

Maxim Durand^{1,2,3†}, Philippe Lacoste^{4,5†}, Richard Danger^{1,2}, Lola Jacquemont^{1,2}, Carole Brosseau^{1,2}, Eugénie Durand^{1,2}, Gaele Tilly^{1,2}, Jennifer Loy^{4,5}, Aurore Foureau^{4,5}, Pierre-Joseph Royer^{4,5}, Adrien Tissot¹⁻⁵, Antoine Magnan^{4,5,\$}, Sophie Brouard^{1,2,6,\$} & COLT and SysCLAD Consortia*

¹ Centre de Recherche en Transplantation et Immunologie UMR 1064, INSERM, Université de Nantes, Nantes, France.

² Institut de Transplantation Urologie Néphrologie (ITUN), CHU Nantes, Nantes, France.

³ Faculté de Médecine, Université de Nantes, Nantes, France

⁴ Institut du thorax, Inserm UMR 1087, CNRS UMR 6291, Université de Nantes, Nantes, France

⁵ Institut du thorax, CHU de Nantes, Nantes, France

⁶ Centre d'Investigation Clinique (CIC) Biothérapie, CHU Nantes, Nantes, France

* Contact : sophie.brouard@univ-nantes.fr, CRTI, ITUN INSERM 1064, 30 Boulevard Jean Monnet, Nantes, France

www.itun.nantes.inserm.fr

Context

Chronic Bronchiolitis Obliterans Syndrome (BOS) remains a major limitation for long-term survival after lung transplantation. The immune mechanisms involved and predictive biomarkers have still to be identified.

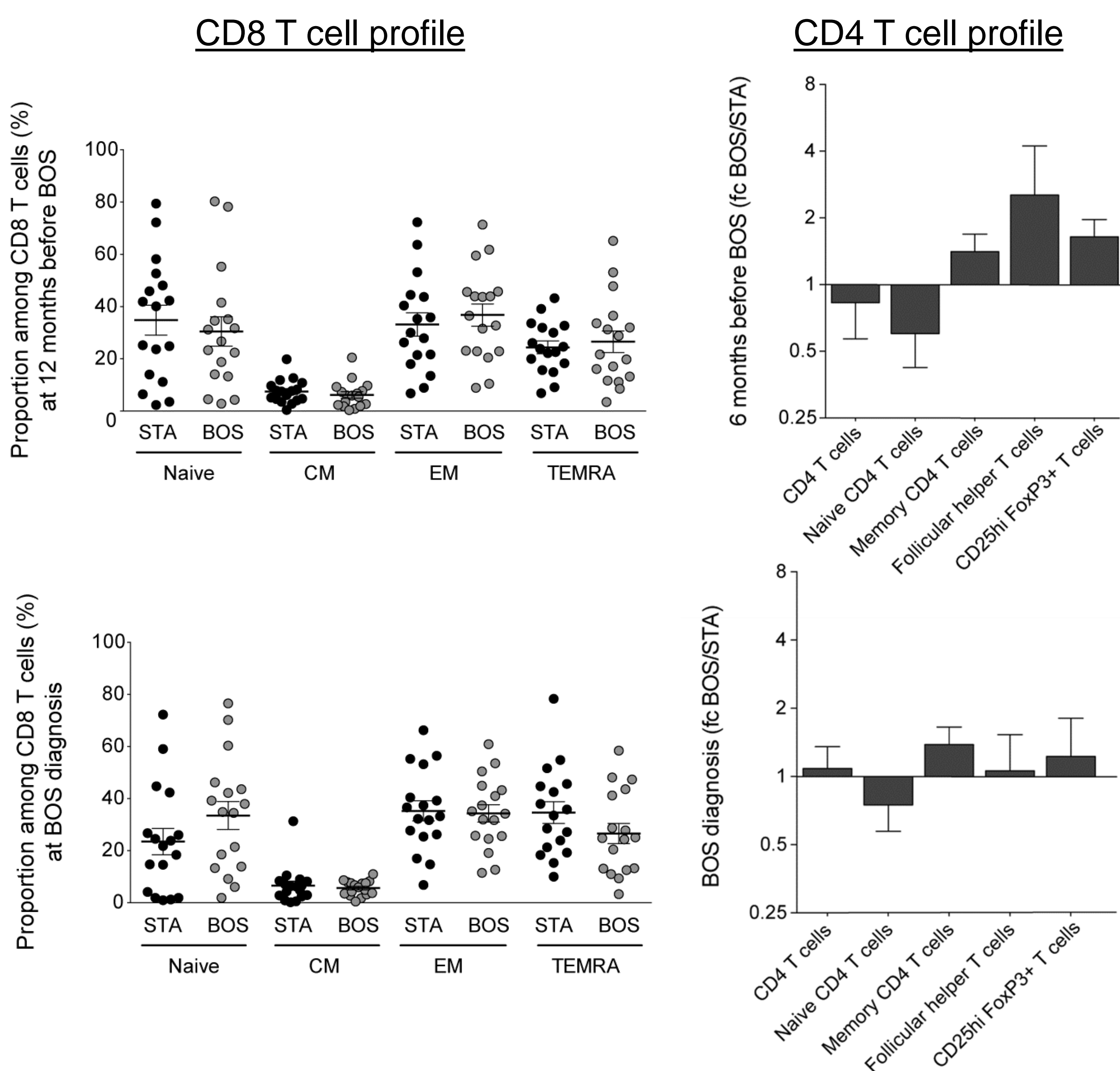
The purpose of this study was to assess whether the peripheral blood T-lymphocyte profile could predict BOS in lung transplant recipients.

Material

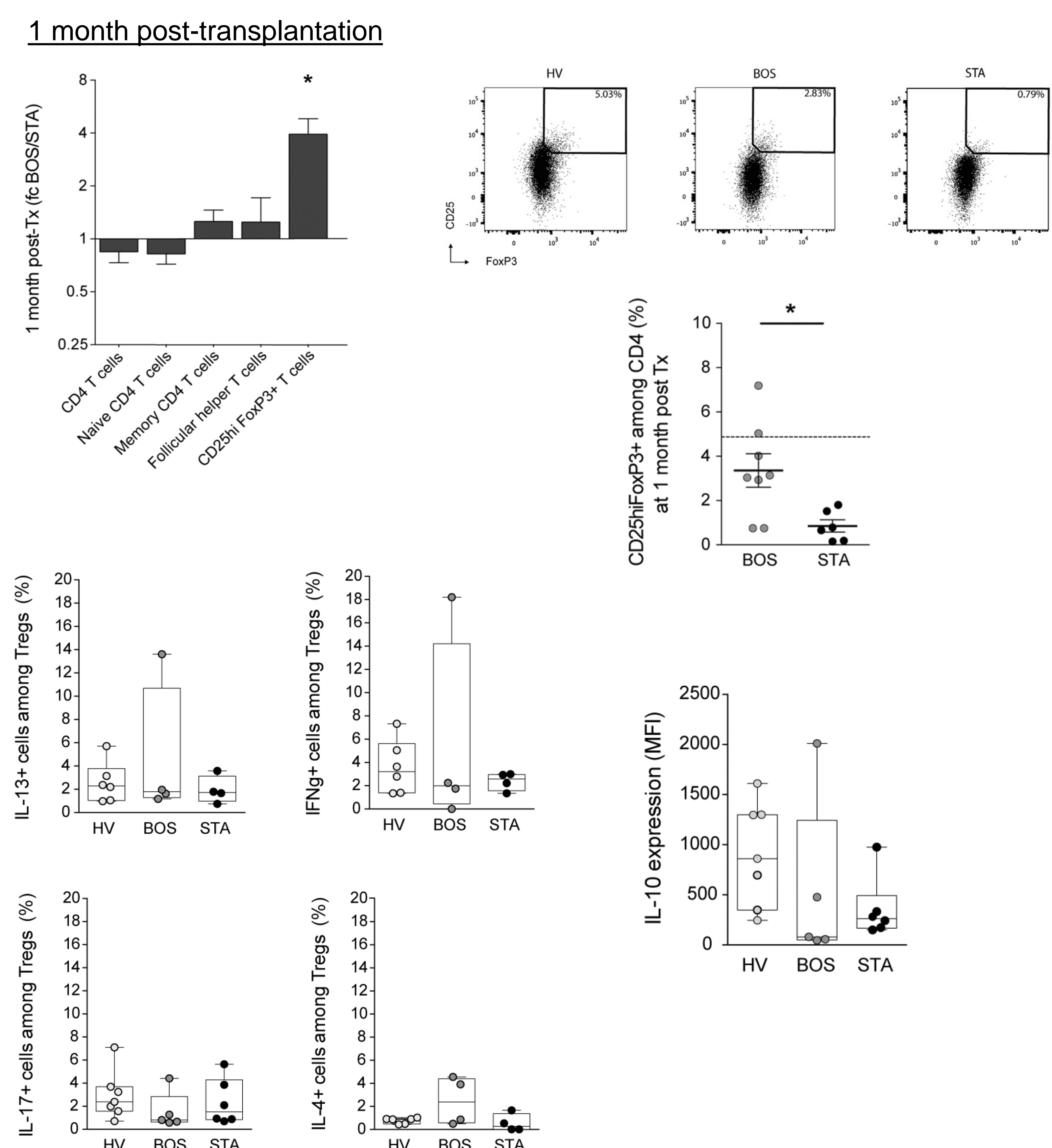
An in-depth profiling of CD4 and CD8 T cells was prospectively performed on blood cells from stable and BOS patients from the COLT cohort with a longitudinal follow-up. Samples were analyzed at 1 and 6 months after transplantation, at the time of BOS diagnosis, and at an intermediate time point at 6 to 12 months before BOS diagnosis.

Results

No difference in the CD4 and CD8 T cells profile at the BOS diagnosis and months before.

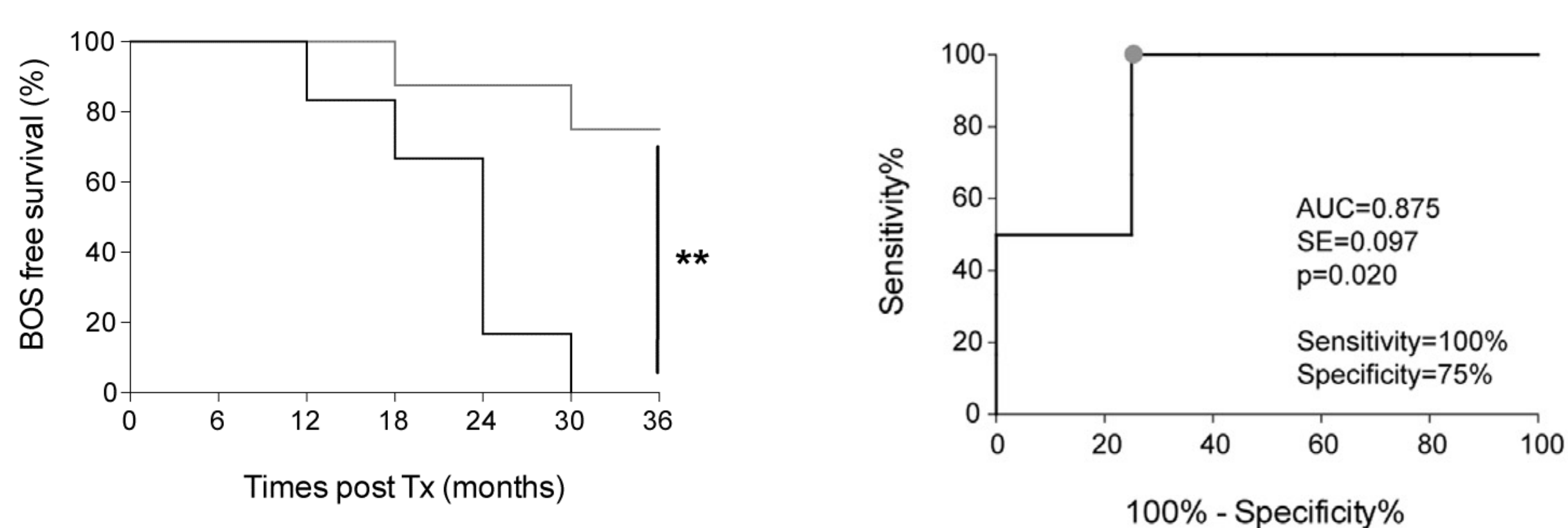


Early modification at 1 month and 6 months post-transplantation of circulating CD4⁺CD25^{hi}FoxP3⁺ T cells proportion in BOS patients.

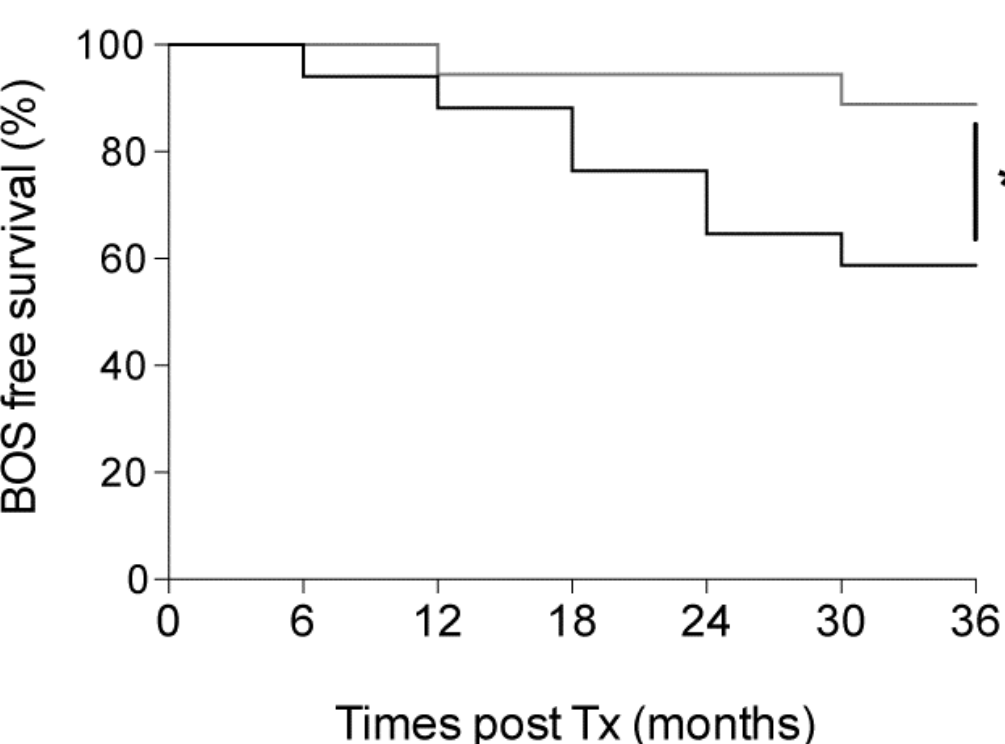


Tregs proportion > 2.4% in the 6 months post-transplantation is an independent risk factor of BOS development

1 month post-transplantation



6 months post-transplantation



Multivariate analysis

Parameters	Wald test p. Value	Hazard ratio
Multivariate Analysis		
CD4+ CD25 ^{hi} FoxP3+ T cells proportion up to 2.4 %	0.0012	0.17
Time post-transplantation	0.016	0.99

Conclusion & long-term prospects

Whereas no significant difference was found for T cell compartments at BOS diagnosis or several months before, we report an increase in the CD4⁺CD25^{hi}FoxP3⁺ T cell subpopulation in BOS patients at 1 and 6 months after transplantation. A CD4⁺CD25^{hi}FoxP3⁺ T cell threshold of 2.4% discriminated BOS and stable patients at 1 month post-transplantation. This was validated on a second set of patients at 6 months post-transplantation. Patients with a proportion of CD4⁺CD25^{hi}FoxP3⁺ T cells up to 2.4% in the 6 months following transplantation had a 2-fold higher risk of developing BOS.

This study is the first to report an increased proportion of circulating CD4⁺CD25^{hi}FoxP3⁺ T cells early post-transplantation in lung recipients who will develop BOS within 3 years, and support for its use as a BOS predictive biomarker.