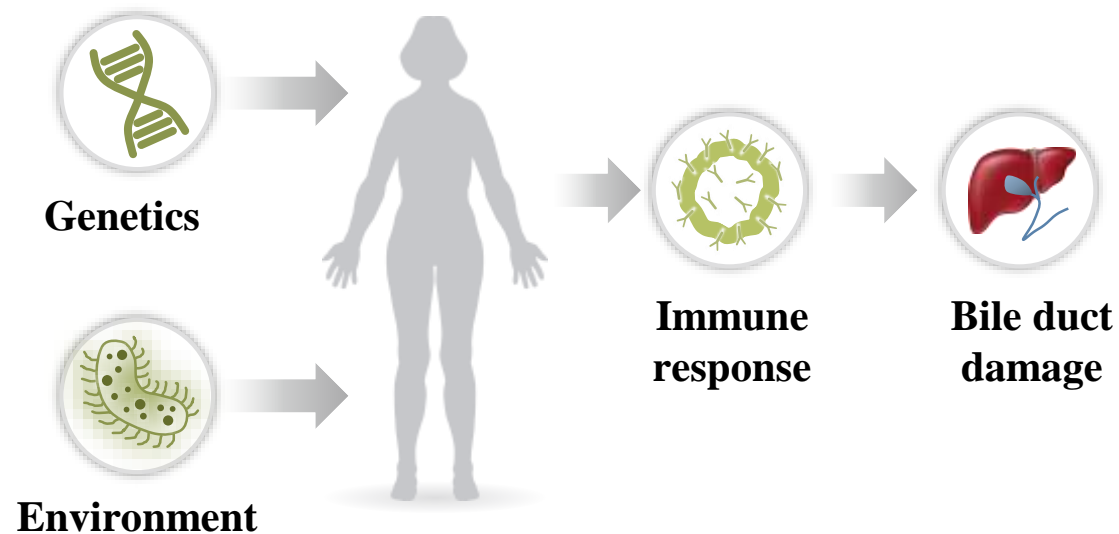


# Primary Biliary Cholangitis

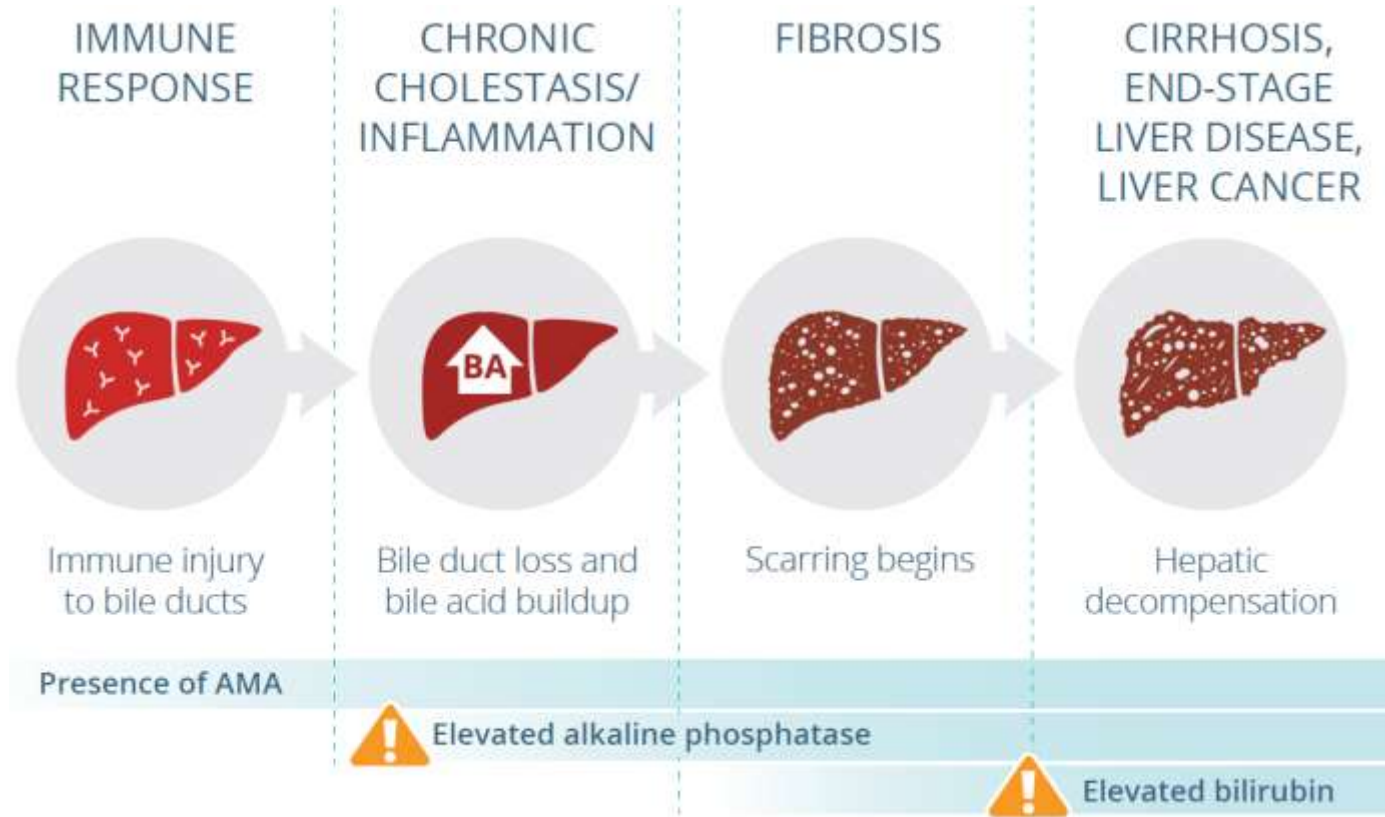
Nikolaos T. Pylsopoulos MD, PhD, MBA  
Professor and Chief  
Department of Medicine  
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology  
Rutgers NJMS  
Medical Director Liver Transplantation  
University Hospital

- Factors possibly associated with onset and perpetuation of bile-duct injury in PBC



*PBC is characterized by destruction of the interlobular and septal bile ducts that may lead to cirrhosis*

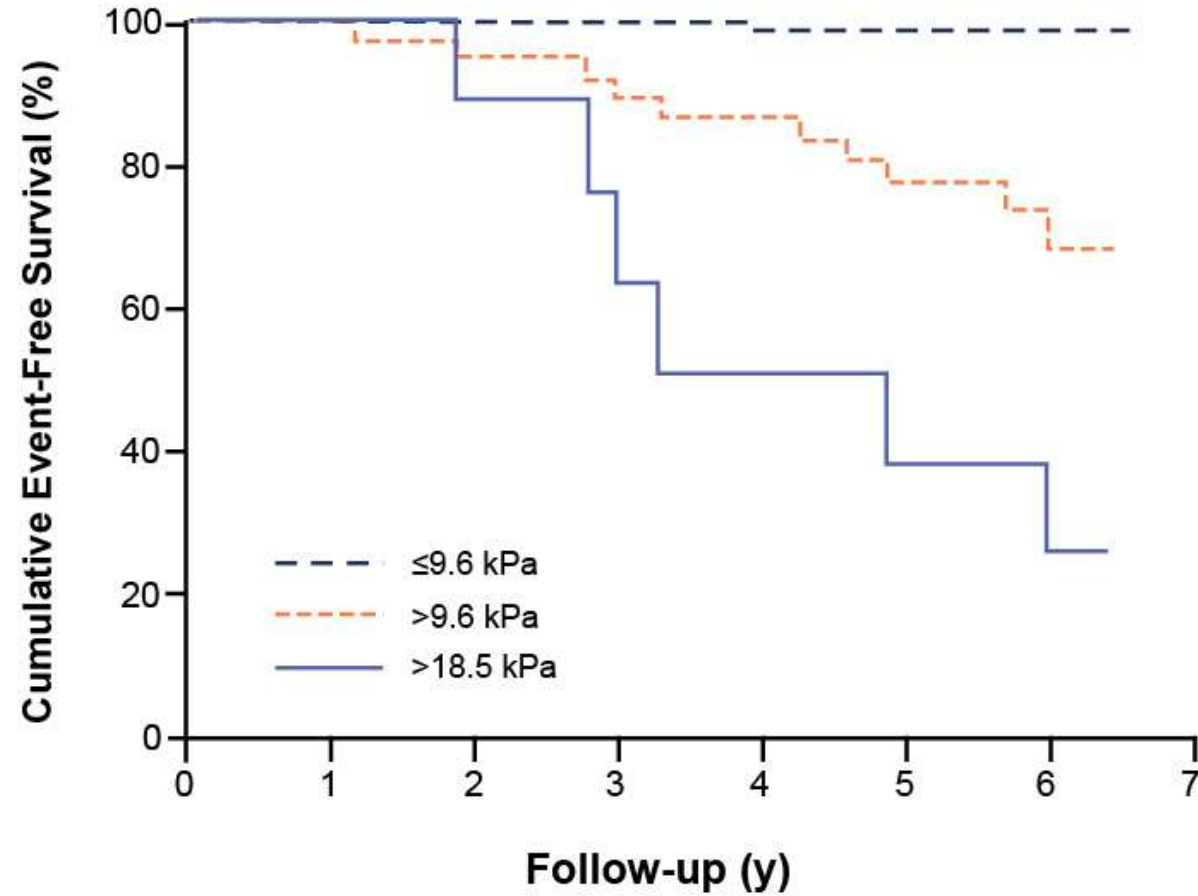
**Persistent, toxic exposure to bile acid buildup ultimately leads to end-stage disease<sup>1,2,4,5,\*</sup>**



\*Progression from cholestasis to cirrhosis, and from cirrhosis to liver-related mortality, can vary by patient. AMA, antimitochondrial antibody.

1. Poupon R. *J Hepatol.* 2010;52(5):745-758. 2. Dyson JK, et al. *Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol.* 2015;12(3):147-158. 3. Lammers WJ, et al. *Gastroenterology.* 2014;147(6):1338-1349. 4. Selmi C, et al. *Lancet.* 2011;377(9777):1600-1609. 5. Lindor KD, et al. *Hepatology.* 2009;50(1):291-308.

150 PATIENTS

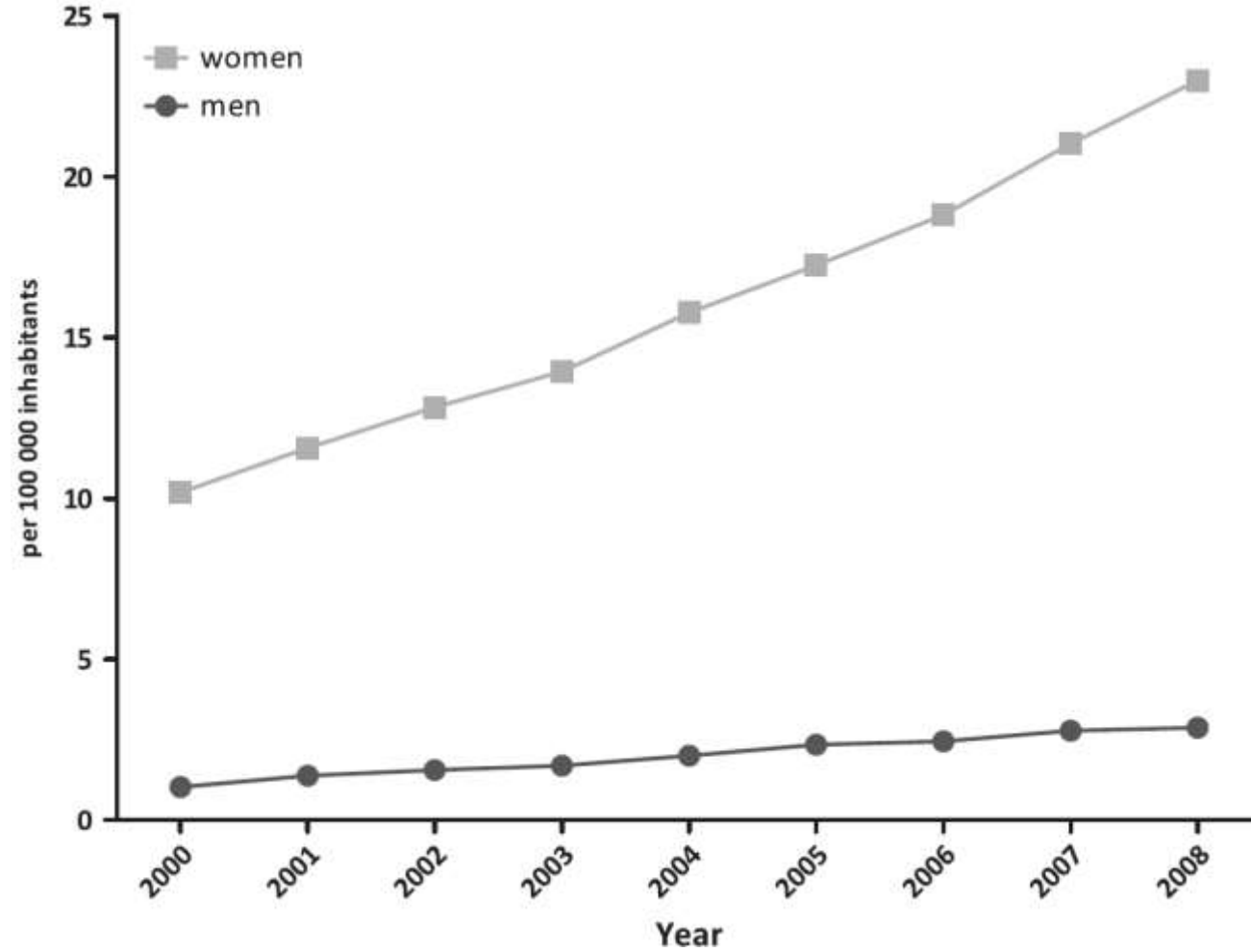


<b>Age</b>	Usually >45 years
<b>Gender</b>	Female > Male (9:1)
<b>Serology</b>	AMA in ~95%; disease-specific ANA in ~30%-50%; ASMA may be present
<b>Immunoglobulin</b>	IgM typically elevated
<b>MRCP</b>	Normal
<b>Liver Histology</b>	Lymphocytic infiltrate; inflammatory duct lesion; granuloma may be present
<b>Coexisting IBD</b>	Not typical

Abbreviations: AMA, antimitochondrial antibody; ANA, antinuclear antibody; ASMA, anti-smooth-muscle antibody; IBD, inflammatory bowel disease; MRCP, magnetic resonance cholangiography; PBC, primary biliary cholangitis.

	Frequency (%)
Sjögren's syndrome	7-34
Raynaud's syndrome	9-13
Hashimoto's thyroiditis	11-13
Rheumatoid arthritis	3-8
Psoriasis	6
Scleroderma or CREST*	1-2
Inflammatory bowel disease	1
Any autoimmune disease	33-55

\*CREST (calcinosis, Raynaud's phenomenon, esophageal dysfunction, sclerodactyly, and telangiectasia)



## Spectrum of Autoimmune Liver Injuries<sup>1</sup>

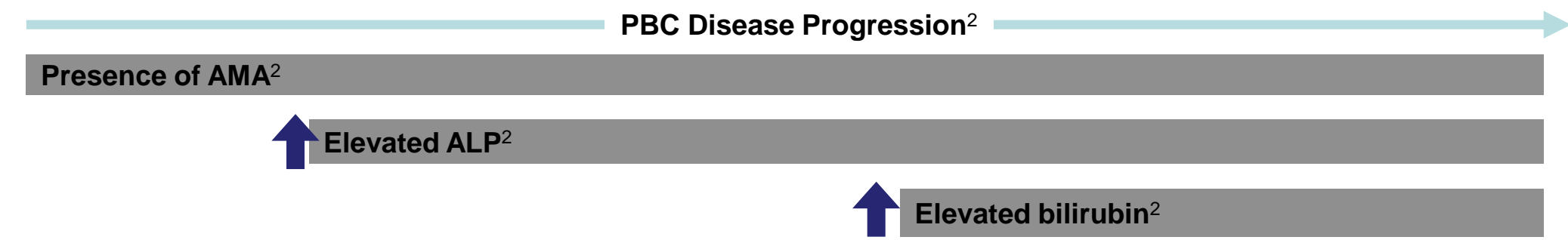
- Autoimmune hepatitis<sup>1</sup>
- Primary biliary cholangitis<sup>1</sup>
- Primary sclerosing cholangitis<sup>1</sup>
- IgG4-related disease<sup>2</sup>

## Differential for Cholestatic Liver Biochemistry<sup>3</sup>

- Drug-induced liver injury
  - Inherited cholestasis
  - Idiopathic ductopenia
  - Malignant infiltration
- Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease
- Obstructive biliary lesion
- Primary biliary cholangitis
- Primary sclerosing cholangitis
  - Sarcoidosis



# PBC Diagnosis Is Predominantly Based on Elevated ALP and the Presence of Anti-mitochondrial Antibodies<sup>1</sup>



## AASLD Guidelines:

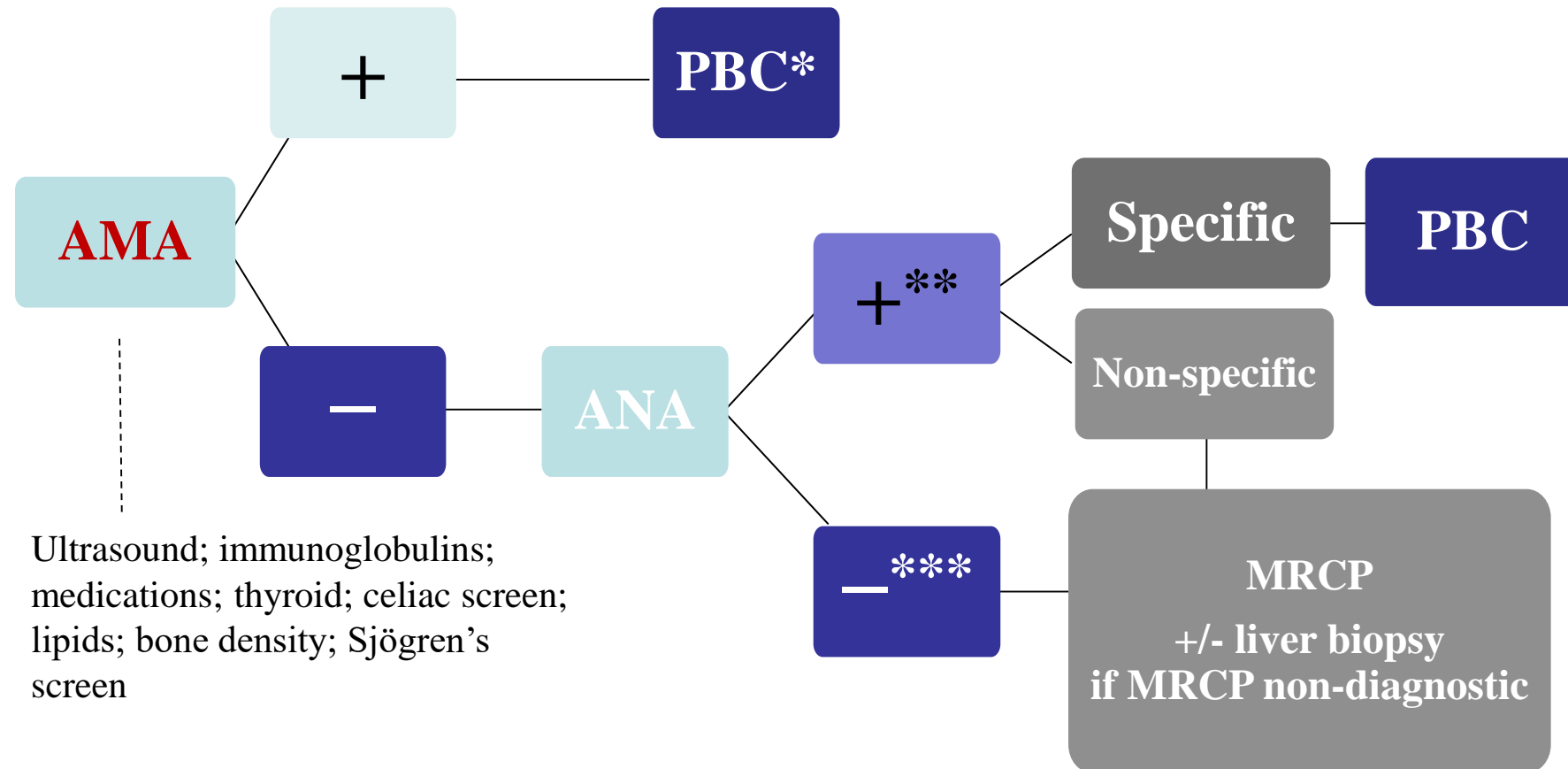
PBC diagnosis can be established when 2 of these 3 criteria are met<sup>1,3</sup>

- 1 Biochemical evidence of cholestasis based on **elevated ALP level**
- 2 Presence of **AMA** or other PBC-specific autoantibodies, including sp100 or gp210, if AMA is negative
- 3 Histologic evidence of nonsuppurative destructive cholangitis and destruction of interlobular bile ducts if biopsy is performed

Liver biopsy can be used to further substantiate the diagnosis but is no longer considered necessary in most patients<sup>1</sup>

AASLD, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases; ALP, alkaline phosphatase; AMA, anti-mitochondrial antibodies; PBC, primary biliary cholangitis.

1. Lindor KD et al. *Hepatology*. 2019;69(1):394-419; 2. European Association for the Study of the Liver. *J Hepatol*. 2017;67(1):145-172; 3. Kaplan MM, Gershwin ME, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2005;353(12):1261-1273.



\*0.5%–1% of healthy individuals are AMA+; \*\*>85% patients with AMA–PBC are ANA+;

\*\*\*Differential is among PSC, antibody- negative PBC, and alternate ductopenic disorders.

Abbreviations: AMA, antimitochondrial antibody; ANA, antinuclear antibody; MRCP, magnetic resonance cholangiography; PBC, primary biliary cholangitis; PSC, primary sclerosing cholangitis.

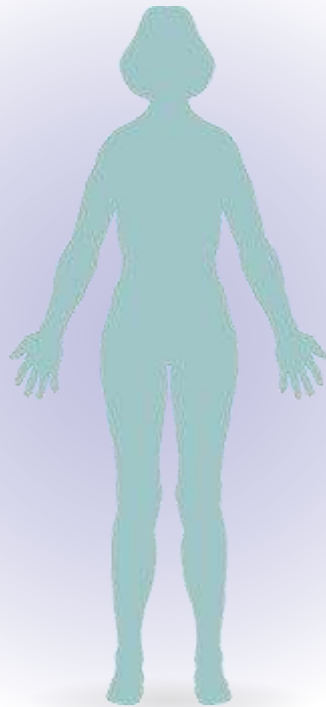
Hirschfield GM, et al. *Best Pract Res Clin Gastroenterol.* 2011;25:701-712.

- AMA
  - Positive in >90% of patients with PBC, depending on assay<sup>1</sup>
  - In the correct context, AMA reactivity, with an elevated ALP and no significant elevation in AST, is associated with a >95% PPV of histologic PBC<sup>2</sup>
- ANA
  - 2 ANA immunofluorescent patterns are specific to PBC: multiple nuclear dots and perinuclear/rim-like membranous<sup>3</sup>
  - Automated ANA assays will likely not detect these reactivities
  - Laboratories should perform immunofluorescence if ELISA-based assays for gp210 and sp100 are not available
- Immunoglobulins
  - Elevated IgM is a sensitive but not specific characteristic of PBC<sup>1</sup>
  - Elevated IgG is primarily observed in AIH<sup>1</sup>

Abbreviations: PPV, positive predictive value; AIH, autoimmune hepatitis; IgM, immunoglobulin M; IgG, immunoglobulin G

# Extra-Hepatic Disease Management

...but there are disease-associated symptoms, clinical manifestations, and co-existing autoimmune diseases that are recognized<sup>1-3</sup>



**Fatigue<sup>1,2</sup>**

**Pruritus<sup>1,2</sup>**

Most common symptoms of PBC<sup>2</sup>

**Xanthoma and xanthelasma<sup>2,3</sup>**

**Hyperlipidemia<sup>1,2</sup>**

**Osteoporosis<sup>1,2</sup>**

**Co-existing autoimmune diseases<sup>1,2</sup>**

**The absence of symptoms at diagnosis may not predict prognosis  
(as many as ~60% of patients may be asymptomatic at diagnosis)<sup>4\*</sup>**

PBC, primary biliary cholangitis.

\*Based on an examination of the natural history of a 770-patient cohort in Northeast England (incident cases, 1987-1994).<sup>4</sup>

1. Selmi C, et al. *Lancet*. 2011;377(9777):1600-1609. 2. Carey EJ, et al. *Lancet*. 2015;386(10003):1565-1575. 3. Lindor KD, et al. *Hepatology*. 2018. doi:10.1002/hep.30145. 4. Prince MI, et al. *Gut*. 2004;53(6):865-870.

- Present in up to 85% of patients with PBC<sup>3</sup>
  - >40% report moderate to severe<sup>1</sup>
- Mechanism not well understood<sup>1,2</sup>
- Unrelated to disease activity or stage
  - Tends to wax and wane throughout the course of illness<sup>2</sup>
- Typically characterized as daytime somnolence
  - Can impair QoL<sup>1</sup>

Despite sparse correlation between fatigue and severity of liver disease, fatigue can be associated with decreased overall survival<sup>1</sup>

- Though fatigue caused by PBC may not be reversible, associated causes of fatigue should be actively excluded—or identified and managed<sup>1,2</sup>

## Rule Out:

### Associated causes of fatigue (disease or medication):

- Anemia<sup>2</sup>
- Depression<sup>2</sup>
- Sleep disorder<sup>2</sup>
- Hypothyroidism<sup>1-3</sup>
- Medications that can cause or contribute to fatigue (eg, excessive antihypertensive medication)<sup>1</sup>

## Consider Fatigue Management Strategies:

### Fatigue may be improved by:

- Maintaining regular physical activity<sup>4,5</sup>
- Modafinil (100-200 mg)<sup>6,7</sup>
- Methotrexate for patients with severe fatigue<sup>8</sup>

- Prevalence reported as high as 69%<sup>1</sup>
- Unknown etiology<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Bile salts, endogenous opioids, histamine, serotonin, progesterone/ estrogen, and autotaxin/lysophosphatidic acid are suspected pruritogens<sup>2</sup>
- Diurnal variation – most intense itch in the late evening<sup>2</sup>
- Localization reported at limbs – soles of feet, palms of hands<sup>2</sup>
- Exacerbated by pregnancy or contact with wool/heat<sup>3</sup>



## Non-Pharmacologic Strategies (EASL Guidelines)<sup>1</sup>

- Use of emollients and oatmeal extract to improve dry and inflamed skin
- Use of cold water for baths or showers to provide some symptom relief of pruritus triggered or exacerbated by heat/warmth (at night)
- Psychologic intervention for addictive scratching/scratch dependence
- Searching for added allergens, especially in patients with associated hypereosinophilia or IgE-mediated allergy

## Pharmacologic Strategies (AASLD, EASL, and ACG Guidelines)<sup>1-3</sup>

- Cholestyramine\* is considered first-line pharmacologic treatment for pruritus in PBC<sup>1-3</sup>
  - 4 g per dose to a maximum of 16 g/day taken 1 hour before, or 4 hours after, taking UDCA and at least 4 hours before or after taking OCA<sup>2-4</sup>
- Guidelines include treatment recommendations for patients refractory to cholestyramine or 1L treatment with other bile acid sequestrants<sup>1-3</sup>

1L, first line; AASLD, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases; IgE, immunoglobulin E.

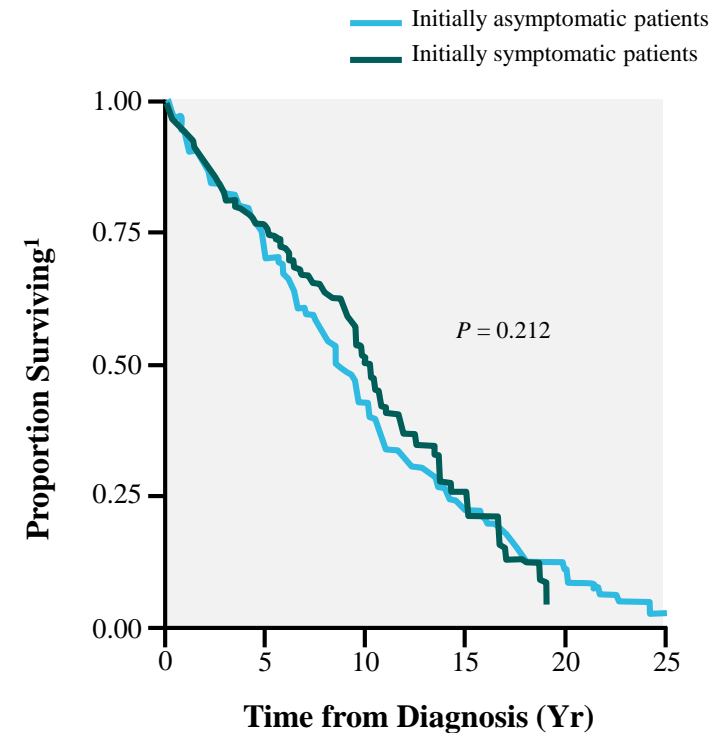
\*For patients taking bile acid binding resins and OCALIVA, take OCALIVA at least 4 hours before or 4 hours after (or at as great an interval as possible) taking a bile acid binding resin.

1. European Association for the Study of the Liver. *J Hepatol*. 2017;67(1):145-172. 2. Lindor KD, et al. *Hepatology*. 2019;69(1):394-419. 3. Younossi ZM, et al. *Am J Gastroenterol*. 2019;114:48-63.

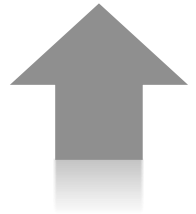
4. OCALIVA [package insert]. New York, NY: Intercept Pharmaceuticals, Inc; 2020.

# The Absence of Symptoms at Diagnosis May Not Predict Prognosis

- Examination of the natural history of a 770-patient cohort in Northeast England (incident cases, 1987–1994)<sup>1</sup>
  - 61.8% asymptomatic at diagnosis
- Median survival time from diagnosis was not significantly different between patients who were symptomatic and asymptomatic at diagnosis<sup>1</sup>
- The relationship between symptom severity and disease progression can vary by patient<sup>2</sup>

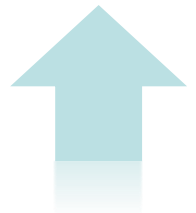


No. at risk 770 445 228 94 28



Elevated **ALP** is an early and ongoing indicator of PBC progression<sup>1,2</sup>

- Lowering ALP is associated with longer transplant-free survival

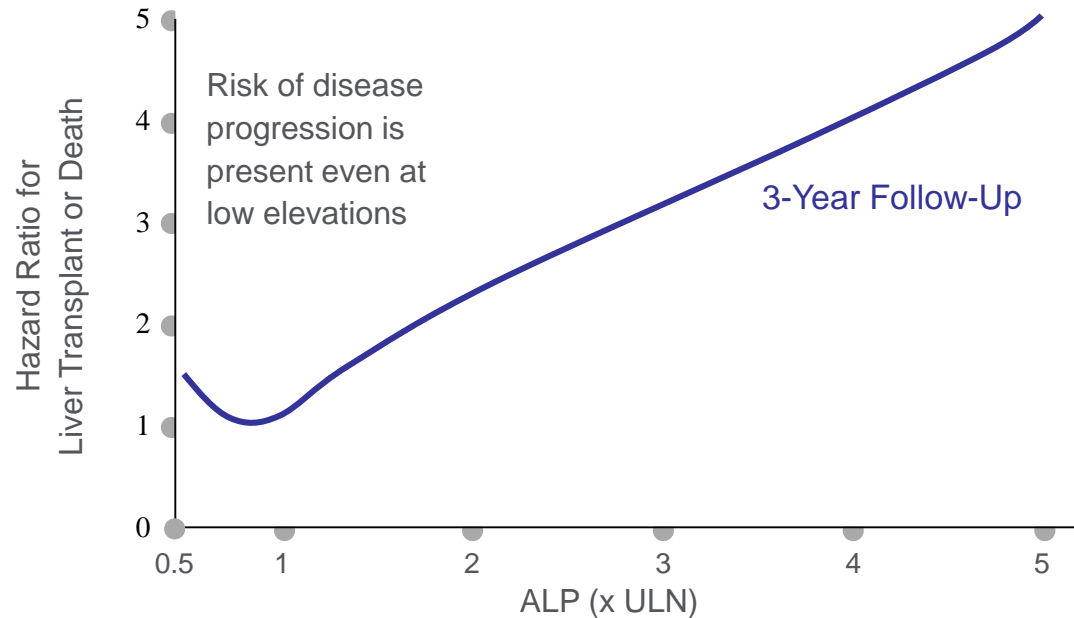


**Bilirubin** is an important predictor of survival in PBC<sup>1</sup>

- Elevations usually occur in later stages

# As ALP and Bilirubin Increase, So Does the Risk of Transplant or Death<sup>1</sup>

## Even modest ALP elevations above normal increase risk<sup>1</sup>



- ALP >1x ULN is associated with **2x greater** risk for transplant or death vs normal levels<sup>1\*†</sup>
- Bilirubin levels >1x ULN are associated with **5x greater risk** for transplant or death vs normal levels<sup>1\*†</sup>
- 15-year transplant-free survival rate is 79% when bilirubin is normal and alkaline phosphatase is ≤2x ULN<sup>1</sup>

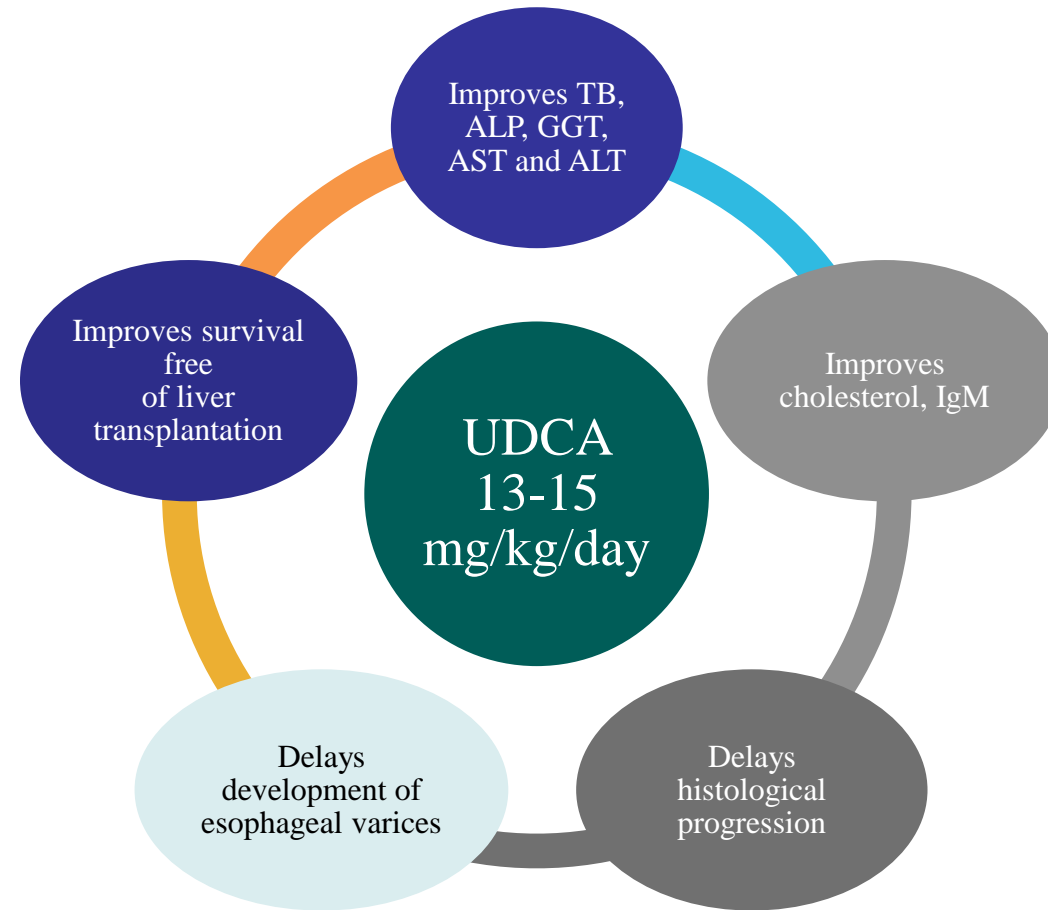
\*Compared to patients who were ≤1x ULN at any timepoint during the study period.<sup>1</sup>

†Based on an analysis of nearly 5,000 patients with PBC (85% treated with UDCA).<sup>1</sup>

1. Lammers WJ, et al. *Gastroenterology*. 2014;147(6):1338-1349. 2. OCALIVA [package insert]. New York, NY: Intercept Pharmaceuticals, Inc; 2020.

# Treatment Options

- Orally administered, naturally occurring, hydrophilic secondary bile acid
- Dose: 13-15 mg/kg/day
- Improvement in liver tests may be seen within a few weeks and 90% of the improvement usually occurs within 6-9 months
- After 1 year of treatment, the number of patients with biochemical response according to Paris Criteria was 66% and according to Barcelona Criteria was 62% (Kuiper et al)
  - Up to 40% treated with UDCA have a suboptimal response

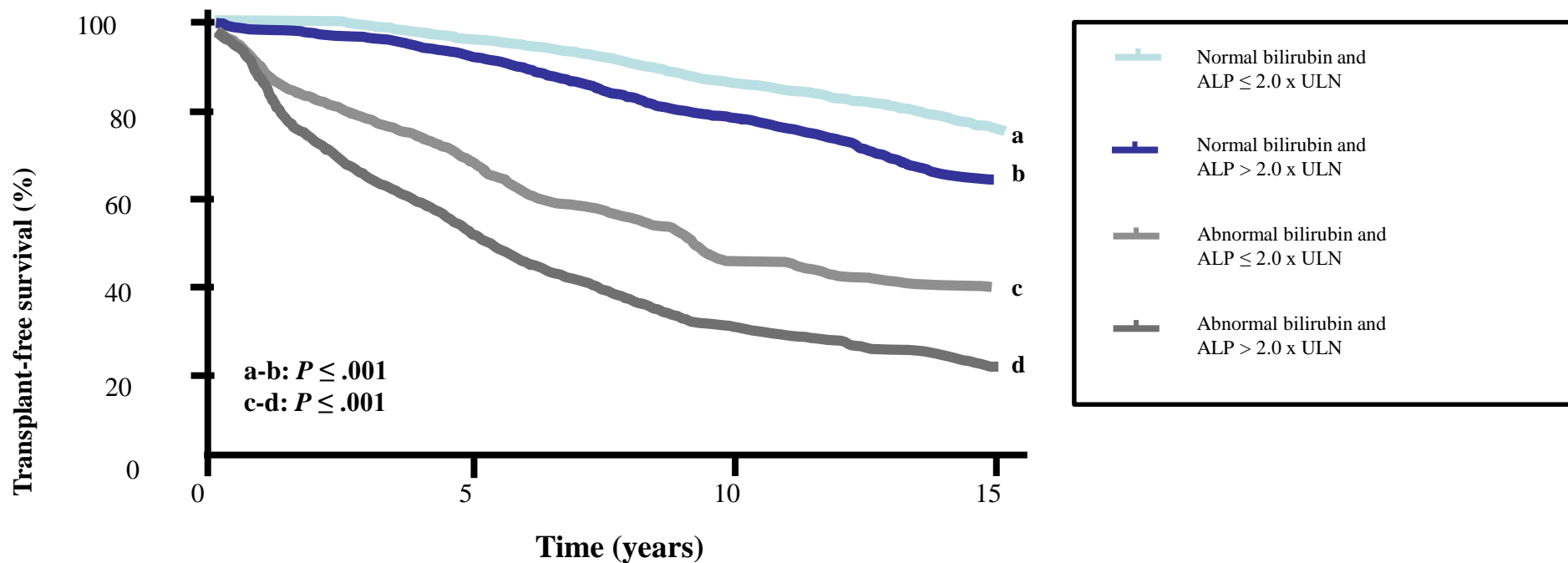


Abbreviations: ALP, alkaline phosphatase; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; GGT, gamma-glutamyl transferase; IgM, immunoglobulin M; TB, total bilirubin; UDCA, ursodeoxycholic acid.

Levy C and Lindor KD. In: *Zakim and Boyer's Hepatology: A Textbook of Liver Disease*. Elsevier Inc;2011:738-753.

Graphic courtesy of Dr. Cynthia Levy.

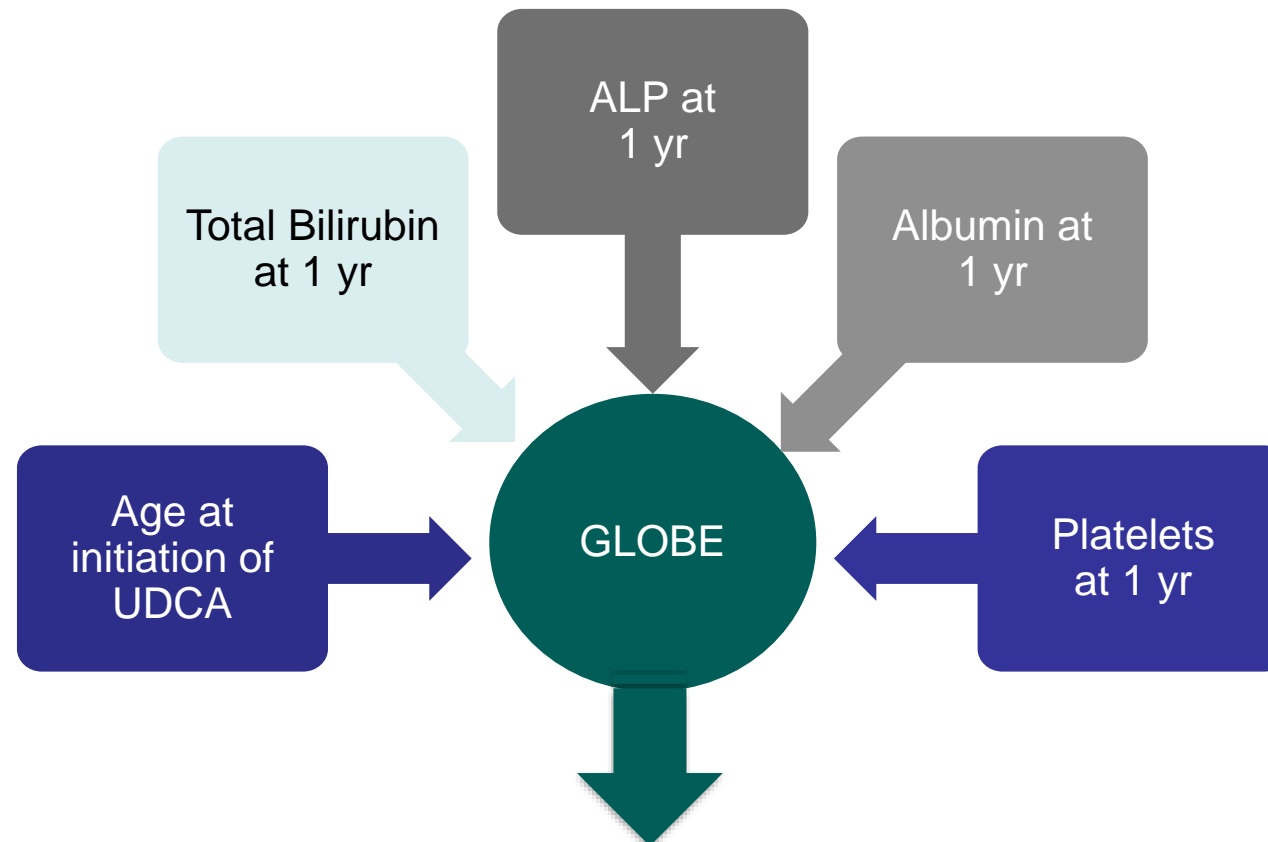
# UDCA: Transplant-free Survival Based on Bilirubin and Alkaline Phosphatase Levels at 1 Year Follow-up



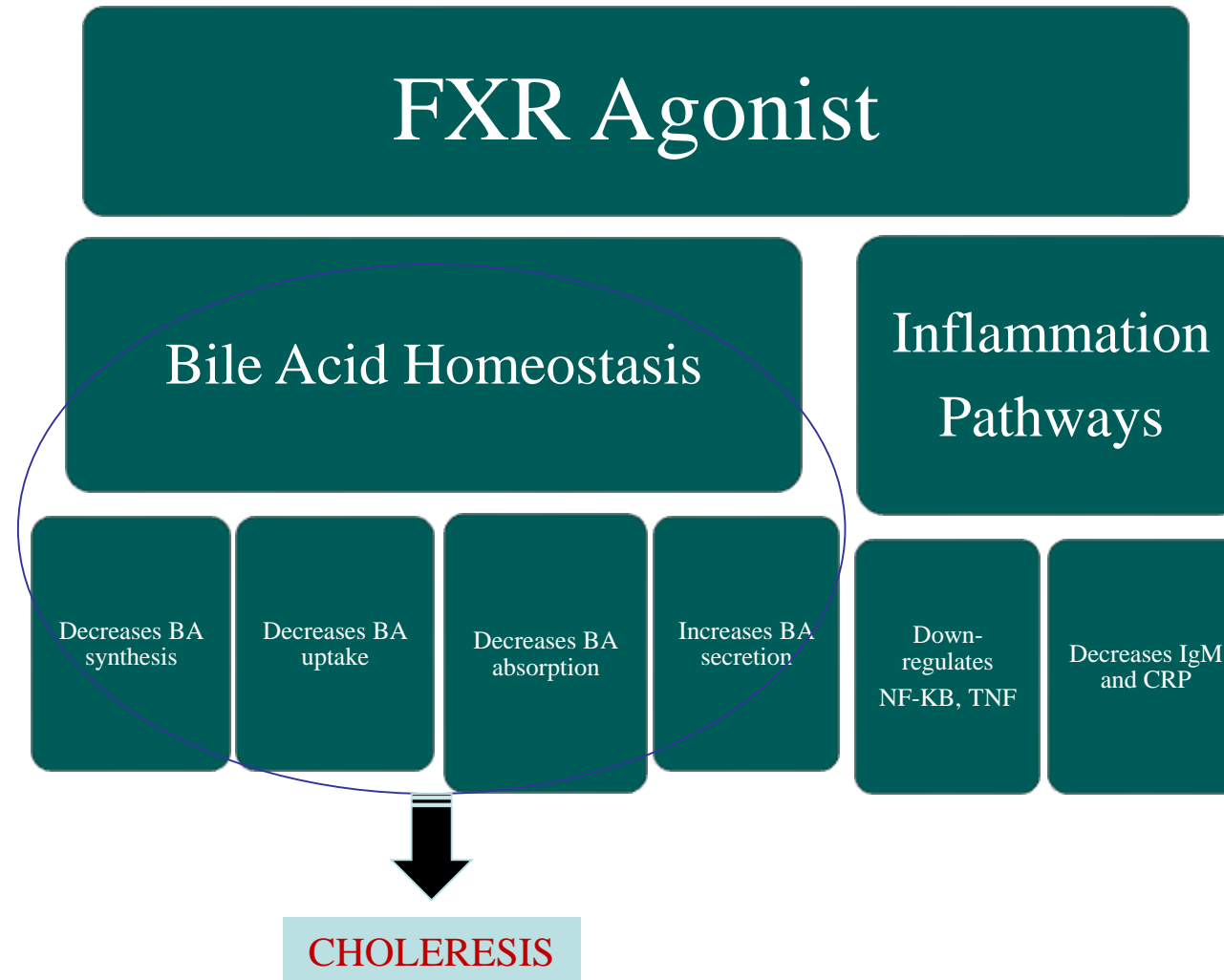
a	2112	1482	887	504
b	681	489	337	228
c	271	193	153	137
d	400	345	302	283



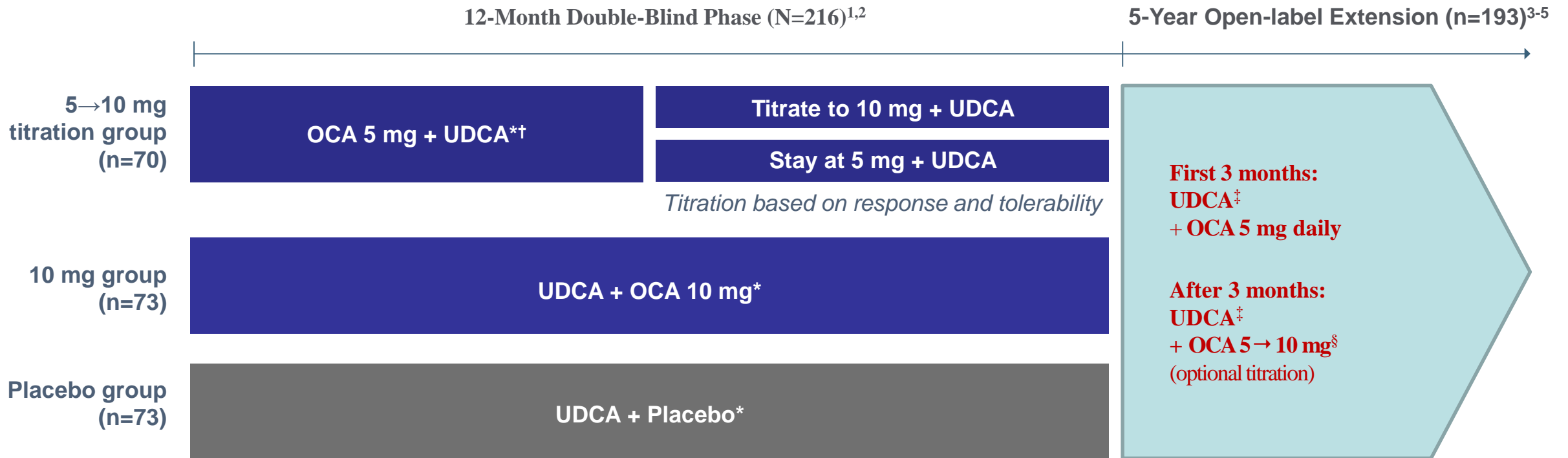
- International collaborative meta-analysis
- >4000 patients with PBC from 15 centers in 8 European and North American countries
  - On UDCA for at least 1 year
  - Median follow-up 7.8 years
- Risk score developed and validated to predict transplant-free survival



Predicts 3-, 5- and 10-year survival compared to age-matched population



# POISE Was a 1-year, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Randomized Phase 3



**Primary composite endpoint:** ✓ **ALP <1.67x ULN**    ✓ **ALP decrease of ≥15%**    ✓ **Total bilirubin ≤ULN**

**Study limitations:** In this open-label extension, no placebo or other comparators were included and therefore no clinical conclusions should be made.<sup>3</sup>

\*16 patients (7%) who were intolerant did not receive concomitant UDCA: 6 patients (8%) in the OCA 10 mg arm, 5 patients (7%) in the OCA 5→10 mg titration arm, and 5 patients (7%) in the placebo arm.

<sup>†</sup>In the 5→10 mg titration group, 36 patients stayed at 5 mg and 33 were titrated to 10 mg after 6 months.

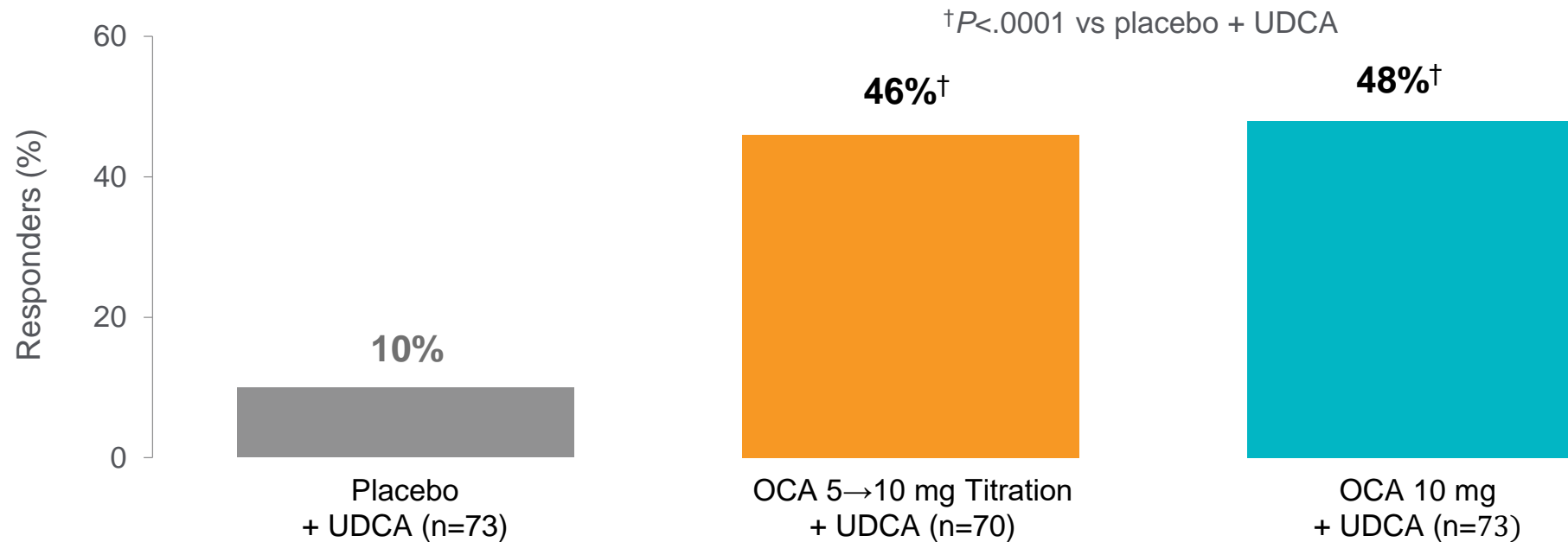
<sup>‡</sup>Among patients who entered the open-label extension, 13 (7%) were intolerant and did not receive concomitant UDCA during double-blind or open-label treatment with OCA.

<sup>§</sup>Protocol initially allowed doses up to 25 mg, but was later amended to a maximum daily dose of OCA 10 mg to ensure dosing per the approved label.

1. OCA [package insert]. New York, NY: Intercept Pharmaceuticals, Inc; 2020. 2. Data on file: GL-PB-MED-00067. 3. Data on file: INT-PB-MED-00009. 4. Trauner M, et al. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2019;4(6):445-453.

- To assess the proportion of patients achieving ALP  $<1.67 \times \text{ULN}$  and a decrease of  $\geq 15\%$  and total bilirubin  $\leq \text{ULN}$
- Inclusion
  - PBC diagnosis (EASL and AASLD guidelines)
  - ALP  $\geq 1.67 \times \text{ULN}$  and/or total bilirubin  $> \text{ULN}$  to  $< 2 \times \text{ULN}$
  - Stable UDCA or unable to tolerate UDCA
- Exclusion
  - Concomitant liver diseases, decompensation, severe pruritus requiring treatment
- Randomization Strata
  - UDCA (yes/no)
  - Paris 1: ALP  $> 3 \times \text{ULN}$  and/or AST  $> 2 \times \text{ULN}$  and/or total bilirubin  $> \text{ULN}$

## Patients Achieving the Primary Composite Endpoint at Month 12\*



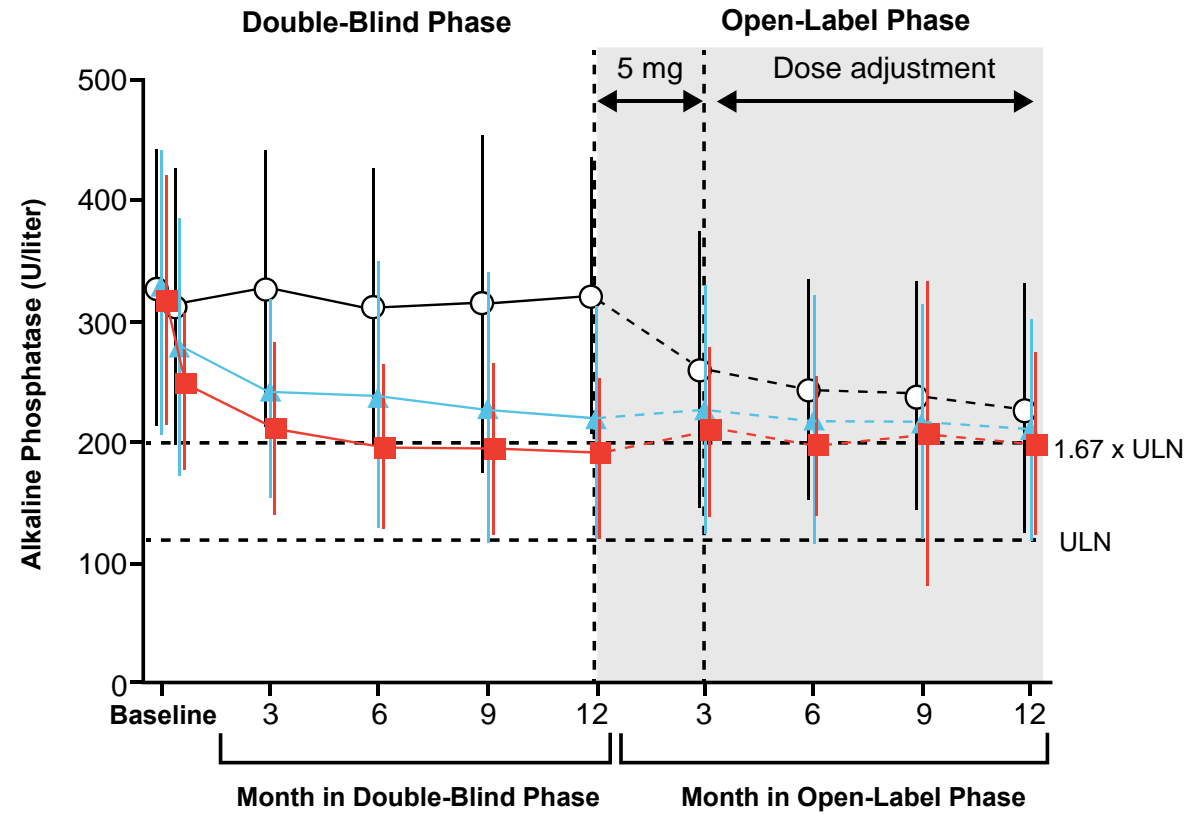
Patients taking OCA were **2.5x more likely** to achieve a reduction in ALP  $\geq 15\%$

- 77% of patients taking OCA + UDCA vs 29% on UDCA alone ( $P < .001$ )

\*16 patients (7%) who were intolerant did not receive concomitant UDCA.  
OCALIVA [package insert]. New York, NY: Intercept Pharmaceuticals, Inc; 2020.

○ Placebo    ▲ Obeticholic acid, 5-10 mg    ■ Obeticholic acid, 10 mg

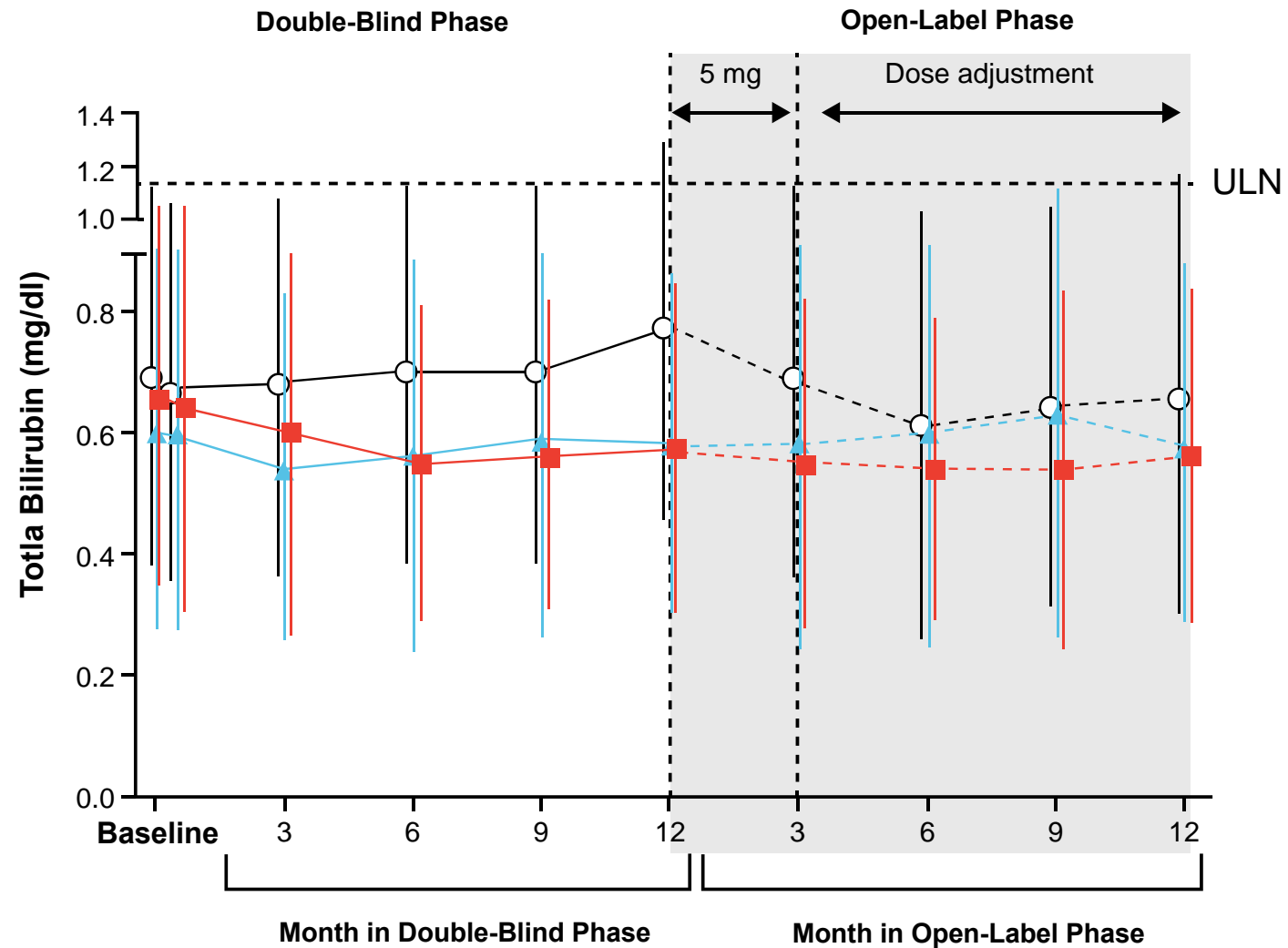
## A Alkaline Phosphatase



### No. of Patients

Placebo	73	69	71	69	70	64	60	59	59
Obeticholic acid, 5-10 mg	70	69	69	66	64	63	62	62	60
Obeticholic acid, 10 mg	73	66	64	64	62	64	59	61	59

## B Total Bilirubin

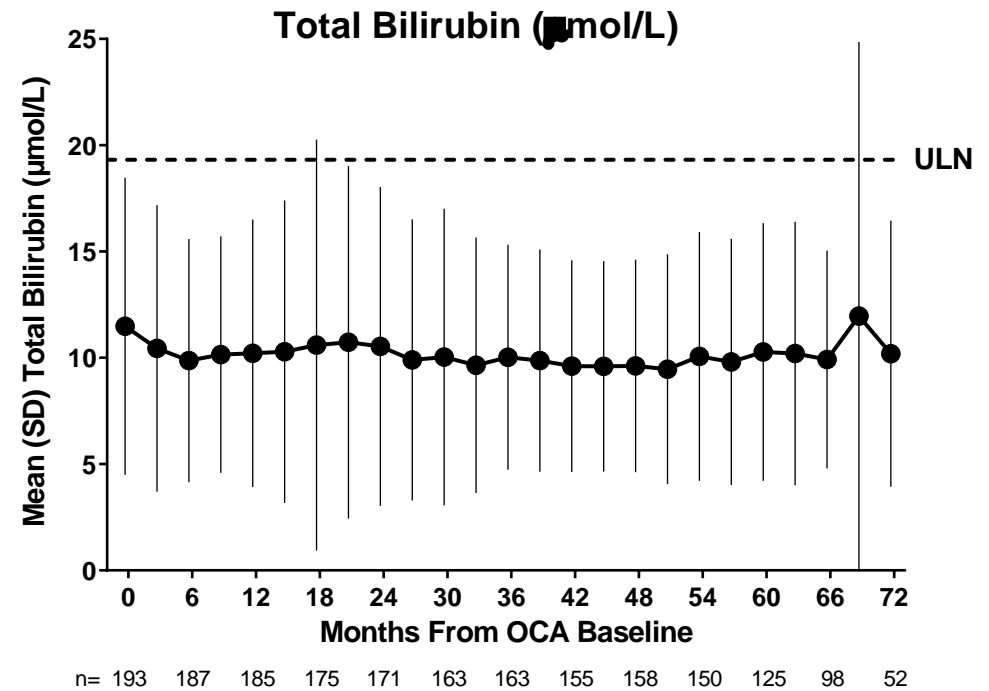
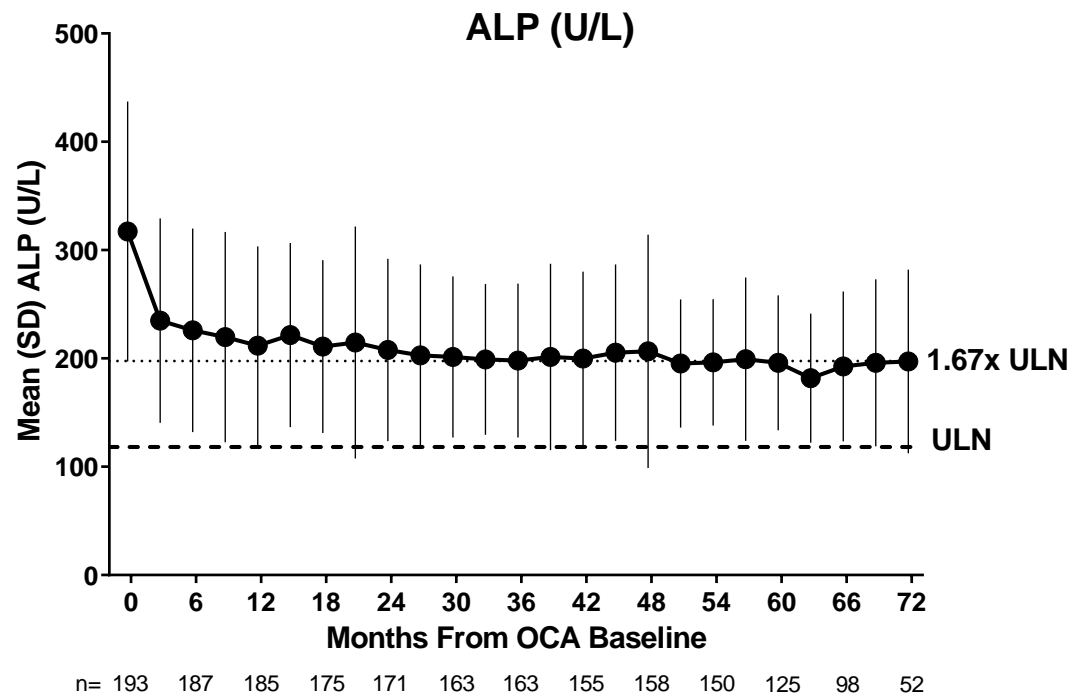




# Sustained Reductions in ALP and Bilirubin With OCA Treatment (5 Years)

POISE was a pivotal phase-3 12-month randomised controlled trial of OCA in patients with PBC followed by a five year open label extension (LTSE). The primary endpoint was achievement of ALP <1.67 xULN, ALP reduction  $\geq 15\%$  from baseline, and total bilirubin  $\leq$ ULN, achieved by 46% of patients in the 5–10-mg group vs. 10% in the placebo group ( $P < 0.001$ )<sup>1</sup>

## Results from the POISE LTSE<sup>2</sup>



ALP = alkaline phosphatase; LTSE = long-term safety extension; OCA = obeticholic acid; SD = standard deviation; ULN = upper limit of normal.

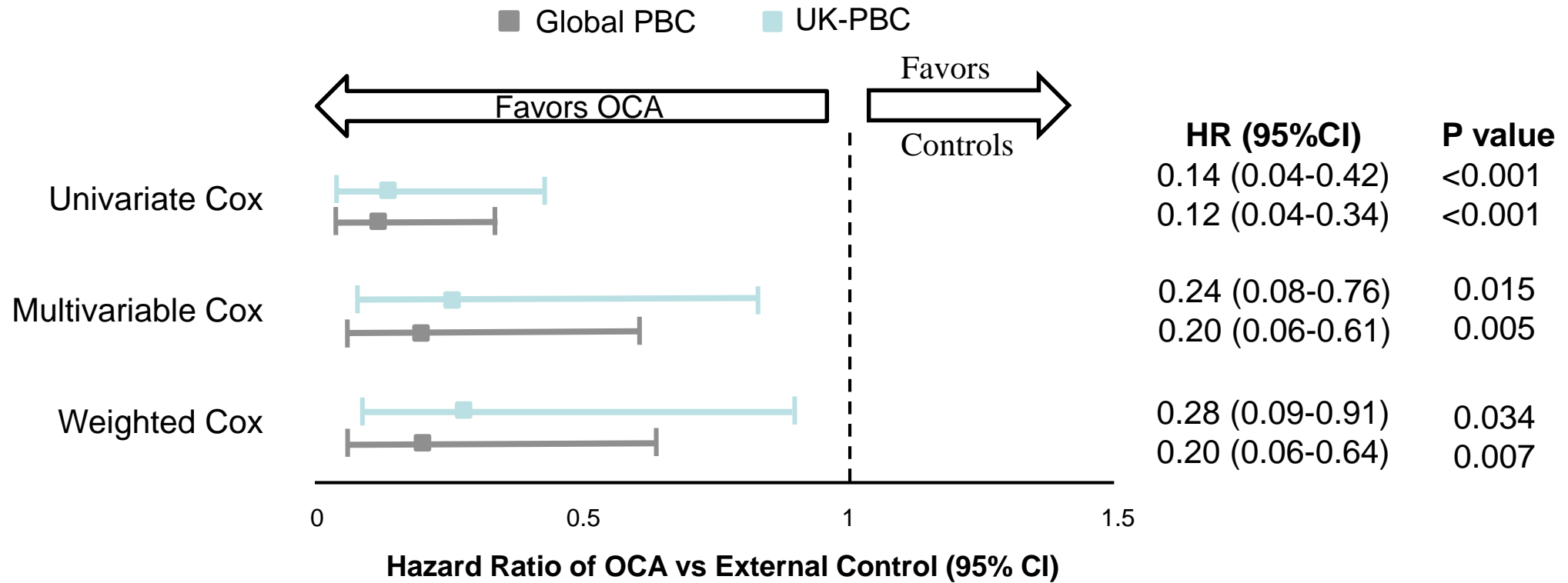
1. Nevens F et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2016;375(7):631–643. 2. Nevens F et al. *Presented at AASLD*. 2019. Boston, MA (Oral LO6).

<b>Without cirrhosis</b>	5mg once daily → 10 mg once daily Titration at 3 months
<b>Compensated cirrhosis without CSPH</b>	5mg once daily → 10 mg once daily Titration at 3 months
<b>Compensated cirrhosis with CSPH</b>	<b>Contraindicated</b>
<b>Decompensated cirrhosis</b>	<b>Contraindicated</b>

Titration is dependent of patients not achieving adequate biochemical response and not experiencing tolerability issues at the lower dose

CSPH = clinically significant portal hypertension; OCA = obeticholic acid

Ocaliva [Full Prescribing Information]. New York, NY: *Intercept Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*; 2021



- Liver tests every 3-6 months → consider OCA if non response to UDCA
- Thyroid status (TSH) annually
- DEXA at diagnosis and every 2-4 years
- Monitor for associated autoimmune conditions
- In the presence of severe cholestasis → assess levels of vitamins A and D. May need to administer Vit K prior to procedures.
- Upper endoscopy every 1-3 years if cirrhotic or Mayo risk score >4.1
- Ultrasound ± AFP every 6 months in patients with known or suspected cirrhosis

- PBC is most common in middle-aged women.
- Taking a good history is essential.
- Diagnosis can typically be made based on persistent cholestatic liver profile and AMA positivity after other common liver diseases have been excluded.
- Manage patient with UDCA and/or OCA based on response.