

La metilazione virale nel triage e nel follow-up

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Disegno studio

- Nested in braccio sperimentale NTCC
- Campioni stoccati per tutte le donne HPV positive (HC2) . Momento inizio cambia tra centri
- Tutte le donne HPV+ inviate in colposcopia
- Se nessuna CIN2+ trovata in colposcopia follow-up finché donna HPV+
- Campioni HPV+ genotipizzati. Solo campioni con infezione singola da tipi oncogeni (IARC1) inclusi.
- Campioni presi al reclutamento testati per metilazione virale e collegati ad individuazione CIN a reclutamento o follow-up
- Ulteriori campioni presi a tempo vicino ad individuazione CIN usati per analisi supplementari

Molecular Methods

- Methylation status analysis by **PCR and Pyrosequencing** of bisulfite modified DNA
- Hybrid Capture 2 targeted types **hrHPV 16,18,31,33,35,39,45,51,52,56,58,59**[68 excluded]
- Focus on **L1** e **L2** → more frequently highlighted as methylated across studies
 - higher sequence homology among types
 - potential generation of **PCR consensus primers**

Sequence alignment tool Clustal Omega

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HPV16 TAGATAGTGGTTTTATTAGGTAGTTAAAGAGATATTTGAAAAAAAAATATGGTAAAYGTTT 1828
HPV35 TAGATAGTGGTTTTYGTTAGATYGTATAGAGATATTTGAAAAAAAAATATGGGATAYGTTT 1772
HPV31 TAGATAGTAGTTTTYGTAGGTAGTTATAGAGATATTTGAAAAAAAAATATGATATAYGTTT 2034
HPV58 TATATAGTGGTTTTATTAGGTAGTTATAYGGATATTTGAAAAAAAAATATGGAAAAYGTTT 1762
HPV33 TATATTGTGGTTTTATTAGGTAGTTATAYGGATATTTGAAAAAAAAATATGGAAYGTTT 1932
HPV52 TATATAGTGGTTTTATTAGGTAGTTATAYGGATATTTGAAAAAAAAATATGGAAAAYGTTT 1876
HPV56 TATATTTTATTTTATTAGGTAGTTAYGTAGTTATTTGAAAAAAAAATAGGGAATAYGTTT 1748
    **  **  *  ***  ****  *  *****  *****  *  *  *  ***
HPV16 AYG----TYGTTTTYGTAATATGTA----ATAA---TTAGGATGTAAAATAAAAGTTATTTG--ATT 1882
HPV35 AYG----AYGYGTTTAAATAAATA-- ATAA---TTAGGGTGTAAATAAAAGTTATTT--TATT 1826
HPV31 AYG----TYGYGTTTAAATATATA- -ATAA---TTAGGGTGTAAATAAAATTATTTT--TATT 2088
HPV58 AYG----TTTGYGYGTAAATAAAA-- ATAA---TTAGGGTGTAAATAAAATTAGTAT-TATT 1816
HPV33 AYG----TTTGYGYGTAAATAAAA- -ATAA---TTAGGATGTAAATAAAAGTTAGTAT-YGT 1986
HPV52 AYG----TTTGYGYGTAGTAAAAA-- ATAA---TTAGGATGTAAATAAAATTGTAT-TATT 1930
HPV56 AYGGYGTTTAYGTTTAAAAAATATATAGGTTATAATGTAAAGGAGGATTTTTGTATATA 1808
    ***                *  *  *  ***  ***  *****  *  **  *  *
  
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HPV16 sequence as reference

PCR PRIMER 1 (FORWARD)

PCR PRIMER 2 (REVERSE)

Y = CpG

Molecular Methods

PCR: HPV Types grouped in two families by phylogenetic affinity

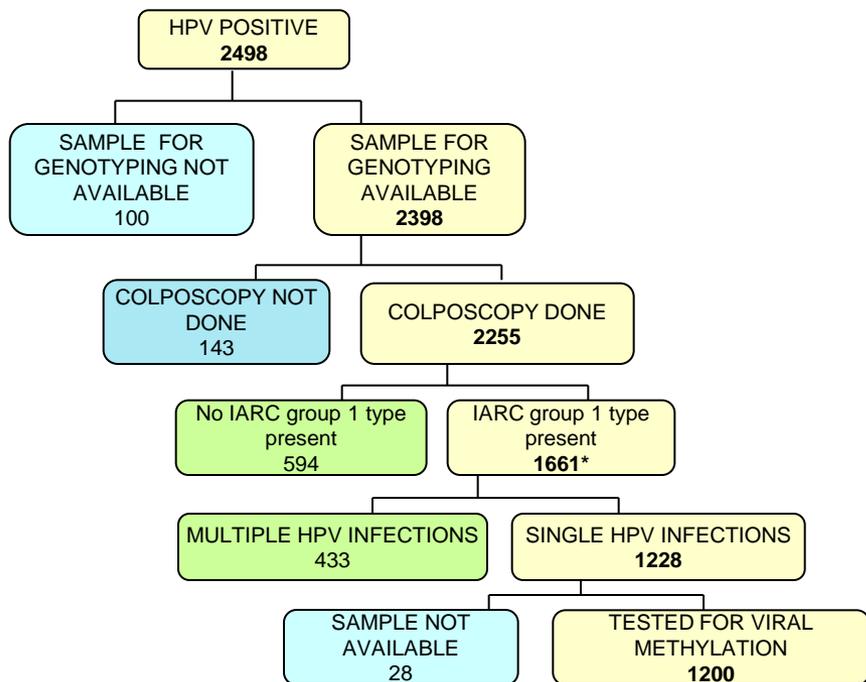
- HPV 16, 31, 33, 35, 52, 56, 58
- HPV 18, 39, 45, 51, 59

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|---|--|
| CpG 5601,5606,5609,5616 | L1 I | consensus primers consensus primers dedicated primers | HPV 16, 31, 33, 35, 52, 58 HPV 39, 45, 51, 59 HPV 18, 56 |
| CpG 6457 | L1 II | consensus primers consensus primers dedicated primers | HPV 16, 31, 33, 35, 52, 58 HPV 18,51andHPV 39,45,59 HPV 31 |
| CpG 4261 | L2 | no consensus primers dedicated primers | HPV 16,18,31,33,35,39,45,51,52,56,58,59 |

Methylation quantification → Pyrosequencing

- For each region separately
- Overall methylation score = sum of the 3 values

Study flow-chart



*includes only types detected by Digene Genotyping RH Kit (Qiagen)

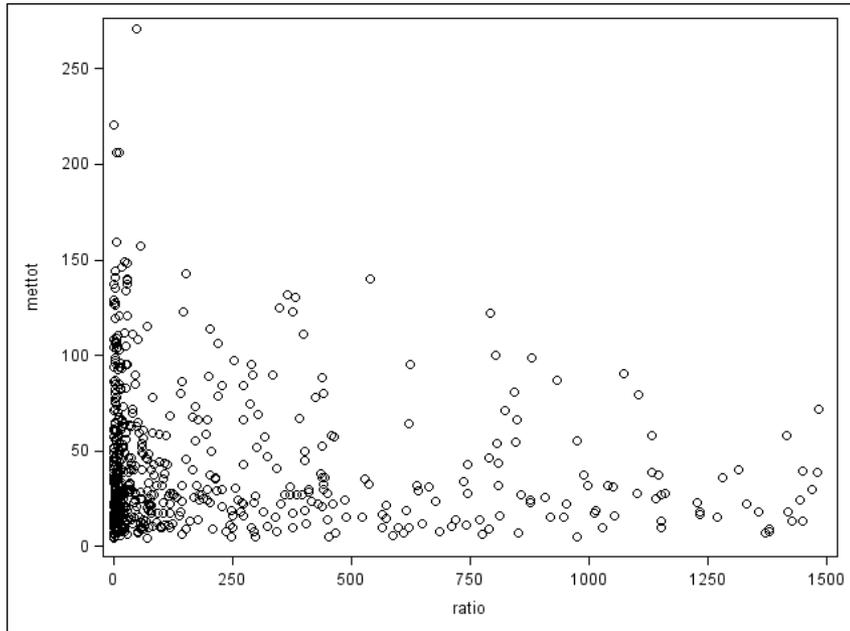
Women tested for viral methylation

| | # women tested | Valid test | | | |
|---|----------------|------------|------|------|---------|
| | | L1I | L1II | L2 | OVERALL |
| No CIN detected at baseline no follow-up | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| No CIN detected at baseline nor follow-up | 807 | 655 | 607 | 651 | 539 |
| No CIN2+ at baseline, CIN1 at follow-up | 58 | 55 | 52 | 53 | 49 |
| No CIN2+ at baseline CIN2 at follow-up | 31 | 27 | 26 | 27 | 24 |
| No CIN2+ at baseline CIN3+ at follow-up | 26 | 24 | 25 | 25 | 24 |
| CIN1 at baseline | 146 | 122 | 118 | 129 | 105 |
| CIN2 at baseline | 62 | 60 | 57 | 60 | 56 |
| CIN3+ at baseline | 65 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 63 |
| Total | 1200 | 1011 | 952 | 1011 | 862 |

Baseline: ≤ 1 year from recruitment Follow-up: $>1 - 3$ years from recruitment

All histology of women with CIN at baseline and/or follow-up reviewed (morphology only) and each woman classified according to worse in each period

Methylation significantly decreases with increasing $\ln(\text{RLU Ratio})$



Methylation levels rapidly decrease with increasing viral load. Stable low levels above RLU ratio 200-250

Overall methylation in women with no CIN at baseline nor f.u.

- Beta for $\ln(\text{RLU ratio}) = -2.23$ ($p < 0.0001$)
Type-adjusted
- Linear effect of viral load not significant:
Beta for 100 RLU ratio = -0.022 ($p = 0.23$)
Type-adjusted

- “ratio normalized” methylation computed as $\text{methylation} \times \ln(\text{ratio})$

Methylation variability by HPV type among women with no CIN2+ detected at baseline nor at follow-up

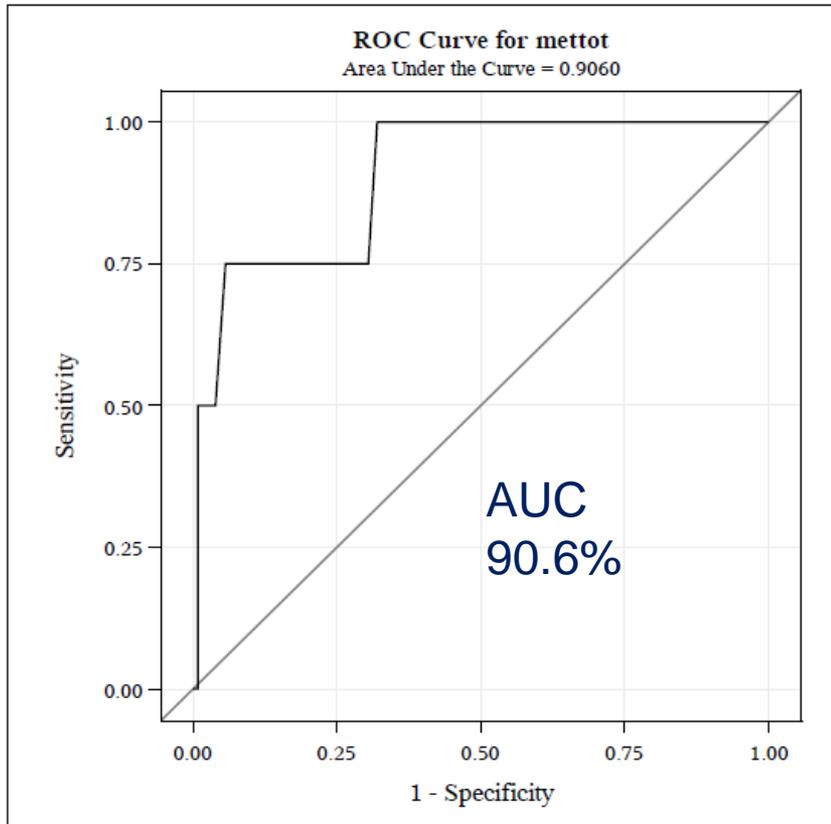
| genotype | Overall methylation | | | Ratio-normalised overall methylation | | |
|--------------|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| | # women tested | Methylation score difference | p | # women tested | Methylation score difference | p |
| HPV16 | 166 | reference | | 166 | reference | |
| HPV31 | 130 | 5.8 | 0.0975 | 129 | 21.4 | 0.2062 |
| HPV33 | 18 | 34.0 | <.0001 | 18 | 59.1 | 0.0981 |
| HPV35 | 20 | -2.5 | 0.729 | 19 | -10.8 | 0.7576 |
| HPV52 | 39 | 22.5 | <.0001 | 39 | 80.1 | 0.0018 |
| HPV56 | 92 | 27.3 | <.0001 | 91 | 116.2 | <.0001 |
| HPV58 | 53 | 26.4 | <.0001 | 53 | 90.2 | <.0001 |
| HPV18 | 54 | 39.9 | <.0001 | 54 | 146.9 | <.0001 |
| HPV45 | 53 | 62.9 | <.0001 | 52 | 213.0 | <.0001 |
| HPV39 | 15 | 9.5 | 0.2378 | 15 | 90.5 | 0.0199 |
| HPV51 | 39 | 1.3 | 0.806 | 37 | 27.3 | 0.2965 |
| HPV59 | 17 | 0.4 | 0.9567 | 17 | 40.4 | 0.2703 |

Cut-off values defined for groups of HPV types by ROC curves.

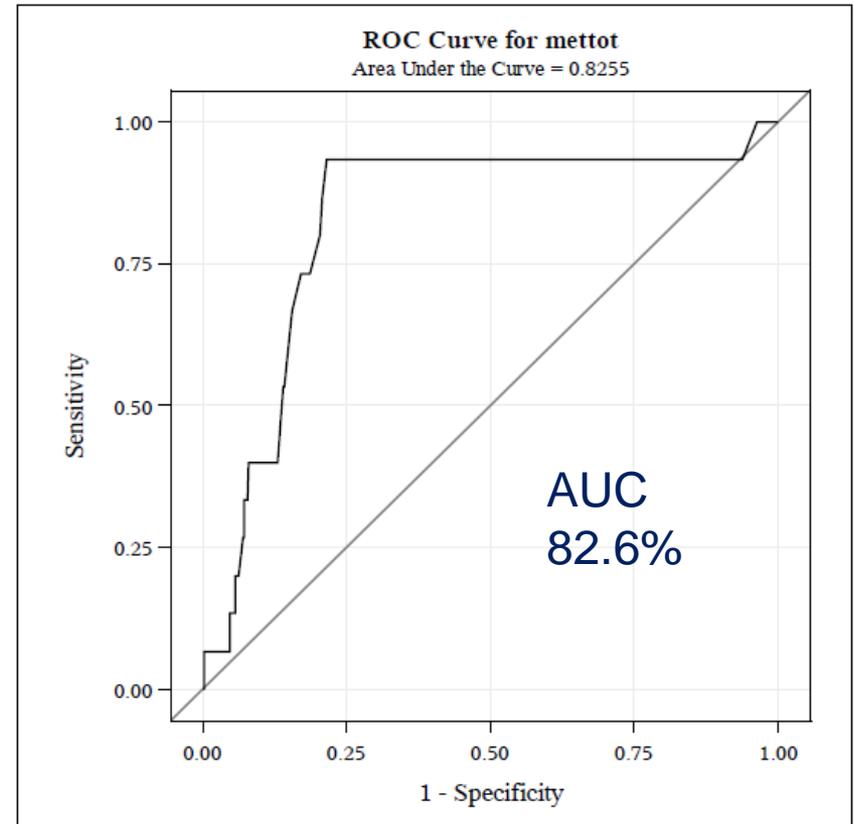
Overall methylation

Endpoint: CIN3+ at follow-up vs. no CIN

HPV 33,18,45



HPV 16,31,35,39,51,59



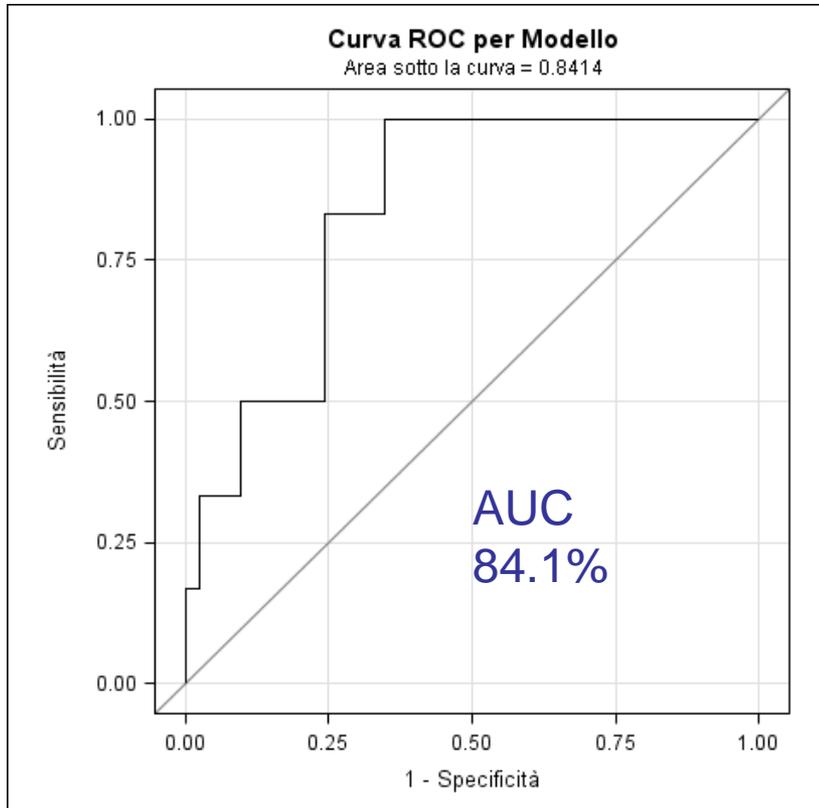
HPV 52,56 and 58 excluded

| CUT-OFF | Overall | L1-I | L1-II | L2 |
|-----------------------|---------|------|-------|----|
| HPV 33,18,45 | 90 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| HPV 16,31,35,39,51,59 | 30 | 10 | 10 | 10 |

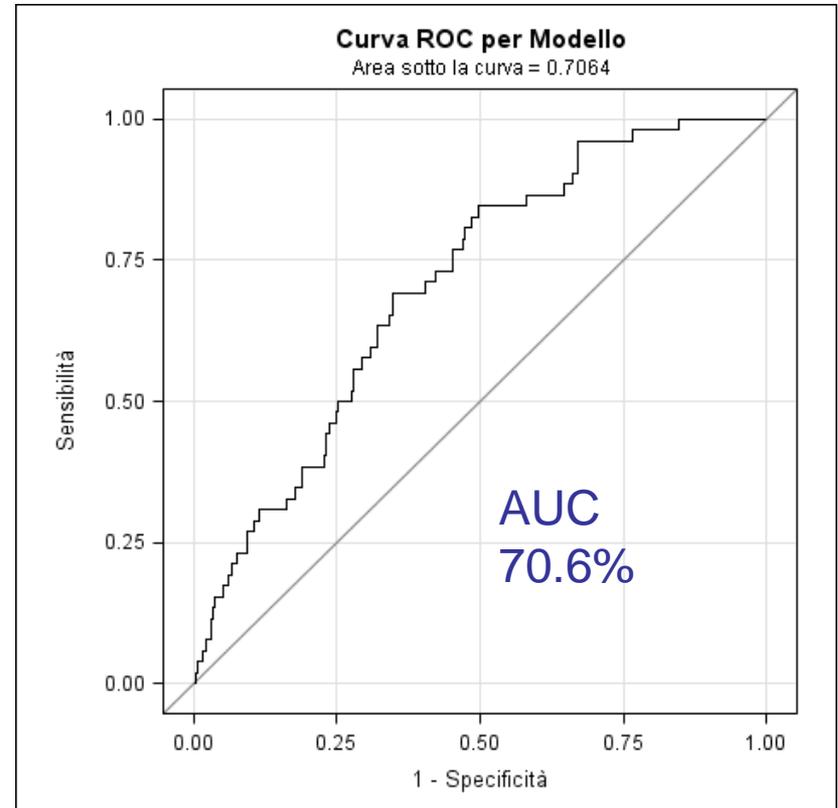
Overall ratio-normalised methylation

Endpoint: CIN3+ at baseline vs. no CIN

ROC curve for HPV 33,18,45



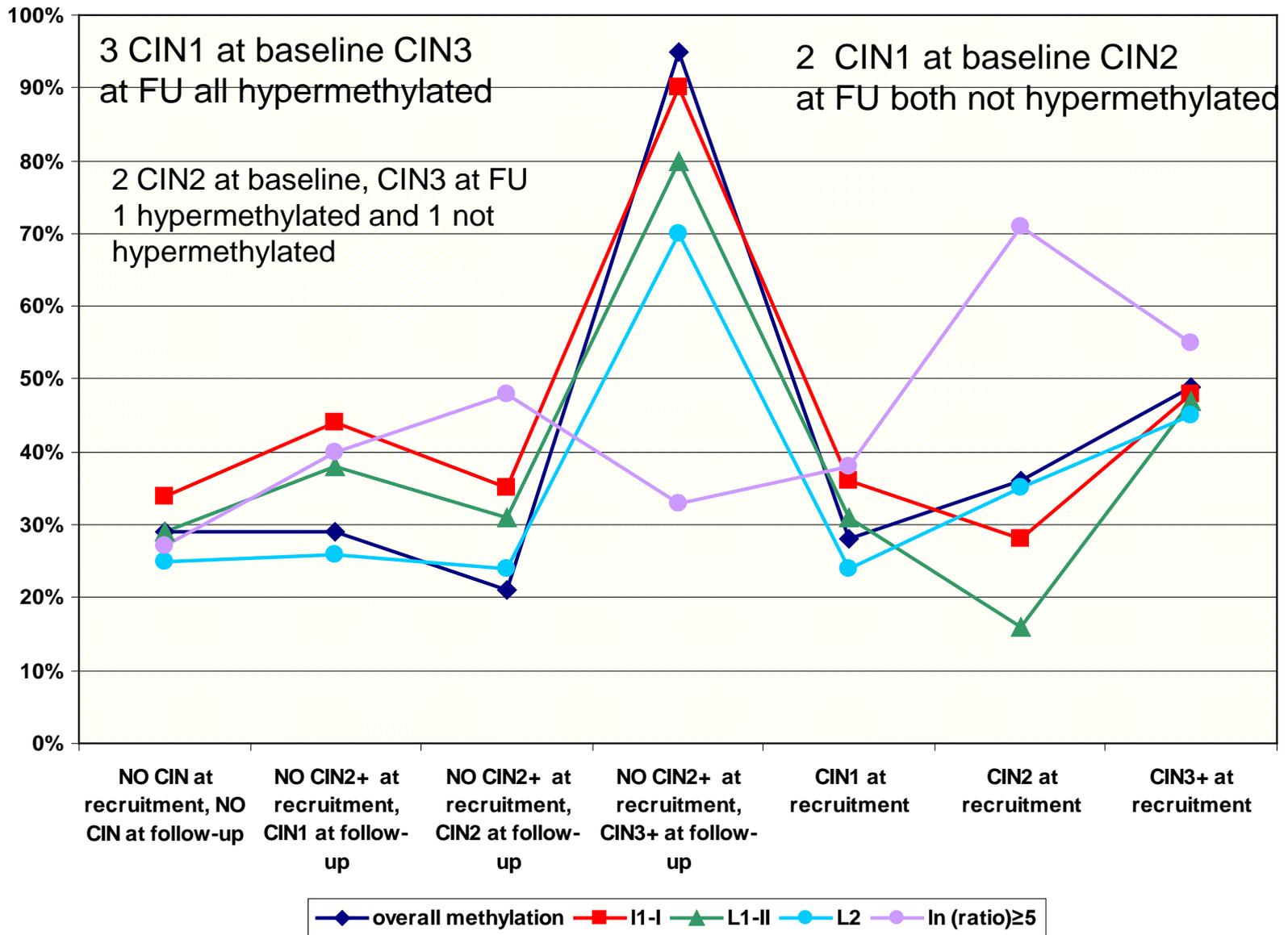
ROC curve for HPV 16,31,35,39,51,59



HPV 52,56 and 58 excluded

| CUT-OFF | Overall | L1-I | L1-II | L2 |
|-----------------------|---------|------|-------|----|
| HPV 33,18,45 | 280 | 93 | 93 | 93 |
| HPV 16,31,35,39,51,59 | 50 | 17 | 17 | 17 |

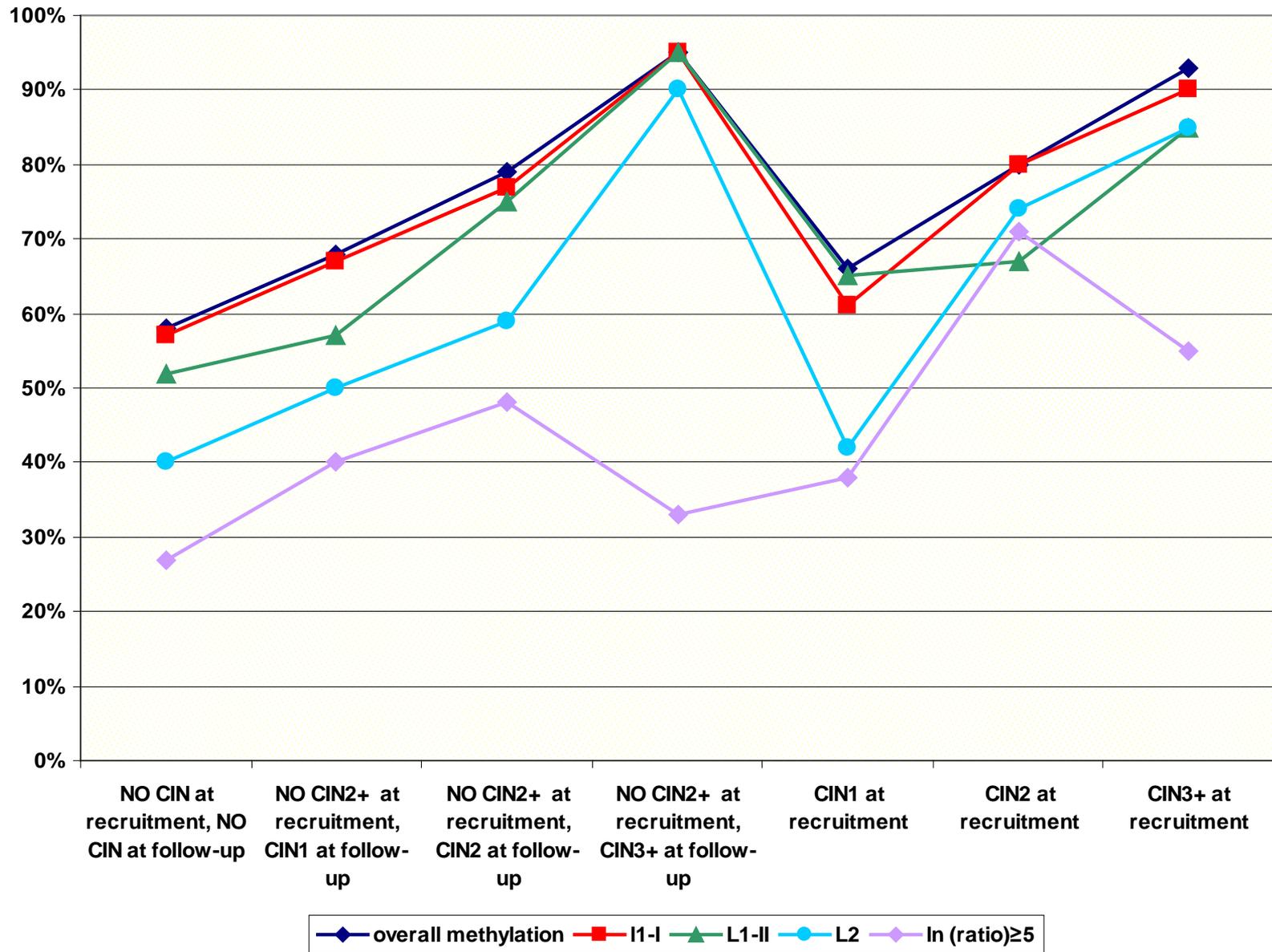
% women positive for hypermethylation and high viral load at baseline by CIN subsequent or symultaneous detection and methylation region



Odds Ratios for hypermethylation at baseline and CIN subsequent or symultaneous detection, by methylation region

| | CIN3+ F.U. VS. NO CIN | CIN3+ F.U. VS. CIN2 F.U. | CIN3+ BASELINE VS. NO CIN | CIN3+ BASELINE VS CIN2 BASELINE |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Overall | 44.3 5.9 - 335.0 | 66.0 6.1 - 716.2 | 2.4 1.4 - 4.1 | 1.7 0.8 - 3.7 |
| L1-I | 16.2 3.7 - 70.8 | 15.6 2.7 - 91.5 | 1.8 1.0 - 3.1 | 2.4 1.1 - 5.3 |
| L1-II | 9.7 3.2 - 29.6 | 8.8 1.9 - 40.3 | 2.1 1.2 - 3.7 | 4.7 1.9 - 11.7 |
| L2 | 6.9 2.6 - 18.5 | 7.6 1.7 - 33.1 | 2.4 1.4 - 4.2 | 1.5 0.7 - 3.2 |
| In (ratio) ≥5 | 1.4 0.5 - 3.4 | 0.6 0.2 - 1.9 | 3.3 1.9 - 5.7 | 0.5 0.2 - 1.1 |

% women positive for ratio-normalised hypermethylation and high viral load at baseline by CIN subsequent or symultaneous detection and methylation region



OR for viral load normalised hypermethylation at baseline and CIN subsequent or symultaneous detection by methylation region

| | CIN3+ F.U. VS. NO CIN | CIN3+ F.U. VS. CIN2 F.U. | CIN3+ BASELINE VS. NO CIN | CIN3+ BASELINE VS. CIN2 BASELINE |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| OVERALL | 13.3 1.8 - 100.5 | 4.9 0.5 - 53.3 | 10.0 3.5 - 28.1 | 3.4 1.0 - 11.5 |
| L1-I | 13.3 1.8 - 100.7 | 5.5 0.6 - 55.5 | 6.6 2.8 - 15.5 | 2.3 0.8 - 6.6 |
| L1-II | 17.4 2.3 - 130.7 | 6.3 0.6 - 63.6 | 5.1 2.4 - 10.6 | 2.8 1.1 - 7.0 |
| L2 | 13.5 3.1 - 58.9 | 6.3 1.1 - 36.6 | 8.3 4.0 - 17.4 | 1.9 0.8 - 5.0 |
| In (ratio) ≥5 | 1.4 0.5 - 3.4 | 0.6 0.2 - 1.9 | 3.3 1.9 - 5.7 | 0.5 0.2 - 1.1 |

Methylation in samples taken close to CIN detection at baseline or during follow-up

| | CIN 2 | | CIN 3+ | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Hyper methylated | Not Hyper methylated | Hyper methylated | Not Hyper methylated |
| Overall Methylation | | | | |
| CIN detected at baseline | 24 42.9% | 32 57.1% | 33 52.4% | 30 47.6% |
| CIN detected at follow up, sample taken close to CIN detection | 4 36.4% | 7 63.6% | 10 62.5% | 6 37.5% |
| Overall ratio-normalised methylation | | | | |
| CIN detected at baseline | 45 80.4% | 11 19.6% | 57 91.9% | 5 8.1% |
| CIN detected at follow up, sample taken close to CIN detection | 9 81.8% | 2 18.2% | 15 93.8% | 1 6.3% |

P16 and viral methylation at baseline in women who will have CIN2 or CIN3 detected during follow-up

| CIN2+ at followup | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----|-----|-----|
| hypermetilation at baseline | | | | |
| | | no | yes | tot |
| P16 baseline | no | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| | yes | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| tot | | 8 | 5 | 13 |

McNemar $p=0.4795$

McNemar $p=0.0455$

Women recruited in phase 2 of NTCC

| CIN3+ at followup | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----|-----|-----|
| hypermetilation at baseline | | | | |
| | | no | yes | tot |
| P16 baseline | no | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| | yes | 0 | 9 | 9 |
| tot | | 1 | 13 | 14 |

Discussione/Conclusioni

- Analizzate cellule desquamate in gran parte non provenienti da lesioni
- Metilazione virale funzione esponenziale negativa del carico virale. Coerente con incapacità cellule di metilare tutte le copie virali sopra soglia data.
- Quasi tutte le donne HPV+ con CIN3+ trovato nei 3aa successivi ipermetilate e con basso carico virale
- Tra le donne a cui verrà trovata CIN1 o CIN2 in futuro % iper-metilate simile a quella nelle donne HPV+ a cui non verranno trovate CIN (controlli). Più future CIN2 che controlli hanno alto carico virale.
- Ipermetilazione virale (e basso carico virale) parrebbero marker molto precoce di infezioni destinate a sviluppare CIN3+

- Tra le donne che già avevano una CIN3+ proporzione ipermetilate molto più bassa (e carico virale aumentato.). Metilazione ratio-normalised ha buona sensibilità trasversaòe per CIN3+.
- Coerente con carico virale che segue trend temporale esponenziale nelle infezioni trasformanti (*Depuydt, Cancer Med 2015*). Però sia carico virale che sovra-espressione p16 predicono le future CIN3+ peggio che metilazione virale (p16 non specifica per CIN3+ vs. CIN2).
- Ipermetilazione virale non è marker di CIN3+ recente. Campioni presi vicino a diagnosi CIN3+ trovate al f.u. (comparse di recente) non differenti da quelli presi vicino a CIN3+ trovate al reclutamento (possibilmente di lunga data)
- % di donne attualmente con CIN2 ipermetilate intermedia tra quelle con attualmente CIN3+ e CIN1. CIN2 future intermedie tra future CIN1 e CIN3+ se si considera “ratio-normalised” methylation (cioè tenendo conto della diluizione dovuta al carico virale). Perché trend temporale particolare carico virale per CIN2?

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| RR hypermethylation ratio ≥1,5 vs ratio <1,5 | 0,98 | 0,86 | - | - | 1,02 | 0,00 | 0,48 |
| | 97/335 vs 18/61 | 8/28 vs 2/6 | 3/14 vs 0/0 | 18/18 vs 0/1 | 19/68 vs 3/11 | 0/32 vs 18/18 | 27/56 vs 2/2 |

