

# CHEMOPREVENTION OF HEAD AND NECK CANCER AND PROSTATE CANCER

HUSEYIN ABALI, MD  
BASKENT UNIVERSITY  
MEDICAL ONCOLOGY  
ANKARA/TURKEY

# Definition

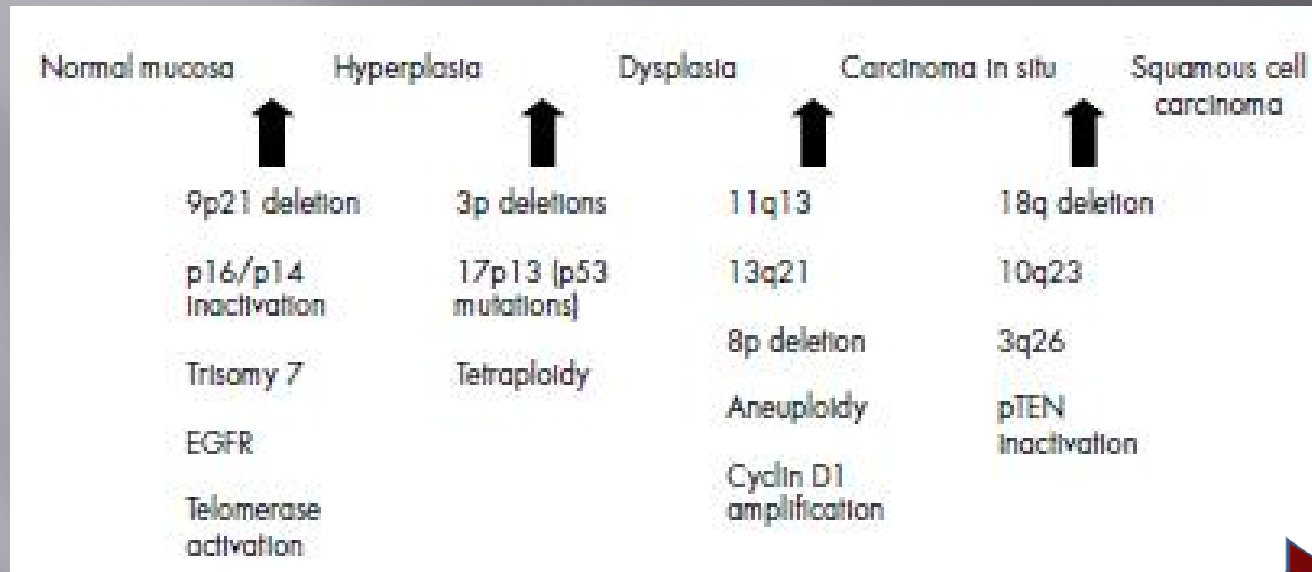
Cancer chemoprevention is

defined as the use of natural, synthetic, or biologic chemical agents to reverse, suppress, or prevent carcinogenic progression to invasive cancer

# Plan

- Basic Concepts
- Chemoprevention of Head and Cancer
  - Disease impact
  - Pathophysiology
  - Trials
- Chemoprevention of Prostate Cancer
  - Disease impact
  - Pathophysiology
  - Trials

# Carcinogenesis



Carcinogenesis is a genetic process

- Multistep process
  - Promotion
  - Progression
- Progressive Accumulation of genetic alterations in time
- Takes time (usually decades)

# Detouring Carcinogenesis

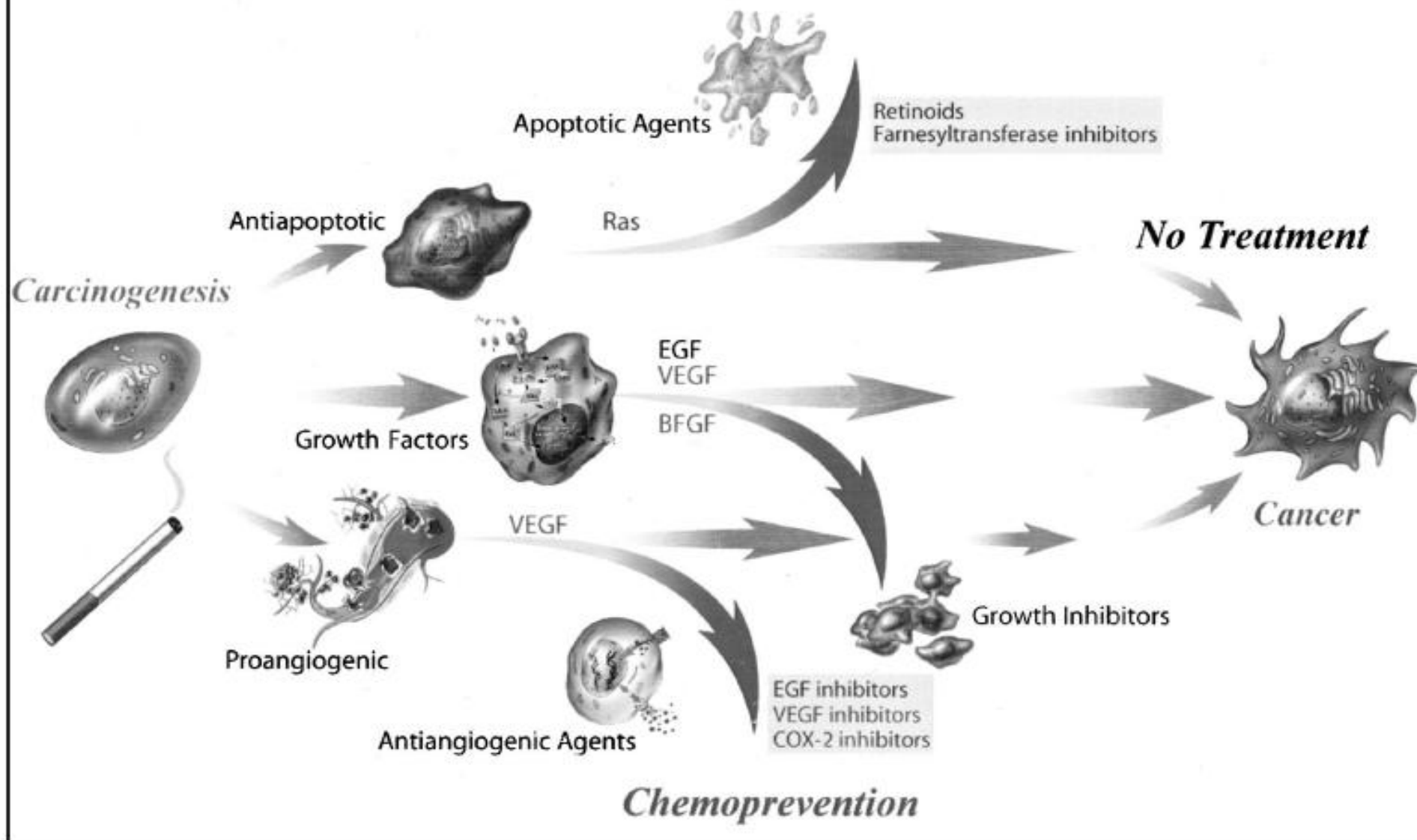


FIGURE 2 Biological Approaches to Preventing Cancer Development. Adapted from Soria JC, Kim ES, Fayette J, et al.<sup>19</sup> with permission from Elsevier.

# Difficulties of Trial Design in Chemoprevention

- .. To show mortality reduction
  - ı Large (and expensive) trials
  - ı Difficult to conduct
- .. Small and pragmatic trials
  - ı Less rigorous end points
    - ú Reversal of premalignant lesions
    - ú Prevention of invasive cancer
    - ú Other biomarkers

# Biomarker

a **characteristic**,  
measured and evaluated  
as an indicator  
of normal biologic,  
pathogenic processes, or  
pharmacologic responses  
to therapeutic  
interventions.

- Clinical end—point
  - Survival
- Surrogate end-points
  - Intraepithelial neoplasia
- Global Assessment
  - Risk Benefit ratio

# Examples of Intraepithelial Neoplasias

## *Epithelium*

---

Colon and rectum

Lower esophagus

Upper esophagus

Skin-squamous/basal cell

Skin-pigmented

Cervix

Head and neck

Lung

## *Intraepithelial Neoplasia*

---

Adenoma

Barrett's esophagus

Squamous dysplasia

Actinic keratosis

Dysplastic nevus

Cervical intraepithelial neoplasia

Leukoplakia

Bronchial dysplasia

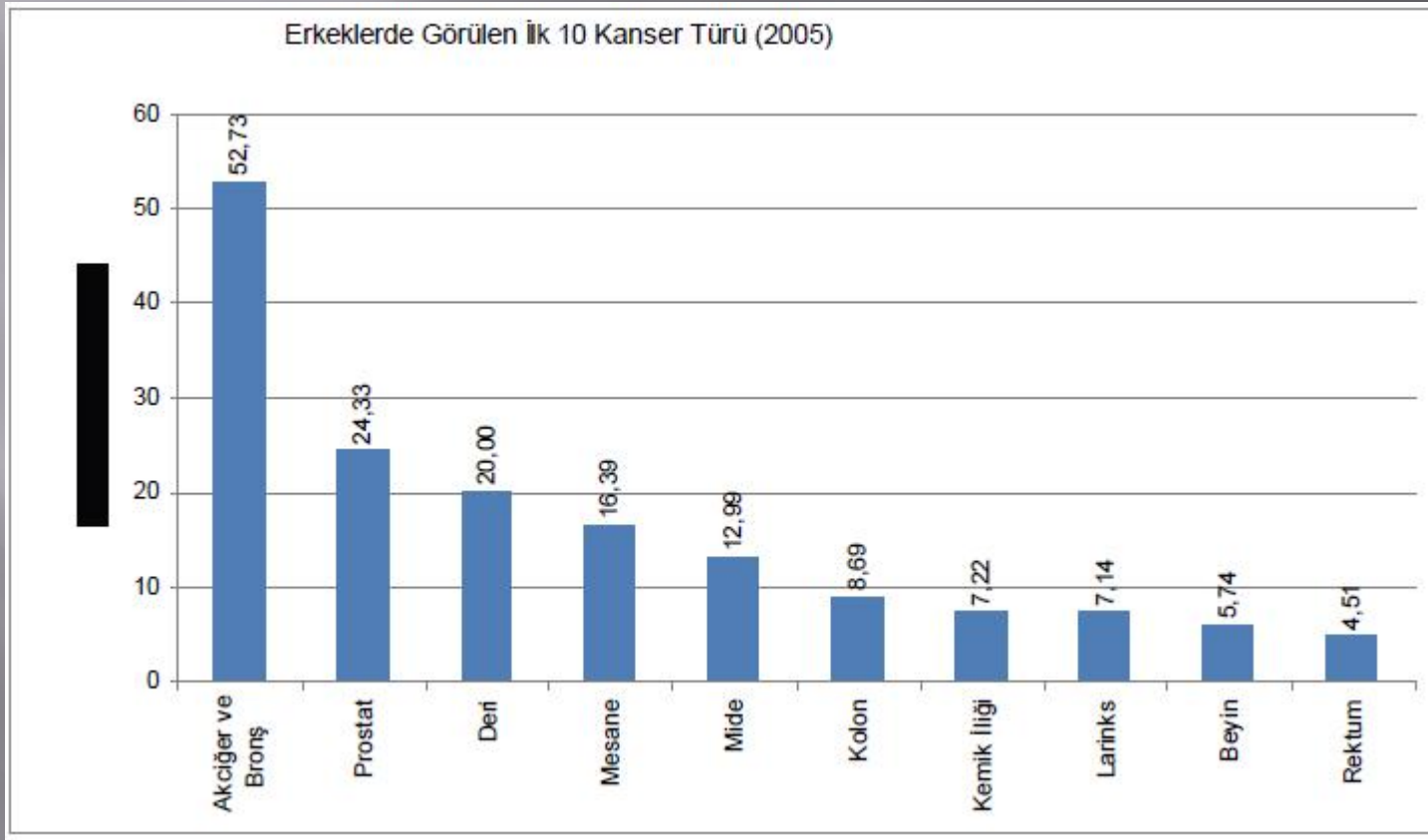


# Chemoprevention of Head Neck Cancer

# Head Neck Cancer

- Epidemiology
  - Sixth most frequent Cancer in the World
  - Eighth most frequent in men in Turkey
- Etiology
  - Smoking, alcohol and HPV
- Premalignant Lesion
  - Leukoplakia
  - Advanced
    - Erythroleukoplakia
    - Dysplastic leukoplakia
- One of most studied disease for chemoprevention

# Top 10 Cancers in Turkiye



Kanserle Savaş Daire Başkanlığı Web Site,  
accessed on January 15th, 2010

# Leukoplakia



# Head and Neck Cancer Field Carcinogenesis

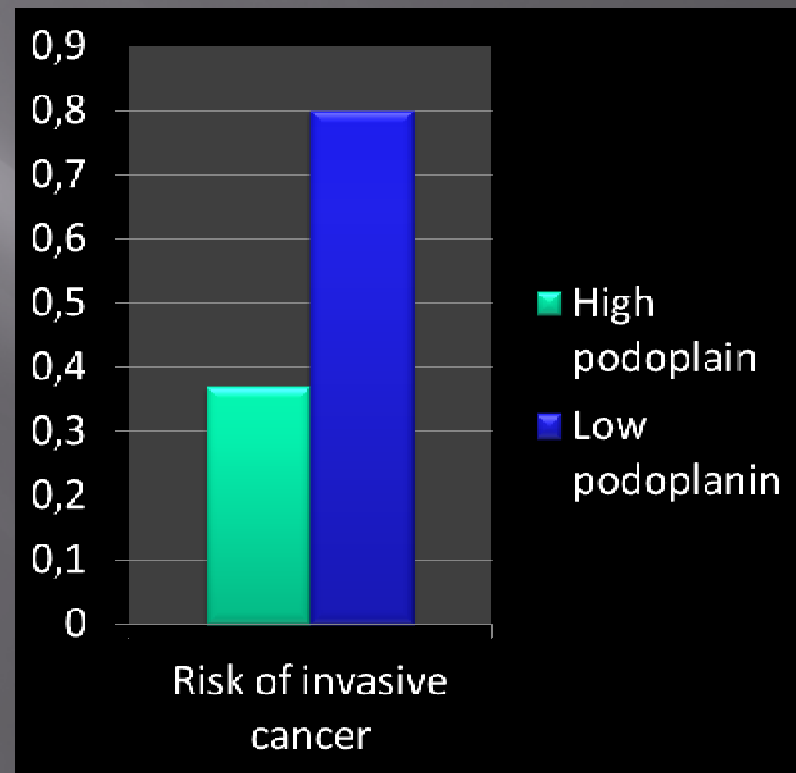
- Once carcinogenesis is initiated, it may do so everywhere affected by carcinogenic agent
  - E.g. Smoking and alcohol effect in upper aerodigestive tract
  - Supported by epidemiological data
  - Synchronous and metachronous tumors
- Individuals with (pre)malignant lesions are on increased risk of developing cancer related parts of body.

# Not every patient with leukoplakia progress into invasive head and neck cancer

## RISK FACTORS

- Continuing to smoke
- Continuing to drink alcohol
- High levels of podoplanin

## IMPACT OF PODOPLANIN



# Head Neck Cancer trials

## Chemoprevention

### Naturally Occuring Compounds

- Vitamin A
- Vitamin E
- Beta Carotene

### Synthetic Compunds

- Synthetic Retinoids
  - 13-cis-retinoic acid (isotretinoin),
  - All-trans-retinoic acid,
  - Etretinate
- ONYX-015
- NSAIDS
- EGFR Inhibitors

# Head Neck Cancer trials

## Chemoprevention

secondary chemo-prevention



- 5 trials

Before HN Cancer

tertiary chemo-prevention



- 4 trials

After HN and Lung  
Cancer



# Head and neck cancer secondary chemo-prevention

# The first trial (Vitamin A)

- First trial on 20 patients in 1957
  - Remarkable response (90%)
- Following 2 trials
  - lesser but significant response rates

# Beta Carotene

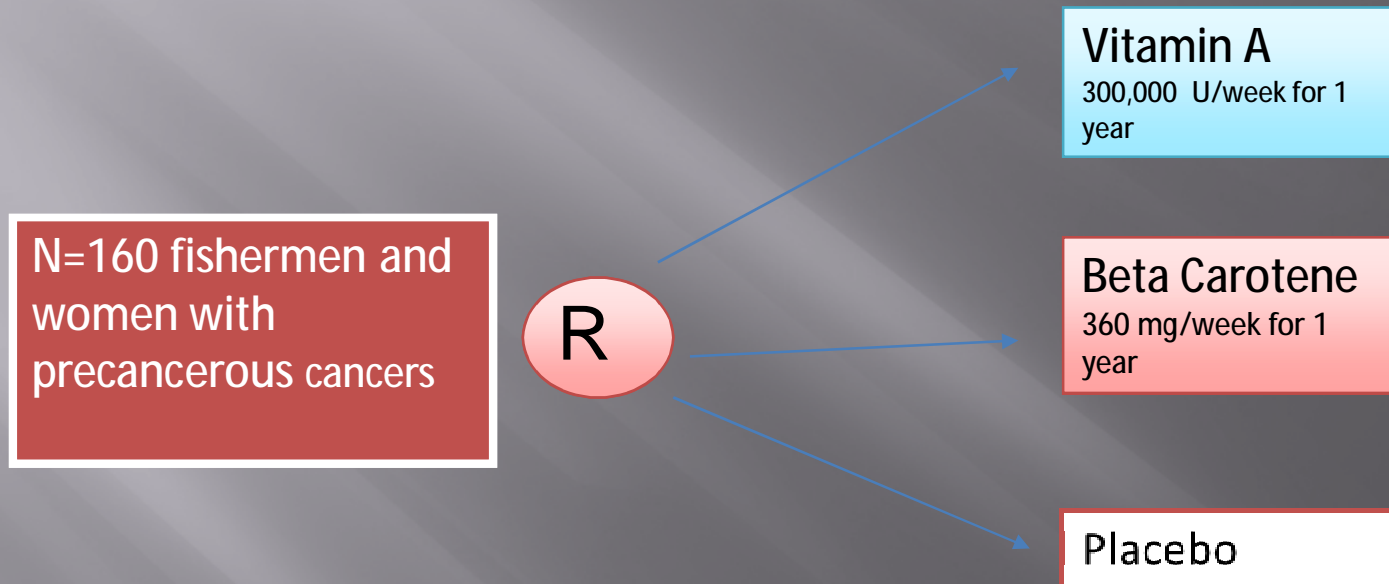
- Precursor of vitamin A
- High response rates in patients with oral leukoplakia in small trials

Garewal, HS, Meyskens, FL, Killen, D, et al. Response of oral leukoplakia to betacarotene. J Clin Oncol 1990; 8:1715.

Garewal, H. Chemoprevention of oral cancer: beta-carotene and vitamin E in leukoplakia. Eur J Cancer Prev 1994; 3:101.

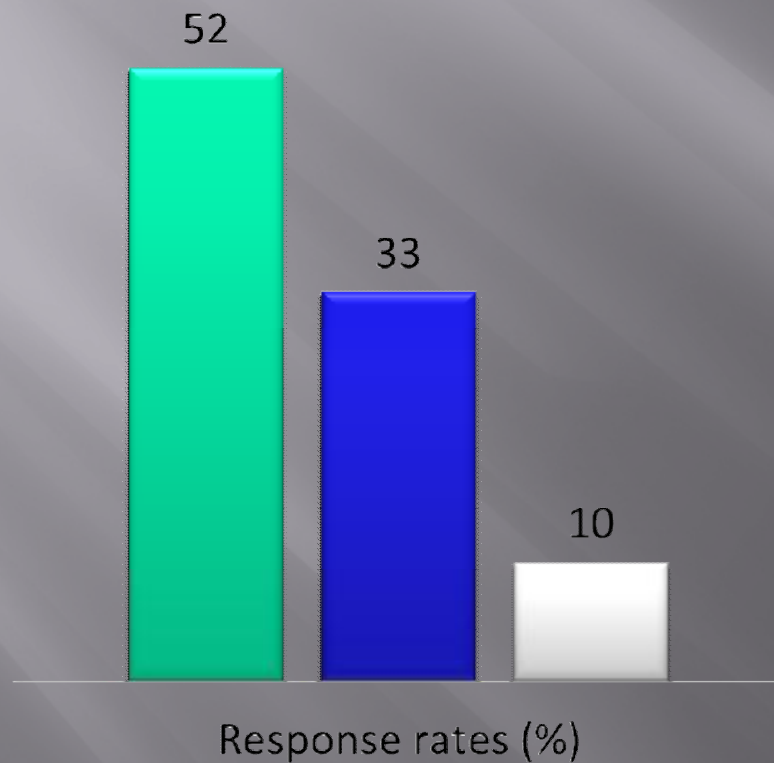
Toma, S, Benso, S, Albanese, E, et al. Treatment of oral leukoplakia with beta-carotene. Oncology 1992; 49:77.

# Vitamin A versus B Carotene versus Placebo A randomized trial



# Vitamin A versus B Carotene versus Placebo Results

■ Vit A ■ B Carotene ■ Placebo



§ No major toxicities

§ High relapse rate after discontinuation

§ Vit A

§ 2/3

§ B Carotene

§ 1/2

Sankaranarayanan, R, Mathew, B, Varghese, C, et al. Chemoprevention of oral leukoplakia with vitamin A and beta carotene: An assessment. Oral Oncol 1997; 33:231.

# Synthetic retinoids

- One of the most studied compounds
- First trial in 1978
- Common compounds
  - Isotretinoin (13-cis-retinoic acid),
  - All-trans-retinoic acid,
  - Etretinate
- High response rates in initial studies
  - 50-90%

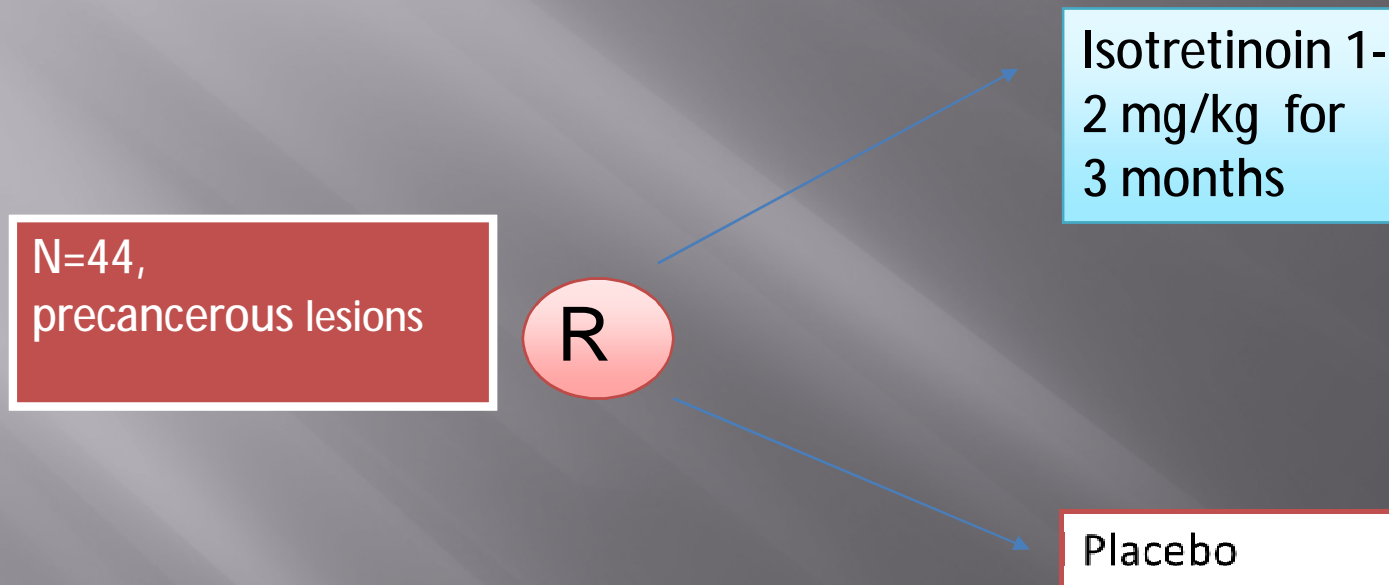
Khuri, FR, Lippman, SM, Spitz, MR, et al. Molecular epidemiology and retinoid chemoprevention of head and neck cancer. J Natl Cancer Inst 1997; 89:199.

Koch, HF. Biochemical treatment of precancerous oral lesions: The effectiveness of various analogues of retinoic acid. J Maxillofac Surg 1978; 6:59.

Koch, HF. Effect of retinoids on precancerous lesions of oral mucosa. In: Retinoids: Advances in Basic Research and Therapy, Orfanos, DE (Ed), Springer-Verlag, Berlin

1981. p.273

# High Dose Isotretinoin versus placebo Randomized trial

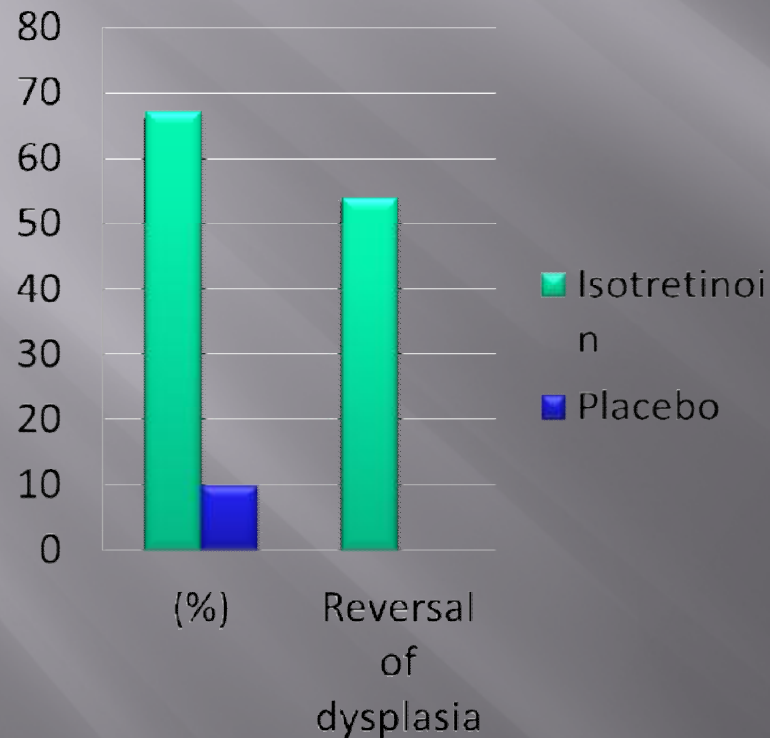


Drugs were given for 3 months  
Then followed for 6 months  
Pre- and post-therapy biopsy

Hong, WK, Endicott, J, Itri, LM, et al. 13-cis-retinoic acid in the treatment of oral leukoplakia. *N Engl J Med* 1986; 315:1501.

# High Dose Isotretinoin versus placebo Randomized trial-results

## RESPONSES



## TOXICITY

### •Common toxicities

- Cheilitis,
- facial erythema
- dryness and peeling of the skin
- Conjunctivitis

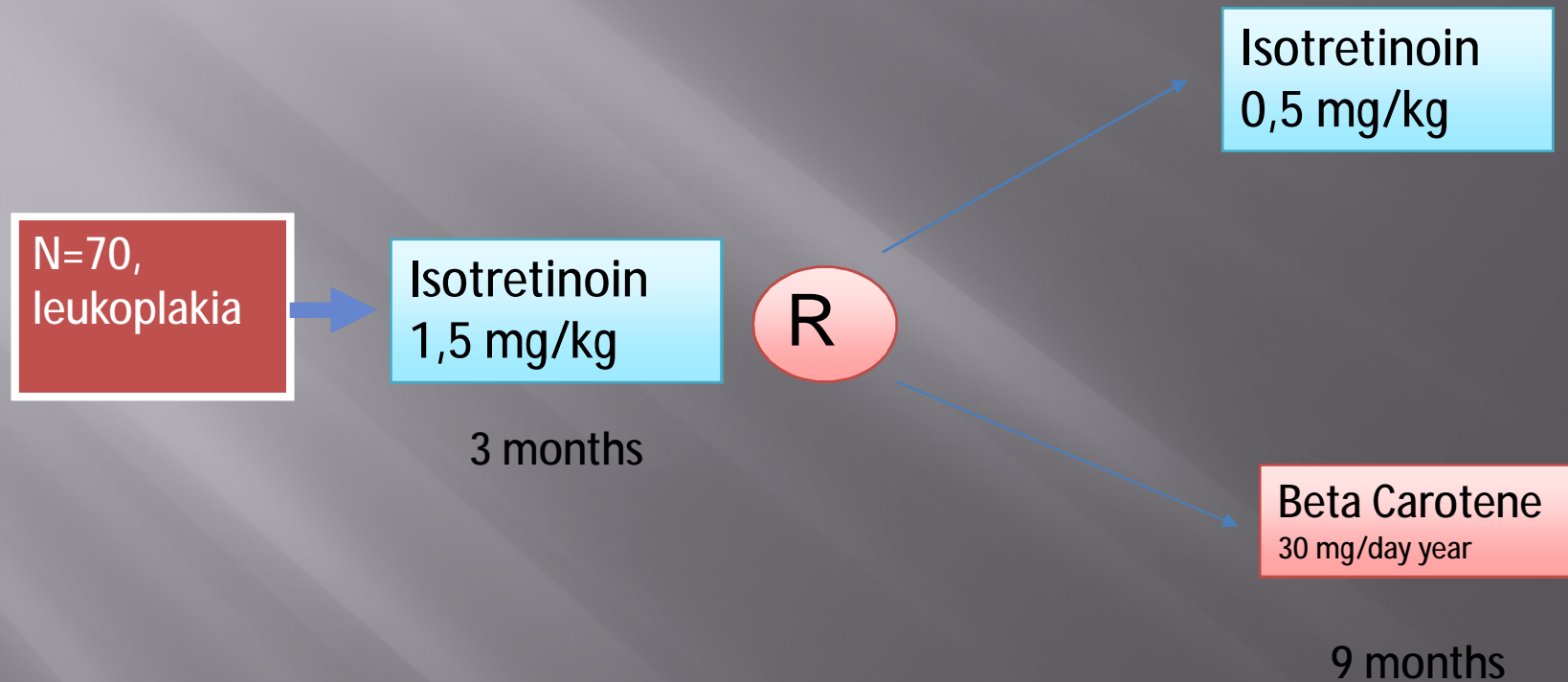
### •Relapses

- 50% in 3 months

Hong, WK, Endicott, J, Itri, LM, et al. 13-cis-retinoic acid in the treatment of oral leukoplakia. N Engl J Med 1986; 315:1501.



# Maintenance after a high dose induction Randomized trial

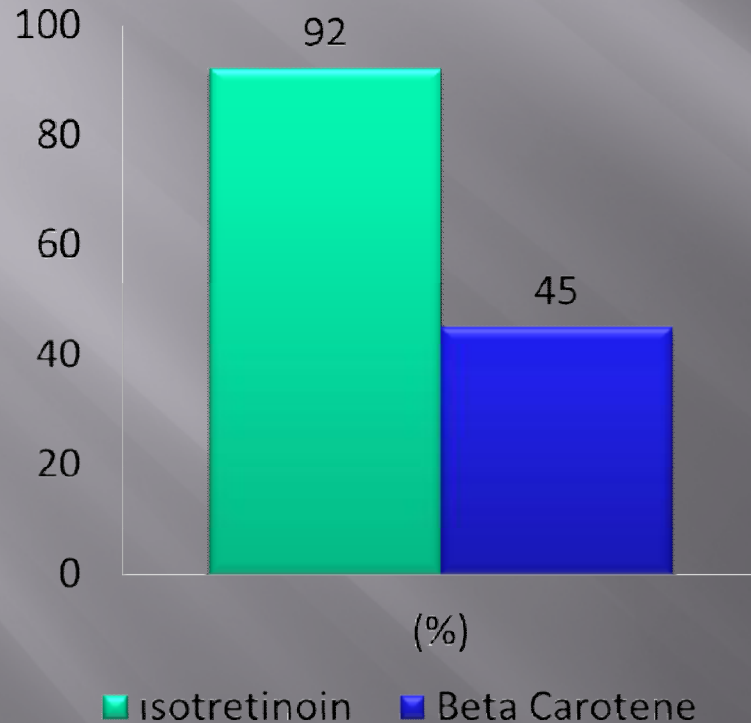


Lippman, SM, Batsakis. JG, Toth. BB, et al. Comparison of low-dose isotretinoin with beta carotene to prevent oral carcinogenesis. N Engl J Med 1993; 328:15.

# Maintenance after a high dose induction

## Randomized trial

### CONTINUED RESPONSE



### TOXICITY

- Generally mild
- More with isotretinoin

Lippman, SM, Batsakis. JG, Toth. BB, et al. Comparison of low-dose isotretinoin with beta carotene to prevent oral carcinogenesis. N Engl J Med 1993; 328:15.

# Head and neck cancer

## Secondary prevention trials summary

- Small trials
- They (vitamin A, beta carotene, isotretinoin) work
  - In under-developed nations with vitamin deficiencies??
- isotretinoin more successful, especially at high doses (2 mg/kg/day)
- But at a price
  - High toxicity (Xerostomia , conjunctivitis)
  - High relapse rate

# Head and neck cancer tertiary chemo-prevention

# A placebo controlled randomized trial with high dose isotretinoin

- 103 patients with localized Head and Neck Cancer after curative therapy
- Isotretinoin (50-100 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) vs placebo for 12 months
- No impact on loco-regional or distant relapses
- Significantly fewer new aerodigestive cancers (4 vs. 24)
- High toxicity
- High drop out rate

Hong, WK, Lippman, SM, Itri, LM, et al. Prevention of second primary tumors with isotretinoin in squamous-cell carcinoma of the head and neck. N Engl J Med 1990; 323:795.

# Euroscan trial EORTC

N=2592 with  
(HN: 60%, lung 40%)  
cancers

R

Retinyl  
300000 U/day for 1 year

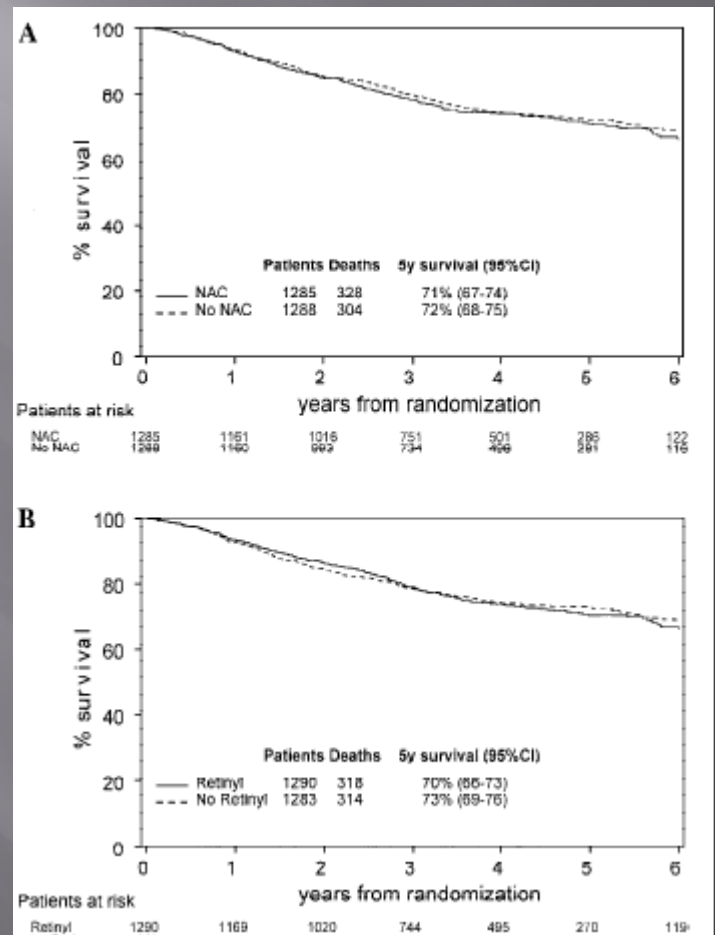
NAC  
600 mg/day 2 years

Retinyl +NAC  
as above

Placebo

- Primary end point: Second primary tumors
- 93.5% smoker, 25% continued
- High drop out rate (23%)
- Small number of locally advanced cancers

# EORTC trial over all survival



# NCI C91-002

N=1190 with  
localized HN

R

Isotretinoin 30  
mg for 3 years

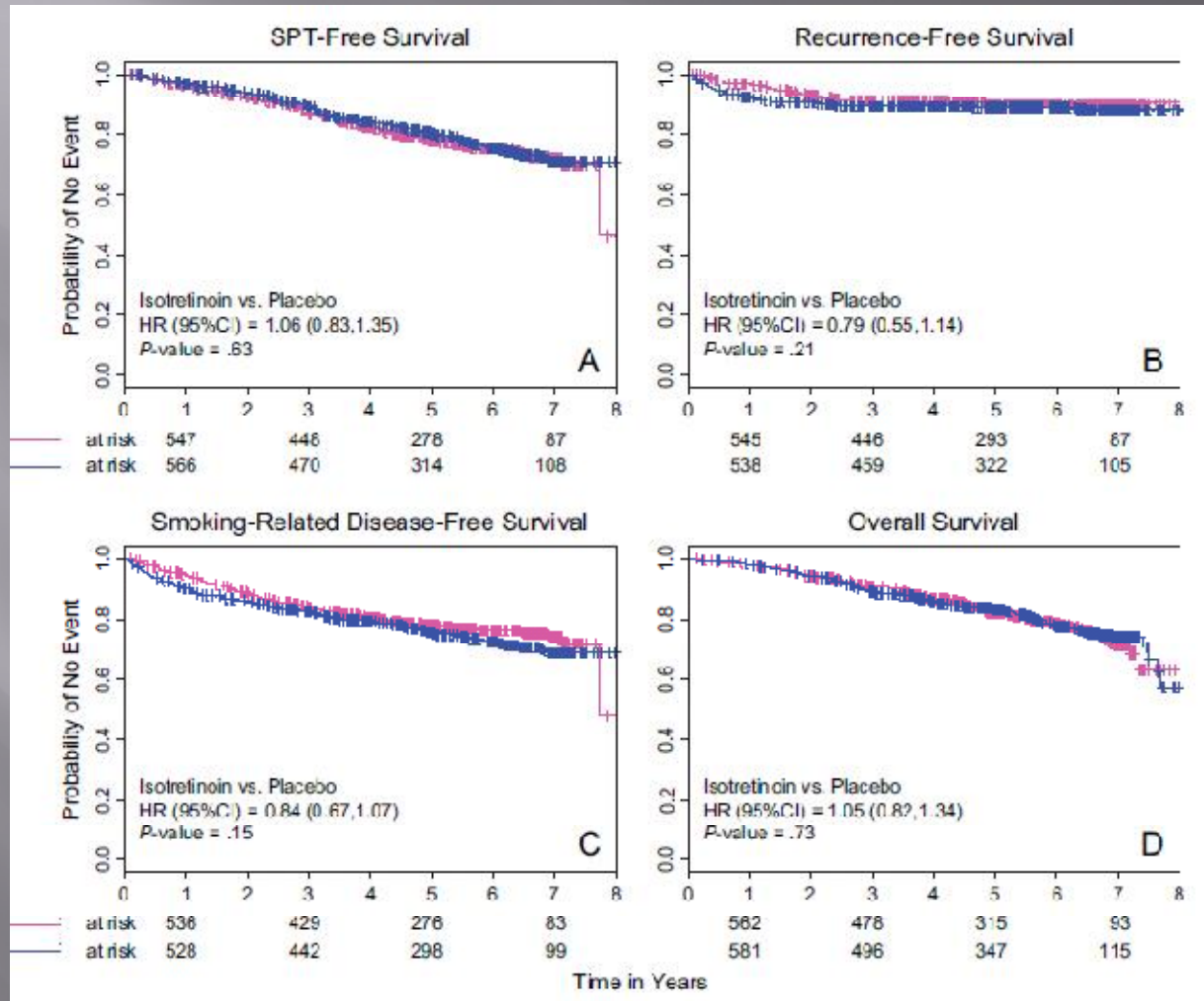
Placebo

- Patients were followed for additional 4 years
- Primary end point second primary tumors
- 15% drop out rate

J Natl Cancer Inst 2006;98:441 – 50]

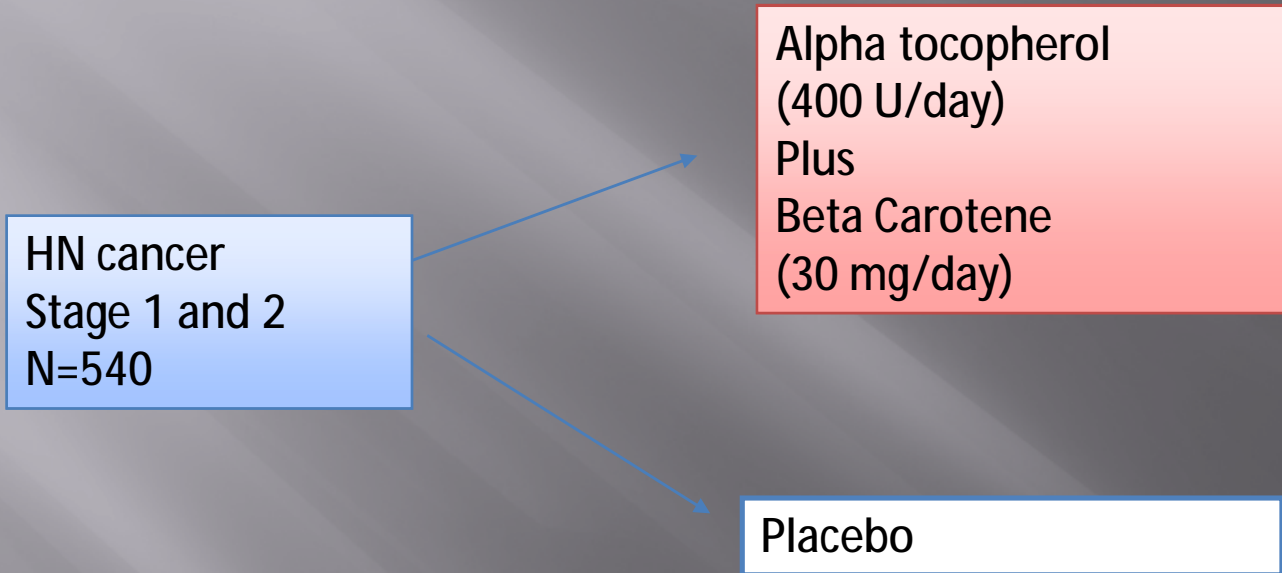


# NCI C91-002



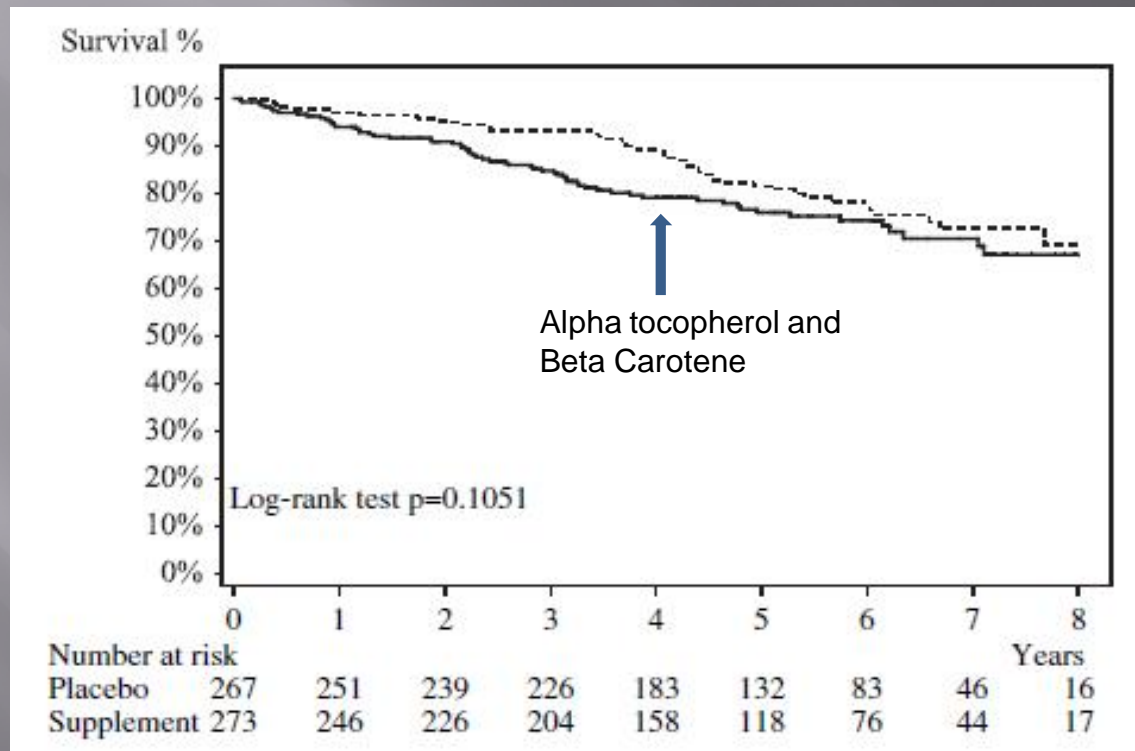
J Natl Cancer Inst 2006;98:441 – 50]

# Alpha tocopherol and beta carotene in patients with HN cancer



- Supplementation started with RT and lasted for 3 years
- 20-25% drop out rate

# Combination had a detrimental effect



# HN Cancer Trials Summary

TABLE 5 Selected Head and Neck Chemoprevention Trials

High-risk Patients with Oral Leukoplakia							
Trial	Year	Patients (n)§§	Prevention	Population	Endpoint	Compounds*	End Result
Hong et al. <sup>187</sup>	1986	44	Secondary	Oral leukoplakia	Response	Isotretinoin (1–2mg/kg)	Positive
Hippman et al. <sup>182</sup>	1993	70	Secondary	Oral leukoplakia	Response	Isotretinoin (1.5 mg/kg)† Beta carotene (30 mg)	Positive‡
Stich et al. <sup>188</sup>	1988	65	Secondary	Oral leukoplakia from tobacco or betel nut use	Response	Vitamin A (100,000 IU) twice weekly	Positive
Chiesa et al. <sup>189</sup>	1993	137	Secondary	Oral leukoplakia	Recurrence	4-HPR (200 mg)§	Positive
Han et al. <sup>190</sup>	1990	61	Secondary	Oral leukoplakia	Response	4-HPR (40 mg)	Positive
Adjuvant Trials							
Hong et al. <sup>191</sup>	1990	103	Tertiary	Prior HNSCC	Recurrence SPT Survival	Isotretinoin (50 to 200 mg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Positive
EUROSCAN <sup>192</sup>	2000	2,592	Tertiary	Prior lung or HNSCC¶	SPT Survival	Retinyl palmitate§ (300,000 IU)** N-Acetylcysteine (600 mg)	Negative††
Bolla et al. <sup>193</sup>	1994	316	Tertiary	Prior early-stage oral/oropharynx cancer	SPT‡‡ Survival	Etretinate (50 mg for one month, then 25 mg for 24 months)	Negative
NCI C91-002 <sup>194</sup>	2003	1,384	Tertiary	Prior Stage I–II HNSCC	Recurrence SPT Survival	Isotretinoin (30 mg)	Negative
Biochemoprevention for Advanced Premalignant Lesions							
Papadimitrakopoulou et al. <sup>195</sup>	1999	36	Secondary	Advanced dysplasia	Response	Interferon-α (3 MU/m <sup>2</sup> twice weekly) α-Tocopherol (1200 IU) Isotretinoin (100 mg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Positive for laryngeal lesions but not oral
Shin et al. <sup>196,197</sup>	2001	44	Tertiary	Prior head and neck cancer	Survival	Interferon-α (3 MU/m <sup>2</sup> three times weekly) α-Tocopherol (1200 IU) Isotretinoin (50 mg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Positive

Positive, but at high doses with toxicity

Before invasive cancer

Negative

After invasive cancer

# HN Cancer

## tertiary chemo-prevention

- High dose isotretinoin did not work except for
  - In one trial, incidence of second primary tumors (mostly HN, esophagus, lung) decreased
- Low doses did not work in 3 randomized trials
  - Including trials on 2592 and 1384 patients
- A detrimental effect was observed in one study with beta carotene plus vitamin E
  - High relapse rate of HN cancer

# Newer and Ongoing Trials

- ONYX-015: An adenovirus selectively replicates in p53 deficient cells
  - Mouth washes, response 7/19
- EGFR inhibitors
  - Cetuximab (Ongoing)
- NSAIDS
  - Ketorolac mouth washes (Negative)
  - Green tea extracts have some promising results

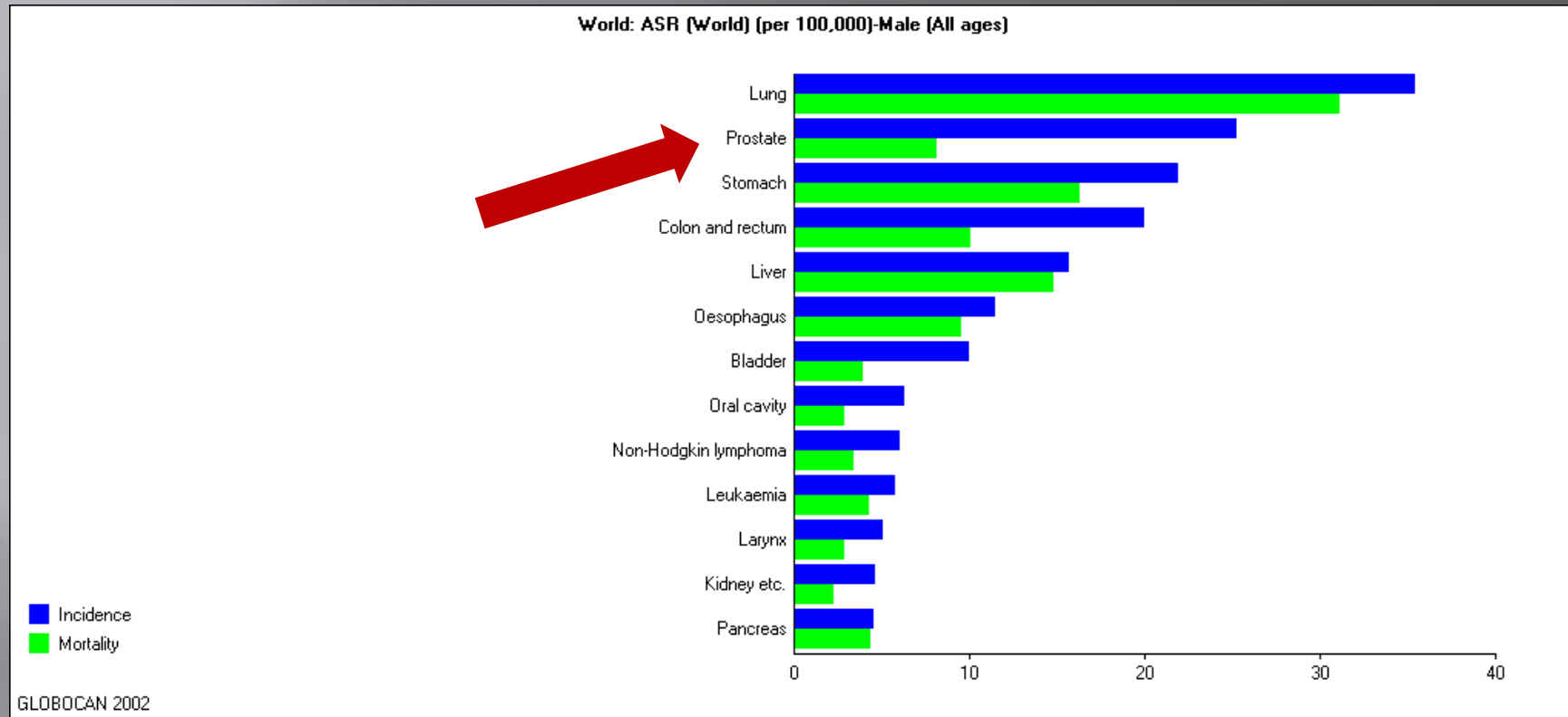
# Prostate Cancer Chemo-prevention

# Prostate Cancer

- The 2nd most frequently cancer in men in the world
- However, overall mortality is relatively low compared to other cancers
- A long preclinical period

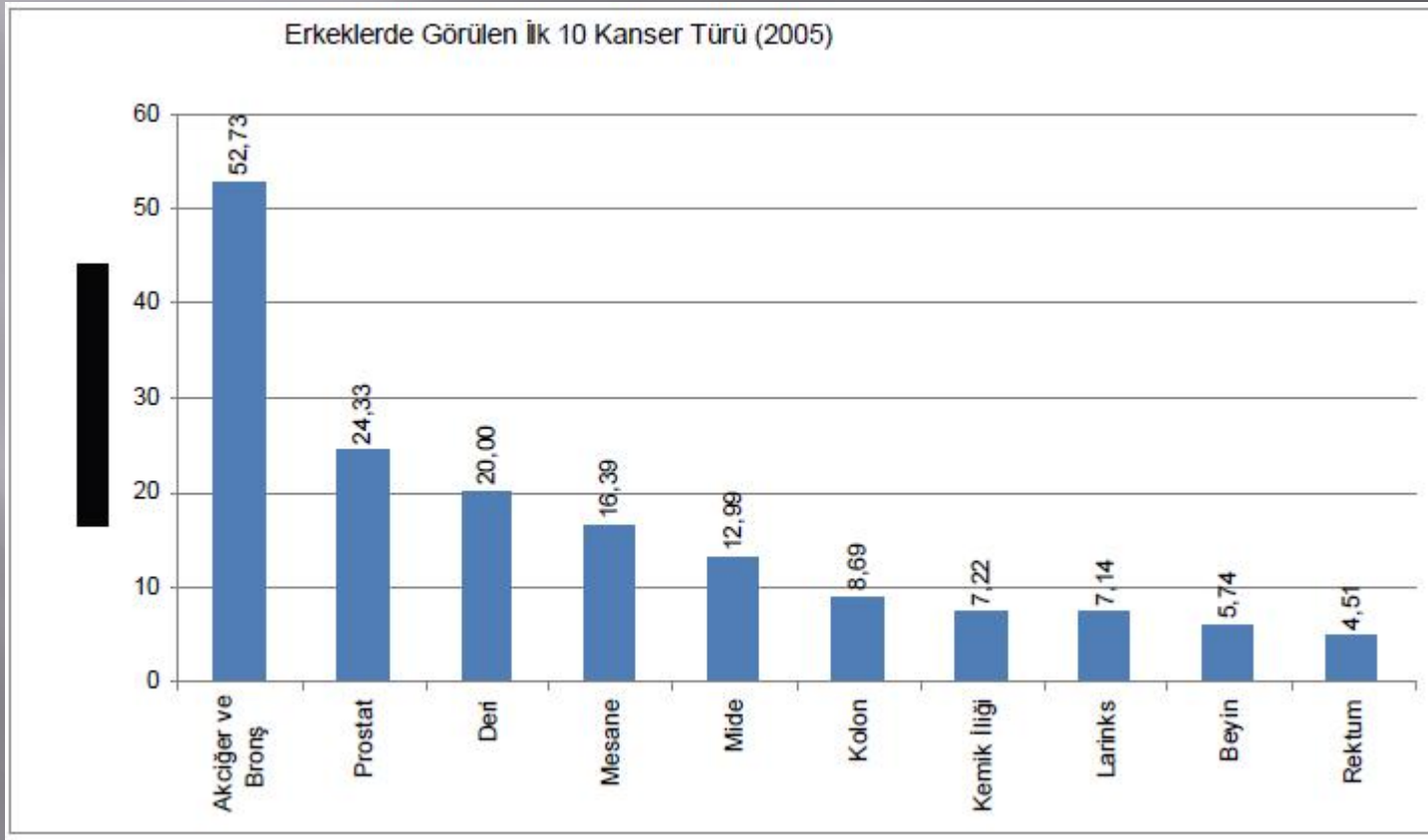


# Prostate cancer statistics in the world



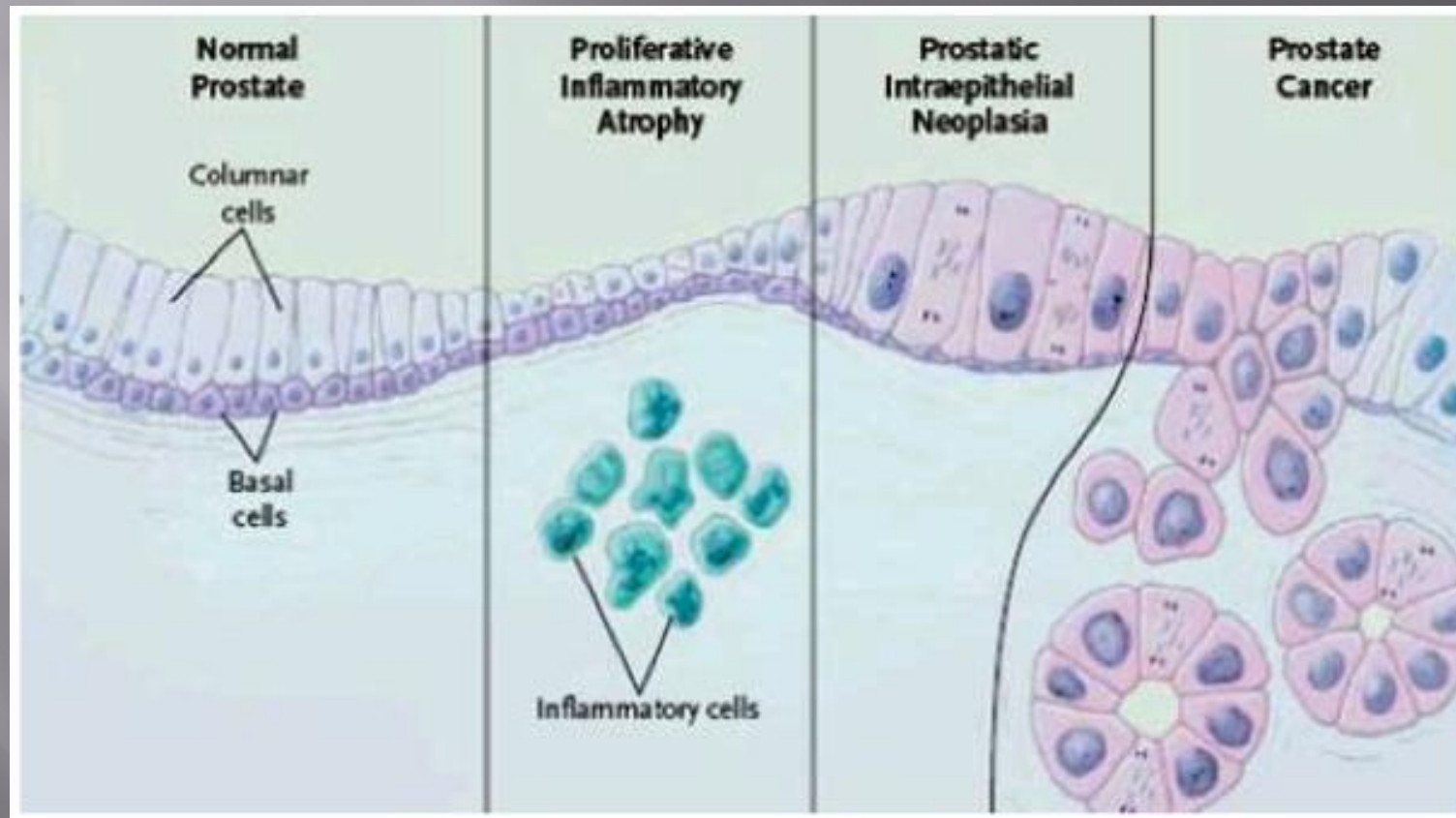
Around one – third is dying from it

# Top 10 Cancers in Turkiye



Kanserle Savaş Daire Başkanlığı Web Site,  
accessed on January 15th, 2010

# Prostate Cancer Pathophysiology



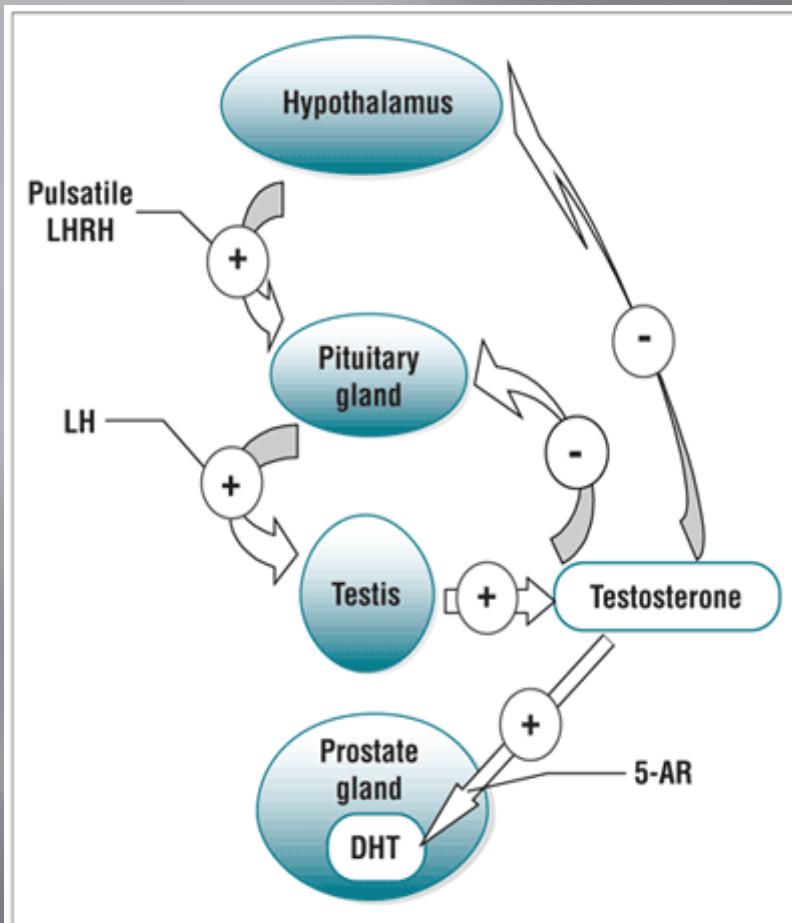
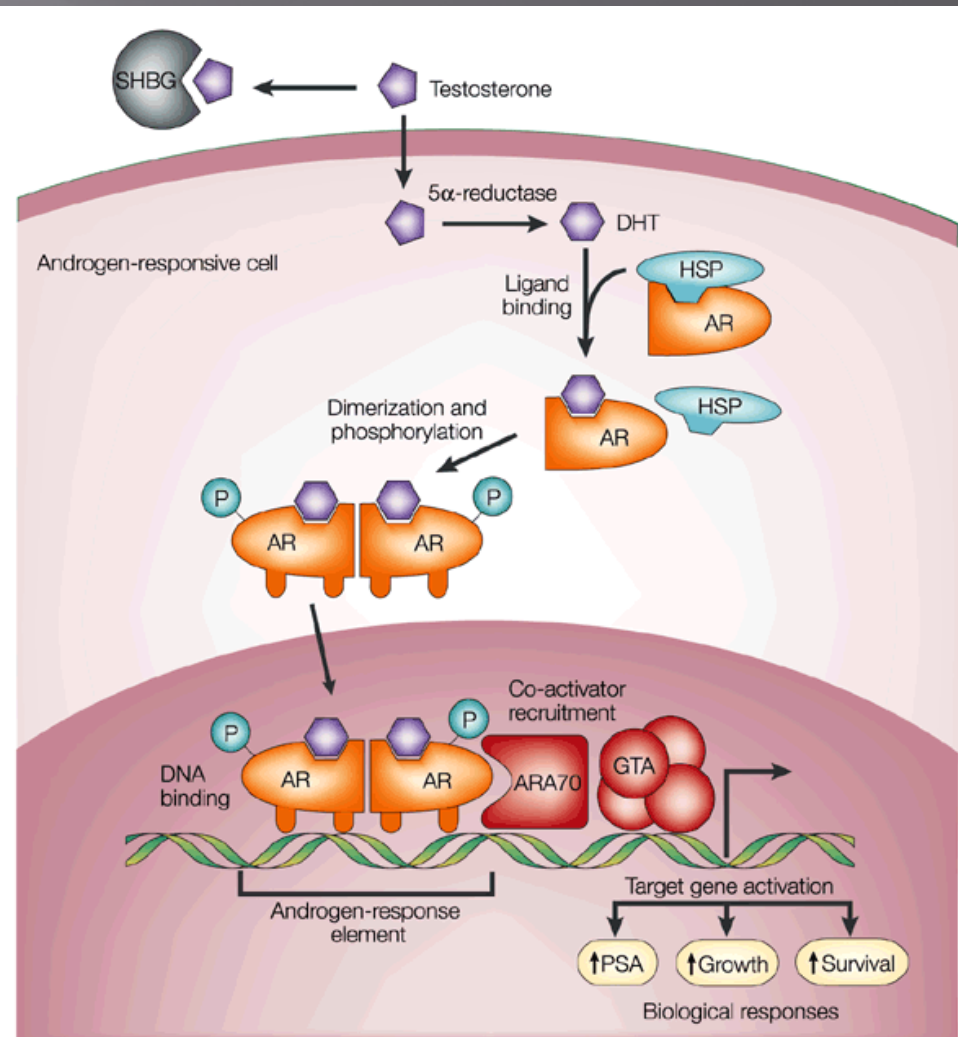


Figure 1. Hypothalamic-pituitary-testicular axis. DHT: dihydrotestosterone; 5-AR: 5-alpha reductase; LH: luteinizing hormone; LHRH: LH-releasing hormone.



# 3 large scale trials for prostate cancer

- SELECT
  - Selenium or vitamin E
- PCPT
  - Finasteride
- REDUCE
  - Dutasteride
- And smaller trials

# SELECT trial

- N=32400
- Men over 50 or 55
- DRE exam normal or PSA <4
- Primary end point incidence

Selenium  
Placebo

Vitamin E  
Placebo

Selenium  
Vitamin E

Placebo

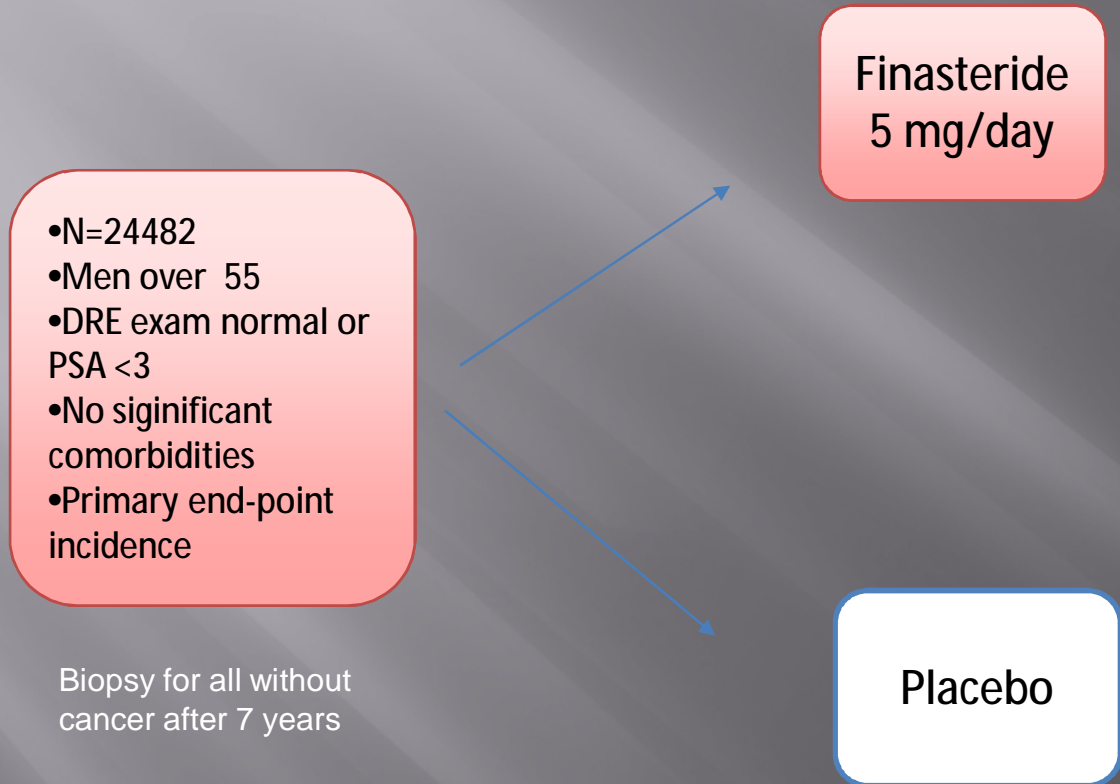
For 7-12 years

# SELECT Trial

- Early stopped in 2008 by DSMC after second formal interim analysis
- No benefit
- No harm
  - Non-significant increased risk of DM
  - Slight increase in prostate cancer in subjects taking Vitamin E

# PCPT trial

Type 2 5 alpha reductase inhibitor finasteride



Biopsy for all without cancer after 7 years

For 7-12 years

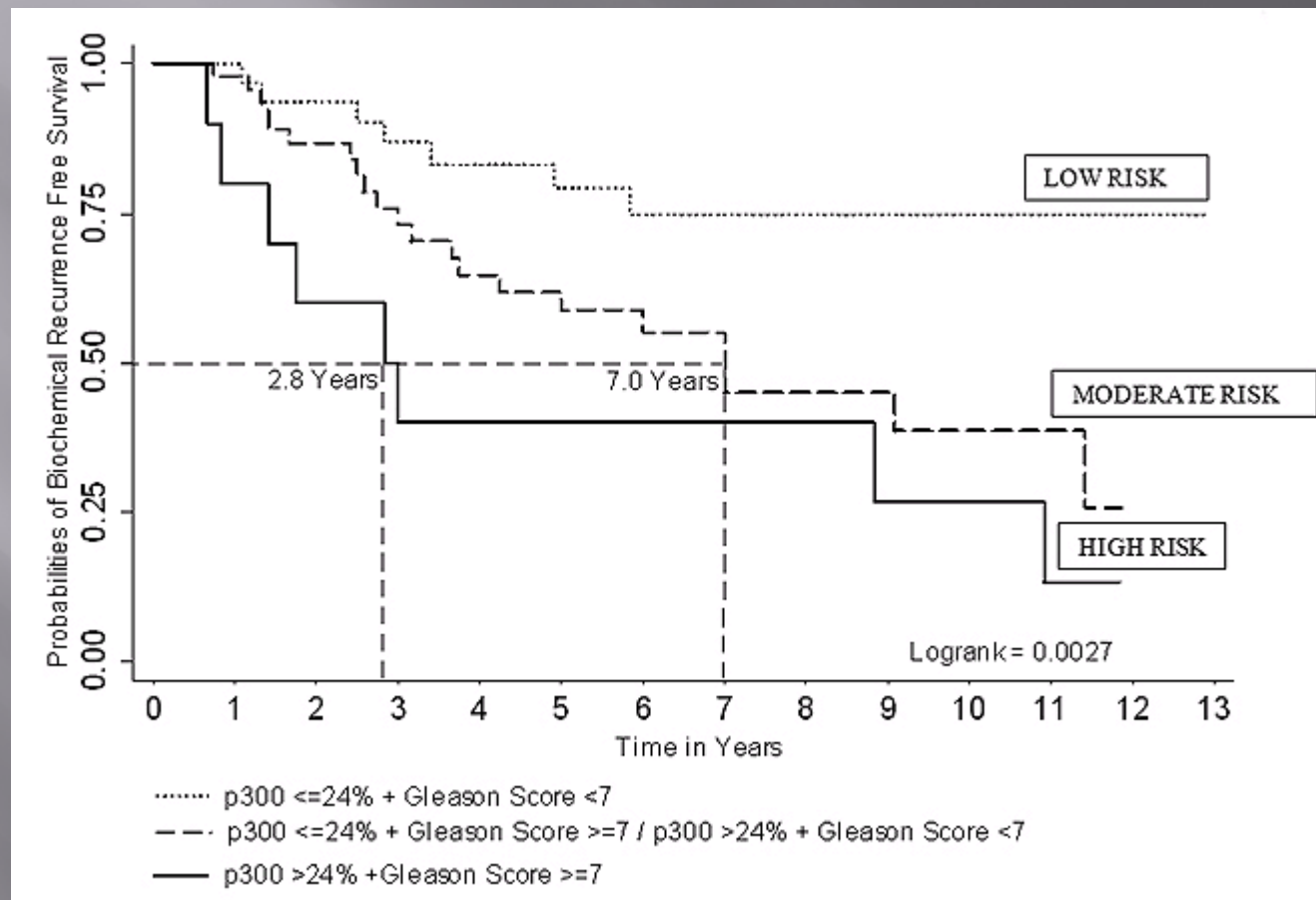


# PCPTtrial

DSMC stopped it early in 2003

- It reached the primary end point after 9000 men
- 20% did not have biopsy
- About 25% risk reduction ( $p < 0.001$ ) with finasteride
- More high risk cancer (+15%) in finasteride arm
- Toxicity
  - More discontinuation in finasteride arm
  - More side effects in finasteride arm
  - More sexual problems
  - Prostatism symptoms were less

# Risk of recurrence by Gleason Score



# PCPT Trial Analysis

## If those with PSA $\geq 2$ taken

RISK REDUCTION BY PSA

PSA  $\geq 2$  INDIVIDUALS  
TAKEN

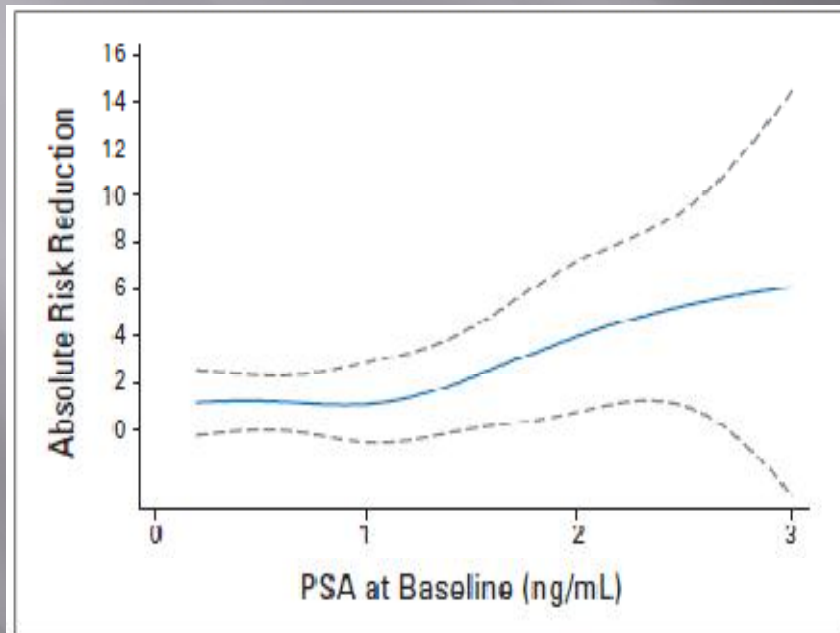
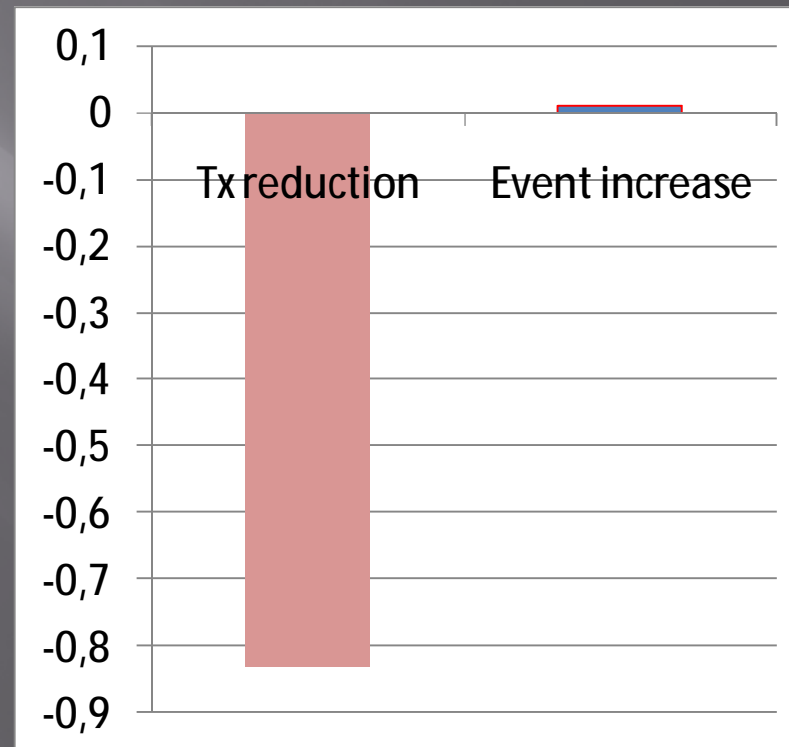
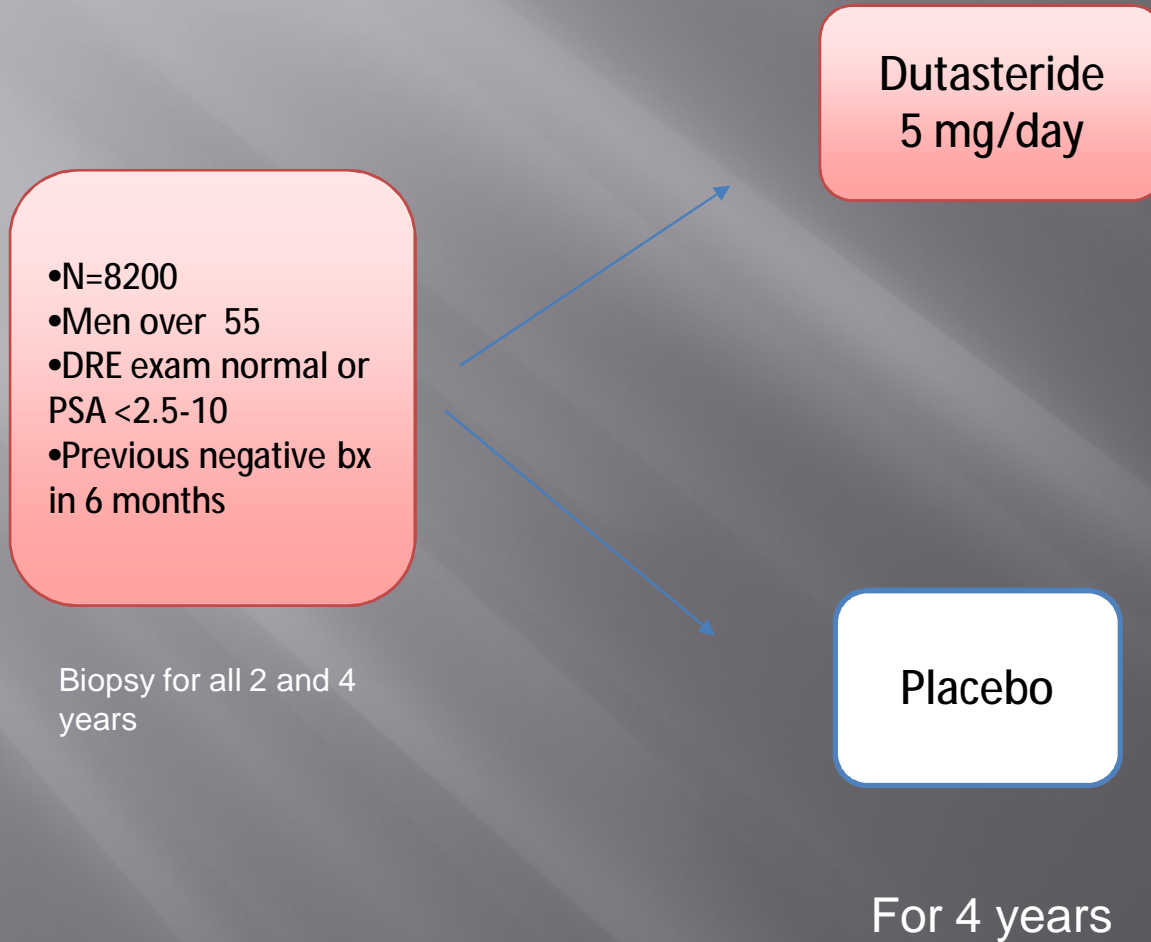


Fig 2. Absolute risk reduction of for-cause-detected cancers between placebo and finasteride groups predicted by prostate-specific antigen (PSA) at baseline.



# REDUCE trial

Type 2 5 alpha reductase inhibitor finasteride



# REDUCE Results

- 23% reduction in prostate cancer incidence
- No increase in high grade disease

# Use of 5- $\alpha$ -Reductase Inhibitors for Prostate Cancer Chemoprevention: American Society of Clinical Oncology/ American Urological Association 2008 Clinical Practice Guideline

Barnett S. Kramer, Karen L. Hagerty, Stewart Justman, Mark R. Somerfield, Peter C. Albertsen, William J. Blot, H. Ballentine Carter, Joseph P. Costantino, Jonathan I. Epstein, Paul A. Godley, Russell P. Harris, Timothy J. Wilt, Janet Wittes, Robin Zon, and Paul Schellhammer

## A B S T R A C T

### **Purpose**

To develop an evidence-based guideline on the use of 5- $\alpha$ -reductase inhibitors (5-ARIs) for prostate cancer chemoprevention.

### **Methods**

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Health Services Committee (HSC), ASCO Cancer Prevention Committee, and the American Urological Association Practice Guidelines Committee jointly convened a Panel of experts, who used the results from a systematic review of the literature to develop evidence-based recommendations on the use of 5-ARIs for prostate cancer chemoprevention.

### **Results**

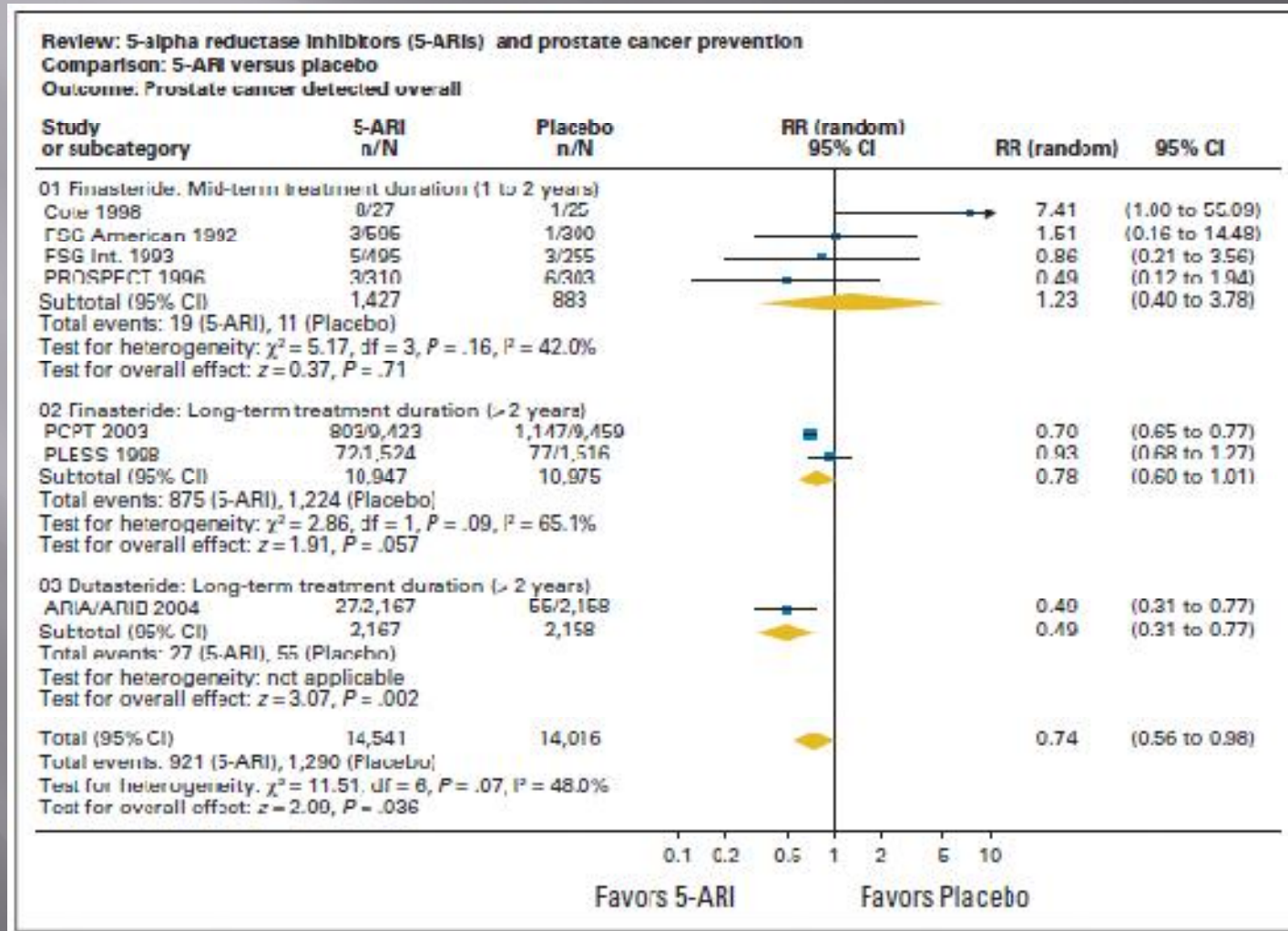
The systematic review completed for this guideline identified 15 randomized clinical trials that met the inclusion criteria, nine of which reported prostate cancer period prevalence.

### **Conclusion**

Asymptomatic men with a prostate-specific antigen (PSA)  $\leq$  3.0 ng/mL who are regularly screened with PSA or are anticipating undergoing annual PSA screening for early detection of prostate cancer may benefit from a discussion of both the benefits of 5-ARIs for 7 years for the prevention of prostate cancer and the potential risks (including the possibility of high-grade prostate cancer). Men who are taking 5-ARIs for benign conditions such as lower urinary tract [obstructive] symptoms (LUTS) may benefit from a similar discussion, understanding that the improvement of LUTS relief should be weighed with the potential risks of high-grade prostate cancer from 5-ARIs (although the majority of the Panel members judged the latter risk to be unlikely). A reduction of approximately 50% in PSA by 12 months is expected in men taking a 5-ARI; however, because these changes in PSA may vary across men, and within individual men over time, the Panel cannot recommend a specific cut point to trigger a biopsy for men taking a 5-ARI. No specific cut point or change in PSA has been prospectively validated in men taking a 5-ARI.

*J Clin Oncol 27:1502-1516. This guideline was developed through a collaboration between the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the American Urological Association and has been published jointly by invitation and consent in both the Journal of Clinical Oncology and Journal of Urology. Copyright © 2009 American Society of Clinical Oncology and American Urological Association. All rights reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without written permission by the American Society of Clinical Oncology or the American Urological Association.*

# Meta-analysis



# Small Trials for chemoprevention

- Supplement (Soy, isoflavones, lycopene, silymarin, antioxidant) after curative therapy for rising PSA slowed down the velocity

[Eur Urol.](#) 2005 Dec;48(6):922-30

- Lycopene supplementation before surgery had positive effects on pathological correlates

– Ömer Küçük, [Exp Biol Med \(Maywood\)](#). 2002 Nov;227(10):881-5

- Tomato products and soy protein had decreased PSA

[Nutr Cancer.](#) 2008;60(2):145-54



# Prostate cancer chemoprevention Concerns

- Alpha reductase inhibitors may reduce clinically insignificant (nonlethal, not requiring therapy) cancers in 34%
- No data to show reduction in the incidence clinically significant lethal cancers, or mortality from prostate cancer
- Question of increased rate of high grade neoplasia remains

# The Question

So What?

Should I prescribe chemopreventive agents for  
“head and neck cancer and prostatic  
adenocarcinoma?”

# Head and Neck Cancer

**NO**

No trial provided conclusive evidence to support  
to use chemoprevention!

## Use of 5- $\alpha$ -Reductase Inhibitors for Prostate Cancer Chemoprevention: American Society of Clinical Oncology/American Urological Association 2008 Clinical Practice Guideline

*Barnett S. Kramer, Karen L. Hagerty, Stewart Justman, Mark R. Somerfield, Peter C. Albertsen, William J. Blot, H. Ballentine Carter, Joseph P. Costantino, Jonathan I. Epstein, Paul A. Godley, Russell P. Harris, Timothy J. Wilt, Janet Wittes, Robin Zon, and Paul Schellhammer*

In summary, it is recommended that the physician:

1. inform the man who is considering a 5-ARI that these agents reduce the incidence of prostate cancer, and be sure to be clear that these agents do not reduce the risk of prostate cancer to zero;
2. discuss the elevated rate of high-grade cancer observed in the PCPT and inform men of the potential explanations;
3. make it known to men that no information on the long-term effects of 5-ARIs on prostate cancer incidence exists beyond approximately 7 years, and that whether or not a 5-ARI reduces prostate cancer mortality or increases life expectancy remains unknown;
4. inform men of possible but reversible sexual adverse effects; and
5. inform men of the likely improvement in lower urinary tract symptoms.

# Prostate Cancer

- Alpha reductase inhibitors significantly reduced invasive cancer
- High grade cancer (the lethal one) may be increased
- Even early detection with PSA screening failed to show mortality reduction recently and is not recommended routinely

# Prostate Cancer Chemoprevention

**NO**

No trial provided conclusive evidence to support  
to use chemoprevention!

A scenic view of a large blue lake, likely a reservoir or bay, with a city skyline in the background. The city features several tall apartment buildings and houses. The foreground is dominated by dark green evergreen trees. The sky is clear and blue. The text "THANK YOU" is overlaid in the center of the image.

**THANK YOU**