

SABATI EMATOLOGICI DELLA ROMAGNA

Faenza 14 maggio 2016

**Guarire un linfoma follicolare è
possibile?**

I guariti: passato, presente e futuro

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AOU Careggi FIRENZE

LINFOMA FOLLICOLARE

LE EMOPATIE

A. Ferrata

“La linfadenosi cronica aleucemica s’inizia in maniera subdola e può decorrere per un periodo discretamente lungo. La prognosi è sempre infausta, non essendo registrati finora casi di guarigione”

LEZIONI DI EMATOLOGIA

S. Tura

“Il decorso può essere lento, ma l’esito è, nella maggior parte dei casi, fatale”

HEMATOLOGY

Williams

“None of these therapies , however, is considered curative and most patients eventually relapse with recurrent disease”.

MALATTIE DEL SANGUE E DEGLI ORGANI EMOPOIETICI **G. Castoldi**

“I soggetti con linfoma a basso rischio rappresentano l’unico gruppo in cui la chemioterapia non determina nessun vantaggio in termini di sopravvivenza”

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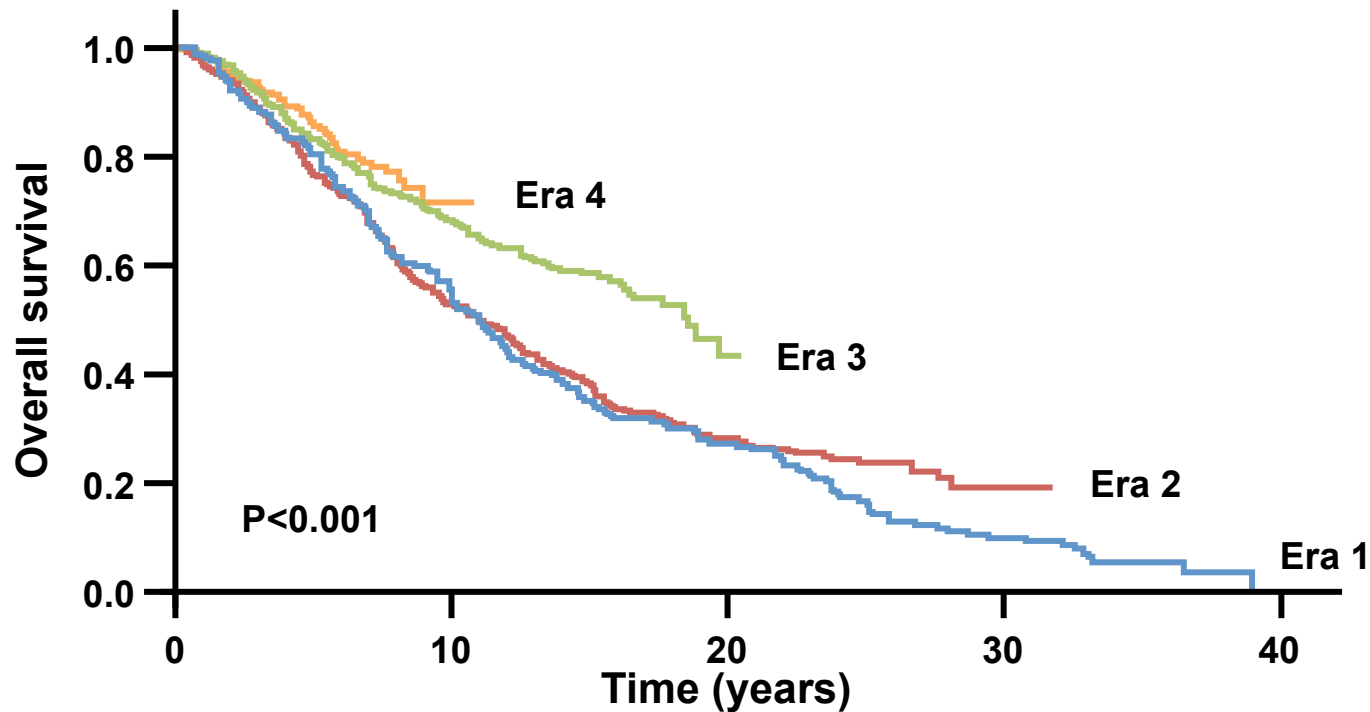
**Tutti i manuali di ematologia nel capitolo sui linfomi follicolari iniziavano e iniziano con la frase: “i linfomi follicolari sono malattie non guaribili.....”
forse i prossimi non inizieranno più così**

Affronterò i seguenti argomenti:

- Gli stadi localizzati sono guaribili !
- Low tumor burden FL come trattarli?
- Non tutti i linfomi follicolari sono uguali: come fare a distinguerli?
 - Indici prognostici (FLIPI, FLIPI2, M7FLIPI)
 - Malattia minima residua
 - PET/CT
- Le terapie ad alte dosi con supporto di staminali che ruolo hanno?
- Il Rituximab e gli altri anticorpi monoclonali, quale ruolo?
- La immuno-chemioterapia quanti FL guarisce?
- Le nuove terapie ‘target’
- La induzione chemio-free, ‘utopia’?

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Improvements in OS over multiple decades attributable to effective new treatment options



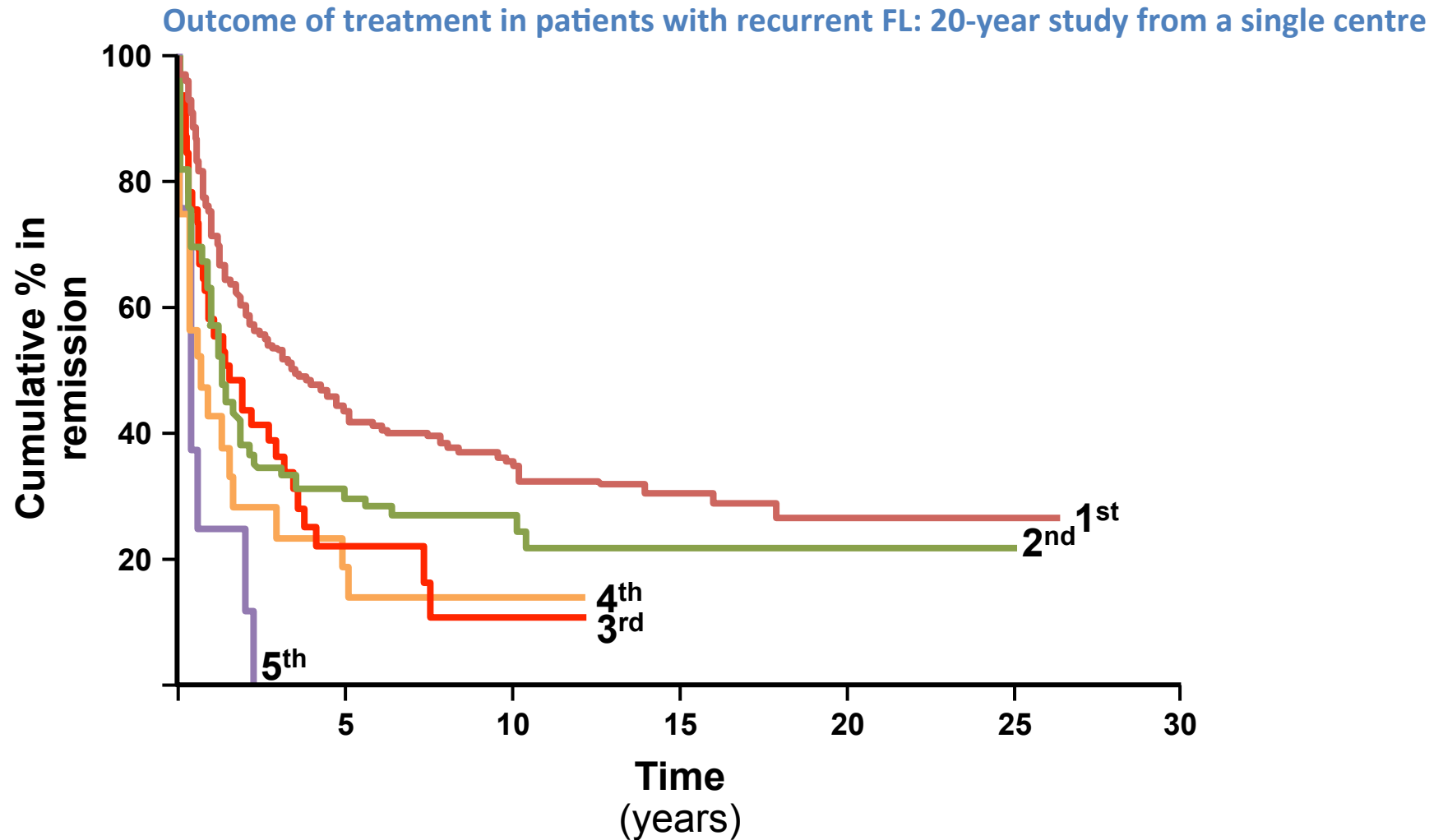
Era	Year	N	Median OS (years)
1: Pre-anthracycline	1960–1975	180	11.0
2: Anthracycline	1976–1986	426	11.0
3: Aggressive chemo/purine analogues	1987–1996	471	18.5
4: Rituximab	1997–2003	257	Not reached

OS: overall survival

Tan D, *et al. Blood* 2013; 122:981–987.

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Important to remember the old data FOLLICULAR LYMPHOMA: DURATION OF REMISSION

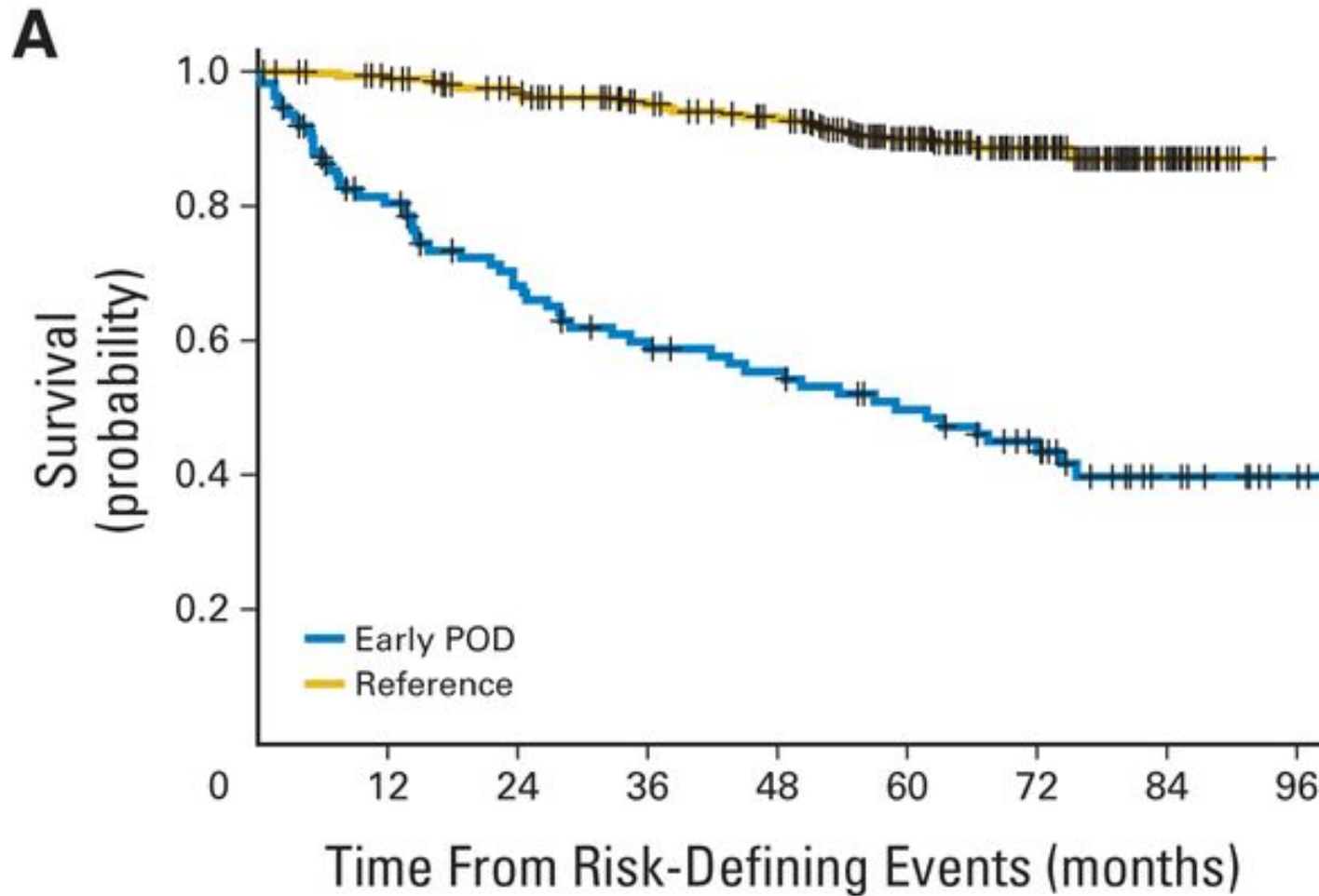


- Adapted from Johnson PWM A et al. J Clin Oncol 1995;13:140–147

Updated based on personal communication to speaker

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Early progression post R-CHOP portents a poor survival



No. at risk									
Early POD	110	82	66	56	50	42	32	14	3
Reference	420	408	387	363	344	253	145	34	0

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Recommendations Patients with Stage I–II disease, a low tumor burden, and with documented contiguity of involved lymph-nodes treatable in the same radiotherapy field, should receive external involved field radiotherapy, at the dose of 24 Gy (quality of evidence, low; strength of recommendation, strong).

SIE-SIES-GITMO revised guidelines for the management of follicular lymphoma

Zinzani PL, Marchetti M, Billio A, Barosi G, Carella AM, Lazzarino M, Martelli M, Rambaldi A, Rigacci L, Tarella C, Vitolo U, Tura S.

SIE, SIES, GITMO revised guidelines

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Reduced dose radiotherapy for local control in non-Hodgkin lymphoma: A randomised phase III trial

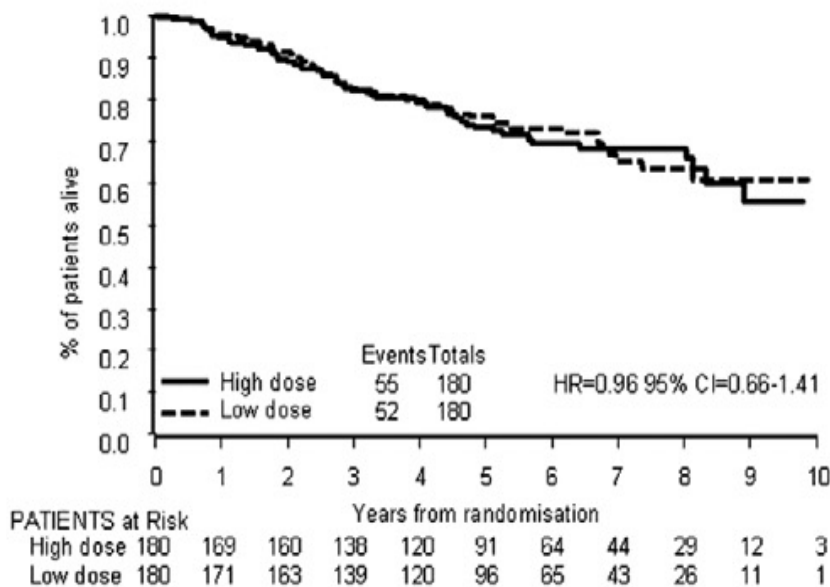
40-45 Gy in 20-23 fractions

vs

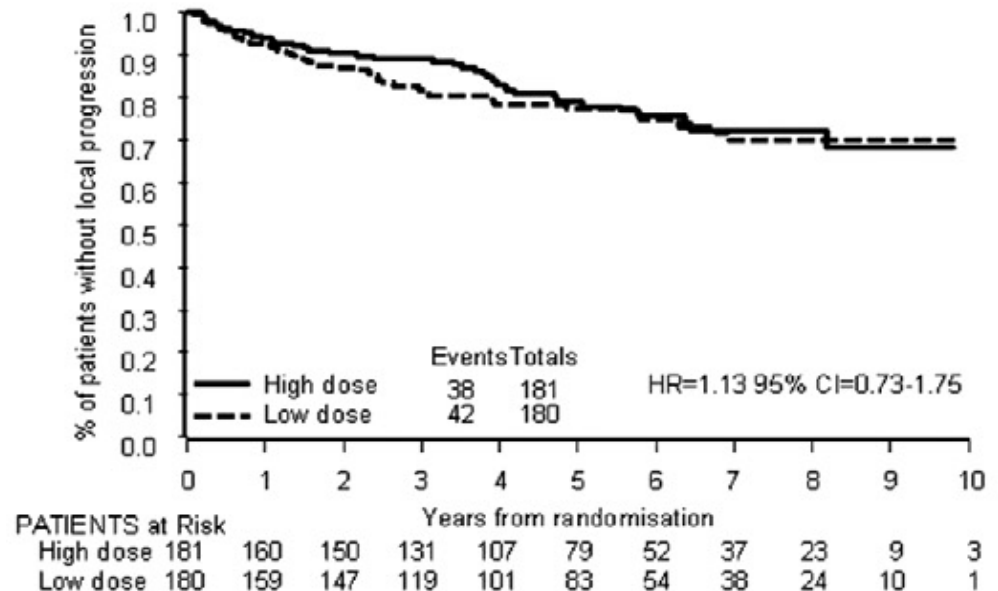
24 Gy in 12 fractions

361 cases of indolent lymphoma

Overall survival



Freedom from local progression



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Decision to initiate treatment is based on the assessment of tumour burden

GELF¹ criteria for high tumour burden²

- High tumour bulk defined by either¹
 - Three distinct nodal sites, each ≥ 3 cm¹
 - Single nodal site ≥ 7 cm¹
 - Symptomatic splenic enlargement¹
 - Cytopenias (leukocytes $< 1.0 \times 10^9/L$, and/or platelets $< 100 \times 10^9/L$)¹
 - Circulating lymphoma cells ($5 \times 10^9/L$)¹
 - Peritoneal ascites or pleural effusion¹
- Presence of B symptoms¹
- Serum LDH or $\beta 2$ -microglobulin above normal values¹
- Performance status ≥ 1 ¹

BNLI³ criteria for high tumour burden²

- Progressive disease within 3 months of diagnosis¹
- Vital organ involvement¹
- Renal or liver infiltration¹
- Bone lesions¹
- B symptoms or pruritus¹
- Cytopenias (haemoglobin < 10 g/dL, leukocytes $< 3.0 \times 10^9/L$, platelets $< 100 \times 10^9/L$; related to marrow involvement)¹

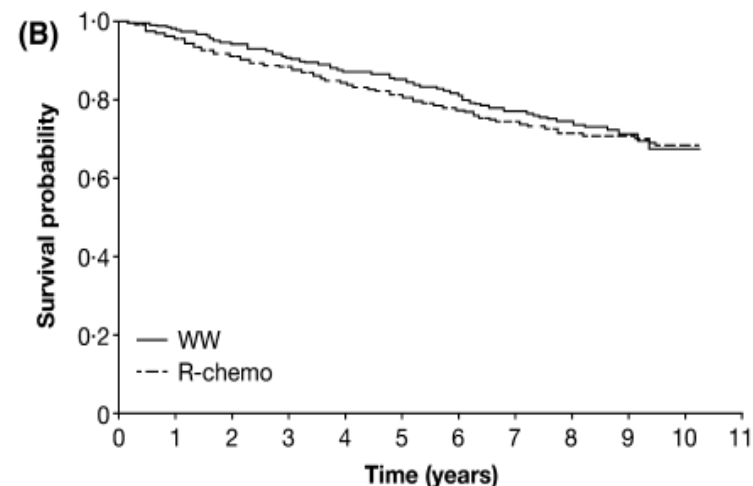
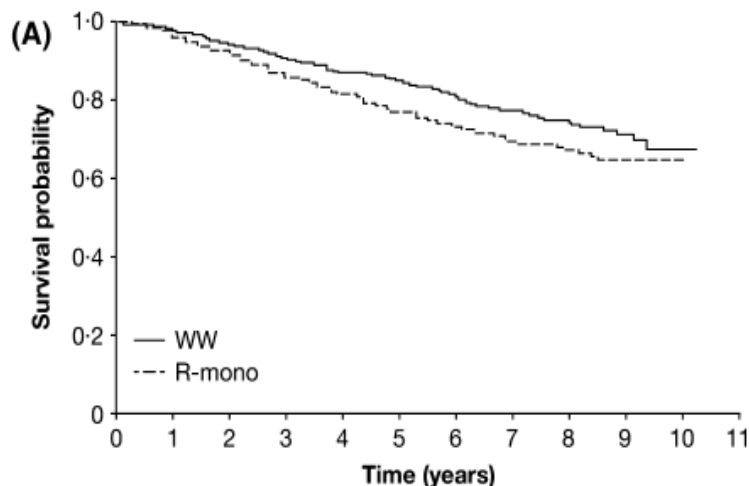
BNLI: British National Lymphoma Investigation;
GELF: Groupe d'Etude des Lymphomes Folliculaires; LDH:
lactate dehydrogenase

- 1. Brice P, et al. *J Clin Oncol* 1997; 15:1110–1117.
- 2. Smith SM. *Hematology Am Soc Hematol Educ Program* 2013; 2013:561–567.
- 3. Ardeshta KM, et al. *Lancet* 2003; 362:516–522.

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Watch & Wait

- 1754 patients diagnosed 2004-2007 in the United States (retrospective study)
 - initial watchful waiting (n=386)
 - initial rituximab monotherapy (n=296) better TtoCT
 - initial chemoimmunotherapy (n=1072) better PFS1, PFS2, .TtoNT
- 8-year overall survival estimates of 74%
- No differences between W/W, RTX and CT-RTX



“initial management with watchful waiting in the context of sequential therapy remains a viable option for FL patients in the modern era”

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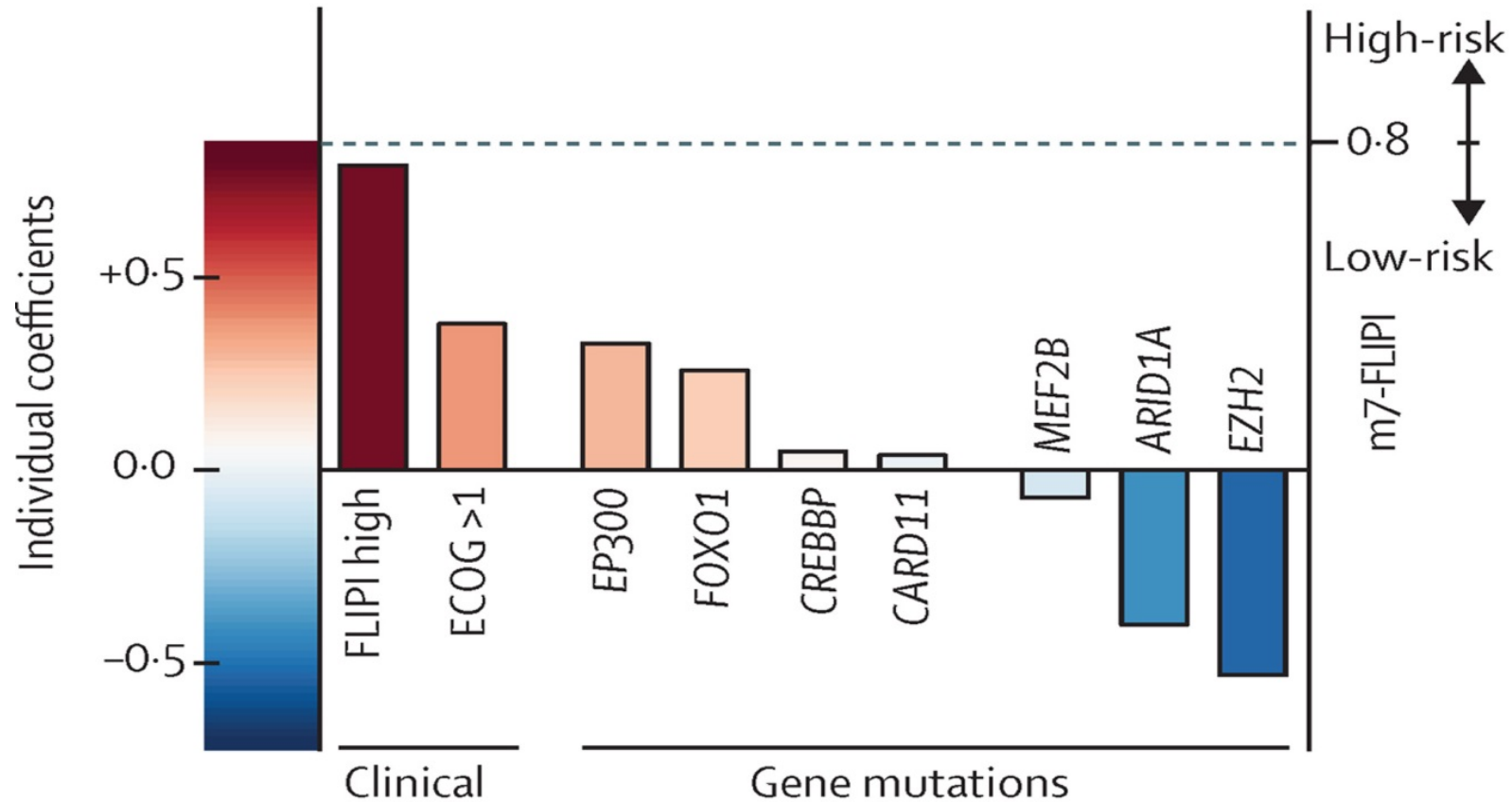
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Current concepts in FL

- The identification patients at high risk of relapse is a critical goal of modern research in oncohematology and FL.
- Individual risk of relapse is estimated:
 - Before therapy: Prognostic scores (FLIPI and FLIP2), biomarkers, SNPs, GEP mol. signatures
 - After therapy: FDG-PET, CT-scan, MRD

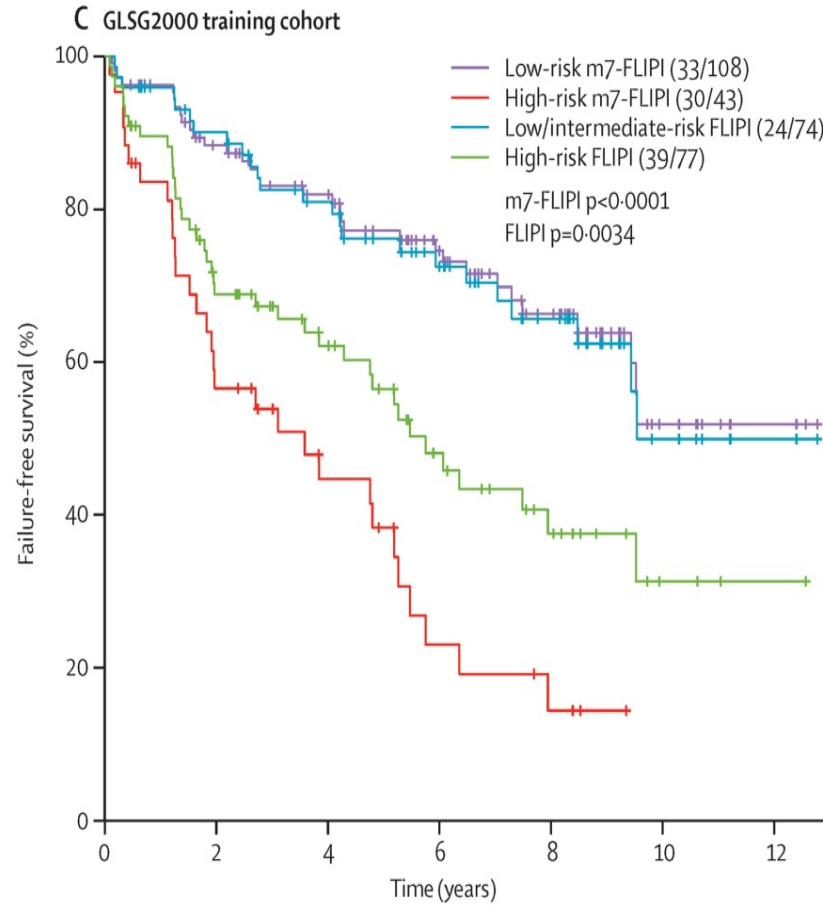
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Improving identification of poor risk groups: m7-FLIPI



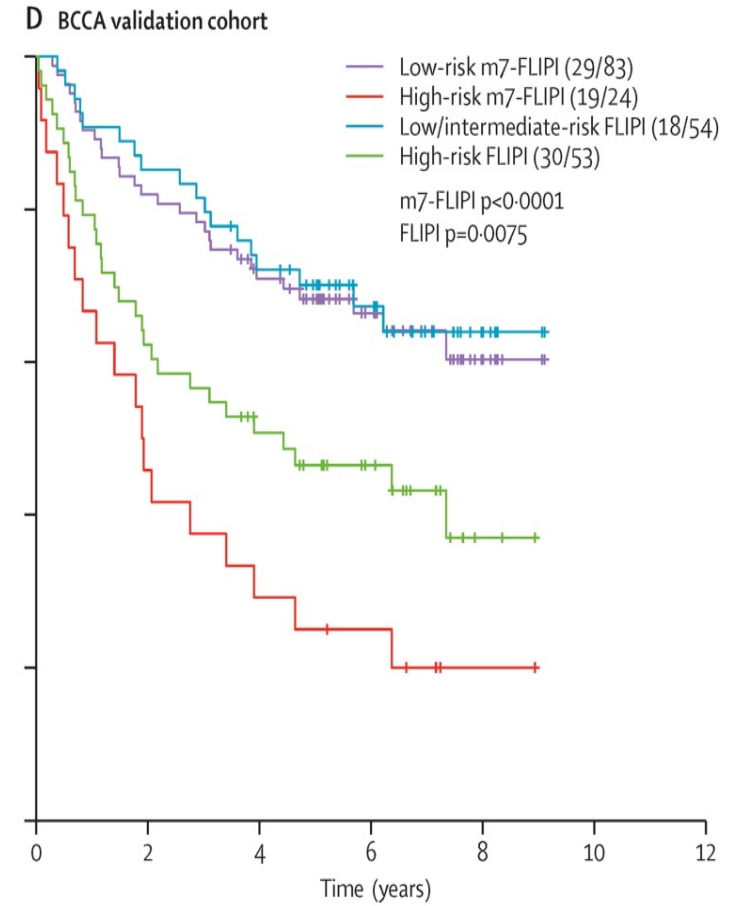
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m7-FLIPI



Patients at risk

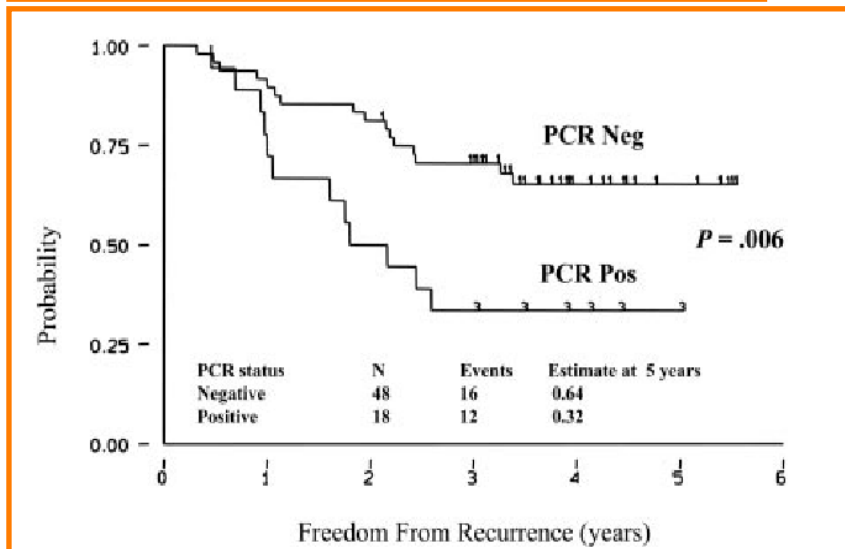
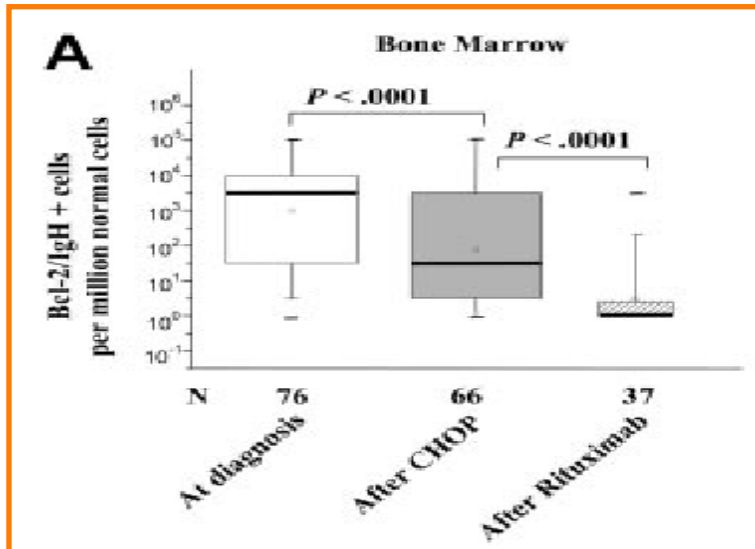
	0	2	4	6	8	10	12
m7 high	43	23	14	6	3
m7 low	108	86	72	52	34	10	3
FLIPI high	77	48	35	21	12	3	1
FLIPI low/int	74	61	51	37	25	7	2



Patients at risk

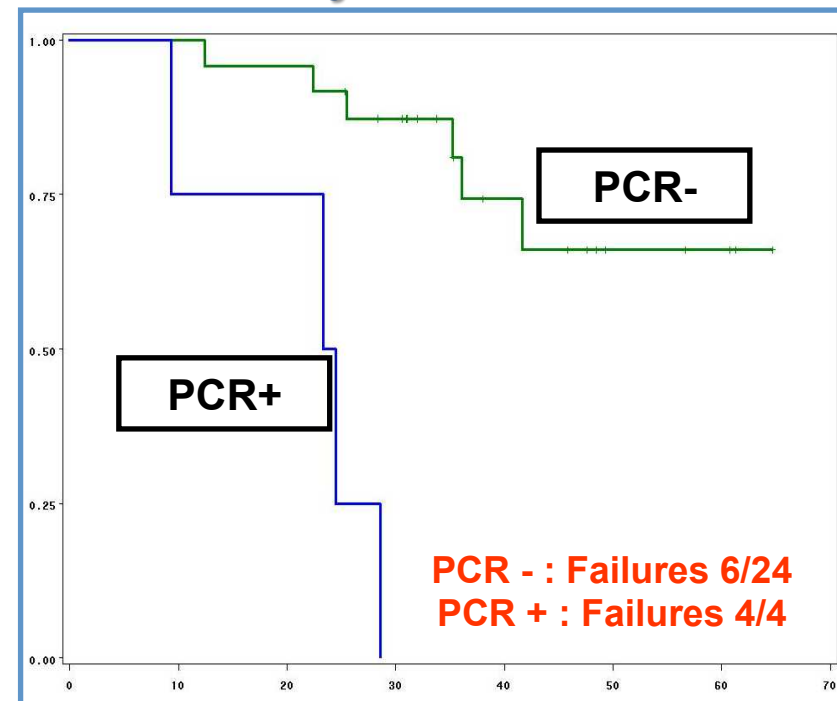
	0	2	4	6	8	10	12
m7 high	24	11	7	5	1
m7 low	83	68	55	34	7
FLIPI high	53	33	24	15	2
FLIPI low/int	54	46	38	24	6

Persistent risk of relapse after R-chemotherapy: Role of molecular remission



Rambaldi et al. Blood, 2005

Sequential FND + rituximab in elderly untreated FL



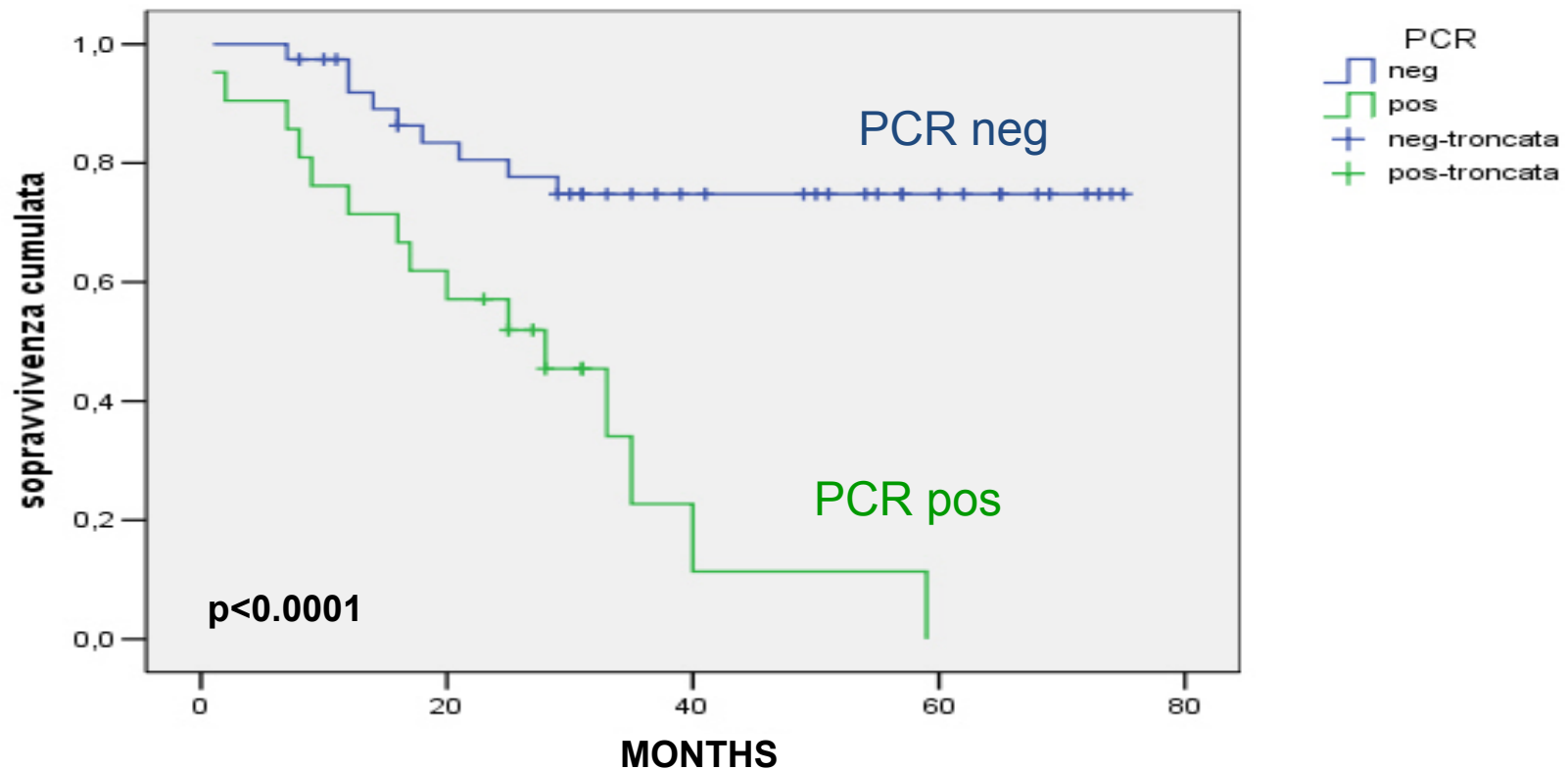
Vitolo et al: Blood 2004;104(11):371a

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R-HDS vs CHOP-R RANDOMIZED TRIAL EVALUABLE PATIENTS: 60

PFS ACCORDING TO PCR-STATUS

Funzioni di sopravvivenza



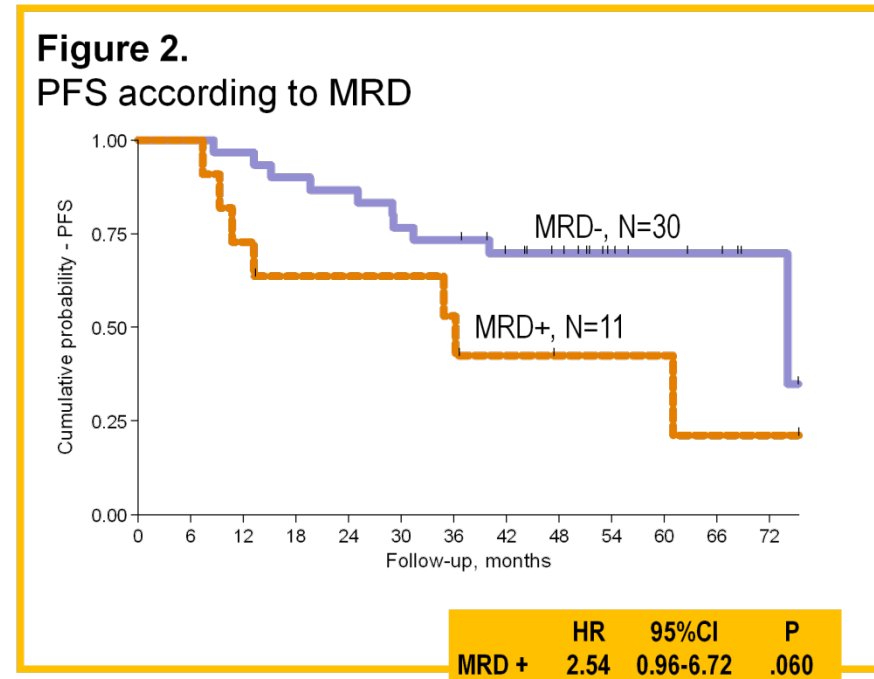
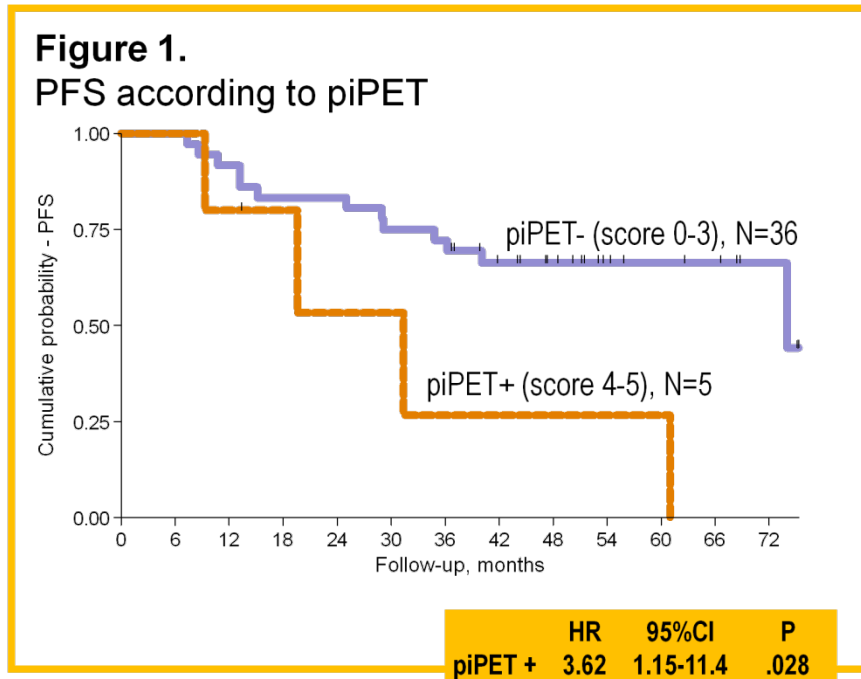
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- Pts with centrally reviewed PET(5PS x3 with liver cutoff) (FOLL05; N=79)
- Baseline search for t(14;18)* (N=68)
- MRD analysis* on postinduction BM sample (N=41)

Table 1. Distribution of cases according to piPET and MRD

	MRD -	MRD+
piPET-	28 (68%)	8 (20%)
piPET+	2 (5%)	3 (7%)

P = 0.110 K=.249(FAIR)

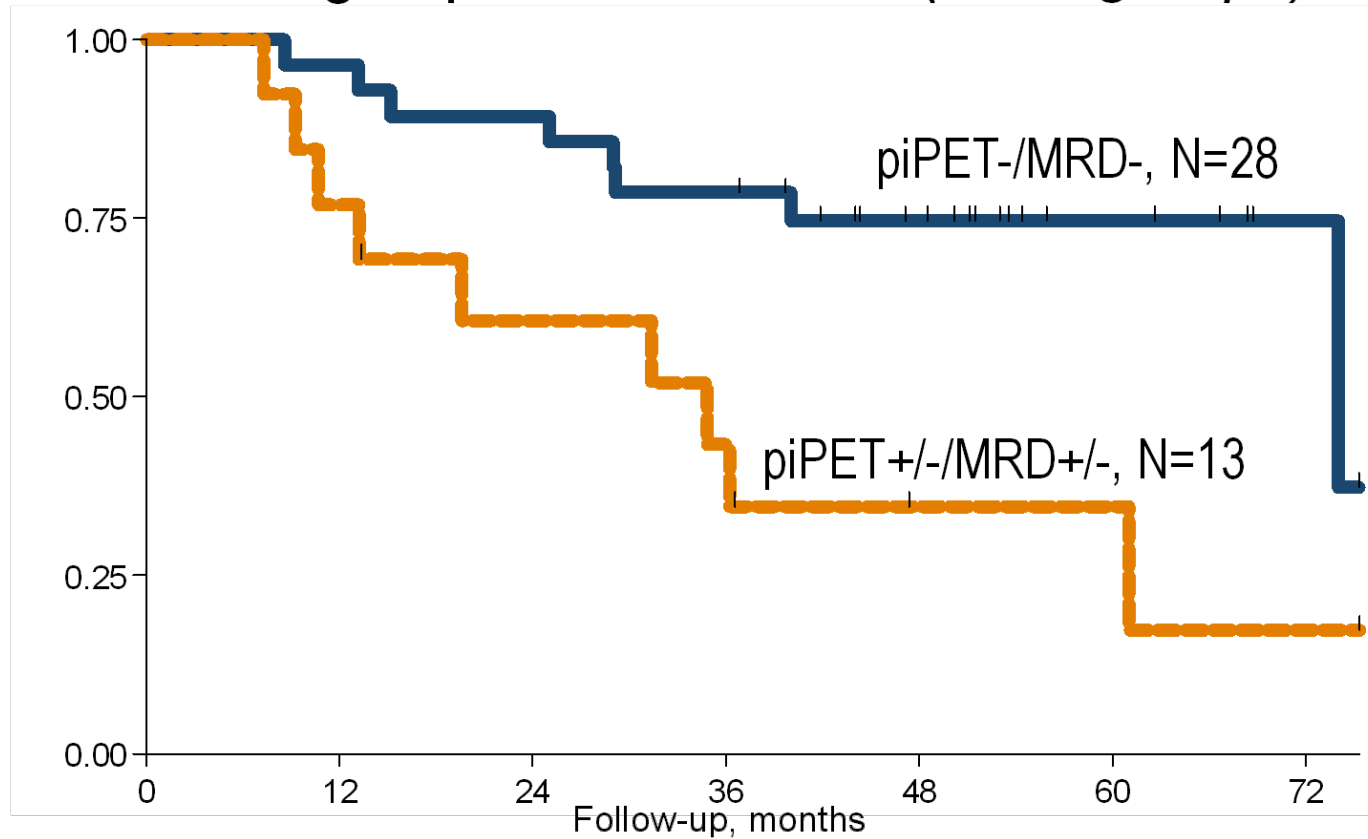


(*) nested PCR for t(14;18) ch. translocation. All tests were performed within the FIL MRD network (Galimberti et al. Submitted)

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Figure 4.

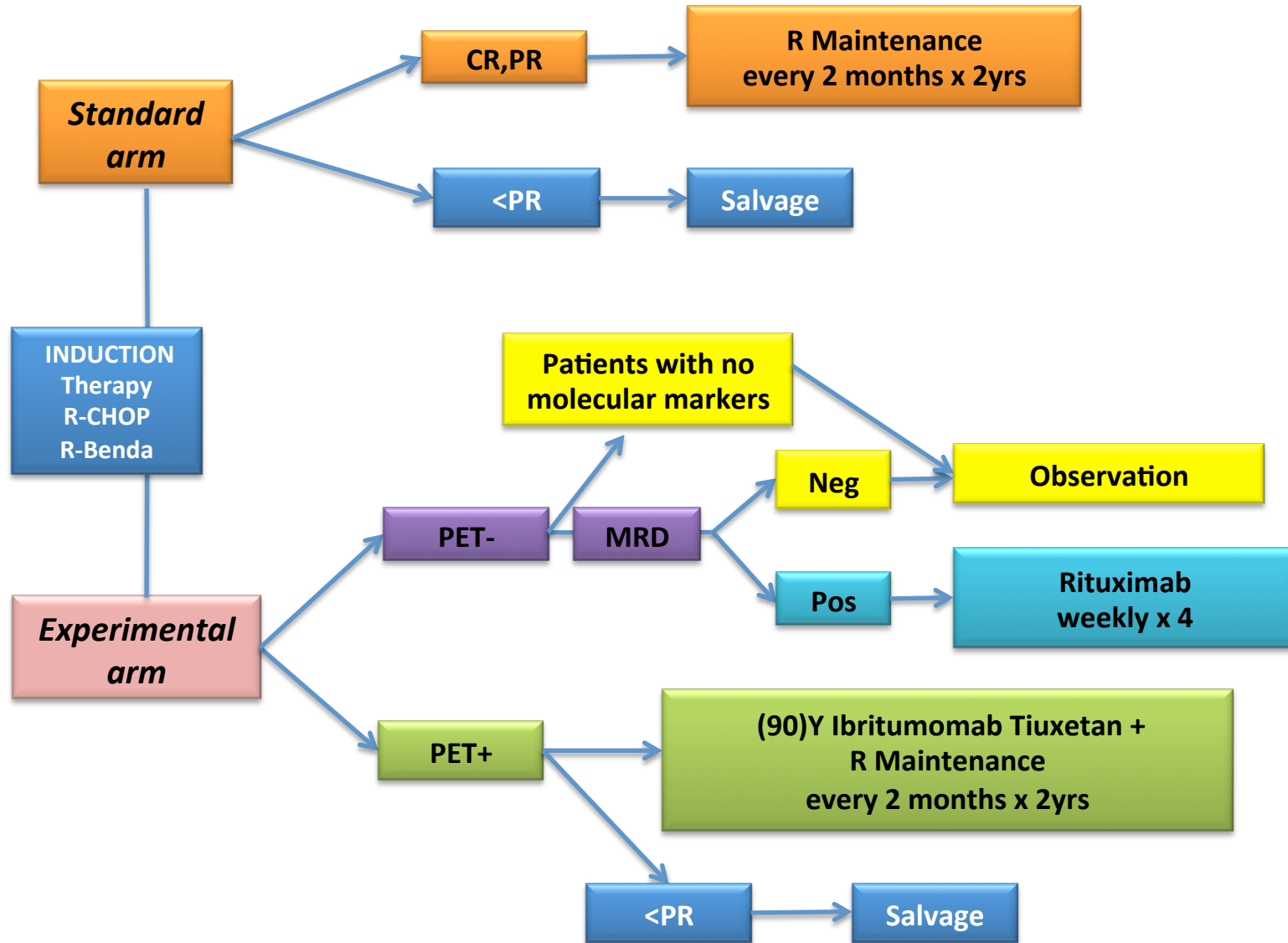
PFS according to piPET and MRD (2 subgroups)



	HR	95%CI	P
piPET+/-/MRD+/-	3.42	1.31-8.95	.012

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FIL-FOLL12



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Non tutti i linfomi follicolari sono uguali,

Come fare a distinguerli?

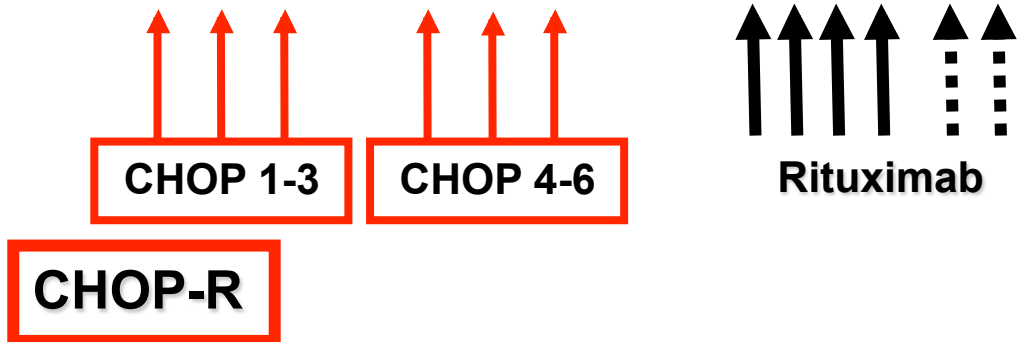
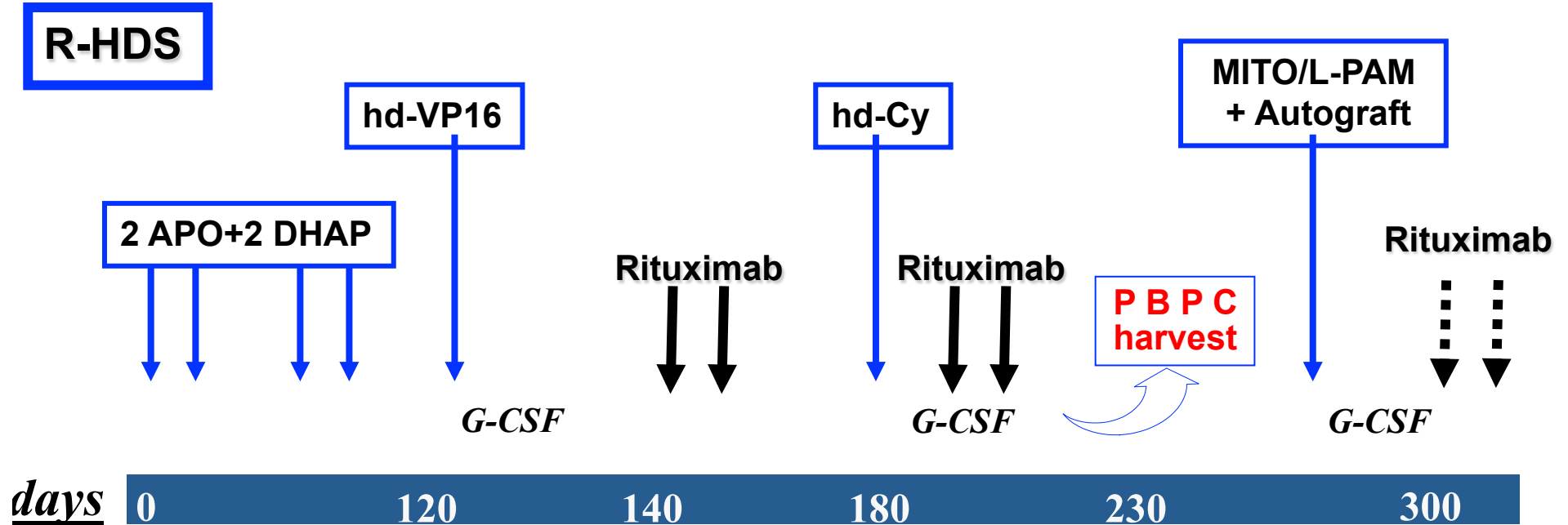
Gli strumenti per distiguerli forse li abbiamo ma poi.....è utile una intensificazione o un cambio di terapia?

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Treatment Schedules

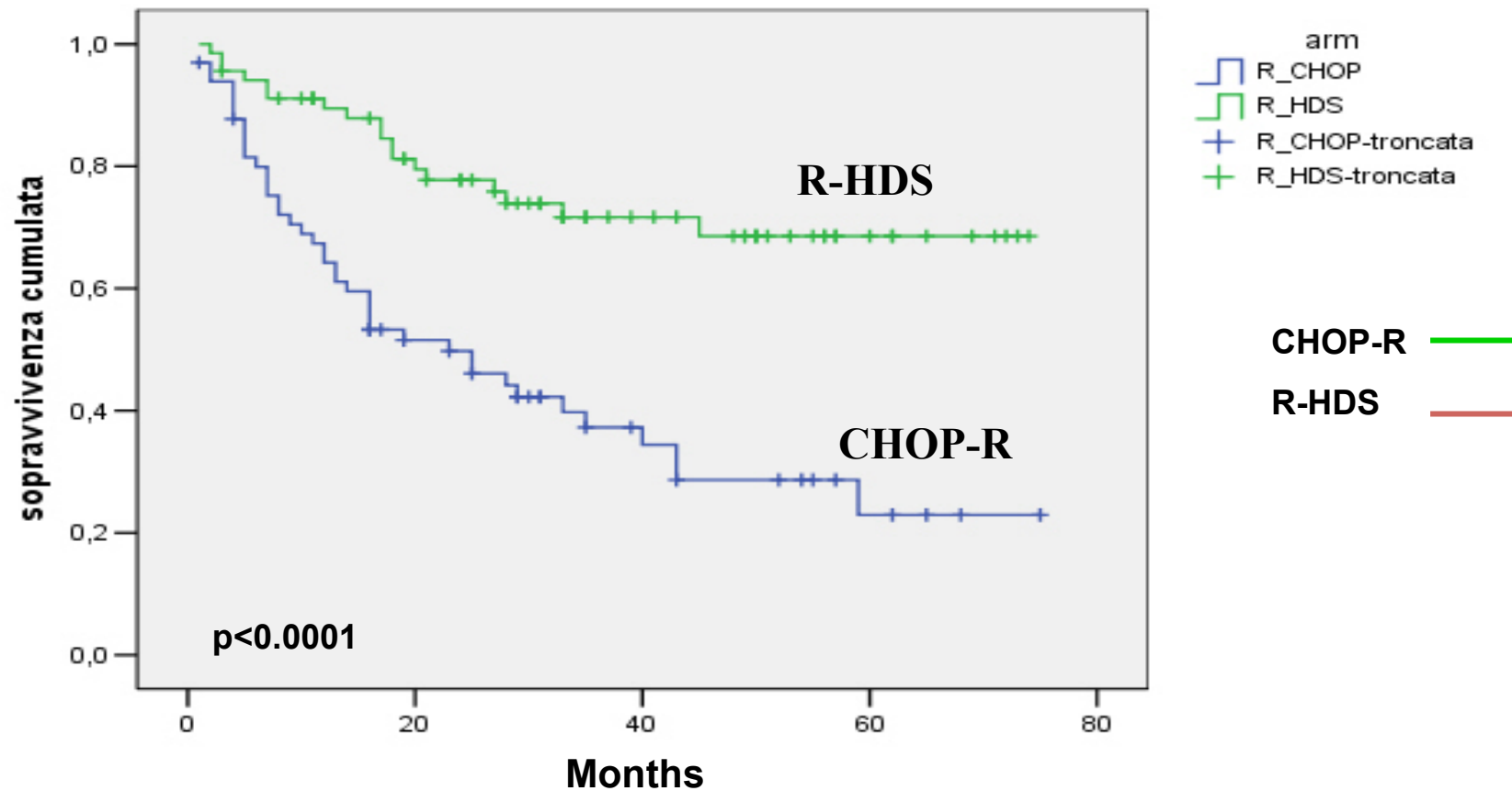


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**R-HDS vs CHOP-R RANDOMIZED TRIAL
EVALUABLE PATIENTS: 134**

PFS ACCORDING TO TREATMENT ARM

R-HDS vs CHOP-R
Funzioni di sopravvivenza

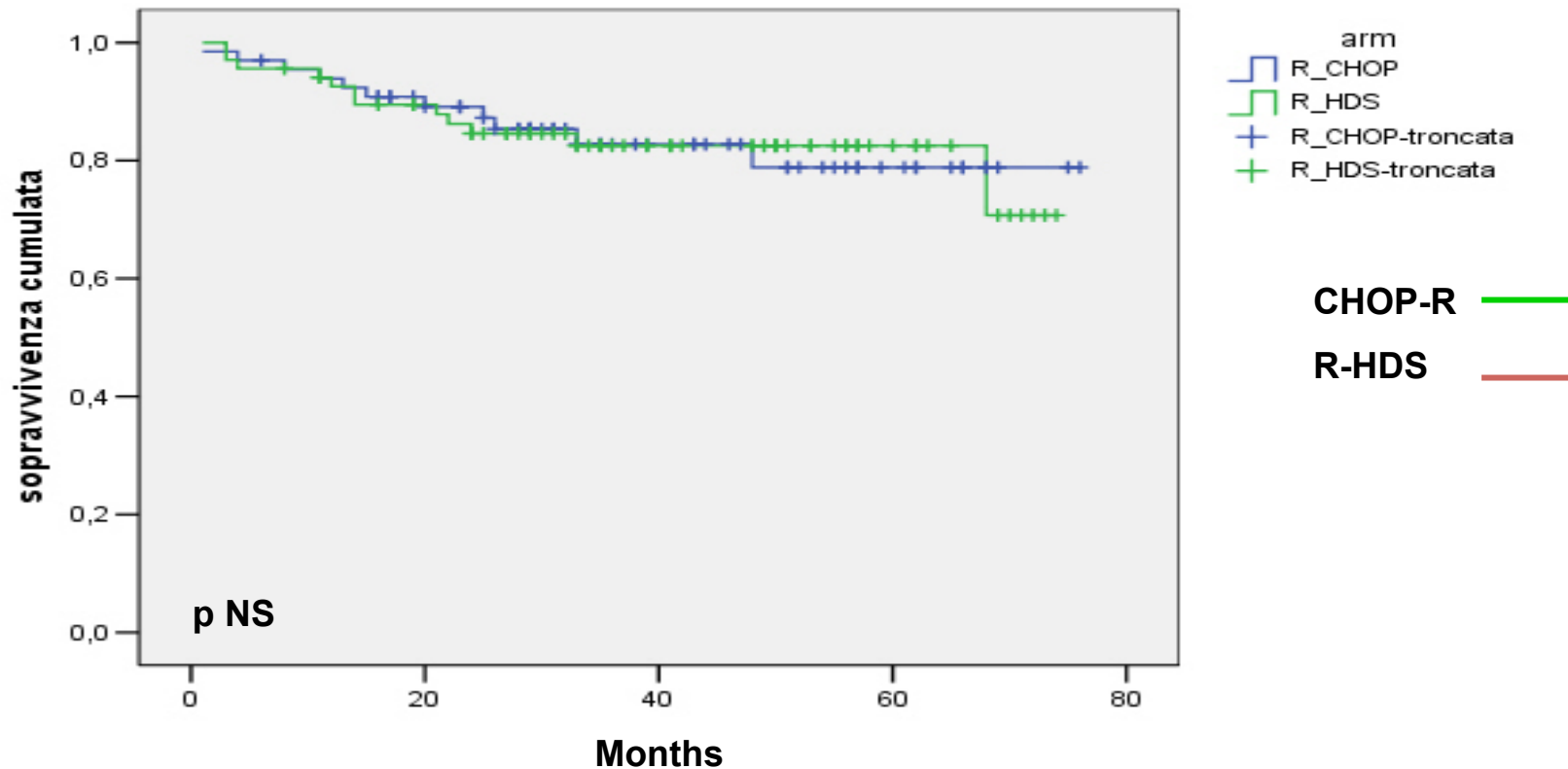


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R-HDS vs CHOP-R RANDOMIZED TRIAL EVALUABLE PATIENTS:134

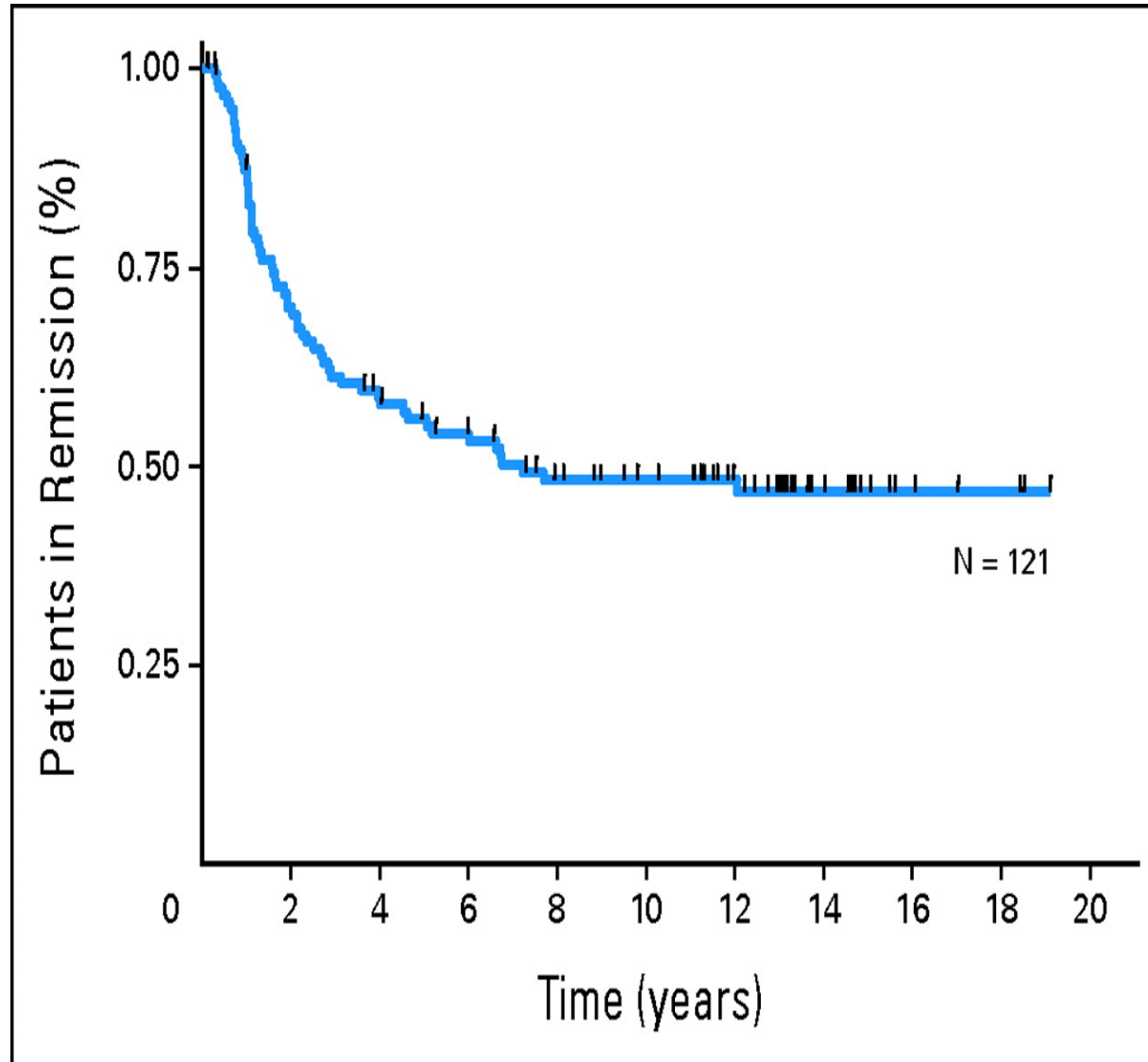
OS ACCORDING TO TREATMENT ARM OS R-HDS vs CHOP-R

Funzioni di sopravvivenza



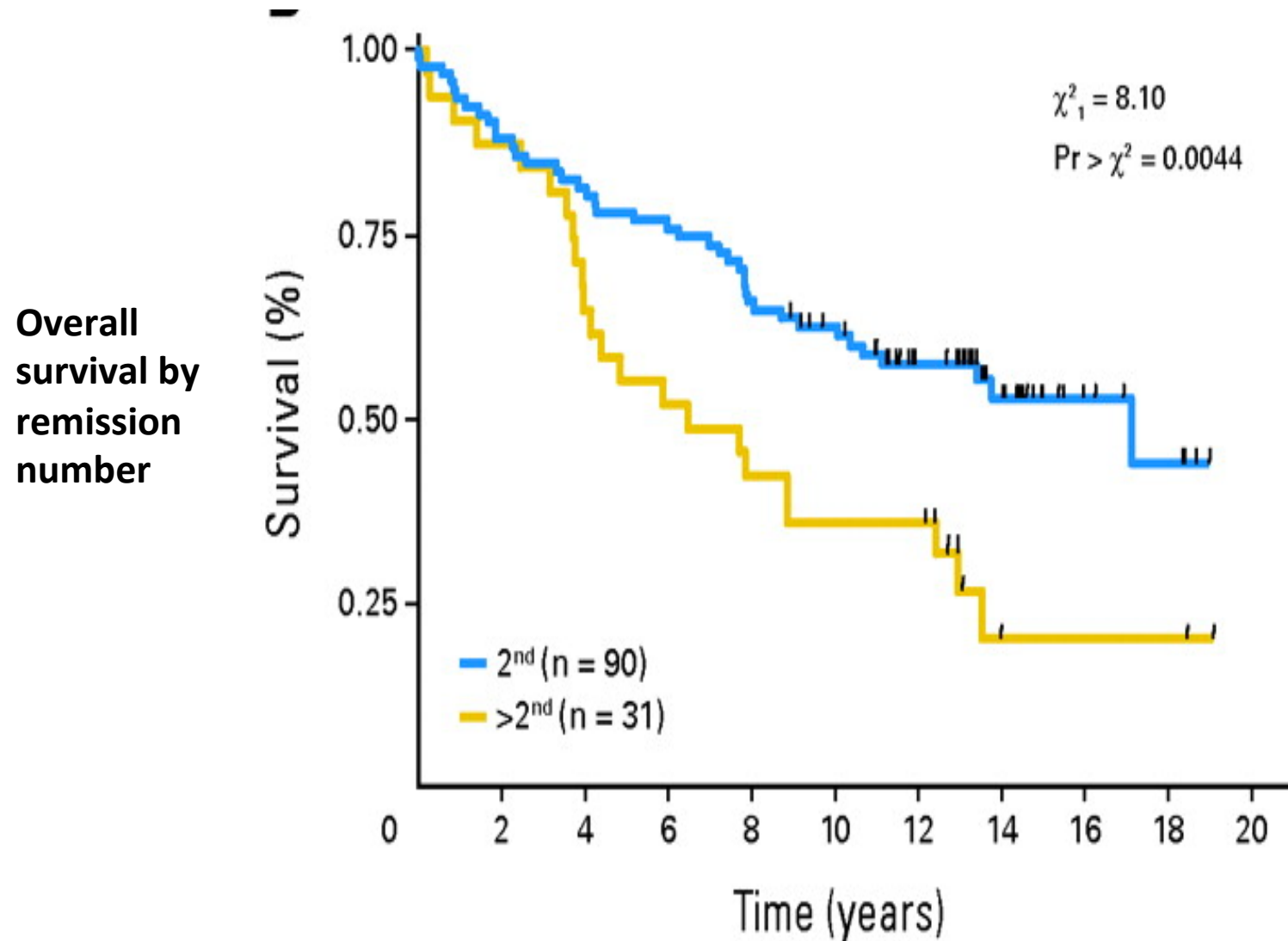
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Auto in follicular lymphoma: Remission duration



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Probably should do early in disease course...

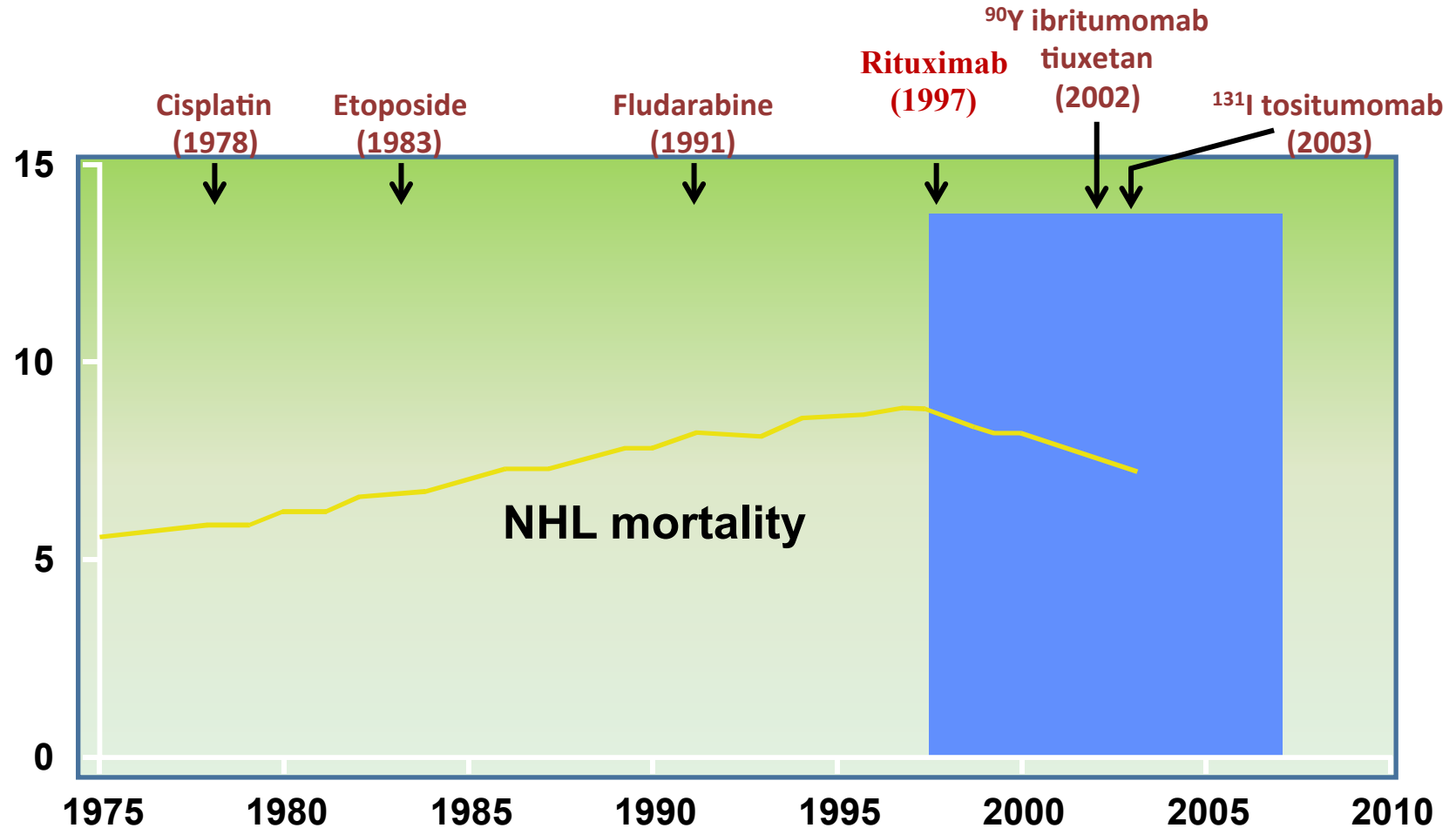


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Immunotherapy has changed the clinical course of NHL

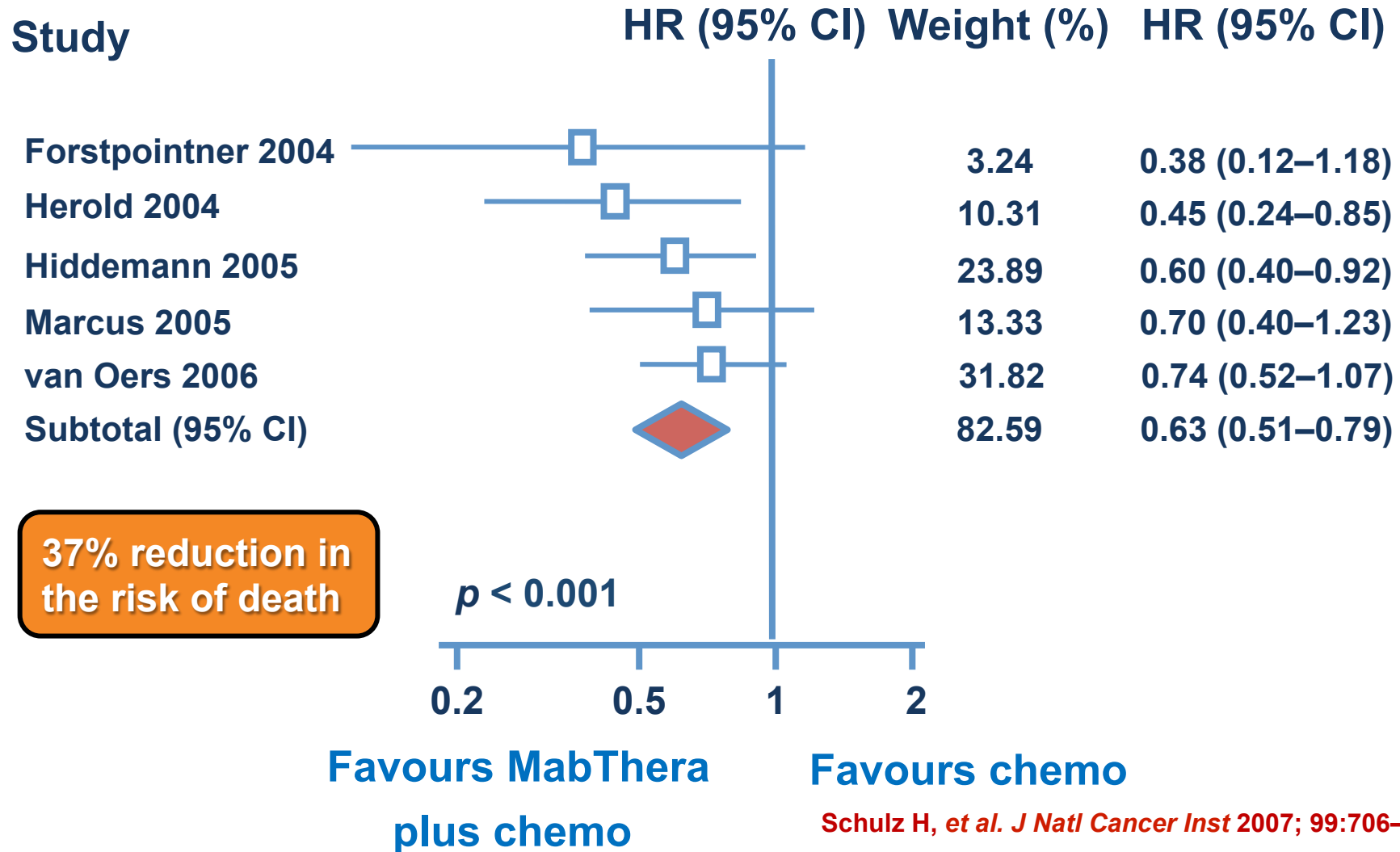


* Age-adjusted to 2000 US standard population

Adapted from Molina A. *Annu Rev Med* 2008; 59:237–250.

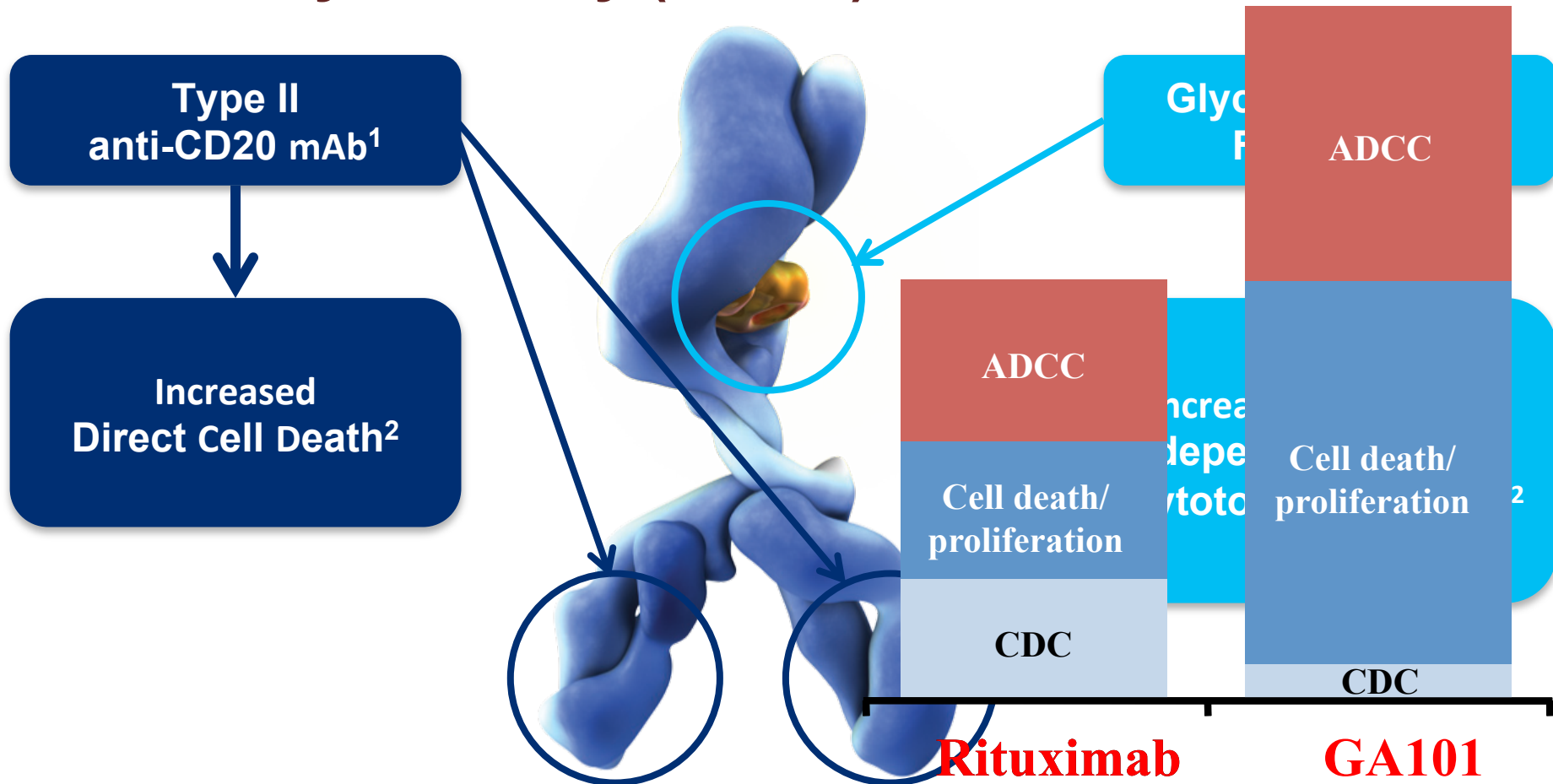
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MabThera plus chemo consistently improves overall survival vs chemo alone in FL



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GA101: Designed for increased antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) and Direct Cell Death

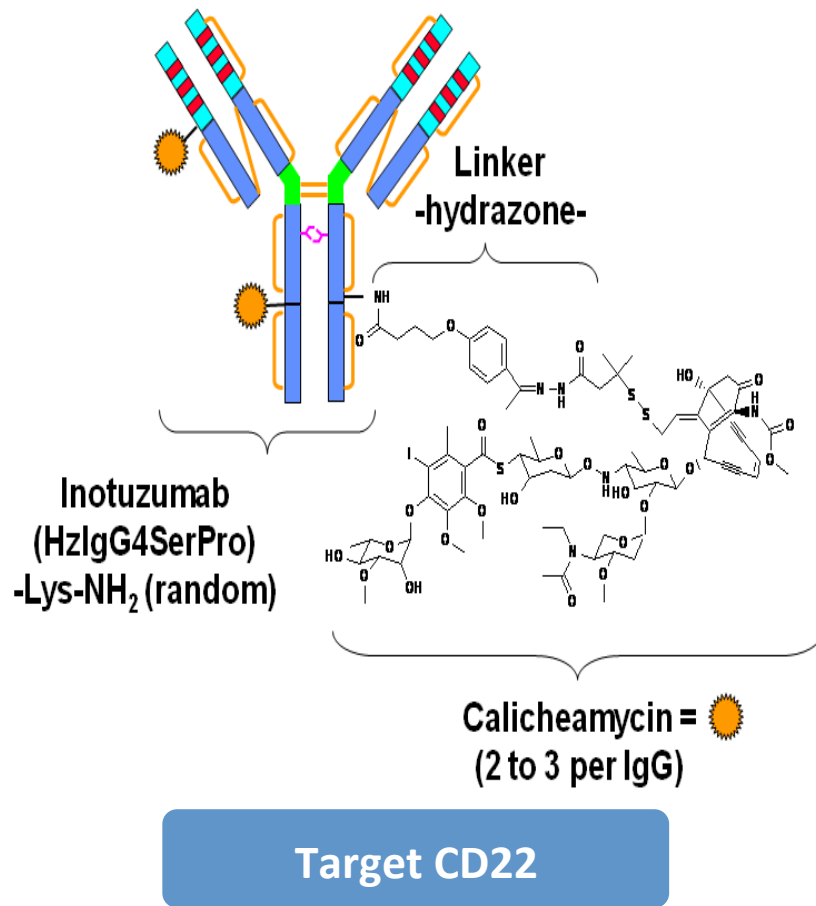


Extensive clinical development program to evaluate the superiority of GA101 over rituximab in multiple head-to-head trials

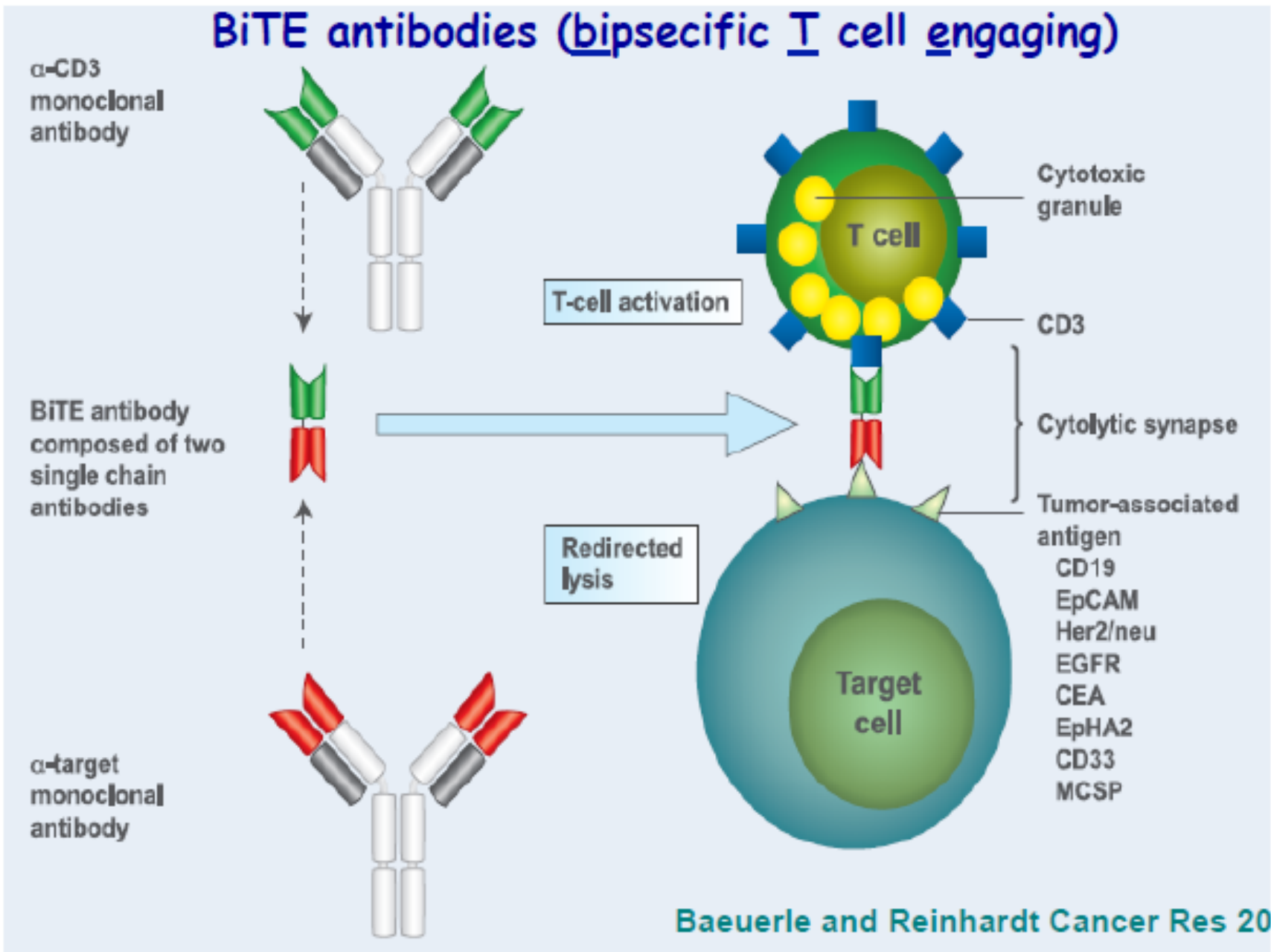
1. Niederfellner G, et al. *Blood* 2011; 118:358–367. 2. Mössner E, et al. *Blood* 2010; 115:4393–4402.

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Targeted chemotherapy in clinical development



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Clinical response in relapsed B-NHL pts to Blinatumomab (CD19xCD3)(Phase I-II study)

Blinatumomab dose levels (mg/m² per day)	Patients	Tumor regression (%)	Complete regression (disease)	Partial regression (disease)
0.0005, 0.0015, 0.005	12	0 (0)	0	0
0.015, 0.030	19	4 (21)	2 (MCL, FL)	2 (FL, CLL)
0.060	7	7 (100)	2 (MCL, FL)	5 (MCL, 4 FL)

Short half life and high efficacy:
Daily treatment with low doses
lasting months

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Advantages of Radioimmunotherapy (RIT)

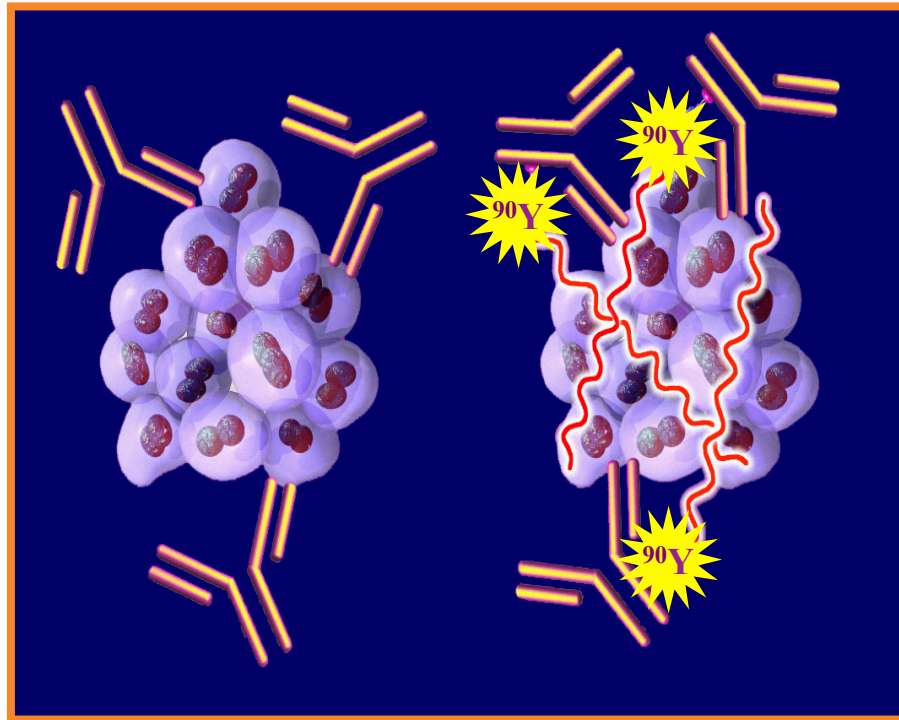
**Lymphoma cells are
inherently sensitive to
radiation**

**RIT delivers continuous low-
dose radiation to tumour cells**

**Targeted radiation of RIT also
destroys neighbouring
tumour cells by a 'cross-fire'
effect**

Naked antibody

Zevalin[®]



Illidge et al. *Br J Haematol* 2000;108:679-688

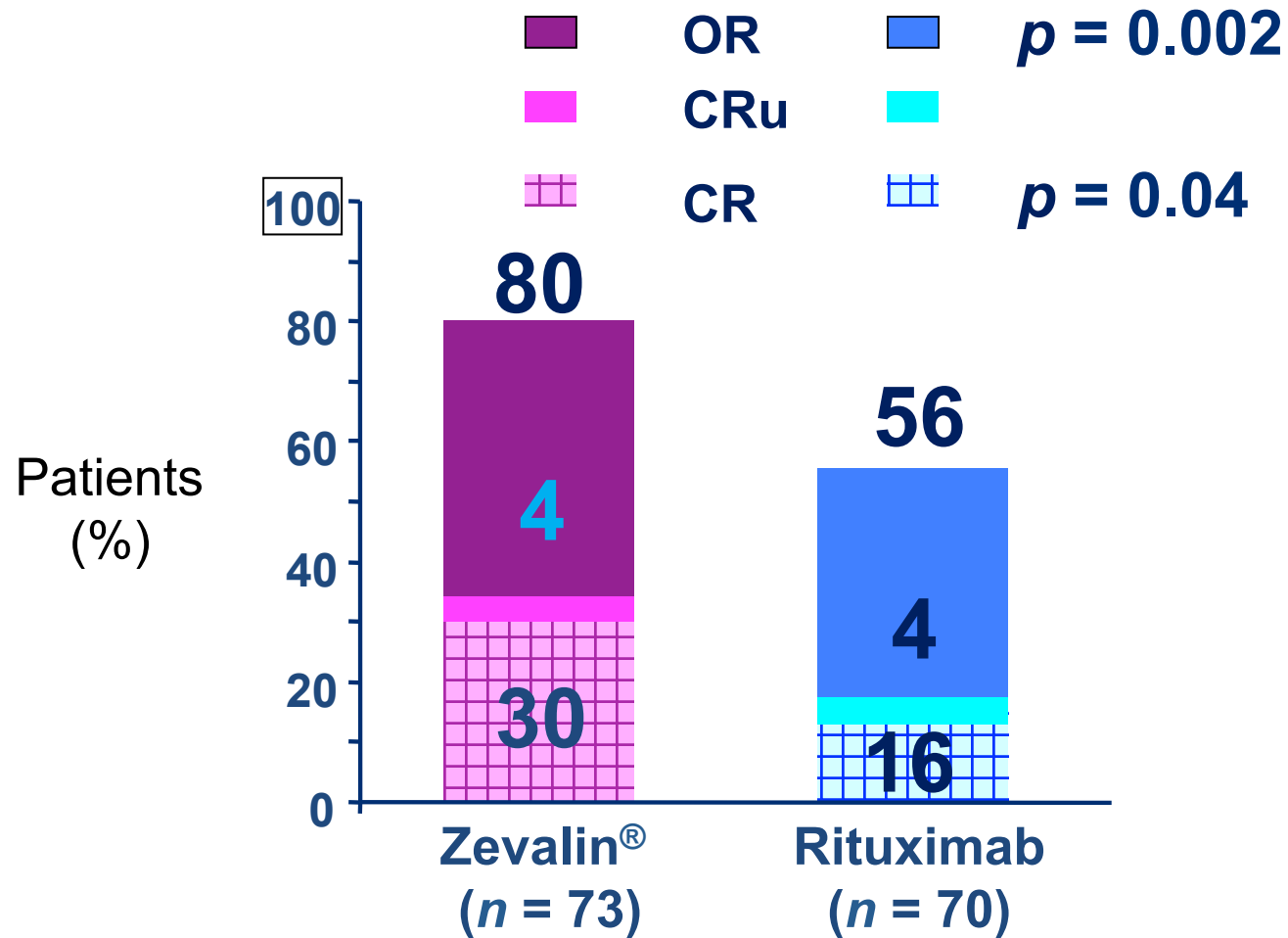
Press. *Semin Hematol* 2000;37(suppl 7):2-8

Krasner & Joyce. *Curr Pharma Biotech* 2001;2:341-349

Zelenetz. *Curr Opin Oncol* 1999;11:375-380

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Zevalin[®] vs Rituximab Randomised Phase III Trial: Response Rates*



* Witzig et al. *J Clin Oncol* 2002; 20:2453–2463

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Esperienza AOU Careggi, Firenze

Tutti pazienti con diagnosi di linfoma follicolare (I-II e IIIa) diagnosticati fra il gennaio 2000 e il dicembre 2004, per avere almeno 10 anni di osservazione per i pazienti vivi

Abbiamo diviso la casistica in due gruppi:

Gruppo 1 costituito da pazienti mai recidivati o progrediti dopo la terapia di induzione durante il periodo di osservazione

Gruppo 2 costituito da pazienti recidivati o progrediti dopo la terapia di induzione durante il periodo di osservazione

146 pazienti identificati dal data base, 13 esclusi (8 persi follow-up, 5 non responsivi alla terapia di induzione)

133 pazienti valutabili

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	COHORT 1	COHORT 2
NR OF PATIENTS	48	85
MALE GENDER	22 (46%)	46 (54%)
FEMALE GENDER	26 (54%)	39 (46%)
AGE > 60	21 (44%)	55 (65%)
STAGE I-II	21 (44%)	26 (30%)
STAGE III-IV	27 (56%)	59 (69%)
B SYMPTOMS	5 (10%)	20 (24%)
BULKY	8 (17%)	19 (22%)
EXTRANODAL INVOLVEMENT	10 (21%)	34 (40%)
FLIPI ≥ 3	14 (29%)	39 (46%)
FLIPI 2 ≥ 3	4 (8%)	16 (19%)
BOM +	9 (19%)	36 (42%)
$\beta 2$-MICROGLOBULIN \uparrow	4 (8%)	24 (28%)
ANTRACYCLINE REGIMEN	37 (77%)	59 (69%)
FLUDARABINE REGIMEN	10 (21%)	14 (16%)
WATCH & WAIT or RT	1 (2%)	12 (14%)
RITUXIMAB TREATMENT:	37 (77%)	56 (66%)
- sequential	30 (63%)	40 (47%)
- concurrent	7 (15%)	15 (18%)
NO RITUXIMAB	11 (23%)	30 (35%)

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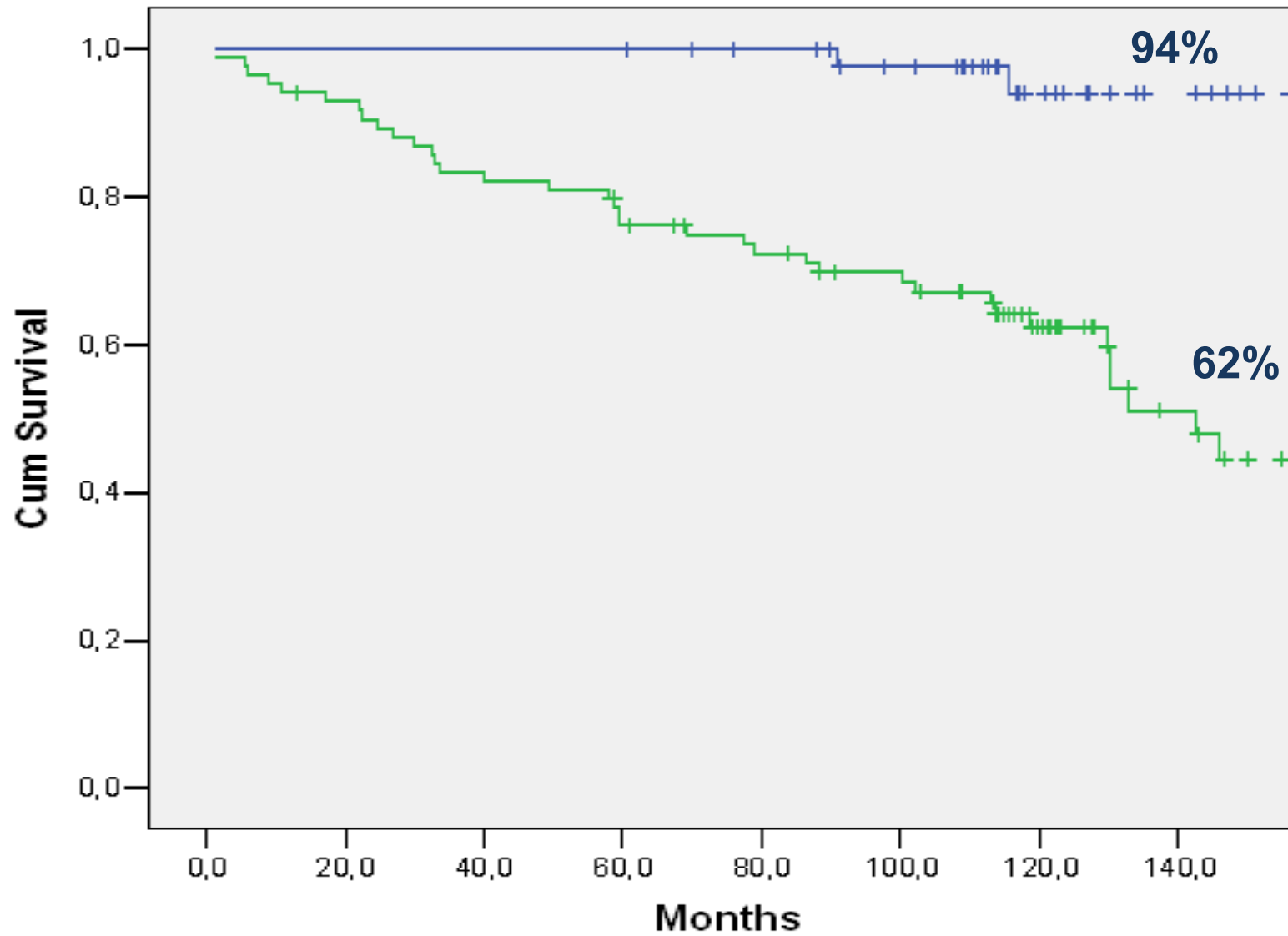
Per la sopravvivenza globale l'analisi **univariata**:

Beta2 microglobulina normale	p: 0.05
L'aver avuto Rituximab	p: 0.01
FLIPI < 3	p: 0.001

In analisi **multivariata** l'unico dato che mantiene significatività è l'aver fatto Rituximab

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Sopravvivenza globale per gruppo



Gruppo 1: 94% Gruppo 2: 62% mediana osservazione 142 mesi (95% CI 125-180)

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Microenvironment

Lenalidomide

T-cell exhaustion

Actionable mutations

EZH2
E7438

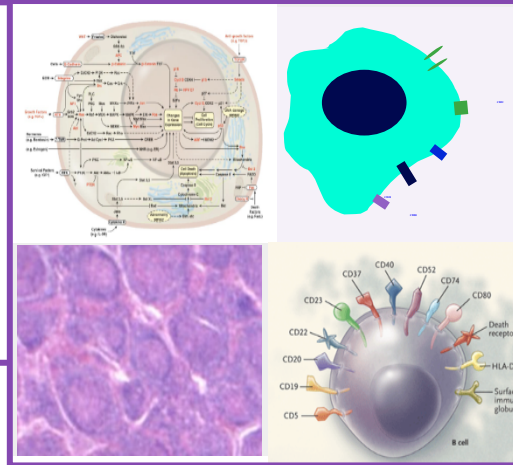
CD79a/b
AEB071

Proteasome inhibitors
Bortezomib

Bcl-2 family inhibitors
ABT-263

Survivin inhibitors
YM155

Syk inhibitors
Fostamatinib + others



Pathways

mTOR inhibitors
Everolimus
Temsirrolimus

PI3K inhibitors
Idelalisib
Copanlisib
Duvelisib
TGR-1202

Btk inhibitors
Ibrutinib
ONO/GS-4059
ACP-196

Hsp 90 inhibitors
KW 2478

Surface markers

Anti CD20 moAb
Ofatumumab
GA-101

Anti CD40 moAb
Dacetuzumab

Anti CD22
Epratuzumab
Inotuzumab Ozogamicin
polatuzumab

HDAC inhibitors
Vorinostat
Panobinostat









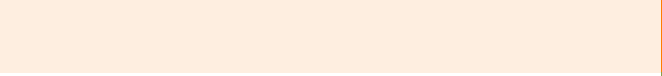



PKC inhibitors
Enzastaurin

Aurora kinase
inhibitors

Nedd8-activating
enzyme inhibitors
MLN4924

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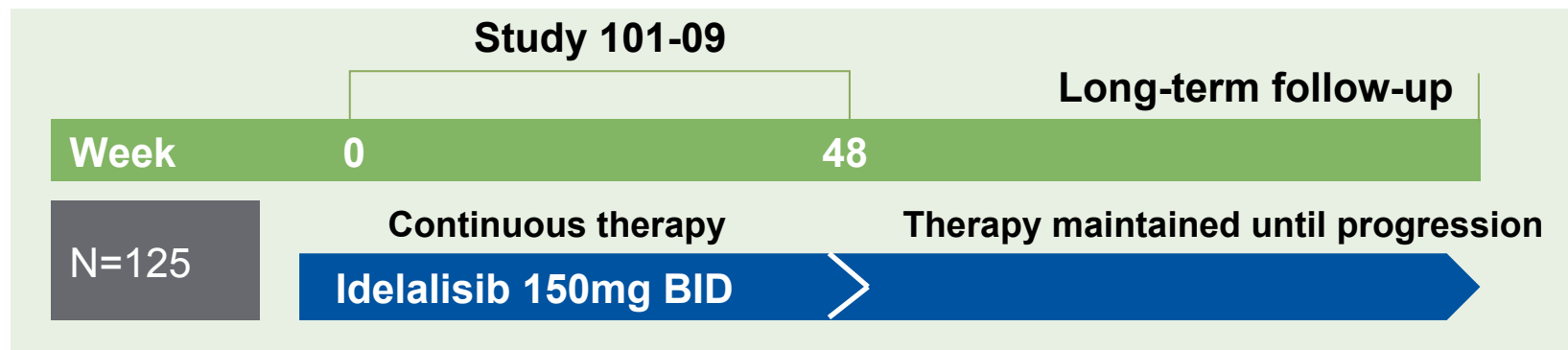
INHIBITORS OF PI3K

Class I PI3K Isoform				
Expression	Ubiquitous Insulin signaling Mutated in solid tumours	Ubiquitous Platelet activation Neutrophil function Insulin signaling	Leukocytes Mast cell activation Innate immunity Immune tracking	Leukocytes B and T cell activation Fc receptor signaling
Idelalisib				
Duvelisib				
Copanlisib				
TG-1202				

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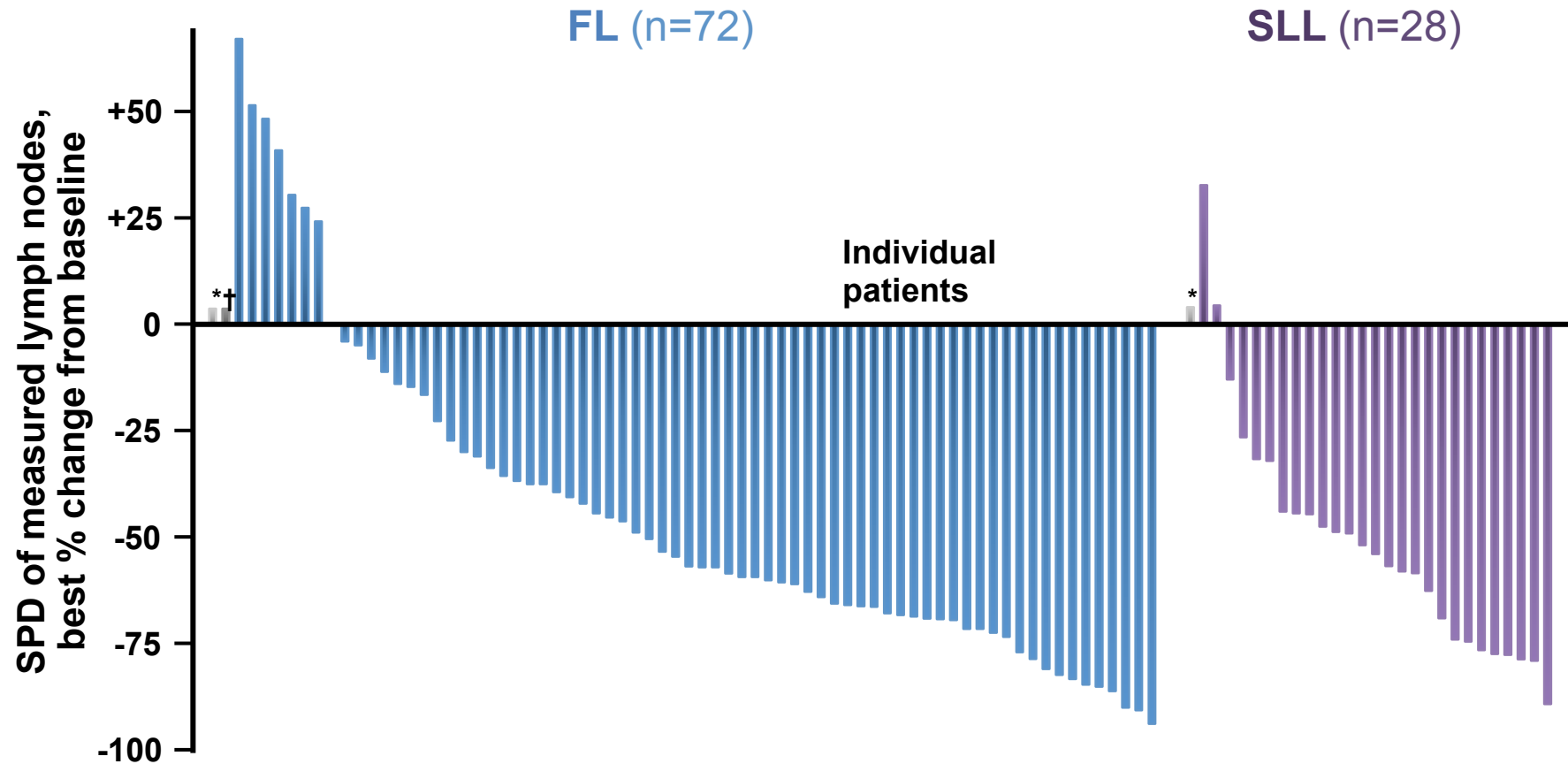
Idelalisib in Double-Refractory iNHL

- Phase II single-arm monotherapy study in patients with R/R iNHL
- Accrual completed October 2012
- Tumour assessments:
 - Week 0, 8, 16, 24, 36 and 48, then every 12 weeks thereafter
 - Evaluated by independent review committee (IRC)
 - 2 radiologists with adjudication, if needed, and clinical review
- **Primary endpoint:** Overall response rate (ORR)
- **Secondary endpoints:** Duration of response (DOR), progression-free survival (PFS), safety



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LYMPH NODE RESPONSE BY DISEASE SUBGROUP



3 patients had no post baseline computed tomographic scan evaluation; *2 of these patients were not evaluable
†1 had progressive disease by lymph node biopsy.

‡Criterion for lymphadenopathy response (Cheson BD *et al. J Clin Oncol* 2007;25:579–86)

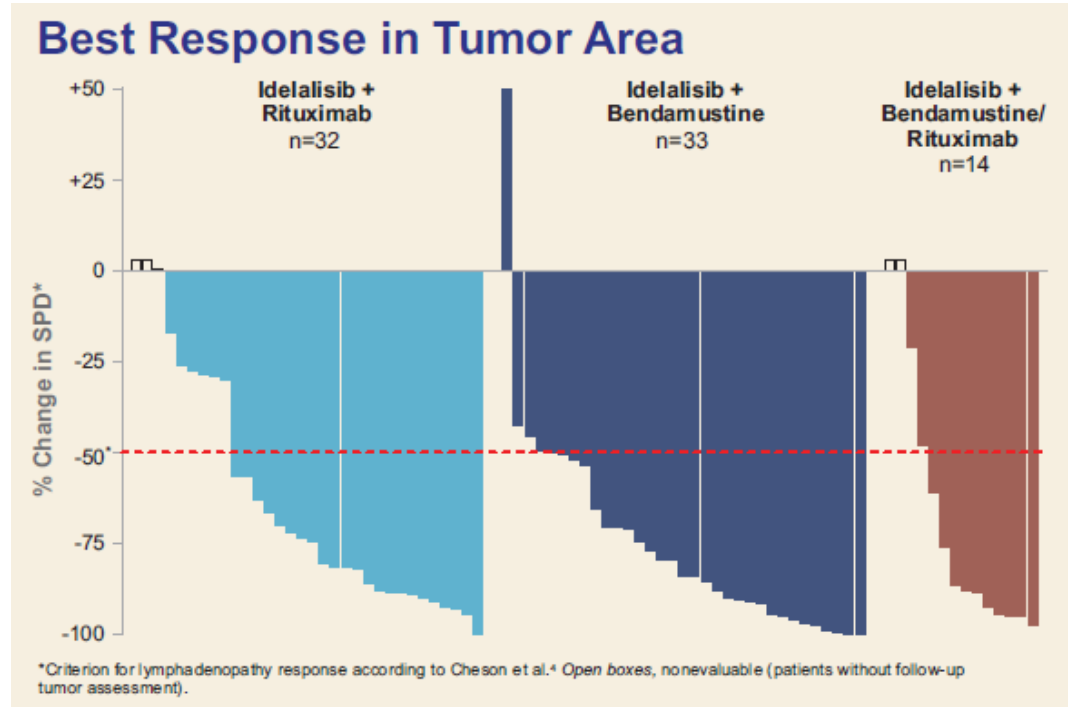
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In combination...

GS-1101
Rituximab weekly x8

GS-1101
Bendamustine 90mg/m²
day 1+2 x6

GS-1101
Bendamustine 90mg/m²
day 1+2 x6
Rituximab day 1 each
cycle

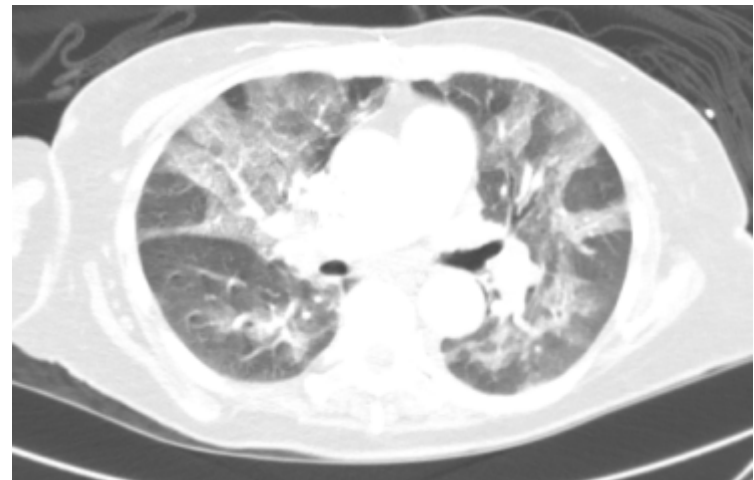
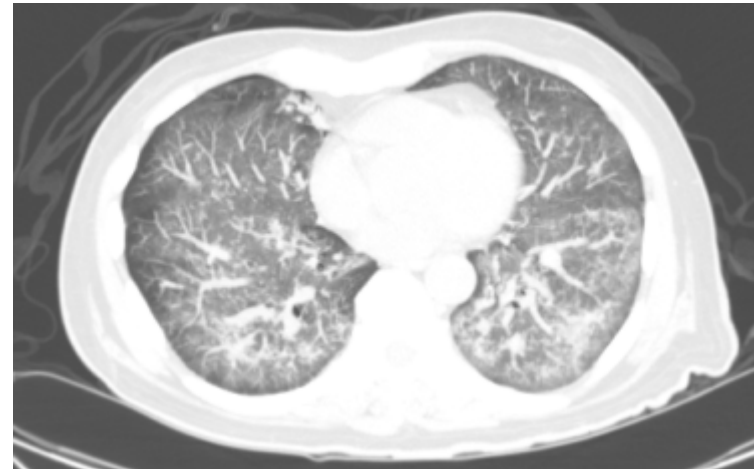


Emerging new toxicity data

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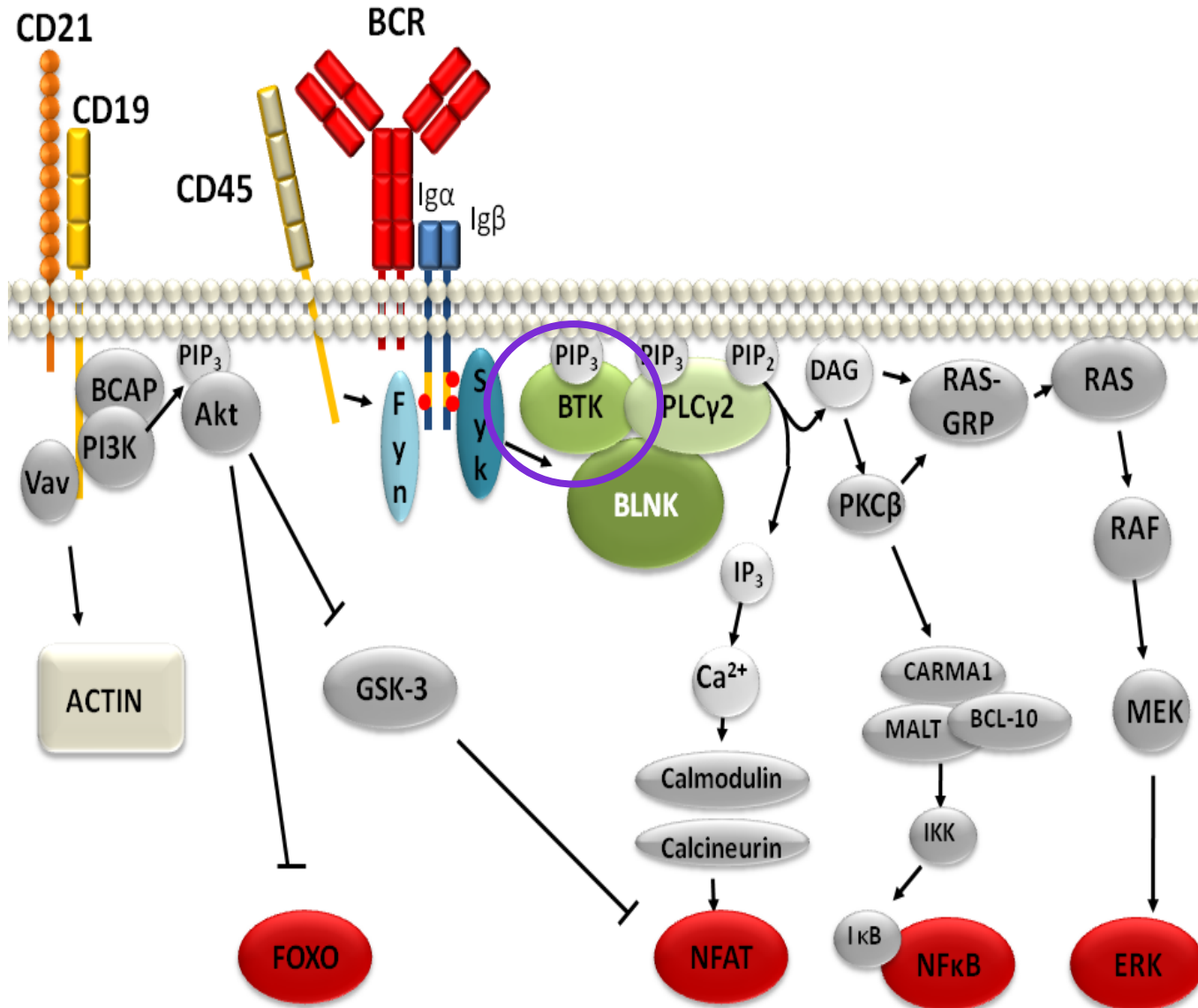
Toxicity of combinations

- 12 of 66 patients (18%)
- Median onset (range): 86 d (51–149)
- Prodrome included cough, fever, and hypoxia
 - 5 patients required ventilatory support
- Chest CT infiltrates characterized as ground-glass opacities
- Infectious etiology not identified
- Responded to steroid treatment
- No significant difference in entospletinib or idelalisib exposure between patients experiencing pneumonitis and others



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INHIBITING BTK...



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IBRUTINIB MONOTHERAPY IN R/R FL: PHASE 2 CONSORTIUM (P2C) TRIAL

Relapsed/refractory FL, n=40

560mg OD until PD or unacceptable toxicity

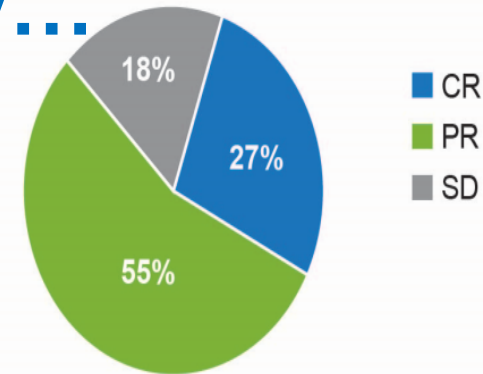
Baseline characteristics	
FLIPI ≥ 3	55%
Rituximab refractory	45%
Previous stem cell transplant	20%
Refractory to last therapy	36%
Median number of prior therapies (range)	3 (1–11)

Summary of outcomes at median follow up of 6.5 months	
ORR	30% (1 CR)
Patients exhibiting tumour size reduction	65%
Median time to response (range)	2.4 months (1.8–12.9)
Response	
– Rituximab refractory	2/18 (11%)
– Rituximab sensitive	8/19 (42%)
	[p=0.06]
Median PFS (95% CI)	9.9 months (6–NR)

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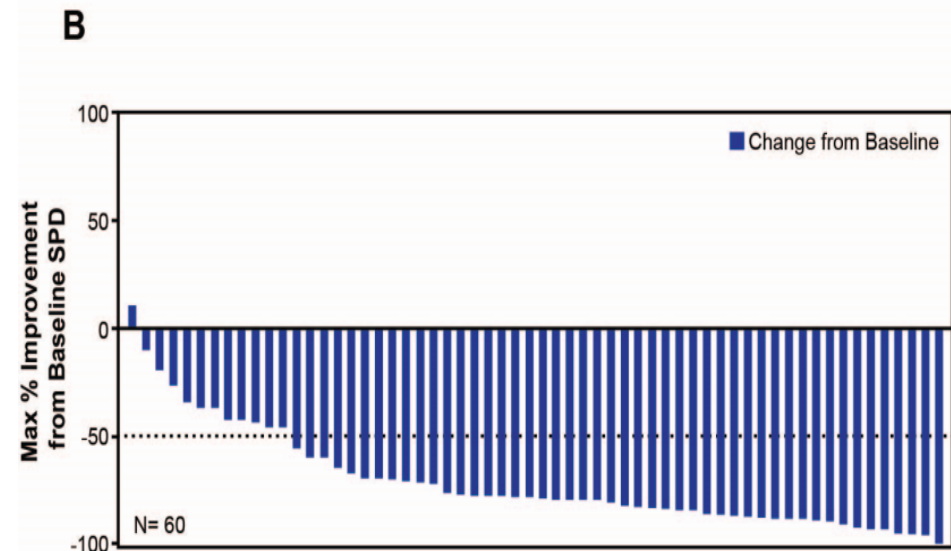
Front line therapy...

- FL (Grade 1, 2 and 3a, stage II-IV disease) received oral ibrutinib 560 mg once daily until progressive disease (PD) or unacceptable toxicity + rituximab 375 mg/m² IV once weekly for 4 doses
- Primary endpoint ORR
- 28% of patients discontinued ibrutinib (AEs: 12%; PD: 8%; patient decision: 5%; and investigator decision: 3%).
- Median PFS, OS, and DOR are not reached as a result of a small number of PD (n=5) and death (n=1) events



ORR: 82% (27% CR + 55% PR)

Abbreviations: CR, complete response; ORR, overall response rate; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease



Median target lesion SPD at baseline was 24 cm² (range, 2.2–135.5)

Abbreviations: SPD, sum of the products of the greatest perpendicular diameters.

BCL-2 Inhibition (Gerecitano et al. ASH 2015)

Bcl-2 highly expressed in FL

GDC-0199 oral active Bcl-2 inhibitor (lack BCLXL activity: pts ↓)

Phase I dose escalation

200-1200 mg cohorts

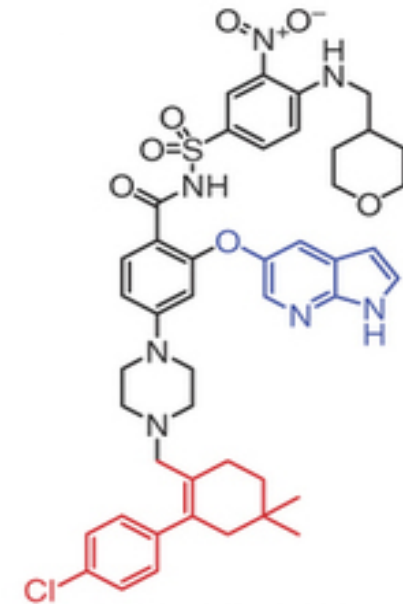
N=109

FL =29

AEs: diarrhoea (44%), fatigue (44%) Nausea (33%),

Tumour lysis in 1 patient each with DLBCL and MCL

FL CR =10 pts. (34%); PR = 3 pts. (10%)

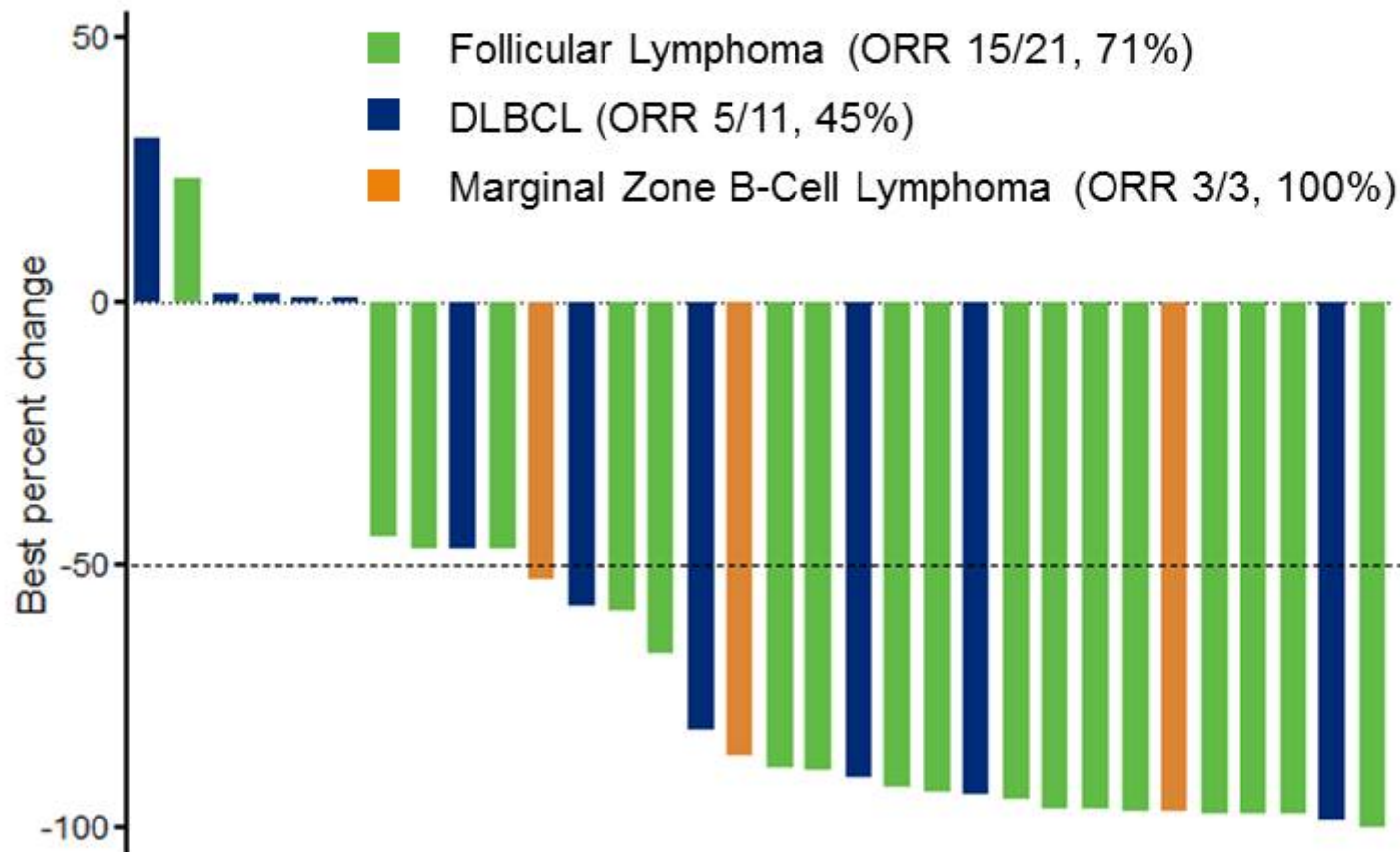


GDC-0199

Best response on venetoclax, n (%)	DLBCL n=34	DLBCL-RT n=7	Follicular Lymphoma n=29
Overall responder rate (ORR)	5 (15)	3 (43)	10 (34)
CR	3 (9)	0	3 (10)
PR	2 (6)	3 (43)	7 (24)
SD	9 (26)	2 (29)	18 (62)
PD	18 (53)	1 (14)	1 (3)
Discontinued prior to assessment	1 (3)	1 (14)	0
Not evaluable ^a	1 (3)	0	0

^a Data entry error; response is PR

Best Percent Change from Baseline in Nodal Size

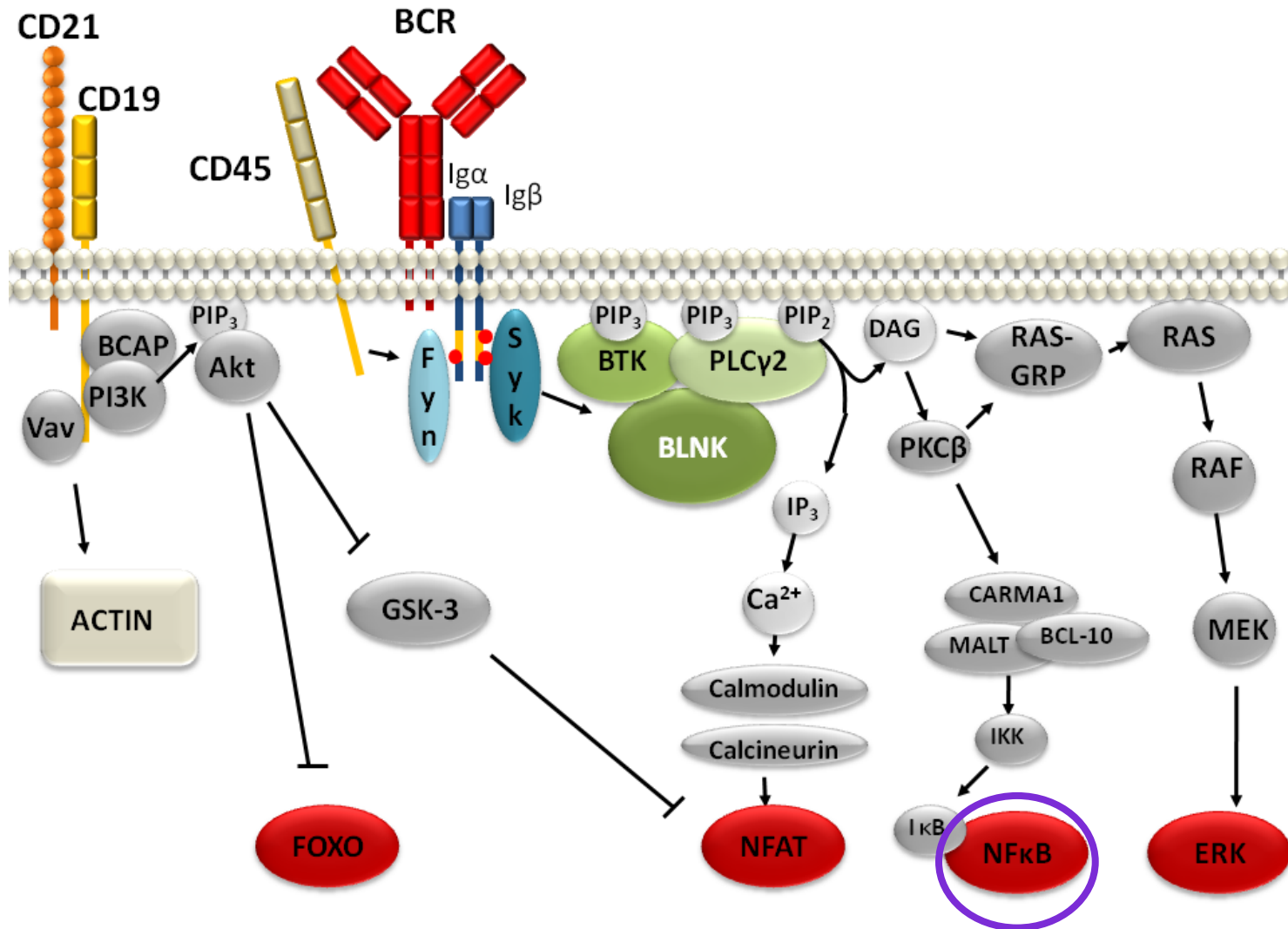


n=3 did not have post-baseline tumor assessment
As of January 9, 2015

Adapted from the de Vos presentation at European Hematology Association on 12 June 2015

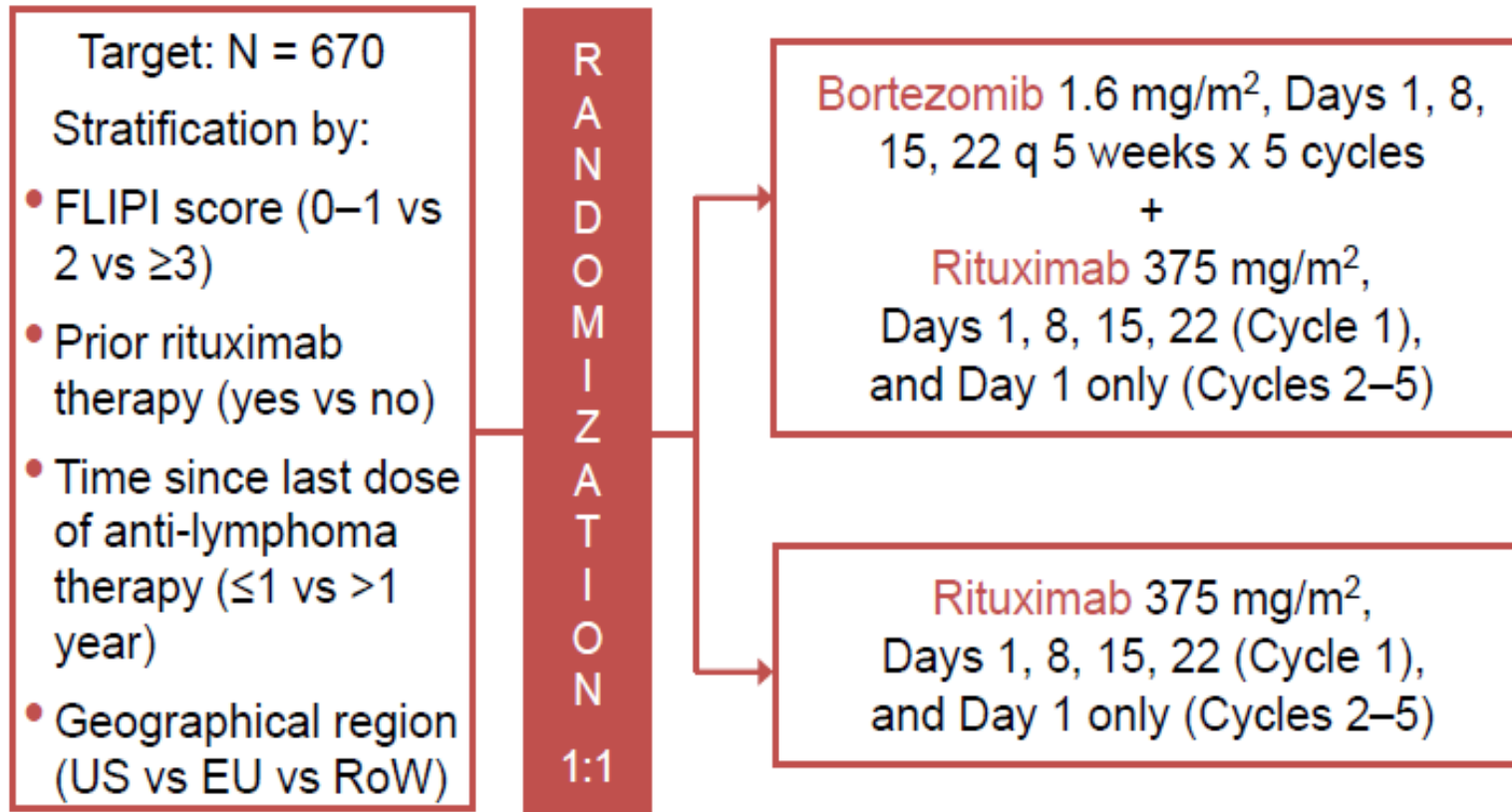
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NF-κB



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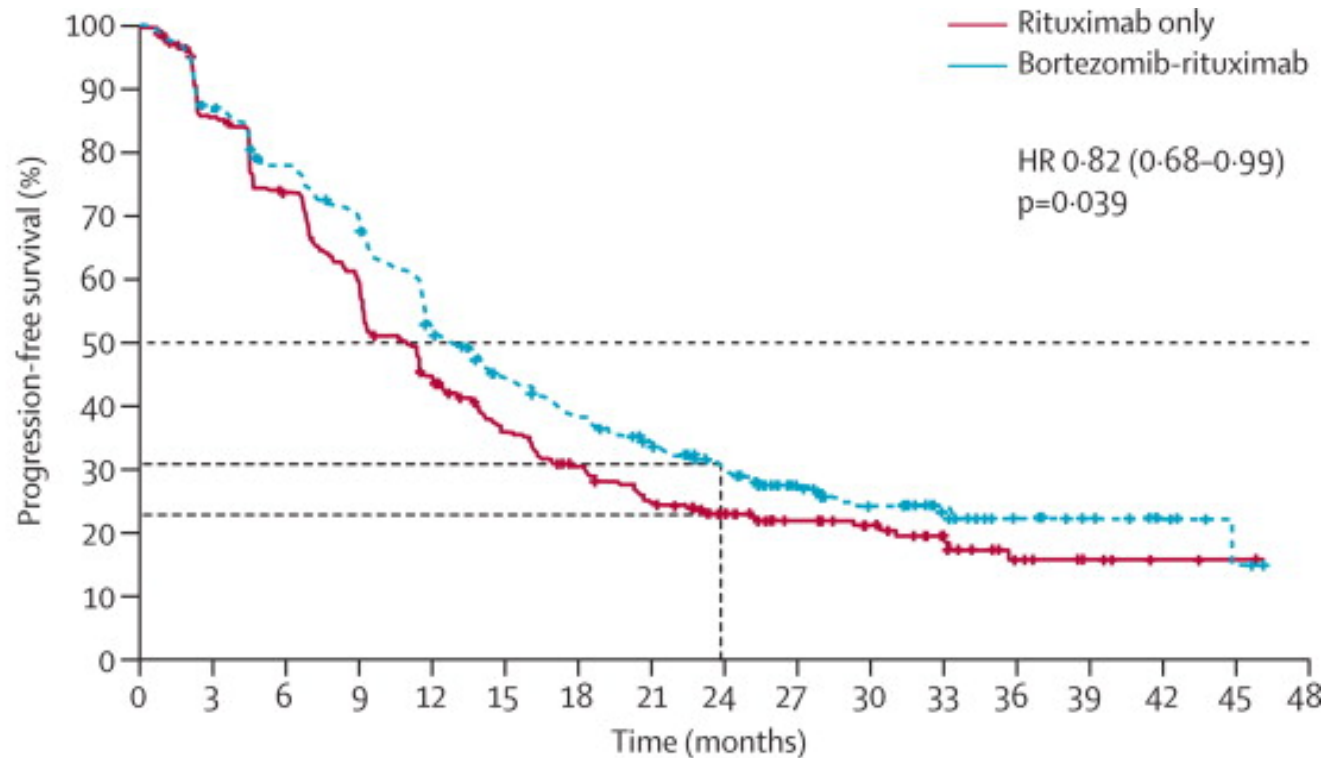
Bortezomib..better use of biomarkers



Treatment duration: 25 weeks in each arm
8 doses of rituximab in each arm

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Progression-free survival per IRC.



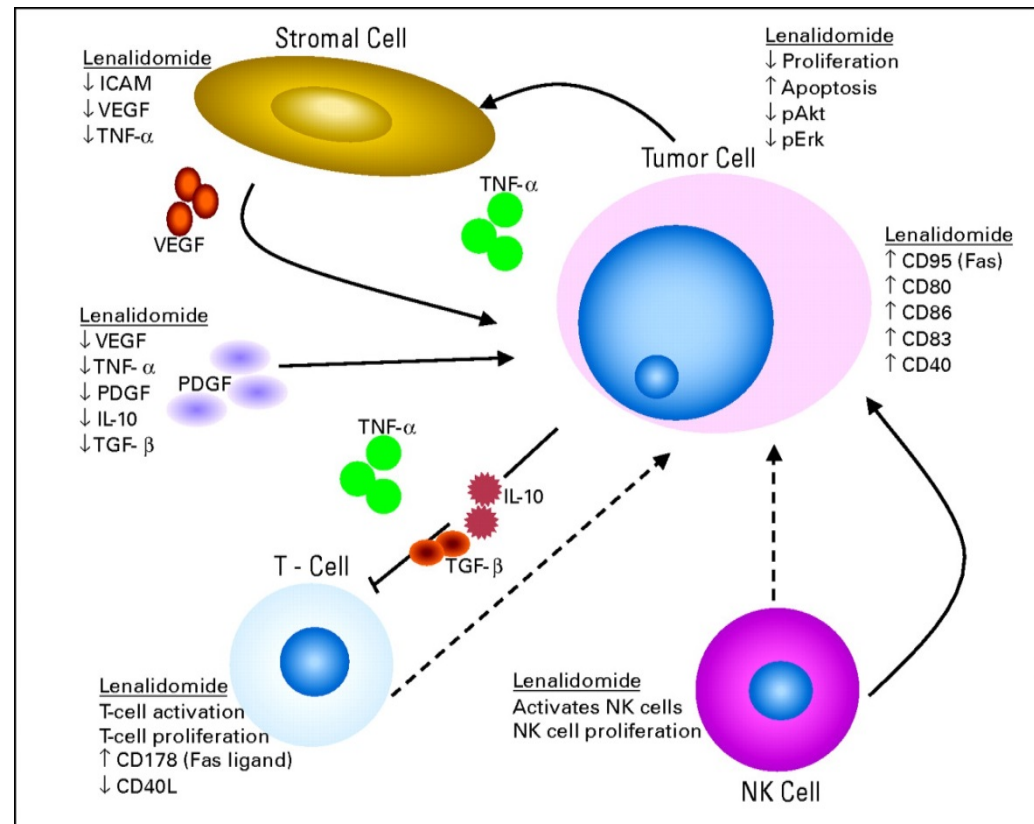
Number at risk	
Rituximab only	340 267 216 171 120 94 76 60 46 35 27 17 9 5 2 1
Bortezomib-rituximab	336 265 229 197 142 115 97 80 62 46 33 23 15 11 6 2

Median PFS 110 mo (R)
vs 12.8 mo (R+B)

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Lenalidomide

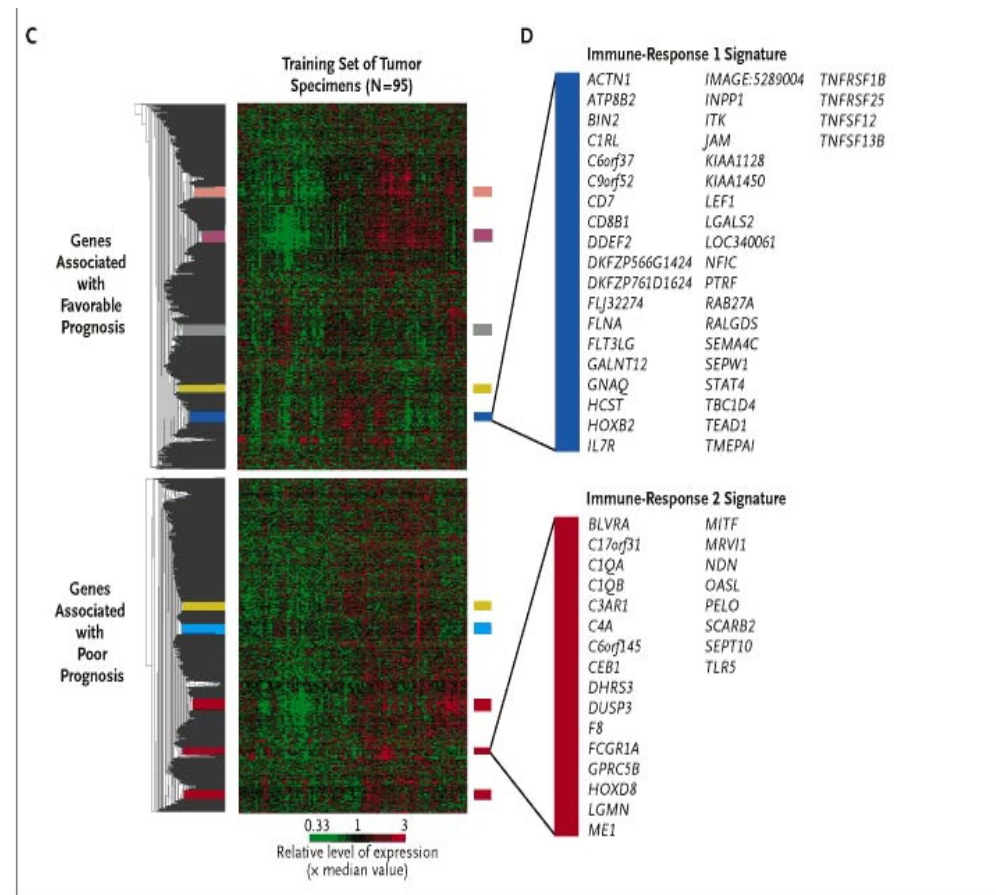
- Immunomodulatory properties
- Modulation of both cellular and cytokine tumour cell microenvironment
- Activates T cell and NK response to tumour cell
- Down regulates pro-survival cytokines
- Approval in myeloma



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Exhausted T-cells: Will there be a role?

- Important interplay between malignant cells and microenvironment.
- Natural induction of antitumour immune response in FL
- ...eventually ineffective. Immune escape or immune checkpoints

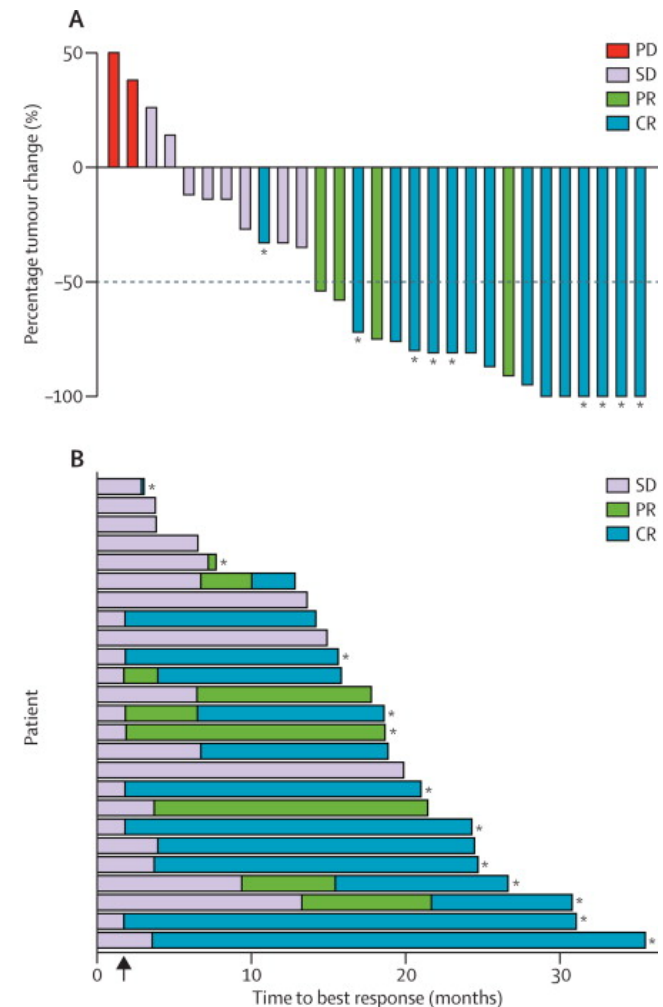


Dave SS et al. N Engl J Med 2004;351:2159-2169.

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Pidilizumab

- Humanised IgG-1 targets PD1
- Pidilizumab (4 + 8 infusions) and rituximab (4 infusions) combination study in FL
- n=32
- Median number of prior therapies 1 (1-4)
- Time since last therapy 23.8 mo (9.8-76.1)
- 66% ORR (in 29 evaluable)
- 15 pts (52%) CR



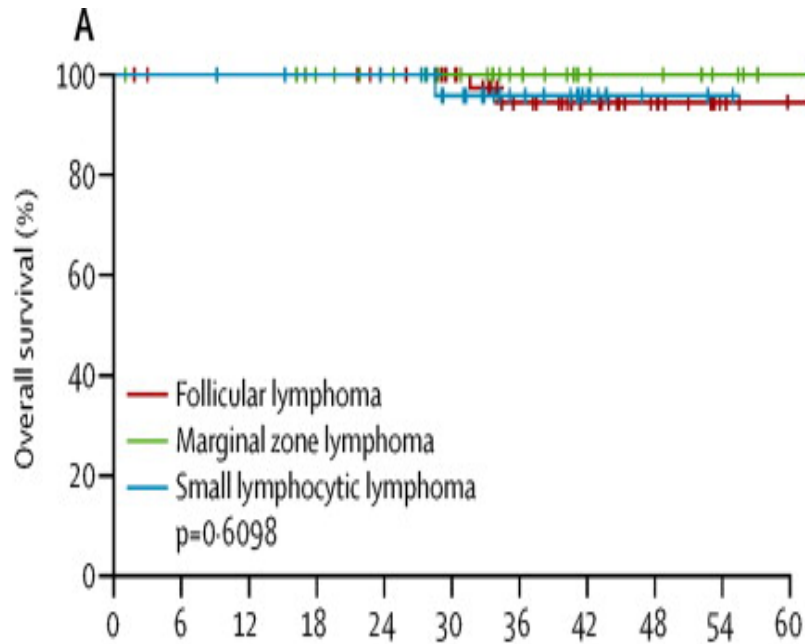
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- Gli stadi localizzati sono guaribili !
- Low tumor burden FL come trattarli?
- Non tutti i linfomi follicolari sono uguali: come fare a distinguerli?
 - Indici prognostici (FLIPI, FLIPI2, M7FLIPI)
 - Malattia minima residua
 - PET/CT
- Le terapie ad alte dosi con supporto di staminali che ruolo hanno?
- Il Rituximab e gli altri anticorpi monoclonali, quale ruolo?
- La immuno-chemioterapia quanti FL guarisce?
- Le nuove terapie 'target'
- **La induzione chemio-free, 'utopia'?**

The R² regimen (Fowler et al. Lancet Oncol 2014)

	%	ORR	CR/CR(u)	PR	SD	PD
Follicular (n=46)		98	87	11	2	0
Small lymphocytic (n=30)		80	27	53	13	7
Marginal zone (n=27)		89	67	22	11	0
All (n=103)		90	64	26	8	2

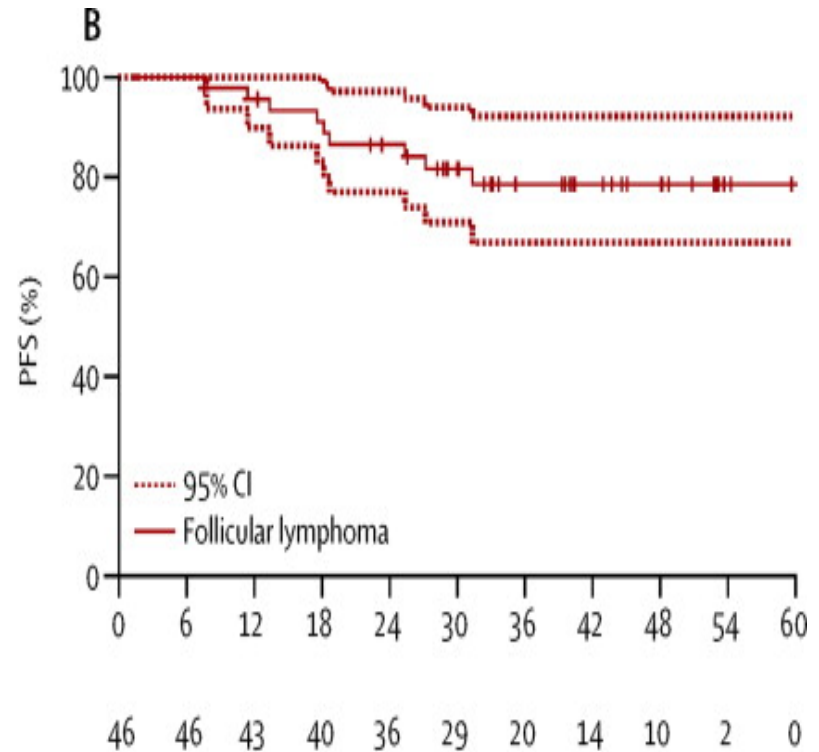
Overall survival



Number at risk

Follicular lymphoma	50	48	48	48	45	40	30	20	13	4	1
Marginal zone lymphoma	30	30	29	26	24	20	15	9	8	5	1
Small lymphocytic lymphoma	30	29	29	28	27	21	14	8	2	1	0

Progression-free survival: Follicular lymphoma



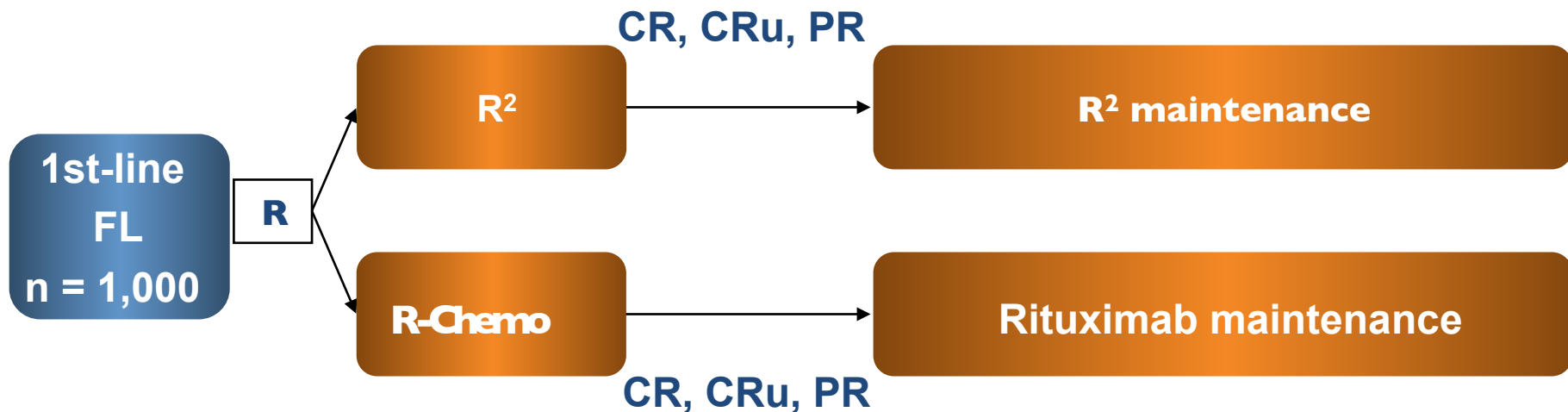
**Will chemo free be better?
RESORT**

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RELEVANCE : phase 3 study design

(Rituximab and LEnalidomide Versus any Chemotherapy, FL-001)

International, multi-centre, randomized study
(Frank Morschhauser, Nathan Fowler)



- R-Chemo
 - investigator choice of R-CHOP, R-CVP, R-B

Lenalidomide 20 mg x 6 cycles, if CR then 10 mg

- Co-primary end-points
 - surrogate end-point: CR/CRu rate at 1.5 years
 - PFS

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- *lo stadio 1 è potenzialmente guaribile*
- *il watch and wait è una terapia*
- *quando si inizia un trattamento il programma deve essere 'completo e curativo'*
- *preferire i nuovi farmaci in particolare i nuovi anticorpi e/o nuovi farmaci biologici*
- *non escludere mai il paziente dalle decisioni*

LINFOMA FOLLICOLARE

- *di linfoma follicolare si può guarire*
- *le guarigioni in passato erano sporadiche*
- *l'avvento del rituximab sia nell'induzione che nel mantenimento ha aumentato le possibilità di guarigione*
- *le nuove terapia che 'colpiscono' selettivamente i meccanismi di linfomagenesi in una patologia così poco aggressiva saranno e terapie di elezione per ottenere sempre più guarigioni.*

