

# Molecular basis of canine histiocytic sarcoma in dogs:

Benoit HEDAN

[benoit.hedan@univ-rennes1.fr](mailto:benoit.hedan@univ-rennes1.fr)

DVM - PhD

Canine Genetics Team

Catherine André

IGDR UMR6290 CNRS Univ.Rennes1

FRANCE

## In human

tumor from histiocytic cells :  
monocyte/macrophage or dendritic cells

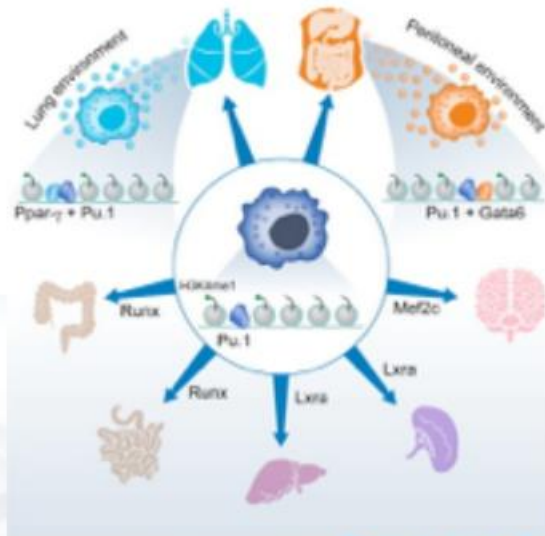
localized or disseminated tumors:  
joint, skin, spleen, liver, lymph node, lung

limited response to chemotherapy



(Credit : J Donadieu )

## In dogs



## In human

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(Credit : J Donadieu )

- extremely rare but very aggressive  
(1-5 cases/ year in France).
- half of « secondary » cases
- No consensus on prognostic factors and on standard treatment

-> **Need of models**

## In dogs



- rare in whole population but frequent in predisposed breeds (BMD, Rottweilers, Retrievers)
- familial transmission- oligo-genic  
(*Abadie, Hedan et al 2009*)

=> **unique model to identify genetic bases of this cancer**



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## in dogs

localized HS (LHS):  
skin/joint



[www.histiocytosis.ucdavis.edu/sarcoma.html](http://www.histiocytosis.ucdavis.edu/sarcoma.html)

Retrievers



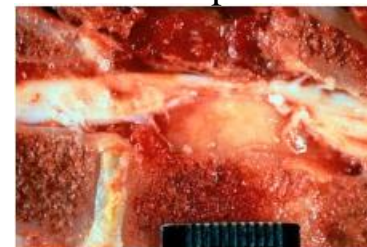
disseminated HS (DHS)



BMD



subdural HS:  
Cerebrum/spinal cord



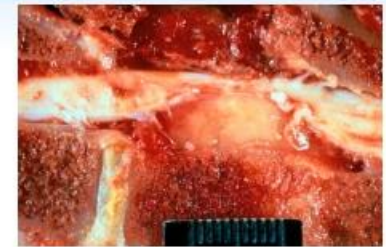
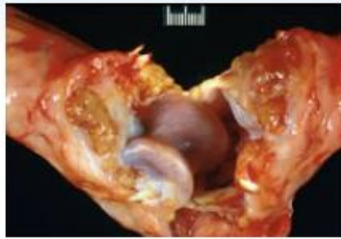
[www.histiocytosis.ucdavis.edu/sarcoma.html](http://www.histiocytosis.ucdavis.edu/sarcoma.html)

Pembroke Welsh Corgi

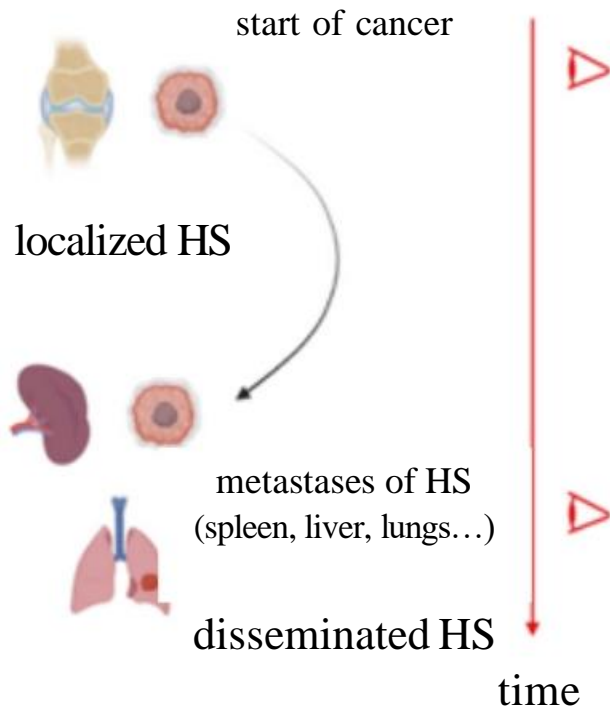


# hypotheses

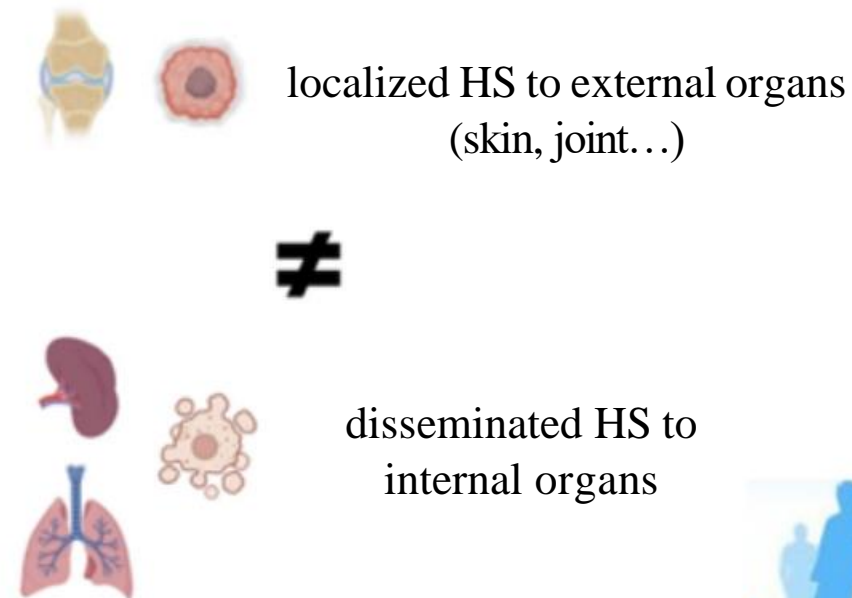
## regarding these different clinical presentations



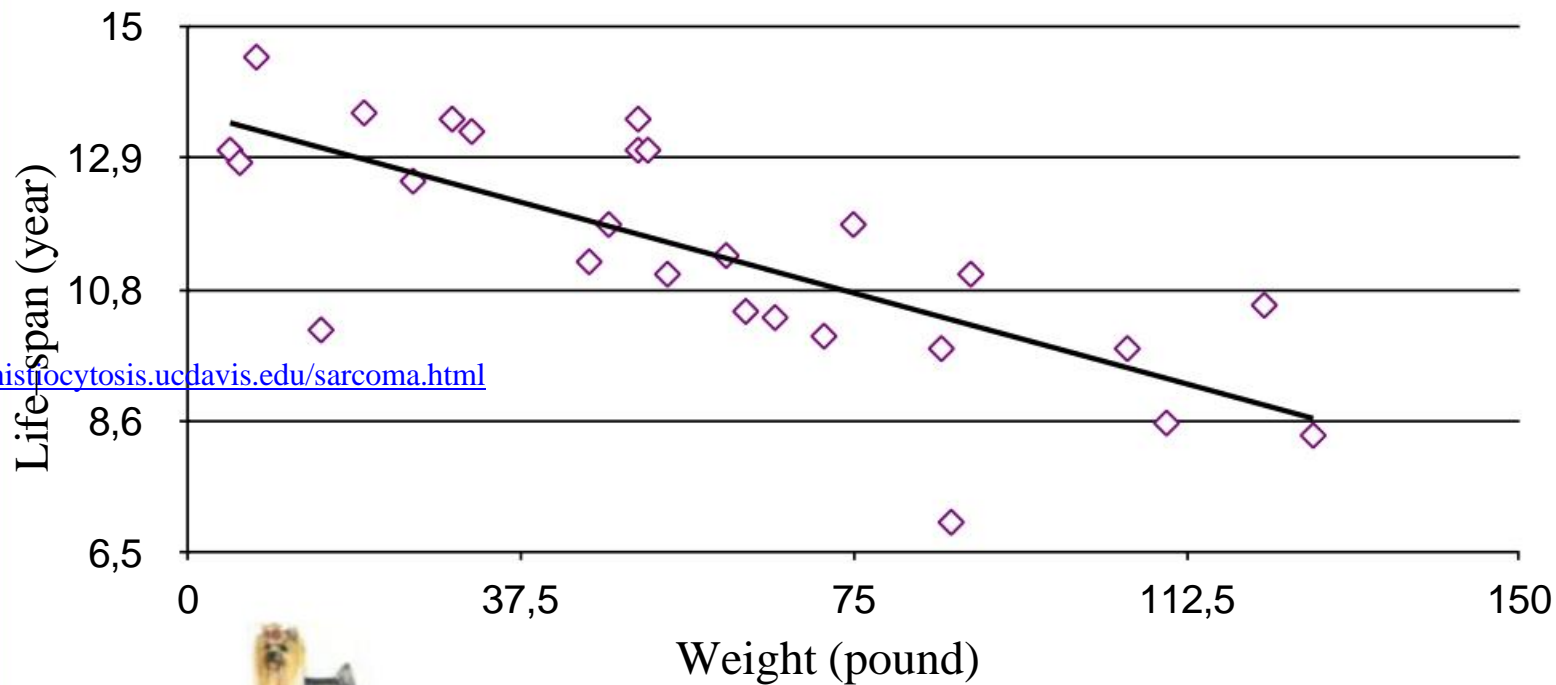
Hypothesis 1: same cancers  
observed at different time



Hypothesis 2: different subtypes  
of Histiocytic cells



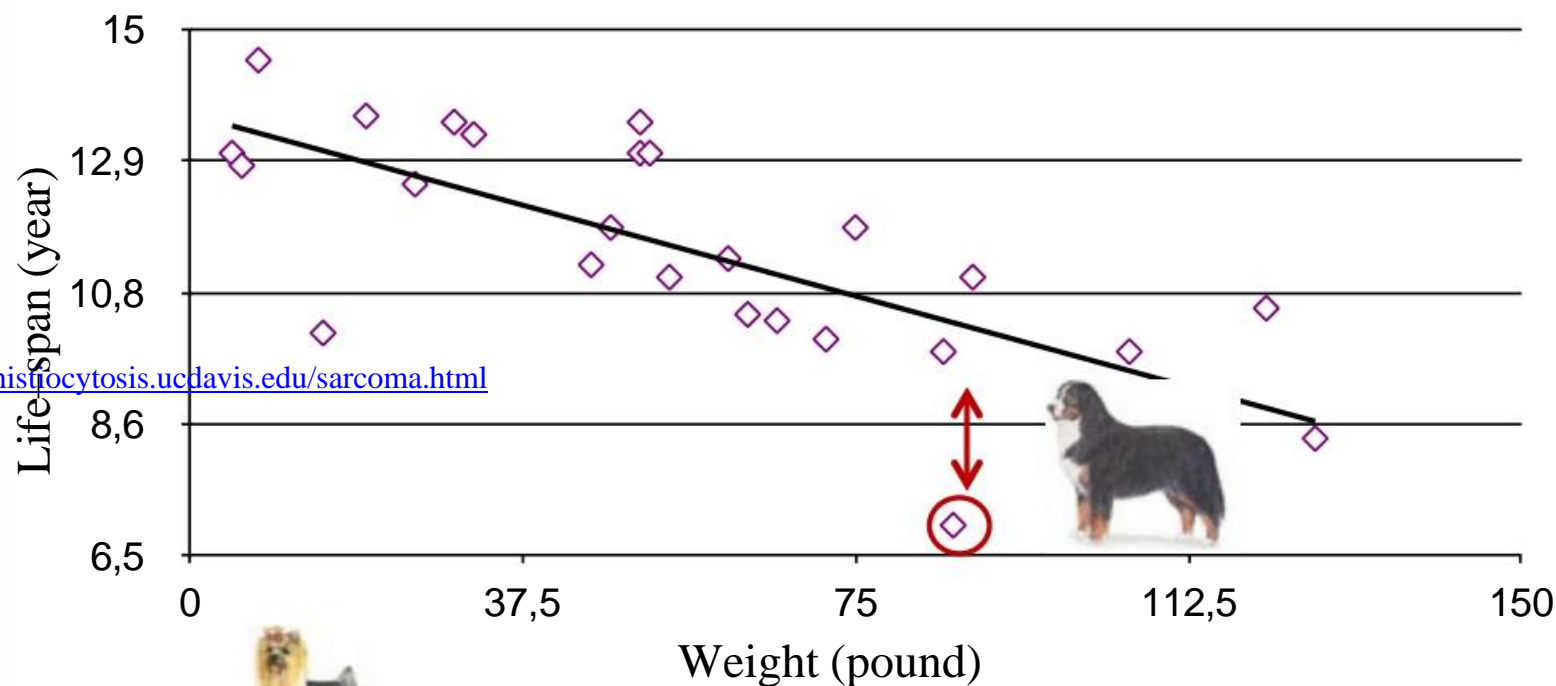
in dogs



[www.histiocytosis.ucdavis.edu/sarcoma.html](http://www.histiocytosis.ucdavis.edu/sarcoma.html)

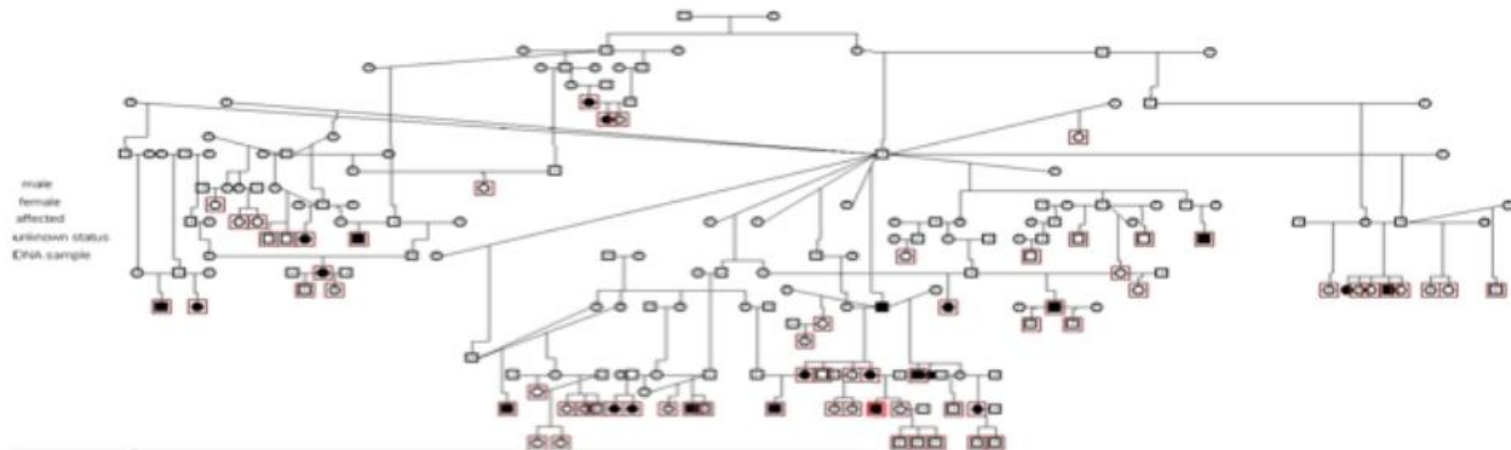


in dogs



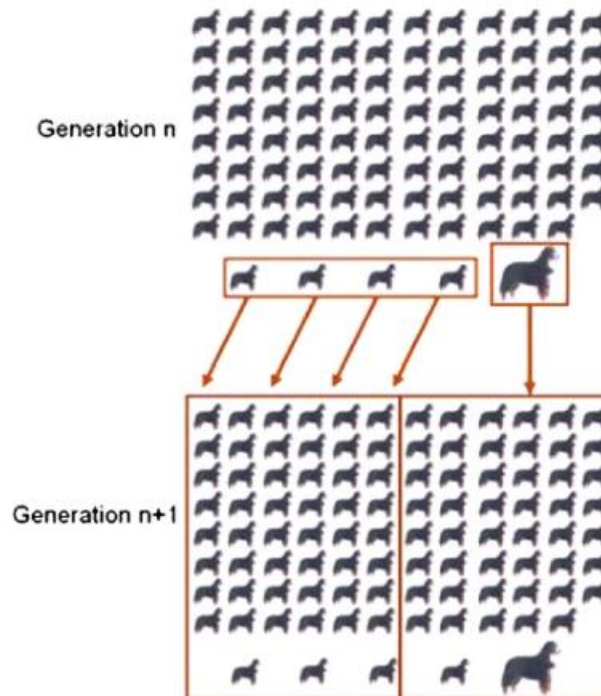
Breed practices could increase transmission of risk alleles:

- Breed = isolated population  $\leftrightarrow$  reduced diversity
- Consanguinity and sire effect increase frequency of inherited diseases



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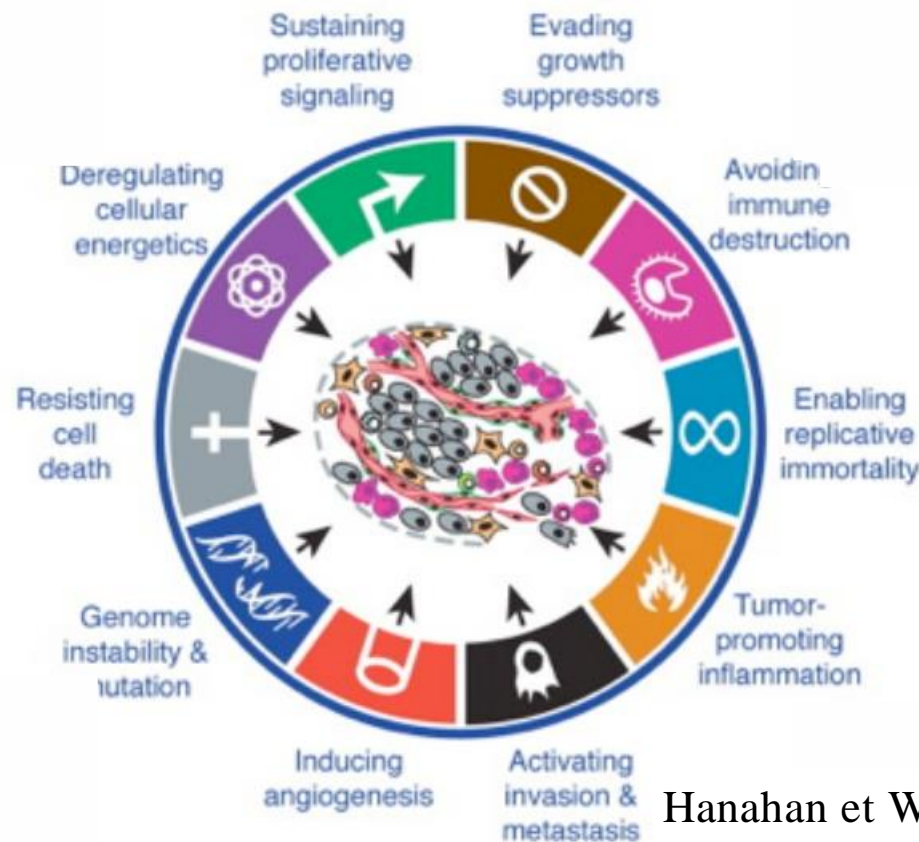
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*Abadie, Hedan et al. 2009*

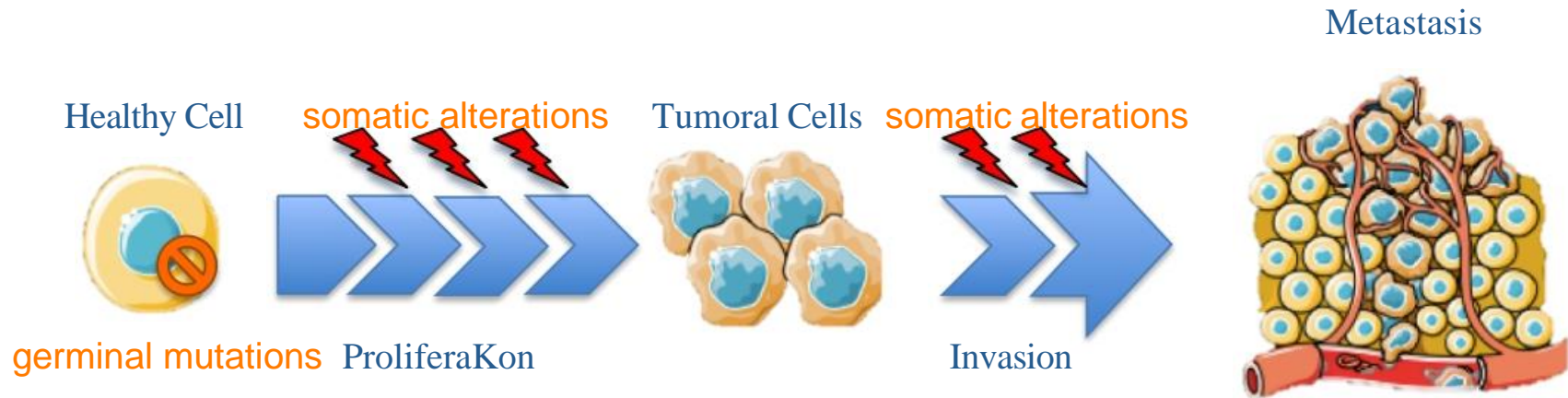
# A long term goal : Identify genetic mechanisms involved in HS

Cancer = genetic disease



Hanahan et Weinberg. Cell. 2011

# A long term goal : Identify genetic mechanisms involved in HS



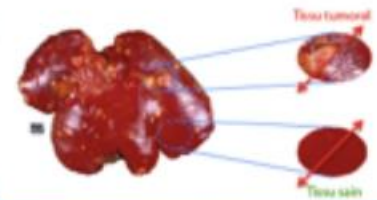
- Identify predisposing genes and risk alleles

-> Blood collection



- Identify recurrent somatic alterations associated with tumor progression

-> Tissue collection

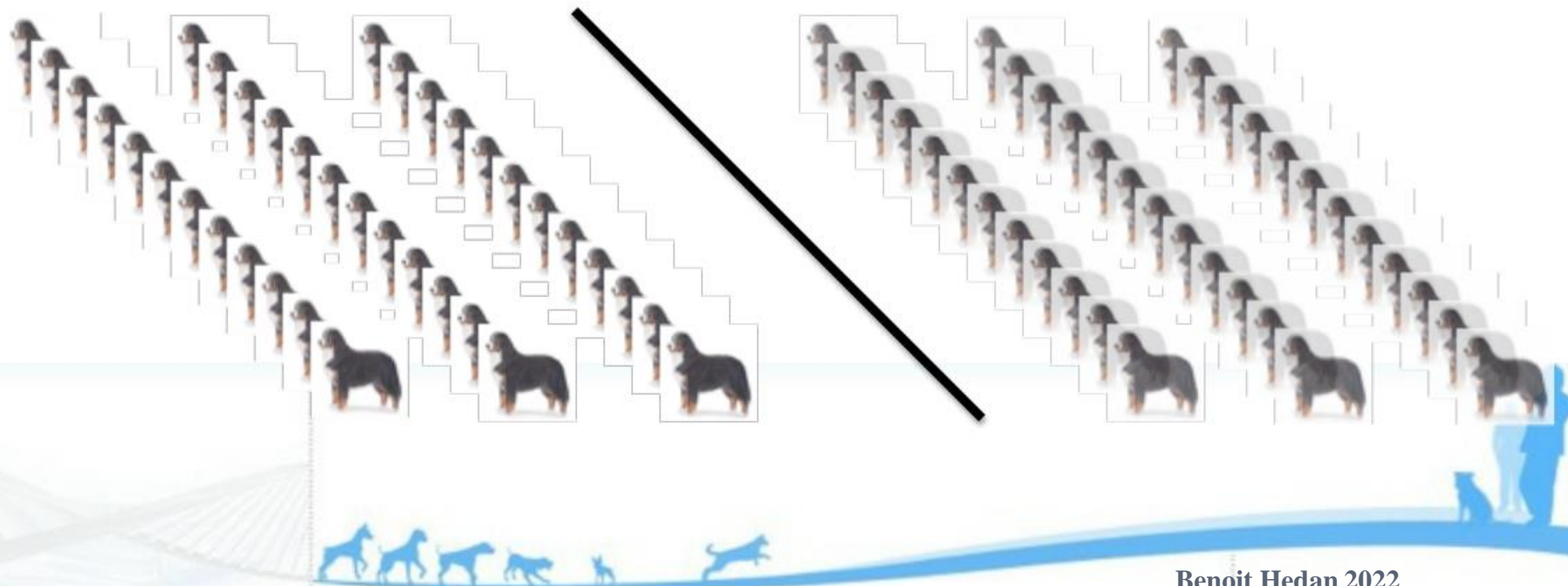




# Looking for predisposing genes: Research project

- Since 2002 - Cani-DNA biobank
  - > 4000 blood samples and > 400 tissue samples
  - > 450 HS cases with histopathological report
- Characterization of the Disease:  
*Abadie, Hedan et al. 2009*
- In coll. with E. Ostrander's lab (NIH, Bethesda)

GWAS: 232 unaffected and 244 affected BMDs (American/European)



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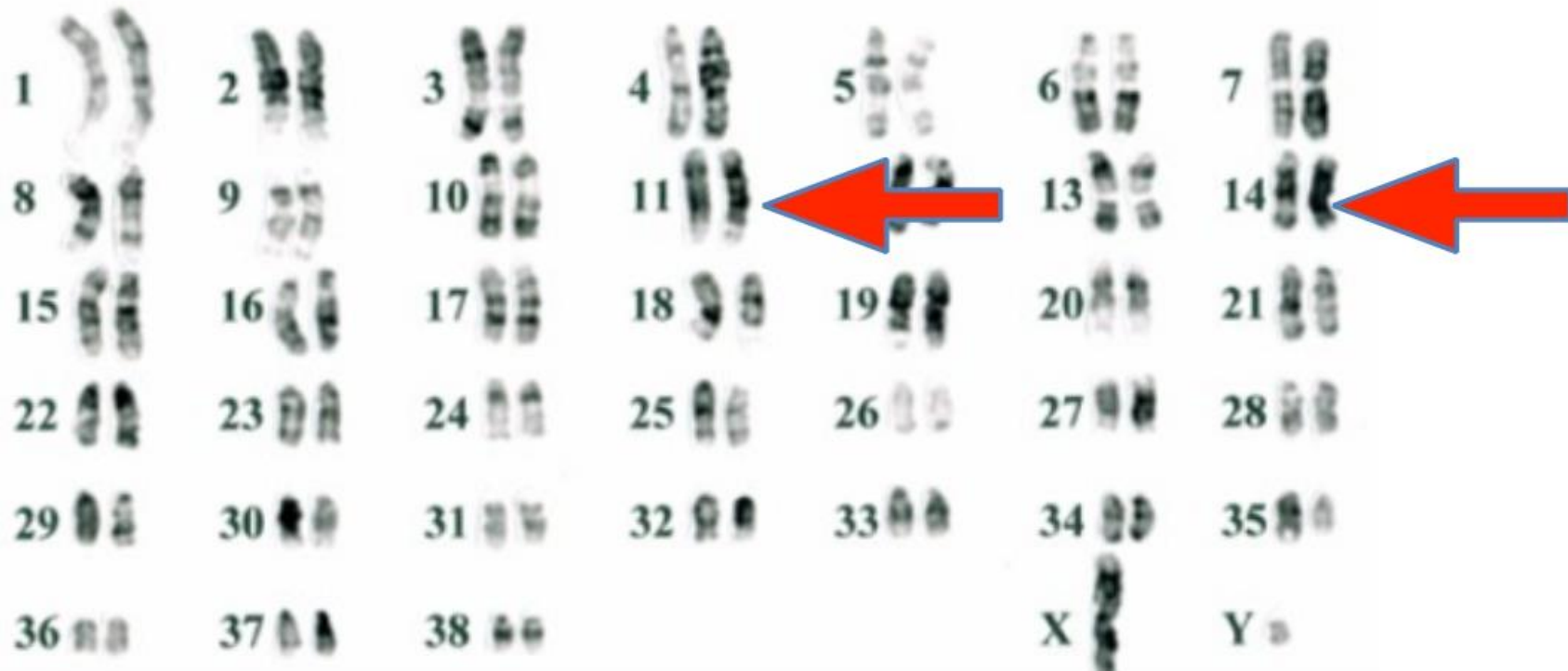
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comparaison of 22 000 markers

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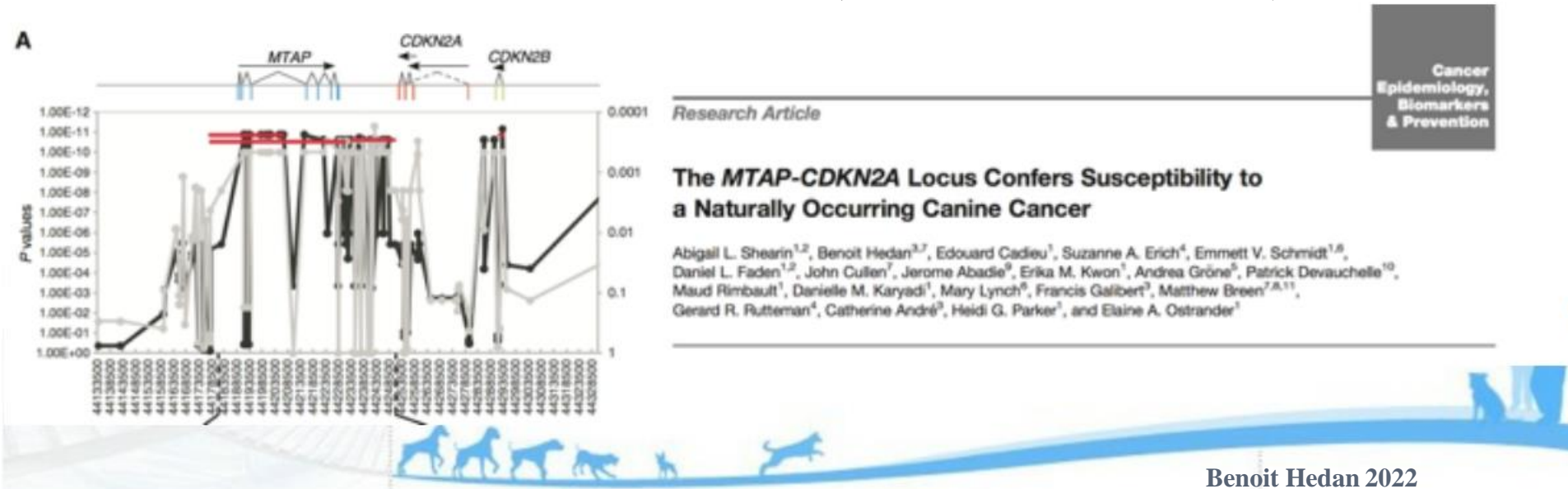
Markers differs between unaffected and affected BMDs

# Looking for predisposing genes: Research project

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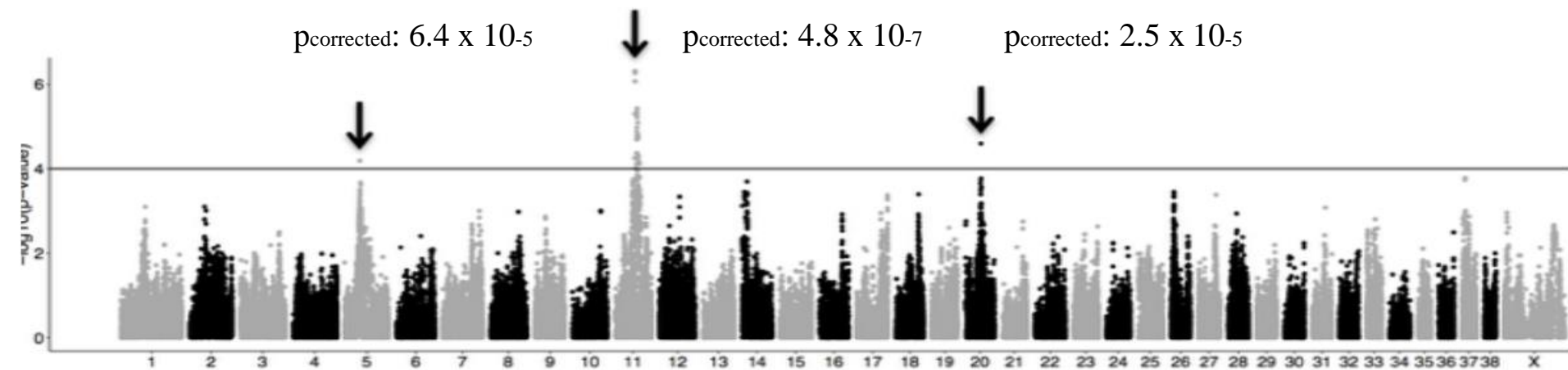
-> Identification of main loci : CFA11, CFA14 (*Shearin, Hedan et al. 2012*)





# Looking for predisposing genes: Research project

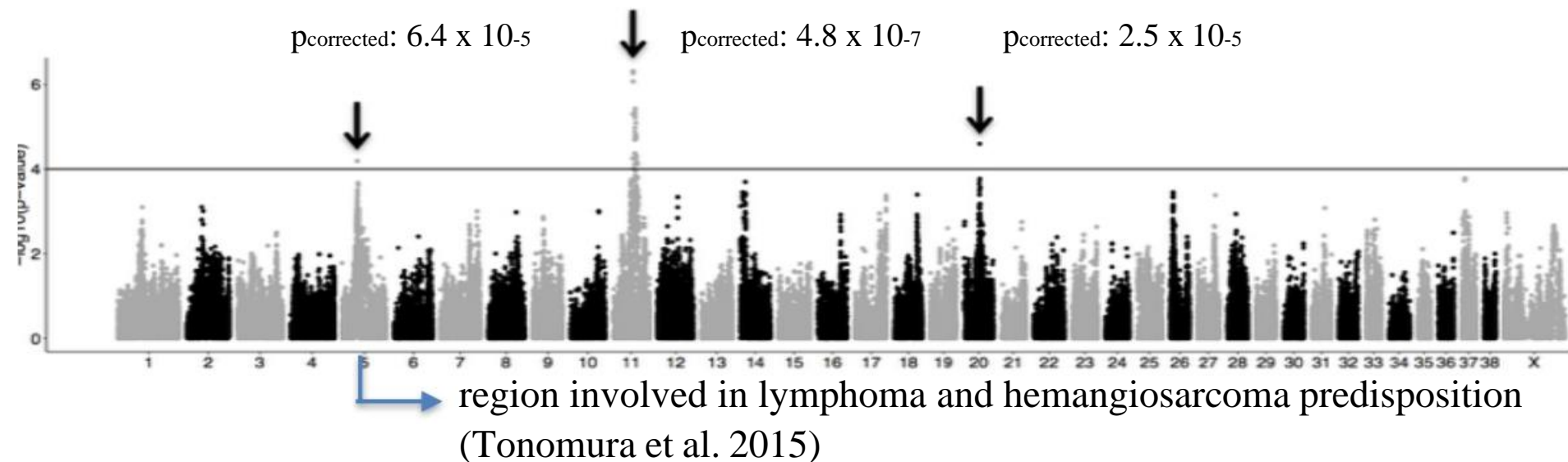
➤ New GWAS (Illumina SNP array 170K) 2011-2012: 154 unaffected and 172 affected BMDs





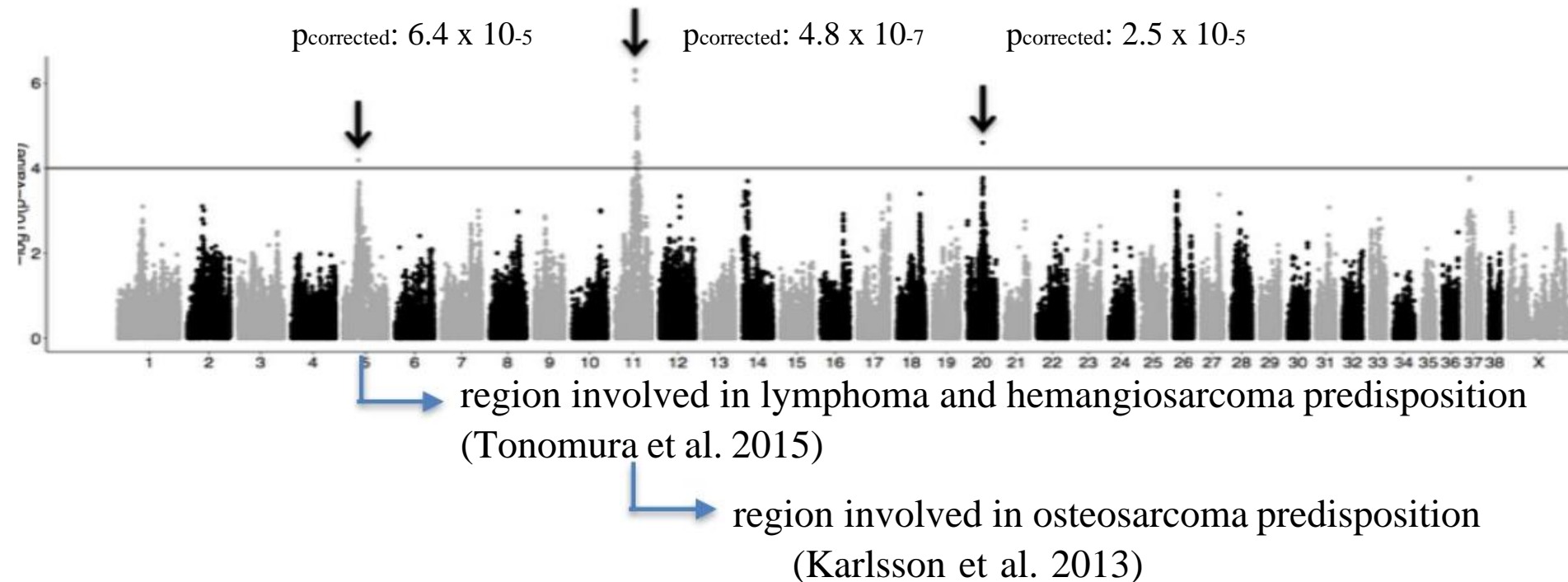
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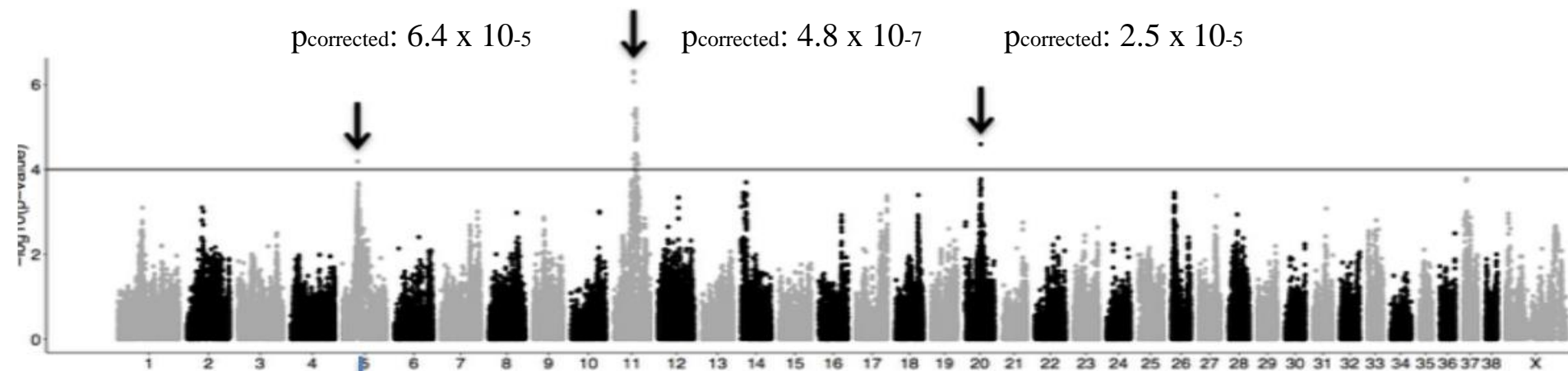
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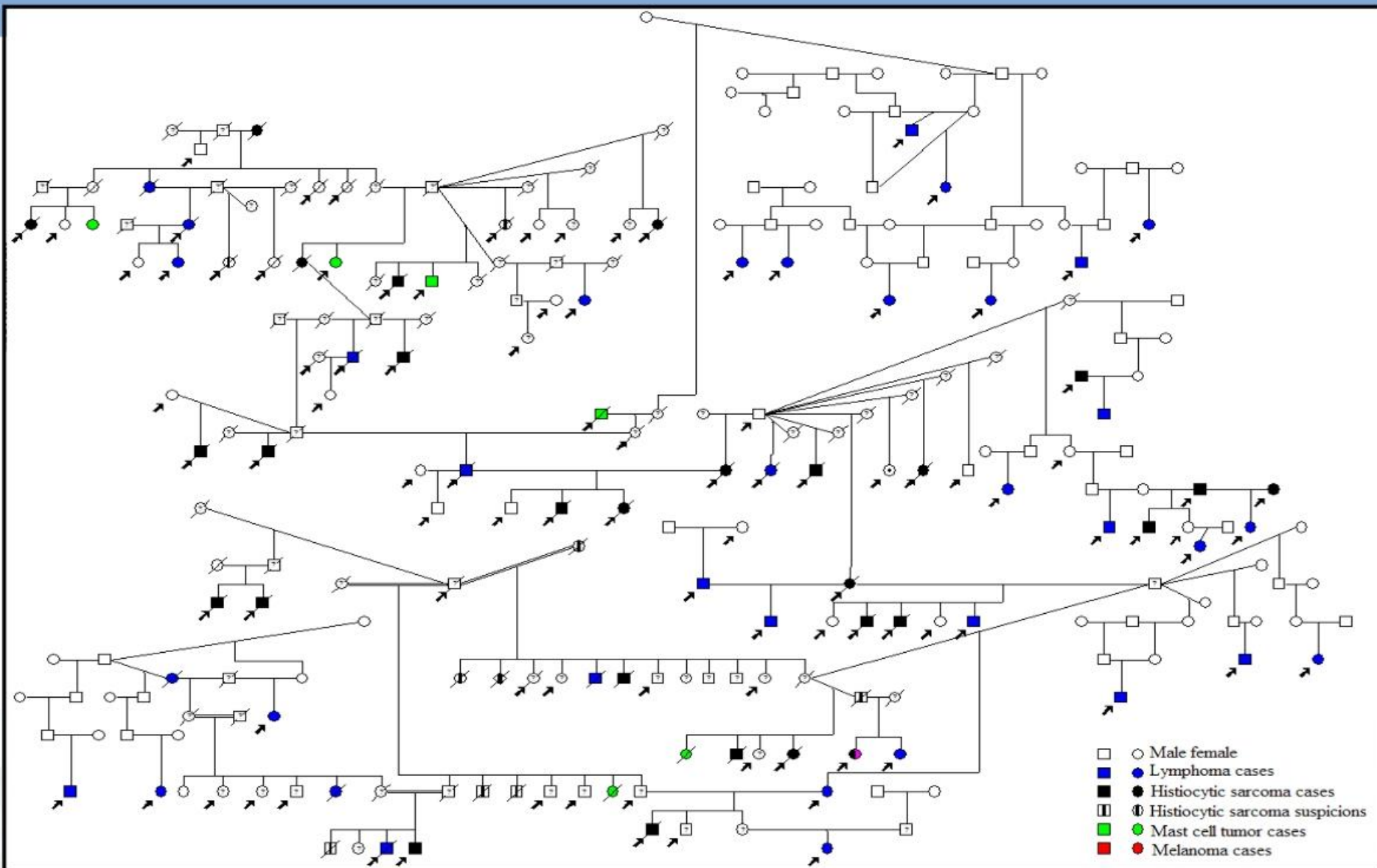


region involved in lymphoma and hemangiosarcoma predisposition  
(Tonomura et al. 2015)

region involved in osteosarcoma predisposition  
(Karlsson et al. 2013)

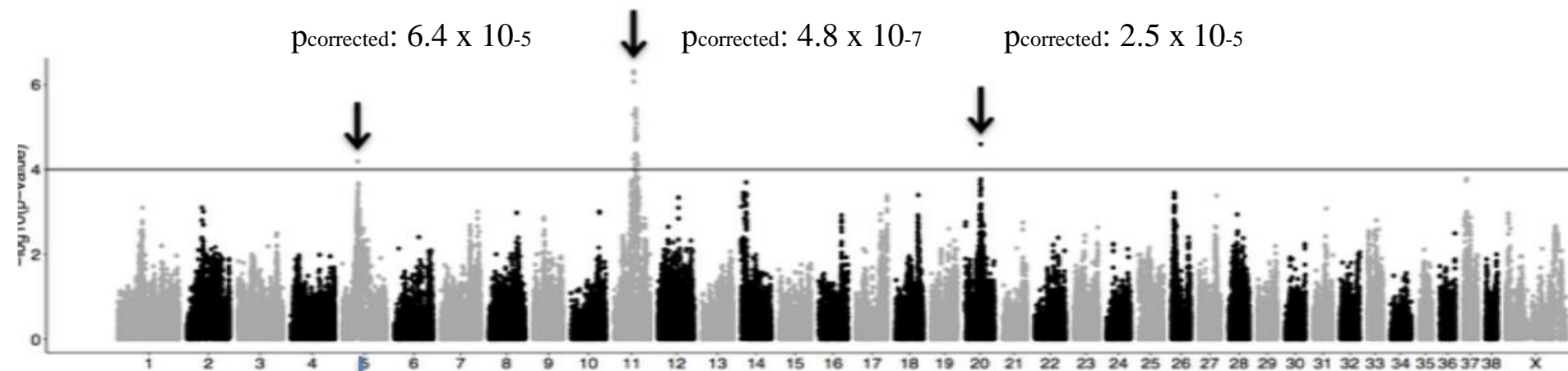
region involved in mast cell  
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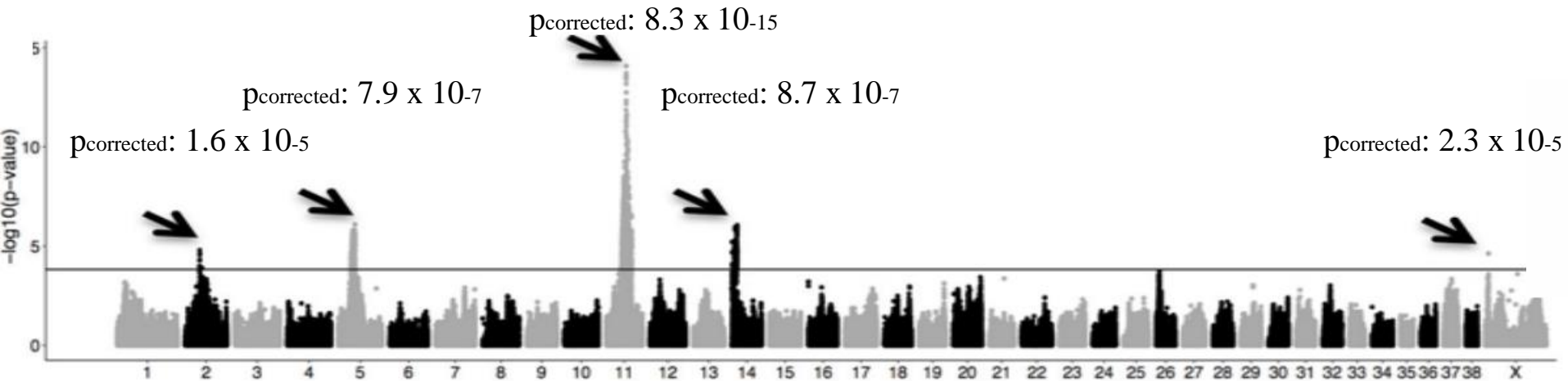
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# Looking for predisposing genes: Research project

- New GWAS on 3 predisposed breeds (BMD, Rottweiler, Flat coated retriever) 455 affected and 408 unaffected dogs.

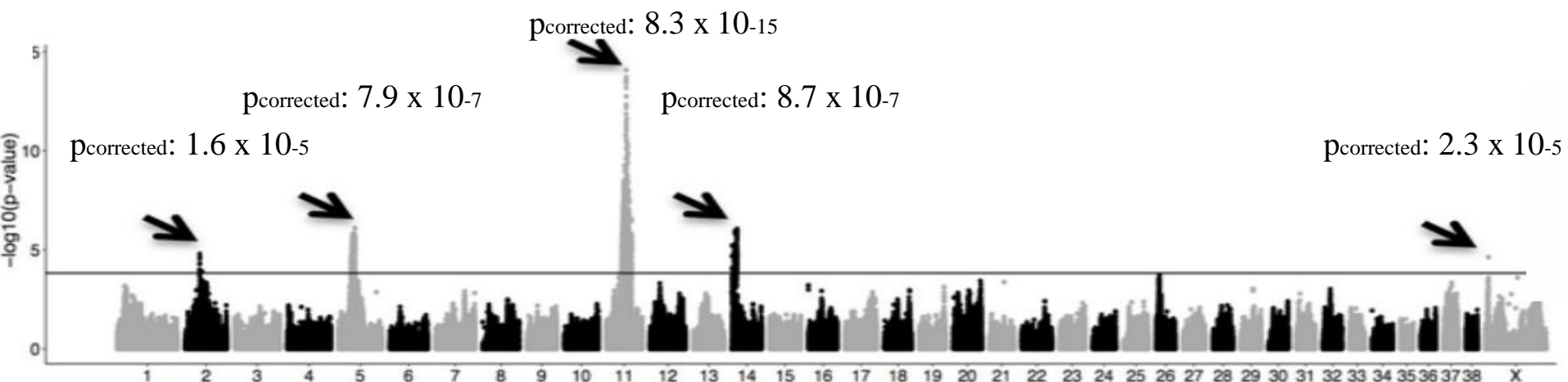


3 main regions on CFA 5, 11 and 14 :

- the risk haplotype of CFA5 is shared between 3 breeds
- the risk haplotype of CFA11 is shared between BMDs and Rottweilers
- the protective haplotype of CFA14 is shared between 3 breeds

# Looking for predisposing genes: Research project

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Risk of developing HS is linked to accumulation of risk alleles of these 3 main regions (CFA5, CFA11, CFA14)

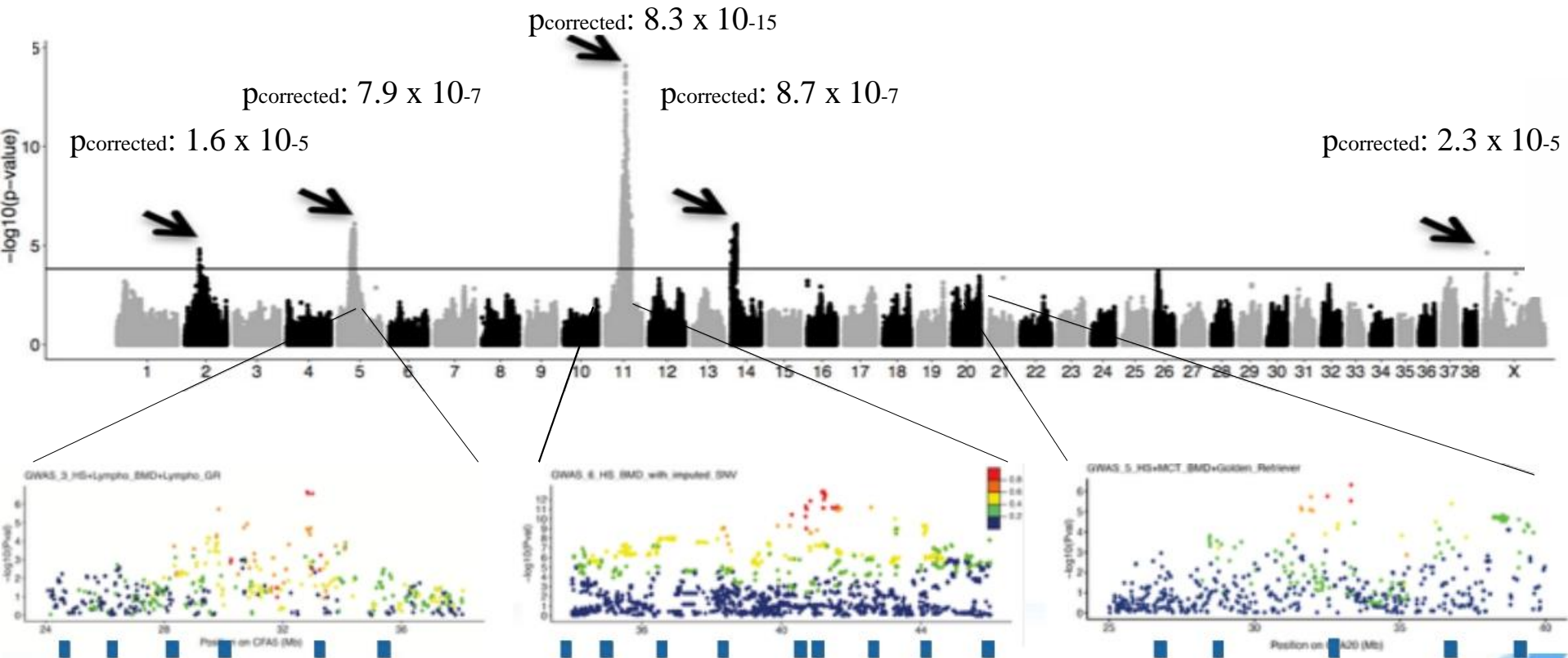
frequencies of risk alleles in the 3 breeds		
number of risk alleles	affected	unaffected
≥5 risk alleles	0,7	0,27
4 risk alleles	0,23	0,34
≤3 risk alleles	0,07	0,29

Odds Ratio		
Odds Ratio	interval	pval
5.41	[4.04-7.24]	1.14x10 <sup>-31</sup>
0.5	[0.37-0.67]	2.74x10 <sup>-6</sup>
0.15	[0.1-0.23]	2.17x10 <sup>-21</sup>



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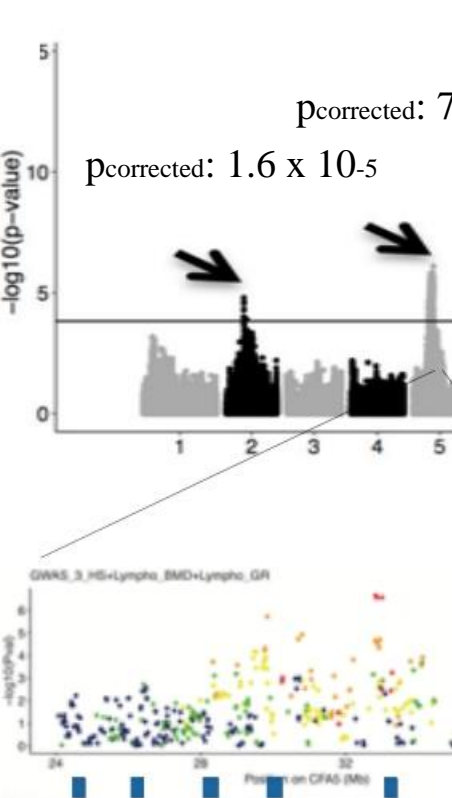
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**Predisposition -> accumulation of many regions and subregions**

# Looking for predisposing genes: Research project

- New GWAS on 3 predisposed breeds (BMD, Rottweiler, Flat coated retriever) 455 affected et 408 unaffected dogs.



$p_{\text{corrected}}: 8.3 \times 10^{-15}$



## OPEN ACCESS

**Citation:** Hédan B, Cadieu É, Rimbault M, Vayssie A, Dufour de Citres C, Devauchelle P, et al. (2021) Identification of common predisposing loci to hematopoietic cancers in four dog breeds. *PLoS Genet* 17(4): e1009395. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgen.1009395>

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**Data Availability Statement:** All genotyping data is available at doi:10.5061/dryad.8c3f9g4.

## Identification of common predisposing loci to hematopoietic cancers in four dog breeds

Benoit Hédan<sup>1\*</sup>, Édouard Cadieu<sup>1</sup>, Maud Rimbault<sup>1</sup>, Amaury Vayssie<sup>1</sup>, Carlos Alaraz<sup>2</sup>, Catherine Citres<sup>3</sup>, Catherine Devauchelle<sup>3</sup>, Abigail Winner<sup>4</sup>, Pascal Dufour de Citres<sup>3</sup>, Thomas Dumas<sup>3</sup>, Valérie Gaudin<sup>3</sup>, Sylvie Lecomte<sup>3</sup>, Anne-Charlotte Thomas<sup>3</sup>, Anne-Charlotte Thomas<sup>3</sup>, Valérie Gaudin<sup>3</sup>, Sylvie Lecomte<sup>3</sup>, Anne-Charlotte Thomas<sup>3</sup>

**1** Univ Rennes, CNRS, IGDR (Institut de Génétique et Développement de Rennes)—UMR6290, Rennes, France, **2** Antagene, La Tour-de-Salvagny, France, **3** Mico Vet, Criel, France, **4** Oniris, Laboratoire—Department of Biology, Pathology and Food Sciences, Nantes, France

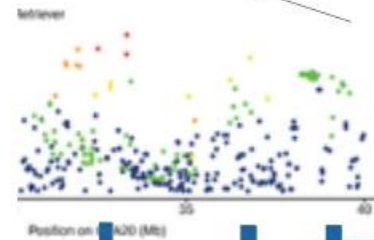
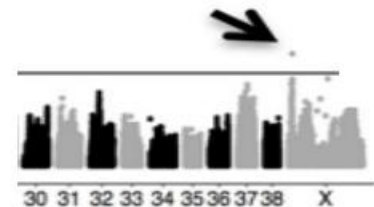
\* [benoit.hedan@univ-rennes1.fr](mailto:benoit.hedan@univ-rennes1.fr)

## Abstract

Histiocytic sarcoma (HS) is a rare and aggressive cancer in both humans and dogs. The spontaneous canine model, which has clinical, epidemiological, and histological similarities with human HS and specific breed predispositions, provides a unique opportunity to unravel the genetic basis of this cancer. In this study, we aimed to identify germline risk factors associated with the development of HS in canine-predisposed breeds. We used a methodology that combined several genome-wide association studies in a multi-breed and multi-cancer approach as well as targeted next-generation sequencing, and imputation. We combined several dog breeds (Bernese mountain dogs, Rottweilers, flat-coated retrievers, and golden retrievers), and three hematopoietic cancers (HS, lymphoma, and mast cell tumor). Results showed that we not only refined the previously identified HS risk *CDKN2A* locus, but also identified new loci on canine chromosomes 2, 5, 14, and 20. Capture and targeted sequencing of specific loci suggested the existence of regulatory variants in non-coding regions and methylation mechanisms linked to risk haplotypes, which lead to strong cancer predisposition in specific dog breeds. We also showed that these canine cancer predisposing loci appeared to be due to the additive effect of several risk haplotypes involved in other hematopoietic cancers such as lymphoma or mast cell tumors as well. This illustrates the pleiotropic nature of these canine cancer loci as observed in human oncology, thereby reinforcing the interest of predisposed dog breeds to study cancer initiation and progression.

## Author summary

Because of specific breed structures and artificial selection, pet dogs suffer from numerous genetic diseases, including cancers and represent a unique spontaneous model of human cancers. Here, we focused on histiocytic sarcoma (HS), a rare and highly aggressive cancer in humans. In this study, we have used spontaneous affected and unaffected dogs from three predisposed dog breeds to identify loci involved in HS predisposition. Through genetic analyses, we showed that these canine cancer predispositions are due to the additive effect of several risk haplotypes also involved in the predisposition of other



Predisposition -> accumulation of many regions and subregions



# Looking for predisposing genes: Research project

Multi-omics approach identifies germline regulatory variants associated with hematopoietic malignancies in retriever dog breeds

Jacquelyn M. Evans<sup>1</sup>, Heidi G. Parker<sup>1</sup>, Gerard R. Rutteman<sup>2</sup>, Jocelyn Plassais<sup>3</sup>, Guy C. M. Grinwis<sup>4</sup>, Alexander C. Harris<sup>1</sup>, Susan E. Lana<sup>4</sup>, Elaine A. Ostrander<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cancer Genetics and Comparative Genomics Branch, National Human Genome Research Institute, Bethesda, Maryland, United States of America, <sup>2</sup> Department of Clinical Sciences, division Internal Medicine of Companion Animals, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands, <sup>3</sup> Department Biomedical Health Sciences, division Pathology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands, <sup>4</sup> College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, United States of America

## Abstract

Histiocytic sarcoma is an aggressive hematopoietic malignancy of mature tissue histiocytes with a poorly understood etiology in humans. A histologically and clinically similar counterpart affects flat-coated retrievers (FCRs) at unusually high frequency, with 20% developing the lethal disease. The similar clinical presentation combined with the closed population structure of dogs, leading to high genetic homogeneity, makes dogs an excellent model for genetic studies of cancer susceptibility. To determine the genetic risk factors underlying histiocytic sarcoma in FCRs, we conducted multiple genome-wide association studies (GWASs), identifying two loci that confer significant risk on canine chromosomes (CFA) 5 ( $P_{\text{lead}} = 4.83 \times 10^{-6}$ ) and 19 ( $P_{\text{lead}} = 2.25 \times 10^{-6}$ ). We subsequently undertook a multi-omics approach that has been largely unexplored in the canine model to interrogate these regions, generating whole genome, transcriptome, and chromatin immunoprecipitation sequencing. These data highlight the PI3K pathway gene *PW3R6* on CFA5, and proximal candidate regulatory variants that are strongly associated with histiocytic sarcoma and predicted to impact transcription factor binding. The CFA5 association colocalizes with susceptibility loci for two hematopoietic malignancies, hemangiosarcoma and B-cell lymphoma, in the closely related golden retriever breed, revealing the risk contribution this single locus makes to multiple hematological cancers. By comparison, the CFA19 locus is unique to the FCR and harbors risk alleles associated with upregulation of *TNFAIP6*, which itself affects cell migration and metastasis. Together, these loci explain ~35% of disease risk, an exceptionally high value that demonstrates the advantages of domestic dogs for complex trait mapping and genetic studies of cancer susceptibility.

## OPEN ACCESS

**Citation:** Evans JM, Parker HG, Rutteman GR, Plassais J, Grinwis GCM, Harris AC, et al. (2021) Multi-omics approach identifies germline regulatory variants associated with hematopoietic malignancies in retriever dog breeds. *PLoS Genet* 17(5): e1009543. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgen.1009543>

**Editor:** William Hendricks, Translational Genomics Research Institute, UNITED STATES

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**Accepted:** April 12, 2021

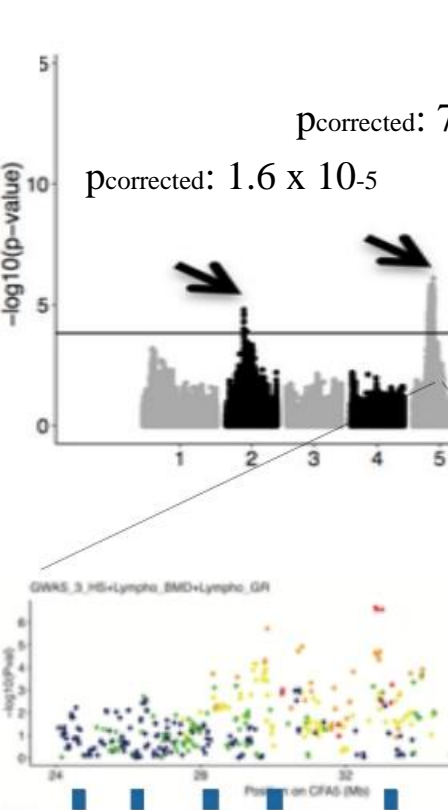
**Published:** May 13, 2021

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**Data Availability Statement:** SRA accession numbers for WGS are in [S1 Table](#). RNA-seq and ChIP-seq data are in SRA (PRJNA685036). SNP chip data are in GED (GSE153784). Remaining relevant data are within the manuscript and Supporting Information files.

**Funding:** This work was supported by the Intramural Program of the National Human Genome Research Institute at NIH (<https://www.genome.gov/>) with partial support from the UK

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455 affected et 408 unaffected dogs.

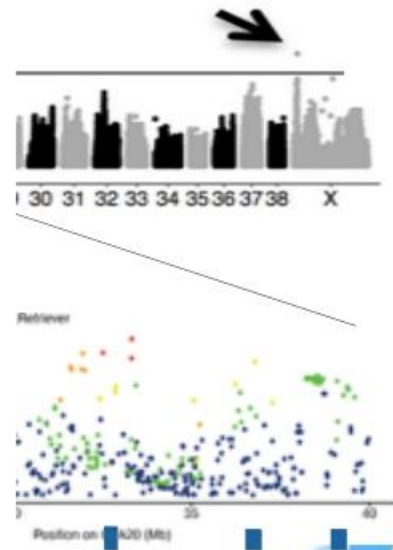


$p_{\text{corrected}}: 7.9 \times 10^{-7}$

$p_{\text{corrected}}: 8.3 \times 10^{-15}$

$p_{\text{corrected}}: 8.7 \times 10^{-7}$

$p_{\text{corrected}}: 2.3 \times 10^{-5}$



Predisposition -> accumulation of many regions and subregions



# Looking for predisposing genes: Research project

- Work in progress to identify variants associated with HS predisposition
- Cancers impact BMD life span
- Cancer : polyfactorial disease -> involving genetic and environmental factors
- Many regions are involved in HS predisposition of which CFA11, CFA5, CFA14
  - > Needs of research to better understand predisposing mutations and interactions

**BUT data produced by research could be useful for breeders to help selection!**

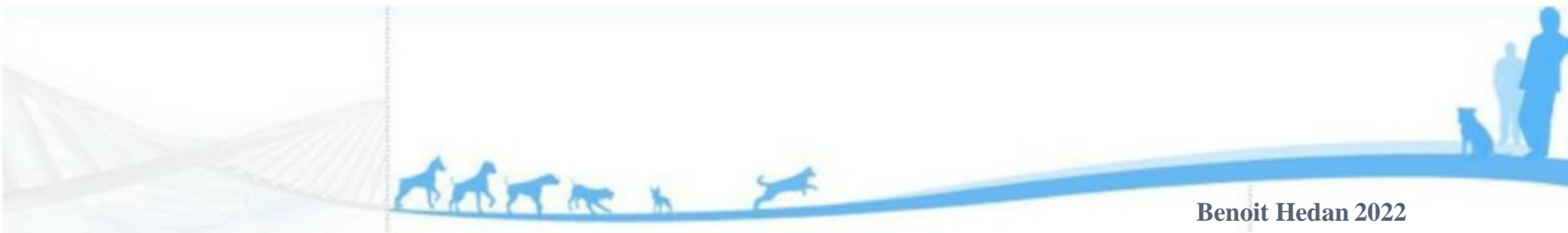


# How these data could be useful for breeders?

In 2012 , in collaboration with Antagene , we decided to develop a genetic risk test

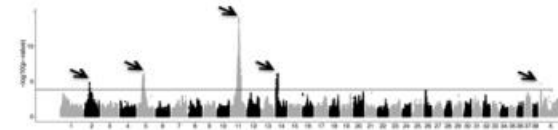
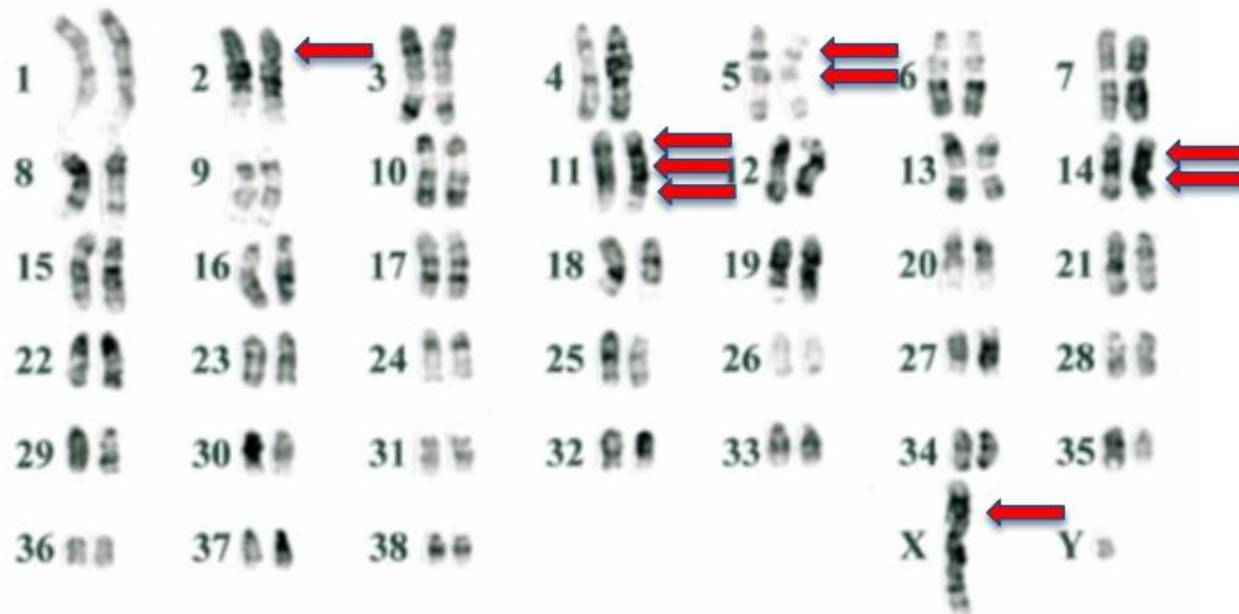


- Based on our first GWAS data, selection of 140 markers associated with HS
- Genotyping of 1081 French BMDs ( 256 affected dogs + 165 unaffected dogs)
  - > selection of the 9 markers more significantly associated with risk to develop HS



In 2012

How these data could be useful for breeders?



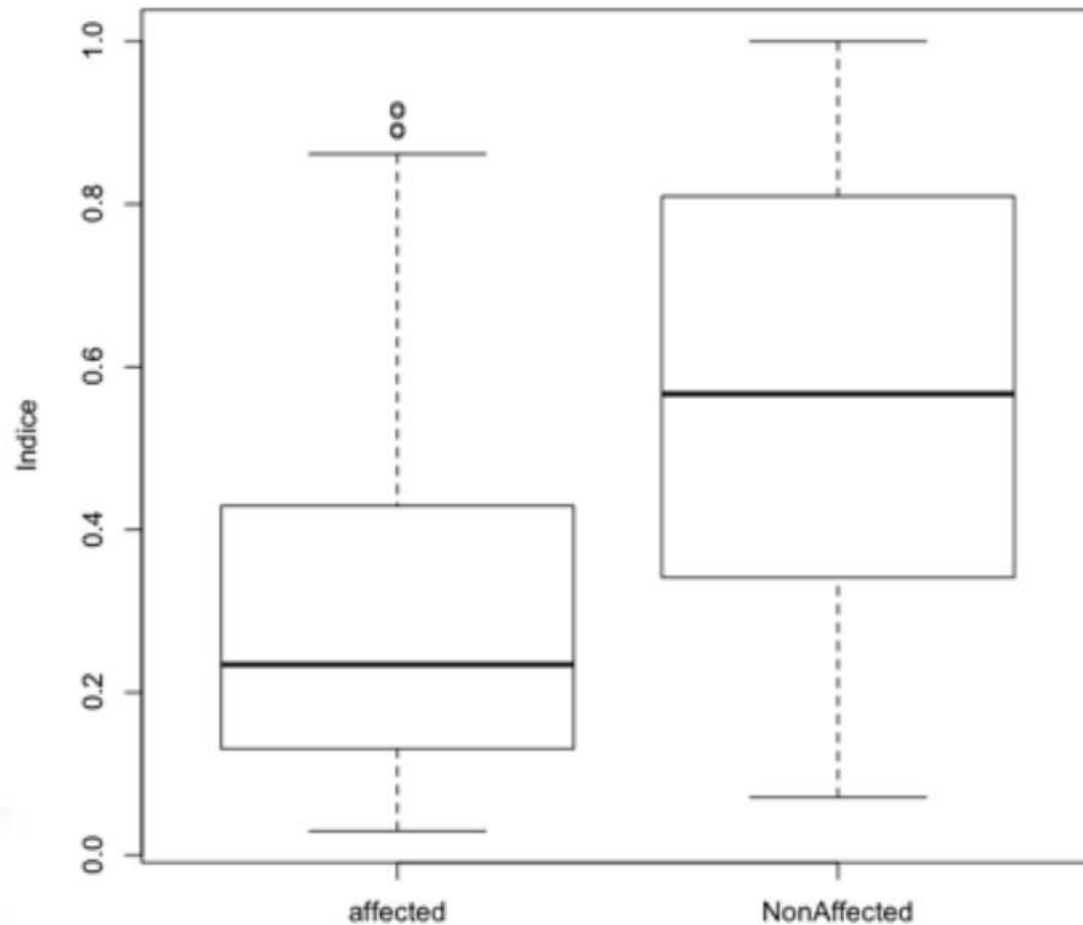
➤ Estimation of risk to be unaffected (GLM model) :

$$\text{Risk} = \frac{\exp(\sum_{i=1}^n (\alpha_i \text{SNP}_i))}{1 + \exp(\sum_{i=1}^n (\alpha_i \text{SNP}_i))}$$

Index

# Index development

Index distribution in case and control populations on 256 affected BMDs and 165 unaffected

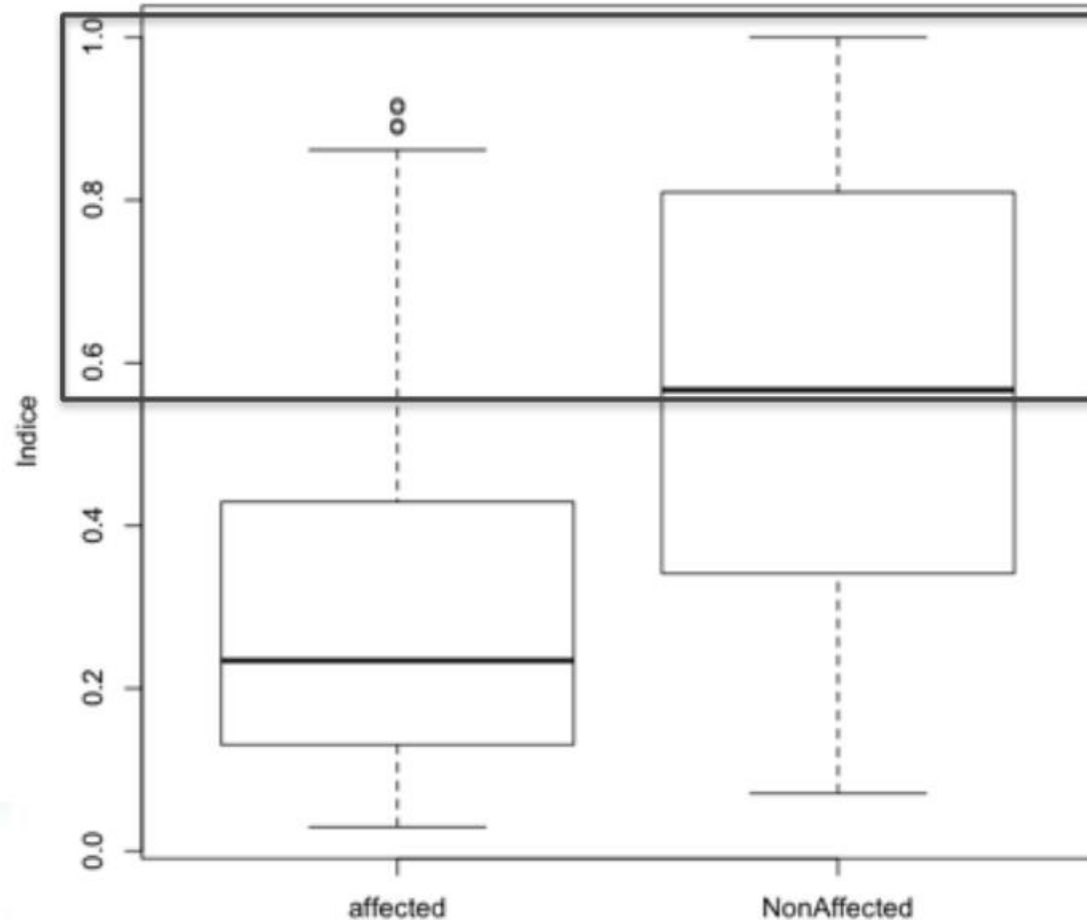


p-value :  $1.754 \times 10^{-16}$  (Mann Whitney test)

# Index development

Index distribution in case and control populations on 256 affected BMDs and 165 unaffected

Category A



47 % of healthy  
10% of affected

p-value :  $1.754 \times 10^{-16}$  (Mann Whitney test)

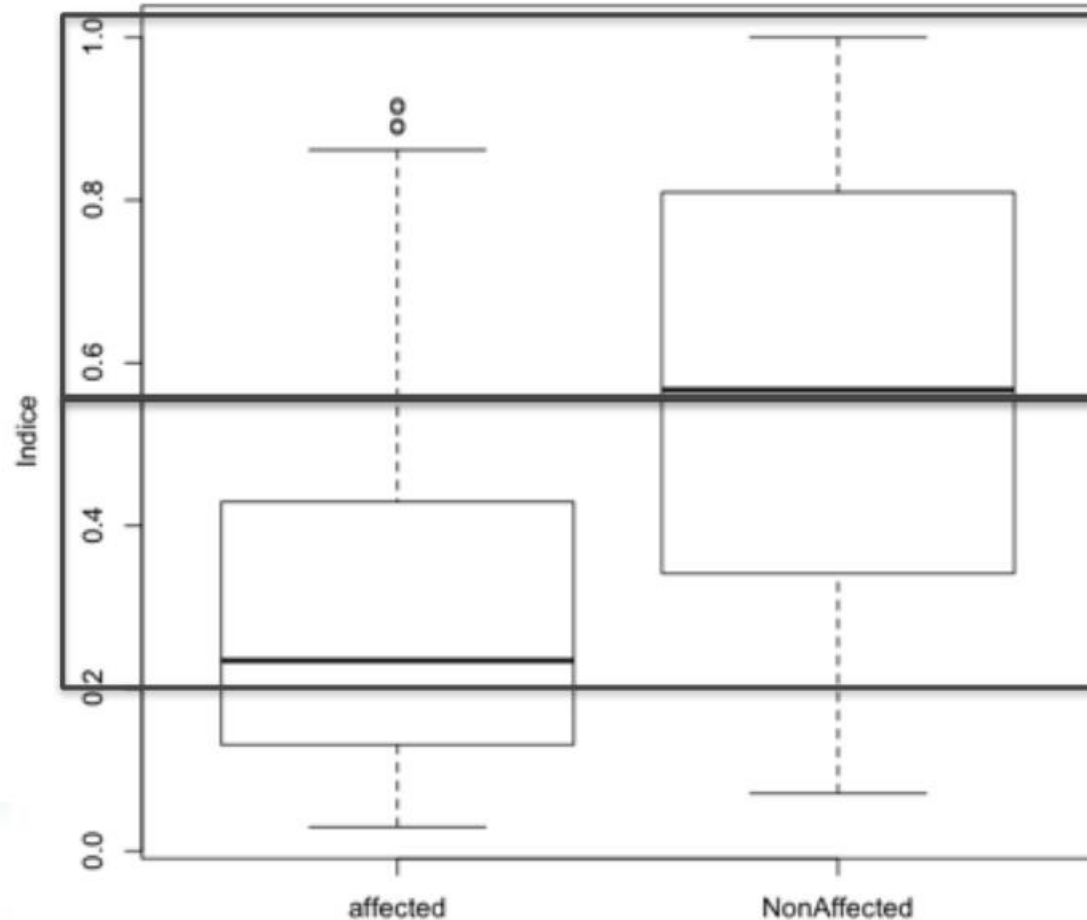


# Index development

Index distribution in case and control populations on 256 affected BMDs and 165 unaffected

Category A

Category B



47 % of healthy  
10% of affected

43 % of healthy  
50% of affected

p-value :  $1.754 \times 10^{-16}$  (Mann Whitney test)

# Index development

Index distribution in case and control populations on 256 affected BMDs and 165 unaffected

Category A

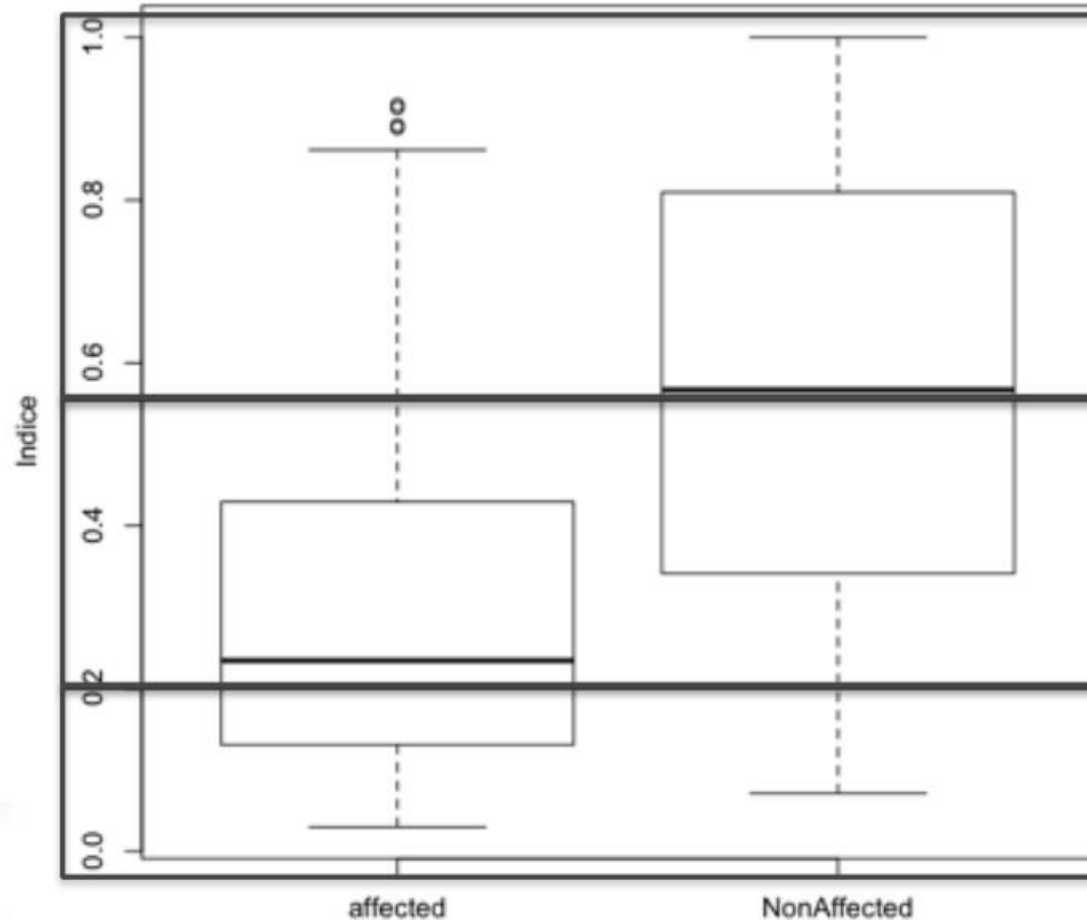
47 % of healthy  
10% of affected

Category B

43 % of healthy  
50% of affected

Category C

10 % of healthy  
40% of affected



p-value : 1.754 10<sup>-16</sup> (Mann Whitney test)

# Index Validation

In collaboration with the European breeder clubs and the BernerGarde (Dr V Yuzbasiyan-Gurkan). In total, **718** dogs tested for development and validation of the pre-test

- 415 dogs with Histiocytic Sarcoma
- 303 unaffected dogs (> 10 years )

	A	B	C
<i>Affected</i>	14%	43.1%	42.9%
<i>Healthy</i>	41.5%	46.5%	11.9%

➤ **Statistics :** 88% p-value : 2.1 10<sup>-24</sup> (Xi<sup>2</sup> test)

Index A to detect healthy dogs :

Specificity ie **probability that an affected dog is not A : 86%**

Index C to detect affected dogs :

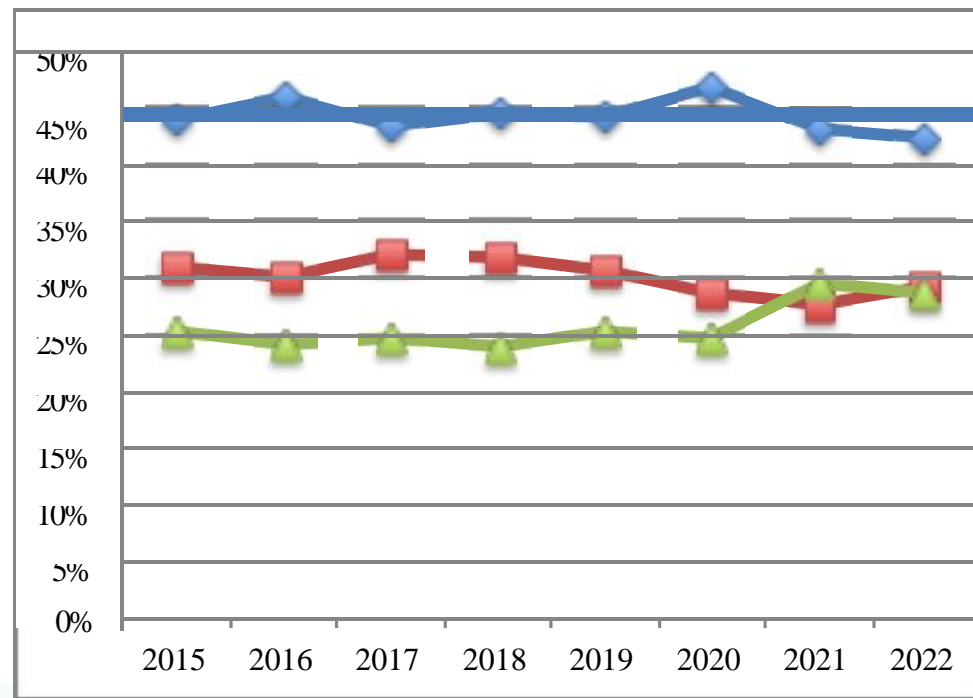
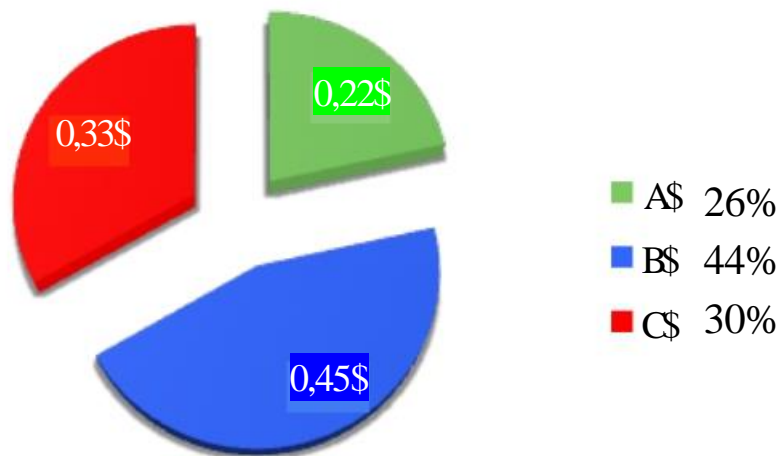
Specificity ie **probability that a healthy dog is not C : 88%**

# Summary of HS tests performed by Antagene

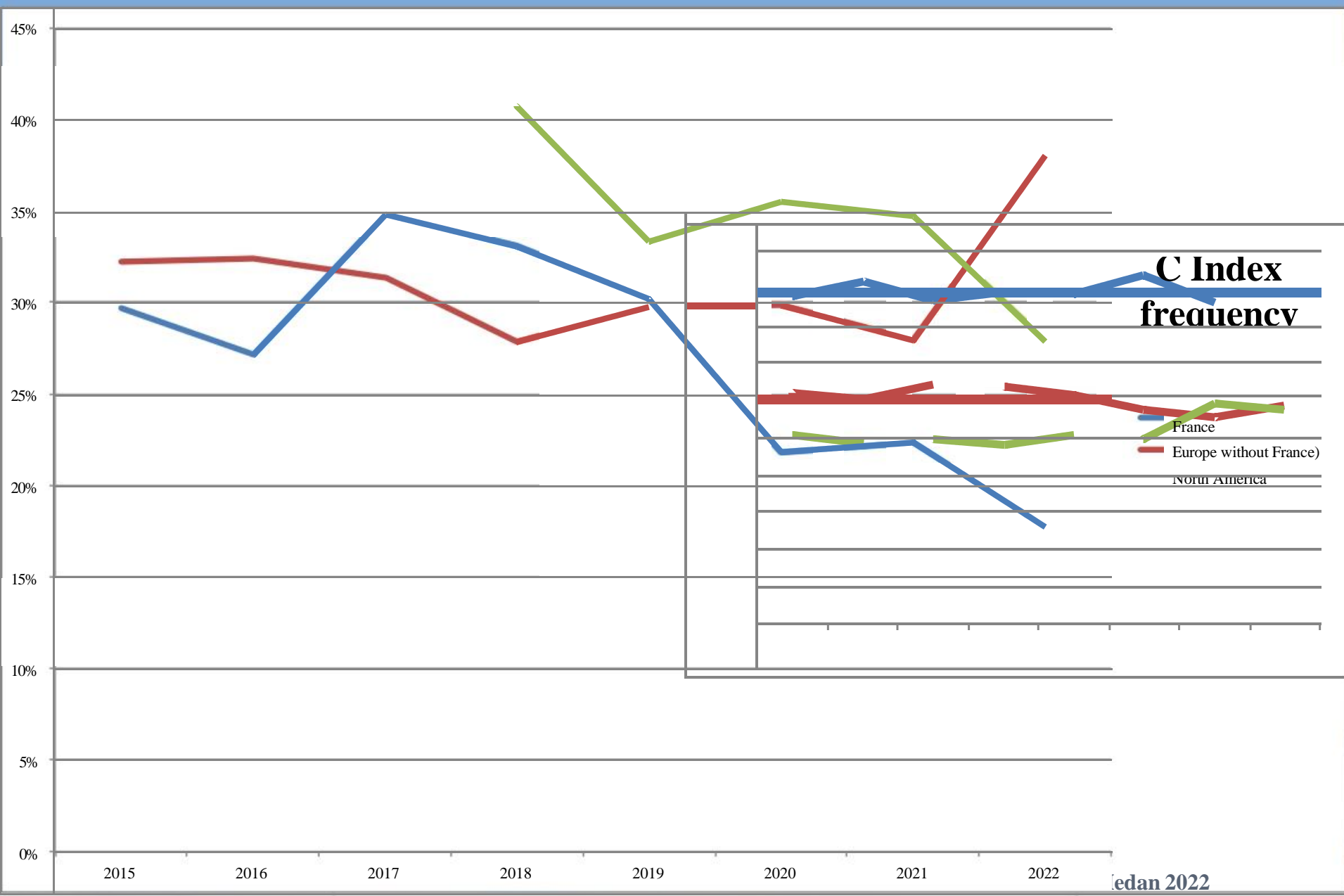
Since 2012 , Antagene has tested >6700 dogs (unknown phenotypes):



distribution of index in this population:



# Summary of HS tests HS by Antagene

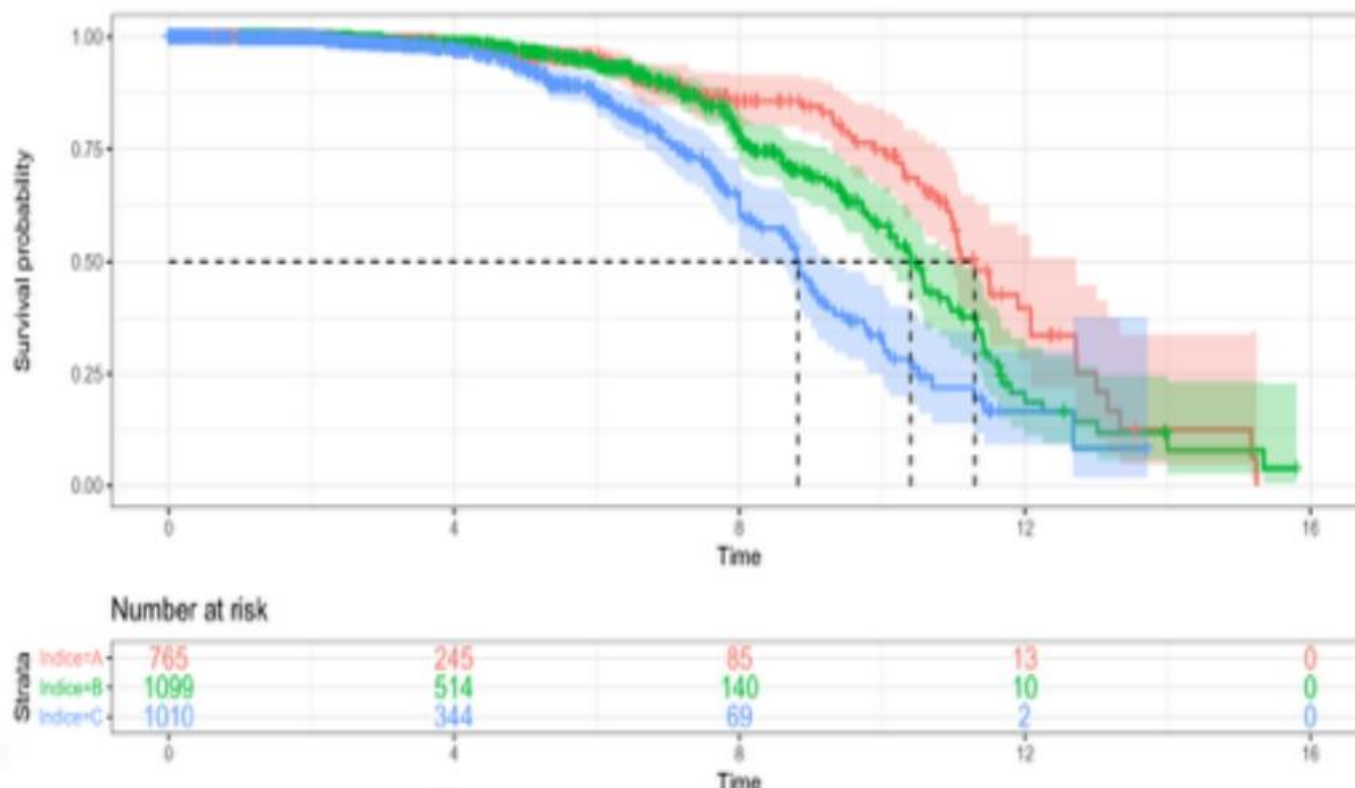




# Summary of HS tests performed by Antagene



Since 2012 , Antagene has tested >6700 dogs (unknown phenotypes):  
follow up of >5 years old dogs (PhD Eléonore Thiery)

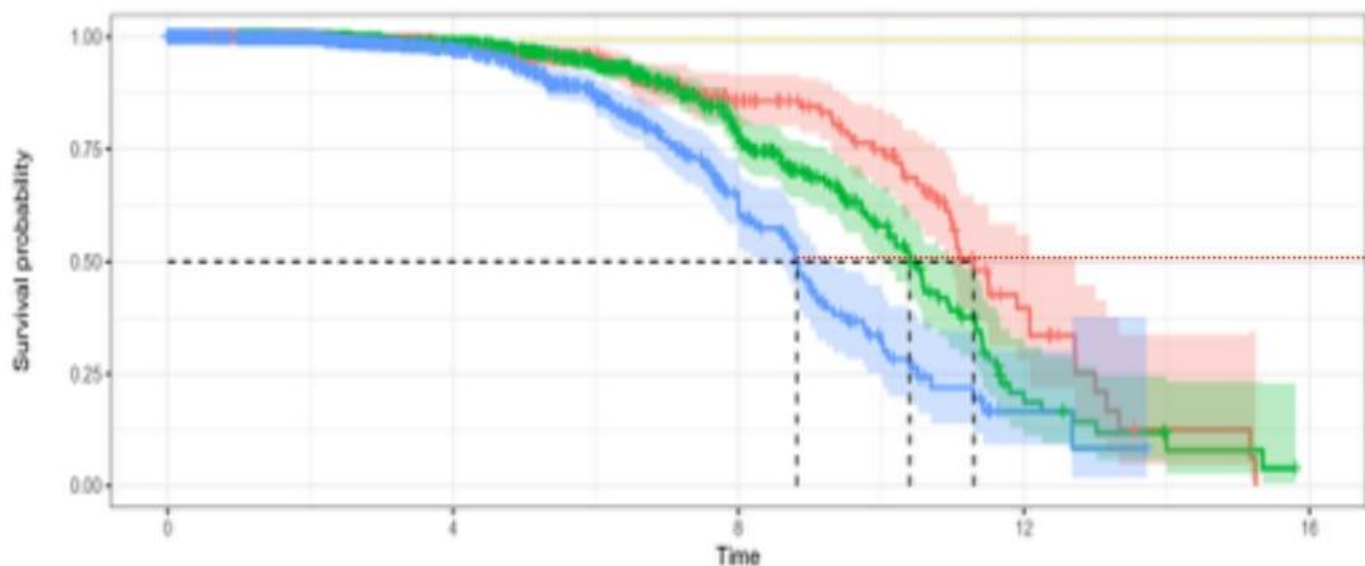


-> on the whole population, even with unknown cause of death, we observe significant differences of lifespan according to index

# Summary of HS tests performed by Antagene



Since 2012 , Antagene has tested >6700 dogs (unknown phenotypes):  
follow up of >5 years old dogs (PhD Eléonore Thiery)



A : 10.6% of deaths  
B : 36.1% of deaths  
C : 53.2% of deaths

strata	mean	median
A	11.1	11.3
B	10.3	10.4
C	9	8.8

pvalue=  $4 \times 10^{-10}$

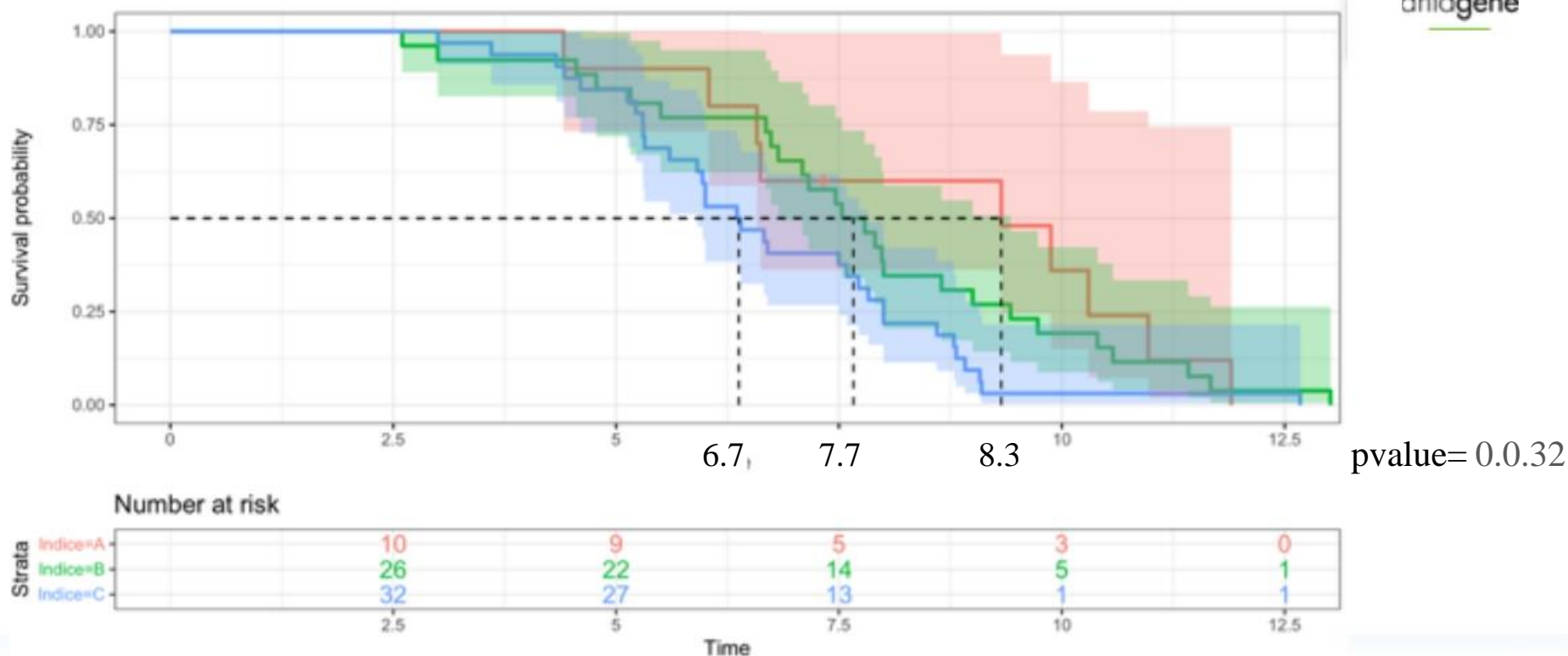


-> almost half of death between 0 and 8 years occurs on C dogs!

# Summary of HS tests performed by Antagene



Since 2012 , Antagene has tested >6700 dogs (unknown phenotypes):  
Focus on the 68 dogs with HS diagnosis (**Histological diagnosis**):

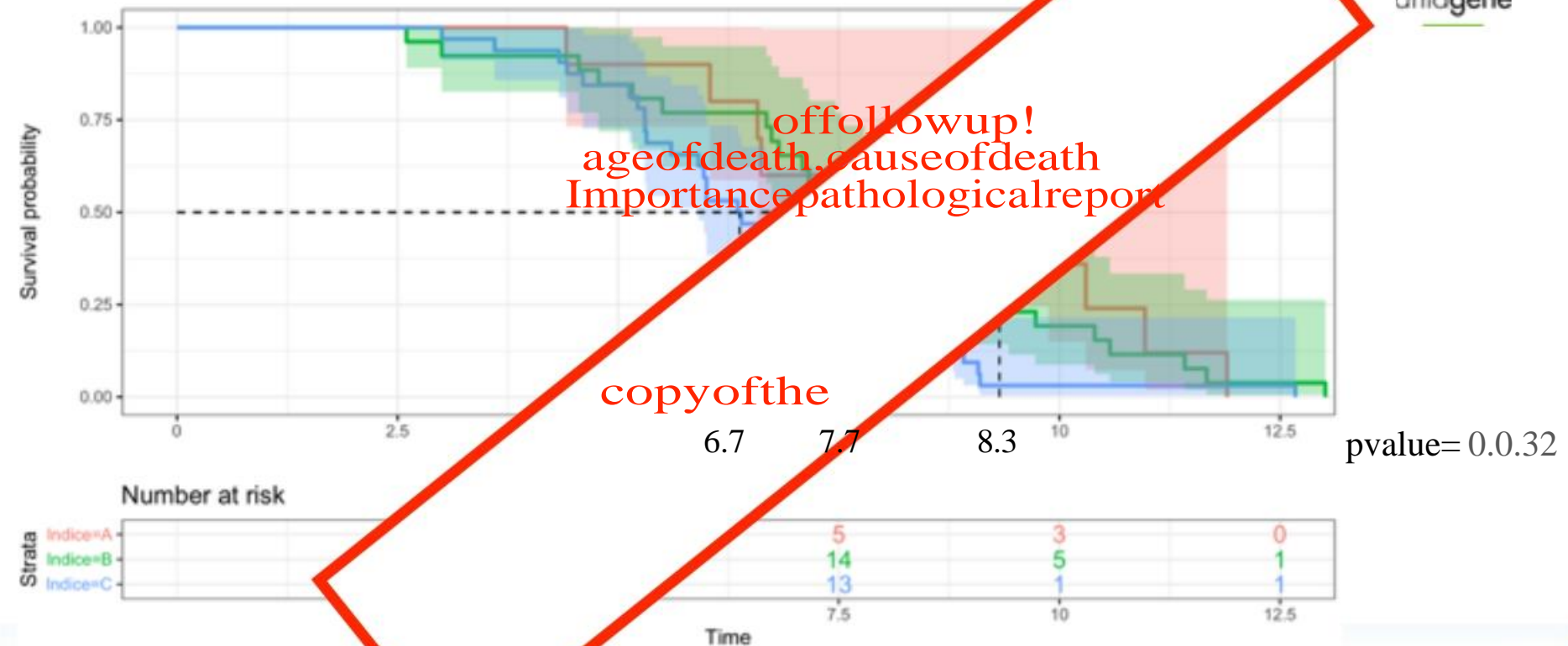


C Dogs are more likely to be affected younger (mean 6.7 years)  
while A dogs are more likely to be affected older (mean 8.3 years)

# Summary of HS tests performed by Antagene



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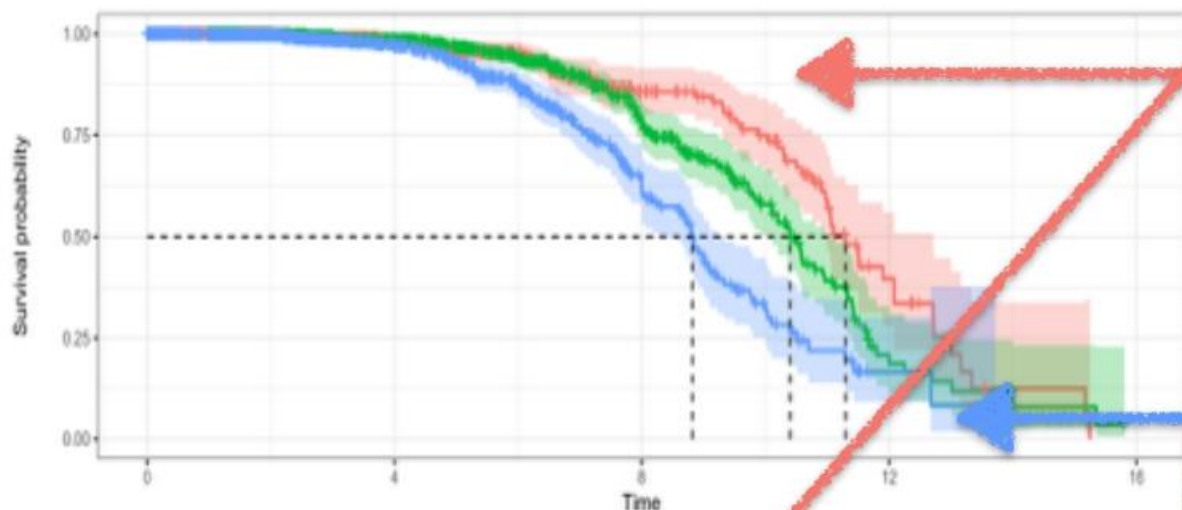


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# Summary of HS tests performed by Antagene



Since 2012 , Antagene has tested >6700 dogs (unknown phenotypes):  
follow up of >5 years old dogs (PhD Eléonore Thiery)



➤ Why ~14 % of affected are A?

➤ Why ~12% of unaffected are C?

	A	B	C
<b><i>Affected</i></b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>43.1%</b>	<b>42.9%</b>
<b><i>Healthy</i></b>	<b>41.5%</b>	<b>46.5%</b>	<b>11.9%</b>

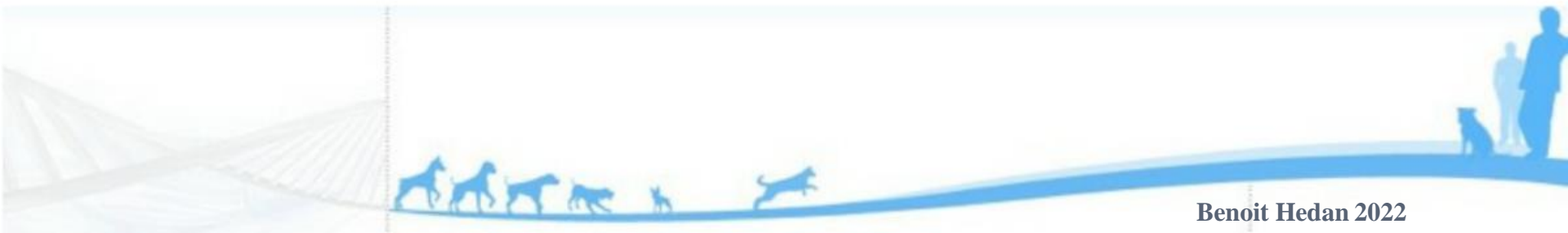


# Summary of Index Validation

What explains the differences? -> Histiocytic sarcoma = polyfactorial disease

➤ Other involved chromosomes

HS test based on 9 known markers but others regions involved  
-> work on discordant dogs (GWAS/sequencing)



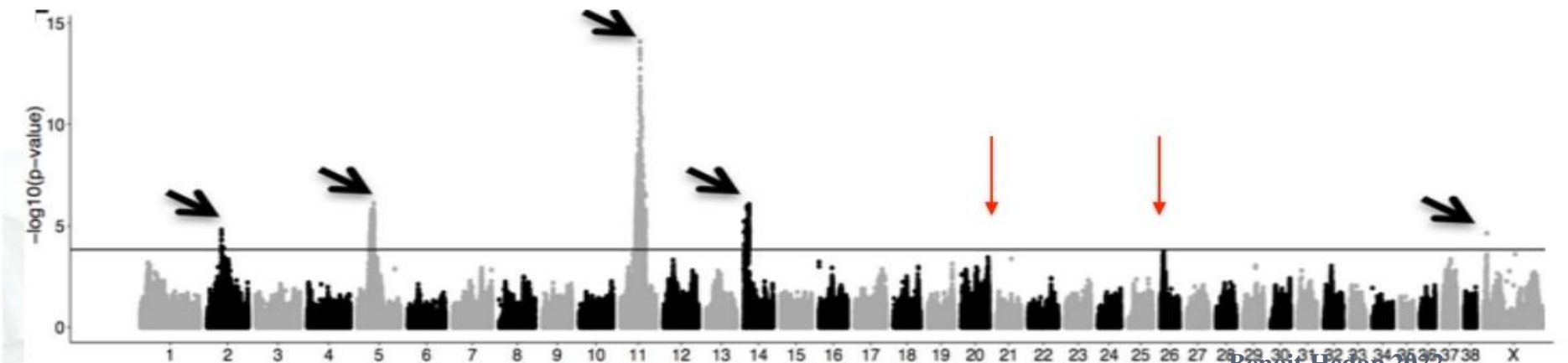
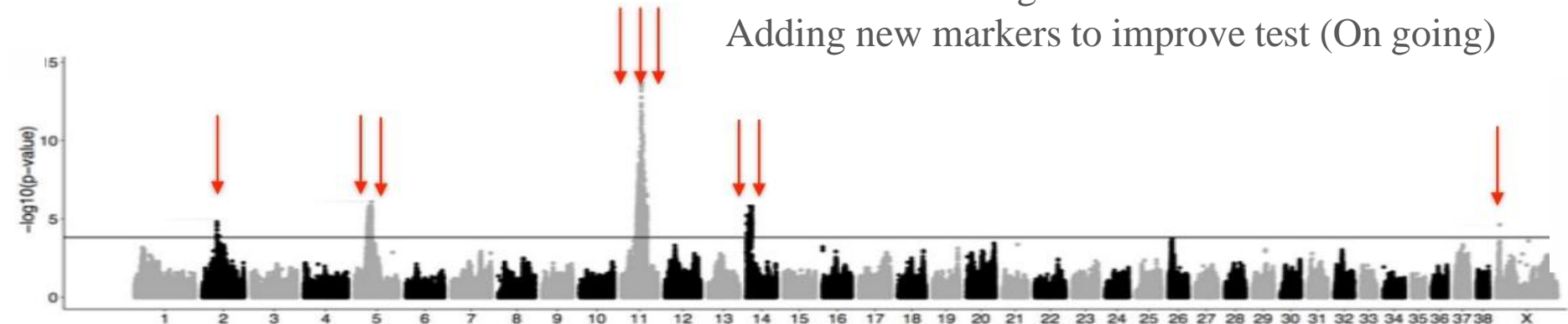
# Summary of Index Validation

What explains the differences? -> Histiocytic sarcoma = polyfactorial disease

➤ Other involved chromosomes

HS test based on 9 known markers but others regions involved :

Adding new markers to improve test (On going)



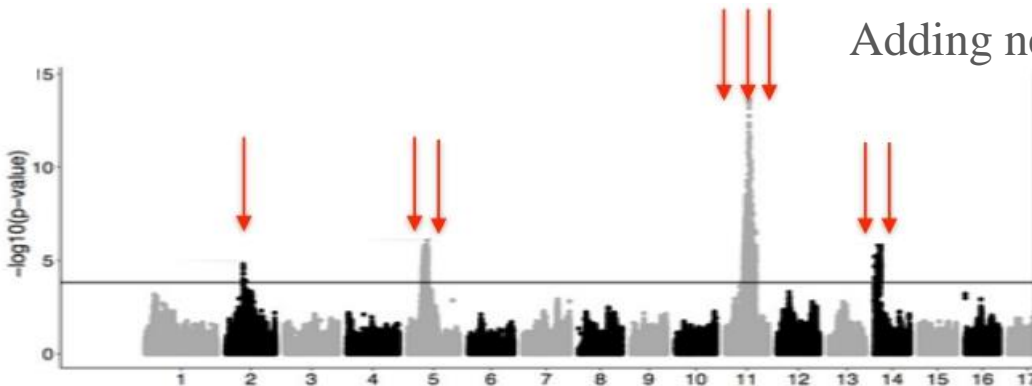
# Summary of Index Validation

What explains the differences? -> Histiocytic sarcoma = polyfactorial disease

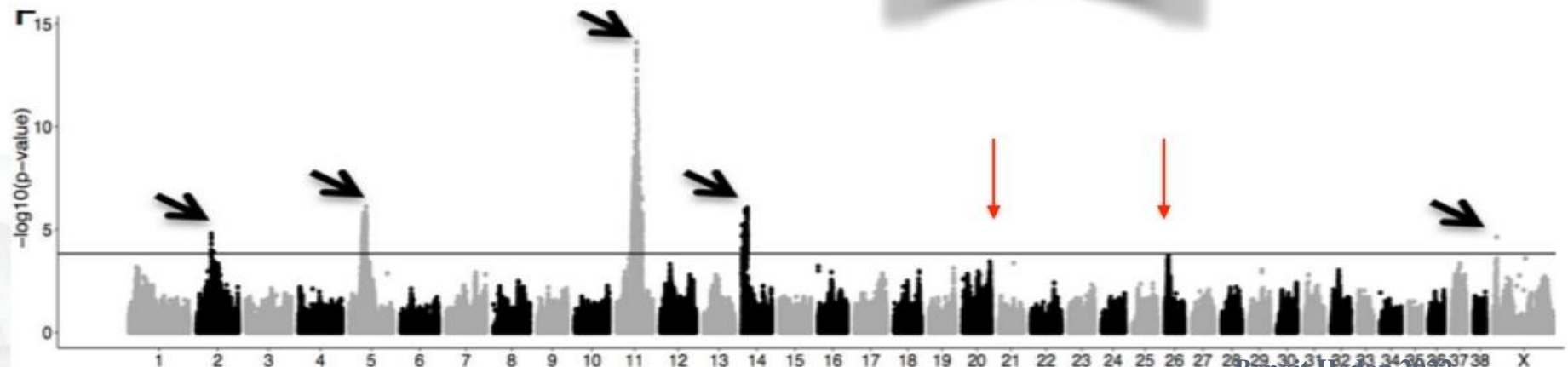
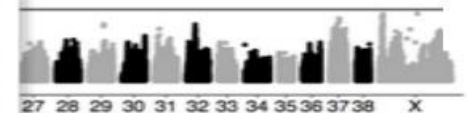
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Adding new markers to improve test (On going)



Charline Bianchi  
CNRS-ANTAGENE



# Summary of Index Validation

What explains the differences? -> Histiocytic sarcoma = polyfactorial disease

➤ Other involved chromosomes

HS test based on 9 known markers but others regions involved

-> work on discordant dogs (GWAS/sequencing)

➤ environmental factors :

- sexual hormones

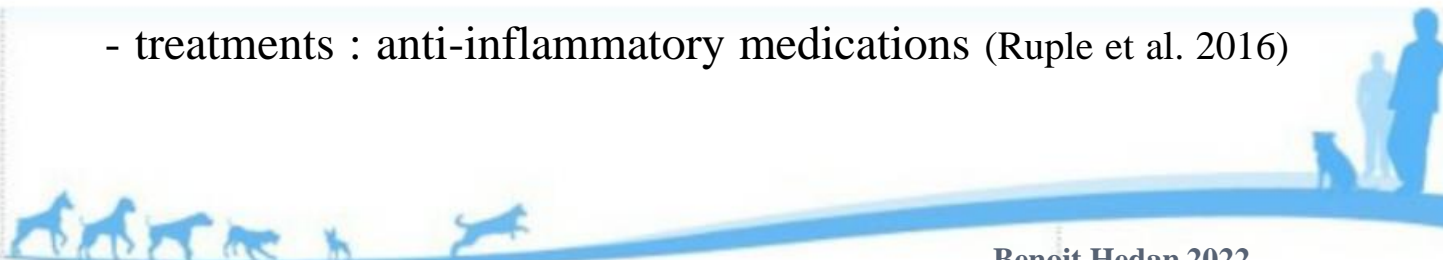
- inflammation : orthopaedic conditions...

(Manor et al. 2017, Kujik et al. 2013, Ruple et al 2016)

Inflammation may be a modifiable risk factor for the development of HS in BMD

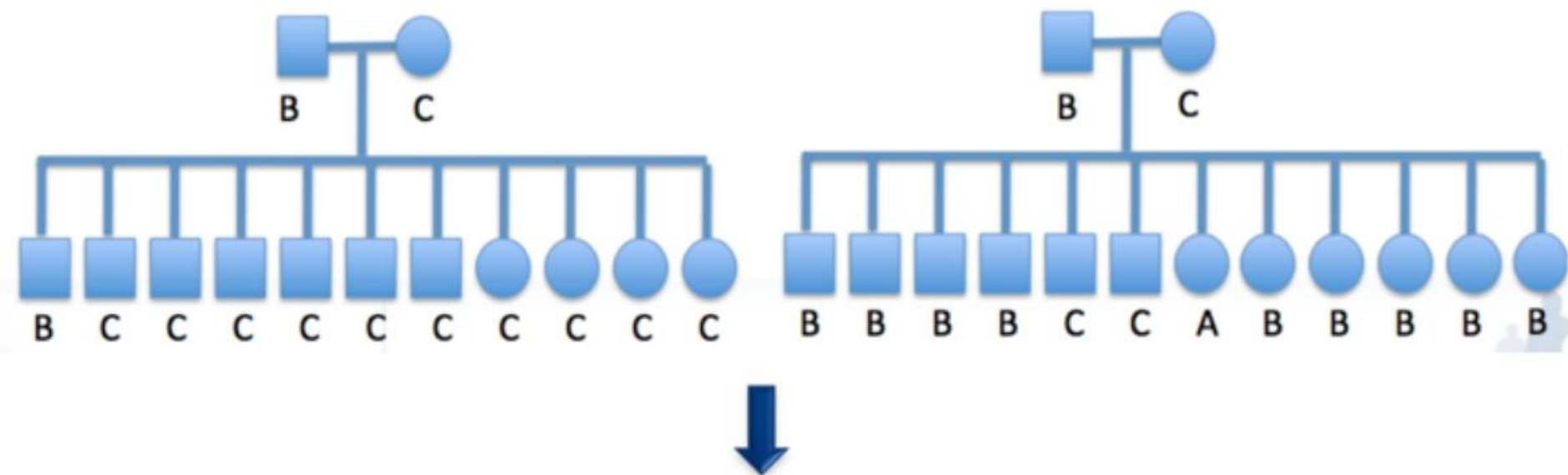
Ruple et al 2016

- treatments : anti-inflammatory medications (Ruple et al. 2016)

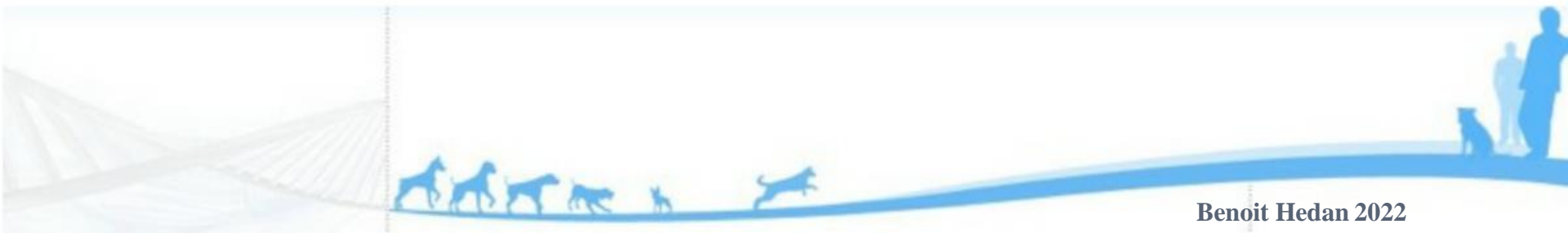


# Use of the test: Test of litters in 2012

Test of 112 puppies from 18 litters



different compatibility of dogs





# Histiocytic Sarcoma Index Mate Selection (HSIMS)

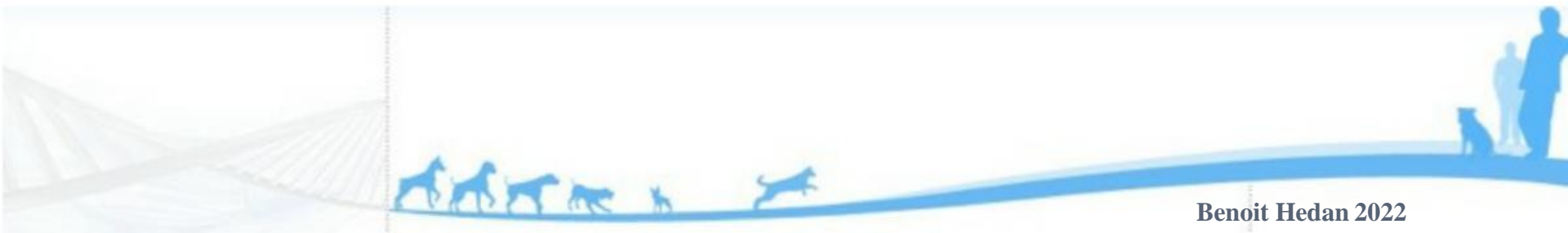
Development of Histiocytic Sarcoma Index Mate Selection (HSIMS)  
online webtool

Participation of numerous Bernese mountain clubs for this online development :  
**unique in veterinary medicine !**

French, Austrian, German, American, Swedish, Czech, Slovenian, Slovak  
and Swiss clubs

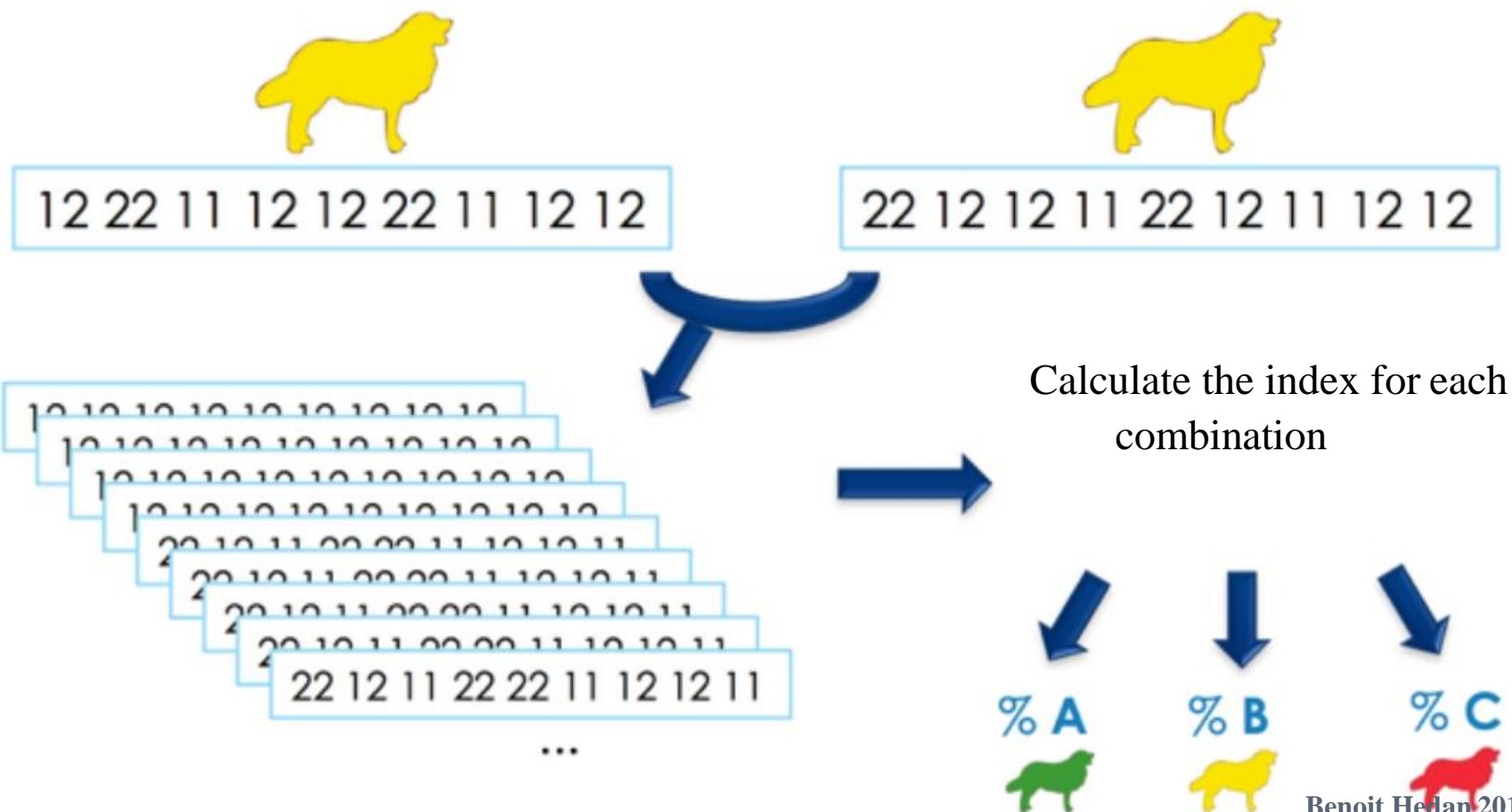
4123 sires and dams used for simulations

around 50 000 simulations per year



# Histiocytic Sarcoma Index Mate Selection (HSIMS)

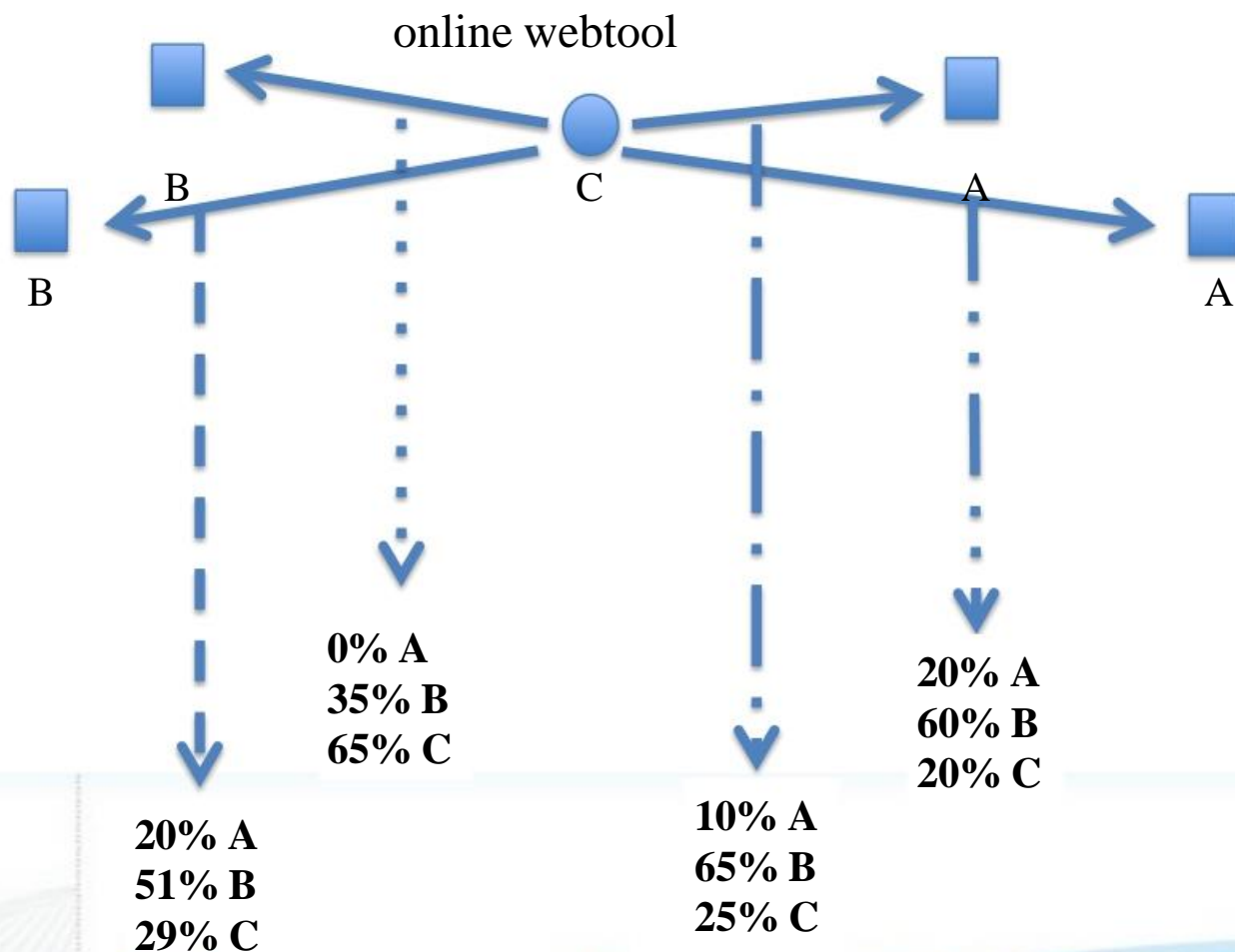
Development of Histiocytic Sarcoma Index Mate Selection (HSIMS)  
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# Histiocytic Sarcoma Index Mate Selection (HSIMS)

How to use this test ?

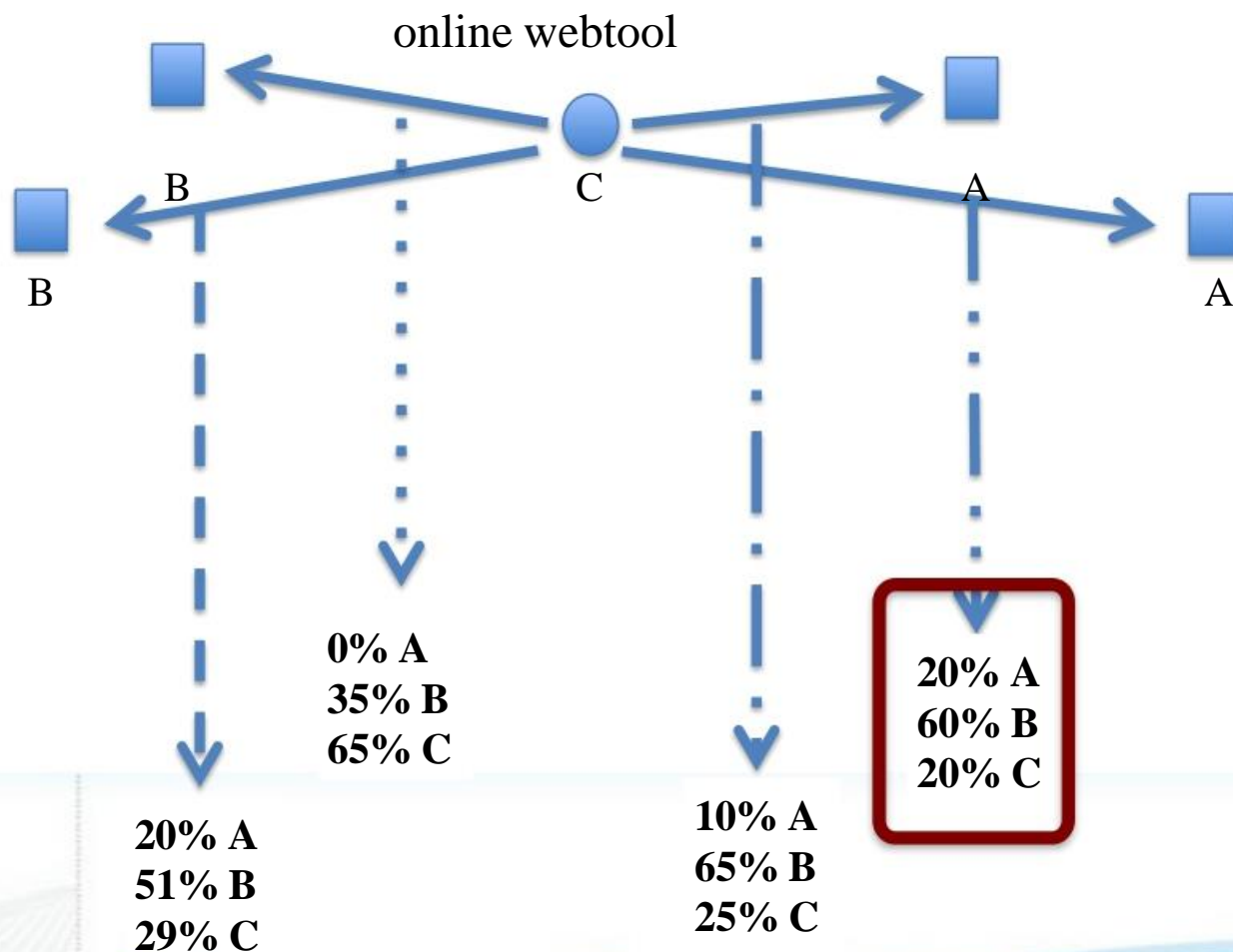
Development of Histiocytic Sarcoma Index Mate Selection (HSIMS)



# Histiocytic Sarcoma Index Mate Selection (HSIMS)

How to use this test ?

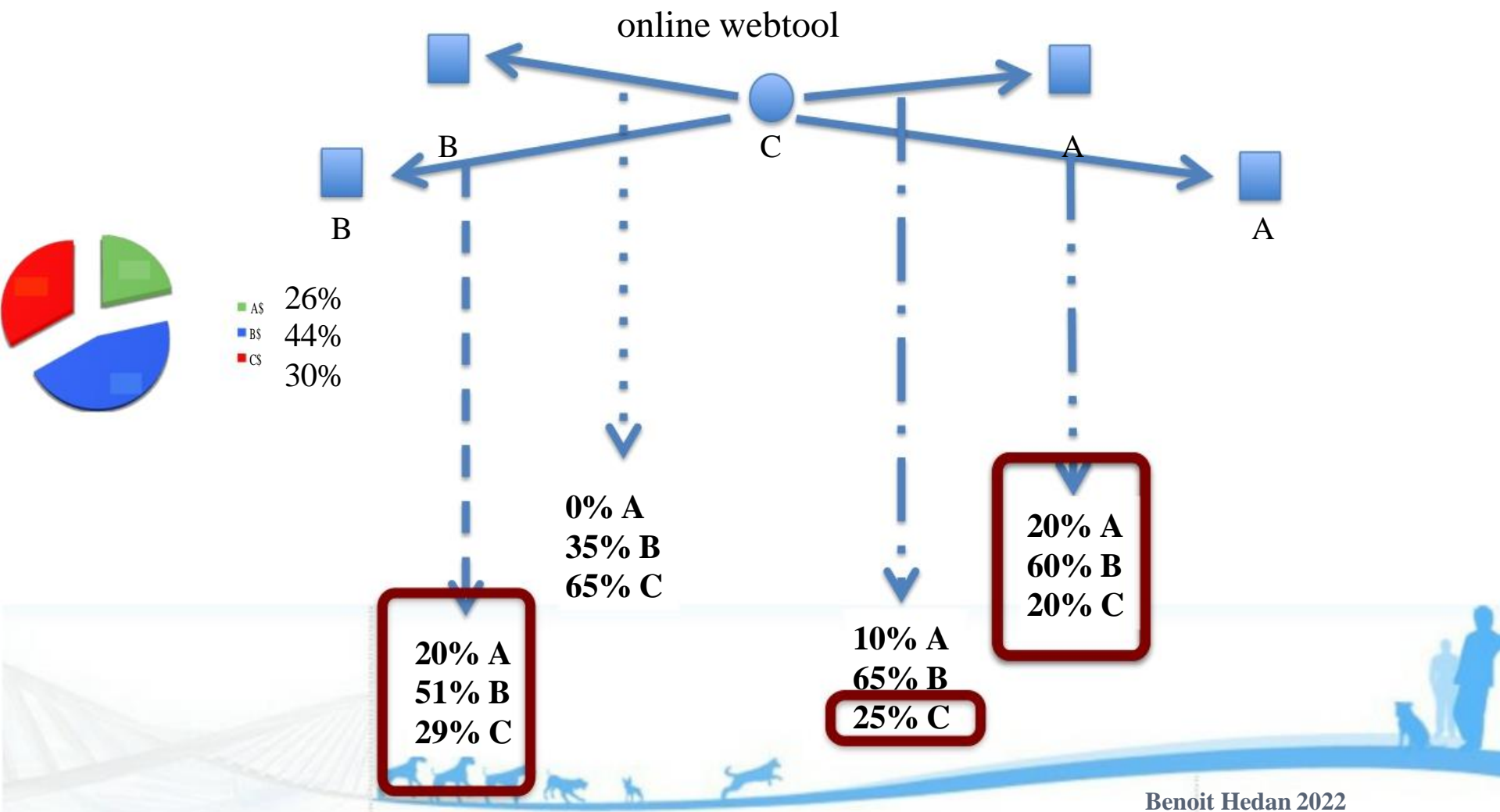
Development of Histiocytic Sarcoma Index Mate Selection (HSIMS)



# Histiocytic Sarcoma Index Mate Selection (HSIMS)

How to use this test ?

Development of Histiocytic Sarcoma Index Mate Selection (HSIMS)





# Summary of the HS test

## How to use this test ?

- help for selection and mating based on **actual knowledge**  
other important unknown genetic factors



# Summary of the HS test

## How to use this test ?

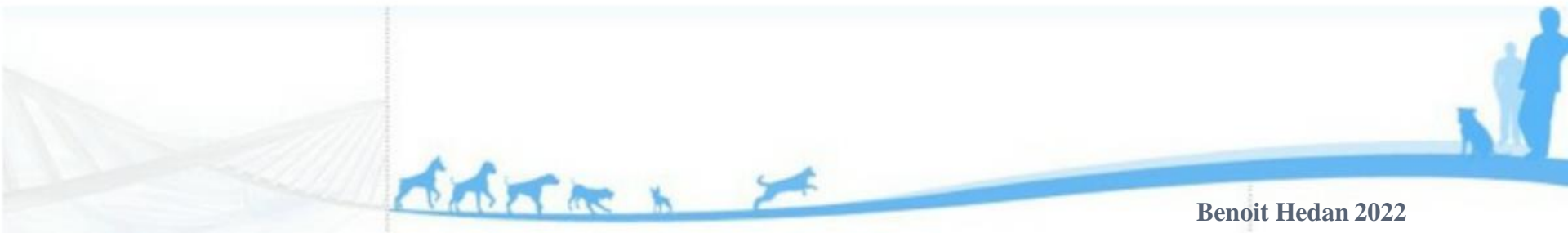
- help for selection and mating based on **actual knowledge**  
other important unknown genetic factors -> test will be improved



# Summary of the HS test

## How to use this test ?

- help for selection and mating based on **actual knowledge**  
other important unknown genetic factors -> test will be improved
- a helpful criteria in association with other criteria : **Life span, health, inbreeding...**
- **keep diversity and lineages ! Use the C dogs (30%) and not overused the A dogs!**



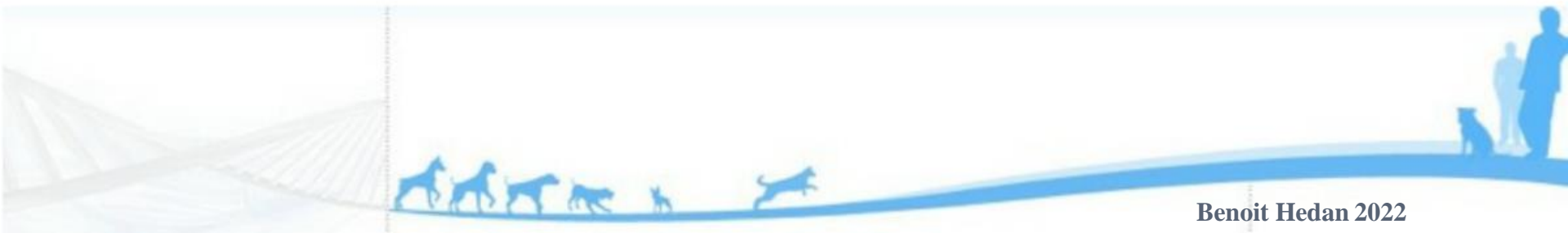
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C



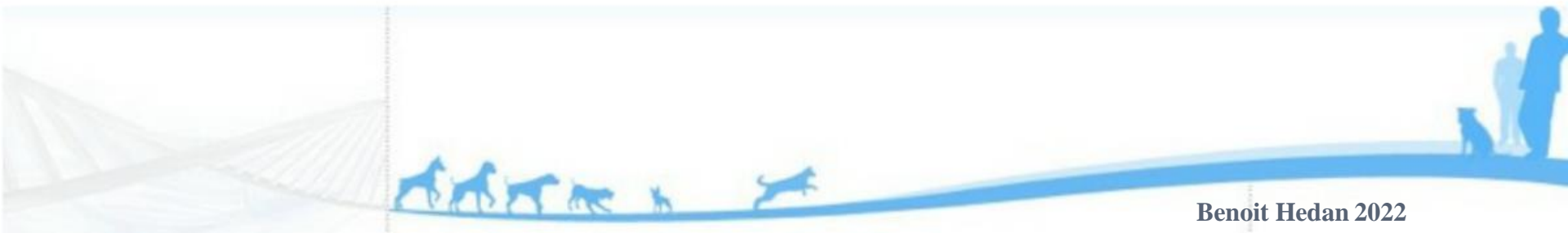
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compatible sire    C  
(A,B,C)

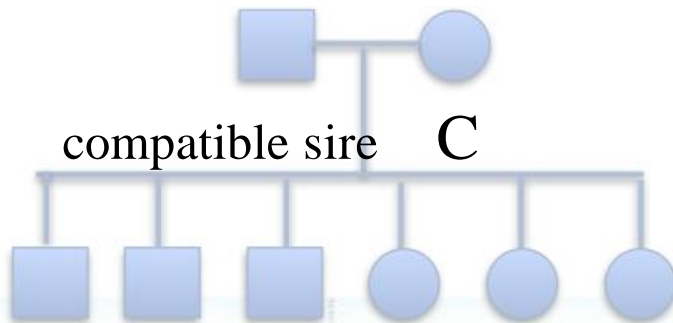




# Summary of the HS test

## How to use this test ?

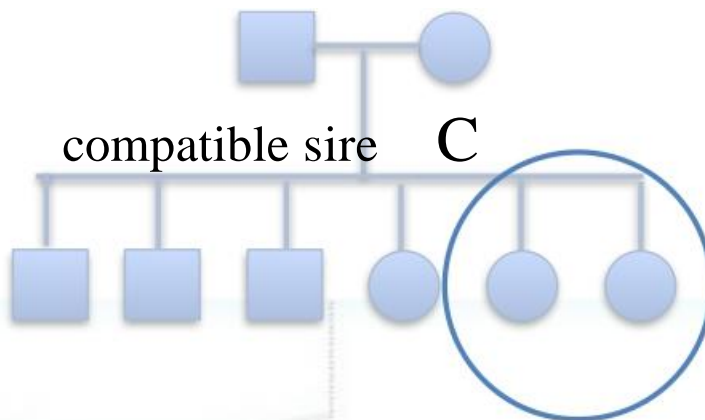
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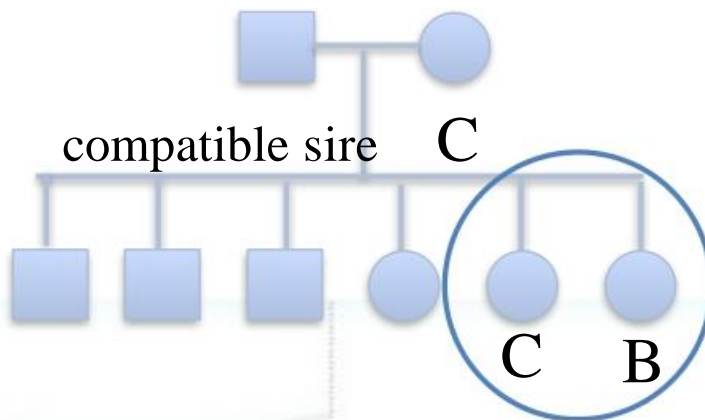


Selection of your best candidate futur dams

# Summary of the HS test

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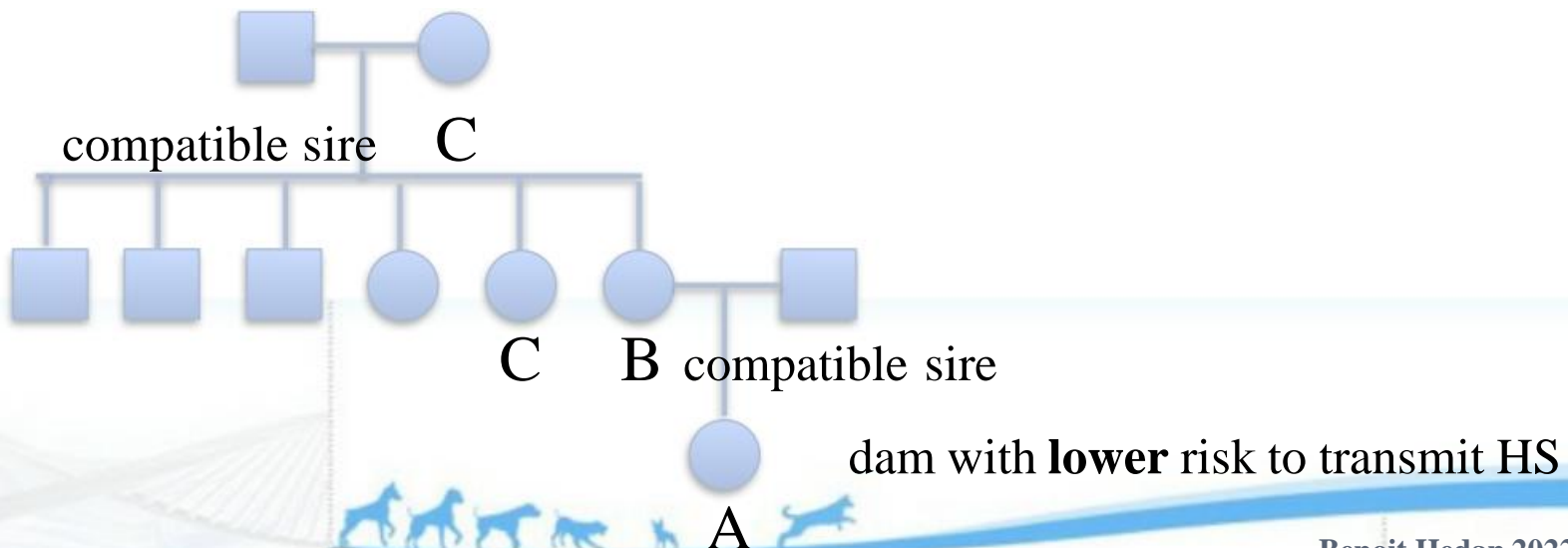


Selection of your best candidate futur dams  
TEST SH

# Summary of the HS test

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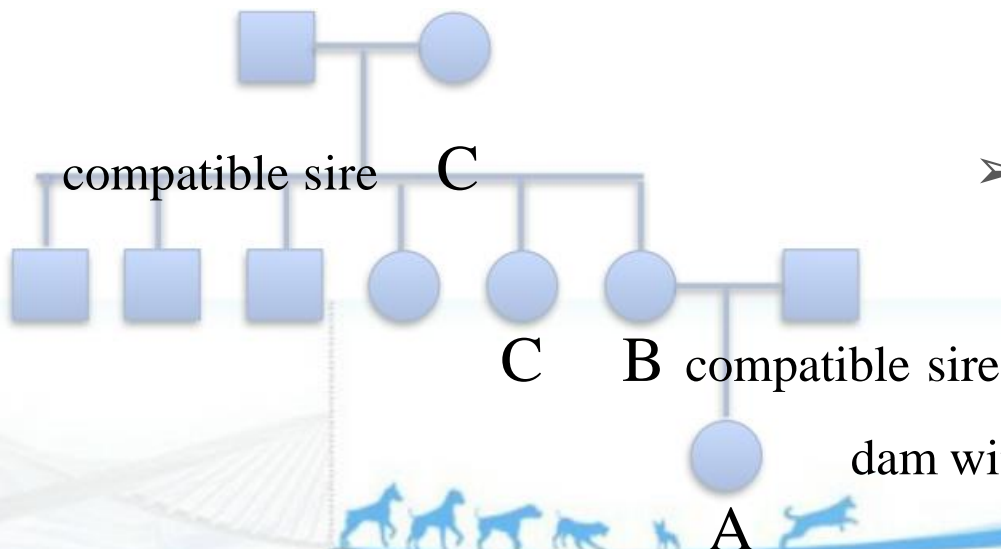
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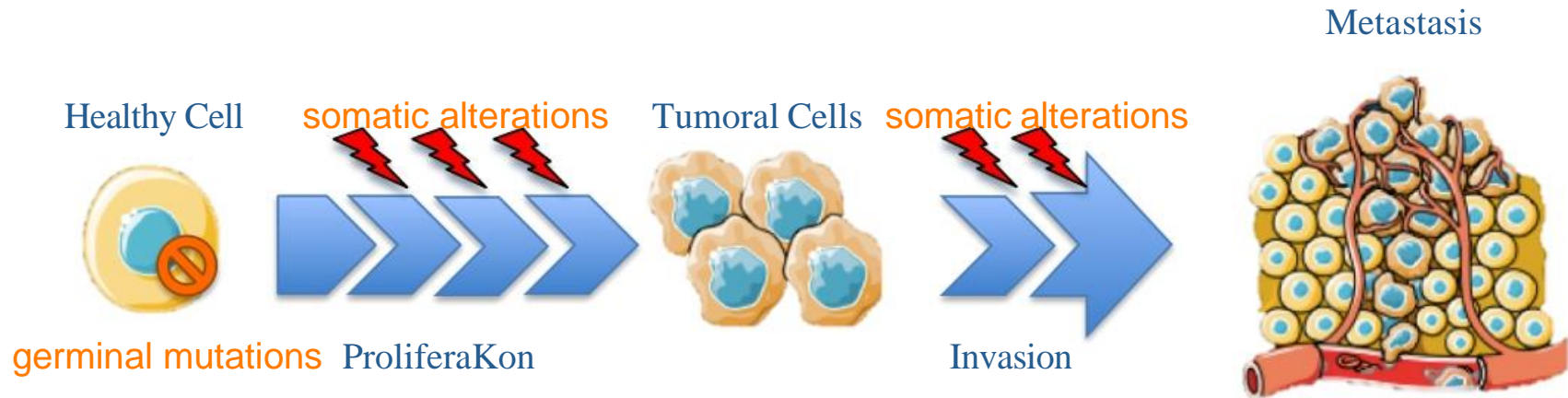
- help for selection and mating based on **actual knowledge**  
other important unknown genetic factors -> test will be improved
- a helpful criteria in association with other criteria : **Life span, health, inbreeding...**
- **keep diversity and lineages ! Use the C dogs (30%) and not overused the A dogs!**



➤ **keep diversity and select slowly**



# A long term goal : Identify genetic mechanisms involved in HS



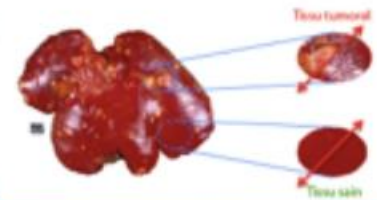
- Identify predisposing genes and risk alleles

-> Blood collection



- Identify recurrent somatic alterations associated with tumor progression

-> Tissue collection



# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations

Recurrent somatic mutations identify by RNAseq of 4 tumors  
in the genes *TP53* and *PTPN11* (MAPKinase pathway) :



# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations

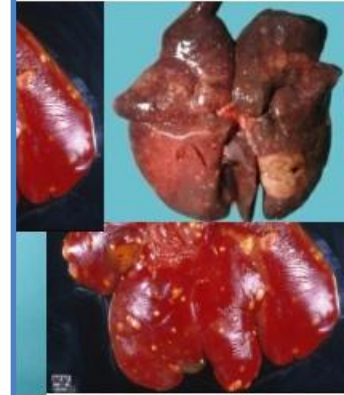
Recurrent somatic mutations identify by RNAseq of 4 tumors  
in the genes *TP53* and *PTPN11* (MAPKinase pathway) :

Gene mutated in human myelomonocytic leukemia



# Canine histiocytic sarcoma:

Recurrent somatic  
in the genes *TP53*

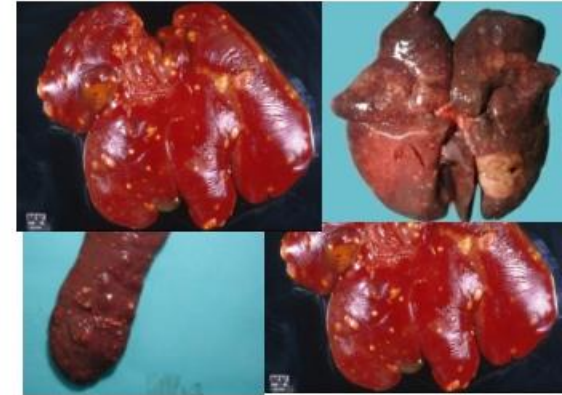


Proliferation survival differentiation....

# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations

Recurrent somatic mutations identify by RNAseq of 4 tumors in the genes *TP53* and *PTPN11* (MAPKinase pathway) :

Gene mutated in human myelomonocytic leukemia



Sequencing of *PTPN11* in >100 HS - different breeds, with different clinical presentations

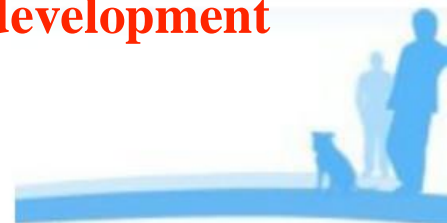
-> *PTPN11* mutated in 56,75% (63/111) of cases

**-> major event for HS development**





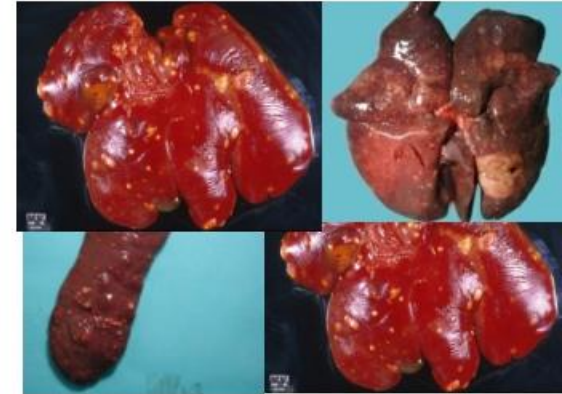
## Benoit Hedan 2022



# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations

Recurrent somatic mutations identify by RNAseq of 4 tumors in the genes *TP53* and *PTPN11* (MAPKinase pathway) :

Gene mutated in human myelomonocytic leukemia



Sequencing of *PTPN11* in >100 HS - different breeds, with different clinical presentations -> *PTPN11* mutated in 56,75% (63/111) of cases

*PTPN11* Mutations linked to internal tumors:

	Mutated	WT
BMD	48	36
other breeds	6	12

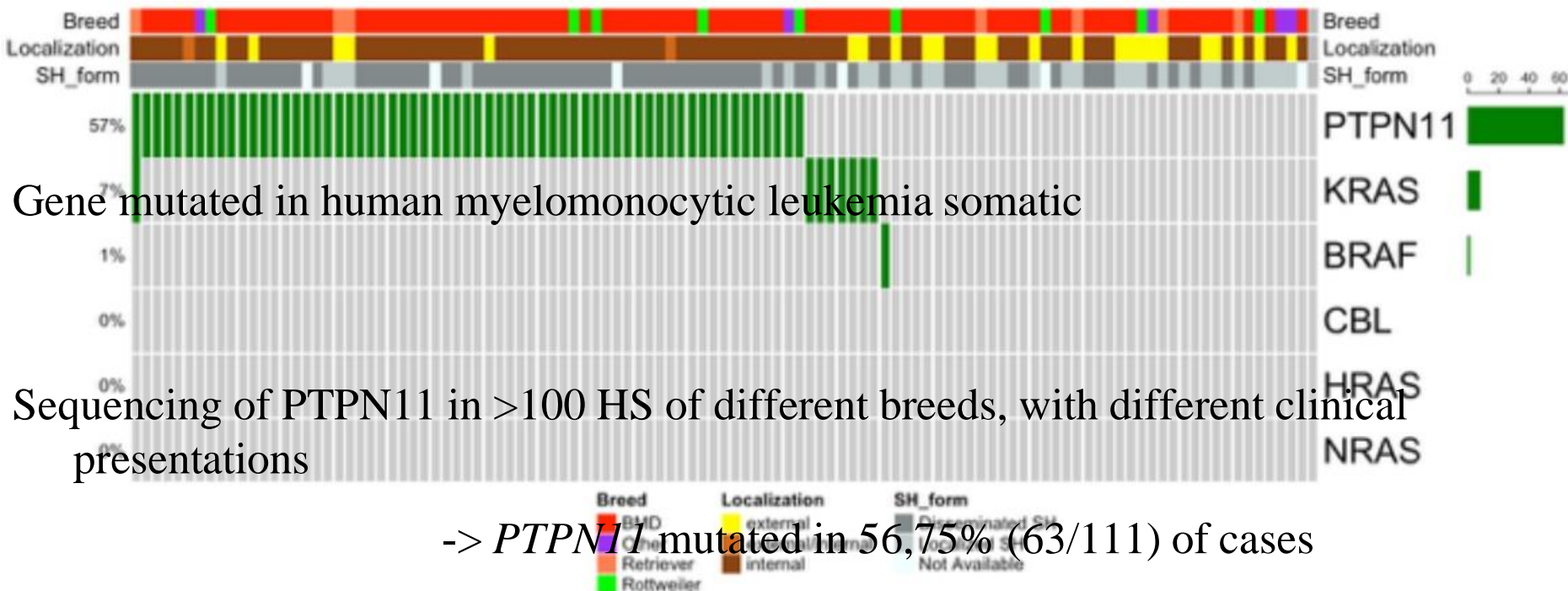
*p-value* = 0.07 (Exact Fisher test)

	Mutated	WT
internal	42	25
external	5	20

*p-value* = 0.00035 (Exact Fisher test)

# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations

## Mutations in oncogenes of the MAPKinase pathway



**-> Alteration of this pathway in >65% of HS- a key event in HS development**



# Canine histiocytic sarcoma:

## Short Report Somatic mutations

### PTPN11 mutations in canine and human disseminated histiocytic sarcoma

Recurrent somatic mutations identify by RNAseq of 4 tumors in the genes *TP53* and *PTPN11* (MAPK kinase pathway) :

Gene mutated in human myelomonocytic leukemia somatic

Sequencing of *PTPN11* in >100 HS of different breeds, with different clinical presentations

Mutations linked to disseminated HS

(J Donnadieu)



Christiane Copie-Bergman<sup>1</sup>, Edouard Cadieu<sup>2</sup>, Marie Perrens<sup>3</sup>, Julia Allen<sup>4</sup>, Emmanuelle L. Zalcman<sup>5</sup>, Gunnar Carlo<sup>6</sup>, Gandhi Datta<sup>7</sup>, Veronique Mehlert<sup>8</sup>, François de Lambilliotte<sup>9</sup>, James Coulomb-Lherminier<sup>10</sup>, Thomas Derrien<sup>11</sup>, Christophe Witte<sup>12</sup>, Benoit Hedan<sup>13</sup>, Catherine André<sup>14</sup>, David H. Adams<sup>15</sup>, and Benoit Hedan<sup>16</sup>

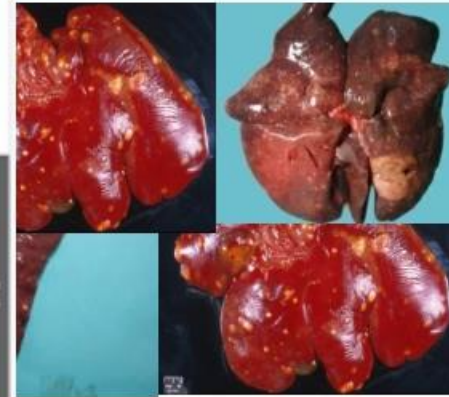
<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Medicine, CNRS-University of Rennes 1, UMR6290, Institute of Genetics and Development of Rennes, SFR Biosit, Rennes, France  
<sup>2</sup>Department of Biology, Pathology and Food Sciences, Oniris, Laboratoire, Nantes, France  
<sup>3</sup>Maxon Vet - Critériol, France  
<sup>4</sup>Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, Département de Pathologie, Groupe Henri-Mondor-Albert-Chenevier, Critériol, France  
<sup>5</sup>Department of Pathology, CHU de Rennes, Rennes, France  
<sup>6</sup>Pediatric Oncology/Hematology, University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel, Germany  
<sup>7</sup>Department of Neuropathology, GMD Paris Psychiatrie Neurosciences, Sainte-Anne Hospital, Paris, France  
<sup>8</sup>Hematology Institute, CHU de Caen and Centre François Baclesse, Caen, France  
<sup>9</sup>Sorbonne University, Inserm, CNRS, Institut du Cerveau et de la Moelle épinière, ICM, AP-HP, Hôpitaux Universitaires La Pitié Salpêtrière - Charles Foix, Service de Neuropathologie-Écouvroulle, Paris, France  
<sup>10</sup>Department of Medical Oncology, Centre Léon Bérard, Lyon, France  
<sup>11</sup>Department of Pathology, Trouerou Hospital, Paris, France  
<sup>12</sup>Department of Pathology, CHU de Rennes, Rennes, France  
<sup>13</sup>Department of Pathology, CHU de Rennes, Rennes, France  
<sup>14</sup>Department of Pathology, CHU de Rennes, Rennes, France  
<sup>15</sup>Department of Pathology, CHU de Rennes, Rennes, France  
<sup>16</sup>Department of Pathology, CHU de Rennes, Rennes, France

Int. J. Cancer: 00, 00–00 (2020) © 2020 UICC

Abstract: Histiocytic sarcoma (HS) is a rare and aggressive cancer. The treatment remains a challenge. Sharing high clinical and histopathological similarities with human HS, the canine HS is conversely frequent in specific breeds and thus constitutes a unique spontaneous model for human HS to decipher the genetic bases and to explore therapeutic options. We identified sequence alterations in the MAPK pathway in at least 63.9% (71/111) of HS cases with mutually exclusive *BRAF* (0.9%; 1/111), *KRAS* (7.2%; 8/111) and *PTPN11* (56.75%; 63/111) mutations. Recurrent *PTPN11* mutations are associated to visceral disseminated HS. We then identified *PTPN11* mutations in 3/19 (15.7%) human HS patients. Thus, we propose *PTPN11* mutations as key events for a specific subset of human and canine HS: the visceral disseminated form. Finally, by testing drugs targeting the MAPK pathway in eight canine HS cell lines, we identified a better anti-proliferation activity of MEK inhibitors than *PTPN11* inhibitors in canine HS neoplastic cells. In combination, these results illustrate the relevance of naturally affected dogs in deciphering genetic mechanisms and selecting efficient targeted therapies for such rare and aggressive cancers in humans.

B.H. and M.R. should be considered joint first authorship  
 Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article.  
 Key words: histiocytic sarcoma, dog, spontaneous model, PTPN11  
 DOI: 10.1002/ijc.32991  
 History: Received 20 Dec 2019; Accepted 20 Feb 2020;  
 Online 25 Mar 2020  
 Correspondence to: Benoit Hedan, E-mail: benoit.hedan@univ-rennes1.fr and Catherine André, E-mail: catherine.andre@univ-rennes1.fr

Introduction  
 Histiocytic sarcomas (HS), also referred as malignant histiocytosis (MH), are rare and aggressive cancers characterized by proliferation of cells with the phenotype of mature tissue histiocytes.<sup>1</sup> Half of the cases occur in the context of a previous lymphoid or myeloid neoplasm, while the other half are considered as primitive proliferation of histiocytes.<sup>2</sup> This aggressive tumor leads to a high mortality and currently, there is neither consensus on prognostic factors, nor on standard treatment. Recent publications have



Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics

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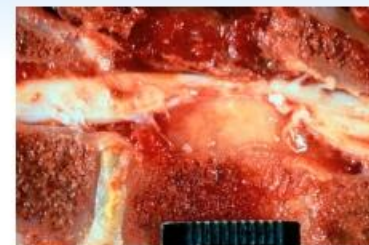
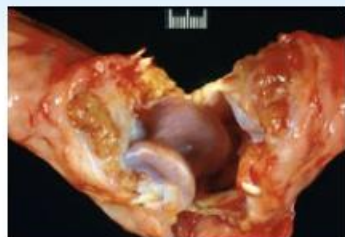
5

WT

25

20

$p\text{-value} = 0.00035$  (Exact Fisher test)



Hypothesis 1: same cancers  
observed at different time

start of cancer

localized HS

metastases of HS  
(spleen, liver, lungs...)

disseminated HS

time

Hypothesis 2: different subtypes  
of Histiocytic cells

localized HS to external organs  
(skin, joint...)

≠

disseminated HS to  
internal organs

**PTPN11  
mutations**

PTPN11 mutations probably occur in late stages of the tumor

Benoit Hedan 2021





# Canine histiocytic sarcoma:

## Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

Interest for the diagnosis:

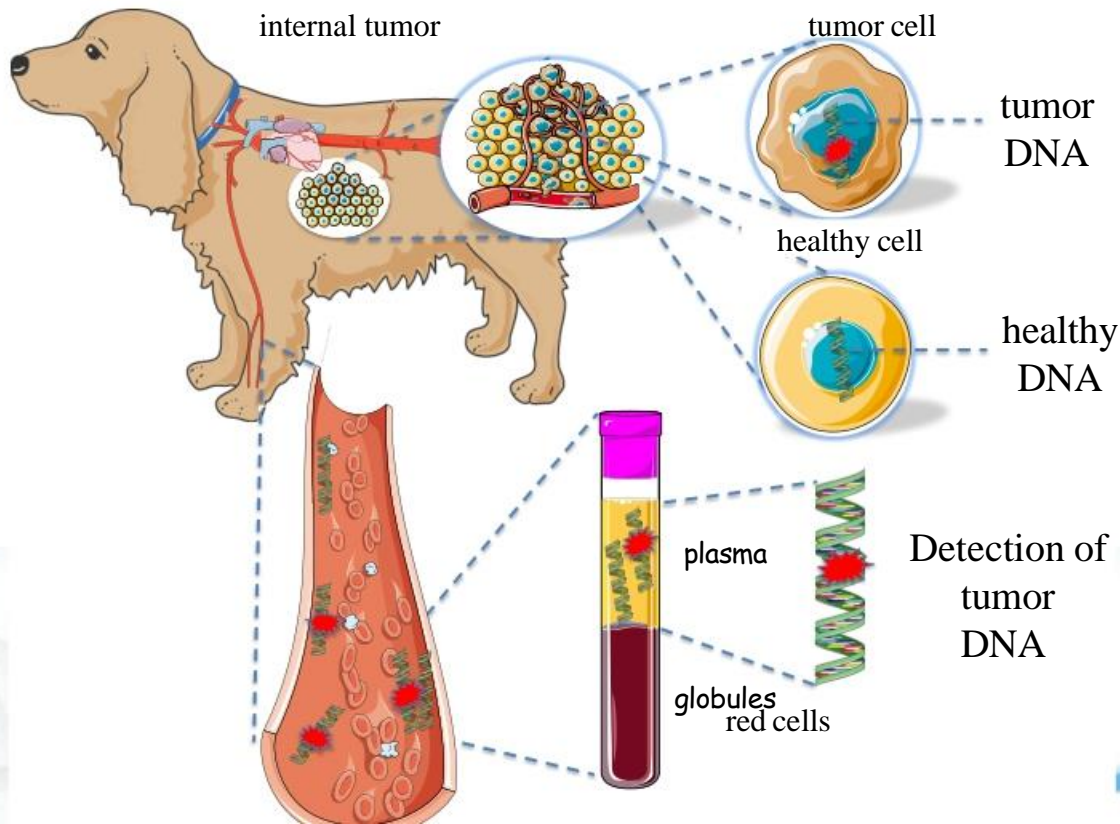
- specific of HS : there are no *PTPN11* nor *KRAS* mutations in any of the lymphoma samples (Takada et al. 2019 Genes )



# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

Interest for the diagnosis:

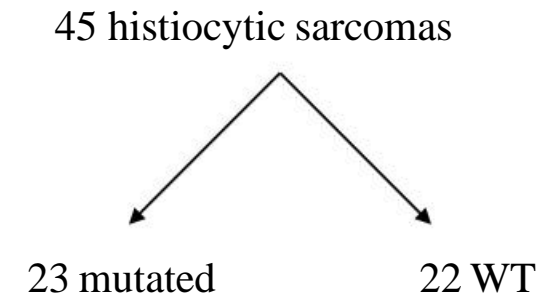
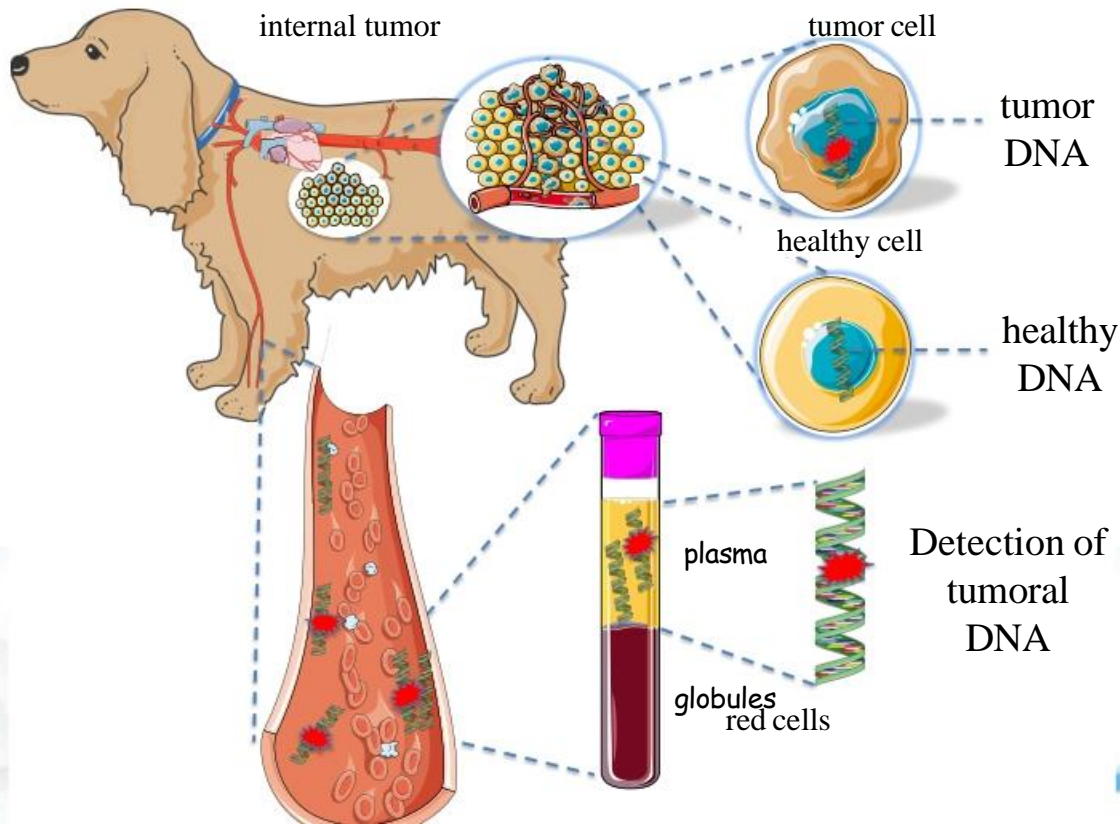
- specific of HS : there are no *PTPN11* nor *KRAS* mutations in any of the lymphoma samples (Takada et al. 2019 Genes )
- detectable in plasma of affected dogs



# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

Interest for the diagnosis:

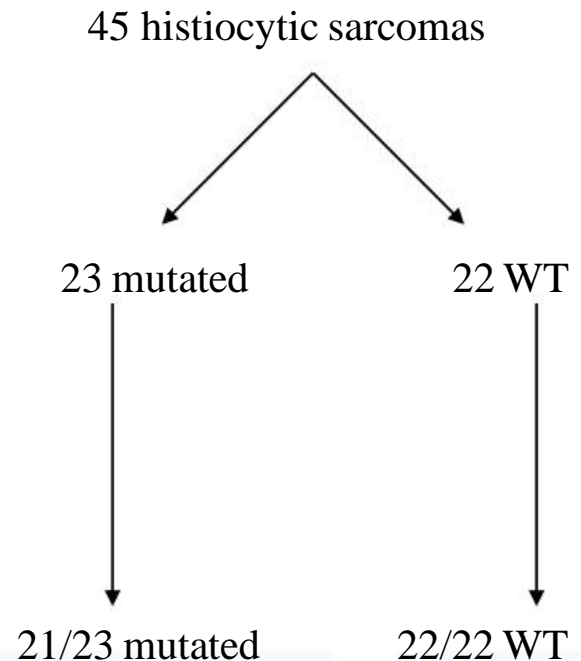
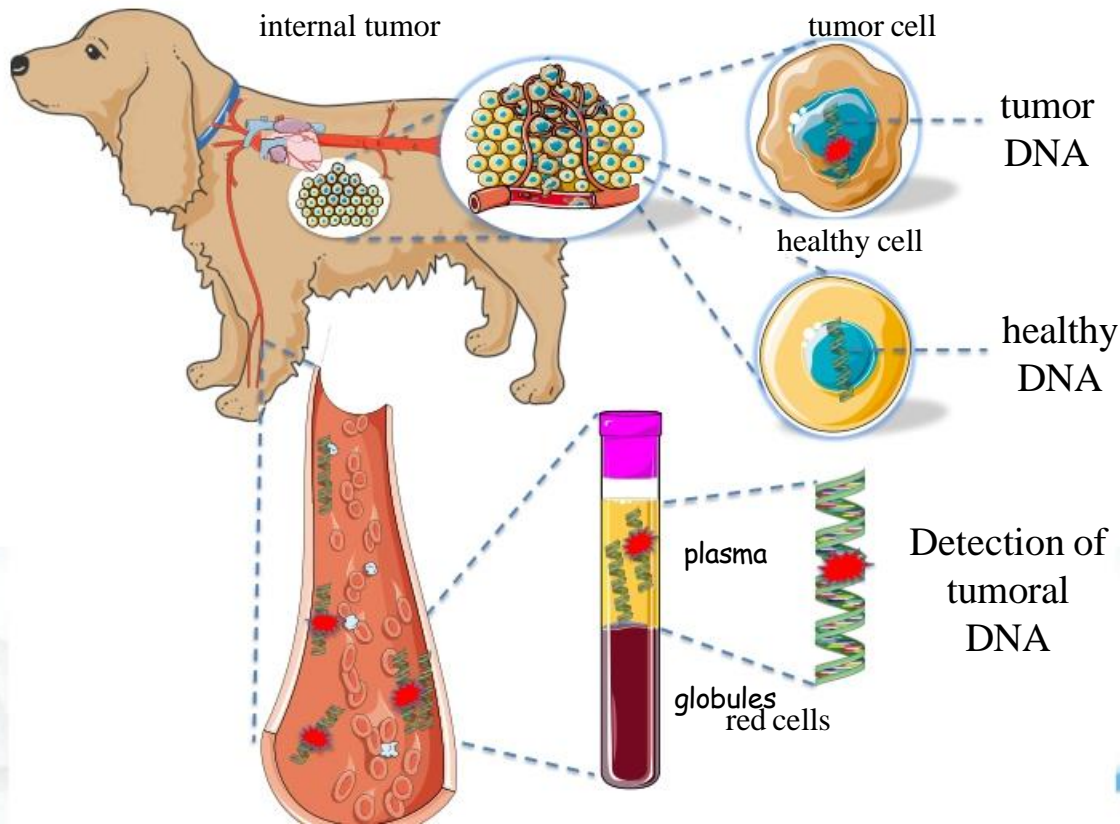
- specific of HS : there are no *PTPN11* nor *KRAS* mutations in any of the lymphoma samples (Takada et al. 2019 Genes )
- detectable in plasma of affected dogs



# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

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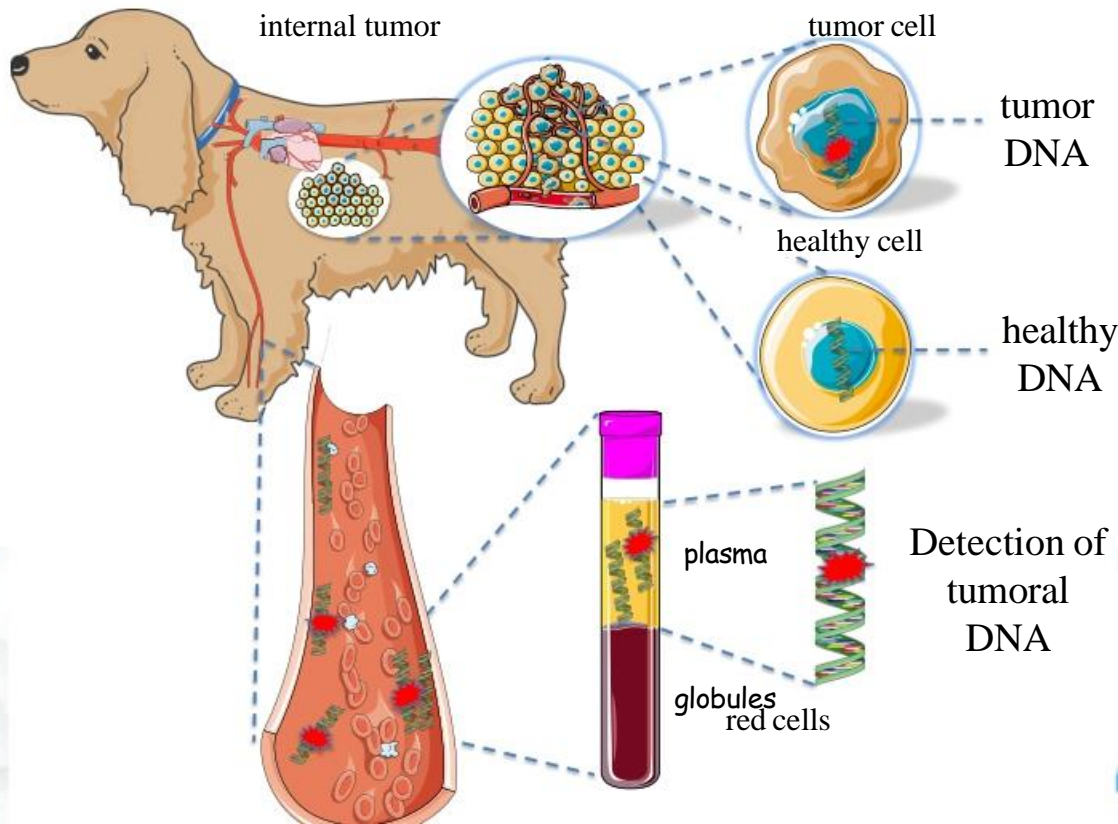


# Canine histiocytic sarcoma:

## Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

Interest for the diagnosis:

- specific of HS : there are no *PTPN11* nor *KRAS* mutations in any of the lymphoma samples (Takada et al. 2019 Genes )
- detectable in plasma of affected dogs



45 histiocytic sarcomas

23 mutated

22 WT

21/23 mutated

22/22 WT

Detection of  
tumoral  
DNA

84 control dogs ( lymphoma, melanoma , mast cell tumor, healthy):  
-> 1/84 false positive

# Canine histiocytic sarcoma:

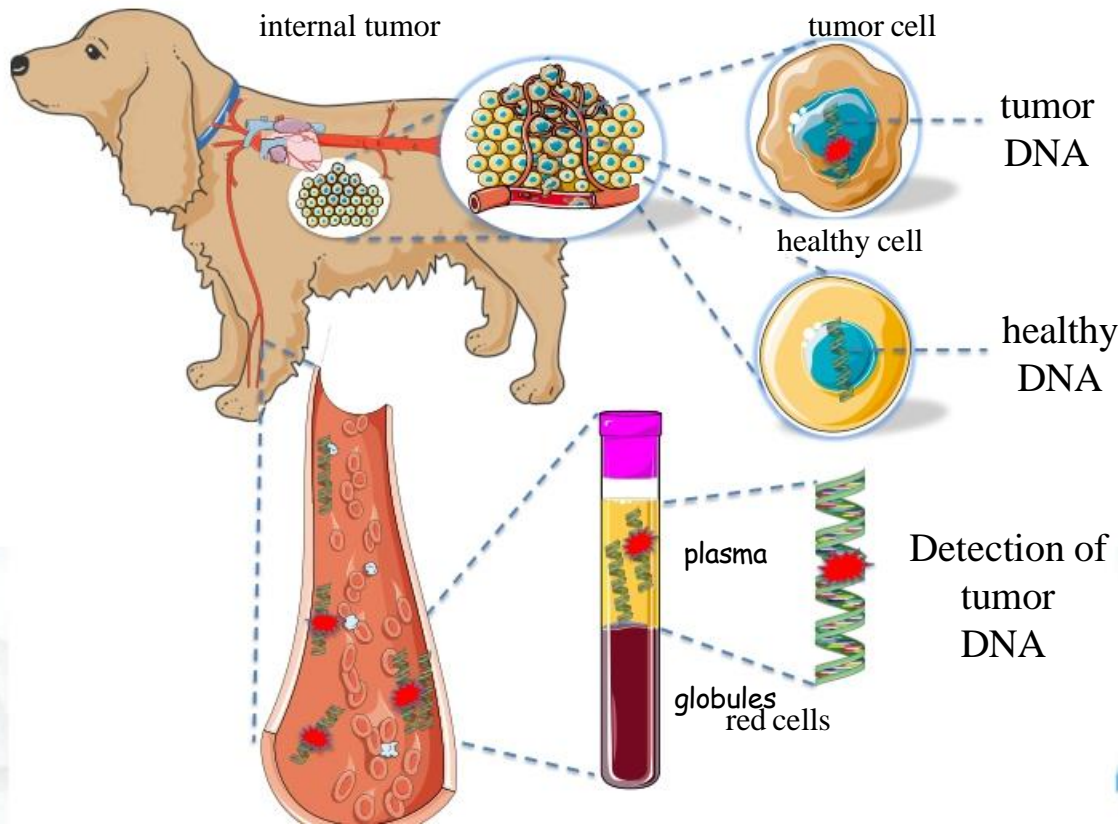
## Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

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- detectable in plasma of affected dogs

sensitivity 42.8 %  
(up to 77% for lung localization)

specificity 98.8 %  
*Prouteau et al. 2021*





# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

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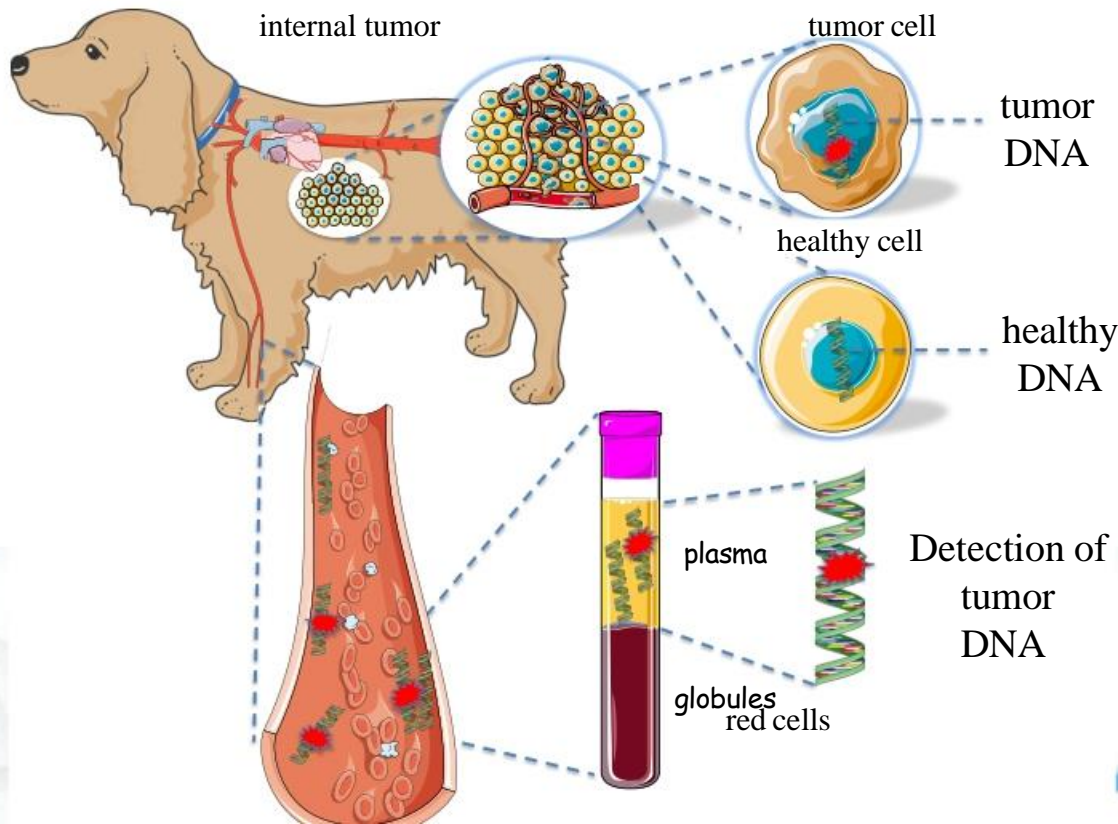
*Prouteau et al. 2021*

-> a tool for diagnosis of none biopsable masses

-> a prognostic tool?

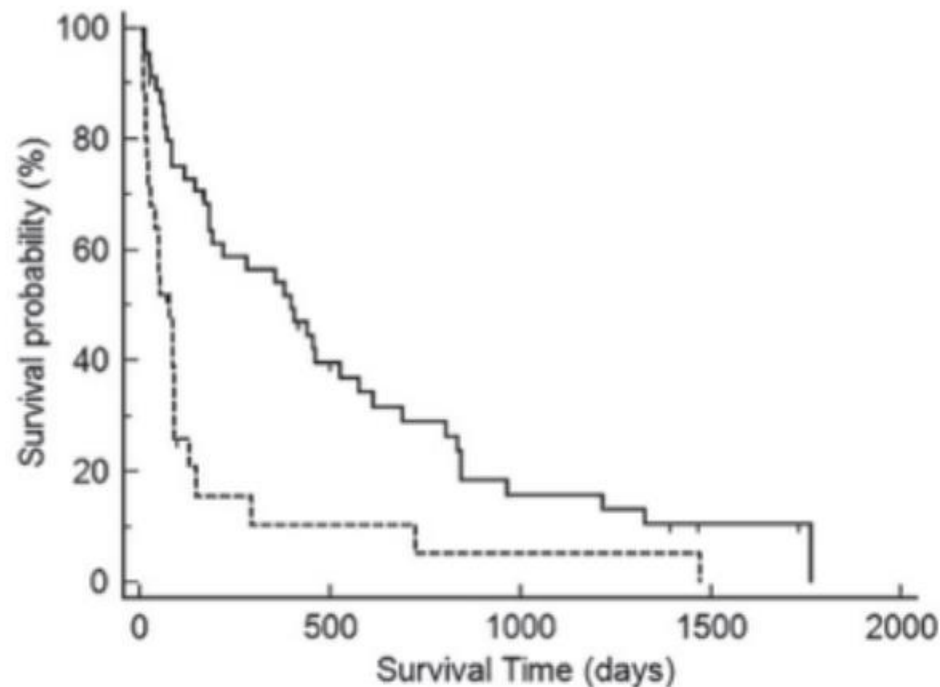
-> to follow treatment efficacy?

-> useful for earlier diagnosis?



# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

Prognosis marker ?



**Figure 3.** Kaplan–Meier survival curve estimating median OS for dogs diagnosed with LHS (solid line;  $n = 46$ ) compared to dogs with DHS (dashed line;  $n = 25$ ). Dogs diagnosed with LHS had significantly ( $P = 0.0002$ ) longer median OS (398 days) than dogs diagnosed with DHS (78 days). Vertical tick marks represent animals that were censored (LHS group  $n = 8$ ; DHS group  $n = 2$ ).



# Canine histiocytic sarcoma:

## Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

Prognosis marker ? -> Exploration of HS cases from different french histological labs

Collection of 305 blocs FFPE  
(Oniris, IHP, LAPVSO,  
Amboise) with  
epidemiological data  
(Annabelle Garand, Julien  
Ascencio, Charline Bianchi)

breed	Internal masses	External masses	both	Total
Akita Inu	0	1	0	1
American Stafford Terrier	1	3	0	4
Australian Shepherd	2	4	0	6
Beagle	1	1	0	2
Beauceron	1	3	0	4
Belgian Shepherd	3	1	0	4
Bernese mountain dog	42	50	1	93
Bleu de Gascogne	1	0	0	1
Border	1	3	0	4
Bulldog	11	7	0	18
Boxer	2	4	0	6
Canaan dog	1	0	0	1
Chihuahua	1	1	0	2
Chow Chow	0	1	0	1
Cocker	5	1	0	6
Coton de Tuléar	1	0	0	1
cross breed	5	4	0	9
Dachshund	0	1	0	1
Doberman	2	3	0	5
Flat Coat Retriever	1	5	0	6
Fox	3	0	0	3
German Shepherd	4	2	0	6
Golden Retriever	7	11	0	18
Husky	0	2	0	2
Irish wolfhound	1	0	0	1
Jack Russel	4	2	0	6
King Charles Spaniel	1	3	0	4
Labrador	16	10	0	26
Maltese dog	1	1	0	2
Munster spaniel	0	1	0	1
other	0	2	0	2
Pinsher	0	1	0	1
Poodle	2	2	0	4
Pyrenean Sheepdog	0	1	0	1
Rolweiler	21	15	1	37
Scotch Terrier	0	1	0	1
Shar Pei	1	0	0	1
Shepherd	3	0	0	3
Silky Terrier	1	0	0	1
Welsh Corgi	1	0	0	1
Yorkshire Terrier	6	3	0	9
Total				305

# Canine histiocytic sarcoma:

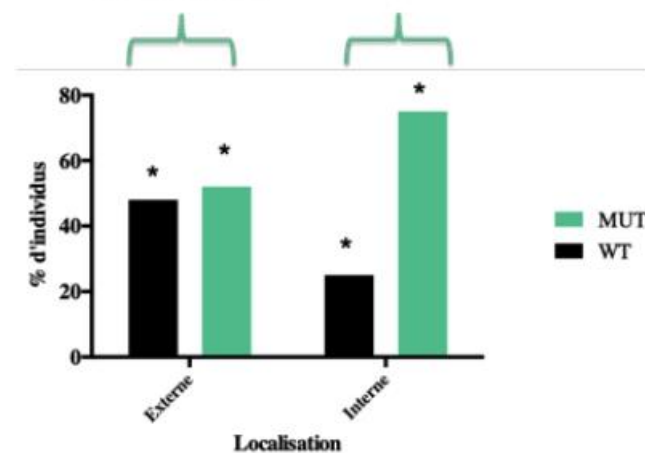
## Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

Prognosis marker ? -> Selection of 180 HS cases

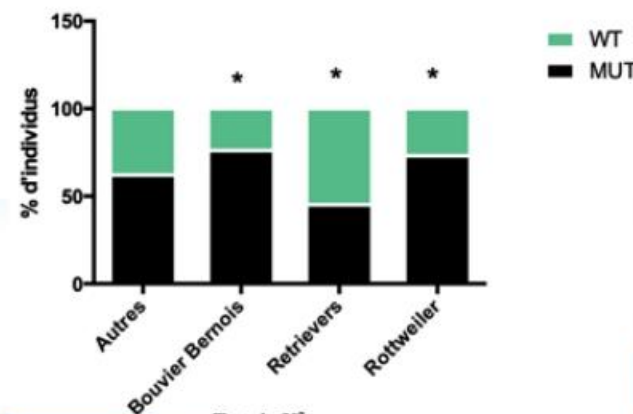
		localisation	
	total	externe	interne
American Bully	1	1 muté	
American Stafford Terrier	4	2 WT	2 mutés
Berger Allemand	6	1 muté/1 WT	2 muté/2 WT
Berger Australien	5	3 mutés	2 mutés
Berger Belge Malinois	4	1 muté/1 WT	2 mutés
Border	4	3 WT	1 mutés
Bouledogue	20	5 muté/4 WT	8 muté/3 WT
Bouvier Bernois	41	12 muté/7 WT	18 muté/4 WT
Boxer	3	2 mutés	1 mutés
Caniche	4	2 mutés	1 muté/1 WT
Cavalier King Charles	4	1 muté/2 WT	1 mutés
Cocker	6	1 WT	5 mutés
Dobermann	5	1 muté/2 WT	2 mutés
Flat Coat Retriever	11	5 mutés/4 WT	1 muté/1 WT
Golden Retriever	11	2 mutés/3 WT	3 muté/3 WT
Jack Russel Terrier	6	2 mutés	1 muté/3 WT
Labrador	9	3 WT	3 muté/3 WT
Labrador x epagneul	1		1 mutés
Rottweiler	30	10 mutés/5 WT	12 mutés/3 WT
Yorkshire Terrier	8	1 mutés/2 WT	3 mutés/2 WT
Yorkshire TerrierX	1		1 mutés

Mutations linked to internal localisation and enriched in the breeds :  
BMDs, Rottweiler, French Bulldog..

Articulations mutées à 46%  
Peau mutée à 56%  
→  $X^2$  p-value = 0.3



Test du  $X^2$   
p-value = 0.0007



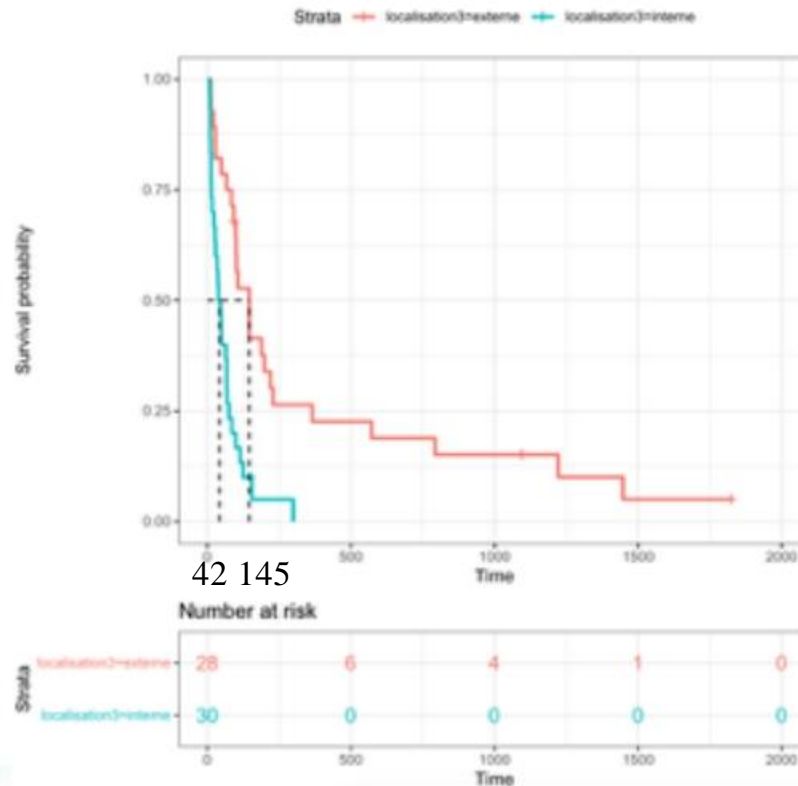
Test du  $X^2$   
p-value = 0.03



# Canine histiocytic sarcoma:

## Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

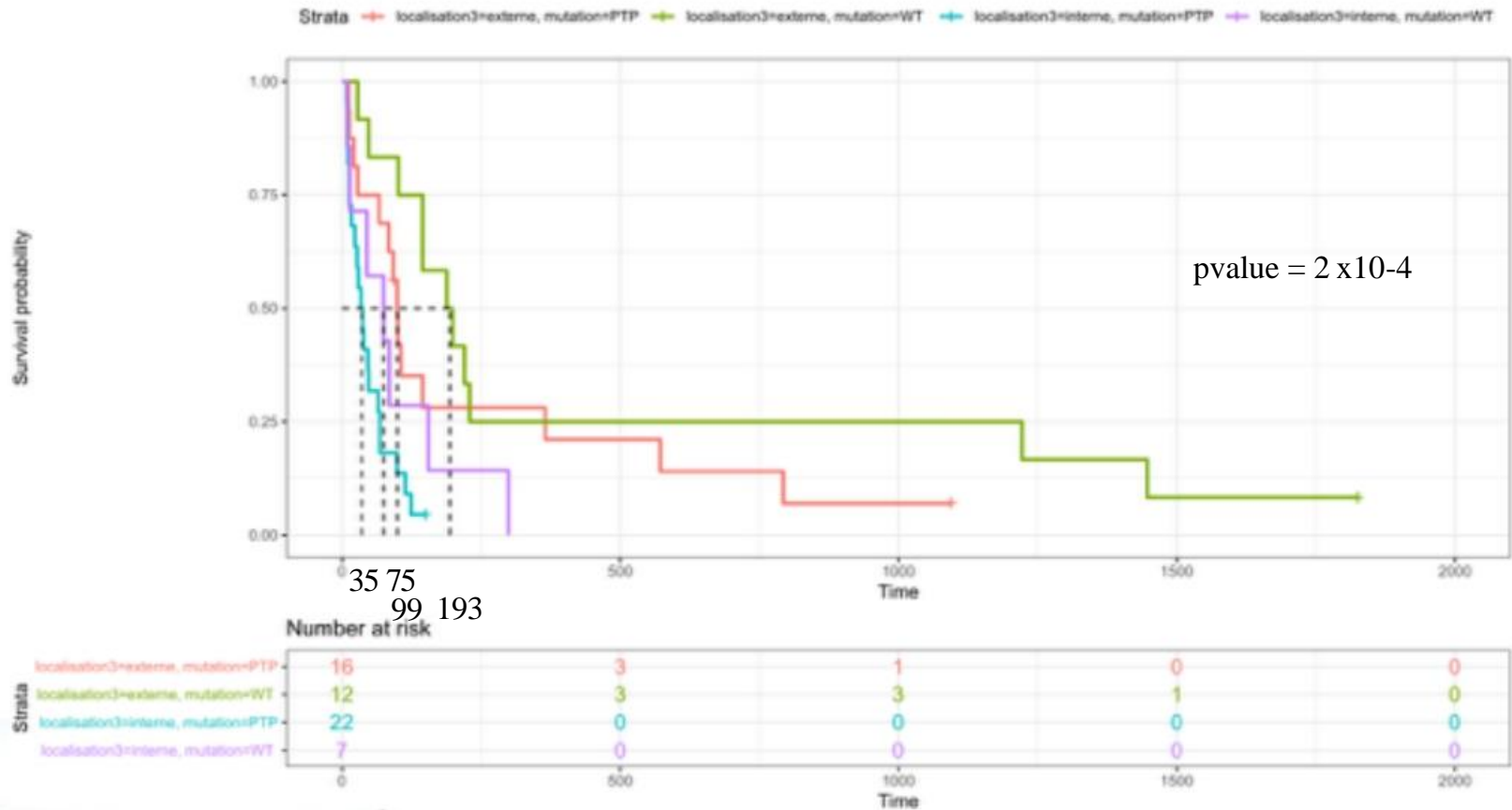
Prognosis marker ? -> Selection of 180 HS cases



pvalue =  $1 \times 10^{-5}$

# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

Prognosis marker ? -> Selection of 180 HS cases



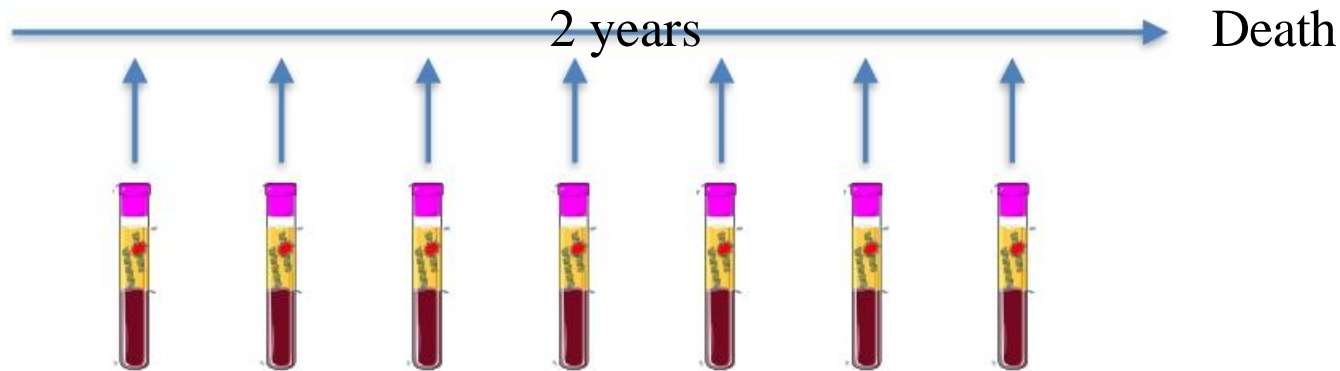
*PTPN11* mutation is a prognosis marker



# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

A marker for an earlier diagnosis ?

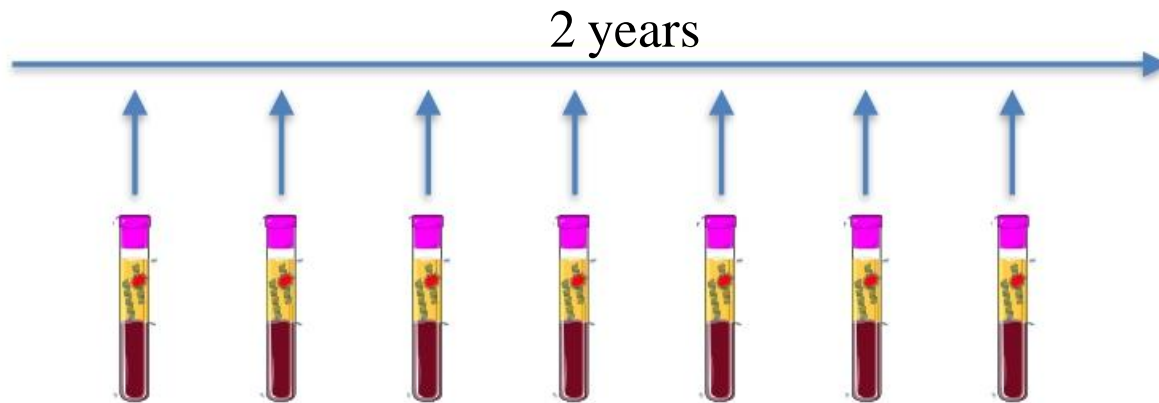
Follow up 30 dogs from two breeders : at risk (Age/ HS-test)



# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

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Follow up 30 dogs from two breeders : at risk (Age/ HS-test)



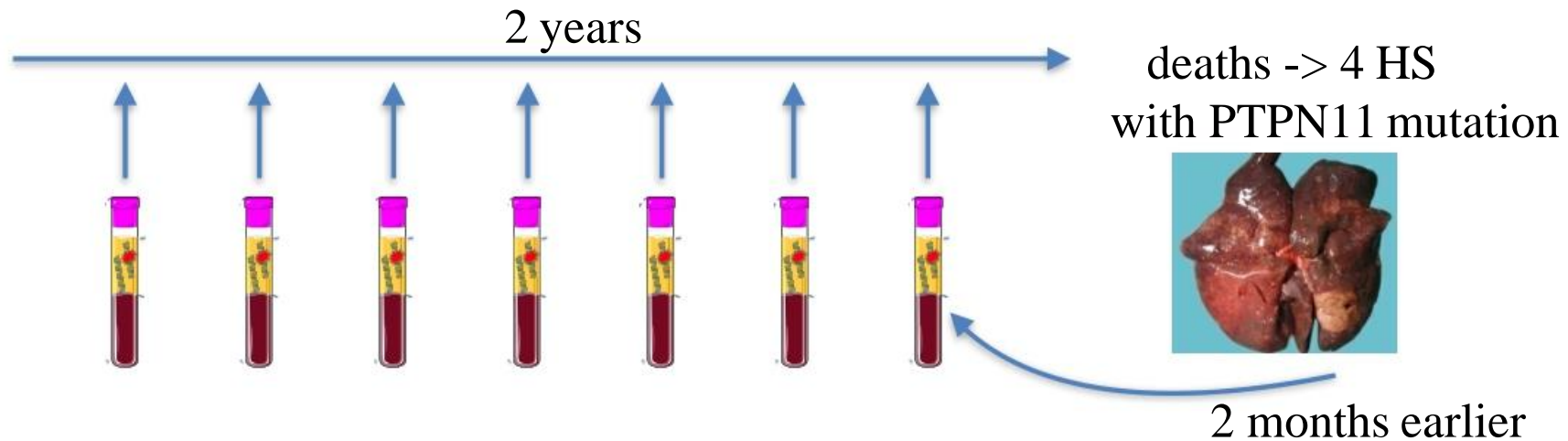
deaths -> 4 HS  
with PTPN11 mutation



# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

A marker for an earlier diagnosis ?

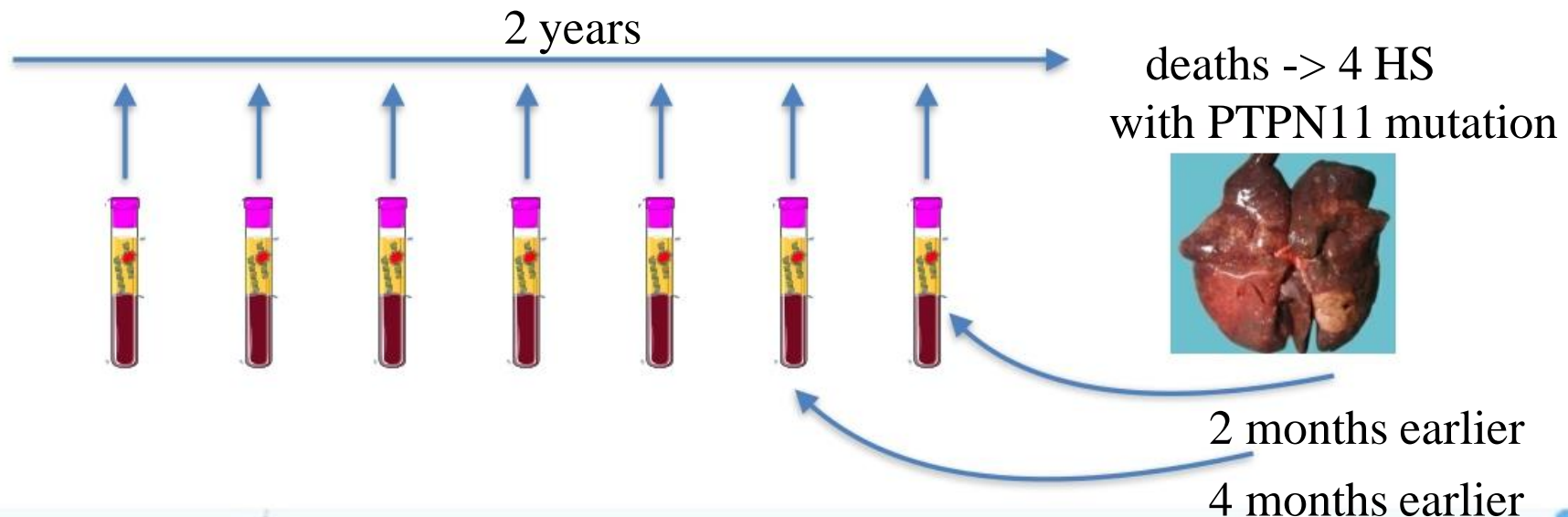
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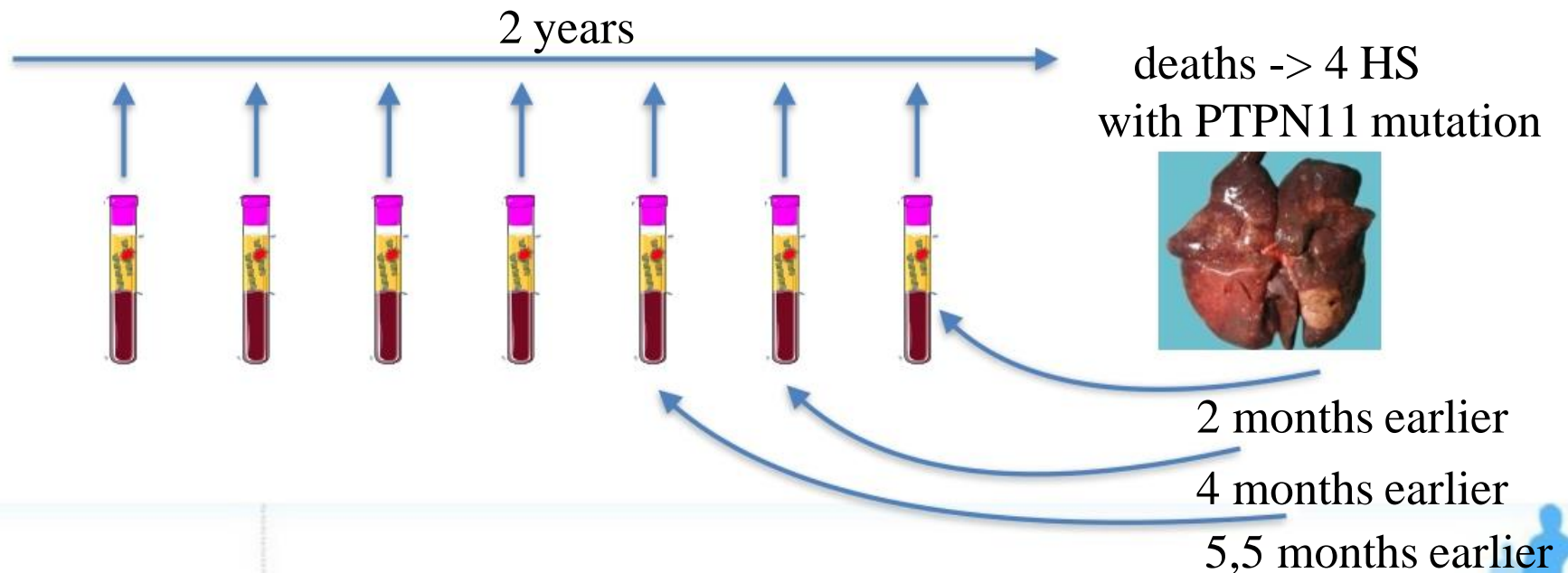
Follow up 30 dogs from two breeders : at risk (Age/ HS-test)



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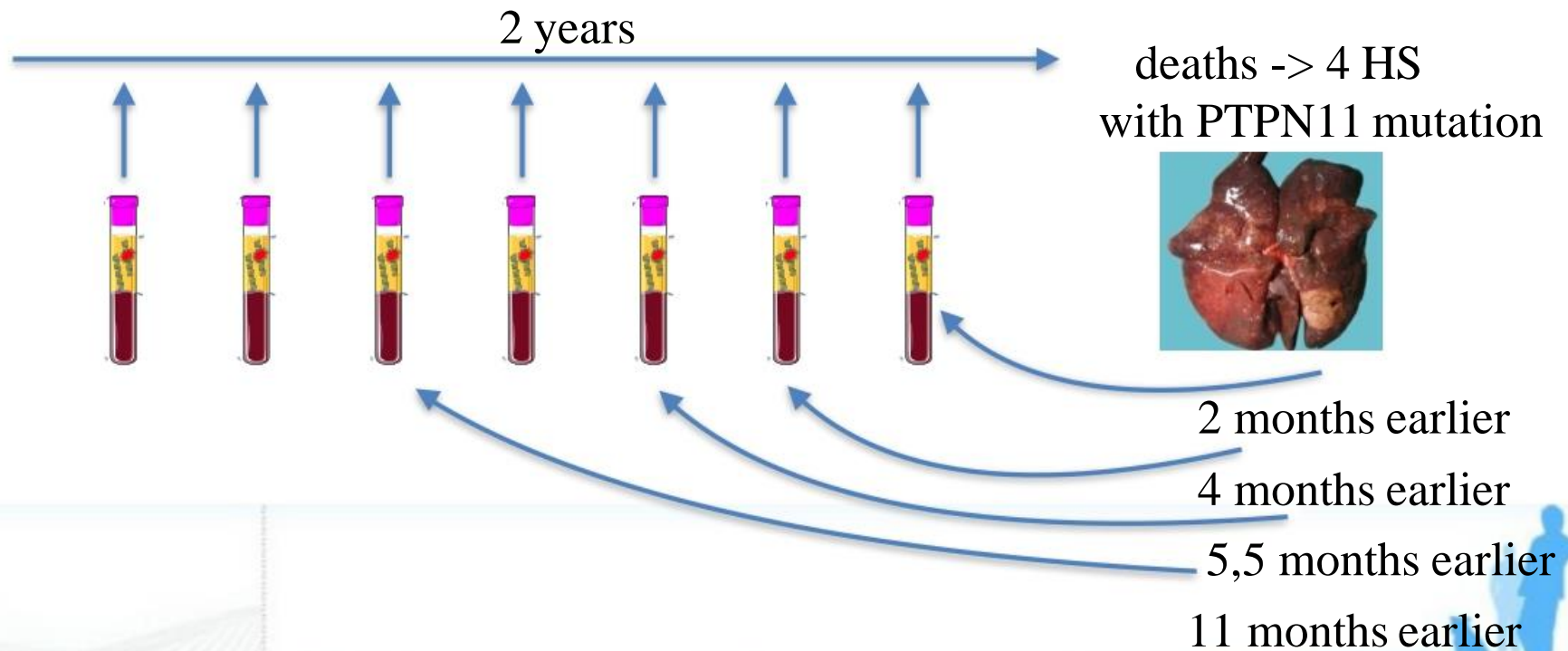
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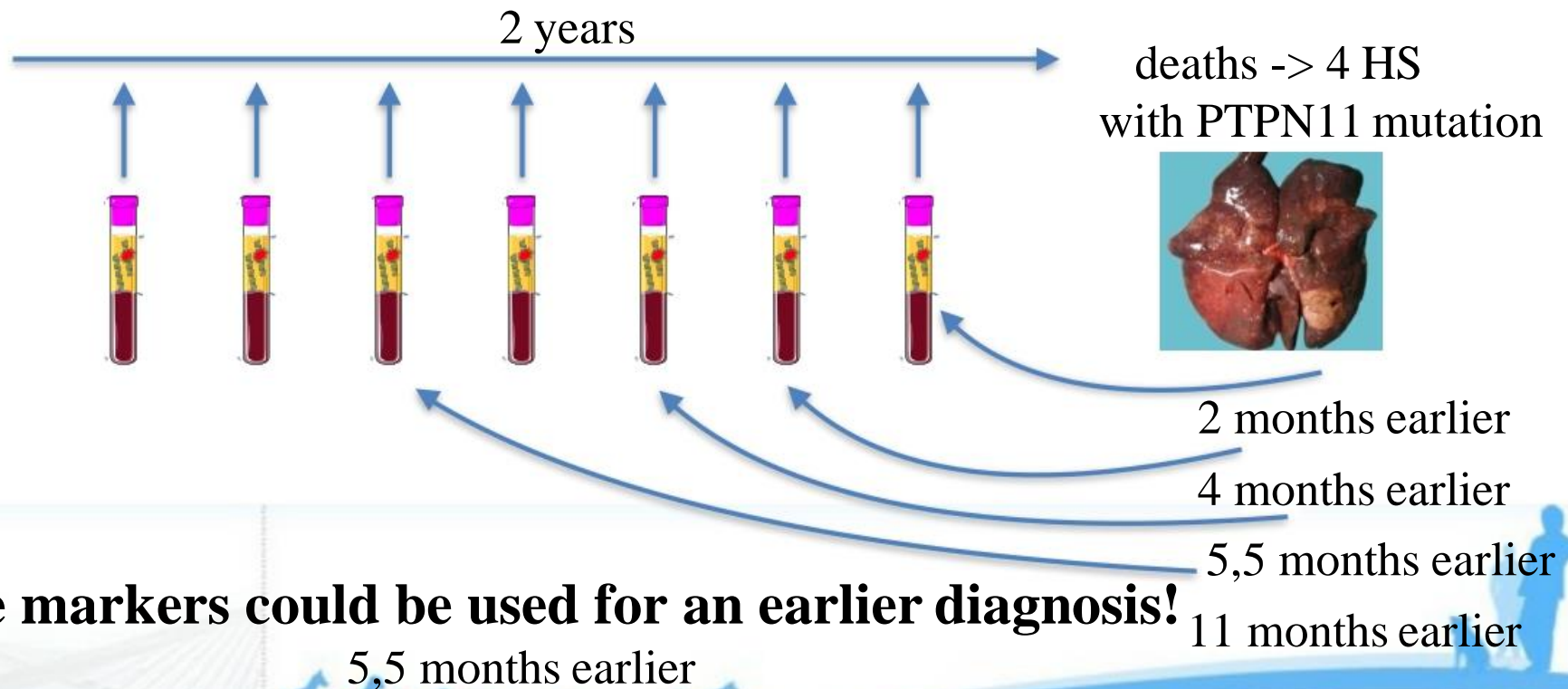




# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

A marker for an earlier diagnosis ?

Follow up 30 dogs from two breeders : at risk (Age/ HS-test)



# Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Clinical validation of a next-generation sequencing-based multi-cancer early detection “liquid biopsy” blood test in over 1,000 dogs using an independent testing set: The CANcer Detection in Dogs (CANDiD) study

Andi Flory<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Kristina M. Kruglyak<sup>1</sup>, John A. Tynan<sup>1</sup>, Lisa M. McLennan<sup>1</sup>, Jill M. Rafalko<sup>1\*</sup>, Patrick Christian Fiaux<sup>1</sup>, Gilberto E. Hernandez<sup>1</sup>, Francesco Marassi<sup>1</sup>, Prachi Nakashe<sup>1</sup>, Carlos A. Ruiz-Perez<sup>1</sup>, Bonita M. Faddy<sup>1</sup>, Thuy Le<sup>1</sup>, Remy Leclercq<sup>1</sup>, Remy Leclercq<sup>1</sup>, Kate Wotrang<sup>1</sup>, Angela C. McCleary<sup>1</sup>, Wheeler<sup>1,4</sup>, Bruno Lomas<sup>5</sup>, Brenda Phillips<sup>2</sup>, Brian K. Flesner<sup>1,4,6</sup>, Nicole F. Leibman<sup>7</sup>, Tracy LaDues<sup>8</sup>, Chelsea D. Tripp<sup>9</sup>, Brenda L. Coomber<sup>10</sup>, J. Paul Woods<sup>11</sup>, Mairin Miller<sup>3</sup>, Sean W. Aiken<sup>2</sup>, Amber Wolf-Ringwall<sup>12</sup>, Antonella Borgatti<sup>12</sup>, Kathleen Kraska<sup>2</sup>, Christopher B. Thomson<sup>13</sup>, Alane Kosanovich Cahalane<sup>13</sup>, Rebecca L. Murray<sup>9</sup>, William C. Kisseberth<sup>14</sup>, Maria A. Camps-Palau<sup>7</sup>, Franck Flochis<sup>15,16</sup>, Claire Beaudu-Lange<sup>17</sup>, Aure' lia Klajer-Peres<sup>18</sup>, Olivier Keravel<sup>18</sup>, Luc-Andre' Fribourg-Blanc<sup>19</sup>, Pascale Chichard<sup>19,20</sup>, Angelo Marco<sup>21</sup>, Molly B. McLeod<sup>22</sup>, Erin Portillo<sup>23</sup>, Terry S. Clark<sup>24</sup>, Scott Leach<sup>25</sup>, Kirk Feinberg<sup>21</sup>, Marie Benitez<sup>21</sup>, Candace Runyan<sup>26</sup>, Lindsey Hackett<sup>27</sup>, Scott Lafayette<sup>28</sup>, Danielle Richardson<sup>11</sup>, Sarah Vineyard<sup>29</sup>, Mary Tefend Campbell<sup>30</sup>, Nilesh Dharajiy<sup>31,33</sup>, Taylor J. Jensen<sup>32,33</sup>, Dirk van den Boom<sup>33</sup>, Luis A. Diaz, Jr.<sup>33,34</sup>, Daniel S. Grosu<sup>1</sup>, Arthur Polk<sup>1</sup>, Kalle Marsal<sup>1</sup>, Susan Cho Hicks<sup>1</sup>, Katherine M. Lytle<sup>1</sup>, Lauren Holtvoigt<sup>1</sup>, Jason Chibuki<sup>1</sup>, Ilya Chorny<sup>1</sup>, Dana W. Y. Tsui

<sup>1</sup> PetDx, La Jolla, California, United States of America, <sup>2</sup> Veterinary Specialty Hospital of San Diego, San Diego, California, United States of America, <sup>3</sup> Veterinary Specialty Hospital of North County, San Marcos, California, United States of America, <sup>4</sup> Department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, United States of America, <sup>5</sup> Department of Clinical Sciences, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, United States of America, <sup>6</sup> Department of Clinical Science and Advanced Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States of America, <sup>7</sup> The Animal Medical Center, New York, New York, United States of America, <sup>8</sup> Southeast Veterinary Oncology and Internal Medicine, Orange Park, Florida, United States of America, <sup>9</sup> Bridge Animal Referral Center, Edmonds, Washington, United States of America, <sup>10</sup> Department of Biomedical Sciences, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, <sup>11</sup> Institute for Comparative Cancer Investigation at the Mona Campbell Centre for Animal Cancer, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, <sup>12</sup> Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine, Saint Paul, Minnesota, United States of America, <sup>13</sup> Veterinary Specialty Hospital of Hong Kong, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, <sup>14</sup> Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbus, Ohio, United States of America, <sup>15</sup> Oncovet, Villeneuve-D'ascq, France, <sup>16</sup> AniCura TRIOVet, Rennes, France, <sup>17</sup> Clinique Ve' te' rinaire de la Pierre Bleue, Pipriac, France, <sup>18</sup> Eiffelvet, Paris, France, <sup>19</sup> Clinique Ve' te' rinaire SeineVet, Rouen, France, <sup>20</sup> Clinique Ve' te' rinaire Mazetier, Argenteuil, France, <sup>21</sup> Governor Animal Clinic, Inc., San Diego, California, United States of America, <sup>22</sup> City Paws Home Health, Columbus, Ohio, United States of America, <sup>23</sup> VCA Valley Oak Veterinary Center, Chico, California, United States of America, <sup>24</sup> VCA Metroplex Animal Hospital, Irving, Texas, United States of America, <sup>25</sup> Prices Creek Veterinary Services, Lewisburg, Ohio, United States of America, <sup>26</sup> Carlsbad Animal Hospital, Carlsbad, California, United States of America, <sup>27</sup> Oceanside Veterinary Hospital, Oceanside, California, United States of America, <sup>28</sup> Amici Pet Hospital of Little Italy, San Diego, California, United States of America, <sup>29</sup> Colony Veterinary Hospital, San Diego, California, United States of America, <sup>30</sup> Carriage Hills Animal Hospital, Montgomery, Alabama, United States of America, <sup>31</sup> Healthbit.ai Inc., San Diego, California, United States of America, <sup>32</sup> Laboratory Corporation of America, Durham, North Carolina, United States of America, <sup>33</sup> Advisor to PetDx, La Jolla, California, United States of America, <sup>34</sup> Division of Solid Tumor Oncology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York, United States of America

\* jrafalko@petdx.com

## OPEN ACCESS

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**Data Availability Statement:** All relevant data are within the paper and its [Supporting Information](#) files.

**Funding:** This study received funding from PetDx. The funder had the following involvement with the study: study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, and preparation of the manuscript. Study sites were compensated for

2 years

deaths -> 4 HS  
with PTPN11 mutation


2 months earlier

4 months earlier

5,5 months earlier

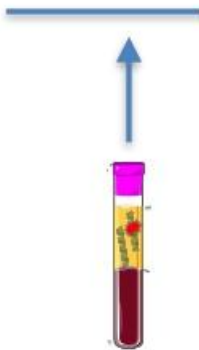
11 months earlier



## Detection of cancer 5 months earlier

A marker for an earlier diagnosis ?

Follow up 30 dogs from to breeder to clinic (Age/HS test)



# These markers could be used for an earlier diagnosis!

# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

A marker for an earlier diagnosis ?

Follow up 30 dogs from to breeder : at risk (Age/ HS-test) -> interest for an earlier diagnosis

Confirm these results on more dogs

Addition of new mutations to be more sensitive

If we are able to detect earlier HS, do we are able to improve treatment of HS?

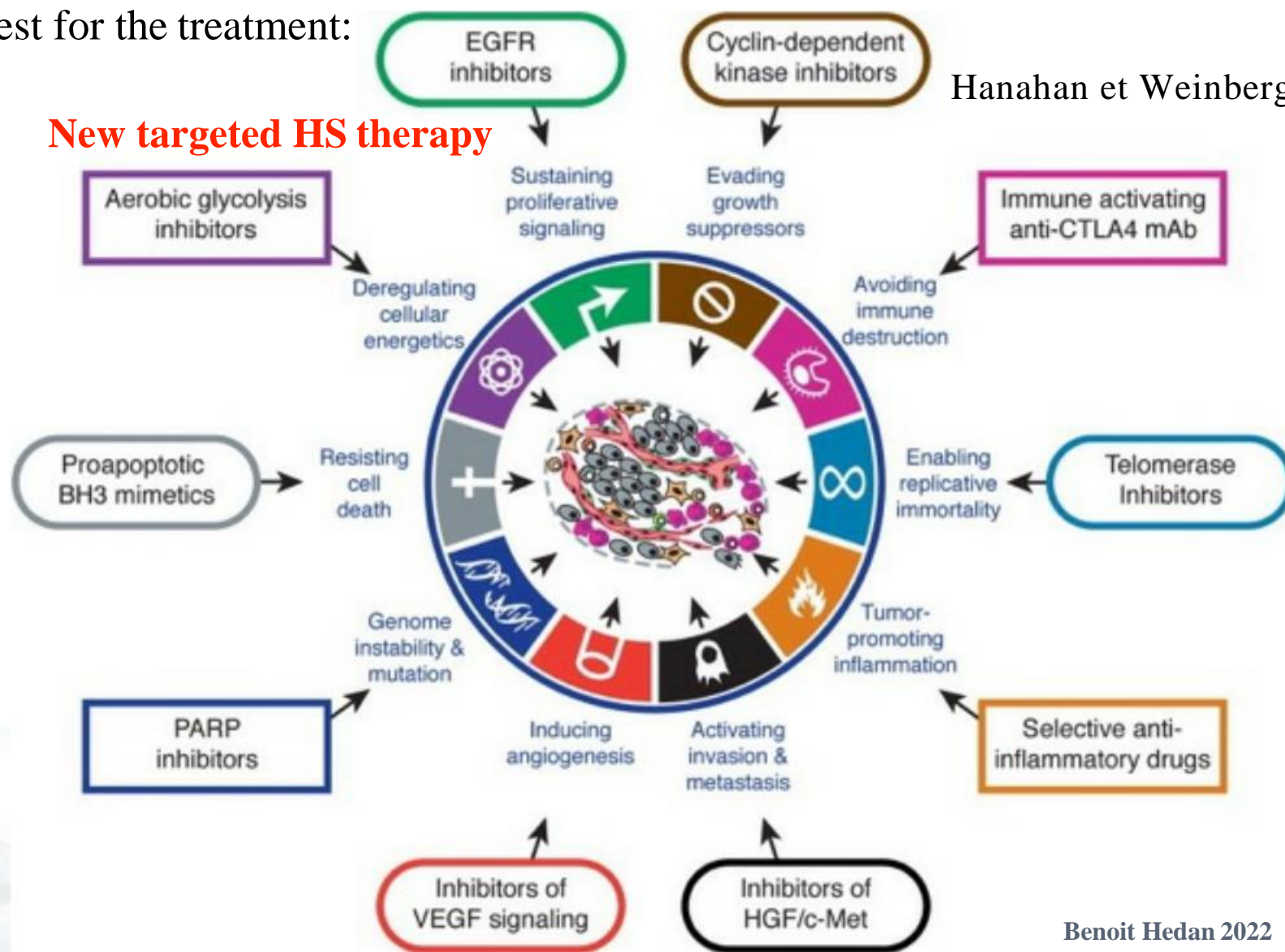


# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

Interest for the treatment:

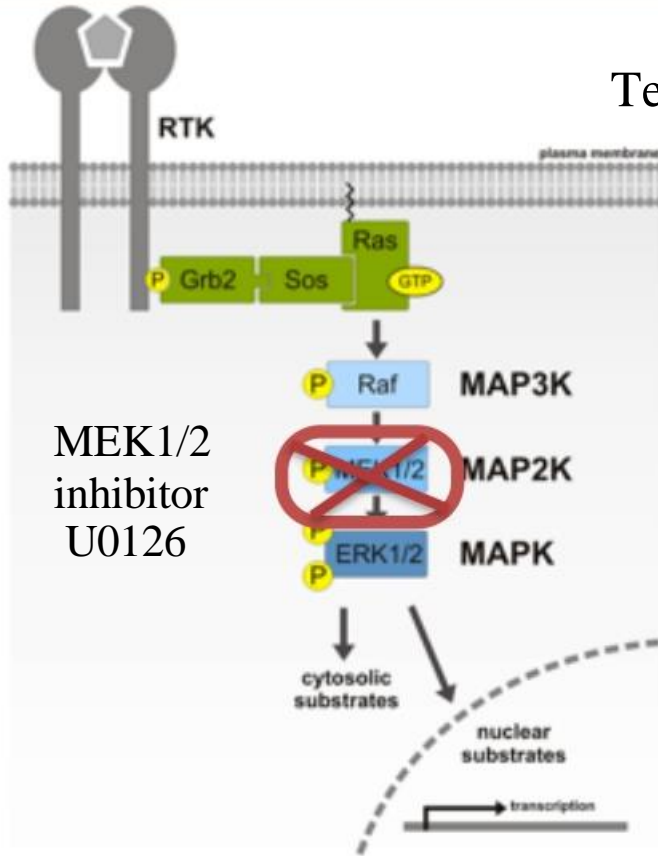
Hanahan et Weinberg. Cell. 2

## New targeted HS therapy



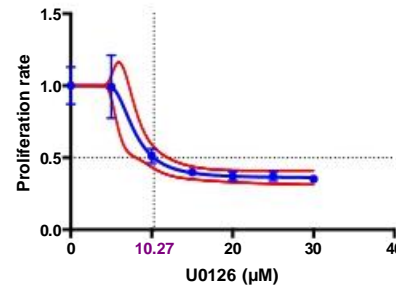


# Canine histiocytic sarcoma: Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

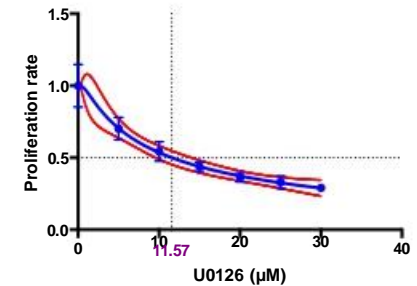


Tests of proliferation rate (72h) with MEK inhibitor

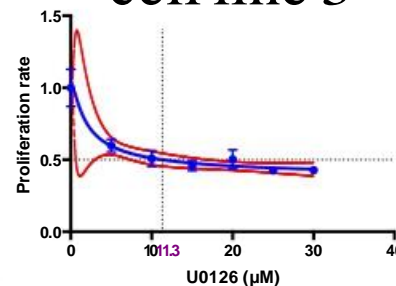
cell line 1



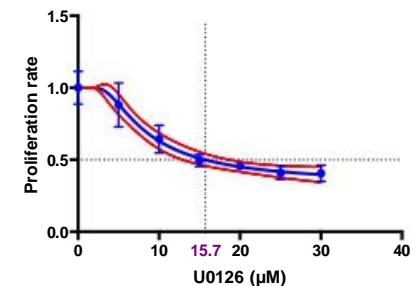
cell line 2



cell line 3



cell line 4

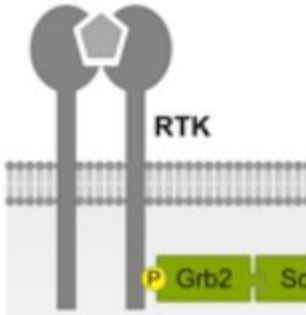


**New therapy opportunities?**





# Mutations somatiques = opportunité pour développer des traitements ciblés



MEK1/2  
inhibitor  
U0126

## Targeting MEK in a Translational Model of Histiocytic Sarcoma

Mariia Takada<sup>1</sup>, Jeremy M.L. Hix<sup>2</sup>, Sarah Corner<sup>1</sup>, Peter Z. Schall<sup>1</sup>, Matti Kiupel<sup>3</sup>, and Vilma Yuzbasian-Gurkan<sup>1</sup>



### Abstract

Histiocytic sarcoma in humans is an aggressive orphan disease with a poor prognosis as treatment options are limited. Dogs are the only species that spontaneously develops histiocytic sarcoma with an appreciable frequency, and may have value as a translational model system. In the current study, high-throughput drug screening utilizing histiocytic sarcoma cells isolated from canine neoplasms identified these cells as particularly sensitive to a MEK inhibitor, trametinib. One of the canine cell lines carries a mutation in PTEN11 (E706L), and another one in KRAS (Q61H), which are associated with activation of oncogenic MAPK signaling. Both mutations were previously reported in human histiocytic sarcoma. Trametinib inhibited sensitive cell lines by promoting cell apoptosis, indicated by a significant increase in caspase 3/7. Furthermore, *in vitro* findings were successfully recapitulated in a trans-

plenic orthotopic xenograft mouse model, which represents a disseminated aggressive form of histiocytic sarcoma. Mice with histiocytic sarcoma xenograft neoplasms that were treated with trametinib had significantly longer survival times. Target engagement and activity of ERK, downstream of MEK, was significantly downregulated in neoplasms of treated mice. Additionally, trametinib was found in plasma and neoplastic tissues within projected therapeutic levels. These findings demonstrate that in dogs, histiocytic sarcoma may be associated with a dysfunctional MAPK pathway, at least in some cases, and may be effectively targeted through MEK inhibition. Clinical trials to test safety and efficacy of trametinib in dogs with histiocytic sarcoma are warranted, and may provide valuable translational information to similar diseases in humans. *Mol Cancer Ther*. 17(11): 2439–50. ©2018 AACR.

### Introduction

Histiocytic and dendritic cell neoplasms encompass a group of proliferative entities with variable clinical behaviors and prognosis in humans (1). Among them, histiocytic sarcoma (HS) is by far the most aggressive disorder with the worst prognosis (2). It is a rare hematologic malignancy (<1% of all hematopoietic neoplasms) (3, 4) that affects all ages, but mostly adults, with a male predominance (5). Existing data show that HS develops within lymph nodes and at extranodal sites including the gastrointestinal tract, spleen, lungs, and head and neck (2, 5, 6). Given the limited occurrence, there is no consensus on standard-of-care treatment for HS in human patients. Although surgical resection and radiotherapy are attempted for local control, metastases frequently occur, and in these cases, systemic chemotherapy with regimens of drugs used for lymphoma is often utilized (6–8). More options of medical intervention are needed to improve patients' survival

time, which does not extend beyond 1 year (9, 10). Although the etiology of HS is not yet clear, there is evidence suggesting a central role of the oncogenic RAS–RAF–MEK–ERK signaling pathway (11–15). A number of HS cases in humans were reported to carry activating mutations in BRAF (V600E, F595L; refs. 11–14, 16, 17), KRAS (Q61H; ref. 15) and HRAS (Q61R; ref. 14), with some cases showing favorable response after targeted therapy with vemurafenib, a BRAF inhibitor, and with MEK inhibitors including trametinib (12, 16, 18). Other histiocytic and dendritic cell neoplasms including Langerhans cell histiocytosis (LCH) and Erdheim–Chester disease seem to share the MAPK oncogenic pathway based on recurring activating mutations in BRAF (V600E, N485\_P490del), MAP2K1, and ALK gene fusion (19–23).

Similar to humans, dogs also present with spontaneously occurring forms of histiocytic disorders, with HS being the most aggressive entity. Clinical presentation and biological behavior are variable across these disorders, ranging from benign and self-resolving (i.e., cutaneous histiocytoma), inflammatory (i.e., reactive histiocytosis), to highly aggressive entities (hemophagocytic HS). HS is a rare disease in dogs (<1% of all canines; ref. 24); however, it is overrepresented in certain breeds, especially in Bernese mountain dogs (BMD; incidence of about ~25% in the population; ref. 25). Other breeds at risk for developing HS include flat-coated retrievers, Weimaraners, and Boxers. Males and females are equally affected, and dogs are most often in adult age (8–10 years; refs. 26, 27). In dogs, HS presents most commonly in the skin, bone/joint, spleen, lymph node, lungs, and liver (27–29). Due to a high incidence of metastasis, reported as 70% to 90% (27, 28, 30–32), systemic chemotherapy is the

<sup>1</sup>Comparative Medicine and Integrative Biology Program, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan; <sup>2</sup>Department of Radiology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan; <sup>3</sup>Pathobiology and Diagnostic Investigation, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

**Note:** Supplementary data for this article are available at Molecular Cancer Therapeutics Online (<http://mct.aacrjournals.org/>).

**Corresponding Author:** Vilma Yuzbasian-Gurkan, Michigan State University, 784 Wilson Road Room G-100, East Lansing, MI 48824. Phone: 517-432-2386; E-mail: vygus@msu.edu

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BAINE rein

Proliferation rate

0.0

10.27

20

30

40

U0126 (μM)

EKA

Proliferation rate

0.0

10.13

20

30

40

U0126 (μM)

CHRYSTAL rate

Proliferation rate

0.0

19.57

20

30

40

U0126 (μM)

COGNAC nl

Proliferation rate

0.0

15.7

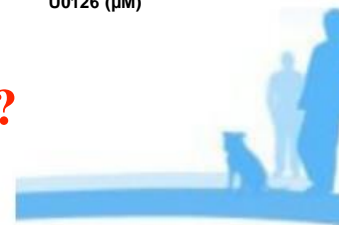
20

30

40

U0126 (μM)

Nouvelles thérapies ?



# Mutations somatiques = opportunité pour développer des traitements ciblés

## Targeting MEK in a Translational Model of Histiocytic Sarcoma

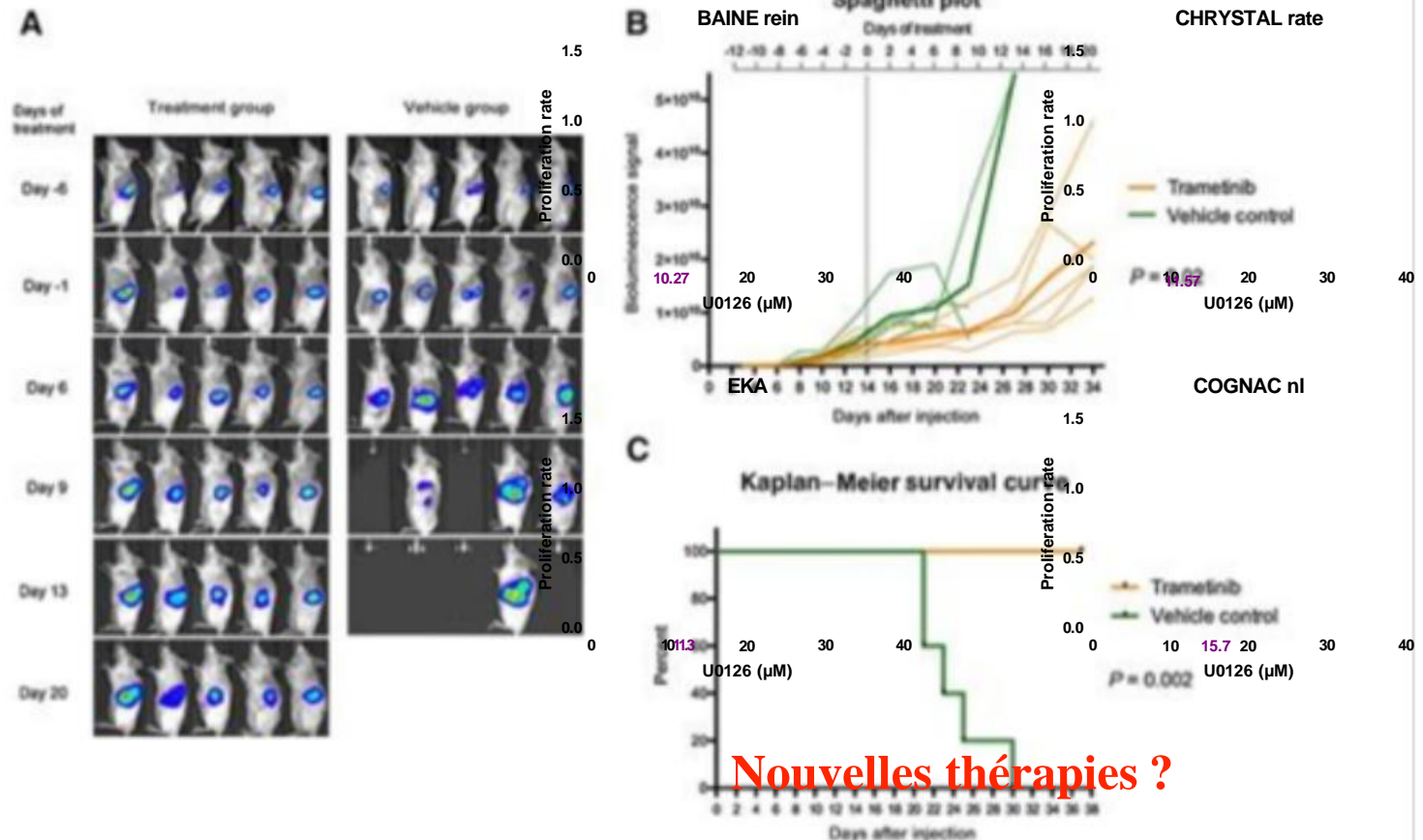
Marilia Takada<sup>1</sup>, Jeremy M.L. Hix<sup>2</sup>, Sarah Corner<sup>1</sup>, Peter Z. Schall<sup>1</sup>, Matti Kiupel<sup>3</sup>, and Vilma Yuzbasian-Gurkan<sup>1</sup>



Figure 3.

Tests de prolifération (72h) avec des inhibiteurs de MEK

MEK1/2  
inhibitor  
U0126



Nouvelles thérapies ?

# Mutations somatiques = opportunité pour développer des traitements ciblés

**Tufts** CUMMINGS VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER

Dir

Clinical Trials Office

Tests de prolifération (72h) avec des inhibiteurs de MEK

Home About Clinical Trials Referring Veterinarians FAQs BAINE rein Your Visit Collaborators CHRYSTAL rate Contact

## Pilot study of a MEK inhibitor in dogs with histiocytic sarcoma

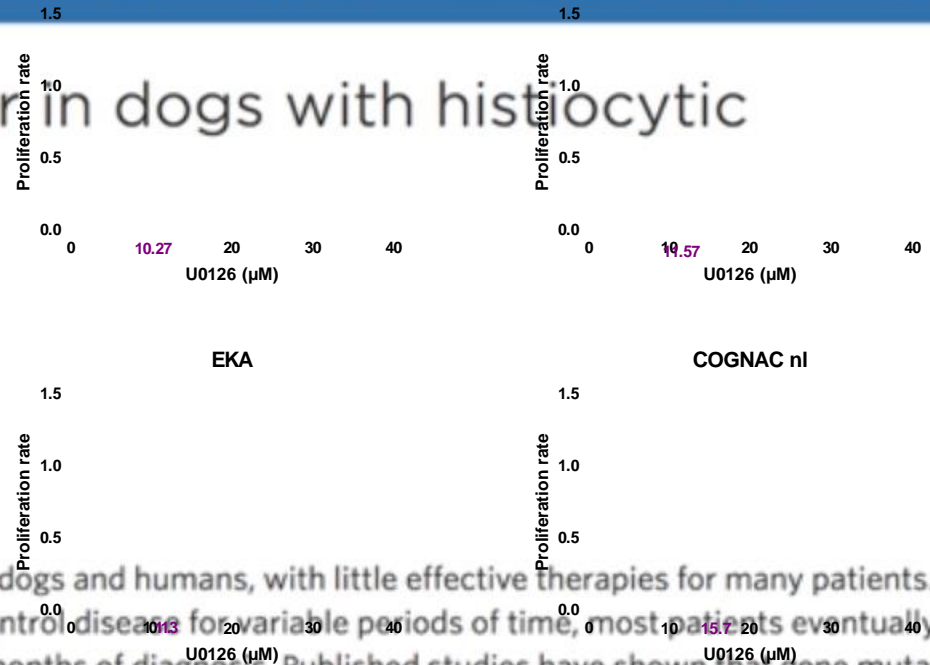
Status: [Recruiting](#)

Species: [Dog](#)

Veterinary Speciality: [Oncology](#)

### Description

Histiocytic sarcoma represents a devastating disease in both dogs and humans, with little effective therapies for many patients. While surgery, radiation and chemotherapy can be used to control disease for variable periods of time, most patients eventually fail treatment and die of tumor spread (metastasis) within 6-12 months of diagnosis. Published studies have shown that gene mutations (mostly the PTPN11 gene) in canine histiocytic sarcoma drive activation of a specific cell signaling pathway called the MAPK pathway. One of the components of this pathway is a protein called MEK. Studies of canine histiocytic tumor cells in the laboratory and in mouse models of disease show that an inhibitor of MEK called trametinib can slow or stop growth of this tumor. The purpose of this clinical trial is to evaluate the effectiveness, safety and blood levels of the MEK inhibitor trametinib in dogs with histiocytic sarcoma. While trametinib was approved by the FDA in 2013 to treat people with melanoma (an aggressive skin cancer) and has now been used to treat people with several other kinds of cancers, it has not been studied formally in dogs (i.e., there have been no



**Nouvelles thérapies ?**



## Test HS : first genetic risk test for dogs

- > validated for all BMD origins
- > follow up of dogs confirms the interest of this test for selection
- > research is still needed to improve our knowledge on genetic bases of HS predisposition and hematopoietic cancers!

**Unique test for a canine cancer**

## Somatic mutations in HS tumors

- > Useful markers for an earlier diagnosis  
for treatment ?

**Double benefit for vet and human medicine**

**Looking for samples (suspicion/cases, old dogs...) to pursue research!**

**Looking for the follow up of dogs tested with the HS test!**

Contact us : [benoit.hedan@univ-rennes1.fr](mailto:benoit.hedan@univ-rennes1.fr)





## **Canine Genetics Team**

Catherine Andre et al.  
Charline Bianchi  
CNRS Rennes France

## **The Cancer genetics branch NIH**

Elaine Ostrander

## **NCSU Vet School**

Matthew Breen

## **MSU Vet School**

Vilma Yuzbasiyan-Gurkan

## **University of Copenhagen**

Annemarie Thuri Kristensen

## **Antagene**

Caroline Dufaure de Citres  
Guillaume Queney  
Lyon France



## **French Vet Schools**

Jerome Abadie  
Patrick Devauchelle

## **University of Uppsala**

Kerstin Lindblad-Toh

## **Owners, breeders,**

## **All clubs, Berner Garde,... who sent samples**

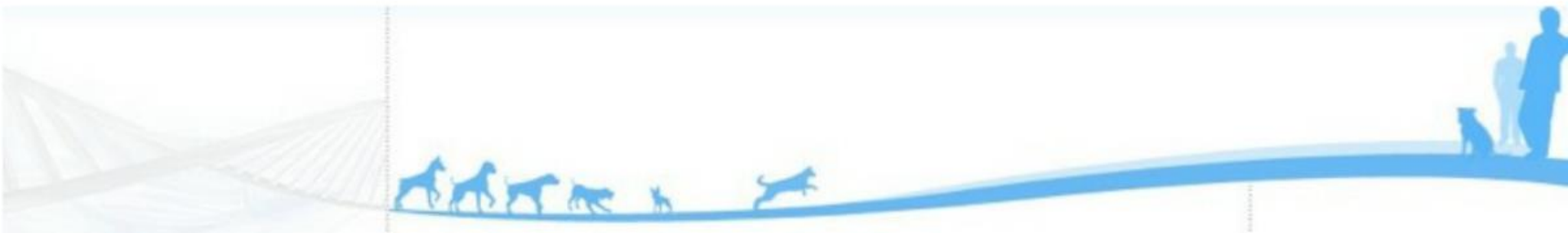
**Fundings** CNRS, AKC, INCa,  
BMD clubs :





# Diagnostic of HS

- Gold standard histology:  
large pleomorphic cells, whorls of spindle cells, or a mixture of the two  
  
initial differential diagnoses include synovial cell sarcoma , lymphoma and plasmacytoma , mast cell tumor, and amelanotic melanoma
- Immunostaining is necessary in many cases to confirm histiocytic origin of tumoral cells:  
IBA1 (Macrophage/dendritic cells) (Pierezan et al. 2014), CD204 (Macrophage cells) (Kato et al. 2014). Our cases are confirmed with CD204 by Jerome Abadie (ONIRIS)




# Diagnostic of HS

## use of genetic tools

Check for updates

### Genome-wide DNA copy number analysis and targeted transcriptional analysis of canine histiocytic malignancies identifies diagnostic signatures and highlights disruption of spindle assembly complex

Katherine Kennedy • Rachael Thomas •  
Jessica Durrant • Tao Jiang • Alison Motsinger-R  
Matthew Breen 

Received: 11 January 2019 / Revised: 18 February 2019 / Accepted: 19 February 2019  
© Springer Nature B.V. 2019

The copy number of CFA 16 and 31 are diagnostic signatures for HM. When comparing HM to diseases that are frequently included in the differential process (HEM, MEL, LSA, MCT, CYT, and PL), the overall specificity is 94.7%.

**Abstract** Canine histiocytic malignancies (HM) are rare across the general dog population, but overrepresented in certain breeds, such as Bernese mountain dog and flat-coated retriever. Accurate diagnosis relies on immunohistochemical staining to rule out histologically similar cancers with different prognoses and treatment strategies (e.g., lymphoma and hemangiosarcoma). HM are generally treatment refractory with overall survival of less than 6 months. A lack of understanding regarding

the mechanisms of disease development and progression hinders development of novel therapeutics. While the study of human tumors can benefit veterinary medicine, the rarity of the suggested orthologous disease (dendritic cell sarcoma) precludes this. This study aims to improve the understanding of underlying disease mechanisms using genome-wide DNA copy number and gene expression analysis of spontaneous HM across several dog breeds. Extensive DNA copy

# Diagnostic of HS use of genetic tools

- liquid biopsy:

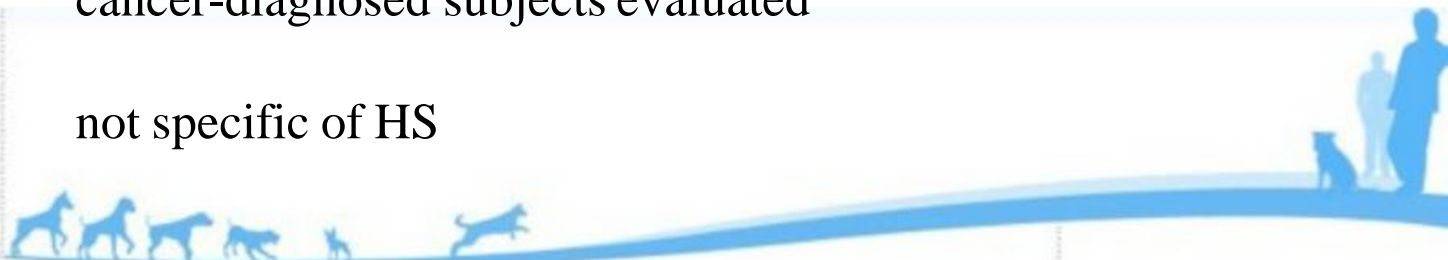
*PTPN11* mutations high specificity vs low sensitivity



OncoK9 :multi-cancer early detection (MCED) “liquid biopsy” test using next-generation sequencing (NGS)

overall sensitivity (detection rate) of 54.7% -  
it detected cancer signal from 30 distinct cancer types in 433 cancer-diagnosed subjects evaluated

not specific of HS



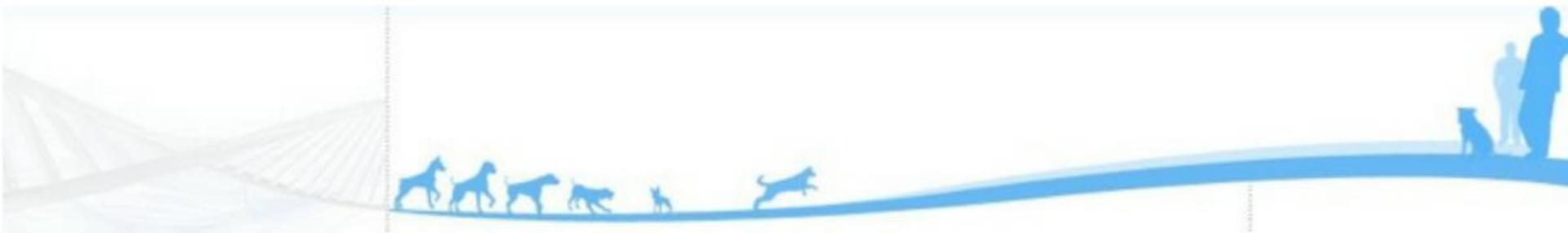
# Treatment of HS

## use of genetic tools

**FidoCure®**



Identification of somatic mutations to prescribe targeted therapies ( not specific of HS)





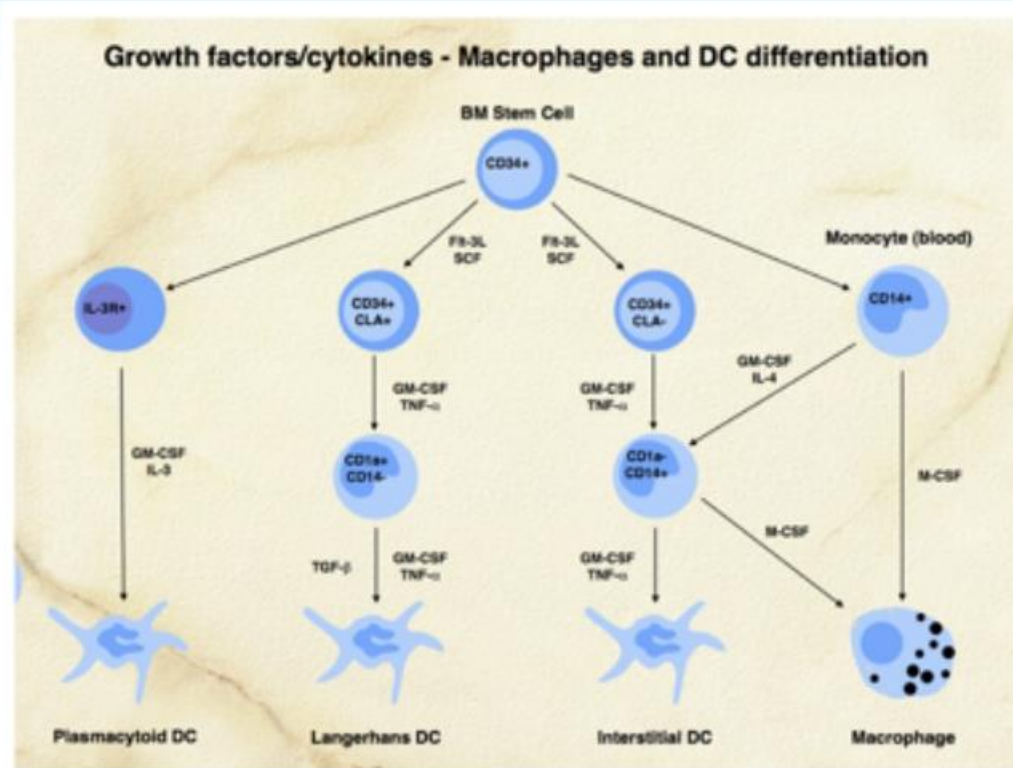


Fig. 1. Stem cell factors (SCF and Flt-3 Ligand) amplify histiocyte differentiation - especially to DCs. GM-CSF and TNF-alpha induce differentiation toward DCs (interstitial DCs and LCs); TGF-beta influences the terminal stages of LC differentiation. M-CSF induces macrophage differentiation.

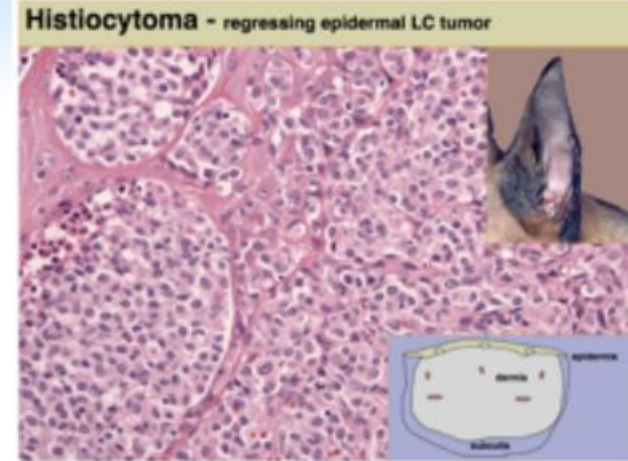


Fig. 3. Multiple histiocytomas on the margin of the pinna and in the ear canal; Drawing emphasizes the epidermal focus of histiocytomas; HE section of histiocytoma with intra-epidermal invasion

## Reactive cutaneous/systemic histiocytosis

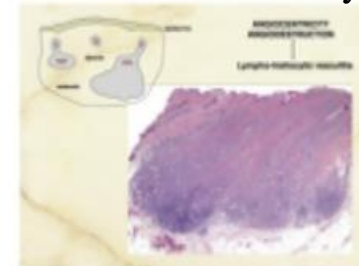


Fig. 4. Bernese mountain dog: systemic histiocytosis. Extensive and nodular involvement of the skin and organs.

<https://www.histiocytosis.ucdavis.edu/histiocytosis/> Peter F Moore

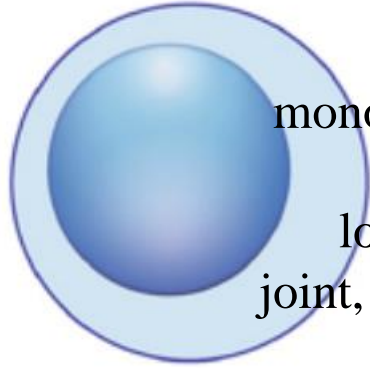




KINDERSHOP ZÜRICH

(Credit : Domadien)

**In human**  
Pre-lymphoma cell  
(competing inhibitor cell)



tumor from histiocytic cells :  
monocyte/macrophage or dendritic cells

localized or disseminated tumors:  
joint, skin spleen, liver, lymph node, lung

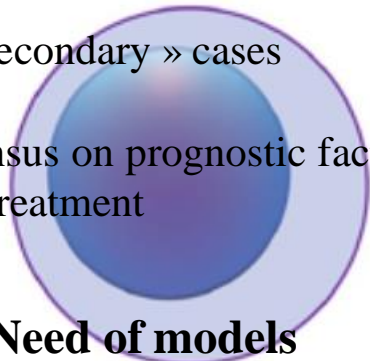
limited response to chemotherapy

- extremely rare but very aggressive  
(1-5 cases/ year in France).

- half of « secondary » cases

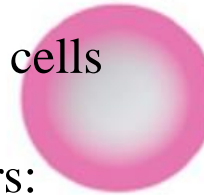
- No consensus on prognostic factors and on  
standard treatment

-> **Need of models**



**In dogs**

B-cell lymphoma



① Transdifferentiation

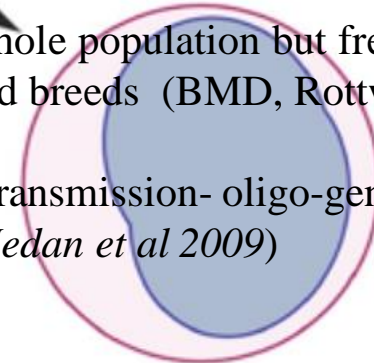
- rare in whole population but frequent in  
predisposed breeds (BMD, Rottweilers, Retrievers)

- familial transmission- oligo-genic  
(Abadie, Hedan et al 2009)

Redifferentiation

Histiocytic sarcoma

=> **unique model to identify genetic  
bases of this cancer**



previously called: malignant fibrous histiocytoma (MFH), malignant histiocytosis...

localized HS (LHS):

is considered to originate on a limb, skin, or within a single internal organ, commonly the spleen, the lung

disseminated HS (DHS)

is described as a multifocal disease with masses occurring simultaneously at multiple sites (most commonly spleen, lung, liver, and abdominal lymph nodes)

NB : hemophagocytic HS in spleen or bone marrow

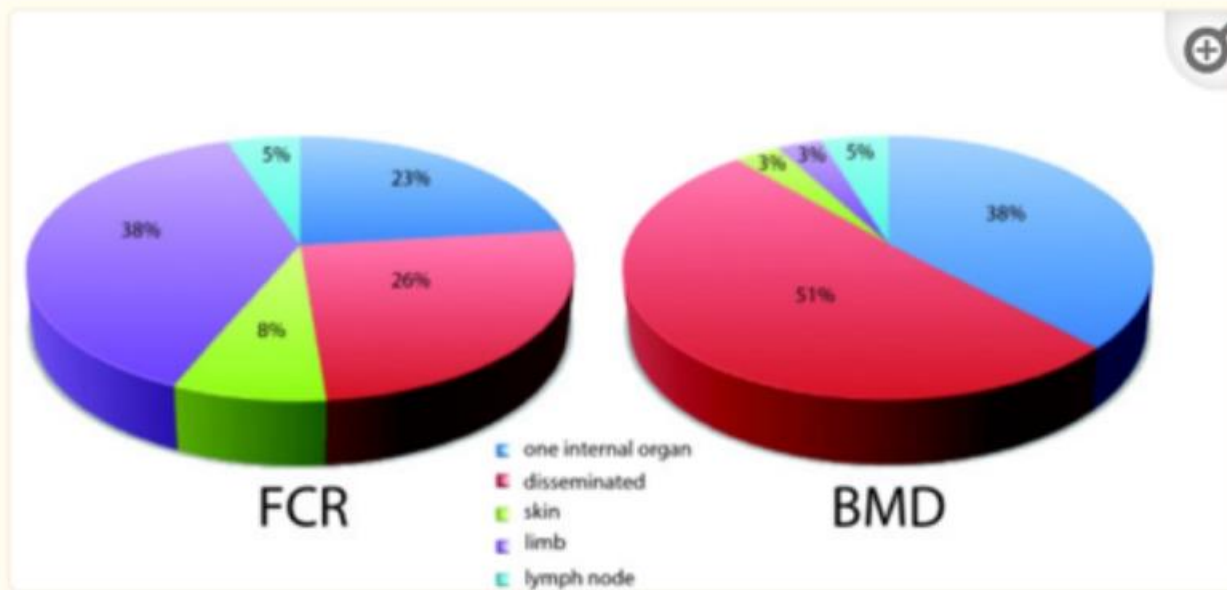


Figure 2

Hedan et al 2011 BMC cancer

**Anatomical distribution of histiocytic tumors in FCR and BMD.** Anatomical location of HS is significantly different between the two breeds (p value < 0.001, Fisher Exact test).

Benoit Hedan 2022

## Localized pulmonary histiocytic sarcomas in Pembroke Welsh Corgi

Yumiko KAGAWA<sup>1</sup>\*, Yuko NAKANO<sup>2</sup>, Tetsuya KOBAYASHI<sup>2</sup>, Kazushi ASANO<sup>2</sup> and Satoshi TAKAGI<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>North Lab, 8-33 Hondori 2-chome Kita, Shiroishi-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido 005-0027, Japan

<sup>2</sup>Japan Small Animal Cancer Center, 2-27-4, Nishitani-Minami, Tsubetsu-cho, Saitama 359-0002, Japan

<sup>3</sup>Laboratories of Veterinary Surgery, Department of Veterinary Medicine, College of Bioscience Sciences, Nihon University, 1866 Kamata, Fujisawa, Kanagawa 252-0880, Japan

\*Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University, Hokkaido 060-0818, Japan

(Received 12 May 2015/Accepted 23 June 2015/Published online in J-STAGE 4 July 2015)

**ABSTRACT:** Nineteen cases of histiocytic sarcoma in Pembroke Welsh Corgi were examined histopathologically. Focal or multiple masses were detected in the lung or in regional lymph nodes, or in both lung and nodes. All neoplastic lesions had common histological features characterized by the proliferation of pleomorphic histiocytic cells combined with various inflammatory cells. Most of the pleomorphic neoplastic cells were immunopositive for human leukocyte antigen (HLA)-DR and Iba-1. The median survival time for all dogs was 133 days. In the present study, several prognostic factors, such as gender, age, single or multiple lesions, lymph node involvement at the time of diagnosis, surgical resection status and additional chemotherapy, were examined, although none of these factors approached statistical significance. Histiocytic sarcoma must be considered in the differential diagnosis of dogs with pulmonary masses, especially in the canine breed.

**KEY WORDS:** histiocytic sarcoma, lung, Pembroke Welsh Corgi

doi: 10.1292/jvms.15-0284; J. Vet. Med. Sci. 77(12): 1659–1661, 2015

Canine proliferative histiocytic diseases are implicated a range of disorders with marked differences in clinical presentations and pathologic features [1, 3, 8]. Canine histiocytic neoplasia occurs as a localized tumor or a disseminated process [1, 8]. Disseminated histiocytic sarcoma first described as malignant histiocytosis of Bernese Mountain Dog [1, 8]. Localized histiocytic sarcomas develop a single site [1, 5]. They are locally invasive and metastasize to draining lymph nodes. They arise most often in the skin, but may be seen in other primary locations, such as lung, spleen and liver. The prevalence in dogs is primarily found within a narrow range of breeds, especially the Bernese Mountain Dog (for systemic HS) and Flat-Coated Retriever (for localized type) [1, 2, 5, 8]. Pembroke Welsh Corgi is one of the most popular breeds in Japan; for several years, there has been a suspicion of increased neoplasia in this breed [7, 10]. Although pulmonary involvement has been recognized in dogs with disseminated (secondary) HS, published reports

## Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine

J. Vet. Intern. Med. 2015;29:607–613

### Histiocytic Sarcoma with Central Nervous System Involvement in Dogs: 19 Cases (2006–2012)

C.L. Mariani, M.K. Jennings, N.J. Olby, L.B. Borst, J.C. Brown Jr, I.D. Robertson, G.S. Seiler, and E. MacKillop

**Background:** Reports of histiocytic sarcoma (HS) involving the central nervous system (CNS) are sparse and consist mainly of case reports describing 1–3 animals.

**Objective:** The objective of this study was to report the signalment, clinical signs, clinicopathologic and diagnostic imaging findings, treatment, and outcome of a series of dogs with HS and CNS involvement.

**Animals:** Nineteen dogs with HS examined at veterinary referral hospitals.

**Methods:** Retrospective case series. Medical records were reviewed and cases with a histopathological diagnosis of CNS HS were included in the study. Diagnostic imaging studies of the CNS were evaluated and histopathologic samples were reviewed to confirm the diagnosis.

**Results:** Retrievers and Pembroke Welsh Corgis were overrepresented in this cohort of dogs. Tumors involved the brain in 14 dogs and the spinal cord in 5. In 4 dogs, HS was part of a disseminated, multicentric process whereas it appeared confined to the CNS in 15 dogs. Diagnostic imaging had variable appearances although extraxial masses predominated in the brain. There was meningeal enhancement in all dogs that was often profound and remote from the primary mass lesion. Pilocytic astrocytoma was present in all dogs with CSF evaluation. Median survival was 3 days.

**Conclusions and Clinical Importance:** Breed predispositions appear to vary from reports of HS in other organ systems. Some unique imaging and clinicopathologic characteristics, particularly brain herniation, profound meningeal enhancement, and pleocytosis in combination with 1 or more mass lesions, might help to differentiate this neoplasm from others involving the CNS, although this requires further study.

**Key words:** Brain tumor; Malignant histiocytosis; Round cell tumor; Spinal cord tumor.

## CASE REPORTS

### Pathological and immunohistochemical features of subdural histiocytic sarcomas in 15 dogs

Tetsuya Ide, Kazuyuki Uchida,<sup>1</sup> Yumiko Kagawa, Kazuhiko Suzuki, Hiroyuki Nakayama

**Abstract:** Subdural histiocytic sarcomas from 15 dogs (mean age: 7.8 years) were histopathologically examined. Among the 15 dogs, there was a marked breed predominance (toward Pembroke Welsh Corgi dogs: 47%) but no gender predilection. Focal solitary subdural masses were detected in the cerebrum (11 cases) and spinal cord (1 case), whereas diffuse infiltrative lesions were observed in the cerebral leptomeninges in 2 cases. All neoplastic lesions had common histological features characterized by the proliferation of pleomorphic histiocytic cells combined with various inflammatory reactions. Multinucleated giant cells, phagocytosis, and atypical mitotic figures in the neoplastic cells were commonly observed. Most of the pleomorphic neoplastic cells in the present cases were immunopositive for monocyte, histiocytic, or both markers, such as human leukocyte antigen (HLA)-DR, isolated calnexin-binding adaptor molecule 1 (Iba1), cluster of differentiation (CD)68, and CD34, except for the neoplastic cells in 2 focal and 2 diffuse histiocytic sarcomas. The findings suggest that differences in cell origin, molecular expression, or both patterns are responsible for the distribution patterns of canine subdural histiocytic sarcomas.

**Key words:** Dogs; histiocytic sarcoma; immunohistochemistry; leptomeninges.

The World Health Organization classification for brain tumors in domestic animals includes malignant histiocytosis,<sup>1</sup> and the involvement of systemic central nervous

during the last 5 years [2005–2009]. The breed, sex, age, major neurological signs, tumor location, and distribution patterns are shown in Table 1. Among the 15 dogs were 7 Pembroke Welsh Corgis (47%), 2 Bernese Mountain Dogs (13%), 1 Wire Fox Terrier (7%), 1 Rottweiler (7%), 1 Weimaraner (7%), 1 Norfolk Terrier (7%), 1 Chihuahua (7%), and 1 Miniature Schnauzer (7%). No gender predilection was detected. The mean age of the dogs was 8 years (3 years 11 months to 11 years). The majority of the dogs had a history of neurological signs, including tremor, postural reaction deficits, and paresis. Focal solitary subdural masses were found in the cerebrum (11 cases) and spinal cord (1 case), whereas diffuse infiltrative lesions were observed in the cerebral leptomeninges in 2 cases. Clinicopathological evaluation of the cases revealed involvement of other visceral organs.

Tissue lesion samples were fixed in 10% phosphate buffered formalin solution before being embedded in paraffin. The paraffin sections (2–4 µm thick) were then stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Histological classification of the canine histiocytic sarcoma was performed according to whether the tumor was distributed focally or diffusely. Immunohistochemistry was performed using the avidin-biotin method.<sup>2</sup> The primary antibodies used and their positive reactions in canine tissue are listed in



Open Access





## PAPER

### Histiocytic sarcoma in 14 miniature schnauzers – a new breed predisposition?

J. A. LENZ<sup>1,2</sup>, E. FURROW<sup>3</sup>, L. E. CRAIG<sup>2</sup> AND C. M. CANNON<sup>4,1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996, USA  
<sup>2</sup>Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55455, USA  
<sup>3</sup>Department of Pathobiology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996, USA

\*Corresponding author email: jalcen@umt.edu

**OBJECTIVES:** To describe a series of miniature schnauzers diagnosed with histiocytic sarcoma and assess for possible breed predisposition.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:** Medical records of miniature schnauzers with a diagnosis of histiocytic sarcoma between January 2008 and April 2015 were reviewed. Data collected included signalment, body weight, presenting complaint, date of diagnosis, clinicopathologic and diagnostic imaging findings, treatment, therapeutic response, date of death or last follow-up and necropsy findings. Breed predisposition was assessed with odds ratios, using breed-matched dogs without histiocytic sarcoma admitted during the study period as controls. Pedigree analysis was performed for dogs with available registration information.

**RESULTS:** Fourteen miniature schnauzers were diagnosed with histiocytic sarcoma during the study period, making them over-represented among the hospital population (odds ratio=4.8, P=0.0009). Disease was considered **localised in ten dogs and disseminated in four**. Of the dogs with localised disease, nine were diagnosed with **primary pulmonary histiocytic sarcoma** based on the presence of a large pulmonary mass with (n=7) or without (n=2) evidence of intra-thoracic metastasis, and one had gastric histiocytic sarcoma with nodal metastasis. Treatments varied, but an aggressive clinical course was found in most patients. Pedigree analysis revealed a recent common ancestor for a subset of the dogs assessed.

**CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Miniature schnauzers were over-represented among dogs with histiocytic sarcoma in this patient population. Pedigree analysis supports an inherited risk factor, which has not previously been suggested in the breed. Primary pulmonary involvement with or without intra-thoracic metastasis was common in this cohort.

## PAPER

## PAPER

### Histiocytic sarcoma in miniature schnauzers: 30 cases

K. PURZYCKA<sup>1,2,3</sup>, L. M. PETERS<sup>4</sup>, J. ELLIOTT<sup>5</sup>, C. R. LAMB<sup>6</sup>, S. L. PRIESTNALL<sup>1</sup>, A. HARBAS<sup>1</sup>, C. A. JOHNSTON<sup>4</sup> AND I. RODRIGUEZ-PIÑA<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Queen Mother Hospital for Animals, Royal Veterinary College, University of London, North Mymms, UK  
<sup>2</sup>Anderson Moores Veterinary Specialists, The Garsary, Buntingford, Cambridgeshire, UK  
<sup>3</sup>Department of Pathobiology and Population Sciences, Royal Veterinary College, University of London, Hatfield, UK  
<sup>4</sup>North Carolina State University, Department of Radiation Oncology, 1060 William Moore Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606, USA  
<sup>5</sup>Department of Oncology, Hospital Veterinari Glòries, Barcelona, Spain

\*Corresponding author email: katarzyna.purzycka@rvc.ac.uk

**OBJECTIVES:** To summarise the clinical presentation and outcomes in a series of miniature schnauzers diagnosed with histiocytic sarcoma.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:** Retrospective review of medical records of miniature schnauzers diagnosed with histiocytic sarcoma between 2008 and 2019 at two referral centres in the UK. Signalment, clinical signs at initial presentation, imaging results and clinical- and histopathological findings, treatment type and outcome were recorded. Progression-free survival and overall survival time were calculated.

**RESULTS:** Thirty dogs were included. Twenty-four of 29 dogs undergoing imaging of the thorax had lung and/or mediastinal involvement. The median overall survival time for dogs that were not euthanased within 3 days of diagnosis was 117 days (range 10 to 790). Three dogs underwent surgery; 13 received treatment with lomastine as a sole therapy - with partial responses documented on imaging in five of six dogs and 11 of 13 showing clinical improvement.

**CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Histiocytic sarcoma should be considered as a differential diagnosis for miniature schnauzers with pulmonary masses. Although responses to treatment were common, they were usually short-lived because of the aggressive nature of the disease.

Journal of Small Animal Practice (2020)  
 DOI: 10.1111/jsap.13139  
 Accepted: 14 March 2020

## INTRODUCTION

Canine histiocytic sarcoma encompasses a group of neoplasms with

et al. 2015, Martini et al. 2015, Davis et al. 2017, Marlow et al. 2018) while the

Benoit-Hedan 2021

# Canine histiocytic sarcoma:

## Somatic mutations : applications for veterinary medicine

mRNA sequencing analysis and growth inhibitory effects of palbociclib on cell lines from canine histiocytic proliferative disorders

loss in >67.7% of HS

Miyuki Hirabayashi<sup>1,2</sup> | James K. Chambers<sup>1</sup> | Akiyoshi Tani<sup>3</sup> |  
Hirotaka Tomiyasu<sup>3</sup> | Tomoki Motegi<sup>4</sup> | Kenji Rimpō<sup>2</sup> | Hiroyuki Nakayama<sup>1</sup> |  
Kazuyuki Uchida<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Laboratory of Veterinary Pathology, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

### Abstract

Canine histiocytic proliferative disorders include aggressive and fatal diseases, such

mutated/deleted in >50% of HS

Palbociclib

<sup>2</sup>Saitama  
Japan

<sup>3</sup>Laboratory of  
Graduate  
Sciences  
Japan

<sup>4</sup>Veterin  
of Agric  
Universit

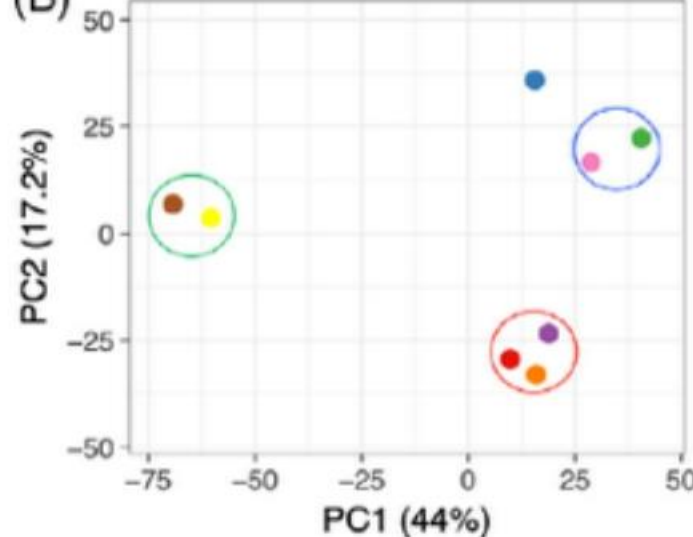
Correspondence  
Kazuyuki  
Pathology  
Life Sci  
Yayoi, Bi  
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Senesce

© 2013 American Association

CCR Focus

(B)

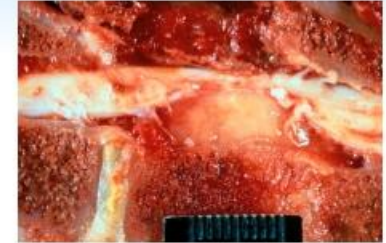


mutated/deleted in >50% of HS

number analysis and targeted  
nine histiocytic malignancies  
res and highlights disruption

in-Relf





Hypothesis 1: same cancers  
observed at different time

start of cancer

localized HS

metastases of HS  
(spleen, liver, lungs...)

disseminated HS

time

Hypothesis 2: different subtypes  
of Histiocytic cells

localized HS to external organs  
(skin, joint...)

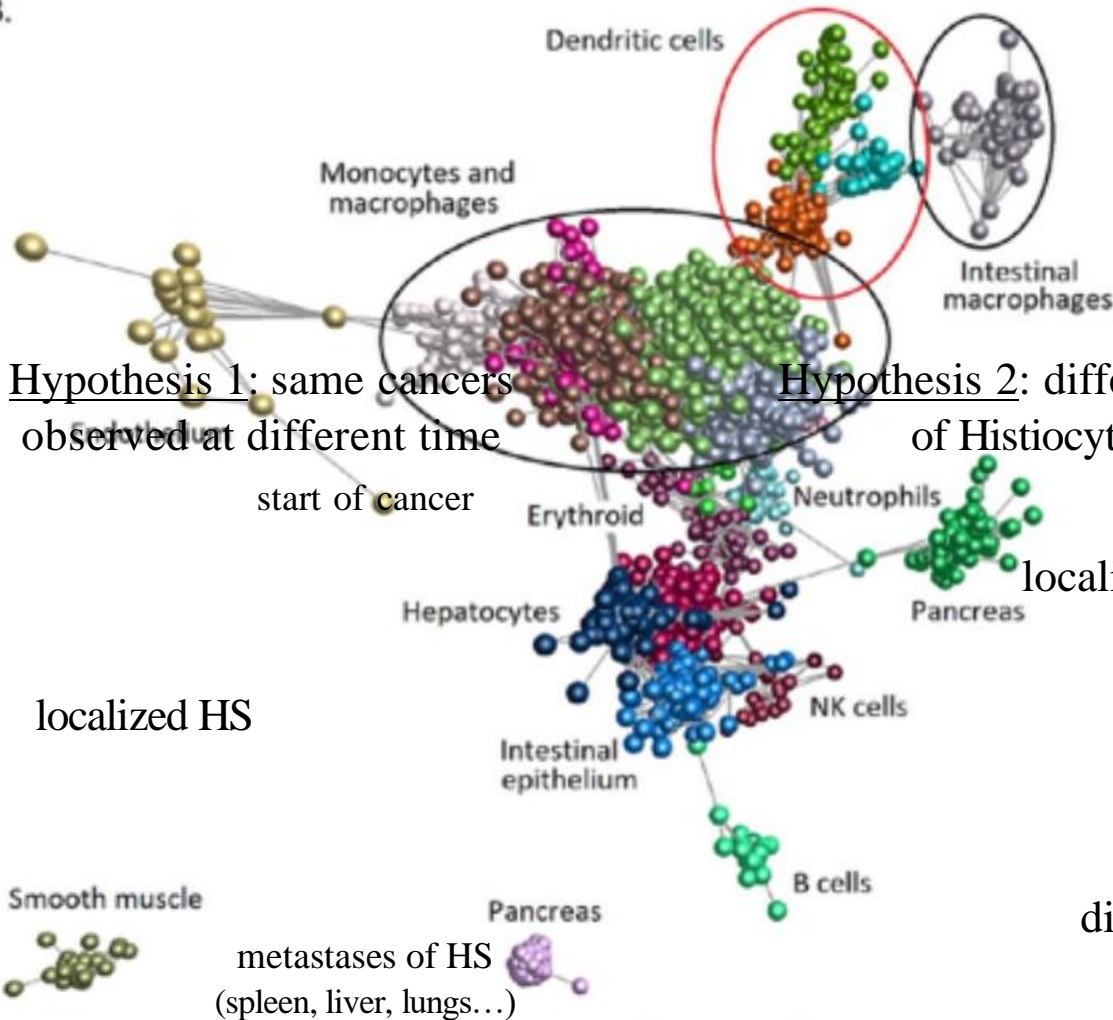
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disseminated HS to  
internal organs

**PTPN11  
mutations**



B.

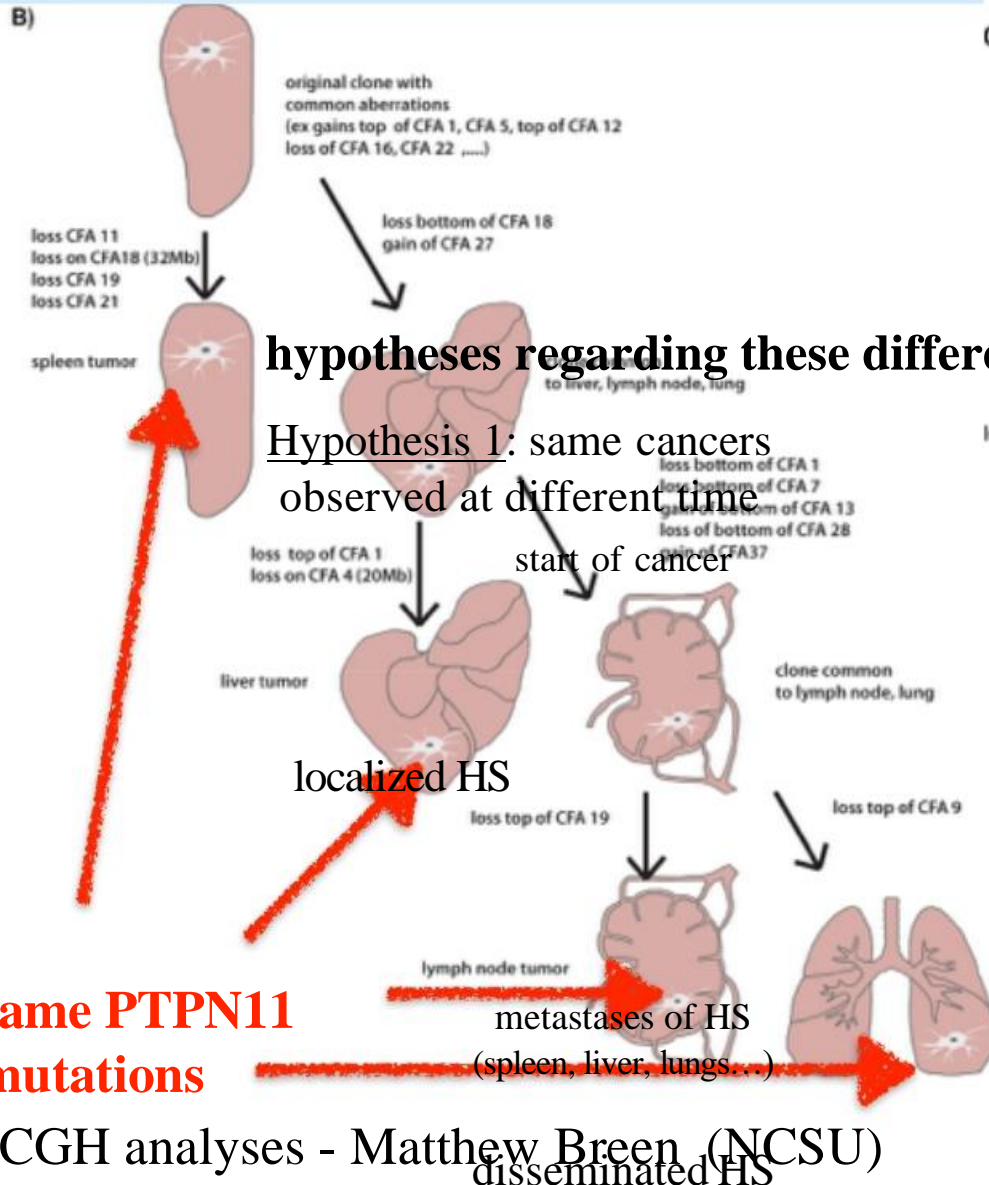


**Fig 5. GCN analysis of gene expression in MPS cell populations.** Each sphere (node) represents a gene, and lines between them (edges) show Pearson correlations between them of  $\geq 0.75$ . Nodes were grouped into clusters with related expression patterns using the MCL algorithm with an inflation value of 1.7. Lists of genes and expression profiles of clusters are presented in [S2 Data](#). (A) The network generated by the BioLayout analysis. Elements with  $\geq 5$  nodes are shown. Nodes are coloured by MCL cluster. Lists of genes and average expression profiles for all clusters are presented in [S2 Data](#). Monocyte and macrophage genes (black ovals), DC genes (red oval). (B) Network showing only major clusters of monocyte and macrophage genes (black ovals), DC genes (red oval), and other cell types. DC

**PTPN11  
mutations**

disseminated HS  
time

disseminated HS to  
internal organs

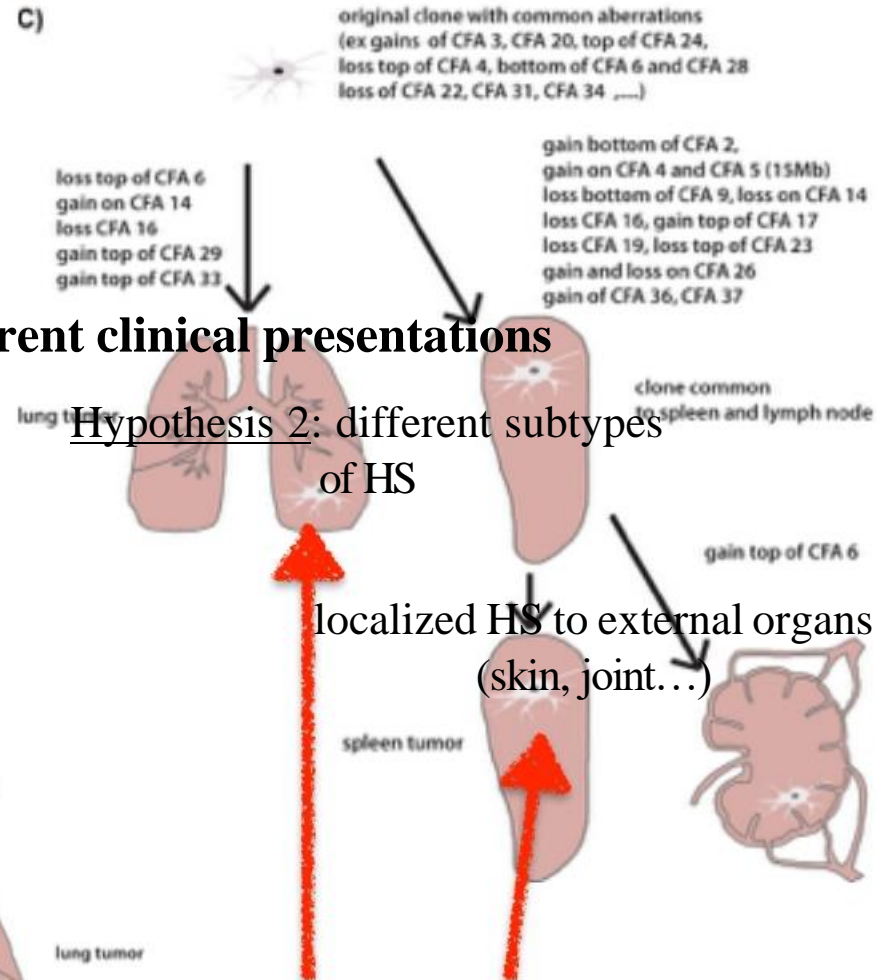


**hypotheses regarding these different clinical presentations**

Hypothesis 1: same cancers  
observed at different time  
start of cancer

**same PTPN11  
mutations**

CGH analyses - Matthew Breen (NCSU)



Hypothesis 2: different subtypes  
of HS

**localized HS to external organs  
(skin, joint...)**

**different PTPN11  
mutations**



