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## **Association of Immune Marker Changes With Progression of Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance to Multiple Myeloma**

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1 **Risk of progression from monoclonal gammopathy to multiple myeloma is not constant: a**  
2 **prospective study with serially collected samples**

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35 **KEY POINTS**

36 **Question.** Do changes in serum immune markers over time predict progression from monoclonal  
37 gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) to multiple myeloma?

38 **Findings.** Individuals with low-risk/intermediate-risk MGUS can convert to high-risk MGUS and  
39 progress to multiple myeloma within 5 years; the same result was found in light-chain MGUS. Evolving  
40 monoclonal proteins, serum free light chains, and immunosuppression were associated with progression.

41 **Meaning.** Our finding that clinical risk categories can change over time prior to multiple myeloma  
42 diagnosis supports annual blood testing and risk assessment for all individuals with MGUS or light-  
43 chain MGUS.

44

45

46 **TWEET**

47 Prospective study shows risk of progression from monoclonal gammopathy to myeloma is not constant:  
48 supports annual blood testing & risk re-assessment

49

50

51 **ABSTRACT**

52 **Importance.** Multiple myeloma (MM) is consistently preceded by monoclonal gammopathy of  
53 undetermined significance (MGUS). Risk models that estimate the risk of progression from MGUS to  
54 MM use data from a single time point, usually initial work-up.

55 **Objective.** To longitudinally investigate dynamics of serum immune markers over time in stable versus  
56 progressive MGUS.

57 **Design.** This prospective study followed participants in the screening arm of the National Cancer  
58 Institute Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian (NCI-PLCO) Cancer Screening Trial (N = 77,469) who  
59 had a diagnosis of progressing MGUS (n = 187) or stable MGUS (n = 498), including light-chain  
60 subtype. For each participant we obtained all available serially stored pre-diagnostic serum samples  
61 (N<sub>samples</sub> = 3266). We conducted cross-sectional and longitudinal analyses of serum markers in relation to  
62 progression.

63 **Setting.** The NCI-PLCO Cancer Screening Trial is a large population-based randomized trial  
64 investigating how screening affects cancer-related mortality and secondary endpoints.

65 **Participants.** Adults aged 55 to 74 randomized from 1992 to 2011.

66 **Main Outcomes and Measures.** Serum protein and monoclonal immunoglobulins, serum free light  
67 chains (sFLCs), and serum light chains within each immunoglobulin class were measured.

68 **Results.** In cross-sectional modeling, progressive MGUS risk factors were IgA isotype (OR<sub>adjusted</sub> = 1.80;  
69  $P = .038$ ),  $\geq 15\text{g/L}$  monoclonal spike (OR<sub>adjusted</sub> = 23.5;  $P < .001$ ), skewed ( $< 0.1$  or  $> 10$ ) sFLC ratio  
70 (OR<sub>adjusted</sub> = 46.4;  $P < .001$ ), and severe immunoparesis ( $\geq 2$  suppressed uninvolved immunoglobulins)  
71 (OR<sub>adjusted</sub> = 19.1;  $P < .001$ ); progressive light-chain MGUS risk factors were skewed sFLC ratio  
72 (OR<sub>adjusted</sub> = 44.0;  $P < .001$ ) and severe immunoparesis (OR<sub>adjusted</sub> = 48.6;  $P < .001$ ). From the cross-  
73 sectional analyses, we developed a scoring system for the longitudinal analysis, finding that individuals  
74 with low-risk/intermediate-risk MGUS can convert to high-risk MGUS and progress to MM within 5

75 years; the same result was found in light-chain MGUS. Evolving monoclonal proteins, sFLCs, and  
76 immunosuppression were associated with progression.

77 **Conclusions and Relevance.** Our finding that clinical risk categories can change over time prior to MM  
78 diagnosis supports annual blood testing and risk assessment for patients with MGUS or light-chain  
79 MGUS.

80

## 81 INTRODUCTION

82 Worldwide over 120,000 individuals are diagnosed annually with multiple myeloma.<sup>1</sup> This malignancy  
83 is characterized by the proliferation of abnormal monoclonal plasma cells derived from B-cells in the  
84 bone marrow. Frequently, there is invasion of the adjacent bone, which destroys skeletal structures and  
85 causes bone pain and fractures in more than 80% of newly diagnosed patients.<sup>2</sup> The abnormal plasma  
86 cells can produce monoclonal-(M)-proteins and circulating free light-chains (FLCs) detectable in  
87 peripheral blood. Approximately 15% to 20% of newly diagnosed patients with multiple myeloma  
88 secrete FLCs only.<sup>2</sup> Renal impairment; commonly caused by FLCs or hyperviscosity from excessive  
89 amounts of M-protein in the blood, affects up to 40% of newly diagnosed patients.<sup>3</sup> Multiple myeloma is  
90 one of the few malignancies with a defined precursor condition, monoclonal gammopathy of  
91 undetermined significance (MGUS), which is detectable in peripheral blood.<sup>4</sup> Similarly, the light-chain  
92 subtype of multiple myeloma is preceded by light-chain MGUS.<sup>4</sup>

93 Recent population-based screening studies have shown that MGUS can start at age 30 years<sup>5,6</sup> and is  
94 found in 2.3% of individuals 50 years or older.<sup>6</sup> Because there is no established screening for MGUS in  
95 the general population, it is typically diagnosed incidentally during medical work-ups for other reasons  
96 (such as infectious, neurologic, or rheumatologic symptoms, or as part of life-insurance blood  
97 screening).<sup>7</sup> Long-term retrospective follow-up studies of individuals diagnosed with MGUS show 0.5%  
98 to 1% annual risk of progressing to multiple myeloma.<sup>7-9</sup> Risk models using data from a single time  
99 point (usually the initial work-up) have been proposed to estimate the risk of progression from MGUS to  
100 multiple myeloma.<sup>7,9</sup> This modeling has led to development of clinical consensus guidelines  
101 recommending annual peripheral blood monitoring of serum protein markers and other assays for  
102 patients with intermediate-risk and high-risk MGUS.<sup>10</sup> Smaller retrospective studies suggest that  
103 evolving changes in M-protein levels may be associated with progression<sup>11-13</sup>; however, in clinical  
104 practice, most patients are counseled based on their risk profile at initial work-up. Limited information is

105 available regarding the risk of progression from light-chain MGUS to light-chain multiple myeloma and  
106 clinical guidelines for this condition are lacking.<sup>14</sup>

107 We conducted the first prospective study to longitudinally investigate the dynamics of serum immune  
108 markers in individuals with myeloma precursor disease. Within the screening arm of the Prostate, Lung,  
109 Colorectal and Ovarian (PLCO) Cancer Screening Trial (N = 77,469), we evaluated serially collected  
110 serum samples from participants with progressing MGUS and stable MGUS, including light-chain  
111 subtype disease. We show that the risk profiles for individuals with MGUS and light-chain MGUS can  
112 change over time, reflected in conversion from low-risk/intermediate-risk MGUS to high-risk MGUS.  
113 Also, we provide longitudinal data on evolving serum immune markers in progressing patients,  
114 including markers of malignant plasma cells and markers of humoral host immunity. Our study provides  
115 several new insights of direct relevance for clinical monitoring and counseling of patients.

116

## 117 **METHODS**

### 118 **Study Population and Design**

119 The prospective NCI-PLCO Cancer Screening Trial has previously been described in detail.<sup>15</sup> The  
120 selection of screening-arm participants for the current investigation is summarized in **Figure 1** and in  
121 the Supplementary Methods. Briefly, we selected serial pre-diagnostic serum samples from 208 multiple  
122 myeloma cases diagnosed during follow-up, and samples from the latest available study year for 5916  
123 subjects who never received a diagnosis of multiple myeloma or another hematologic malignancy. In the  
124 latter group, we identified individuals with non-IgM MGUS or light-chain MGUS who did not progress  
125 to multiple myeloma or light-chain multiple myeloma and selected all earlier available serum samples  
126 from these individuals.

127 Participants provided written informed consent in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki at the  
128 trial baseline. The PLCO Cancer Screening Trial was conducted according to a protocol approved by the

129 Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) of the NCI and the 10 screening centers, and the current  
130 investigation was approved by the NCI Special Studies IRB. The primary outcome of the analysis was  
131 progression from MGUS to multiple myeloma or from light-chain MGUS to light-chain multiple  
132 myeloma.

### 133 **Laboratory Tests**

134 For all subjects, pre-diagnostic serum samples (0.5 mL) stored at  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$  were thawed and blindly  
135 processed and analyzed in an identical fashion (**Figure 1**, footnote of **Table 1**).

### 136 **Statistical Methods**

137 Differences in characteristics between cases and controls were assessed using Fisher exact and chi-  
138 square tests.

### 139 *Cross-Sectional Marker Analysis*

140 First, we analyzed the risk of progression in relation to each marker using the pre-diagnostic  
141 measurements from the time point most proximal to multiple myeloma diagnosis date (for cases) or  
142 selection date (for non-progressing MGUS and light-chain MGUS controls). We included serum  
143 immune markers proposed in prior studies.<sup>7,9</sup> We estimated odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence  
144 intervals (CIs) for associations with case status, using logistic regression models with and without  
145 adjustment for sex, race, study center, and age and calendar year at most proximal blood draw.

### 146 *Patterns of Serum Markers Over Time*

147 Using the results from the cross-sectional analyses, we developed a scoring system. For MGUS, the  
148 following variables were defined as risk factors for progression: monoclonal-(M)-spike with IgA  
149 isotype, M-spike concentration  $\geq 15$  g/L, sFLC ratio  $< 0.1$  or  $> 10$ , and immunoparesis ( $\geq 1$  uninvolved  
150 immunoglobulins below lower level of normal). In the scoring system for light-chain MGUS, sFLC ratio  
151  $< 0.1$  or  $> 10$  and immunoparesis were used as risk factors. The score was defined as the total number of  
152 risk factors for each individual blood sample. Scores for select individuals are shown in **Table 2**.

153 We also assessed marker changes over time in a subset of patients (see Supplementary Methods for  
154 details on the models).<sup>16,17</sup> In brief, we selected MGUS patients who progressed to multiple myeloma  
155 (cases) and MGUS patients who did not progress (controls) and matched them in a 1:1 control-to-case  
156 ratio on the basis of age ( $\pm 6$  years), sex, and race. For each case, we identified the sample most proximal  
157 to multiple myeloma diagnosis and matched a control of similar age as the case at the blood draw most  
158 proximal to cohort exit. Then we assigned the age of multiple myeloma diagnosis of the case as age of  
159 selection for the control. Matched controls had to be free of multiple myeloma as of the time of the  
160 diagnosis of their corresponding case. For three cases no match could be identified, resulting in 159  
161 cases and 156 matched controls. Using the same matching criteria, for each progressing light-chain  
162 MGUS (cases) we selected two stable light-chain MGUS (controls) (28 cases, 56 matched controls). For  
163 all cases and controls we used all samples available before multiple myeloma diagnosis date and  
164 selection date, respectively. We then fit models to the log-transformed marker data that allowed the  
165 slopes for time to vary for cases and non-cases by including interaction terms of case-status with time.  
166 P-values for significance for these interaction terms are presented as evidence of differences in marker  
167 trajectories over time for cases (progressors) and controls (non-progressors).

168

## 169 **RESULTS**

170 For our study, we identified 187 individuals who progressed from non-IgM MGUS/light-chain MGUS  
171 to multiple myeloma/light-chain multiple myeloma and 498 individuals whose diagnosis remained non-  
172 IgM MGUS/light-chain MGUS without progression to multiple myeloma through  $\leq 16$  years of follow  
173 up (**Figure 1; eTable 1**). For each participant we obtained all available serially stored pre-diagnostic  
174 serum samples, collecting 3266 samples in total.

175

### 176 **Risk Factors and Patterns of Progression among Individuals with non-IgM MGUS**

#### 177 *Cross-Sectional Modeling*

178 Associations with progression from non-IgM MGUS to multiple myeloma for immunoglobulin isotype,  
179 concentration of the M-spike, skewed sFLC ratio, and immunoparesis from the time point most proximal  
180 to diagnosis or selection are shown in **Table 1**. Compared to individuals with IgG isotype, those with  
181 IgA isotype had a modest but statistically significant increased risk of progression to multiple myeloma  
182 ( $OR_{adjusted}=1.80$ ; 95% CI, 1.03-3.13; 28% vs. 17%;  $P=.038$ ). Subjects who had M-spike concentration  
183  $\geq 15$  g/L were more than 23 times more likely to develop multiple myeloma compared to those with a  
184 lower concentration of the protein ( $OR_{adjusted}=23.5$ ; 95% CI; 8.9-61.9; 41% vs. 4%;  $P<.001$ ). We also  
185 evaluated risk of progression among subjects with altered sFLC ratios just outside the published  
186 reference range of 0.26 to 1.65<sup>7,8</sup> as well as further outside the range. Compared to individuals with a  
187 sFLC ratio within the normal reference range, those with a sFLC ratio  $<0.1$  or  $>10$  were 46 times more  
188 likely to develop multiple myeloma ( $OR_{adjusted}=46.4$ ; 95% CI, 18.4-117; 41% vs. 4%;  $P<.001$ ). Finally,  
189 we assessed the risk of progression by severity of the immunoparesis, as defined by the number of  
190 suppressed uninvolved immunoglobulins (IgG, IgA, and/or IgM). Compared to those with no evidence  
191 of immunoparesis, individuals with two suppressed uninvolved immunoglobulins were much more  
192 likely to progress to multiple myeloma ( $OR_{adjusted}=19.1$ ; 95% CI, 7.5-48.3; 29% vs. 3%;  $P<.001$ ). As  
193 described above in the Methods section, we defined a risk score based on the identified risk factors  
194 (**Table 2**). Based on our clinical risk score, we plotted longitudinal patterns of progression to multiple  
195 myeloma (**eFigure 1, Panel A**).

196

### 197 *Changes of Marker Values Over Time*

198 First, we used information for all available serum samples from multiple myeloma cases (n=159) and  
199 matched controls (n=156). Specifically, we plotted the M-spike concentration and the involved sFLC  
200 concentration from individual samples on the y-axis against the years prior to multiple myeloma  
201 diagnosis (for cases) and selection (for controls) on the x-axis, respectively (**Figure 2, Panels A and B**;

202 **eFigure 2**). Increasingd M-spike concentration ( $P=.065$  for linear term and  $P=.017$  for quadratic term),  
203 increasing involved sFLC levels ( $P=.012$ ), and an increasing number of suppressed uninvolved  
204 immunoglobulins ( $P<.0001$ ) were associated with higher risk of progression to multiple myeloma.

205

206 Second, to investigate patterns of serum markers over time we conducted another longitudinal analysis  
207 (see **Figure 1**). These analyses were limited to individuals with at least one pre-diagnostic serum sample  
208 within 2 years of diagnosis and at least 3 serial samples. For MGUS patients without progression to  
209 multiple myeloma, we required at least 8 years of follow-up. Our final selection for these analyses  
210 included 43 multiple myeloma cases and 108 controls with non-progressing MGUS. Twenty-three of the  
211 43 selected MGUS case patients who progressed to multiple myeloma (53%) had a high-risk score prior  
212 to multiple myeloma diagnosis, while only 1 of 108 non-progressing MGUS controls had a high-risk  
213 score ( $P<.001$ ) (**Figure 3, Panel A**). Furthermore, among MGUS case patients who progressed and had  
214 a high-risk score prior to multiple myeloma diagnosis, 16 (70%) had preceding blood samples with low-  
215 risk and/or intermediate-risk scores. Among the progressors, a high-risk score was detected up to 5 years  
216 prior to multiple myeloma diagnosis (**Figure 3, Panel A**). For progressors without a high-risk score, 9  
217 had available stored blood 1 year prior to multiple myeloma diagnosis; 5 were intermediate-risk and 4  
218 were low-risk (**Figure 3, Panel A; eTable 2**). Of the progressors, 9 (21%) fulfilled the diagnostic blood-  
219 based criteria for smoldering multiple myeloma (i.e., M-spike concentration  $\geq 30$  g/L)<sup>18</sup> and 6 (14%)  
220 fulfilled the diagnostic blood-based criteria for multiple myeloma (i.e., sFLC ratio  $\geq 100$  and involved  
221 sFLC concentration  $\geq 10$  mg/dL)<sup>19</sup> prior to clinical multiple myeloma diagnosis; none of the non-  
222 progressors fulfilled these criteria ( $P<.00001$ ) (**eTable 2**). Blood-based criteria for multiple myeloma  
223 were detected up to 5 years prior to its diagnosis (**Figure 3, Panel A**). Severe immunoparesis (two  
224 uninvolved immunoglobulins below lower level of normal) was found in pre-diagnostic blood samples  
225 of 18 of the 43 (42%) progressors and 4 of 108 (4%) non-progressors ( $P<.00001$ ) (**eTable 2**).

226

**Risk Factors and Patterns of Progression among Individuals with Light-Chain MGUS***Cross-Sectional Modeling*

229 Among individuals with light-chain MGUS, those with highly skewed sFLC ratio (defined as >10 or  
230 <0.1) at the time point most proximal to diagnosis/selection were much more likely to progress to light-  
231 chain multiple myeloma compared to those whose sFLC ratio was less skewed ( $OR_{adjusted}=44.0$ ; 95% CI  
232 14.2-136; 75% vs. 6%;  $P<.001$ ; Table 2). Similar to our findings among MGUS case patients, we found  
233 more severe immunoparesis in light-chain MGUS cases who progressed to light-chain multiple  
234 myeloma, compared to controls who remained stable ( $OR_{adjusted}=48.6$ ; 95% CI 9.55-248; 36% vs. 2%;  
235  $P<.001$ ). Based on our clinical risk score (Table 2), we plotted longitudinal patterns of progression to  
236 light-chain multiple myeloma (eFigure 1, Panel B).

237

*Changes of Marker Values Over Time*

239 First, we used all available serum samples from light-chain multiple myeloma cases ( $n=28$ ) and matched  
240 light-chain MGUS controls ( $n=56$ ) and plotted the involved sFLC concentration from individual  
241 samples by number of years prior to multiple myeloma diagnosis (for cases) and selection (for controls)  
242 (Figure 2, Panels C and D). Increased involved sFLC levels ( $P=.0004$ ) and increased number of  
243 suppressed uninvolved immunoglobulins ( $P=.0007$ ) were associated with higher risk of progression to  
244 multiple myeloma.

245 The second longitudinal analysis (see Figure 1) was limited to individuals with at least one pre-  
246 diagnostic serum sample within 2 years of diagnosis and at least 3 serial samples. For MGUS patients  
247 without progression to light-chain multiple myeloma, we required at least 8 years of follow-up. Our final  
248 selection for these analyses included 10 light-chain multiple myeloma cases and 120 light-chain MGUS  
249 subjects. Seven of the 10 (70%) light-chain MGUS patients who progressed to light-chain multiple

250 myeloma had a high-risk score prior to light-chain multiple myeloma diagnosis; only 1 of 120 who did  
251 not progress (<1%) had high-risk score ( $P<.00001$ ) (**Figure 3, Panel B**). Furthermore, among light-  
252 chain MGUS case patients who progressed and had high-risk status prior to light-chain multiple  
253 myeloma diagnosis, 5 (71%) had preceding blood samples with low-risk and/or intermediate-risk score.  
254 Among the progressors, high-risk status was detected up to 5 years prior to multiple myeloma diagnosis  
255 (**Figure 3, Panel B**). Blood samples were available for two individuals who were not at high risk before  
256 they progressed; they had intermediate-risk and low-risk, respectively, 1 year prior to multiple myeloma  
257 diagnosis (**Figure 3, Panel B; eTable 2**). Six (60%) of the light-chain MGUS case patients who  
258 progressed met the diagnostic blood-based criteria for light-chain multiple myeloma prior to their  
259 clinical multiple myeloma diagnosis; one of the non-progressors (<1%) also did ( $P<.00001$ ) (**eTable 2**).  
260 Blood-based criteria for multiple myeloma were detected up to 5 years prior to multiple myeloma  
261 diagnosis. Severe immunoparesis was found in pre-diagnostic blood samples of 7 of 10 (70%)  
262 progressors and 3 of 120 (2%) non-progressors ( $P<.00001$ ) (**eTable 2**).

263

## 264 **DISCUSSION**

265 In 2009, using data from the PLCO cancer screening trial, we conducted the first prospective screening  
266 study showing that multiple myeloma is consistently preceded by MGUS.<sup>20</sup> Here, we designed a  
267 longitudinal study to investigate dynamics of serum immune markers in individuals with MGUS. We  
268 provide novel insights by showing that the individual patient's risk of progression from MGUS to  
269 multiple myeloma is not constant over the years, and the same is true for individuals with light-chain  
270 MGUS. This study based on prospectively collected samples helps us to better understand the findings  
271 of prior retrospective follow-up studies. Indeed, previously reported 0.5% to 1% annual risks of  
272 progressing from MGUS to multiple myeloma<sup>7-9</sup> reflect the average risk among all MGUS cases, but  
273 are not applicable to individual patients. In fact, in the current study we found that individual patients'  
274 clinical risk categories can convert. Our data indicate that individuals with low-risk or intermediate-risk

275 MGUS can convert to high-risk MGUS and progress to multiple myeloma within a 5-year window. The  
276 same conversion patterns are true for individuals with light-chain MGUS. This finding is of direct  
277 clinical relevance and supports annual blood tests for all individuals diagnosed with MGUS or light-  
278 chain MGUS, and importantly, yearly assessment of a patient's clinical risk status.

279 It has been proposed, based on clinical observations, that evolving changes in monoclonal protein levels  
280 are associated with progression.<sup>11-13</sup> We found that significantly increasing M-spike and involved sFLC  
281 concentrations were detectable in MGUS progressors more than 5 years prior to multiple myeloma  
282 diagnosis; progressing light-chain MGUS case patients similarly had significantly increasing involved  
283 sFLC concentrations over time. When we combined individual markers into a risk score for progression,  
284 53% of progressing MGUS patients but only 1 of 108 non-progressing MGUS patients had a high-risk  
285 score. Similarly, we found evidence of high-risk status in 70% of the progressing light-chain MGUS  
286 cases but only 1 of 120 non-progressing light-chain MGUS controls. Importantly, most patients who  
287 developed multiple myeloma after a preceding state of high-risk MGUS had converted from low-  
288 risk/intermediate-risk stages within 5 years prior to multiple myeloma diagnosis; similar patterns were  
289 found in light-chain MGUS progressors.

290 There are no previous data on the rate of smoldering multiple myeloma development on the pathway to  
291 multiple myeloma. Here, using serum markers prior to formal diagnosis of multiple myeloma, we found  
292 that only 21% of the MGUS progressors fulfilled the blood-based criteria for smoldering multiple  
293 myeloma<sup>18</sup> and 14% fulfilled the criteria for multiple myeloma.<sup>19</sup> Of the light-chain MGUS progressors,  
294 60% fulfilled the blood-based criteria for light-chain multiple myeloma prior to formal diagnosis.<sup>19</sup>  
295 These blood-based criteria were detectable up to 5 years prior to formal diagnosis of both multiple  
296 myeloma and light-chain multiple myeloma. However, we did not have access to bone marrow biopsy  
297 results, so we could not evaluate data on plasma cell percentage.

298 The biology of multiple myeloma is complex, and DNA sequencing studies show that the mutational  
299 landscape is already altered in earlier stages of the disease process.<sup>21</sup> Although there are only limited  
300 data available, it has been proposed that the host biology plays a role in the regulation of stable  
301 precursor disease versus progression.<sup>7,9,22</sup> In our cross-sectional analysis, immunosuppression (one or  
302 more suppressed uninvolved immunoglobulins) was found in 58% of MGUS progressors compared to  
303 20% of MGUS non-progressors. In the light-chain MGUS subjects, immunosuppression was found in  
304 54% and 12% of progressors and non-progressors, respectively. In MGUS and light-chain MGUS  
305 subjects, those with severe immunosuppression (two or more suppressed uninvolved immunoglobulins)  
306 had a significantly elevated risk of progression (progressors versus non-progressors: 29% versus 3%;  
307 and 18% versus 2%, respectively). Future studies should investigate biological interactions between  
308 non-tumor and tumor cells in relation to progression.

309 In summary, our data show that individuals with low-risk or intermediate-risk MGUS can convert to  
310 high-risk MGUS and progress to multiple myeloma within 5 years; the same is true for light-chain  
311 MGUS. Our results are clinically relevant and support annual blood tests for all individuals diagnosed  
312 with MGUS or light-chain MGUS.

313

314

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327 clinical trials lead by Takeda, Merck, Janssen, Theradex.

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387 **Table 1. Serum protein markers associated with progression: cross-sectional analysis**

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	Non-progressing MGUS (n = 281)		Progressing MGUS to multiple myeloma (n = 159)		Non-progressing light-chain MGUS (n = 217)		Progressing light-chain MGUS to light-chain multiple myeloma (n = 28)	
	Control	Case	OR <sub>UA</sub> (95% CI)	OR <sub>A</sub> <sup>a</sup> (95% CI)	Control	Case	OR <sub>UA</sub> (95% CI)	OR <sub>A</sub> <sup>a</sup> (95% CI)
<b>Immunoglobulin isotype</b>					N/A			
IgG	216 (77%)	109 (69%)	Ref	Ref				
IgA	47 (17%)	45 (28%)	<b>1.90 (1.19-3.03)</b>	<b>1.80 (1.03-3.13)</b>				
Biclonal	18 (6%)	5 (3%)	0.55 (0.20-1.52)	0.49 (0.15-1.61)				
<b>M-spike concentration</b>					N/A			
<15 g/L	178 (96%)	88 (58%)	Ref	Ref				
≥15 g/L	8 (4%)	62 (41%)	<b>15.68 (7.19-34.17)</b>	<b>23.50 (8.93-61.86)</b>				
<b>FLC ratio</b>								
0.26 to 1.65	185 (66%)	37 (23%)	Ref	Ref				
0.1 to 0.26 or >1.65 to 10	86 (31%)	57 (36%)	<b>3.31 (2.04-5.39)</b>	<b>3.45 (1.93-6.16)</b>	205 (94%) <sup>c</sup>	7 (25%) <sup>c</sup>	Ref <sup>c</sup>	Ref <sup>c</sup>
<0.1 to >10	10 (4%)	65 (41%)	<b>32.5 (153-69.0)</b>	<b>46.4 (18.4-117)</b>	12 (6%)	21 (75%)	<b>51.3 (18.2-144)</b>	<b>44.0 (14.2-136)</b>
<b>Immunoparesis<sup>b</sup></b>								
0	211 (80%)	64 (42%)	Ref	Ref	190 (88%)	13 (46%)	Ref	Ref
1	45 (17%)	45 (29%)	<b>3.30 (2.00-5.43)</b>	<b>3.01 (1.66-5.47)</b>	22 (10%)	5 (18%)	<b>3.32 (1.08-10.2)</b>	<b>3.98 (1.07-14.8)</b>
2	7 (3%)	45 (29%)	<b>21.2 (9.11-49.3)</b>	<b>19.1 (7.52-48.3)</b>	5 (2%)	10 (36%)	<b>23.2 (8.70-98.2)</b>	<b>48.6 (9.55-248)</b>

389

390 Laboratory tests: All assays were conducted at The Binding Site (Birmingham, UK). Serum protein electrophoresis (SPEP) and immunofixation  
391 electrophoresis (IFE) were performed on agarose gel (Hydrasys and Hydragel; Sebia, Norcross, GA). Levels of serum free light chains (sFLCs)  
392 were determined in all study samples using Freelite assays, and serum light-chains within each immunoglobulin class (i.e., IgGκ, IgGλ, IgAκ,  
393 IgAλ, IgMκ, and IgMλ) were measured using Hevylite assays; these assays were performed on a SPAPLUS turbidimeter.

394

395 Data are given as No. (%) unless otherwise noted. Abbreviations: MGUS, monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance; M-spike,  
396 monoclonal spike; NA, no association; OR<sub>A</sub>, odds ratio adjusted; OR<sub>UA</sub>, odds ratio unadjusted; sFLC, serum free light chain (kappa/lambda).  
397 <sup>a</sup>Odds ratios and 95% CIs are adjusted for sex, age at most proximal blood draw (continuous), race (non-Hispanic White, non-Hispanic Black, and  
398 others [Hispanic, Asian, and Pacific Islanders]), calendar year of most proximal blood draw (1995-1998, 1999-2002, 2003-2006), and study center  
399 (coded as Upper Midwest [Wisconsin and Minnesota], West/South [Colorado, Hawaii, Missouri, Utah, and Alabama] and East [Georgetown,  
400 Detroit, and Pittsburgh]).  
401 <sup>b</sup>Immunoparesis is the number of uninvolved immunoglobulins (IgG, IgA, or IgM) below lower level of normal. Models for light-chain secreting  
402 multiple myeloma and light-chain MGUS cases were not adjusted for race owing to small numbers of non-white light-chain multiple myeloma  
403 cases. Analysis was performed in SAS version 9.4.  
404 <sup>c</sup>FLC ratio = 0.1 to 10, no exclusion.  
405 <sup>d</sup>Immunoparesis = 2-3.

**Table 2. Adverse markers for progression and definitions of high-risk, intermediate-risk, and low-risk status for MGUS and light-chain MGUS, respectively**

**MGUS**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Adverse marker</b>	<b>Points</b>
M-spike isotype	IgA	1
M-spike concentration	≥15 g/L	1
sFLC ratio (kappa/lambda)	<0.1 or >10	1
Immunoparesis	Uninvolved immunoglobulins below lower level of normal	1 or 2

<b>MGUS risk-category, for progression to multiple myeloma</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
Low-risk MGUS	0 to 1
Intermediate-risk MGUS	2
High-risk MGUS	3 or higher

**Light-chain MGUS**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Adverse marker</b>	<b>Points</b>
sFLC ratio (kappa/lambda)	<0.1 or >10	1
Immunoparesis	Uninvolved immunoglobulins below lower level of normal	1, 2 or 3

<b>Light-chain MGUS risk-category, for progression to light-chain multiple myeloma</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
Low-risk light-chain MGUS	0 to 1
Intermediate-risk light-chain MGUS	2
High-risk light-chain MGUS	3 or higher

Abbreviations: MGUS, monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance; M-spike, monoclonal spike; sFLC, serum free light chain.

442 **FIGURE LEGENDS:**443 **Figure 1. Study design and selection of cases and controls**

444 <sup>a</sup> A case-control study was undertaken within the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian (NCI-PLCO)  
 445 Cancer Screening Trial study population, which has previously been described in detail (see Methods  
 446 section).

447 <sup>b</sup> Of the 208 multiple myeloma subjects diagnosed during follow-up who had one or more stored pre-  
 448 diagnostic serum samples, we identified 159 with non-IgM MGUS and 28 with light-chain MGUS prior  
 449 to diagnosis (the multiple myeloma and light-chain multiple myeloma case groups, respectively). Of the  
 450 208, 21 had their last serial blood draw conducted up to 9 years (median: 7 years) prior to multiple  
 451 myeloma diagnosis; there was no M-spike or abnormal sFLC patterns detectable in those samples, and  
 452 these subjects were excluded. Among the 5916 subjects never diagnosed with multiple myeloma or  
 453 another hematologic malignancy, we identified 281 with non-IgM MGUS and 217 with light-chain  
 454 MGUS. Thus, our final sample for pre-planned cross-sectional analyses included 159 multiple myeloma  
 455 cases, 28 light-chain multiple myeloma cases, 281 MGUS subjects, and 217 light-chain MGUS subjects.  
 456

457 <sup>c</sup> For these longitudinal analyses, we selected multiple myeloma cases and controls with MGUS that did  
 458 not progress and matched them in a 1:1 control-to-case ratio on the basis of age ( $\pm 6$  years), sex, and  
 459 race. For each case, we identified the sample most proximal to multiple myeloma diagnosis and matched  
 460 a control of similar age as the case at the blood draw most proximal to cohort exit. Then we assigned  
 461 the age of multiple myeloma diagnosis of the case as age of selection for the control. Matched controls  
 462 had to be free of multiple myeloma as of the time of the diagnosis of their corresponding case. For three  
 463 cases no match could be identified, resulting in 159 multiple myeloma cases and 156 matched controls.  
 464 Using the same matching criteria, for each light-chain multiple myeloma case we selected two controls  
 465 with light-chain MGUS that did not progress (28 cases, 56 matched controls).

466 <sup>d</sup> For these longitudinal analyses, we required available stored pre-diagnostic serum samples and at least  
 467 one serum sample within 2 years of diagnosis; because our study was designed to study patterns of  
 468 serum markers, the subjects were required to have at least a 3-year period with serial samples. For the  
 469 subjects with MGUS or light-chain MGUS without progression to multiple myeloma or light-chain  
 470 multiple myeloma, to make sure they were non-progressing during the collection of serum samples, we  
 471 required at least 8 years of follow-up without a diagnosis of multiple myeloma or light-chain multiple  
 472 myeloma. Also, since we focused on patterns of serum markers, subjects with MGUS or light-chain  
 473 MGUS without progression were required to have at least a 3-year period with serial samples. Our final  
 474 selection for these analyses included 43 multiple myeloma cases, 10 light-chain multiple myeloma  
 475 cases, 108 MGUS subjects, and 120 light-chain MGUS subjects, respectively.

476

477 **Table 2. Adverse markers for progression and definitions of high-risk, intermediate-risk, and low-**  
 478 **risk status for MGUS and light-chain MGUS, respectively**

479

480 Abbreviations: MGUS, monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance; M-spike, monoclonal  
 481 spike; sFLC, serum free light chain.

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485 **Figure 2, Panels A and B. Progression from MGUS to multiple myeloma, average M-spike**  
486 **concentration over time**

487

488 **Figure 2, Panels C and D. Progression from light-chain MGUS to light-chain multiple myeloma,**  
489 **average involved sFLC concentration over time**

490

491 **Figure 3, Panel A. Progression from MGUS to multiple myeloma: longitudinal analysis of risk**  
492 **scores among selected progressors and selected non-progressors**

493 Footnote: Based on the risk-score presented in Table 2, we used the score to assess and label individual  
494 blood samples as follows: score 0 to 1 = low-risk MGUS (green); score 2 = intermediate-risk MGUS  
495 (yellow); score 3 or higher = high-risk MGUS (red). Each series of boxes represents a unique patient;  
496 each box represents a unique blood sample; and the X-axis represents number of years prior to multiple  
497 myeloma diagnosis (for cases) and number of years prior to selection (for controls). Each box includes a  
498 number that represents the risk score. \*Fulfilled the blood-based criteria for smoldering multiple  
499 myeloma (i.e., M-spike concentration  $\geq 30$  g/L); and \*\* fulfilled the blood-based criteria for multiple  
500 myeloma (i.e., sFLC ratio  $\geq 100$  and involved sFLC concentration  $\geq 10$  mg/dL).

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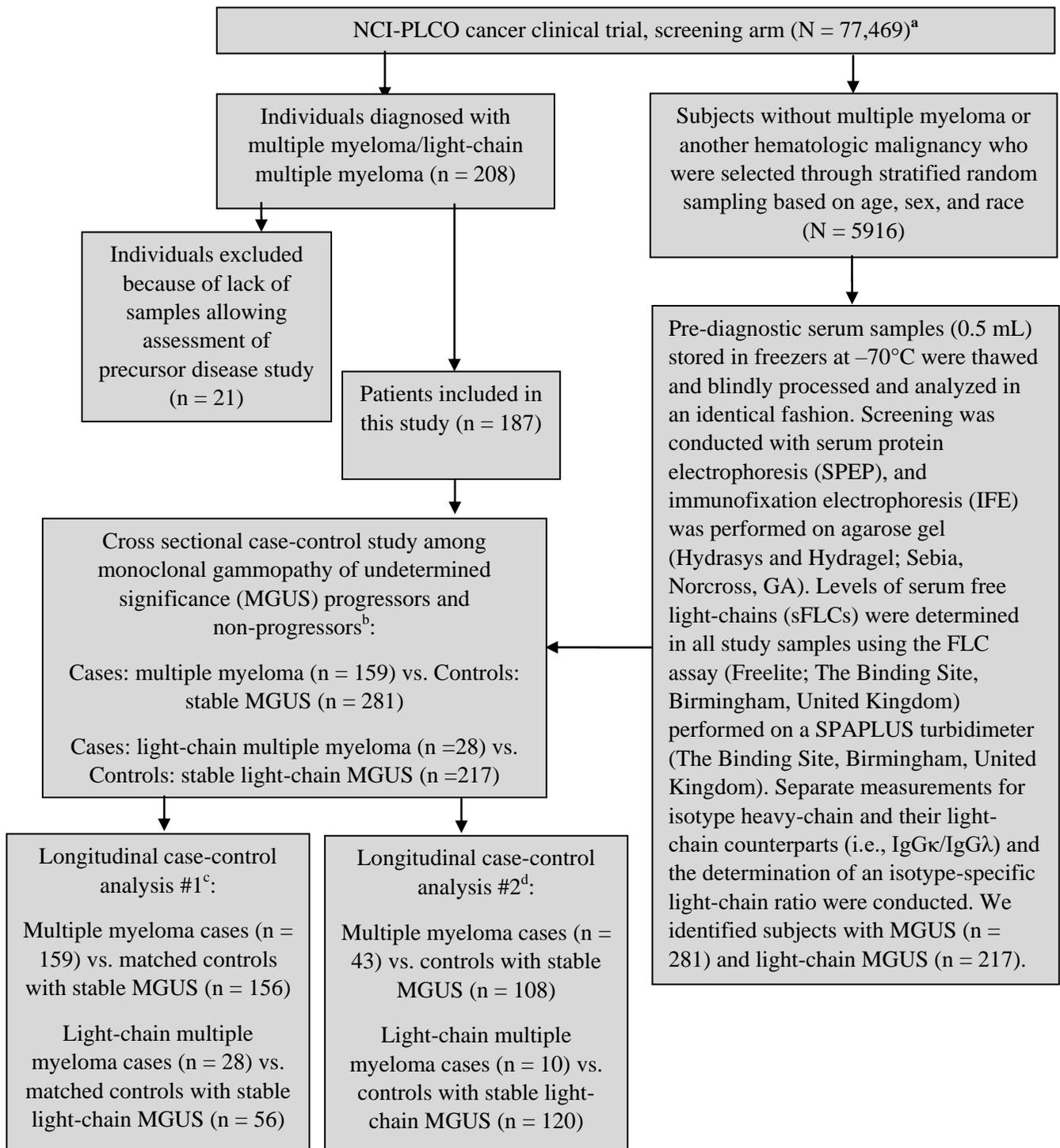
502 **Figure 3, Panel B. Progression from light-chain MGUS to light-chain multiple myeloma:**  
503 **longitudinal analysis of risk among progressors and non-progressors**

504 Footnote: Based on the risk-score presented in Table 2, we used the score to assess and label individual  
505 blood samples as follows: score 0 to 1 = low-risk MGUS (green); score 2 = intermediate-risk MGUS  
506 (yellow); score 3 or higher = high-risk MGUS (red). Each series of boxes represents a unique patient;  
507 each box represents a unique blood sample; and the X-axis represents number of years prior to multiple  
508 myeloma diagnosis (for cases) and number of years prior to selection (for controls). Each box includes a  
509 number that represents the risk score. \*\* Fulfilled the blood-based criteria for multiple myeloma (i.e.,  
510 sFLC ratio of  $\geq 100$  and involved sFLC concentration of  $\geq 10$  mg/dL).

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**Figure 1. Study design and selection of cases and controls**

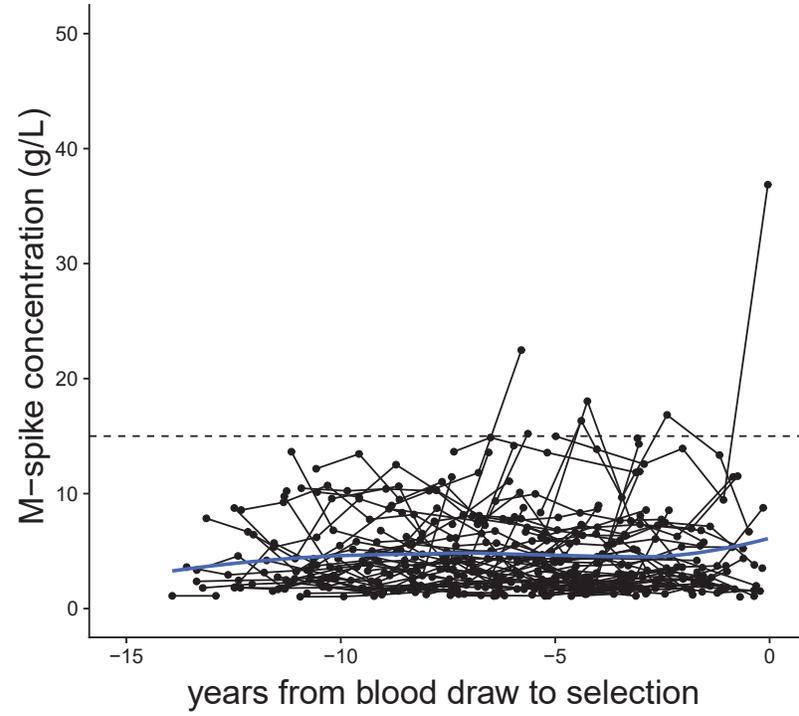
<sup>a</sup> A case-control study was undertaken within the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian (NCI-PLCO) Cancer Screening Trial study population, which has previously been described in detail (see Methods section).

<sup>b</sup> Of the 208 multiple myeloma subjects diagnosed during follow-up who had one or more stored pre-diagnostic serum samples, we identified 159 with non-IgM MGUS and 28 with light-chain MGUS prior to diagnosis (the multiple myeloma and light-chain multiple myeloma case groups, respectively). Of the 208, 21 had their last serial blood draw conducted up to 9 years (median: 7 years) prior to multiple myeloma diagnosis; there was no M-spike or abnormal sFLC patterns detectable in those samples, and these subjects were excluded. Among the 5916 subjects never diagnosed with multiple myeloma or another hematologic malignancy, we identified 281 with non-IgM MGUS and 217 with light-chain MGUS. Thus, our final sample for pre-planned cross-sectional analyses included 159 multiple myeloma cases, 28 light-chain multiple myeloma cases, 281 MGUS subjects, and 217 light-chain MGUS subjects.

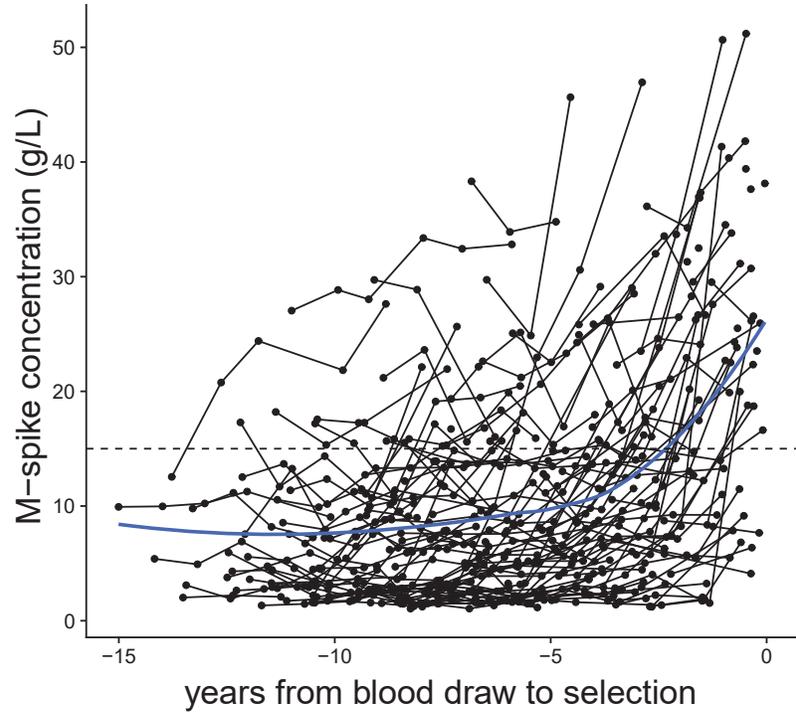
<sup>c</sup> For these longitudinal analyses, we selected multiple myeloma cases and controls with MGUS that did not progress and matched them in a 1:1 control-to-case ratio on the basis of age ( $\pm 6$  years), sex, and race. For each case, we identified the sample most proximal to multiple myeloma diagnosis and matched a control of similar age as the case at the blood draw most proximal to cohort exit. Then we assigned the age of multiple myeloma diagnosis of the case as age of selection for the control. Matched controls had to be free of multiple myeloma as of the time of the diagnosis of their corresponding case. For three cases no match could be identified, resulting in 159 multiple myeloma cases and 156 matched controls. Using the same matching criteria, for each light-chain multiple myeloma case we selected two controls with light-chain MGUS that did not progress (28 cases, 56 matched controls).

<sup>d</sup> For these longitudinal analyses, we required available stored pre-diagnostic serum samples and at least one serum sample within 2 years of diagnosis; because our study was designed to study patterns of serum markers, the subjects were required to have at least a 3-year period with serial samples. For the subjects with MGUS or light-chain MGUS without progression to multiple myeloma or light-chain multiple myeloma, to make sure they were non-progressing during the collection of serum samples, we required at least 8 years of follow-up without a diagnosis of multiple myeloma or light-chain multiple myeloma. Also, since we focused on patterns of serum markers, subjects with MGUS or light-chain MGUS without progression were required to have at least a 3-year period with serial samples. Our final selection for these analyses included 43 multiple myeloma cases, 10 light-chain multiple myeloma cases, 108 MGUS subjects, and 120 light-chain MGUS subjects, respectively.

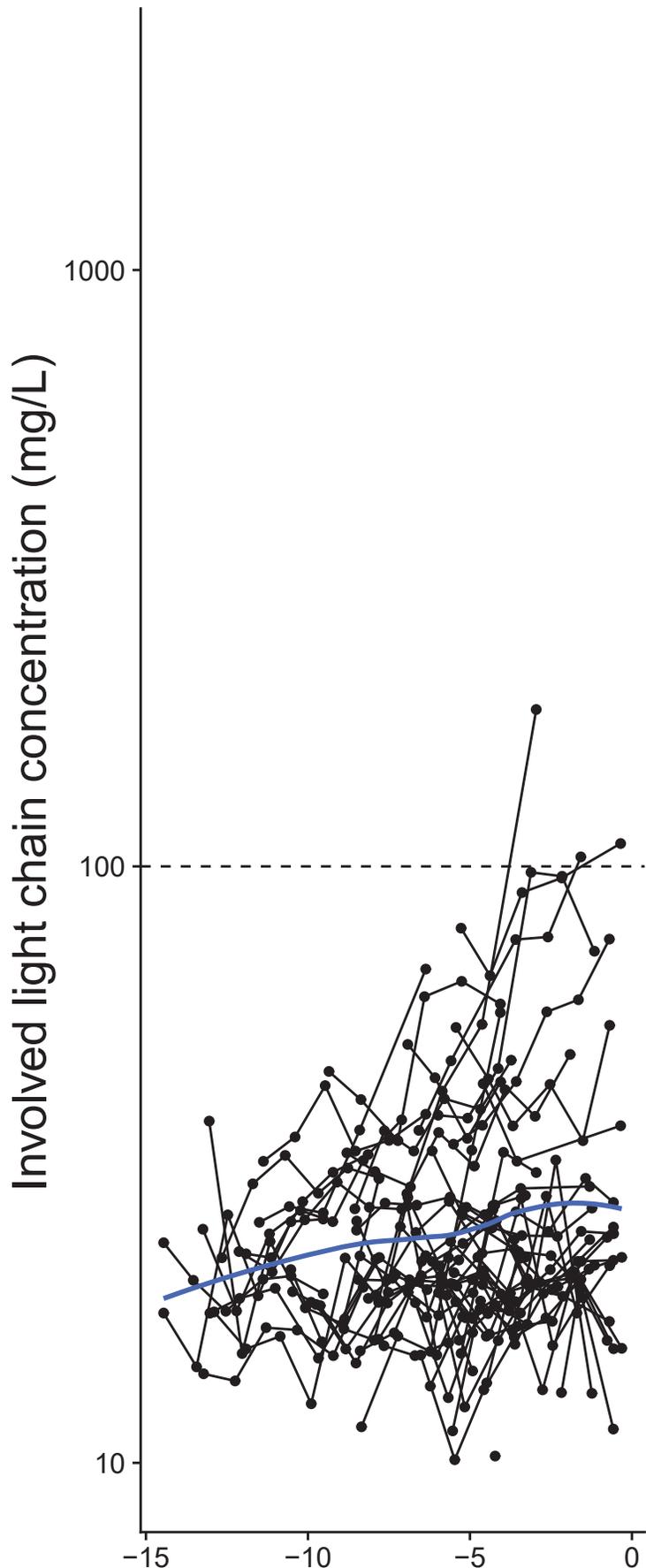
**Non-progressing MGUS**



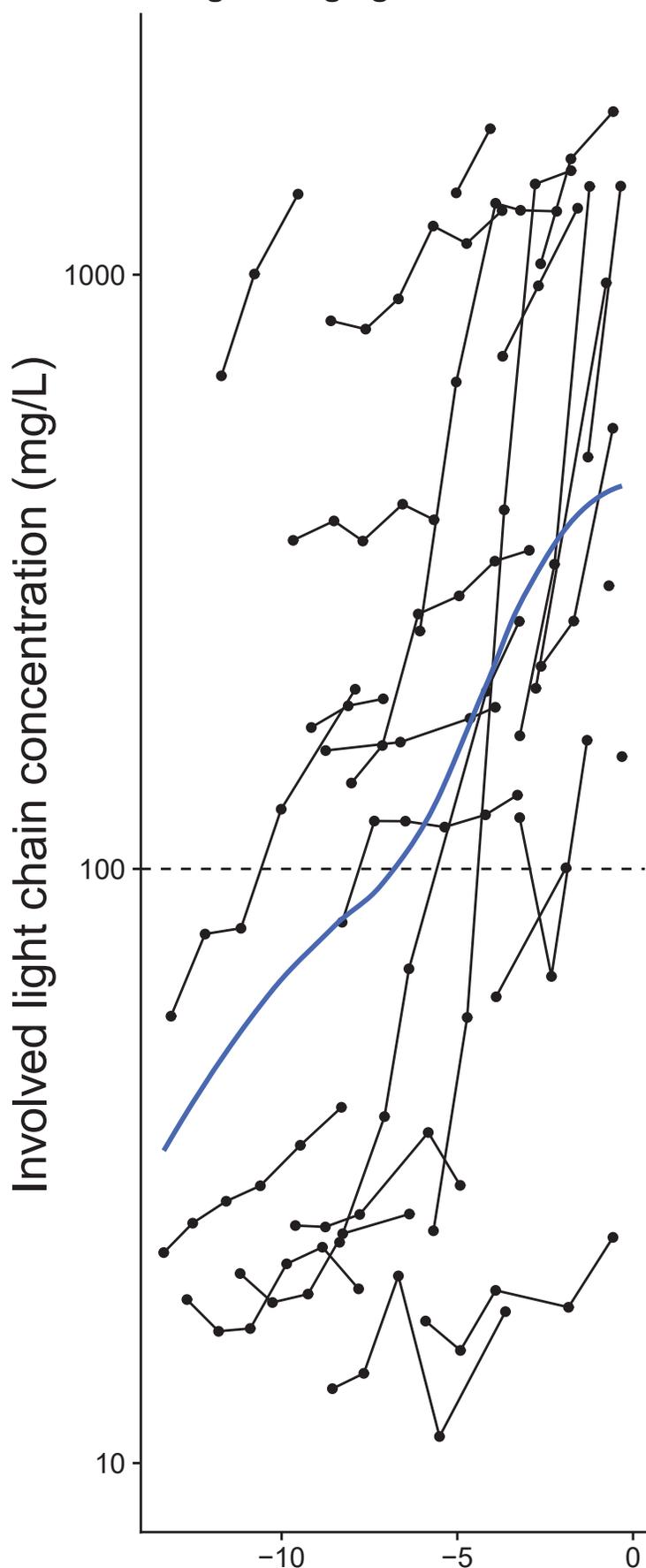
**Progressing MGUS**



LC MGUS



Progressing light-chain MGUS



years from blood draw to selection years from blood draw to selection

