



Precision Medicine in IgAN Management: Strategies for Personalizing Treatments

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DISCLOSURES

Served as medical advisor for Travere, Otsuka, Kira Pharma, Eledon, CSL-Behring, Dimerix, Alpine, Arrowhead, Novartis (Chinook), Candid Therapeutic, Boehringer Ingelheim.

Received honorarium from AstraZeneca, Amgen, Eli Lilly and Baxter, Novartis.

Served as a DMSC members in HEFEF trial (investigator initiated), ARGX-113-2203/AL-1103-014 Trial

Honorary Treasurer of Australia New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN) that received industry sponsorship for ANZSN activities

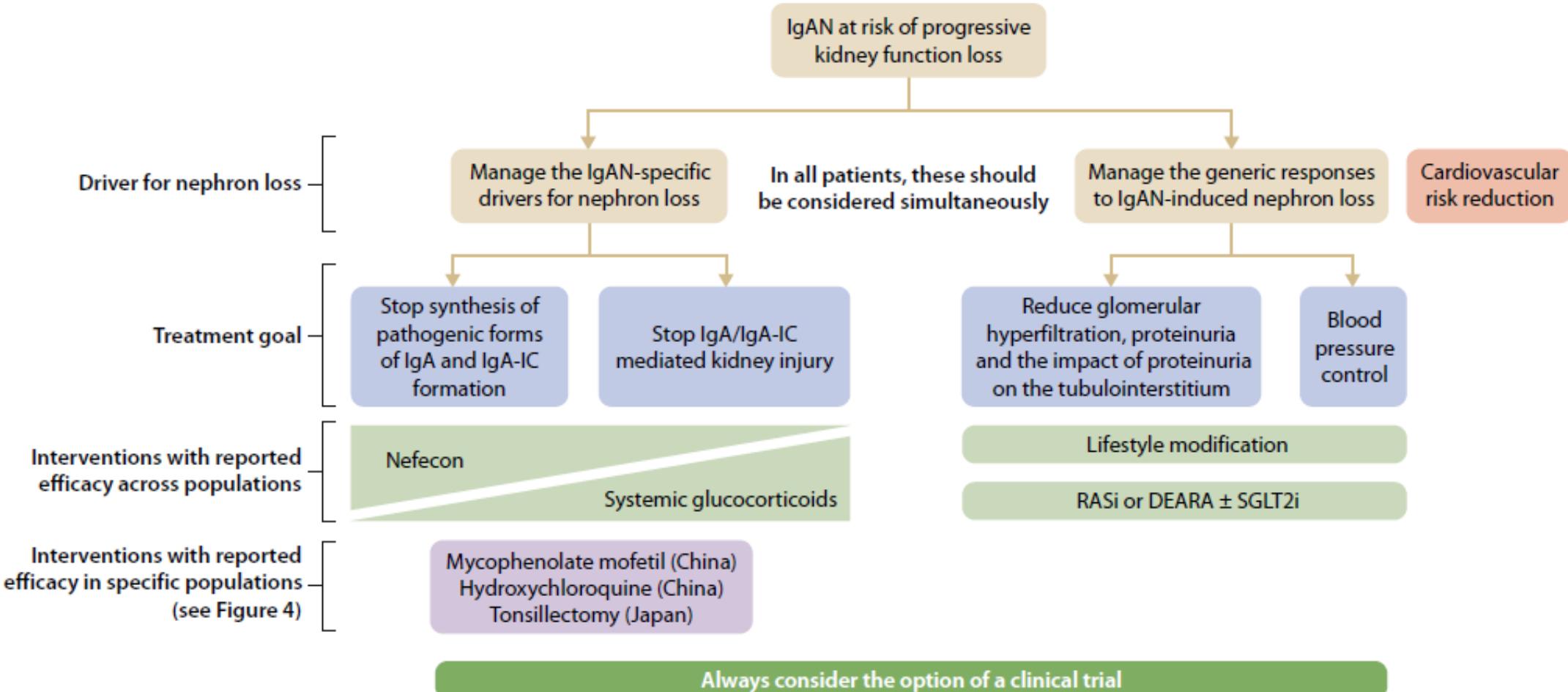
Overview

- Potential of precision approaches in IgA nephropathy
- Markers for diagnosis, predicting treatment response and monitoring disease progression in IgAN
 - Risk prediction tools
 - Genetic
 - Biomarkers
 - Histology and Pathonomics
 - Mechanistic study

What is precision medicine?

- Also known as personalized medicine
- is an innovative approach to tailoring disease prevention and treatment that takes into account differences in people's genes, environments, and lifestyles.

Treatment Targets positioning of drugs in KDIGO guideline 2025



Treatment goals:

- **Proteinuria $\geq 0.5\text{g/d}$ (or equivalent)**
- Reduce the rate of loss of kidney function to $<1\text{ ml/min/year}$

Four Hit Hypothesis and Beyond

Potential Markers

Gd-IgA1 levels
Autoantibodies
Immune Complexes

Tissue injury
markers in blood &
urine

Histopathology &
single-cell-
resolution omics

Genetic susceptibility:
• Ethnicity
• Impaired mucosal immunity

Polymeric gd-IgA

gd-IgA–IgG-containing
immune complexes

International IgAN
risk prediction tool

- Ethnicity
- Age
- eGFR
- Proteinuria
- Systolic blood pressure
- Diastolic blood pressure
- ACE or ARB intake
- MEST M-Score (1 vs 0)
- MEST E-Score (1 vs 0)
- MEST S-Score (1 vs 0)
- MEST T-Score (2 vs 1 vs 0)
- Prior immunosuppression

- Mesangial complement activation
- Glomerular and endothelial damage
+/- crescent formation

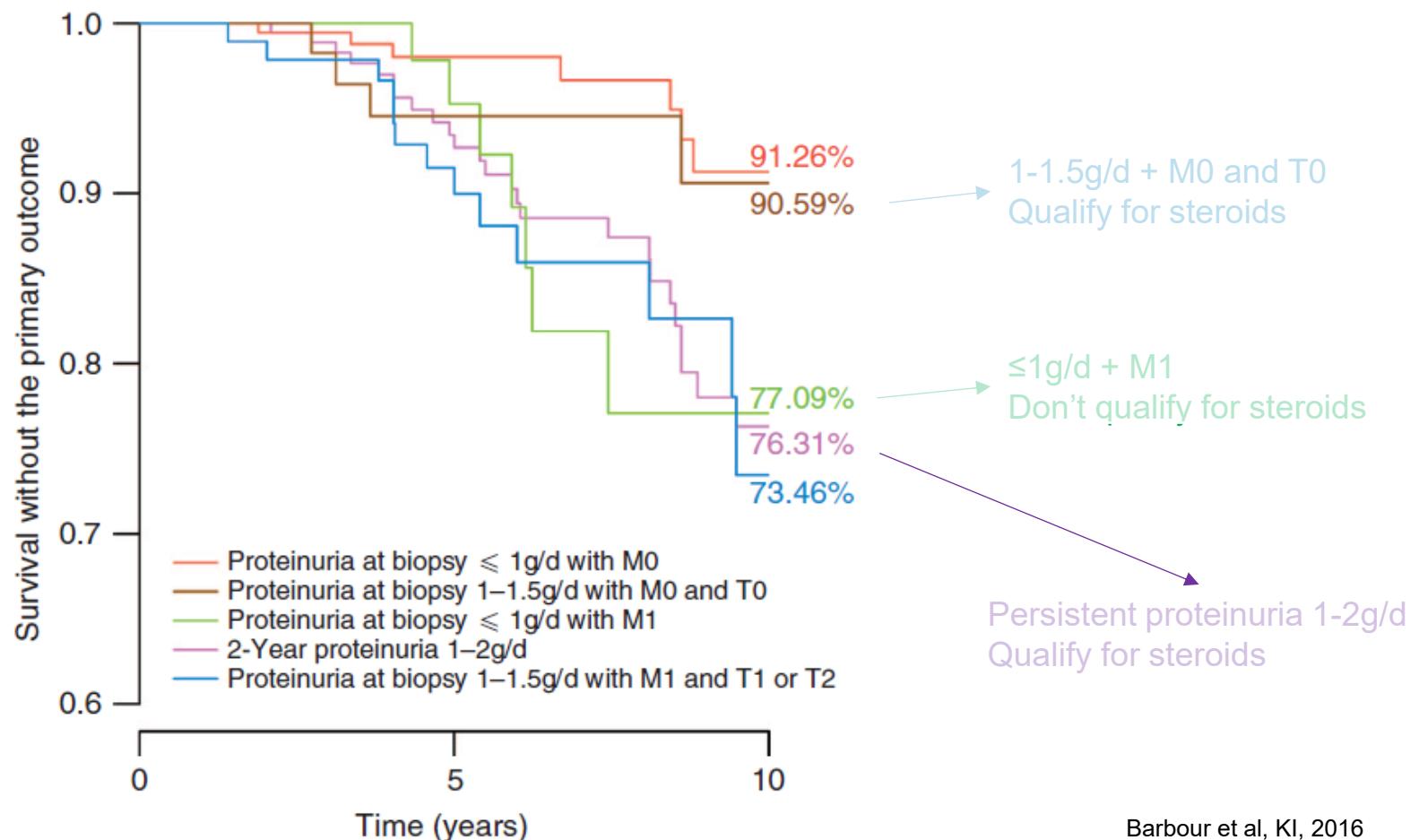
Comorbidities:

- Arterial hypertension
- Smoking
- High-salt diet
- Obesity

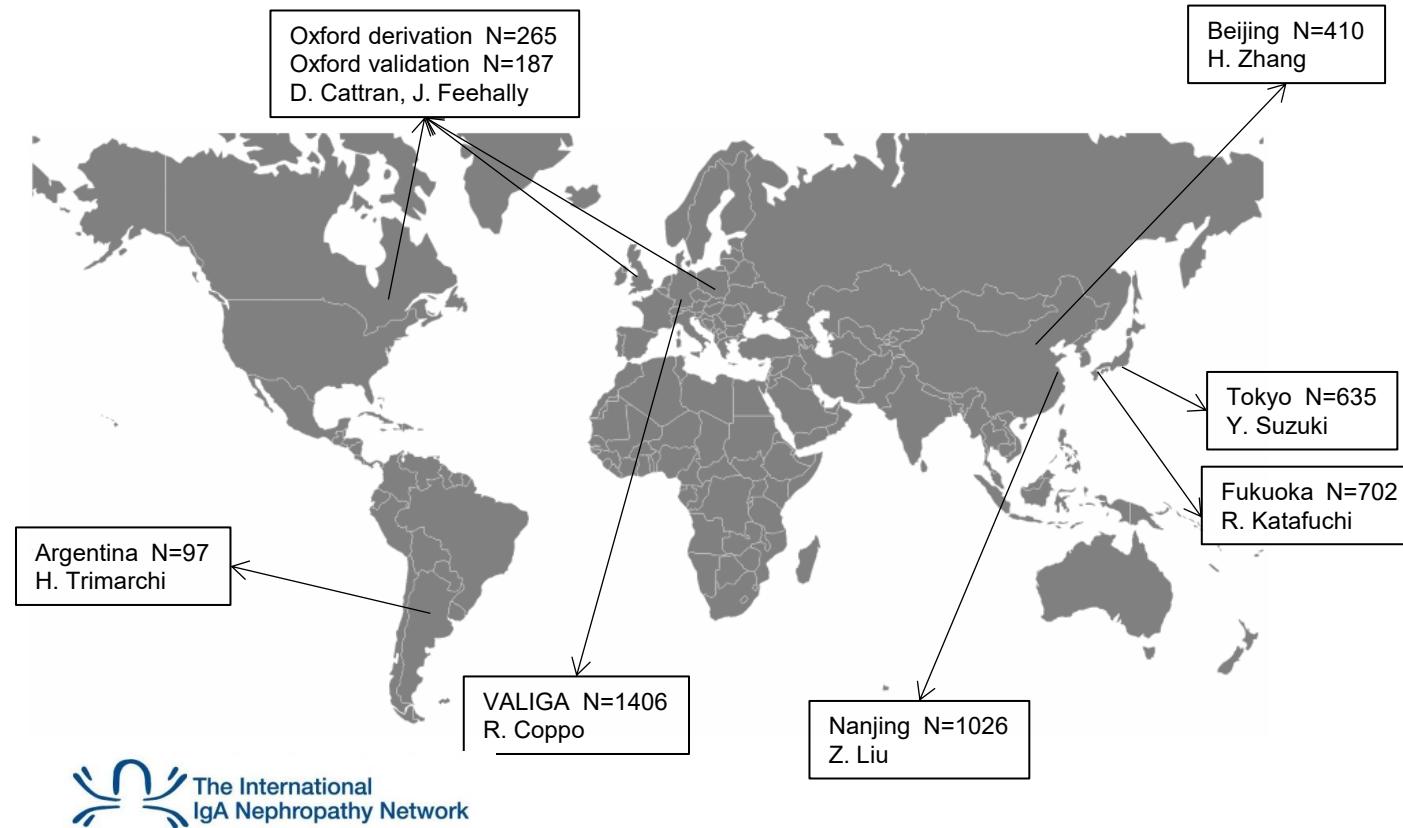
Proteinuria and hematuria
Kidney failure

Proteinuria alone is not sufficient for risk stratification

Subgroup eGFR>50: risk of 50% decline eGFR or ESRD



International IgAN Network research collaboration: 2014 to present



International IgAN Prediction tool for adults

Estimated GFR at biopsy.....	ml/min/1.73 m ²
Systolic blood pressure at biopsy.....	mmHg
Diastolic blood pressure at biopsy.....	mmHg
Proteinuria at biopsy.....	g/day
Age at biopsy.....	years
Race	
Caucasian	
Chinese	
Japanese	
Other	
Use of ACE inhibitor or ARB at the time of biopsy	
No	
Yes	
MEST M-score	
0	
1	
MEST E-score	
0	
1	
MEST S-score	
0	
1	
MEST T-score	
0	
1	
2	
Immunosuppression use at or prior to biopsy	
No	
Yes	

The risk of a 50% decline in eGFR or progression to ESKD 5 years after renal biopsy is 9.77%

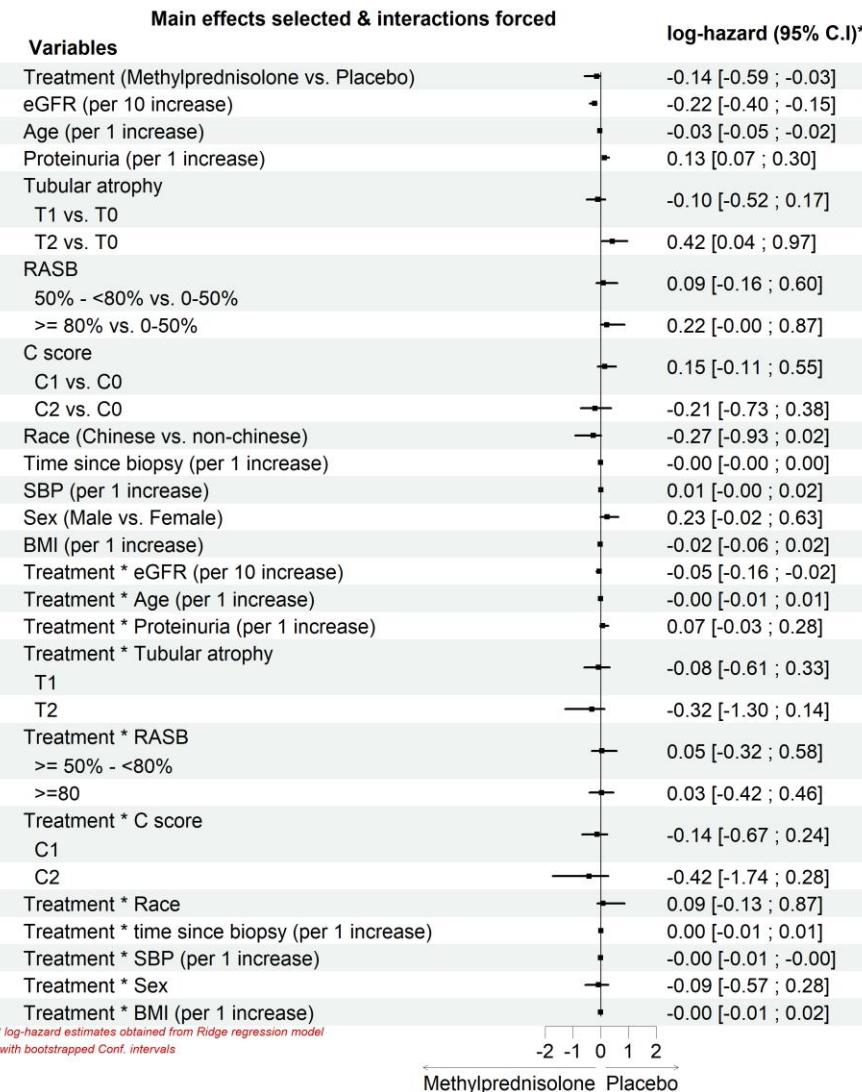
Pros

- Risk prediction can go up to 80 months
- Include race
- Formula for paediatric and adults

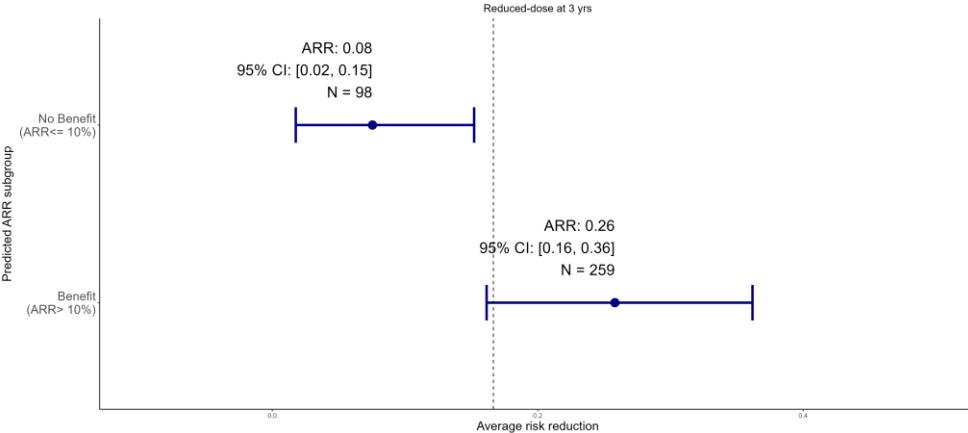
Caveats

- Requires recent kidney biopsy validated up to 2 years from kidney biopsy
- Does not include C lesions
- Yet to predict treatment response

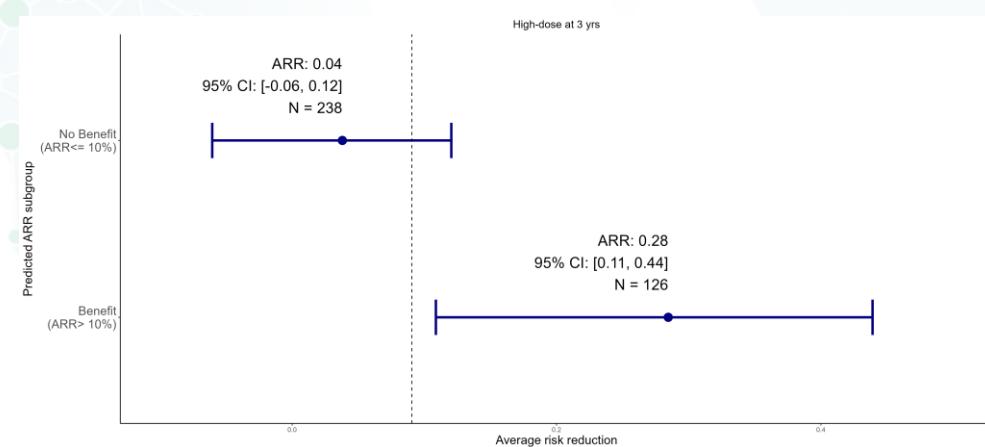
Predicting who is more likely to benefit from corticosteroids



Reduced dose

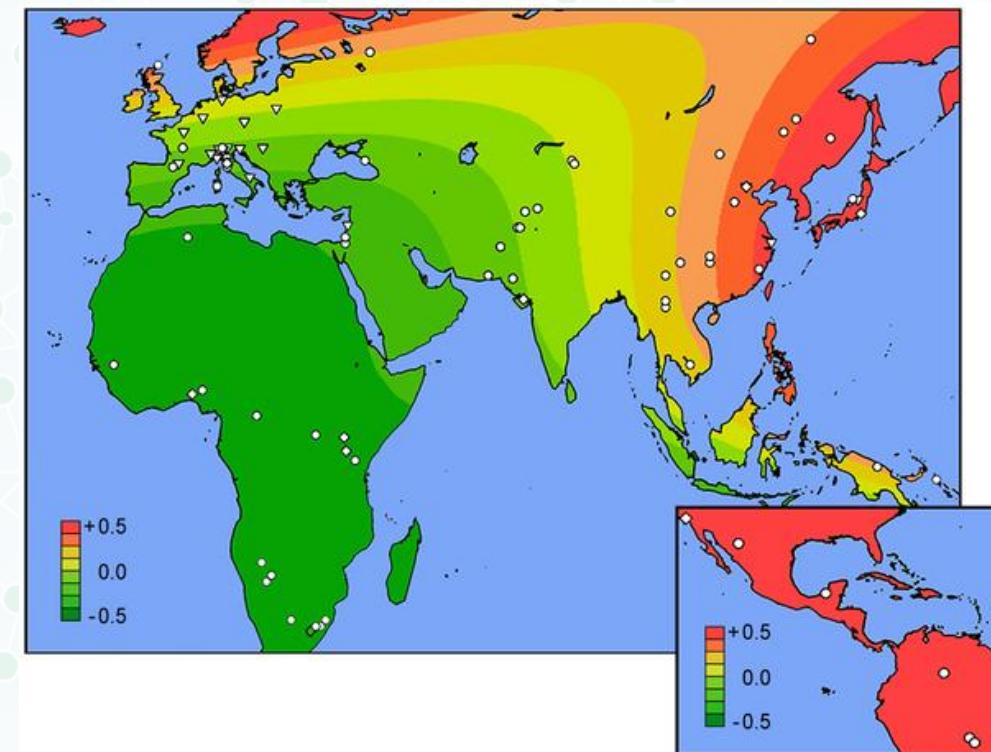
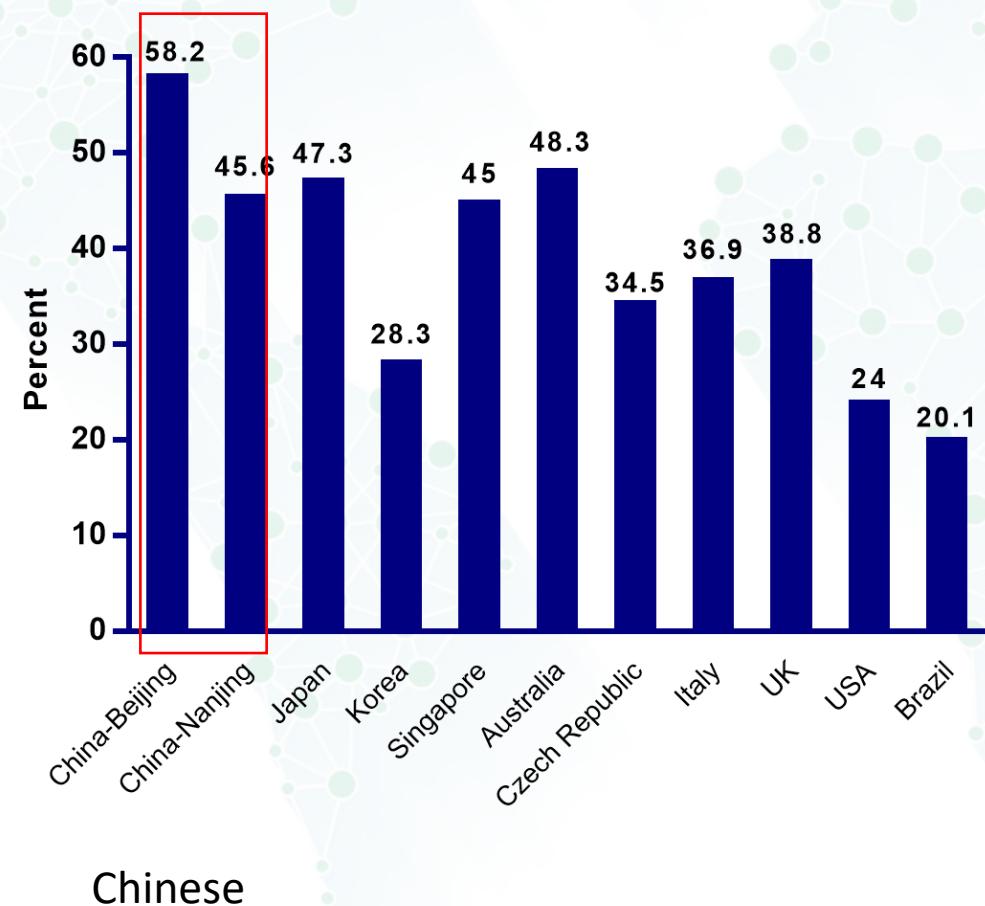


Full dose



Manuscript under review

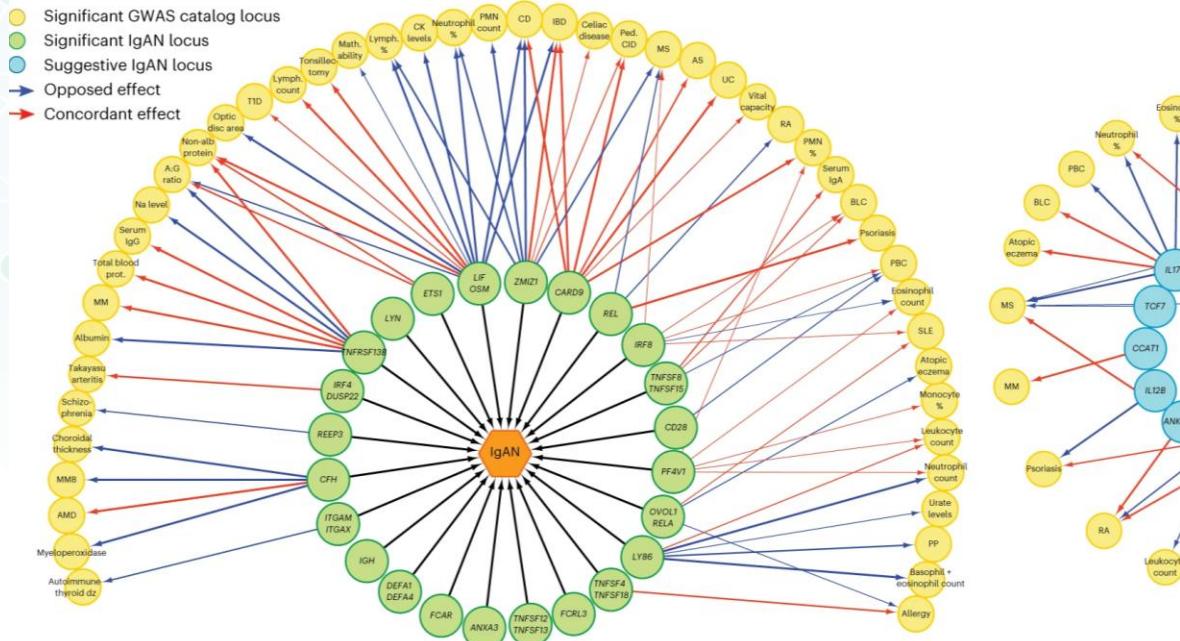
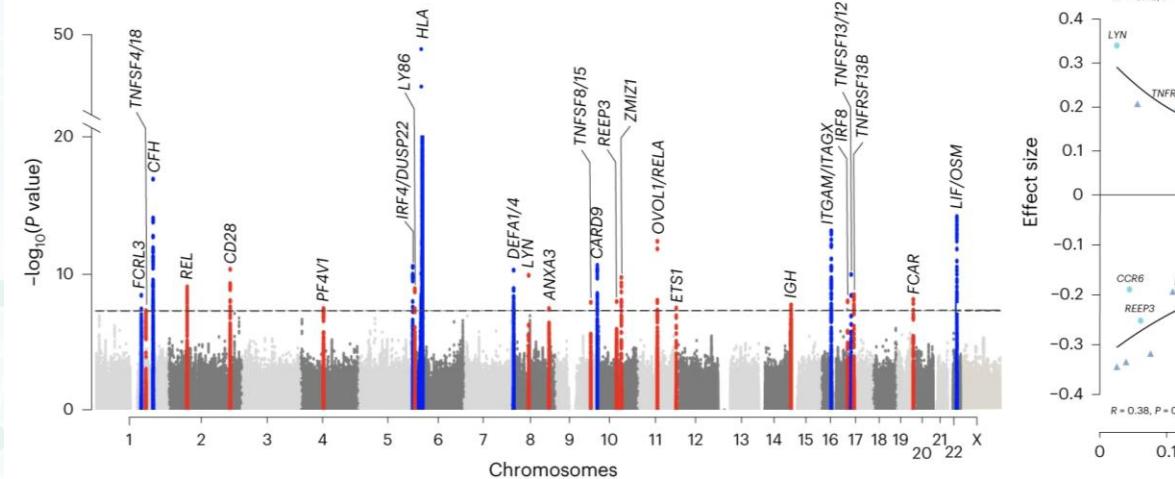
Worldwide prevalence and geospatial risk analysis of IgA nephropathy



Kiryluk K, et al. (2012) PLoS Genet 8(6): e1002765
11

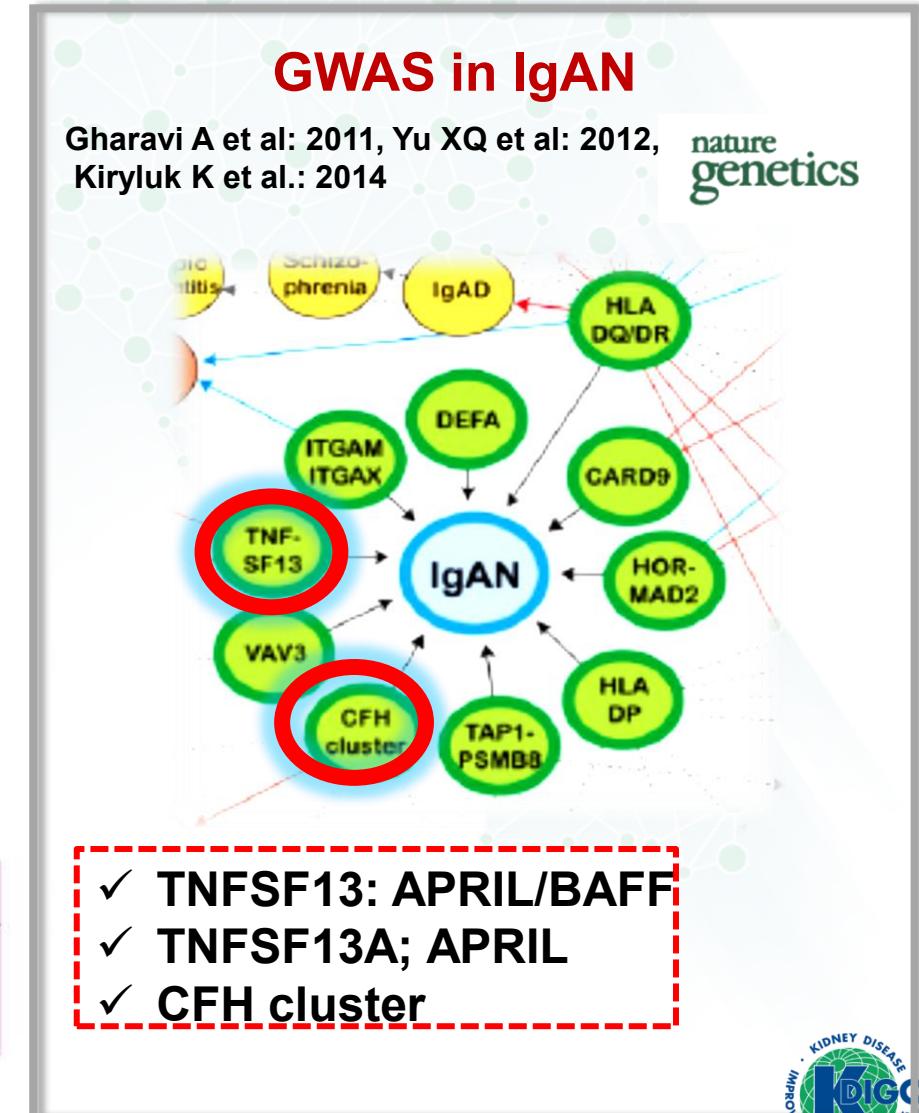
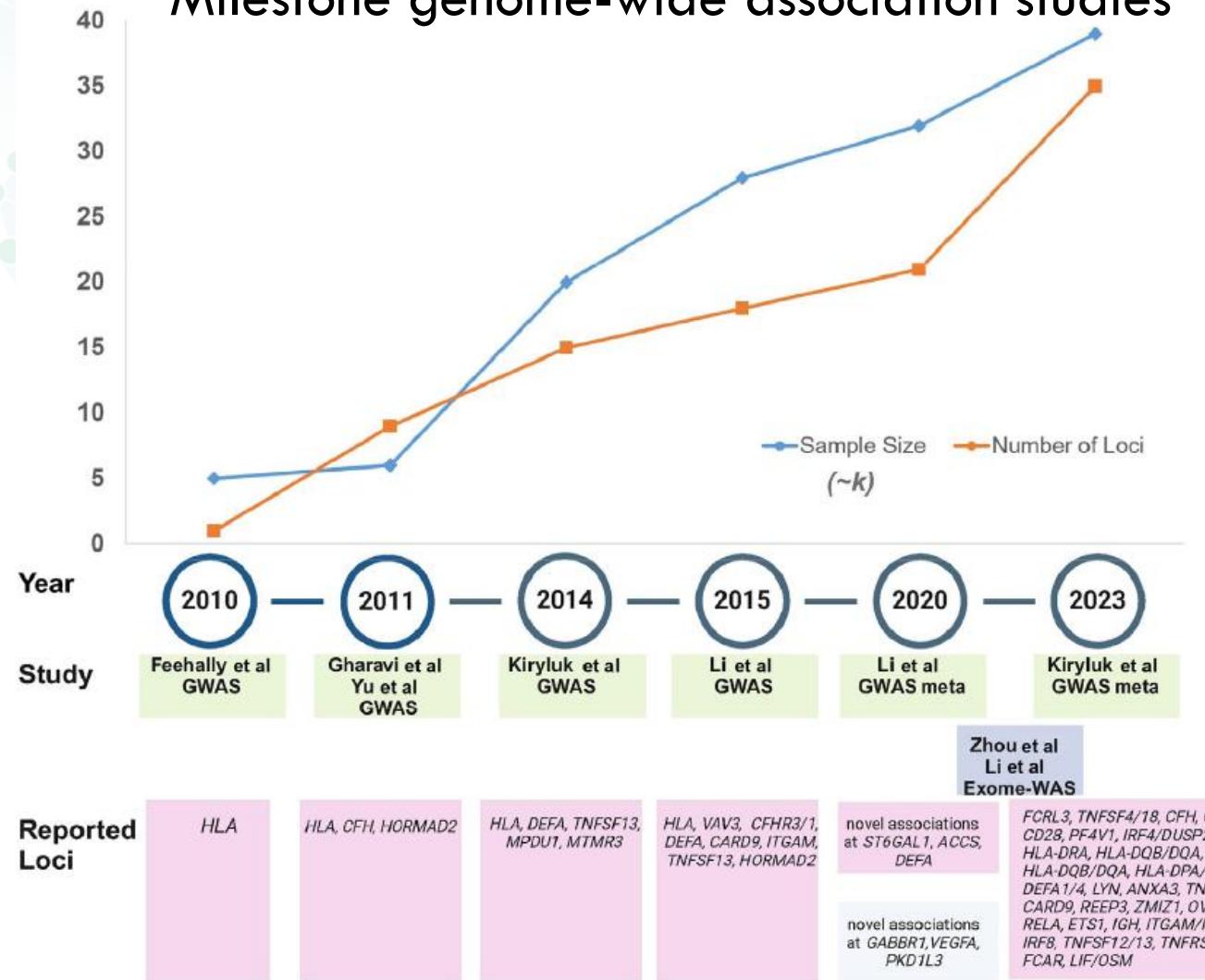
Genome wide analyses for IgAN

- 16 loci were new, including *TNFSF4/TNFSF18*, *REL*, *CD28*, *PF4V1*, *LY86*, *LYN*, *ANXA3*, *TNFSF8/TNFSF15*, *REEP3*, *ZMIZ1*, *OVOL1/RELA*, *ETS1*, *IGH*, *IRF8*, *TNFRSF13B* and *FCAR*.
- The risk loci were enriched in gene
 - Causing abnormal IgA levels
 - Integrity of the intestinal mucosal barrier
 - Involvement of adaptive (T & B cells) and innate immunity.



Discovery in genetic has led to translation

Milestone genome-wide association studies



Promising B-cell modulating agents in IgAN

Anti-April % proteinuria reduction at month 12

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Sibemprelimab Interim Analysis

V. Perkovic,¹ H. Trimarchi,¹ Y. Suzuki,⁷ A. Liew,⁸ H. Zhang,⁹ M. Praga,¹⁶ B. Chacko,¹⁷ M. Xia,²² C. Fajardo,²³ and the VISION-ATRI Trial Investigators Group*

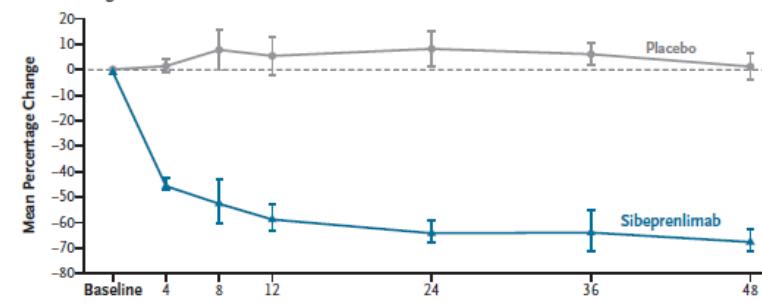
Placebo-adjusted treatment effect

54.3%

95% CI, 46.4%-60.9%

GdIgA1 levels

A Change in Serum GD-IgA1 Level from Baseline



SYDNEY
CONCORD
HOSPITAL



Anti-April and Anti-BAFF % proteinuria reduction at month 9

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

A Phase 3 Trial of Atacicept in Patients

W

Richard Lafayette, M.D.,¹ Kirk N. Campbell, M.D.,² Vivekanand Jha, M.D.,³ Adrian Liew, M.D.,⁴ Roberto Pecoits-⁵ Dana V. Rizk, M.D.,¹⁶ Hernán Trimarchi, M.D.,¹ and Jonathan Barratt, Ph.D.,²¹ for the ORIGIN Phase 3 Trial Investigators*

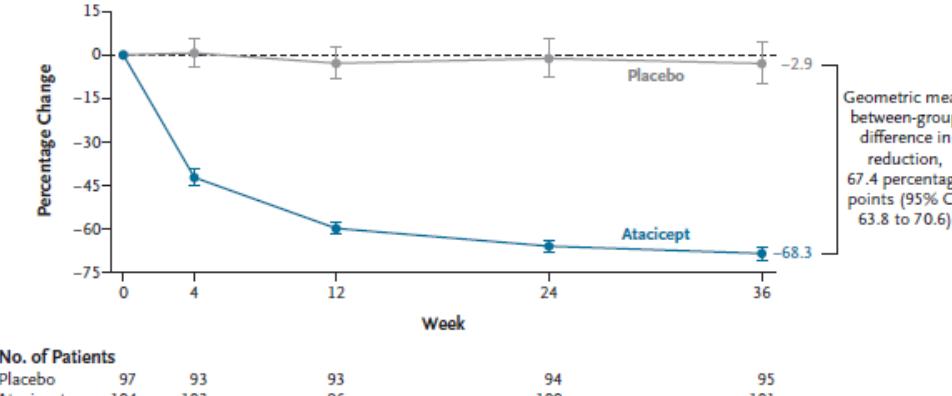
Placebo-adjusted treatment effect

41.8%

95% CI, 28.9%-52.3%

GdIgA1 levels

B Change from Baseline in Galactose-Deficient IgA1 through Week 36

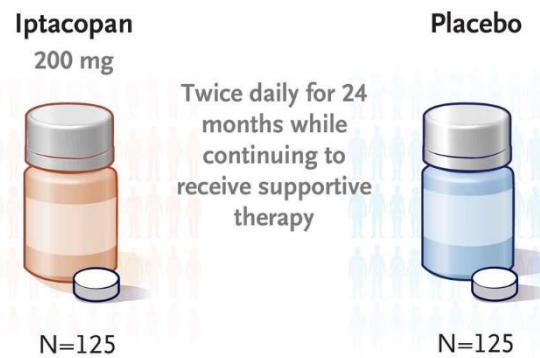
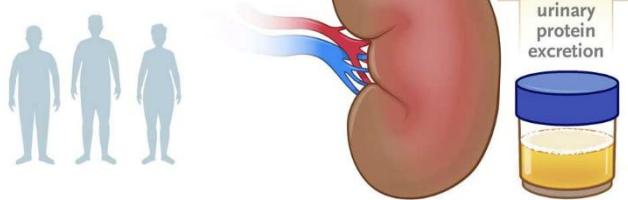


APPLAUSE trial (interim analysis): Targeting alternate complement pathway in IgA nephropathy

Reduction in UPCR-FMV at Month 9

Patients

- 250 adults in this interim analysis (443 in main trial population)
- Mean age, 39 years
- Men: 52%; Women: 48%
- 51% from Asia



Iptacopan
n/N=115/124

Placebo
n/N=104/123

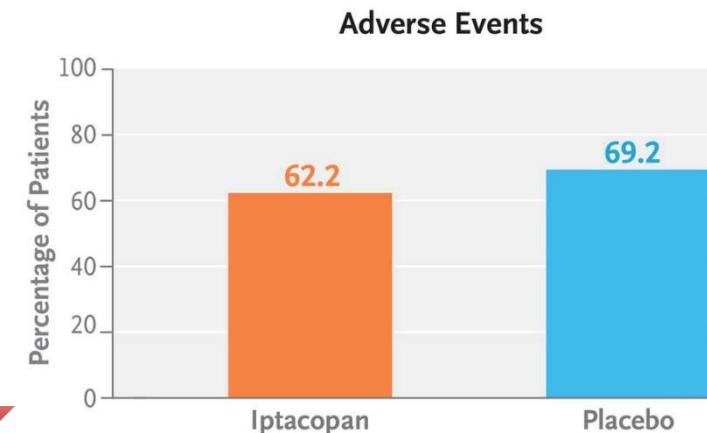
7.3%
(95% CI -6.1, 19.0)

35.8% 

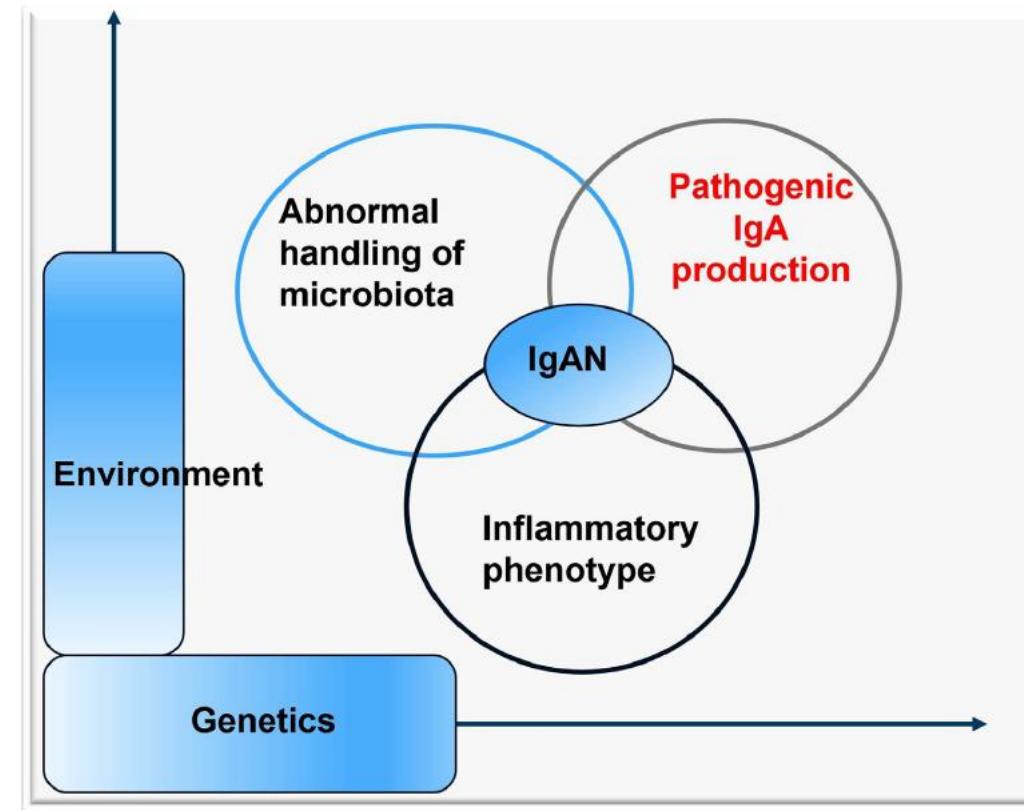
40.5%

(95% CI 32.1, 47.8)

Relative percent reduction between arms
35.8% (95% CI 22.6, 46.7); P<0.0001[†]



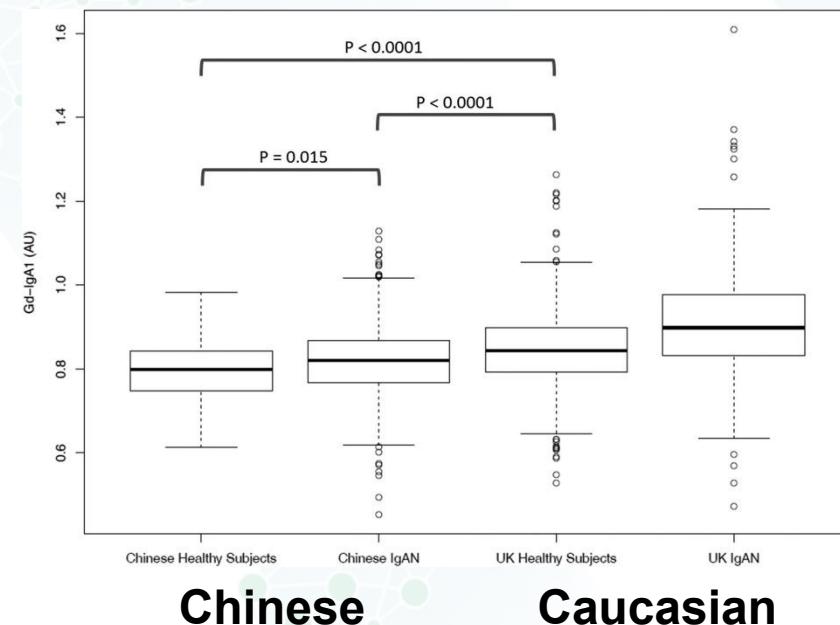
Complex Interactions of Genetic Risk Loci with Environmental Exposures in IgAN



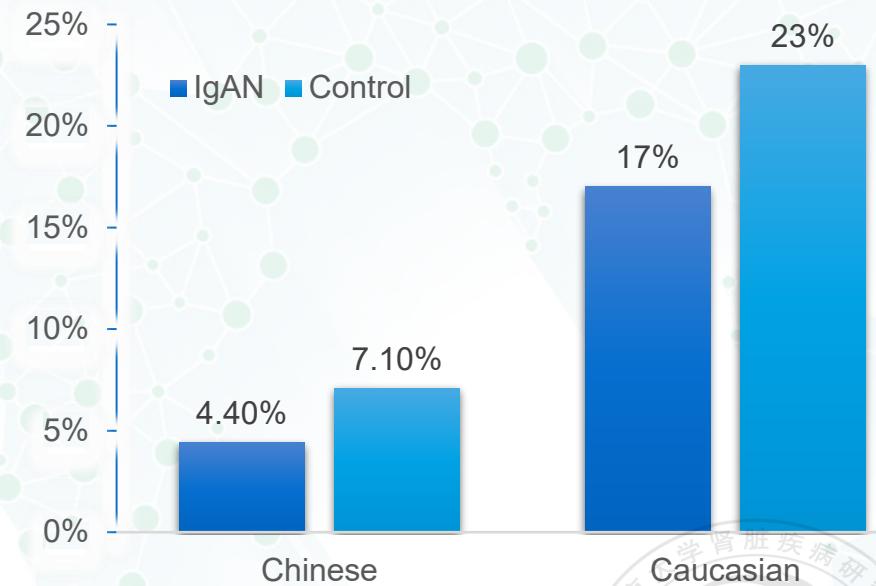
IgAN is thought to occur when individuals with genetic susceptibility traits come into contact with disease-triggering environmental risk factors such as infections, resulting in the activation of both innate and adaptive immunity

Genetic influence of risk for IgA nephropathy by race

Galactose deficient-IgA1 levels

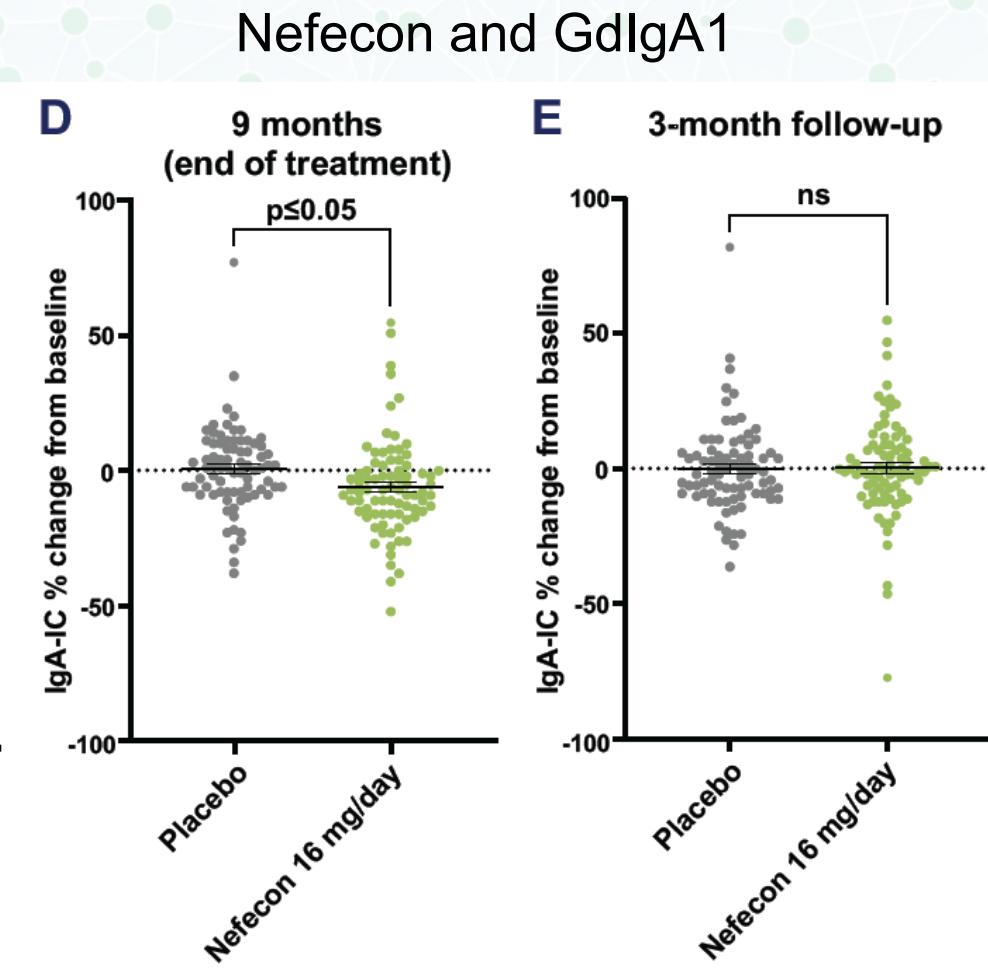
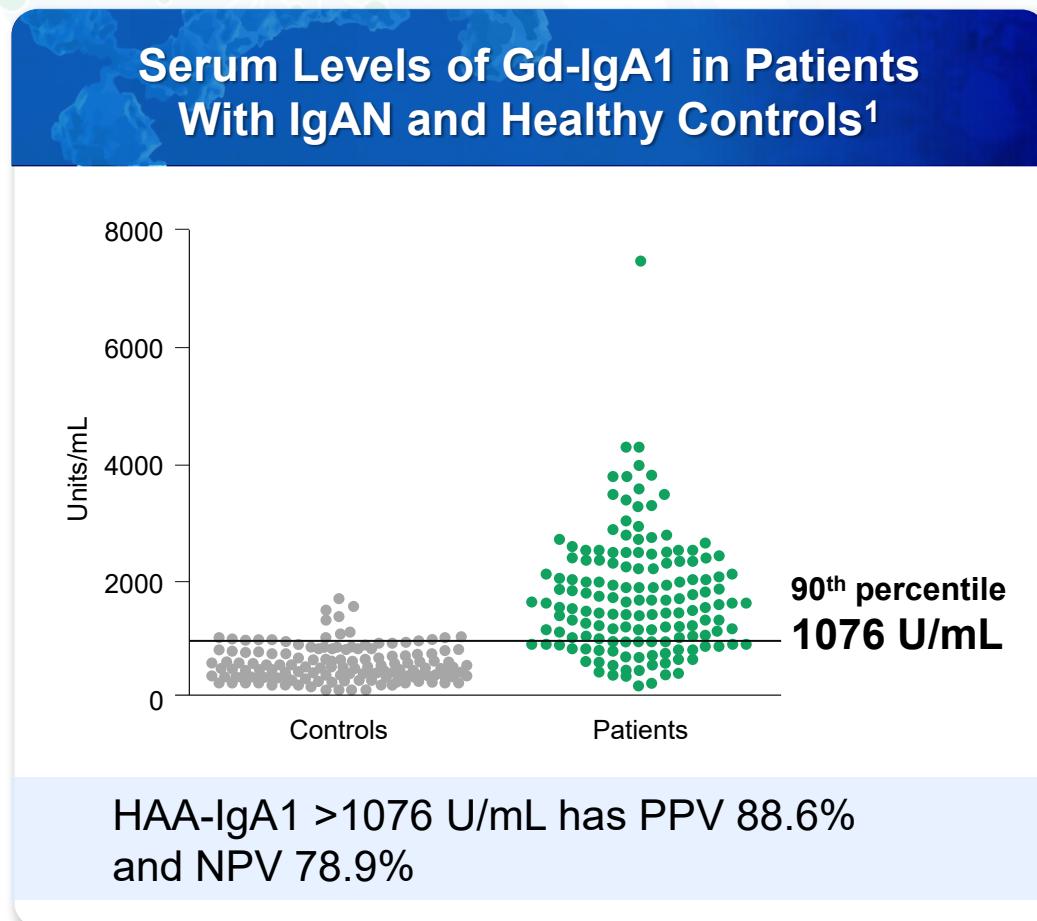


rs6677604 A allele (CFHR1,3Δ) frequency

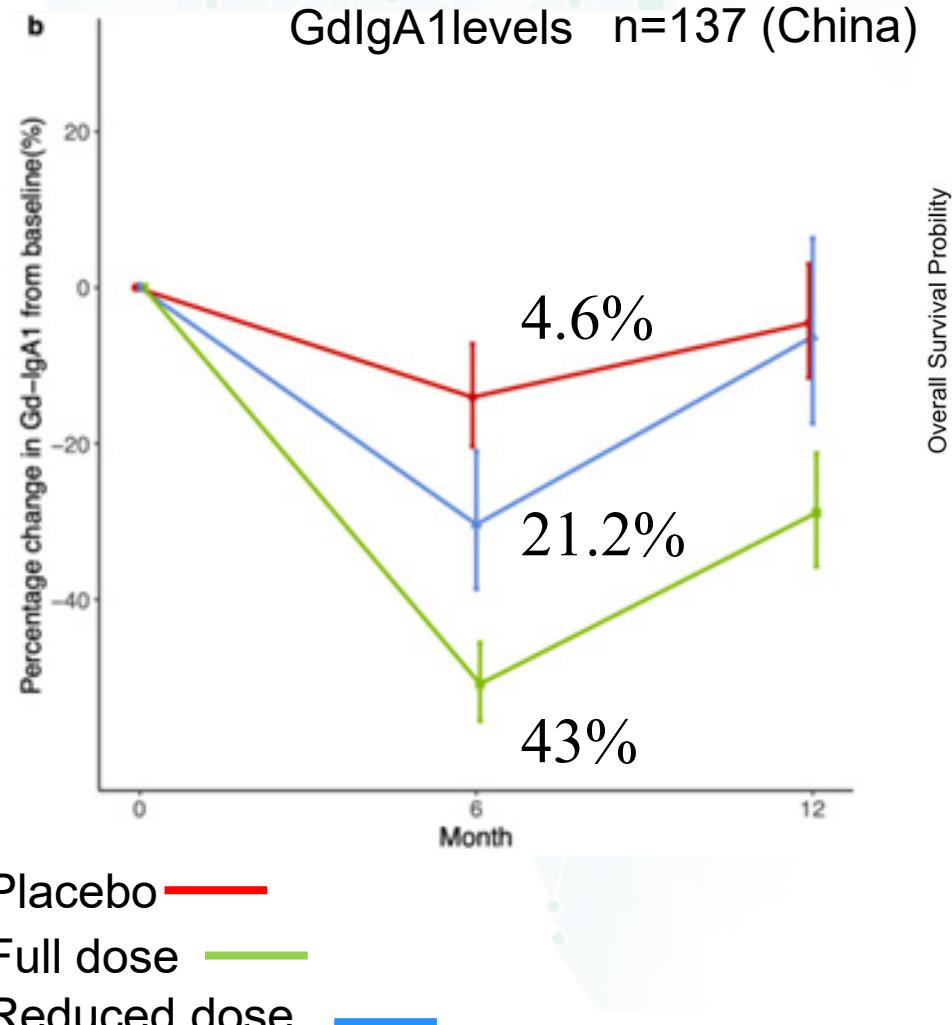


Daniel P. Gale et al. JASN 2017;28:2158-2166
Gharavi AG, et al. Nat Genet. 2011;43(4):321-7.

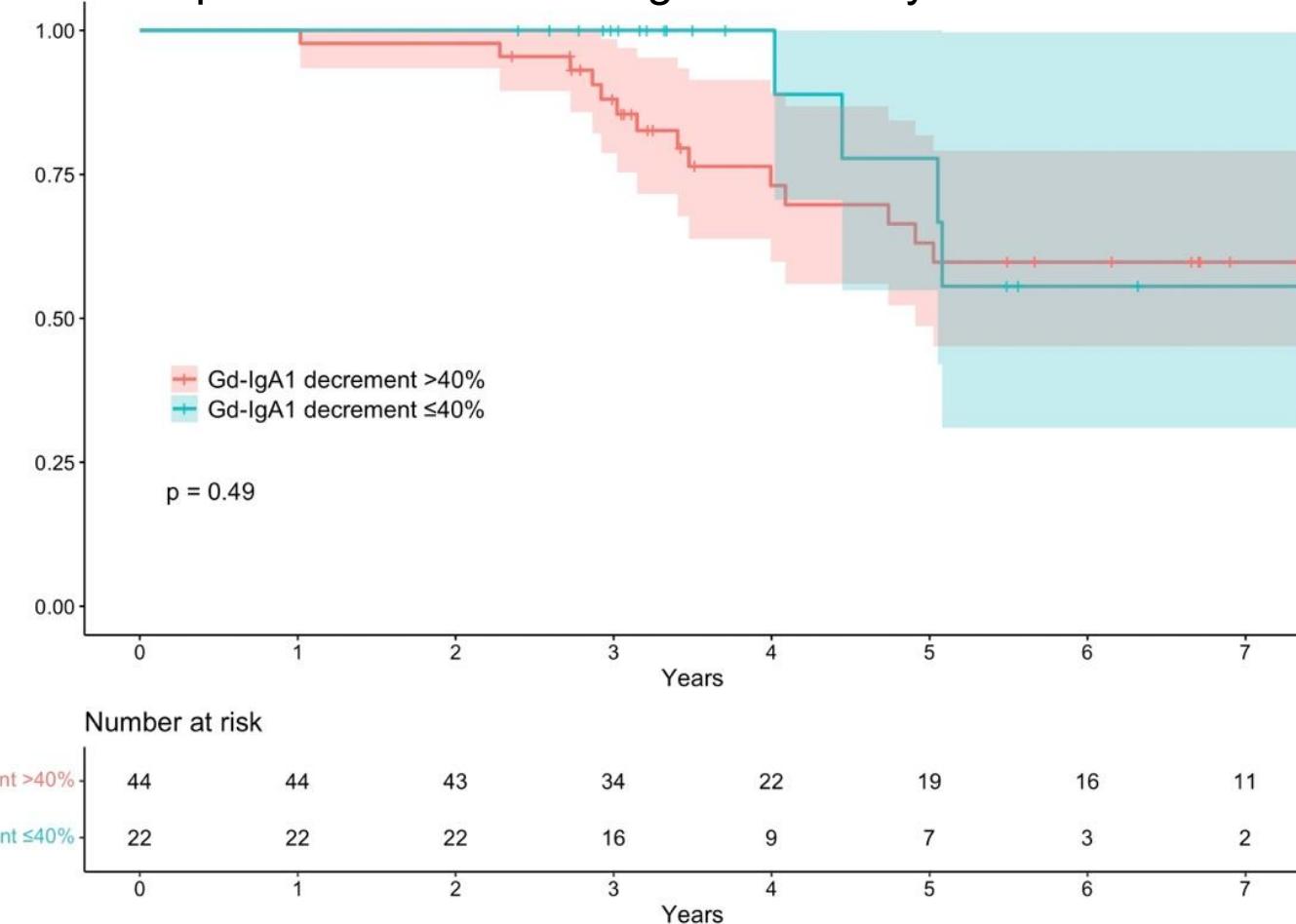
Relationship of Gd-IgA1 and Therapeutic Response



TESTING trial: Corticosteroids and circulating GdIgA1 levels



Greater reduction in GdIgA1 at 6 months correlates to proteinuria but not long term kidney survival

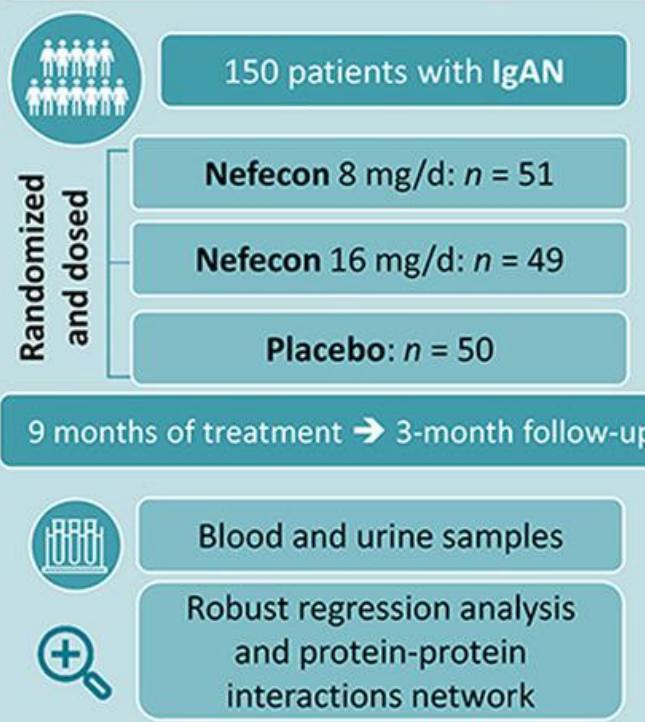


Zan et al (Accepted for publication, CJASN)

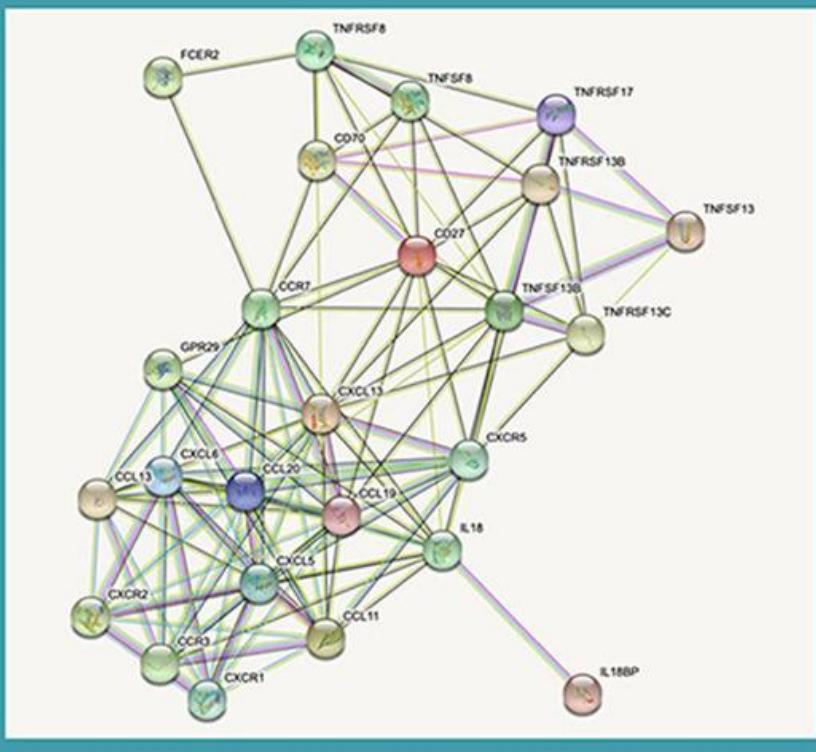
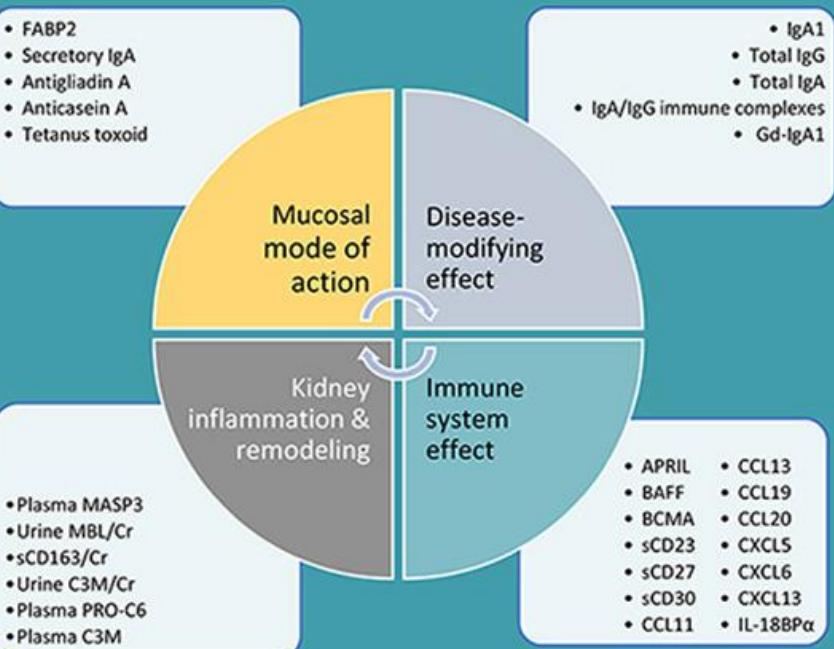
Targeted-release budesonide modifies key pathogenic biomarkers in immunoglobulin A nephropathy: Insights from the NEFIGAN trial



Objective: To assess the effect of Nefcon on the various molecular mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of IgAN



Biomarkers with significant changes from baseline at 9 months with Nefecon 16 mg/d



Wimbury D, Muto M, et al. 2023

CONCLUSION

Nefcon exerts a direct disease-modifying effect in IgAN by targeting the GALT, regulating mucosal immune dysfunction and potentially modulating the systemic immune response

Urinary biomarkers for IgAN

Prospective clinical study

Background



In IgA nephropathy (IgAN), predicting risk of rapid kidney disease progression is challenging



Current risk stratification tools require kidney biopsy; non-invasive markers are lacking

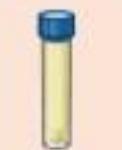
Methods



Multicenter
Europe (n=6)/Canada (n=1)



Biopsy-proven IgAN
(eGFR >20ml/min/1.73 m²)



IgAN237:
• Urine proteome profiling
• 237 discriminatory peptides



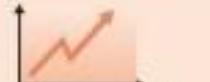
Outcome: eGFR slope
• Annual change in eGFR
after baseline
• Divided into tertiles

Results

Group	Baseline eGFR (ml/min/1.73 m ²)	eGFR slope (ml/min/1.73 m ²)	Progression to ESKD
Fastest progression n=70	64.9 (30.8)	-6.4 (95% CI -8.8 to -5.2)	20%
Intermediate progression n=69	62.8 (29.5)	-1.4 (95% CI -1.8 to -1.1)	6%
Slowest progression n=70	60.7 (26.6)	+3.4 (95% CI 2.3 to 4.7)	0%

p=0.842 P<0.001 P<0.001

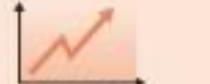
AUC for fast progression



Clinical parameters alone

0.72

(95% CI 0.64–0.81)



IgAN237 + clinical parameters

0.89

(95% CI 0.83–0.95)

Conclusion

In IgAN, a urinary peptide classifier (IgAN237) along with clinical parameters predicts progressive loss of kidney function better than clinical parameters alone.

Urinary CD163 in predicting disease activity and treatment response in IgAN

Correlation of Urinary Soluble CD163 Levels with Disease Activity and Treatment Response in IgA Nephropathy



Cross-sectional analysis and longitudinal analysis, China



Large IgA nephropathy cohort (n=517) and a subgroup from TESTING trial (n=282)



Serial measurement of urinary soluble CD163 (U-sCD163)



CD163 marker of macrophage M2c

IQR- interquartile range, CI- confidence interval



u-sCD163 correlated with kidney macrophage infiltration, especially in crescentic areas, and active lesions

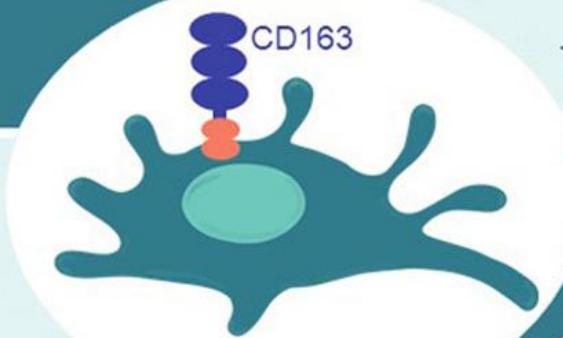


Higher u-sCD163 levels associated with greater benefits from corticosteroid vs placebo

35.56 vs **3.94**

7.62 - 292.34 1.39 - 12.93

Odds ratio, 95% CI



Proteinuria remission

Corticosteroids reduced u-sCD163 levels at 6 months compared to placebo

79%

vs

37%

IQR 58%, 91%

-11%, 58%



Adjusted Hazard ratio, 95% CI

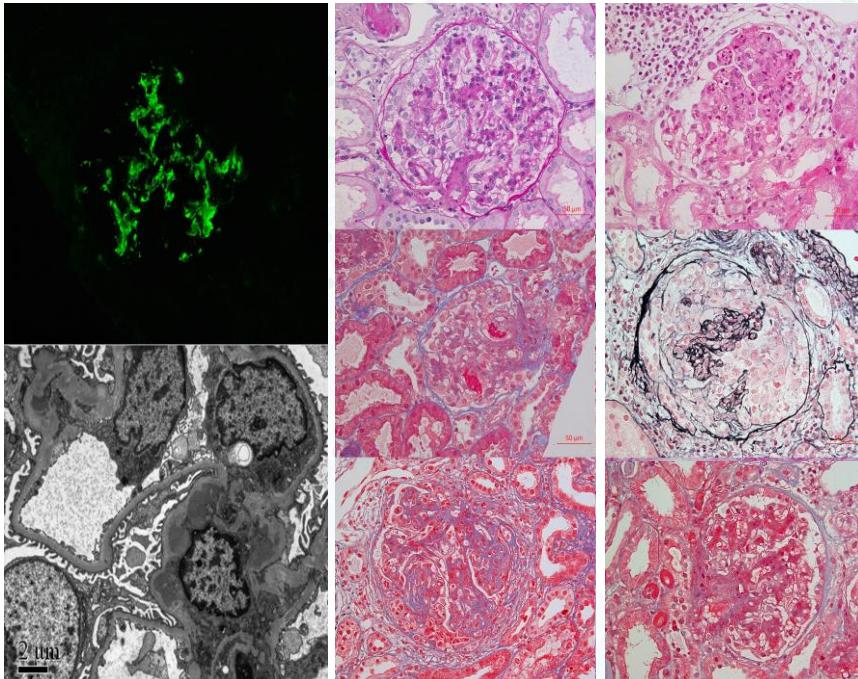


0.52

0.30 to 0.93

Suppression of u-sCD163 associated with reduced risk of kidney progression

Clinical-pathological presentation in IgAN is highly variable



- Histopathology and clinical presentation: highly variable

KDIGO

Practice points: ..there are no data from clinical studies that show patients prospectively randomized to particular treatment regimens based on their Oxford Classification MEST-C scores have better clinical outcomes. In particular:

Practice points: ..

.....insufficient evidence to base treatment decisions based on histology.....Histopathologic features must be interpreted in the context of clinical features, in particular the rate of change in eGFR.

Predictive value of the Oxford Classification for the effect of glucocorticoid therapy in IgA nephropathy



Secondary analysis
of TESTING trial



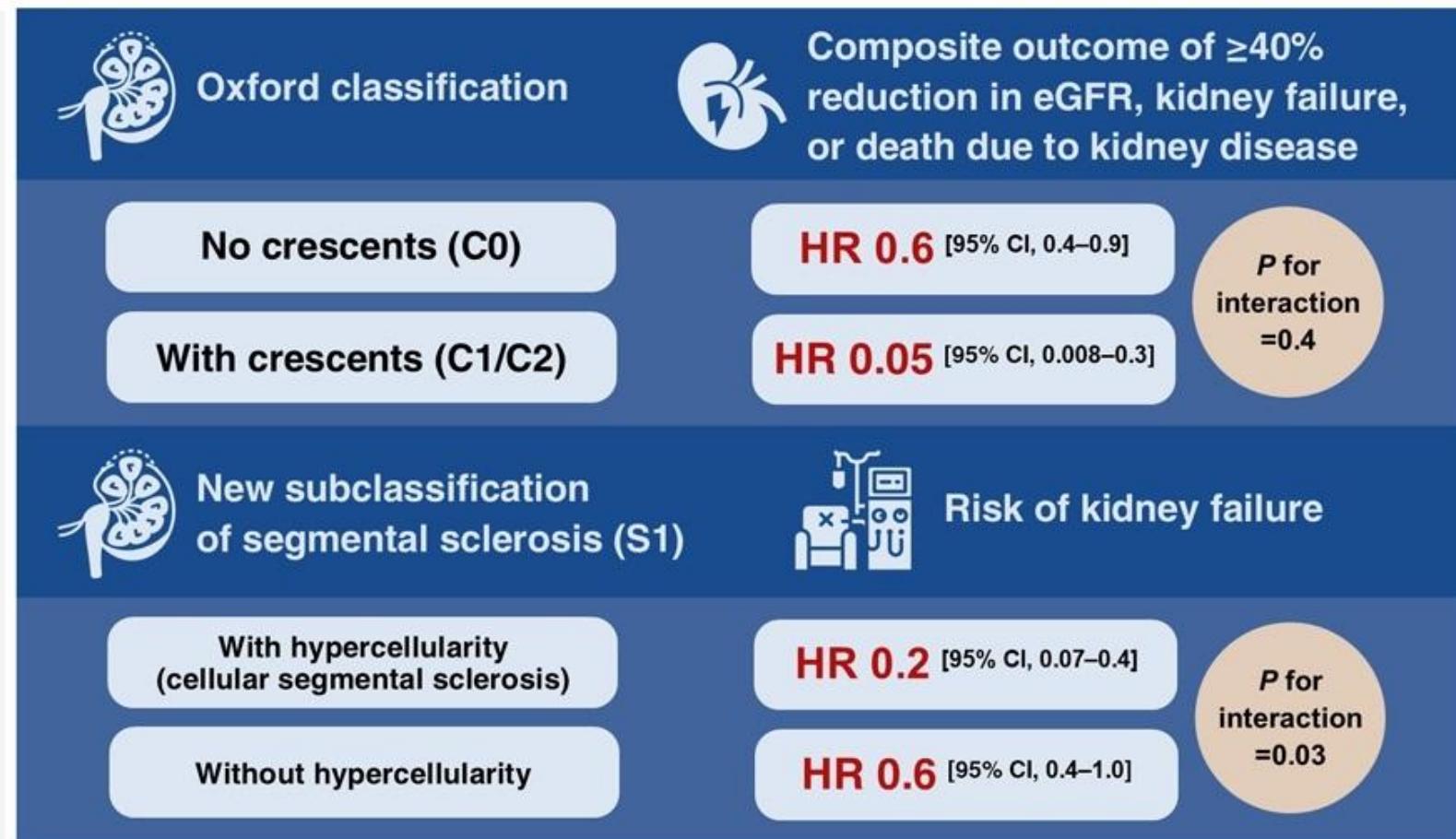
N=279
Chinese participants
with kidney biopsy
slides available for
central pathology
review



Glucocorticoid
therapy

Median Bx → Rx = 4 months

Conclusions: Crescents and cellular segmental sclerosis in IgA nephropathy suggested a favorable response to glucocorticoid therapy.



Sufang Shi, Ian S.D. Roberts, Zixuan Wang, et al. *Predictive Value of the Oxford Classification for the Effect of Glucocorticoid Therapy in IgA Nephropathy*. JASN DOI: 10.1681/ASN.0000000796. Visual Abstract by Paolo Nikolai So, MD

Disagreement between local and central pathology review

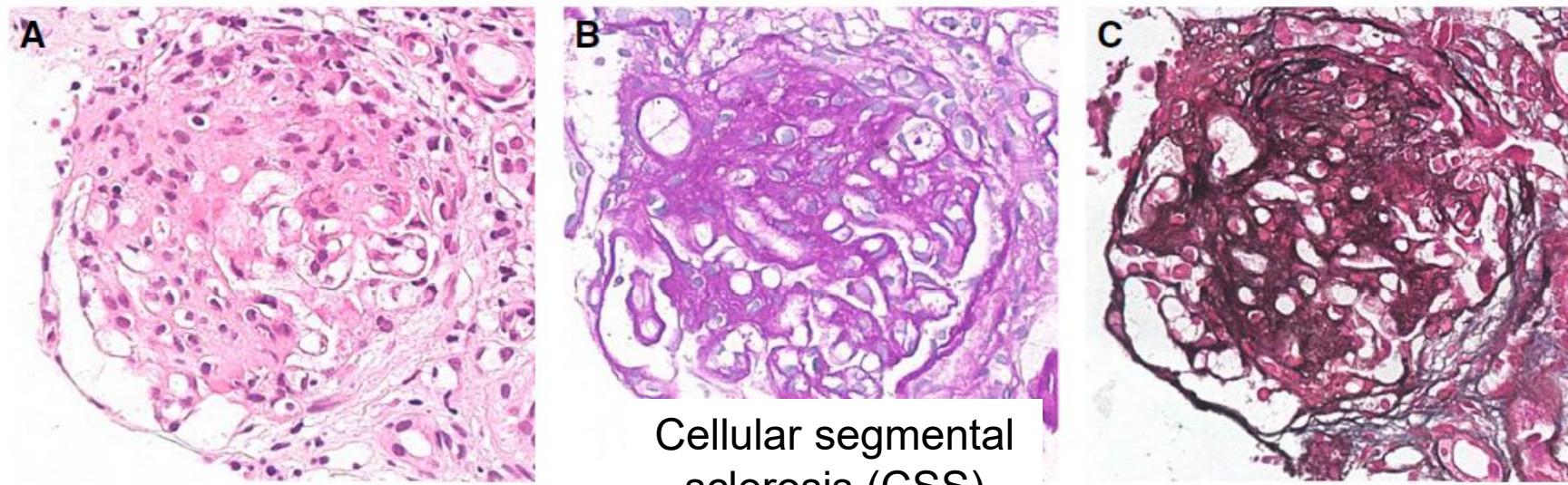
Pathology lesions	Central pathological review	Local pathology report	Kappa value
M1(%)	89/279(32)	160/272(59)	0.1
E1(%)	75/279(27)	82/279(29)	0.2
S1(%)	239/279(86)	200/272(74)	0.1
T0(%)	173/279(62)	114/272(42)	0.3
T1(%)	84/279(30)	110/272(40)	0.3
T2(%)	22/279(8)	48/272(18)	0.3
C0(%)	230/279(82)	102/274(37)	0.1
C1(%)	48/279(17)	127/274(46)	0.1
C2(%)	1/279(0.4)	45/274(16)	0.1

M, mesangial hypercellularity; E, endocapillary hypercellularity; S, segmental sclerosis; T, tubular atrophy/interstitial fibrosis; C, cellular/fibrocellular crescents.

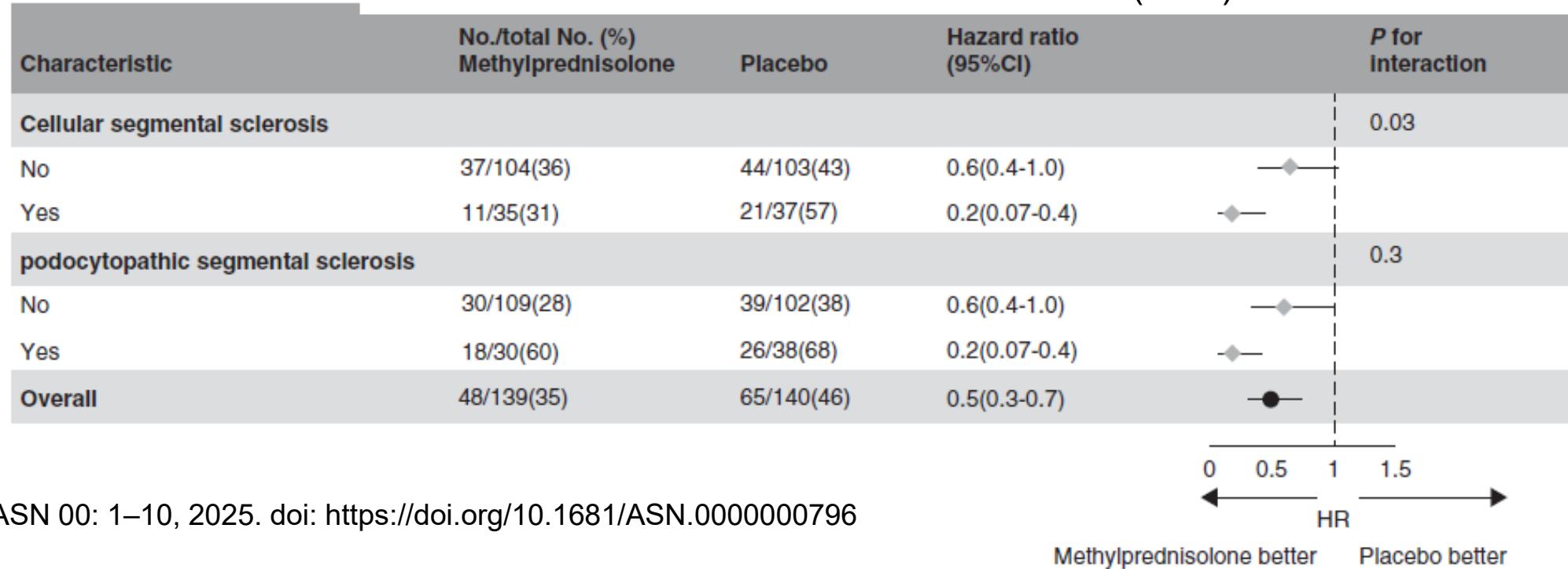
Shu et al JASN 00: 1–10, 2025. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1681/ASN.0000000796>

Subtype of S lesions

Cellular segmental sclerosis



Cellular segmental sclerosis (CSS)



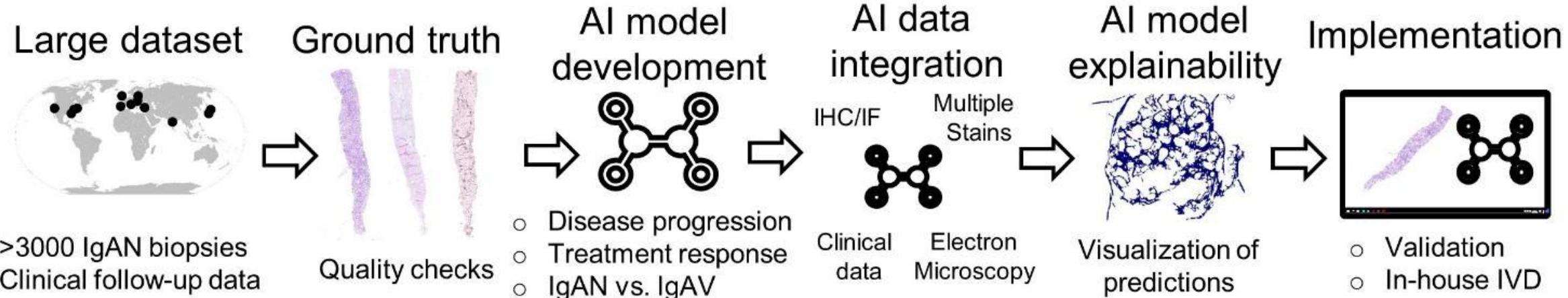
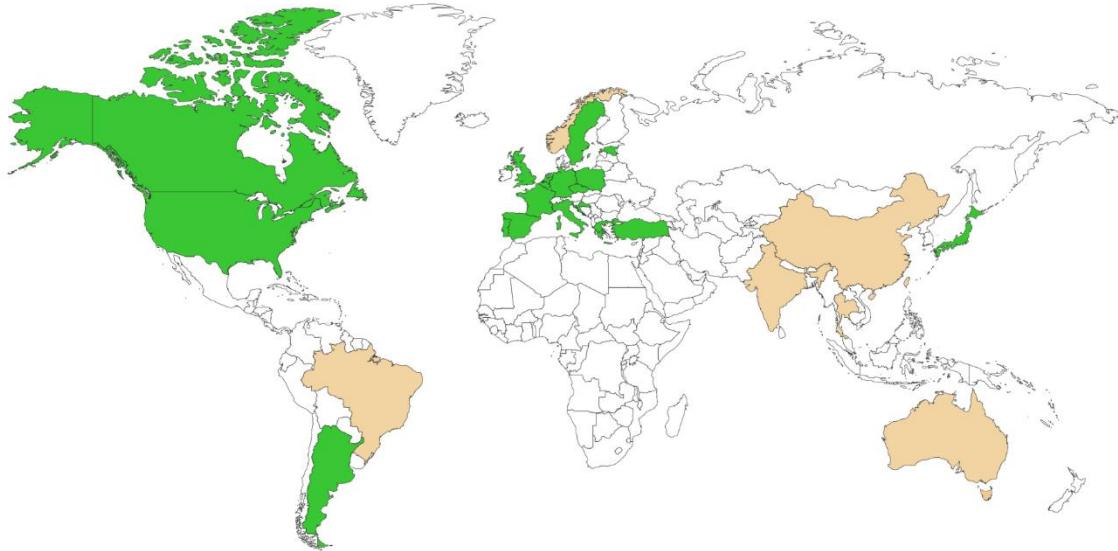
Shu et al JASN 00: 1–10, 2025. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1681/ASN.0000000796>

AI4gAN study

Data from > 150 centers & 26 countries



www.labooratory.ukaachen.de

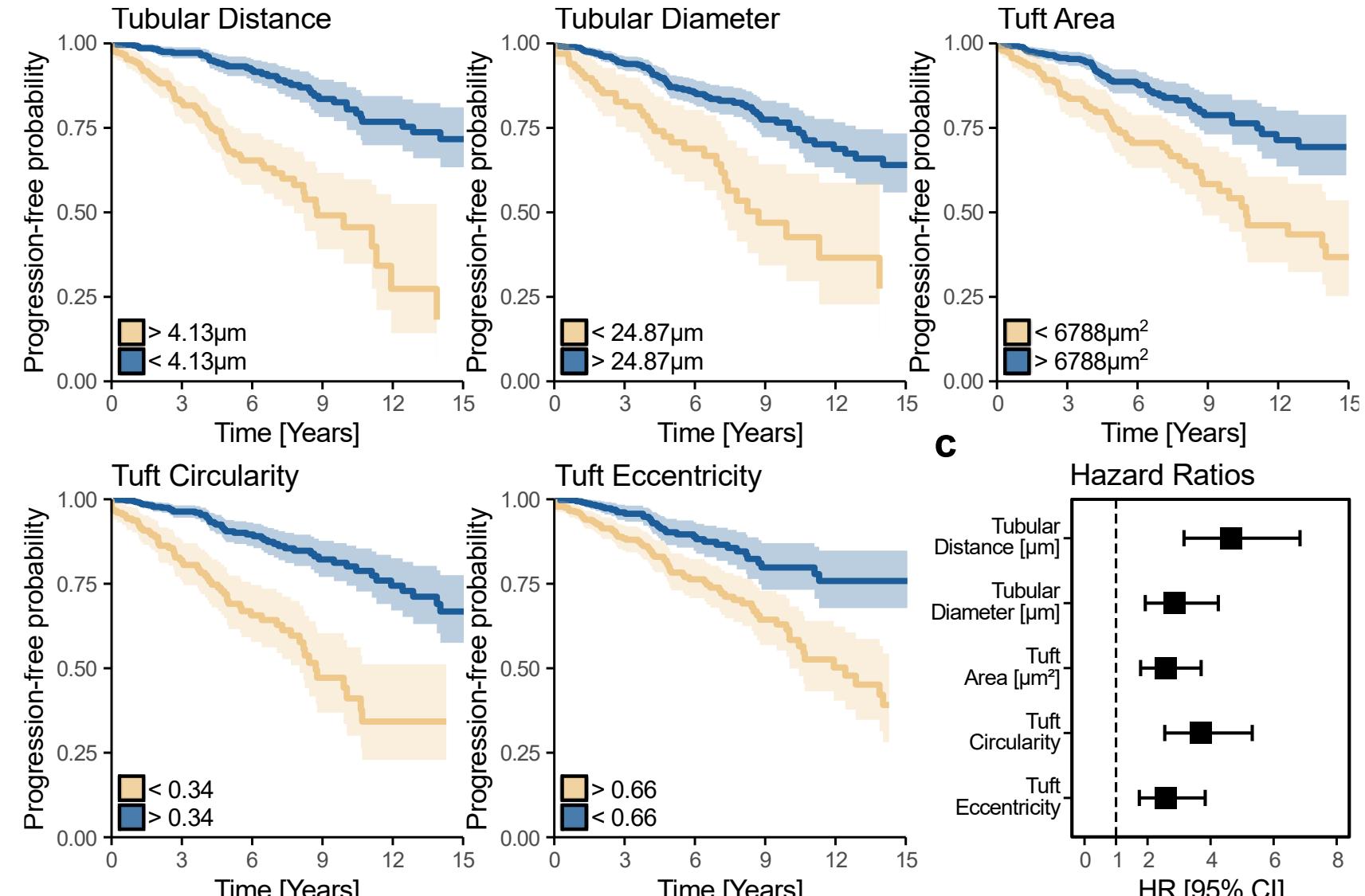


Pathomics as prognostic biomarker in IgAN (VALIGA)

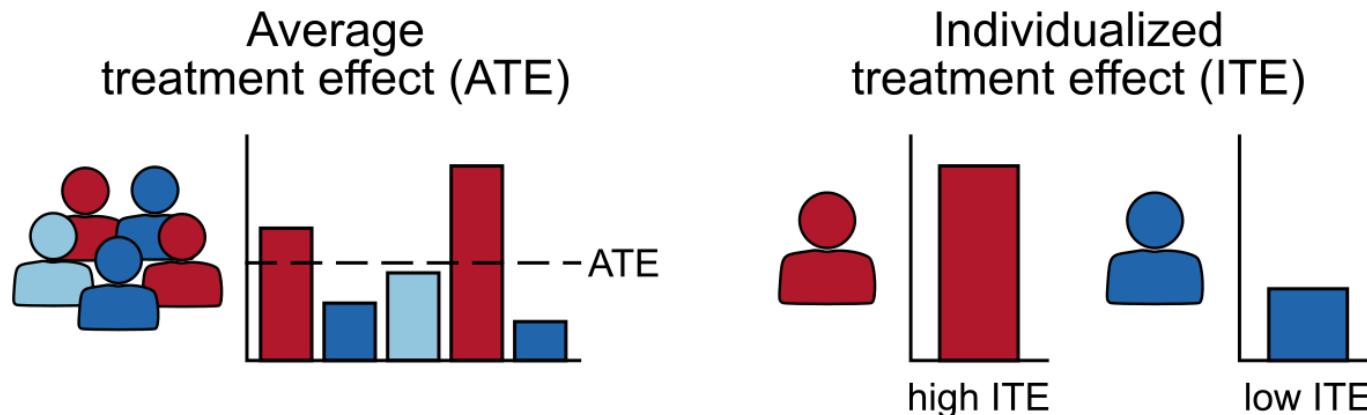
Multivariate Cox proportional hazards analysis: Adjusted for age, sex, eGFR at time of biopsy & MEST-C score

Five morphometric features are independent predictors of IgAN progression

1. **Tubular distance**
2. **Tubular diameter**
3. **Tuff area**
4. **Tuff circularity**
5. **Tuff Eccentricity**



Pathomics for individual treatment response in IgAN



Derivation cohort

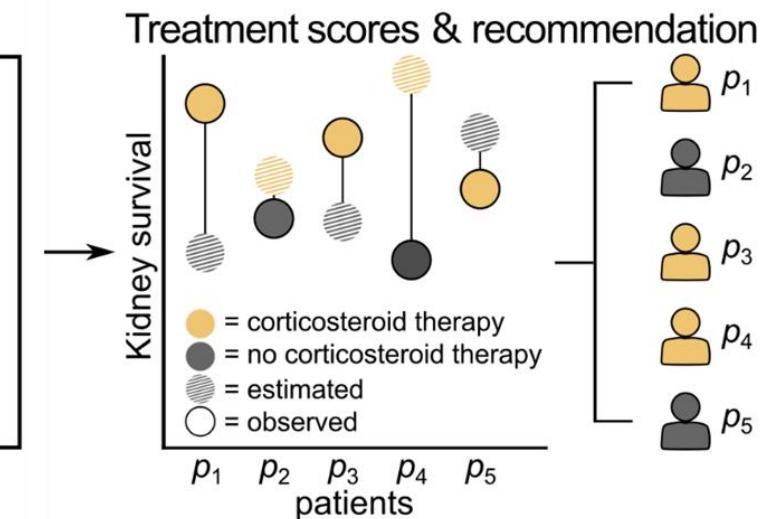
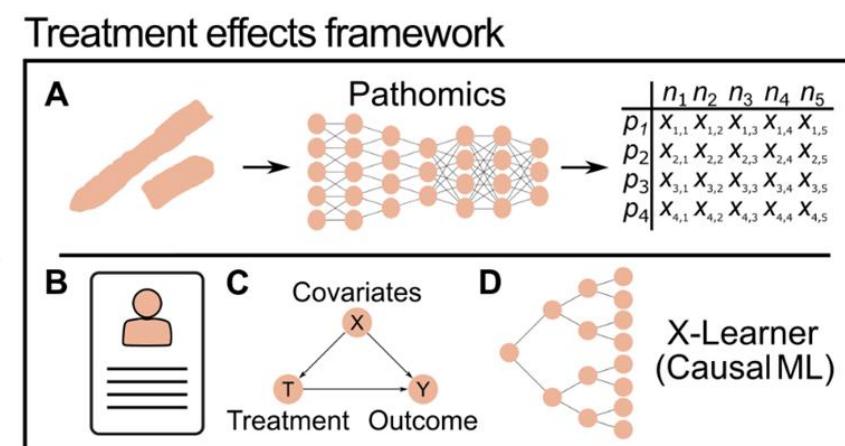
- VALIGA
- Kyoto
- NURTuRE

464 patients

Validation cohort

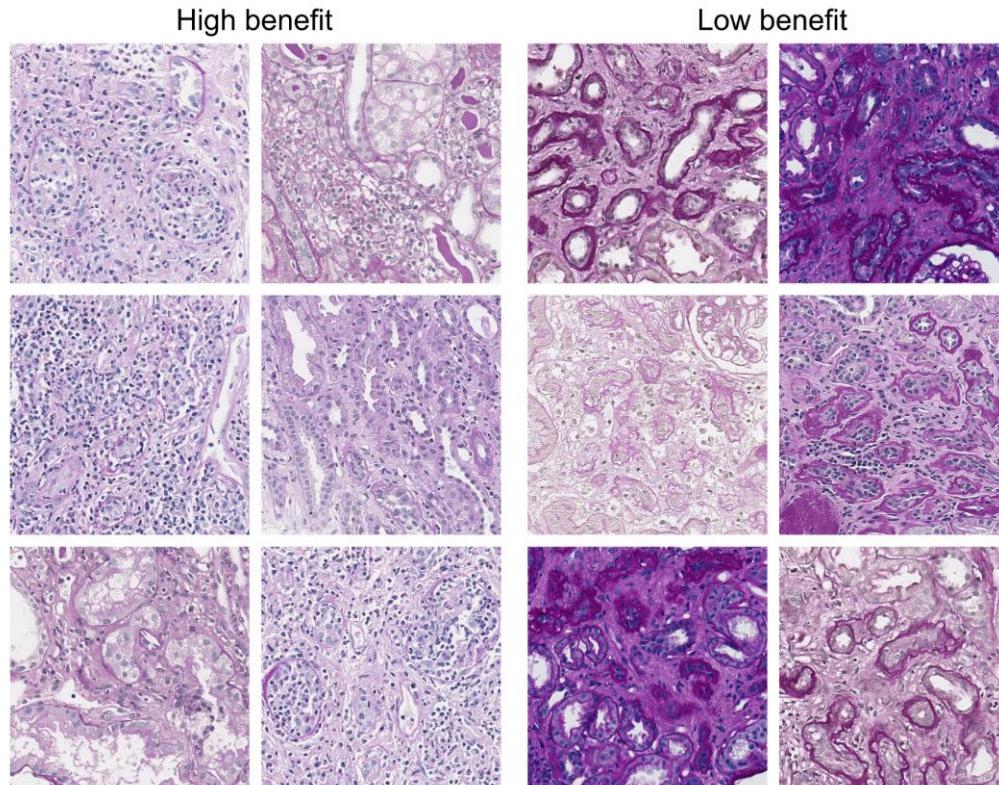
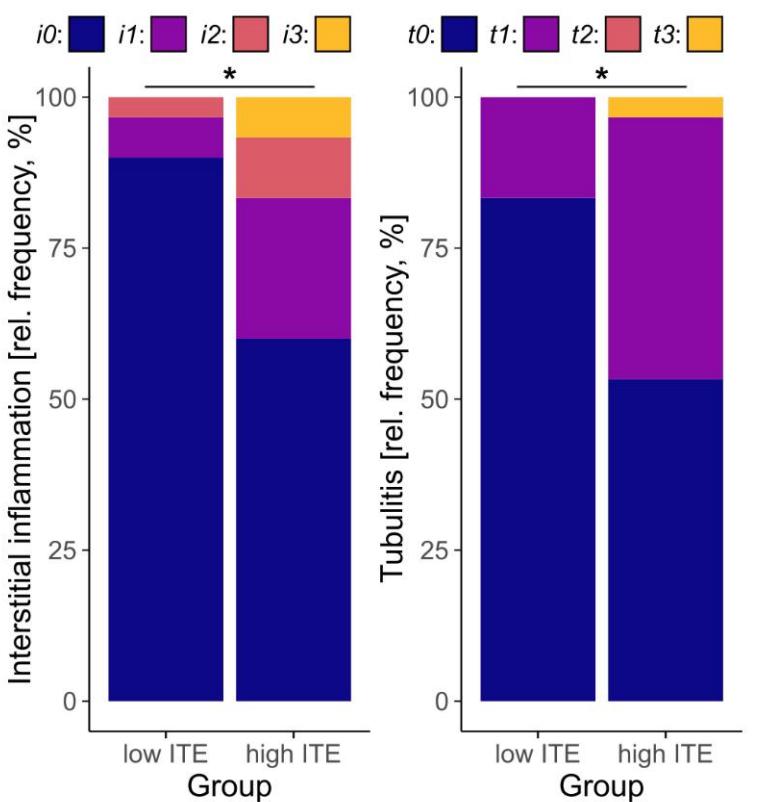
- VALIGA
- Leicester
- Aachen
- Diyarbakir
- Mayo Clinic
- CureGN

558 patients



Pathomics can identify predictors of treatment

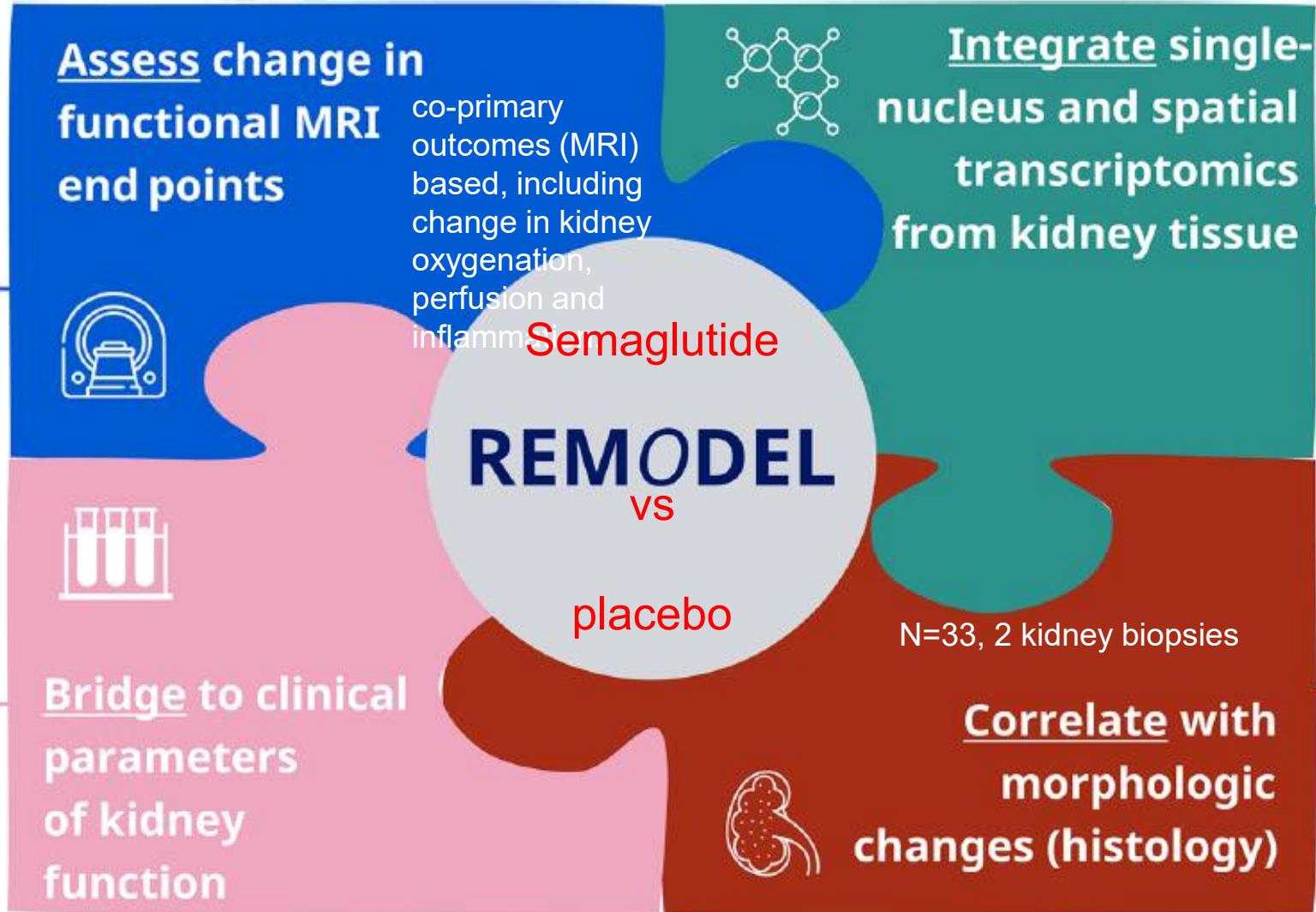
Tubulointerstitial inflammation



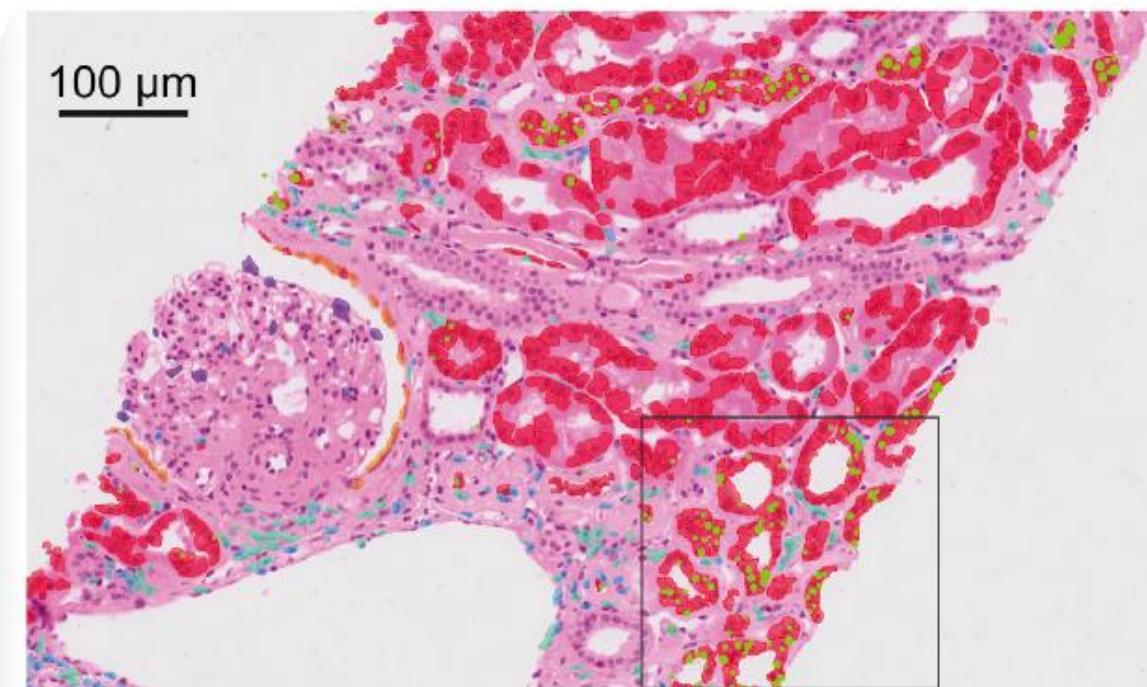
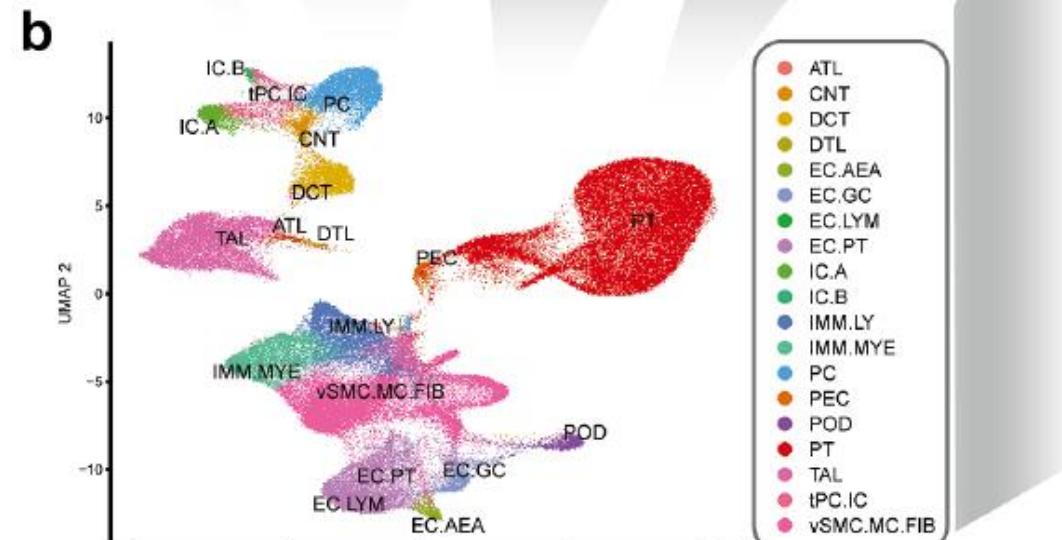
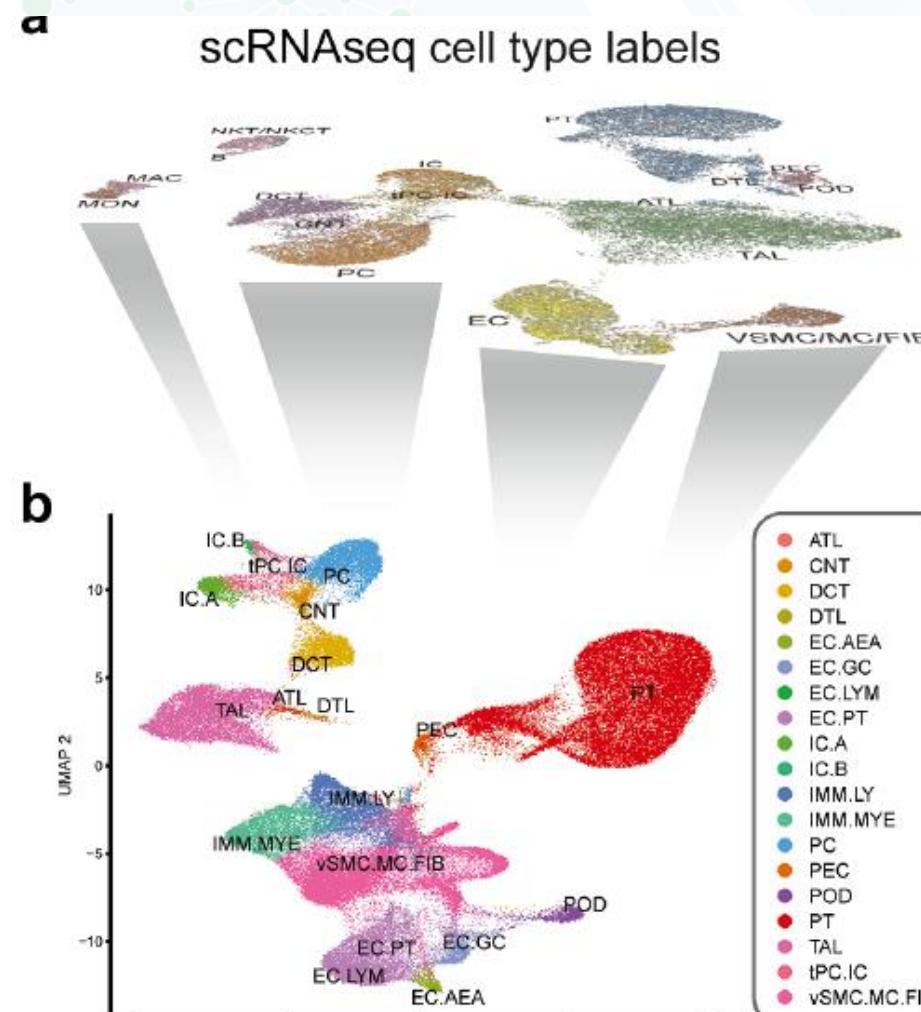
Potential reduction of corticosteroid therapy by 67.3%

Precision medicine framework (for any treatment)

REMODEL trial: Mechanistic trial in DKD



Advance transcriptomic analysis for MOA in DKD



Pruijm et al Kidney International (2025)

SPARTAN (NCT0466320) Study Design



SPARTAN

Screening

Day 1 to Week 2

SPARSENTAN 200 mg

Weeks 3 to 110

SPARSENTAN 400 mg

Weeks 110 to 114

Follow-up

N=12

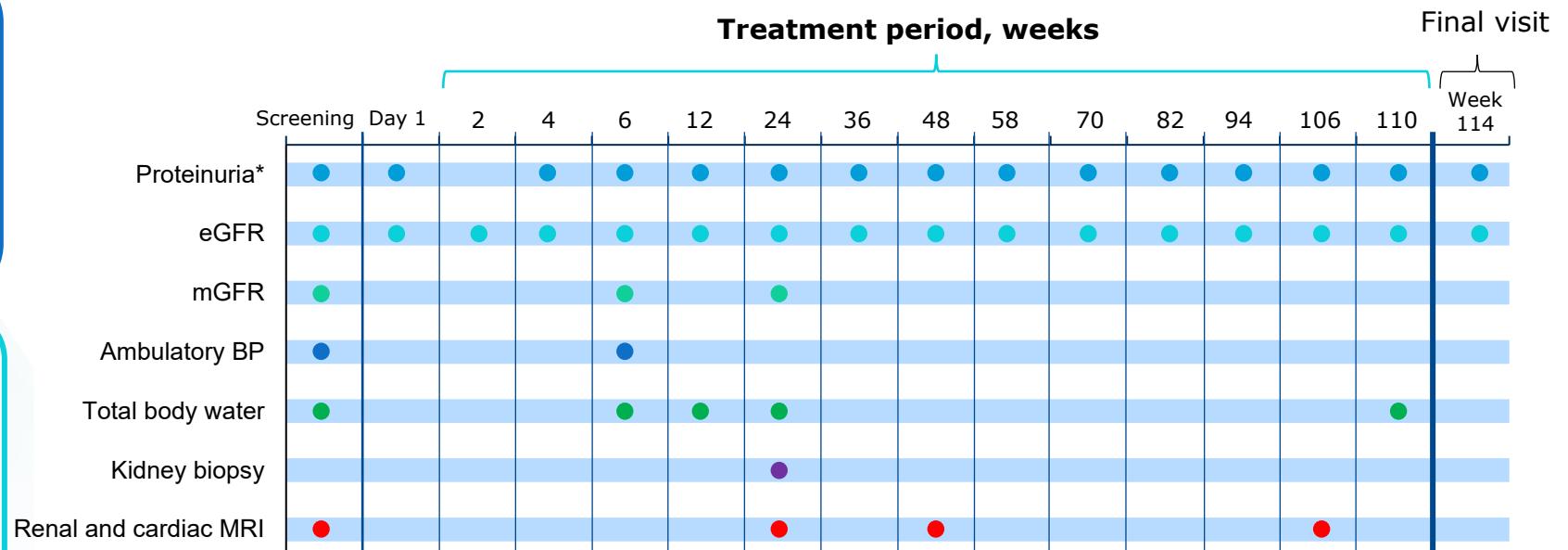
Start SOC RASB therapy

Key Eligibility Criteria

- Age ≥ 18 years
- Biopsy-proven IgAN within ≤ 6 months
- Proteinuria ≥ 0.5 g/day
- eGFR ≥ 30 mL/min/1.73 m 2
- No ACEIs/ARBs within ≤ 12 months

Key Endpoints

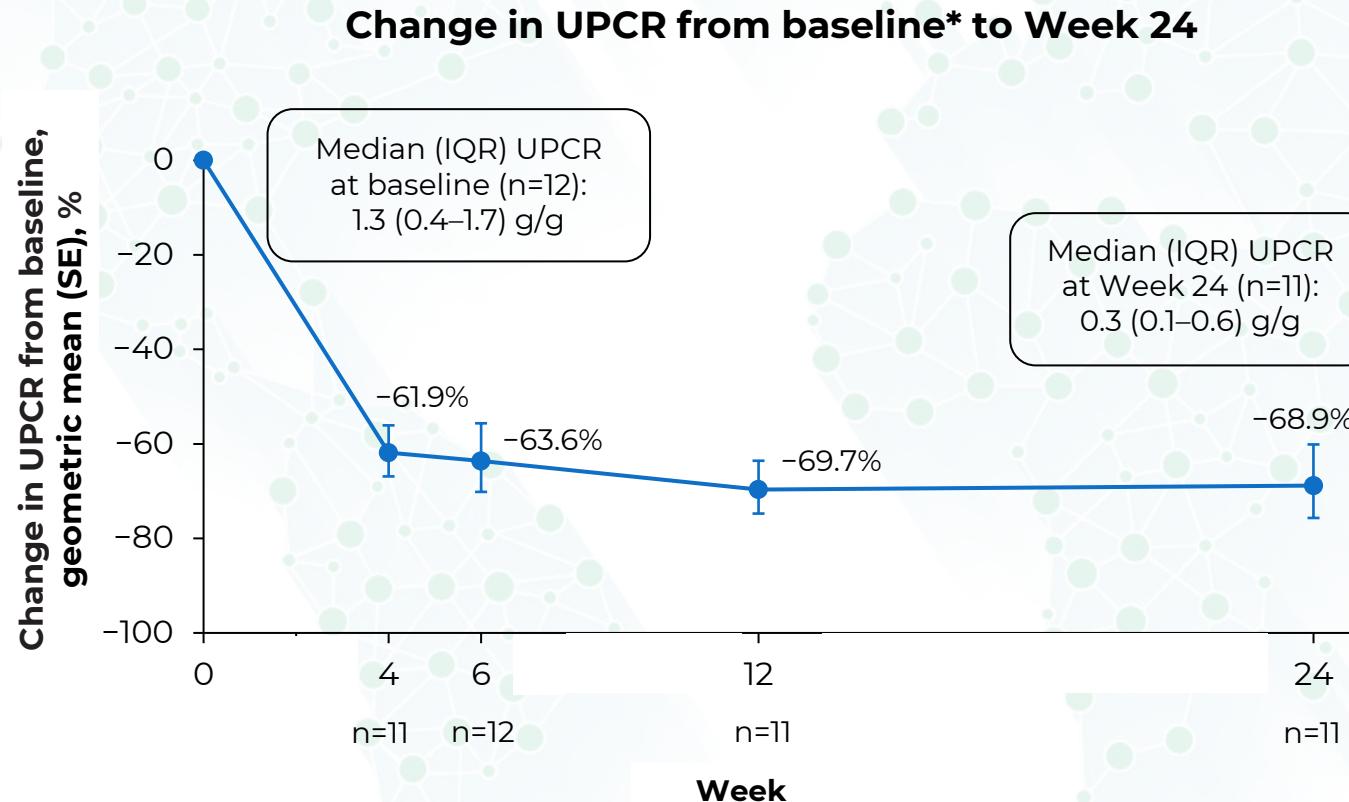
- Safety
- Change in proteinuria from baseline
- Complete remission of proteinuria (<0.3 g/day)
- Change in GFR and BP from baseline



ACEI, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; BP, blood pressure; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; IgAN, immunoglobulin A nephropathy; mGFR, measured glomerular filtration rate; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; RASB, renin-angiotensin-system blockers; SOC, standard of care.

*24-hour collection.

SPARTAN trial: proteinuria results



- Proteinuria reductions were **rapid** (~60% from baseline at Week 4) and **sustained** over 24 weeks of sparsentan treatment

Proteinuria results are comparable with those from the PROTECT study

Sparsentan is indicated for the treatment of adults with primary IgAN with urine protein excretion ≥ 1.0 g/day (or UPCR ≥ 0.75 g/g).

*On-treatment analysis; one patient discontinued after Week 6.

IgAN, immunoglobulin A nephropathy; IQR, interquartile range; SE, standard error; UPCR, urine protein-to-creatinine ratio.
Cheung CK, et al. ASN 2024; Oral presentation #FR-OR63.

SPARTAN (NCT0466320) Study Design



SPARTAN

Screening

Day 1 to Week 2

SPARSENTAN 200 mg

Weeks 3 to 110

SPARSENTAN 400 mg

Weeks 110 to 114

Follow-up

N=12

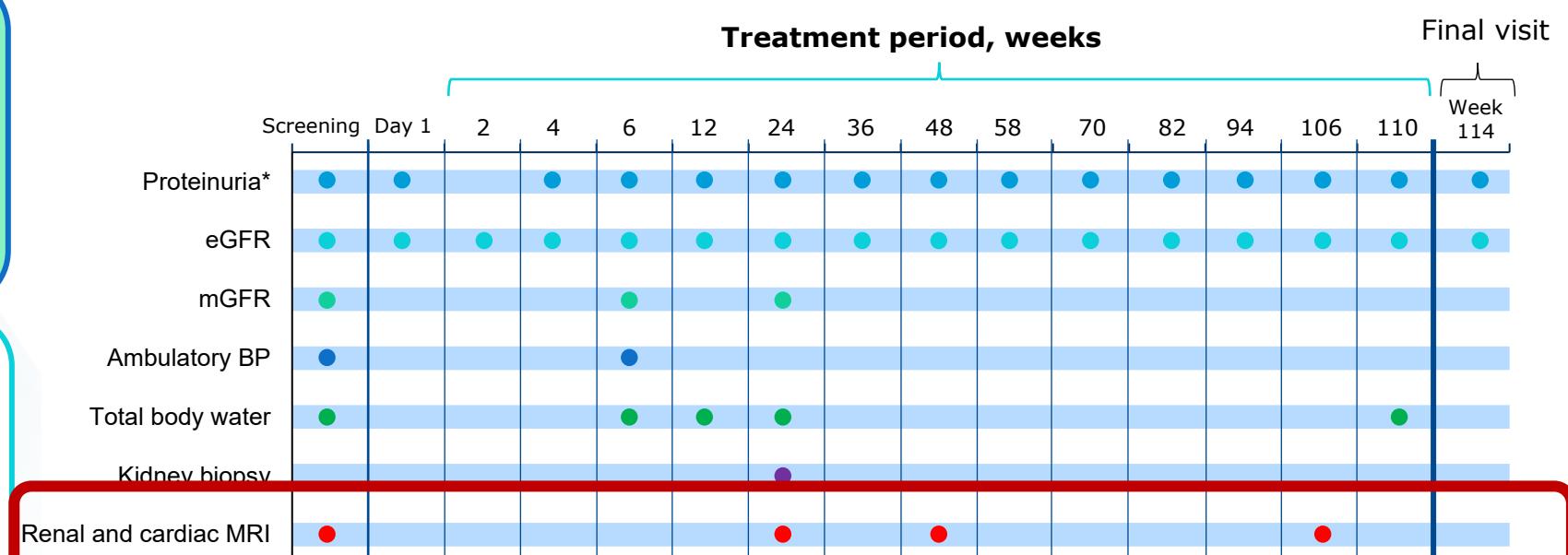
Start SOC RASB therapy

Key Eligibility Criteria

- Age ≥ 18 years
- Biopsy-proven IgAN within ≤ 6 months
- Proteinuria ≥ 0.5 g/day
- eGFR ≥ 30 mL/min/1.73 m 2
- No ACEIs/ARBs within ≤ 12 months

Key Endpoints

- Safety
- Change in proteinuria from baseline
- Complete remission of proteinuria (<0.3 g/day)
- Change in GFR and BP from baseline



ACEI, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; BP, blood pressure; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; IgAN, immunoglobulin A nephropathy; mGFR, measured glomerular filtration rate; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; RASB, renin-angiotensin-system blockers; SOC, standard of care.

*24-hour collection.

Current and Emerging Therapies for IgA Nephropathy

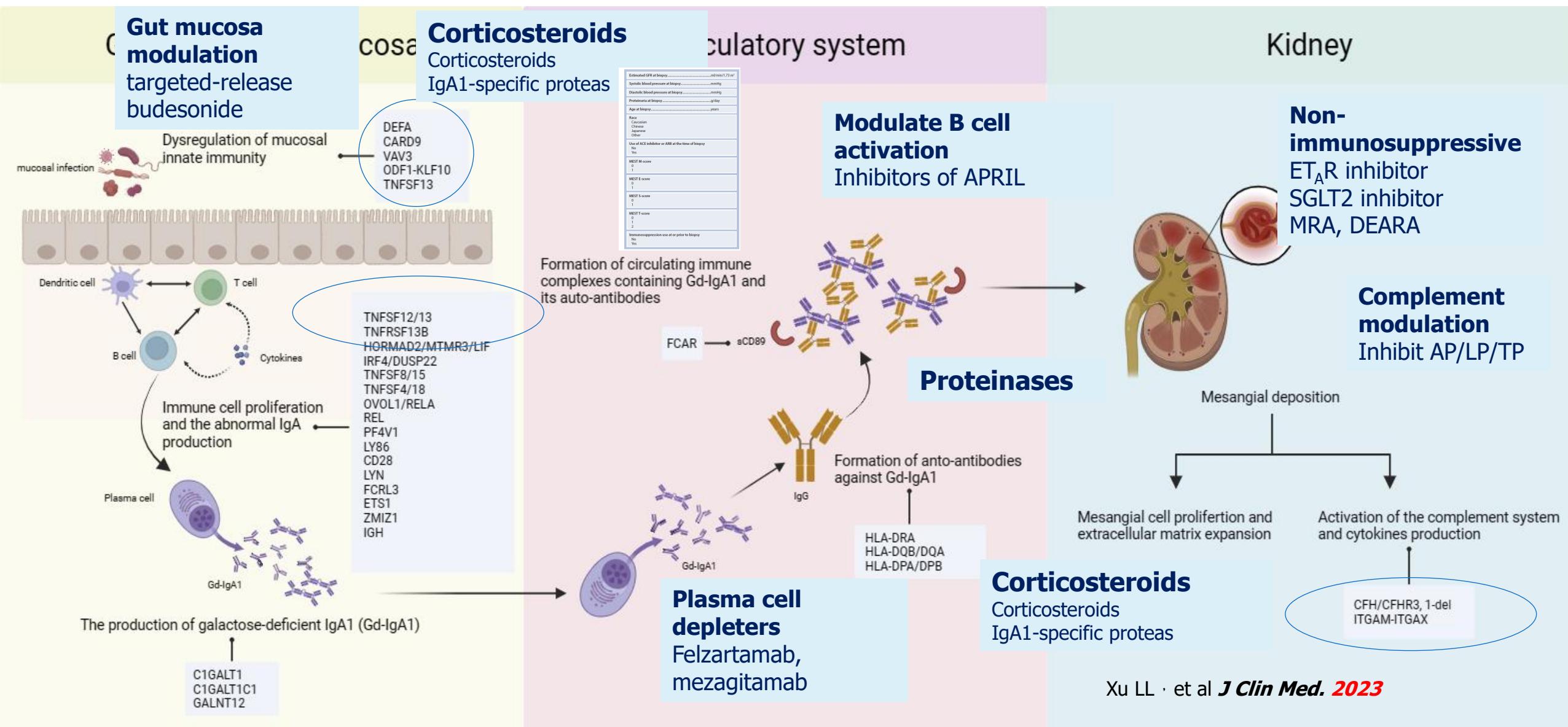
Trial Drug	Phase	Drug Class	Proteinuria Reduction	eGFR (mL/min/1.73 m ²) vs Placebo	Clinical Trial
Tarpeyo^{1,2} (Nefcon)	Approved   	Glucocorticoid	31% ($P=0.0001$)	-2.47 vs -7.52 ($P<0.0001$)	NeflgArd (Phase 3)
Filspari^{3,4} (sparsentan)	Approved  	Dual ET _A /ANG-II antagonist	49.8% ($P<0.0001$)	-2.9 vs -3.9 with irbesartan ($P=0.058$)	PROTECT (Phase 3)
Fabhalta⁵⁻⁷ (iptacopan)	Approved 	Complement factor B inhibitor	38% ($P<0.001$)	+2.4 vs -3.3 ^a	APPLAUSE-IgAN (Phase 3) NCT03373461 (Phase 2)
Vanrafia^{8,9} (atrasentan)	Approved 	ET _A -1 receptor antagonist	36.1% ($P<0.001$)	Pending results	ALIGN (Phase 3)
Voxyact^{10,11} (sibemprelimab)	Approved 	APRIL inhibitor	51.2% ($P<0.0001$)	+0.2 vs -7.4 ^a	VISIONARY (Phase 3, IA) ^b ENVISION (Phase 2)
Atacicept^{12,13}	Phase 3	Dual APRIL/BAFF inhibitor	42% ($P<0.0001$)	Absolute difference of 5.7 ^a	ORIGIN (Phase 3, IA) ORIGIN (Phase 2b)
Povetacicept^{14,15}	Phase 3	Dual APRIL/BAFF inhibitor	64%	Absolute change of +3.3 ^a	RUBY-3 (Phase 1b/2a) RAINIER (Phase 3)
Telitacicept^{16,17}	Phase 3 (China only)	Dual APRIL/BAFF inhibitor	55%	-1.0 vs -7.7	Phase 3
Felzartamab¹⁸	Phase 3	Anti-CD38	24%	Treatment difference of 8.8 ^a	IGANZ (Phase 2)
Mezagitamab¹⁹	Phase 1b	Anti-CD38	55%	Mean change of +2.5 ^c	Phase 1b Phase 3

Note: All data presented are based solely on published and cited scientific sources and avoid any comparison of the listed drugs. At present, there have been no head-to-head studies comparing any of the listed drugs.

^aData from Phase 2 trial. ^bPhase 3 trial is ongoing. ^cData from Phase 1b trial.

ANG-II, angiotensin II; APRIL, a proliferation-inducing ligand; BAFF, B-cell activating factor; ET_A, endothelin receptor A; IA, interim analysis; IgA, immunoglobulin A.
 1. Lafayette R, et al. *Lancet*. 2023;402(10405):859-870. 2. Tarpeyo® [prescribing information]. Stockholm, Sweden: Caliditas Therapeutics AB; 2024. 3. Rovin BH, et al. *Lancet*. 2023;402(10417):2077-2090. 4. Filspari® [prescribing information]. San Diego, CA: Travers Therapeutics, Inc.; 2024. 5. Perkovic V, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2025;392(6):531-543. 6. Fabhalta® [prescribing information]. East Hanover, NJ: Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; 2025. 7. Zhang H, et al. *Kidney Int*. 2024;105(1):189-199. 8. Heerspink HJL, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2025;392(6):544-554. 9. Vanrafia® [prescribing information]. East Hanover, NJ: Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; 2025. 10. Mathur M, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2024;390(1):20-31. 11. VOYXACT (sibemprelimab-szsi) [prescribing information]. Rockville, Maryland: Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.; 2025. 12. Lafayette R, et al. *Kidney Int*. 2024;105(6):1306-1315. 13. Vera Therapeutics announces atacicept achieved 46% proteinuria reduction in ORIGIN Phase 3 trial in adults with IgA nephropathy [press release]. Vera Therapeutics. June 2, 2025. Accessed July 30, 2025. <https://ir.veratx.com/news-releases/news-release-details/vera-therapeutics-announces-atacicept-achieved-46-proteinuria>. 14. Tumlin J, et al. ASN Kidney Week. 2025 (abstr SA-OR091). 15. Evaluation of efficacy of povetacicept in adults with immunoglobulin A nephropathy (IgAN). ClinicalTrials.gov. Accessed July 30, 2025. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT06564142>. 16. Efficacy and Safety of Telitacicept in IgAN. ClinicalTrials.gov. Accessed November 19, 2025. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT06654596>. 17. Lv, Jicheng, et al. ASN Kidney Week. 2025. (abstr SA-OR083). 18. Floege J, et al. *Kidney Int*. 2025;S0085-2538(25)00488-0. 19. Takeda Presents New Data Showing Mezagitamab (TAK-079) Sustained Effect on Kidney Function 18 Months After Treatment in Primary IgA Nephropathy [pres release]. Takeda. November 7, 2025. <https://www.takeda.com/newsroom/newsreleases/2025/new-data-mezagitamab>.

Personalised medicine in IgA nephropathy



Summary



There are needs for personalized approach in management of IgA nephropathy



Evolving field in risk prediction tool, genomic, pathomic and biomarkers.



No single biomarker yet but any marker/s needs to risk stratify and predict treatment response



Collaborative future research with industry partnership is the way to move forward



Thank you for your attention