

ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA (ALL): DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT AND SIDE EFFECTS MANAGEMENT

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe the various types and subtypes of acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)
- Identify tests used to diagnose disease and monitor treatment of ALL
- Explain the overarching goals of treatment for ALL
- Explain approved and emerging treatment options for ALL, including stem cell transplantation, and the role of clinical trials
- Describe strategies to manage treatment side effects as well as potential long-term and late effects of treatments for ALL
- Describe the healthcare professional's role in managing patients with ALL

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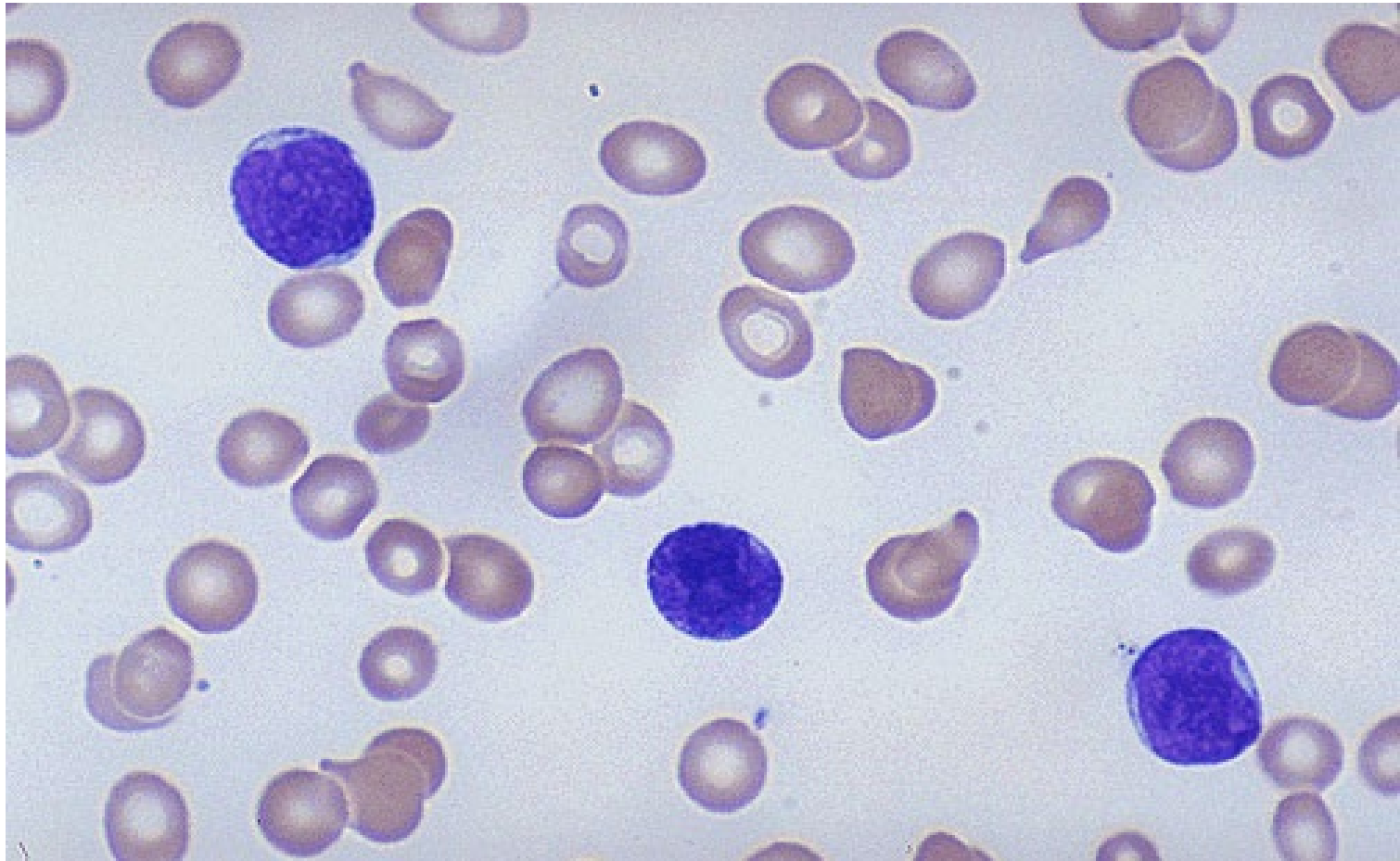
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ALL Morphology



Clonal expansion of immature lymphoblasts

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Estimated Incidence of ALL in 2024

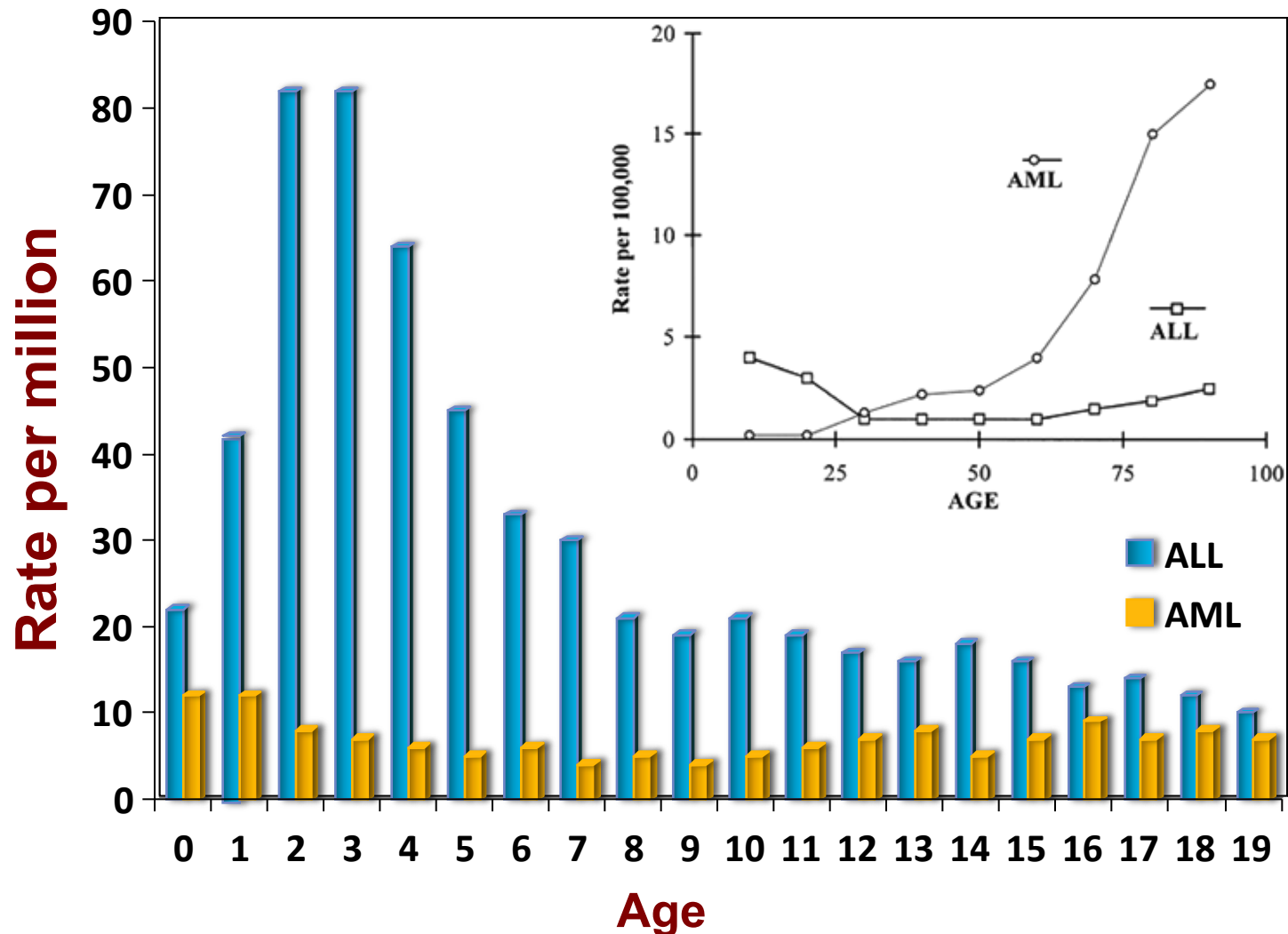
New Cases	6550
Deaths	1330

Age Group	5-year Overall Survival (OS)
Pediatric (< 18 yo)	89%
Adults and young adolescents (19-39 yo)	61%
Adults (40-60 yo)	40%
Elderly adults (> 60 yo)	20%

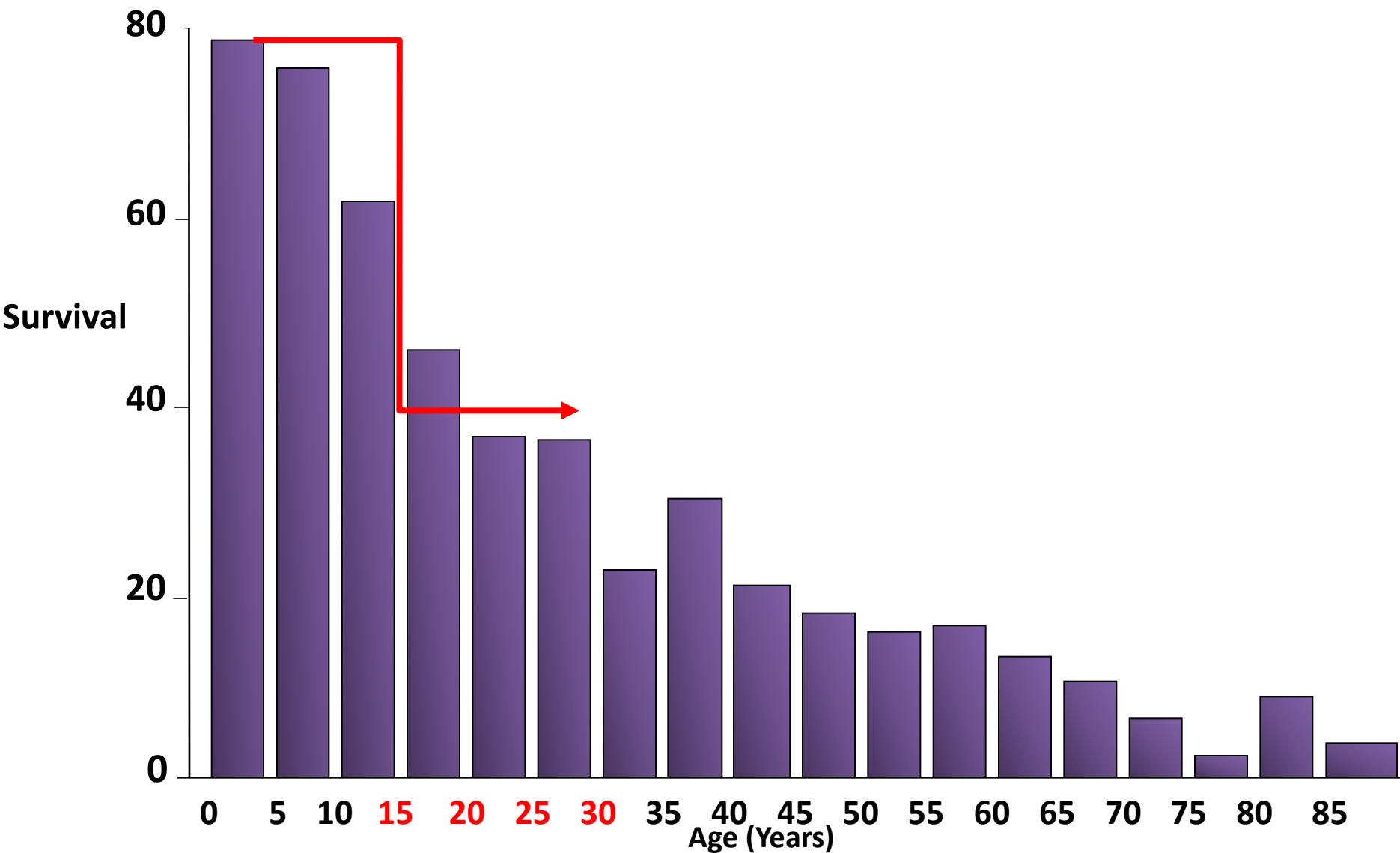
ALL Statistics

Incidence per 1,000,000 person-years	
Peak age of 1-4 years	78.7
Nadir age of 40 – 59 years	8.1
Race	
Hispanic	24.9
Non-Hispanic White	16.6
Asian and Pacific Islanders	14.8
Black	10.2

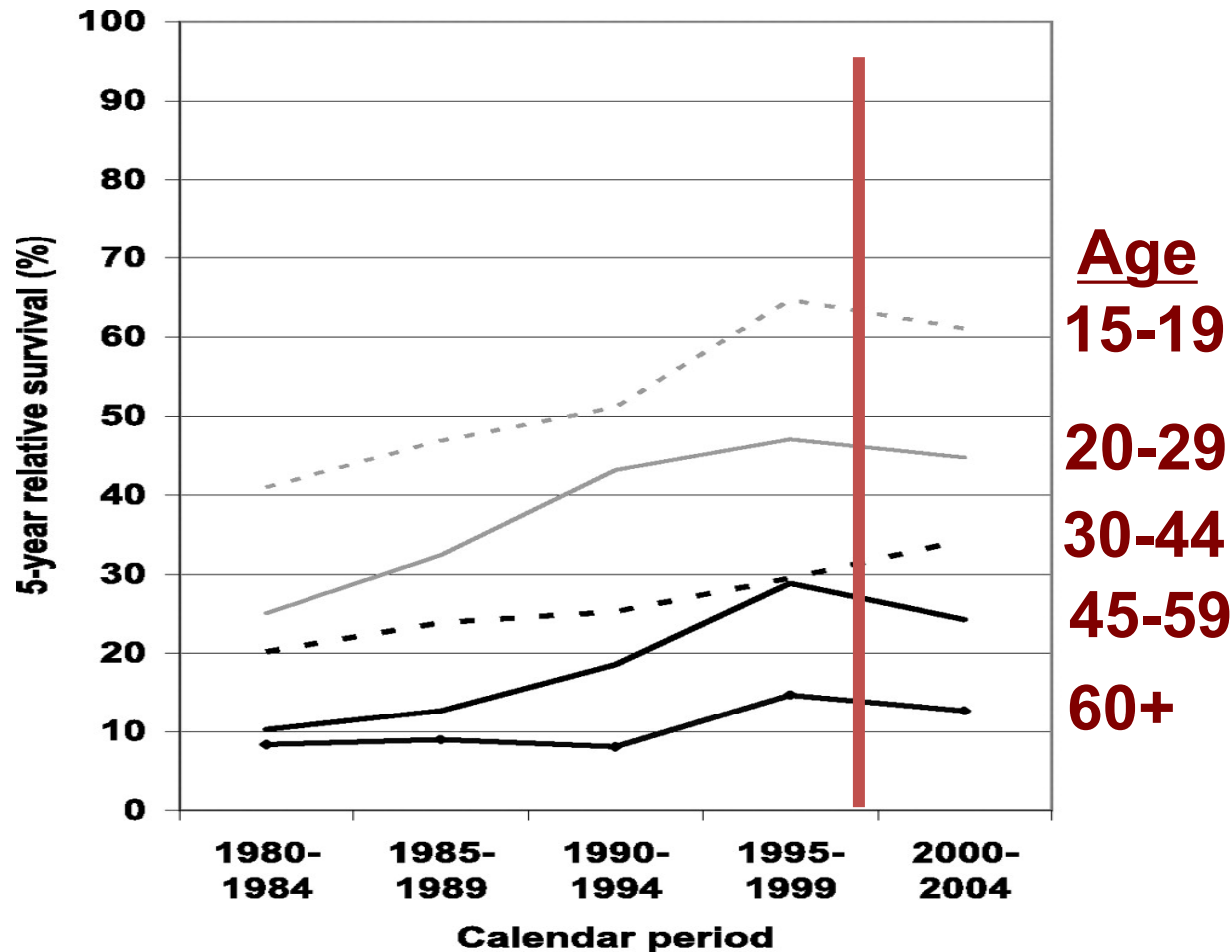
Age-Related Incidence of ALL



ALL 5-Year Survival



5-Year Survival of ALL by Major Age Groups: 1980-1984 to 2000-2004



DIAGNOSIS

WHO Classification 2008 Revisions

- **B lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma (L/L)**
 - B lymphoblastic L/L, NOS
 - B lymphoblastic L/L, recurrent genetic abnormalities
- **T lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma**

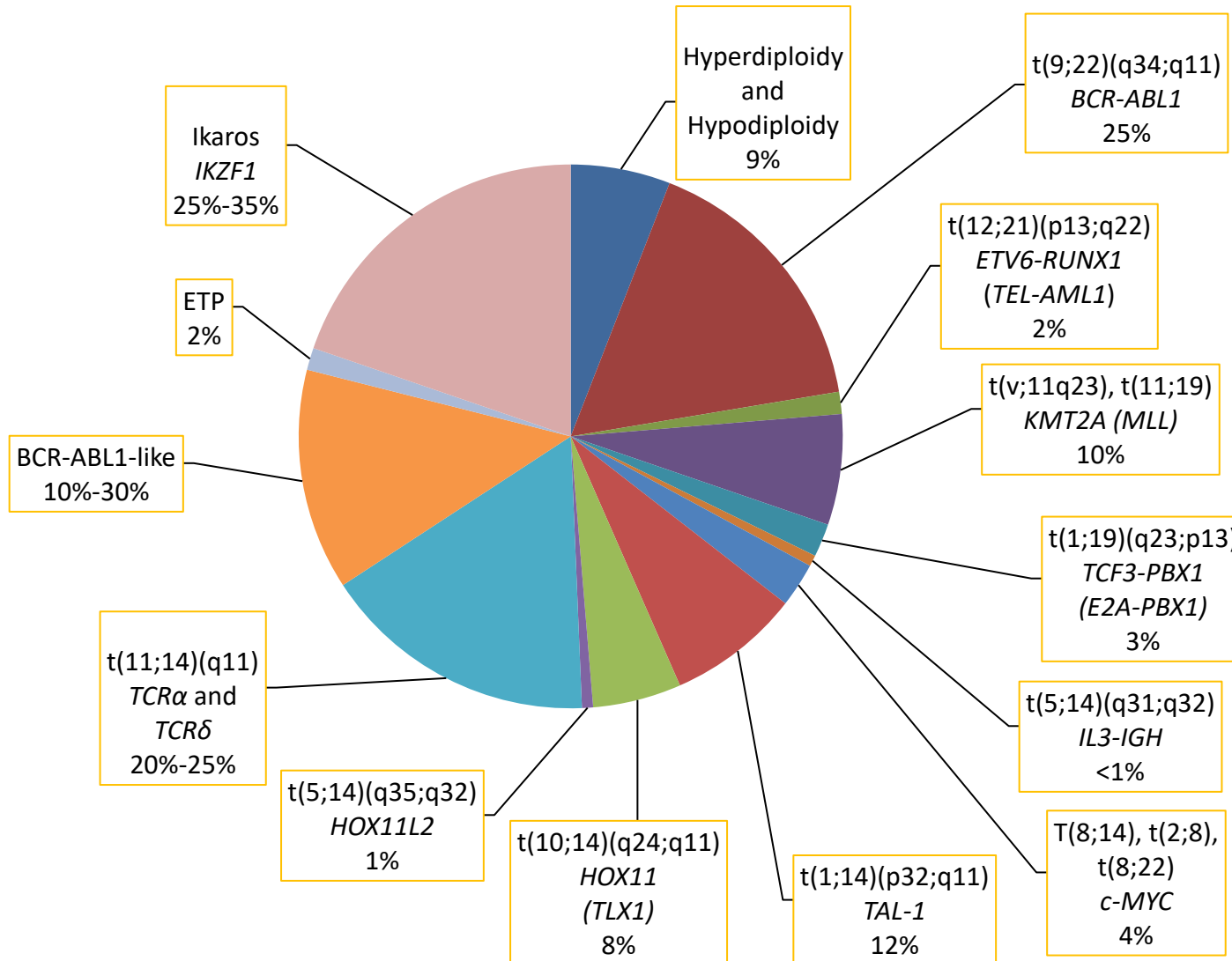
Diagnostic Work-Up

- Bone marrow biopsy with:
 - Cytogenetics
 - Flow Cytometry
 - FISH for major recurrent abnormalities
 - PCR testing for BCR-ABL if t(9;22) is suspected
- Lumbar puncture to assess CSF
 - Usually not done while circulating blasts are present
- Testicular exam
 - Especially in T-cell ALL

Diagnosis

- Morphology
 - Wright-Giemsa-stained BM aspirate smears
 - H&E-stained core biopsy and clot sections
- Immunophenotype
 - Comprehensive flow cytometric immunophenotyping
- Cytogenetics
 - Karyotyping of G-banded metaphase chromosomes
- Molecular Characteristics
 - FISH for major recurrent genetic abnormalities
 - RT-PCR for fusion genes (ie, *BCR-ABL1*)

Cytogenetic Abnormalities Adult ALL



Key Genetic Alterations in ALL

ALL subtype	Alterations/Mutations
T-lineage	PHF6, CNOT3, RPL5, RPL10, Notch/FBXW7
ETP	Loss of function (GATA3, IKZF1, RUNX1, ETV6) Gain of function (Ras, FLT-3, IL7R) Inactivating (EZH2, SUZ12, EED, SETD2, DNMT3A)
BCR-ABL1-like	Rearrangement CRLF2 in 50%; activating JAK mutations in 50% CRLF2r Rearrangement kinase genes ABL1, ABL2, EPOR, PDGFRB
Hypodiploid	Ras (NF1, PTPN11, NRAS, KRAS) IKZF2/IKZF2 TP53, commonly germline
Burkitt	TCF3/ID3 , CCND
Relapsed	CREBBP , NT5C2 enriched
Familial	TP53 low hypodiploid; PAX5 pGly193Ser in autosomal dominant
Ph+	IKZF1 deletion

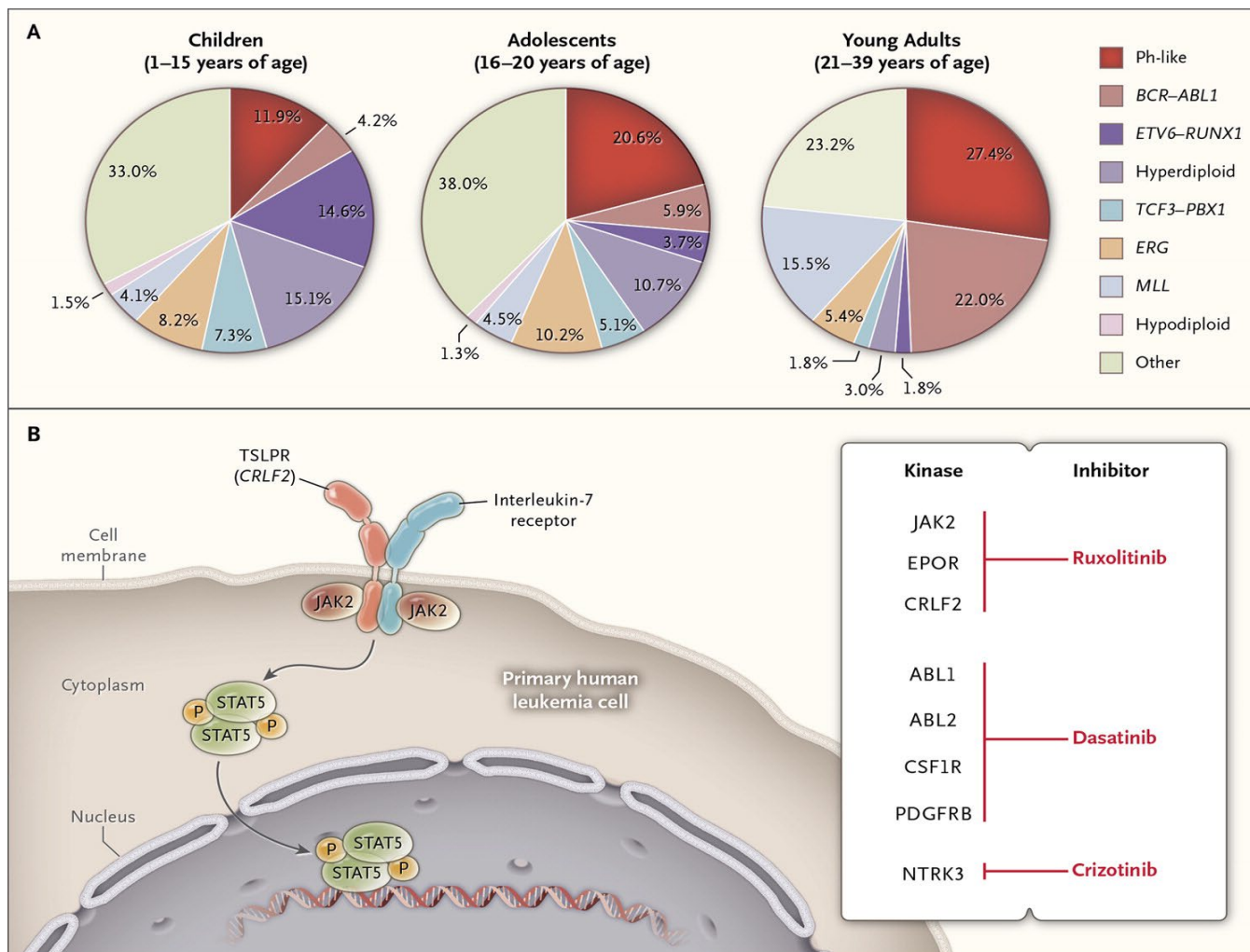
Cytogenetic Risk Groups

- Good risk (rare in adults)
 - Hyperdiploidy
 - 51-65 chromosomes
 - Trisomy of chromosomes 4, 10, 17
 - t(12;21)(p13;q22): *ETV6-RUNX1* (*TEL-AML1*)
- Poor risk
 - Hypodiploidy
 - <44 chromosomes
 - *KMT2A* rearranged (t[4;11] or others)
 - t(v;14q23)/IgH
 - t(9;22)(q34;q11.2): *BCR-ABL1* (defined as high risk in the pre-TKI era)
 - Complex karyotype (≥5 chromosomal abnormalities)
 - Ph-like ALL
 - Intrachromosomal amplification of chromosome 21 (iAMP21)

BCR-ABL1- Like ALL

- 10% –30% cases B-lymphoblastic leukemia
 - Associated with poor prognosis
 - Responsive to TKIs
- *IKZF1* alterations
 - IKAROS for lymphoid lineage development
- *CRLF2* rearrangements
 - Receptor for thymic stromal lymphopoietin
- JAK/STAT pathway
- Other alterations
 - *ABL1*, *ABL2*, *EPOR*, *JAK2*, *IL7R*, *PDGFRβ*, *EBF1*, *FLT2*, *NTRK3* and *SH2B3*

Actionable Genetic Lesions in Philadelphia Chromosome–like (Ph-like) Precursor B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)



Minimal Residual Disease (MRD) in ALL

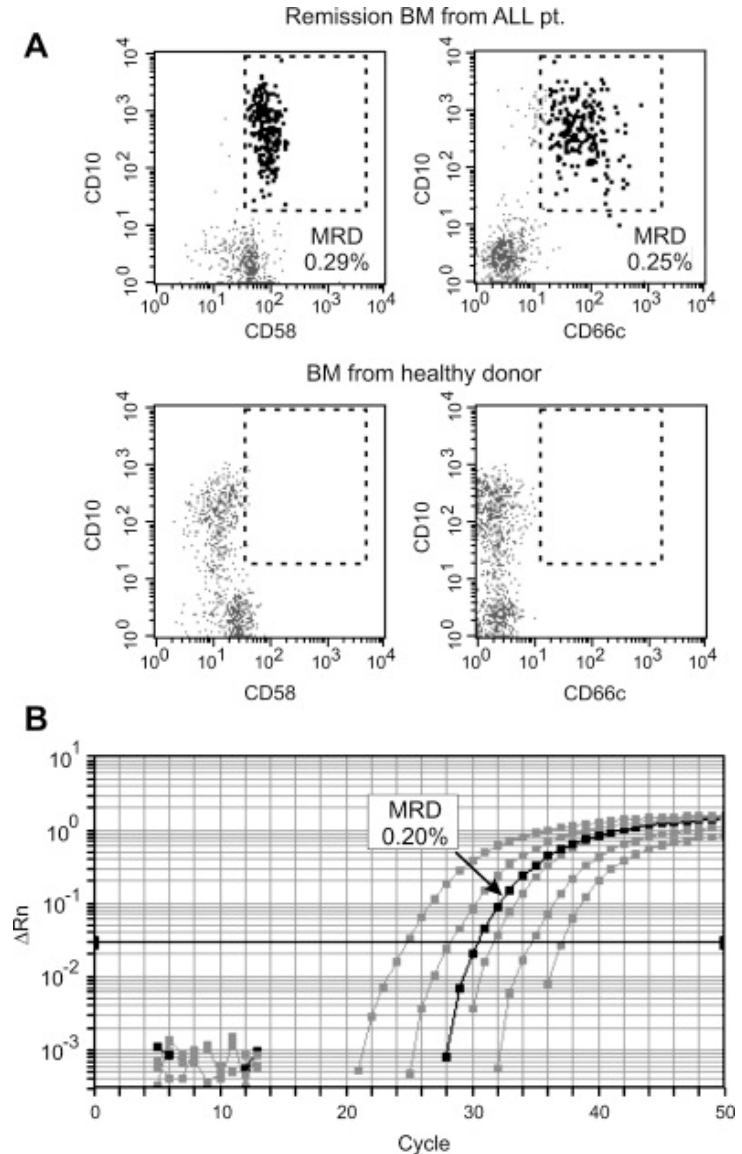
Two methods of MRD detection

1) Flow cytometry

- Looks for ALL-specific immunophenotype or abnormal antigen expression

2) PCR

- Looks for clonal rearrangement of immunoglobulin and T-cell receptor genes unique to the leukemic clone



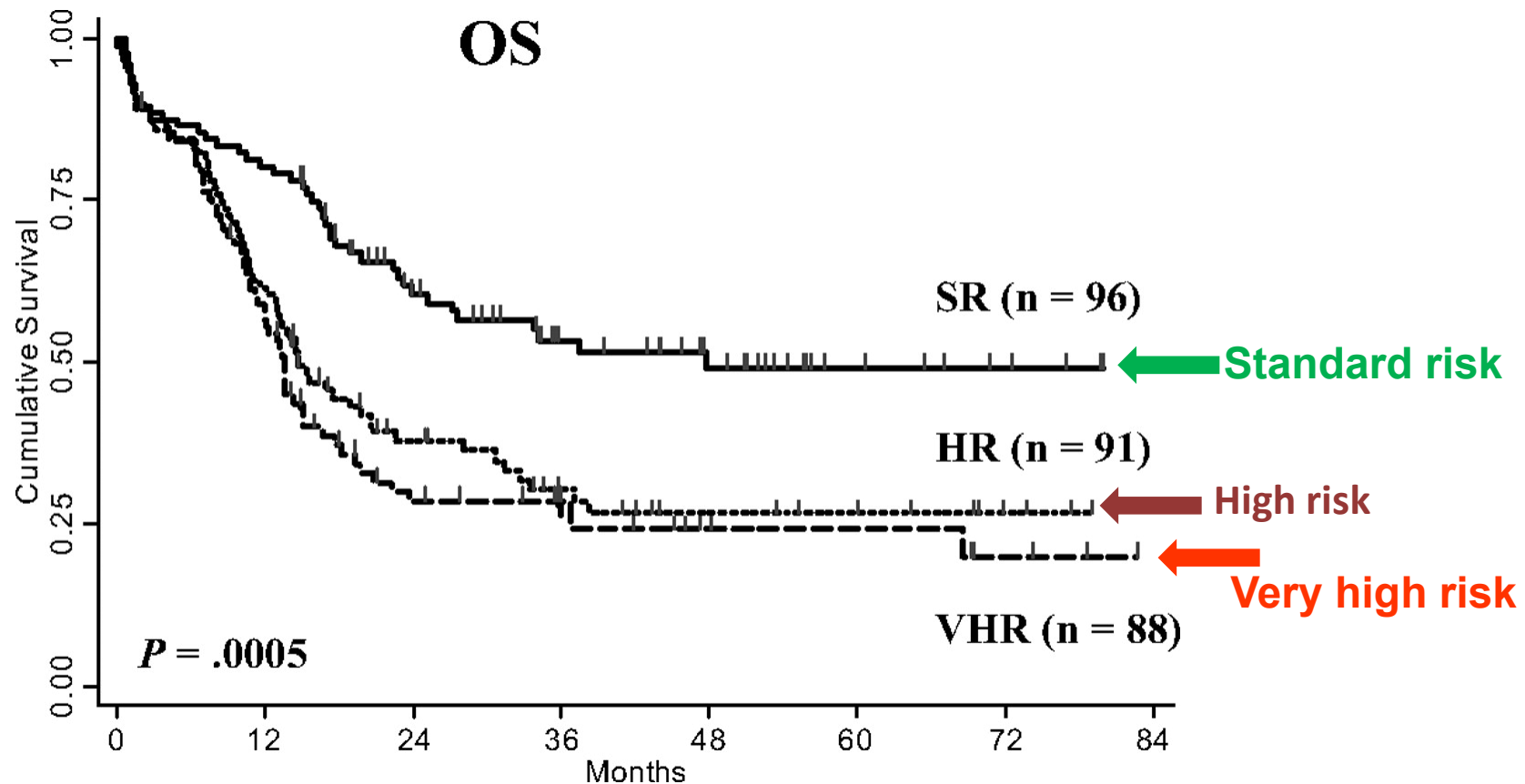
RISK STRATIFICATION AND PROGNOSTIC FACTORS

Adult ALL

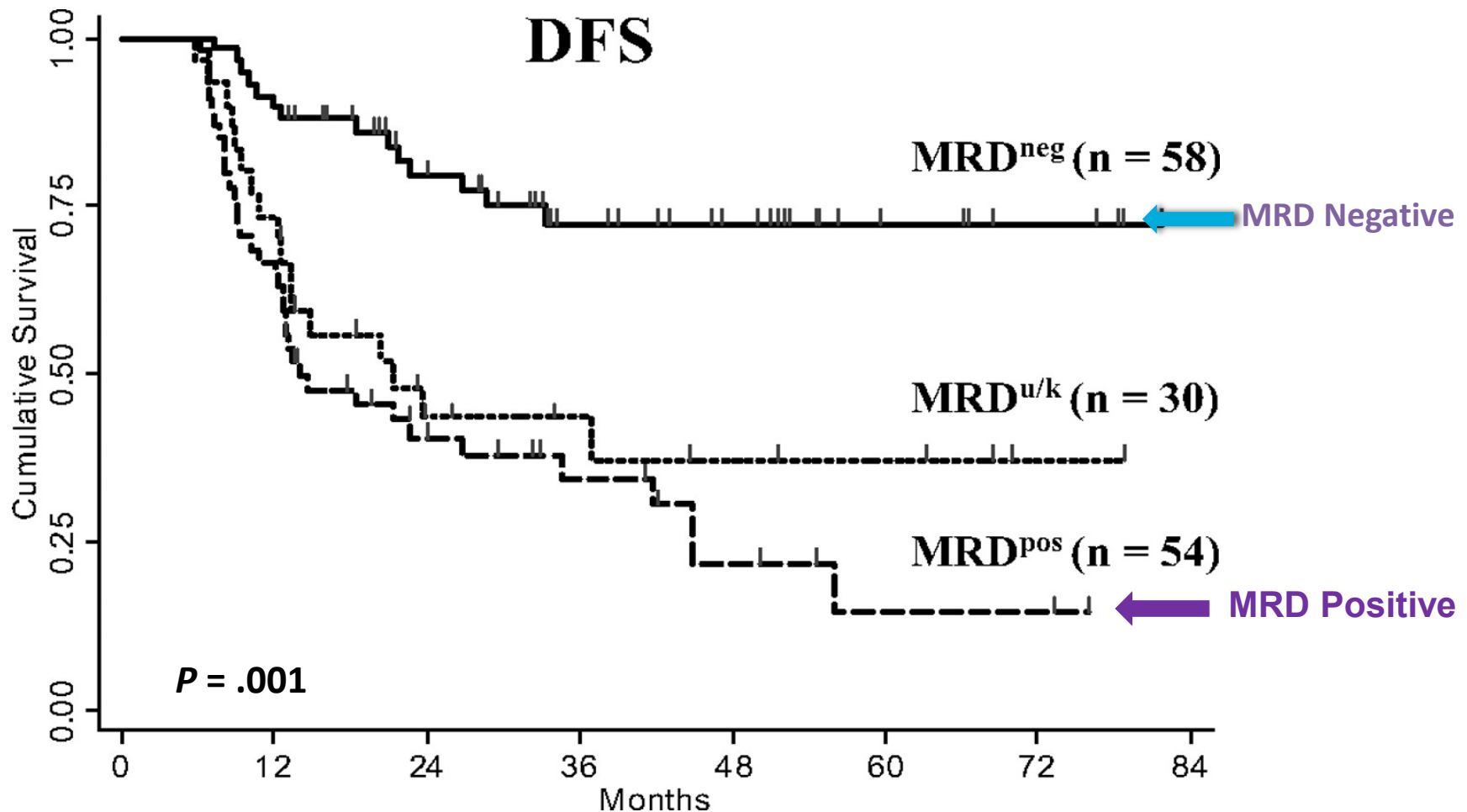
Risk Categories

Prognostic factors	Standard Risk	Adverse Risk
Age	≤ 35 years old	>60 years old
WBC at diagnosis	<30K	>100K
Immunophenotype	Precursor B-cell	Early/mature T-cell
Cytogenetics	---	t(9;22)/BCR-ABL1, t(4;11), Hypodiploid <44, t(1;19) Complex (≥ 3 abnormalities)
Mutations	---	IKZF1
Minimal residual disease after induction	<0.01%	≥ 1%
Time to CR1	≤ 4 weeks	> 4 weeks
Cycles to obtain CR	1 cycle	> 1 cycle

Overall Survival by Risk Class



Disease-Free Survival According to MRD Status



Factors Affecting Treatment Decisions

- Age
- Comorbidities
 - Liver disease, transaminitis, or high bilirubin
 - Congestive heart failure
 - Neuropathy
- Immunophenotype and risk stratification
- BCR-ABL
- Time point and cutoff for minimal residual disease (MRD) will be dependent on the induction regimen used

PRINCIPLES IN ADULT ALL THERAPY: FRONT-LINE THERAPY

Adult ALL

No Clear Standard of Care

- Multiple chemotherapy regimens and no comparable trials
 - NCCN guidelines: clinical trial or pick your favorite
- Very wide age range
 - AYA 15-39 yrs.
 - Younger Adults 40-65yrs.
 - Older adults 65+
- Uncertainty about the role of alloHSCT
- Relapse/ refractory – ??? (bridge to alloHSCT)

CNS Prophylaxis in Adult ALL

- All ALL treatment regimens include CNS prophylaxis
- Regimens without cranial irradiation effective
- High-dose systemic therapy for low-risk disease
- Intrathecal MTX alone or alternating with ara-C effective
- Early IT therapy + high-dose systemic therapy effective for high-risk disease
- **Risk-oriented approach optimal**

Role for Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation in ALL

- Allogeneic HSCT may be considered for:
 - High risk disease
 - Poor risk cytogenetics/molecular changes: Ph-like or Ph+ w/ IKZF1, ETP T-cell, MLL, KMT2A, tp53 and complex karyotype
 - High WBC at diagnosis
 - Central nervous system disease
 - Relapsed disease
 - Primary induction failure (delayed CR)
 - MRD positive disease after induction chemotherapy

Principles of ALL Therapy

CNS prophylaxis: IT chemotherapy

Induction

**Corticosteroids
(dexamethasone or
prednisone)
Vincristine
Anthracyclines
Asparaginase
Cyclophosphamide**

Chemotherapy-sparing?

**Consolidation
Intensification**

**Methotrexate
Cytarabine
Blinatumomab
Etoposide**

**Allogeneic stem cell
transplant (HSCT)**

Maintenance

**6-mercaptopurine
Methotrexate
Vincristine
Steroids**

**If Ph(+) – add BCR-ABL TKI
If CD20(+) – add rituximab**

Role of Oncology Pharmacist

Chemotherapy Selection

- Dose modifications (age, organ function, toxicities)
- Chemotherapy counseling

Medication Review

- Toxicity checks
- Drug interactions
- Dose adjustments

Supportive Care

- Side effect management
- Therapeutic drug monitoring
- Antibiotic recommendations

Discharge Preparation

- Prior authorization
- Discharge counseling

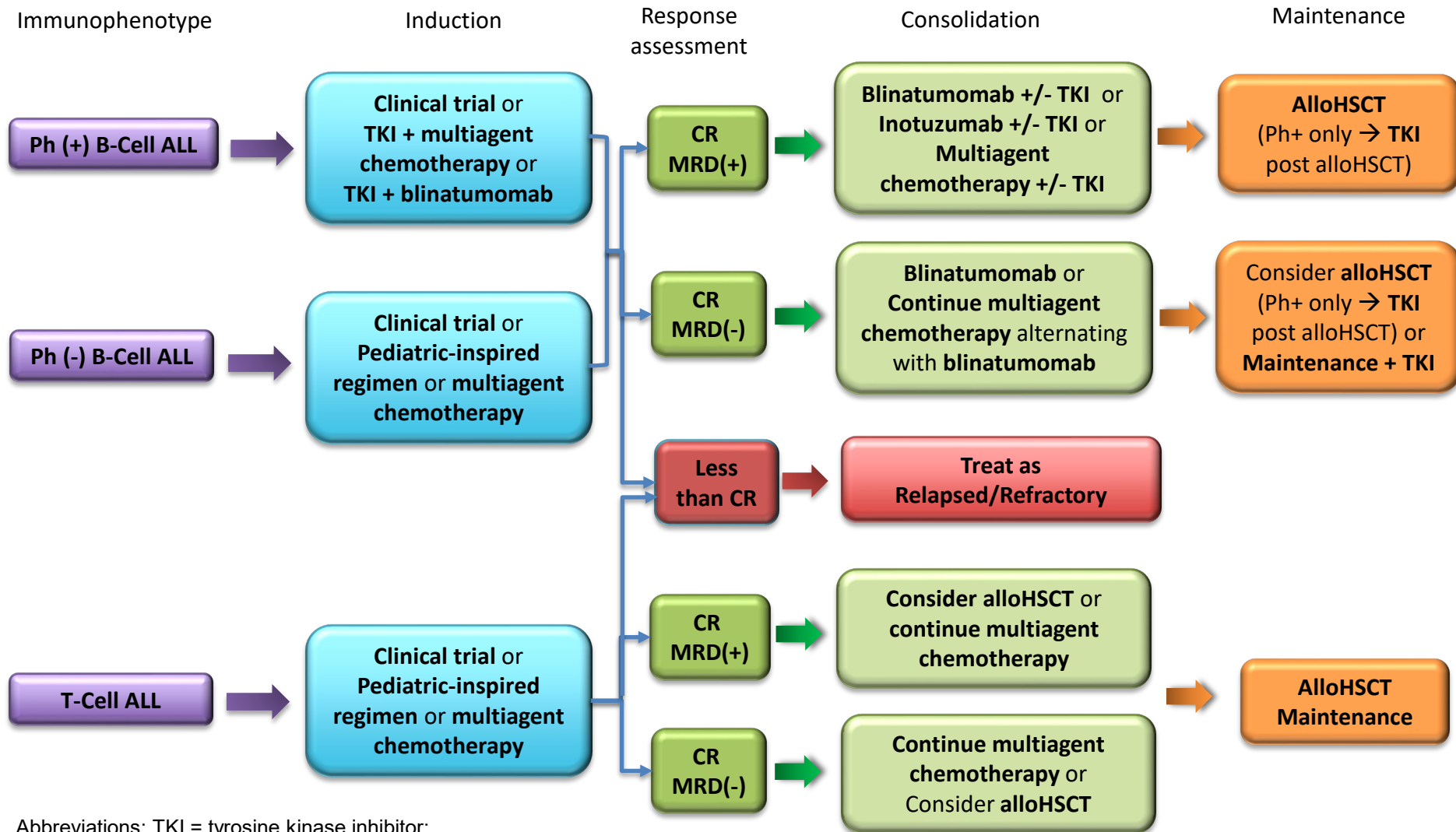
Pharmacological Considerations

- Vinca alkaloids
 - Vincristine
- Anthracyclines
 - Doxorubicin
 - Daunorubicin
- Topoisomerase 2 inhibitor
 - Etoposide
- Alkylating agents
 - Cyclophosphamide
- Tyrosine kinase inhibitors
 - Imatinib
 - Dasatinib
 - Nilotinib
 - Ponatinib
- Antimetabolites
 - Methotrexate
 - Cytarabine
 - Nelarabine
 - Mercaptopurine
 - Thioguanine
- Enzyme
 - Asparaginase (pegaspargase)
- Corticosteroids
 - Dexamethasone
 - Prednisone
- Monoclonal antibody
 - Rituximab
 - Inotuzumab ozogamicin
 - Blinatumomab

ALL Therapy “Personalized Therapy”

Entity	Management
Burkitt	HCVAD-R x 8; ITx16; Rituximab+brief high-intensity chemo with filgrastim
Ph-positive ALL	HCVAD + TKI; TKI maintenance; allo SCT in CR1
T-ALL	HD CTX, HD ara-C, Asp; nelarabine?
CD20 – positive ALL	ALL chemo Rx+ rituximab
AYA	Pediatric-inspired therapy; HCVAD-R
MRD by FCM	Prognosis; need for allo SCT in CR1

AYA (18-39 years old) Treatment Algorithm



Abbreviations: TKI = tyrosine kinase inhibitor;
CR = complete response; MRD = minimal residual
disease; alloHSCT = allogeneic stem cell transplant

Adolescents & Young Adults with ALL

Country	Regimen	Age	No.	%CR	% 5-yr EFS
U.S.	CCG CALGB	16 – 21	196 103	96 93	64 38
France	FRALLE 93 LALA94	15 – 20	77 100	94 83	67 41
Holland	DGOG HVON	15 – 18	47 44	98 91	69 34
UK	ALL97 UKALLXII	15 – 17	61 67	98 94	65 49
Italy	AIEOP <u>Gimema</u>	14 – 18	150 95	94 89	80* 71*

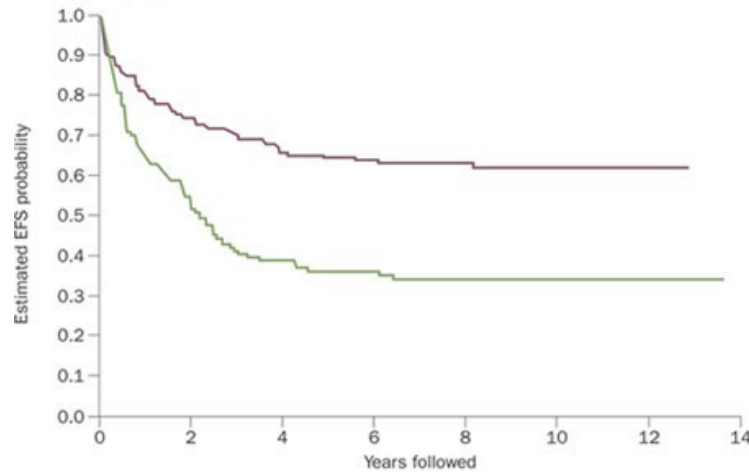
***2-yr event-free survival (EFS)**

Comparison of EFS and OS

CALGB or CCG

EFS

a Event-free survival

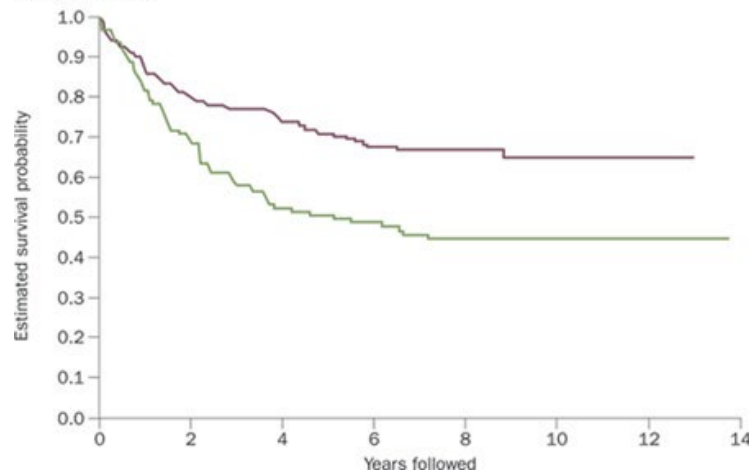


Peds at 7 yrs: 63%

Adult at 7 yrs: 34%

OS

b Overall survival



Peds at 7 yrs: 67%

Adult at 7 yrs: 46%

Why Do AYA Have a Better Outcome on Pediatric Protocols?

- Patients?
- Treatment team?
- Clinical trials?
- Treatment?

Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation

MRC/ECOG UKALLXII/E2993 Trial

Ph- Negative ALL

	Overall survival		Relapse		Non relapse death	
	Donor	No donor	Donor	No donor	Donor	No donor
High risk	41%	35%	37%	63%	36%	14%
	NS		P<0.0005		P<0.05	
Standard risk	62%	52%	24%	49%	20%	7%
	P<0.02		P<0.05		P<0.05	

High risk any of : Age \geq 35 years

WBC $>$ 30,000/ μ L (*B Lineage*)

$>$ 100,000/ μ L (*T Lineage*)

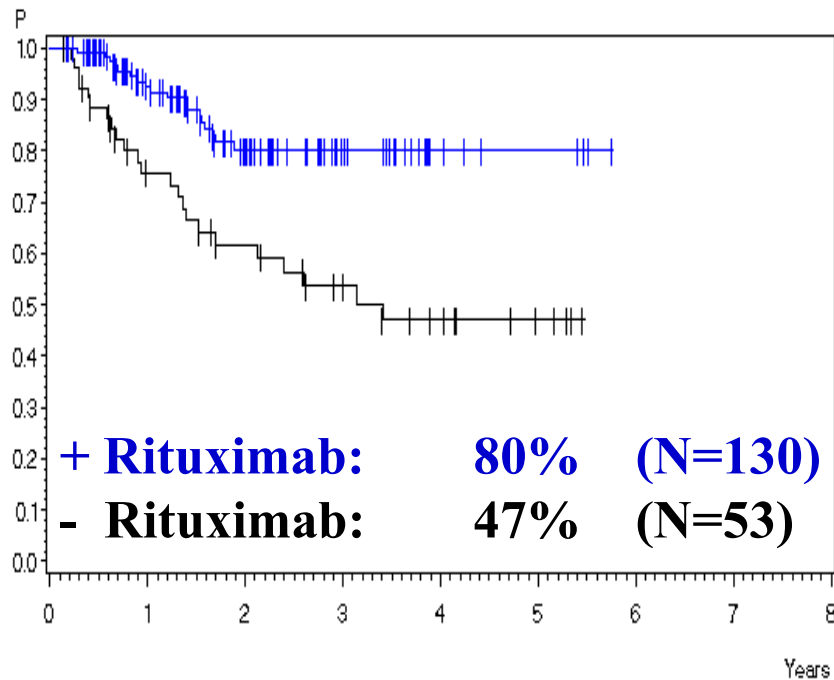
Time to CR $>$ 4 weeks

Remission Duration and Overall Survival

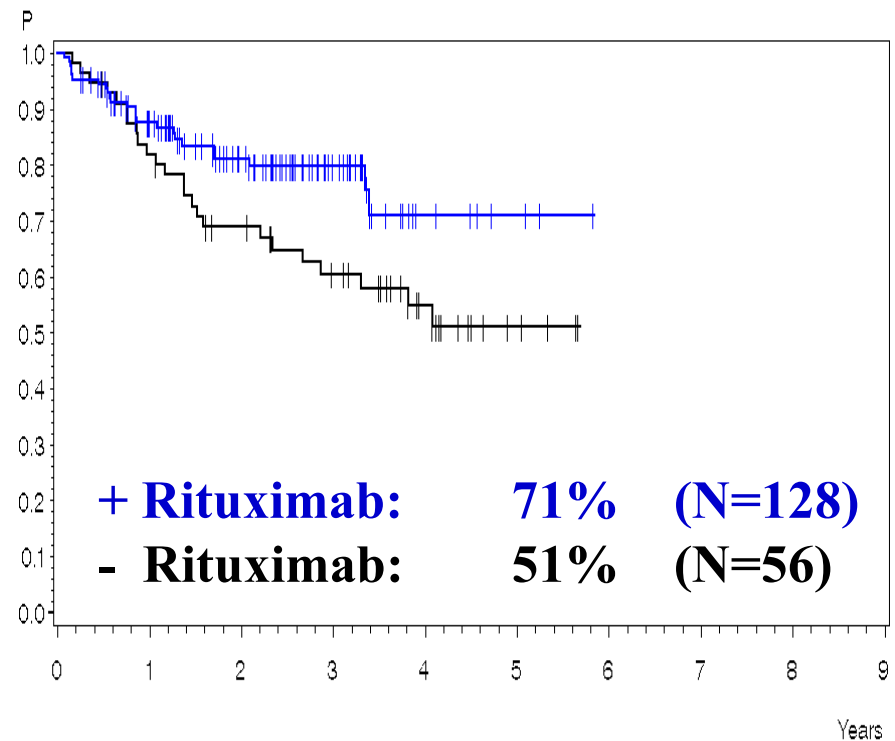
CD20 pos. Standard Risk < 55 yrs

GMALL 07/2003

Remission Duration



Overall Survival



Childhood vs Adult ALL: Disease Biology

	Children	Adults
Peak incidence	5 years of age	50 years of age
% of all leukemias	80-85%	5%
T cell	10-15%	20-25%
Mature B cell	1-2%	3-5%
Ph positive ALL	3%	20-30%

Asparaginase Intensification

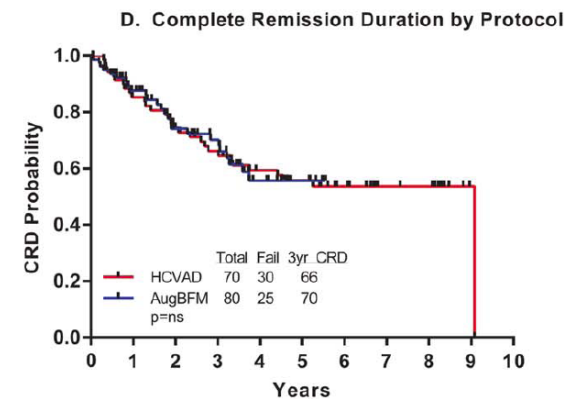
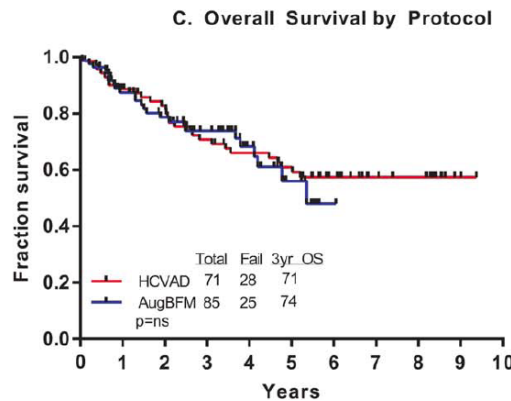
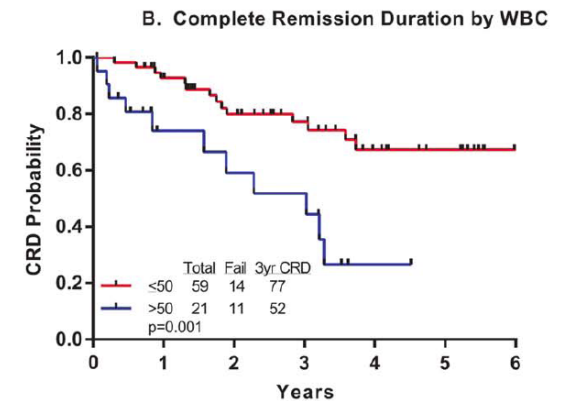
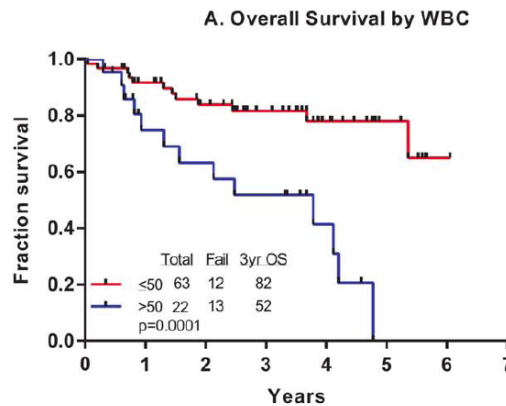
Pediatric and Pediatric-"Inspired" Regimens

Asparaginase			Upper age	OS @ 3-7 yrs.
True Pediatric				
DFCI ¹	E. Coli		50	74%
CALGB 10403	Pegaspargase 2,5000		39	73%
Pediatric "Inspired"				
PETHEMA ²	E. Coli		30	69%
GRAALL-2003 ³	E. Coli		45/60	64%/47%
USC ⁴	Pegaspargase 2,000		57	58%
Princess Margaret ⁵	E. Coli (retrospective)		60	65%
Asparaginase Intensification				
GMALL 7/03 ⁶	PEG 500/1000 → 2,000		55	67%

¹DeAngelo ASH 2007; ²Ribera JCO 2008; Abst # 587; ³Huguet JCO 2009; ⁴Douer ASH 2012 abstract # 1495; Storrington J, ⁵Br J Haematol. 2009 ⁶Goekbuget ASH 2010 Abstract # 404.

Augmented Berlin-Frankfurt-Münster Therapy in Adolescents and Young Adults With Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

- **Objective:** Compare ABFM and hyper-CVAD treatment in AYA patients
 - 85 patients (ages 12-40) with Ph-negative ALL received ABFM regimen
 - 71 historic AYA patients with ALL who received hyper-CVAD regimen
- Patient and disease characteristics, as well as MRD status, were analyzed for their impact on outcomes



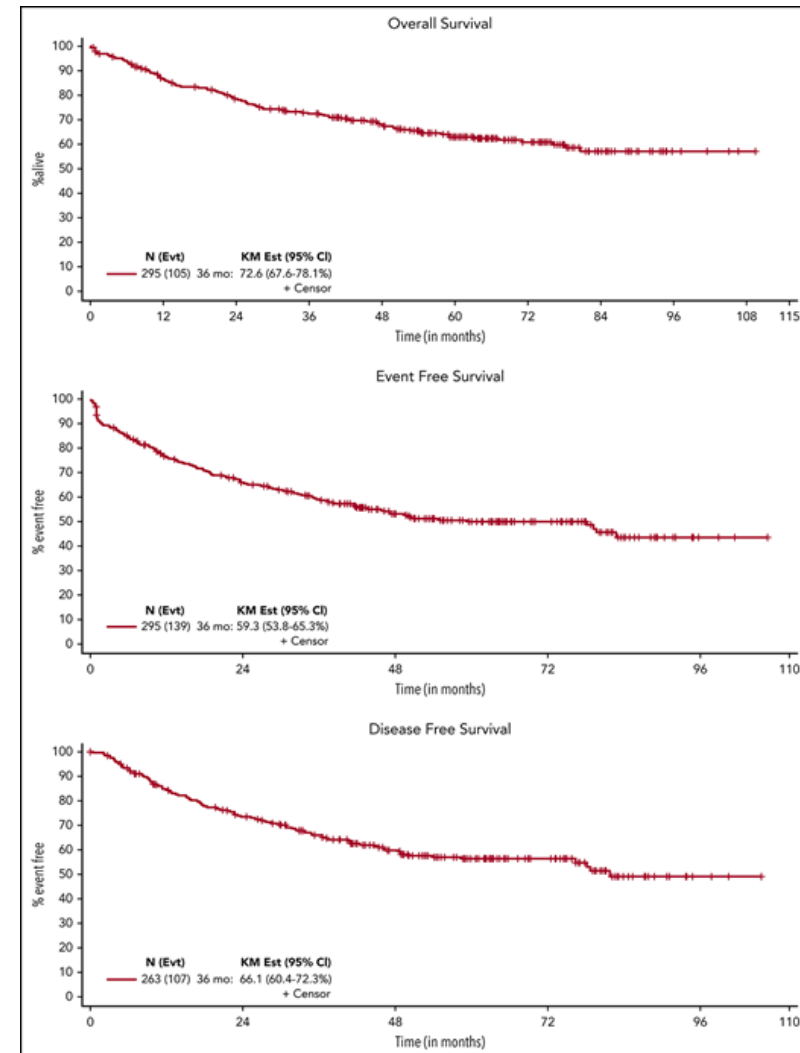
Augmented Berlin-Frankfurt-Münster Therapy in Adolescents and Young Adults With Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

- ABFM tolerable in AYA patients with ALL, but not associated with significant improvements in CRD or OS
- Shift to pediatric-based therapy for AYA patients with ALL (notably those ≥ 21 years) may need further assessment
- The toxicity profiles between the two groups differed significantly
- High WBC count at baseline remained an independent predictor of OS in multivariate analysis

CALGB 10403

“Pediatric Inspired” Regimen

- Objective: assess feasibility and safety of pediatric-inspired regimen in older adolescents and young adults (AYA)
- Median age: 24 years (range: 17-39)
 - B-cell (Ph+ excluded): 76%
 - T-cell: 24%
 - CNS disease: 11%
- Results (n = 295):
 - Median OS: not reached
 - Estimated 3-year OS: 73% (95% CI 68-78%)
 - Median EFS: 78 months
 - Median DFS: 36 months
 - Bone marrow response after induction: 89%
 - Pretreatment factors associated with worse treatment outcomes: obesity, Ph-like disease



CALGB 10403

Remission Induction (Course I)

- **Allopurinol** –300 mg/day (unless allergic), to continue until peripheral blasts and extramedullary disease are reduced
- **IT-Ara-C** – Ara-C 70 mg IT on D 1.
- **Pred** –60 mg/m²/day PO or IV in two divided doses on D 1-28
- **VCR** –1.5 mg/m² (maximum dose 2 mg) IV on D 1, 8, 15, and 22
- **DNR** –25 mg/m² IV on D 1, 8, 15, and 22
- **PEG** –2500 IU/m² IM or IV D 4
- **IT-MTX** - 15 mg IT on D 8 and D 29 (also administered on D 15 and 22 for patients with CNS3)

Extended Remission Induction (if required)(Course IA)

- **Pred** –60 mg/m²/day PO or IV (methylprednisolone) in two divided doses on D 1-14
- **DNR** –25 mg/m² IV on D 1
- **VCR** – Vincristine 1.5 mg/m² (maximum 2 mg) IV on D 1 and 8
- **PEG** –2500 IU/m² IM or IV D 4

Remission Consolidation (Course II)

- **CTX** –1000 mg/m² IV on D 1 and 29
- **Ara-C** –75 mg/m² IV or SC on D 1-4, 8-11, 29-32, and 36-39
- **6-MP** –60 mg/m² PO on D 1-14 and 29-42
- **VCR** –1.5 mg/m² (maximum 2 mg) IV on D 15, 22, 43, and 50
- **PEG** –2500 IU/m² IM or IV on D 15 and 43
- **IT-MTX** -- 15 mg IT on D 1, 8, 15, and 22 (omit doses on D 15 and 22 for patients with CNS3)

Interim Maintenance (Course III)

- **IV-MTX** –starting dose 100 mg/m² IV (escalate by 50 mg/m² /dose on D 1, 11, 21, 31, and 41
- **VCR** – 1.5 mg/m² (maximum dose 2 mg) IV on D 1, 11, 21, 31, and 41
- **PEG** –2500 IU/m² IM or IV on D 2 and 22
- **IT-MTX** - 15 mg IT on D 1 and 31

Delayed Intensification (Course IV)

- **VCR** – 1.5 mg/m² (maximum dose 2 mg) IV on D 1, 8, 15, 43, and 50
- **DEX** – 10 mg/m² PO (or IV) divided BID on D 1-7 and 15-21
- **DOX** - 25 mg/m² IV on D 1, 8, and 15
- **PEG** – 2500 IU/m² IM or IV on D 4 (or D 5 or D 6) and D 43
- **CTX** – 1000 mg/m² IV on D 29
- **Ara-C** – 75 mg/m² IV or SC on D 29-32 and 36-39
- **6-TG** – 60 mg/m²/day PO on D 29-42
- **IT-MTX** -- 15 mg IT on D 1, 29, and 36

Maintenance (Course V)*

- **VCR**–1.5 mg/m² (maximum dose 2 mg) IV on D 1, 29, and 57
- **DEX**– 6 mg/m²/day PO (or IV) in 2 divided doses every 4 weeks on D 1-5, 29-33, and 57-61
- **6-MP**– 75mg/m²/day PO on D 1-84
- **IT-MTX** -- 15 mg IT on D 1(also is given on D 29 of the first 4 courses of maintenance)
- **PO-MTX** – 20 mg/m² PO weekly on D 8, 15, 22, 29, 36, 43, 50, 57, 64, 71, and 78 (held on D 29 of the first 4 courses of maintenance when IT-MTX is given)

Asparaginase

- Mechanism of action:
 - Acts by hydrolyzing serum asparagine, inhibiting protein synthesis through amino acid depletion. Normal cells can synthesize their own asparagine and therefore are spared the cytotoxic effects.
- Dosing & Administration:
 - Given either intravenously (preferred) or intramuscularly

Medication	Bacterial Origin	Dosing & Frequency	Half-Life
Pegaspargase (Oncospar®)	E. Coli	≤ 21 yo: 2500 units/m ² > 21 yo: 2000 units/m ² ~ every 2 weeks or per protocol	5.5-7 days
Calaspargase (Asparlas®)	E. Coli	2500 units/m ² ~ every 3 weeks or per protocol	16 days
Erwinia recombinant asparaginase (Rylaze®)	Pseudomonas fluorescence engineered Erwinia chrysanthemi	25 mg/m ² q48 hours OR 25 mg/m ² Mon & Wed, and 50 mg/m ² Fri	16 hours

Oncospar (pegaspargase) [package insert]. Boston, MA: Servier; November 2021.

Asparlas (calaspargase pegol-mkhl) [prescribing information]. Boston, MA: Servier; December 2021.

Erwinaze (asparaginase) [prescribing information]. Palo Alto, CA: Jazz Pharmaceuticals; March 2016.

Asparaginase Toxicities & Monitoring

- Hypersensitivity reactions
 - Infusion reactions vs anaphylaxis
 - Silent antibodies
- Hepatotoxicity: AST, ALT, bilirubin
- Pancreatitis: amylase, lipase, triglycerides
- Coagulopathy (venous thromboembolic events > bleeding): platelets
- Myelosuppression: CBC
- Minimal nausea/vomiting, diarrhea
- Glucose intolerance: blood glucose, A1c
- Fatigue and malaise

Adults (40+ years old) Treatment Algorithm

Patient
Characteristics

Induction

Response
assessment

Consolidation

Maintenance

< 65 yo without
comorbidities

Clinical trial or
Multiagent
chemotherapy +/- TKI or
Blinatumomab +/- TKI or
Corticosteroids +/- TKI

> 65 yo or with
substantial
comorbidities

Clinical trial or
Chemotherapy or
Inotuzumab (B-Cell) or
Corticosteroids

CR
MRD(+)

Blinatumomab +/-
TKI or
Inotuzumab +/- TKI or
Multiagent
chemotherapy +/- TKI

CR
MRD(-)

Blinatumomab or
Continue multiagent
chemotherapy
alternating with
blinatumomab

Less
than CR

Treat as
Relapsed/Refractory

Consider **alloHSCT**
(Ph+ only → TKI
post alloHSCT)
or
Maintenance + TKI

Abbreviations: TKI = tyrosine kinase inhibitor;
CR = complete response; MRD = minimal residual
disease; alloHSCT = allogeneic stem cell transplant

ALL Induction Regimen Examples

Regimen (NCCN Guidelines 2024)	Ph (+) B-ALL	Ph (-) B-ALL	T-Cell	AYA (High Intensity)	Adults (Moderate- High Intensity)	Elderly (Low Intensity)
TKI + Blinatumomab	X (+ TKI)			X	X	X
CALGB 10701	X (+ TKI)			X	X	X
Dose-adjusted HyperCVAD	X (+ TKI)	X	X	X	X	X ("mini")
EsPhALL	X (+ TKI)			X		
Corticosteroid +/- vincristine	X (+ TKI)	X	X	X	X	X
EWALL	X (+ TKI)	X				X
CALGB 10403		X	X	X		
DFCI ALL (based on 00-01)		X	X	X		
PETHEMA-ALL		X	X	X		
Dose-adjusted CALGB 8811 Larson		X	X		X	
Inotuzumab ozogamicin + miniCVD		X			X	X
MRC UKALLXII/ECOG 2993		X	X		X	
ECOG 1910		X		X	X	X
GRAALL-2005		X	X	X	X	
USC/MSKCC ALL (CCG-1882 based)		X	X	X	X	
Linker 4-drug regimen		X	X	X	X	
AALOLD07		X	X			X
GMAALL		X	X			X
DFCI 91-01		X	X			X
CALGB 9111		X	X			X
COG AALL 0434			X	X		

Comparison of Standard Adult Ph- ALL Regimens

Table 3. Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Induction Regimens

Regimen	Induction	Consolidation	Maintenance	CR Rate, %	5-Year DFS Rate, %
LALA-94; Thomas & Fiere 2008 ⁵¹	P, V, C, D, or Ida	Ara-C, MTZ, or C, Ara-C, 6-MP based on risk	HSCT or MTX/6-MP or additional chemotherapy based on risk	84	30
Hyper-CVAD; Kantarjian 2004 ⁴⁰	Hyper C, V, A, and D alternating with MD MTX and Ara-C × 8 cycles	See induction	Allo HSCT or 6-MP, V, MTX, P	92	38
UCSF 8707; Linker 2002 ⁵²	P, V, D, and L-Asp	V, P, D, A, Ara-C, VM-26, MTX	6-MP, MTX	93	52
GMALL 05/93; Gokbuget & Hoelzer 2009 ⁴⁹	Induction 1: P, V, D, MTX, L-Asp; Induction 2: C, Ara-C, 6-MP	HD Ara-C, MTZ, HD MTX, L-Asp, 6-MP	6-MP, MTX	83	35-40
CALGB 8811; Larson 1995 ⁴⁸	P, V, C, D, L-Asp	C, subq Ara-C, 6-MP, V, L-Asp	6-MP, MTX	85	39 (Ages 30-59 y); 69% (aged <30 y) ^a

HyperCVAD Schema

A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
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A (Odd Cycles): 1, 3, 5, 7

[illegible]

B (Even Cycles): 2, 4, 6, 8

[illegible]

Corticosteroids

- Agents: prednisone, dexamethasone
- Destroys leukemia cells, alleviates symptoms, and prevents chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting
- Side effects:
 - Short term: hyperglycemia, hypertension, heart burn/acid reflux, insomnia
 - Long term: mood changes, osteoporosis, joint necrosis

Vincristine

- Mechanism of action:
 - Binds to tubulin and inhibits microtubule and mitotic spindle formation; causes cell cycle arrest between M and S phases
- Dosing and Administration:
 - Weight based (1.4-1.5 mg/m²) or flat dose 2 mg IV infusion over 5-10 minutes (number of doses depend on protocol)
 - Should NEVER be given intrathecally (can cause paralysis and death)
 - Avoid administration on the same day/time as other intrathecal medications
- Drug interactions:
 - Major CYP3A4 substrate: Avoid administration of strong or moderate CYP3A4 inhibitors or inducers
- Toxicities:
 - Gastrointestinal (constipation, paralytic ileus, intestinal perforation)
 - Neurotoxicity, peripheral neuropathy
 - Extravasation
 - Loss of appetite/weight loss

Vincristine Neurotoxicity

- Neuropathies are a common occurrence with vinca-alkaloid therapy
 - Dose-dependent and dose-limiting with vincristine
 - Most protocols cap dose at 2 mg
 - May require dose reductions or discontinuation for severe toxicities
 - Use caution in patients with pre-existing neuromuscular disease and/or with concomitant neurotoxic agents
 - Sensory: paresthesia, numbness, impaired touch sensitivity or temperature recognition, neuropathic pain, jaw pain
 - Peripheral neuropathy can also be treated with other medications (e.g. gabapentin, pregabalin, duloxetine)
 - Motor: extremity weakness, walking difficulties, impaired balance, deteriorated reflexes and fine motor abilities, muscle cramps
 - Autonomic: constipation, paralytic ileus, incontinence, urinary retention, orthostatic hypotension
 - Constipation caused by hypomotility of gut and injury of myenteric neurons in colon
 - All patients should be given a prophylactic bowel regimen (e.g. polyethylene glycol, senna) and stay well hydrated
 - Avoid other constipating medications when possible
 - For persistent constipation, other laxatives and rarely enemas are used

Daunorubicin & Doxorubicin

- Mechanism of action:
 - Anthracyclines that inhibit DNA replication and induce DNA strand breakage through several mechanisms including intercalation of DNA strands, inhibition of DNA polymerase, and topoisomerase II inhibition
- Dosing / Administration:
 - IV push over \leq 15 minutes or IV infusion over 15-30 minutes
- Common toxicities:
 - Myelosuppression
 - Gastrointestinal (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, mucositis)
 - Extravasation
 - Red/orange discoloration of body fluids
 - Alopecia
 - Cardiotoxicity

Anthracycline Cardiotoxicity

- Increased reactive oxygen species formation and targeting of topoisomerase 2 in cardiomyocytes; can be acute (rare) or chronic (more common)
 - Risk factors: cumulative anthracycline dose, history of cardiovascular (CV) disease, reduced LVEF, radiation, age, CV risk factors (smoking, hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, obesity)
- All patients should have an echocardiogram prior to anthracycline administration to confirm adequate left ventricular heart function (LVEF)
 - Caution in patients with LVEF $\leq 45\%$ or those with $\geq 10\text{-}15\%$ drop from baseline
- Several cardiotoxicity prevention and treatment strategies have been studied:
 - Cumulative lifetime anthracycline monitoring
 - Continuous or extended infusion, dose fractionation
 - Dexrazoxane administration (can also be used for extravasation)

Drug	Maximum Lifetime Dose
Daunorubicin	550 mg/m ²
Doxorubicin	450-550 mg/m ²
Epirubicin	900 mg/m ²
Idarubicin	150 mg/m ²
Mitoxantrone	140 mg/m ²

BCR-ABL1 Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors

	Imatinib (Gleevec®)	Dasatinib (Sprycel®)	Nilotinib (Tasigna®)	Ponatinib (Iclusig®)
Generation	1 st	2 nd	2 nd	3 rd
Dosing	400 mg once daily	100 mg once daily	400 mg twice daily	30-45 mg once daily
Strength	100 & 400 mg tablets	20, 50, 70, 80, 100, & 140 mg tablets	50, 150, & 200 mg capsules	10, 15, 30, & 45 mg tablets
Administration	With or without food	With or without food	Empty stomach (-2/+1 hours)	With or without food
Side effects	Fluid retention Pleural or pericardial effusions GI upset Muscle cramps Rash	Fluid retention Pleural or pericardial effusions Myelosuppression GI upset Rash Rare: pulmonary arterial hypertension	Qtc prolongation Hepatotoxicity Hyperglycemia Pancreatitis Myelosuppression Rash Rare: peripheral arterial occlusive disease	Arterial occlusive events or venous thromboembolic events Hepatotoxicity Pancreatitis Rash Hypertension Fluid retention Cardiac arrhythmias Hemorrhage Rare: heart failure

BCR-ABL1 Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors

Drug Interactions

- Review all prescription, over-the-counter, herbals, and supplements with the pharmacist to check for drug-interactions!

Medication	Imatinib (Gleevec®)	Dasatinib (Sprycel®)	Nilotinib (Tasigna®)	Ponatinib (Iclusig®)
Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPI) [e.g. pantoprazole, omeprazole]	✓	✗	✗	✓
Histamine 2 Receptor Antagonists (H2RAs) [e.g. famotidine, ranitidine]	✓	Take once daily 2 hours AFTER TKI	Take once daily 2 hours AFTER TKI	✓
Antacids	✓	Take +/- 2 hours from TKI	Take +/- 2 hours from TKI	✓
Fluoxetine, bupropion, citalopram	Qtc monitoring	Qtc monitoring	✗	Qtc monitoring
Amiodarone, diltiazem, verapamil	Consider alternative	Consider alternative	✗	Consider alternative
Azole antifungals [e.g. fluconazole, voriconazole, posaconazole]	Monitor, dose adjust, or consider alternative	Monitor, dose adjust, or consider alternative	Monitor, dose adjust, or consider alternative	Monitor, dose adjust, or consider alternative
Fluoroquinolones	✓	Qtc monitoring	Use with caution	✓

Chemotherapy-Free Regimen to Treat Ph+ ALL

- Phase 2 single-group trial of chemotherapy free regimen to treat Ph+ B-ALL consisting of dasatinib plus glucocorticoids followed by two cycles of blinatumomab.
- The primary endpoint of the trial was sustained molecular response in the bone marrow after treatment.
- Strategy was based on using a targeted and immunotherapeutic strategy to improve outcome and reduce toxicity of treatment.

Clinical Characteristics

- 63 patients
- Median age 54, range 24-82
- Male 29, female 34
- Wbc median 13,000, range 600-88,000
- Fusion protein p190--41, p210--17, p190 and p 210--5

Results

- Complete Remission 98%
- 29% had a molecular response, percentage increased to 60% after the second cycle of treatment with blinatumomab
- Percentage of patients with molecular response further increased after additional cycle of blinatumomab
- Median follow up at 18 months, OS 95% and DFS 88%
- DFS was lower among patients with an IKZF1 deletion plus additional genetic aberrations. ABL1 mutations were detected in 6 patients who had increased MRD during induction

Results

- Those with ABL kinase mutations had clearance of disease blinatumomab
- Six relapses occurred
- 21 events grade 3 or higher were recorded
- 24 patients received a stem cell allograft, and 1 death was related to transplantation
- Regimen effective with high rate of molecular response and survival and few adverse events grade 3 or higher
- May become the standard of care for Ph+ B-ALL

CONSOLIDATION

Methotrexate

- Mechanism of action:
 - Folate antimetabolite that interferes with DNA synthesis, repair, and replication by irreversibly binding to and inhibiting dihydrofolate reductase
- Dosing and Administration:
 - Varies based on protocol (IV bolus, IV continuous infusion, or oral tablets)
 - Renal excretion
- Common toxicities:
 - Nephrotoxicity (acute kidney injury, usually reversible)
 - Gastrointestinal (nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomatitis)
 - Hepatotoxicity
 - Myelosuppression
 - Dermatological reactions
 - Neurotoxicity

High Dose Methotrexate (HD-MTX)

- Delayed clearance of HD-MTX ($\geq 1,000$ mg/m²) is associated with several toxicities including acute nephrotoxicity, hepatotoxicity, and neurotoxicity
- Strategies to efficiently clear HD-MTX and reduce the risk of toxicity should be employed
 - Temporarily stop medications that interact with HD-MTX
 - Sulfa drugs (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)
 - Proton pump inhibitors (pantoprazole, omeprazole, esomeprazole)
 - Penicillins (piperacillin/tazobactam, amoxicillin, ampicillin)
 - NSAIDs (aspirin, naproxen)
 - Others: Vitamin C, probenecid, tetracyclines
 - Hydration and urine alkalinization with continuous IV sodium bicarbonate + D5W
 - Increases HD-MTX solubility and reduces crystal formation
 - Maintain urine output > 100 ml/hr and urine pH > 7
 - May also receive oral sodium bicarbonate and/or acetazolamide
 - Therapeutic drug monitoring
 - Antidote (marked delayed HD-MTX clearance + impaired renal function): glucarpidase
 - Administer leucovorin 24-36 hours after starting HD-MTX, and continue until methotrexate is cleared from the blood
 - Doses > 25 mg should be given IV for better absorption

Cytarabine

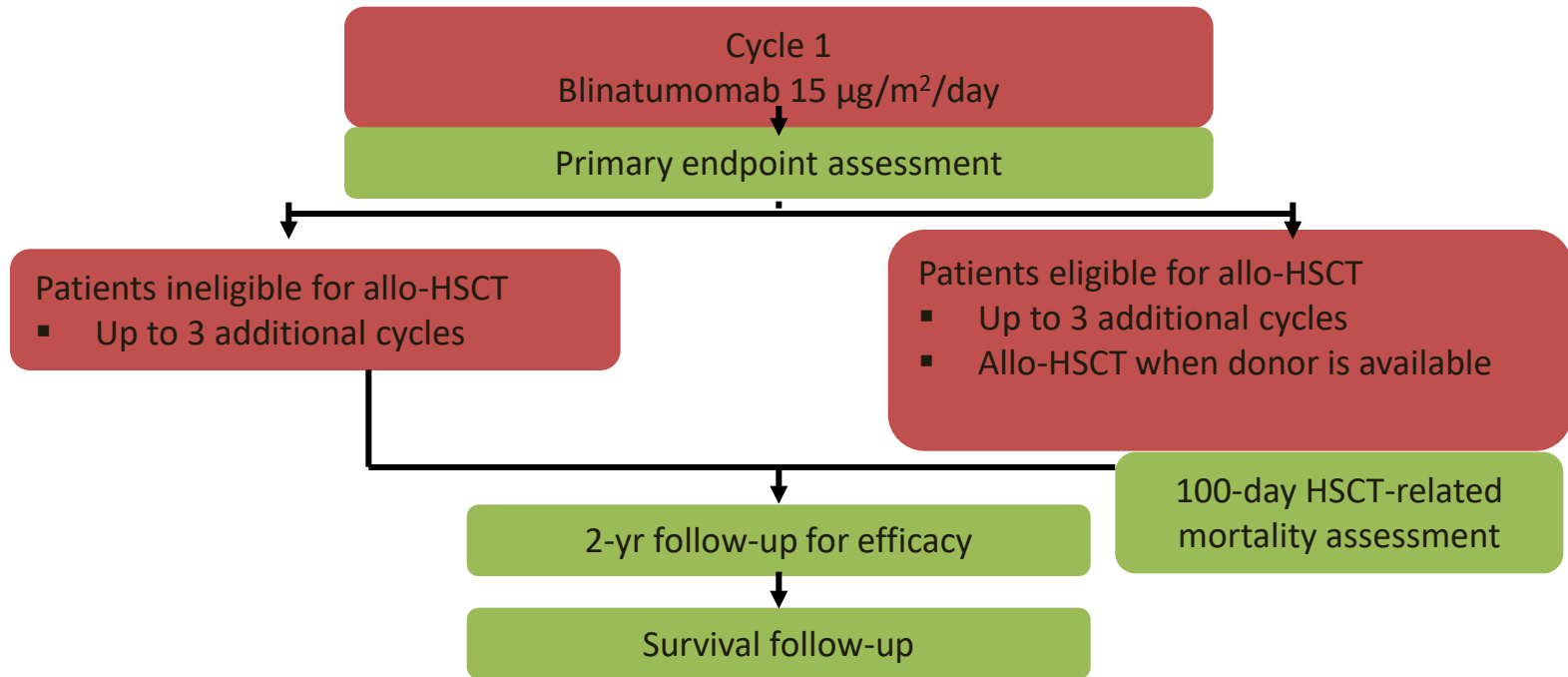
- Mechanism of action:
 - Pyrimidine analog that is incorporated into DNA chains, as well as inhibition of DNA polymerase, resulting in decreased DNA synthesis and repair
- Dosing and Administration:
 - IV infusion or SQ injections
- Common toxicities:
 - Gastrointestinal toxicity (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea)
 - Hand-foot syndrome
 - Hepatotoxicity
 - Cytarabine syndrome (fevers, myalgias, bone/chest pain, rash)
 - Corneal toxicity
 - Neurotoxicity

High Dose Cytarabine

- High-dose cytarabine ($\geq 1,000$ mg/m²) is associated with several toxicities that require unique prophylaxis and monitoring
 - Conjunctivitis
 - Can present as itching, irritation, burning sensation, rare: mild-moderate temporary vision loss
 - High cytarabine concentrations in the aqueous humor or deposits in the corneal epithelium can trigger inflammatory cascade and result in conjunctivitis
 - Patients should receive prophylaxis with dexamethasone 0.1% eye drops (alternative prednisolone or artificial tears), administered as 2 drops in each eye every 6 hours until 48 hours after the last cytarabine dose
 - Neurotoxicity
 - High-dose cytarabine readily crosses the blood-brain barrier, and can result in cerebellar toxicity which presents as difficulty with speech, confusion, tremors, gait instability, somnolence, and rarely seizures
 - Risk factors for the development of cerebellar toxicity include age >50 years, renal impairment, and higher cytarabine doses
 - Patients should be assessed for cerebellar toxicity prior to every dose

BLAST: Blinatumomab in MRD+ Patients With ALL in Hematologic CR

- Open-label phase II study (N = 113)



- Blinatumomab was given by continuous IV infusion, 15 µg/m²/day x 28 days per cycle, for 4 wks on/2 wks off (one cycle) for a maximum of up to 4 cycles
 - All eligible patients received HSCT after the first cycle
 - Primary endpoint: complete MRD after 1 cycle (MRD- with no PCR amp)

BLAST

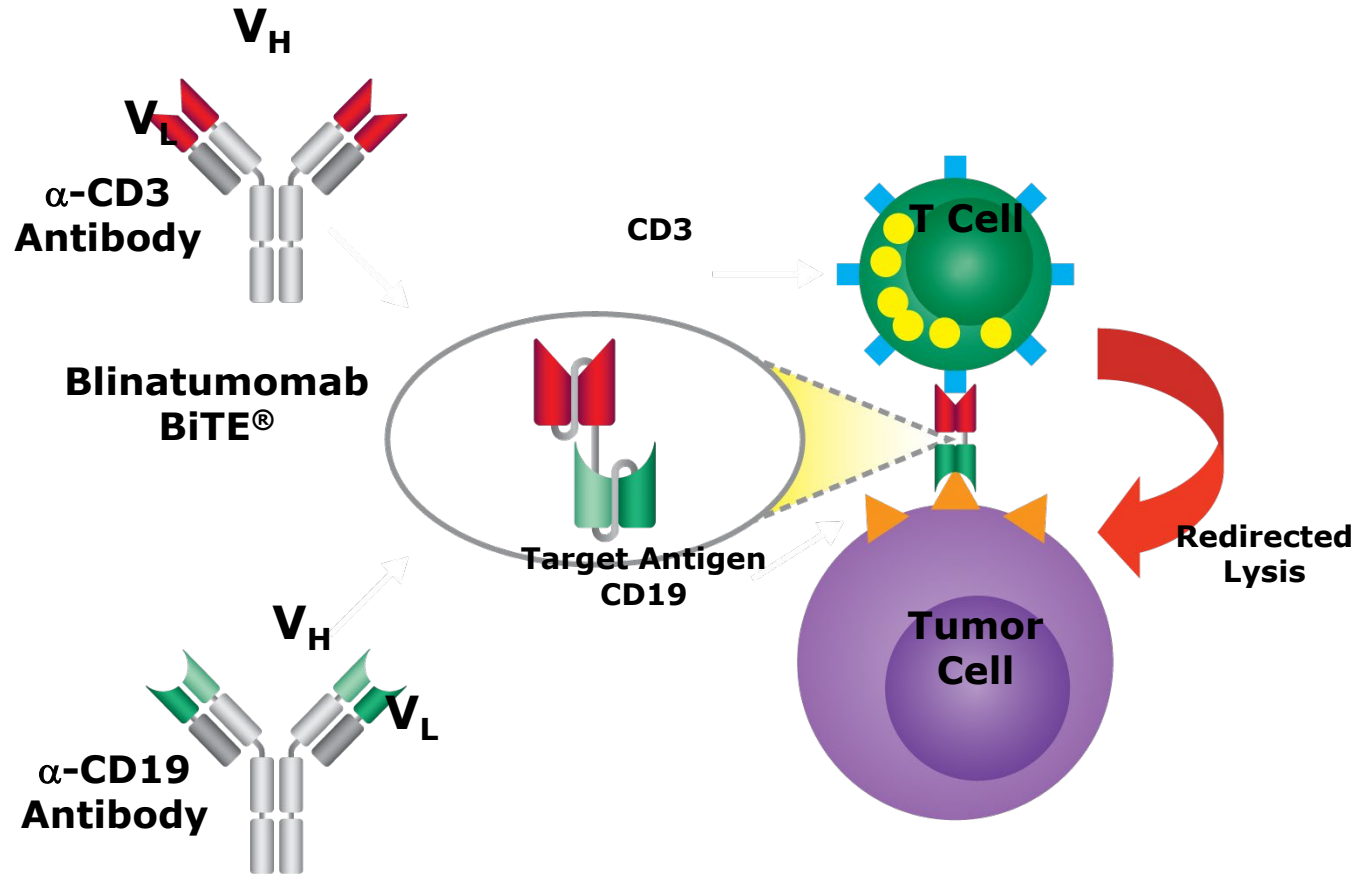
Conclusions

- Blinatumomab induced **complete MRD response in 80% of patients** with ALL who achieved hematologic CR but had persistent or recurrent MRD
 - Complete MRD response rate after 1 cycle: 78%
- Treatment interruptions due to treatment-related AEs in 28% of pts
- Primarily neurologic events, influenzalike symptoms
 - Most neurologic AEs grade 2 or less

Blinatumomab approved 3/29/2018 to treat pts with ALL MRD+ with hematologic CR

Blinatumomab

Mechanism of Action



- Bi-specific T-cell engager (BiTE) antibody designed to direct CD3 expressing cytotoxic T-cells to CD19 expressing B-cells

Blinatumomab

Dosing and Administration

- Continuous infusion for 4 weeks, followed by a 2-week break
 - Short half life (~ 2 hours)
 - Can be prepared as 24-hour, 48-hour, and 168-hour bags
 - After required hospitalization and confirmation of no toxicities, patients can continue treatment outpatient through infusion center or home infusion
- Premedication with dexamethasone (or prednisone equivalent) required:
 - Prior to first dose of each cycle
 - Prior to step up dose (R/R only)
 - When restarting therapy after infusion interruption ≥ 4 hours
- Blinatumomab should be given through a dedicated lumen / line with no other medications, fluids, or blood products running through it
- Bags may contain overfill, do NOT flush the infusion line when changing bags or finishing an infusion

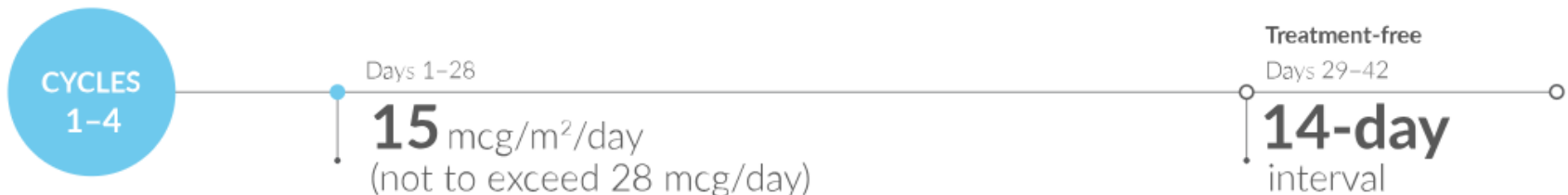
Blinatumomab Dosing: MRD+ B-ALL

- Hospitalization is recommended for first 3 days of Cycle 1 and 2 days of Cycle 2 to monitor for toxicities
- Pharmacists are critical for coordinating and transitioning patients to outpatient blinatumomab therapy

Fixed dosing for patients weighing ≥ 45 kg



BSA-based dosing for patients weighing < 45 kg



Blinatumomab Toxicities

- Boxed warning: Cytokine release syndrome (CRS) – 7-15%
 - Systemic inflammatory response triggered by T-cell activation and associated with high levels of cytokines and inflammatory markers
 - Risk factors: degree of disease burden, initial starting dose
 - Presentation: fevers, chills, capillary leak, hypoxia, hypotension, fatigue, myalgias, tachycardia, flu-like symptoms
 - Median onset: ~ 2 days; median time to resolution: ~ 5 days
 - More common with first cycle of blinatumomab treatment
 - Treatment
 - Supportive care: acetaminophen, IV fluids, oxygen
 - Interrupt infusion and give dexamethasone for severe (grade ≥ 3) or persistent grade 1-2 CRS
 - Tocilizumab given to refractory CRS patients
 - Blinatumomab infusion may be restarted once CRS resolves

Blinatumomab Toxicities

- Boxed warning: Neurotoxicity (20-53%)
 - Disruption of blood brain barrier by activated T cells and cytokine release; binds to CD19+ B-cells in central nervous system
 - Presentation: headache (most common), dizziness, confusion, somnolence, slurred speech, tremor, imbalance, rare: seizure, aphasia
 - Onset: usually within first 7 days; time to resolution: ~ 5 days
 - Management: interrupt infusion and give dexamethasone
 - Can restart at lower dose once neurotoxicity resolves
 - Discontinue permanently if seizures occur
- Other toxicities
 - Minimal nausea / vomiting or diarrhea
 - Hepatotoxicity (transient transaminitis)
 - Myelosuppression
 - Lymphopenias

HyperCVAD Schema

A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

A (Odd Cycles): 1, 3, 5, 7

[illegible]

B (Even Cycles): 2, 4, 6, 8

[illegible]

HyperCVAD → Blincyto

HyperCVAD x 8 cycles

Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3	Cycle 4	Cycle 5	Cycle 6	Cycle 7	Cycle 8
A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B



HyperCVAD x 4 cycles followed by blinatumomab

Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3	Cycle 4	Cycle 5	Cycle 6	Cycle 7	Cycle 8
A	B	A	B	Blina	Blina	Blina	Blina

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance

- Ph+ ALL
 - Maintenance regimen + TKIs (imatinib, dasatinib, nilotinib or ponatinib)
 - Monthly vincristine/prednisone pulses (2-3 years)
 - Weekly methotrexate + daily 6-MP as tolerated
 - Example: POMP
- Ph- ALL
 - Weekly methotrexate + daily 6-MP + monthly vincristine/prednisone pulses (duration based on regimen)

PRINCIPLES OF ADULT ALL THERAPY: RELAPSED OR REFRACTORY ALL

Adult ALL

- Primary refractory (resistant) disease
 - Patients who fail to obtain a complete response (CR) with induction therapy
 - Failure to eradicate all detectable leukemia cells (>5% blasts) from the bone marrow and blood with subsequent restoration of normal hematopoiesis
- Relapsed disease
 - Reappearance of blasts in the bone marrow or peripheral blood (>5%) after the attainment of a complete remission

Relapsed ALL Facts

- CR rates with initial induction are 85-90%
- The 5y-OS is now 40-50%
- However, 1/3rd of standard risk and 2/3rd of high risk ALL patients will eventually relapse
 - CR rates after 1st salvage are 31-44%
 - CR rates after 2nd salvage are 18-20%

Assessment of Relapsed ALL

- **Type of relapse**

- Flow cytometry for immunophenotype: is it like the original disease or has there been a lineage switch?
- Is this secondary leukemia, especially if late relapse?

- **Site of relapse**

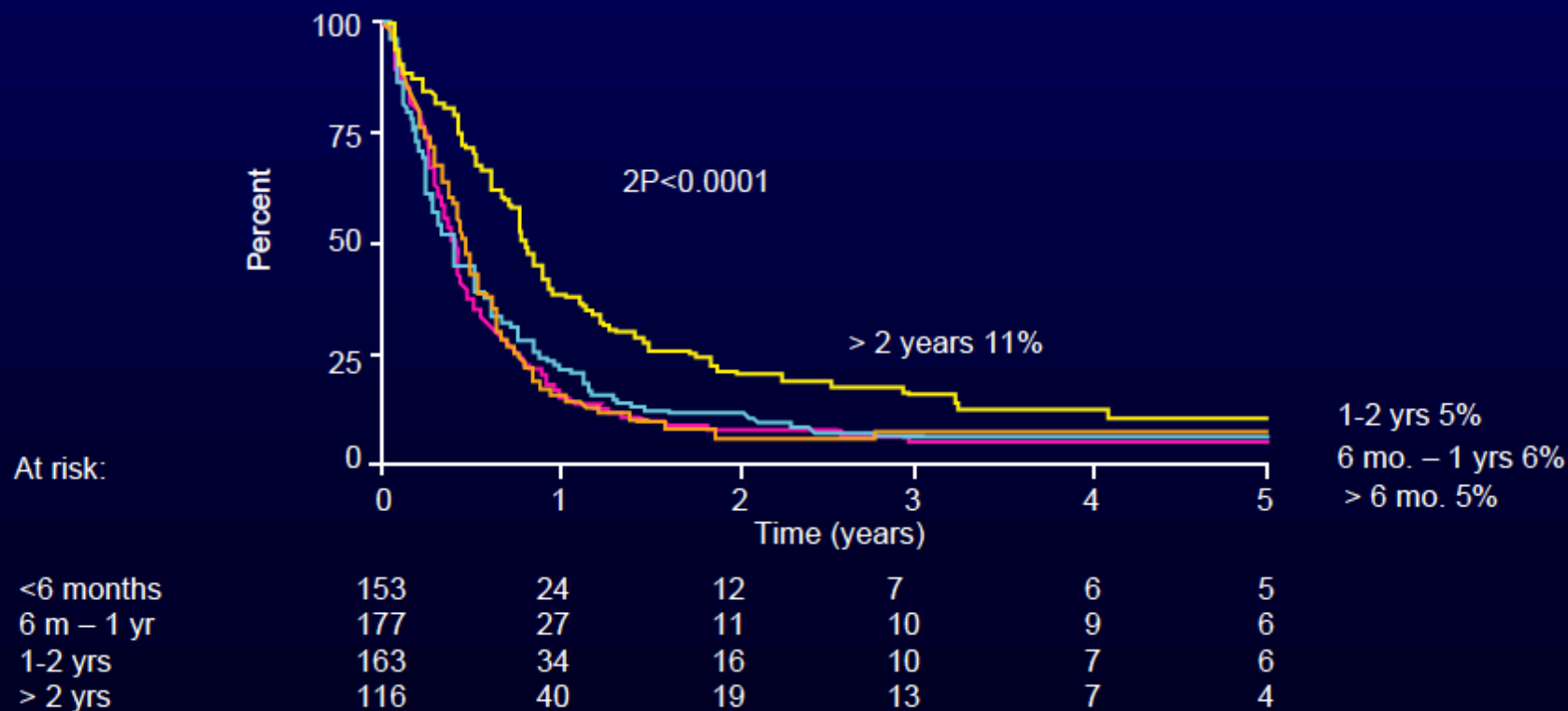
- Isolated relapse: bone marrow (BM), central nervous system (CNS), extramedullary (EM) relapse
- Combination

- **Timing of relapse**

- Early (< 18 months from diagnosis) or primary refractory: re-induce with novel therapies
- Late (> 36 months from initial diagnosis): can consider re-treatment with the same induction regimen
- Duration of complete response (CR)

Outcomes Are Poor For Adults with Relapsed ALL Following Frontline Therapy (MRC UKALL/ECOG 2993)

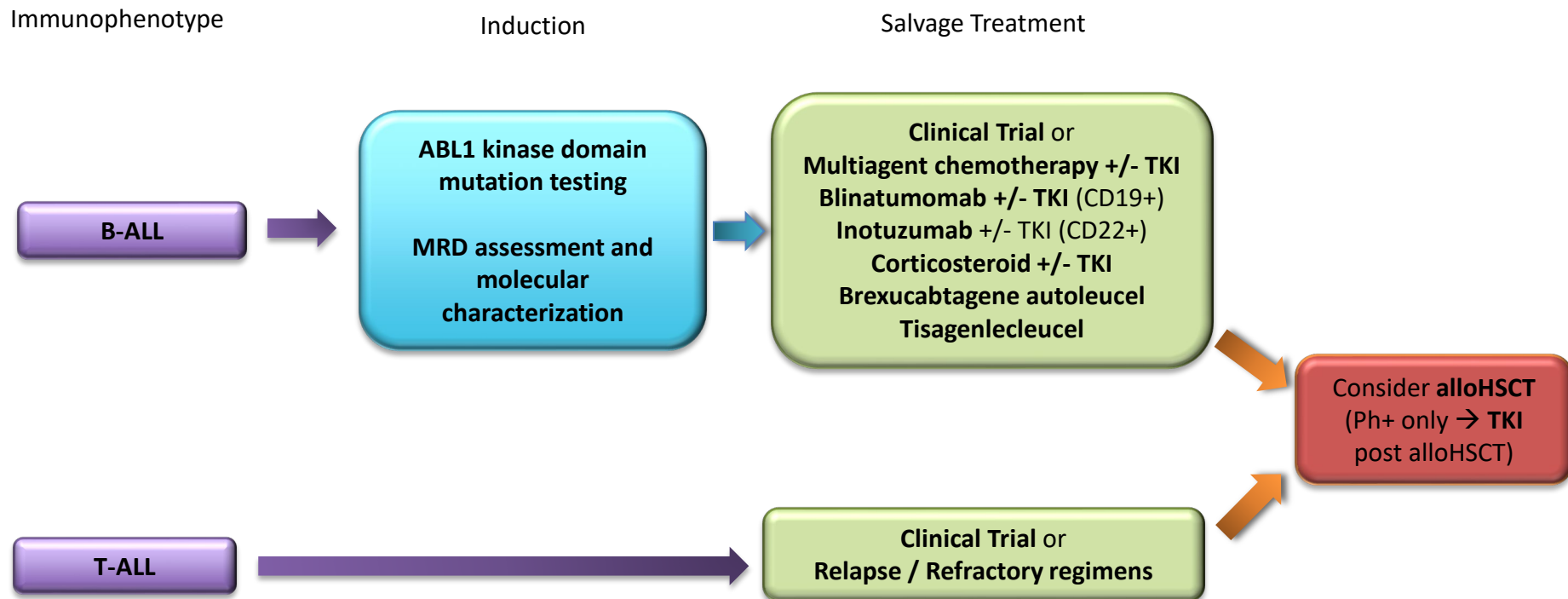
- Median OS after relapse was 4.6 months; 1-year OS was 22%
- With nearly 4.5 years of follow-up, only 42/609 (7%) patients are alive and disease free; 5% of patients died during induction therapy
- Patient age, sex, time to relapse (below), site of relapse, and type of therapy in CR1 were associated with OS



Relapsed/Refractory (R/R) ALL Treatment

- Treatment decisions affected by:
 - Age / performance status / comorbidities
 - Initial induction treatment
 - Immunophenotype and Ph status
 - Duration of CR / time from initial diagnosis to relapse
- Treatment is challenging because these patients have very poor prognosis
- There are no established preferred standard of care for salvage therapies, but HSCT is the only potential curative modality
- After CR2 with a salvage regimen, allogeneic HSCT should be considered as soon as possible. The role of allogeneic HSCT following cellular therapy unclear
- For patients that relapse after an initial allogeneic HSCT, other options may include a second allogeneic HSCT and/or donor lymphocyte infusion.

Relapsed or Refractory (R/R) Treatment Algorithm



Abbreviations: TKI = tyrosine kinase inhibitor;
CR = complete response; MRD = minimal residual
disease; alloH SCT = allogeneic stem cell transplant

Relapsed/Refractory Ph+ ALL Treatment Options

- Mutation testing for the *ABL1* kinase domain is recommended
- TKIs (imatinib, dasatinib, nilotinib, bosutinib, or ponatinib) are options if not administered during initial induction
- For second- and third-generation TKIs, relevant *BCR-ABL1* mutations should be considered

R/R ALL Treatment Options

B-Cell Only	B or T-Cell	T-Cell Only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blinatumomab (CD19+) +/- TKI • Inotuzumab ozogamicin (CD22+) +/- TKI • Inotuzumab + miniCVD +/- blinatumomab • Brexucabtagene autoleucel (CD19+) • Tisagenlecleucel (CD19+, age < 26 yo) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical trial • Augmented HyperCVAD • Clofarabine +/- etoposide + cyclophosphamide • MOpAD • FLAG-Ida or FLAM • Cytarabine-containing regimen • Alkylator combination regimen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nelarabine +/- etoposide + cyclophosphamide • Bortezomib or Daratumumab-containing regimen • Mitoxantrone + etoposide + cytarabine • Venetoclax-containing regimen (+ decitabine, HyperCVAD, miniCVD, or nelarabine)

Consider HSCT

***Augmented hyper-CVAD**: hyperfractionated cyclophosphamide, intensified vincristine, doxorubicin, intensified dexamethasone; pegaspargase; alternating with high-dose methotrexate and cytarabine; **FLAG-IDA**: fludarabine, cytarabine, granulocyte colony-stimulating factor \pm idarubicin; **MOpAD**: methotrexate, vincristine, pegaspargase, dexamethasone

Chimeric Antigen Receptor Recent FDA Approval

There has been an additional CAR T-cell therapy approval since the recording of this education:

- Obecabtagene autoleucel, a CD19-directed genetically modified autologous T cell immunotherapy, was approved by the FDA on November 8, 2024 for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).

Clinical trials for CAR T-cell products in blood cancers are underway. For the most up-to-date information and details on additional approvals, please refer to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society website, as the provided list may not include all FDA approved agents.

TOWER STUDY

Blinatumomab for R/R Salvage Therapy

Design:

- Phase 3 multicenter trial
- Randomized 2:1

Patient population (n = 405):

- Adult Ph(-) B-ALL:
 - Refractory to primary induction / salvage therapy
 - 1st relapse (remission < 12 months)
 - 2nd or greater relapse
 - Relapse post alloHSCT

Blinatumomab

Induction (C1)	9 mcg x 7 days, then 28 mcg x 21 days
Consolidation (C2-5)	28 mcg x 28 days
Maintenance (C6-9)	28 mcg x 28 days

Standard of Care (Investigator's Choice)

FLAG +/- anthracycline	HD-MTX-based
HiDAC-based	Clofarabine-based
Maintenance until alloHSCT, toxicity, or relapse	

TOWER STUDY

Blinatumomab for R/R Salvage Therapy

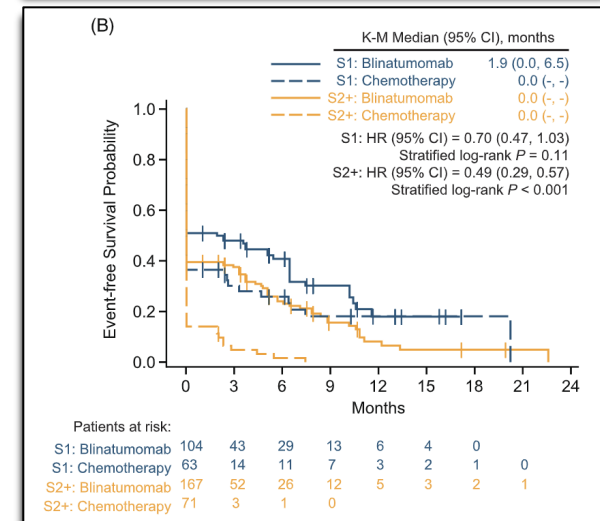
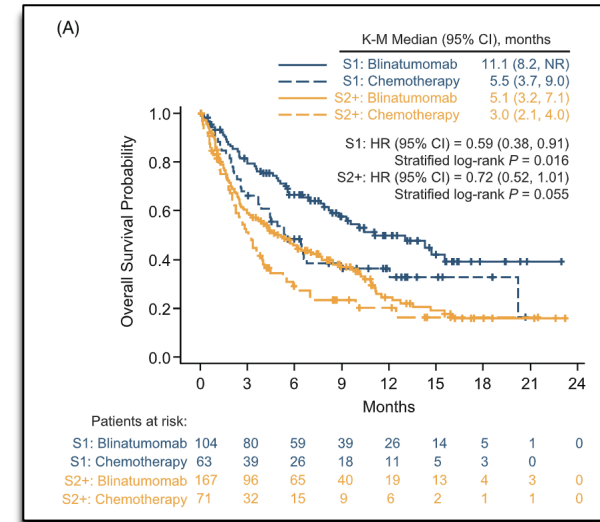
Table 3. Best hematologic response and minimal residual disease response within 12 weeks of treatment initiation.

Response category	First salvage							Second or later salvage						
	Blinatumomab (N = 104)			Chemotherapy (N = 63)			p ^a	Blinatumomab (N = 167)			Chemotherapy (N = 71)			p ^a
	No.	%	95% CI	No.	%	95% CI		No.	%	95% CI	No.	%	95% CI	
Best hematologic response														
CR	46	44.2	34.5, 54.3	18	28.6	17.9, 41.3	.050	45	26.9	20.4, 34.3	3	4.2	0.9, 11.9	<.001
CRh	6	5.8	2.1, 12.1	2	3.2	0.4, 11.0		18	10.8	6.5, 16.5	4	5.6	1.6, 13.8	
CRi	1	1.0	0.0, 5.2	3	4.8	1.0, 13.3		3	1.8	0.4, 5.2	3	4.2	0.9, 11.9	
CR/CRh/CRi	53	51.0	41.0, 60.9	23	36.5	24.7, 49.6	.069	66	39.5	32.1, 47.4	10	14.1	7.0, 24.4	<.001
MRD responses among patients with CR/CRh/CRi														
Any MRD response	33	62.3	47.9, 75.2	13	56.5	34.5, 76.8	.70	41	62.1	49.3, 73.8	3	30.0	6.7, 65.2	.031
Complete MRD response	26	49.1	35.1, 63.2	9	39.1	19.7, 61.5	.53	32	48.5	36.0, 61.1	1	10.0	0.3, 44.5	.008

TOWER STUDY

Blinatumomab for R/R Salvage Therapy

- Median OS
 - 1st salvage: 11.1 vs 5.5 months (HR 0.59, 0.38-0.91)
 - 2nd or later salvage: 5.1 vs 3 months (HR 0.72, 0.52-1.01)
 - Similar results after censoring for allogeneic HSCT
- EFS @ 6 months: 41% vs 26%



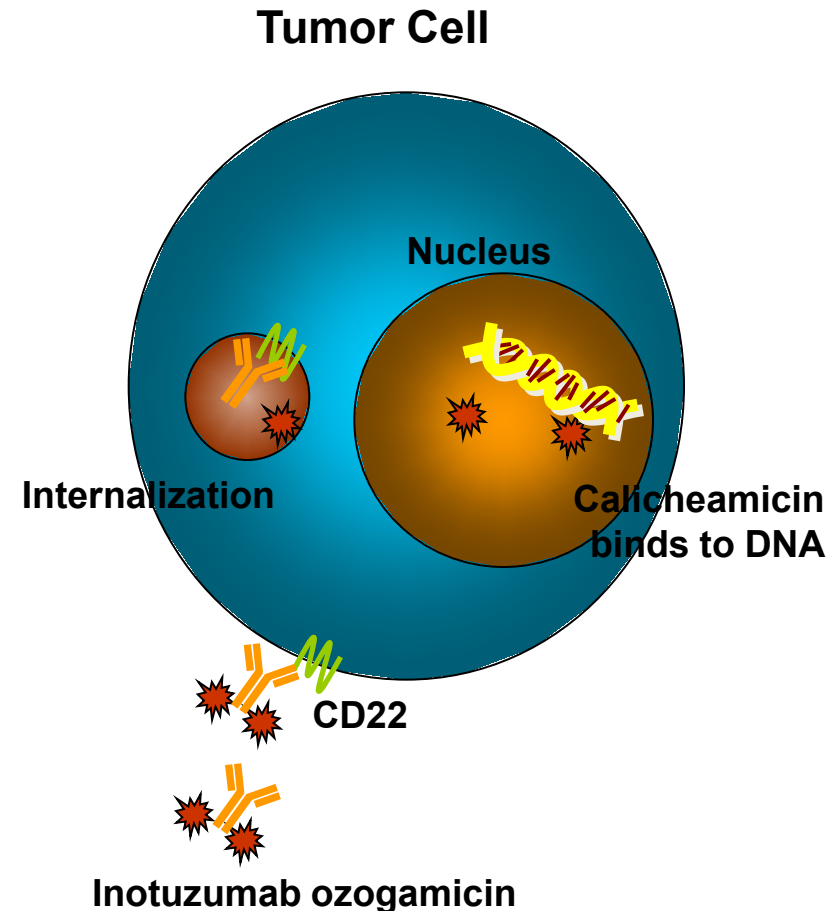
Blinatumomab Dosing: R/R B-ALL

- Hospitalization is recommended for the first 9 days of Cycle 1 and 2 days of Cycle 2



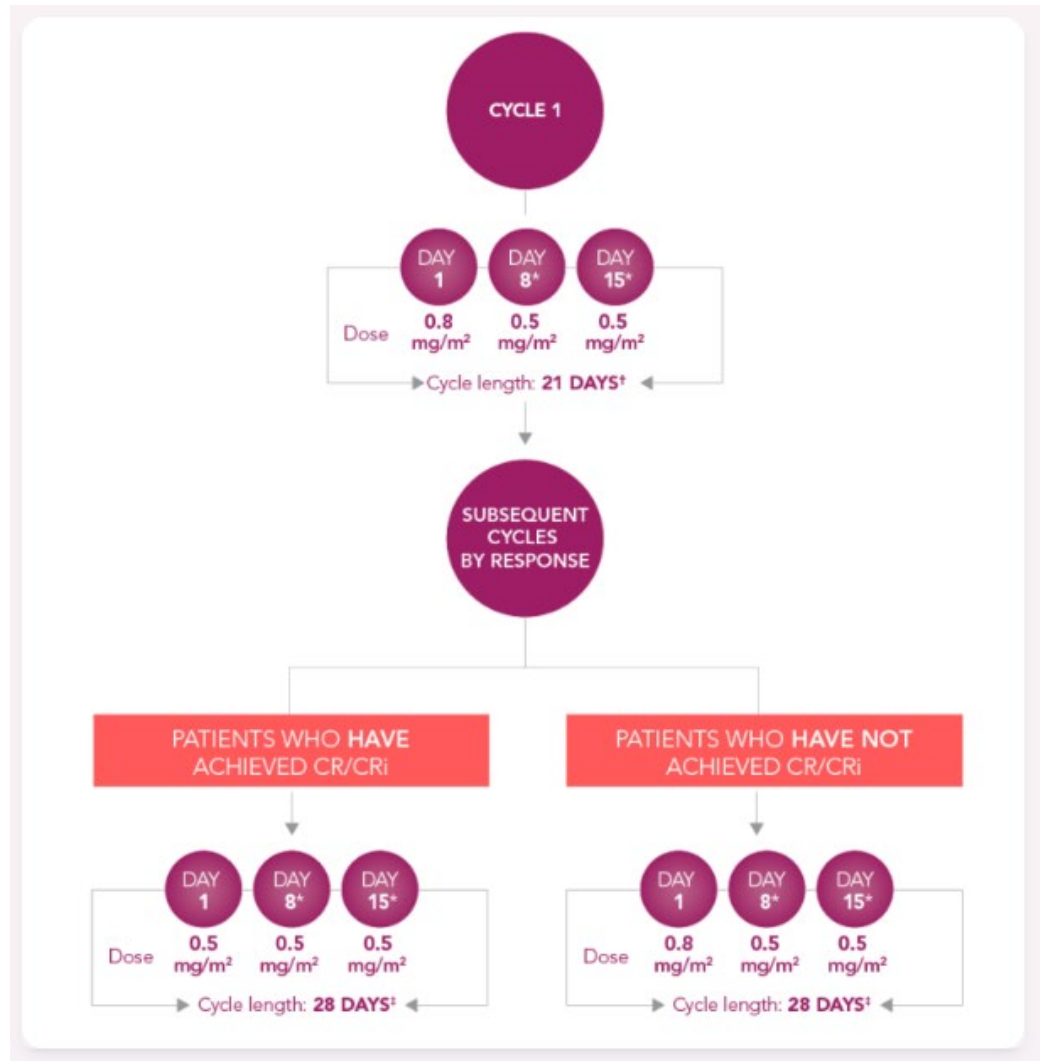
Inotuzumab Ozogamicin Mechanism of Action

- Humanized antibody-drug conjugate: CD22 antibody, cytotoxic calicheamicin, and acid-cleavable linker
- Antibody-antigen complex rapidly internalized upon binding to CD22
- Calicheamicin released inside the tumor cell, binds to DNA, and induces double-stranded DNA breaks and subsequent cell cycle arrest



Inotuzumab Ozogamicin Dosing and Administration

- Premedication with acetaminophen, diphenhydramine, and hydrocortisone 30-60 minutes prior to infusion
- Administered over 1 hour (protect from light)
- Number of cycles based on goal to proceed to HSCT
 - HSCT: 2-3 cycles
 - No HSCT: 6 cycles



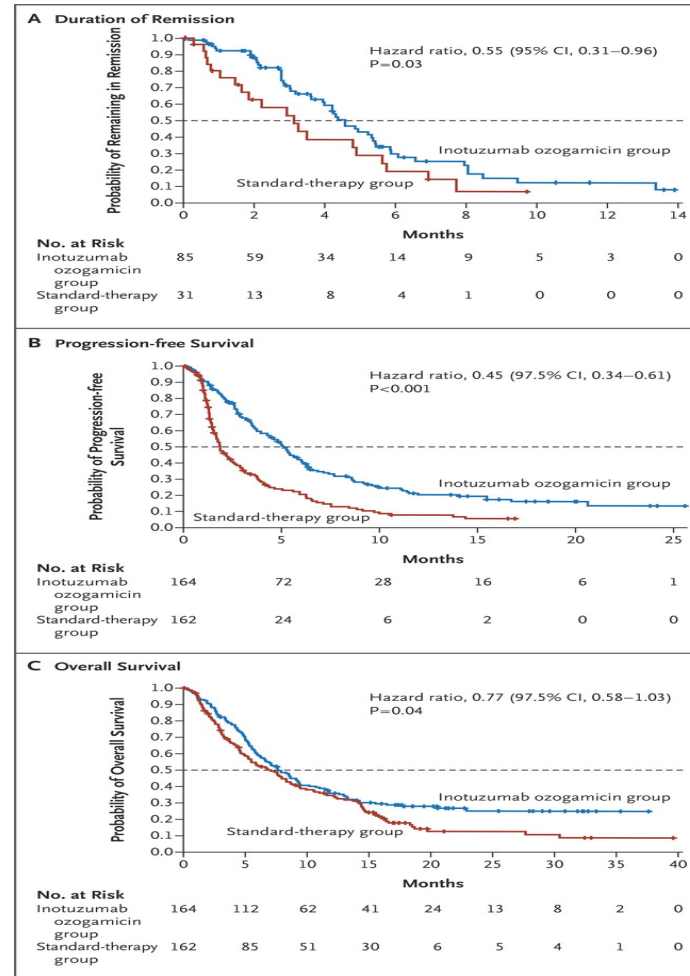
Inotuzumab Ozogamicin Toxicities

- Boxed warning: Hepatotoxicity
 - Severe, life-threatening, and sometimes fatal sinusoidal obstructive syndrome (SOS)/veno-occlusive disease (VOD) has been seen
 - Risk factors:
 - Greatest risk in patients who received HSCT after inotuzumab ozogamicin treatment
 - 2 alkylating agents, high total bilirubin at baseline, history of VOD/SOS, liver disease
 - Median time to onset: 15 days (range: 3-57 days)
 - Prevention:
 - Some providers may start ursodiol
 - Minimize number of cycles to 2 before proceeding to HSCT
- Other toxicities:
 - Infusion reactions
 - QTc prolongation
 - Myelosuppression
 - Nausea, vomiting, constipation, abdominal pain
 - Headache or fatigue
 - Infection

Intotuzumab Ozogamacin vs. Standard Salvage Chemo in Relapsed B-ALL

- 326 patients randomized to receive intotuzumab vs standard induction chemo
- 218 included in intention to treat analysis
- CR IO 80.7% vs SCT 29.4% $p < .001$
- MRD negative in 78.4% vs 28.1% $p < .001$
- Major complication of IO, VOD in 11% vs 1% in SCT group

Intotuzumab Ozogamacin vs. Standard Therapy for Relapsepd CD22 Postive B-Cell ALL



IO

Relapsed/Refractory ALL Response

Response	Monthly, N=49 No. (%)	Weekly, N=40 No. (%)
CR	9 (18)	7 (18)
CRp	14 (29)	12 (30)
CRi (marrow CR)	5 (10)	4 (10)
Resistant	19 (39)	15 (38)
Death < 4 wks	2 (4)	2 (5)
OR	28 (57)	23 (58)

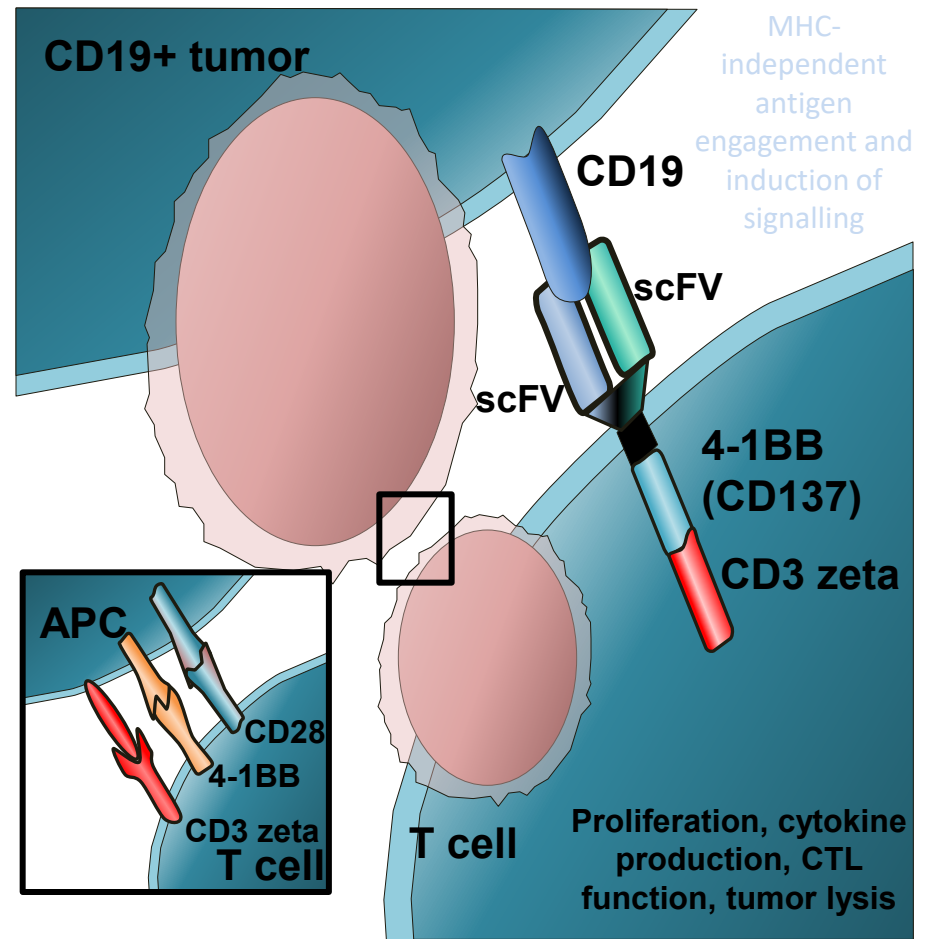
IO in Relapsed/Refractory ALL

Minimal Residual Disease

Parameter	Monthly, N=27 MRD Negative No. (%)	Weekly, N=20 MRD Negative No. (%)
CR	8/9 (89)	6/7 (86)
CRp	9/14 (64)	7/10 (70)
CRi (marrow CR)	0/4 (0)	1/3 (33)
MRD negative	17/27 (63)	14/20 (70)

Chimeric Antigen Receptors MOA

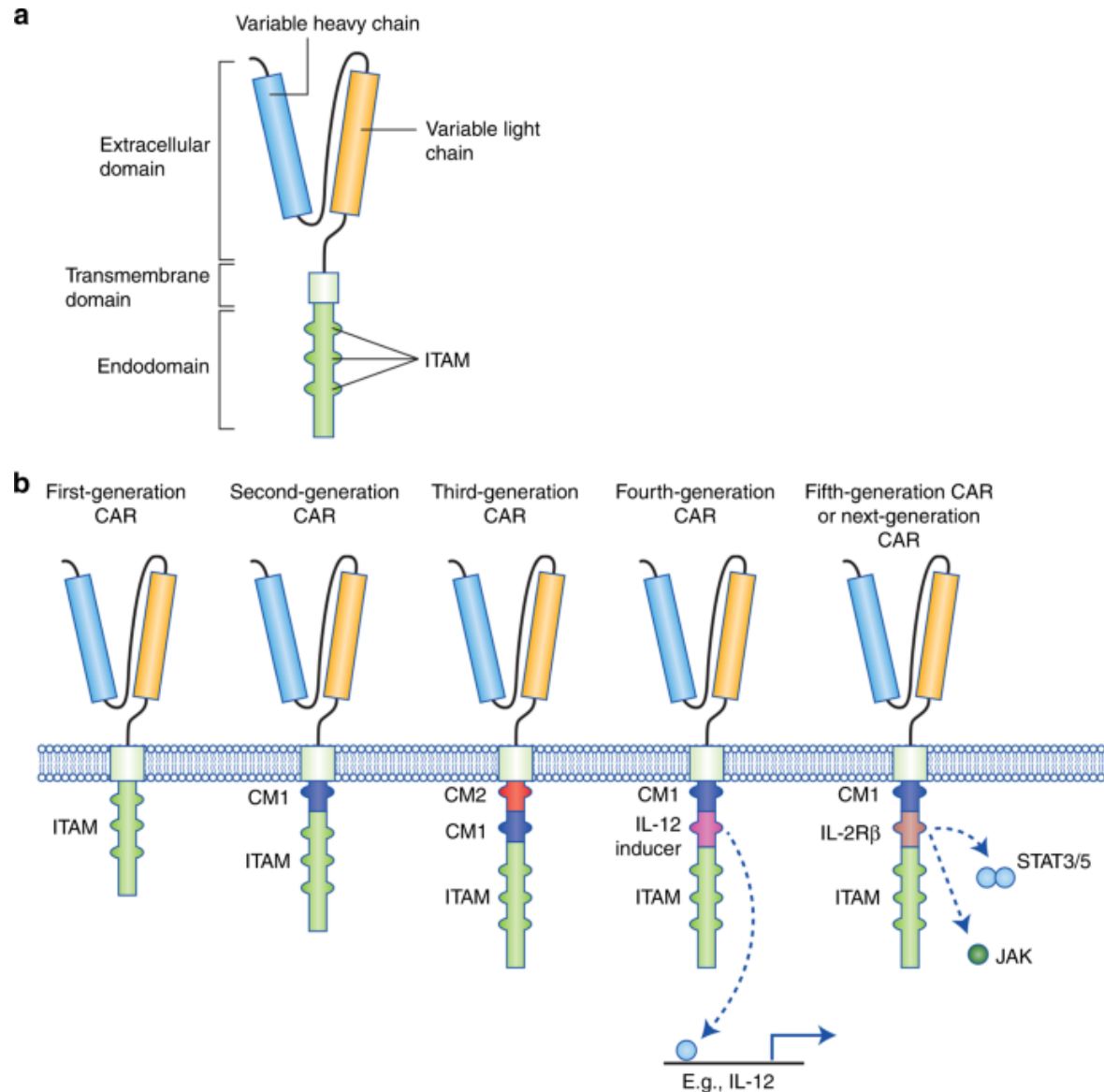
- Genetically engineered receptors that combine anti-CD19 single chain variable fragment of an antibody with intracellular signaling domains of T cells
- With the use of lentiviral-vector technology, CTL019 T cells express a CAR with CD3 zeta and 4-1BB (CD137) signaling domains
- Tisagenlecleucel is approved for patients up to 25 years of age with B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) that is refractory or in second or later relapse
- Brexucabtagene Autoleucel is approved for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory B-cell precursor ALL



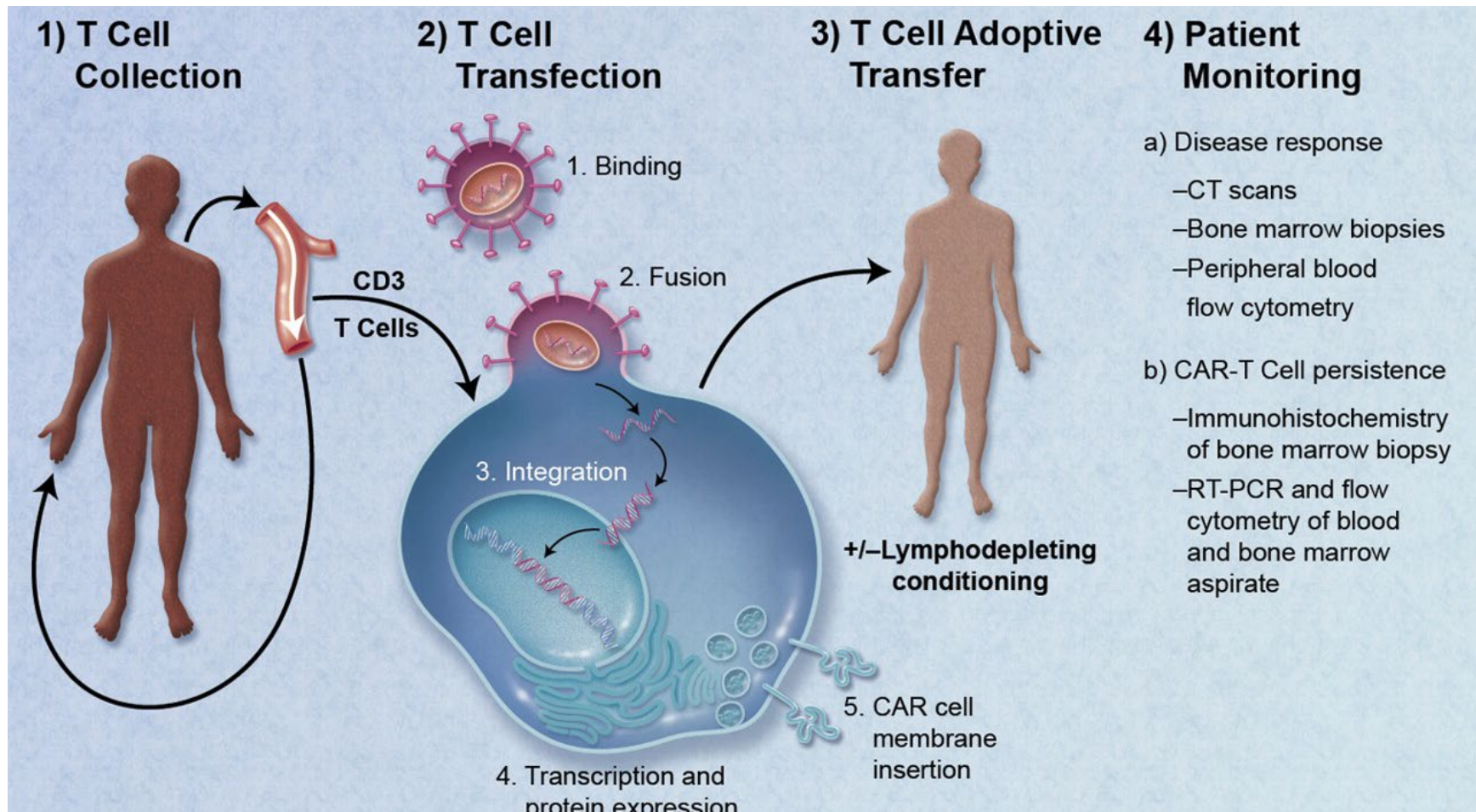
1. Grupp S, et al. ASH 2014. Abstract 380.

2. Maude SL, et al. N Engl J Med. 2014; 371:1507-1517.

Chimeric Antigen Receptors



Chimeric Antigen Receptor– Modified T Cells



- Patient specific T-cells engineered to attack cells that express CD19
- In vivo expansion and robust antileukemic effects of CTL019 (formerly CART19) cells was previously demonstrated in 3 CLL patients

CAR T-cells (CTL019) Lead to Sustained Remissions in ALL Patients

30 pts with relapsed/refractory ALL with 2 years of follow-up

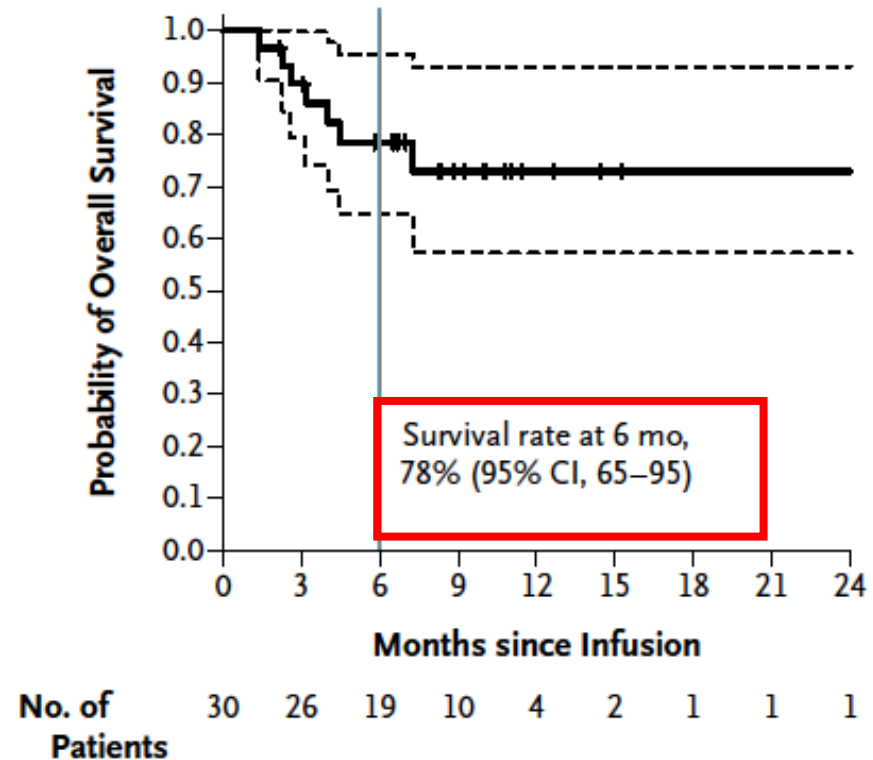
Characteristics

- Ages 5-60 yrs old
- 18 (60%) had prior alloHSCT
- 3 (10%) had refractory ALL
- 22 (73%) had ≥ 2 relapses

Responses

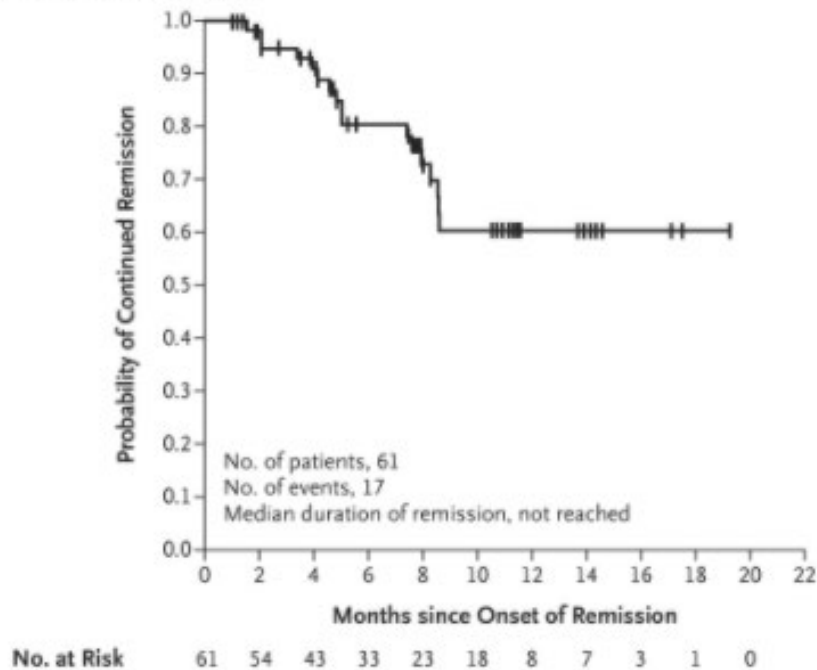
- **27 pts (90%) achieved CR** one month after T-cell infusion
- 2 of 3 prior blinatumomab Rxd pts responded

B

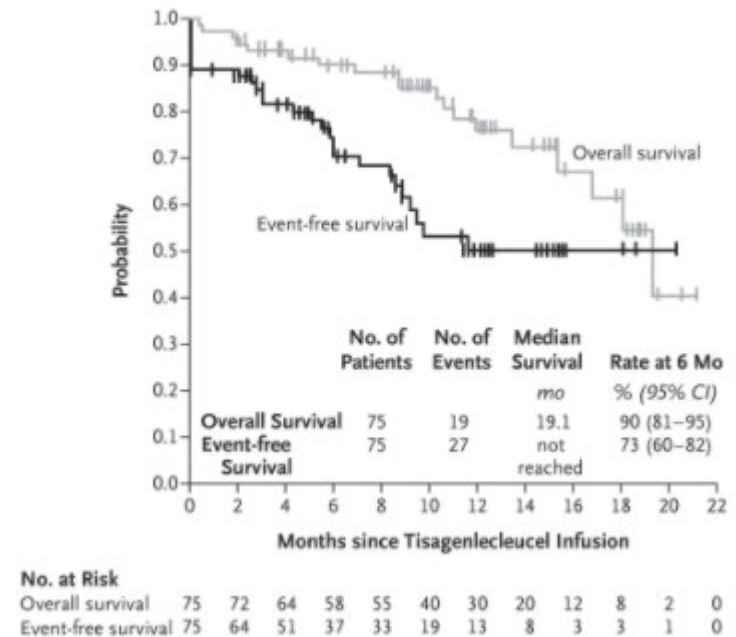


Efficacy of Tisagenlecleucel: Overall Remission Rate of 81%

A Duration of Remission



B Event-free and Overall Survival

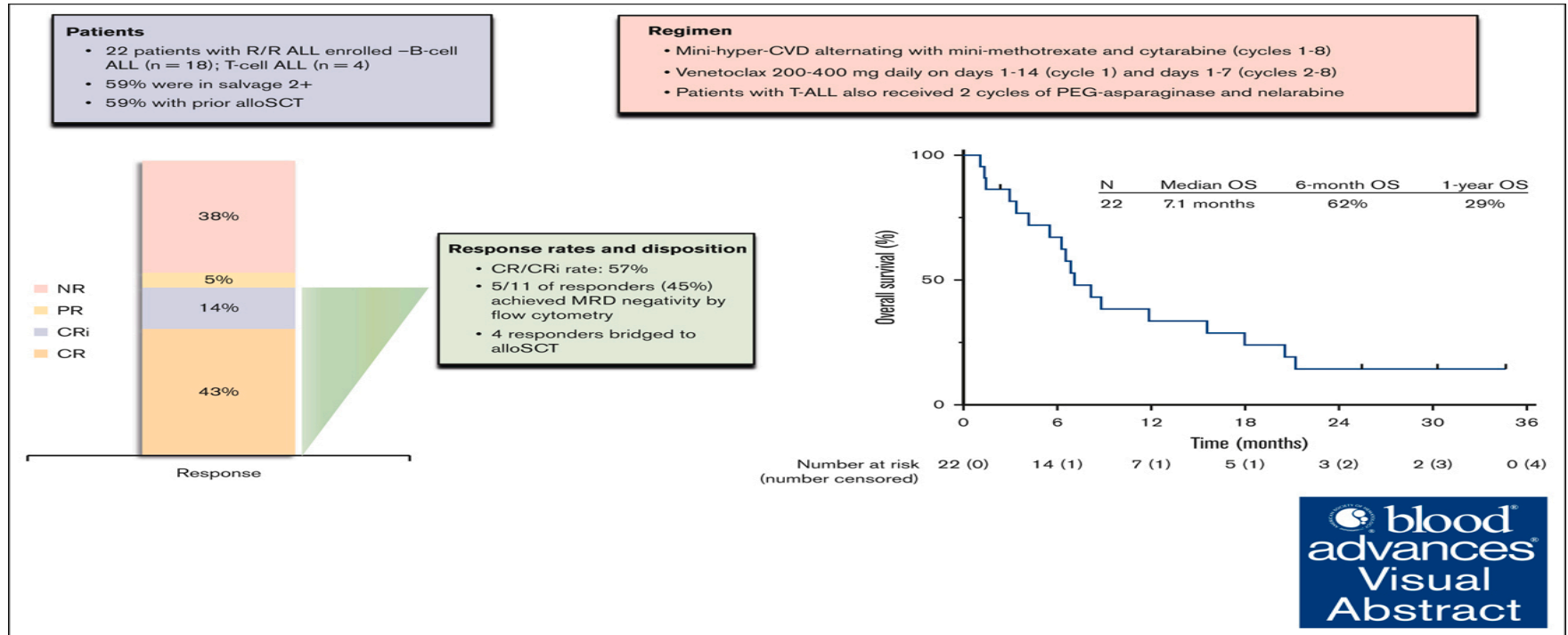


Safety of Tisagenlecleucel

Table 3. Adverse Events of Special Interest within 8 Weeks after Infusion, Regardless of Relationship to Tisagenlecleucel.*

Type of Event	Any Grade (N = 75)	Grade 3 (N = 75)	Grade 4 (N = 75)
	<i>number of patients (percent)</i>		
Any adverse event of special interest	67 (89)	26 (35)	30 (40)
Cytokine release syndrome	58 (77)	16 (21)	19 (25)
Neurologic event	30 (40)	10 (13)	0
Infection	32 (43)	16 (21)	2 (3)
Febrile neutropenia	26 (35)	24 (32)	2 (3)
Cytopenia not resolved by day 28	28 (37)	12 (16)	12 (16)
Tumor lysis syndrome	3 (4)	3 (4)	0

A phase 1/2 Study of Mini-Hyper-CVD Plus Venetoclax in Patients with Relapsed/Refractory Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia



Nicholas J. Short, Elias Jabbour, Nitin Jain, Jayastu Senapati, Lewis Nasr, Fadi G. Haddad, Zhenhua Li, Yu-Chih Hsiao, Jun J. Yang, Naveen Pemmaraju, Maro Ohanian, William G. Wierda, Guillermo Montalban-Bravo, Gautam Borthakur, Lina Han, Lianchun Xiao, Xuelin Huang, Regina Abramova, Min Zhao, Rebecca Garriss, Marina Konopleva, Farhad Ravandi, Hagop Kantarjian, A phase 1/2 study of mini-hyper-CVD plus venetoclax in patients with relapsed/refractory acute lymphoblastic leukemia, Blood Adv, 2024,

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American Society of Hematology
Helping hematologists conquer blood diseases worldwide

Zuma-3: Brexucabtagene Autoleucel (KTE-X19) for R/R B-ALL

- Phase 2 single arm open label multicenter international study (n = 55 patients)
 - Median age: 40 years (28-52)
 - 47% received ≥ 3 previous therapies
 - 42% received previous allogeneic HSCT
- Results
 - Complete remission: 71%
 - MRD negativity: 76%
 - Median duration of remission: 14.6 months
 - Median time to allogeneic HSCT: 98 days
 - Median OS: 18.2 months (15.9–not estimable) in all treated patients and not reached in responders

Zuma-3: Brexucabtagene Autoleucel (KTE-X19) for R/R B-ALL

- Safety data:
 - 95% of patients experienced at least 1 Grade \geq 3 adverse event

	Any Grade	Grade \geq 3
CRS (Median onset: 5 days)	89%	24%
Neurological Events (Median onset: 9 days)	60%	26%
Anemia	53%	49%
Neutropenia	27%	27%
Thrombocytopenia	33%	30%
Alanine aminotransferase increased	22%	15%

Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS) Treatment Algorithm

with		and/or		
Grade	Fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Hypotension (SBP < 90 mmHg)	Hypoxia (requires oxygen for O2 sat > 90%)	Management
1	Yes	No	No	Monitor fluid status Empiric treatment for febrile neutropenia & sepsis screen Supportive care (antipyretics, analgesics) Consider tocilizumab in absence of improvement within 3 days
2	Yes	Yes - does not require vasopressors	Requires low-flow nasal cannula	Closely monitor all organ function Supportive care (fluids, antipyretics) If older/considerable comorbidities: tocilizumab +/- corticosteroids
3	Yes	Yes – requires vasopressor +/- vasopressin	Requires high flow nasal cannula, facemask, or nonrebreather)	Tocilizumab +/- corticosteroids Supportive care
4	Yes	Yes – requires multiple vasopressors	Requires positive pressure (CPAP, BiPAP, intubation, mechanical ventilation)	Tocilizumab +/- corticosteroids Supportive care

Neurotoxicity Treatment Algorithm

ICANS Grade	ICE Score	Depressed level of consciousness	Seizure	Motor Findings	Elevated ICP / cerebral edema	Management Without CRS	Management With CRS
Grade 1	7-9	Awakens spontaneously	N/A	N/A	N/A	Supportive care	Tocilizumab
Grade 2	3-6	Awakens to voice	N/A	N/A	N/A	Supportive care Dexamethasone IV x 1 and reassess, repeat every 6-12 hours if no improvement	Tocilizumab +/- dexamethasone
Grade 3	0-2	Awakens only to tactile stimuli	Any clinical seizure that resolves rapidly or nonconvulsive seizures on EEG that resolve with intervention	N/A	Focal/local edema on neuroimaging	Dexamethasone IV q6h or methylprednisolone then taper ICU care Consider repeat neuroimaging every 2-3 days	Tocilizumab + dexamethasone
Grade 4	0 (un-arousable or unable to perform)	Unarousable or requires vigorous / repetitive tactile stimuli Stupor or coma	Life-threatening prolonged seizure (>5 min) or repetitive clinical or electrical seizures without return to baseline in between	Deep focal motor weakness (e.g. hemiparesis or paraparesis)	Diffuse cerebral edema on neuroimaging Decerebrate or decorticate posturing Cranial nerve VI palsy Papilledema Cushing's triad	High dose IV methylprednisolone every 12-24 hours x 3 days, then taper ICU care, consider mechanical ventilation Consider repeat neuroimaging every 2-3 days Treat convulsive seizures per protocol	Tocilizumab + methylprednisolone

Conclusions

- Jury still out on efficacy and safety of pediatric style regimens in AYA and Adult ALL patients
- Clinical trials underway to incorporate antibody therapy in initial induction ALL treatment
- Elderly AML trials show efficacy of incorporation of inotuzumab in mini-hyperCVAD patients and are under investigation as a standard of care
- Trials underway to utilize blinatumomab in upfront setting in elderly patients with B-ALL
- The future of treatment: phase II study showed 98% CR rate using dasatinib and blina in ph + ALL patients

Conclusions

- New agents such as venetoclax and navitoclax also show efficacy in ALL pts and are under investigation in the relapsed/refractory setting
- CAR-T is expensive and difficult to offer to broad population of patients. Many challenges remain in cost of therapy and insurance coverage
- Cellectis “off the shelf” CD 19 CAR-T may show promise in making this therapy more available
- Combinations of these new agents amongst themselves or with chemotherapy will be the next generation of treatment options for patients with ALL

- For additional information review the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines[®])— www.NCCN.org.

NURSES' MANAGEMENT OF ALL

Kaitlin Rancani, CRNP, MSN
Nurse Practitioner
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
Philadelphia, PA

Diagnosis of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

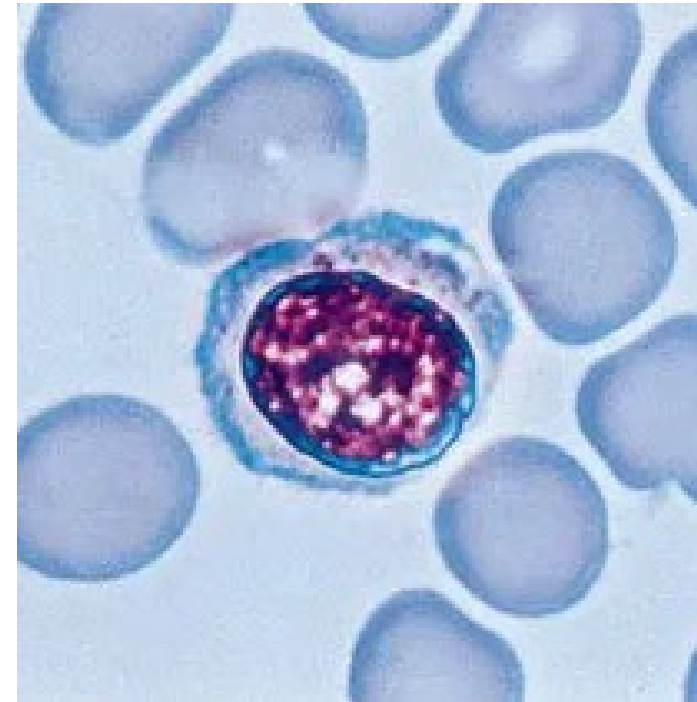
- Ensure patient understands diagnosis
- Provide emotional support
- Inquire about patient's social situation
 - Who do they live with? What do they do for work? Do they have transportation?
- Refer to Social Work

Types of ALL

- Philadelphia chromosome positive (Ph+) B-ALL
 - Detected by BCR/ABL mutation
- Ph- B-ALL
- T-ALL
- Burkitts' Lymphoma

Blood Counts

- **Educate patient on Complete Blood Count**
- **Monitor labs 1-3x/week**
- **WBC**
 - Fight infection
 - Absolute Neutrophil Count (ANC) = $\text{WBC} \times \text{neutrophils}/100$
 - Neutropenic when ANC <1000
- **Hemoglobin**
 - Carries oxygen throughout our body
 - Transfuse Red Blood Cells when Hemoglobin <7.5 g/dL
 - Symptoms of low Hemoglobin include lightheadedness, fatigue, DOE
- **Platelets**
 - Allows our blood to clot to prevent bleeding
 - Transfuse for platelet count <15,000
 - Symptoms of low platelets include bleeding nose, bleeding gums, petechiae, headache
 - Risk for spontaneous brain bleed for platelets <10,000



Abnormal Coagulation

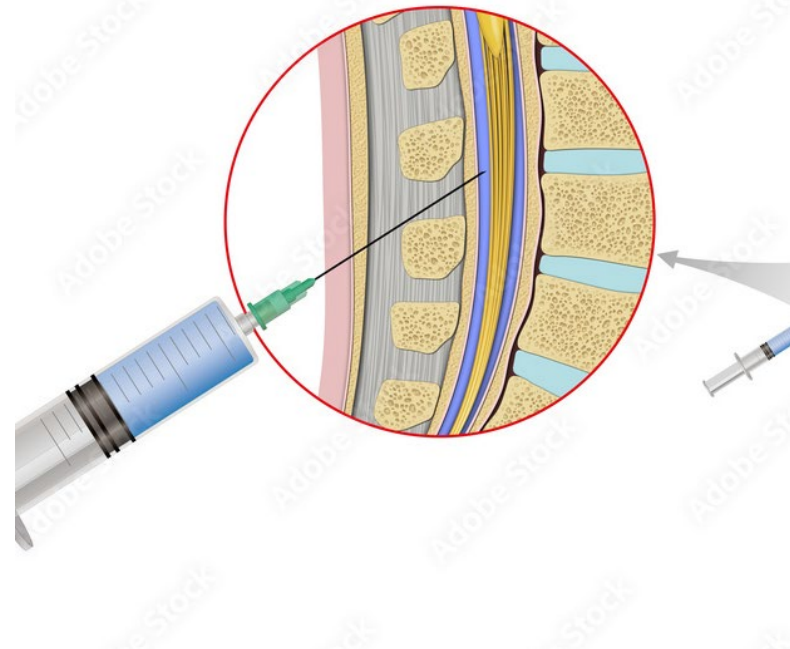
- High risk for venous thromboembolism and bleeding before and during induction chemotherapy
- *Peg asparaginase* disrupts the anticoagulation pathways
- Fibrinogen needs to be monitored very frequently during induction
- Transfuse Cryoprecipate for Fibrinogen <120

Treatment

- Induction chemotherapy usually requires hospitalization for initial days due to tumor lysis risk and abnormal coagulation
- Some treatments require hospital admission each cycle, eg. HyperCVAD
- Prepare for hospital stays and what to expect
- Provide education on chemotherapy drugs and side effects
- Make treatment calendar
- PICC line placement/care

Intrathecal Chemotherapy

- Prepare patient for frequency of procedures
- Platelets $>50,000$ and fibrinogen >100
- Encourage hydration, caffeine, Tylenol
- For postural headache, treat with IVF and IV Compazine



Medications

Prophylactic antimicrobials

- Acyclovir or Valacyclovir (antiviral, continuous)
- Levofloxacin or Ciprofloxacin (antibacterial, when ANC <500)
- Fluconazole (antifungal, when ANC <500)

Antiemetics

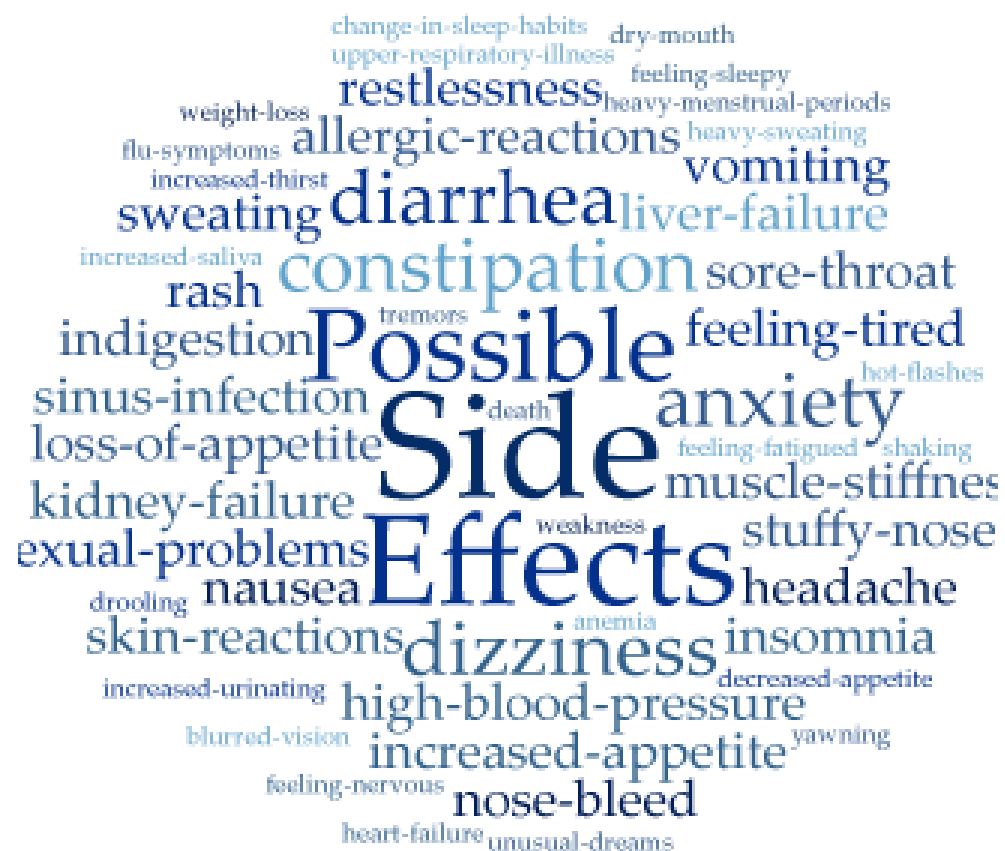
- Zofran
- Compazine

Goals of Treatment

- Bone marrow biopsy usually performed after first cycle/course
- If in remission and MRD negative, continue treatment protocol followed by maintenance. Treatment is usually 2-3 years.
- If poor risk disease or MRD positive during treatment, proceed to bone marrow transplant

Side Effects

- Nausea/Vomiting
- Headache
- Mucositis
- Peripheral Neuropathy
- Constipation
- Pancreatitis



Neutropenic Fever

Fever >100.4 and ANC <1000

- Requires immediate medical attention and hospitalization

If able to begin outpatient workup:

- Blood cultures x 2, Urine Culture, Lactate, Respiratory Viral Swabs
- Administer, at least, 1L IVF
- Begin IV antibiotic as soon as possible, e.g. Cefepime
- If vitals and labs stable, direct admit to hospital

Emergency Room recommended if outpatient workup not possible

Long Term Survival

- If Ph+ ALL, BCR/ABL testing every month for 1-2 years post maintenance
- Labs every 3 months until 3 years, then every 6 months until 5 years, then yearly
- Referral to survivorship clinic, support groups
- Ongoing emotional support

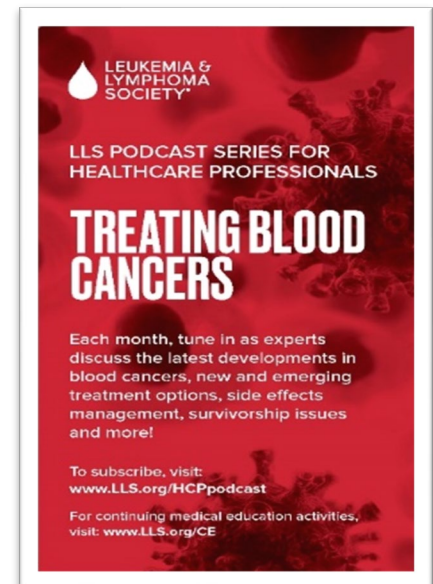
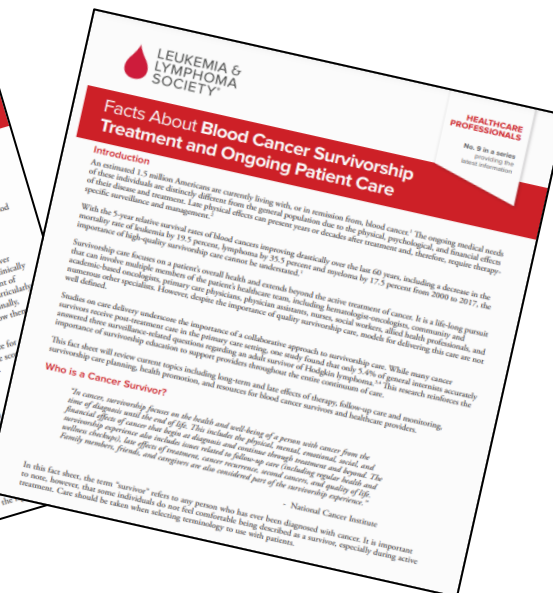
Nurses' Impact

- High touch RN/APP care is imperative to the success of ALL patients.
- Clustering and coordinating care to keep patient safe while providing quality life is important.
- Collaborating with the full care team, including doctors, pharmacists, and nurses, allows for best practice and seamless care.



LLS RESOURCES FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

- ❑ Free CME & CE courses www.LLS.org/CE
- ❑ Fact Sheets www.LLS.org/HCPbooklets
- ❑ Videos for HCPs www.LLS.org/HCPvideos
- ❑ Podcast series for HCPs www.LLS.org/HCPpodcast



FREE LLS RESOURCES FOR PATIENTS

- ❑ **Information Specialists** – Personalized assistance for managing treatment decisions, side effects, and dealing with financial and psychosocial challenges (IRC)

➤ www.LLS.org/IRC

- ❑ **Nutrition Education Services Center** – one-on-one consultation with a registered dietician for patients/caregivers of all cancer types (NESC)

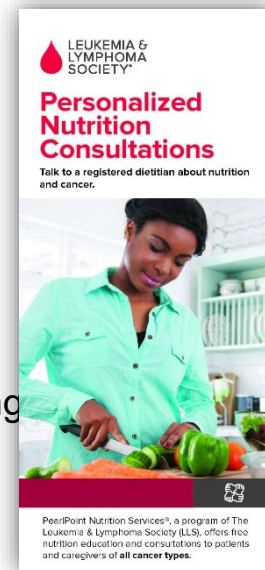
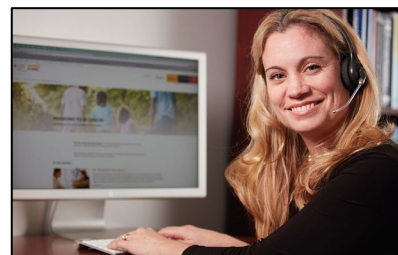
➤ www.LLS.org/Nutrition

- ❑ **Clinical Trial Nurse Navigators** – RNs and NPs provide personalized service for patients seeking treatment in a clinical trial, sift through and provide information to bring back to their HC team (CTSC)

➤ www.LLS.org/CTSC

- ❑ **Reach out Monday–Friday, 9 am to 9 pm ET**

- Phone: (800) 955-4572
- Live chat: www.LLS.org/IRC
- Email: infocenter@LLS.org
- HCP Patient Referral Form: www.LLS.org/HCPreferral



HERE TO HELP: LLS COMMITMENT

to providing education & resources to help patients access clinical trials

CLINICAL TRIAL SUPPORT CENTER

- A team of highly trained nurses and nurse practitioners experienced with hematological malignancies and clinical research.
- Provide education to patients about clinical trials, treatment options, and other disease specific information.
- Provide patients, families, and their caregivers with a professional, detailed, individualized search to discuss with their HCP.
- Provide guidance and serve as advocates throughout the clinical trial process. Help make connections between the patient and the trial site to facilitate enrollment as appropriate.
- Provide a personal connection and develop long term relationships to help better serve our patients.



FREE LLS RESOURCES FOR PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS

❑ Webcasts, Videos, Podcasts, booklets:

- www.LLS.org/Webcasts
- www.LLS.org/EducationVideos
- www.LLS.org/Podcast
- www.LLS.org/Booklets
- www.LLS.org/Leukemia



❑ Support Resources

- ❑ Financial Assistance: www.LLS.org/Finances
 - Urgent Need
 - Patient Aid
 - Travel Assistance
- ❑ Other Support: www.LLS.org/Support
 - LLS Regions
 - Online Weekly Chats Facilitated by Oncology SW
 - LLS Community Social Media Platform
 - First Connection Peer to Peer Program

LEUKEMIA

- Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
 - Signs and Symptoms
- + Diagnosis
- + Treatment
- + Childhood ALL
- + Acute Myeloid Leukemia
- + Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
- + Chronic Myeloid Leukemia
- + Hairy Cell Leukemia
- + Chronic Myelomonocytic Leukemia
- + Juvenile Myelomonocytic Leukemia
- + Large Granular Lymphocytic Leukemia
- + Blastic Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cell Neoplasm

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

- Is a cancer of the bone marrow and blood
- Progresses rapidly without treatment
- Does not have a clear cause

[Click here](#) to access ALL statistics.

[Click here](#) to access information about ALL in children and teens.

What You Should Know

- It's important to start treatment soon after diagnosis.
- ALL is also called acute lymphocytic leukemia and acute lymphoid leukemia.
- ALL affects the blood cells and immune system.
- There are several ALL subtypes.
- The type of treatment you receive and your treatment outcome depend on your ALL subtype and individual risk factors.
- Most children with ALL are cured of their disease after treatment.
- The numbers of adults and their remission lengths have grown significantly over the past 30 years.

What You Should Do

- Choose a doctor who specializes in treating ALL. This type of specialist is called a hematologist-oncologist. Or, your local cancer specialist can work with a leukemia specialist.
- Talk with your doctor about your diagnostic tests and what the results mean.
- Talk with your doctor about all your treatment options and the results you can expect from treatment.
- Obtain and keep records of your test results and the treatment you receive as this information is useful for long-term follow-up of your condition.

FREE LLS RESOURCES FOR YOUR PATIENTS



BOOKLETS AND FACT SHEETS

English – www.LLS.org/Booklets
Spanish – www.LLS.org/Materiales





THANK YOU!

To speak with an Information Specialist or to refer a patient: 800.955.4572
email: Infocenter@LLS.org

For questions about this program, concerns, or assistance for people with disabilities or grievances, contact us at Profeducation@LLS.org

We have one goal: A world without blood cancers

