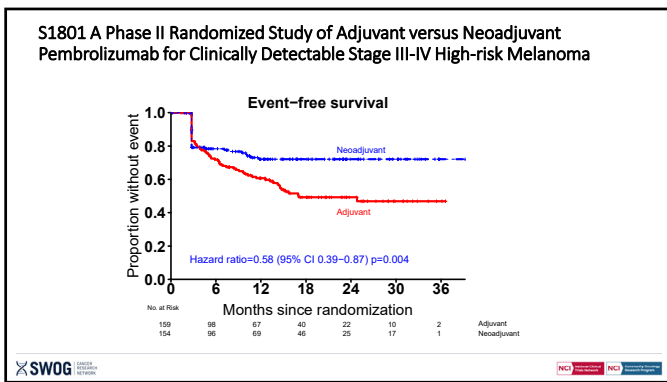


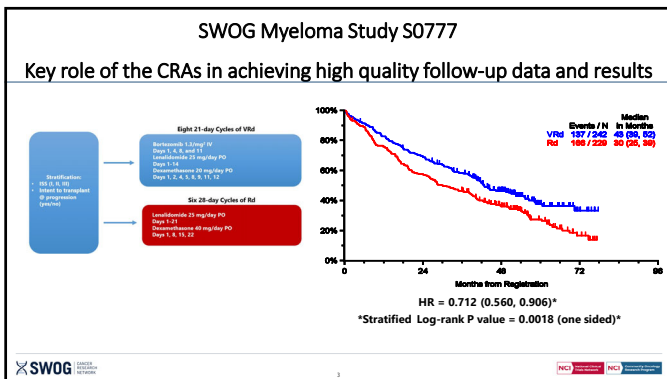
Scientific Impact of the CRA

Michael LeBlanc

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Stages of Treatment Testing

- Phase I
 - The safe dose range, side effects, early activity.
- Phase II
 - Sufficient promise for further testing, more side effect assessment, refinement of dose, evidence of disease subtypes with most promise and feasibility.
 - Some design examples: single arm 2-stage, single arm pilot, multi-arm randomized (screening or selection).
- Phase III
 - Formal comparison of new treatment to standard treatment.

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Critical Elements in Evaluating Therapeutic Interventions

- Biological Activity
- Safety/Toxicity
- Clinical Efficacy
 - Clinical Response
 - Patient Reported Outcomes
 - Disease recurrence or progression
 - Survival
- Other long-term data
 - Long term adverse events and related malignancies

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Variability and Bias

- What are they and how do they arise?
- What problems do they cause?
- How can they be prevented or reduced?

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Variability and Bias

Accurate & Precise Accurate & Imprecise Inaccurate & Precise Inaccurate & Imprecise

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How do we control variability?

- Eligibility criteria

Example: Results of studies which allow only patients with local disease and performance status 0-1 will be less variable than those from studies allowing any stage and any performance status.

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How do we control variability? (cont.)

- Sample size

Larger numbers of patients lead to reduced variability.

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The CRA's Role in Reducing Variability

- Verification of eligibility
- Avoidance of deviations from protocol treatment plans
- Submission of complete and timely data

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Bias

- A tendency for a statistical result to differ on average from the true state of affairs, often due to flaws in the design or conduct of a study.

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Bias

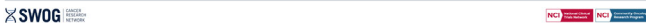
- Example
If a study of a treatment intended for patients with local disease includes a number of patients with more advanced disease, the treatment's efficacy may be underestimated.

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Bias


- Solution
Ensure adherence to eligibility criteria



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Bias

- Example
If patients in an adjuvant therapy arm of a comparative study are followed more closely than those in an observation arm, the benefit of the adjuvant therapy may be underestimated.




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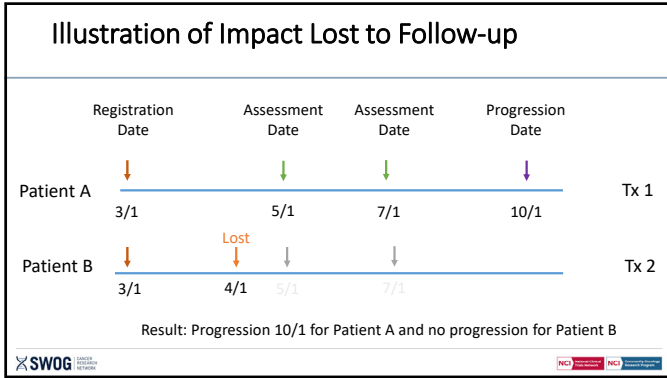
Illustration of Impact Lost to Follow-up

	Registration Date	Assessment Date	Assessment Date	Progression Date	
Patient A	3/1	5/1	7/1	10/1	Tx 1
Patient B	3/2	5/4	7/1		Tx 2

Result: Progression 10/1 for Patient A and 7/1 for Patient B



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Bias

- Solution
 - Ensure adherence to protocol requirements for follow-up examinations
- Schedule
 - Have patients return for evaluation according to protocol schedule
- Tests
 - Have all required tests performed at each evaluation

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The CRA's Role in Controlling Bias

- Verification of eligibility
- Adherence to protocol follow-up requirements

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Variability and Bias in Survival Data

- Survival - how long patients live after entering a study - is often the most important outcome we study
- Incomplete data increases both variability and potentially bias in studies of survival

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Estimated Survival

Study design: accrued over 3 years + 1 year of follow-up

Survival Estimates

Treatment + Experimental + Standard

Correct conclusion: new treatment does not help survival outcome

Last Contact Time

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Estimated Survival

Some Patients lost to follow-up on one arm

Survival Estimates

Treatment + Experimental + Standard

Incorrect conclusion: new treatment helps survival outcome


Last Contact Time

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What We Need


- Complete and timely submission of accurate
- Thorough documentation of all eligibility criteria



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What We Need, cont.

- Complete description of all treatment received, whether according to protocol or not
- Complete description of objective status and toxicities at every evaluation




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Effect of Non-dropout or Non-adherence on Sample Size

New sample size = sample size ÷ (1-r)²



Non-adherence Rate	Sample Size (Example)
0%	100
10%	123
20%	156
30%	204
40%	278



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High quality data are essential for good studies.

Your efforts are essential for high quality data.






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WHY IS IT ALWAYS CRITICAL?

Trial Monitoring



- Accrual monitoring (Stats, SC)
- Adverse event monitoring
 - SC, Stats, AE coordinator
 - CTEP-AERS reporting
 - Monthly reports (AE and dose summaries)
- Interim Analyses
- Data and Safety Monitoring Committee (DSMC)

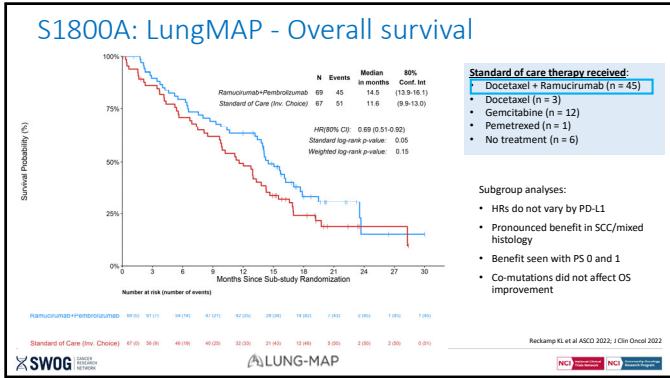
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SWOG Data Safety Monitoring Committee

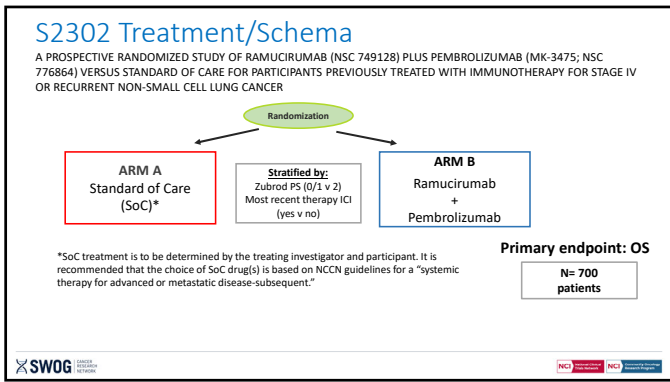
- Evaluation of interim results (endpoints, safety)
- Recommendations on when to stop accrual, when to report early results
- Evaluate data requests from disease committee leadership for planning purposes
- NEED HIGH QUALITY CURRENT DATA TO MAKE CRITICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

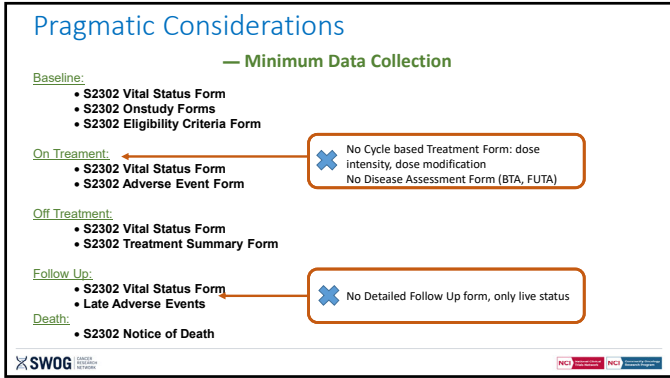
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High quality and timely data
are essential for good studies.

Your efforts are essential for
high quality data.



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