

Circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) analyses of the phase III VOYAGER trial: KIT mutational landscape and outcomes in patients with advanced gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST)

César Serrano, Sebastian Bauer, David Gómez-Peregrina, Yoon-Koo Kang, Robin L. Jones, Piotr Rutkowski, Olivier Mir, Michael C. Heinrich, William D. Tap, Kate Newberry, Alexandra Grassian, Steve Miller, Hongliang Shi, Patrick Schoffski, Maria Pantaleo, Margaret von Mehren, Jonathan C. Trent, Suzanne George

Background GIST demographics and treatment

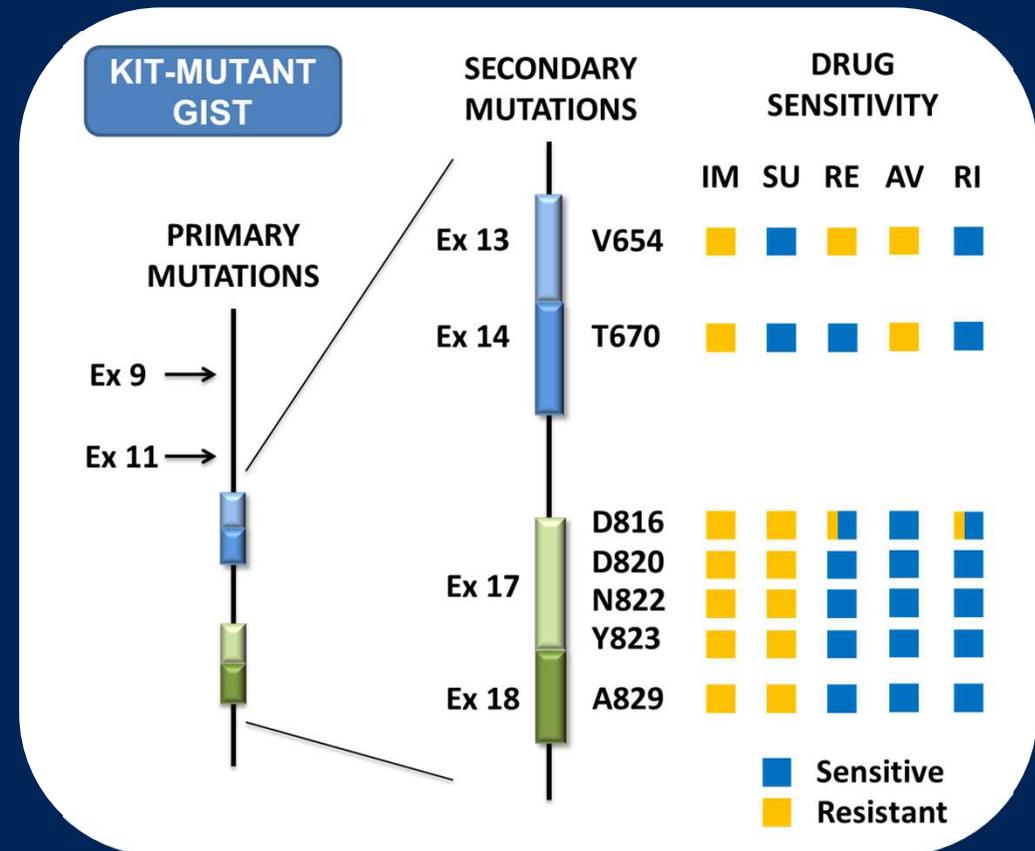
- ❖ GIST is the **most common malignant neoplasm of mesenchymal origin**
 - Annual incidence of 10 – 15 cases / million / year
- ❖ Over 85% of GIST cases are driven by an activating mutation in ***KIT* (75%) or *PDGFRA* (10%)** → uncontrolled activation of kinase signaling
 - Wide variety of amino acid changes across well-defined exons
- ❖ **Tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) targeting KIT and PDGFRA** have dramatically improved clinical outcomes for patients with metastatic GIST
 - Median overall survival has improved **from <12 months to ~ 5 years**
- ❖ **Approved agents:** imatinib, sunitinib, regorafenib, ripretinib, avapritinib

Background TKI-resistance is defined by KIT secondary mutations

- ❖ The main mechanism of resistance to imatinib is the emergence of heterogeneous **KIT secondary mutations** in **~90% patients**

- ATP binding pocket (exons 13/14)
- Activation loop (exons 17/18)

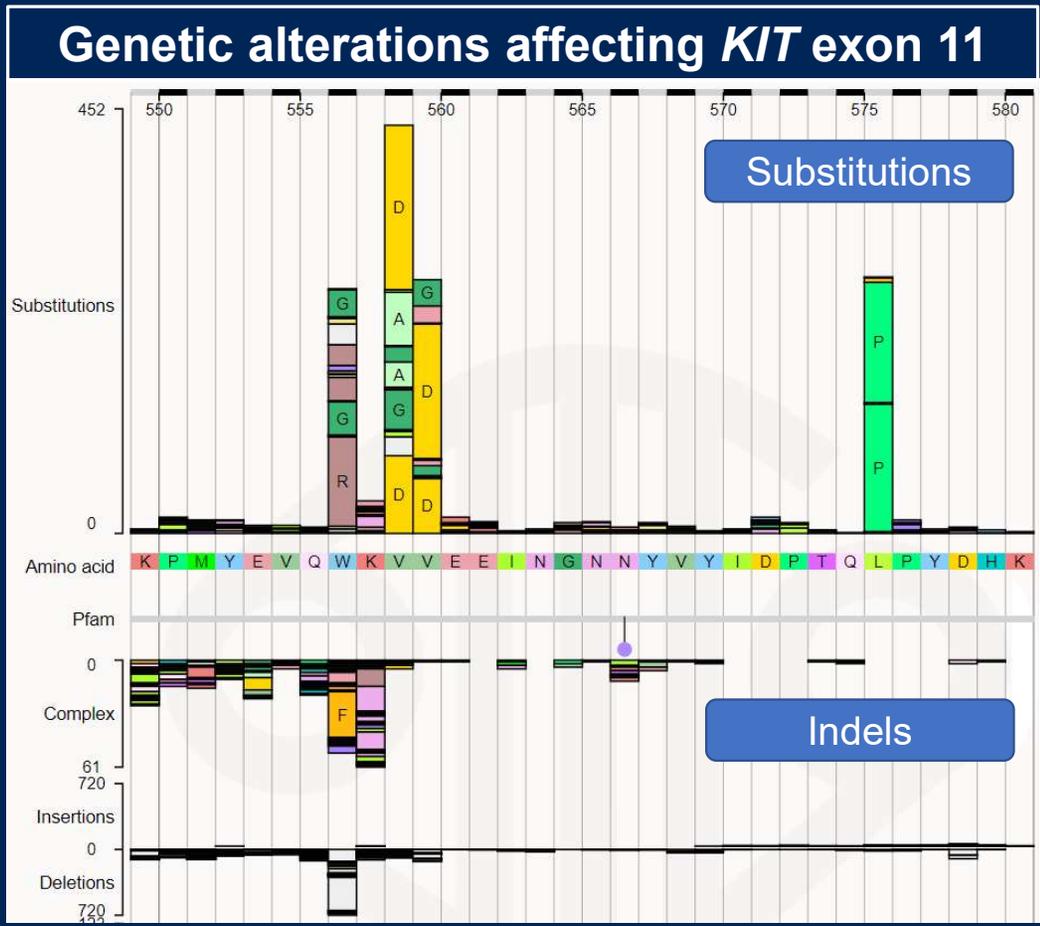
- ❖ TKIs after imatinib resistance are effective **only against subsets of KIT secondary mutations**



Modified from Schaefer, DeMatteo & Serrano, ASCO Ed Book 2022

Background ctDNA in GIST

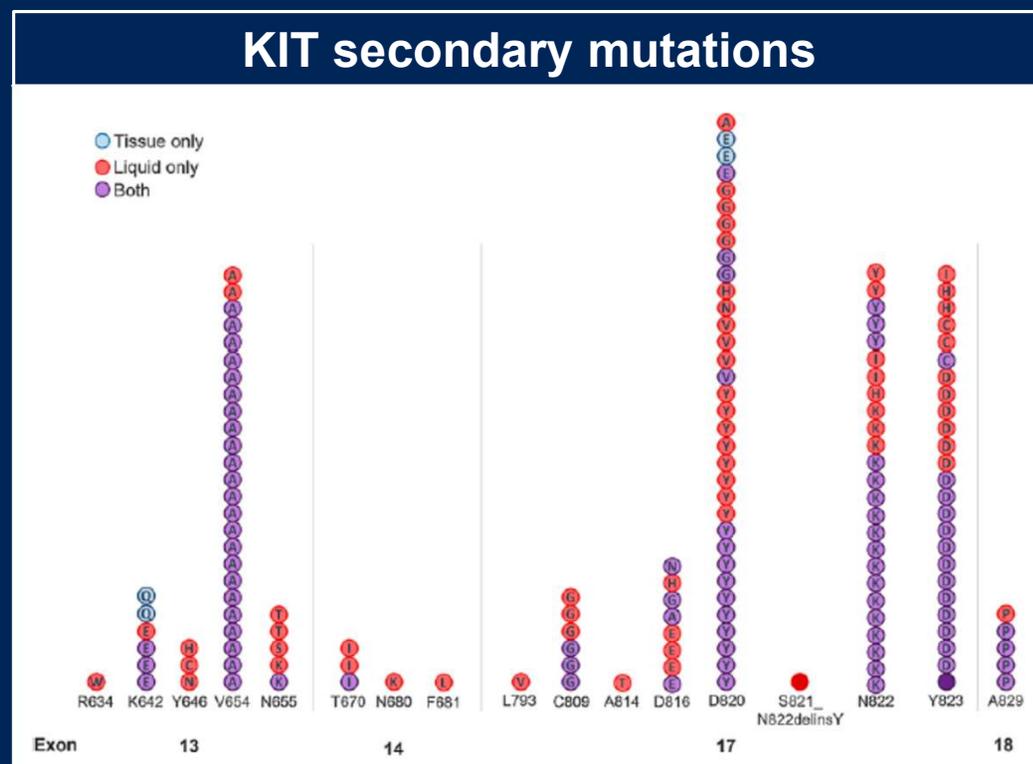
1. Heterogeneity in primary and secondary KIT mutations



Data obtained from COSMIC

Background ctDNA in GIST

1. Heterogeneity in primary and secondary KIT mutations



Bauer, *Clin Cancer Res* 2021

Background ctDNA in GIST

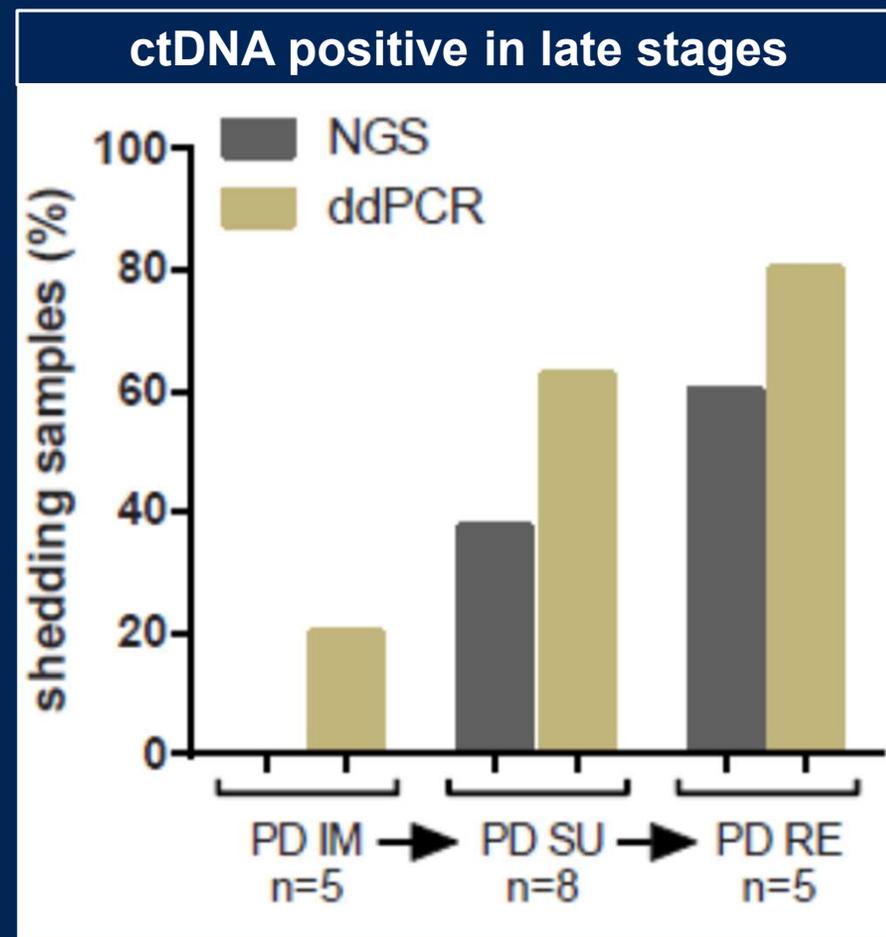
1. Heterogeneity in primary and secondary KIT mutations
2. ↓ ctDNA shedding in GIST

Variable	ctDNA Mutation Positive	Tumor FFPE Mutation Positive	Detection Rate, %
All patients (n = 36)	20	36	56
Primary tumor	0	3	0
Metastatic low burden and responding	0	8	0
Metastatic low burden and progressive	0	5	0
Metastatic high burden and responding	1	1	100
Metastatic high burden and progressive	19	19	100

Arshad, JCO PO 2020

Background ctDNA in GIST

1. Heterogeneity in primary and secondary KIT mutations
2. ↓ ctDNA shedding in GIST



Serrano C et al, *BMC Cancer* 2020

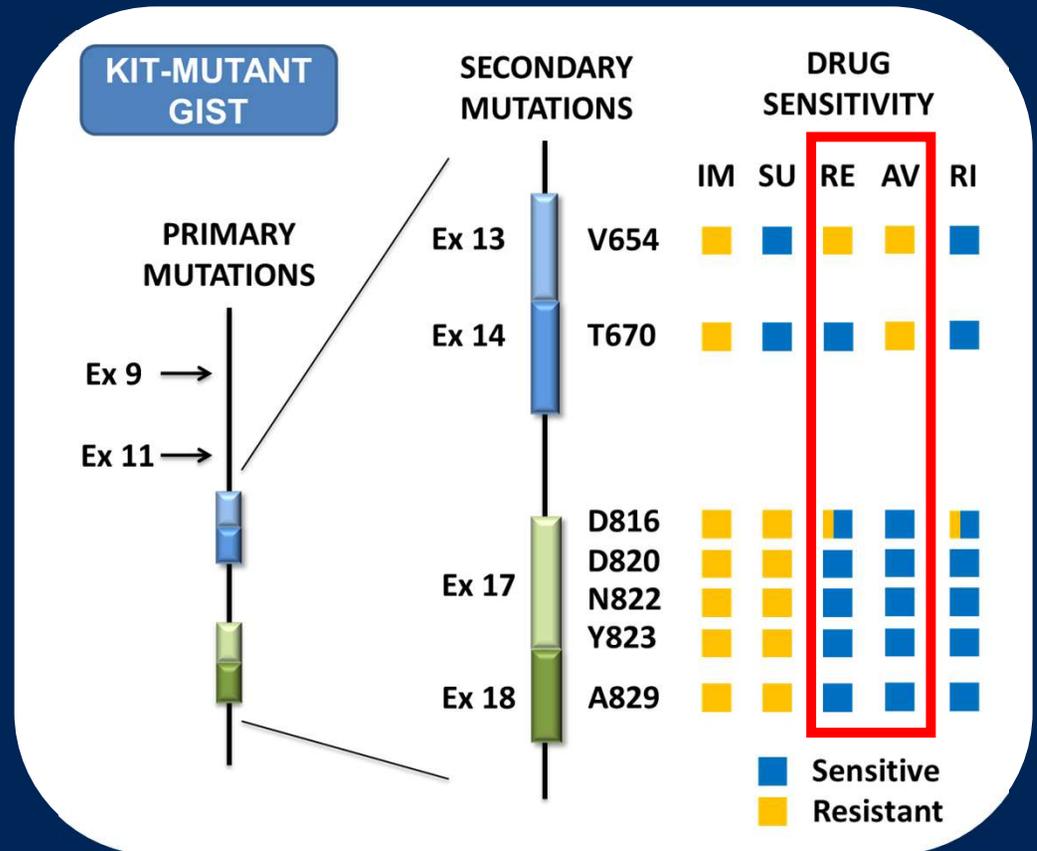
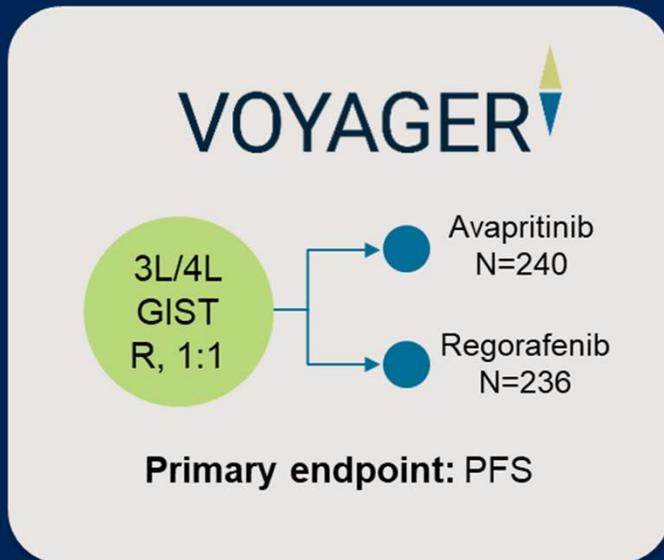
Background ctDNA in GIST

1. **Heterogeneity** in primary and secondary KIT mutations
2. ↓ **ctDNA shedding** in GIST
3. ctDNA has only been explored in **multiple small series**, but with limited data from clinical trials

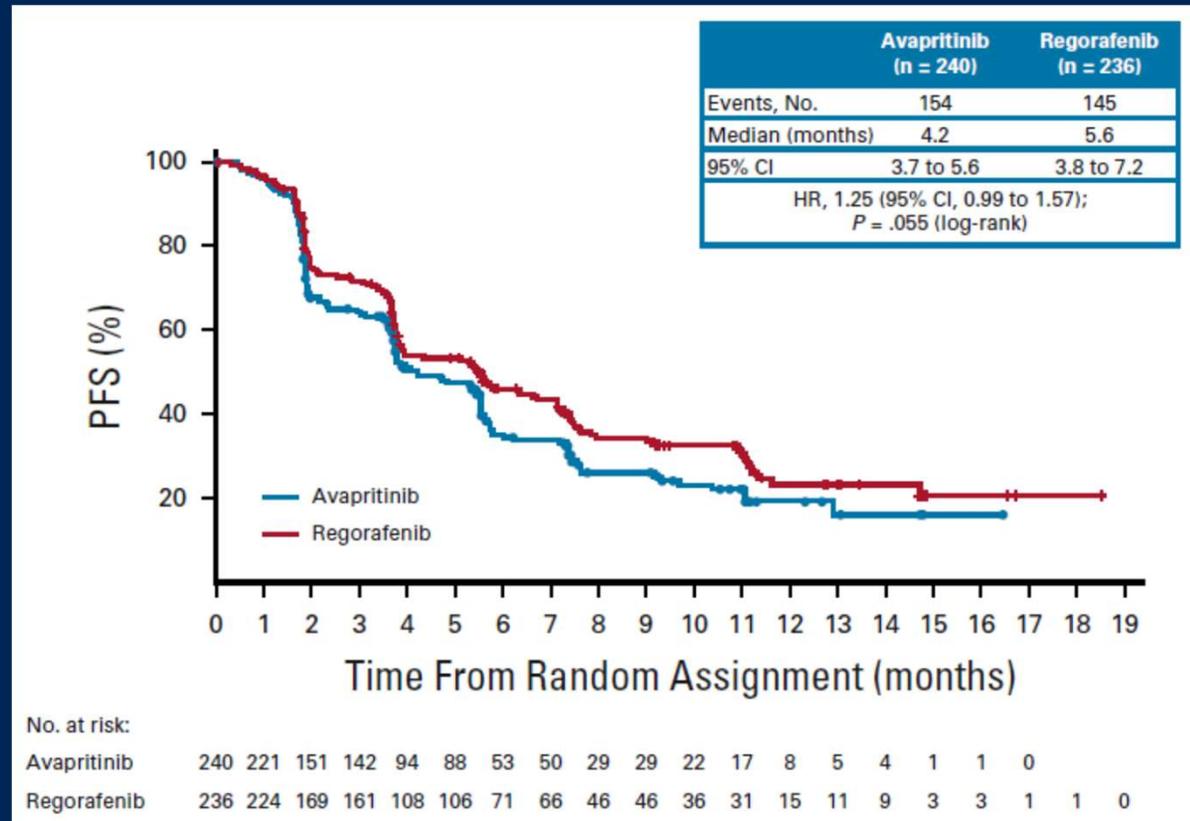
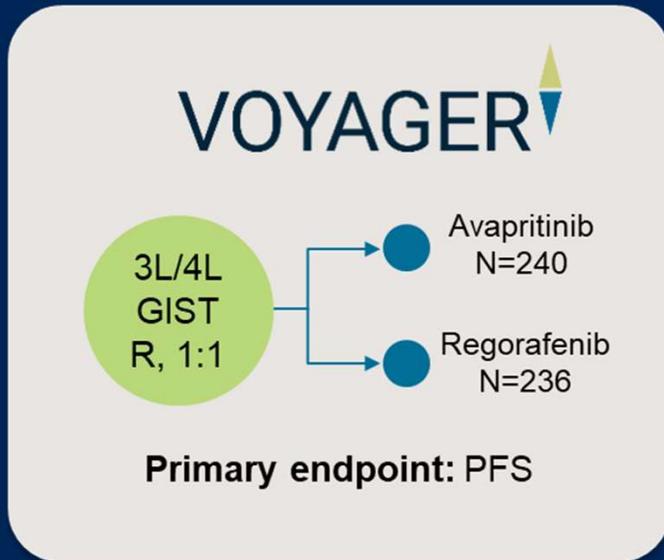
- **Ph I/II PLX9486 (n=35)**
 - » Association with response
- **Ph II Ponatinib (n=45)**
 - » Heterogeneity of KIT muts
- **Ph I SuRe (n=14)**
 - » Treatment monitoring
- **Various series**
 - » Outcomes
 - » Treatment guidance

Wagner, *JAMA Oncol* 2021; George, *Clin Can Res* 2022;
Serrano, *Clin Can Res* 2019; Namløs, *Mol Can Ther* 2018;
Arshad, *JCO PO* 2020; Serrano, *BMC Can* 2020

Background VOYAGER phase III clinical trial



Background VOYAGER phase III clinical trial



Kang YK et al, J Clin Oncol 2021

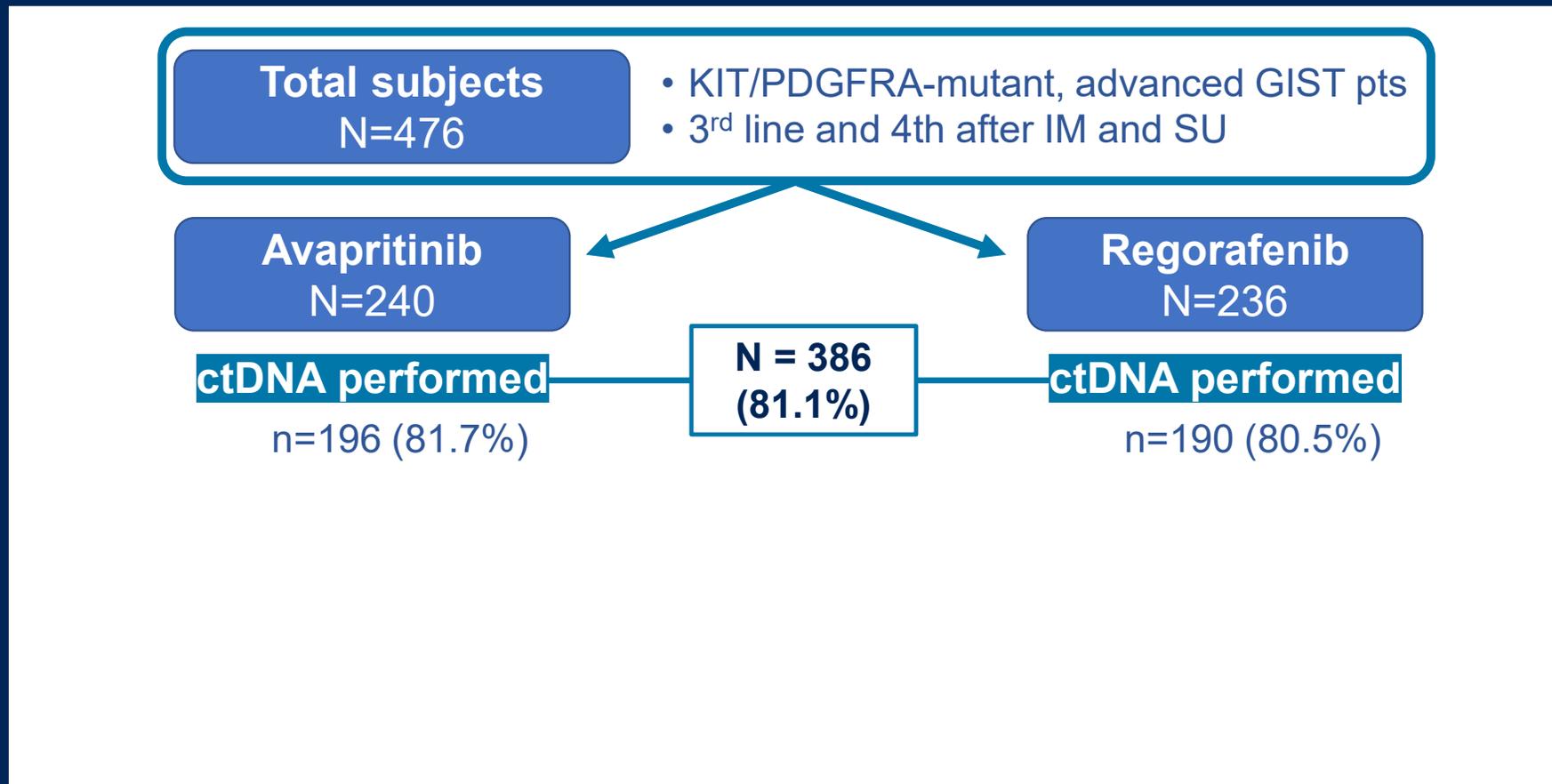
Study Design and Methods

- ❖ Collection of **plasma samples** from all patients recruited in the VOYAGER phase III clinical trial:
 - Baseline
 - End of Treatment (EoT)
- ❖ **ctDNA analysis**: 74-gene panel G360 from Guardant®

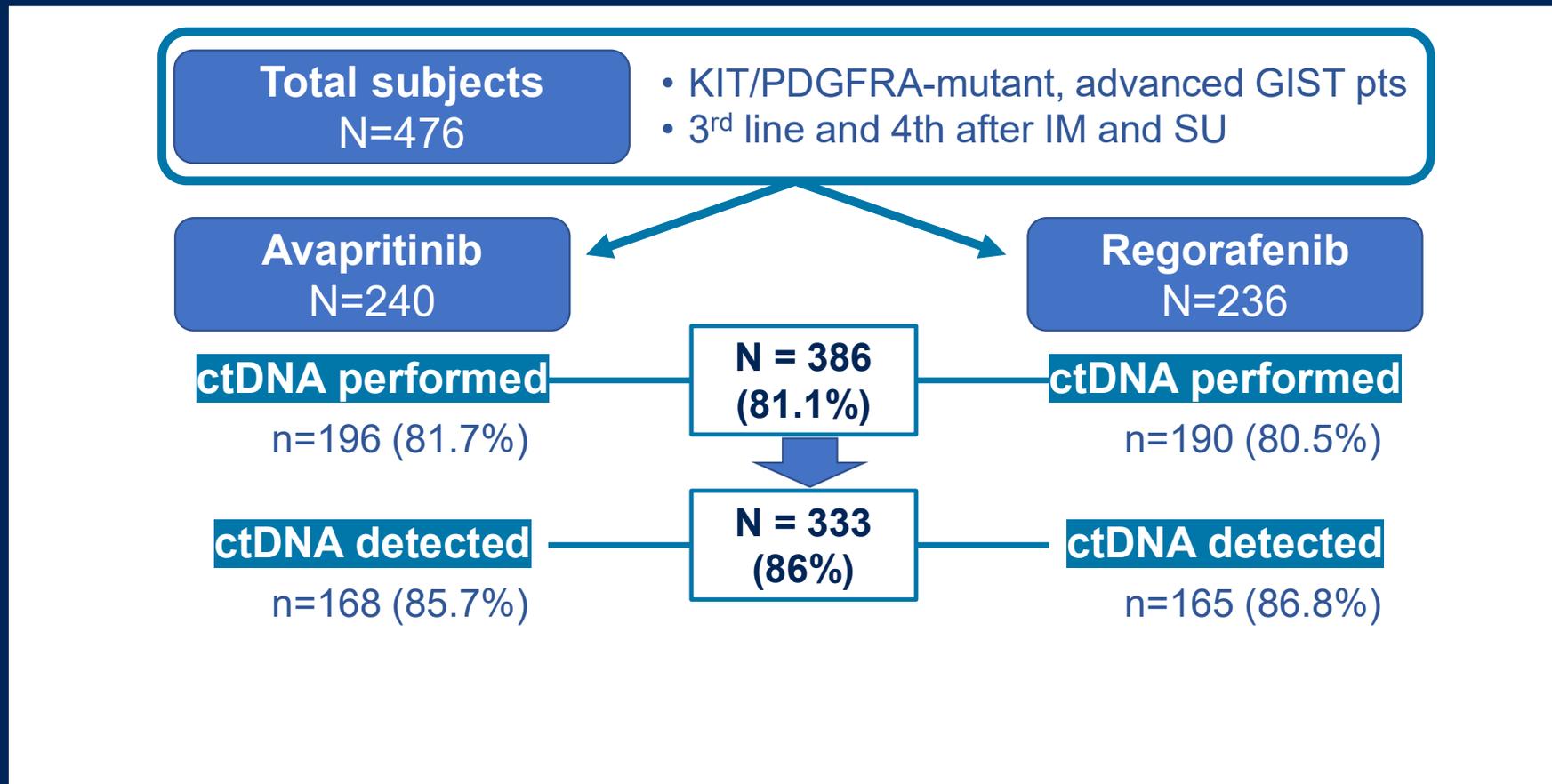
- **Landscape of KIT and PDGFRA mutations in advanced GIST**
- **ctDNA & outcomes***

*Cutoff date: March 9, 2020

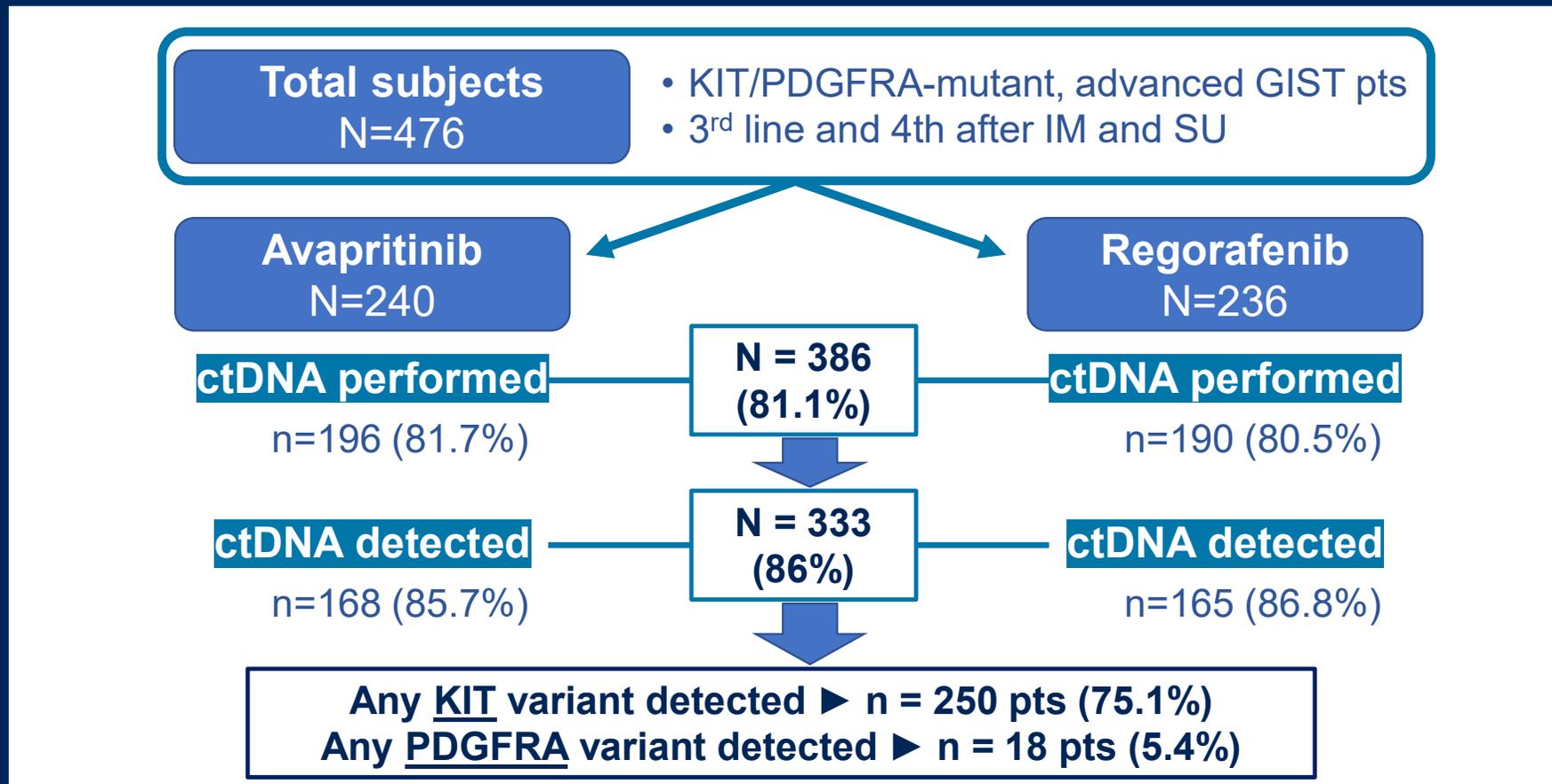
Results: detection of KIT/PDGFR α variants at baseline



Results: detection of KIT/PDGFR α variants at baseline

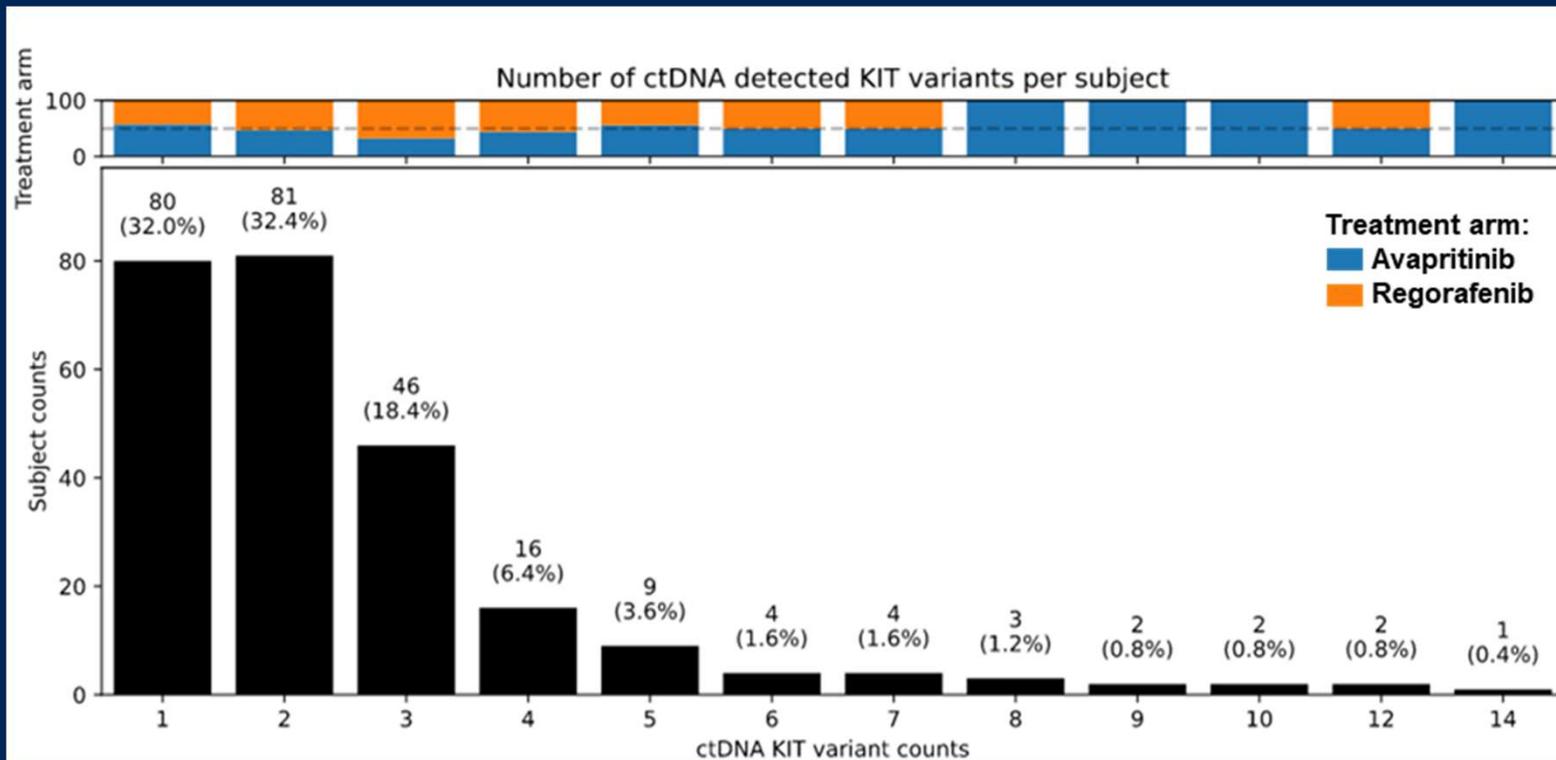


Results: detection of KIT/PDGFR α variants at baseline



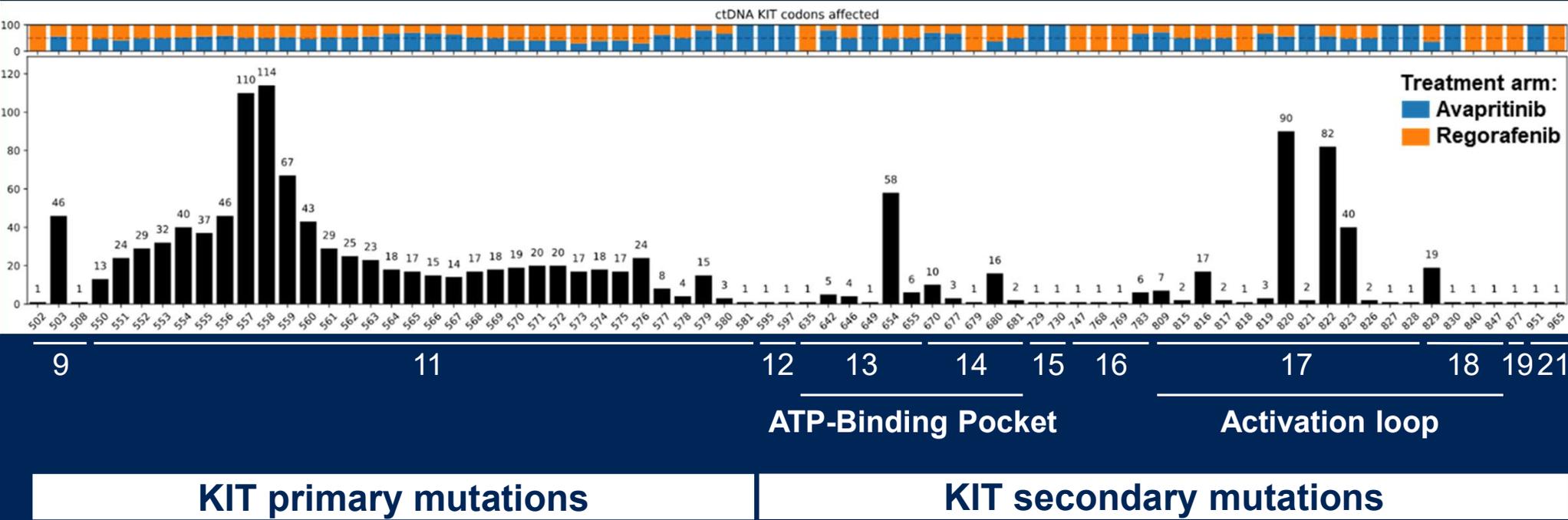
Landscape of KIT mutations: heterogeneity (1)

- Number of ctDNA detected KIT variants per subject



Landscape of KIT mutations: heterogeneity (2)

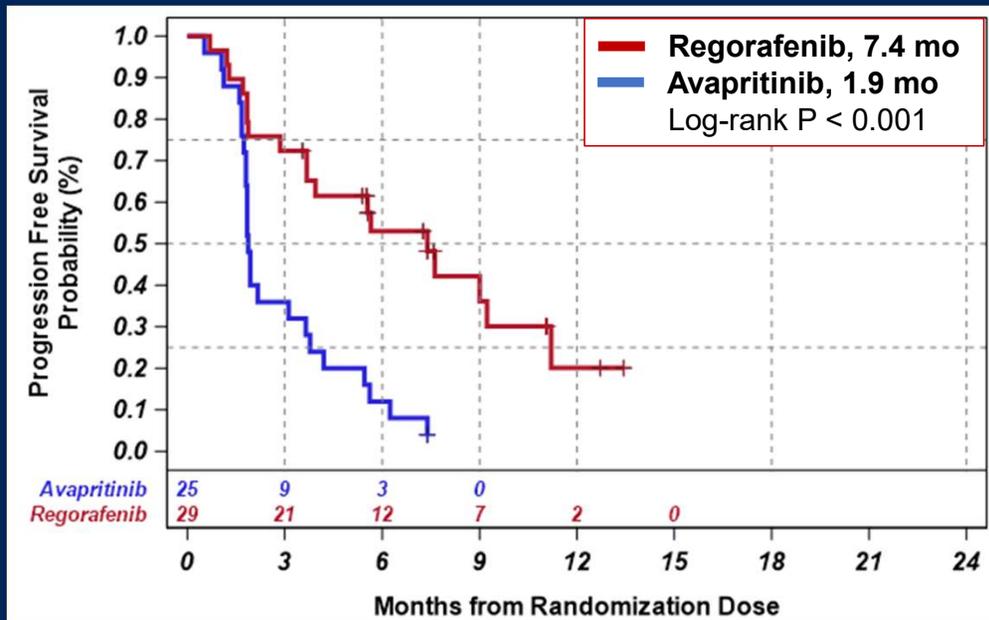
➤ Primary and secondary KIT mutations: codons affected across KIT sequence



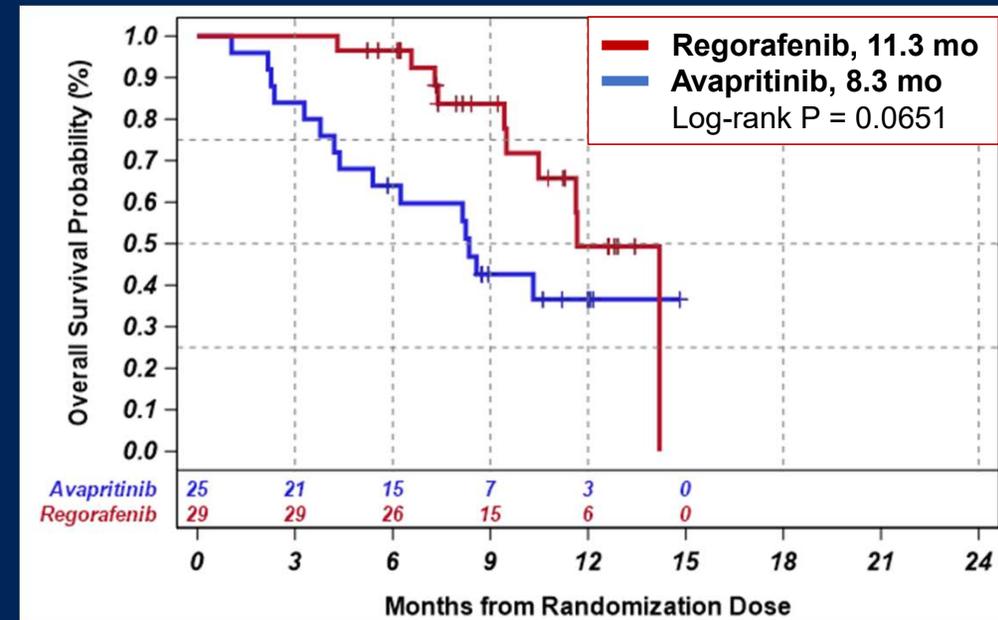
ctDNA mutations & outcomes: ATP-binding pocket

Shorter mPFS and mOS in patients with ctDNA+ ATP binding pocket mutations treated with AVAPRITINIB v. REGORAFENIB

Median PFS



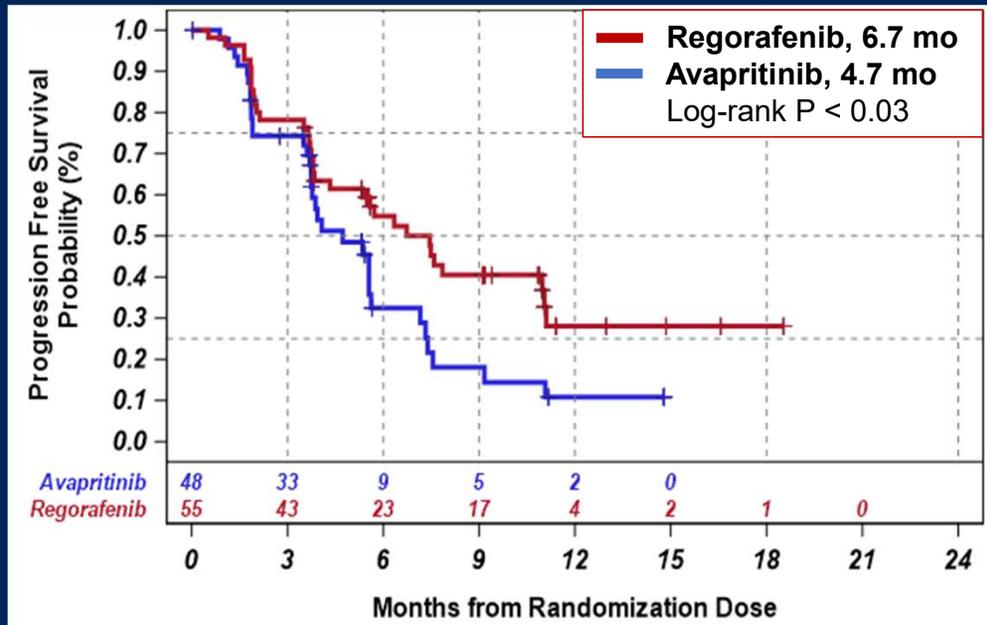
Median OS



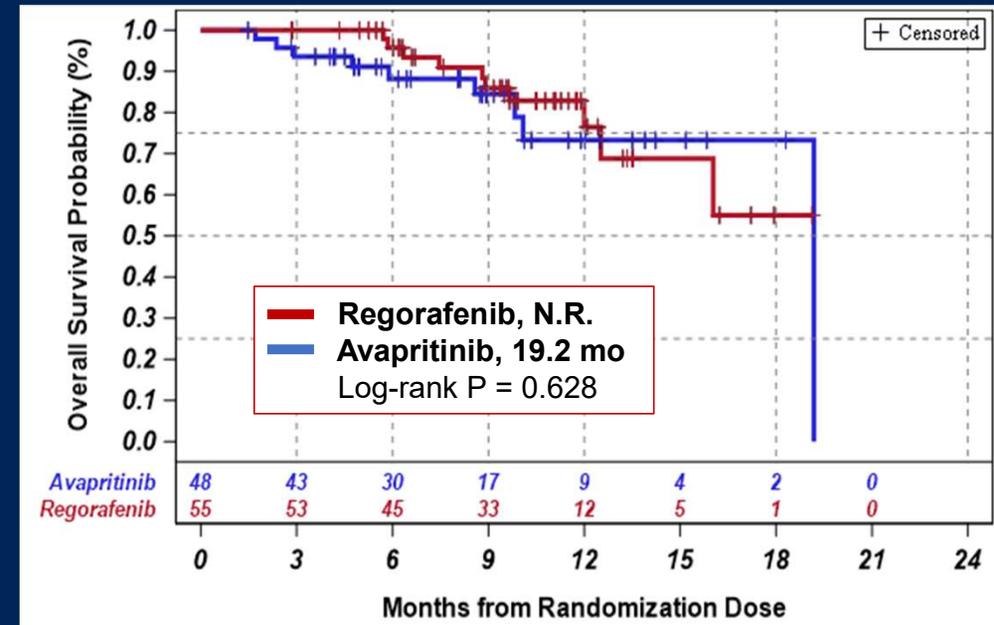
ctDNA mutations & outcomes: Activation loop

Shorter mPFS in patients with ctDNA+ Activation loop mutations (in the absence of ATP-BP mutants) treated with AVAPRITINIB v. REGORAFENIB

Median PFS



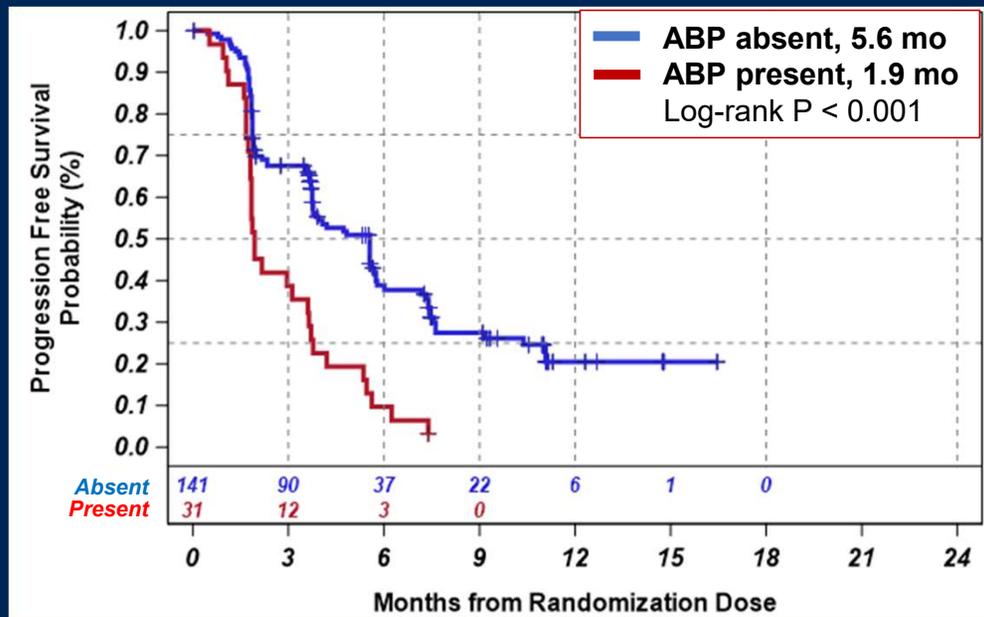
Median OS



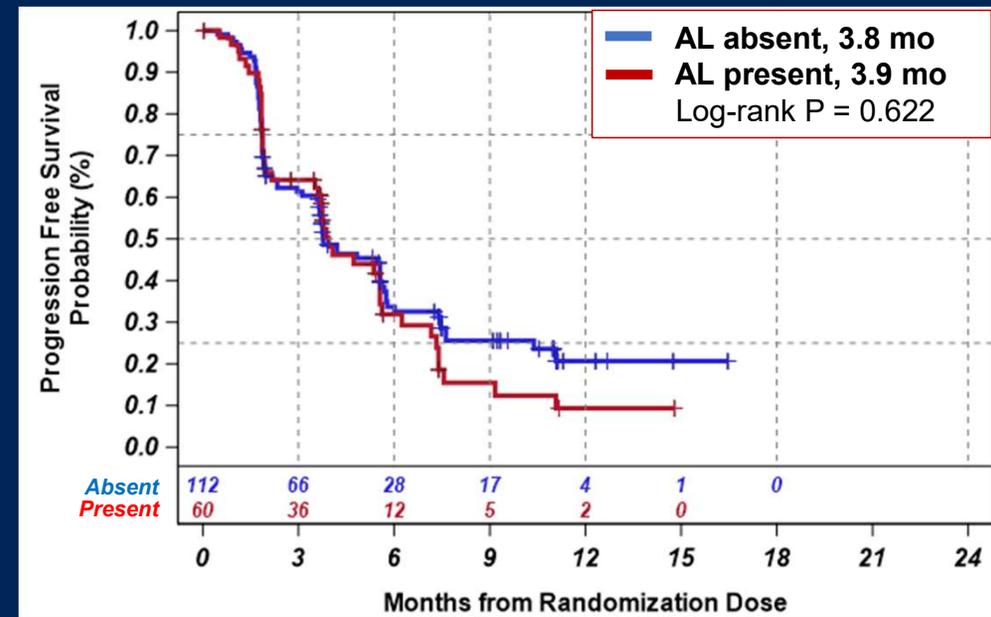
ctDNA mutations & outcomes: Avapritinib

mPFS on AVAPRITINIB is longer when ctDNA secondary mutations in the ATP binding pocket are absent

Median PFS – ATP binding pocket



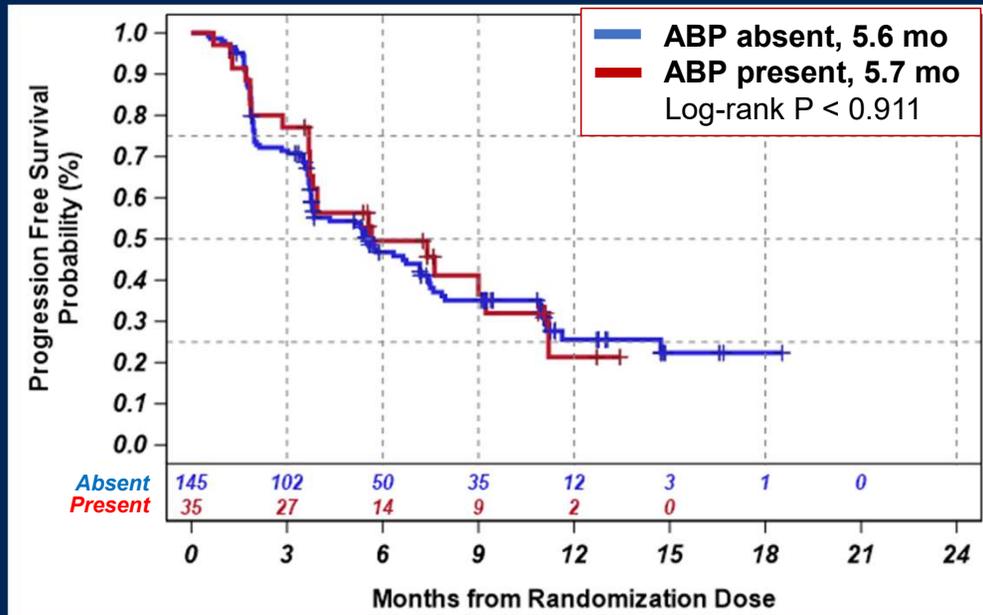
Median PFS – Activation loop



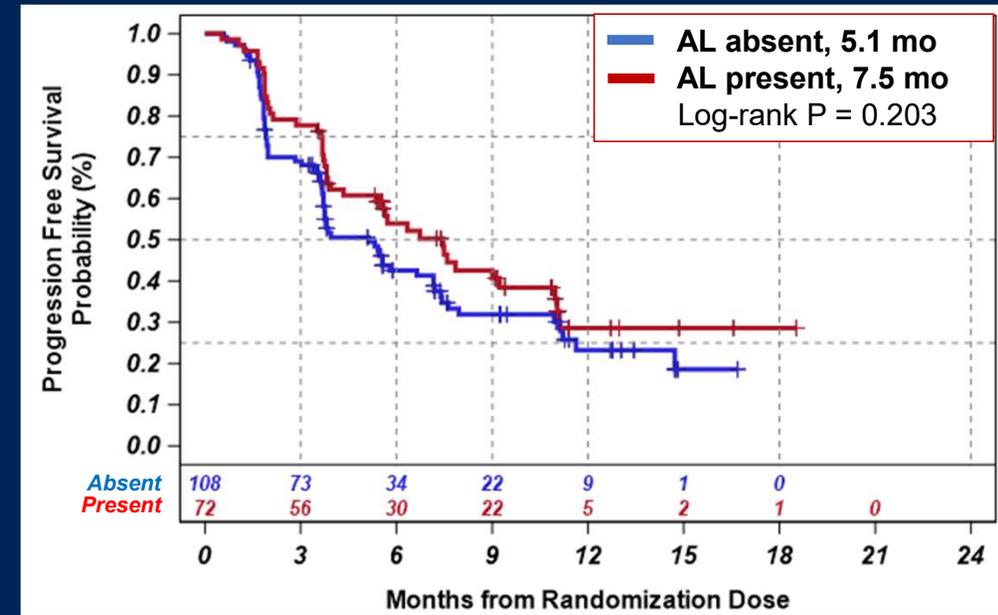
ctDNA mutations & outcomes: Regorafenib

REGORAFENIB showed similar activity regardless KIT mutational status and the location of KIT mutation

Median PFS – ATP binding pocket



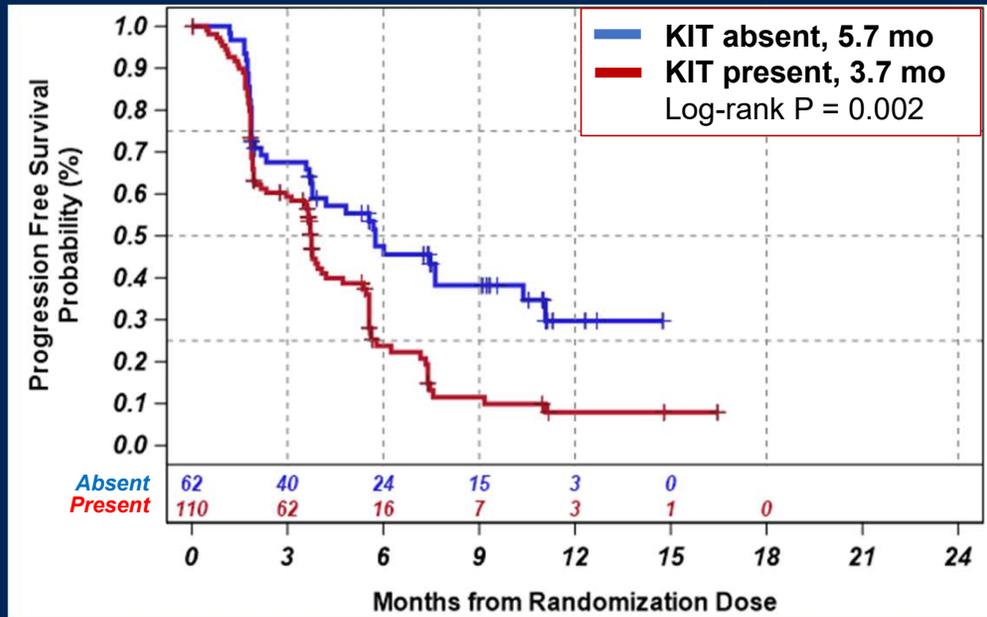
Median PFS – Activation loop



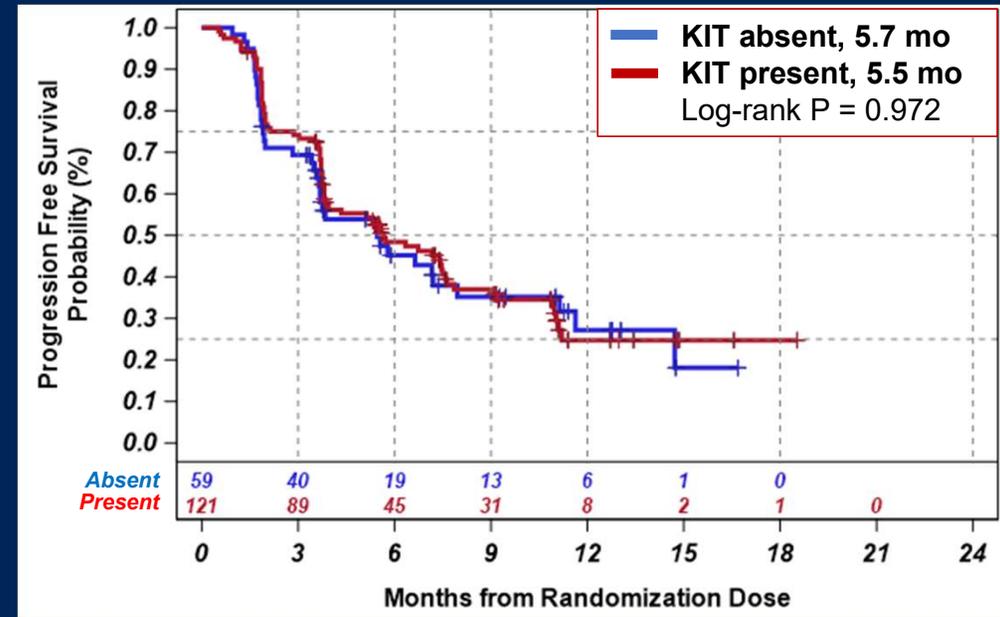
ctDNA mutations & outcomes: ctDNA negative for KIT mut

Different PFS behavior among ctDNA KIT negative patients treated with avapritinib (targeted TKI) v. regorafenib (multikinase inhibitor)

Median PFS – avapritinib

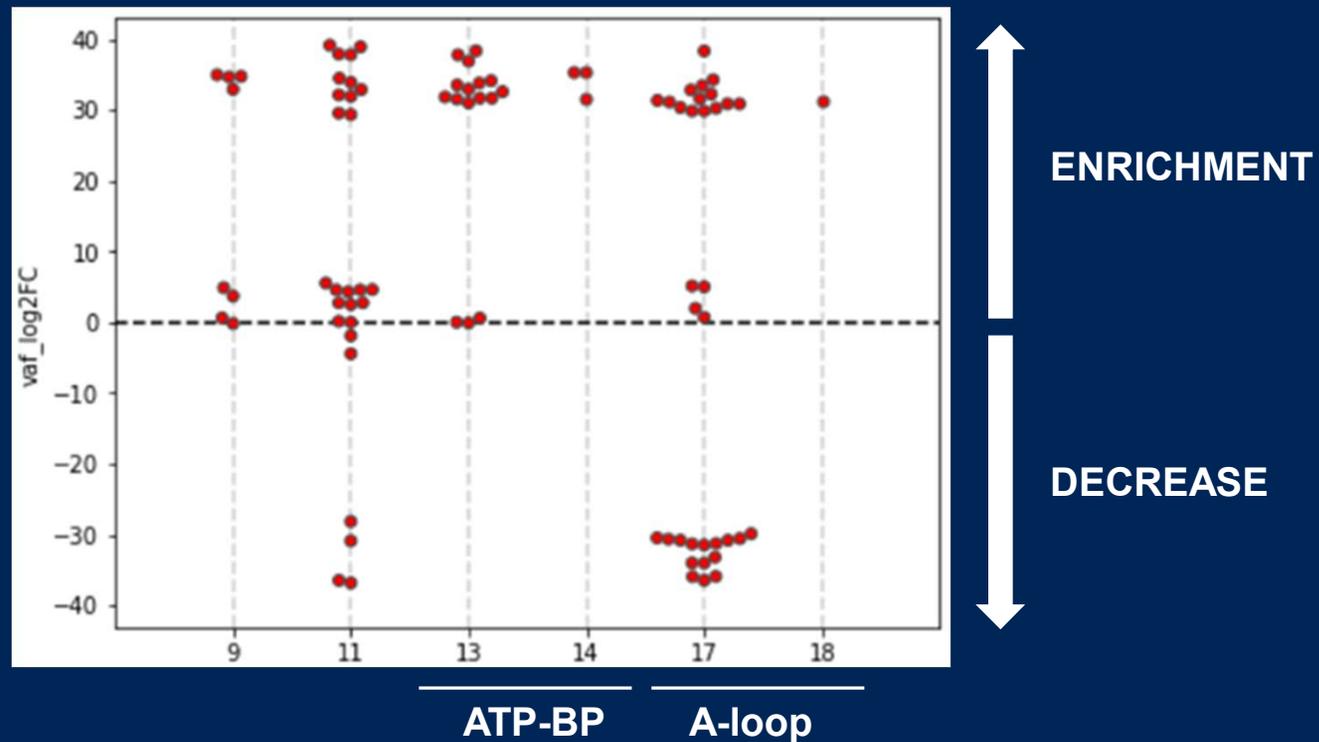


Median PFS – regorafenib



End of Treatment: Resistance to avapritinib (n=42)

Enrichment in resistance mutations emerging from the ATP binding pocket (exons 13 and 14) in 42 patients after progression to avapritinib



Conclusions

- ❖ This is the first study to address the utility of ctDNA sequencing in advanced GIST in the context of a **large, international phase III clinical trial**.
- ❖ Hybrid capture-based plasma sequencing **detects KIT primary and secondary mutations** in the majority of TKI-resistant GIST patients.
- ❖ ctDNA studies reveals important **inter- and intra-patient heterogeneity** of KIT secondary mutations after progression to imatinib and sunitinib.
- ❖ **ctDNA sequencing correlates with outcomes in pretreated GIST**. Identification of ATP binding pocket mutations in KIT negatively correlates with avapritinib activity.
- ❖ The **multikinase inhibitory nature of regorafenib** may be relevant for its clinical activity regardless the type of KIT secondary mutation by plasma.

