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# Seminar N2

## Targeted Therapies in Hospital Pharmacy – One Problem, Two Views



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### Conflicts of interest

#### Participation in Advisory Boards

- Amgen GmbH, MSD Sharp & Dome GmbH, Roche AG

#### Speakers' honorarium

- Amgen GmbH, Berner International GmbH, Celgene GmbH, MSD Sharp & Dome GmbH

#### No other conflicts of interest to declare



## Agenda

- Targeted therapies in oncology: examples and limitations
- Difference to stratified and personalized therapy
- Biomarkers: Definitions, examples and challenges
- The story of (k)-ras as a biomarker in colorectal cancer

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## Targeted therapies

Attempt to focus on a biochemical structure likely playing an important role in tumor pathology

Objective: Focus only on main pathological structure in and on tumor cells, less side effects

- Cell-surface-protein antibodies (i.e. CD- or growth-factor-antibodies)
- Tyrosine-kinase-inhibitors (i.e. bcr-abl, k-ras, b-raf)
- Anti-Cytokines (i.e. against TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-6)

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## „Targeted“ Therapies: examples

Drug	Indication	Molecular marker	Significant advantage
Arsenic trioxide (Trisenox <sup>®</sup> )	AML M3 (Promyelocyte leukemia)	t(15;17)-translocation a/o PML/RAR $\alpha$ -Gen	24-month-OS-probability: 99% in combination with ATRA
Cetuximab (Erbix <sup>®</sup> )	met. Colorectal-Ca	RAS-wild type	Cetuximab+FOLFOX: med OS 2,9 months (not signif.)
Panitumumab (Vectibix <sup>®</sup> )	locally advanced Head and Neck-Ca		Panitumumab+FOLFOX: med OS 5,8 months
Dasatinib (Sprycel <sup>®</sup> ) Imatinib (Glivec <sup>®</sup> ) Nilotinib (Tasigna <sup>®</sup> )	CML	Fused protein BCR-ABL (Philadelphia-Chromosome)	Imatinib: significantly less patients with progression to accelerated phase oder blast crisis (92 vs 85%) after 84 months
Gefitinib (Iressa <sup>®</sup> )	NSCLC	EGFR-mutation	vs Carboplatin/Paclitaxel: med PFS 3,2 months QoL: +25,7%
Lapatinib (Tyverb <sup>®</sup> ) Trastuzumab (Herceptin <sup>®</sup> )	progressive met. Breast-Ca adjuvant Breast-Cancer-Therapy	HER2 (EGFR)-Overexpression (3+)	+ Capecitabin: TTP 5,6 months + Chemotherapie (AC $\rightarrow$ P): recurrent disease: -52%, death: -37%
Maraviroc (Celsentri <sup>®</sup> )	HIV, AIDS	HIV-Affinity to CCR5-receptor	+OBT: Significant Reduktion of HIV-1-RNA-Count after 48 weeks
Tamoxifen (Nolvadex <sup>®</sup> ) Trastuzumab-Emtansin (Kadcyla <sup>®</sup> )	Adjuvant Mamma-Ca Locally advanced or metastatic Breast-Ca	Hormone receptor-expression HER2 (EGFR)-Overexpression (3+)	significantly reduced recurrence rates OS vs Lapatinib+Capecitabine 5,8 months



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## Clinical relevance?

Possible targets in prostate cancer, their physiologic function and targeting drugs



Source: Schoenborn JR et al. Clin Cancer Res 2013; 15: 4058-66 6



## Dreams and reality

- Focus on one target leads to higher effectiveness
  - Target might be one of several pathologic proteins
  - Understanding of pathologic aberrations on a molecular basis can be much more difficult
  - Salvage pathways in tumor biology
  - Chronic treatment approach leads to more aggressive gene mutations with higher proliferation rates after progression
- Focus on one target leads to less side effects
  - Target often plays an active role in „healthy“ physiology
  - new, formerly unknown side effects

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### sm-TKI: toxicities

<u>dermal:</u> all, different forms <u>gastrointestinal:</u> all, different forms	<u>heart:</u> Imatinib, Dasatinib, Nilotinib, Lapatinib, Sunitinib, Sorafenib <u>thyroid gland:</u> Sunitinib, Pazopanib	<u>liver:</u> all <u>blood pressure,</u> <u>wound healing:</u> VEGF-Hemmer, like Sunitinib, Sorafenib, Pazopanib
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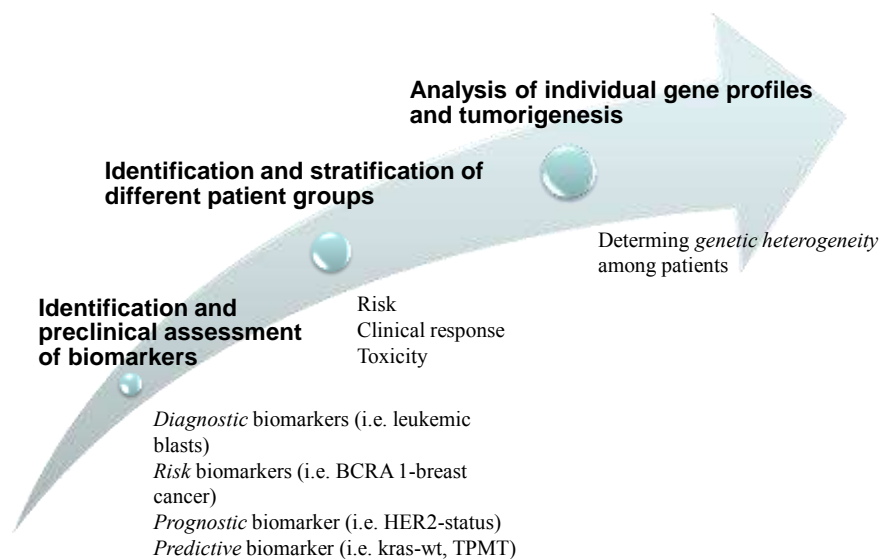
## Definitions

- **Stratified therapy**
  - **Different groups** of treatment according to anticipated response to treatment or expected toxicities. Basis: prognostic or predictive biomarkers
- **Personalised therapy**
  - Analysis of genes and tumorigenesis **in the individual patient** to gain knowledge about risk for developing a certain tumor disease, response or resistance to therapies and risk for toxicities to find the best prophylaxis and treatment strategies

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## From „targeted“ to „stratified“ and „personalized“



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## Why do we need a *better* understanding of the tumors` genetic and molecular characteristics?

- Clinical outcomes of tumors with the same pathological patterns can vary substantially
- Genetic and molecular characteristics are the key to improve patient stratification
- Sufficient preclinical analysis if the discovered genome alterations might be of clinical relevance
- Identification of valid biomarkers which lead to information about treatment success and toxicity

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## What is needed for stratification?

- various technologies
- pre-clinical, epidemiological studies and clinical trials to assess possible biomarkers
- understanding of disease, especially tumorigenesis, on a molecular basis and the corresponding drug mechanisms
- development of reliable assays and tests
- consideration of ethical aspects

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## Prognostic biomarker AML: cytogenetic risk

- **Low-Risk:**

t(8;21), inv(16), t(15;17)

- **Intermediate Risk:**

all aberrations, which are not categorised as low- or high-risk, normal karyotype

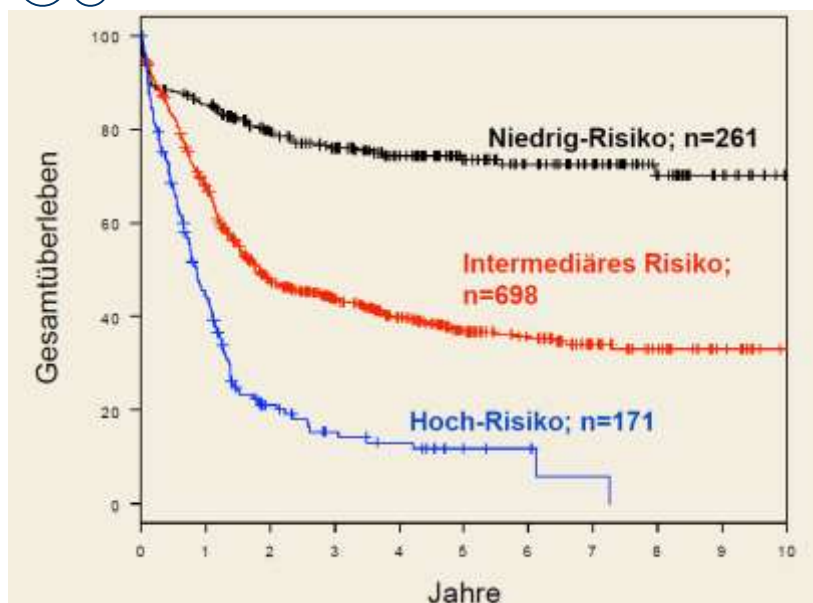
- **High-Risk:**

inv(3)/t(3;3), t(6;9), t(v;11q23)

-5/5q-, -7, abn(17p), complex karyotype

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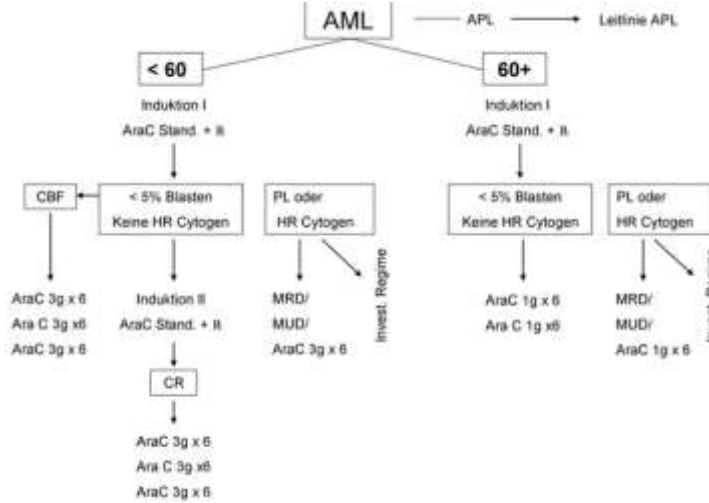


Source: AMLSG Therapiestudien 16-60 years

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## AML: therapy stratification (cytogenetic risk)

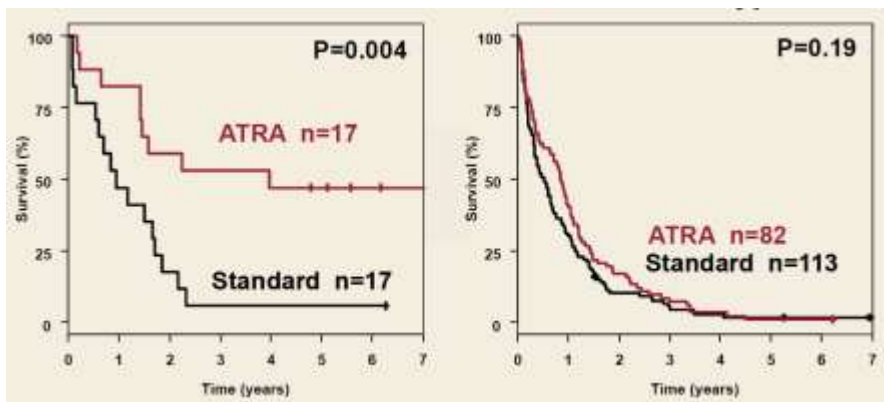


Source: www.dgho-onkopedia.de

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## Predictive Biomarker for ATRA in AML: NPM1<sub>mut</sub>/FLT3-ITD<sub>neg</sub>



NPM1<sub>mut</sub>/FLT3-ITD<sub>neg</sub>

Haematologica 2009; 94:54-60

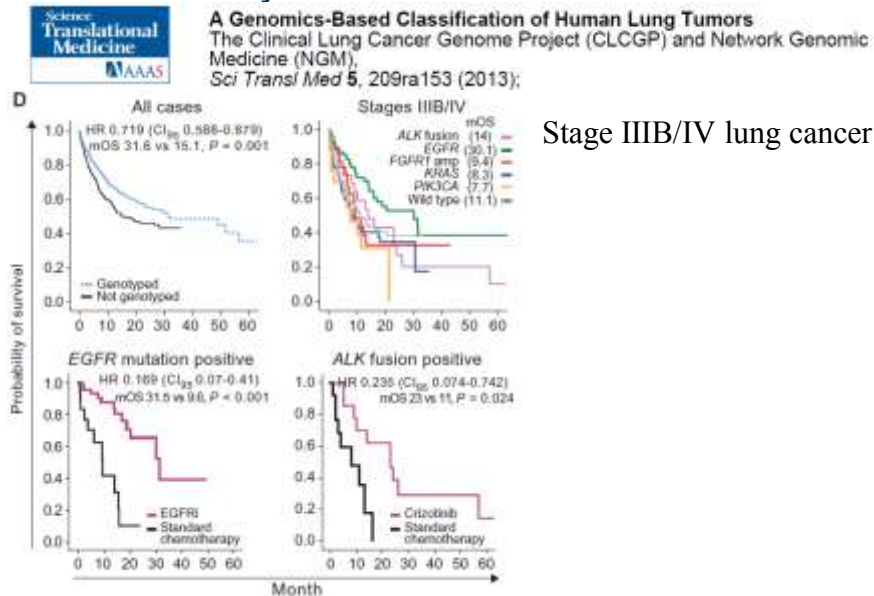
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## Prognostic Biomarkers

### Is every biomarker of clinical relevance?



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## Biomarkers: challenges

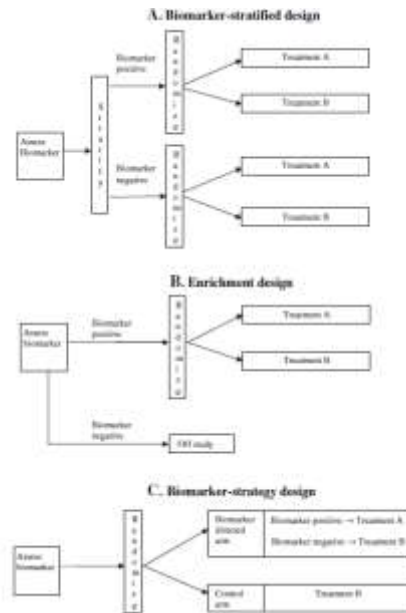
- Sensivity and specificity
  - Knowledge about tumorigenesis and pathways
  - how reliable are biomarker assays in practical use
- Validation and qualification
  - standardisation of methods, procedures and results
- Cost of kits and efforts
- Prospective studies
  - selection of the optimal study design

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# Biomarkers: trials

- Relationship between biomarker and treatment effect
- Classification of patients into distinct subgroups
- Alternative designs to evaluate biomarker-guided therapy

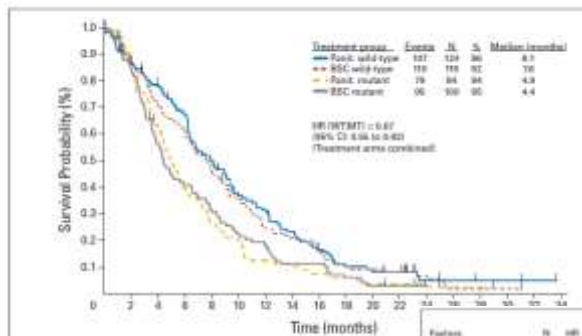


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From: Freidlin B et al. J Natl Cancer Inst 2010;102: 152-160

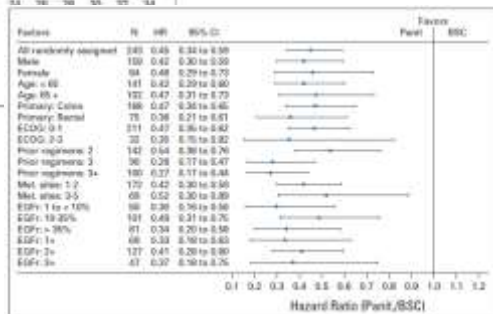


# The story of ras in CRC



molecular alterations. The high positive predictive value (100% for lack of objective response rate) for mutant KRAS suggests that inhibition of the RAS/RAF/MEK signaling pathway is primarily responsible for the clinical activity of panitumumab in metastatic CRC, and raises the possibility that mutant KRAS may be predictive in other tumor types. Indeed, EGFR inhibitors have shown modest or no activity in pancreatic cancer, a disease with a high prevalence of KRAS mutations, and in patients with lung cancer

Amado et al., JCO 2010

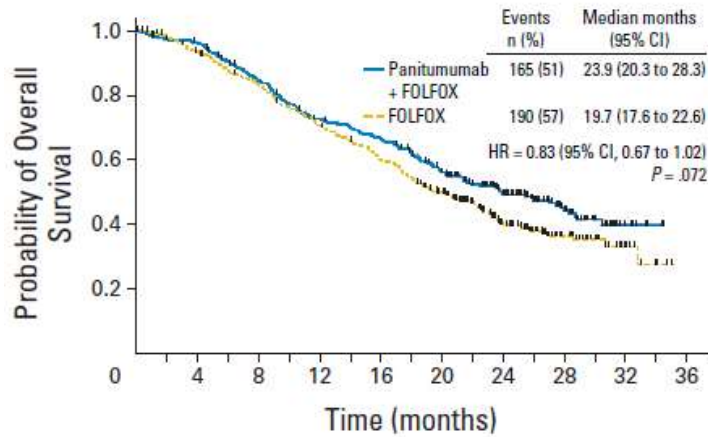


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## The story of ras in CRC

k-ras wildtype patients CRC St. IV

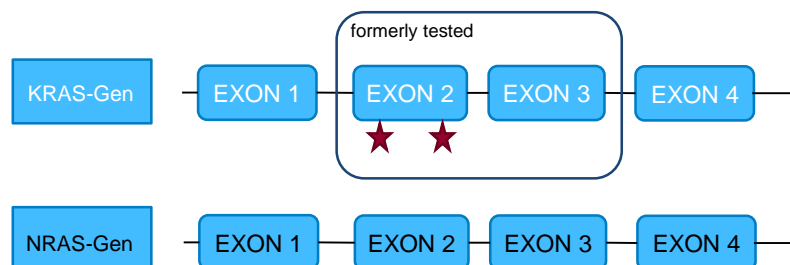


Douillard *et al.*, JCO 2010

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## EGF-receptor – RAS-signalling



Recent studies with anti-EGFR-antibodies:

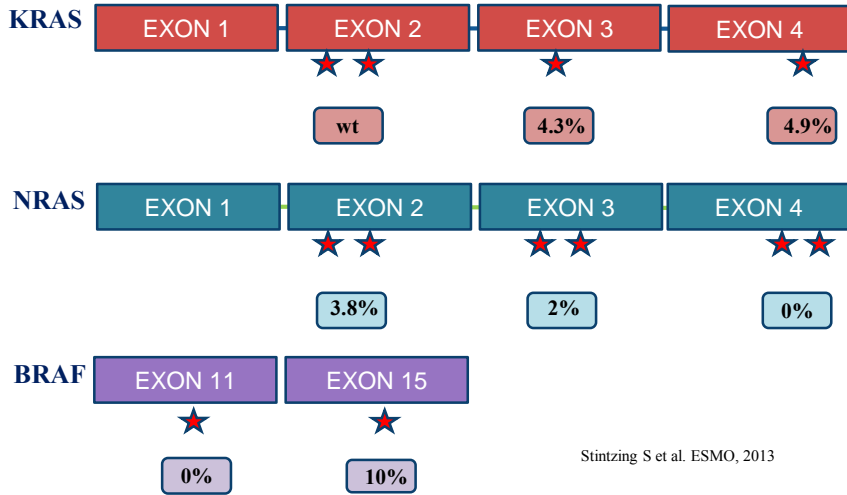
- negative outcome for subgroup with KRAS-Mutation in exon 2
- standard analysis since 2008

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## FIRE-3 - mutations

### KRAS exon 2 wild-type subset

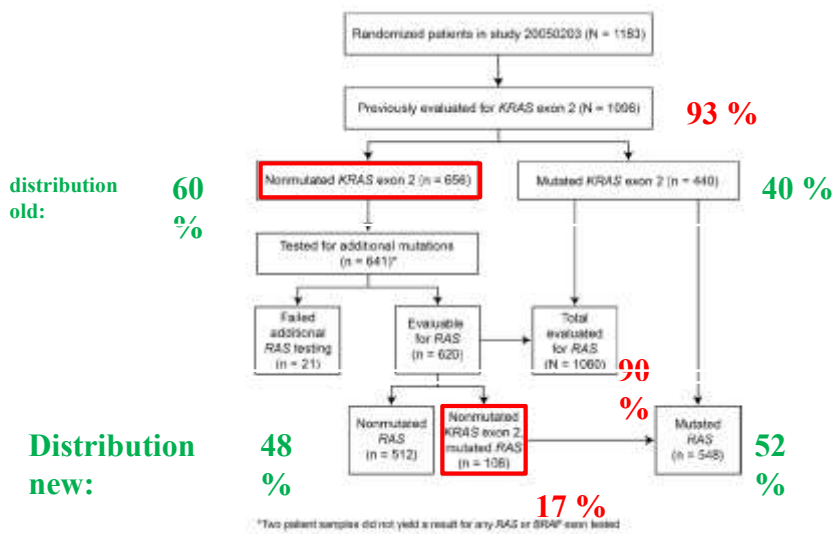


Stintzing S et al. ESMO, 2013

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## New all-ras-pathway



Douillard et al., NEJM 2013

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## Efficacy – old definition (kras)

Variable	Panitumumab- FOLFOX4	FOLFOX4 Alone	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	P Value	P Value for Interaction Test <sup>†</sup>
<b>No KRAS mutation in exon 2</b>					
No. of patients	125	331			
Months of progression-free survival in primary analysis — median (95% CI)	9.6 (9.2–11.1)	8.0 (7.5–9.3)	0.80 (0.66–0.97)	0.02	
Months of overall survival — median (95% CI)					
Primary analysis	23.9 (20.3–28.3)	19.7 (17.6–22.6)	0.83 (0.67–1.02)	0.07	
Updated analysis	<b>Δ 4.4 months</b> 23.8 (20.0–27.7)	19.4 (17.4–22.6)	0.83 (0.70–0.98)	0.03	
<b>KRAS mutation in exon 2</b>					
No. of patients	221	219			
Months of progression-free survival in primary analysis — median (95% CI)	7.3 (6.3–8.0)	8.8 (7.7–9.4)	1.29 (1.04–1.62)	0.02	
Months of overall survival — median (95% CI)					
Primary analysis	15.5 (13.1–17.6)	19.3 (16.5–21.8)	1.24 (0.98–1.57)	0.07	
Updated analysis	15.5 (13.1–17.6)	19.2 (16.2–21.5)	1.16 (0.94–1.41)	0.16	

Douillard et al., NEJM 2013

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## Efficacy – new definition (all-ras)

Variable	Panitumumab- FOLFOX4	FOLFOX4 Alone	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	P Value	P Value for Interaction Test <sup>†</sup>
<b>No RAS mutation</b>					
No. of patients	259	253			
Months of progression-free survival in primary analysis — median (95% CI)	10.1 (9.3–12.0)	7.9 (7.2–9.3)	0.72 (0.58–0.90)	0.004	
Months of overall survival — median (95% CI)					
Primary analysis	<b>Δ 5.8 months</b> 26.0 (21.7–30.4)	20.2 (17.7–23.1)	0.78 (0.62–0.99)	0.04	
Updated analysis	25.8 (21.7–29.7)	20.2 (17.6–23.6)	0.77 (0.64–0.94)	0.009	
<b>No KRAS mutation in exon 2, other RAS mutation 17 %</b>					
No. of patients	51	57			
Months of progression-free survival in primary analysis — median (95% CI)	7.3 (5.3–9.2)	8.0 (6.4–11.3)	1.28 (0.79–2.07)	0.33	0.04
Months of overall survival — median (95% CI)					
Primary analysis	17.1 (10.8–19.4)	18.3 (13.0–23.2)	1.29 (0.79–2.10)	0.31	0.07
Updated analysis	17.1 (10.8–19.4)	17.8 (13.0–23.2)	1.39 (0.91–2.13)	0.12	0.01

Douillard et al., NEJM 2013

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## Efficacy - Ras MT

Variable	Panitumumab- FOLFOX4	FOLFOX4 Alone	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	P Value	P Value for Interaction Test <sup>a</sup>
<b>RAS mutation</b>					
No. of patients	272	276			
Months of progression-free survival in primary analysis — median (95% CI)	7.3 (6.3–7.9)	8.7 (7.6–9.4)	1.31 (1.07–1.60)	0.008	<0.001
Months of overall survival — median (95% CI)					
Primary analysis	15.6 (13.4–17.9)	19.2 (16.7–21.8)	1.25 (1.02–1.55)	0.03	0.004
Updated analysis	15.5 (13.4–17.9)	18.7 (16.5–21.5)	1.21 (1.01–1.45)	0.04	0.001

negative  
predictive  
factor!

Douillard et al., NEJM 2013

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## Efficacy - BRAF

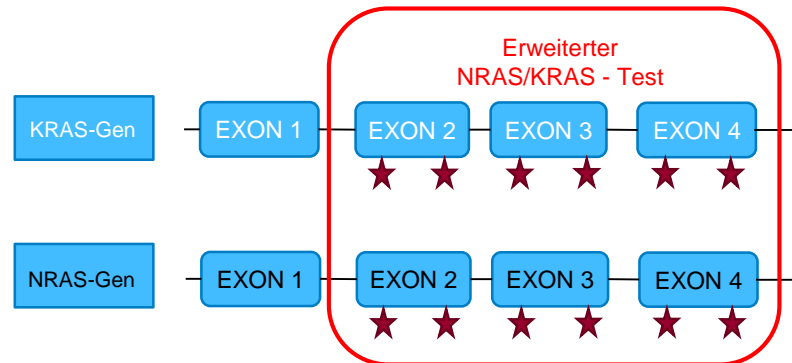
**Table 3. Efficacy Results According to RAS and BRAF Mutation Status in the Primary-Analysis Population.<sup>a</sup>**

Variable	Panitumumab- FOLFOX4	FOLFOX4 Alone	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	P Value
<b>No RAS or BRAF mutations</b>				
No. of patients	228	218		
Months of progression-free survival — median (95% CI)	10.8 (9.4–12.4)	9.2 (7.4–9.6)	0.68 (0.54–0.87)	0.002
Months of overall survival — median (95% CI)	28.3 (23.7–NE)	20.9 (18.4–23.8)	0.74 (0.57–0.96)	0.02
<b>No RAS mutation, BRAF mutation</b>				
No. of patients	24	29		
Months of progression-free survival — median (95% CI)	6.1 (3.7–10.7)	5.4 (3.3–6.2)	0.58 (0.29–1.15)	0.12
Months of overall survival — median (95% CI)	10.5 (6.4–18.9)	9.2 (8.0–15.7)	0.90 (0.46–1.76)	0.76

Negative prognostic factor!

Douillard et al., NEJM 2013

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- RAS-analysis contains exons 2, 3, 4 of K- and N-RAS since 1.7.13 (solitary K-RAS analysis dismissed in HD)

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## Cost perspective

- Up to date there is no commercially available assay which covers all hotspots → only sequencing is a valid analysis
- Cost for ras-analysis has tripled in need to analyse 6 exons now instead of one  
→ All-RAS € 377,- (formerly: € 156,- for K-RAS)

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## Conclusion

- We should avoid using the term „targeted“ too much as long we are not fully certain about the detailed biology of the tumor
- Knowledge about possible biomarkers has to be improved before introduction into clinical practice
- Retrospective analysis may be helpful to reassess the use of already approved drugs
- Reliable standardized and validated tests are necessary

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