



## Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia

### Relapsed CLL Treatment

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MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Houston, TX

March 2018

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## Financial Disclosures

**Research Funding**  
Pharmacyclics, Abbvie, Genentech, Infinity, BMS, Pfizer, ADC Therapeutics, Seattle Genetics, Incyte, Celgene, AstraZeneca, Servier, Verastem, Cellectis, Adaptive Biotechnologies

**Advisory Board**  
Pharmacyclics, Novartis, ADC Therapeutics, Pfizer, Servier, Novimmune, Abbvie, Verastem, Adaptive Biotechnologies, Janssen

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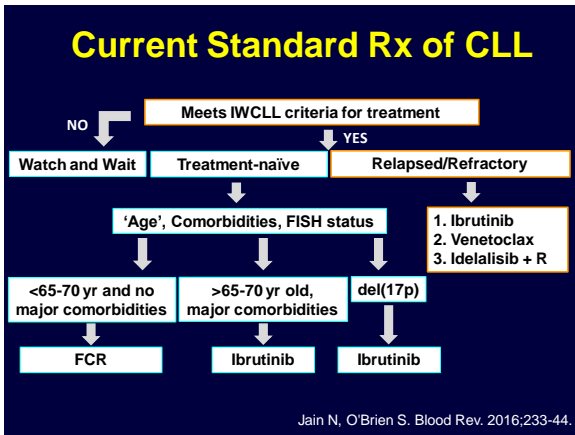
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## Presentation Outline

- Approved therapies in R/R CLL
  - BTK inhibitor Ibrutinib
  - PI3K inhibitor Idelalisib + Rituximab
  - BCL2 inhibitor Venetoclax
- Combination therapies in R/R CLL
- CART therapy in CLL

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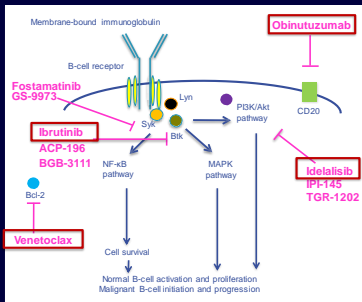
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## Targeting Key Signaling Pathways in CLL



Friedman DR, Weinberg JB. The Hematologist. 2013.

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## IBRUTINIB

## BTK Inhibitor

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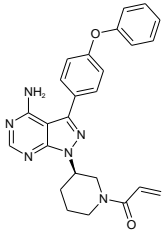
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## Ibrutinib (PCI-32765) A Selective Inhibitor of BTK



- Forms a specific bond with cysteine-481 in BTK
- Highly potent BTK inhibition at  $IC_{50} = 0.5 \text{ nM}$
- Orally administered with once daily dosing resulting in 24-hr target inhibition
- In chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) cells promotes apoptosis and inhibits CLL cell migration and adhesion

Advani, R. et al. J Clin Oncol. 2012;42:7906.  
 Hongberg LA, et al. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2010;107:13075.  
 Heiman SE et al. Blood. 2011;117: 6287-6296.  
 Ponder, et al. ASH Meeting Abstracts. 2010. 116-45.

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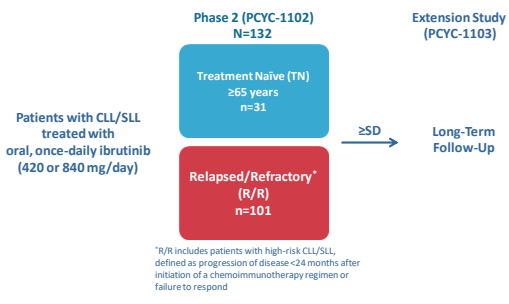
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## 5-Year Experience With Ibrutinib Monotherapy PCYC-1102/1103 Phase 2 Study Design



O'Brien et al. ASH 2016, Abstract 233

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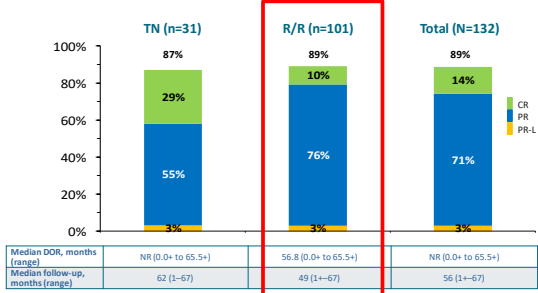
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## 5-Year Experience With Ibrutinib Monotherapy Best Response



O'Brien et al. ASH 2016, Abstract 233

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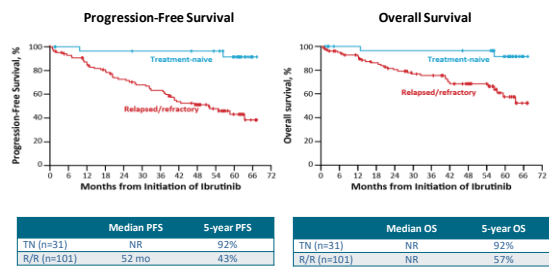
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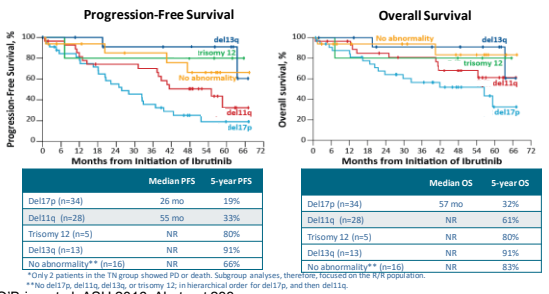
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### 5-Year Experience With Ibrutinib Monotherapy Survival Outcomes: Overall Population



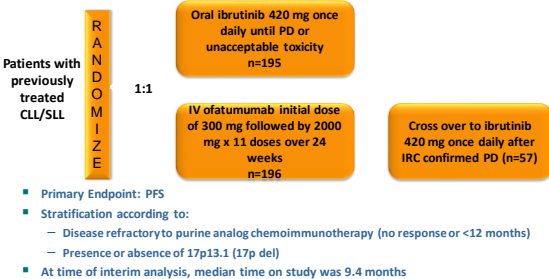
O'Brien et al. ASH 2016, Abstract 233

### 5-Year Experience With Ibrutinib Monotherapy Survival by FISH in R/R Patients\*



O'Brien et al. ASH 2016, Abstract 233

### RESONATE™ Phase 3 Study Design



Byrd J et al. NEJM 2014



# IDELALISIB

## PI3K- $\delta$ Inhibitor

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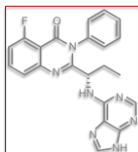
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### Idelalisib, A Novel Small Molecule Inhibitor

Class I PI3K Isoform	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\gamma$	$\delta$
Expression	Ubiquitous	Ubiquitous	Leukocytes	Leukocytes
EC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	>10,000	1,419	2,500	9

- Targeted, highly selective, oral inhibitor of PI3K-delta ( $\delta$ )
- Inhibits proliferation and induces apoptosis in CLL cells
- Inhibits homing and retention of CLL cells in lymphoid tissues reducing cell survival



Coutre et al. EHA 2014:S704

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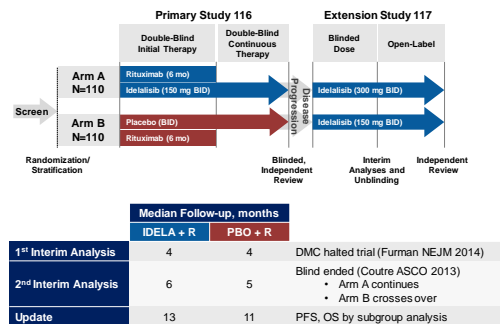
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### Phase 3 Trial of Idelalisib + Rituximab in Relapsed CLL: Subgroup Analysis of High-Risk Groups



Sharman et al., ASH 2014, Abstract 330

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**Idelalisib Summary**

- Approved for patients with relapsed CLL in combination with rituximab
- Immune-mediated colitis, transaminitis, pneumonitis
- EMA/FDA Advisory (March 2016)
  - Increased deaths due to infections in Phase III trials of idelalisib vs. placebo
  - All patients PCP prophylaxis
  - CMV monitoring

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**VENETOCLAX  
(ABT-199)**

**Bcl-2 Inhibitor**

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**Bcl-2 in CLL**

- Bcl-2 expression is uniformly high in CLL
- ABT-199 is a selective, potent, orally bioavailable Bcl-2 inhibitor
- ABT-199 binds Bcl-2 with high affinity and with substantially lower affinity to Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>, Bcl-w and MCL-1

The image shows the chemical structure of ABT-199 (Venetoclax). It features a central pyridine ring substituted with a 4-cyanophenyl group, a 4-(2-chlorophenyl)phenyl group, and a 4-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)phenyl group. A side chain containing a piperazine ring and a carbonyl group is also attached to the pyridine ring.

**ABT-199**

Souers et al. Nature Med. 2013

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**Relapsed CLL  
Combination Therapy: Future?**

**BCRi  
+/-  
BCL2i  
+/-  
CD20 mAb**

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**Combined Venetoclax and Ibrutinib  
for Patients with Previously  
Untreated High-Risk CLL, and  
Relapsed/Refractory CLL  
A Phase II Trial**

**Nitin Jain, Philip Thompson, Alessandra Ferrajoli, Jan Burger, Gautam Borthakur, Koichi Takahashi, Prithviraj Bose, Zeev Estrov, Elias Jabbour, Marina Konopleva, Yesid Alvarado, Tapan Kadia, Musa Yilmaz, Courtney DiNardo, Maro Ohanian, Jorge Cortes, Rashmi Kanagal-Shamanna, Keyur Patel, Naveen Garg, Xuemei Wang, Nina Fru, Nichole Cruz, Varsha Gandhi, William Plunkett, Hagop Kantarjian, Michael Keating, William Wierda**

Department of Leukemia, MDACC  
ASH 2017, Abstract 429

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VEN + IBR in CLL, ASH 2017

**BCR vs. BCL2 Inhibitors**

	<b>BCR Inhibitor (Ibrutinib)</b>	<b>BCL2 Inhibitor (Venetoclax)</b>
<b>Response</b>	Blood ++ LN +++ Marrow +	Blood +++ LN ++ Marrow +++
<b>Lymphocytosis</b>	+++	-
<b>CR in R/R CLL</b>	10%	20-25%
<b>AE profile</b>	Atrial fibrillation, neutropenia, bleeding	TLS, neutropenia

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VEN + IBR in CLL, ASH 2017

### Ibrutinib + Venetoclax Clinical Trial

- Investigator-initiated phase II trial
- Patients with a diagnosis of CLL/SLL
  - Cohort 1: relapsed/refractory CLL
  - Cohort 2: untreated with at least one high-risk feature
    - del(17p) or mutated TP53
    - del(11q)
    - unmutated IGHV
    - ≥65 yrs

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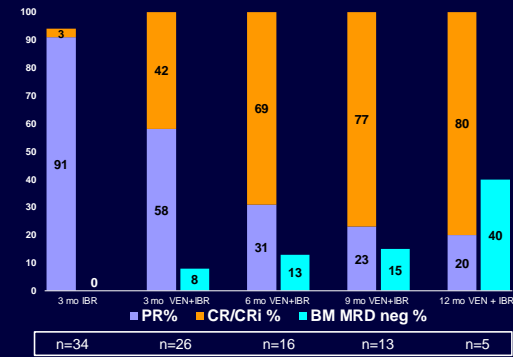
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VEN + IBR in CLL, ASH 2017

### Response: R/R Cohort




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### Venetoclax Plus Rituximab is Superior to Bendamustine Plus Rituximab in Patients with Relapsed / Refractory Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia – Results from Pre-Planned Interim Analysis of the Randomized Phase 3 MURANO Study

Adapted from the Seymour presentation at ASH on December 12, 2017

John F. Seymour<sup>1</sup>, Thomas Kipps<sup>2</sup>, Barbara Eichhorst<sup>3</sup>, Peter Hillmen<sup>4</sup>, James D'Rozario<sup>5</sup>, Saïr Assouline<sup>6</sup>, Carolyn Owen<sup>7</sup>, John Gerecitano<sup>8</sup>, Tadeusz Robak<sup>9</sup>, Javier De la Serna<sup>10</sup>, Ulrich Jaeger<sup>11</sup>, Guillaume Cartron<sup>12</sup>, Marco Montillo<sup>13</sup>, Rod Humerickhouse<sup>14</sup>, Elizabeth A. Punnoose<sup>15</sup>, Yan Li<sup>15</sup>, Michelle Boyer<sup>16</sup>, Kathryn Humphrey<sup>16</sup>, Mehrdad Mobasher<sup>15</sup>, Arnon P. Kater<sup>17</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Royal Melbourne Hospital, and University of Melbourne, Australia; <sup>2</sup>University of California School of Medicine, San Diego, CA, USA; <sup>3</sup>Basel University Hospital, Switzerland; <sup>4</sup>James University Hospital, Leeds, UK; <sup>5</sup>The Johns Hopkins School of Medical Research, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia; <sup>6</sup>Regina Elena Cancer Center, Lazio, Italy; <sup>7</sup>University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada; <sup>8</sup>University of Colorado, Aurora, CO, USA; <sup>9</sup>University of Wrocław, Wrocław, Poland; <sup>10</sup>University of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain; <sup>11</sup>University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria; <sup>12</sup>University of Lille, Lille, France; <sup>13</sup>University of Bari, Bari, Italy; <sup>14</sup>University of Colorado, Aurora, CO, USA; <sup>15</sup>University of California, San Diego, CA, USA; <sup>16</sup>University of California, San Diego, CA, USA; <sup>17</sup>University of California, San Diego, CA, USA

Seymour, JF et al. ASH 2017, Abstract 1002

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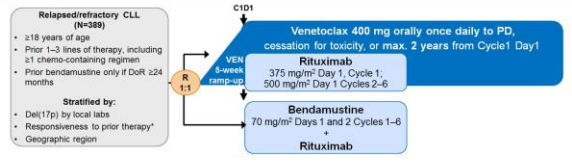
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## MURANO Study Design



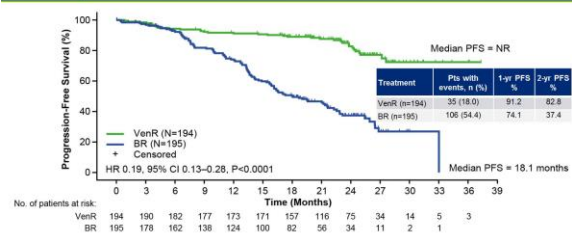
NCT02005471  
 \*High-risk CLL = any of following features: del(17p) or no response to front-line chemotherapy-containing regimens or relapsed  $\leq 12$  months after chemotherapy or within  $\leq 24$  months after chemoimmunotherapy.

## Patient Demographics and Disease Characteristics Balanced Between Arms

Status	Venetoclax + Rituximab (N=194)	Bendamustine + Rituximab (N=195)
Age, median (range), years	64.5 (28-83)	66.0 (22-85)
Lymphocyte count ( $\times 10^9/L$ ), median (range)	43.1 (0.3-703)	54.7 (0.3-536)
Del(17p) <sup>+</sup> , n/N (%)	46/173 (27)	46/169 (27)
Unmutated IGHV <sup>+</sup> , n/N (%)	123/180 (68)	123/180 (68)
Mutated TP53 <sup>+</sup> , n/N (%)	48/192 (25)	51/184 (28)
Number of prior therapies, n (%)		
1	111 (57)	117 (60)
2	57 (29)	43 (22)
3	22 (11)	34 (17)
>3	4 (2)	1 (1)
Prior therapies, n (%)		
Alkylating agent	182 (93)	185 (95)
Purine analog	157 (81)	158 (81)
Anti-CD20 antibody	153 (78)	148 (76)
B-cell receptor pathway inhibitors	5 (3)	3 (2)

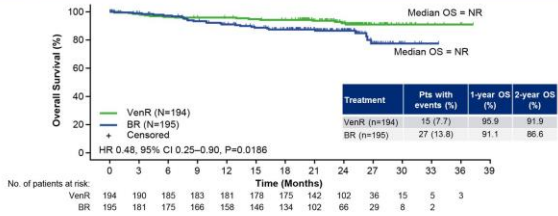
\*Central lab. Adapted from the Seymour presentation at ASH on December 12, 2017. As of 8 May 2017<sup>®</sup>

## Superiority of VenR vs. BR Confirmed by Independent Review Committee-Assessed PFS

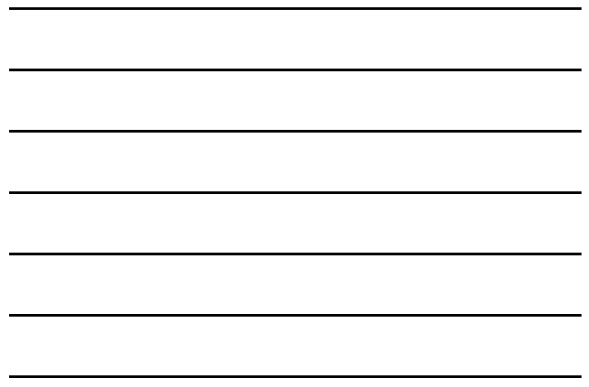


Adapted from the Seymour presentation at ASH on December 12, 2017. As of 8 May 2017<sup>®</sup>

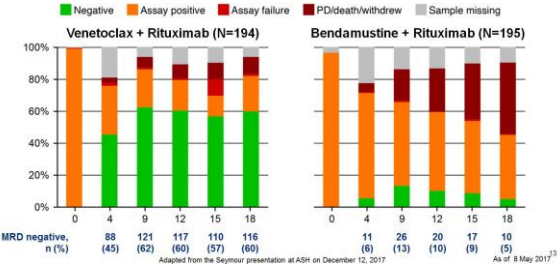
**Clinically Meaningful Improvement in Overall Survival for VenR vs. BR**



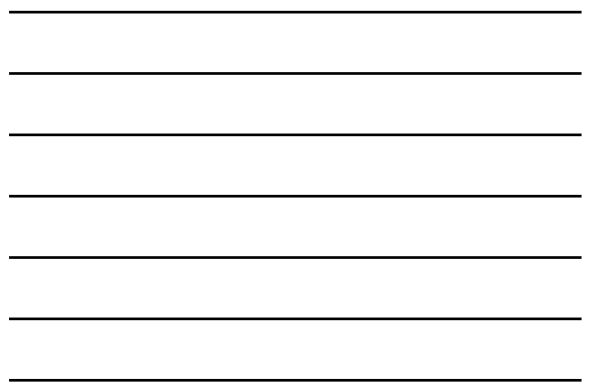
Descriptive p-values Pre-specified boundary, P=0.0001. Adapted from the Seymour presentation at ASH on December 12, 2017. As of 8 May 2017<sup>14</sup>



**High Peripheral Blood MRD Negativity Rate Maintained Over Time for VenR vs. BR**



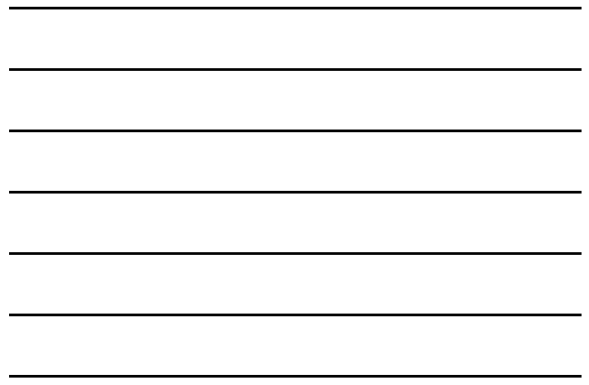
Adapted from the Seymour presentation at ASH on December 12, 2017. As of 8 May 2017<sup>13</sup>



**JCAR014 CART in High-risk R/R CLL**

- 24 pts with R/R CLL
  - No of prior therapies 5
  - Ibrutinib refractory 79%
  - Venetoclax refractory 25%
  - FDG-avid PET 93%
  - Documented RT/PLL 33%
- Response at 4 weeks (JCAR014 + Cy/Flu)
  - ORR 74%, CR 21%
  - PET+ disease CR 64%
  - Bone marrow disease 88% MRD<sup>neg</sup>

Turtle C et al. ASH 2016



**Conclusions**

- Targeted therapies – great future in CLL
  - Ibrutinib – Approved for CLL
  - Idelalisib – Approved for R/R CLL
  - Venetoclax – Approved for R/R del(17p) CLL
- Combination therapies are the future

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**Thank you!**

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# Ibrutinib intolerance and resistance in CLL

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Associate Professor of Medicine  
Oregon Health & Science University  
Danilov@ohsu.edu



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## Disclosures for Danilov

- **Research funding:**
  - Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
  - Lymphoma Research Foundation
  - NCI/SWOG
  - Takeda Oncology
  - Gilead Sciences
  - Genentech
- **Consultancy/Honoraria:**
  - Genentech
  - Verastem
  - TG Therapeutics
  - Astra Zeneca
  - Juno Therapeutics
  - Gilead Sciences



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## Post-ibrutinib world

- **Ibrutinib intolerance**
  - Role of other BTK inhibitors (acalabrutinib)
  - Alternative pathway medications
  - Factors predicting poor ibrutinib outcomes
- **Ibrutinib resistance**
  - Mechanisms (in CLL)
  - What to do?



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### Ibrutinib clinical trials experience

Disposition	TN (n=31)	R/R (n=101)
Median time on study, months (range)	62 (1-67)	49 (1-67)
Patients remaining on ibrutinib therapy, n (%)	20 (65%)	30 (30%)
<b>Primary reason for discontinuation, n (%)</b>		
Progressive disease	1 (3%)	33 (33%)
Adverse event	6 (19%)	21 (21%)
Consent withdrawal	3 (10%)	5 (5%)
Investigator decision	0	11 (11%)
Lost to follow-up	1 (3%)	1 (1%)


O'Brien, Furman et al, ASH 2016

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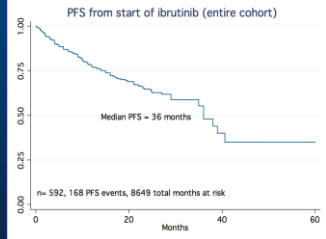
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### Ibrutinib 'real world' experience

d/c rate = 42% after median t/u of 17 months  
 Toxicity: 50%  
 Disease progression: 10-20%




Mato AR et al, ASH 2016

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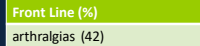
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### Reasons for Discontinuation

Front Line (%)	Relapsed (%)
arthralgias (42)	atrial fibrillation (12.3)
Afib (25)	Infection (11)
Rash (16)	Pneumonitis (10)
	Bleeding (9)
	Diarrhea (7)

#### Median Time to Discontinuation

Bleeding	8 months
Diarrhea	7.5 months
Atrial fibrillation	7 months
infection	6 months
arthralgia	5 months
pneumonitis	4.5 months
rash	3.5 months


Mato AR et al, ASH 2016

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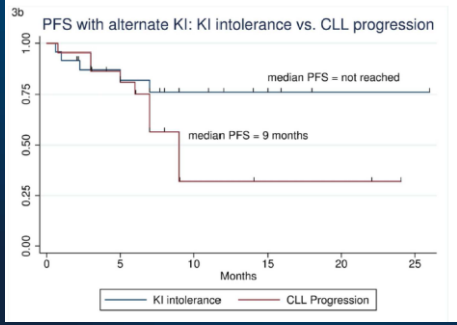
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### Outcomes following ibrutinib failure



Mato et al, 2017

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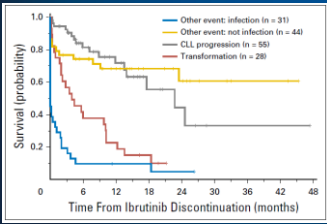
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### Outcomes following ibrutinib failures



OS 4 months (Richters)  
OS 22 months (progression)

Woyach et al, 2017

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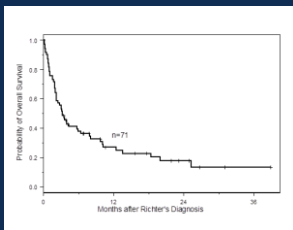
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### Richters syndrome on novel agents: The median OS for the entire cohort was 3.3 months



With a median follow-up 10.6 months, none of the 7 patients who achieved CR had died

Presented by: Matthew S. Davids, MD, MMSc

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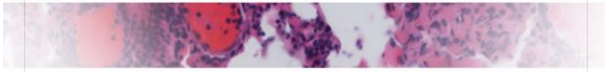
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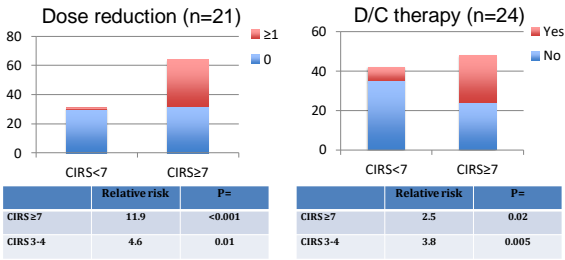
American Society of Hematology  
 Helping hematologists conquer blood diseases worldwide



**Medical comorbidities assessed by CIRS negatively impact survival in the era of targeted therapies in CLL: a multicenter retrospective analysis**

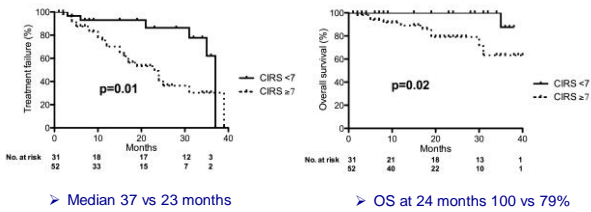
Max J. Gordon MD<sup>1</sup>, Stephen M. Amrock MD SM<sup>2</sup>, Xavier Rivera<sup>3</sup>, Spencer James MD MPH<sup>2</sup>, Sudhir Manda MD FACP<sup>1</sup>, Stephen E. Spurgeon MD<sup>1</sup>, Daniel Persky<sup>1</sup>, Aleksey V. Danilov MD PhD<sup>3</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR <sup>2</sup>Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, Hanover, NH <sup>3</sup>University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

**Tolerance of ibrutinib**



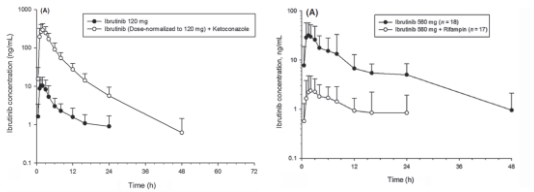
American Society of Hematology

**Outcomes with ibrutinib**



American Society of Hematology

Ibrutinib is a CYP3A4 substrate



Black dots – ibrutinib alone  
White dots – ibrutinib PLUS



De Jong et al, 2015

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

Farrukh T. Awan,<sup>1</sup> Anna Schuh,<sup>2</sup> Jennifer R. Brown,<sup>3</sup> Richard R. Furman,<sup>4</sup> John M. Pagel,<sup>5</sup> Peter Hillmen,<sup>6</sup> Deborah M. Stephens,<sup>7</sup> Ahmed Hamdy,<sup>8</sup> Raquel Izumi,<sup>9</sup> Priti Patel,<sup>8</sup> Min Hui Wang,<sup>8</sup> John C. Byrd<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbus, OH; <sup>2</sup>University of Oxford, Oxford, UK; <sup>3</sup>Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA; <sup>4</sup>Weill Cornell Medical College, New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY; <sup>5</sup>Swedish Medical Center, Seattle, WA; <sup>6</sup>St. James's University Hospital, Leeds, UK; <sup>7</sup>University of Utah Huntsman Cancer Institute, Salt Lake City, UT; <sup>8</sup>Acerta Pharma, Redwood City, CA

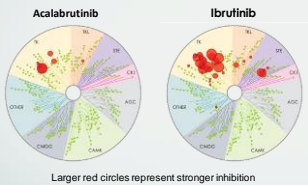
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Awan F, et al. ASH 2016

Acalabrutinib (ACP-196)

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

Kinase Selectivity Profiling at 1 µmol/L<sup>1</sup>



Larger red circles represent stronger inhibition

Kinase Inhibition IC<sub>50</sub> (nmol/L)<sup>1</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup>Covey AACR 2015. Abstract 2596.

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Awan F, et al. ASH 2016

## ACE-CL-001: Acalabrutinib Monotherapy in CLL

- ACE-CL-001 is an ongoing, multinational, phase 1/2 study designed to evaluate acalabrutinib monotherapy in patients with CLL/SLL.
- Previously reported ORR with acalabrutinib monotherapy:
  - Relapsed/refractory: 95% (85% PR, 10% PRL; n = 60).<sup>1</sup>
  - Treatment-naïve: 97% (87.5% PR; 10% PRL; n = 72).<sup>2</sup>
- Data are presented for 33 patients in the ibrutinib-intolerant cohort with data cut on 01 September 2016.

<sup>1</sup>Byrd JC, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2016;374(4):323-332. <sup>2</sup>Byrd JC, et al. ASCO 2016 [poster presentation].

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Awan F, et al. ASH 2016

## Patient Disposition

### Disposition, n (%)

Treated	33 (100)
Discontinued treatment	9 (27)
Progressive disease	3 (9)
Adverse event <sup>a</sup>	3 (9)
Physician decision <sup>b</sup>	1 (3)
Other <sup>c</sup>	2 (6)
On treatment	24 (73)

<sup>a</sup>Stroke (hemorrhagic) and fungal infection led to death (n = 1 patient each); metastatic endometrial cancer (n = 1).  
<sup>b</sup>Concurrent hemophilia.  
<sup>c</sup>Increase in BTK C481S mutation frequency in peripheral blood and central nervous system involvement (n = 1 patient each).

- Median time on treatment: 12.2 months (range, 0.2-23.6 months)

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Awan F, et al. ASH 2016

## Recurrence of Prior Ibrutinib-Related AEs

### Grade Change in Severity on Acalabrutinib vs on Ibrutinib

Adverse Event	Increased	Decreased	Unchanged
Arthralgia (n = 1)		2 → 1	
Atrial fibrillation (n = 1)			2 → 2
Contusion (n = 1)	1 → 2 <sup>a</sup>		
Diarrhea (n = 2)		2 → 1 3 → 1	
Ecchymosis (n = 1)		2 → 1 <sup>a</sup>	
Fatigue (n = 3)	1 → 2 <sup>a</sup>	2 → 1	1 → 1
Muscle spasms (n = 1)			1 → 1
Myalgia (n = 1)			1 → 1
Peripheral edema (n = 1)			1 → 1
Panniculitis (n = 1)		3 → 2 <sup>a</sup>	
Rash (n = 3)		3 → 1 <sup>a</sup>	1 → 1 1 → 1 <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Multiple occurrences of the same AE for a given patient were counted once for each Preferred Term.  
<sup>b</sup>Determined by investigator as related to acalabrutinib.

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## Key Findings

- Acalabrutinib was well tolerated in ibrutinib-intolerant patients.
  - A total of 12 of 33 (36%) patients experienced AE recurrence, most of which were decreased or the same severity.
- No patients discontinued because of a recurrent AE.
- Acalabrutinib has promising activity in ibrutinib-intolerant patients.
  - ORR: 79%
  - 81% of responding patients have a duration of response (PRL or better) ≥12 months.
  - Median PFS has not been reached.
- Acalabrutinib efficacy in ibrutinib-intolerant patients is being evaluated in an ongoing phase 2 trial (NCT02717611).

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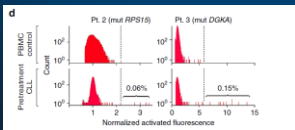
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## Ibrutinib RESISTANCE

Table 1. Characteristics of Six Patients with Resistance to Ibrutinib.

Patient No.	Age yr	Prior Therapies no.	Baseline Cytogenetic Features**	Study Treatment and Daily Dose†	Duration of Ibrutinib Treatment (days)	Best Response	Time to First Response (days)	Identified Mutations of Interest‡
1	59	5	del(17p11.1), trisomy 12	Ibrutinib, 560 mg	421	Partial	70	C481S mutation in BTK
2	59	3	del(11q22.3)	Bendamustine-rituximab for 6 cycles; Ibrutinib, 420 mg	388	Complete	70	C481S mutation in BTK
3	51	2	complex karyotype	Ofatumumab for 24 wk; Ibrutinib, 420 mg	674	Complete	85	C481S mutation in BTK
4	49	9	del(17p11.1), complex karyotype	Ibrutinib, 840 mg	868	Partial	133	C481S mutation in BTK
5	61	4	del(17p11.1), complex karyotype	Ofatumumab for 24 wk; Ibrutinib, 420 mg	505	Partial	85	L858R, R659W, and S227F mutations in PLCγ2 and C481S mutation in BTK
6	75	2	del(17p11.1), complex karyotype	Ibrutinib, 420 mg	673	Partial	159	R4659R mutation in PLCγ2



Woyach et al, 2014  
Burger J et al, 2016

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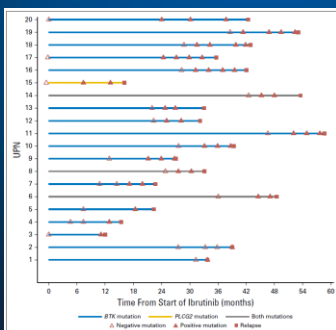
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## Mutations in BTK/PLCγ precede ibrutinib RESISTANCE



Woyach et al, 2017

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**After ibrutinib – what’s next?**

- **Acalabrutinib (ibrutinib-intolerant only)**
- **Alternative BTK inhibitors which do not bind C481S:**
  - GDC-0853
  - SNS-062
  - ARQ-531
- **Venetoclax**
- **Idelalisib (Duvelisib, Umbralisib)**
- **Other: PD-1; CART; CDK inhibitors (dinaciclib, voruciclib)**

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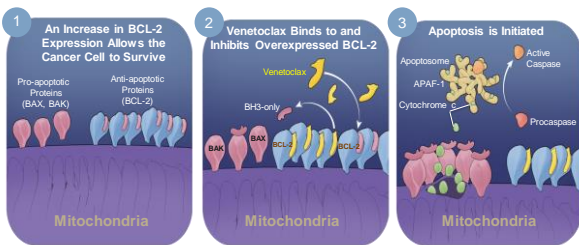
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**Venetoclax: Selective BCL-2 Inhibitor**



- Venetoclax is a potent, orally bioavailable agent with a BCR-independent mechanism of action and substantial activity in heavily pre-treated CLL (Roberts AW et al, *NEJM* 2015)

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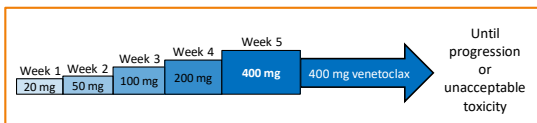
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**Venetoclax Dosing Schedule**



- All patients
  - had tumor burden assessment by imaging for nodal size and absolute lymphocyte count at enrollment
  - received prophylaxis for tumor lysis syndrome (TLS) with uric acid reducers and hydration
- Patients with high tumor burden were hospitalized prior to dosing to facilitate TLS prophylaxis
- Laboratory values were monitored for evidence of tumor lysis for at least 24 hours after the first dose at each dose level

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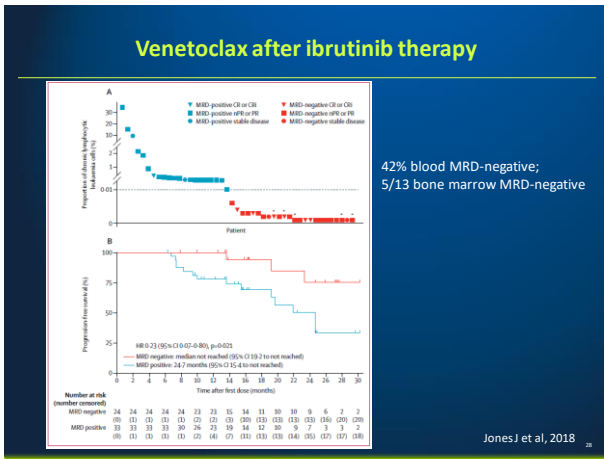
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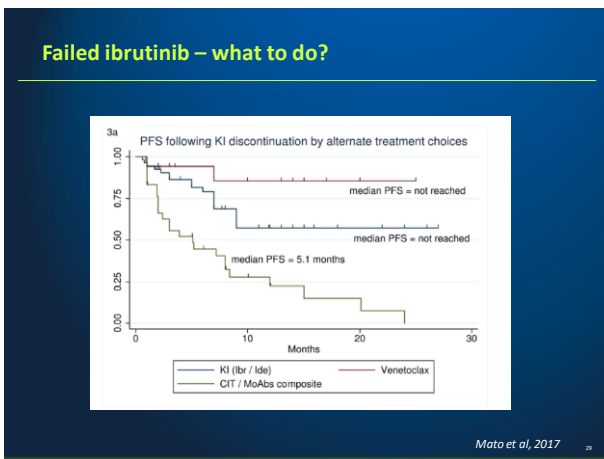
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- ### Summary
- Ibrutinib intolerance and resistance is becoming a common problem
  - Ibrutinib does not ‘protect’ from Richter’s transformation
  - Second-generation BTK inhibitors may be a good option for patients intolerant of ibrutinib
  - Venetoclax > PI3K in patients resistant to ibrutinib
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# An update on Richter Transformation

Dr. Philip Thompson  
The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center,  
Department of Leukemia

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## Disclosures

- Pharmacyclics: Research support, Consultancy
- AbbVie: Research support, Consultancy
- Genentech: Consultancy
- Amgen: Research support, Consultancy

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## Background

- Richter Transformation (RT) is a transformation of CLL to an aggressive lymphoma, most commonly DLBCL and less commonly classical Hodgkin Lymphoma.<sup>1</sup>
- Rare cases of transformation to plasmablastic lymphoma, histiocytic sarcoma and other uncommon lymphomas<sup>2</sup>
- Occurs in 2-10% of patients with CLL (0.5-1% per year).

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<sup>1</sup>Rossi, *Blood* 2011 <sup>2</sup>Jain, P, *Oncology* 2012.

### Risk factors for transformation

- Tends to be associated with high-risk CLL biology:
  1. Unmutated *IGHV*<sup>1</sup>
  2. Del(17p), del(11q), trisomy 12<sup>2</sup>
  3. Mutations in *NOTCH1*, which disrupt the PEST domain<sup>3</sup>
- Possible association with fludarabine-based chemotherapy.

<sup>1</sup>Rossi *Blood* 2011 <sup>2</sup>Strati *CLML* 2015 <sup>3</sup>Rossi *Blood* 2012.

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### Clinical features of transformation

- Non-specific.
- Fevers, drenching night sweats, weight loss.
- Rapidly enlarging lymph nodes.
- Elevated LDH. Sometimes hypercalcemia.

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### PET/CT as a screening tool



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## PET/CT as a screening/prognostic tool

- 332 MDA patients had PET/CT and subsequent biopsy. Biopsy results classified as RT, histologically-aggressive CLL (HAC) and histologically-indolent CLL (HIC).<sup>1</sup>
- $SUV_{max}$  strongly correlated with histology: median 17.6 vs 6.8 vs 3.7 in RT vs HAC vs HIC, respectively.
- $SUV_{max} \geq 5$  had NPV of 92% but only 38% PPV for RT. PPV improved by cut-off of  $\geq 10$ .  $SUV_{max} \geq 10$  had the optimal discriminatory power for survival by ROC analysis. Median OS was 56.7mo if  $SUV_{max} < 10$  and 6.9mo if  $\geq 10$ .
- Interestingly, the negative prognostic impact of  $SUV_{max} \geq 10$  was identical, regardless of the histology.
- PET/CT also very useful in identifying optimal biopsy site

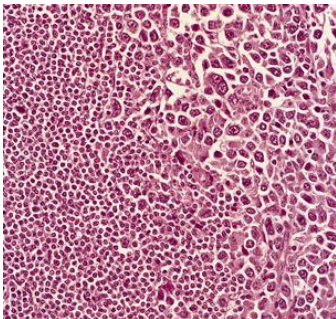
<sup>1</sup>Falchi, *Blood* 2014

## Why biopsy?

- Not all that is hot on PET/CT is RT.
- Multiple other entities may mimic RT:
  - i) "Accelerated CLL" Important to distinguish as treatment is different<sup>1</sup>
  - ii) EBV-driven lymphomas (eg. after treatment of CLL with alemtuzumab, post-alloSCT. In contrast, RT is usually EBV negative.<sup>2</sup>
  - iii) Herpetic lymphadenitis<sup>3</sup>, CMV, EBV.
  - iv) Nocardiosis, fungal infection (esp. histoplasmosis).
  - v) Granulomatous diseases (eg. TB).

<sup>1</sup>Gine *Haematologica* 2010 <sup>2</sup>Asano *Blood* 2009 <sup>3</sup>Joseph *AJH* 2001

## RT DLBCL Histology



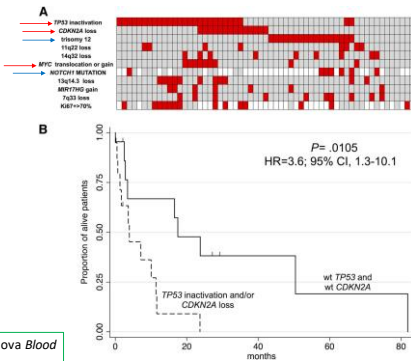
From: Warnke RA, Weiss LM, Chan JK, et al. *Tumors of the lymph nodes and spleen, Atlas of tumor pathology (electronic fascicle), Third series, fascicle 14, 1995, Washington, DC, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.*

## Genomic features of RT

- Clonal relationship to underlying CLL: 80% of DLBCL-RT arise from underlying CLL clone<sup>1,2</sup> through acquisition of additional mutations.
- Genomically less complex than *de novo* DLBCL and molecularly distinct:
  1. RT frequently associated with *TP53* mutations, inactivating mutations in *CDKN2A/B*, *MYC* overexpression, mutations in the PEST domain of *NOTCH1*, stereotyped B-cell receptor.
  2. *De novo* DLBCL frequently associated with *BCL2* and *BCL6* translocations (not seen in RT).

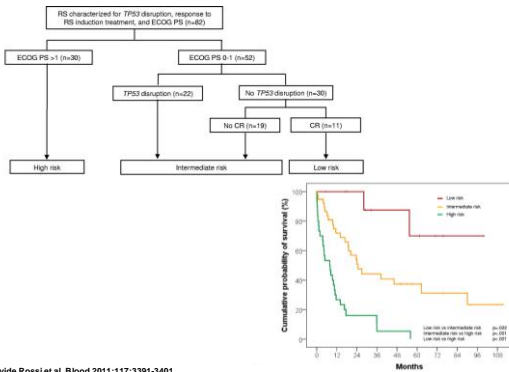
<sup>1</sup> Rossi, *Blood* 2011. <sup>2</sup> Chigrinova, *Blood* 2013

## Major genomic aberrations in RT



Chigrinova *Blood* 2013

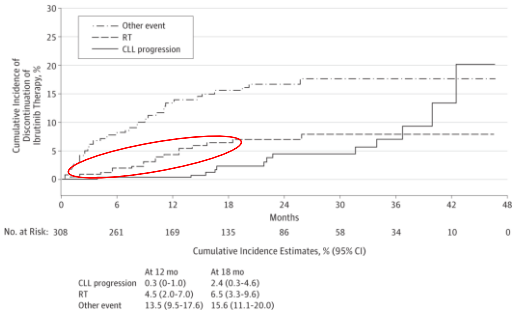
## Patients with ECOG >1 and TP53 disruption have poor outcomes.



Davide Rossi et al. *Blood* 2011;117:3391-3401

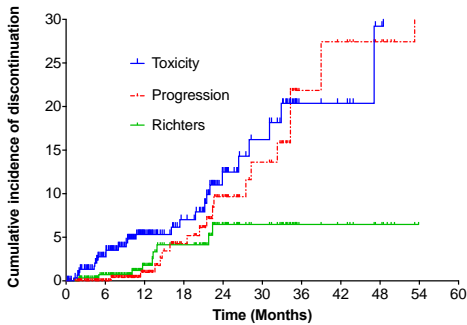


### Ibrutinib discontinuations over time



Maddocks, K et al. *JAMA Oncology*. 2015;1:80

### MDA Data on ibrutinib discontinuation



Jain, P *Cancer* 2017

### Prognosis of RT with chemoimmunotherapy

Study	Regimen	n	Median age (years)	Results		Median OS
				ORR	CRR	
<b>Anthracycline-containing Regimens</b>						
Jenke et al, 2011	R-CHOP	15	69 (N/A)	67%	7%	27 months
Dabaja et al, 2001	HyperCVAD	29	61 (36-75)	41%	38%	10 months
Tsimberidou et al, 2003	Rituximab and GM-CSF with alternating hyperCVAD & MTX/cytarabine	30	59 (27-79)	43%	18%	8.5 months
<b>Platinum-containing Regimens</b>						
Tsimberidou et al, 2008	OFAR1	20	59 (34-77)	50%	20%	8 months
Tsimberidou et al, 2013	OFAR2	35	63 (40-81)	43%	8.6%	6.6 months
<b>Fludarabine-containing Regimens</b>						
Giles et al, 1996	PFA or CFA	12	59 (49-74)	45%	N/A	17 months
Tsimberidou et al, 2002	FACPGM	15	62 (42-74)	5%	5%	2.2 months
<b>Radio-immunotherapy</b>						
Tsimberidou et al, 2004	<sup>90</sup> Y-ibrutinomab	7	56 (44-70)	0%	0%	N/A

## Hematopoetic stem cell transplantation

- Durable responses achieved in patients who have achieved an objective response after chemoimmunotherapy (CIT).
- 3y OS 75% compared to 27% without transplant.<sup>1</sup>
- Prolonged survival also achieved after autoSCT.<sup>2</sup>
- Consolidative transplant should be offered to patients who respond to CIT, with the exception of patients who haven't received treatment for CLL and achieve CR with CIT.

<sup>1</sup>Tsimberidou, JCO 2006 <sup>2</sup>Cwynarski JCO 2012.

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## Treatment of Hodgkin variant

- Generally treated similarly to *de novo* HL (eg. ABVD or BEACOPP).
- Outcome better than for DLBCL-RT, but worse than for *de novo* HL.<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Tsimberidou, Cancer 2006 <sup>2</sup>Brecher Am J Clin Pathol 1990

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## Novel therapeutic strategies for RT

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## Acalabrutinib

- 2<sup>nd</sup> generation BTK inhibitor.
- 29 patients with RT.
- Median 4 prior therapies.
- 21% del(17p).
- ORR 38% (14% CR). Median duration of response 5.7mo.
- Median PFS of 3mo.

Hillmen, P. ASH 2016.

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## Pembrolizumab

- A phase II trial of pembrolizumab in relapsed and transformed CLL included 9 patients with RT; ORR in these patients was 44% (CR 11%, PR 33%).<sup>1</sup>
- For RT patients, the median progression-free and overall survival was 5.4 months and 10.7 months respectively.
- 0/16 patients with CLL responded.
- PD-L1 expression on RT cells: potentially useful biomarker for response.

<sup>1</sup>Ding *Blood* 2017

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## Novel therapeutics – ibrutinib + nivolumab

- Encouraging activity.
- Approximately 40% response rate in the first 15 patients<sup>1</sup>
- Rapid responses in RT.

<sup>1</sup>Jain, N. ASH 2017.

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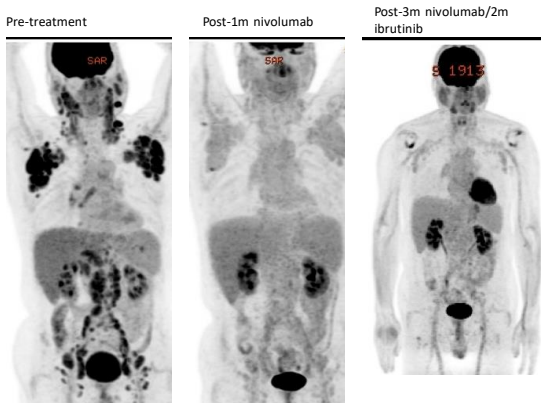
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### Blinatumomab

- CD3x19 bispecific antibody, approved in ALL.
- In R/R DLBCL, overall response rate of 43% (CRR 19%), using high-dose therapy (max 112mcg/d).
- 1 of first 3 patients achieved CR.

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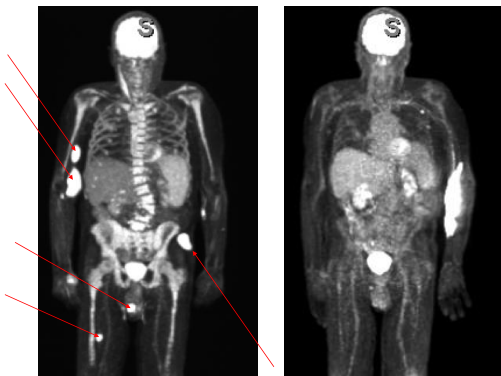
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75M, developed RT on ibrutinib. Failed CIT, obinutuzumab and ibrutinib + nivolumab



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