



# Thrombosis and Cancer

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# Introduction



- n A higher proportion of patients with venous thromboembolism (VTE) have underlying cancer compared to individuals without (VTE)
- n Cancer patients have an increased risk of venous thromboembolism

# Established risk factors for thrombosis in cancer patients

## n Cancer related

- n Entity

- n Stage

- n Histological Grading

## n Treatment related

- n Surgical procedure

- n Chemotherapy

  - n Thalidomide + Chemotherapy + Dexamethasone

  - n -platins

  - n Tamoxifen (+ Chemotherapy)

# **Venous thrombosis or pulmonary embolism in a cancer patient**

- n Incidence in various cancer entities
- n Risk factors for thrombosis in cancer
- n Influence of cancer associated thrombosis on survival
- n Haemostatic parameters for prognosis in cancer patients
- n Prevention and treatment of cancer associated thrombosis



# CATS – Cancer and Thrombosis Study

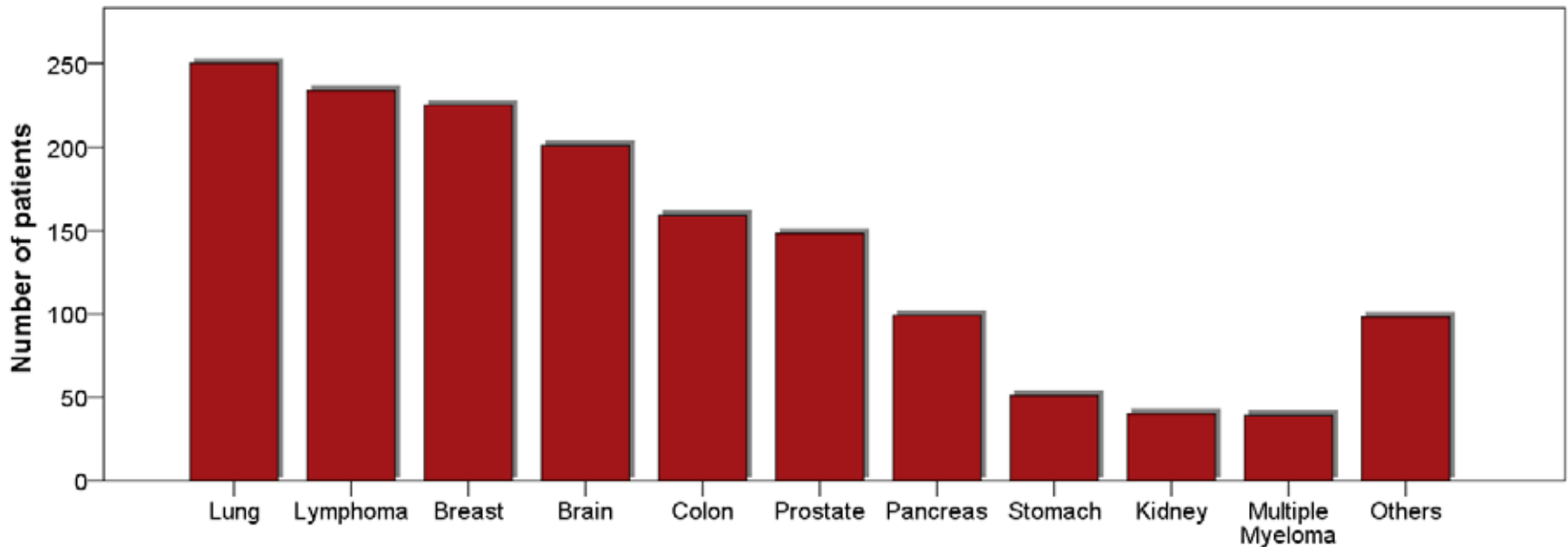
- n **Aim:** To identify predictive parameters for occurrence of VTE in cancer patients
- n **Design:** Prospective, observational and single center cohort study
- n **Inclusion criteria:** Newly diagnosed cancer or progression of disease after complete or partial remission and written informed consent
- n **Outcome measure:** Occurrence of VTE, either symptomatic or fatal and objectively confirmed



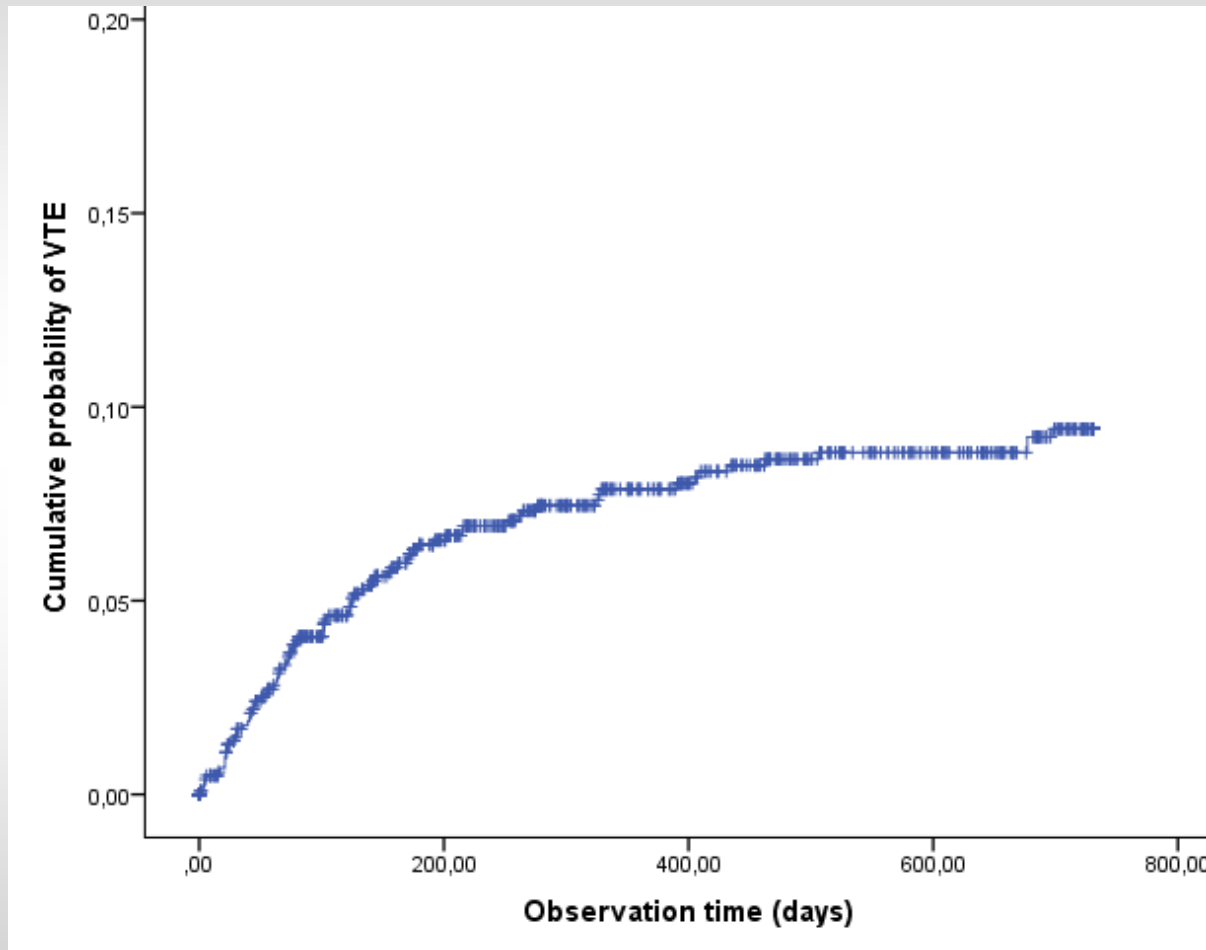
# Vienna Cancer and Thrombosis Study

## Patient population

- n Approx. 2000 patients (45% women)
- n Median age [IQR]: 62 [53-68] years
- n 76% newly diagnosed



# When do thrombotic events occur in patients with cancer?



Cumulative probability of VTE

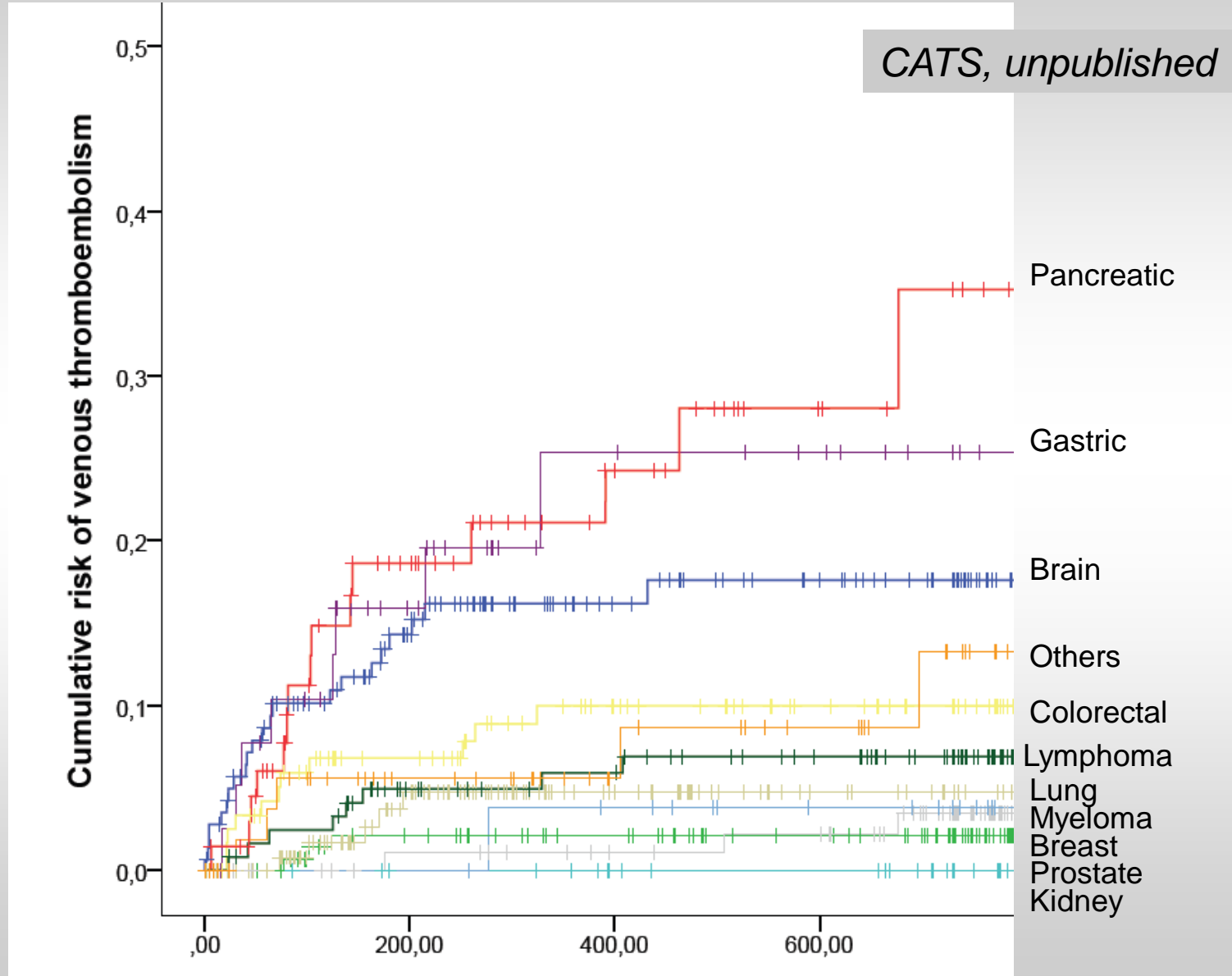
3 months: 4.2%

6 months : 6.1%

12 months : 8.1%

2 years: 9.4%

# Cumulative VTE risk according to cancer type





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# Biomarkers investigated to identify patients at high/low risk of VTE

## Biomarkers and laboratory tests investigated for prediction of cancer-associated VTE in CATS

Platelet count	Simanek et al, JTH 2009	+
soluble P-selectin	Ay et al, Blood 2008	+
D-Dimer		+
Prothrombinfragment 1+2	Ay et al, J Clin Oncol 2009	+
C-reaktive Protein	Kanz et al, JTH 2011	(+)
Factor VIII activity	Vormittag et al, ATVB 2009	+
Thrombin Generation Assay	Ay et al, J Clin Oncol 2011	+
Microparticles/Tissue factor bearing microparticles	Thaler et al, JTH 2012	-/+ ?
Fibrinogen	Tiedje et al, Thromb Haemost 2011	--

Reviewed in: Pabinger, Thaler and Ay, Blood 2013

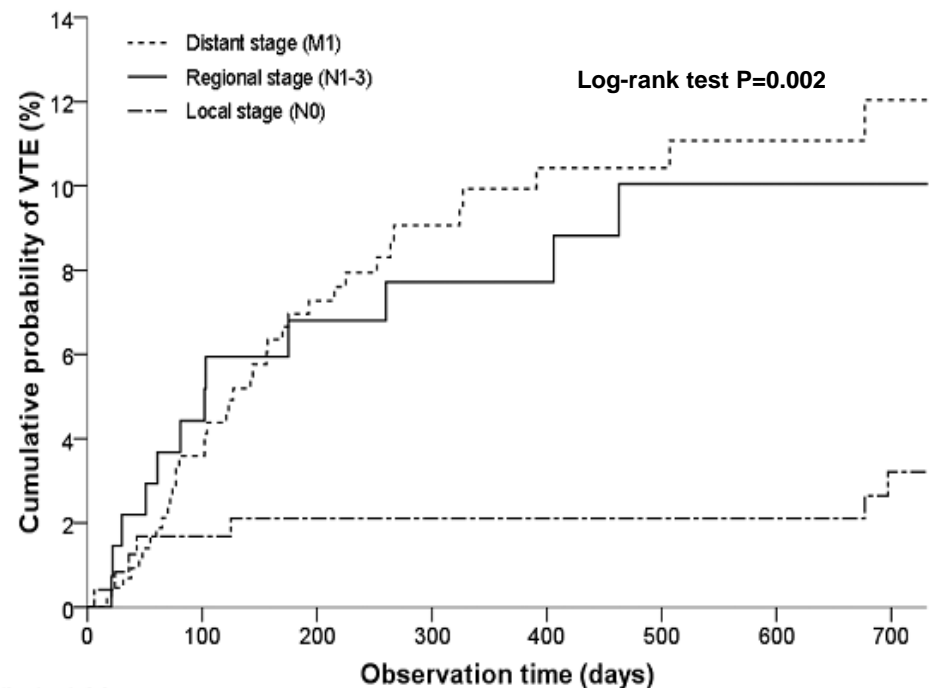
# Association with stage

Cumulative  
probability after  
6 months:

2% local

7% regional LN

7% distant metastasis



No. of patients at risk

Distant stage	438	370	293	219	173	139	112	89
Regional stage	136	127	104	94	85	68	60	55
Local stage	241	229	221	211	201	193	189	169

# Mean platelet volume (MPV) is associated with risk of VTE

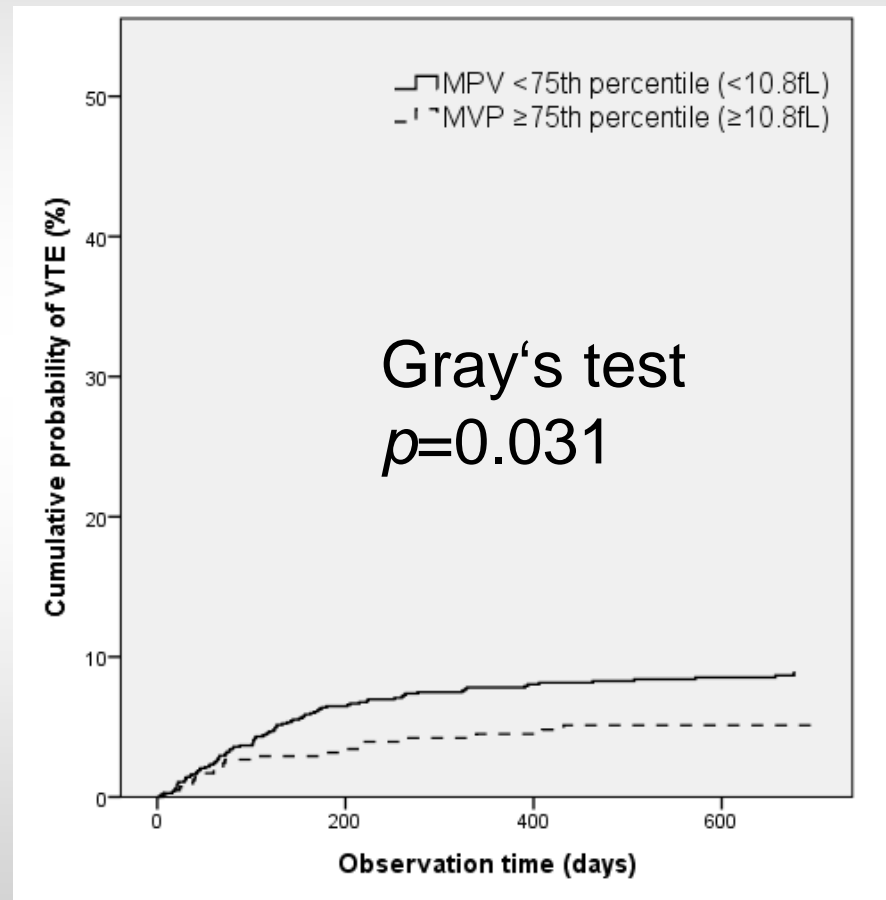


Multivariable\* hazard ratio (HR)  
0.6 [95% CI: 0.37-0.98]

\* including age, sex, different groups of cancer (glioblastoma, hematological malignancy, solid tumor without metastasis or solid tumor with metastasis), newly diagnosed vs. recurrent disease, platelet count and levels of soluble P-selectin

Cumulative probability of  
VTE after 2 years:

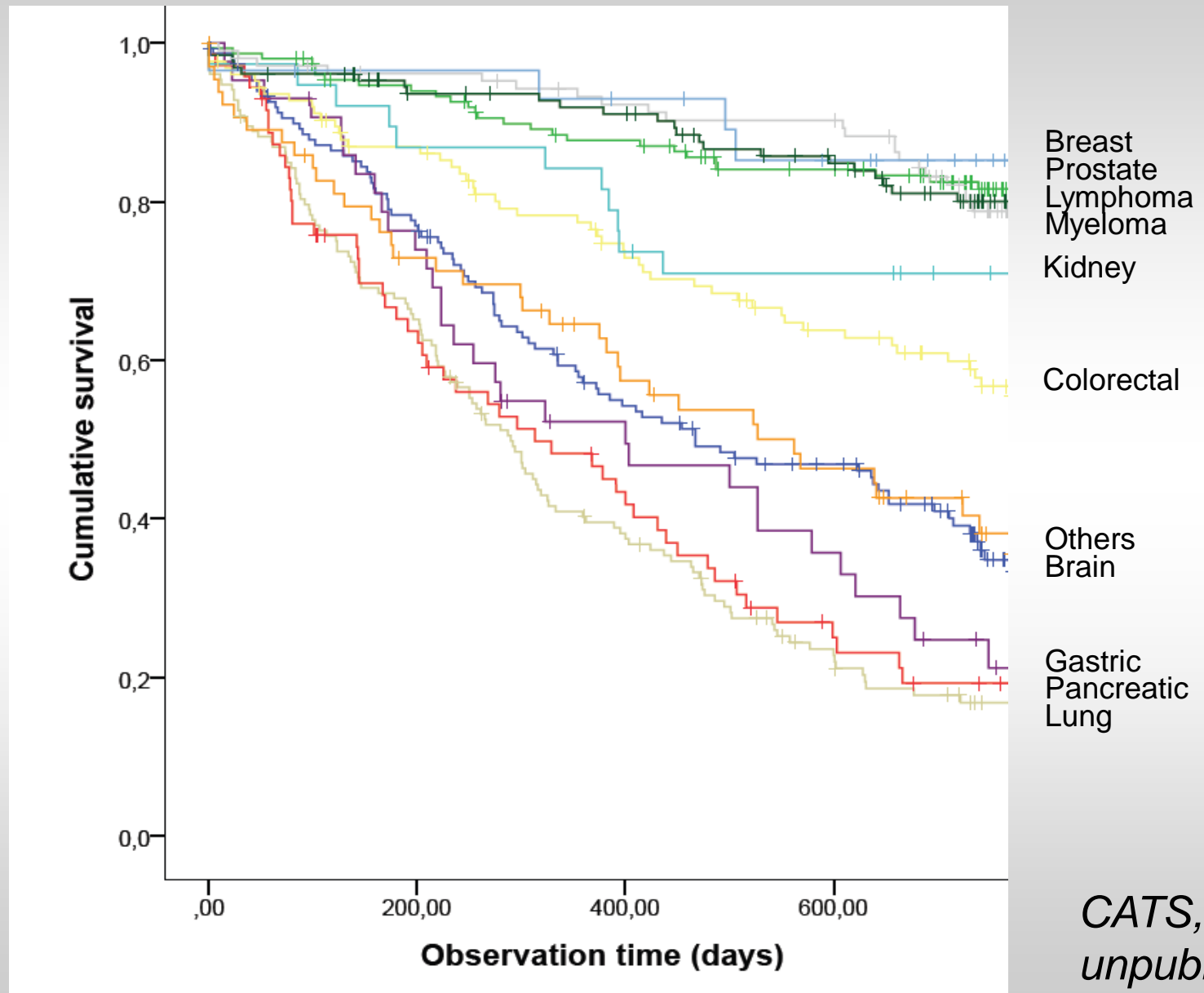
5.5% for high MPV  
9% for lower MPV



# Venous thrombosis or pulmonary embolism in a cancer patient

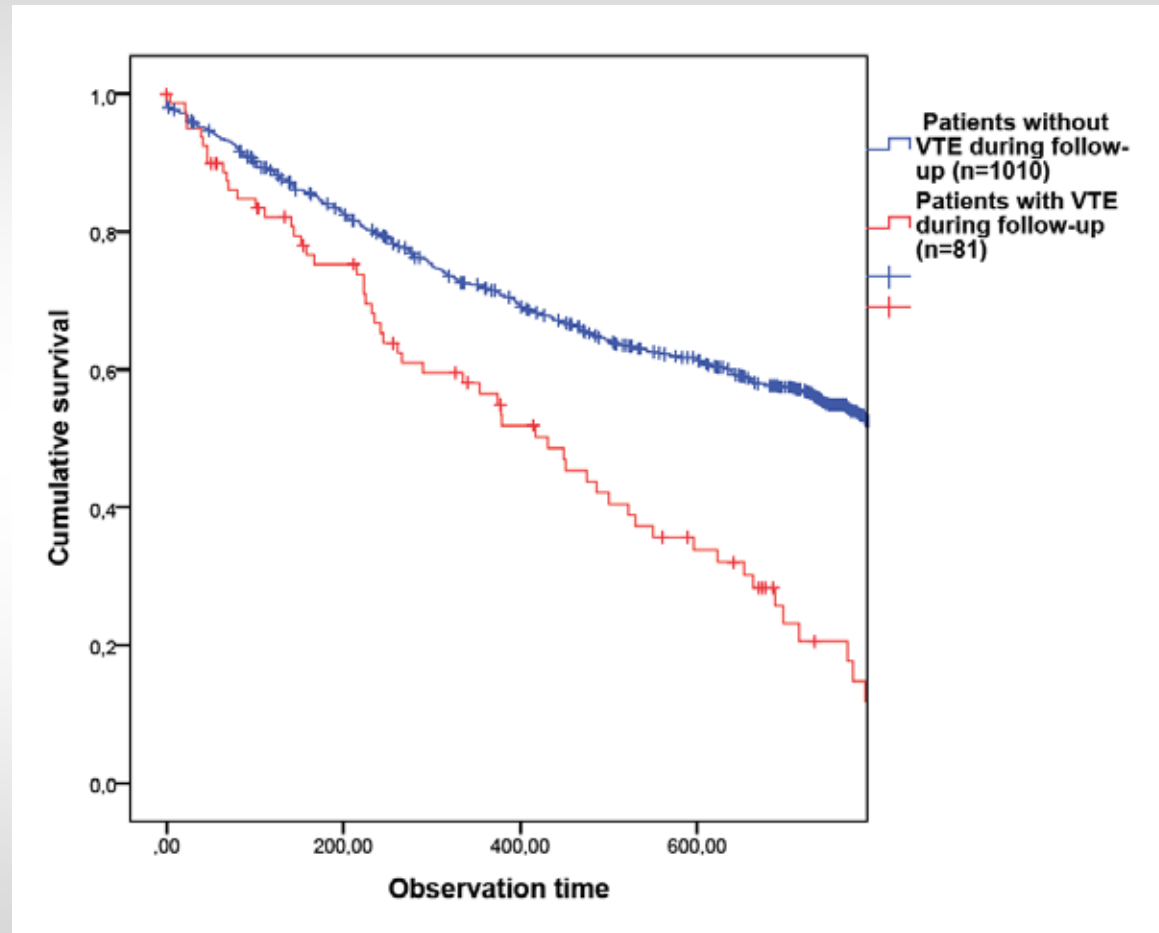
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# Cumulative survival according to cancer type





# Probability of survival in cancer patients without and with VTE during follow up



Multivariable HR (including stage) in patients with VTE  
HR: 2.2 (95% CI: 1.7-2.8;  $p < 0.001$ )

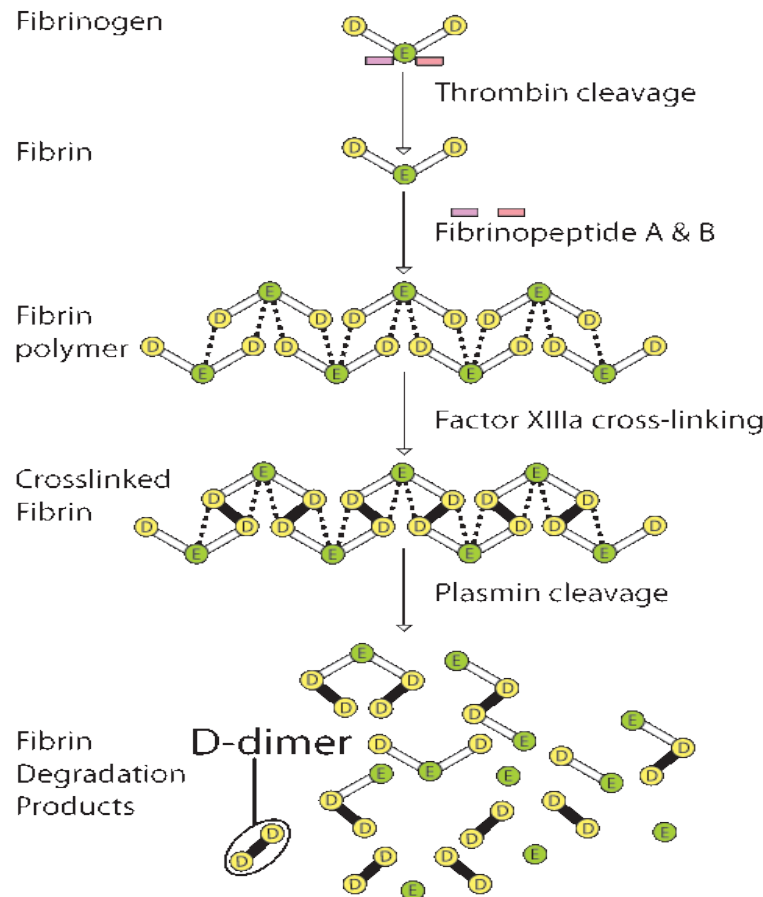
*CATS, unpublished*

# **Venous thrombosis or pulmonary embolism in a cancer patient**

- n Incidence in various cancer entities
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- n **Haemostatic parameters for prognosis in cancer patients**
- n Prevention and treatment of cancer associated thrombosis

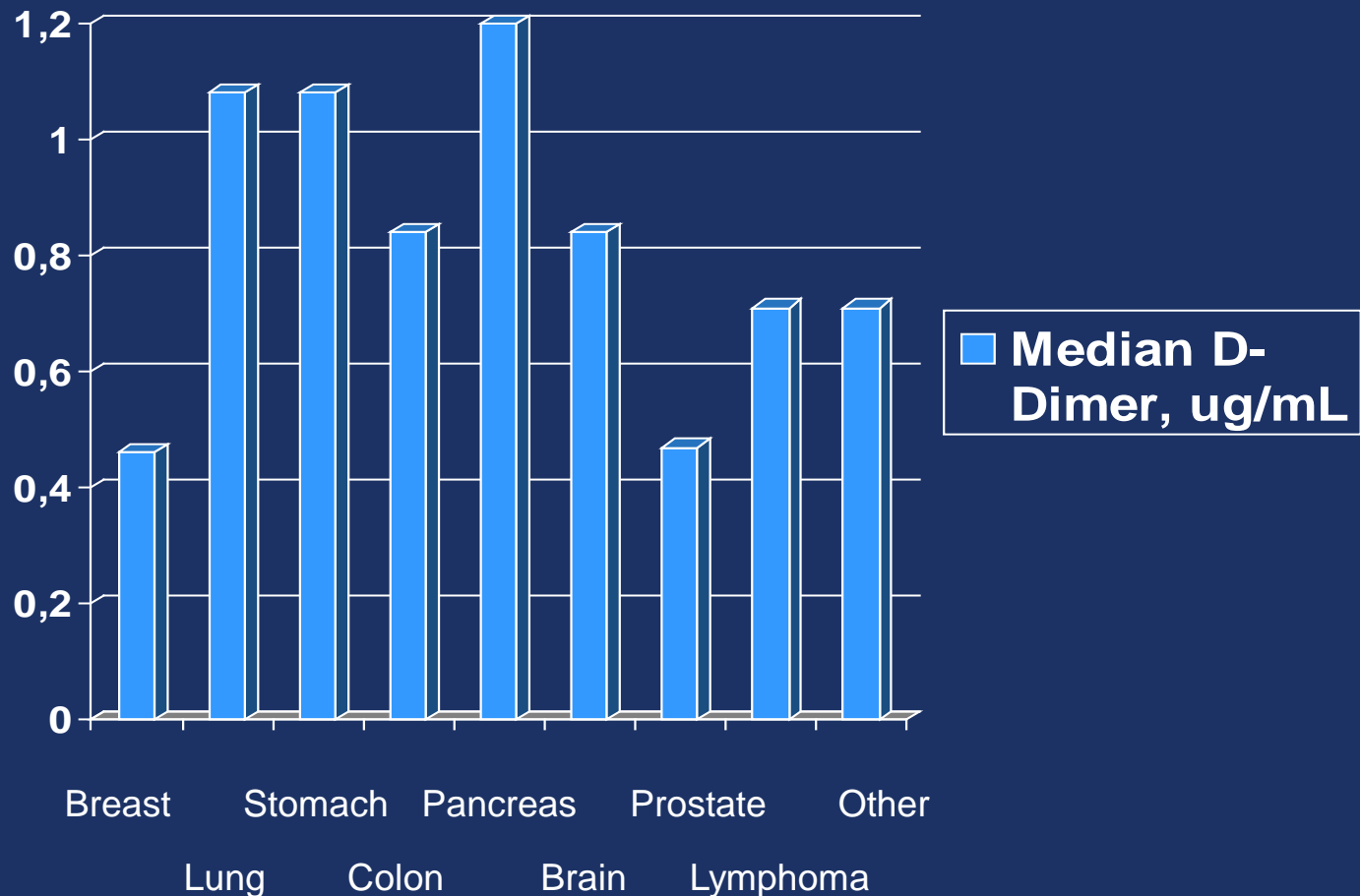
# D-Dimer

## Generation of D-dimer from cross-linked fibrin

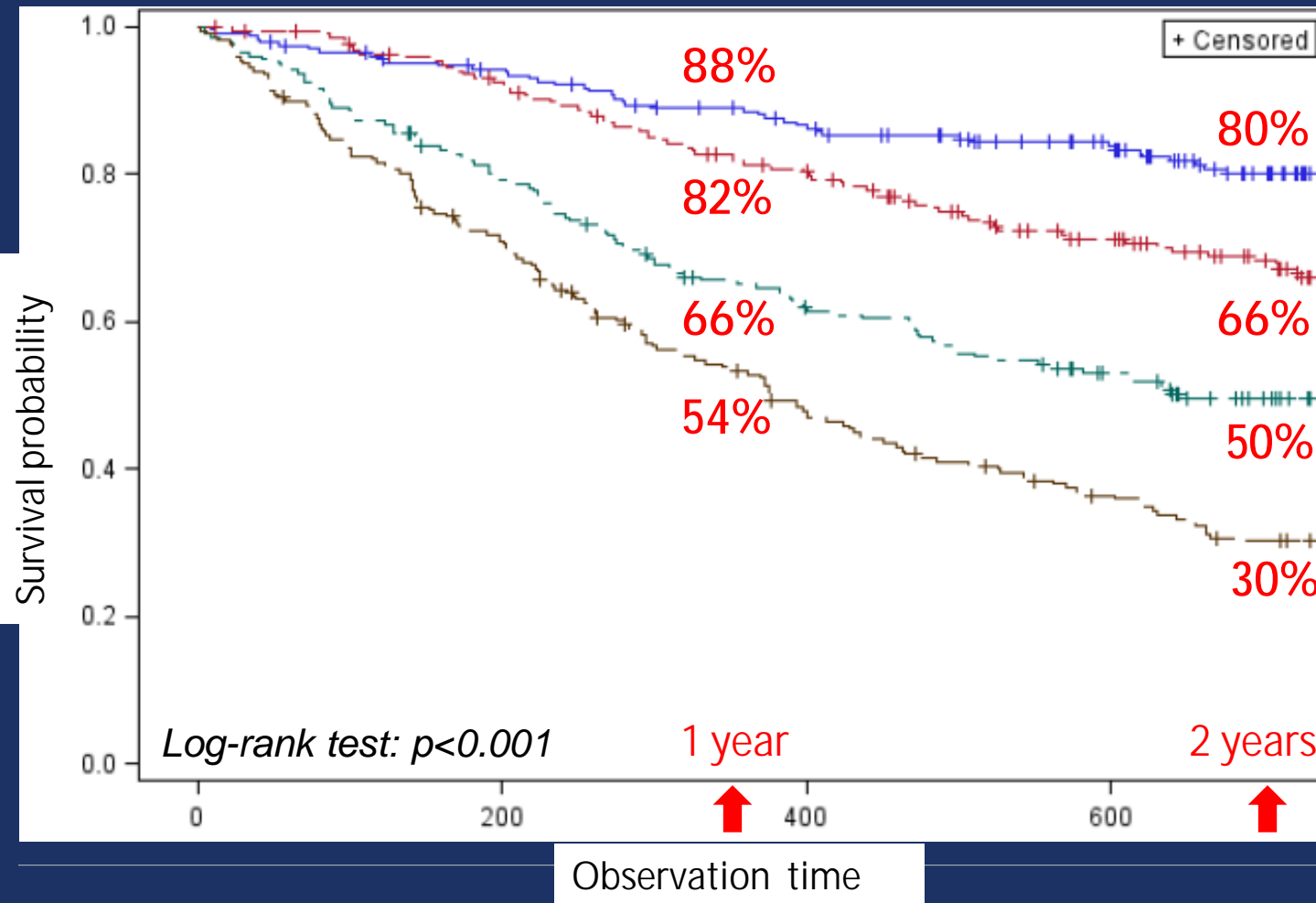


- global marker of coagulation activation
- degradation product of cross-linked fibrin, formed after thrombin-generated fibrin has been degraded by plasmin
- diagnosis of acute VTE
- higher levels in cancer patients

# D-dimer in various tumour entities



# Cumulative probability of survival



D-dimer levels

1. quartile

2. quartile

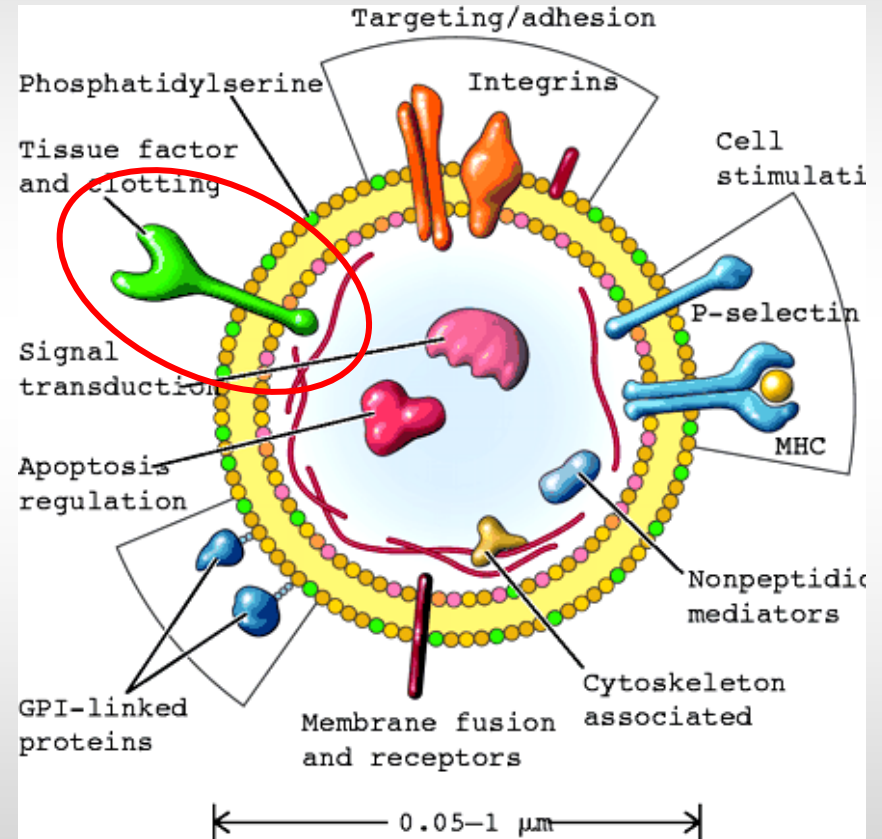
3. quartile

4. quartile

Ay et al,  
*Haematologica*  
2012

# Microparticles

On their surface microparticles bear antigens of their parental cells and may **transfer/receive** surface molecules to/from other cell types



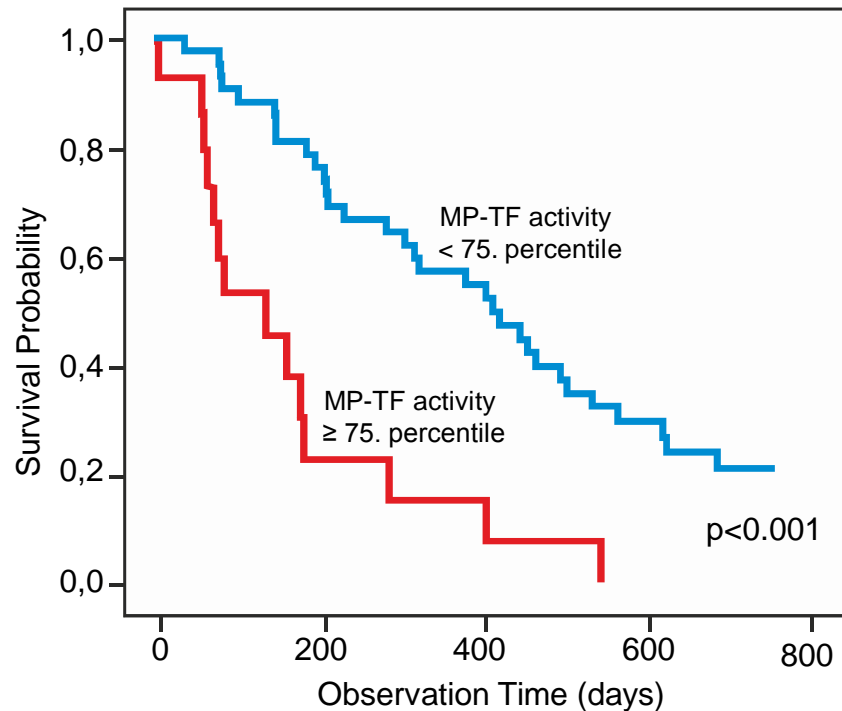
*From: Hugel B et al, Membrane Microparticles: Two sides of the coin. Physiology 20:22-27, 2005.*



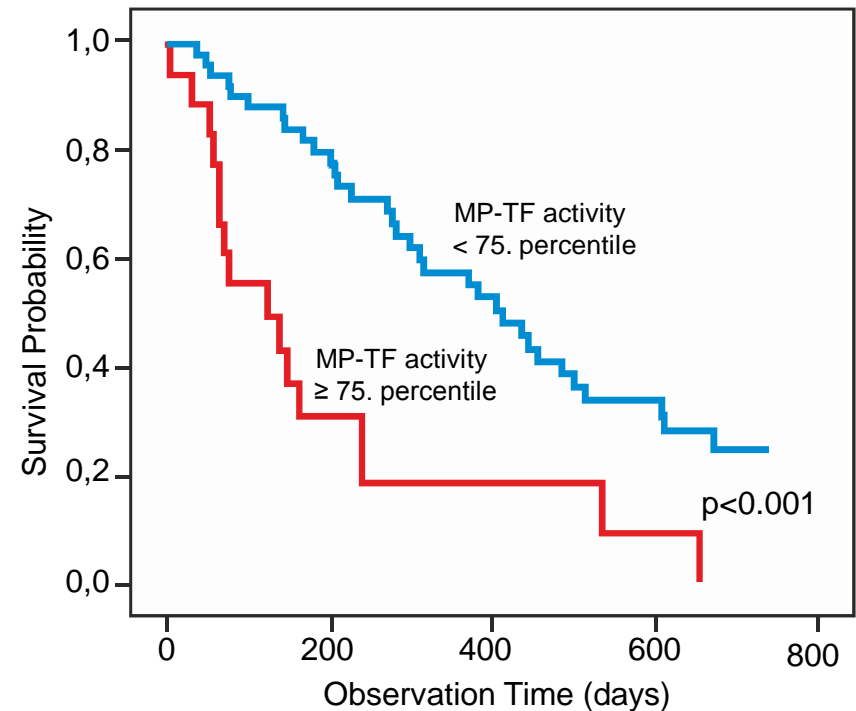
# TF-positive MPs and prognosis in CATS

## Cumulative survival probability in pancreatic cancer patients

Chromogenic Endpoint Assay



Chromogenic Kinetic Assay

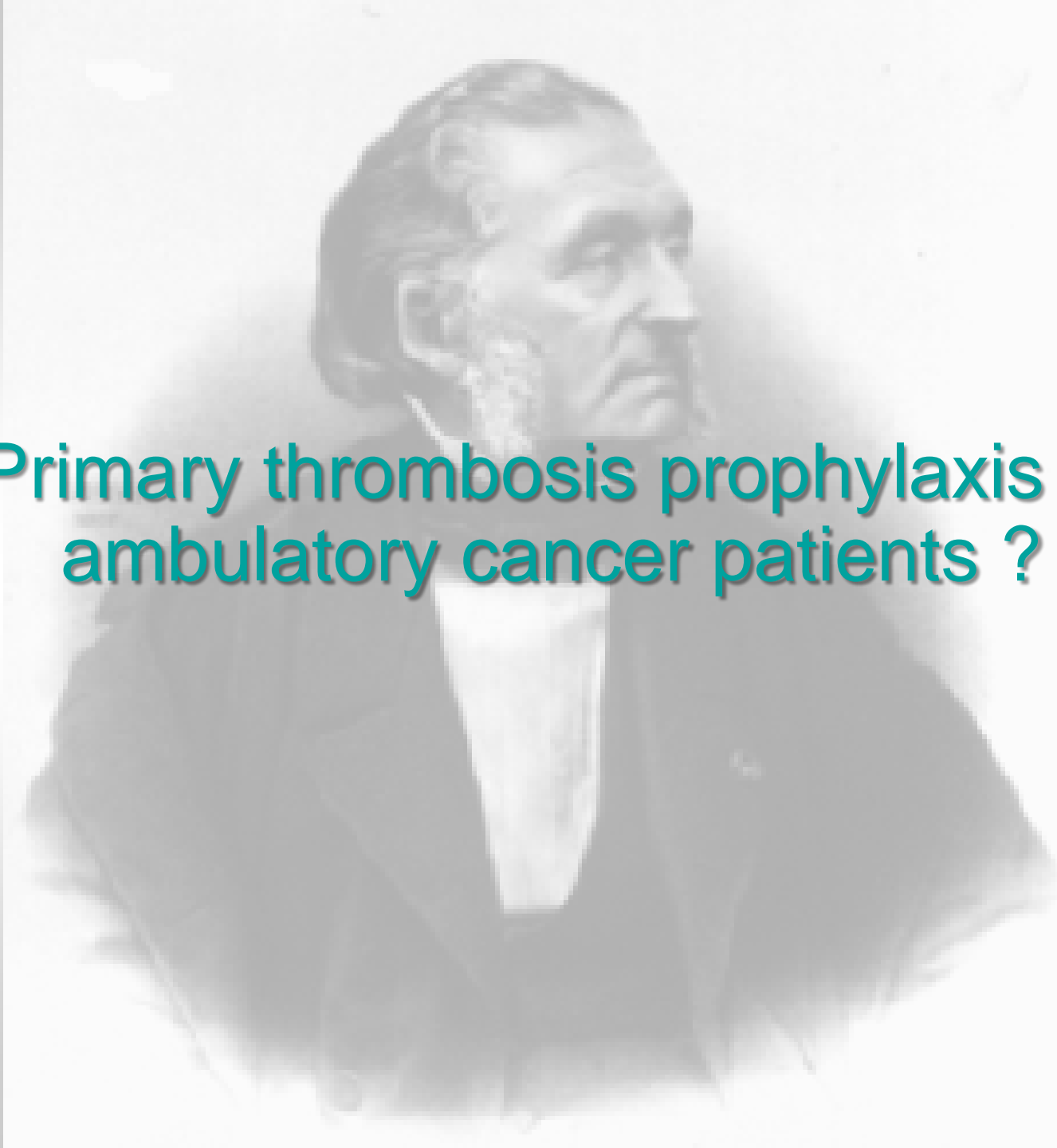


Probability of survival after 6 months: 82% versus 31 %

Thaler et al. JTH 2012

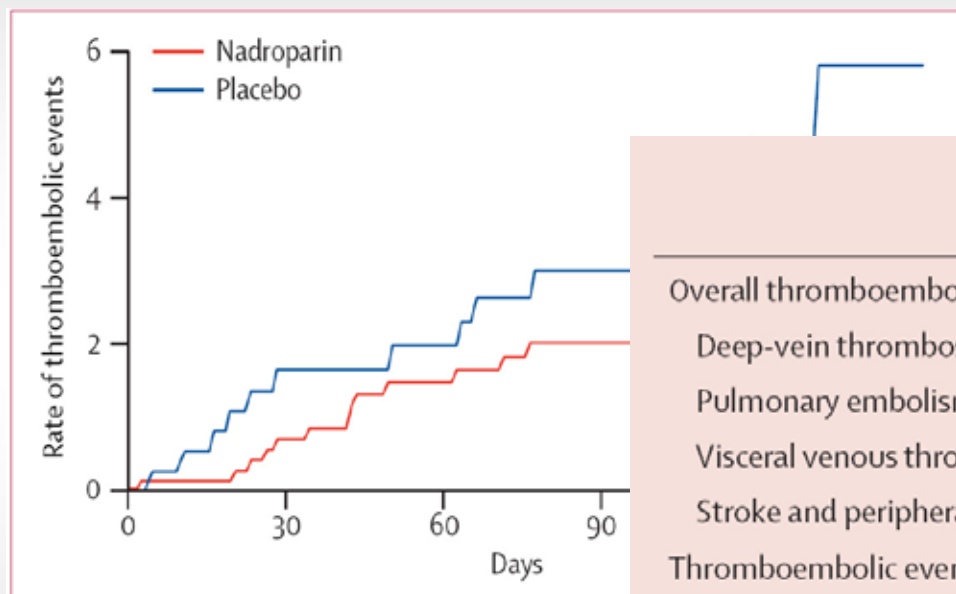
# **Venous thrombosis or pulmonary embolism in a cancer patient**

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Primary thrombosis prophylaxis in  
ambulatory cancer patients ?

# A prospective randomized placebo-controlled trial of Tinzaparin in patients with advanced cancer with chemotherapy

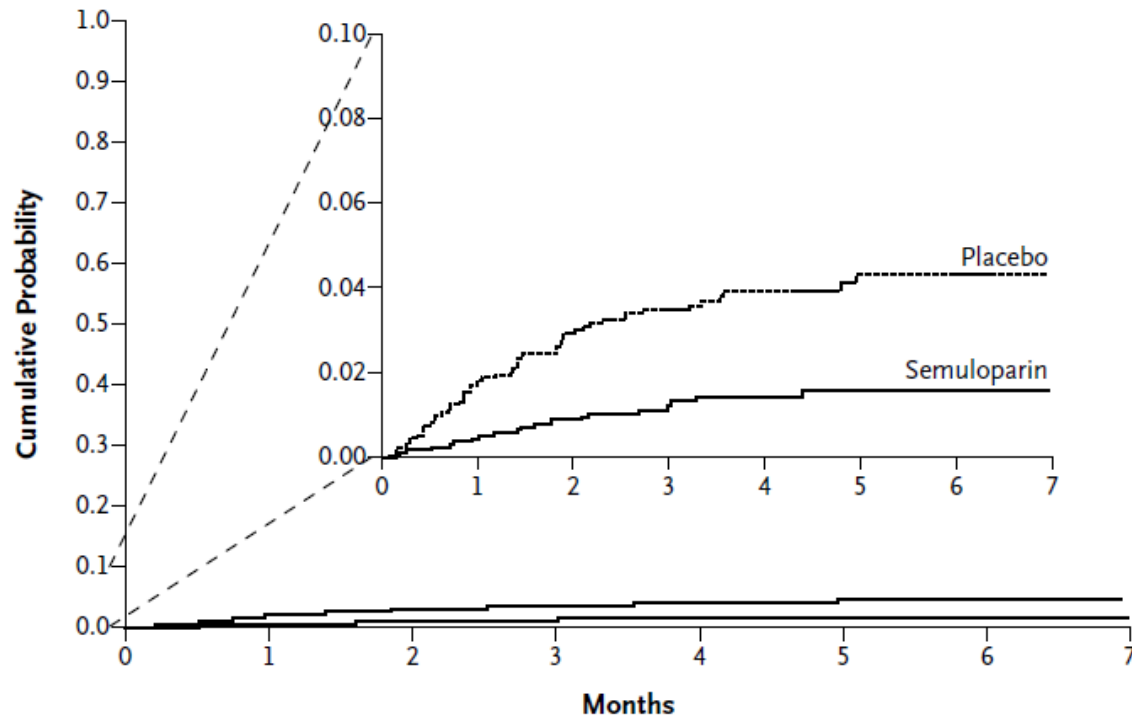


	Nadroparin (N=769)	Placebo (N=381)
Overall thromboembolic events	15 (2.0)	15 (3.9)
Deep-vein thrombosis	8 (1.0)	8 (2.1)
Pulmonary embolism	3 (0.4)	3 (0.8)
Visceral venous thrombosis	1 (0.1)	1 (0.3)
Stroke and peripheral thrombosis	3 (0.4)	3 (0.8)
Thromboembolic event by cancer site		
Lung	7/199 (3.5)	7/80 (8.8)
Gastrointestinal	4/272 (1.5)	4/148 (2.7)
Pancreas	3/36 (8.3)	1/17 (5.9)
Other	1/262 (0.4)	3/136 (2.2)

Data are n (%).

# Semuloparin versus Placebo

Any VTE or VTE-related death



## No. at Risk

Semuloparin	1608	1410	1227	986	681	384	197	77
Placebo	1604	1375	1212	985	689	403	201	92

## No. of Events

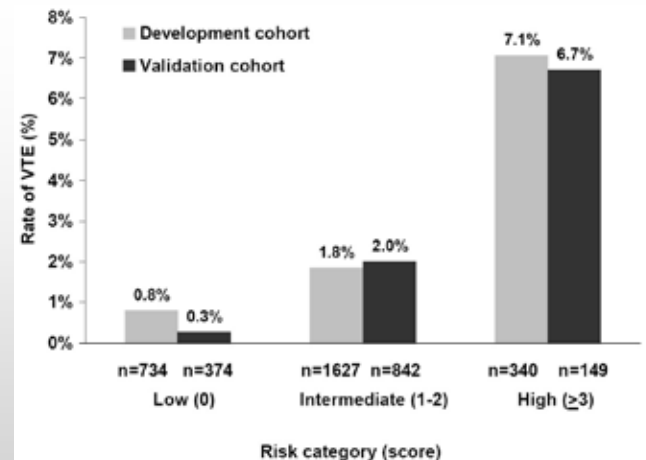
Semuloparin	0	7	13	17	19	20	20	20
Placebo	0	26	42	49	53	55	55	55

# Risk score model to predict VTE in a cohort of 2 701 cancer patients

Patient Characteristic	$\beta$	Odds Ratio* (95% CI)
<b>Site of Cancer</b>		
Very high risk (stomach, pancreas)	1.46	4.3 (1.2-15.6)
High risk (lung, lymphoma, gynecologic, genitourinary excluding prostate)	0.43	1.5 (0.9-2.7)
Low risk (breast, colorectal, head and neck)	0.0	1.0 (reference)
Pre-chemotherapy platelet count $\geq 350,000/\text{mm}^3$	0.60	1.8 (1.1-3.2)
Hemoglobin $< 10\text{g/dL}$ or use of red cell growth factors	0.89	2.4 (1.4-4.2)
Pre-chemotherapy leukocyte count $> 11,000/\text{mm}^3$	0.77	2.2 (1.2-4)
Body mass index $\geq 35 \text{ kg/m}^2$	0.90	2.5 (1.3-4.7)

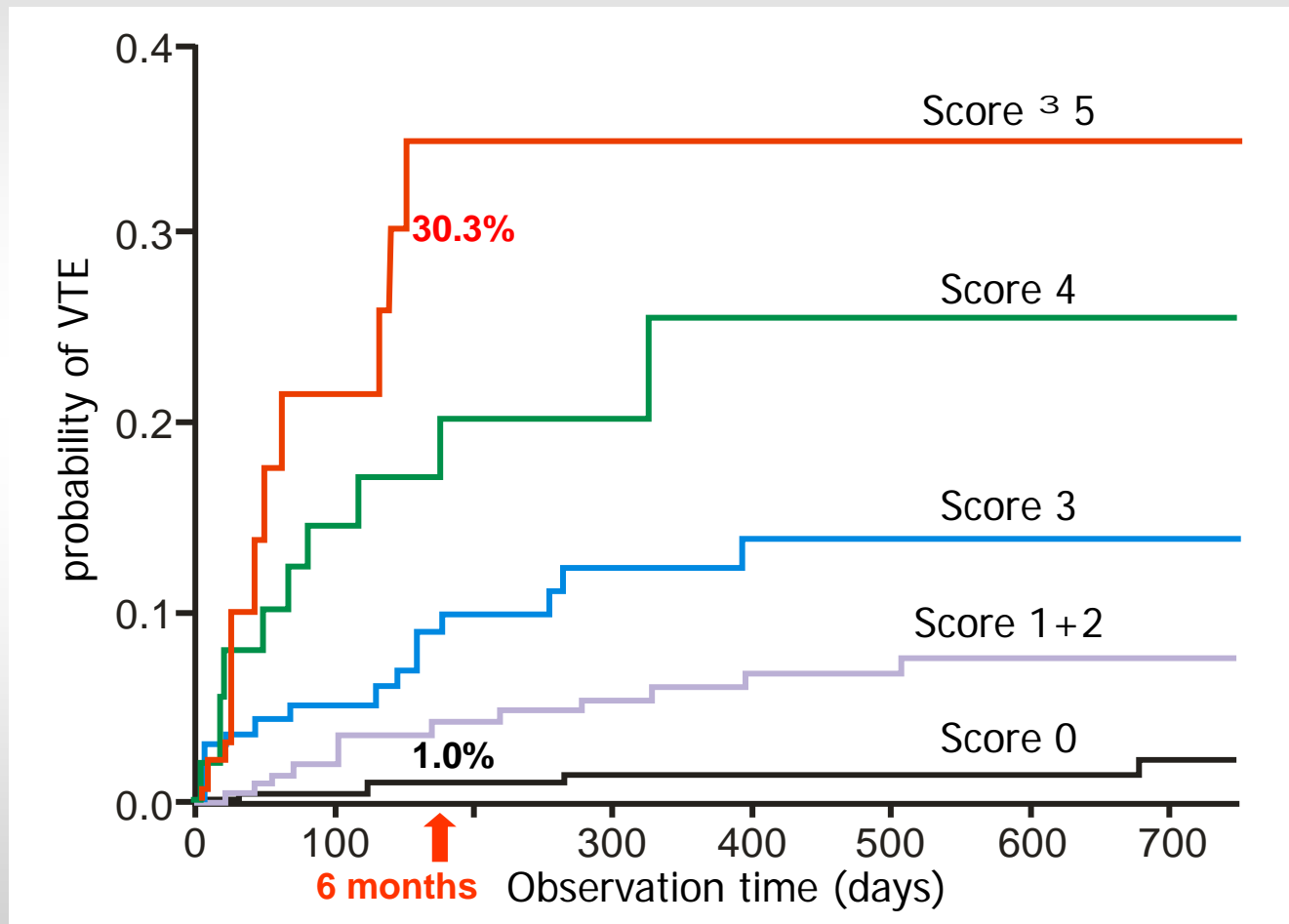
\*Odds ratios are adjusted for stage.

Patient characteristic	Risk score
<b>Site of cancer</b>	
Very high risk (stomach, pancreas)	2
High risk (lung, lymphoma, gynecologic, bladder, testicular)	1
Prechemotherapy platelet count $350 \times 10^9/\text{L}$ or more	1
Hemoglobin level less than $100 \text{ g/L}$ or use of red cell growth factors	1
Prechemotherapy leukocyte count more than $11 \times 10^9/\text{L}$	1
BMI $35 \text{ kg/m}^2$ or more	1





Risk score including clinical parameters (tumour type, body weight), blood count and biomarkers (elevated D-Dimer and elevated sP-selectin)



# Novel international guidelines JTH 2013

*Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis*, 11: 56–70

DOI: 10.1111/jth.12070

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### International clinical practice guidelines for the treatment and prophylaxis of venous thromboembolism in patients with cancer

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and H. R. BÜLLER†††††††<sup>1</sup>

Treatment  
Perioperative prophylaxis  
Prophylaxis in medical patients

# International Good Clinical Practice Guidelines (GCPG) for Antithrombotics in cancer Patients

## Treatment

Low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) for initial treatment and for at least 3 months (1A) – after 3-6 months “case based” treatment

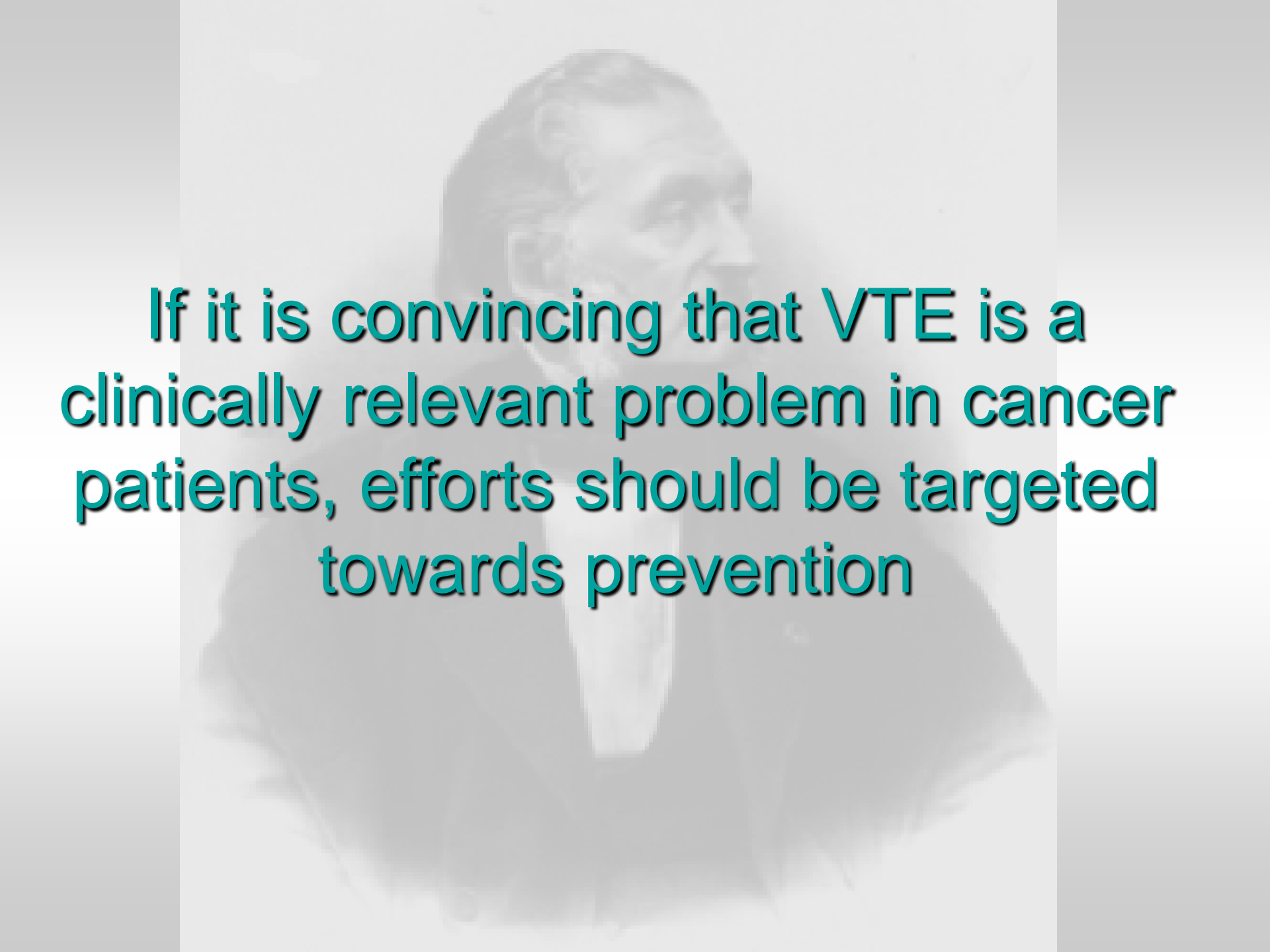
# International Good Clinical Practice Guidelines (GCPG) for Antithrombotics in cancer Patients

## Prophylaxis in medical patients

We recommend prophylaxis with LMWH, UFH or fondaparinux in hospitalized medical patients with cancer and reduced mobility [Grade 1B].

In patients receiving chemotherapy, prophylaxis is not recommended routinely [Grade 1B].

Primary pharmacological prophylaxis of VTE may be indicated in patients with locally advanced or metastatic pancreatic cancer treated with chemotherapy and having a low bleeding risk [Grade 1B].

A faded, grayscale background image of a man with dark hair, wearing a suit and tie, looking slightly to the right. The image is centered and serves as a backdrop for the text.

If it is convincing that VTE is a clinically relevant problem in cancer patients, efforts should be targeted towards prevention

# Venous thromboembolism in cancer

## – Prevention in ambulatory patients -

Primary prevention of cancer associated VTE

- n Efficacy in relative and absolute terms
- n Influence on the overall survival
- n Side effects (bleeding and other side effects)
- n Costs for the health care system and the patients



# Summary/Conclusion

- n VTE is frequent in subgroups of cancer patients
- n It is possible to identify high risk patients by clinical and laboratory parameters
- n Part of the patients with VTE have a decreased survival
- n There is an interrelation between hemostatic parameters and prognosis
- n Advances have been made in the treatment of cancer associated VTE
- n Primary prophylaxis is still a matter of debate



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# Acknowledgments

**Oliver Königsbrügge**

Silvia Koder

Tanja Altreiter

Johanna Haselböck

Jonas Ahlbrecht

**Eva-Maria Reitter**

Gülay Algül

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**International contributors (microparticle/TF projects)**

**Nigel Mackman (Chapel Hill, NC, USA) and Rogier Bertina (Leiden, NL)**



**Thank you  
for your attention**



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