

# ctDNA quantification improves estimation of outcomes in patients with high-grade osteosarcoma: a translational study from the OS2006 trial

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#### 1 Original article. 2 ctDNA quantification improves estimation of outcomes in patients with high grade osteosarcoma: a translational study from the OS2006 trial. 3 B. Audinot<sup>\*1</sup>, D. Drubay<sup>\*2,3</sup>, N. Gaspar<sup>A1,4,5</sup>, A. Mohr<sup>A1</sup>, C. Cordero<sup>6,5</sup>, P. Marec-4 5 Bérard<sup>7,5</sup>, C. Lervat<sup>8,5</sup>, S. Piperno-Neumann<sup>9</sup>, M. Jimenez<sup>10</sup>, L. Mansuy<sup>11,5</sup>, M-P. Castex<sup>12,5</sup>, G. Revon-Riviere<sup>13,5</sup>, A. Marie-Cardine<sup>14,5</sup>, C. Berger<sup>15,5</sup>, C. Piguet<sup>16,5</sup>, K. 6 Massau<sup>1</sup>, B. Job<sup>17</sup>, G. Moguin-Beaudry<sup>1</sup>, M-C. Le Deley<sup>2,18</sup>, M-D. Tabone<sup>19,5</sup>, P. 7 Berlanga<sup>4,5</sup>, L. Brugières<sup>4,5</sup>, B. D. Crompton<sup>20,21</sup>, A. Marchais<sup>#1</sup>, S. Abbou<sup>#1,4,5</sup>. 8 \*,^ and #: Authors contributed equally 9 10 1. National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM) U1015, Gustave 11 12 Roussy, Villejuif, France. 13 2. Gustave Roussy, Office of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Université Paris-14 Saclay, Villejuif, France 3. Inserm, Université Paris-Saclay, CESP U1018, Oncostat, labeled Ligue Contre 15 16 le Cancer, Villejuif, France 17 4. Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus, Children and Adolescent Oncology 18 Department, Villejuif, France 5. French cancer society (SFCE). 19 20 6. Pediatric Department, Institut Curie, Paris, France. 21 7. Department of Oncology for Child and Adolescent, Centre Léon Bérard, 22 Pediatric Oncology and Hematology Institute (IHOPe), Lyon, France. 23 8. Department of pediatric oncology, adolescents and young adults, Centre Oscar 24 Lambret, Lille. 25 9. Medical Oncology Department, Institut Curie, Paris. 26 10. Research and Development Department, Unicancer, Paris, France. 27 11. Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Nancy University Hospital, 28 Vandœuvre-lès-Nancy, France. 29 12. Pediatric Oncology Immunology Hematology Unit, Children's University 30 Hospital, Toulouse, France. 31 13. Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, La Timone Children's Hospital, Marseille, France. 32

#### Journal Pre-proof

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54	Running title
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56	
57	This study was presented in part at AACR 2023.
58	

# 59 Manuscript information.

- 60 Figures: 3, Supplementary figures: 7
- 61 Tables: 2, Supplementary tables: 4
- 62 Supplemental Material

63

# 64 Abbreviations

- 65 ctDNA: circulating tumor DNA, lpWGS: low passage whole genome sequencing, CNA:
- 66 Copy number alteration, CPA: copy number abnormality score, diagCPA: CPA at
- 67 diagnosis, surgCPA: CPA at surgery, eotCPA: CPA at end of treatment

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### 69 **Abstract** (259/300)

Purpose: Osteosarcoma stratification relies on clinical parameters and histological
response. We developed a new personalized stratification using less invasive
circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) quantification.

Patients and Methods: Plasma from patients homogeneously treated in the prospective protocol OS2006, at diagnosis, before surgery and end of treatment, where sequenced using low passage whole genome sequencing (lpWGS) for copy number alteration detection. We developed a prediction tool including ctDNA quantification and known clinical parameters to estimate patients' individual risk of event.

Results: ctDNA quantification at diagnosis (diagCPA) was evaluated for 183 patients 78 79 of the protocol OS2006. diagCPA as a continuous variable was a major prognostic 80 factor, independent from other clinical parameters, including metastatic status (diagCPA HR=3.5, p=0.002 and 3.51, p=0.012, for PFS and OS). At the time of surgery 81 and until the end of treatment, diagCPA was also a major prognostic factor 82 83 independent from histological response (diagCPA HR=9.2, p<0.001 and 11.6, 84 p<0.001, for PFS and OS). Therefore, the addition of diagCPA to metastatic status at diagnosis or poor histological response after surgery improved the prognostic 85 86 stratification of patient with Osteosarcoma. We developed the prediction tool PRONOS 87 to generate individual risk estimations, showing great performance with . ctDNA 88 quantification at the time of surgery and the end of treatment still required improvement 89 to overcome the low sensitivity of IpWGS and to enable the follow up of disease 90 progression.

91 Conclusions: The addition of ctDNA quantification to known risk factors improves the
92 estimation of prognosis calculated by our prediction tool PRONOS. To confirm its value
93 an external validation in the Sarcoma 13 trial is underway.

94 Keywords: ctDNA, Osteosarcoma, prognostic score, stratification

95

96	Cont	ext - Highlights
97	•	Circulating tumor DNA detection (ctDNA) is a non-invasive procedure
98	•	The use of low passage whole genome sequencing is cost-effective
99	•	This procedure represents a considerable step in reducing therapeutic burden
100		and trauma for patient with cancer
101	•	PRONOS is a tool that estimates relapse risk using ctDNA at diagnosis and
102		known clinical risk factor in osteosarcoma

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# 103 Introduction

Osteosarcoma is the most common primary bone tumor in children and young adults
 <sup>1</sup>. Overall survival remains around 70%, with no successful new therapy introduction in
 the last decades and with an important treatment burden for survivors <sup>2–5</sup>.

107 Metastasis identification and chemosensitivity, evaluated by percentage of tumor 108 necrosis after presurgical chemotherapy, are the main prognostic factors. 109 Unfortunately, they are insufficient to predict patient outcome robustly enough to 110 identify in an earlier stage high-risk patients to introduce new anticancer agents and 111 low risk patients to decrease treatment burden <sup>2, 3</sup>. Hence, we urgently need new robust 112 and early biomarkers to better predict treatment failure, that could be combined with 113 powerful clinical risk factors.

Liquid biopsy is an increasingly studied field for stratification in sarcoma <sup>6–9</sup>. By using 114 115 the simple, fast and cost effective approach of low passage whole genome sequencing 116 (IpWGS) it allows for the detection and quantification of circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) to stratify patients <sup>10–13</sup>. The vast majority of osteosarcoma carries copy number 117 118 alterations (CNA) that can be detected in the plasma. and its detection has previously been correlated with outcome <sup>6, 14, 15</sup>. Several analytic workflows can be used to 119 120 process low definition sequencing data, such as IchorCNA, and WisecondorX, with different strategies to account for the noise generated by the sequencing <sup>16–19</sup>. In this 121 122 work, we show that ctDNA quantification from patients treated within the prospective 123 OS2006 trial is a strong prognostic factor, independent of other known clinical 124 parameters. We developed a prognostic model using ctDNA at diagnosis and known 125 risk factors that significantly improves patients' stratification from diagnosis and 126 throughout the treatment.

127

# 128 Patients and Methods

# 129 Patient and clinical data

130 Plasma samples were collected in the prospective OS2006 trial, a randomized phase-131 III trial for newly diagnosed osteosarcoma<sup>2, 3</sup>. Briefly, patients received either a 132 methotrexate based regimen with VP16 and ifosfamide, or a Doxorubicin, cisplatin and 133 ifosfamide regimen according to their age as previously described <sup>2, 3, 20</sup>. Zoledronate 134 was randomized to be added or not to standard chemotherapy, with a 1:1 ratio. This 135 study was carried out in accordance with the ethical principles of the declaration of 136 Helsinki and with Good Clinical Practice guidelines. A specific informed consent for 137 blood and tumor samples was obtained from patients or legal representatives. Study 138 was approved by an ethics committee and the institutional review boards. Clinical data 139 were collected as reported previously <sup>2, 3</sup>. Histological response to neoadjuvant 140 chemotherapy of the primary tumor was defined as "good response" (GR, <10% viable 141 cells) or "poor response" (PR, (>10% viable cells). It is important to note that the 142 selection of samples was not based on any specific criteria. It was based on the 143 availability of samples at the time of analysis.

# 144 Sample processing and sequencing

Samples were selected based on the availability of more than 1.5mL of plasma.
Samples were prospectively collected in EDTA tubes and processed on site before first
cycle of chemotherapy, before surgery and at end of treatment and processed as
described in the **Supplementary method.** Whole genome sequencing was performed
to a mean target coverage of 0.5X.

# 150 Bioinformatic analysis

Data processing is detailed in the **Supplementary method**. Briefly, upon read alignment we compared two algorithms, IchorCNA and WizecondorX with data from comparative genomic hybridization (CGH) from the tumor samples. More information regarding the algorithm comparison is provided in the **Supplementary material**.

To differentiate high versus low CPA score, we used an unsupervised clustering based
on gaussian mixture modelisation (Supplementary material, supplementary figure
S3A).

#### 158 Clinical endpoints

159 The primary endpoint was the progression free survival (PFS) as defined as the delay 160 between the baseline time and the occurrence of progression or death of the patient. 161 CPA measurements at diagnostic, surgery, or at the end of treatment served as the 162 baseline time for different analyzes to evaluate the prognostic potential of CPA 163 measurement at different time points. The secondary endpoint was the overall survival 164 (OS) defined as the time between the baseline and the death of the patient. The follow-165 up of the patients who did not encounter the event of interest was censored at the date 166 of the end of follow-up.

#### 167 Prognosis analysis

168 Univariable survival analyses were performed using the Kaplan-Meier estimator. The 169 expected patient survival probabilities in different strata were compared using the Log-170 rank test. Multivariable analyses were performed using the Cox proportional hazard 171 model adjusted for the CPA and for the known clinical prognostic factors in 172 osteosarcoma. We considered the CPA as a continuous variable and a categorical 173 variable (low and high) to compare different functional forms of the CPA ~ response 174 relationship (Supplementary method, Supplementary figure S3B). We compared 175 the related models using the Bayesian information criterion (BIC). A result with an 176 alpha risk of <5% was considered as statistically significant.

#### 177 *Predictive score*

178 As the standard statistical approach aims to overfit the data to explain its variability, 179 the resulting model may underperform for a prediction task. We assessed in parallel 180 the additional value of the CPA for the patient prognosis prediction compared to a 181 reference clinical model (including only the risk factors considered in the current clinical 182 practice) to its CPA-enhanced version. We assessed the discrimination of those 183 models' performance using the area under the time-dependent receiver operating 184 characteristic curve (AUtdROC), and the calibration using the integrated calibration 185 index (ICI) and graphical representations <sup>21–23</sup>. Those indices were computed for the prognosis predictors (OS and PFS) at 5 years from the different clinical milestones 186 187 (diagnosis, surgery, and end of treatment) and their 95% confidence interval was 188 computed using nested bootstrap with 500 external samples and 100 internal samples 189 <sup>24–26</sup>. Transparent reporting of a multivariable prediction model for individual prognosis 190 or diagnosis (TRIPOD) recommendation were used for optimism correction <sup>25</sup>. More

191 details about their computation, optimism correction and the test procedure are 192 provided in the **supplementary methods**. We also provide a web interface for 193 graphical representation of the individual patient's prediction within this model for 194 precision medicine.

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# 195 **RESULTS**

#### 196 Patients

197 Plasma samples collected from 183 children, adolescents, and adults treated in OS2006 study were included <sup>2, 3</sup>. The ctDNA cohort represents the original OS2006 198 199 cohort regarding clinical characteristics and prognostic factors, except for age with a 200 slightly young ctDNA cohort (14 years and 8 months vs 15 years and 4 months) and 201 chemotherapy that could be related to a larger participation of the pediatric centers to 202 the plasma collection. In total, 465 samples were sequenced: 178 at diagnosis, 144 203 pre-surgery and 143 at the end of treatment. Matched tumor copy number profiles from 204 CGH array were available for 91 patients. The clinical characteristics of our cohort were 205 similar between our study and the original OS2006 cohort (Table 1).

206 Optimization of circulating tumor fraction estimation in plasma from osteosarcoma 207 patient

208 To validate a workflow able to recapitulate the CNA profile of the tumor in the plasma 209 at diagnosis and evaluate ctDNA content, we compared copy number profiles from 210 IchorCNA and WizecondorX with CGH from the tumor samples (Supplementary figure S1 and S2) <sup>16, 17</sup>. We favored WisecondorX 1- to avoid manual post analytic 211 212 curation of the data, often used with IchorCNA to improve specificity and 2- because 213 WisecondorX Copy Number Abnormality (CPA) score is a continuous variable with low 214 values being the result of the sequencing noise (no null value). WisecondorX's calling 215 on CNAs was then compared with the one obtained by CGH on the primary tumor. We 216 found that the similarity between CNA between bulk tumor and plasma was highly 217 correlated with CPA score (Supplementary figure S2C). Therefore, CPA score 218 represents a combination of ctDNA content and confidence of ctDNA detection. We 219 computed the CPA score using WisecondorX from low coverage WGS data to measure 220 the global abnormality of each genome, expressed as a CPA score, before treatment, 221 before surgery and at end of treatment and observed that the cohort mean CPA score 222 decreased throughout treatment (Supplementary figure S2D), probably reflecting the 223 decrease of the tumor burden in response to chemotherapy. CPA score was used as 224 a continuous variable for the following analysis. However, to help the constitution of 225 risk groups, we also defined the "high" and "low" CPA score groups based on a non-

supervised, outcome agnostic clustering method which yielded a cutoff score of 0.6

# 227 (Supplementary Methods, Supplementary figures S3A).

# 228 ctDNA fraction is a major prognostic factor at diagnosis

229 Early prognostic biomarkers are essential to adapt patients' treatment. At diagnosis, 230 metastasic status is the main known prognostic factor in osteosarcoma as confirmed 231 by univariable and multivariable analysis (Figure 1A-B and Supplementary table 1). 232 However, we found that diagCPA as a continuous variable is also independently 233 associated with outcome. There was a trend toward a difference in mean diagCPA 234 between patients with and without metastases, despite no interaction in the 235 multivariable analysis (Figure 1C and supplementary table 2). Using diagCPA as a 236 binarized variable ("high" vs. "low"), we constituted four groups of patients according 237 to the presence of metastasis and ctDNA level and found a significant impact on PFS 238 and OS (Figure 1D-E, Table 2). Interestingly, the metastatic status and the diagCPA 239 score were associated to similar independent increases of the PFS and the OS risk, 240 as highlighted by the overlap of the survival curves of patients with metastases at 241 diagnostic or with a high CPA score. Those results suggest that 3 risk groups can be 242 defined in osteosarcoma: a low-risk defined by the "absence of metastasis and low CPA score", an intermediate-risk defined by the "presence of either metastasis or high 243 244 CPA score", and a high risk defined the "presence of both metastasis and high CPA 245 score". Multivariable analysis confirmed that diagCPA as a binarized variable was 246 associated with outcome (Figure 1F-G). Of note, correlation between diagCPA and 247 tumor size was very weak and unable to explain the level of ctDNA detected on its own (Supplementary figure 4). 248

- 249

# ctDNA fraction estimation improves the clinical prognostic characterization ofosteosarcoma patient at the time of surgery

Histological response evaluated after neoadjuvant chemotherapy (i.e., at the time of surgery) is the main known prognostic factor of osteosarcoma which we confirmed by performing similar univariable and multivariable analyses using the date of surgery as baseline time point. Interestingly, surgCPA did not show a significant association with either PFS or OS and therefore should not be used for risk assessment. On the other hand, diagCPA as a continuous variable was also shown to be independently

associated with PFS at this time point, despite the strong influence of histological 258 259 response on outcome. (Figure 2 A-B and supplementary table S1). There was only 260 a significant interaction observed between histological response and diagCPA for 261 overall survival. However this result needs to be interpreted with caution due to the 262 high statistical instability as reflected by the extremly wide confidence interval 263 (Supplementary table S2). Metastatic status was only significantly associated with 264 PFS. (Figure 2 A-B). Figure 2C-D represent the CPA at diagnosis and surgery 265 according to the metastatic status and histological response. As previously described, using the diagCPA as a binarized ("high" vs. "low") variable we constituted four groups 266 267 of patients according to the histological response and diagCPA. We found a significant 268 impact on survival defining risk groups (Figure 2E-F, Table 2). The prognostic impact 269 of the binarized diagCPA was confirmed in multivariable analysis (Figure 2G-H).

270 ctDNA at the end of treatment

To evaluate the prognostic value of different ctDNA sampling timepoints, we assessed the predictive value of CPA calculated at diagnosis, time of surgery and end of treatment by univariate and multivariate analysis. EotCPA as a continuous variable was not associated with prognosis and should not be used for risk stratification. The results were similar with analysis at surgery with only diagCPA and poor histological response to chemotherapy (PR) were associated with PFS and OS (**Supplementary Figure S5 and supplementary table S1 and 2**).

The group analysis at the end of treatment, with four groups according low/high diagCPA and histological response, also found a significant association with PFS and OS (**Supplementary Figure S5 D-G, Table 2**). At the end of treatment, survival of patient with high diagCPA was significantly worse only in the PR group (**Supplementary Figure S5 F-G**).

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# 284 Patient outcome prediction

Patient stratification is based on the risk estimation from clinical factors and robust biomarkers. To define a patient classifier that considers all those factors, we developed a prognostic prediction multivariable model to discriminate the patients who progressed (or died) within 5 years from diagnosis, surgery, or end of treatment. The

assessed models included the clinical factors and different functional forms of the diagCPA (categorical, linear, and non-linear) (**Supplementary figure S3B**). The ctDNA analysis at surgery and at the end of treatment were not used they were not associated with prognosis. These models were compared to the reference model, comprised only of the known clinical factors, to evaluate the additional value of diagCPA for the patient prognostic prediction within current clinical practice.

Regarding only the clinical score, the addition of the histological response improved
the clinical score discrimination of more than 10% of AUtdROC, from 0.61 to 0.79 for
the 5-year PFS, from 0.63 to 0.77 for the 5-year OS, confirming that it is a major
predictor of the patient prognosis (Supplementary table 3-4, Supplementary figure
S6 A-B).

The addition of the diagCPA also improved the clinical score discrimination at diagnosis of more than 8% of AUtdROC for the 5-year PFS, irrespective of the functional form of diagCPA. It also improved the clinical score including the histological response for the two other time points by  $\approx$ 5%, confirming its value as a predictor in addition to standard clinical factors. Similar trends were observed for the 5-year OS, but the lower number of events than PFS limited statistical power for accurate model comparison.

307 Model calibration is critical to the interpretation of the generated score into survival 308 probability estimation by clinicians. The different models were thus assessed to identify 309 the most robust predictor. While the model with non-linear relationship presented the 310 best discrimination, the integrated calibration index (ICI) and calibration plots 311 (Supplementary table 5-6, Supplementary figure S7 A-C) indicated that there was 312 more discrepancy between its predictions and the 5-year PFS observed than the other 313 functional form (underestimation of the high risk probabilities and overestimation of the 314 low risk probabilities). As the linear form is more statistically parsimonious than the 315 binarized diagCPA, which requires estimating an additional parameter (the low/high 316 threshold), the linear diagCPA form model was selected for our predictive score.

Since multivariable score assessment is difficult to implement in practice due to the number of variables and their potentially continuous nature, we developed PRONOS: a free research tool to evaluate patient risk. It allows for prediction at diagnosis using standard diagnostic clinical factors and diagCPA and, when available, histological

321 response to chemotherapy to provide updated predictions throughout treatment.
322 PRONOS calculates a patient's individual risk according to its clinical profile and
323 diagCPA (**Figure 3**). We expect that PRONOS could be easily integrated in standard
324 clinical care of osteosarcoma, after an external and prospective validation, to optimize
325 the care of future patients.

- 326
- 327

# 328 Discussion

In this work, we showed in the largest prospectively collected cohort of patients with 329 330 osteosarcoma treated within the same clinical trial, that our workflow and tool named 331 PRONOS, combining shallow sequencing of cell free DNA at diagnosis and clinical 332 factor is a fast, non-invasive, and reliable biomarker to predict the patient outcome. 333 CPA score at diagnosis is a strong prognostic factor, independent from the major 334 known clinical factors that are metastatic status or histological response. Our approach 335 is not suitable for longitudinal analysis of ctDNA, which would require a different 336 strategy.

337 ctDNA is a promising biomarker for stratification in sarcoma that needs in depth validation <sup>6–9</sup>. Our analysis shows that ctDNA detection at diagnosis stands out as a 338 339 major independent prognostic factor that can be combined to provide a better risk 340 stratification for precision medicine, whereas the longitudinal analysis (surgCPA and 341 eotCPA) was not exploitable. Shallow WGS had previously been used in 72 localized 342 osteosarcoma at diagnosis, showing a trend of ctDNA detection on survival <sup>6</sup>. A 343 methylation assay designed for osteosarcoma was also recently studied for ctDNA 344 detection in 72 pre-surgery samples. While the authors showed a worse prognosis of 345 patient with detectable ctDNA in univariable analysis, it was not significant in 346 multivariable analysis <sup>27</sup>. Other approaches based on detection of SNV or structural 347 variants using a patient specific panel or whole exome sequencing (respectively 10 348 and 36 patients) where used during treatment or at relapse, without any information on 349 its prognostic impact <sup>28, 29</sup>. An approach using cfDNA fragmentation used in Ewing 350 sarcoma and other sarcomas (8 patients with osteosarcoma) increased CNA detection. 351 and showed correlation with outcome in Ewing sarcoma <sup>30</sup>.

In this work, we show that diagCPA is a<sup>17, 19</sup>n accurate reflection of bulk tumor CNA 352 353 and that the signal intensity, recapitulated by the CPA score, is a good marker of ctDNA 354 fraction and the confidence of ctDNA detection. WizecondorX, in contrast to IchorCNA, 355 uses the whole cohort to compute CPA and is therefore, to a certain extent, adapted 356 to the biological feature of the cohort as previously published. WizecondorX is an 357 efficient automated tool to estimate ctDNA content, creating a reproducible and reliable 358 factor for prognostic. For practical reasons, patients' stratification requires the simplification of ctDNA score into "High" or "Low" groups. We showed this 359 360 categorization underperforms for the prediction of patient response compared to its 361 continuous form. The latter was thus preferred for the development of a multivariate 362 model of risk estimation.

363 In this study, we demonstrated that ctDNA level at diagnosis impacts outcome and 364 have an additive prognostic value to known major prognostic factors. In addition, our 365 study motivates the identification of a very high-risk group, representing approximately 366 15% of patients at surgery or the end of treatment, that are most likely to benefit from 367 new alternative therapies. For example, a nested randomized trial was set-up in the 368 current French osteosarcoma first-line trial SARCOME13 (NCT03643133), to 369 randomize the adjunction of Mifamurtide to the standard chemotherapy after surgery 370 for high risk patients only, including poor responders <sup>31</sup>. It is important to highlight that 371 ctDNA evaluated with our approach is only relevant at diagnosis.

372 As precision medicine requires patient stratification, we propose to define the patients' 373 risk using the multivariable predictive score PRONOS, which includes the CPA score 374 at diagnosis and clinical factors familiar to physicians in their decision-making. This 375 tool is the main achievement of this work, which represents an innovative approach to 376 patient stratification. For example, at the time of surgery, the patient's relapse risk will 377 be estimated based on histological response, metastatic status, diagCPA and the fact 378 that the patient did not already experience disease progression. To illustrate the 379 potential of clinical implementation of PRONOS, we created a demo open-source 380 online companion application (https://pronosgr.shinyapps.io/pronos valuesbox/) that could be used for patient stratification in clinical studies, as well as real-life clinical 381 382 practice. Investigators using PRONOS can decide the threshold of what is considered 383 of "High risk" in term of predicted PFS or OS.

384 Our study has some limitations. Despite the excellent performance of our prognostic 385 prediction multivariable model we implemented in PRONOS, an external validation is 386 required before its routine use in clinic. It is planned to be conducted in the recently 387 closed Sarcome13 study (NCT03643133). Moreover, PRONOS is available online as 388 a research tool, for demonstration (Figure 3). It is to notice that despite the fact that 389 the samples are originated from a trial, only a portion was analyzed for ctDNA. As 390 mentioned in the method, the samples were not selected based on any other criteria 391 than availability at the moment of the study. However, this sample was representative 392 of the trial in term of major risk factors and survival rates, suggesting that this pragmatic 393 selection did not cause a selection bias. On the technology side, the main limit is its 394 inability to analyze CPA score throughout treatment. More sensitive approaches are 395 needed for applications like minimal residual disease detection to monitor maintenance 396 therapy or early identification of poor histological response.

Our work represents a major achievement in the development of an early, noninvasive, rapid, and cost-effective new prognostic biomarker for osteosarcoma. One of the key advantages is that PRONOS is an easy to implement in clinical practice, "hands-off" pipeline. It needs to be validated in an independent cohort, but can be used to customize future studies by setting the risk threshold according to the clinical objective.

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# 415 **Conflict of Interest.**

- 416 No conflict of interest to declare.
- 417

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## 512 Figure legends

513 **Figure 1.** Risk analysis using ctDNA detection at the time of diagnosis.

514 A-B) Multivariable analysis for progression free survival (PFS, A) and overall survival 515 (OS, B) with CPA as a continuous variable. N=174 patients evaluable for clinical 516 parameters and diagCPA. C) Violin plot showing CPA score at diagnosis according to 517 metastatic status. Individual values are symbolized by green dots. Red dots represent 518 the median, black lines the mean and red lines the standard deviation. The high/low 519 threshold of 0.6 calculated by unsupervised clustering is represented by a discontinued 520 blue line. D-E) Kaplan-Meier curves for PFS (D) and OS (E) according to metastasis and ctDNA status. diagCPA is defined "high" or "low" based on the threshold previously 521 522 defined. F-G) Multivariable analysis considering diagCPA as a binarized variable 523 "low/high" for PFS (F) and OS (G). N=174 patients evaluable for clinical parameters 524 and diagCPA.

525 Met: metastasis; PR: poor histological response; GR: good histological response; 526 diagCPA: CPA score at diagnosis.

527 **Figure 2.** Risk analysis using ctDNA detection at the time of surgery.

**A-B**) Multivariable analysis for progression free survival (PFS, **A**) and overall survival (OS, **B**) with ctDNA content as a continuous variable at diagnosis (diagCPA) and before surgery (surgCPA). N=129 patients evaluable for all clinical parameters including histological response, diagCPA and surgCPA. **C-D**) Violin plot showing CPA score at diagnosis (**C**) and before surgery (**D**), according to metastatic status and histological response. Individual values are symbolized by green dots. Red dots represent the median, black lines the mean and red lines the standard deviation. The

535 threshold of 0.6 is calculated by unsupervised clustering is represented by a 536 discontinued blue line. E-F) Kaplan-Meier curves for PFS (E) and OS (F) according to 537 histological response and diagCPA. diagCPA is defined "high" or "low" based on the 538 threshold previously defined. G-H) Multivariable analysis considering diagCPA as a 539 binary variable "low/high" for PFS (G) and OS (H). N=162 patients evaluable for clinical 540 parameters and diagCPA. surgCPA was not considered in this analysis since it was 541 non significantly associated in the multivariable analysis with the continuous variable. 542 Met. At Diag. : presence of metastasis at diagnosis; Response: histological response:

diagCPA: CPA score at diagnosis; surgCPA: CPA score at the time of surgery.

543

544 Figure 3. Individual risk prediction by PRONOS. Screen captures of PRONOS tool for 545 patient's individual risk prediction. A-C) Simulated patient survival estimations 546 displaying individual progression free survival (PFS) risk prediction (left panes), and 547 individual overall survival (OS) risk prediction (right panes). Test patient 1 risk 548 estimated at diagnosis with metastasic disease and diagCPA = 0.95 (A). Test patient 549 2 risk estimated at surgery, with metastasic disease, good histological response and 550 diagCPA = 0.35 (B). Test patient 3 risk estimated at end of treatment without 551 metastasis, good histological response and diagCPA = 0.35 (C). Only diagCPA, age, 552 gender and metastasis status are considered for diagnosis test time. This model 553 includes histology only at the time of surgery and at the end of treatment. A demo of 554 PRONOS is available at https://pronosgr.shinyapps.io/pronos\_valuesbox/. This demo 555 of the predictive application allows estimating the survival and event probability of 556 patients, according to the CPA score, the metastases at diagnosis and the histological 557 response to treatment. Pronos is a research tool built on the OS2006 study. CPA 558 should be generated with the use of OS2006 data in order to provide representative 559 results of the model. It is explicitly intended for research purposes and is not to be

- 560 employed for medical or clinical applications. The development team disclaims any
- 561 responsibility for such use.
- 562 **Tables 1.** Patient characteristics.
- 563 **Table 2.** Influence of CPA score, metastatic status, and histological response on PFS

564 and OS.

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Table 1. Patient charac	teristics	ctDNA	OS2006	p
Age (years)	Median (range)	14.7 (4.71 - 50.41)	15.3 (4.62 - 67.06)	0.037
Sex	Female Male	86 (47%) 97 (53%)	276 (45%) 338 (55%)	0.54
Puberty	Prepuberty Intrapuberty Postpuberty NA	47 (26%) 43 (24%) 85 (46%) 8 (4%)	137 (22%) 131 (22%) 310 (50%) 36 (6%)	0.12
Metastases at diagnostic	No Yes NA	142 (78%) 37 (20%) 4 (2%)	494 (80%) 102 (17%) 18 (3%)	0.15
Upfront chemotherapy	API-AI MTX NA	20 (11%) 158 (86%) 5 (3%)	111 (18%) 487 (79%) 16 (3%)	0.003
Histological response	Good response Poor response NA	98 (53%) 69 (38%) 16 (9%)	335 (54%) 206 (34%) 73 (12%)	0.34
Relapse	Yes No	78 (43 %) 105 (57%)	251 (41%) 363 (59%)	0.9
Status Wilcoxon was used	Alive Dead d for age, Log rank	131 (72%) 52 (28%) was calculated from	429 (70%) 185 (30%) n PFS and OS compa	0.8 arison

for relapse and status comparison respectively and Fisher Exact Test for other parameters.

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Table 2. Impact of CPA score, metastatic status and histological response on DFS and OS				
Patient and disease characteristics	5-year PFS (95% CI)	5-year OS (95% CI)		
Modelization at diagnosis				
Low CPA score and localized disease	68% (59 – 79)	89.3% (80 – 1)		
High CPA score and localized disease	46% (34 – 63)	76.3% (61 – 96)		
Low CPA score and metastatic disease	47.6% (29 – 80)	64.2% (48 – 85)		
High CPA score and metastatic disease	16.7% (6 – 47)	24.7% (10 – 60)		
Modelization at the time of surge	<u>ry*</u>	C.		
Low CPA score and good response	82.7% (73 – 94)	89.3% (80 – 1)		
High CPA score and good response	60.4% (46 - 80)	76.3 (61 – 96)		
Low CPA score and poor response	43% (30 – 61)	64.2% (48 – 85)		
High CPA score and poor response	21.7% (10 – 47)	24.7% (10 – 60)		
Modelization at the end of treatm	ent*			
Low CPA score and good response	82.4% (73 – 94)	89.4% (80 – 1)		
High CPA score and good response	60.4% (46 - 80)	76.3 (61 – 96)		
Low CPA score and poor response	43.3% (31 – 61)	64.4% (49 – 86)		
High CPA score and poor response	18.2 (8 – 44)	22.3% ( 9 – 67)		

\* The modelization uses CPA score at diagnosis and clinical data from surgery or end of treatment PFS: Progression free survival; OS: overall survival



<sup>#</sup> Events: 78; Global p-value (Log-Rank): 0.00023137 AIC: 738.92; Concordance Index: 0.67







# Events: 78; Global p-value (Log-Rank): 7.5762e-05 AIC: 736.49; Concordance Index: 0.66

E	3			OS			
							р
	Age	N =174	0.98 (0.94 − 1.0)	I			0.517
	Sex	Male (N=92) Ref: Fem	1.90 (1.04 – 3.5) pale	∎	<b></b> 1		0.037 *
	Met. at Diag.	Metastas (N=36) Ref: No I	es 2.77 (1.50 – 5.1) Met.	<b> </b>		-1	0.001 **
	diagCPA		3.51 (1.32 - 9.3)	<b> </b>			0.012 *
			1	2	2	5	10

# Events: 50; Global p-value (Log-Rank): 0.00048616 AIC: 454.54; Concordance Ind<sup>ex:</sup> 0.7





# Events: 50; Global p-value (Log-Rank): 5.9262e-05 AIC: 449.95; Concordance Index: 0.73



# Events: 54; Global p-value (Log-Rank): 9.4152e-08 AIC: 460.31; Concordance Index: 0.77





G	(N=162)	на РІ (95% сі)	FS		p
Age		1.0 (0.97 – 1.0)			0.573
Sex	Male (N=86) Ref:Female	1.2 ⊢ (0.71 − 2.0)		I	0.525
Met. at Diag.	Metastases (N=36) Ref: No Met.	(1.19 – 3.5)		■1	0.01 **
Response	Poor (N=66) Ref: Good	4.5 (2.63 <b>-</b> 7.6)		⊦ <b></b>	<0.001 ***
Cat. diagCPA	High CPA (N=66)	2.5 (1.49 – 4.1)	F		<0.001 ***
			1 :	2 5	5 10

# Events: 66; Global p-value (Log-Rank): 2.0238e-09 AIC: 590.22; Concordance Index: 0.76

В			OS				
	(N=129)	HR (95% 1.0	CI)				p
Age		(0.93 - 1	1)			0.	.921
e-proof							
Sex	(N=68) Ref:Female	(0.66 - 2	.9)	⊢∎	4	0.	.383
Met. at Diag.	Metastases (N=36) Ref: No Met	(0.95 - 4	.4)	F		0.	.069
Response	Poor (N=54) Ref: Good	(2.79 <b>-</b> 15	.0)		⊦-∎1	<	0.001 ***
diagCPA		11.6 (2.75 - 49	.3)		<b>⊢</b> ■	<	0.001 ***
surgCPA	(	6.3 0.19 - 207.	3)			0.	.303
			0.2 0.5	1 2	5 10 2	20 50 10	0200

# Events: 35; Global p-value (Log-Rank): 1.3051e-06 AIC: 274.85; Concordance Index: 0.81

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н	(N=162)	HR (95% CI)	OS		p	1
Age		1.0 (0.95 - 1.1)			0.89	1
Sex	Male (N=86) Ref:Female	1.6 ⊢ (0.81 - 3.2)			0.18	1
Met. at Diag.	Metastases (N=36) Ref: No Met	2.7 (1.39 - 5.3)	<b>⊢</b>	-	⊣ 0.00	3 **
Response	Poor (N=66) Ref: Good	5.3 (2.59 – 10.7)		<u> </u>	<0.0	)01 *** ⊣
Cat. diagCPA	High CPA (N=40)	2.8 (1.46 - 5.3)	⊢	-	⊣ 0.00	2 **
			1 2	2	5 1	0

# Events: 40; Global p-value (Log-Rank): 8.3151e-08 AIC: 332.56; Concordance Index: 0.81

# Test patient 1 risk at diagnosis



# Test patient 2 risk at surgery



# Test patient 3 risk at the end of treatment

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End of treatment		individual FT 5 predicti	on		dividual OS predic	
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