# Primary CNS Lymphoma

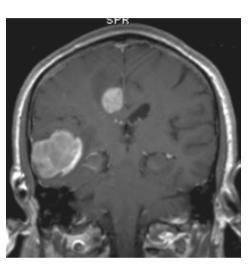
Andrés J. M. Ferreri

Unit of Lymphoid Malignancies
Department of Onco-Hematology
San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milano, Italy

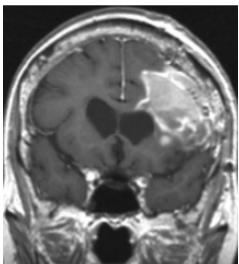
# PCNSL: An Exciting Challenge

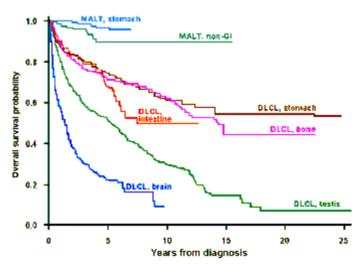
- Progressively increasing incidence.
- Peculiar clinical behavior.
- Poorly known molecular profile.
- It arises in organs where structured lymphoid tissue is not normally present.
- It arises in an anatomical site with certain structural, biological and immunological characteristics.
- Even if it exhibits one of the worst prognoses among NHL, it is a curable brain tumor.

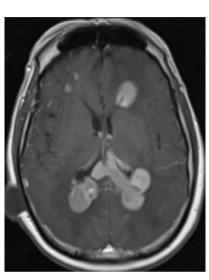
# Management difficulties

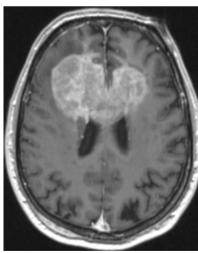


- High proportion of elderly pts
- Poor PS at presentation
- Biopsy not performed
- Palliative treatment
- Therapeutic consensus is lacking
- A few centers with adequate expertise
- Many pts can not be referred to other centers









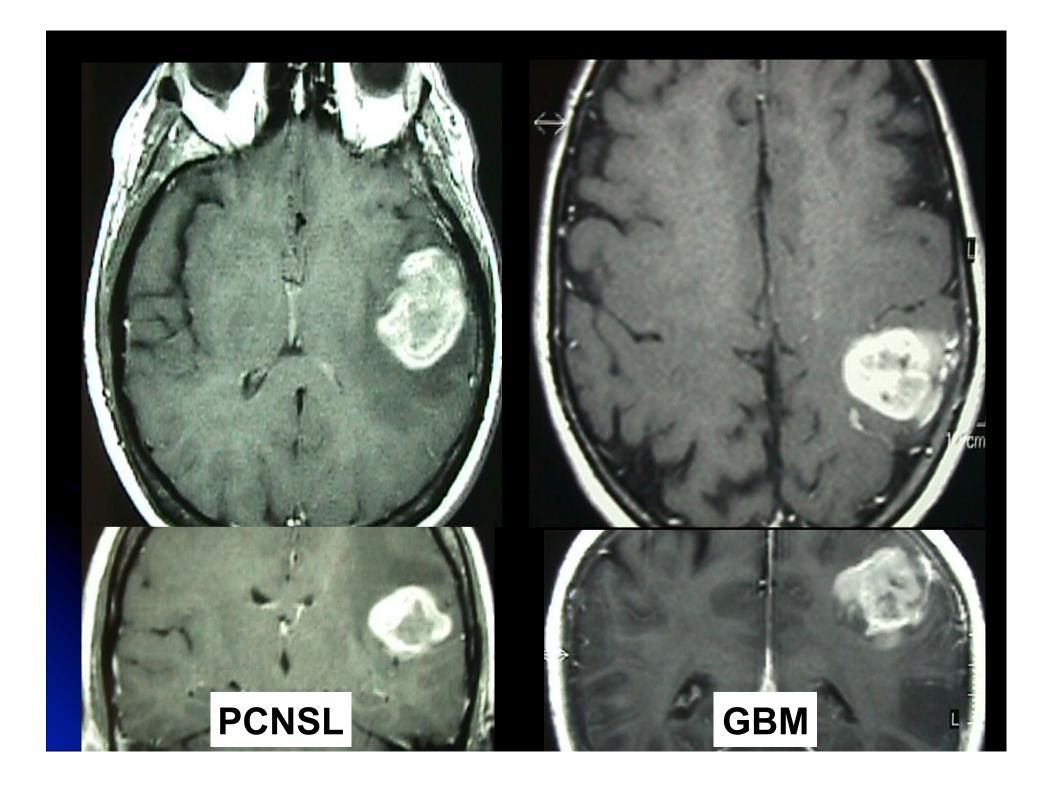
# Early Diagnosis is the Best Therapy

- Several patients receive steoids for months before biopsy:
  - Confounding effect on neuroimaging
  - Delayed and unsuitable biopsy (52% inter-observer variability)
  - Diabetes and other metabolic disorders
  - Immunodepression
  - Severe infections with intensified therapies
  - Half of cases of early PD are related to interruptions due to toxicity
- CNS tissues exposed to lymphoma infiltration by months:
  - Tissue damage results in poor PS and disabling symptoms
  - Loss of autonomy and poor treatment tolerability
  - CR and cure do not result in neurological and PS improvement
  - Therapeutic interruptions due to poor, irreversible conditions
  - Negative effects on trials accrual

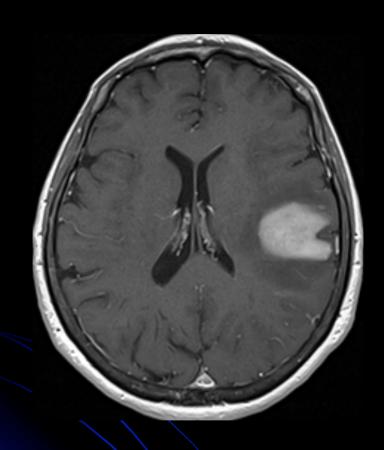
# PCNSL suspicion

**Current strategy= low diagnosis sensitivity** 

- Neuroimaging: T1, T2, flair, DWI, enhancement, spectroscopy
- <u>Site</u>: corpus callosum, basal ganglia, periventricular areas, ...
- Response to steroids

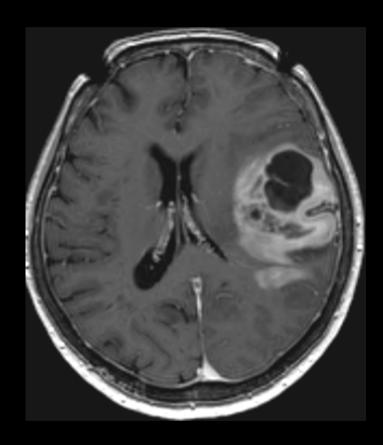


# Response to Steroids



Lymphoma

Bp: no tumor



Response to steroids

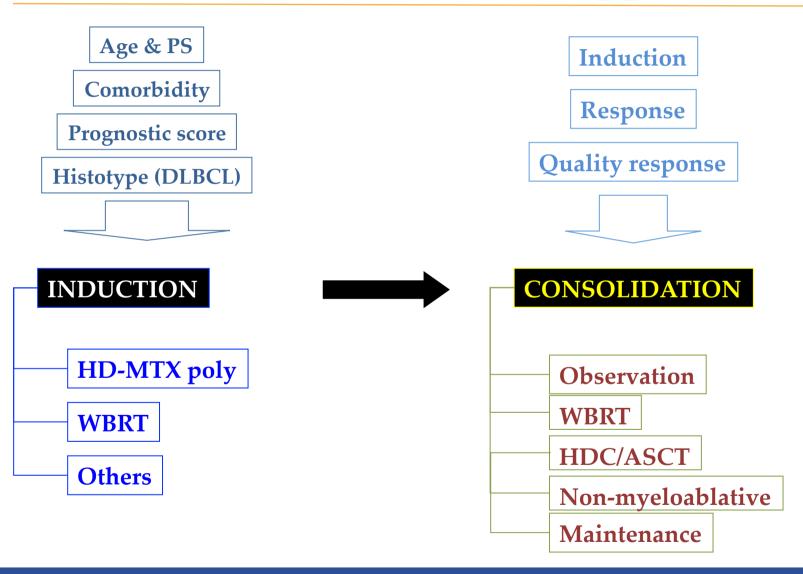
Bp: Glioblastoma multiforme

# Early Reliable Suspicion

- ✓ Reliable molecular and biological parameters that can be easily incorporated in routine practice.
- ✓ Some chemokines (CXCL13) can be used as diagnostic & prognostic tools.
- ✓ IL-10 concentration in the CSF is a useful diagnostic and prognostic biomarker.
- ✓ Some miRNA (21, 19b, 92a) are expressed in the CSF of PCNSL patients, with a diagnosis sensitivy and specificity >95%
- ✓ Recurrent mutations of CD79B (83%) and MYD88 (76%) in tissue samples.
- $\checkmark$  MYD88 mutations can be detected in the vitreous and PB (CSF?).
- ✓ The combined use of ADC, CSF CXCL13, and IL-10 results in increased diagnostic performance in CNSL.

Rubenstein J, et al. Blood 2013; Fisher L, et al. CCR 2009; Nguyen-Them L, et al. EJH 2016; Baraniskin A, et al. Blood 2011; Nakamura T, et al. Neuropathol Appl Neurobiol 2016; Bonzheim I, et al. Blood 2015; Mabray MC, et al. AJNR 2016

## Modern Approach

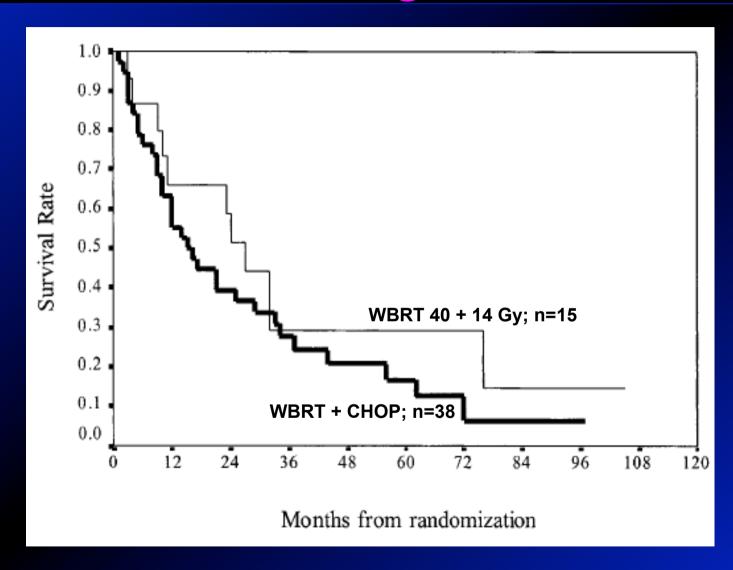


# Chemotherapy

Its efficacy is limited by several factors including the biology and microenvironment of this malignancy, which is "protected" by the BBB.

BBB penetration	Doses	CNS availability	Examples
Good	conventional	good	steroids, alkylating ag.
Low to moderate	high	good	MTX, araC
Poor	conventional (-limiting tox)	low	anthracyclines, vinca-alkaloids

# CHOP regimen



## HD-MTX

**Pharmacokinetics** Triphasic plasmatic clearance

Good BBB penetration at HD

**Schedule** Infusion duration 3 hours

Infusion timing every 2 wks = 3 wks

Dose  $\geq 3 \text{ g/m}^2$ 

CNS availability  $\geq 1 \text{ g/m}^2$  tumoricidal levels in the brain

 $\geq$  3 g/m<sup>2</sup> tumoricidal levels in the CSF

24-hr inf. <u>tumoricidal levels in the CSF</u>

Tolerability 8 g/m<sup>2</sup> 45% dose reductions

3.5 g/m<sup>2</sup> good compromise

Ferreri AJM. Blood 2011



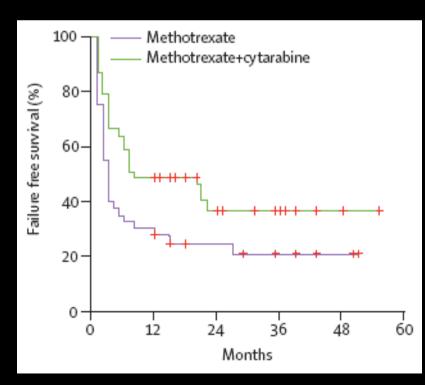
## High-dose cytarabine plus high-dose methotrexate versus high-dose methotrexate alone in patients with primary CNS lymphoma: a randomised phase 2 trial

Andrés J M Ferreri, Michele Reni, Marco Foppoli, Maurizio Martelli, Gerasimus A Pangalis, Maurizio Frezzato, Maria Giuseppina Cabras, Alberto Fabbri, Gaetano Corazzelli, Fiorella Ilariucci, Giuseppe Rossi, Riccardo Soffietti, Caterina Stelitano, Daniele Vallisa, Francesco Zaja, Lucía Zoppegno, Gian Marco Aondio, Giuseppe Avvisati, Monica Balzarotti, Alba A Brandes, José Fajardo, Henry Gomez, Attilio Guarini, Graziella Pinotti, Luigi Rigacci, Catrina Uhlmann, Piero Picozzi, Paolo Vezzulli, Marwilia De Franco Cavalli, on behalf of the International Extranodal Lymphoma Study Group

Lancet 2009; 374: 1512-20

	Methotrexate (n=40)	Methotrexate+cytarabine (n=39)	p value
Complete remission	7 (18%)	18 (46%)	0.006
Partial response	9 (23%)	9 (23%)	
Overall response	16 (40%)	27 (69%)	0.009
Stable disease	1(3%)	2 (5%)	
Progressive disease	22 (55%)	7 (18%)	
Toxic deaths	1(3%)	3 (8%)	0.35

	Methotrexate (n=40)	Methotrexate+cytarabine (n=39)	p value
Toxic deaths	1(3%)	3 (8%)	0-35
Neutropenia	6 (15%)	35 (90%)	0.00001
Thrombocytopenia	3 (8%)	36 (92%)	0.00001
Anaemia	4 (10%)	18 (46%)	0.00001
Infective complications	1(3%)	9 (23%)	0.0002
Hepatotoxicity	1(3%)	4 (10%)	0.05
Nephrotoxicity	2 (5%)	1(3%)	0.31
GI/mucositis	2 (5%)	1(3%)	0.31
Cardiotoxicity	1(3%)	1 (3%)	0.87
Neurotoxicity	0	1 (3%)	0.29
Coagulation/DVT	4 (10%)	1 (3%)	0.002



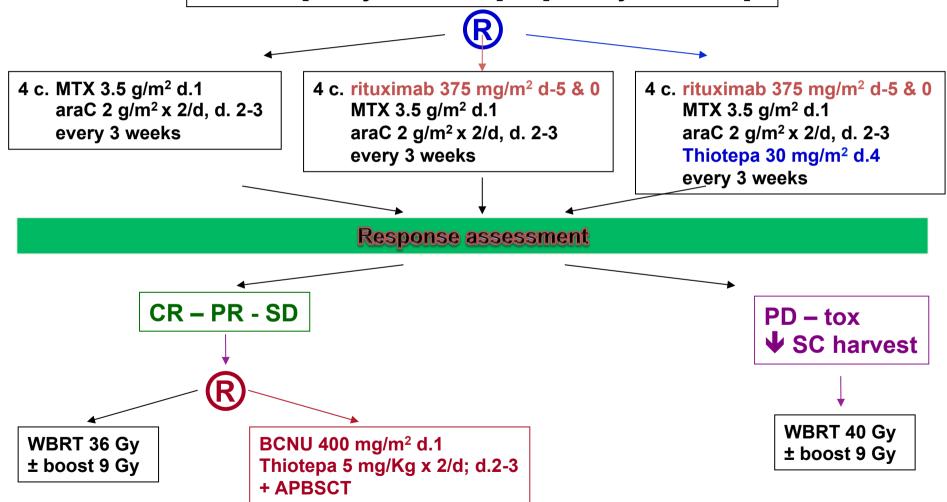
# MTX + Alkylator + Rituximab

INDUCTION	CONSOLIDATION	N°	ORR	2-year PFS
Rituximab Methotrexate Procarbazine Vincristine <sup>1</sup>	low-dose WBRT	52	79%	57%
Rituximab Methotrexate Procarbazine Vincristine <sup>2</sup>	TBC - ASCT	33 (≤ 65 ys)	94%	79%
Rituximab Methotrexate Temozolomide <sup>3</sup>	Non-myeloablative HD-cytarabine HD-etoposide	44	77%	59%
Rituximab Methotrexate Temozolomide <sup>4</sup>	Hyperfract WBRT + TMZ maintenance	53 (<60 yo: 62%)	57%	64%



### The IELSG #32 trial

PCNSL [≤ 65 ys. + PS 0-3] or [65-70 ys. + PS ≤2]



Ferreri AJM, et al. 13-ICML, Lugano 2015

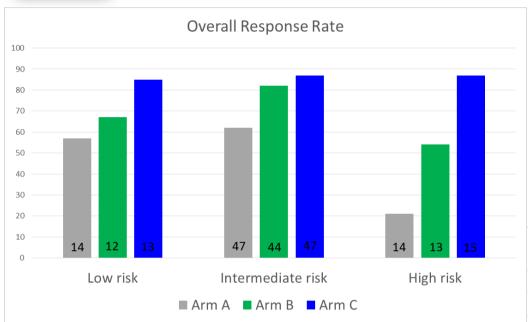


# **Arms Activity**

	Methotrexate- cytarabine (group A; n=75)	Methotrexate- cytarabine plus rituximab (group B; n=69)	Methotrexate- cytarabine plus rituximab and thiotepa (group C; n=75)	HR (95% CI) for group A vs group B	p value	HR (95% CI) for group A vs group C	p value	HR (95% CI) for group B vs group C	p value
Complete remission	17 (23%; 95% Cl 14-31)	21 (30%; 95% Cl 21-42)	37 (49%; 95% CI 38–60)	0·74 (0·43-1·29)	0.29	0·46 (0·28-0·74)	0.0007	0·61 (0·40–0·94)	0.020 [ <b>A:q1</b> ]
Partial response	23 (31%)	30 (43%)	28 (37%)						
Overall response*	40 (53%; 95% CI 42-64)	51 (74%; 95% CI 64-84)	65 (87%; 95% CI 80–94)	0·69 (0·54-0·88)	0·010 [ <b>A:q1</b> ]	0·61 (0·49-0·77)	0.00001	0·89 (0·76–1·03)	0.053
Stable disease	6 (8%)	4 (6%)	1 (1%)						
Progressive disease	22 (29%)	11 (16%)	6 (8%)						
Deaths due to toxicity	7 (9%)	3 (4%)	3 (4%)						



# **Activity: Arm and IELSG risk**



70 —					
60					
50					
40					
30					
20 ———					
0	12 13	47 44	47	14 13	15
	w risk	Intermediat	e risk	High risk	
					•
	■ Arn	n A Arm B	Arm C		

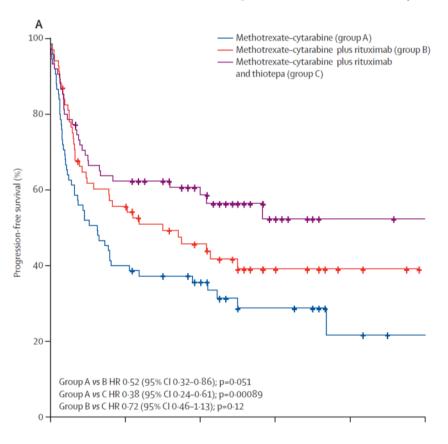
Complete Remission Rate

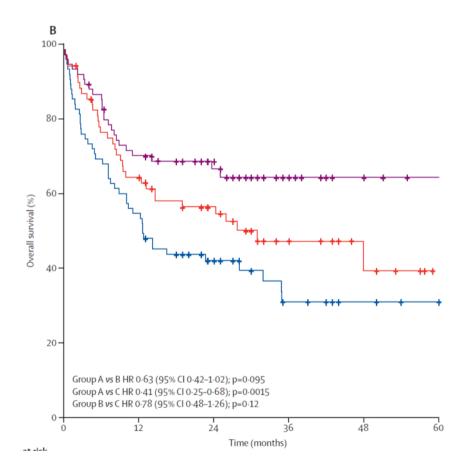
Logit	CR	OR
IELSG risk score	0,13	0,09
Arm	0,0004	0,000004



## PFS and OS

### median follow-up: 30 months (12-66)





Ferreri AJM, et al. Lancet Haematol 2016

# **Chemotherapy: Elderly Patients**

**✓** HD-MTX improved outcome in selected pts (biased results).

Table 3. Reported studies focused on elderly patients with PCNSL

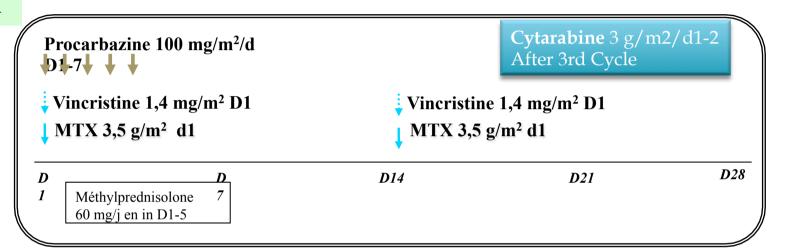
Ref.	N	Median age, y (range)	MTX, g/m <sup>2</sup>	Other drugs	IT	WBRT	PFS, mo
43	23	68 (60-79)	3	Te	No	No	8
66	10	73 (66-75)	8	_	No	No	18
	22	70 (54-89)	3.5	O, P	Yes	No	NR
79	12	67 (60-72)	3.5	O, P	Yes	Yes	NR
93	13	76 (54-89)	1-3.5	A, O, P, T	Yes	No	NR
94	50	72 (60-81)	1	CN, P, S	Yes	No	7
95	30	70 (57-79)	3	CN, P	No	No	6
96	17	67 (58-78)	1	MCN, P, S	Yes	No	20

The age upper limit to define elderly pts remains uncertain.

## **Elderly Pts: PHRC 2006 Trial**

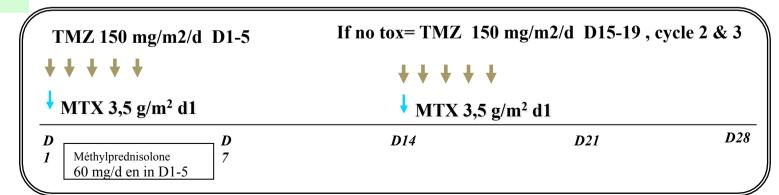
#### Arm A M-PVA

3 cycles/ 28 d



#### Arm B M-TMZ

3 cycles/28 d



## PHRC 2006 Trial

	Methotrexate with temozolomide (n=48)	Methotrexate, procarbazine, vincristine, and cytarabine (n=47)
Grade 3 or 4 toxicities		
Non-haematological		
Liver dysfunction	21 (44%)	18 (38%)
Infection	6 (13%)	7 (15%)
Sepsis	3 (6%)	0
Renal	2 (4%)	3 (6%)
Cardiac	1 (2%)	0
Fatigue	1 (2%)	0
Peripheral neuropathy	0	1(2%)
Venous thrombosis or pulmonary embolism	0	4 (9%)
Seizures	0	1 (2%)
Hypoglycaemia	0	1 (2%)
Hypophosphatemia	1 (2%)	1 (2%)
Hypokalaemia	4 (8%)	3 (6%)
Hyponatraemia	3 (6%)	3 (6%)
Hypernatraemia	0	1 (2%)
Haematological		
Leukopenia	6 (13%)	6 (13%)
Neutropenia	5 (10%)	4 (9%)
Anaemia	7 (15%)	5 (11%)
Thrombocytopenia	5 (10%)	6 (13%)
Lymphopenia	14 (29%)	14 (30%)
All grades 3 and 4 toxicities	34 (71%)	34 (72%)
Deaths due to toxicity*	5 (10%)	3 (6%)
Methotrexate dose reductions	12 (25%)	14 (30%)

	MPV-A (n= 47)	M-TMZ (n= 48)	p	
CR PR SD PD	<b>62%</b> 20% 2% 16%	<b>45%</b> 26% 7% 22%	0.11	
ORR	82%	71%	0.23	
A 100 - 100	Market Company of the	— Methotrexate, pr vincristine, and o — Methotrexate an temozolomide	ytarabine	
B 100 90 - 80 - 80 - 80 - 80 - 80 - 80 - 80				

# Elderly pts: PRIMAIN Trial (N= 108)

Primary chemoimmunotherapy (PRIMAIN regimen, 2 courses; every 35 days)

Rituximab 375 mg/m<sup>2</sup> standard infusion

Methotrexate  $3 \text{ g/m}^2$  0.5 g/m<sup>2</sup> in 15 min. + 2.5 g/m<sup>2</sup> in 3-hr inf.

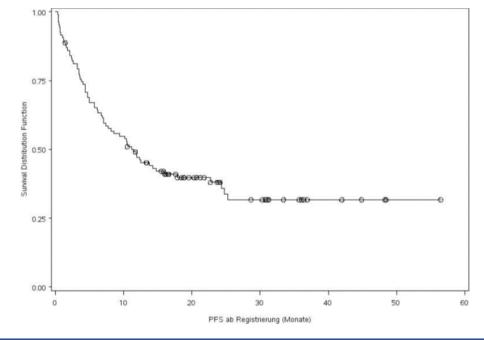
Procarbazine 60 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d oral

Procarbazine maintenance (6 courses; every 4 weeks)

Procarbazine 100 mg/d oral

oral	days 1 to 5

Best response	Values
CR	46 (42.6%)
PR	34 (31.5%)
PD	12 (11.1%)
SD	1 (0.9%)
Missing	15 (13.9%)



days -5, 0, 15 & 30

days 1, 15 & 30

days 1 to 10

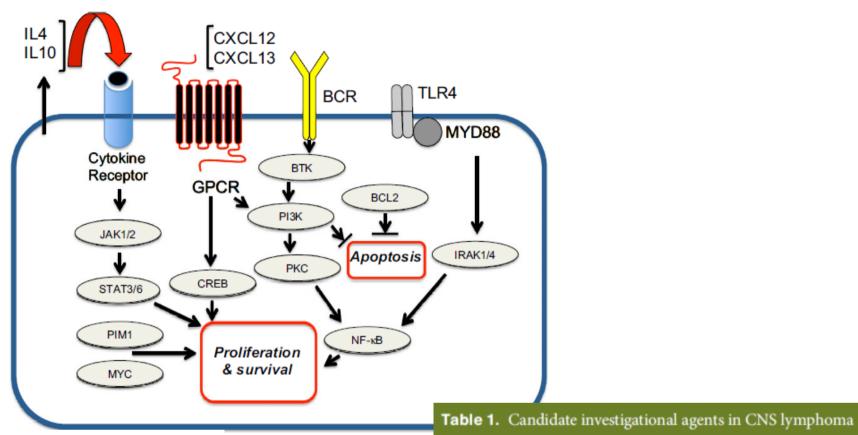
# Sanctuaries

- CSF and eyes (intrathecal and intravitreal chemo).
- IT/IV chemo efficacy has not been prospectively confirmed. Most trials do not include IT/IV drug delivery.
- IT is associated with additional risk of infective complications, neurotoxicity and chemical meningitis.
- HD-MTX ( $\geq$  3 g/m<sup>2</sup>) treats adequately meninges.
- IVi: is active, but toxic (visual acuity deterioration in 27%).
- Impact on OS???

# New Drugs

Regimen	N	ORR	m TTP	G3-4 N	G3-4 T	TD
Rituximab Batchelor T, et al. Neurology 2011	12	42%	8	0%	0%	0%
Temozolomide Reni M, et al. Br J Cancer 2007	36	31%	7+	6%	3%	0%
Temozolomide (Upfront - old) Kurzwelly D, et al. JNO 2010	17	53%	21+	12%	12%	0%
Temozolomide + Rituximab Enting RH, et al. Neurology 2004	15	53%	14	20%	27%	0%
Temozolomide + Rituximab Wong ET, et al. Cancer 2004	7	100%	6			0%
Topotecan Voloschin A, et al. <i>JNO</i> 2008	15	40%	3	73%	20%	0%
Topotecan Fischer L, et al. Ann Oncol 2006	27	33%	9	25%	11%	13%
Pemetrexed Raizer JJ, et al. Cancer 2012	11	55%	6	63%	50%	13%
Temsirolimus Korfel A, et al. JCO 2016	37	54%	2	20%	22%	14%

#### Molecular components of oncogenic survival signalling in PCNSL



Chia-Ching W, et al. BJH 2014

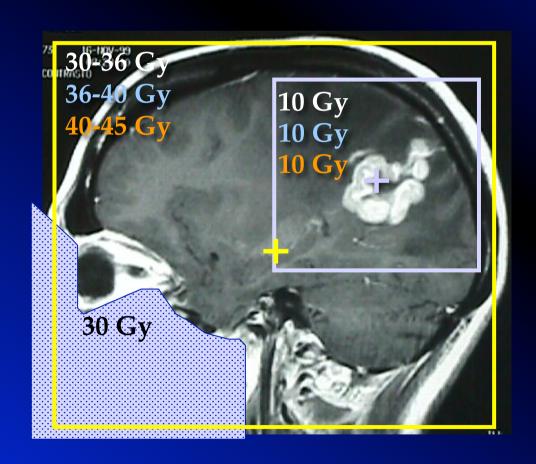
Candidate pathway	Investigational agent		
B-cell receptor	Ibrutinib, fostamatinib, BKM120, GA101		
JAK/STAT	Ruxolitinib		
IRF4/MUM1	Lenalidomide, pomalidomide		
BCL-6	RI-BPI		
NFkB	MALT1 inhibitors		
CXCL12, CXCL13	Plerixafor (AMD3100), BKM120, GA101		
PIM kinases	SGI-1776		
Mtor	Temsirolimus, everolimus		

Ponzoni M, et al. Ann Oncol 2014

# Radiation Field



# **Radiation Doses**

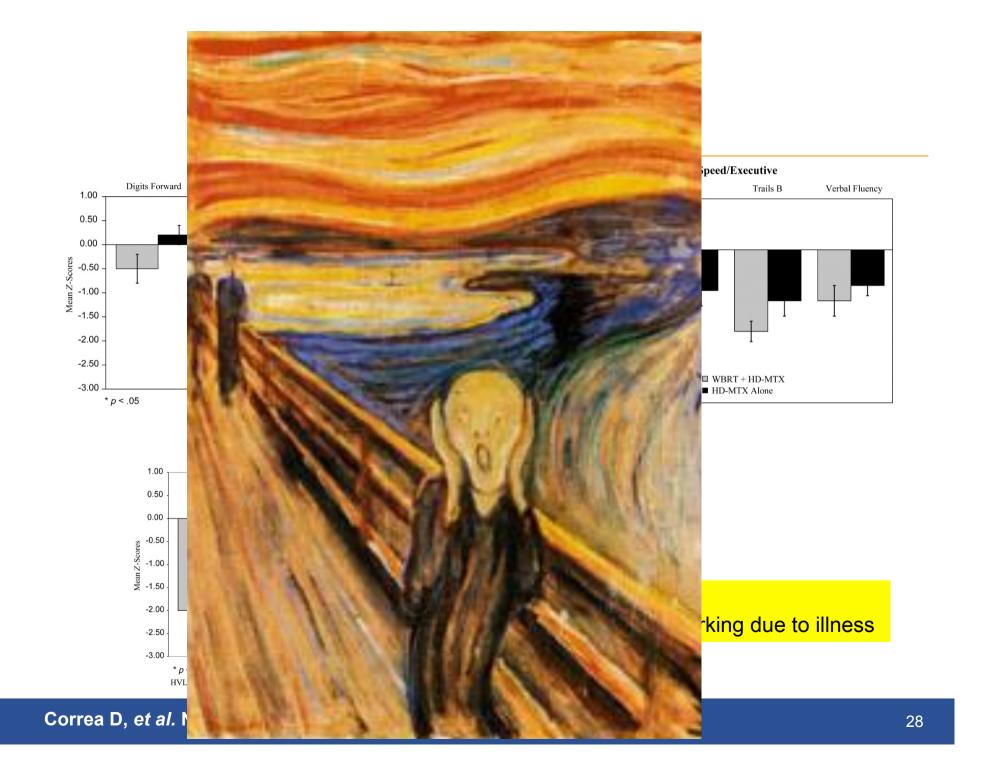


**RESPONSE** 

COMPLETE REMISSION

PARTIAL RESPONSE

PROGRESSIVE DISEASE



# Reducing Neurotoxicity Risk

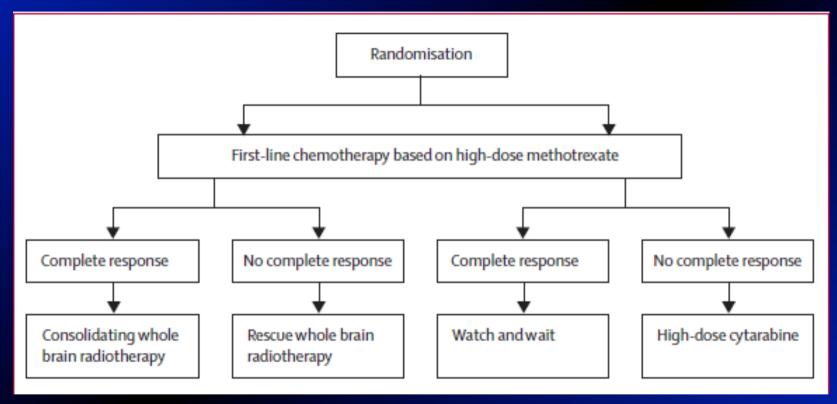
✓ To avoid consolidation RT (only CRs).

**✓** To improve radiation parameters.

**✓** To replace RT with other strategies.

# Consolidation RT withdrawal?

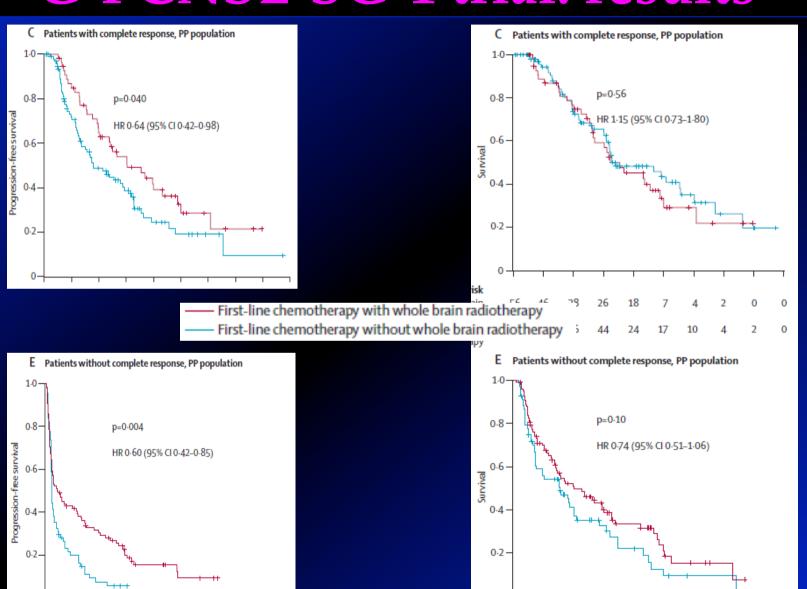
### **G-PCNSL-SG-1** trial



551 pts with newly diagnosed PCNSL were enrolled from 75 German Centers and treated between 2000 and 2009

Thiel E, et al. Lancet Oncol 2011

# **G-PCNSL-SG-1** trial: results



**RADIOTHERAPY** 

# Has the role of WBRT in primary CNS lymphoma been settled?

Lisa M. DeAngelis

The use of whole-brain radiation therapy (WBRT) in the treatment of primary central nervous system lymphoma is controversial. A recent randomized study addressing the use of this therapy was flawed and questions remain about the use of WBRT in these patients.

DeAngelis, L. M. Nat. Rev. Clin. Oncol. 8, 196-198 (2011); published online 8 February 2011;

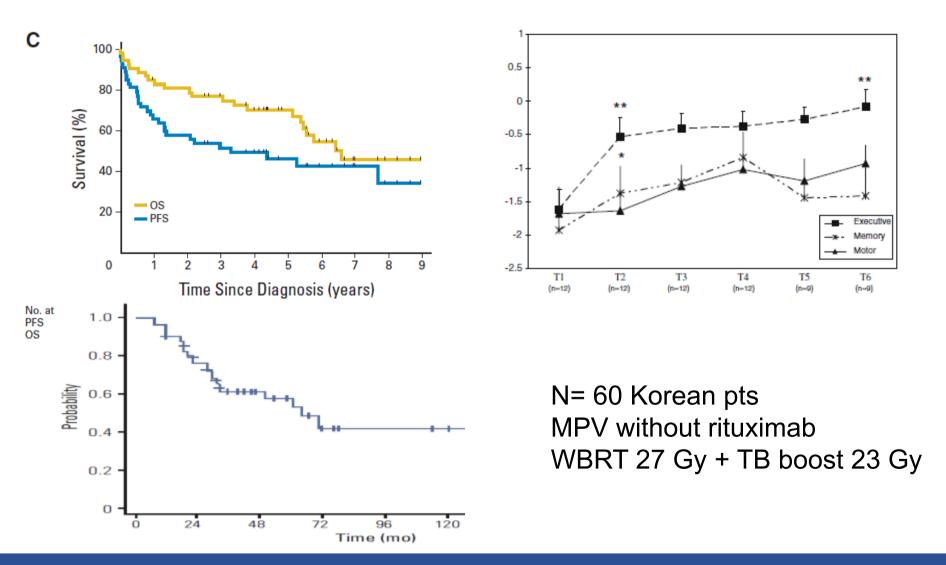
The trial was inconclusive, but the authors proceeded with further analyses...

#### **Practice point**

Further study is necessary to clarify the true role of whole-brain radiation therapy for patients with primary central nervous system lymphoma.

European studies are randomizing patients to high-dose chemotherapy with autologous stem-cell transplant versus WBRT after induction chemotherapy. Although these European studies are necessarily limited to younger patients because of the transplant option, I do not think that either patients or physicians should hesitate to be randomized to a regimen that incorporates WBRT on the basis of this recently published *Lancet Oncology* article.<sup>4</sup>

## Low-dose WBRT



Morris PG, et al. JCO 2013; Correa DD, et al. JNO 2009; Kim BH, et al. Cancer Res Treat. 2014

## **Consolidative HDC/ASCT**

N°	Age m(r) PS m(r)	Induction	CRR (%)	Conditioning	ASCT (%)	F-up (mo)	2-yr EFS (%)	TRM (%)		
25	51 (21-60) PS3-4: 32%	MVpBP +itx/araC	44	BEAM + RT	68	34	<mark>60</mark> Colombat P, et al. 1	4 BMT 2006		
28	53 (25-71) 70 (30-100)	MTX araC	18	BEAM	50	28	<b>20</b> Abrey L, et al	<mark>0</mark> . JCO 2003		
11	52 (33-65) PS1: 91%	MTX araC	73	Bus, CTX VP16 ± RT	100	25	30 Yoon DH, et al.	0 BMT 2011		
23	55 (18-70)	MTX	13	Thiotepa	70	15	45	13		
	70 (30-100)			Busulfan		Montemurro M, et al. Ann Oncol 2007				
21	56 (34-69)	MTX	<b>24</b>	Thiotepa	100	60	<b>72</b>	14		
	PS>1: 70%	± others		Bus, CTX		Alimohamed N, et al. L&L 2012				
30	54 (27-64)	MTX	37	Thiotepa	77	140	81	3		
	70 (30-100)	araC, TTP		BCNU + RT		Kasenda B, et al. Ann Oncol 2012				
13	54 (38-67)	MTX	<b>54</b>	Thiotepa	85	72	77	0		
	90 (30-100)	araC, TTP		BCNU ± RT		Kasenda B, et al. Ann Oncol 2012				

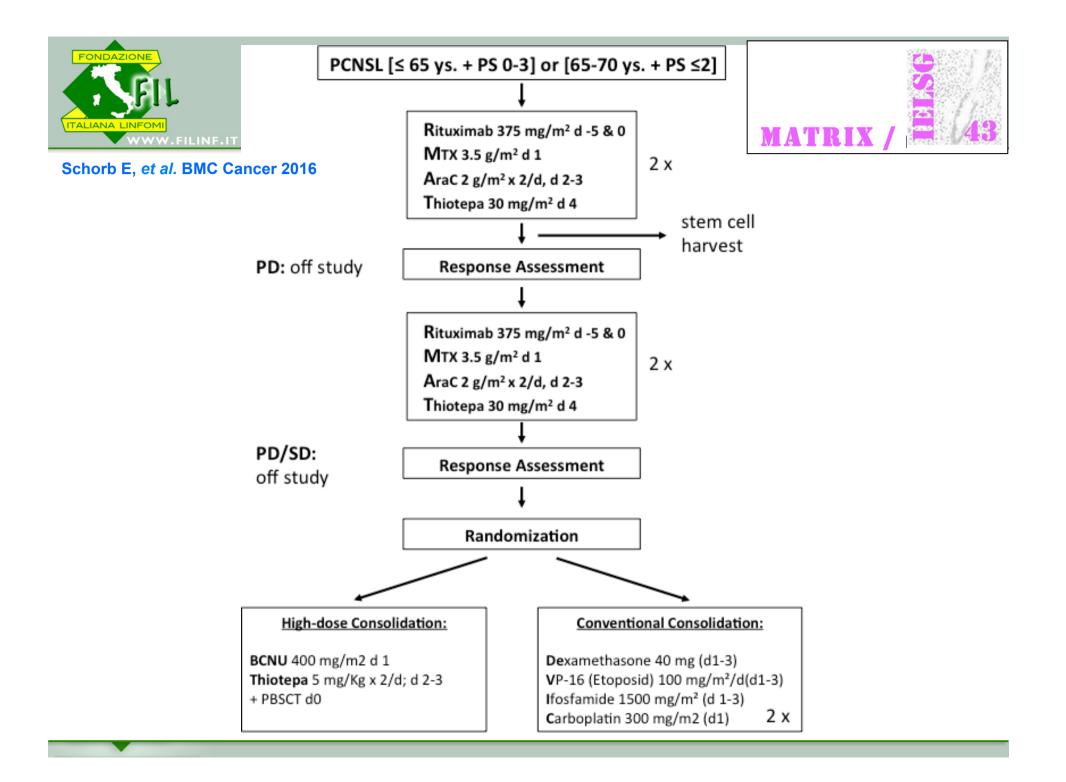
### **ASCT vs. Alternatives**

IELSG32: WBRT vs. ASCT

PRECIS: WBRT vs. ASCT

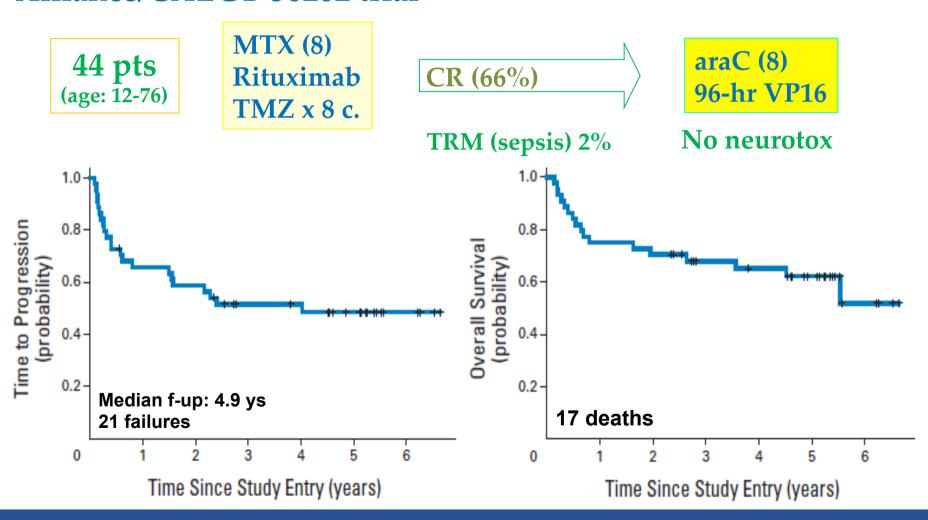
IELSG43 (MATRix): ASCT vs. NMC

ALLIANCE: ASCT vs. NMC

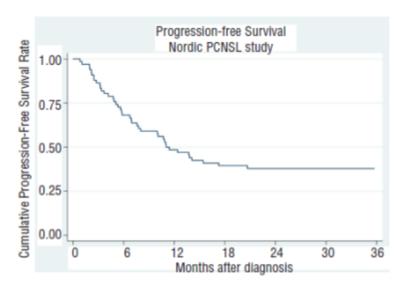


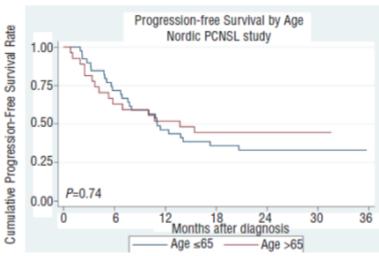
## Non-Myeloablative Chemo

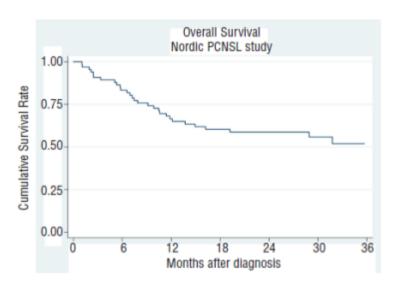
#### Alliance/CALGB 50202 trial

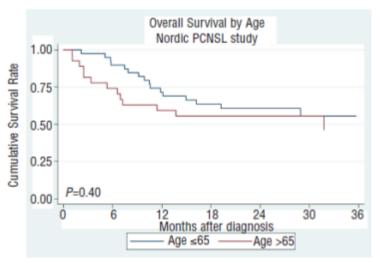


### Nordic Trial: TMZ maintenance









# Strategies for Future Studies

- To potentiate early diagnosis
- To identify new active drugs
- To amply our biological and molecular knowledge
- To establish reliable prognostic factors & potential targets
- To enhance drug bioavailability
- To improve radiation therapy
- To reduce neurotoxicity and improve patients' QoL
- To improve international cooperation

### International Collaborative Group Against Primary CNS Lymphomas

To the Editor: Current therapeutic knowledge in primary CNS lymphoma (PCNSL) has come from nonrandomized phase II trials, meta-analyses of published series, and large, retrospective, multicenter series. Despite the fact that literature on PCNSL has been increasing, several fundamental therapeutic questions remain unanswered. The evaluation of new first-line chemotherapy combinations in nonrandomized phase II trials, even in large series with adequate follow-up, has produced some therapeutic progress, but the 5-year progression-free survival for patients with PCNSL remains approximately 25%. In a recent editorial written by Dr H.A. Fine in the Journal of Clinical Oncology, several important issues with respect to PCNSL research and treatment were enumerated. In this editorial, Dr Fine concluded that further single-arm phase II trials will not add significant, new information and that it is time to proceed with cooperative group, multi-institutional randomized trials to address the most pressing clinical questions in PCNSL. To date, only one randomized trial for patients with PCNSL has been published. Some authorities contend that the rarity of PCNSL is a major obstacle for the development and execution of randomized trials. However, arrangths must 2 many many than 950 nations with navely discussed DONICI

representation including laboratory investigators, pathologists, oncologists, radiation oncologists, neurologists, hematologists, and biostatisticans. An international, multidisciplinary collaborative group is an ideal setting in which to address some of the fundamental clinical and biologic research questions for PCNSL. In the years ahead, it is hoped that the International PCNSL Collaborative Group established under the sponsorship of the IELSG will assume a prominent role in such investigations.

Andrés J.M. Ferreri San Raffael H Scientific Institute Milan, Italy

Tracy Batchelor Harvard Medical School Massachusetts General Hospital Boston, MA

Emanuele Zucca

#### JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

#### Ten Years of International Primary CNS Lymphoma Collaborative Group Studies

To the Editor: Ten years ago, we announced in *Journal of Clinical Oncology* the formation of a multidisciplinary scientific group focused on primary CNS lymphomas (PCNSL) called the International PCNSL Collaborative Group (IPCG). Since then, more than 100 researchers and clinicians working on PCNSL from 19 countries have been actively involved in this group, established under the sponsorship of the International Extranodal Lymphoma Study Group with conference grant support from the National Cancer Institute (Grant No. R13CA124293). Since 2003, this multidisciplinary group has met annually or biannually, in Europe or the United States, and meetings

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#### AUTHORS' DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Although all authors completed the disclosure declaration, the following author(s) and/or an author's immediate family member(s) indicated a financial or other interest that is relevant to the subject matter under consideration in this article. Certain relationships marked with a "U" are those for which no compensation was received; those relationships marked

## Trends in Survival

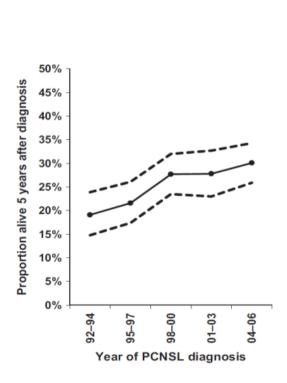
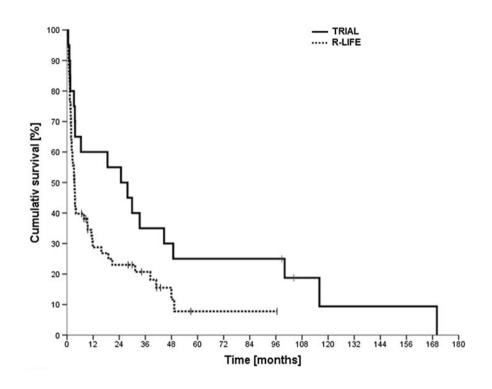


Fig 3. Age-standardized 5-year survival estimates for HIV-uninfected PCNSLs by 3-year categories of calendar year of diagnosis in 10 SEER registries during 1992-2005. Points represent estimates and dashed lines represent 95% confidence intervals.



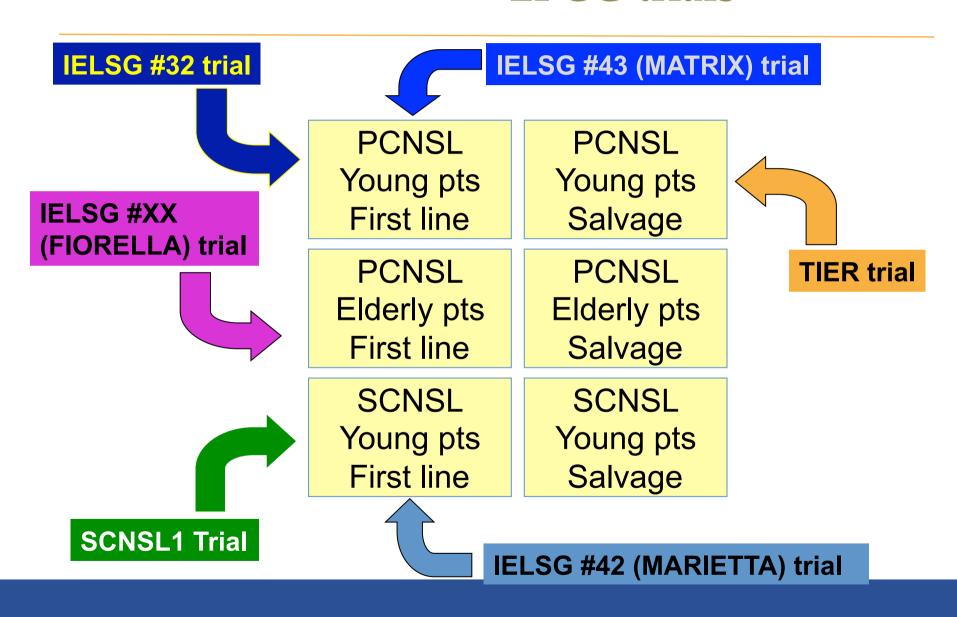
# **European PCNSL Collaborative Group**

## 14 participants of 11 Countries

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Shared Ideas ⇒ Facts

### **EPCG** trials



## Acknowledgments

- Our patients and their families
- National Coordinators and DMSC Offices
- Hematologists, oncologists, neuro-radiologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, researchers, psychologists, data managers and research nurses of participating centers
- Colleagues, data managers, co-chairs and friends of the International Extranodal Lymphoma Study Group (IELSG)
- Institutions supporting our trials: Agenzia Italiana del Farmaco, Cancer Research UK,
   Oncosuisse and Swiss National Foundation
- Colleagues, data managers and friends of the Fondazione Italiana Linfomi (FIL)
- Colleagues and friends of the European PCNSL Collaborative Group (EPCG)
- Colleagues and friends of the International PCNSL Collaborative Group (IPCG)
- Unit of Lymphoid Malignancies of the San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milano