



Patogenesi della GVHD e nuove frontiere terapeutiche



Attilio Olivieri

Head of Hematology Unit

Dpt. of clinical and molecular sciences

Ancona, Italy



**Università
Politecnica
delle Marche**

a.olivieri@univpm.it

*Acute and Chronic Graft-Versus-Host Disease in Dogs
Given Hemopoietic Grafts From DLA-Nonidentical
Littermates*

(Am J Pathol 1982, 108:196-205)

Two Distinct Syndromes

*however this paradigm has been challenged in recent
mouse and human studies and is not absolute*

*...aGVHD developed a median of 13 days after SCT...characterized by skin
erythema, jaundice, diarrhea, and G- infections;*

*.....cGVHD developed a median of 124 days after SCTcharacterized by skin
ulcerations, massive ascites, and G+ infections;*

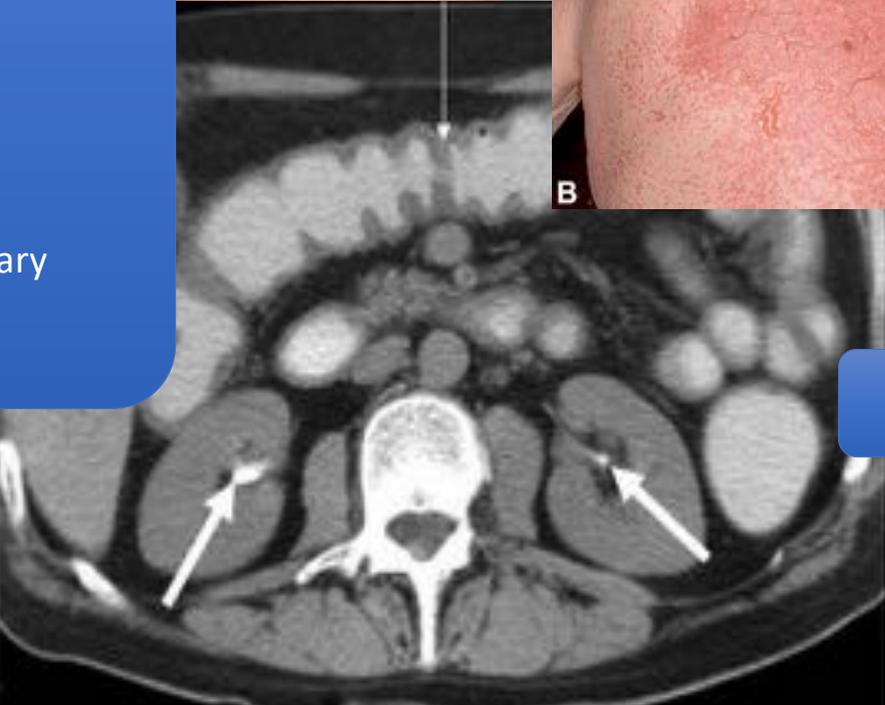
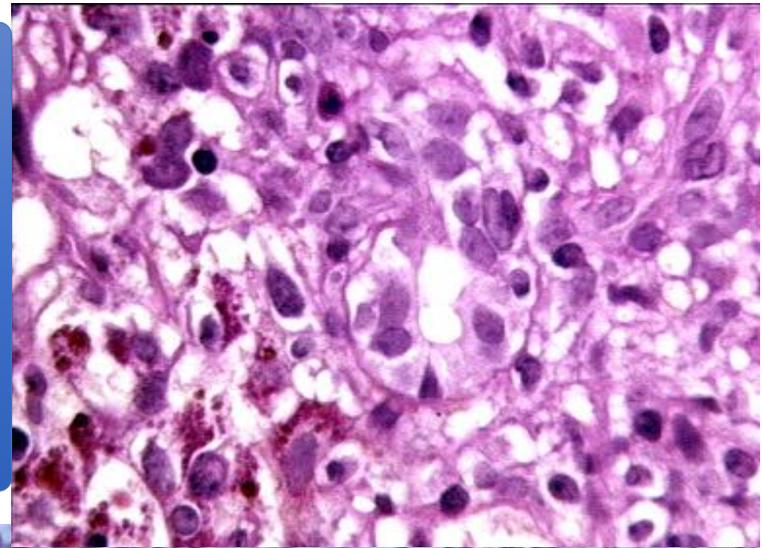
*.....cGVHD could be distinguished from aGVHD by epidermal atrophy, dermal
fibrosis and by bile duct proliferation,*

...and...
Thymus
Endothelium
Bone Marrow
CNS
Lung
Pancreas
Other...ovary

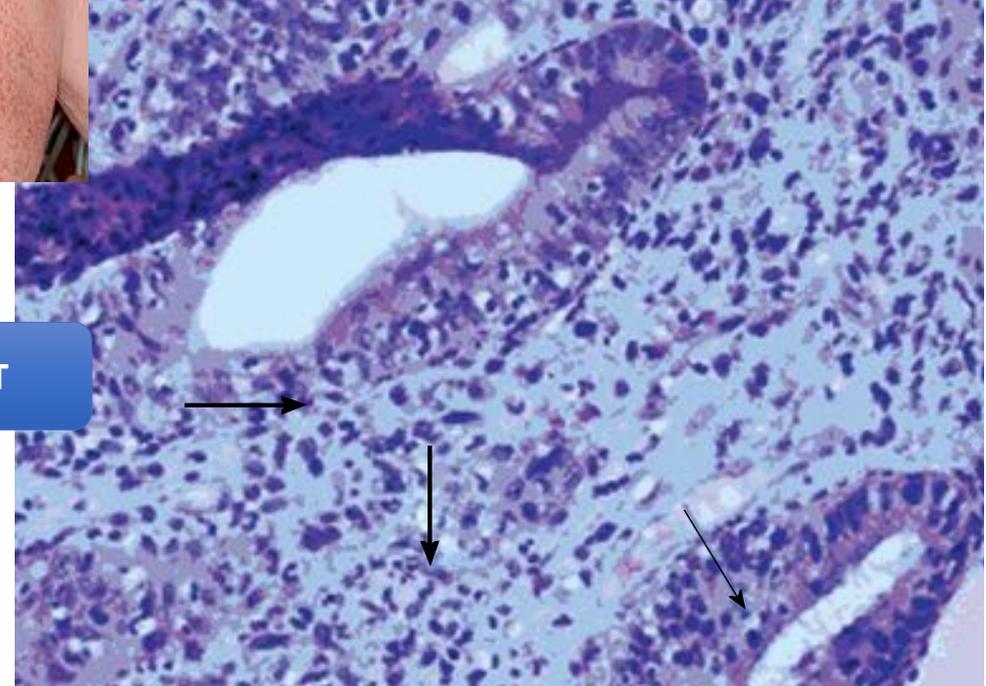


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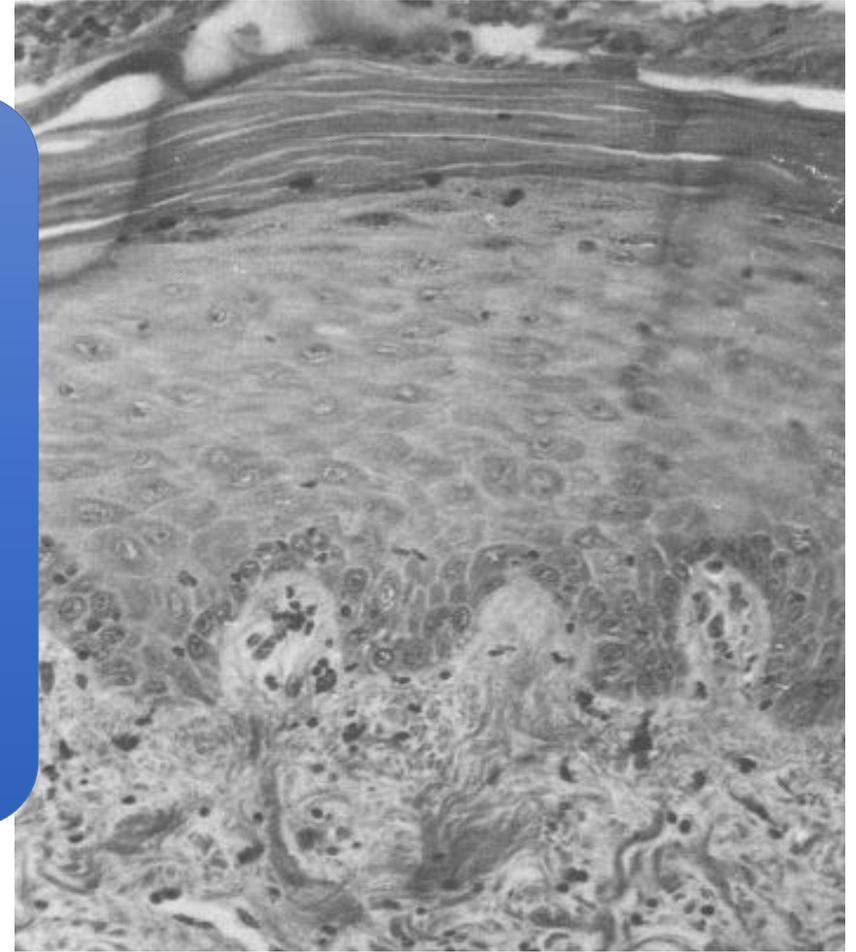


G
U
T





*Skin
Lung
Joints
Eye
Oral
GUT
Liver
Genital
Kidney
CNS/PNS*



Chronic Cutaneous Graft-Versus-Host Disease in Man

**American Journal
of Pathology**

1978

Howard M. Shulman, MD, George E. Sale, MD,
Kenneth G. Lerner, MD, Edward A. Barker, MD, Paul L. Welden, MD,
Keith Sullivan, MD, Betty Gallucci, RN, PhD, E. Donnall Thomas, MD,
and Rainer Storb, MD



Day+280

Day+28



**Late onset acute GVHD
Progressive cGVHD**

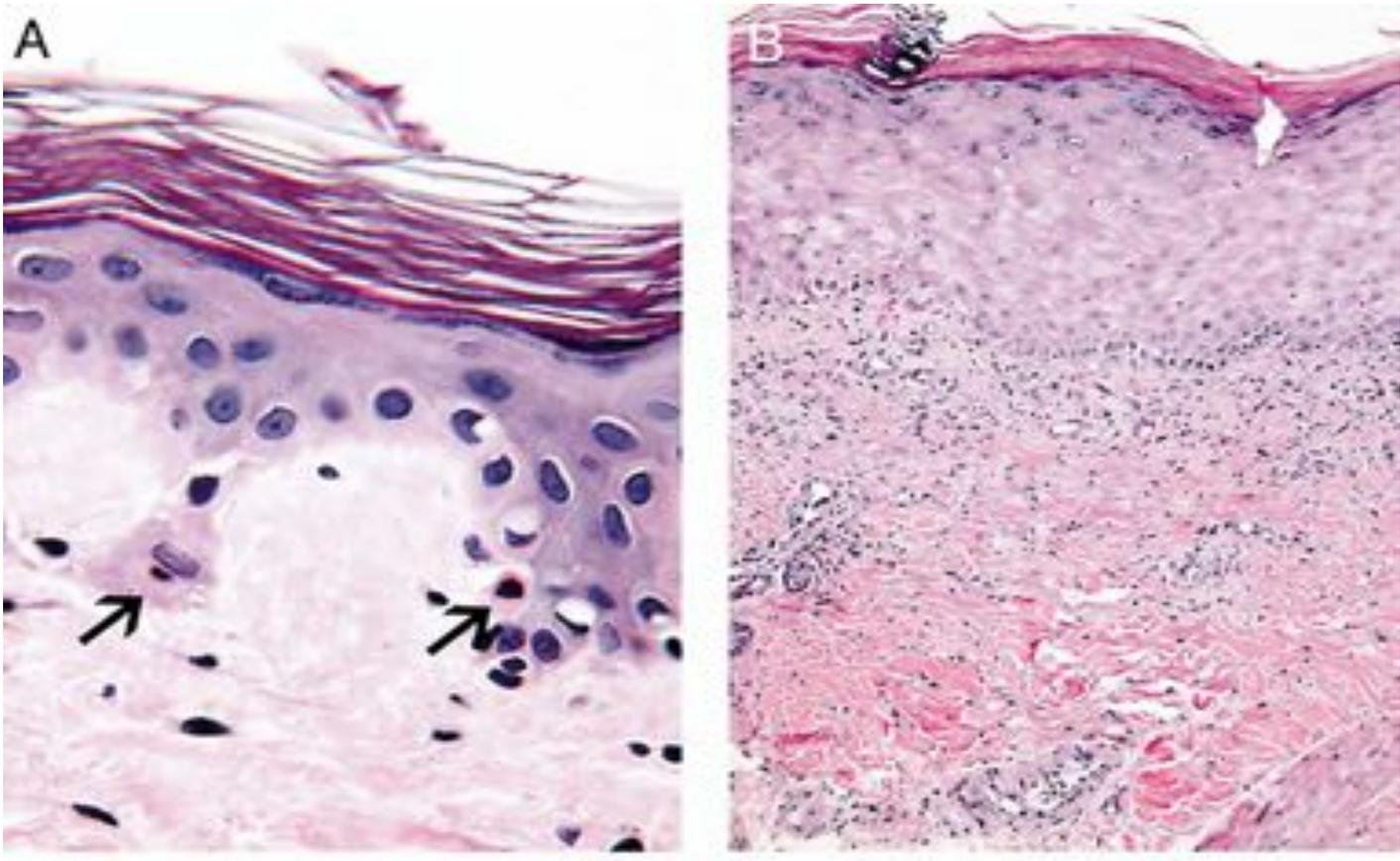
**Overlap
syndrome
At day +325**



Progression of histologic changes from acute to chronic cutaneous GVHD

Day 98  day 426

LICHEN



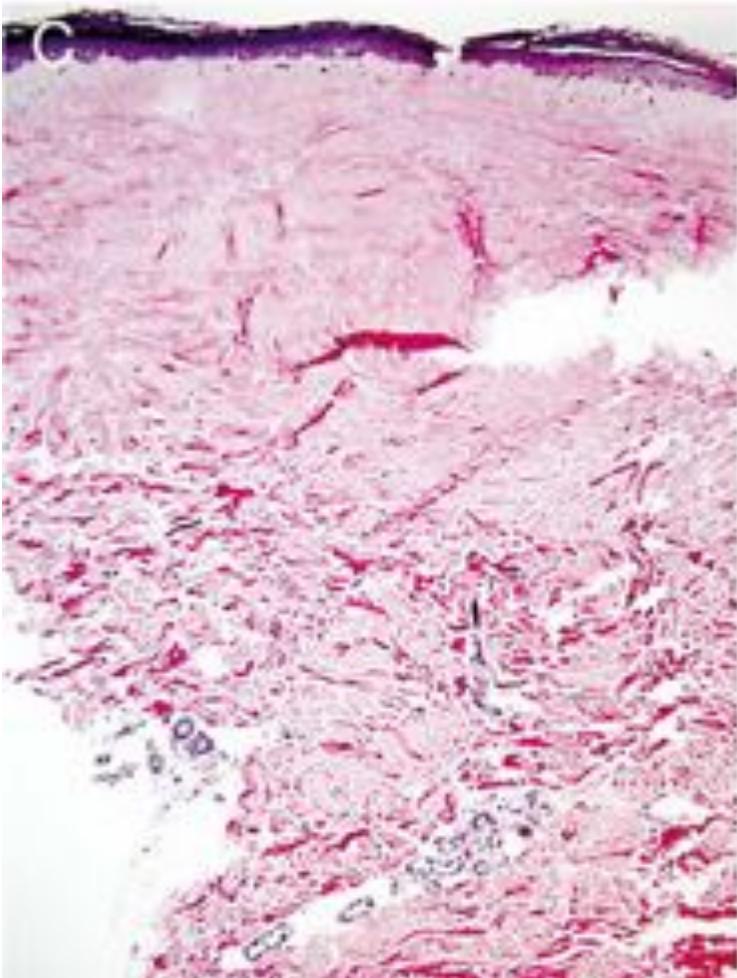
apoptotic body

orthokeratosis,
hypergranulosis
and acanthosis.

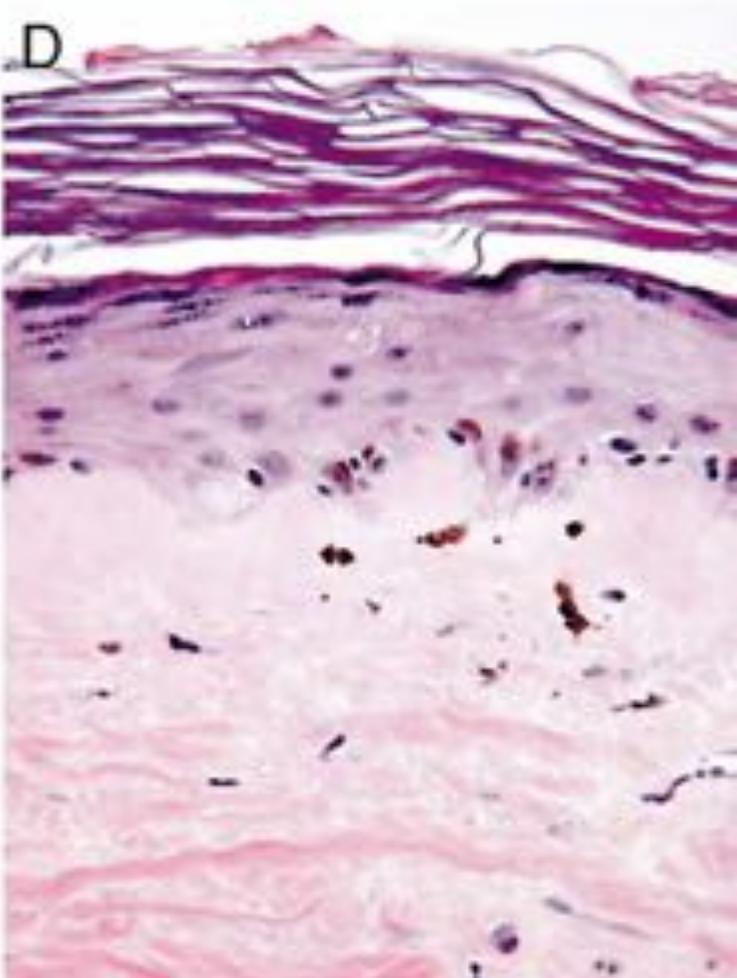
Lymphocytic
infiltration

Progression into a sclerotic stage

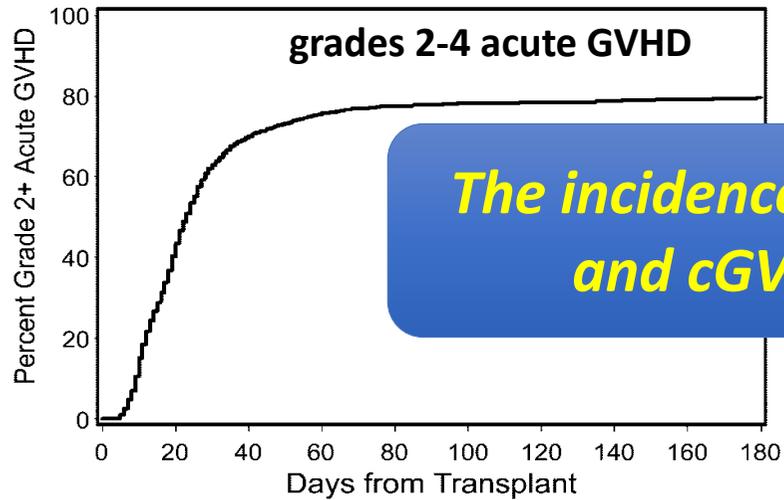
Lichen



SS-like features



2941 patients



The incidence and risk factors for acute and cGVHD are not the same!

Comparative analysis of risk factors for acute graft-versus-host disease and for chronic graft-versus-host disease according to National Institutes of Health consensus criteria

Mary E. D. Flowers,^{1,2} Yoshihiro Inamoto,¹ Paul A. Carpenter,^{1,3} Stephanie J. Lee,^{1,2} Hans-Peter Kiem,^{1,2} Effie W. Petersdorf,^{1,2} Shalini E. Pereira,¹ Richard A. Nash,^{1,2} Marco Mielcarek,^{1,2} Matthew L. Fero,^{1,2} Edus H. Warren,^{1,2} Jean E. Sanders,^{1,3} Rainer F. Storb,^{1,2} Frederick R. Appelbaum,^{1,2} Barry E. Storer,^{1,4} and Paul J. Martin^{1,2}

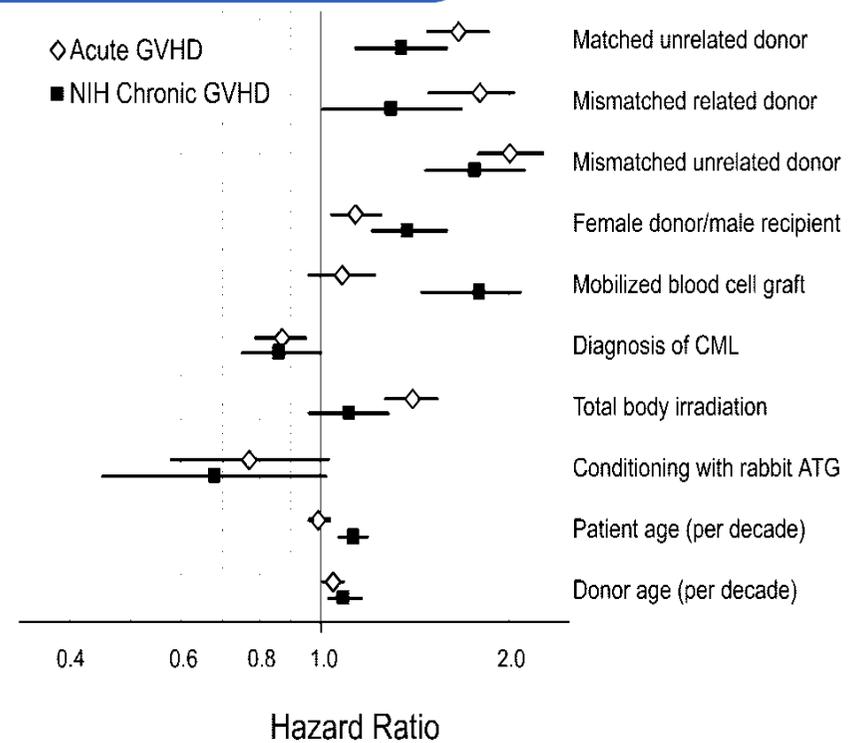
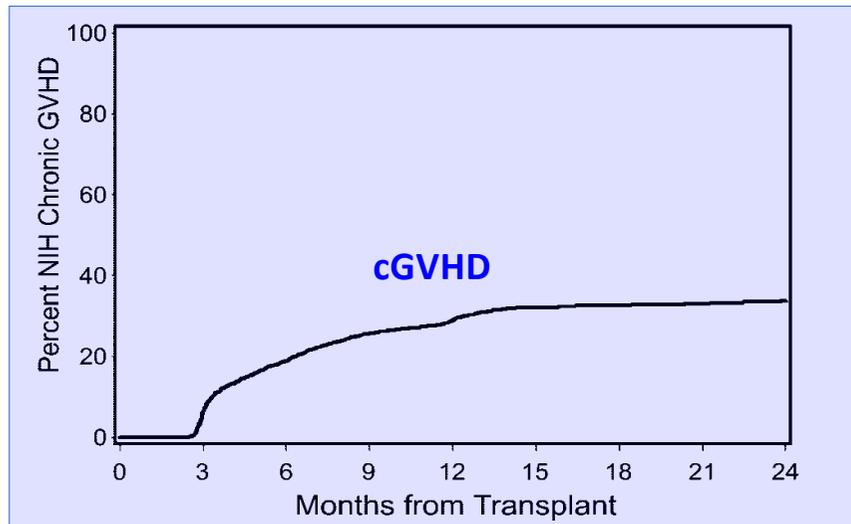


Figure 1. Cumulative incidence of grades 2-4 acute GVHD (top panel) and NIH

A 3-phase model of cGVHD in humans

- *Phase I – acute inflammation and tissue injury*
- *Phase II – chronic inflammation and dysregulated immunity*
- *Phase III - aberrant tissue repair and fibrosis*



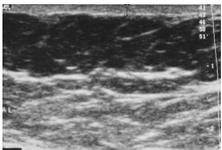
Ocular sicca



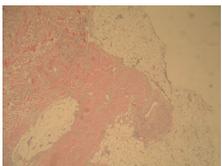
Oral ulcers



Nail dystrophy



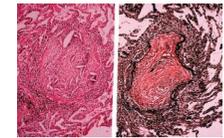
Skin sclerosis



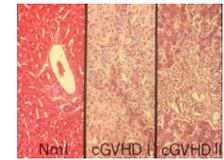
Deep sclerosis



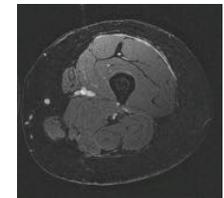
**Third
phase:
fibrotic
damage
and tissue
remodelling**



Bronchiolitis obliterans



Loss of bile ducts



Fasciitis



Skin ulcers

Although a number of animal models for cGVHD exist, none captures all of the manifestations

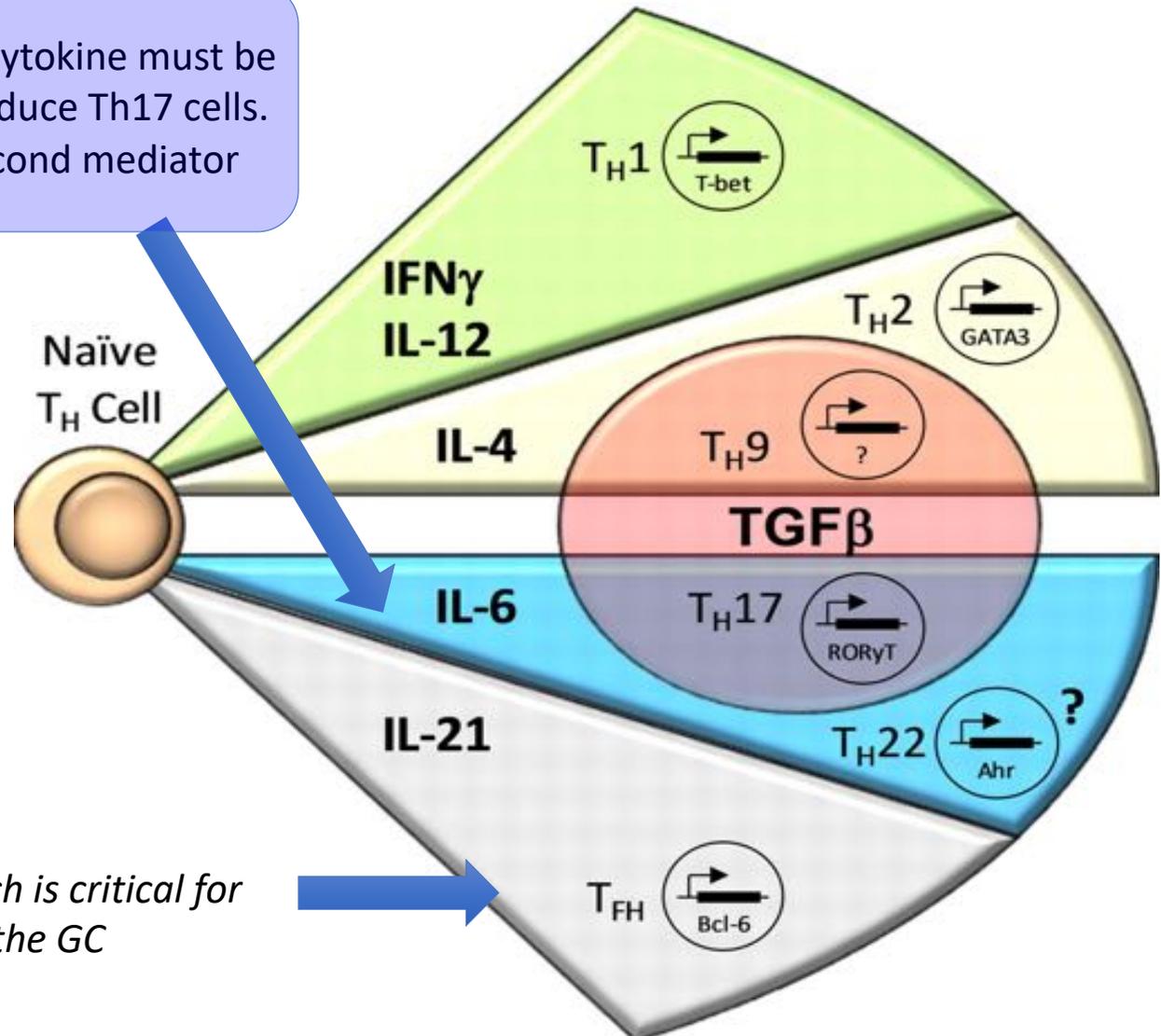
Specific biological findings in cGVHD

- ✓ *Aberrant B cell activity → Auto/allo-antibodies*
- ✓ **Increased TGF-beta concentration**
- ✓ **.....macrophage polarization**
- ✓ **Collagen deposition in target organs (tissue remodelling)**
- ✓ *T-reg unbalance*

cGVHD requires both T and B cells: experimental findings...

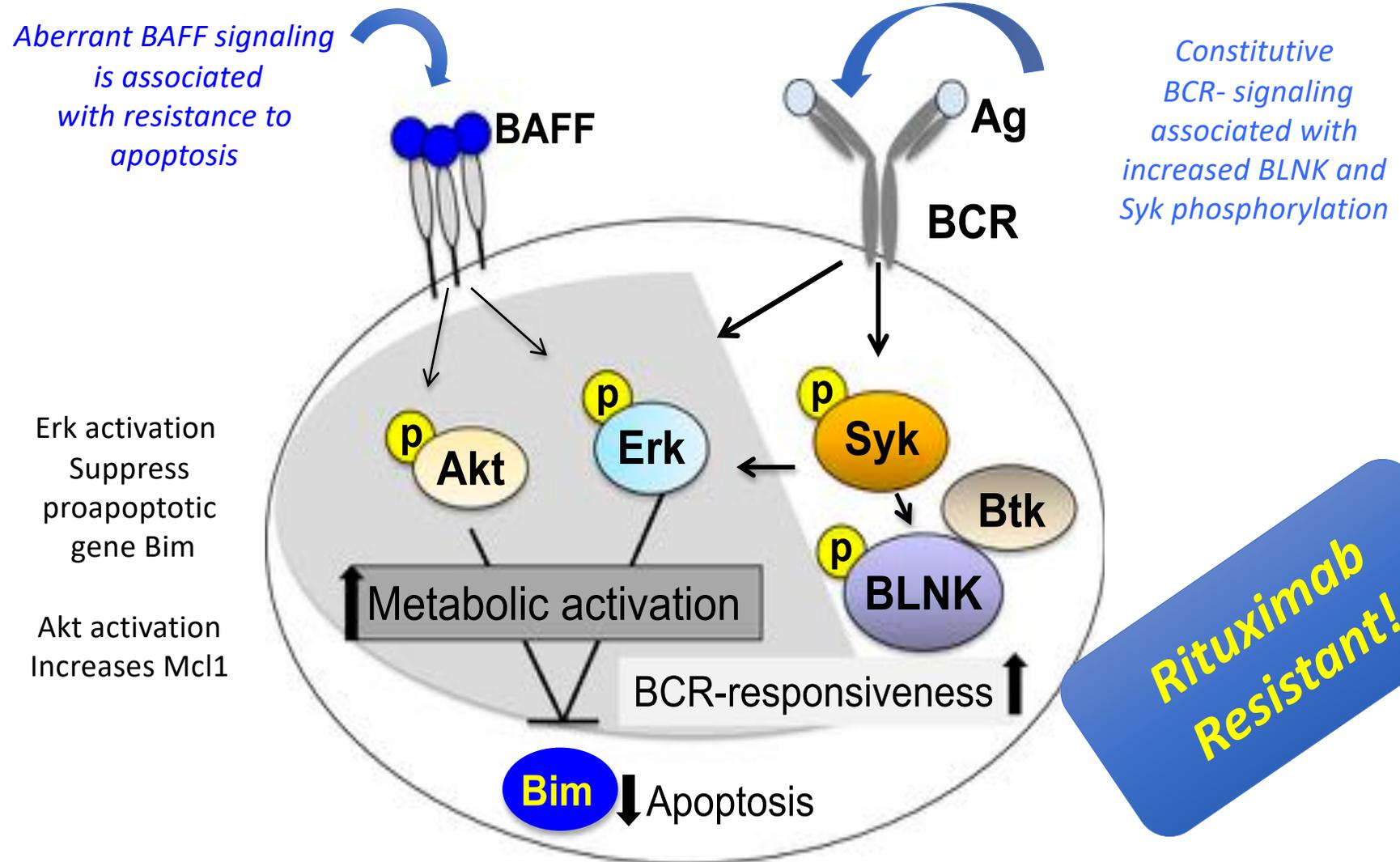
- thymectomy can prevent cGVHD pathology
- mice incapable of producing B cells do not develop cGVHD
- ...Th17 cells and IL17 are the main actors of the tissue damage both in autoimmune diseases and in cGVHD....

At least one proinflammatory cytokine must be combined with TGF-beta to induce Th17 cells.
In mice, IL-6 is the critical second mediator



T_fh cells express CXCR5, which is critical for their migration into the GC

Aberrant B-cell signaling in active cGVHD



Ibrutinib for chronic graft-versus-host disease after failure of prior therapy

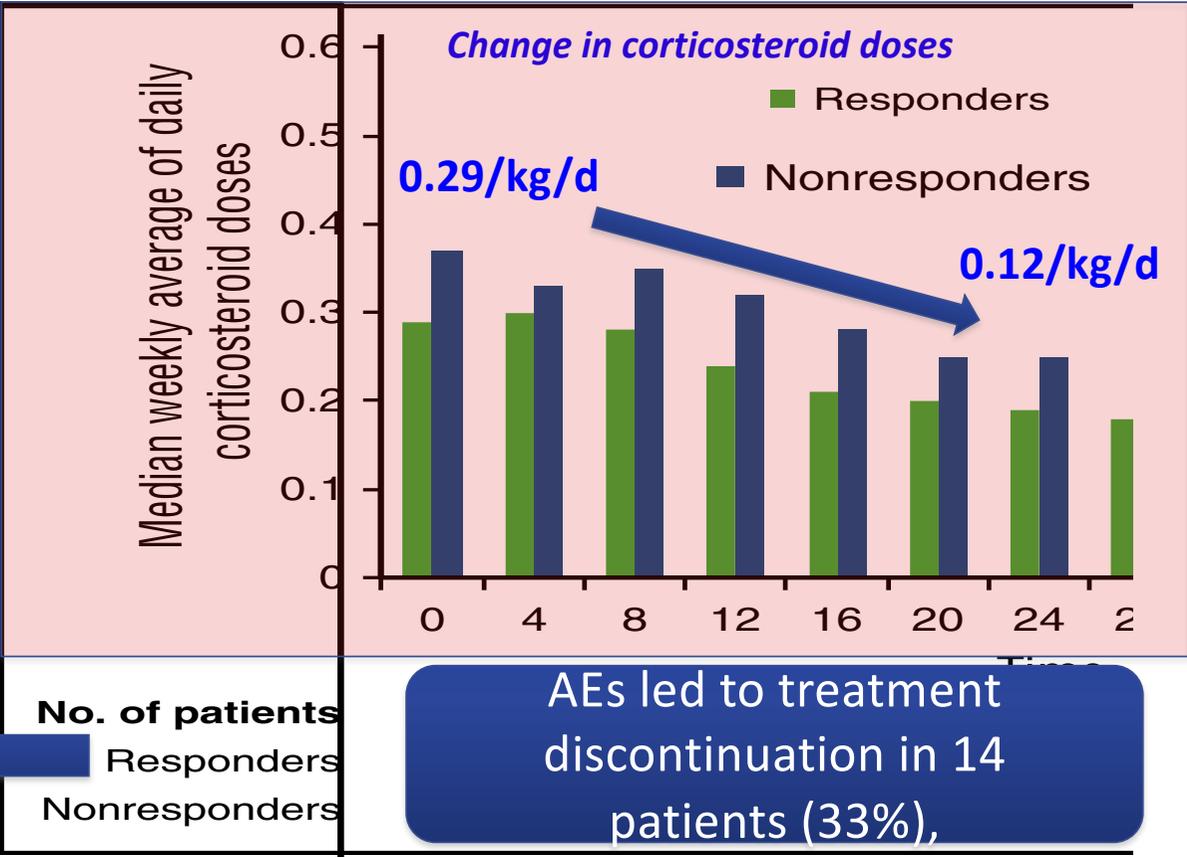
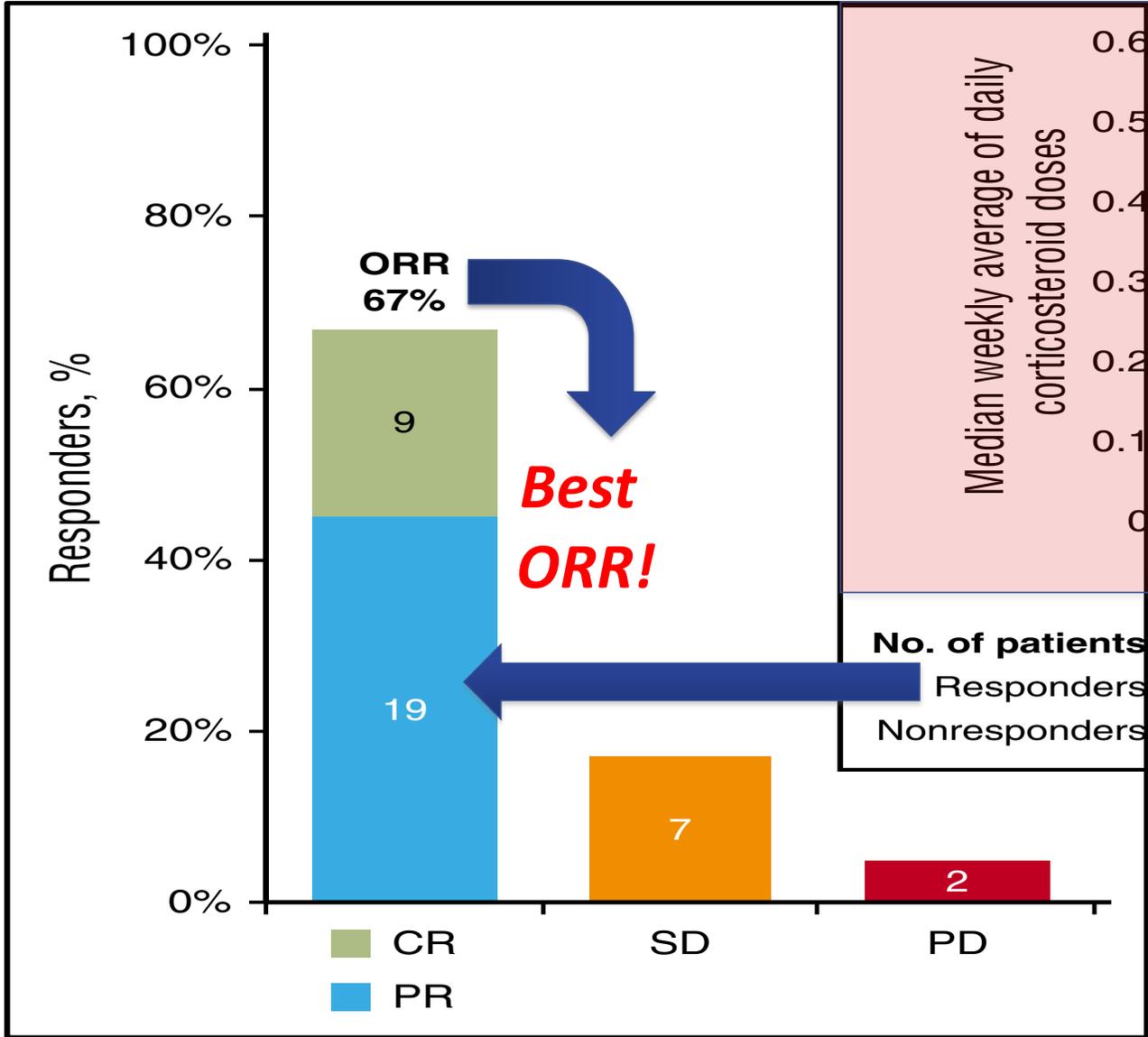
David Miklos,¹ Corey S. Cutler,² Mukta Arora,³ Edmund K. Waller,⁴ Madan Jagasia,⁵ Iskra Pusic,⁶ Mary E. Flowers,⁷ Aaron C. Logan,⁸ Ryotaro Nakamura,⁹ Bruce R. Blazar,³ Yunfeng Li,¹⁰ Stephen Chang,¹⁰ Indu Lal,¹⁰ Jason Dubovsky,¹⁰ Danelle F. James,¹⁰ Lori Styles,¹⁰ and Samantha Jaglowski¹¹

Primary endpoint: best ORR (*no time points!*)

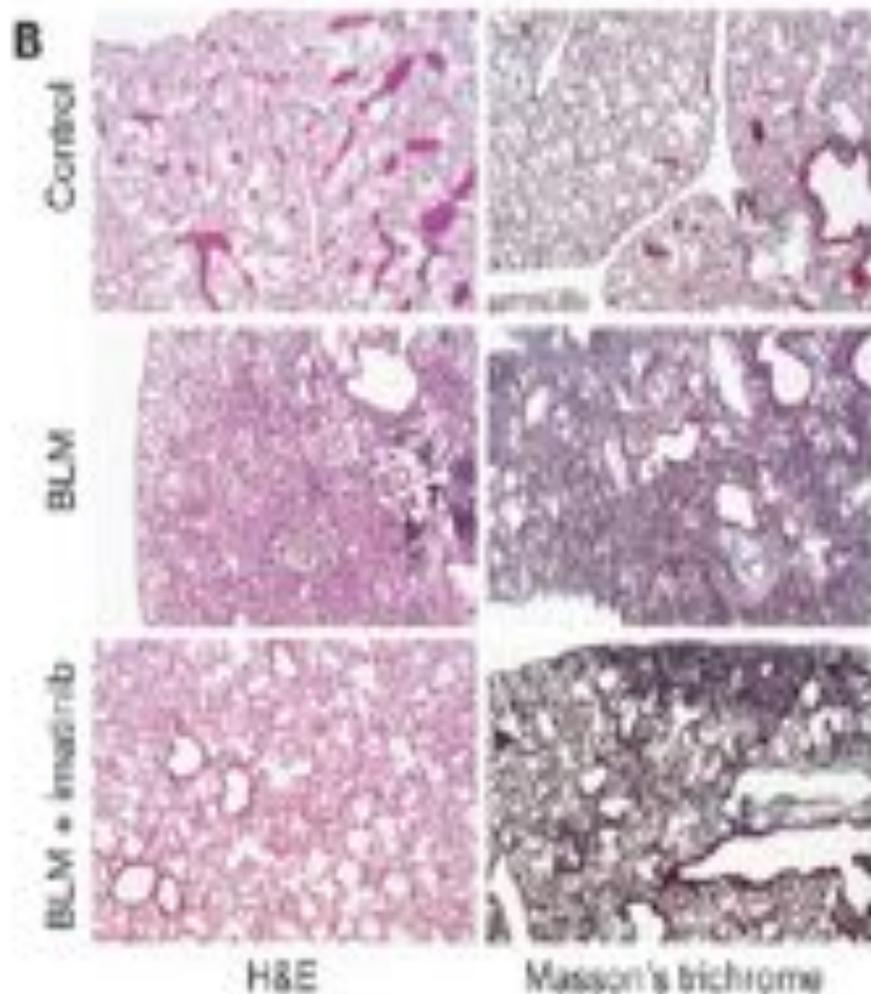
Secondary EP: *sustained response at 20 wks; steroid sparing; PRO; NO FFS*

- Response criteria based on the 2006 NIH cGVHD Consensus
- *Two changes based on the 2014 NIH update: a change in organ score from 0 to 1 not considered progression, and organ non evaluable for response when the organ response was confounded by a non-cGVHD–related factor.*
- response assessments conducted every 12 weeks.

Blood 2017



Among 71% of responders, 67% showed a sustained response for ≥20 weeks



Stimulatory autoantibodies to PDGF receptor in patients with extensive chronic graft-versus-host disease

Silvia Svegliati,¹ Attilio Olivieri,² Nadia Campelli,¹ Michele Luchetti,¹ Antonella Poloni,² Silvia Trappolini,² Gianluca Moroncini,¹ Andrea Bacigalupo,³ Pietro Leoni,² Enrico V. Avvedimento,⁴ and Armando Gabrielli¹

¹Dipartimento di Scienze Mediche e Chirurgiche, Sezione di Clinica Medica, and ²Sezione di Ematologia, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona, Italy; ³Divisione di Ematologia, Ospedale S. Martino, Genova, Italy; and ⁴Dipartimento di Biologia e Patologia Molecolare e Cellulare, Centro di Endocrinologia ed Oncologia Sperimentale del CNR, Università Federico II, Naples, Italy

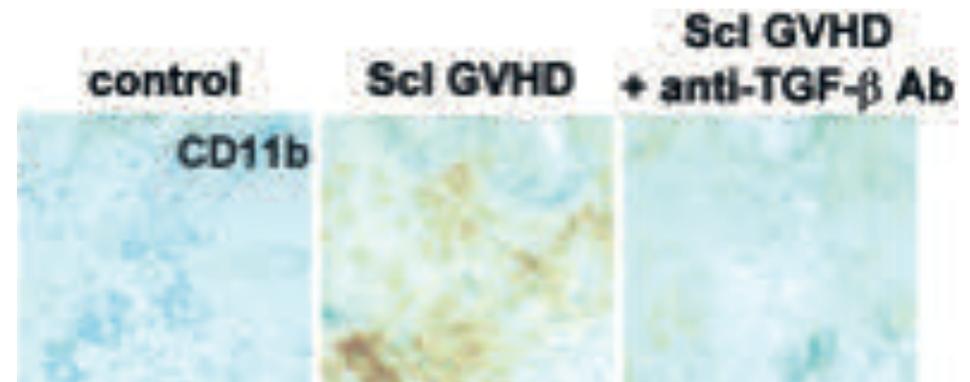
From bloodjournal.hematologylibrary.org by guest on December 13, 2013. For personal use only.

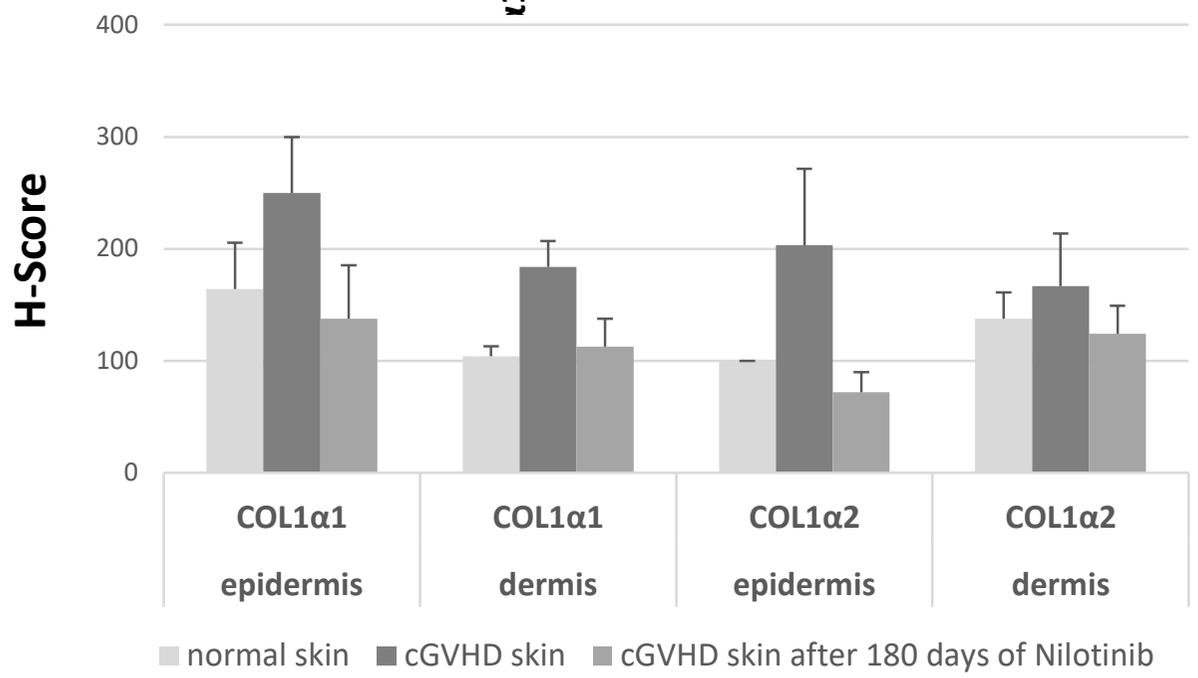
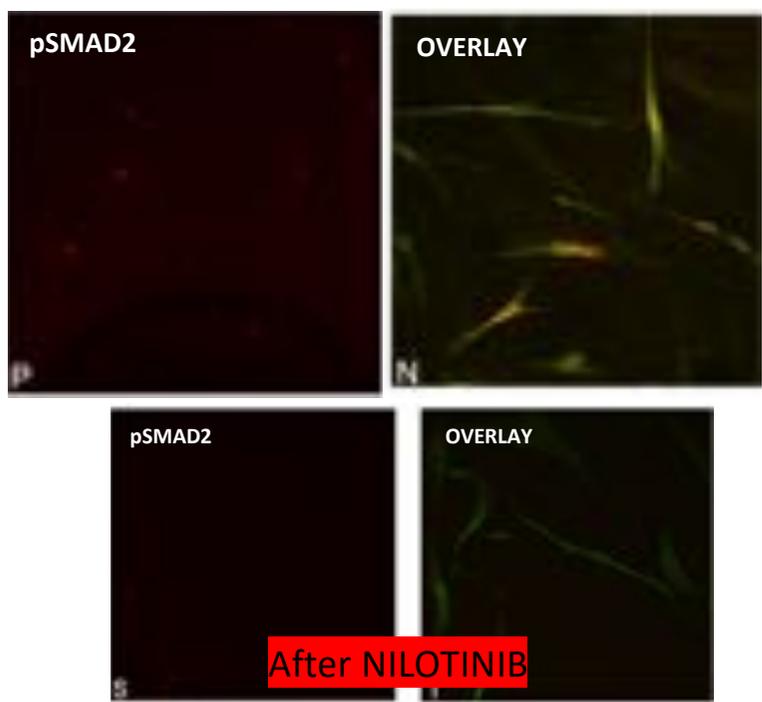
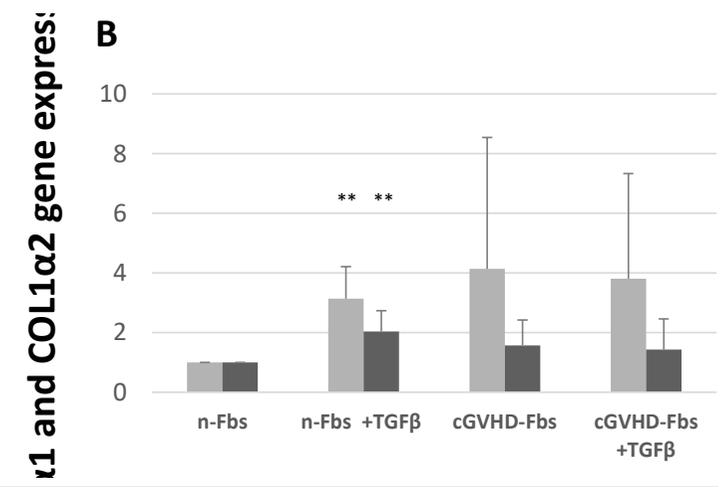
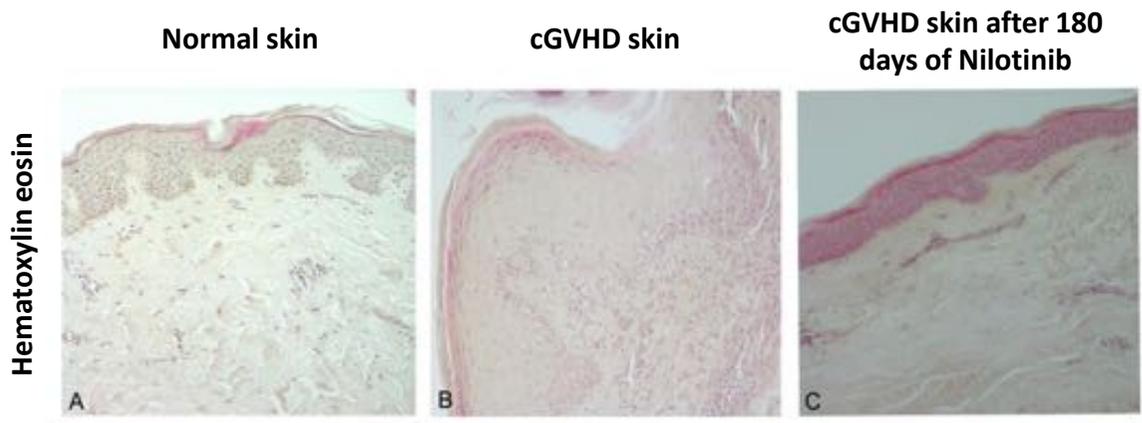
Regular Article

TRANSPLANTATION

Long-term outcome and prospective validation of NIH response criteria in 39 patients receiving imatinib for steroid-refractory chronic GVHD

Attilio Olivieri,¹ Michele Cimminiello,² Paolo Corradini,³ Nicola Mordini,⁴ Roberta Fedele,⁵ Carmine Selleri,⁶ Francesco Onida,⁷ Francesca Patriarca,⁸ Enzo Pavone,⁹ Silvia Svegliati,¹⁰ Armando Gabrielli,¹⁰ Paola Bresciani,¹¹ Roberta Nuccorini,² Sara Pascale,² Sabrina Coluzzi,² Fabrizio Pane,¹² Antonella Poloni,¹ Jacopo Olivieri,¹³ Pietro Leoni,¹ and Andrea Bacigalupo¹⁴





Rationale for targeting JAK signaling in cGVHD

- Inactivating APC (decreasing DC expression of major histocompatibility complex class II)
- Reducing alloreactive T-cell proliferation
- Expanding T-reg
- Decreasing inflammatory cytokine production
- *Inhibition of B cell activity in GC*

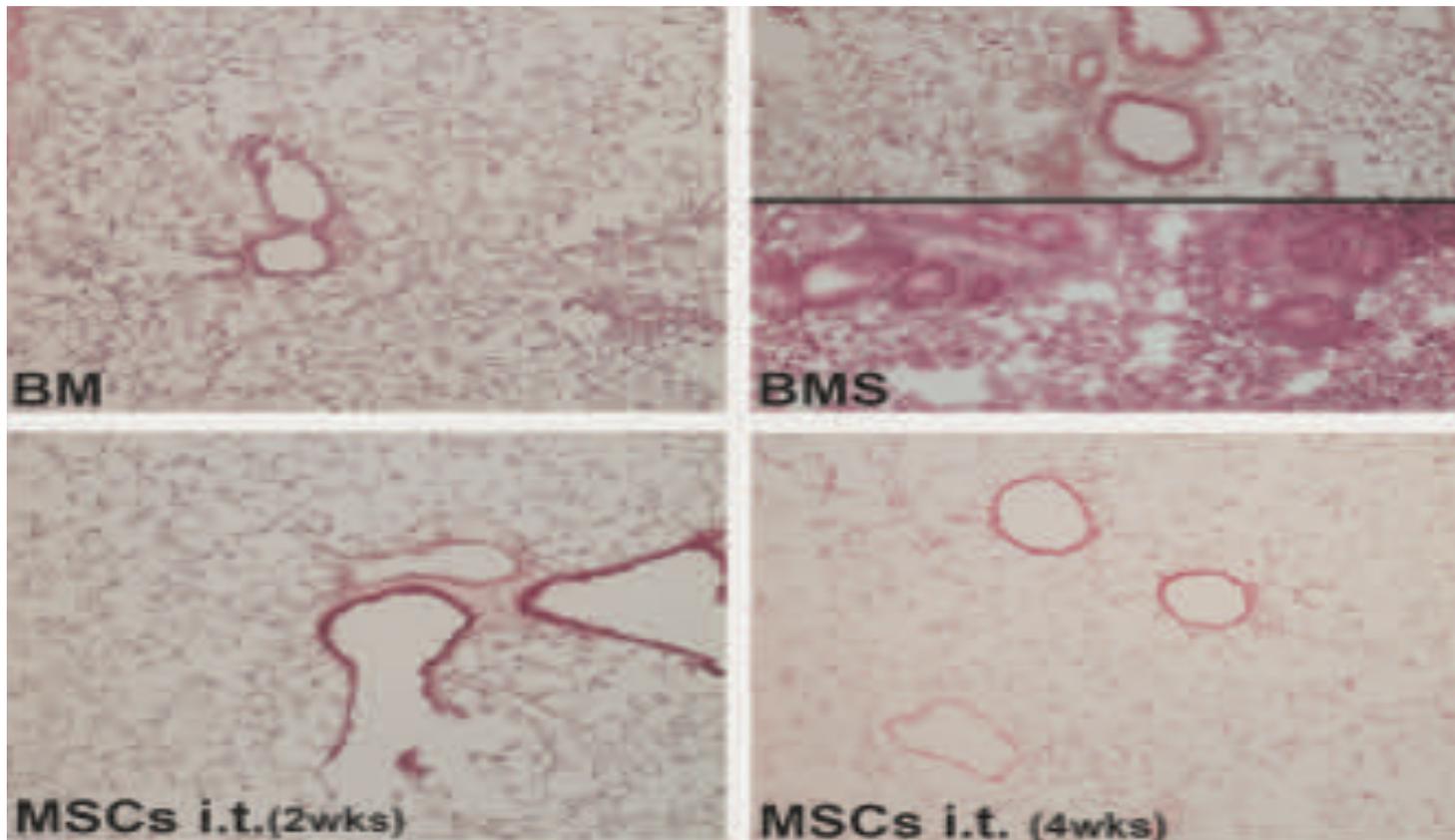
Heine A, Held SA, Daecke SN et al. The JAK-inhibitor ruxolitinib impairs dendritic cell function in vitro and in vivo. *Blood* 122(7), 1192–1202 (2013)

Stickel N, Hanke K, Marschner D et al. MicroRNA-146a reduces MHC-II expression via targeting JAK/STAT signaling in dendritic cells after stem cell transplantation. *Leukemia* 31(12), 2732–2741 (2017).

Spoerl S, Mathew NR, Bscheider M et al. Activity of therapeutic JAK 1/2 blockade in graft-versus-host disease. *Blood* 123(24), 3832–3842 (2014).

MSC Therapy Attenuates Obliterative Bronchiolitis after Murine Bone Marrow Transplant

Kashif Raza^{1a}, Trevor Larsen^{2b}, Nath Samaratunga^{2b}, Andrew P. Price³, Carolyn Meyer³, Amy Matson^{3ab}, Michael J. Ehrhardt³, Samuel Fogas³, Jakub Tolar³, Marshall I. Hertz¹, Angela Panoskaltsis-Mortari^{1,3*}



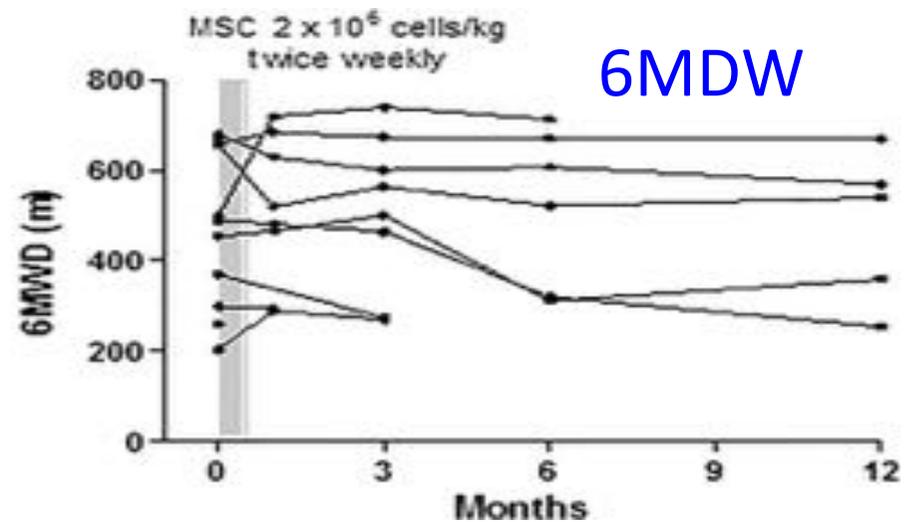
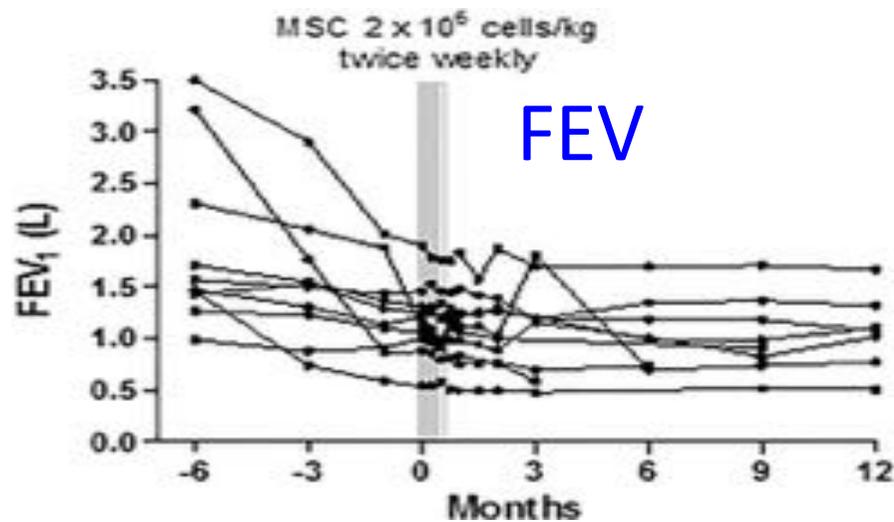
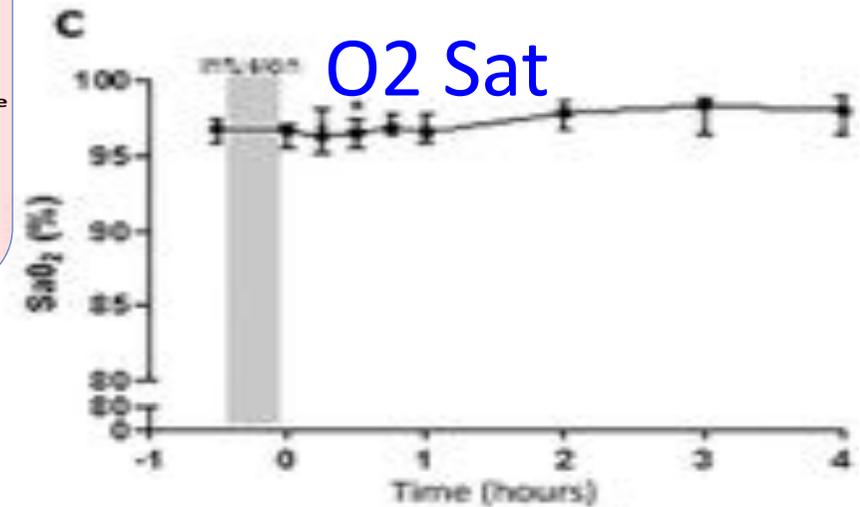
Mice were lethally conditioned and received allogeneic bone marrow without (BM) or with spleen cells (BMS), as a source of BO causing T-cells

Mesenchymal Stromal Cell Therapy for Chronic Lung Allograft Dysfunction: Results of a First-in-Man Study

DANIEL C. CHAMBERS,^{a,b} DEBRA ENEVER,^b SHARON LAWRENCE,^c MARIAN J. STURM,^{d,e} RICHARD HERRMANN,^{d,e} STEPHANIE YERKOVICH,^{a,b} MICHAEL MUSK,^c PETER M.A. HOPKINS^{a,b}

STEM CELLS TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE 2017;00:00–00

Effect of mesenchymal stromal cell on lung function in 10 pts



In vivo expanding Treg agents

- ***IL-2 low dose***

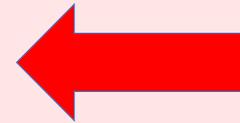
- ***Ruxolitinib***

- ***Bortezomib***

- *hypomethylating agents**

- *Rapamicin*

- *Cell therapy: MSC/Treg infusion*



**Sparing
Treg
drugs**

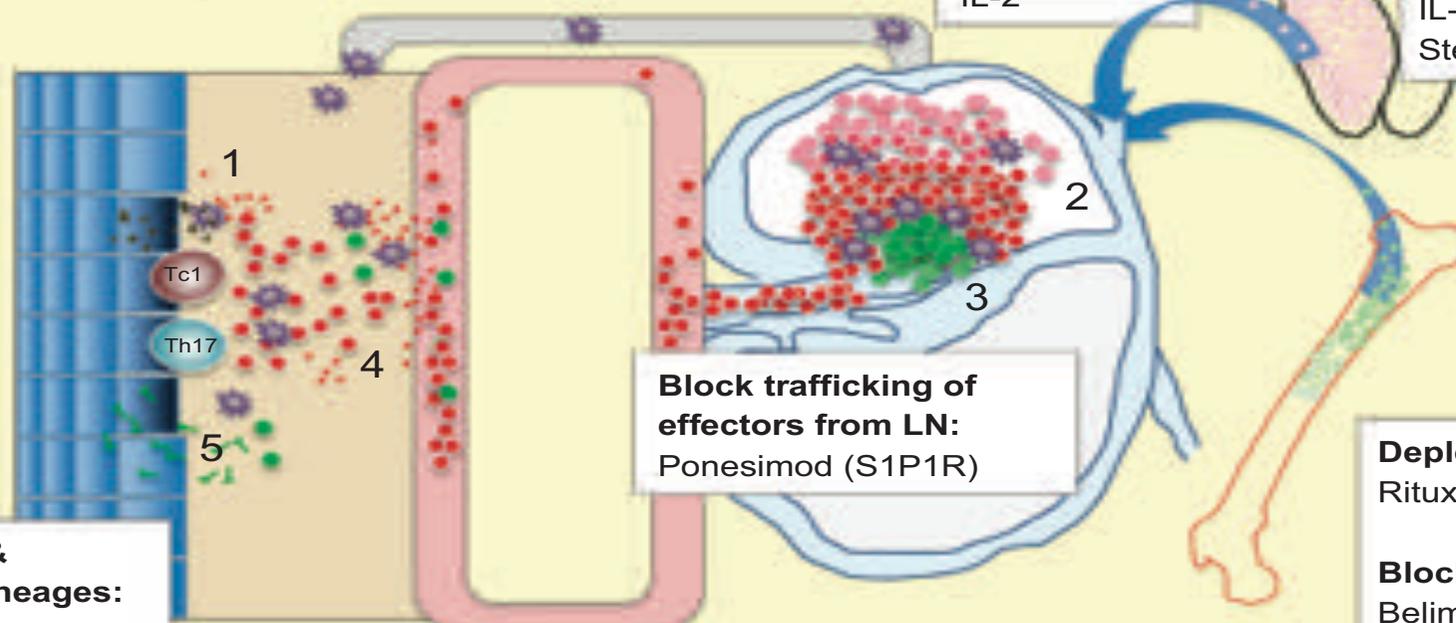
**Goodyear OC et al. Azacitidine augments expansion of regulatory T cells after allogeneic SCT in patients with AML. Blood. 2012*

New targets in cGVHD

Non-lymphocyte targets:
Hedgehog inhibitors
Neutrophil elastase inhibitors

→ anti-TGF- β ;
PDGF agents
(TKI, Pirfenidone,
Nintedanib)

Block T activation & cytokine-induced lineages:
JAK inhibitors
(Ruxolitinib, Baricitinib)
Proteasome inhibitors
CTLA4-Ig fusion protein



Expand Tregs:
IL-2

Expand thymopoiesis:
KGF
IGF
IL-7
Steroid blockade

Block trafficking of effectors from LN:
Ponesimod (S1P1R)

Deplete B cells:
Rituximab

Block B activation:
Belimumab (BAFF)
Fostamatinib (Syk)
Cerdulatinib (Syk)
Ibrutinib (BTK)

1. APC activated, move to LN
2. APC activate Th1, Th17, Tfh T cells
3. Tfh support Ab-producing B cells
4. T- & B-cells infiltrate tissue
5. Ab deposition and cytotoxic attack

How to evaluate the efficacy of a new TX in cGVHD?

End Point

- **Response according to NIH**
(*physician reported measures/symptoms; patient reported symptoms; dynamic&global scales; functional activities*);



Pitfalls/advantages

- Confounding factors
(topic TX; comorbidities/toxicities)
- Timing&duration of response
- Mixed responses&trivial worsening
- Ceiling effect

- **FFS/PFS/OS** 

FFS: need of longer F-U; need to standardize failure criteria
OS/PFS: lack of informations about toxicities or changes in IS TX

- **Success of TX.....** 

Need validation; absence of informations about death/toxicity



Thanks....

