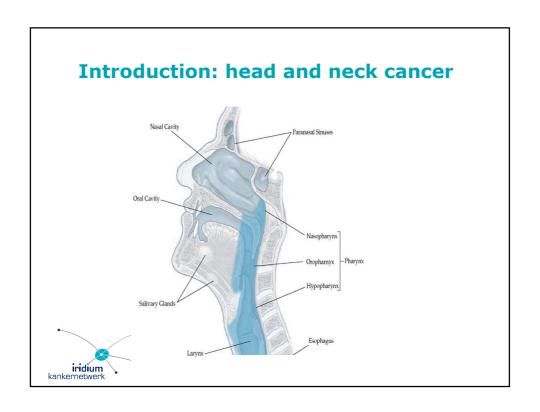


# Overview Introduction: -Head and neck cancer -Treatment and side effects -De-escalation of the treatment De-escalation -RT dose de-escalation -Chemotherapy -Surgery



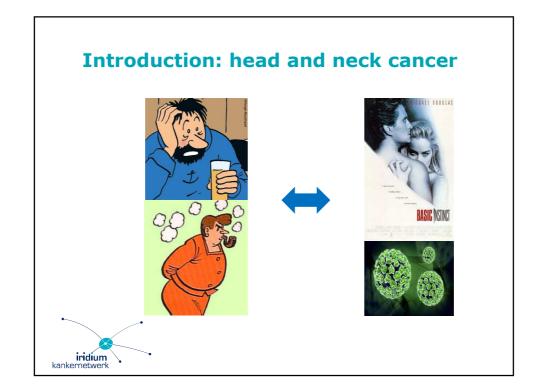
### Introduction: head and neck cancer

- In Belgium, head and neck cancer is the 4th most frequent cancer in males and the 12th most frequent in females.
- In 2016, there were **2,694** new diagnoses of head and neck cancer in Belgium, 74% were males M/F: 3/1.
- The most common type of primary head and neck region cancer is **squamous cell carcinoma**.





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### Introduction: head and neck cancer

- Risk factors:
- Tabacco and alcohol
- II. HPV (mostly 16 and 18) in tonsil and base of tongue (oropharynx). In Flanders: 24.78% of oropharyngeal cancer patients\*

\*Van Limbergen E, Dok R, Laenen A, et al. HPV-related oropharyngeal cancers in Flanders (Belgium): a multicenter study. B-ENT. 2014;10(1):7-14

• HPV related: better prognosis

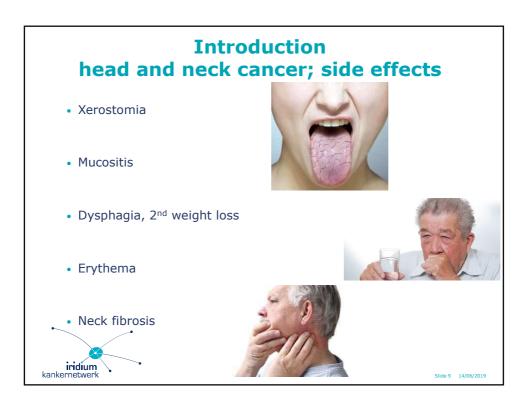


### Introduction: head and neck cancer

- Treatment of locoregionally advanced head and neck cancer: radiotherapy +/- chemotherapy; sometimes upfront surgery (oral cavity)
- → Treatment of the tumor, affected lymph nodes: 70Gy/2Gy
- → Negative/elective lymph nodes, to destroy microscopic disease: 50Gy/2Gy



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# **Introduction de-escalation**

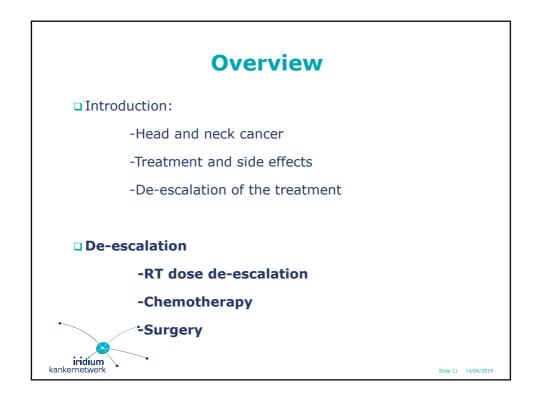
DE-ESCALATION of the treatment

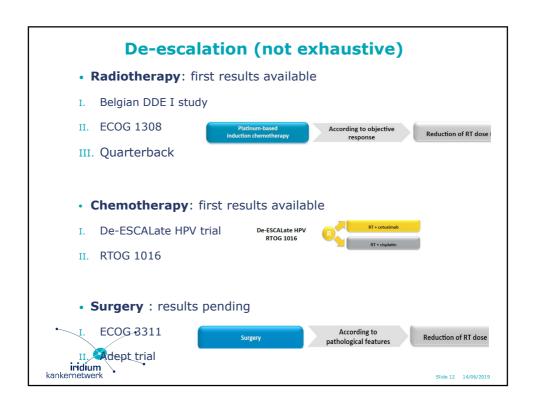
### AIM:

Reducing toxicity with similar tumour control



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# Radiotherapy: I. DDE Belgian study

### Multicentric

### Hypothesis:

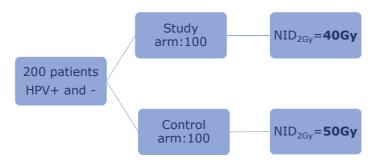
Dose de-escalation to the elective nodal lymph nodes in head and neck cancer will lead to:

- Decrease in toxicity
- Equal tumor control



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# Radiotherapy: I. DDE Belgian study



Primary endpoint: dysphagia at 6 months of follow up



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# Radiotherapy: I. DDE Belgian study

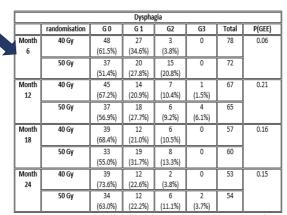
- Severe acute skin toxicity: no significant differences.
- Severe acute mucositis: no significant differences.
- Severe acute dysphagia:

	Timepoint	40 Gy	50 Gy	p-value
	1 month	12,4 %	17,4 %	0,3
J	2 months	4,8 %	13,3 %	0,06
	3 months	2 %	11 %	0,03



Nuyts S, Lambrecht M, Duprez F et al. Reduction of the dose to the elective neck in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, a randomized clinical trial using intensity modulated radiotherapy (IMRT). Dosimetrical analysis and effect on acute toxicity. Radiother Oncol 2013;109:323-9.

# Radiotherapy: I. DDE Belgian study



Using a GEE proportional odds model including treatment, visit and their interaction, the interaction was found not significant (p=0.8332). When dropped from the model, the odds ratio between 40 Gy and 50 Gy for observing a lower grade toxicity was 1.40 (95% confidence interval 0.93 to 2.10, p-value = 0.1088).

iridium kankernetwerk

Nevens D, Duprez F, Daisne JF, et al. Reduction of the dose of radiotherapy to the elective neck in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma; a randomized clinical trial. Effect on late toxicity and tumor control. Radiother Oncol. 2016 Aug 12.

### Radiotherapy: I. DDE Belgian study

No statistically significant differences in OS, DFS, LC, MFS, RC following 2 years of follow-up

RECURRENCE	40 Gy ARM	50 Gy ARM
GTV lymph node	6	5
PTV lymph node	1	0
Outside planning volume	2	0
PTV elective	2	1



Nevens D, Duprez F, Daisne JF, Dok R, Belmans A, Voordeckers M, Van den Weyngaert D, De Neve W, Nuyts S. Reduction of the dose of radiotherapy to the elective neck in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma; a randomized clinical trial. Effect on late toxicity and tumor control. Radiother Oncol. 2016 Aug 12.

# Radiotherapy: I. DDE Belgian study

### Late results (submitted):

- 5 years of follow-up: no statistically significant differences regarding OS, LR, RR nor DM between the 40 Gy and 50 Gy arms
- only 2% RR were observed in the PTV elective in both treatment arms
- underpowered to demonstrate non-inferiority undoubtedly and to change the standard of care to 40 Gy
- reducing the dose to the PTV elective appears safe and these results support further research in de-escalating the dose to the elective neck

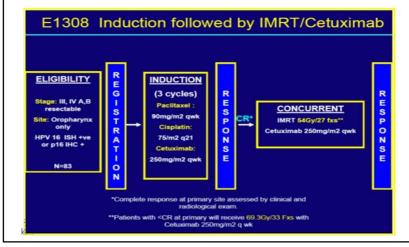


Deschuymer S, Nevens D, Duprez F, et al. Randomised Clinical Trial on Reduction of Radiotherapy Dose to the Elective Neck in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma; Update of the Long-Term Tumour Control. Ingediend bij Radiotherapy & Oncology.

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### Radiotherapy: II. ECOG 1308

This phase II trial evaluated whether complete clinical response (cCR) to induction chemotherapy (IC) could select patients with HPV-associated OPSCC for reduced radiation dose as a means of sparing late sequelae.



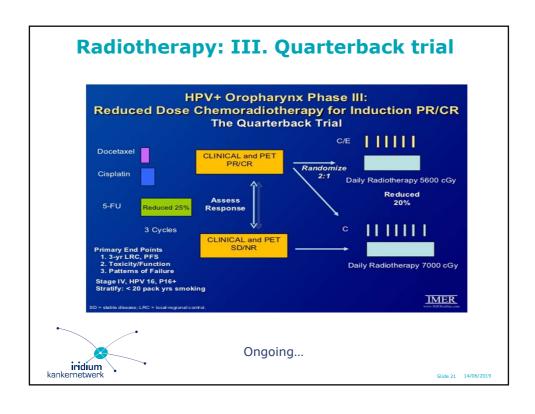
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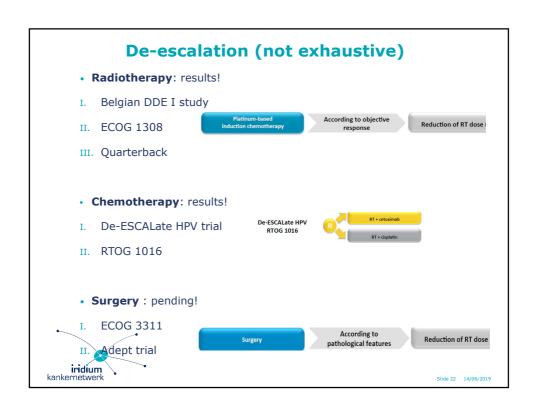
### Radiotherapy: II. ECOG 1308

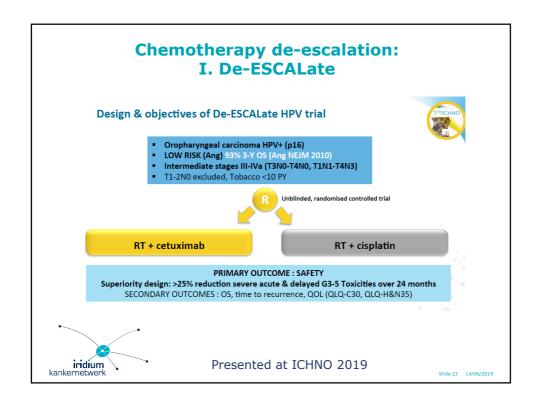
- This study did not meet its own minimum threshold for overall two-year disease-free survival (treshold:PFS at 2 years of 85%; PFS in study 80%)
  - low risk pt (low dose of RT) 2y OS 97%
  - high risk pt (full dose of RT ) 2y OS 87% and 2y PFS 65%
- The results suggest that the low-risk patients could be given less radiotherapy and still achieve excellent survival

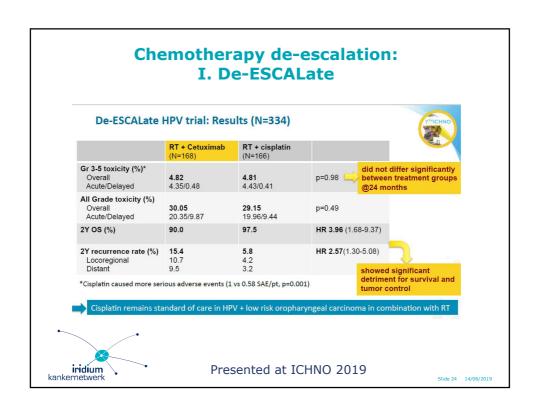


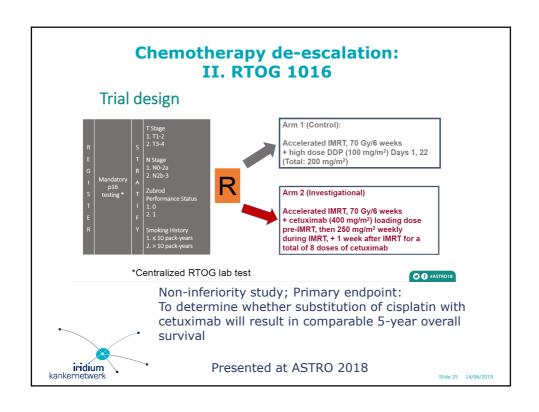
Marur, Li, Cmelak, et al. E1308: Phase II Trial of Induction Chemotherapy Followed by Reduced-Dose Radiation and Weekly Cetuximab in Patients With HPV-Associated Resectable Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Oropharynx— ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group. JCO 2017.

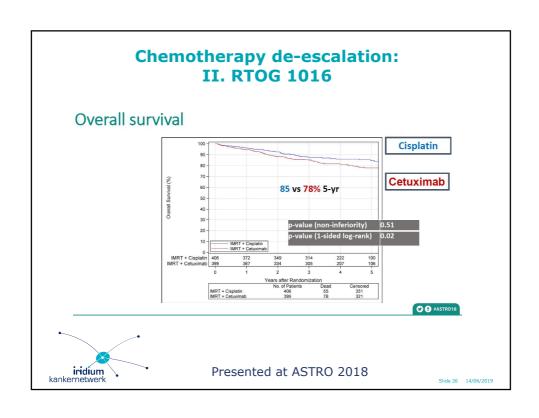












# Chemotherapy de-escalation: II. RTOG 10116

### **Conclusions**

- Non-inferiority of cetuximab was NOT demonstrated
  - Cisplatin had better OS, PFS, LRC
  - Acute "Toxicity Burden" 40% worse with cisplatin
  - Late "Toxicity Burden" not significantly different
- RTOG 1016 establishes the first standard of care (no prior phase III trials) in HPV-related oropharynx cancer

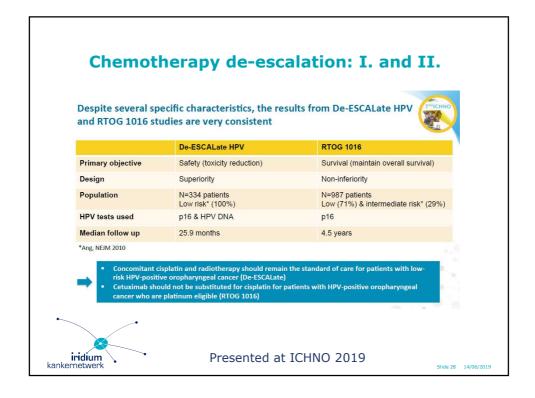
Accelerated IMRT radiation therapy 70Gy/6 weeks + 100mg/m2 Cisplatin x 2

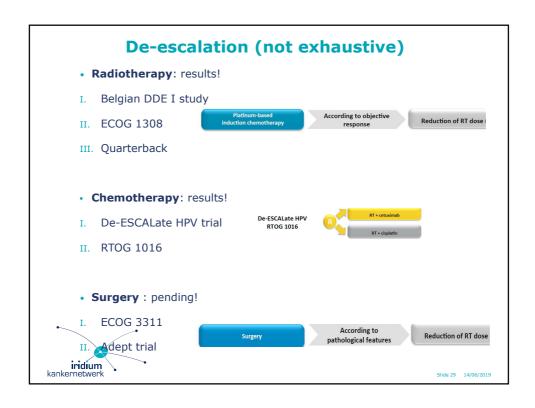
• Outcomes are very good in this population (85% 5 year OS), albeit with moderate to high acute toxicity burden

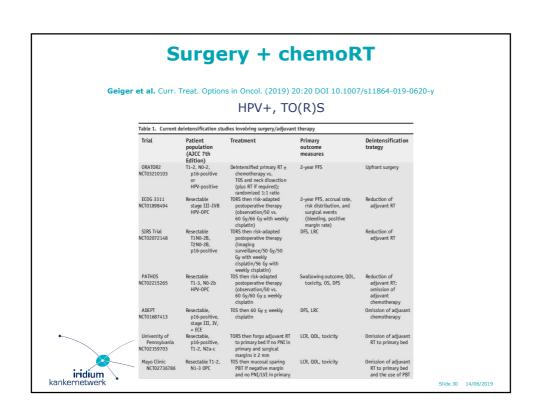
2018 ANNUAL MEETING | HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER | SAN ANTONIO

Presented at ASTRO 2018

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# **De-escalation, conclusions**

Many trials

-Cetuximab trials: disappointing results

-Radiotherapy trials: needs further research

-Surgery trials: ongoing

• Currently no practice changing trials (also not for HPV+!)

→De-escalation only in the setting of clinical trials

• Will hopefully lead to **more patient-tailored treatments** in the future, with reduction of the side-effects as a result



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