



# ADVANCING ORPHAN ONCOLOGY

Ticker symbol: ACE  
Nasdaq Stockholm  
[www.ascelia.com](http://www.ascelia.com)

**Ascelia Pharma**

December 2024

**ASCELIA  
PHARMA**

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We identify, develop and commercialize novel drugs that address unmet needs of people with rare cancer conditions



# ASCELIA PHARMA - HIGHLIGHTS

## Pipeline

### ORVIGLANCE® – Registration phase

- First-in-class contrast agent for use in liver MRI in patients with severely impaired kidney function
- FDA Orphan Drug Designation
- Global addressable market of USD 800 million
- Phase 3 study successful and clinical development completed

### ONCORAL – Phase 2-ready

- Daily, oral irinotecan chemotherapy
- Clinical collaboration with Taiho Oncology
- Opportunity in gastric cancer and other solid tumors

## Global outlook and Nordic roots

Based in Malmö (Sweden), US entity in New Jersey (US)  
Listed on NASDAQ Stockholm (Ticker: ACE)

**ORVIGLANCE®**

**Liver diagnostic imaging drug**

**ONCORAL**

**Daily, oral chemotherapy**

**PORTFOLIO**



# ATTRACTIVE ORVIGLANCE OPPORTUNITY

- A **well-defined unmet need** for liver imaging in cancer patients with impaired kidney function
- A global addressable market opportunity of **USD 800 million**
- **Clinical development completed** with 9 studies and strong phase 3 results
- Commercial scale **manufacturing**
- Orviglance advances to **regulatory filing and approval** phase
- Commercialization with **partner**



# ORVIGLANCE – FILLING AN UNMET NEED IN LIVER MRI

## Patient Landscape

Liver metastases are critical in cancer care



Liver metastases are common in many cancer types and often the cause of mortality<sup>1-3</sup>

- Colorectal cancer, metastatic breast cancer, gastric cancer

## Treatments

Contrast enhanced MRI is the gold standard

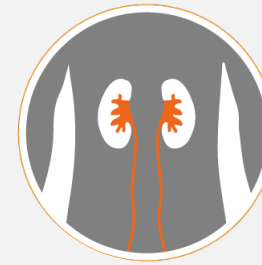


Contrast enhanced MRI

- Detection and visualization
- Surgery & drug treatment plan
- Post-treatment surveillance

## Unmet Need

A role for ORVIGLANCE in patients with severe kidney impairment



Patients with healthy kidneys

- Receive MRI with gadolinium-based contrast agent (GBCA)

Patients with severe kidney impairment

- Black Box warning for gadolinium contrast agents
- Risk of severe side effects, incl. Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis (NSF)

## ORVIGLANCE

Aims to be the imaging option without gadolinium-related safety risks in patients with severe kidney impairment

- Manganese based
- Liver specific

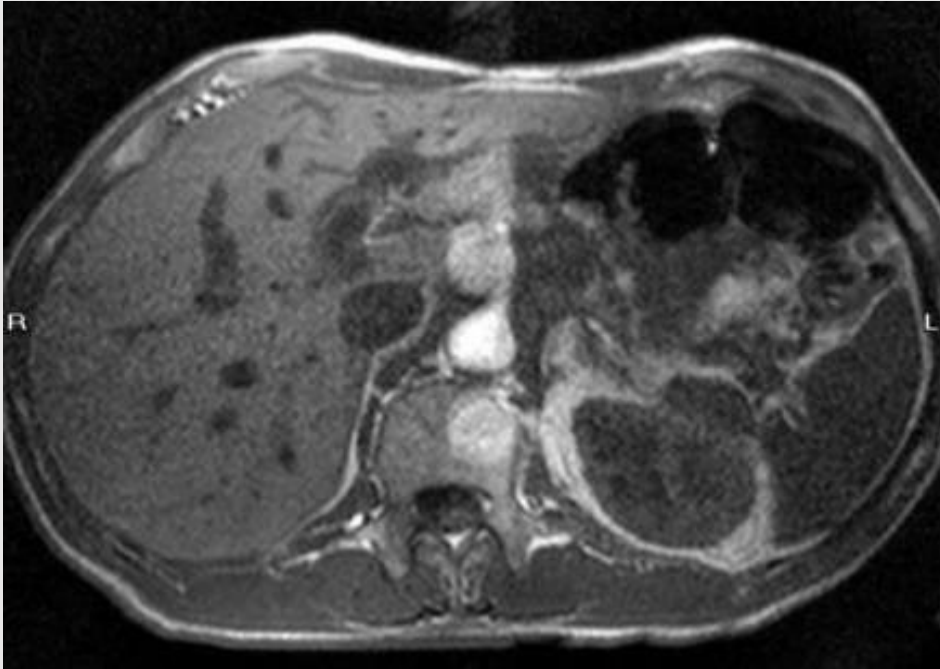
1) Riihimäki, M. et al. Patterns of metastasis in colon and rectal cancer. *Sci. Rep.* 6, 29765; doi: 10.1038/srep29765 (2016); *Journal of Pathology*, 2014, 232:23-31

2) Guy diSibio and Samuel W. French (2008) Metastatic Patterns of Cancers: Results From a Large Autopsy Study. *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine*: June 2008, Vol. 132, No. 6, pp. 931-939

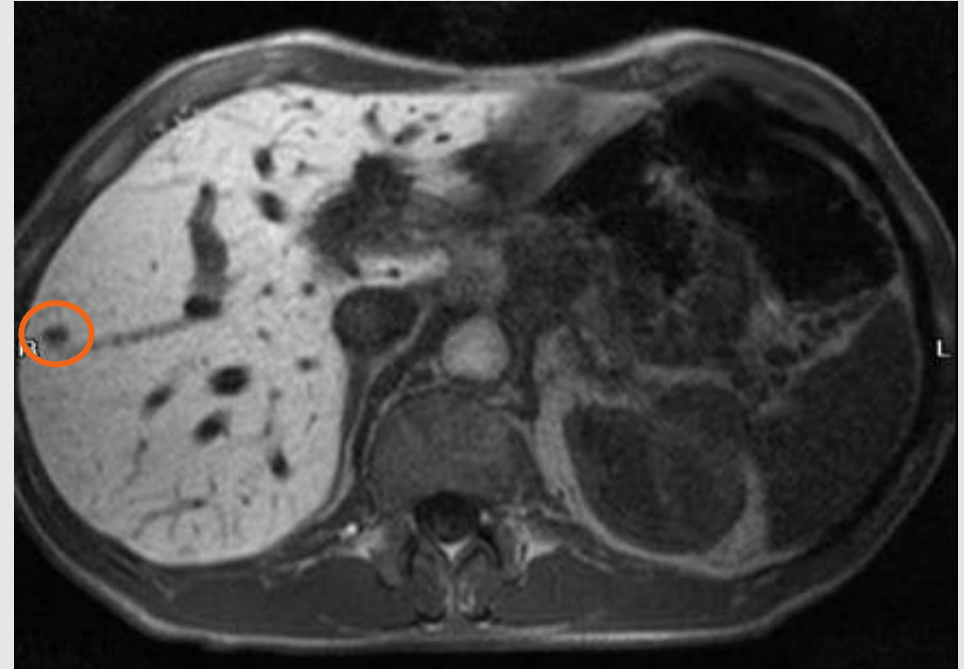
3) Rahbari et al. Metastatic Spread Emerging From Liver Metastases of Colorectal Cancer: Does the Seed Leave the Soil Again? *Annals of Surgery*: February 2016 - Volume 263 - Issue 2 - p 345-352

# STRONG LIVER ENHANCEMENT WITH ORVIGLANCE

## PATIENT EXAMPLE FROM PHASE 2 STUDY



**UNENHANCED** liver MRI (without contrast agent)



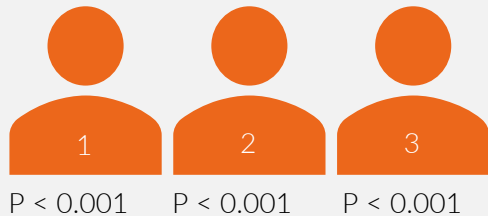
**ORVIGLANCE** contrast enhanced liver MRI  
Liver metastasis appears with ORVIGLANCE



# STRONG SUPERIORITY OF ORVIGLANCE IN PHASE 3

## Primary Endpoint Met Successfully

- Phase 3 study demonstrated **strong superiority** in visualization of focal liver lesions with Orviglance (CMRI) compared to unenhanced MRI
- Visualization scored **significantly higher** with Orviglance than without for all three readers with
  - statistical significance ( $p < 0.001$ )
  - strong and conclusive reliability of the data – including variability



- Common adverse events were consistent with previous studies, such as mild to moderate nausea; **no serious adverse drug reactions** were observed

### PRESS RELEASE

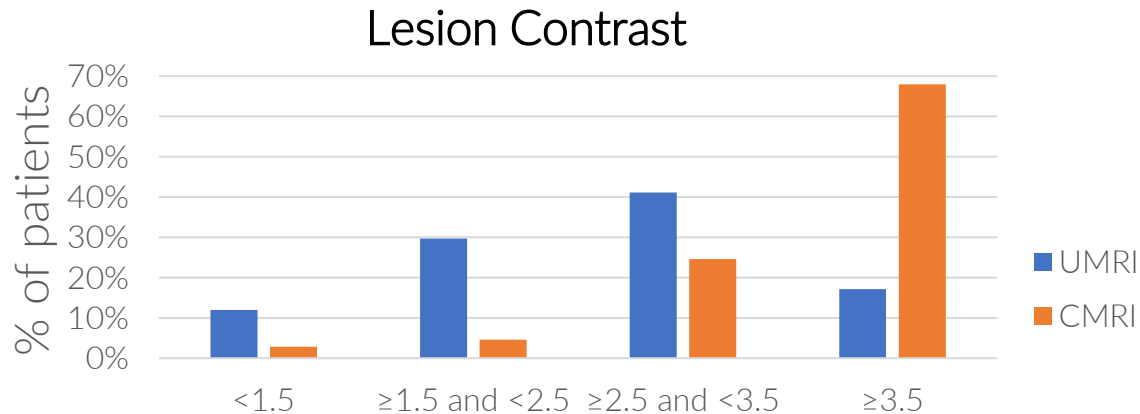
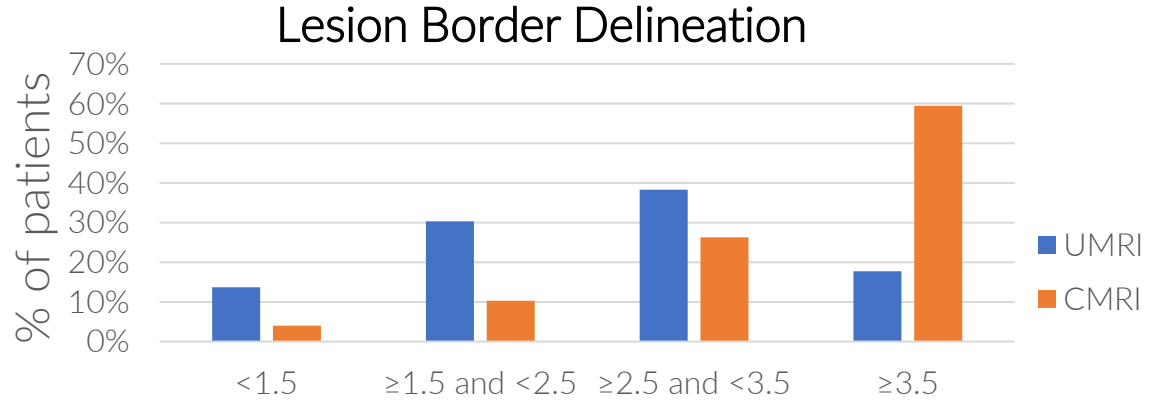
02 May 2024 11:12:00 CEST

ASCELIA  
PHARMA

## Ascelia Pharma Successfully Meets Primary Endpoint with Strong Headline Results in Orviglance Phase 3 Study

Ascelia Pharma AB (publ) (ticker: ACE), a biotech focused on improving the life of people living with rare cancer conditions, today announced that liver imaging drug candidate, Orviglance®, significantly improved visualization of focal liver lesions, successfully meeting the primary endpoint in the pivotal Phase 3 study SPARKLE. Investors and analysts are invited to the virtual Investor Update: “Bringing Orviglance to Patients”, on Tuesday, 7 May at 14:00 CEST

# IMPROVED VISUALIZATION WITH ORVIGLANCE



Mean score per patient

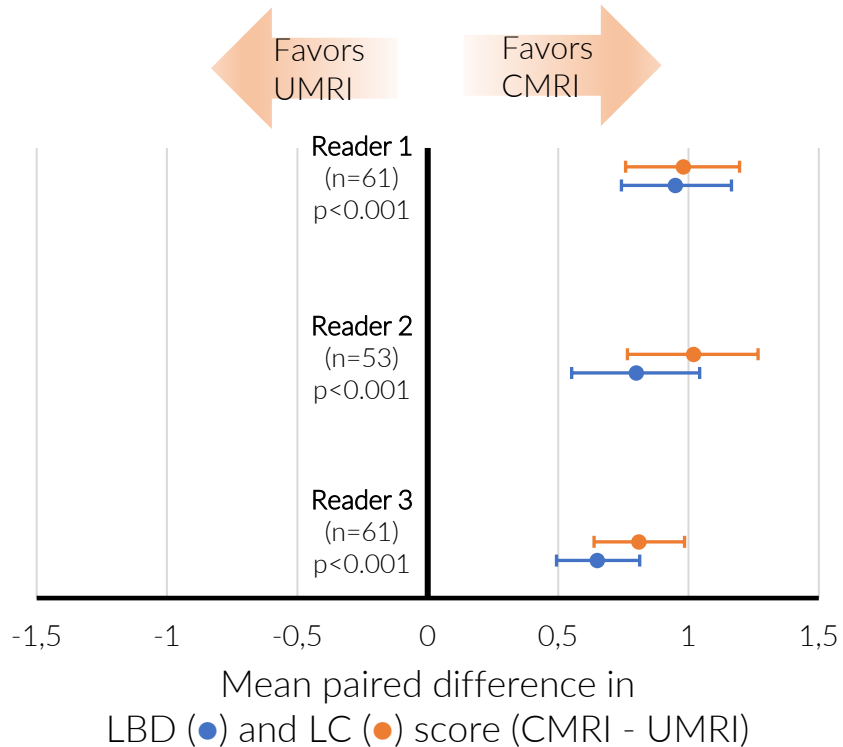
Data is presented as % distribution of scores (mean score per patient), assessed on scales from 1 ("poor") to 4 ("excellent"), pooled for all three readers (Reader 1 - 61 patients, Reader 2 - 53 patients, Reader 3 - 61 patients).

Orviglance enhanced\* visualization of focal liver lesions from "moderate" or "good" to "good" or "excellent"

- For unenhanced images, the median BD and LC scores ranged from 2.1 to 3.0 across readers
- For Orviglance-enhanced images\*, the median BD and LC scores increased to 3.0 and 4.0 across readers

\* As per industry standard and FDA guidance, Orviglance-enhanced images consist of combined Orviglance-enhanced plus unenhanced images (CMRI). Only patients with detection of the same lesions in both unenhanced and Orviglance-enhanced images are included in the primary analysis.

# DEMONSTRATED SUPERIORITY OF ORVIGLANCE



Orviglance improved visualization of focal liver lesions in Orviglance-enhanced\* images compared to unenhanced images

- For all readers, the difference between Orviglance-enhanced images\* compared to unenhanced images, were in favor of Orviglance ( $P < 0.001$  for all tests).
- Orviglance also provided superior visualization compared to unenhanced images across pre-defined sub-groups for all three readers (lesion type, age, sex, degree of renal impairment, and magnetic field strength)

\* As per industry standard and FDA guidance, Orviglance-enhanced images consist of combined Orviglance-enhanced plus unenhanced images (CMRI). Only patients with detection of the same lesions in both unenhanced and Orviglance-enhanced images are included in the primary analysis.

Data presented as mean paired differences for matched lesions per patient for combined MRI (CMRI) and unenhanced MRI (UMRI) with 95% Confidence Intervals. Statistical evaluation by one-sided paired t-test ( $\alpha = 0.025$ ). Total N=85, n=number of patients with matched lesions.

# SECONDARY ENDPOINTS REINFORCE SPARKLE OUTCOMES

Secondary efficacy endpoints supports the positive primary analysis and confirms the robustness of the positive results

Key secondary endpoints:

- Detection of lesions: across all readers at least one new lesion were detected in 40-52% of patients with Orviglance
- Detection of small lesions: The mean size of the smallest lesions was 2 mm smaller with Orviglance
- Other secondary endpoints generally support the superiority of Orviglance to unenhanced MRI

The full safety analysis confirms that, consistent with previous studies, common adverse drug reactions were related to the gastrointestinal tract

- No serious adverse drug reactions were observed
- 86% of adverse drug reactions were mild

System organ class Preferred term – Reported in >3% of patients	Dosed Population (N=87) Postdose AEs [n (%) E]
Any Related AEs	23 (26.4) 44
Gastrointestinal disorders	20 (23.0) 33
Nausea	13 (14.9) 14
Diarrhoea	9 (10.3) 10
Vomiting	4 (4.6) 4
Investigations	5 (5.7) 5

Secondary endpoints include quantitative assessment of signal intensity in the images, recommended next step in treatment and reader confidence in detection and localization of lesions

N = total number of patients; n = number of patients in specified category; E = number of events;  
AE = adverse event;  
Investigations: Hematology, chemistry, urinalysis, vital signs

# CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT COMPLETED



Nine studies with consistent positive efficacy and safety results<sup>1-7</sup>

286 patients and healthy volunteers

Phase 1 studies demonstrated safety, absorption and signal intensity

Total 4 studies with 126 healthy volunteers, incl. dose-finding, hepatic impairment and food effect

Phase 2 studies demonstrated efficacy and safety in patients with known metastases

Total 4 studies with 75 patients

Orviglance efficacy confirmed vs. gadolinium & unenhanced in centralized evaluation

Centralized evaluation with 3 readers of phase 2 study (20 patients) with liver metastases using same endpoint as in phase 3

Phase 3 study confirmed efficacy and safety in the target population

Pivotal study on visualization of focal liver lesions and safety in patients with severe kidney impairment (85 patients)

1) Thomsen HS *et al.*, *Acad Radiol* 2004; 11: 630-636

2) Thomsen HS *et al.*, *Eur Radiol* 2007; 17: 273-278

3) Rief M *et al.*, *Invest Radiol*. 2010; 45: 565-71

4) Brismar TB *et al.*, *Eur Radiol* 2012; 22:633-41

5) Albiin N *et al.*, *MAGMA*. 2012; 25:361-368

6) Study CMC-P005, primary objective to study of Orviglance for imaging of bile ducts (not published)

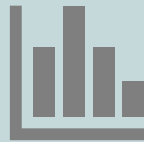
7) Results from Phase 1 and 2 and Food Effect and Hepatic Impairment Studies presented at RSNA and ESGAR conferences between 2022 and 2023

# ADVANCING ORVIGLANCE TOWARDS APPROVAL

Clinical



Nonclinical



CMC

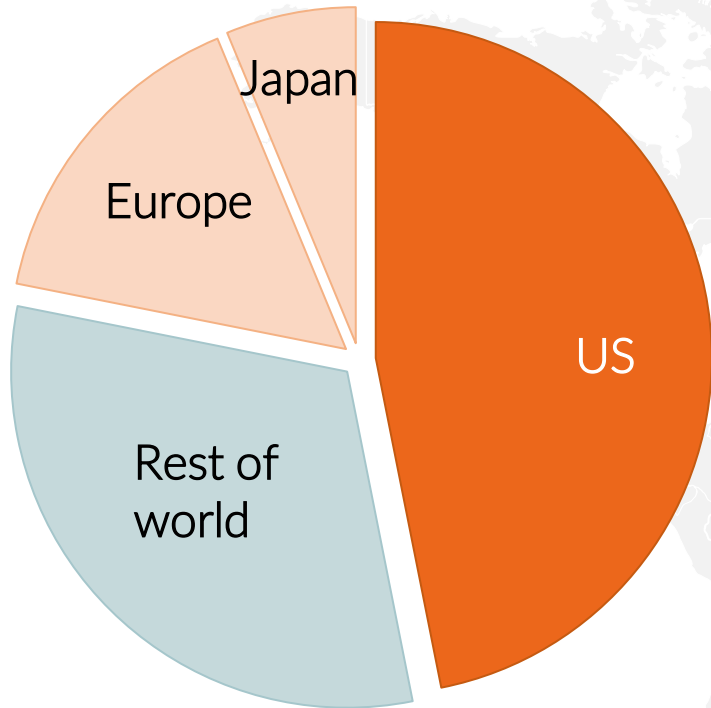


## US FDA

Timely submission and approval by the US FDA as an orphan drug with an optimal label for use in the target population

- Full Clinical Study Report early Q4 2024
- Conclusions from FDA pre-submission meeting by Q1 2025
- NDA submission mid-2025

# ATTRACTIVE GLOBAL ADDRESSABLE MARKET



Global addressable market of USD 800 million, half of this in the US

**Focused launch** for well-defined patient population in liver imaging in cancer patients with severe kidney impairment

Global commercialization through partners

Sources:

Ascelia Pharma market research on real-world volumes with Decision Resources Group, 2020.. Ascelia Pharma market access research and analyses with Revenue Reimbursement Solutions and Charles River Associates (2020), Triangle (2022) and Trinity (2022), incl. 75 stakeholder and expoert interactions. 1) Final pricing strategy is subject to Phase 3 data, payer evidence, negotiations, discounts and access strategy



# US MARKET OPPORTUNITY



Abdominal imaging procedures in cancer patients with severe kidney impairment based on epidemiology and real-world data<sup>1</sup>

~100,000  
procedures annually



Around 2,000 radiologists or 400 provider accounts serve 75% of kidney impaired patients<sup>4</sup>

~400  
accounts



Price range benchmarks based on innovative diagnostics, payer and expert input, and price testing<sup>2, 3</sup>

\$3,000 - \$4,500  
price range

Sources:

- 1) Ascelia Pharma market research with Decision Resources Group, 2020. Literature on prevalence and epidemiology of kidney disease, cancer and liver metastases.
- 2) Ascelia Pharma market access research and analyses with Revenue Reimbursement Solutions and Charles River Associates (2020), Triangle (2022) and Trinity (2022)
- 3) Final pricing strategy is subject to Phase 3 data, payer evidence, negotiations, discounts and access strategy
- 4) Ascelia Pharma analysis based on market research with Decision Resources Group, 2020

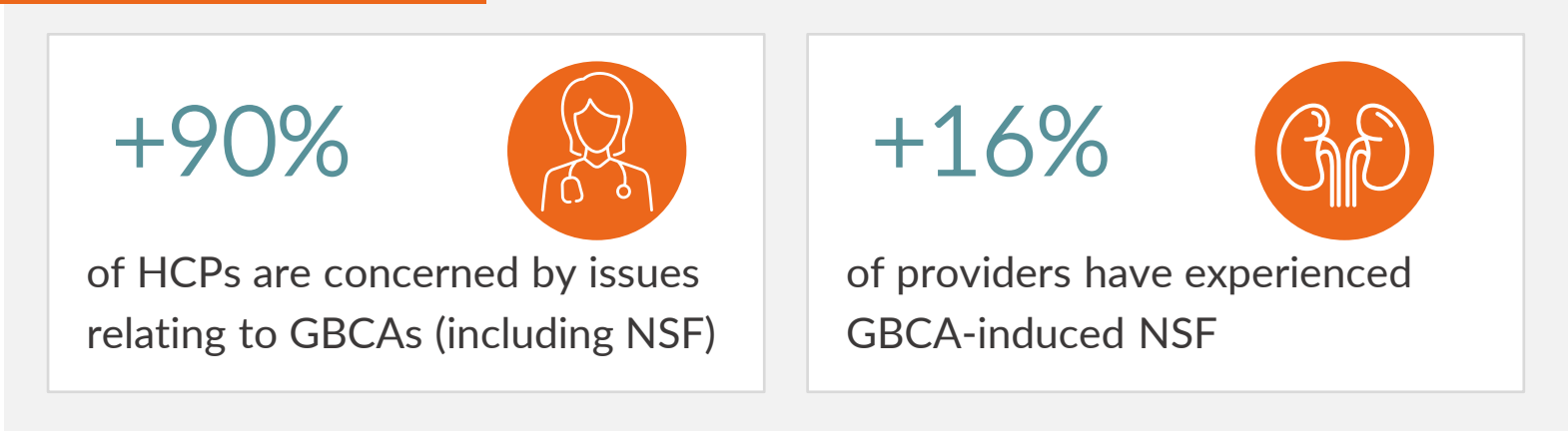




# UNMET NEED RECOGNIZED IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

**NSF\* risk**  
with warnings for target population

“Those of us who have seen NSF are frightened by it... you’ll get **buy-in** from a lot of nephrologists...”  
- Head of Renal section at US university hospital  
(from Ascelia Pharma Advisory Board meeting)



““The college [American Colleague of Radiology]...have a **growing sense of responsibility and accountability** about using these agents in high-risk patients.... our perception of which agents are “safe” has changed... this is another place where practice needed to evolve”  
- SPARKLE Investigator and Head of Radiology at US university hospital

\*nephrogenic systemic fibrosis

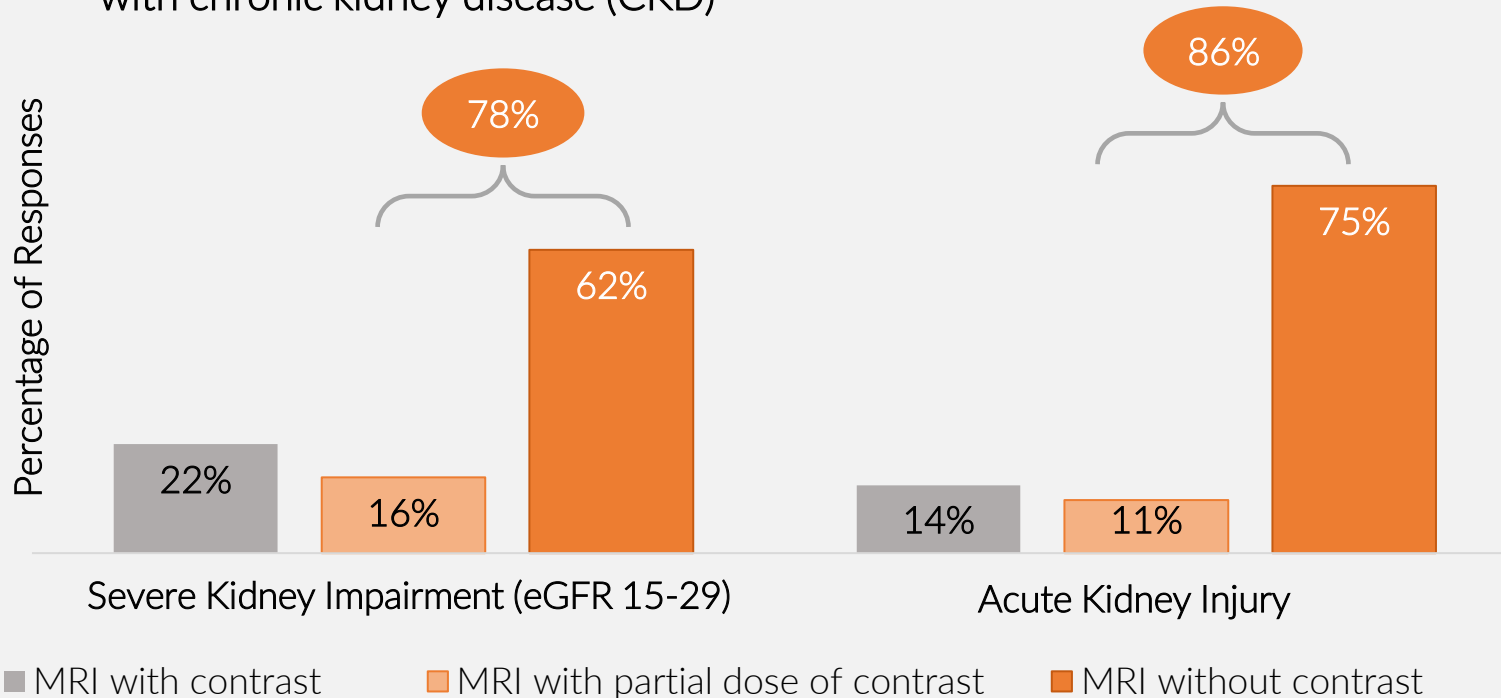
Source: Independent research by Two Labs Pharma Services for Ascelia Pharma in the USA conducted in Q4 2021/Q1 2022 included 16 in depth interviews and a survey of 254 healthcare professionals (HCPs), including 154 radiologists, 50 nephrologists and 50 oncologists. Participants in the study were asked about their choices of imaging and contrast agents in patients with cancer



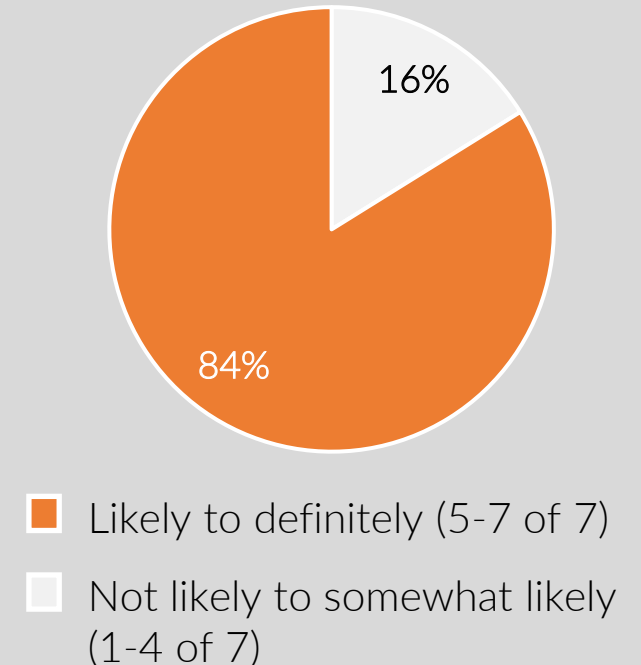
# UNENHANCED MRI PREFERRED TODAY; 84% OF US PHYSICIANS LIKELY TO USE ORVIGLANCE

78% of physicians prefer MRI without or with partial dose contrast for patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD)

... even more for patients with acute kidney injury (AKI)



Likelihood of using Orviglance for target patients



Source: Independent research by Two Labs Pharma Services for Ascelia Pharma in the USA conducted in Q4 2021/Q1 2022 included 16 in depth interviews and a survey of 254 healthcare professionals (HCPs), including 154 radiologists N =103 oncologist, nephrologist, and radiologist responses. Q: Please assign priority to the imaging tests in the sequence or order in which you would recommend or perform them



# ORVIGLANCE MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Nine leading US experts in liver disease and imaging shared their experience and advice

## Key topics included

- Trends in liver imaging
  - SAGE (Symptoms Associated with Gadolinium Exposure)
  - LI-RADS (Liver Reporting & Data System)
  - Abbreviated Protocols (Shortened MRI by eliminating selected steps)
- Guidelines
- The journey of a patient with liver lesions
- The role of ORVIGLANCE in clinical practice

## Advisors include

- Dr. Alessandro Furlan (Radiology, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center)
- Dr. Alvin Silva (Radiology, Mayo Arizona)
- Dr. Amit Singal (Hepatology, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center)
- Dr. Bachir Touli (Radiology, Mount Sinai New York)
- Dr. Claude Sirlin (Radiology, University of California, San Diego)
- Dr. Jeffrey Weinreb (Radiology, Yale University)
- Dr. Kathryn Fowler (Radiology, University of California, San Diego)
- Dr. Richard Do (Radiology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center)
- Dr. Victoria Chernyak (Radiology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center)



# MOMENTUM FOR AN ALTERNATIVE TO GADOLINIUM

## Deposition in Brain & Organs

concerns around safety for all patients

New safety category recommended for Symptoms Associated with Gadolinium exposure (SAGE), by Am. College of Rad. (2022)

Multiple-GBCA effect on body movement and mental skills study requested by the FDA (ODYSSEY, 2020)

## Water Contamination

scrutiny of environmental impact

Gadolinium is excreted in urine. Hard to remove in our sewage systems, it is discharged into our environment and drinking water

“The gadolinium-anomaly in Tone River [Japan] increased from 851% (sampled in 1996) to 6,545% i.e. 7.7 times, reflecting the increased use of gadolinium-based contrast agents (GBCAs) in hospitals”<sup>1</sup>



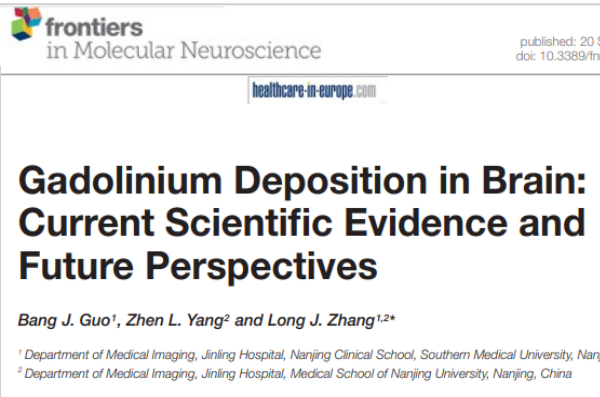
## Future with Less/No Gadolinium

focus of leading gadolinium manufactures

Low dose full-body gadolinium contrast agents

- FDA approved in priority review (2022) and EMA (2023) approved (gadopiclenol, Guerbet/Bracco)
- Initiation of Phase 3 (gadoquatrane, Bayer 2023)

Completion of Phase 1 with an extracellular IV manganese-based contrast agent (GE HealthCare 2023)



1) Kumasaka et al. Anthropogenic gadolinium in the Tone River (Japan): an update showing a 7.7-fold increase from 1996 to 2020, European Radiology Experimental 8, Article number 64 (2024)

Other sources include:

Macke et al. Fast and automated monitoring of gadolinium-based contrast agents in surface waters, Water Research, Volume 207, 2021.

Oluwasola et al, Gadolinium based contrast agents (GBCAs): Uniqueness, aquatic toxicity concerns, and prospective remediation. Journal of Contaminant Hydrology, Volume 250, 2022.

M. Nicholl. Seeking alternatives to gadolinium-based contrast agents. Healthcareineurope.com. July 22022

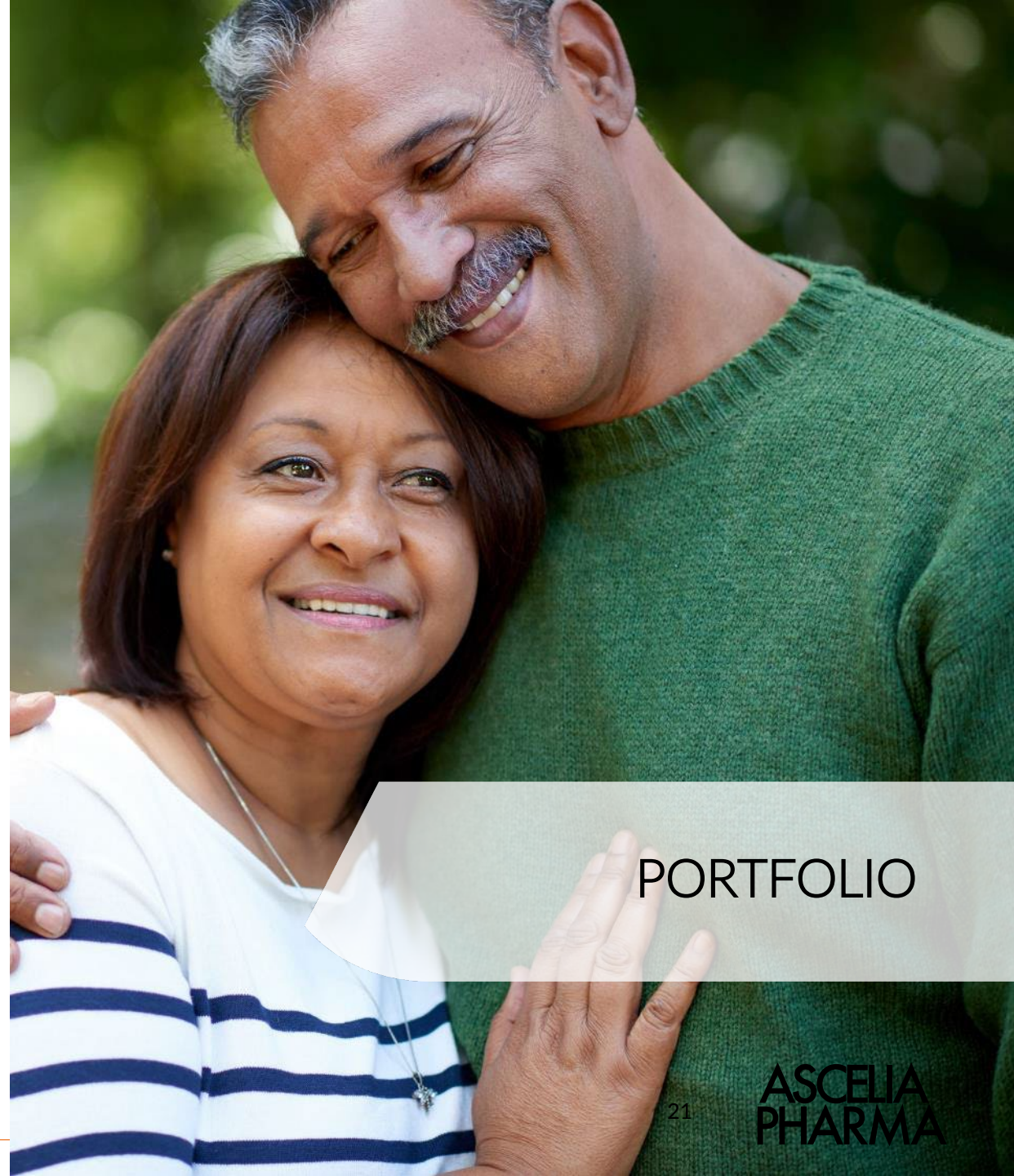
Bang G. Gadolinium Deposition in Brain: Current Scientific Evidence and Future Perspectives. Mol. Neurosci., 20 September 2018.

ORVIGLANCE®

Liver diagnostic imaging drug

**ONCORAL**

Daily, oral chemotherapy



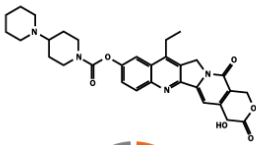
PORTFOLIO

# IMPROVING IRINOTECAN EFFICACY and TOLERABILITY

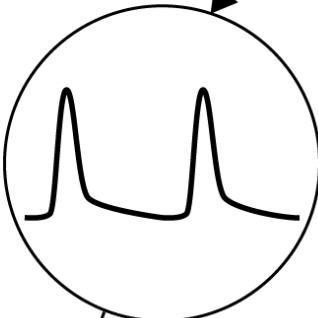
Irinotecan intravenous bolus dosing

ONCORAL – irinotecan oral daily dosing

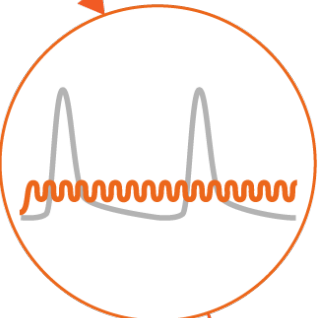
irinotecan



High-dose IV infusion every 3 weeks



Oncoral low-dosing daily tablet



Serious side-effects limit efficacy



Tumor cells

Potential for improved efficacy with reduced side-effects



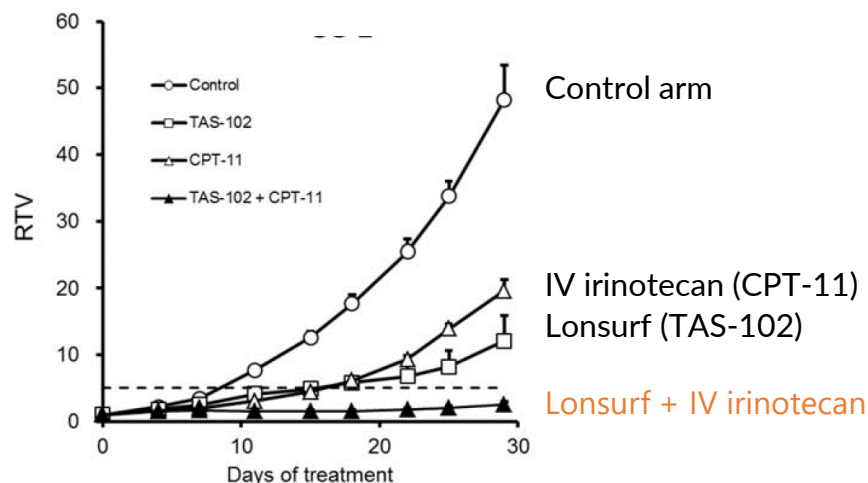
Tumor cells

# ONCORAL PHASE 2 IN GASTRIC CANCER

## STRONG RATIONALE FOR GASTRIC CANCER

- High unmet need and clinically demonstrated
- Potential for synergistic effect between Lonsurf and irinotecan

Efficacy study in an animal model of gastric cancer<sup>1</sup>  
(Relative Tumor Volume, RTV)



## LONSURF AND IRINOTECAN COMBINATION

### RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED PHASE 2 STUDY

- ~100 patients with metastatic gastric cancer
- Study arms: Oncoral + Lonsurf vs. Lonsurf
- Endpoints: Progression Free Survival (Primary), Response Rate, PK, Safety (Secondary) and Overall Survival (follow-up)
- IND approved in the US
- To focus all resources on Orvigance, patient enrollment is not initiated until it can be done effectively

Clinical collaboration with

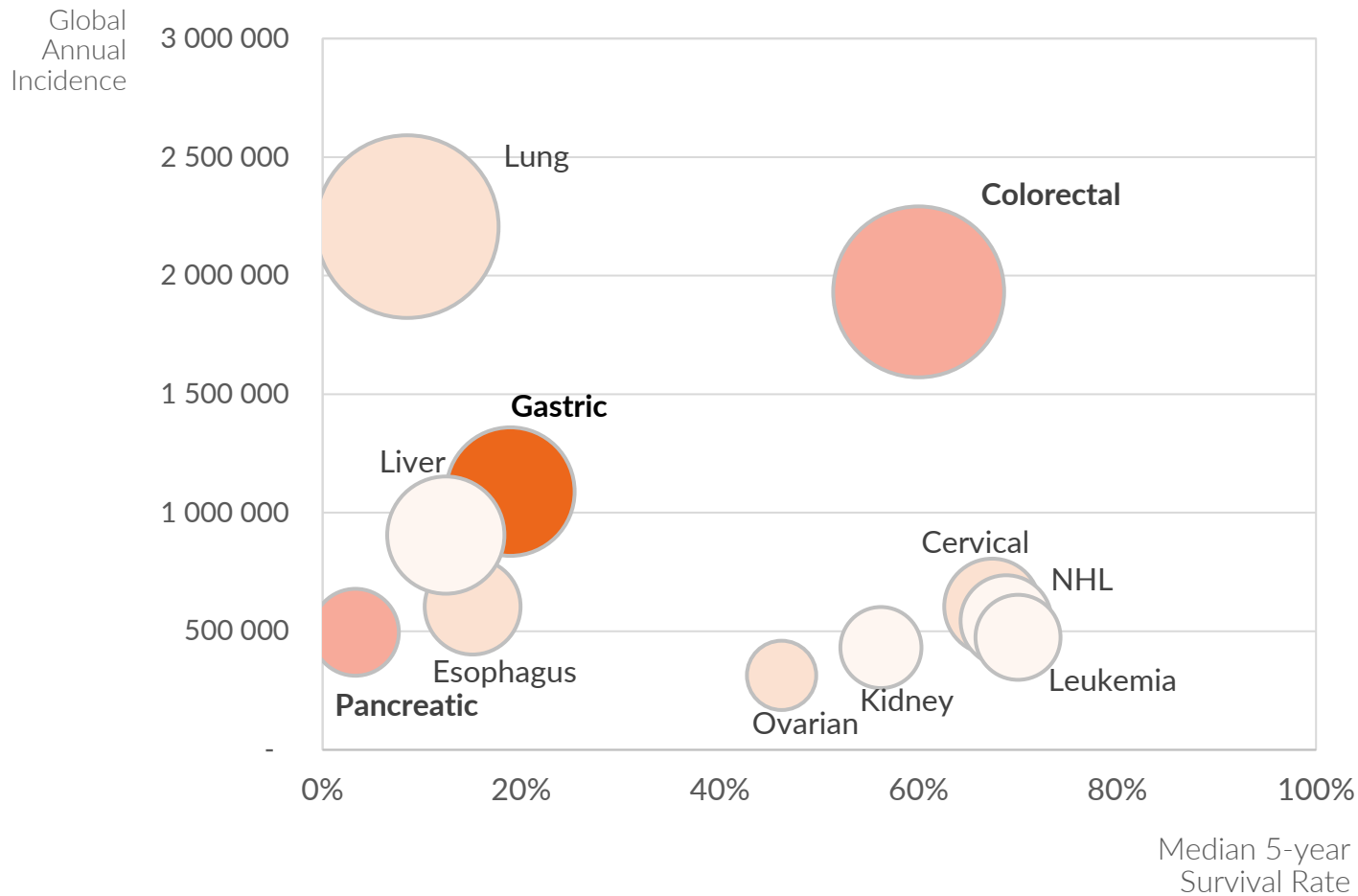


LONSURF is approved for treatment of metastatic gastric cancer and metastatic colorectal cancer

1) Nukatsuka et al: Combination Chemotherapy Using TAS-102 and Irinotecan Hydrochloride, ANTICANCER RESEARCH 35: 1437-1446 (2015)

# HIGH VALUE OPPORTUNITY IN GASTRIC CANCER AND EXPANSION

## POTENTIAL FOR ORAL, DAILY DOSING OF IRINOTECAN<sup>3</sup>



**A WELL-ESTABLISHED CHEMOTHERAPY**  
with recognized anti-tumor effect in solid tumors

- **Current focus: Gastric cancer**
  - Clinically demonstrated
  - Guidelines recognized
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> highest cancer deaths<sup>1</sup>
  - Orphan disease (US and EU)
  - \$3-4bn market<sup>2</sup>
- Approved indications for IV irinotecan
- Indications where IV irinotecan are clinically demonstrated & guidelines recognized
- Indications where IV irinotecan are clinically demonstrated

1) International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC, 2021)

2) GlobalData - Gastric and Gastroesophageal Junction Adenocarcinoma - Global Drug Forecast and Market Analysis to 2024

3) Globocan 2020, WHO, Cancer Research UK





## OUTLOOK

# SUBSTANTIAL ORVIGLANCE VALUE CREATION OPPORTUNITIES



Advance to approval



Secure partnering and commercialization readiness

Objectives

**Timely submission and approval** by the US FDA as an orphan drug with an optimal label for the use in the target population

**Focused launch** for well-defined patient population with 800 MUSD annual addressable market

**Partner** driven global commercialization

Milestones

- ✓ Full SPARKLE Clinical Study Report early **Q4 2024**
- Conclusions from FDA pre-submission meeting by **Q1 2025**
- NDA submission **mid-2025** with Ascelia Pharma and partner readiness

- Advance **launch readiness**
- Establish commercialization **partnership(s)**

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