



Chronic Malignancies Working Party



Risk adapted transplant:

Remission-induced transplant

Ibrahim Yakoub-Agha, MD, PHD

MYELODYSPLASTIC SYNDROMES: CHAOS AND ORDER

October 26, 2018

IRST, Meldola





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No conflict of interest





Myelodysplastic Syndrome is a heterogeneous group of

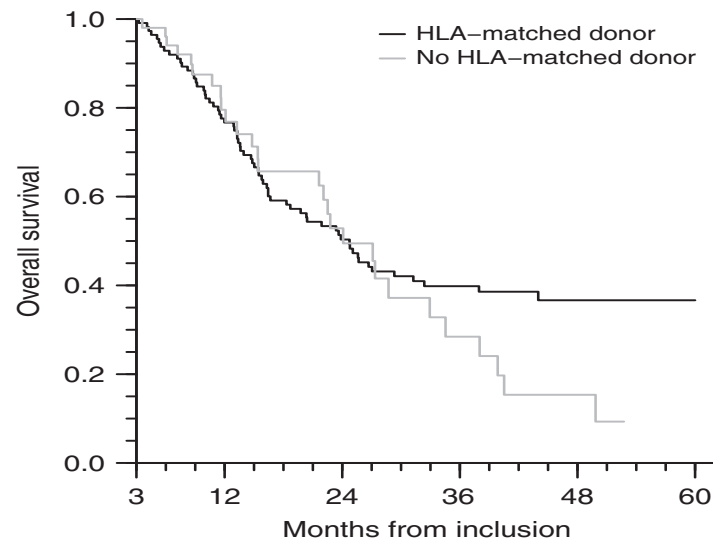
Allogeneic stem cell transplantation is the only curative treatment for patients with MDS.....*

* Every single article dealing with allo-HCT in MDS patients.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

HLA-matched allogeneic stem cell transplantation improves outcome of higher risk myelodysplastic syndrome A prospective study on behalf of SFGM-TC and GFM

M Robin^{1,2,3}, R Porcher^{4,5}, L Adès⁶, E Raffoux⁷, M Michallet⁸, S François⁹, J-Y Cahn¹⁰, A Delmer¹¹, E Wattel⁸, S Vigouroux¹², J-O Bay¹³, J Cornillon¹⁴, A Huynh¹⁵, S Nguyen¹⁶, M-T Rubio¹⁷, L Vincent¹⁸, N Maillard¹⁹, A Charbonnier²⁰, RP de Latour^{1,2,3}, O Reman²¹, H Dombret^{2,6}, P Fenaux^{2,6} and G Socié^{1,2,3}



No. at risk:

HLA-matched donor	112	85	63	50	39	33	23	14	8	5
No matched donor	50	29	21	15	8	6	3	2	0	0



Nevertheless,

* Every single article dealing with allo-HCT in MDS patients.



Nevertheless, this approach is still associated with potentially life-threatening complications such as conditioning-regimen toxicity, graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) and relapse*

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Nevertheless, this approach is still associated with potentially life-threatening complications such as conditioning-regimen toxicity, graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) and **post-transplant relapse***

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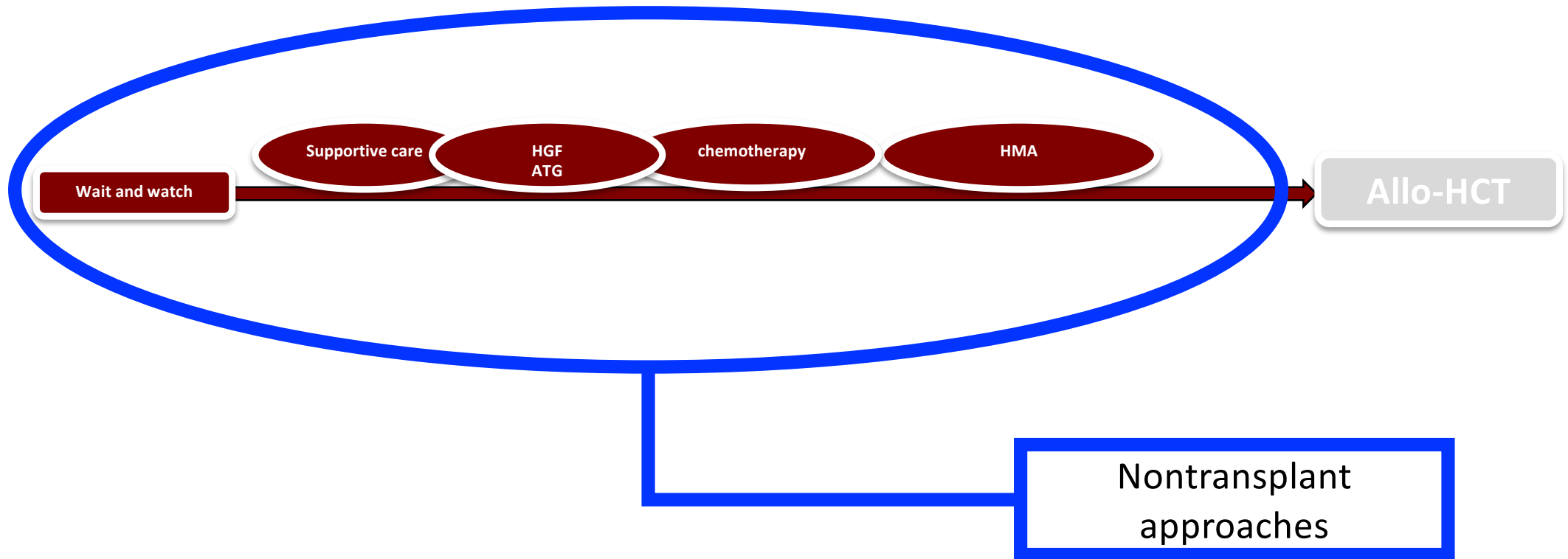
Management of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS)

- Therapeutic approaches include:



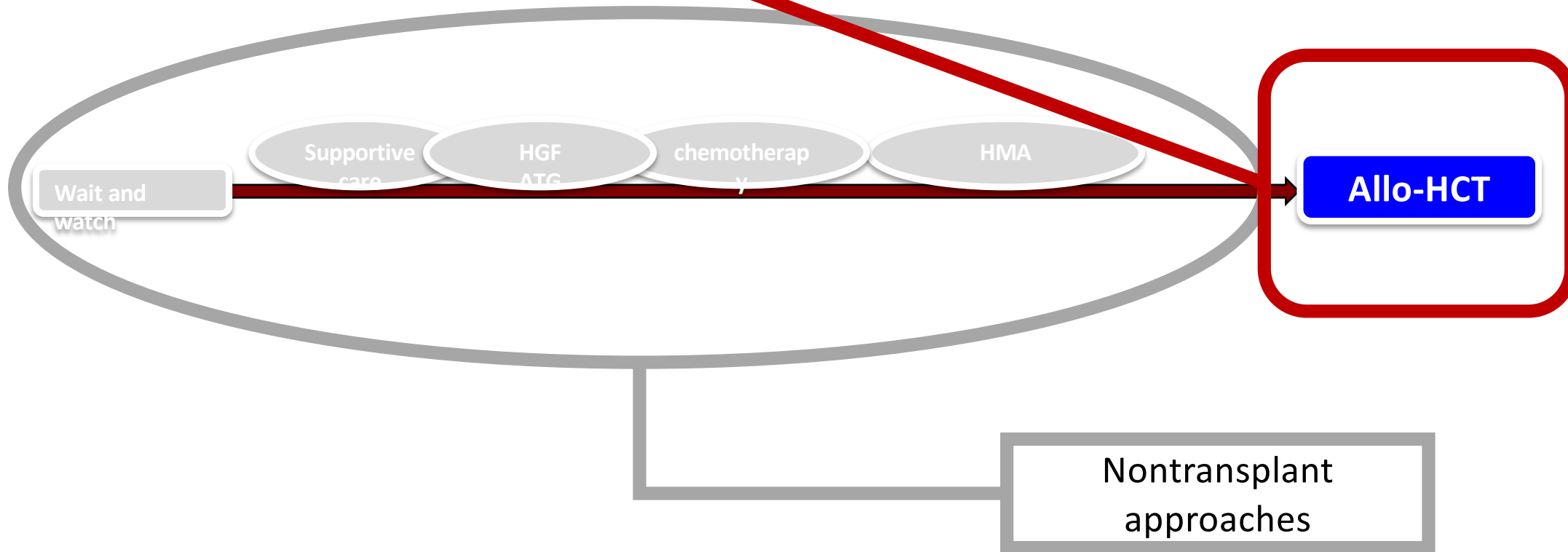
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Management of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS)

In 2018: allo-SCH is still the best therapeutic option for higher risk MDS.

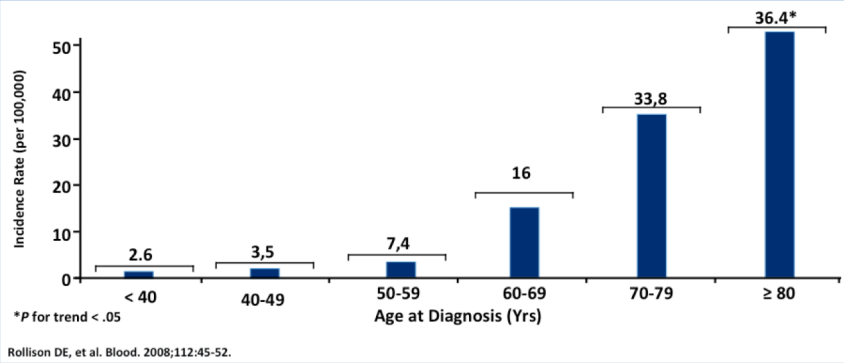


Management of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS)

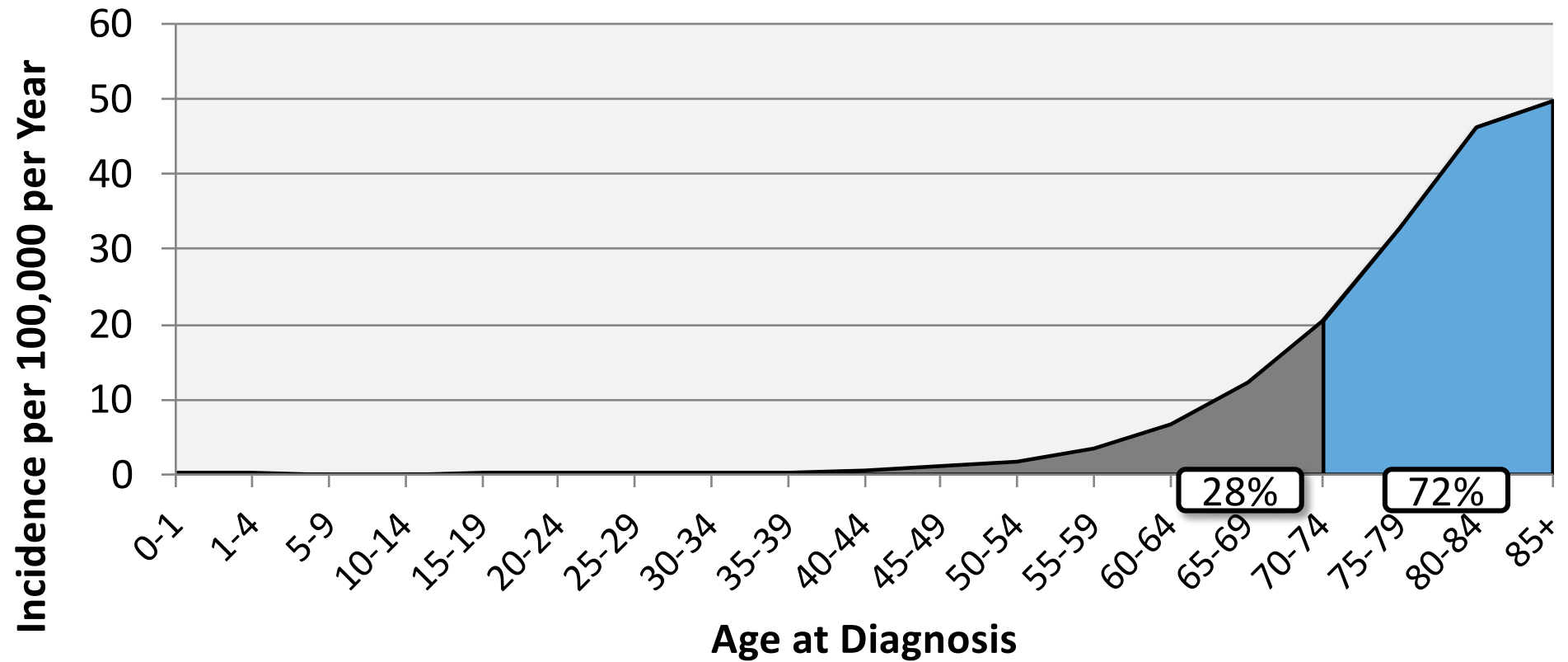
Epidemiology

Confirmed diagnosis of MDS

Common diagnosis of MDS



Age-Specific (Crude) SEER Incidence Rates of MDS (M &F) 2000-2009



Transplant-related Mortality: impact of the age?

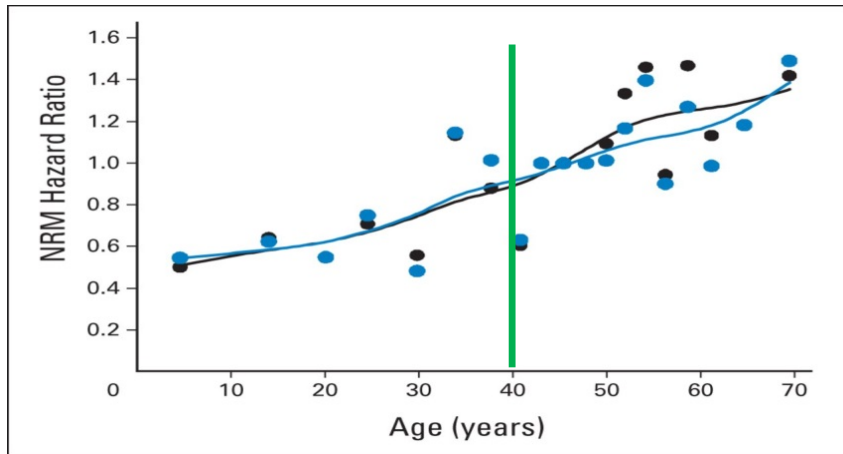


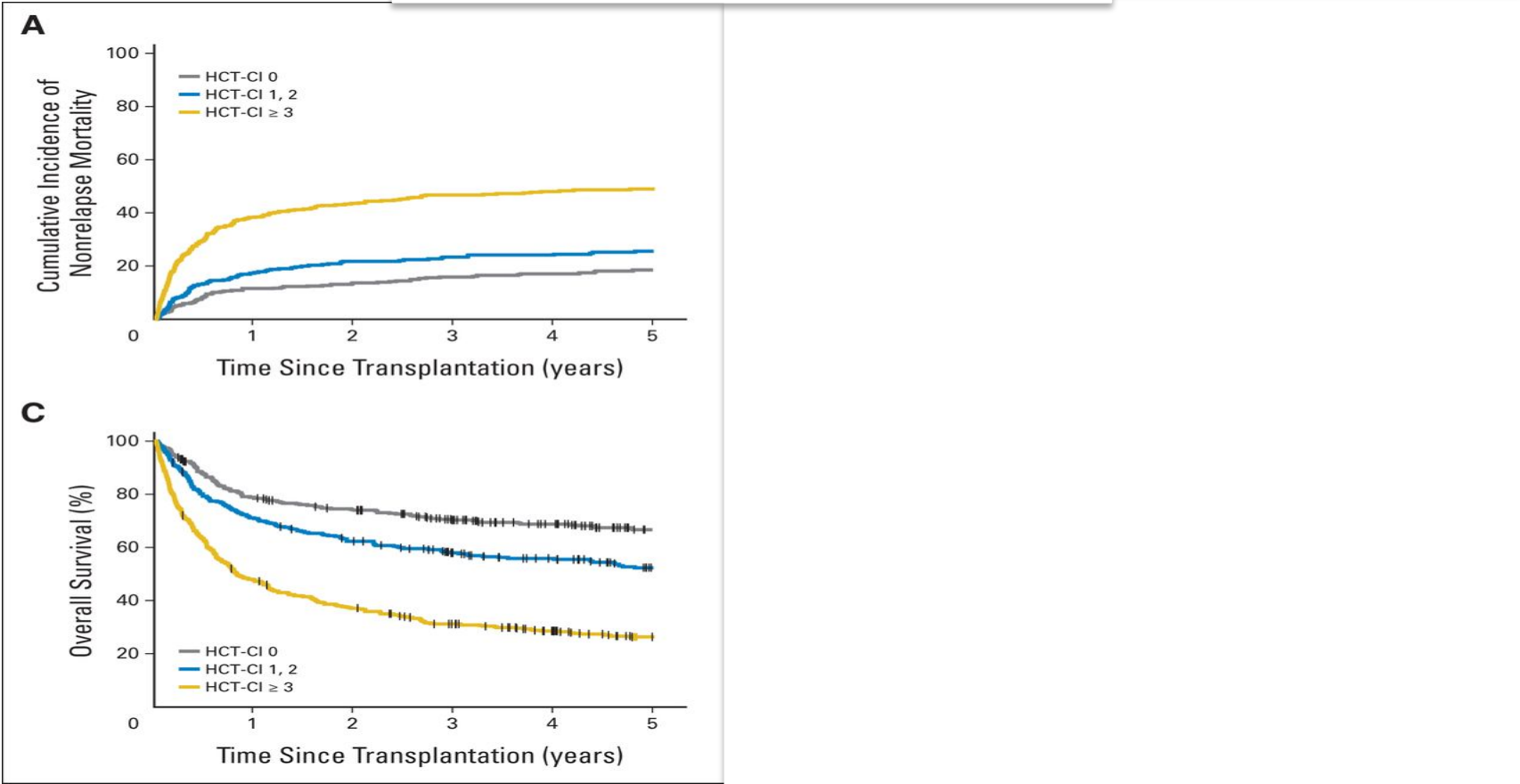
Table 3. Cumulative Incidence and HR for Nonrelapse Mortality Stratified by Regimen Intensity and Age

Age Group by Regimen Intensity (years)	Cumulative 2-Year Incidence (%)	Univariable			Multivariable*		
		HR	95% CI	P	HR	95% CI	P
Myeloablative							
0-39	21	1.0			1.0		
≥ 40	32	1.58	1.3 to 1.9	< .001	1.35	1.1 to 1.6	.004
Reduced intensity							
0-39	24	1.0			1.0		
≥ 40	34	2.02	1.3 to 3.0	< .001	1.52	1.0 to 2.4	.07
Nonmyeloablative							
0-39	16	1.0			1.0		
≥ 40	23	1.68	1.0 to 2.8	.04	2.01	1.1 to 3.6	.02

Abbreviations: ATG, antithymocyte globulin; CMV, cytomegalovirus; HCT-CI, hematopoietic cell transplantation–comorbidity index; HR, hazard ratio; KPS, Karnofsky performance status.

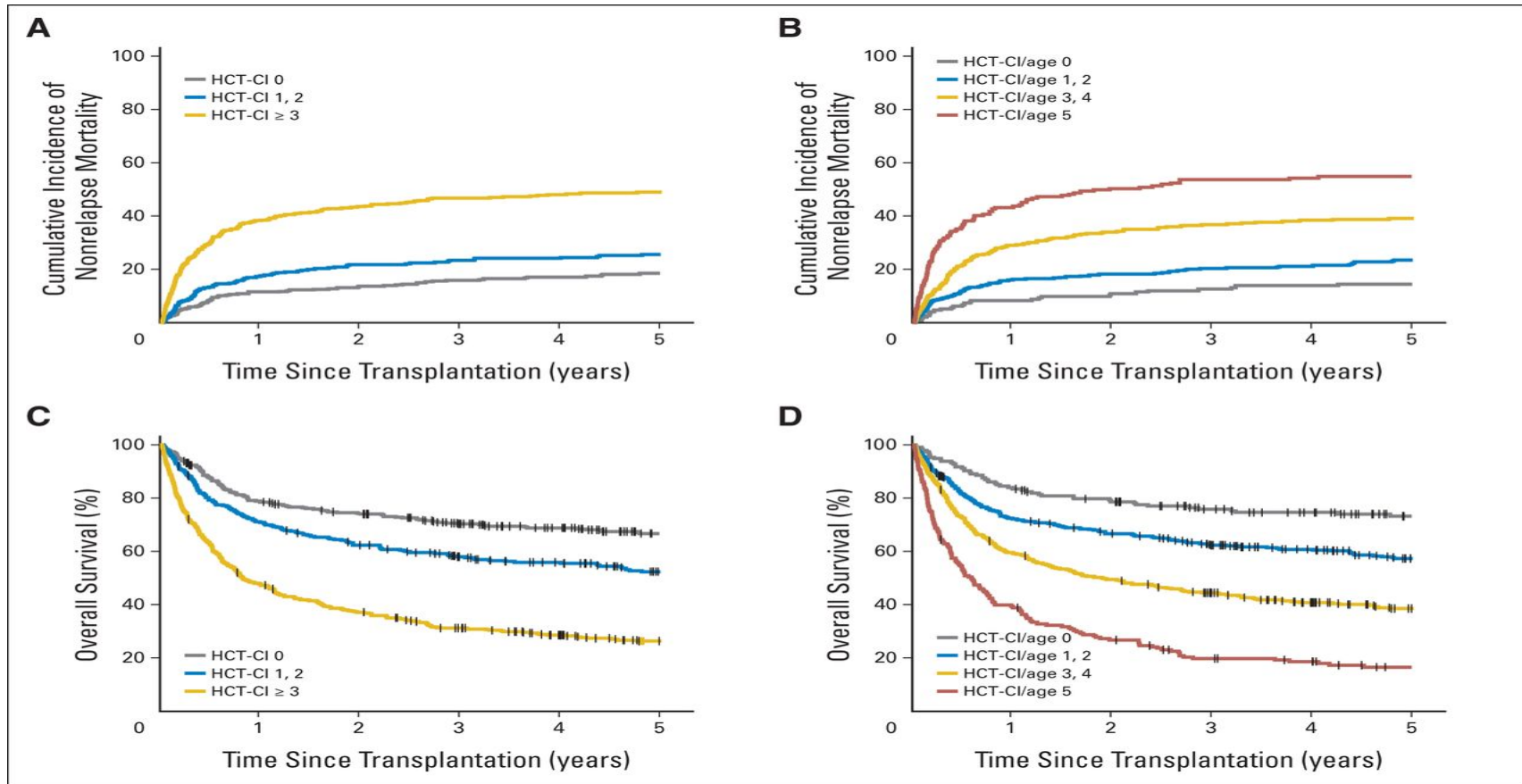
*Cox regression models were adjusted for diagnosis category, disease risk, HCT-CI risk group, donor type, stem-cell source, KPS percentage, No. of prior regimens, use of ATG, and CMV serology status.

Comparisons of outcome stratifications by the hematopoietic cell transplantation–comorbidity index (HCT-CI) and the



Mohamed L. Sorrow et al. JCO 2014;32:3249-3256

Comparisons of outcome stratifications by the hematopoietic cell transplantation–comorbidity index (HCT-CI) and the composite comorbidity/age index (HCT-CI/age).



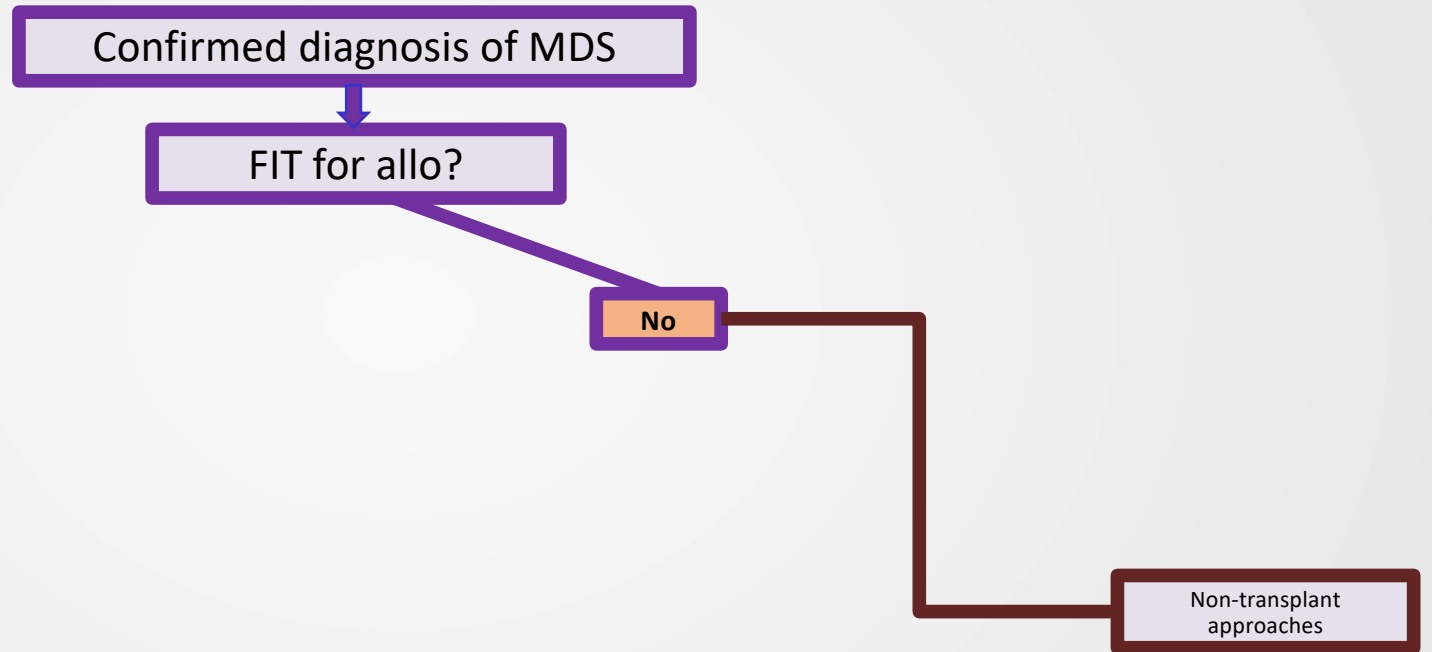
Mohamed L. Sorror et al. JCO 2014;32:3249-3256

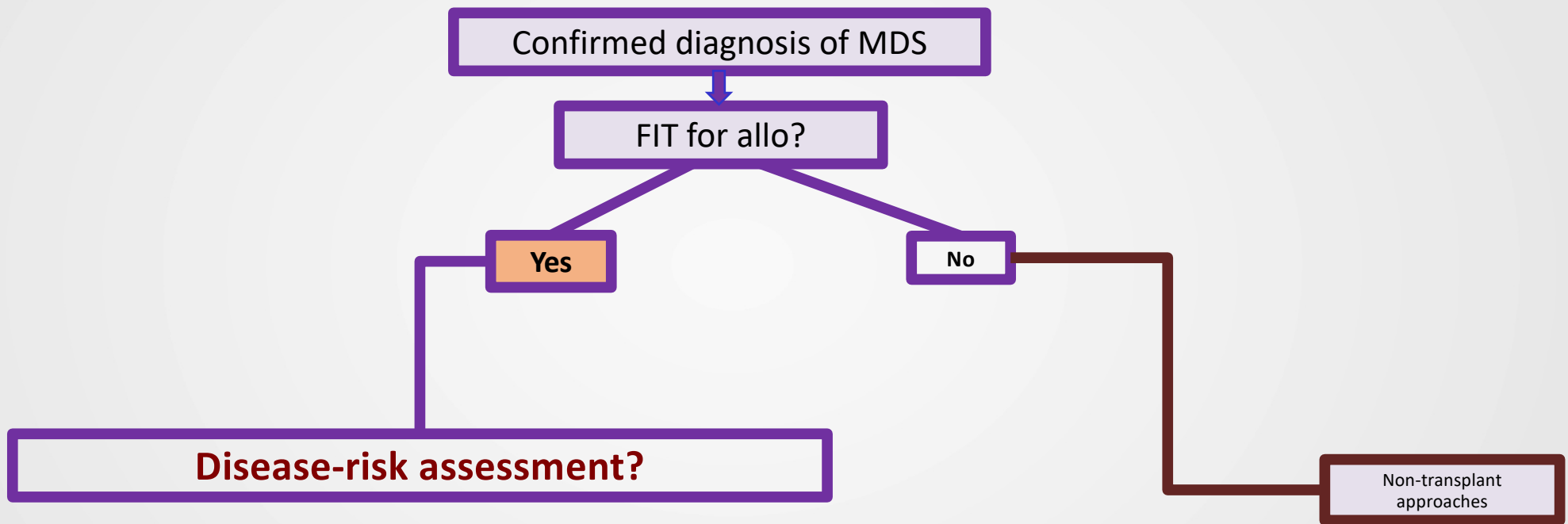
« *Fit patient* »

- Patient aged < 70 years (reasonable) *
- Age-adjusted/CI < 5 **

* Dewitt et al, Blood 2017

**Sorrer et al, JCO 2014



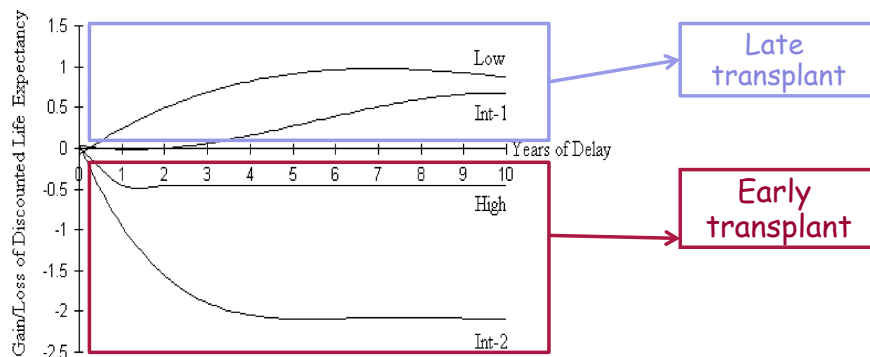


What scoring system to use?

- The ELN* and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)** formulated the general recommendation for allo-HCT at diagnosis based on IPSS.

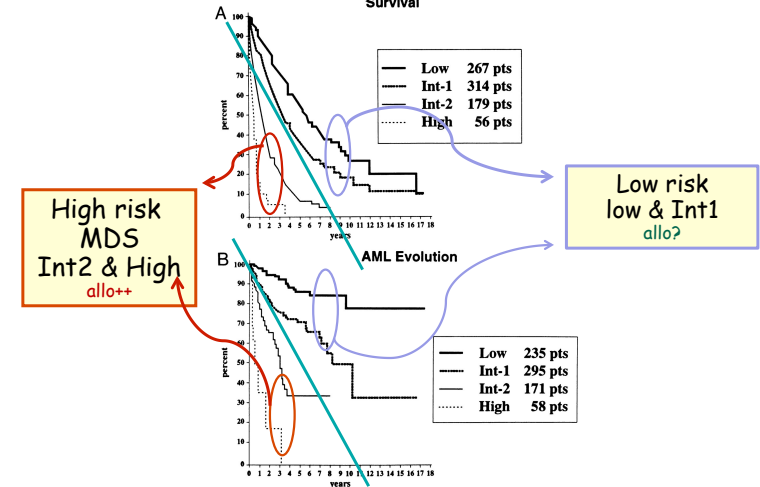
* Malcovati, *et al* 2013, ** Greenberg, *et al* 2013

Net benefit or loss of overall discounted life expectancy for the 4 IPSS risk groups are shown above and below the x-axis



Cutler, C. S. *et al.* Blood 2004;104:579-585

International MDS Risk Classification Survival



Greenberg, P. *et al.* Blood 1997;89:2079-2088

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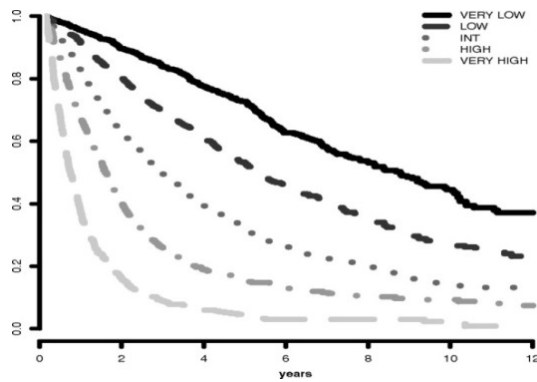
- The ELN* and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)** formulated the general recommendation for allo-CST at diagnosis based on IPSS.
- More recently, an international expert panel from of the EBMT, ELN, BBT Clinical Trial Group and the International MDS Foundation, adjusted this general recommendation to the IPSS-R risk score.***

* Malcovati, *et al* 2013,

** Greenberg, *et al* 2013

*** Dewitt et al, Blood 2017

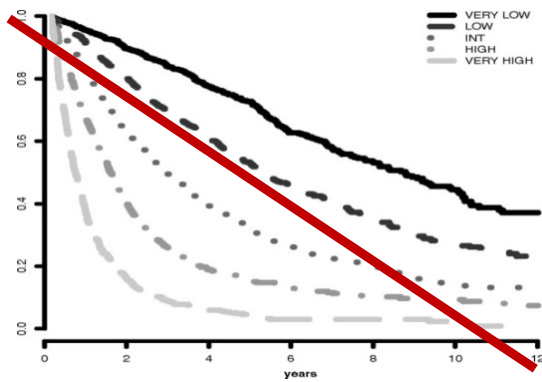
Survival based on IPSS-R prognostic risk-based categories.



IPSS-R Risk category (% IPSS-R pop.)	Overall score	Median survival (y) in the absence of therapy	25% AML progression (y) in the absence of therapy
VERY LOW (19)	≤1.5	8.8	Not reached
LOW (38)	>1.5-≤3.0	5.3	10.8
INT (20)	>3.0-≤4.5	3	3.2
HIGH (13)	>4.5-≤6.0	1.6	1.4
VERY HIGH (10)	>6.0	0.8	0.7

Peter L. Greenberg et al. Blood 2012;120:2454-2465

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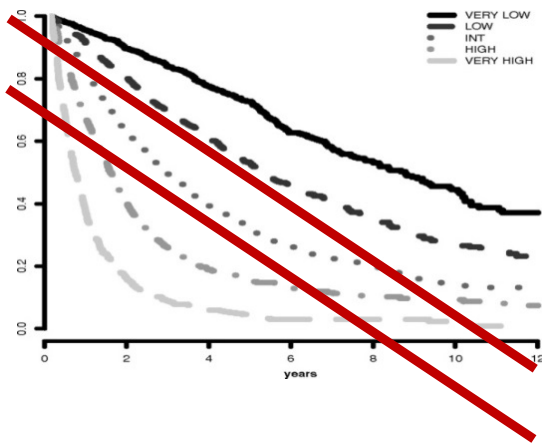


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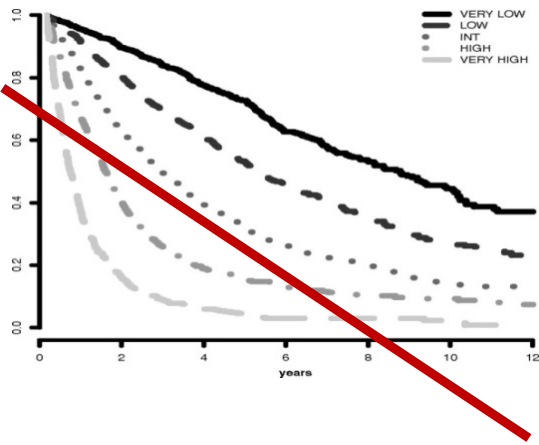


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Confirmed diagnosis of MDS



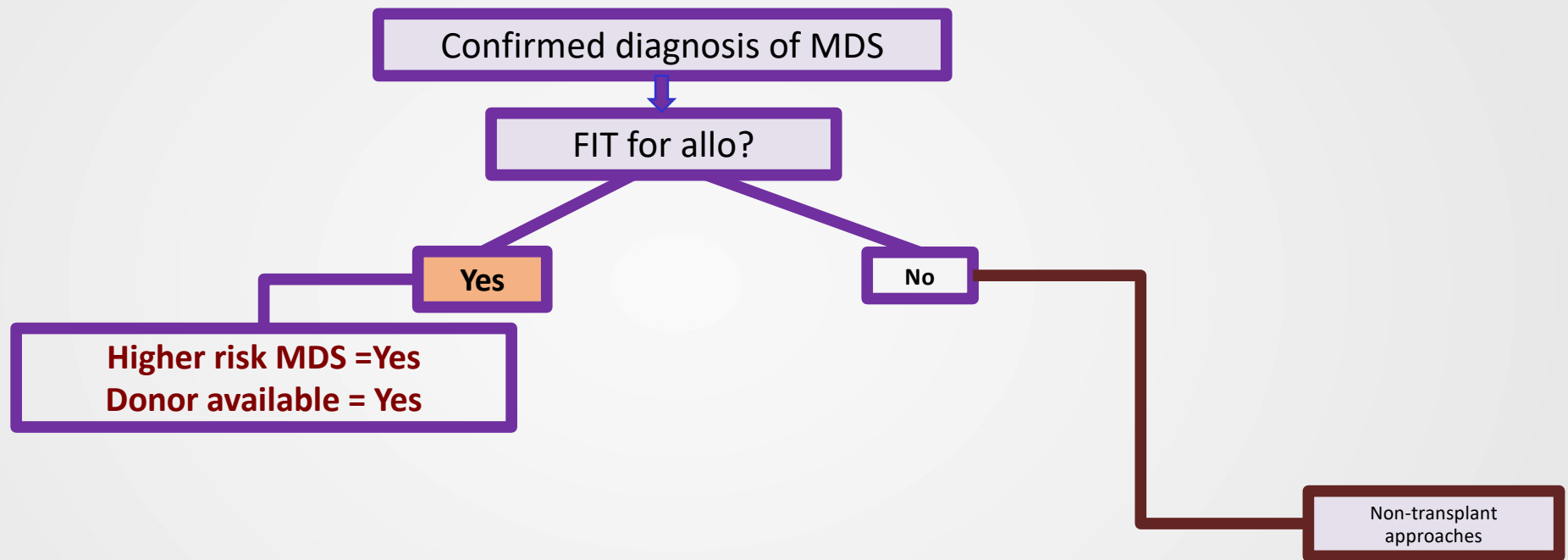
FIT for allo?

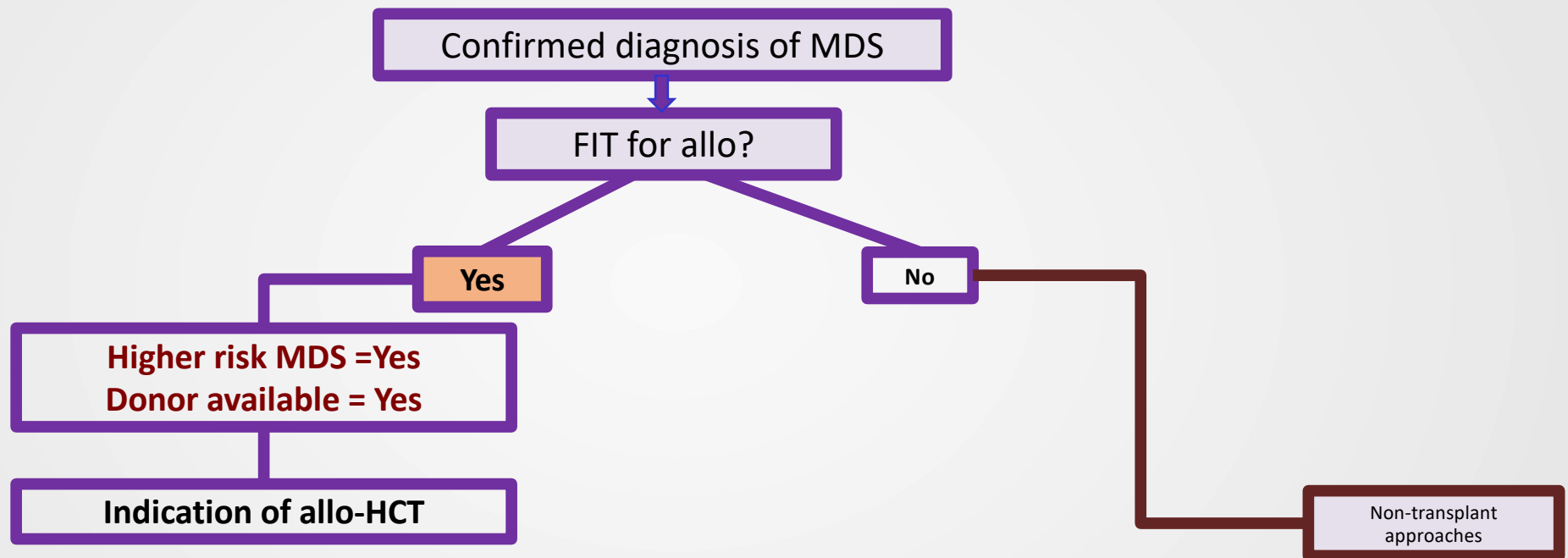
Yes

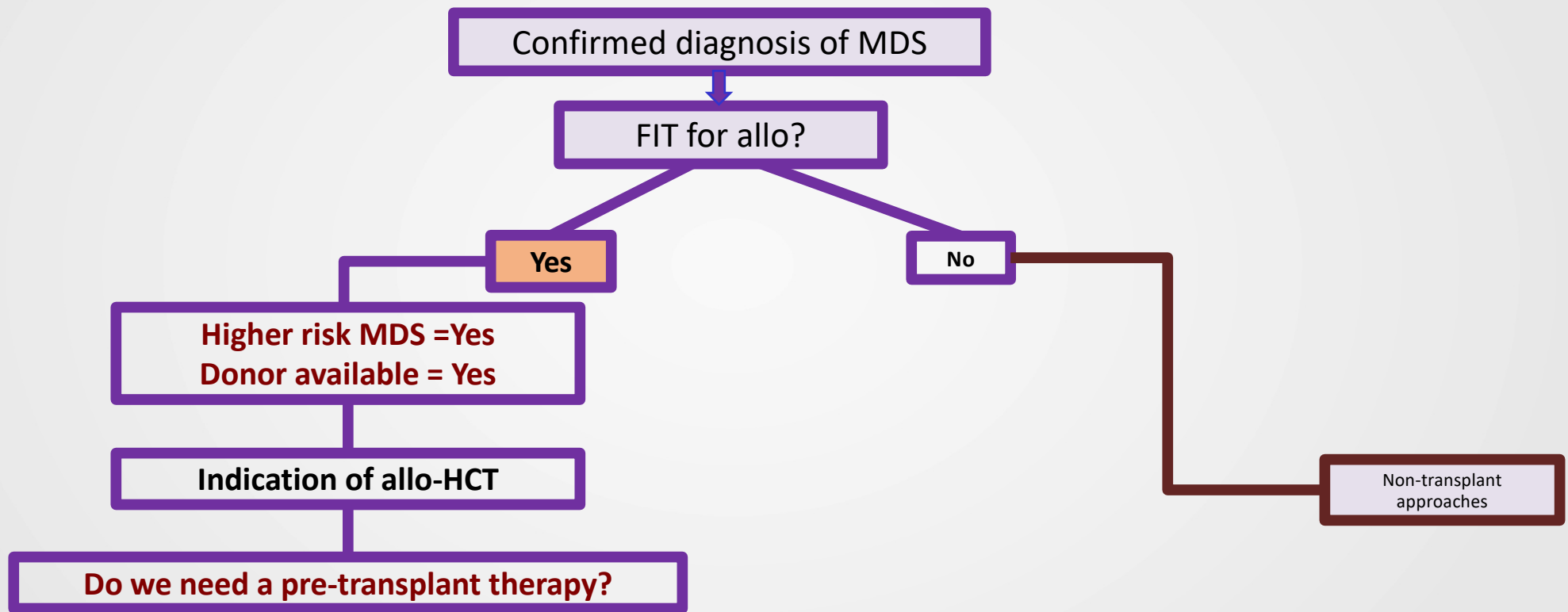
No



Non-transplant approaches







Why Pre-transplant Therapy?

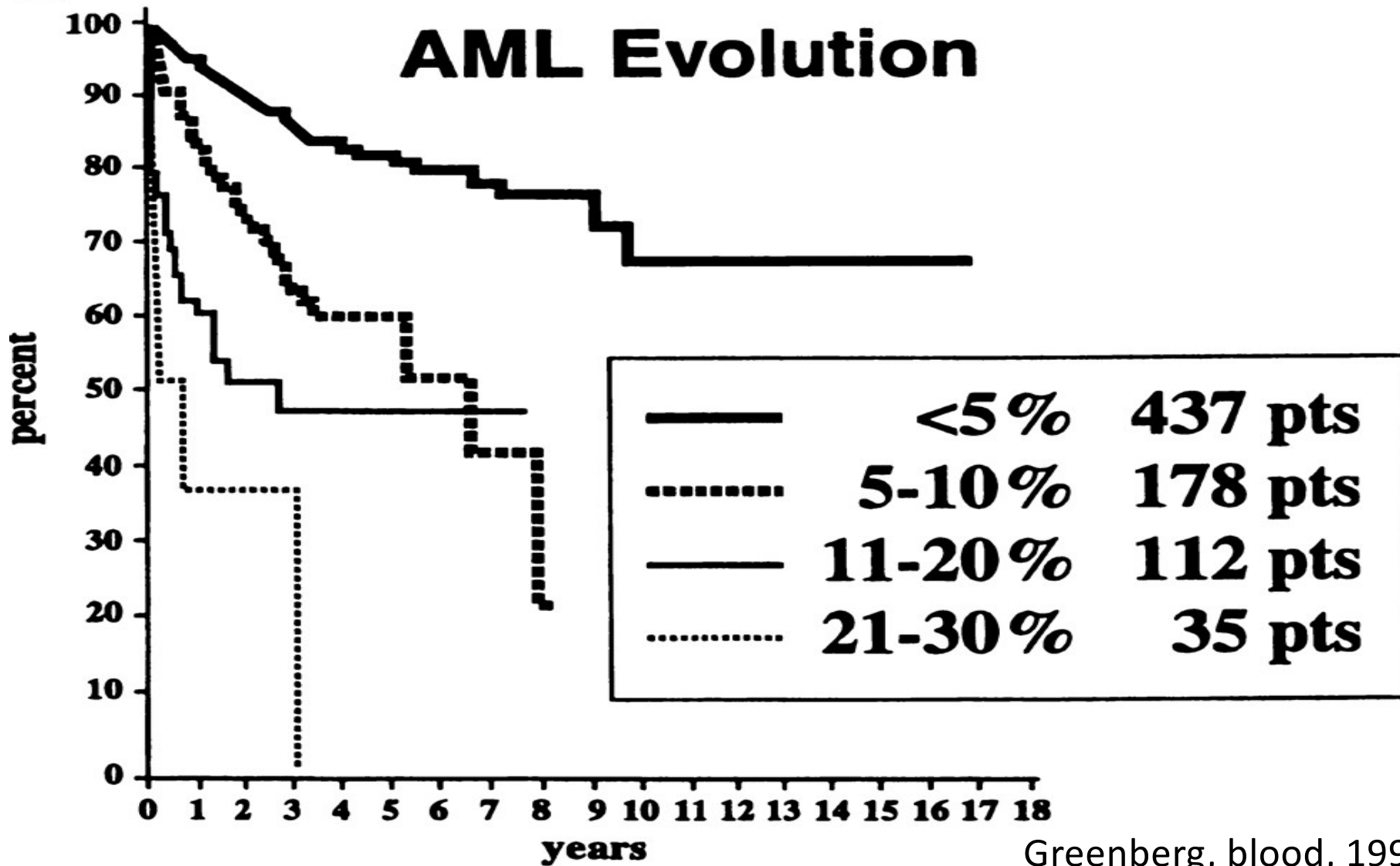
- **“Buy time”** prior to transplant (“bridging”)
- **Cytoreduction**
 - Lower risk of post-transplant relapse in responders
 - Lower MDS burden – time for donor cells to exert GvL effect

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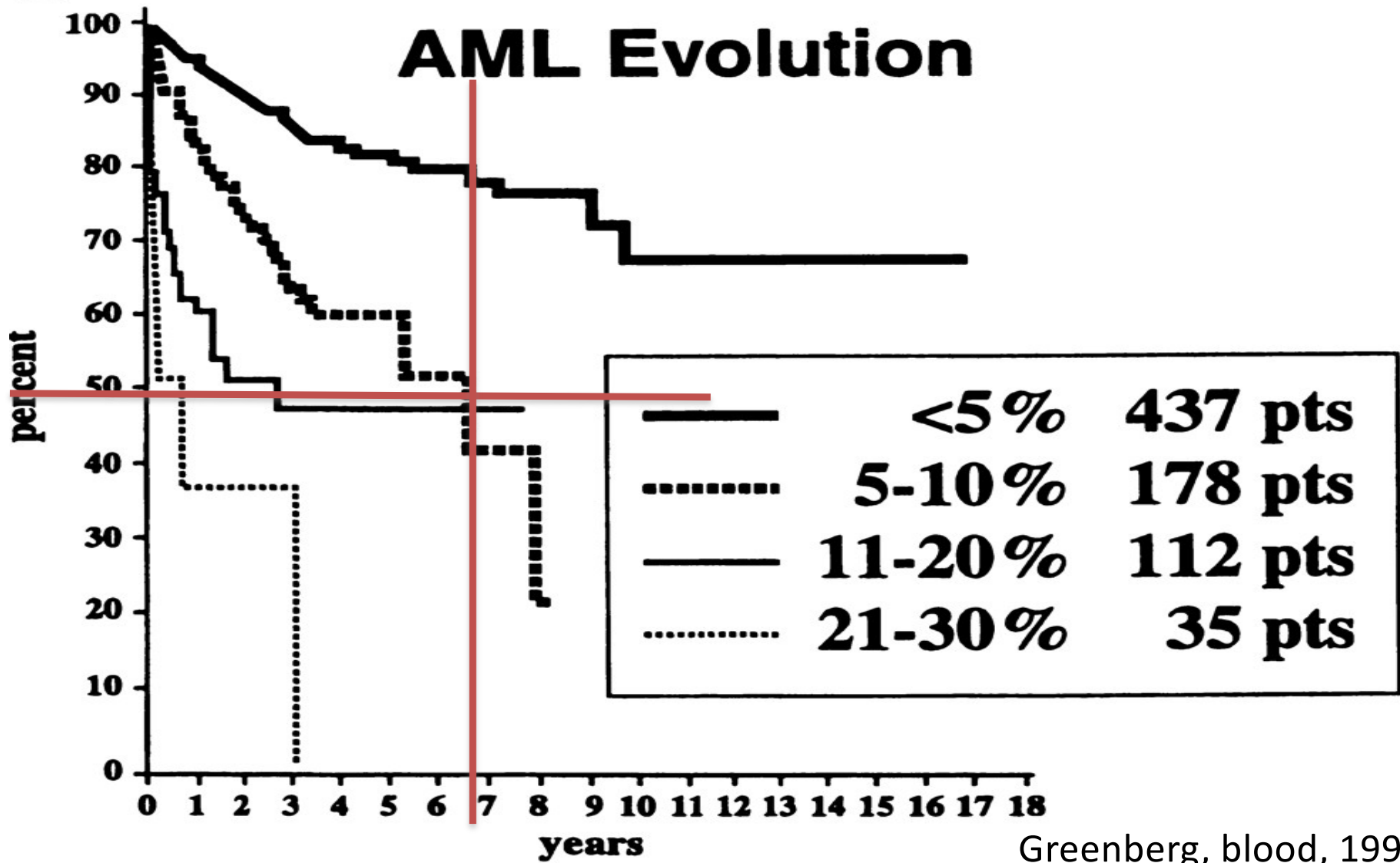
B

AML Evolution



B

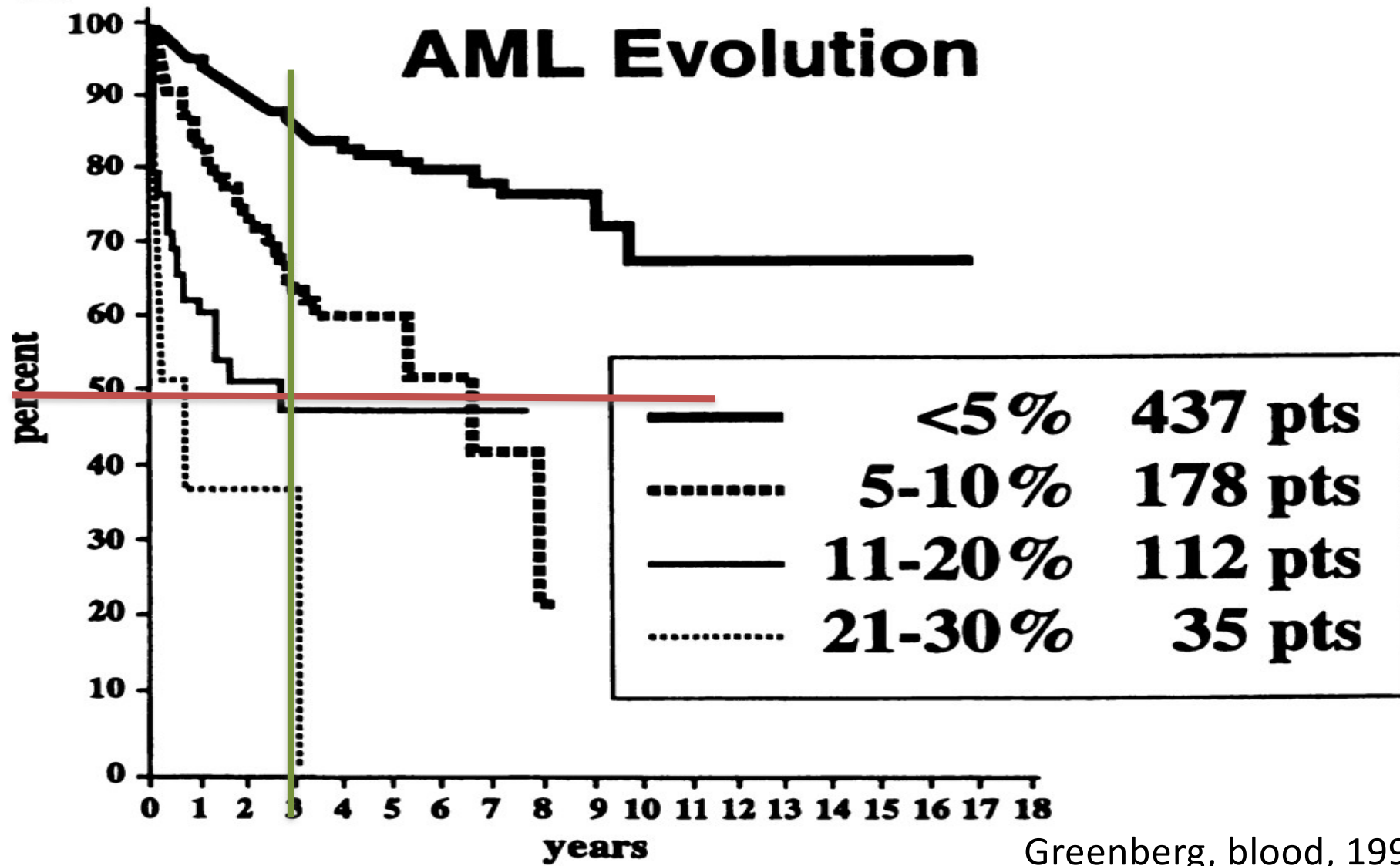
AML Evolution



Greenberg, blood, 1997

B

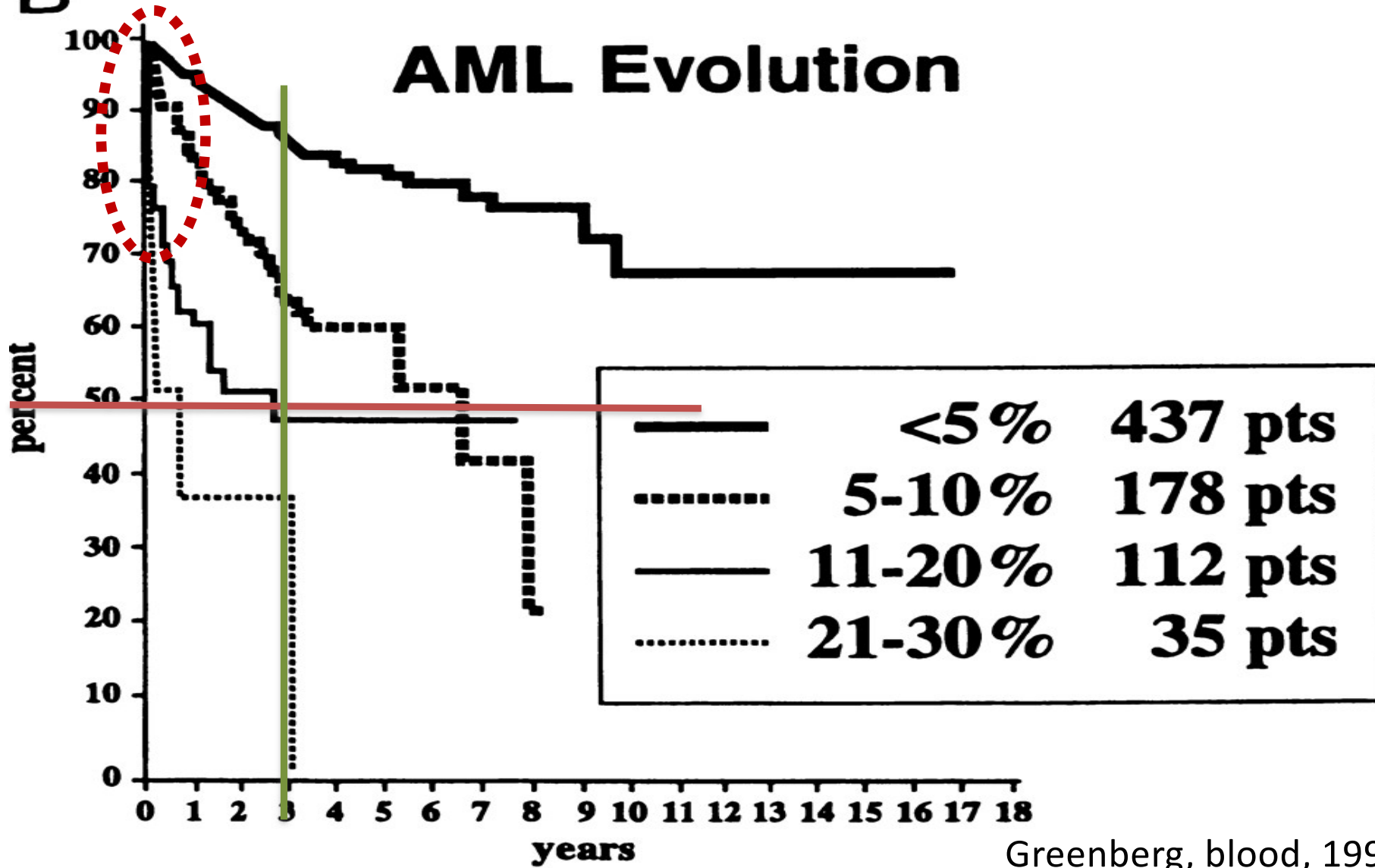
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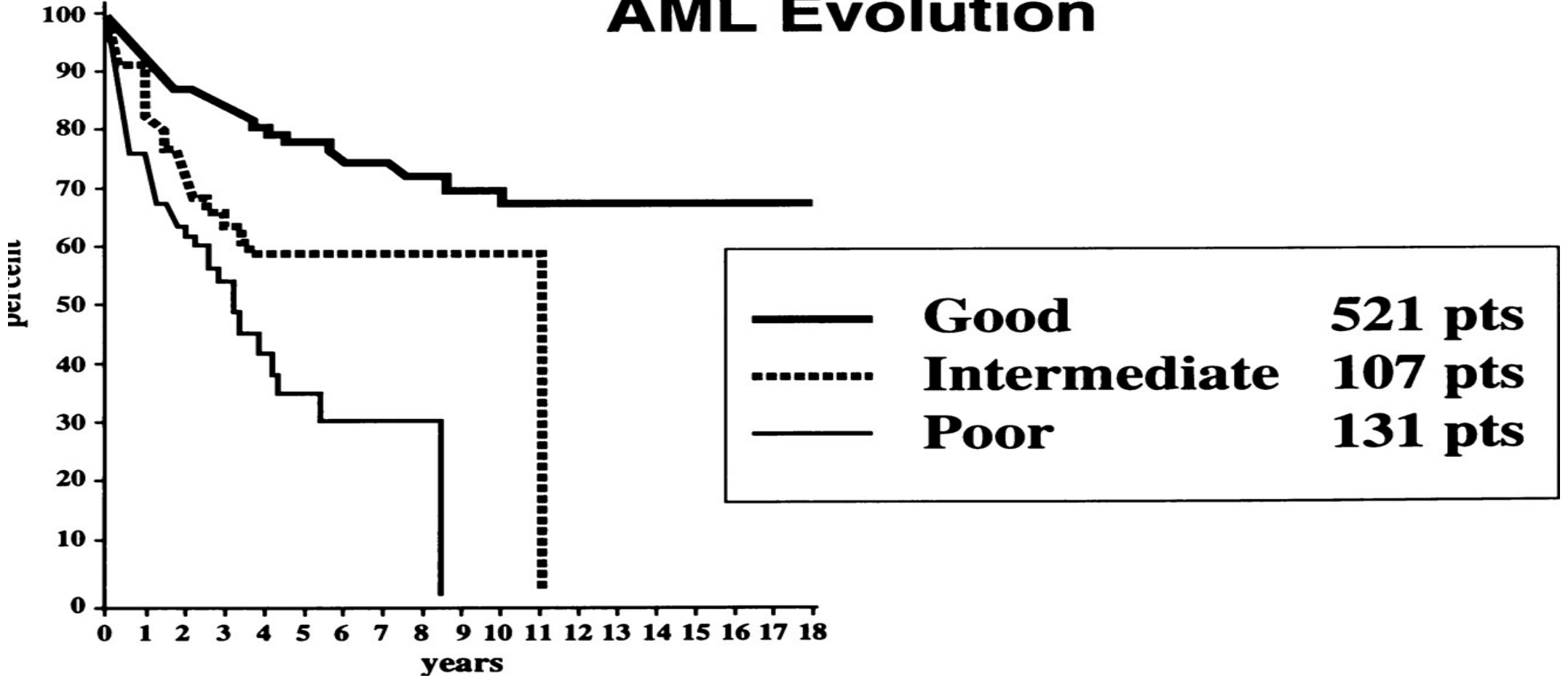
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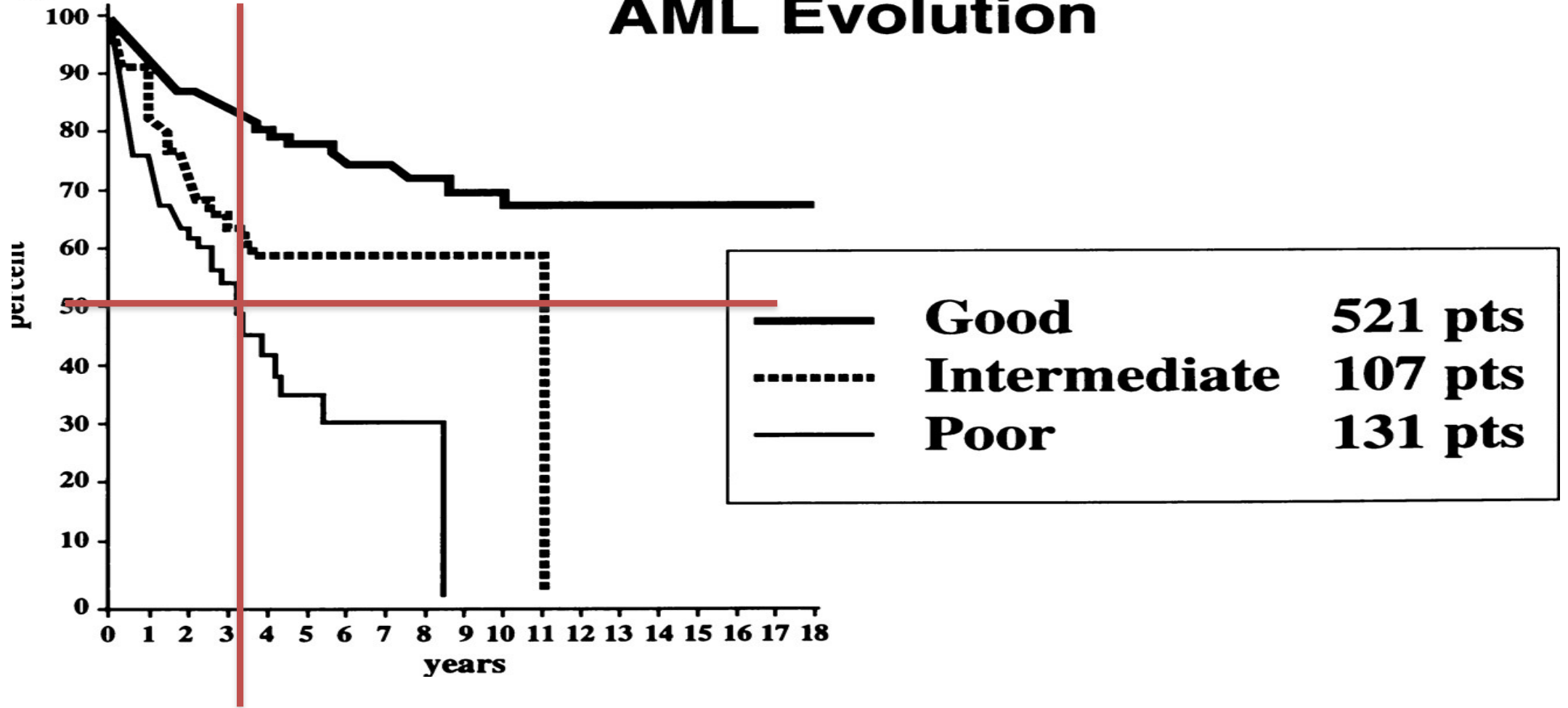
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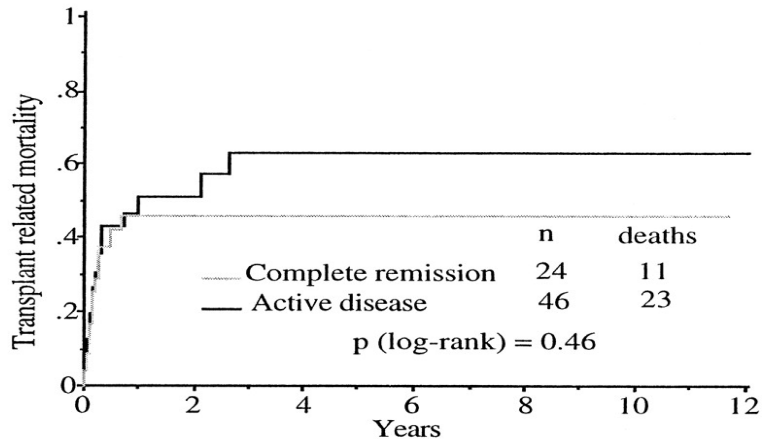
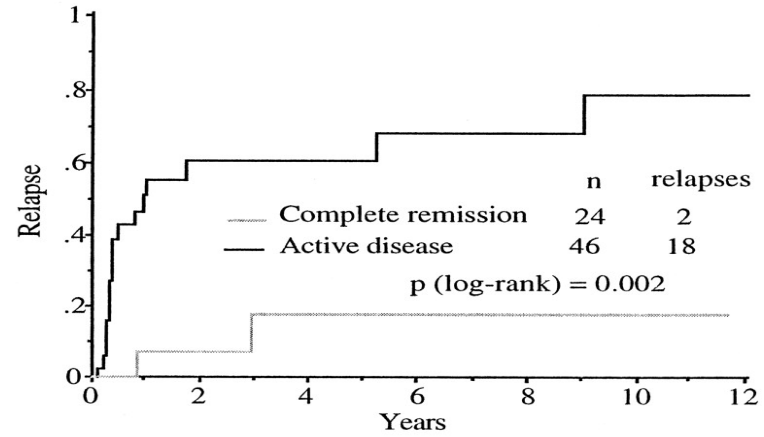
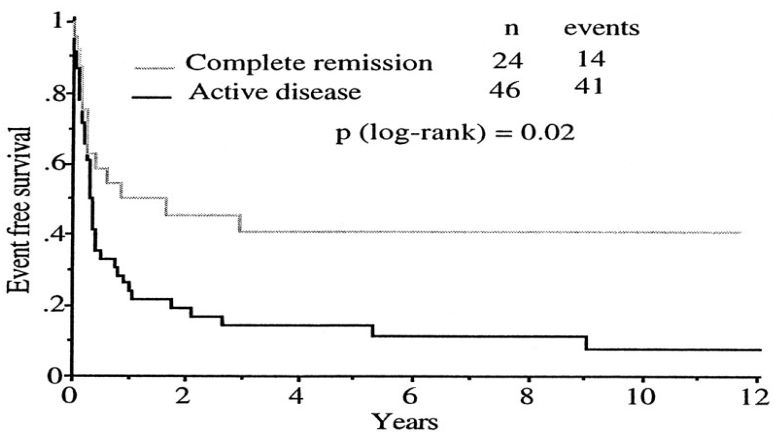
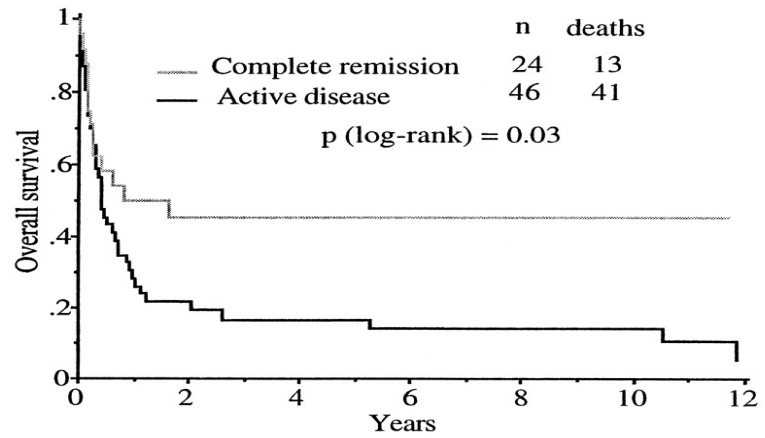
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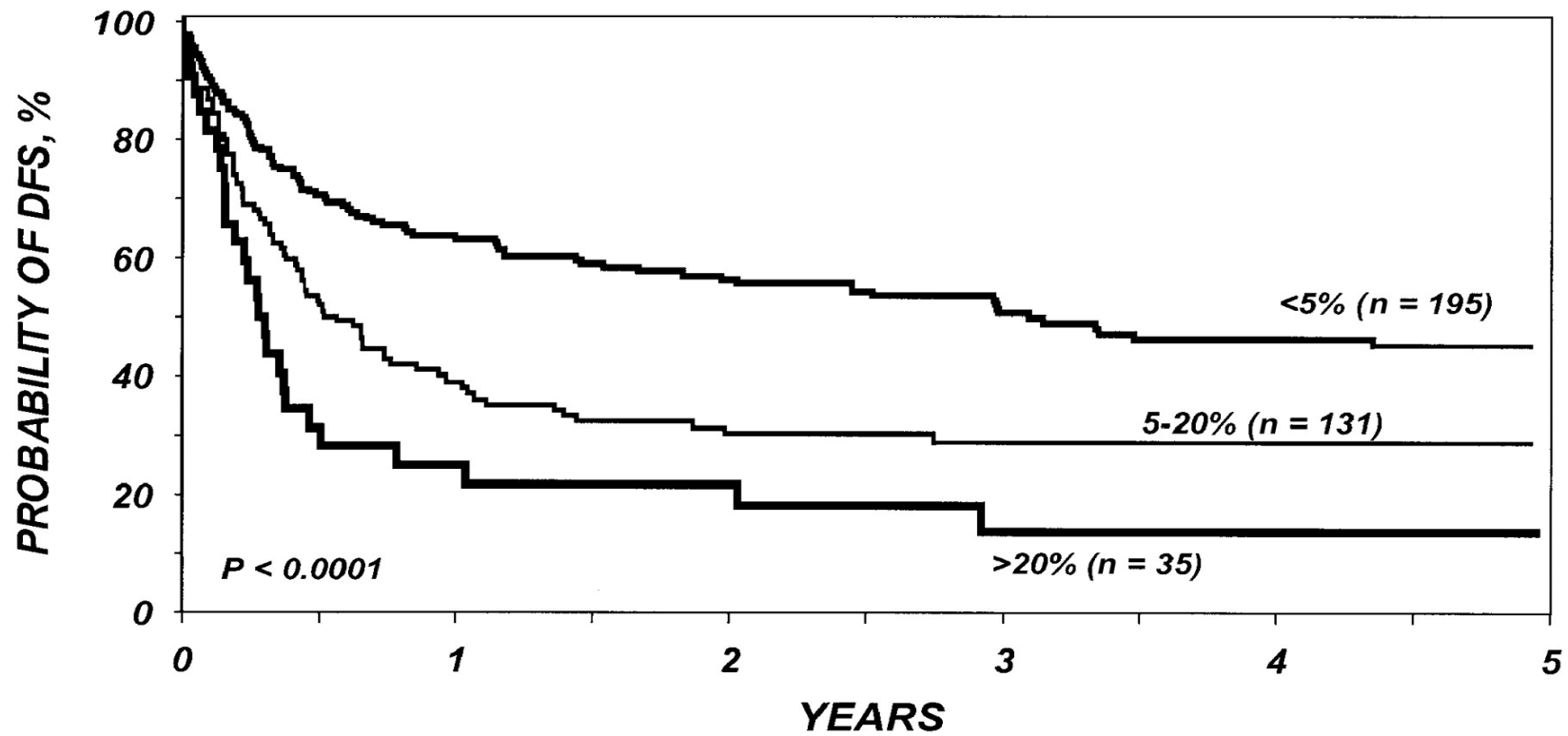
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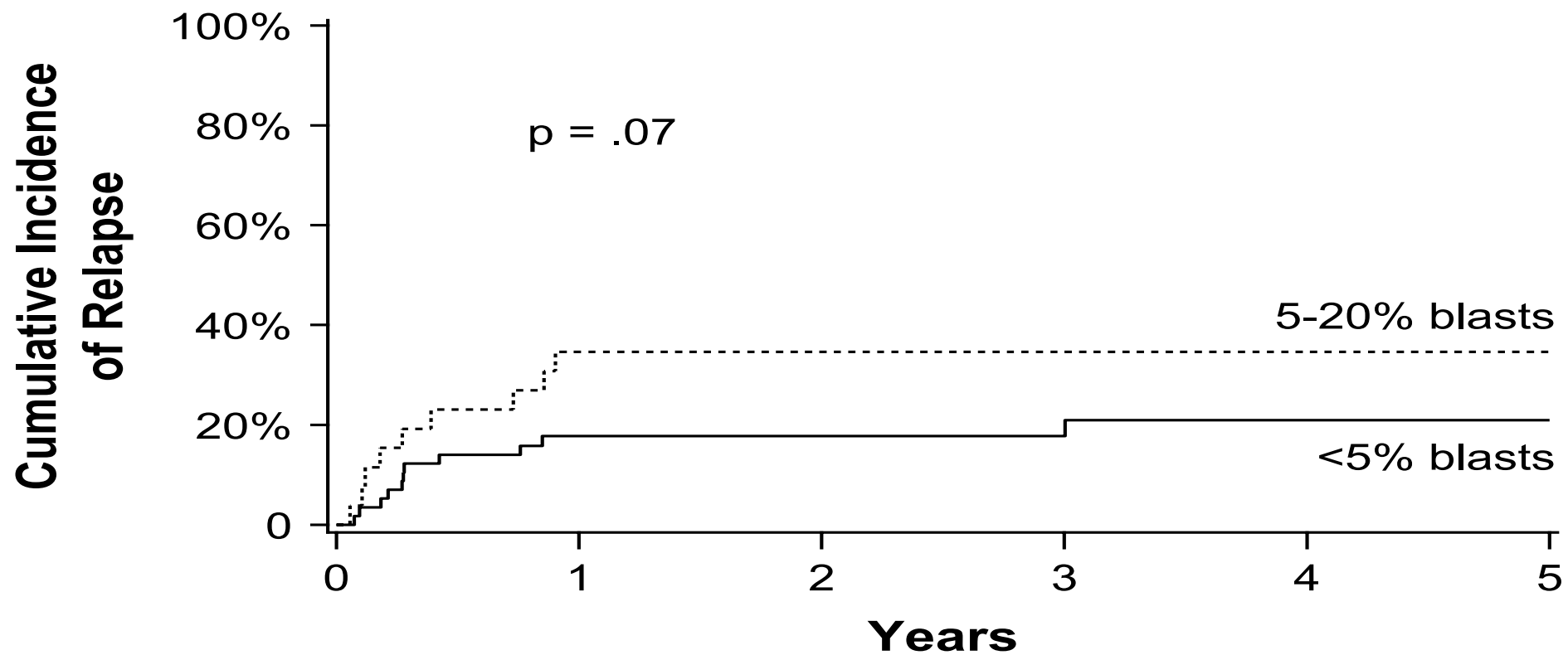


Yakoub-Agha I et al. JCO 2000;18:963

Allo-SCT for MDS and Blasts %



Pre-HCT Disease Burden and Post-transplant Relapse



We need CR before transplant →
What bridging therapy to use?

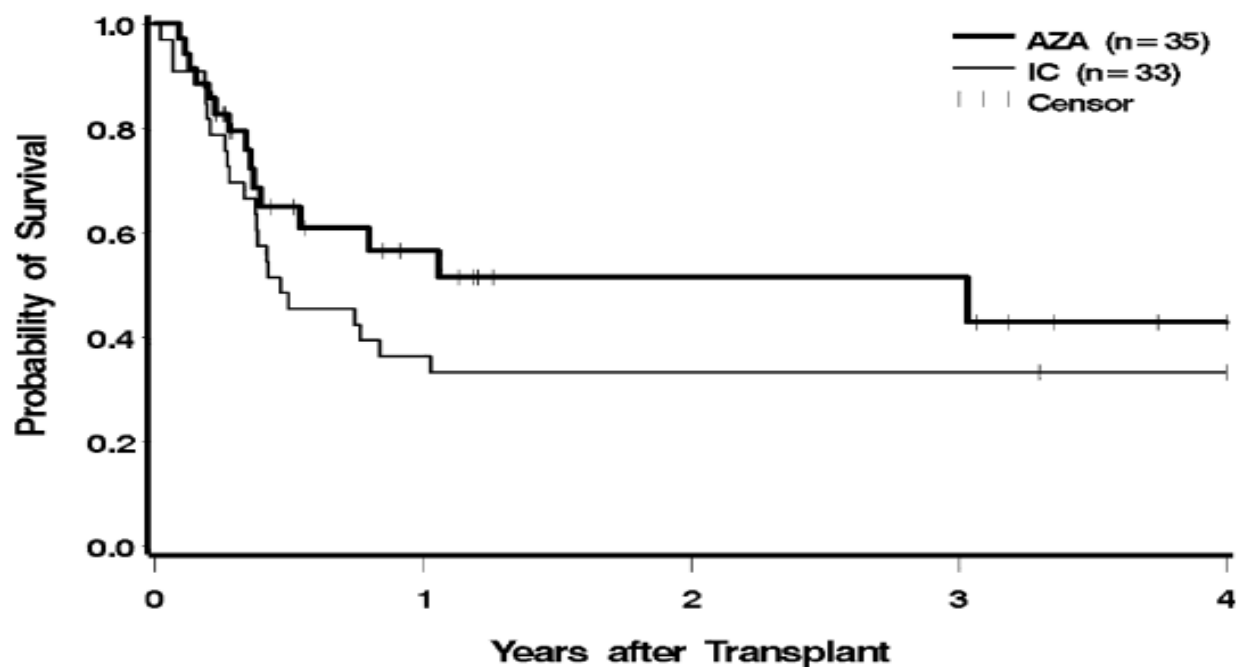
- **Induction-type chemotherapy (ICT)**
- **Hypomethylating agents (HMA)**

Pre-Transplant Therapy with Azacitidine Versus Induction Chemotherapy and Post-Transplant Outcome in Patients with MDS

Aaron T. Gerds, M.D.^{1,2}, Ted A. Gooley, Ph.D.^{1,2}, Elihu H. Estey, M.D.^{1,2}, Frederick R. Appelbaum, M.D.^{1,2}, H. Joachim Deeg, M.D.^{1,2}, and Bart L. Scott, M.D.^{1,2}

¹Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Washington

²University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, Washington

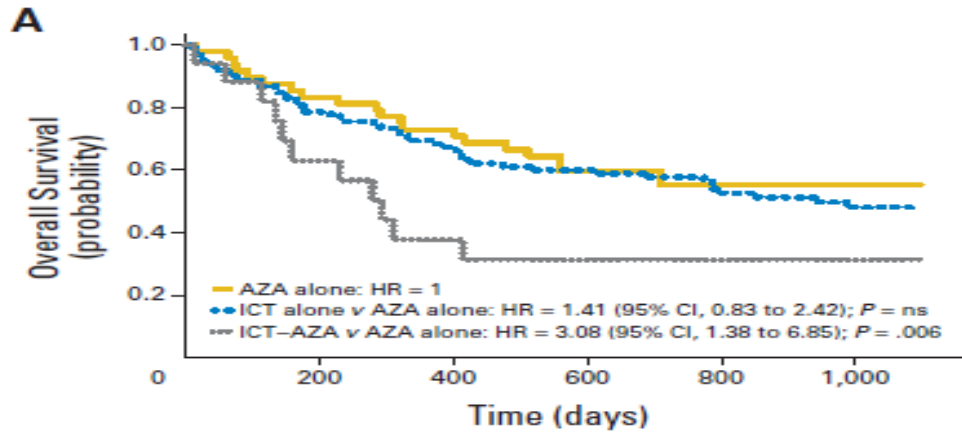


Impact of Azacitidine Before Allogeneic Stem-Cell Transplantation for Myelodysplastic Syndromes: A Study by the Société Française de Greffe de Moelle et de Thérapie-Cellulaire and the Groupe-Francophone des Myélodysplasies

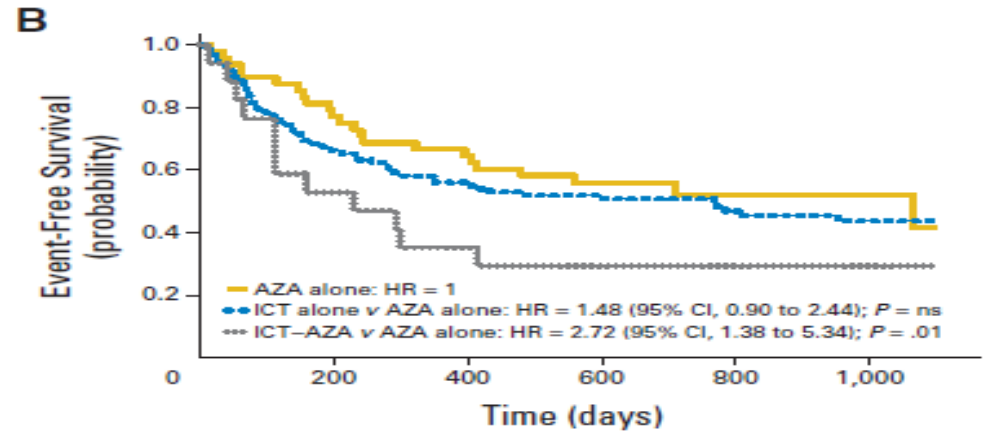
Gandhi Damaj, Alain Duhamel, Marie Robin, Yves Beguin, Mauricette Michallet, Mohamad Mohty, Stephane Vigouroux, Pierre Bories, Alice Garnier, Jean El Cheikh, Claude-Eric Bulabois, Anne Huynh, Jacques-Olivier Bay, Faeyzeh Legrand, Eric Deconinck, Nathalie Fegueux, Laurence Clement, Charles Dauriac, Natacha Maillard, Jérôme Cornillon, Lionel Ades, Gaëlle Guillerm, Aline Schmidt-Tanguy, Zora Marjanovic, Sophie Park, Marie-Thérèse Rubio, Jean-Pierre Marolleau, Federico Garnier, Pierre Fenaux, and Ibrahim Yakoub-Agha

JCO.2012.44.3499

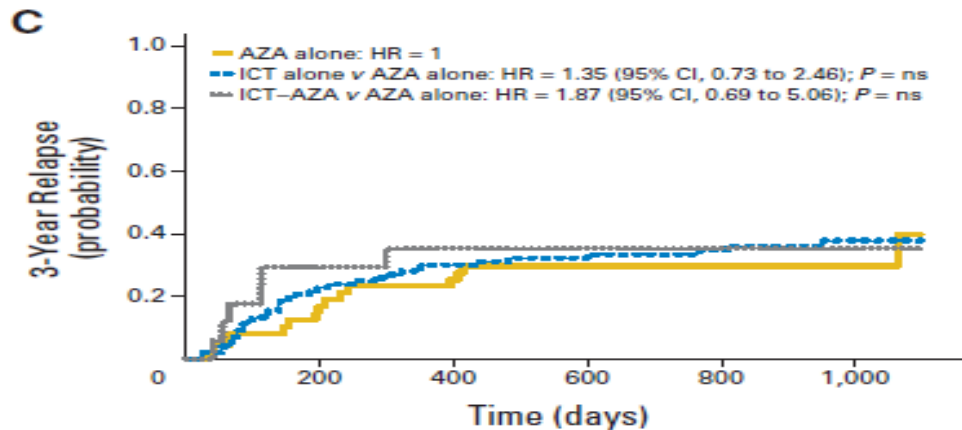
OUTCOME



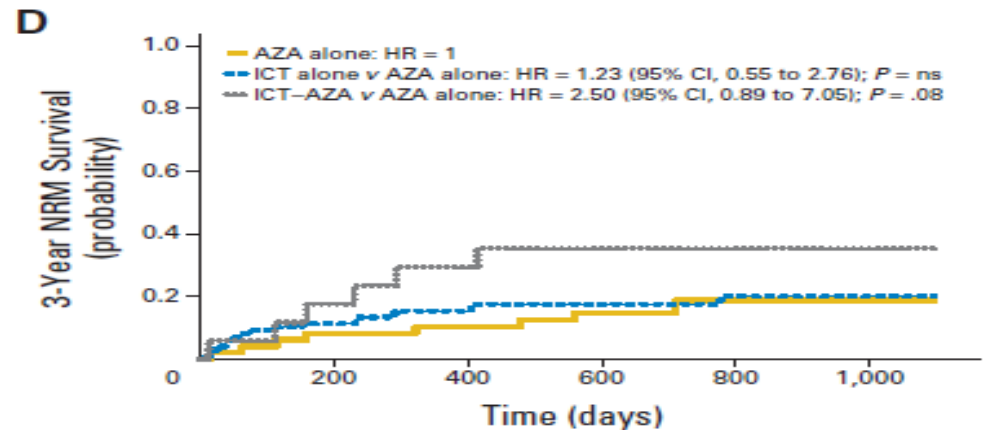
No. at risk	0	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1,000	
AZA alone	48	43	40	37	35	31	23	15	11	9	7	0
ICT alone	98	87	77	72	65	58	54	51	42	35	30	0
ICT-AZA	17	14	10	7	6	5	5	5	2	2	2	0



No. at risk	0	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1,000	
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We need CR before transplant →
What bridging therapy to use?

- **Induction-type chemotherapy (ICT)**
- Hypomethylating agents (HMA)

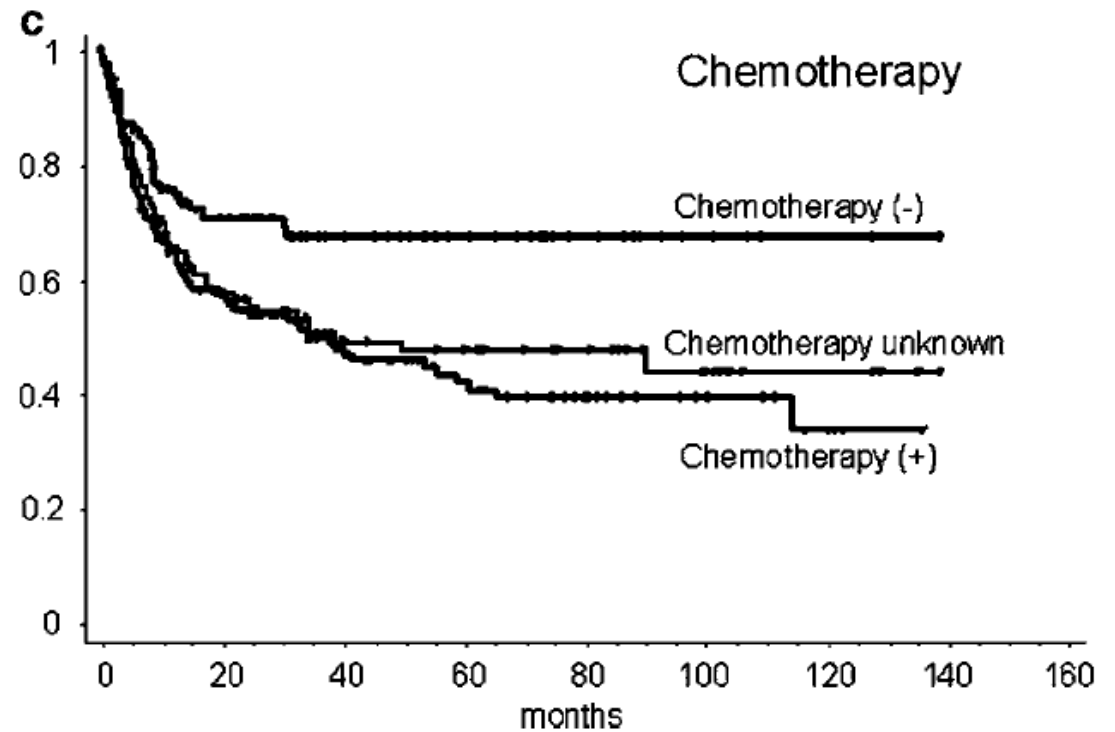
Value of chemotherapy before allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation from an HLA-identical sibling donor for myelodysplastic syndrome

K Nakai¹, Y Kanda², S Fukuhara¹, H Sakamaki³, S Okamoto⁴, Y Koder⁵, R Tanosaki⁶, S Takahashi⁷, T Matsushima⁸, Y Atsuta⁹, N Hamajima⁹, M Kasai¹⁰ and S Kato¹¹

	Total	History of previous chemotherapy		P-value
		Presence	Absence	
Age (years)				
≤40	136	94	42	0.38
>40	147	94	53	
Sex				
Male	171	116	55	0.61
Female	112	72	40	
FAB				
RA	61	29	32	<0.0001
RAEB	58	29	29	
RAEBt	70	55	15	
CMML	25	19	6	
LT	69	56	13	
Karyotype				
Good	131	84	47	0.004
Intermediate	60	31	29	
Poor	41	32	9	
Unknown	51	41	10	
TBI				
Presence	173	115	58	>0.99
Absence	110	73	37	
Stem cell				
BM	218	144	74	0.88
PB	65	44	21	

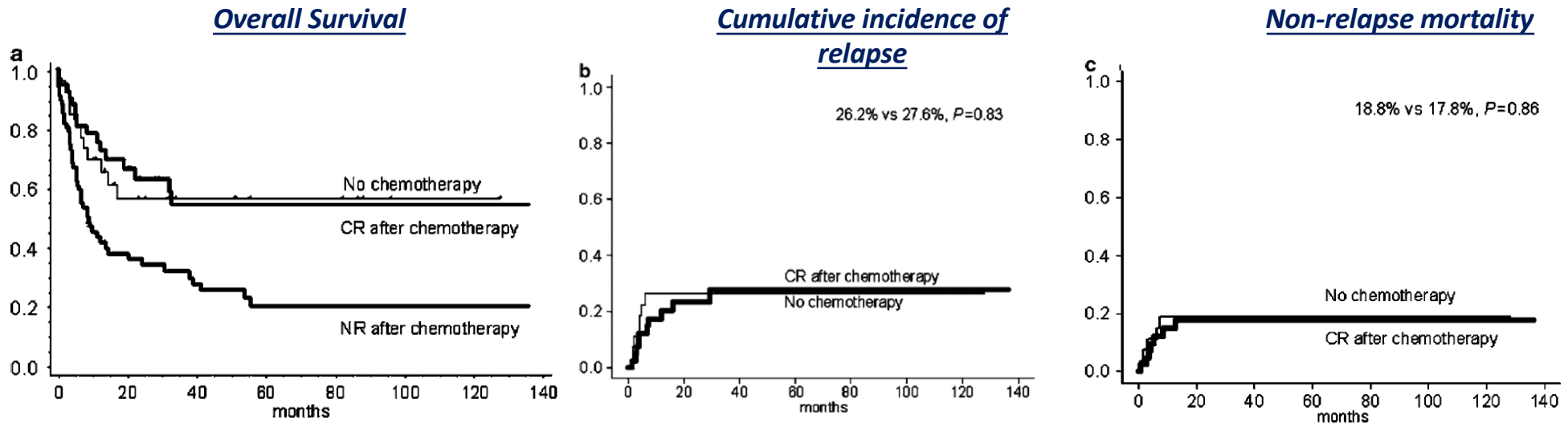
LT = leukemic transformation.

Overall Survival



Value of chemotherapy before allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation from an HLA-identical sibling donor for myelodysplastic syndrome

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Prognostic factors in adult de novo MDS treated by intensive chemotherapy. P. Fenaux, Br J Haematol. 1991

CR rate according to FAB

RAEB-T (> 19% of marrow blasts) at diagnosis : 69%

other FAB subtypes : 19% (P = 0.008)

DFS according to karyotype

normal : median 16.5 months

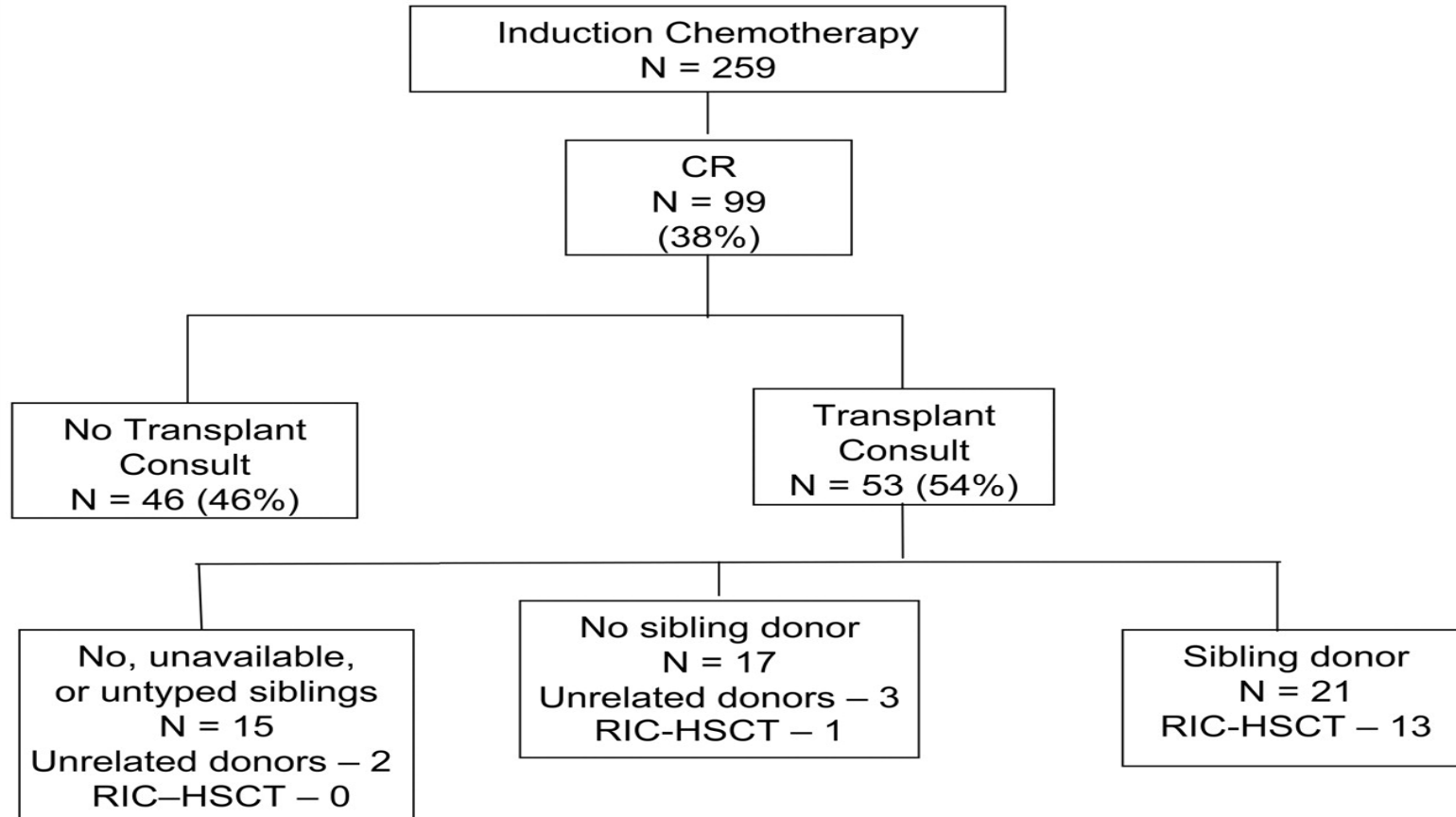
abnormal : median 4 months (P = 0.018).

15 RAEB-T at diagnosis and normal karyotype

- CR rate of 80%

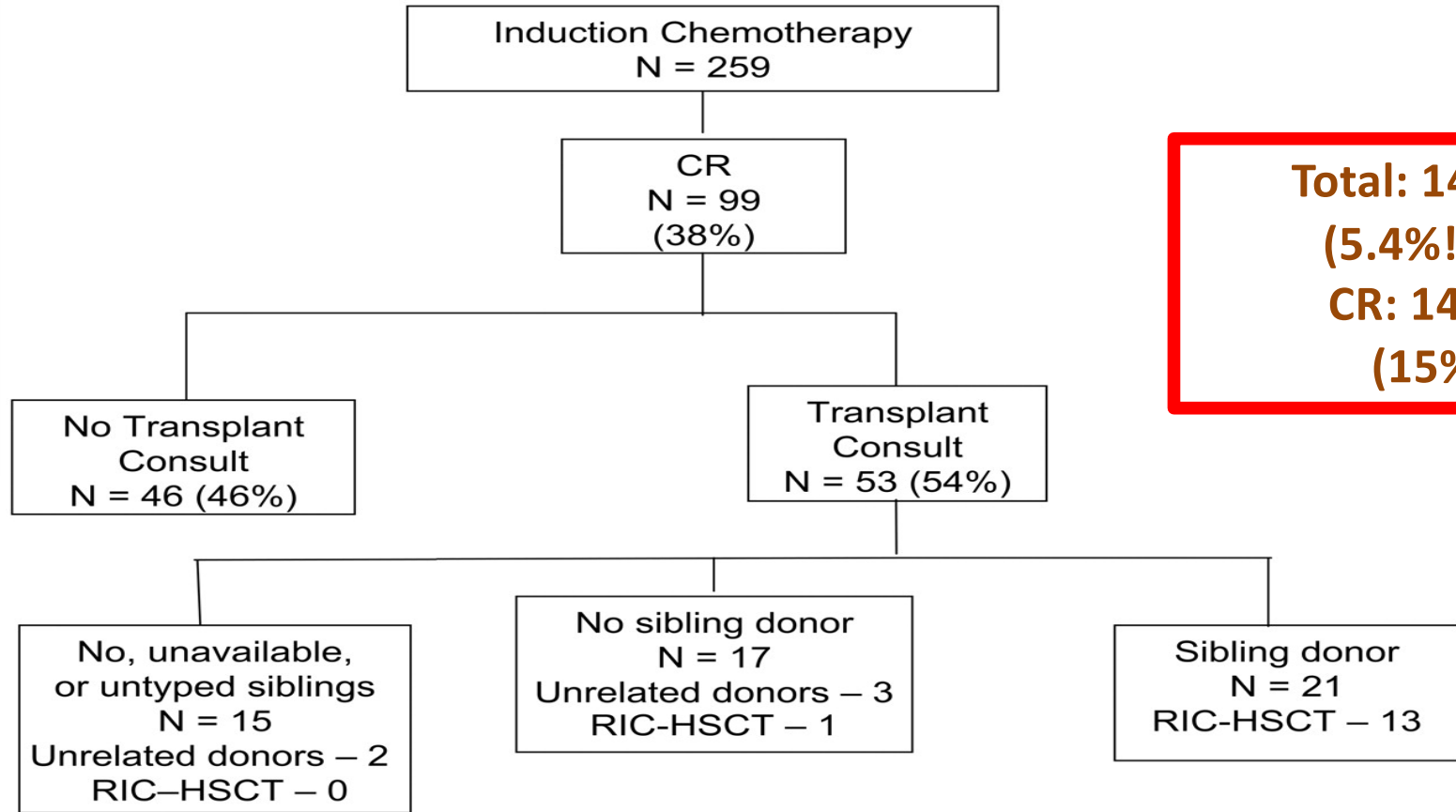
- median actuarial DFS of 18 months,.

High-risk MDS and AML, > 50 years old



Estey E et al. Blood 2007;109:1395-1400

High-risk MDS and AML, > 50 years old



**Total: 14/259
(5.4%!!!!!!)
CR: 14/99
(15%)**

Estey E et al. Blood 2007;109:1395-1400

Induction-type chemotherapy

- Is less effective in patients with complex karyotype and those with few MB.
- Is associated with considerable morbidity and mortality.
- Could be helpful in young patients with proliferation features



Induction-type chemotherapy is not for everybody!

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Induction-type chemotherapy is not for everybody!

- Is less effective in patients with complex karyotype and those with few MB.
- Is associated with considerable morbidity and mortality.
- **Could be helpful in young patients with proliferation features without poor-risk cytogenetic**



decision-making algorithm based on disease characteristics and patient age and comorbidities. *In the absence of prospective trial.*

Patient condition	Disease characteristics		ICT	HMA	Up-front allo-SCT
	Cytogenetics*	Marrow blasts %			
Fit patients (without comorbidities)	< high risk	< 5	No		
		5-10	possible		
		> 10	BO		
	High risk	< 5	No		
		5-10	No		
		> 10	possible		

ICT: induction-type chemotherapy; HMA: hypomethylating agents; allo-SCT: allogeneic stem cell transplantation: *as assessed by IPSS: NI: not indicated; BO: best option; **: if patient can undergo allo-SCT rapidly within less than 3 months.

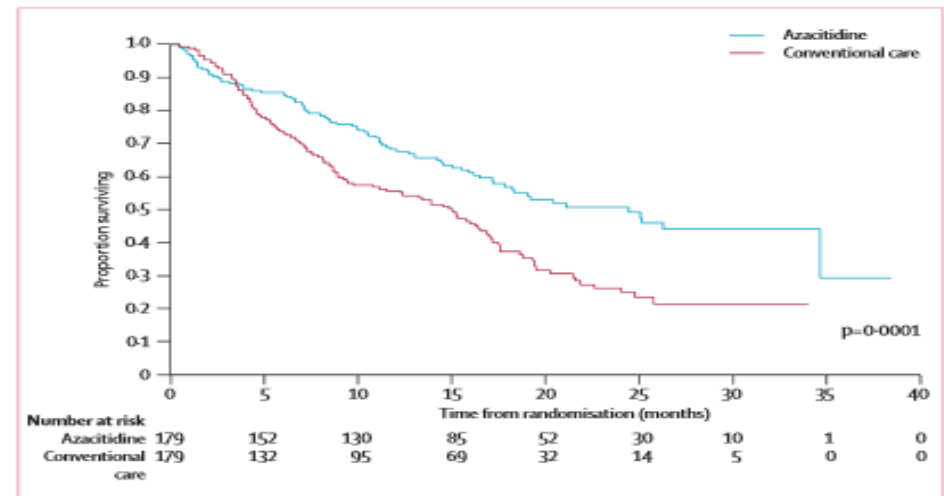
I. Yakoub-Agha and J. Deeg, BBMT, 2014

We need CR before transplant →
What bridging therapy to use?

- Induction-type chemotherapy (ICT)
- Hypomethylating agents (HMA)

Hypomethylating agents (HMA)

- Broad spectrum: The DNA methyltransferases inhibitors (azacitidine and decitabine) have anti-tumor activity against a broad range of malignancies
- Effective : Administration of the HMA, is associated with only mild toxicity and has been shown to delay progression to AML and, in the case of azacitidine, to extend survival by 9.5 months as compared to conventional care.
- Well tolerated: even in elderly.



Fenaux et al, lancet oncol, 2012

HMA and Ch 5 and 7 abnormalities

Superior Outcome With Hypomethylating Therapy in Patients With Acute Myeloid Leukemia and High-Risk Myelodysplastic Syndrome and Chromosome 5 and 7 Abnormalities

Farhad Ravandi, MD; Jean-Pierre Issa, MD; Guillermo Garcia-Manero, MD; Susan O'Brien, MD; Sherry Pierce, BSN; Jianqin Shan, PhD; Gautam Borthakur, MD; Srdan Verstovsek, MD; Stefan Faderl, MD; Jorge Cortes, MD¹; and Hagop Kantarjian, MD

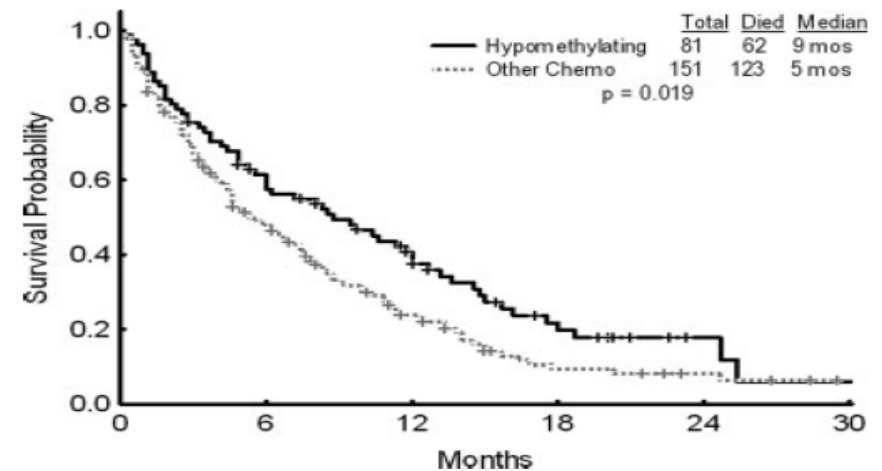


FIGURE 2. Overall survival by treatment strategy is shown. Chemo indicates chemotherapy.

HMA and response rates

Table 1 Phase III trials of azacitidine as a single agent

Study	CALGB 9221 No. (%)	Updated CALGB No. (%)	AZA-001 No. (%)
No. patients	99	99	179
CR	7 (7)	10 (10)	30 (17)
PR	16 (16)	1 (1)	21 (12)
HI	37 (37)	36 (36)	87 (49)
OR	60 (60)	47 (47)	138 (78)

Abbreviations: CR, complete remission; PR, partial remission; HI, hematological improvement; OR, overall response.

HMA and response rates

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Prognostic factors for response and overall survival in 282 patients with higher-risk myelodysplastic syndromes treated with azacitidine

*Raphael Itzykson,¹ *Sylvain Thépot,^{1,2} Bruno Quesnel,³ Francois Dreyfus,⁴ Odile Beyne-Rauzy,⁵ Pascal Turlure,⁶ Norbert Vey,⁷ Christian Recher,⁸ Caroline Dartigeas,⁹ Laurence Legros,¹⁰ Jacques Delaunay,¹¹ Célia Salanoubat,¹² Sorin Visanica,¹³ Aspasia Stamatoullas,¹⁴ Francoise Isnard,¹⁵ Anne Marfaing-Koka,¹⁶ Stephane de Botton,¹⁷ Youcef Chelghoum,¹⁸ Anne-Laure Taksin,¹⁹ Isabelle Plantier,²⁰ Shanti Ame,²¹ Simone Boehrer,^{1,2} Claude Gardin,¹ C. L. Beach,²² Lionel Adès,^{1,2} and Pierre Fenaux,^{1,2} on behalf of the Groupe Francophone des Myelodysplasies (GFM)

Prognostic factors for response and survival in higher-risk myelodysplastic syndromes treated with azacitidine are largely unknown. Two hundred and thirty-two consecutive high or intermediate-risk myelodysplastic syndrome patients received AZA in a compassionate program. Diagnoses included RAEB-1 (4%), RAEB-2 (54%), and RAEB-t (AML with bone marrow blasts) in 22%. Response was good in 31%, intermediate in 47%, and poor in 47%. Patients received a median of 6 cycles

(1-52). Previous low-dose cytosine arabinoside treatment ($P = .009$), bone marrow blasts $> 15\%$ ($P = .004$), and abnormal karyotype ($P = .03$) independently predicted lower response rates. Complex karyotype predicted shorter responses ($P = .0003$). Performance status ≥ 2 , intermediate- and poor-risk cytogenetics, presence of circulating blasts, and red blood cell transfusion dependency ≥ 4 units/8 weeks (all $P < 10^{-4}$) independently predicted poorer overall survival (OS). A prognostic score based on those factors discriminated 3

groups with median OS of 15.0 and 6.1 months ($P < 10^{-4}$). This prognostic score was validated in an independent cohort of patients receiving AZA in a phase II trial ($P = .003$). Achievement of complete or partial remission was associated with improved OS. In conclusion, routine assessment of prognostic subgroups of patients with higher-risk myelodysplastic syndromes treated with AZA is warranted. (J Clin Oncol 117(2):403-411)

Prognostic factors for response and overall survival in 282 patients with higher-risk myelodysplastic syndromes treated with azacitidine

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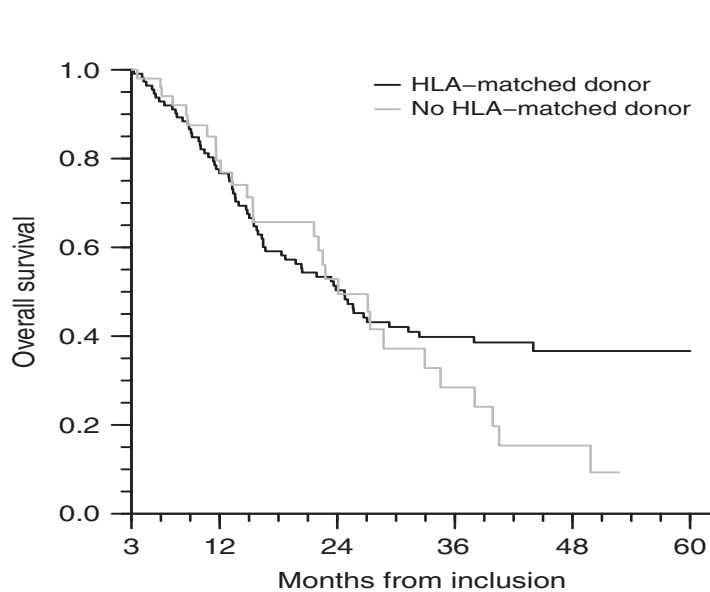
patients into three groups with response rates of 15.0 and 31.0% ($P < 10^{-4}$). This study was validated in 100 patients receiving AZA ($P = .003$). An improvement in overall survival was associated with a good performance status. In conclusion, prognostic factors in higher-risk subgroups of MDS treated with AZA are limited.

BLOOD, 13 JANUARY 2011 • VOLUME 117, NUMBER 2

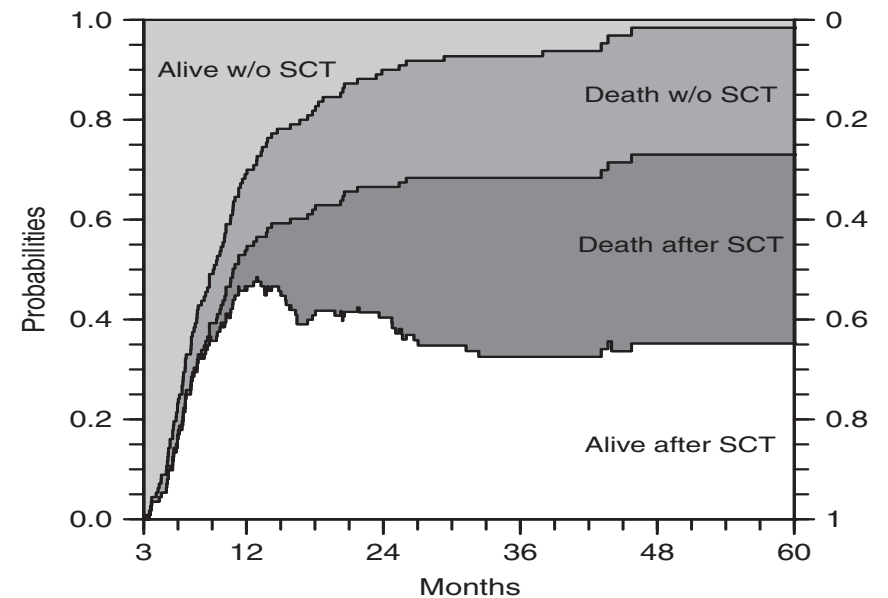
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

HLA-matched allogeneic stem cell transplantation improves outcome of higher risk myelodysplastic syndrome A prospective study on behalf of SFGM-TC and GFM

M Robin^{1,2,3}, R Porcher^{4,5}, L Adès⁶, E Raffoux⁷, M Michallet⁸, S François⁹, J-Y Cahn¹⁰, A Delmer¹¹, E Wattel⁸, S Vigouroux¹², J-O Bay¹³, J Cornillon¹⁴, A Huynh¹⁵, S Nguyen¹⁶, M-T Rubio¹⁷, L Vincent¹⁸, N Maillard¹⁹, A Charbonnier²⁰, RP de Latour^{1,2,3}, O Reman²¹, H Dombret^{2,6}, P Fenaux^{2,6} and G Socié^{1,2,3}



No. at risk:		3	12	24	36	48	60			
HLA-matched donor	112	85	63	50	39	33	23	14	8	5
No matched donor	50	29	21	15	8	6	3	2	0	0



Robin et al, Leukemia 2015

Hypomethylating agents (HMA)

- HMA are effective and well tolerated
- HMA are less effective in patients with > 15% of MB
- Short responses to HMA in patients with complex karyotype
- Toxicity?

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Hypomethylating agents (HMA)

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- HMA are less effective in patients with > 15% of MB
- Short responses to HMA in patients with complex karyotype
- **Toxicity? Before and after transplant**

decision-making algorithm based on disease characteristics and patient age and comorbidities. *In the absence of prospective trial.*

Patient condition	Disease characteristics		ICT	HMA	Up-front allo-SCT
	Cytogenetics*	Marrow blasts %			
Fit patients (without comorbidities)	< high risk	< 5	No	BO	
		5-10	possible	BO	
		> 10	BO	possible	
	High risk	< 5	No	possible	
		5-10	No	possible	
		> 10	possible	possible	

ICT: induction-type chemotherapy; HMA: hypomethylating agents; allo-SCT: allogeneic stem cell transplantation: *as assessed by IPSS: NI: not indicated; BO: best option; **: if patient can undergo allo-SCT rapidly within less than 3 months.

I. Yakoub-Agha and J. Deeg, BBMT, 2014



Upfront Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation after Reduced-Intensity/Nonmyeloablative Conditioning for Patients with Myelodysplastic Syndrome: A Study by the Société Française de Greffe de Moelle et de Thérapie Cellulaire

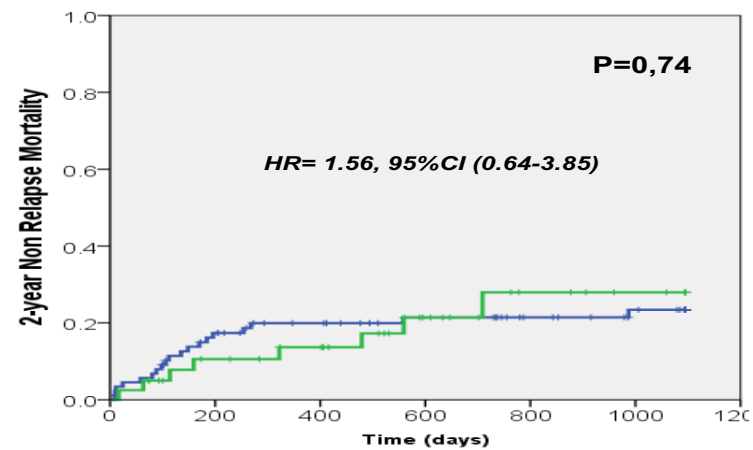
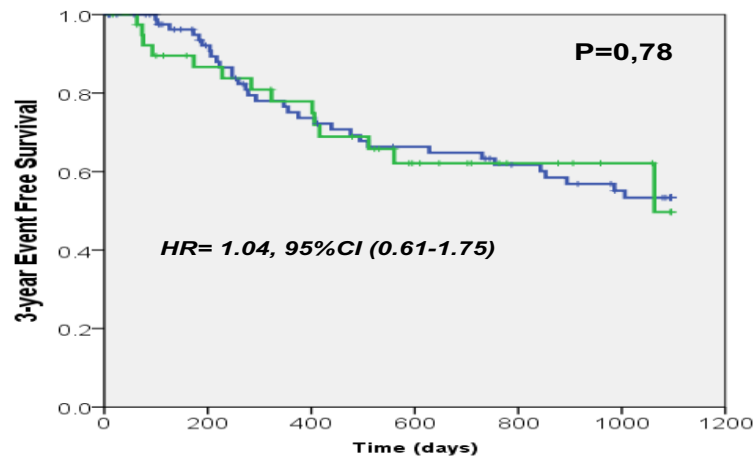
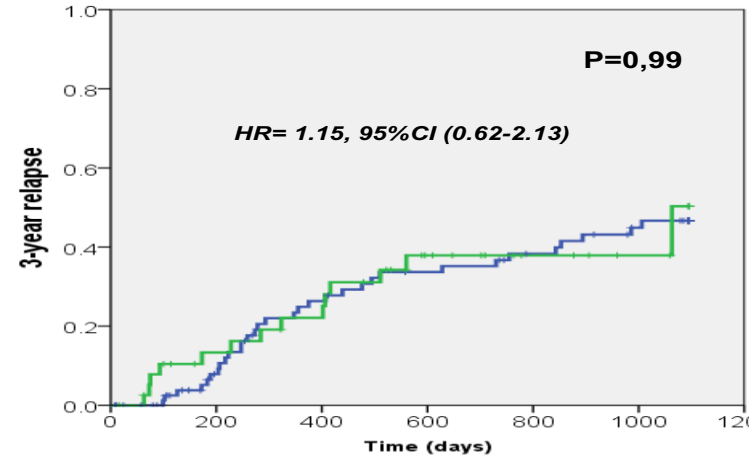
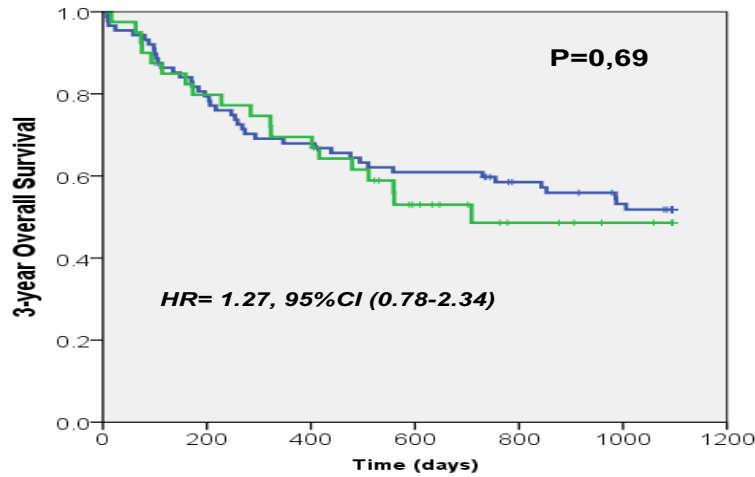


Gandhi Damaj ¹, Mohammad Mohty ², Marie Robin ³, Mauricette Michallet ⁴, Patrice Chevallier ⁵, Yves Beguin ⁶, Stephanie Nguyen ⁷, Pierre Bories ⁸, Didier Blaise ⁹, Natacha Maillard ¹⁰, Marie Therese Rubio ², Nathalie Fegueux ¹¹, Jerome Cornillon ¹², Aline Clavert ¹³, Anne Huynh ¹⁴, Lionel Adès ¹⁵, Anne Thiébaud-Bertrand ¹⁶, Olivier Hermine ¹⁷, Stephane Vigouroux ¹⁸, Pierre Fenaux ¹⁵, Alain Duhamel ¹⁹, Ibrahim Yakoub-Agha ^{20,*}

Damaj et al, BBMT, 2014

AZA versus BSC

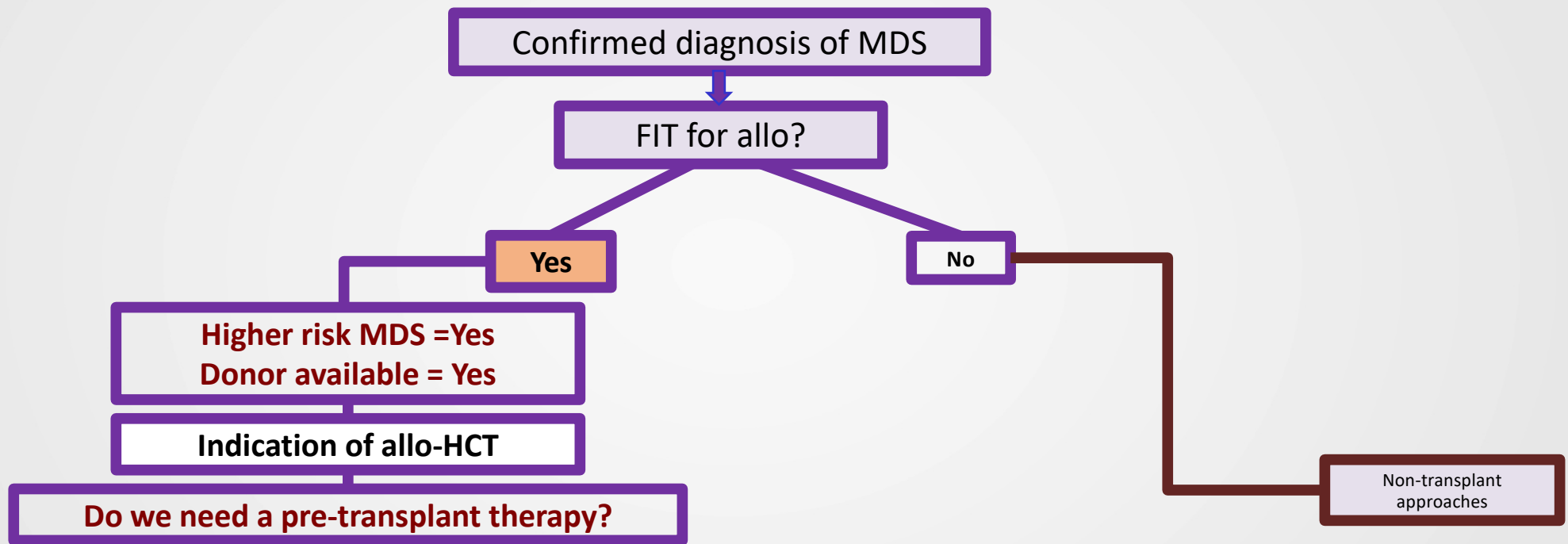
— BSC
— AZA

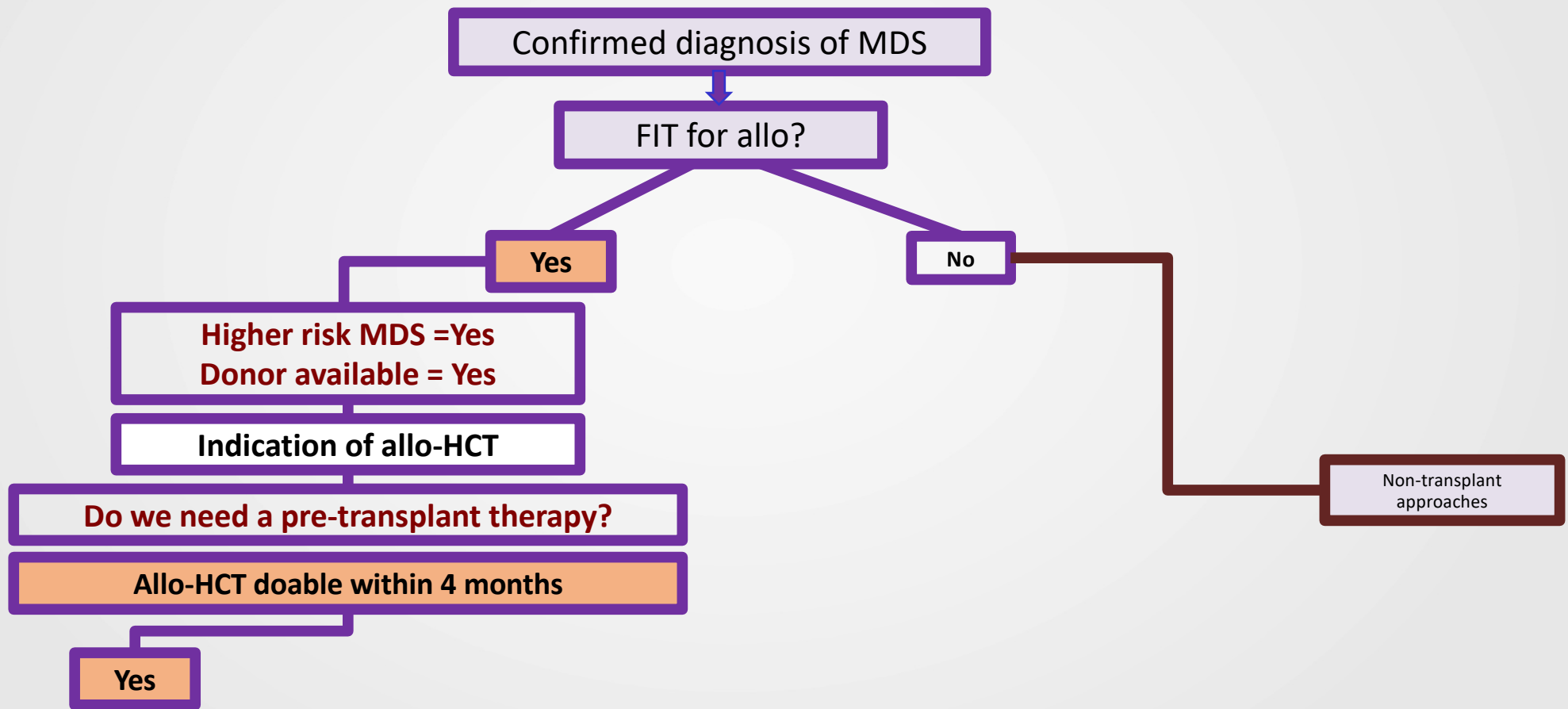


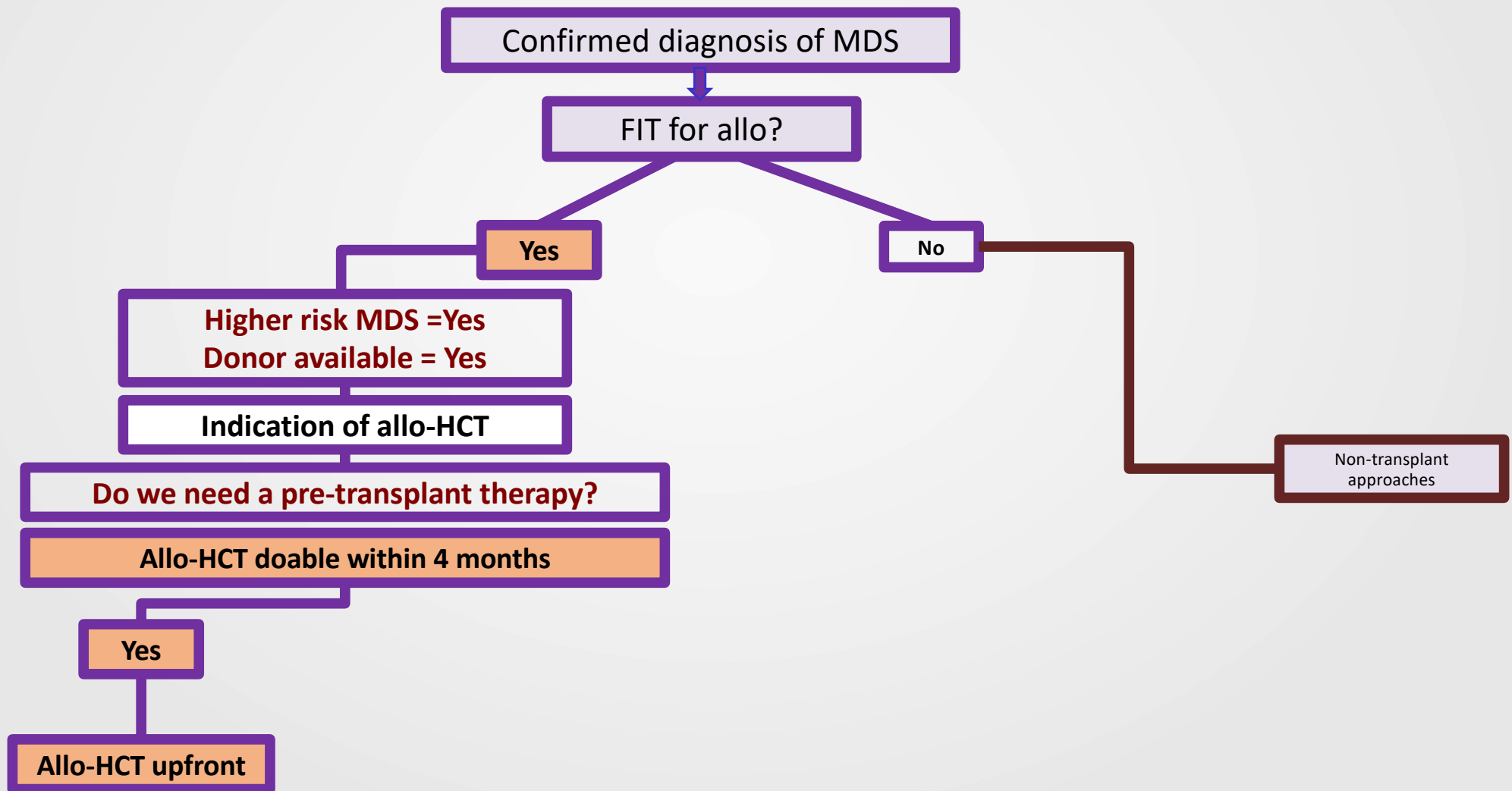
decision-making algorithm based on disease characteristics and patient age and comorbidities. *In the absence of prospective trial.*

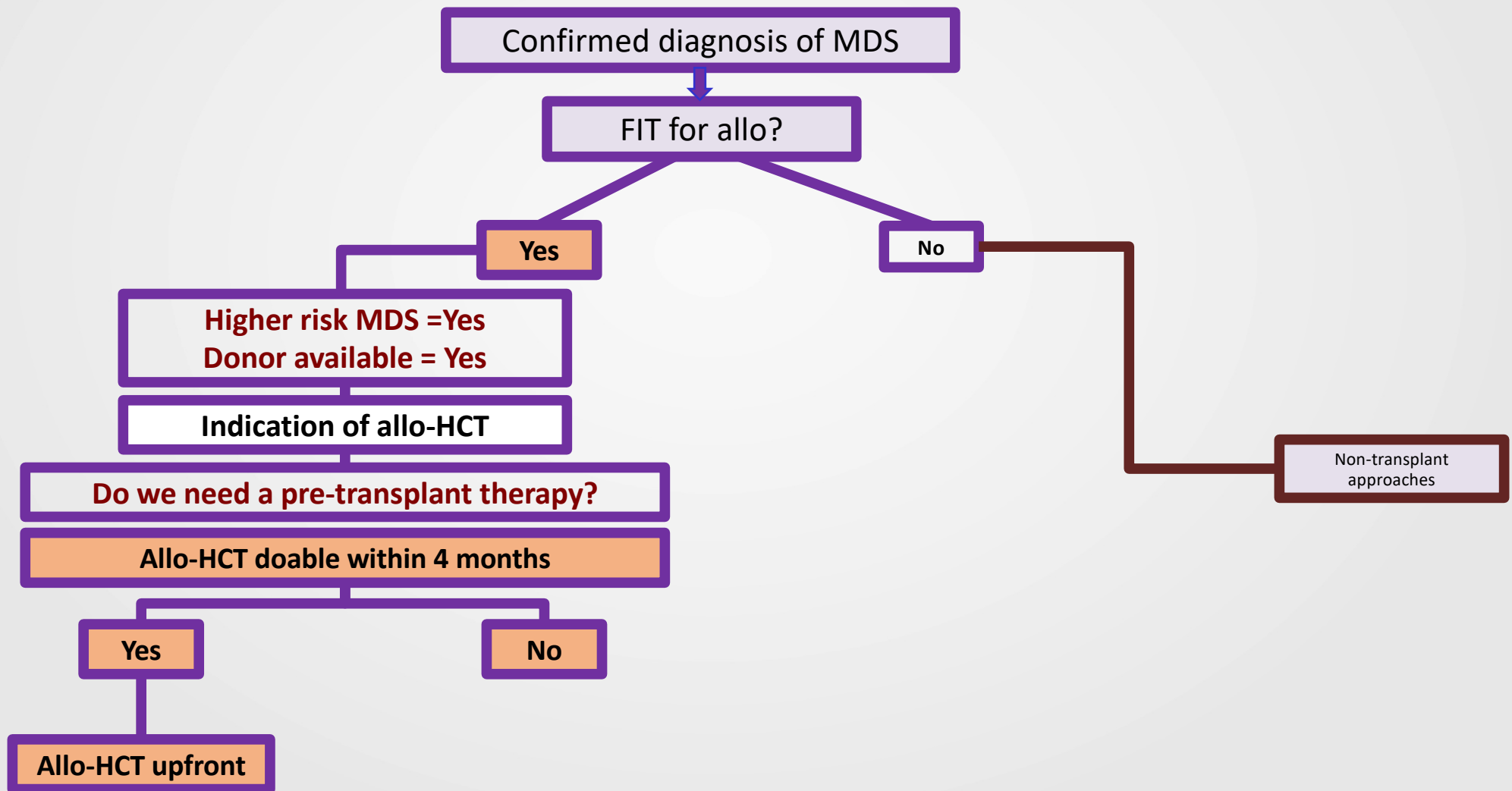
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	Cytogenetics*	Marrow blasts %			
Fit patients (without comorbidities)	< high risk	< 5	No	BO	possible
		5-10	possible	BO	possible
		> 10	BO	possible	possible
	High risk	< 5	No	possible	BO**
		5-10	No	possible	BO**
		> 10	possible	possible	BO**

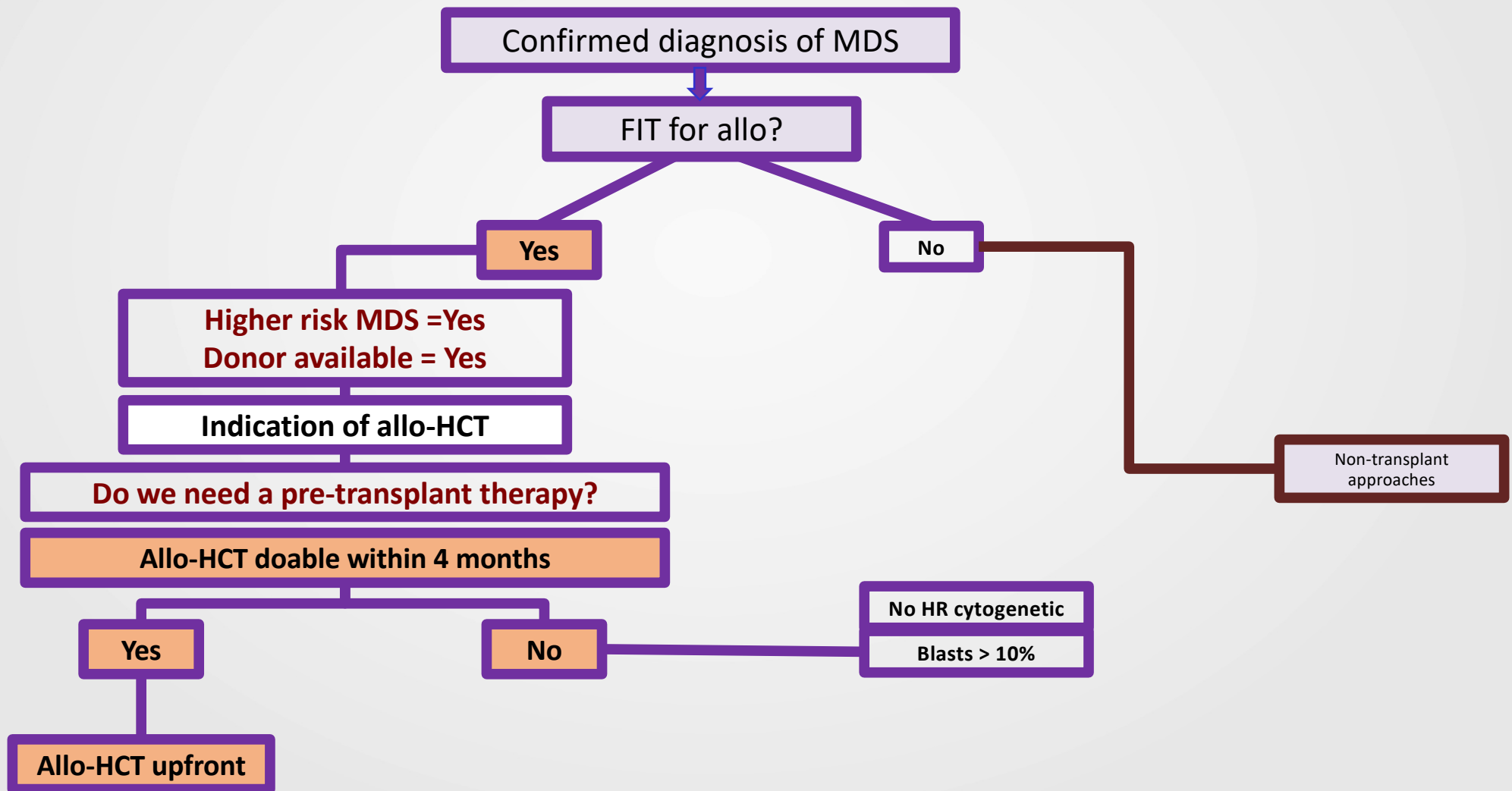
** : if patient can undergo allo-SCT rapidly within less than 4 months.

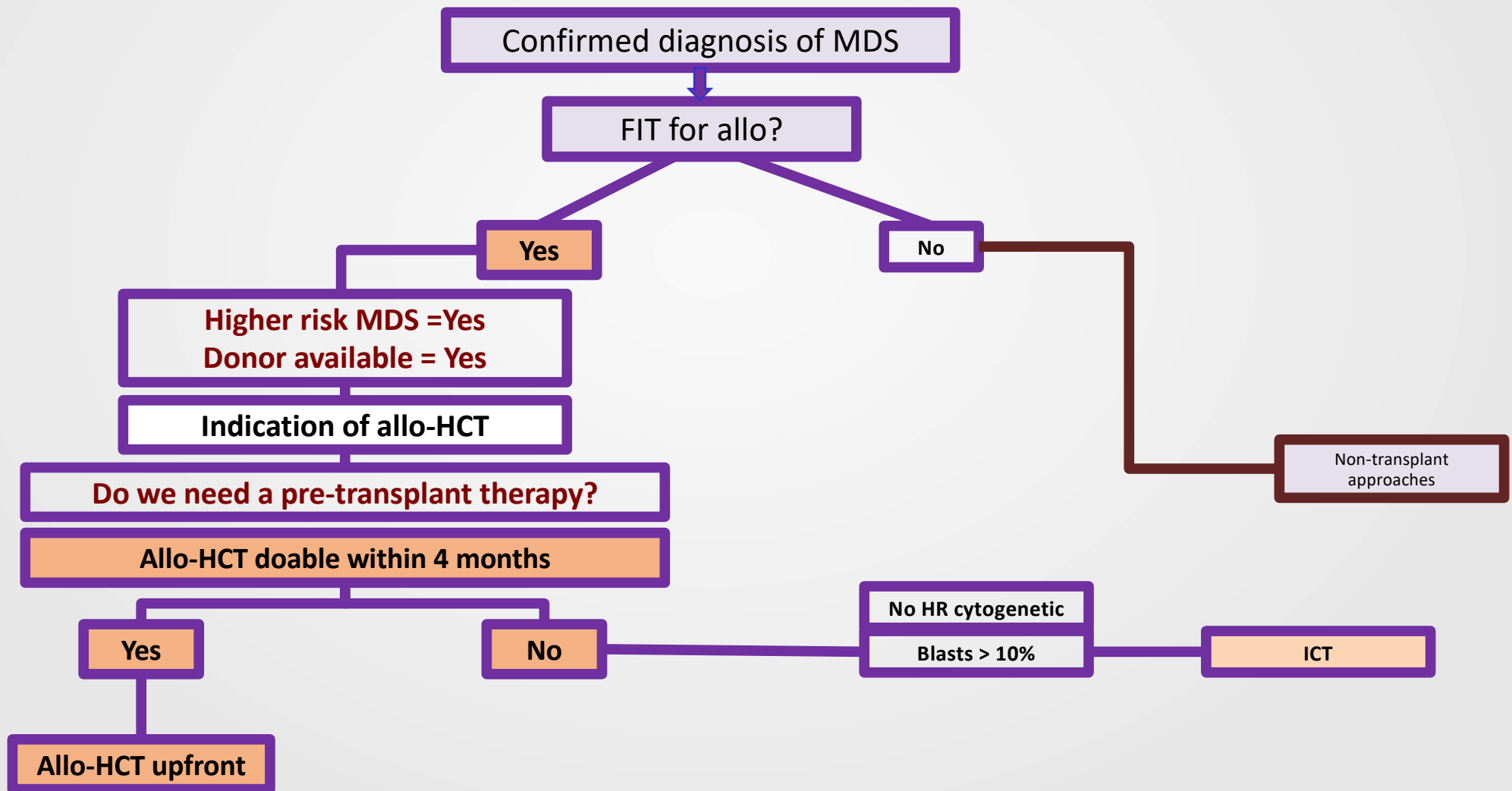


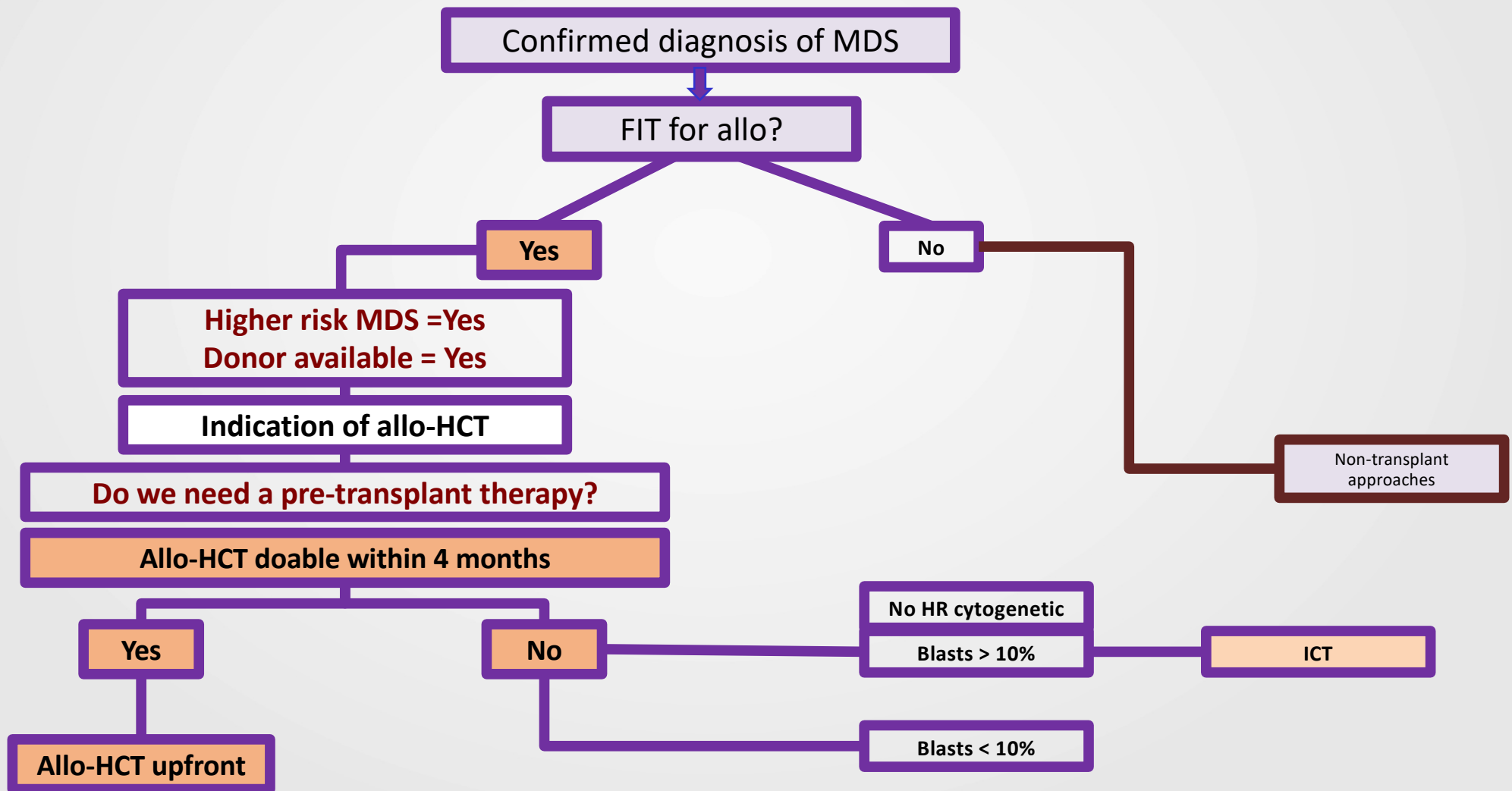


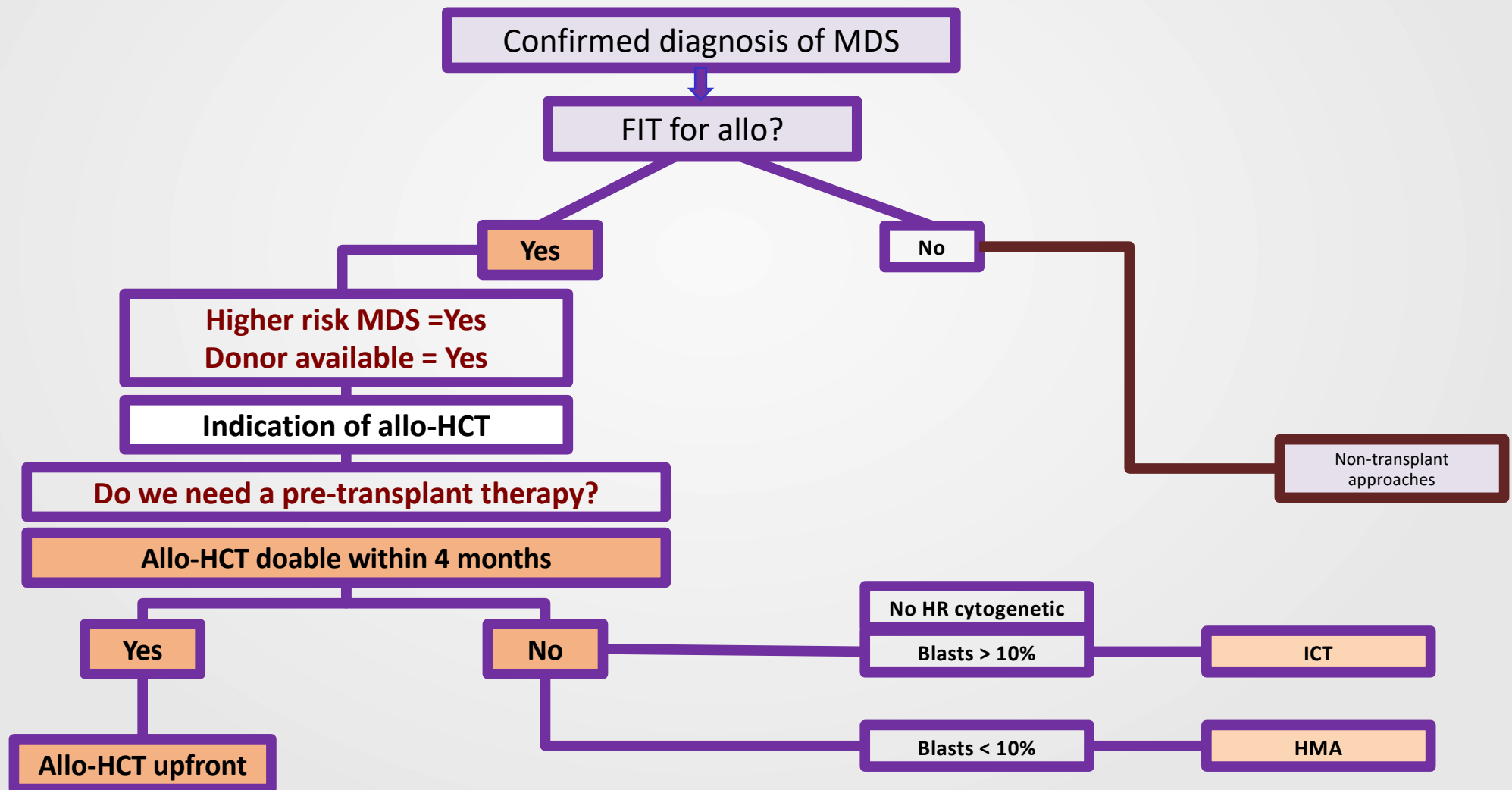












CONCLUSION

- The ideal strategy to discern the post-HCT benefit of pretransplant cytoreductive therapy, and to identify the optimal agent, would be in the form of a randomized prospective study.

Thank you

