

## Scientific Impact of the CRA

Michael LeBlanc

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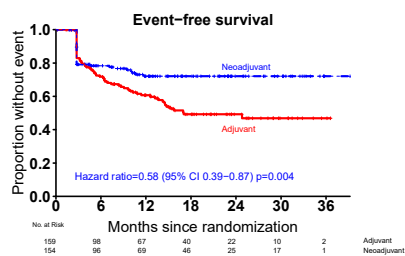
## Stages of Treatment Testing

- Phase I
  - The safe dose range, side effects, early activity.
- Phase II
  - Sufficient promise for further testing, more side effect assessment, refinement of dose, evidence of disease subtypes with most promise and feasibility.
  - Some design examples: single arm 2-stage, single arm pilot, multi-arm randomized (screening or selection).
- Phase III
  - Formal comparison of new treatment to standard treatment.

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### S1801 A Phase II Randomized Study of Adjuvant versus Neoadjuvant Pembrolizumab for Clinically Detectable Stage III-IV High-risk Melanoma



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## Critical Elements in Evaluating Therapeutic Interventions

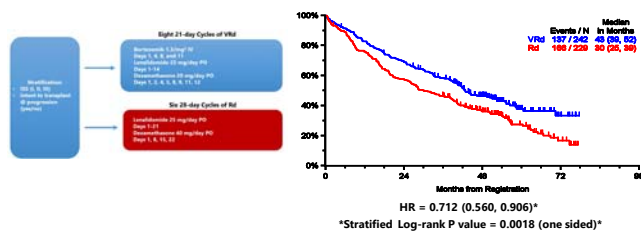
- Biological Activity
- Safety/Toxicity
- Clinical Efficacy
  - Clinical Response
  - Patient Reported Outcomes
  - Disease recurrence or progression
  - Survival
- Other long-term data
  - Long term adverse events and related malignancies

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### SWOG Myeloma Study S0777

Key role of the CRAs in achieving high quality follow-up data and results



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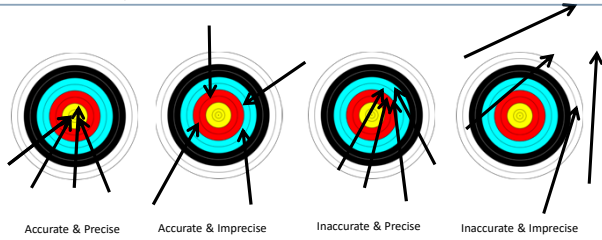
## Variability and Bias

- What are they and how do they arise?
- What problems do they cause?
- How can they be prevented or reduced?

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## Variability and Bias



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## The CRA's Role in Reducing Variability

- Verification of eligibility
- Avoidance of deviations from protocol treatment plans
- Submission of complete and timely data

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## How do we control variability?

- Eligibility criteria

*Example:* Results of studies which allow only patients with local disease and performance status 0-1 will be less variable than those from studies allowing any stage and any performance status.

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## Bias

- A tendency for a statistical result to differ on average from the true state of affairs, often due to flaws in the design or conduct of a study.

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## How do we control variability? (cont.)

- Sample size  
Larger numbers of patients lead to reduced variability.

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## Bias

- Example  
If a study of a treatment intended for patients with local disease includes a number of patients with more advanced disease, the treatment's efficacy may be underestimated.

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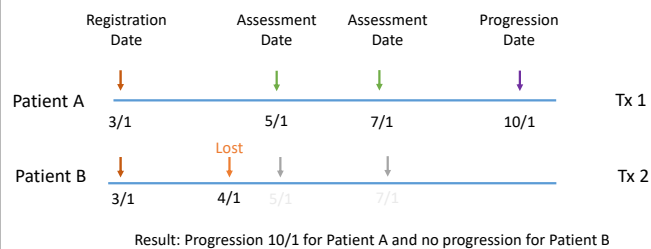
## Bias

- Solution
  - Ensure adherence to eligibility criteria

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## Illustration of Impact Lost to Follow-up



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## Bias

- Example
  - If patients in an adjuvant therapy arm of a comparative study are followed more closely than those in an observation arm, the benefit of the adjuvant therapy may be underestimated.

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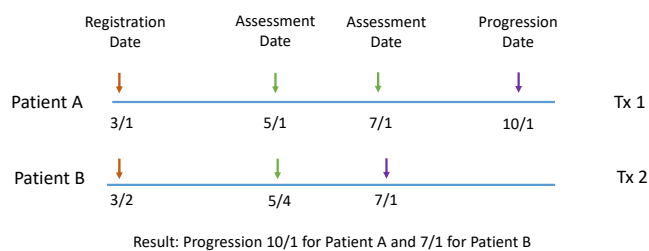
## Bias

- Solution
  - Ensure adherence to protocol requirements for follow-up examinations
- Schedule
  - Have patients return for evaluation according to protocol schedule
- Tests
  - Have all required tests performed at each evaluation

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## Illustration of Impact Lost to Follow-up



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## The CRA's Role in Controlling Bias

- Verification of eligibility
- Adherence to protocol follow-up requirements

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## Variability and Bias in Survival Data

- Survival - how long patients live after entering a study - is often the most important outcome we study
- Incomplete data increases both variability and potentially bias in studies of survival

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## What We Need

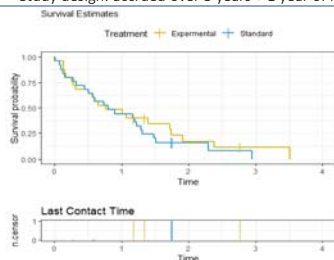
- Complete and timely submission of accurate
- Thorough documentation of all eligibility criteria

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## Estimated Survival

Study design: accrued over 3 years + 1 year of follow-up



Correct conclusion: new treatment does not help survival outcome

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## What We Need, cont.

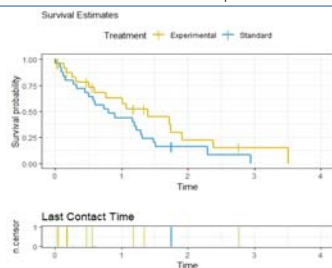
- Complete description of all treatment received, whether according to protocol or not
- Complete description of objective status and toxicities at every evaluation

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## Estimated Survival

Some Patients lost to follow-up on one arm



Incorrect conclusion: new treatment helps survival outcome

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## Effect of Non-dropout or Non-adherence on Sample Size

New sample size = sample size  $\div (1-r)^2$

Non-adherence Rate	Sample Size (Example)
0%	100
10%	123
20%	156
30%	204
40%	278

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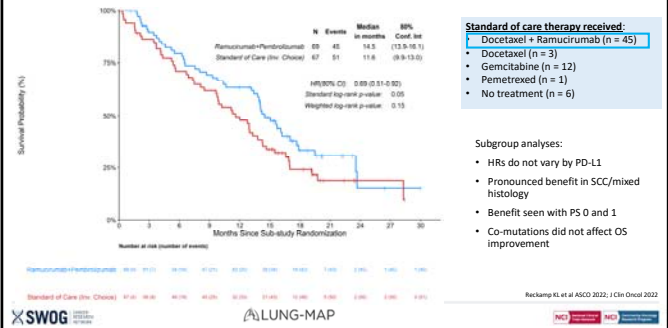
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High quality data are essential  
for good studies.

Your efforts are essential for  
high quality data.

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## S1800A: LungMAP - Overall survival



## WHY IS IT ALWAYS CRITICAL?

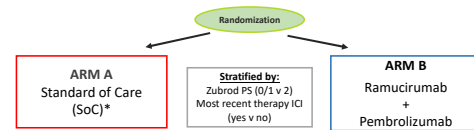
### Trial Monitoring

- Accrual monitoring (Stats, SC)
- Adverse event monitoring
  - SC, Stats, AE coordinator
  - CTEP-AERS reporting
  - Monthly reports (AE and dose summaries)
- Interim Analyses
- Data and Safety Monitoring Committee (DSMC)

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## S2302 Treatment/Schema

A PROSPECTIVE RANDOMIZED STUDY OF RAMUCIRUMAB (NSC 749128) PLUS PEMBROLIZUMAB (MK-3475; NSC 776864) VERSUS STANDARD OF CARE FOR PARTICIPANTS PREVIOUSLY TREATED WITH IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR STAGE IV OR RECURRENT NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER



\*SoC treatment is to be determined by the treating investigator and participant. It is recommended that the choice of SoC drug(s) is based on NCCN guidelines for a "systemic therapy for advanced or metastatic disease-subsequent."

**Primary endpoint: OS**

**N= 700  
patients**

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## SWOG Data Safety Monitoring Committee

- Evaluation of interim results (endpoints, safety)
- Recommendations on when to stop accrual, when to report early results
- Evaluate data requests from disease committee leadership for planning purposes
- NEED HIGH QUALITY CURRENT DATA TO MAKE CRITICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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## Pragmatic Considerations

### — Minimum Data Collection

#### Baseline:

- S2302 Vital Status Form
- S2302 Onstudy Forms
- S2302 Eligibility Criteria Form

#### On Treatment:

- S2302 Vital Status Form
- S2302 Adverse Event Form

No Cycle based Treatment Form: dose intensity, dose modification  
No Disease Assessment Form (BTA, FUTA)

#### Off Treatment:

- S2302 Vital Status Form
- S2302 Treatment Summary Form

#### Follow Up:

- S2302 Vital Status Form
- Late Adverse Events

No Detailed Follow Up form, only live status

#### Death:

- S2302 Notice of Death

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High quality and timely data  
are essential for good studies.

Your efforts are essential for  
high quality data.

