

# LONG-TERM EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF LAROTRECTINIB IN PEDIATRIC PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY CNS AND NON-PRIMARY CNS TRK FUSION TUMORS

Omar Chamdine,<sup>1</sup> Leo Mascarenhas<sup>2</sup>, François Doz<sup>3,4</sup>, Birgit Geoerger<sup>5</sup>,  
Steven G. DuBois<sup>6</sup>, Sébastien Perreault<sup>7</sup>, Christian Michel Zwaan<sup>8,9</sup>,  
Catherine M. Albert<sup>10</sup>, Claudia Blattman<sup>11</sup>, Anna Nilsson<sup>12</sup>, Rejin Kebudi<sup>13</sup>,  
Karsten Nysom<sup>14</sup>, Vadim Bernard-Gauthier<sup>15</sup>, Esther De La Cuesta<sup>16</sup>,  
Natascha Neu<sup>17</sup>, Theodore W. Laetsch<sup>18</sup>, Yizhuo Zhang<sup>19</sup>, Cornelis M. van Tilburg<sup>20</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Pediatric Hematology Oncology, King Fahad Specialist Hospital Dammam, Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia; <sup>2</sup>Cedar-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA, USA; <sup>3</sup>SIREDO Oncology Center (Care, Innovation and Research for Children and AYA with Cancer), Institut Curie, Paris, France; <sup>4</sup>University Paris Cité, Paris, France; <sup>5</sup>Gustave Roussy Cancer Center, Department of Pediatric and Adolescent Oncology, Université Paris-Saclay, INSERM U1015, Villejuif, France; <sup>6</sup>Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center, Boston, MA, USA; <sup>7</sup>Department of Neurosciences, CHU Sainte Justine, Montreal, QC, Canada; <sup>8</sup>Prinses Máxima Centrum, Utrecht, Netherlands; <sup>9</sup>Erasmus MC-Sophia Children's Hospital, Rotterdam, Netherlands; <sup>10</sup>Seattle Children's Hospital and University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA, USA; <sup>11</sup>Olgahospital, Stuttgart, Germany; Department of Paediatric Oncology, <sup>12</sup>Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden; <sup>13</sup>Istanbul University, Oncology Institute, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, Istanbul, Turkey; <sup>14</sup>Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, Copenhagen University Hospital – Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark; <sup>15</sup>Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Toronto, ON, Canada; <sup>16</sup>Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Whippany, NJ, USA; <sup>17</sup>Chrestos GmbH, Essen, Germany; <sup>18</sup>The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA; <sup>19</sup>Sun Yat-sen University Cancer Center, Guangzhou, China; <sup>20</sup>Hopp Children's Cancer Center Heidelberg (KITZ), Heidelberg University Hospital and German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany



# Larotrectinib is highly active against TRK fusion cancer

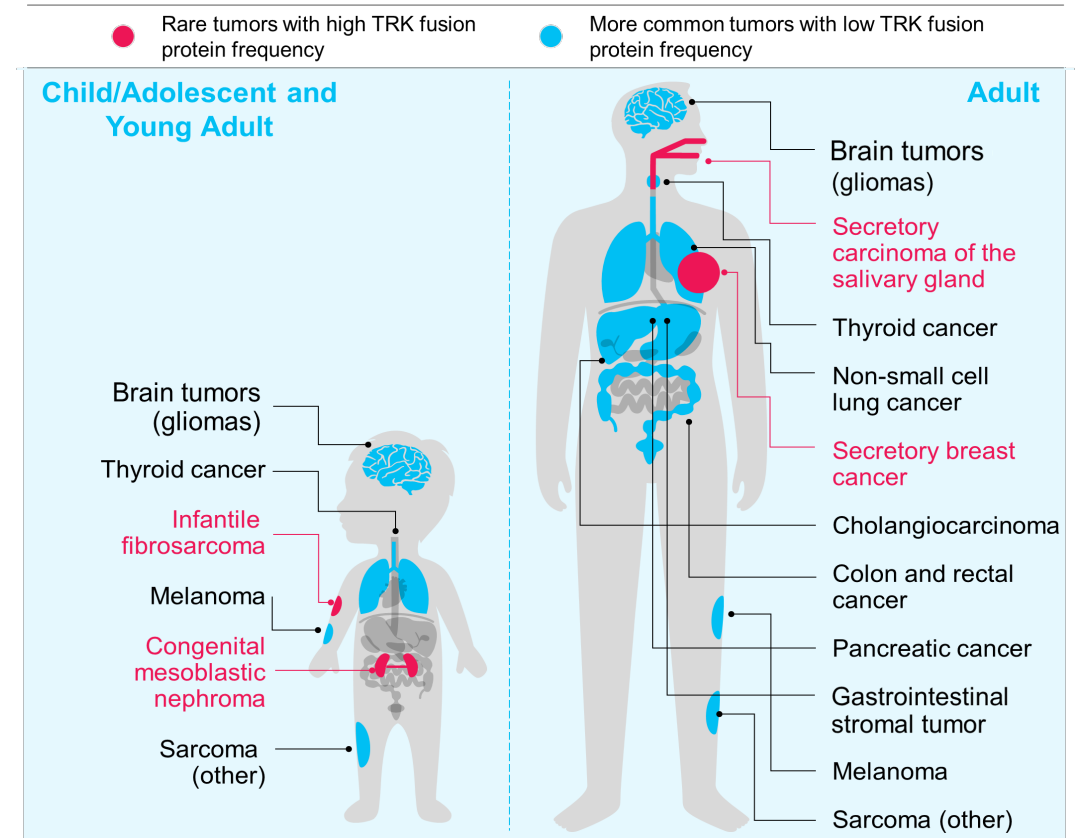
## ***NTRK* gene fusions**

- Oncogenic drivers in a wide variety of pediatric and adult tumor types<sup>1</sup>
- More frequently seen in pediatric tumors than in adult tumors and involve a broader panel of fusion partners<sup>2</sup>
- Higher prevalence in rare cancers (e.g., infantile fibrosarcoma), and low prevalence in more common cancers (e.g., thyroid cancer)<sup>3</sup>

## **Larotrectinib is the first-in-class, highly selective, CNS-active oral TRK inhibitor**

- Approved for tumor-agnostic use in adult and pediatric patients with TRK fusion cancer based on objective response rate and duration of response<sup>4,5</sup>

## **Sites of TRK fusion cancer<sup>6</sup>**



CNS, central nervous system.

1. Amatu A et al. *Ann Oncol.* 2019;30:viii5–viii15. 2. Zhao X et al. *JCO Precis Oncol.* 2021;204–214. 3. O'Haires et al. *Sci Rep.* 2023;13:4116. 4. Bayer. [VITRAKVI US PI](#). 2023. 5. Bayer. [VITRAKVI SmPC](#). 2023.

6. Cocco E et al. *Nat Rev Clin Oncol.* 2018;15:731–747.

# Study design

**Pediatric phase 1/2 trial  
(SCOUT,  
NCT02637687)  
n=131**

**Phase 2 basket trial  
(NAVIGATE,  
NCT02576431)  
n=6**

**137 pediatric  
patients (<18 years)  
with TRK fusion  
tumors**

TRK fusion status  
determined by local  
CLIA-accredited (or similar)  
laboratories

**Data cutoff: July 20, 2023**

## Dosing

- Larotrectinib dose: 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> BID (maximum 100 mg BID)<sup>†</sup>

## Primary endpoint

- ORR: IRC-assessed per RECIST v1.1/RANO

## Secondary endpoints

- DoR
- PFS
- OS
- Safety

**“Wait-and-see” analysis**

- Patients from SCOUT were allowed to stop larotrectinib in the absence of on-treatment disease progression (“wait-and-see”); patients were actively followed for progression according to protocol
  - If re-treated due to progression, response was re-assessed by investigators per RECIST v1.1/RANO

<sup>†</sup>For pediatric patients with non-CNS tumors (n=99), larotrectinib was administered at 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> BID (maximum dose of 100 mg BID) to 89 (90%) patients, 17.3–120 mg/m<sup>2</sup> BID to 7 (7%) patients and 9.6–55 mg/m<sup>2</sup> BID to 3 (3%) patients. For all pediatric patients with primary CNS tumors (n=38), larotrectinib was administered at 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> BID. BID, twice daily; CLIA, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments; CNS, central nervous system; DoR, duration of response; IRC, independent review committee; ORR, overall response rate; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; RANO, Response Assessment in Neuro-Oncology; RECIST, Response Evaluation Criteria In Solid Tumors.

# Patient characteristics (N=137)

Characteristics	N=137
<b>Median age, range (years)</b>	4 (0–18)
<b>Sex, n (%)</b>	
Male	75 (55)
Female	62 (45)
<b>ECOG PS, n (%)<sup>†</sup></b>	
0	106 (77)
1	20 (15)
2	10 (7)
<b>Tumor histology, n (%)</b>	
<b>Primary CNS tumors</b>	<b>38 (28)</b>
High-grade glioma	18 (13)
Low-grade glioma	12 (9)
Other <sup>‡</sup>	8 (6)
<b>Non-CNS tumors</b>	<b>99 (72)</b>
IFS	49 (36)
Soft tissue sarcoma <sup>§</sup>	41 (30)
Other <sup>  </sup>	9 (7)
<b>NTRK gene fusion, n (%)</b>	
NTRK1	51 (37)
NTRK2	31 (23)
NTRK3	55 (40)

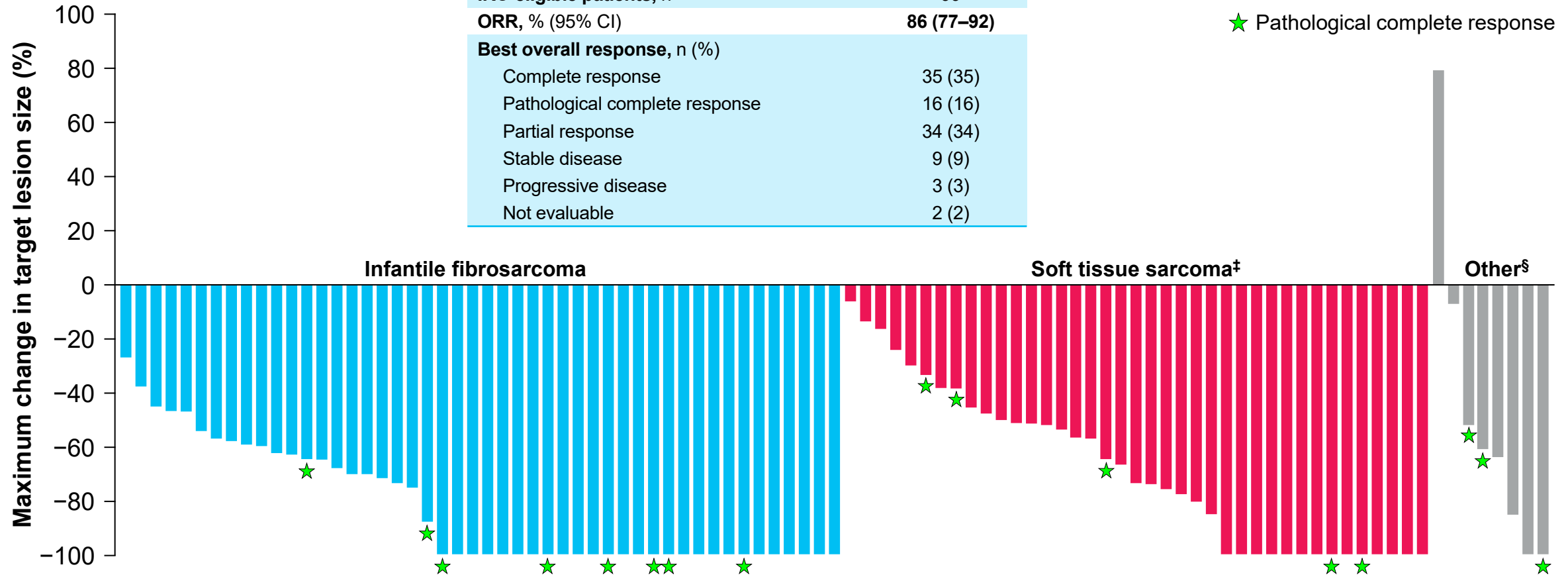
Characteristics	N=137
<b>Disease status at study enrollment, n (%)<sup>¶</sup></b>	
Locally advanced	65 (47)
Metastatic	34 (25)
<b>Prior therapies, n (%)<sup>#</sup></b>	
Systemic therapy <sup>††</sup>	86 (63)
Surgery	66 (48)
Radiotherapy	21 (15)
<b>Prior systemic therapies, median (range)<sup>††</sup></b>	1 (0–8)
<b>Number of prior systemic therapies, n (%)<sup>††</sup></b>	
0	51 (37)
1	46 (34)
2	23 (17)
≥3	17 (12)
<b>Best response to prior systemic therapy, n (%)<sup>‡‡, §§</sup></b>	
Complete response	3 (2)
Partial response	10 (7)
Stable disease	44 (32)
Progressive disease	20 (15)
Other <sup>  </sup>	15 (11)

<sup>†</sup>Pediatric performance scores are originally collected on the Lansky/Karnofsky scale and are converted to the equivalent ECOG PS for integrated analysis purposes. <sup>‡</sup>Includes 3 NOS, 2 neuronal and mixed neuronal-glial tumors, and 1 each of glioneuronal, ganglioglioma, and primitive neuroectodermal tumor. <sup>§</sup>Excludes IFS. <sup>||</sup>Includes 2 each of congenital mesoblastic nephroma and thyroid, and 1 each of bone sarcoma, breast, cervix, lipofibromatosis, and melanoma. <sup>¶</sup>Patients with non-CNS tumors only. <sup>#</sup>Patients may be counted in more than 1 row. <sup>††</sup>Excluding radioiodine. <sup>‡‡</sup>Including radioiodine. <sup>§§</sup>Includes 6 additional patients who received prior systemic therapy in the adjuvant setting. <sup>||</sup>Includes not applicable, not evaluable, and unknown.

CNS, central nervous system; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; IFS, infantile fibrosarcoma; NOS, not otherwise specified.

# Treatment response (RECIST v1.1) to larotrectinib in patients with non-CNS tumors†

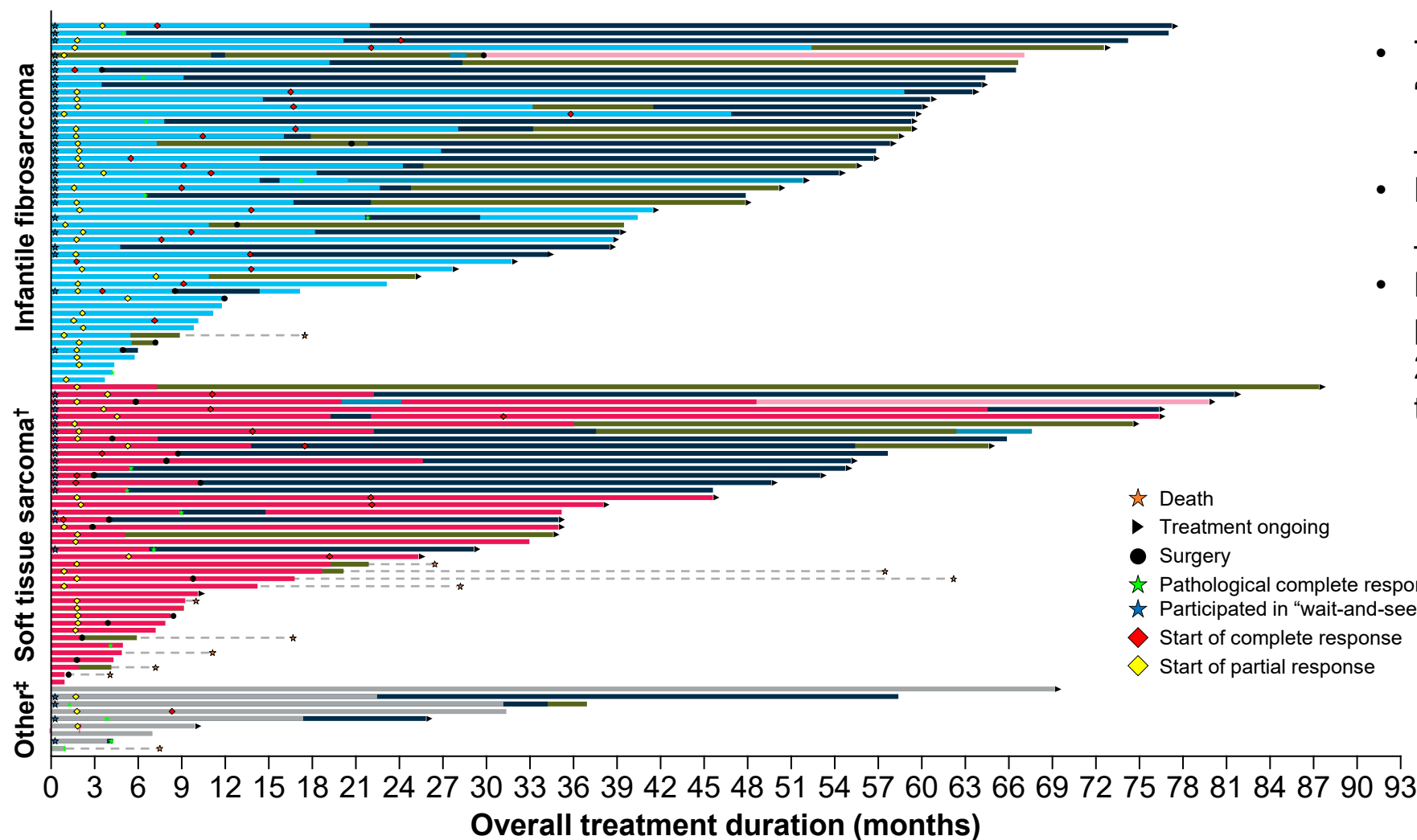
Efficacy	
IRC-eligible patients, n	99
ORR, % (95% CI)	86 (77–92)
Best overall response, n (%)	
Complete response	35 (35)
Pathological complete response	16 (16)
Partial response	34 (34)
Stable disease	9 (9)
Progressive disease	3 (3)
Not evaluable	2 (2)



†n=95; 4 patients had no measurable lesions or had missing data as assessed by IRC. ‡Excluding IFS. §Includes 2 congenital mesoblastic nephroma and 1 each of bone sarcoma, breast, cervix, lipofibromatosis, melanoma, and thyroid. CI, confidence interval; CNS, central nervous system; IFS, infantile fibrosarcoma; IRC, independent review committee; ORR, overall response rate; RECIST, Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors.



# Patients with TRK fusion non-CNS tumors on study (n=99)



- Treatment duration (including "wait-and-see") ranged from 1 to 87+ months
- Median time to response was 1.8 months (range 0.9–7.3)
- By the data cut-off, 36 (36%) patients had progressed; 27 of these patients continued treatment for ≥4 weeks

†Excluding IFS. ‡Includes 2 each of congenital mesoblastic nephroma and thyroid, and 1 each of bone sarcoma, breast, cervix, lipofibromatosis, and melanoma. CNS, central nervous system; IFS, infantile fibrosarcoma.

# “Wait-and-see” analysis in non-CNS tumors (n=51)

- Fifty-one patients with TRK fusion non-CNS tumors from SCOUT were enrolled in a “wait-and-see” analysis
- Median time on treatment prior to the first “wait-and-see” period was 16 months (range 3–65; **Table**)
- Median duration of the first “wait-and-see” period was 22 months (range 0–72+)
- Of the 28 (55%) patients who exited the first “wait-and-see” period, 17 had progressive disease<sup>†</sup> and resumed treatment. Responses upon resumption of treatment were: 5 CR, 6 PR (2 pending confirmation), 5 SD, and 1 not evaluable
  - The additional 11 patients ended study participation but were all alive at the data cutoff<sup>‡</sup>

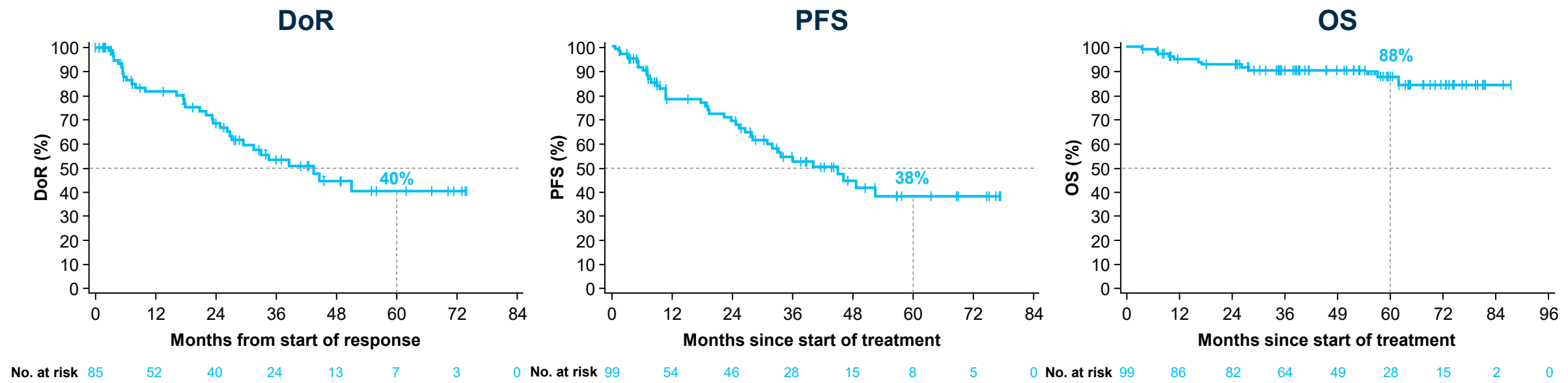
## “Wait-and-see” by best response before stopping larotrectinib for patients with TRK fusion non-CNS tumors (n=51)

Best response <sup>†</sup> before or at the time of stopping larotrectinib	CR (n=17)	pCR (n=11)	PR (n=18)	SD (n=5)	Total (N=51)
Median time on treatment prior to the “wait-and-see” period, months (range)	22 (14–59)	7 (4–22)	14 (3–65)	10 (5–31)	16 (3–65)

Data cut-off: July 20, 2023

<sup>†</sup>By investigator assessment. <sup>‡</sup>Three patients entered a long-term follow-up, 3 patients had sufficient response after surgical resection, 1 patient started a “watch-and-wait” drug holiday, 1 patient ended study participation due to investigators’ decision, 1 patient had a prolonged CR, 1 patient entered the “wait-and-see” period 5 years post treatment, and 1 patient had resection of remnant soft tissue mass and ended study participation due to investigators’ decision 2 months later. CNS, central nervous system; CR, complete response; pCR, pathological complete response; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease.

# DoR, PFS, and OS in non-CNS tumors (n=99)



Median DoR, months (95% CI)	43 (27–NE)
Median follow-up, months	37
60-month DoR rate, % (95% CI)	40 (26–55)

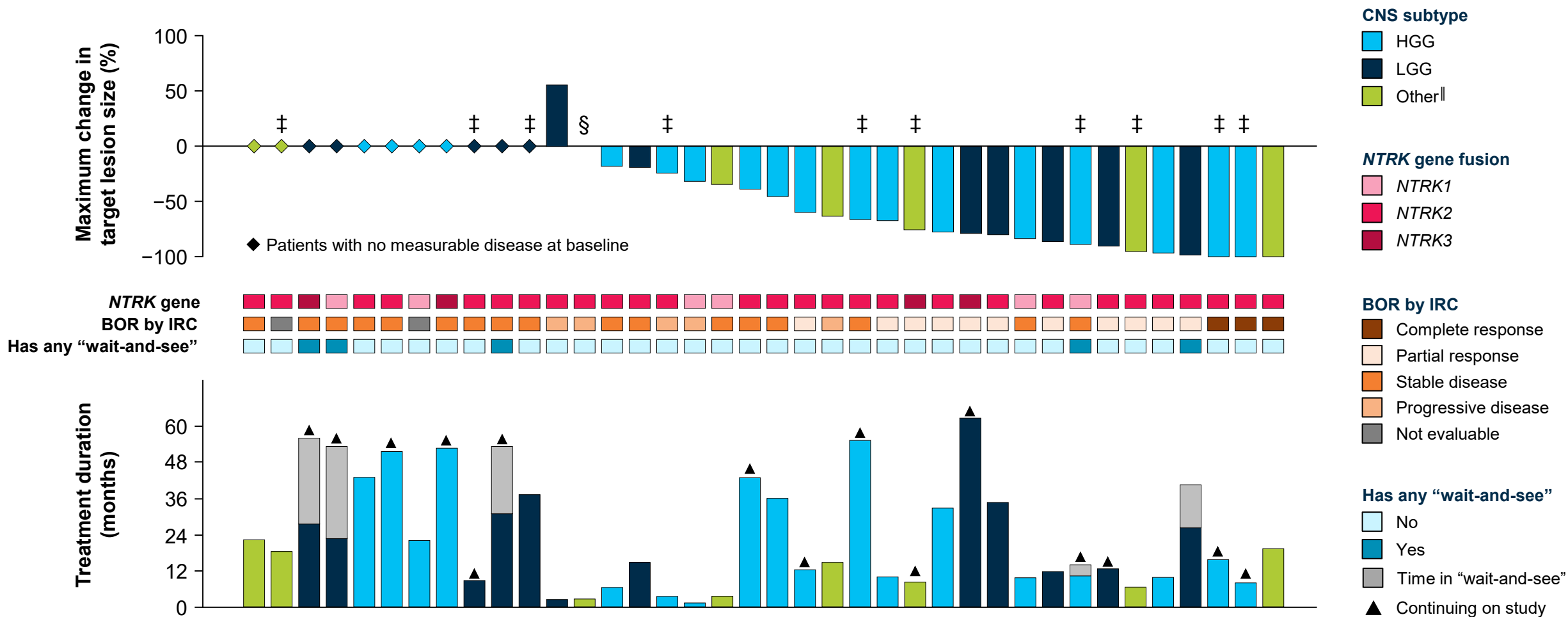
Median PFS, months (95% CI)	40 (28–NE)
Median follow-up, months	39
60-month PFS rate, % (95% CI)	38 (24–52)

Median OS, months (95% CI)	Not reached (NE–NE)
Median follow-up, months	53
60-month OS rate, % (95% CI)	88 (80–95)

CI, confidence interval; CNS, central nervous system; DoR, duration of response; NE, not estimable; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival.



# Tumor response (RANO) in patients with TRK fusion primary CNS tumors on study (n=38)<sup>†</sup>



<sup>†</sup>Based on RANO sum of products of diameters, corticosteroid use, and clinical status. <sup>‡</sup>Treatment-naïve patients. <sup>§</sup>Maximum change in target lesion size of -0.5%. <sup>||</sup>Other includes 3 NOS, 2 neuronal and mixed neuronal-glial tumors, and 1 each of glioneuronal, ganglioglioma, and primitive neuroectodermal tumor.

BOR, best overall response; CNS, central nervous system; HGG, high-grade glioma; IRC, independent review committee; LGG, low-grade glioma; NOS, not otherwise specified; RANO, Response Assessment in Neuro-Oncology.

# Tumor response (RANO) in patients with TRK fusion primary CNS tumors on study (n=38)<sup>†</sup>

Response <sup>‡</sup>	HGG (n=18)	LGG (n=12)	Other <sup>§</sup> (n=8)	All patients with primary CNS tumors (N=38)
<b>ORR, % (95% CI)</b>	33 (13–59)	42 (15–72)	38 (9–76)	37 (22–54)
<b>24-week DCR, % (95% CI)</b>	72 (47–90)	92 (62–100)	50 (16–84)	74 (57–87)
<b>Best overall response, n (%)</b>				
Complete response	2 (11)	0 (0)	1 (13)	3 (8)
Partial response	4 (22)	5 (42)	2 (25)	11 (29)
Stable disease	9 (50)	6 (50)	2 (25)	17 (45)
Progressive disease	2 (11)	1 (8)	2 (25)	5 (13)
Not evaluable	1 (6)	0 (0)	1 (13)	2 (5)

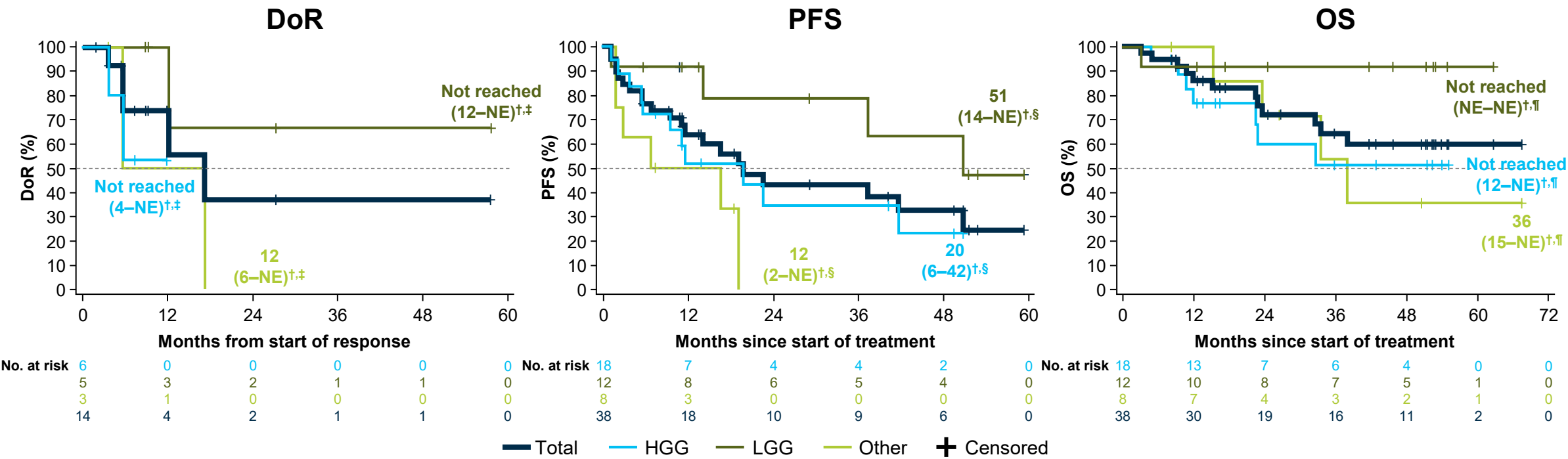
- ORR for all patients (N=38) was 37% (95% CI 22–54)
- ORR for patients with measurable disease (n=27) was 52% (95% CI 32–71)
- ORR for treatment-naïve patients (n=10) was 40% (95% CI 10–65)
- The 24-week DCR for all patients with primary CNS tumors (N=38) was 74% (95% CI 57–87)

- Four patients from SCOUT with LGG and 1 with HGG entered a “wait-and-see” analysis; median duration of the first “wait-and-see” period was 20 months (range 4–29)
  - One patient with LGG exited the “wait-and-see” period due to non-compliance
  - All 5 patients were alive at data cut-off without any documented progression

<sup>†</sup>Based on RANO sum of products of diameters, corticosteroid use and clinical status. <sup>‡</sup>Response IRC-assessed. <sup>§</sup>Other includes 3 NOS, 2 neuronal and mixed neuronal-glial tumors, and 1 each of glioneuronal, ganglioglioma, and primitive neuroectodermal tumor.

CI, confidence interval; CNS, central nervous system; DCR, disease control rate; HGG, high-grade glioma; IRC, independent review committee; LGG, low-grade glioma; NOS, not otherwise specified; ORR, overall response rate; RANO, Response Assessment in Neuro-Oncology.

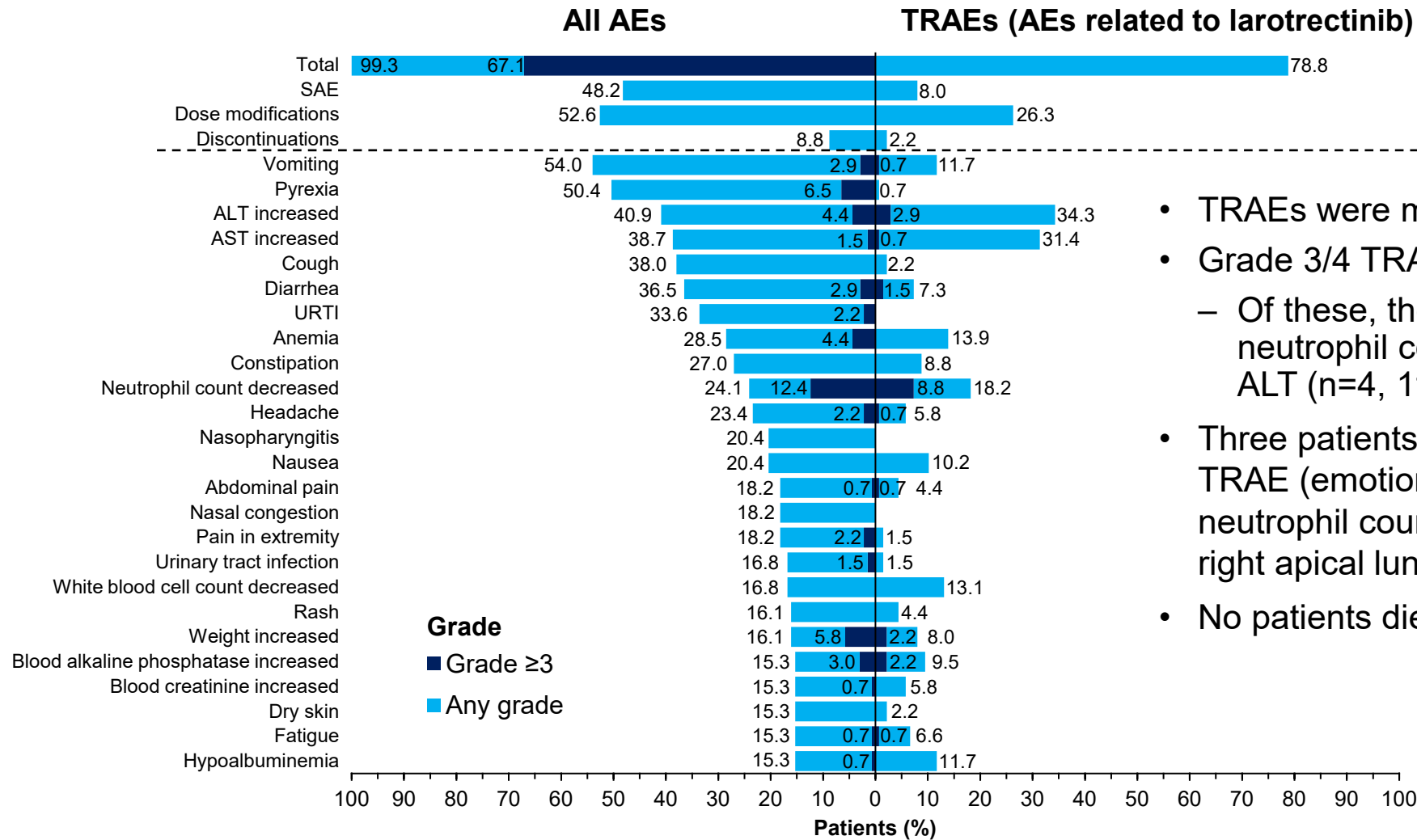
# DoR, PFS and OS in primary CNS tumors (n=38)



Median DoR, months (95% CI)	17 (6-NE)	Median PFS, months (95% CI)	20 (11-51)	Median OS, months (95% CI)	Not reached (33-NE)
Median follow-up, months	9	Median follow-up, months	40	Median follow-up, months	46
24-month DoR rate, % (95% CI)	37 (0-75)	24-month PFS rate, % (95% CI)	43 (24-61)	24-month OS rate, % (95% CI)	72 (55-88)
48-month DoR rate, % (95% CI)	37 (0-75)	48-month PFS rate, % (95% CI)	33 (14-51)	48-month OS rate, % (95% CI)	59 (41-78)

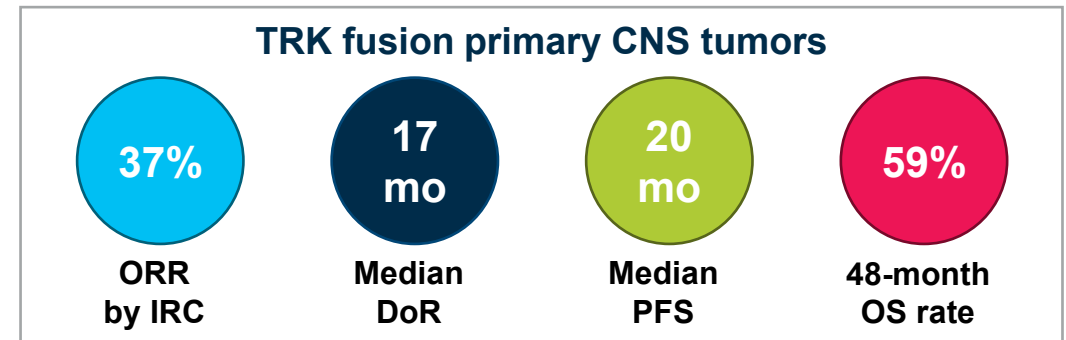
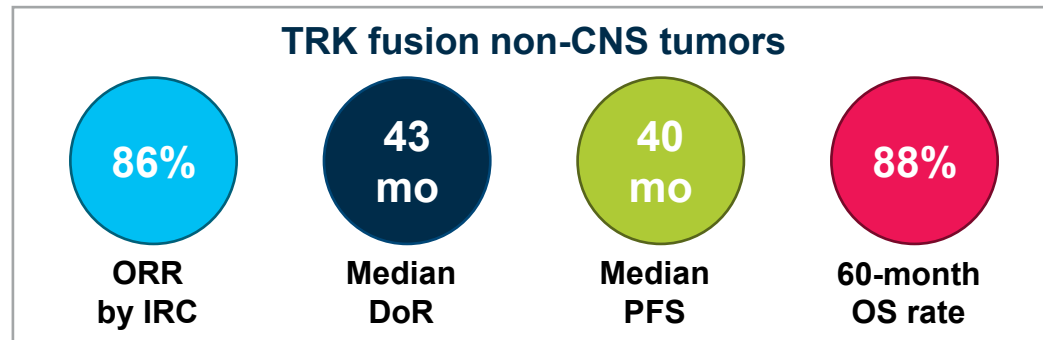
<sup>†</sup>Data represent median, months (95% CI). <sup>‡</sup>Median follow-up for DoR for HGG, LGG, and other was 7 months, 27 months, and not reached, respectively. <sup>§</sup>Median follow-up for PFS for HGG, LGG, and other was 40, 52, and 18 months, respectively. <sup>¶</sup>Median follow-up for OS for HGG, LGG, and other was 43, 46, and 51 months, respectively. CI, confidence interval; CNS, central nervous system; DoR, duration of response; HGG, high-grade glioma; LGG, low-grade glioma; NE, not estimable; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival.

# AEs in $\geq 15\%$ of patients (N=137)



- TRAEs were mainly Grade 1/2
- Grade 3/4 TRAEs occurred in 38 patients (28%)
  - Of these, the most common were decreased neutrophil count (n=12, 32%) and increased ALT (n=4, 11%)
- Three patients discontinued treatment due to a TRAE (emotional numbness, decreased neutrophil count, and reduced ventilation of the right apical lung)
- No patients died due to a TRAE

# Conclusions



- Larotrectinib has a favorable safety profile in pediatric patients
- Treatment responses were rapid and durable and seen in both primary CNS and non-CNS tumors
- Larotrectinib could be discontinued in selected patients with a high rate of response to re-treatment if the tumor progressed
- These results support the wider adoption of NGS testing that includes *NTRK* gene fusions for pediatric patients with solid malignancies, including CNS tumors

# Acknowledgments

- We thank the patients and their families, many of whom travelled long distances to participate in these studies
- We thank all investigators involved in these studies
- Medical writing assistance was provided by Patricia Badía Folgado, MSc, and editorial and typesetting assistance was provided by Melissa Ward, BA, both of Scion (a division of Prime, London, UK), supported by Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals, Inc. The circos plot was developed by Karl Brand and Kui Shen (both of Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, Inc.)
- These studies were funded by Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals, Inc