Background
- Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) is a predictor of clinical outcome in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) patients.
- However, the predictive role of LDH on the clinical outcomes of sorafenib treatment has been poorly documented.
- This study investigates the correlation between LDH levels and clinical outcomes in HCC patients treated with sorafenib included in the Nation-wide Italian database ITA.LI.CA.

Patients and methods
- The ITA.LI.CA. database contains data of 5136 HCC patients treated at 18 Italian Centers.
- All patients (N=97; 85 males, 61 in BCLC-C stage) treated with sorafenib treatment and with available LDH values were considered.
- A ROC analysis disclosed 297 U/L as a suitable threshold for baseline LDH levels. Overall Survival (OS) and time to progression (TTP) were compared in patients with LDH above and below this threshold.
- Study endpoints were also evaluated according to different patterns of LDH levels during treatment.

Conclusions
- This analysis was conducted in a large field-practice database.
- The clinical benefits of sorafenib do not seem influenced by baseline LDH.
- A decreased LDH concentration during sorafenib might be associated with improved clinical outcomes.
- The limitations of any observational study should be taken into account.