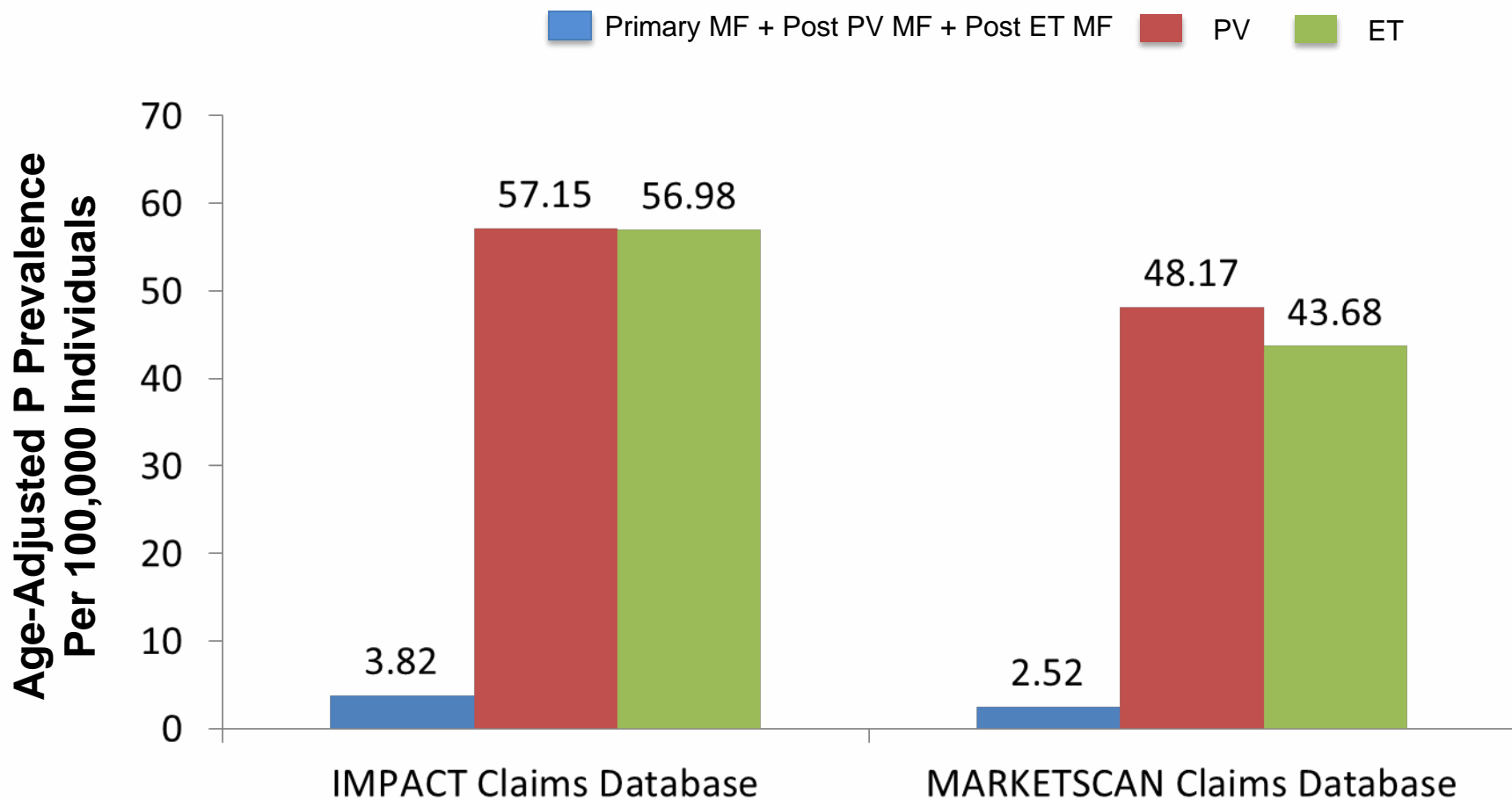


# PV : Management

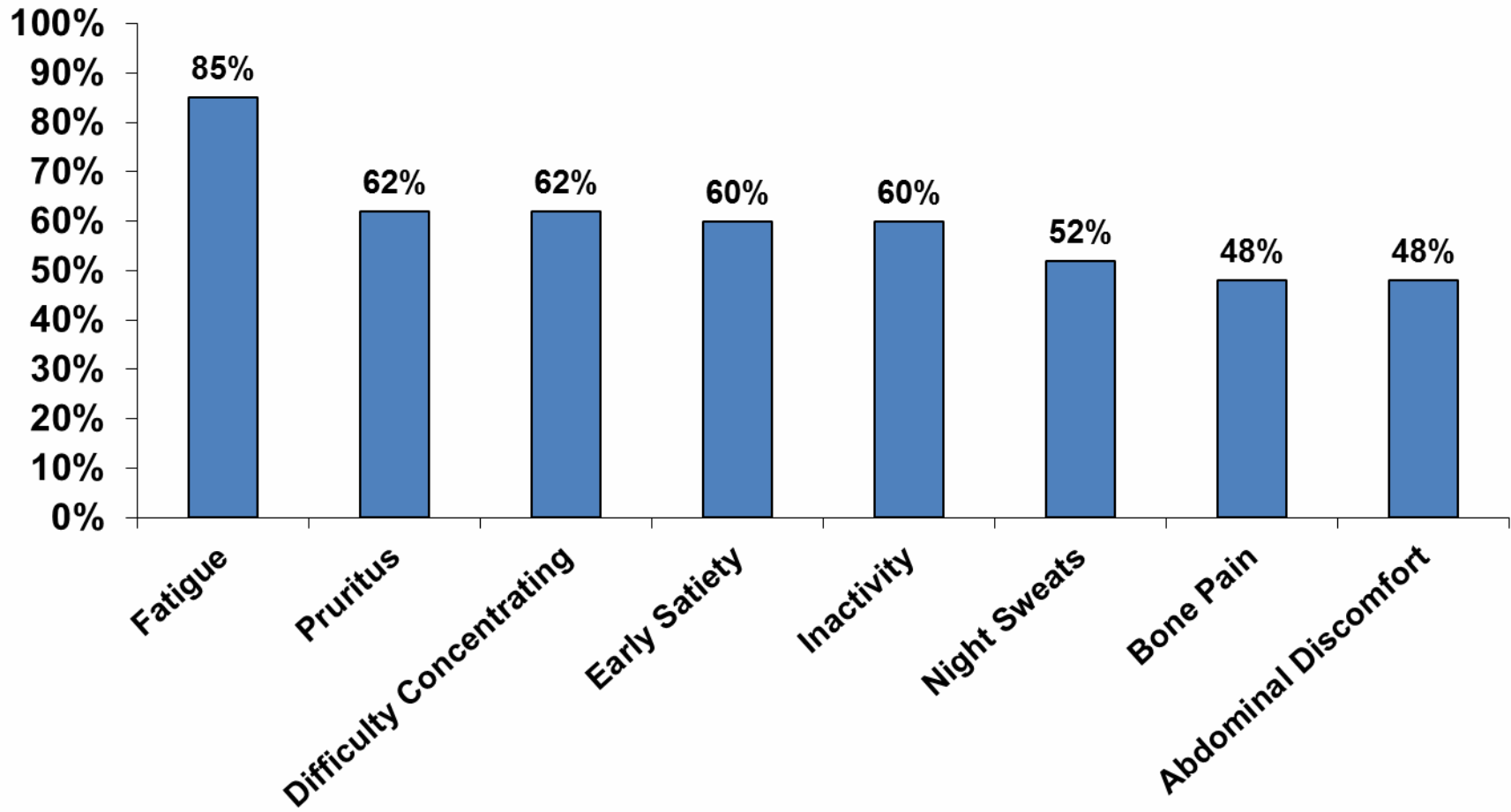
**Ruben A. Mesa, MD**

*Professor & Chairman, Division of Hematology & Medical Oncology  
Deputy Director, Mayo Clinic Cancer Center  
Mayo Clinic – Arizona, USA*

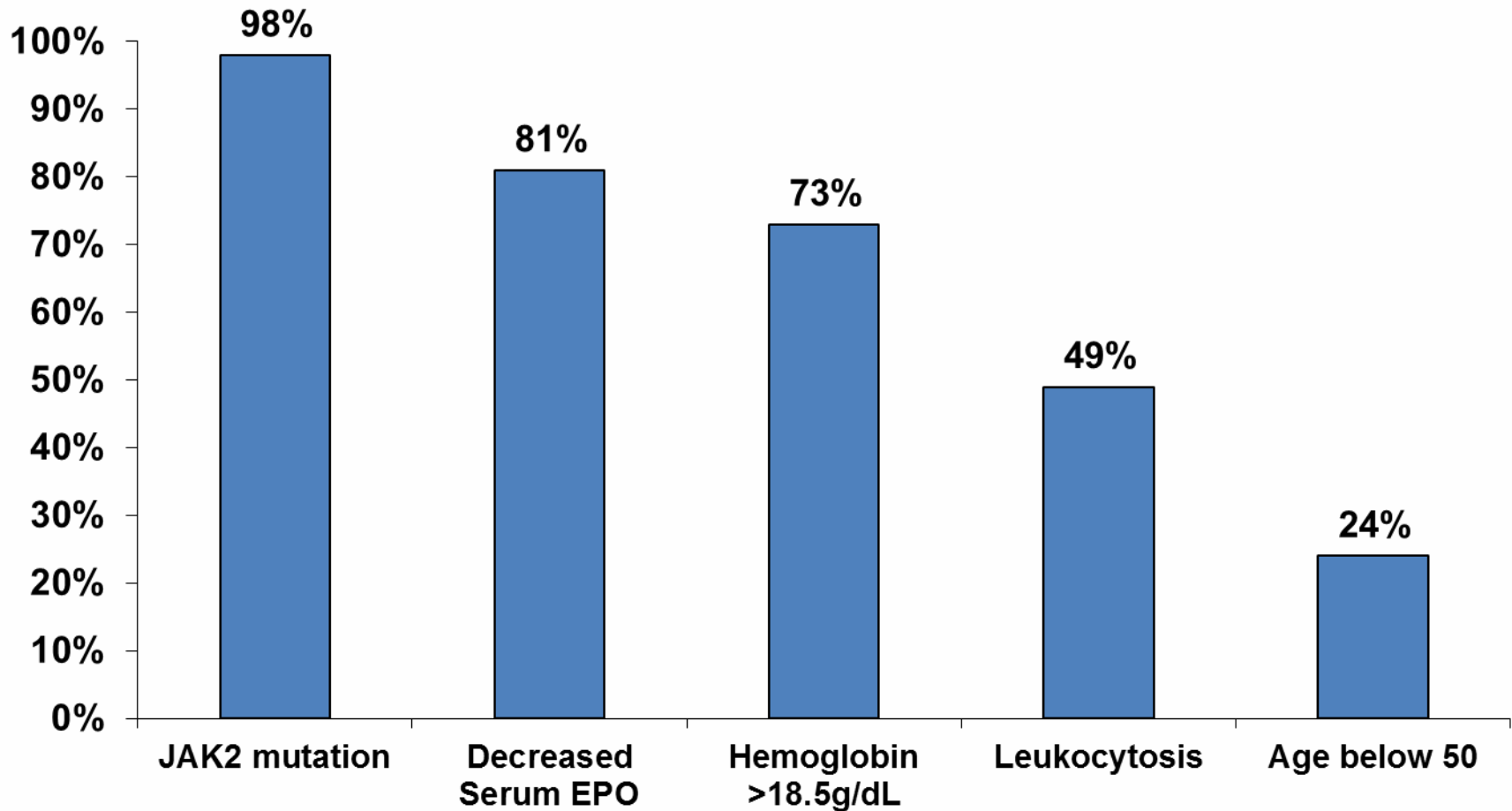
# PREVALENCE OF MPNs PER 100,000 INDIVIDUALS



# WHAT DOES A PV PATIENT LOOK LIKE? PRESENTING SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS



# WHAT DOES A PV PATIENT LOOK LIKE? CLINICAL FINDINGS



# Thrombotic Complications in PV

- Microvascular complications
- Microvascular complications are caused by thrombosis in small blood vessels<sup>1</sup>
  - These are sometimes referred to as microcirculatory disturbances<sup>1</sup>
- Macrovascular complications
- Macrovascular complications are caused by thrombosis in large arteries or veins<sup>2</sup>
- These are serious complications, often referred to as major thrombotic events<sup>2</sup>
- Major thrombotic events are the main cause of mortality, accounting for 45% of deaths in patients with PV<sup>3</sup>
  - Other major causes of death include solid tumors (19.5%) and hematologic transformations (13.0%)<sup>3</sup>

## Microvascular complications

Erythromelalgia

Headache

Dizziness

Visual disturbances

Paresthesia

Transient ischemic attack

## Macrovascular complications

### Arterial thrombotic events

- Myocardial infarction
- Unstable angina
- Stroke
- Peripheral arterial occlusion

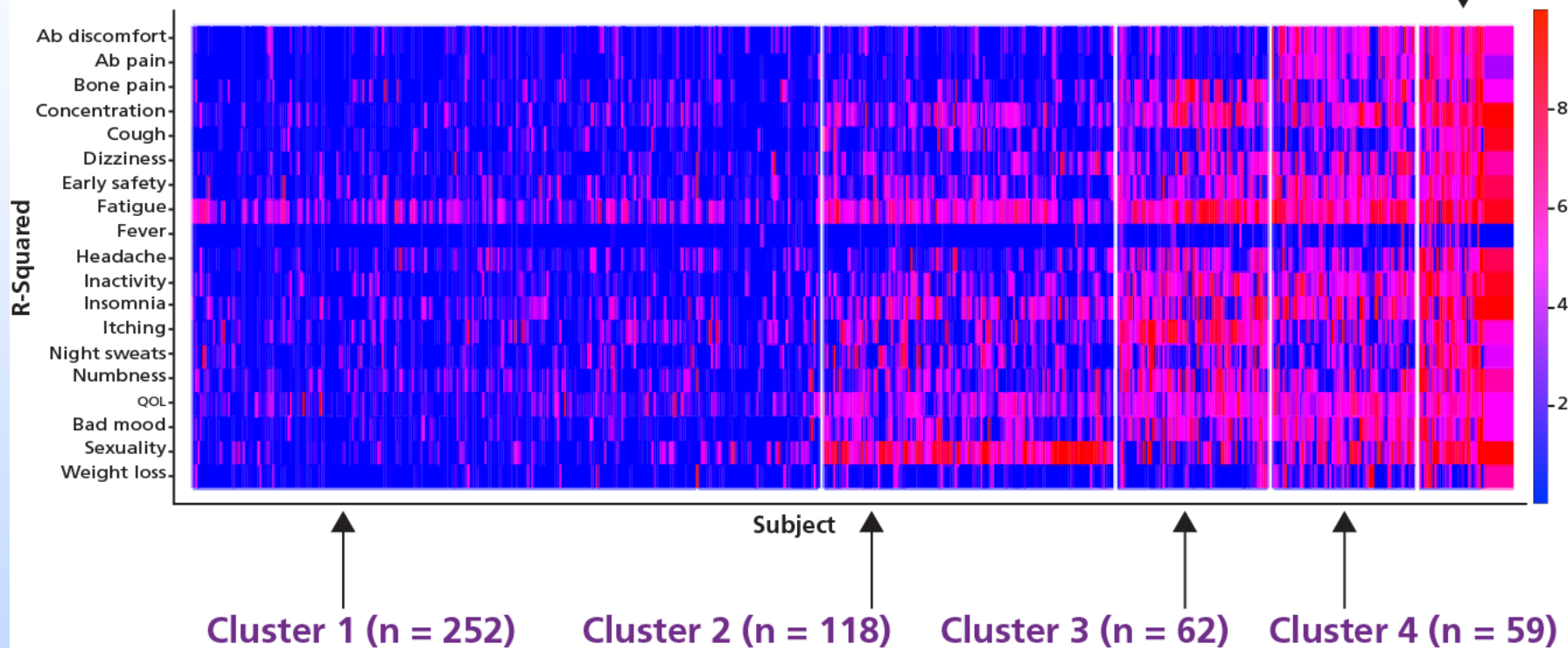
### Venous thrombotic events

- Deep vein thrombosis
- Pulmonary embolism
- Intra-abdominal vein thrombosis
- Cerebral vein thrombosis

# PV Symptom Burden: Cluster Analysis

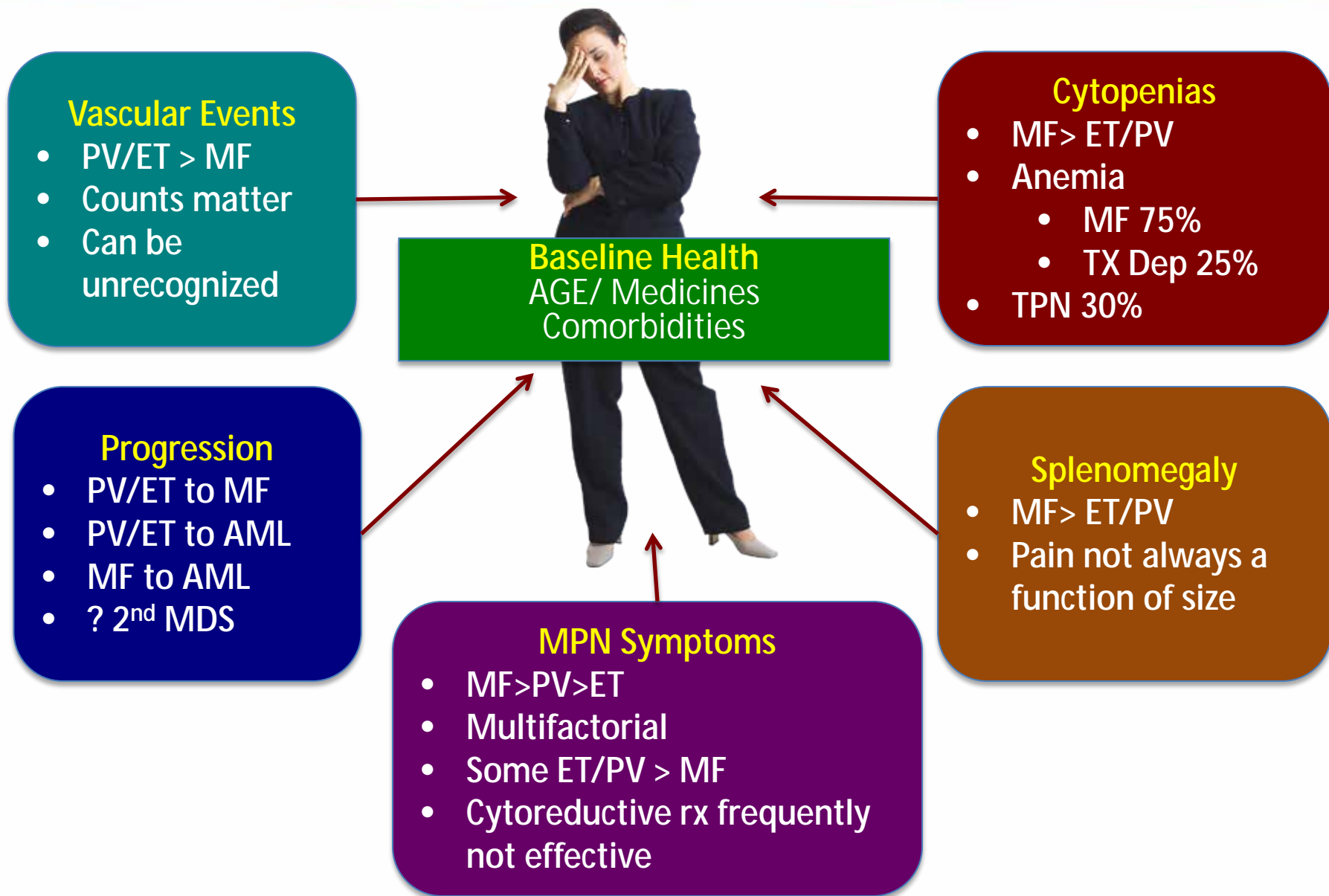
Difference in each symptom between clusters all  $P < .001$

Cluster 5 (n = 27)

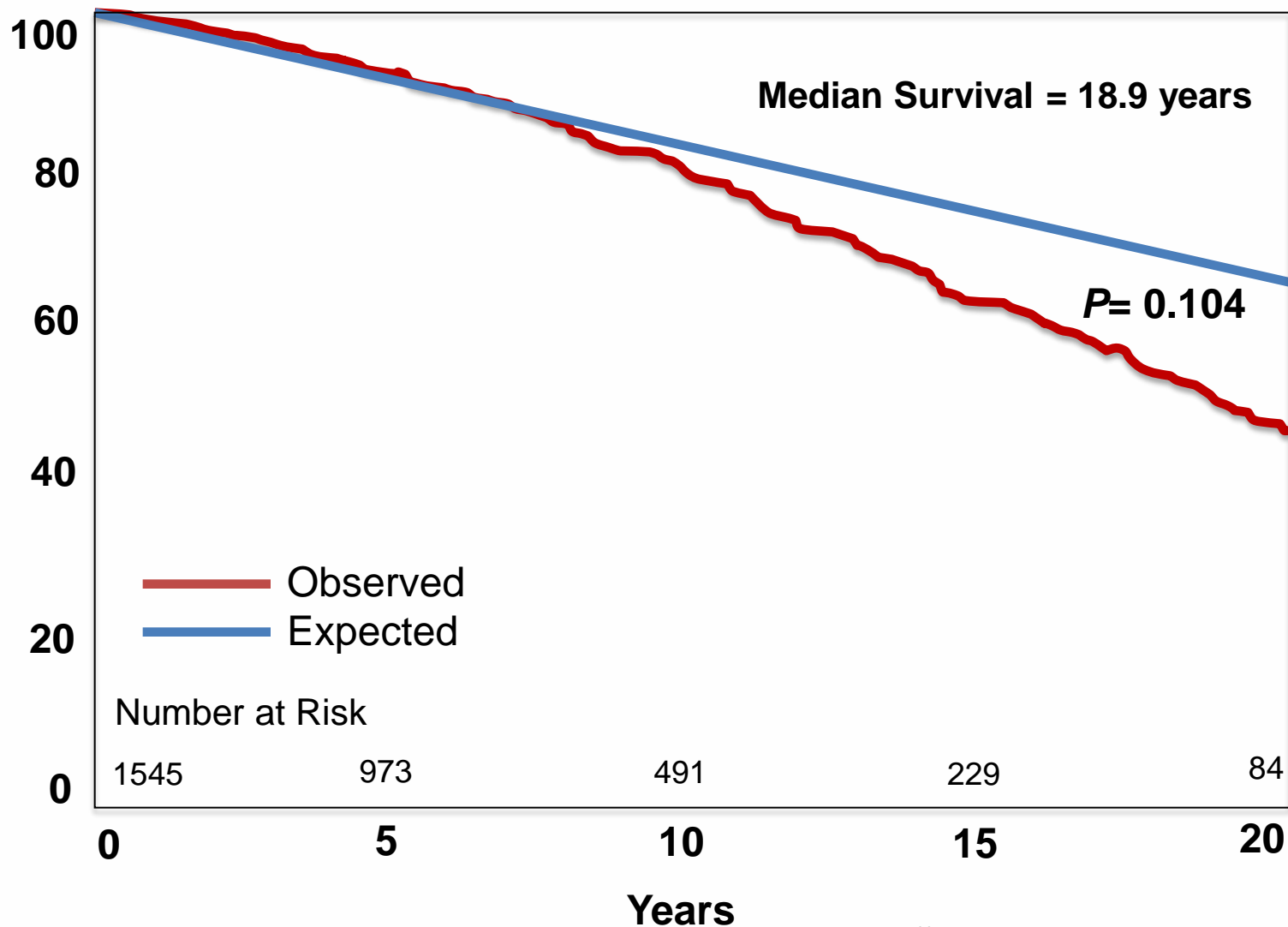


# Assessing MPN Burden

## *WHO Diagnosis Does Not Tell Whole Story*



# OVERALL SURVIVAL AFTER DIAGNOSIS





# WHO CRITERIA 2008: POLYCYTHEMIA VERA

## Major

- ü Absolute erythrocytosis (>18.5 g/dL in men; >16.5 g/dL in women)
- ü *JAK2* V617F mutation or similar (*JAK2* exon 12)

## Minor

- ü Subnormal EPO level (<4 mU/mL)
- ü Bone marrow trilineage proliferation
- ü Endogenous erythroid colony growth

**\*2 major and 1 minor, or 1 major and 2 minor  
required for diagnosis**

# “MASKED” PV (mPV)

397 patients with PV marrow morphology

- “Masked” (n=140) vs. overt PV (n=257)
  - *mPV typically male, with history of arterial thrombosis, and ↑platelets*
  - *Similar vascular risk, but ↑rate of MF/AML, and ↓survival vs. overt PV*
- mPV distinguished from ET by Hgb >16/16.5, and Hct 48/49% in M/F
- Plasma volume increase can mask PV, typically in cases of abdominal venous thrombosis with splenomegaly

\*Masked PV=Hgb values below WHO threshold



One of Osler's patients,  
Oxford 1916

# PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA

- **Major criteria:**

- ü Hgb >16.5 g/dl (Hct >49%) in men; >16 g/dl (>48%) in women
- ü BM trilineage myeloproliferation with pleomorphic megakaryocytes
- ü Presence of *JAK2* mutation

- **Minor criteria:**

- ü Subnormal Epo level

***Diagnosis would require all 3 major criteria  
or 2 major and 1 minor criteria***

# Management of PV-ET

---

- ALL PV Patients

- *Maintain HCT <45% Men, 42% Women*
  - *Low Dose ASA*
  - *Aggressive control of CV risk factors*
- 

- Cytoreduction

- *High Risk or*
- *Intol to Phlebotomy, Increasing Spleen, Severe Sx*  
*Plt >1500 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L, or prog WBC*

- Medications

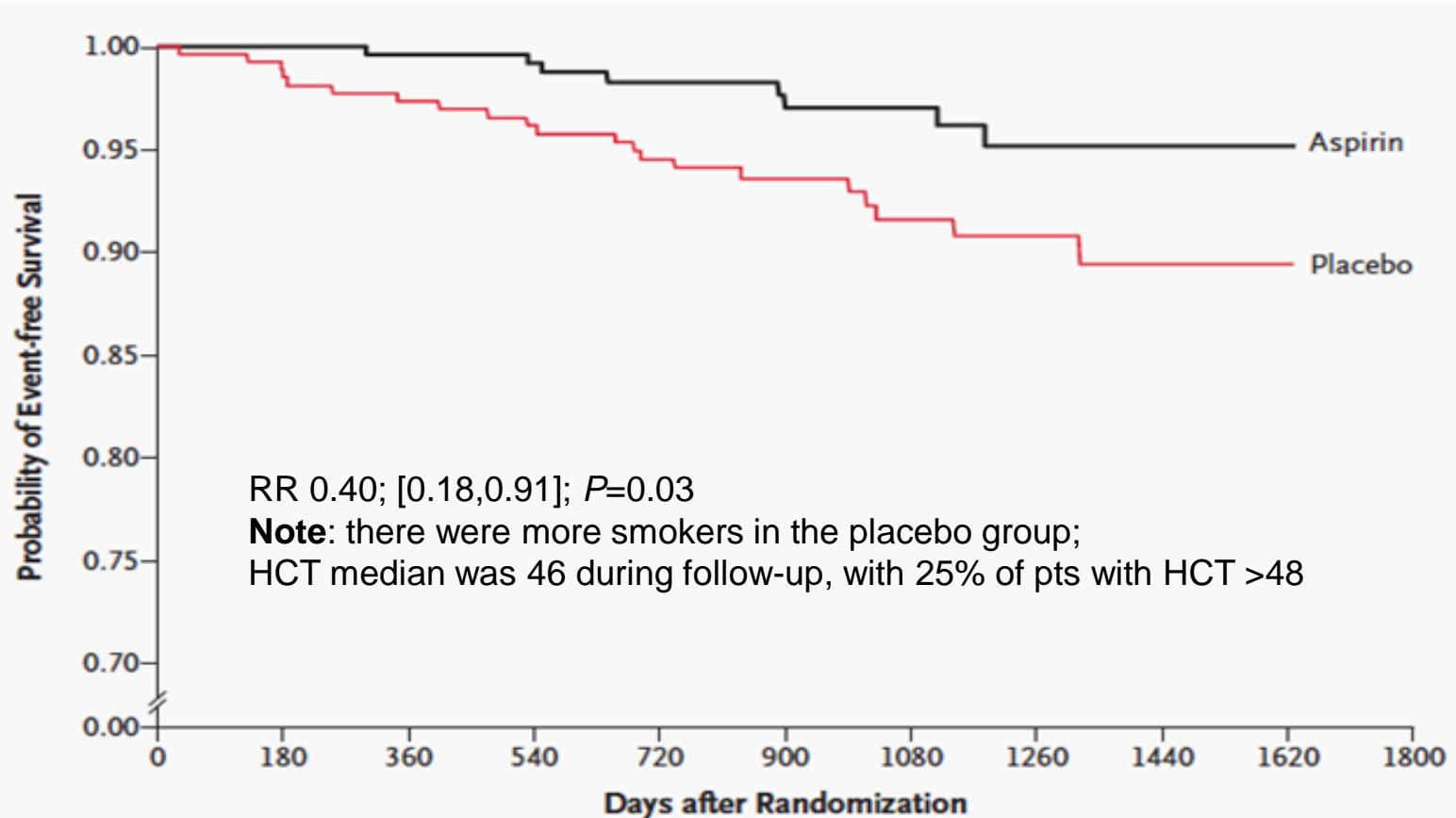
- *Hydroxyurea or Interferon alpha as Front line (or second)*
- *Busulfan, pipobroman, P-32 as second line*

# LOW-DOSE ASPIRIN IN PV: ECLAP STUDY

- Hypothesis: There is increased synthesis of platelet thromboxane in PV that can be suppressed by aspirin 100 mg daily
- 528 patients: 253 aspirin 100 mg daily, 265 placebo
- Inclusion Criteria:
  - No clear indication for, or contraindication to, aspirin
  - No significant comorbidities
- Primary endpoints:
  - Cumulative rates of nonfatal MI, stroke, or death from CV disease +/- PE or major venous thrombosis

# ECLAP RESULTS

Probability of survival free of MI, stroke, death from CV disease, PE, or DVT



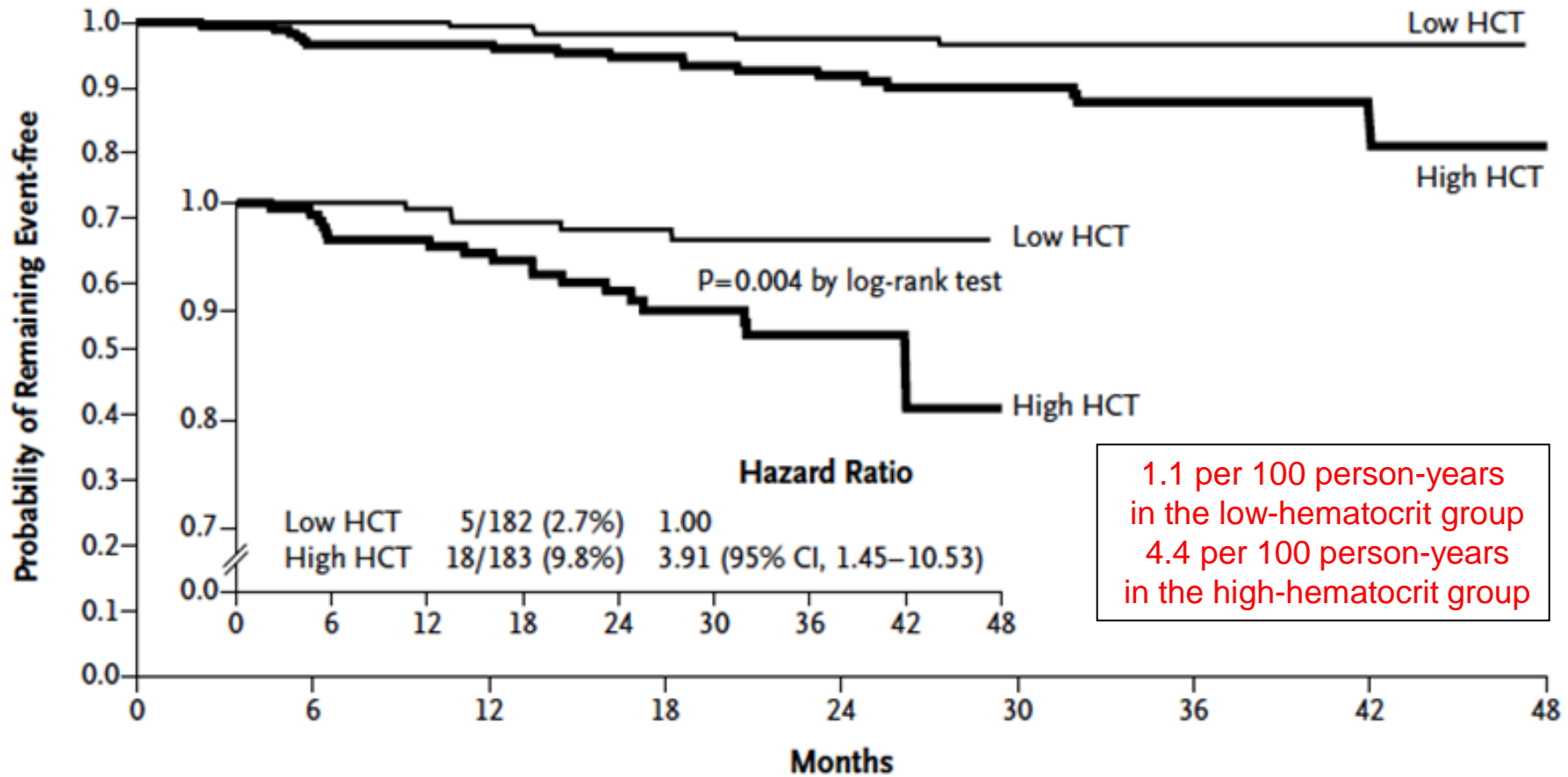
No. at Risk (No. of Events)

Aspirin	253 (0)	250 (1)	249 (1)	231 (2)	212 (2)	153 (0)	112 (2)	81 (0)	24 (0)	1 (0)	0
Placebo	265 (4)	260 (3)	253 (3)	239 (4)	228 (2)	171 (3)	125 (1)	79 (1)	26 (0)	1 (0)	0

# CYTO-PV STUDY TARGETS

- Two study arms
  - More intensive Tx (target hct = <45%)
  - Less intensive Tx (target hct = 45 to 50%)
- Primary end point: Time until death from CV complications or major thrombotic events
- Planned target was 1,000 patients, but slow enrollment and competing trials prevented completion

# CV EVENTS AND INTENSITY OF TREATMENT



1.1 per 100 person-years  
in the low-hematocrit group  
4.4 per 100 person-years  
in the high-hematocrit group

## No. at Risk

Low HCT	182 (0)	177 (1)	168 (2)	154 (1)	129 (1)	95 (0)	62 (0)	18 (0)	0
High HCT	183 (6)	168 (0)	160 (3)	143 (4)	110 (2)	92 (2)	54 (1)	12 (0)	1



# TREATMENT-RELATED RISK FACTORS FOR TRANSFORMATION TO AML AND MDS

Treatment	Odds Ratio	95% CI
None	1.0	Reference
Radioactive phosphorus (P <sup>32</sup> )	1.5	0.8 to 2.8
Alkylating agent only	0.9	0.4 to 2.1
HU only	1.2	0.6 to 2.4
Mixed treatment (2 or 3)	2.9	1.4 to 5.9

# RISK OF TRANSFORMATION TO AML/MDS RELATIVE TO CUMULATIVE DOSE

Treatment	Odds Ratio	95% CI
HU, g		
1-499	1.5	0.6 to 2.4
500-999	1.4	0.6 to 3.4
≥1,000	1.3	0.5 to 3.3
Radioactive phosphorus (P <sup>32</sup> ), MBq		
1-499	1.5	0.6 to 3.3
500-999	1.1	0.5 to 2.2
≥1,000	4.6	2.1 to 9.8
Alkylating agents, g		
1-499	1.1	0.5 to 2.3
500-999	1.7	0.6 to 5.0
≥1,000	3.4	1.1 to 10.6

# RESPONSE CRITERIA FOR PV ( $\geq 12$ WEEKS)

## Complete Remission

- Resolution of PV signs
- $\geq 10$  pt.  $\hat{=}$  MPN TSS
- Near normal counts
- No progressive disease or vascular event
- Bone marrow remission &  $\leq$ Gr 1 reticulin fibrosis

## Partial Remission

- Resolution of PV signs
- $\geq 10$  pt.  $\hat{=}$  MPN TSS
- Near normal counts
- No progressive disease or vascular event

## Molecular Response

Peripheral blood granulocytes

- CR – Eradicated mutation
- PR -  $\geq 50\%$   $\hat{=}$  allele burden,  $\geq 20\%$  *allele burden at baseline*

Progressive Disease = Post- PV MF, MDS, or AML

# Myeloproliferative Disorders Research Consortium Trial Polycythemia Vera and Essential Thrombocythemia



## MPD-RC 112 (NCT01259856 – [clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov))

Randomized Trial of *Pegylated* Interferon Alfa-2a versus Hydroxyurea Therapy in the Treatment of High Risk Polycythemia Vera (PV) and High Risk Essential Thrombocythemia (ET)

Registered & Randomized  
High Risk ET and PV  
( $< 3$  Months Prior Hydroxyurea)

### PEG INF Alfa-2a

- Target dose 90 mcg/week
- Weekly Dosing
- $\geq 2$  years of therapy in responders

### HYDROXYUREA

- Titrated Dosing to Response
- Daily Dosing
- MPD-RC 111 in HYDROXYUREA Failures

### ENDPOINTS

**Primary:** Complete response by ELN Criteria

**Secondary:** Partial response rate by ELN criteria, JAK2-V617F Allele Burden, Vascular Events, MPN Symptoms, Tolerability, Progression

### Key Eligibility Criteria

- High risk PV or ET within 3 years from diagnosis
- No prior cytoreductive treatment (interferon or pegasys) other than hydroxyurea for up to 3 months (prior phlebotomy, aspirin, and/or anagrelide allowed)
- Age of 18 or older with relatively normal kidney and liver function
- No other serious medical problems

Questions contact MPD-RC ([www.mpd-rc.org](http://www.mpd-rc.org))

John Mascarenhas, MD [john.mascarenhas@mssm.edu](mailto:john.mascarenhas@mssm.edu) Phone: 1 (212) 241-6756



# WHAT DOES INTOLERANCE/RESISTANCE TO HYDROXYUREA IN PV MEAN?

## RESISTANCE

1. Need for phlebotomy (HCT < 45%)
2. PLT > 400 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L **and** WBC > 10 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L
3. Failure to reduce spleen by > 50%
4. No reduction of spleen symptoms

### *Please Note*

1. After > 3 Months
2. At maximum tolerated dose or 2 g/day

## INTOLERANCE

1. Cytopenias (any)
  - ANC < 1.0 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L
  - Hemoglobin < 100 g/l
  - Platelets < 100 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L
2. Leg ulcers
3. GI toxicity
4. Fever
5. Mucocutaneous manifestations
6. Skin cancers

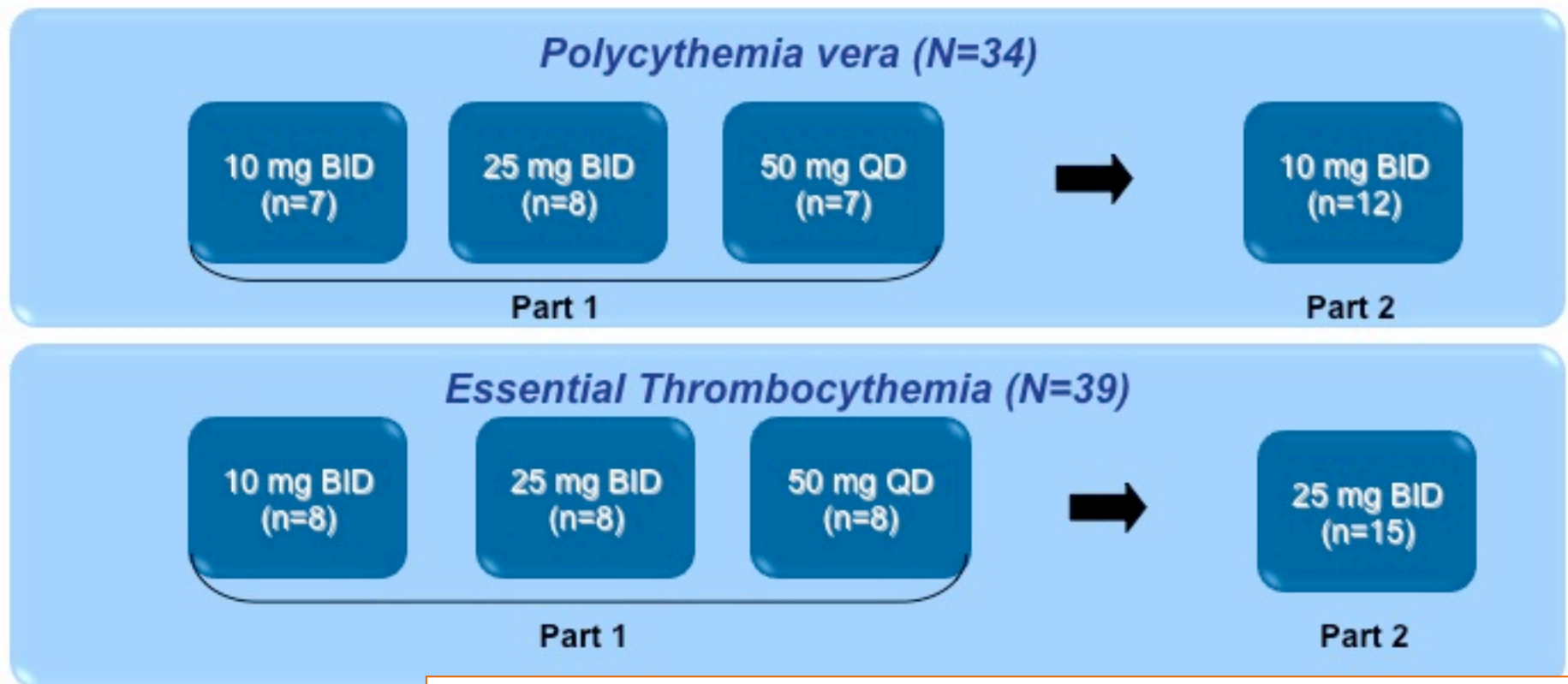
### *Please Note*

At lowest dose to achieve either a PR or CR

# Phase II Study of INCB 18424 in Patients with Advanced ET and PV

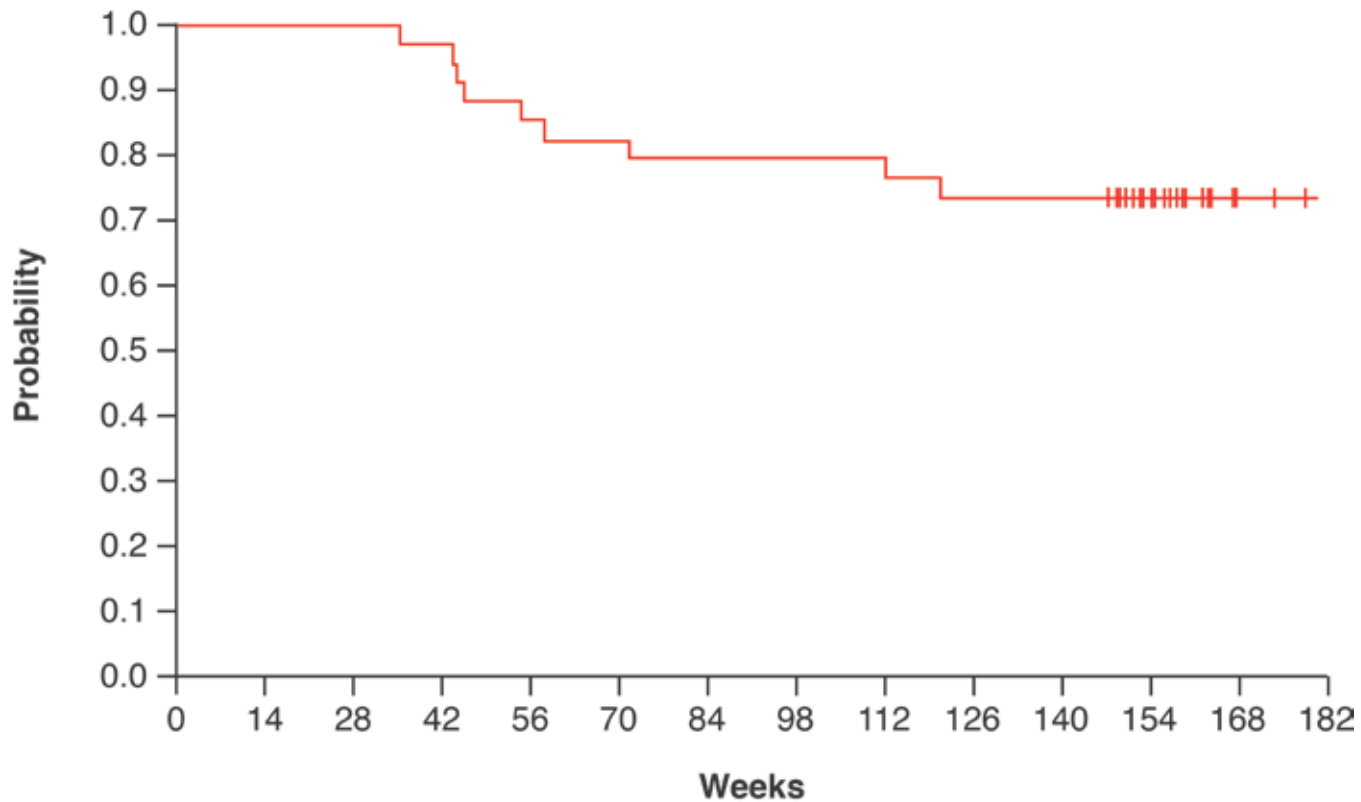
## Eligibility Criteria:

- Refractory or intolerant to hydroxyurea (HU) or HU contraindicated
- PV: Hct > 45% OR phlebotomy 2 times in last 6 months, with at least one phlebotomy in last 3 months
- ET: Platelets > 650 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L unless on therapy



# Time to First Phlebotomy (n=1) or Discontinuation (n=8)

- 74% (25/34) remained on study and phlebotomy-free for at least 144 weeks

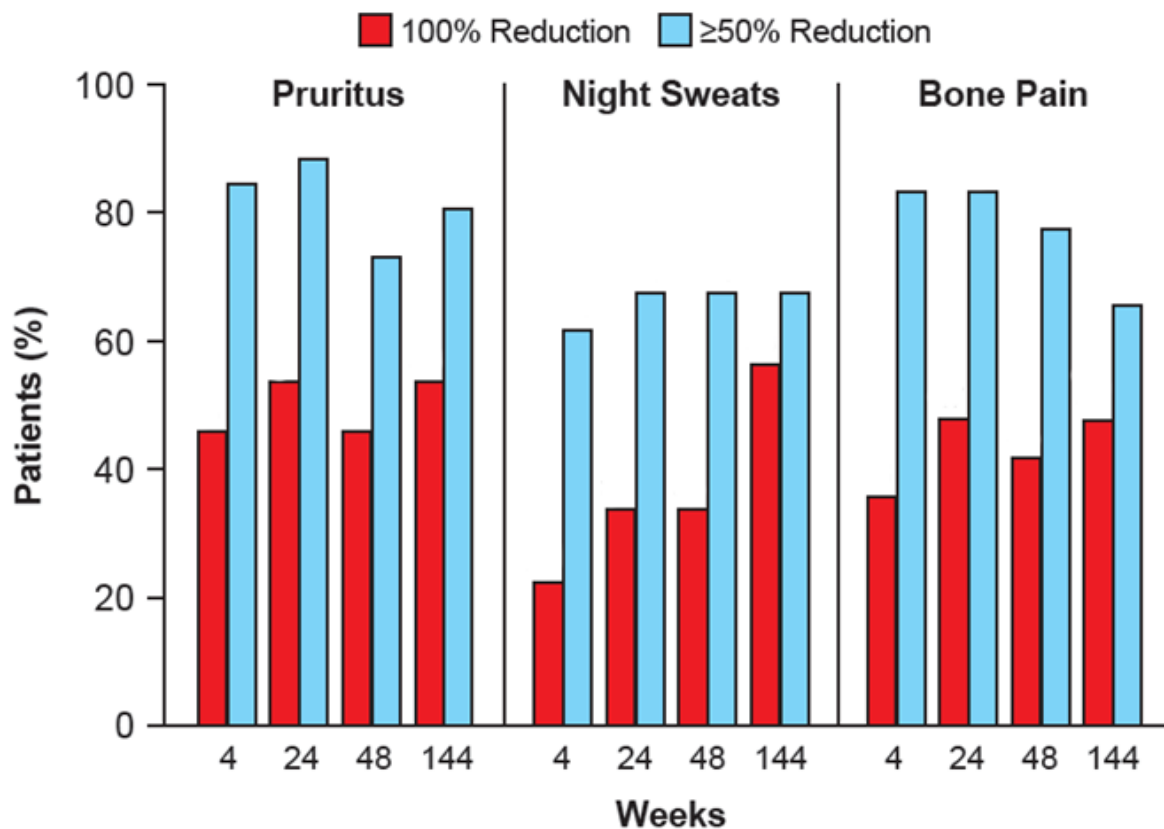


No. at Risk: 34 34 34 33 29 28 27 27 27 25 25 16 2 0

# Reduction in PV-Associated Symptoms

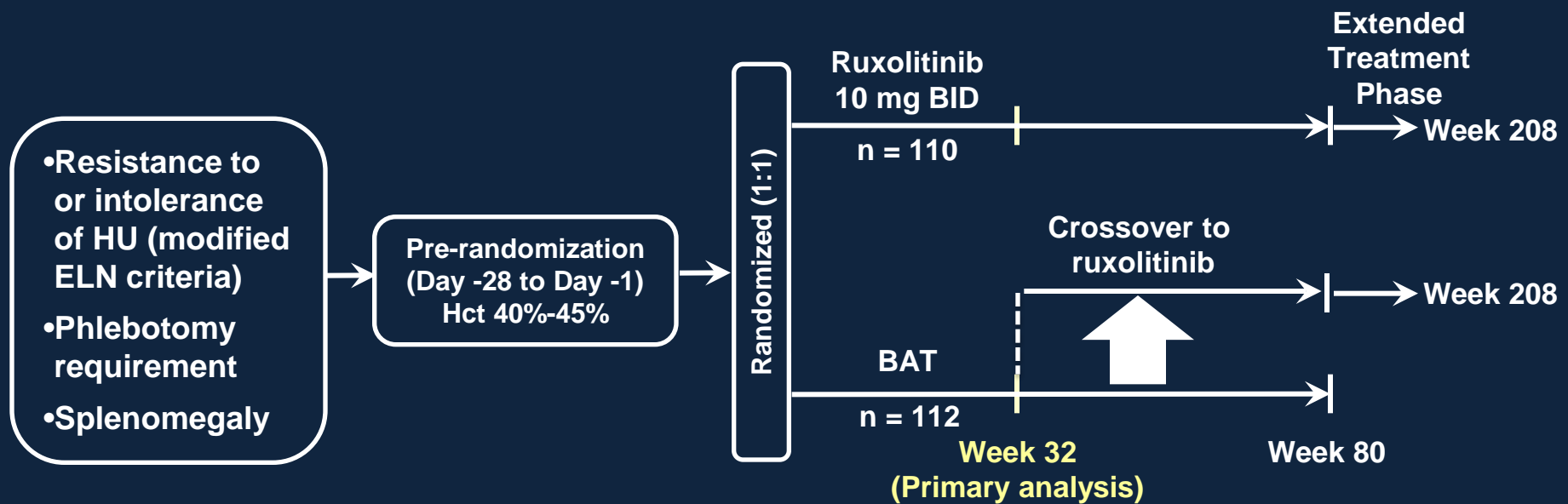
Verstovsek S et. al. Blood (ASH) 2012;120:abstr 804

- Clinically meaningful improvements in pruritus, night sweats, and bone pain observed within 4 weeks of initiating therapy and sustained through Week 144





# RUXOLITINIB (SINGLE AGENT) IN PV

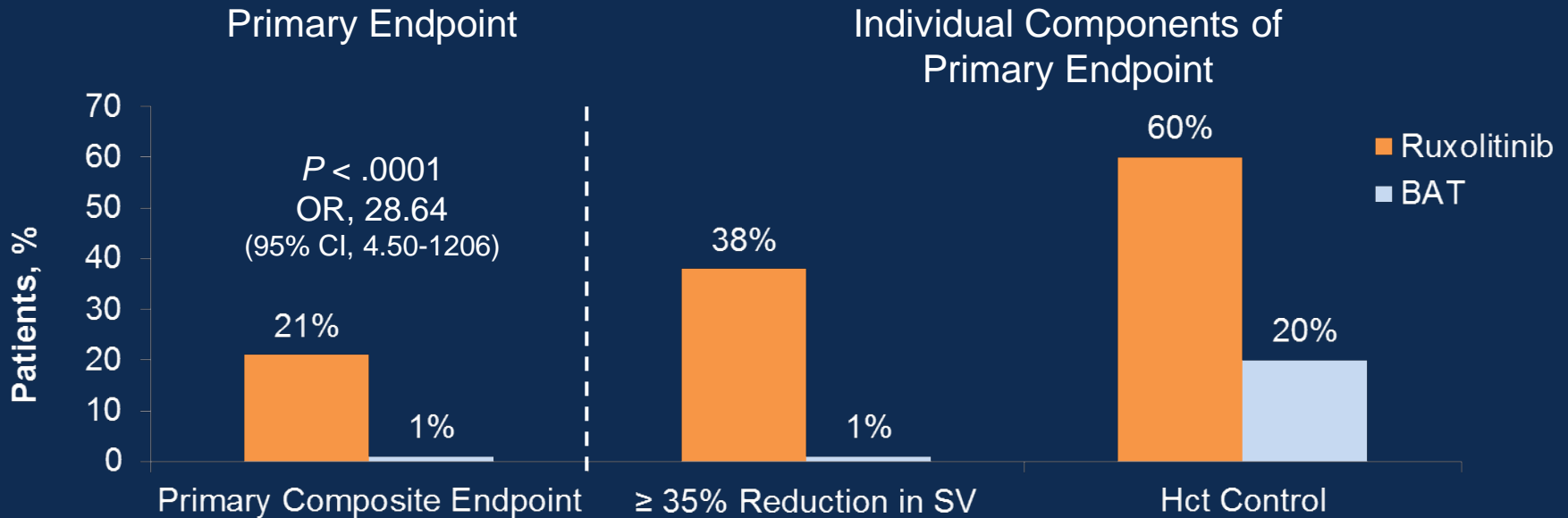


Compared to BAT, results showed that ruxolitinib led to:

1. Superior control of hematocrit
2. Superior reduction in splenomegaly
3. Superior reduction in PV-related symptoms
4. Trend for less thrombotic events

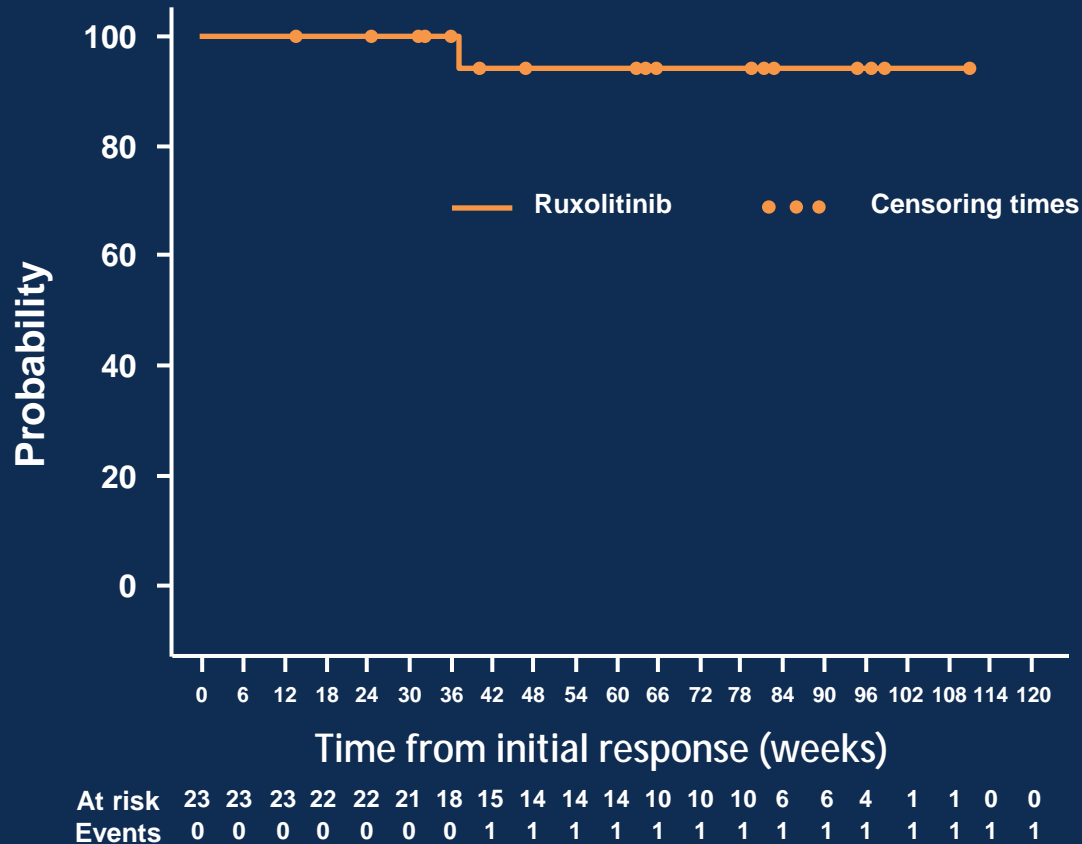
# Primary Response at Week 32

- 77% of patients randomized to ruxolitinib met at least 1 component of the primary endpoint



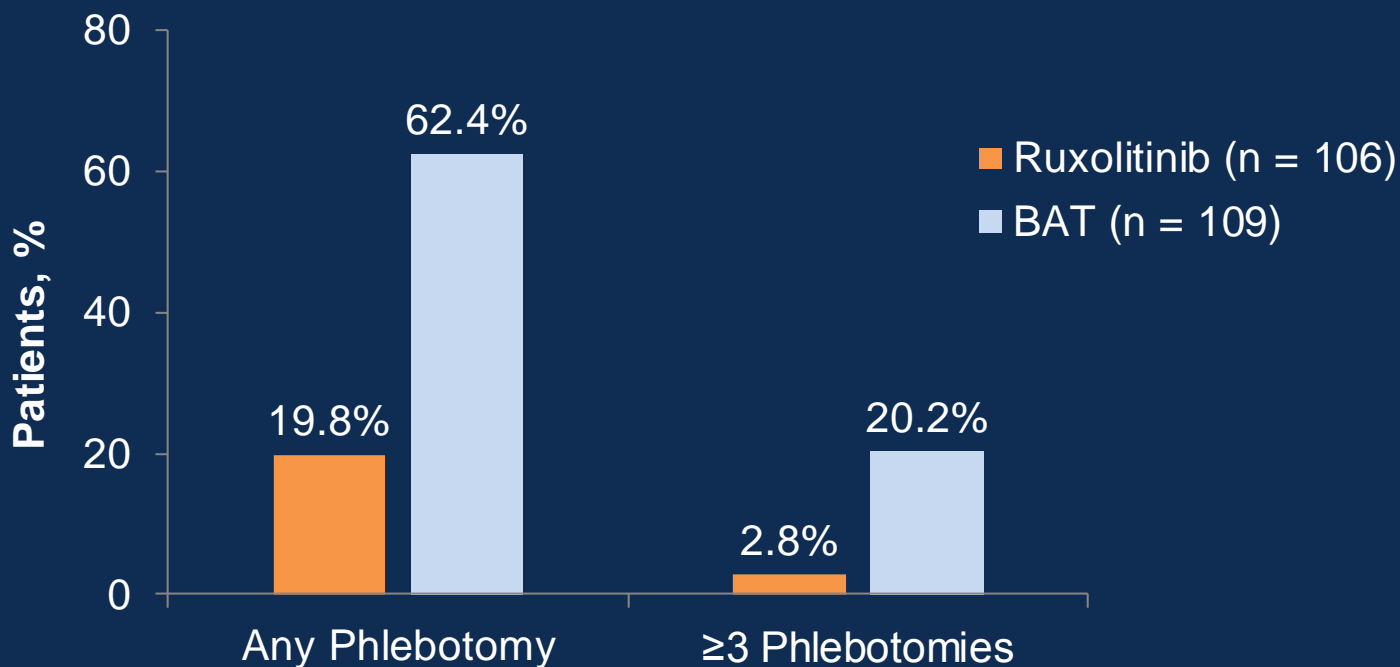
- To achieve Hct control, patients could not be eligible for phlebotomy based on protocol-defined Hct levels<sup>a</sup>
  - Phlebotomy eligibility defined as Hct > 45% and ≥ 3% higher than baseline or a Hct > 48%
- Patients with missing data or assessments outside of protocol-defined time windows were considered non-responders
- 91% of patients (21/23) who achieved the primary endpoint had durable responses at week 48

# Duration of Primary Response



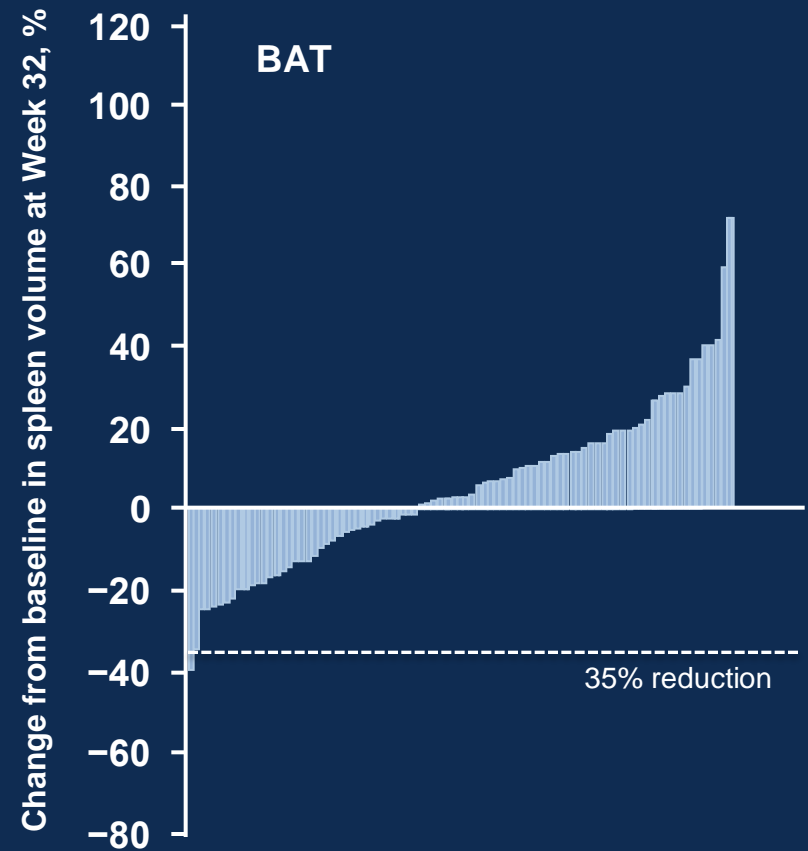
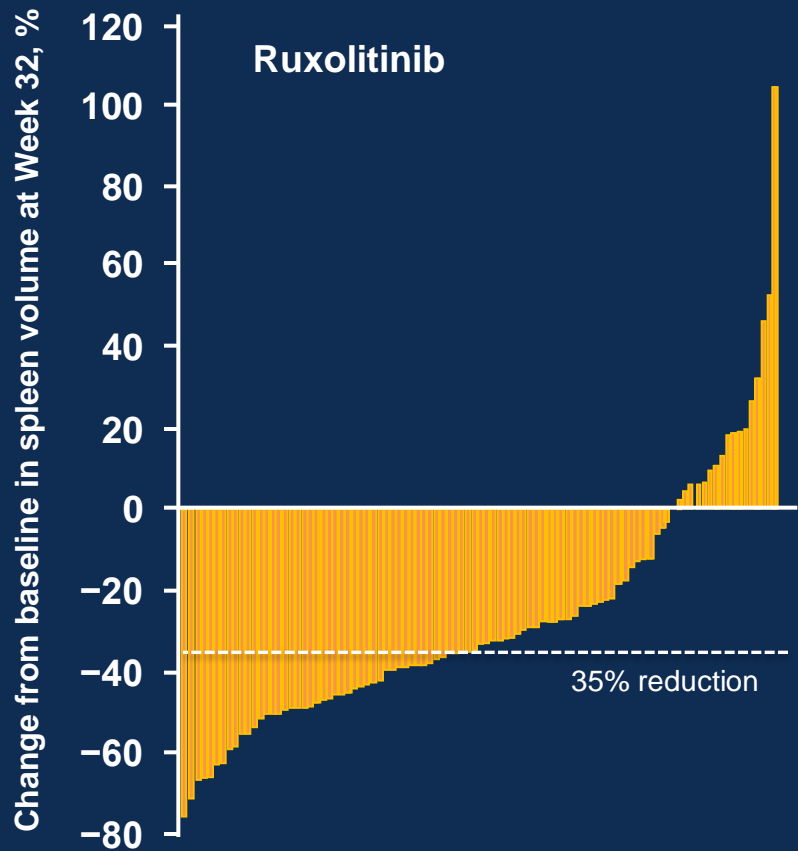
- At data cutoff, only 1 patient lost primary response 37.1 weeks after start of that response
- The probability of maintaining a primary response for  $\geq 48$  weeks was 94%

# Rate of Phlebotomy Procedure

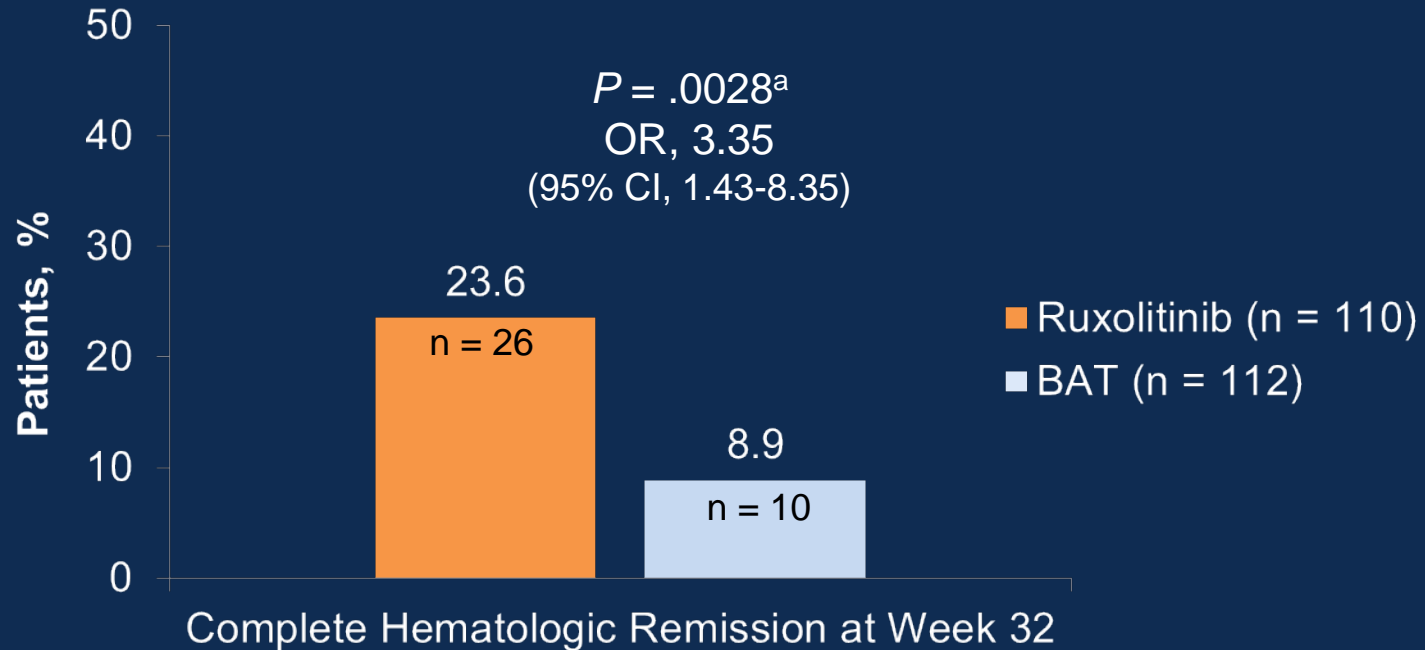


- The phlebotomy rate between week 8 and 32 was > 3 times higher in the BAT arm compared with the ruxolitinib arm
- Only 2.8% of patients in the ruxolitinib group versus 20.2% in the BAT group required 3 or more phlebotomies during this time

# Percentage Change in Spleen Volume at Week 32



# Complete Hematologic Remission at Week 32



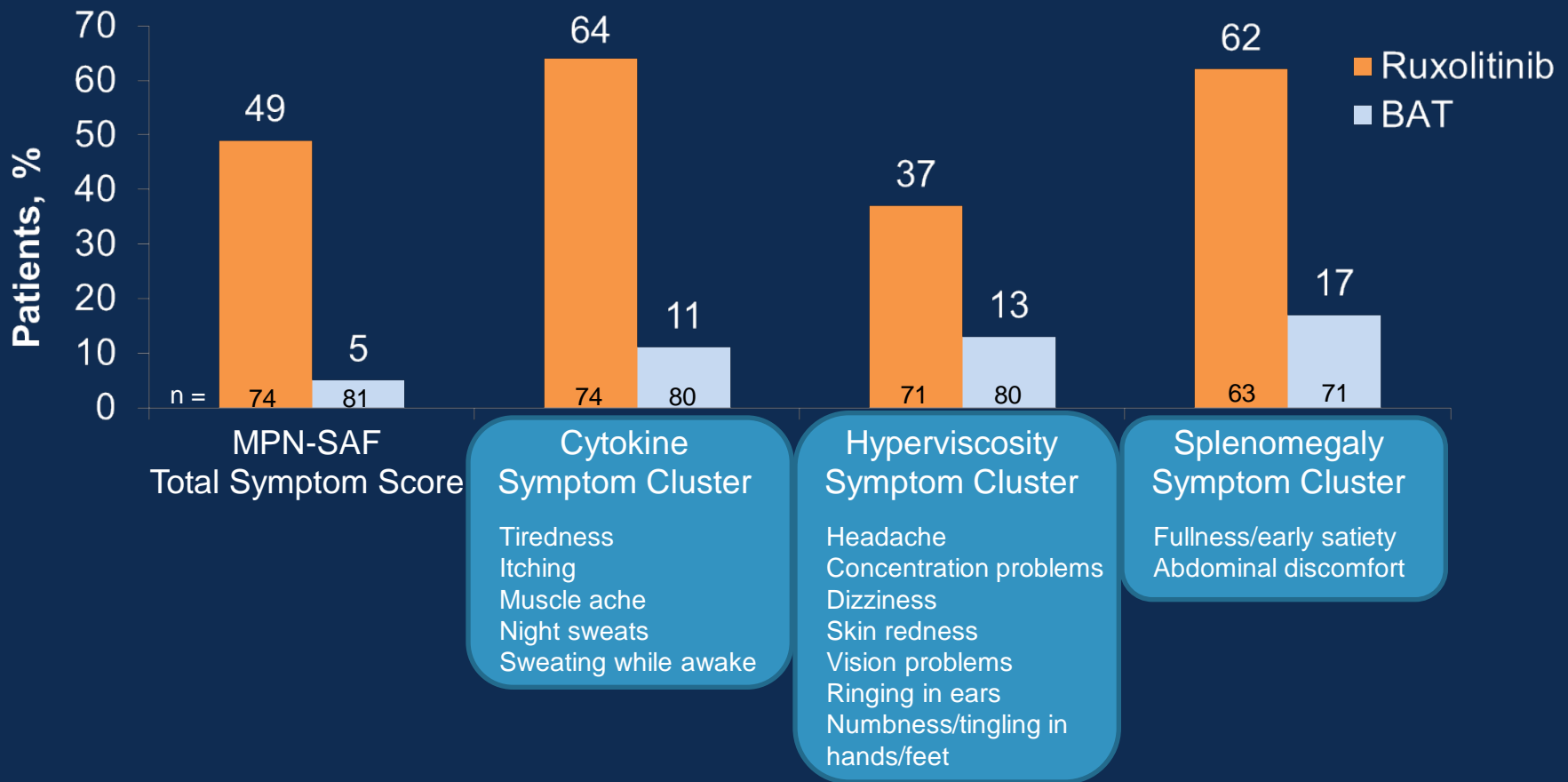
- 88.5% (23/26) of patients who achieved CHR had a durable response at Week 48

<sup>a</sup> P-value, odds ratio and 95% CI were calculated using stratified exact Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test by adjusting for the WBC/PLT status (abnormal vs normal) at baseline. WBC/PLT status was defined as abnormal if WBC count was  $> 15 \times 10^9/L$ , and/or PLT count  $> 600 \times 10^9/L$ .

CHR is defined as Hct Control, PLT count  $\leq 400 \times 10^9/L$ , and WBC count  $\leq 10 \times 10^9/L$ .

# Improvement in Symptoms (Week 32)

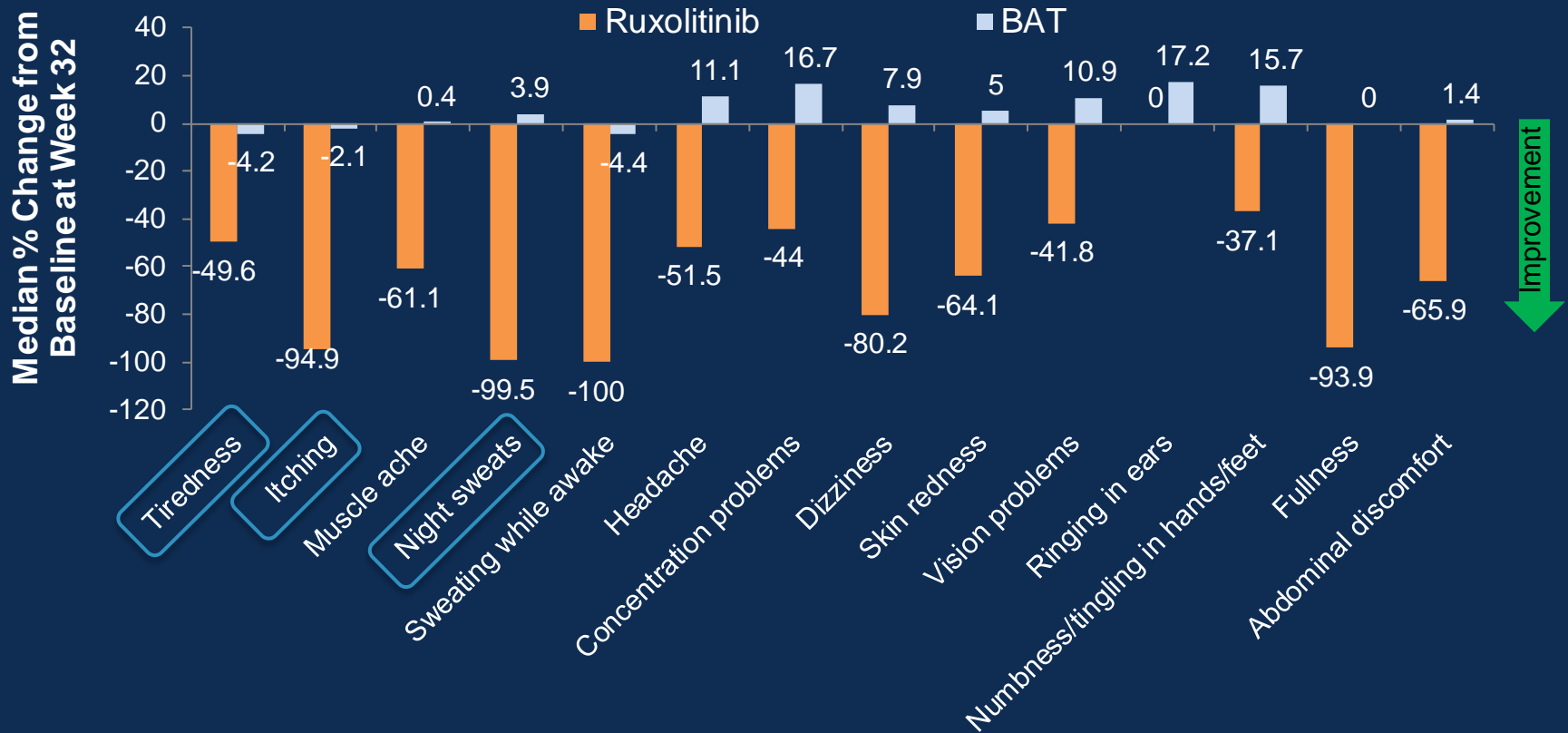
Percentage of Patients with a  $\geq 50\%$  Improvement in MPN-SAF Symptom Score at Week 32<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> In patients with scores at both baseline and week 32.  
 MPN-SAF, Myeloproliferative Neoplasm Symptom Assessment Form.

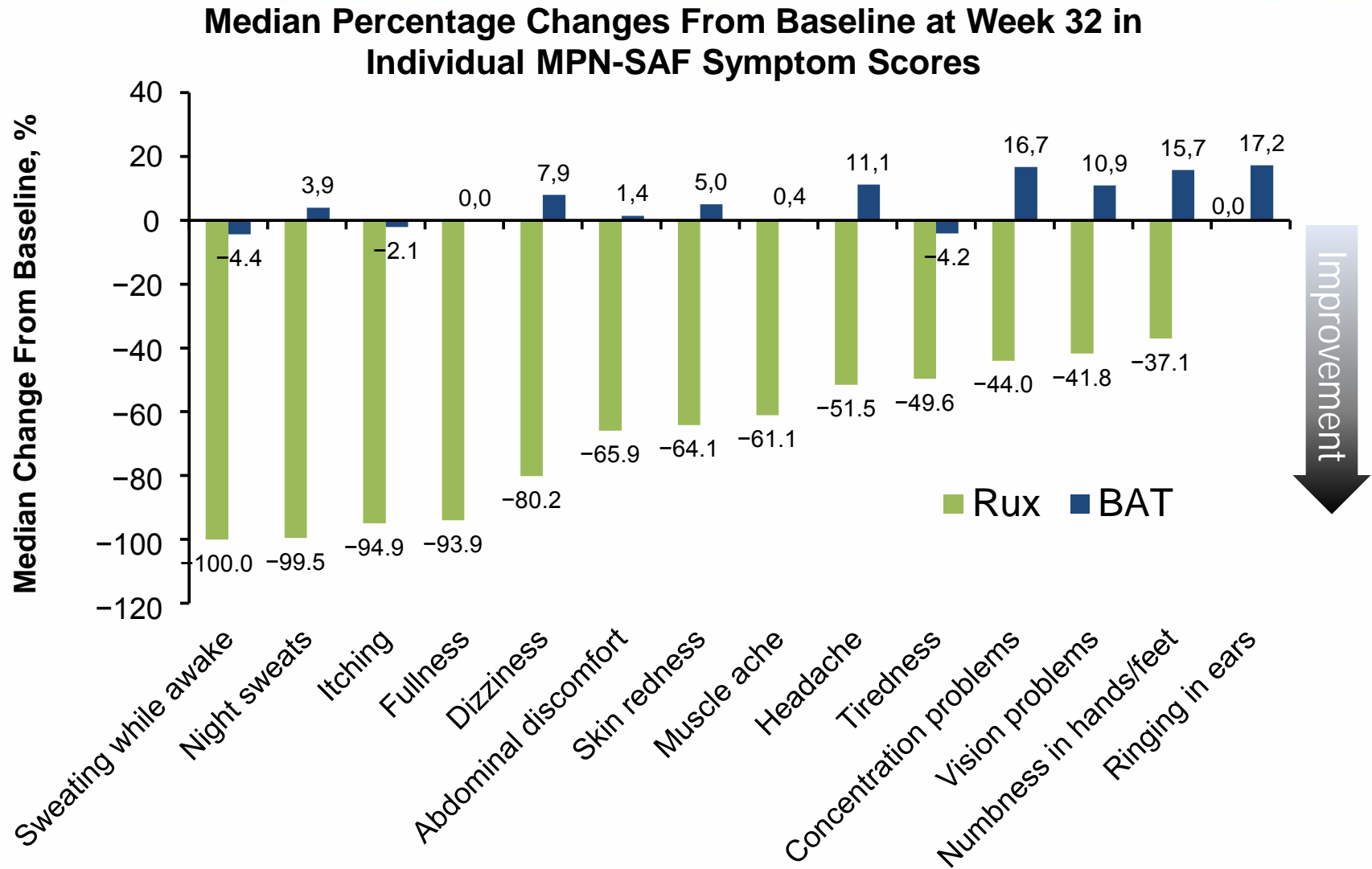
# Improvement in Individual Symptoms

Median Percentage Changes From Baseline at Week 32 in Individual Symptom Scores (MPN-SAF)

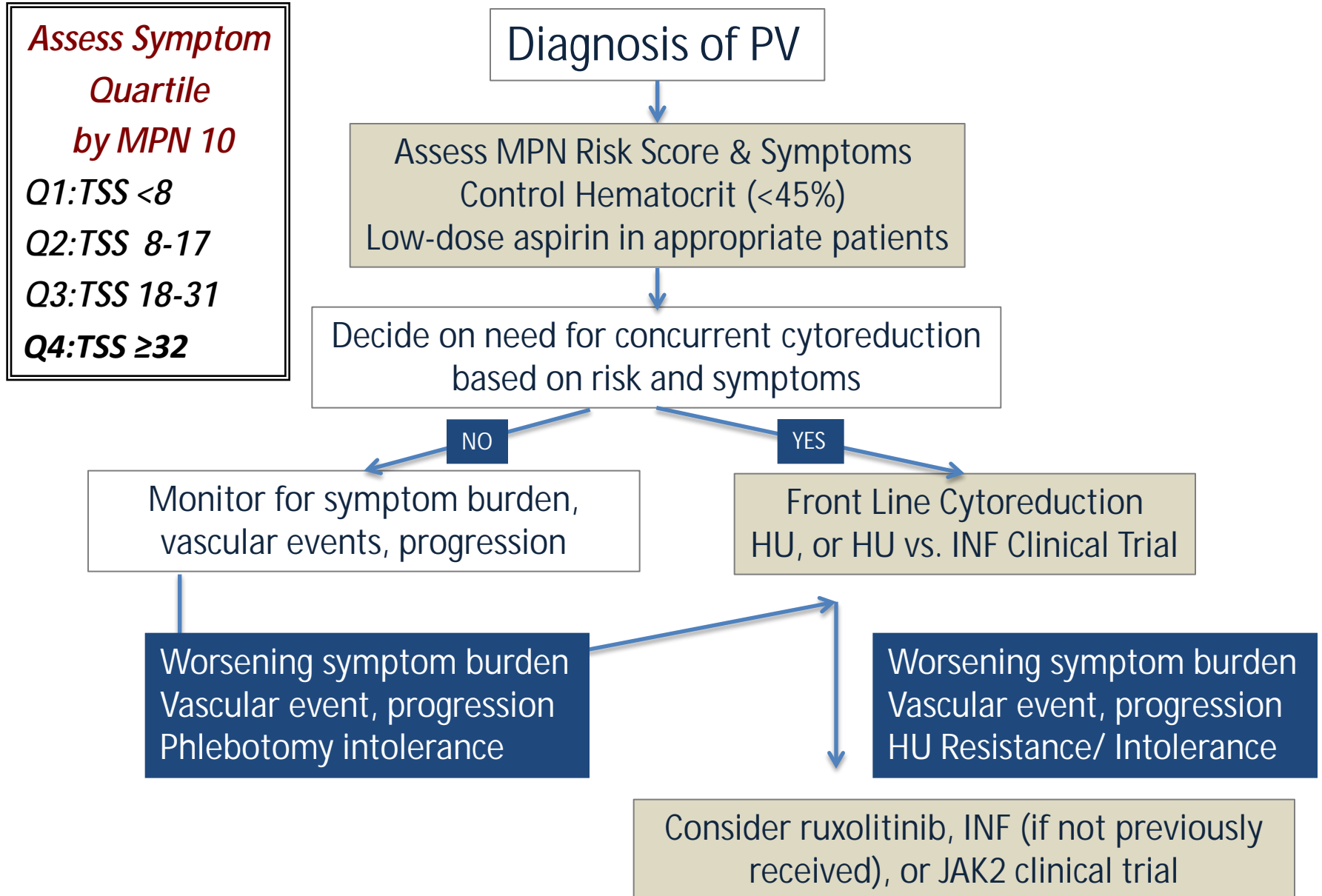




# RESPONSE TRIAL: CHANGE IN PV SYMPTOMS



# POSSIBLE ALGORITHM OF THERAPY OF PV IN 2015



Clinical Status

# MPNs – Cumulative Benefits

*Difficult PV-ET*

Improved Marrow Dysfunction

Improved Survival

Improved Spleen Burden

Improved Symptom Burden

Improved Vascular Event Risk  
(?PV)

STUDY (ET and PV)  
MPD-RC 112 Peg Inf a2a vs. Hydroxyurea (PH III)  
**NCT01259856**

STUDY (ET and PV)  
MPD-RC 111 Peg Inf a2a AFTER Hydroxyurea  
(PH III)  
**NCT01259856**

STUDY (PV)  
AOP Peg Inf a2a vs Hydroxyurea (PH III)  
**NCT01230775**

STUDY COMBINATION (PV)  
Ruxolitinib Vs. Hydroxyurea (RELIEF)  
**NCT01632904**

FUTURE STUDY COMBINATION  
JAK2 Inhibitor Plus PEG INFa 2a/b

# PV IN 2015

- PV is a heterogeneous disease impacting risk of vascular events, symptom burden and variable risk of progression
- Therapy of PV begins with hematocrit control, and anti-platelet therapy
- Front line cytoreduction is currently hydroxyurea or interferon
- Ruxolitinib in “problematic” PV, after HU, has been helpful for control of symptoms, splenomegaly, control of erythrocytosis, and likely decreased vascular events