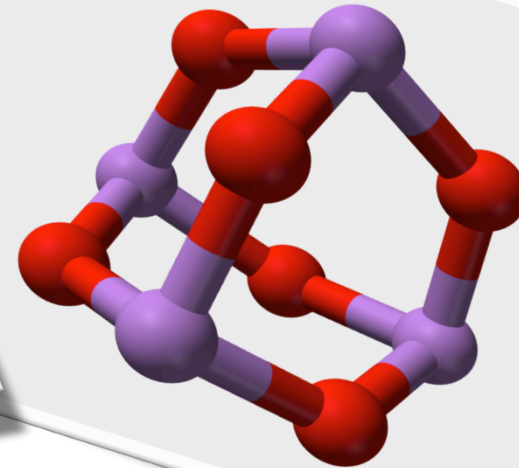


# The ALLG approach to incorporating arsenic trioxide

**APML4**  
*final analysis*

and

**APML5**  
*encapsulating therapy*



**harry iland**

institute of haematology  
royal prince alfred hospital  
sydney, australia

**ALLG**  
AUSTRALASIAN  
LEUKAEMIA & LYMPHOMA  
GROUP



# 7<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ACUTE PROMYELOCYTIC LEUKEMIA

ROME, September 24-27, 2017

Chairmen: F. Lo-Coco, M.A. Sanz  
Honorary President: F. Mandelli

## Disclosures of Harry Iland

Company name	Research support	Employee	Consultant	Stockholder	Speakers bureau	Advisory board	Other
NONE							

# Background to APML4

## **AIDA**

Avvisati *et al*

Blood 88:1390; 1996

AIDA (all-trans retinoic acid + idarubicin) in newly diagnosed acute promyelocytic leukemia: a GIMEMA pilot study

# GIMEMA AIDA: a triumphal march

Induction

**ATRA**

45mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d until CR [ max 90 days ]



**Idarubicin**

12mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x4 (days 2,4,6,8)



Avvisati *et al*, Blood 88:1390, 1996 • Mandelli *et al*, Blood 90:1014, 1997



## Induction

**ATRA** 45mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d  
until CR [ max 90 days ]



**Idarubicin**  
12mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x4



## Consolidation

**Idarubicin**  
7mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x4



**Cytarabine**  
1g/m<sup>2</sup>/d x4



**Mitoxantrone**  
10mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x5



**Etoposide**  
100mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x5



**Idarubicin**  
12mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x1



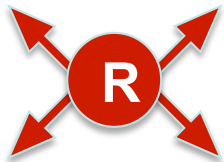
**Cytarabine**  
150mg/m<sup>2</sup> q8h x5



**6-Thioguanine**  
70mg/m<sup>2</sup> q8h x5



## Maintenance



**ATRA** x15



every 3 months for 2 years

**6-MP** 50mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d



**MTX** 15mg/m<sup>2</sup>/wk



# Background to APML4

## **AIDA**

Avvisati *et al*  
Blood 88:1390; 1996

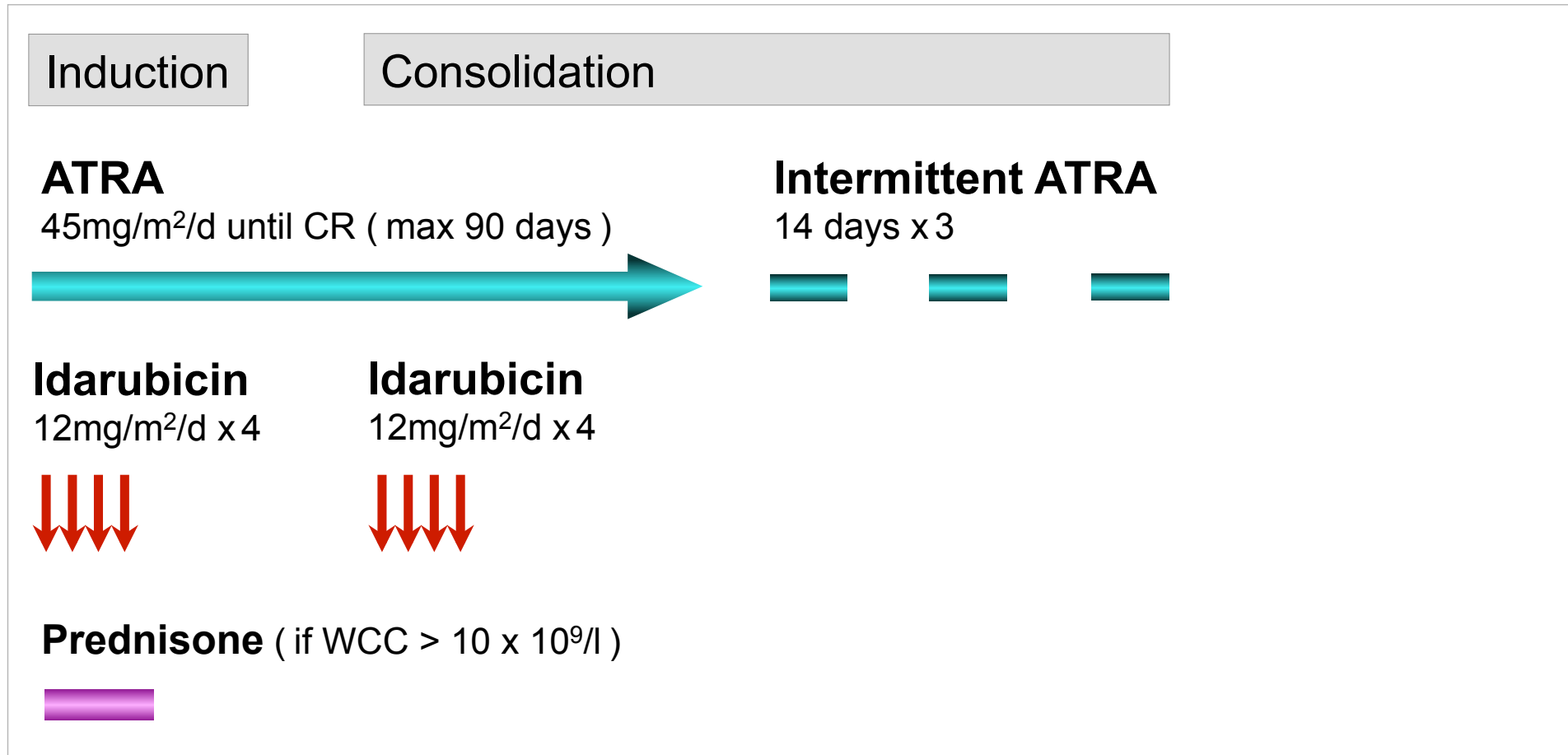
AIDA (all-trans retinoic acid + idarubicin) in newly diagnosed acute promyelocytic leukemia: a GIMEMA pilot study

## **APML3**

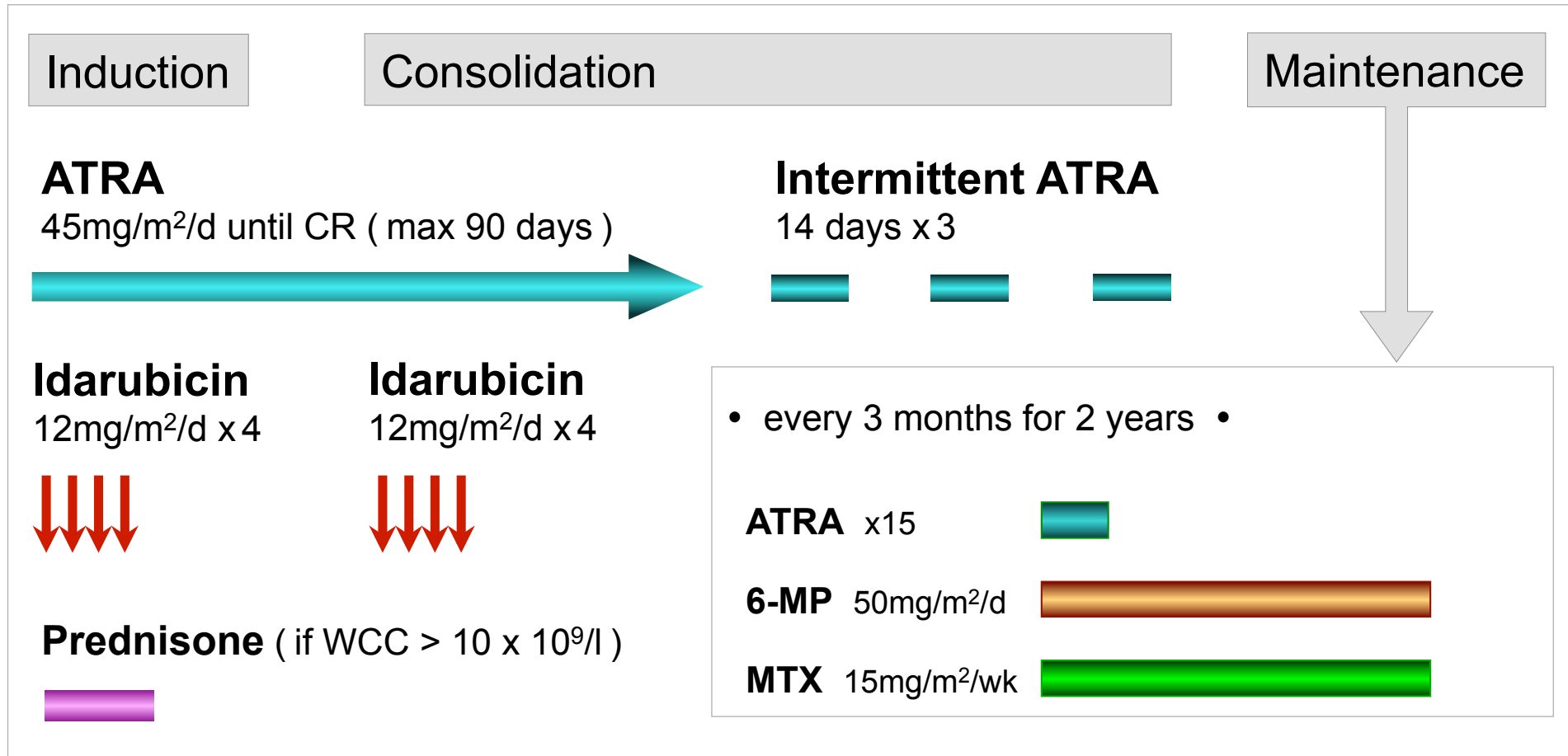
Iland *et al*  
Haematologica 97:227; 2012

Results of the APML3 trial incorporating all-trans-retinoic acid and idarubicin in both induction and consolidation as initial therapy for patients with acute promyelocytic leukemia

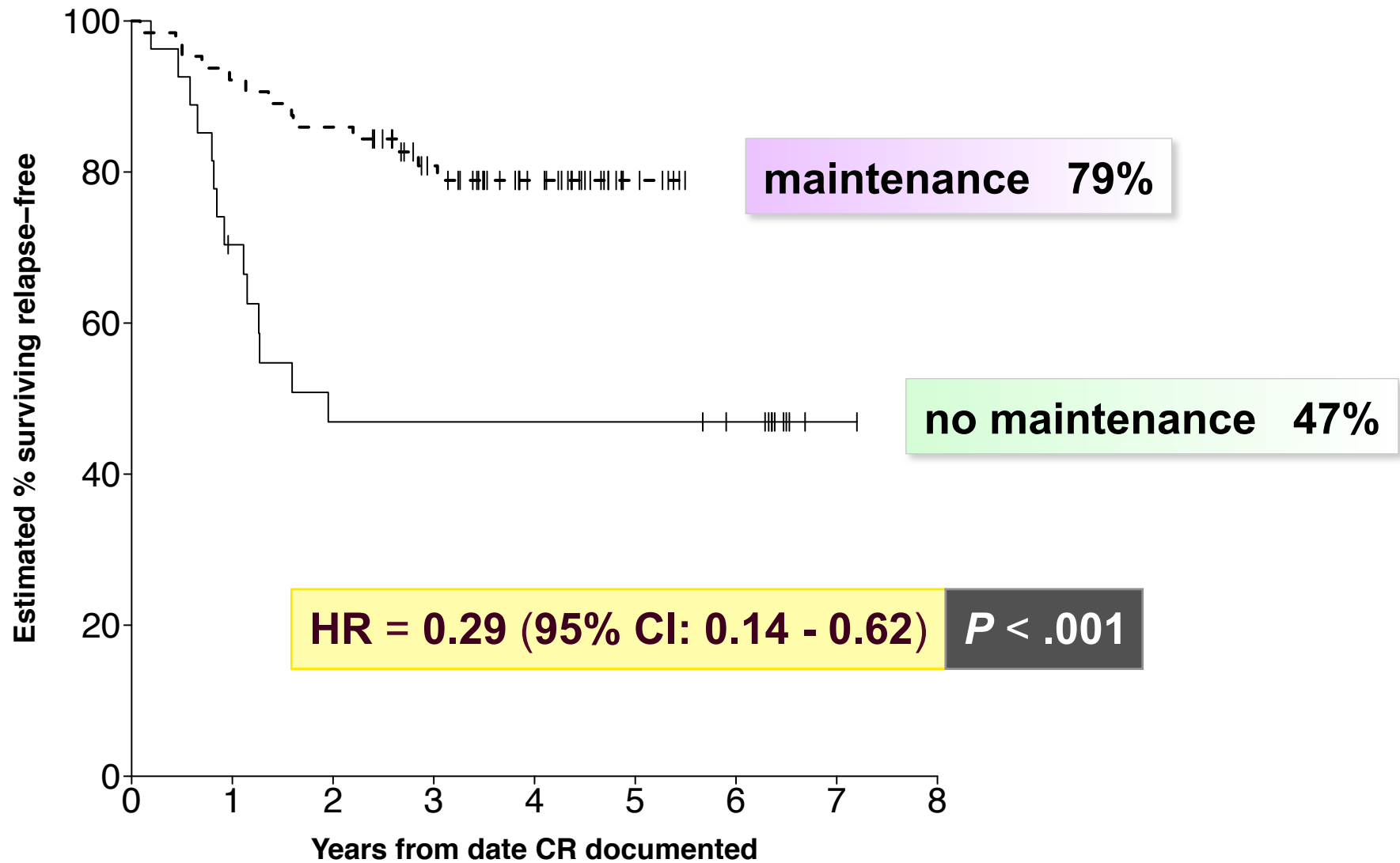
# APML3 accrued 1997-2002



# APML3 accrued 1997-2002 maintenance added June 2000



# APML3 disease-free survival



	Number at risk									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
No maint	27	18	12	12	12	12	10	1	0	
Maint	64	59	55	42	26	6	0	0	0	

# Background to APML4

## **AIDA**

Avvisati *et al*  
Blood 88:1390; 1996

AIDA (all-trans retinoic acid + idarubicin) in newly diagnosed acute promyelocytic leukemia: a GIMEMA pilot study

## **APML3**

Iland *et al*  
Haematologica 97:227; 2012

Results of the APML3 trial incorporating all-trans-retinoic acid and idarubicin in both induction and consolidation as initial therapy for patients with acute promyelocytic leukemia

## **ATRA + arsenic**

Shen *et al*  
PNAS 101:5328; 2004

All-trans retinoic acid/ $\text{As}_2\text{O}_3$  combination yields a high quality remission and survival in newly diagnosed acute promyelocytic leukemia

# ATRA + ATO as initial therapy

Induction

**ATRA**

25mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d until CR



**ATO**

0.16mg/kg/d until CR



**WCC > 10x10<sup>9</sup>/l**

\* **Hydroxyurea**

20-40mg/kg/d

or

\* **Idarubicin + cytarabine**

6mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x3

100mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x3-5



## Induction

### ATRA

25mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d until CR



### ATO

0.16mg/kg/d until CR



**WCC > 10x10<sup>9</sup>/l**

\* **Hydroxyurea**  
20-40mg/kg/d

or

\* **Idarubicin + cytarabine**  
6mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x3    100mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x3-5

## Consolidation

### #1 Daunorubicin + cytarabine

45mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x3



100mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x7



### #2 Cytarabine

1.5-2.5g/m<sup>2</sup>/d x3



### #3 Homoharringtonine + cytarabine

2-3mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x3



100mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x7



## Maintenance

3 months x 5 cycles

### ATRA

25mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x30



### + ATO

0.16mg/kg/d x30



### + 6-MP

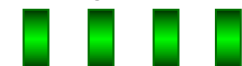
100mg/d x30



or

### MTX

15mg/wk x4



# APML4 induction

## Induction

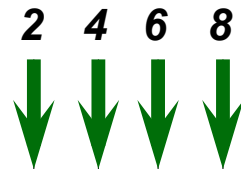
### ATRA

45mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x36



### Idarubicin

12mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x4



Age-adjusted idarubicin: 61-70: 9mg/m<sup>2</sup>  
>70: 6mg/m<sup>2</sup>

### ATO

0.15mg/kg/d x28



### Prednisone

1mg/kg/d x10



**+ Aggressive hemostatic support**

- platelets  $\geq 30 \times 10^9/l$
- normal PT and APTT
- fibrinogen  $> 1.5g/l$

# APML4 consolidation

## Consolidation #1

**ATRA**

45mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x28



**ATO**

0.15mg/kg/d x28



## Consolidation #2

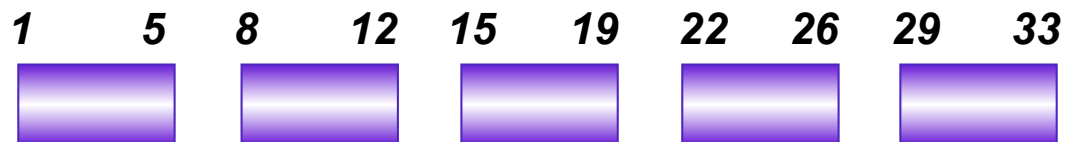
**ATRA**

45mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x21



**ATO**

0.15mg/kg/d x25



# APML4 maintenance

Maintenance (every 3 months for 2 years)

**ATRA**

45mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x14



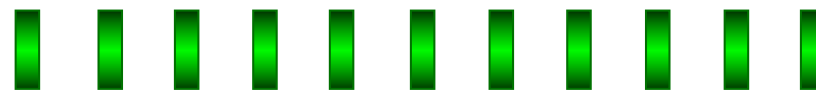
**6-MP**

50-90mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d x76



**MTX**

5-15mg/m<sup>2</sup>/wk x11



## + Molecular monitoring by quantitative RT-PCR

- Ipsogen Cancer Profiler FusionQuant kits
- BM every 3 months for 3 years after consolidation

# APML4 patients

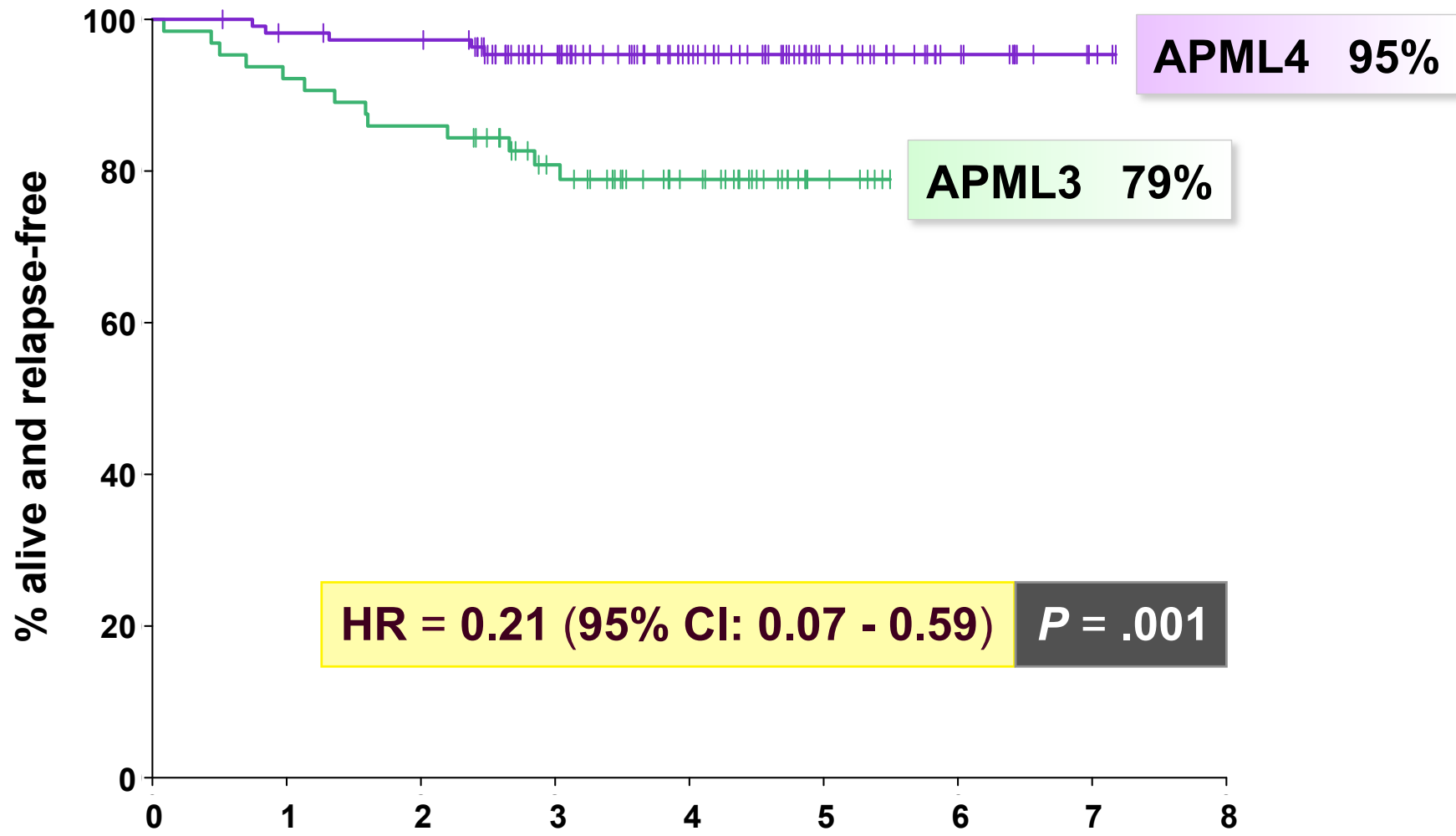
accrued	Nov 2004 - Sep 2009
evaluable patients	n = 124 (27 sites)
median age	44 (3 – 78)
median white cell count	2.4 x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L (0.1 - 85.8)
high risk	23
standard risk	101
median follow-up	4.2 years
early deaths (to day 36)	4 (3.2%)

# APML4 early deaths up to day 36

<b>Age <math>\leq</math> 70</b> (n = 117)	<b>Age <math>&gt;</math> 70</b> (n = 7)	<b><i>P</i></b>
2 (1.7%)	2 (28.6%)	0.02

<b>WCC <math>\leq</math> 10</b> (n = 101)	<b>WCC <math>&gt;</math> 10</b> (n = 23)	<b><i>P</i></b>
2 (2.0%)	2 (8.7%)	0.16

# APML4 vs APML3 DFS

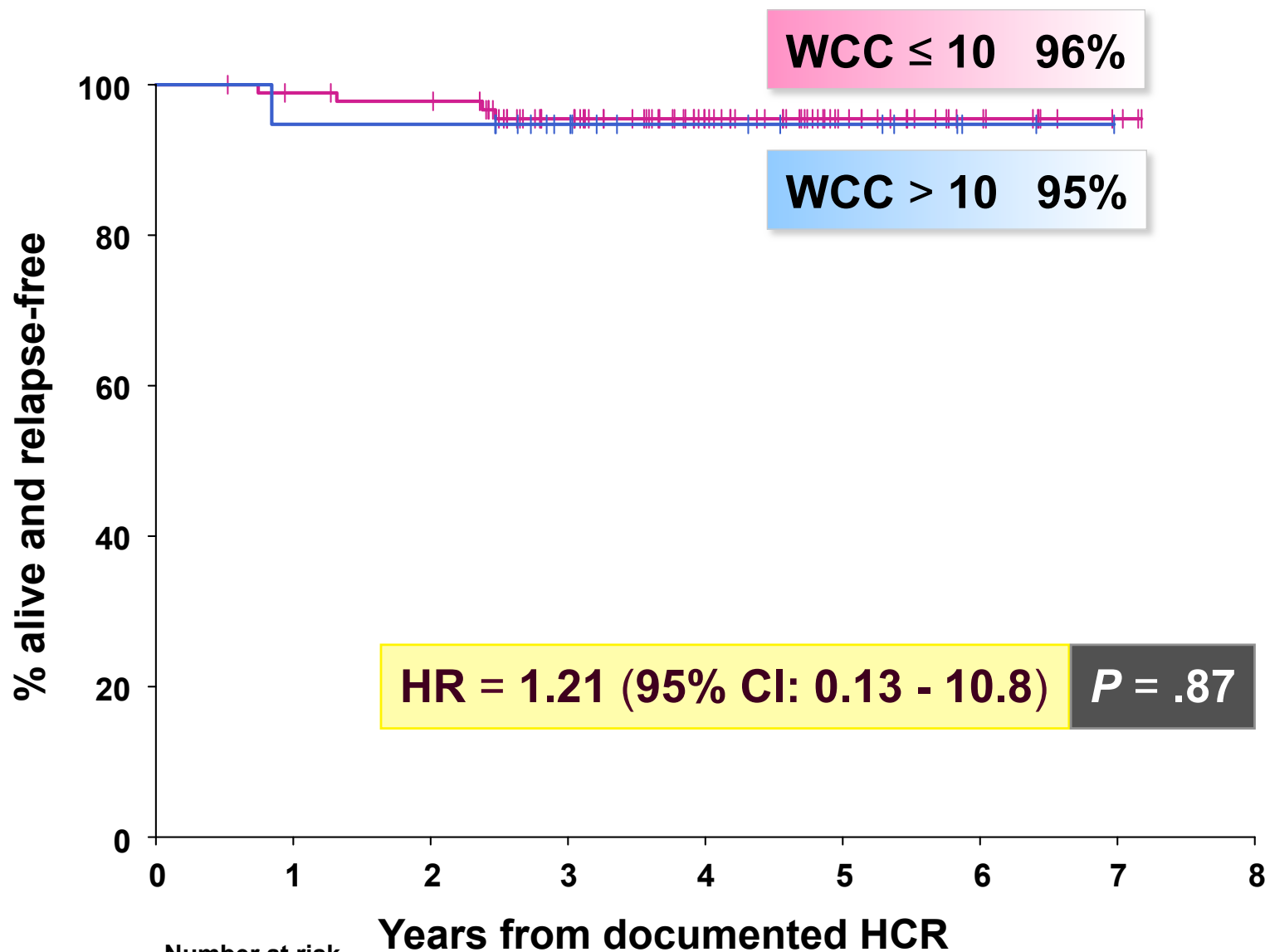


Number at risk

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
APML4	112	108	106	81	53	29	13	3	0
APML3	64	59	55	42	26	6	0	0	0



# APML4 DFS - white cell count



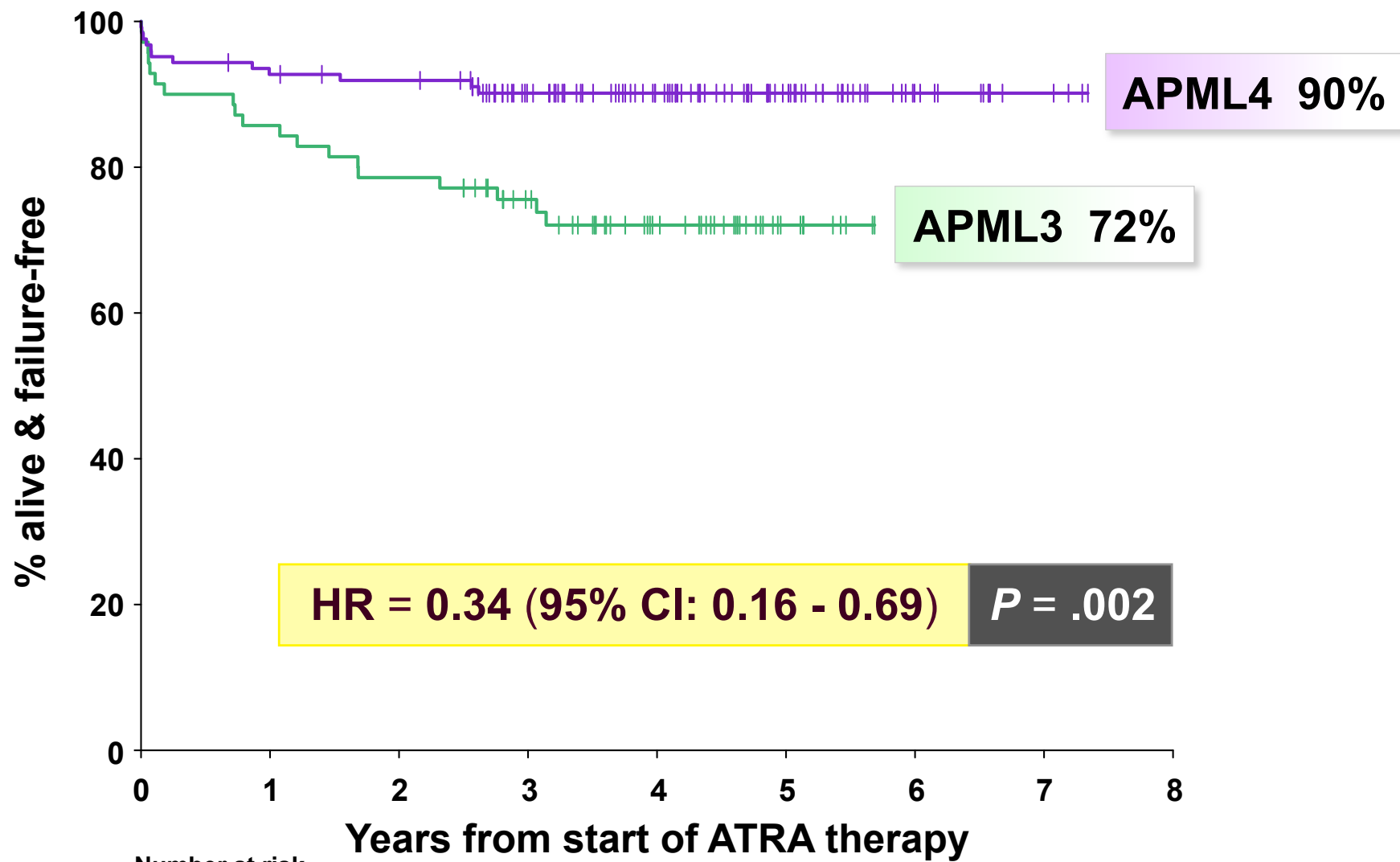
	Number at risk								
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
WCC ≤ 10	93	90	88	69	45	23	11	3	0
WCC > 10	19	18	18	12	8	6	2	0	0

# APML4 cumulative incidence of relapse

- Competing risks:**
- relapse
  - death in remission
  - failure to achieve molecular CR

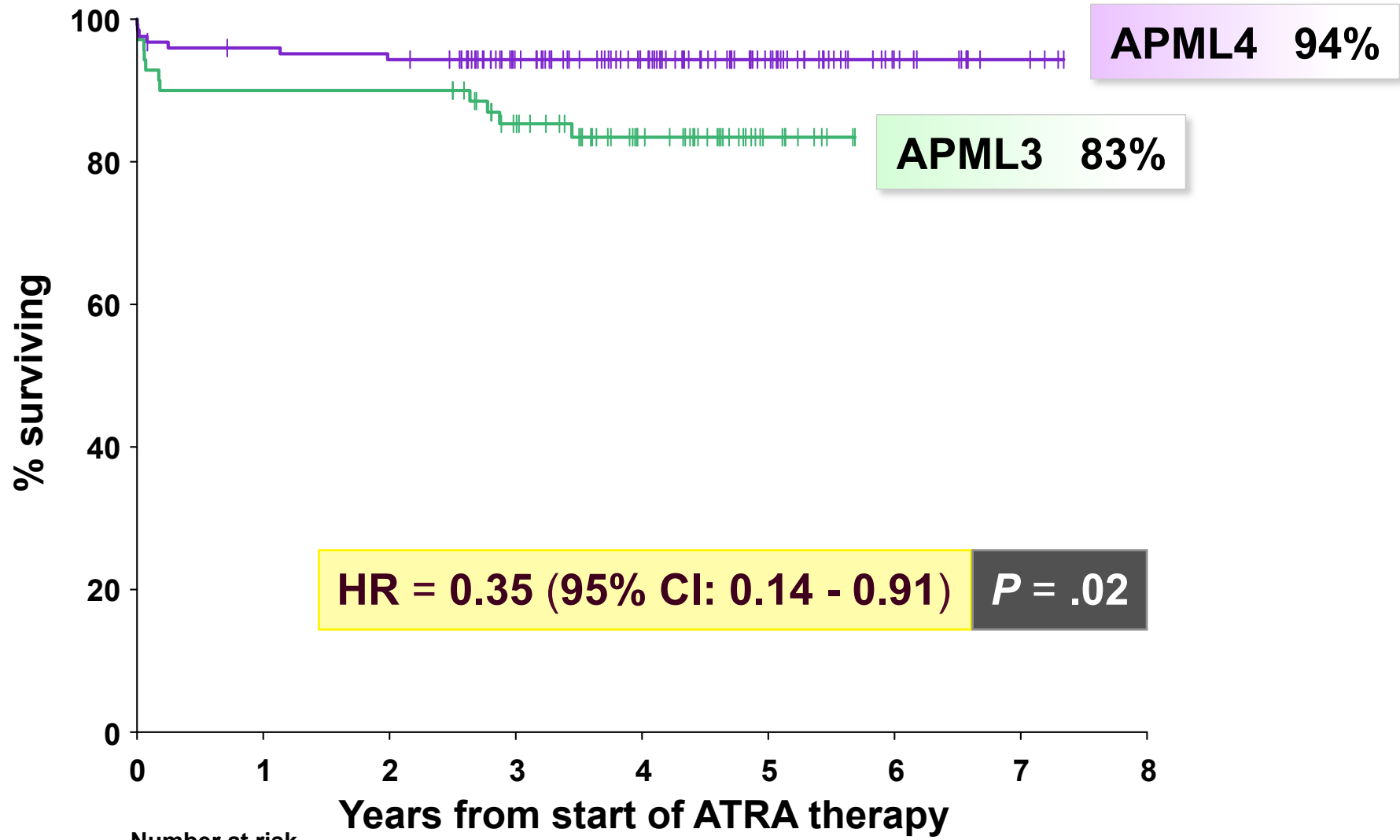
<b>CIR at 5 years</b> (± SEM)	all patients	4.6% ± 2.0%
	WCC ≤ 10 × 10 <sup>9</sup> /L	4.5% ± 2.2%
	WCC > 10 × 10 <sup>9</sup> /L	5.3% ± 5.1%

# APML4 vs APML3 EFS



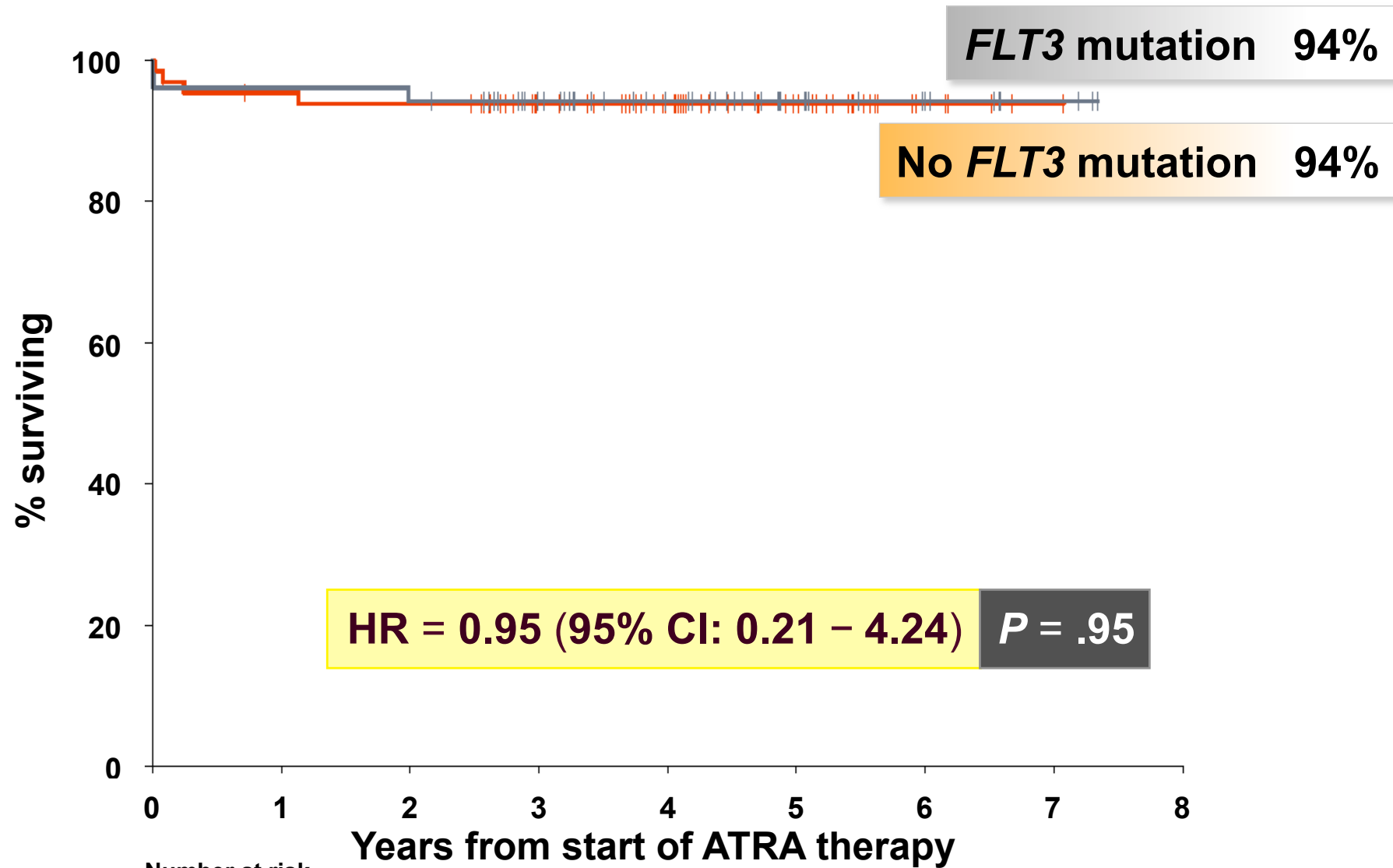
	Number at risk								
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
APML4	124	114	111	87	63	36	14	5	0
APML3	70	60	55	44	27	8	0	0	0

# APML4 vs APML3 OS



	Number at risk								
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
APML4	124	117	115	90	66	37	14	5	0
APML3	70	63	63	51	30	9	0	0	0

# APML4 OS - *FLT3* mutations



	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>No</b>	66	61	60	46	35	21	6	2	0
<b>Yes</b>	52	50	49	38	26	13	7	3	0

# APML4 multifactor analysis

	Factor	HR	P
<b>EFS</b>	Age > 70	51.3 (8.48, 311)	<b>.0002</b>
	Sanz	trend	<b>.003</b>
<b>OS</b>	Age > 70	31.5 (3.77, 264)	<b>.005</b>
	Sanz	trend	<b>.02</b>
<b>DFS</b>	≥ 2 additional cytogenetic abnormalities	5.19 (0.87, 31.1)	<b>.04</b>

# Post-hoc comparison of outcomes stratified by disease risk category

## standard risk

	Protocol	Number at risk	Survival at 5 yrs	Hazard ratio	<i>P</i>
<b>EFS</b>	APML4	100	92%	0.34 (0.14, 0.84)	<b>.015</b>
	APML3	55	77%	-	
<b>OS</b>	APML4	100	96%	0.30 (0.09, 1.04)	<b>.045</b>
	APML3	55	87%	-	
<b>DFS</b>	APML4	92	95%	0.31 (0.09, 1.05)	<b>.046</b>
	APML3	50	85%	-	



# Post-hoc comparison of outcomes stratified by disease risk category

## high risk

	Protocol	Number at risk	Survival at 5 yrs	Hazard ratio	<i>P</i>
EFS	APML4	23	83%	0.36 (0.11, 1.24)	<b>.091</b>
	APML3	15	-	-	
OS	APML4	23	87%	0.53 (0.12, 2.36)	<b>.40</b>
	APML3	15	-	-	
DFS	APML4	19	95%	0.11 (0.01, 0.88)	<b>.011</b>
	APML3	14	-	-	



## All-trans-retinoic acid, idarubicin, and IV arsenic trioxide as initial therapy in acute promyelocytic leukemia (APML4)

Iland *et al*, Blood 120:1570, 2012

CME article



## THE LANCET Haematology



## Use of arsenic trioxide in remission induction and consolidation therapy for acute promyelocytic leukaemia in the Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group (ALLG) APML4 study: a non-randomised phase 2 trial

Iland *et al*, Lancet Haematol 2:e357, 2015

### Recommended for high-risk APL

NCCN Guidelines Acute Myeloid Leukemia  
Version 3.2017

Canadian guidelines  
Seftel *et al*, Curr Oncol 21:234, 2014

### ATO in Australia

TGA: Front-line indication - 2015

PBS: Funded for front-line indication - 2016

# High-risk APL

## ATRA + risk-adapted chemo vs APML4

Series	Number	Median follow-up (months)	IDA equivalent <sup>6</sup> (mg/m <sup>2</sup> )	araC (g/m <sup>2</sup> )	Death in CR	DFS	CIR	OS
PETHEMA LPA2005 <sup>1</sup>	118	28	122	5.8	3.1%	82%	14%	79%
						← at 4 yrs →		
European APL2000 <sup>2,3</sup>	74 (≤ 60 yrs)	103	99	22.8	3.8%	-	7%	88%
						← at 7 yrs →		
GIMEMA AIDA2000 <sup>4</sup>	129 (≤ 61 yrs)	59	122	6.3	5.1%	85%	9%	83%
						← at 6 yrs →		
<b>ALLG APML4<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>23</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>87%</b>
						← at 5 yrs →		

<sup>1</sup> Sanz, Blood 115:5137, 2010 • <sup>2</sup> Adès, Blood 111:1078, 2008 • <sup>3</sup> Adès, Am J Hematol 88:556, 2013

<sup>4</sup> Lo Coco, Blood 116:3171, 2010 • <sup>5</sup> Iland, Lancet Haem 2:e357, 2015 • <sup>6</sup> Sanz, Best Pract Res Clin Haematol 16:433, 2003

# Arsenic administration

IV



patient time commitment

hospital resources

prolonged IV access

? higher  $C_{max}$   
→ more cardiotoxicity  
( $\uparrow QTc$ )

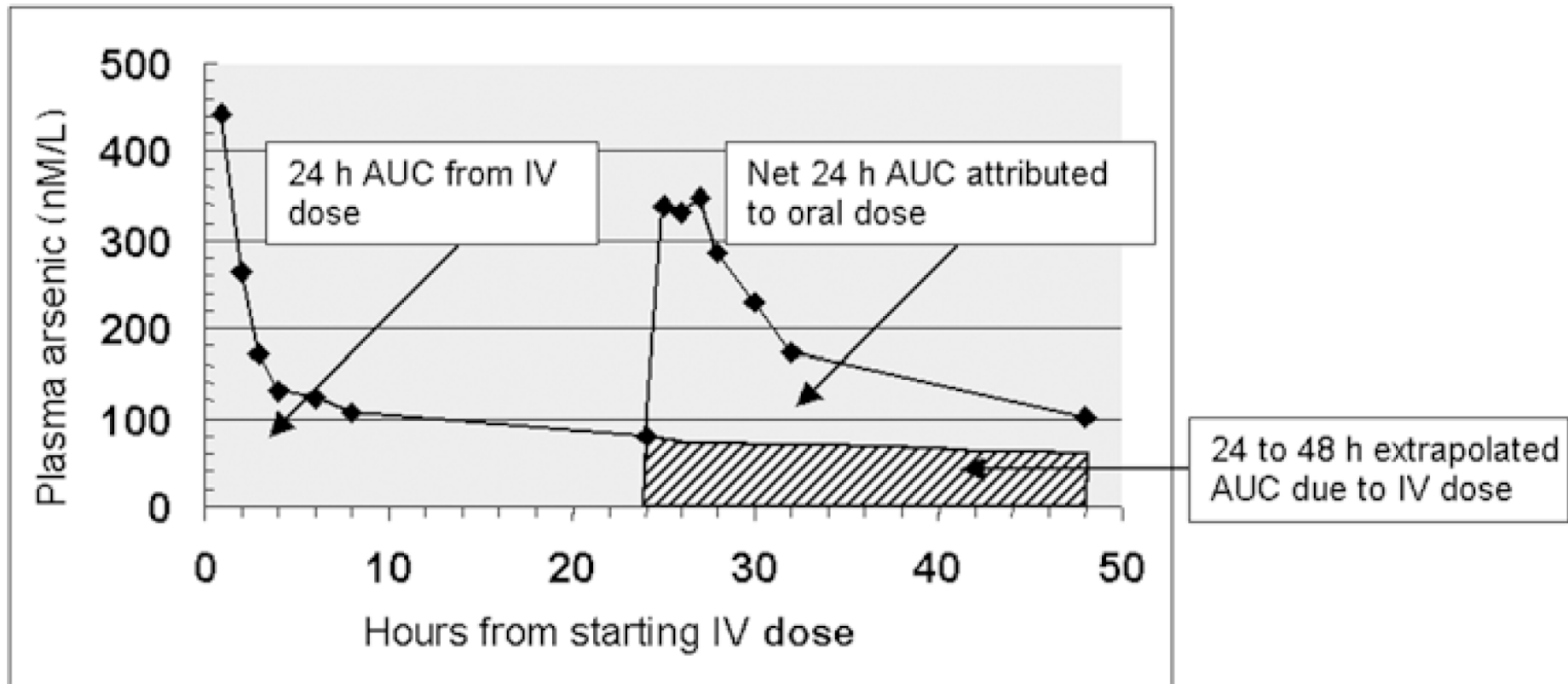
Oral



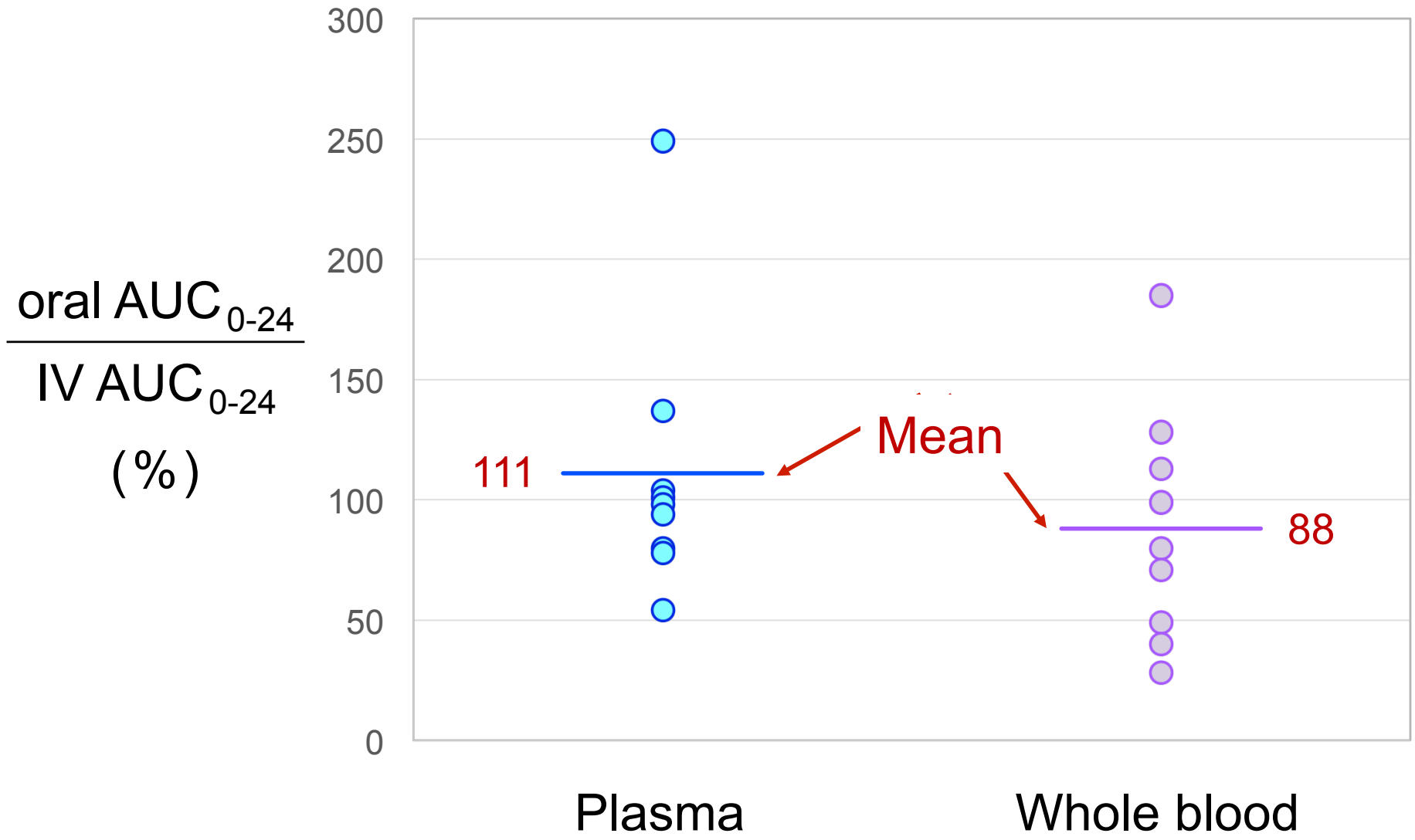
? food restrictions

? poorer compliance

# Systemic availability of oral arsenic trioxide solution



# Comparison of derived oral and IV AUC<sub>0-24</sub>

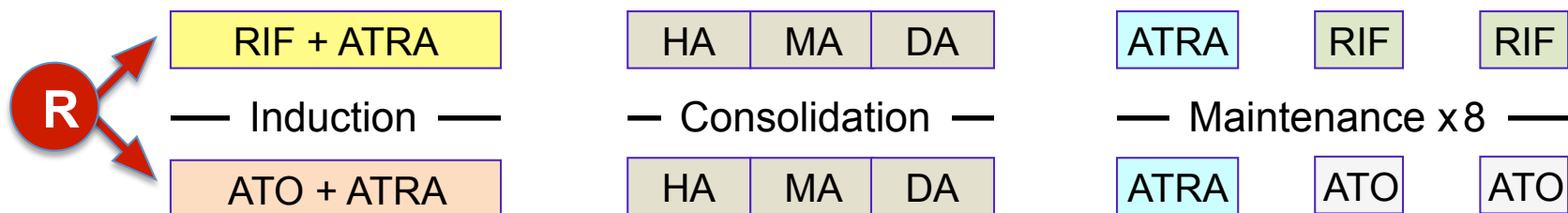


# Realgar-*Indigo naturalis* formula

- Realgar [As<sub>4</sub>S<sub>4</sub>]
- *Indigo naturalis* [indirubin]
- *Radix salviae miltiorrhizae* [tanshinone IIA]
- *Radix pseudostellariae*

Bioavailability of  
realgar-derived  
arsenic ~ 2-3%

## Chinese APL Cooperative Group APL07



**RIF non-inferior to IV ATO**



# Eupharma/Phebra oral arsenic

Arsenic trioxide

```
graph TD; A[Arsenic trioxide] --> B[Encapsulated arsenocarbonate complex]; B --> C[Rapid dissolution in simulated gastric juice]; C --> D[Liberates As(III)]; D --> E[Absorption];
```

Encapsulated arsenocarbonate complex

Rapid dissolution in simulated gastric juice

Liberates As(III)

**Absorption**

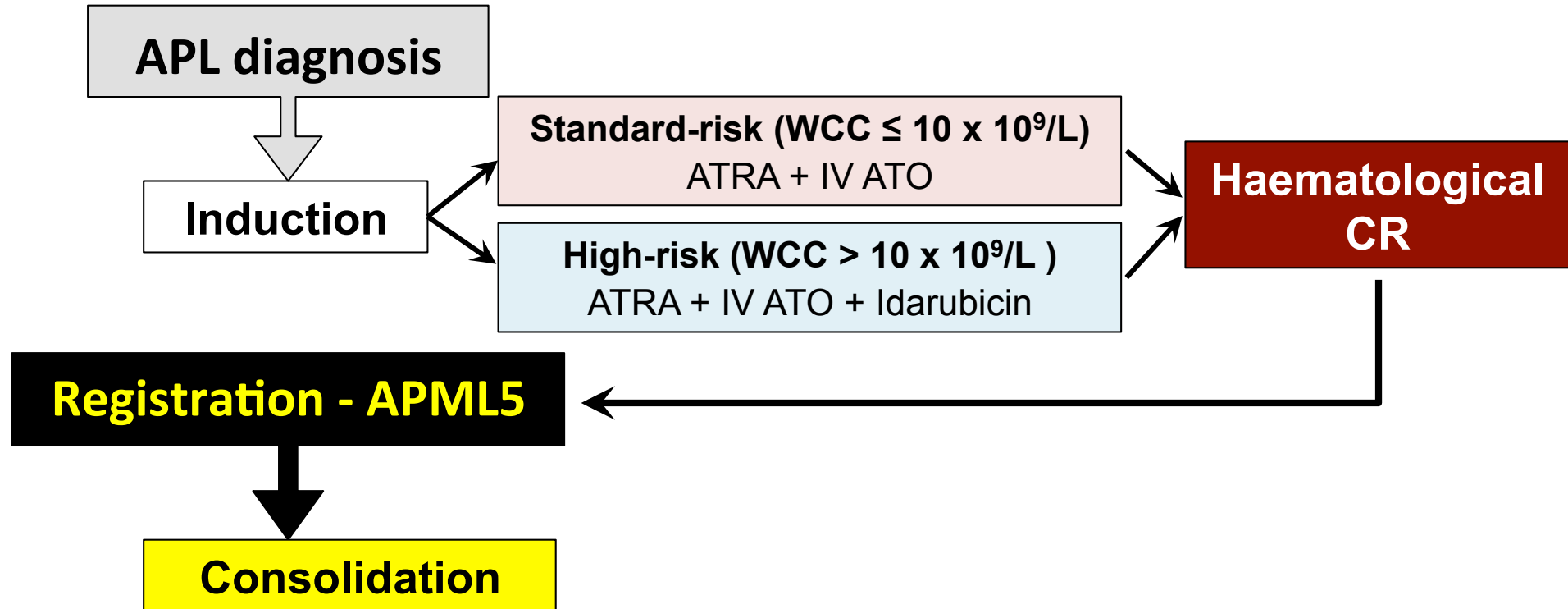
# APML5

## A phase I pharmacokinetic evaluation of oral ATO in previously untreated patients with APL

Oral ATO – Eupharma / Phebra  
1mg, 5mg, 10mg capsules



# APML5 bioavailability study



- **4 cycles of ATO**  
(cycle = 5 days/week for 4 weeks; 4 weeks between cycles)
- **7 cycles of ATRA**  
(cycle = 7 days/week for 2 weeks; 2 weeks between cycles)

# APML5 bioavailability study - consolidation

Part (i) n~8	Week	1	2	3	4	9	10	11	12	17	18	19	20	25	26	27	28			
	<b>ATO</b>	IV PK	IV	IV	IV					O PK	IV	IV	IV					O PK	IV	IV
<b>ATRA</b>	A	A			A	A			A	A			A	A			A	A		
	Week	1	2	5	6	9	10	13	14	17	18	21	22	25	26					
	<p>Oral ATO 0.15mg/kg/d in week 9</p> <p>Dose adjusted in week 25 based on week 9 PK (maximum 0.3mg/kg/d)</p>																			

Part (ii) n=20	<b>ATO</b>	IV PK	IV	IV	IV					O PK	IV	IV	IV					IV PK	IV	IV	IV					O PK	IV	IV	IV
	<b>ATRA</b>	A	A			A	A			A	A			A	A			A	A			A	A			A	A		
	<b>ATO</b>	O PK	IV	IV	IV					IV PK	IV	IV	IV					O PK	IV	IV	IV					IV PK	IV	IV	IV
	<b>ATRA</b>	A	A			A	A			A	A			A	A			A	A			A	A			A	A		
	<p><b>R</b> Oral ATO dose in part (ii) determined by part (i) PK data</p>																												

# APML5 bioavailability study - PK sampling

Day of  
the week

**ATO**

Mon  
1

IV PO

Tue  
2

IV PO

Wed  
3

IV PO

Thu  
4

IV PO

Fri  
5

IV PO

PK samples  
(hours)

0  
0.5  
1  
2  
4  
6-8  
24

0  
0.5  
1  
2  
4  
6-8  
24

24-hour  
urine  
collection

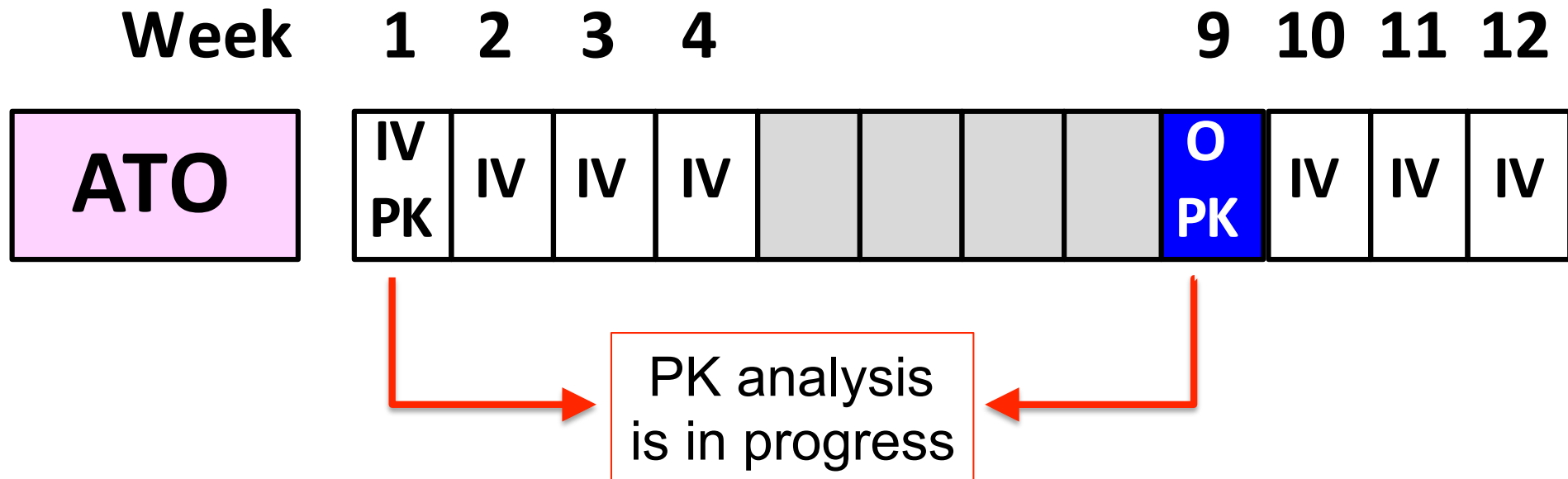
0 - 24

# APML5 current status

Trial registered: ACTRN12616001022459

First patient enrolled: 26 June 2017

Completed first 2 ATO cycles



# Conclusions

- APML4 is highly effective, with a low early death rate and absence of deaths in remission
- All survival endpoints are statistically significantly superior to APML3 (ATRA + IDA)
- Compared to risk-adapted protocols for high-risk disease, APML4 allows substantial reduction in anthracycline exposure and eliminates the need for high-dose cytarabine
- Our results support the inclusion of ATO in both induction and consolidation as the standard of care for the initial therapy of patients with high-risk APL

# Current aim

To develop an oral ATO regimen that:

- is as effective as IV ATO
- is at least as safe as IV ATO
- improves the overall treatment experience
- is acceptable to regulatory agencies worldwide



# Acknowledgements



*Institute of Haematology*  
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Molecular Haematology Lab  
Colleagues

**Patients**



**APML3 • APML4 • APML5**

Local investigators  
Registrars & nurses  
Trial support staff  
Statisticians  
Phebra / Eupharma  
Lab & pharmacy support staff