

# **Il ruolo terapeutico dei nuovi farmaci**

**Davide Rossi, M.D., Ph.D.**

**Hematology**

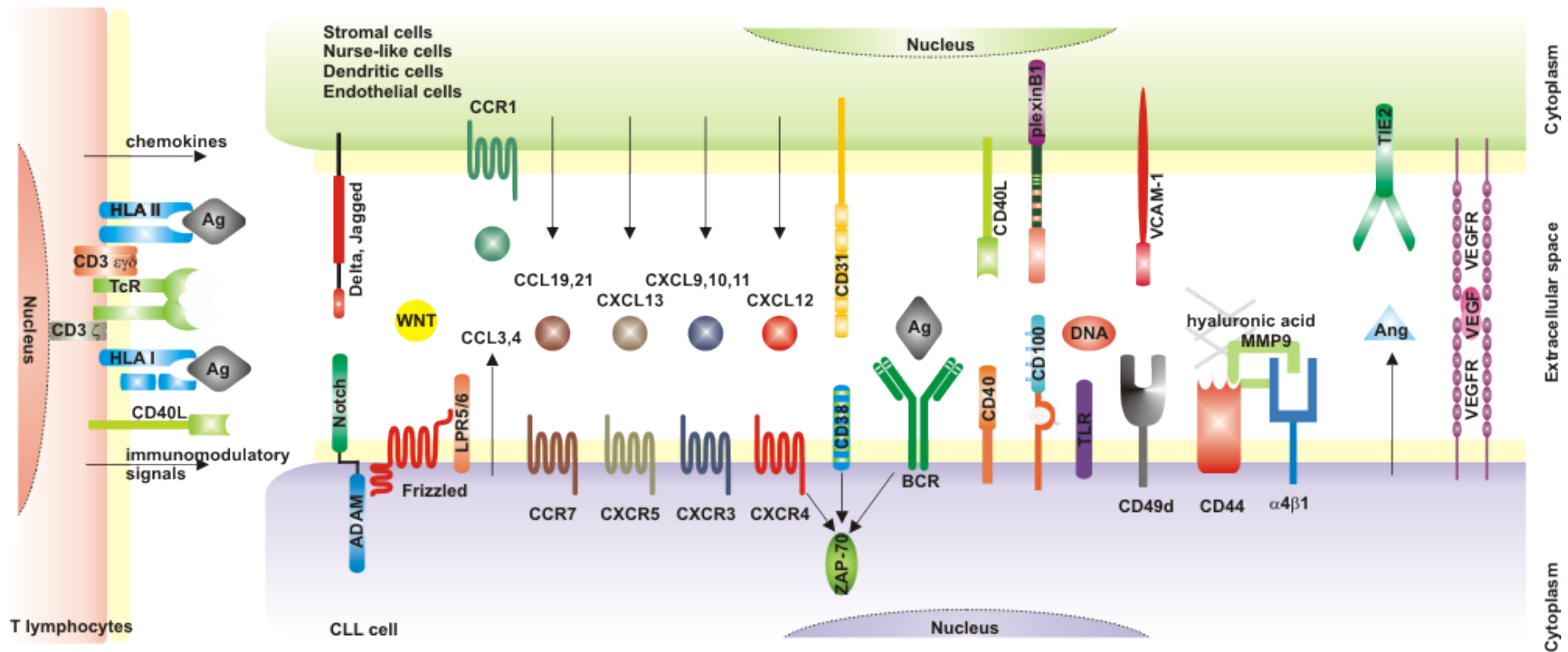
**IOSI - Oncology Institute of Southern Switzerland**

**IOR - Institute of Oncology Reserach**

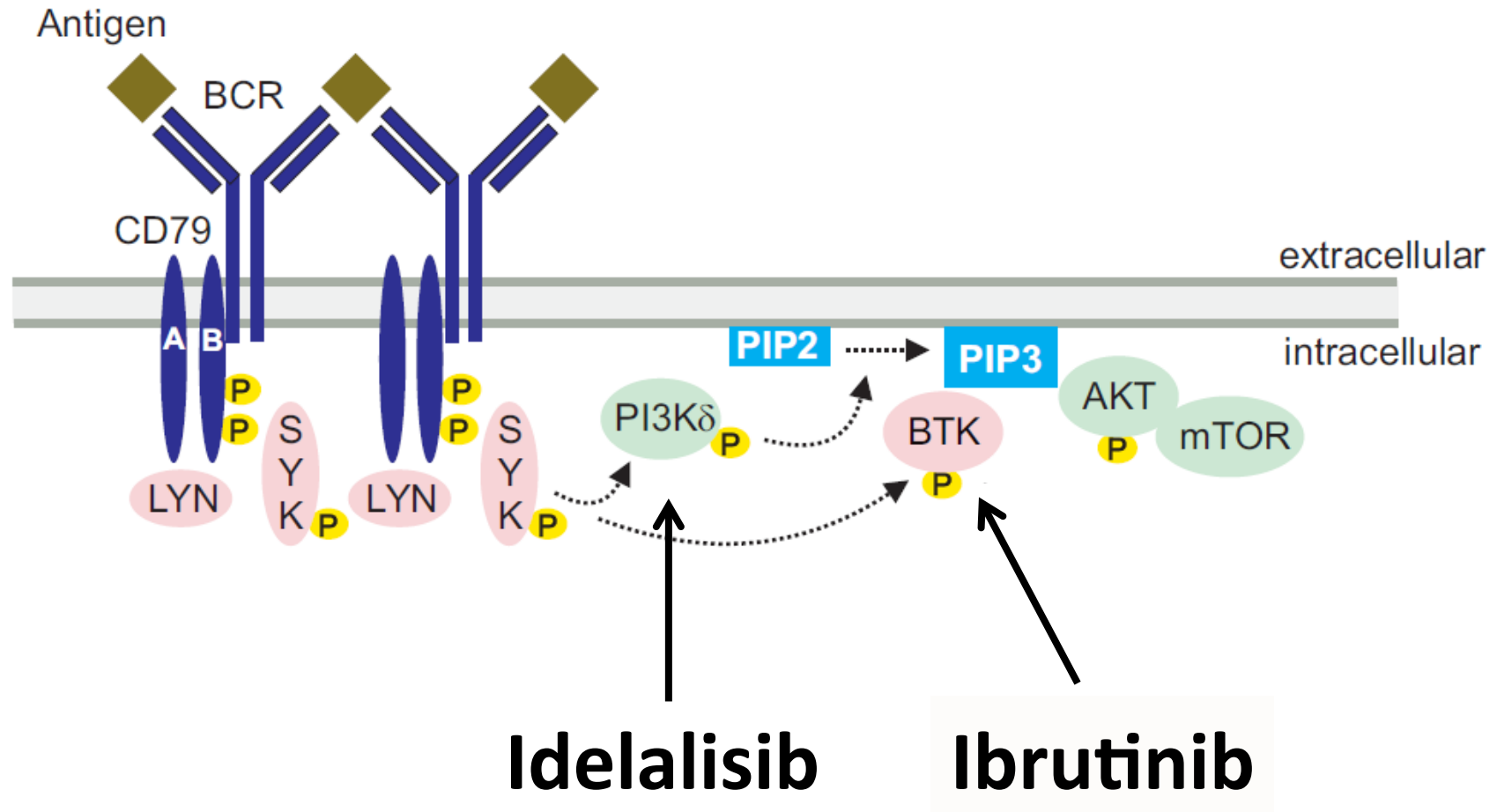
**Bellinzona - Switzerland**

# CLL is a tumor that is “addicted to the host”

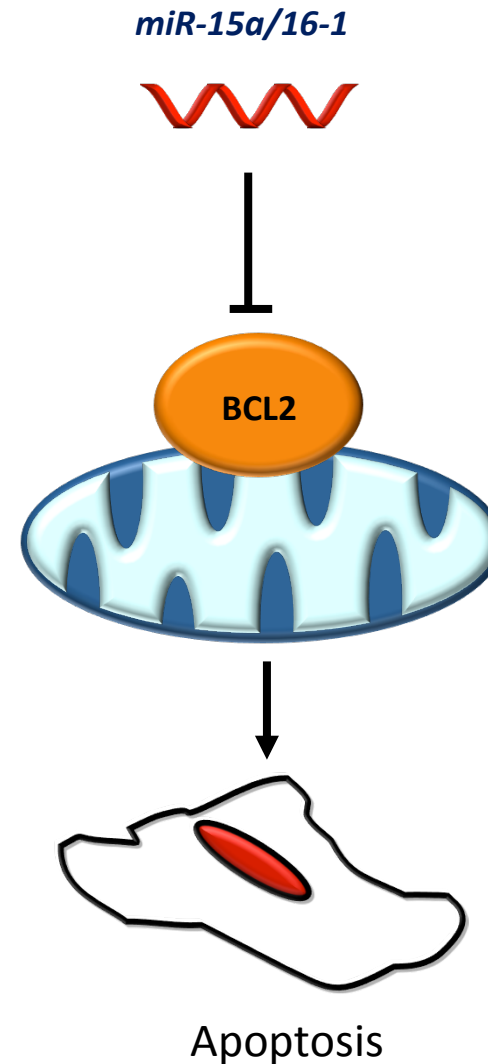
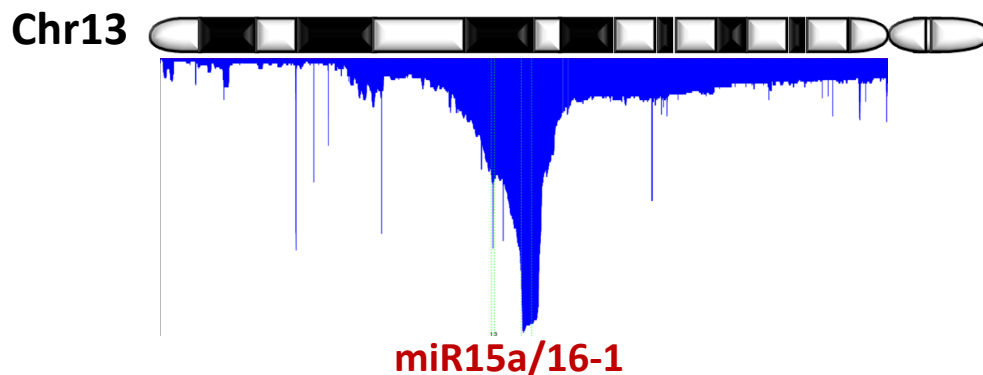
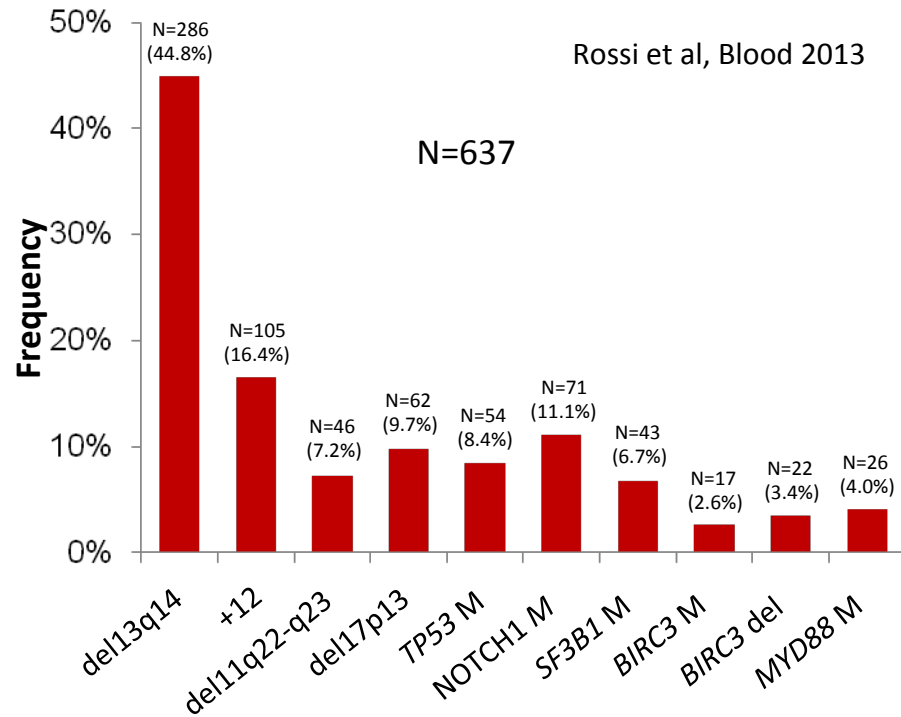
“an opportunistic tumor”



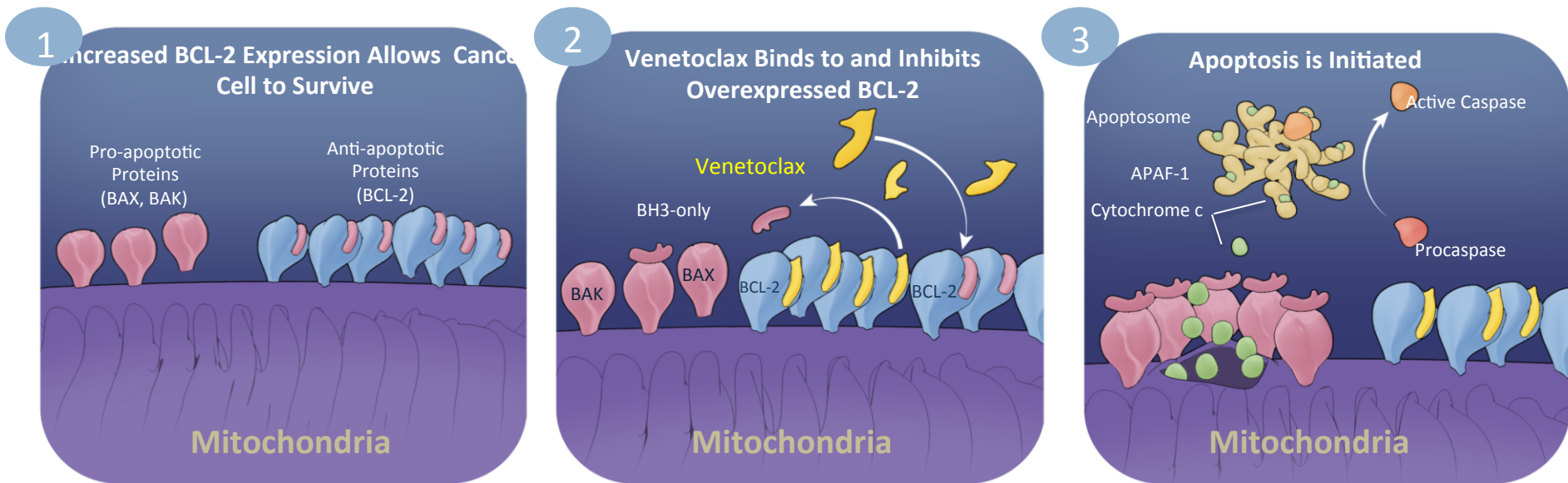
# Targeting kinases in the BCR pathway



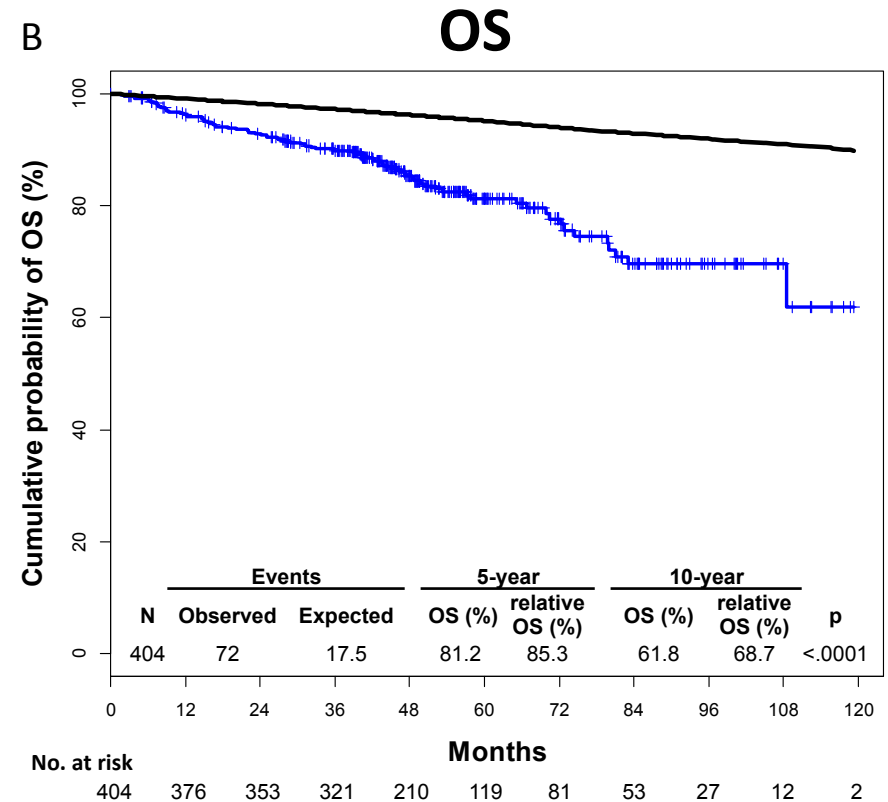
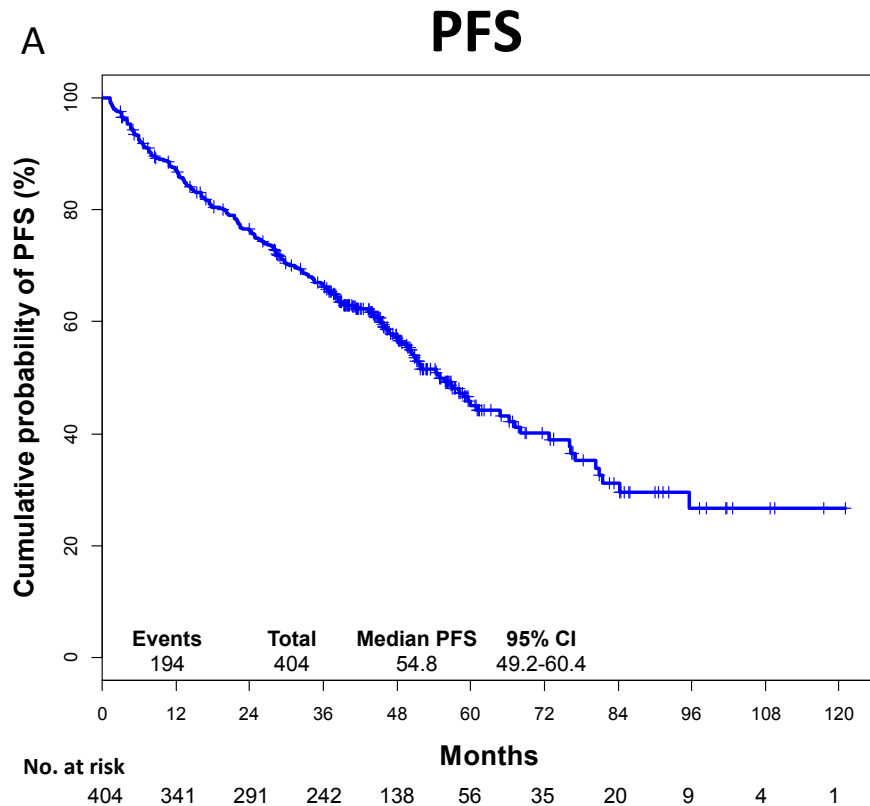
# 13q14 deletion is the most frequent genetic lesion of CLL



# Targeting BCL2 in the apoptotic pathway

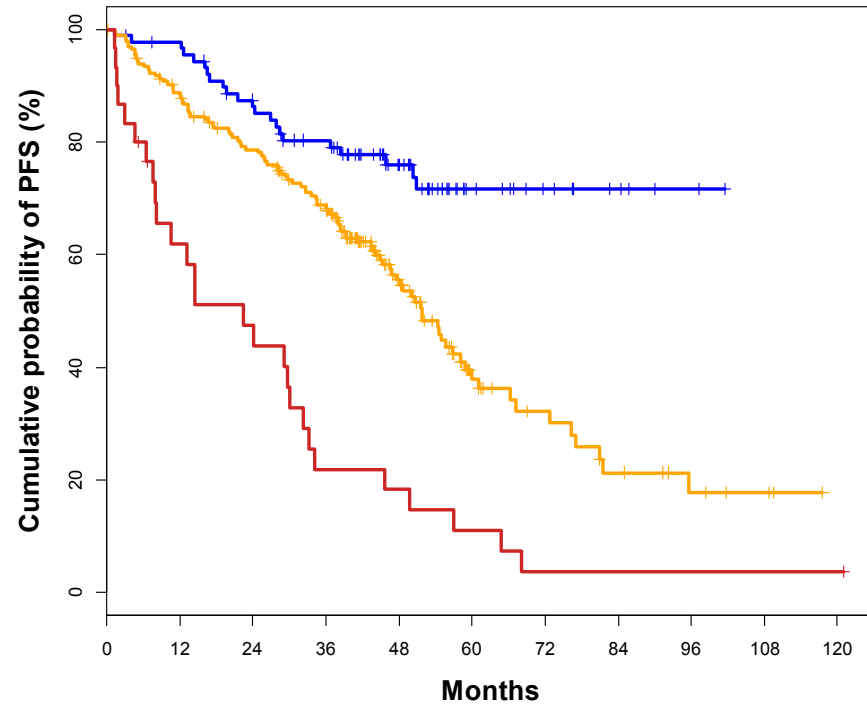


# General outcome after upfront FCR in CLL (n=404 from the real world practice)



# IGHV-mutated patients devoid of del17p and del11q gain the greatest benefit from chemoimmunotherapy

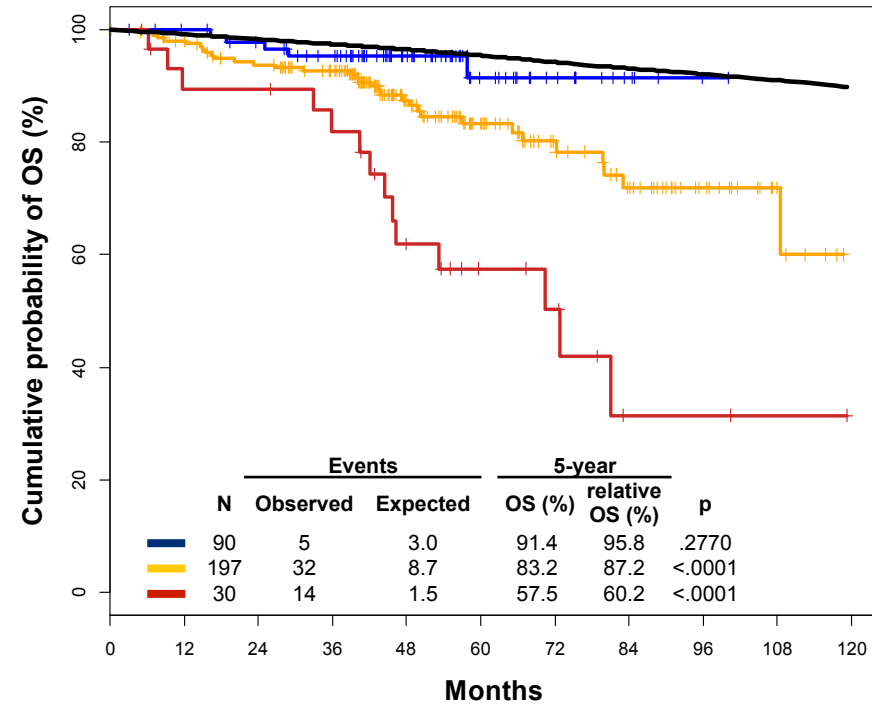
— Low-risk group (*IGHV* mutated) — Intermediate-risk group (*IGHV* unmutated and/or 11q deletion) — High-risk group (17p deletion)



Events	Total	Median PFS	95% CI
22	90	nr	na
102	197	51.7	46.1-57.2
27	30	22.5	8.5-36.4

#### Pairwise comparisons

p	Low-risk vs Intermediate-risk	Low-risk vs High-risk	Intermediate-risk vs High-risk
-	0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001
0.0001	-	<0.0001	<0.0001
<0.0001	<0.0001	-	-



Events	Total	5-years OS	95% CI
5	90	91.4	87.1-95.7
32	197	83.2	80.0-86.4
14	30	57.5	47.6-67.4

#### Pairwise comparisons

p	Low-risk vs Intermediate-risk	Low-risk vs High-risk	Intermediate-risk vs High-risk
-	0.0341	<0.0001	<0.0001
0.0341	-	0.0004	0.0004
<0.0001	0.0004	-	-

## CLL treatment subgroups

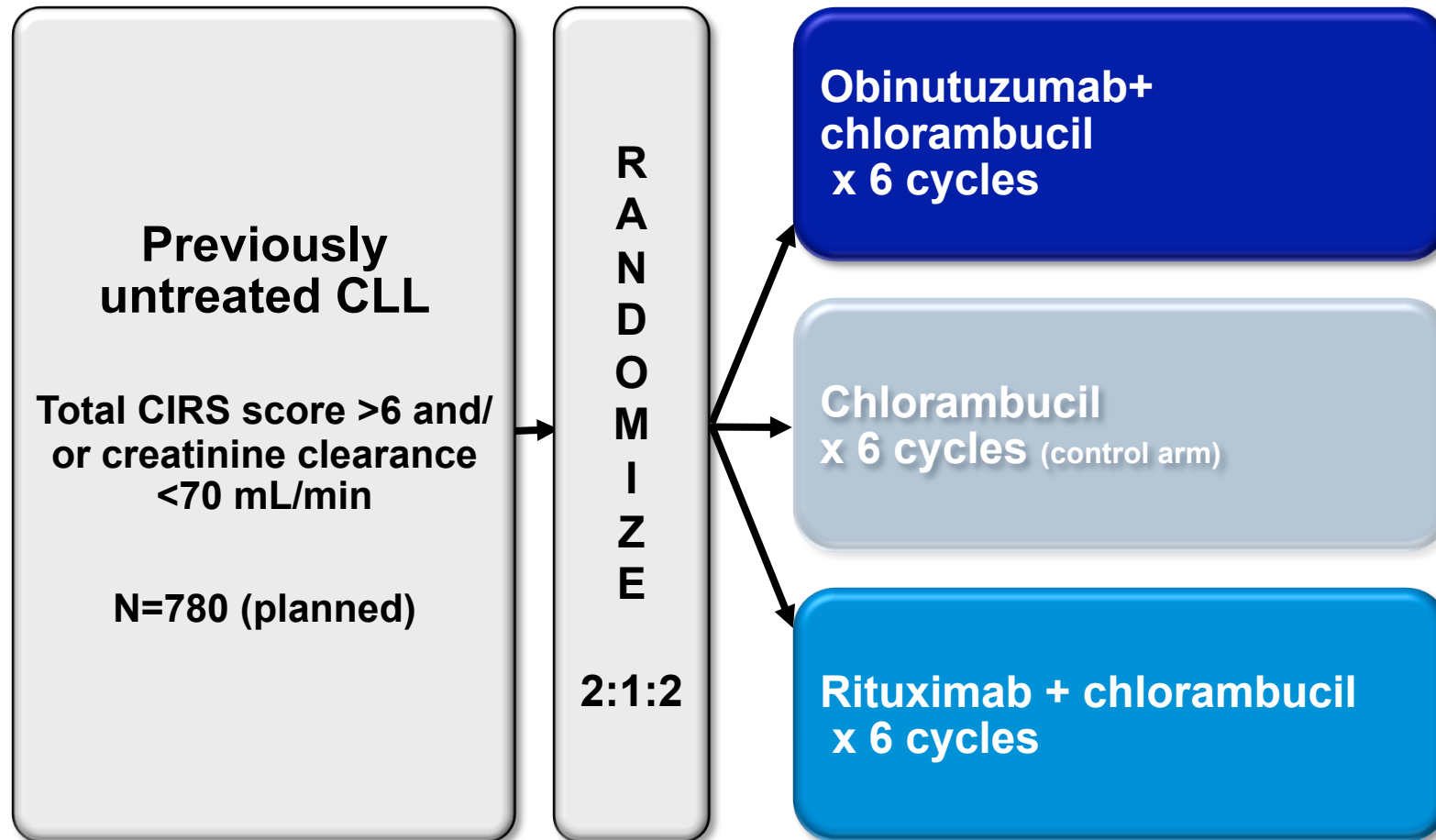
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- **Treatment naïve**
- **Relapsed/refractory CLL**
- **High risk *TP53* disrupted CLL**
- **BCRi resistant/intolerant CLL**



# First line treatment of unfit CLL patients

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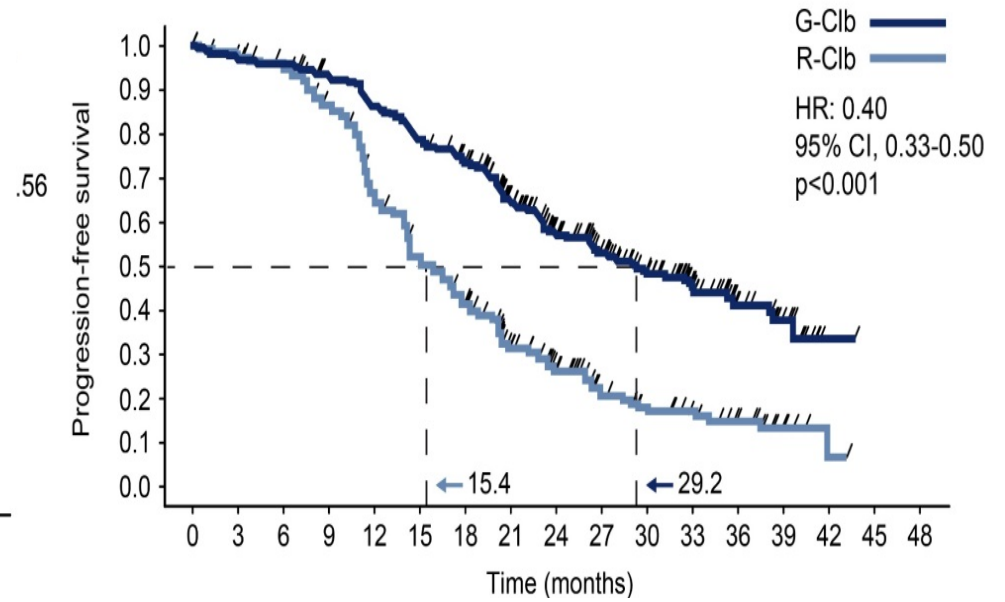
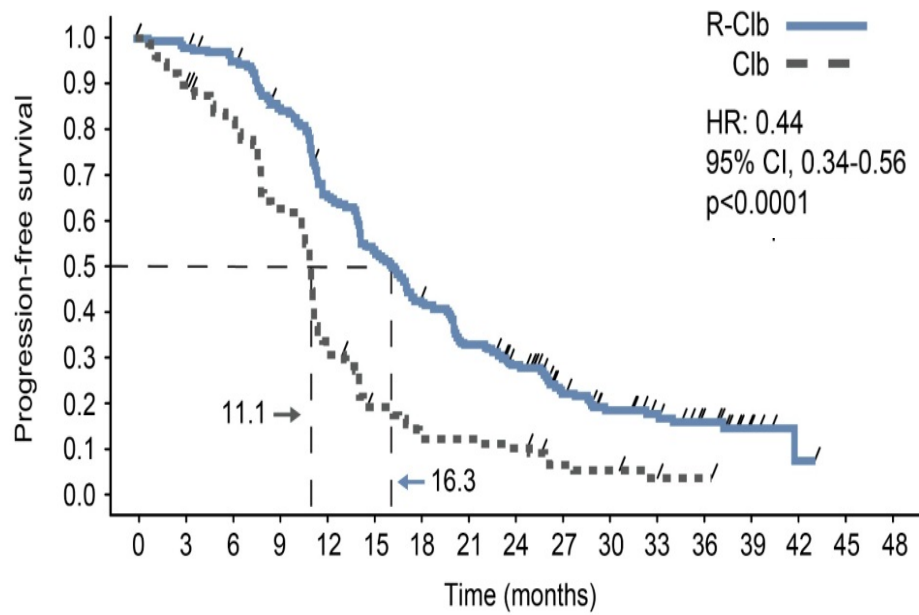


Obinutuzumab 1,000mg days 1, 8, and 15 cycle 1; day 1 cycles 2–6, every 28 days

Chlorambucil: 0.5mg/kg day 1 and day 15 cycle 1–6, every 28 days

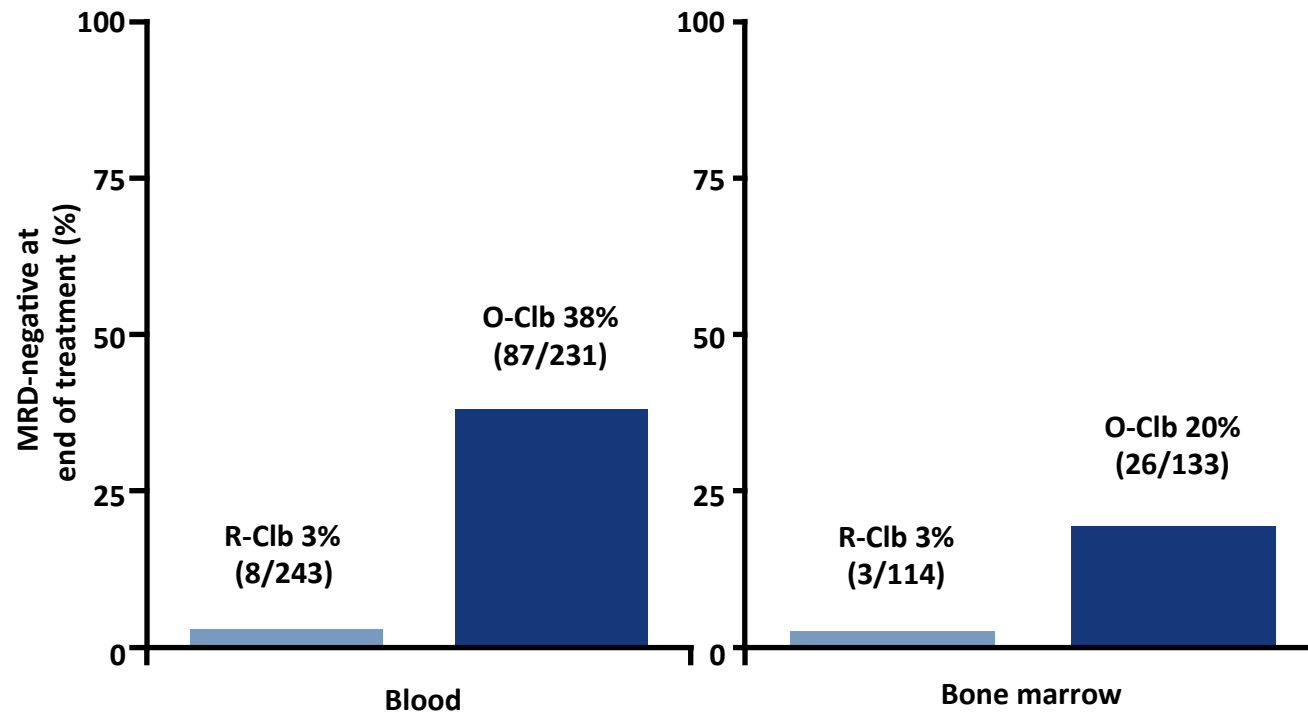
Rituximab: 375mg/m<sup>2</sup> day 1 cycle 1, 500 mg/m<sup>2</sup> day 1 cycles 2–6, every 28 days

# G-CLB > R-CLB > CLB



# Depth of response is higher with obinutuzumab-chlorambucil than rituximab-chlorambucil

MRD clearance was higher in the O-Clb arm (May 2013 data cut-off)<sup>1</sup>



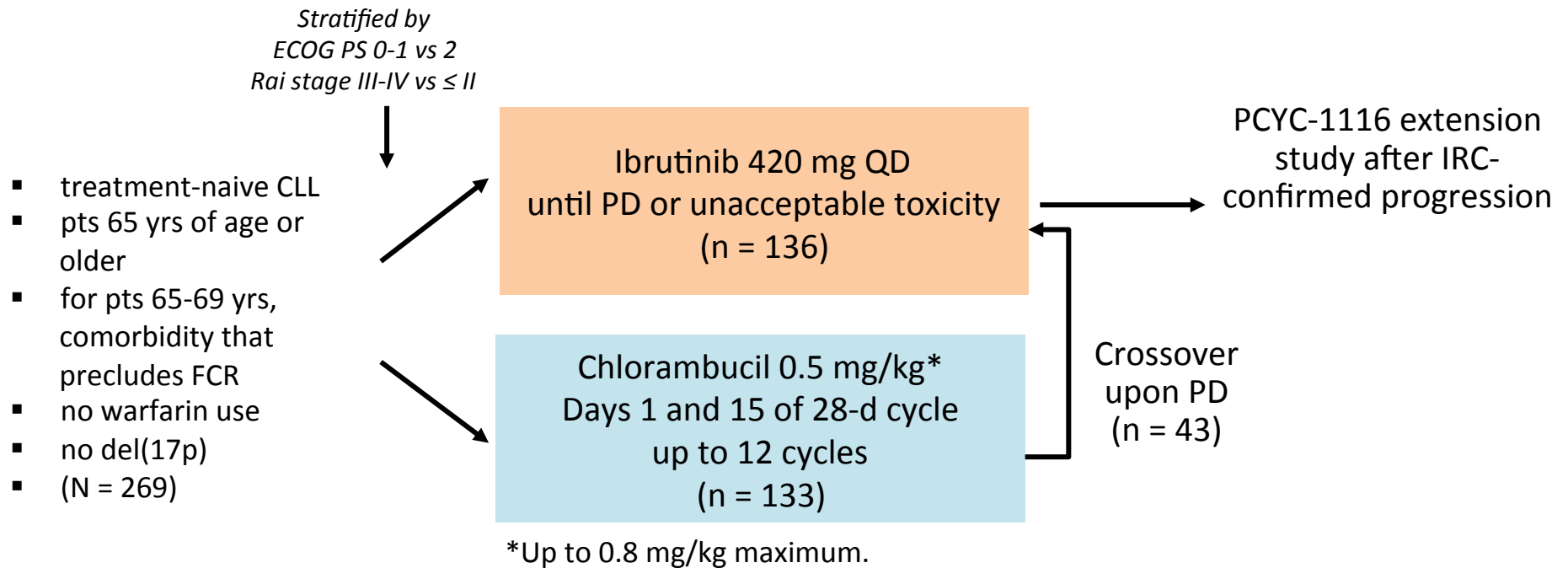
- MRD measured by central laboratory assessment (ASO-RQ-PCR) of blood and/or bone marrow samples taken at baseline and 3 months after last dose of study medication
- Patients are considered MRD-negative if they have fewer than one CLL cell in 10,000 cells (iwCLL guidelines<sup>2</sup>)
- Bone marrow samples were usually only taken from patients thought to be in CR
- Patients who progressed or died prior to MRD measurement were counted as MRD-positive; patients without MRD results, and one in the R-Clb arm who had not reached their end-of-treatment analysis by the time of the data cut-off, were excluded

## Toxicity is higher with obinutuzumab-chlorambucil than rituximab-chlorambucil

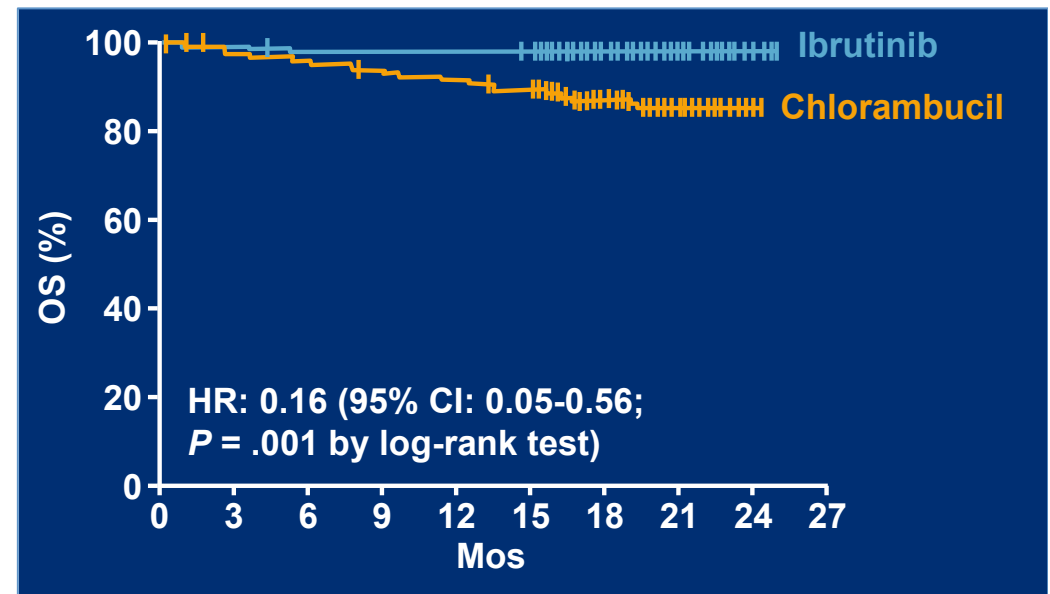
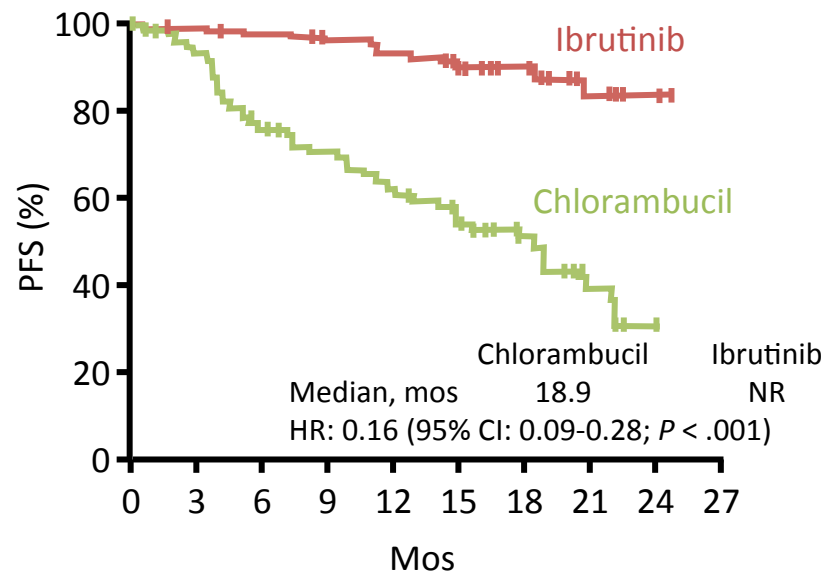
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<b>AE</b>	<b>GAZYVA<sup>®</sup> + Chlorambucil</b>	<b>Rituximab + Chlorambucil</b>	<b>Chlorambucil</b>
<b>Hematological G3-5</b>			
<b>Neutrophils</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Hemoglobin</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Platelets</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Infection G3-5</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Infusion-related reaction G3-5</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>0%</b>

# Ibrutinib as first line treatment in unfit CLL



# Ibrutinib is superior to chlorambucil as first line treatment in unfit CLL



Outcome	Ibrutinib (n = 136)	Chlorambucil (n = 133)	P Value
Median PFS, mos	NE	18.9	< .0001
18-mo PFS rate, %	90	52	

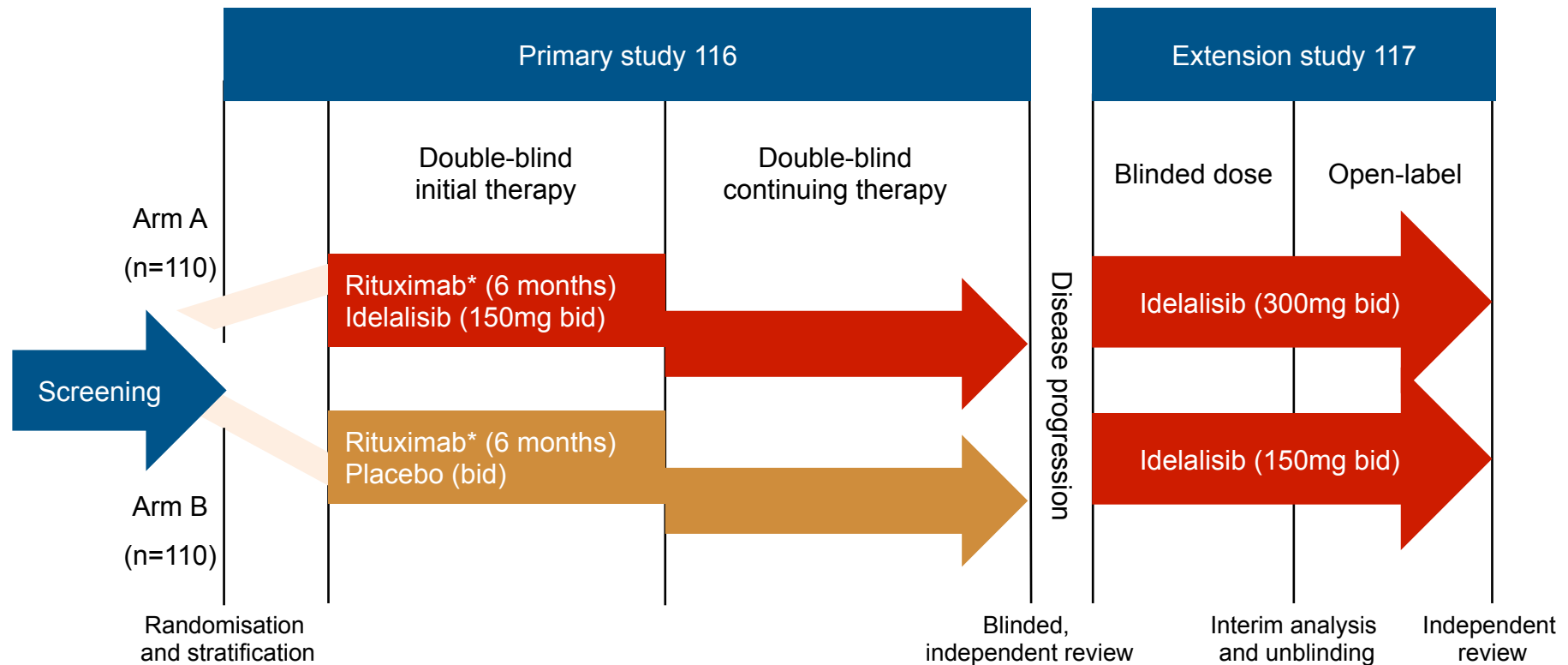
## CLL treatment subgroups

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- **Treatment naïve**
- **Relapsed/refractory CLL**
- **High risk *TP53* disrupted CLL**
- **BCRi resistant/intolerant CLL**

# Salvage treatment: idelalisib

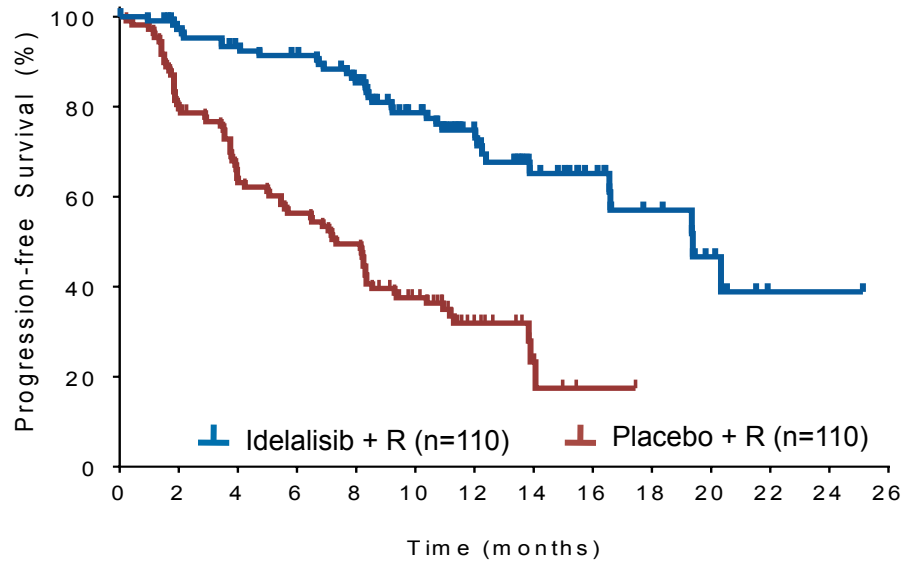
## Comparative trials with kinase inhibitor: Study 116/117





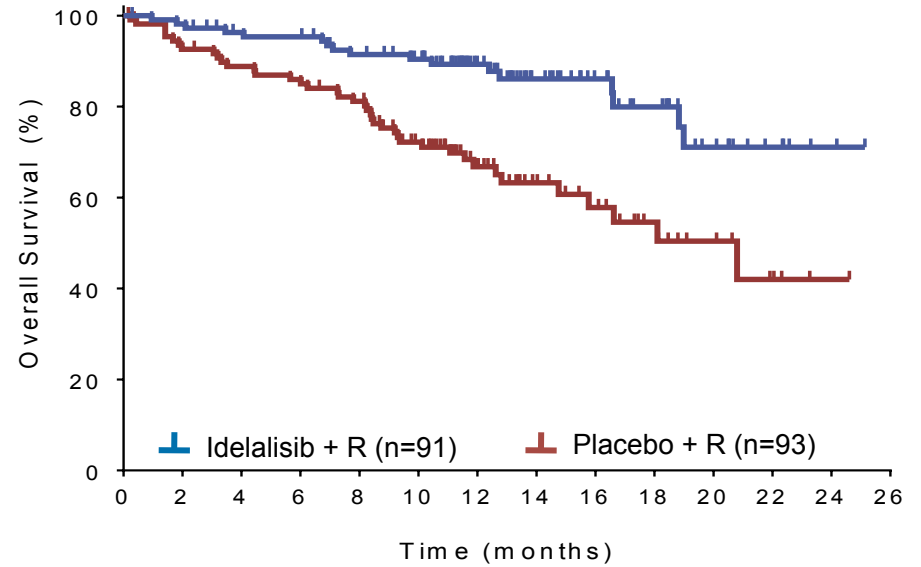
# Salvage treatment: idelalisib

## Progression-free and overall survival



Progression-free survival

n at risk	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
IDELA+R	110	102	95	92	83	64	43	26	19	12	7	1	1	0
PBO+R	110	86	66	58	51	33	15	5	1	0	-	-	-	-



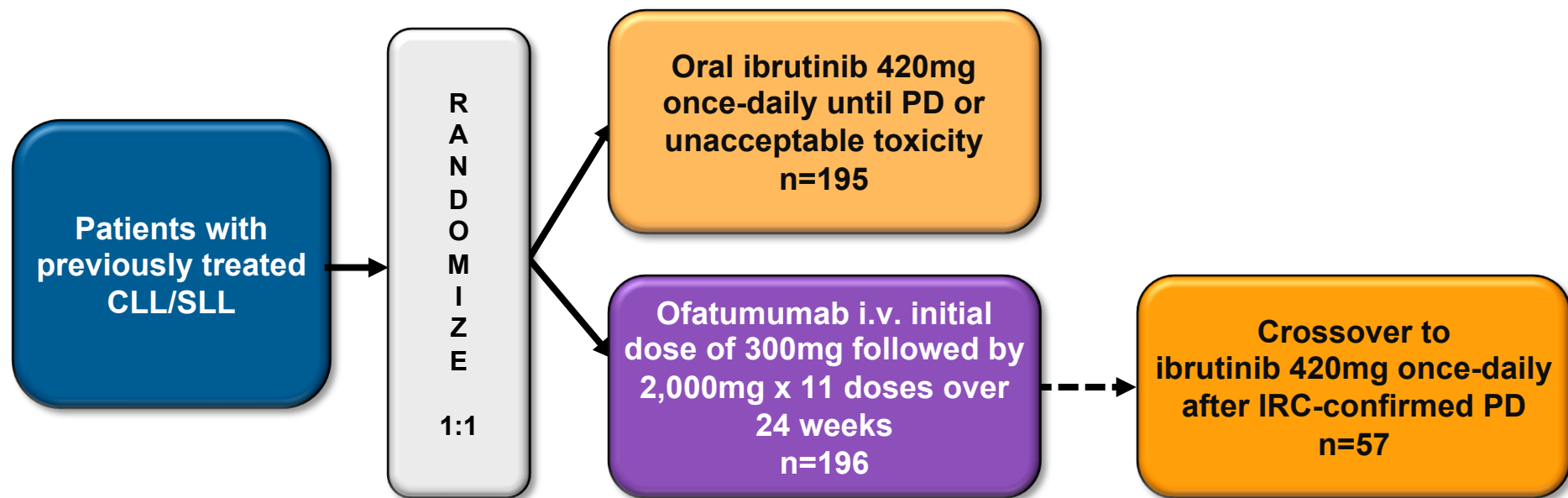
Overall survival

n at risk	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
IDELA+R	110	107	101	100	93	85	60	41	30	23	13	7	3	0
PBO+R	110	99	93	90	84	66	42	27	20	13	8	4	1	0

## Salvage treatment: ibrutinib

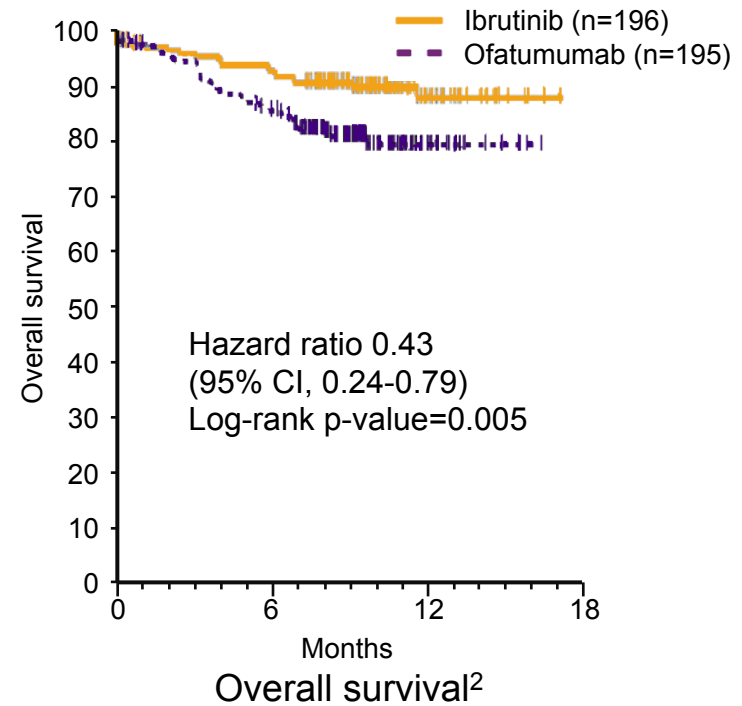
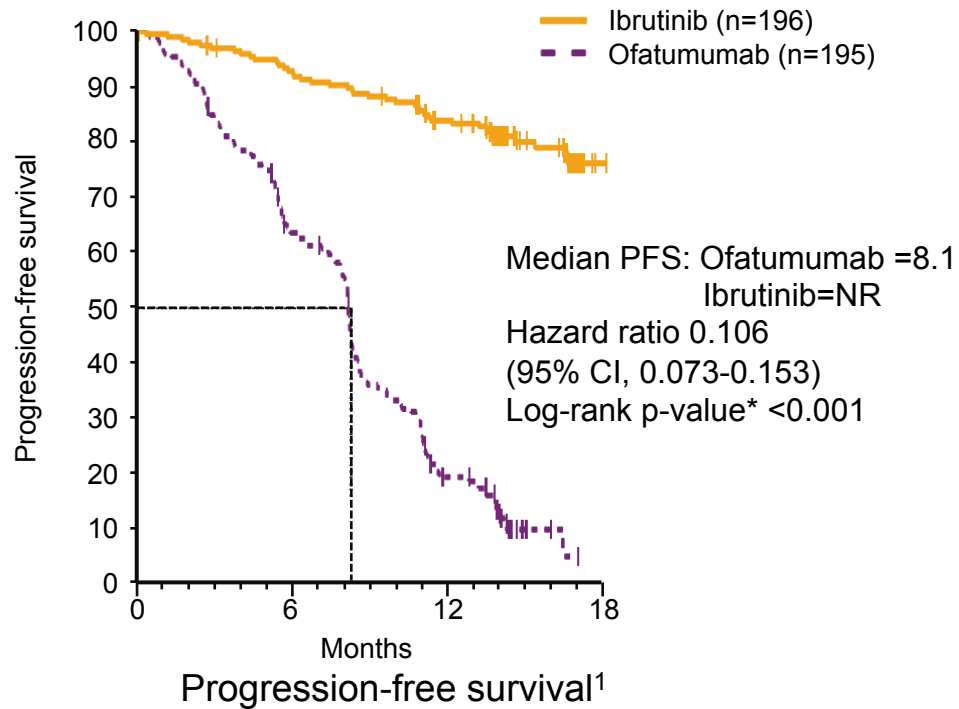
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# Comparative trials with kinase inhibitor: RESONATE



# Salvage treatment: ibrutinib

## Progression-free and overall survival



\*p<0.0001 for ibrutinib vs. ofatumumab. †5 patients for ibrutinib and 17 for ofatumumab were nonevaluable for response but included in denominator (ITT population).

<sup>1</sup>Brown *et al*, *Blood* 2014 124:3331 (Poster presented at ASH meeting 2014);

<sup>2</sup>Byrd *et al*. *New Engl J Med*. 2014 Jul 17;371(3):213-2.

# Toxicities of BCR inhibitors

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## **Ibrutinib:**

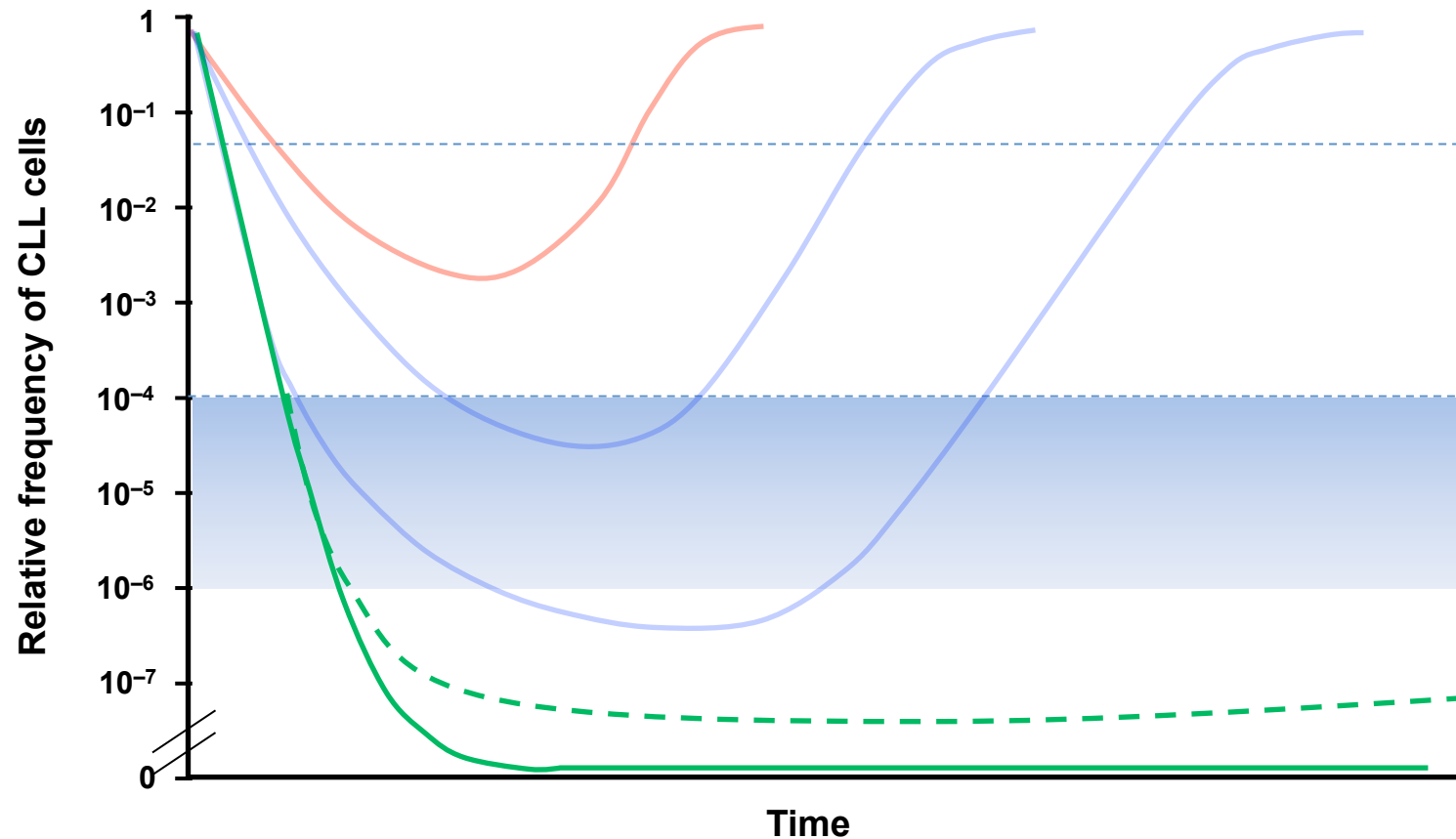
- Bleeding
- Atrial fibrillation
- Hypertension
- Arthralgia
- Drug interactions
- Costs
- Compliance?
- Long term safety?

## **Idelalisib:**

- Transaminitis
- Diarrhea/colitis
- Pneumonitis
- Infections
- Drug interactions
- Costs
- Compliance
- Long term safety?

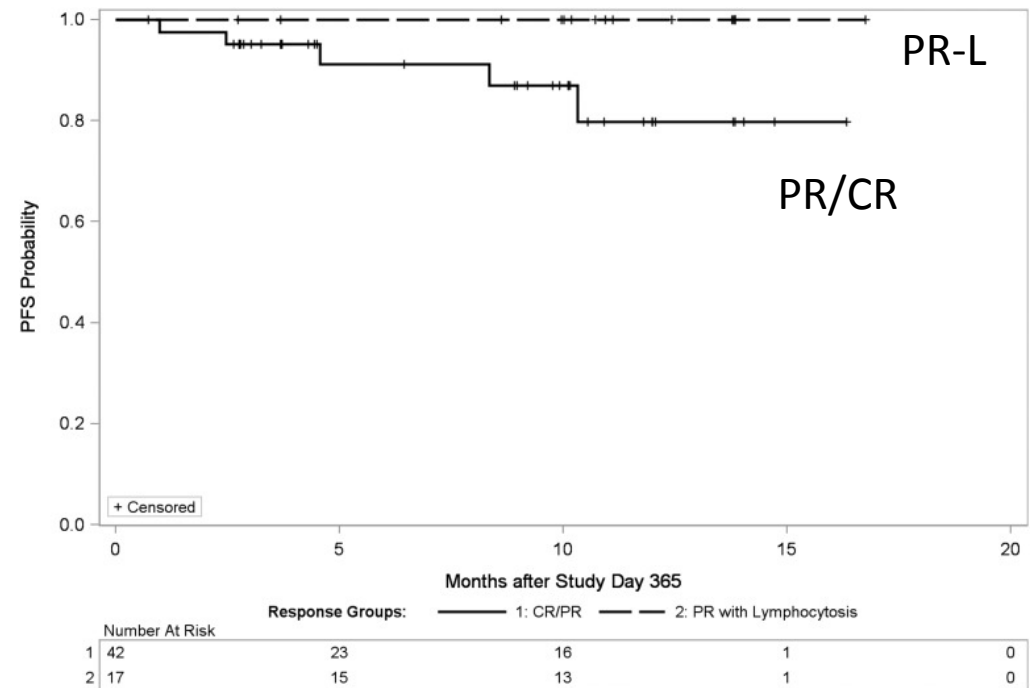
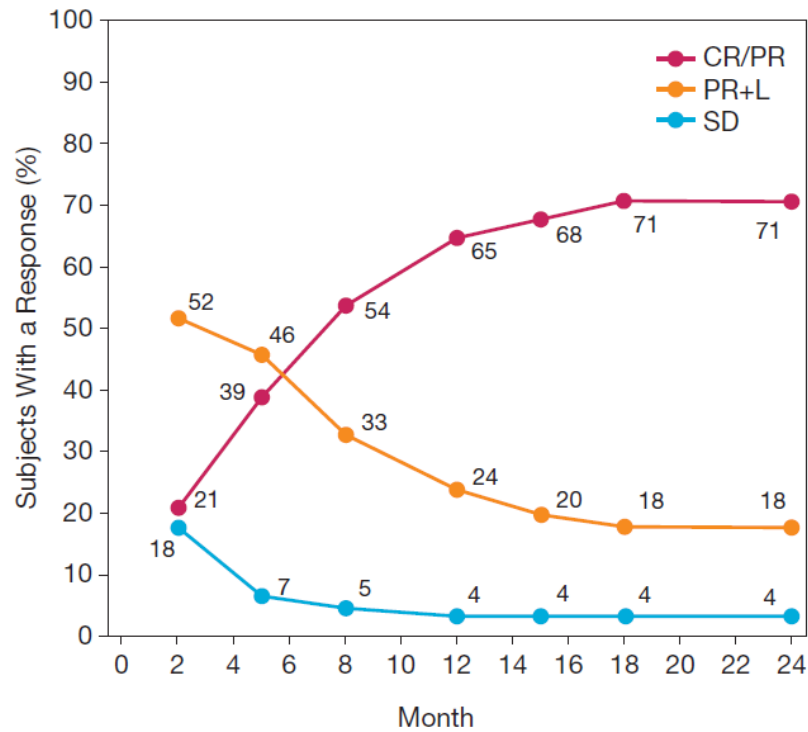
# CLL endpoints: Depth of response and progression free survival

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- 1 Böttcher S, et al. *Hematol Clin N Am* 2013; 27:267–288;
- 2 Hallek M, et al. *Blood* 2008; 111:5446–5456;
- 3 Moreno C, et al. *Best Pract Res Clin Haematol* 2010; 23:97–107.

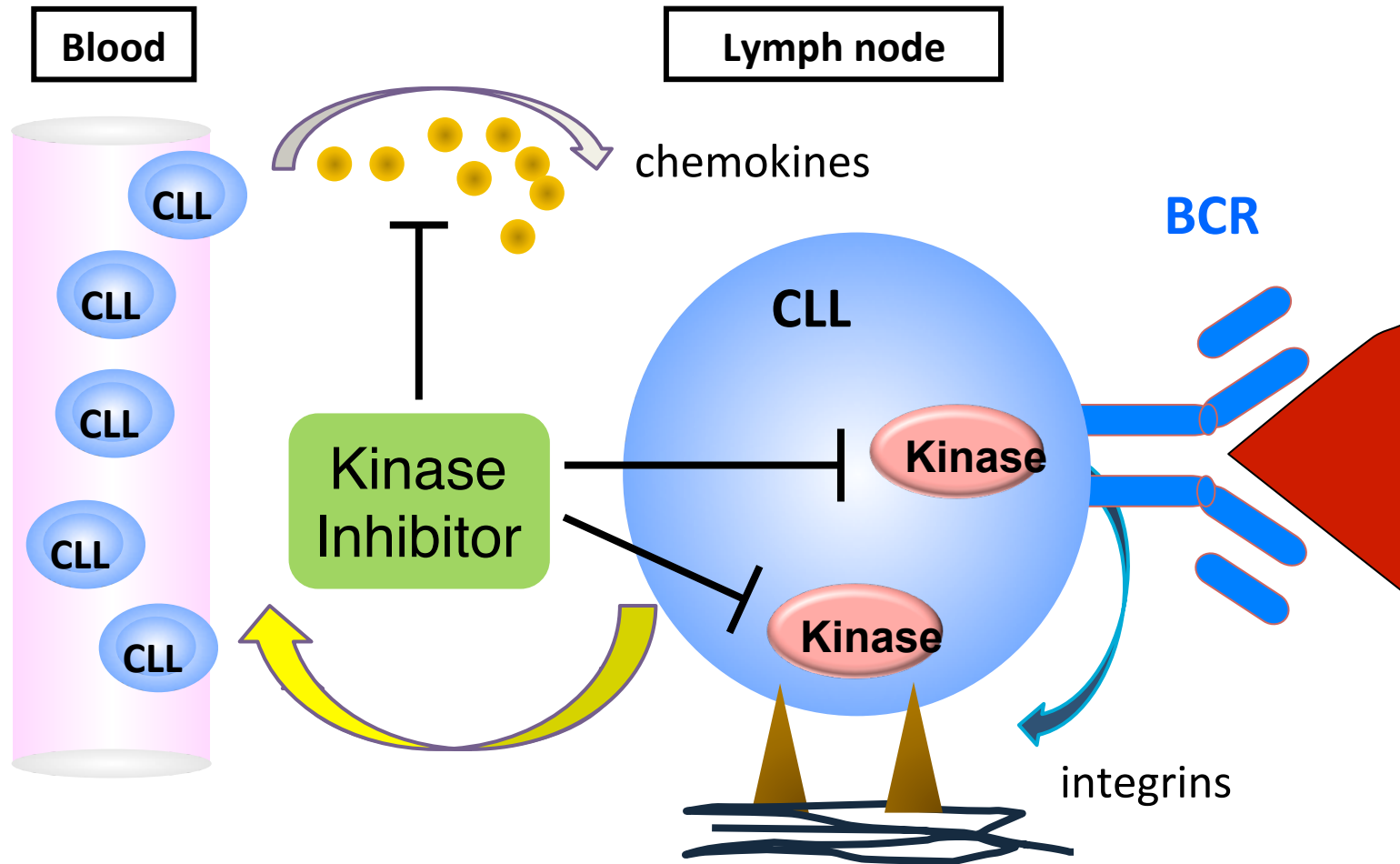
# Evolution of response over time



Byrd JC, et al. N Engl J Med. 2013;369:32-42

Byrd JC, et al. Blood. 2015;125:2497-506

# “Redistribution Lymphocytosis”: possible mechanisms

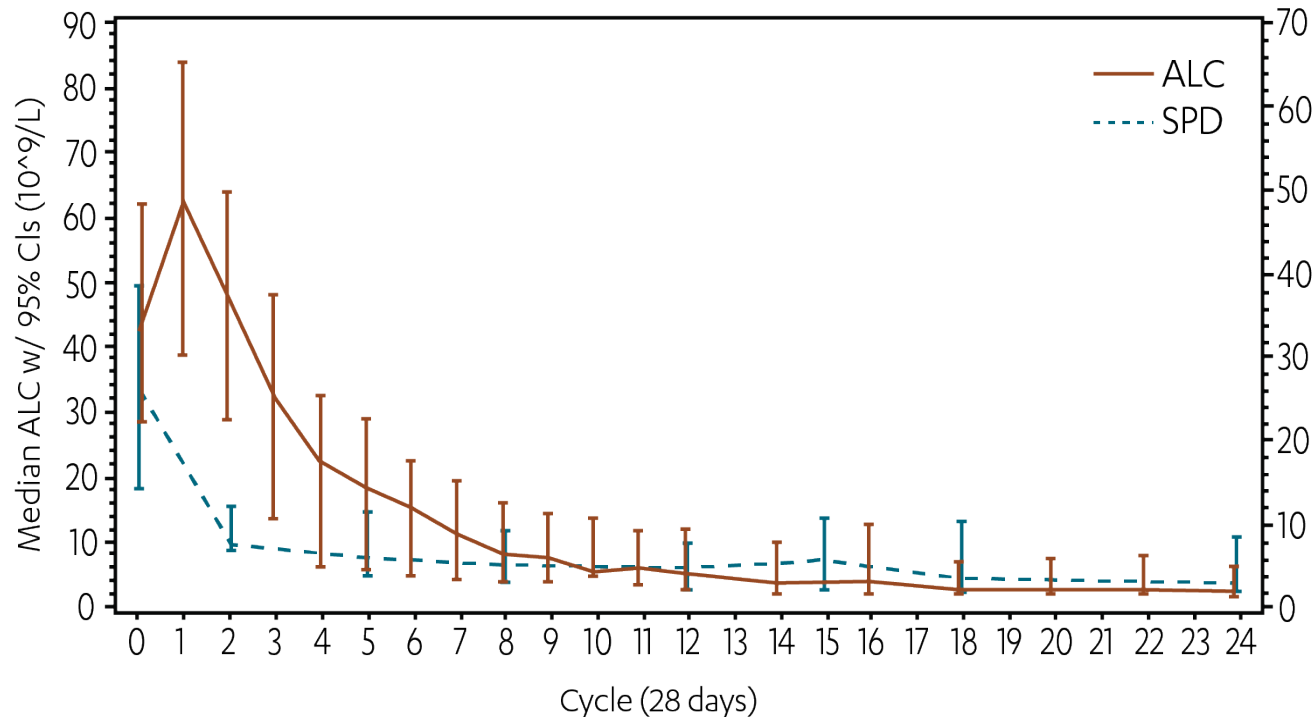


De Rooij, Blood 2012; Ponader, Blood 2012; Herman, abstract #185

## New response criteria are required

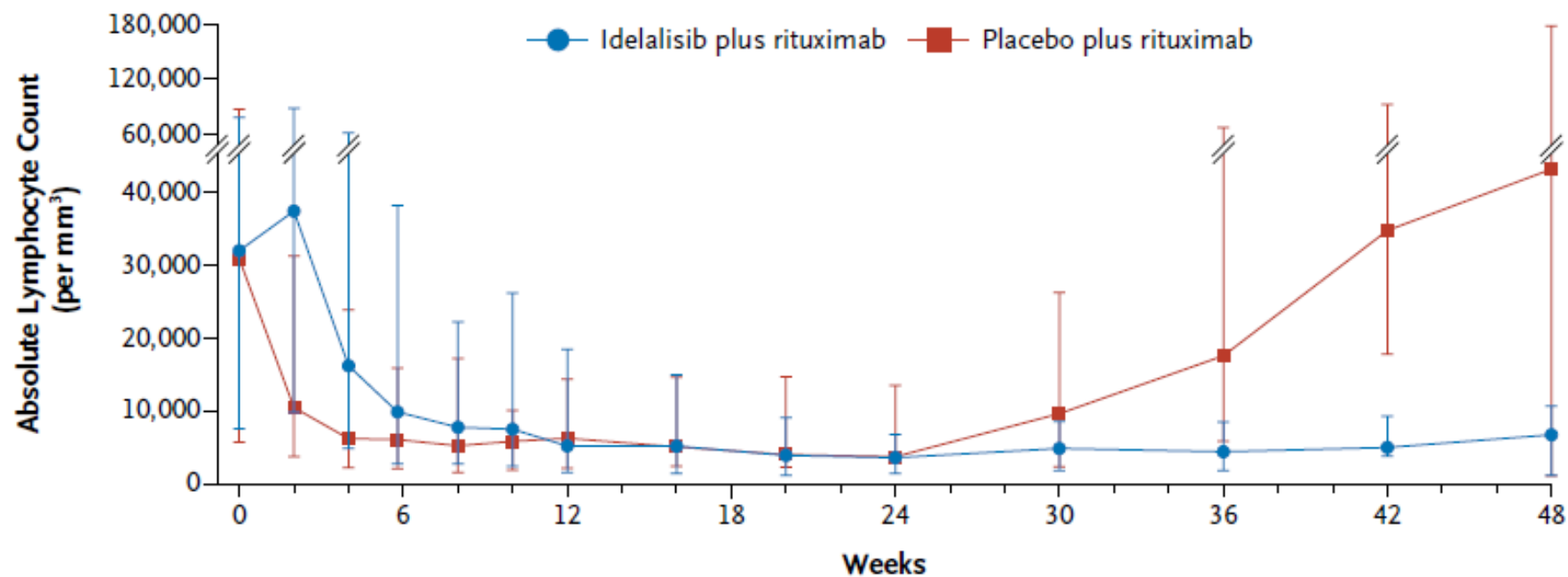
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# Lymphocytosis + Nodal Reduction with BCR Antagonists





## Lymphocytosis is less pronounced if BCRi are combined with rituximab



### No. at Risk

Idelalisib	109	97	99	91	80	69	70	56	50	41	30	27	19	15
Placebo	107	92	89	83	72	62	56	46	37	26	22	17	10	7

## CLL treatment subgroups

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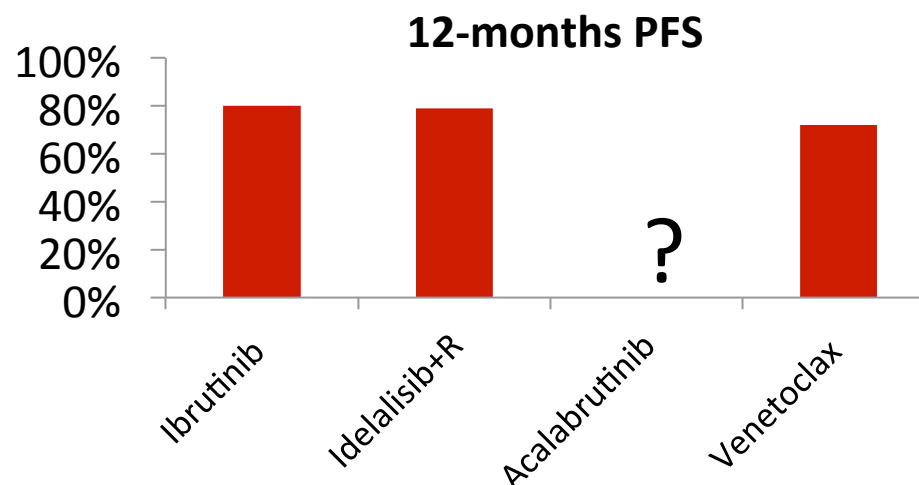
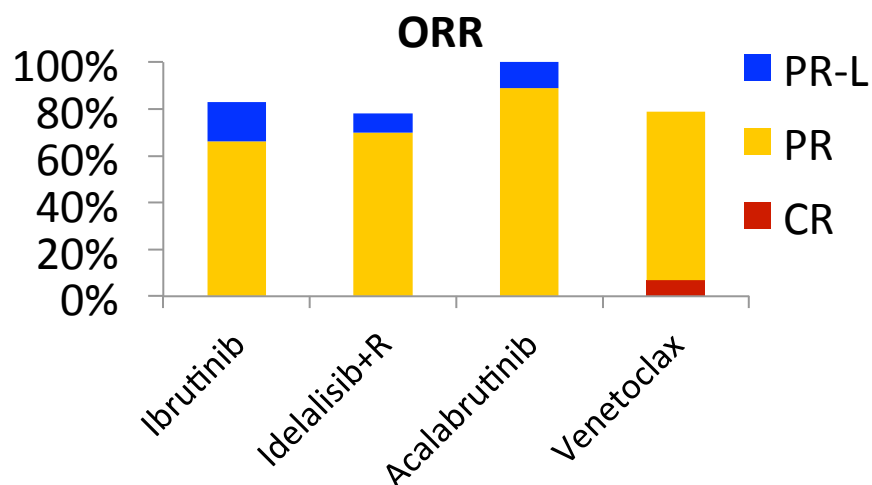
- **Treatment naïve**
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- **High risk *TP53* disrupted CLL**
- **BCRi resistant/intolerant CLL**

# Novel agents in R/R 17p deleted CLL

(from chemo+/- immunotherapy)

RESONATE -17 n=144  
 M13-982 n=107  
 Study 116 (post-hoc) n= 71  
 ACE-CL-001 (post-hoc) n=18

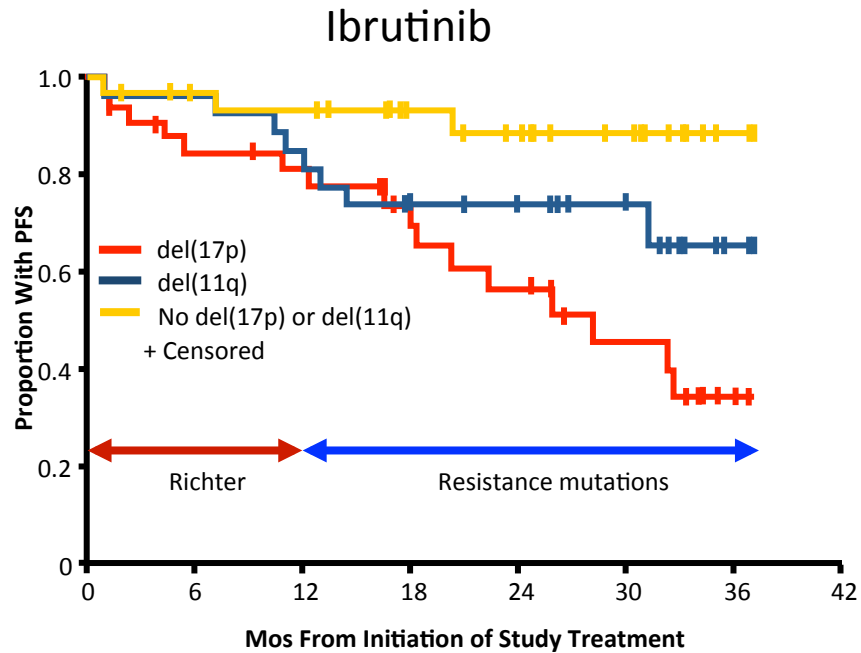
O'Brien, ASH 2014  
 Sharman ASH 2014  
 Byrd ASH 2015  
 Stilgenbauer, ASH 2015



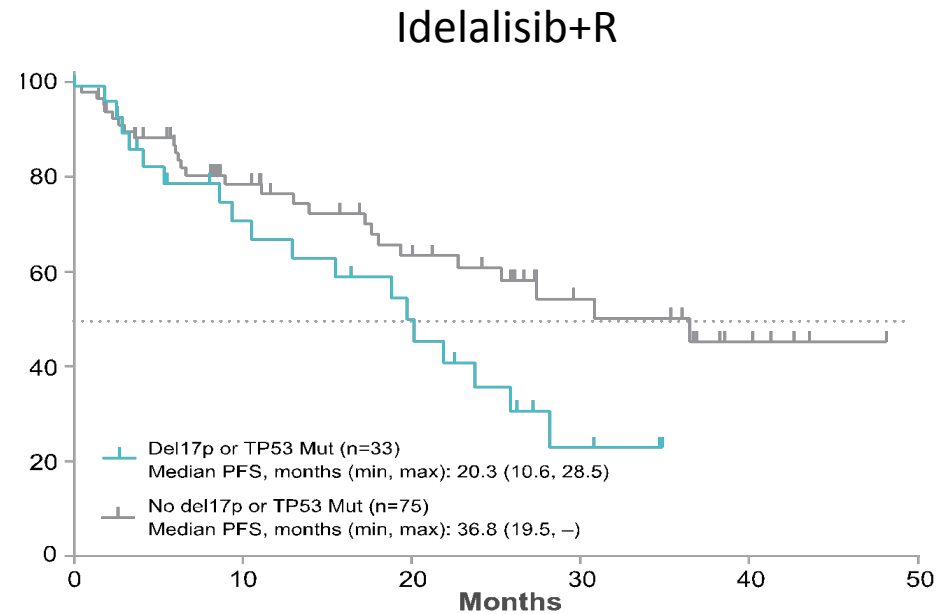
	Ibrutinib	Idelalisib+R	Acalabrutinib	Venetoclax
MRD negative	No	No	No	Yes
Stop treatment	No	No	No	?
Sites of residual disease	PB	PB	PB	LN
Activity in compartments	LN > PB/BM	LN > PB/BM	LN > PB/BM	PB/BM > LN

**Other differences:** safety profile; logistics (outpatient vs hospitalization)

# PFS by Cytogenetics (FISH) in R/R CLL

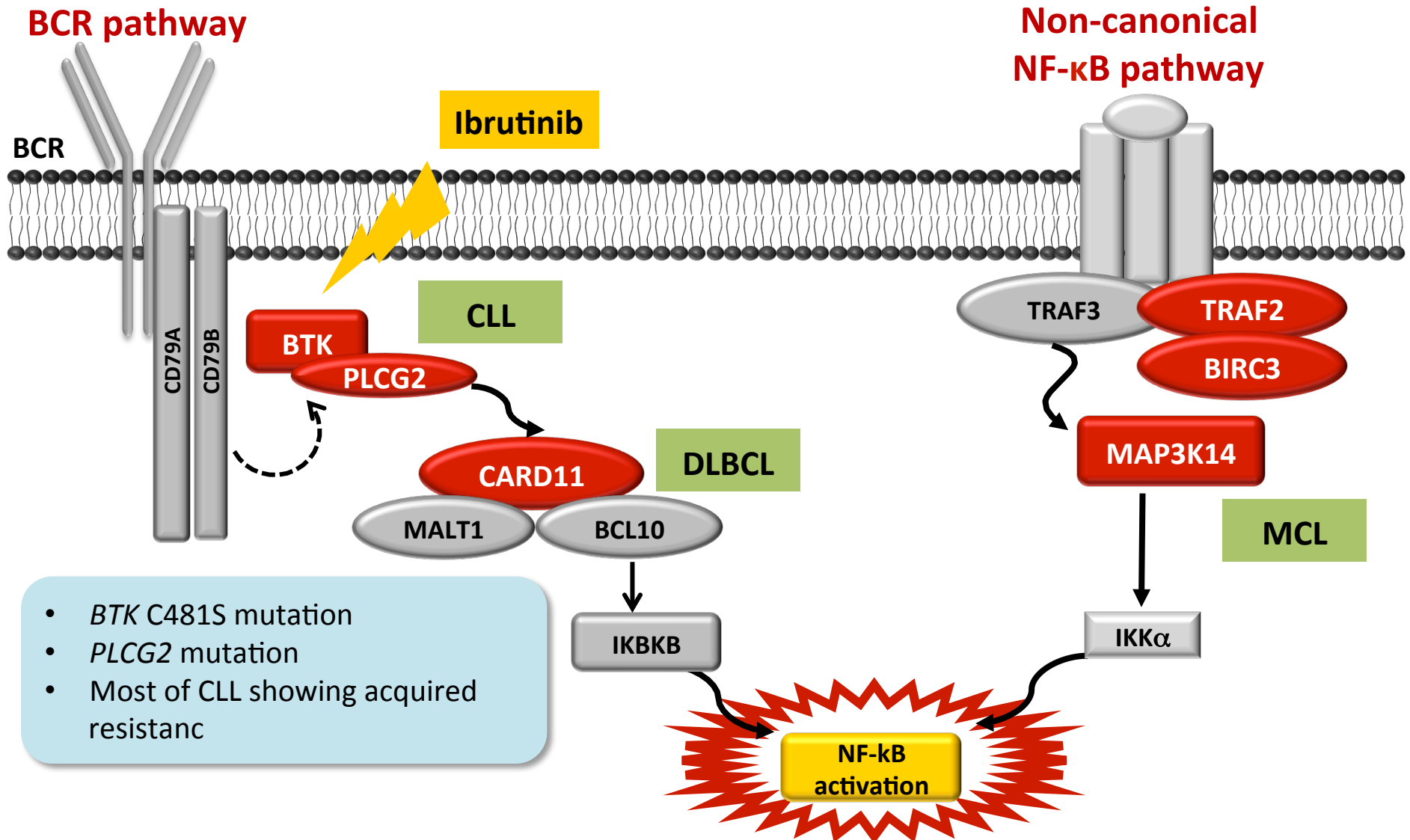


O'Brien S, et al. ASCO 2014. Abstract 7014.



Barrientos, ASCO, 2015, 7011

# Molecular mechanisms of resistance to ibrutinib



1. Davis RE et al. Nature 2010;463:88–92; 2. Woyach JA et al. NEJM 2014;370:2286–94; 3. Furman RR et al. NEJM 2014;370:2352–4; 4. Famà R et al. Blood 2014;124:3831–3; 5. Rahal R et al. Nat Med 2014;20:87–92.

## CLL treatment subgroups

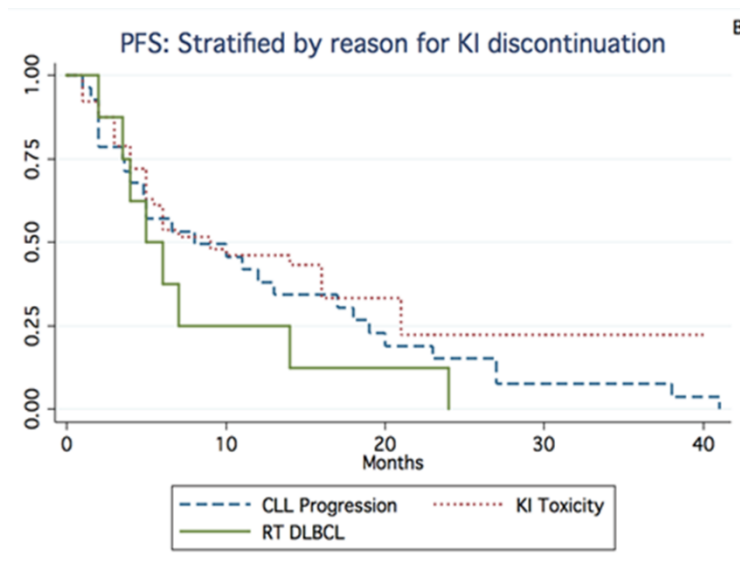
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- **Treatment naïve**
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- **High risk *TP53* disrupted CLL**
- **BCRi resistant/intolerant CLL**

## Switch to another novel agent

### Switch to another kinase inhibitor

**ORR = 67%**



Mato et al, ASH 2015

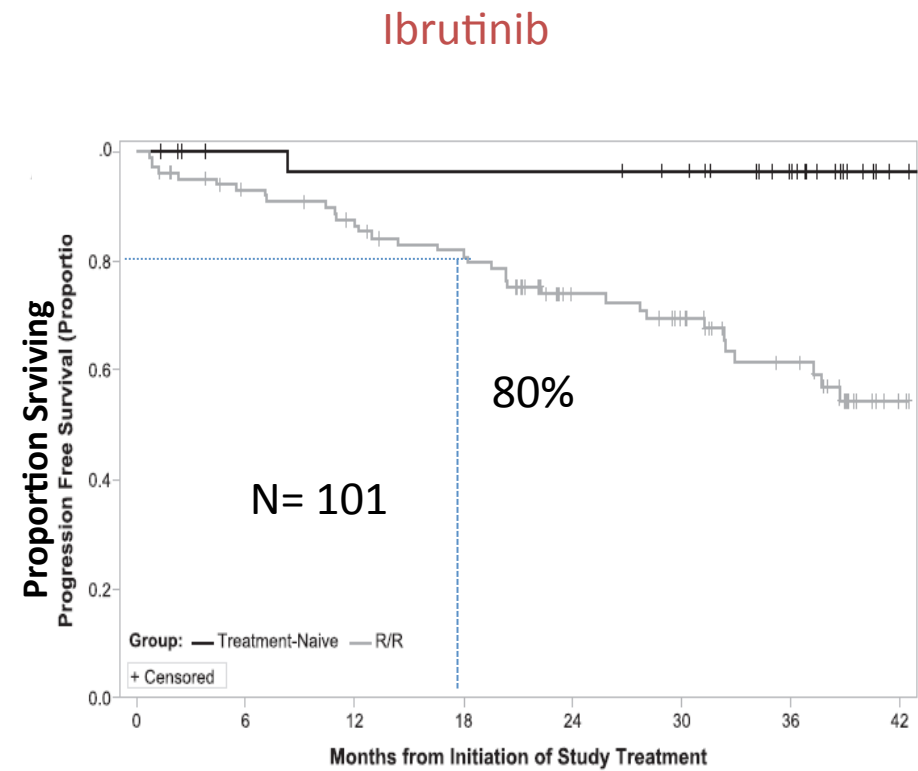
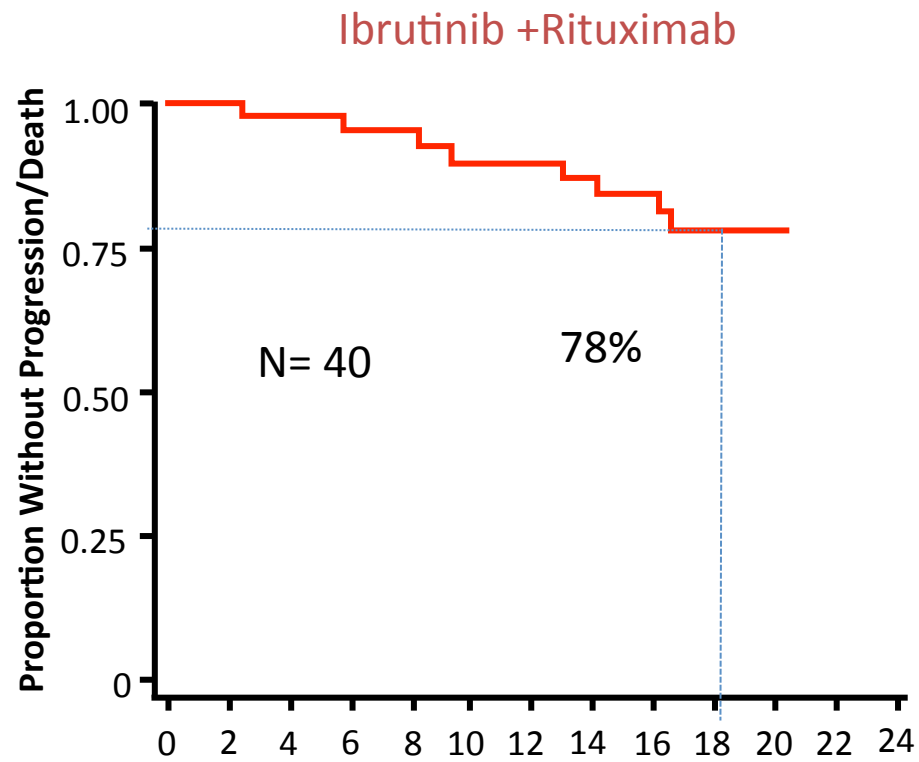
### Switch to venetoclax

Ibrutinib → venetoclax: **53% PR**

Ibrutinib → venetoclax: **50% PR**

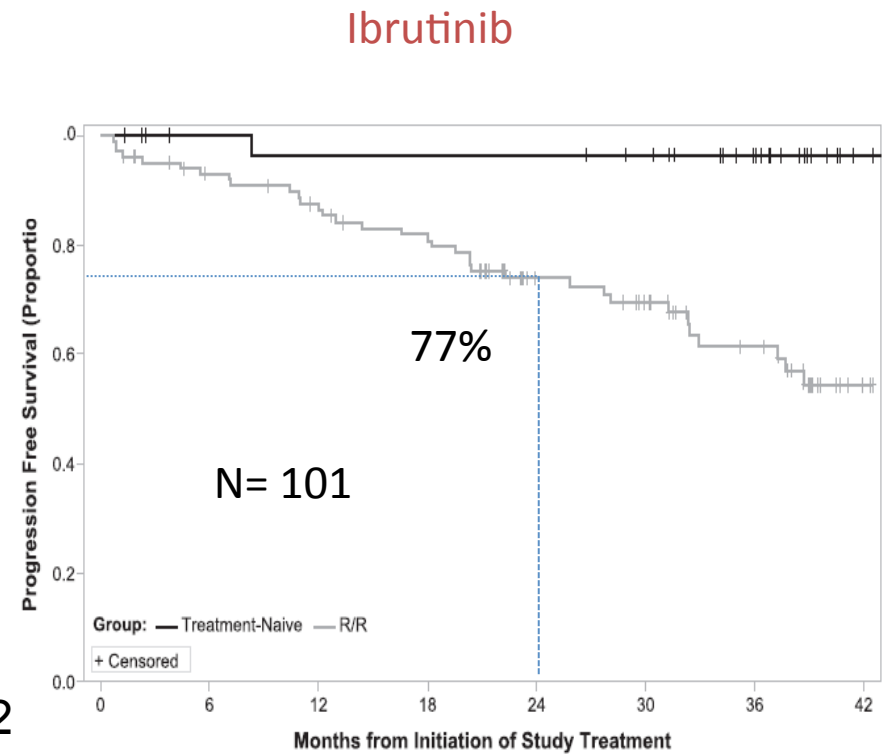
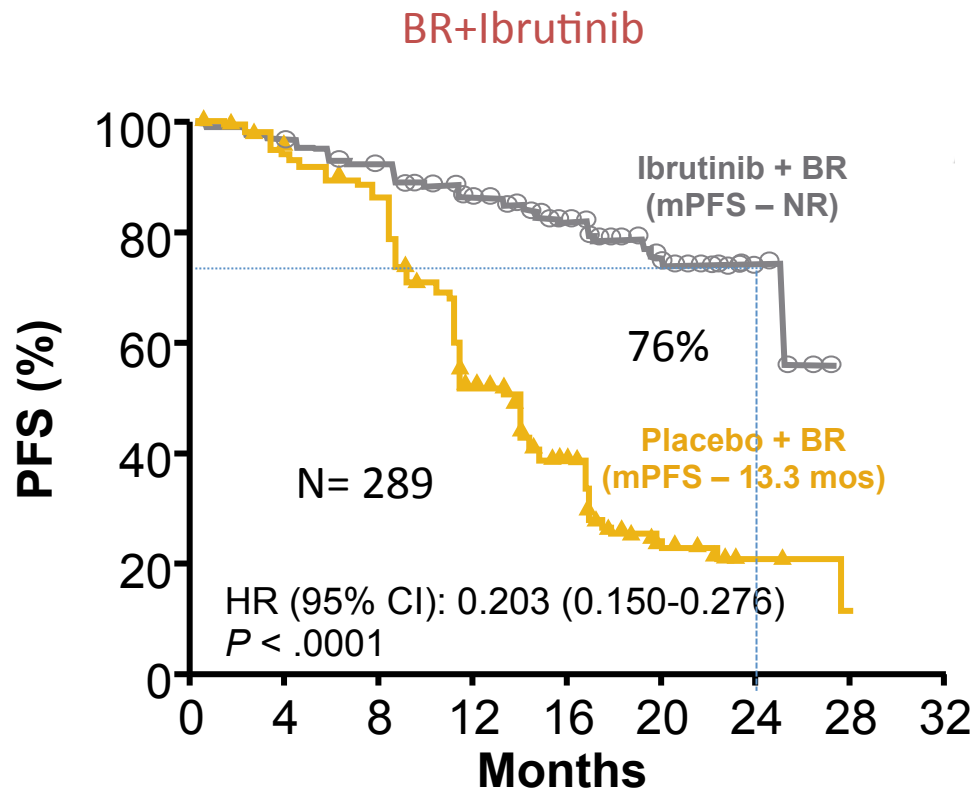
Jones et al, ASH 2015

# Combining Ibrutinib with rituximab



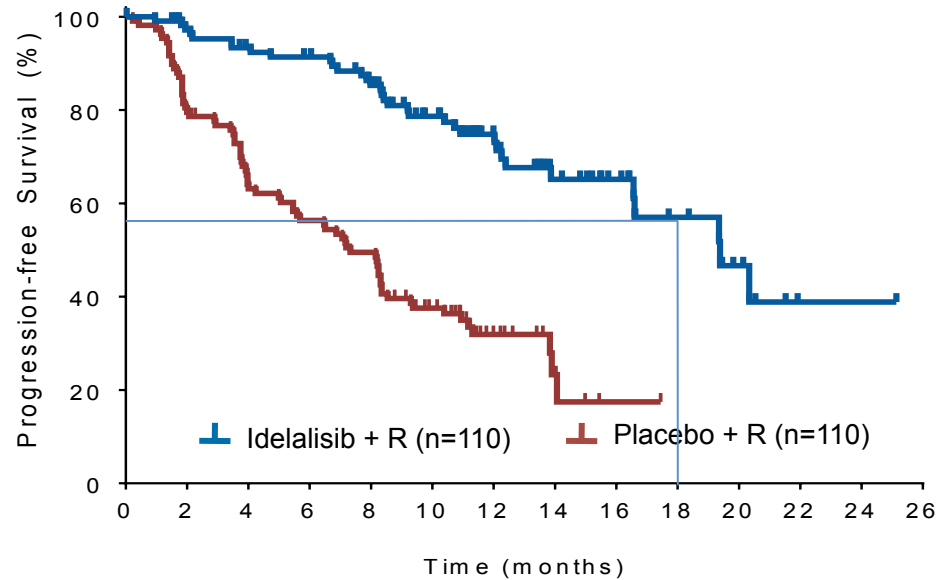


# Combining ibrutinib with Chemotherapy



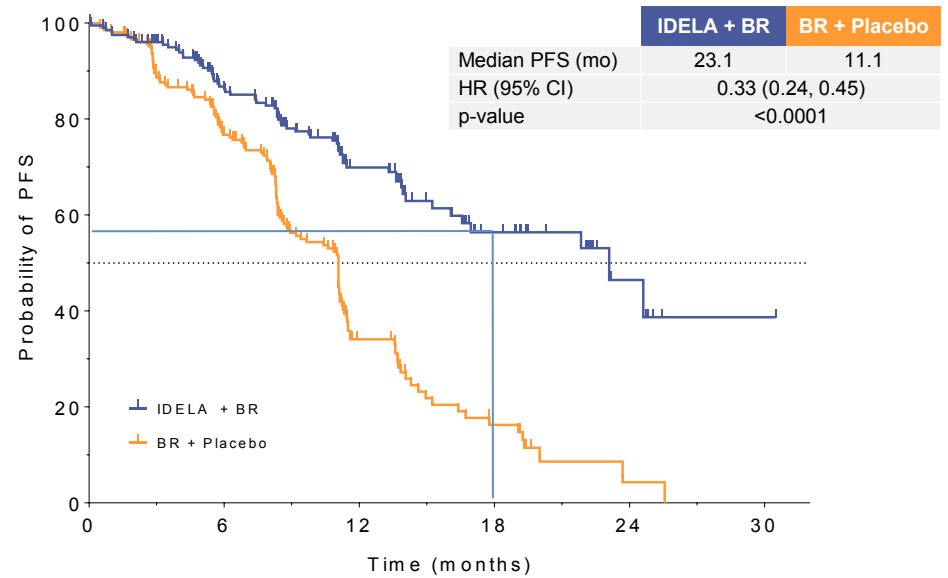
# Combining idelalisib with Chemotherapy

### Study 116



Furman *et al.* *New Engl J Med.* 2014 Mar 13;370(11);997-1007.

### Study 115



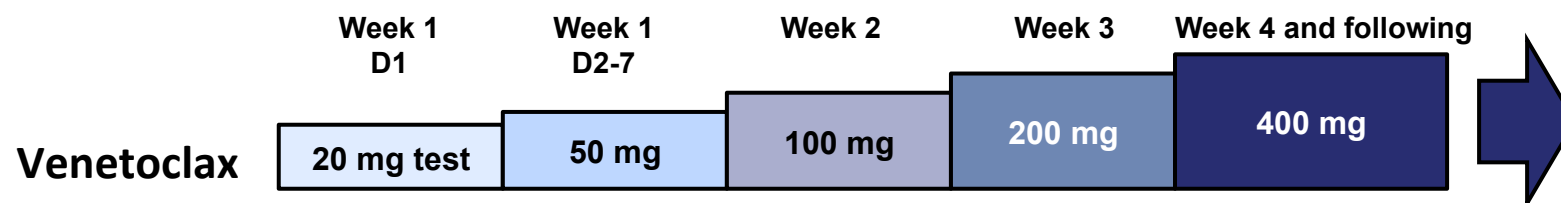
Zelenetz *et al.*, ASH 2015 Abstract LBA-5

# Baseline Characteristics

## Main inclusion criteria:

- Rel/ref CLL, 17p- confirmed by central laboratory
- ECOG score  $\leq 2$
- ANC  $\geq 1000/\mu\text{L}$ ; Plt  $\geq 40,000/\text{mm}^3$ ; Hb  $\geq 8 \text{ g/dL}$
- Creatinine clearance  $\geq 50 \text{ mL/min}$

N=107	n (%)
Median age (years), range	67, 37–85
Prior therapies: median, range	2, 1–10
Prior bendamustine / refractory	54 (50) / 38 (70)
Prior fludarabine / refractory	78 (73) / 34 (44)
Prior CD20 mAb	90 (84)
One or more nodes $\geq 5 \text{ cm}$	57 (53)
ALC $\geq 25 \times 10^9/\text{L}$	54 (51)
TLS risk category	
Low	19 (18)
Medium	43 (40)
High	45 (42)
Rai stage III or IV	51(48)
<i>IGHV</i> unmutated	30 (81)



\*20mg dose for 1 week in patients with electrolyte abnormalities after first dose

### TLS risk category:

- Low: ALC < 25 and nodes < 5 cm
- Mmedium: ALC > 25 OR nodes  $\geq 5$  and < 10cm
- High: ALC > 25 nodes  $\geq 5$  but < 10cm OR nodes > 10cm

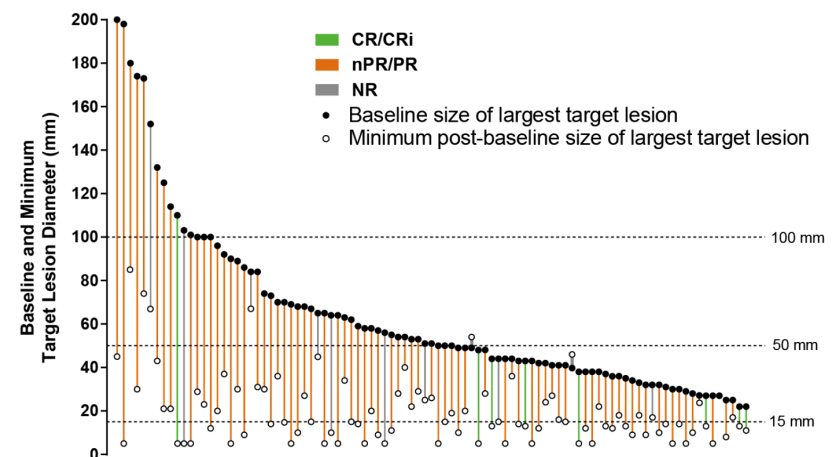
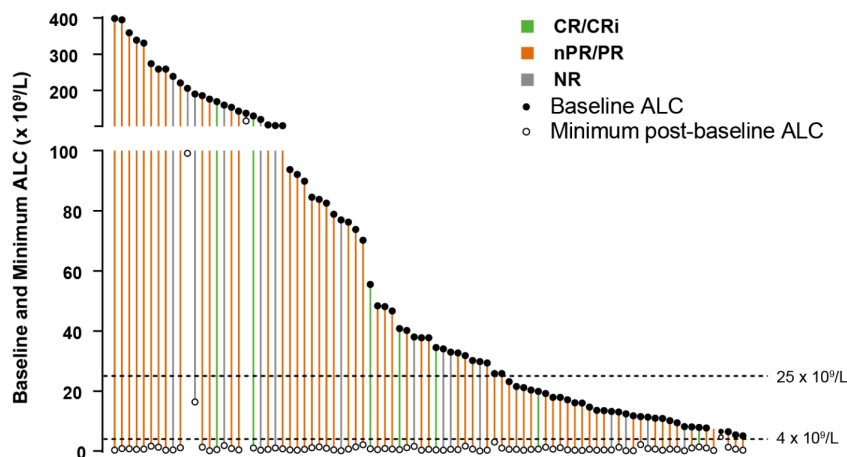
Courtesy of S. Stilgenbauer

# Best Response

	IRC, n (%)	Investigator, n (%)
Overall Response	85 (79.4)	79 (73.8)
CR or CRi	8 (7.5)	17 (15.9)
nPR	3 (2.8)	4 (3.7)
PR <sup>a</sup>	74 (69.2)	58 (54.2)

<sup>a</sup>47 of 74 patients assessed as PR met all criteria for CR or CRi, except for residual lymphadenopathies (median 2.1 cm)

18 of 45 patients assessed were MRD-negative in PB

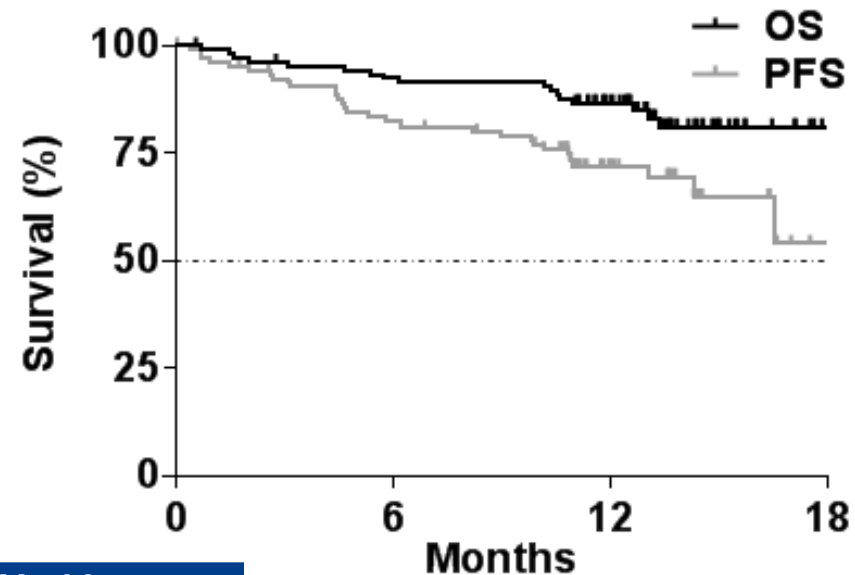


# Durability of Venetoclax Activity

12-month estimates (95% CI):

– PFS: 72.0% (61.8, 79.8)

– OS: 86.7% (78.6, 91.9)



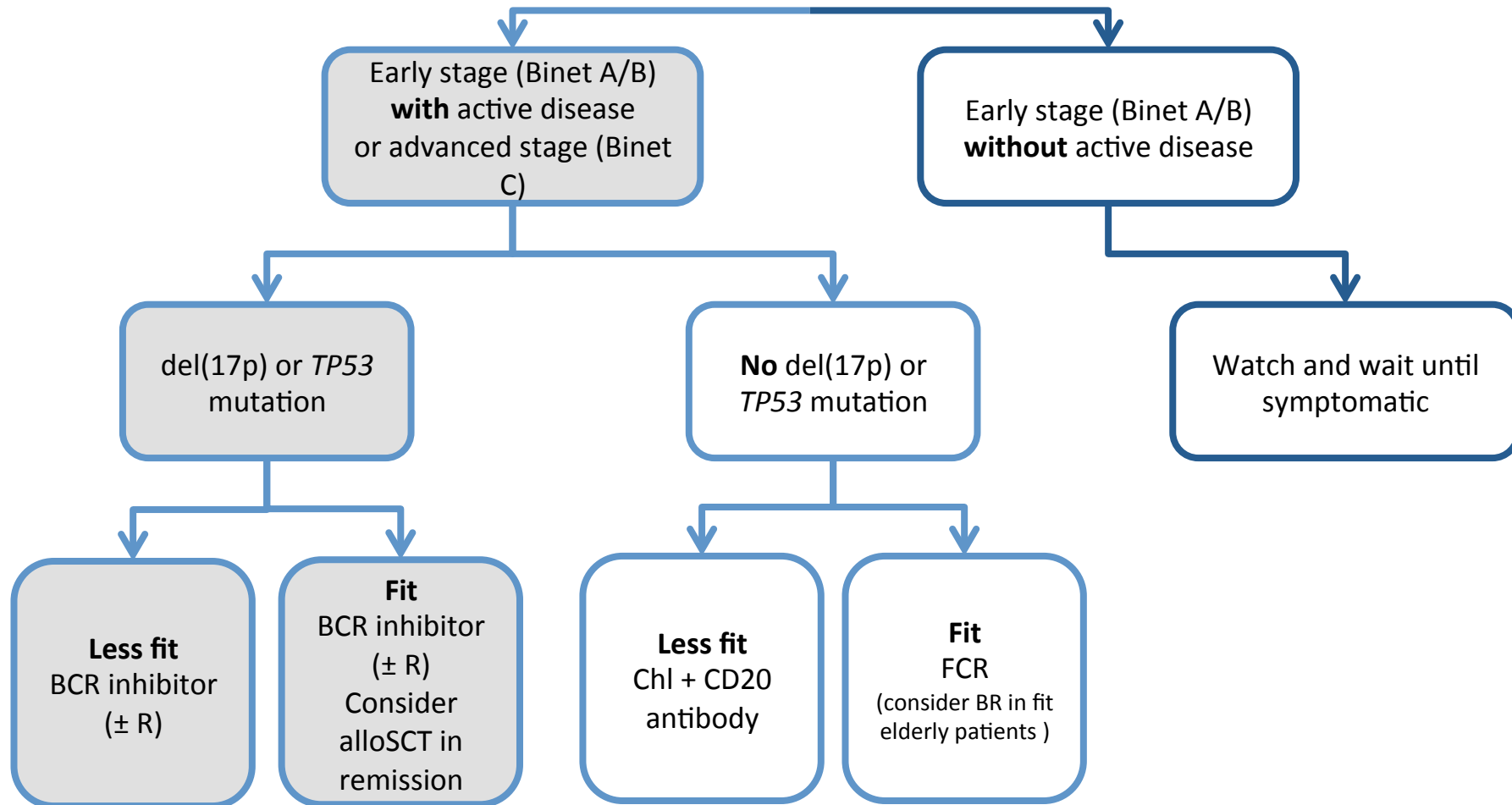
N=107 <sup>a</sup>	
Median (range) time on study, months	12.1 (0.03–21.5)
Active on venetoclax, n (%)	70 (65)
Discontinued venetoclax, n	37
Disease progression	22
Richter's transformation	11
CLL progression	11
Adverse events	9
Proceed to stem cell transplant	3
Withdrew consent	2
Non-compliance	1

Courtesy of S. Stilgenbauer

# Adverse Events of Special Interest

- Grade 3/4 neutropenia in 40% of patients
  - 22.4% had baseline neutropenia (any-grade)
  - Manageable: dose interruption/reduction, G-CSF and/or antibiotics
- Infections in 72% of patients (20% grade  $\geq 3$ )
  - Most common (all-grade): upper respiratory tract infection (15%), nasopharyngitis (14%), and urinary tract infection (9%)
- Laboratory TLS in 5 patients during the ramp-up period
  - 2 with dose interruption (1 day each)
  - No clinical TLS events
- Serious adverse events in 55% of patients
  - Most common: pyrexia (7%), AIHA (7%), pneumonia (6%), and febrile neutropenia (5%)

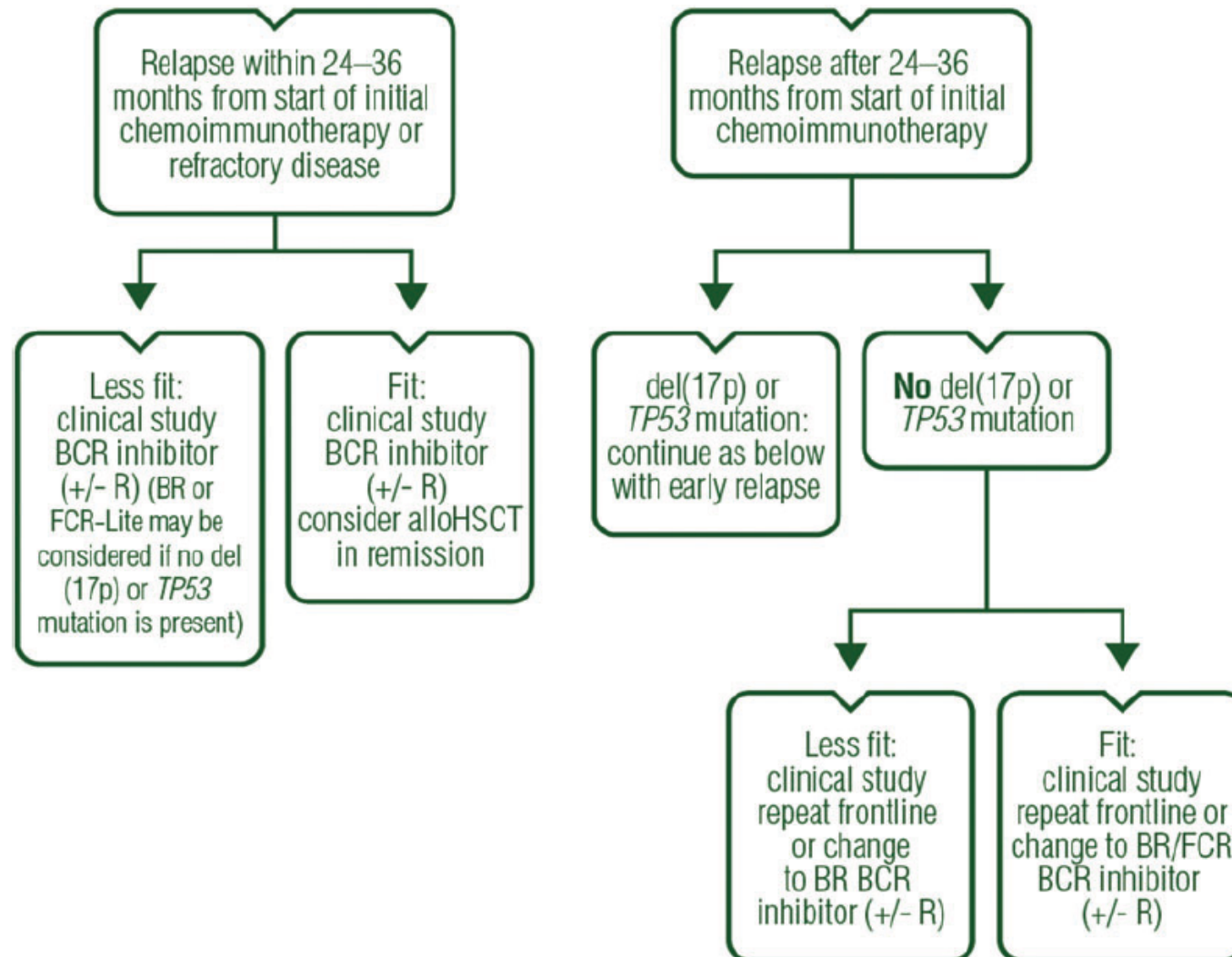
# ESMO 2015 clinical practice guidelines for first-line treatment of CLL



'Fit': defined as physically active, with no major health problems and normal renal function; BCR inhibitor = ibrutinib or idelalisib  
 AlloSCT: allogeneic stem cell transplantation; B: bendamustine; C: cyclophosphamide; Chl: chlorambucil;  
 CLL: chronic lymphocytic leukaemia; F: fludarabine; R: rituximab

Eichhorst B, *et al. Ann Oncol* 2015; 26(Suppl 5):v78–v84.

# ESMO 2015 clinical practice guidelines for treatment of relapsed –refractory CLL

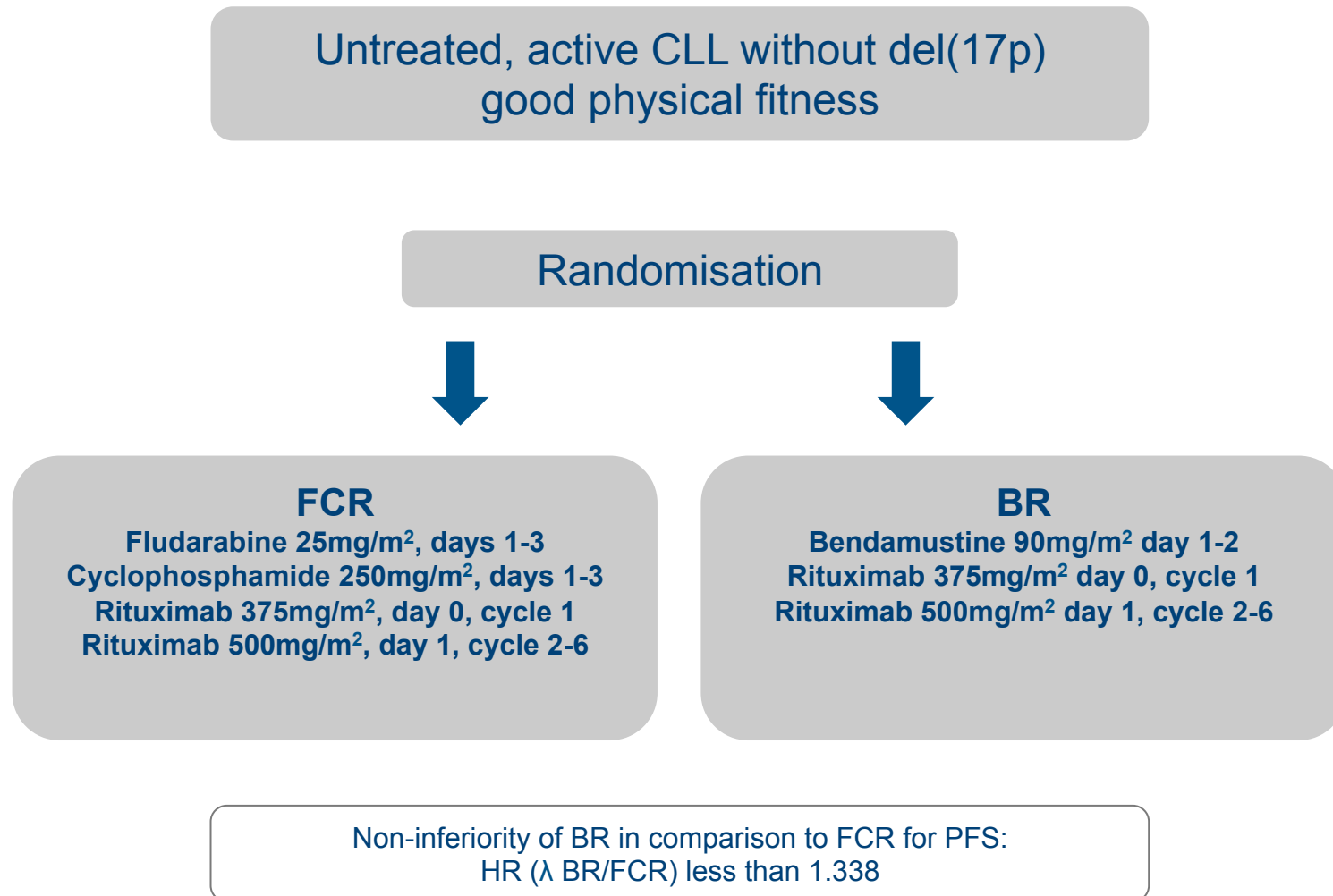






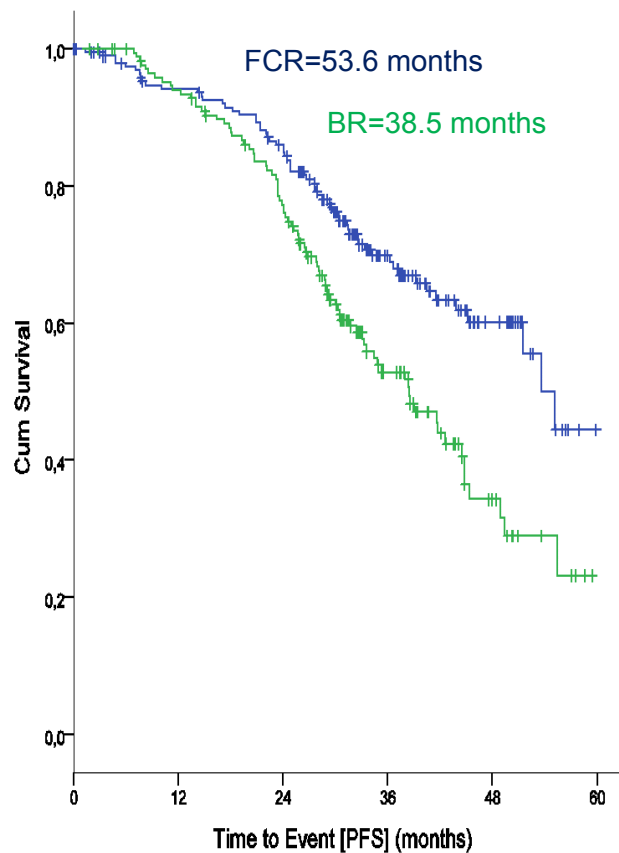
# FCR vs BR as first line treatment in fit CLL patients

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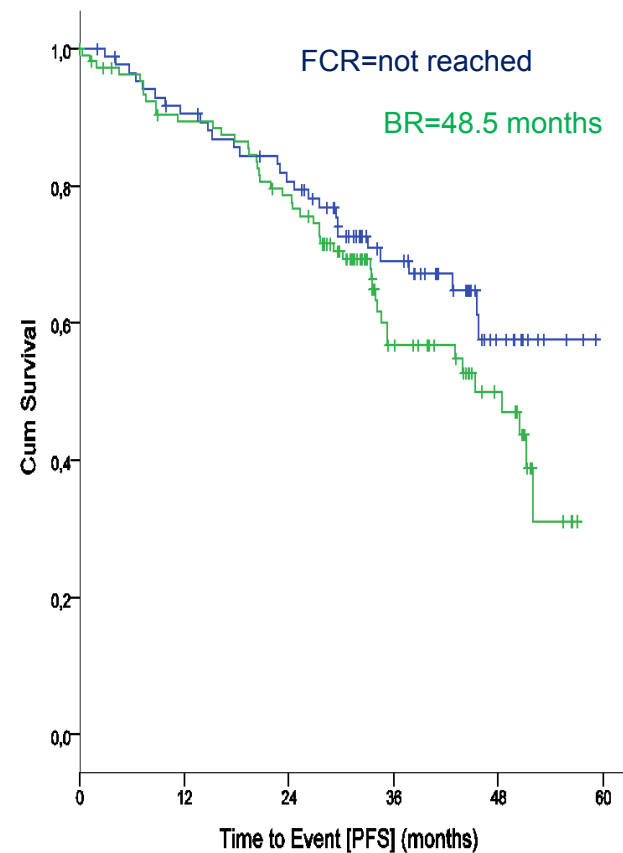


# FCR is superior to BR as first line treatment in fit CLL patients younger than 65y

Patients  $\leq 65$  years:  $p < 0.001$



Patients  $> 65$  years:  $p < 0.170$



# FCR is more toxic than BR

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Adverse Events CTC °3-5 (Interval 1st cycle until 3 months after Final staging)

Adverse event	FCR (% of pt)	BR (% of pt)	p value
All	90.8	78.5	<0.001
Hematological AEs	90.0	66.9	<0.001
Neutropenia	81.7	56.8	<0.001
Anemia	12.9	9.7	0.28
Thrombocytopenia	21.5	14.4	0.036
Infection	39.0	25.4	0.001
TRM	3.9	2.1	0.23