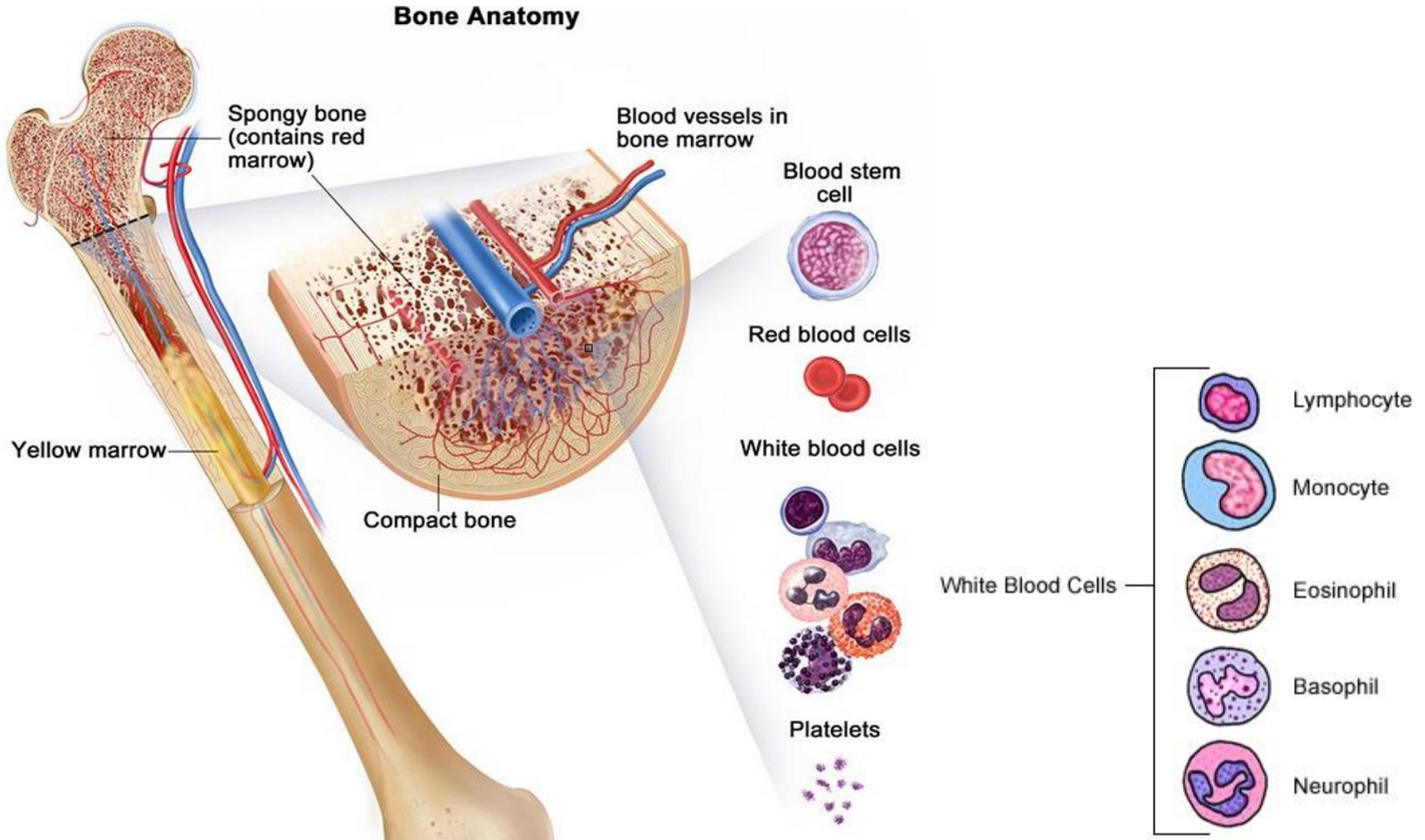


# **Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma 2017 Update**

**John M Pagel, MD , PhD**

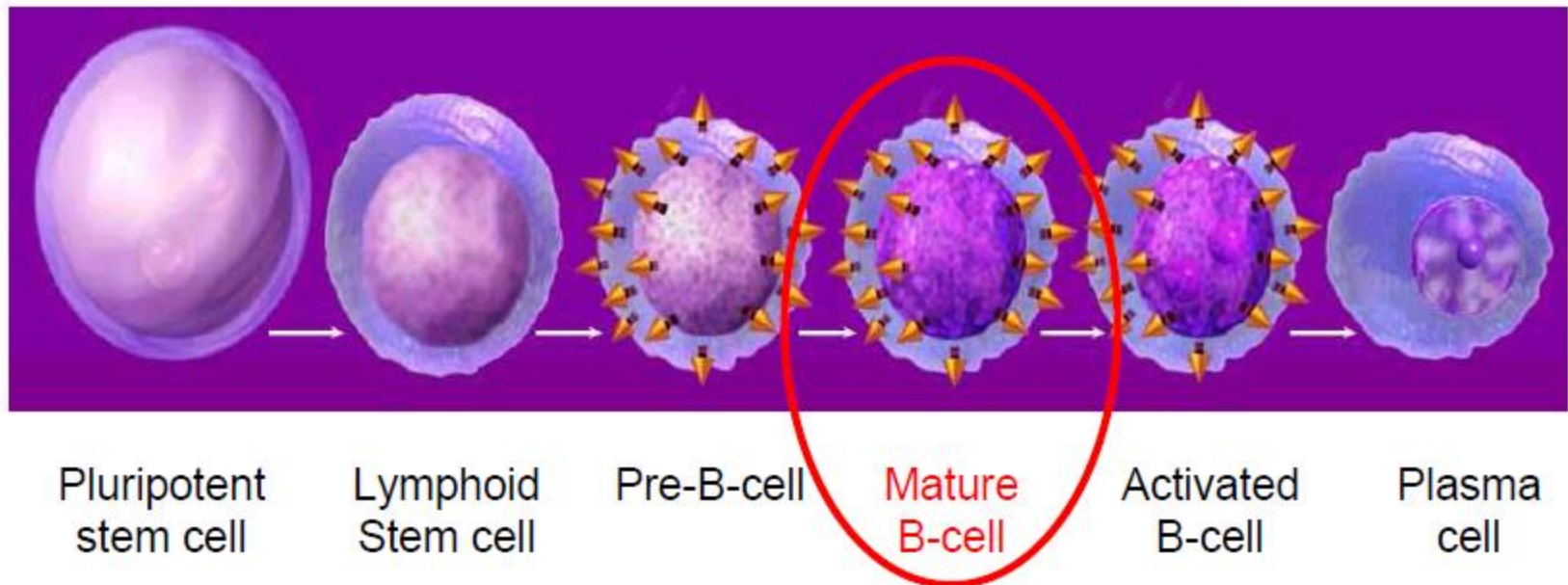
Swedish Cancer Institute  
Seattle, Washington

# What is CLL/SLL?



Newly developed defect in the genetic program of a single mature B-lymphocyte -

← Bone marrow →      ← Blood, lymph →



# CLL vs SLL

- CLL: A blood and bone marrow based disease
  - with progressive accumulation of **functionally incompetent lymphocytes** in the peripheral blood, bone marrow, spleen and lymph nodes.
- SLL: If absolute lymphocyte count of  $<5000/\mu\text{L}$  at the time of diagnosis

# CLL

- The **most prevalent** type of adult leukemia
- Median age of diagnosis of CLL is **~ 72 yrs**, with only 10% of patients younger than 50 yrs of age
- More common in **men** than women (2:1 ratio)
- Environmental predisposition uncertain, although Vietnam veterans with Agent Orange exposure warrant “service-connected status”
- **Genetic predisposition** present, with ~ 10% of patients having a first-generation relative with CLL

# What are the clinical symptoms?

- Often none!
- Non-specific (night sweats, fever, fatigue, weight loss)
- Related to lymph node or spleen enlargement
- Related to bone marrow involvement (cytopenia)
- Infections
- Skin involvement
  
- High lymphocyte count does NOT cause symptoms

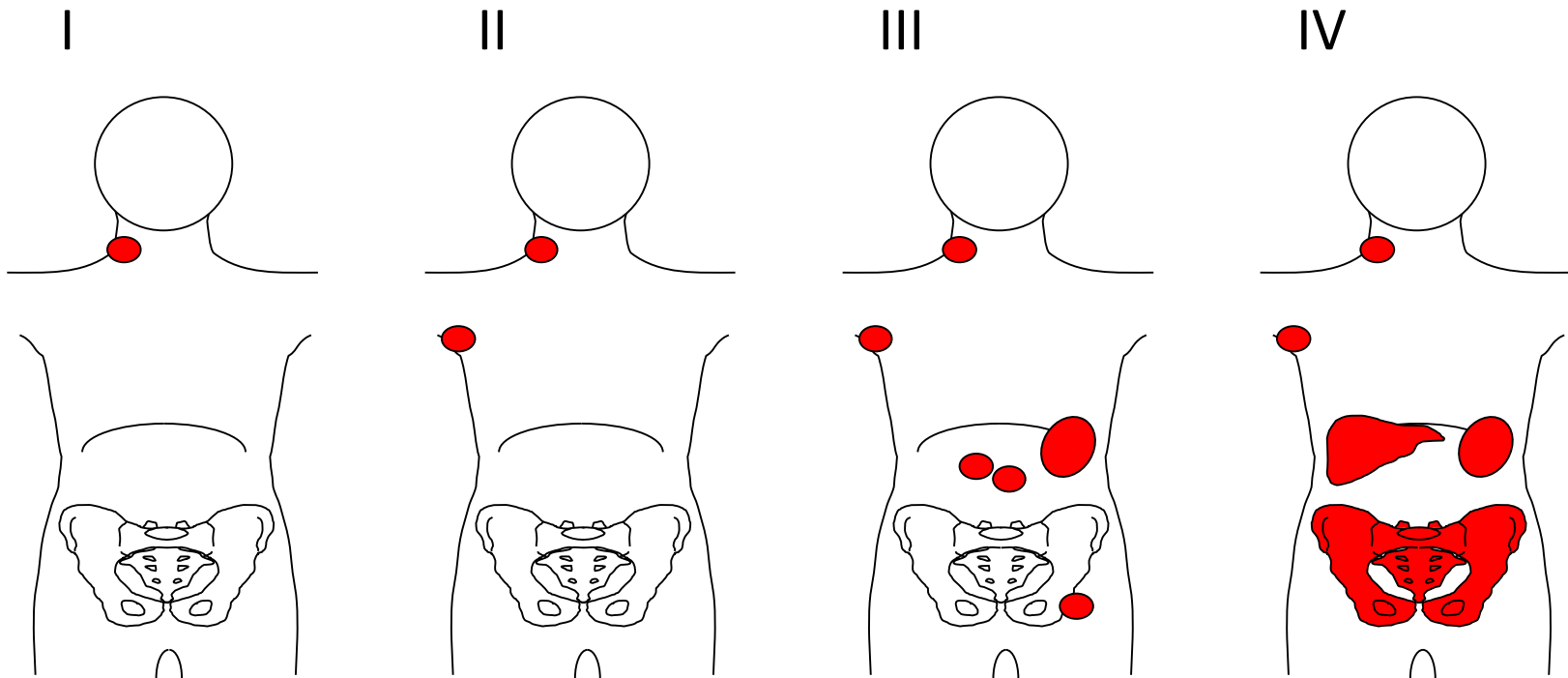
# How do we stage CLL?

## Rai Staging:

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Description</b>
Low	0	Lymphocytosis in blood or bone marrow
Intermediate	I	Lymphocytosis + enlarged lymph nodes
	II	Lymphocytosis + enlarged liver or spleen with or without lymphadenopathy
High	III	Lymphocytosis + anemia (Hgb <11 g/dL) with or without enlarged liver, spleen, or lymph nodes
	IV	Lymphocytosis + thrombocytopenia (platelet count <100,000/microL) with or without anemia or enlarged liver, spleen, or lymph nodes

# How do we stage SLL?

Ann Arbor's staging:



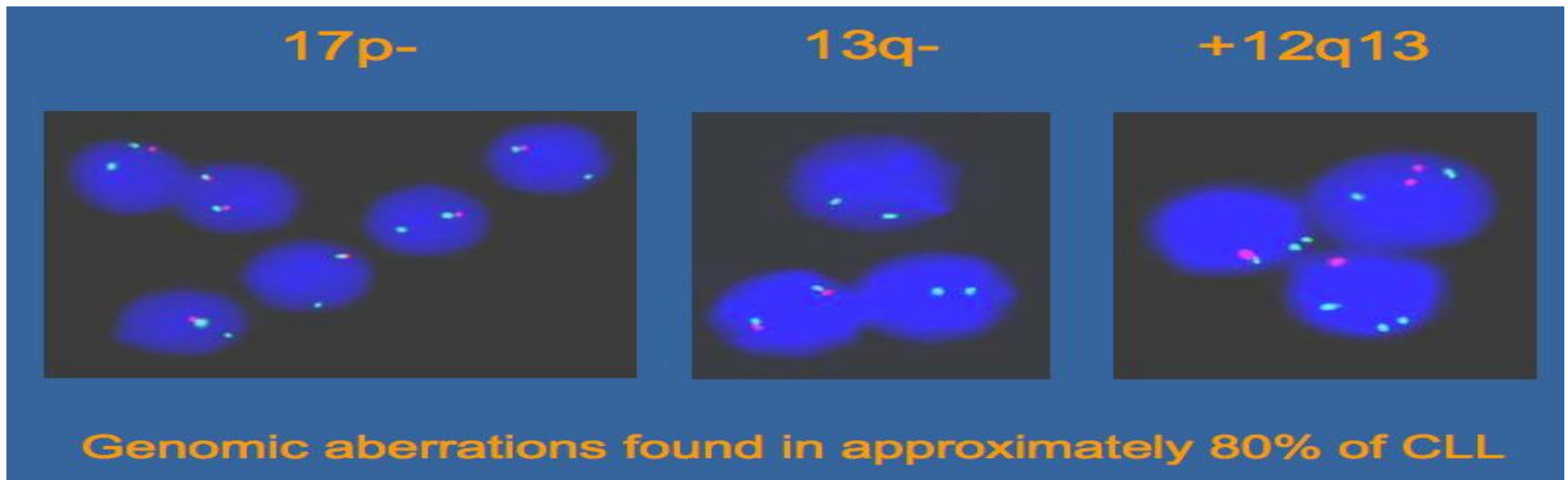
**A: No general symptoms**

**B: General symptoms such as fever, night sweats, weight loss**



# Prognostic Factors

- FISH defects
  - 17p deletion
  - 11q deletion
  - 12q trisomy
  - Normal
  - 13q deletions



- Immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region (IgV<sub>H</sub>)
- CD38 status
- ZAP-70 status
- High serum  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin and soluble CD23

# Prognostic Factors

## Immunoglobulin Heavy-Chain Variable (IGHV) Region Gene Mutation and Surrogates by Flow Cytometry

	Outcome Association	
	Favorable	Unfavorable
DNA sequencing <sup>b</sup> IGHV	>2% mutation	≤2% mutation
Flow Cytometry CD38	<30%	≥30%
Zap 70	<20%	≥20%

## Interphase Cytogenetics (FISH)<sup>c</sup>

Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable
del(11q) del(17p)	Normal +12	del(13q) (as a sole abnormality)

# B-Cell Diversity

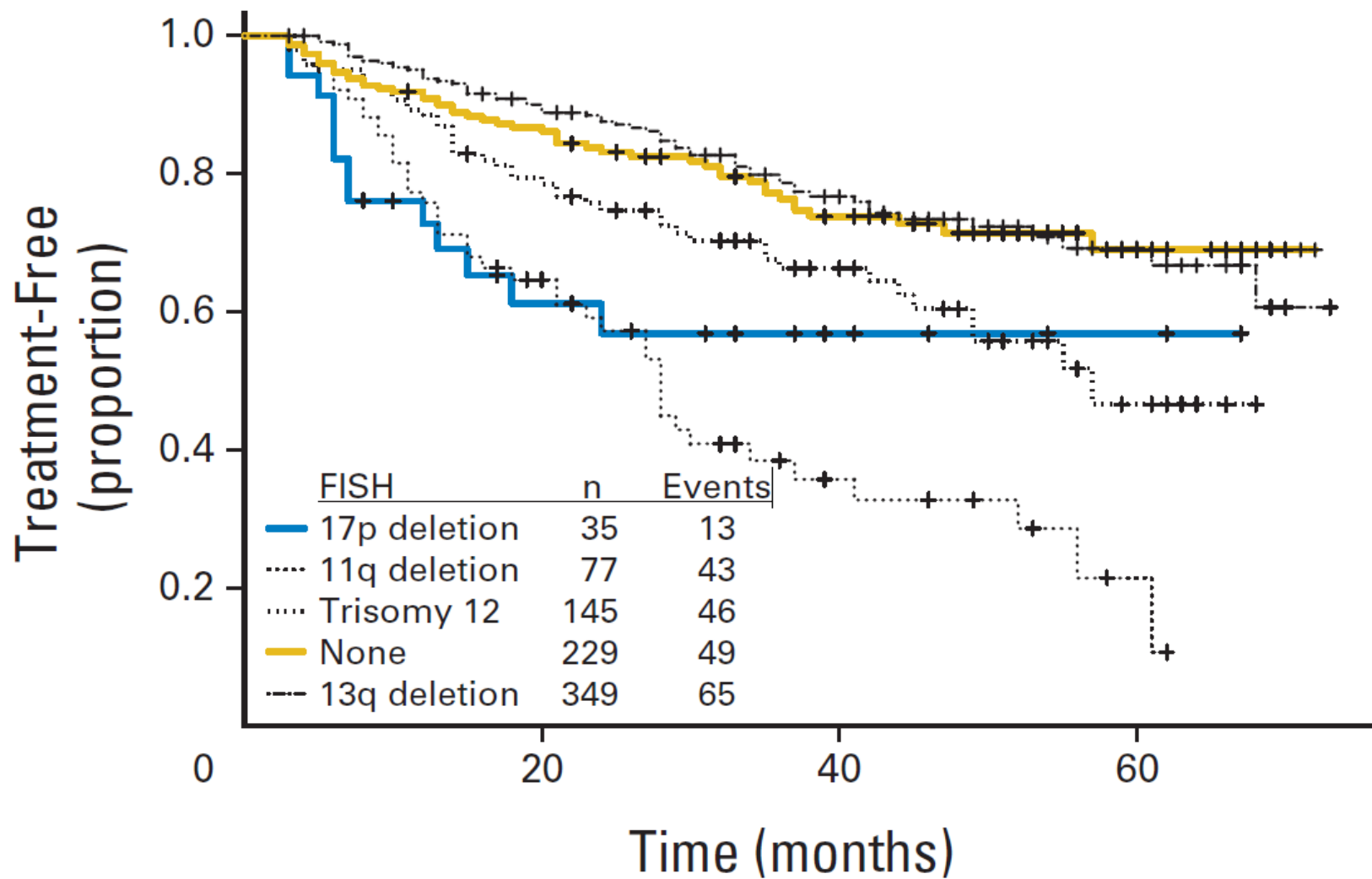
$V_H$  Rearrangement and Mutation

$V_H$	D	$J_H$	$C_\mu$
1/51	1/27	1/6	



**Somatic mutations**

**$V_H$  in B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia**



# What is the initial work-up for CLL patients?

- All patients at diagnosis
  - Flow cytometry to confirm CLL diagnosis
- Informative for prognostic and/or therapy determination
  - Interphase cytogenetics looking for +12, del(13q), del(17)(p13.1), and del(11)(q22.3); del(17p) and del(11q) portend for more aggressive disease
  - Unmutated VH gene status assessment (good lab)
  - ZAP-70 expression by flow cytometry is not recommended outside clinical trial
- $\beta_2$ -microglobulin
- No CT scan unless symptoms are present; PET scan can be helpful if Richter's suspected
- Bone marrow biopsy and aspirate not necessary in absence of low blood counts

# When to start treatment?

- No advantage to treating CLL until symptoms develop regardless of genomic features
- **IWCLL 2008** criteria for treatment (in primary and relapse)
  - Enlarging, symptomatic lymph nodes (> 10 cm)
  - Enlarging, symptomatic spleen (> 6 cm below costal margin)
  - Cytopenias due to CLL (hemoglobin < 11 g/dL, platelets < 100,000 cells/ $\mu$ L)
  - Constitutional symptoms due to disease (fatigue, B symptoms)
  - Poorly controlled AIHA or ITP
  - Progressive lymphocytosis with an increase of more than 50 percent over a two-month period or LDT of less than six months

# What are the treatment options?

## Chemotherapy

- fludarabine
- bendamustine
- pentostatin
- cyclophosphamide
- chlorambucil
- ...

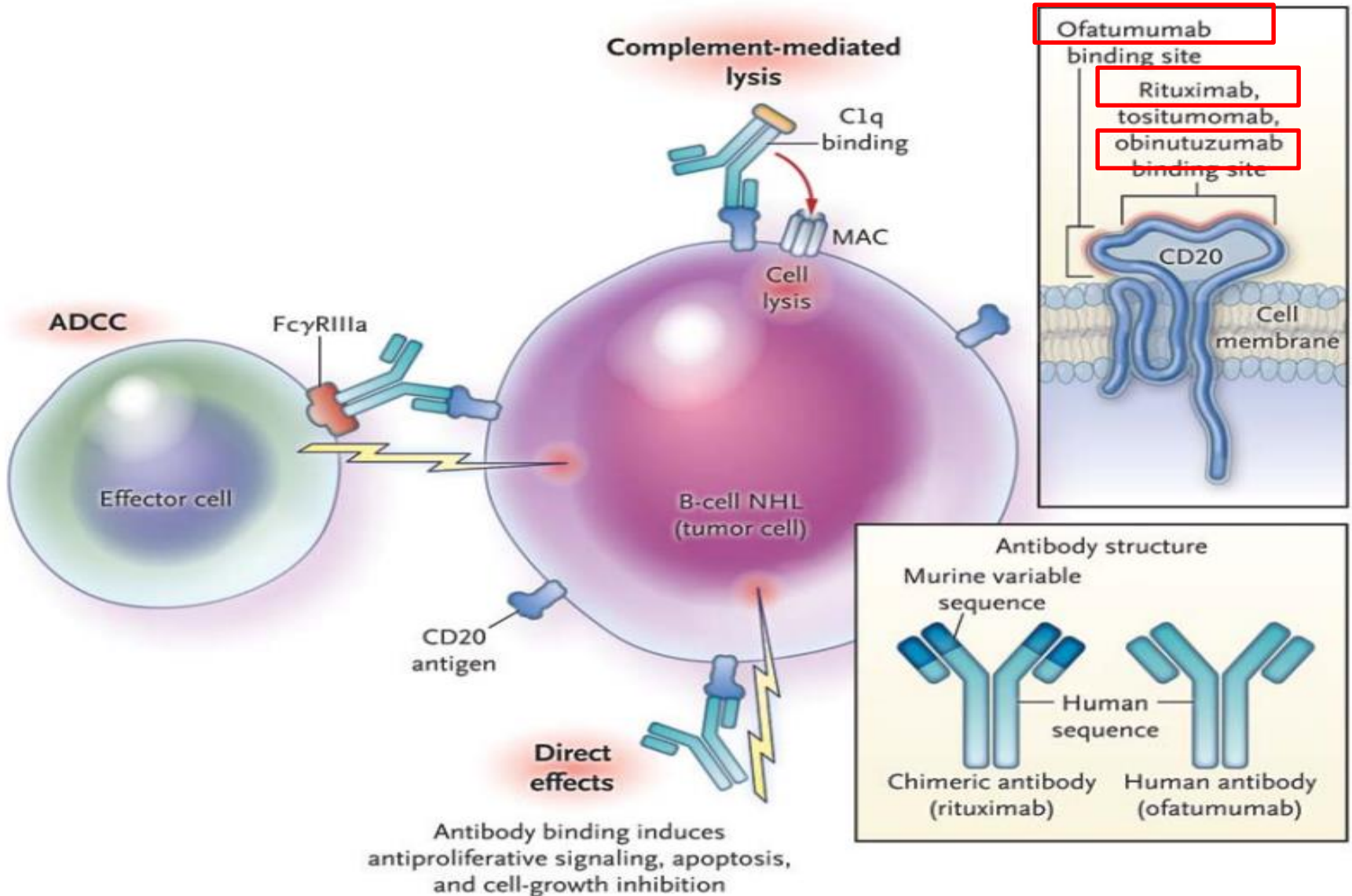
## Targeted Antibodies

- rituximab
- ofatumumab
- obinutuzumab
- alemtuzumab
- others

## Targeted Therapies

- ibrutinib
- Idelalisib
- ABT199
- others

# Targeted Antibodies






# “Standard” Treatment

## First line Young/Fit without del 17p

- Chemo + Antibodies
  - FCR (fludarabine +cyclophosphamide +rituximab)
  - BR (bendamustine + rituximab)
  - FR (fludarabine +rituximab)
  - PCR (pentostatin +cyclophosphamide +rituximab)
  - Obinutuzumab + chlorambucil

# CLL10, Phase III Interim Analysis: FCR vs BR in CLL

Patients with  
untreated,  
active CLL without  
del(17p)  
and good physical  
fitness  
(CIRS  $\leq$  6,  
creatinine clearance  
 $\geq$  70 mL/min)  
(N = 561)



## FCR

Fludarabine 25 mg/m<sup>3</sup> IV Days 1-3 +  
Cyclophosphamide 250 mg/m<sup>2</sup> Days 1-3 +  
Rituximab 375 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV Day 0, cycle 1 +  
Rituximab 500 mg/m<sup>3</sup> IV Day 1, cycles 2-6

## BR

Bendamustine 90 mg/m<sup>3</sup> IV Days 1-2 +  
Rituximab 375 mg/m<sup>2</sup> Day 0, cycle 1 +  
Rituximab 500 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV Day 1, cycles 2-4

Primary endpoint: noninferiority of BR vs FCR for PFS HR ( $\lambda_{BR/FCR}$ )  $<$  1.388

# CLL10 FCR vs BR in CLL: Main Findings

- Median PFS
  - FCR: not reached
  - BR: 44.9 mos
  - $P = .04$
- ORR rates identical, but higher CR rates observed with FCR vs BR
- 2-yr OS
  - FCR: 94.2%
  - BR: 95.8%
  - $P = .59$
- Median observation time: 27.9 mos

Response, %	FCR (n = 274)	BR (n = 273)	P Value
CR (CR + CRi)	47.4	38.1	.03
CR	40.1	36.3	
CRi	7.3	1.8	
PR	50.4	59.7	
ORR	97.8	97.8	1

# Treatment

## First line older/unfit without del 17p

- **CLINICAL TRIALS**
- Chemo + Antibodies
  - **BR (bendamustine + rituximab)**
  - **Obinutuzumab + chlorambucil**
  - Rituximab + chlorambucil
  - Rituximab
  - Cladrabine
  - Fludarabine ± rituximab
  - Chlorambucil

# Obinutuzumab

## CLL11 Trial: Obinutuzumab + Chlorambucil vs Rituximab + Chlorambucil

*Randomized 1:2:2*

*28-day cycle*

Previously untreated  
CLL patients with  
comorbidities  
(CIRS score > 6 and/or  
CrCl < 70 mL/min)  
(N = 780)

Chlorambucil 0.5 mg/kg PO on Days 1, 15 x 6 cycles  
(n = 118)

Obinutuzumab 1000 mg IV cycle 1 on Days 1, 8, 15; cycles 2-6 on  
Day 1 + Chlorambucil 0.5 mg/kg PO on Days 1, 15 x 6 cycles  
(n = 333)

Rituximab 375 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV cycle 1 on Day 1; 500 mg/m<sup>2</sup> cycles 2-6 on  
Day 1 + Chlorambucil 0.5 mg/kg PO on Days 1, 15 x 6 cycles  
(n = 330)

Patients who progress on chlorambucil alone allowed to crossover to obinutuzumab + chlorambucil arm

# Obinutuzumab

## CLL11: Response and Toxicity

- Response
  - CLB 31% ORR, 0% CR
  - CLB + rituximab 65% ORR, 7% CR ( $P < .001$ )
  - CLB + obinutuzumab 78% ORR, 21% CR ( $P < .001$ )
- Toxicity

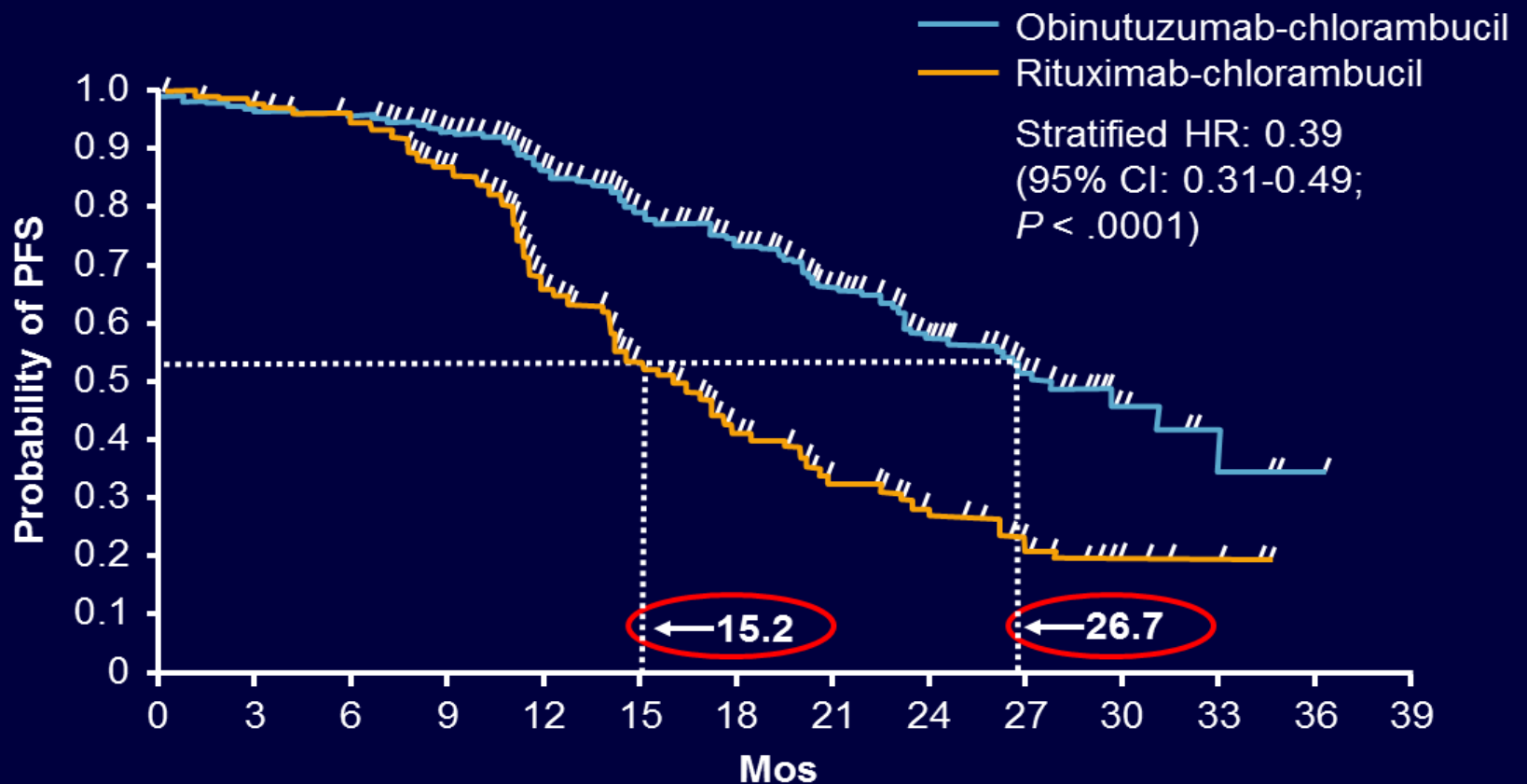
Grade $\geq 3$ , %	Obinutuzumab + Chlorambucil (n = 336)	Rituximab + Chlorambucil (n = 321)
Any	73	56
Infusion-related reaction	21	4
Neutropenia	35	27
Anemia	5	4
Thrombocytopenia	11	4
Infection	11	13

Goede V, et al. ASH 2013. Abstract 6.

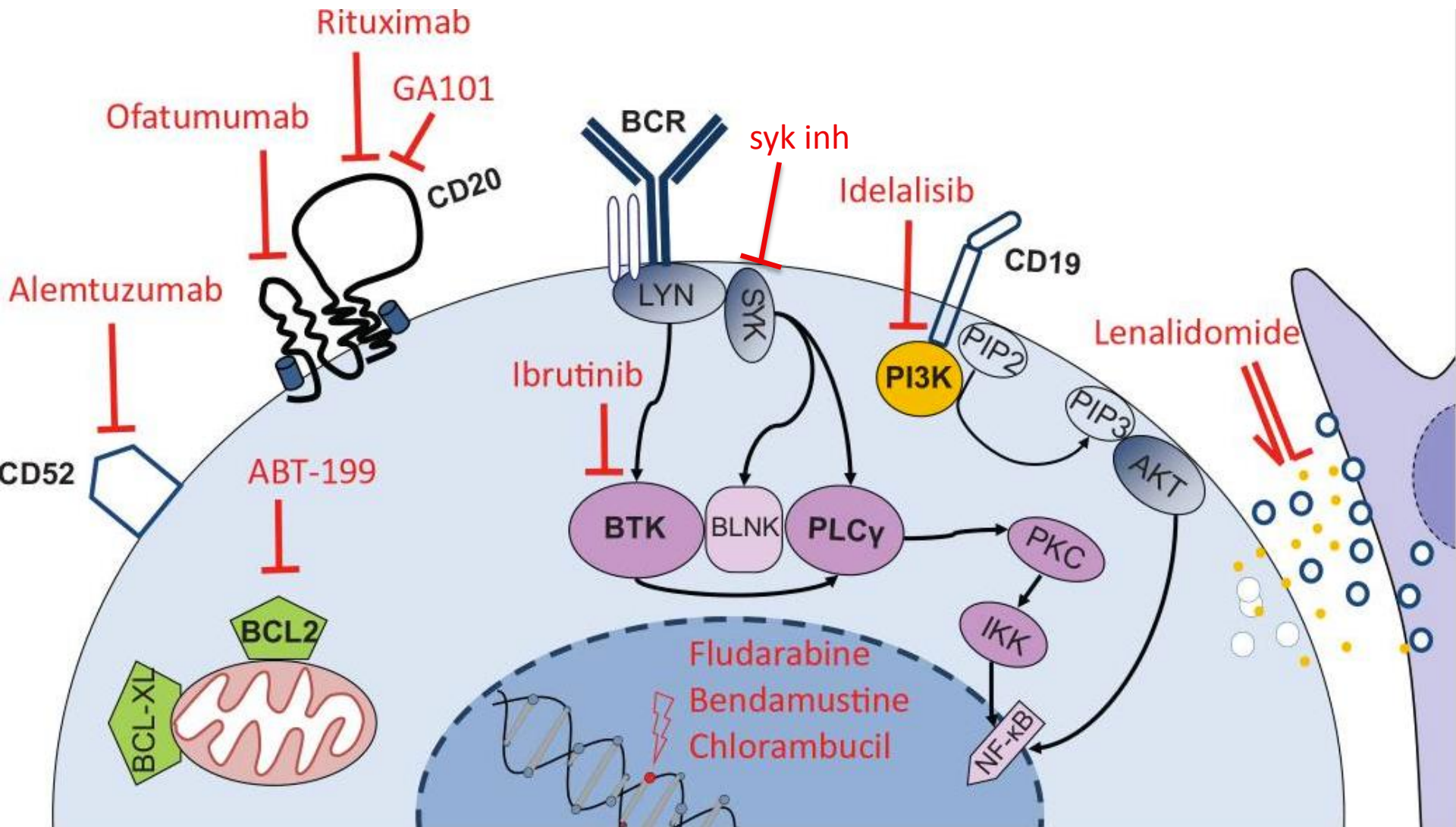
Goede V, et al. N Engl J Med. 2014;[Epub ahead of print].

# Obinutuzumab

## CLL11 Trial: PFS Head-to-Head Comparison



# Treatment Targets



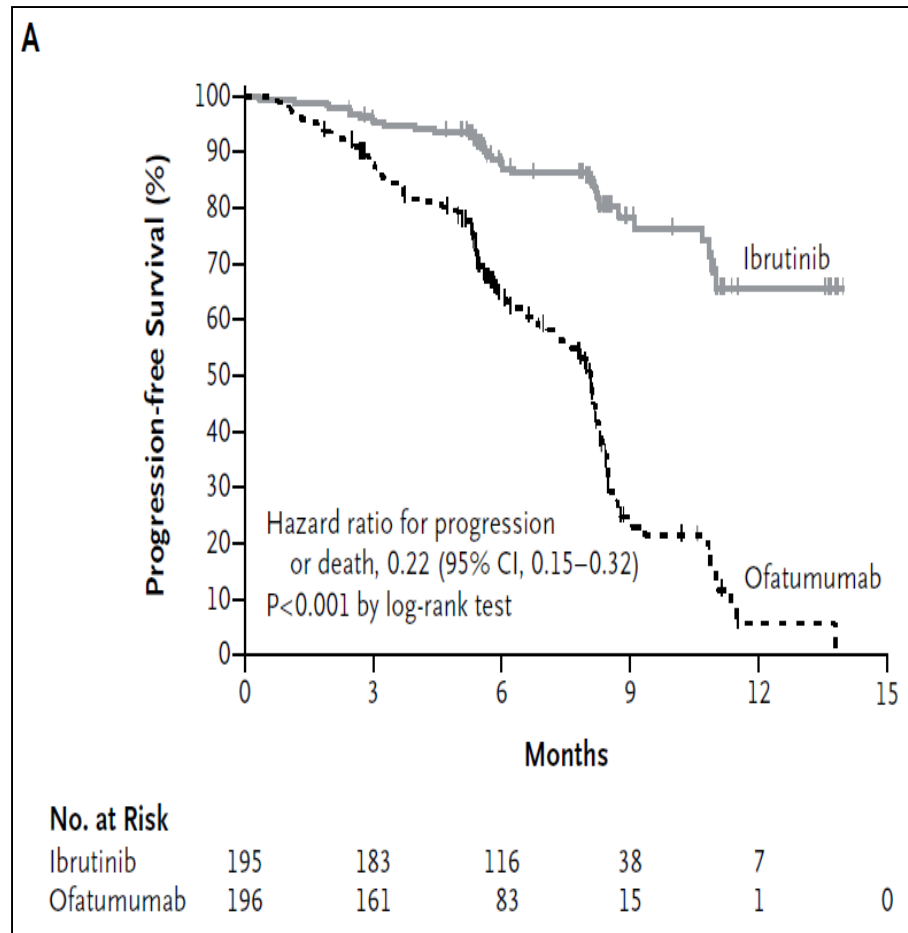


# Goals of Novel Therapies

- Harness increasing understanding of biology and technology to improve therapy
- Develop “targeted” treatments selective for malignant cells and less toxic to healthy cells
- Recruit the body’s immune system to fight disease
- Help improve the effects of existing treatments in combination
- Induce longer remissions, and ultimately cure, with fewer side effects

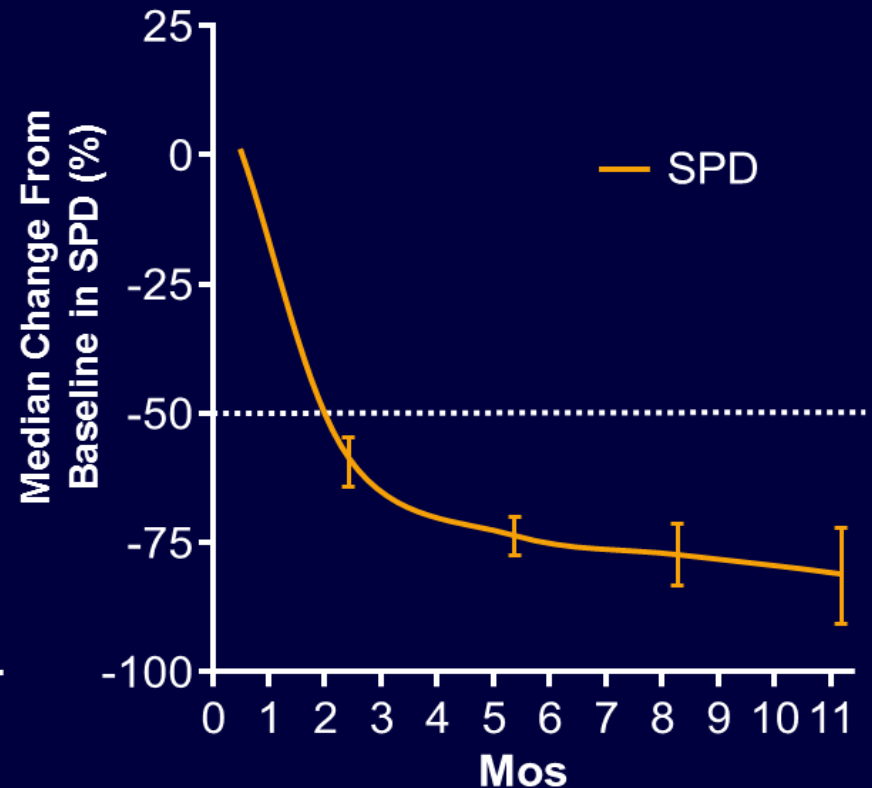
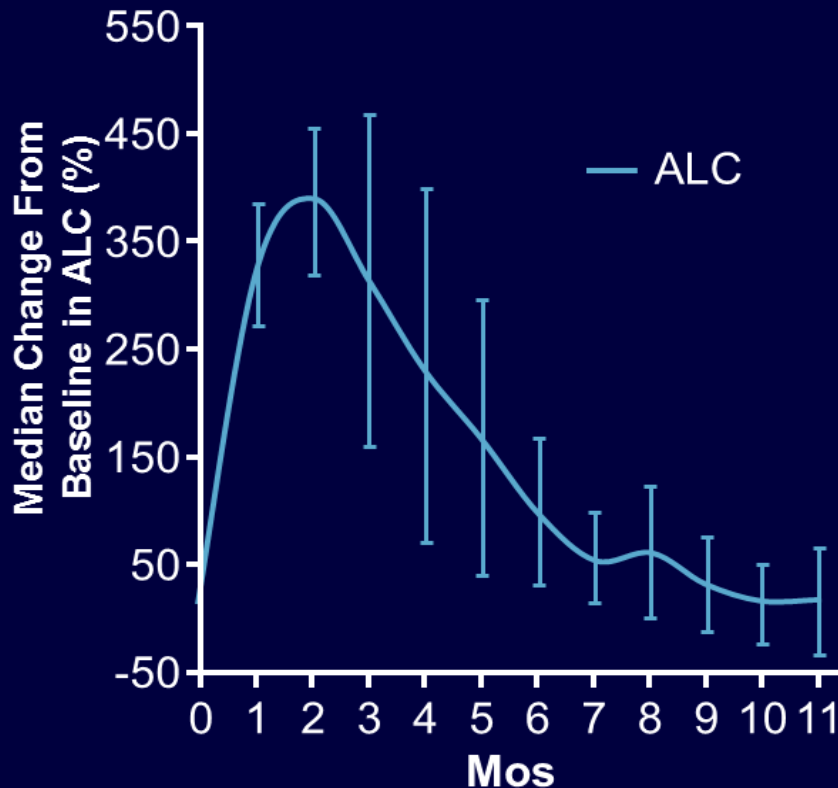
# Ibrutinib

- **RESONATE** study
- Relapsed/Refractory patients
- Ibrutinib vs. ofatumumab
- Primary endpoint : Progression-free survival
- 9.4 months of follow-up



# Ibrutinib

## Pattern of Response: Blood Lymphocytes vs Lymph Nodes



# Ibrutinib

## Ibrutinib in Refractory CLL With 11q Deletion

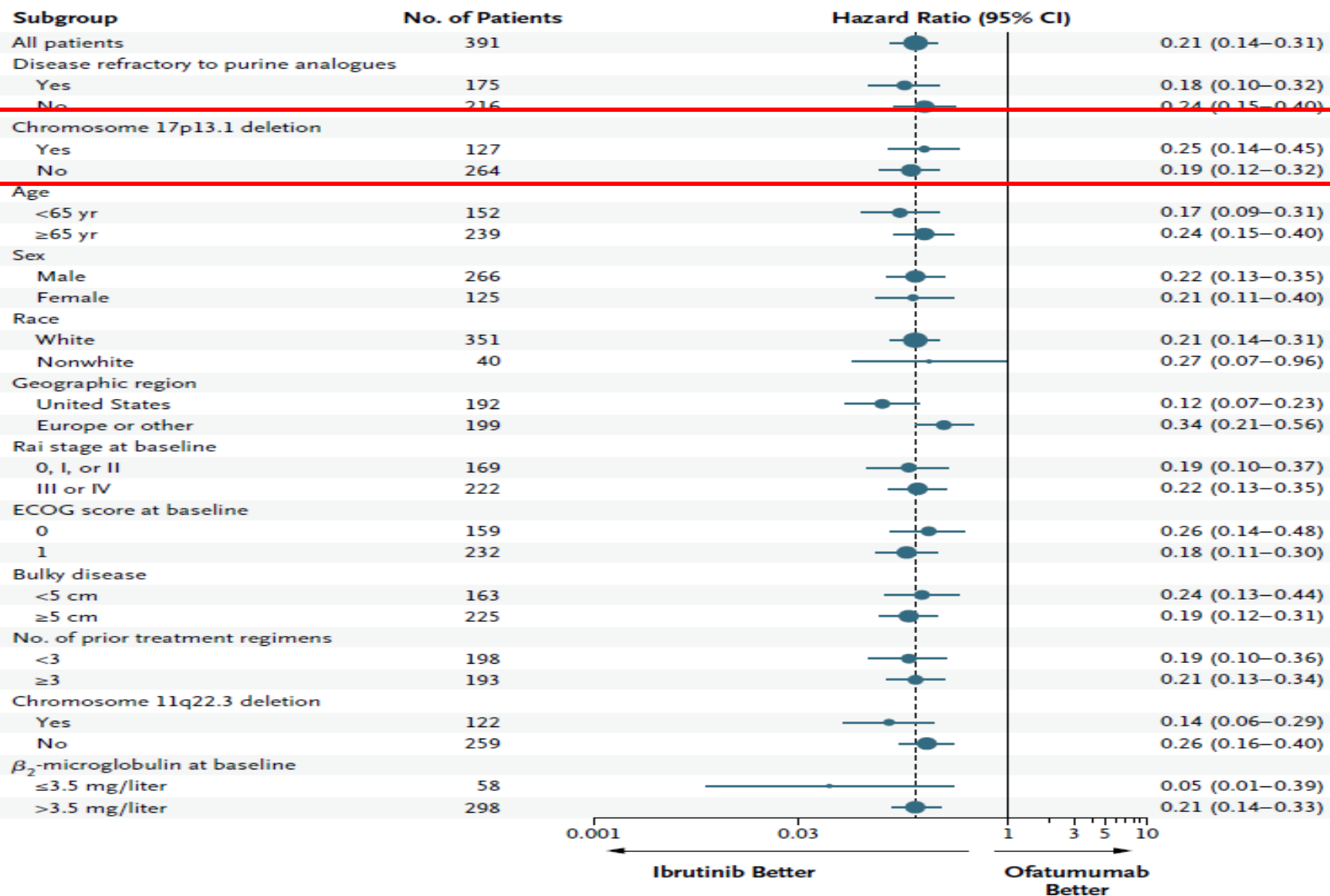
Before



4 Wks



# Ibrutinib

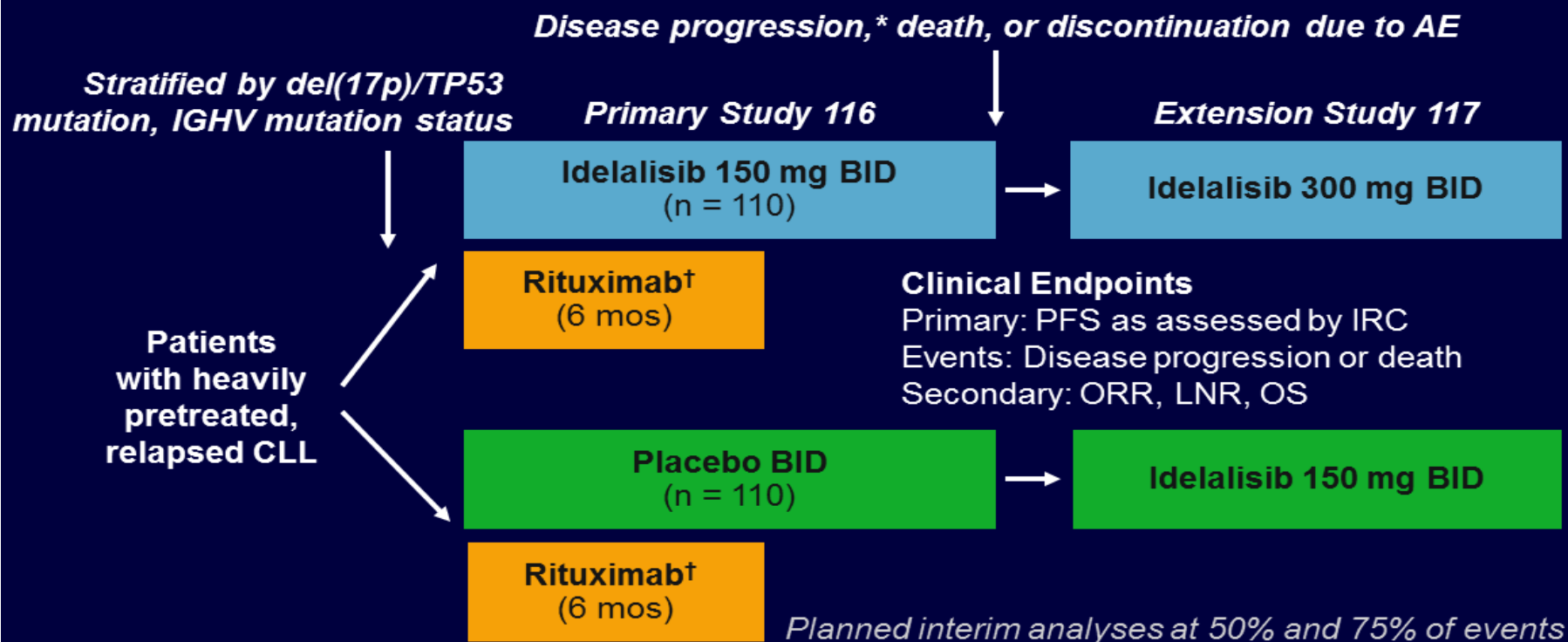


# Ibrutinib

- **Common side effects:**
  - Thrombocytopenia
  - Neutropenia
  - Diarrhea
  - Anemia
  - Fatigue
  - musculoskeletal pain
  - upper respiratory tract infection
  - Rash
  - Nausea
  - Fever

# Idelalisib

## Phase III Idelalisib and Rituximab for Previously Treated Patients With CLL

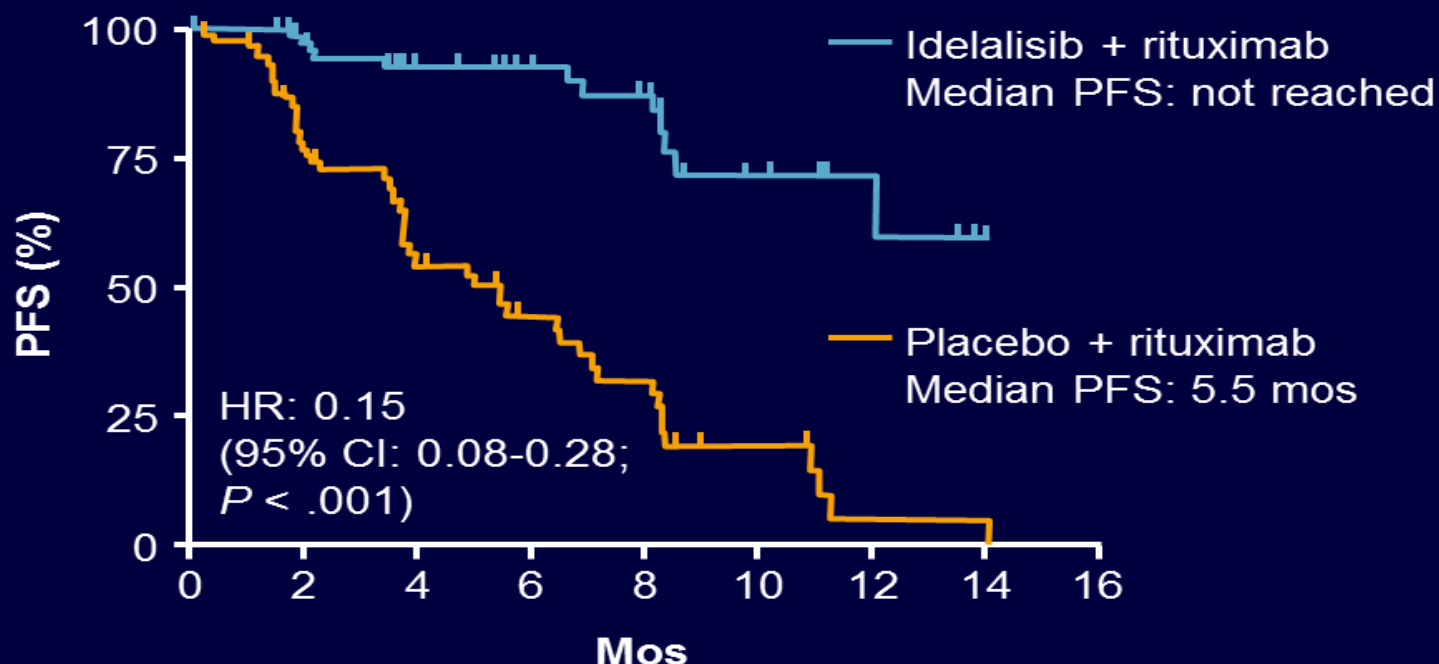


\*Patients with disease progression continued on idelalisib Extension Study 117.

†Rituximab schedule: 375 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, then 500 mg/m<sup>2</sup> every 2 wks x 4, then 500 mg/m<sup>2</sup> every 4 wks x 3.

# Idelalisib

## Idelalisib and Rituximab for Previously Treated Patients With CLL: PFS

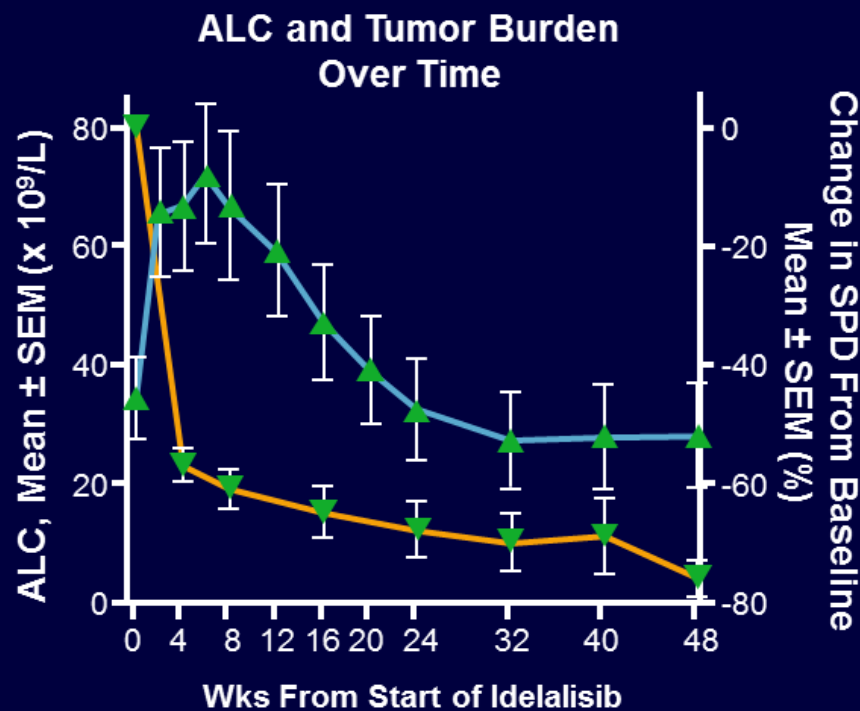


	Pts at Risk, n								
	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16
Idelalisib + rituximab	110	69	44	34	30	14	6	2	0
Placebo + rituximab	110	62	30	18	13	6	1	1	0

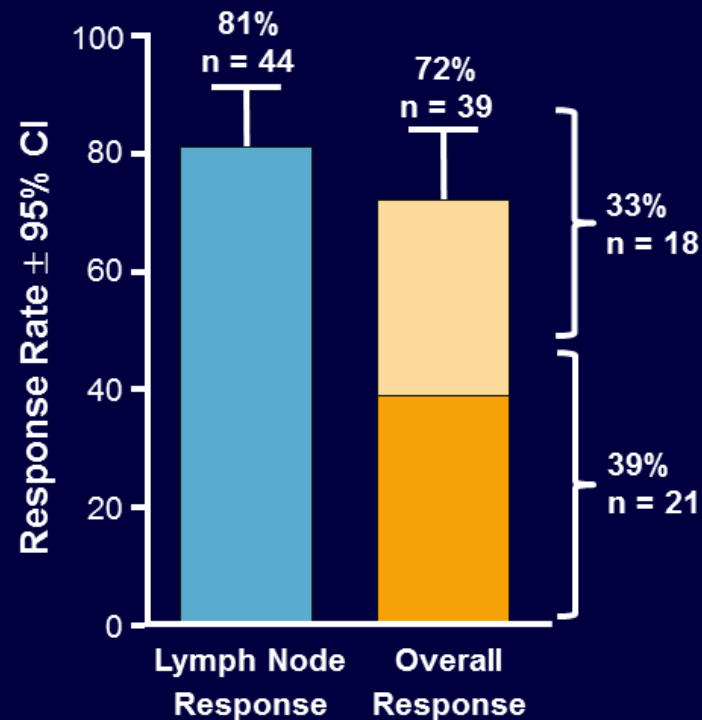


# Idelalisib

## Idelalisib: Nodal and ORR



- ▲ ALC (n = 54)
- ▼ SPD (n = 51)



- Decrease by  $\geq 50\%$  of nodal SPD
- PR with lymphocytosis
- PR by IWCLL criteria

# Idelalisib

## Marked Reductions in Peripheral Lymphadenopathy With Idelalisib

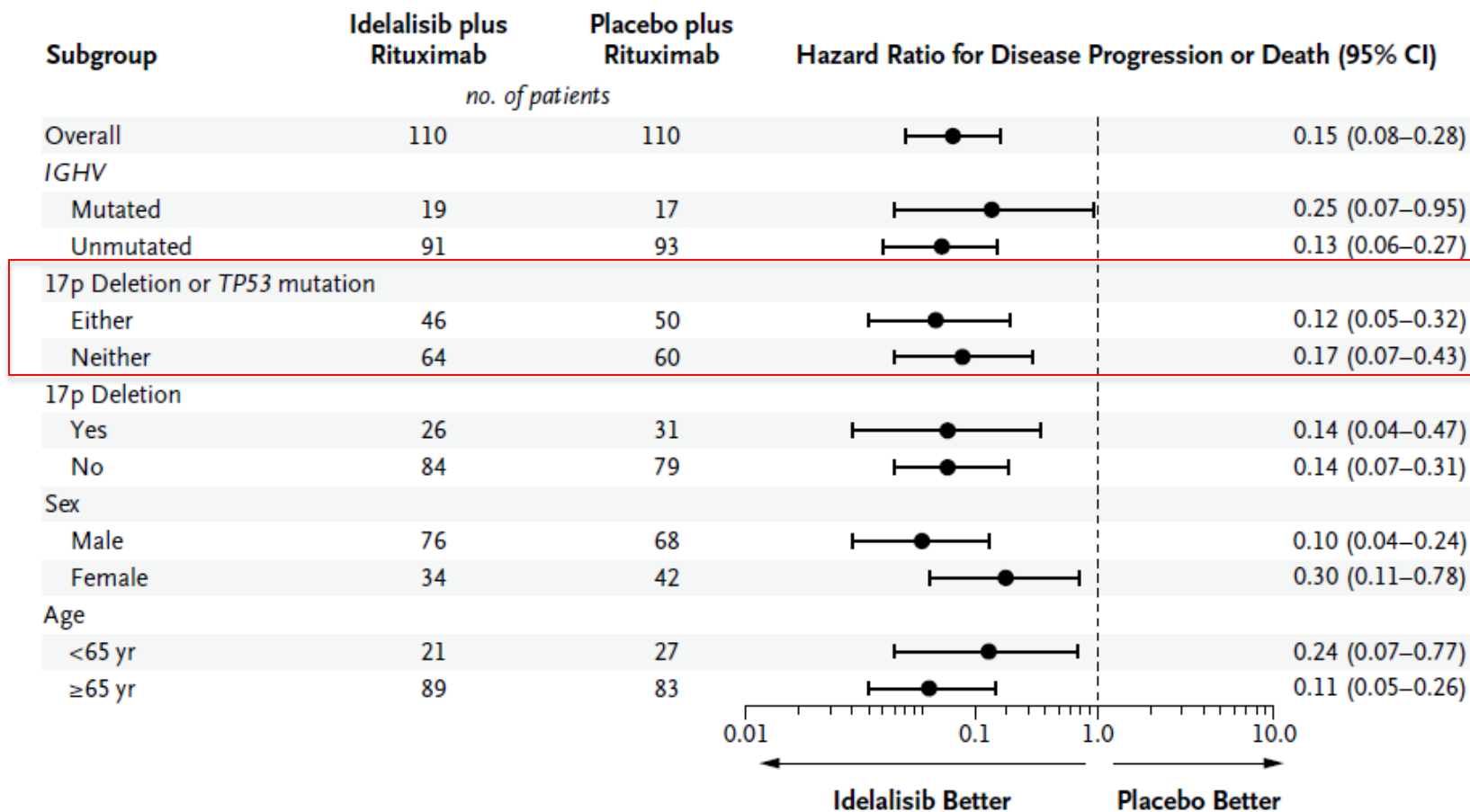
Pretreatment

With Idelalisib Treatment



38-yr-old patient with refractory CLL and 5 previous therapies

# Idelalisib



# Idelalisib

- **Common side effects:**
  - Fever
  - Fatigue
  - Nausea
  - Chills
  - Diarrhea
  - Thrombocytopenia
  - Neutropenia
  - Anemia
  - Liver enzyme abnormalities

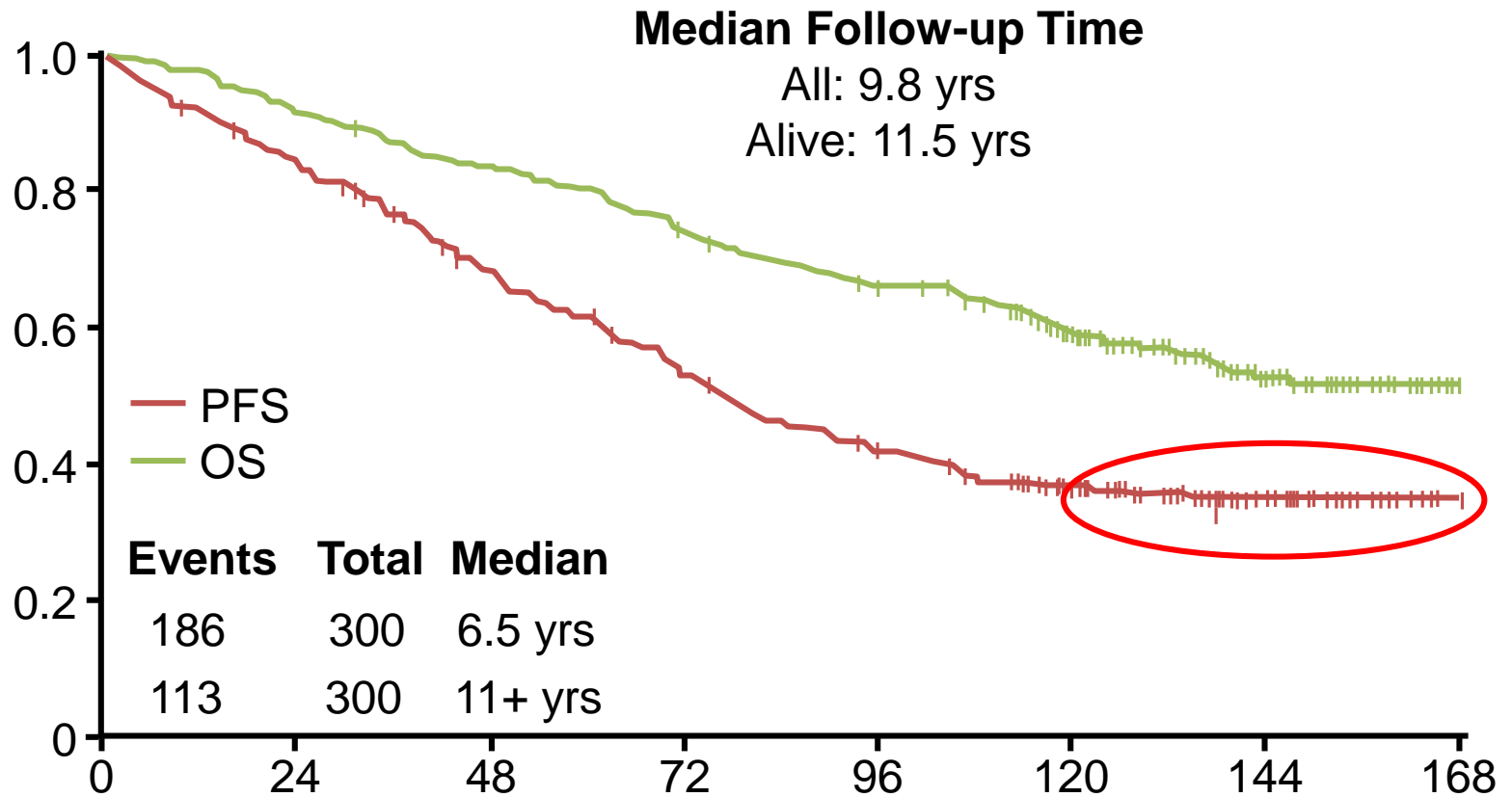
# Venetoclax Monotherapy in Rel/Ref CLL and SLL

- Small molecule, orally bioavailable
- High affinity for Bcl-2

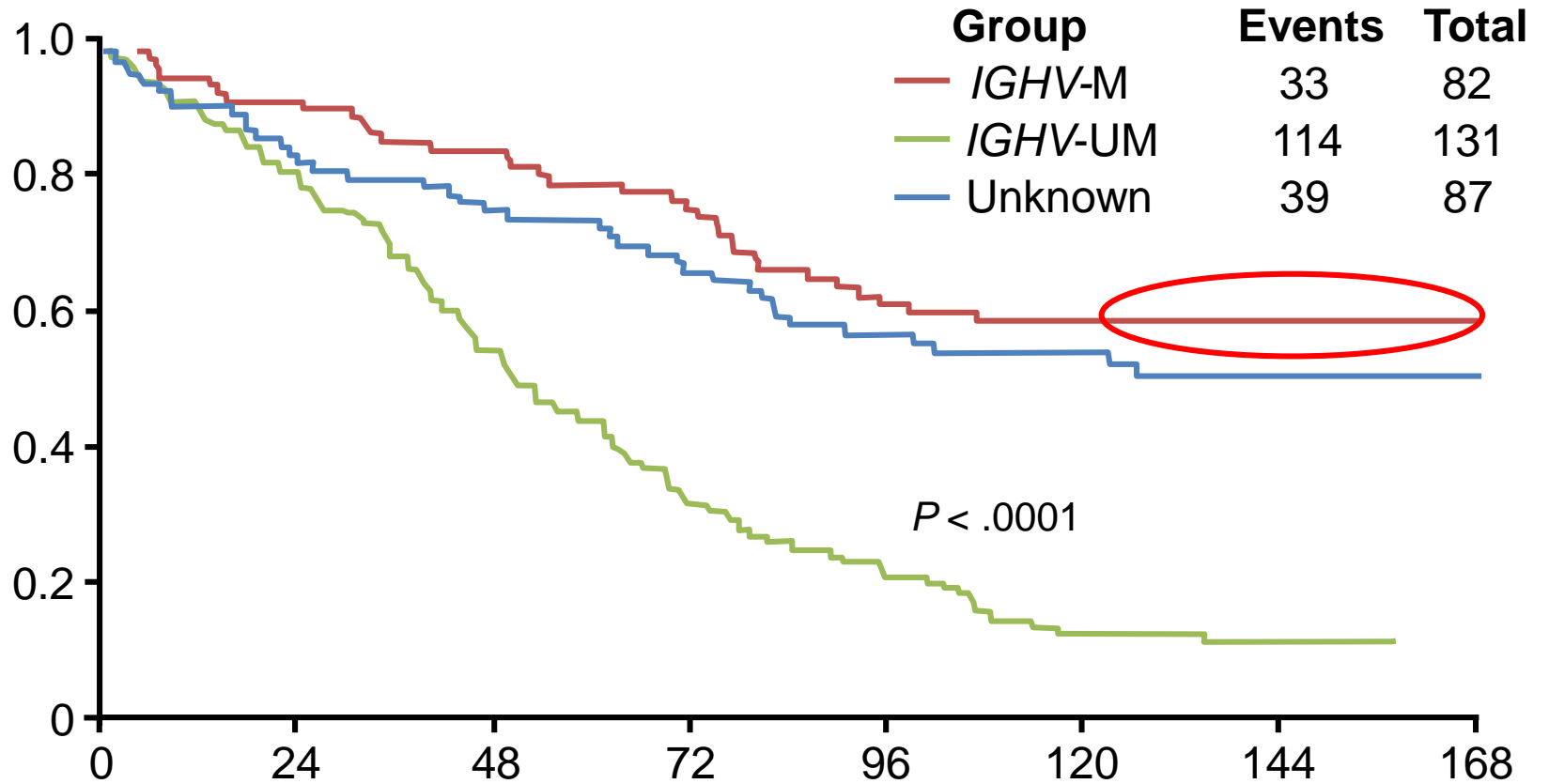
Response, %	Evaluable Patients (n = 56)	del(17p) (n = 17)	Fludarabine Refractory (n = 27)
ORR	84	82	89
CR	23	12	22
PR	61	71	67
SD	7	6	7
PD	2	6	--
Discontinue prior to first assessment	7	6	4

**Should New Effective Single Agents  
Replace Chemotherapy as Frontline  
Therapy in CLL?**

# FCR300: PFS and OS

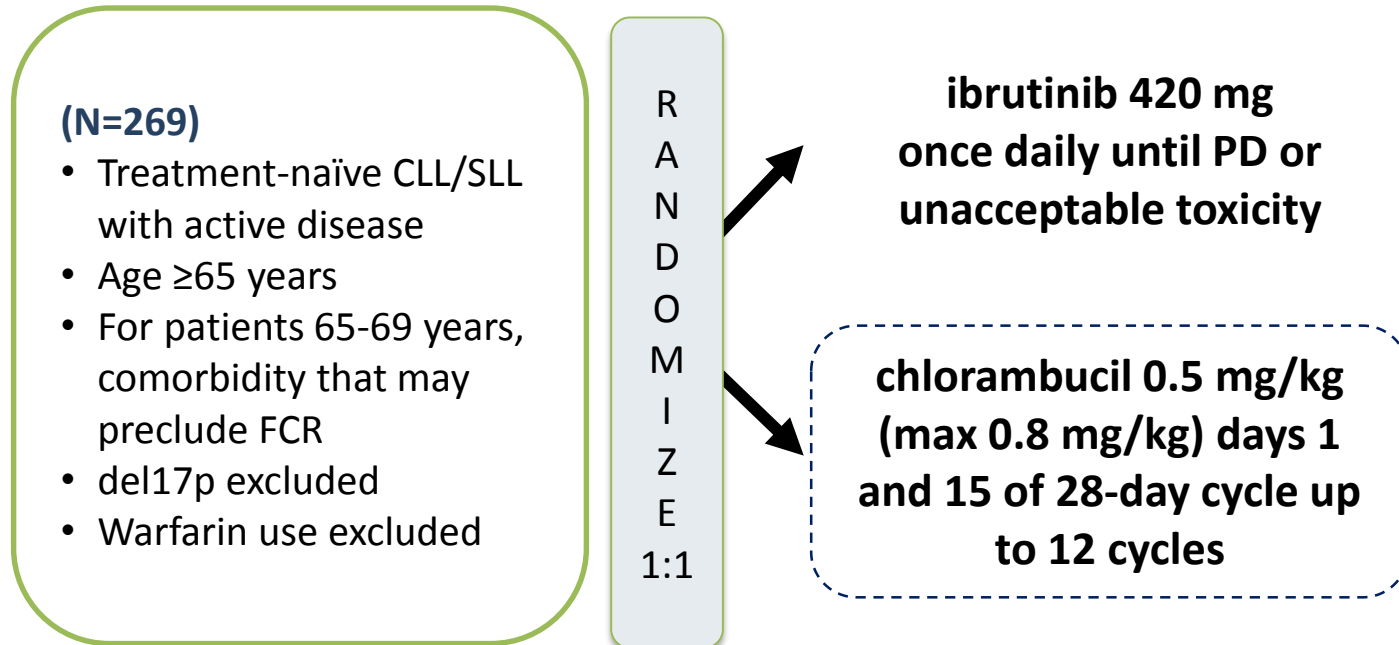


# FCR300: PFS by *IGHV* Mutation Status





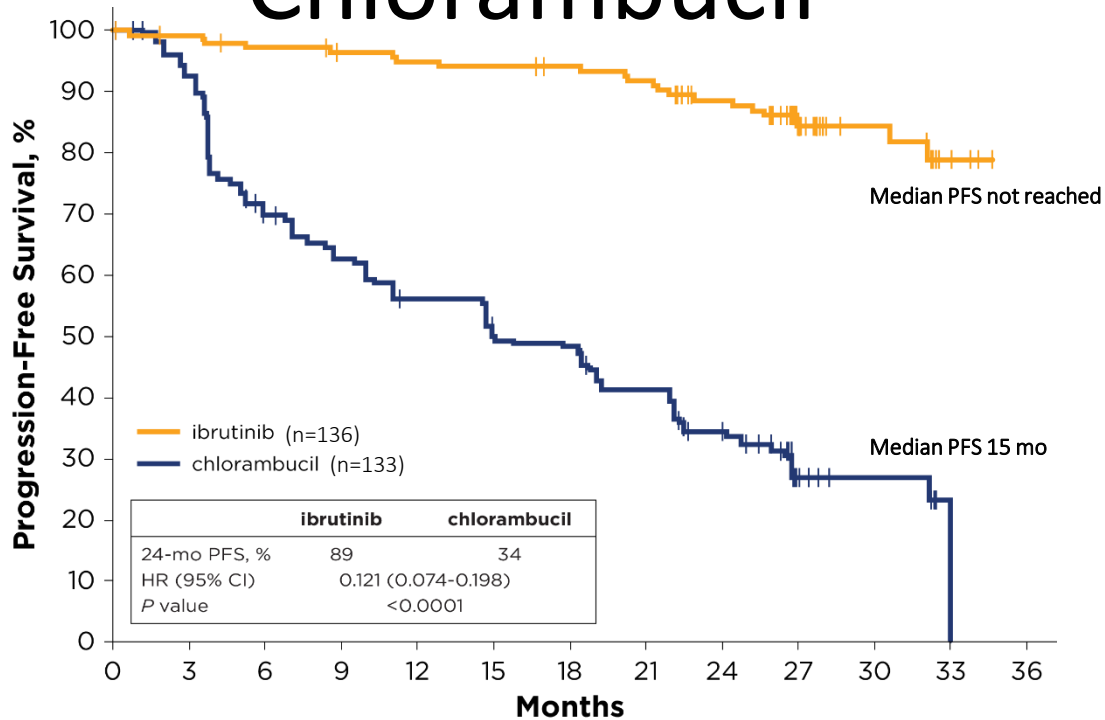
# Results from the International, Randomized Phase 3 Study of Ibrutinib Versus Chlorambucil in Patients 65 Years and Older with Treatment-Naïve CLL/SLL (RESONATE-2)



- Phase 3, open-label, multicenter, international study
- **Primary endpoint:** PFS as evaluated by IRC (2008 iwCLL criteria)
- **Secondary endpoints:** OS, ORR, hematologic improvement, safety

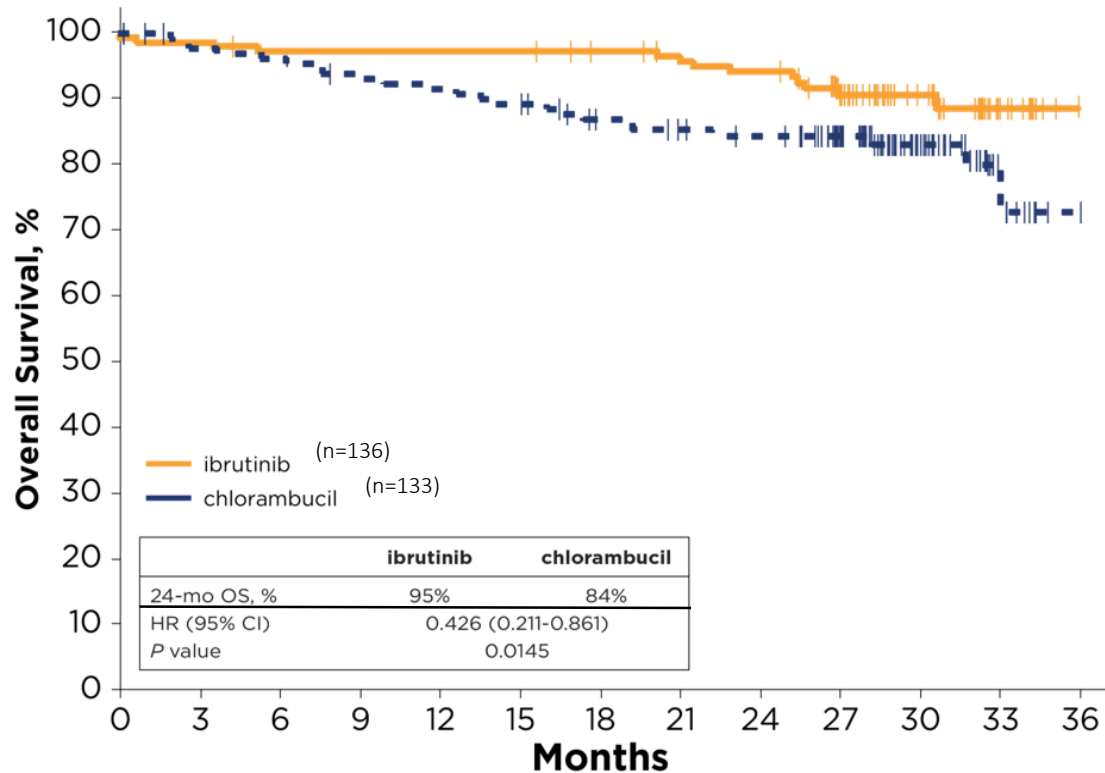
- In clb arm, n=43 crossed over to ibrutinib

# Ibrutinib Prolonged PFS Over Chlorambucil

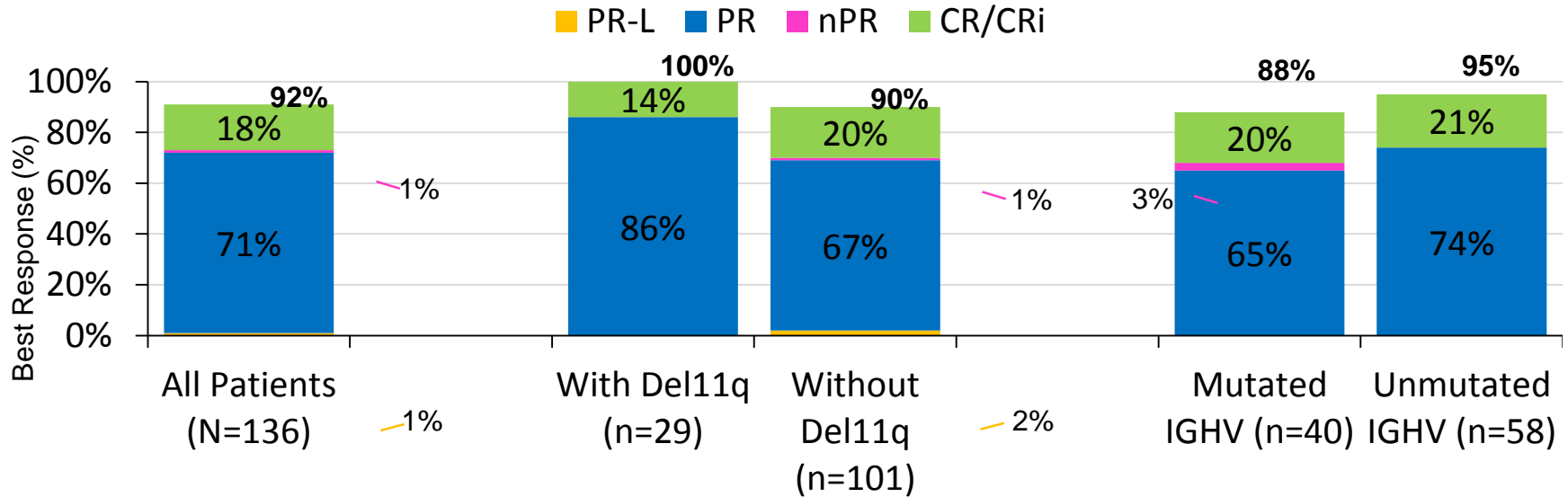


- 88% reduction in the risk of progression or death for patients randomized to ibrutinib
- Subgroup analysis of PFS revealed benefit was observed across all sub-groups

# Ibrutinib Continues to Demonstrate OS Benefit Over Chlorambucil With Longer



# ORR in the Ibrutinib Arm



- Ibrutinib CR rates continue to improve over time: increasing from 7% at 12 months to 15% at 24 months to 18% with median follow-up of 29 months.

\*Response rates with chlorambucil are the same as in the original report (Burger NEJM 2015)

Barr et al. Abstract #234, ASH 2016.

What is next?

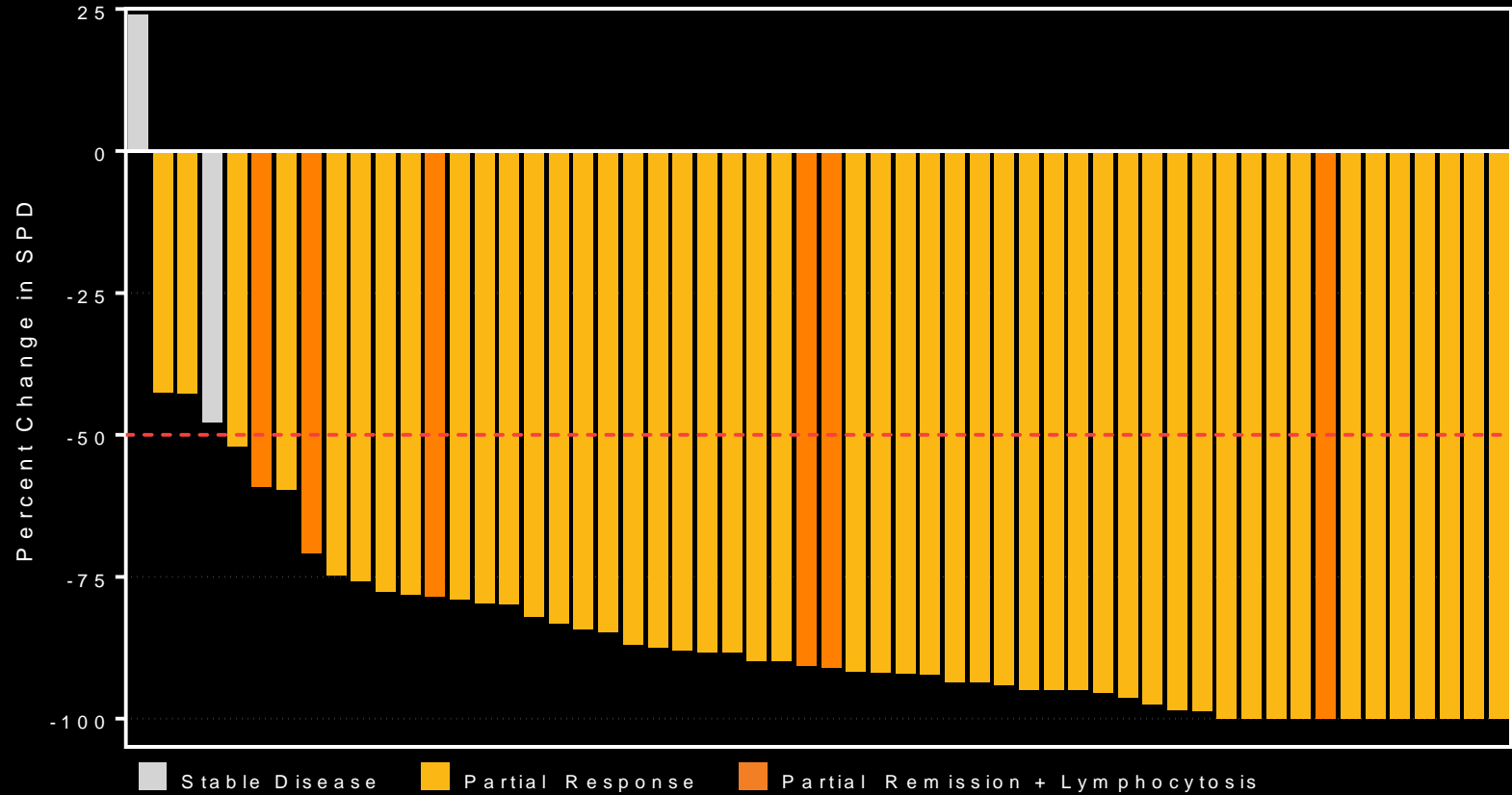
# Acalabrutinib Monotherapy in Patients With Ibrutinib Intolerance: Results From the Phase 1/2 ACE-CL-001 Clinical Study

- Acalabrutinib is a highly selective, potent BTK inhibitor
- Minimal off-target effects on TEC, EGFR, or ITK signaling in vitro

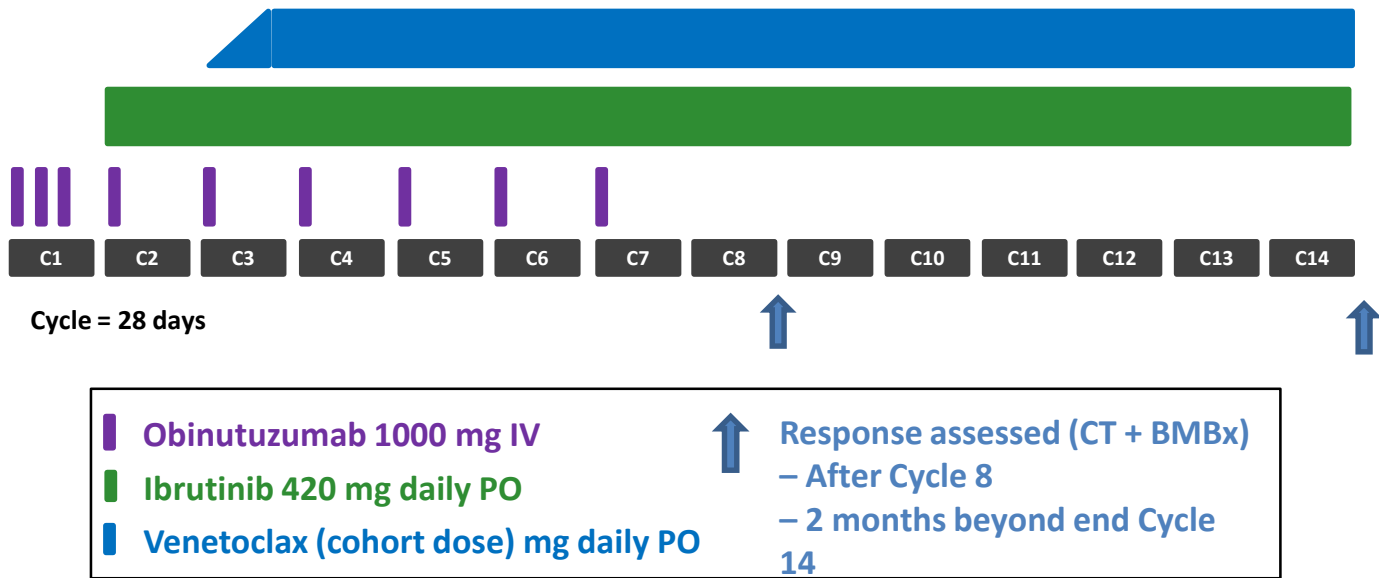
## Kinase Inhibition IC50 (nmol/L)

Kinase	Acalabrutinib	Ibrutinib
BTK	5.1	1.5
TEC	93	7.0
BMX	46	0.8
TXK	368	2.0
ERBB2	~1000	6.4
EGFR	>1000	5.3
ITK	>1000	4.9
JAK3	>1000	32
BLK	>1000	0.1

# Change in Lymphadenopathy (CT Scan)



# Phase 1b Results of a Phase 1b/2 Study of Obinutuzumab, Ibrutinib, and Venetoclax in Relapsed/Refractory CLL





# What about supportive care?

- Recurrent sinus or lung infections:
  - IgG levels
  - Monthly IVIG
- Antibiotic prophylaxis
  - Viral and bacterial
- Vaccination
  - Annual influenza vaccine
  - Pneumococcal vaccine every 5 years
  - Avoid all live vaccines including Zoster
- Autoimmune anemia
- Transfusion

# The practice of oncology is undergoing a transformation

- Paradigm shift in Oncology
  - What cures people
- The next five years – How to get to 100%
  - “Thinking outside the box”

# New Paradigm

- The immune system is the “agent” that improves outcome and *CURES* people with systemic cancer.
- Fundamental shift in our understanding of cancer.

# Breaking Through Cancer's Shield

## Is the cure for cancer inside you?

## Immunotherapy Cancer Drug Data Show Promise in Prolonging Lives

## Researchers report progress in cancer immunotherapy

More experiments the way, as

walked through the lab. "We're just at the beginning of a whole new field." It has been almost 40 years since he discovered

to seven patients could stop the cancer. They were white, tested about 100 times. So far, the data appear effective. Cell survival rates are high against cancer.

by Veronica Smith

Drugs designed to unleash the body's own immune system against cancer are

forms of the disease. Patients with the skin cancer melanoma who received a combination of

They boosted the effectiveness in melanoma patients through

in those patients treated with new

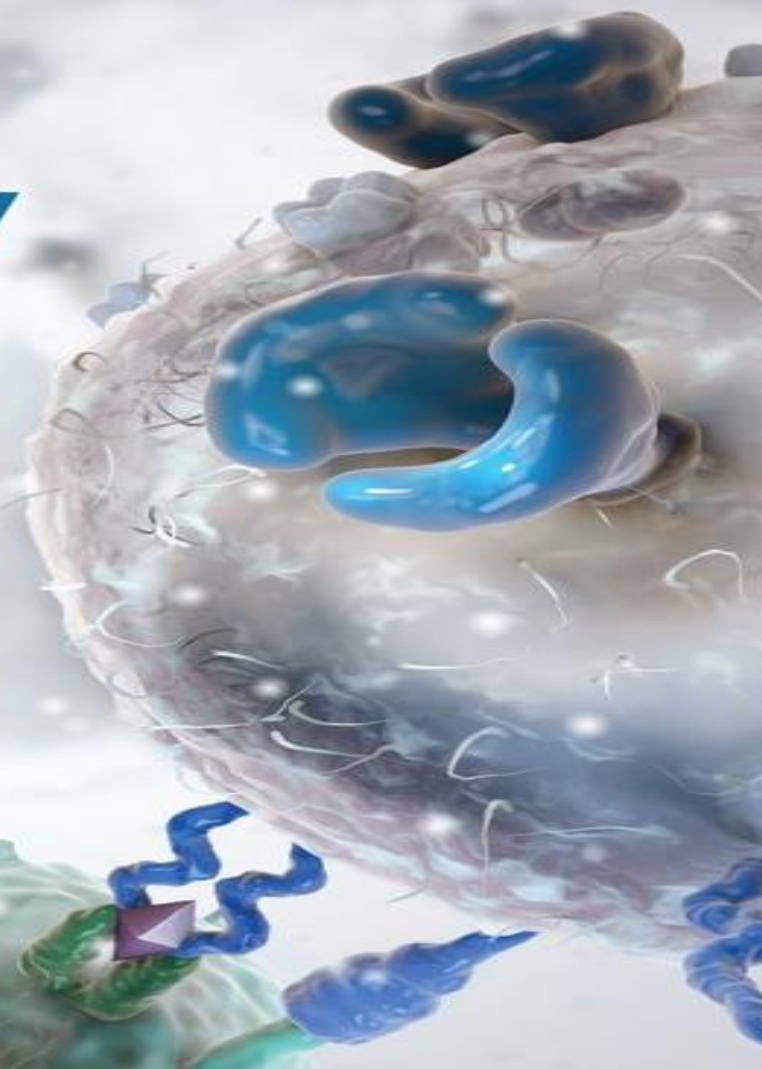
# Science

20 December 2013 | \$10

Breakthrough of the Year

## Cancer Immunotherapy

T cells on the attack

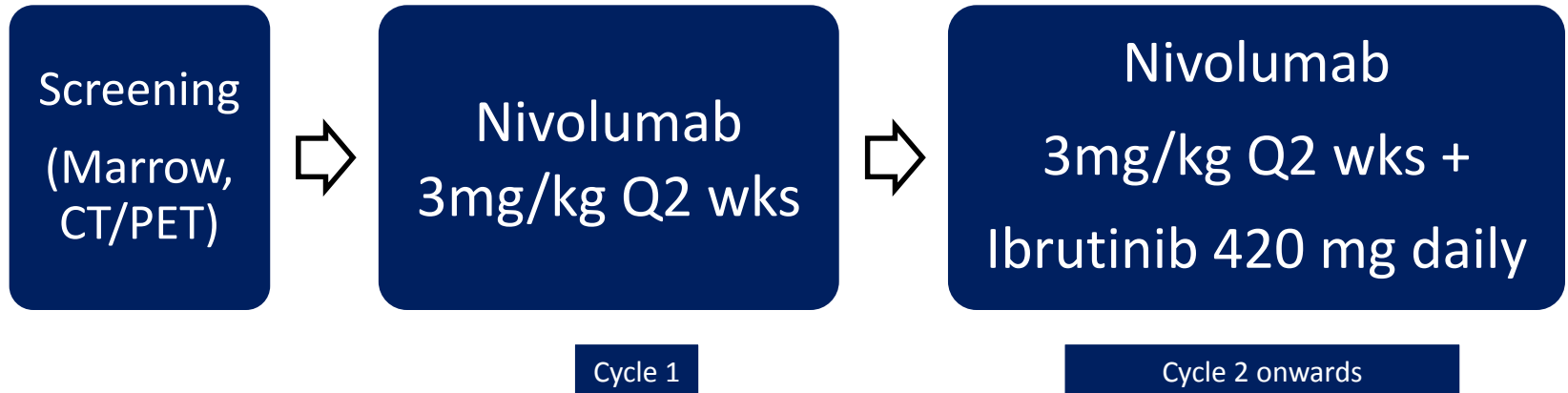


# Rationale for Immunotherapy

- Immune dysregulation in CLL
  - result of overexpression of checkpoint receptors by T cells and respective ligands on CLL cells
- Checkpoint inhibition may result in correction of immune dysregulation and an anti-leukemia effect
  - GVL is a powerful approach in CLL
    - Success of allogeneic HCT

# Nivolumab Combined with Ibrutinib for CLL and Richter Transformation - A Phase II Trial

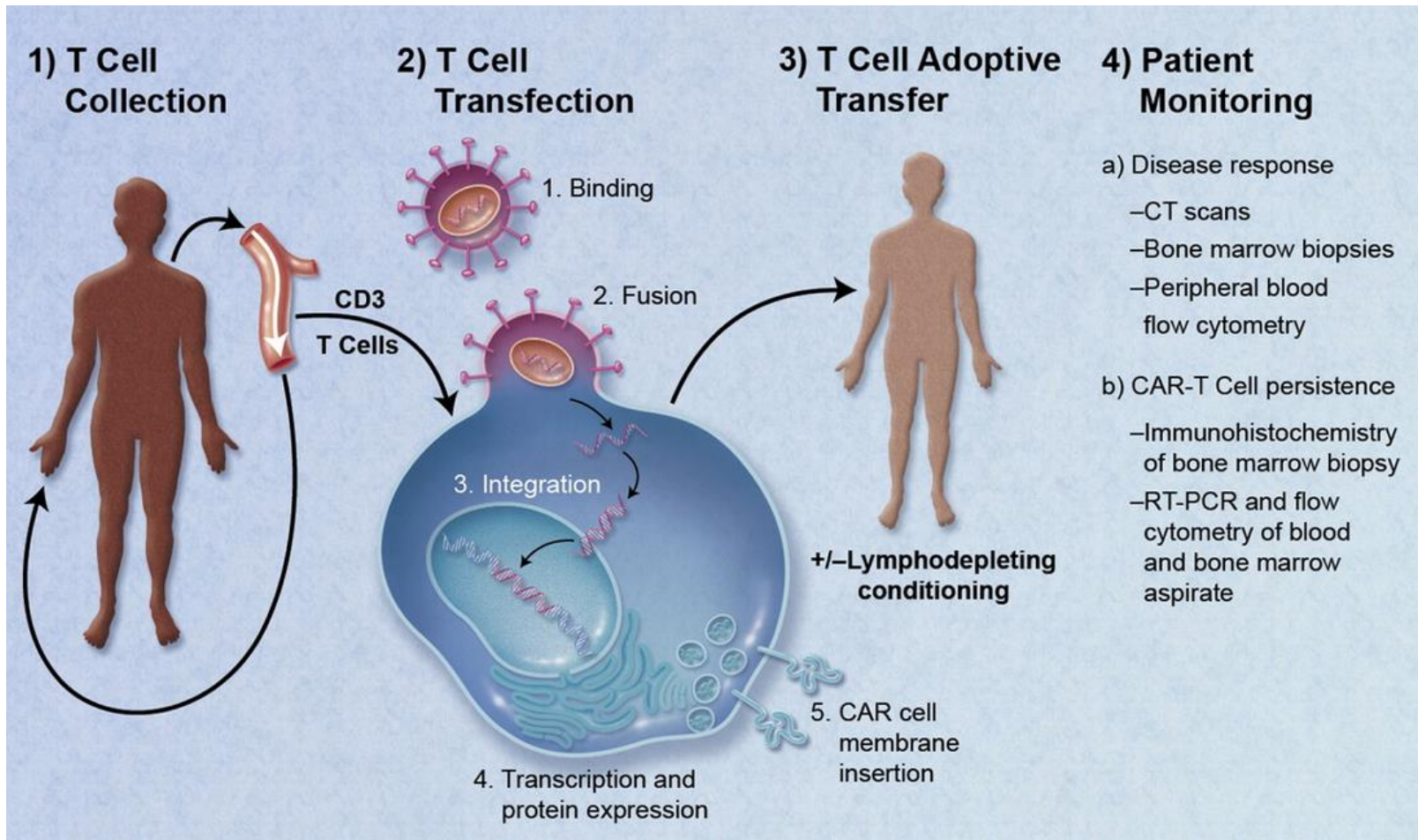
Cohort 1: Relapsed CLL/SLL, or RT



- Response Evaluation (bone marrow and imaging)
  - After C1, C3, C6, C9, C12, then Q6 months

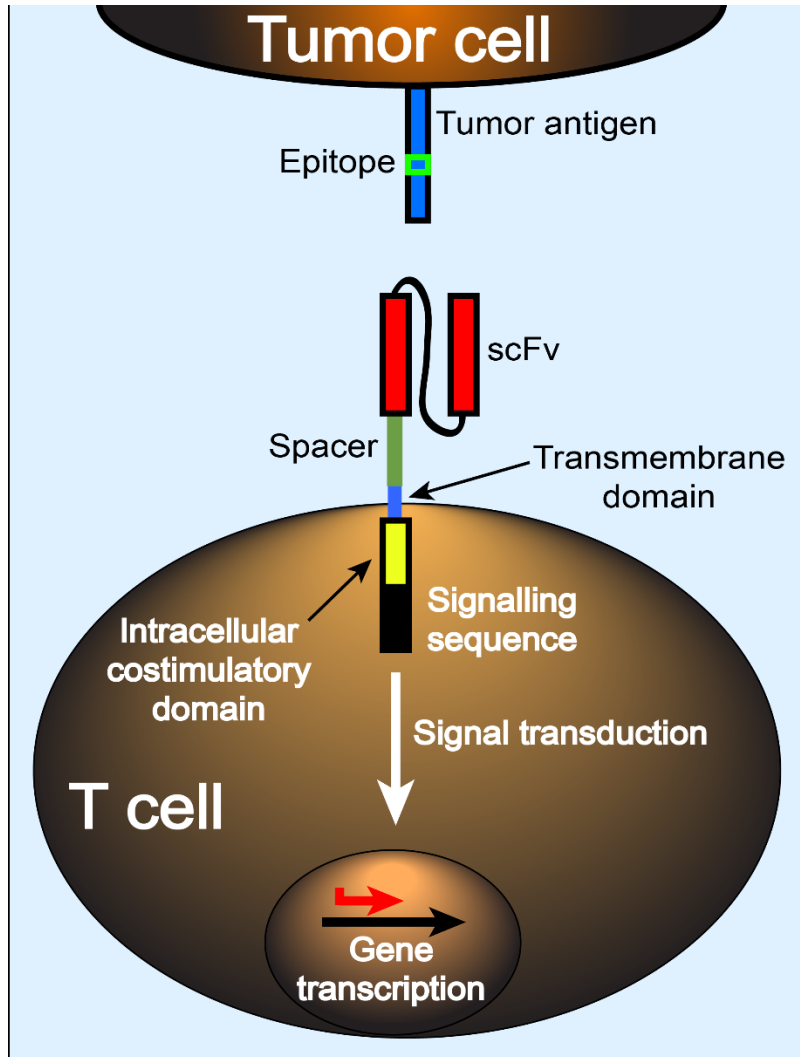


# What about CAR- T cell therapy?





# Chimeric antigen receptors



- CARs and CAR-T cells
  - Target surface molecules
  - Enables redirection of engineered T cell subsets to a specified target antigen

# Relapsed after auto HCT



Before RICE

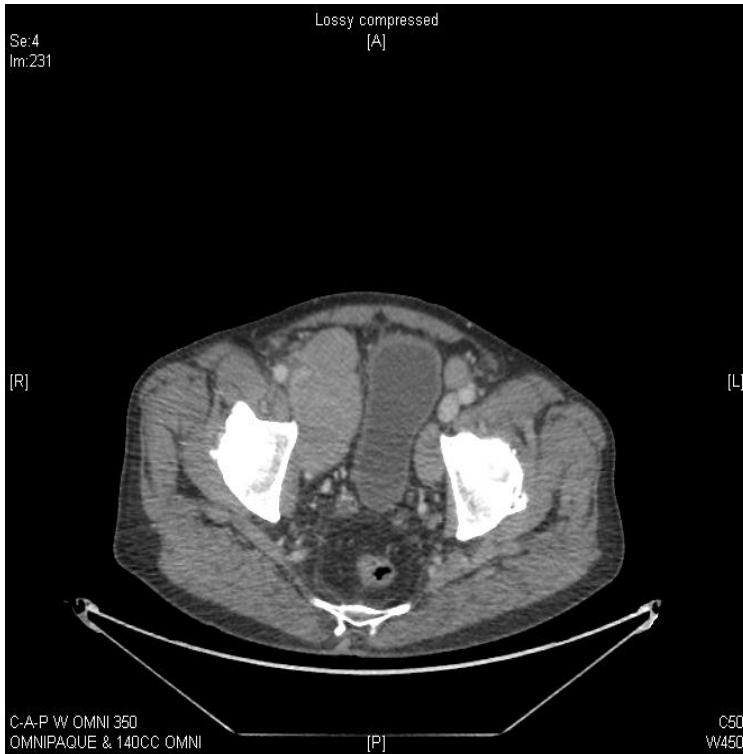


Before CED and CD19 CAR-T cells

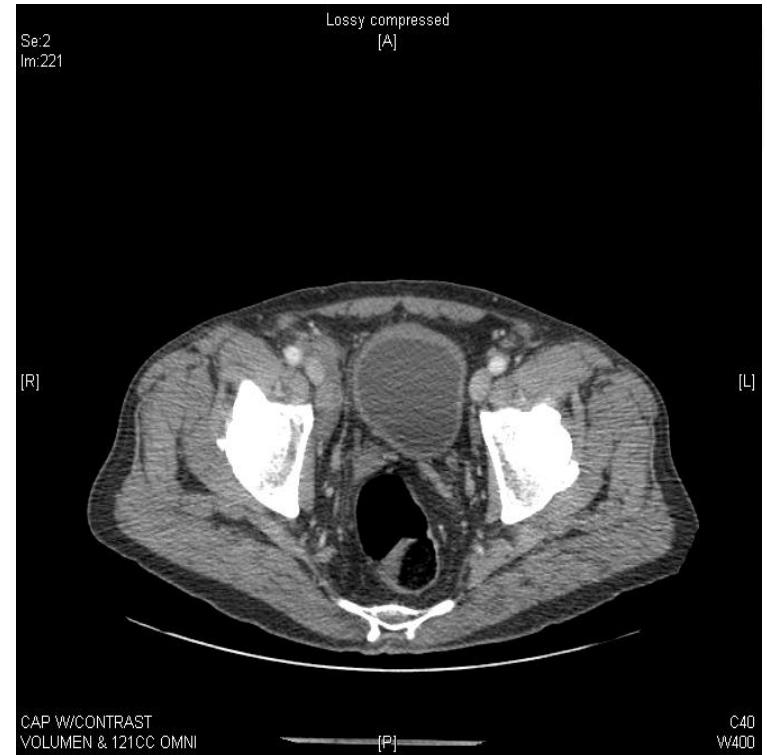


Day 28 after CED and CD19 CAR-T cells

# Relapsed after HCT



Before CED and CD19 CAR-T cells



Day 27 after CED and CD19 CAR-T cells

# Promising Immunotherapy

## Conclusions

- Several exciting new approaches
  - approved and in clinical trials
- More selective than chemotherapy Is this the beginning of the end for chemotherapy?

# Take home messages

- Take advantage of the recent advancements
- Making the wise choice
- Some of the “older” treatments may still be the best option for you
  
- Several exciting new agents in clinical trials
  - More selective than chemotherapy but not without toxicity
  - Already second-generation PI3K and BTK inhibitors in clinical trials as well as SYK inhibitors, etc

# Questions?

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