



## Update on Waldenström Macroglobulinemia (WM)



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## Update on Waldenström Macroglobulinemia (WM)

### Disclosures

**Stephen M. Ansell, MD, PhD has nothing to disclose.**

## **Waldenström macroglobulinemia**

Treatment approaches for newly diagnosed and relapsed disease

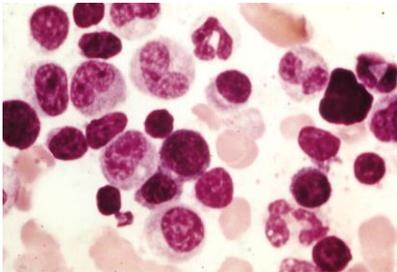
Stephen Ansell, MD, PhD  
Mayo Clinic

### **Topics to be covered -**

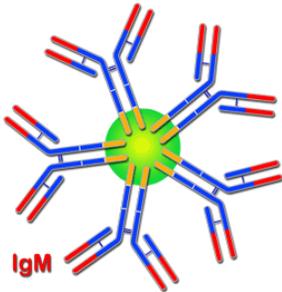
- What is Waldenström macroglobulinemia?
- Who needs treatment?
- Standard treatment options –
  - Newly diagnosed patients
  - Relapsed patients

**What is Waldenström macroglobulinemia?**

**Waldenström macroglobulinemia**  
**“A disease with two problems”**



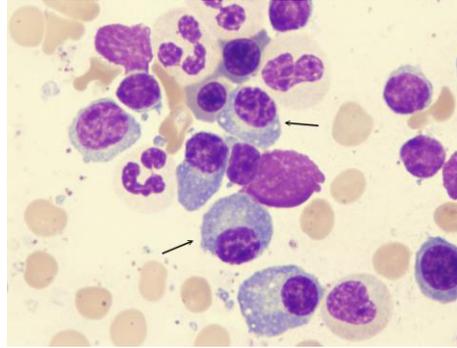
Lymphoplasmacytic infiltrate



Monoclonal IgM protein

Gertz et al. The Oncologist 2000;5:63-67

## Waldenström macroglobulinemia Morphology and Immunophenotype

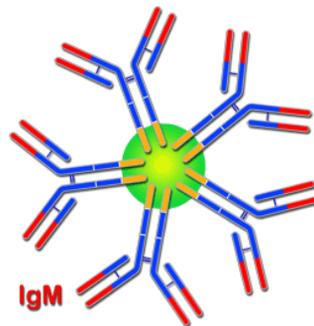


- Lymphoplasmacytic infiltrate (usually intertrabecular)
- Immunophenotype - surface IgM+, CD19+, CD20+, CD79a+ and PAX5+. CD5-, CD10-, CD23-.
- exclude CLL and mantle cell lymphoma
- MYD88 L265P is the most common genetic abnormality seen
- del(6)(q21) and CXCR4 mutations are also seen

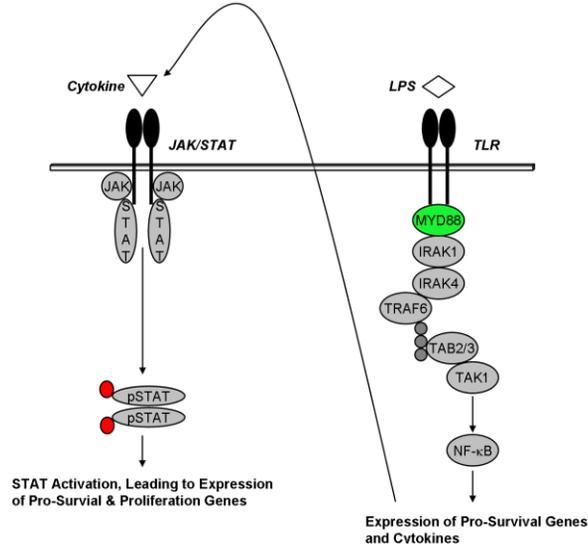
Treon et al. N Engl J Med. 2012;367(9):826-33.  
Hunter et al. Blood. 2014;123(11):1637-46.

## Waldenström macroglobulinemia Monoclonal IgM

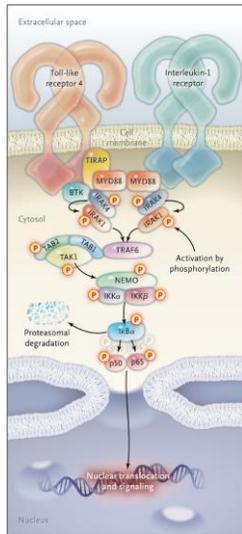
- Symptoms related to the monoclonal IgM protein are attributable to -
  - its characteristics in the circulation,
  - its interaction with various body tissues when deposited,
  - and its autoantibody activity.



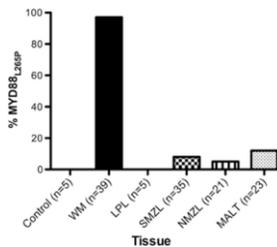
## MYD88 Mutations in Waldenström macroglobulinemia



## MyD88 L265P mutations are almost universal in Waldenström macroglobulinemia

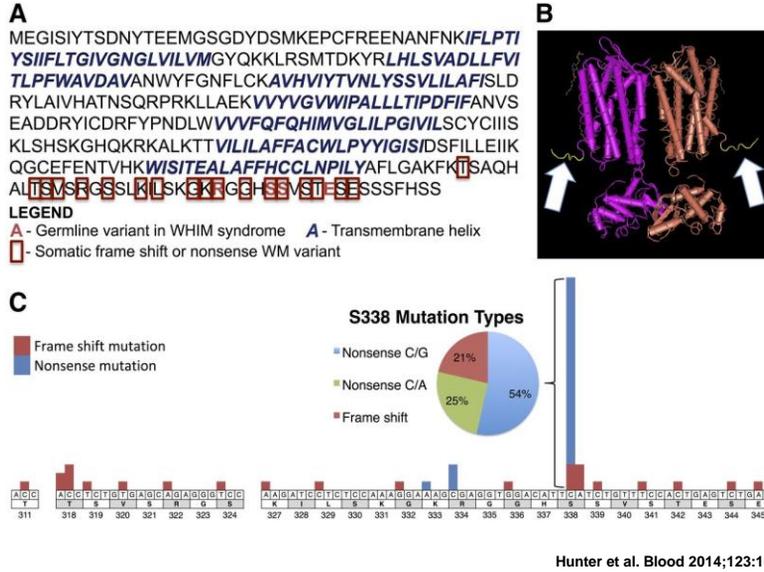


- Whole genome sequencing in 30 patients – MYD88 L265P mutation found in 27/30.
- High frequency confirmed in 49/54 additional cases (91%)
- Rarely expressed in myeloma, MZL, or IgM MGUS

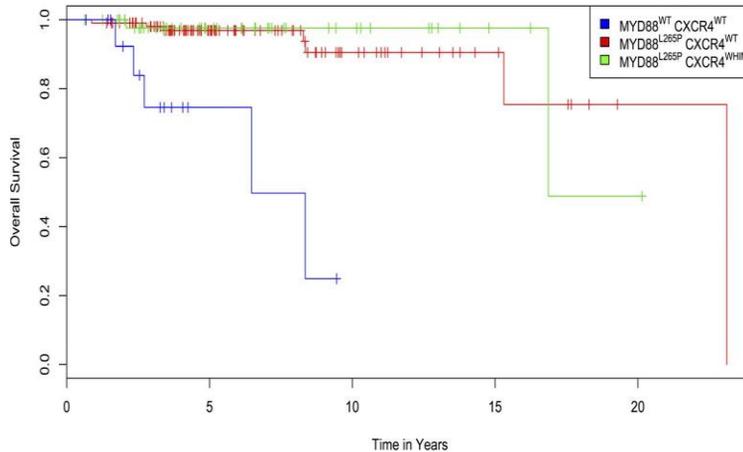


Treon SP et al. *N Engl J Med* 2012;367:826-833.  
Ansell et al. *Blood Cancer J.* 2014 Feb 14;4:e183.

## CXCR4 mutations in Waldenström macroglobulinemia similar to WHIM syndrome



## Overall survival of 175 WM patients stratified by MYD88 and CXCR4 mutation status



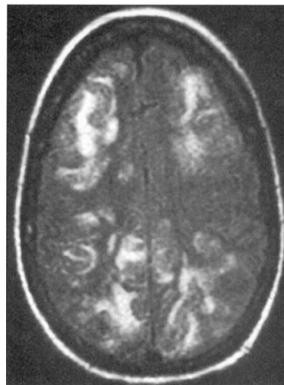
Treon et al. Blood 2014;123:2791-2796

## Waldenström macroglobulinemia – presenting symptoms

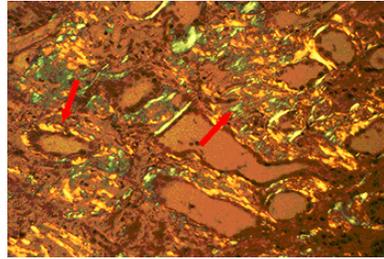
- 217 patients with serum monoclonal IgM protein  $\geq 3$  g/dl and  $> 20\%$  bone marrow involvement -
  - Asymptomatic (27%)
  - Anemia (38%),
  - Hyperviscosity (31%),
  - B symptoms (23%),
  - Bleeding (23%)
  - Neurological symptoms (22%)

García-Sanz et al. Brit J Haematol. 115: 575-582, 2001

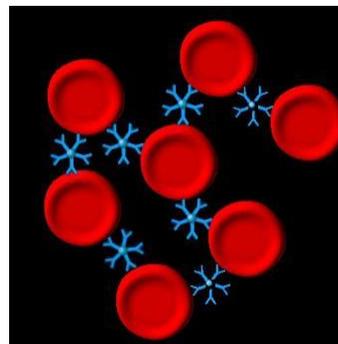
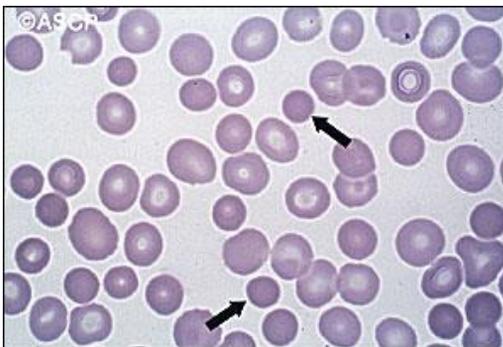
## Hyperviscosity due to Waldenström macroglobulinemia



**IgM deposition due to Waldenström  
macroglobulinemia**



**Autoimmune hemolysis secondary to  
Waldenström macroglobulinemia**



## Diagnostic Criteria for Waldenström macroglobulinemia

### Waldenström macroglobulinemia

IgM monoclonal gammopathy (regardless of the size of the M protein) with >10% bone marrow lymphoplasmacytic infiltration (usually intertrabecular) by small lymphocytes that exhibit plasmacytoid or plasma cell differentiation and a typical immunophenotype (surface IgM<sup>+</sup>, CD5<sup>-</sup>, CD10<sup>-</sup>, CD19<sup>+</sup>, CD20<sup>+</sup>, CD23<sup>-</sup>) that satisfactorily excludes other lymphoproliferative disorders, including chronic lymphocytic leukemia and mantle cell lymphoma

### IgM MGUS

Serum IgM monoclonal protein level <3 g/dL, bone marrow lymphoplasmacytic infiltration <10%, and no evidence of anemia, constitutional symptoms, hyperviscosity, lymphadenopathy, or hepatosplenomegaly

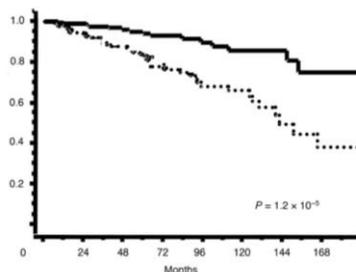
### Smoldering Waldenström macroglobulinemia (also referred to as indolent or asymptomatic Waldenström macroglobulinemia)

Serum IgM monoclonal protein level ≥3 g/dL and/or bone marrow lymphoplasmacytic infiltration ≥10% and no evidence of end-organ damage, such as anemia, constitutional symptoms, hyperviscosity, lymphadenopathy, or hepatosplenomegaly, that can be attributed to a lymphoplasmacytic proliferative disorder

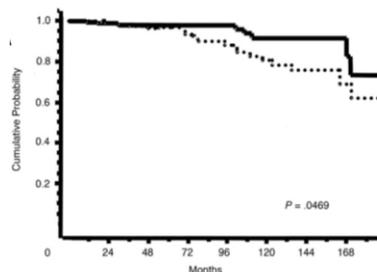
Kyle et al. Leukemia. 2009 Jan;23(1):3-9.

## Time to developing WM and Survival in patients with Indolent WM or IgM MGUS

Time to evolution



Overall survival

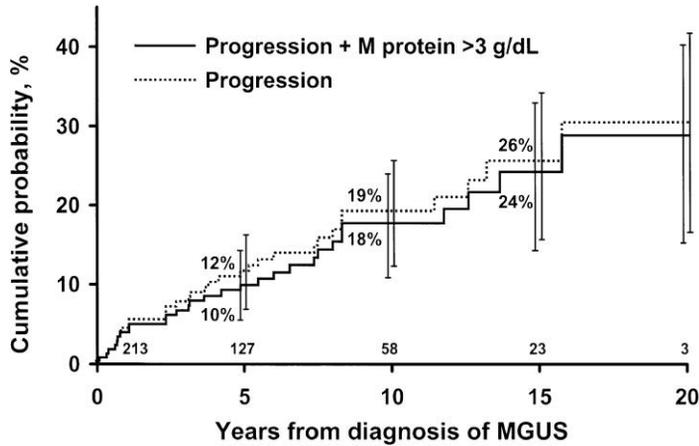


(— MGUS; ...IWM)

MGUS (217 patients) and indolent Waldenström's macroglobulinemia (201 patients) groups

Baldini L et al. JCO 2005;23:4662-4668

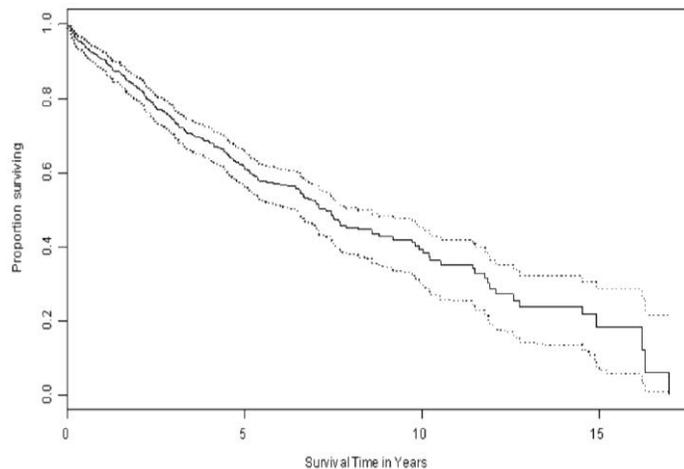
### Risk of progression from IgM MGUS to WM or another B-cell malignancy



The overall average risk for progression is approximately 1.5% per year.

Kyle R A et al. Blood 2003;102:3759-3764

### Survival of 587 symptomatic patients with Waldenström macroglobulinemia



Morel P et al. Blood 2009;113:4163-4170

## Who needs treatment?

### Patient 1

- 66 year old man
- Went for an executive physical – in good health with no symptoms
- Found to be mildly anemic (Hgb 12.8g/dl). Other blood counts – normal
- Also noted to have increased total protein with an increased gammaglobulin level.
- Monoclonal IgM – 1.4 g/dl
- Bone marrow biopsy – 20% involvement by lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma
- CT scan – no lymph nodes

## Patient 2

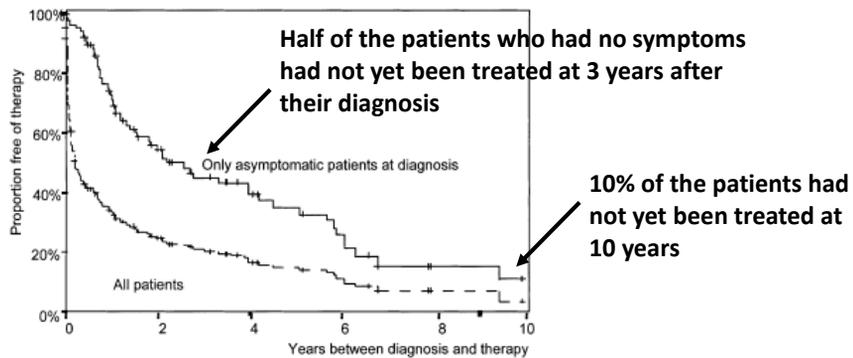
- 67 year old man
- Severe fatigue, nausea, visual difficulties, increasing confusion and sleepiness, gums bleed easily.
- Anemic (Hgb 8.8g/dl). Platelets decreased to 96,000.
- Ulcers have developed on his ankles
- Monoclonal IgM – 6.6 g/dl. Viscosity – 5.8
- Bone marrow biopsy – 85% involvement by lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma
- CT scan – enlarged liver and spleen and multiple bulky lymph nodes in the abdomen

## Many treatment options

- Watch and wait
- Single agent rituximab
- Chemoimmunotherapy combinations
- Ibrutinib
- Plasmapheresis
- Clinical trials with new agents
- Stem cell transplantation
  
- **Which approach is best?**

**Does everyone need treatment at diagnosis?**

**Watch and wait in Patients with Waldenström  
macroglobulinemia**



García-Sanz et al. Brit J Haematol. 115: 575-582, 2001

**What clinical findings suggest that treatment should be started?**

- Fever, night sweats, or weight loss.
- Lymphadenopathy or splenomegaly.
- Hemoglobin  $\leq 10$  g/dL or a platelet count  $< 100 \times 10^9/L$  due to marrow infiltration.
- Complications such as hyperviscosity syndrome, symptomatic sensorimotor peripheral neuropathy, systemic amyloidosis, renal insufficiency, or symptomatic cryoglobulinemia.

Kyle et al. Semin Oncol. 2003 Apr;30(2):116-20

**Before starting therapy –**

**Does the patient have hyperviscosity and do they need plasmapheresis?**

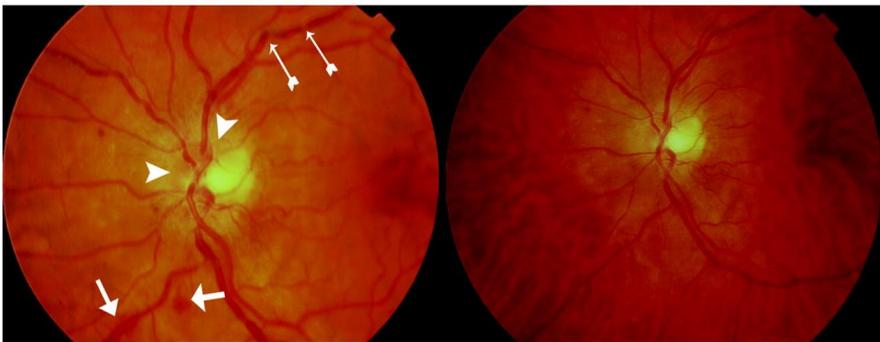
## Plasmapheresis for Waldenström patients with hyperviscosity

- Symptoms of hyperviscosity –
  - Visual deterioration
  - Neurological symptoms
  - Bleeding
- Rarely seen with IgM <4g/dL

## Efficacy of Plasmapheresis for Waldenström patients with hyperviscosity

Before Plasmapheresis

After Plasmapheresis



Before plasmapheresis - optic disc edema (arrowheads), central retinal hemorrhages (bold arrows), and venous “sausaging” (thin arrows).

Menke et al. Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2008Mar;49(3):1157-60.

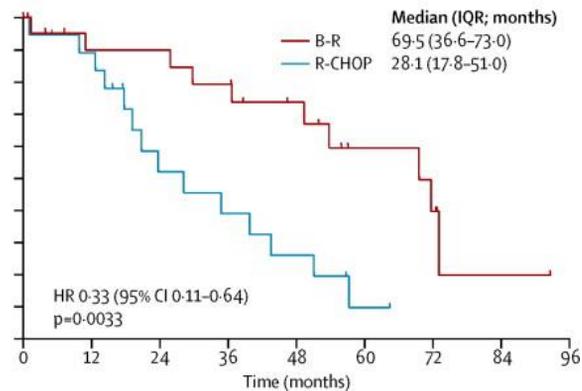
## **Initial treatment for untreated symptomatic WM patients**

### **Common Treatments used as initial therapy for WM**

- Purine analogue based combinations –
  - FCR/FR
- Alkylating agent based combinations –
  - R-CHOP
  - DRC
  - R-Bendamustine
- Bortezomib based combinations –
  - BDR
- Rituximab alone
- Ibrutinib

## Bendamustine plus rituximab compared with R-CHOP in WM patients

- A subset analysis in the prospective randomized STIL trial - bendamustine plus rituximab (BR) compared with R-CHOP



Rummel MJ, et al. Lancet. 2013 Apr 6;381(9873):1203-10.

## Rituximab alone for Waldenström macroglobulinemia

69 symptomatic WM patients – rituximab x 4 doses

ORR 52% - 27% PR, 25% MR

Median duration of response – 27 months

Gertz et al, Leuk Lymphoma. 2004 Oct;45(10):2047-55.

Same study – evaluated IgM levels for “flare”

54% had an increase in IgM

27% still elevated at 4 months

No factors predicting an increase in IgM levels could be identified.

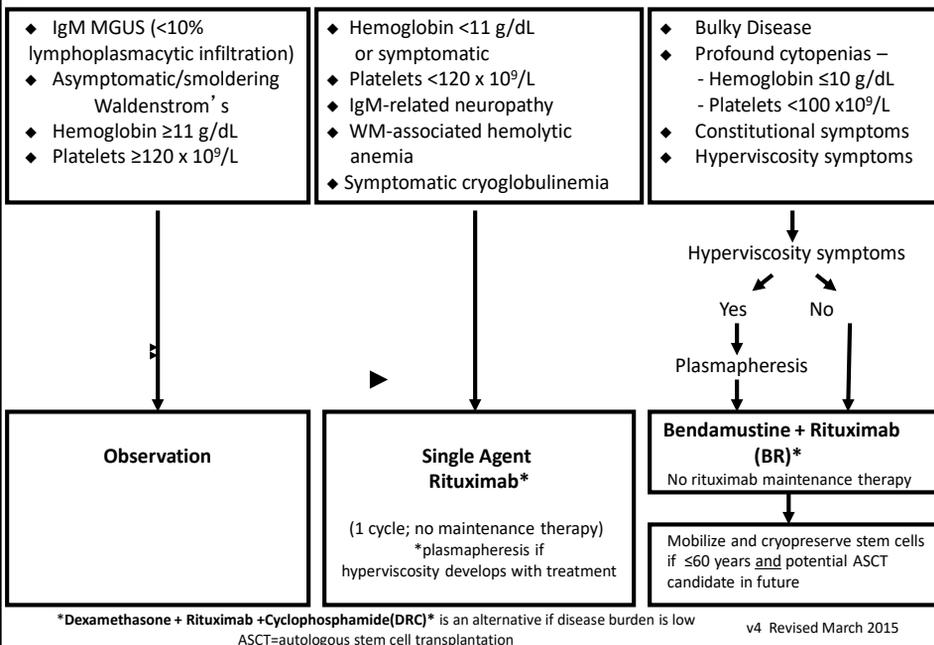
Ghobrial et al. Cancer. 2004 Dec 1;101(11):2593-8.

## Ibrutinib in Waldenström macroglobulinemia

- 63 previously treated patients received 420 mg of oral ibrutinib daily for 2 years or until progression.
- ORR was 90.5%, with a major response rate (PR or better) of 73% and a median time to response of 4 weeks.
- 2-year progression-free and overall survival rates among all patients were 69.1% and 95.2%, respectively.
- Toxicities > grade 2 - thrombocytopenia; neutropenia; atrial fibrillation and epistaxis.

Treon et al. N Engl J Med. 2015 Apr 9;372(15):1430-40.

### Consensus for Newly Diagnosed Waldenström Macroglobulinemia

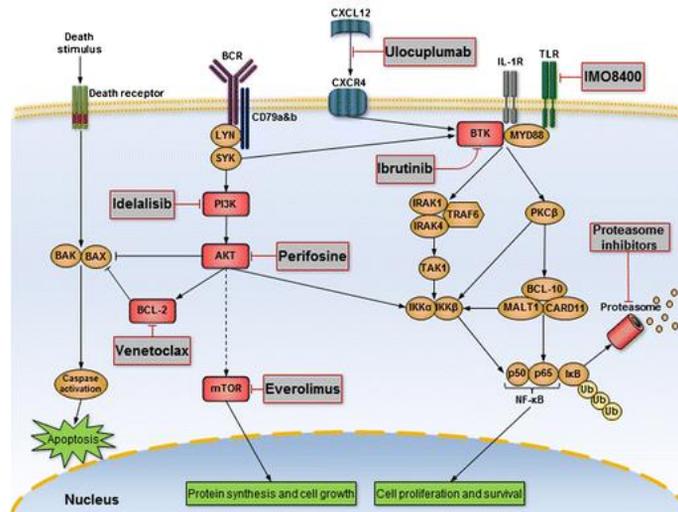


## **Subsequent treatment in relapsed WM patients**

### **Newer drugs with promise**

- BTK inhibitors - ibrutinib
- PI3kinase inhibitors - Idelalisib
- mTOR inhibitors - Everolimus
- New anti-CD20 antibodies - ofatumumab
- Anti-bcl2 agents - venetoclax
- New HDAC inhibitors - panobinostat
- New proteasome inhibitors - carfilzomib
- New Imids - Pomalidomide

## Therapeutic opportunities afforded by the biology of Waldenström macroglobulinemia

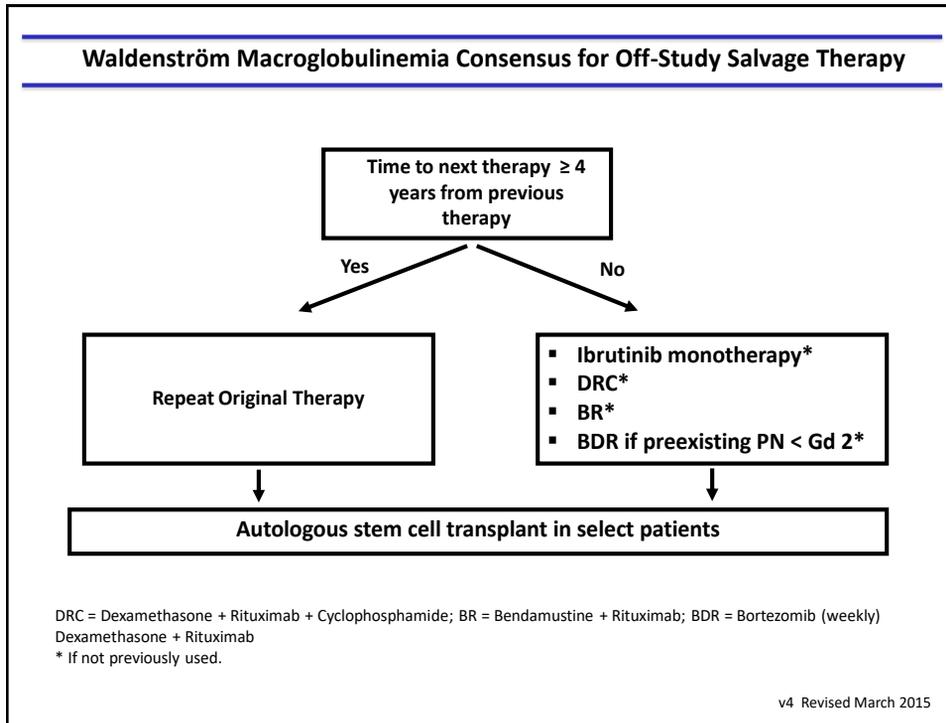


Kapoor et al. *Curr Treat Options Oncol.* 2016 Mar;17(3):16.

## Ibrutinib in Waldenström macroglobulinemia

- 63 patients received 420 mg of oral ibrutinib daily for 2 years or until progression,
- ORR was 81% (4 VGPR; 32 PR, 15 MR), with a major response rate (PR or better) of 57.1% and a median time to response of 4 weeks.
- 59 patients remain on study with 7 on reduced doses of ibrutinib.
- Toxicities - thrombocytopenia; neutropenia; stomatitis; atrial fibrillation; diarrhea; herpes zoster; hematoma; hypertension and epistaxis.

Treon et al. *ASH.* 2013 Abstract 251.



## Transplantation in relapsed Waldenström macroglobulinemia.

Autologous transplant –

158 WM patients

Non-relapse mortality – 3.8%

5-year PFS – 40%

5-year OS – 68%

Kyriakou et al, J Clin Oncol. 2010 May 1;28(13):2227-32.

Allogeneic transplant –

86 WM patients (37 MAC and 49 RIC)

Non-relapse mortality – 33%(MAC), 23% (RIC)

5-year PFS – 56%

5-year OS – 62%

Kyriakou et al. J Clin Oncol. 2010 Nov 20;28(33):4926-34.


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## Update on Waldenström Macroglobulinemia (WM)



# Q&A Session



## The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Offers:

- **Information Resource Center:** Information Specialists, who are master's level oncology professionals, are available to help cancer survivors navigate the best route from diagnosis through treatment, clinical trials and survivorship.

  - EMAIL: [infocenter@LLS.org](mailto:infocenter@LLS.org)
  - TOLL-FREE PHONE: 1-800-955-4572
- **Free Education Booklets:**

  - [www.LLS.org/booklets](http://www.LLS.org/booklets)
- **Free Telephone/Web Programs:**

  - [www.LLS.org/programs](http://www.LLS.org/programs)
- **Live, weekly Online Chats:**

  - [www.LLS.org/chat](http://www.LLS.org/chat)







## The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Offers:

- **Support Resources:** LLS Community, discussion boards, blogs, support groups, financial assistance and more: [www.LLS.org/support](http://www.LLS.org/support)
- **LLS Podcast, *The Bloodline with LLS*:** Listen in as experts and patients guide listeners in understanding diagnosis, treatment, and resources available to blood cancer patients: [www.LLS.org/thebloodline](http://www.LLS.org/thebloodline)
- **Education Video:** Free education videos about survivorship, treatment, disease updates and other topics: [www.LLS.org/educationvideos](http://www.LLS.org/educationvideos)
- **Patti Robinson Kaufmann First Connection Program:** Peer-to-peer program that matches newly diagnosed patients and their families: [www.LLS.org/firstconnection](http://www.LLS.org/firstconnection)
- **Free Nutrition Consults:** Telephone and email consultations with a Registered Dietitian: [www.LLS.org/nutrition](http://www.LLS.org/nutrition)
- **What to ask:** Questions to ask your treatment team: [www.LLS.org/whattoask](http://www.LLS.org/whattoask)



**THANK  
YOU FOR  
PARTICIPATING!**

**We have one goal:  
A world without  
blood cancers**