



# Indolent Lymphoma Workshop

**May 15-16, 2017**

**Bologna,  
Royal Hotel Carlton**

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## Treatment: Gastric MALT lymphoma

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# Gastric MALT lymphoma

- MALT lymphomas: approximately 7% of all NHLs
- At least 1/3 present as a primary gastric lymphoma
- 2/3 of cases associated with H. pylori infection

# Open questions in the management of gastric MALT lymphoma

- staging procedures
- *H. pylori* eradication to all patients?
- second line treatments

# Open questions in the management of gastric MALT lymphoma

- **staging procedures**
- *H. pylori* eradication to all patients?
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# Mandatory staging procedures in MALT lymphoma at any site

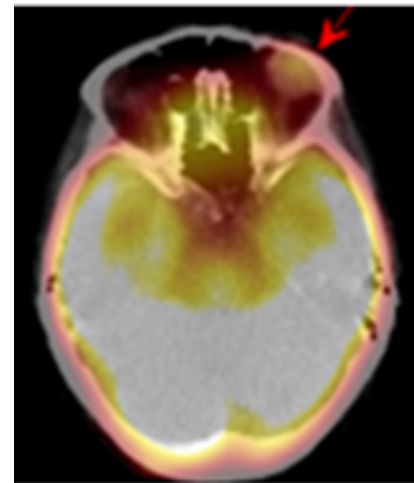
- History and physical exam  
(including lymph node regions, eye and ENT areas, liver and spleen)
- Complete blood counts and basic biochemical studies  
(including renal and liver function, LDH and  $\beta$ 2MG, serum IFE, HIV, HCV and HBV serology)
- CT of the chest, abdomen and pelvis.
- bone marrow aspirate and biopsy recommended
- *The value of PET is controversial and has uncertain clinical utility*

# Recommended procedures in gastric MALT lymphoma

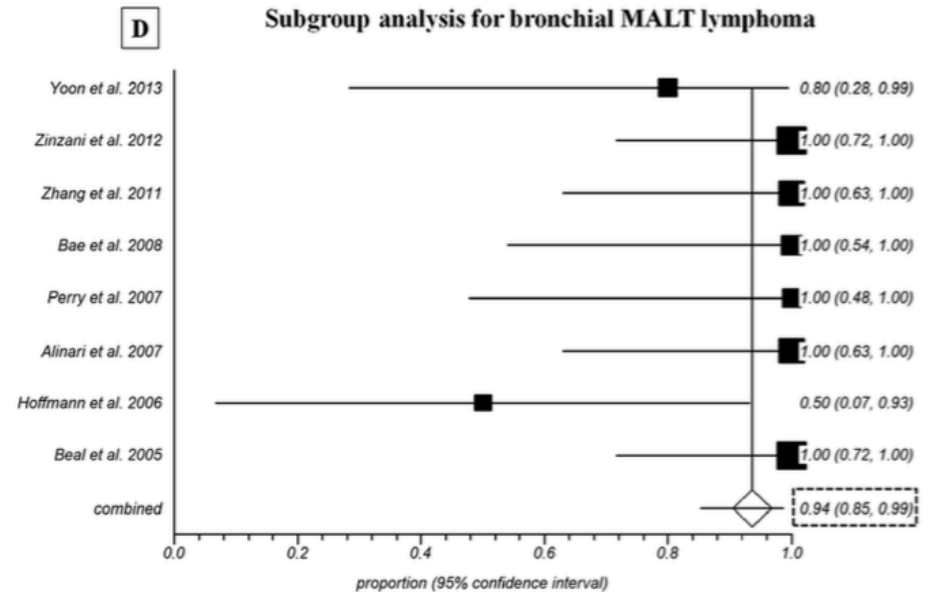
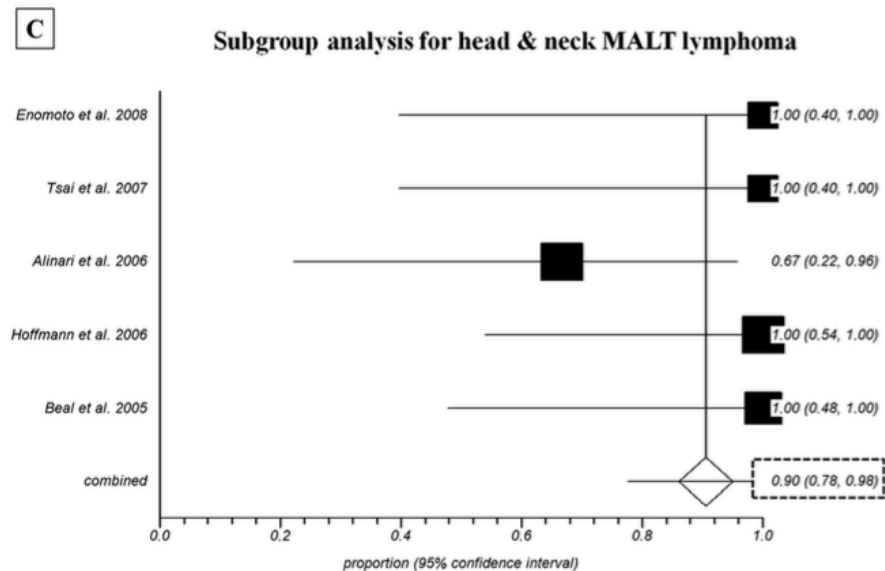
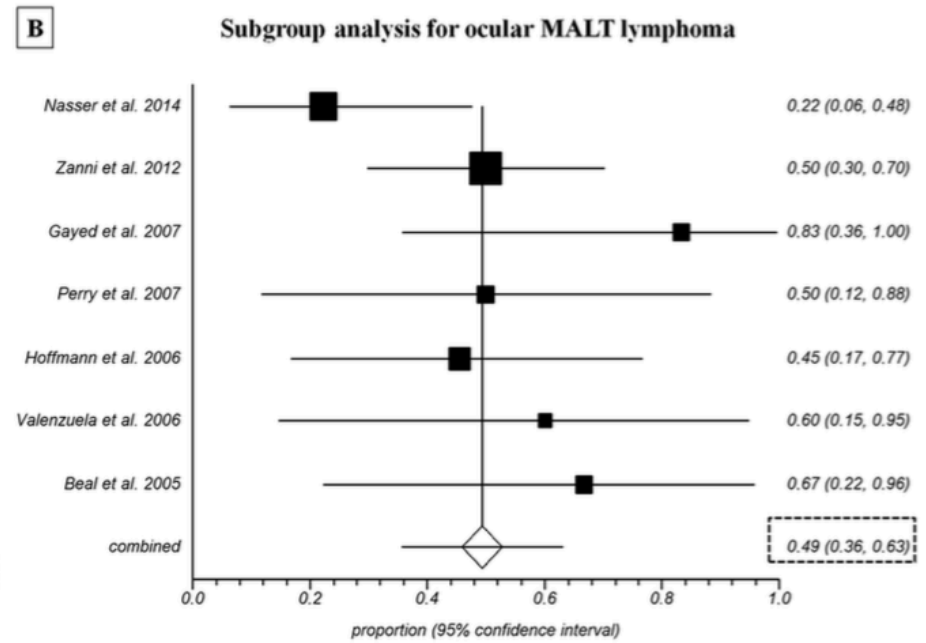
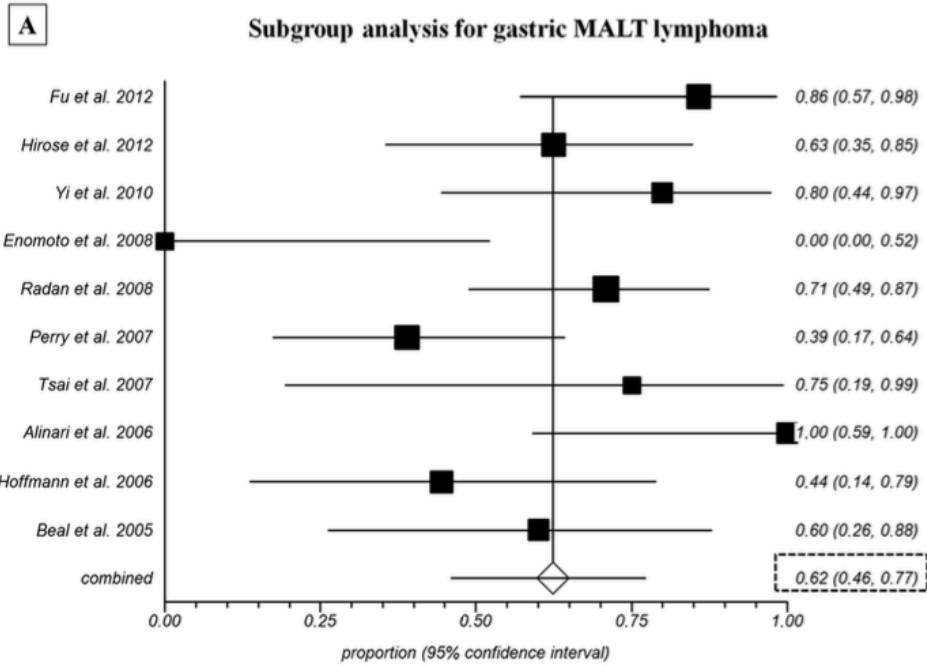
- EGD with multiple biopsies
- histochemical examination for *H. pylori* and serology studies if histology is negative
- endoscopic ultrasound to evaluate the regional lymph nodes and gastric wall infiltration
- *optional*: FISH for the t(11;18) translocation

# Staging of MALT Lymphoma

- The value of PET is controversial and has uncertain clinical utility
- multifocal disease in  $\geq 25\%$  of cases
- variable FDG-avidity (higher in non-gastric lesions!)
- pooled PET/CT detection rate, 71% (95% CI: 61-80%) in a literature meta-analysis



# Lower FDG-avidity in gastric & OA lesions





# Open questions in the management of gastric MALT lymphoma

- staging procedures
- ***H. pylori* eradication to all patients?**
- second line treatments

## Most gastric MALT lymphomas regress after *H. pylori* eradication

Reference	No. of Patients	Complete Remission (CR) Rate	Time to CR (Months)	No. of Reported Relapses
Savio, 1996	12	84%	2-4	0
Pinotti, 1997	45	67%	3-18	2
Neubauer, 1997	50	80%	1-9	5
Nobre Leitao, 1998	17	100%	1-12	1
Steinbach, 1999	23	56%	3-45	0
Montalban, 2001	19	95%	2-19	0
Ruskone-Formestaux, 2001	24	79%	2-18	2
Hancock, 2009	231	46%	3-24	17

# The problem of the response definition

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*Helicobacter pylori-associated  
chronic gastritis*

*gastric MALT lymphoma*



# GELA score for lymphoma response evaluation after *H pylori* eradication

Score	Description	Histologic Features
<b>CR</b>	<i>Complete Remission</i>	Normal or empty LP and/or fibrosis with absent or scattered plasma cells and lymphoid cells in the LP; no LEL
<b>pMRD</b>	<i>Probable Minimal Residual Disease</i>	Empty LP and/or fibrosis with aggregates of lymphoid cells or lymphoid nodules in the LP/MM and/or SM; no LEL
<b>rRD</b>	<i>Responding Residual Disease</i>	Focal empty LP and/or fibrosis; dense, diffuse or nodular lymphoid infiltrate, extending around glands in the LP. Focal LEL or absent
<b>NC</b>	<i>No Change</i>	Dense, diffuse or nodular lymphoid infiltrate with LEL (LEL “may be absent”)

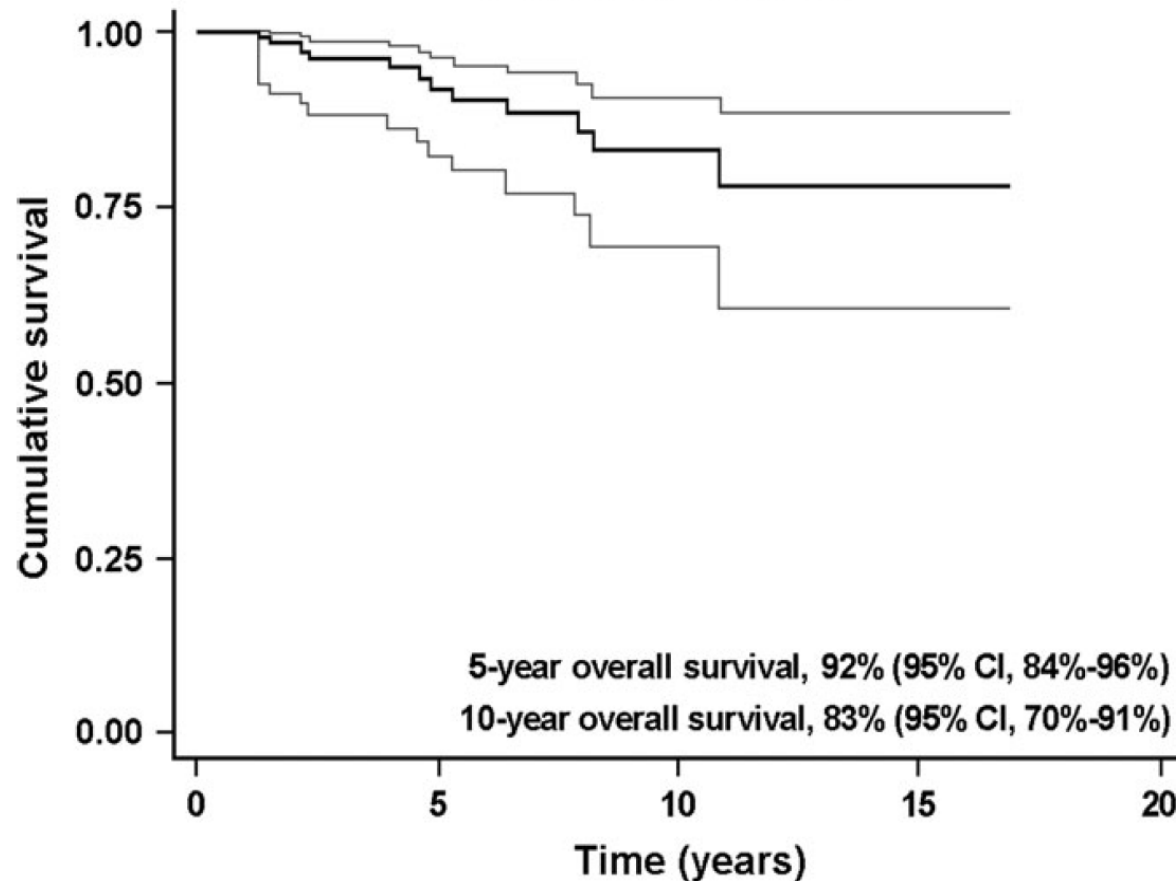
LP=lamina propria; LEL= lymphoepithelial lesions; MM=muscularis mucosa; SM=submucosa

*Copie-Bergman et al, Gut 2003; Copie-Bergman et al, Br J Haematol 2012*

# Endoscopic and histological remission does not mean “cure”

- 54 patients with monoclonality at diagnosis
- 42 (77%) histologic remission
  - 56% molecular remission (by PCR)
  - 44% sustained molecular remission (median f-up, 2 years)
  - 6 (14%) histologic relapses (4/6 in the presence of molecular disease)
- clinical and prognostic relevance of molecular remission still to be ascertained

# Long-term outcome after H. pylori eradication (IOSI and Varese series)



No. at risk	105	64	19	3
Censored	34	41	15	3
Deaths	7	4	1	0

- N=105, stage IE
- f-up, 76 mos
- Remission rate, 76%
- Long-term clinical control in most cases:
  - 43% of responders had histological score fluctuations
  - 57% had stable MRD
  - 5-year OS is 92%.

# Long-term surveys after *H. pylori* eradication

- not only patients with molecular residual disease may remain stable but also those with minimal histological MALT lymphoma residuals
- A watch and wait policy seems safe in patients with minimal hRD or histological-only local relapse

Wundisch et al. JCO, 2005

Fischbach et al. Gut, 2007

Stathis et al. Ann Oncol, 2009

Nakamura et al. Gut 2012

# HP eradication is the standard initial treatment for localized disease

## Recommendation

- ▶ PPI+clarithromycin-based triple therapy with either amoxicillin or metronidazole is the first choice for *H pylori* eradication. In case of failure, bismuth-based quadruple therapy is recommended.
- ▶ The outcome of *H pylori* eradication therapy should be checked by urea breath test at least 6 weeks after eradication therapy and at least 2 weeks after withdrawal of PPI medication.

EGILS Consensus Report, 2011  
ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines, 2013



# Why to treat HP-negative patients?

## Recommendation

▶ *H pylori*-negative patients with gastric MALT lymphoma can also undergo anti-*H pylori* treatment.

- False negative diagnostic test
- Other microorganisms involved (*H. heilmannii*)
- Responses in 14 of 72 published cases (19%)

# HP eradication is the standard initial treatment for localized disease

- H. pylori eradication therapy must be given to all gastric MALT lymphomas, independently of stage
- Responses may require up to 12 months or more
- HP-negative patients with gastric MALT lymphoma may also receive anti-H pylori treatment
- Lymphomas with t(11;18) and those with lymph node involvement are unlikely to regress after HP eradication

EGILS Consensus Report, 2011  
ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines, 2013

# Open questions in the management of gastric MALT lymphoma

- staging procedures
- *H. pylori* eradication to all patients?
- **second line treatments**

## Same outcome after different treatments in stage IE gastric MALT lymphoma

Treatment	<i>N</i> ° of pts	CR rate	5-years OS (95% CI)
Antibiotics	45	67%	94% (65-99)
Local treatment <sup>a</sup>	14	100%	92% (57-99)
Chemotherapy	8	50%	75% (32-93)
Combined modality <sup>b</sup>	5	100%	80% (20-97)
Total	72	74%	89% (76-96)

<sup>a</sup> surgery ± RT

<sup>b</sup> surgery+ adjuvant chemotherapy

*Pinotti et al, Leuk Lymphoma 1997*

## RT is very active in MALT lymphoma

### Radiotherapy Results in MALT Lymphoma

Author	No. of Patients	Site	RT dose (Gy)	Freedom from Treatment Failure
Yahalom, 2002	51	Gastric	22.5-43.59	89% at 4 years
Goda, 2010	192	Gastric and non-gastric	17.5-35	95% at 10 years for thyroid 92% for stomach 68% for salivary glands 67% for orbit
Wirth, 2013	102	Gastric	26-46	88% at 10 years
Ohga, 2013	53	Orbit	24-30	91% at 5 years
Kim, 2013	64	Gastric	30-44	89% at 5 years
Nam, 2014	48	Gastric	30-45	84% at 5 years
Harada, 2014	86	Orbit	30-46	88% at 10 years

# RT is very active in MALT lymphoma

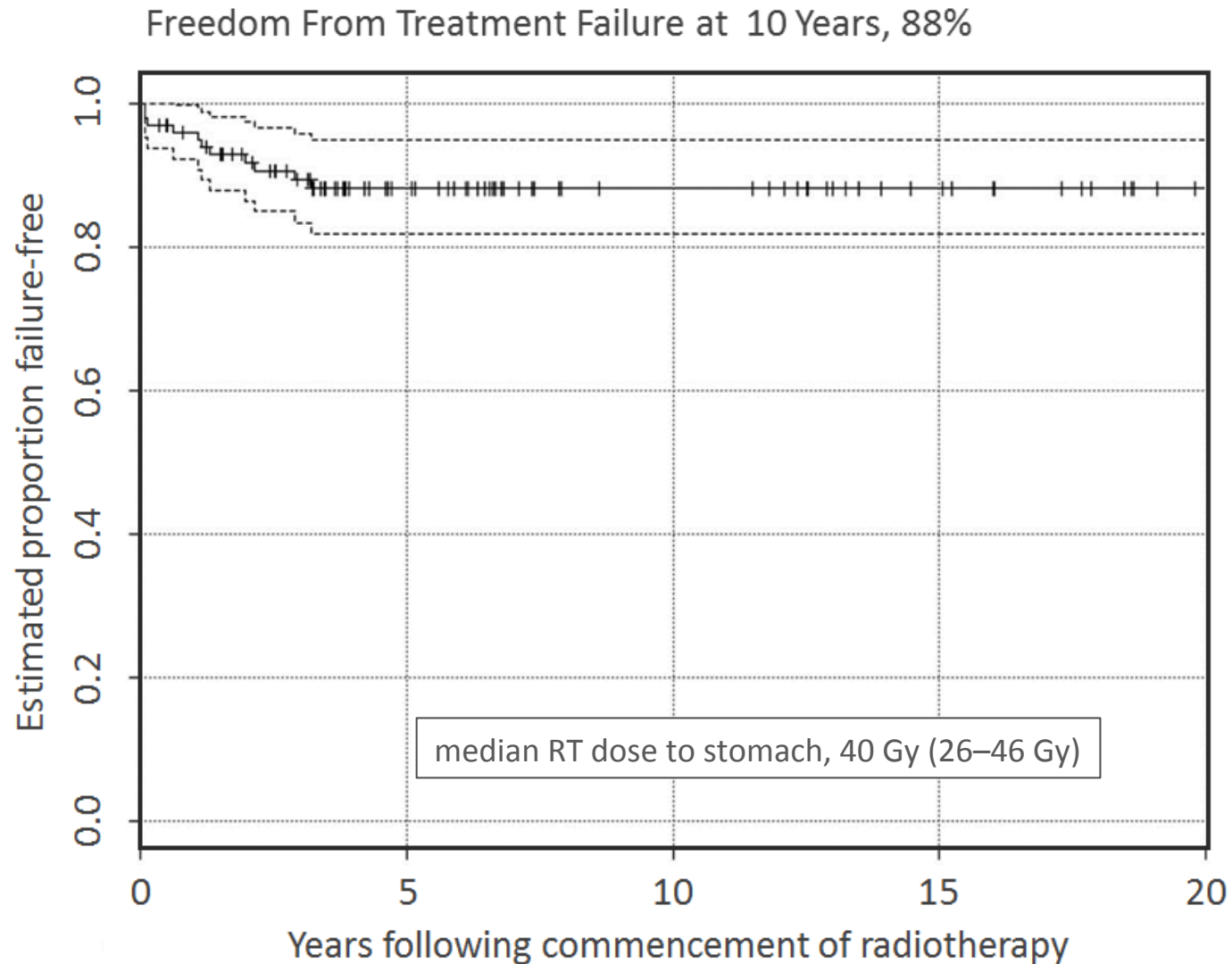
## Radiotherapy Results in MALT Lymphoma

Author	No. of Patients	Site	RT dose (Gy)	Freedom from Treatment Failure
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- optimal RT volume, dose and technique?
- does this really translate to cure?
- in a very indolent condition, is the potential toxicity acceptable?
- long term safety? (malignancy, gastric and renal toxicity)

Kittl, 2013	64	Gastric	30-44	89% at 5 years
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# Long-term outcome of gastric MALT lymphoma after RT: The retrospective multi-centre IELSG-22 study



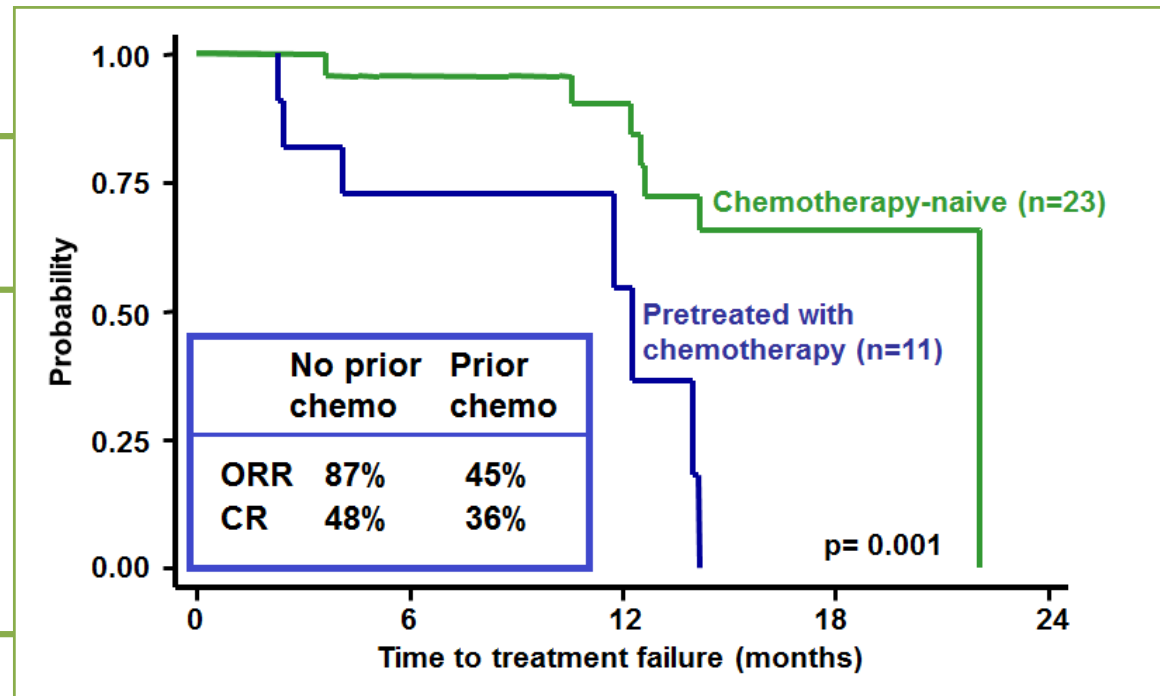
# Chemotherapy in MALT lymphomas

Treatment	Nr. pts	ORR	CR	Author
Alkylators	24 pts	100%	75%	Hammel P. J Clin Oncol 1995
R-CHOP/CNOP	7 pts	100%	100%	Raderer M. Ann Oncol 2002
Cladribine	26 pts	100%	84%	Jäger G. J Clin Oncol 2002
Oxaliplatin	16 pts	93%	56%	Raderer M. J Clin Oncol 2005
Fluda-Mito	20 pts	100%	100%	Zinzani PL. Cancer 2004
R-cladribine	39 pts	81%	58%	Troch M. Haematologica 2013



# Rituximab activity in MALT lymphoma

<i>response</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
<b>ORR</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>SD</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>PD</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>



34 pts, 11 with prior chemotherapy,  
15 gastric, 20 stage IV

*IELSG phase II study, Conconi et al. Blood 2003*



# IELSG-19 Randomised Study

## Treatment Schedule

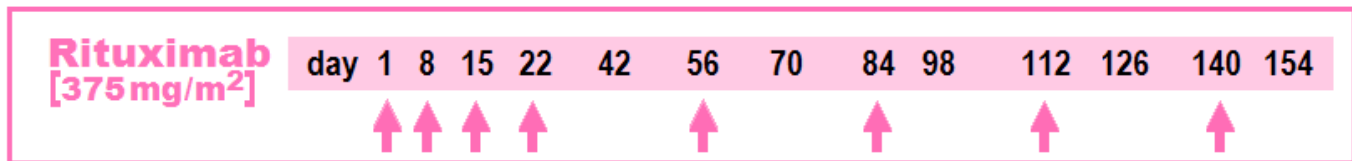
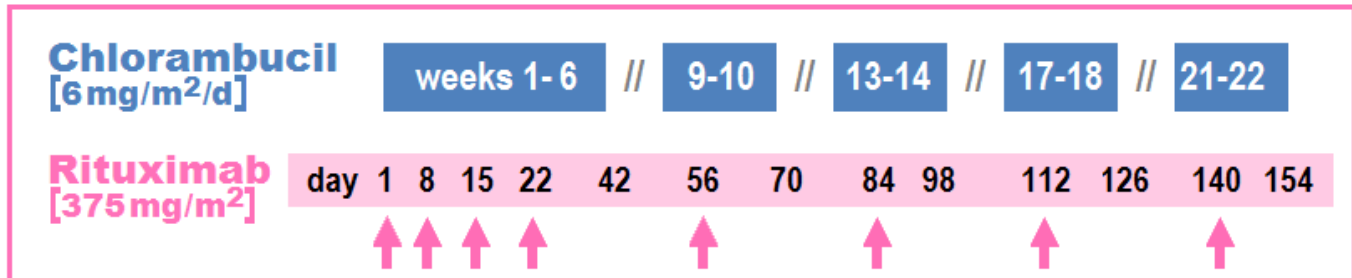
401 evaluable patients



### Control arm



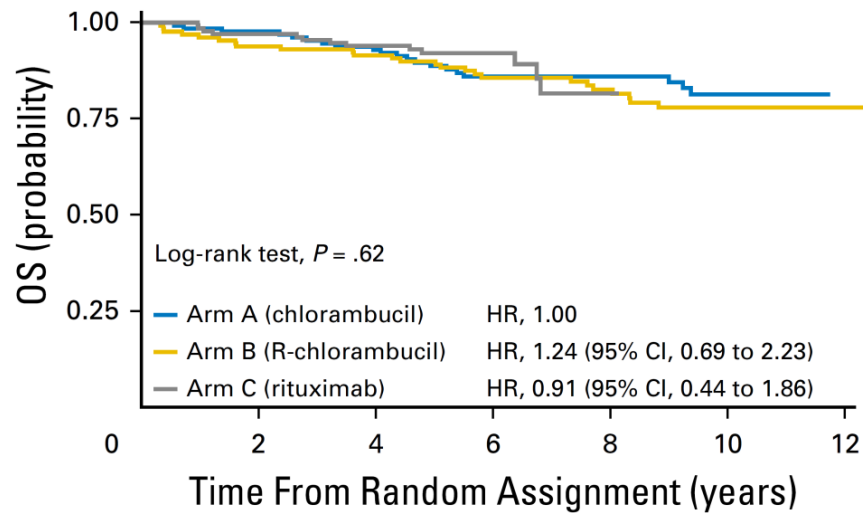
### Study arms





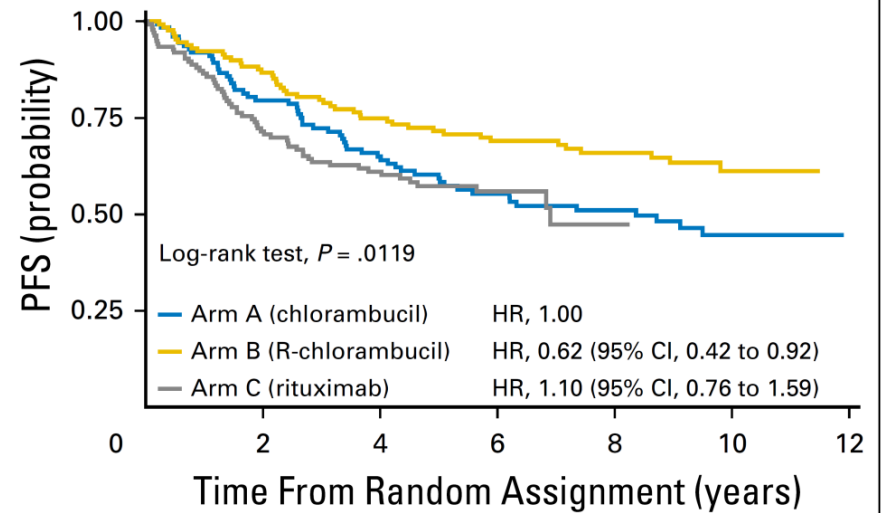
# IELSG-19 Randomised Study

## Final Results



No. at risk:

Arm A	131	126	116	92	79	37	0
Arm B	132	121	118	95	77	35	1
Arm C	138	130	118	50	3	0	0



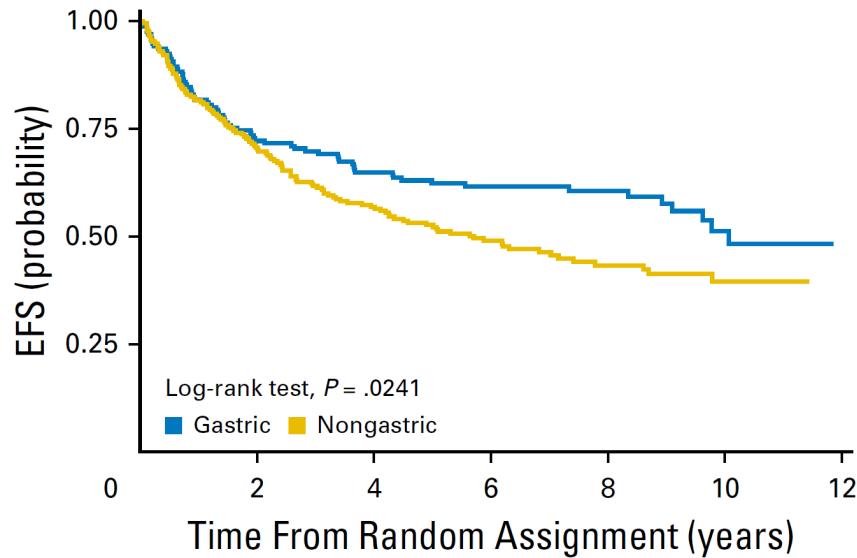
No. at risk:

Arm A	131	89	70	53	42	16	0
Arm B	132	110	94	77	59	23	0
Arm C	138	90	71	31	2	0	0



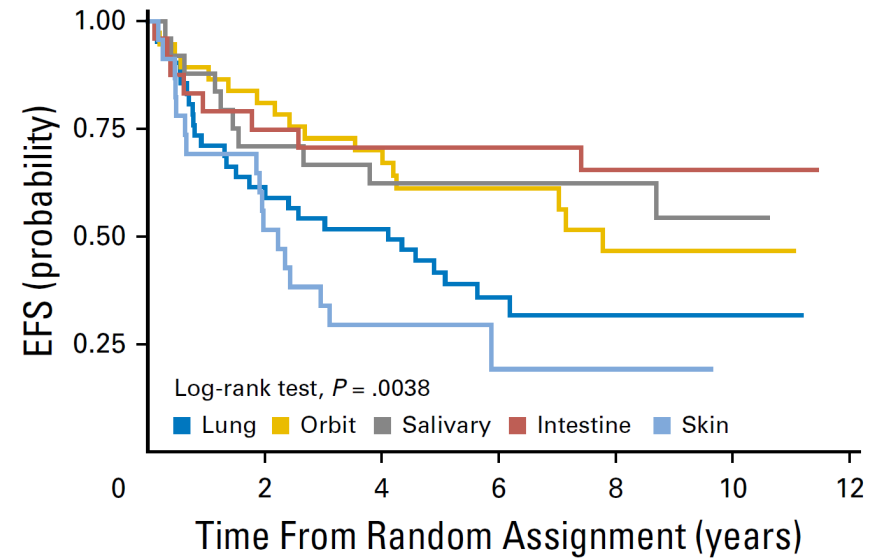
# IELSG-19 Randomised Study

## Outcome by Primary Site



No. at risk:

■ Gastric	171	121	104	79	49	17	0
■ Nongastric	230	160	126	80	52	22	0

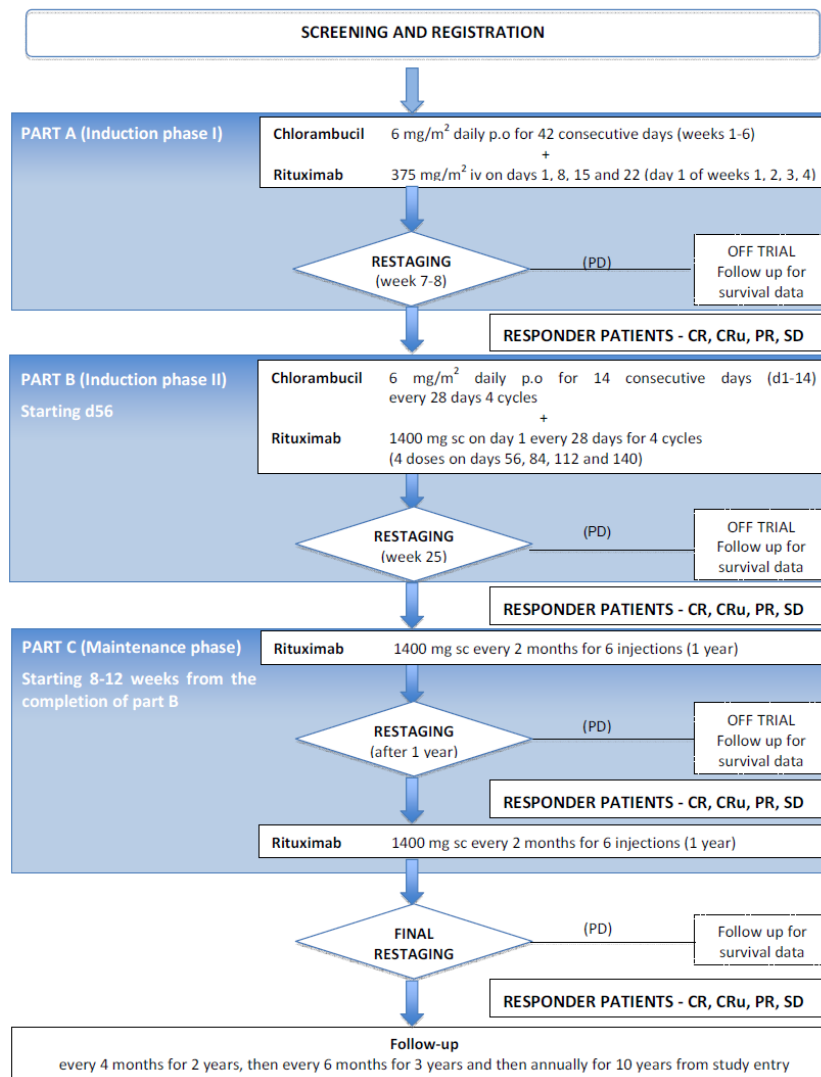


No. at risk:

■ Lung	42	26	22	11	5	2	0
■ Orbit	38	30	24	15	10	4	0
■ Salivary	25	17	15	11	10	5	0
■ Intestine	25	18	17	17	10	6	0
■ Skin	23	12	6	2	1	0	0

# Any role for R-maintenance?

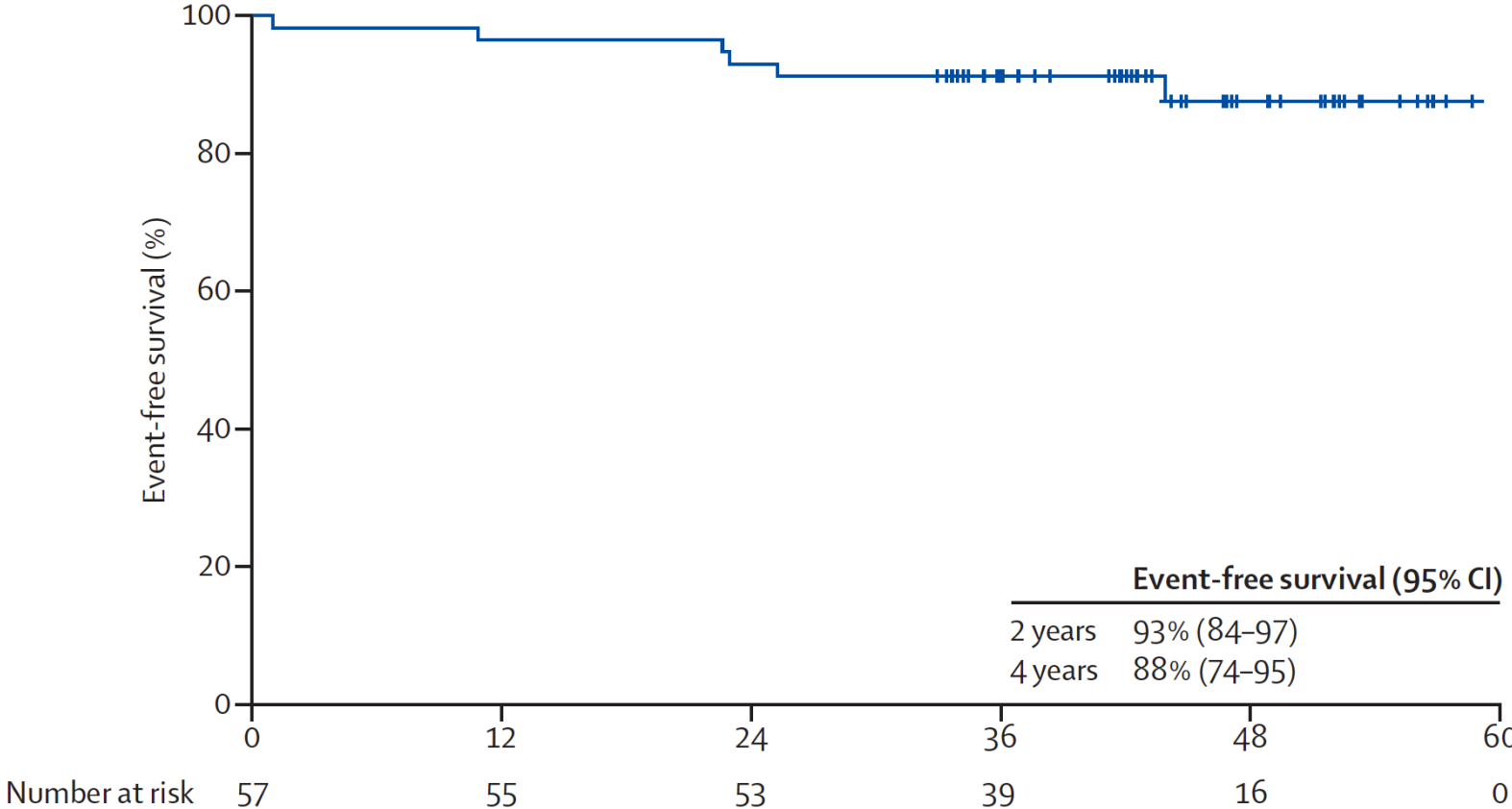
## IELSG-38: study design



- Single arm phase II study
- R-Chlorambucil for 6 mos followed by 2-yr maintenance with Rsc
- Accrual completed with 112 newly diagnosed MALT pts in need of systemic treatment

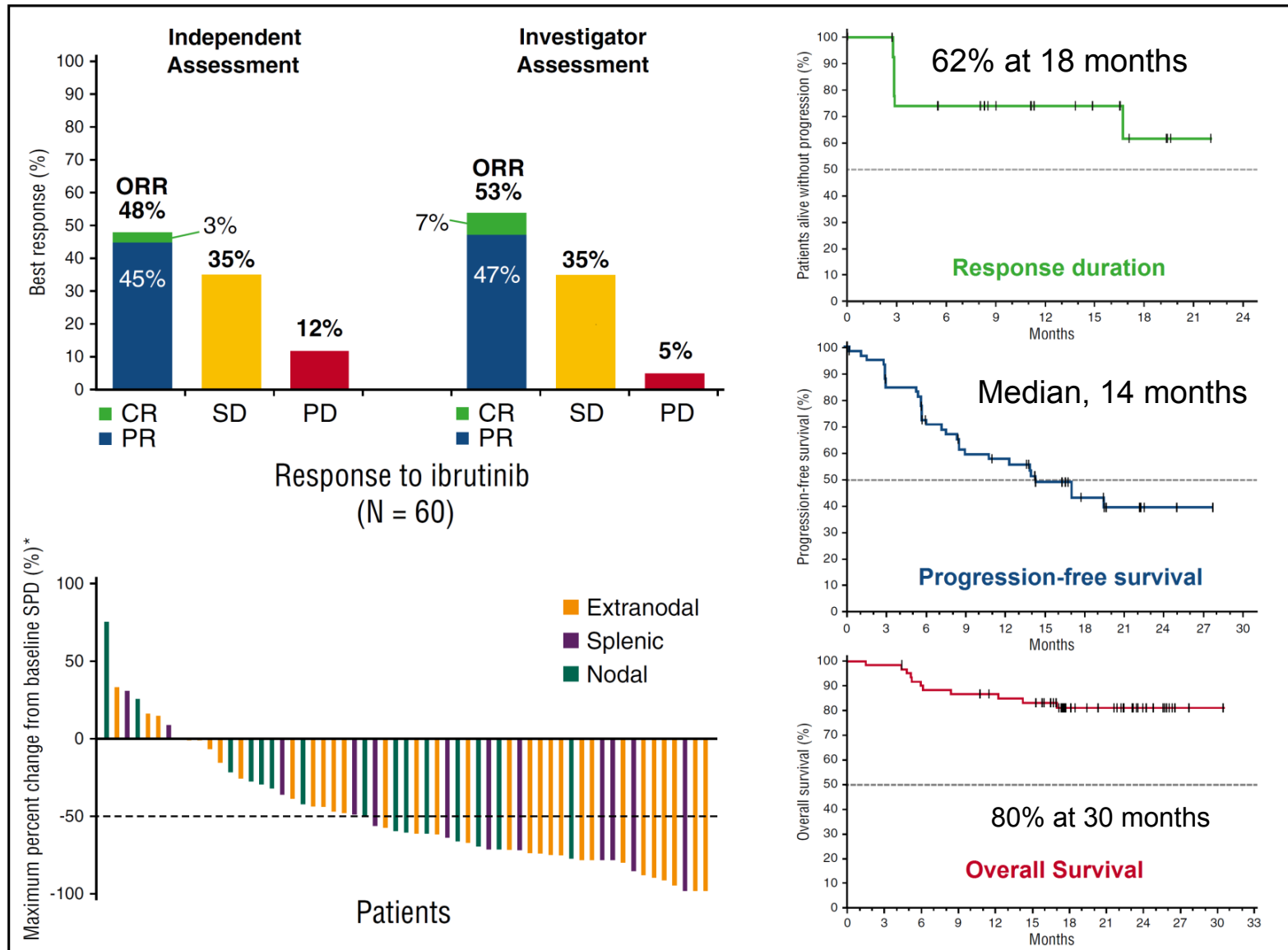
# Response-adapted 1<sup>st</sup> line R-Benda

(GELTAMO MZL phase-2 trial)



A. Salar et al, Lancet Oncol, 2014

# Targeting BTK with ibrutinib in r/r MZL



# Phase II studies in MALT lymphoma

	ORR	Study
Everolimus	20%	IELSG
Bortezomib	48%	IELSG
Lenalidomide	61%	Vienna
Rituximab	45%	IELSG
Idelalisib	47%	Gilead
Ibrutinib	51%	J&J
R-Lenalidomide	89%	Mayo
R-Benda	93%	Vienna



# Take-home messages

- H.pylori eradication is standard front-line treatment
- Persistent MRD not clearly associated with progression
- Watchful waiting is safe in case of stable MRD or transient local histological relapses
- The best treatment not yet defined for HP-negative cases and antibiotic failures

# 14-ICML

14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malignant Lymphoma

Palazzo dei Congressi  
Lugano (Switzerland)  
[www.lymphcon.ch](http://www.lymphcon.ch)



**SAVE THE DATE: June 14-17, 2017**

# 15-ICML

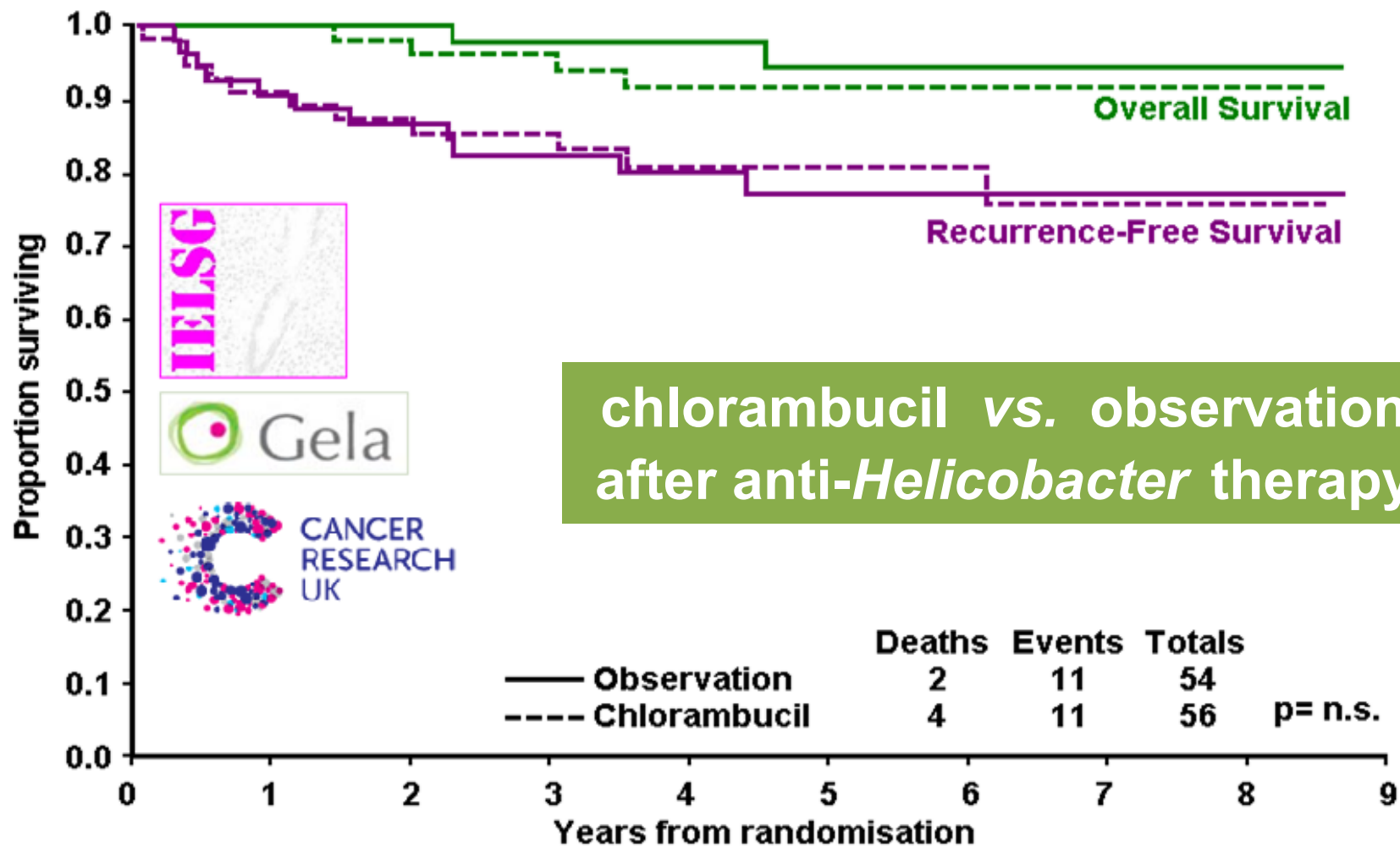
15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malignant Lymphoma

Palazzo dei Congressi  
Lugano (Switzerland)  
[www.lymphcon.ch](http://www.lymphcon.ch)



**SAVE THE DATE: June 18-22, 2019**

# LY03 trial of gastric MALT lymphoma



*B. Hancock, et al. Br J Haematol, 2009*



# EGILS recommendations for restaging and follow-up

- CR to be confirmed in 2 subsequent investigations
- PR and SD and relapses to be clinically managed on an individual basis:
  - if no signs of endoscopic or clinical progression are evident, a ‘watch and wait’ strategy can be adopted
  - patients with distant dissemination and/or gross endoscopic tumour should receive oncological treatment.

# How to follow up after antibiotics?

- Clear evidence of EUS utility as a staging procedure but less strong evidence in follow-up
- Breath test ±EGD at ~3 mos. after antibiotics then EGD with biopsies q 6 ms x 2 years, then q 12 mos
- Molecular studies not needed

# How long to follow up after antibiotics?

Life-long?

Patients with gastric MALT lymphoma have a 6 times higher risk for gastric adenocarcinoma in comparison with the general population and the risk is highest in patients younger than 60

Capelle et al . Eur J Cancer, 2008