

# **LA POLICITEMIA VERA: il punto di vista dell'ematologo, del trasfusionista e dell'internista**

*Federico Silvestri  
Ambulatorio di Ematologia  
Ospedale di Latisana*

**Palmanova, 21 Novembre 2019**

# POLICITEMIA

πολυς = molto

κύτος = cellula

héma = sangue

# HCT

Rapporto che intercorre tra gli elementi figurati del sangue ed il plasma  
(rapporto % tra GR e plasma)



# ERITROCITOSI

♂ Hb > 165 g/L o Ht > 49%  
♀ Hb > 160 g/L o Ht > 48%

## Relative

- Disidratazione
- Stress
- Terapia diuretica
- Ustioni

## Assolute

### Acquisite

- **Policitemia Vera (PV)**
- Altitudine
- Malattie polmonari croniche ostruttive
- Shunt cardiovascolari
- OSAS
- Tabagismo
- Malattie renali
- Tumori (HCC, polmone, ovaio)
- Androgeni
- Doping

### Congenite

- PFCP (Mutazioni EPO-R)
- Mutazioni in OSP (VHL, HIF2α, PHD2)
- Metaemoglobinemia
- Hb alta affinità per O<sub>2</sub>
- Difetti del 2,3 bifosfoglicerato

## ERITROCITOSI IDIOPATICA

# Storia della PV

- 1<sup>a</sup> descrizione: **1892 L.H.Vaquez e 1903 W.Osler**  
**(PRV, malattia di Osler-Vaquez)**
- Inclusione nei **MPD: 1951 W.Dameshek**
- Nascita del **PVSG: 1967 (Dx\*)**
- **Natura clonale: 1976 J.W.Anderson**
- Scoperta mutazione **JAK2: 2005 vari autori**
- **WHO classification of MPN: 2008 e 2016**

# CRITERI DIAGNOSTICI PVSG

- **Maggiori:** RCM  $\geq$  36/32 mL/Kg, Sat. O<sub>2</sub>  $\geq$  92%, Splenomegalia
- **Minori:** PLT  $\geq$  400.000/ $\mu$ L, GB  $\geq$  12.000/ $\mu$ L, ALP score > 100, Vit.B12 > 900 pg/mL
- **Dx: 3 maggiori o 2 + 2**

# Storia della PV

- 1<sup>a</sup> descrizione: **1892 L.H.Vaquez e 1903 W.Osler**  
**(PRV, malattia di Osler-Vaquez)**
- Inclusione nei **MPD**: 1951 W.Dameshek
- Nascita del **PVSG**: 1967
- **Natura clonale**: 1976 J.W.Anderson
- Scoperta mutazione **JAK2**: 2005 vari autori
- **WHO classification of MPN**: 2008 e 2016

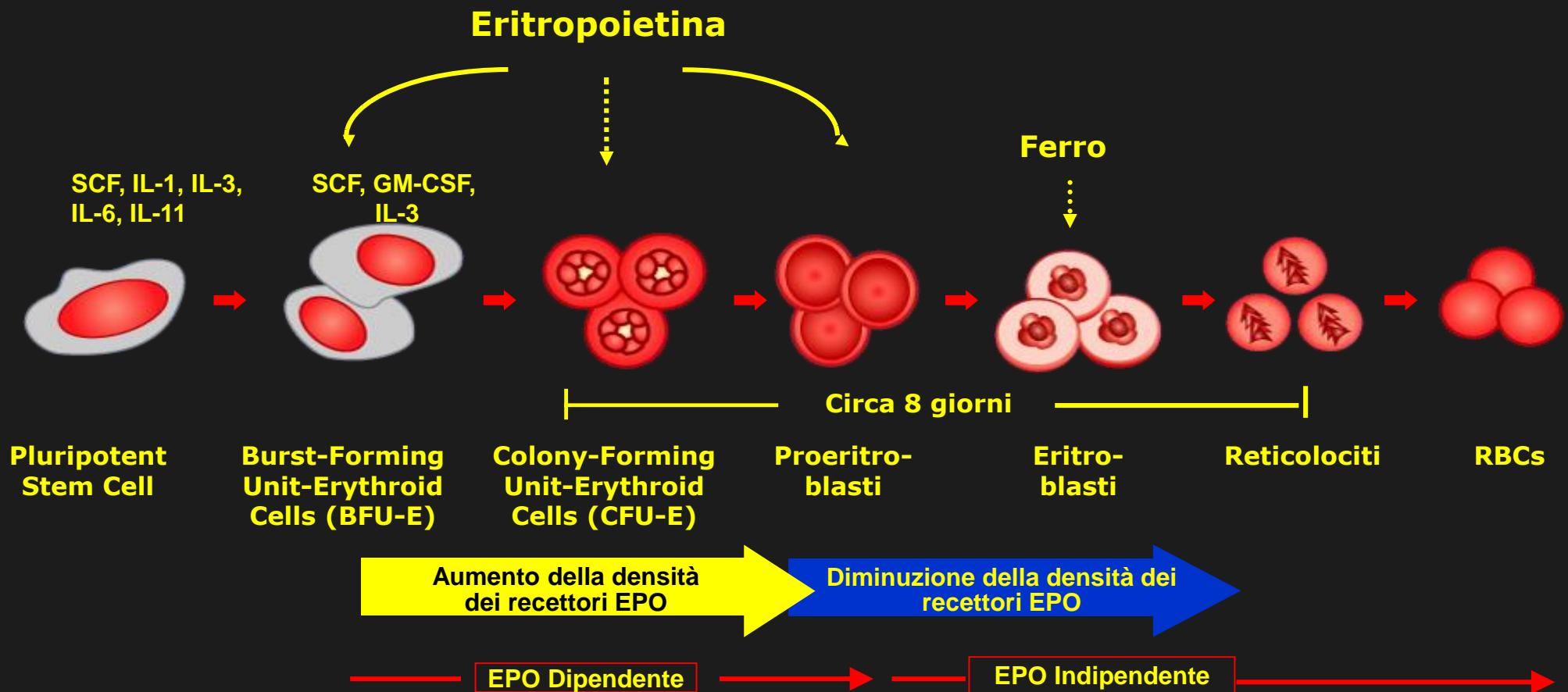
# AGENDA

- Fundamentals
- Inquadramento nosologico
- Diagnosi e Diagnosi differenziale
- (Clinica)
- Terapia

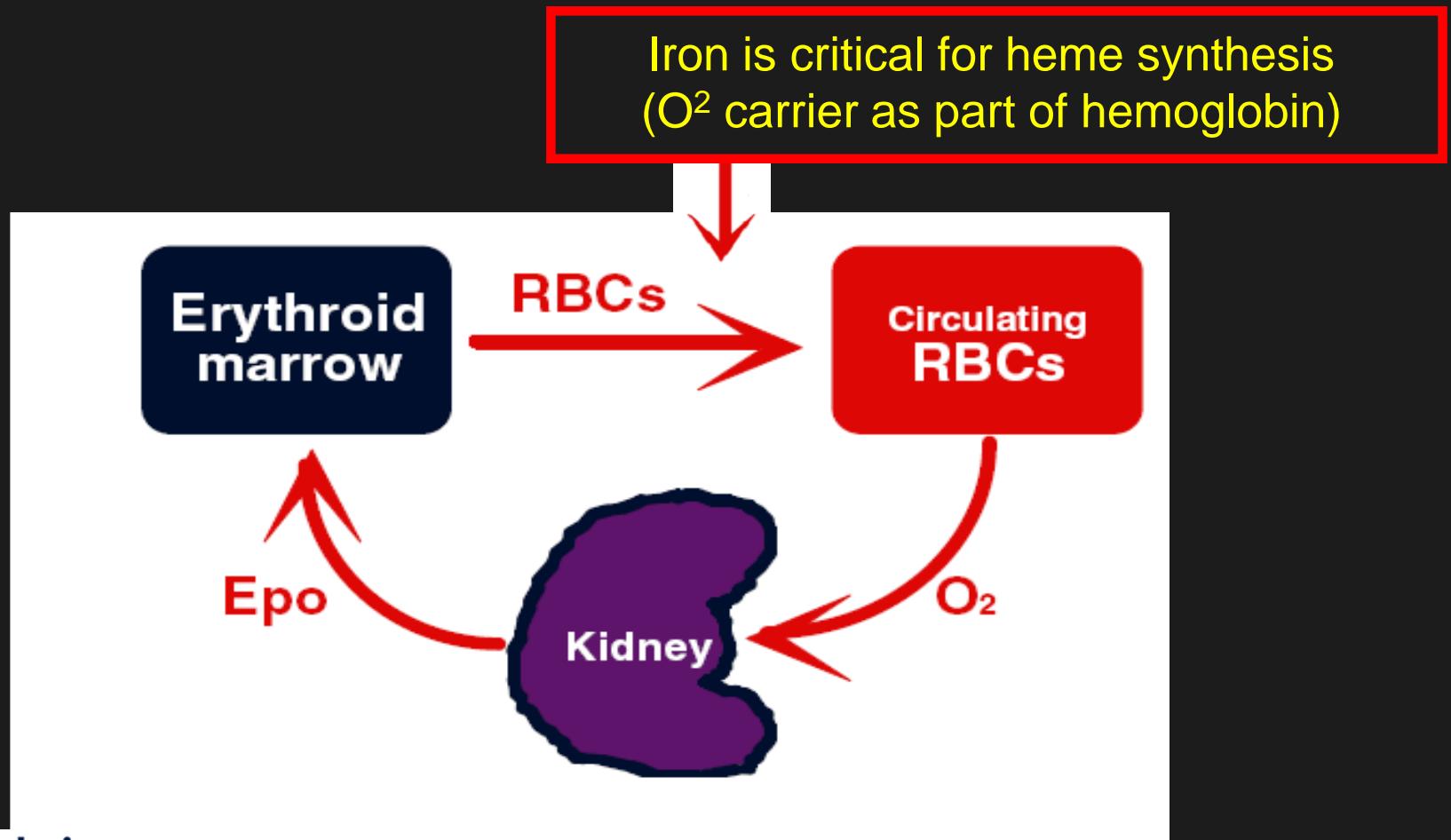
# AGENDA

- **Fundamentals**
- Inquadramento nosologico
- Diagnosi e Diagnosi differenziale
- (Clinica)
- Terapia

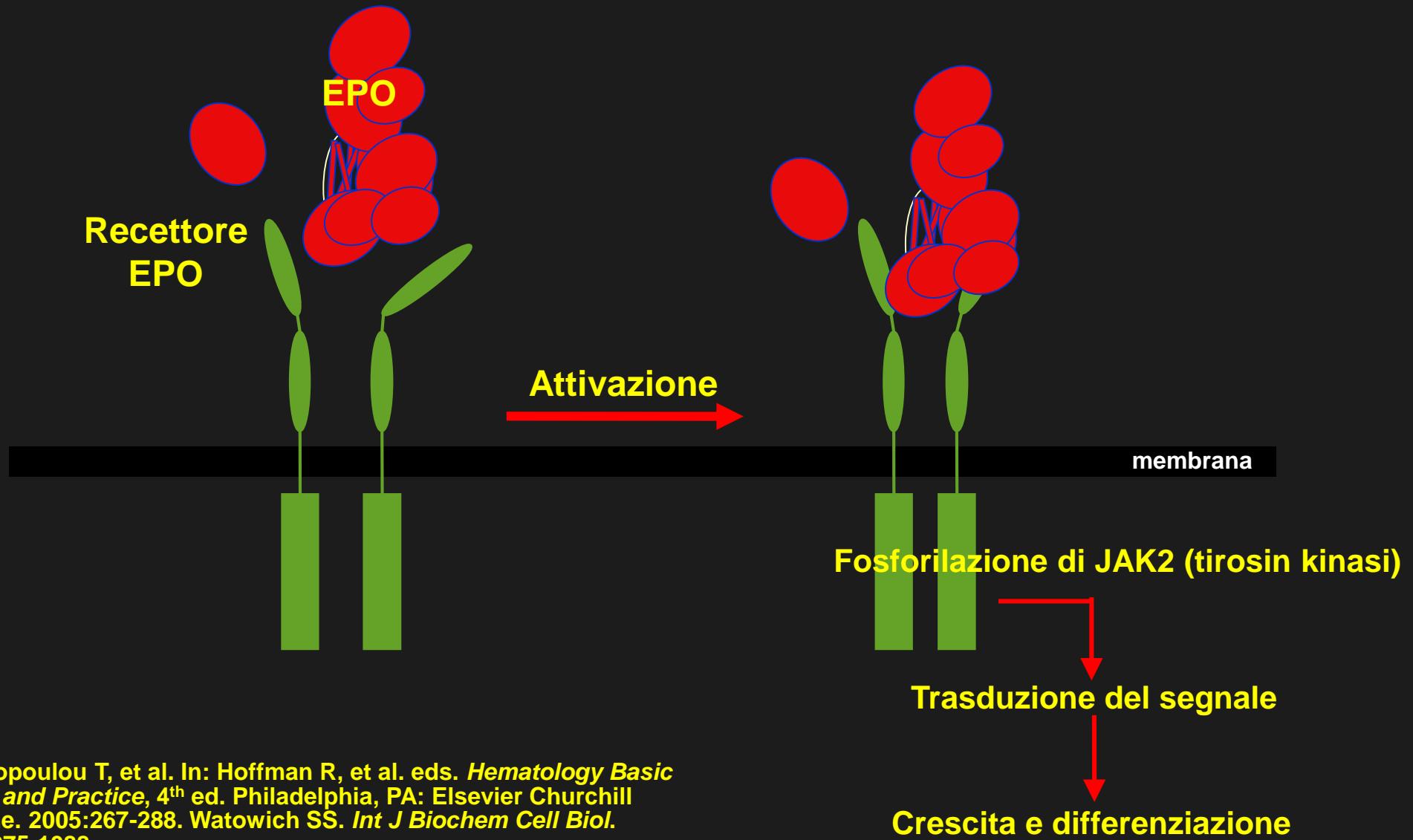
# L'eritropoietina è essenziale per l'eritropoiesi



# *Erythropoietin is the primary regulator of erythropoiesis*

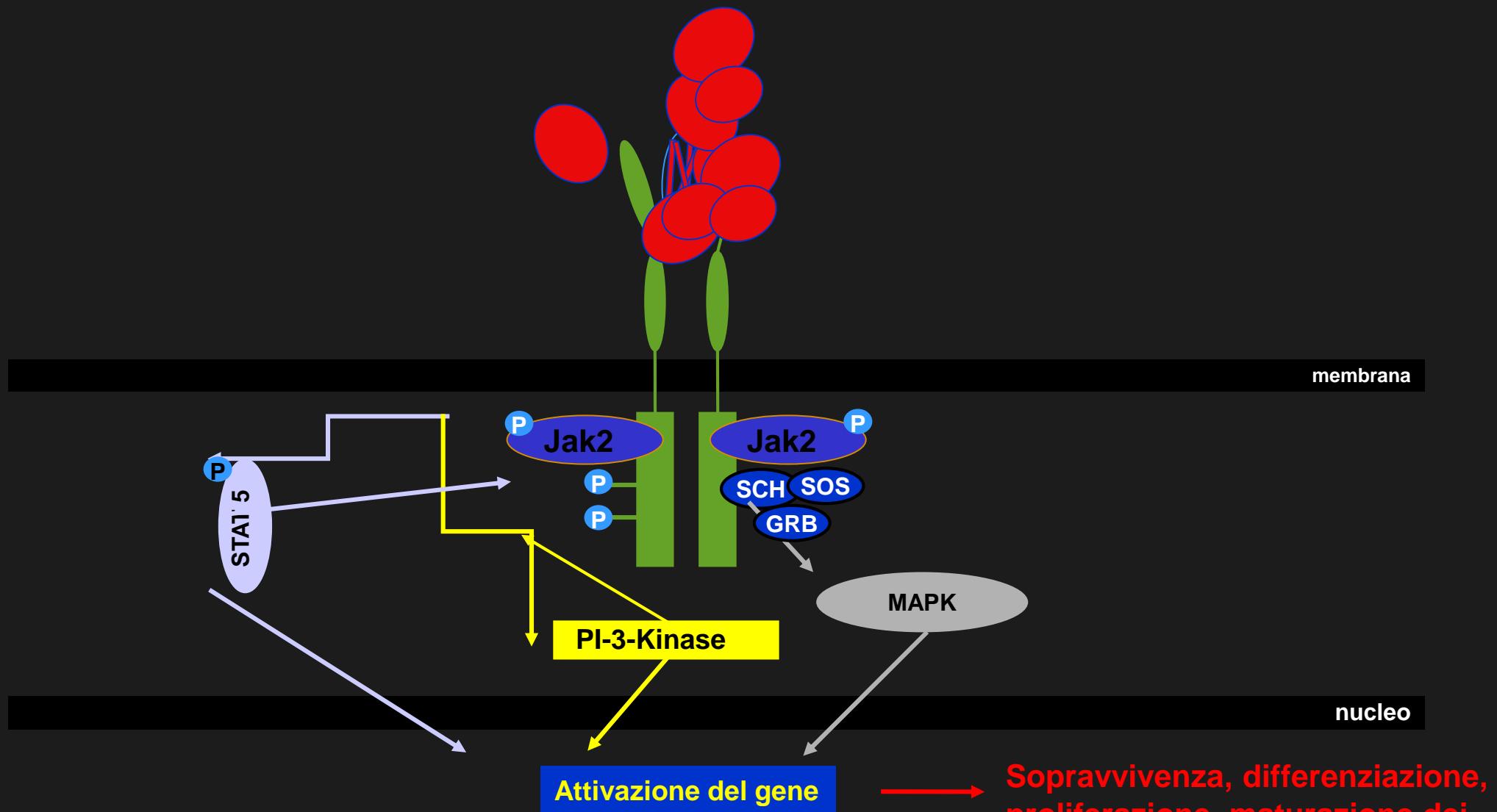


# EPO stimola l'eritropoiesi agendo sul recettore EPO



Papayannopoulou T, et al. In: Hoffman R, et al. eds. *Hematology Basic Principles and Practice*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Philadelphia, PA: Elsevier Churchill Livingstone. 2005:267-288. Watowich SS. *Int J Biochem Cell Biol*. 1999;20:1075-1088.

# Il recettore EPO attiva il gene che promuove l'eritropoiesi



Constantinescu SN, et al. TEM. 1999;10:18-23.

Miura Y, et al. J Biol Chem. 1994;269:29962-29969.

Rossett J, et al. *Nephrol Dial Transplant*. 2005;20:1025-1028.

Sopravvivenza, differenziazione,  
proliferazione, maturazione dei  
progenitori e dei precursori dei  
GR

# VALORI NORMALI

♂

♀

Hb gr/dL

14 – 18

12 – 16

Hct %

42 – **52**

36 – **46**

$47 \pm 5$

$41 \pm 5$

# Fattori che possono variare il valore di Hb/Hct

- Età ↓ (non tutti d'accordo)
- Etnia ↓ 1-2% Afro-americani
- Altitudine ↑ 1 gr/dl ogni 3-4% ↓ Sat O<sub>2</sub>
- Fumo ↑ 0.5-1 gr/dl x ipossia
- Laccio ↑ 2,5-5% Hct
- Stress ↑ fino a 1 gr/dl x ansia e dolore
- Dieta (introito H<sub>2</sub>O)
- Attività fisica
- **Variabilità individuale**

# Legge di Poiseville

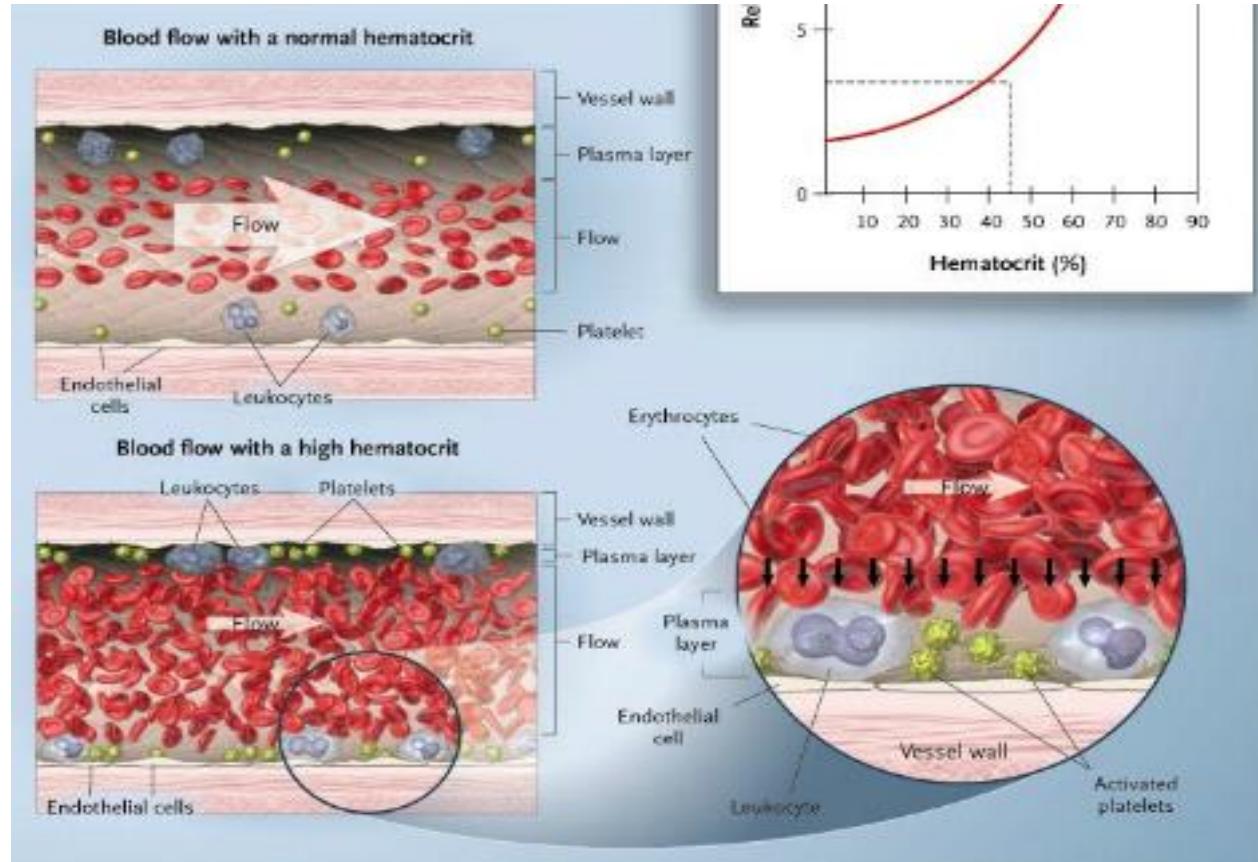
Fluidodinamica: lega la viscosità di un fluido  
alla sua **conducibilità idraulica**

$$K = 8S / \pi\mu$$

$S$  = sezione della condotta

$\mu$  = viscosità del fluido considerato

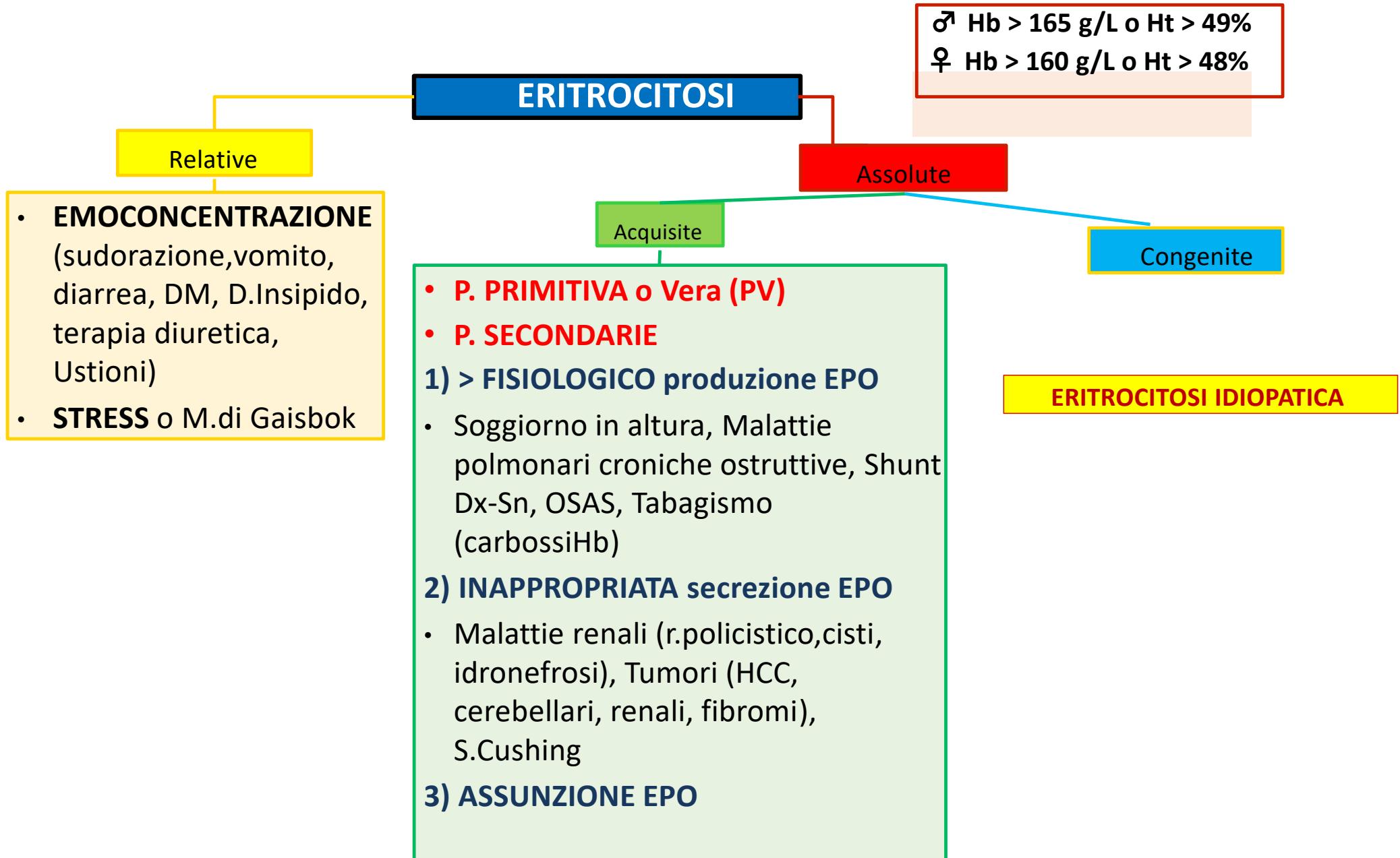
# Effects of elevated red cell mass in PV



- Red cell aggregation increases at high Hct level, favouring vascular stasis
- The resulting enhanced interplay between platelet, leukocytes and vessel wall might facilitate thrombosis

# AGENDA

- Fundamentals
- Inquadramento nosologico
- Diagnosi
- Clinica
- Terapia



# AGENDA

- Fundamentals
- Inquadramento nosologico
- **Diagnosi**
- Clinica
- Terapia

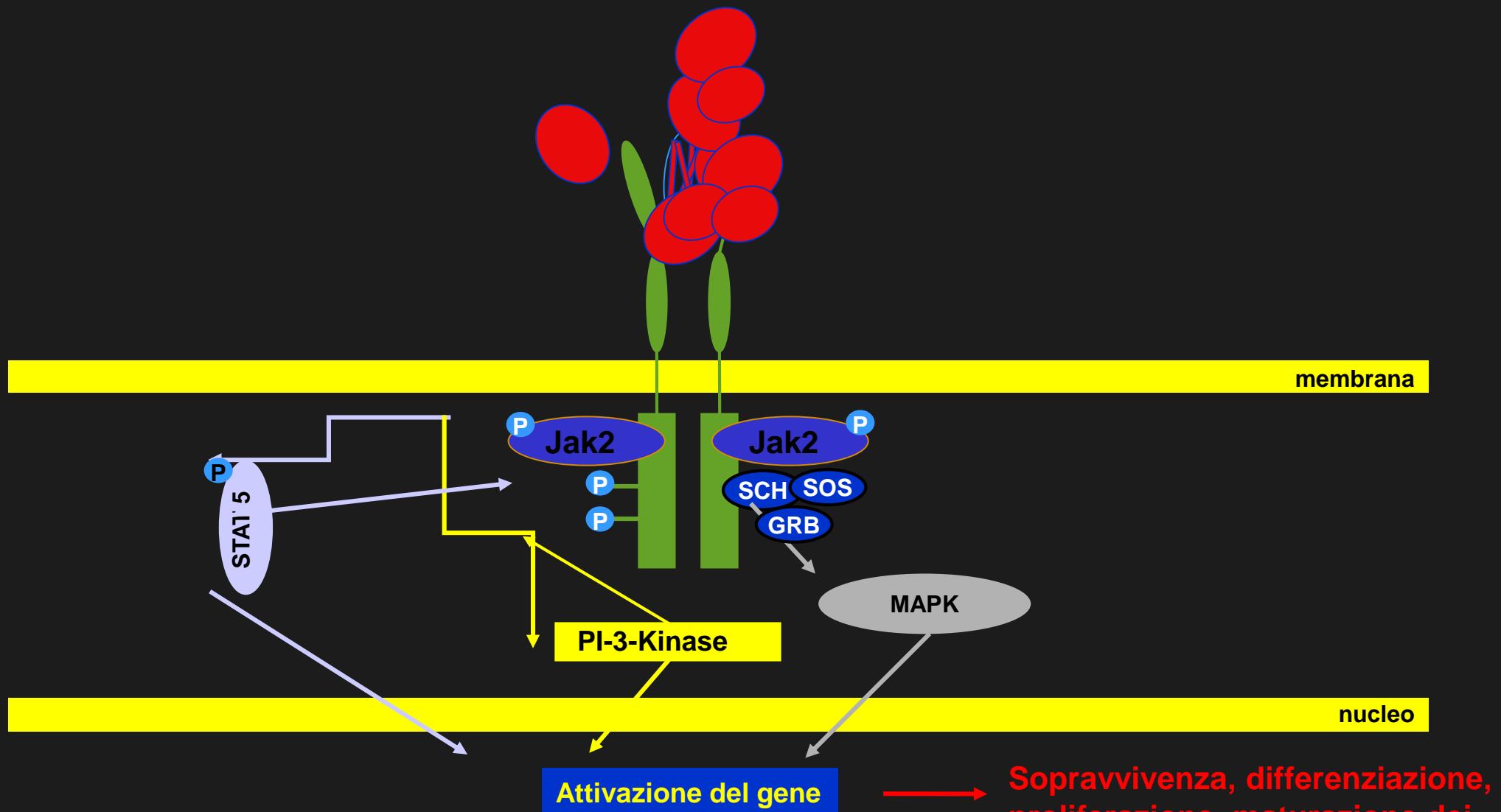
# **POLICITEMIA VERA**

- Disordine clonale della cellula staminale emopoietica multipotente (WHO: Ph neg cMPN)
- Mediana età 60 aa
- M/F 1.2 : 1.0
- Incidenza 0.6 – 1.6 /100.000/anno

# MUTAZIONE JAK2V617F

- Mutazione puntiforme in posizione 617 del Cr. 9, con sostituzione di Valina con Fenilalanina
- Avviene nell'esone 14 nel 95-96% dei casi; nell'esone 12 nel 2-3% = **98%**
- Codifica per una tirosin kinasi (Janus Kinase 2) coinvolta nella via di segnalazione JAK-STAT

# La mutazione JAK2 attiva il gene che promuove l'eritropoiesi



Constantinescu SN, et al. TEM. 1999;10:18-23.

Miura Y, et al. J Biol Chem. 1994;269:29962-29969.

Rossett J, et al. *Nephrol Dial Transplant*. 2005;20:1025-1028.

## Influence of JAK2V617F allele burden on clinical phenotype of polycythemia vera patients: A study from India

Sudha Sazawal, Kanwaljeet Singh, Sunita Chhikara, Rekha Chaubey, Manoranjan Mahapatra, Renu Saxena

### Abstract

**Background:** Elevated JAK2V617F allele burden is associated with enhanced expression of downstream target genes in Philadelphia negative chronic myeloproliferative neoplasms (CMPNs) which include PV, ET & PMF. Previous studies have shown the impact of JAK2V617F allele burden on clinical phenotype of CMPNs. However, there is no data from India regarding the association between JAK2V617F allele burden and clinical phenotype in PV.

**Aims/Settings and Design:** We aimed to investigate the effect of allele burden on clinical phenotype in 90 JAK2V617F positive PV patients and to see its influence on disease related complications. **Material and Methods:** Allele burden of 90 JAK2V617F positive PV patients was quantified by Real-time polymerase chain reaction (RQ-PCR). **Results:** 74/90 (82.22%) were males and 16/90 (17.78%) were females (median 45 years, range 35–78). Patients with age >50 years had significantly higher JAK2V617F allele burden (median 40.15%, range 0.49–91.62 %) than patients with ≤ 50 years age (median 48.59 %, range 0.56–86.74 %;  $P < 0.032$ ). Patients with splenomegaly had significantly higher JAK2V617F allele burden (mean 50.24%, range 6.91–84.17%) than patients without splenomegaly (mean 33.82 %, range 0.49–71.83 %;  $P < 0.017$ ). Patients with higher allele burden (median 57.20, range 43.4–72.03%) had significantly raised thrombotic events than the patients with lower allele burden (median 37.38, range 0.49–84.17%;  $P < 0.043$ ). 49/90 (54%) were homozygous and 41/90 (46%) were heterozygous. **Conclusions:** Higher JAK2V617F allele burden showed association with increased age, splenomegaly and thrombotic events. Thus, it may be considered for prognostication and setting up the treatment protocol in PV patients.

**Key words:** JAK2V617F allele burden, polycythemia vera, real-time polymerase chain reaction



Therapeutic Advances in Hematology

Review

## JAK2 allele burden in the myeloproliferative neoplasms: effects on phenotype, prognosis and change with treatment

Alessandro M. Vannucchi, Lisa Pieri and Paola Guglielmelli

**Abstract:** The field of Philadelphia-chromosome-negative chronic myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs) has recently witnessed tremendous advances in the basic knowledge of disease pathophysiology that followed the identification of mutations in *JAK2* and *MPL*. These discoveries led to a revision of the criteria employed for diagnosis by the World Health Organization. The prognostic role of the *JAK2V617F* mutation and of its allelic burden has been the objective of intensive research using a variety of cellular and animal models as well as in large series of patients. While a definitive position cannot yet be taken on all of the issues, there is a consensus that the presence of higher *V617F* allele burden, that is on the basis of a stronger activation of intracellular signalling pathways, is associated with the clinical phenotype of polycythemia vera and with defined haematological and clinical markers indicative of a more aggressive phenotype. On the other hand, a low allele burden in myelofibrosis is associated with reduced survival. Finally, a significant reduction of *JAK2V617F* allele burden has been demonstrated in patients treated with interferon, while the effects of novel *JAK1* and *JAK2* inhibitors have not yet been fully ascertained.

Ther Adv Hematol

(2011) 2(1) 21–32

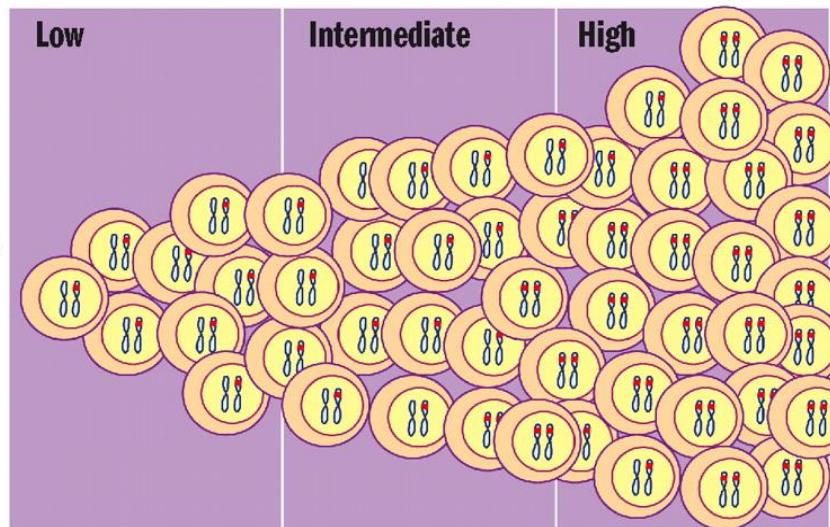
DOI: 10.1177/  
2040620710394474

© The Author(s), 2010.  
Reprints and permissions:  
<http://www.sagepub.co.uk/journalsPermissions.nav>

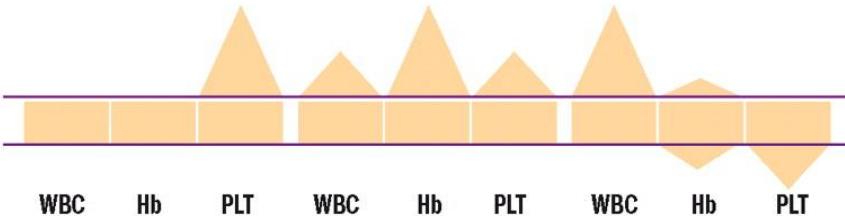
Disease-  
complications  
and evolution

Thrombosis (?)  
Myelofibrosis  
Leukemia (?)

Allele burden of  
*JAK2* (V617F)



Clinical  
phenotype



Cells heterozygous for *JAK2* (V617F)



Cells homozygous for *JAK2* (V617F)



Normal range



Above normal range



Below normal range

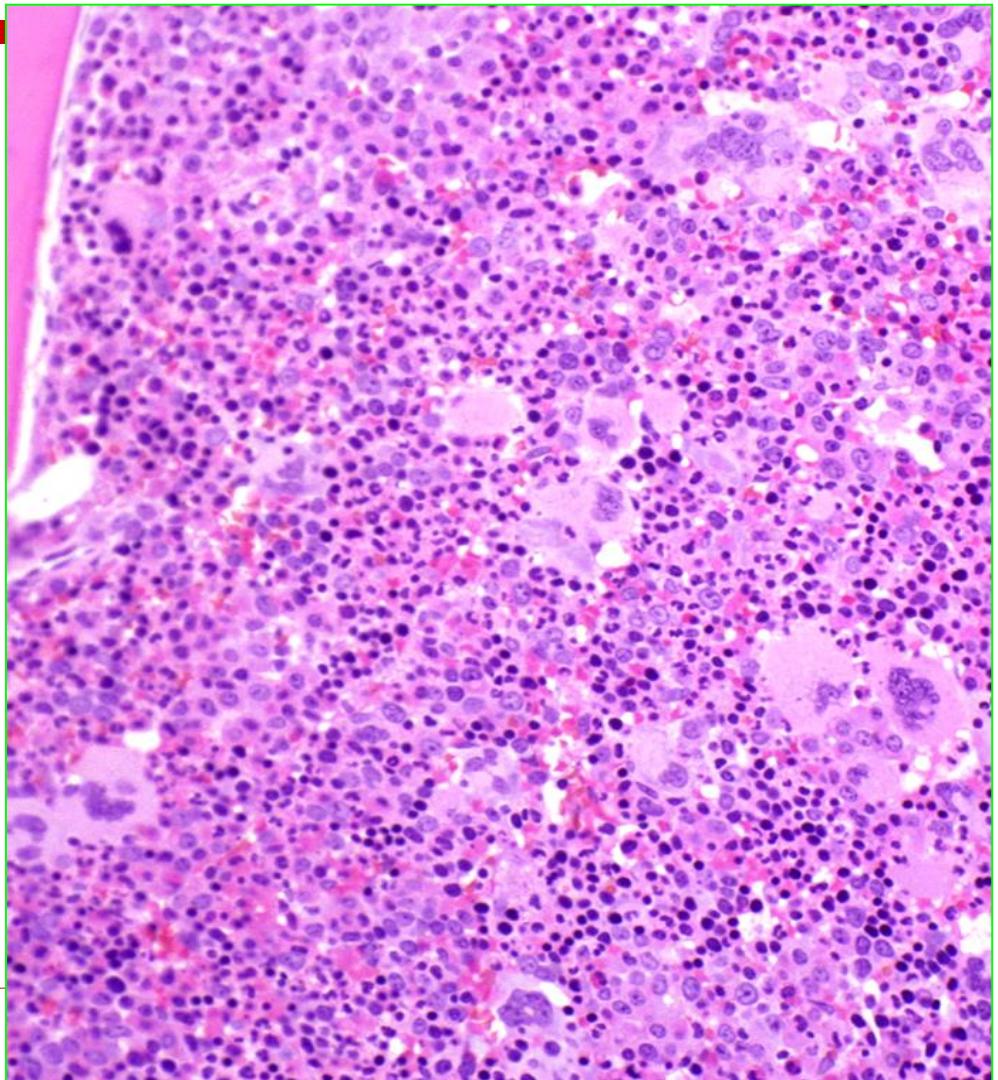
**WHO (2008)** criteria for polycytemia vera (PV): diagnosis requires the presence of **both major criteria and one minor criterion**, or the presence of the first major criterion together with two minor criteria

### Major criteria

1. **Hemoglobin >18.5 g /dL in men, 16.5 g/dL in women** or other evidence of increased red cell volume
2. Presence of **JAK2 V617F** or other functionally similar mutation such **as JAK2 exon 12 mutation**

### Minor criteria

1. **Bone marrow biopsy** showing hypercellularity for age with trilineage growth (panmyelosis) with prominent erythroid, granulocytic and megakaryocytic proliferation
2. **Serum erythropoietin level** below the reference range from normal
3. Endogenous erythroid colony formation in vitro

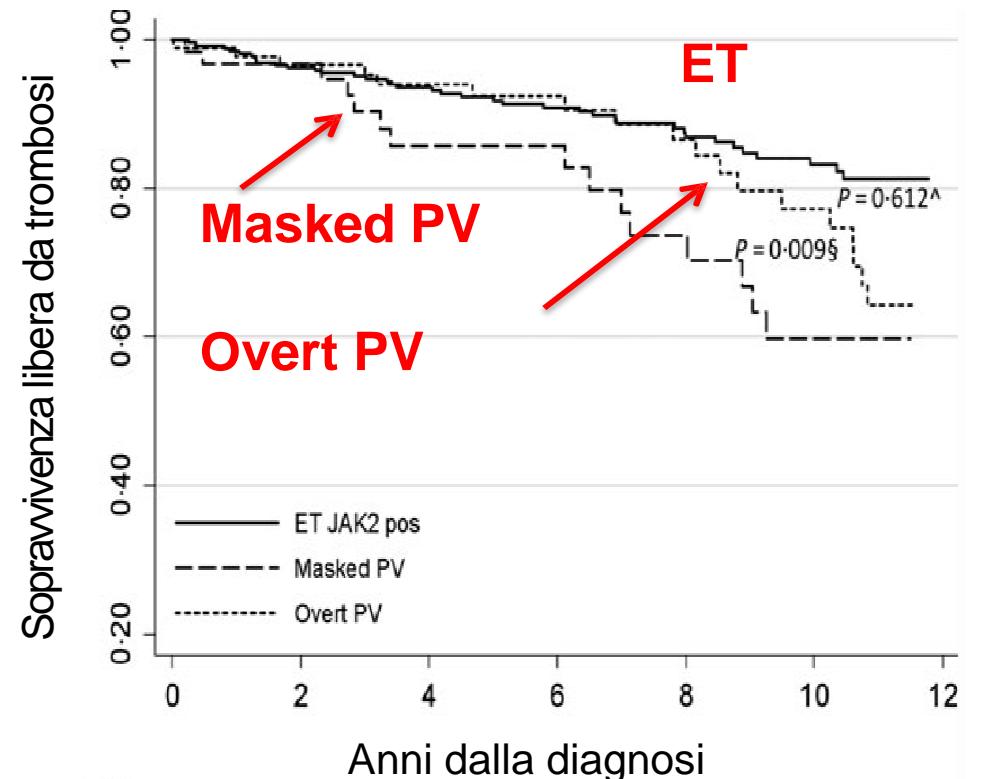


# Revisione dei Criteri Diagnostici della WHO per la Policitemia Vera nel 2016

- **Perché?**
  - **Sottostima** della diagnosi sec. criteri del 2008 nel 30-65% dei soggetti nei quali si dimostrava un aumento della massa eritrocitaria
  - Dimostrazione dell'elevata sensibilità e specificità della **biopsia osteomidollare**
  - Dimostrazione dell'esistenza di una forma iniziale (“**mascherata**”) di PV
  - Necessità di distinguere le forme “mascherate” di PV dalla **Trombocitemia Essenziale**

# Implicazioni dei nuovi criteri diagnostici

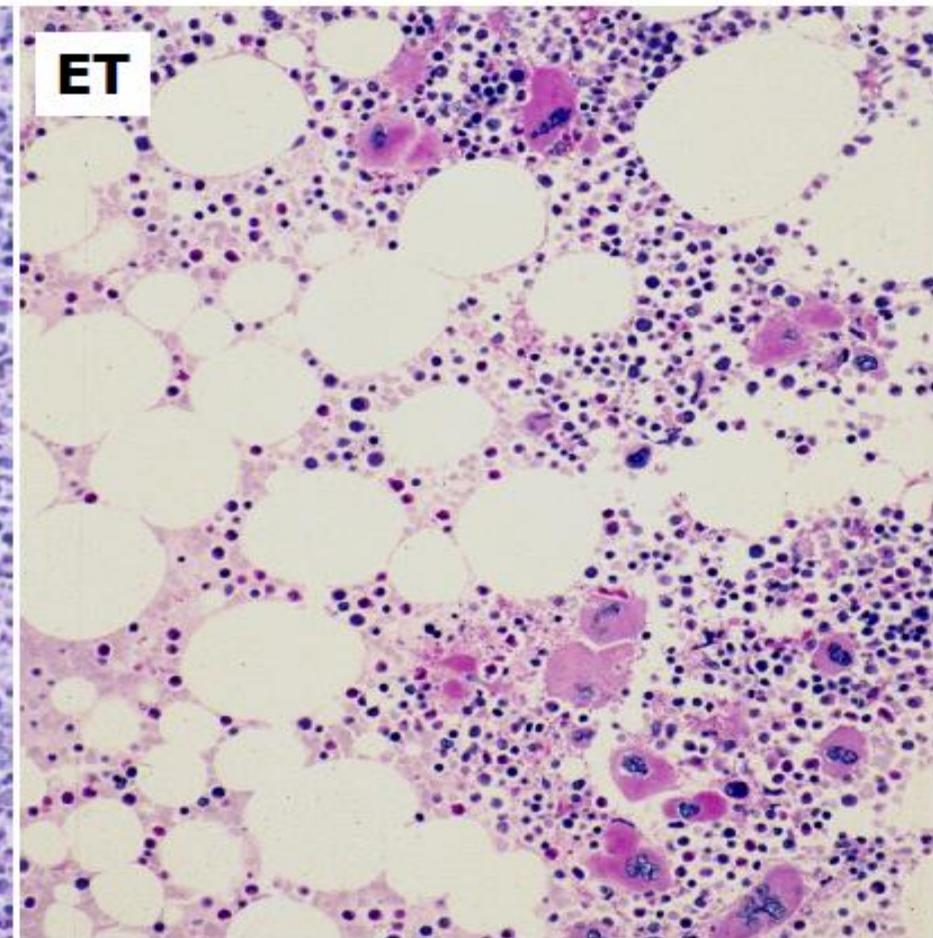
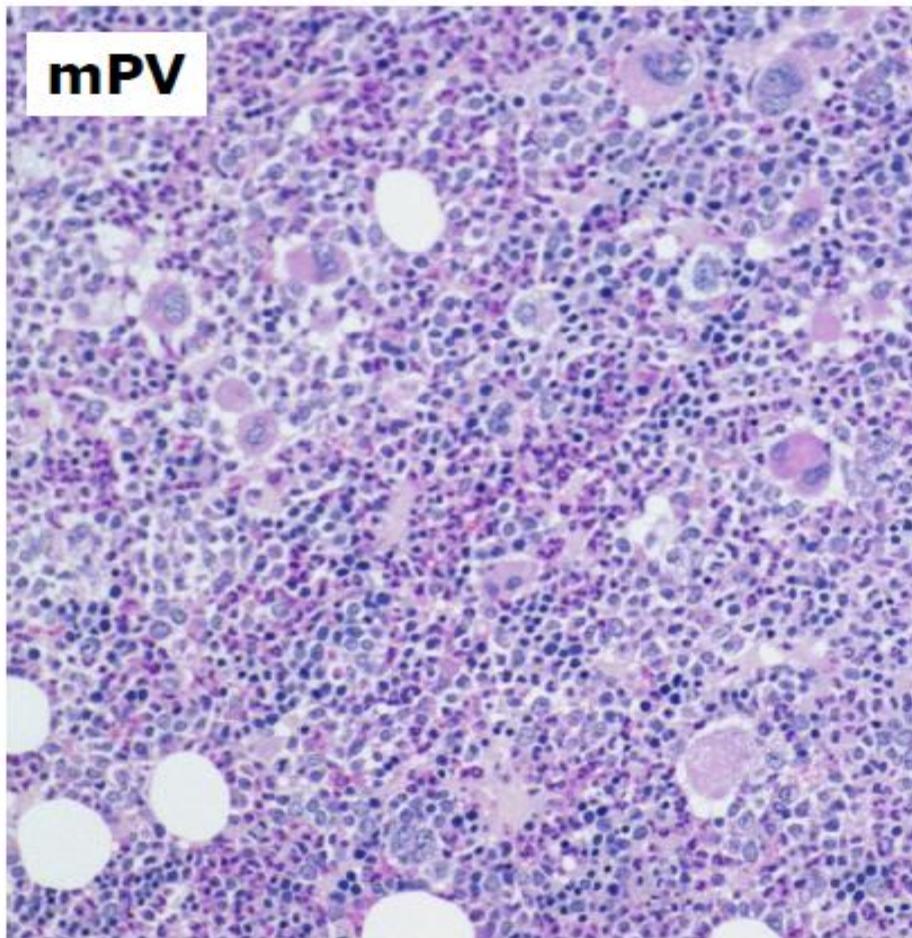
- I “nuovi” livelli di emoglobina ed ematocrito si riscontrano in almeno il **5% della popolazione sana**
- I “nuovi” criteri potrebbero risultare in un **numero eccessivo** di esami non diagnostici
- I “nuovi” criteri devono essere utilizzati ed interpretati da **ematologi esperti**



- I pazienti con PV mascherata presentavano un più elevato numero di eventi trombotici, dovuto ad un trattamento meno intensivo

# **Impact of BM morphology in masked PV**

## **I. Discrimination from ET**



# Discrimination of ET and PV in JAK2 V617F patients by hemoglobin levels

2008 WHO

HB

ET JAK2V617F	Masked PV HB values not meeting 2008 WHO criteria	Overt PV

M: 16,5 g/dL Hct  $\geq$  49%

F: 16,0 g/dL Hct  $\geq$  48%



M: 18,5 g/dL Hct  $\geq$  55,5%



F: 16,5 g/dL Hct  $\geq$  49,5%

Proposal to lower HB threshold values as  
major criteria of PV diagnosis

# **WHO 2016 - Diagnostic criteria for PV**

## **Major criteria:**

- 1. Hb > 16.5 g/dL in men , Hb > 16.0 g/dL in women OR,  
Hct > 49% in men, Hct >48% in women OR increased red cell mass**
- 2. Bone marrow biopsy showing hypercellularity for age with trilineage growth (panmyelosis) including prominent erythroid, granulocytic and megakaryocytic proliferation with pleomorphic megakaryocytes**
- 3. Presence of JAK2 mutation**

## **Minor criterion:**

Subnormal serum **EPO level**

**Diagnosis of PV requires meeting either all three major criteria, or the first two major criteria and the minor criterion**

---

## **WHO 2016 – Revised criteria for PV**

- In **cases with sustained absolute erythrocytosis** (Hb levels >18.5 g/dL, Hct > 55.5 % in men or >16.5 g/dL, 49.5% in women, **bone marrow biopsy may not be necessary for diagnosis if major criterion 3 and the minor criterion are present.**
- However, only by performing a bone marrow biopsy an **initial myelofibrosis** (up to 20%) may be detected that indicates a more rapid progression to overt myelofibrosis (post-PV MF).

# Work-up diagnostico

- Ricerca Mutazione JAK2 + esone 12
- Dosaggio EPO circolante
- (Saturazione O<sub>2</sub>)
- (Ecografia addome)



REGIONE AUTONOMA FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA



PRESIDIO  
OSPEDALIERO  
UNIVERSITARIO

Santa Maria  
della Misericordia  
di Udine

azienda sanitaria universitaria  
integRata di udine



I.M.F.R.

SOC Istituto di Genetica Medica

Direttore: prof. Giuseppe Damante

Tel.: +39 0432 554321 – Fax: +39 0432 554359

e-mail: [giuseppe.damante@asuiud.sanita.fvg.it](mailto:giuseppe.damante@asuiud.sanita.fvg.it)

Cognome..... Nome..... Sesso.....

Data di nascita.....

Reparto di provenienza e/o medico inviante.....

Sospetto diagnostico.....

Data della diagnosi.....

Fase della malattia.....

Precedenti campioni analizzati per la stessa indicazione      [ ] no      [ ] si

Se sì,    data..... risultato.....

MALATTIA MIELOPROLIFERATIVA sospetta (poliglobulie, piastrinosi...)

Precedenti campioni analizzati per la stessa indicazione      [ ] no      [ ] si  
Se si,      data.....risultato.....

**MALATTIA MIELOPROLIFERATIVA sospetta (poliglobulie, piastrinosi...)**

[ ] mutazione **V617F JAK2**

Se JAK2 V617F neg, [ ] ricerca mutazioni **CALR**

se CALR neg, [ ] ricerca mutazioni **MPL W515L/K**

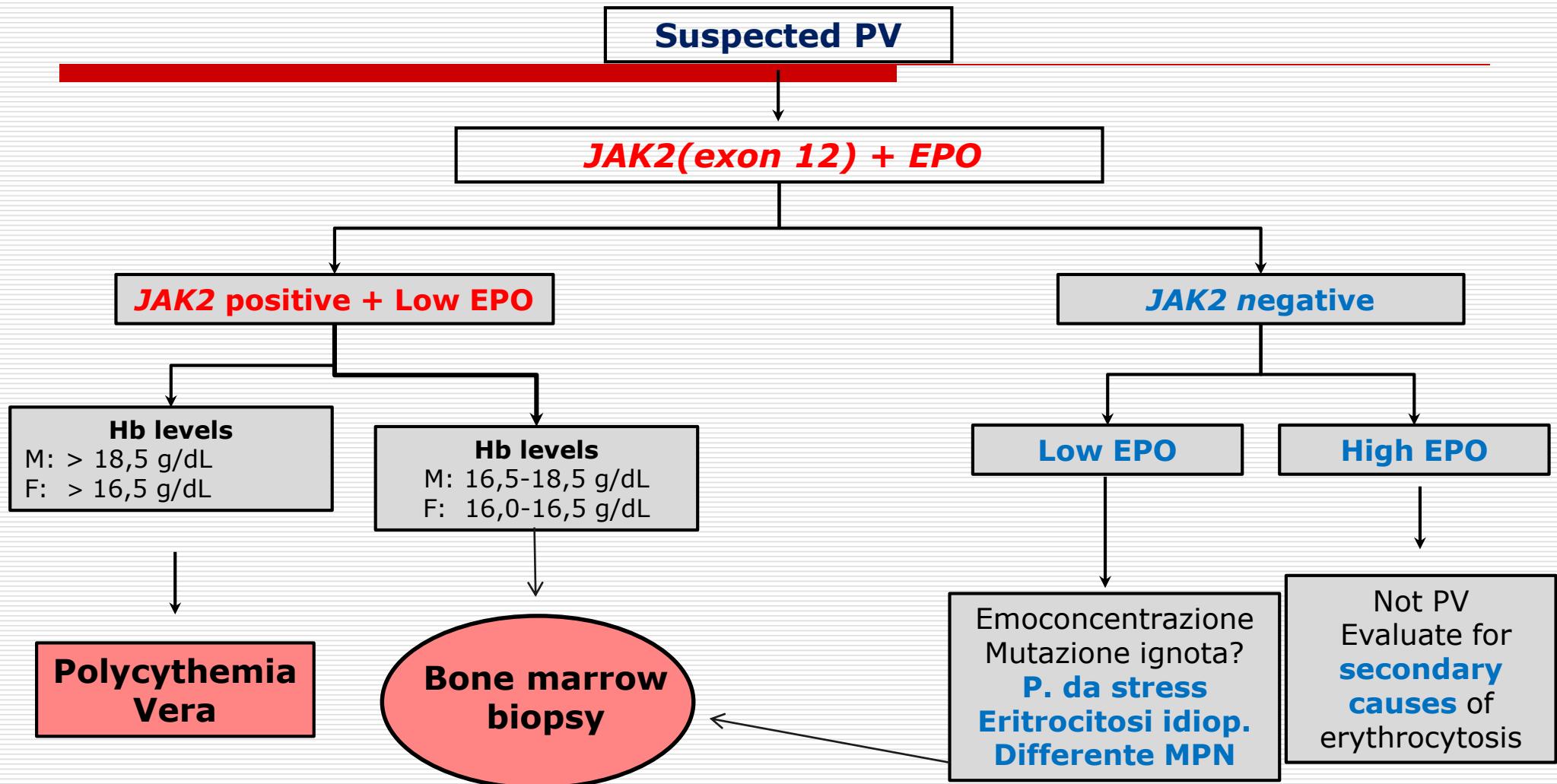
**MALATTIA MIELOPROLIFERATIVA nota (TE, MF, PV) JAK2 V617F negati**

[ ] mutazione **CALR**

se CALR neg , [ ] ricerca mutazioni **MPL W515L/K**

[ ] ricerca mutazioni **JAK2 esone 12**

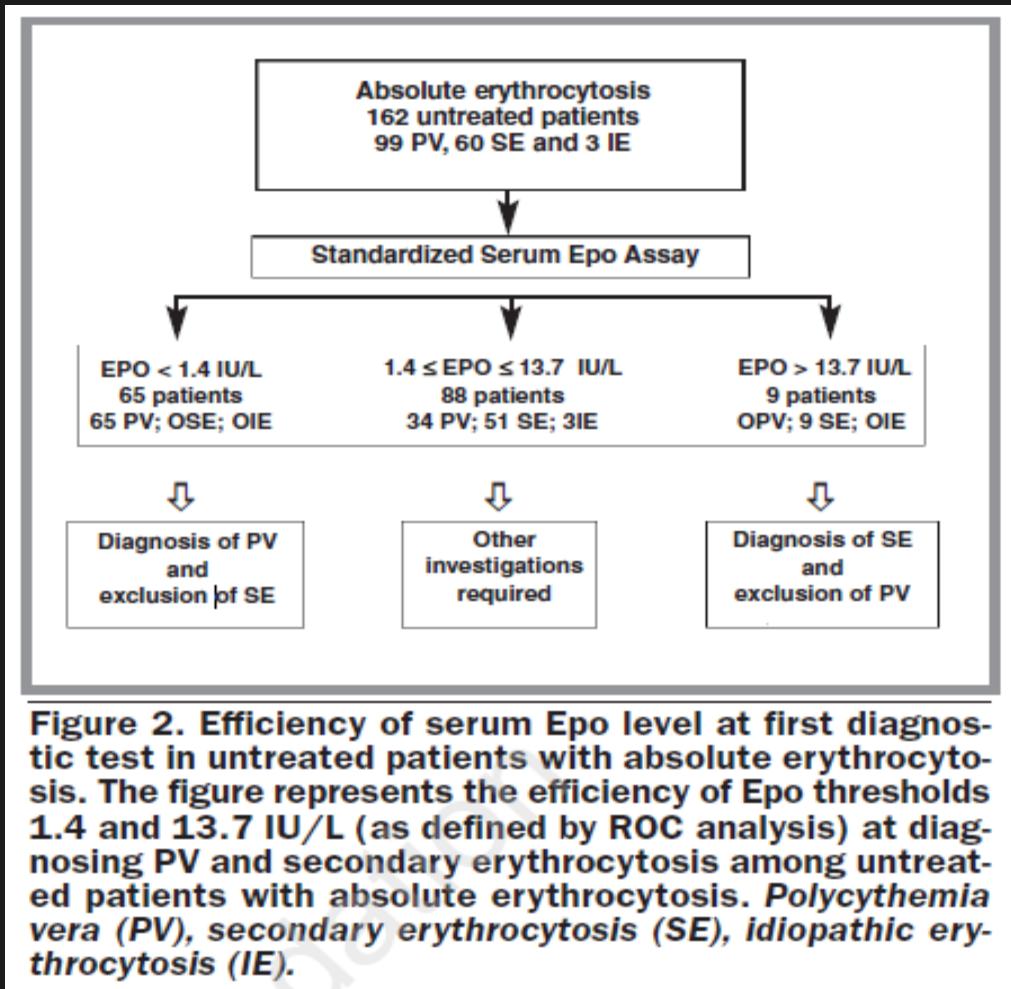
# Algorithm for diagnosis of PV



# Indicazioni alla BO

- casi JAK2 neg (PMF > ET)
- casi con Hb borderline (DD MPN)
- fibrosi midollare (indice prognostico)
- cambio quadro clinico

# The role of erythropoietin



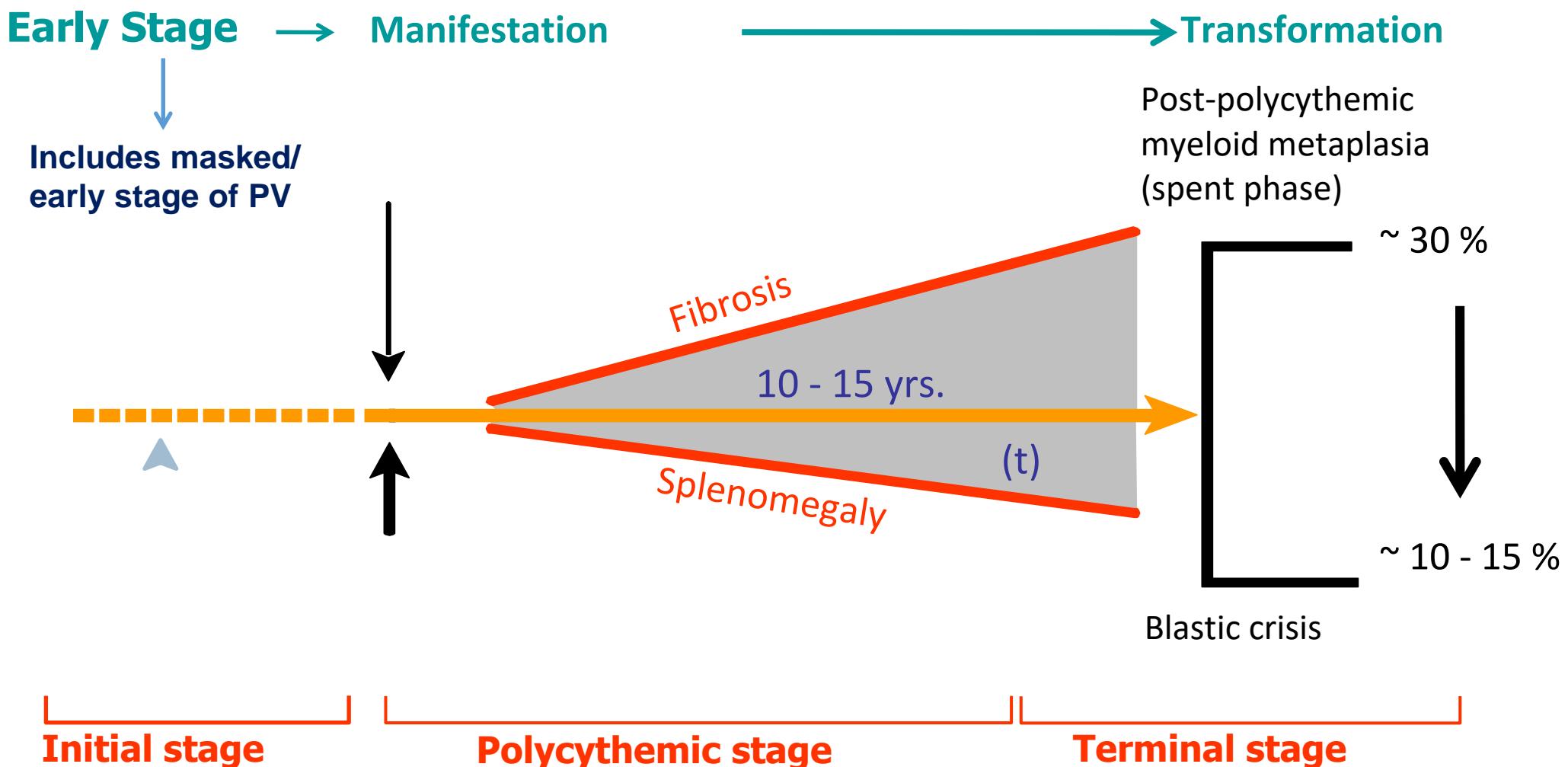
**Figure 2. Efficiency of serum Epo level at first diagnostic test in untreated patients with absolute erythrocytosis. The figure represents the efficiency of Epo thresholds 1.4 and 13.7 IU/L (as defined by ROC analysis) at diagnosing PV and secondary erythrocytosis among untreated patients with absolute erythrocytosis. Polycythemia vera (PV), secondary erythrocytosis (SE), idiopathic erythrocytosis (IE).**

The evaluation of serum erythropoietin is an easy, fast and cheap parameter that aims the physician in the diagnostic evaluation of the patient with polyglobulia

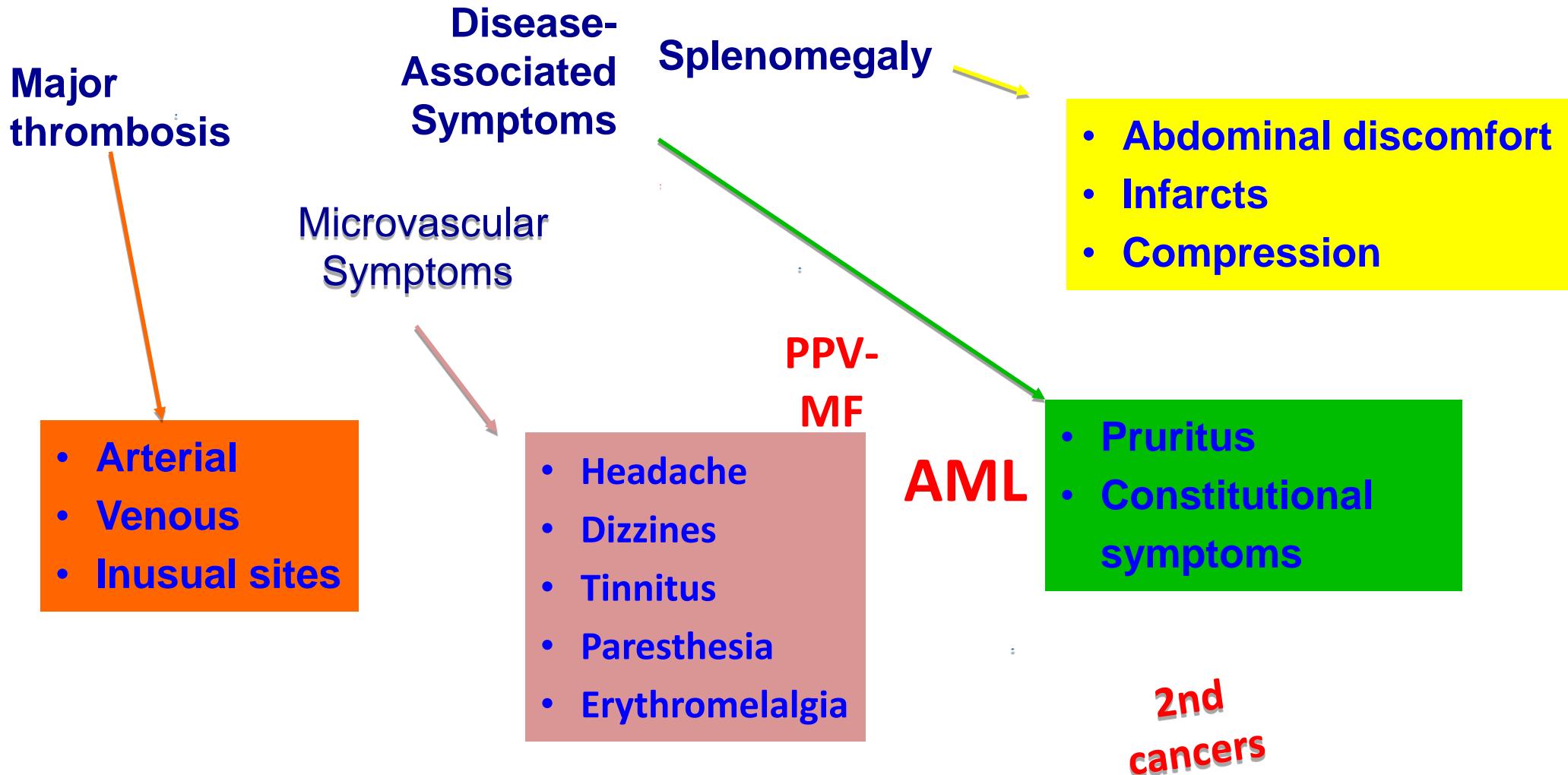
# AGENDA

- Fundamentals
- Inquadramento nosologico
- Diagnosi
- Clinica
- Terapia

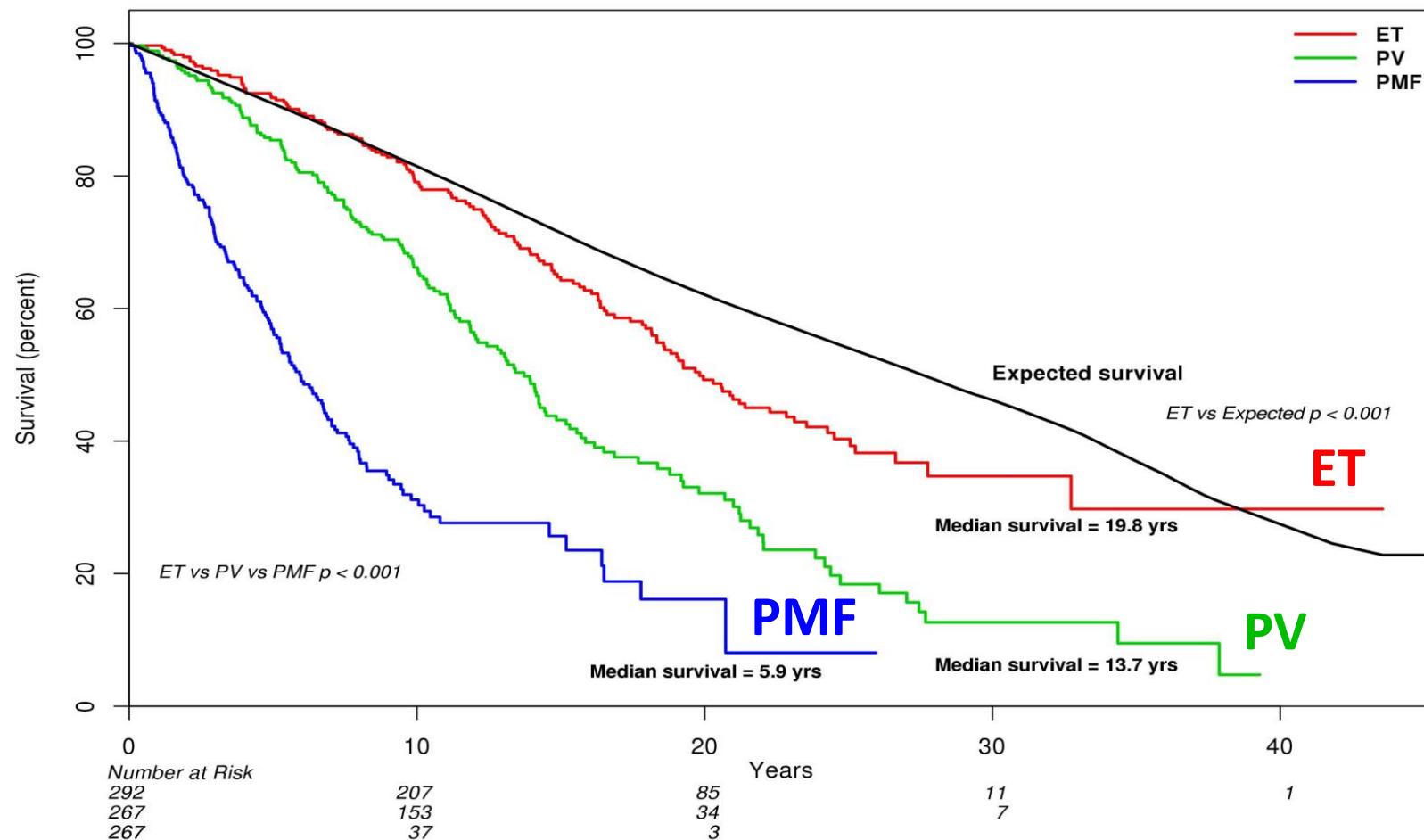
# Evolution of the Disease Progress in PV



# Burden of PV



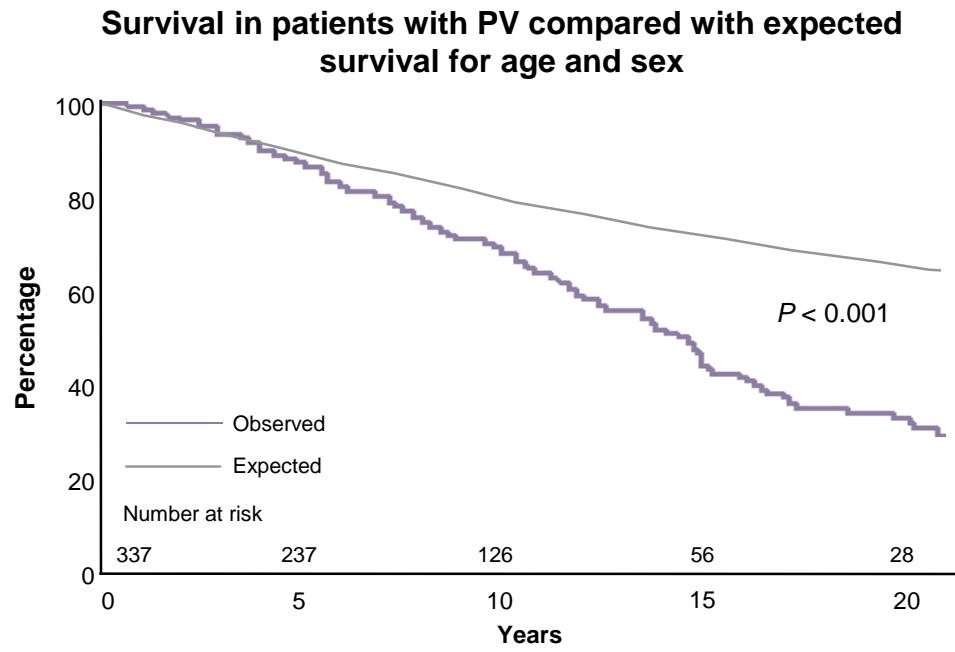
# Overall Survival in PV



Survival in 337 Mayo Clinic patients with PV (44% followed to death) compared with expected survival based on individuals of the same age and gender from the US population

# PV patients **mortality rate** is about **1.6 times higher** vs. general population<sup>4</sup>

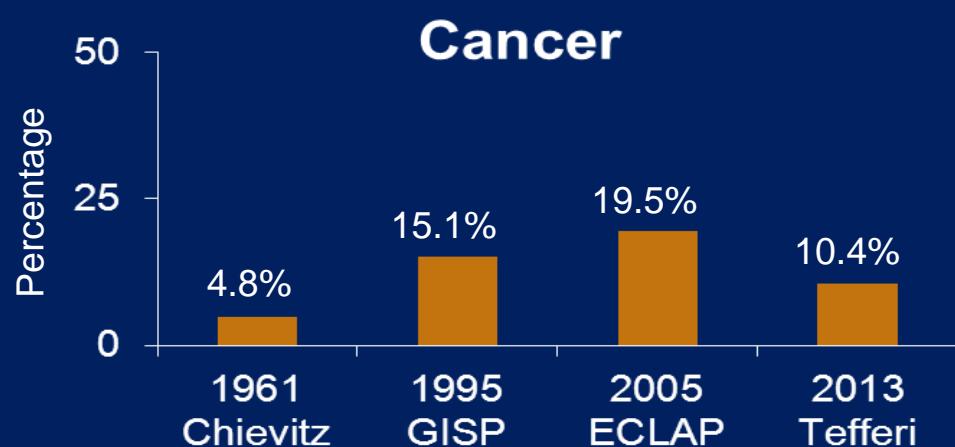
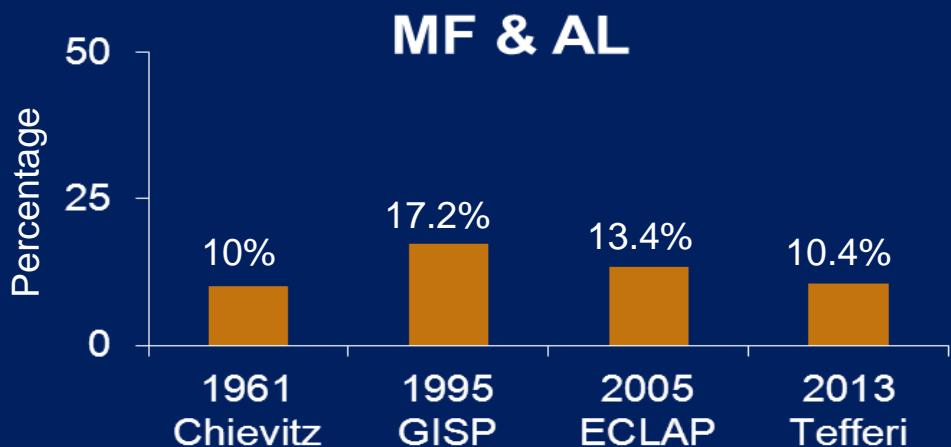
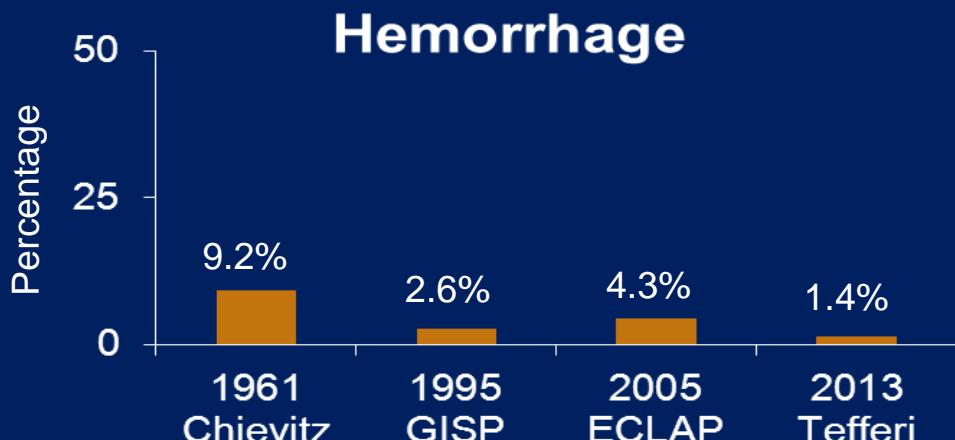
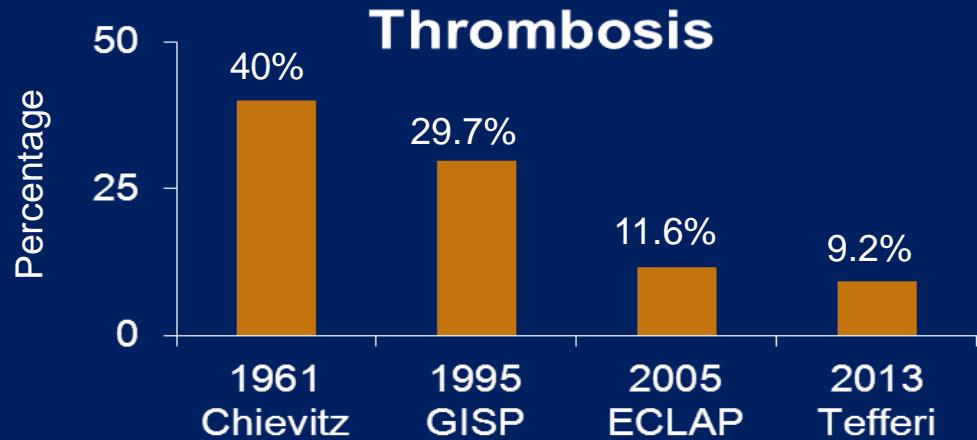
- Patients can live with PV for many years but life expectancy is shorter than the average population of the same age<sup>1</sup>
- If not treated, PV can lead to **death within 18 months** (median)<sup>1</sup>
- If treated, PV patients median overall survival (OS) is approximately **14.1 years**<sup>2</sup>
- **46% of PV Patients are classified as high risk Patients\*** with a median OS of **8.3 years**<sup>2</sup>



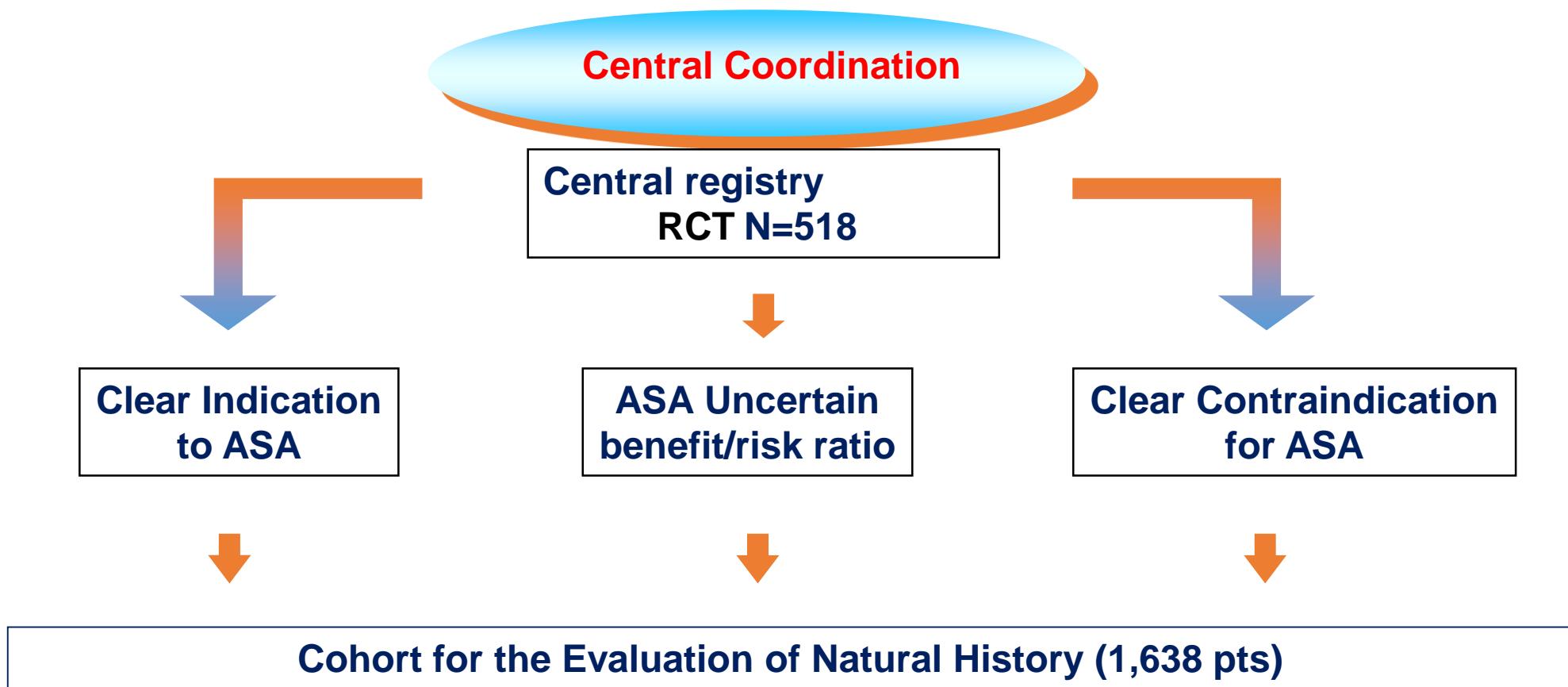
Survival in 337 Mayo Clinic patients with PV (44% followed to death; median survival, 14.1 years) compared with expected survival based on individuals of the same age and sex from the total US population.

1. Tefferi A, et al. *Leukemia*. 2013;27:1874-1881;
2. Alvarez-Larrán A, et al. *Blood*. 2012;119:1363-1369.
3. Marchioli R, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2013; 368:22-33.
- 4 Passamonti et al., 2014

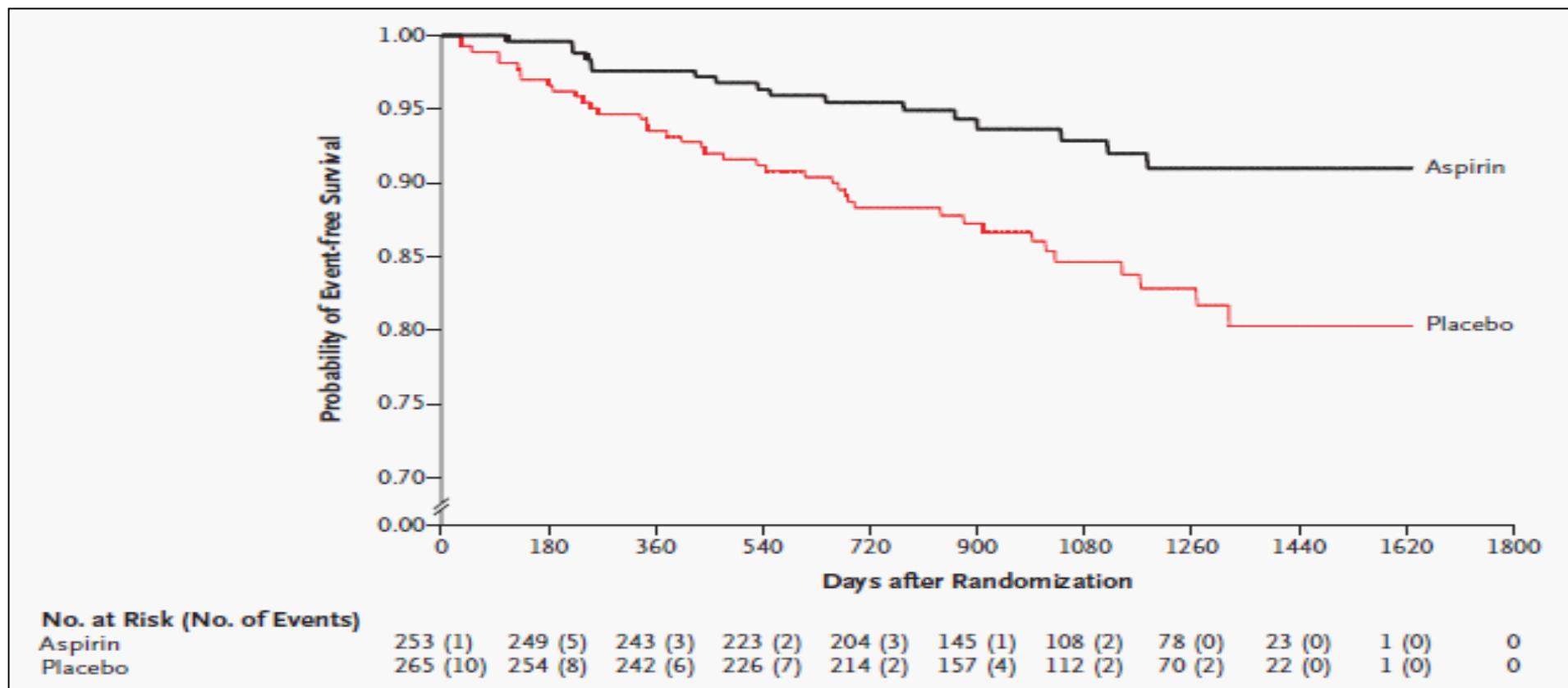
# Causes of Death in PV Patients



# ECLAP: European Collaboration on Low-Dose Aspirin in PV

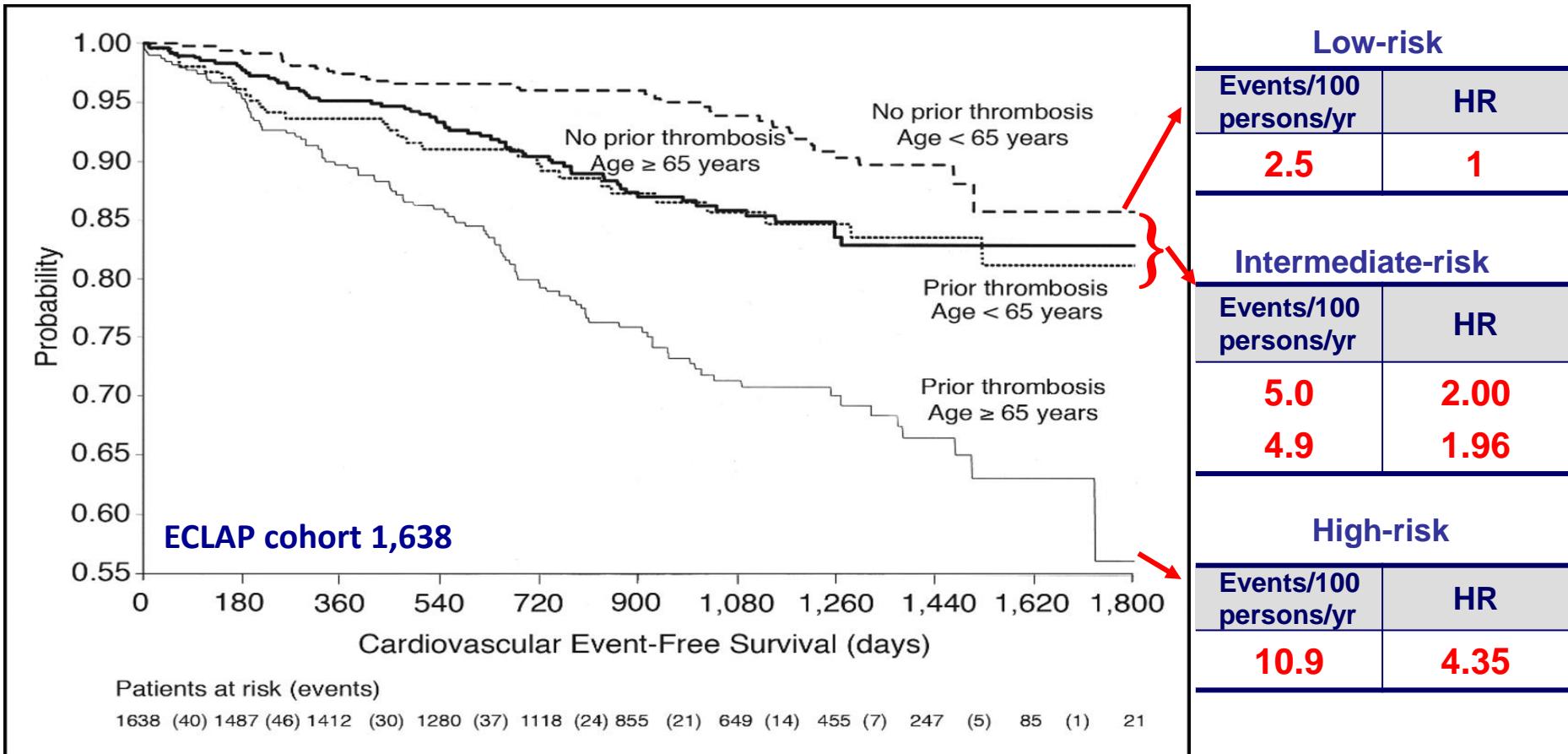


# Superiority of Low Dose Aspirin to Placebo in the ECLAP Study



- Probability of survival free of myocardial infarction, stroke, and death from cardiovascular causes, pulmonary embolism and DVT. HR: 0.40 (95% CI, 0.18 to 0.91)
- A trend for more frequent minor bleeding was observed

# Risk Factors for Thrombosis: Results of the ECLAP Observational Study



# Rate of Major Thrombosis by Risk Group in PV and Calendar Period of Diagnosis

	LOW RISK	HIGH RISK
<b>Dx before 2005</b> IR per 100 person/yrs	IR: 2.03 % pts/yr; 95% CI: 1.58-2.61	<b>IR: 4.01 % pts/yr;</b> 95% CI: 3.28-4.90
<b>Dx after 2005</b> IR per 100 person/yrs	IR: 2.24 % pts/yr; 95% CI: 1.33-3.78	<b>IR: 2.93 % pts/yr;</b> 95% CI: 1.89-4.54

- AMI, stroke, PAT, DVT, PE, TIA, SVT

DVT = deep-vein thrombosis, IR = incidence rate, AMI = acute myocardial infarction, , PAT = peripheral arterial thrombosis), PE = pulmonary embolism, TIA = transient ischemic attack

Barbui T et al, Am J Hematol 2015; 90:934-7



## Risk Category

Age > 60 Years or  
History of Thrombosis

Low

NO

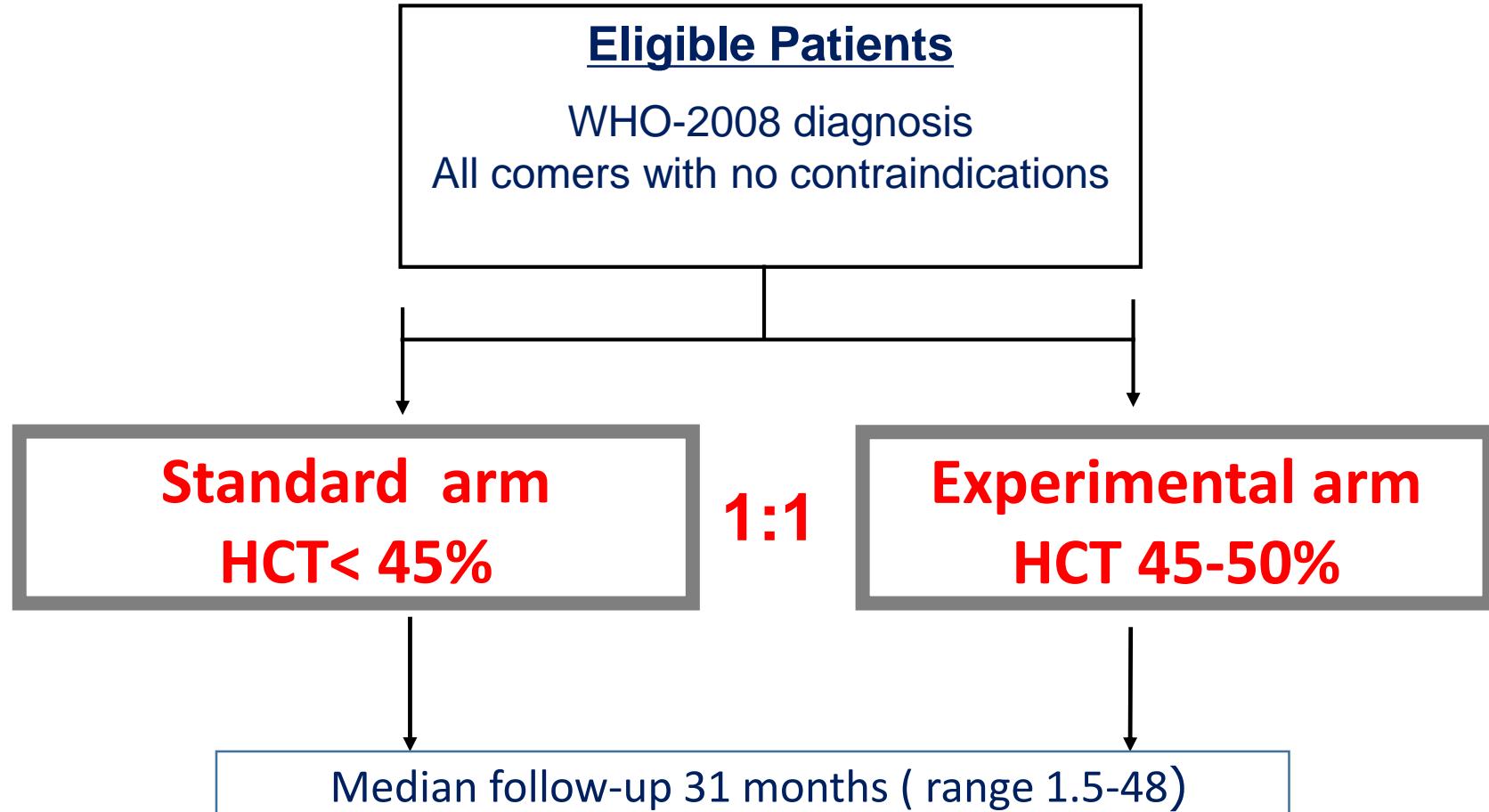
High

YES

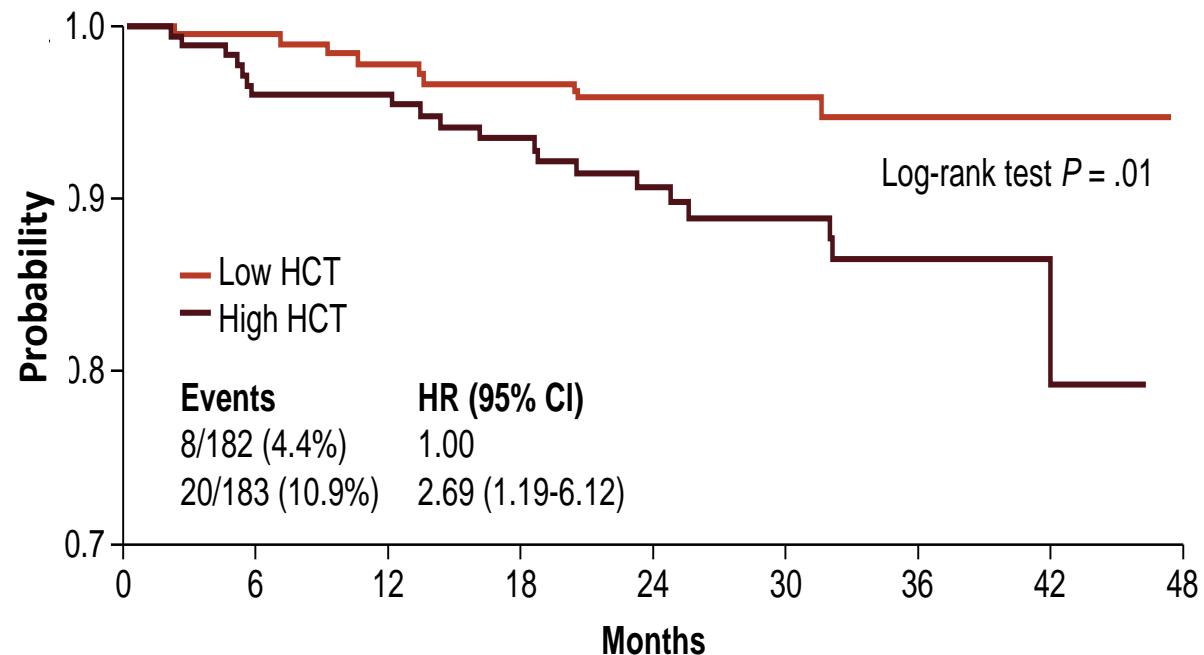
---

**High hematocrit, hypertension, leukocytosis, *JAK2V617F* allele burden, and other risk factors for thrombosis (smoking, DM, hypercholesterolemia, thrombophilia), are not formally integrated into current scores.**

# Optimal Target Level of Hematocrit in the Management of PV: the CYTO-PV Study



# Lower Rate of Cardiovascular Events or Major Thrombosis in Stringent Hematocrit Control Arm (Cyto-PV trial)



In patients with **hematocrit levels  $\geq 45\%$** , the risk of CV-related **death or major thrombosis** was increased approximately **4 times** ( $P = 0.007$ ) versus patients with hematocrit  $< 45\%$

Low HCT	182	(1)	176	(3)	165	(2)	151	(1)	127	(0)	94	(1)	60	(0)	18	(0)	0
High HCT	183	(7)	167	(0)	159	(4)	141	(4)	108	(2)	91	(2)	53	(1)	11	(0)	0

# Hematocrit is a risk factor for thrombosis in PV

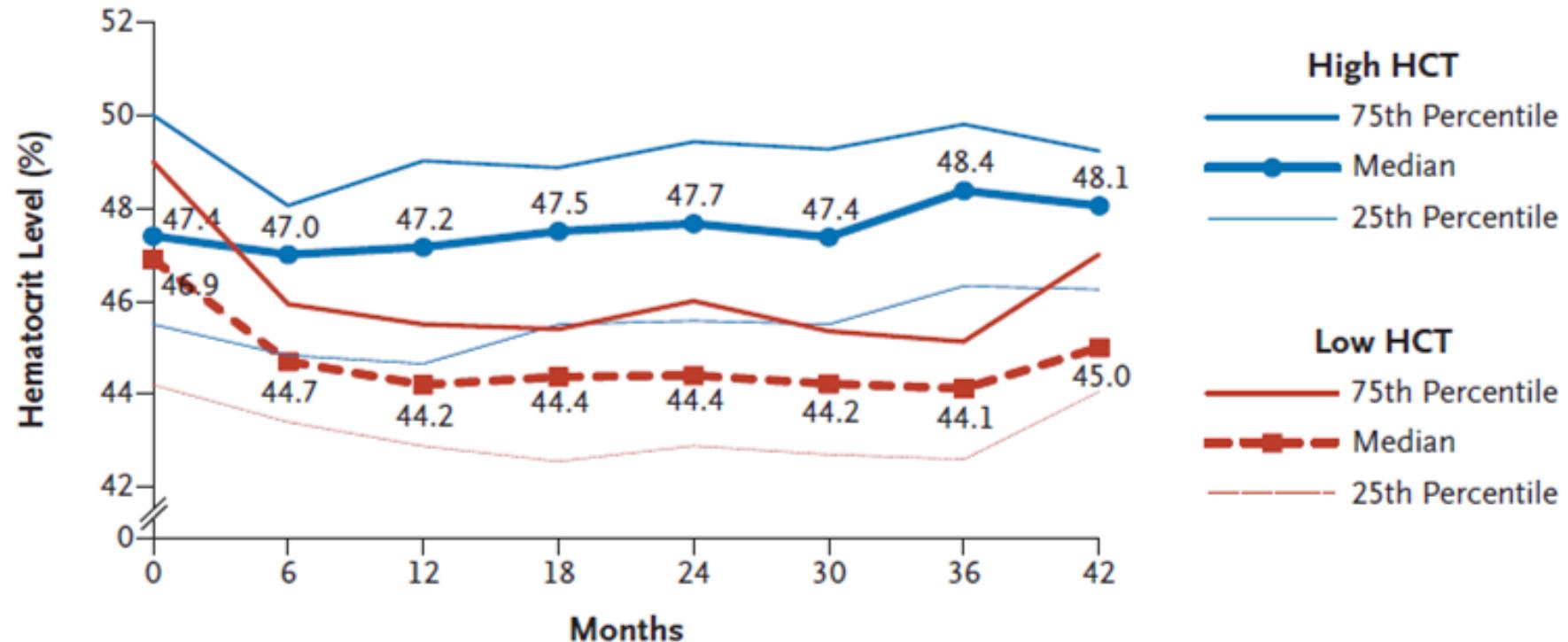


	HCT < 45% n = 182	HCT 45-50% n = 183	Total n = 365	HR (95% CI)	p
<b>Primary Endpoint*, n (%)</b> (CV death, MI, stroke, PAT, DVT, PE, TIA and abdominal thrombosis)	<b>5 (2.8)</b>	<b>19 (10.4)</b>	24 (6.6)	<b>4.12</b> (1.54-11.0)	0.005
IR person/year	<b>1.1</b>	<b>4.7</b>	2.9		
<b>Total CV events*, n (%)</b> (Primary Endpoint plus superficial thrombosis)	<b>8 (4.4)</b>	<b>21 (11.5)</b>	29 (8.0)	<b>2.83</b> (1.25-6.38)	0.012
IR person/year	<b>1.9</b>	<b>5.2</b>	3.5		

\* After a median of 31 months of follow-up.

Marchioli et al. NEJM 2013;368:22

# Hematocrit Level During the Cyto-PV Study



## No. of Patients

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Low HCT	182	179	171	157	135	103	64	26
High HCT	183	178	166	145	127	97	63	22

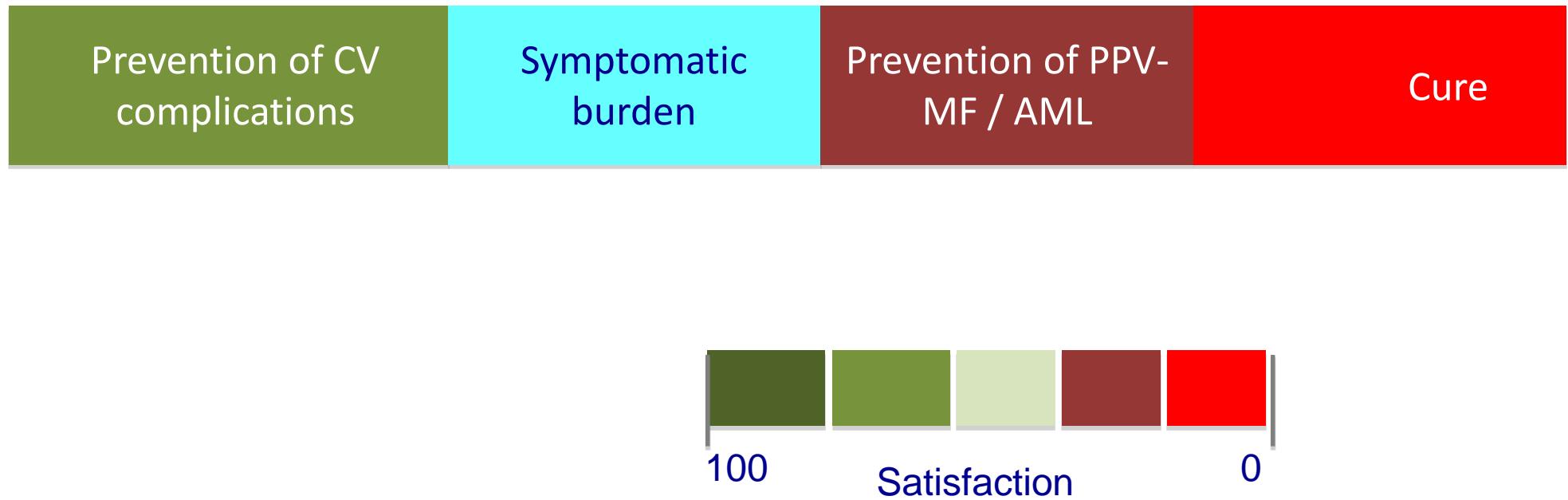
# AGENDA

- Fundamentals
- Inquadramento nosologico
- Diagnosi
- Clinica
- Terapia

# Goals of Therapy in Patients with PV



**ELN** European LeukemiaNet®



# Management of the disease is tailored to individual patients on the basis of their risk for thrombotic events and age

## Low risk patients

- < 60 years old **AND**
- No history of thrombosis

## Treatment



Phlebotomy

+

Aspirin low dose

## PV Population

### In case of:

- Frequent **phlebotomy** requirements/intolerance
- Symptomatic **splenomegaly**
- Severe disease related **symptoms**
- **Plt count**  $> 1,500 \times 10^9 / L$
- Progressive **leukocytosis**



Add cytoreductive therapies

## High risk patients

- $\geq 60$  years old **AND / OR**
- History of thrombosis

## Treatment



Phlebotomy

+

Aspirin low dose

+

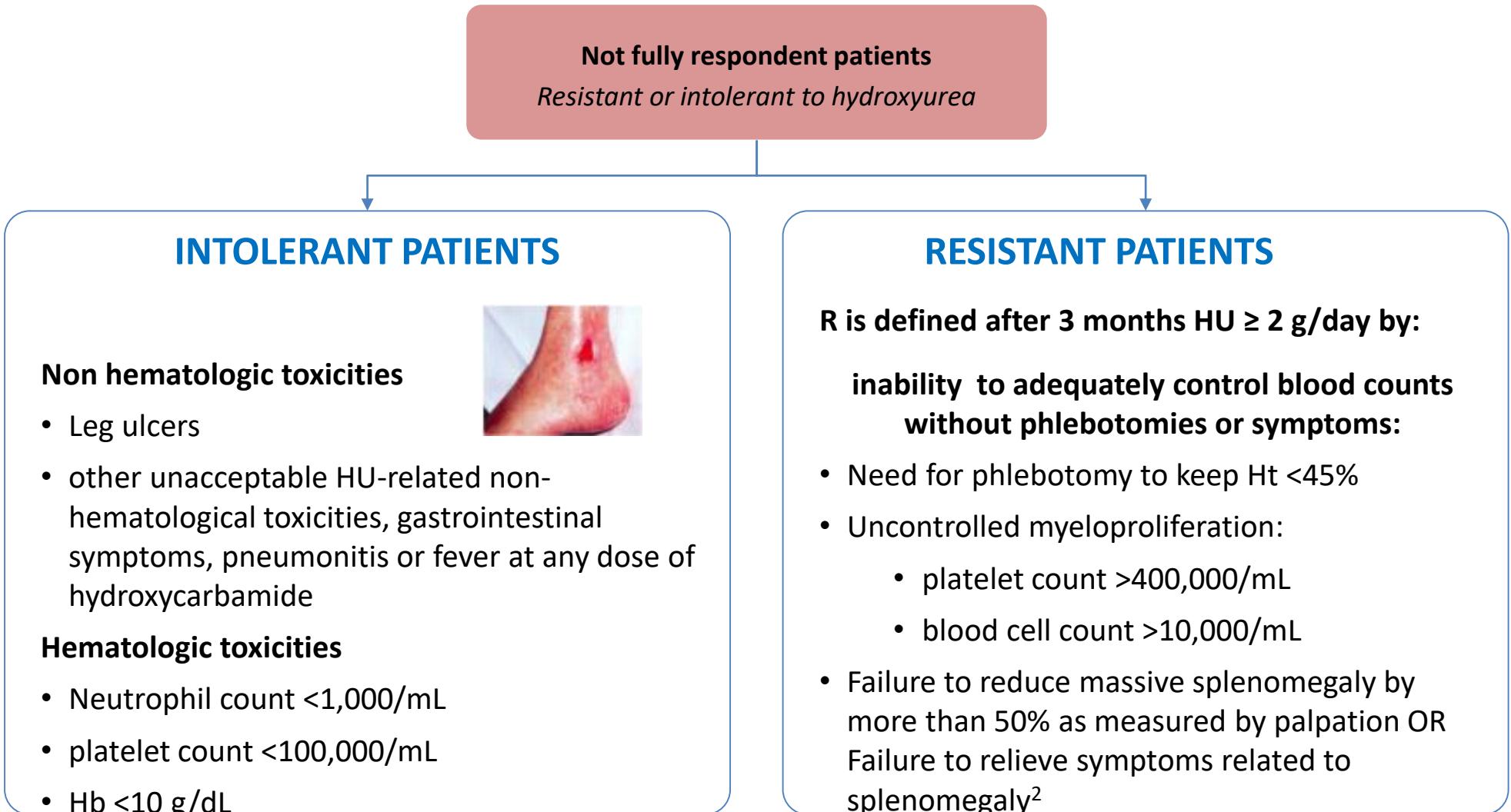
Cytoreductive therapy, mainly hydroxyurea<sup>1</sup>

% of PV patients are not fully responders because they become resistant or intolerant to HU



Not fully respondent patients  
Resistant or intolerant to hydroxyurea

# ELN criteria for resistance and intolerance to HU in PV



# Development of resistance or intolerance to HU in a real life setting represents a therapeutic challenge

Cytoreductive agents



Busulfan

Potentially leukemogenic in long term treatment  
To be used only  $\geq 75$  y

Pipobroman

Potentially leukemogenic in long term treatment;  
withdrawn from the market

Radiophosphorus

Not recommended

IFN- $\alpha$

Off label  
High discontinuation rates

Ruxolitinib

## Regular Article

### CLINICAL TRIALS AND OBSERVATIONS

## Ropeginterferon alfa-2b, a novel IFN $\alpha$ -2b, induces high response rates with low toxicity in patients with polycythemia vera

Heinz Gisslinger,<sup>1</sup> Oleh Zagrijtschuk,<sup>2</sup> Veronika Buxhofer-Ausch,<sup>3,4</sup> Josef Thaler,<sup>5</sup> Ernst Schloegl,<sup>6</sup> Guenther A. Gastl,<sup>7</sup> Dominik Wolf,<sup>7,8</sup> Robert Kralovics,<sup>1,9</sup> Bettina Gisslinger,<sup>1</sup> Karin Strecker,<sup>3</sup> Alexander Egle,<sup>10</sup> Thomas Melchardt,<sup>10</sup> Sonja Burgstaller,<sup>5</sup> Ella Willenbacher,<sup>7</sup> Martin Schalling,<sup>1</sup> Nicole C. Them,<sup>9</sup> Pavla Kadlecova,<sup>11</sup> Christoph Klade,<sup>2</sup> and Richard Greil<sup>10</sup>

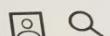
<sup>1</sup>Department of Internal Medicine I, Division of Hematology and Blood Coagulation, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria; <sup>2</sup>AOP Orphan Pharmaceuticals AG, Vienna, Austria; <sup>3</sup>Sozialmedizinisches Zentrum Ost - Donauspital, Vienna, Austria; <sup>4</sup>Krankenhaus der Elisabethinen Linz, Linz, Austria; <sup>5</sup>Department of Internal Medicine IV, Wels-Grieskirchen Hospital, Wels, Austria; <sup>6</sup>Third Medical Department, Hanusch Hospital, Vienna, Austria; <sup>7</sup>Department of Internal Medicine V, Hematology & Oncology, Innsbruck Medical University, Innsbruck, Austria; <sup>8</sup>Medical Clinic 3, Oncology, Hematology and Rheumatology, University Hospital of Bonn, Bonn, Germany; <sup>9</sup>Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria

<sup>10</sup>Laboratory for Immunological and Molecular Cancer Research, Department of Internal Medicine III with Hematology, Medical Oncology, Hemostaseology, Infectious Diseases, Rheumatology, Oncologic Center, Paracelsus Medical University, Salzburg, Austria; and <sup>11</sup>Advanced Drug and Device Services SA Brno, Czech Republic

#### Key Points

- The novel IFN $\alpha$ -2b, ropeginterferon alfa-2b, administered once every 2 weeks has low toxicity and

In this prospective, open-label, multicenter phase 1/2 dose escalation study, we used a next-generation, mono-pegylated interferon (IFN)  $\alpha$ -2b isoform, ropeginterferon alfa-2b. The unique feature of ropeginterferon alfa-2b is a longer elimination half-life, which allows administration every 2 weeks. We present data from 51 polycythemia vera patients. The main goal was to define the maximum tolerated dose and to assess safety and efficacy. A dose range of 50 to 540  $\mu$ g was tested without the appearance of dose-limiting toxicities. All drug-related adverse events were known toxicities associated with IFN.



MENU ▾

blood

CLINICAL TRIALS AND OBSERVATIONS | OCTOBER 31, 2019

### Pegylated interferon alfa-2a for polycythemia vera or essential thrombocythemia resistant or intolerant to hydroxyurea

Clinical Trials & Observations

Abdulraheem Yacoub, John Mascarenhas, Heidi Kosiorek, Josef T. Prchal, Dmitry Berenzon, Maria R. Baer, Ellen Ritchie, Richard T. Silver, Craig Kessler, Elliott Winton, Maria Chiara Finazzi, Alessandro Rambaldi, Alessandro M. Vannucchi, David Leibowitz, Damiano Rondelli, Murat O. Arcasoy, Rosalind Chatatourian, Joseph Vadakara, Vittorio Rosti, Elizabeth Hexner, Marina Kreymanskaia, Lonette Sandy, Joseph Tripodi, Vesna Najfeld, Noushin Farnoud, Elli Papaemmanuil, Mohamed Salama, Rona Singer-Weinberg, Raajit Rampal, Judith D. Goldberg, Tiziano Barbui, Ruben Mesa, Amylou C. Dueck, Ronald Hoffman

Check for updates

Blood (2019) 134 (18): 1498-1509.

https://doi.org/10.1182/blood.2019000428

Article history

31/10/19

Connected Content

related article has been published: Reducing the burden of MPN

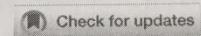


MENU ▾

634.MYELOPROLIFERATIVE SYNDROMES: CLINICAL | NOVEMBER 13, 2019

## Thromboembolic Risk Reduction and High Rate of Complete Molecular Response with Long-Term Use of Roperginterferon Alpha-2b in Polycythemia Vera: Results from a Randomized Controlled Study

Jean-Jacques Kiladjian, MD PhD, Christoph Klade, PhD, Pencho Georgiev, MD, Dorota Krochmalczyk, MD, Liana Gercheva-Kyuchukova, MD, Miklos Egyed, Viktor Rossiev, MD, Petr Dulicek, MD, Árpád Illés, MD D.Sc., Halyna Pylypenko, MD, Lylia Sivcheva, MD, Jiri Mayer, MD, Vera Yablokova, MD, Kurt Krejcy, MD, Hans Hasselbalch, MD, Robert Kralovics, PhD, Heinz Gisslinger, MD



Blood (2019) 134 (Supplement\_1): 553.

https://doi.org/10.1182/blood-2019-122233

13/11/2019

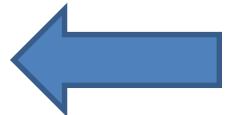
Split-Screen Share Tools

# Interferon Alpha in Polycythemia Vera

- IFN- $\alpha$  has shown evidence of
  - Molecular responses in patients with early stages of PV
  - Relieving pruritus in some patients
  - Use in pregnancy
  - Inducing complete hematologic responses
  - Based upon phase 2 studies in a limited number of patients, IFN- $\alpha$  affects rates of thrombosis, the evolution to AML or secondary MF, and the development of bone marrow fibrosis<sup>1</sup>
  - However, 15–25% of the patients have to discontinue treatment with pegylated IFN because of toxicities

# Eventi avversi associati al trattamento con oncocabide o interferone

Adverse Event	ONCO HU (n=36)	Peg-IFN PEG (n=36)	P Value*
Abdominal pain	2 (6%)	7 (19%)	0.07
Anemia	6 (17%)	7 (19%)	0.76
Depression	-	10 (28%)	<0.001
Diarrhea	5 (14%)	7 (19%)	0.53
Dyspnea	1 (3%)	7 (19%)	0.02
Fatigue	10 (28%)	18 (50%)	0.05
Flu-like symptoms	1 (3%)	12 (33%)	<0.001
Headache	4 (11%)	7 (19%)	0.33
Injection site reaction	-	9 (25%)	0.001
Leukopenia	3 (8%)	8 (22%)	0.10
Nausea	7 (19%)	7 (19%)	0.99
Pain	9 (25%)	11 (31%)	0.60
Pruritus	3 (8%)	10 (28%)	0.03
Thrombocytopenia	7 (19%)	6 (17%)	0.76
Overall (grade 1+)	32 (89%)	36 (100%)	0.04
Overall (grade 3+)	5 (14%)	17 (47%)	0.002



## A pilot study of the Histone-Deacetylase inhibitor Givinostat in patients with JAK2V617F positive chronic myeloproliferative neoplasms

*ssandro Rambaldi,<sup>1</sup> Chiara Maria  
lascasa,<sup>1</sup> Guido Finazzi,<sup>1</sup> Alessandra  
obbio,<sup>1</sup> Maria Luisa Ferrari,<sup>1</sup> Paola  
ielmelli,<sup>2</sup> Elisabetta Gattoni,<sup>3</sup> Silvia  
iraghi,<sup>1</sup> Maria Chiara Finazzi,<sup>1</sup>  
*Di Tollo,<sup>4</sup> Carmine D'Urzo,<sup>4</sup>*  
*ndro M. Vannucchi,<sup>2</sup> Giovanni  
and Tiziano Barbui<sup>1</sup>**

Long-Term Safety and Efficacy Study of Givinostat in Patients with Polycythemia Vera Page 1 of 6



634. MYELOPROLIFERATIVE SYNDROMES: CLINICAL: POSTER I | DECEMBER 7, 2017

# **A Long-Term Safety and Efficacy Study of Givinostat in Patients with Polycythemia Vera: The First 4 Years of Treatment**

*Guido Finazzi, MD, Alessandra Iurlo, MD PhD, Bruno Martino, Giuseppe Carli, MD, Attilio Guarini, MD, Richard Noble, MD, Alessandro M. Vannucchi, Nikolas von Bubnoff, MD, Marianna De Muro, MD, Paolo Di Bartolomeo, MD, Mary Frances McMullin, MB,Bch BAO, MD FRCPPath, Vincenzo Martinelli, MD, Antonio Pezzutto, MD PhD, Vittorio Rosti, MD, Giorgina Specchia, MD, Paolo Bettica, MD PhD, Sara Manzoni, DHSC, BSc, Silvia DI Tollo, DHSC, BSc, Alessandro Rambaldi, MD Prof*

 Check for updates

Blood (2017) 130 (Supplement 1): 1648.

[https://doi.org/10.1182/blood.V130.Suppl\\_1.1648](https://doi.org/10.1182/blood.V130.Suppl_1.1648)

## **A phase II study of Givinostat in combination with hydroxycarbamide in patients with polycythaemia vera unresponsive to hydroxycarbamide monotherapy**

Guido Finazzi,<sup>1</sup> Alessandro M. Vannucci,<sup>2</sup> Vincenzo Martinelli,<sup>3</sup> Marco Uggeri,<sup>4</sup> Francesco Nobile,<sup>5</sup> Giorgina Ecchia,<sup>6</sup> Enrico Maria Pogliani,<sup>7</sup> Orazio Maria Olimpieri,<sup>8</sup> Giuseppe Tittoni,<sup>9</sup> Caterina Musolino,<sup>10</sup> Daniela Oni,<sup>11</sup> Piera Sivera,<sup>12</sup> Giovanni Sisi,<sup>13</sup> Maria Chiara Finazzi,<sup>1</sup> Silvia Bini,<sup>14</sup> Tim Demuth,<sup>14</sup> Tiziano

## Summary

Givinostat, a histone-deacetylase inhibitor (HDACi), of cells bearing the JAK2 V617F mutation and has shown good tolerability in patients with chronic myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN). In this multicentre, open-label, phase II study, patients with polycythaemia vera (PV), unresponsive to the maximum tolerated doses (MTD) of hydroxycarbamide (HC), were treated with 50 or 100 mg/d in combination with MTD of HC.



634. MYELOPROLIFERATIVE SYNDROMES: CLINICAL: PHASE I/II TRIALS OF NOVEL AGENTS IN MPNS | DECEMBER 7, 2017

# **A Two-Part Study of Givinostat in Patients with Polycythemia Vera: The Maximum Tolerated Dose Selection and the Proof of Concept Final Results**

*Alessandro Rambaldi, MD Prof, Alessandra Iurlo, MD PhD, Alessandro M. Vannucchi, Richard Noble, MD, Nikolas von Bubnoff, MD, Attilio Guarini, MD, Andrzej Hellmann, MD, Bruno Martino, Antonio Pezzutto, MD PhD, Giuseppe Carli, MD, Marianna De Muro, MD, Paolo Di Bartolomeo, MD, Mary Frances Frances McMullin, MB,Bch BAO, MD FRCPath, halie Cambier, MD, Jean-Pierre Marolleau, MD PhD, Ruben A Mesa, MD, Raoul Tibes, MD Paolo Bettica, MD PhD, Sara Manzoni, DHSC, BSc, Silvia Di Tollo, DHSC, BSc*

 Check for updates

*Blood* (2017) 130 (Supplement 1): 253.

<https://doi.org/10.1182/blood.V130.Supp>

# Perspectives for Therapy Improvement in the Management of PV

## Strategies to Reduce the Residual Risk of Thrombosis

- Earlier diagnosis
- Aggressive control of **CV risk factors**
- Personalized use of **prophylactic ASA**
- New anti-thrombotic strategies?
- More **stringent criteria of phlebotomy**
- Appropriate and more timely use of **cytoreductive drugs**
- **New drugs (ruxolitinib)**

## Strategies to Reduce the Risk of PPV-MF & sMDS/sLAM

- ????

## Composizione del sangue

