

A grayscale microscopic image of liver tissue, showing numerous hepatocytes with prominent nuclei and some bile ducts. The image is used as a background for the text.

Treatment in Hepatitis B and C

There are options!

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Non-enveloped (enterically-transmitted)

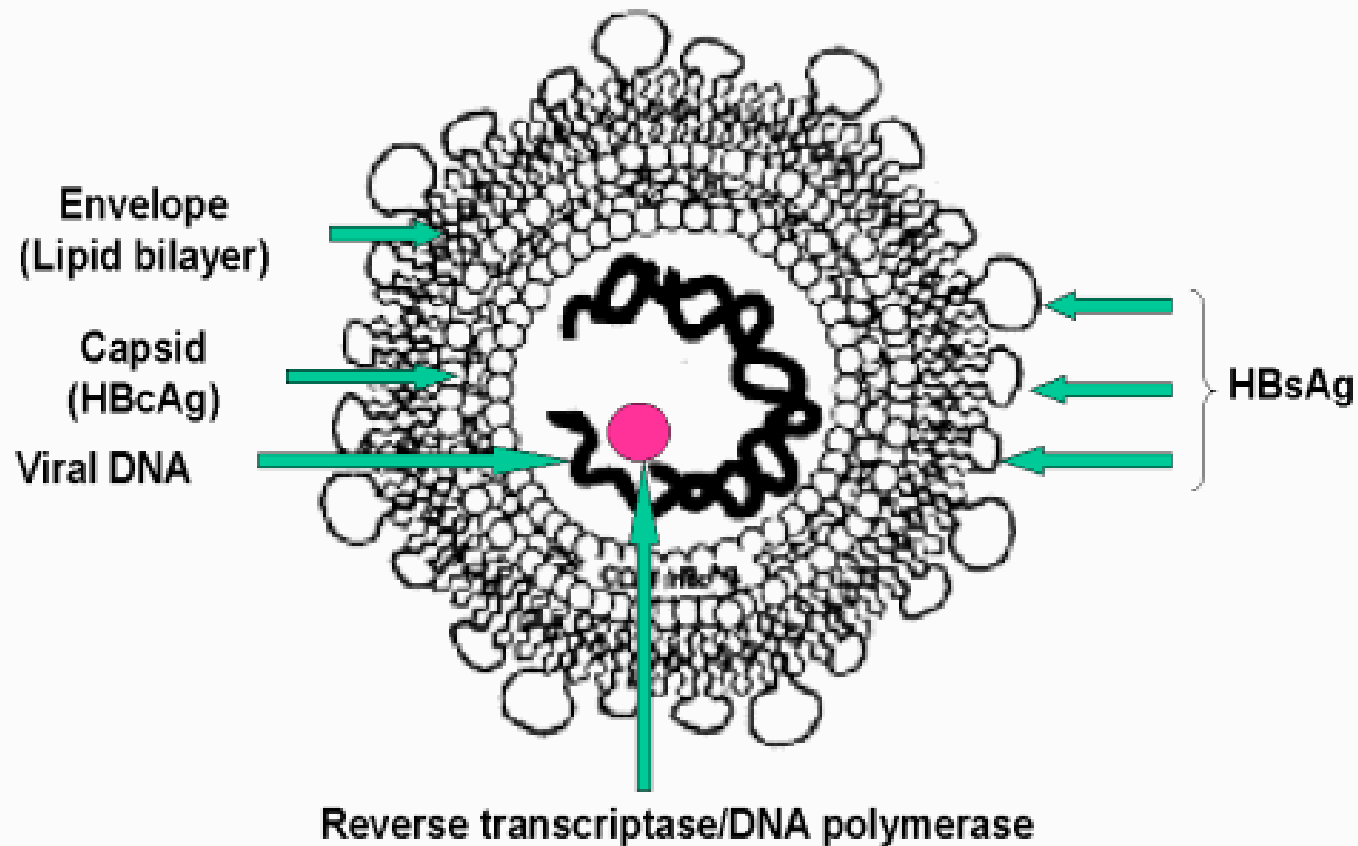


Enveloped (bloodborne pathogens)



Hepatitis B Virus

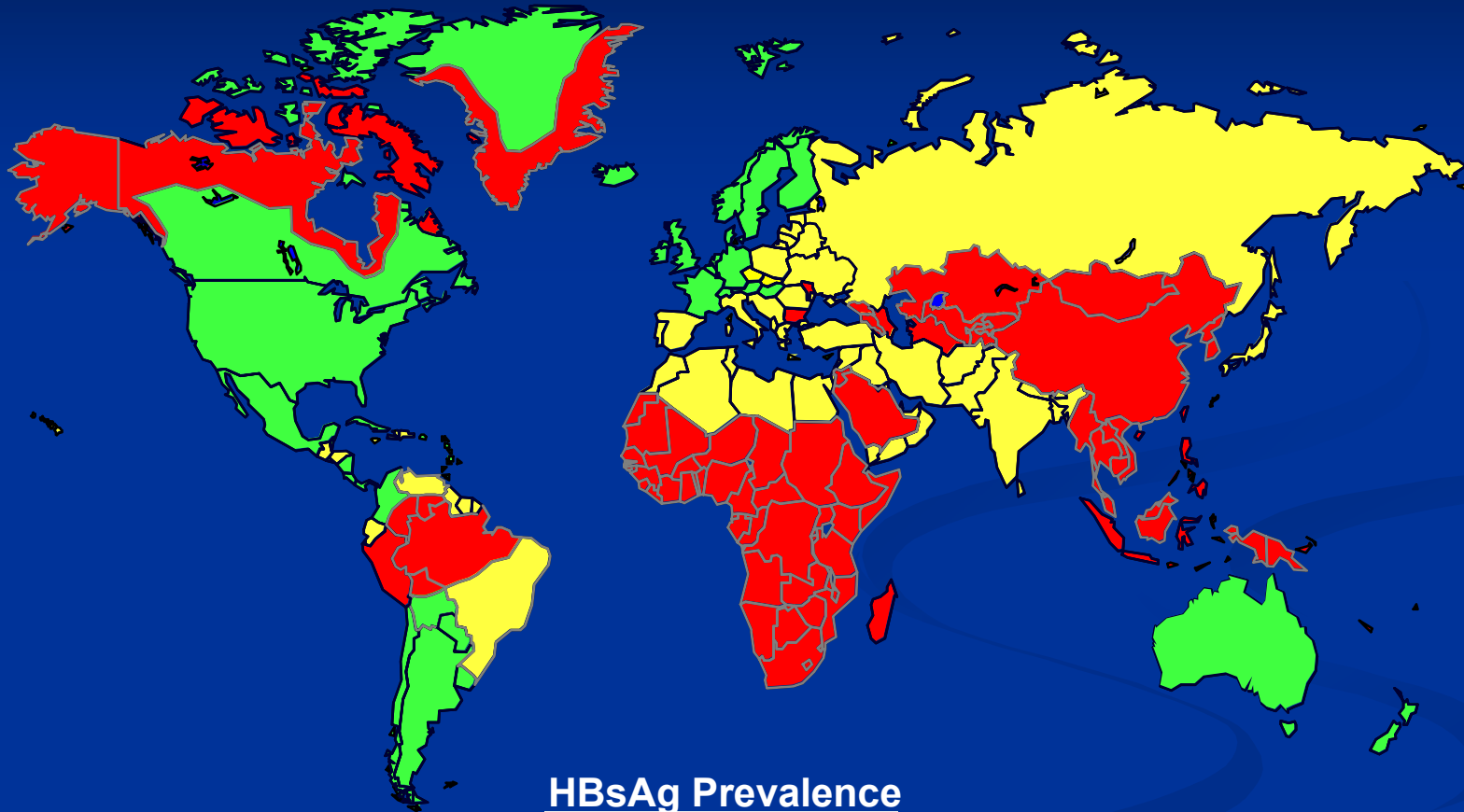
Scheme of HBV Dane particle



Epidemiology and natural history

- 400 million people with HBV world wide
- Chronic hepatitis B (CHB) is defined as HBsAg+ for more than 6 months
- 90% of children under age 4 years will remain persistently infected
- 15%-40% will develop serious sequelae during their lifetime: cirrhosis, hepatic decompensation, and hepatocellular carcinoma

Geographic Distribution of Chronic HBV Infection



HBsAg Prevalence

- Red: ≥8% - High
- Yellow: 2-7% - Intermediate
- Green: <2% - Low

Phases of Chronic Hepatitis B Infection

Phase	Labs and Histology	Note
Immune Tolerant	DNA > 20,000 IU/ml ALT normal HBsAg and HBeAg detectable Minimal liver inflammation and fibrosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antiviral therapies are generally ineffective • Risk of drug resistance if treated
Immune Active	DNA levels decline ALT elevated HBsAg and HBeAg remain detectable Liver inflammation and fibrosis can develop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most children still show no signs or symptoms of disease
Inactive HBsAg Carrier	DNA < 2,000 IU/ml or undetectable ALT normalizes HBeAg undetectable, anti-HBe present No liver inflammation, fibrosis may regress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age at seroconversion appears to be influenced by HBV genotype • Risk of developing cirrhosis and HCC declines
Reactivation	DNA levels increase ALT normal or elevated HBeAg remains undetectable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurs in 20-30 % of patients • eAg-negative disease • Usually due to a mutant virus

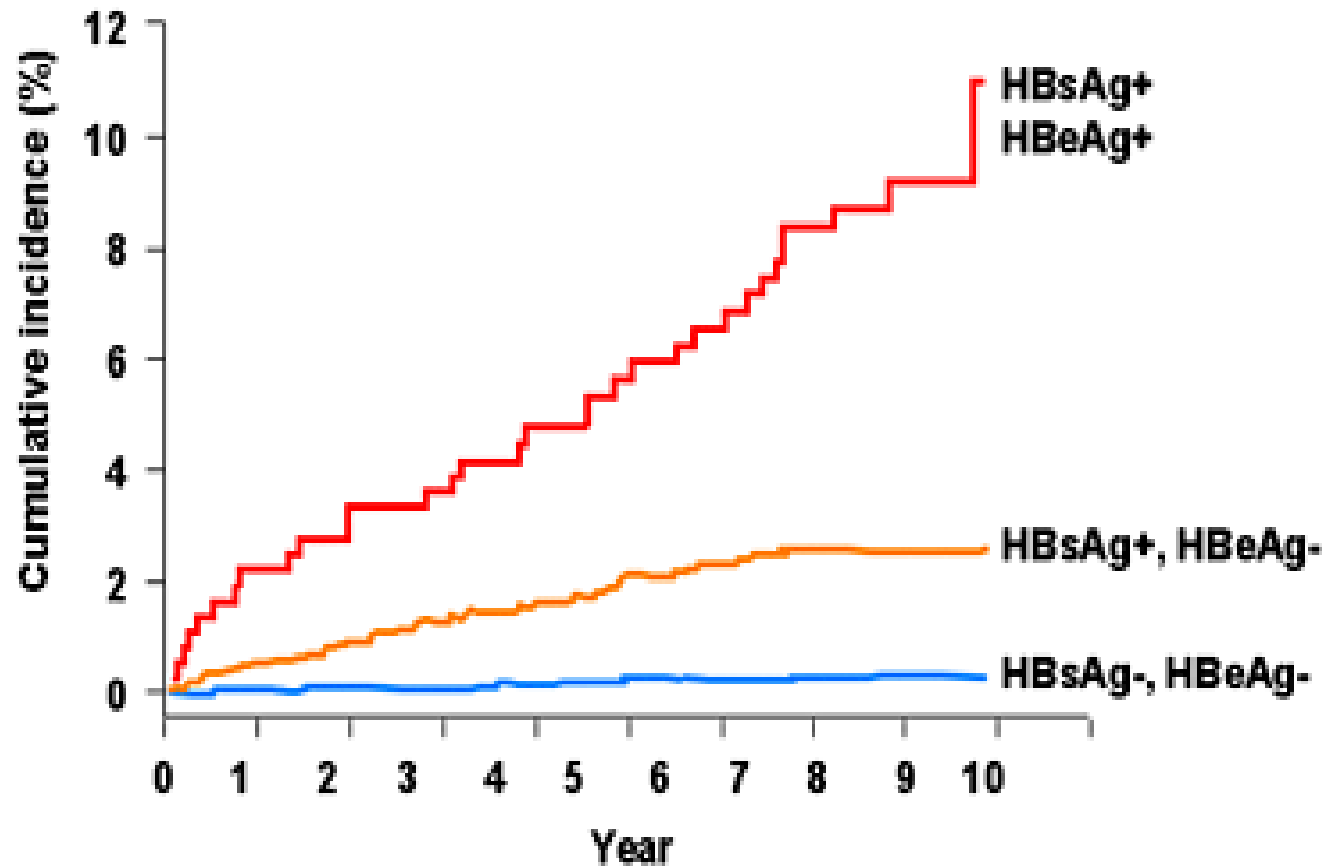
Goals of Treatment

- Decrease risk of chronic liver disease/HCC
- Stabilize/improve the liver health
- Decrease transmission
- Decrease social stigma/isolation
- Eliminate HBV (clear HBsAg)

Measurable Goals of HBV Therapy

- In HBeAg⁺ patients
 - HBeAg loss and seroconversion
 - Decrease HBV DNA to ≤ 2000 IU/ml
 - Associated with improved long-term outcomes
- In HBeAg⁺/⁻ patients
 - Normalize the serum aminotransferases
 - HBsAg loss and seroconversion ultimate form of HBV treatment success
 - Best predictor of durable viral suppression
 - Strongest indicator of best long term outcome, lowest risk of cirrhosis and liver cancer
 - Not achieved by the majority of patients

HBeAg and the Risk of HCC



Yang HI, et al. N Engl J Med. 2002 Jul 18;347(3):168-74. Copyright © 2002 Massachusetts Medical Society. All rights reserved.

Child with chronic hepatitis B (≥ 1 yr of age; persistent HBsAg+ for > 6 mos)

ALT persistently normal

ALT persistently > 1.5 x lab ULN or > 60 IU/L

HBeAg negative
and
HBV DNA $< 2,000$ IU/mL
(Inactive Carrier)

HBeAg positive
and
HBV DNA $\geq 20,000$ IU/mL
(Immune Tolerant)

HBeAg negative (> 12 mos)
and
HBV DNA $\geq 2,000$ IU/mL
(Reactivation)

HBeAg positive (> 6 mos)
and
HBV DNA $\geq 2,000$ IU/mL
(Immune Active)

No indication
for treatment

Continue to
monitor regularly

Benefit of treatment
not established

Risk of drug
resistance if treated

Continue to
monitor regularly

Consider liver biopsy
Rule out other causes of liver disease

Minimal/mild
inflammation
and/or fibrosis

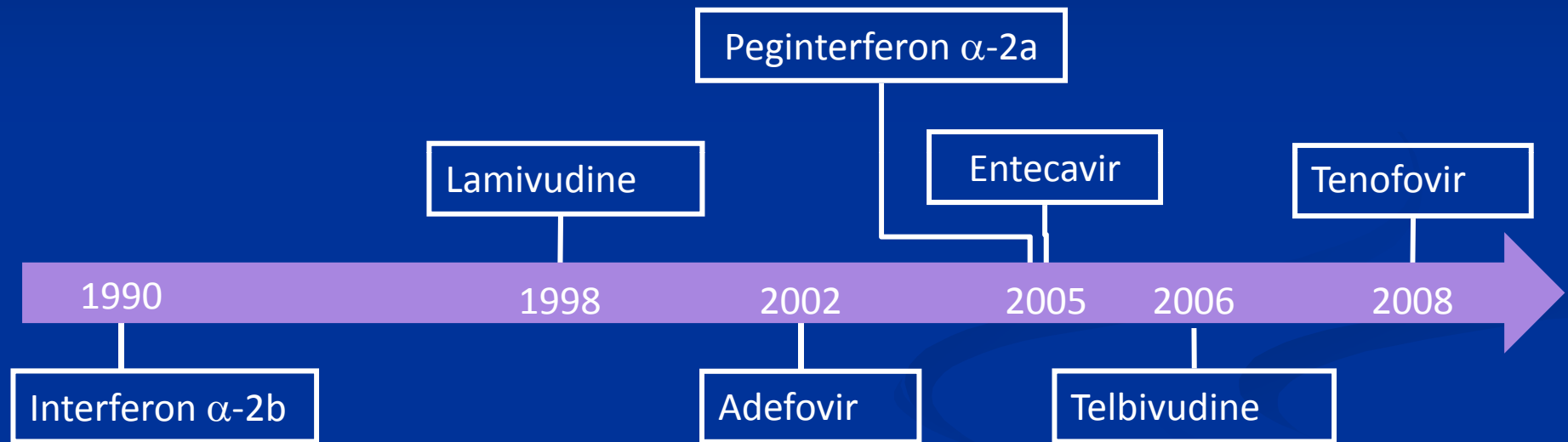
Moderate/severe
inflammation
and/or fibrosis

Benefit of treatment
not established

Family history of
HCC may influence
treatment decision

Treatment
indicated

Evolution of USA FDA-Approved HBV Therapy Over Time



Antiviral Therapy

USA FDA-Approved for Children

Drug	Labeled for	Note
Adefovir	≥ 12 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Less potent■ Risk of drug resistance
Entecavir	≥ 16 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Older teens only
Interferon a-2b	≥ 1 year old	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Potential adverse effects
Lamivudine	≥ 3 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Less potent■ Risk of drug resistance

HBV Treatments

Administration and Monitoring

- Interferon:
 - Subcutaneous injection thrice weekly (IFN) or weekly (Peg-IFN)
 - Monitoring discussed in HCV section
- Nucleos(t)ide analogues (Lamivudine, Adefovir):
 - Orally administered once daily
 - Well tolerated!
 - CBC, ALT – every 6 weeks
 - HBV DNA, HBeAg and Ab, Lipase (Lam) – every 3 months

Interferon Treatment for Chronic Hepatitis B in Children

- IFN α 6 MU/m² 3x/week for 6 months
- Dose reduction in 23% for neutropenia or fever
- Response:
 - HBeAg/DNA in 26% of treated (11% of controls)
 - HBsAg in 10% (1% of controls)

ALT normalized and biopsy improves in responders

Interferon for Hepatitis B

- Relapse rate in HBeAg+ is 10-20%
- HBeAg - chronic hepatitis B:
 - DNA becomes negative* and ALT normalizes in ~25%
 - 12 months is better than 6 months of therapy
 - Relapse in 50% of responders
- Pegylated-IFN may be better

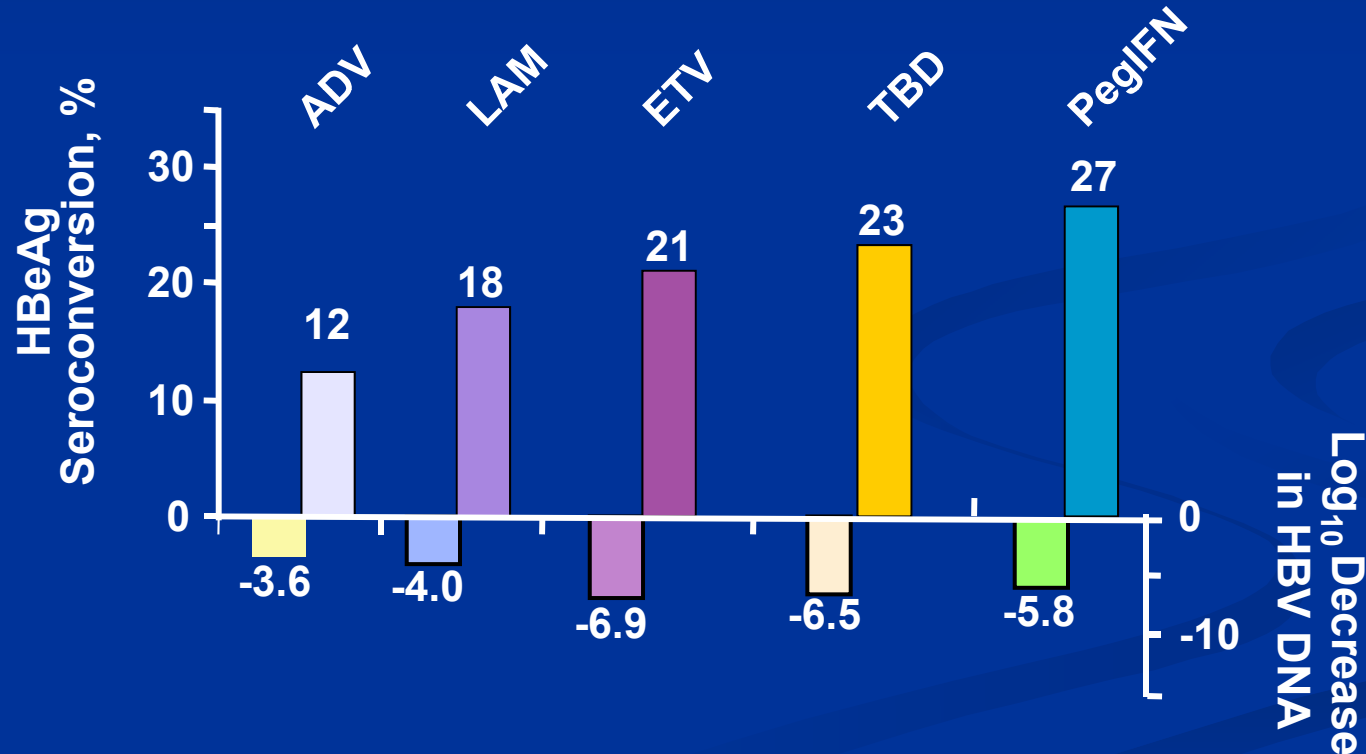


Treatment outcomes in HBV-Infected Children

	IFN- α (Sokal)	Lamivudine (Jonas)	Adefovir dipivoxil (Jonas)
HBeAg clearance	26%	23%	11%*
Suppression of HBV DNA	26%	23%	23%
Side effects	yes	no	no
Resistance to antiviral agent	no	19%	no
HBsAg clearance	10%	3%	0.5%

HBV DNA and HBeAg Seroconversion at Year 1 in HBeAg(+) adult Patients

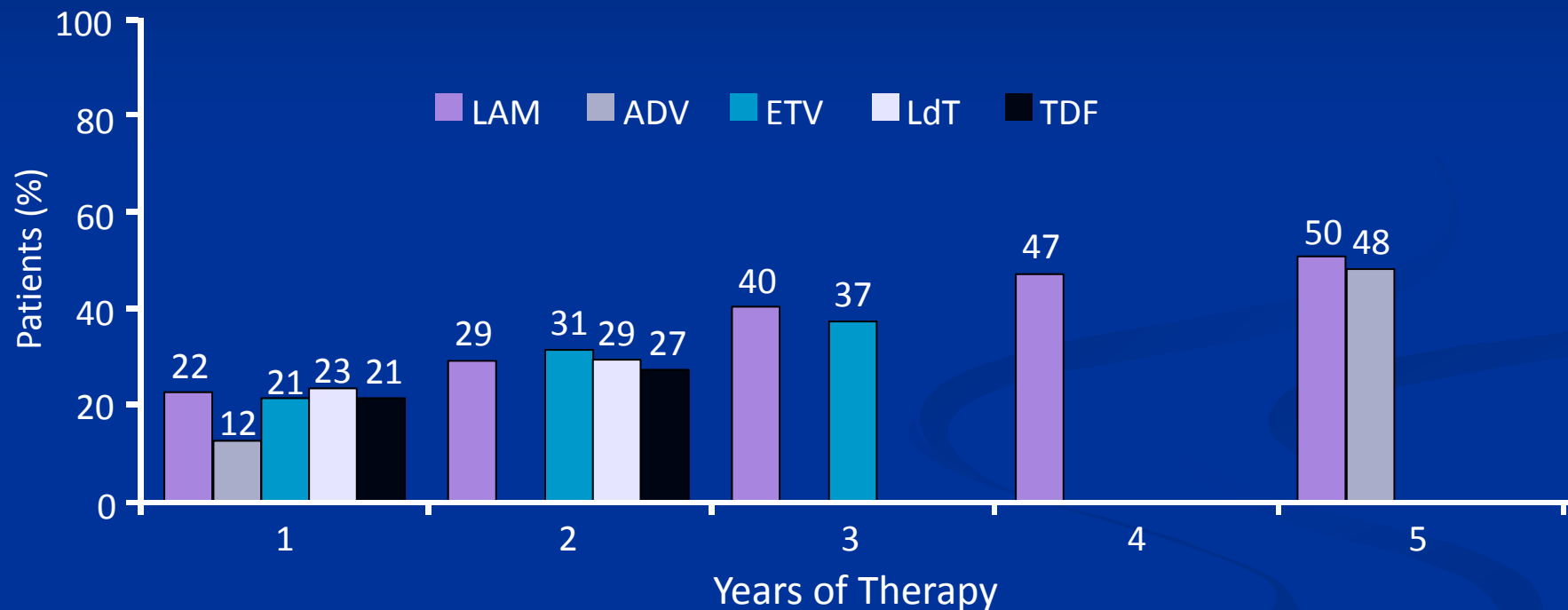
Data from individual studies, not direct comparisons
(different populations, baseline values, HBV DNA assays)



Lau et al. N Engl J Med. 2005;352:2682-2695. Dienstag et al. N Engl J Med. 1999;341:1256-1263.
Marcellin et al. EASL 2005. Abstract 73. Lai et al. AASLD 2005. Abstract 72404. Chang et al.
AASLD 2004. Abstract 70. Entecavir package insert. Telbivudine package insert.

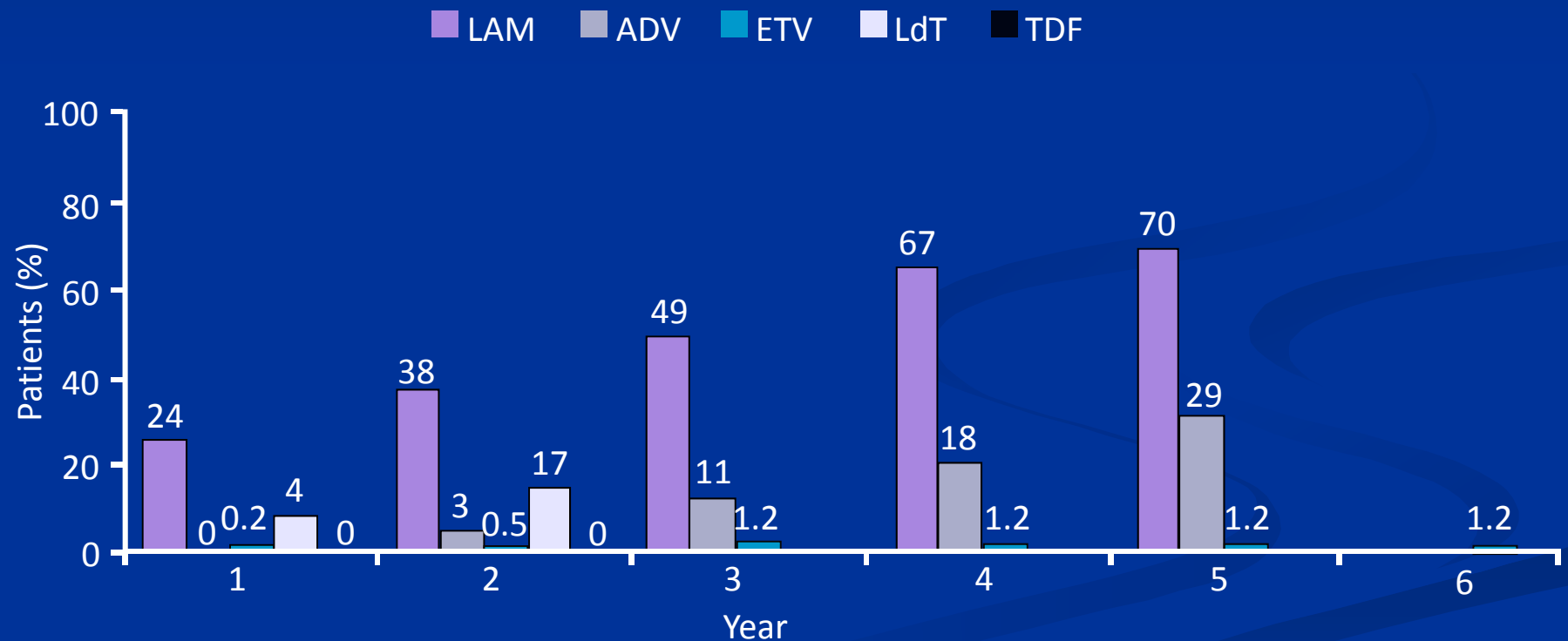
HBeAg Seroconversion in DNA-negative Patients

Extended Treatment



Chang TT, et al. N Engl J Med. 2006;354:1001-1010. Lai CL, et al. N Engl J Med. 2007;357:2576-2588. Marcellin P, et al. N Engl J Med. 2003;348:808-816. Marcellin P, et al. N Engl J Med. 2008;359:2442-2455. Lok AS, et al. Gastroenterology. 2003;125:1714-1722. Leung NW, et al. Hepatology. 2001;33:1527-1532. Dienstag JL, et al. Hepatology. 2003;37:748-755. Marcellin P, et al. Hepatology. 2008;48:750-758. Liaw YF, et al. Gastroenterology. 2009;136:486-495. Gane E, et al. AASLD 2008. Abstract 729. Heathcote E, et al. AASLD 2008. Abstract 158. *Different patient populations and trial designs.*

Cumulative Rates of Resistance With Oral Agents in Nucleos(t)ide-Naive Patients



EASL HBV Guidelines. J Hepatol. 2009;50:227-242. Tenny DJ, et al. EASL 2009. Abstract 20.
Different patient populations and trial designs.

Contributors to Potential for Resistance

- Potency *
- Pharmacologic barrier to resistance
 - Dose/safety profile
 - Blood levels
 - Tissue concentration
- Genetic barrier to resistance *
 - Genotype differences
 - The number of substitutions needed for primary antiviral drug resistance

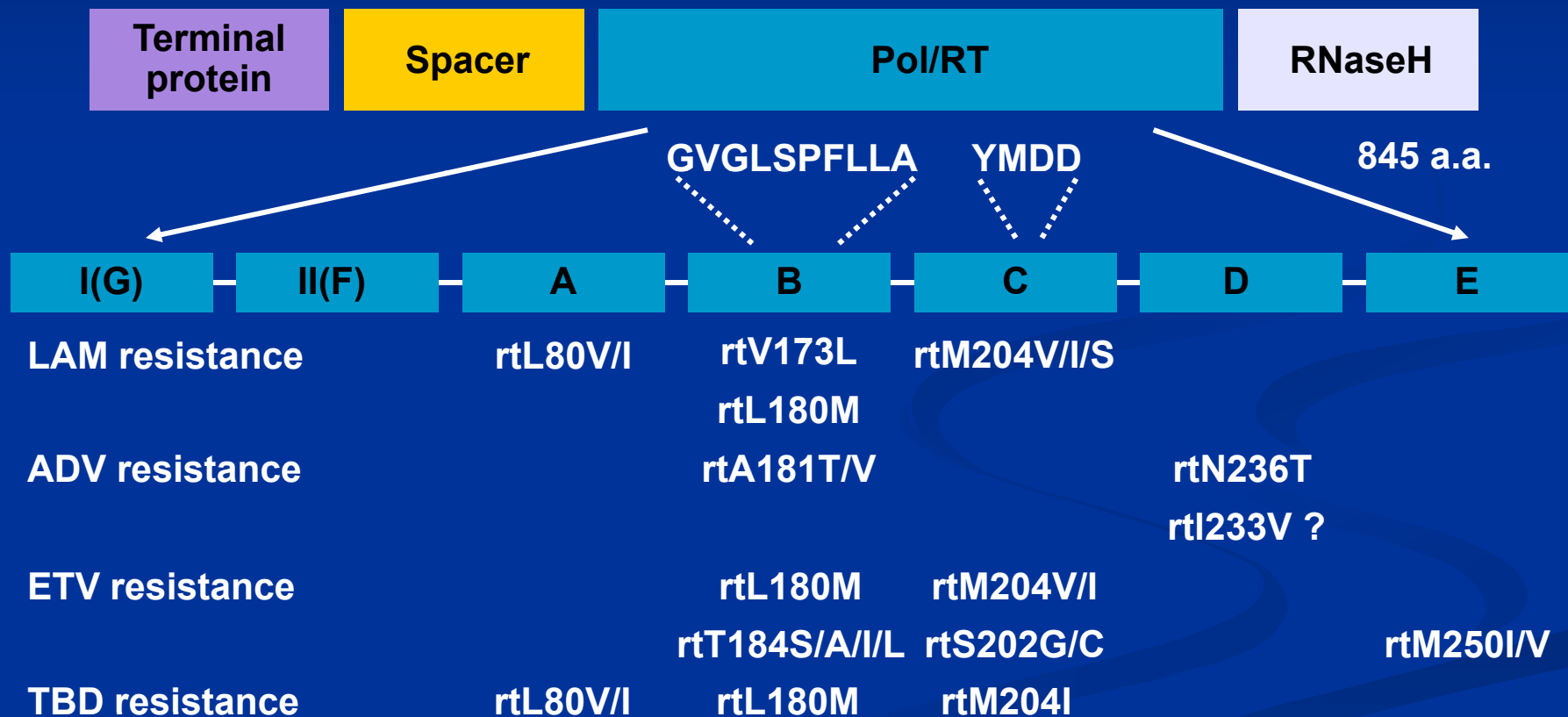
* Most significant

Allen MI, et al. Hepatology. 1998;27:1670-1677. Yatsuji H, et al. Antimicrob Agents Chemother. 2006;50: 3867-3874. Qi X, et al. Antivir Ther. 2007;12:355-362. Villeneuve JP, et al. J Hepatol. 2003;39:1085-1089. Baldick CJ, et al. Hepatology. 2008;47:1473-1482. Seifer M, et al. Antiviral Res. 2009;81:147-155. Heathcote E, et al. AASLD 2008. Abstract 158. Marcellin P, et al. AASLD 2008. Abstract 146. *Adapted from slide of Dr. K. Schwarz.*

HBV Genotypes and Response to Treatment- adults

- Lamivudine – resistance A>D
- Adefovir dipivoxil and Entecavir – no genotype effect
- Interferon and pegylated interferon
 - B >C (40 vs. 20% virologic response)
 - A>D (49 vs. 26% virologic response)
- Pegylated interferon – HBsAg loss
 - A 14%, B 9%, C 3%, D 2%

HBV Resistance Mutations



Allen MI, et al. Hepatology. 1998;27:1670-1677. Qi X, et al. J Hepatol. 2004;40(suppl 1):20-21. Tenney D, et al. Antimicrob Agents Chemother. 2004;48:3498-3507. Telbivudine product insert. Lai CL, et al. Gastroenterology. 2005;129:528-536. Schildgen O, et al. N Engl J Med. 2006;354:1807-1812.

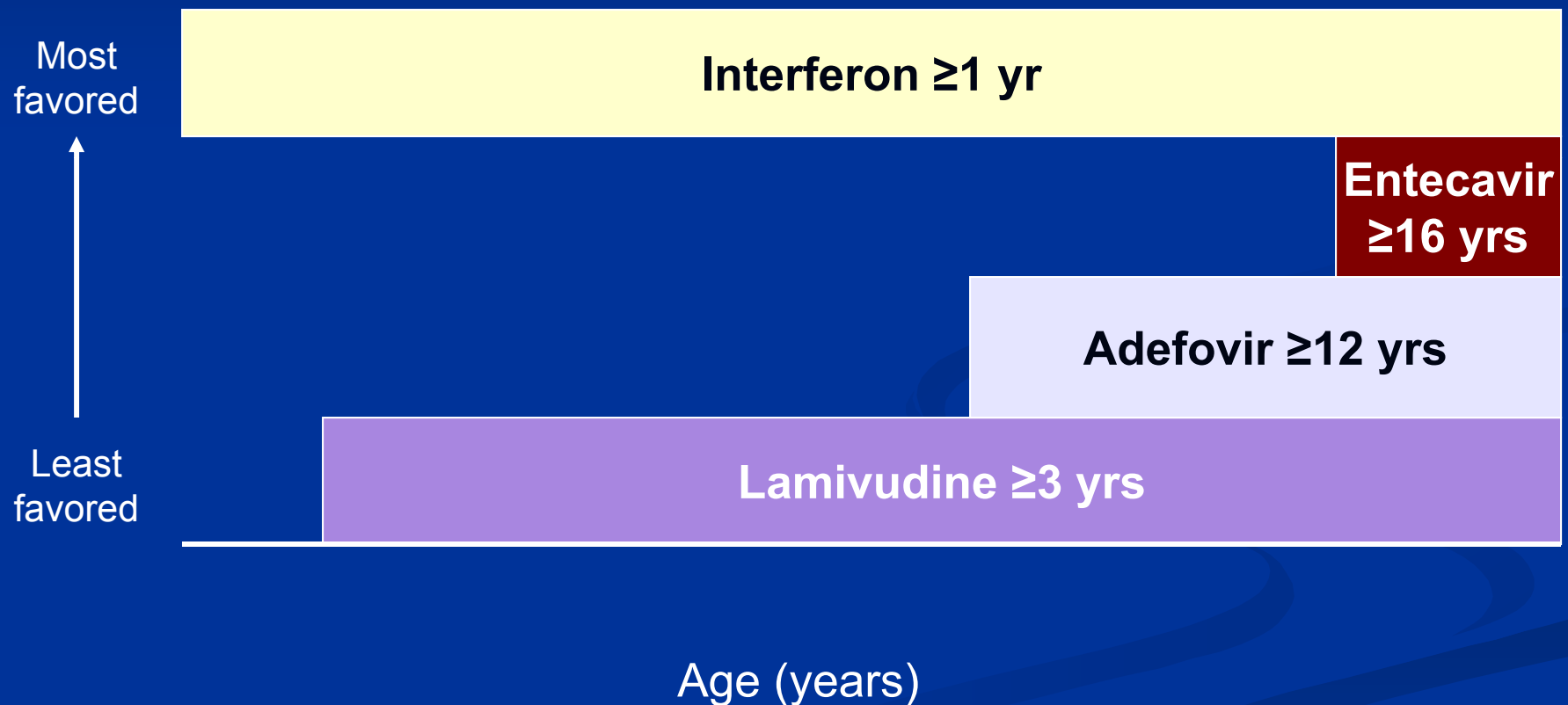
Recommendations for Treatment Initiation in HBeAg-Positive Adults

	AASLD 2007 ^[1]	US Algorithm 2008 ^[2]	EASL 2009 ^[3]
HBV DNA, IU/mL	> 20,000	> 20,000	≥ 2,000
ALT, x ULN*	> 2	> 1	> 1
Disease stage/grade	Moderate/severe necroinflammation and/or significant fibrosis		
First-line therapy	ADV, [†] ETV, pegIFN	ETV, TDF, pegIFN	ETV, TDF, pegIFN

*Persistent (> 3-6 mos). [†]TDF not FDA approved at time of publication.

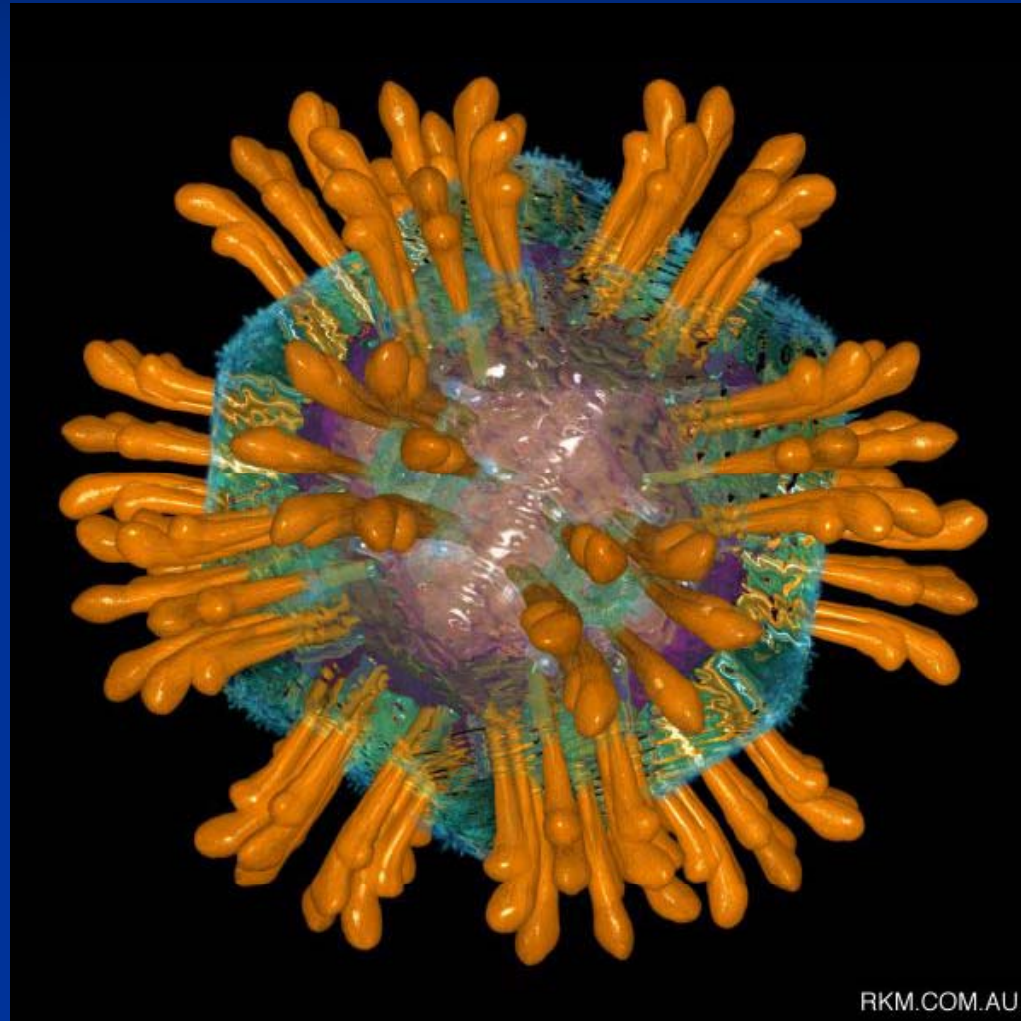
¹ Lok A, et al. Hepatology. 2007;45:507-539. ² Keeffe EB, et al. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2008;6:1315-1341. ³ EASL HBV Guidelines. J Hepatology. 2009;50:227-242. Slide adapted from Dr. K Schwarz

Approved HBV Treatments for Children

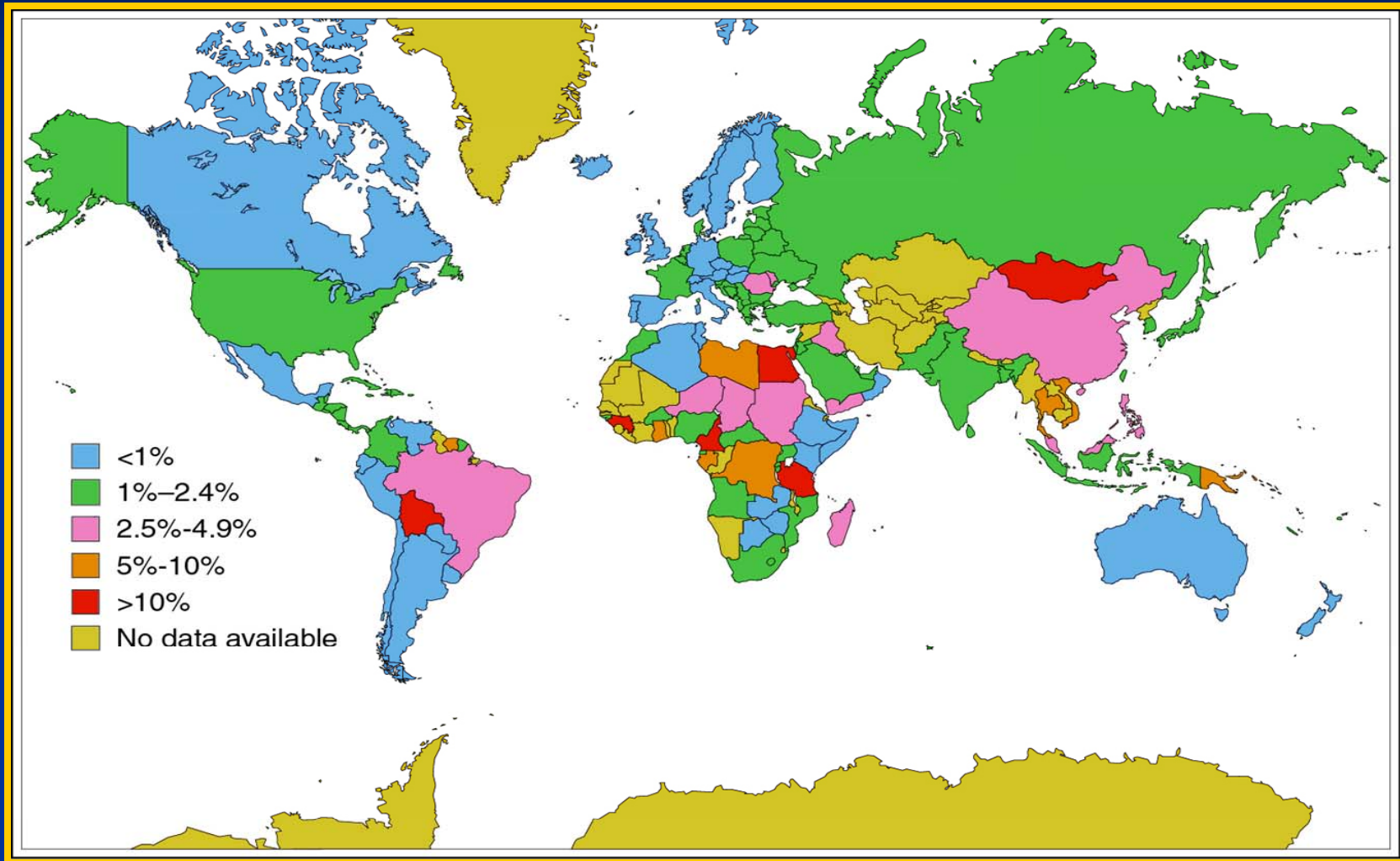




Hepatitis C



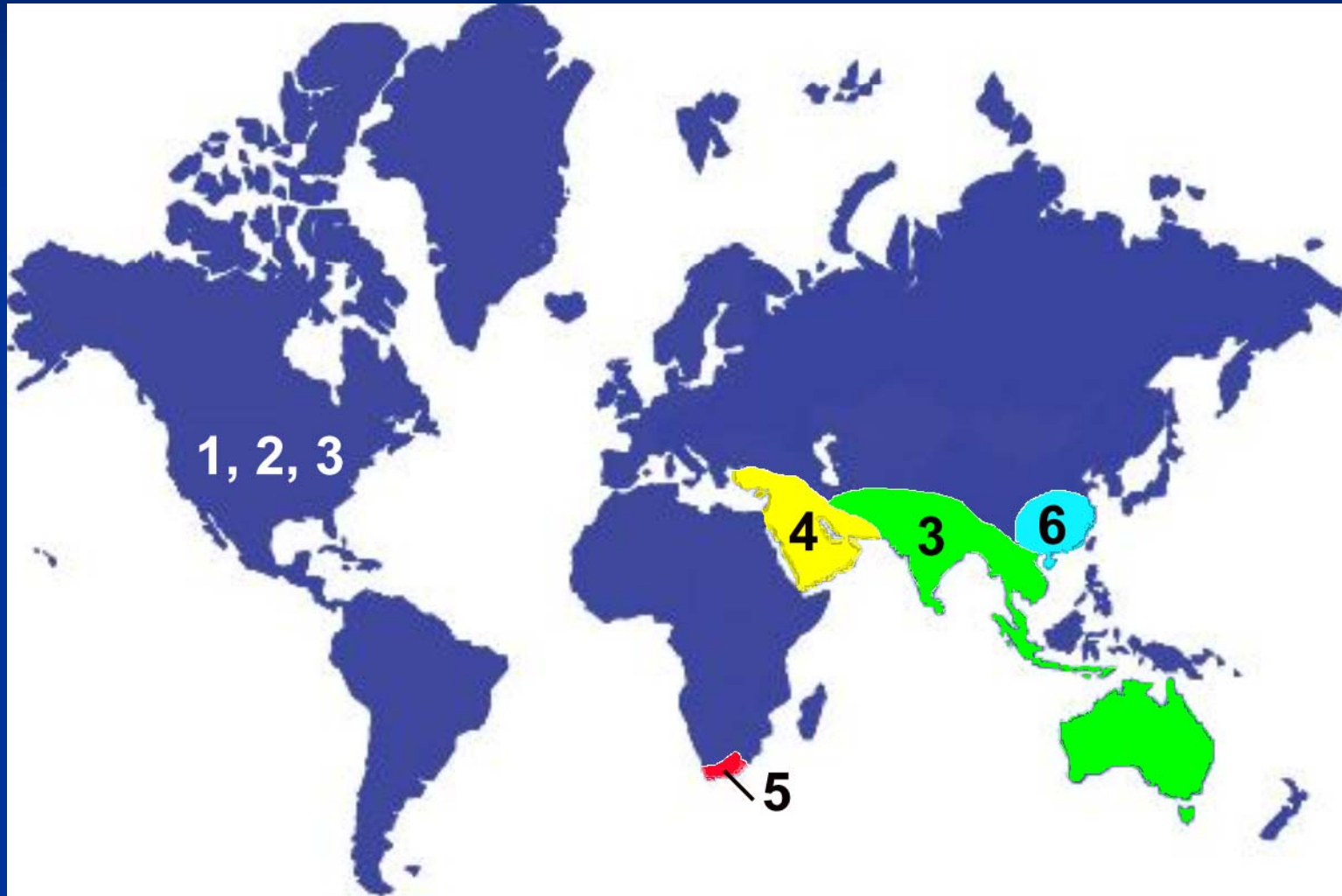
Worldwide Prevalence of HCV



Hepatitis C

- Lifetime risk of death from HCV: 10-20%
- 10,000 deaths/year
- Leading cause for liver transplantation

HCV Genotypes Around The World

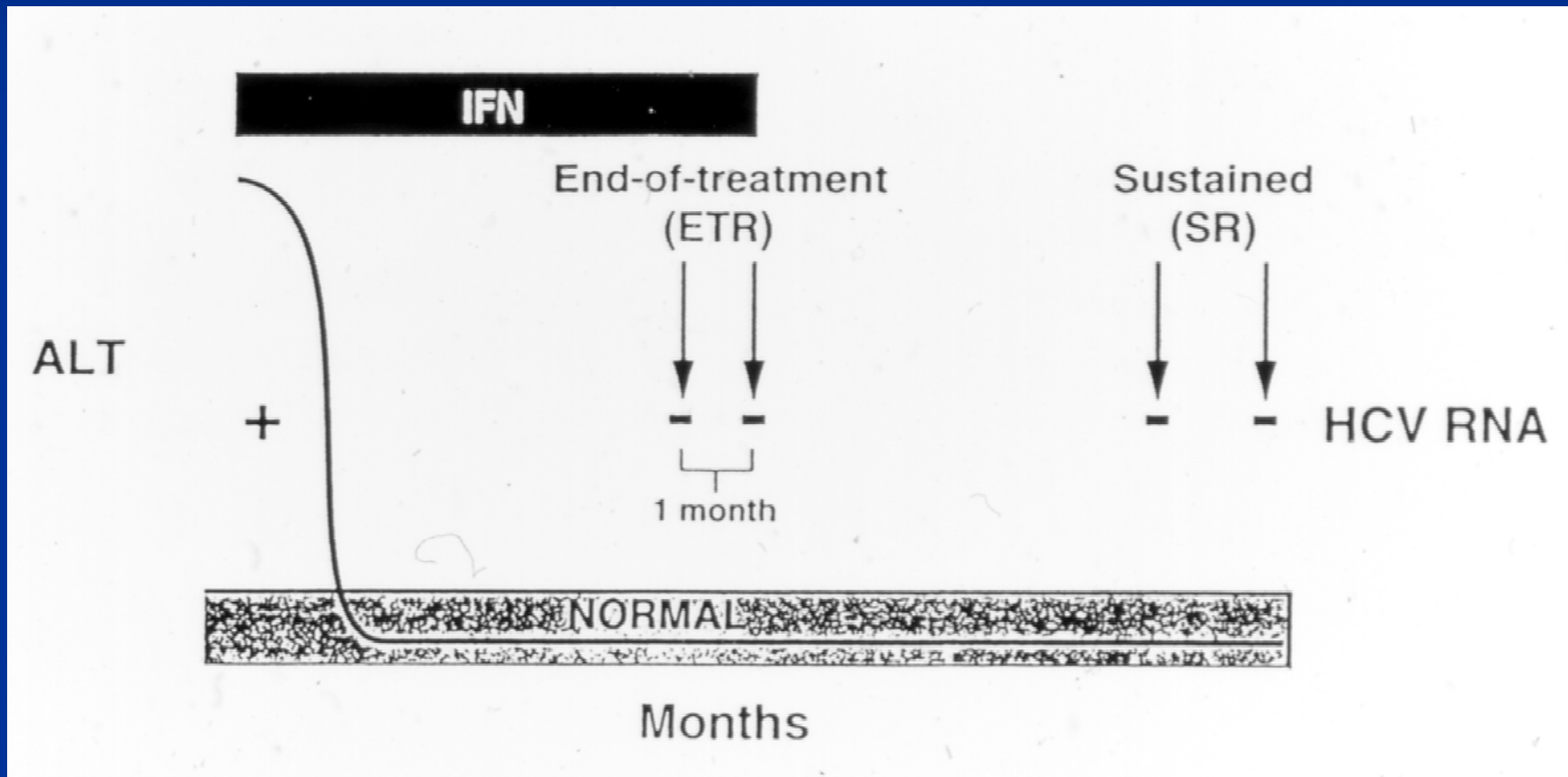


Hepatitis C: Who should be considered for treatment?

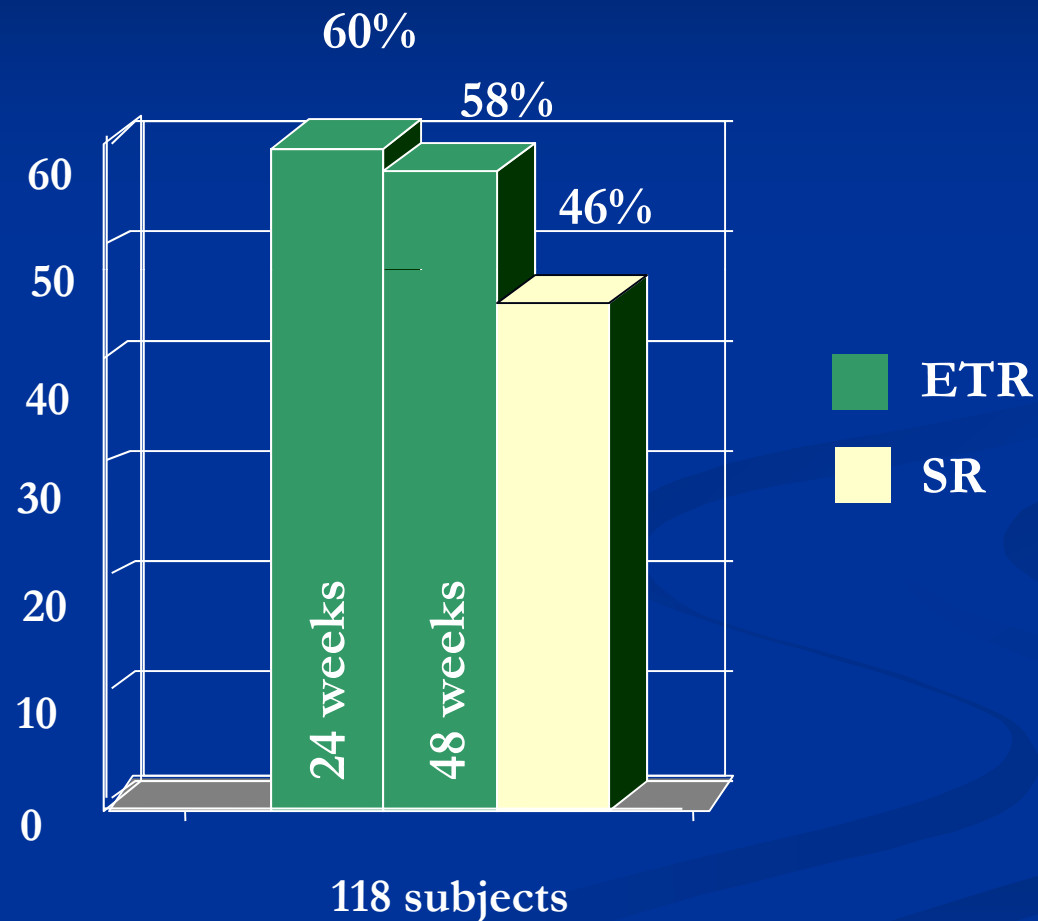
individualized

- Those with advancing liver disease
 - Histology
- Those most likely to respond
 - Genotype, BMI, compliance
- Those who are highly motivated despite the risks of therapy
 - Children > 2 years
 - Normal ALT

HCV IFN Therapy – response definition

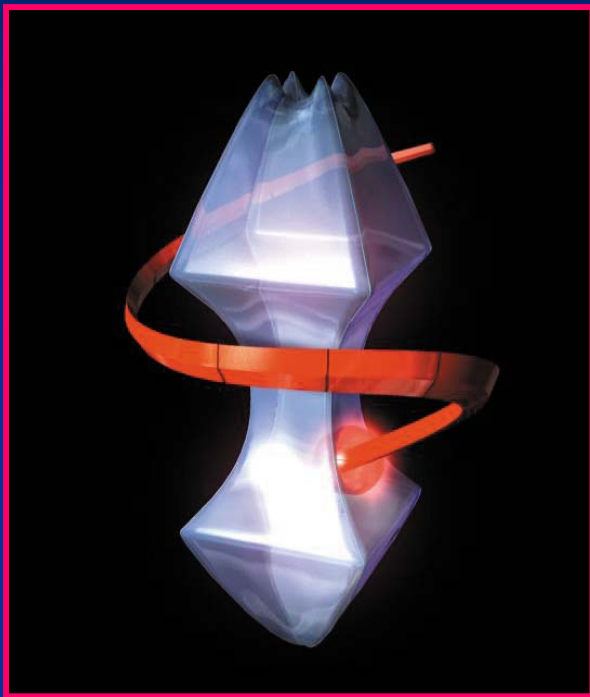


Interferon $\alpha 2b$ + ribavirin In Children with Chronic HCV

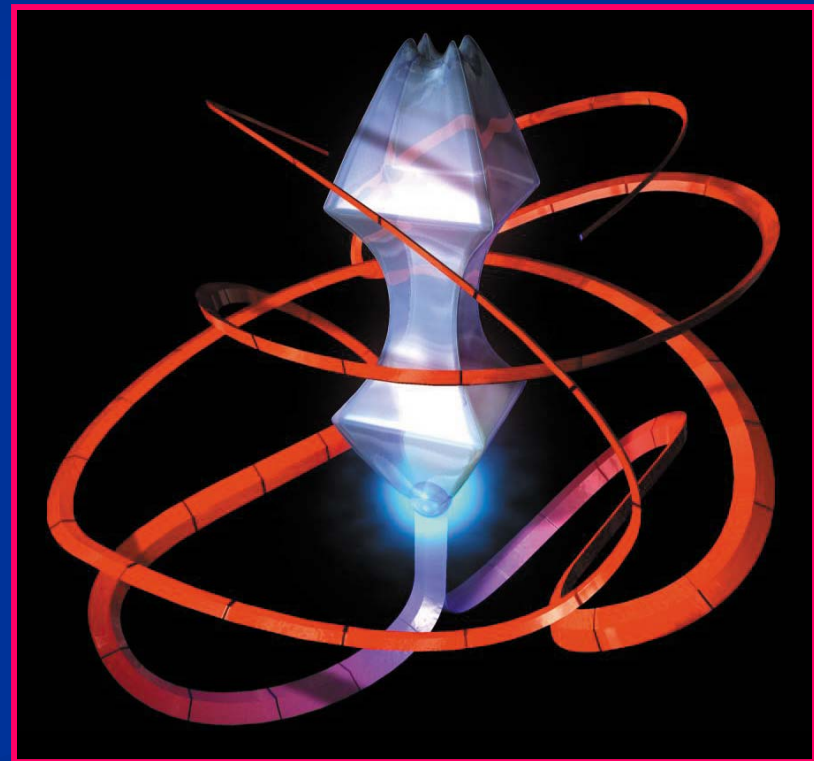


The PEG Molecules

2° and 3° interferon protein structure preserved

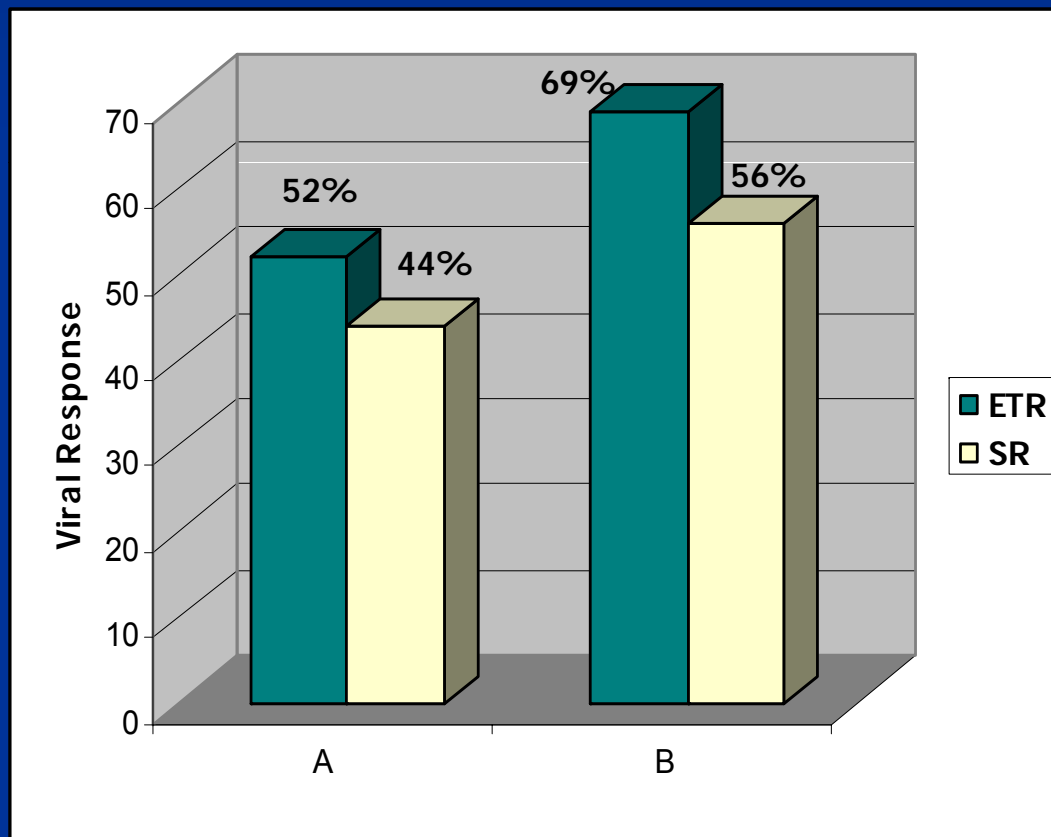


Peg-Intron
Schering-Plough



Hoff

IFN α 2b or PEG α 2a + Ribavirin In Adults with Chronic HCV

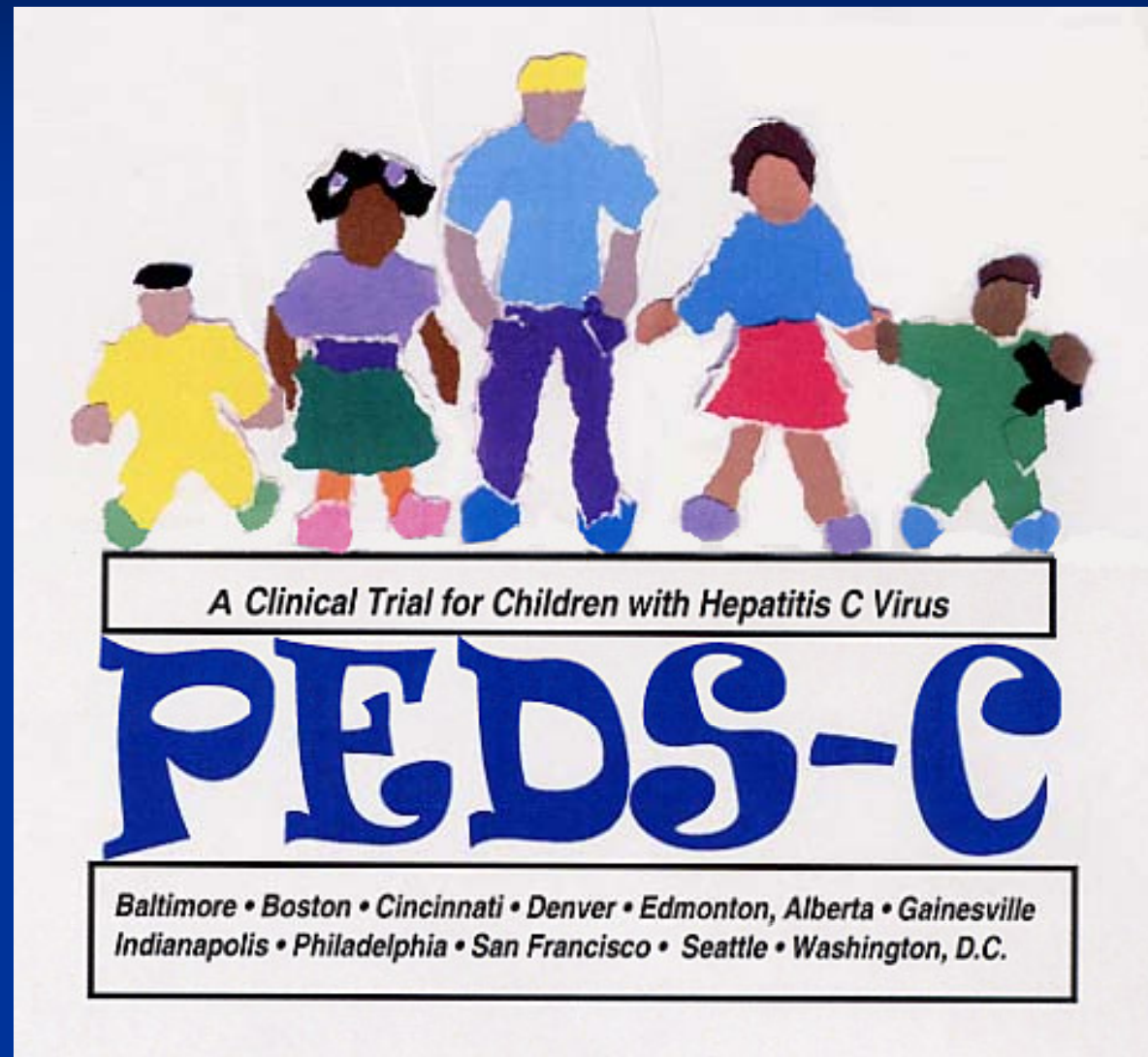


■ A = IFN α 2b
+ Ribavirin

■ B = PEG α 2a*
+ Ribavirin

*Not approved for
pediatric use

Results of the PEDS C Trial

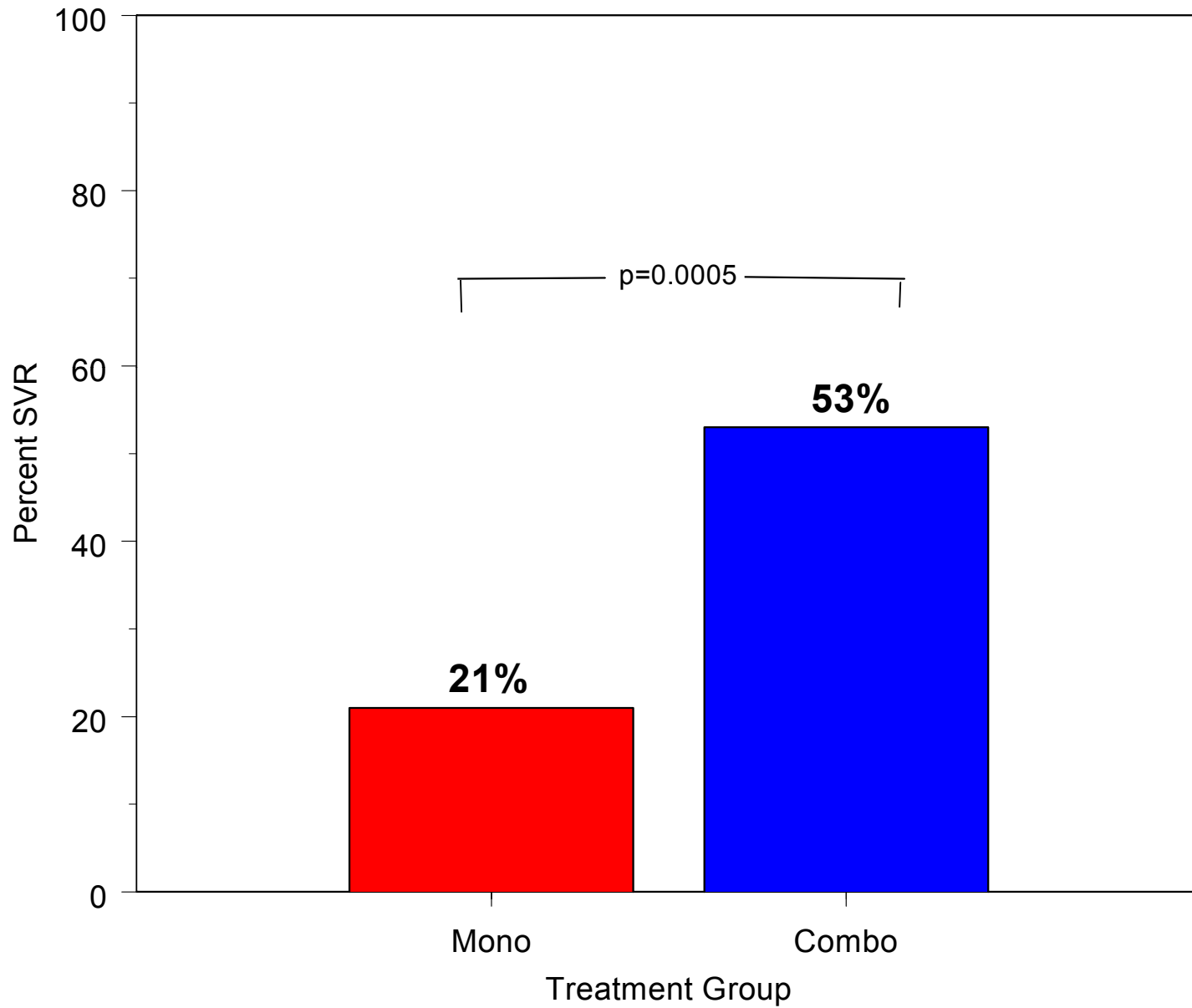


N = 114

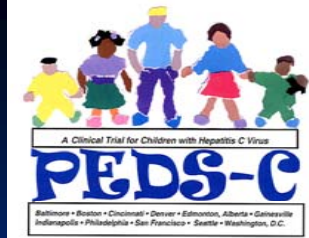
Murray Clin
Trials 2007

Schwarz
Hepatology
2008

Percent SVR by Treatment Group

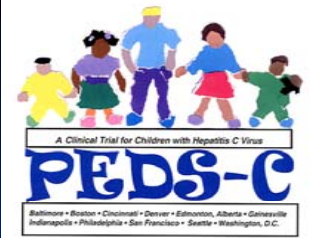


Multivariate Predictors of Viral Response in Children receiving Combination Therapy



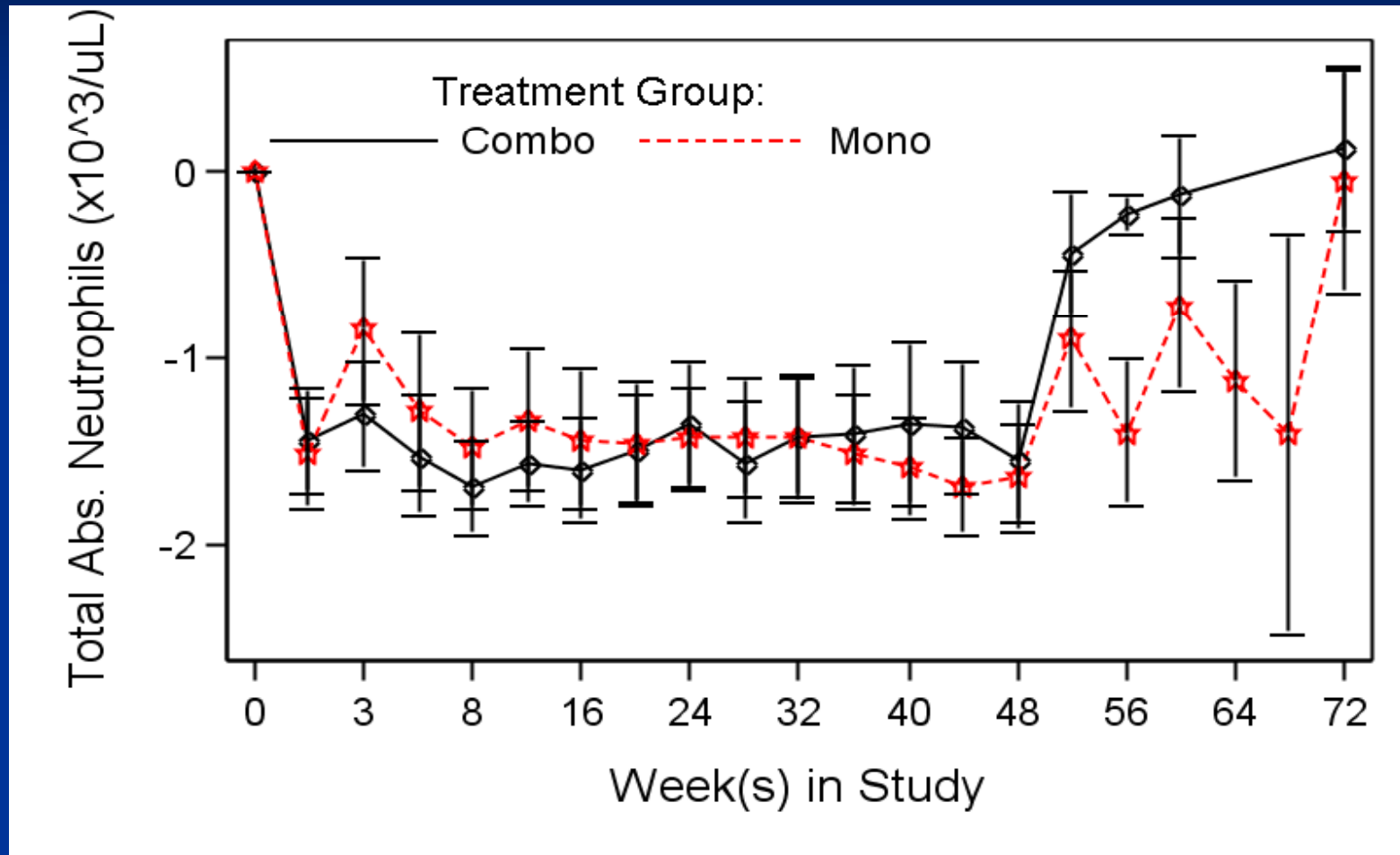
Predictor	Odds Ratio	P value
Combo vs mono	5.404	0.0018
Female vs male	3.582	0.0272
Other vs Maternal	6.837	0.0050
Genotype Other vs 1	4.459	0.0231
Mild inflam vs moderate	0.294	0.0328
Mild steatosis vs none	0.150	0.0012

Symptomatic Adverse Events Related to Therapy



	Mono	Combo
Flu	85%	91%
Headache	51	62
GI symptoms	63	56
Injection site rx	46	45
Joint aches	34	36
Irritability	22	31
Rash	24	20
Anorexia	19	13
Depression	12	4

Neutropenia in PEDS-C Trial



Rosenthal AASLD 2008

30% at least 1 dose reduction

No effect on infections or SVR

HCV Treatment

Administration and Monitoring

- Interferon- subcutaneous injection
- Ribavirin- orally administered twice a day
 - Teratogen! (Must use effective birth control)
 - Hemolytic anemia
- Monitoring:
 - Week 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, every month
 - Repeat labs weekly if needed
 - CBC with diff, plt count, ALT- with every draw
 - HCV RNA, TSH/T4 – month 1, 3, and every 3 months

Hepatitis B and C Summary

- Hepatitis B and C infections in children commonly become chronic
- Children with HBV or HCV are usually asymptomatic
- Most children with HBV are immunotolerant
- Limited medications are approved for pediatric treatment
- Treatment of children with HBV and HCV is best done under the guidance of a pediatric hepatologist
- Treatment options are increasing