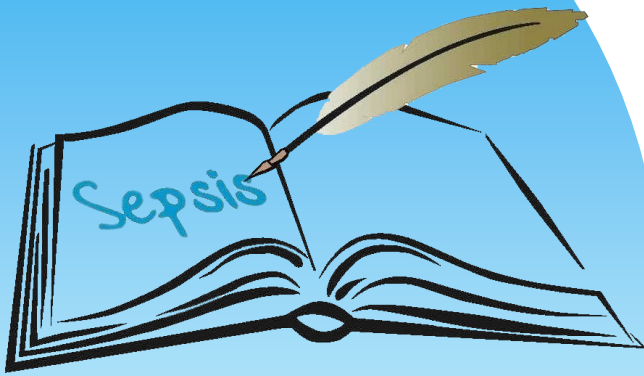




HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athens  
— EST. 1837 —



European  
Sepsis  
Alliance



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΜΕΛΕΤΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΣΗΨΗΣ  
HELLENIC INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF SEPSIS



HELLENIC SOCIETY  
OF CHEMOTHERAPY

# PRECISION IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR THE CRITICALLY ILL Myth or Reality?

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Chairman: European Sepsis Alliance

Board Member: Global Sepsis Alliance

President: Hellenic Institute for the Study of Sepsis

President: Hellenic Society of Chemotherapy

# CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

- Honoraria (paid to the University of Athens) from Abbott Products Operations AG, bioMérieux, Brahms ThermoFisher GmbH Germany, GSK and Sobi
- Consultant for Fab'nTech, and UCB
- Independent educational grants (paid to the University of Athens) from AbbVie USA, Fab'nTech, InflaRx GmbH, Novartis, UCB
- Independent educational grants (paid to the Hellenic Institute for the Study of Sepsis) from Abbott Products Operations AG, bioMérieux France, Johnson & Johnson, MSD, Sobi, ThermoFisher Brahms GmbH
- Funding by the Horizon 2020 ITN European Sepsis Academy (granted to the University of Athens), by the Horizon 2020 ImmunoSep and RISKinCOVID (granted to the Hellenic Institute for the Study of Sepsis) and by the Horizon Health EPIC-CROWN-2 (granted to the Hellenic Institute for the Study of Sepsis)

# OUR MAIN CHALLENGE: PATIENT HETEROGENEITY

(Karakike E, et al. *J Innate Immun* 2022; 14: 218)



Male, 56 years  
AH  
Neutrophils: 5056/mm<sup>3</sup>  
Lymphocytes: 1088/mm<sup>3</sup>  
CRP: 296 mg/l  
Ferritin: 6786 ng/ml  
D-dimers: 520 µg/l



Male, 76 years  
No medical history  
Neutrophils: 9870/mm<sup>3</sup>  
Lymphocytes: 1620/mm<sup>3</sup>  
CRP: 39.8 mg/l  
Ferritin: 916 ng/ml  
D-dimers: 640 µg/l



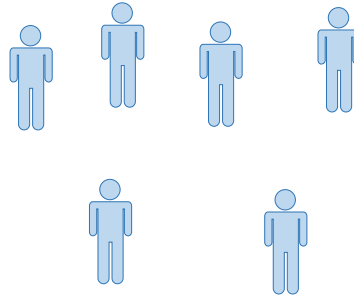
Male, 56 years  
HF, CHD, COPD  
Neutrophils: 11600/mm<sup>3</sup>  
Lymphocytes: 705/mm<sup>3</sup>  
CRP: 237 mg/l  
Ferritin: 306 ng/ml  
D-dimers: 1370 µg/l

AH: arterial hypertension  
CHD: coronary heart disease  
COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease  
CRP: C-reactive protein  
HF: heart failure

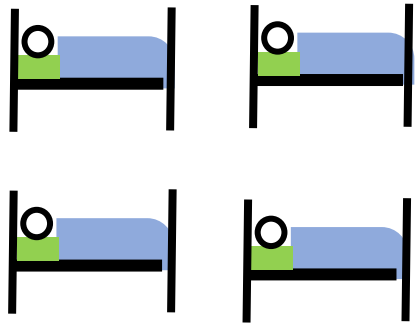
# THE VISION OF PRECISION IMMUNOTHERAPY



**BIOMARKER**  
(Lab test, phenotype)



Patients admitted to hospital  
for infection



**BIOMARKER**  
(Lab test, phenotype)

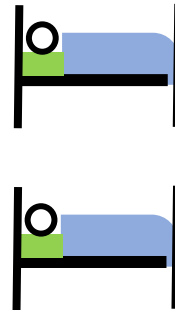
**RECOGNIZE**

- Risk for sepsis progression
- PRECISE mechanism

**TARGETED  
THERAPY**

**PREVENT**

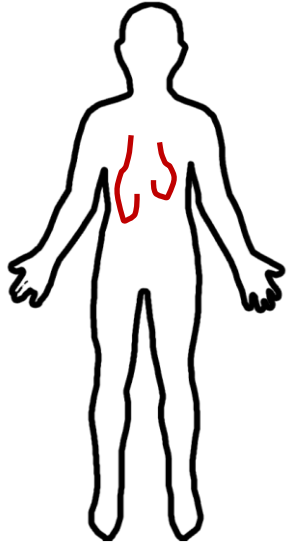
- Organ dysfunction
- Deaths



**Patients already  
hospitalized  
and develop hospital-  
acquired infection**

suPAR-GUIDED ANAKINRA TREATMENT FOR VALIDATION OF THE RISK AND  
EARLY MANAGEMENT OF SEVERE RESPIRATORY FAILURE BY COVID-19

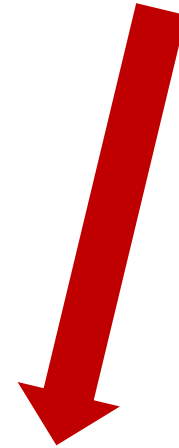
# THE SAVE STRATEGY



**STOP**  
IL-1 $\alpha$   
IL-1 $\beta$



**PREVENT**  
Unfavorable outcome



## ***Pneumonia***

- Hospitalization
- pO<sub>2</sub>/FiO<sub>2</sub>: 150-400
- Oxygen mask/nasal oxygen/high-flow oxygen
- suPAR ≥6 ng/ml

## ***Anakinra***

- Recombinant human receptor antagonist
- Blocks the action of IL-1 $\alpha$  and IL-1 $\beta$

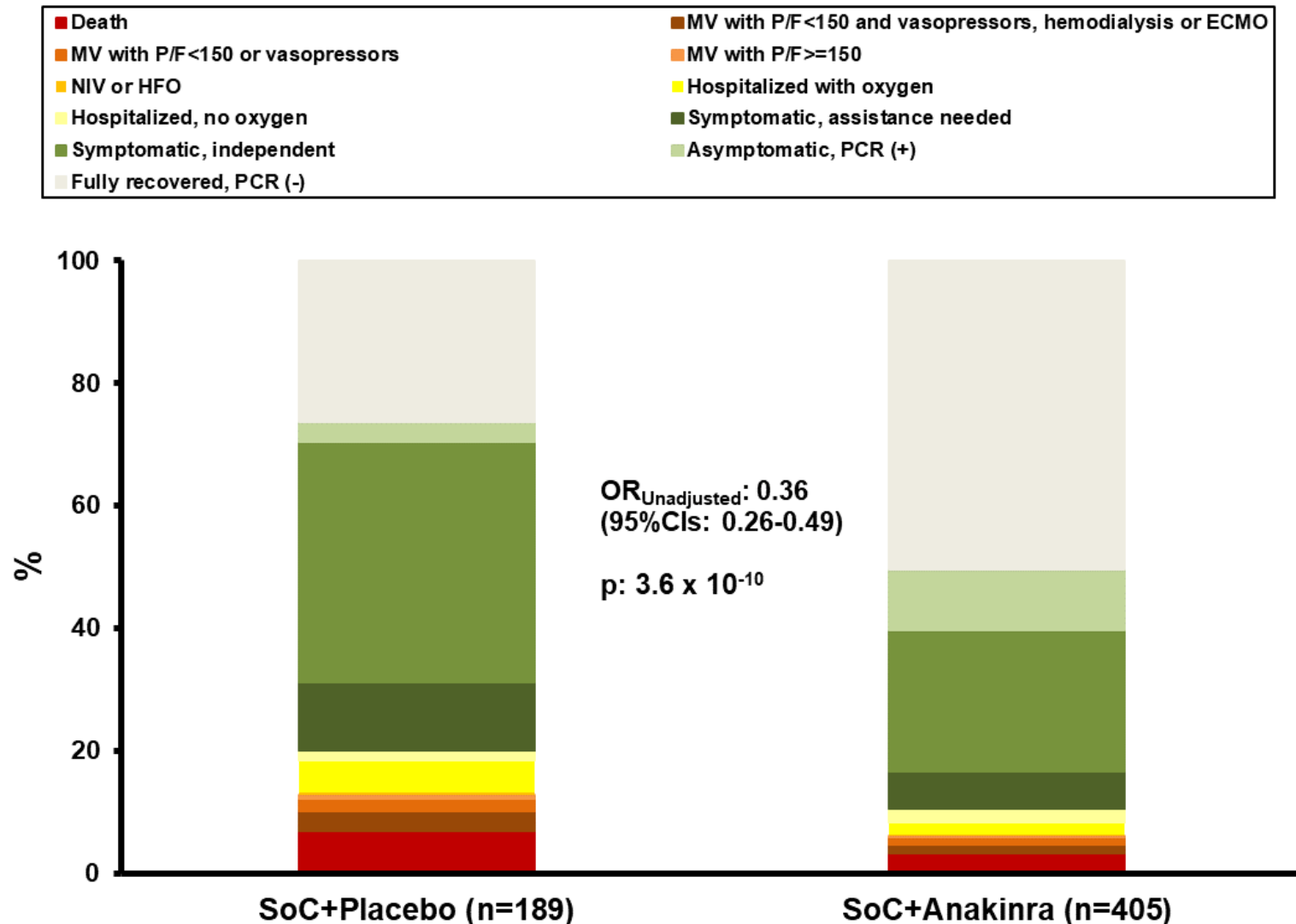
# 11-point WHO Clinical Progression ordinal Scale by day 28 (Kyriazopoulou E, et al. *Nat Med* 2021; 27: 1752)

## Assumption of ordinal regression analysis

Goodness-of-fit test  
(Pearson's chi-square test)  
p: 0.172

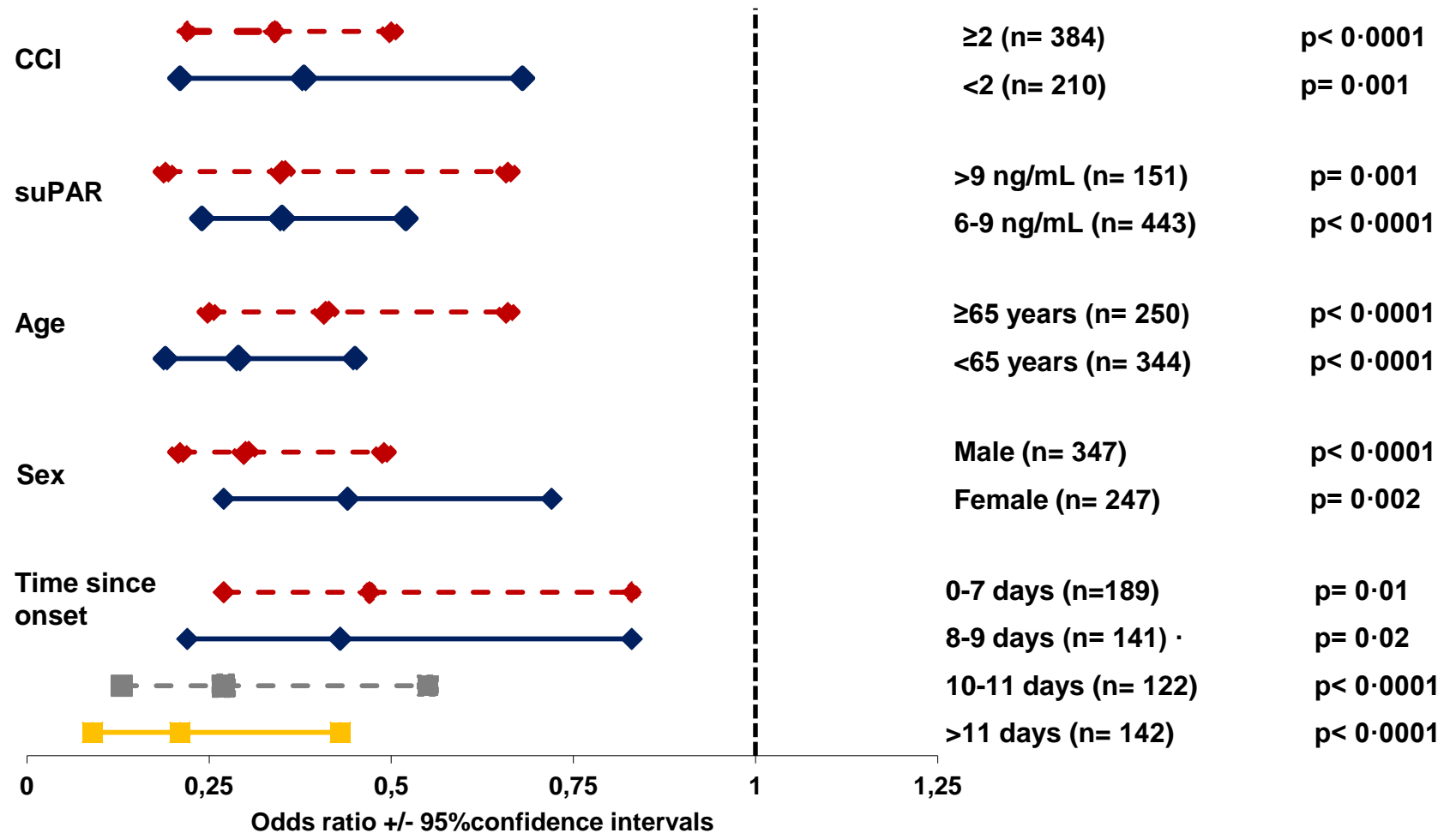
Assumption of proportional odds  
(test of parallel lines)  
p: 0.131

CIs: confidence intervals  
OR: odds ratio  
MV: mechanical ventilation  
NIV: non-invasive ventilation  
PCR: polymerase chain reaction  
SoC: standard-of-care



# SIMILAR BENEFIT FOR ALL SUBGROUPS

(Akinosoglou K, et al. *eClinicalMedicine* 2023; 56: 101785)



# ANAKINRA REGISTRY BY THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY AGENTS



**FDA** U.S. FOOD & DRUG  
ADMINISTRATION

*Kineret may only be used by healthcare providers to treat COVID-19 in hospitalized adults with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing with pneumonia requiring supplemental oxygen (low- or high-flow oxygen) who are at risk for progressing to severe respiratory failure and are likely to have an elevated suPAR.*



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## EMA recommends approval for use of Kineret in adults with COVID-19 [Share](#)

News 16/12/2021

**Update:** Kineret is now authorised across the EU to treat COVID-19. This follows the granting of an extension of [indication](#) by the European Commission on 17 December 2021.

EMA's human medicines committee (CHMP) has recommended extending the [indication](#) of [Kineret](#) (anakinra) to include treatment of COVID-19 in adult patients with pneumonia requiring supplemental oxygen (low or high flow oxygen) and who are at risk of developing severe respiratory failure, as determined by blood levels of a protein called suPAR (soluble urokinase plasminogen activator receptor) of at least 6 ng per ml.



# PRECISION MEDICINE: REQUIREMENTS

(<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/in-vitro-diagnostics/precision-medicine>)

Therapeutics



GUIDED by biomarkers

BIOMARKER



INFORMATIVE on the degree of  
implication of a certain pathway

PATHWAY



DETRIMENTAL for outcome

AVAILABLE DRUG



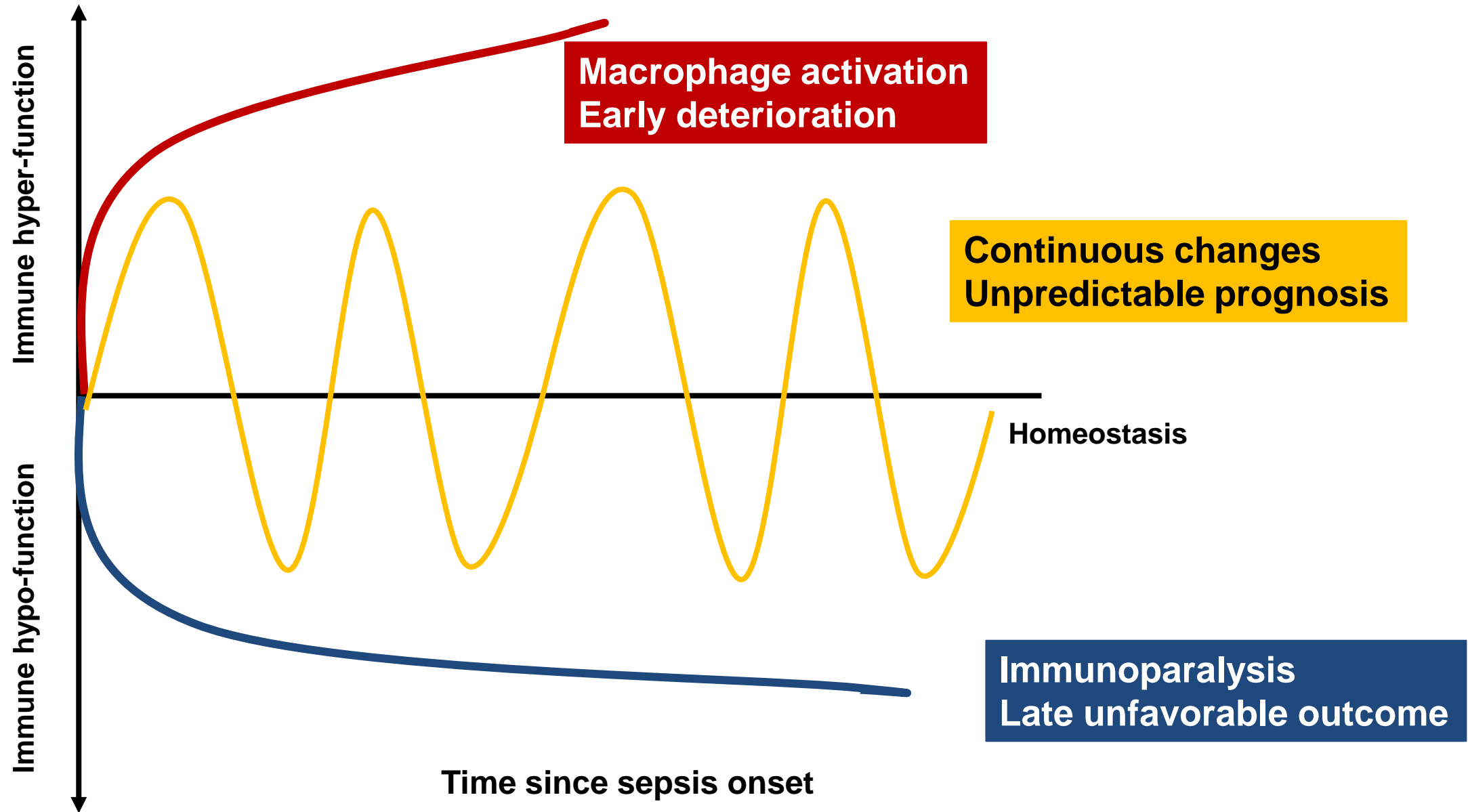
MODULATES the pathway

START OF TREATMENT



IMMEDIATE *IRRESPECTIVE* of  
clinical signs

# ASSUMPTION OR CRITICAL CONSIDERATION?



# RATIONALE FOR TREATMENT OF SEPSIS AND MALS WITH ANAKINRA

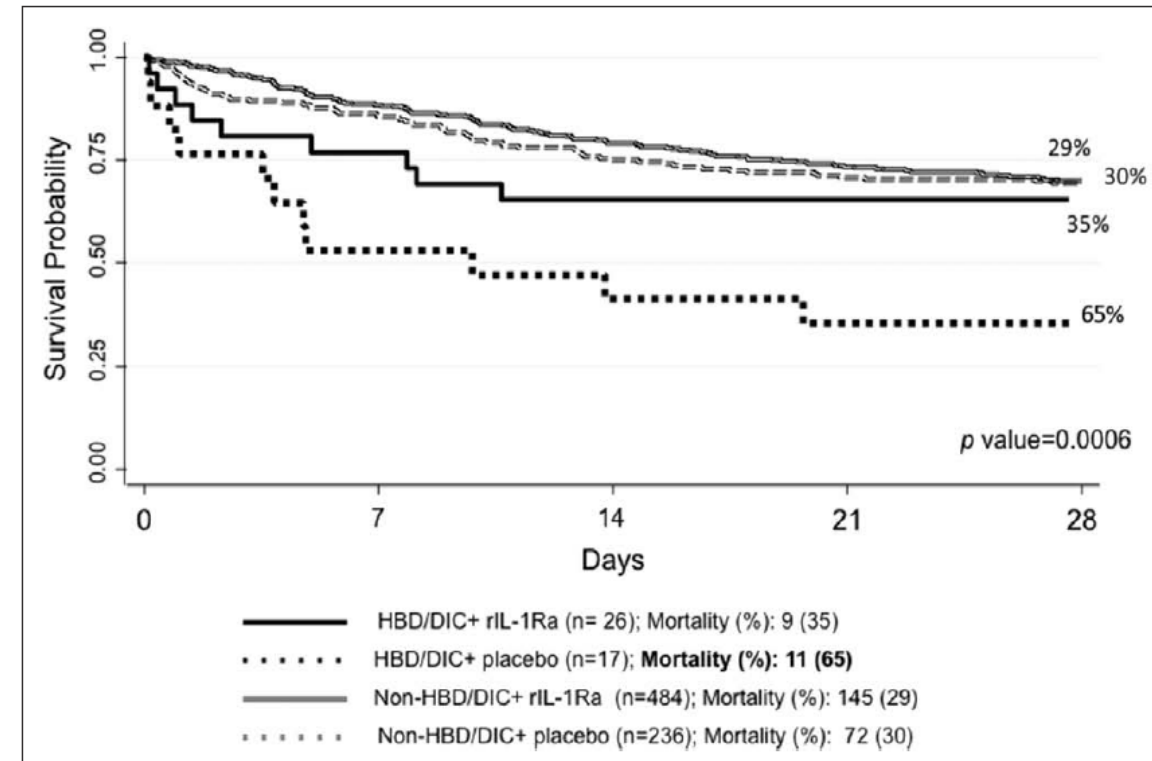
(Shakoory B, et al. *Crit Care Med* 2016; 44: 275)

**MALS is defined as co-presence of HBD and DIC**

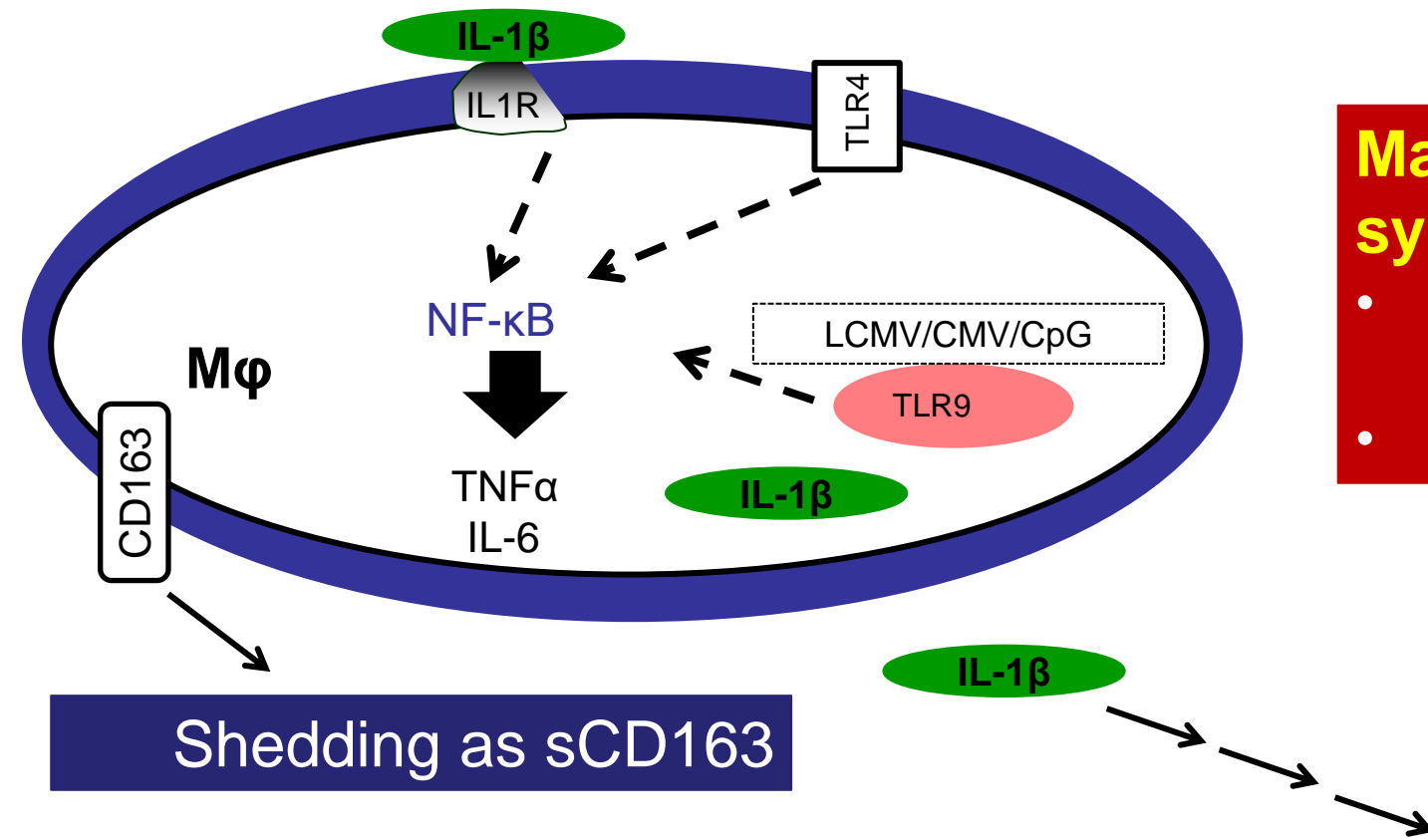
HBD: hepatobiliary dysfunction (bilirubin >1.2mg/dl)

+

DIC (acute coagulopathy): platelets <100,000/mm<sup>3</sup> + INR>1.2

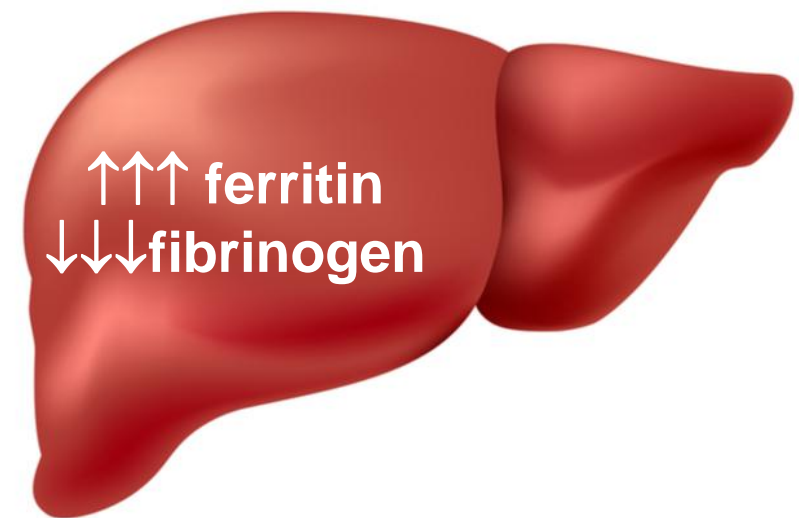


MALS: macrophage-activation like syndrome



## Macrophage activation-like syndrome in sepsis

- Different than primary HLH and CAR-T associated CRS
- IL-1 driven and IFNγ driven

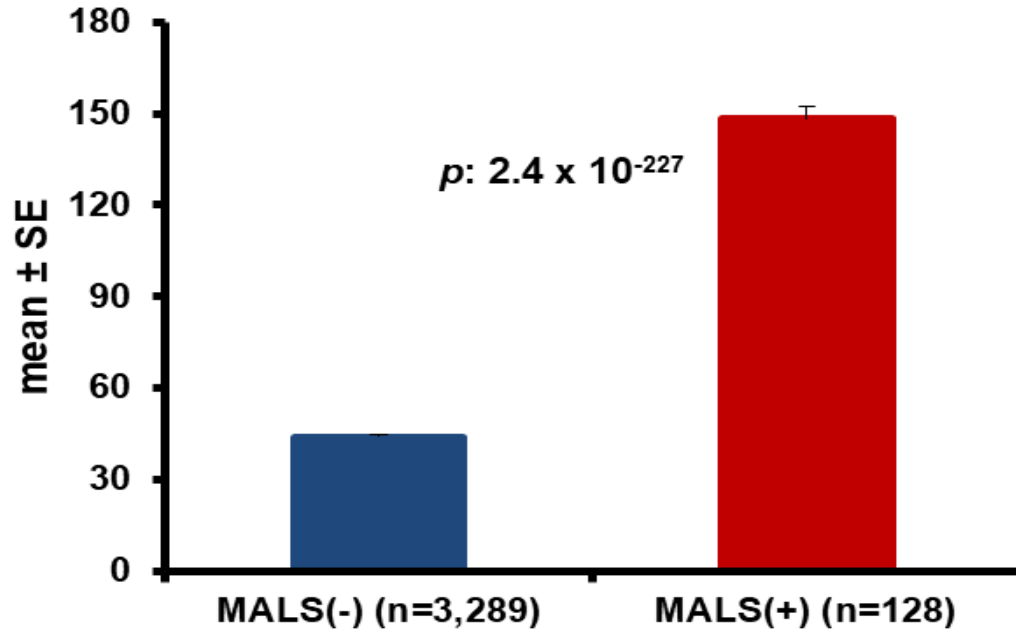


CRS: cytokine release syndrome  
 HLH: hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis  
 IFN: interferon  
 IL: interleukin  
 IL-1R: IL-1 receptor  
 LPS: lipopolysaccharide  
 Mφ: macrophage  
 PDG: peptidoglycan  
 TLR: toll-like receptor  
 TNFα: tumour necrosis factor-alpha

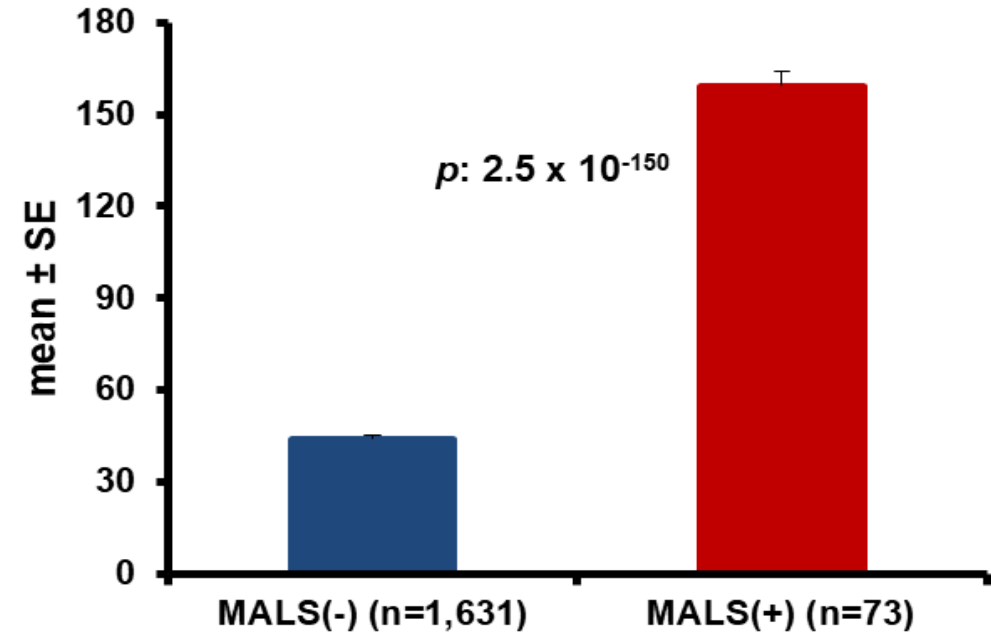
# CHARACTERISTICS OF MACROPHAGE-LIKE ACTIVATION SYNDROME (MALS) IN SEPSIS

(Kyriazopoulou E, et al. *BMC Med* 2017; 15: 172)

COHORT A: HS SCORE



COHORT B: HS SCORE



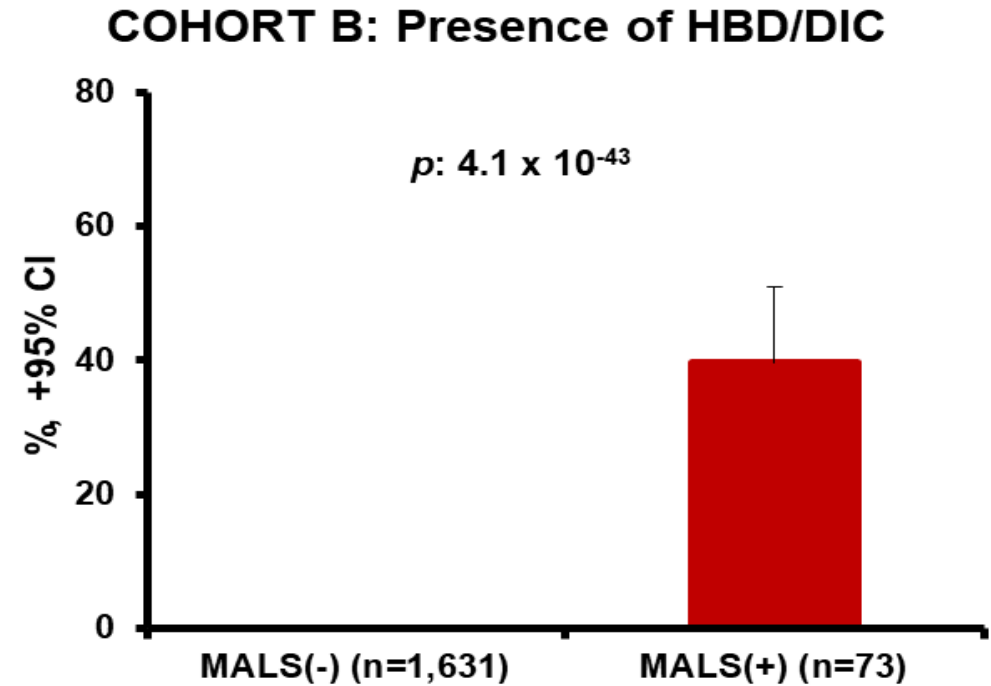
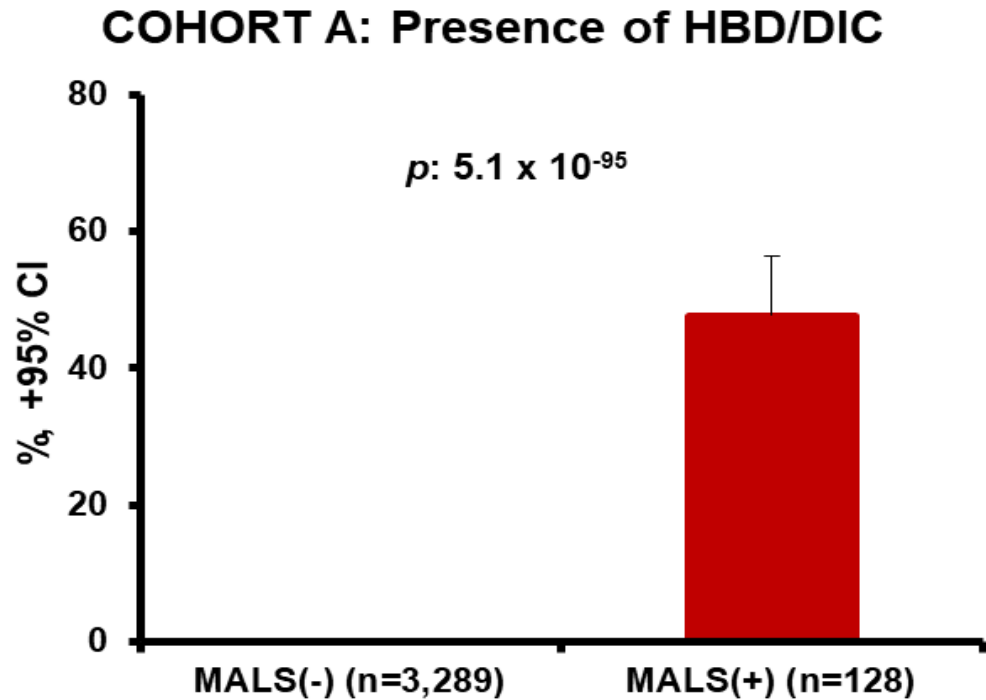
MALS

3.7% Cohort A; 4.3% Cohort B

HS: hemophagocytosis score

# MACROPHAGE-LIKE ACTIVATION SYNDROME (MALS) AND COAGULATION

(Kyriazopoulou E, et al. *BMC Med* 2017; 15: 172)



Coagulopathy= alert for MALS

# **MALS= INDEPENDENT DRIVER OF 10-DAY MORTALITY ON TOP OF OTHER DYSFUNCTIONS**

(Kyriazopoulou E, et al. *BMC Med* 2017; 15: 172)

	Cohort A		Cohort B	
	OR	p	OR	p
<b>MALS</b>	<b>1.86</b>	<b>0.003</b>	<b>2.81</b>	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
<b>ARDS</b>	<b>1.72</b>	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	<b>1.81</b>	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
<b>AKI</b>	<b>3.12</b>	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	<b>3.79</b>	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
<b>Shock</b>	<b>3.45</b>	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	<b>4.16</b>	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>

AKI: acute kidney injury

ARDS: acute respiratory distress syndrome

MALS: macrophage-activation like syndrome

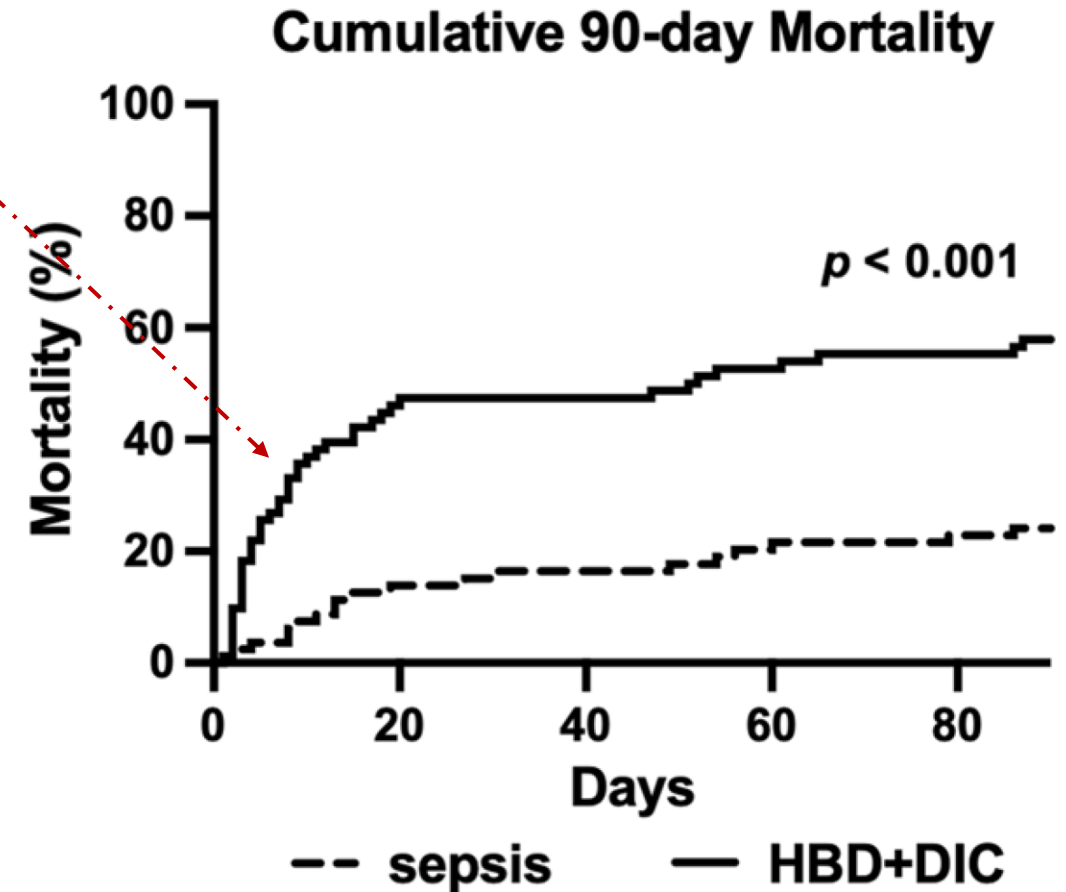
OR: odds ratio

# SIMILAR FINDINGS FROM THE ProCESS STUDY

(Anderko RR, et al. *ICMx* 2022; 10: 6)

- 1,341 patients
- 6.1% with MALS (defined as HBD + DIC used as classifier)

Early death

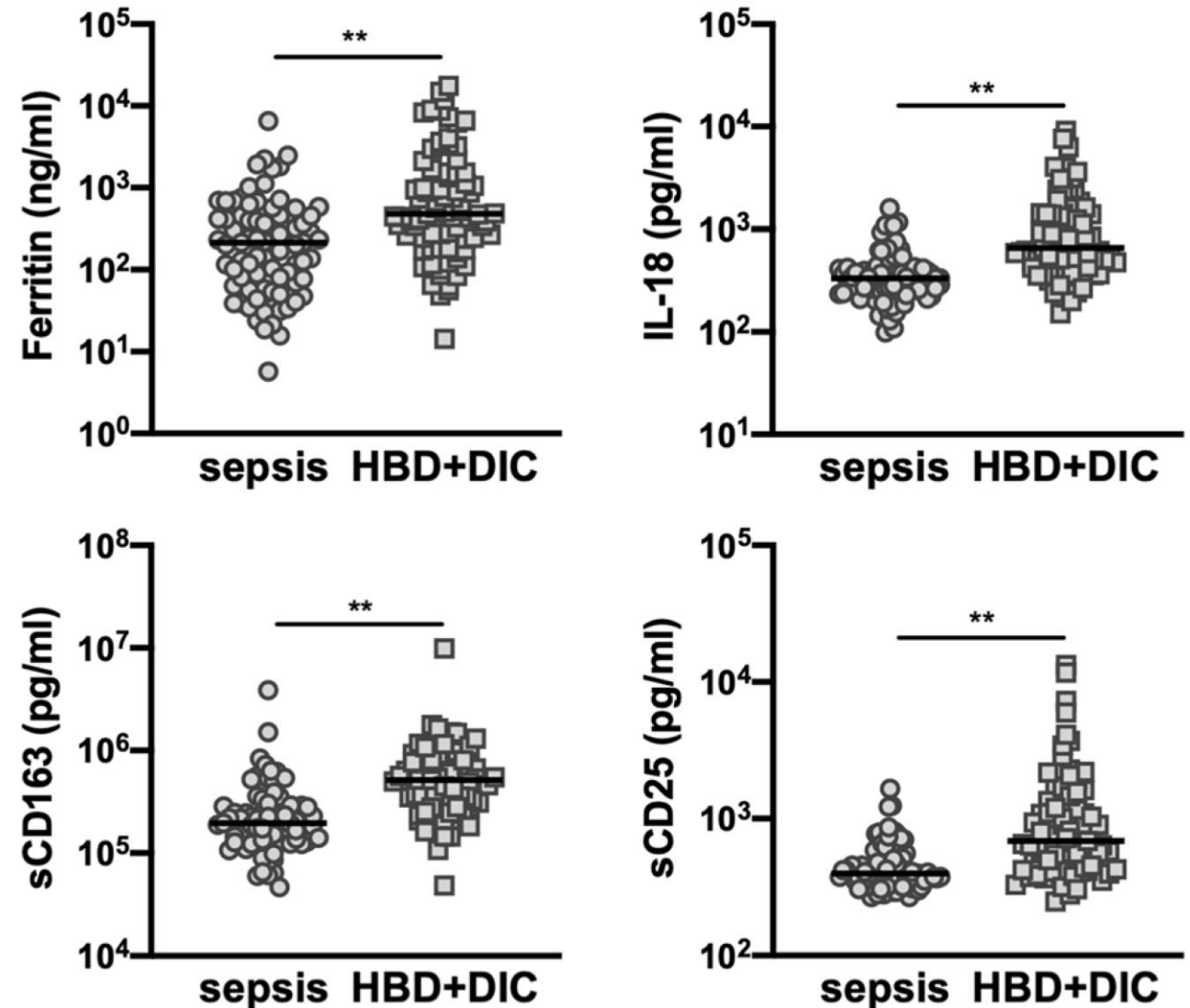


DIC: disseminated intravascular coagulation  
HBD: hepatobiliary dysfunction  
MALS: macrophage-activation like syndrome



# BIOMARKERS OF MACROPHAGE ACTIVATION

(Anderko RR, et al. *ICMx* 2022; 10: 6)



\*\*p<0.01

DIC: disseminated intravascular coagulation

HBD: hepatobiliary dysfunction

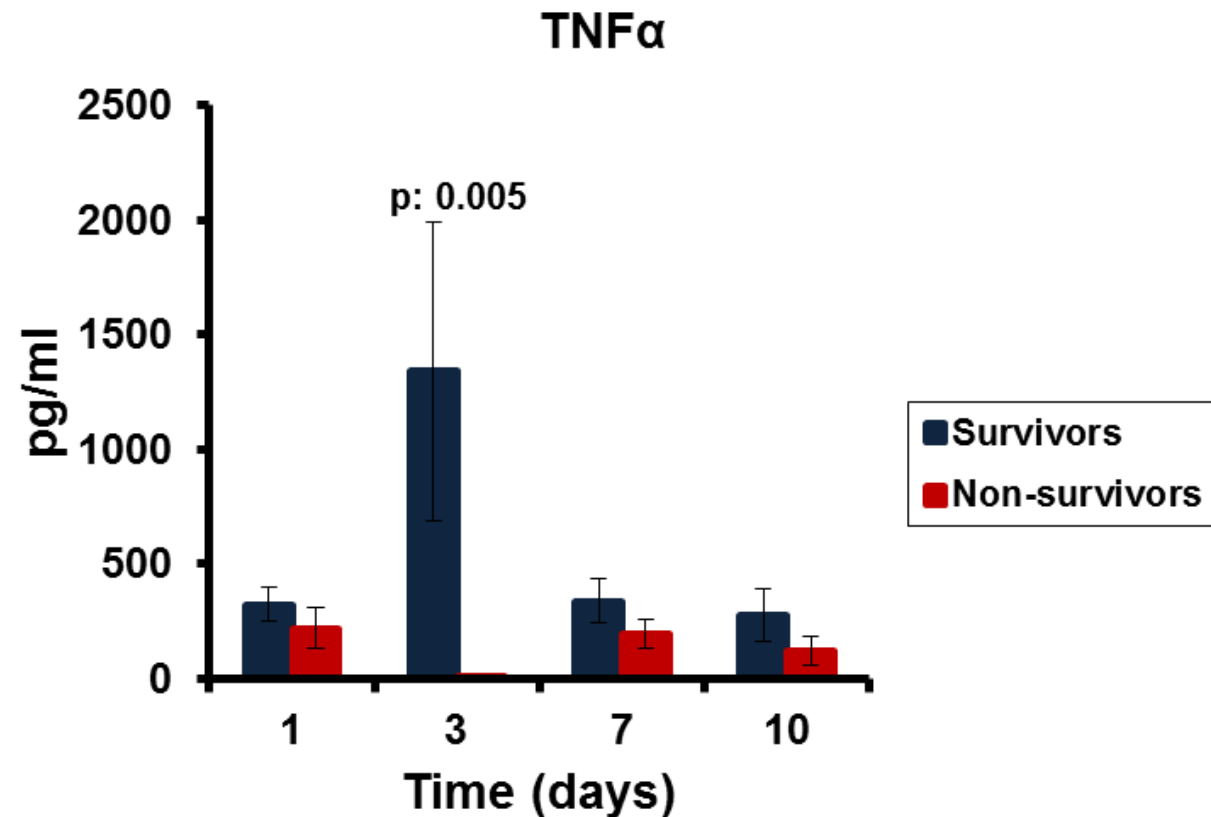
# IMMUNOPARALYSIS: THE OTHER EDGE

(Antonakos N, et al. *Critical Care* 2017; 24: 48)

- 95 patients with septic shock
- Ex-vivo cytokine production by peripheral blood mononuclear cells
- Repeat after 3, 7 and 10 days

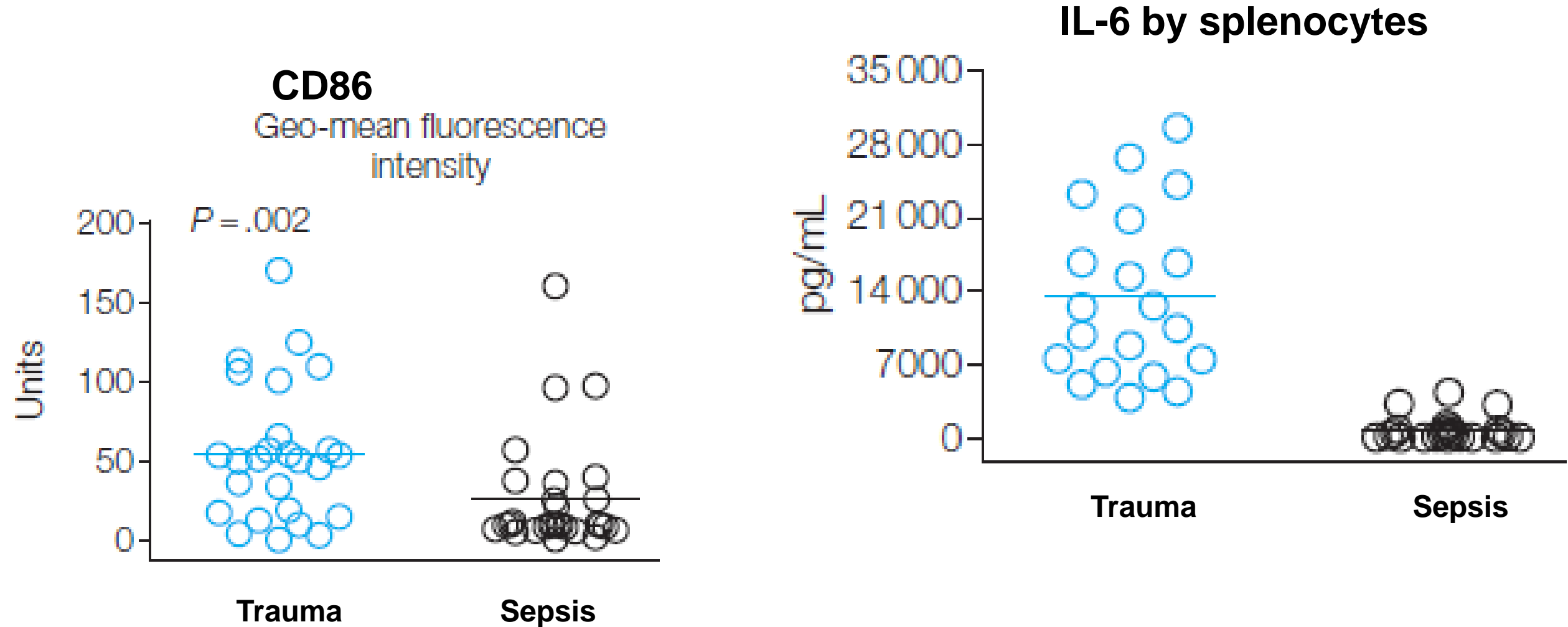
## Sepsis-induced immunoparalysis

- Failure to engulf the bacteria
- Risk for secondary infections



# IMMUNOPARALYSIS IN EARLY HUMAN CADAVERS

(Boomer JS, et al. *JAMA* 2011; 306: 2594-2605)



# A Personalized Randomized trial Of Validation and restoration of Immune Dysfunction in severe infections and Sepsis **PROVIDE (Clinicaltrials.gov NCT03332225)**

- Community-acquired pneumonia or hospital-acquired pneumonia or ventilator-associated pneumonia or primary bacteremia
- Classify the immune state of sepsis as MALS, intermediate or immunoparalysis
- Investigate if this classification reflects final outcome
- Assess if anakinra in patients with MALS influences outcome

**Macrophage activation-like syndrome (MALS):**  
serum ferritin >4,420ng/ml.

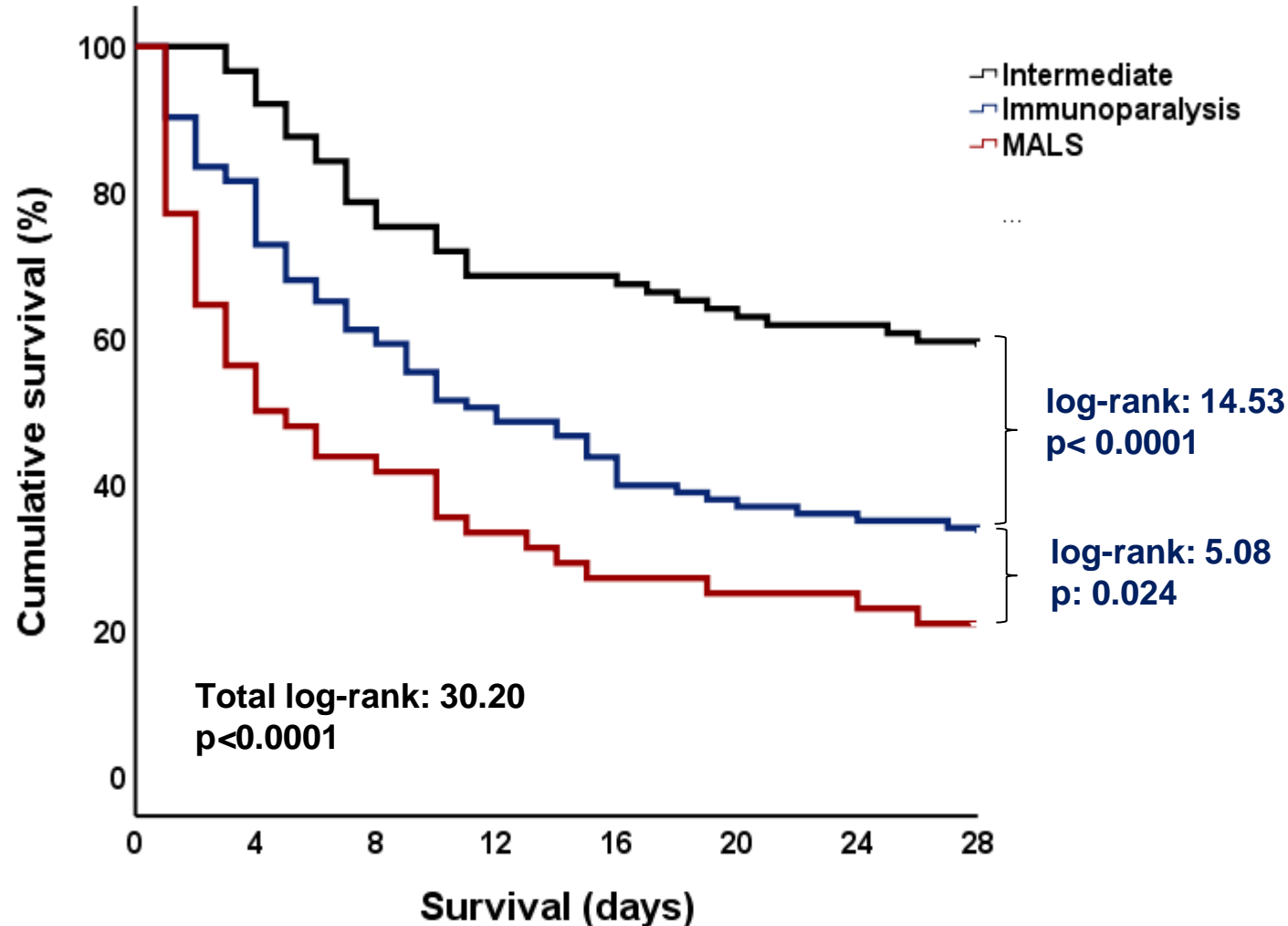
**Immunoparalysis** combination of : a) serum ferritin  $\leq 4,420$ ng/ml; and b) <5,000 receptors of HLA-DR on CD14-monocytes

## ***Intervention in MALS***

- IV anakinra 200mg q8h for 7 days
- If creatinine clearance < 30 ml/min adjustment to 100mg q8h for 7 days

# IMMUNE CLASSIFICATION DRIVES OUTCOME

(Leventogiannis K, et al. *Cell Reports Medicine* 2022; 3: 100817)



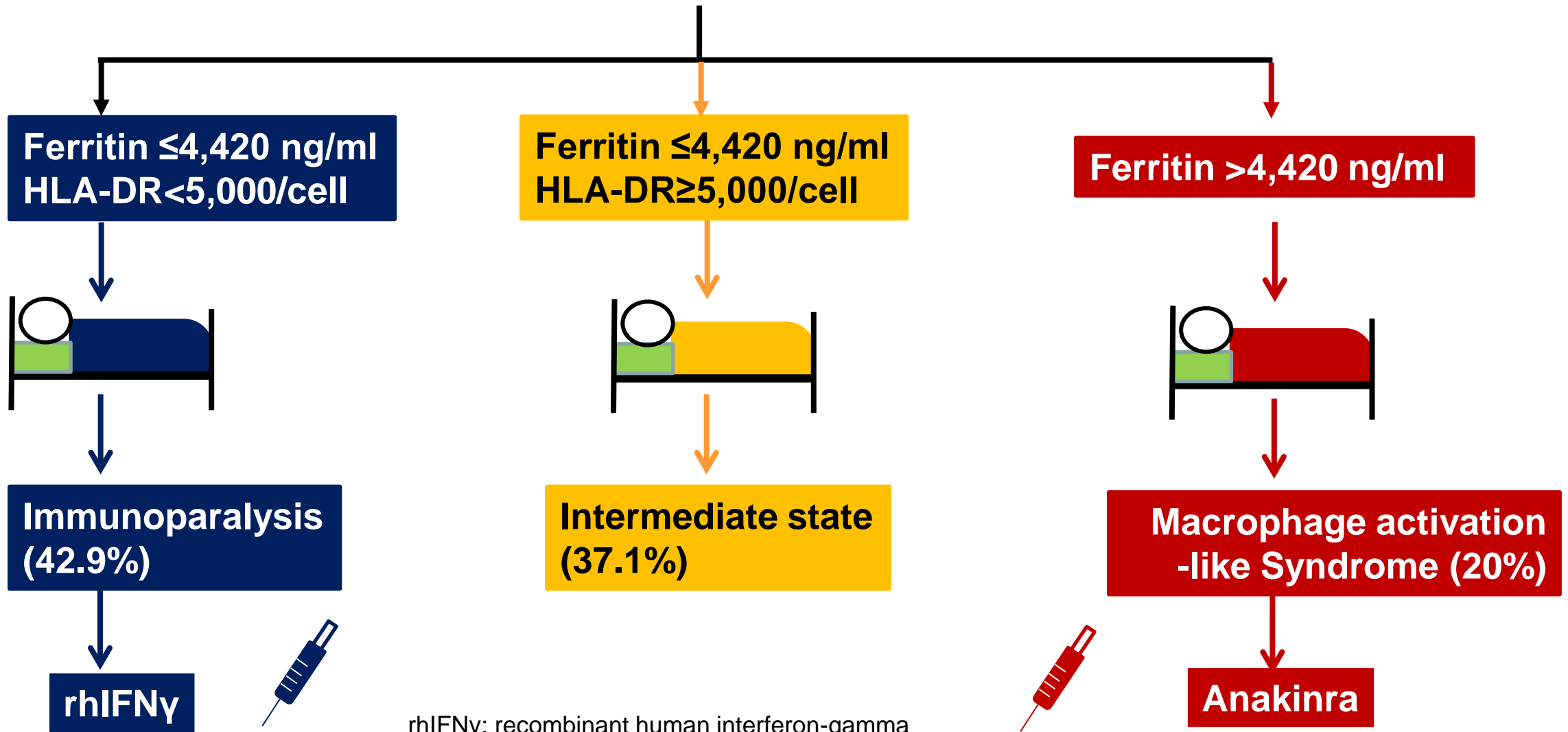
*Intermediate (n= 89) 37.1%*

*Immunoparalysis (n= 103) 42.9%*

*Macrophage Activation-like Syndrome  
(MALS, n= 48) 20%  
Ferritin >4,420 ng/ml*

# THE VISION OF ImmunoSep

## Sepsis Immune Classification



# THE ImmunoSep Randomized Clinical Trial

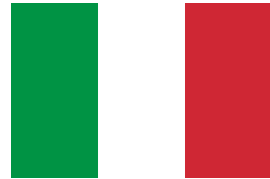
(EudraCT number: 2020-005768-74; Clinicaltrials.gov: NCT04990232)



Jena University Hospital  
(M.Bauer)



Hellenic Sepsis Study Group  
(E.Giamarellos)



Gemelli University Hospital  
(M.Antonelli)



Amsterdam Medical Center  
(T.van der Poll)  
Radboud Nijmegen  
(M.Netea)



Cluj-Napoca  
(M.Lupse)



Centre Hospitalier  
Universitaire Vaudois  
(T.Calandra)

## Patient population

- Lung infection or primary bacteremia
- Sepsis-2
- MALS or immunoparalysis
- Within 72 hours

IV: intravenous  
MALS: macrophage activation-like syndrome  
N/S: normal saline  
rhIFN $\gamma$ : recombinant human interferon-gamma  
sc: subcutaneous  
SC: standard-of-care  
SOFA: sequential organ failure assessment

## Precision immunotherapy x 15 days + Standard Care

- Double-blind
- Double-dummy
- IV Anakinra for MALS
- sc rhIFN $\gamma$  for immunoparalysis

## Placebo x 15 days + Standard Care

- Double-blind
- Double-dummy
- IV N/S for MALS
- sc N/S for immunoparalysis

# INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Age  $\geq 18$  years
- Both genders; in case of women, unwillingness to become pregnant during the study period.
- Community-acquired pneumonia OR hospital-acquired pneumonia OR ventilator-associated pneumonia OR primary bloodstream infection
- Sepsis-3 definitions
- Presence of MALS or SII.
- Time from meeting Sepsis-3 definitions until start of study drug  $< 72$  hours.

## COVID-19

- Patients without secondary VAP/HAP/BSI are enrolled ONLY if classified with MALS
- Patients with secondary VAP/HAP/BSI are enrolled as ALL other patients

BSI: bloodstream infection  
CAP: community-acquired pneumonia  
HAP: hospital-acquired pneumonia  
MALS: macrophage activation-like syndrome  
SII: sepsis-induced immunoparalysis  
VAP: ventilator-associated pneumonia



# EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Age < 18 years
- Acute pyelonephritis or intraabdominal infection or meningitis or skin infection
- Any stage IV malignancy
- Absolute neutrophil count < 1000/mm<sup>3</sup>
- Any “do not resuscitate” decision.
- Patients with bacteraemia (BSI):
  - *Staphylococcus* growing coagulase-negative staphylococci
  - Skin commensals
  - Catheter-related infections

- Active tuberculosis
- Known infection by the human immunodeficiency virus
- Any primary immunodeficiency
- Oral or intravenous corticosteroids: ≥ 0.4mg/kg/day equivalent prednisone more than 15 days
- Anti-cytokine drugs the last month
- Medical history of systemic lupus erythematosus
- Medical history of multiple sclerosis or other demyelinating disorder
- Pregnancy or lactation

# Screening process



Eligibility of the patient & informed consent

→ 672 screened  
36 not eligible



Blood sample for classification of the immune state of the patient

→ 3ml into one pyrogen- and anticoagulant free tube  
2 ml into one EDTA-coated tube



Transportation to the central lab

→ 1272 tubes transported to central lab



Ferritin and Quantibrite measured: 3 immunogroups



Classification into sepsis and enrolment:  
**in less than 72 hours**

→ 281 patients enrolled



# STUDY ENDPOINTS ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS PLAN

## **Primary endpoint**

*Change of the mean SOFA score from baseline until day 9*

- Patients with  $\geq 1.4$  point decrease of mean SOFA score between days 2 to 9 from baseline day 1.
- Last observation carried forward applies (discharge before day 9); when death arrives SOFA 24.

## **Secondary endpoints**

- Change of the mean SOFA score from baseline until day 9 separately for MALS and SSI
- Change of the mean SOFA score from baseline until day 15
- 28-day mortality
- 90-day mortality
- Restoration of immune dysfunction
- Infection disposition on day 15

## **Post-hoc Subgroup analysis**

- Time to restoration of organ dysfunction
- Subgroups of APACHE II, CCI and SOFA surrogating mortality (Change of the mean SOFA score until day 9; 28-day mortality; and 90-day mortality)

**672** adults with presumed infectious sepsis screened for eligibility

**391** Excluded

**355** Unclassified into immune state because ferritin  $\leq 4,420$  ng/ml and HLA-DR  $>5000$  receptors per CD45/CD14 monocytes  
**14** Removal of consent before start of the screening process  
**8** Death before completion of ferritin/HLA-DR measurements  
**5** Intrabdominal infection  
**2** Death before randomization  
**2** End of screening more than 72 hours after sepsis onset  
**2** Acute pyelonephritis  
**2** Neutropenia  
**1** Removal of consent before randomization

**281** Randomized

**135** Allocated to standard care and precision immunotherapy  
**131** Received allocated intervention  
**4** Withdrew consent and requested removal of all data

**62** Discontinued intervention  
-35 died  
-18 discharged before completion of therapy  
-8 therapy-related serious adverse event  
-1 therapy-related non-serious adverse event

**131** included in primary analysis (blood sampling for evaluation of restoration of immune dysfunction= 59)

**146** Allocated to standard care and placebo  
**145** Received allocated intervention  
**1** Withdrew consent and requested removal of all data

**72** Discontinued intervention  
-51 died  
-19 discharged before completion of therapy  
-2 therapy-related serious adverse events

**145** included in primary analysis (blood sampling for evaluation of restoration of immune dysfunction= 66)

# THE PATIENT POPULATION

	Standard care + Precision Immunotherapy (N=131)	Standard care + Placebo (N=145)
Male/Female, n (%)	89 (67.9) / 42 (32.1)	94 (64.8) / 51 (35.2)
Age, mean (SD), years	69 (13)	70 (14)
Medical history, n (%)		
Diabetes mellitus	45 (34.4)	48 (33.1)
COVID-19	34 (26.0)	35 (24.1)
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	26 (19.8)	39 (26.9)
Coronary heart disease	25 (19.1)	34 (23.4)
Atrial fibrillation	23 (17.6)	36 (24.8)
Chronic heart failure	19 (14.5)	22 (15.2)
Cerebral stroke	18 (13.7)	18 (12.4)
Chronic renal disease	13 (9.9)	16 (11.0)
APACHE II, median (Q1-Q3)	20 (16-25)	19 (14-25)
CCI, median (Q1-Q3) <sup>d</sup>	4 (3-6)	5 (3-6)
SOFA score, median (Q1-Q3)	10 (7-12)	9 (6-11)
Interventions, n (%)		
Mechanical ventilation	116 (88.5)	129 (89.0)
Norepinephrine	110 (84.0)	126 (86.9)
Vasopressin	31 (23.7)	34 (23.4)
CVVH	23 (17.6)	24 (16.6)

APACHE: acute physiology and chronic health evaluation  
 CCI: Charlson's comorbidity index  
 CVVH: continuous veno-venal hemofiltration  
 n: number of patients  
 Q: quartile  
 SD: standard deviation  
 SOFA: sequential organ failure assessment

# UNDERLYING INFECTIONS AND TREATMENTS

	Standard care + Precision Immunotherapy (N=131)	Standard care + Placebo (N=145)
Underlying Infection, n (%)		
Ventilator-associated pneumonia	48 (36.6)	54 (37.2)
Hospital-acquired pneumonia	35 (26.7)	32 (22.1)
Community-acquired pneumonia	31 (23.7)	44 (30.3)
Primary bacteremia	16 (12.2)	12 (8.3)
Pneumonia by SARS-CoV-2	1 (0.8)	3 (2.1)
Most common prescribed antibiotics, n (%)		
Piperacillin/tazobactam	27 (20.6)	25 (17.2)
Ceftazidime/avibactam	31 (23.7)	34 (23.4)
Meropenem	47 (35.9)	43 (29.7)
Tigecycline	27 (20.6)	25 (17.2)
Colistin	74 (56.5)	84 (57.9)
Linezolid	39 (29.8)	42 (29.0)
Glycopeptide (Vancomycin or Teicoplanin)	32 (24.4)	29 (20.0)
Daptomycin	37 (28.2)	40 (27.6)
Treatment with at least one active antibiotic against the isolated pathogen, n/N (%)	34/41 (82.9)	33/38 (86.8)

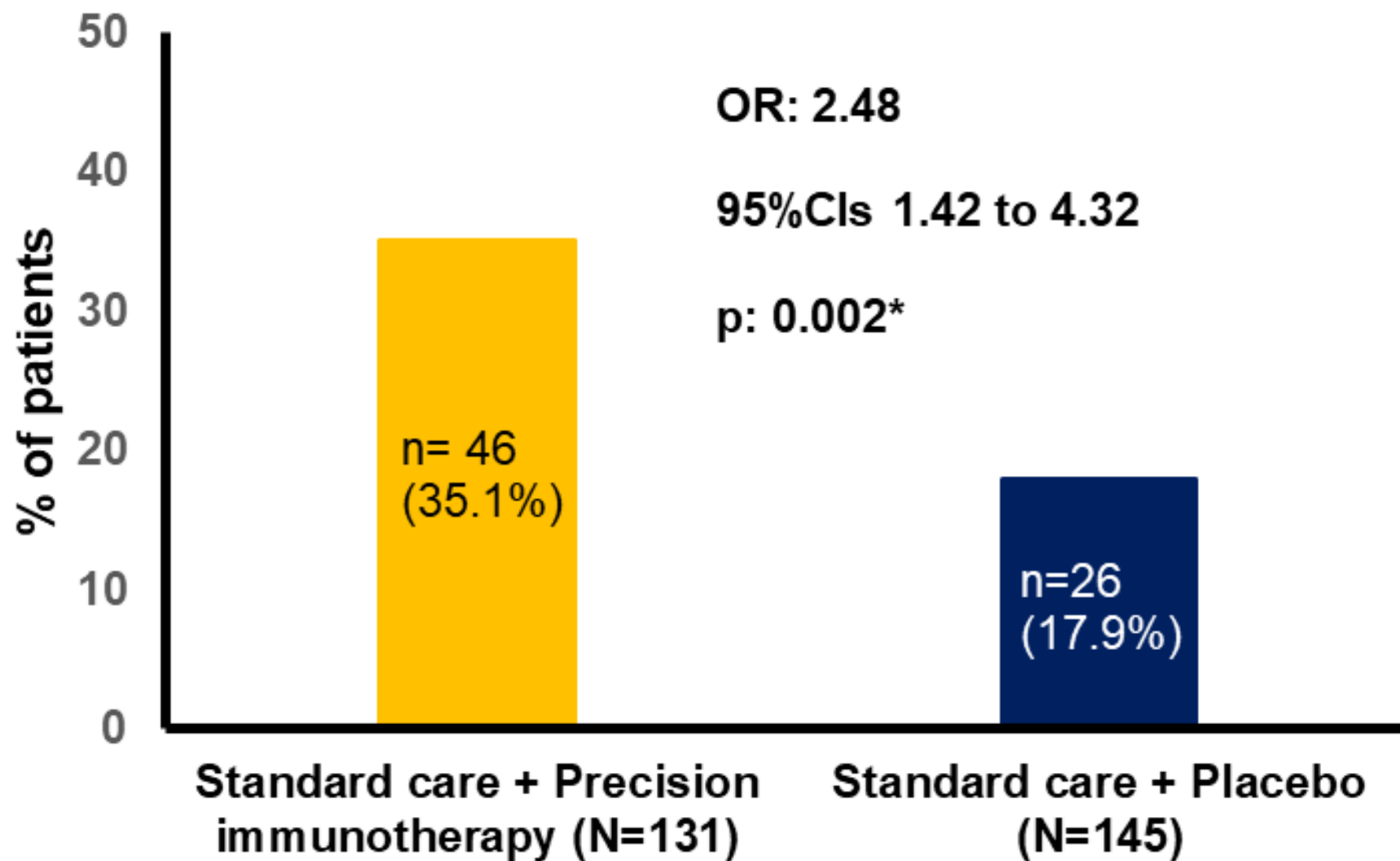
AST: antibiotic susceptibility testing  
n: number of patients  
N: number of patients with AST available

# ENDOTYPING AND LABORATORY FINDINGS

	Standard care + Precision Immunotherapy (N=131)	Standard care + Placebo (N=145)
pO <sub>2</sub> /FiO <sub>2</sub> , median (Q1-Q3), mmHg	161.6 (127.0-247.0)	171.9 (127.8-232.8)
Lactate, median (Q1-Q3), mmol/l	1.7 (1.10-2.40)	1.7 (1.02-3.15)
C-reactive protein, median (Q1-Q3), mg/l	27.0 (13.9-189.6)	33.1 (14.8-138.5)
Procalcitonin, median (Q1-Q3), ng/ml	1.3 (0.5-5.9)	1.3 (0.5-11.5)
<b>Macrophage activation-like syndrome, n (%)</b>	<b>25 (19.1)</b>	<b>23 (15.9)</b>
Ferritin, median (Q1-Q3), ng/ml	5438 (5000-7009)	6221 (5000-7500)
mHLA-DR, median (Q1-Q3), antibodies per CD45/CD14 monocytes	3576 (2124-6205)	4990 (3068-7811)
<b>Sepsis-induced immunoparalysis, n (%)</b>	<b>106 (80.9)</b>	<b>122 (84.1)</b>
Ferritin, median (Q1-Q3), ng/ml	633 (353-1149)	703 (340-1488)
mHLA-DR, median (Q1-Q3), antibodies per CD45/CD14 monocytes	3043 (2297-4135)	3078 (1762-4004)

FiO<sub>2</sub>: fraction of inspired oxygen  
 HLA: human leukocyte antigen  
 n: number of patients  
 pO<sub>2</sub>: particle oxygen pressure  
 Q: quartile

# PRIMARY ENDPOINT (IMPROVEMENT OF ORGAN FUNCTION) ≥1.4-point decrease of mean SOFA score until day 9



\*by the Fisher's exact test

CI: confidence interval

OR: odds ratio

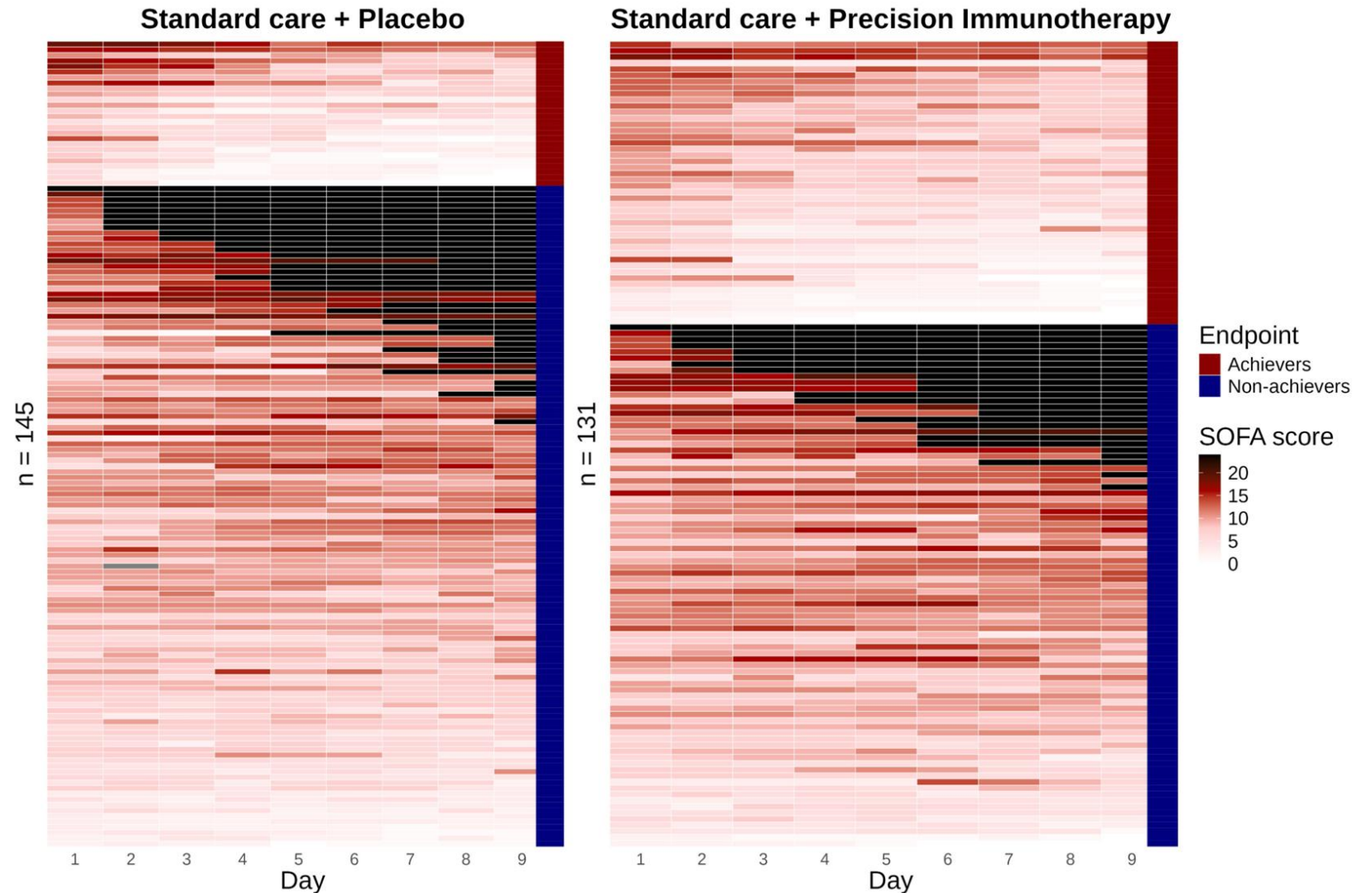
n: patients meeting the endpoint

N: total number of group patients

SOFA: sequential organ failure assessment



# DAILY SOFA SCORES



Achievers: patients attaining the primary endpoint  
n: total number of patients per group  
SOFA: sequential organ failure assessment

# LOGISTIC REGRESSION ANALYSIS OF THE PRIMARY ENDPOINT

	Meeting the endpoint		Univariate analysis		Multivariate analysis	
	No	Yes	OR	P value	OR	P value
APACHE II median (Q1-Q3)	19 (14-25)	20 (16-25)	1.01 (0.97 to 1.05)	0.650	1.00 (0.96 to 1.05)	0.826
CCI median (Q1-Q3)	5 (3-6)	4 (3-6)	0.94 (0.84 to 1.06)	0.338	0.95 (0.84 to 1.07)	0.375
SOFA median (Q1-Q3)	9 (7-11)	9.5 (7-12.8)	1.03 (0.96 to 1.10)	0.433	1.02 (0.95 to 1.09)	0.562
Sites enrolling more than 8%, n (%)	100 (49.0)	32 (44.4)	0.83 (0.48 to 1.42)	0.504	0.80 (0.46 to 1.41)	0.453
Precision immuno-therapy, n/N (%)	85/204 (41.7)	46/72 (63.9)	2.48 (1.42 to 4.31)	0.001	2.49 (1.42 to 4.36)	0.001

APACHE: acute physiology and chronic health evaluation

CCI: Charlson's comorbidity index

CI: confidence interval

OR: odds ratio

q: quartile

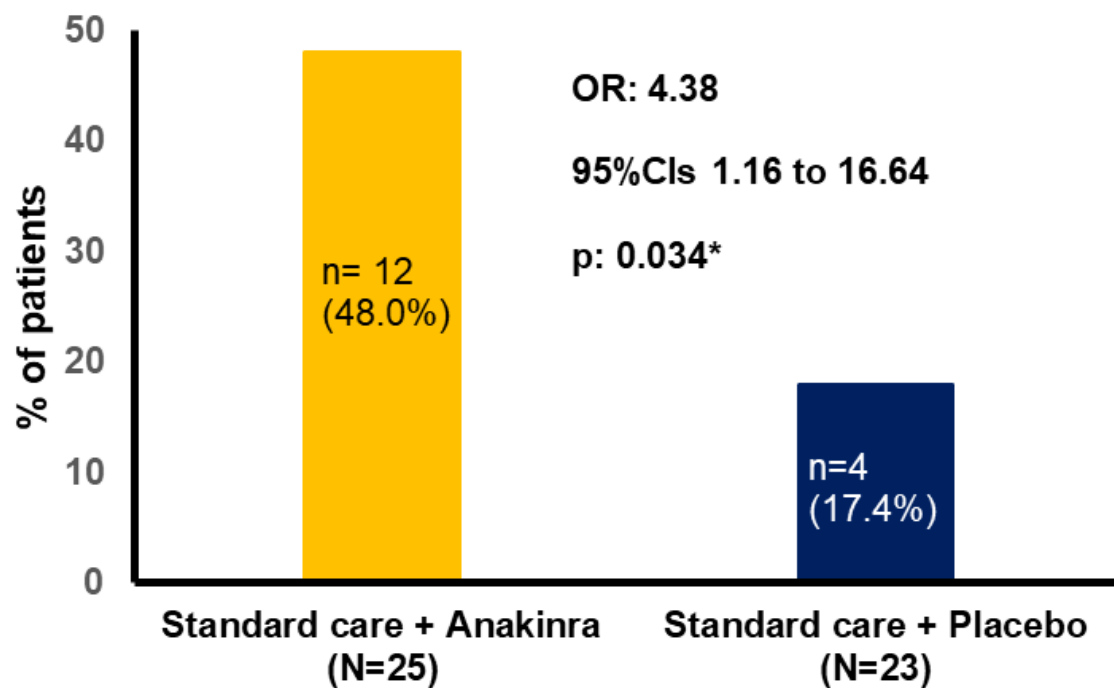
n: number of patients

N: number of patients at the subgroup

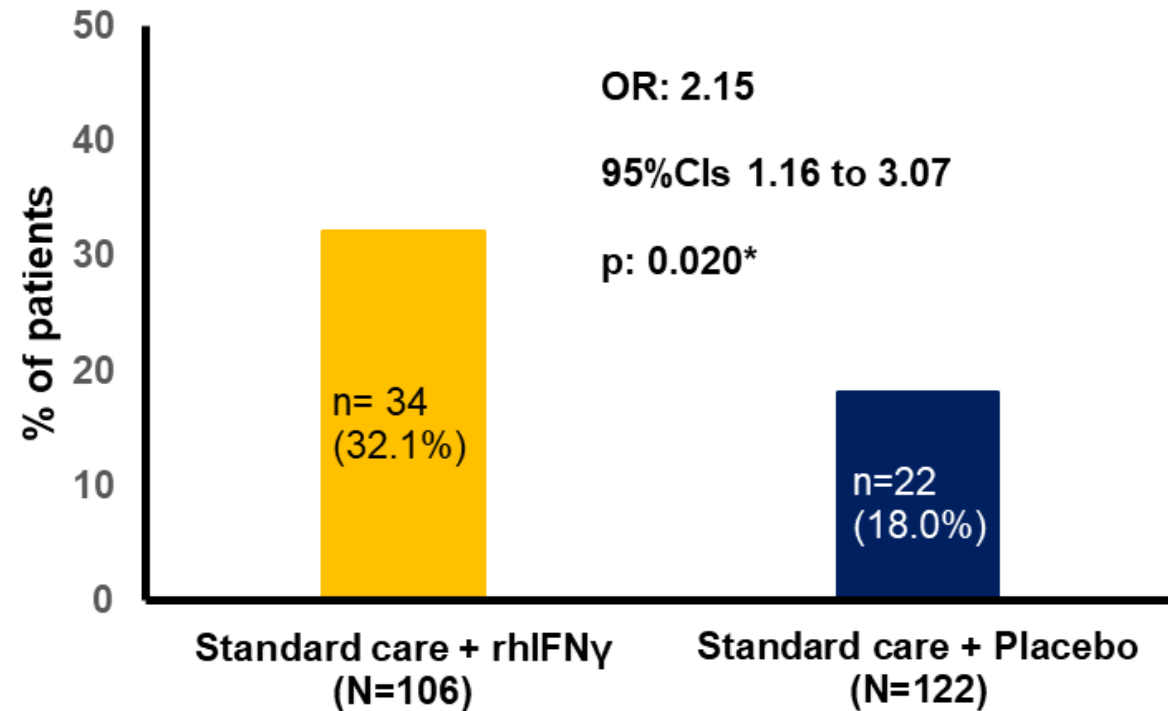
SOFA: sequential organ failure assessment

# **≥1.4-point mean SOFA decrease until Day 9: ATTAINED IN BOTH STATES OF IMMUNE ACTIVATION**

## **MACROPHAGE ACTIVATION-LIKE SYNDROME**



## **SEPSIS-INDUCED IMMUNOPARALYSIS**



\*by the Fisher's exact test

CI: confidence interval

OR: odds ratio

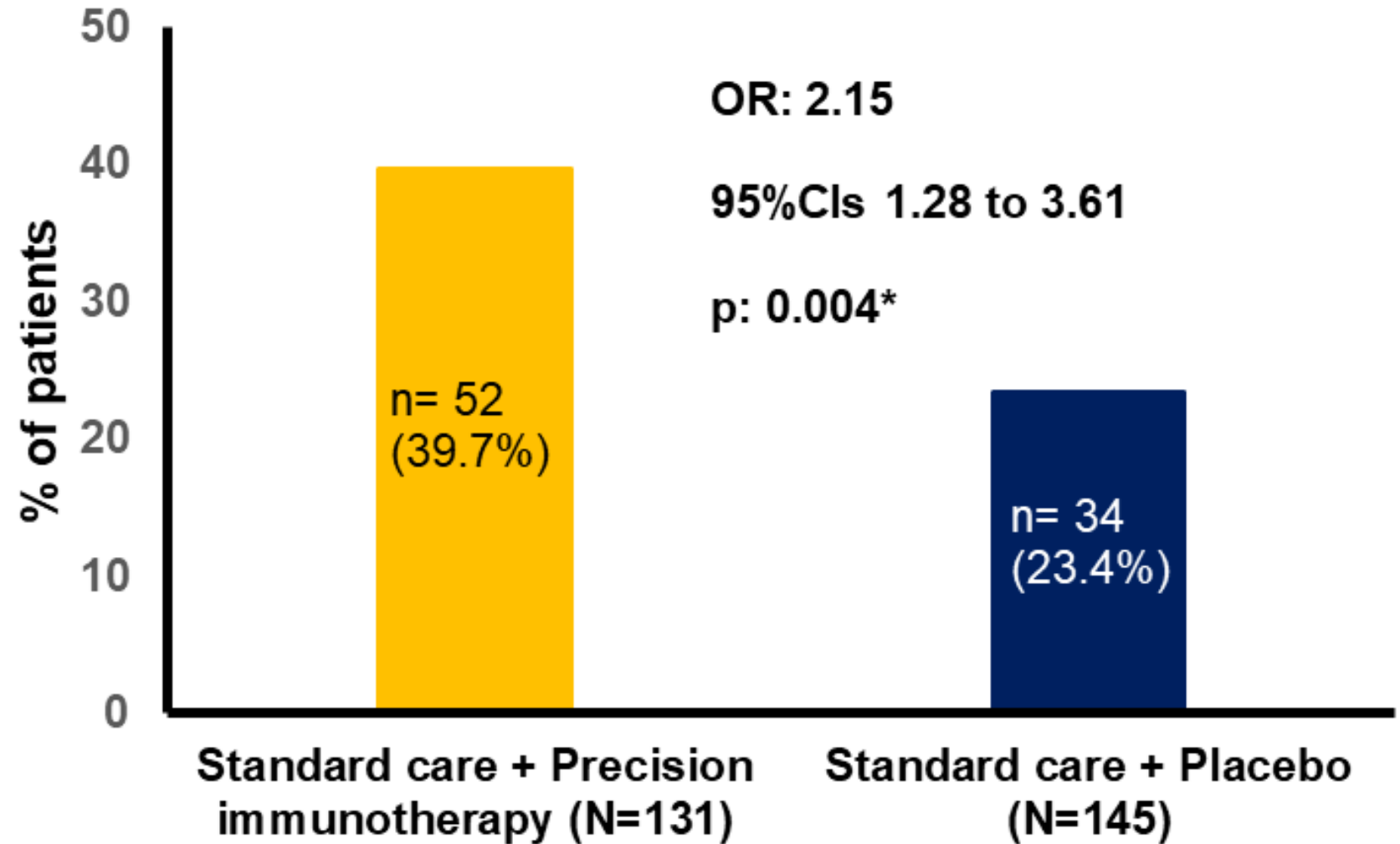
n: patients meeting the endpoint

N: total number of group patients

rhIFN $\gamma$ : recombinant human interferon-gamma

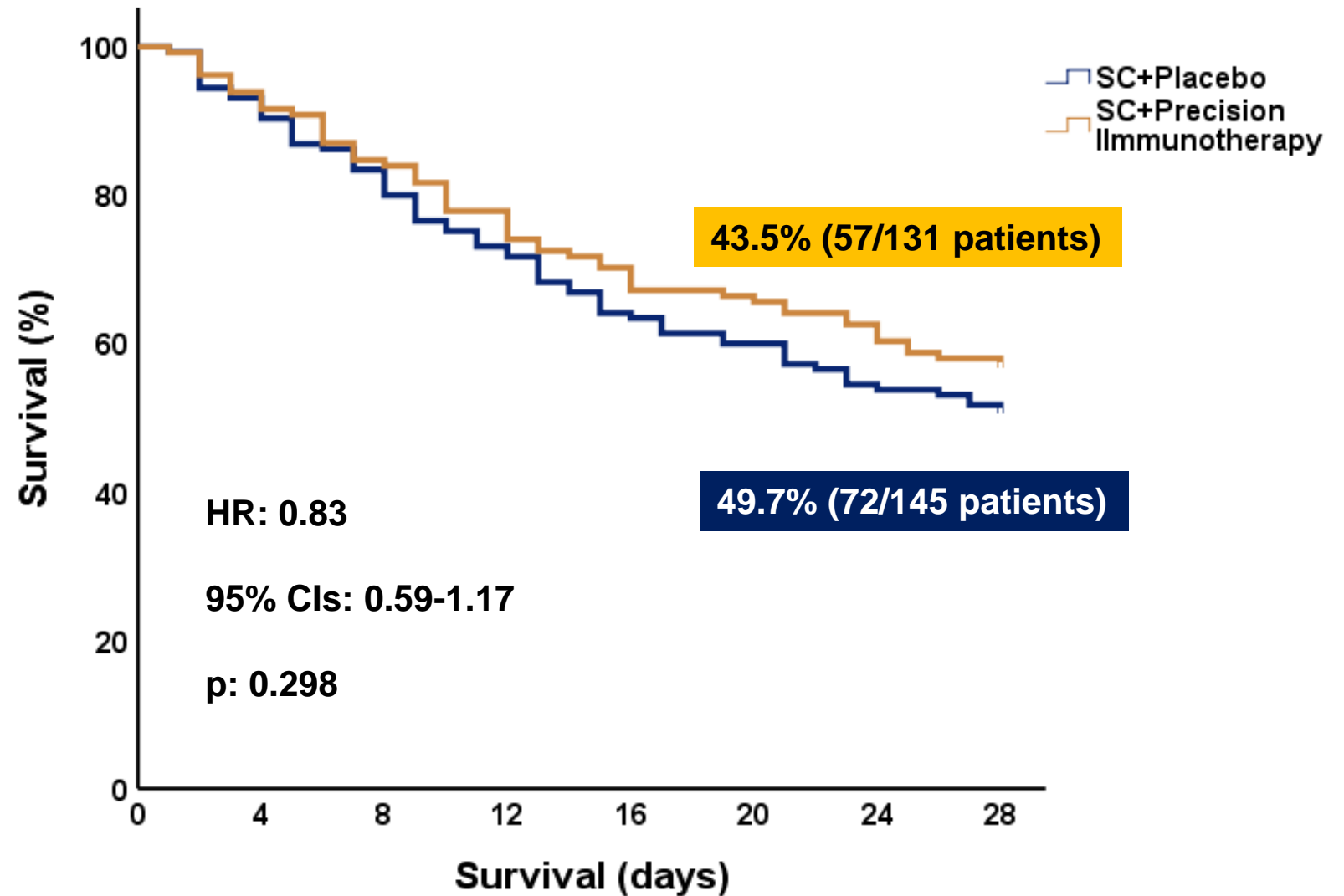
SOFA: sequential organ failure assessment

# **$\geq 1.4$ -point mean SOFA decrease : ATTAINED UNTIL DAY 15 BY PRECISION IMMUNOTHERAPY**



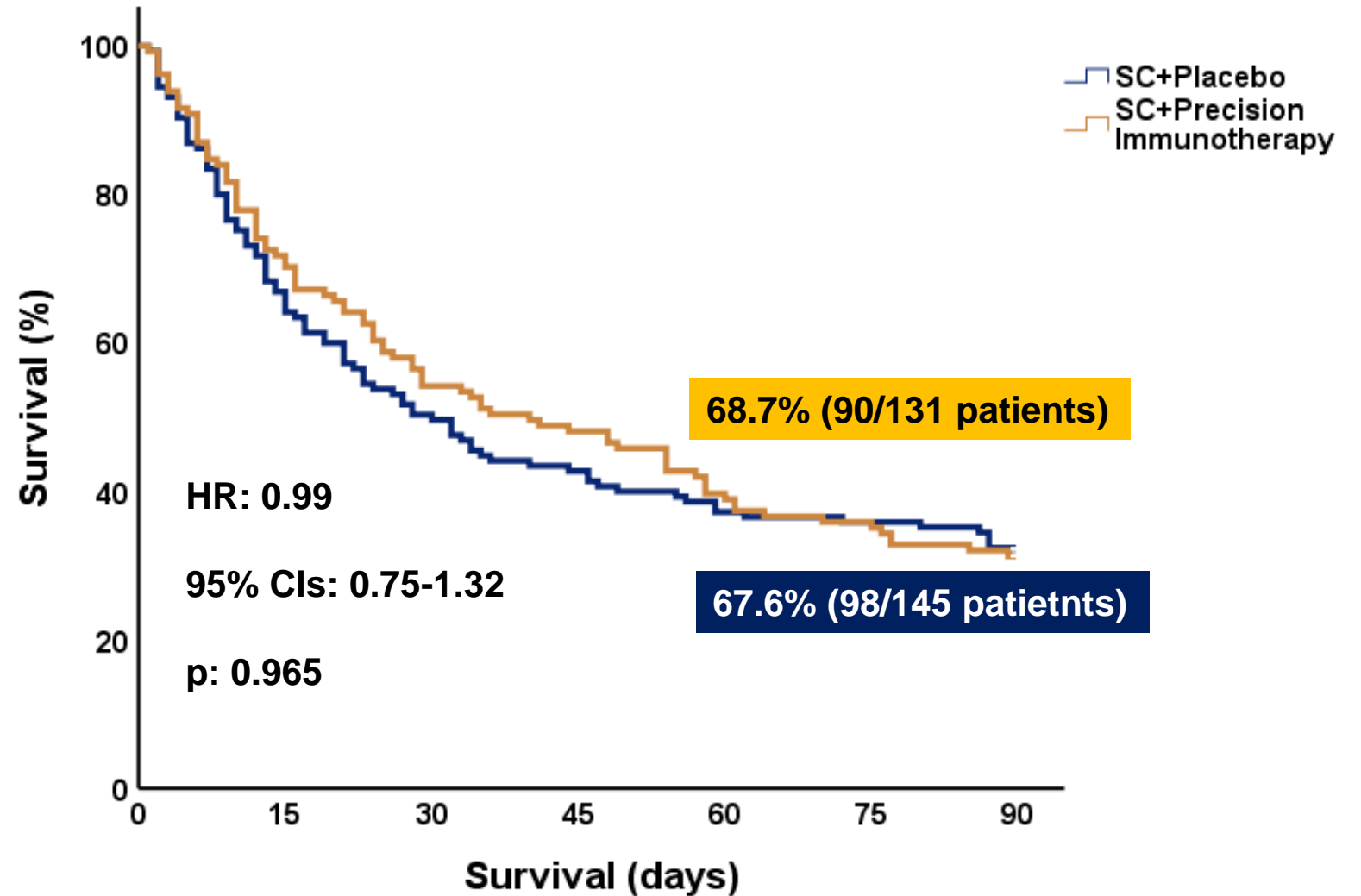
\*by the Fisher's exact test  
CI: confidence interval  
OR: odds ratio  
n: patients meeting the endpoint  
N: total number of group patients  
SOFA: sequential organ failure assessment

# NO SIGNIFICANT DECREASE OF 28-DAY MORTALITY WITH PRECISION IMMUNOTHERAPY



CI: confidence interval  
HR: hazard ratio  
SC: standard care

# 90-DAY MORTALITY UNCHANGEABLE



CI: confidence interval  
HR: hazard ratio  
SC: standard care

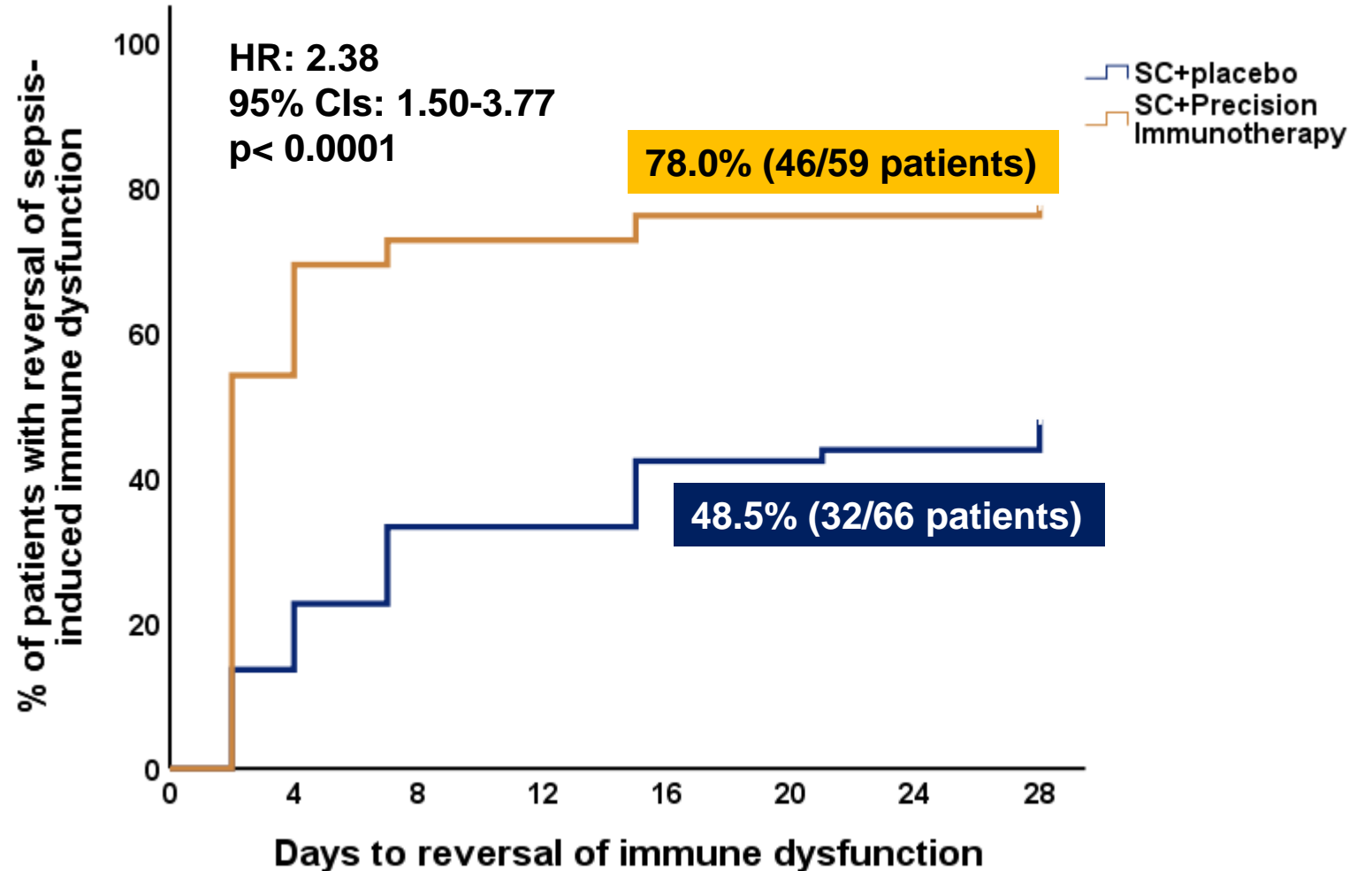
# HIGHER AND EARLIER RESTORATION OF IMMUNE DYSFUNCTION BY PRECISION IMMUNOTHERAPY

## Definition

≥15% decrease of ferritin for patients with MALS remaining decreased over follow-up time blood draws

+

>8,000 HLA-DR receptor per CD45/CD14-monocyte for patients with SII remaining above these values over follow-up time blood draws



CI: confidence interval

HR: hazard ratio

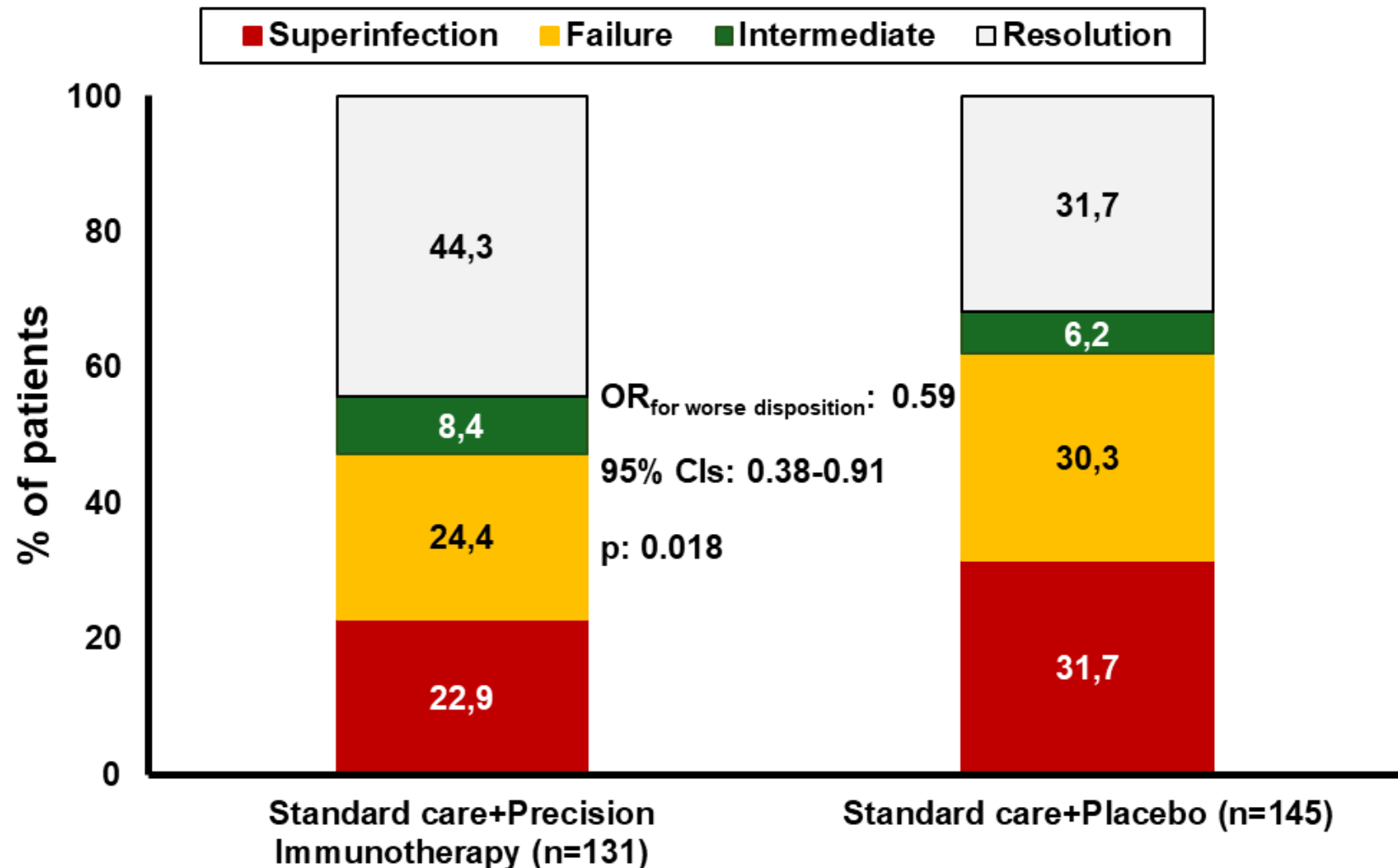
MALS: macrophage activation-like syndrome

SC: standard care

SII: sepsis-induced immunoparalysis

# BETTER INFECTION DISPOSITION\* ON DAY 15 WITH PRECISION IMMUNOTHERAPY

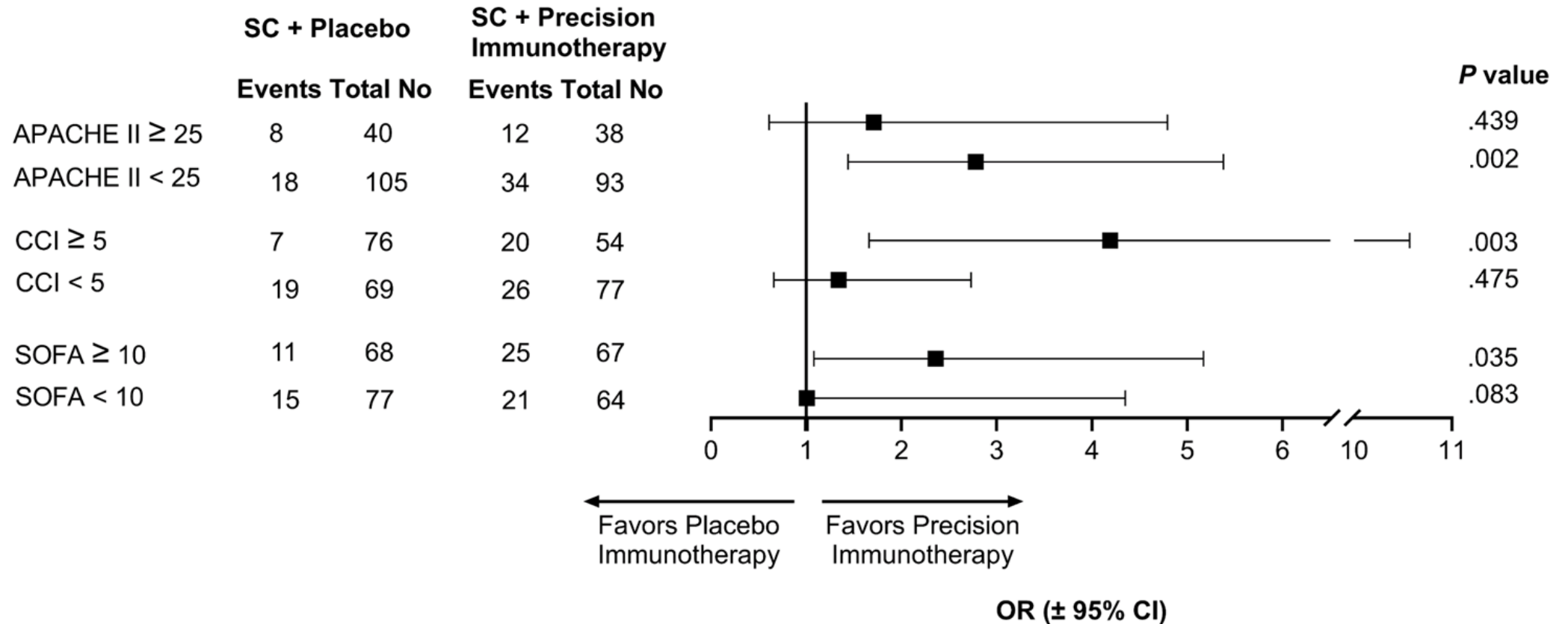
\*by predefined criteria



CI: confidence interval  
OR: odds ratio



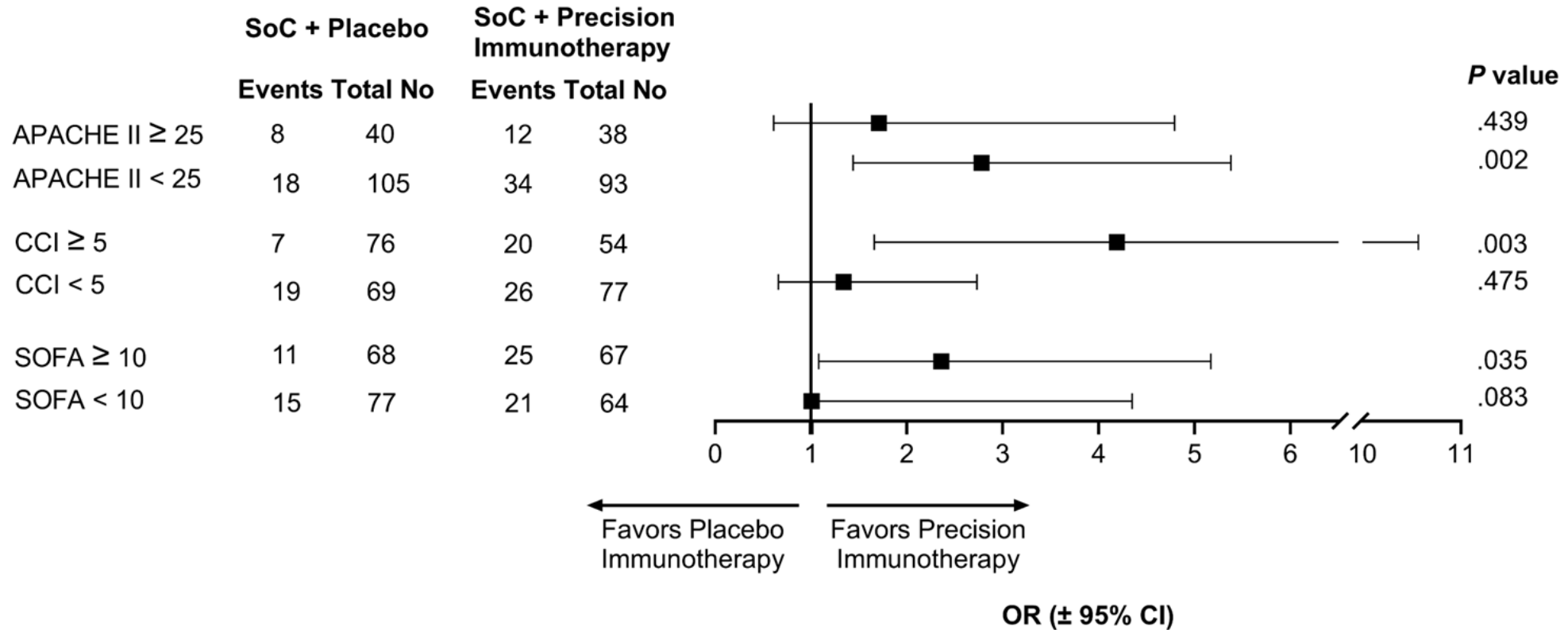
# HIGHER ODDS FOR $\geq 1.4$ -POINT MEAN SOFA DECREASE UNTIL DAY 9 WHEN $CCI \geq 5$ OR $SOFA \geq 10$ (*Post-Hoc*)



APACHE: acute physiology and chronic health evaluation  
 CCI: Charlson's comorbidity index  
 CI: confidence interval  
 OR: odds ratio  
 ROC: receiver operator characteristics  
 SC: standard care  
 SOFA: sequential organ failure assessment

Cut-offs are defined as the Youden index of the scores after ROC plot for 28-day mortality

# HIGHER ODDS FOR 28-SURVIVAL BENEFIT WHEN APACHE II < 25 OR CCI ≥ 5 OR SOFA ≥ 10 (*Post-Hoc*)



APACHE: acute physiology and chronic health evaluation  
 CCI: Charlson's comorbidity index  
 CI: confidence interval  
 OR: odds ratio  
 ROC: receiver operator characteristics  
 SC: standard care  
 SOFA: sequential organ failure assessment

Cut-offs are defined as the Youden index of the scores after ROC plot for 28-day mortality

# MOST COMMON SERIOUS TREATMENT-EMERGENT ADVERSE EVENTS (Medra 27.0)

Category, n (%)	Probably or Possibly related		Probably not related or Unrelated:	
	Standard care + Precision Immunotherapy (N=131)	Standard care + Placebo (N=145)	Standard care + Precision Immunotherapy (N=131)	Standard care + Placebo (N=145)
Any SAE	8 (6.1)	3 (2.1)	108 (82.4)	126 (86.9)
Blood and lymphatic system disorders				
Anaemia	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	47 (35.9)	38 (26.2)
Cardiac disorders				
Atrial fibrillation	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	19 (14.5)	14 (9.7)
Cardiac arrest	0 (0.0)	1 (0.7)	9 (6.9)	15 (10.3)
Multiple organ dysfunction syndrome	2 (1.5)	0 (0.0)	51 (38.9)	58 (40.0)
Infections and infestations				
Bacteraemia	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	36 (27.5)	27 (18.6)
Fungaemia	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	17 (13.0)	12 (8.3)
Pneumonia	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	35 (26.7)	32 (22.1)
Sepsis	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	9 (6.9)	12 (8.3)
Septic shock	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	29 (22.1)	17 (11.7)
Renal and urinary disorders				
Acute kidney injury	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	21 (16.0)	19 (13.1)
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders				
Pleural effusion	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	5 (3.8)	3 (2.1)
Pneumothorax	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	10 (7.6)	7 (4.8)
Tracheal stenosis	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	7 (5.3)	8 (5.5)
Vascular disorders				
Haemorrhage	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	6 (4.6)	0 (0.0)

N: number of patients; SAE: serious adverse events

# CONCLUSIONS

*ImmunoSep meets the primary endpoint (improved organ function until day 9)*

Attainment of  $\geq 1.4$ -point decrease of mean SOFA score is significantly higher in the group of Precision Immunotherapy than in the placebo arm

## *Secondary endpoints*

In the Precision immunotherapy arm versus the Placebo therapy

- $\uparrow$  attainment of  $\geq 1.4$ -point decrease of mean SOFA score until day 9 in MALS patients (superiority of Anakinra) and in patients with SII (superiority of rhIFN $\gamma$ )
- $\uparrow$  attainment of  $\geq 1.4$ -point decrease of mean SOFA score until day 15
- $\downarrow$ , albeit non-significant, of 28-day mortality
- No difference in 90-day mortality
- $\uparrow$  rate of restoration of immune dysfunction (and faster)
- Better infection disposition on day 15

$\downarrow$ : decrease

$\uparrow$ : increase

MALS: macrophage activation-like syndrome

rhIFN $\gamma$ : recombinant human Interferon-gamma

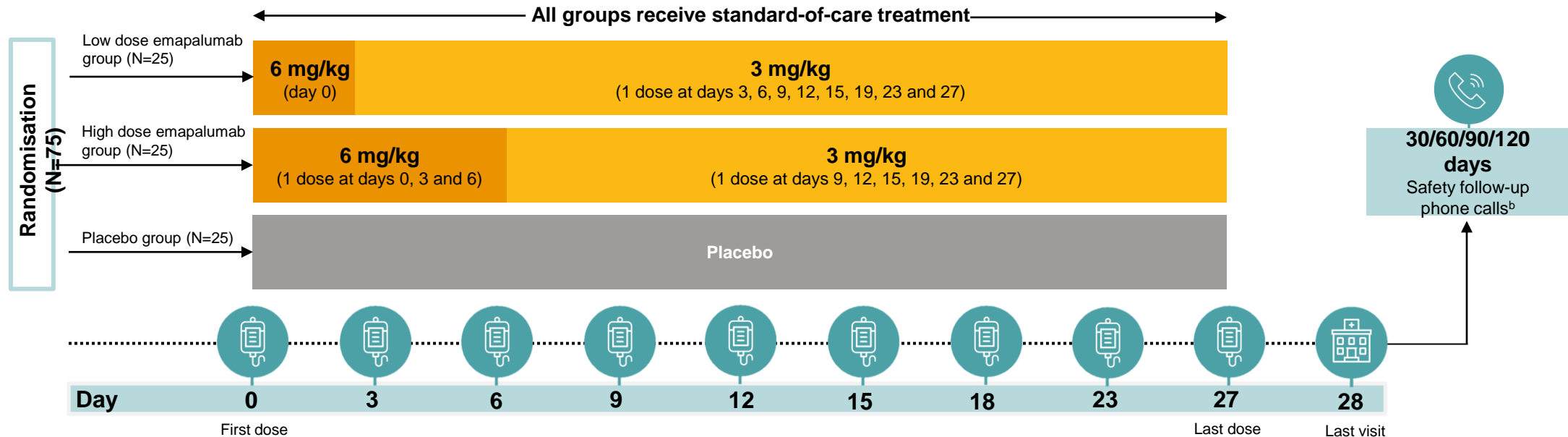
SII: sepsis-induced immunoparalysis

SOFA: sequential organ failure assessment



# EMapalumaB treatment for Anticipated Clinical benefit in sepsis driven by the interferon-gamma Endotype (EMBRACE) (EU CT: 2024-515255-38-00; Clinicaltrials.gov NCT06694701)

- Three-arm parallel, multicentre, phase 2a, double-blind, randomised controlled trial at **24 study sites in Greece**.
- **Seventy-five patients** randomly assigned into **three groups (1:1:1)** to receive treatment over 28 days.



# ELIGIBILITY AND MONITORING CRITERIA

## Inclusion criteria

- ≥18 years of age
- Confirmed pneumonia or abdominal infection or acute pyelonephritis or primary bacteremia
- Sepsis defined by the Sepsis-3 criteria
- Serological diagnosis of IDS\*

**Before study drug 2**  
Is HLA-DR/ CD45/CD14-monocyte <6,000?

NO

Next dose administered

YES

All future doses STOP

**Before study drug 3**  
Is HLA-DR/ CD45/CD14-monocyte <6,000?

NO

Next dose administered

YES

All future doses STOP

**Before study drug 4**  
Is HLA-DR/ CD45/CD14-monocyte <6,000 + CXCL9<500 pg/ml?

NO

Next dose administered

YES

All future doses STOP

**Before study drug 5**  
Is HLA-DR/ CD45/CD14-monocyte <6,000 + CXCL9<500 pg/ml?

NO

Next dose administered

YES

All future doses STOP

etc...

\*IFN $\gamma$  >lower limit of detection + CXCL9 >2200 pg/ml  
+ HLA-DR ≥8000 receptors/CD14-monocyte



ImmunoSEP

## The Partners

Radboudumc  
university medical center



HELLENIC INSTITUTE  
FOR THE STUDY OF SEPSIS



University of  
Reading



UNIVERSITÄTS  
KLINIKUM  
Jena



Amsterdam UMC  
University Medical Centers

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SCIENCE IS OUR MEDICINE

BIOASTER  
MICROBIOLOGY TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE



EURICE  
EUROPEAN RESEARCH AND  
PROJECT OFFICE GMBH



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# BLUE CENTRE

