

ROMAN: Phase 3 trial of avasopasem manganese (GC4419) for severe oral mucositis (SOM) in patients receiving chemoradiotherapy (CRT) for locally advanced, nonmetastatic head and neck cancer (LAHNC)

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Disclosures

- Employment – University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics
- Uncompensated Research Advisor for Galera Therapeutics, Inc.
- Will discuss Investigational Use of a drug

Background

- IMRT + cisplatin SoC for LAHNC
- ~70% of patients develop SOM (WHO grade 3 or 4)
 - Grade 4 OM: ~20–25%
 - Median duration: 3–4 weeks
 - Median onset: ~40 Gy
- No FDA-approved HNC SOM drugs

		WHO OM score
SOM	Ulcers Unable to tolerate solid or liquid diet Requires IV or tube feeding	4
	Ulcers Requires liquid diet	3
	Ulcers Able to eat solid diet	2
	No ulcers Erythema and soreness	1

1. Henke M et al. *J Clin Oncol* 2011;29:2815-20; 2. Le QT et al. *J Clin Oncol* 2011;29:2808-14; 3. Kudrimoti MA et al. *J Biotechnol* 2016;239:115-25.

FDA, United States Food and Drug Administration; IMRT, intensity-modulated radiation therapy; LAHNC, locally advanced head and neck cancer; OM, oral mucositis; SoC, standard of care; SOM, severe OM; WHO, World Health Organization.

Avasopasem Manganese (AVA, GC4419)

- Selective small molecule dismutase mimetic
- Converts RT-induced superoxide to hydrogen peroxide
- Protects normal cells, but not cancer cells, from RT
 - Superoxide initiates tissue damage & inflammatory cascade → OM

1. El-Mahdy MA et al. *Free Radic Biol Med* 2020;160:630-42; 2. Riley DP and Schall OF. *Adv Inorg Chem* 2006;59:233-63.

OM, oral mucositis; RT, radiation therapy.

Promising Phase 2b SOM Data

Anderson, JCO 2019

Avasopasem 90 mg appeared to reduce SOM

- SOM duration reduced ($P=0.024$)
- SOM incidence through IMRT reduced ($P=0.009^*$)
 - Grade 4 OM incidence reduced ($P=0.045^*$)
- Adverse event profile comparable, avasopasem vs placebo arm
- Tumor outcomes maintained at 1 & 2 years, avasopasem vs placebo
 - Anderson, revision in review, *IJROBP* 2022
- Avasopasem 30 mg appeared to be intermediate in effect between 90 mg and placebo

* Nominal P value not formally tested.

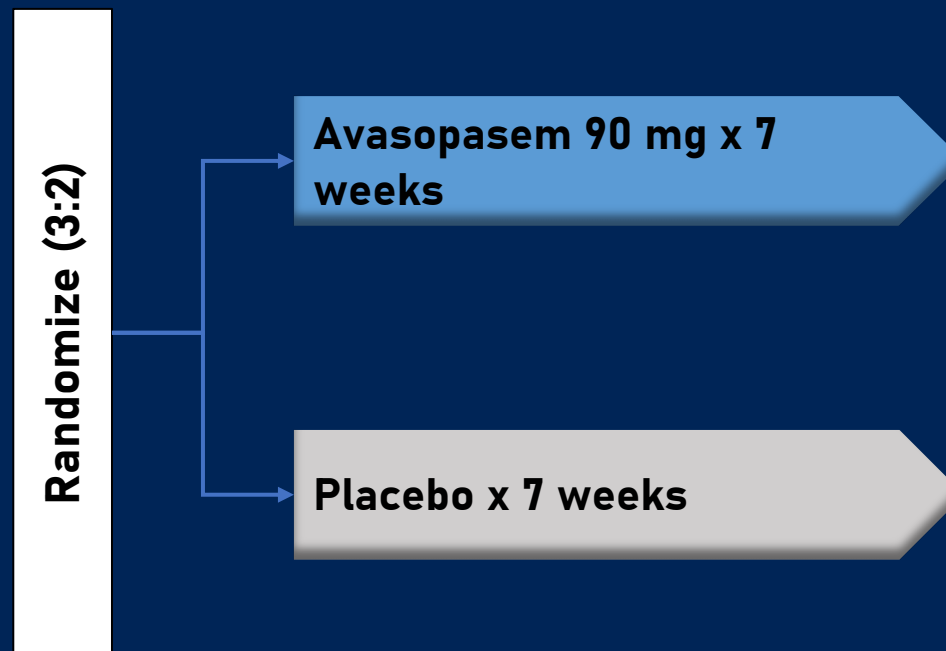
IMRT, intensity-modulated radiation therapy; OM, oral mucositis; SOM, severe OM.

ROMAN: Phase 3 Placebo vs 90 mg Avasopasem

Reduction in Oral Mucositis with Avasopasem Manganese

GT-301: The **ROMAN** Trial

Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oral cavity/oropharynx tumor• Locally advanced, squamous cell• Eligible for SoC: 7 weeks IMRT + cisplatin
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avasopasem 90 mg or placebo• 60-minute IV infusion, Mon-Fri• Ending ≤60 mins pre-RT
Stratification factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surgery status: post-op or definitive• Cisplatin schedule: q3wks or weekly



IMRT, intensity-modulated RT; RT, radiation therapy; SoC, standard of care.

ROMAN Endpoints

Primary endpoint

- Incidence of SOM through IMRT
 - Cochrane-Mantel-Hansel relative risk calculated

Secondary efficacy endpoints

(Holm-Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons)

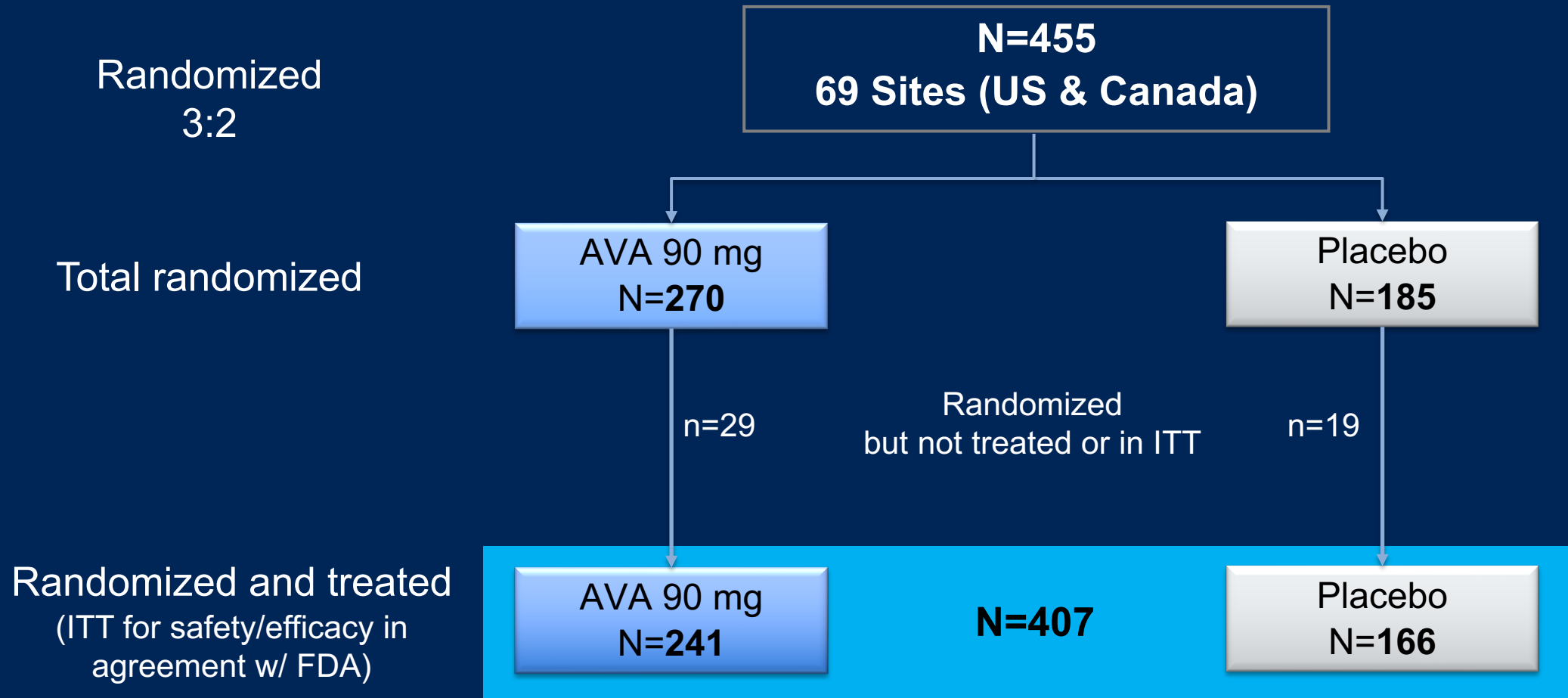
- Total number of days of SOM (“duration” in phase 2b)
 - In all patients
 - 0 days for patients w/o SOM
- Incidence & total number of days of grade 4 SOM

Additional endpoints

- Safety and tolerability
- Tumor outcomes at 1–2 years – LRC, DM, PFS, OS
 - In progress

DM, distant metastasis; IMRT, intensity-modulated radiation therapy; LRC, locoregional control; OS, overall survival; PFS progression free survival; SOM, severe oral mucositis.

Consort Diagram



AVA, avasopasem; FDA, United States Food and Drug Administration; ITT, intent-to-treat population.

Patient Characteristics

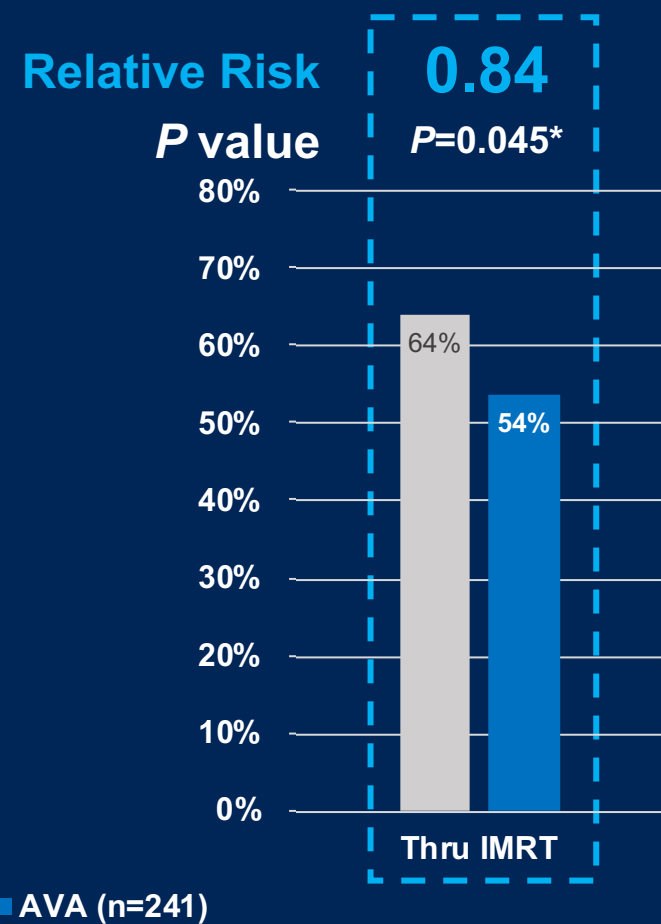
ITT population, N=407

		Avasopasem (N=241)	Placebo (N=166)
Oropharyngeal (%)		80	85
Oral cavity (%)		16	13
Unknown (%)		4	2
HPV positive (%)		80	81
negative (%)		18	16
unknown		2	3
Definitive (%)		81	81
Post-operative treatment (%)		19	19
Cisplatin q3wks (%)		42	45
qw (%)		58	55
Normal mucosa sites \geq 50 Gy (%)	2	5	3
	3–4	49	45
	5+	48	52

HPV, human papillomavirus; ITT, intent-to-treat population; qw, once weekly; q3wks, once every three weeks.

RESULTS

SOM Incidence Reduced

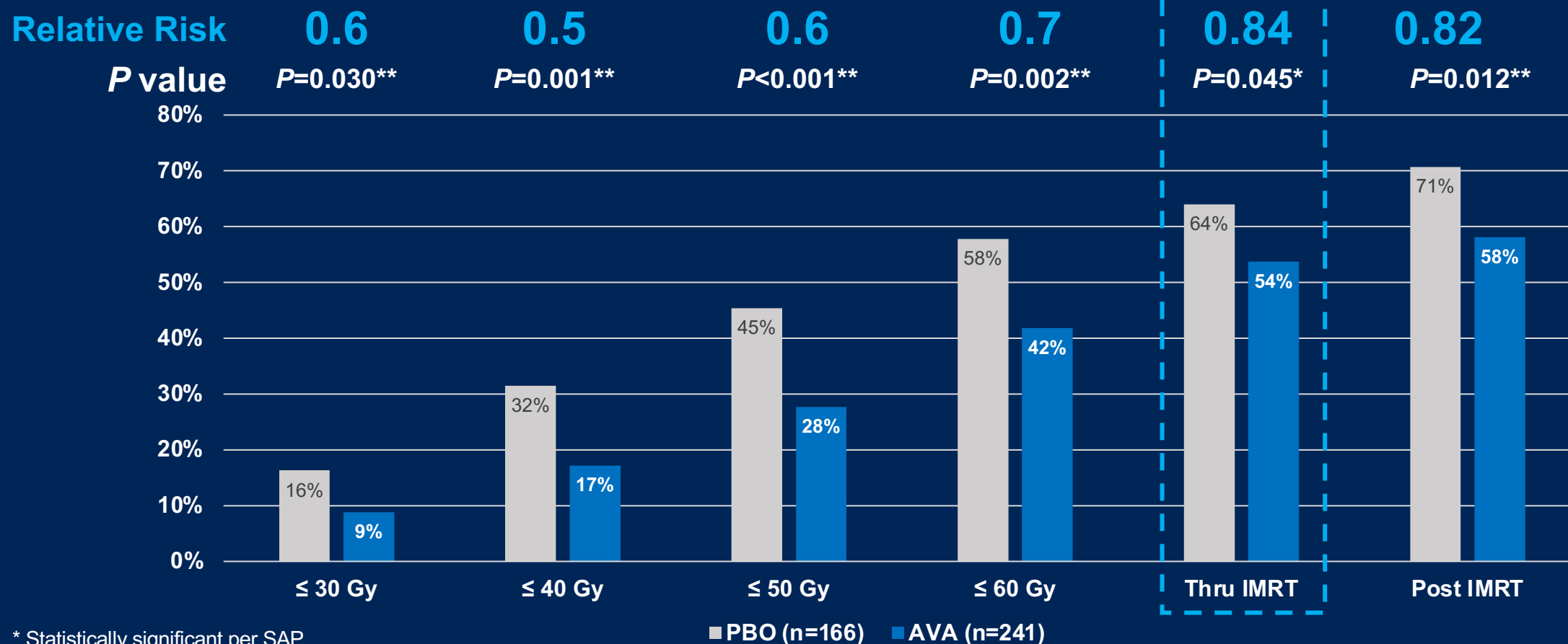


- Statistically significant per SAP.

AVA, avasopasem; IMRT, intensity-modulated radiation therapy; PBO, placebo; SAP, statistical analysis plan; SOM, severe oral mucositis.

SOM Incidence Reduced at All IMRT Landmarks

Primary endpoint



* Statistically significant per SAP.

** Exploratory endpoints, not formally tested as part of SAP.

AVA, avasopasem; IMRT, intensity-modulated radiation therapy; PBO, placebo; SAP, statistical analysis plan; SOM, severe oral mucositis.

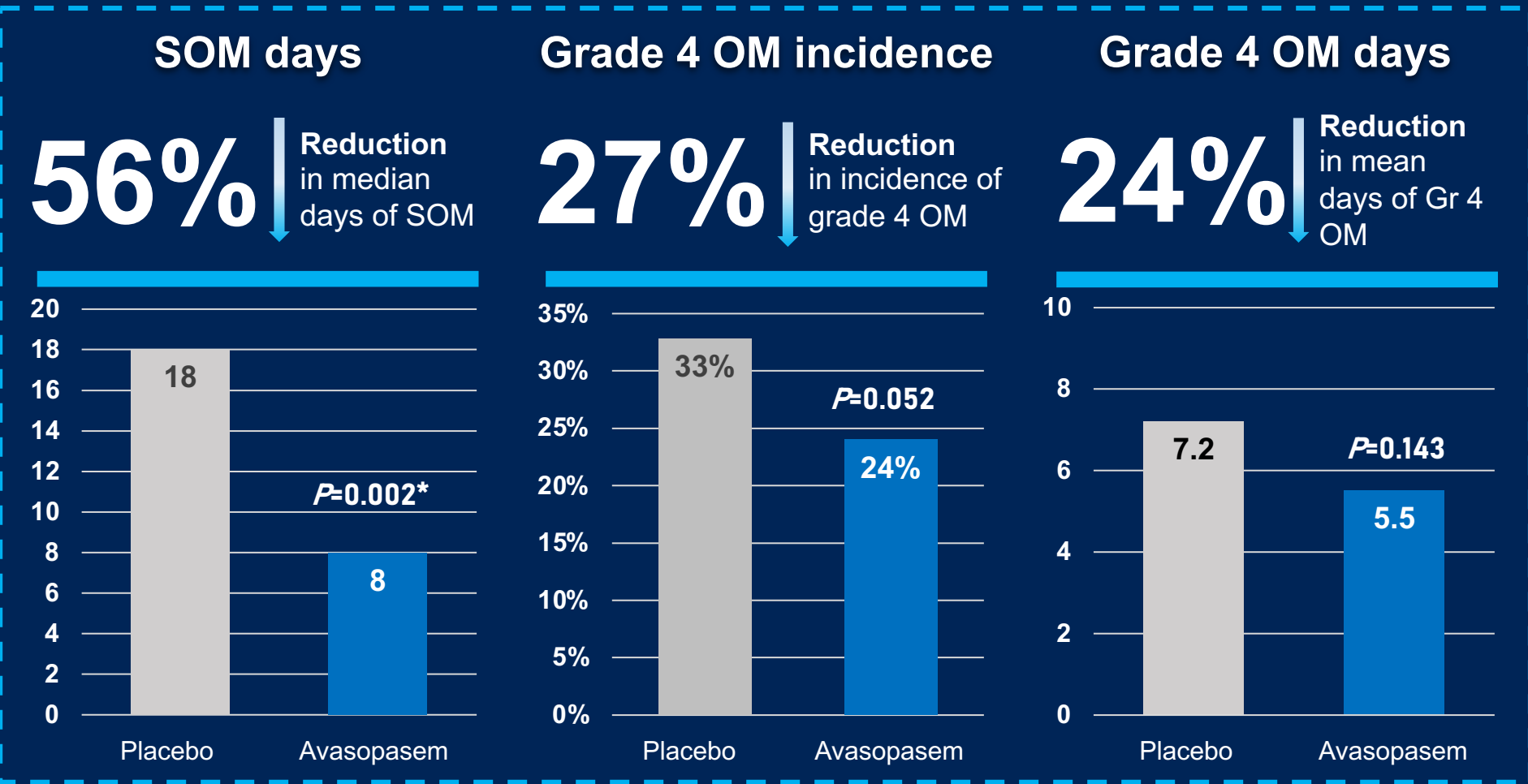
Incidence Doesn't Tell Full Story

Real patient examples with very different SOM burdens

OM evaluation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	1° endpoint	2° endpoints		Exploratory	
Cumulative RT	→ 10 Gy		→ 20 Gy		→ 30 Gy		→ 40 Gy		→ 50 Gy		→ 60 Gy		→ 65-70		Follow-up		SOM incidence	# Days of SOM	Grade 4 incidence	Days to onset	
ROMAN patient examples	A	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	>62	
	B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	1	7	0	46
	C	0	0	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	1	3	0	17
	D	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	44	0	16
	E	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	45	1	20

OM, oral mucositis; RT, radiation therapy; SOM, severe OM.

Improvement Across Other Key SOM Parameters



* Statistically significant per SAP.

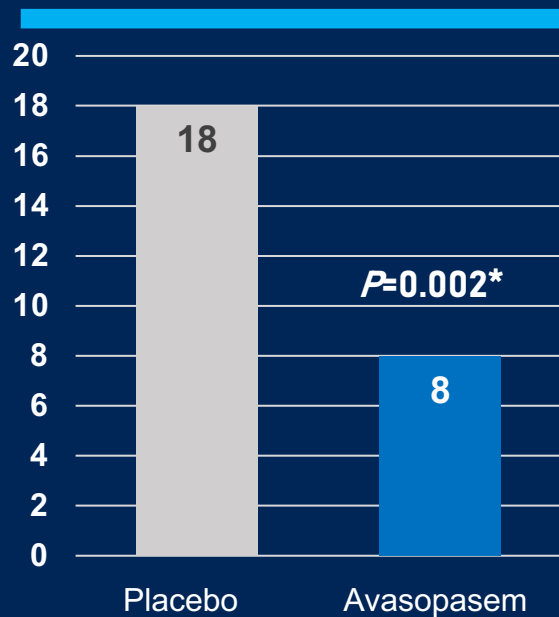
Secondary endpoints

OM, oral mucositis; SAP, statistical analysis plan; SOM, severe OM.

Improvement Across Other Key SOM Parameters

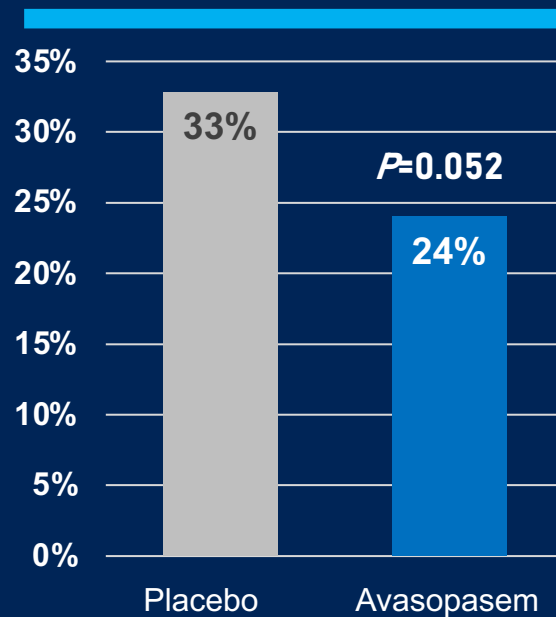
SOM days

56% | Reduction in median days of SOM



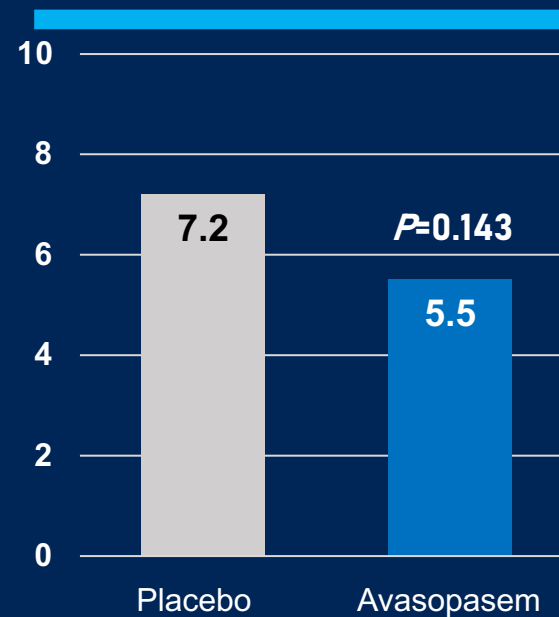
Grade 4 OM incidence

27% | Reduction in incidence of grade 4 OM



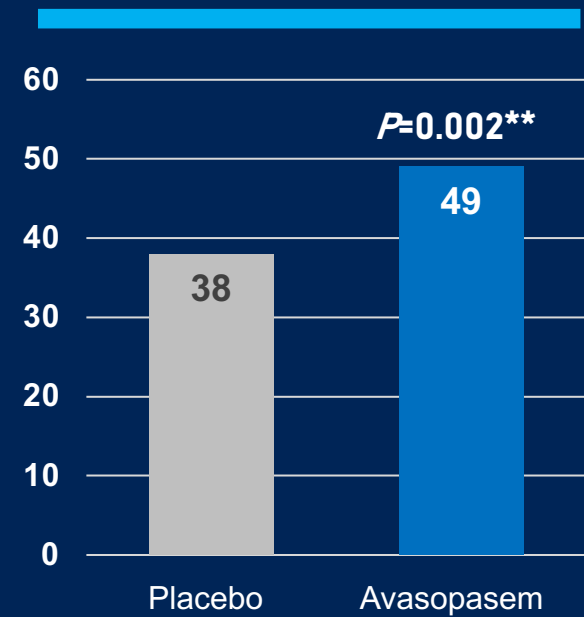
Grade 4 OM days

24% | Reduction in mean days of Gr 4 OM



SOM onset

29% | Delay in median days to 1st SOM



Secondary endpoints

Exploratory endpoint

* Statistically significant per SAP.

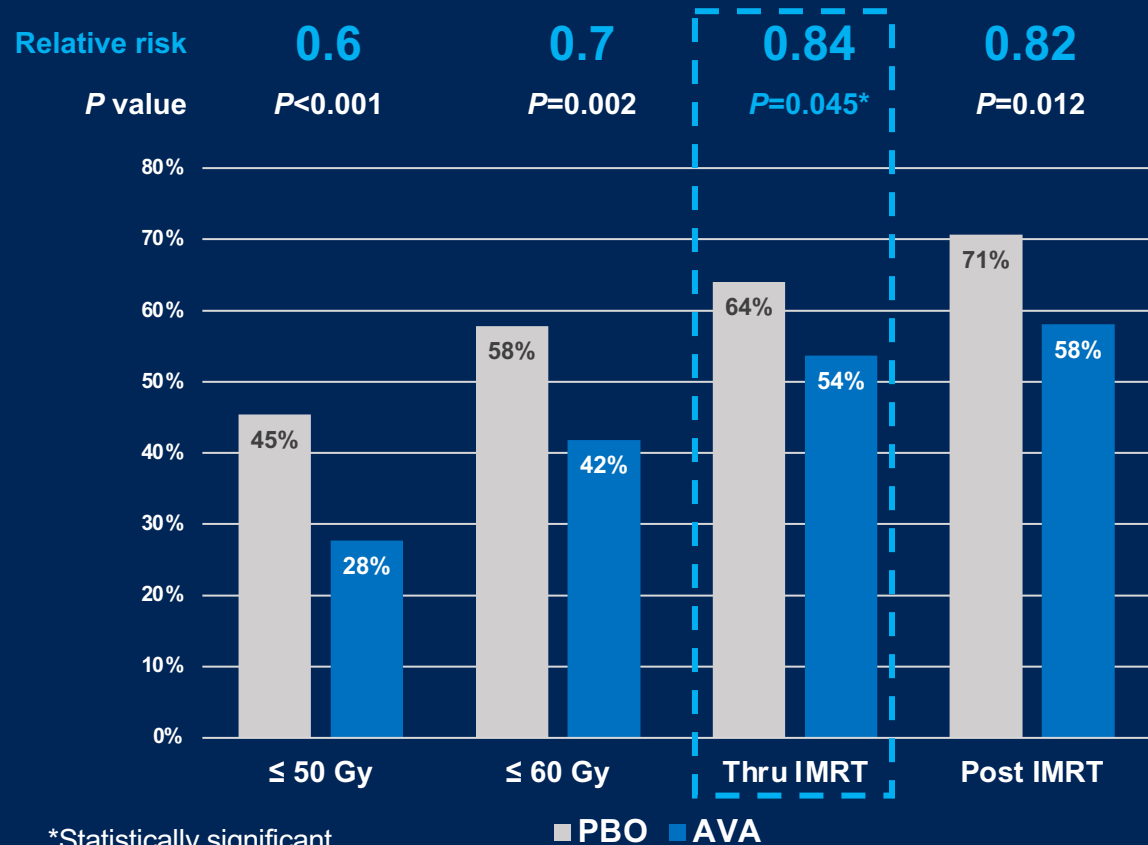
** Nominal *P* value; time to onset exploratory endpoint.

OM, oral mucositis; SAP, statistical analysis plan; SOM, severe OM.

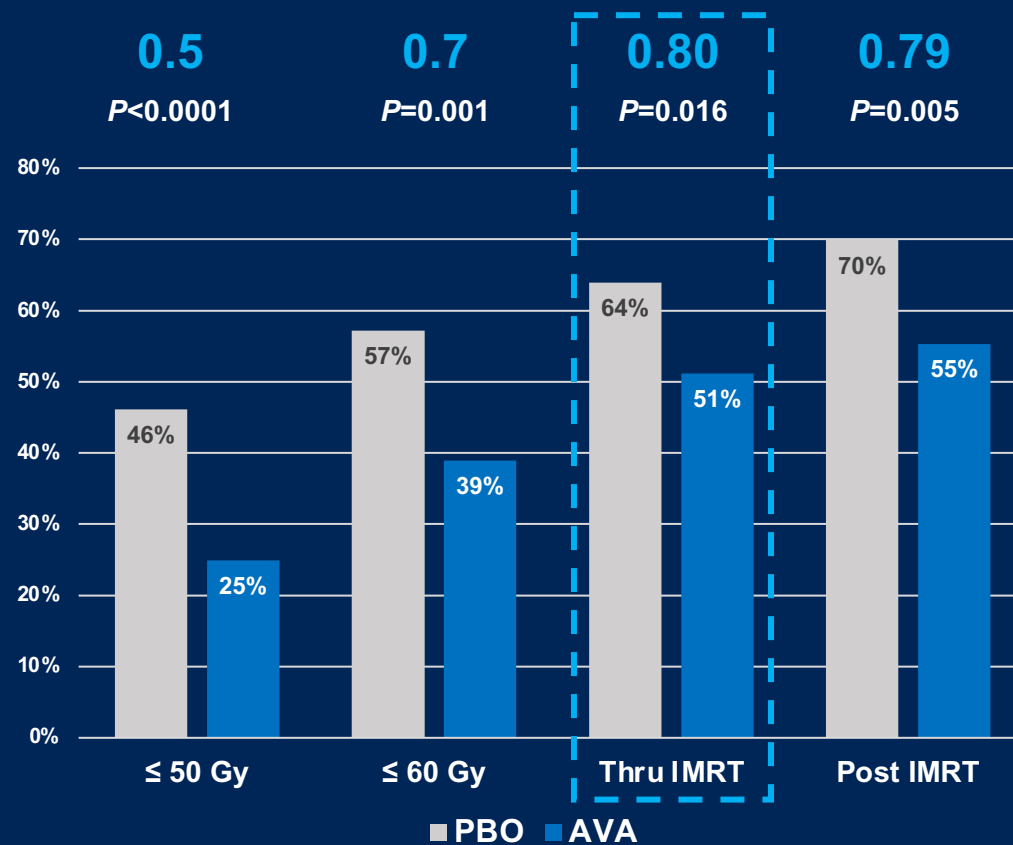
Greater Reduction with Full Treatment

Full courses of avasopasem demonstrated greater SOM incidence reduction

ITT



Full treatment¹



*Statistically significant.

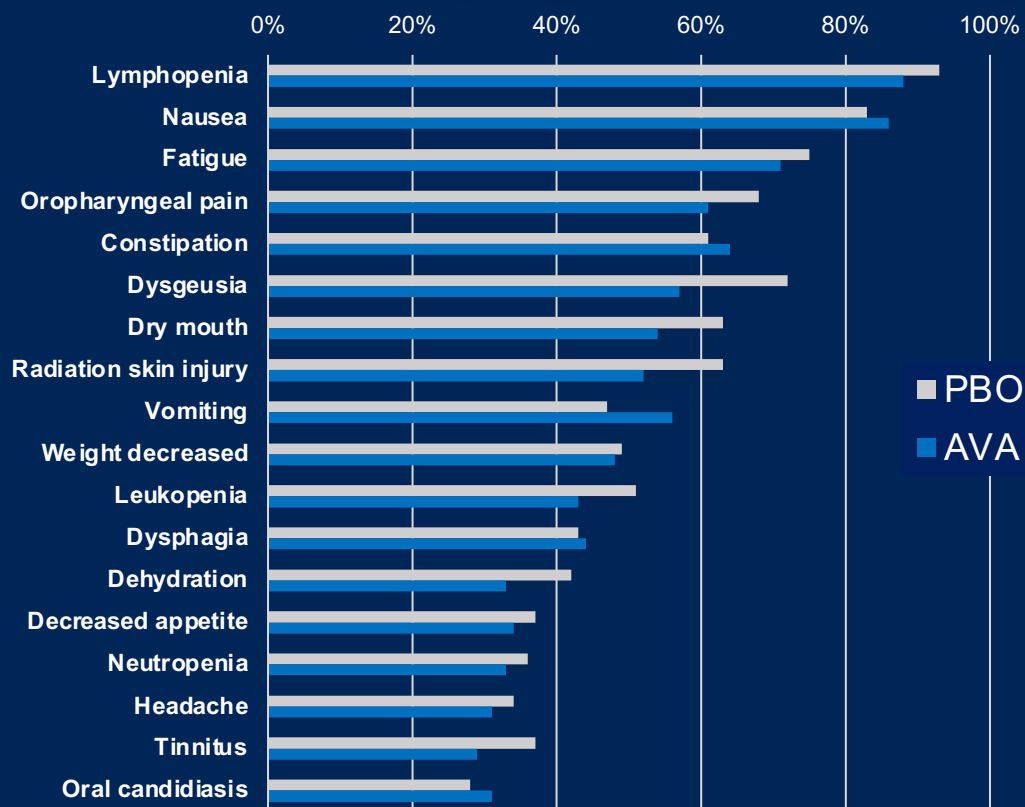
AVA, avasopasem; IMRT, intensity-modulated radiation therapy; ITT, intent-to-treat population; PBO placebo; SOM, severe oral mucositis.

¹ Per protocol population: patients who received ≥60 Gy of radiotherapy and ≥25 infusions of placebo or avasopasem.

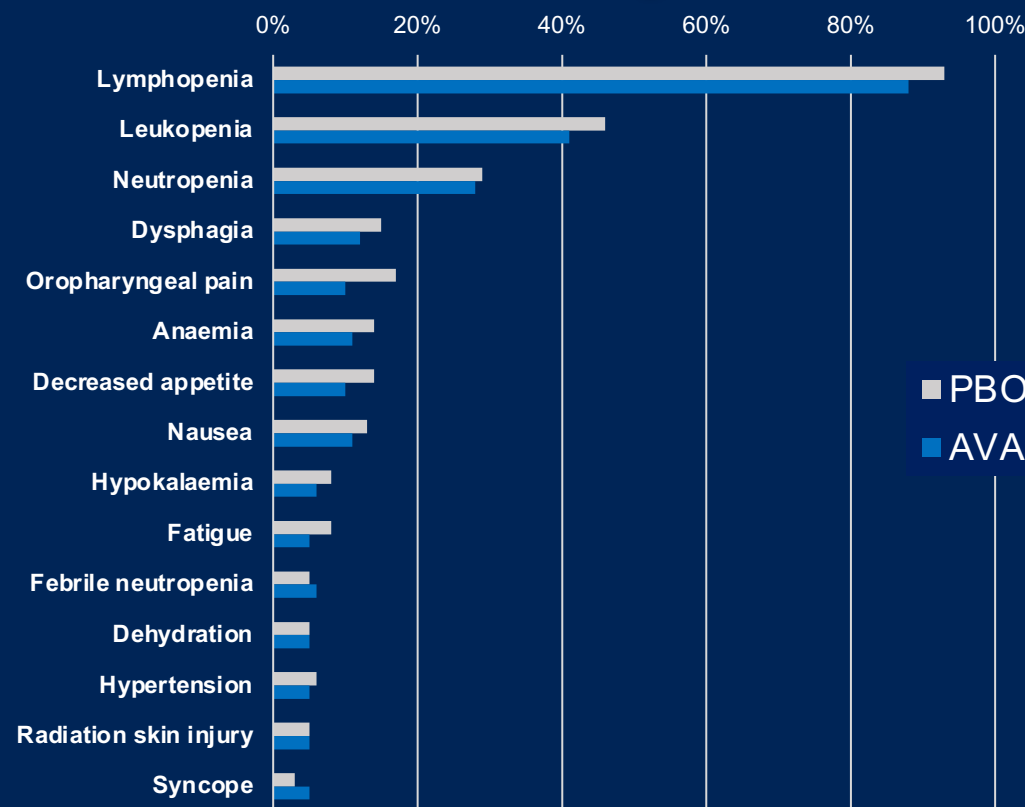
Most Frequent Adverse Events

Avasopasem 90 mg appears generally well tolerated, consistent with phase 2b

Adverse events¹ (all grades, all causes)



Adverse events¹ grade ≥3

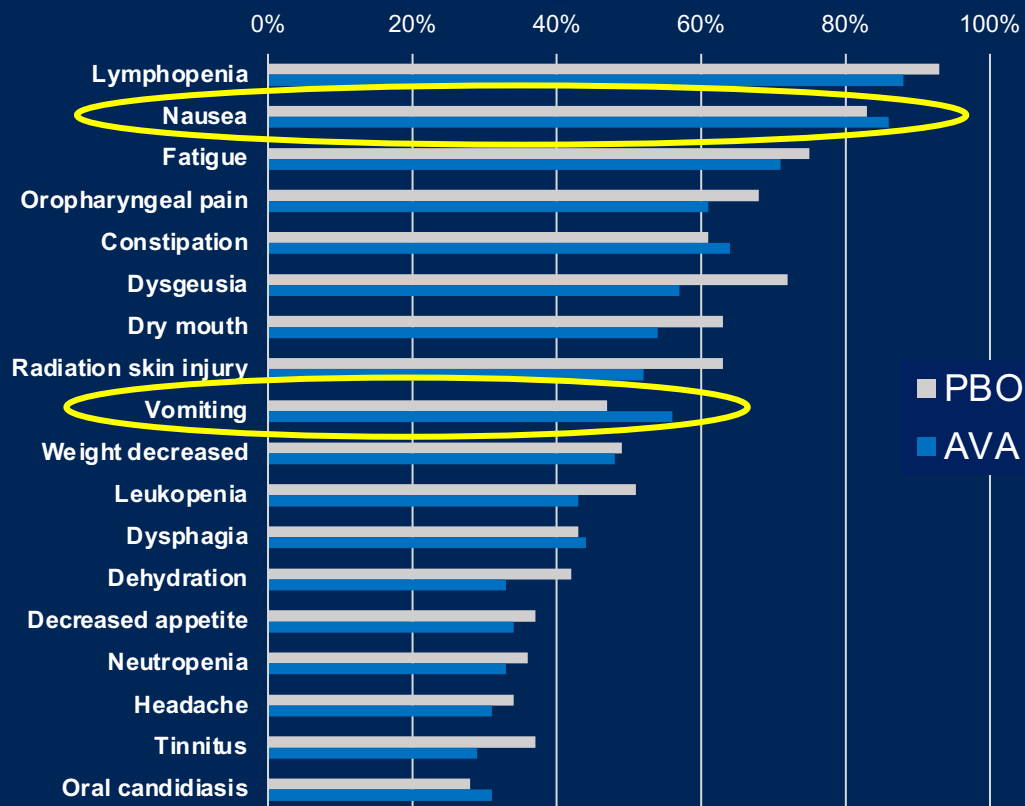


¹ ITT population: 166 patients on placebo; 241 on 90 mg avasopasem. AVA, avasopasem; ITT, intent-to-treat; PBO, placebo.

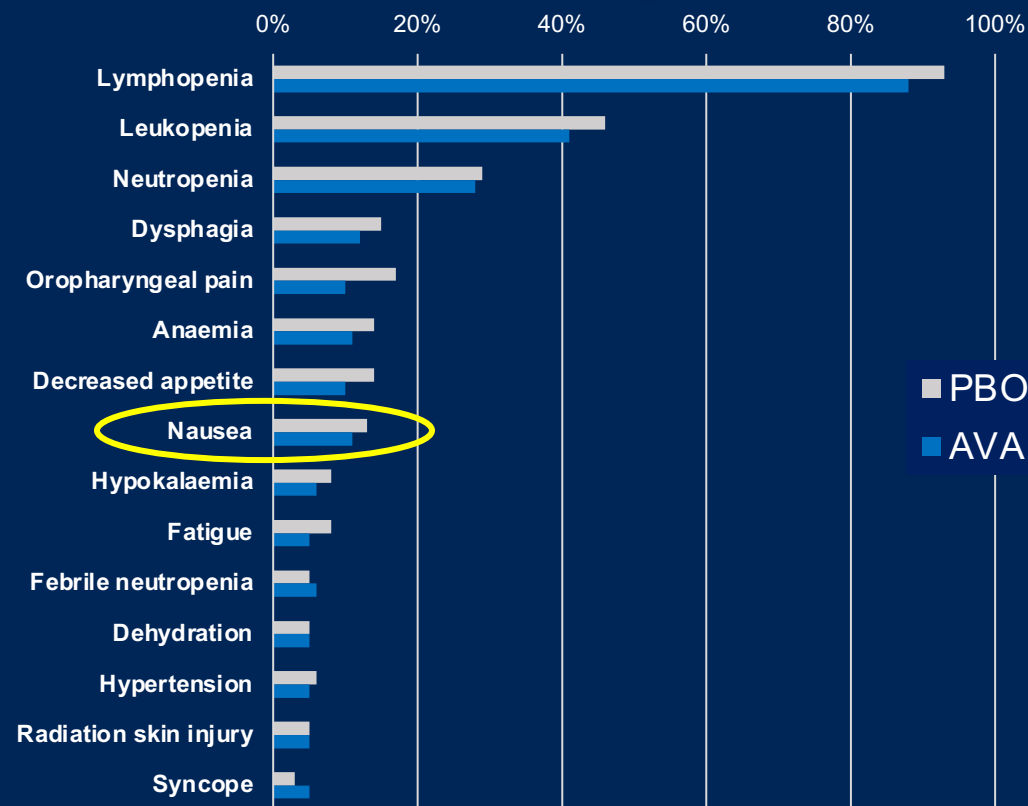
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Conclusions

- Avasopasem 90 mg first drug to show statistically significant and clinically meaningful reduction in SOM
 - Incidence
 - Days of SOM (duration)
- Nominal, meaningful improvements
 - Severity (grade 4 OM incidence)
 - Onset of SOM
- Safety profile comparable, avasopasem vs placebo
- Consistent with randomized, double-blind phase 2b results
- Future analyses include
 - Tumor control and overall survival
 - Chronic kidney disease
- Galera preparing FDA submission

FDA, United States Food and Drug Administration; OM, oral mucositis; SOM, severe OM.

Thank you



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- Author conflicts of interest are posted with the published ASCO abstract