

**FIRST  
REPORT**  
MANAGED  
CARE

## **OPTIMIZING IGA NEPHROPATHY OUTCOMES**

Managed Care  
Considerations for  
Novel Dual BAFF/APRIL  
Disease-Modifying  
Therapies



# Faculty

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# Disclosures

- **Russell Spjut, PharmD** has nothing to disclose
- **Matthew R. Weir, MD:** Advisory board – AstraZeneca, Bayer, CSL Vifor, Boehringer-Ingelheim, NovoNordisk, Mineralys, Vera

# Program Information

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- Supported by an educational grant from Vera Therapeutics, Inc.

# Learning Objectives

- Evaluate the clinical and economic burden of IgAN, including the limitations of symptom-directed/conventional therapies on patients, healthcare systems, and payers
- Analyze the efficacy, safety, and mechanisms of action of novel dual BAFF/APRIL B-cell–directed therapies for the treatment of IgAN
- Develop strategies to enhance multidisciplinary care coordination and improve timely access to novel IgAN therapies



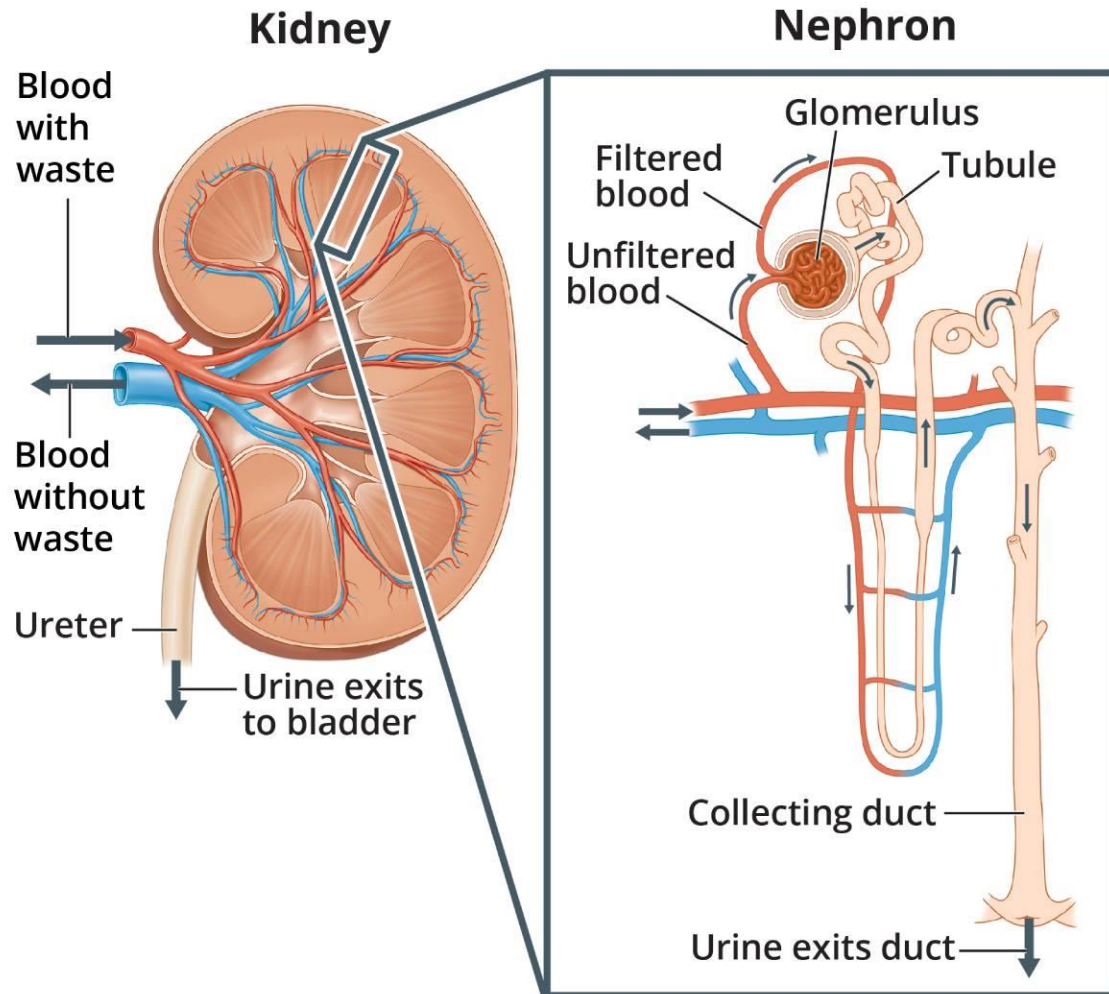
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# Managed Care Introduction

Russell Spjut, PharmD



# What Is IgA Nephropathy?

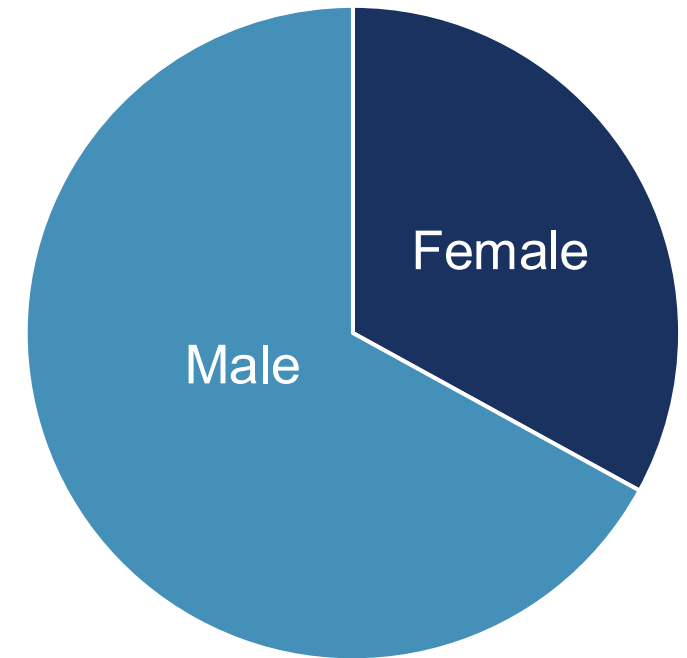


- An immune-mediated kidney disease in which IgA-containing immune complexes deposit in the glomeruli
- These deposits lead to damage of the glomeruli causing leakage of blood and proteins into the urine
- Damage progresses including scarring, progressive loss of kidney function, and eventual end stage renal disease

# Burden of IgA Nephropathy: Epidemiology

- IgAN is considered the most common primary glomerular disease worldwide
- Current data gives an estimate of 200,000 patients in the US living with IgAN
- Annual incidence has been reported between 1.3 to 2.2 per 100,000 people
  - Enough that most managed care organizations will see members diagnosed in a given year
  - Just low enough that it is unlikely to be a regular topic for review
- Average age of diagnosis lands in the late 30s to early 40s

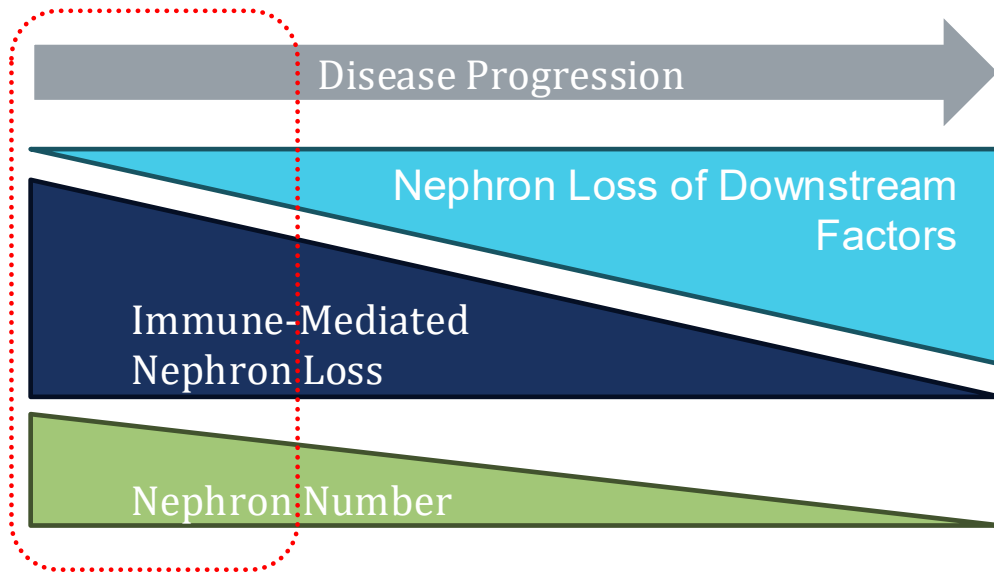
Proportion of Patients by Sex



About more than twice as common among males than females



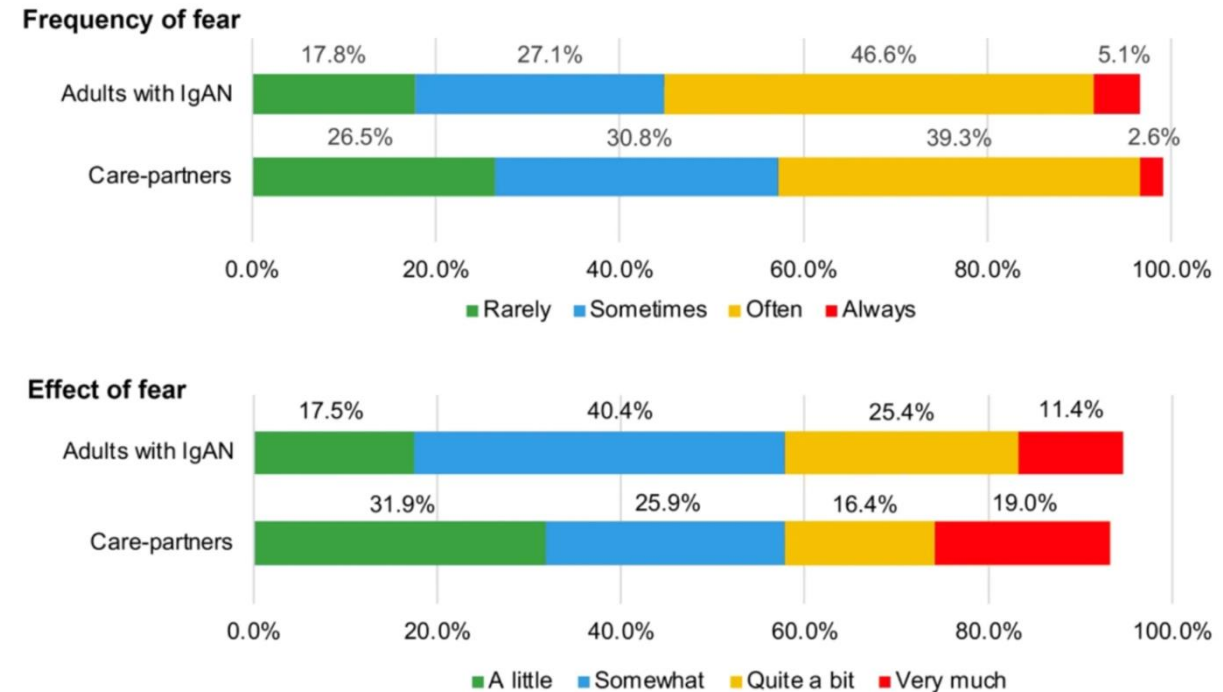
# Burden of IgA Nephropathy: Progression



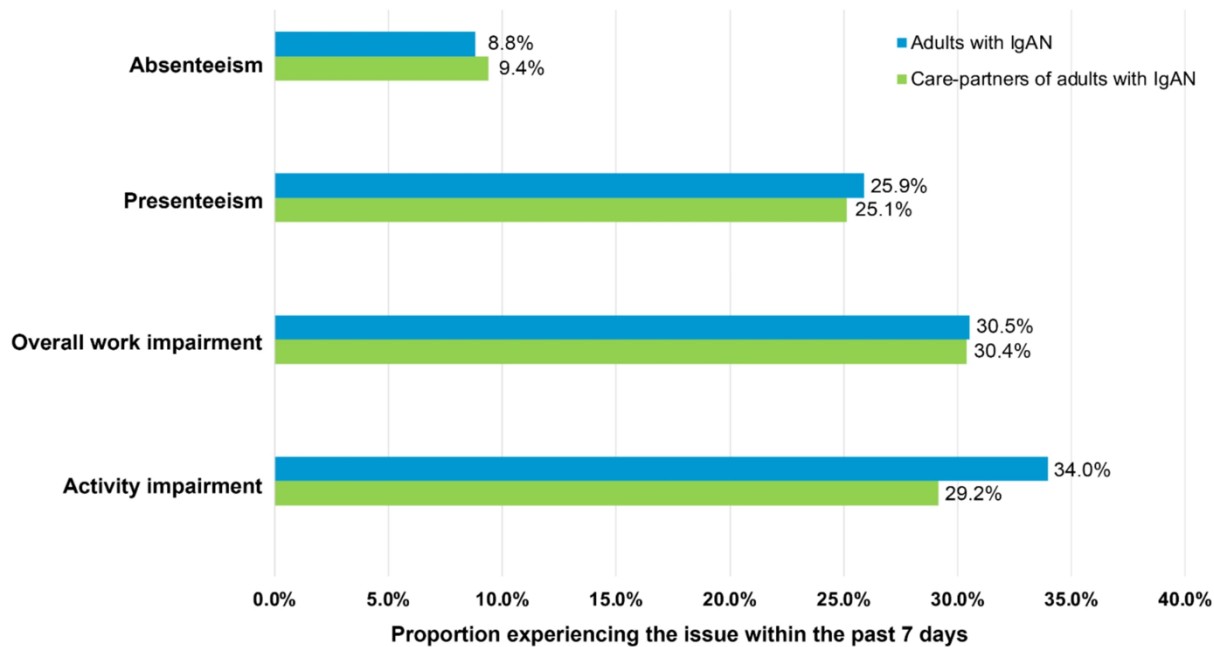
- Data shows that approximately 30-40% of patients with IgAN reach end stage renal disease (ESRD) or death within 6-10 years of diagnosis
- A majority of diagnoses occur after a decline in kidney function with average eGFR between 50-60 mL/min
- A treatment goal of slowing the decline of eGFR to  $< 1$  mL/min/year helps avoid lifetime ESRD
  - This has often been unachievable within traditional treatment options

# Burden of IgA Nephropathy: Patient Experience

- Very few symptoms in early disease often leads to delayed diagnosis
- Many patients experience burdensome symptoms like joint pain, facial or abdominal swelling, fatigue, and restless leg syndrome
- Mental health also a large consideration
  - Fear of diseases progression and the unknown future
  - Moderate to severe depression found in 49% of patients
  - Moderate to severe anxiety found in 27% of patients
- Burden of caregivers also found to include higher rates of depression and anxiety



# Burden of IgA Nephropathy: Economic



- ICER estimates health care costs of ESRD in patients with IgAN costs \$1.3 billion annually in the US
- Avoidance of ESRD is a key factor in reducing lifetime costs by avoiding dialysis and/or kidney transplant
- With the early age of diagnosis, large impacts seen for employers
  - Directly in work related costs
  - Increased claim liability

# Key Learning Points



- IgAN is a disease of early to mid adulthood often diagnosed late as symptoms are minimal in early-stage disease
- Progression can occur rapidly with estimated 30%-40% of patients progressing to ESRD or death within 6-10 years of diagnosis
- High burden on patients and caregivers including physical and mental health related symptoms
- Large economic impact driven by both direct health care costs as well as impacts on productivity

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# IgA Nephropathy: The Evolving Landscape for Treatment

Matthew R. Weir, MD





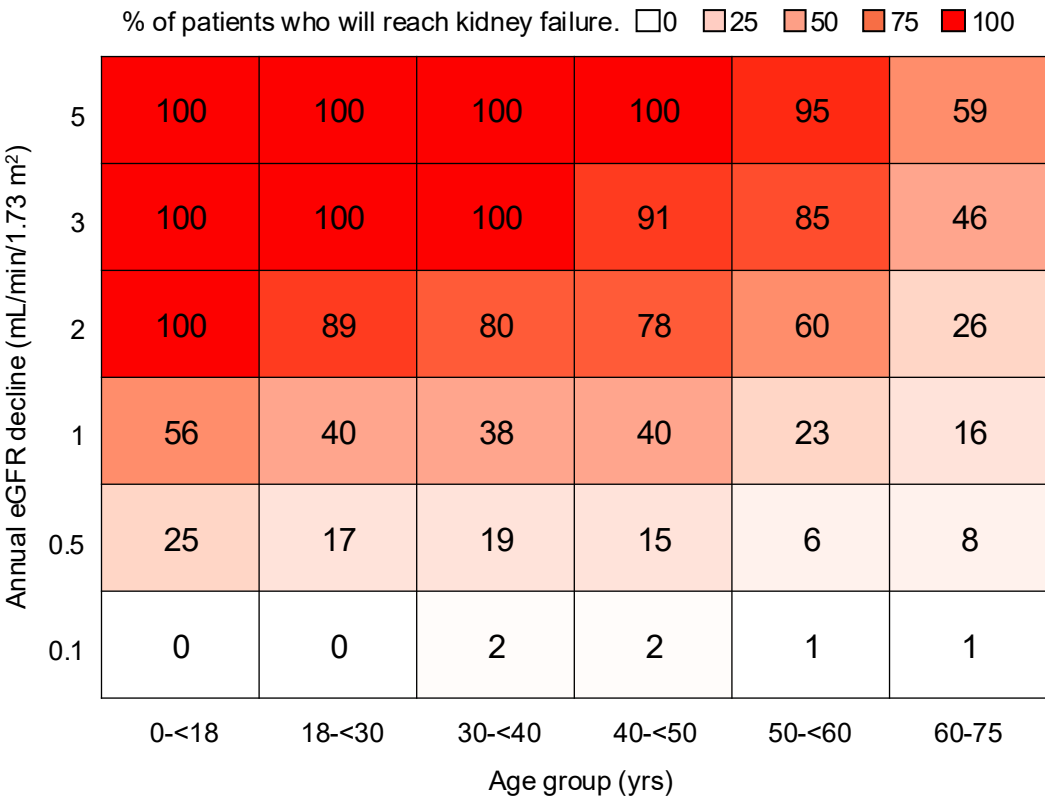
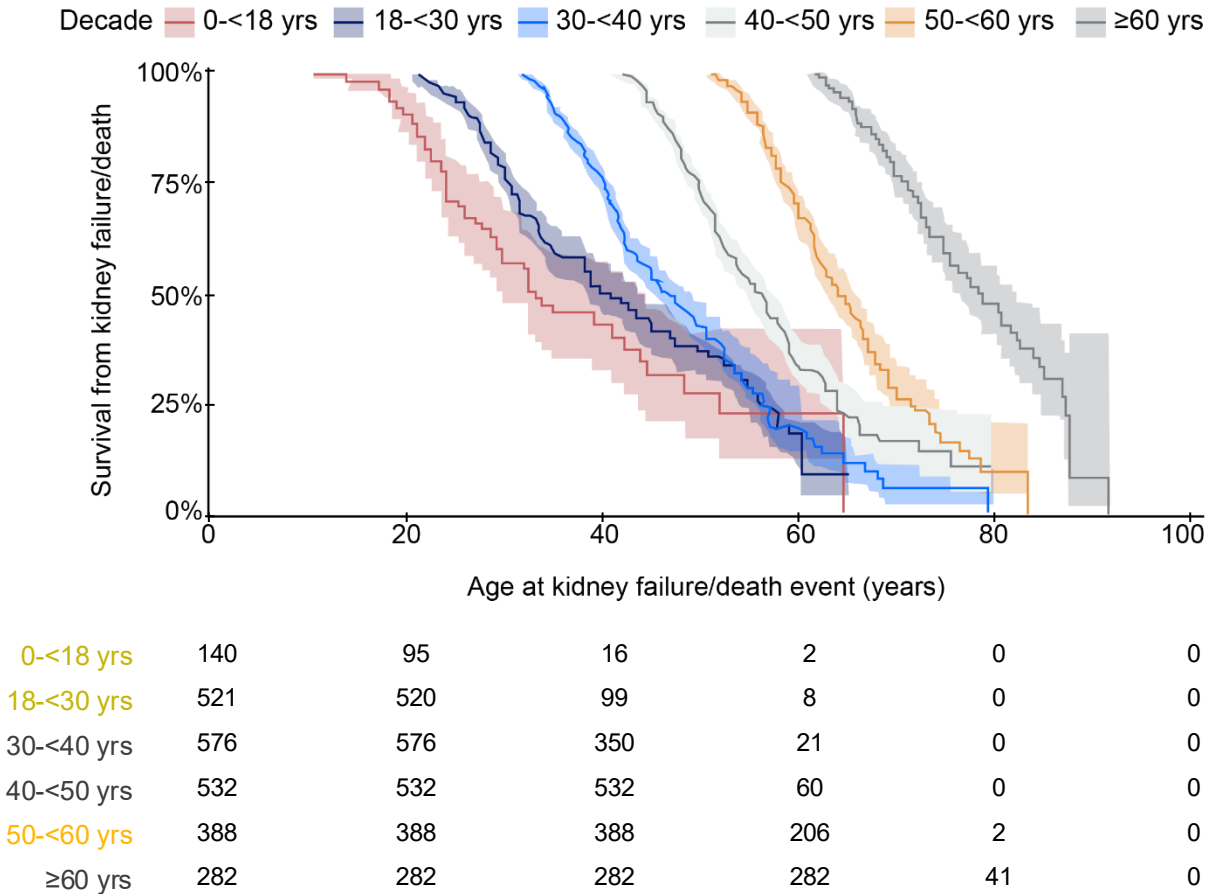
# IgAN: High Unmet Need for Disease-Modifying Therapies

- IgAN is a serious B-cell-mediated autoimmune disease and is most commonly diagnosed in people aged 20-40 years
- Up to 50% of patients with IgAN progress to ESKD within 20 years of disease presentation, requiring dialysis or kidney transplant; in a UK cohort with progressive disease, most progressed to kidney failure within 10-15 years
- Current standards of care are primarily supportive CKD therapies, including ACEi and ARB, which provide limited benefit and fail to stop an unrelenting decline in kidney function
- There is a high unmet medical need for new safe and effective disease-modifying treatments that target the source of disease and can stabilize eGFR over the long term

ESKD = end-stage kidney disease; CKD = chronic kidney disease; ACEi = angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors; ARB = angiotensin receptor blockers; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate.

Rajasekaran A, et al. *Am J Med Sci.* 2021;361:176-194. Pattrapornpisut P, et al. *Am J Kidney Dis.* 2021;78(3):429-441. Salim SA. *Medscape.* Updated February 9, 2026. Accessed April 6, 2026. <https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/239927-overview#showall>. Pitcher D, et al. *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol.* 2023;18:727-738.

# Most Patients with IgAN Progress to ESKD within 10 to 15 Years of Diagnosis



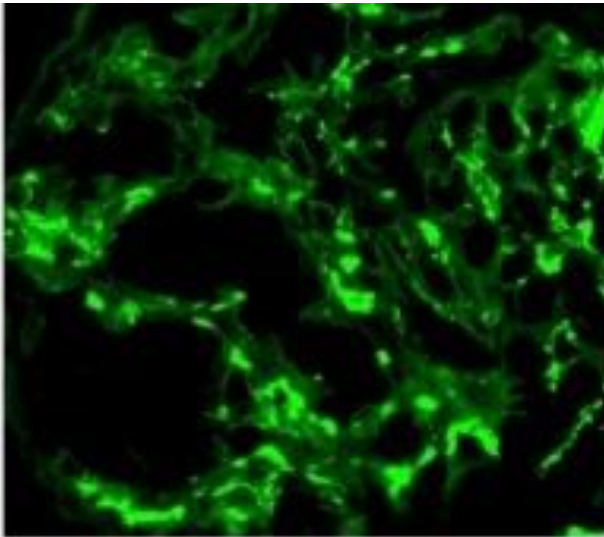
**Emerging treatment goal for IgAN:** Reduce rate of loss of kidney function to <1 mL/min/yr for the rest of the patient’s life

# Renal Biopsy Findings in IgAN Are Characterized by Mesangial IgA-Containing Immune Complexes

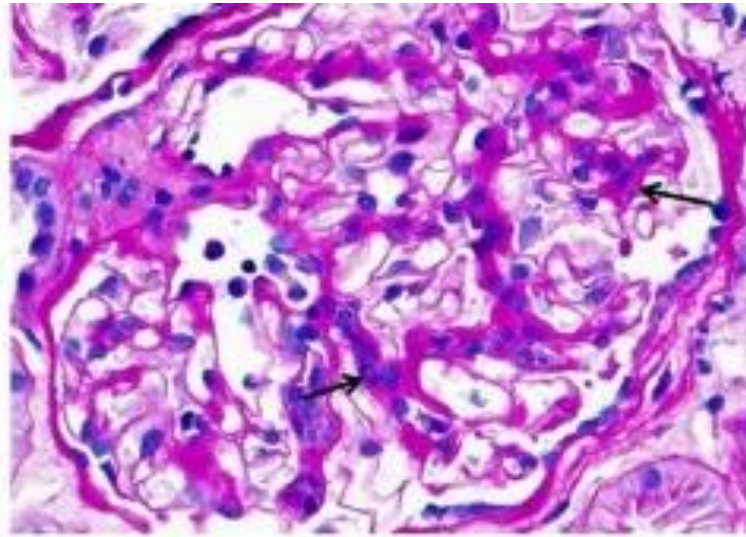
- IgAN, also referred to as Berger disease, was first described in 1968 by Jean Berger (pathologist, France) and Nicole Hinglais (electron microscopist, France)

## Examples of Microscopy Features of Renal Biopsy Specimens From Patients With IgAN

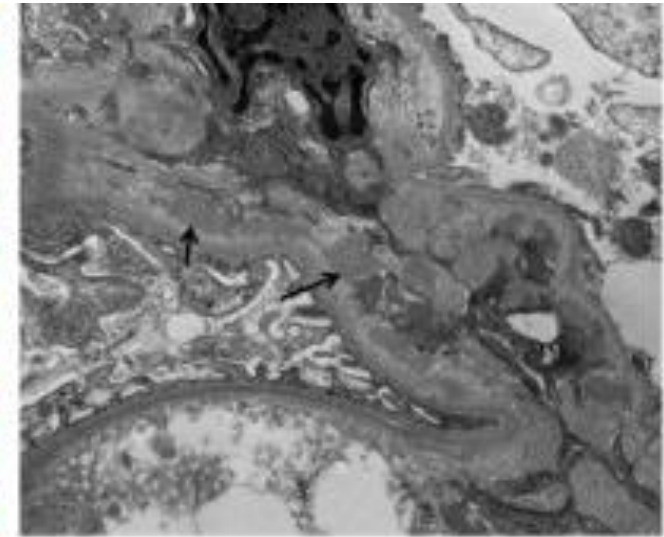
Immunofluorescence



Light



Electron Microscopy



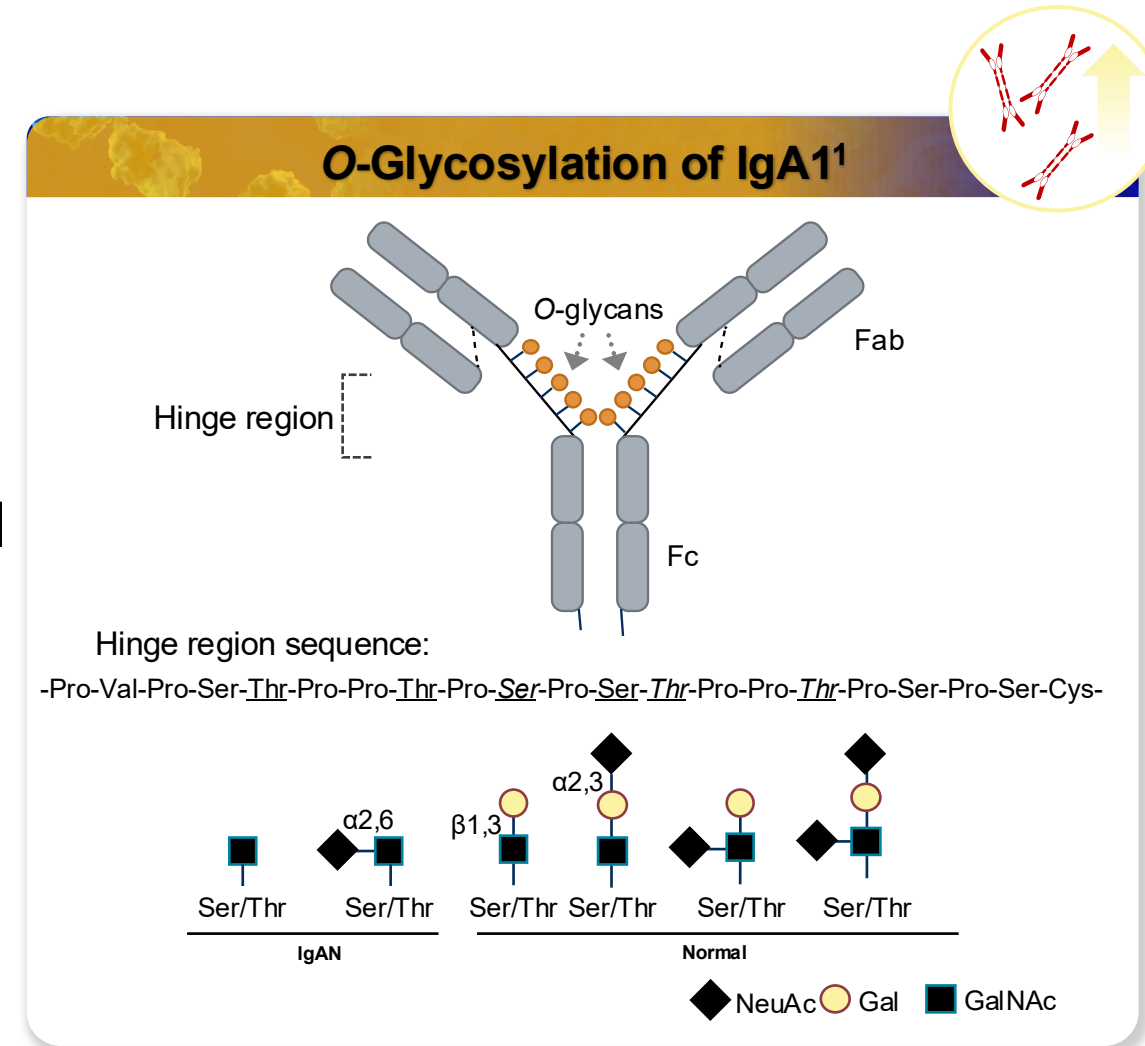
# IgAN: Histopathology (MEST-C)

| Mesangial hypercellularity<br>≥4 mesangial cells in any mesangial area of a glomerulus                  | Endocapillary hypercellularity<br>An increased number of cells in glomerular capillary lumen | Segmental glomerulosclerosis<br>Adhesion or sclerosis not involving the entire glomerulus | Tubular atrophy/interstitial fibrosis<br>The percentage of tubular atrophy/interstitial fibrosis of cortical area | Cellular/fibrocellular crescents<br>Extracapillary cell proliferation >2 cell layers thick and <50% matrix |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| M0 ≤50% of glomeruli                                                                                    | E0 Absence                                                                                   | S0 Absence                                                                                | T0 0-25%                                                                                                          | C0 Absence                                                                                                 |
| M1 >50% of glomeruli                                                                                    | E1 Any presence                                                                              | S1 Any presence                                                                           | T1 26-50%                                                                                                         | C1 <25% of glomeruli                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                         |                                                                                              |                                                                                           | T2 ≥50%                                                                                                           | C2 >25% of glomeruli                                                                                       |
| The MEST-C score offers valuable insight, serving to evaluate the risk of progression to kidney failure |                                                                                              |                                                                                           |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            |

MEST-C = mesangial hypercellularity, endocapillary hypercellularity, segmental glomerulosclerosis, tubular atrophy/interstitial fibrosis, and cellular/fibrocellular crescents.  
Patrapornpisut P, et al. *Am J Kidney Dis.* 2021;78(3):429-441. Cattran DC, et al. *Kidney Int Rep.* 2023;8(12):2515-2528. AJKDblog. Accessed March 30, 2026. <https://ajkdblog.org/2023/03/01/nephmadness-2023-iga-nephropathy-region/#prettyPhoto>.

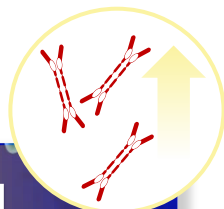
# Gd-IgA1 and Its Autoantibody Are Required for IgAN Disease

- Gd-IgA1 is a pathogenic form of IgA1 produced by plasma cells
- Gd-IgA1 is characterized by altered glycosylation at the hinge region
- The proportion of Gd-IgA1 compared to total IgA is increased in patients with IgAN
- Recognition of Gd-IgA1 by IgG autoantibodies results in the formation of nephritogenic immune complexes
  - Circulating and mesangial immune complexes contain predominantly polymeric Gd-IgA1 as well as IgG autoantibodies and C3

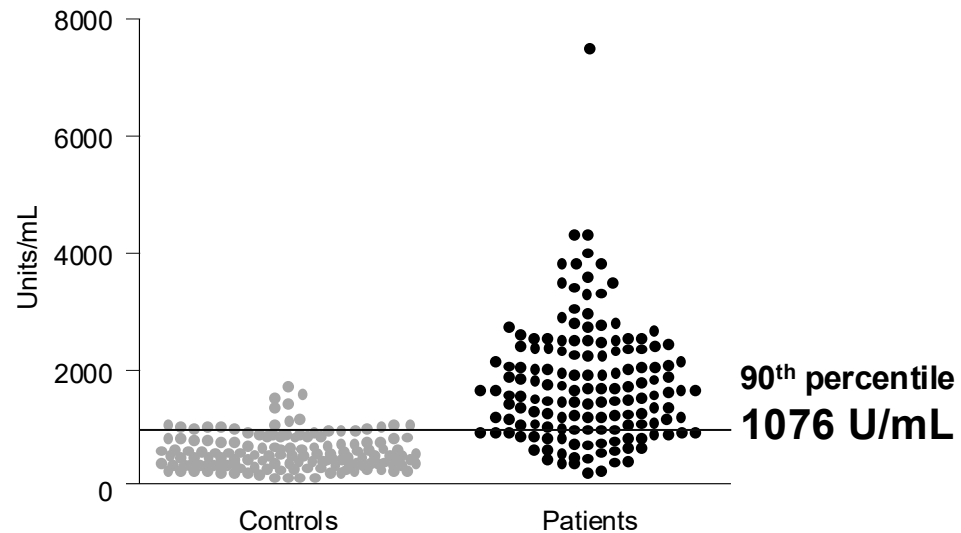




# Gd-IgA1 and Related Immune Complexes Are Associated with Clinical Disease Activity in Patients with IgAN

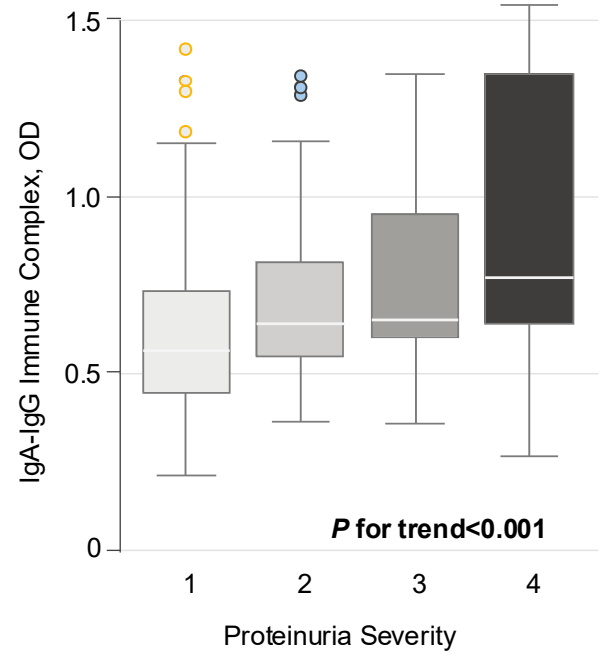
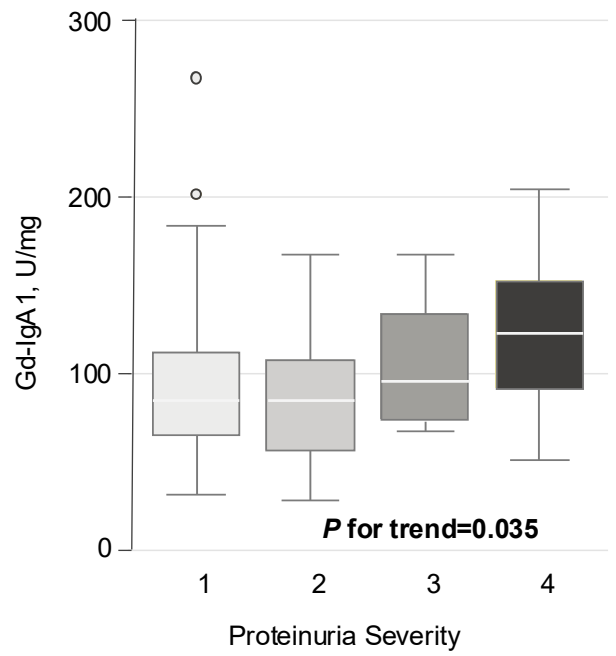


Serum Levels of Gd-IgA1 in Patients With IgAN and Healthy Controls



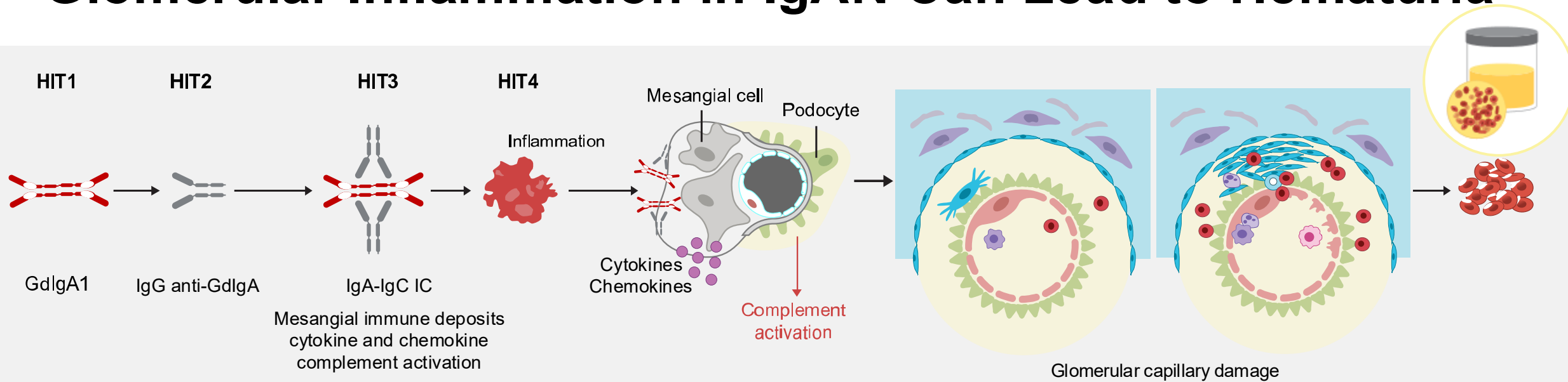
HAA-IgA1 >1076 U/mL has PPV 88.6% and NPV 78.9%

Correlation Between Proteinuria Severity and Serum Gd-IgA1 or IgA/IgG-Immune Complex Levels



NPV = negative predictive value; PPV = positive predictive value; OD = optical density.  
Moldoveanu Z, et al. *Kidney Int.* 2007;71(11):1148-1154. Suzuki Y, et al. *Clin Exp Nephrol.* 2014;18:770-777.

# Glomerular Inflammation in IgAN Can Lead to Hematuria



- Immune complexes are deposited in the kidney, leading to inflammation and glomerular injury, due to the release of cytokines, chemokines, and activation of the complement cascade
- This results in damage to the glomerular filtration barrier, passage of RBCs into the urinary space, and development of hematuria

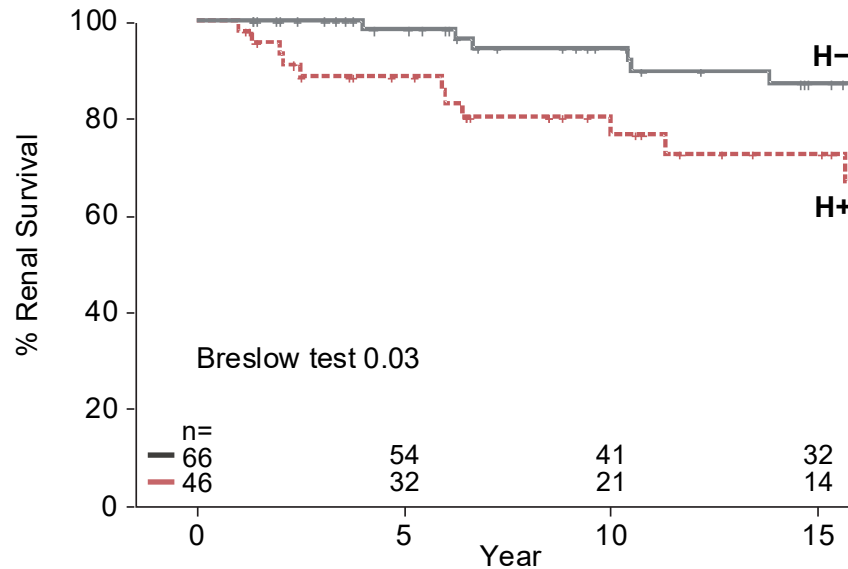
RBC = red blood cell.

Zand L, et al. *Clin Kidney J.* 2023;16(suppl 2):ii19-ii27.

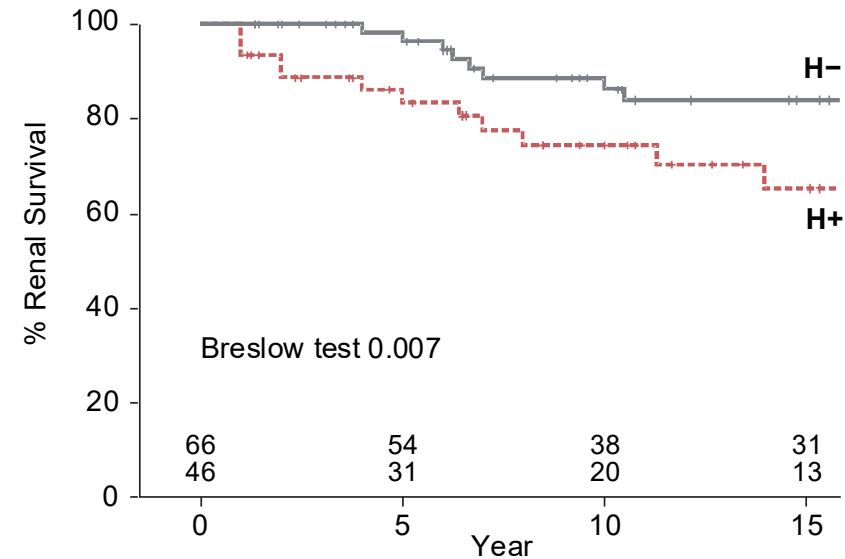
# Persistent Hematuria Predicted Worse Clinical Renal Outcomes



Renal Survival Free of ESRD



Renal Survival Free of 50% Reduction of Renal Function



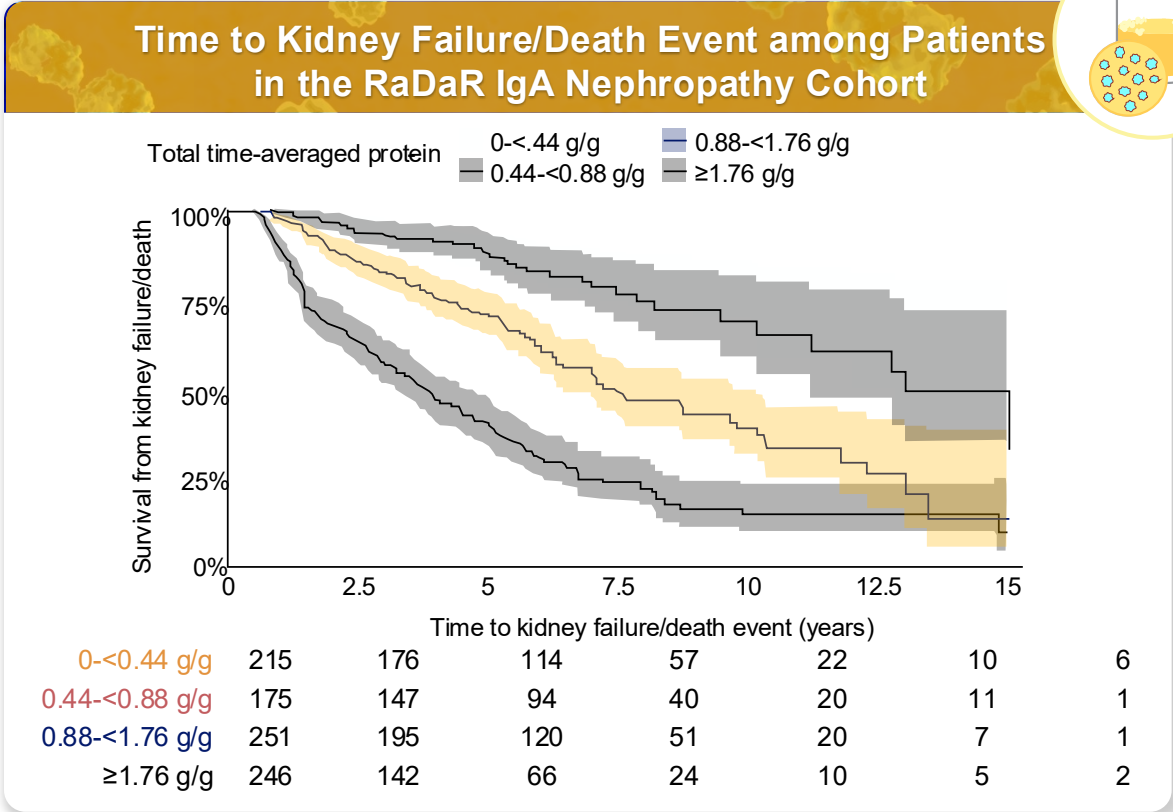
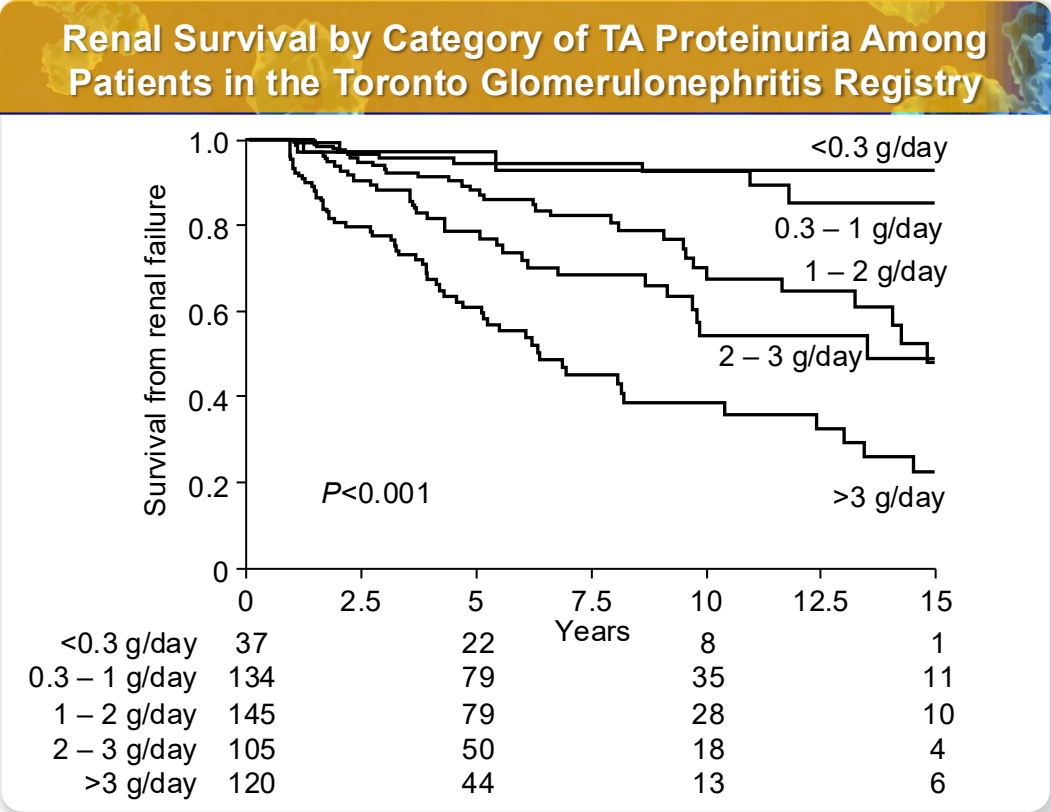
The percentage of patients reaching ESRD or a 50% reduction of renal function was significantly greater among those with persistent hematuria than those with minimal or negative hematuria

|                                                                     | All Patients<br>n=112 | H-<br>n=66   | H+<br>n=46   | P-value |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| ESRD, n (%)                                                         | 21 (17)               | 7 (11)       | 14 (30)      | 0.01    |
| 50% reduction in renal function, n (%)                              | 27 (22)               | 10 (15)      | 17 (37)      | 0.01    |
| Rate of renal function decline, mL/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> per year | -2.34 ± 5             | -1.54 ± 3.92 | -3.34 ± 6.12 | 0.06    |

H- = patients with minimal or negative hematuria during follow-up (time-averaged hematuria  $\leq 5$  RBC x hpf); H+ = patients with persistent hematuria during follow-up (time-averaged hematuria  $> 5$  RBC x hpf); hpf = high-power field.

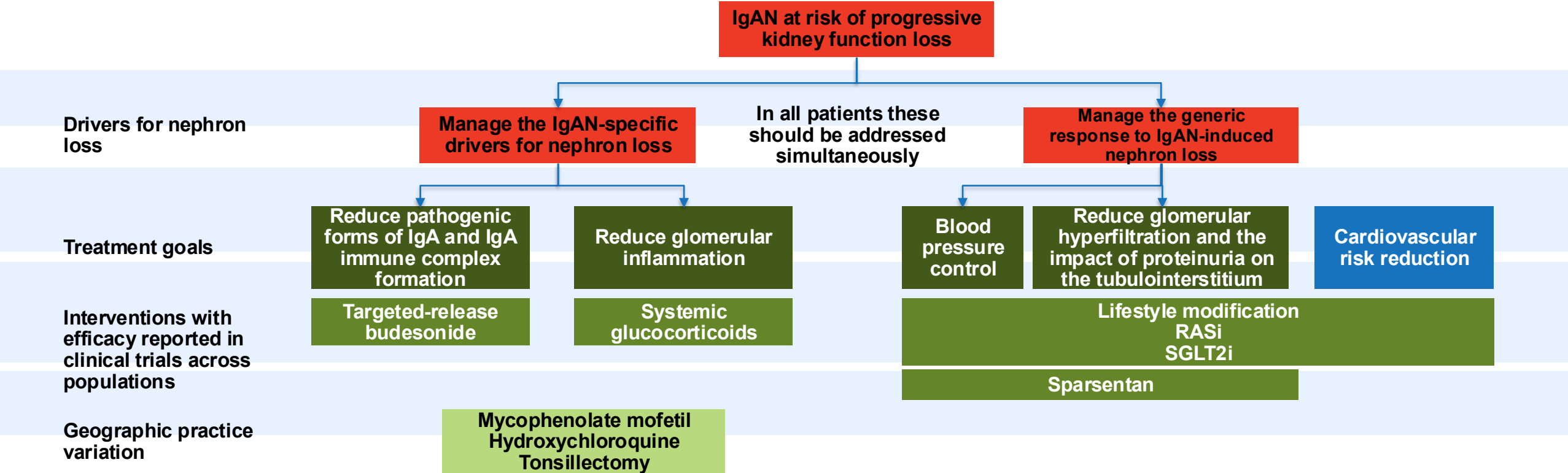
Sevillano AM, et al. *J Am Soc Nephrol.* 2017;28:3089-3099.

# Proteinuria Is Associated with Decreased Renal Survival



Recent data have shown that even lower levels of proteinuria are associated with a significant lifetime risk of renal failure

# Draft Clinical Practice Guideline for IgAN



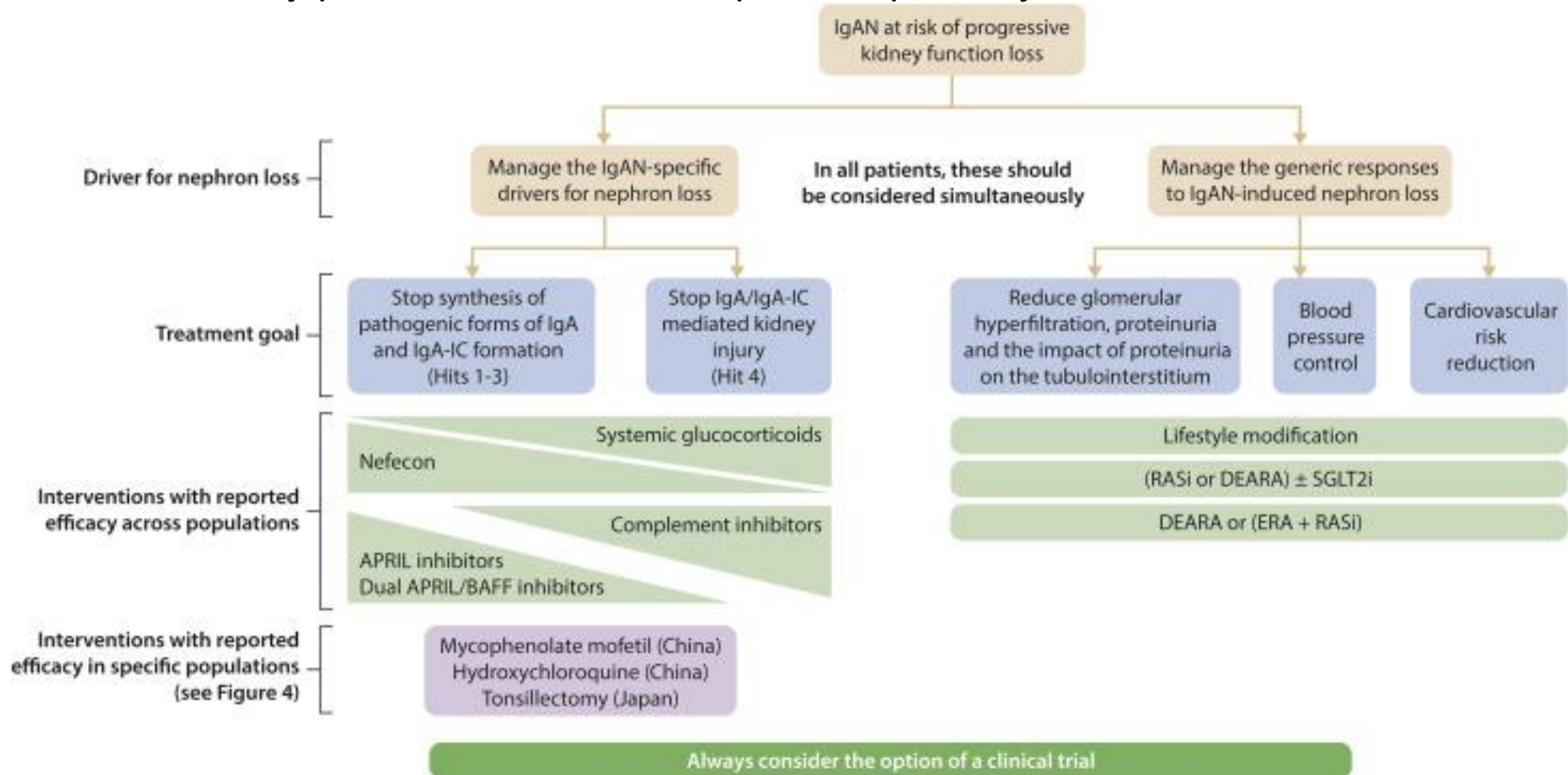
With the development and recent approval of new therapies for IgAN, draft KDIGO guidelines recommend therapies that

1. Prevent/reduce IgA immune complex formation and subsequent glomerular injury
2. Manage the consequences of existing IgAN-induced nephron loss

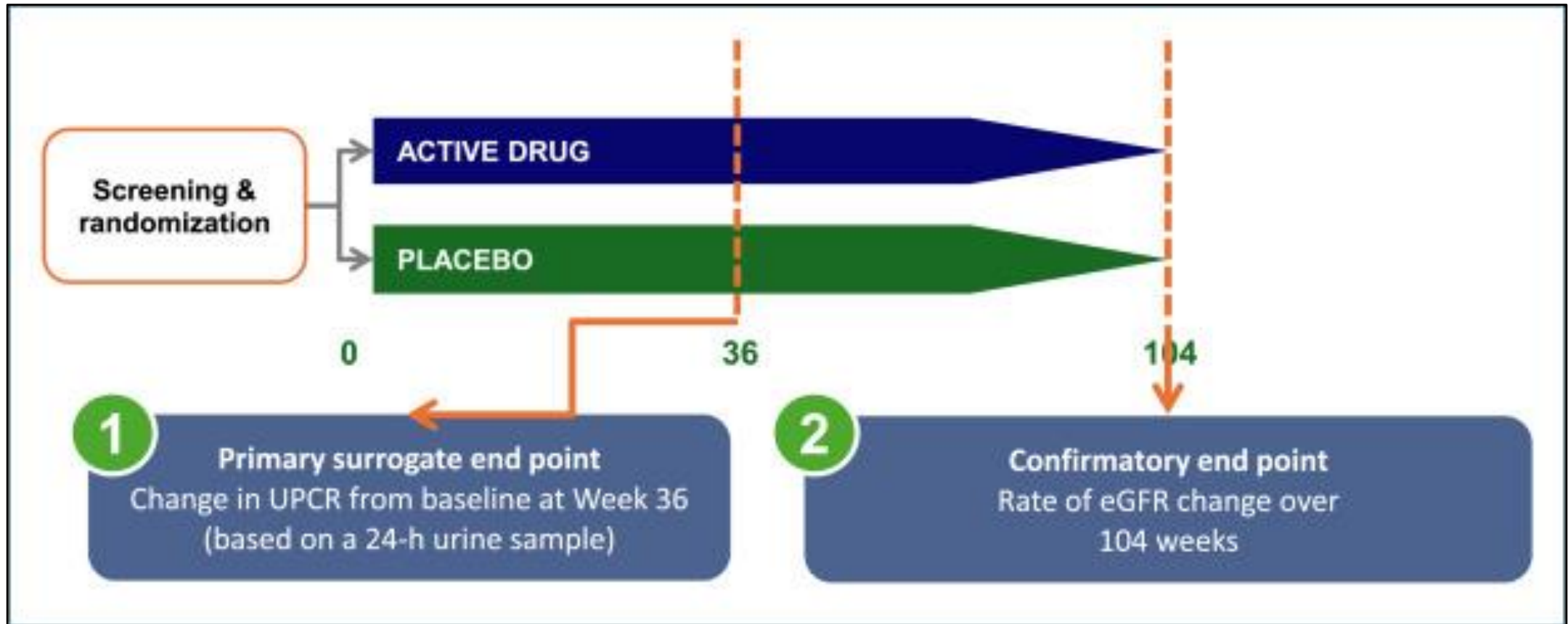
RASi = renin-angiotensin system inhibitor.  
 Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) Glomerular Diseases Work Group. *KDIGO 2024 Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Immunoglobulin A Nephropathy (IgAN) and Immunoglobulin A Vasculitis (IgAV) Public Review Draft. 2024.*



- The newly released KDIGO commentary (2026) highlights a shift toward disease-modifying therapies in IgAN, particularly those targeting upstream immune mechanisms such as B-cell activation/antibody production and the complement pathway



# Newer Clinical Trial Designs IgAN



# Treatment Goal

- Renal protective strategies
- Targeting the immune mechanisms in IgA nephropathy

# Renal Protective Strategies/Reducing Nephron Loss

- RAAS blockade
  - SGLT2 inhibitors
  - Endothelin receptor antagonists (ETA)
  - Corticosteroids
- 
- RAASi, SGLT2i, and ETA offer hemodynamic and non hemodynamic benefits, but not immunologic effects

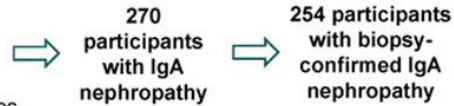


# SGLT2 Inhibitors-DAPA CKD Trial

**A pre-specified analysis of the DAPA-CKD trial demonstrates the effects of dapagliflozin on major adverse kidney events in patients with IgA nephropathy.**

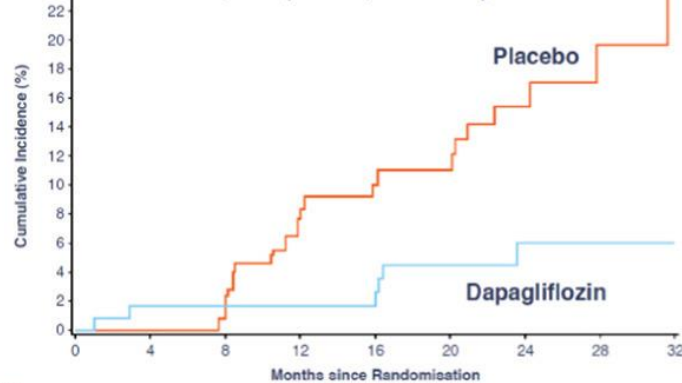
## DAPA-CKD population:

- eGFR 25-75 mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>
- UACR 200-5000 mg/g
- Receiving a stable, maximally tolerable ACEi/ARB dose
- With and without type 2 diabetes



## Composite primary endpoint in patients with IgA nephropathy (n=270)

Hazard ratio, 0.29 (95% CI, 0.12-0.73)



No. at Risk

Dapagliflozin

Placebo

|     |     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| 137 | 107 | 106 | 105 | 104 | 98 | 61 | 43 | 17 |
| 133 | 113 | 108 | 101 | 95  | 92 | 51 | 32 | 19 |

IgA, immunoglobulin A; ACEi, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blockers; CKD, chronic kidney disease; ESKD, end-stage kidney disease

Composite primary endpoint  
(≥50% eGFR decline/ESKD/CV or kidney death)

Patients with IgA nephropathy



Hazard Ratio  
(95% CI)

0.29 (0.12, 0.73)

P Value

0.005

Patients with biopsy-confirmed IgA nephropathy



0.28 (0.11, 0.72)

0.005

Composite of kidney endpoint  
(≥50% eGFR decline/ESKD/kidney death)

Patients with IgA nephropathy



0.24 (0.09, 0.65)

0.002

Patients with biopsy-confirmed IgA nephropathy



0.23 (0.09, 0.63)

0.002

0.05 0.5 1.0 3.0

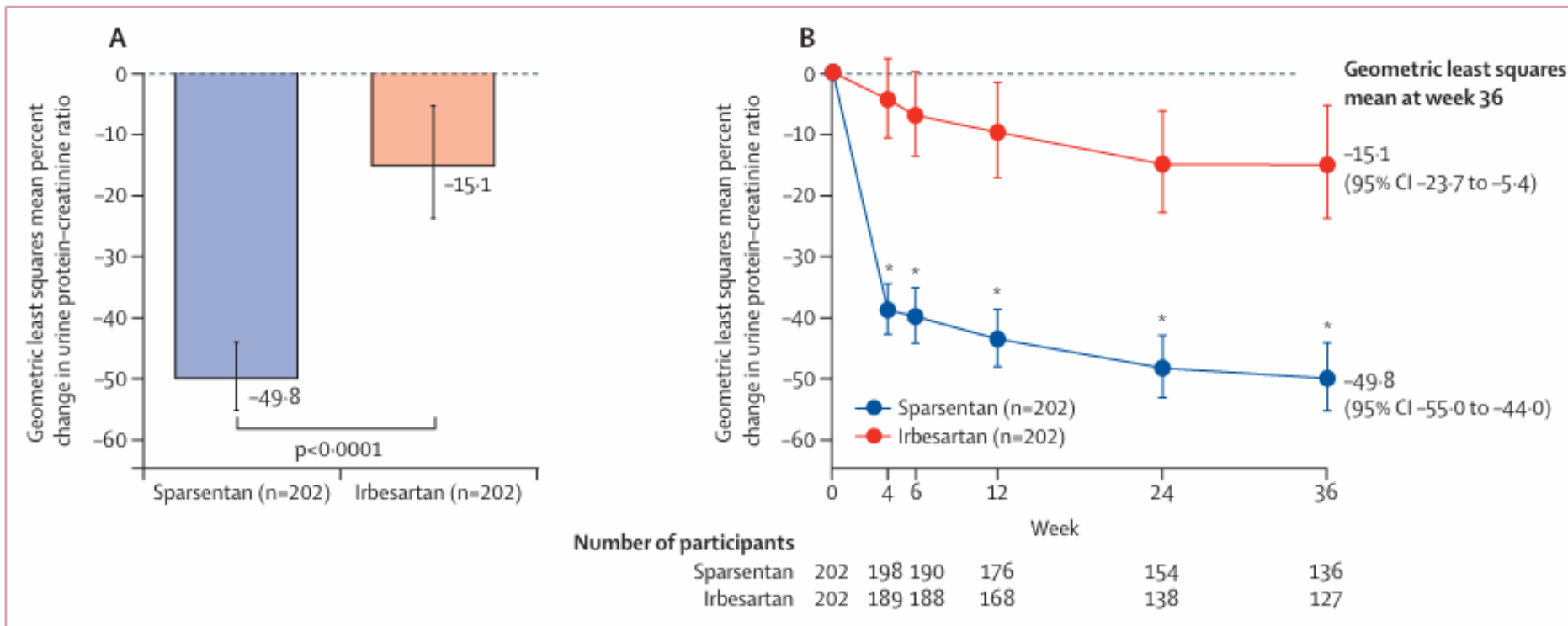
Dapagliflozin better Placebo better

## CONCLUSION:

In patients with IgA nephropathy, when added to ACEi/ARB therapy, dapagliflozin significantly and substantially reduced the risk of CKD progression

# ET<sub>A</sub>R Antagonists (ERA)

## Dual ERA/AngII Antagonist-*Sparsentan*-PROTECT Trial



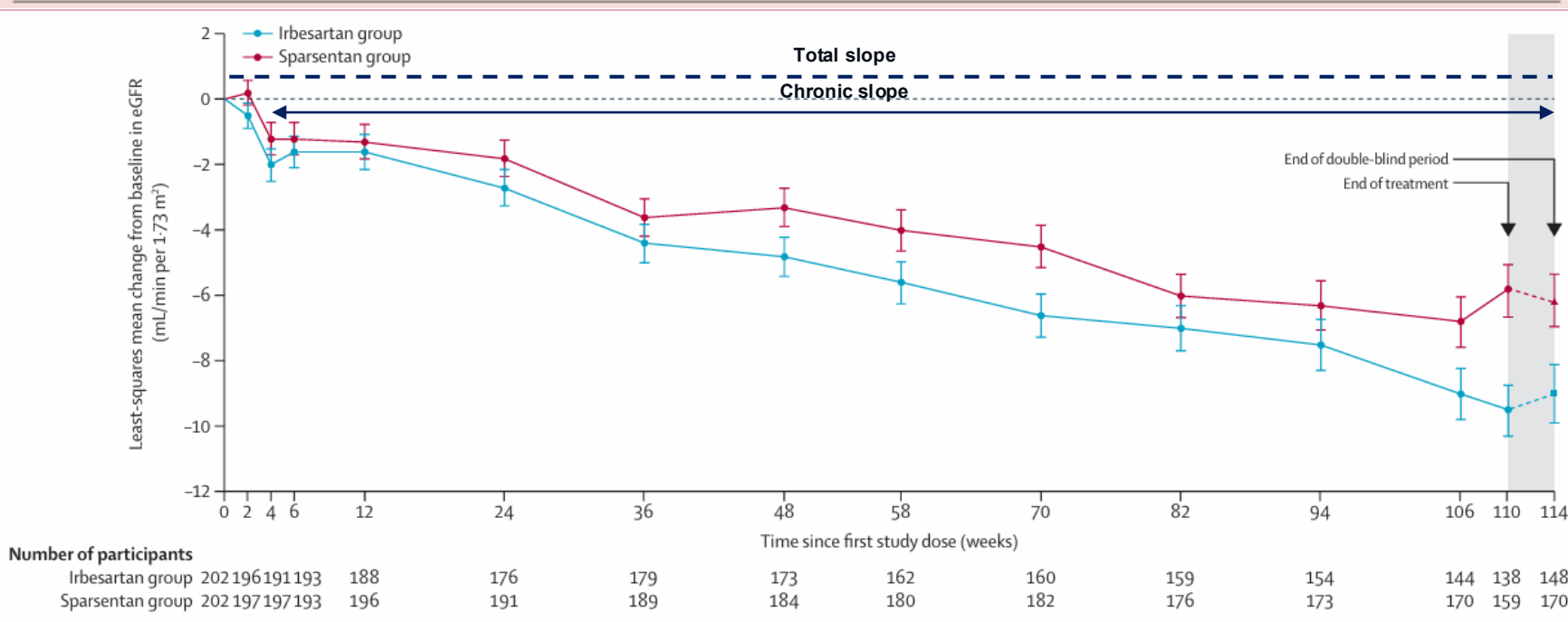
- Phase 3, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial
- Sparsentan 400/d or irbesartan 300/d
- eGFR  $\geq 30$  ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>, 24-hour urine protein  $\geq 1$  g despite max RAAS blockade
- 41% relative reduction in uPCR
- No episode of heart failure. More hypotension and dizziness in the sparsentan group



# Dual ERA/AngII Antagonist-*Sparsentan*-PROTECT Trial

|                                                                                | Sparsentan group<br>(n=202) | Irbesartan group<br>(n=202) | Between-group<br>difference (95% CI) | p value |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Key secondary efficacy endpoints*</b>                                       |                             |                             |                                      |         |
| Chronic slope from week 6 to week 110, mL/min per 1.73 m <sup>2</sup> per year | -2.7 (-3.4 to -2.1)         | -3.8 (-4.6 to -3.1)         | 1.1 (0.1 to 2.1)                     | 0.037   |
| Total slope from day 1 to week 110, mL/min per 1.73 m <sup>2</sup> per year    | -2.9 (-3.6 to -2.2)         | -3.9 (-4.6 to -3.1)         | 1.0 (-0.03 to 1.94)                  | 0.058   |
| <b>Other secondary efficacy endpoint*</b>                                      |                             |                             |                                      |         |
| Absolute change from baseline to week 110, mL/min per 1.73 m <sup>2</sup>      | -5.8 (-7.4 to -4.2)         | -9.5 (-11.2 to -7.9)        | 3.7 (1.5 to 6.0)                     | ..      |
| <b>Prespecified exploratory endpoint†</b>                                      |                             |                             |                                      |         |
| Absolute change from baseline to week 114, mL/min per 1.73 m <sup>2</sup>      | -6.1 (-7.7 to -4.5)         | -9.0 (-10.7 to -7.2)        | 2.9 (0.5 to 5.3)                     | ..      |

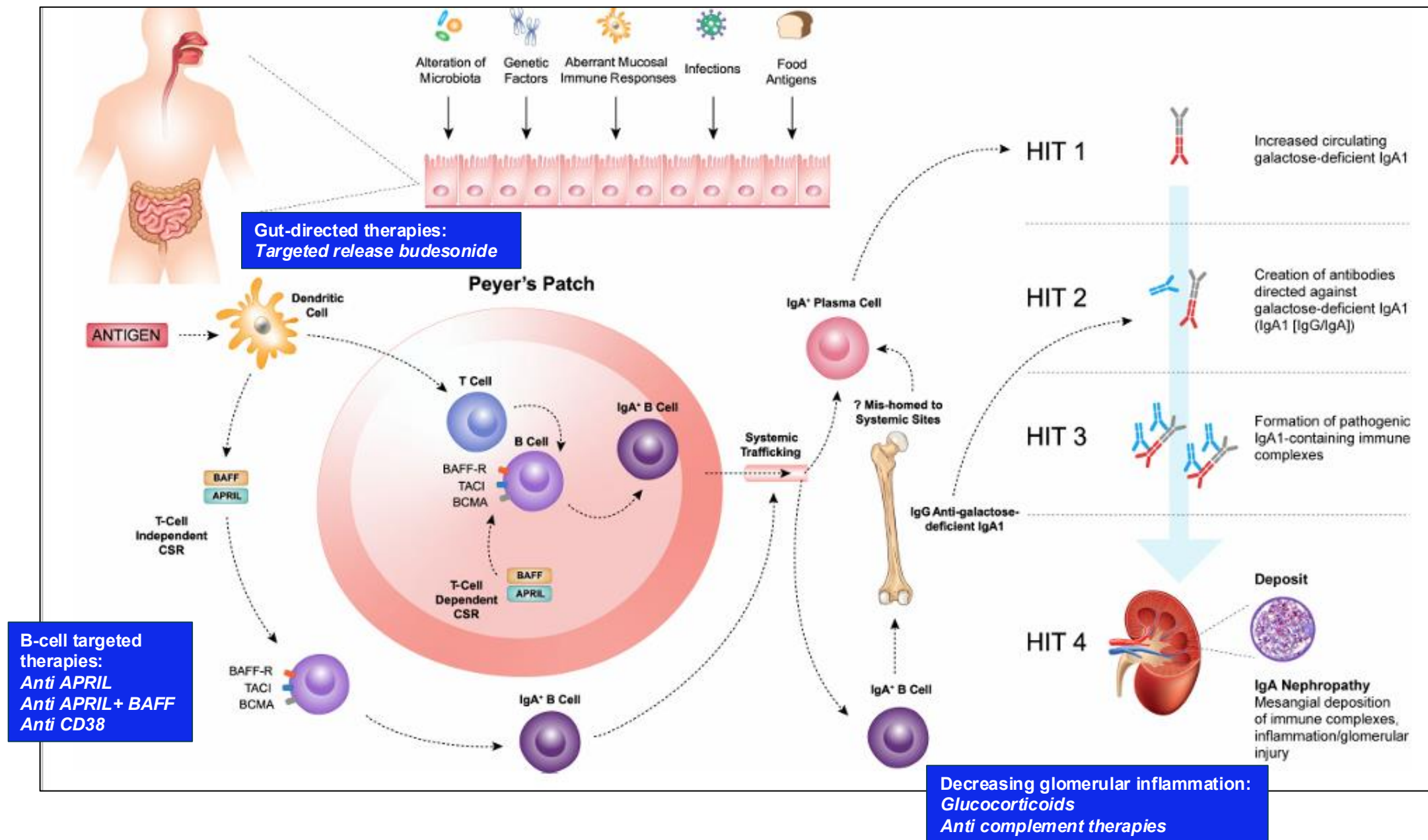
Data are least-squares mean change (95% CI) in eGFR unless otherwise stated. eGFR=estimated glomerular filtration rate. \*Assessed in the full analysis set. †Assessed in patients in the full analysis set who completed the study treatment.



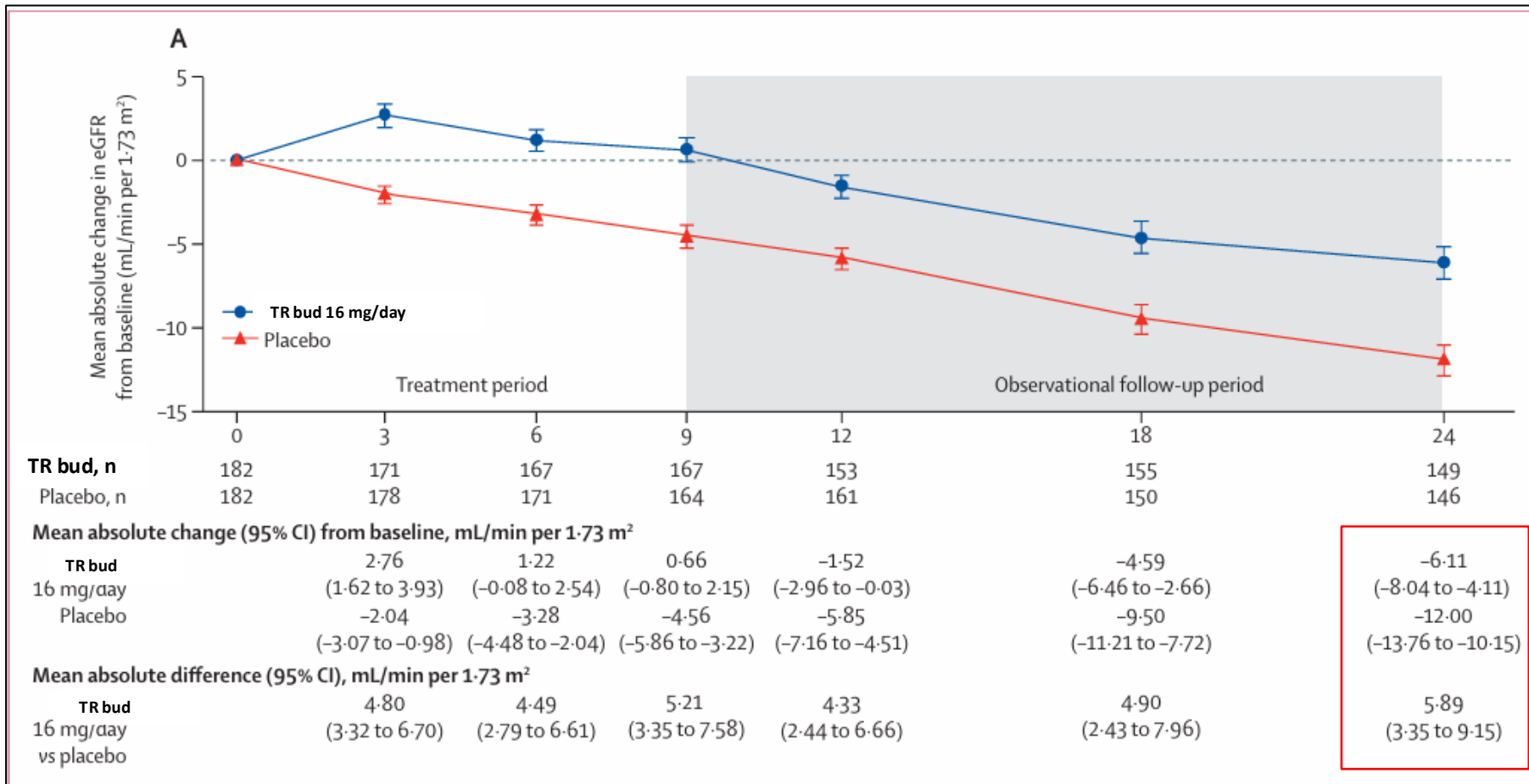
Change in eGFR

# Targeting the Immune Mechanisms in IgA Nephropathy

- Enterically active steroids
- Anti B-cell therapies
- Complement inhibitors



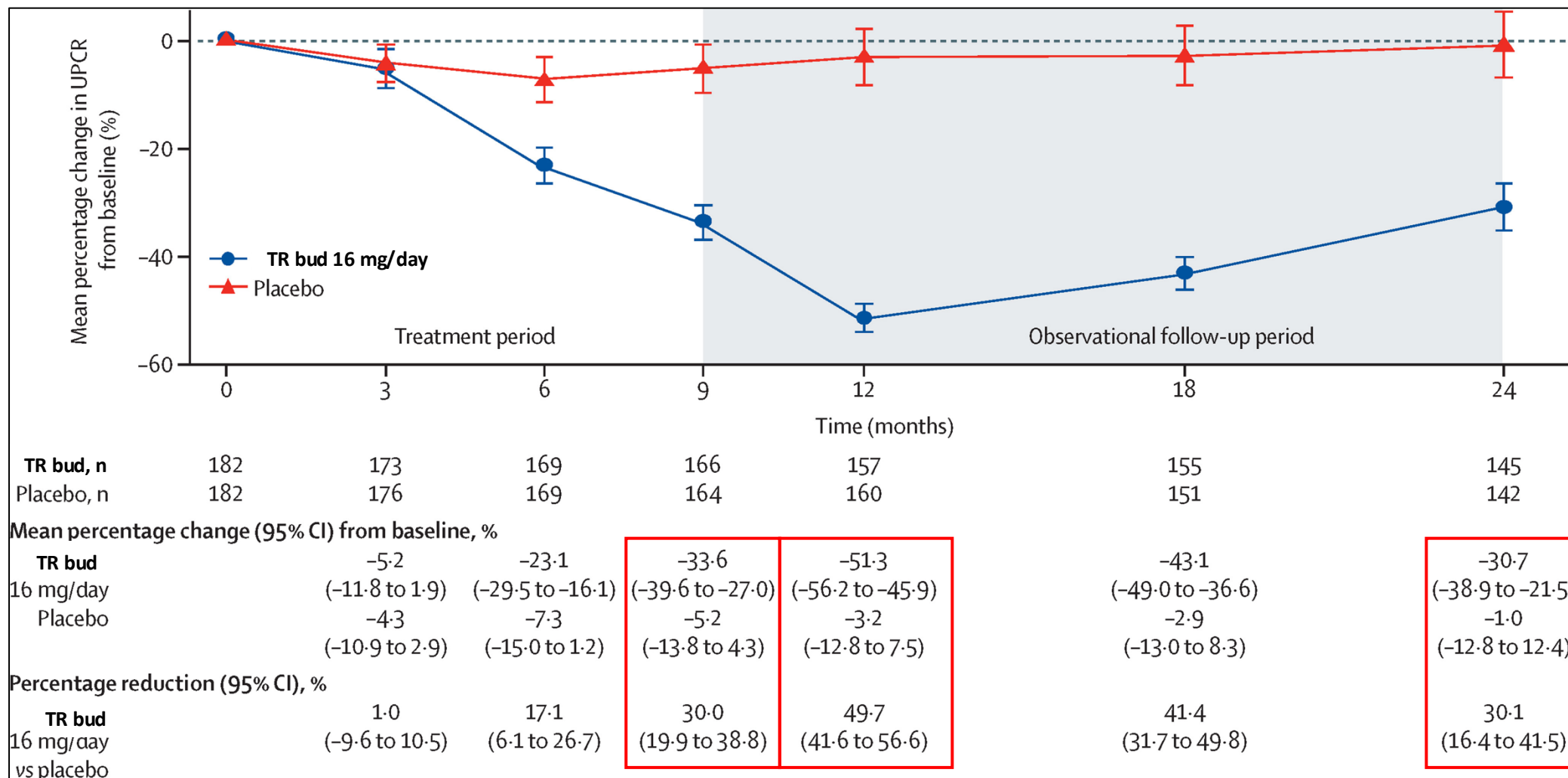
# Targeted Release Budesonide: NeflgArd-Phase 3, Part B



Mean absolute change in eGFR from baseline over 24 months

- Over 2 years, time weighted average of eGFR with significant benefit of targeted-release oral budesonide (TR bud) vs placebo (difference 5 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>)
- eGFR total slope over 2 years-difference of 2.95ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>/year

# Targeted Release Budesonide: NeflgArd-Phase 3, Part B



# Mechanisms of Emerging Agents Targeting B-Cells

- **Monoclonal antibodies**

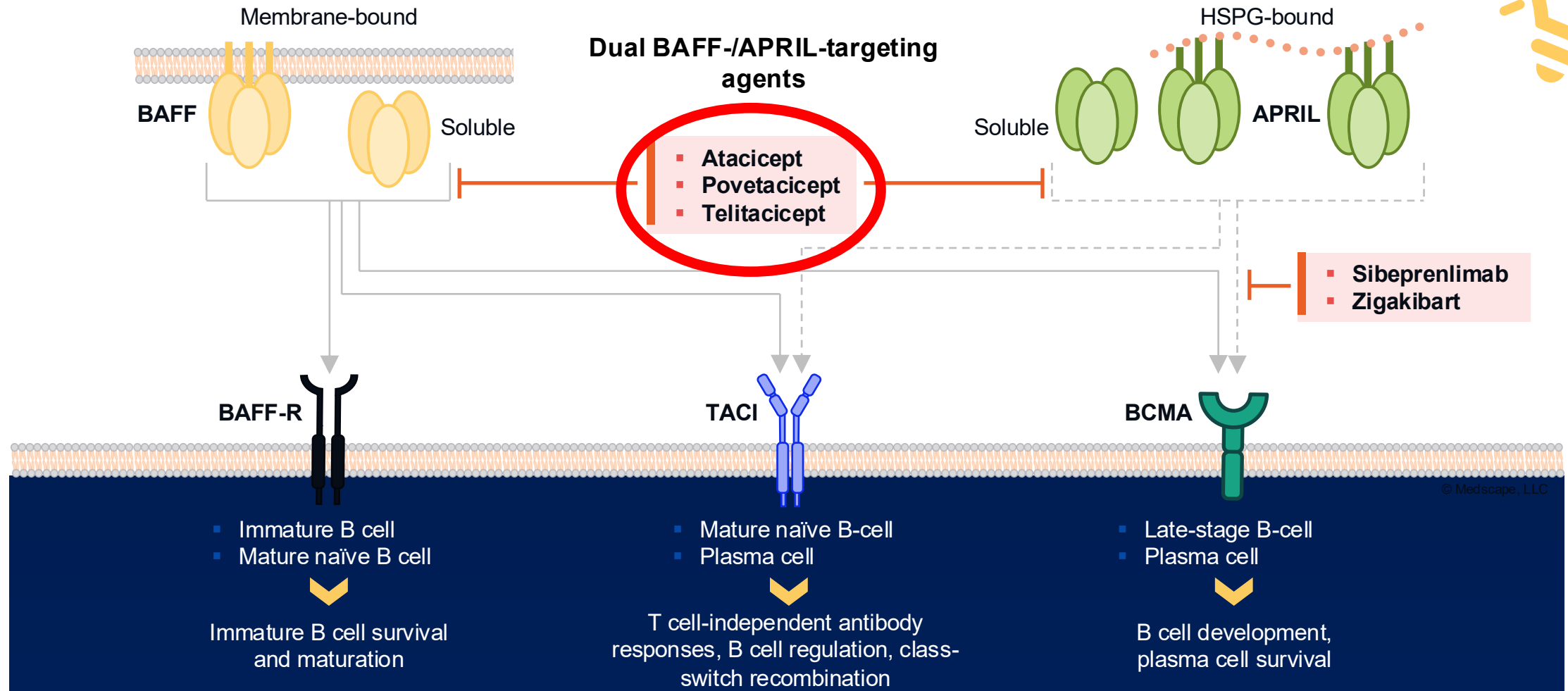
- Sibeprenlimab
- Zigakibart

- **Fusion protein**

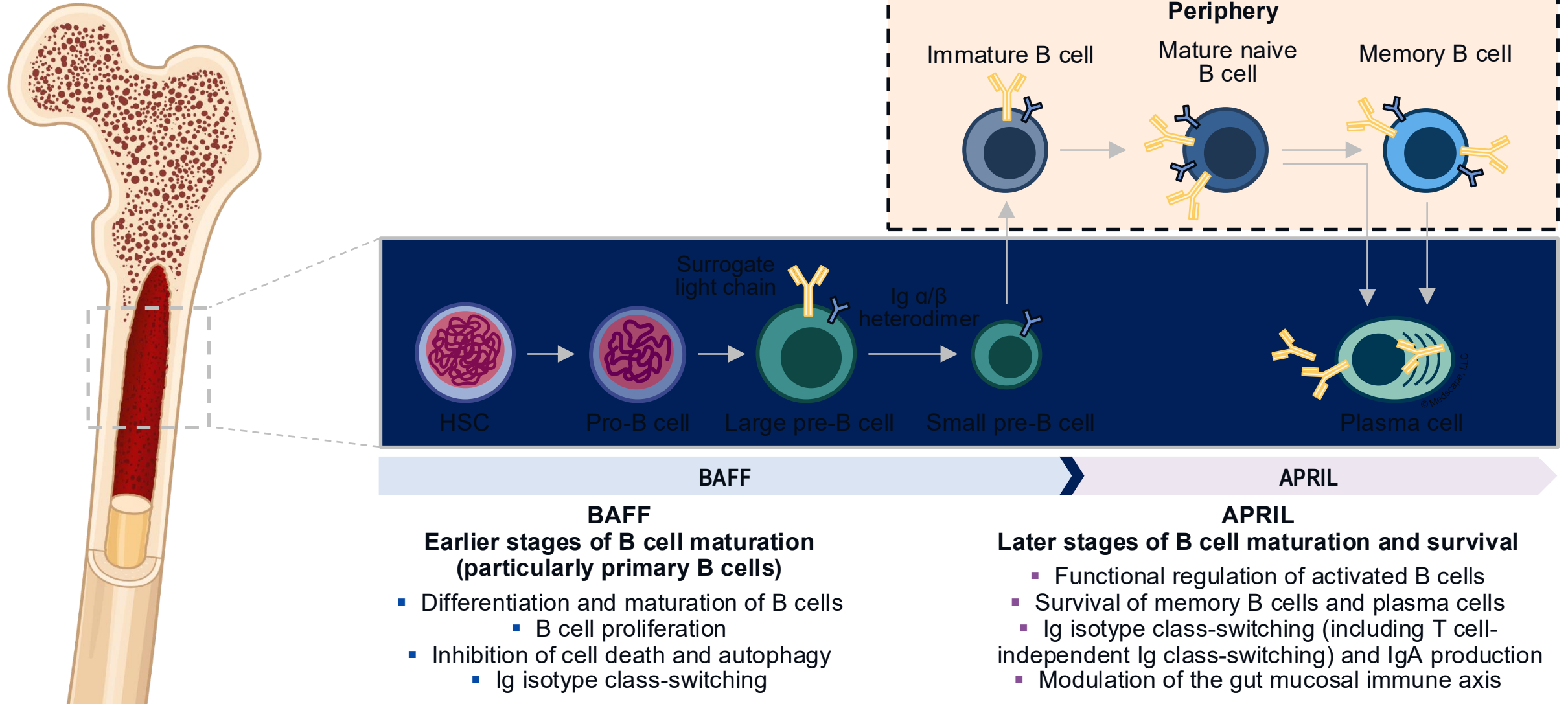
- Atacicept
- Povetacicept
- Telitacicept



# B-Cell and Plasma Cell Targets and the Consequences of Disease-Modulating Therapies



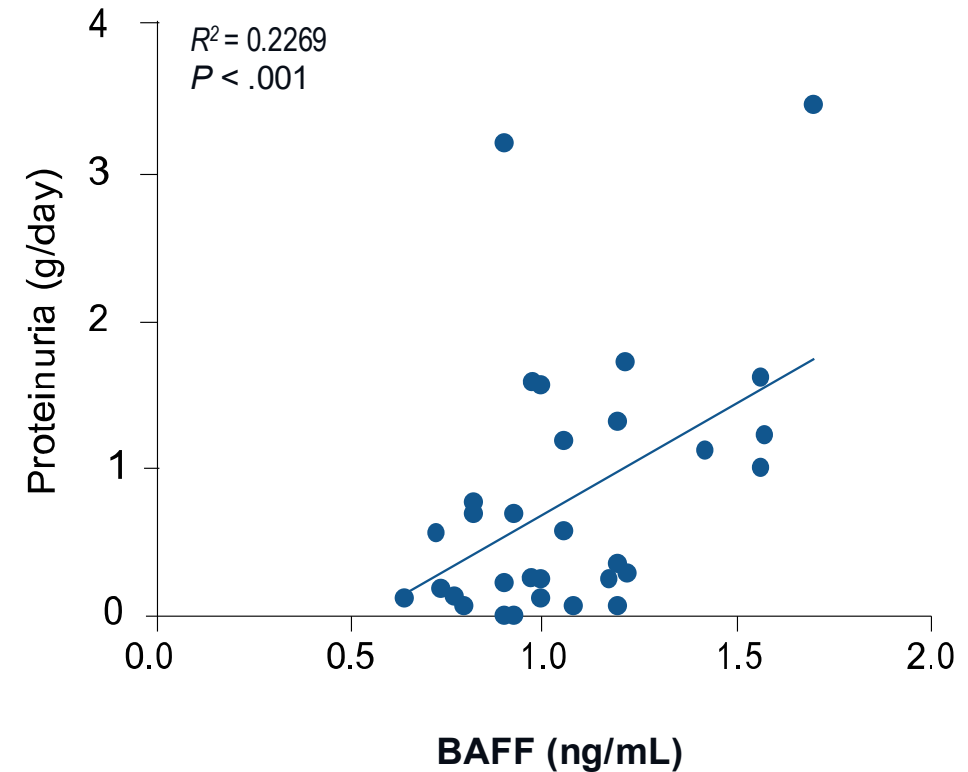
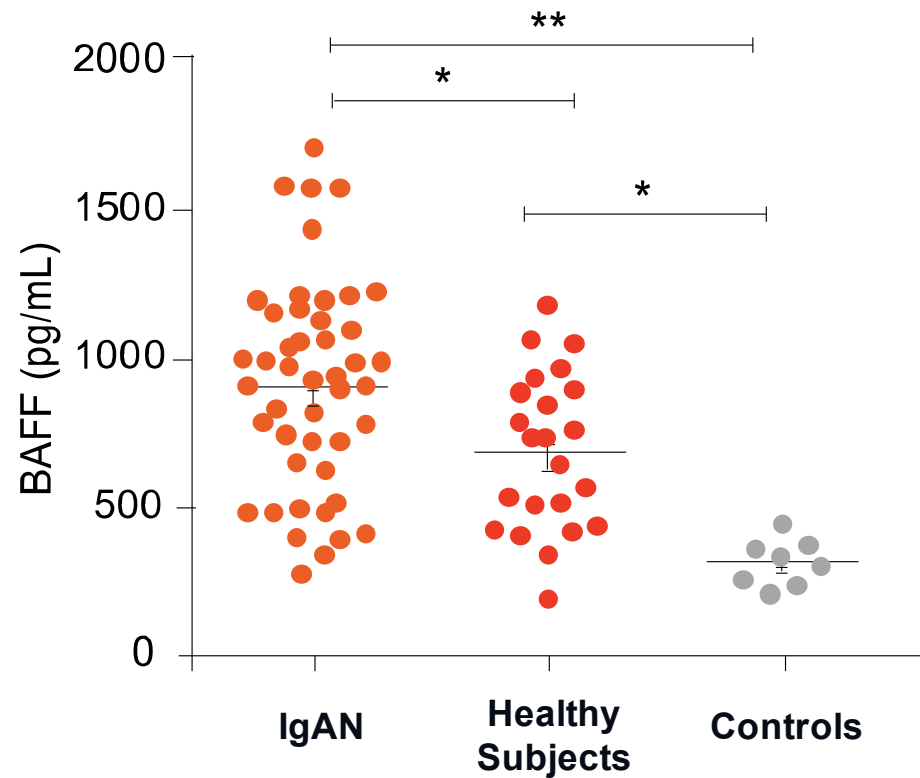
# Roles of BAFF and APRIL in the Normal Physiology of B-Cell Maturation and Survival



HSC = hematopoietic stem cell.

Chacko B, et al. *ASN Kidney News*. 2024;16:11-12.

# BAFF Levels Correlate with Proteinuria in Patients with IgAN

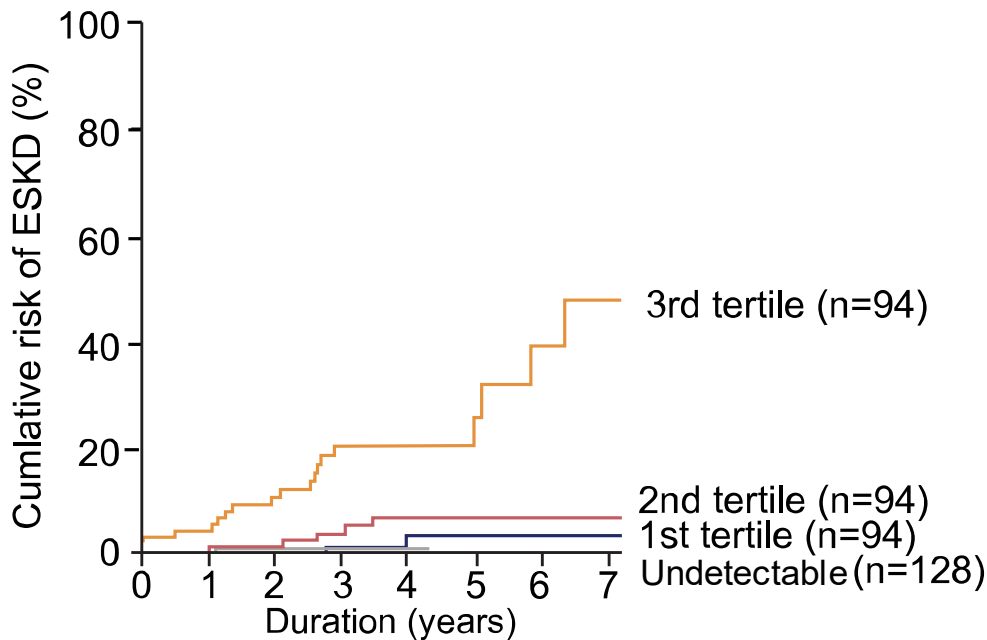


\* $P \leq .05$ ; \*\* $P \leq .005$ .

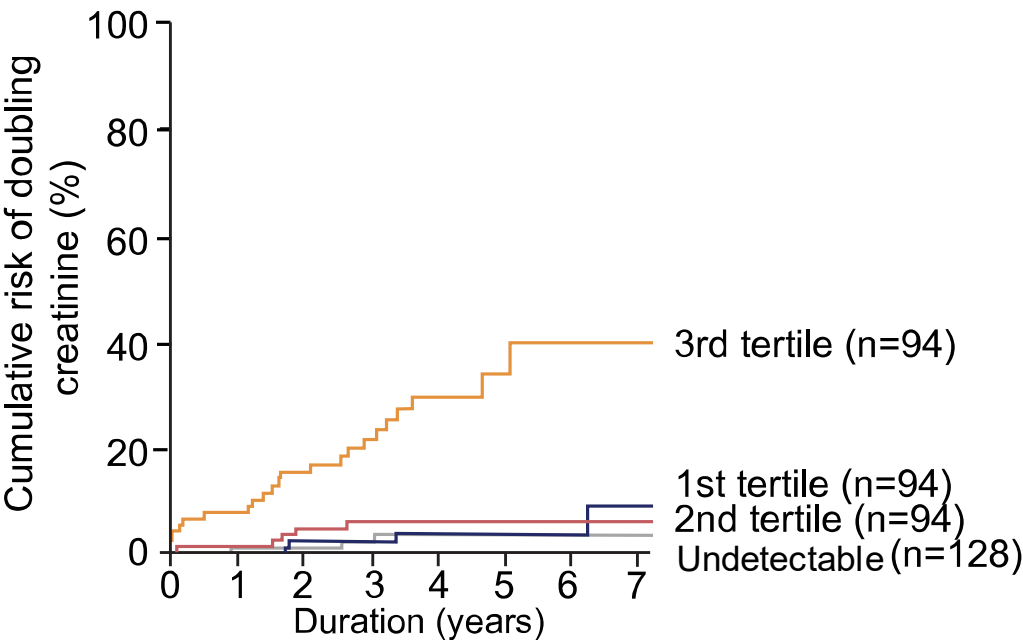
Sallustio F, et al. *Nephrol Dial Transplant*. 2021;36(9):1765.

# High APRIL Levels Are Associated with Increased Risk of ESKD in Patients with IgAN

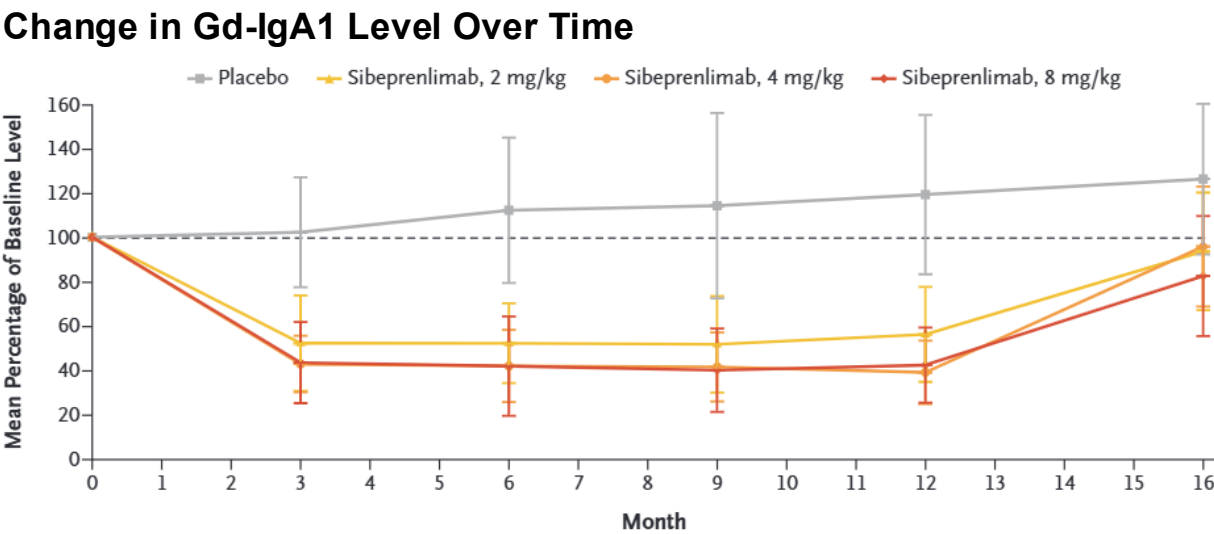
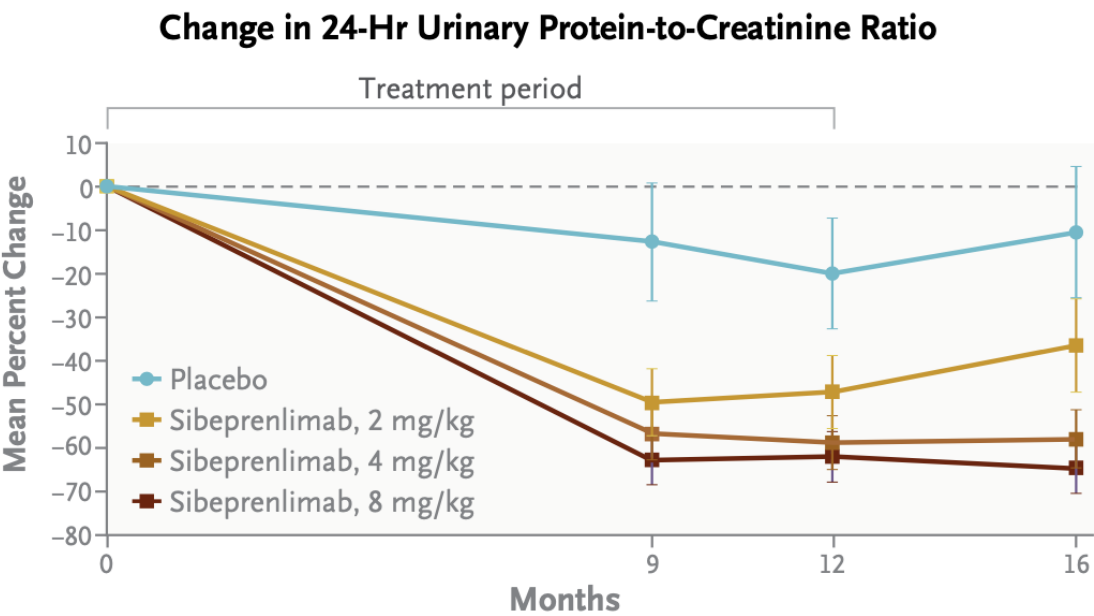
Cumulative Risk of ESKD (%)  
by APRIL Level Tertiles



Cumulative Risk of Doubling Creatinine (%)  
by APRIL Level Tertiles

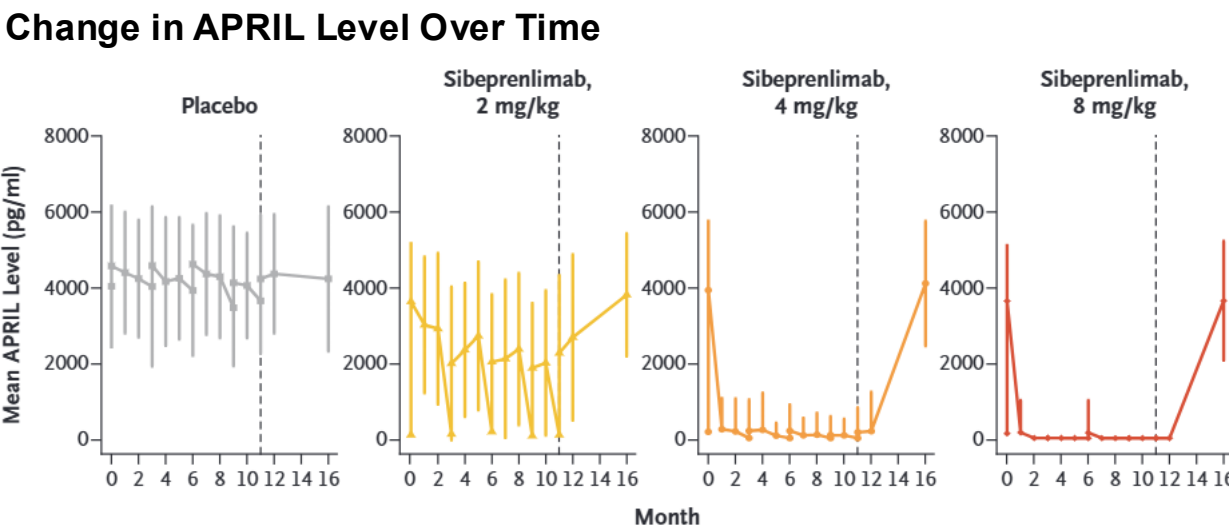


# ENVISION Trial: Primary Outcome and Biomarker Reductions



Geometric Mean Percent Reduction in 24-Hr Urinary Protein-to-Creatinine Ratio

| End Point | Sibeprenlimab 2 mg/kg (N=38) | Sibeprenlimab 4 mg/kg (N=41) | Sibeprenlimab 8 mg/kg (N=38) | Placebo (N=38) |
|-----------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Month 9   | 49.6±7.7                     | 56.7±6.2                     | 62.8±5.5                     | 12.7±13.4      |
| Month 12  | 47.2±8.2                     | 58.8±6.1                     | 62.0±5.7                     | 20.0±12.6      |
| Month 16  | 36.5±10.6                    | 58.0±6.6                     | 64.6±5.7                     | 10.6±15.0      |



# ENVISION Trial: Secondary Endpoint: eGFR

| End Point                                                                                                                 | Sibeprenlimab,<br>2 mg/kg<br>(N=38) | Sibeprenlimab,<br>4 mg/kg<br>(N=41) | Sibeprenlimab,<br>8 mg/kg<br>(N=38) | Placebo<br>(N=38) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Least-squares mean change from baseline in eGFR at month 12 — ml/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> <sup>§</sup>                     | -2.7±1.8                            | 0.2±1.7                             | -1.5±1.8                            | -7.4±1.8          |
| Least-squares mean difference in eGFR relative to placebo from baseline to month 12 (95% CI) — ml/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> | 4.6 (-0.3 to 9.5)                   | 7.6 (2.8 to 12.3)                   | 5.8 (0.9 to 10.7)                   | —                 |
| Annualized eGFR slope estimate from baseline to month 12 — ml/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> <sup>¶</sup>                        | -4.1±1.7                            | 0.1±1.6                             | -0.8±1.6                            | -5.9±1.7          |
| Treatment difference in eGFR slope relative to placebo (95% CI) — ml/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup>                              | 1.81 (-2.8 to 6.4)                  | 5.96 (1.5 to 10.4)                  | 5.08 (0.5 to 9.6)                   | —                 |

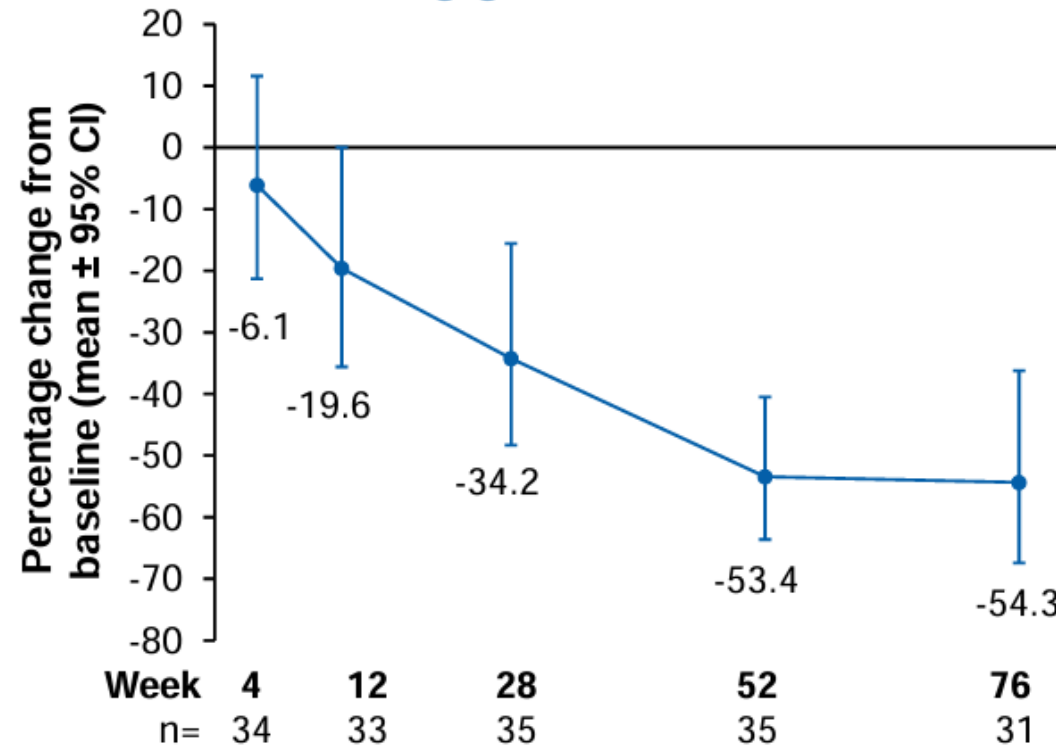
**All sibeprenlimab groups had an attenuated decline in eGFR compared with placebo**

<sup>§</sup>A regression model for repeated measures was used for this analysis. <sup>¶</sup>A linear mixed-effects model was used for this analysis.  
Mathur M, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2024;390(1):20-31.

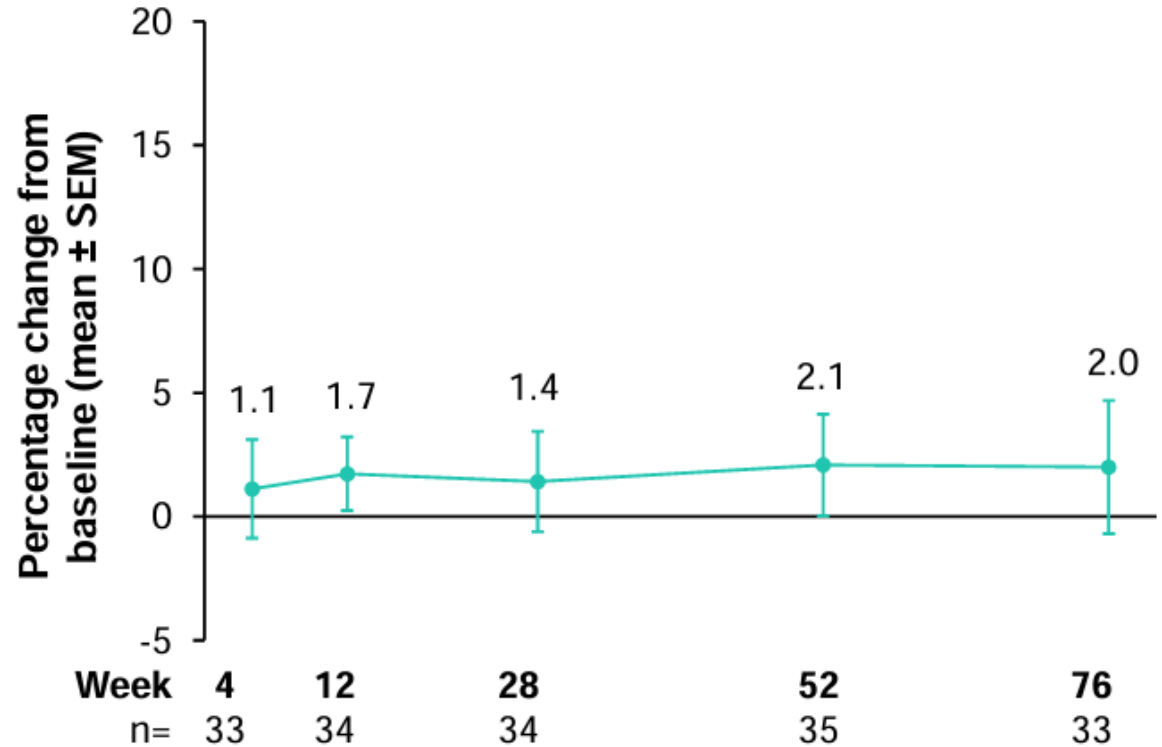


# Phase 2 Trial of Zigakibart: Efficacy to Week 76 (Combined Cohorts 1 and 2)

**A. 24-hour UPCR, g/g**

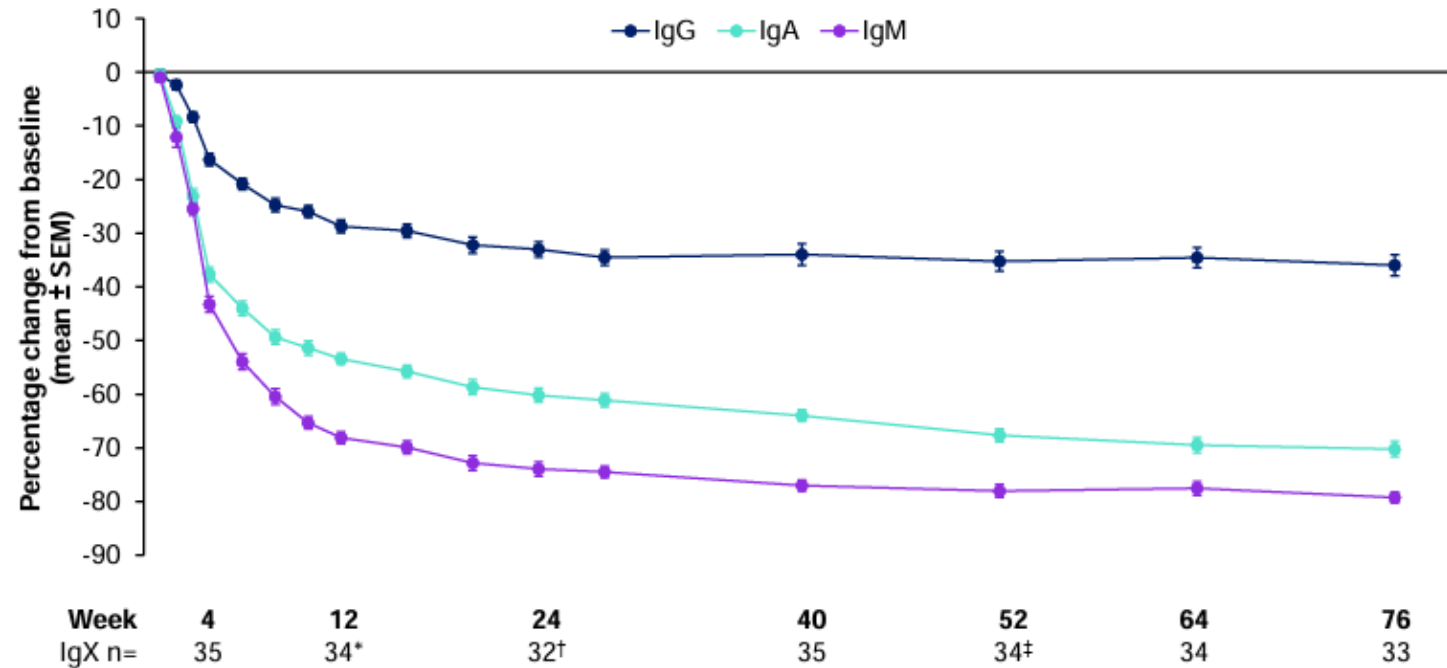


**B. eGFR, mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>**

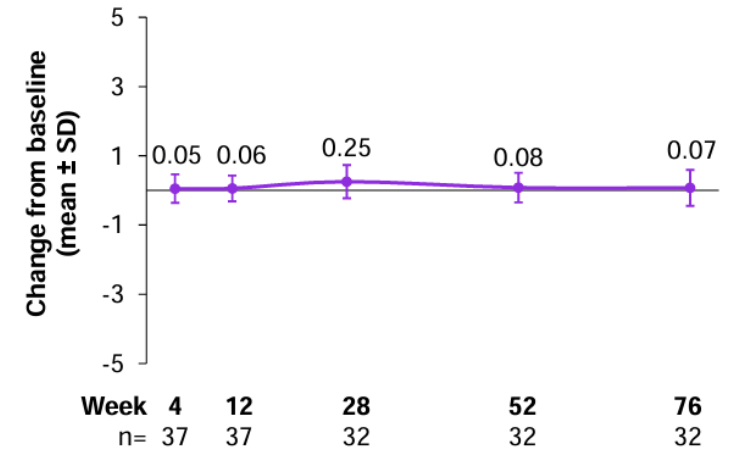


# Phase 2 Trial of Zigakibart: Biomarkers to Week 76 (Combined Cohorts 1 and 2)

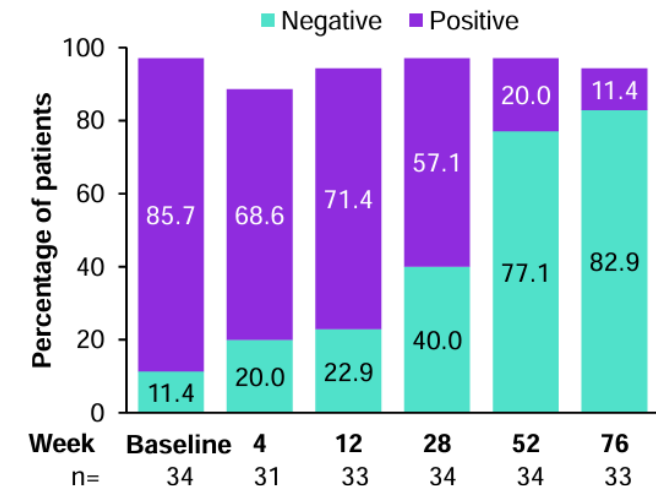
A. Serum immunoglobulins



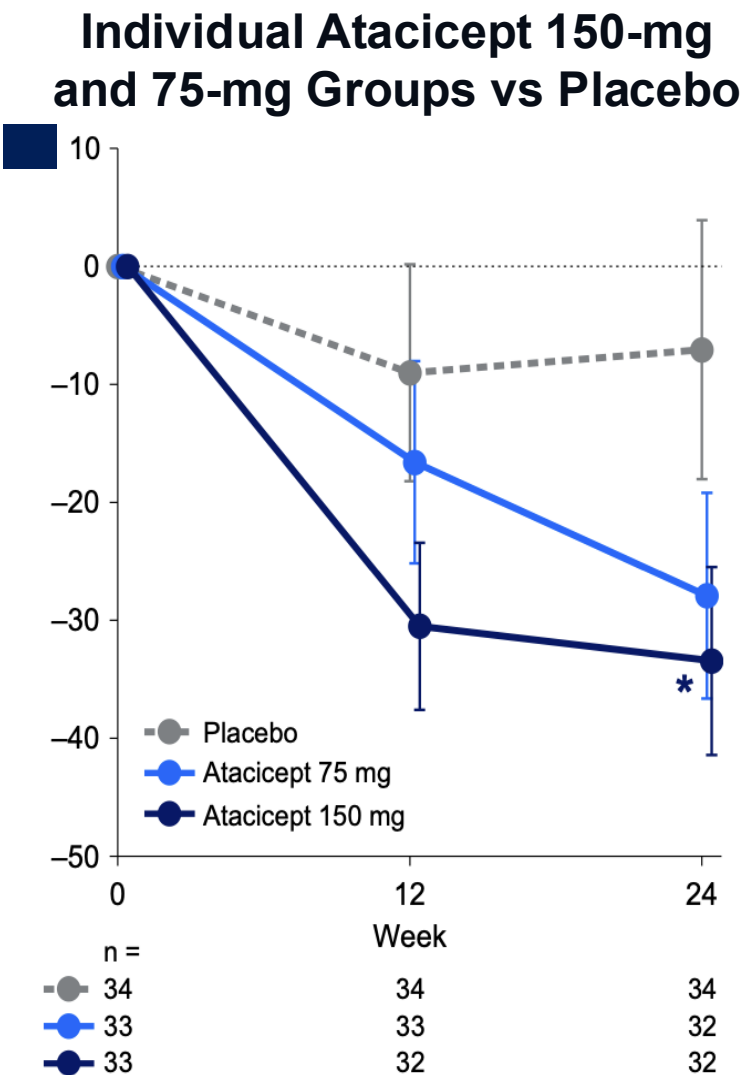
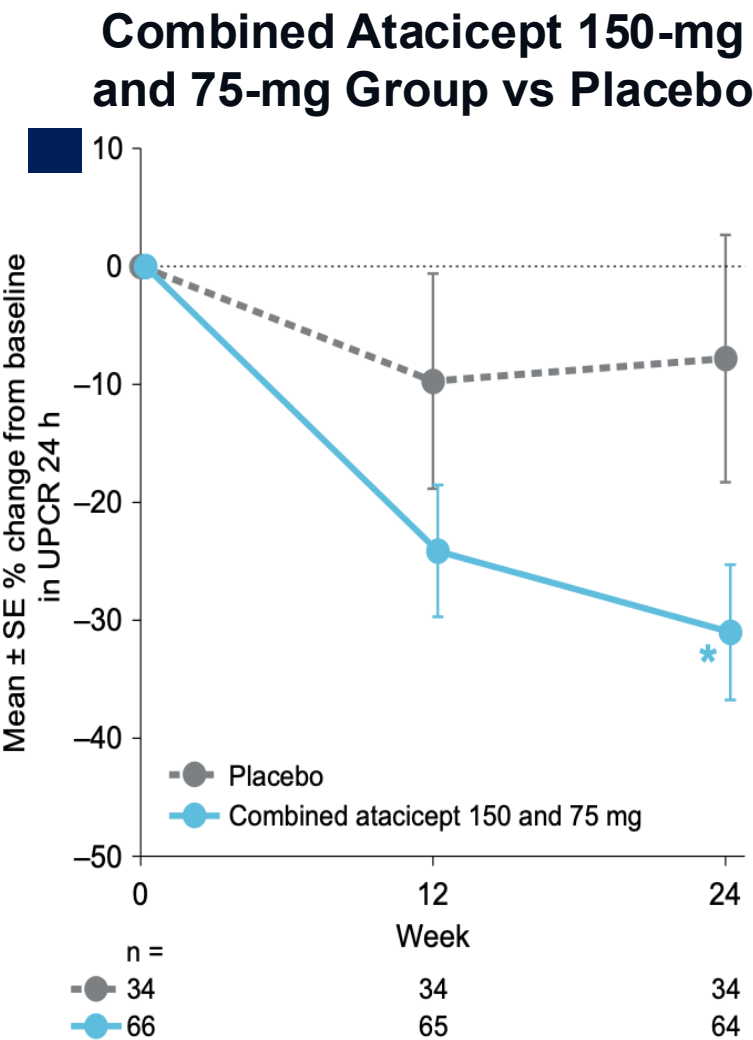
B. Mean change from baseline in total lymphocyte count,  $10^9/L$



C. Resolution in hematuria<sup>s</sup>



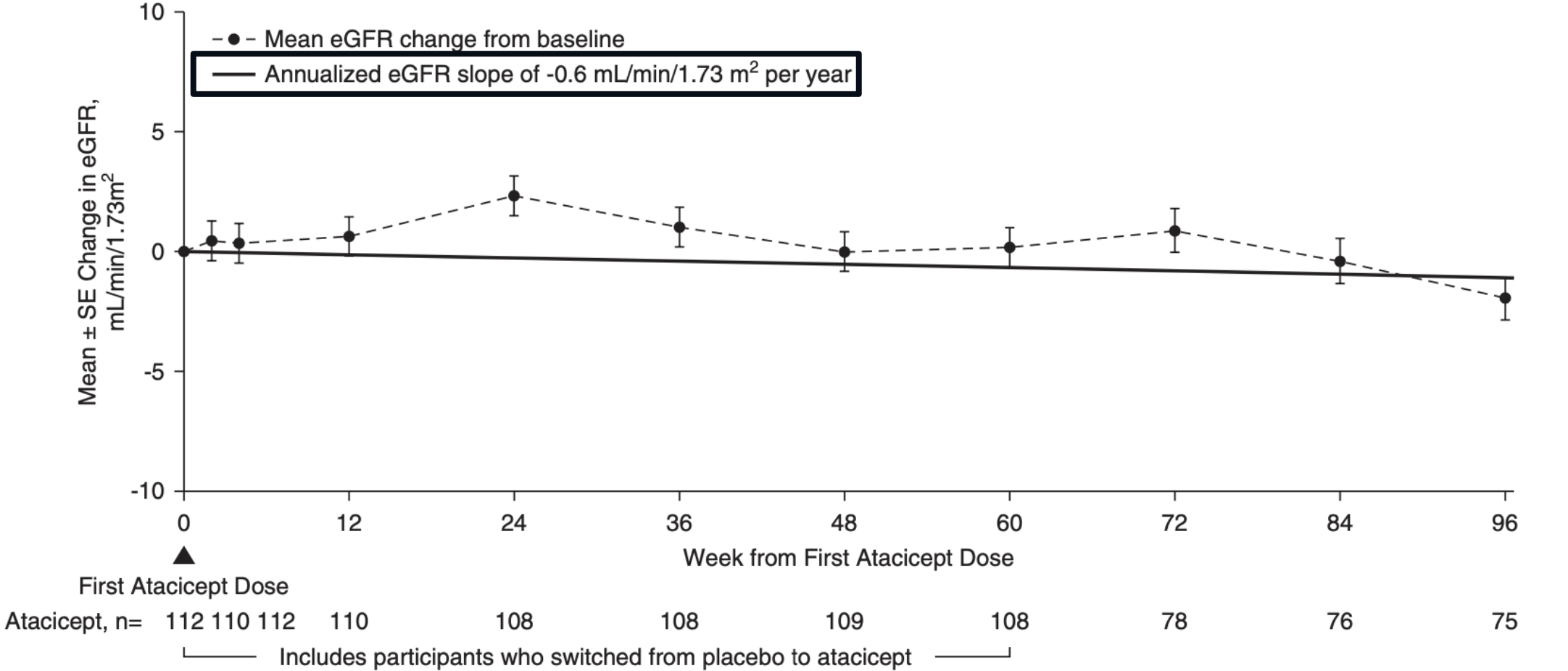
# ORIGIN: Primary Endpoint: Change in 24-h UPCR at 24 Wks



# ORIGIN: Open-Label Extension: Change in eGFR at 96 Wks

(150 mg atacicept)

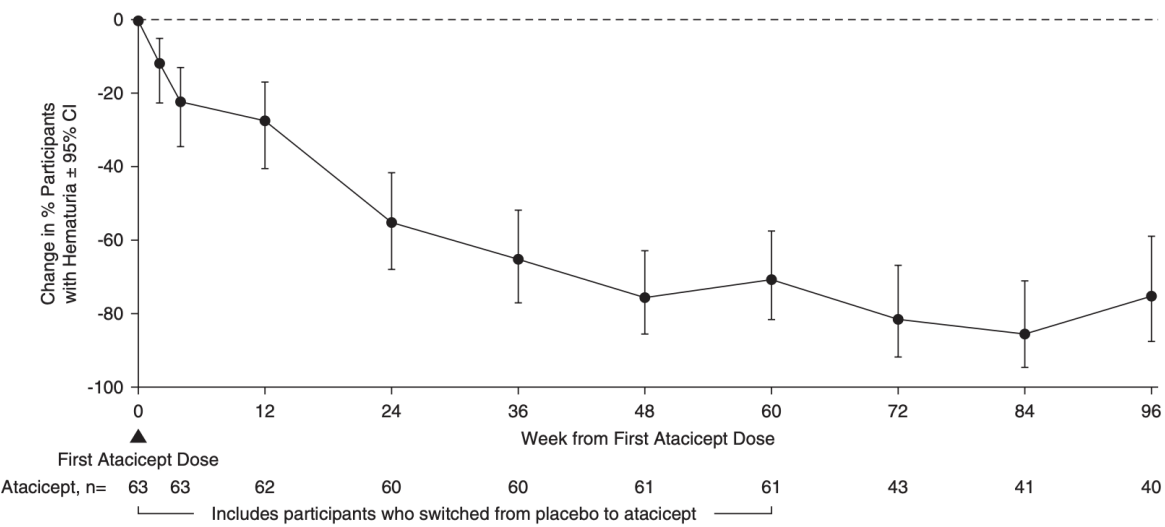
Change in eGFR through 96 Wk



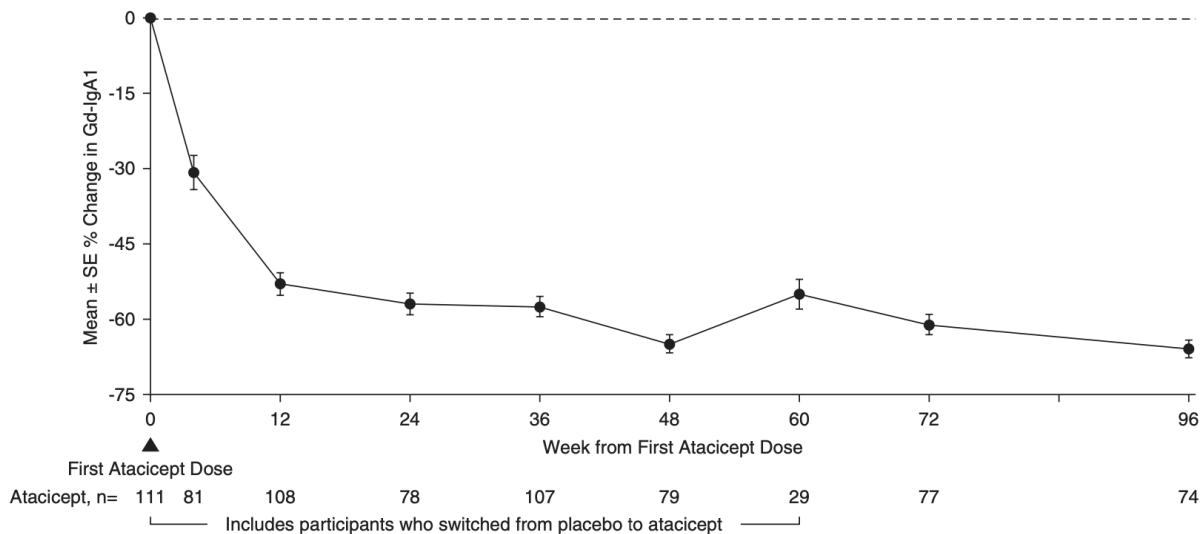
# ORIGIN: Open-Label Extension: Effect on Hematuria and Gd-IgA1

(150 mg atacicept)

Change in Percentage of Patients With Hematuria through 96 Weeks



Gd-IgA1 Percentage Change through 96 Wk



# ORIGIN 3

- Atacicept 150 mg
  - The safety and efficacy of atacicept is being evaluated for the treatment of IgAN in an ongoing global, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase 3 clinical trial
- A total of 203 patients were included in the prespecified interim analysis



# ORIGIN 3

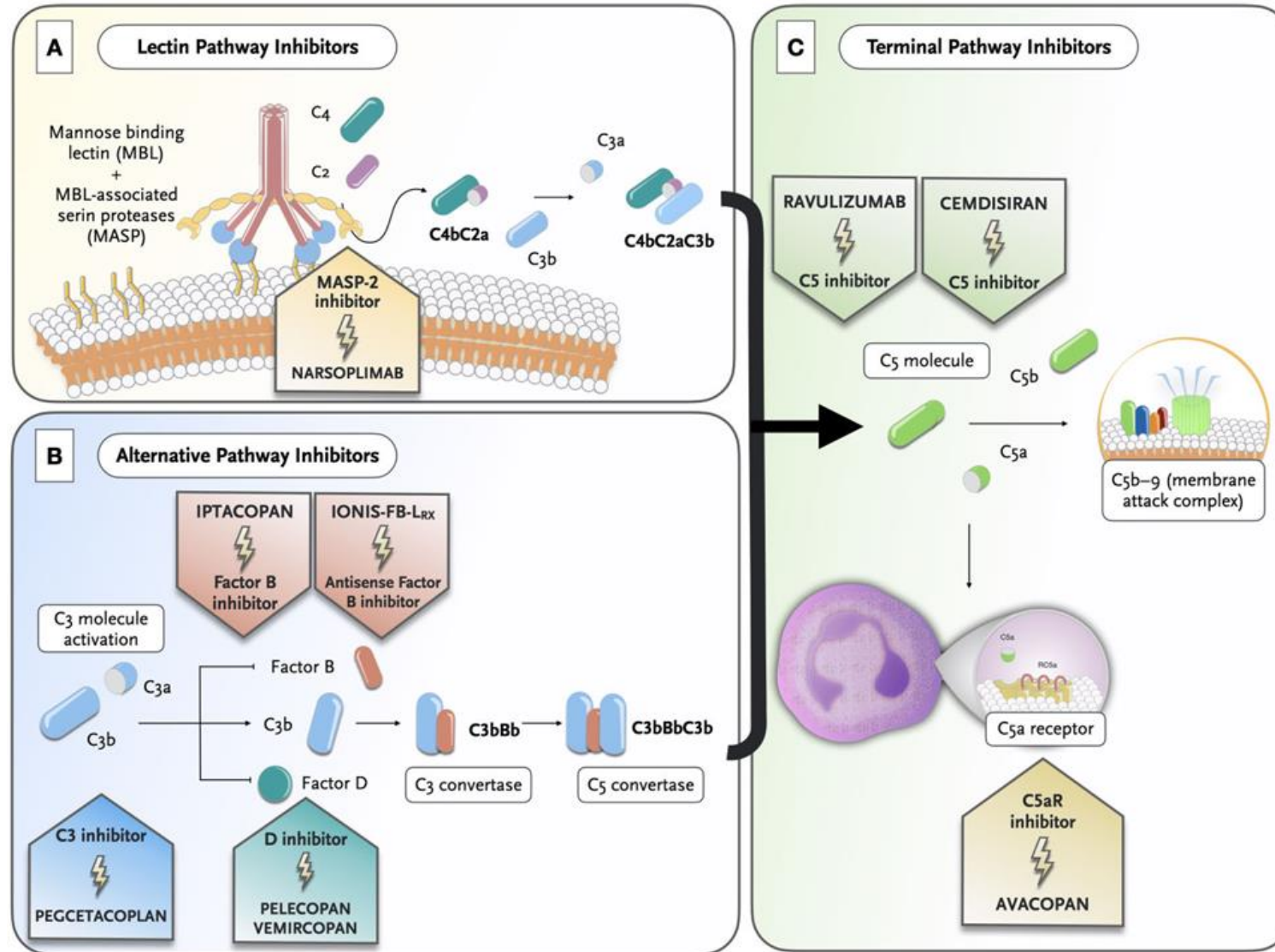
- **Primary endpoint**

- Atacicept achieved a 46% reduction from baseline in 24-hour uPCR vs 7% with placebo, with decreases observed as early as Week 12 at first assessment, and maintained through Week 36

- **Secondary endpoints**

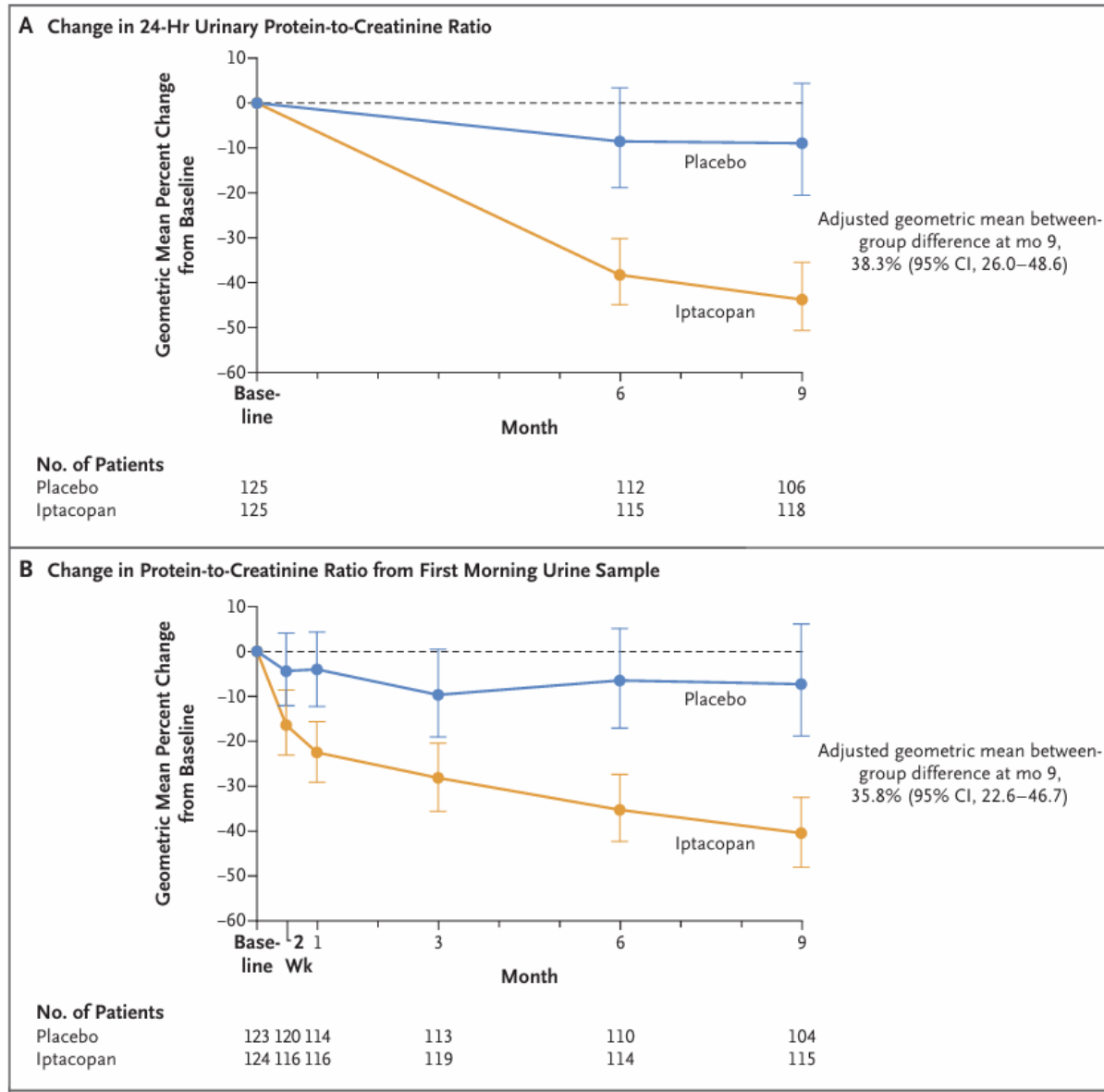
- At week 36, the reduction from baseline in the galactose-deficient IgA1 level was 68.3% in the atacicept group and 2.9% in the placebo group
- At week 36, among the 122 patients (60.1% of the 203 patients included in the interim analysis) with baseline hematuria ( $\geq 1+$ ) determined on the basis of dipstick testing, resolution of hematuria (defined as a reduction to negative or trace dipstick findings) had occurred in 51 of 63 patients (81.0%) in the atacicept group and in 12 of 58 (20.7%) in the placebo group

# Complement Pathways (Active in IgAN)



# Complement Inhibition-*Iptacopan*, APPLAUSE-IgAN

Changes in urine protein creatinine ratio

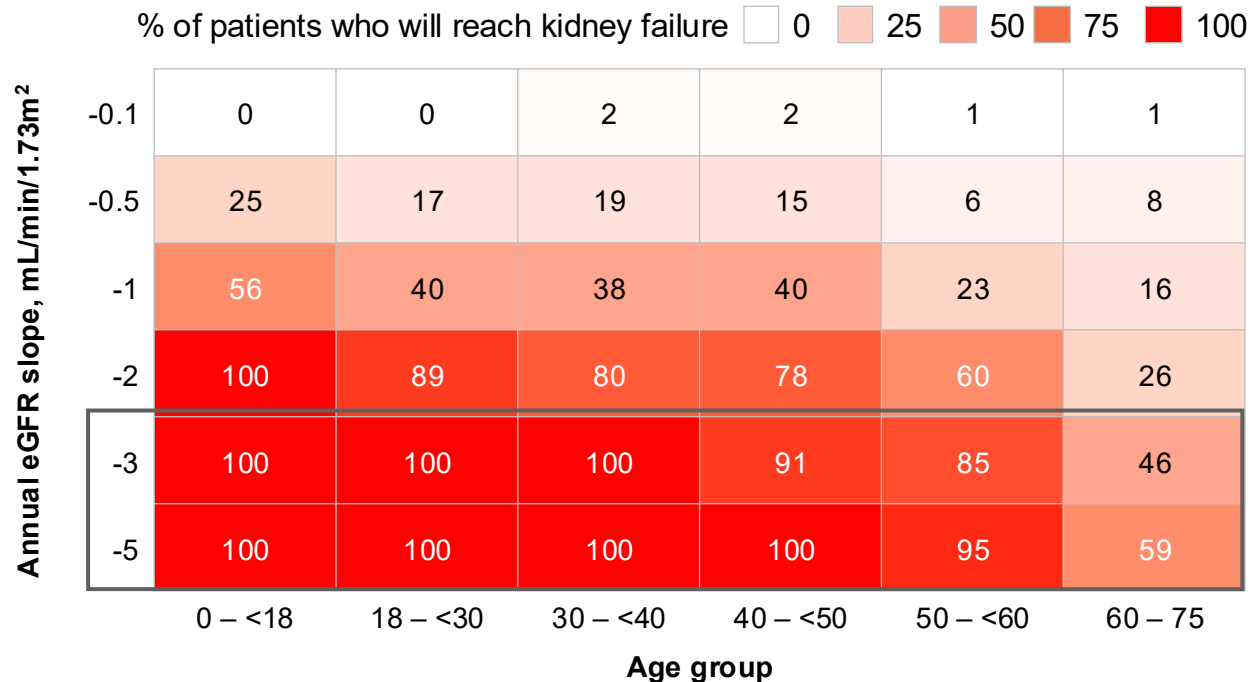
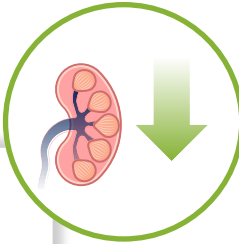


- Iptacopan (LNP023) is an oral FB inhibitor
- Phase 3 study, 443 patients from 34 countries, 24-hour UPCR  $\geq 1$  g/g, eGFR  $\geq 30$  ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>
- Iptacopan 200 mg or placebo twice daily for 24 months
- 250 patients included for interim analysis at 9 months
- 51% patients from Asia
- Mean 24-hour UPCR reduced by 38.3% in iptacopan vs placebo

# Historical Treatments

- Fish oil
- RAAS inhibition
- Lower blood pressure / proteinuria
- Systemic corticosteroids

# The Draft Clinical Practice Guideline for IgAN Calls for a Target eGFR Slope $\leq -1$ mL/min/year



ERA; targeted corticosteroid ~ -3

SGLT2i ~ -4

Supportive CKD therapy ~ -6

Current IgAN therapies do not meet the goal of reducing eGFR decline to  $\leq 1$  mL/min/year

Pitcher D, et al. *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2023;18:727-738. Rovin BH, et al. *Lancet*. 2023;402:2077-2090. Lafayette R, et al. *Lancet*. 2023;402:859-870. Wheeler DC, et al. *Kidney Int*. 2021;100:215-224. Li PK-T, et al. *Am J Kidney Dis*. 2006;47(5):751-760. Manno C, et al. *Nephrol Dial Transplant*. 2009;24:3694-3701. Lv J, et al. *JAMA*. 2017;318(5):432-442. Lv J, et al. *JAMA*. 2022;327(19):1888-1898. Zhang H, et al. Presented at ASN Kidney Week; November 1-5, 2023; Philadelphia, PA. Mathur M, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2024;390(1):20-31. KDIGO Glomerular Diseases Work Group. *KDIGO 2024 Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Immunoglobulin A Nephropathy (IgAN) and Immunoglobulin A Vasculitis (IgAV) Public Review Draft*. 2024.

- Need long-term data with new therapies or combinations
- Rely on surrogate measures now



# Key Learning Points

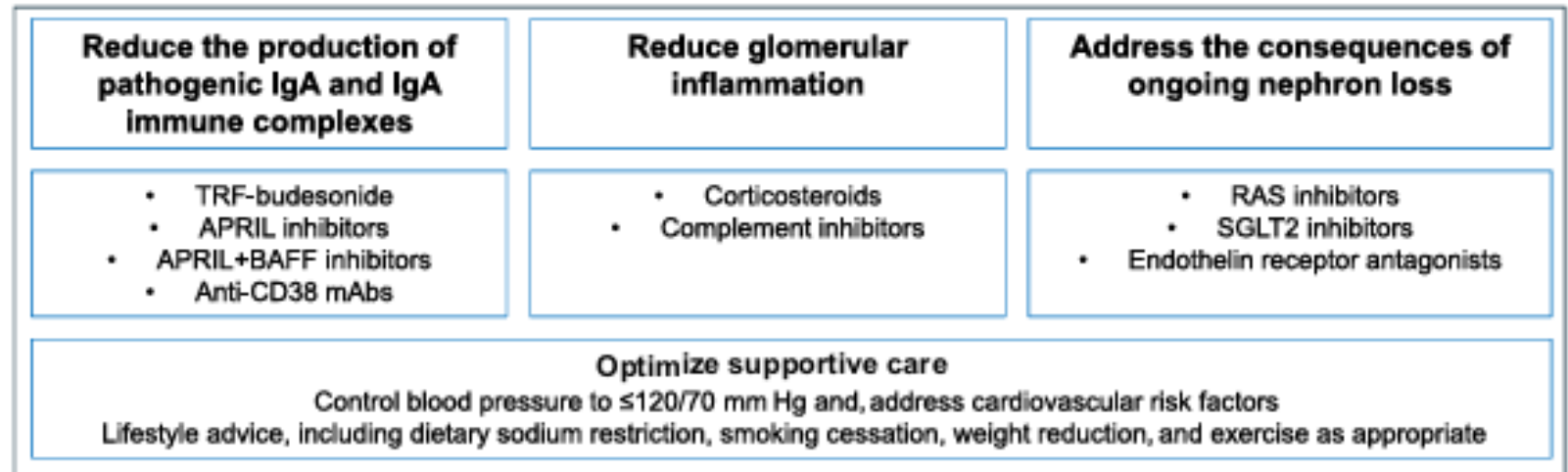
- We need to do both

- ***Preserve renal function***

- RAAS blockade in all patients
- SGLT2 inhibitors
  - DAPA CKD, EMPA CKD-no requirements for patients to be on 3 month of RAAS blockade before SGLT2 inhibitor addition.
  - Appropriate if proteinuria > 0.5 g/d despite RAAS blockade and disease modifying therapy in patients with eGFR < 60 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>.
    - Consider above eGFR > 60 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>, but do not use in lieu of disease modifying therapy (KDIGO draft 2024)
- Endothelin antagonists-DEARA, ERA alone
- ? MRA
- Atacicept, povetacicept, and telitacicept are dual BAFF-/APRIL-targeting agents

- ***Stop the immunological drivers of disease/decrease renal inflammation-disease modifying therapy***

- Proteinuria reduction to as low as possible ideally < 0.3 grams per day
- ? Role of repeat renal biopsy to determine inflammatory vs chronic changes
- ? Combination of treatments/multitarget treatment
- Need biomarkers to help guide treatment response, need for retreatment/ongoing treatment





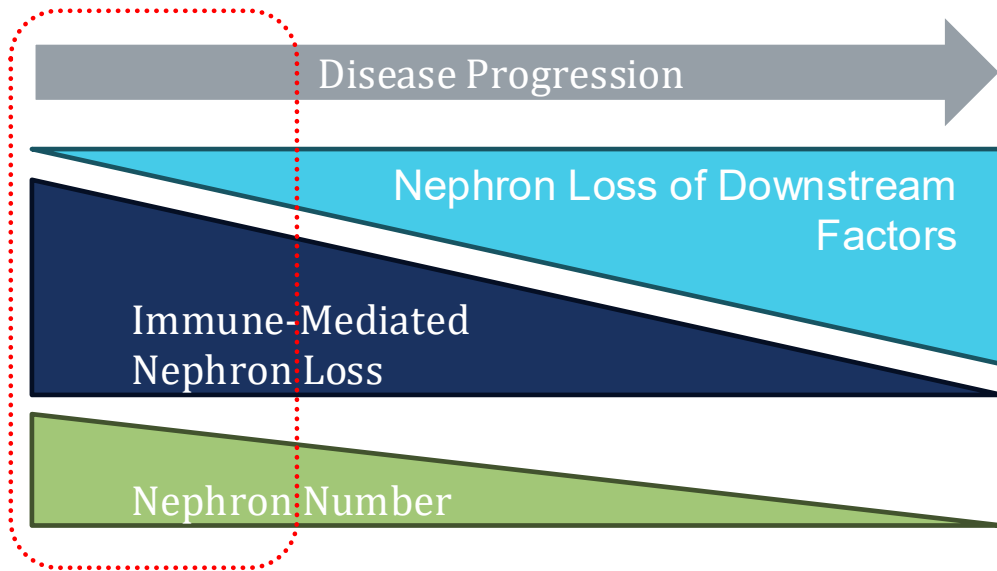
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# Managed Care Presentation

Russell Spjut, PharmD



# The Promise of Immune-Process Targeting



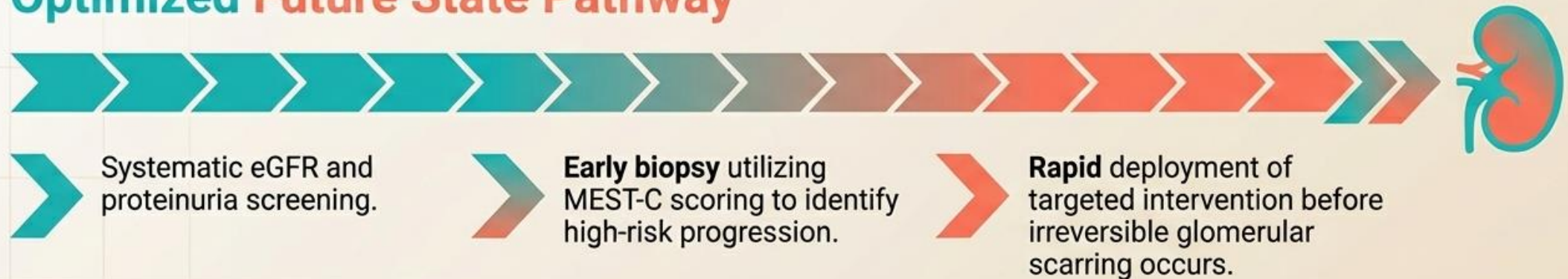
- In just the short span since the last KDIGO guidelines in 2021, we are moving from supportive care + corticosteroid consideration to targeting the upstream cause of the disease
- As always, we will be asking for long-term outcomes data, but even the short-term outcomes seem to point to a better lifelong journey
- Avoiding reliance on corticosteroids has the potential to increase adherence and improve quality of life

# Optimizing the Patient Journey

## Current State Pathway



## Optimized Future State Pathway



# Coordinating Care Pathways: Managed Care Considerations

- Aligning policies and pathways throughout the patient journey from diagnosis to treatment
- Encourage, and make available, early urinalysis in high-risk populations
- Ensure access to nephrologists if early markers point toward IgAN
  - Best to have access to specialists with expertise in glomerulopathies
  - In areas direct access may be unavailable, create pathways for consults and telemedicine
- In a rapidly expanding and shifting treatment landscape, ensure that coverage policies are regularly reviewed and aligned with the best data available



# Access Considerations

- Patient selection criteria considerations
  - The use of uPCR and eGFR as inclusion criteria and progress markers, while surrogates toward long-term outcomes, are well understood generally in nephrology to have high correlation with slowing progression of kidney dysfunction
  - Drug coverage policies aligning with clinical trial markers likely a good base for coverage policies while also coupling with the goal of a streamlined patient journey
- ICER and a value-based framework
  - ICER found that current prices for some novel B-cell therapies are significantly higher than value-based price benchmarks
  - Those benchmarks will be refined as longer-term data becomes available
  - As new products launch, experts recommend against stepping through systemic corticosteroids or budesonide to get to B-cell inhibitors if pricing aligns with value targets

# Value Targets: Costs vs Long-Term Savings

- High acquisition vs long-term offsets
  - The wholesale acquisition cost of novel biologics is high with currently published estimates of ~\$292k/year
  - Transitioning a patient through CKD stages costs payers a lot, potentially setting the stage for long-term cost offset realization
    - Stage 5/ESRD costs are estimated at ~\$11,882 per patient per month though higher in the first 33 months before Medicare coverage begins.
    - Mean cost for kidney transplant is \$446,800 with an ongoing \$4,614 per month in support of the transplant
- Managed care considerations today
  - Aggressive early management to delay ESRD can lead to substantial long-term medical care savings, potentially justifying the cost of disease-modifying therapies depending on pricing
  - Staying on top of what looks like a landscape set to evolve rapidly for the foreseeable future, especially long-term outcomes data, will help us laser into the best value coverage policies

# Key Learning Points

- Early detection, and therapy that targets the underlying cause of the disease, will likely contribute to saving glomerular function
- Optimal outcomes will require a smoothing of the patient journey and access to both diagnosis and treatment
- Access criteria for new therapies should be baselined off the markers of uPCR and eGFR as found in clinical studies
- This is a rapidly evolving area where it will be important for managed care organizations to stay on top of new data to optimize value



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**Q&A**

