



# Global Leukemia Academy

Emerging and Practical Concepts and  
Controversies in Leukemias

28 October 2021

Virtual Breakout – Pediatric Leukemia Patients

# Welcome and meeting overview

Franco Locatelli



 **Pediatric ALL**

**CHAIR**



**Franco Locatelli, MD, PhD**

Professor of Pediatrics  
Sapienza, University of Rome and IRCCS Bambino  
Gesù Children's Hospital, Italy

**FACULTY**



**Rob Pieters, MD, PhD**

Princess Máxima Center for  
Pediatric Oncology, University  
of Utrecht, The Netherlands



**Christina Peters, MD**

St. Anna Children's Hospital,  
Austria



**Martin Schrappe, MD, PhD**

University Medical Center  
Schleswig-Holstein, Germany



# Objectives of the program

Understand current treatment patterns for acute leukemias including incorporation of new technologies

Uncover when genomic testing is being done for acute leukemias, and how these tests are interpreted and utilized

Understand the role of stem cell transplantation in acute leukemias as a consolidation in first remission

Comprehensively discuss the role of MRD in managing and monitoring acute leukemias

Gain insights into antibodies and bispecifics in ALL: what are they? When and how should they be used? Where is the science going?

Discuss the evolving role of ADC therapies in acute leukemias

Review promising novel and emerging therapies in acute leukemias

Explore regional challenges in the treatment of acute leukemias across Europe



# Virtual Breakout – Pediatric ALL Patients (Day 2) 17.00 – 19.45

Chair – Franco Locatelli

Time CET	Title	Speaker/Moderator
17.00 – 17.15	<b>Session open</b>	Franco Locatelli
17.15 – 17.40	<b>How to use MRD and genetics for risk stratification and therapy guidance in pediatric ALL</b>	Rob Pieters
17.40 – 18.05	<b>First-line treatment of pediatric ALL</b>	Martin Schrappe
18.05 – 18.30	<b>Current treatment options for relapsed ALL in children, including HSCT considerations</b>	Franco Locatelli
18.30 – 18.55	<b>Bispecific T-cell engagers for pediatric ALL</b>	Christina Peters
18.55 – 19.25	<b>Case-based panel discussion on management of long- and short-term toxicities in pediatric ALL patients</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Case presentation 1: Francesca Del Bufalo</li><li>• Case presentation 2: Natalia Zubarovskaya</li></ul>	Moderator: Franco Locatelli  <i>Faculty panel:</i> R. Pieters, F. Locatelli, P. Brown, C. Peters, M. Schrappe
19.25 – 19.45	<b>Final discussion, Q&amp;A, and session close</b>	Franco Locatelli

# Educational ARS questions

Franco Locatelli



## Educational Questions Pediatric ALL

**Question 1: Which of the following subsets of first-relapse ALL patients can be considered at very high risk?**

- a) All patients with B-ALL relapsing within 18 months from diagnosis
- b) All patients with hypodiploidy
- c) All patients with t(17;19) or t(1;19)
- d) Each of the 3 previous subsets

## Educational Questions Pediatric ALL

**Question 2: Which assertion is correct for children with B-ALL?**

- a) Inotuzumab is approved for induction treatment of relapsed B-ALL in childhood
- b) Inotuzumab dosage is 3 mg/m<sup>2</sup>
- c) Blinatumomab is approved for consolidation treatment before HSCT in children with B-ALL
- d) None of the patients relapsing later than 6 months after treatment discontinuation should be transplanted

## Educational Questions Pediatric ALL

**Question 3: Which children with relapsed ALL should be transplanted after a TBI-containing regimen?**

- a) All children
- b) Children above the age of 4 years
- c) Children above the age of 10 years
- d) Those with T-ALL

## Educational Questions Pediatric ALL

**Question 4: Which of the following statements is incorrect?**

- a) Leukemia recurrence in patients given CAR T cells is associated with early disappearance of CAR T cells in peripheral blood
- b) Leukemia recurrence in patients given CAR T cells is associated with B-cell aplasia
- c) Leukemia recurrence in patients given CAR T cells is associated with disease burden at time of infusion
- d) Leukemia recurrence in patients given CAR T cells is associated with reappearance of MRD



# How to use MRD and genetics for risk stratification and therapy guidance in pediatric ALL

Rob Pieters





## How to use MRD and genetics for risk-stratification and therapy guidance

Rob Pieters  
Chief Medical Officer

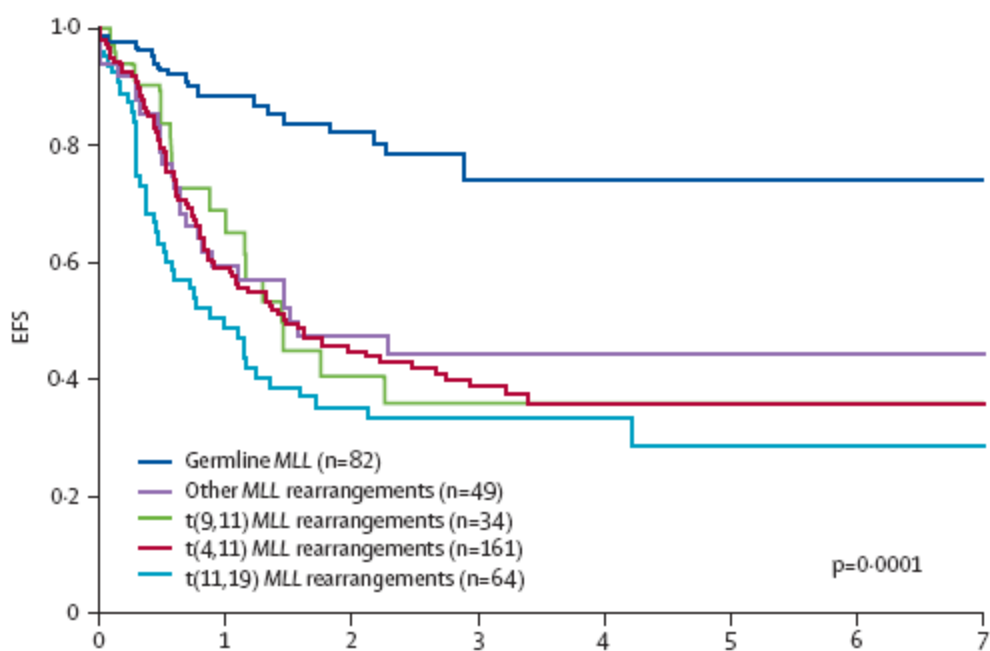
## MRD and genetics to guide stratification and therapy

- Specific therapy protocols for high-risk genetic subgroups
- MRD-based choices of specific therapies
- Therapy reduction in MRD low-risk groups
- Therapy intensification in MRD high-risk groups
- Interdependency of MRD and genetics



## Question 1: Which of the following statements is NOT correct?

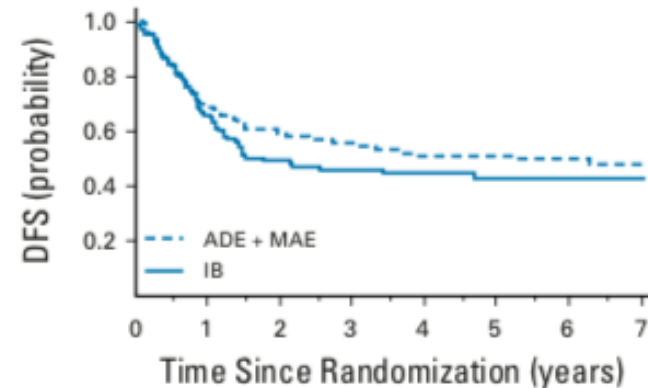
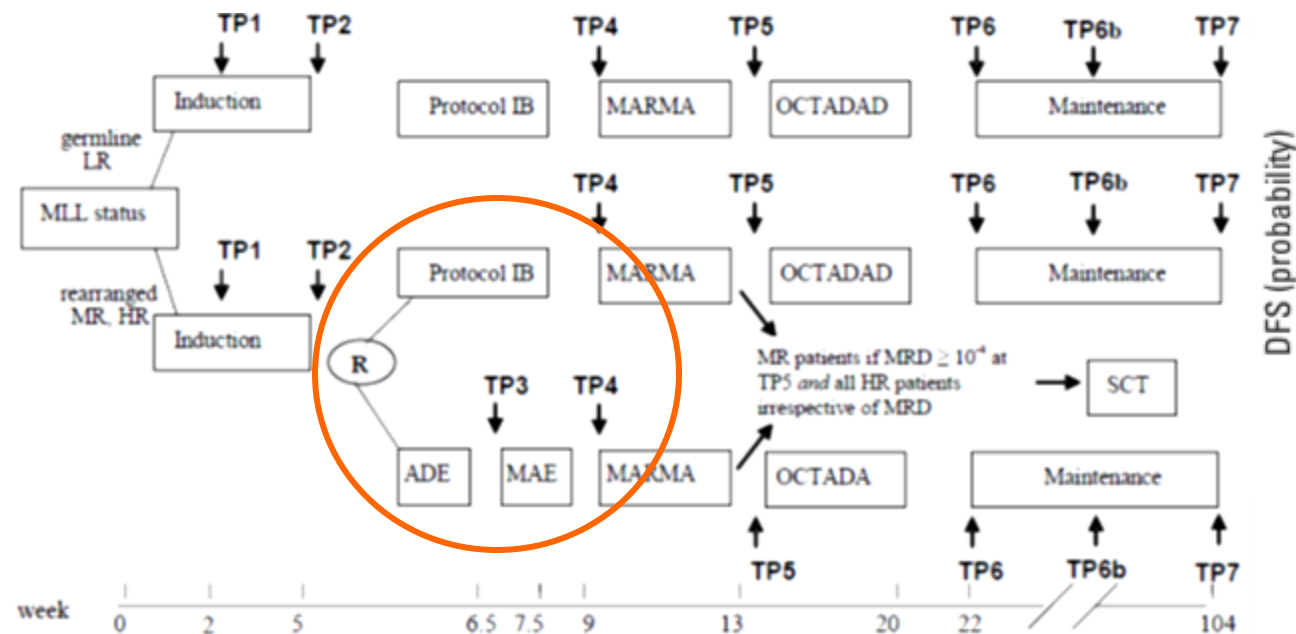
- a) MRD at end of induction in infant *KMT2A*-rearranged ALL can be used to select the most effective subsequent myeloid-like or lymphoid-like type of consolidation therapy
- b) MRD at end of induction and consolidation in *BCR-ABL1*-positive ALL is used to select patients who do not need a SCT
- c) The prognostic relevance of MRD at end of induction depends on the genetic subtype of ALL
- d) All types of *BCR-ABL1*-like ALL are sensitive to ABL-class tyrosine kinase inhibitors



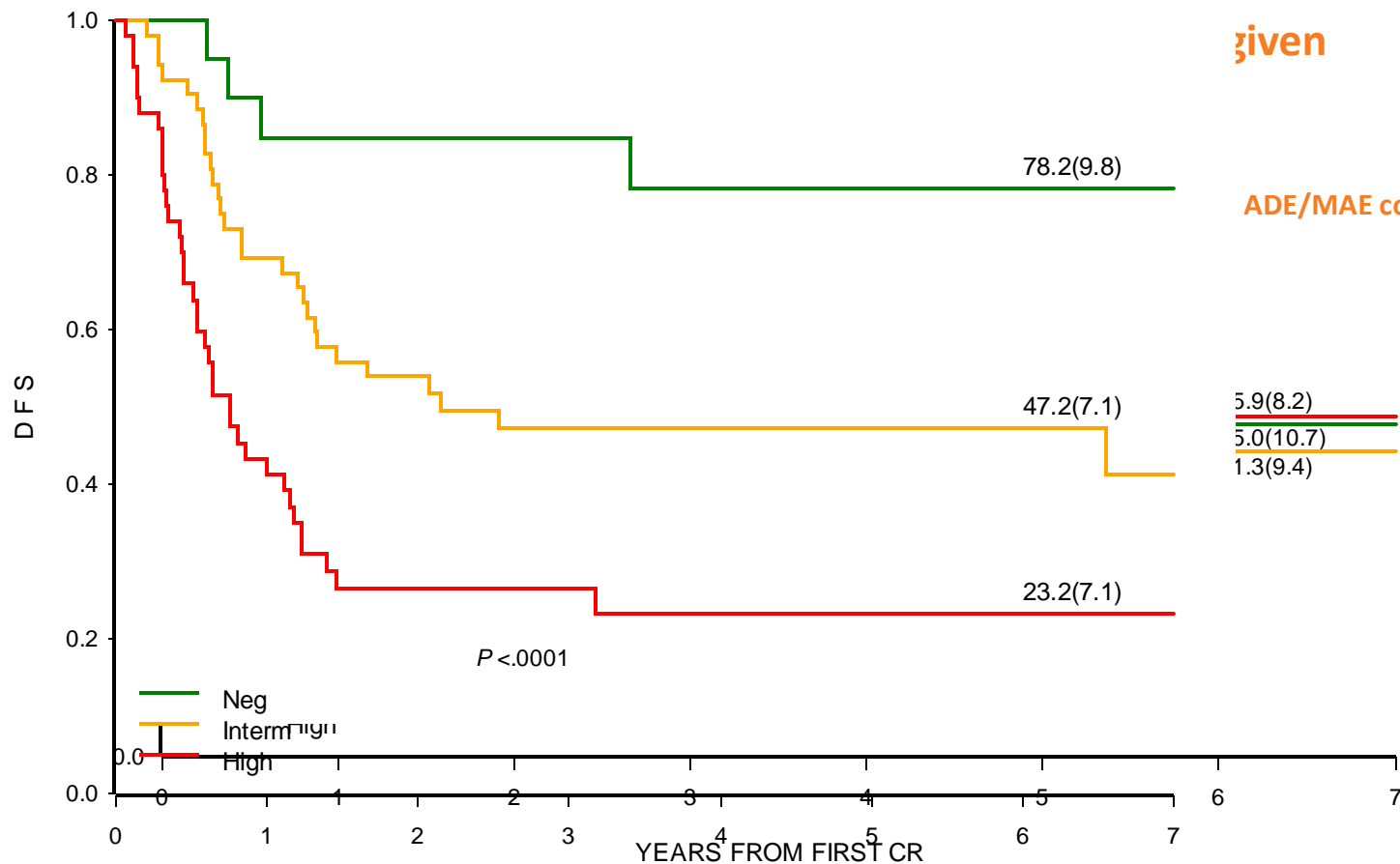
*KMT2A* germline

*KMT2A* rearranged

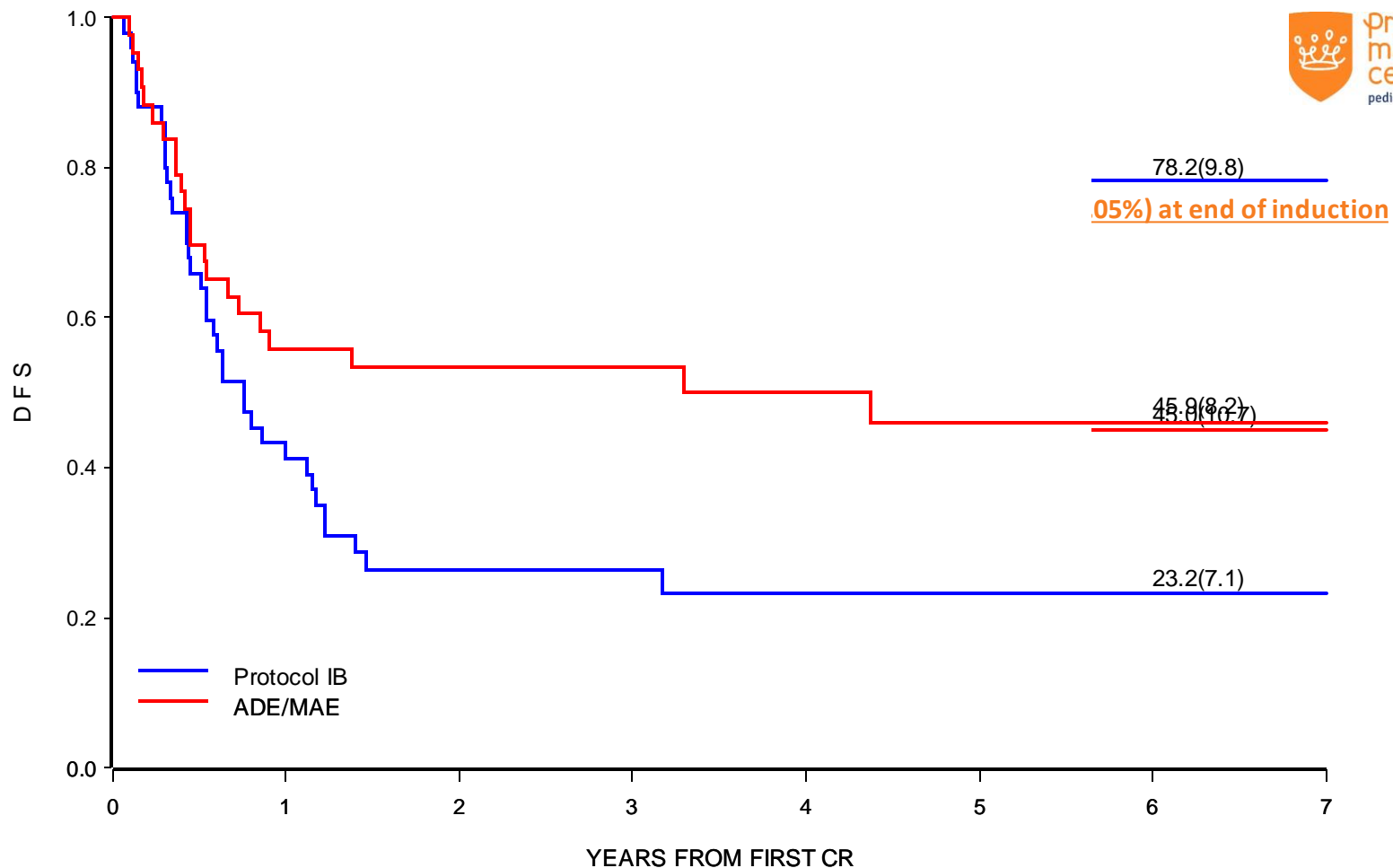
## Interfant-06 treatment schedule



## ADE/MAE consolidation



N. at risk		YEARS FROM FIRST CR									
N. at risk	Neg										
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Neg	22		14	9	8	5	4	4	3		
Interm	30		20	15	13	12	11	8	7	5	4
High	43		24	25	20	20	17	17	13	8	5



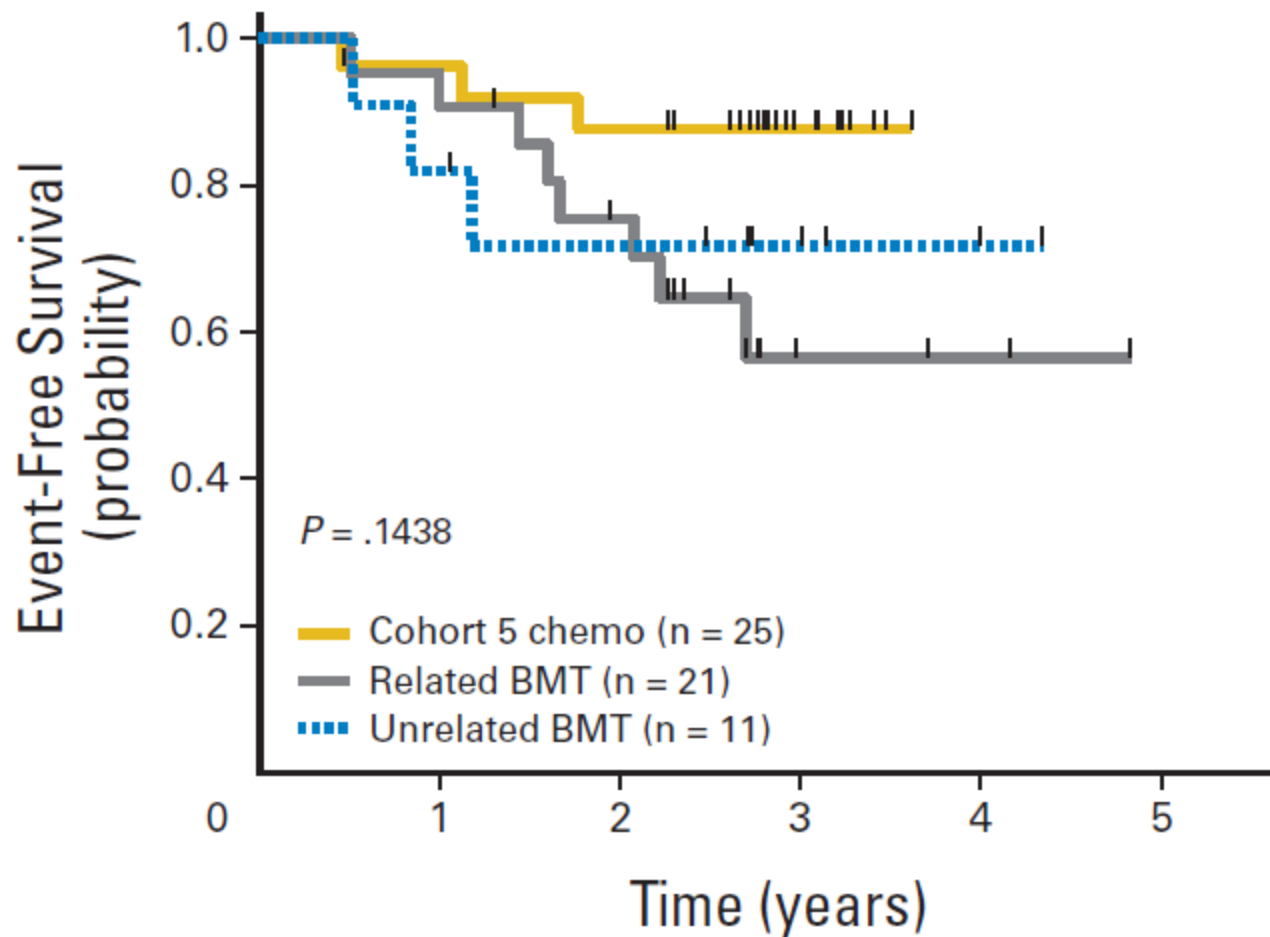
## Conclusions: EOI MRD Interfant-06

(ALL-like) induction leads to selection of patients

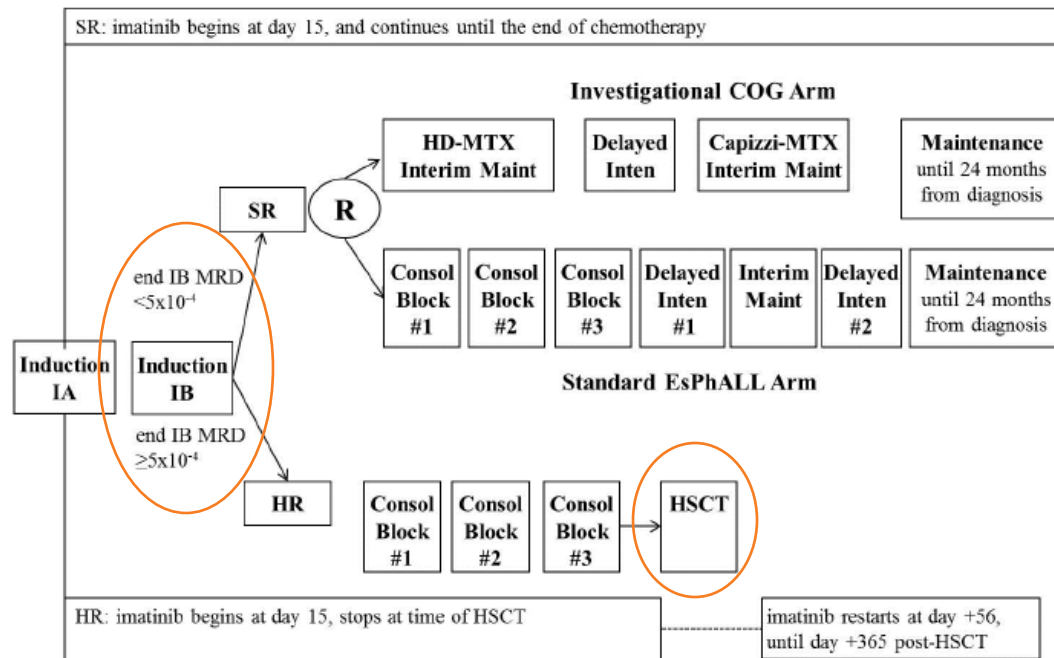
- Low MRD → “ALL-like leukemia” → benefit from ALL consolidation (IB)
- High MRD → “AML-like leukemia” → benefit from AML consolidation (ADE/MAE)

## TKI studies and outcomes in Ph+ ALL (courtesy of Thai Ho Tran)

	AALL0031 <sup>1</sup>	EsPhALL2 004 <sup>2</sup>	EsPhALL2 010 <sup>3</sup>	AALL062 2 <sup>4</sup>	AALL112 2 <sup>5</sup>	CCCG-ALL-2015 <sup>6</sup>
Phase	3	2	2	2	2	3
TKI	Imatinib 340 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	Imatinib 300 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	Imatinib 300 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	Dasatinib 60 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	Dasatinib 60 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	Imatinib 300 mg/m <sup>2</sup> vs Dasatinib 80 mg/m <sup>2</sup>
Period	2002-2006	2004-2009	2010-2014	2008- 2012	2012- 2014	2015-2018
Patients	91	160	155	60	106	97 (imatinib) 92 (dasatinib)
CR1 HSCT	25%	83%	38%	32%	14%	0.5%
5-yr EFS	71% (Cohort 5)	60%	57%	60%	55%	4-yr EFS: 49% (imatinib) 4-yr EFS: 71% (dasatinib)
5-yr OS	81% (Cohort 5)	72%	72%	86%	82%	4-yr OS: 69% (imatinib) 4-yr OS: 88% (dasatinib)

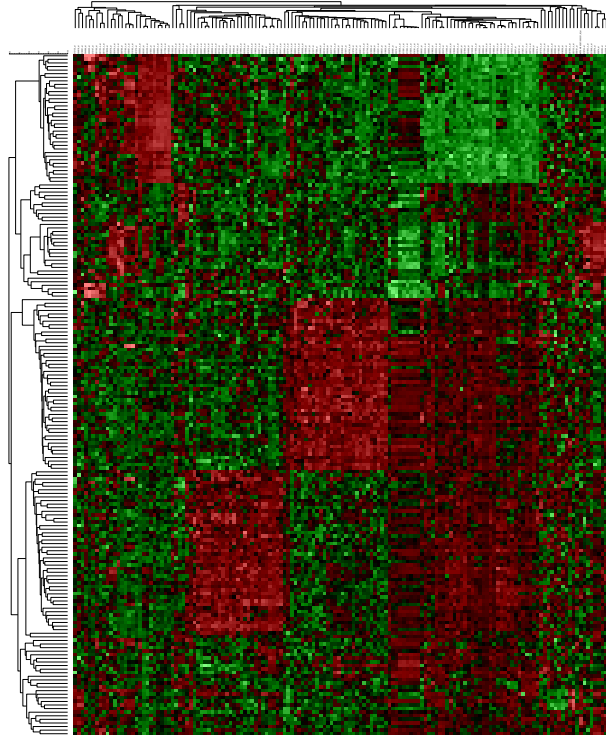


**Fig 4** Comparison of event free survival (EFS) for Cohort 5 chemotherapy only



Note. MRD: Minimal Residual Disease, SR: Standard Risk, HR: High Risk, R: Randomization, HD-MTX: High Dose Methotrexate, Maint: Maintenance, Inten: Intensification, Consol: Consolidation, HSCT: Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant

# Discovery of *BCR-ABL1*-like ALL in 2009



T-ALL

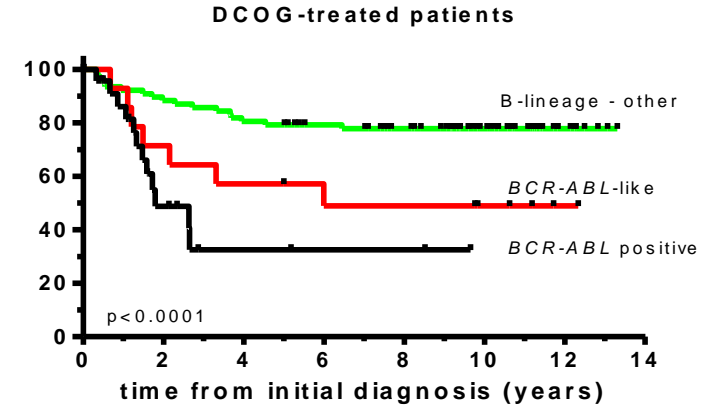
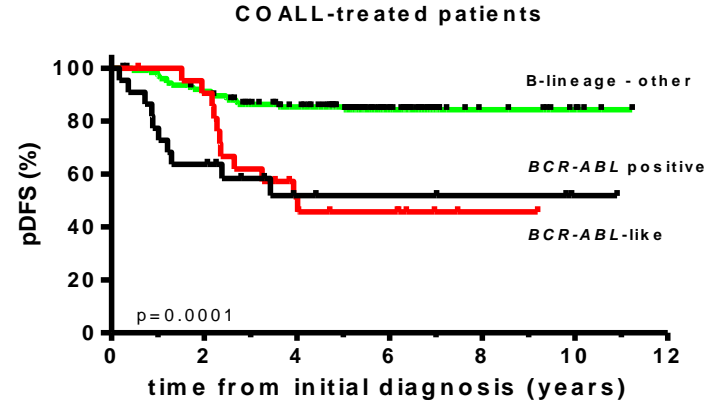
E2A-rearranged  
MLL-rearranged

TEL-AML1

Hyperdiploid

BCR-ABL1

5 real *BCR-ABL1*  
30 *BCR-ABL1*-like



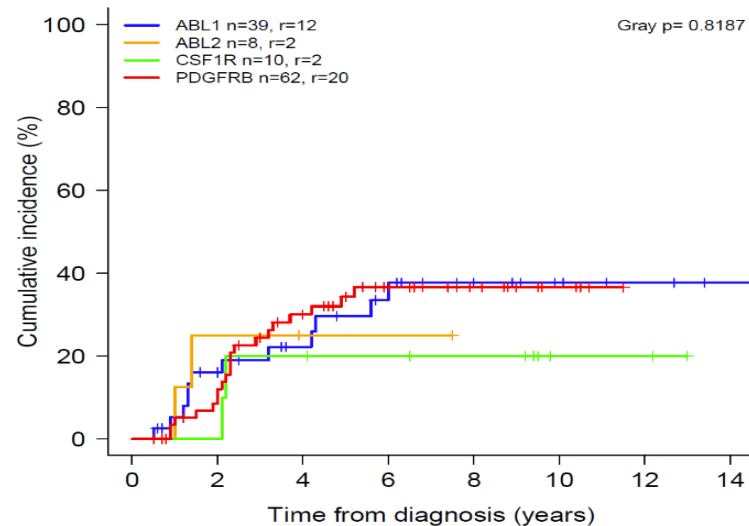
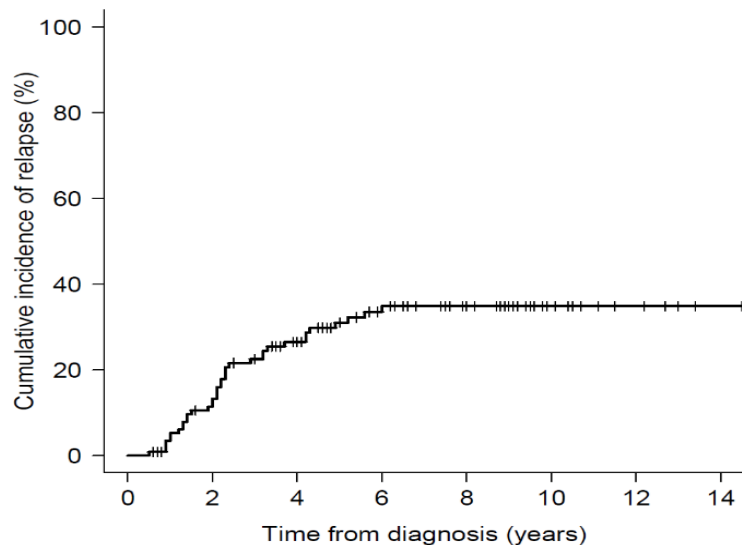
## Frequency of identified tyrosine kinase fusion genes in *BCR-ABL1*-like ALL and remaining B-other ALL

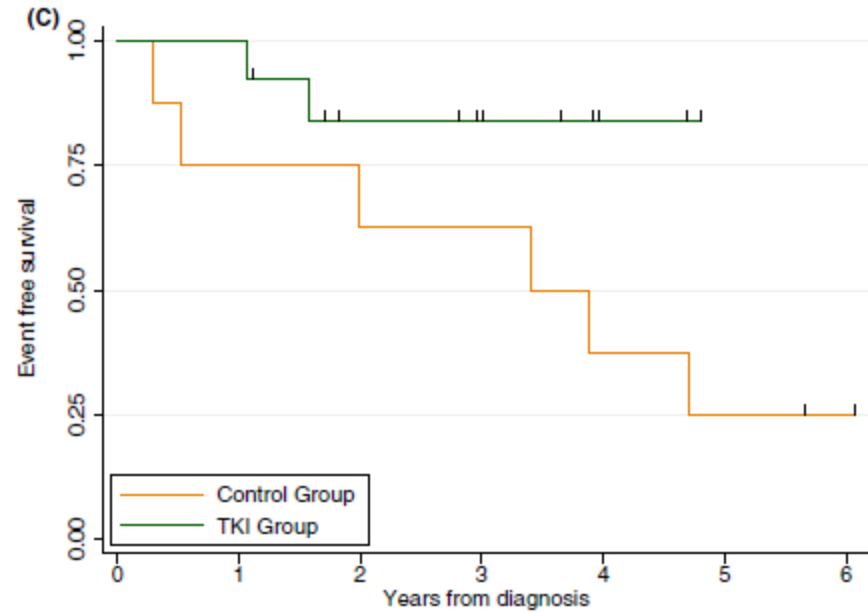
Marker	<i>BCR-ABL1</i> -like (n=77)	Remaining B-other (n=76)
<b><i>ABL1/ABL2</i> fusion</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<i>ZMIZ1-ABL1</i>	1	
<i>FOXP1-ABL1</i>	1	
<i>RCSD1-ABL2</i>	1	
<b><i>PDGFRB</i> fusion</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<i>EBF1-PDGFRB</i>	4	
<b><i>CSF1R</i> fusion</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<i>SSBP2-CSF1R</i>	2	
<b><i>JAK2</i> fusion</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<i>PAX5-JAK2</i>	3	
<i>BCR-JAK2</i>	1	
<i>TERF2-JAK2</i>	1	
<b><i>CRLF2</i> high expression*</b>	<b>15.6%</b>	<b>15.8%</b>
<b><i>PAR1</i> deletion**</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>10.7%</b>

12% with **ABL-class** fusions  
Targetable with TKI eg, imatinib/dasatinib

6% with *JAK2* fusions  
Targetable with ruxolitinib????

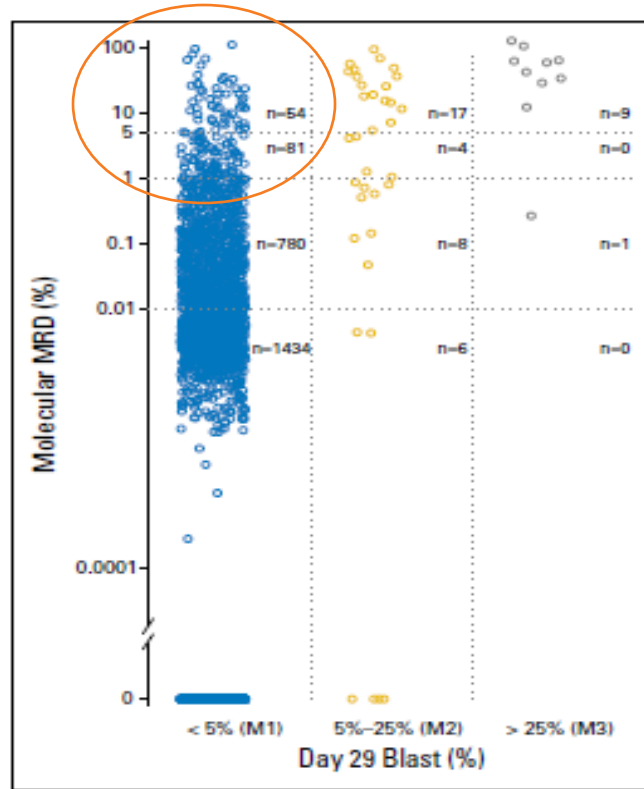
# Cumulative incidence of relapse in ABL-class patients treated without TKI



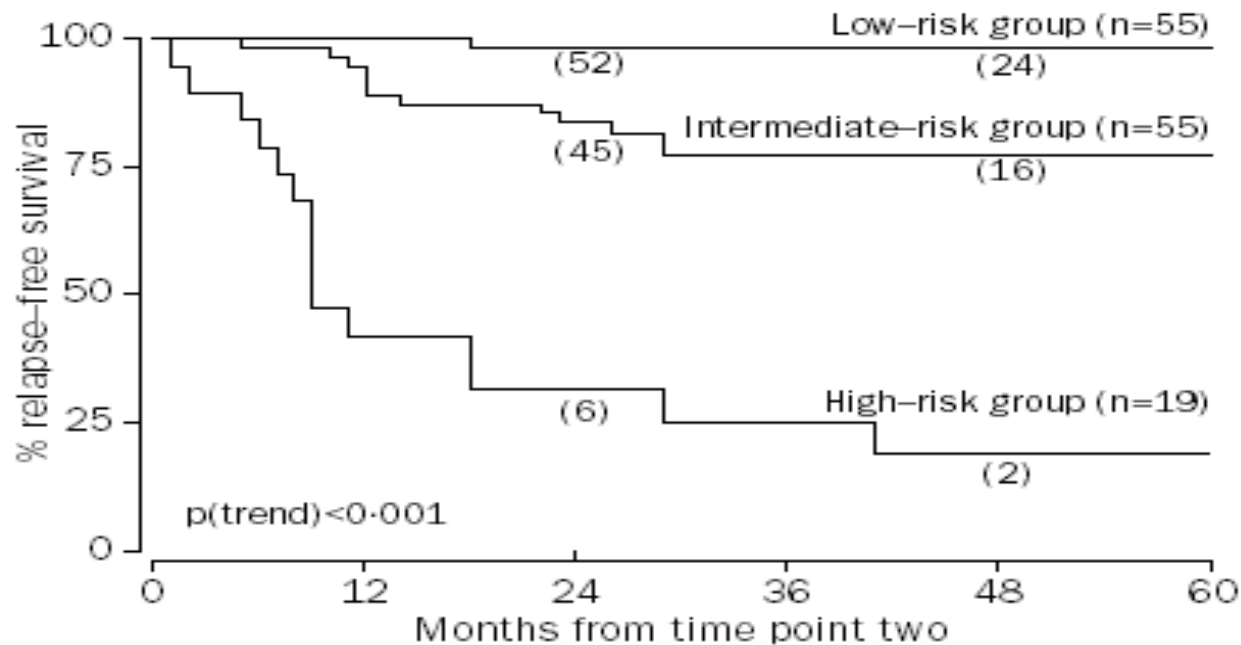


without imatinib

## Morphologic vs molecular detection of MRD at end of induction



## Minimal residual disease and outcome in ALL

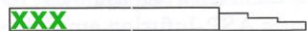


Relapse-free survival of the 3 MRD-based risk groups, as defined by MRD information at time points 1 and 2

# Therapy reduction in MRD-negative patients: BFM-II vs BFM-III vs DCOG-IV

## ALL-BFM 2000: Protokoll **XX IV**

**DEXA** *po/iv* 10mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d



**VCR** *iv* 1,5mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d (max. 2,0mg)



**DOX** *pi* (1h) 30mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d



**ASP** *pi* (1h) 10.000 E/m<sup>2</sup>/d  
(E.coli- MEDAC/KYOWA)  
(Bei allerg. Reaktion s. Text)



**CPM** *pi* (1h) 1.000mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d  
(+MESNA)

**ARA-C** *iv* 75mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d

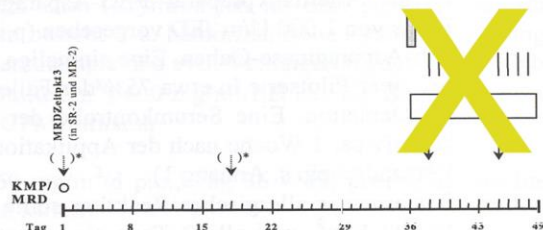
**TG** *po* (14 d) 60mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d

**MTX** *i.th.*

Dosis n. Alter: <1J 1J 2J ≥3J  
MTX *i.th.* 6mg 8mg 10mg 12mg

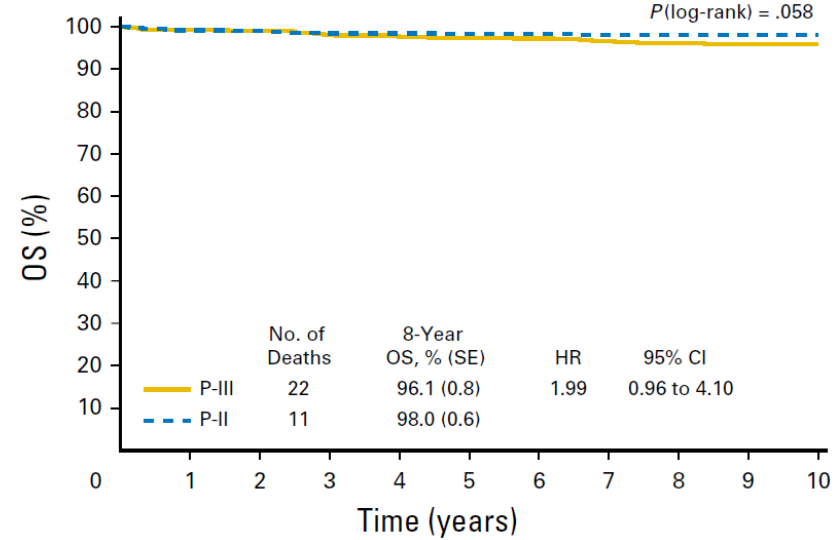
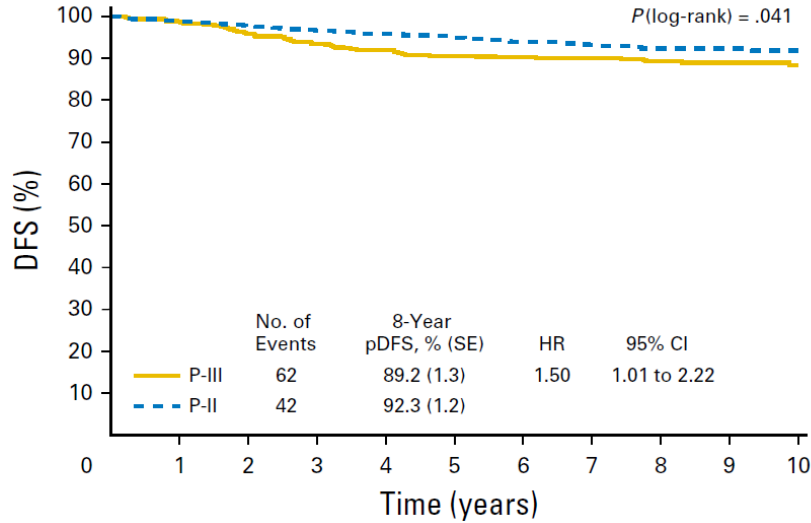
\* Bei ZNS-Befall zusätzlich MTX *i.th.*:

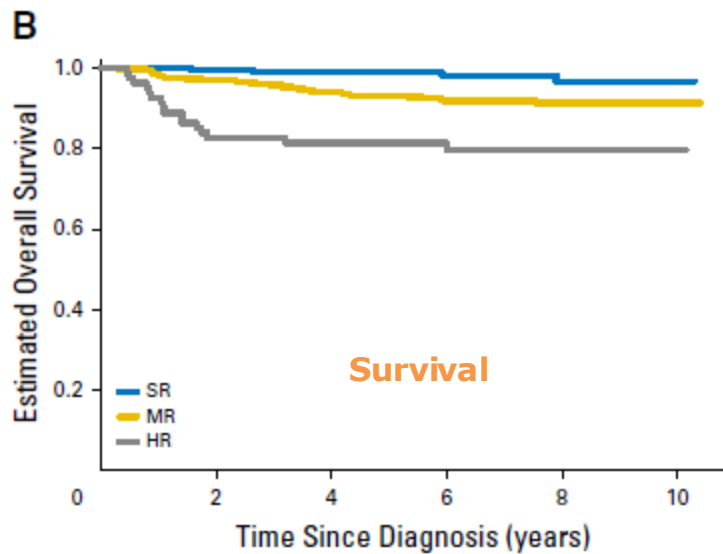
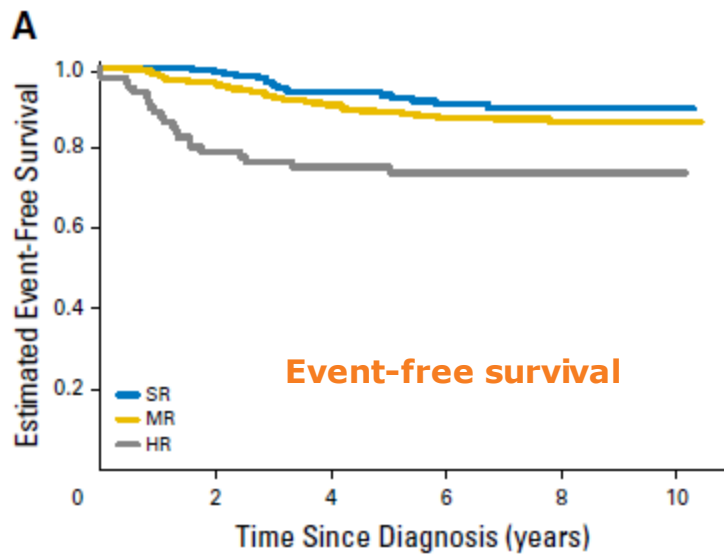
Tag 1 + 18



	BFM-II	BFM-III	DCOG-IV	Cum dose
Dexamethasone	250	180	180	mg/m <sup>2</sup>
VCR	6	3	3	mg/m <sup>2</sup>
Doxorubicin	120	60	0	mg/m <sup>2</sup>
Native Asp	40.000	40.000	0	U/m <sup>2</sup>
PEG-Asp	0	0	2.500	U/m <sup>2</sup>
Cyclophosphamide	1.000	500	0	mg/m <sup>2</sup>
araC	600	600	0	mg/m <sup>2</sup>
6-TG	840	840	0	mg/m <sup>2</sup>

# Therapy reduction (P-II to P-III) in AIEOP-BFM 2000: DFS and OS





## Outcome in MRD low-risk patients (25% of all patients)

	Prot II	Prot III	DCOG Prot IV
8yr OS	98%	96%	97%
5yr DFS	96%	91%	93%
5yr CIR	4%	8%	6%

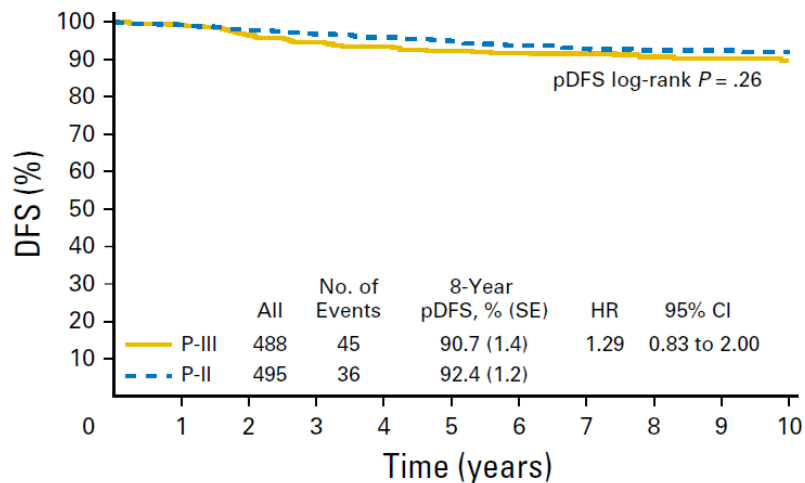
- Therapy reduction: relapse rate ~4% higher but survival not different

### Dilemma

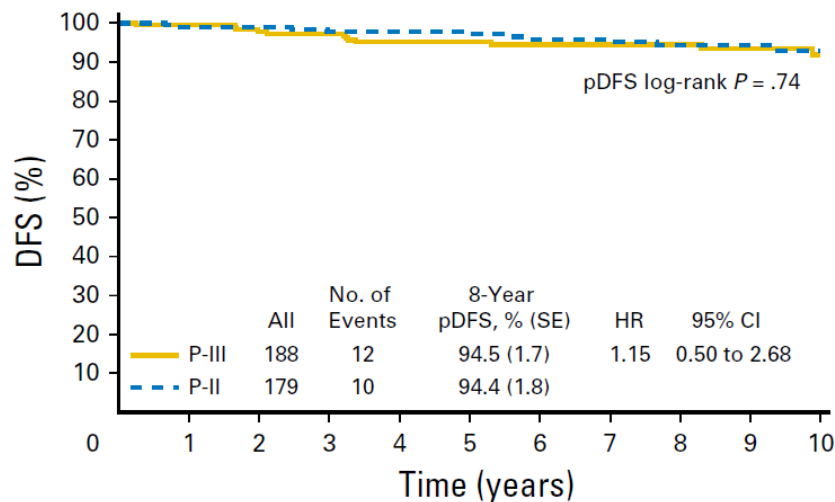
- Decrease of therapy for all MRD low-risk patients: an extra ~4% of them need relapse therapy
- OR
- More intensive therapy for all MRD low-risk patients

# Therapy reduction in specific risk groups (AIEOP-BFM 2000)?

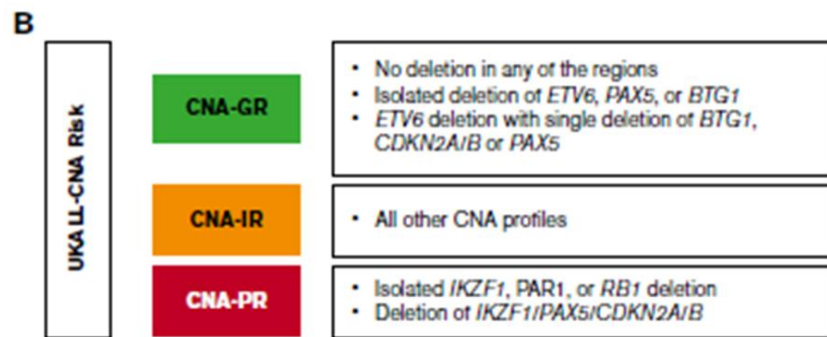
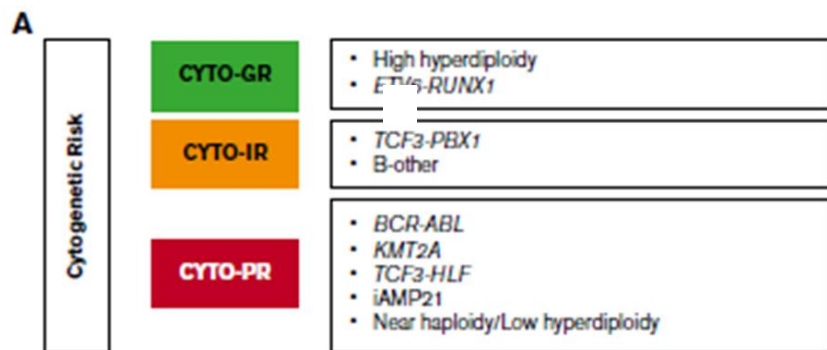
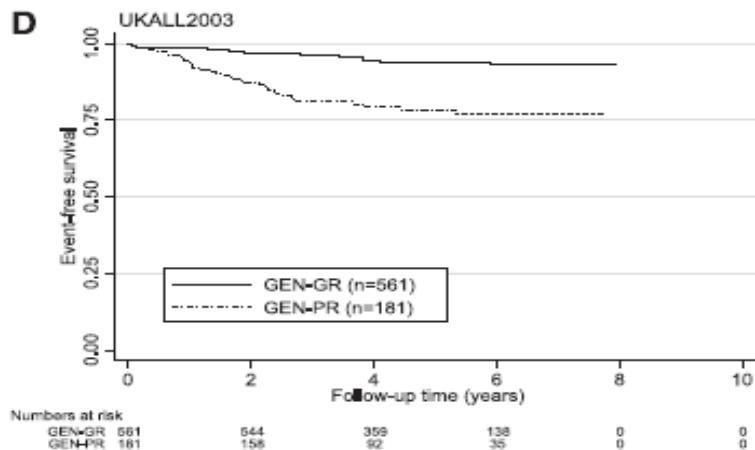
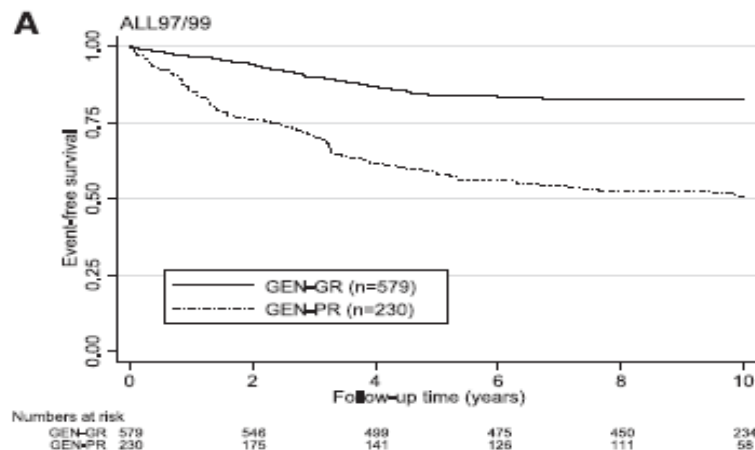
Age 1-9 yr



ETV6/RUNX1

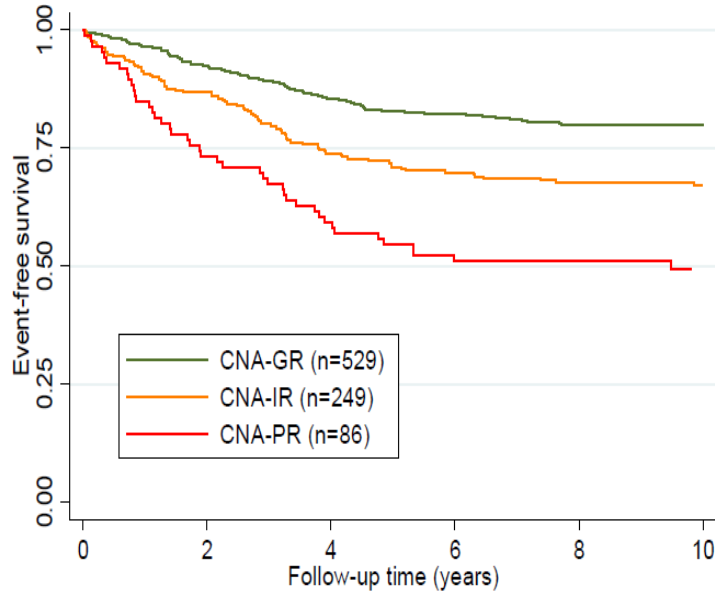


## EFS ALL97/99 and UKALL2003 by genetic risk group



# UK copy number alteration (CNA) classifier in UKALL

## CNA profile defines risk groups



## CNA profiles by MLPA

### Good risk

- No deletion
- Isolated deletion of *ETV6*, *PAX5*, or *BTG1*
- *ETV6* deletion + *BTG1*, *CDKN2A/B* or *PAX5* deletion

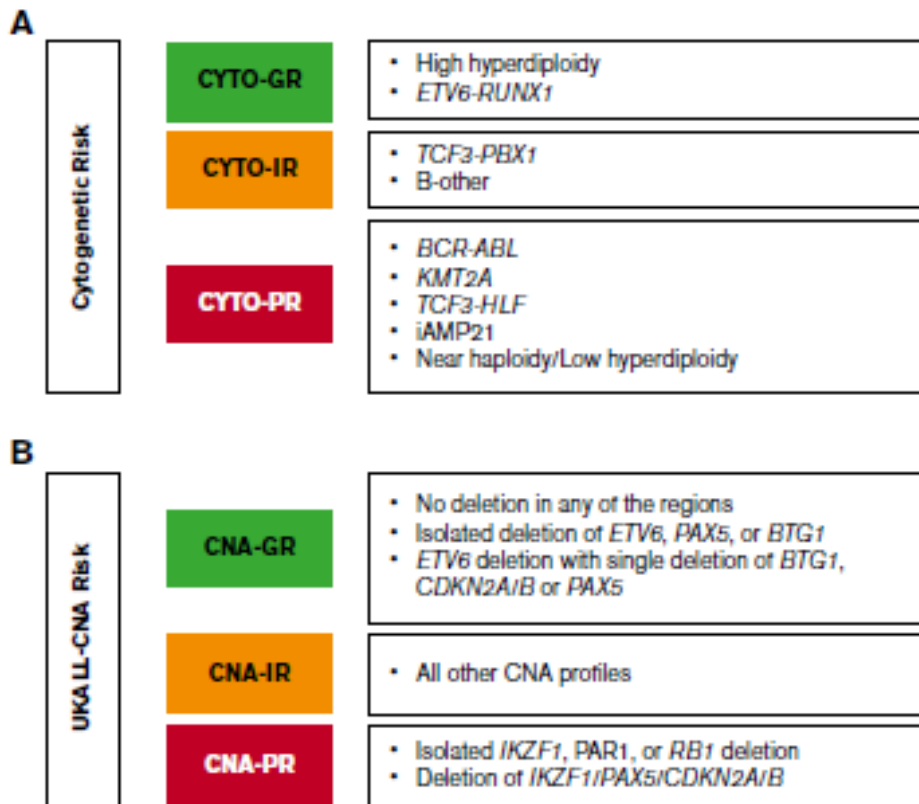
### Intermediate risk

- All other CNA profiles

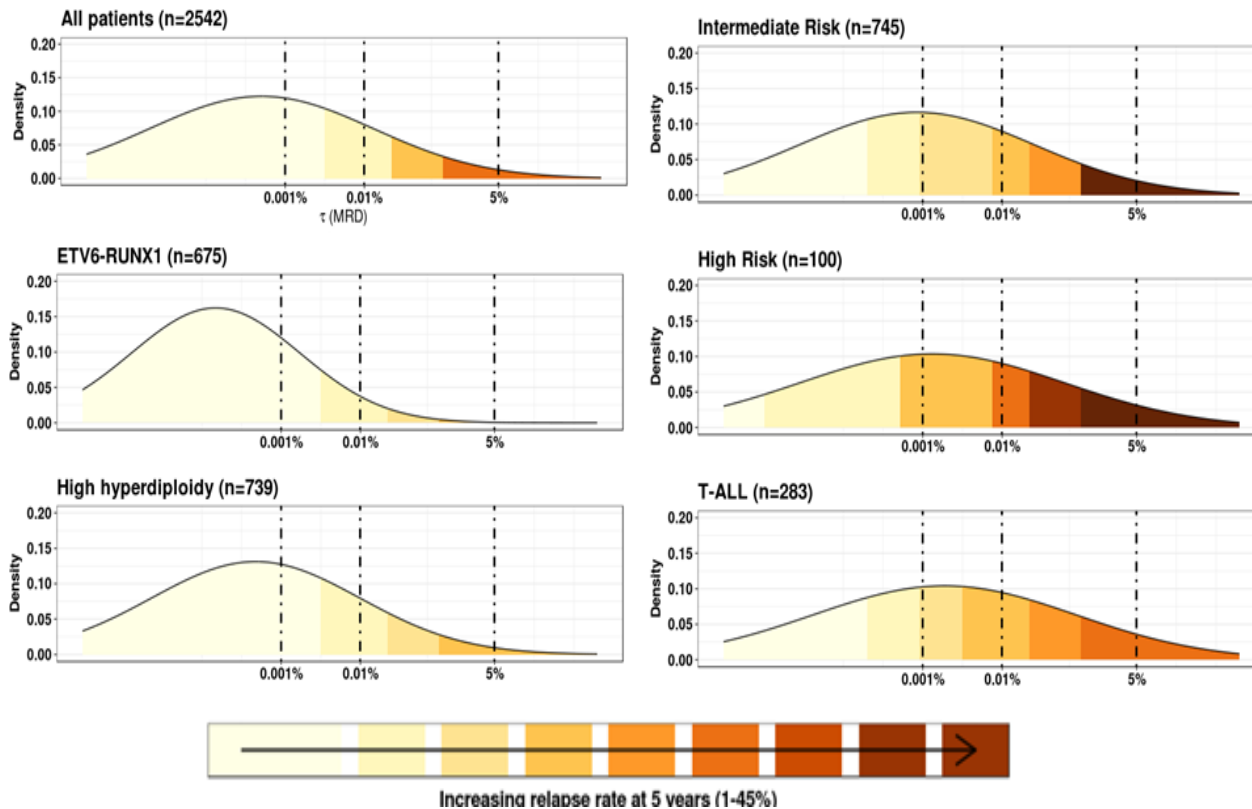
### Poor risk

- Isolated *IKZF1*, *PAR1*, or *RB1* deletion
- Deletion of *IKZF1/PAX5/CDKN2A/B*

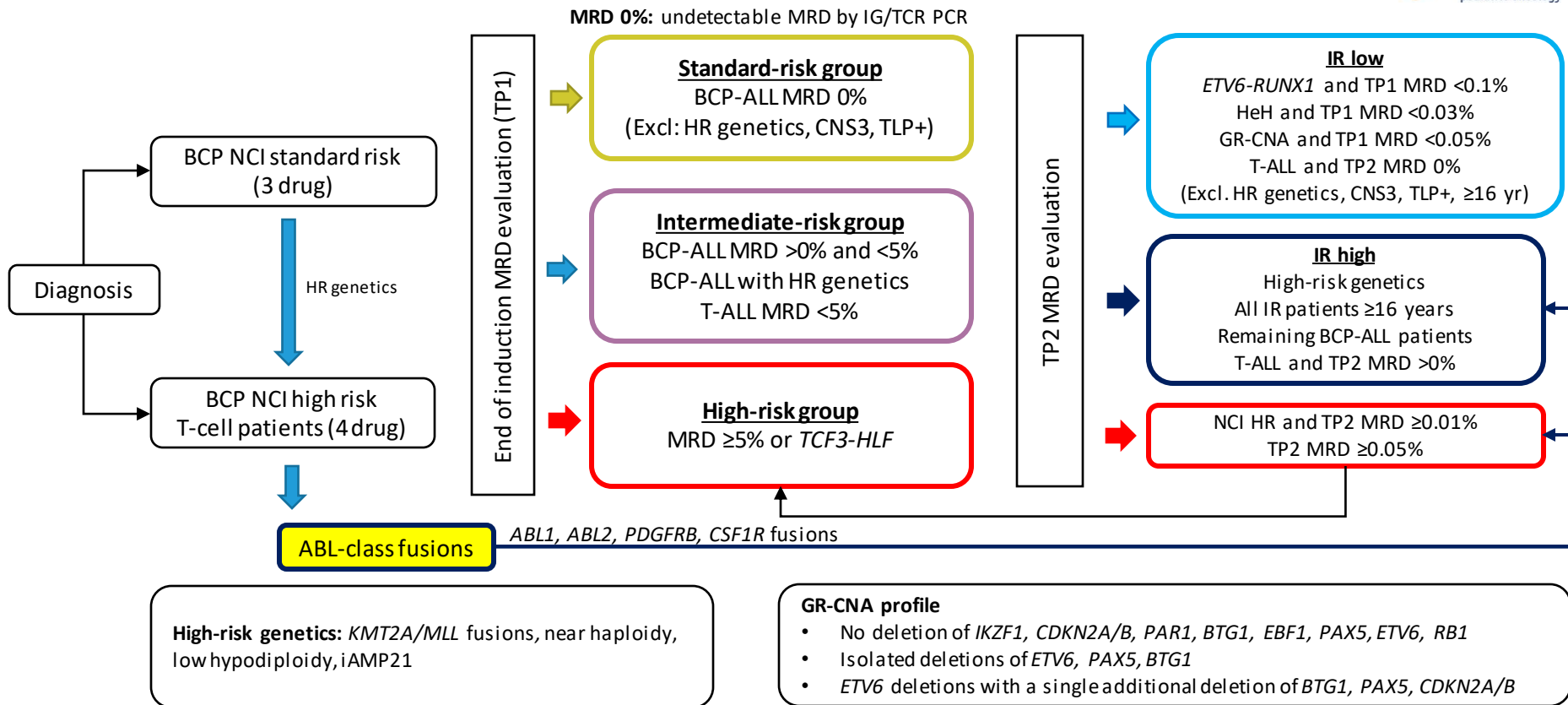
## Novel genetic risk groups in B-lineage ALL by cytogenetics and by CNA



# Risk of relapse by MRD value varies by genetic subtype



# Risk-stratification algorithm



## Risk groups by MRD and genetics: Outcomes and interventions



Risk group	Patients, %	5-yr EFS, %	5-yr OS, %	5-yr relapse, %	Treatment intervention
SR	23%	95	99	4	Random: reduction doxorubicin
IR-low	37%	94	98	4	Random: reduction doxorubicin Random: reduction VCR/Dexa pulses
IR-high	36%	82	89	15	Random: intensification inotuzumab Random: intensification 6TG/MP vs MP Down non-random: blinatumomab ABL-class: non-random imatinib
VHR	4%	78	78	14	B-lineage: non-random CD19 CAR T T-lineage: non-random nelarabine

## MRD and genetics to guide stratification and therapy

- Specific therapy protocols for high-risk genetic subgroups
- MRD-based choices of specific therapies
- Therapy reduction in MRD low-risk groups
- Therapy intensification in MRD high-risk groups
- Interdependency of MRD and genetics



[repeated question] Question 1 : Which of the following statements is NOT correct?

- a) MRD at end of induction in infant *KMT2A*-rearranged ALL can be used to select the most effective subsequent myeloid-like or lymphoid-like type of consolidation therapy
- b) MRD at end of induction and consolidation in *BCR-ABL1*-positive ALL is used to select patients who do not need a SCT
- c) The prognostic relevance of MRD at end of induction depends on the genetic subtype of ALL
- d) All types of *BCR-ABL1*-like ALL are sensitive to ABL class tyrosine kinase inhibitors

Thank you!



# Q&A session

# First-line treatment of pediatric ALL

Martin Schrappe



# First-line Treatment of ALL in Childhood and Adolescence

Global Leukemia Academy 2021

Prof Martin Schrappe, MD

Pediatrics I, University Medical Center Schleswig-Holstein

Kiel, Germany

[\*schrappe-office@pediatrics.uni-kiel.de\*](mailto:schrappe-office@pediatrics.uni-kiel.de)

## Topics and Objectives

- Genetic subgroups of ALL - different by age
- Definitions for diagnostics and disease response - NEW
- Key components for stratification
- Key components of ALL therapy
- Contemporary trials for pediatric ALL in Europe
- Outlook
- *Only examples can be provided for most issues!*



## Question 1

Genetic subgroups in pediatric ALL have been well described. Can you pick the most appropriate definition for a novel entity, called *IKZF1*-plus?

- A. Novel mutation in the *bcr/abl* fusion gene
- B. Simultaneous deletions in *IKZF1* and *PAX5* and/or *CDKN2A* and/or *CDKN2B* and/or *CRLF2* (*PAR*), and negativity for *ERG* deletion
- C. Gain of function in *IKZF1*
- D. Novel term for hypodiploidy
- E. Mutation in drug resistant patients with *ETV6/RUNX1* positivity

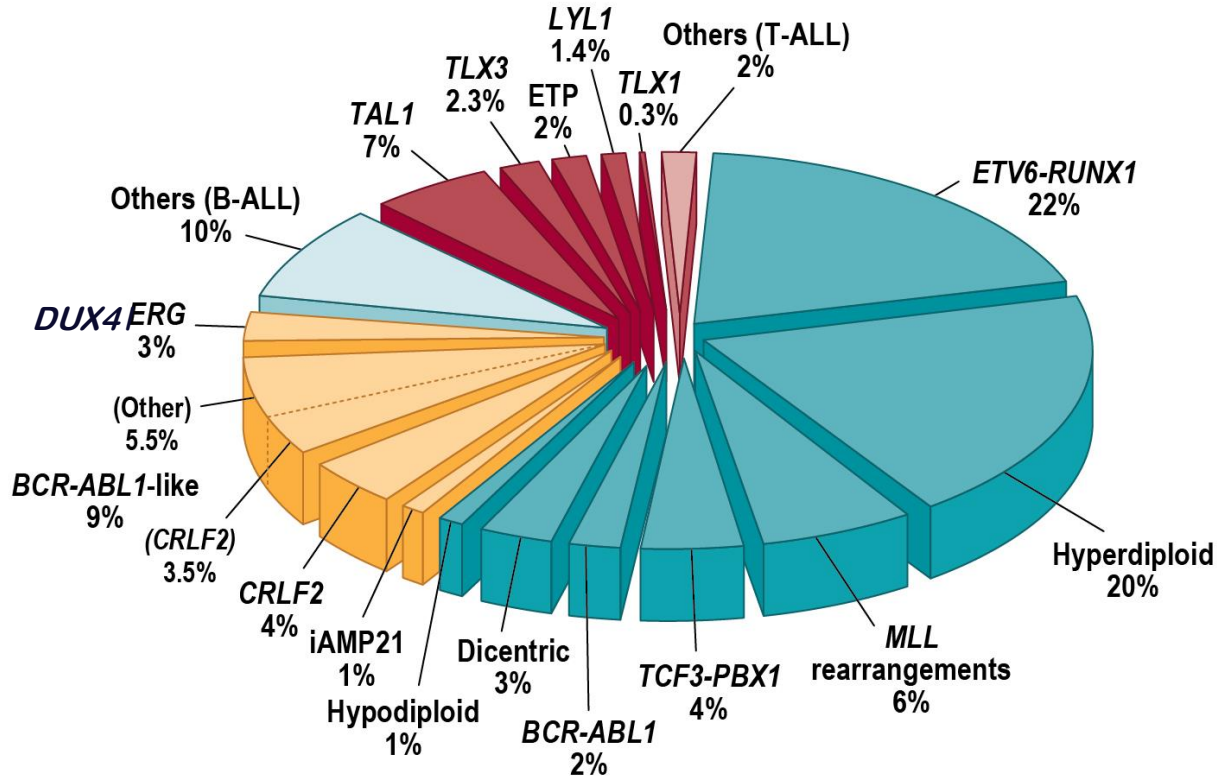


## Question 2

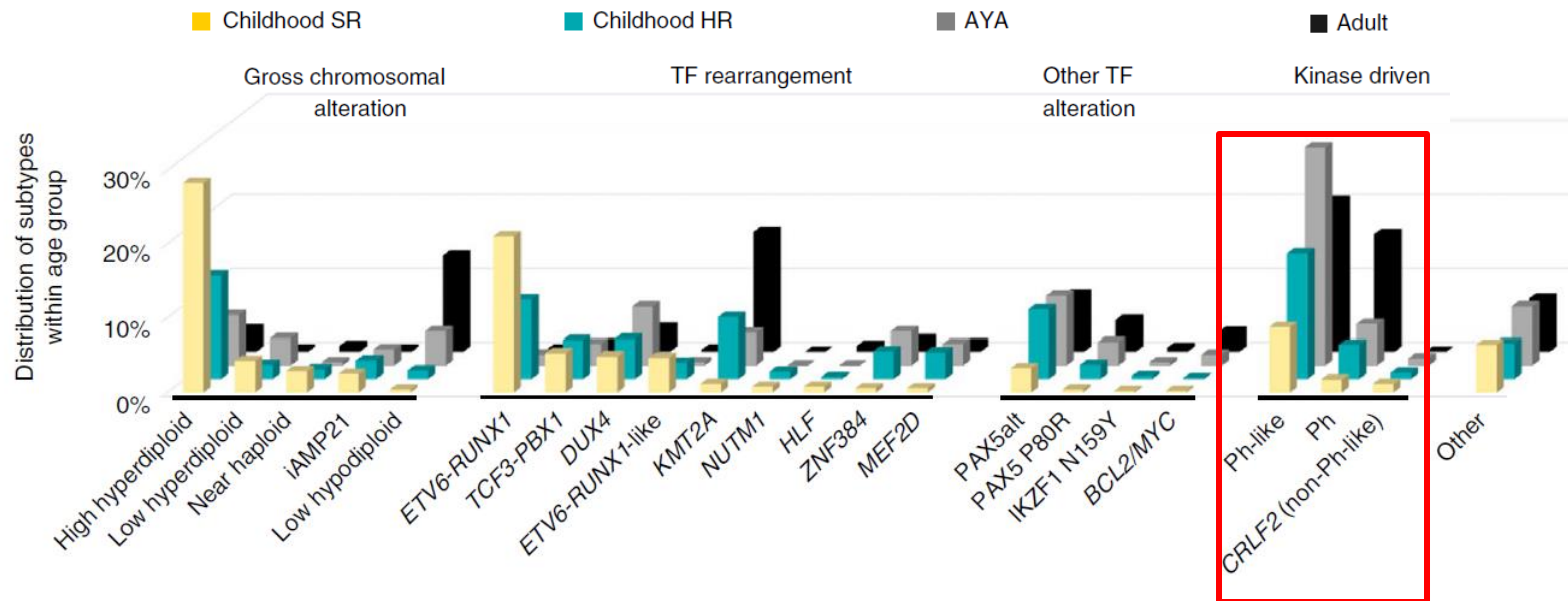
Please indicate which of the following statements for positive testing of MRD at a level of 0.1% is most appropriate:

- A. At the end of induction therapy for ALL, such a level of MRD equals induction failure
- B. MRD at this level at the end of consolidation (approximately 12 weeks after start of treatment) can be considered a very favorable response
- C. MRD at this level after allogeneic hSCT is a normal observation when measured at day +100
- D. MRD at this level at any time of ALL therapy equals disease recurrence (relapse)
- E. MRD at this level at the end of induction may indicate a more resistant leukemia, as compared to others with no detectable MRD at the end of induction

# All Patients Have Specific Leukemic Genetic Abnormalities



# The Molecular Landscape of pB-ALL



Prognostic relevance?

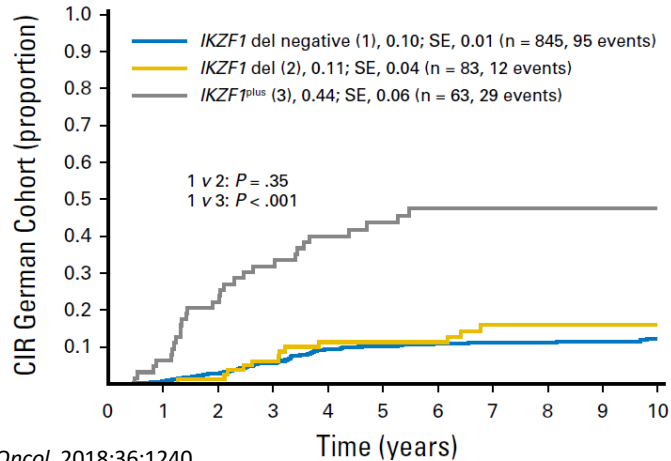
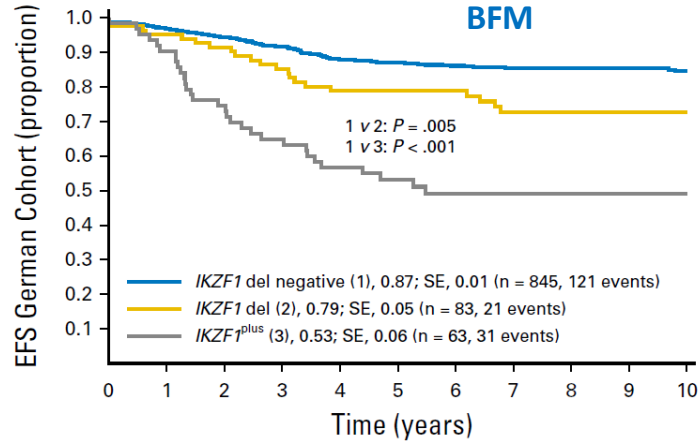
Targetable activated signalling pathways?

# *IKZF1*<sup>plus</sup> Defines a New Minimal Residual Disease–Dependent Very-Poor Prognostic Profile in Pediatric B-Cell Precursor Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

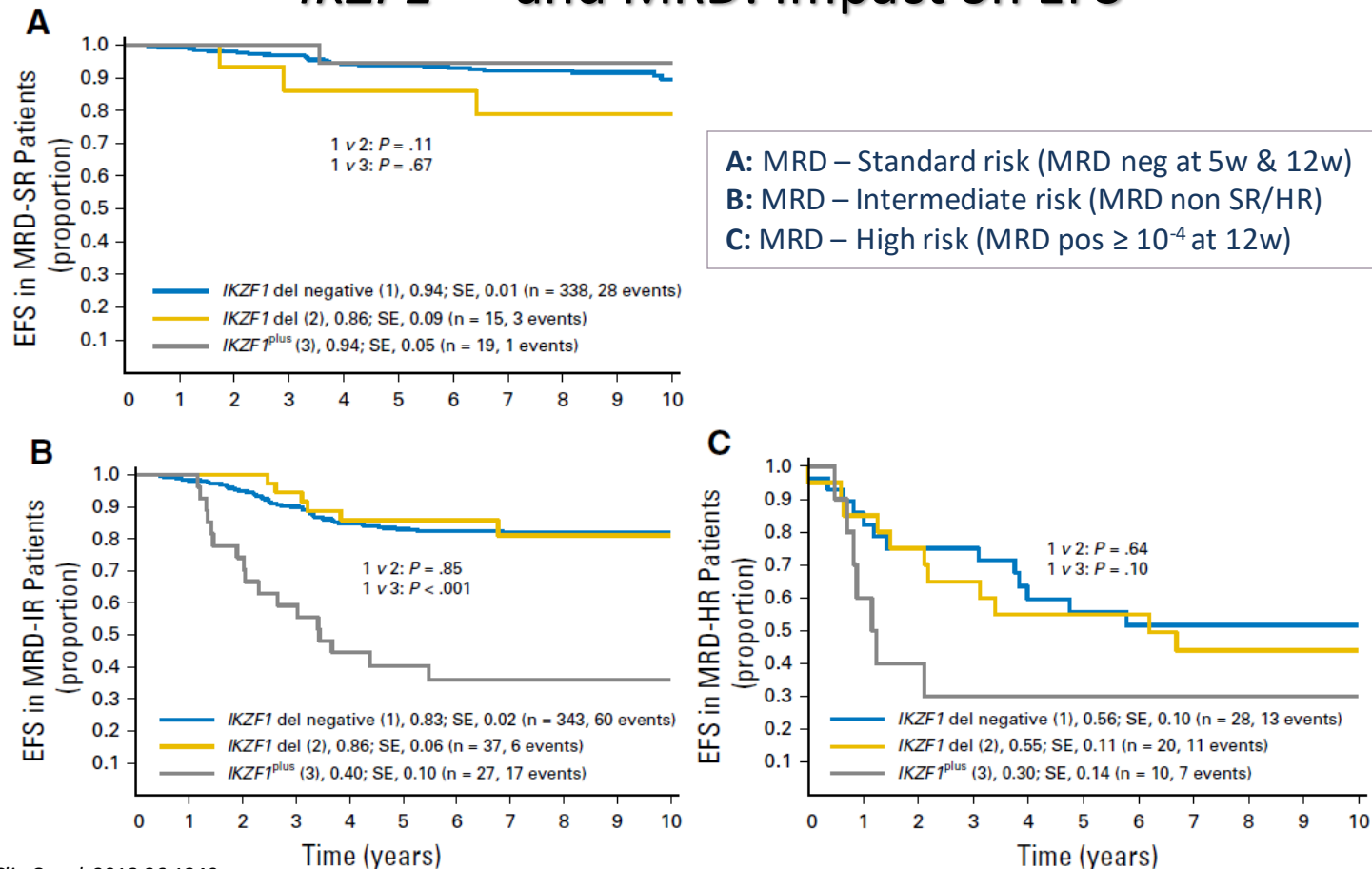
*Martin Stanulla, Elif Dagdan, Marketa Zaliova, Anja Möricke, Chiara Palmi, Giovanni Cazzaniga, Cornelia Eckert, Geertruy te Kronnie, Jean-Pierre Bourquin, Beat Bornhauser, Rolf Koehler, Claus R. Bartram, Wolf-Dieter Ludwig, Kirsten Bleckmann, Stefanie Groeneveld-Krentz, Denis Schewe, Stefanie V. Junk, Laura Hinze, Norman Klein, Christian P. Kratz, Andrea Biondi, Arndt Borkhardt, Andreas Kulozik, Martina U. Muckenthaler, Giuseppe Basso, Maria Grazia Valsecchi, Shai Izraeli, Britt-Sabina Petersen, Andre Franke, Petra Dörge, Doris Steinemann, Oskar A. Haas, Renate Panzer-Grümayer, Hélène Cavé, Richard S. Houlston, Gunnar Cario, Martin Schrappe, and Martin Zimmermann, for the TRANSCALL Consortium and the International BFM Study Group*

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.2017.74.3617>

# *IKZF1* del and *IKZF1*<sup>plus</sup> – Prognostic Impact



# *IKZF1*<sup>plus</sup> and MRD: Impact on EFS



## Remission, treatment failure, and relapse in pediatric ALL: An international consensus of the Ponte-di-Legno Consortium

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<https://doi.org/10.1182/blood.2021012328>

Table 3.2: Bone marrow relapse (MRD unavailable)

BM #1		BM #2 <sup>@</sup>
Cytomorphology	others	
M3	*	*
M2	1 other test <sup>^</sup> with 1% blasts	*
M2	none	M2
M1	2 other tests <sup>^</sup> with 1% blasts	*

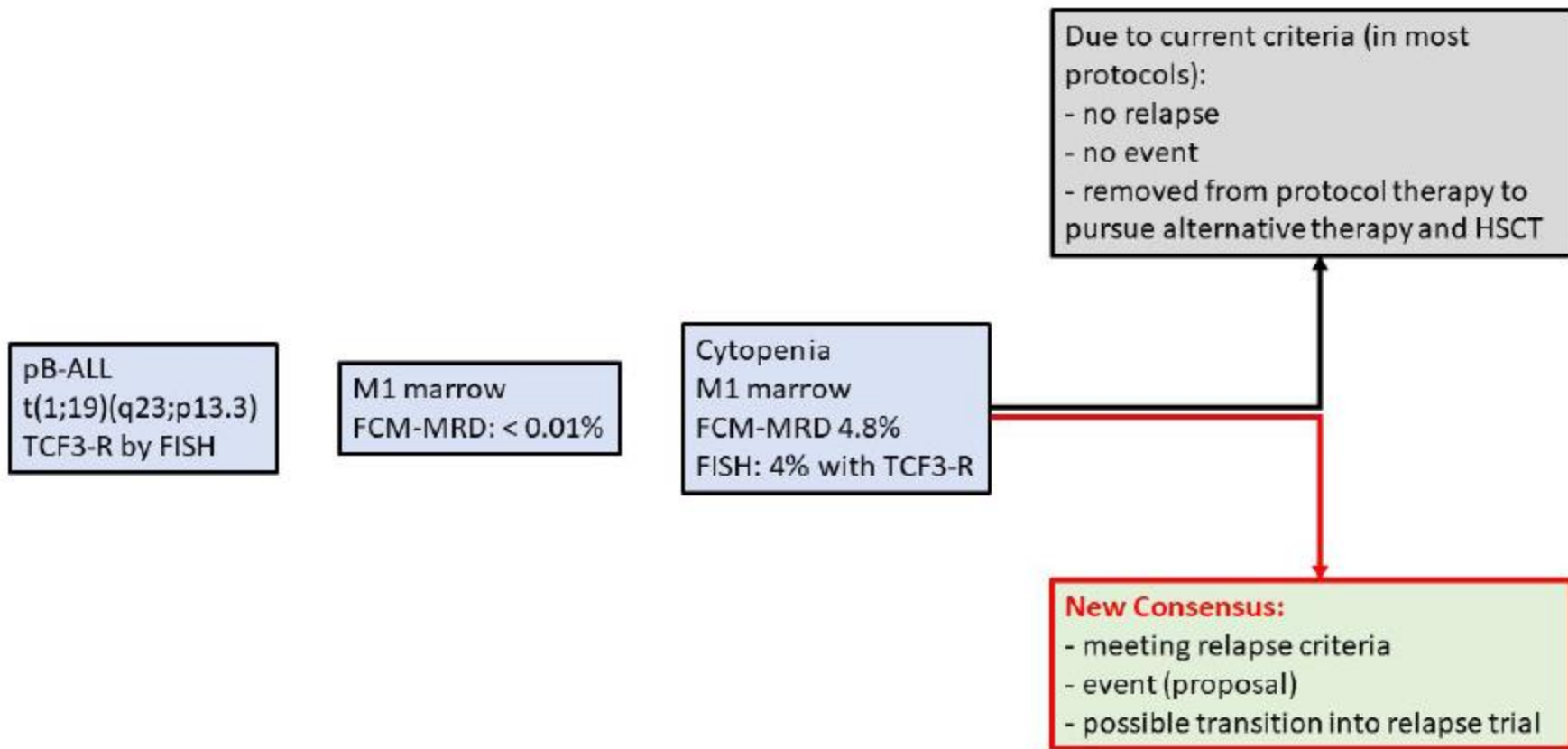
\*: not necessary to define relapse; <sup>^</sup>FISH/karyotype/PCR demonstrating leukemia-specific marker; <sup>@</sup>second evaluation at least one week later

1 to < 5 %	0 or 1 other test with 1% blasts	2 tests with 1% blasts
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\*: not necessary to define relapse; <sup>^</sup>FCM/PCR/NGS-based MRD or FISH/karyotype/PCR demonstrating leukemia-specific marker, or M2/M3 morphology; <sup>@</sup>second bone marrow evaluation at least one week later

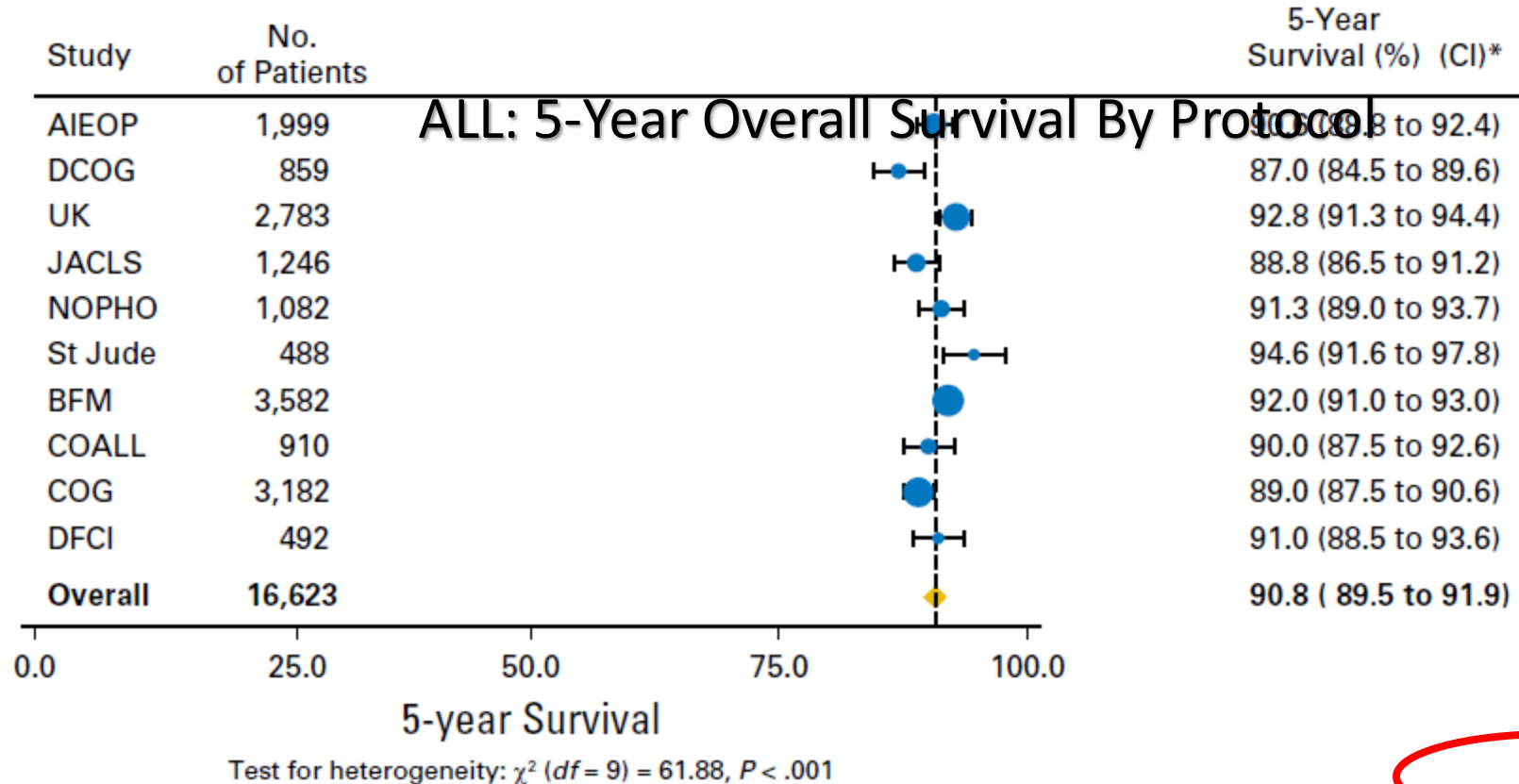
**Figure 1**

## Relevance: An Example

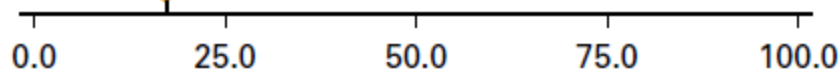
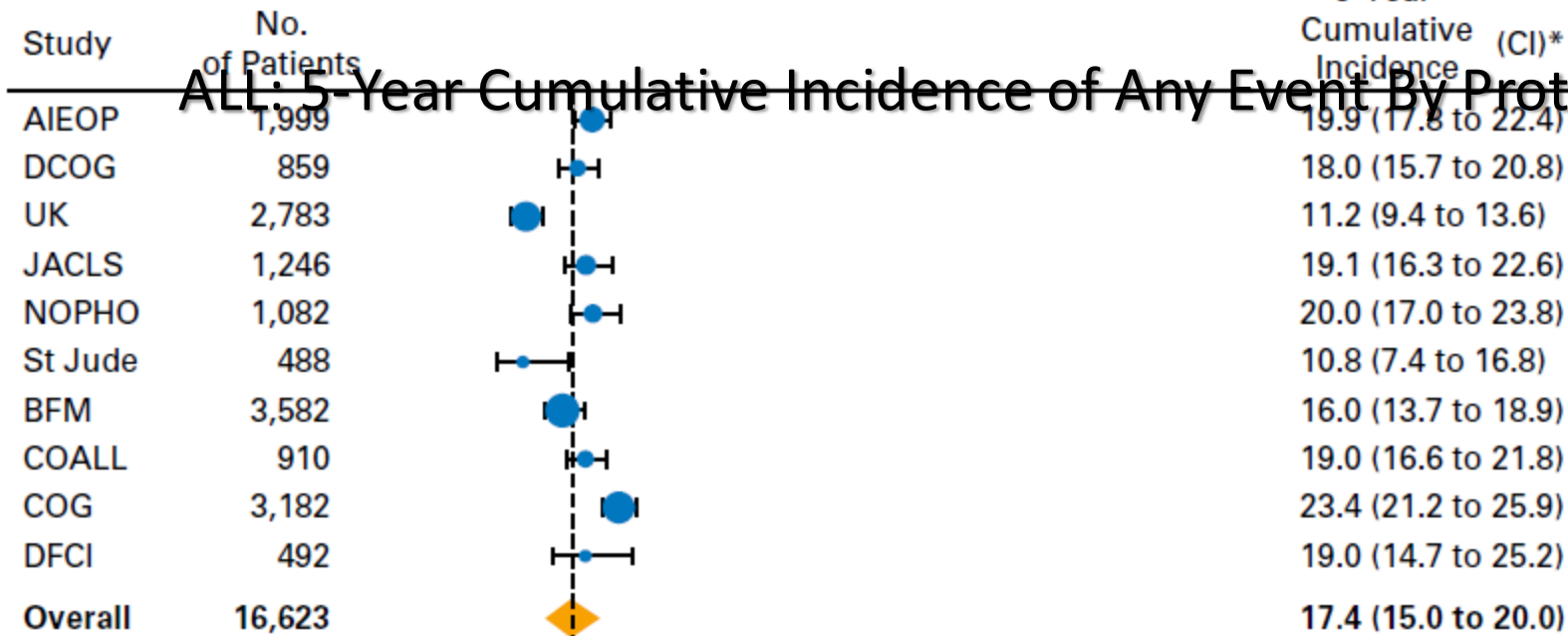


## Risk Stratification and Therapy

- The 2 main differences in stratification systems in pediatric ALL relate to the use of upfront criteria (e.g. NCI risk grouping) vs the use of “late” criteria such as response
- New subgroups have been described which use either a series of genetic markers, or the combination of genetic markers and treatment response: Ph-like or *BCR/ABL*-like pB-ALL; *IKZF1p/us* pB-ALL
- Acute leukemias with ambiguous phenotype form another (rare) subgroup: MPAL
- Early response (through prednisone response, morphological CR, and in particular MRD detection) has been established as the strongest prognostic factor
- Treatment quality has moved to the focus of clinical research to avoid late effects and toxicity



# ALL: 5-Year Cumulative Incidence of Any Event By Protocol



5-year Cumulative Incidence

Test for heterogeneity:  $\chi^2$  (df = 9) = 161.2,  $P < .001$



# Increased Knowledge Through Prospective Randomized Trials

## *Examples*

- Dexamethasone vs prednisone in induction
- Reduction of delayed intensification in pB-ALL

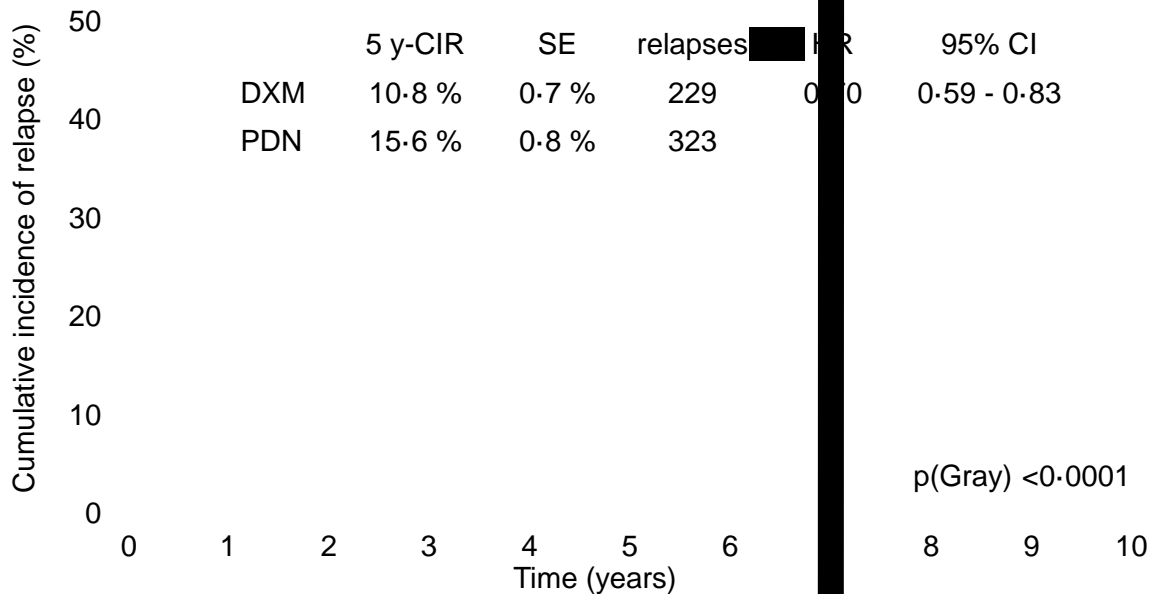
## CLINICAL TRIALS AND OBSERVATIONS

### **Dexamethasone vs prednisone in induction treatment of pediatric ALL: results of the randomized trial AIEOP-BFM ALL 2000**

Anja Möricke,<sup>1</sup> Martin Zimmermann,<sup>2</sup> Maria Grazia Valsecchi,<sup>3,4</sup> Martin Stanulla,<sup>2</sup> Andrea Biondi,<sup>4,5</sup> Georg Mann,<sup>6</sup> Franco Locatelli,<sup>7</sup> Giovanni Cazzaniga,<sup>5</sup> Felix Niggli,<sup>8</sup> Maurizio Aricò,<sup>9</sup> Claus R. Bartram,<sup>10</sup> Andishe Attarbaschi,<sup>6</sup> Daniela Silvestri,<sup>3,4</sup> Rita Beier,<sup>2,11</sup> Giuseppe Basso,<sup>12</sup> Richard Ratei,<sup>13</sup> Andreas E. Kulozik,<sup>14</sup> Luca Lo Nigro,<sup>15</sup> Bernhard Kremens,<sup>11</sup> Jeanette Greiner,<sup>16</sup> Rosanna Parasole,<sup>17</sup> Jochen Harbott,<sup>18</sup> Roberta Caruso,<sup>7</sup> Arend von Stackelberg,<sup>19</sup> Elena Barisone,<sup>20</sup> Claudia Rössig,<sup>21</sup> Valentino Conter,<sup>4,\*</sup> and Martin Schrappe<sup>1,\*</sup>

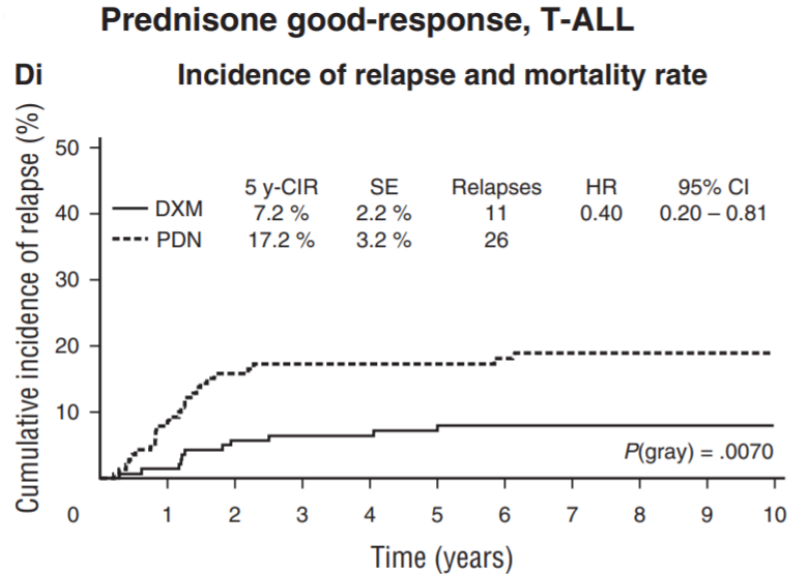
<sup>1</sup>Department of Pediatrics, Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel and University Medical Center Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel, Germany; <sup>2</sup>Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany; <sup>3</sup>Medical Statistics Unit, Department of Clinical Medicine and Prevention, University of Milano-Bicocca, Monza, Italy; <sup>4</sup>Department of Pediatrics, University of Milano-Bicocca, Ospedale S. Gerardo, Monza, Italy; <sup>5</sup>Centro M. Tettamanti, Clinica Pediatrica Università Milano-Bicocca, Monza, Italy; <sup>6</sup>Department of Pediatrics, St. Anna Children's Cancer Research Institute and St. Anna Children's Hospital, Medical University School, Vienna, Austria; <sup>7</sup>Department of Pediatric Hemato-Oncology, Ospedale Bambin Gesù, Rome, University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy; <sup>8</sup>Department of Pediatric Oncology, University Children's Hospital, Zürich, Switzerland; <sup>9</sup>Direzione Generale, Azienda Sanitaria Provinciale, Ragusa, Italy; <sup>10</sup>Institute of Human Genetics, Ruprecht-Karls-University, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>11</sup>Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, University Hospital, Essen, Germany; <sup>12</sup>Pediatric Hemato-Oncology, Department of Women's and Children's Health, University of Padova, Padova, Italy; <sup>13</sup>Hematology/Oncology, Robert-Rössle-Klinik at the HELIOS Klinikum, Charité, Berlin, Germany; <sup>14</sup>Department of Pediatric Oncology, Hematology and Immunology, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany; <sup>15</sup>Department of Pediatric Hemato-Oncology, Azienda Policlinico-Ospedale Vittorio Emanuele, Catania, Italy; <sup>16</sup>Children's Hospital of Eastern Switzerland, St. Gallen, Switzerland; <sup>17</sup>Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Santobono-Pausilipon Hospital, Napoli, Italy; <sup>18</sup>Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Justus-Liebig University, Gießen, Germany; <sup>19</sup>Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Charité Medical Center, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany; <sup>20</sup>Department of Pediatric Hemato-Oncology, Regina Margherita Children's Hospital, Torino, Italy; and <sup>21</sup>Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, University Children's Hospital, Münster, Germany

# AIEOP-BFM ALL 2000: DEX vs PDN in Induction Therapy



	DXM N (%)	PDN N (%)	p
Death before CR	37 (2.0)	15 (0.8)	0.00
Death in 1 <sup>st</sup> CR	42 (2.3)	32 (1.7)	0.24
related to induction	10 (0.5)	2 (0.1)	0.022
not related to induction	32 (1.7)	30 (1.6)	0.80

# Dexamethasone in Induction in T-ALL



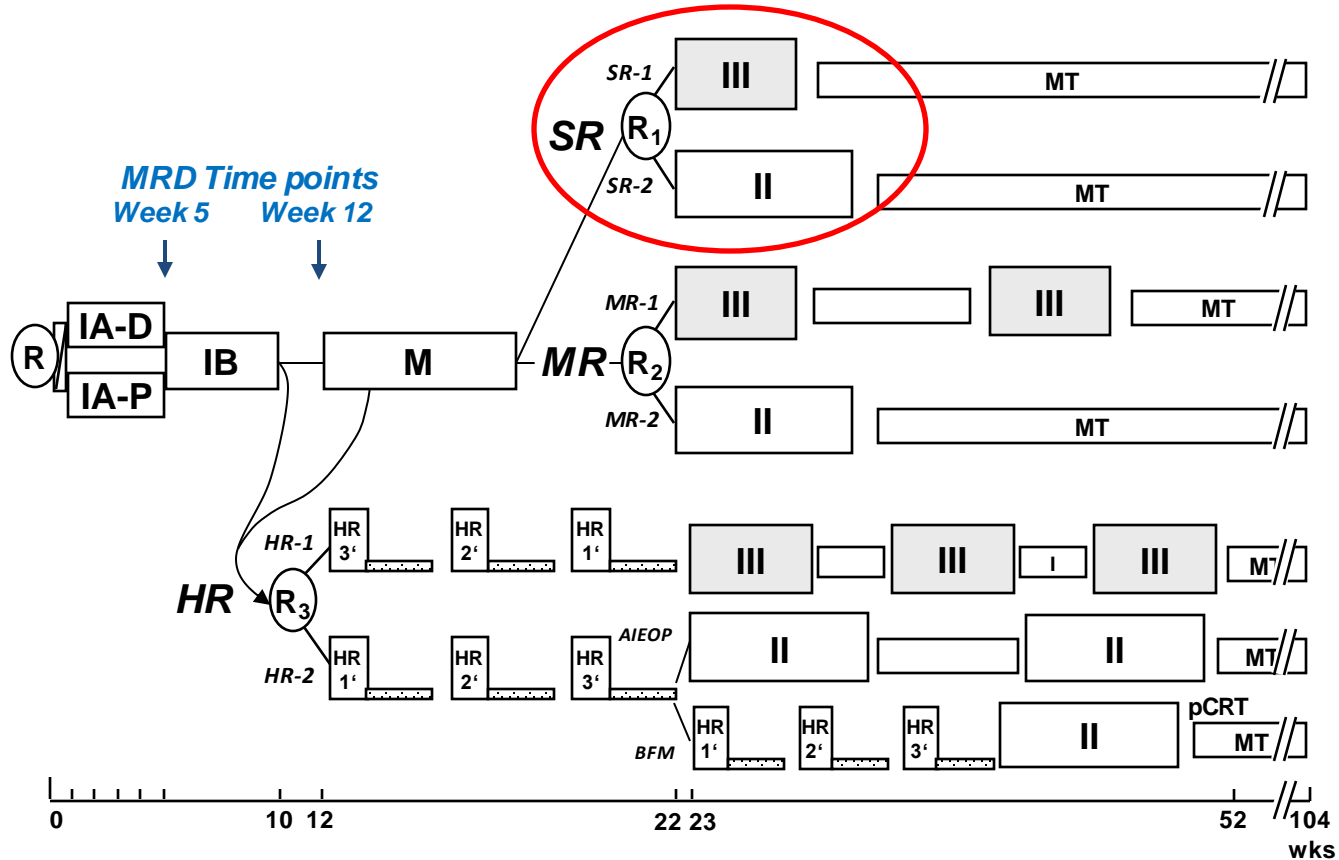
	DXM N (%)	PDN N (%)	<i>P</i>
Death before CR	3 (2.1)	1 (0.7)	.62
Death in 1 <sup>st</sup> CR	3 (2.1)	2 (1.4)	1.00
Related to induction	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	–
Not related to induction	3 (2.1)	2 (1.4)	1.00

## Reduced-Intensity Delayed Intensification in Standard-Risk Pediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Defined by Undetectable Minimal Residual Disease: Results of an International Randomized Trial (AIEOP-BFM ALL 2000)

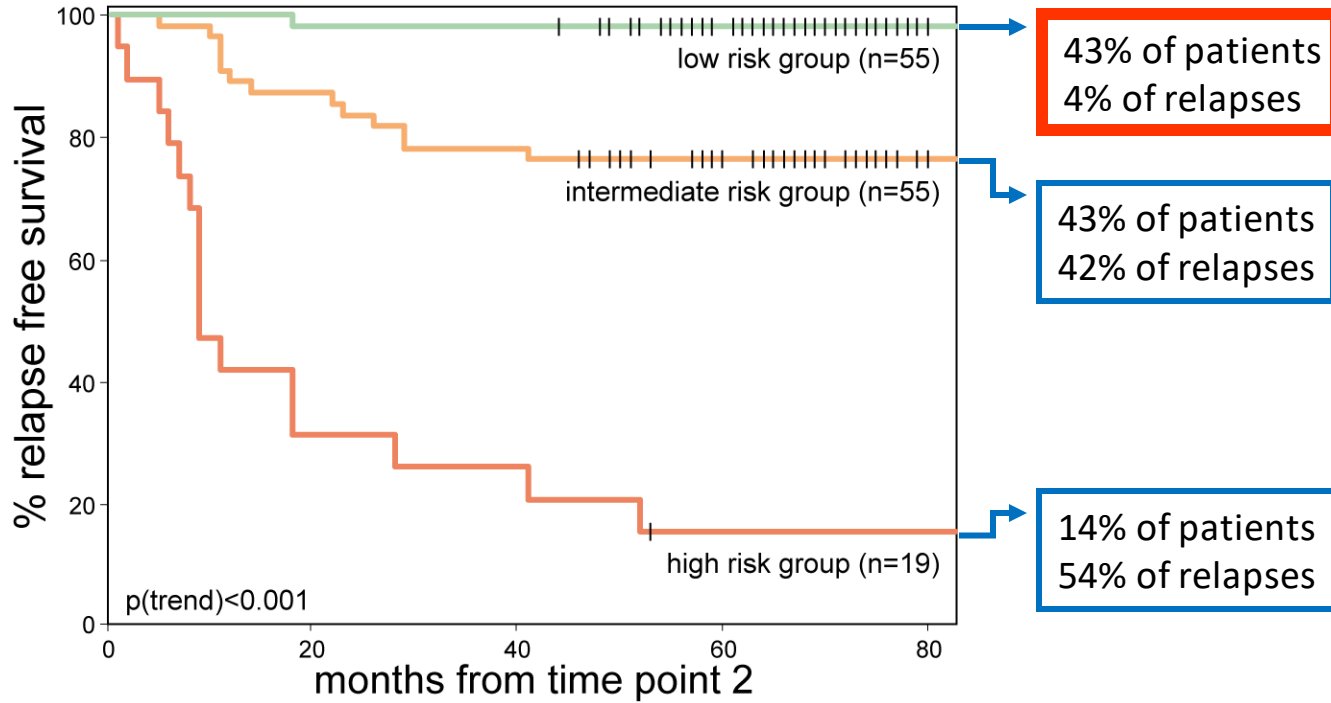
*Martin Schrappe, Kirsten Bleckmann, Martin Zimmermann, Andrea Biondi, Anja Möricke, Franco Locatelli, Gunnar Carlo, Carmelo Rizzari, Andishe Attarbaschi, Maria Grazia Valsecchi, Claus R. Bartram, Elena Barisone, Felix Niggli, Charlotte Niemeyer, Anna Maria Testi, Georg Mann, Ottavio Ziino, Beat Schäfer, Renate Panzer-Grümayer, Rita Beier, Rosanna Parasole, Gudrun Göhring, Wolf-Dieter Ludwig, Fiorina Casale, Paul-Gerhardt Schlegel, Giuseppe Basso, and Valentino Conter*

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.2017.74.4946>

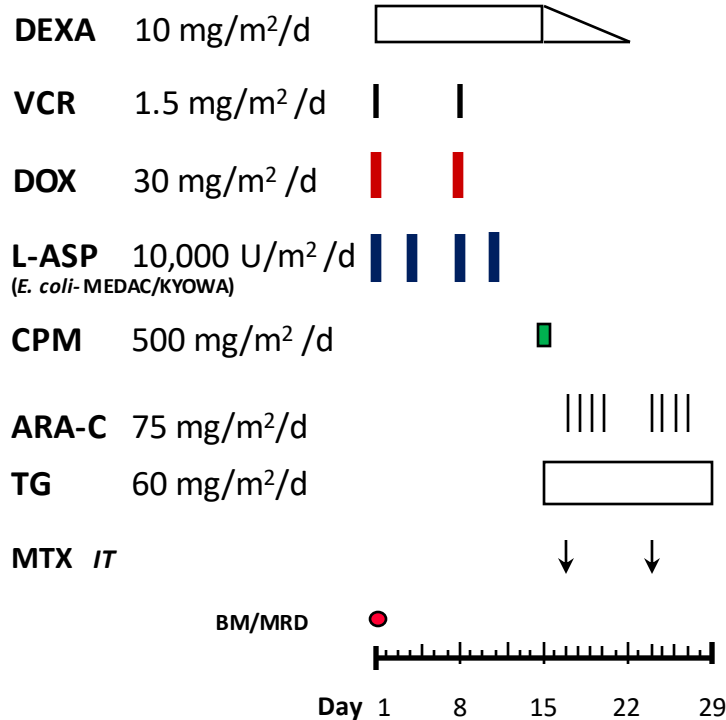
# AIEOP-BFM ALL 2000



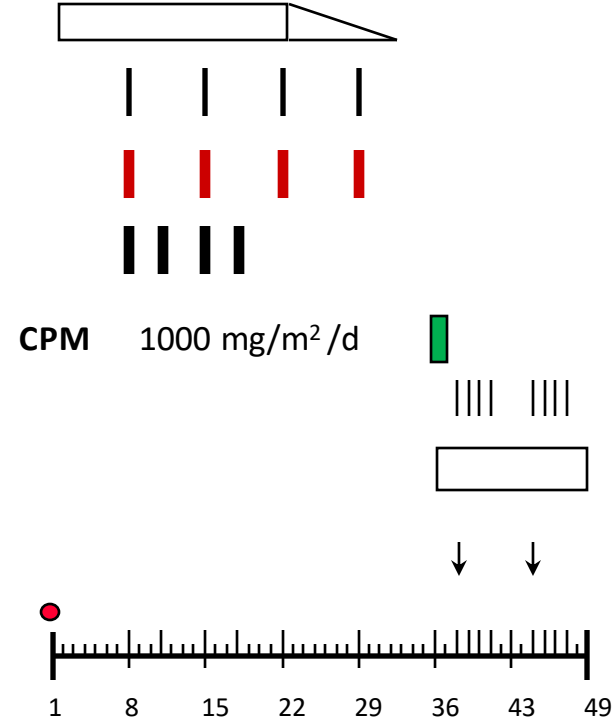
# Relapse-free Survival in I-BFM-SG Study According to the Combined MRD Information at Time Points 1 and 2 (n=129)



## Reduced Intensity Delayed Intensification *Protocol III*



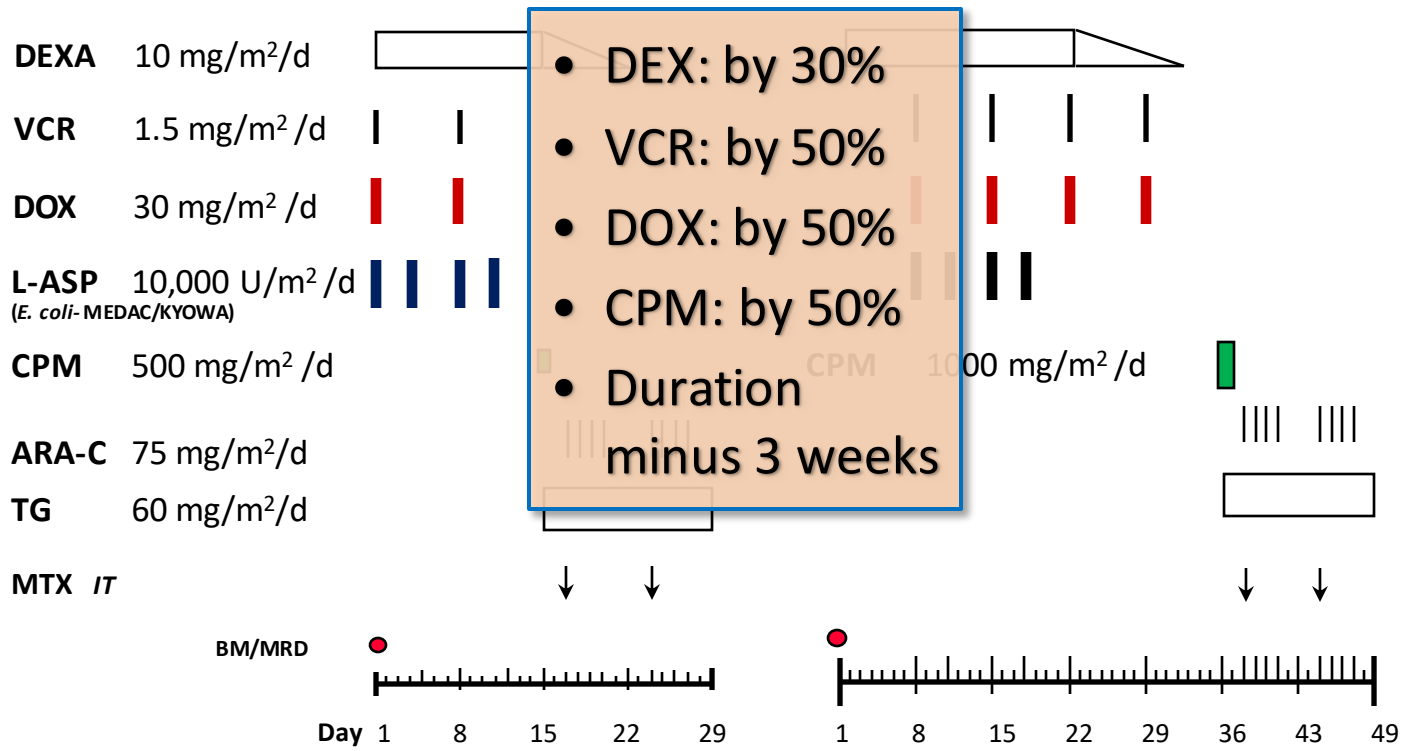
## Standard Intensity Delayed Intensification *Protocol II*



Reduced Intensity  
Delayed Intensity  
Protocol

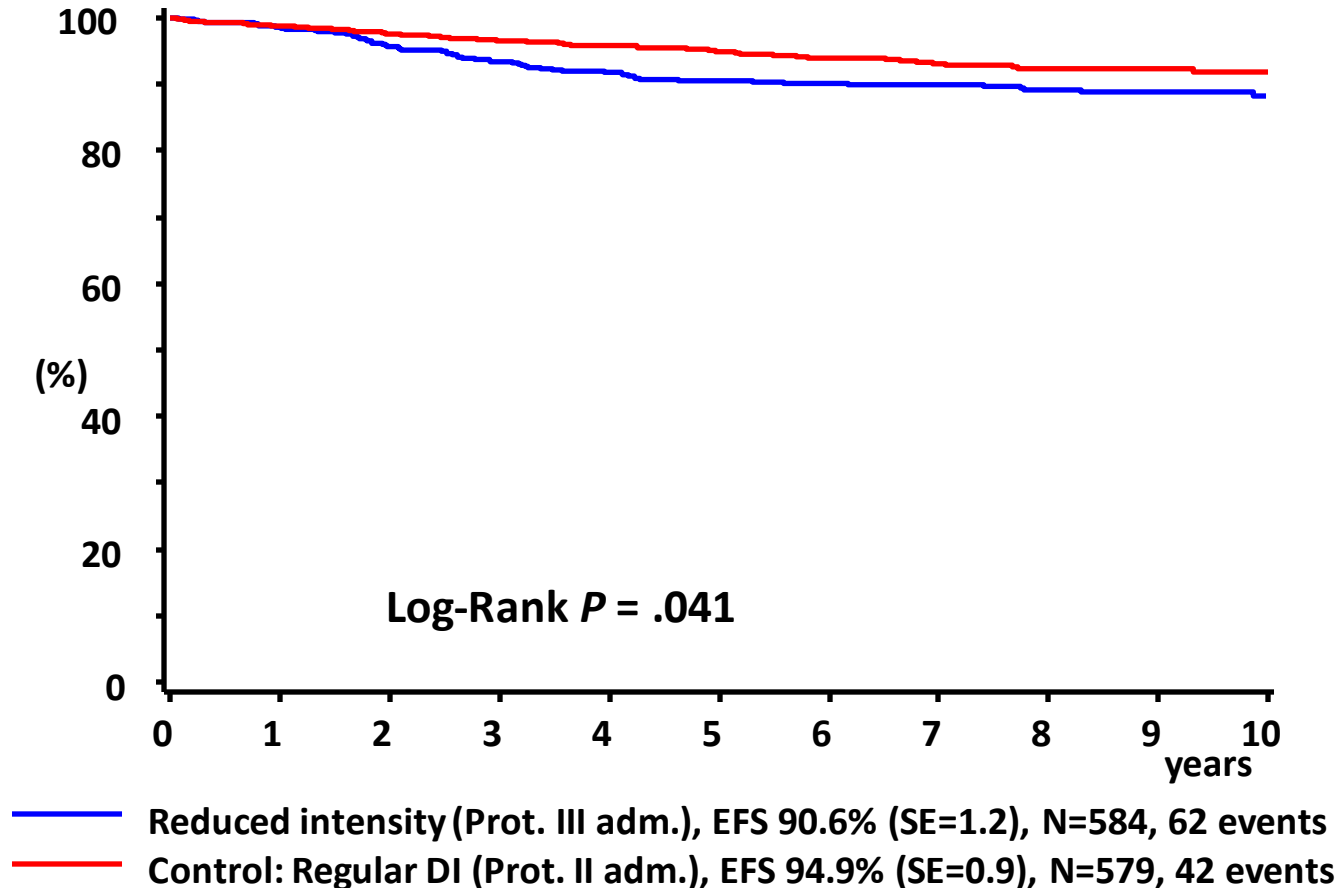
Standard Intensity  
Transplantation  
Protocol II

# Reduction of Treatment

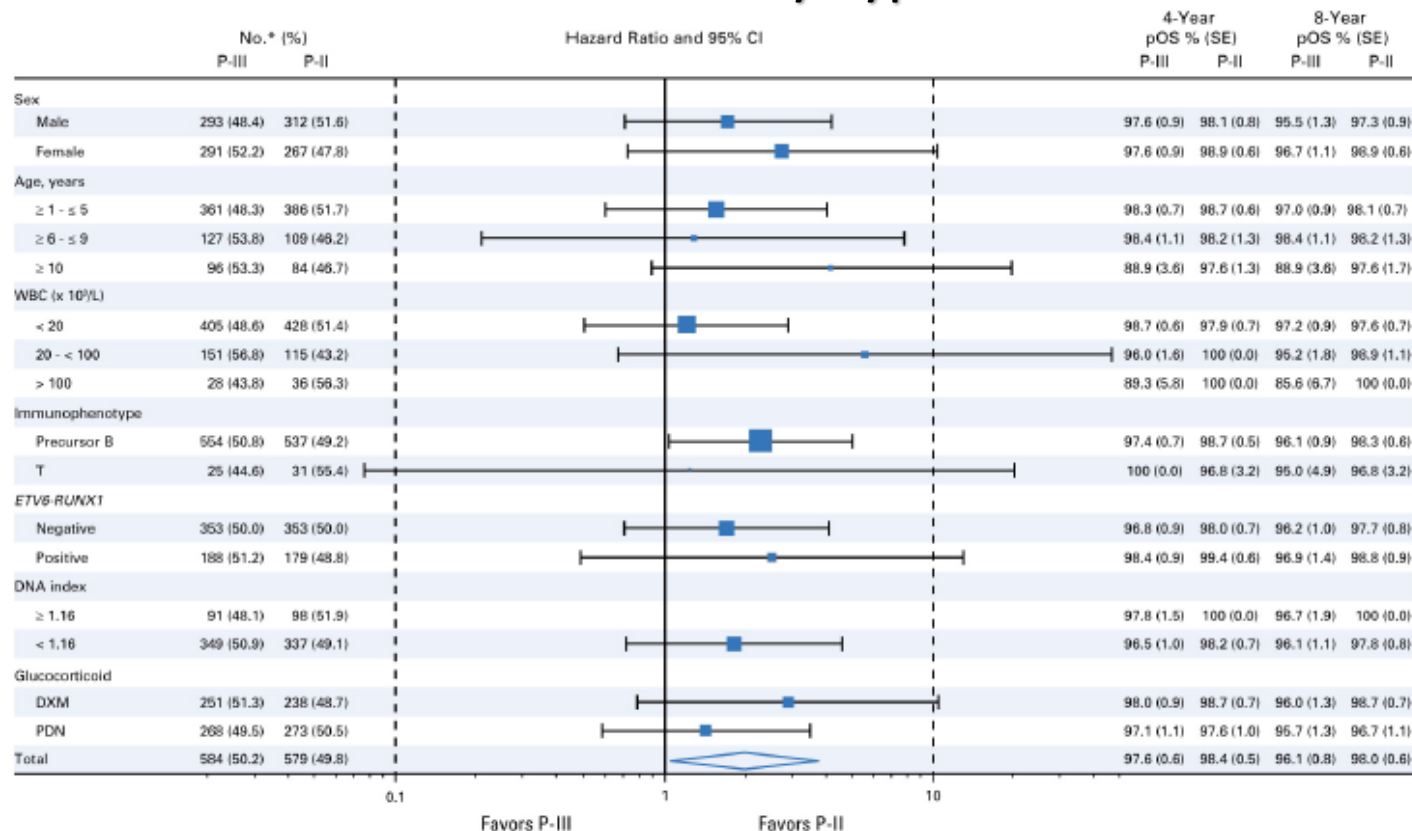


# AIEOP-BFM ALL 2000: SR - As Treated

## Event-free survival (EFS) at 5 years



# Overall Survival by Type of DI



# SR-ALL Defined by PCR-based MRD: Recent clinical trials<sup>1-3</sup>

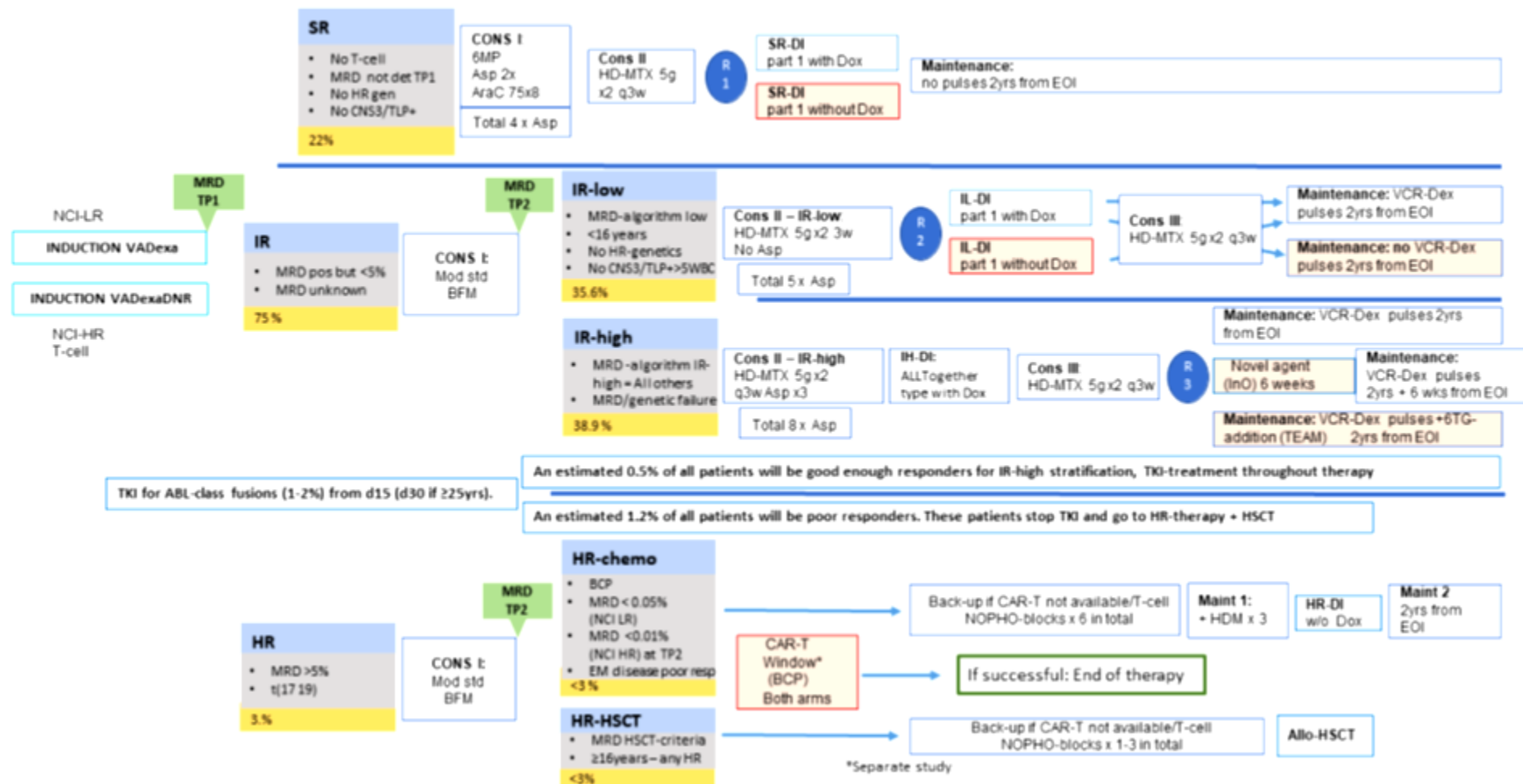
	% pts in SR	N / % randomized	Randomiz. question	Cumul. incid. of relapses	pEFS	P
AIEOP-BFM	39.0	1164 / 86.5	P-III vs -II	7.5 vs 4.1%	94.9 vs 90.6	.041
UKALL	38.9	521 / 49.2	1 DI vs 2 DI	5.6 vs 2.4%*	94.4 vs 95.5	n.s.
DCOG	24.9	--	--	6.2%	93.2	--

\*Actuarial percentage (at 5y)

# Contemporary Trials For Pediatric ALL in Europe

ALLTogether

# Therapy overview ALLTogether – including interventions



# **AIEOP-BFM ALL 2017**

**International collaborative treatment protocol for children and adolescents with acute lymphoblastic leukemia**

## **Stratification and Treatment Questions**

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F. Niggli (BFM-CH), M. Schrappe (BFM-G)**

**Sponsor:**

**University Medical Center Schleswig-Holstein (Kiel, Germany)**

**EudraCT Number: 2016-001935-12**

# AIEOP-BFM ALL 2017

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**Participating countries  
(study groups)**

- Australia (ANZCHOG)
  - Austria (BFM-A)
  - Czech Republic (CPH)
  - Germany (BFM-G)
  - Israel (INS)
  - Italy (AIEOP)
  - Slovakia (SPHOS)
  - Switzerland (BFM-CH)
- 

**Planned recruitment**

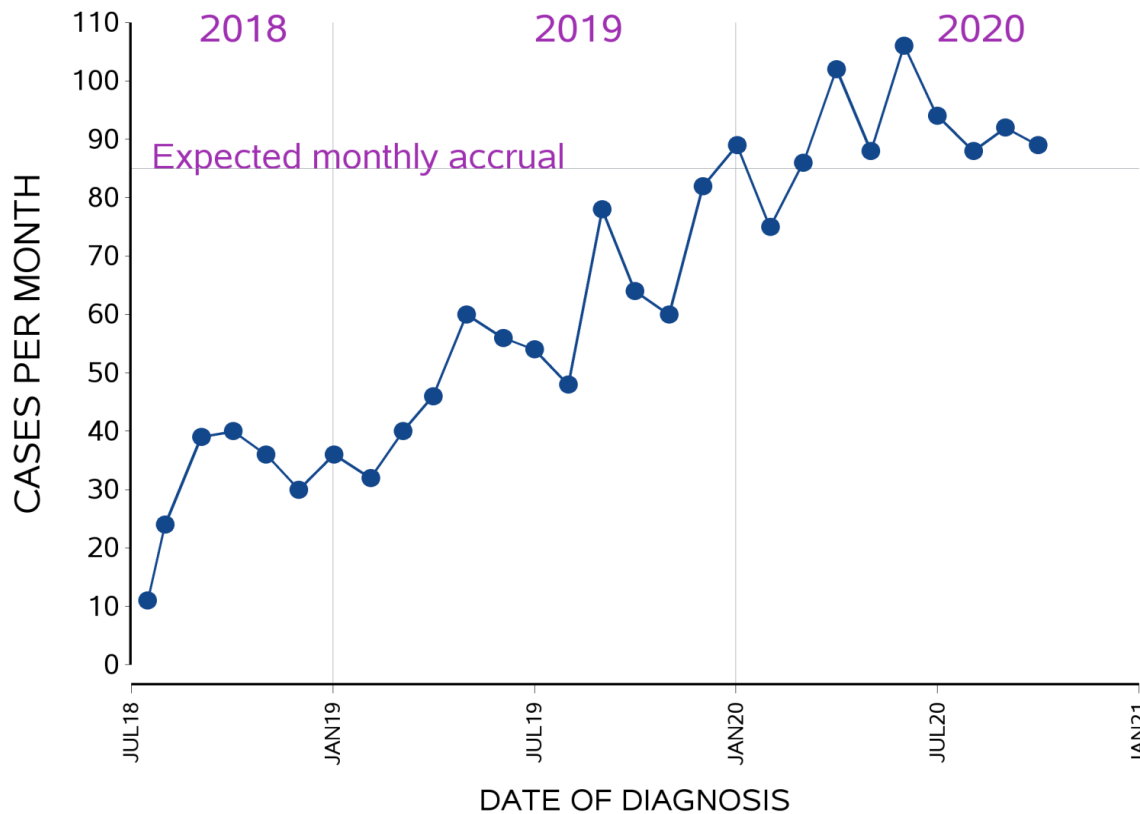
5 years  
Approx. 1000 pts p.a.

**Start**

7-2018

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# Recruitment in trial AIEOP-BFM ALL 2017



# AIEOP-BFM ALL 2017: Risk Criteria for pB-ALL

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## High Risk (HR)

- no complete remission on day 33 or
- positivity for *KMT2A-AFF1* or
- positivity for *TCF3-HLF* or
- hypodiploidy <45 chromosomes or
- FCM-MRD in BM on day 15  $\geq 10\%$  *and not* *ETV6-RUNX1* positive or
- *IKZF1*<sup>plus</sup> *and* PCR-MRD at TP1 positive or inconclusive *and not* positive for *ETV6-RUNX1*, *TCF3-PBX1* or *KMT2A* rearrangement other than *KMT2A-AFF1* or
- PCR-MRD at TP1  $\geq 5 \times 10^{-4}$  *and* positive  $< 5 \times 10^{-4}$  at TP2 (PCR-MRD SER)
- PCR-MRD at TP2  $\geq 5 \times 10^{-4}$  (PCR-MRD-HR)
- age <1 year and any *KMT2A* rearrangement

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## Medium Risk (MR)

- no HR criteria and
- PCR-MRD *either* positive at TP1 and/or TP2 *or* PCR-MRD not evaluable

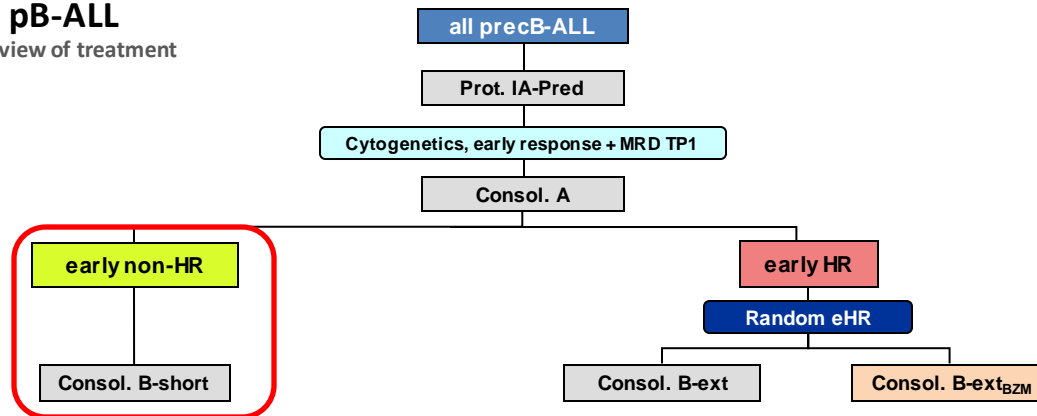
## Standard Risk (SR)

- No HR criteria and
- PCR-MRD negative at TP1

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Combined use of FCM-based and ASO-PCR-based MRD-detection

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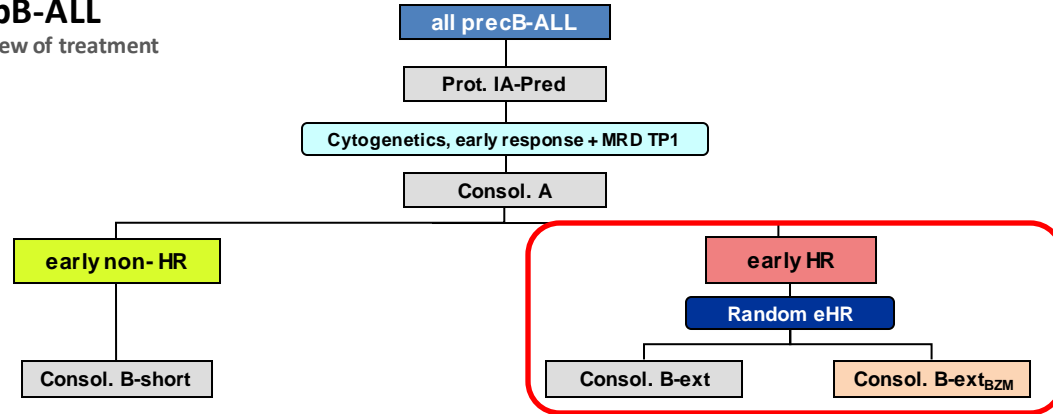


## precB-ALL: early HR (20%)

- no complete remission on day 33, or
- positivity for *KMT2A-AFF1* (*MLL-AF4*), or
- hypodiploidy <45 chromosomes, or
- FCM-MRD in BM on day 15  $\geq 10\%$ , and not *ETV6-RUNX1* positive, or
- positivity for *TCF3-HLF* (*E2A-HLF*), or
- *IKZF1*<sup>plus</sup> and PCR-MRD at TP1 positive, or
- PCR-MRD at TP1  $\geq 5 \times 10^{-4}$ , or
- age < 1 year and any *KMT2A* (*MLL*) rearrangement

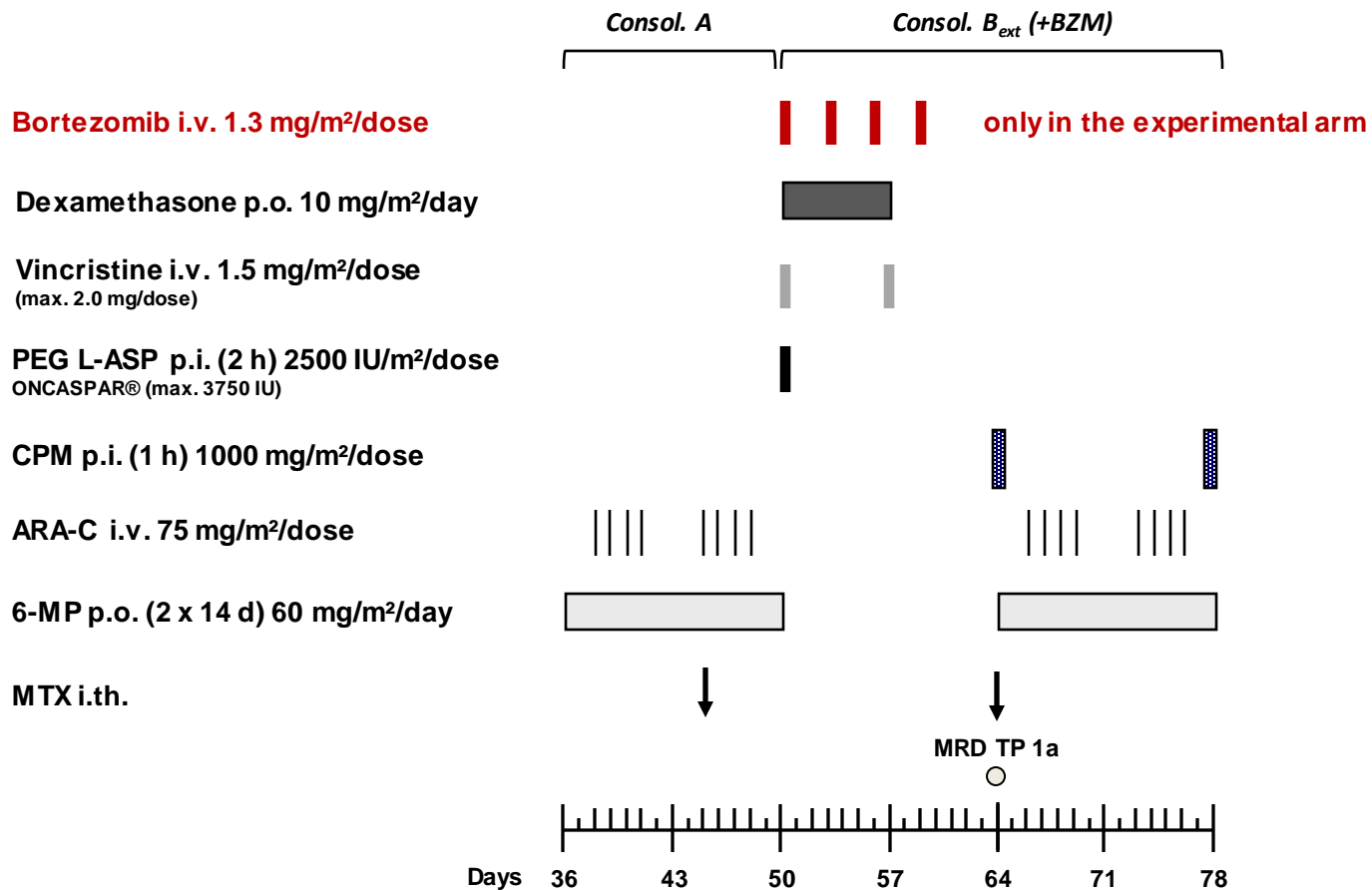
*IKZF1*<sup>plus</sup>Deletion of *IKZF1* and:

- *PAX5* and/or
- *CDKN2A* and/or
- *CDKN2B* and/or
- *CRLF2* (*PAR*) and
- Negativity for *ERG* deletion

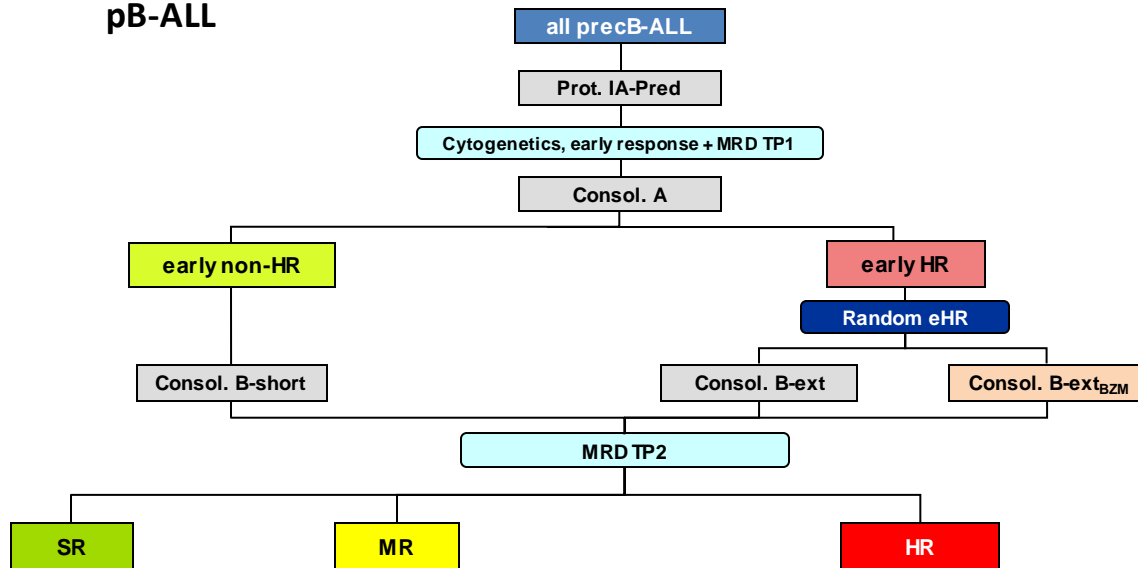


Can pEFS in pcB-early HR pts be improved by additional therapy with Bortezomib during an extended consolidation treatment phase compared to a standard extended consolidation?

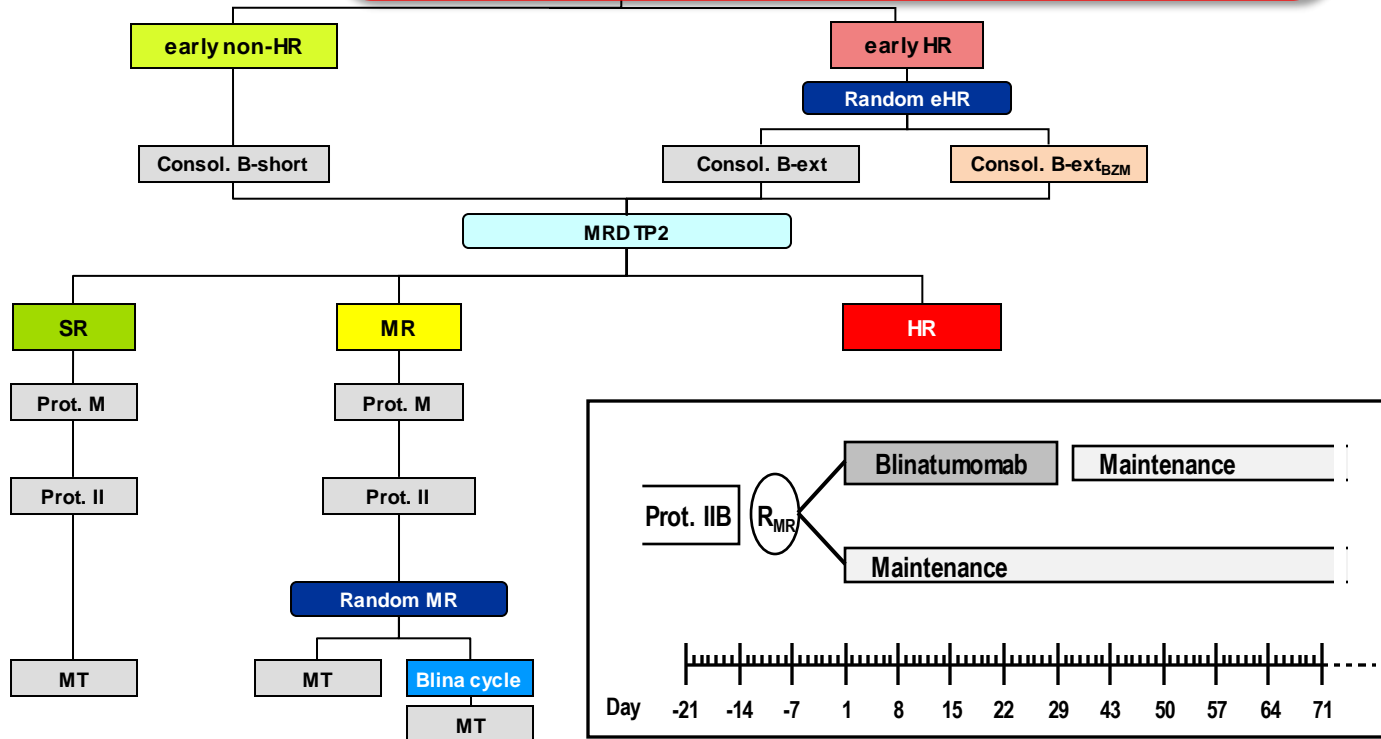
# Extended Consolidation for early HR pB-ALL Random eHR

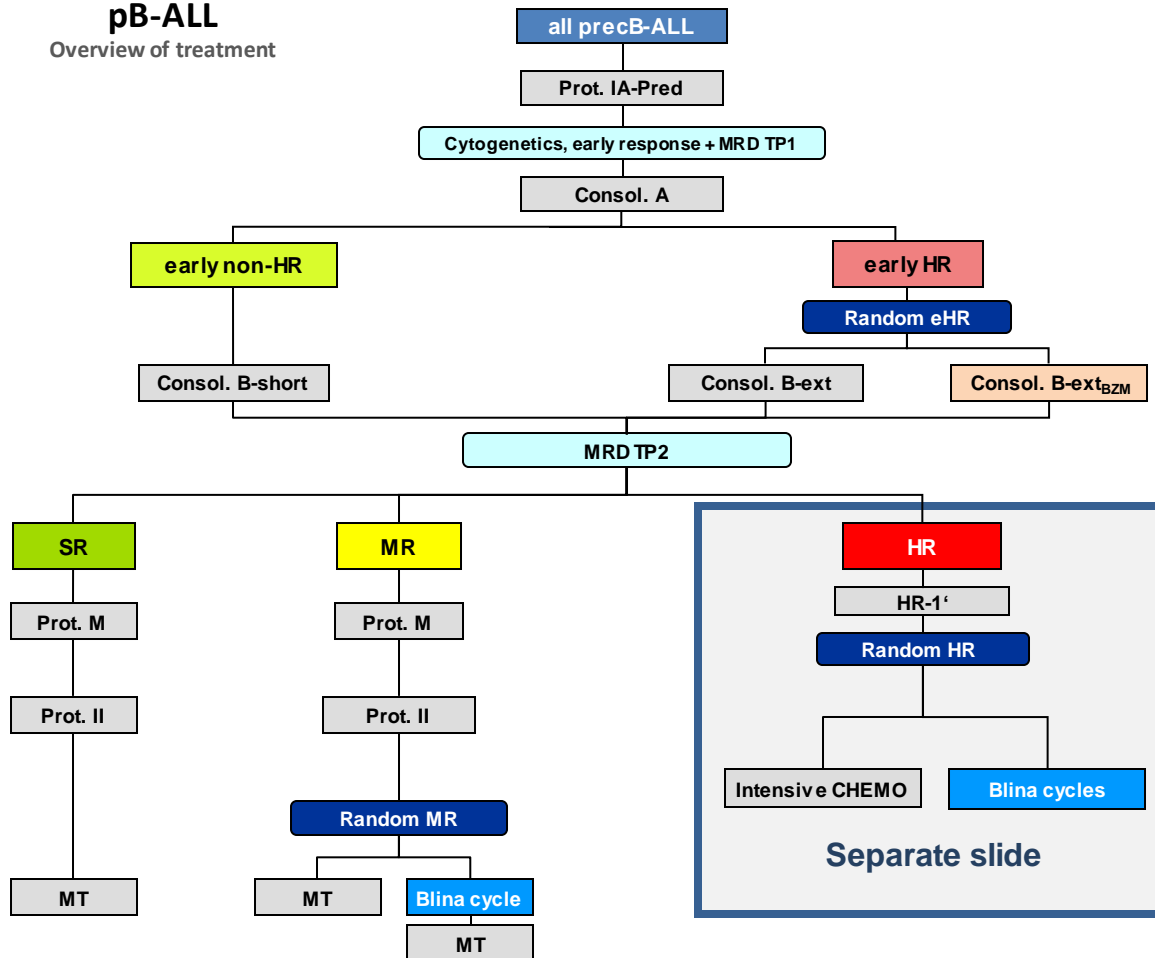


**AIEOP-BFM ALL 2017**  
**pB-ALL**



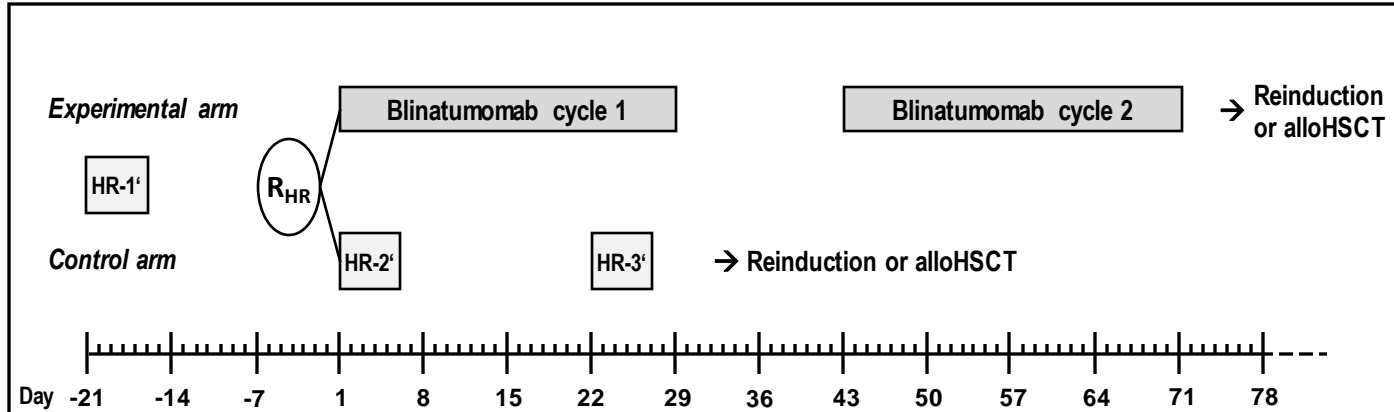
Can pDFS of MR pts be improved by additional therapy with one cycle of post-reintensification immunotherapy with **Blinatumomab**?





## Approach for HR patients: Randomization HR

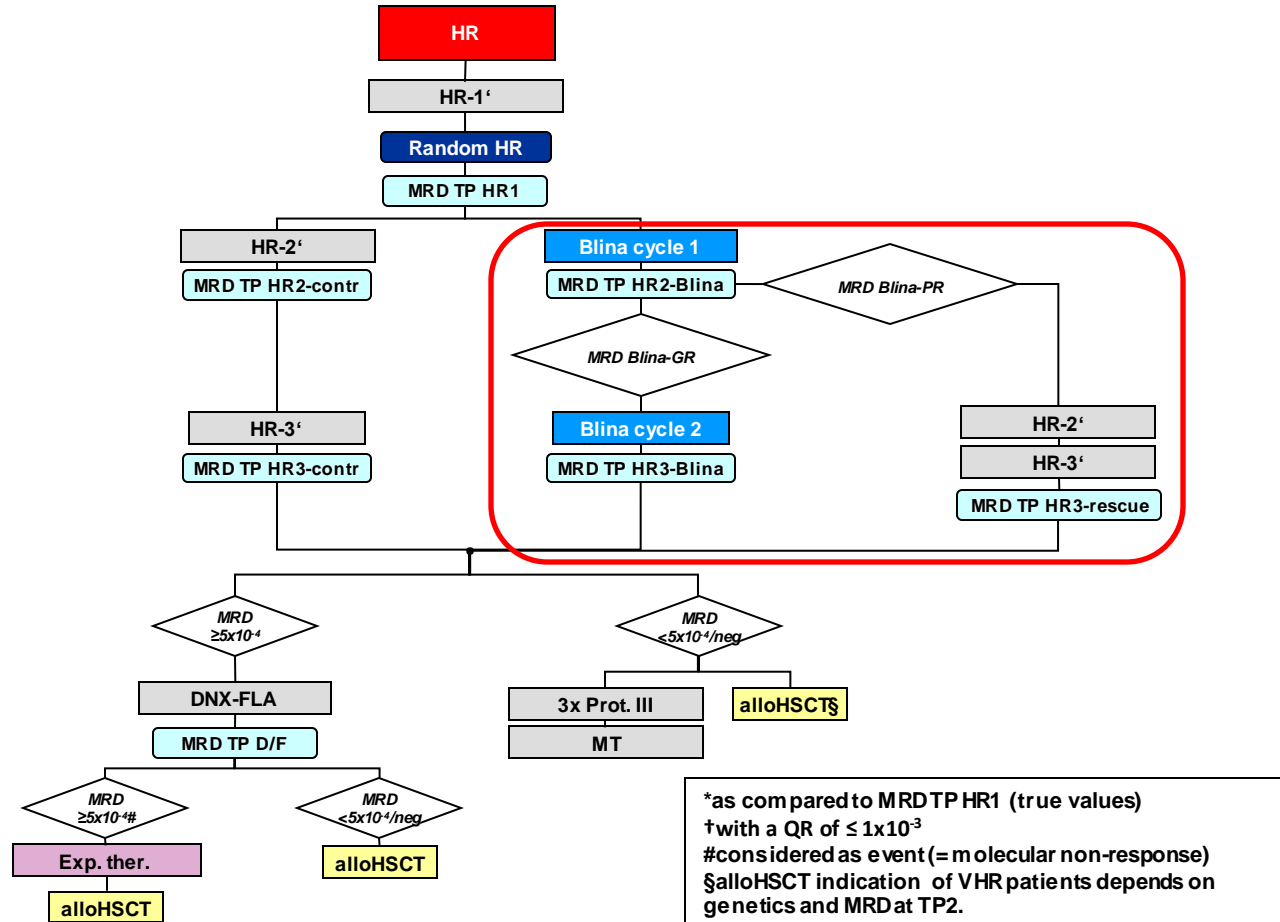
Can the pEFS be improved by a treatment concept including two cycles of post-consolidation immunotherapy with Blinatumomab (15  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{d}$  for 2 x 28 days) replacing two conventional highly intensive chemotherapy courses?



- Combination of two effects desired for a novel HR post-consolidation therapy:
  - Significant reduction of toxicity
  - More effective therapy for patients with insufficient response to the HR chemotherapy blocks by overcoming resistance to chemotherapy

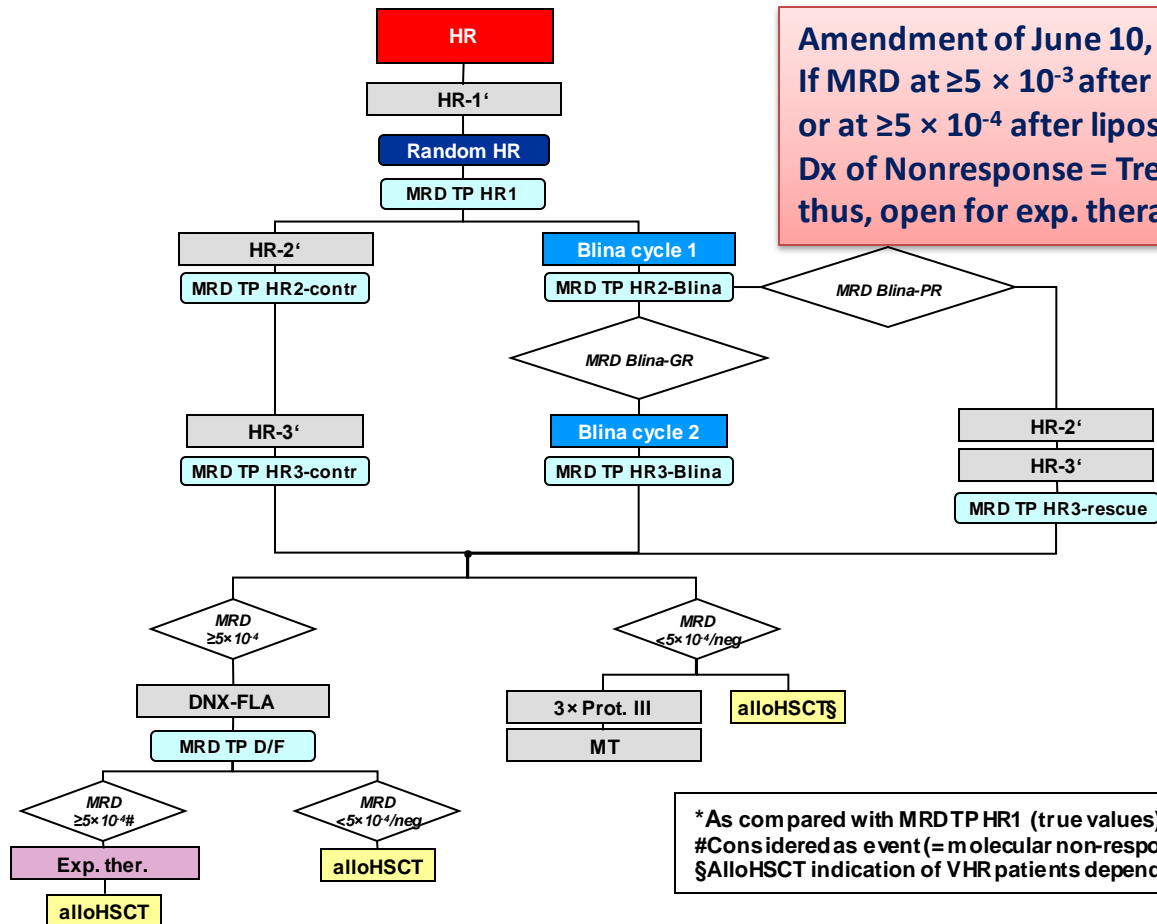
# AIEOP-BFM ALL 2017: pB-ALL

## Approach for HR patients: Randomization HR



# AIEOP-BFM ALL 2017: pB-ALL

## Approach for HR Patients: Randomization HR



**Amendment of June 10, 2020:**

If MRD at  $\geq 5 \times 10^{-3}$  after HR-3' or 2nd cycle Blina, or at  $\geq 5 \times 10^{-4}$  after lipos. DOX-FLA:

Dx of Nonresponse = Treatment failure = Event, thus, open for exp. therapy

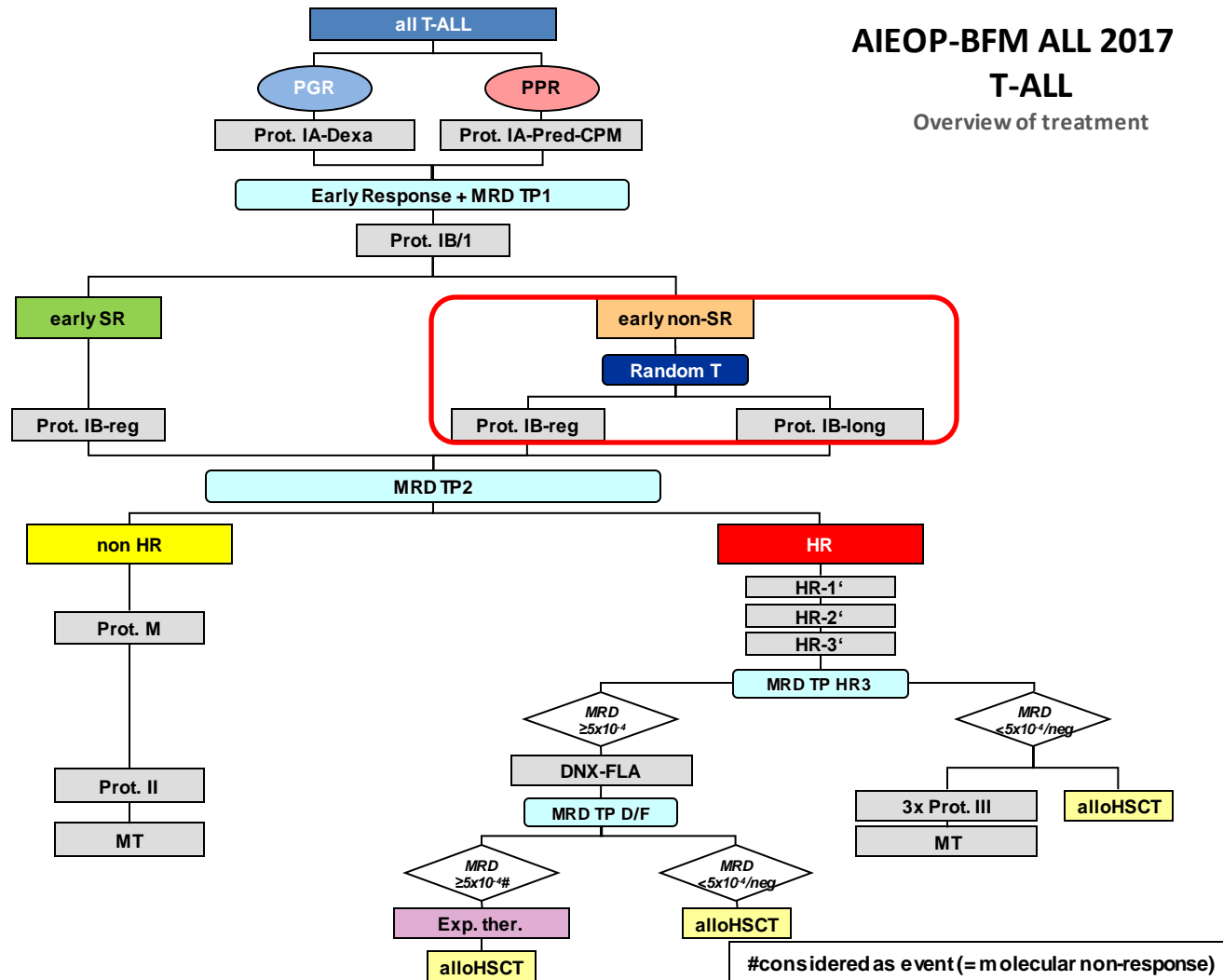
\* As compared with MRDTP HR1 (true values)

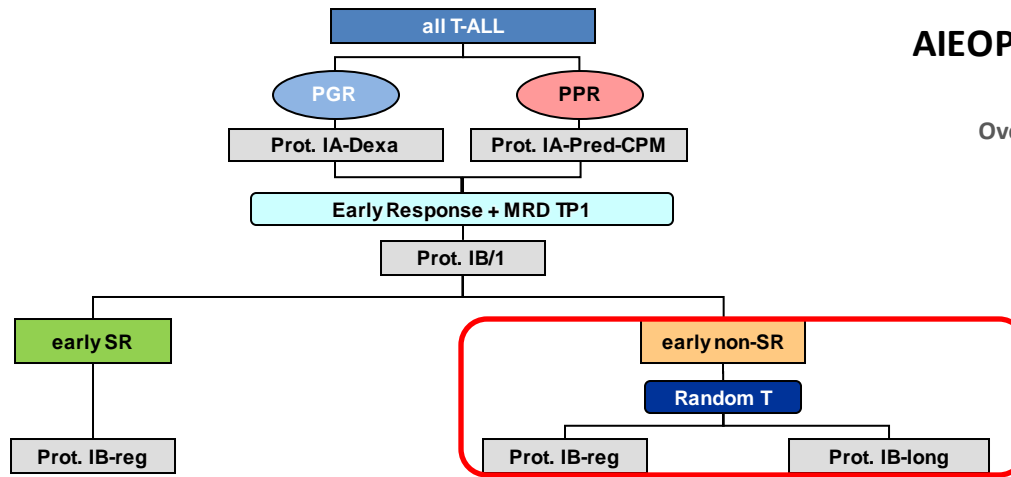
# Considered as event (= molecular non-response)

§ AlloHSCt indication of VHR patients depends on genetics and MRD at TP2

# Treatment plan

T-ALL





Can the pEFS be improved by the extension of the standard of care consolidation by 14 days with an increase of the consolidation cumulative doses of Cyclophosphamide, Cytarabine and 6-Mercaptopurine by 50%?

## Protocol IB-regular

**CPM p.i. (1 h) 1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/dose**

**ARA-C i.v. 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/dose**

**6-MP p.o. (28 d) 60 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day**

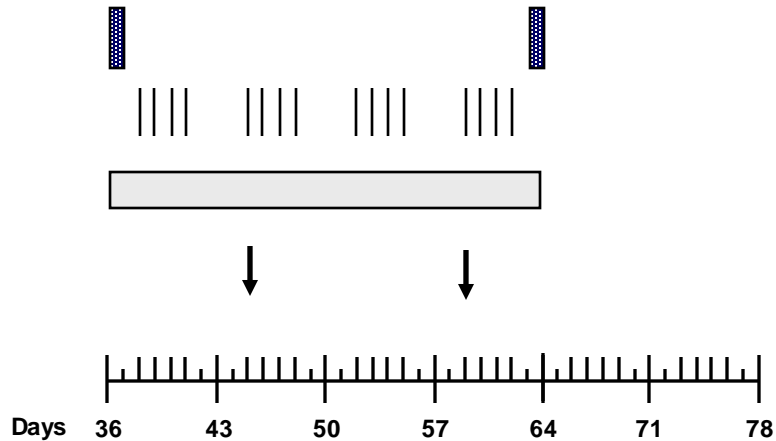
**MTX i.th.**

Age-adjusted dose:

1 to < 2 years: 8 mg

2 to < 3 years: 10 mg

≥ 3 years: 12 mg



## Protocol IB-long

**CPM p.i. (1 h) 1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/dose**

**ARA-C i.v. 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/dose**

**6-MP p.o. (42 d) 60 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day**

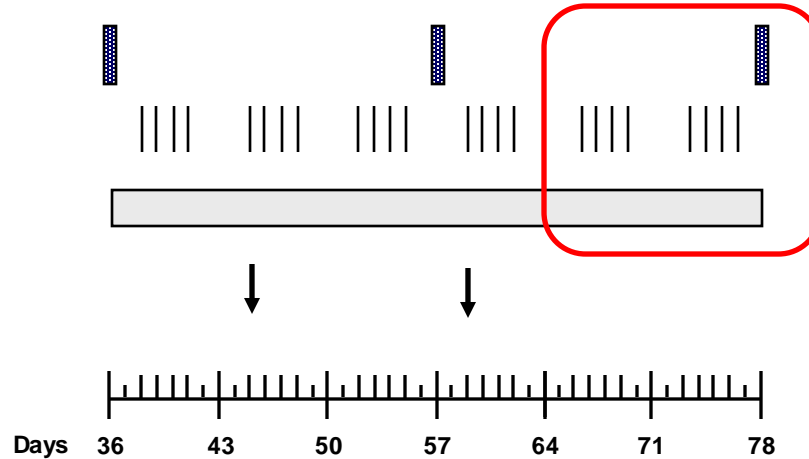
**MTX i.th.**

Age-adjusted dose:

1 to < 2 years: 8 mg

2 to < 3 years: 10 mg

≥ 3 years: 12 mg



## Protocol IB-long

CPM p.i. (1 h) 1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/dose

ARA-C i.v. 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/dose

6-MP p.o. (42 d) 60 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day

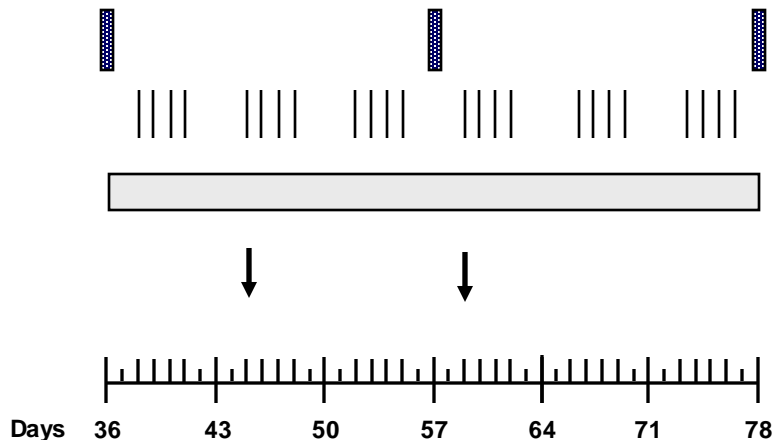
MTX i.th.

Age-adjusted dose:

1 to < 2 years: 8 mg

2 to < 3 years: 10 mg

≥ 3 years: 12 mg



## Protocol IB-regular

CPM p.i. (1 h) 1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/dose

ARA-C i.v. 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/dose

6-MP p.o. (28 d) 60 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day

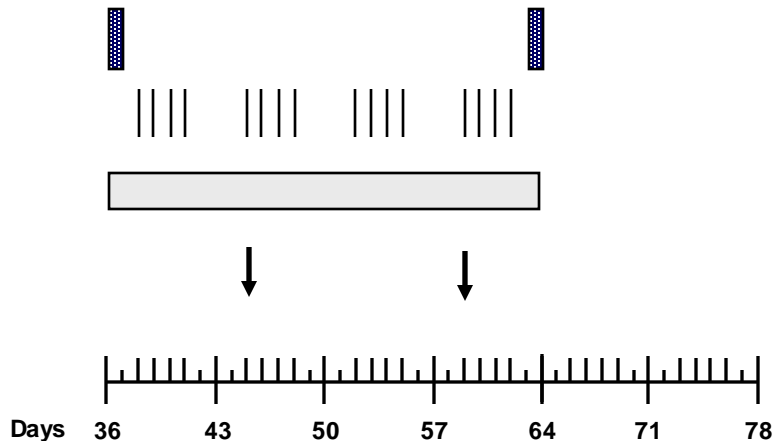
MTX i.th.

Age-adjusted dose:

1 to < 2 years: 8 mg

2 to < 3 years: 10 mg

≥ 3 years: 12 mg



# AIEOP-BFM ALL 2017: Genetic Screening and Consequences in Special Subgroups

- See flow chart: Combination of array-based techniques and FISH, sometimes RT-PCR
- Targetable lesions will be identified (Ph-like pos pts may enter EsPhALL/COGAALL1631)
- Therapeutic consequences: Due to limited evidence, special consideration only in poor-responding patients if not eligible for the randomizations
- Pts with t(17:19) will be stratified for Blina and will receive BZM in consolidation
- DS-ALL pts with HR-ALL will be stratified for Blina and for the no-BZM arm in consolidation

## Randomizations



# or immunophenotype unknown

pCRT 12 Gy in T-ALL and WBC $\geq$ 100T, or CNS-3, if age $\geq$ 4 yrs\*  
All other T-ALL, HR-pB-ALL and CNS 3-if age<4 yrs: no CRT + 6 $\times$  IT MTX in MT

## Summary and Outlook

- Clinically relevant diagnostic subgroups of ALL can be defined more precisely
- Novel definitions for diagnostics and disease response are now available and accepted
- Contemporary trials for pediatric ALL in Europe will provide novel insights into treatment modulation and explore new strategies
- **Future aims**
  - Safe treatment reduction to avoid critical late effects
  - Well-balanced treatment intensity of frontline and second-line therapy

# Thank you

## ALL-BFM Clinical Trial Center



## ALL-BFM Diagnostic Laboratory (Kiel)





#### Reference Laboratories

Giuseppe Basso †, Giovanni Cazzaniga,  
Giuseppe Gaipa, Michael Dworzak,  
Jan Trka, Monika Brüggemann,  
Matthias Ritgen, Brigitte Schlegelberger,  
Oskar Haas, Gudrun Göhring, Anke Bergmann,  
Doris Steinmann, Wolfram Utecht-Lubwig,  
Richard Ratei, Beat Schäfer, Joelle Tchinda,  
Shai Izraeli, Renate Panzer-Grümayer, Rolf Köhler,  
Claus R. Bartram

e  
ry, Felix  
Alexandra

ni, Arend  
eier, Anja  
onter,  
, Claudia

Valsecchi



## [repeated question] Question 1

Genetic subgroups in pediatric ALL have been well described. Can you pick the most appropriate definition for a novel entity, called *IKZF1*-plus?

- A. Novel mutation in the *bcr/abl* fusion gene
- B. Simultaneous deletions in *IKZF1* and *PAX5* and/or *CDKN2A* and/or *CDKN2B* and/or *CRLF2* (*PAR*), and negativity for *ERG* deletion
- C. Gain of function in *IKZF1*
- D. Novel term for hypodiploidy
- E. Mutation in drug resistant patients with *ETV6/RUNX1* positivity

 [repeated question] Question 2

Please indicate which of the following statements for positive testing of MRD at a level of 0.1% is most appropriate:

- A. At the end of induction therapy for ALL, such a level of MRD equals induction failure
- B. MRD at this level at the end of consolidation (approx. 12 weeks after start of treatment) can be considered a very favorable response
- C. MRD at this level after allogeneic hSCT is a normal observation when measured at day +100
- D. MRD at this level at any time of ALL therapy equals disease recurrence (relapse)
- E. MRD at this level at the end of induction may indicate a more resistant leukemia, as compared to others with no detectable MRD at the end of induction

# Q&A session



# Current treatment options for relapsed ALL in children, including HSCT considerations

Franco Locatelli





Bambino Gesù  
OSPEDALE PEDIATRICO



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

# Current treatment options for relapsed ALL in children, including HSCT considerations

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# Disclosures

Name of Company	Research Support	Employee	Consultant	Stockholder	Speakers' Bureau	Advisory Board	Other
Miltenyi					X		
Bellicum	X				X	X	
Amgen					X	X	
Medac					X		
Neovii					X	X	
Novartis						X	
Sanofi						X	
Gilead					X		
bluebird bio					X		

# Relapsed ALL in childhood: Background



## RELAPSE RATE:

**Approximately 15%–20% of children with ALL relapse after standard treatment<sup>1</sup>**

## PROGNOSIS OF RELAPSED ALL LARGELY DEPENDS ON<sup>2-6</sup>

✓ Time from diagnosis to relapse

✓ Site of relapse

✓ Blast immune-phenotype

**Almost all children with relapsed T-ALL and 2/3 of those with BCP-ALL are candidates for alloHSCT after a second morphologic complete remission (M1 marrow) is achieved<sup>7-8</sup>**

BCP-ALL, B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia; alloHSCT, allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant.

1. Hunger SP, Mullighan CG. *N Engl J Med*. 2015;373:1541-1552; 2. Chessells JM, et al. *Br J Haematol*. 2003;123:396-405; 3. Irving JA, et al. *Blood*. 2016;128:911-922; 4. Krentz S, et al. *Leukemia*. 2013;27:295-304; 5. Malempati S, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2007;25:5800-5807; 6. Schrappe M, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2012;366:1371-1381; 7. Locatelli F, et al. *Blood*. 2012;120:2807-2816; 8. Peters C, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2015;33:1265-1274.



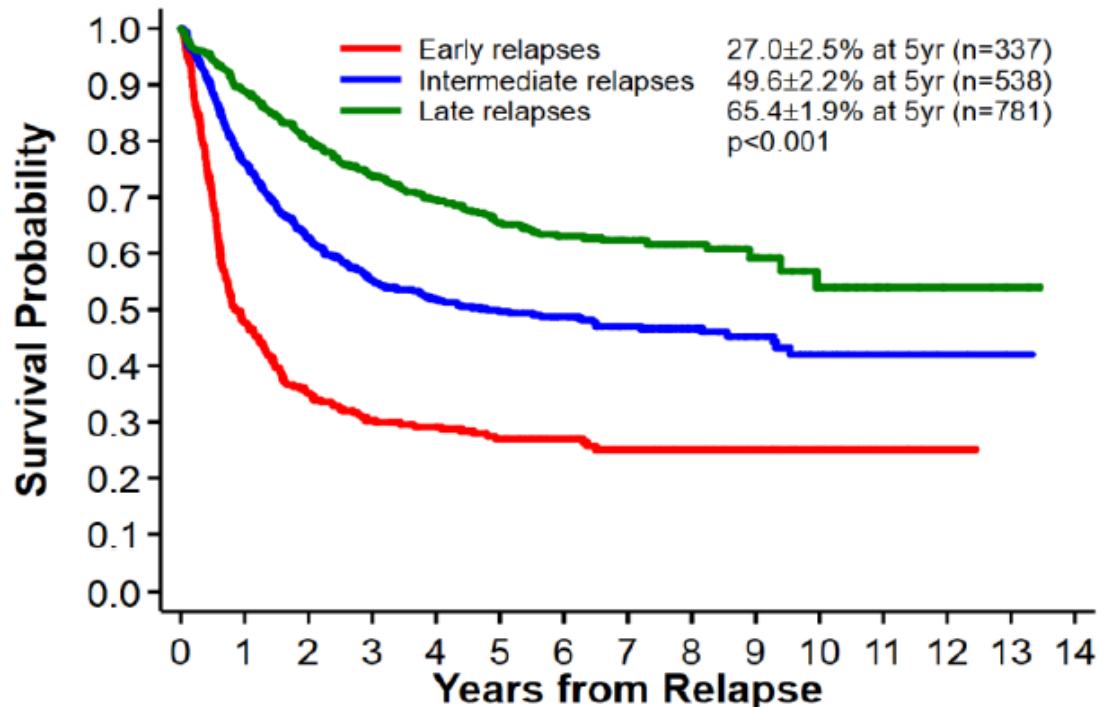
# IntReALL: Definition of strategy groups SR and HR

Immunophenotype	B-cell precursor			(pre) T		
Time Point/Site	Extramed isolated	Bone marrow combined	Bone marrow isolated	Extramed isolated	Bone marrow combined	Bone marrow isolated
Very early	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR	HR
Early	SR	SR	HR	SR	HR	HR
Late*	SR	SR	SR	SR	HR	HR

\*Late defined as: >6 months after cessation of frontline therapy, ie, >30 months after initial diagnosis.

SR, standard-risk group; HR, high-risk group.

ClinicalTrials.gov NCT03590171

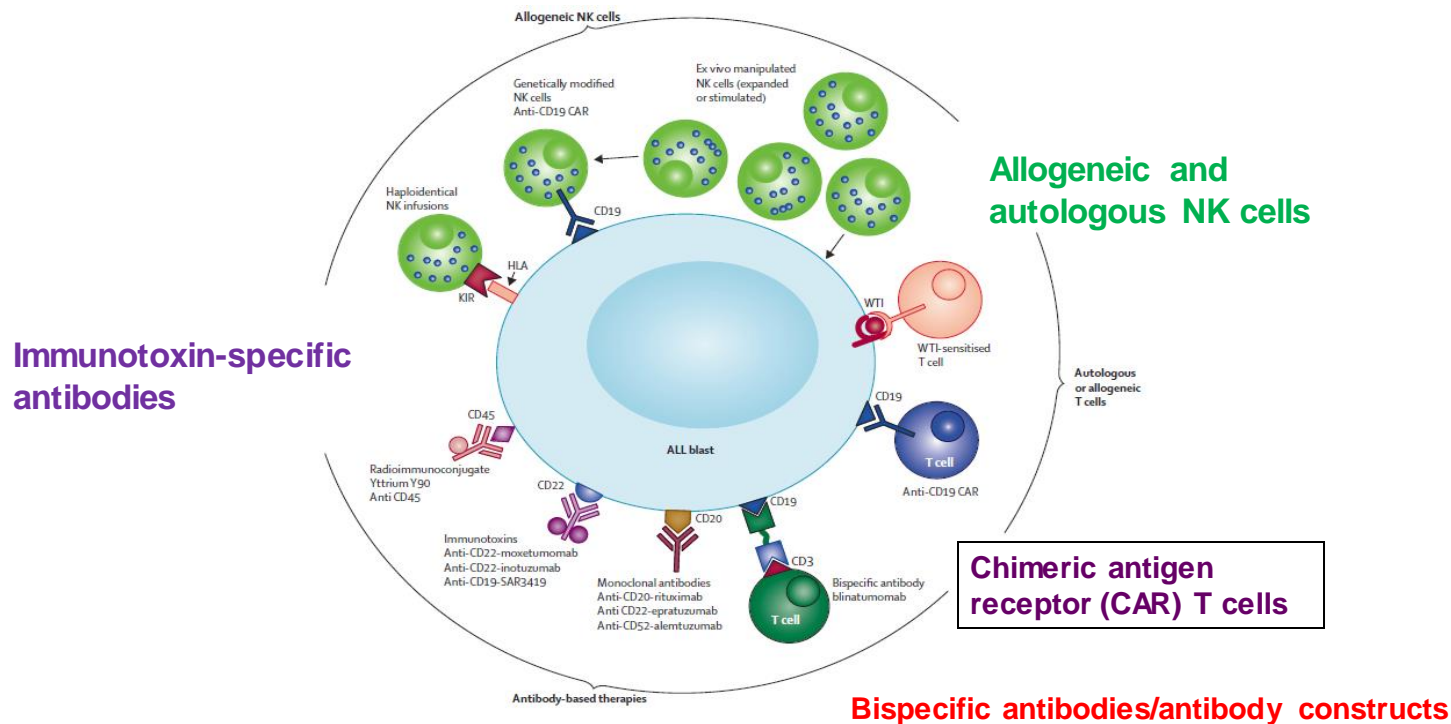


**We need innovative therapies for improving the outcome of patients experiencing leukemia relapse**

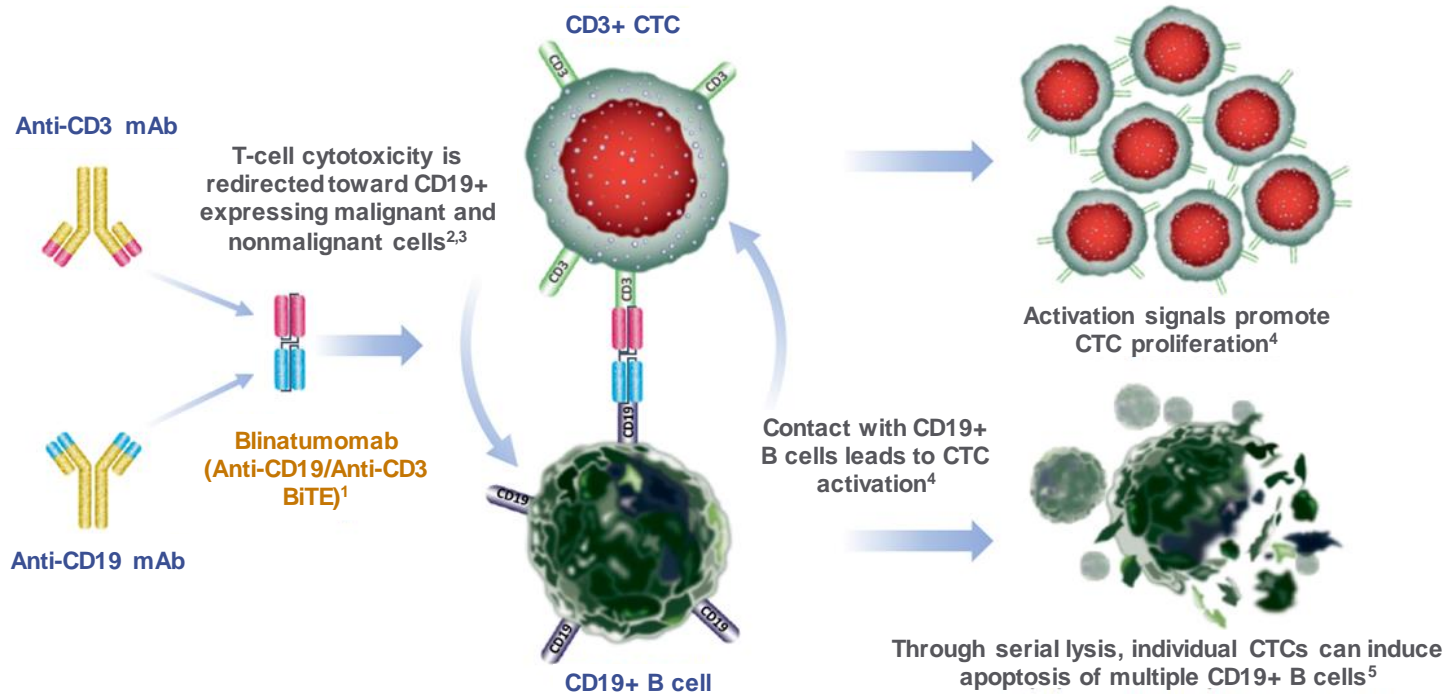
# IntReALL-BCP 2020: New risk-stratification

- VHR (15%)**      Eligible for allo-HSCT or consolidation therapy
- **TP53 alteration**
  - **Hypodiploidy**
  - **t(1;19)/(17;19)**
  - **MLL/AF4**
  - **Very early relapse (<18 mo)**
- SR (60%)**      Late isolated or combined medullary/extramedullary relapse (alloHSCT depending on MRD response at the end of induction)
- HR (25%)**      Early isolated or combined medullary/extramedullary relapse (all these patients are candidates to receive alloHSCT as final consolidation)

# New immunologic approaches under investigation in childhood ALL



# Blinatumomab (CD19 BiTE<sup>®</sup> molecule)

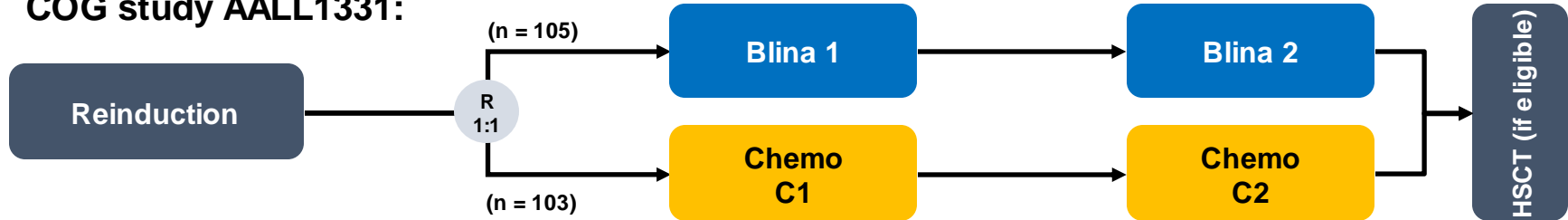


BiTE<sup>®</sup>, bispecific T cell engager; CD, cluster of differentiation; CTC, cytotoxic T cell; mAb, monoclonal antibody.

1. Baeuerle PA, et al. *Cancer Res.* 2009;69:4941-4944; 2. Bargou R, et al. *Science.* 2008;321:974-977; 3. Topp MS, et al. *Lancet Oncol.* 2015;16:57-66; 4. Klinger M, et al. *Blood.* 2012;119:6226-6233; 5. Hoffmann P, et al. *Int J Cancer.* 2005;115:98-104.

# Design of the phase III studies

## COG study AALL1331:

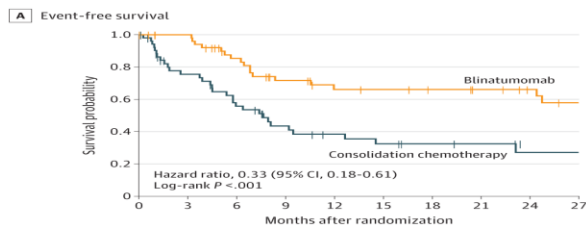


## Study 20120215:

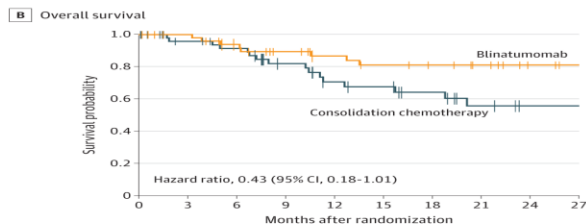


From: Locatelli F, et al. **Effect of Blinatumomab vs Chemotherapy on Event-Free Survival Among Children With High-risk First-Relapse B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia: A Randomized Clinical Trial**

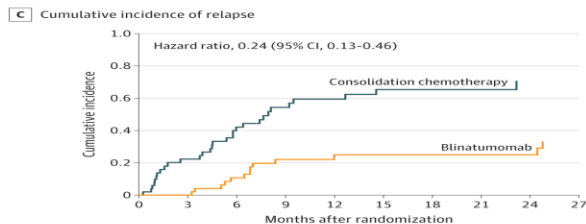
JAMA. 2021;325:843-854. doi:10.1001/jama.2021.0987



No. at risk	54	50	38	29	24	23	21	19	16	13
Blinatumomab	54	50	38	29	24	23	21	19	16	13
Chemotherapy	54	35	25	17	13	11	9	8	5	5

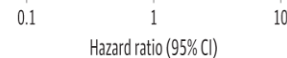


No. at risk	54	50	42	36	31	28	26	23	18	16
Blinatumomab	54	45	41	36	31	28	26	23	18	16
Chemotherapy	54	45	41	30	23	21	17	12	9	9



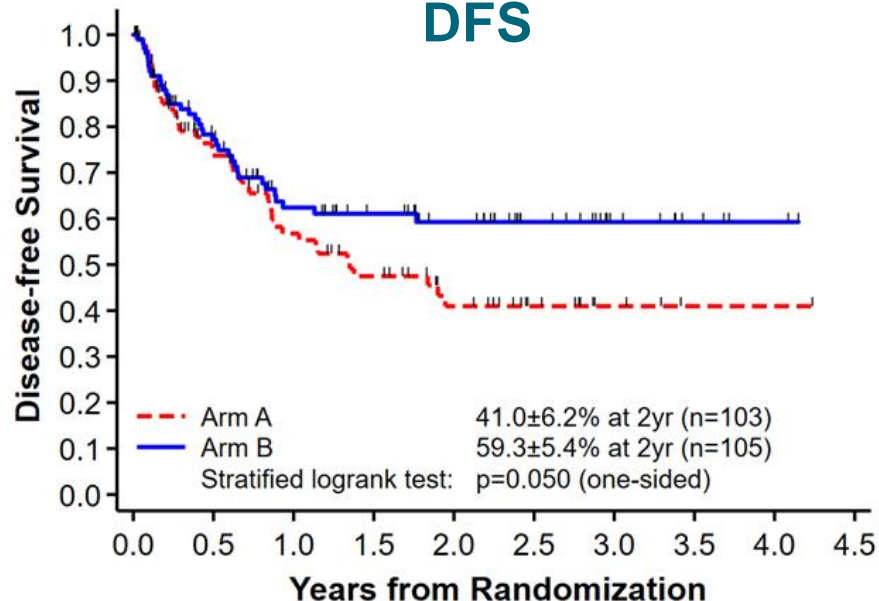
No. at risk	54	51	39	30	25	24	22	20	17	14
Blinatumomab	54	36	26	30	18	14	12	10	9	6
Chemotherapy	54	36	26	30	18	14	12	10	9	6

Subgroup	No. of events/No. treated (%)	Consolidation chemotherapy	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	Favors blinatumomab	Favors consolidation chemotherapy
Age, y					
1-9	12/39 (30.8)	23/38 (60.5)	0.37 (0.18-0.74)		
>9	5/15 (33.3)	8/16 (50.0)	0.32 (0.10-1.01)		
Minimal residual disease at end of induction					
<10 <sup>-3</sup> Blast cells	12/35 (34.3)	19/34 (55.9)	0.46 (0.22-0.95)		
≥10 <sup>-3</sup> Blast cells	3/15 (20.0)	9/16 (56.3)	0.21 (0.05-0.78)		
Minimal residual disease before treatment start					
<10 <sup>-4</sup> Blast cells	6/25 (24.0)	13/26 (50.0)	0.42 (0.16-1.11)		
≥10 <sup>-4</sup> Blast cells	11/29 (37.9)	18/28 (64.3)	0.32 (0.15-0.68)		
Sex					
Male	9/30 (30.0)	14/22 (63.6)	0.20 (0.08-0.47)		
Female	8/24 (33.3)	17/32 (53.1)	0.54 (0.23-1.26)		
Time to relapse, mo					
<18	6/19 (31.6)	14/22 (63.6)	0.21 (0.07-0.59)		
≥18 and ≤30	10/32 (31.3)	17/28 (60.7)	0.43 (0.20-0.95)		
Extramedullary disease at relapse					
Yes	4/10 (40.0)	8/14 (57.1)	0.53 (0.16-1.78)		
No	13/44 (29.5)	23/40 (57.5)	0.34 (0.17-0.67)		



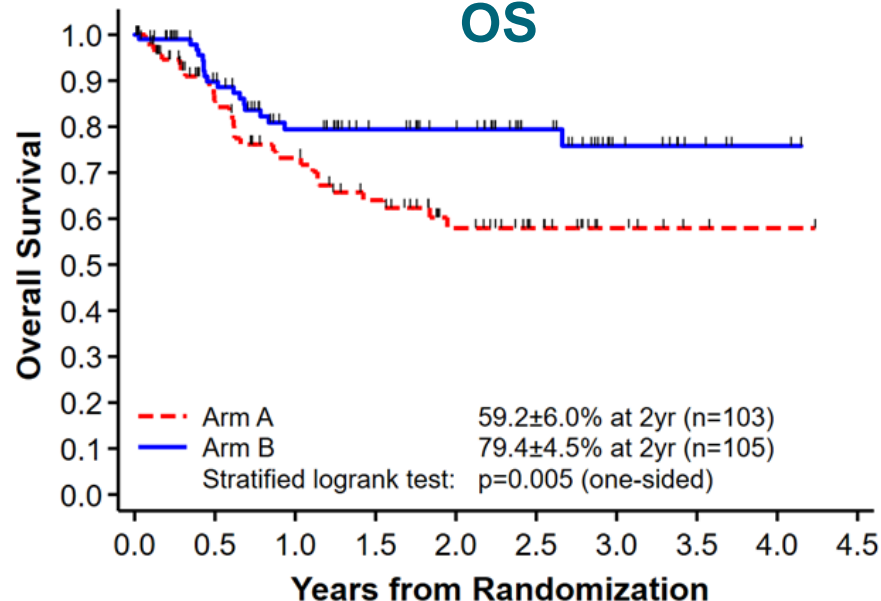
# Survival: Arm A (chemotherapy) vs Arm B (blinatumomab)

## DFS



At Risk										
Arm A	103	55	39	29	18	10	4	1	1	0
Arm B	105	69	47	38	31	19	10	5	2	0

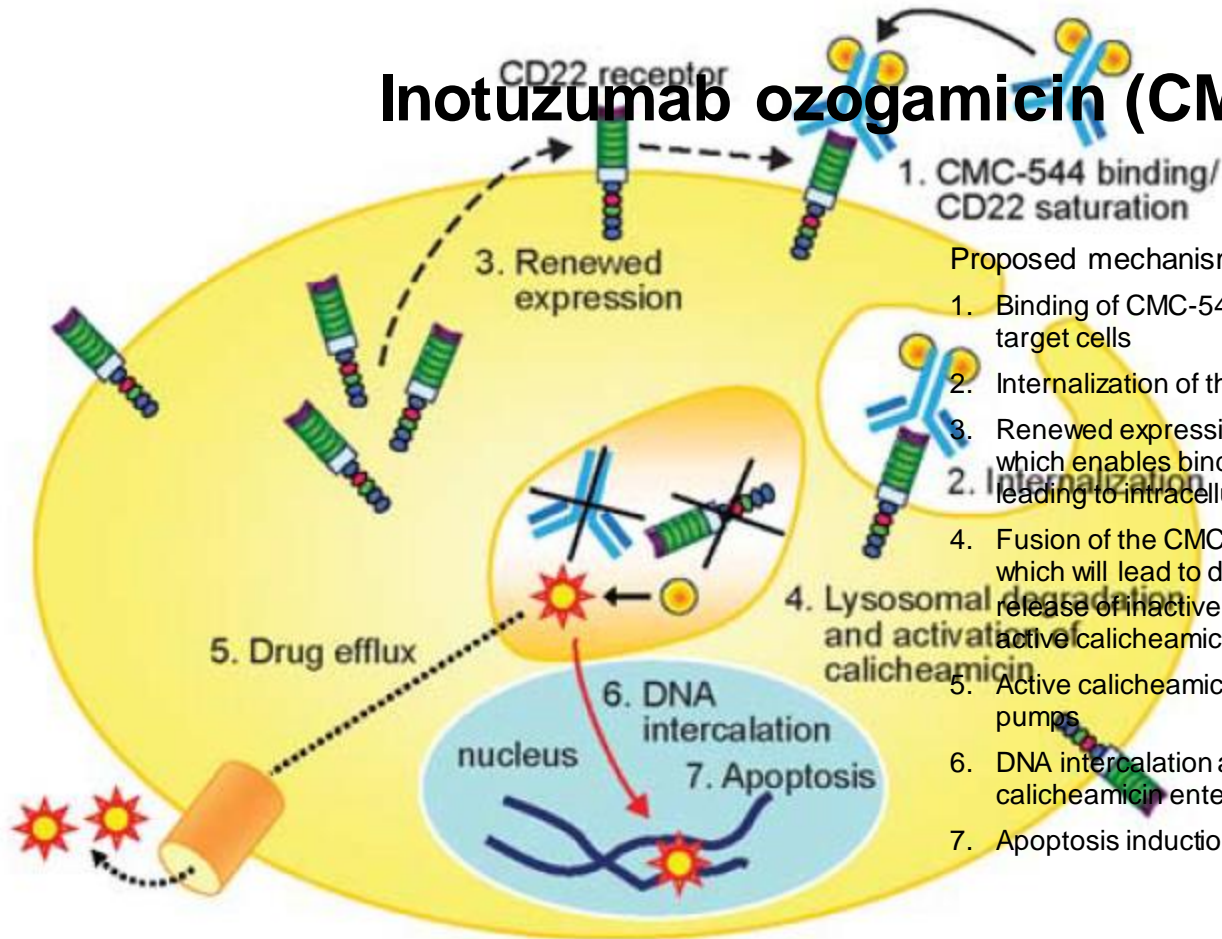
## OS



At Risk										
Arm A	103	64	50	38	25	15	6	2	1	0
Arm B	105	77	55	44	38	24	11	5	2	0

Median follow-up 1.4 years

# Inotuzumab ozogamicin (CMC-544)



Proposed mechanism of action of CMC-544:

1. Binding of CMC-544 to CD22 receptors at the cell surface of target cells
2. Internalization of the CMC-544-CD22 receptor complex
3. Renewed expression of CD22 receptors at the cell surface, which enables binding and internalization of new CMC-544, leading to intracellular accumulation of calicheamicin
4. Fusion of the CMC-544-containing endosome with a lysosome, which will lead to degradation of the acid-labile linker, and release of inactive calicheamicin. Via a thiol-modification step, active calicheamicin is formed
5. Active calicheamicin may be removed from the cell by drug efflux pumps
6. DNA intercalation and ds DNA break formation by free calicheamicin entering the nucleus
7. Apoptosis induction due to irreversible DNA damage

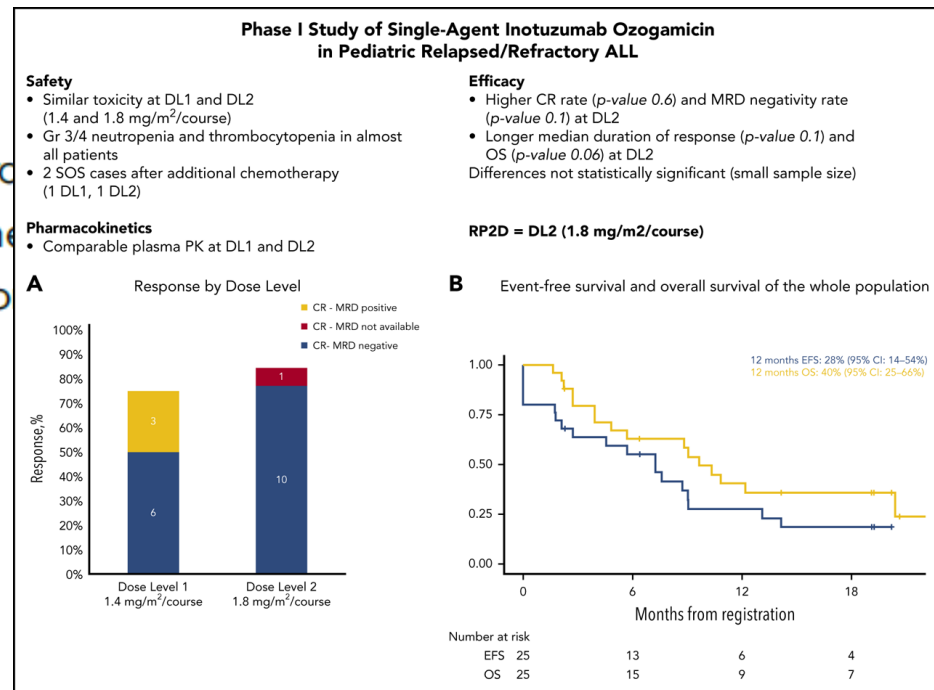
## A phase 1 study of inotuzumab ozogamicin relapsed/refractory acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ITCC-059 study)

Erica Brivio,<sup>1,2</sup> Franco Locatelli,<sup>3</sup> Marta Lopez-Yurda

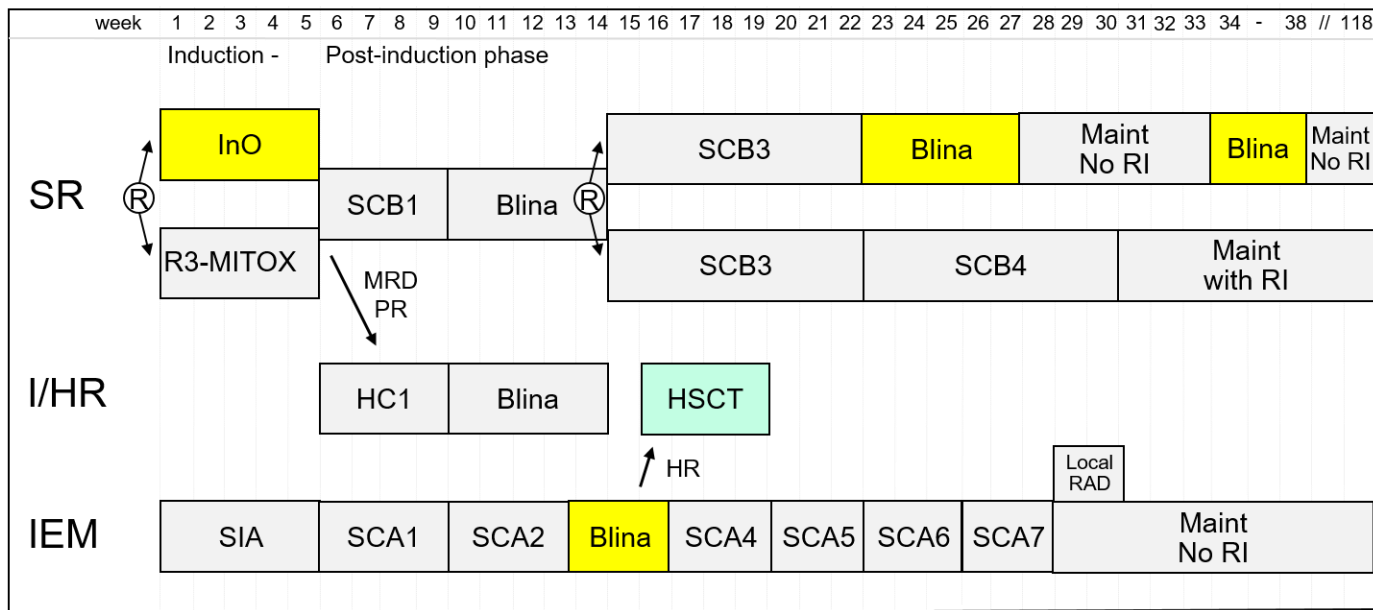
Vincent H. J. van der Velden,<sup>9</sup> Anneke C. J. Amme

Barbara Sleight,<sup>12</sup> Benoit Brethon,<sup>13</sup> Karsten Nyso

and Christian Michel Zwaan<sup>1,2</sup>



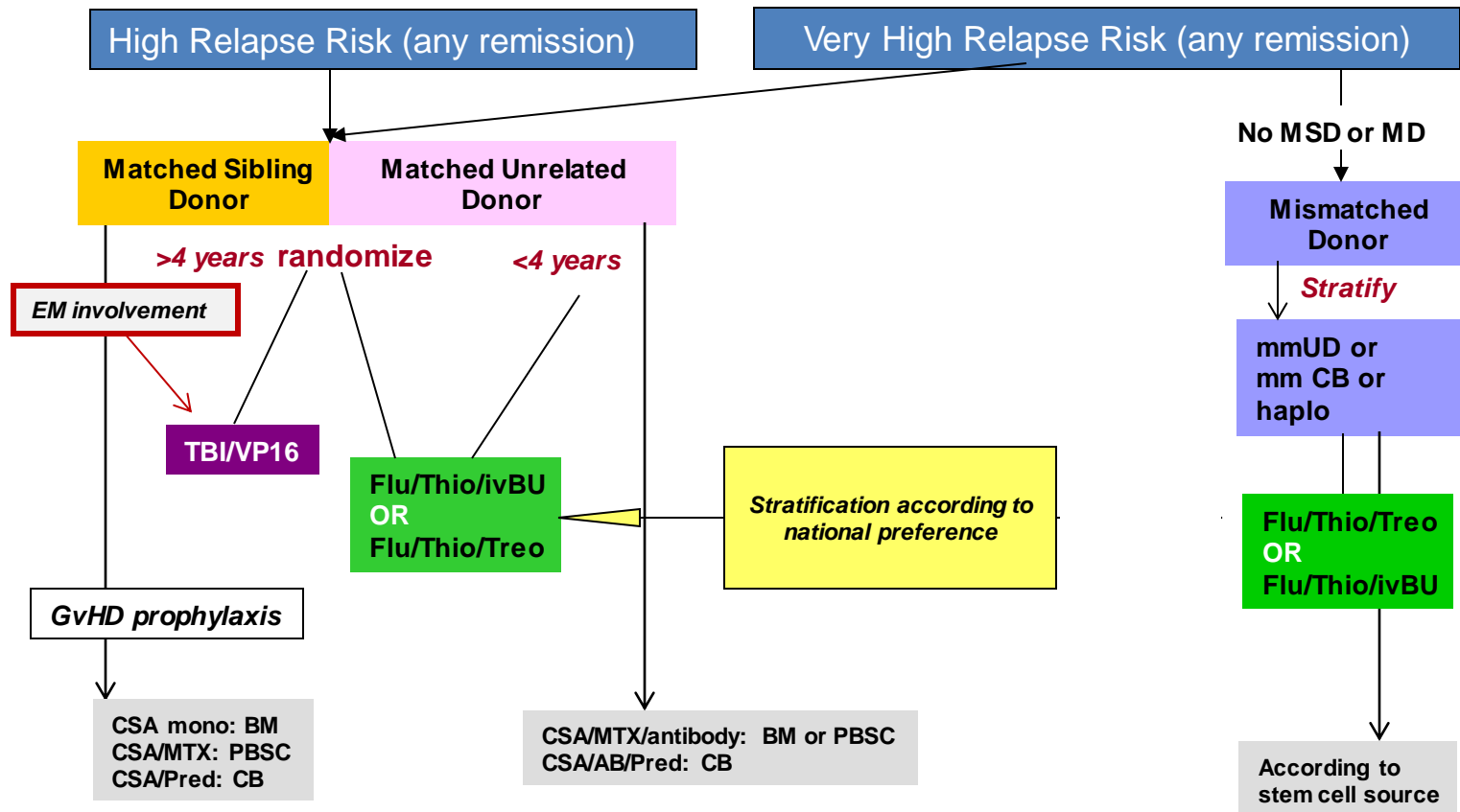
# Treatment schedule – IntReALL BCP 2020



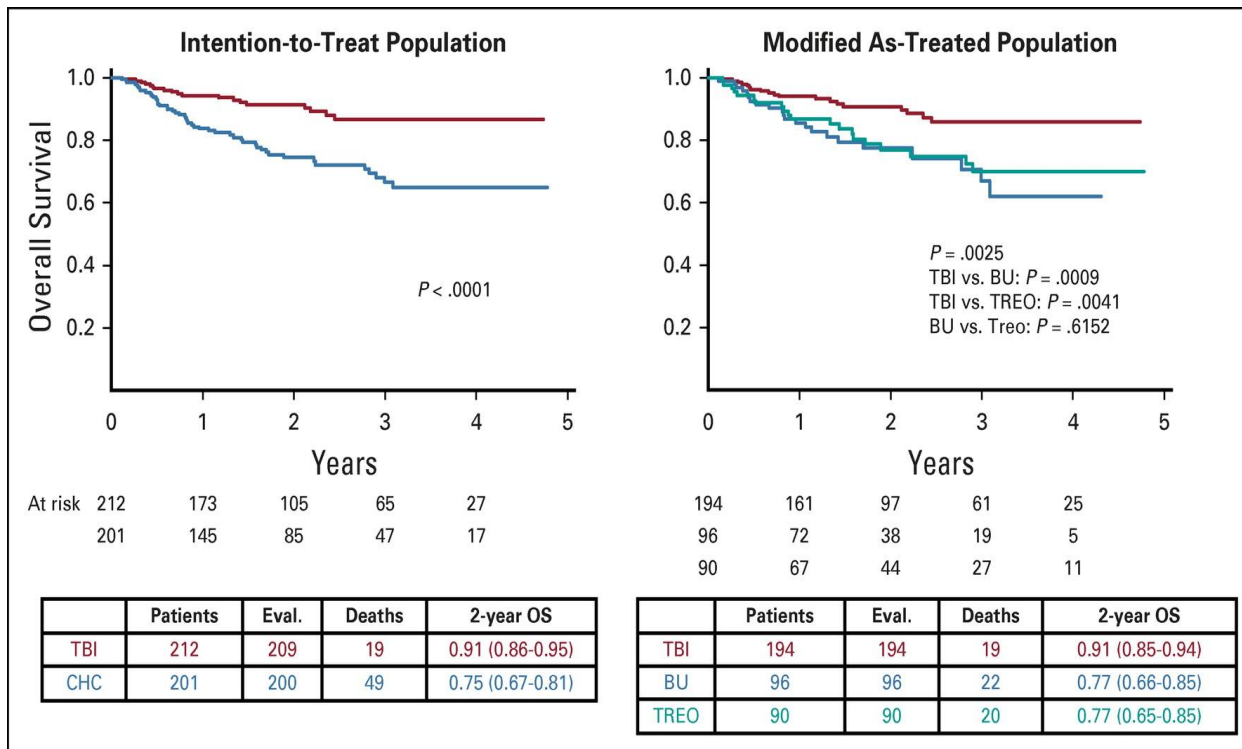
Arrow down (↓), bone marrow puncture with CR/MRD assessment.

Blina, blinatumomab; HC1, HR consolidation 1; HR, high-risk group; MRD, minimal residual disease; R, randomization; R3BB, ALL R3 backbone; Maint, maintenance therapy; MITOX, mitoxantrone; RI, reinduction pulses; S, stratification; SCB1-4, standard consolidation arm B 1-4; SCT, stem cell transplantation.

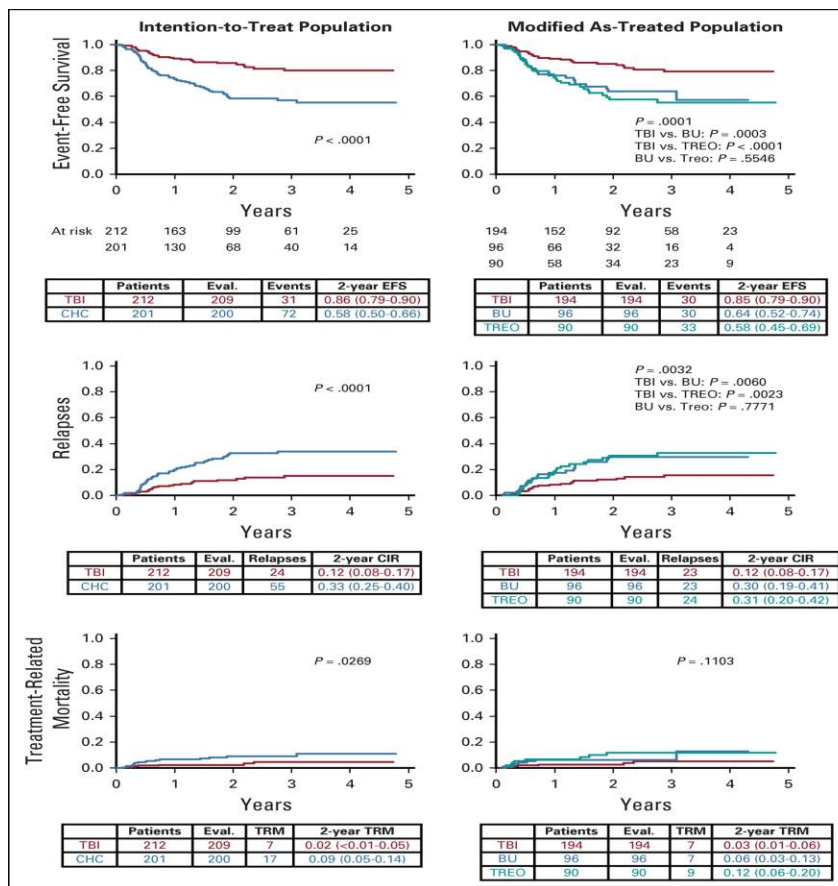
# The role of the conditioning regimen in HSCT for childhood ALL: The FORUM trial



# Primary endpoint: Overall survival

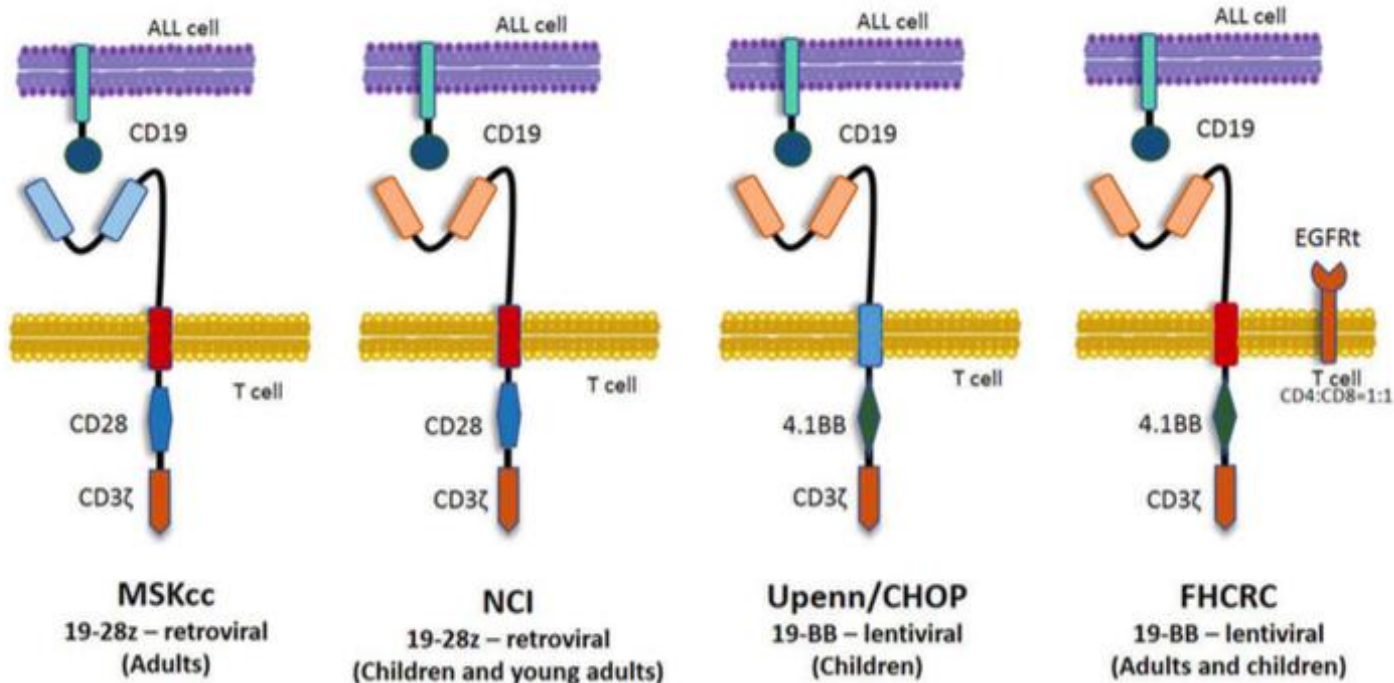


# Secondary endpoints



# Published constructs of second-generation CD19 CARs for ALL

CAR design important for persistence and sustained efficacy



# Results: Patient baseline characteristics

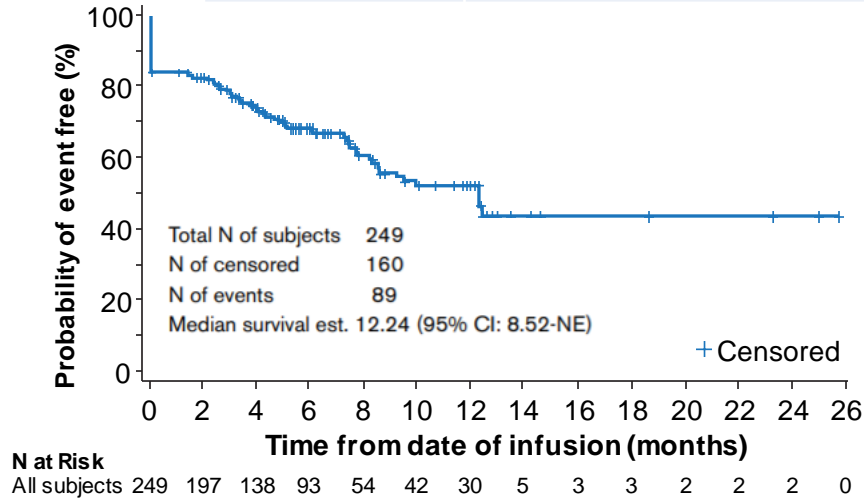
Baseline Characteristic	Pediatric ALL (N = 255)
Median age, years (range)	13.2 (0.41-26.17)
<3 years	15 (5.9)
Male/Female, n (%)	150 (58.8)/105 (41.2)
Disease status at CT, n (%)	
Primary refractory/relapse	159 (62.3)
Morphologic CR	95 (37.2)
Unknown	1 (0.5)
≥5% blasts in marrow prior to CT, n (%)	84 (33)
MRD negative/positive prior to CT <sup>a</sup> , %	46/53
Median time from leukapheresis acceptance to infusion, days (range)	33 (21-91)
Median time of follow-up since infusion, month (range)	13.4 (3.5-27.9)

Baseline Characteristic	Pediatric ALL (N = 255)
Prior CNS involvement, n (%)	24 (9.4)
Number of prior therapies, median (range)	3 (0-15)
Prior alloSCT, n (%)	71 (27.8)
Prior blinatumomab, n (%)	38 (14.9)
Prior inotuzumab, n (%)	27 (10.6)
Down syndrome, n (%)	12 (4.7)

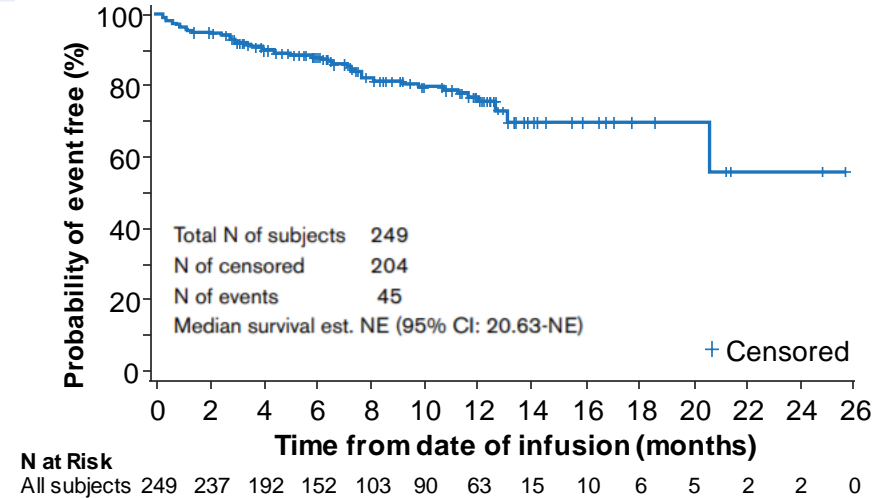
- Median time from ALL diagnosis to CAR T-cell infusion was 32 months
- The median follow-up of patients with ALL was 13.4 months

# Results: Event-free and overall survival

EFS Rates Among All Infused Patients, % (95% CI) N = 249	
6 months	68.6 (62.0-74.4)
12 months	52.4 (43.4-60.7)

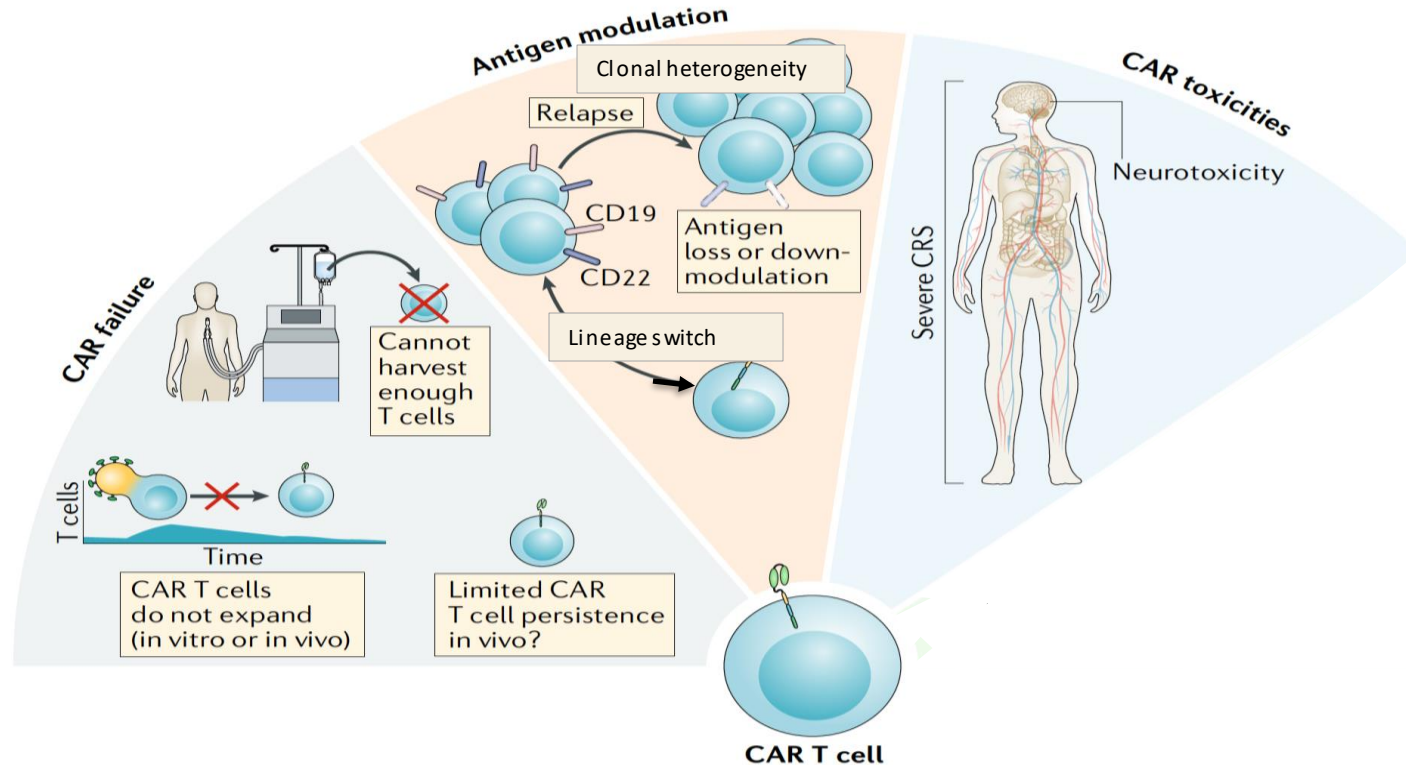


OS Rates Among All Infused Patients, % (95% CI) N = 249	
6 months	88.5 (83.6-92.0)
12 months	77.2 (69.8-83.1)



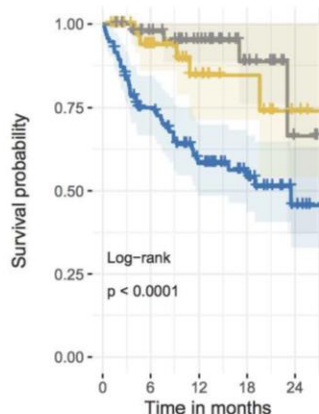
34 (16.1%) patients went on to HSCT after tisagenlecleucel while in remission

# Current limitations of CAR T cells



# Real-world experience with tisagenlecleucel

## B. Overall Survival

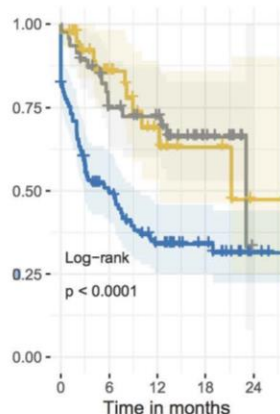


Number at risk

94	63	40	24	7
40	27	14	8	3
46	38	28	12	2
0	6	12	18	24

Time in months

## Event Free Survival

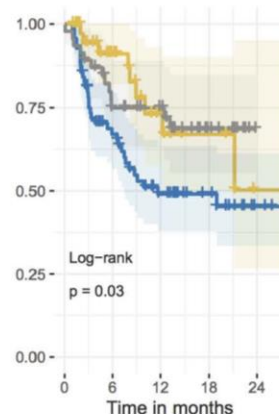


Number at risk

94	40	23	14	3
40	24	12	5	1
46	30	25	10	0
0	6	12	18	24

Time in months

## Duration of Remission



Number at risk

69	40	23	14	3
39	24	12	5	1
46	30	25	10	0
0	6	12	18	24

Time in months

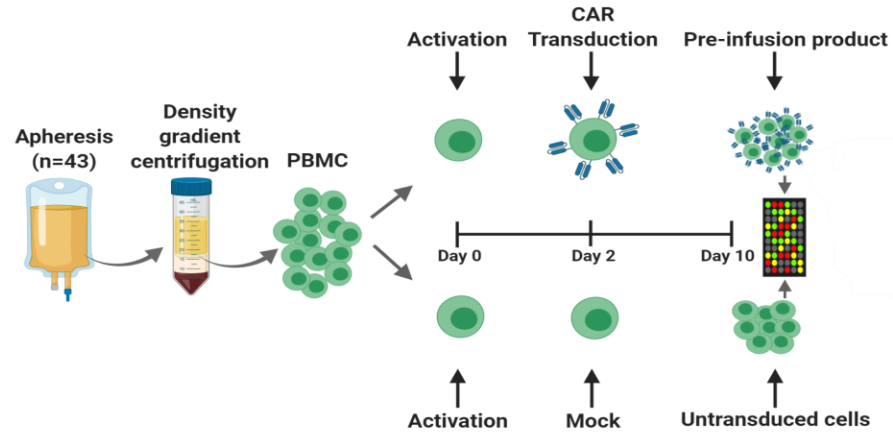
	6mo OS	1y OS	6mo EFS	1y EFS	6mo Drem	1y Drem
High Disease Burden	0.75	0.58	0.50	0.34	0.67	0.49
Low Disease Burden	0.94	0.85	0.86	0.69	0.91	0.73
No Detectable Disease	0.98	0.95	0.75	0.72	0.75	0.75

## High disease burden

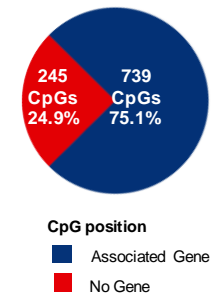
- >5% bone marrow lymphoblasts
- Peripheral blood lymphoblasts
- CNS3 status
- Non-CNS extramedullary (EM) site of disease

# A specific methylation pattern is identified in CAR-transduced vs untransduced T cells of the patients

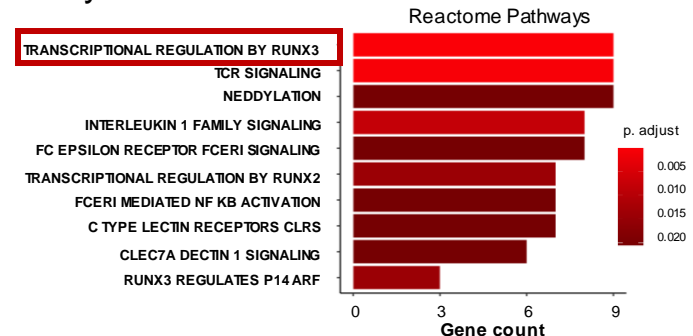
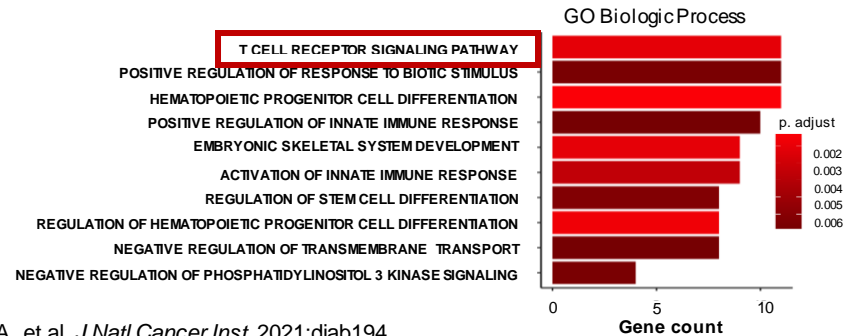
Initial study of the methylation landscape



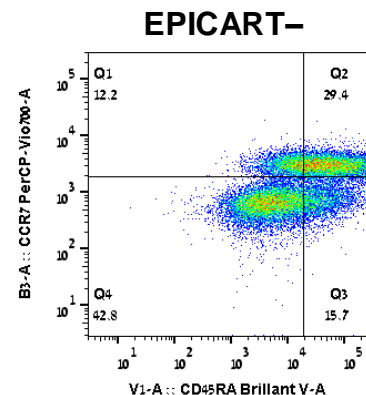
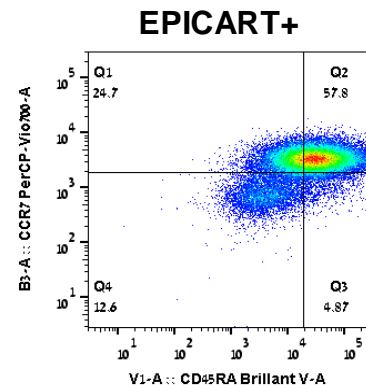
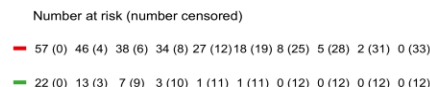
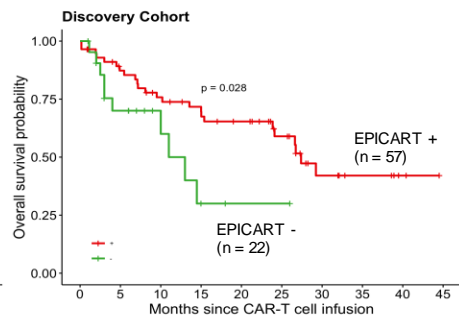
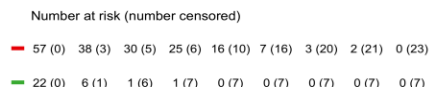
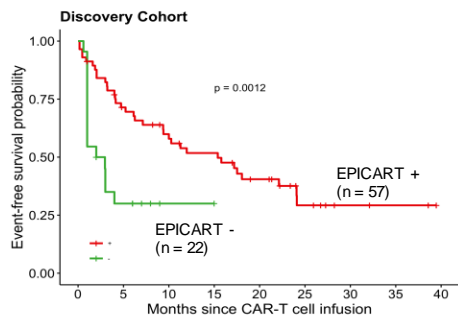
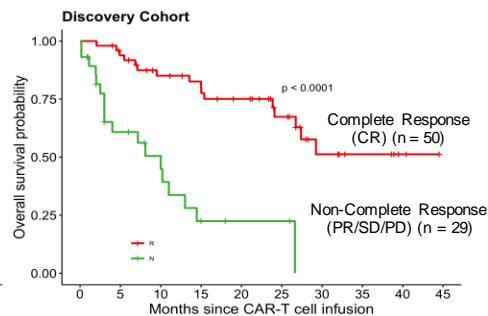
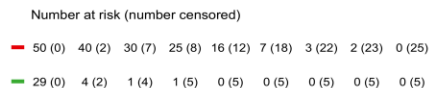
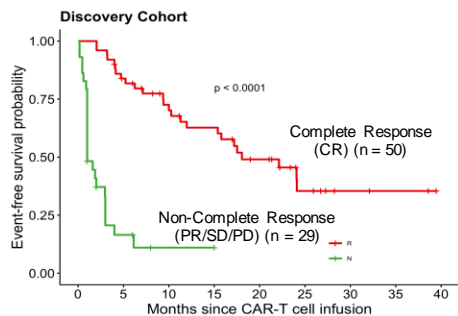
Distribution of CpG sites in the genome

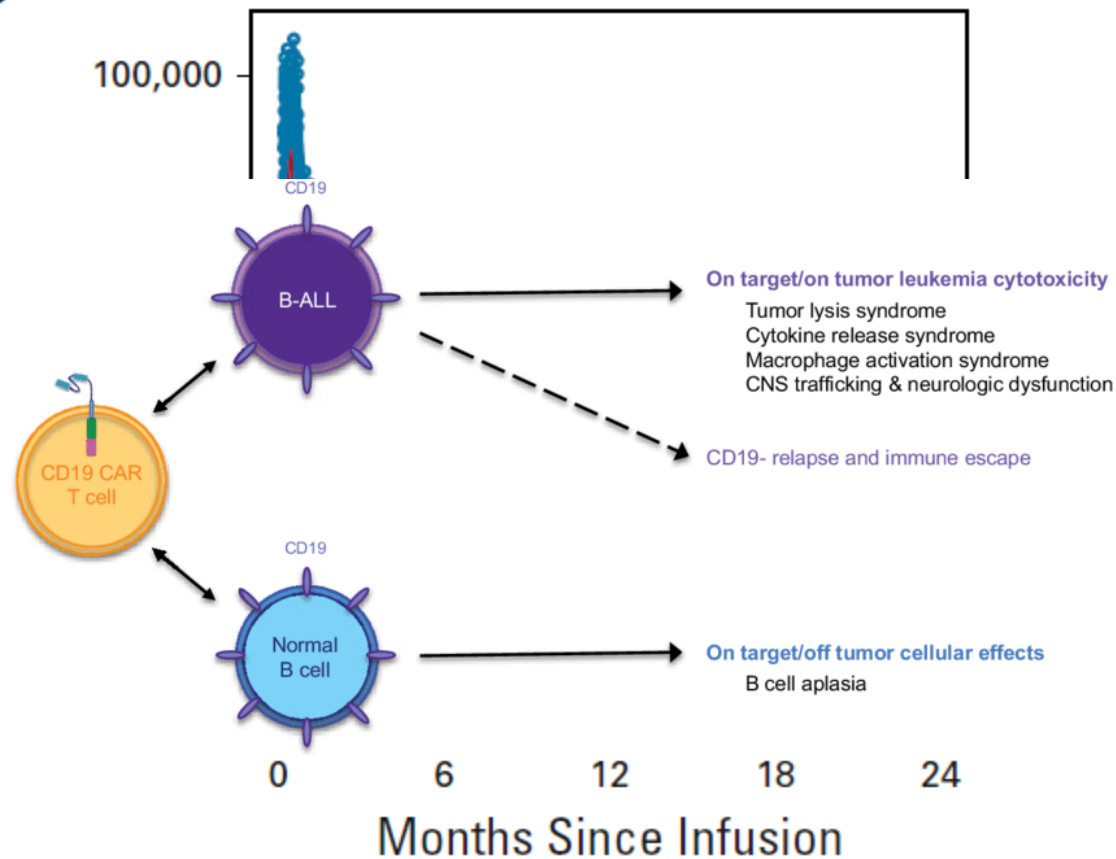
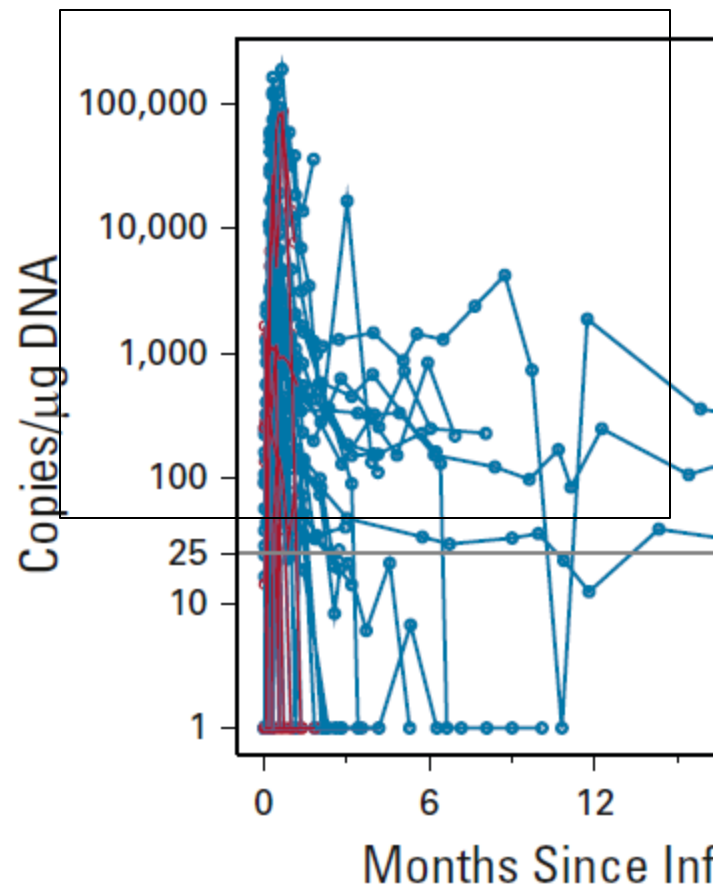


Gene ontology analysis



# 18 specific methylation sites that independently correlate with survival outcomes and a naive-like/early memory phenotype was identified (EPICART signature)



**C****D****E**

1.00

**F**

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# CD19-CAR\_Lenti: Peculiarities

Viral platform	Lentivirus
Viral supernatant	Provided by Miltenyi Biotec
Reagents	Granted by Miltenyi Biotec at reduced costs
Production	Automated (CliniMACS Prodigy®)
Starting material	Fresh apheresis ( $0.75-1.5 \times 10^9$ total WBC)
	CD4/CD8 enriched cells ( $20-200 \times 10^6$ cells)
Release	Fresh drug product
Time between apheresis and lymphodepletion	9 days
Time between apheresis and infusion	14 days

# Patient characteristics

	Pt ID	Gender	Age (y)	Cytogenetic Anomalies	Disease Phase at Infusion	Previous Allogeneic HSCT	BM Blasts at Lymphodepletion
DL1	001	M	7	None	ALL 2nd relapse	No	8.9%
	002	F	5	None	ALL 3rd relapse	Yes	15.7%
	003	F	7	47, XX (+21)	ALL 1st very early relapse	No	2.8%
	004	M	4	None	ALL 2nd relapse (combined BM+CNS)	Yes	0.6%
DL2	005	M	12	t(1;19)	ALL 1st refractory relapse (combined BM + bone)	No	2.3%
	006	F	13	None	ALL 1st very early relapse (combined BM + bone + lymph nodes)	Yes	10%

# Feasibility and toxicity

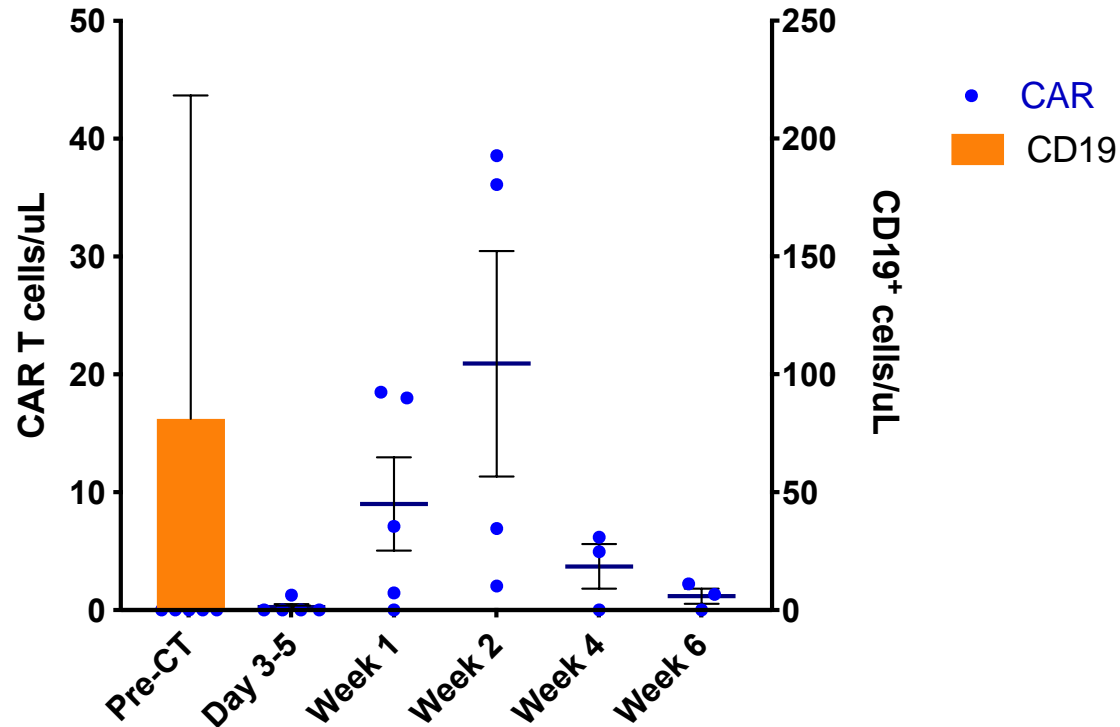
ID	Total Cell End-Production ( $\times 10^9$ )	Viability	CAR, %
CD19_Lenti-OPBG-001	1.39	89.1 %	55.4%
CD19_Lenti-OPBG-002	4.05	93.8 %	27.4%
CD19_Lenti-OPBG-003	4.62	97.3%	17.5%
CD19_Lenti-OPBG-004	5.36	95.1%	35%
CD19_Lenti-OPBG-005	4.99	97.4%	39%
CD19_Lenti-OPBG-006	4.83	94%	54.8%
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>3.37</b>	<b>94.5%</b>	<b>38.2%</b>

## Pre-collection counts

- WBC: 200/ $\mu$ L
- Lymphocytes: 150/ $\mu$ L
- CD3<sup>+</sup> cells: 120/ $\mu$ L

CRS	4/6
- Grade 1-2	4
- Grade 3	0
- Grade 4	0
Neutropenia	6/6
- Grade 1-2	0
- Grade 3-4	6
Thrombocytopenia	6/6
Anemia	6/6
B-cell aplasia	6/6
Neurotoxicity	2/6

# CAR\_Lenti expansion and outcome



**All patients obtained CR 2 weeks after infusion**

## B-ALL



- Ph-like (n = 7)
- ETV6-RUNX1 (n = 2)
- TCF3-PBX1 (n = 2)
- BCR-ABL1 (n = 1)
- ETV6-RUNX1-like (n = 1)
- Hyperdiploid (>50 chr) (n = 1)
- Low hyperdiploid (47-49 chr) (n = 1)
- iAMP21 (n = 1)
- Low hypodiploid (31-39 chr) (n = 1)
- PAX5alt-PAX5-FBRS1 (n = 1)
- B-other (n = 3)

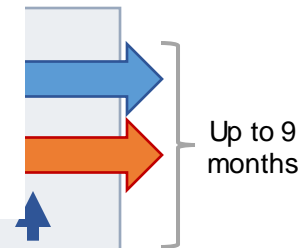
(vincristine, dexamethasone, and PEG-asparaginase)

## T-ALL



- Non-ETP-ALL (n = 6)
- ETP-ALL (n = 12)

## profiling



## Disease evaluation

Days

1 2 3 8 9 15 22 29 36 43 50 57 85

## Outcomes

**Primary:** safety assessments (including incidence of DLTs and AEs) and pharmacokinetics of venetoclax and navitoclax

**Secondary:** efficacy assessments (CR rate, PFS, OS) and proportion of patients proceeding to SCT or CAR T-cell therapy

Parameter	B-ALL (n = 25)	T-ALL (n = 19)	LL (n = 3)	All patients* (N = 47)	Pediatric* (n = 12)
Response <sup>b</sup> , n (%)					
CR rate (CR/CR <sub>i</sub> /CR <sub>p</sub> )	16 (64.0)	10 (52.6)	2 (66.7)	28 (59.6)	9 (75.0)
PR	3 (12.0)	0	0	3 (6.4)	1 (8.3)
SD	2 (8.0)	6 (31.6)	0	8 (17.0)	0
PD	4 (16.0)	3 (15.8)	1 (33.3)	8 (17.0)	2 (16.7)
Patients with ALL and morphologic CR at baseline, n	n = 1	n = 4	NA	n = 5	n = 1
Response, n (%)					
CR rate (CR/CR <sub>i</sub> /CR <sub>p</sub> )	0	3 (75.0)		3 (60.0)	1 (100)
SD	0	1 (25.0)		1 (20.0)	0
NE <sup>c</sup>	1 (100)	0		1 (20.0)	0
DOR <sup>d</sup> in all responders					
n	19	10	2	31	10
Median (95% CI), mo	9.1 (1.4–14.6)	4.2 (0.8–12.3)	NE (NE–NE)	4.2 (2.3–11.5)	3.5 (0.7–3.5)
OS					
Median (95% CI), mo	9.7 (4.0–15.7)	6.6 (3.2–12.5)	NE (2.0–NE)	7.8 (4.0–12.5)	NE (2.0–NE)
12-month (95% CI), %	33.8 (13.7–55.2)	29.7 (10.4–52.2)	66.7 (5.4–94.5)	35.6 (20.9–50.7)	60.8 (25.0–83.6)
Bone marrow MRD, n (%)					
MRD negative (<10 <sup>-4</sup> )	9 (36.0)	6 (31.6)	1 (33.3)	16 (34.0)	6 (50.0)
MRD positive	10 (40.0)	3 (15.8)	1 (33.3)	14 (29.8)	5 (41.7)
Other <sup>e</sup>	6 (24.0)	10 (52.6)	1 (33.3)	17 (36.2)	1 (8.3)
Proceeded to CAR T-cell therapy or HCT, n (%) <sup>f</sup>	8 (32.0)	3 (15.8)	2 (66.7)	13 (27.7)	7 (58.3)

# **Final considerations**

- **Although leukemia recurrence remains the main cause of treatment failure in childhood ALL, the chance of rescuing relapsed patients is increasing over time**
- **Immunotherapy is changing the therapeutic scenario of relapsed patients with childhood B-ALL**
- **BiTE, ADC, and CAR T cells were shown to be effective in inducing, consolidating, and maintaining remission in children with B-ALL**
- **Future studies are warranted to more precisely define the role of different immunotherapy options with the respective pros and limitations, also in comparison with the standard of care, still represented by allogeneic HSCT**
- **Patients with T-ALL have much more limited benefit from immunotherapy, and rescue strategy for relapsed patients still represents an unmet medical need**
- **Targeted therapy may represent a valuable option for both BCP-ALL after immunotherapy and for T-ALL**

# Bispecific T-cell engagers for pediatric ALL

Christina Peters





## Question 1

A 2-year-old boy (CD19-ALL/MLL-rearrangement) presents with MRD  $10^{-2}$  28 days after 3 high-risk blocks and bone marrow hypoplasia.

Would you

- a) Give another intensive chemo-block
- b) Proceed with allogeneic HSCT with a TBI-containing regimen
- c) Start blinatumomab continuous infusion
- d) Proceed with allogeneic HSCT with a myeloablative chemo-conditioning regimen
- e) Produce CD19 CAR T cells



## Question 2

What severe side effect in children is unlikely to be associated with blinatumomab?

- a) Hypotension
- b) Fever
- c) Cytokine release syndrome
- d) Encephalopathy
- e) Seizures
- f) Irreversible bone marrow aplasia

# Bispecific T-Cell Engagers for Pediatric ALL

Christina Peters, Medical University Vienna,  
Vienna, Austria



Global Leukemia  
Academy  
27-28 October 2021

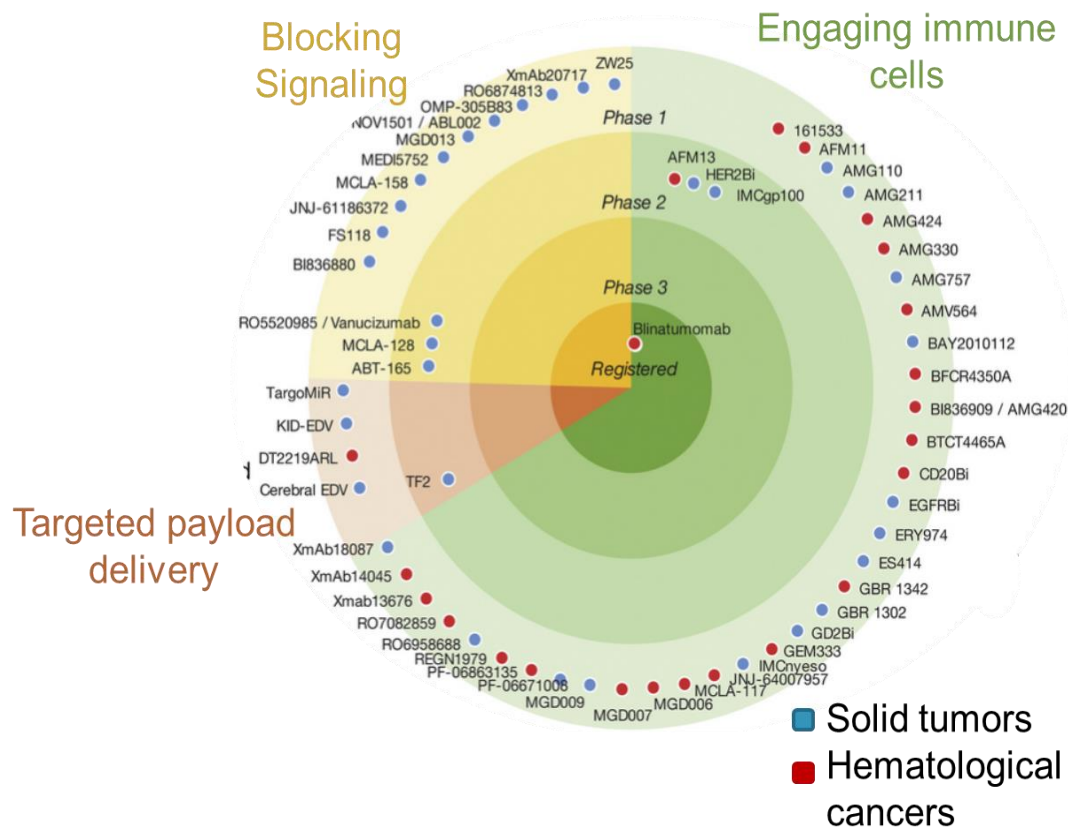
Company name	Disclosure
Amgen	Consultancy, honoraria and travel support
Novartis	Consultancy
Jazz	Speakers bureau
Pfizer	Consultancy
Medac	Consultancy
Neovii	Speakers bureau

# Bispecific Antibodies in children and AYA: Topics

- Treatment options prior to HSCT
- Special pediatric populations
  - Down Syndrome
  - Infant ALL
  - Patients with risk for severe organ toxicities and/or opportunistic infections
- Treatment options post HSCT



# Bispecific Antibodies Today



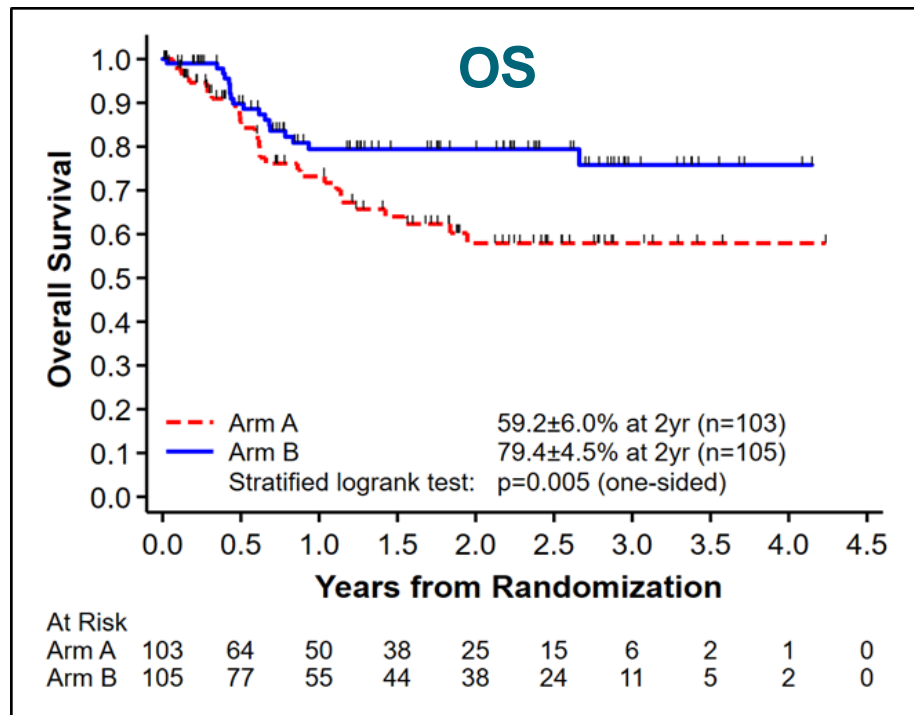
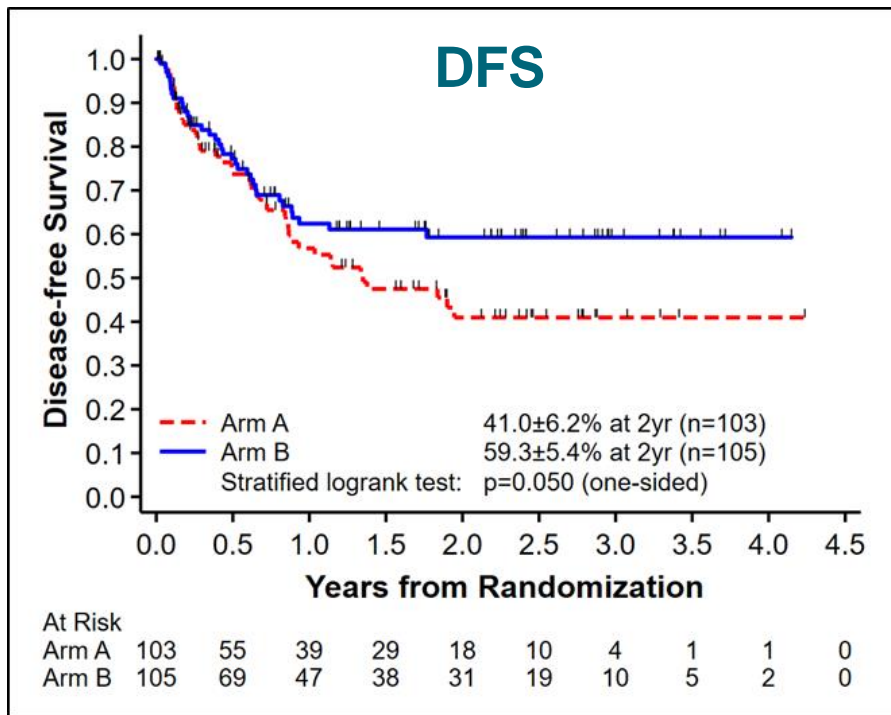
# Summary of Blinatumomab Pharmacodynamics

- Blinatumomab cIV infusion leads to rapid depletion of B-cells during Cycle 1, which is associated with decrease in serum immunoglobulin levels<sup>1–3</sup>
- Blinatumomab leads to a transient decrease in T-cell counts, followed by an accelerated recovery<sup>1,3–5</sup>
  - May induce peripheral expansion of T-cell compartment, predominantly effector memory T-cell subsets, above baseline levels
- Blinatumomab induces T-cell activation<sup>1,3,4,6</sup>
  - Associated with cytokine release, mainly in Cycle 1
  - Risk of severe CRS managed by stepped dosing and pre-phase DEX

# Safety and Adverse Reactions

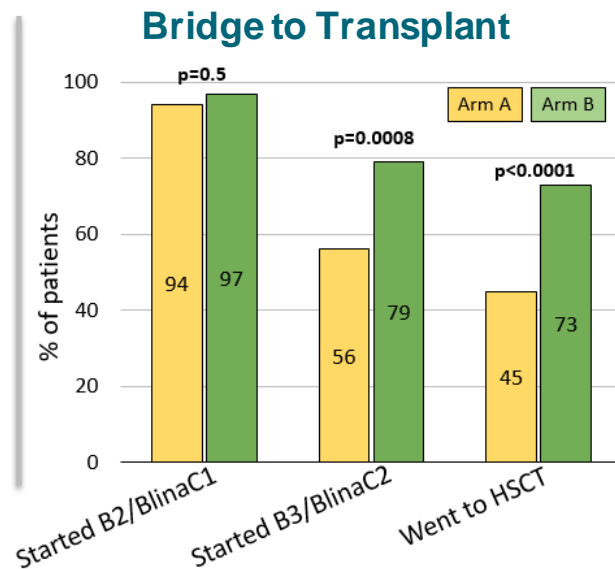
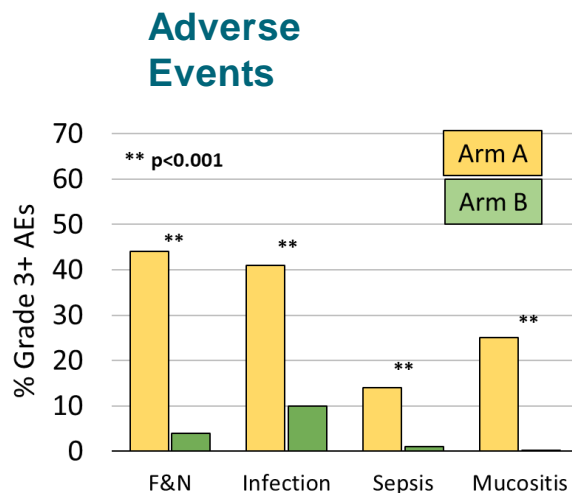
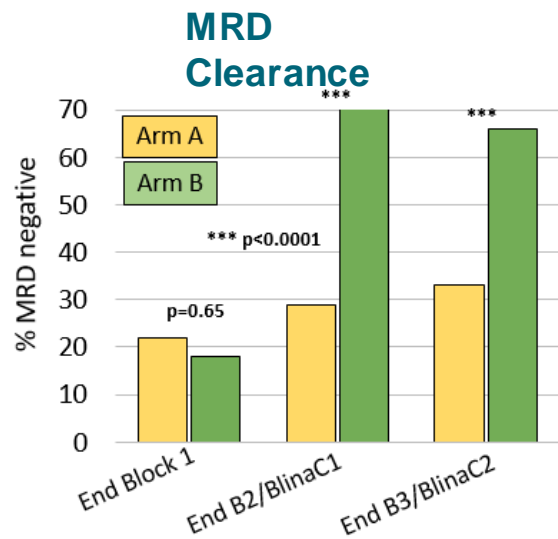
- Cytokine release syndrome
- Neurological toxicities
- Infections
- Tumor lysis syndrome
- Neutropenia and febrile neutropenia
- Effects on ability to drive and use machines
- Elevated liver enzymes
- Pancreatitis
- Leukoencephalopathy
- Preparation and administration errors
- Immunization
- Risk of serious adverse reactions in pediatric patients due to benzyl alcohol (C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O) preservative

# ALL 1<sup>st</sup> Relapse: Survival: Arm A (Chemotherapy) vs Arm B (Blinatumomab)



Median follow-up 2.9 years

# Other Endpoints: MRD, AEs, HSCT Bridging



Significant contributors to the improved outcomes for Arm B (blina) vs Arm A (chemo) in HR/IR relapses may include better **MRD clearance, less toxicity, and greater ability to successfully bridge to HSCT**

# Amgen 20120215: Open-Label, Randomized, Phase III Trial – 47 Centers, 13 Countries

## Key eligibility criteria

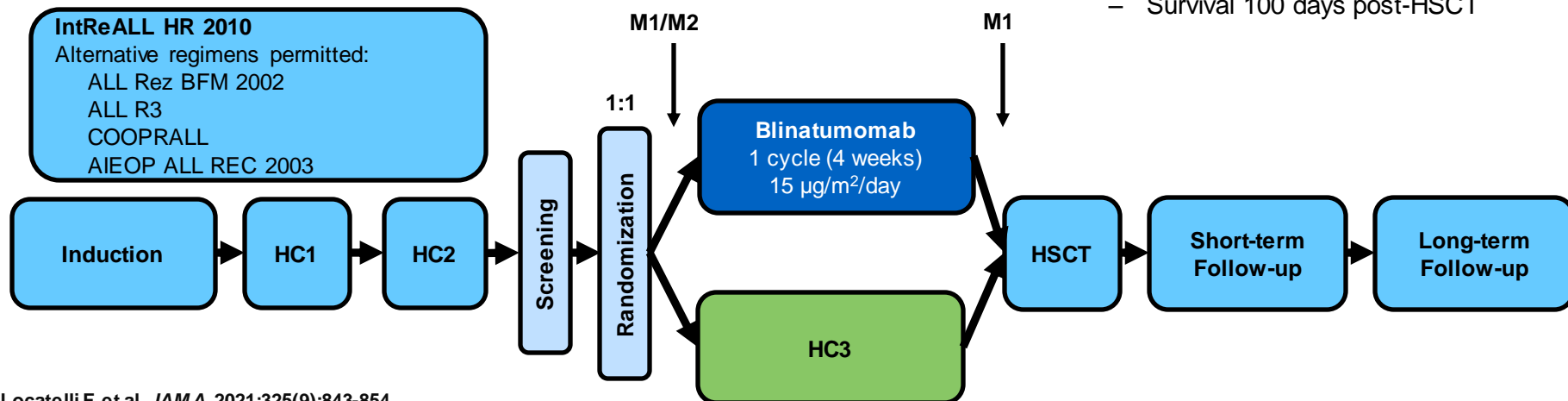
- Age >28 days **<18 years**
- HR 1st relapse Ph<sup>+</sup> BCP-ALL
- M1 or M2 marrow at randomization
- No CNS disease, unless treated before enrolment
- No clinically relevant CNS pathology

## Stratification

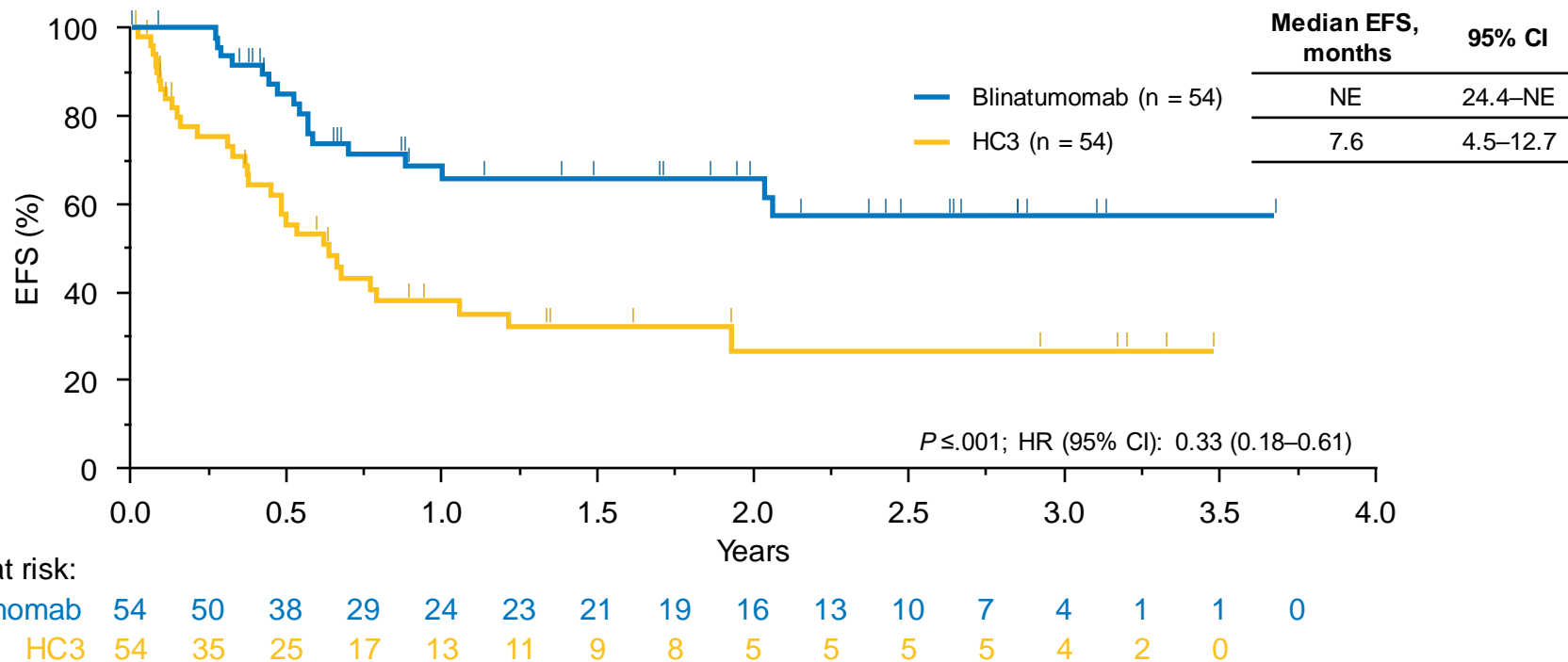
- Age: <1 year, 1 to 9 years, >9 years
- BM status at end of HC2
  - M1 with MRD  $>10^{-3}$
  - M1 with MRD  $<10^{-3}$
  - M2

## Endpoints

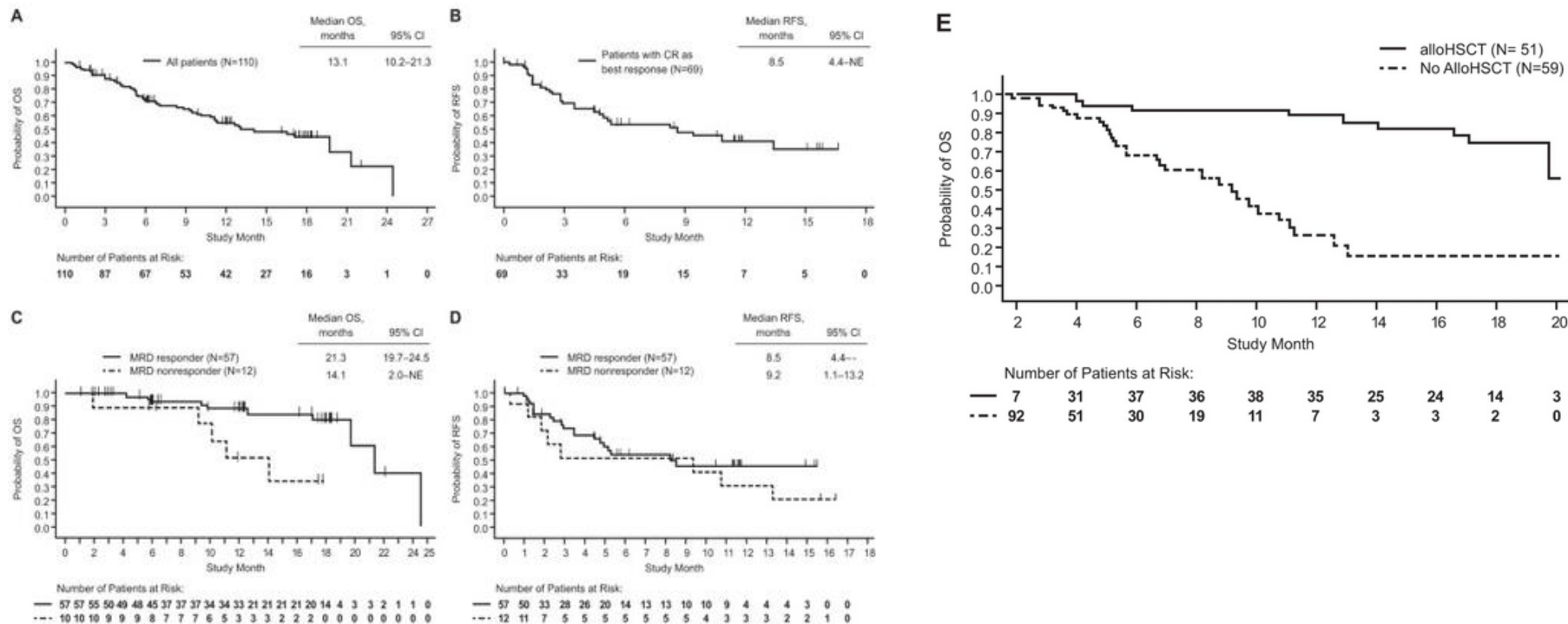
- Primary: EFS
- Secondary
  - OS
  - MRD response (end of blinatumomab or HC3)
  - Cumulative incidence of relapse
  - Incidence of AEs
  - Survival 100 days post-HSCT



# Superior EFS in the Blinatumomab Arm



# Blinatumomab Use in Pediatric Patients With Relapsed/Refractory B-Precursor Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia From an Open-Label, Multicenter, Expanded Access Study (RIALTO)



# Children With Down Syndrome (DS)<sup>1-6</sup>

- Have a greater risk for developing leukemia
- Experience significant adverse effects of chemotherapy
- Increased risk for infection-associated TRM

- Buitenkamp TD, Izraeli S, Zimmermann M, Forestier E, Heerema NA, van den Heuvel-Eibrink MM, Pieters R, Korbijn CM, Silverman LB, Schmiegelow K, Liang DC, Horibe K, Arico M, Biondi A, Basso G, Rabin KR, Schrappe M, Cario G, Mann G, Morak M, Panzer-Grümayer R, Mondelaers V, Lammens T, Cavé H, Stark B, Ganmore I, Moorman AV, Vora A, Hunger SP, Pui CH, Mullighan CG, Manabe A, Escherich G, Kowalczyk JR, Whitlock JA, Zwaan CM. Acute lymphoblastic leukemia in children with Down syndrome: a retrospective analysis from the Ponte di Legno study group. *Blood*. 2014;123(1):70-77.
- Meissner B, Borkhardt A, Dilloo D, Fuchs D, Friedrich W, Handgretinger R, Peters C, Schrauder A, Schuster FR, Vormoor J, Maecker B, Sykora KW, Zintl F, Welte K, Sauer M. **Relapse, not regimen-related toxicity, was the major cause of treatment failure** in 11 children with Down syndrome undergoing haematopoietic stem cell transplantation for acute leukaemia. *Bone Marrow Transplant*. 2007;40(10):945-949.
- Hitzler JK, He W, Doyle J, Cairo M, Camitta BM, Chan KW, Diaz Perez MA, Fraser C, Gross TG, Horan JT, Kennedy-Nasser AA, Kitko C, Kurtzberg J, Lehmann L, O'Brien T, Pulsipher MA, Smith FO, Zhang MJ, Eapen M, Carpenter PA; CIBMTR Pediatric Cancer Working Committee. **Outcome of transplantation for acute lymphoblastic leukemia in children with Down syndrome.** *Pediatr Blood Cancer*. 2014;61(6):1126-1128.
- Wadhwa, A, Kutny, MA, Xavier, AC. Blinatumomab activity in a patient with Down syndrome B-precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia. *Pediatr Blood Cancer*. 2018;65:e26824..

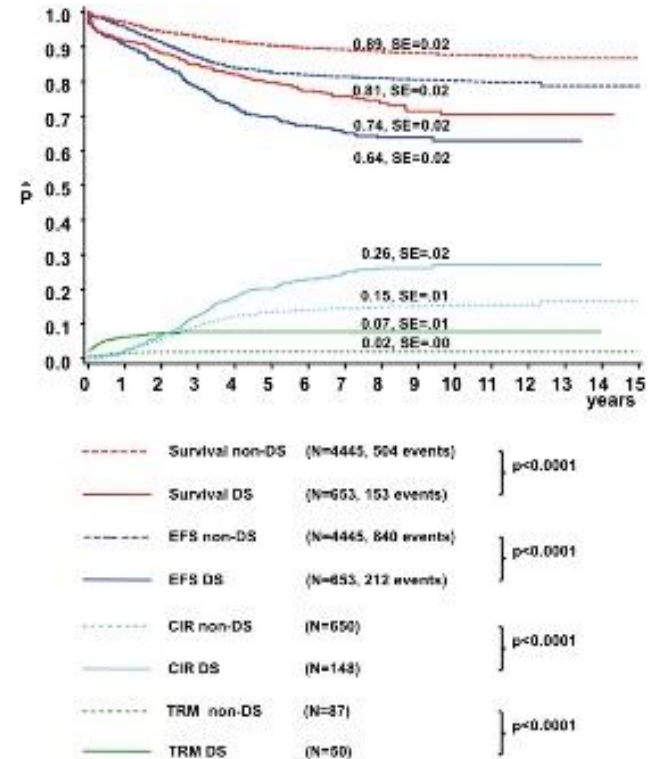


Image: Buitenkamp TD, et al. Acute lymphoblastic leukemia in children with Down syndrome: a retrospective analysis from the Ponte di Legno study group. *Blood*. 2014;123(1):70-77.

## New Trials for Patient With DS and ALL

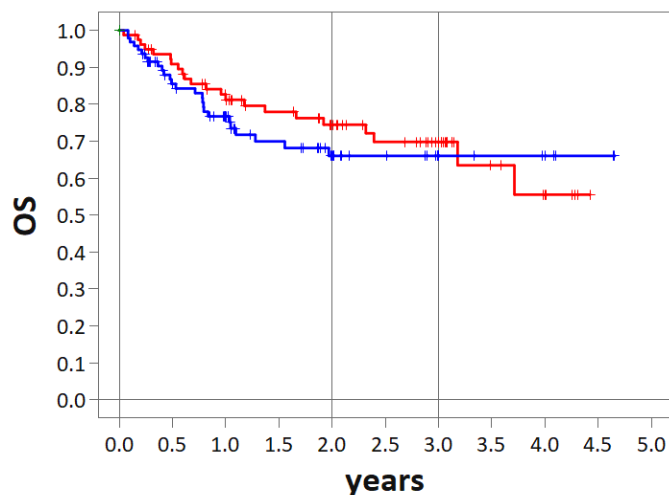
- A Phase III Trial Investigating Blinatumomab in Combination With Chemotherapy in Patients With Newly Diagnosed Standard Risk or Down Syndrome B-Lymphoblastic Leukemia (B-ALL) and the Treatment of Patients With Localized B-Lymphoblastic Lymphoma (B-LLy): [NCT03914625 \(NCI\)](#)
  - Primary Outcome Measure: DFS in randomization eligible patients with higher risk features (SR-High) or standard risk average (SR-Avg) B-ALL patients based on randomization with addition of Blinatumomab
  - Secondary: TRM, Neurocognitive functions, QOL, Caregiver burden, MRD
- Some frontline trials are now enabling DS-patients with high-risk features access to upfront-access with Blinatumomab: [NCT03643276](#) (AIEOP 2017) , [NCT04307576](#) (AllTogether1) and [NCT03117751](#) (TOTAL St. Jude).

# Infant ALL: Poorer Outcome Compared With Older Children

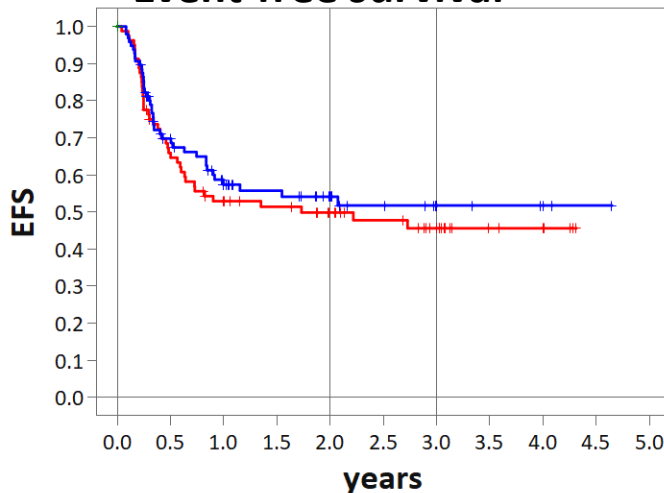
- Biology: 80% KMT2A-rearrangement
- Treatment related toxicity: 18.4% in prospective INTERFANT-trial
  - Pieters R, Schrappe M, De Lorenzo P, Hann I, De Rossi G, Felice M, Hovi L, LeBlanc T, Szczepanski T, Ferster A, Janka G, Rubnitz J, Silverman L, Stary J, Campbell M, Li CK, Mann G, Suppiah R, Biondi A, Vora A, Valsecchi MG. A treatment protocol for infants younger than 1 year with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (Interfant-99): an observational study and a multicentre randomised trial. *Lancet*. 2007;370(9583):240-250.
  - Pieters R, De Lorenzo P, Ancliffe P, Aversa LA, Brethon B, Biondi A, Campbell M, Escherich G, Ferster A, Gardner RA, Kotecha RS, Lausen B, Li CK, Locatelli F, Attarbaschi A, Peters C, Rubnitz JE, Silverman LB, Stary J, Szczepanski T, Vora A, Schrappe M, Valsecchi MG. Outcome of Infants Younger Than 1 Year With Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Treated With the Interfant-06 Protocol: Results From an International Phase III Randomized Study. *J Clin Oncol*. 2019;37(25):2246-2256
- HSCT with TBI associated with several late effects
  - Sanders JE, Im HJ, Hoffmeister PA, Gooley TA, Woolfrey AE, Carpenter PA, Andrews RG, Bryant EM, Appelbaum FR. Allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation for infants with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. *Blood*. 2005;105(9):3749-3756.
- HSCT with chemo-conditioning is associated with higher relapse incidence
  - Peters C, Schrappe M, von Stackelberg A, Schrauder A, Bader P, Ebell W, Lang P, Sykora KW, Schrum J, Kremens B, Ehlert K, Albert MH, Meisel R, Matthes-Martin S, Gungor T, Holter W, Strahm B, Gruhn B, Schulz A, Woessmann W, Poetschger U, Zimmermann M, Klingebiel T. Stem-cell transplantation in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia: A prospective international multicenter trial comparing sibling donors with matched unrelated donors-The ALL-SCT-BFM-2003 trial. *J Clin Oncol*. 2015;33(11):1265-1274.
  - Willasch AM, Peters C, Sedláček P, Dalle JH, Kitra-Roussou V, Yesilipek A, Wachowiak J, Lankester A, Prete A, Hamidieh AA, Ifversen M, Buechner J, Kriván G, Hamladi RM, Diaz-de-Heredia C, Skorobogatova E, Michel G, Locatelli F, Bertaina A, Veys P, Dupont S, Or R, Güngör T, Aleinikova O, Suflarska S, Sundin M, Rascon J, Kaare A, Nemeth D, Fagioli F, Klingebiel TE, Styczynski J, Bierings M, Nagy K, Abecasis M, Afanasyev B, Ansari M, Vetterranta K, Alseraihy A, Chybicka A, Robinson S, Bertrand Y, Kupesiz A, Ghavamzadeh A, Campos A, Pichler H, Dalissier A, Labopin M, Corbacioglu S, Balduzzi A, Galimard JE, Bader P; EBMT Paediatric Diseases Working Party. Myeloablative conditioning for allo-HSCT in pediatric ALL: FTBI or chemotherapy?-A multicenter EBMT-PDWP study. *Bone Marrow Transplant*. 2020;55(8):1540-1551.

# MSD/MD<4 yrs.

## Overall survival



## Event-free survival

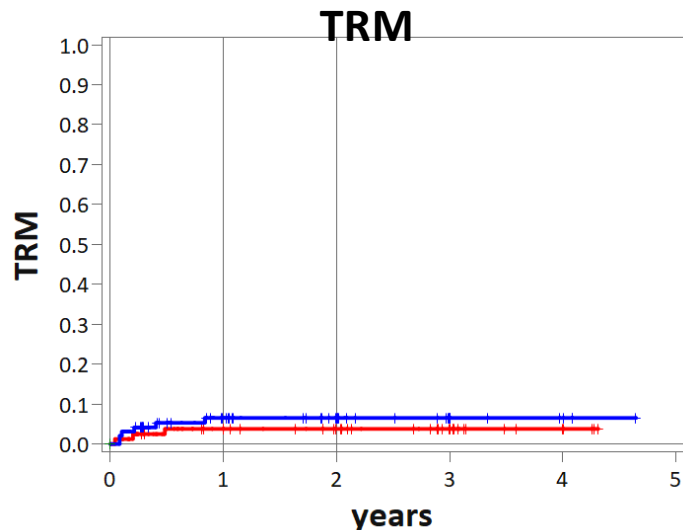
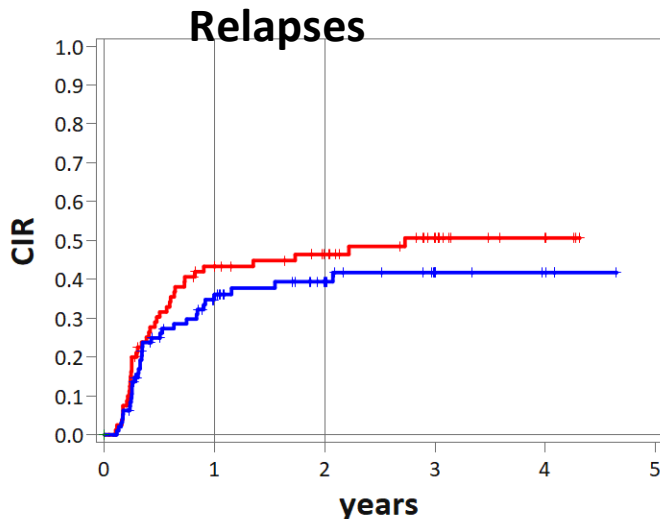


age2	Patients	Events	2-yrs OS	3-yrs. OS	p-value
0-2	86	22	0.74±0.05	0.70±0.06	0.612
2-4	101	26	0.66±0.06	0.66±0.06	.

Events	2-yrs EFS	3-yrs. EFS	p-value
41	0.50±0.06	0.46±0.06	0.472
41	0.54±0.05	0.52±0.06	.

# ALL SCTped FORUM

## MSD/MD<4 yrs. Flu/Thio/Bu; Flu/Thio/Treo



age2	Patients	n(CIR)	2 years CIR	n(TRM)	2 years TRM	n(Sec. mal)	2 years EFS
0-2	86	38	0.46±0.06	3	0.04±0.02	0	0.50±0.06
2-4	101	35	0.39±0.05	6	0.07±0.03	0	0.54±0.05
P-value	.	.	0.255	.	0.442	.	0.472

# Blinatumomab for Infants

- Clesham K, Rao V, Bartram J, Ancliff P, Ghorashian S, O'Connor D, Pavasovic V, Rao A, Samarasinghe S, Cummins M, Malone A, Patrick K, Bonney D, James B, Gibson B, Vora A. Blinatumomab for infant acute lymphoblastic leukemia. *Blood*. 2020;135(17):1501-1504..
- Sutton R, Pozza LD, Khaw SL, Fraser C, Revesz T, Chamberlain J, Mitchell R, Trahair TN, Bateman CM, Venn NC, Law T, Ong E, Heatley SL, McClure BJ, Meyer C, Marschalek R, Henderson MJ, Cross S, White DL, Kotecha RS. Outcomes for Australian children with relapsed/refractory acute lymphoblastic leukaemia treated with blinatumomab. *Pediatr Blood Cancer*. 2021;68(5):e28922.
- Popov A, Fominikh V, Mikhailova E, Shelikhova L, Tsaar G, Abugova Y, Zerkalenskova E, Olshanskaya Y, Balashov D, Novichkova G, Maschan A, Miakova N. Blinatumomab following haematopoietic stem cell transplantation - a novel approach for the treatment of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in infants. *Br J Haematol*. 2021;194(1):174-178.
- Interfant network: Blinfant protocol: Pilot study - the addition of Blinatumomab to the Interfant-06 backbone in infants with MLL-rearranged acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. EudraCT: 2016-00467417

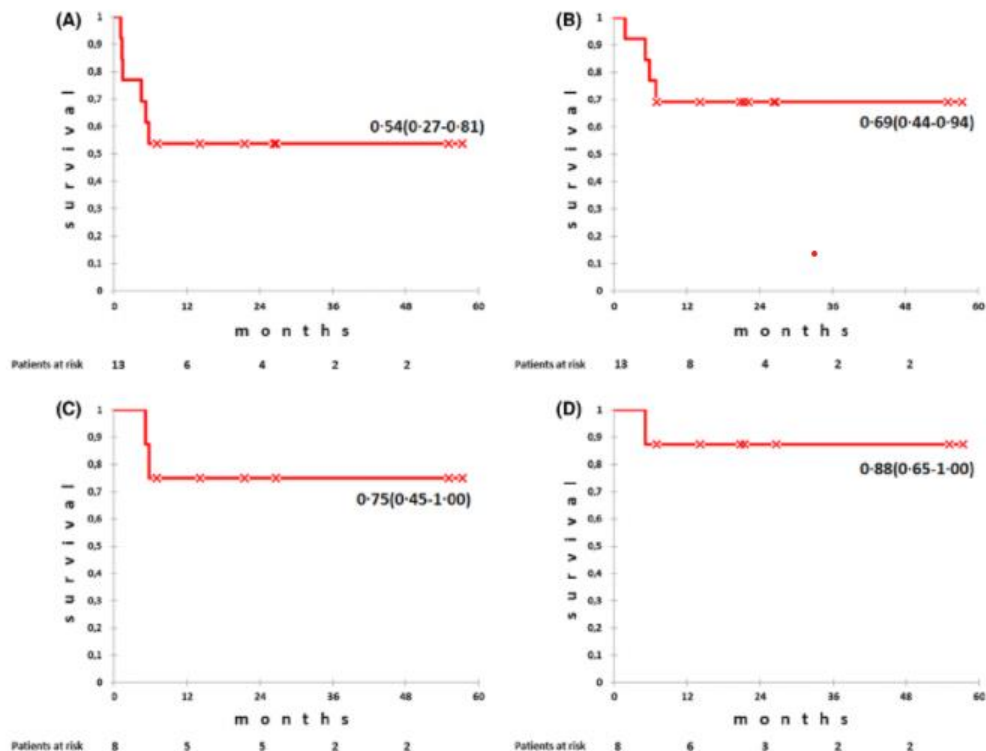


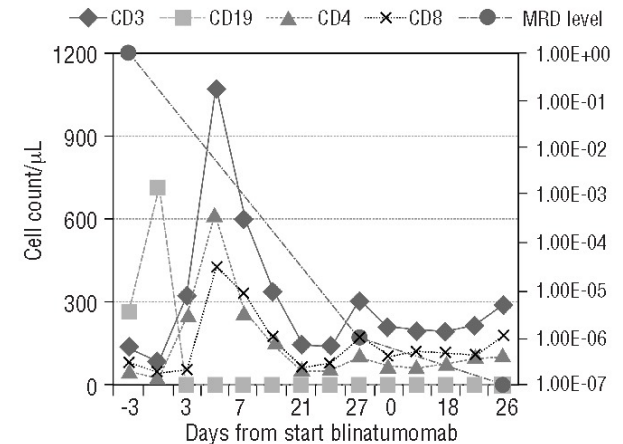
Fig 1. Disease-free survival (panels A and C) and overall survival (panels B and D) of all studied patients ( $n = 13$ , panels A and B), as well as of eight infants, who were treated with blinatumomab with subsequent haematopoietic stem cell transplantation in first complete remission because of slow clearance or persistence of multicolour flow cytometry minimal residual disease (MRD) or fusion-gene transcript MRD (panels C and D). The 95% confidential intervals are indicated in parenthesis. Censored patients are marked with  $\times$  sign. [Colour figure can be viewed at [wiley onlinelibrary.com](#)]

## Other Rare Pediatric Conditions

- Minson KA, Prasad P, Vear S, Borinstein S, Ho R, Domm J, Frangoul H. **t(17;19) in Children** with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia: A Report of 3 Cases and a Review of the Literature. *Case Rep Hematol*. 2013;2013:563291. doi: 10.1155/2013/563291. PMID: 23346431; PMCID: PMC3549381.
- Tambaro FP, Khazal S, Nunez C, Ragoonanan D, Tewari P, Petropoulos D, Kebriaei P, Wierda WG, Mahadeo KM. Complete remission in refractory acute lymphoblastic leukemia using **blinatumomab after failure of response to CD-19 chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy**. *Clin Case Rep*. 2020;8(9):1678-1681. doi: 10.1002/ccr3.2918. PMID: 32983475; PMCID: PMC7495807.
- Borriello A, Locasciulli A, Bianco AM, Criscuolo M, Conti V, Grammatico P, Cappellacci S, Zatterale A, Morgese F, Cucciolla V, Delia D, Della Ragione F, Savoia A. A novel Leu153Ser mutation of the **Fanconi anemia** FANCD2 gene is associated with severe chemotherapy toxicity in a pediatric T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. *Leukemia*. 2007;21(1):72-78. doi: 10.1038/sj.leu.2404468. PMID: 17096012.

# Blinatumomab After HSCT

- Handgretinger R, Zugmaier G, Henze G, Kreyenberg H, Lang P, von Stackelberg A. Complete remission after blinatumomab-induced donor T-cell activation in three pediatric patients with post-transplant relapsed acute lymphoblastic leukemia. *Leukemia*. 2011;25(1):181-184.
- Schlegel P, Lang P, Zugmaier G, Ebinger M, Kreyenberg H, Witte KE, Feucht J, Pfeiffer M, Teltschik HM, Kyzirakos C, Feuchtinger T, Handgretinger R. Pediatric posttransplant relapsed/refractory B-precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia shows durable remission by therapy with the T-cell engaging bispecific antibody blinatumomab. *Haematologica*. 2014;99(7):1212-1219.
- Wu H, Cai Z, Shi J, Luo Y, Huang H, Zhao Y. Blinatumomab for HLA loss relapse after haploidentical hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. *Am J Cancer Res*. 2021;11(6):3111-3122.
- Stein AS, Kantarjian H, Gökbüget N, Bargou R, Litzow MR, Rambaldi A, Ribera JM, Zhang A, Zimmerman Z, Zugmaier G, Topp MS. Blinatumomab for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Relapse after Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation. *Biol Blood Marrow Transplant*. 2019;25(8):1498-1504.
- Alcharakh M, Yun S, Dong Y, Vincelette ND, Daud M, Manzoor S, Riaz IB, Anwer F. Blinatumomab-induced donor T-cell activation for post-stem cell transplant-relapsed acute CD19-positive biphenotypic leukemia. *Immunotherapy*. 2016;8(8):847-852.
- Blinatumomab Maintenance Following Allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation for Patients With Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia: (NCT02807883)**
- Blinatumomab after T-cell receptor (TCR) alpha/beta-depleted HSCT (NCT04746209)**
- Blinatumomab for MRD in pre-B-ALL patients following HSCT (NCT04044560)**





# Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation for Children and Adolescents with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia:

## **ALL SCTped FORUM**

(For Omitting Radiation Under Majority age)

Christina Peters, Peter Bader, Franco Locatelli  
for the Study Group

Multicentre phase II study

Add-on study to ALL SCTped 2012 FORUM (EudraCT number: 2012-003032-22)

**A Phase II Study of Blincyto in Children with  
CD19+ precursor B-lineage ALL and MRD-  
Positivity before and/or following first  
allogeneic HSCT in second remission**

International treatment protocol



# Investigator-Sponsored Study Proposal: Synopsis

- Indication for first allogeneic HSCT: CD19+ ALL in first, second, > second remission
- Inclusion criteria
  - Age:  $\geq 0.5$  years and  $\leq 21$  years of age
  - Confirmed CD19+ disease prior to enrollment on study
- Exclusion criteria
  - Patients with recent episode of seizures or posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome in the past 30 days
- Patients must be at least  $\geq 60$  days post-SCT without evidence of grade 2 or higher acute GVHD and no steroid use. Withdrawal of immunosuppression will be allowed. The dose of blinatumomab used in this trial will be 15 mcg/m<sup>2</sup>/day for 28 days (starting with 5 mcg/m<sup>2</sup>/day)
- The study drug will be provided by AMGEN and will be directly distributed to the European study sites. Decentral study visits and lab investigations if study site is experienced with Blincyto-treatment
- Documentation, data collection, and central monitoring via FORUM-Marvin
- Study aims: (to be amended?)
  - To assess the feasibility of administering blinatumomab post SCT
  - To define and describe the toxicities of blinatumomab when given in the peri-SCT setting
  - To estimate the 6-month event-free survival (EFS) rate
  - To evaluate the 1-year overall survival rate

# Conclusions

- Blinatumomab is approved in Europe for pediatric patients >1 year or older with R/R Ph-negative CD19-positive B-precursor ALL
- Prospective randomized trials show superior survival compared with intensive chemotherapy
- The toxicity profile is less severe than that observed with contemporary chemotherapy
- Extremely vulnerable ALL patients such as patients with Down syndrome and infants and patients with chromosomal breakage syndromes might benefit from bispecific antibody treatment
- Pre-emptive therapy might reduce relapse-risk after hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation without increasing graft-vs-host disease
- Bispecific monoclonal antibodies might replace toxic chemotherapy for different conditions in pediatric leukemia



## Repeated Question 1

A 2-year-old boy (CD19-ALL/MLL-rearrangement) presents with MRD  $10^{-2}$  28 days after 3 high-risk blocks and bone marrow hypoplasia.

Would you

- a) Give another intensive chemo-block
- b) Proceed with allogeneic HSCT with a TBI-containing regimen
- c) Start blinatumomab continuous infusion
- d) Proceed with allogeneic HSCT with a myeloablative chemo-conditioning regimen
- e) Produce CD19 CAR T cells



## Repeated Question 2

What severe side effect in children is unlikely to be associated with blinatumomab?

- a) Hypotension
- b) Fever
- c) Cytokine release syndrome
- d) Encephalopathy
- e) Seizures
- f) Irreversible bone marrow aplasia

# Q&A session

# Case-based panel discussion – management of long- and short-term toxicities in pediatric ALL patients

Presenters: Francesca Del Bufalo, Natalia  
Zubarovskaya

Faculty panel: Rob Pieters, Franco Locatelli,  
Patrick Brown, Christina Peters, Martin  
Schrappe

# Management of long- and short-term toxicities in pediatric ALL patients – case 1

Francesca Del Bufalo

# CRS management in pediatric ALL

Case presentation

**Francesca del Bufalo, MD**

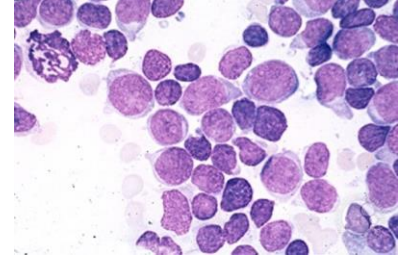
IRCCS Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, Rome, Italy



No relevant disclosures



# Medical history



- 5-year-old boy
- Diagnosis of BCP-LLA, t(12;21) in December 2013
- First-line treatment according to the AIEOP-BFM ALL 2009 international protocol – intermediate risk (TP1 and TP2 response)
- Stop therapy: December 2015
- First combined relapse (BM + testicles + CNS): February 2016
- Bilateral orchiectomy + enrollment in the first-relapse protocol IntReALL SR 2010, arm B

## 2 TREATMENT SCHEDULE INTREALL SR 2010

# Medical history

- Second, CNS-isolated relapse → rescue chemotherapy (intrathecal and systemic) + allogeneic HSCT (June 2017)
- Subsequently, third CNS and bone marrow relapse

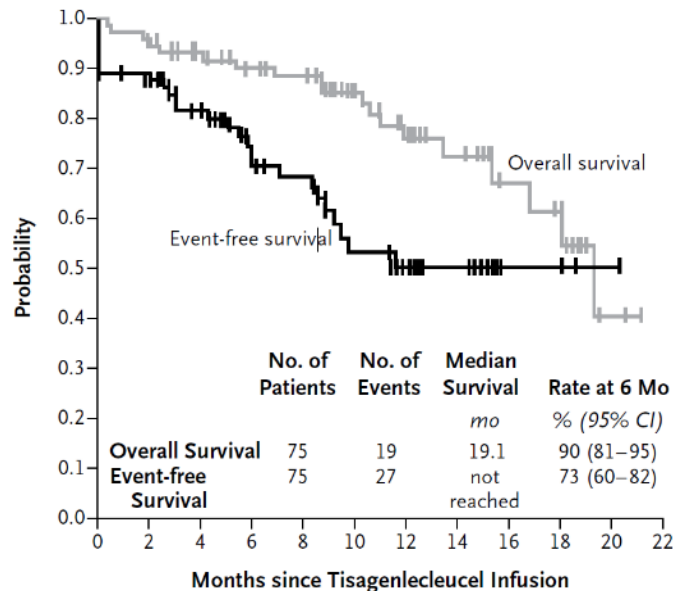
**→ Enrollment in the academic clinical trial CD19-CAR01 (phase I, DL3:  $3 \times 10^6$  CAR+ cells/kg patient body weight)**

# CAR T cells for R/R ALL: Summary of ELIANA study

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Tisagenlecleucel in Children and Young Adults with B-Cell Lymphoblastic Leukemia

- 92 patients enrolled, 75 treated
- 73% grade 3–4 AEs related to CAR T
- **81% → CR/CRI, all MRD negative; 66% in intention-to-treat analysis**
- 1-year EFS at 50%
- Demonstrates feasibility of delivery in multiple centers
- **FDA approval for R/R pediatric ALL: August 2017**



#### No. at Risk

Overall survival	75	72	64	58	55	40	30	20	12	8	2	0
Event-free survival	75	64	51	37	33	19	13	8	3	3	1	0

# Monitoring after CAR T-cell infusion

- From day 0: Severe cytopenia
- D +3: Persistent fever ( $T > 39^{\circ}\text{C}$ )



10-year-old boy with R/R ALL, fever, and severe cytopenia on day +3 after CAR T-cell infusion

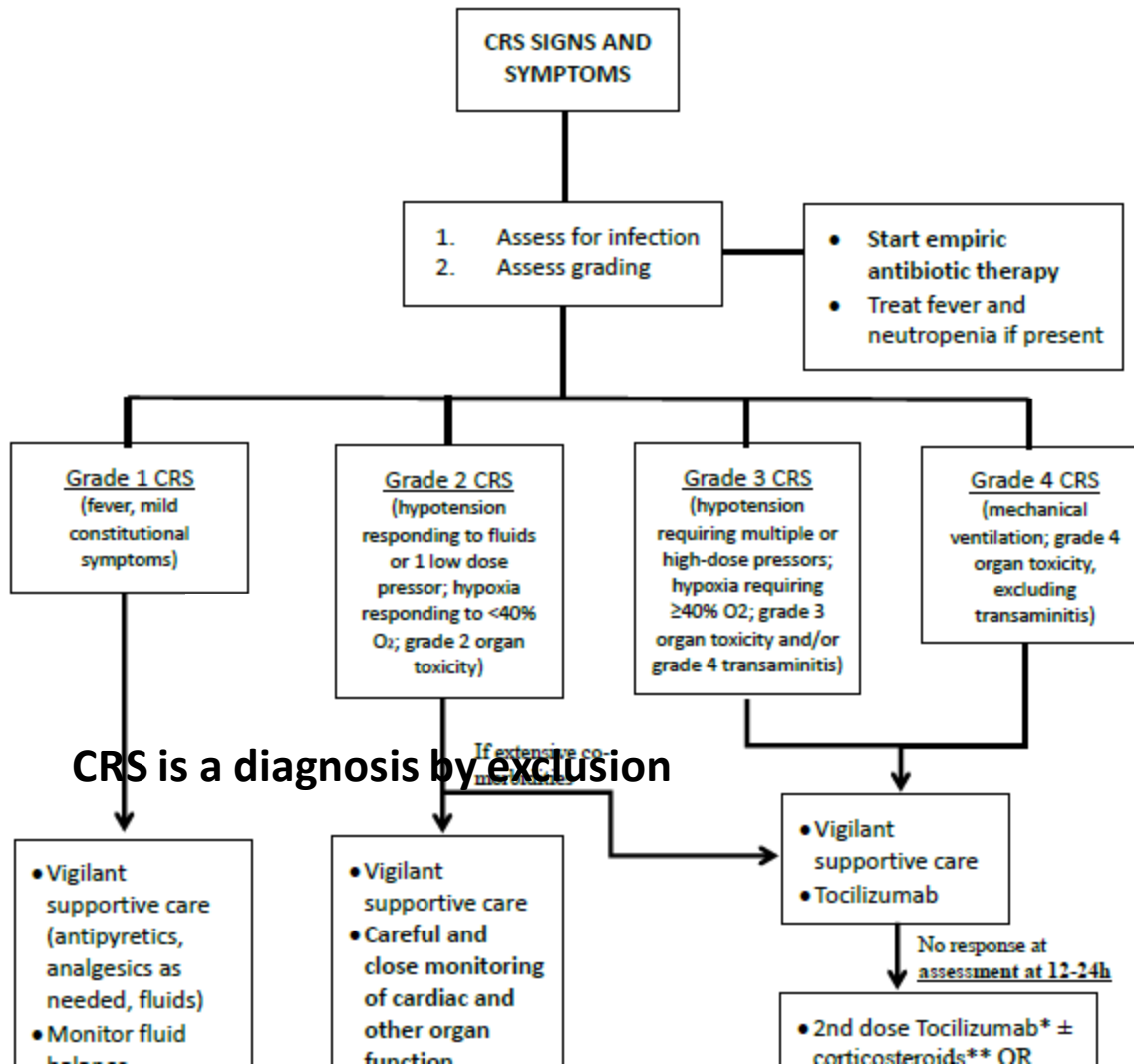
## Question

What is the appropriate initial management for this case?

- a) Administer steroids
- b) Close observation, wide microbiologic screening, empiric antibiotic therapy, management of symptoms (paracetamol, fluids . . .); keep tocilizumab available in the unit
- c) Administer tocilizumab
- d) Transfer to ICU

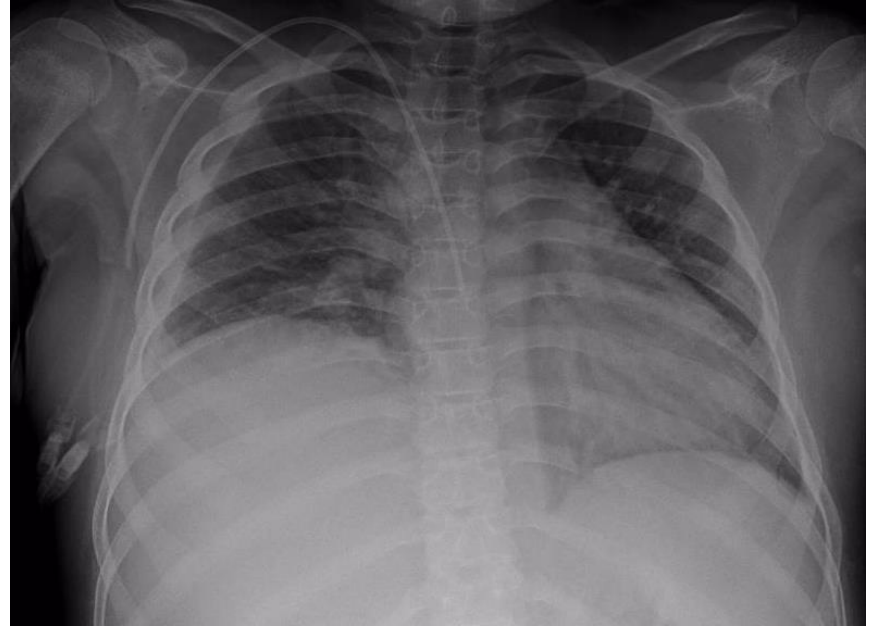


# ent guidelines



# Monitoring after CAR T-cell infusion

- From day 0: Severe cytopenia
- D +3: Persistent fever ( $T > 39^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
  - Empiric antibiotic therapy
  - Negative wide microbiologic screening
  - **Grade 1 CRS**
- D +5: Hypotension despite IV fluids, initial dyspnea





10-year-old boy with R/R ALL, CRS on day +5 after CAR T-cell infusion, and development of hypotension and low oxygen saturation

## Question

What is the grade of CRS and the relative management at this point?

- a) Grade 2; administer steroids
- b) Grade 1; close observation, wide microbiologic screening, empiric antibiotic therapy, management of symptoms (paracetamol, fluids...)
- c) Grade 4; administer tocilizumab
- d) Grade 2; start of vasopressors, administration of oxygen, and evaluation with the ICU team, administer tocilizumab



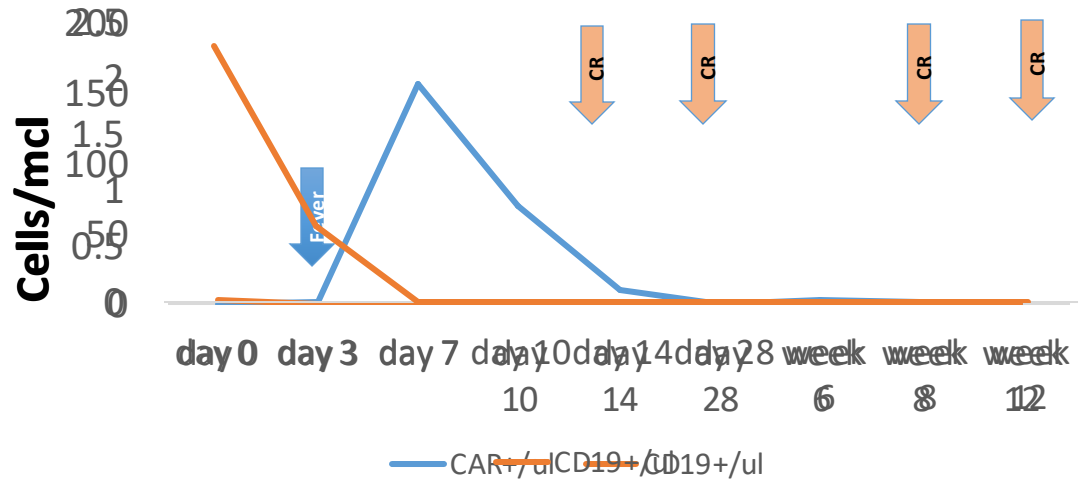
Table 2 | Cytokine-release syndrome grading and management

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Grade 1 CRS	Grade 2 CRS	Grade 3 CRS	Grade 4 CRS
<b>Signs and symptoms</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temperature <math>\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}</math></li> <li>• No hypotension</li> <li>• No hypoxia</li> <li>• Grade <math>\leq 1</math> organ toxicity<sup>a</sup></li> </ul>	Any temperature and any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hypotension that responds to i.v. fluids or low-dose vasopressor treatment</li> <li>• <math>\text{SpO}_2 &lt; 90\%</math> on room air: <math>\text{FiO}_2</math> requirement <math>&lt; 40\%</math> to keep <math>\text{SpO}_2 &gt; 88\%</math></li> <li>• Grade 2 organ toxicity<sup>a</sup></li> </ul>	Any temperature and any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hypotension (age 1–10 years: <math>\text{SBP} &lt; (70 + (2 \times \text{age in years}))</math> mmHg; age <math>&gt; 10</math> years: <math>\text{SBP} &lt; 90</math> mmHg) requiring high-dose or multiple vasopressors</li> <li>• <math>\text{FiO}_2</math> requirement <math>\geq 40\%</math> and/or requiring BiPAP to keep <math>\text{SpO}_2 &gt; 88\%</math></li> <li>• Grade 3 organ toxicity<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Grade 4 transaminitis (<math>&gt; 20 \times \text{ULN}</math>)</li> </ul>	Any temperature and any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persistent hypotension despite fluid resuscitation and treatment with multiple vasopressors</li> <li>• Requirement for invasive mechanical ventilation</li> <li>• Grade 4 organ toxicity<sup>a</sup> (except grade 4 transaminitis)</li> </ul>
<b>Paediatric considerations</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asymptomatic sinus tachycardia is defined by heart rates above the age-specific normal range or baseline values)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hypotension is defined as follows: <math>\text{SBP} &lt; (70 + (2 \times \text{age in years}))</math> mmHg in patients aged 1–10 years; <math>\text{SBP} &lt; 90</math> mmHg in patients aged <math>&gt; 10</math> years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oliguria is defined as a urine output of <math>&lt; 0.5</math> ml/kg per hour for 8 hours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anuria is defined as a urine output of <math>&lt; 0.3</math> ml/kg per hour for 24 hours or 0 ml/kg per hour for 12 hours</li> </ul>
<b>Management</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acetaminophen, as needed, for fever</li> <li>• Evaluate for infectious aetiologies (blood and urine cultures and chest radiography)</li> <li>• Consider broad-spectrum antibiotics and filgrastim (if patient is neutropenic)</li> <li>• Assess for adequate hydration</li> <li>• Consider anti-IL-6 therapy for persistent or refractory fever<sup>b</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage according to recommendations for grade 1 CRS (if applicable)</li> <li>• Administer i.v. fluid bolus of 10–20 ml/kg normal saline; repeat as necessary to maintain SBP above baseline or age-specific normal range</li> <li>• For hypotension refractory to fluid boluses or hypoxia, consider anti-IL-6 therapy with i.v. tocilizumab (12 mg/kg for patients weighing <math>&lt; 30</math> kg or 8 mg/kg for those weighing <math>\geq 30</math> kg, to a maximum of 800 mg per dose); repeat dose every 8 hours for up to 3 doses within 24 hours (but titrate frequency according to response)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage according to recommendations for grades 1 and 2 CRS</li> <li>• Transfer patient to PICU and obtain echocardiogram, if not performed already</li> <li>• Administer i.v. dexamethasone 0.5 mg/kg (maximum 10 mg per dose) every 6 hours; can increase dose to maximum of 20 mg every 6 hours if patient is refractory to lower dose (alternatively, methylprednisolone 1–2 mg/kg per day divided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administer i.v. fluids, anti-IL-6 therapy, corticosteroids, and vasopressors and perform haemodynamic monitoring as described for grades 1, 2, or 3 CRS</li> <li>• If low doses of corticosteroids do not lead to clinical improvement, consider high-dose methylprednisolone (1 g daily for 3 days followed by rapid taper on the basis of</li> </ul>

# Monitoring after CAR T-cell infusion

- From day 0: Severe cytopenia
- D +3: Persistent fever (T >39°C)
  - Empiric antibiotic therapy
  - Negative wide microbiologic screening
  - **Grade 1 CRS**
- D +5: Hypotension despite IV fluids
  - **Grade 2 CRS**
  - Tocilizumab (8 mg/kg)
  - Dopamine (6 µg/kg/min)
  - Low-flow nasal cannulae
  - Daily monitoring together with ICU team
- D +10: Disappearance of the fever and improvement of BP
  - Decrease of dopamine (3 µg/kg/min) until withdrawal on d +12





Bambino Gesù  
OSPEDALE PEDIATRICO



**Thank you!**

## Discussion – case 1

Faculty panel: Rob Pieters, Franco Locatelli,  
Patrick Brown, Christina Peters, Martin  
Schrappe

# Management of long- and short-term toxicities in pediatric ALL patients – case 2

Natalia Zubarovskaya

# Patient case

16 y/o female

**Diagnosed with B-ALL, CD19+ 46XX; del(9p13); del(21q22) CNSII**

MRD+ at TP1 ( $10^{-2}$ ) and TP2 ( $10^{-3}$ )

**Allogeneic HSCT, MUD (9/10), BM 07/2018**

TBI-based conditioning with 12 Gy and Vp-16

**GvHD prophylaxis:**

ATG  $3 \times 15$  mg/kg, CsA 3 mg/kg (day -1), MTX 10 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (day +1, +3, +6)

**Complications**

- FUO, BKV viremia, and hemorrhagic cystitis
- aGvHD: skin IV, overall IV

**Day +100 after allo-HSCT**

**Presented with acute kidney disease**

- Proximal tubulopathy (Fanconi syndrome)
- Elevated creatinine and cystatin
- GFR 20 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>
- Normal urine output

Kidney biopsy: glomeruli intact, subacute tubules damage

# Patient: Progress

1. Late bone marrow relapse 04/20 (CD19+ and CD19– populations)

**Complications:** stable chronic kidney disease, asymptomatic CMV reactivation

**Treatment:** CAR T-cell infusion 06/20

2. Allogeneic HSCT, PBSC (haploidentical donor – mother) 08/20

GvHD prophylaxis: ptCy (day +3, +4), FK-506

End of immunosuppression day +36

**Complications:** slow hematologic engraftment, HHV-6/7 reactivation

2. Early bone marrow relapse 07/21

**Treatment:** cytoreductive therapy, CAR T-cell infusion (07/21)

**Complications:** stable chronic kidney disease (KD), invasive mycoses

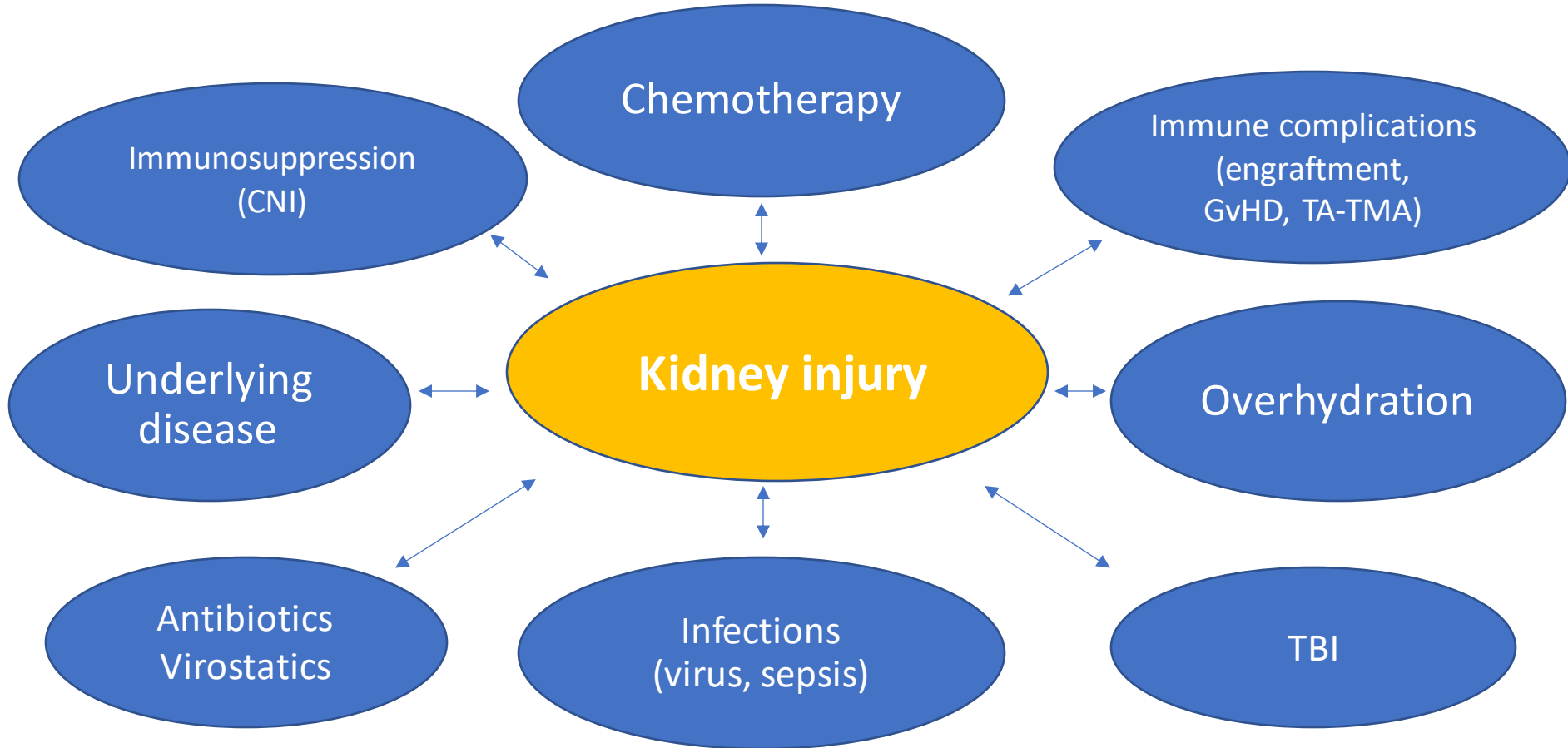


## Question 1

What would be your strategy in case of ALL – relapse after allo-HSCT in a patient with chronic KD (GFR 20 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>)?

- a) Second allo-HSCT with myeloablative conditioning
- b) Second allo-HSCT with reduced-intensity conditioning
- c) Palliative approach
- d) Other treatment

# Pathogenesis of acute and chronic KD



# How do we screen acute and chronic KD?

- Ultrasound diagnostic
- RR
- Diuresis
- Urine analysis (proteinuria, albuminuria)
- Monitoring of retention parameter (creatinine, BUN, cysC) and electrolytes, GFR
- Monitoring during long-term follow-up

# Prevention and treatment of acute and chronic KD

<b>Prevention and monitoring</b>
Optimization of fluid balance
Careful use of nephrotoxic medication and contrast fluid
Monitoring of kidney function
<b>Treatment: General measures</b>
Optimization of fluid balance
Discontinuation of nephrotoxic medications
Aggressive treatment of underlying infections
<b>Treatment: Specific measures</b>
Marrow infusion syndrome: steroids
Hepatic sinusoidal obstruction syndrome: albumin and terlipressin, defibrotide
Thrombotic microangiopathy: treatment of hypertension, cessation of CNI and mTOR inhibitors, complement inhibition



## Question 2

What options would you choose during pre- and post-HSCT in a patient with chronic KD?

- a) Dose reduction of chemotherapy drugs
- b) Drug monitoring
- c) Prevention of overhydration
- d) Drug application with less nephrotoxicity
- e) Aggressive treatment of infections

# Discussion

What conditioning would you recommend for second allo-HSCT?

What type of donor would you use in this setting?

## Discussion – case 2

Faculty panel: Rob Pieters, Franco Locatelli,  
Patrick Brown, Christina Peters, Martin  
Schrappe

## Final discussion, Q&A, and session close

Franco Locatelli



# Interactive Q&A

Franco Locatelli



# Educational ARS questions

Franco Locatelli



## Educational Questions Pediatric ALL

**Repeated Question 1: Which of the following subsets of first-relapse ALL patients can be considered at very high risk?**

- a) All patients with B-ALL relapsing within 18 months from diagnosis
- b) All patients with hypodiploidy
- c) All patients with t(17;19) or t(1;19)
- d) Each of the 3 previous subsets

## Educational Questions Pediatric ALL

**Repeated Question 2: Which assertion is correct for children with B-ALL?**

- a) Inotuzumab is approved for induction treatment of relapsed B-ALL in childhood
- b) Inotuzumab dosage is 3 mg/m<sup>2</sup>
- c) Blinatumomab is approved for consolidation treatment before HSCT in children with B-ALL
- d) None of the patients relapsing later than 6 months after treatment discontinuation should be transplanted



## Educational Questions Pediatric ALL

**Repeated Question 3: Which children with relapsed ALL should be transplanted after a TBI-containing regimen?**

- a) All children
- b) Children above the age of 4 years
- c) Children above the age of 10 years
- d) Those with T-ALL

## Educational Questions Pediatric ALL

**Repeated Question 4: Which of the following statements is incorrect?**

- a) Leukemia recurrence in patients given CAR T cells is associated with early disappearance of CAR T cells in peripheral blood
- b) Leukemia recurrence in patients given CAR T cells is associated with B-cell aplasia
- c) Leukemia recurrence in patients given CAR T cells is associated with disease burden at time of infusion
- d) Leukemia recurrence in patients given CAR T cells is associated with reappearance of MRD

# Closing remarks

Franco Locatelli



# Thank you!

- > Thank you to our sponsors, expert presenters, and to you for your participation
- > Please complete the **evaluation survey** that will be sent to you via chat
- > The meeting recording and slides presented today will be shared on the [globalleukemiaacademy.com](http://globalleukemiaacademy.com) website within a few weeks
- > If you have a question for any of our experts that was not answered today, you can submit it through the GLA website in our Ask the Experts section

# THANK YOU!



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