



Progyny Inc. **Short:** 9-month Price Target of **\$21**

(NASDAQ: PGNV)

(IRR: 64% / 48% downside)

Applied Security Analysis

Georgina Cheng

ychen22@gsb.columbia.edu

Ma Lang

mlang23@gsb.columbia.edu

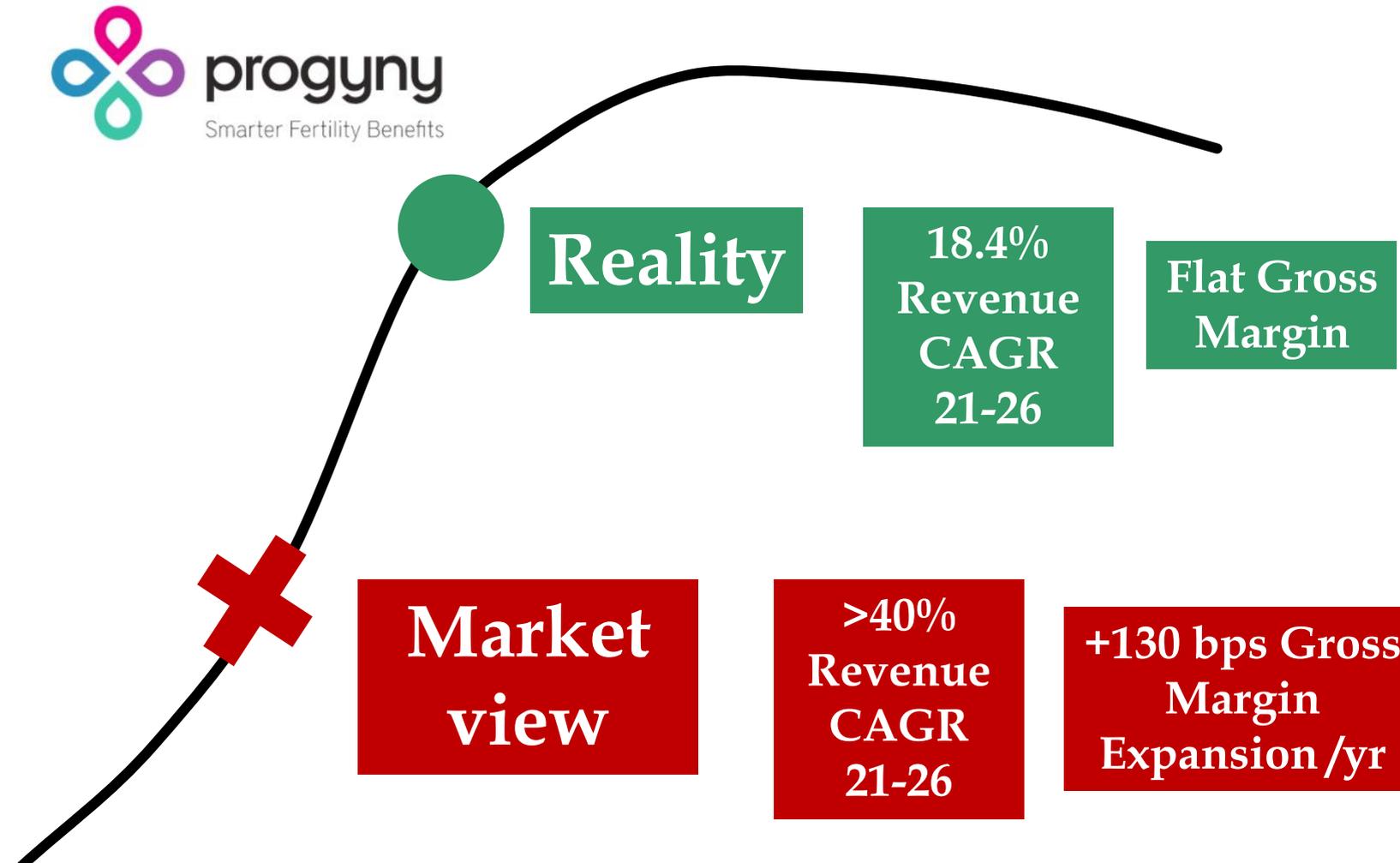
Bohan Xue

bxue23@gsb.columbia.edu



Columbia Business School
AT THE VERY CENTER OF BUSINESS™

Unsustainable growth story: A mediocre business model shoots to the moon

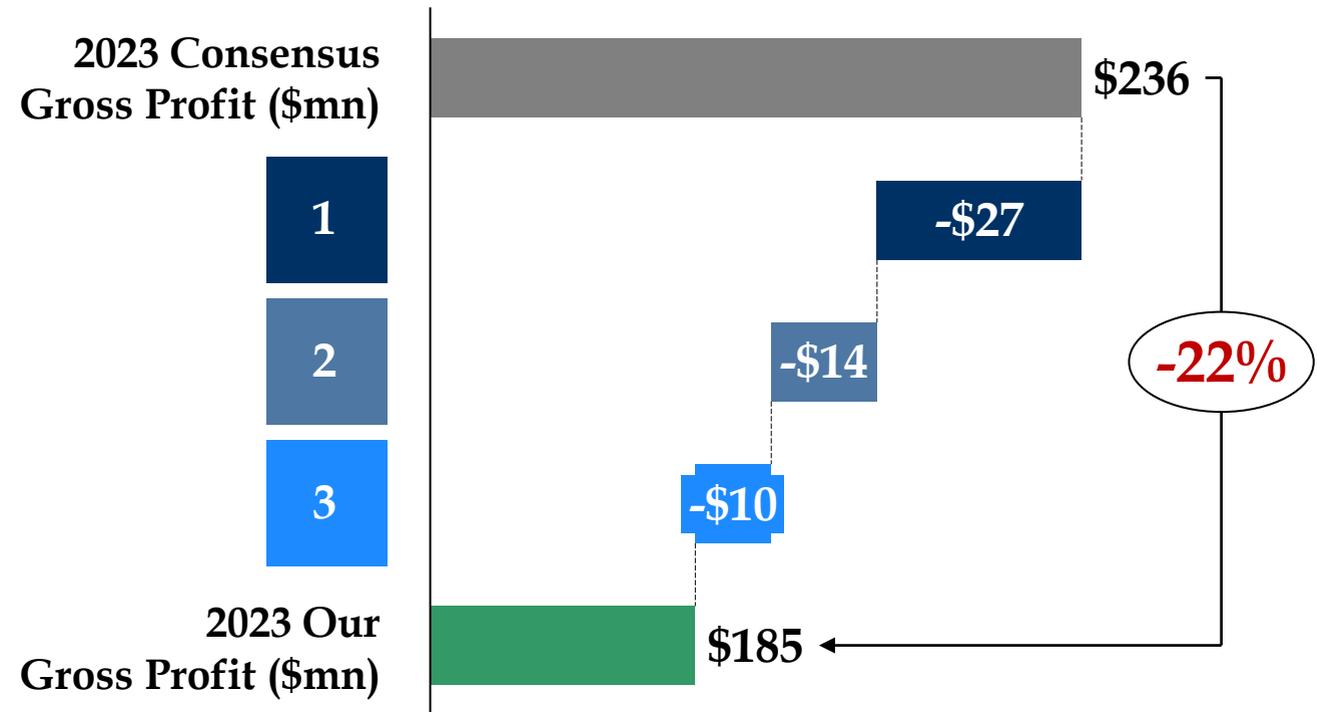


Executive Summary

Key Short Selling Thesis

- 1** New client acquisition deceleration (-12% GP vs market)
- 2** Existing client contribution deterioration (-6% GP vs market)
- 3** Unsustainable gross margin expansion (-4% GP vs market)

2023 Gross Profit Estimate Key Drivers



So what?

Unsustainable growth stock with deterioration of fundamentals
22% miss in 9-month gross profit will trigger 48% melt down in stock price

Market and Financial Data

Current Capitalization (\$ mn, except per share)				
Stock Price (04/26/2022)	\$ 40.2			
Shares Outstanding	91.2			
Market Capitalization	\$ 3,665.8			
Debt	\$ -			
Cash	\$ 91.4			
Enterprise Value	\$ 3,574.4			
Trading Statistics				
Float (num/%)	71 mn/77%			
52 Week L/H	\$32.9 / \$68.3			
Trading Volume	603,843			
Borrow Cost	3 bps/yr			
Short Interest	7.3%			
Financials 2021				
Revenue	\$ 500.6			
Revenue CAGR (17-21)	69.0%			
Gross Profit Margin	22.4%			
Valuation				
	2021A	2022E	2023E	2024E
P/E	66.7x	299.9x	95.2x	48.8x
EV/Gross Profit	34.5x	22.0x	15.2x	9.9x
EV/EBITDA	57.4x	31.9x	31.5x	18.8x
EV/Revenue	7.7x	4.8x	3.4x	2.5x

Shares Ownership

- TPG: 11.0% (PE Sponsor)
- BlackRock: 8.7%
- Macquarie Group: 8.2%
- Kleiner Perkins: 7.1% (VC Sponsor)
- Fred Alger: 5.0%
- ClearBridge: 3.4%
- David Schlanger: 0.1% (Executive Chairman):
- Peter Anevski: 0.5% (CEO)
- Mark Livingston: 0.1% (CFO)



Executives have no skin in the game

Cheap to short

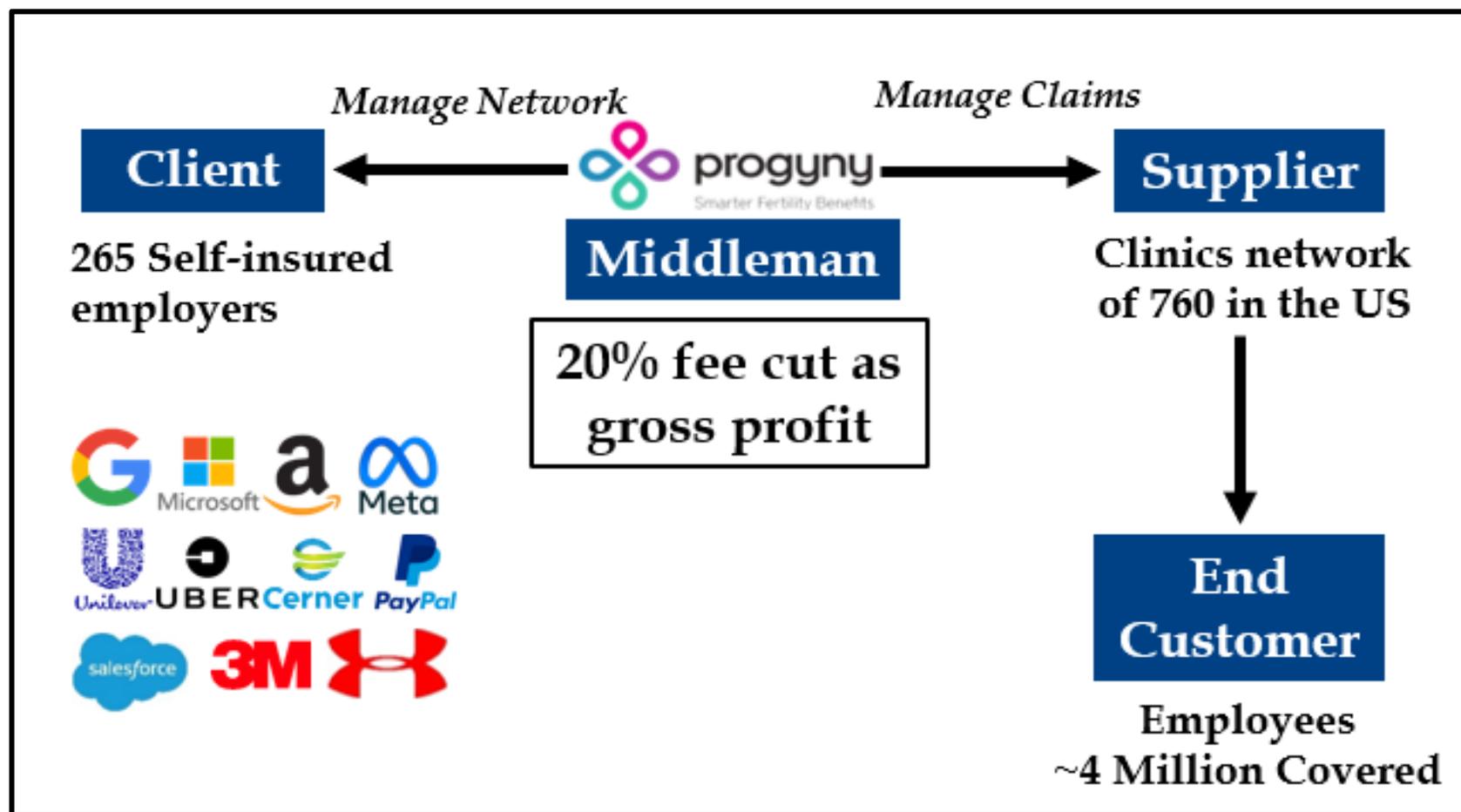
High historical growth
Lower gross margin to reflect middleman nature

Crazy multiples, overhyped growth, about to crash



Business Overview

- PGNY manages clinical network to **provide fertility benefits** for large, self-insured employers, and takes a **20% fee cut**.
- Business took off in 2017, PE/VC backed (went public in 2019), **69% revenue CAGR 2017-2021**, 300x Forward P/E.
- Historical success from offering a **premium service** and took market share from carriers like BCBS, Aetna, etc.



US vs Consensus

Our Differentiate View

Consensus

New client acquisition deceleration

Existing client contribution deterioration

Unsustainable gross margin expansion

18.4% Revenue CAGR 21-26

Flat Gross Margin

- TAM overestimated by 81%
- New entrants took clients (2x PGNYS) with identical products and network
- Suppliers attempt to eliminate PGNYS business model

- 82% still in the 1st contract, will face contract renewal pressure
- Fixed lifetime end client value
- Most lucrative client's revenue will peak in 2023

- Delay in sales commission
- Upselling products approaching max penetration
- Demand > Supply: 6-month clinics backlog deteriorates PGNYS purchasing power

~40% Revenue CAGR 21-26

+130 bps Gross Margin/yr

- ~3% penetration, long runway to growth
- Moat in relationships with clinical networks and high customer satisfaction

- Achieved nearly 100% client retention rate
- Employees use the services repetitively → exponential revenue growth from a client

- Follow the historical trend
- Scale economics
- Accelerating bargaining power over clinics

Key Short Selling Thesis

1

New client acquisition deceleration

TAM overestimated by 80% and narrow moat in an increasingly competitive market

2

Existing client contribution deterioration

due to growth deceleration, top client revenue approaching peak, and contract renewal pressure from lack of switching cost

3

Unsustainable gross margin expansion

due to supply demand asymmetry and limited Rx penetration potential

4

Mismanagement misalignment

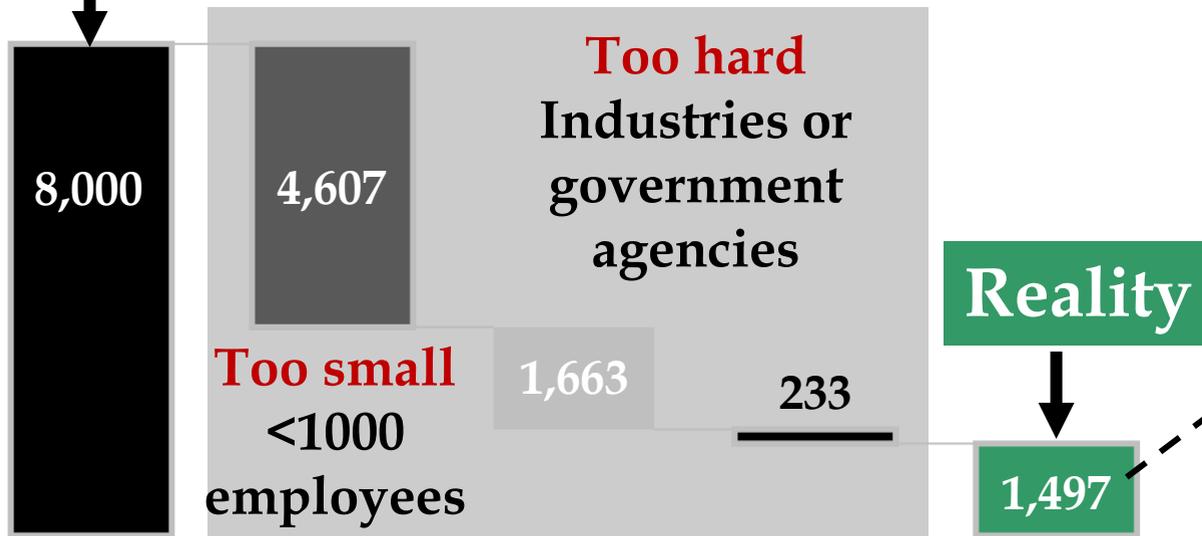
unreasonable bonus structure change, continuous insider selling

1

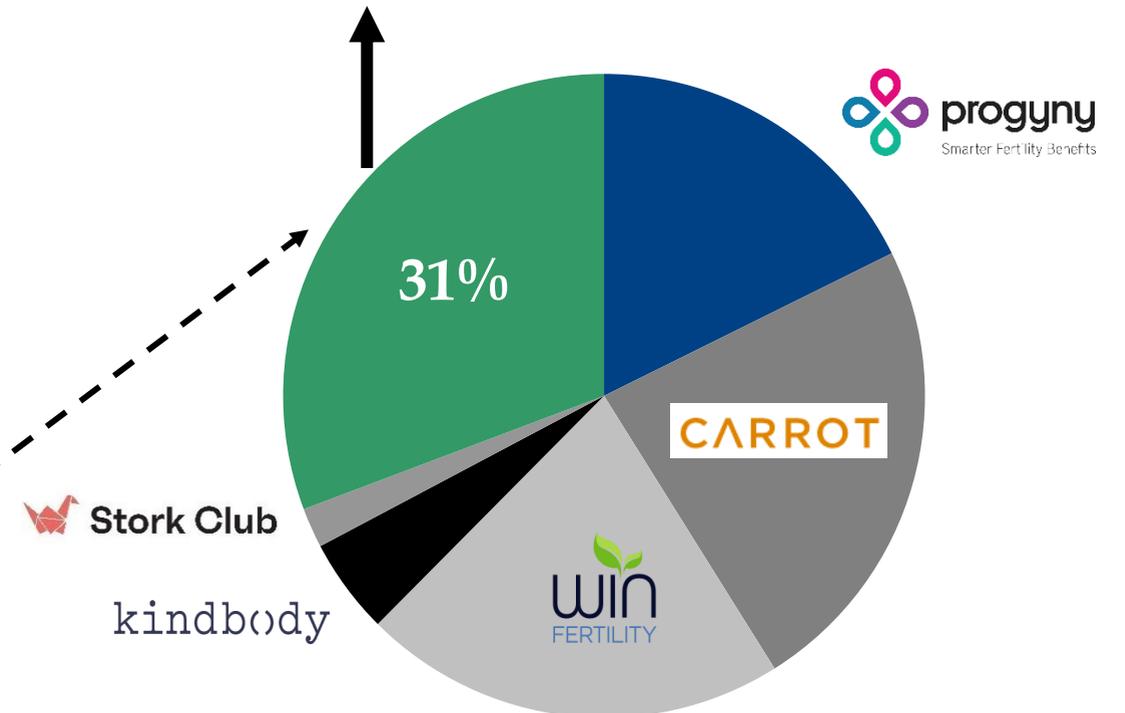
TAM overestimated by 80%: 70% of low hanging fruits have been already captured by PGNY and direct competitors (vs. market's 3% perceived)

80% of 8000 is either too small or too hard to penetrate

Market Perceived



Only 465 easier clients left (<6% of PGNY's claimed TAM)

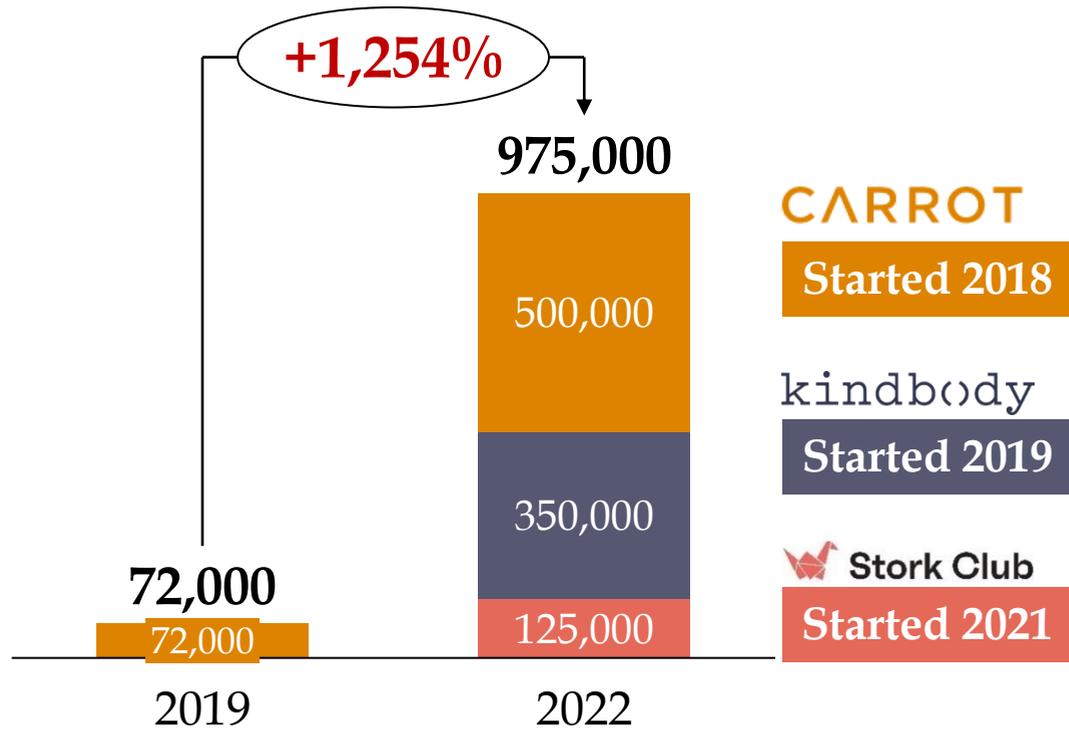


We forecast client acquisition to be flat yoy at 85 clients/year, which translates into ~6% top-line miss vs 2023 consensus

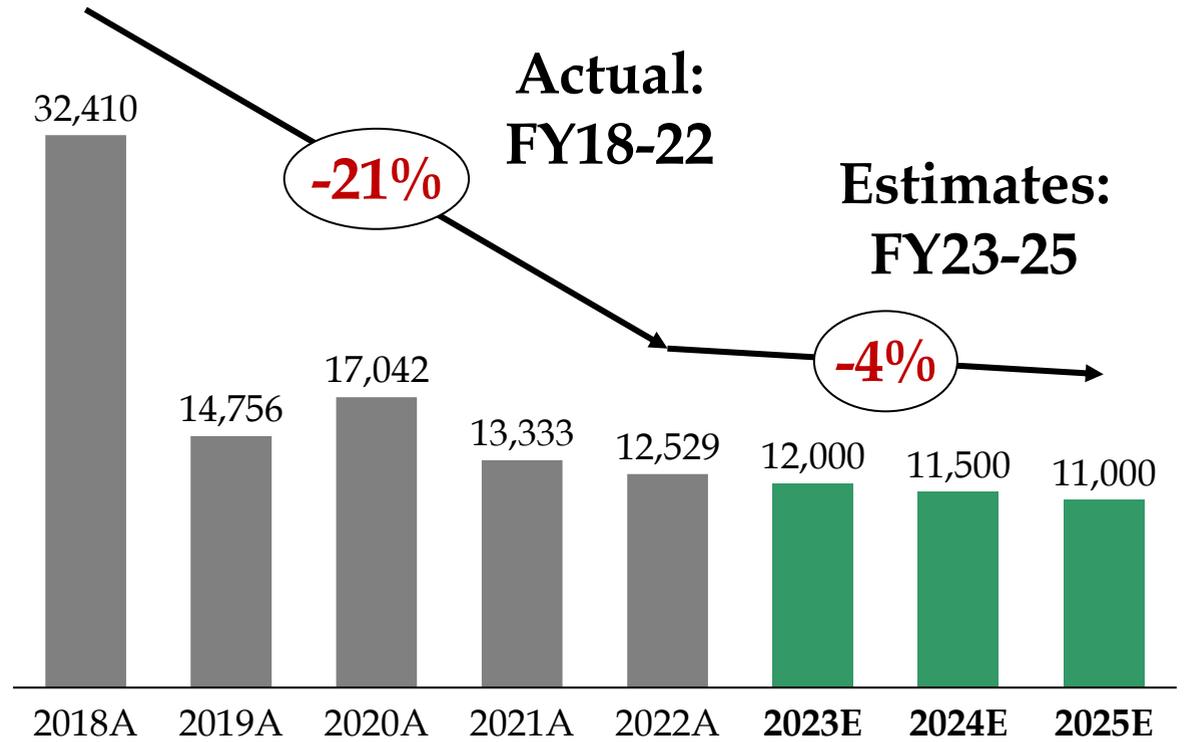
1

PGNY's narrow moat in an increasingly competitive environment results in lower quality client acquisition over time

3 competitors replicated the business and achieved fast growth



Lower scale of clients: 20k decline in incremental client average covered lives



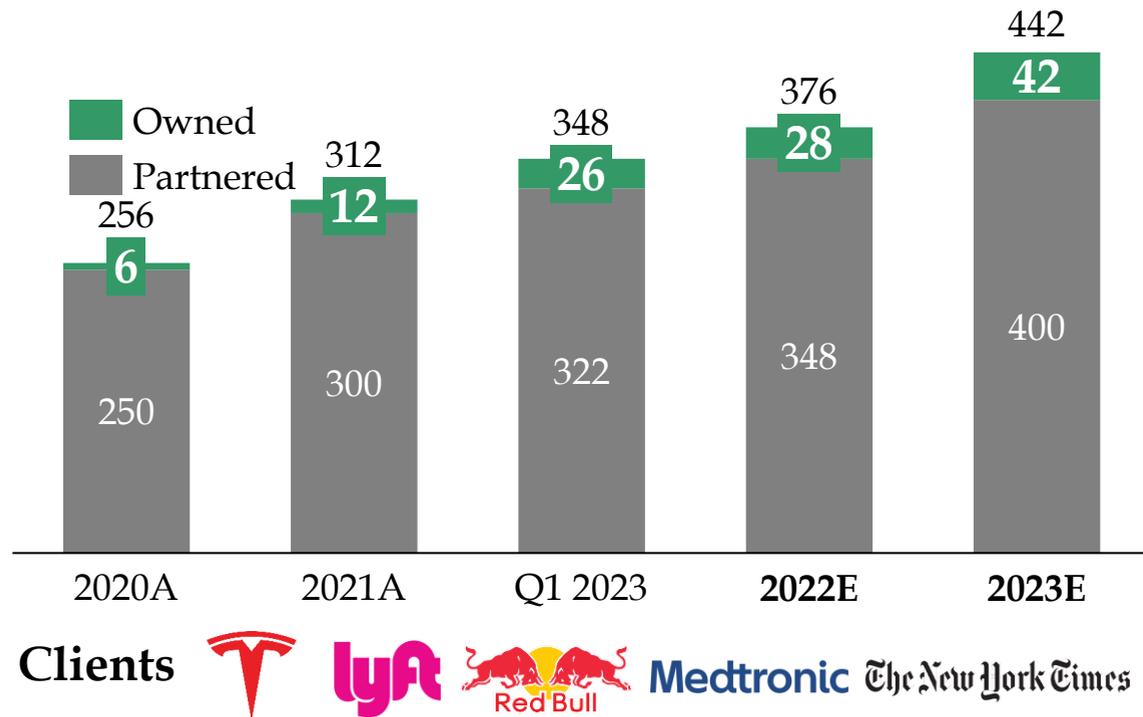
We forecast -4% CAGR 2023-2026 for incremental average covered lives, which translates into 5% top-line miss vs 2023 consensus

Source: Company filings; Director of Sales, Carrot Fertility; CMO, Kindbody; Vios Fertility acquisition materials; Google Trends; Cbinsight; Pitchbook; and team analysis

1

Optimistic Case: Direct-to-customer (DTC) business model (Kindbody) shows potential to eliminate the middleman

Clinics DTC with accessibility, quality and price advantage



50% clinics owned by chains, can imitate Kindbody to wipe PGNY out

Largest: Performed 20+% of nation's IVFs in 2020.

If PGNY is replaced by DTC players, investment returns will exceed our optimistic case forecast.

Key Short Selling Thesis

1

New client acquisition deceleration

TAM overestimated by 80% and narrow moat in an increasingly competitive market

2

Existing client contribution deterioration

due to growth deceleration, top client revenue approaching peak, and contract renewal pressure from lack of switching cost

3

Unsustainable gross margin expansion

due to supply demand asymmetry and limited Rx penetration potential

4

Mismanagement misalignment

unreasonable bonus structure change, continuous insider selling

PGNY's claim of ~100% retention rate is misleading, and lack of switching cost will increase future contract renewal pressure

Of those 180 clients in FY2021



3-year contract

Has option to switch

Switcher

Why?

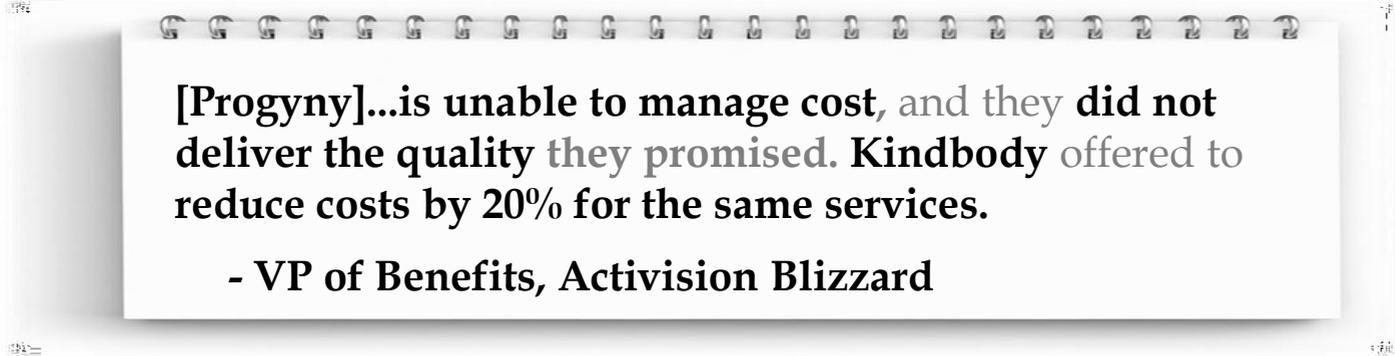
Switching cost?



kindbody

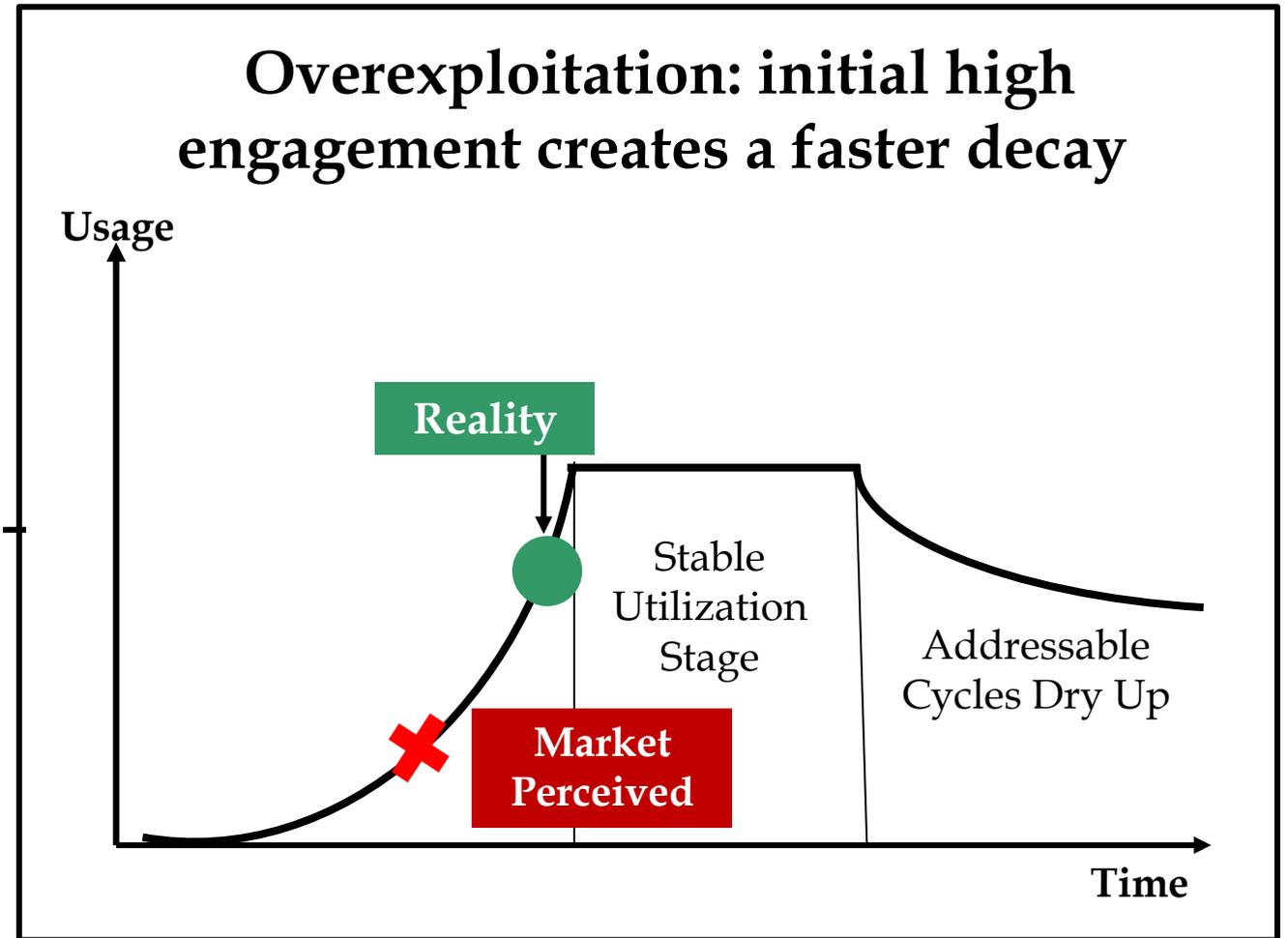
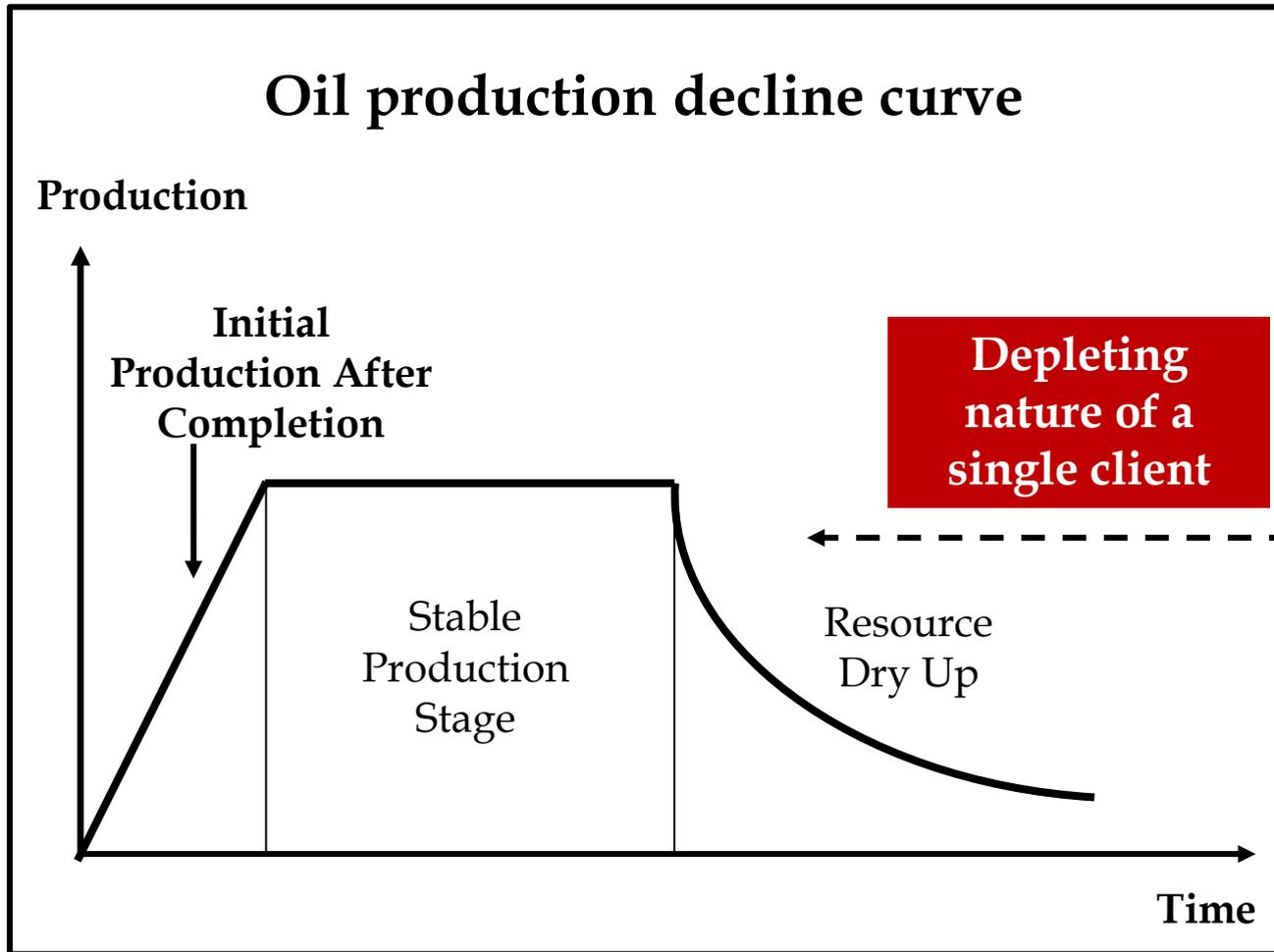
Pricing transparency problems
 Lack of cost control (~10% yoy growth)
 Kindbody owns clinics (better clinical outcome+ experience)

Easy! 3 on a scale of 10
 No retention issues
 No cancellation fees



We forecast a conservative client **churn rate of 6%** 2022-2026

Fertility is a one-time, limited lifetime spending cap benefit, and clients will reach peak utilization and start to see usage decline eventually



Depletable client resources = PGNY must constantly acquire new clients to make up for the decline

Key Short Selling Thesis

1

New client acquisition deceleration

TAM overestimated by 80% and narrow moat in an increasingly competitive market

2

Existing client contribution deterioration

due to growth deceleration, top client revenue approaching peak, and contract renewal pressure from lack of switching cost

3

Unsustainable gross margin expansion

due to supply demand asymmetry and limited Rx penetration potential

4

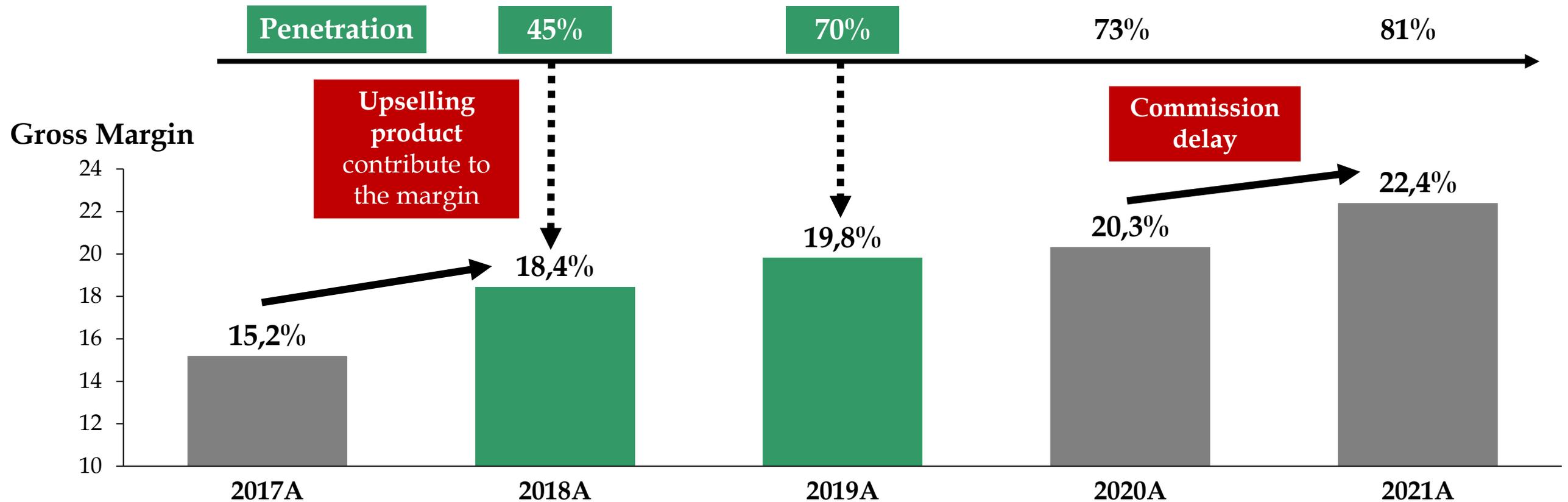
Mismanagement misalignment

unreasonable bonus structure change, continuous insider selling

3

Historical margin expansion is not sustainable: upselling product Rx is at penetration limit and sales commission delay is a one-time boost

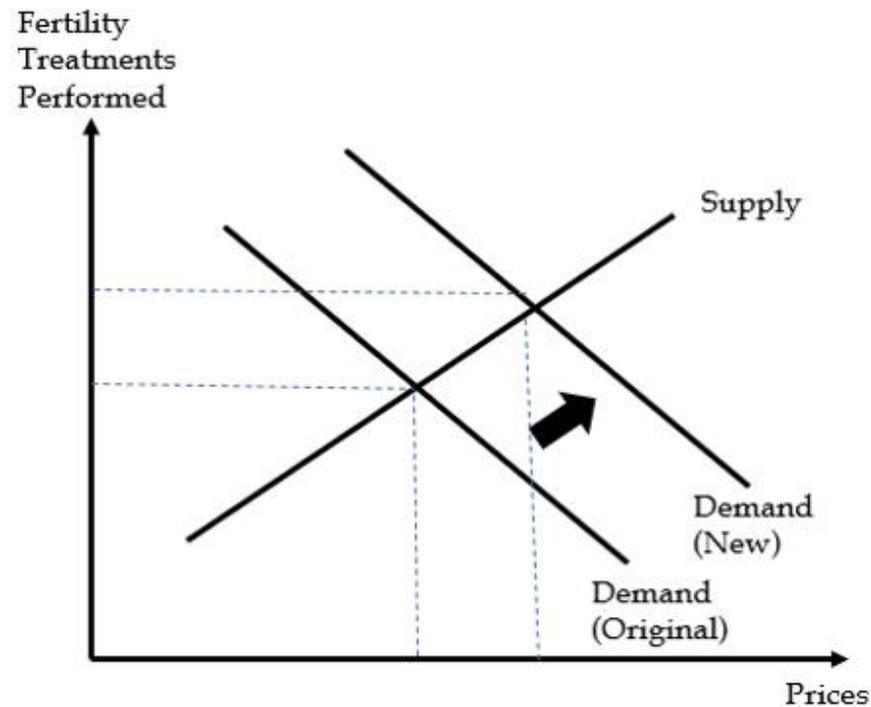
 **progyny Rx** Introduced in Q1 2018, added another \$3,000 - \$5,000 medication reimbursement
by Schraft's[®]



We assume no margin expansion, which translates into **8% decrease** from 2023 consensus gross profit

Due to supply demand asymmetry, PGNY has no pricing power over suppliers and can even get squeezed in the future

High demand growth: 6-month backlog + no supply expansion



PGNY failed to squeeze suppliers in the past and cannot in the future

Industry consolidation will enhance clinics' bargaining power

PGNY failed to erode the high margin of the clinics (non-exclusive contracts)

1 IVF Cycle Revenue Split

20%

29%

15%

35%

We forecast PGNY's **profit cut to stay flat** 2022-2026 to reflect its lack of pricing power

Key Short Selling Thesis

1

New client acquisition deceleration

TAM overestimated by 80% and narrow moat in an increasingly competitive market

2

Existing client contribution deterioration

due to growth deceleration, top client revenue approaching peak, and contract renewal pressure from lack of switching cost

3

Unsustainable gross margin expansion

due to supply demand asymmetry and limited Rx penetration potential

4

Mismanagement misalignment

unreasonable bonus structure change, continuous insider selling

Action speaks louder than words: top insiders are fleeing

Knowing PGNY's issues, executives have changed bonus criteria to ones unrelated to financial performance

2020 Original Bonus Criteria

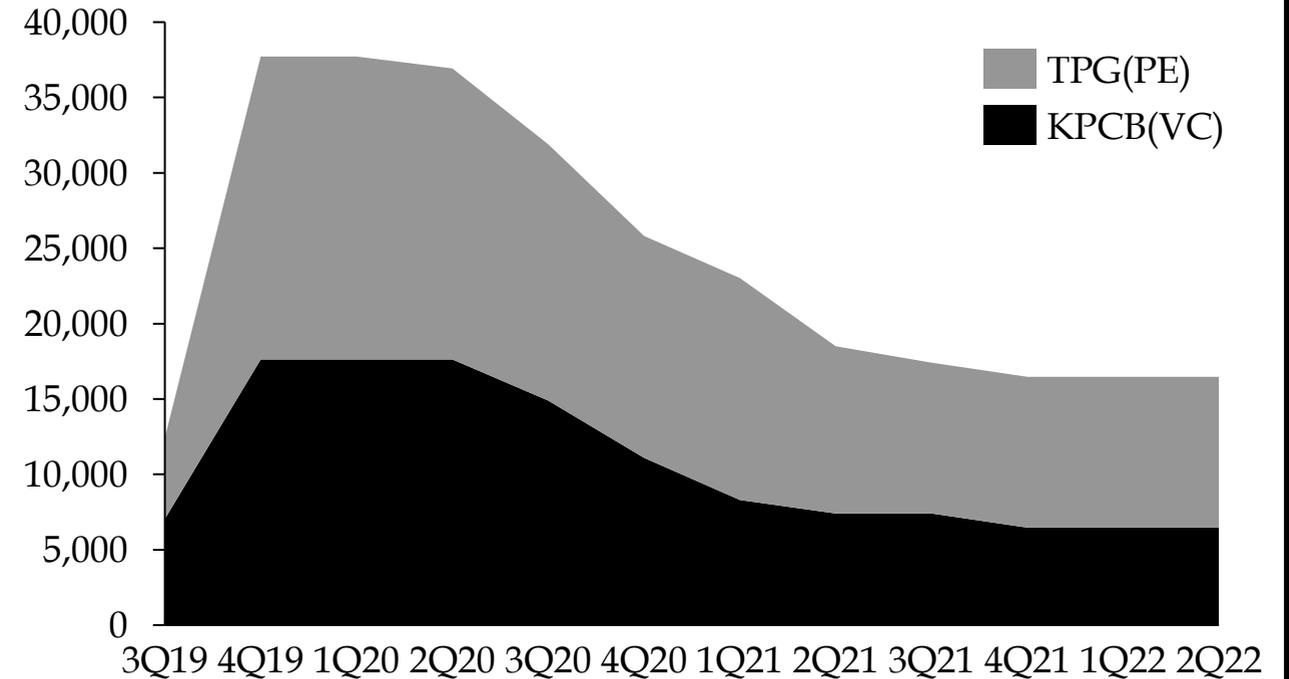
Revenue target:
~\$ 415 Million
EBITDA target:
\$45 Million
Incremental EBITDA margin: 14.5%



2021 New Bonus Criteria

Collaborative culture
Provider relationship management
Client acquisition (regardless of quality)
Clinical outcomes (they don't own clinics)

Key PE/VC holders sold down >50% of holding in 2 years



Top insiders each sold down over 60% of stock ownership in 2 years – we believe their actions demonstrate that they have **no confidence** in the business.

Catalysts to trigger 22% gross profit
miss in 2023

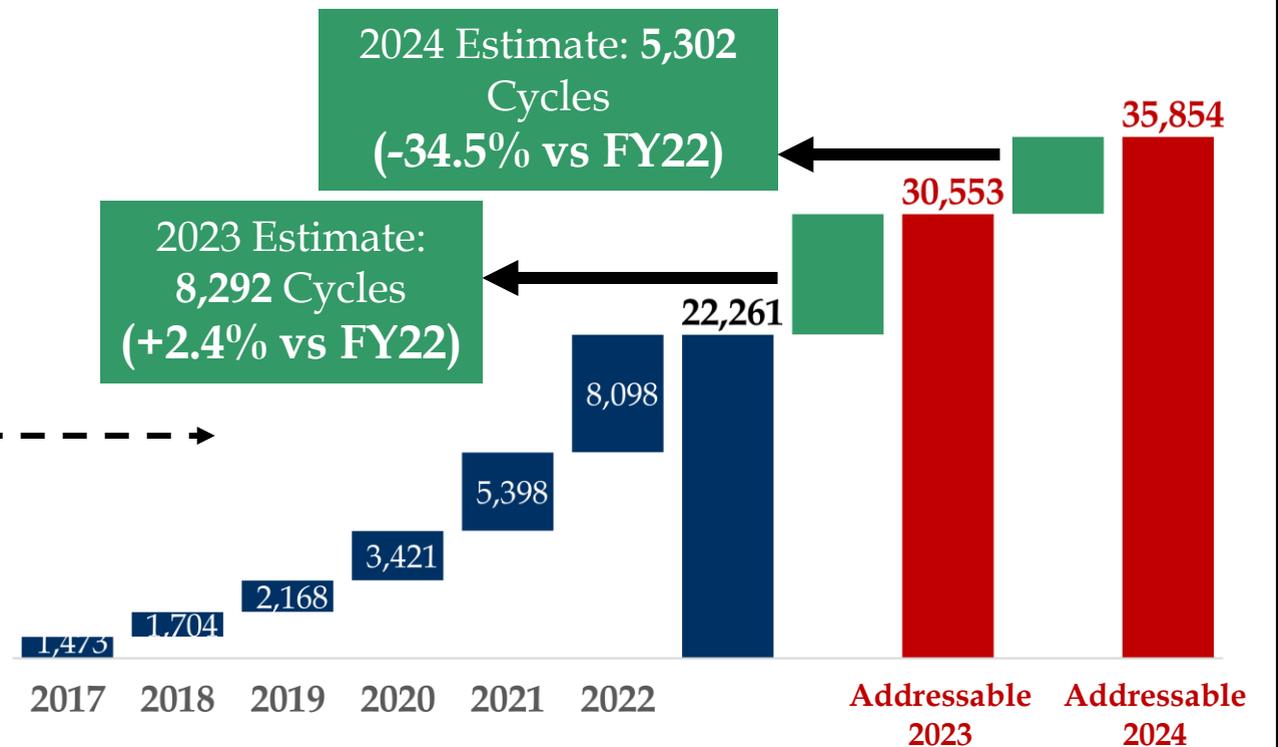
Catalyst 1: Top client Google will reach revenue contribution peak in 1Q23

19% revenue contribution in 2021

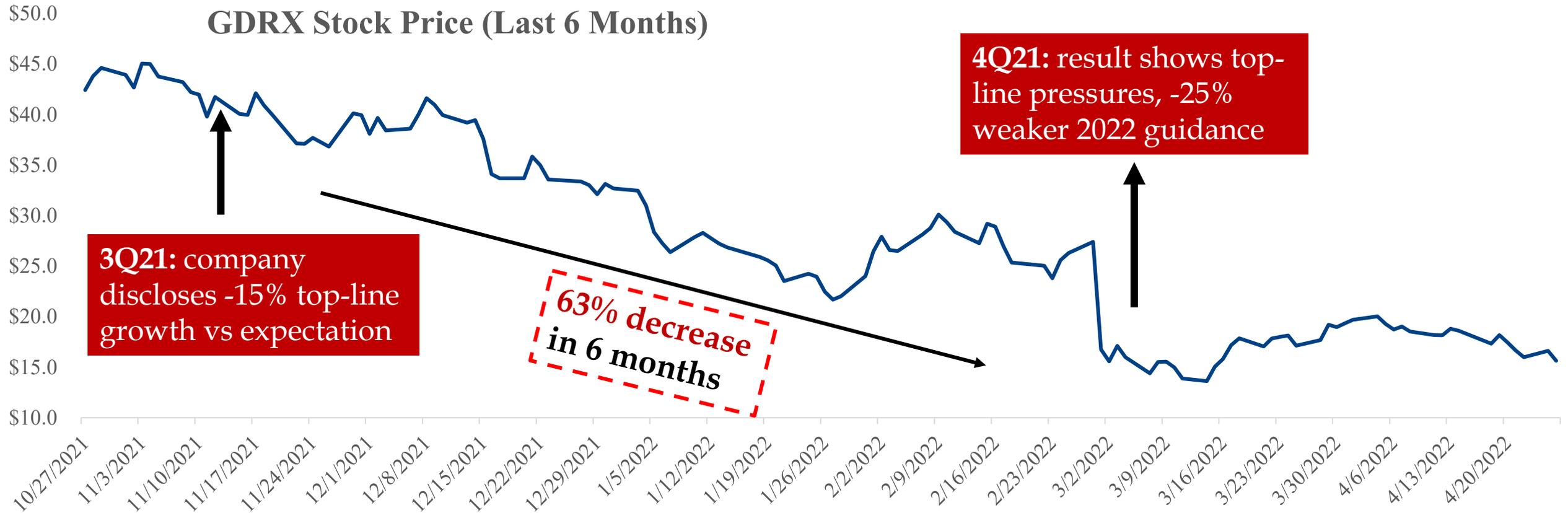
Most eligible employees have already used, and new hiring + turnover cannot sustain the growth

2023 Addressable Cycles	17-23	Calculations
Starting Covered Lives	72,053	(a) GOOGL fillings
New Hiring	84,970	(b) GOOGL fillings
Turnover	179,755	(c) GOOGL research
Total unique covered	283,163	$(d)=(a)+(b)+(c)$
% Eligible	50.4%	(e)=GOOGL research
% Infertility	6%	(f)=National Average
Addressable lives	8,563	$(g)=(d)*(e)*(f)$
Life-maximum Cycles	3	(h)=purchased
Maximum Addressable	30,553	$(i)=(g)*(h)$

Top client revenue contribution declines with no replacement



Catalyst 2: Comparable business GDRX has melted down



- **GoodRx Holdings Inc (NASDAQ: GDRX)** saw stock price meltdown after reporting 23% 2022 expected growth vs. market's 39% expectation
- **Stock price down 63% in last 6 months, **destroying \$10.8 bn** of shareholder value**
- **We expect PGNY to follow a similar trend**

Valuation: 9-month Price Target of \$21
(64% IRR / 48% downside)

Key assumptions and revenue estimation

Base Case

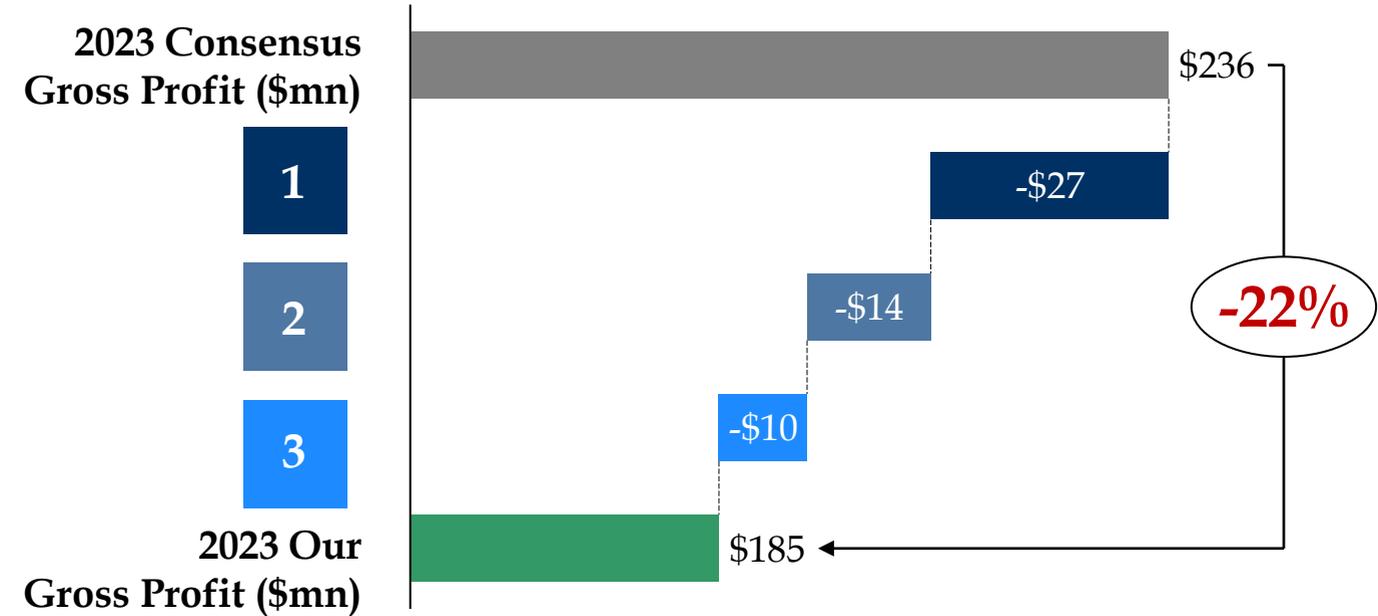
- 1** **New Clients:** stay as current level 85 Clients/year
Incremental client covered lives decrease
- 2** **Churn rate:** 6% of the renewals
Female Utilization: constant at 1.05%
Top Client Google revenue estimate separately
- 3** **Flat Gross Margin**

Pessimistic Case

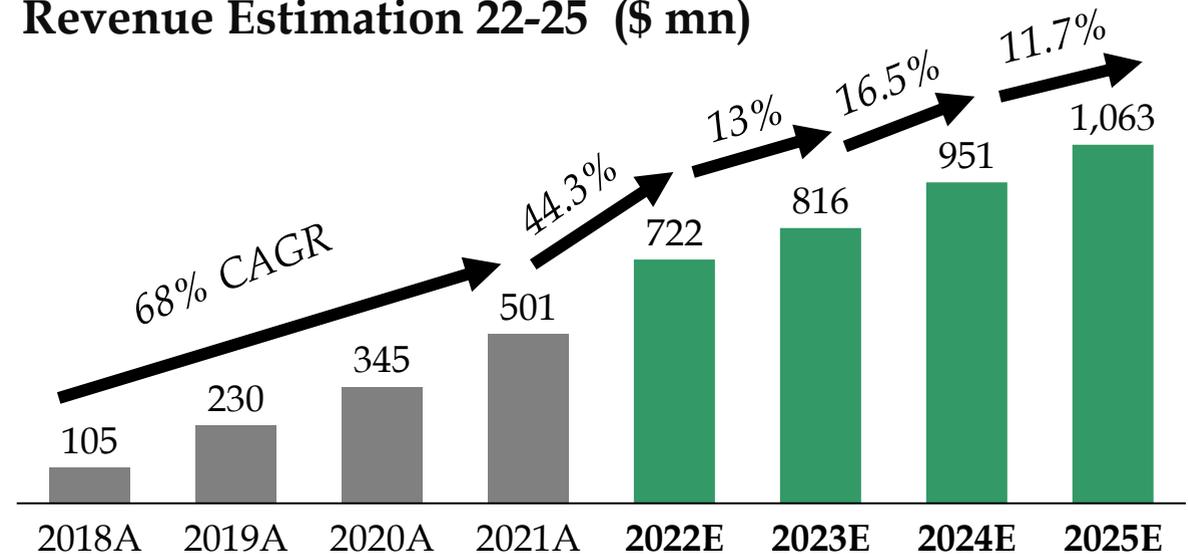
- New Clients:** annual +20 from 2022A 85 new clients
- Incremental client covered lives** decreases at 300 annually
- Female Utilization:** annual expansion of 3bps
- Growth Margin:** 100 bps yoy expansion

Optimistic Case

- New Clients:** return to historical average of 60
- Incremental client covered lives** decreases at 800 annually
- Churn rate:** 12% of the renewals
- Gross Margin:** 50 bps yoy contraction

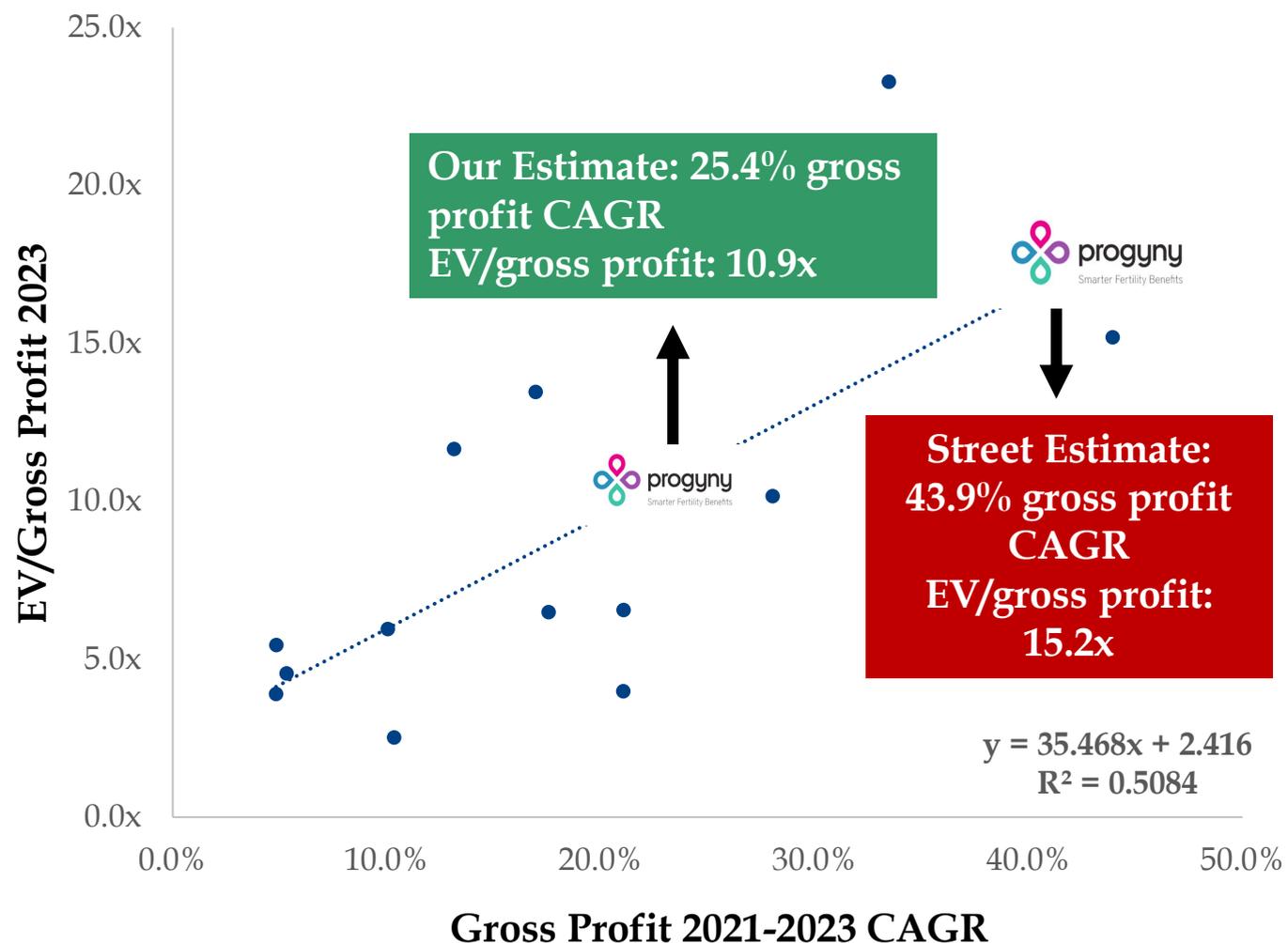


Revenue Estimation 22-25 (\$ mn)



Attractive risk reward profile with 48% 9-month downside in the base case, 68% downside in the optimistic case

We use EV/Gross Profit multiple to capture PGNY's unique business model. We use 10.9x 2023 EV/gross profit to reflect slower growth trends.



Valuation

PGNY has a differentiated gross margin compared to healthcare IT or managed care comps. (gross margin ~20% vs others' 80%). We use EV/gross profit to reflect PGNY's middleman nature of business.

	Pessimistic	Base	Optimistic
Gross Profit 2023	\$261.0	\$183.0	\$158.6
EV/Gross Profit	16.5x	10.9x	7.5x
TEV	\$4,307	\$1,995	\$1,194
Less: Debt	--	--	--
Plus: Cash	91	91	91
Equity Value	\$4,398	\$2,086	\$1,285
Shares	100	100	100
Value/Share	\$44.0	\$20.8	\$12.8
Borrowing Cost@ 3bps	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01
Adj Value Per Share	\$44.0	\$20.8	\$12.8
Downside to Current Price	(9.5%)	48.2%	68.1%
IRR	(12.6%)	64.3%	90.8%
Downside/Upside Ratio		5.1x	7.2x

We sanity checked our comps valuation with \$19.5 DCF intrinsic value

8.6% WACC, 3% PGR, 21.5% Tax after depletion of DTA

DCF Valuation	
Firm Value	\$1,862
% Terminal Value	77.4%
Plus: Excess Cash	91
Less: Total Debt	-
WACC	8.6%
Equity Value	\$1,953
Shares Outstanding	100
Adj. Value Per Share	\$19.5
Price Upside	-58%

Financial Summary											
\$ mn	Historical				Projected					CAGR	
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	18-21	21-24
Revenue	\$ 105	\$ 230	\$ 345	\$ 501	\$ 722	\$ 816	\$ 951	\$ 1,063	\$ 1,165	68.1%	23.9%
YoY%		117.9%	50.1%	45.2%	44.3%	13.0%	16.5%	11.7%	9.6%		
Gross Profit	\$ 19	\$ 46	\$ 70	\$ 112	\$ 162	\$ 183	\$ 213	\$ 238	\$ 261	79.4%	23.9%
Margin%	18.4%	19.8%	20.3%	22.4%	22.4%	22.4%	22.4%	22.4%	22.4%		
EBIT	\$ (3)	\$ 10	\$ 8	\$ 32	\$ 52	\$ 66	\$ 84	\$ 103	\$ 122	NM	37.6%
YoY%			-13.7%	287.4%	62.2%	25.4%	28.1%	21.8%	18.7%		
Margin%	-3.3%	4.2%	2.4%	6.5%	7.3%	8.1%	8.9%	9.7%	10.5%		
EPS	\$ 0.04	\$ (0.41)	\$ 0.47	\$ 0.66	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.66	\$ 0.81	\$ 0.96		
YoY%			-213.5%	39.7%	-37.0%	25.4%	28.1%	21.8%	18.7%		
Consensus	\$ 0.05	\$ (0.41)	\$ 0.47	\$ 0.66	\$ 0.53	\$ 0.88	\$ 1.41	\$ 2.49			
Variance	-14.8%	0.8%	-0.2%	-0.7%	-21.8%	-40.8%	-52.9%	-67.5%			
FCF Conversion		147%	111%	20%	21%	73%	54%	80%	73%		

Risk and Mitigants

Risk

Unexpected acquisition of large quality clients

Industry growth at faster CAGR than expected

Companies spend more on fertility to retain talents

Introduction of a new upselling product that quickly penetrates

Mitigants

- It is unlikely given the saturated nature of Fortune 100 client market.
- We have seen steady decline of average covered lives per client in the last 5 years, and it's unlikely for the trend to revert back.
- Industry growth doesn't translate directly into PGNYS growth.
- PGNYS will likely lose more market share to existing competitors with better business model and future new entrants.
- Largest existing customers (big tech) have stayed constant at 3 cycles over the last 5 years, which covers.
- Smaller companies cannot afford to increase cycle count due to budget limits.
- Possible solutions like adoption and surrogacy, post-childbirth care and mental health care during pregnancy have already been offered by other players
- In our sensitivity analysis, adding a surrogacy program with 20% first year penetration yields only 8% gross profit increase in 2023

Unlike PGNY management, we eat our own cooking: we have shorted \$11k worth of PGNY stock with our own money.

Order Details	
Trading Direction	Short
Status	Filled
Symbol	Progyny PGNY
Order Quantities/Price	250 44.50
Order Amount	11,125.00
Filled Quantities/AVG Price	250 44.50

Filled Amount	11,125.00
Order Time	11:16:12 ET
Order Types	LMT Limit
Time-in-Force	Day
Trading Hours	Allow
Order ID	FH298281794948834