

# Asociación de los polimorfos C677T y A1298C de la enzima MTHFR con la efectividad del tratamiento con quimioterapia en pacientes con cáncer colorrectal metastásico

Allan Ramos-Esquivel

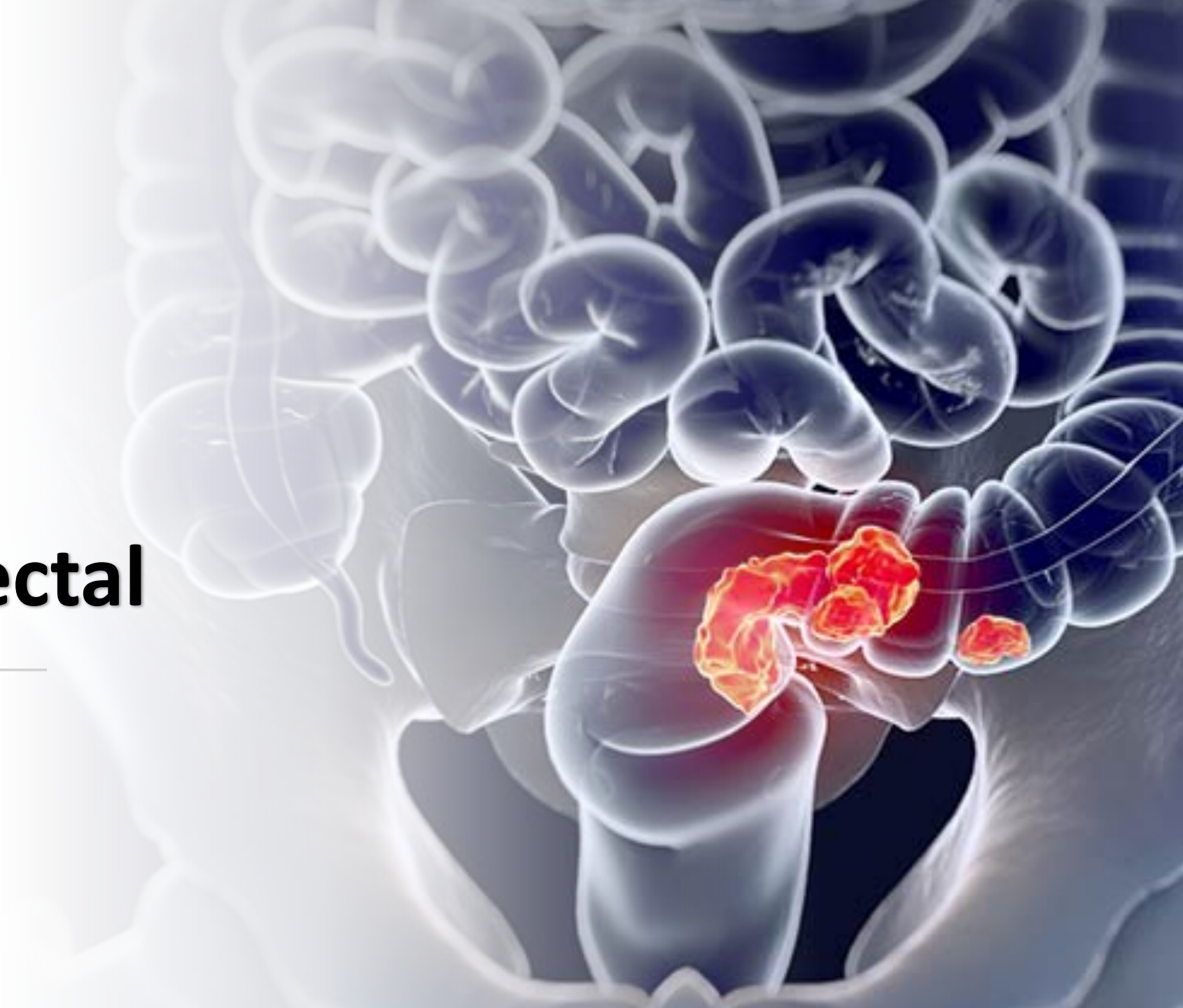
Jornades Doctorals en Farmacologia  
2021



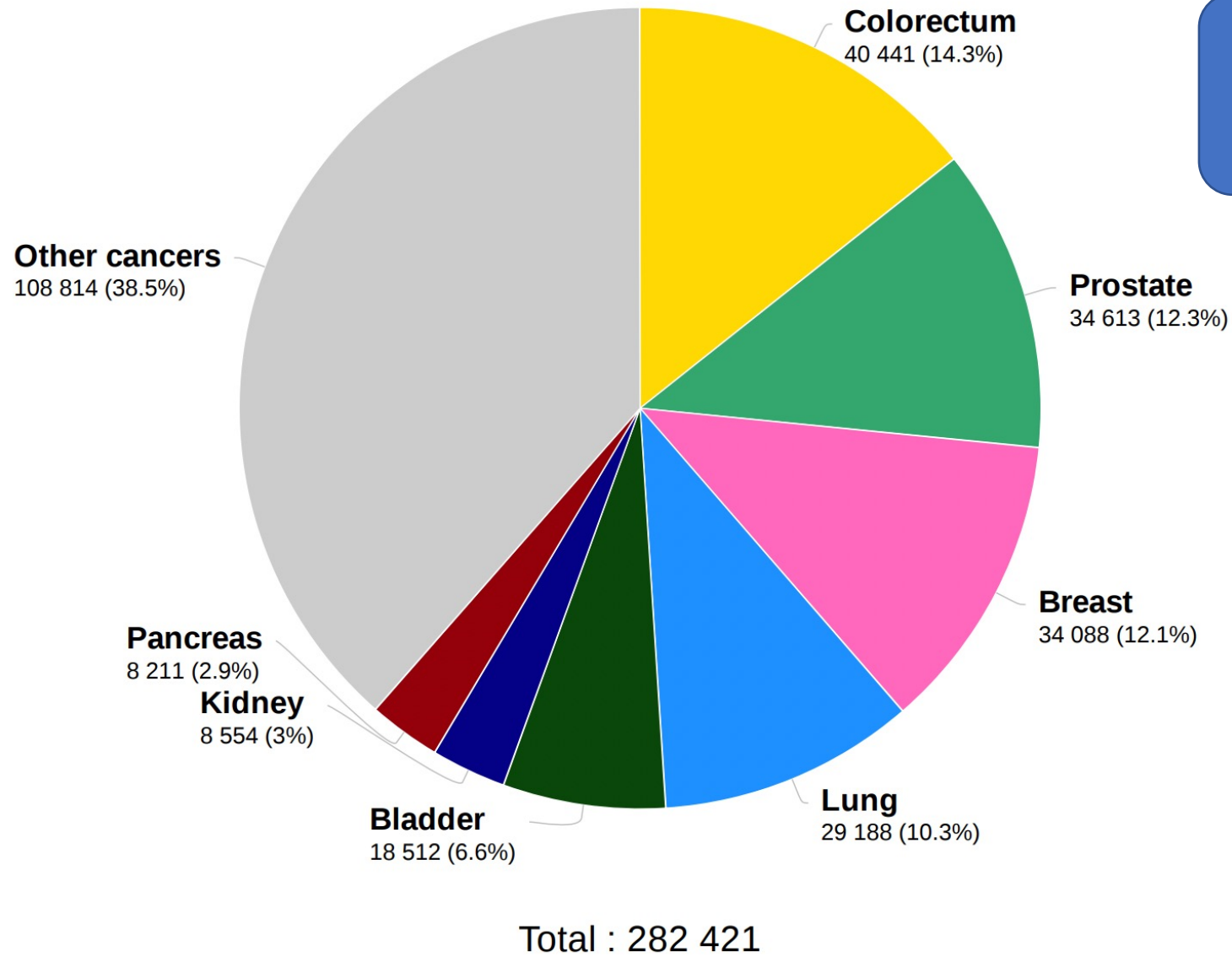


# Cáncer colorrectal

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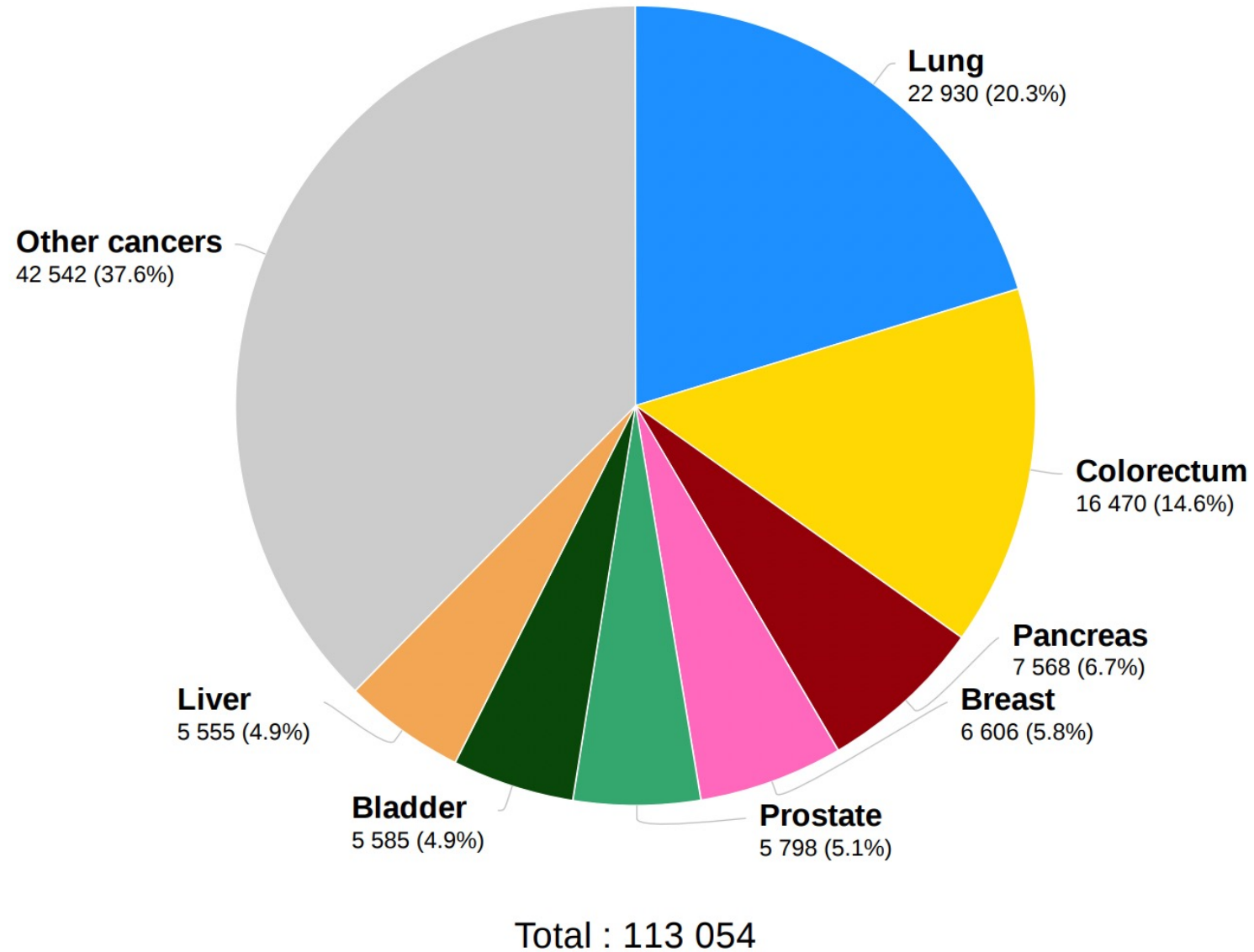


# Estimated number of new cases in 2020, Spain, both sexes, all ages



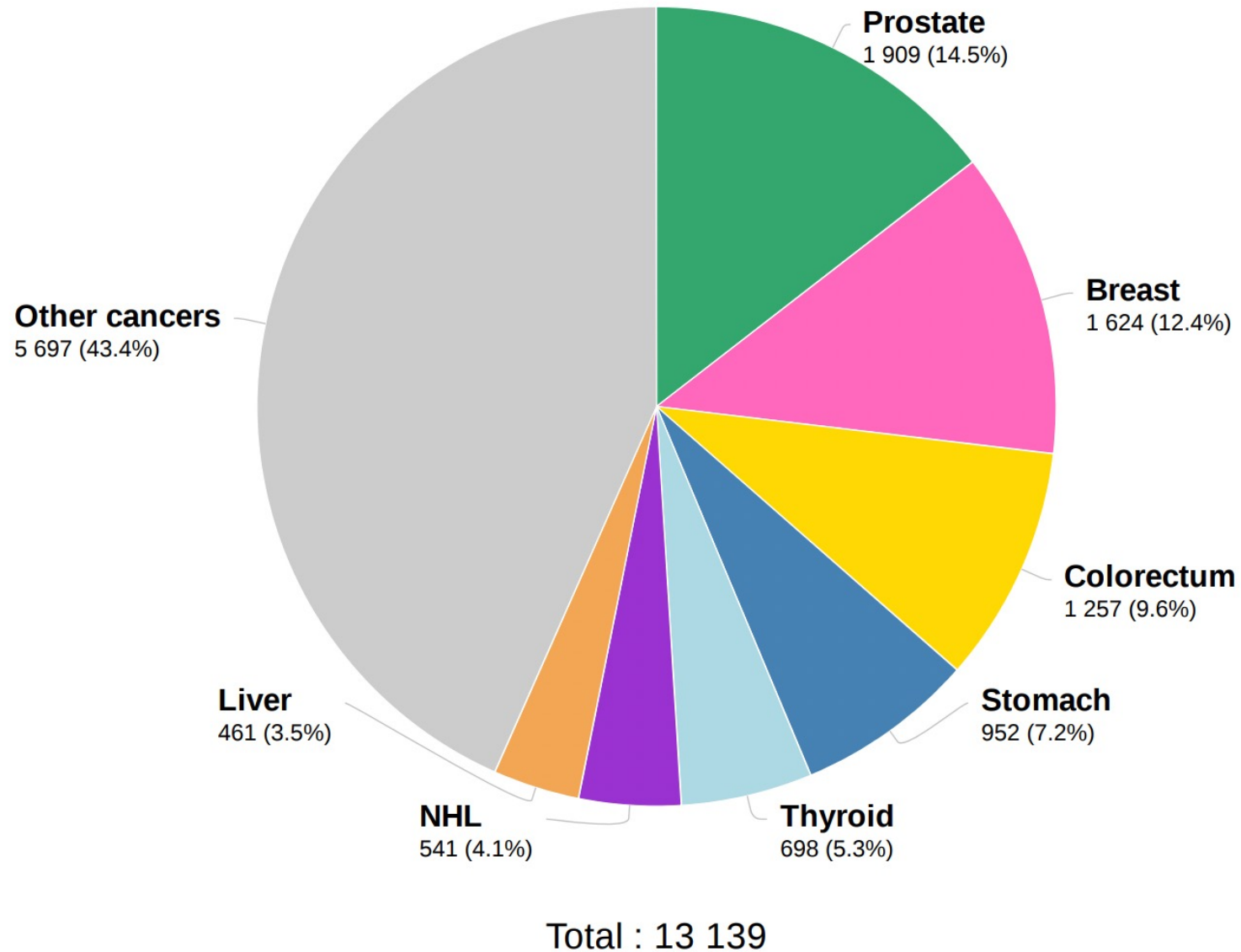
Malignidad más diagnosticada en hombres y mujeres

# Estimated number of deaths in 2020, Spain, both sexes, all ages



Segunda causa de mortalidad por cáncer

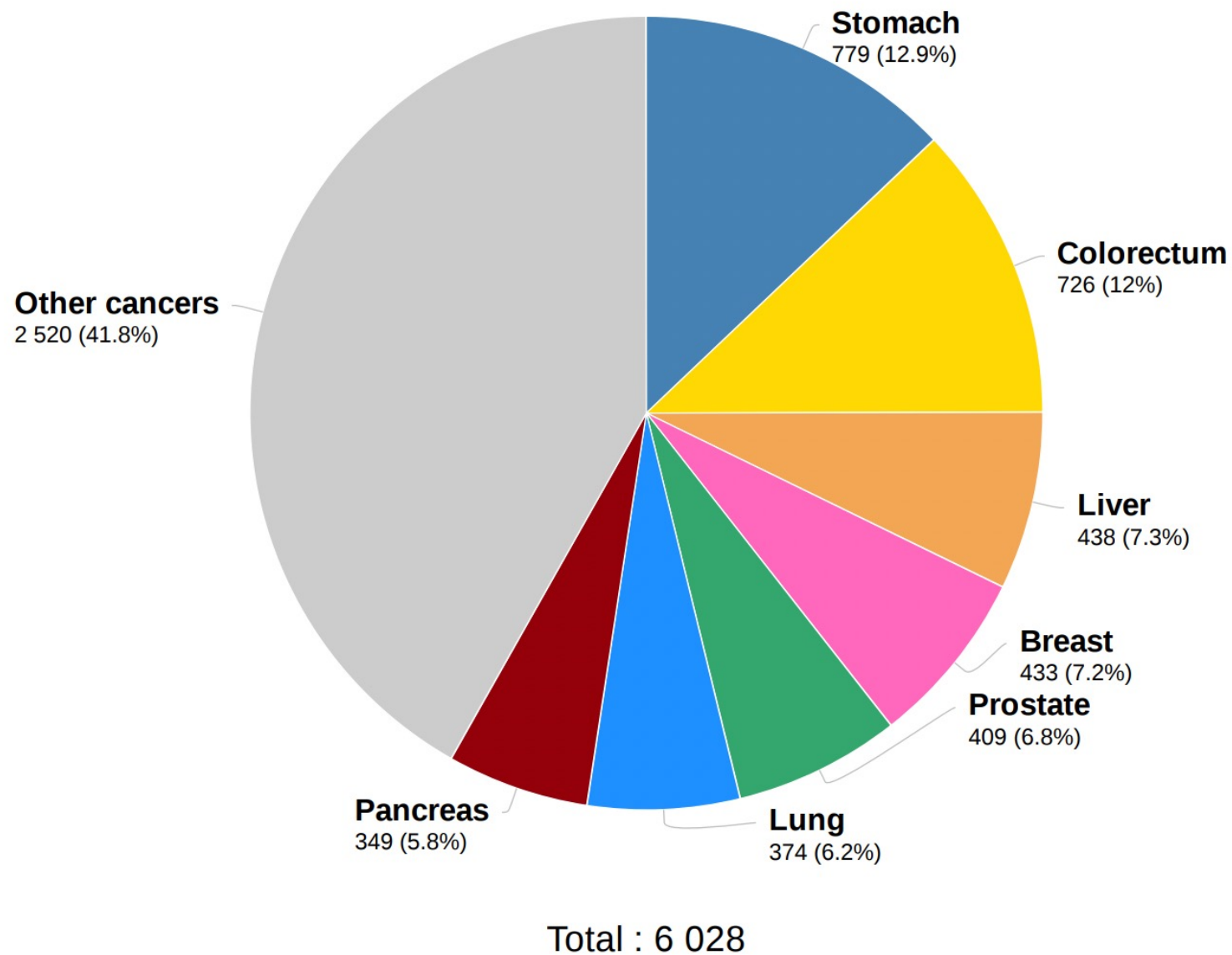
# Estimated number of new cases in 2020, Costa Rica, both sexes, all ages



Segunda posición en incidencia de cáncer después del cancer de mama y próstata

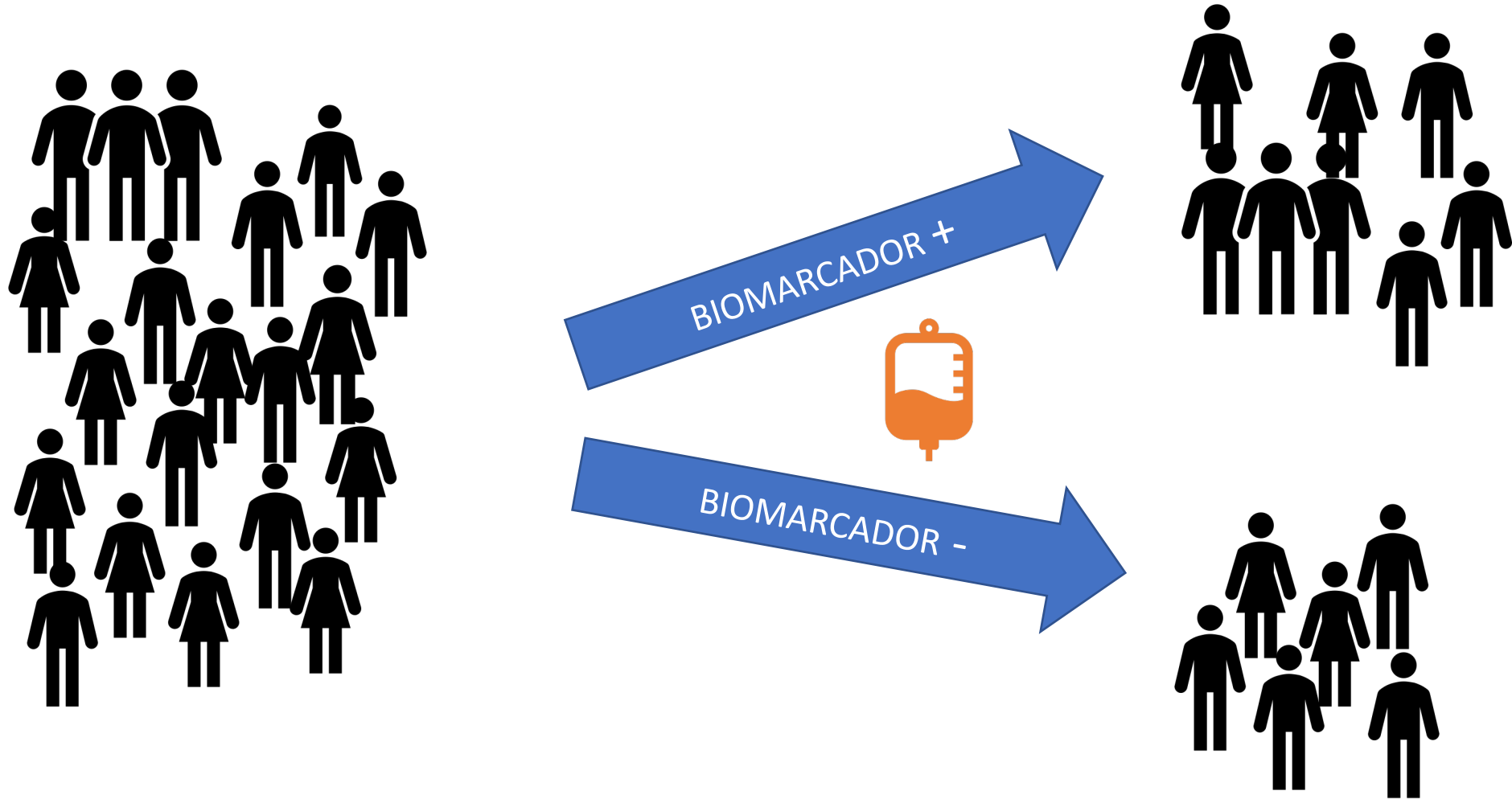


# Estimated number of deaths in 2020, Costa Rica, both sexes, all ages



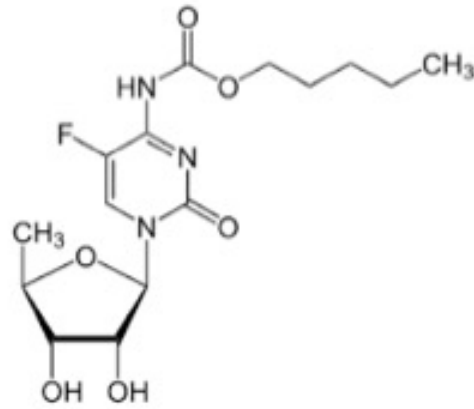
Segunda causa de mortalidad por cáncer

# BIOMARCADORES FARMACOGENÉTICOS

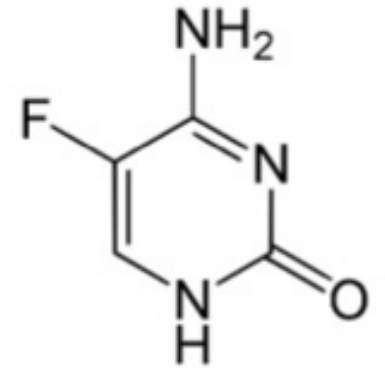


# Fluoropirimidinas

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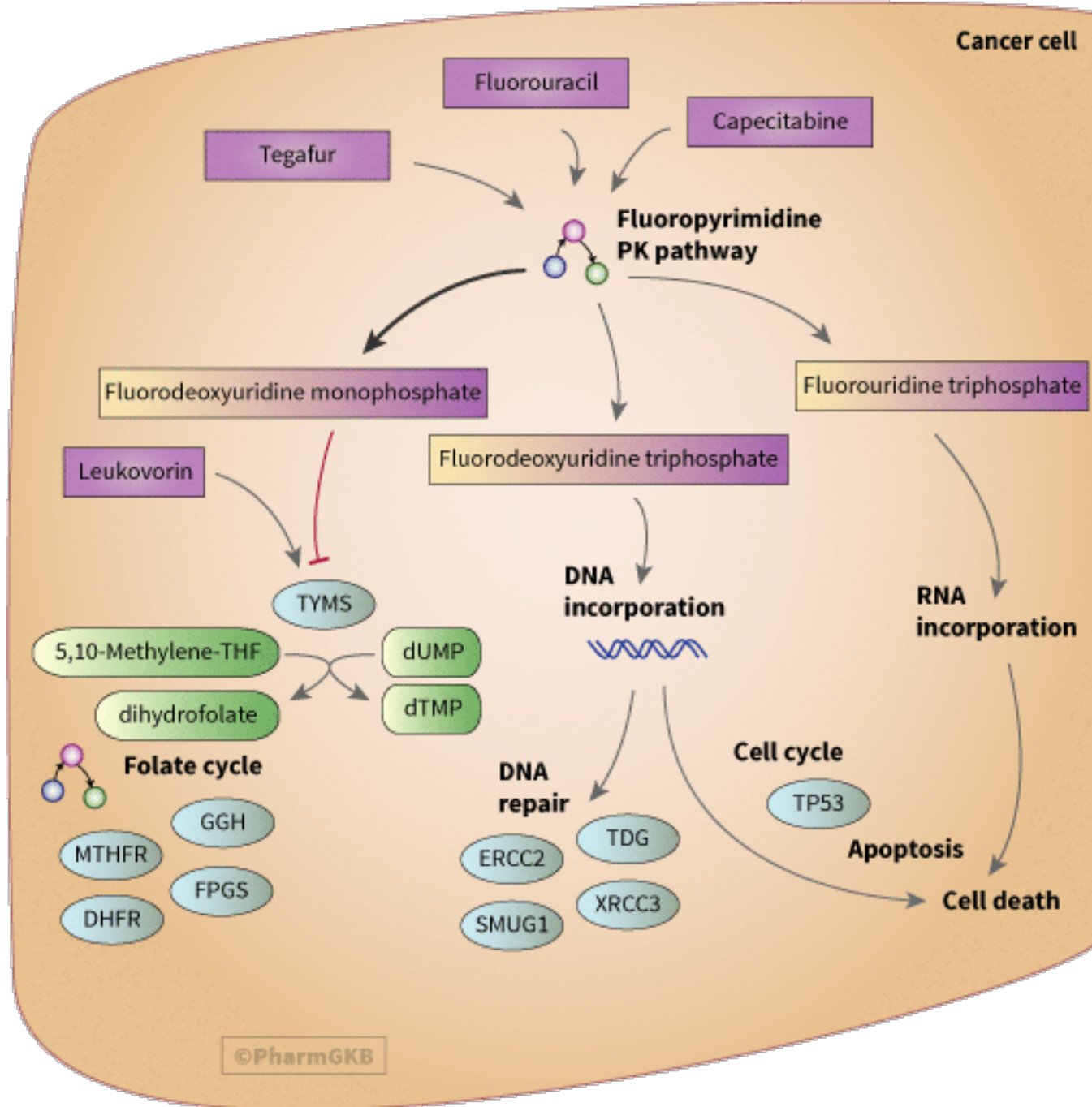


Capecitabina



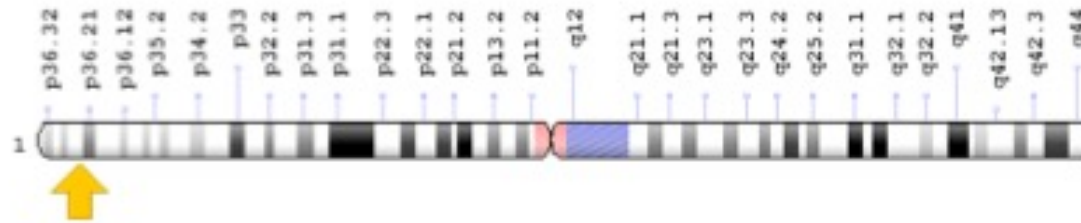
5-Fluoruracilo





# **Metilentetrahidrofolato reductasa**

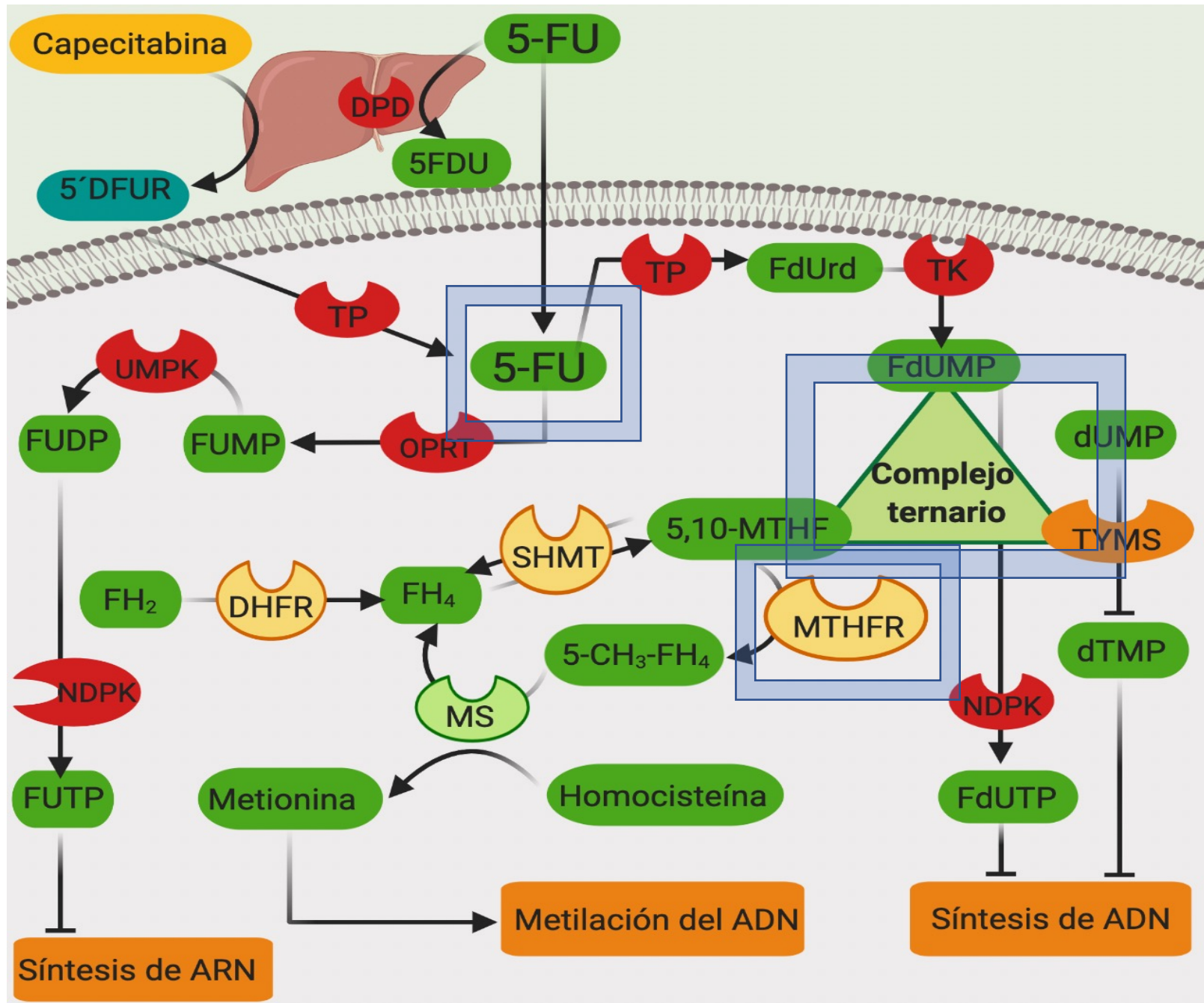
# Metilentetrahidrofolato reductasa



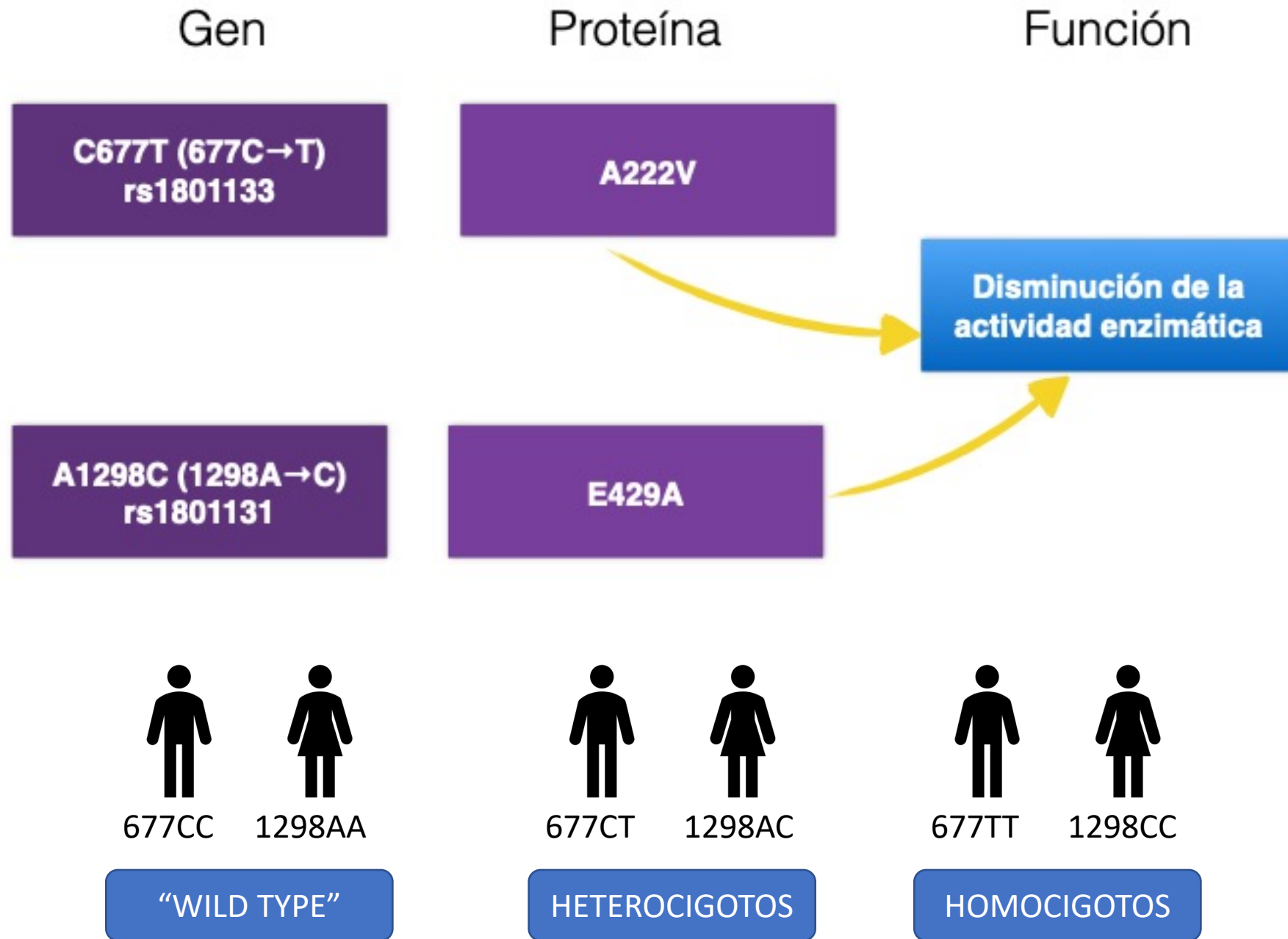
Gen compuesto de 12  
exones  
Localizado 1p36.3



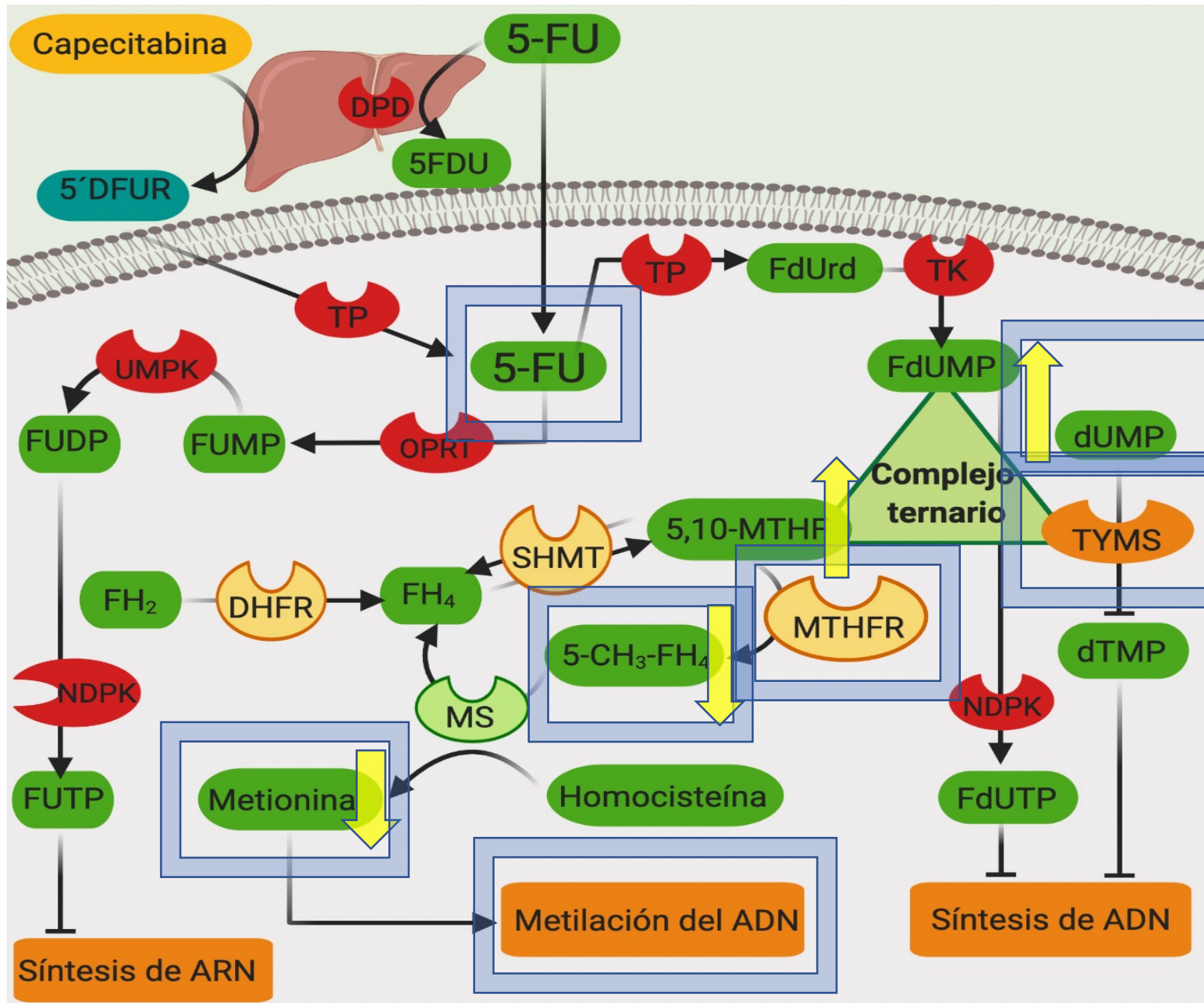
Proteína de 656  
aminoácidos



# Polimorfismos del gen *MTHFR*







# Hipótesis

LOS PACIENTES PORTADORES DE ALELOS  
MUTADOS TENDRÁN **MAYOR TOXICIDAD**  
PERO **MEJORES TASAS DE RESPUESTA** AL  
TRATAMIENTO BASADO EN  
FLUOROPIRIMIDINAS

# Metodología





# Metodología

- **Diseño:**
  - Estudio de cohorte prospectivo de pacientes con cáncer colorrectal metastásico tratados en primera línea
- **Determinación de polimorfismos:**
  - Extracción de DNA (línea germinal y somática), detección por PCR y análisis electroforético de fragmentos de restricción
- **Determinación medidas de eficiencia y toxicidad:**
  - Supervivencia libre de progresión, supervivencia global, tasa de respuesta (RECIST 1.1) y toxicidad (NCI-CTC 4.0)
- **Análisis estadístico:**
  - Equilibrio Hardy-Weinberg; comparación de tasas de respuesta con prueba chi-cuadrado, análisis de supervivencia Kaplan-Meier, análisis de regresión Cox para el cálculo del hazard ratio

# Resultados



## Association of C677T and A1298C MTHFR Polymorphisms and Fluoropyrimidine-induced Toxicity in Mestizo Patients With Metastatic Colorectal Cancer

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**Abstract.** Background/Aim: Enzymatic variants involved in fluoropyrimidine metabolism have been associated with adverse events (AEs). We assessed the association between C677T (rs1801133) and A1298C (rs1801131) methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR) polymorphisms and AEs in patients with first-line fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy. Patients and Methods: Fifty patients with metastatic colorectal cancer were prospectively followed-up during the first 4 cycles of fluoropyrimidine-based treatment to assess AEs. Germline DNA was analyzed to determine the C677T and A1298C MTHFR polymorphisms. The associations between MTHFR polymorphisms and toxicity were examined. Results: Individuals carrying at least one mutant allele of the MTHFR C677T polymorphism had increased risk to experience anemia (OR=1.69, 95% CI=1.13-2.53, p=0.005), neutropenia (OR=2.27, 95% CI=1.47-3.42, p<0.001) thrombocytopenia (OR=1.91, 95% CI=1.30-2.70, p<0.001), neuropathy (OR=1.77, 95% CI=1.16-2.70, p=0.02), diarrhea (OR=1.69, 95% CI=1.13-2.53, p=0.005), and hand-foot syndrome (OR=1.56, 95% CI=1.08-2.27, p=0.013), compared to patients carrying the wild type alleles. The presence of the mutant allele C of the MTHFR A1298C polymorphism was associated with increased risk of anemia (OR=2.75, 95% CI=1.01-7.48, p=0.02) and thrombocytopenia (OR=3.14, 95% CI=1.01-9.78,

p=0.03); however, the prevalence of this allele in the sample was quite low (20%). Conclusion: MTHFR C677T and A1298C polymorphisms predicted toxicity in a subset of Mestizo patients with colorectal adenocarcinoma.

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second most prevalent neoplastic disorder worldwide, and the second leading cause of cancer-related death in both sexes (1). Although during the last decades new therapies have become available for the treatment of this disease, fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy still remains the backbone of treatment for these patients (2). However, adverse drug reactions to fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy (*i.e.*, diarrhea, mucositis, vomiting, myelosuppression, neuropathy, and hand-foot syndrome) represent a clinical challenge due to the relatively high frequency of dose reductions or treatment discontinuations among affected patients (3).

Fluoropyrimidines, mainly capecitabine and its active metabolite 5-fluorouracil (5-FU), exert their cytotoxic effects in two different ways (Figure 1). First, 5-FU metabolites are extensively incorporated into RNA and DNA molecules, disrupting their normal functions. In addition, 5-FU inhibits the thymidylate synthase, in a reaction where the 5,10-methylenetetrahydrofolate (MTHF) acts as a methyl donor by forming a stable ternary complex with both the active 5-FU metabolite (5-fluoro-2-deoxyuridine-5-monophosphate), and the target enzyme (4). This inhibition precludes the *de novo* synthesis of thymidylate, which is required for DNA replication and repair. Intracellular concentrations of 5,10-MTHF are highly regulated by the MTHF reductase (MTHFR). This enzyme catalyzes the irreversible conversion of 5,10-MTHF to 5-methyltetrahydrofolate, and reduces the concentration of 5,10-MTHF available for binding to the ternary complex (5).

It has been previously shown that two common single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), C677T (rs1801133) and A1298C (rs1801131) reduce enzyme activity and lead to an altered distribution of intracellular folates (6). Individuals homozygous for the MTHFR C677T variant (TT) produce a

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**Key Words:** Metastatic colorectal cancer, methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase, SNPs, fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy, side effects, Mestizo population.

## C677T and A1298C MTHFR gene polymorphisms and response to fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy in Mestizo patients with metastatic colorectal cancer

Allan Ramos-Esquivel<sup>a,b</sup>, Ricardo Chinchilla-Monge<sup>b</sup>, Jad Abbas<sup>c</sup> and Marta Valle<sup>a</sup>

**Objective** To assess the association between C677T and A1298C methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR) single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and response to first-line fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy for metastatic colorectal adenocarcinoma.

**Methods** A total of 68 patients were prospectively followed up in San Juan de Dios Hospital (San José, Costa Rica) from January 2019 to November 2020. Patients received first-line therapy with capecitabine or 5-fluorouracil in combination with oxaliplatin or irinotecan. Germline and somatic DNA was extracted from blood samples and paraffin-embedded tissue, respectively. Overall response rate (partial response + complete response) was assessed according to RECIST 1.1 criteria. Cox regression models were performed to identify the effect of MTHFR C677T and A1298C SNPs on progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS) (NCT registration number: 03852290).

**Results** Patients harboring one or both T alleles of the MTHFR C677T SNP had better overall response than homozygous wild-type individuals [odds ratio (OR): 3.21; 95% confidence interval (CI), 1.05–9.81; P=0.03]. No association was found between the MTHFR A1298C genotypes and overall response (OR: 0.75; 95% CI,

0.26–2.20; P=0.60). Patients with the MTHFR 677 TT and CT genotypes had longer PFS than CC individuals (hazard ratio: 0.53; 95% CI, 0.28–0.98; P=0.045), even after adjustment for confounders (hazard ratio: 0.50; 95% CI, 0.25–0.98; P=0.04). We found no association between the MTHFR A1298C SNP and PFS (hazard ratio: 1.35; 95% CI, 0.72–2.55; P=0.34). None of the SNPs was associated with OS.

**Conclusion** Patients carrying at least one mutant allele of the MTHFR C677T SNP had a better overall response and longer PFS than wild-type homozygous patients. *Pharmacogenetics and Genomics* XXX: 000–000 Copyright © 2021 Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. All rights reserved.

Pharmacogenetics and Genomics XXX, XXX:000–000

**Keywords:** colorectal neoplasms, Costa Rica, methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase, single-nucleotide polymorphism.

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# Características generales

Variable	Frecuencia n=68 (%)
Sexo femenino	35 (51.5)
Edad (años)	59.4 ± 13.7
Metástasis	
Sincrónica	16 (23.5)
Metacrónica	52 (76.5)
Sitio de metástasis	
Hígado	38 (55.9)
Pulmón	23 (33.8)
Ganglios linfáticos	18 (26.5)
Peritoneo	17 (25)
Metastasesectomía	30 (44.1)
Esquema de quimioterapia	
FOLFOX	31 (45.6)
CAPEOX	25 (36.8)
FOLFIRI	12 (17.6)

*MTHFR C677T*  
 CC = 26.5%  
 CT = 50%  
 TT = 23.5%

*MTHFR A1298C*  
 CC = 70.5%  
 CT = 23.5%  
 TT = 6%

# Polimorfismos *MTHFR* y toxicidad

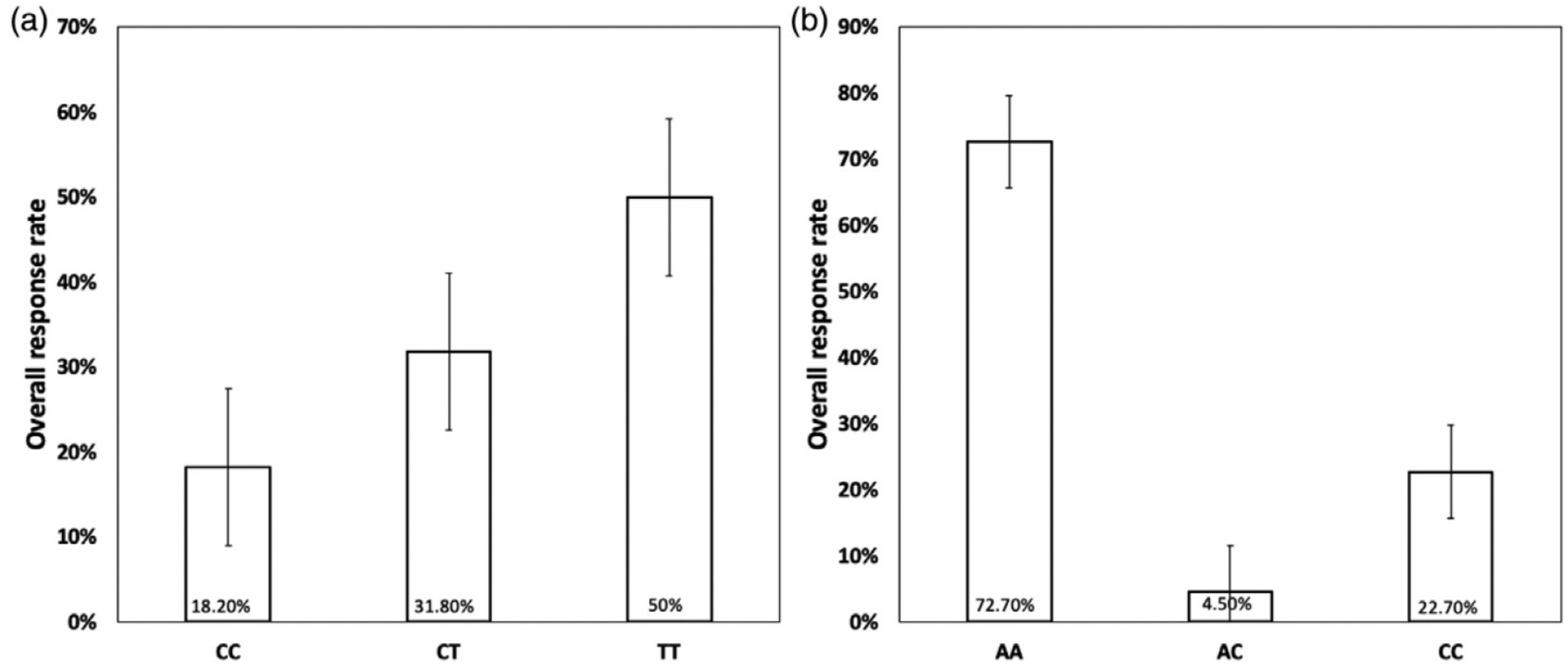
# Resultados

Table III. *Univariate analysis of mild/moderate or severe adverse events according to the presence of 5,10-methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR) polymorphisms.*

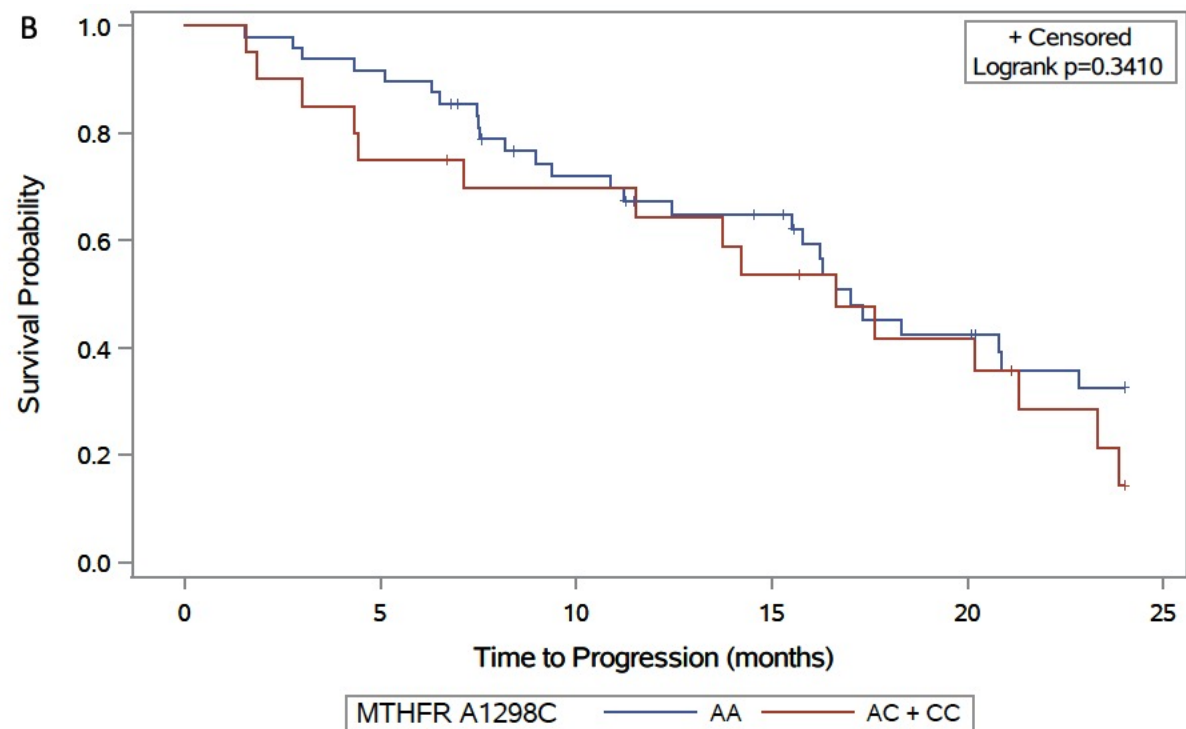
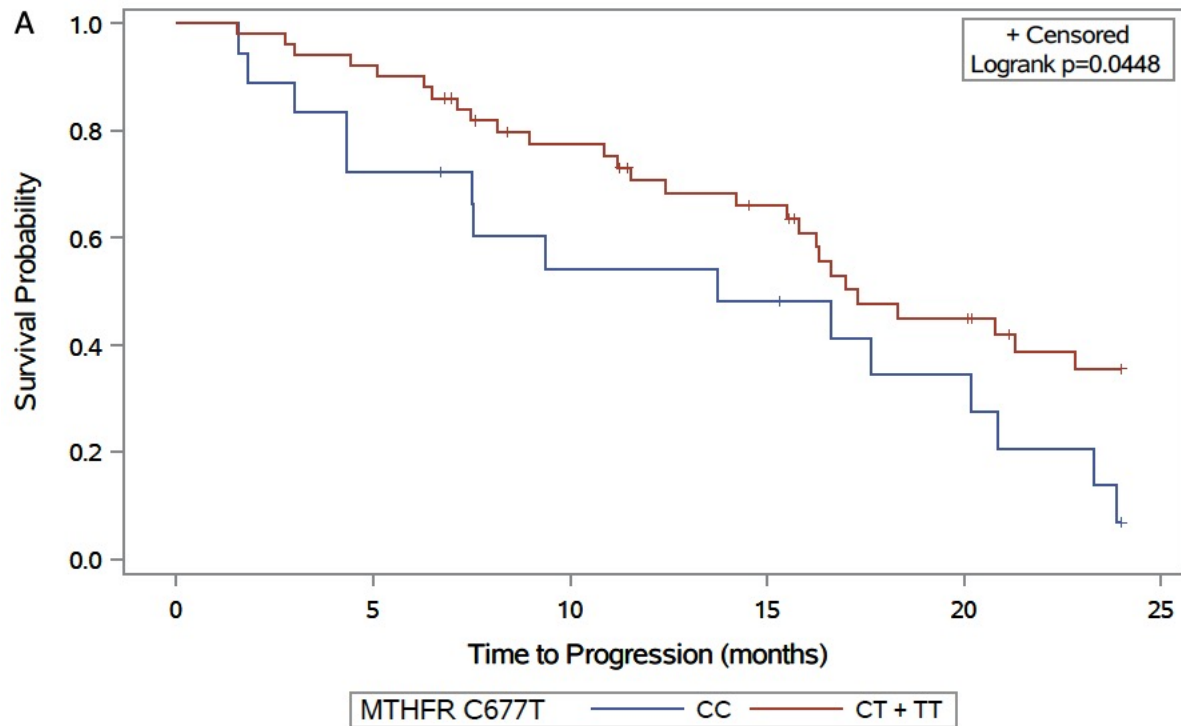
Toxicity	<i>MTHFR</i> C677T CT/TT vs. CC	<i>p</i> -Value	<i>MTHFR</i> A1298C AC/CC vs. AA	<i>p</i> -Value
	Odds ratio (95% CI)		Odds ratio (95% CI)	
Neutropenia	2.27 (1.47-3.42)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	2.34 (0.86-6.87)	0.12
Anemia	1.69 (1.13-2.53)	<b>0.005</b>	2.75 (1.01-7.48)	<b>0.02</b>
Thrombocytopenia	1.91 (1.30-2.70)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	3.14 (1.01-9.78)	<b>0.03</b>
Neuropathy	1.77 (1.16-2.70)	<b>0.02</b>	1.24 (0.53-2.89)	0.63
Fatigue	1.38 (0.98-1.92)	0.09	1.72 (0.56-5.20)	0.50
Diarrhea	1.69 (1.13-2.53)	<b>0.005</b>	2.00 (0.80-5.01)	0.12
Mucositis	1.30 (0.91-1.85)	0.14	1.45 (0.48-3.62)	0.61
Hand-foot syndrome	1.56 (1.08-2.27)	<b>0.013</b>	1.70 (0.68-4.27)	0.24
Nausea	1.55 (1.15-2.10)	<b>0.021</b>	2.78 (0.71-10.86)	0.17
Vomiting	1.48 (1.11-1.99)	<b>0.041</b>	4.92 (0.73-33.81)	0.08
Weight loss	1.18 (0.81-1.72)	0.70	3.50 (0.52-23.56)	0.24

Bold values indicate statistical significance.

# Polimorfismos *MTHFR* y efectividad



Overall response rate according to the 5,10-methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR) 6C77T (a) and A1298C (b) polymorphisms.





**Table 2 Univariate and multivariate models for progression-free and overall survival**

Variable	Progression				Death			
	Univariate model		Multivariate model		Univariate model		Multivariate model	
	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	<i>P</i> value	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	<i>P</i> value	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	<i>P</i> value	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	<i>P</i> value
Sex								
Female	1 (reference)				1 (reference)			
Male	0.98 (0.54–1.81)	0.96			1.03 (0.50–2.13)	0.93		
Age								
≥65 years	1 (reference)				1 (reference)			
<65	0.66 (0.45–1.67)	0.66			0.79 (0.34–1.85)	0.58		
ECOG Performance status								
1-2	1 (reference)		1 (reference)		1 (reference)		1 (reference)	
0	0.44 (0.24–0.81)	0.009*	0.57 (0.30–1.08)	0.08	0.28 (0.13–0.58)	0.001*	0.34 (0.16–0.75)	0.007*
Primary tumor resection	0.43 (0.23–0.79)	0.006*	0.49 (0.25–0.97)	0.04*	0.31 (0.15–0.66)	0.003*	0.43 (0.19–0.98)	0.046*
Timing of metastastatic disease								
Synchronous	1 (reference)				1 (reference)			
Methacronous	0.74 (0.37–1.48)	0.39			0.69 (0.31–1.50)	0.34		
Metastatectomy	0.64 (0.35–1.19)	0.16	0.69 (0.36–1.33)	0.27	0.61 (0.29–1.28)	0.19	0.88 (0.40–1.95)	0.88
<i>MTHFR</i> C677T								
CC	1 (reference)		1 (reference)		1 (reference)		1 (reference)	
CT + TT	0.53 (0.28–0.98)	0.045*	0.50 (0.25–0.98)	0.04*	0.86 (0.38–1.94)	0.71		
<i>MTHFR</i> A1298C								
AA	1 (reference)				1 (reference)		1 (reference)	
AC + CC	1.35 (0.72–2.55)	0.34			1.24 (0.58–2.67)	0.58		

CI, confidence interval.\*Statistically significant at  $P < 0.05$ .

# Discusión

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## Methylenetetrahydrofolate toxicity to 5-FU-based chemotherapy

F Thomas,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> AA Motsinger-Reif,<sup>1,3,4</sup> J M J W Fleshman,<sup>7</sup> B R Tan,<sup>5</sup> and H L McLeod

## Methylenetetrahydrofolate Toxicity to 5-FU-based Chemotherapy in Colorectal Cancer: A Novel Genomic Predictor of Clinical Response to Fluoropyrimidine-based Chemotherapy<sup>1</sup>

Victor Cohen, Valerie Panet-Raymond, Nelly Sabbaghian, Isabelle Morin, Gerald Batist, and Rima Rozen<sup>2</sup>

Departments of Medicine [V. C., G. B.], Oncology [V. C., G. B.], Pediatrics [V. P-R., N. S., I. M., R. R.], and Human Genetics [R. R.], McGill University; Centre for Experimental Therapeutics in Cancer, Jewish General Hospital [V. C., G. B.]; and Montreal Children's Hospital Research Institute [V. P-R., N. S., I. M., R. R.], Montreal, Canada

original articles

gastrointestinal tumors

## MTHFR polymorphisms and 5-FU-based adjuvant chemotherapy in colorectal cancer

S. Afzal<sup>1</sup> ✉, S.A. Jensen<sup>2</sup>, B. Vainer<sup>3</sup>, U. Vogel<sup>4</sup>, J.P. Matsen<sup>1</sup>, J.B. Sørensen<sup>2</sup>, P.K. Andersen<sup>5</sup>, H.E. Poulsen<sup>1</sup>

tion was associated with an odds ratio of 2.86 (95% confidence interval 1.06–7.73) for a response in individuals with a valine allele.

**Conclusions:** Our results show a link between the MTHFR polymorphism and tumor response to fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy and suggest that MTHFR genotyping may be of predictive benefit in selecting treatment regimens.

## 5-MTHFR gene polymorphism and response to 5-FU-based chemotherapy in colorectal cancer

Christine Aindrault-Goebel, David Lledo, Thierry André,

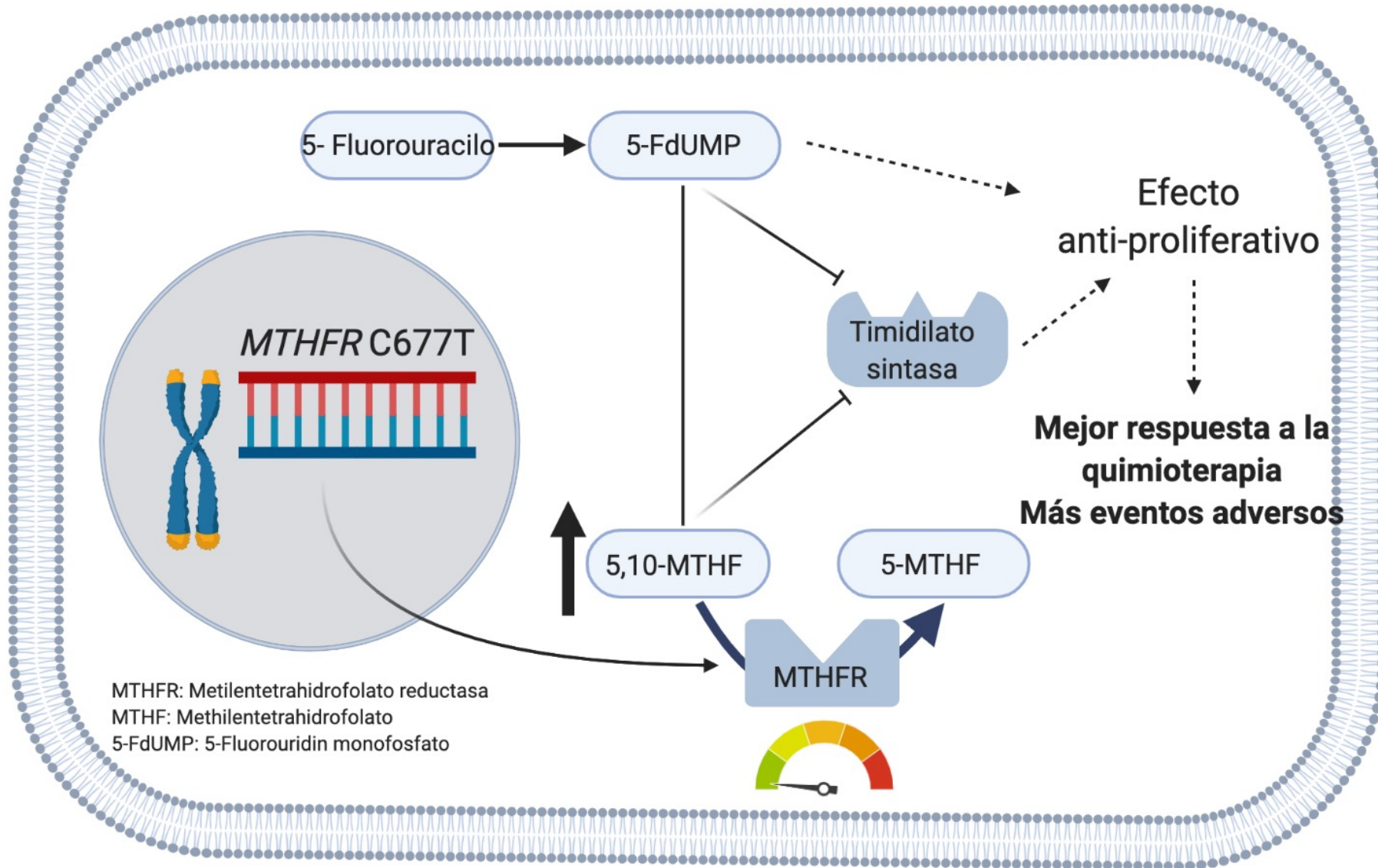
Philippe Bibeau, Laurent Milot, Michel Fiset, Elisabeth Carola, Anthony de Gramont

# Posible causa de los resultados controvertidos

- **Frecuencia alélica *MTHFR* C677T y A1298C**
  - Alelo T (677) se encuentra en mayor porcentaje en población Mestiza vs. Caucásica
  - Alelo C (1298) poco representado en la población de estudio
- **Método de análisis**
  - Modelos dominantes (CT + TT vs CC) tienden a reportar más asociaciones
- **Diseño del estudio**
  - Seguimiento prospectivo
- **Frecuencia de eventos adversos (EA)**
  - Mayor incidencia de EA en la cohorte estudiada
- **Tamaño muestral**
- **Efecto de otras mutaciones relevantes**



# Conclusiones



MTHFR C677T es biomarcador farmacogenético de toxicidad y eficiencia (tasa de respuesta/SLP)

MTHFR A1298C es biomarcador farmacogenético de toxicidad

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