

# DNA methylation testing on clinician-collected cervical and self-collected vaginal samples for the detection of CIN3 in high-risk HPV positive women

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# Disclosure

No potential COI



# Main questions

1. Can methylation testing on cervical scrapes replace cytology as triage test in HPV-positive women?
2. Can methylation testing be recommended for vaginal self-samples?
3. Can methylation testing be used together with cytology in HPV-positive women?



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# Accuracy of cytology for detecting CIN3+ in HPV-positive women

| Study name    | Country     | Primary test             | Sensitivity | Specificity | Ref                  |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
| POBASCAM      | Netherlands | Co-testing               | 0.75        | 0.78        | Dijkstra, CEPB 2014  |
| VUSA-SCREEN   | Netherlands | Co-testing               | 0.71        | 0.86        | Rijkaart, IJC 2012   |
| HPV program   | Netherlands | HPV alone                | 0.82        | 0.73        | Aitken, BMC Med 2019 |
|               |             |                          |             |             |                      |
| Meta-analysis | 28 studies  | HPV alone/<br>co-testing | 0.78        | 0.73        | IARC Handbook 2022   |



# QIASure test

- Methylation of two disease-related genes:  
FAM19A4 and miR124-2
- PCR test
- Regulatory approval: CE-IVD
- Qiagen

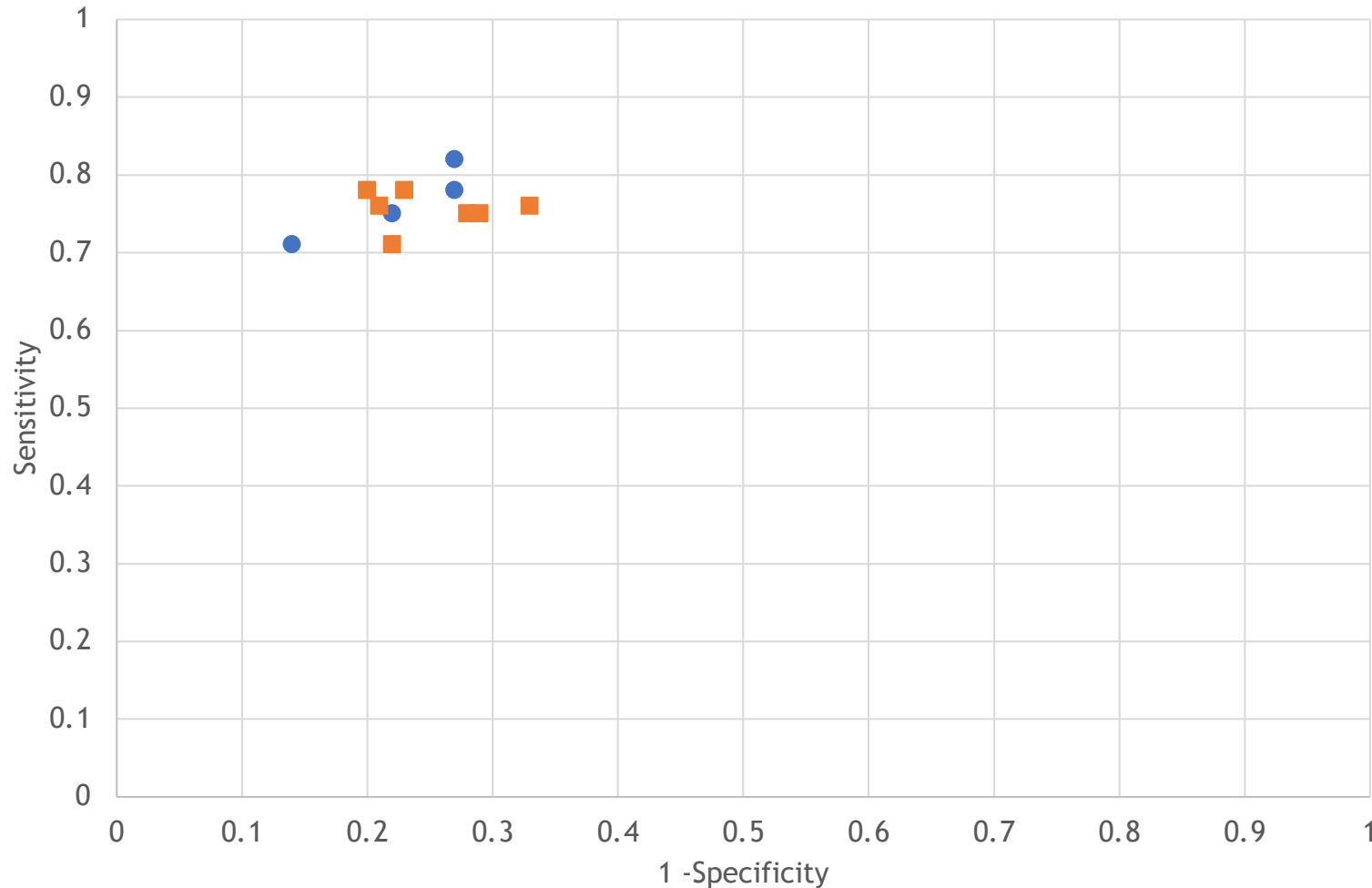
# FAM19A4/miR124-2 methylation analysis of cervical scrapes for detecting CIN3+ in HPV-positive women

| Study name                 | Country     | Setting    | Size | Age   | Ref                  |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------|------|-------|----------------------|
| POBASCAM<br>(FAM19A4 only) | Netherlands | Co-testing | 218  | 19-62 | DeStrooper, CPR 2014 |
| COMETH<br>(FAM19A4 only)   | Netherlands | Referral   | 532  | 18-70 | Luttmer, BJC 2016    |
| PaVDaG                     | Scotland    | Co-testing | 161  | 30-61 | Bonde, IJC 2021      |
| Valgent4                   | Denmark     | Cytology   | 424  | 30-65 | Bonde, IJC 2021      |
| Slovenian HPV prev.        | Slovenia    | Co-testing | 928  | 30-76 | Bonde, IJC 2021      |
| VUSA-SCREEN                | Netherlands | Co-testing | 871  | 29-61 | Bonde, IJC 2021      |
| VUSA-SCREEN                | Netherlands | Co-testing | 979  | 29-61 | Vink, CMI 2021       |



# FAM19A4/miR124-2 methylation versus cytology as triage test in HPV-positive women

End-point CIN3+: Sensitivity versus (1-Specificity)



● Cytology

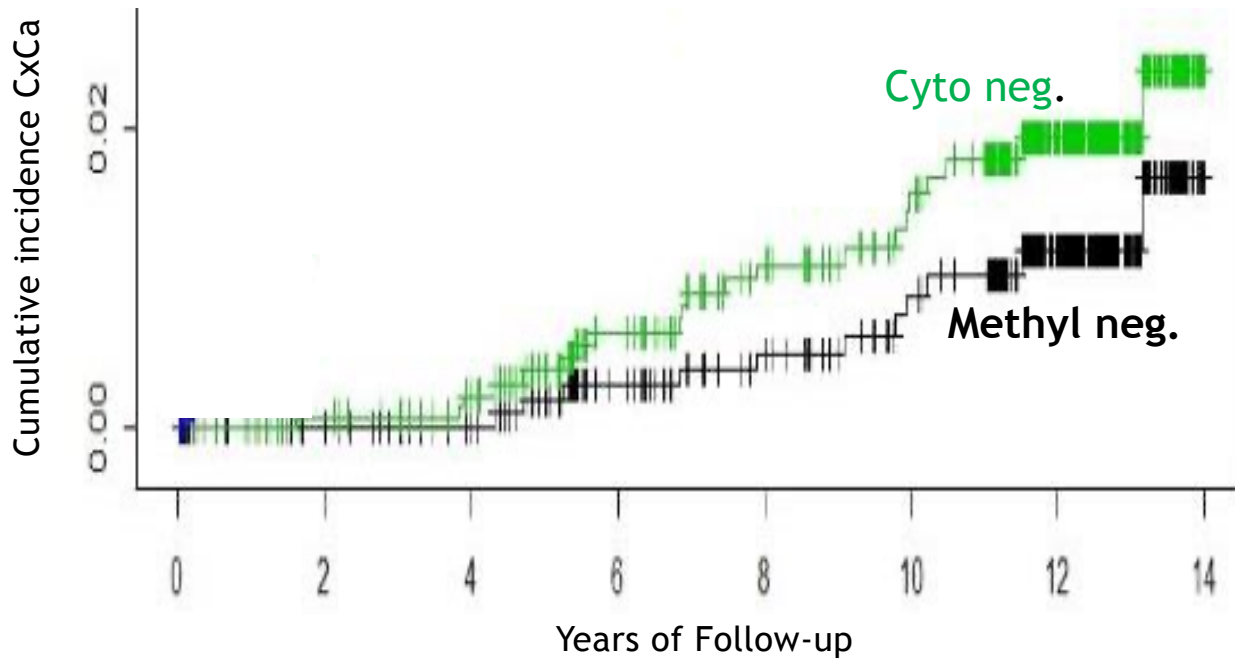
■ Methylation

Cytology and Methylation have similar accuracy for detection of CIN3+

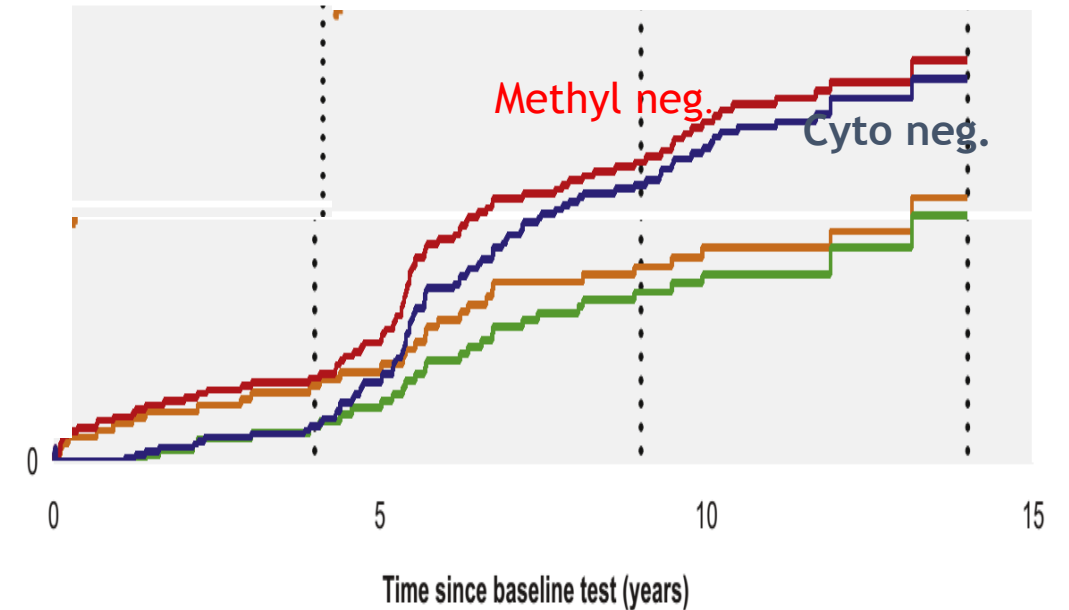


# Long-term risk of CIN3+ and cancer in HPV-positive women after negative cytology versus negative FAM19A4/miR124-2: POBASCAM

Cancer risk difference:  
0.71% (95% CI: 0.16 to 1.4%)



CIN3+ risk difference:  
-0.73% (95% CI: -3.0 to 1.5%)

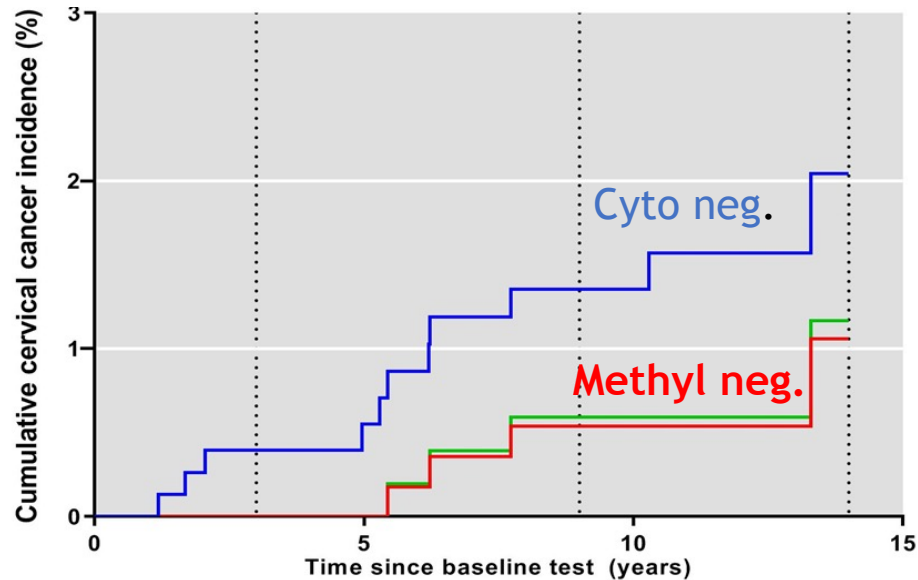


Long-term cancer risk lower after negative methylation, CIN3+ risks similar

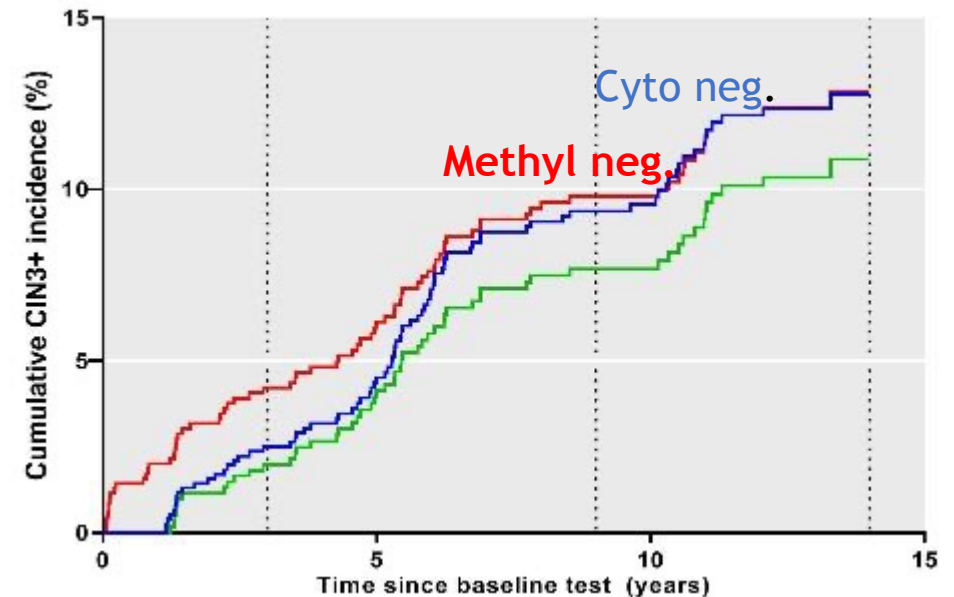
# Long-term risk of CIN3+ and cancer in HPV-positive women after negative cytology versus negative FAM19A4/miR124-2: VUSASCREEN

- Cytology negative
- FAM19A4/miR124-2 methylation negative
- FAM19A4/miR124-2 and/or cytology negative

Cancer risk difference cytology- vs methylation-  
0.98% (95%CI 0.26 to 2.0 %) at 14 years



CIN3+ risk difference cytology- vs methylation-  
-0.07% (95%CI: -1.9 to 1.9%) at 14 years



# FAM19A4 methylation analysis for detecting CIN3+ and association with age in COMETH study

| Age        | Sensitivity | Specificity | 1-NPV | PPV |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------|-----|
| < 30 years | 46%         | 82%         | 8.3%  | 26% |
| ≥ 30 years | 88%         | 63%         | 4.5%  | 38% |

In women <30 years, clinical sensitivity of methylation testing is much lower than in older women.

Are CIN3 lesions detected in young women early, small lesions with a high chance of regression?



# Main questions

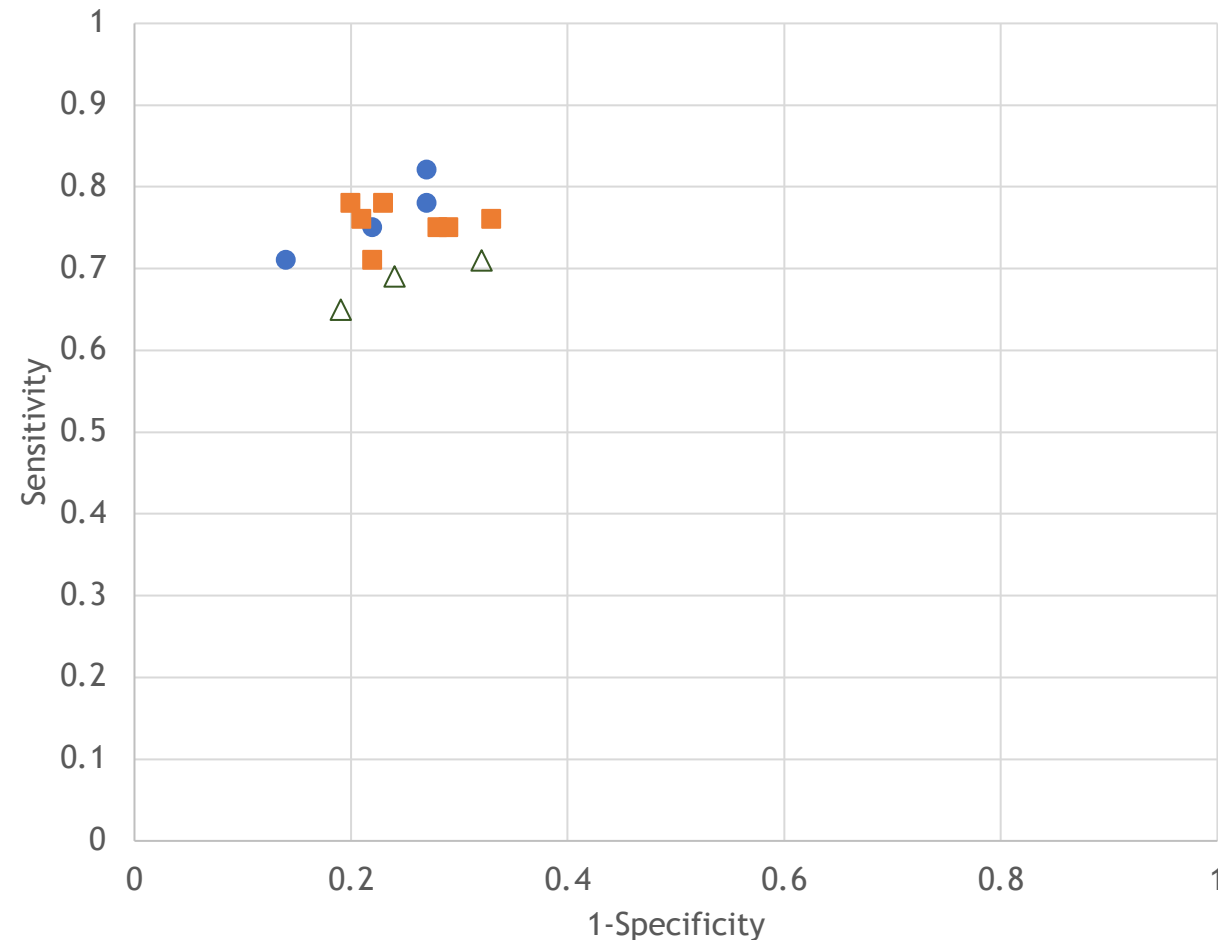
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# FAM19A4/miR124-2 methylation analysis on self-collected samples in COMETH and PROHTECT3 study

| Study name | Population    | Self-sampling method | Size | Reference              |
|------------|---------------|----------------------|------|------------------------|
| COMETH     | Referral      | scrape               | 532  | Luttmer, BJC 2014      |
| COMETH     | Referral      | lavage               | 532  | Luttmer, BJC 2014      |
| PROHTECT3  | Non-responder | lavage/brush         | 643  | DeStrooper GynOnc 2016 |

# FAM19A4/miR124-2 methylation versus cytology as triage test in HPV-positive women

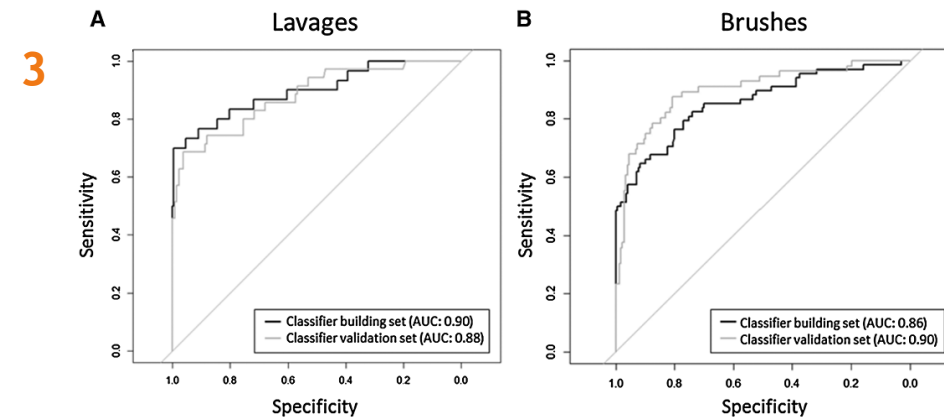
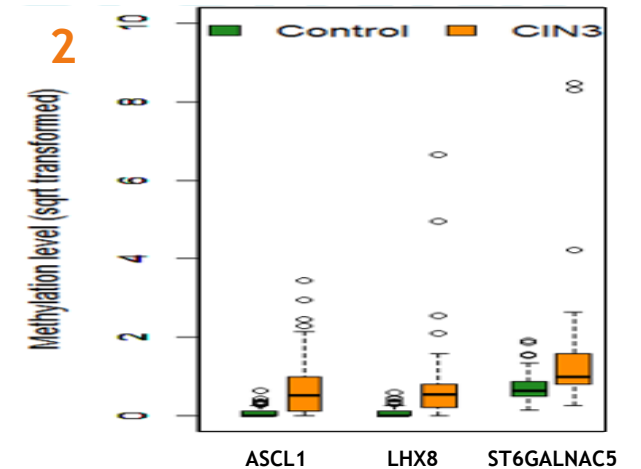
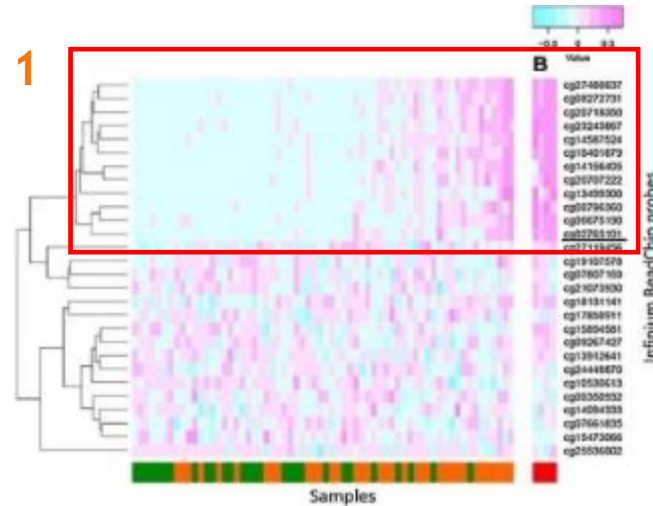
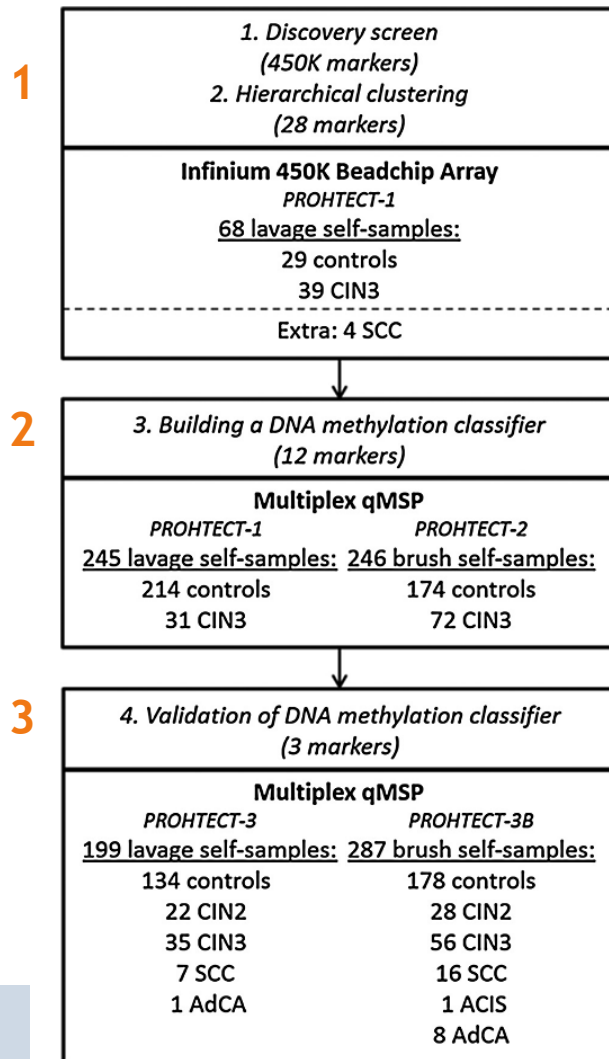
Endpoint CIN3+: Sensitivity versus (1-Specificity)



- Cytology
- Methylation on scrapes
- △ Methylation on self-samples

Methylation on self-samples has a slightly lower accuracy for detection of CIN3+

# Methylation marker discovery & validation on self-samples: LHX8/ASCL1/ST6GALNAC5





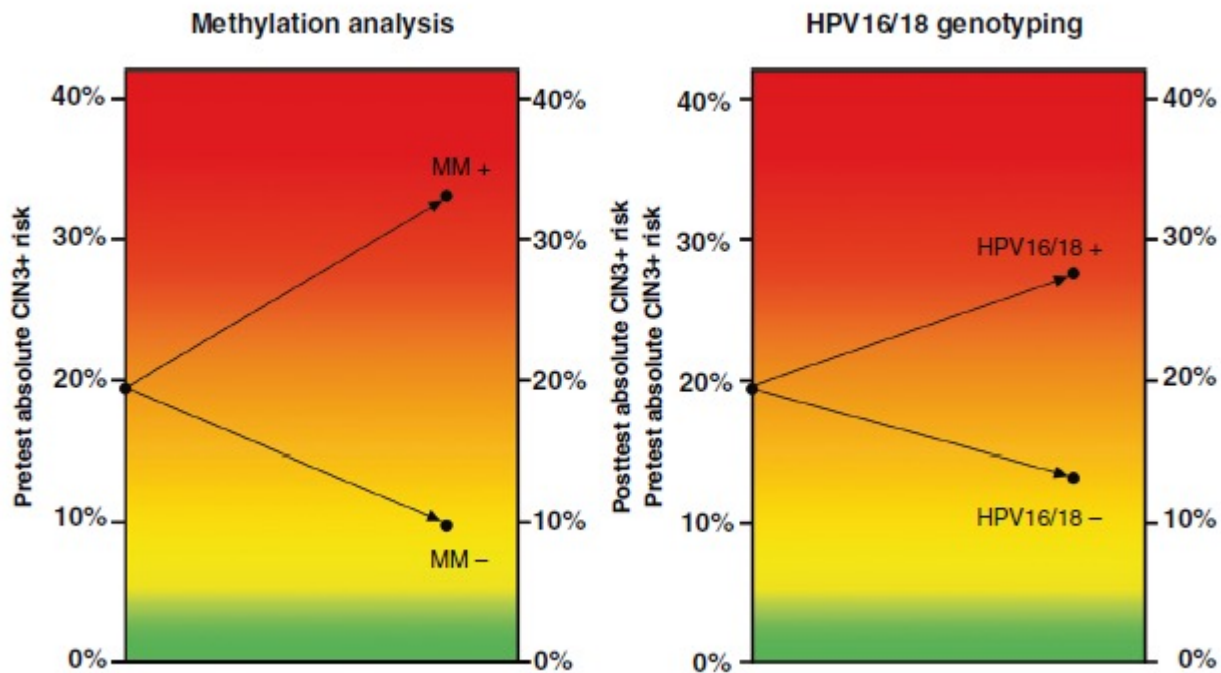
# LHX8/ASCL1/ST6GALNAC5 methylation analysis of cervical scrapes for detecting CIN3+ in HPV-positive women

| Study name           | Population    | Collection            | Size | Sens | Spec | Ref              |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------|------|------|------------------|
| PROHTECT3 validation | Non-responder | Self-collected Lavage | 153  | 74%  | 79%  | Verlaat, CCR2018 |
| PROHTECT3b           | Non-responder | Self-collected Brush  | 169  | 88%  | 81%  | Verlaat, CCR2018 |
|                      |               |                       |      |      |      |                  |
| IMPROVE (LHX8/ASCL1) | Primary HPV   | Cervical scrape       | 715  | 77%  | 75%  | Verhoef, IJC2021 |



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VUSA SCREEN AND  
POBASCAM DATA:

Methylation  
predicts CIN3+ risk  
in women with  
ASCUS/LSIL

## Risk-stratification of HPV-positive women with low-grade cytology by *FAM19A4/miR124-2* methylation and HPV genotyping

Stéfanie Dick <sup>1,3</sup>, Frederique J. Vink <sup>1,3</sup>, Daniëlle A. M. Heideman <sup>1</sup>, Birgit I. Lissenberg-Witte <sup>2</sup>, Chris J. L. M. Meijer <sup>1</sup>✉ and Johannes Berkhof <sup>2</sup>

British Journal of Cancer (2022) 126:259 – 264



## CONCERVE study (Kremer, Dick et al. JCO 2022)



**Inclusion criteria**

- CIN2/3
- Age 18-55 years
- Small lesion (<50%)




**Baseline & follow-up**  
**6-12-18-24 months**

- Self-sample
- Cervical scrape
- Colposcopy




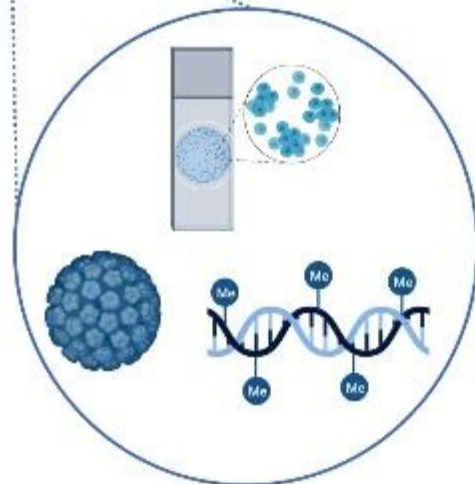
**Treatment indication**

- Volume >50%
- CIN2 > CIN3 > cancer
- AIS
- Transformation zone not visible



**Exclusion criteria**

- Pregnancy
- History of CIN
- AIS
- Transformation zone not visible



**Study endpoint**

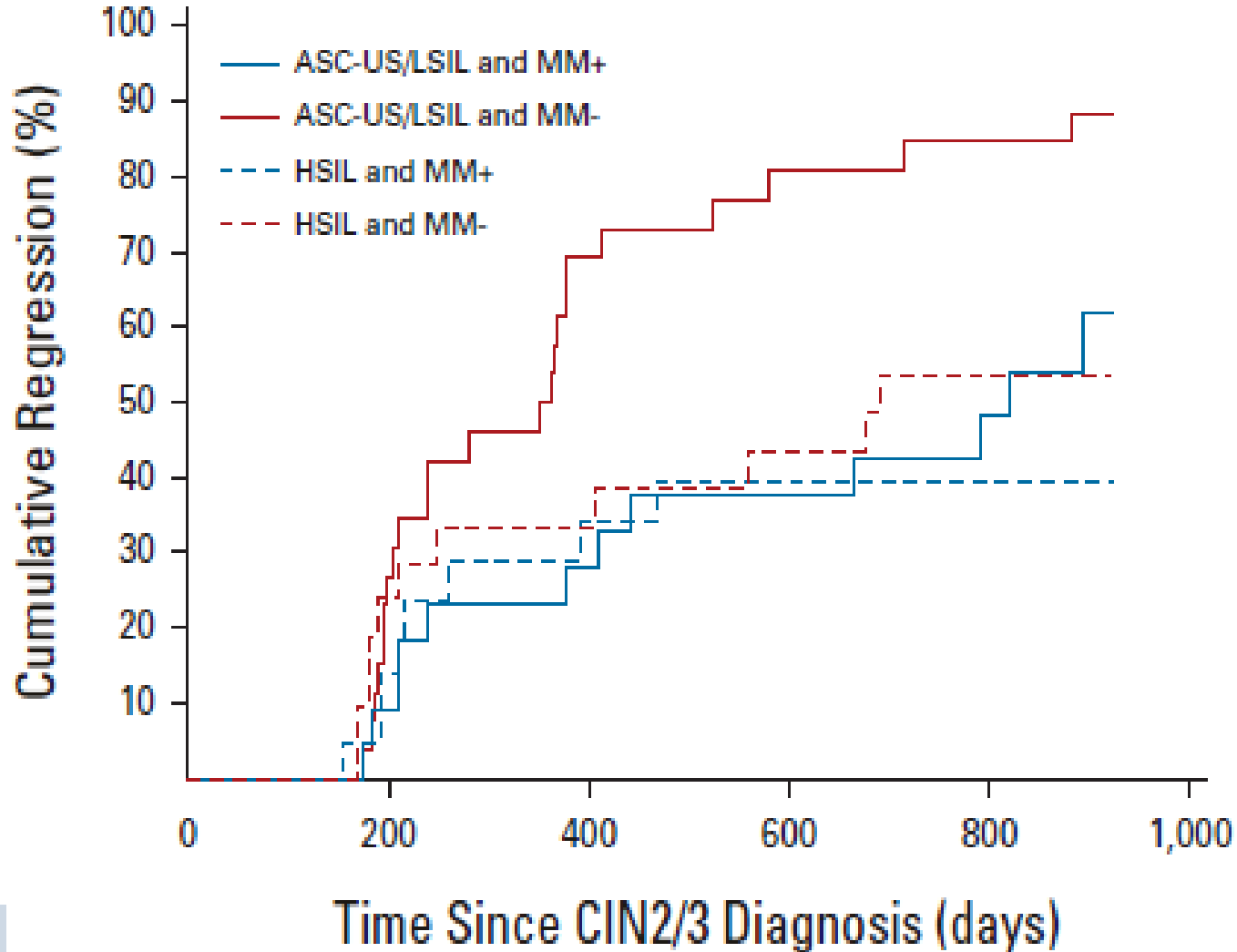
- Absence of CIN2+  
**or**
- HPV negative NILM

Study design and methods:  
Kremer (2019) *BMJ Open*

# CONCERVE:



## Cytology and FAM19A4/miR124-2 on cervical scrapes



Methylation predicts CIN2/3 regression in women with ASCUS-LSIL, but not in women with HSIL



# Conclusions

- **Strong evidence that DNA methylation on cervical scrapes has similar accuracy as cytology for detecting CIN3+**
- **DNA methylation testing on vaginal self-samples is promising. Evidence on clinical performance is emerging.**
- **DNA methylation can be used as a triage test in HPV-positive women with ASCUS/LSIL**



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- **Amsterdam UMC Pathology/Self-screen:  
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Stefanie Dick, Frederique Vink, Lisanne Verhoef**
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Birgit Lissenberg-Witte**



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