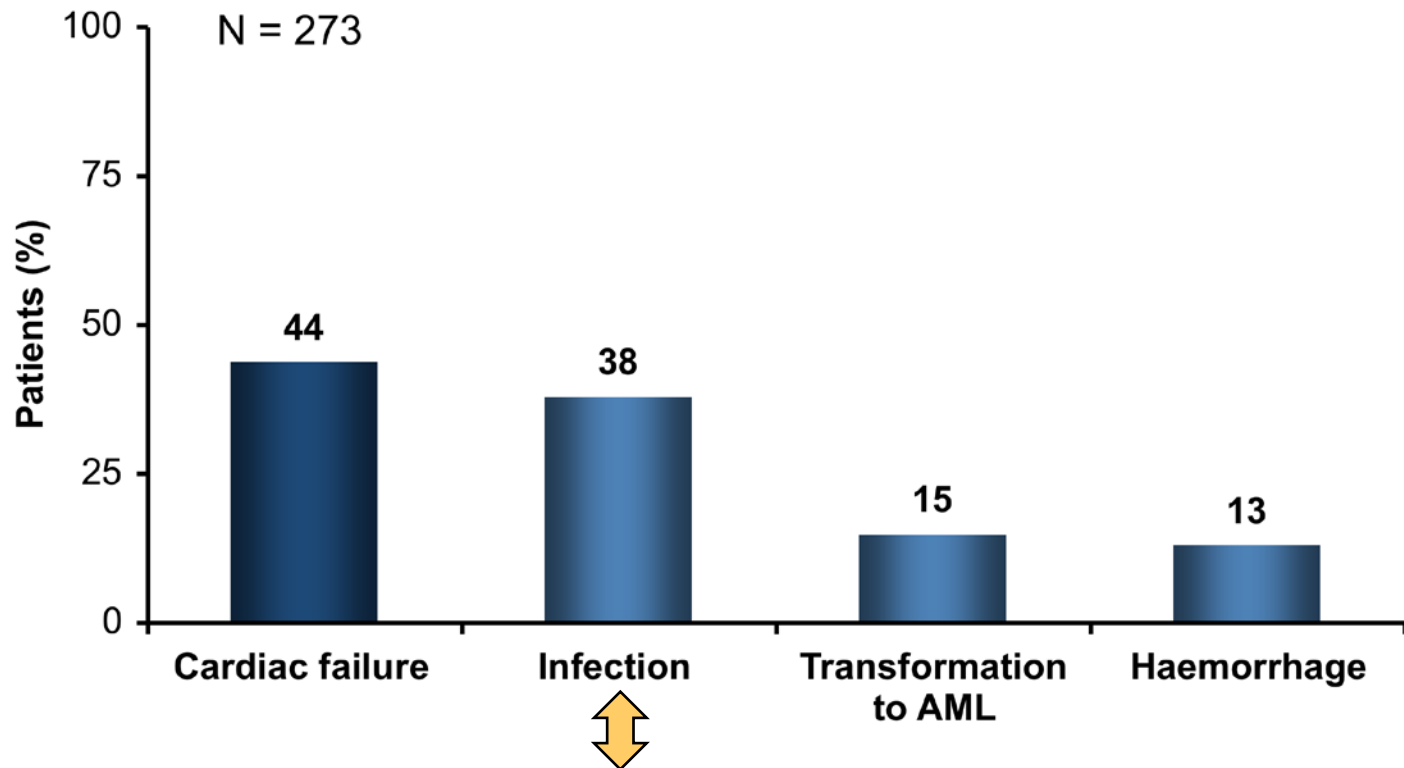
rate of iron accumulation, amount and duration of iron overload

Fe Toxicity tissue =

$$\Sigma \text{ Tissue Reactive Iron } \times \text{ Genetics } \times \text{ Environmental Factors } \times \text{ Time }$$



# Causes of Death in Lower-risk MDS<sup>1</sup>

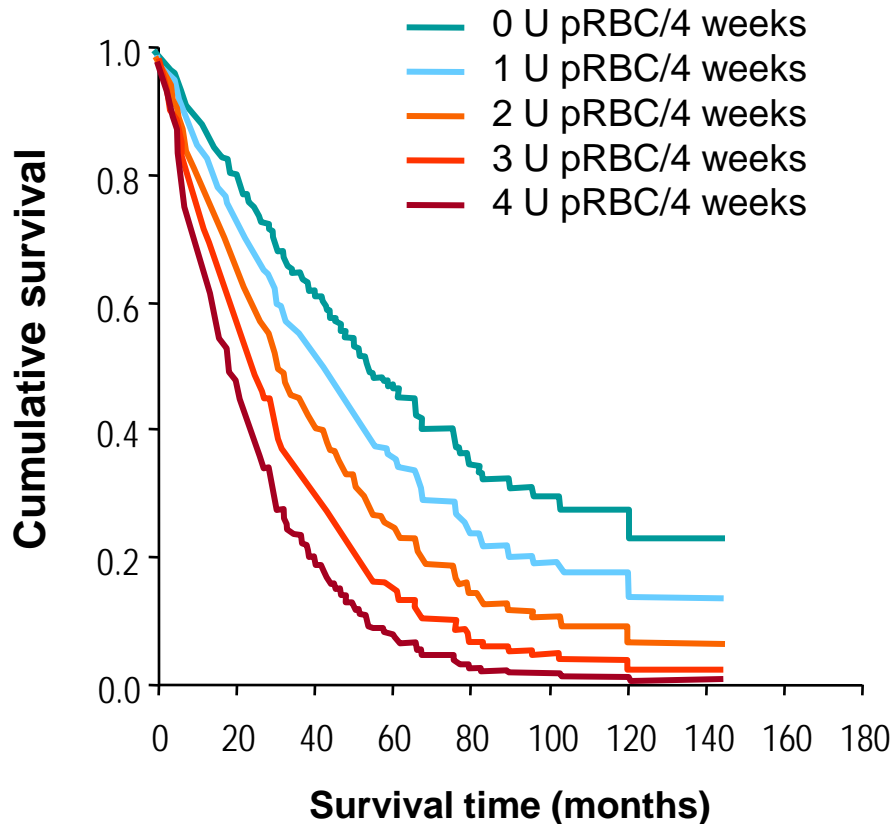


**Increased availability of iron in iron-overloaded states provides a nutrient for bacterial and fungal growth, increasing the risk of infections<sup>2</sup>**

# Survival of MDS Patients according to Transfusion Requirements

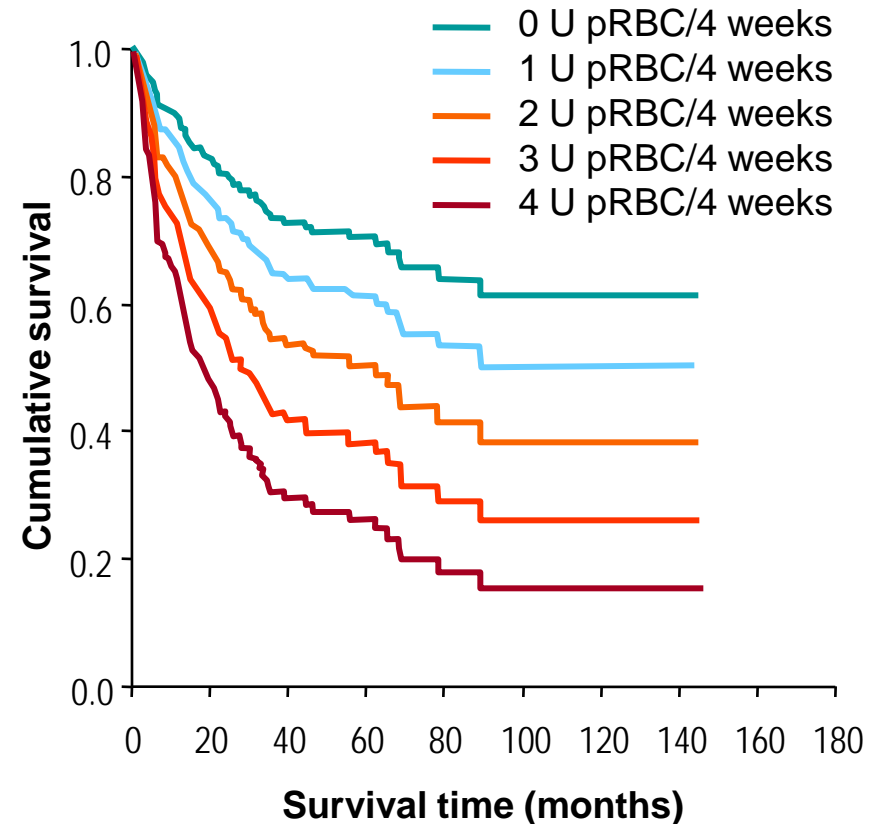
## Overall survival

(HR = 1.36;  $p < 0.001$ )



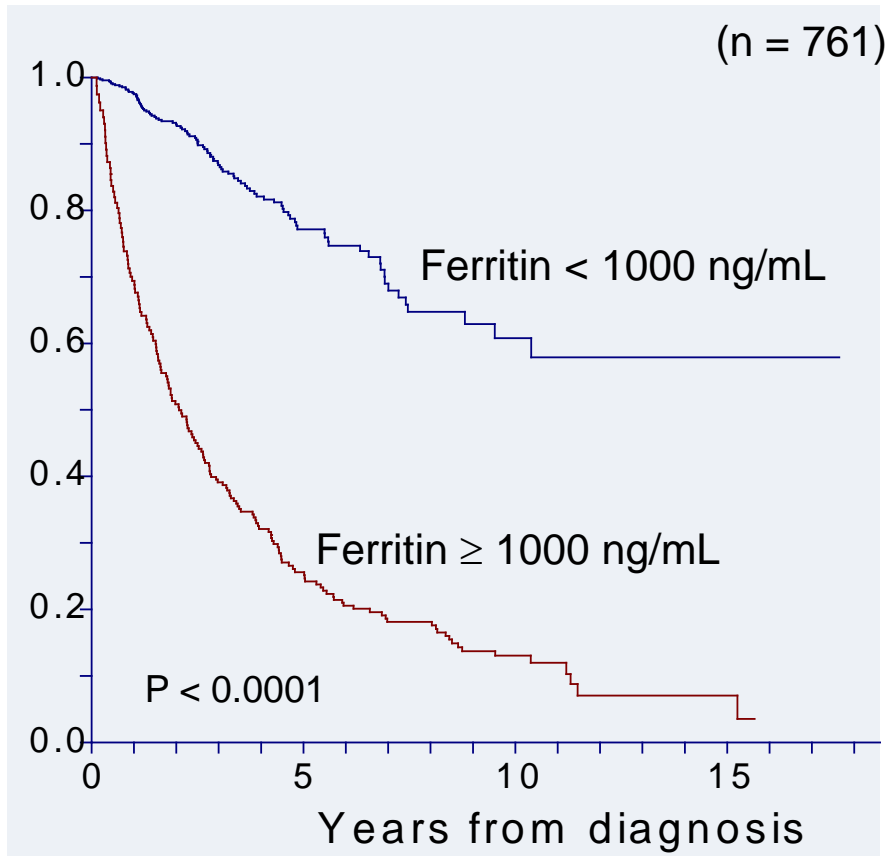
## Leukemia-free survival

(HR = 1.40;  $p < 0.001$ )

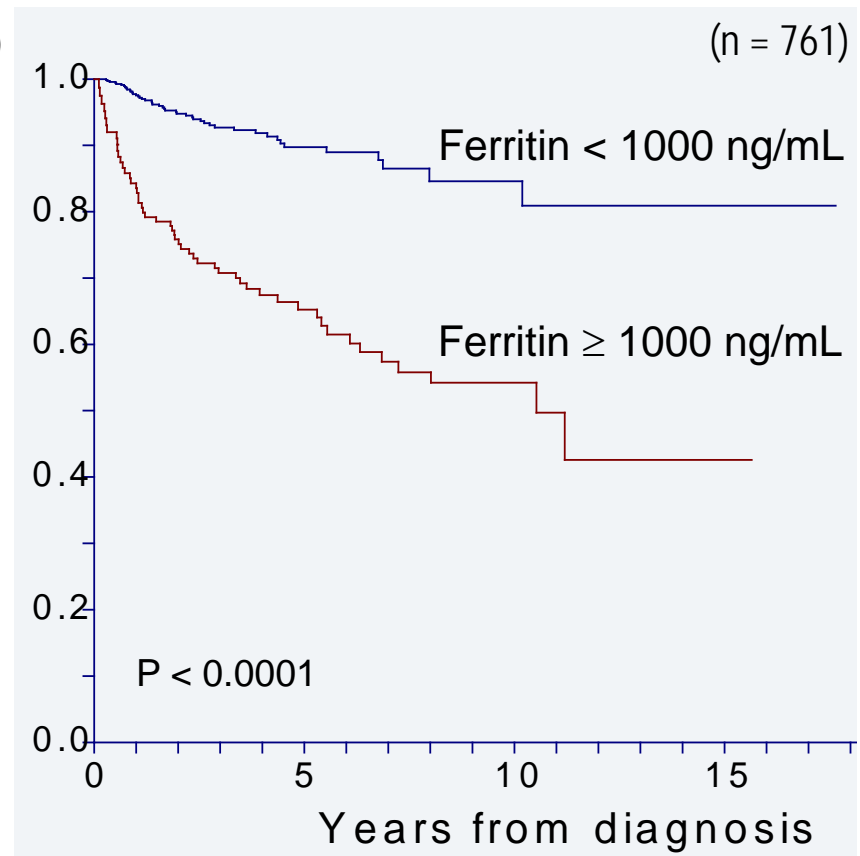


# Survival by Serum Ferritin Level

**Overall survival**

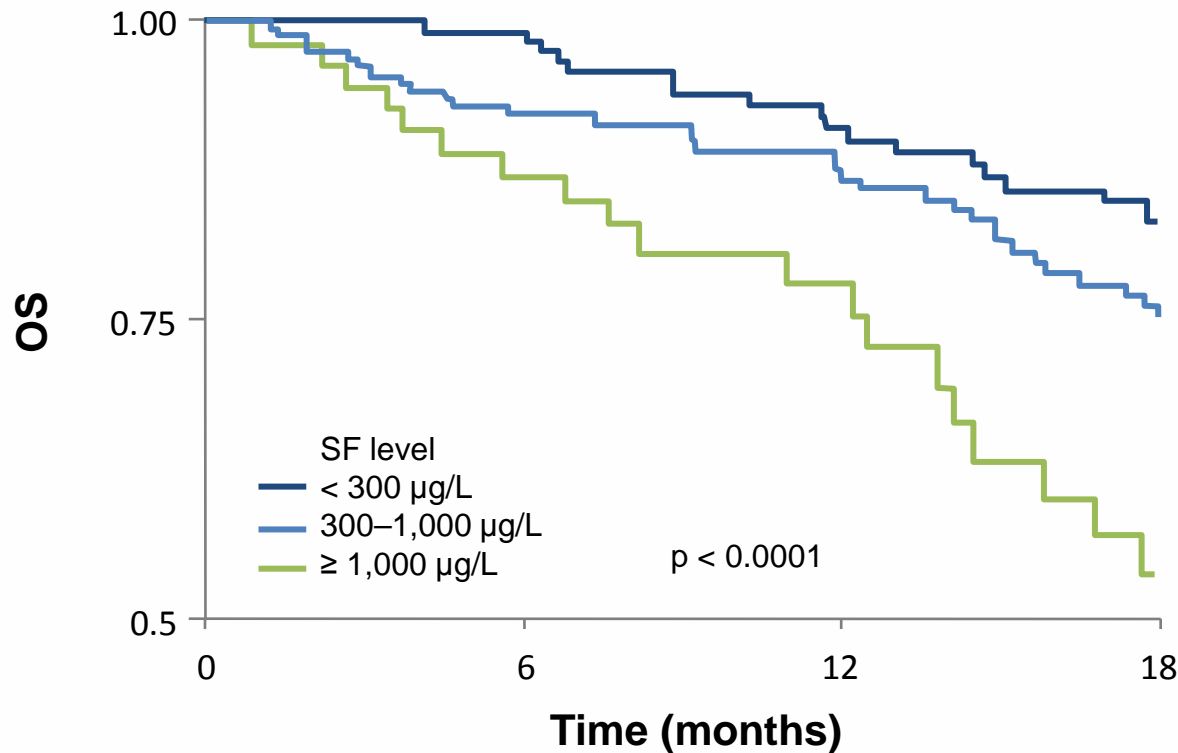


**Leukemia-free survival**

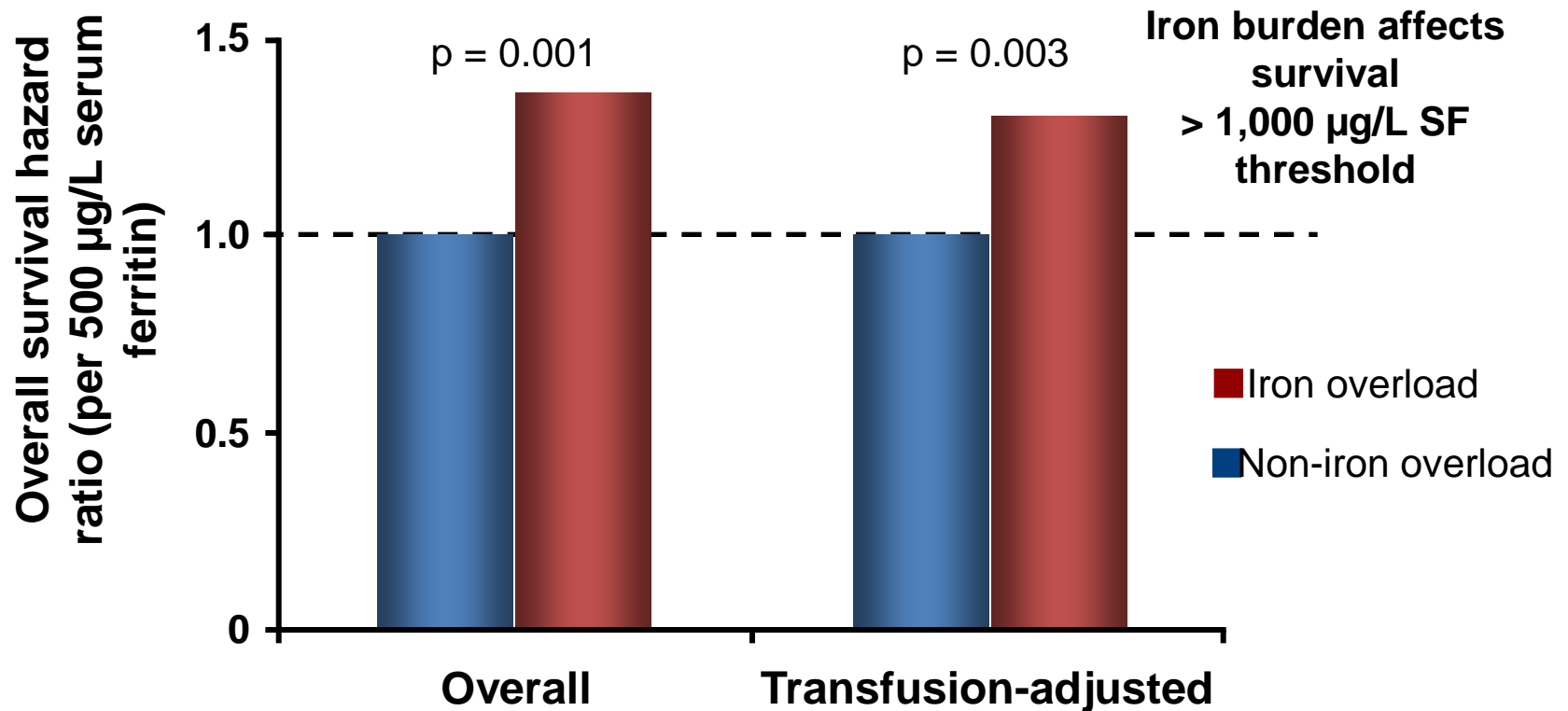


# LeukemiaNet prospective registry: SF has independent impact on OS

OS of transfusion-dependent patients by  
baseline SF status (n = 1,000)

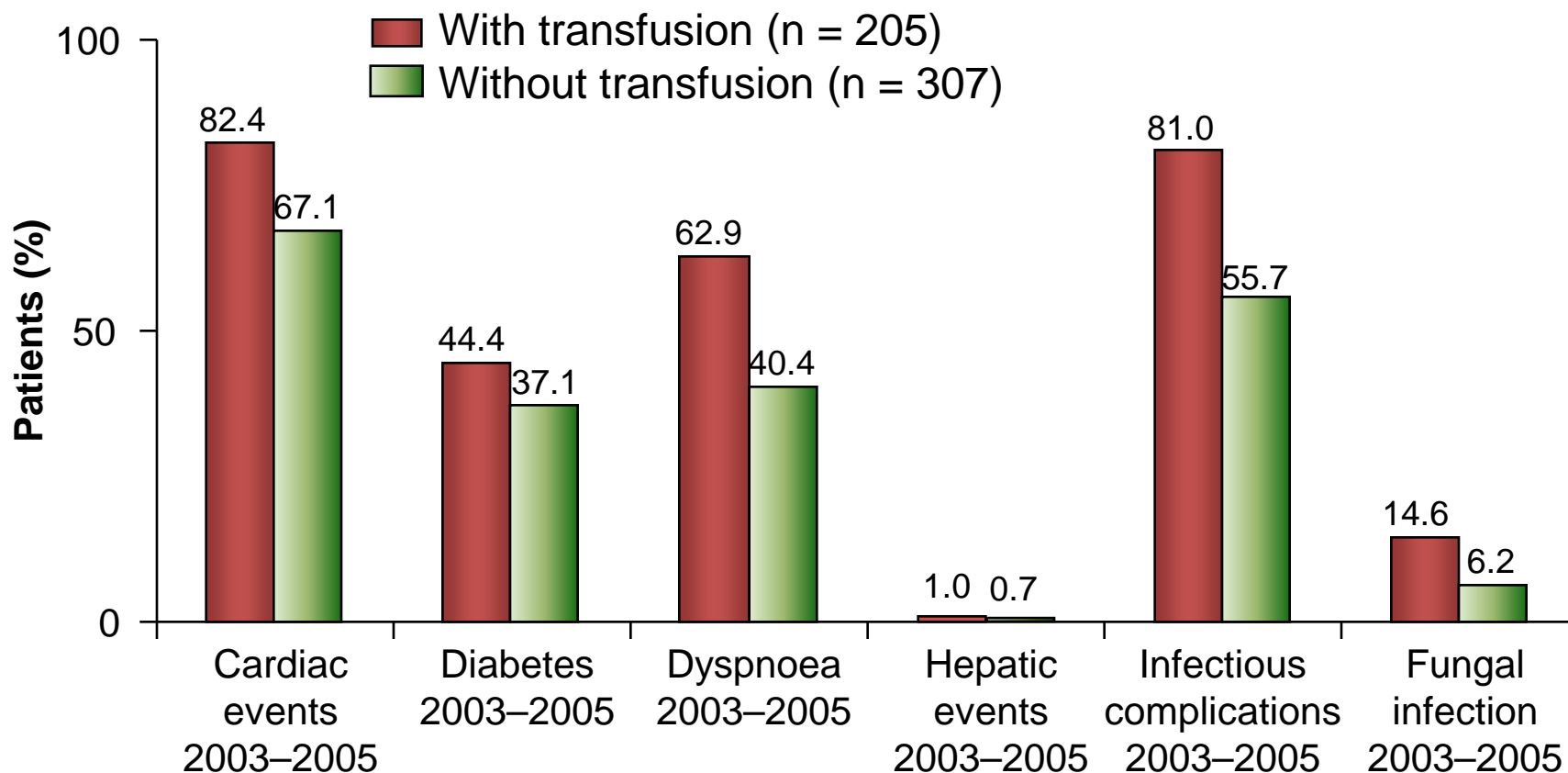


# Serum Ferritin is an Independent Prognostic Factor in MDS



**A 30% greater risk of death was evident for every 500 µg/L increase in SF above the 1,000 µg/L threshold**

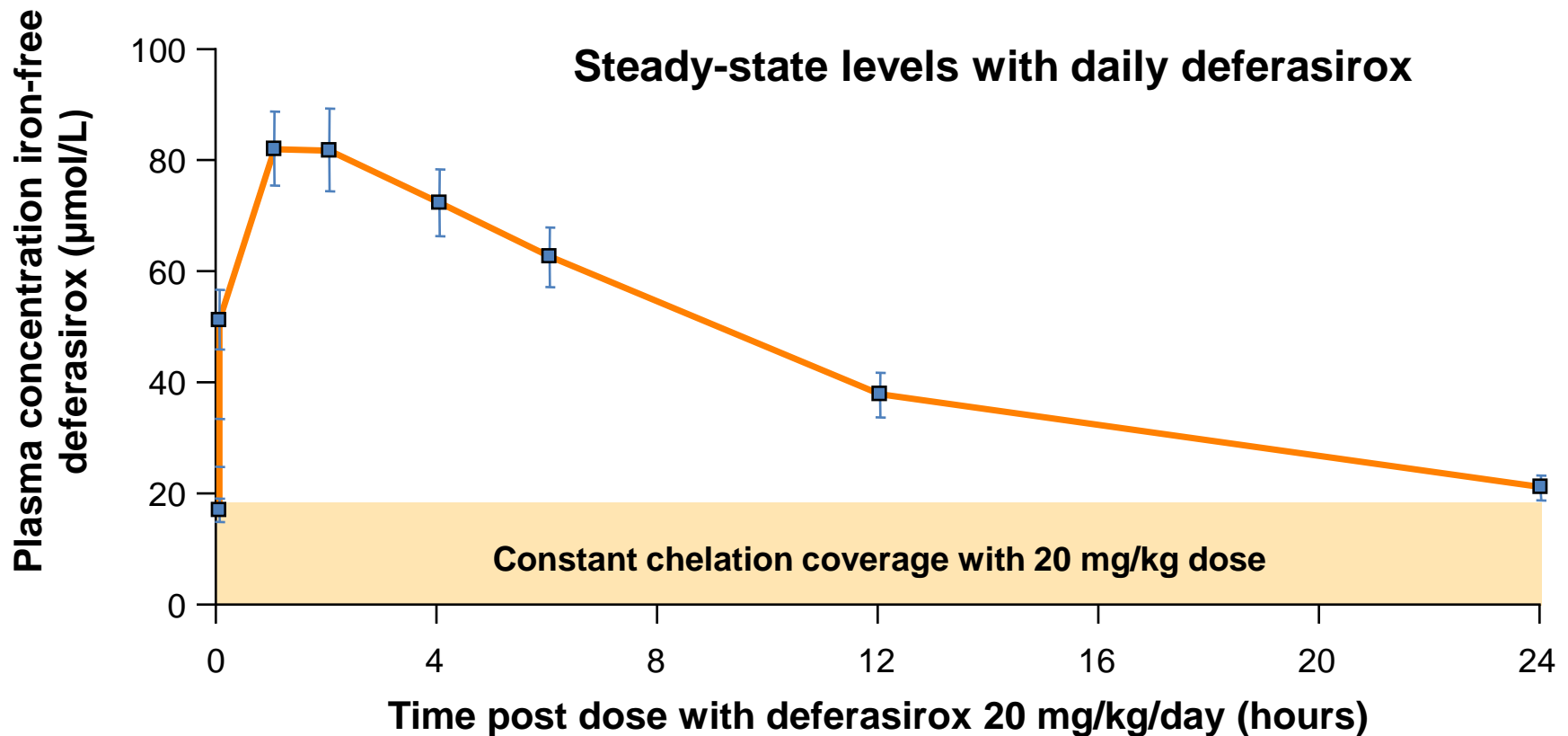
# Prevalence of Comorbidities in Transfusion-Dependent MDS



Transfused MDS patients have a higher prevalence of cardiac events, diabetes mellitus, dyspnoea, and hepatic and infectious diseases than non-transfused MDS patients

# 24-hour Chelation Coverage After Repeated Daily Deferasirox Dosing

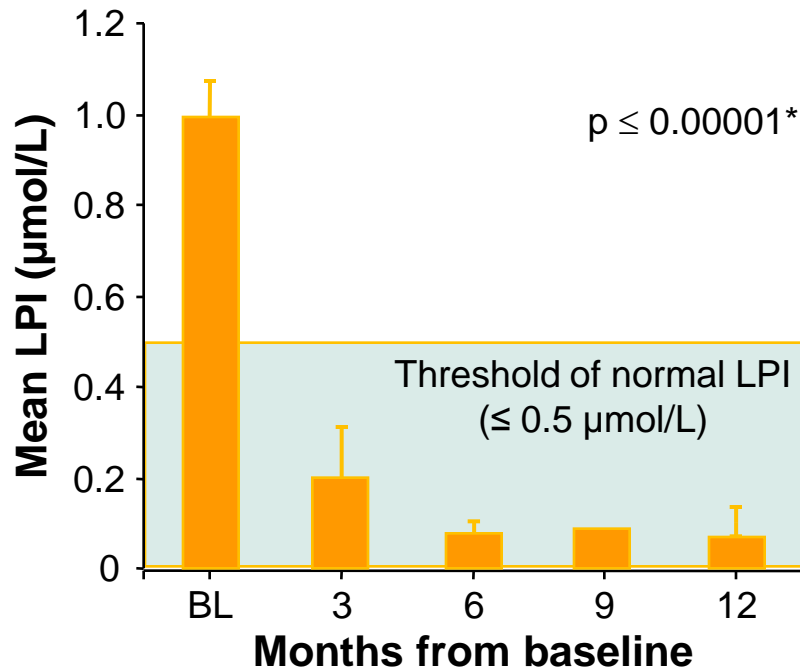
Mean values of measurements taken on weeks 2, 4, 8, and 12 are presented



# Deferasirox Normalizes LPI in Patients With MDS

**US03 study<sup>1</sup>**

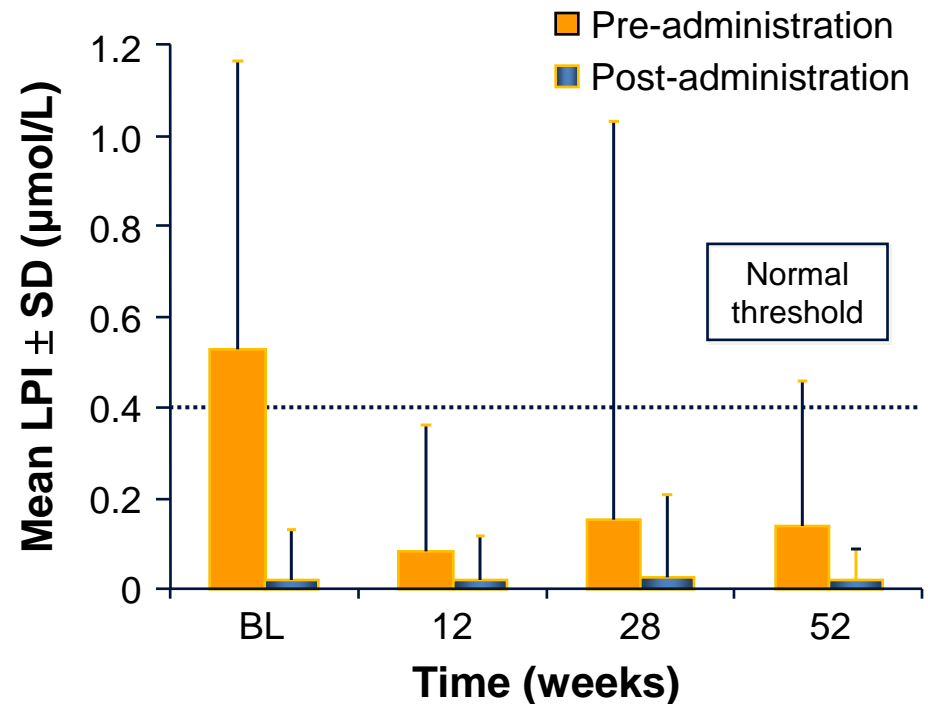
Patients, n 55 38 39 37 34



Patients with baseline LPI  $\geq 0.5 \mu\text{mol/L}$  = 41%

\*Comparison of baseline LPI vs each treatment time point

**EPIC study – MDS cohort<sup>2</sup>**





# EPIC Study: Dose-optimized Deferasirox Therapy is Associated with Decreased Serum Ferritin Levels

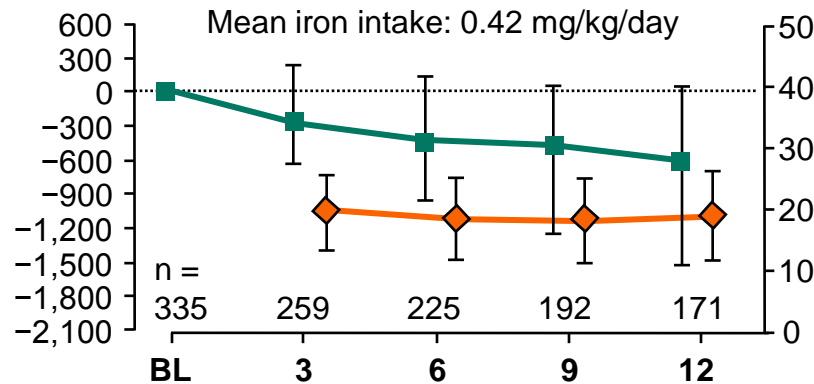
—■— Serum ferritin

—◆— Deferasirox dose

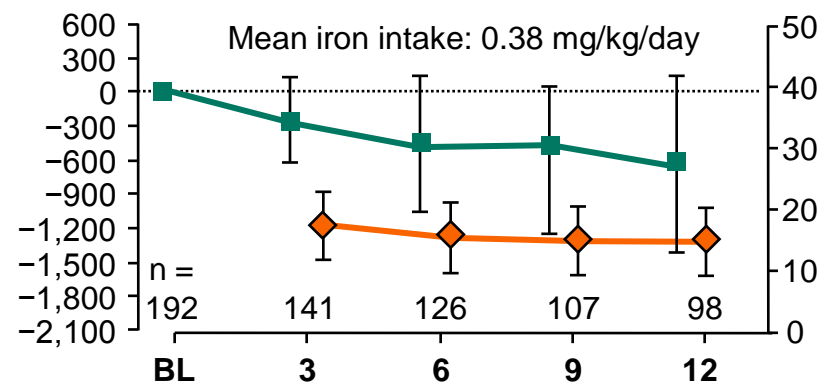
Median change from baseline in serum ferritin (µg/L)

Mean deferasirox dose (mg/kg/day)

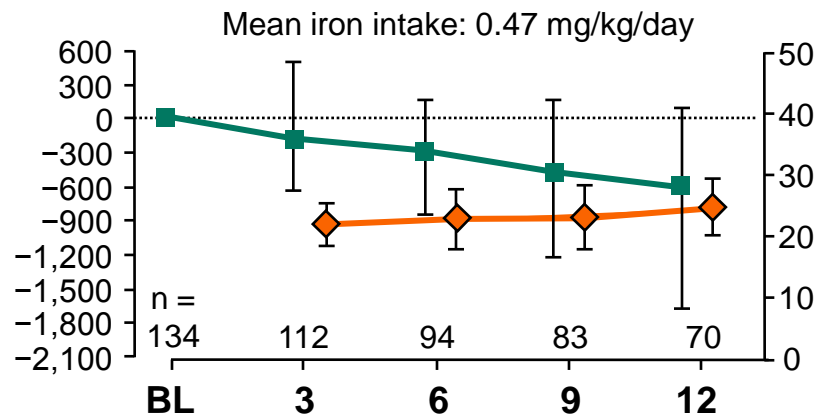
## All patients



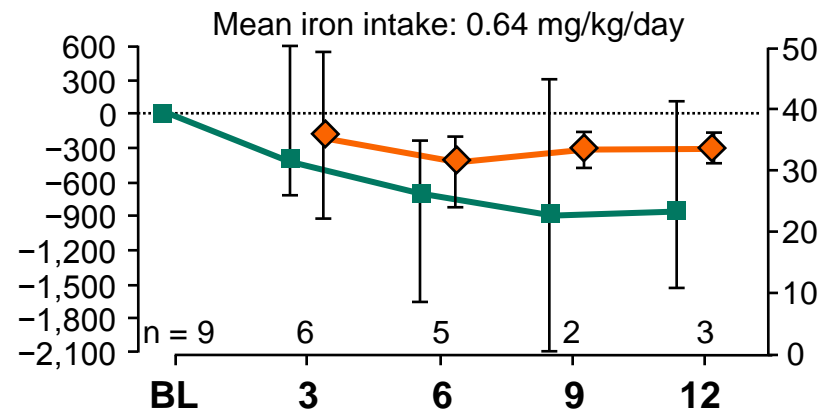
## < 20 mg/kg/day



## ≥ 20 – < 30 mg/kg/day



## ≥ 30 mg/kg/day



BL = baseline.

# Patients

<b>Patients (#)</b>	<b>152</b>
Male / Female	56/96
Low /Intermediate 1 risk	61/89
Centers	37
Accrual duration	July 10, 2007- March 03, 2010

# Patients' characteristics

	Median (interquartile range)
Age (years)	72 (66-77)
Diagnosis–therapy (mo)	32 (17-54)
First transfusion–therapy (mo)	21 (10-36)
PRBC Units received	37 (22-63)
Serum Ferritin (ng/ml)	1966 (1416 -2998)

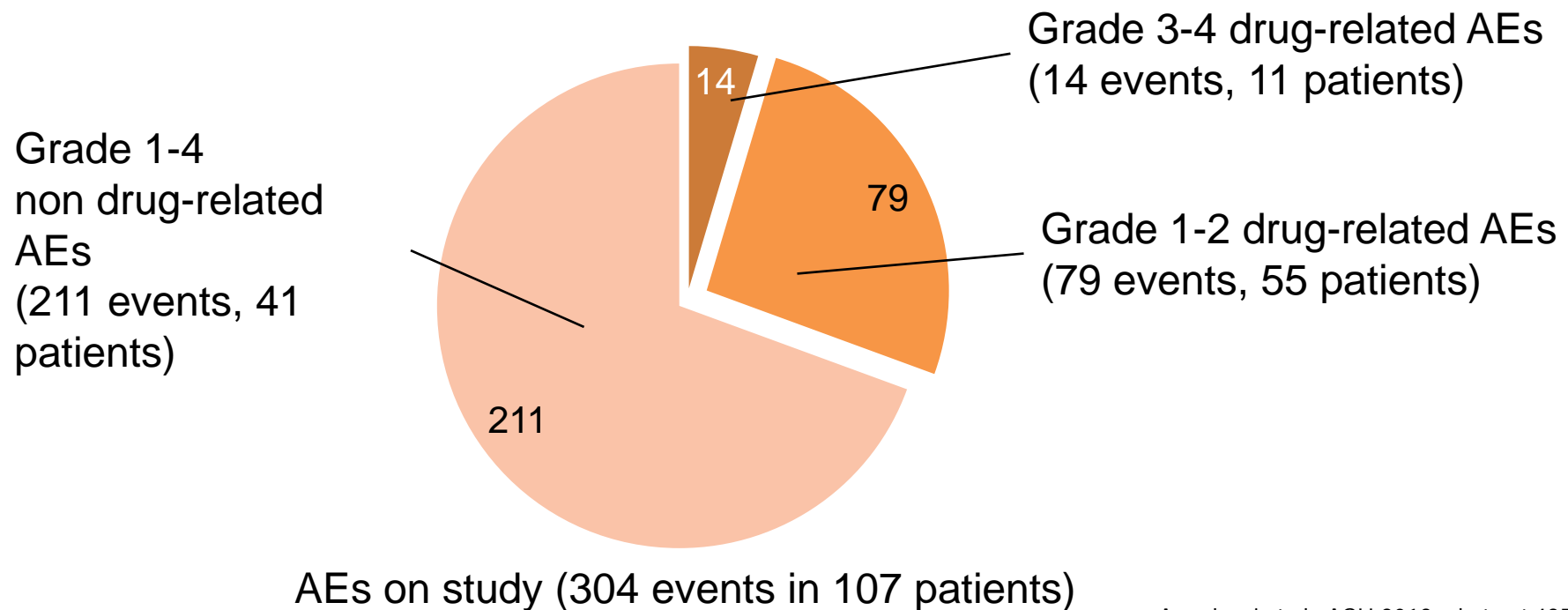
# Results

## Adverse Events (AEs)

<b>AEs</b>	<b>Patients</b>	<b>%</b>
302	107	70

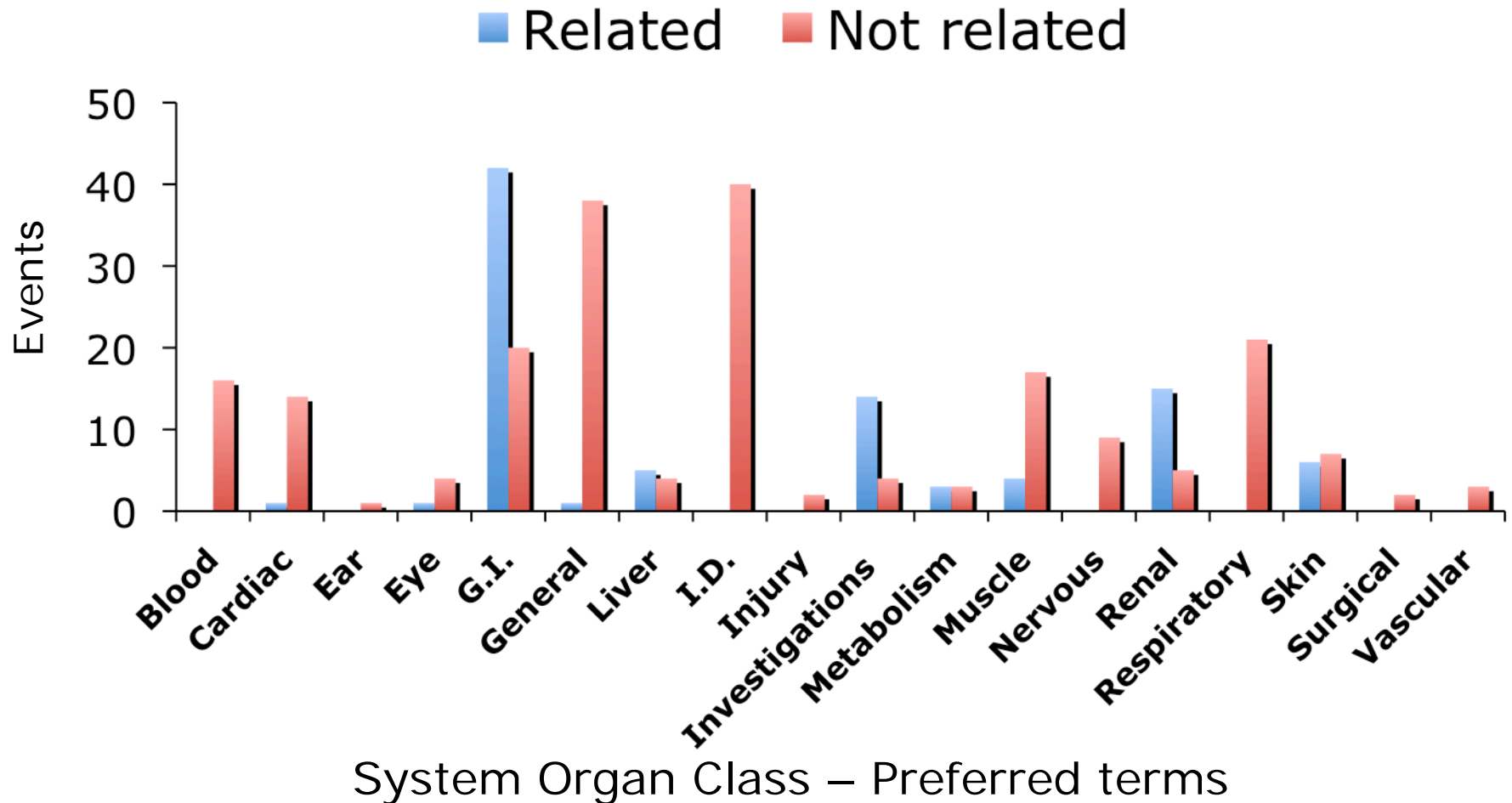
# GIMEMA Prospective Trial: 69% of AEs are Disease-related

- >50% of patients were unable to complete 1 year due to drop out and progression despite limited number of >2 grade AEs
- >69% of AEs were not drug related, indicating a basic vulnerability of this population



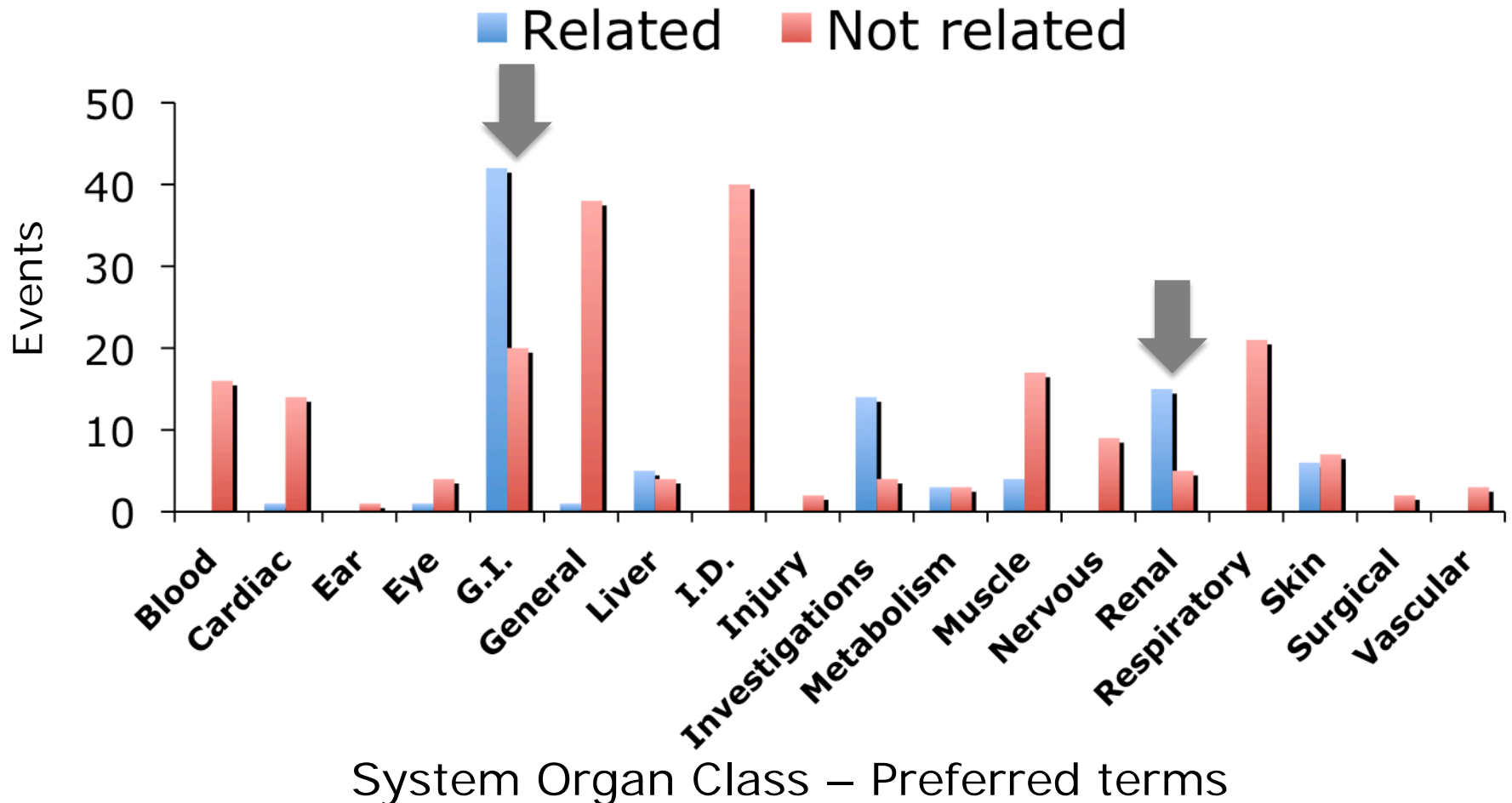
# Adverse Events.

## System Organ Class classification of related and not related AEs



# Adverse Events.

## System Organ Class classification of related and not related AEs



# Deferasirox in MDS: Side Effects

Adverse event	Number (%)
Diarrhoea	111 (32.6)
Nausea	45 (13.2)
Vomiting	26 (7.6)
Abdominal pain	26 (7.6)
Upper abdominal pain	25 (7.3)
Rash	23 (6.7)
Constipation	21 (6.2)
<b>Total number</b>	<b>341</b>



# Prevention of Deferasirox GI Side Effects

## **Time of administration**

- Intake at least 30 min before breakfast or dinner
- No intake with food

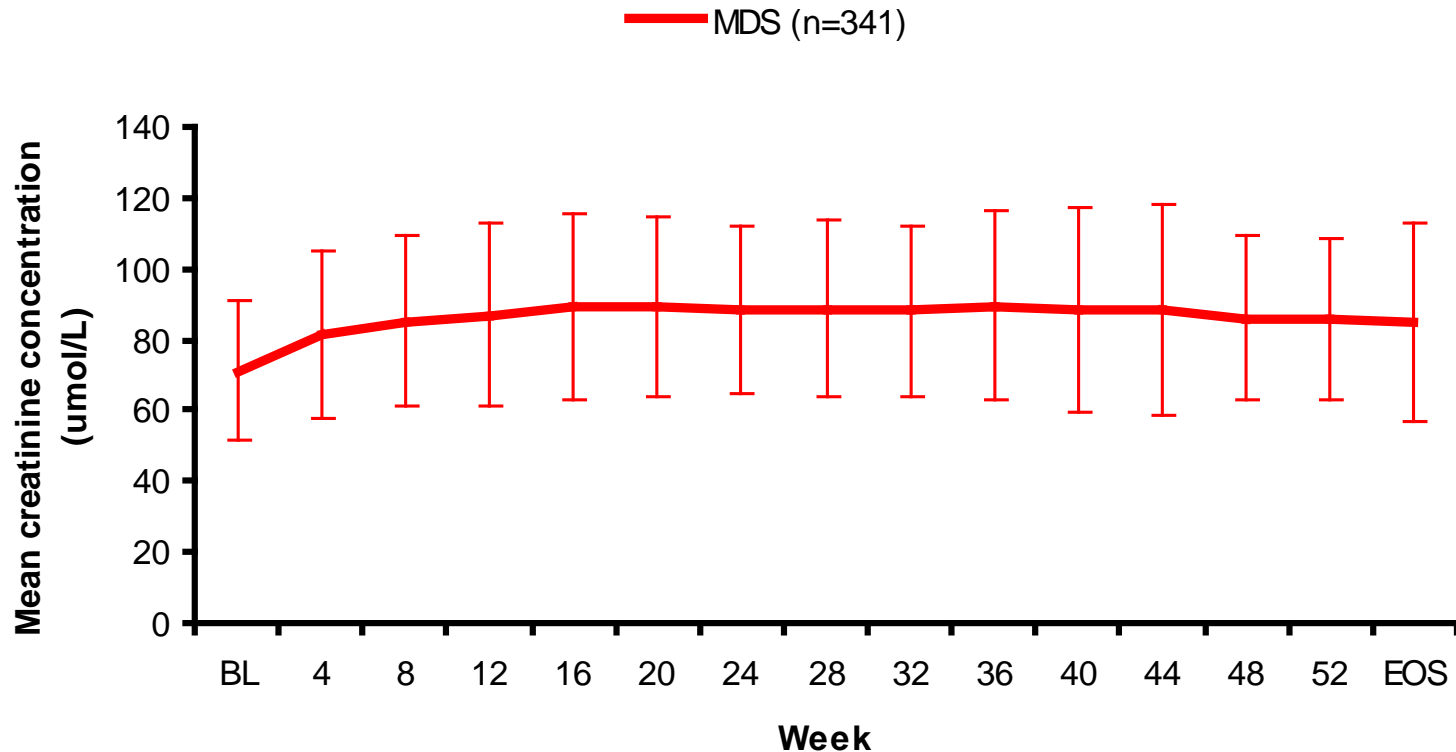
## **Starting dose and escalation**

- Anecdotal reports suggest reduction of the frequency and severity of GI disturbances with BID dosing

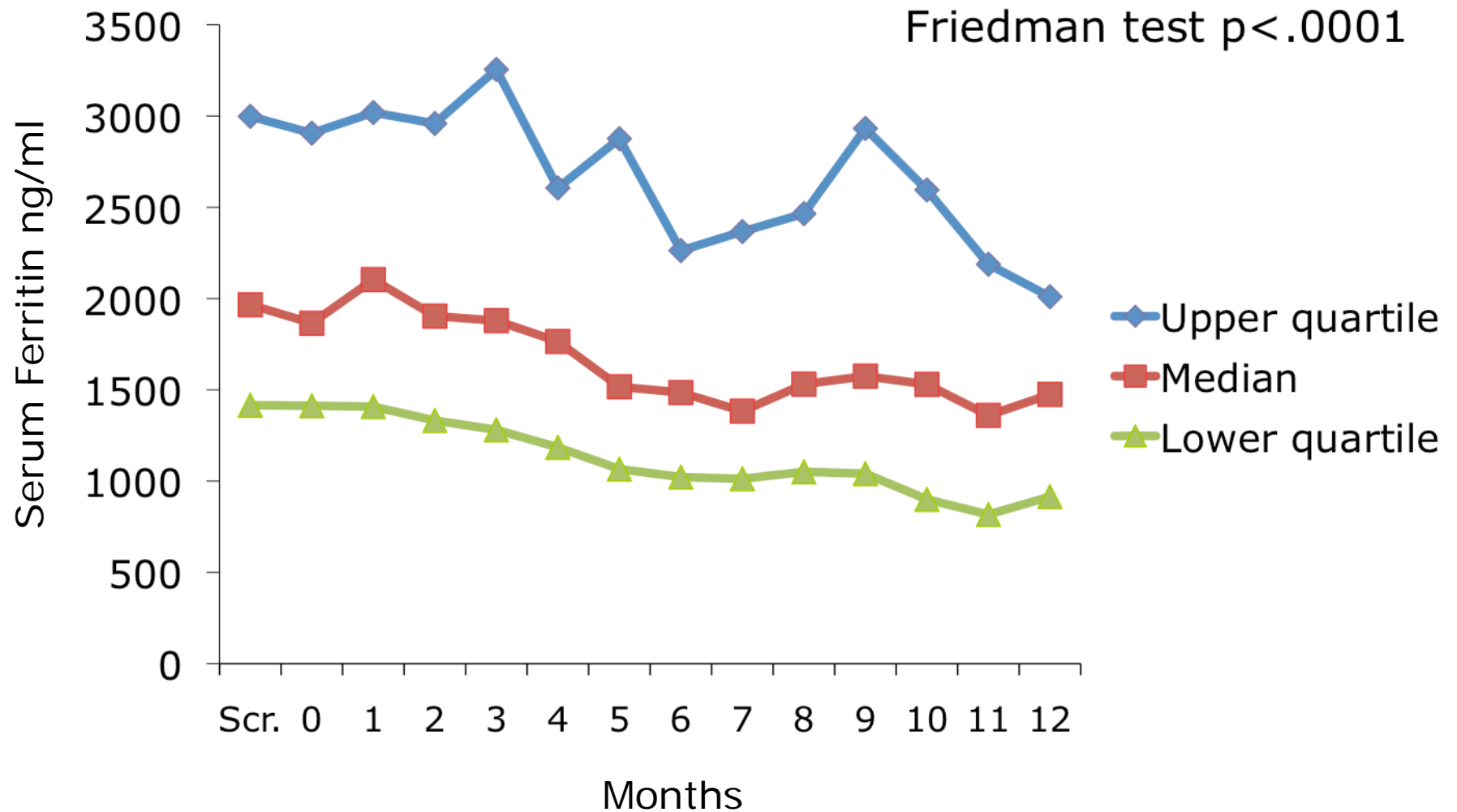
## **Use of prophylactics**

- Treatment with anti-acids in prophylaxis not recommended

# Deferasirox and Serum Creatinine in MDS-Patients



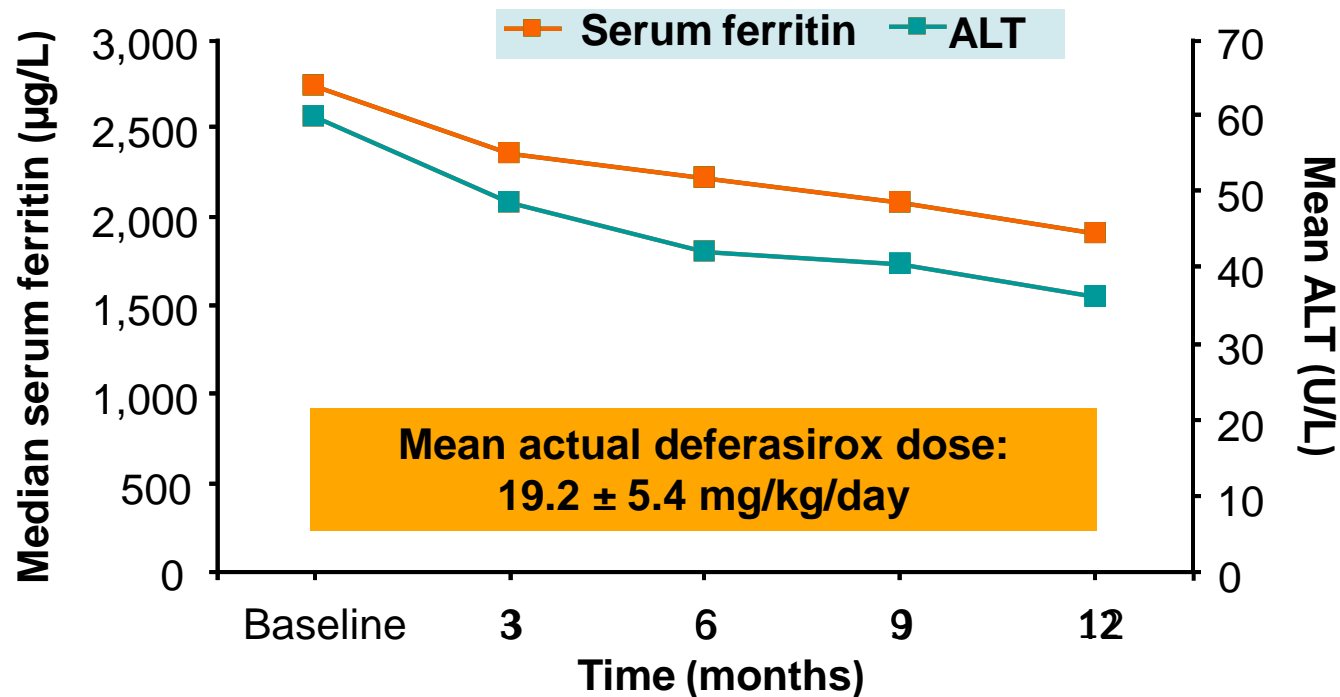
# Activity – Serum ferritin



# EPIC: Reduction in Serum Ferritin is Associated with Improvement in ALT in MDS

➤ At 12 months, there were significant reductions in

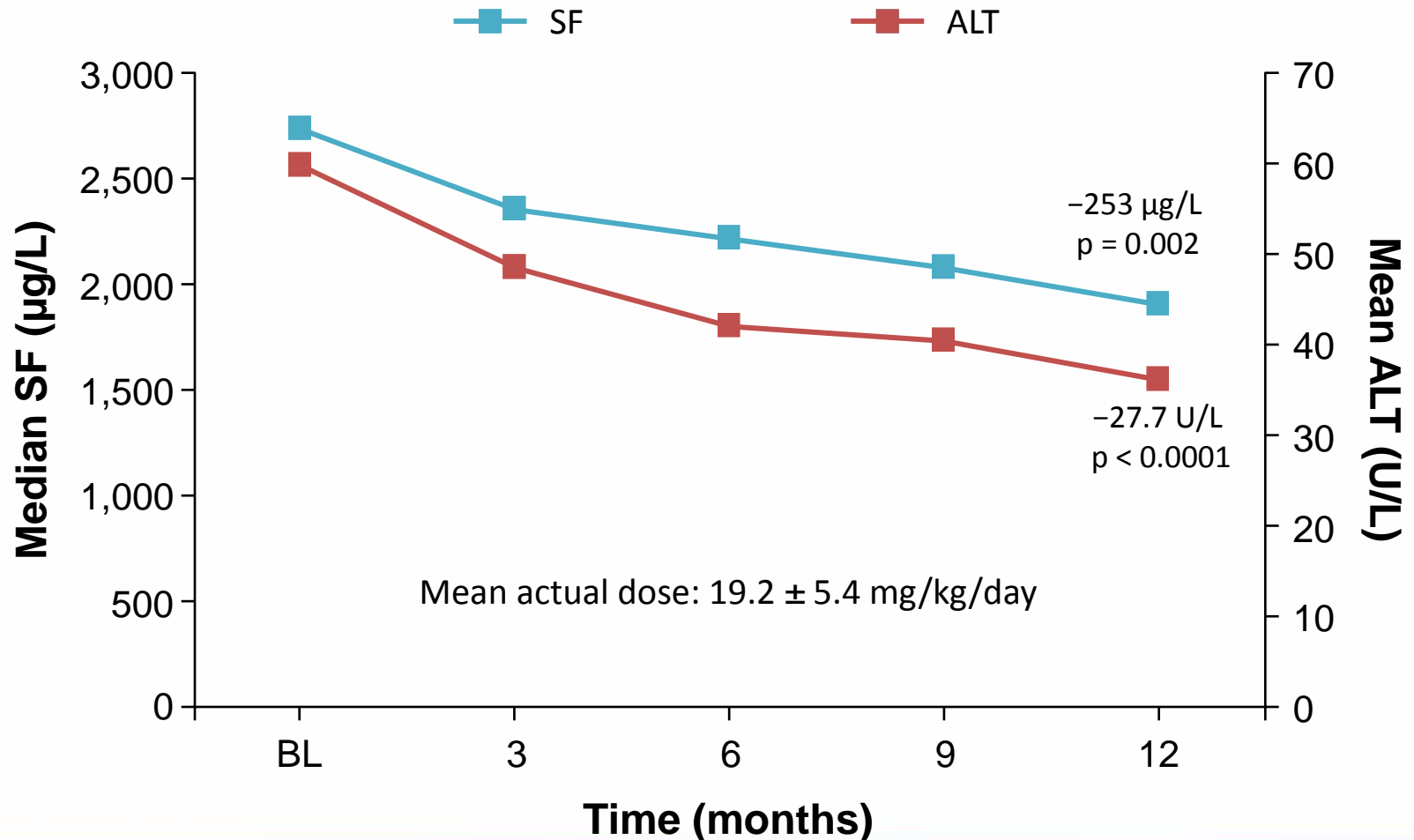
- median serum ferritin ( $-253 \mu\text{g/L}$ ;  $p=0.002$ )
- mean ALT ( $-27.7 \pm 37.4 \text{ U/L}$ ;  $p<0.0001$ )



ALT = alanine transaminase;

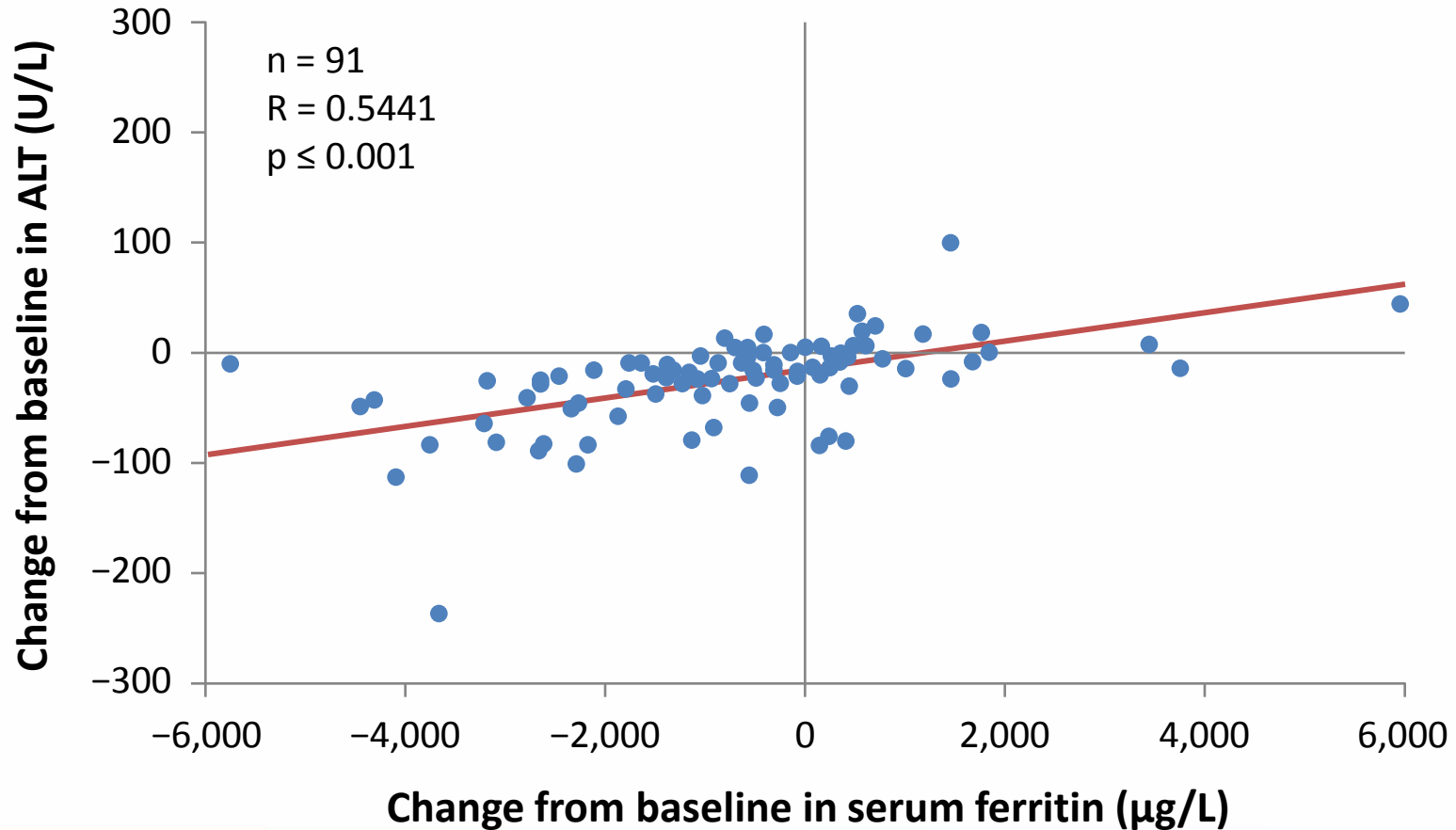
EPIC = European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition.

# EPIC study: improvement in liver function during treatment with deferasirox



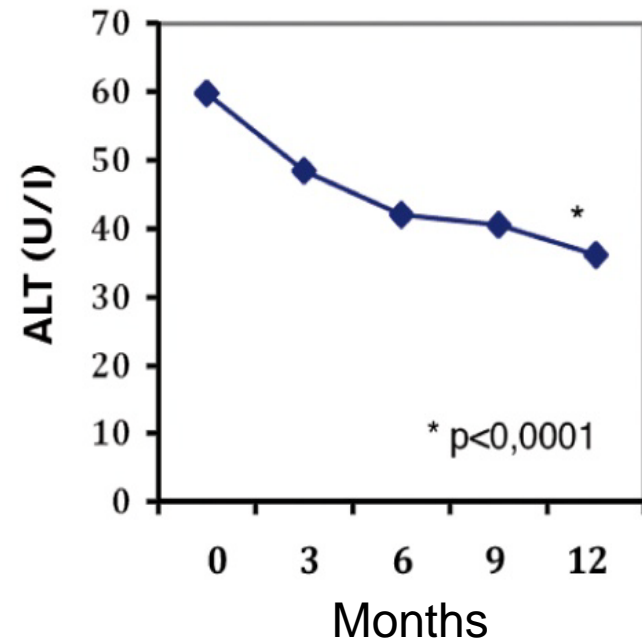
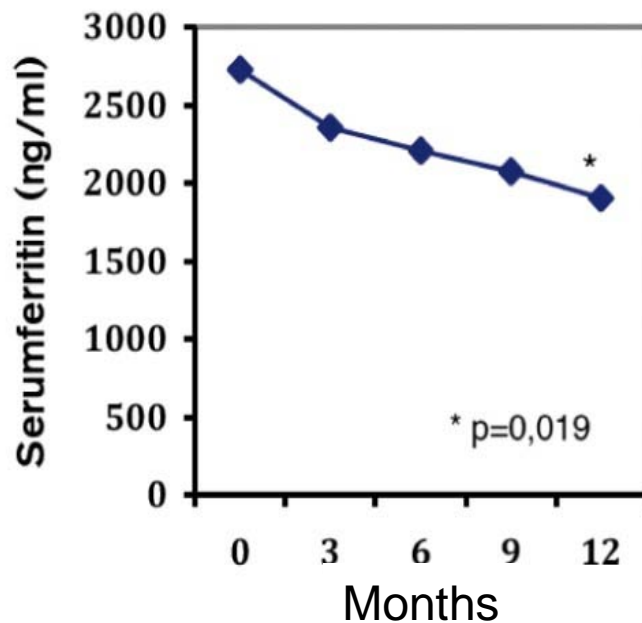
# Decline in SF with deferasirox therapy correlates with improvement in liver damage markers in MDS

Plot of change from baseline in ALT by change from baseline in serum ferritin

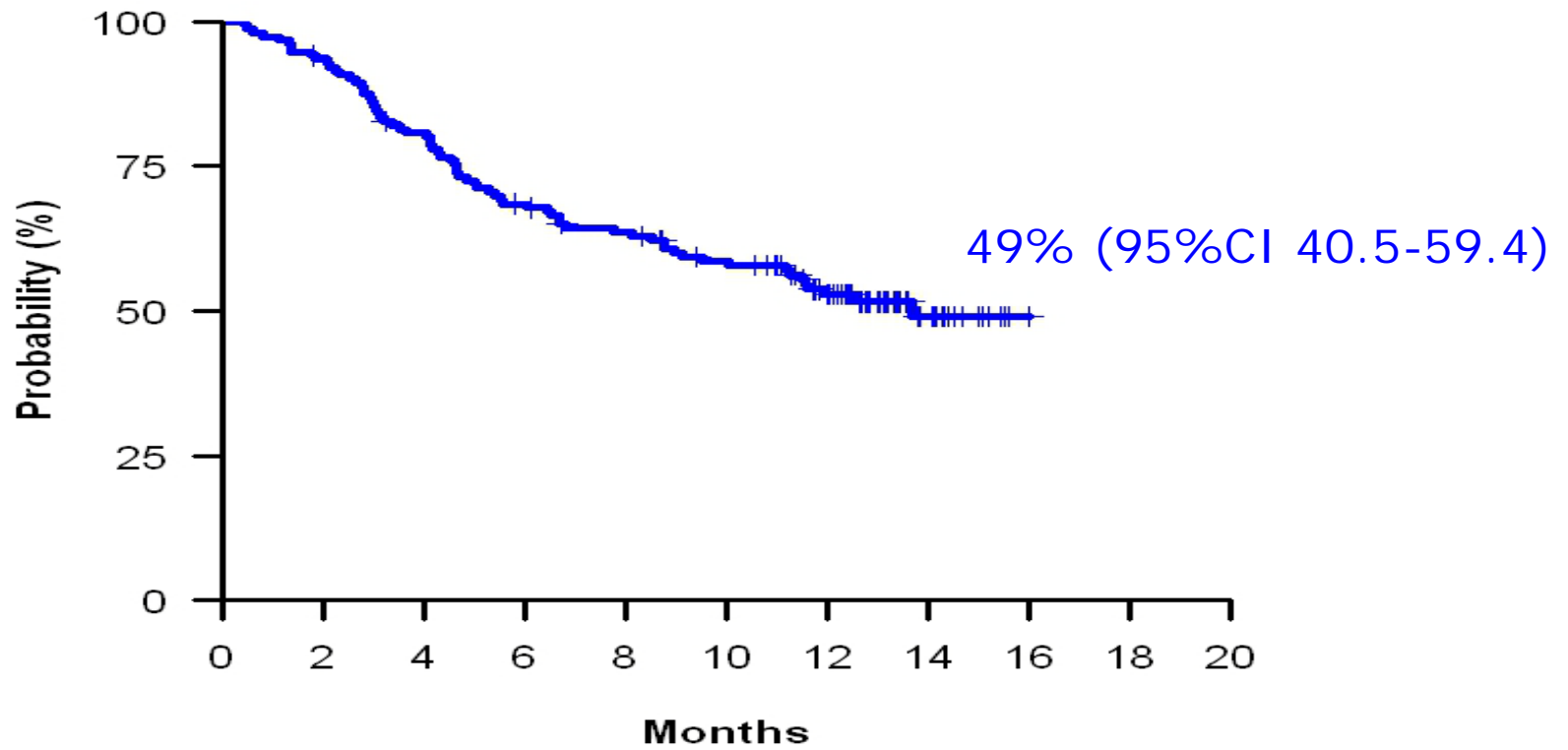


# Iron Chelation and Liver Toxicity in MDS

- Increased ALT in polytransfused MDS-patients as a marker for enhanced liver toxicity?
- Significant reduction of serum ALT (corresponding to reduction of serum ferritin) after 1 year of treatment with Deferasirox in patients with MDS



# K-M probability of continuing therapy



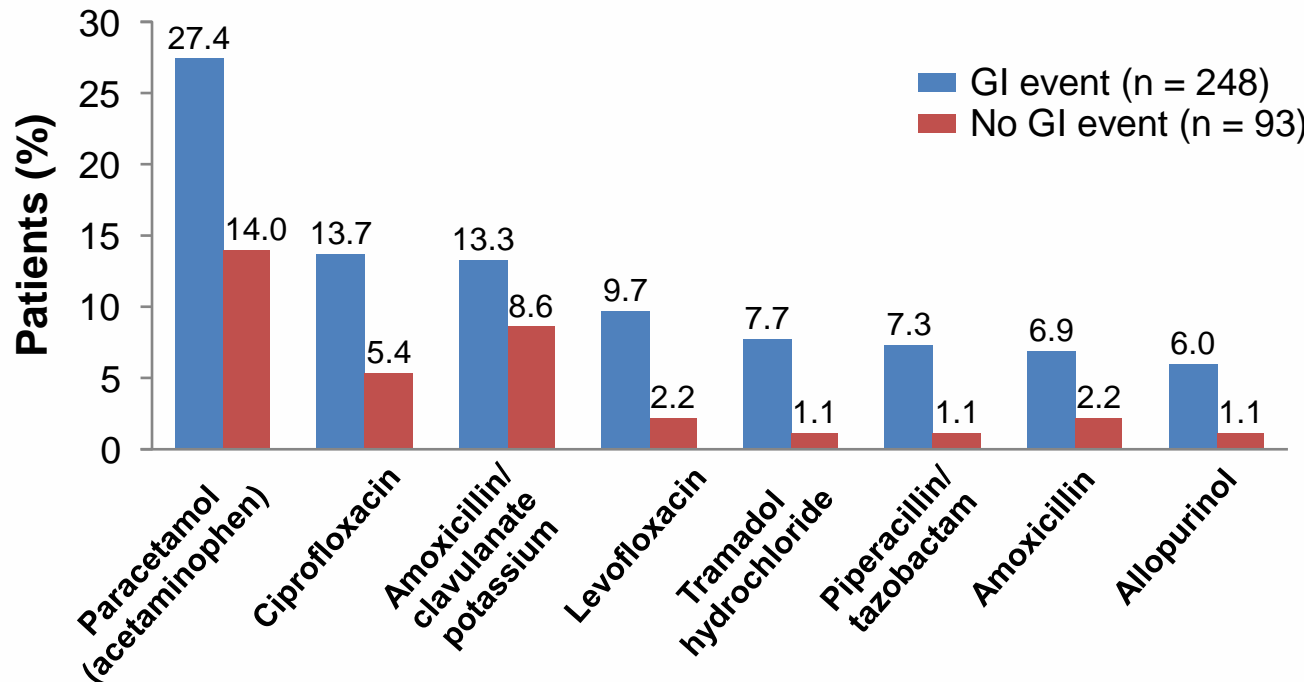


# Causes of therapy discontinuation

Cause	Patients	%	
Adverse Event	28	33.3	} 33%
Death	22	26.2	
Disease progression	8	9.5	} 36%
Consent withdrawal	9	10.7	
Lost at follow up	8	9.5	} 31%
No response	2	2.4	
Serum ferritin < 500 ng/ml (no PRBC)	2	2.4	
Medical decision	5	6.0	
Total	84	100	

# Concomitant medications are a risk factor for poor compliance and might impact on GI events

**MDS patients receiving deferasirox who reported a GI event used a larger number of concomitant medicines**



**Rational drug use may improve compliance:  
choose your drug carefully; discontinue the unnecessary drugs**

# Hematological response – Methods

International Working Group 2006 criteria. Blood 2006; 108: 419-25

What are RBC-transfusion-dependence and -independence? Leuk Res 2011; 35: 8-11

	Inclusion criteria	Criteria	Minimal duration
Erythroid	≥ 6 units last 12 weeks	Transfusion independence	3 months
Platelets	Baseline platelets count <100 x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L	Platelets ≥30 x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L for patients with >20 x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L platelets at baseline or increase from <20x10 <sup>9</sup> /L to >20x10 <sup>9</sup> /L and by 100%	3 months
Myeloid	Baseline neutrophil count <1 x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L	≥100% increase and an absolute increase >0.5x10 <sup>9</sup> /L	3 months

Patients receiving concurrent MDS medication (rHuEpo, 5 Azacitidine, Lenalidomide, GCSF ....) were excluded.

# Hematological response – Methods

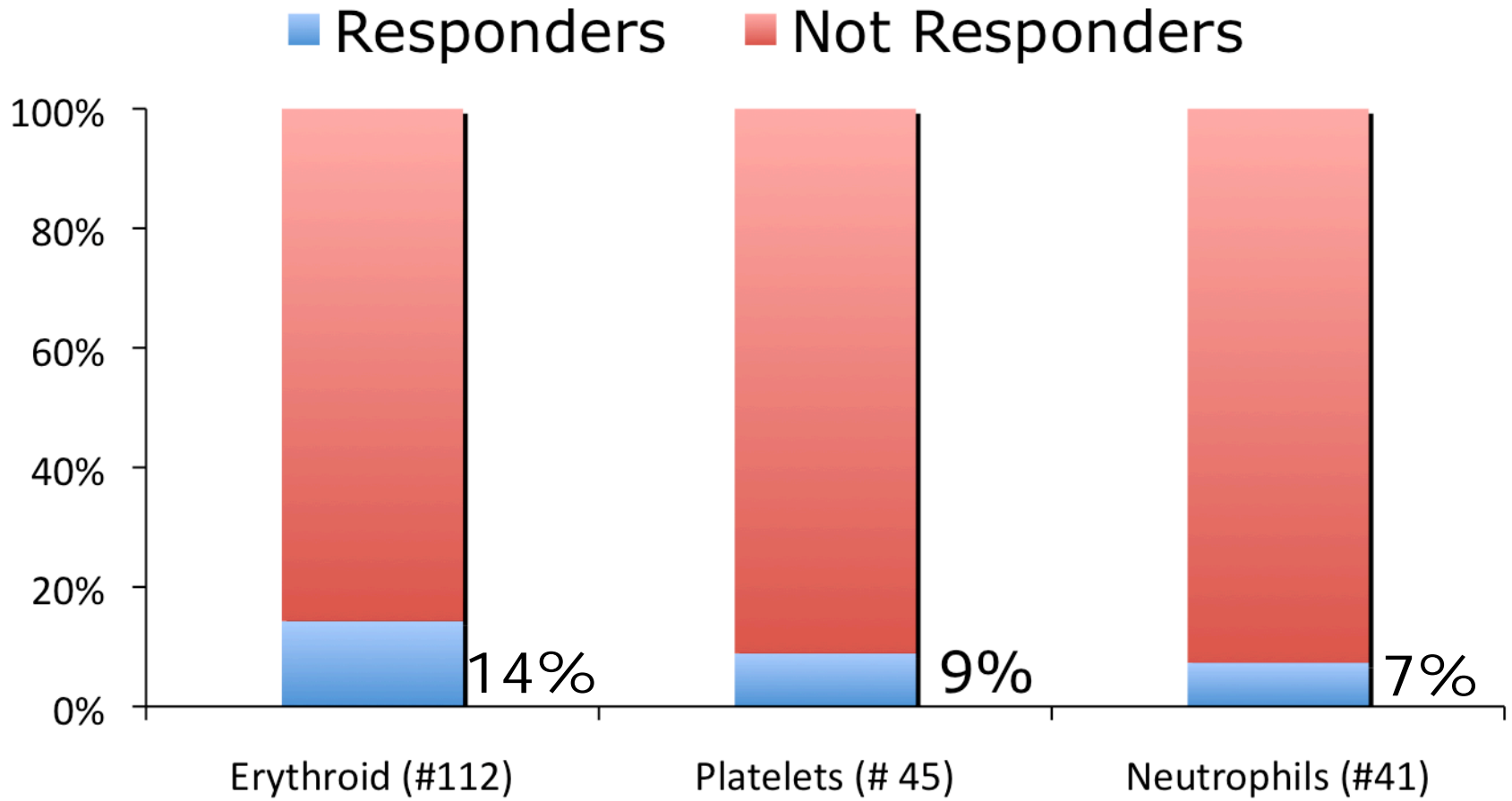
International Working Group 2006 criteria. Blood 2006; 108: 419-25

What are RBC-transfusion-dependence and -independence? Leuk Res 2011; 35: 8-11

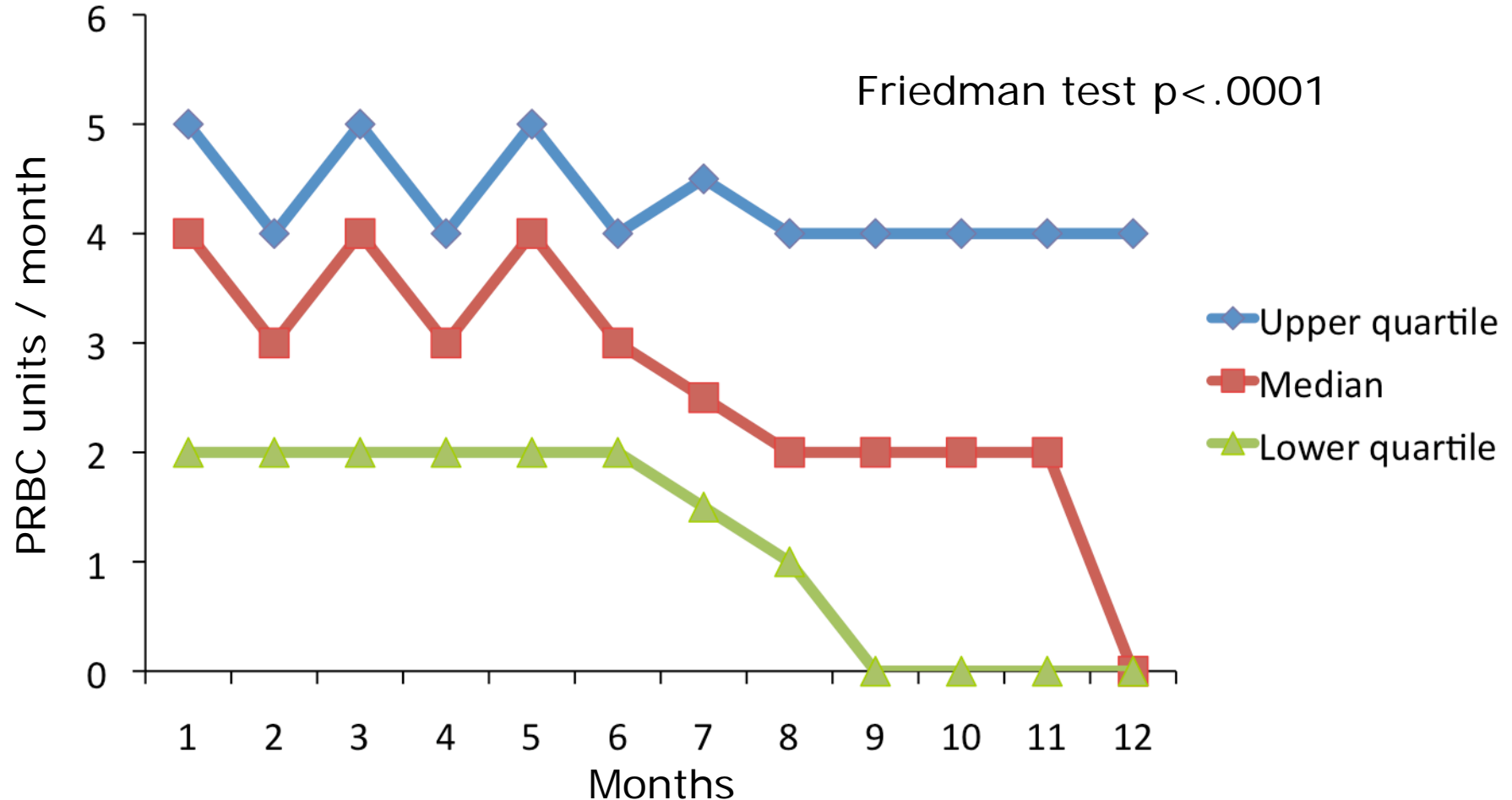
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# Hematologic response

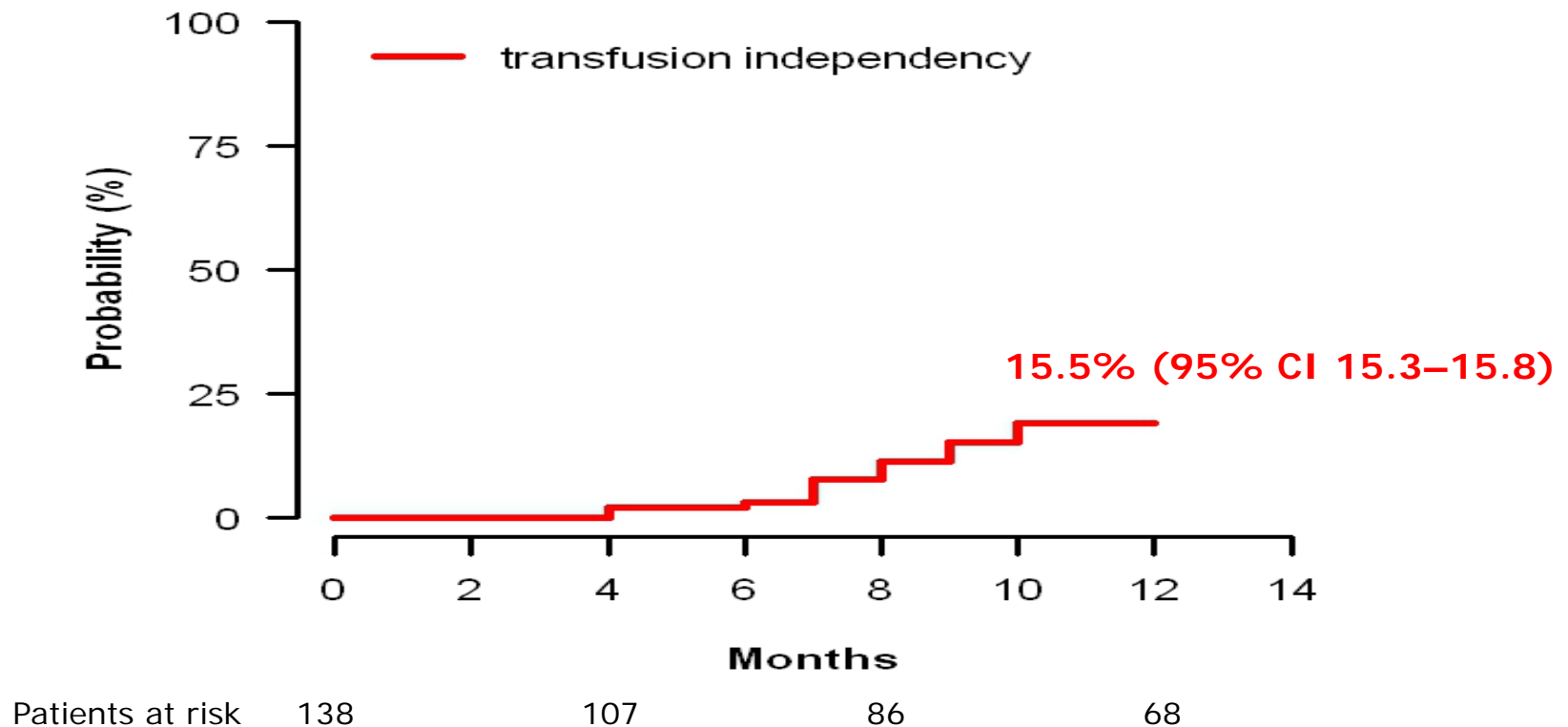


# Erythroid response PRBC units requirement



Patients receiving concurrent MDS medication (rHuEpo, 5 Azacitidine, Lenalidomide) were excluded.

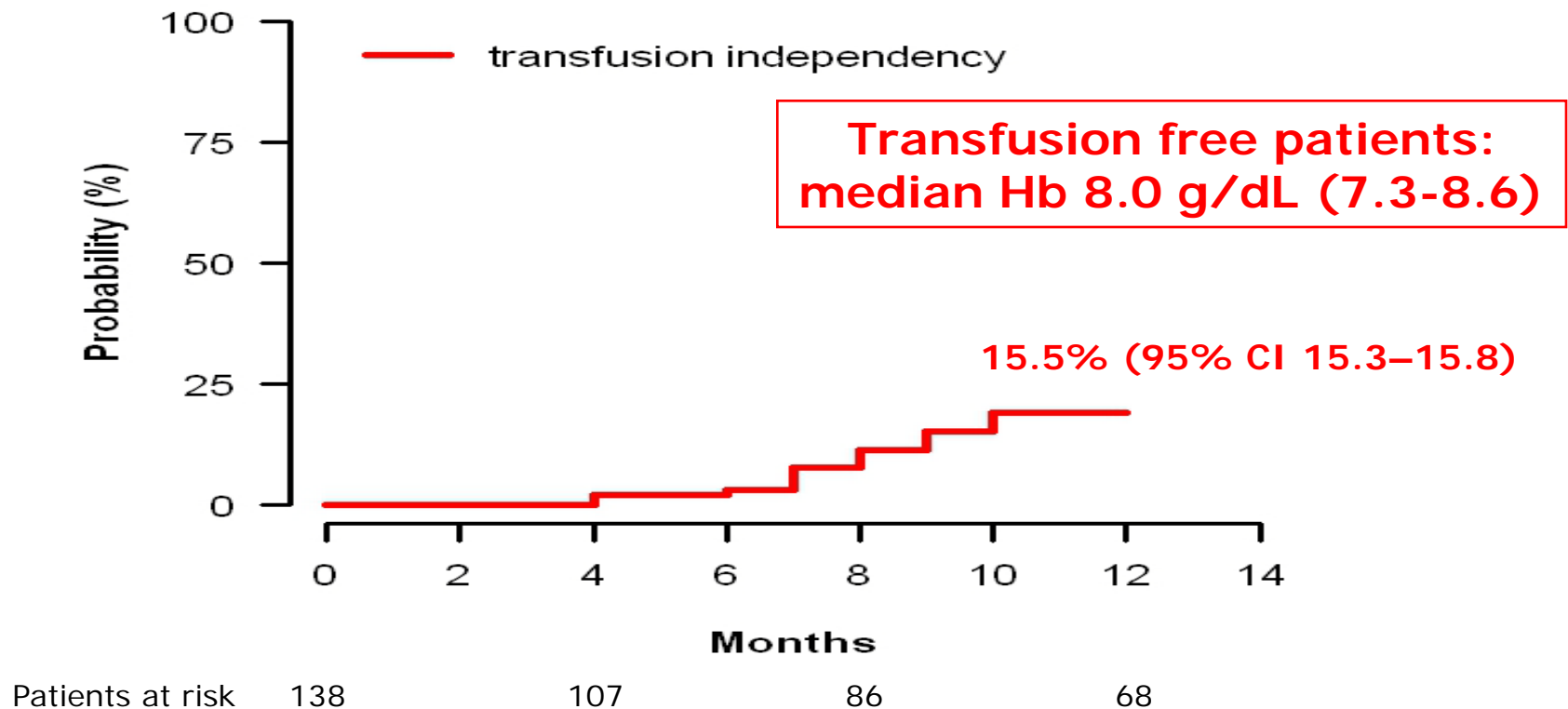
# Probability of acquiring transfusion independency



Non parametric cumulative incidence estimator.

Drop out, progression and death were considered competitive risks

# Probability of acquiring transfusion independency



Non parametric cumulative incidence estimator.

Drop out, progression and death were considered competitive risks



# Deferasirox can improve haemopoiesis in MDS

Study	n	IPSS risk	RBC response	Neutrophil response	Platelet response
Breccia M, et al. 2010 <sup>1</sup>	1	Low	Major	NR	NA
Capalbo S, et al. 2009 <sup>2</sup>	1	Low	Major	NA	NA
Messa E, et al. 2008 <sup>3</sup>	4	Int-1	Minor	NA	NA
		Int-1	Major	NA	NA
		High	Major	Major	NR
Okabe H, et al. 2009 <sup>4</sup>	1	NR	Major	Major	NR
Oliva EN, et al. 2010 <sup>5</sup>	1	Low	Major	NA	NA
Guariglia R, et al. 2011 <sup>6</sup>	1	Int-1	Major	Major	NA
List AF, et al. 2009 <sup>7</sup>	6	Low/Int-1	2 Major 1 Minor <sup>a</sup>	1 Major 1 Major <sup>b</sup>	1 Major 1 Major <sup>b</sup>
Badawi MA, et al. 2010 <sup>8</sup>	1	Int-1	Major <sup>c</sup>	NA	NA
Nishiuchi T, et al. 2010 <sup>9</sup>	1	Int-1	Major <sup>d</sup>	Major <sup>d</sup>	NA
Molteni A, et al. 2010 <sup>10</sup>	6	NR	5 Minor	1 Major	NA

RBC, platelet, and neutrophil responses were assessed according to IWG 2000 criteria.

<sup>a</sup> The patient also received darbopoietin treatment. <sup>b</sup> The patient also received G-CSF and decitabine treatment.

<sup>c</sup> Response duration was 38 months; cutaneous leukaemic infiltration was observed. <sup>d</sup> Response duration was more than 12 months.

IPSS, International Prognostic Scoring System; G-CSF, granulocyte colony-stimulating factor; NA, not applicable; NR, not reported.

1. Breccia M, et al. Acta Haematol. 2010;124:46-8. 2. Capalbo S, et al. Acta Haematol. 2009;121:19-20. 3. Messa E, et al. Acta Haematol. 2008;120:70-4. 4. Okabe H, et al. Rinsho Ketsueki. 2009;50:1626-9. 5. Oliva EN, et al. Transfusion. 2010;50:1568-70. 6. Guariglia R, et al. Leuk Res. 2011;35:566-70. 7. List AF, et al. Blood. 2009;114:abstract 3829. 8. Badawi MA, et al. Adv Hematol. 2010; 2010:164045. 9. Nishiuchi T, et al. Int J Hematol. 2010;91:333-5. 10. Molteni A, et al. Haematologica. 2010;95 Suppl 2:abstract 1410.

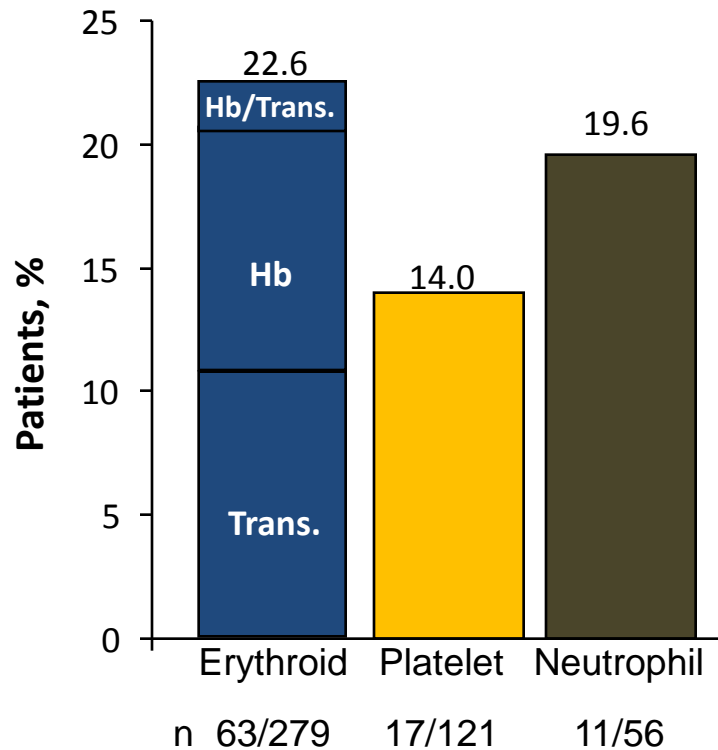
# Deferasirox can improve haemopoiesis in MDS: recent data

Study	n	IPSS risk	RBC response	Neutrophil response	Platelet response
Cilloni D, et al. 2011 <sup>1</sup>	57	Low/Int-1	45.6%	NR	NR
List A, et al. 2012 <sup>2</sup>	173 52 77	Low/Int-1	15%	15%	22%
Gattermann N, et al. 2012 <sup>3</sup>	247 50 100	Low/Int-1	21.5%	22%	13%
Nolte F, et al. 2012 <sup>4</sup>	50	Low/Int-1	11%	NR	NR
Angelucci E, et al. 2012 <sup>5</sup>	152	Low/Int-1	Transfusion independence in 14.5%	NR	NR

RBC, platelet, and neutrophil responses are assessed according to IWG 2006 criteria (1-3); NR, not reported

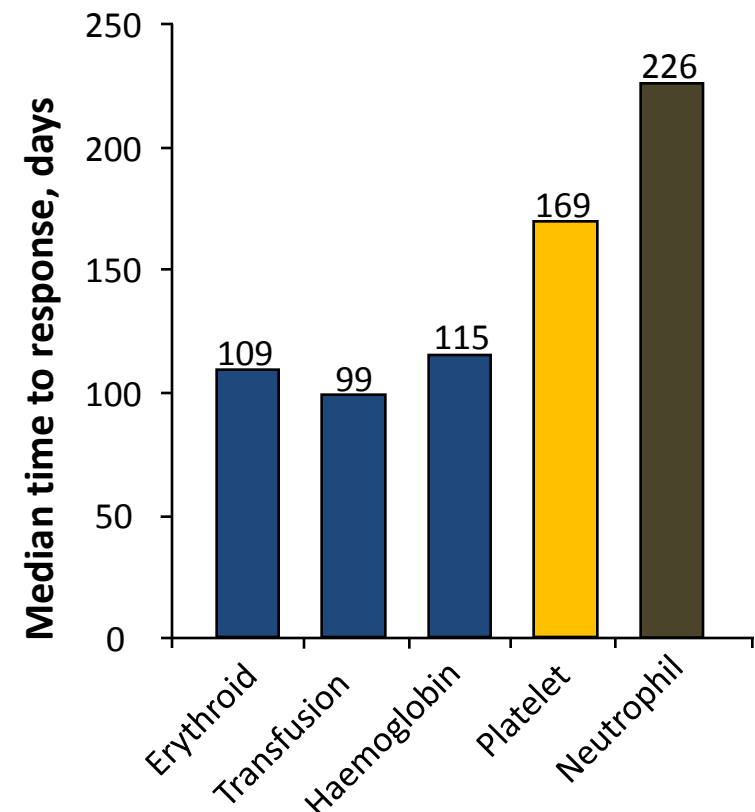
# Haematological responses in MDS patients treated with deferasirox

Percentage of patients with haematological response



Haematological response

Time to haematological response

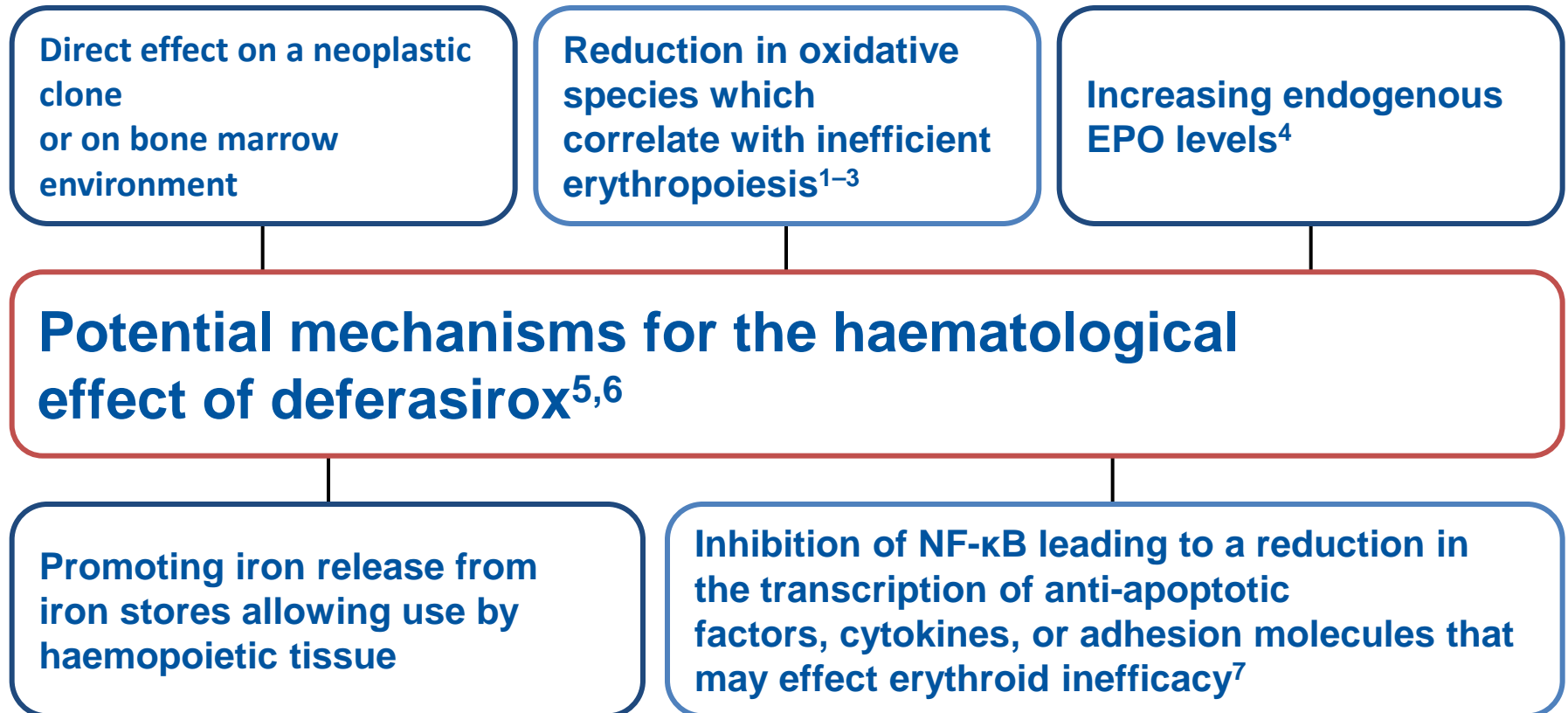


Haematological response

Trans. = transfusion.

Gattermann N, et al. Blood. 2010;116:abstract 2912.

# Potential mechanisms for the haematological effect of deferasirox

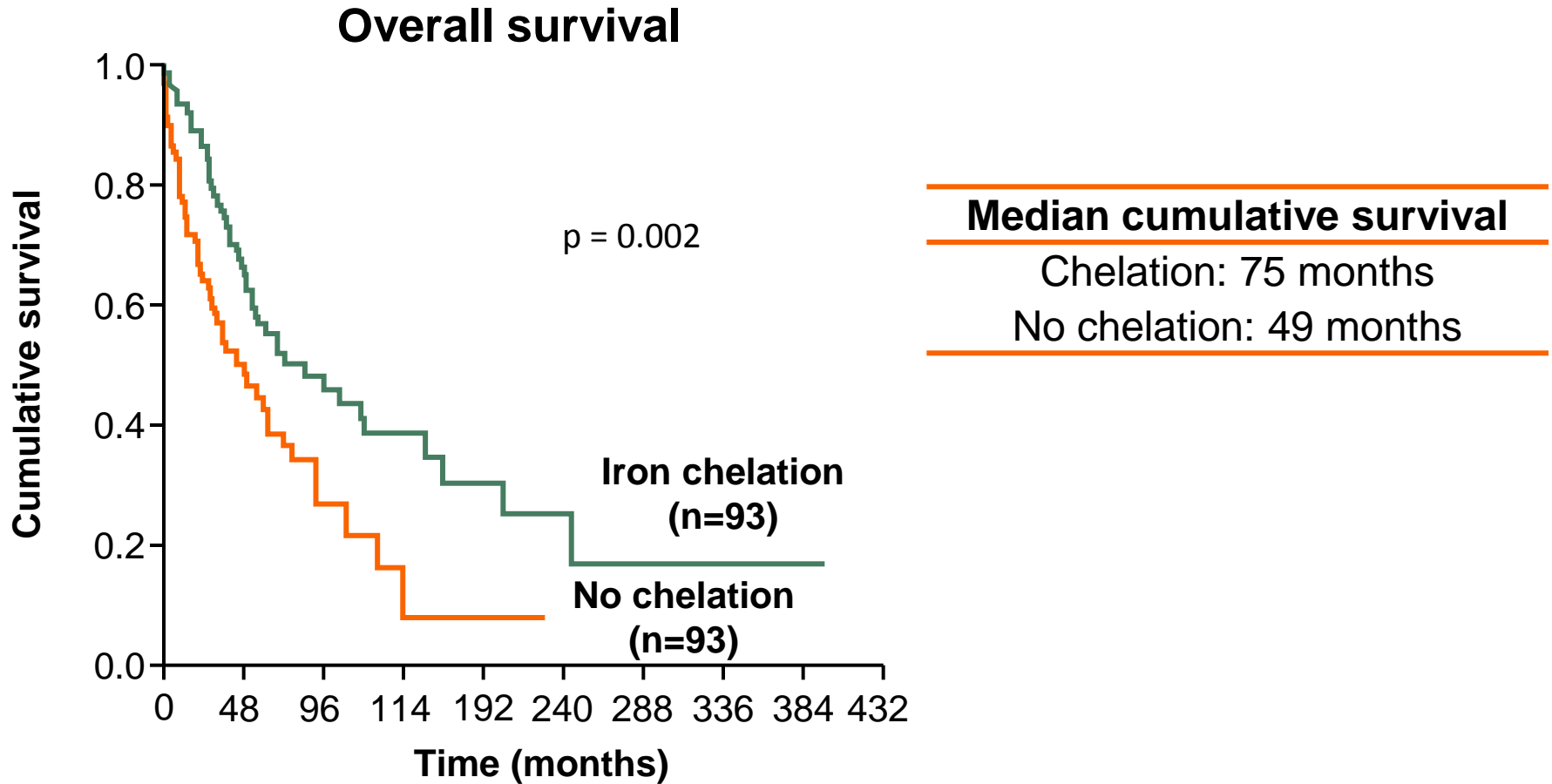


NF-κB, nuclear factor kappa B.

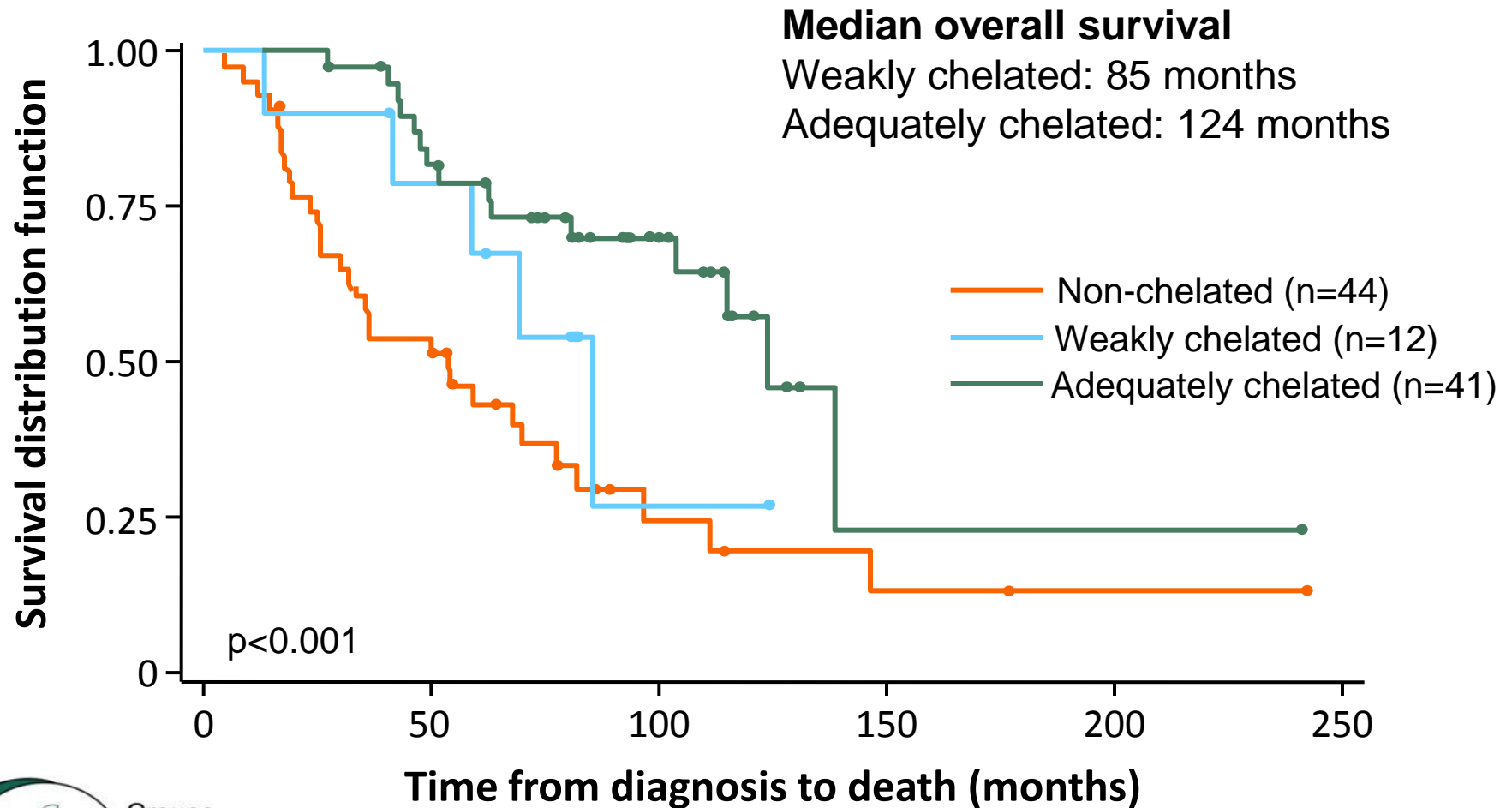
1. Ghoti H, et al. Eur J Haematol. 2007;79:463-7. 2. Hartmann J, et al. Blood. 2008;112:abstract 2694. 3. Chan LSA, et al. Blood. 2008;112:abstract 2685. 4. Ren X, et al. J Appl Physiol. 2000;89:680-6. 5. Breccia M, et al. Acta Haematol. 2010;124:46-8. 6. Guariglia R, et al. Leuk Res. 2011;35:566-70. 7. Messa E, et al. Haematologica. 2010;95:1308-16.

Countries	Transfusion status	Serum ferritin (ng/mL)	Patient profile	Target serum ferritin level
<b>Italian</b> (Alessandrino et al., 2002)	≥ 50 RBC units	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life expectancy &gt; 6 months</li> </ul>	NR
<b>UK</b> (Bowen et al., 2003)	~ 25 RBC units (5 g iron)	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pure sideroblastic anemia</li> <li>del 5q</li> </ul>	< 1000
<b>US (NCCN)</b> (v2. 2011)	20-30 RBC units (≥5-10 g iron)	> 2500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IPSS Low or Int-1</li> <li>potential transplant patients</li> </ul>	For pts with SF >2500, aim to decrease to <1000
<b>International</b> (Gattermann et al., 2005)	transfusion-dependent	> 1000-2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RA, RARS, del 5q</li> <li>IPSS Low or Int-1</li> </ul>	NR
<b>Japanese</b> (Suzuki et al., 2008)	> 40 Japanese units	> 1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life expectancy &gt; 1 year</li> </ul>	500-1000
<b>Canadian</b> (Wells et al. 2008)	transfusion-dependent	> 1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RA, RARS, del 5q</li> <li>IPSS Low or Int-1</li> <li>IPSS Int-2 or High (if SF &gt;1000 and</li> <li>SCT candidates/life expectancy &gt;1yr)</li> </ul>	NR; reduce dose when < 2000; discontinue chelator when < 1000
<b>Spanish</b> (Arrizabalaga et al., 2008)	transfusion-dependent	> 1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IPSS Low or Int-1</li> <li>WPSS Very low, Low, or Int</li> <li>Spanish prognostic index Low risk</li> </ul>	NR
<b>Austrian</b> (Valent et al., 2008)	transfusion-dependent	> 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life expectancy &gt; 2 years</li> </ul>	NR
<b>Israeli</b> (Mittelman et al., 2008)	20-25 RBC units	> 1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low or Int-1 (IPSS)</li> <li>Candidates for SCT</li> </ul>	< 500 to < 1000
<b>MDS Foundation</b> (Bennett et al., 2008)	2 RBC units/month for ≥1 year	> 1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life expectancy &gt; 1 year</li> </ul>	NR
<b>Italian update</b> (Santini et al., 2010)	≥ 20 RBC units (4 g iron)	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low or Int-1 (IPSS)</li> <li>Int-2, High when responding to disease-modifying agent or candidates for SCT</li> </ul>	NR

# Iron Chelation Therapy improves Survival in MDS Patients: Matched-pair Analysis

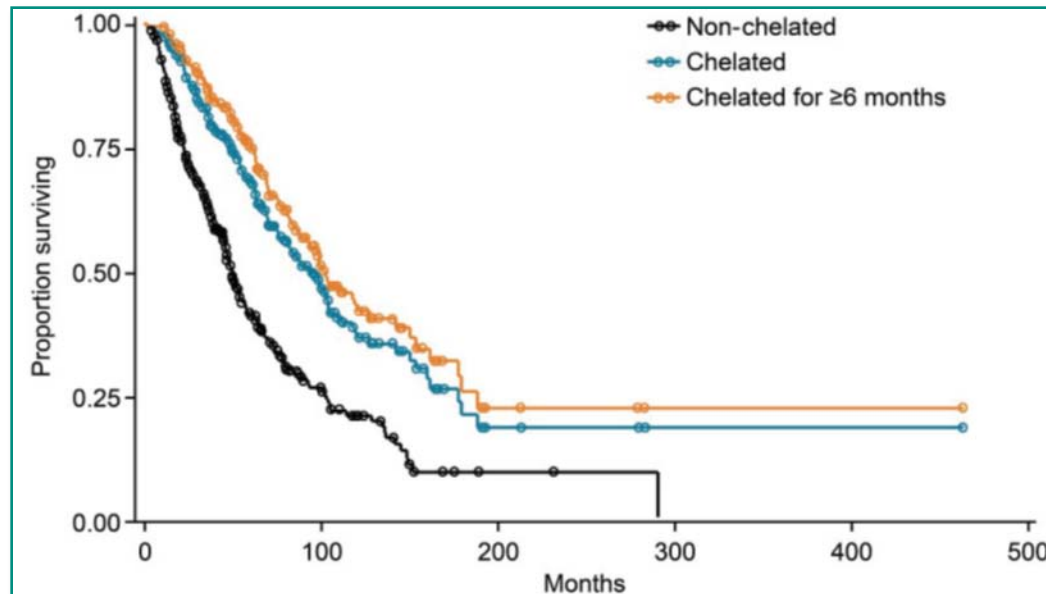


# Adequate chelation improves survival more than weak chelation in MDS (GFM analysis)



# Iron Chelation and overall Survival: ASH2012

- Each incremental week of deferasirox is associated with a decreased risk of death.<sup>1</sup>
- Deferasirox and vitamin D promote cell differentiation and improve overall survival in elderly AML patients after demethylating agent failure.<sup>2</sup>
- Patients on iron chelation therapy show a higher cardiac EFS, OS and LFS compared with those not treated.<sup>3</sup>
- According to the MDS US registry, chelated patients had significantly longer OS and time to AML transformation, as well as significantly fewer deaths.<sup>4</sup>



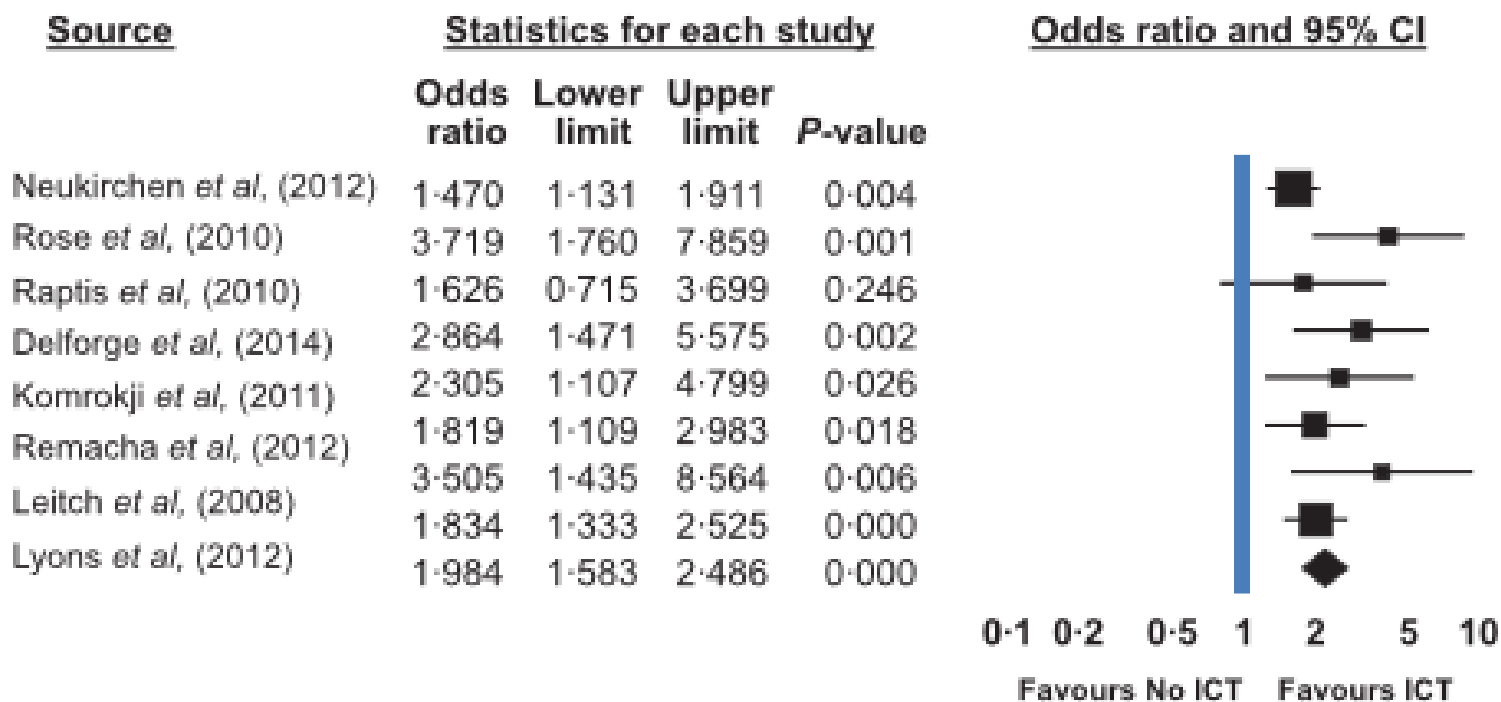
1. Zeidan et al., ASH 2012, abstract 426
2. Paubelle et al., ASH 2012, abstract 3622
3. Remacha et al., ASH 2012, abstract 1723
4. Lyons et al., ASH 2012, abstract 3800



# Iron chelation and survival in MDS

## Meta-analysis

### Pooled Difference in Median Overall Survival



# Iron chelation in MDS: what is the anticipated benefit from iron control?

Lower incidence of cardiac events, diabetes, and hepatic impairment

Fewer infectious complications

Improved haemopoietic function

Lower risk of leukaemic transformation

Improved outcome of allogeneic SCT

**Improved OS?**



Grazie per la vostra attenzione