

# Statistical Impact of Incomplete Patient Follow-Up

Oishi Symposium

Michael LeBlanc

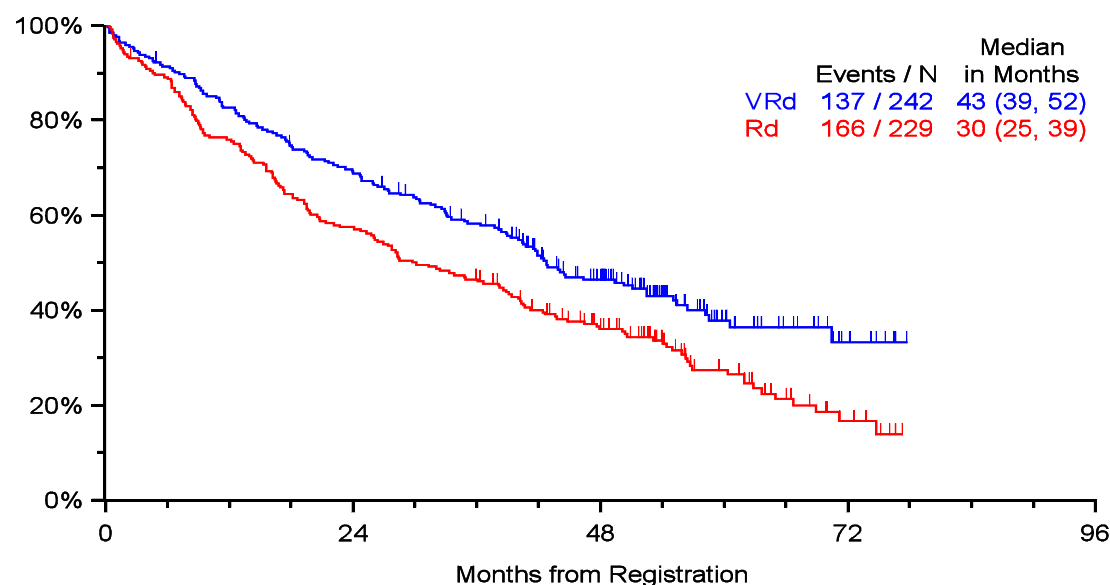
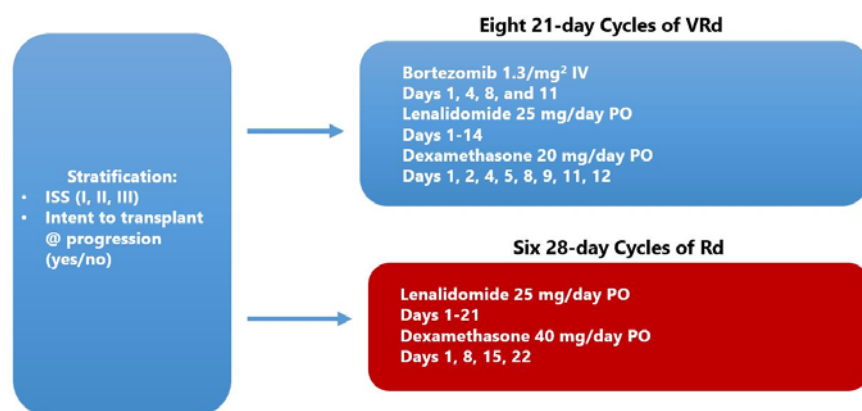
Director, SWOG SDMC

# Outline

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- Result: S0777 - Impact of high quality data and follow-up
- Statistical designs assume no (or minimal) missing data
- Important case of loss to follow-up, unequal consent withdrawal
- Assessing differences between arms
- Study impact of loss to follow-up in real hypothetical scenarios
- Conclusions

# SWOG Myeloma Study S0777 Presented in Oishi Symposium Fall 2017. Key role of the CRAs in achieving high quality follow-up data and results



**HR = 0.712 (0.560, 0.906)\***

**\*Stratified Log-rank P value = 0.0018 (one sided)\***

# Strong Result Because of Best Science and Data

**Bortezomib with lenalidomide and dexamethasone versus lenalidomide and dexamethasone alone in patients with newly diagnosed myeloma without intent for immediate autologous stem-cell transplant (SWOG S0777): a randomised, open-label, phase 3 trial**

Brian G M Durie, Antje Hoering, Muneer H Abidi, S Vincent Rajkumar, Joshua Epstein, Stephen P Kahanic, Mohan Thakuri, Christopher M Reynolds, Rachael Sexton, Robert Z Orlowski, Bart Barlogie, Angela Dispenzieri

## Summary

**Background** Lenalidomide plus dexamethasone is a reference treatment for patients with newly diagnosed multiple myeloma. The combination of the proteasome inhibitor bortezomib with lenalidomide and dexamethasone has shown significant efficacy in the setting of newly diagnosed myeloma. We aimed to study whether the addition of bortezomib to lenalidomide and dexamethasone would improve progression-free survival and overall response rates in patients with previously untreated multiple myeloma who were not planned for autologous stem-cell transplant.

**Methods** In this randomised, open-label, phase 3 trial, we recruited patients with newly diagnosed multiple myeloma aged 18 years and older from participating Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) and National Cancer Institute (NCI) sites.



## And regulatory impact

NEWS RELEASE

Celgene Receives CHMP Positive Opinions for Both REVLIMID® (lenalidomide) and IMNOVID® (pomalidomide)-Based Triplet Combination Regimens for Patients with Multiple Myeloma

3/29/2019

The CHMP adopted two positive opinions recommending European Commission approval of:

# Statistical Design of S0777

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- The sample size was based on the assumption of an eligible patient accrual rate of 110 patients per year (440 eligible patients over 4 years), a median progression-free(PFS) survival of about 3 years in the control group, exponential distribution of progression-free survival, and roughly 2.5 years of additional follow-up
- The study was designed to detect a hazard ratio of 1.5, with approximately 87% power and an overall study alpha of 0.05
- Conclusions depend on complete patient follow-up (on both arms)

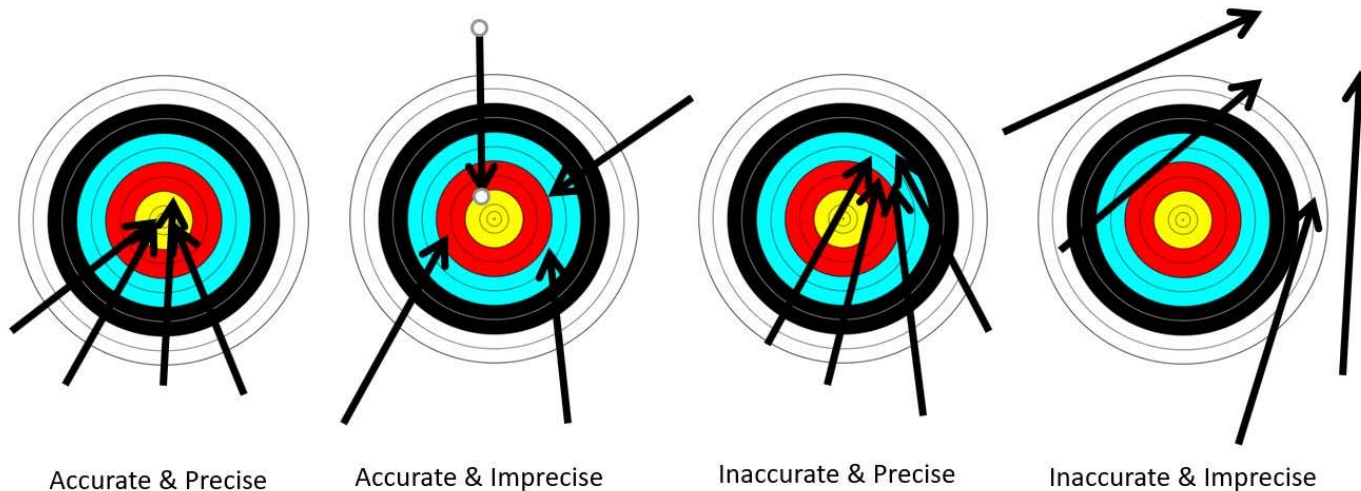
# Critical Elements in Evaluating Therapeutic Interventions

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- 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

# Variability and Bias in Survival Data

- Survival (or disease-free survival) how long patients live (disease-free) after entering a study -- is often the most important outcome we study
- Lost follow-up data increases both variability and bias in studies of survival



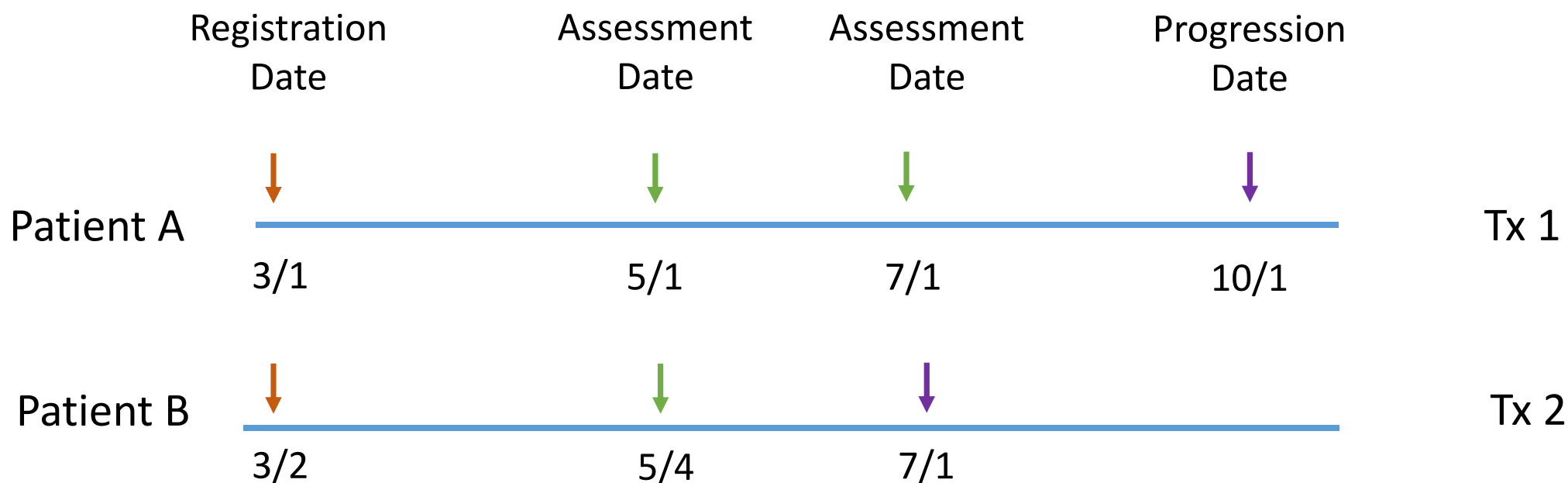
# Bias and Missing Follow-up Patient Data

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- 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
- Lost to follow-up, can introduce bias because the reason for the loss, or consent withdrawal “MAY” be related to the underlying patient health status
- A lost patient maybe doing worse (or better) than a comparable patient with complete data
- Worse yet – we don’t know the nature of the bias
- Leads to either incorrect or less impactful statistical results



# Illustration of Impact Lost to Follow-up



Result: Progression 10/1 for Patient A and 7/1 for Patient B

# Illustration of Impact Lost to Follow-up



Result: Progression 10/1 for Patient A and no progression for Patient B

# SWOG Monitors Lost to Follow-up and Consent Withdrawals

## Treatment Summary

Registrations ending April 2, 2019; Data as of April 2, 2019

	TOTAL	Treatment X	Treatment Y
NUMBER ON PROTOCOL TREATMENT	59	33	26
NUMBER OFF PROTOCOL TREATMENT	242	128	136
REASON OFF TREATMENT			
Adverse Event or side effects	45	20	25
Refusal unrelated to adverse event	21	8	13
Progression/relapse	157	81	76
Death	0	0	0
Other - not protocol specified	13	6	7
Reason under review	3	2	1
MAJOR PROTOCOL DEVIATIONS	19	11	8
LOST TO FOLLOW-UP	0	0	6
CONSENT WITHDRAWAL AFTER TREATMENT INITIATION	53	21	32

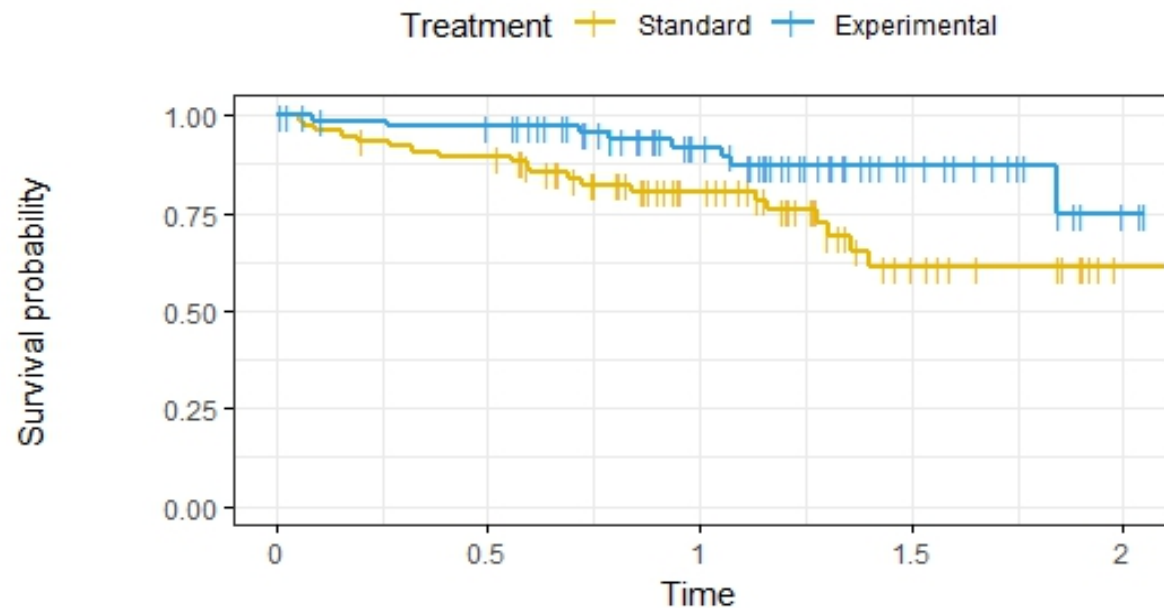
The Data Safety Monitoring Committee sees these data by Treatment Arm

# Study SXXXX (actively accruing)

- Study accrued 1/3 patients
- Survival curves look promising
- A Phase II analysis of data yields significant result

p-value=.01 (one-sided)

Survival Estimates



Number Censored

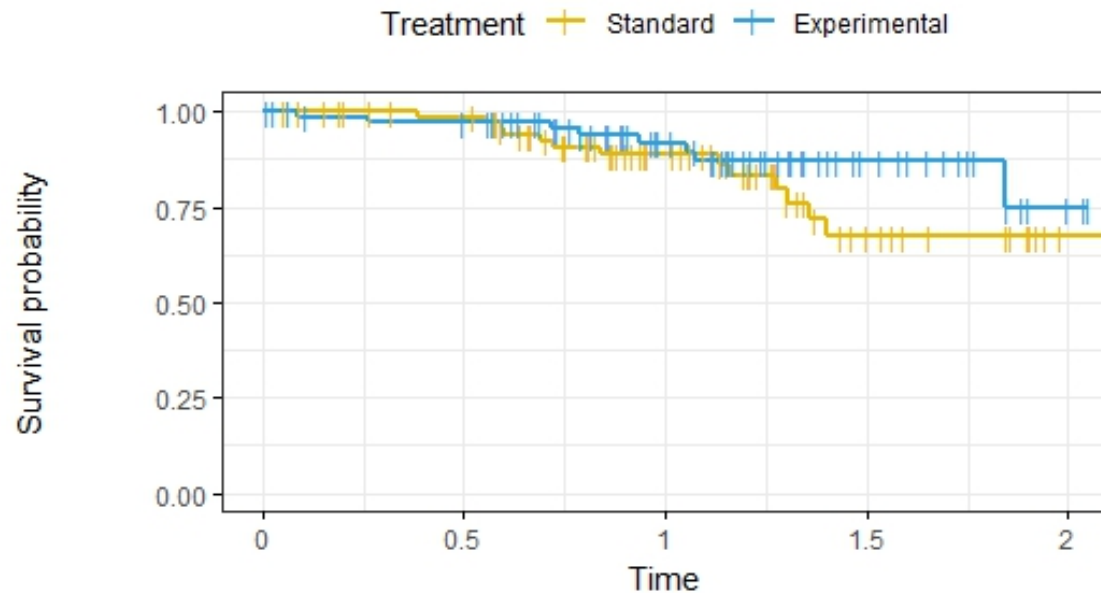
Treatment	Time				
	0	0.5	1	1.5	2
Standard	0	1	23	44	55
Experimental	0	5	28	52	64

# Study SXXXX (actively accruing)

- Study accrued 1/3 patients
- But now assume there is differential lost to follow
- 6 patients on Standard arm, 0 on Experimental arm lost
- Conclusion: early results not very promising
- If a Phase II/III study maybe close study for accrual

$p = .12$  (one-sided)

Survival Estimates



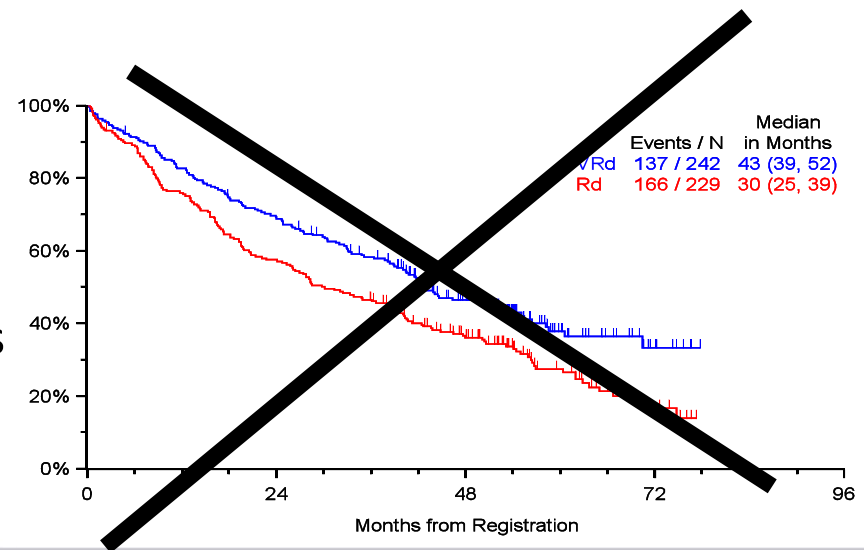
Treatment	Number Censored				
	0	0.5	1	1.5	2
Standard	0	8	30	51	62
Experimental	0	5	28	52	64

# Myeloma Study S0777

- Differential Drop Out
- Interim analysis did not show sufficient activity

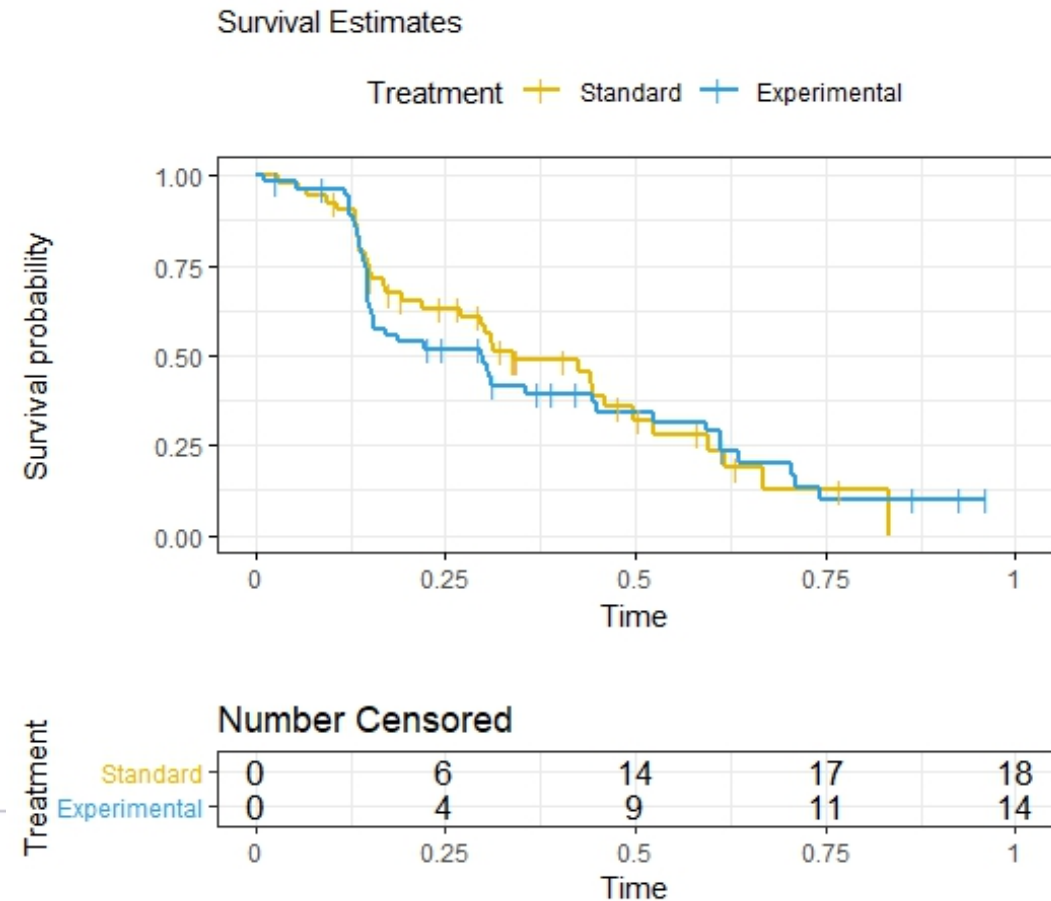
Assuming a design with early look this study  
Potentially would have closed early

No Result –Missed a Positive Result for Patients



# Phase II Gemcitabine, Erlotinib, and Cixutumumab vs Gemcitabine Plus Erlotinib (SWOG S0727)

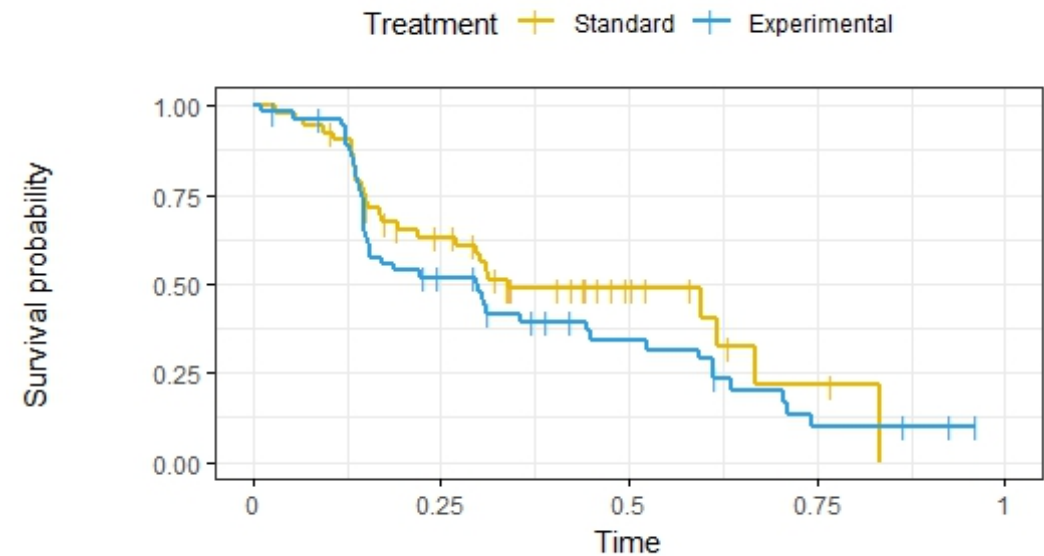
- Study supported no improvement in PFS for 3 drug combination



# Phase II Gemcitabine, Erlotinib, and Cixutumumab vs Gemcitabine Plus Erlotinib (SWOG S0727)

- Hypothetical differential loss to follow-up
- Could have led to conclusion of harm for experimental arm
- Significant implications for study conduct

Survival Estimates



Number Censored

	0	0.25	0.5	0.75	1
Standard	0	6	19	23	24
Experimental	0	4	9	11	14

Time



# Conclusions

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- Complete patient follow-up and minimizing the impact of consent withdrawal is critical for study interpretation
- Follow-up on every patient is essential for both final statistical analysis but also for trial monitoring and decision making. Important decisions are made on small numbers of patients
- There are no statistical adjustments that correct for this issue
- Practical steps – focusing on Consent Withdrawal (Keisha Humphries)

