

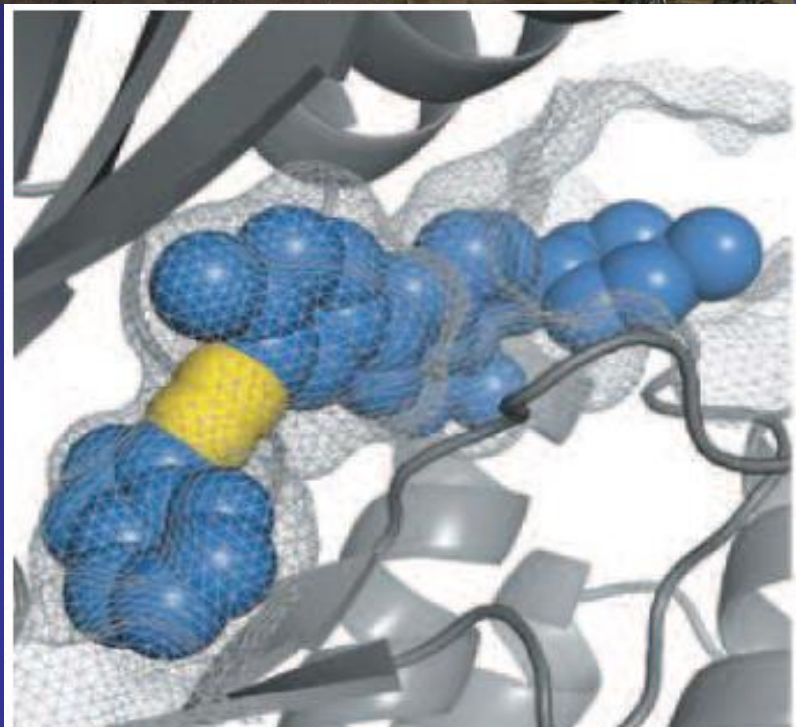


# NEW DRUGS IN HEMATOLOGY

Bologna 1-3 October 2018

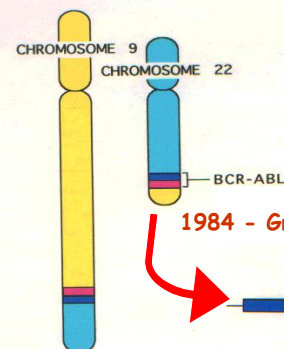
## SESSION VIII: CHRONIC MYELOID LEUKEMIA PONATINIB

*Michele.Baccarani@unibo.it*



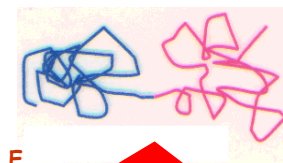
### MILESTONES IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF CML

1960 - Nowell P.C. & Hungerford D.A.



1984 - Konopka J.B. et al.

Protein BCR-ABL



1984 - Groffen J. et al.

1985- Shtivelman E

BCR-ABL mRNA

**Consequence: new BCR-ABL fusion proteins  
with a constitutive TK activity**

Michele BACCARANI, MD

Professor of Hematology at the Universities of Trieste, Udine, and Bologna

Chairman, CML Working Parties of European LeukemiaNet and GIMEMA

## **DISCLOSURES**

Consultant and speaker, receiving honoraria, from

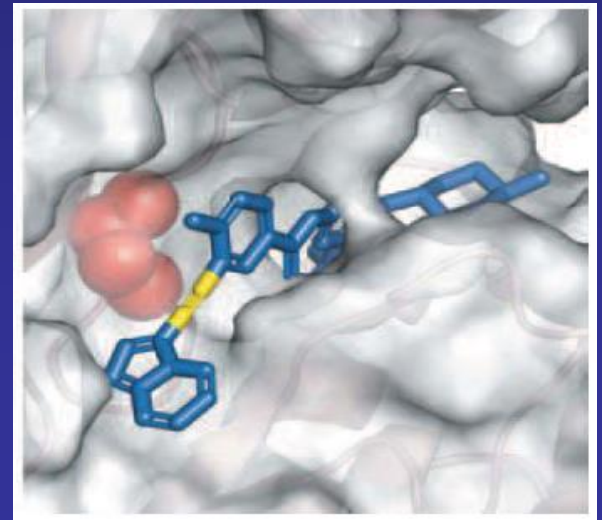
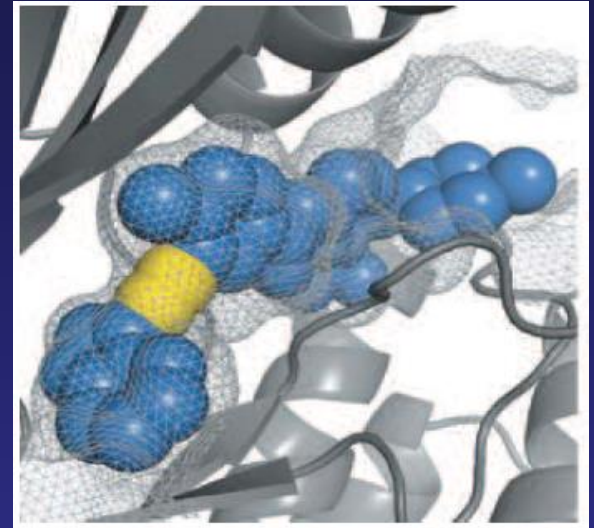
ARIAD/INCYTE

NOVARTIS

# Ponatinib

## A Pan-BCR-ABL Inhibitor

- Rationally designed inhibitor of BCR-ABL
- Active against T315I mutant
  - Unique approach to accommodating gatekeeper residue
- Potent activity against an array of BCR-ABL variants
- Once-daily oral activity
- Half-life  $\approx$  22 hours
- Also targets other therapeutically relevant kinases:
  - Inhibits FLT3, FGFR, VEGFR and PDGFR, and c-KIT



## **Phase 1 Study of Ponatinib**

### **Cortes J et al, ASH 2010, Abstract 210 , conclusions**

- **Ponatinib has an acceptable safety profile at therapeutic dose levels.....**
- **Clinical evidence of anti-leukemic activity.....**
  - **CML CP: 66% MCyR, 53% CCyR, 42% MMR**
  - **CP with T315I: 100% MCyR, 89% CCyR, 78% MMR**

## **Phase 2 Study of Ponatinib (PACE)**

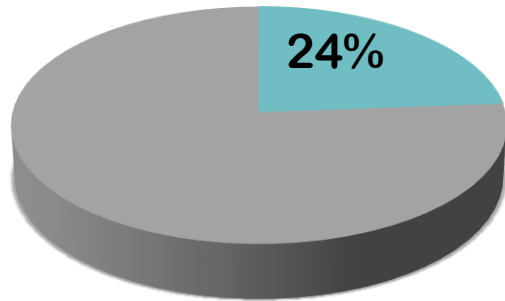
### **Cortes J et al, ASH 2011, Abstract 109, conclusions**

**IN THIS FIRST ANALYSIS OF THE PIVOTAL PACE TRIAL, PONATINIB HAS A FAVOURABLE EARLY SAFETY PROFILE....**

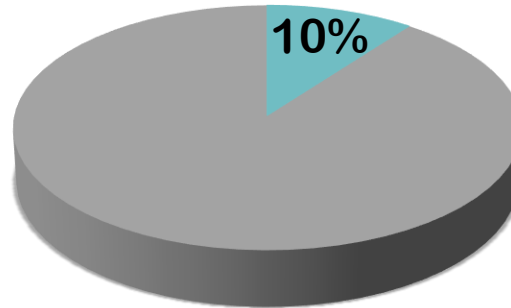
**INITIAL RESPONSE DATA AFTER SHORT FOLLOW-UP INDICATE PONATINIB HAS SUBSTANTIAL ANTILEUKEMIC ACTIVITY IN THIS HEAVILY PRETREATED POPULATION, AND IN PATIENTS WITH REFRACTORY T315I**

# Summary of mutation frequencies in failures and warnings, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> line

**FAILURES, 1<sup>st</sup> line**



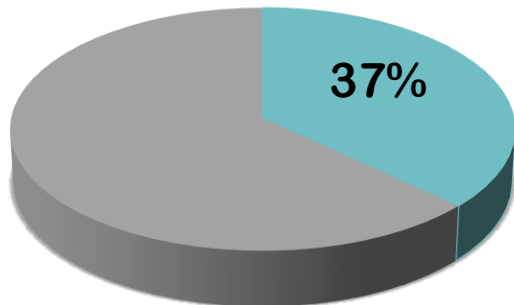
**WARNINGS, 1<sup>st</sup> line**



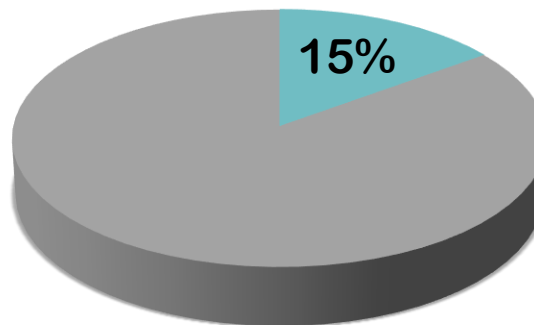
Pts positive for BCR-ABL mutations:

■ by conventional sequencing

**FAILURES, 2<sup>nd</sup> line**



**WARNINGS, 2<sup>nd</sup> line**



**IN VITRO SENSITIVITY (IC 50) TO TKIs OF THE 10 MORE FREQUENT ABL KD MUTATIONS, and PLASMA CONCENTRATION OF THE TKIs. ALL VALUES ARE nM**

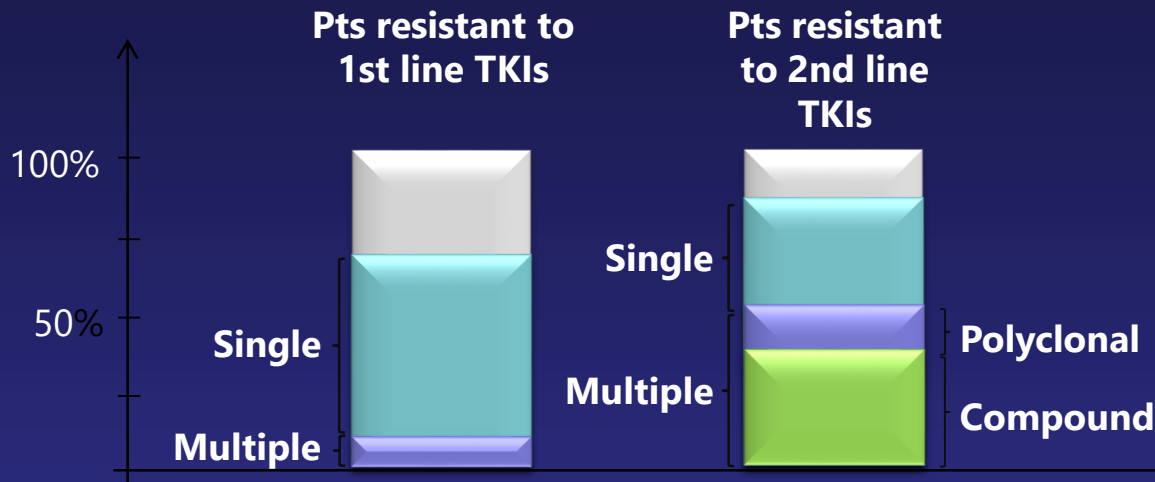
MUTATION IMATINIB NILOTINIB DASATINIB BOSUTINIB **PONATINIB**

M244V	1600-3100	38-39	1.3	147.4	2.2
G250E	1350-20000	48-219	1.8-8.1	179.2	4.1
Y253K	6000-18000	450-1300	1.3-10	NA	6.2
E255K/V	3000-12000	118-566	5.6-13	394	14
<b>T315I</b>	6000-20000	700-10000	137-1000	1900	<b>11</b>
F317L	800-7500	39-91	7.4-18	101	1.1
M351T	900-5000	8-38	1.1-1.6	29	1.5
F359V	1400-1800	91-175	2.2-2.7	38.6	10
L384 M	674-2800	39-41	4	19.5	NA
H396R	1750-5400	41-55	1.3-3	33.7	NA
Cmin	2062±1334	1923±1233	5.5±1.4	392	113± 51
Cmax	4402±1272	2329±772	133±74	268	256±128

Baccarani M et al, JCO 2009;27:6041-6051, and BLOOD 2013;122(6):872-884



# BCR-ABL KD mutations in Ph+ ALL



- High likelihood to acquire TKI-resistant mutations
- High incidence of T315I
- High frequency of highly resistant compound mutants in patients who fail  $\geq 2L$  of TKI therapy

	Mutations in IM-res Ph+ ALL pts (n=189)	N and % of mutated pts
1°	T315I	49 (37.4%)
2°	E255K	25 (18.3%)
3°	Y253H	25 (18.3%)
4°	F359V	6 (4.6%)
5°	G250E	6 (4.6%)
6°	L387M	5 (3.8%)
7°	M244V	5 (3.8%)
8°	M351T	5 (3.8%)
9°	F317L	5 (3.8%)
10°	Q252H	4 (3.1%)

65% in 2<sup>nd</sup> line TKI-res pts

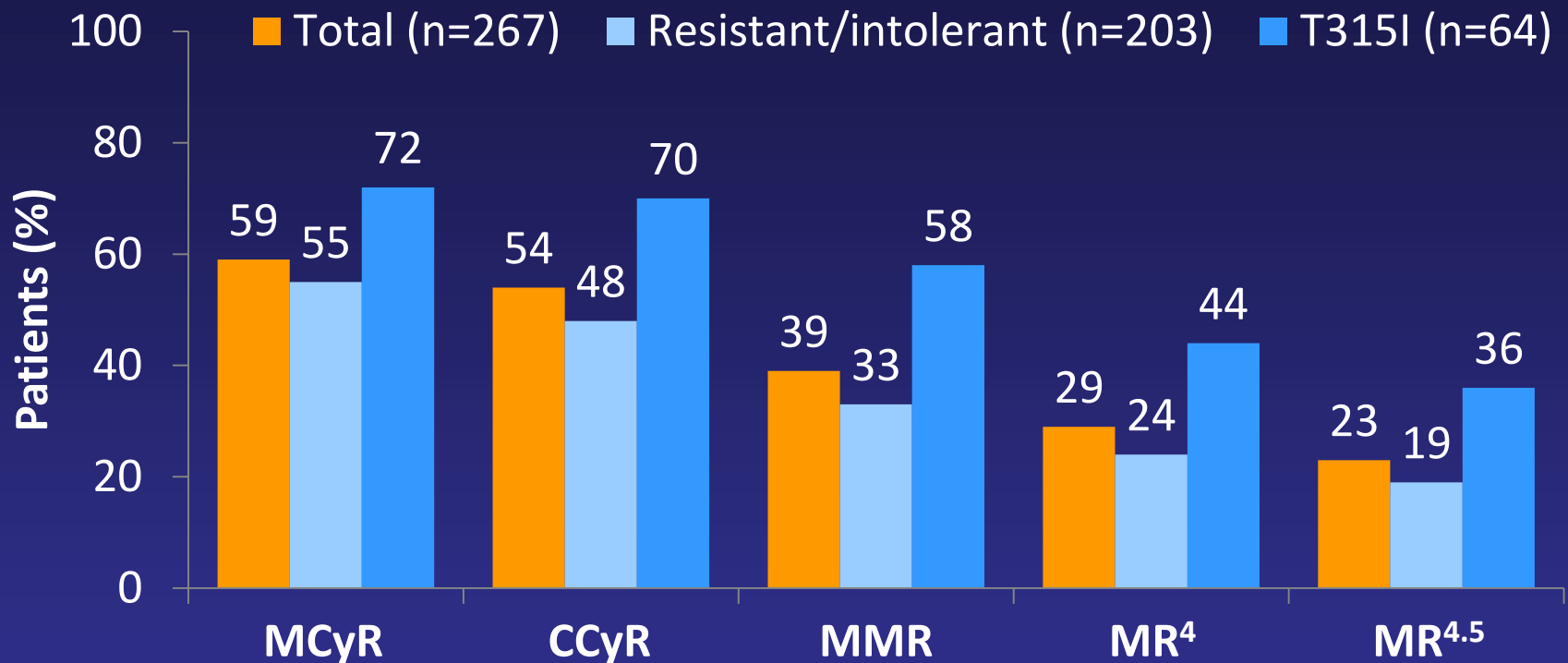
Importance of BCR-ABL KD sequence surveillance for timely detection of emerging mutations

# Five-year results of the ponatinib phase II PACE trial in heavily pretreated CP-CML patients





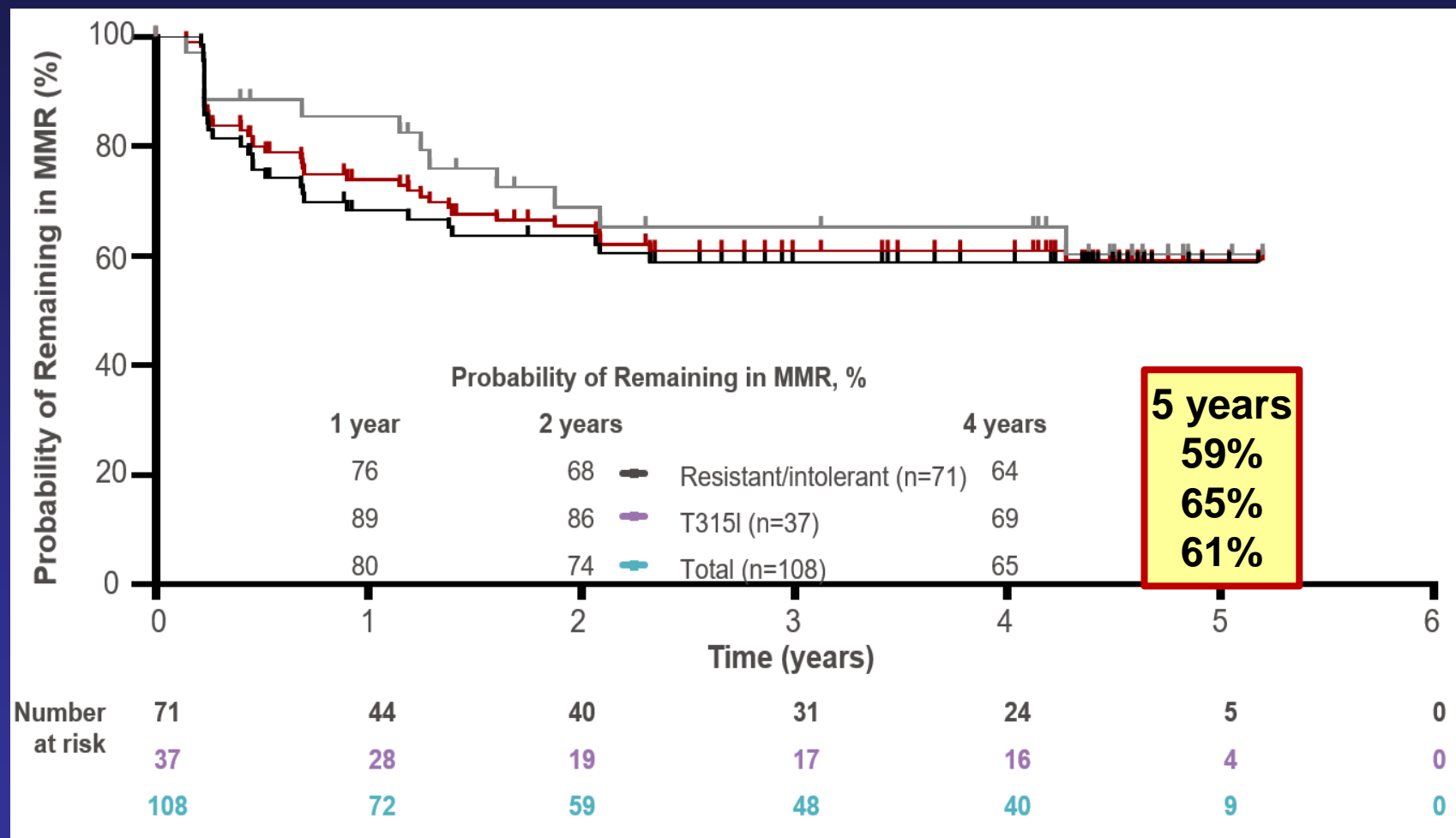
# PACE: Response at Any Time in Patients With CP-CML



Response at any time in advanced phase leukemia:

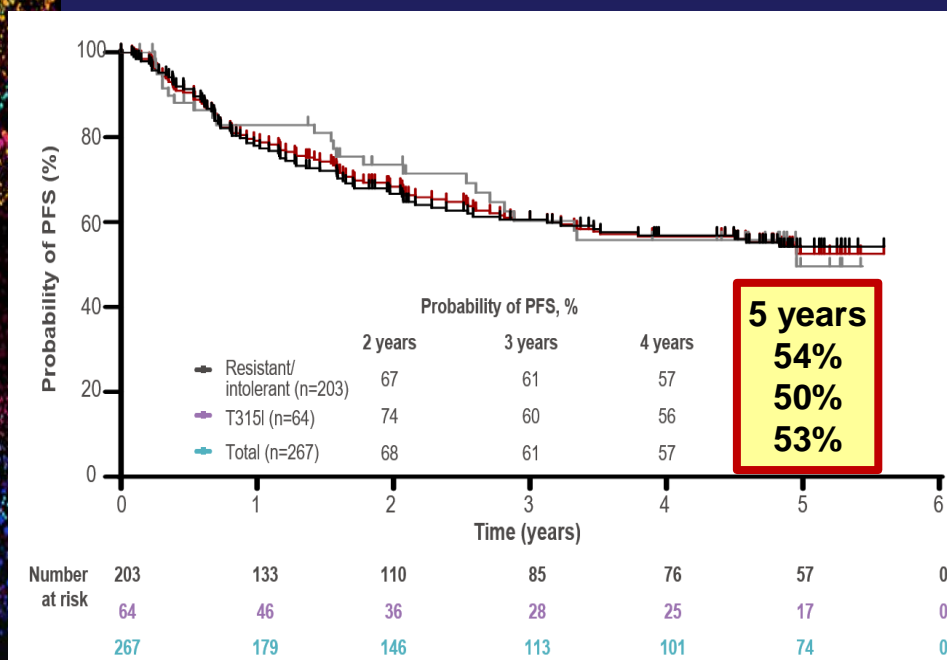
- AP-CML (n=83): MaHR was achieved in 61% of patients, CCyR in 31% and MMR in 22%
- BP-CML/Ph+ ALL (n=94): MaHR was achieved in 34% of patients, CCyR in 25% and MMR in 12%

# PACE: Estimated Duration of MMR

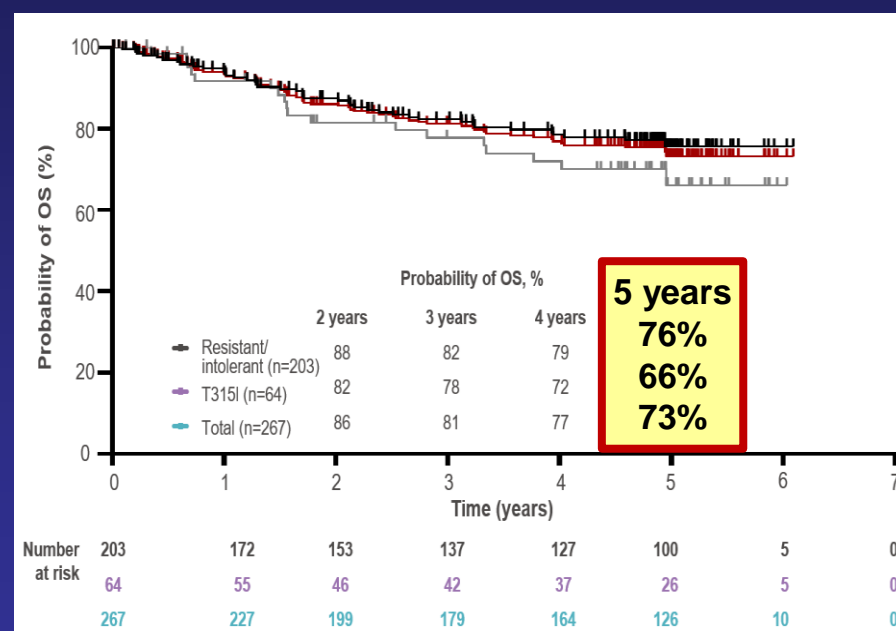


# PACE: Estimated PFS and OS

## Progression Free Survival

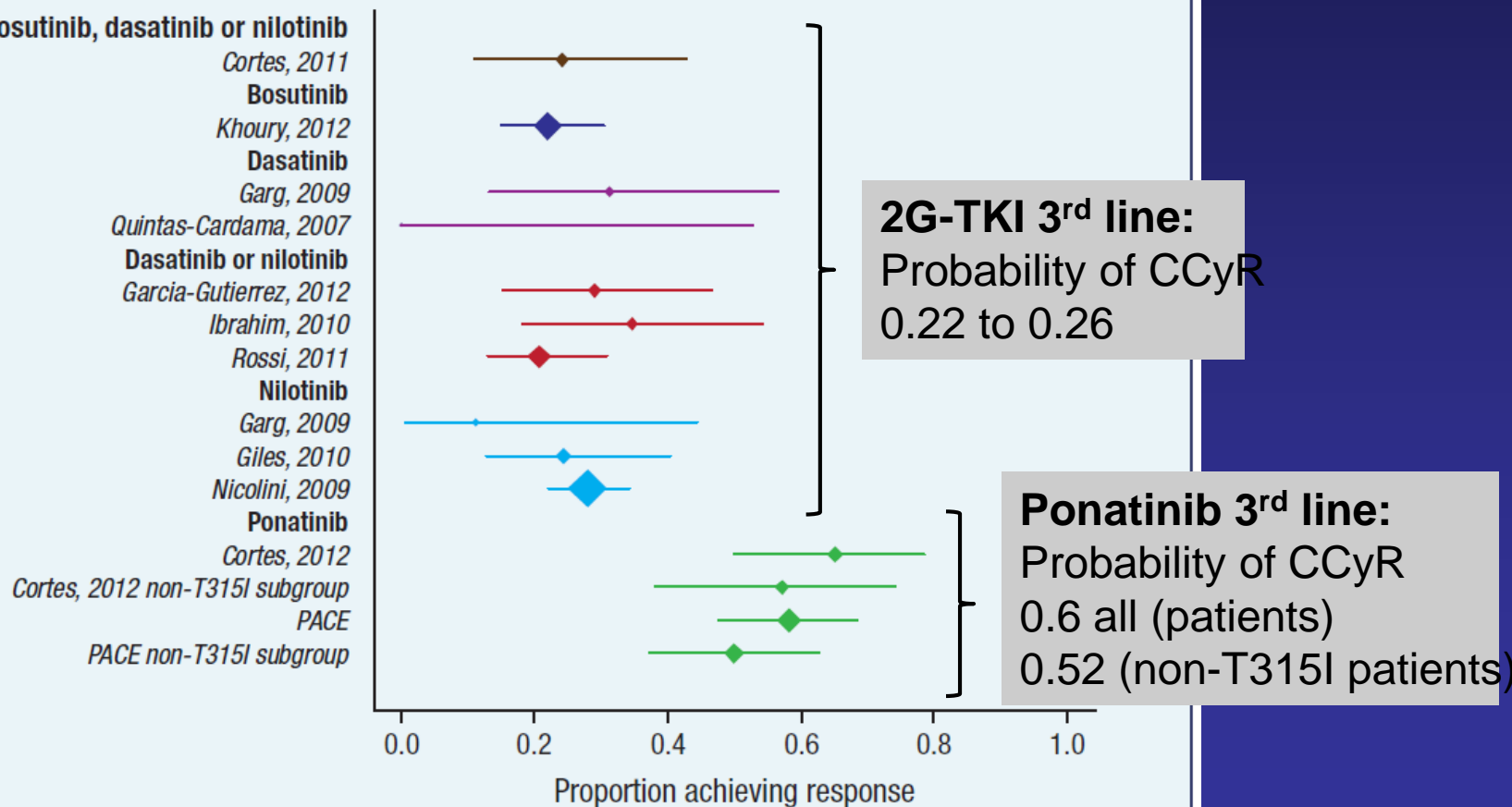


## Overall Survival



# Responses to 3<sup>rd</sup> line therapy after resistance or intolerance to 2<sup>nd</sup> generation TKI

Proportion of patients achieving CCyR (post 2G-TKI setting)



# CHRONIC MYELOID LEUKEMIA: THE CHOICE OF SECOND- AND THIRD-LINE TREATMENT

SINGLE ARM STUDIES (VERY FEW IN THIRD LINE)

NO STUDIES COMPARING NILOTINIB, DASATINIB, BOSUTINIB AND PONATINIB. ONLY ONE STUDY COMPARING HIGH DOSE IMATINIB vs DASATINIB

PONATINIB IN 3rd AND 4th LINE IS AS EFFECTIVE AS NILOTINIB, DASATINIB AND BOSUTINIB IN 2nd LINE<sup>@</sup>

## PONATINIB DOSE

IN THE PHASE 1 STUDY, A DOSE OF 45 mg ONCE DAILY WAS FOUND TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE AND TOLERATED

AT THAT DOSE, THE PLASMA CONCENTRATION (40 nM) OF PONATINIB WAS SUFFICIENT TO CONTROL THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANY MUTATION

A DOSE OF 45 mg ONCE DAILY WAS SELECTED FOR THE PHASE 2 «PACE» STUDY

AND ALSO FOR THE PHASE 3 «EPIC» STUDY

BUT, WITH A LONGER FOLLOW-UP OF THE PHASE 2 «EPIC» STUDY.....



# PACE study 4-year results: cumulative and exposure-adjusted incidences of AOE<sub>s</sub> and VTE<sub>s</sub>\*

	CP-CML n=270	
	All grades	SAEs
<b>AOEs, n (%):</b>	<b>77 (29)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>63 (23)<sup>b</sup></b>
Cardiovascular	39 (14)	30 (11)
Cerebrovascular	33 (12)	26 (10)
Peripheral vascular	31 (11)	25 (9)
Exposure-adjusted AOE <sub>s</sub> , no. of patients with events per 100 patient-years	14.2	10.9
<b>VTEs</b>	<b>13 (5)</b>	<b>12 (4)</b>
Exposure-adjusted VTEs, no. of patients with events per 100 patient-years	2.0	1.8

\*Categorization of AOE<sub>s</sub> and VTE<sub>s</sub> is based on a broad collection of >400 MedDRA preferred terms related to vascular ischemia or thrombosis;

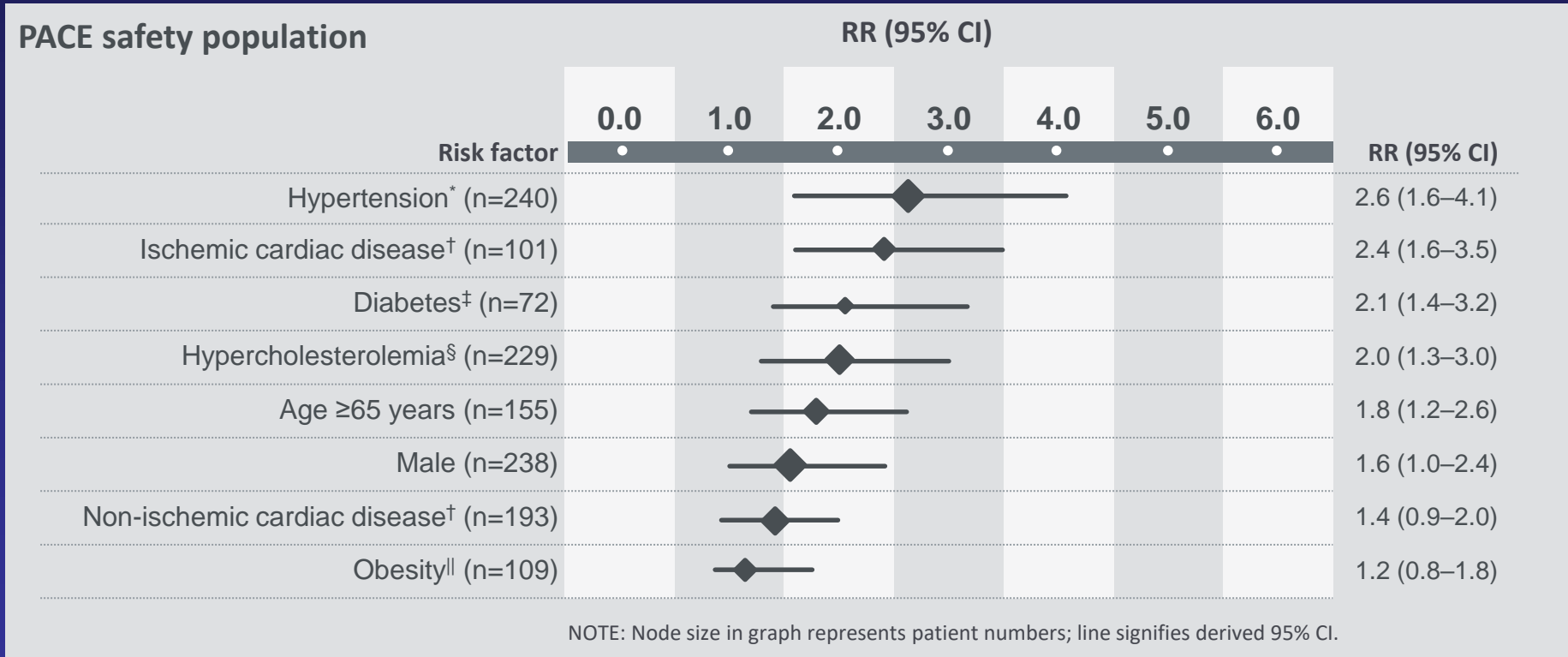
<sup>a</sup>41 patients had >1 AOE; <sup>b</sup>25 patients had >1 serious AOE; <sup>c</sup>51 patients had >1 AOE; <sup>d</sup>32 patients had >1 serious AOE.

SAEs=serious adverse events

Cortes et al. J Clin Oncol 34, 2016 (suppl; abstr 7013).

# PACE study 4-year results: baseline risk factors for the development of serious AOE

## Relative risk of serious AOE by risk category – univariate analysis



\*Includes medical history, prior concomitant medication, and/or baseline blood pressure  $\geq 2$ . †Includes medical history and/or prior concomitant medication. ‡Includes medical history, prior concomitant medication, and/or baseline glucose  $\geq 2$ . §Includes medical history, prior concomitant medication, and/or baseline triglycerides  $\geq 1$ . ||Includes medical history and/or baseline BMI  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

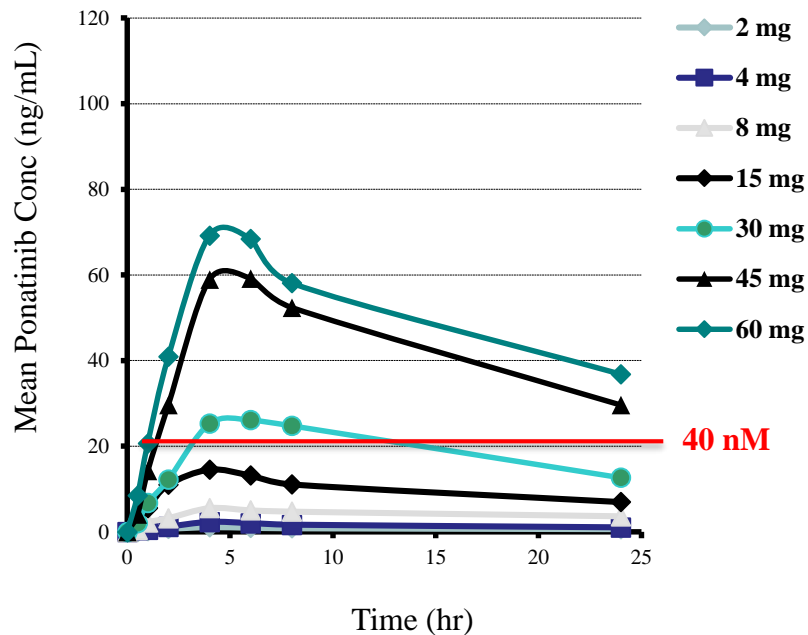
# THE AVERAGE CML PATIENT IN EUROPE

MALE GENDER	54%		
MEDIAN AGE	56 years	$\geq 70$ years old	22%
HIGH RISK (Sokal)	25%		
WITH COMORBIDITIES	55%		
- Hypertension	26%		
- Cardiovascular disorders	17%		
- Diabetes mellitus	10%		
- Smoking	20%		

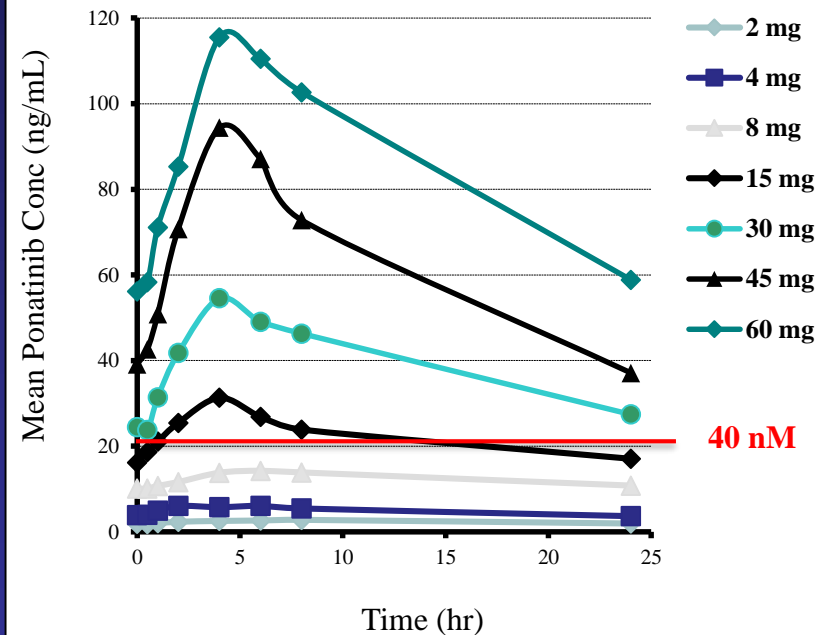
Hoffmann V, Baccarani M, Hasford J, et al. The EUTOS population-based registry: incidence and clinical characteristics of 2094 CML patients in 20 European countries. Leukemia 2015;29(6):1336-1343.

# But a plasma concentration of 40 nM is achieved already at a dose of 30 mg

Concentration - Time Profile  
C1D1 Following a Single Oral Dose



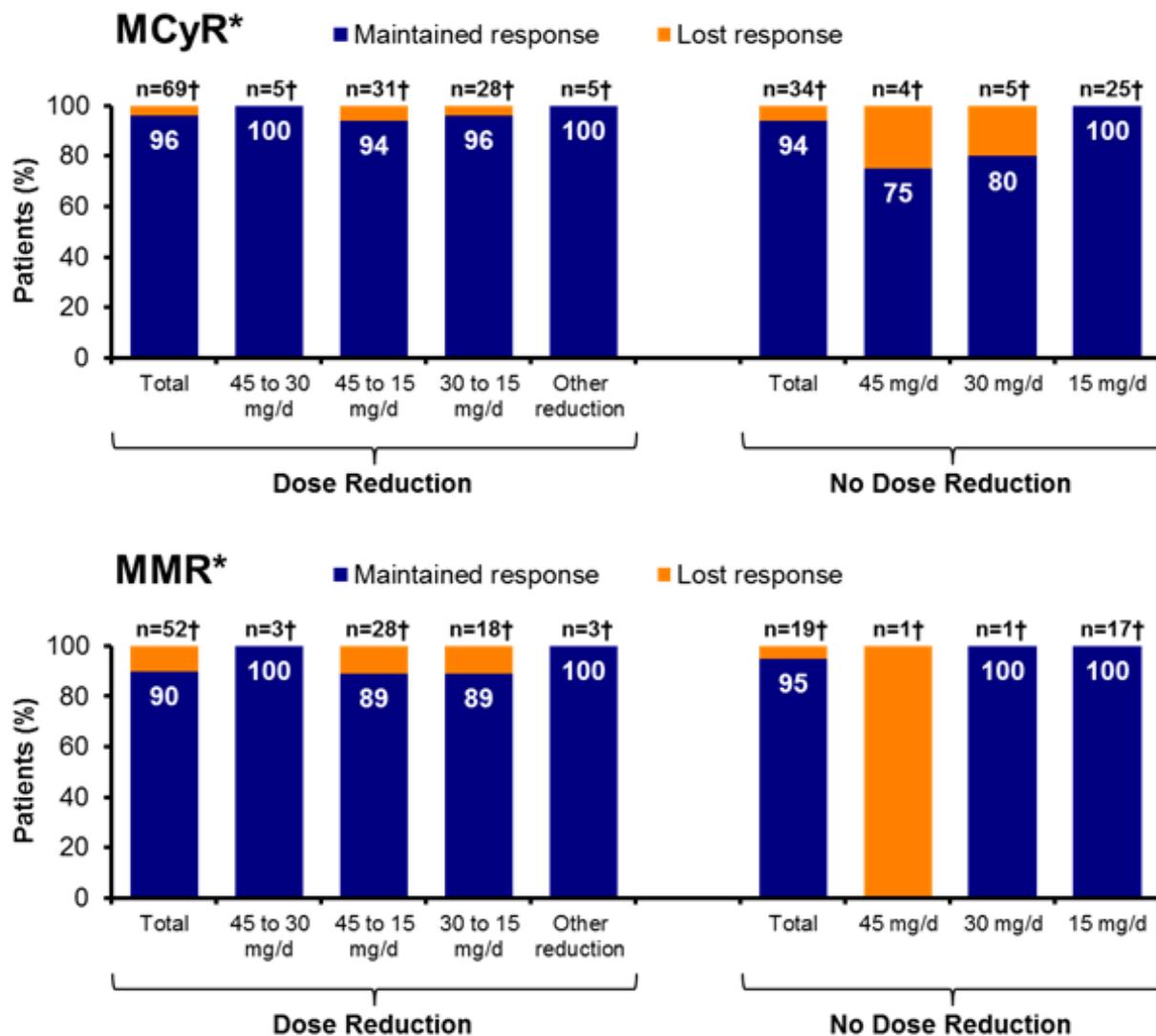
Concentration - Time Profile  
C1D2 Following Multiple Oral Doses



At doses  $\geq 30$  mg

- Trough plasma concentrations surpass 40 nM level target

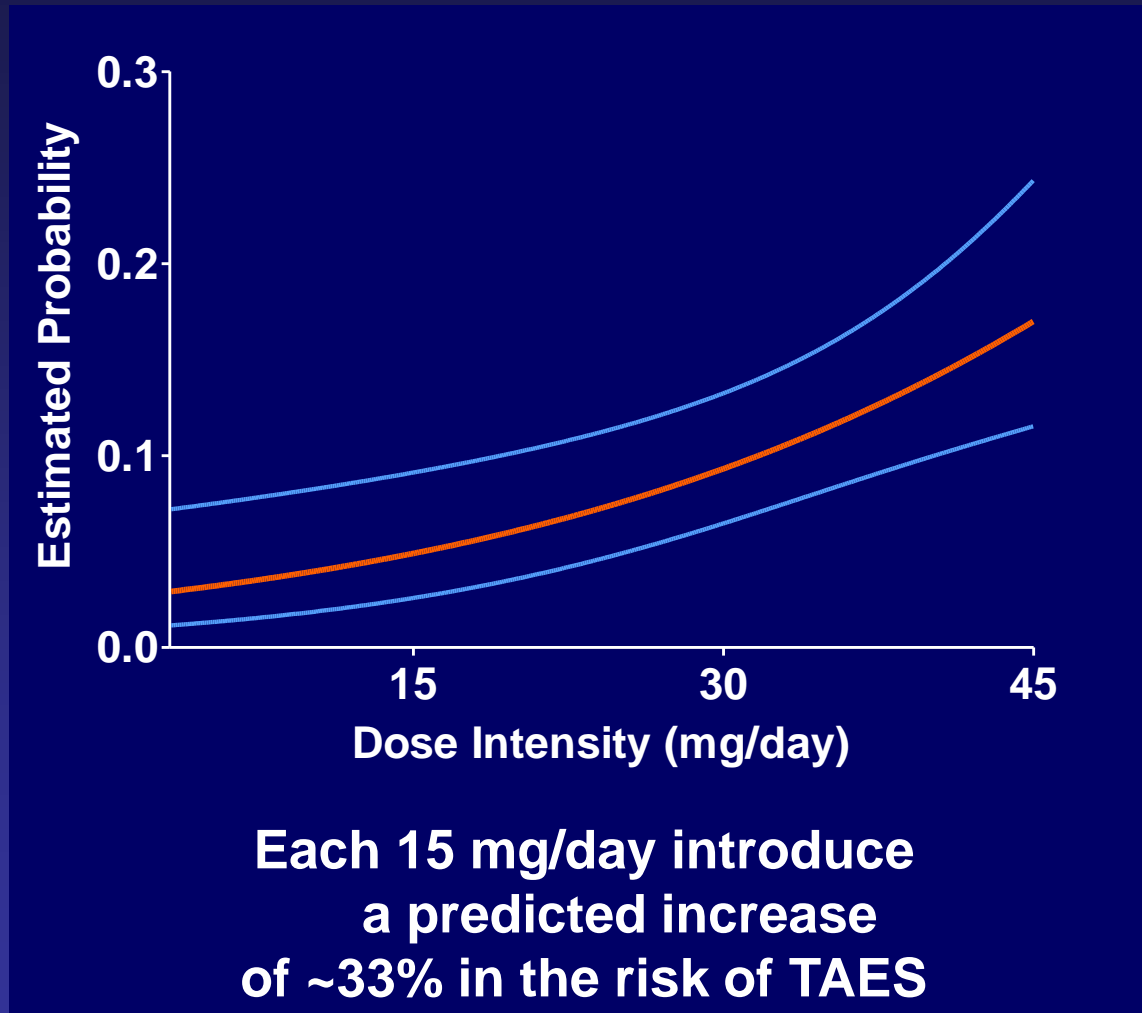
# IN THE PACE STUDY, REDUCING THE INITIAL DOSE FROM 45 TO 30 or 15 DID NOT RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RESPONSE THAT WAS ACHIEVED WITH 45 mg



\*Response maintained as of last response assessment.

†Number of patients with response as of October 10, 2013.

# THERE IS A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PONATINIB DOSE AND CARDIOVASCULAR TOICITY





## PONATINIB DOSE

THE INITIAL DOSE OF 45 mg MUST BE DECREASED TO 30 AND ALSO 15 mg IN CASE OF TOXICITY

THE MEDIAN TIME TO MMR IS ABOUT 6 MONTHS, THE MEDIAN TIME TO THE FIRST CV EVENT IS ABOUT 15 MONTHS

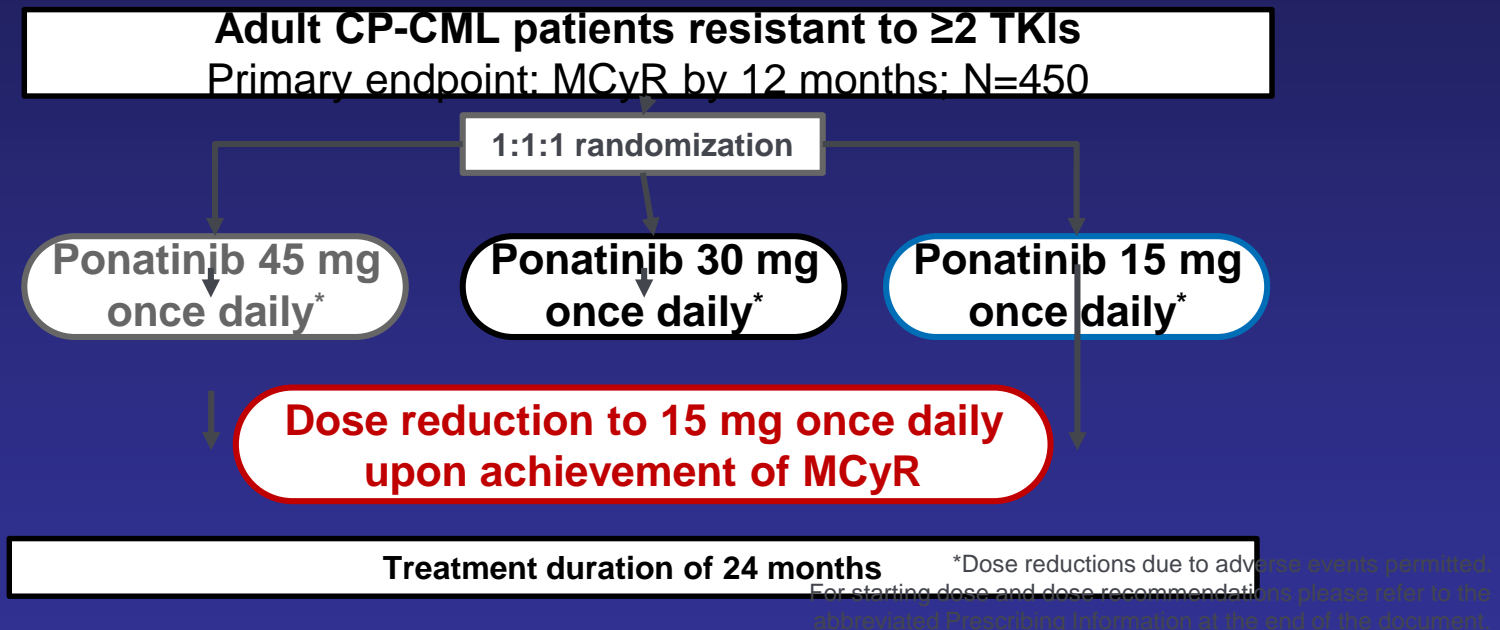
ADJUSTING PONATINIB DOSE WITHIN 6 MONTHS HELPS REDUCING TOXICITY

PONATINIB DOSE CAN BE DECREASED TO 30 AND ALSO TO 15 mg IN CASE OF OPTIMAL RESPONSE (CCyR or MMR)

**BUT** MORE DATA ON PONATINIB DOSE AND DOSE ADJUSTMENT ARE CRITICAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRUG.

# Optimizing ponatinib treatment in CML (OPTIC): dose-ranging study

**An international randomized phase 2 trial to  
characterize the  
efficacy and safety of a range of ponatinib doses**



CML, chronic myeloid leukemia; CP, chronic phase;  
MCyR, major cytogenetic response; TKI, tyrosine kinase inhibitor.



## Working Party Leucemia Mieloide Cronica

# OPUS Trial

**Optimizing Ponatinib Use** A GIMEMA phase 2 study of the efficacy and risk profile of ponatinib, 30 mg once daily, in Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML) Chronic Phase (CP) patients resistant to imatinib

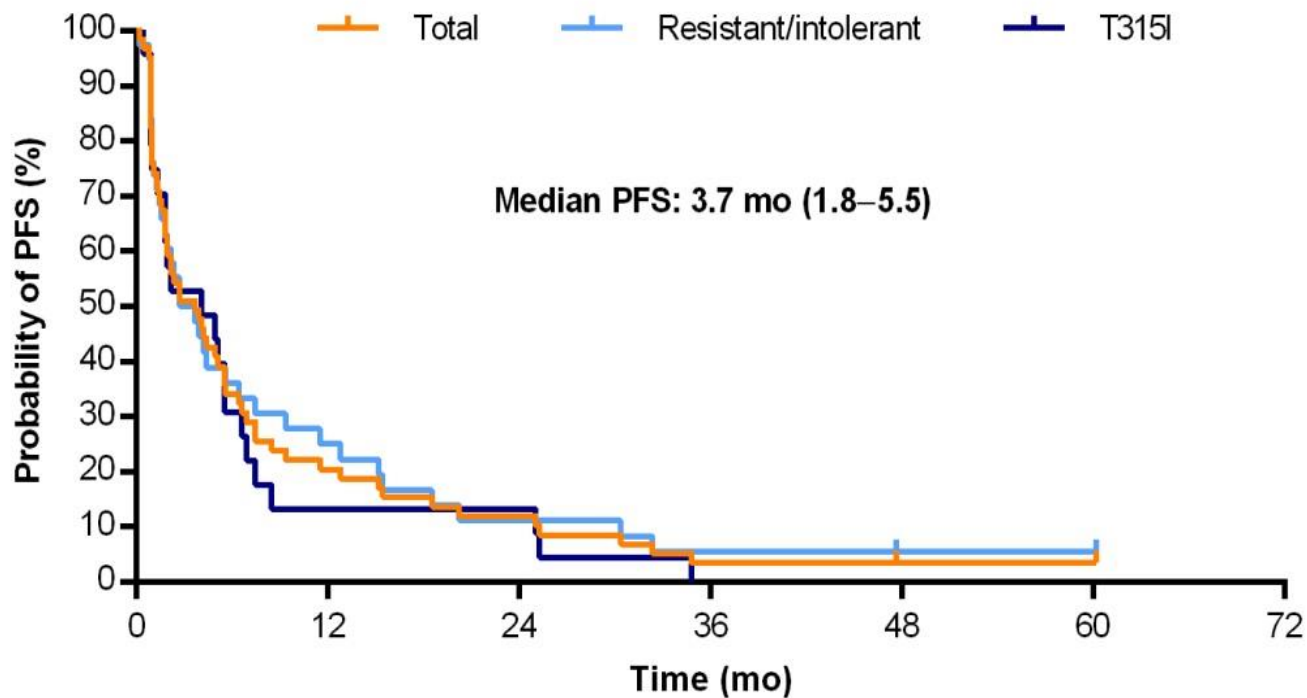
**BACK UP**

## IC 50 (BIOCHEMICAL ASSAY, nM) FOR BCR-ABL1 (unmutated) AND FOR SOME “OFF-TARGET” TYROSINE KINASES

	BCR-ABL1	PDGFR $\alpha$	cKit	Src	<b>VEGFR2</b>	BTK
IMATINIB	<b>678</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>99</b>	1000	10000	10000
NILOTINIB	<b>25</b>	<b>75</b>	209	1000	3720	10000
DASATINIB	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0.1</b>	10000	<b>1.1</b>
BOSUTINIB	<b>42</b>	<b>3.0</b>	10000	<b>3.0</b>	10000	<b>2.5</b>
PONATINIB	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	849

Data from Baccarani M et al, Blood 2013;122(6):872-884

## (E) BP-CML: Progression-free survival\*



No. at Risk

62

12

7

2

1

1

0

38

9

4

2

1

1

0

24

3

3

0

0

0

0

\*Progression from BP was defined as death, or increasing blasts in peripheral blood or bone marrow over a 4-week period.



# **PONATINIB, A SHORT JOURNEY FROM DESK TO BED**

- 2009** AP24534, a pan-BCR-ABL inhibitor for CML, potently inhibits the T315I mutant and overcomes mutation based resistance  
O'Hare et al Cancer Cell 2009;16:401-412
- 2010** A phase 1 trial of oral Ponatinib (AP24534) in patients with refractory CML and other hematologic malignancies: emerging safety and clinical response findings. Cortes J et al, ASH 2010, abstract 210
- 2012** Ponatinib in refractory Philadelphia chromosome-positive leukemias  
Cortes J et al, NEJM 2012;367:2075-2088
- 2012** A pivotal phase 2 trial of Ponatinib in patients with CML and Ph+ ALL resistant or intolerant to dasatinib or nilotinib, or with the T315I mutation: 12-month follow-up of the PACE trial  
Cortes J et al, ASH 2012, abstract 163
- 2013** A phase 2 trial of Ponatinib in Philadelphia chromosome-positive leukemias  
Cortes JE et al, NEJM 2013;369:1783-1796

# PONATINIB : A LONG CLINICAL JOURNEY

- 2012** December 14, FDA accelerated approval of Iclusig (Ponatinib) for patients with CML and Ph+ ALL resistant or intolerant to prior tyrosine kinase inhibitor therapy
- 2013** January, EMA approval of Iclusig for patients with CP CML resistant or intolerant to dasatinib or nilotinib, for whom subsequent treatment with imatinib is clinically inappropriate; or with the T315I mutation
- 2013** October 10, EPIC study prematurely terminated
- 2013** October 30, FDA requests to suspend marketing of Iclusig
- 2013** December 6 and 20, EMA and FDA require new safety measures to address the risk of life-threatening vascular adverse events
- 2014** January 2, ARIAD resumes marketing Iclusig,
- 2014 on** Dose adaptation studies

# THE REGISTERED (APPROVED) DOSE OF TKIs

DRUG	APPROVED/RECOMMENDED DOSE		
	INITIAL	“MAXIMAL”	“MINIMAL”
GLIVEC	400 x 1	400 x 2	300 x 1
SPRYCEL	100 x 1	140 x 1	50 x 1
TASIGNA	300 x 2	400 x 2	400 x 1
BOSULIF	500 x 1	600 x 1	400 x 1
ICLUSIG	45 x 1	45 x 1	15 x 1

HAS THE RECOMMENDATION OF A DOSE ANY SENSE?

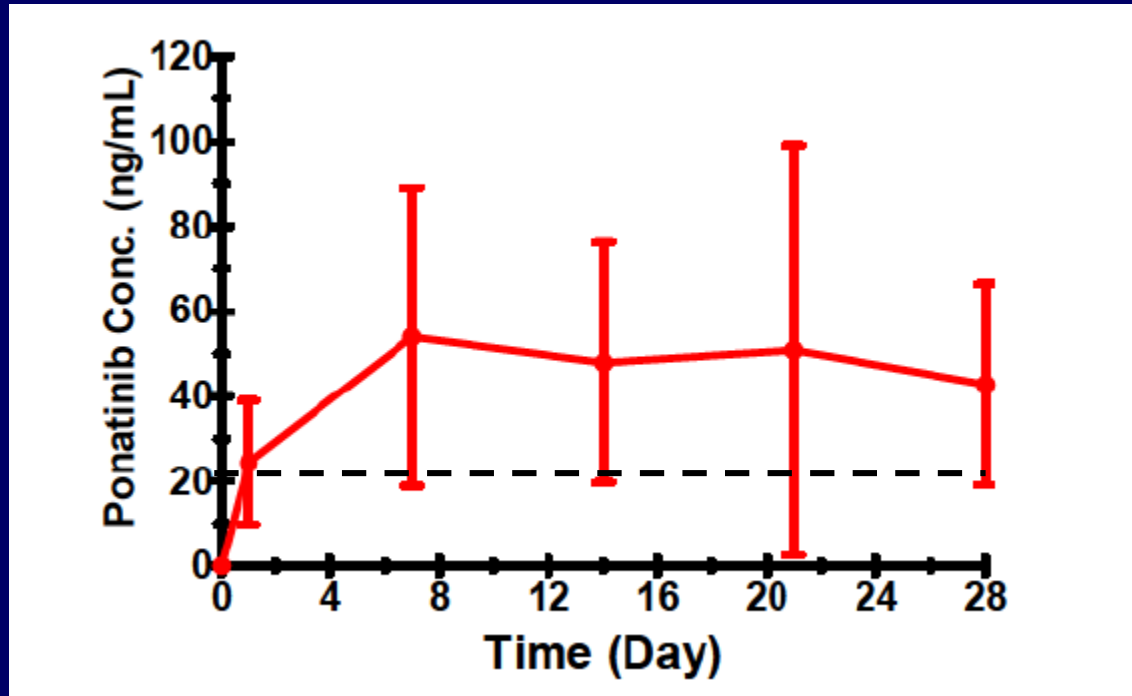
YES, TO ENSURE EFFICACY AND TO PROTECT FROM TOXICITY

USUALLY THE DOSE CAN BE INCREASED FOR BETTER EFFICACY AND  
CAN BE DECREASED IN CASE OF TOXICITY (TO SOME EXTENT)

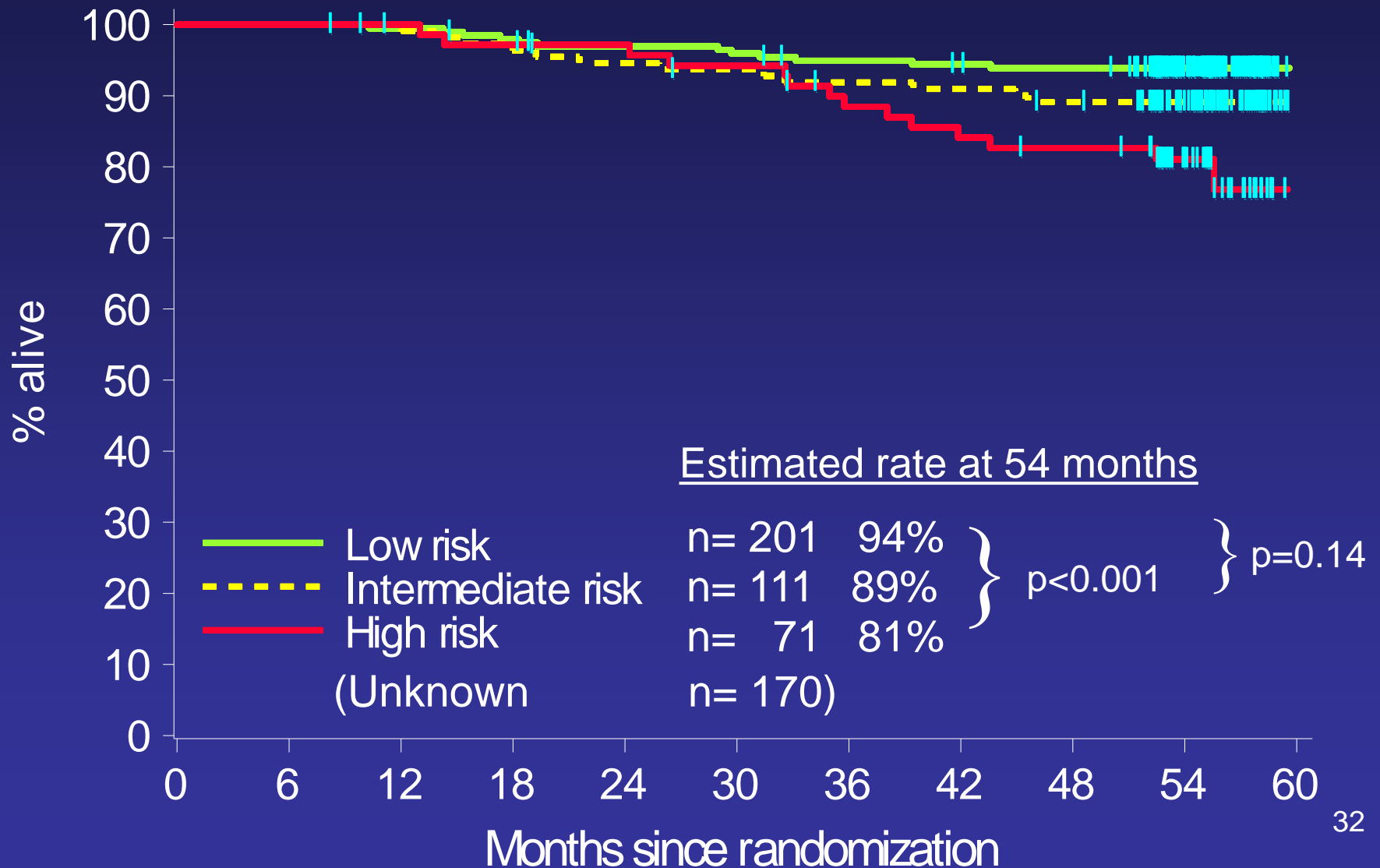
BUT WHY THE DOSE COULD OR SHOULD NOT BE DECREASED IN  
CASE OF OPTIMAL RESPONSE, SO AS TO MAINTAIN EFFICACY AND  
TO REDUCE TOXICITY?

THE DOSE OF PONATINIB CAN (MUST) BE ADAPTED TO EFFICACY  
(TO BCR-ABL1 LEVEL)

# 45 mg/die: INTERPATIENT PLASMA PONATINIB CONCENTRATION IS HIGHLY VARIABLE



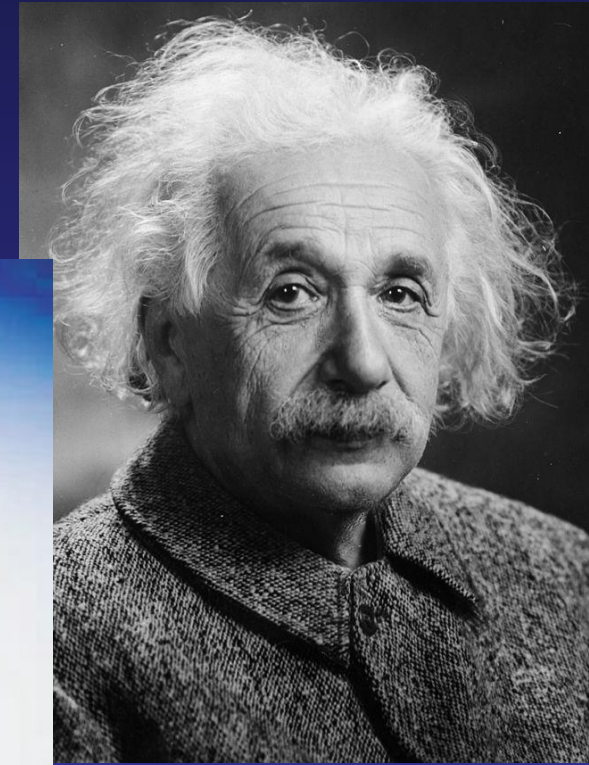
# IRIS: Overall Survival by Sokal Group in Patients on First-line Imatinib





# THE PLAYERS FOR CML

The patient  
The doctor  
The good scientist  
The Pharma



# Outcome upon treatment with 2<sup>nd</sup> line 2<sup>nd</sup> generation TKI after failure of imatinib

	Dasatinib 100mg QD	Nilotinib 400mg BID	Bosutinib 500mg QD
Patients (n)	167	321	288
Median age (years)	56	58	53
Imatinib resistance/intolerance	74%/26%	70%/30%	69.5%/30.5%
Minimum follow-up	24 months	24 months	24 months
Best CCyR rate	50%	44%	48%
Best MMR rate	37%	28%	35%
24-months PFS*	80%	64%	81%
24-months OS	91%	87%	91%

\*PFS definition variations from a study to another

Shah NP, et al. Haematologica. 2010;95(2):232-240.  
 Kantarjian HM, et al. Blood. 2011;117(4):1141-1145.  
 Gambacorti-Passerini C et al. Am J Hematol. 2014;89(7):732-742.  
 Rosti G, et al. Nat Rev Clin Oncol. 2017;14(3):141-154.

# **A Phase 1 Trial of Oral Ponatinib (AP24534) in Patients with Refractory Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML) and Other Hematologic Malignancies: Emerging Safety and Clinical Response Findings**

**Abstract 210: ASH 2010, Orlando, FL**

**J Cortes, M Talpaz, D Bixby, M Deininger, N Shah, I Flinn, M Mauro, T O'Hare, S Hu, R Kan, V Rivera, T Clackson, FG Haluska, and H Kantarjian**

# Initial Findings from the PACE Trial: A Pivotal Phase 2 Study of Ponatinib in Patients with CML and Ph+ ALL Resistant or Intolerant to Dasatinib or Nilotinib, or with the T315I Mutation

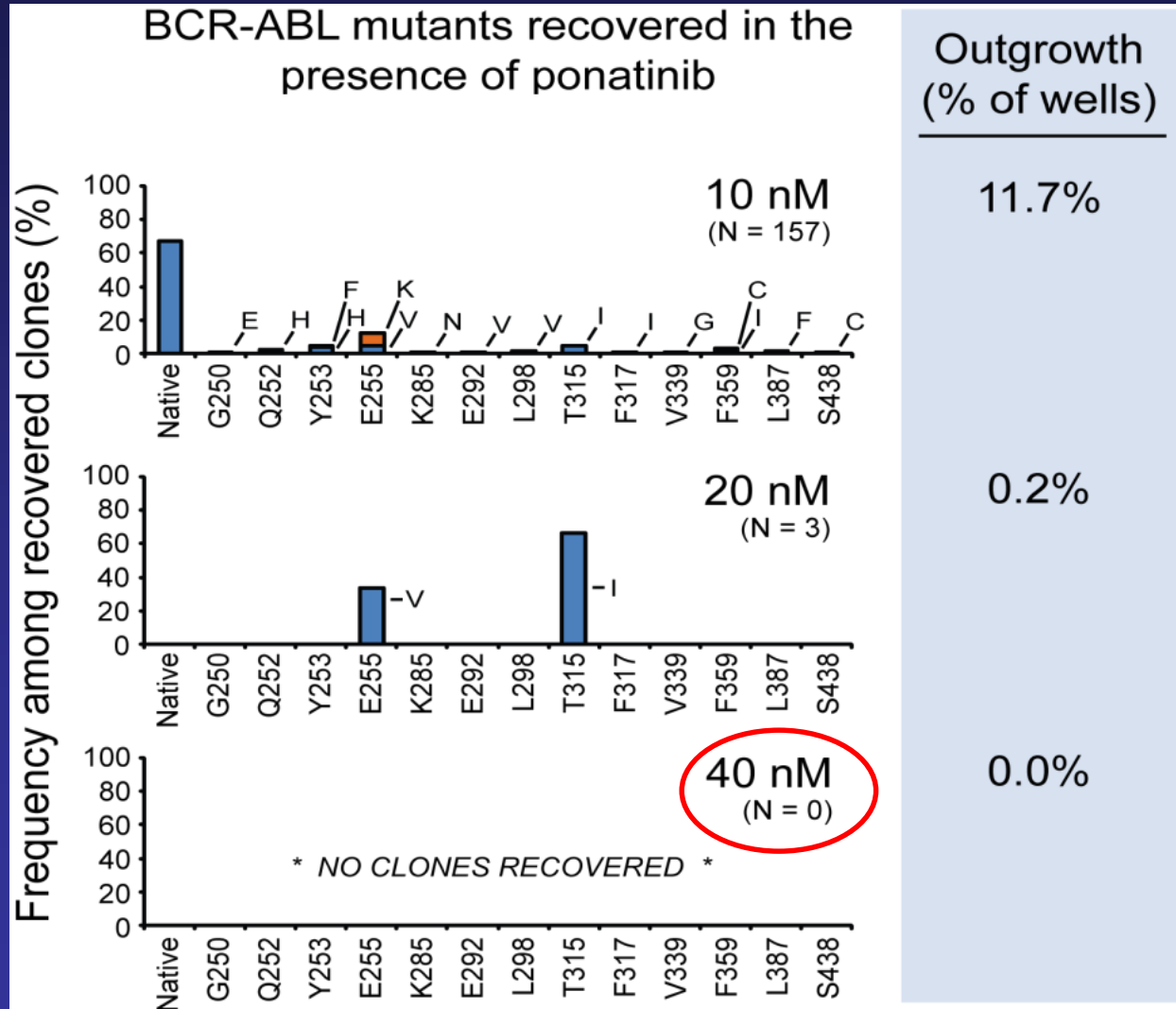
Abstract 109: ASH 2011, San Diego, CA

J Cortes, D-W Kim, J Pinilla, P le Coutre, C Chuah, F Nicolini,  
R Paquette, J Apperley, J DiPersio, HJ Khoury, D Rea, M Talpaz,  
DJ DeAngelo, E Abruzzese, M Baccarani, MC Mueller,  
C Gambacorti-Passerini, S Wong, S Lustgarten, CD Turner, V Rivera, T  
Clackson, F Haluska, and HM Kantarjian on behalf of the PACE  
Investigators



AT 30 mg ONCE DAILY THE PLASMA TARGET  
CONCENTRATION OF 40nM IS REACHED

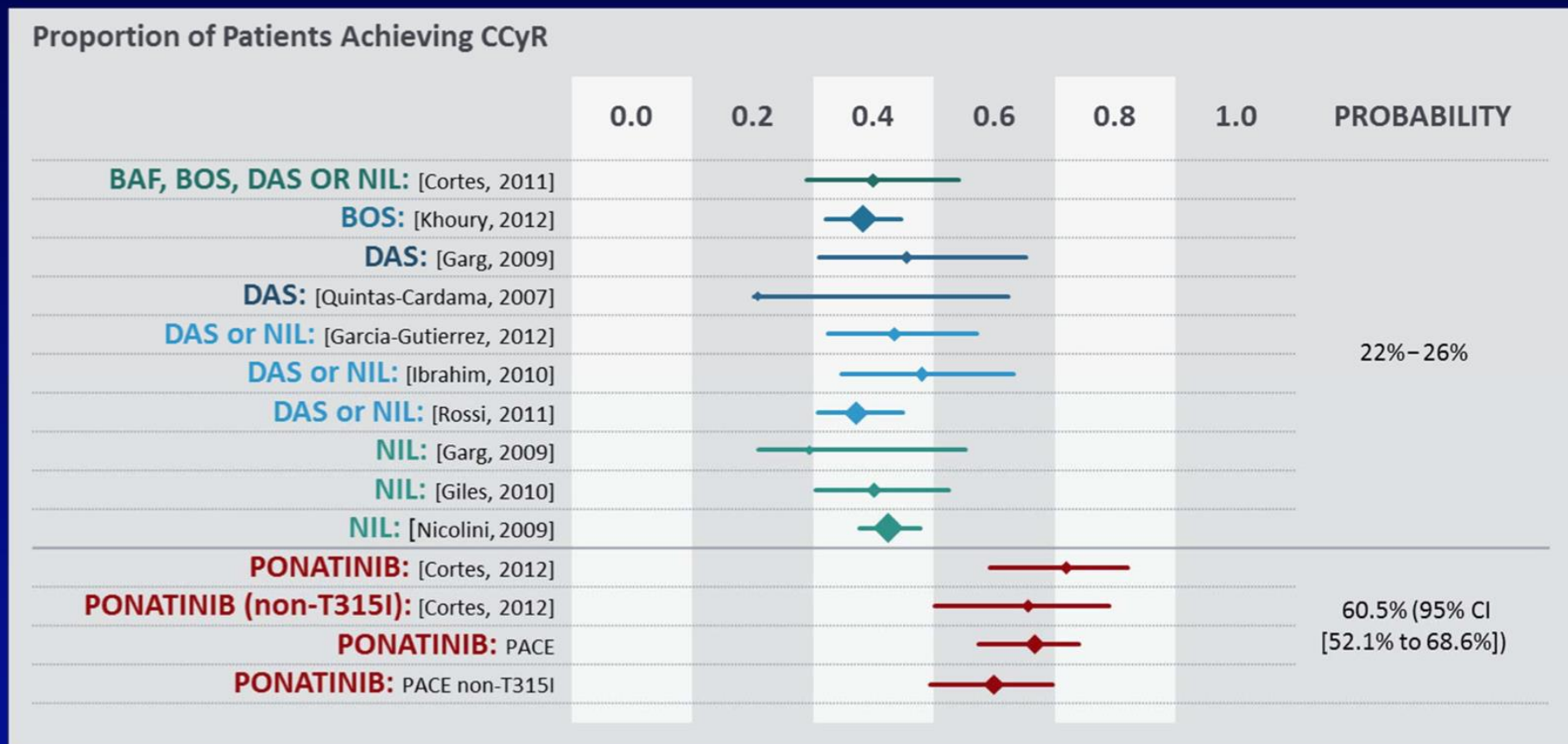
## Suppression of Mutant Outgrowth



- Cells exposed to increasing ponatinib concentrations
- BCR-ABL resistance mutations completely suppressed at 40 nM
- 40 nM target trough plasma ponatinib concentration
- 40 nM attained at doses  $\geq 30$  mg



# Systematic Review of CP-CML Patients in Third-line Setting: Response to Ponatinib Was Superior to Other TKIs



These data suggest sequencing of second-generation TKIs may be a suboptimal treatment approach

NOTE: Node size in graph represents patient numbers; line signifies derived 95% confidence interval.

AF=bafetinib; BOS=bosutinib; DAS=dasatinib; NIL=nilotinib.

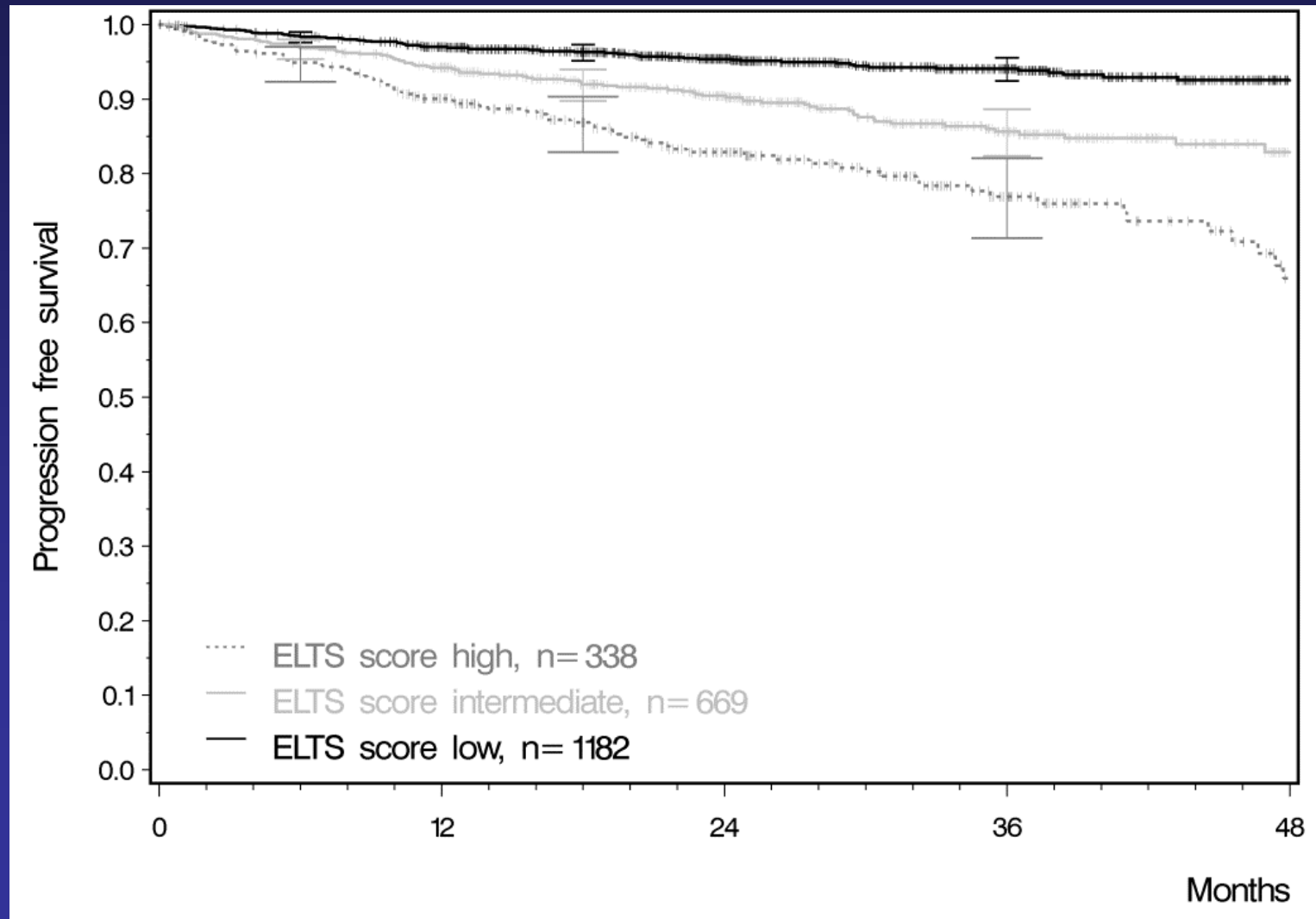
Lipton et al, *Blood*. 2013;122(21) (abstr 4010).

**OUT OF 100 NEWLY DIAGNOSED PATIENTS,  
10-20% ARE HIGH RISK OR ALREADY  
IN ACCELERATED OR BLASTIC PHASE**

**WE NEED TO DESIGN AND TO TEST THE  
STRATEGIES OF TREATMENT OF HIGH  
RISK PATIENTS AND OF THE PATIENTS  
NEWLY DIAGNOSED IN ACCELERATED OR  
BLASTIC PHASE**

# The EUTOS Long Term Survival score

Pfirschmann M et al, Leukemia 2016;30:48-56





# HIGH RISK PATIENTS

MAJOR MOLECULAR RESPONSE (MMR) and COMPLETE CYTOGENETIC RESPONSE (CCyR) AT 12 MONTHS  
IMATINIB, NILOTINIB, DASATINIB

DRUG	STUDY	Reference	No.pts	MMR%	CCyR%
IMA 400	DASISION	Kantarjian NEJM 2010	50•	<b>16</b>	64
IMA 400	ENESTnd	Saglio NEJM 2010	78	<b>17</b>	48
IMA 400	TOPS	Cortes ICO 2008	42	<b>26</b>	62
IMA 400	ELN	Baccarani Blood 2009	108	<b>33</b>	58
IMA 400	IRIS	Hughes NEJM 2003	71	<b>38</b>	49
IMA 800	TOPS	Cortes JCO 2008	75	<b>40</b>	63
IMA 800	ELN	Baccarani Blood 2009	108	<b>40</b>	64
DAS 400	DASISION	Kantarjian NEJM 2010	49	<b>31</b>	64
NIL 600	ENESTnd	Saglio NEJM 2010	78•	<b>41</b>	74

## ITALIAN GUIDELINES (PROVISIONAL)

### BASELINE EVALUATION, ALL PATIENTS

- CV/CeV EVENTS, personal (current and previously) and in 1st grade rel
- AGE and WEIGHT
- LIFE STYLE
- PRIOR THERAPY WITH CARDIOTOXIC DRUGS
- EDINBURGH CLAUDICATION QUESTIONNAIRE
- PHYSICAL EXAMINATION (central and peripheral arterial pulses)
- BLOOD PRESSURE
- SCREENING FOR DIABETES MELLITUS (glicemia, HbA1C)
- SCREENING FOR DYSLIPIDEMIA (cholesterol, LDL, HDL, tryglicerides)
- ECG
- **SYSTEMATIC CORONARY RISK EVALUATION (SCORE)**
- (ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY ?)
- (ANKLE BRACHIAL INDEX ?)
- (NATRIURETIC HORMONE “B-type” ?)
- (FIBRINOGEN, CRP, OMOCYSTEIN, ..... ? )

# ITALIAN GUIDELINES    PROVISIONAL

## CHOLESTEROL LEVEL CONTROL

LDL < 100 mg/dl ( < 2.50 mmol/l) always  
< 70 mg/dl (< 1.75 mmol/l) in “high risk” patients  
at least < 50% of baseline in familiar dyslipidemia

Recommended drug: atorvastatine

## BLOOD PRESSURE AND DIABETES CONTROL

as required, according to guidelines

# Overall survival with ponatinib *versus* Allo-SCT in patients with CP-CML and T315I mutation

Post hoc, retrospective, indirect comparison of OS among patients who received ponatinib (PACE trial) with those who underwent allo-SCT (EBMT registry).

