

# **Relapsed and Refractory HL**

## **Will we be able to avoid transplant:**

### **Living in the past-Jethro Tull**

**Craig Moskowitz, MD**  
**Stephen A. Greenberg Chair in Lymphoma Research**  
**Member, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center**  
**Professor of Medicine, Weill Medical College of Cornell University**



# FDG-PET assessment in HL

Deauville criteria or 5 point scale

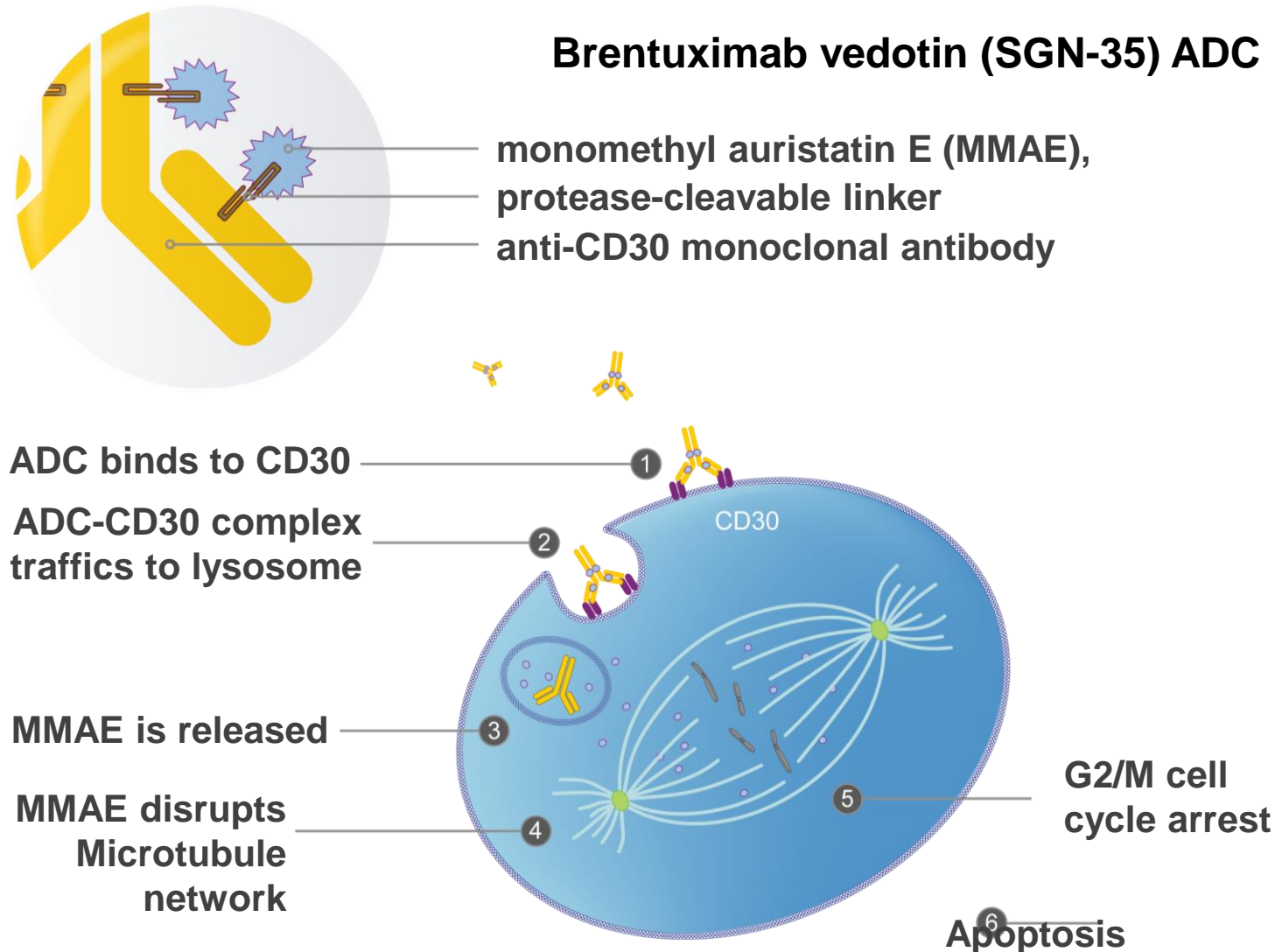
| Score | FDG-PET/CT scan result                                                                                   |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | No uptake above background                                                                               |
| 2     | Uptake $\leq$ mediastinum                                                                                |
| 3     | Uptake $>$ mediastinum but $\leq$ liver                                                                  |
| 4     | Uptake moderately more than liver uptake, at any site                                                    |
| 5     | Uptake markedly more than liver uptake ( $>2$ times SUVmax of liver) at any site or new sites of disease |



# New data with Brentuximab Vedotin



# Brentuximab Vedotin Mechanism of Action



# Five recent clinical trials

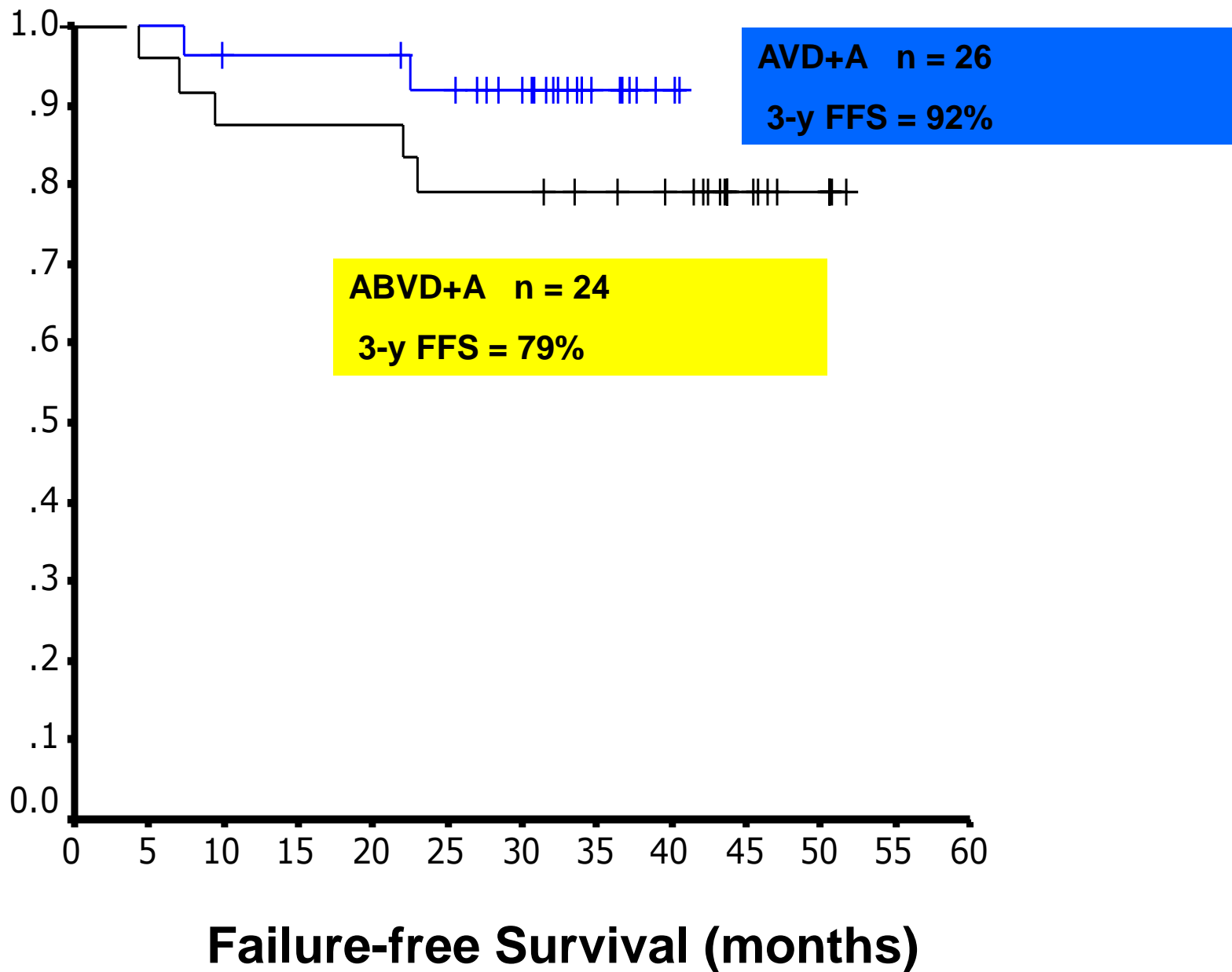
- **Update on ASHL with BV-AVD**
- **BV administered as a single agent for salvage treatment for HL**
- **BV administered post ASCT for consolidation after and ASCT**
- **BV administered sequentially with ICE as salvage treatment for HL**
- **BV administered concomitantly with bendamustine for salvage treatment for HL**

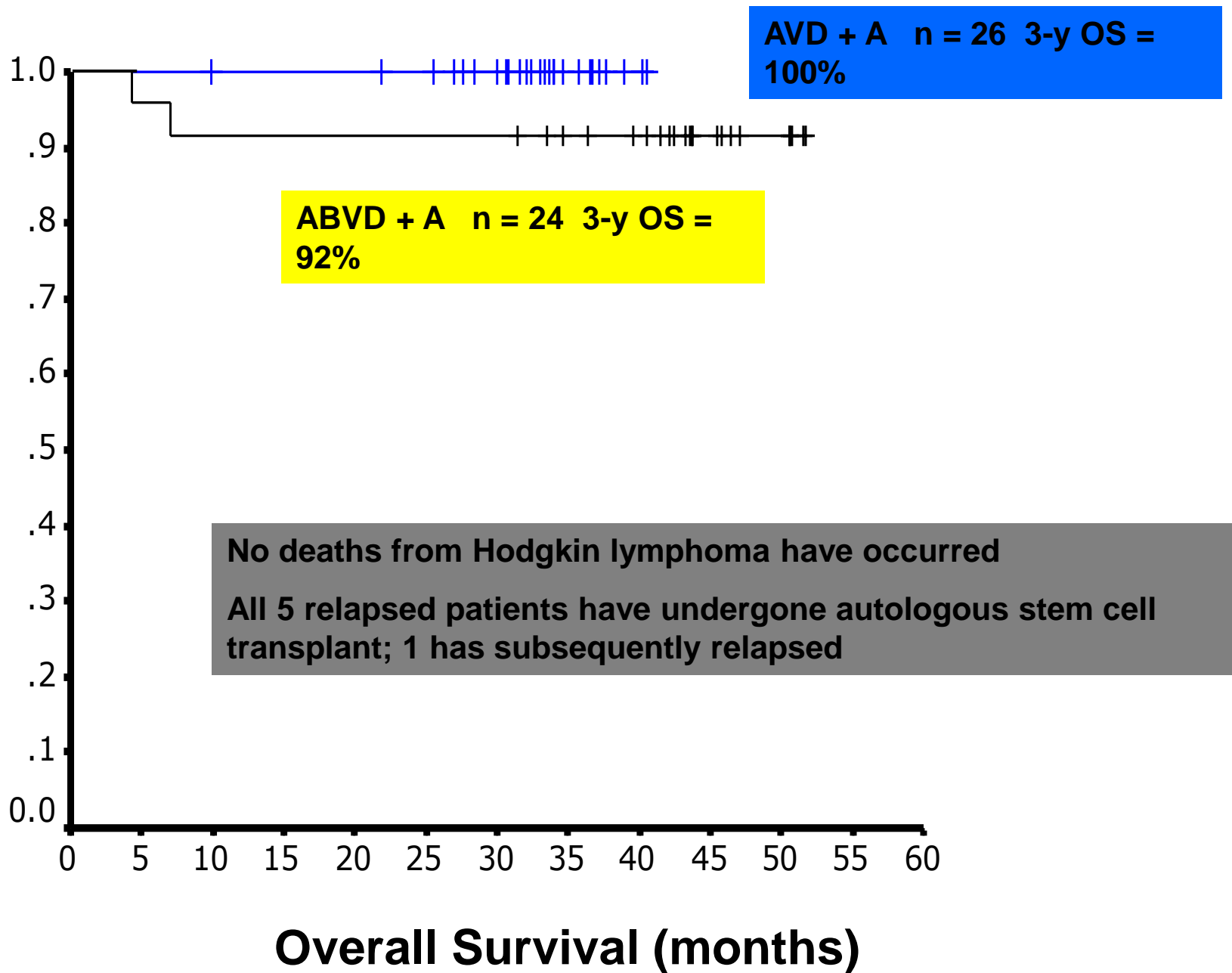


# ASHL

Will BV-AVD win?





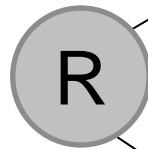




# Phase III Frontline HL (ECHELON-1)

- **Design**

Newly Diagnosed Advanced  
Stage cHL Patients  
 $\geq 18$  y



**Experimental Arm**  
**AVD + B-Vedotin x 6 cycles**

**Standard of Care**  
**ABVD x 6 cycles**

- **Target n = 1040**
- **Primary outcome measure: Modified progression free survival (mPFS)**

Slide adapted from Takeda/Seattle Genetics

# My Critique

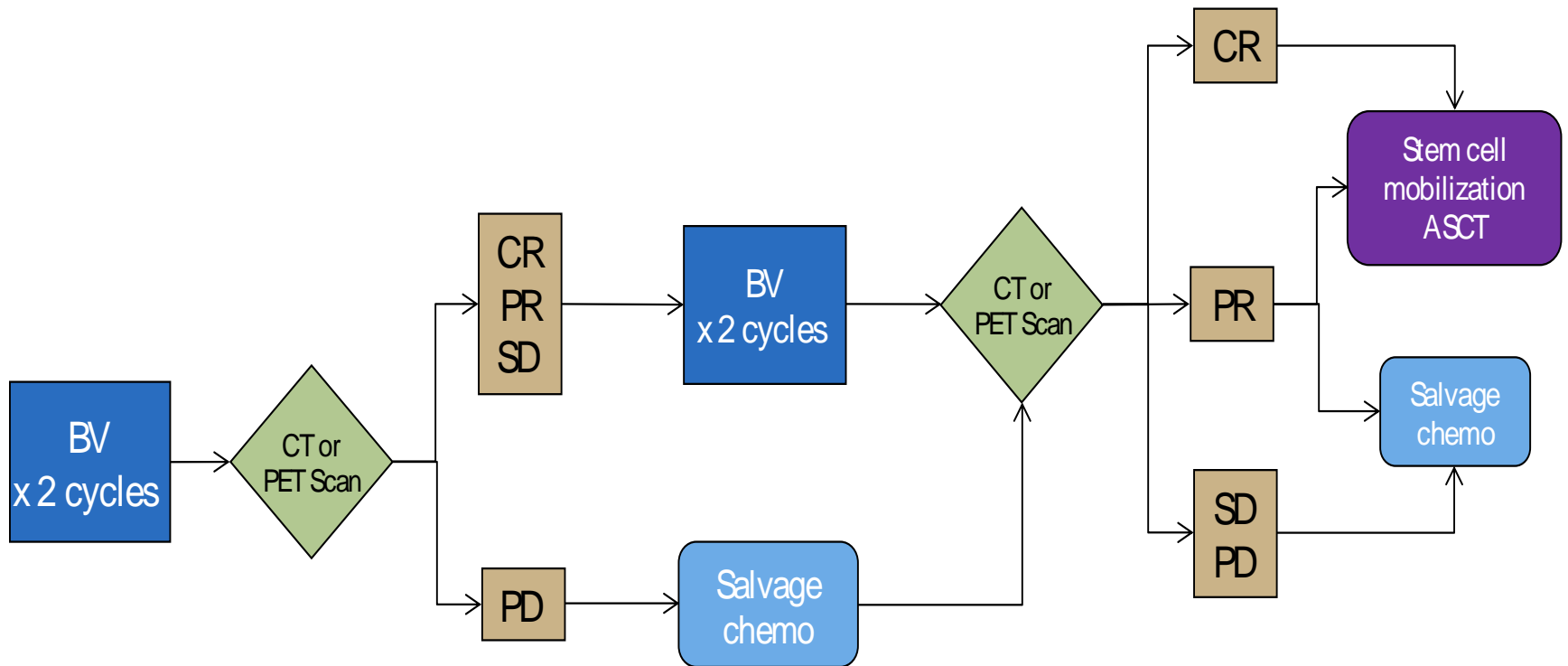
- **Follow-up is short**
- **Stage IIB patients were included**
- **BV should never be combined with Bleomycin and likely Gemcitabine; Studies will be initiated to see if BV can be safely combined with checkpoint inhibitors**
- **BV-AVD should be administered with growth factors, I prefer G-CSF days 6-9**
- **The design of the Echelon study leads one to believe that all patients will benefit from BV if the study is positive, one could argue that patients could receive 2 cycles of BV-AVD and if the interim PET is negative, de-escalate to AVD**

# COH phase II trial of BV as first salvage therapy in relapsed/refractory HL prior to ASCT

Robert Chen<sup>1</sup>, Joycelynne Palmer<sup>2</sup>, Peter Martin<sup>5</sup>, Ni-Chun Tsai<sup>2</sup>, Young Kim<sup>3</sup>, Sandra Thomas<sup>1</sup>, Michelle Mott<sup>1</sup>, Firoozeh Sahebi<sup>1,4</sup>, Tanya Siddiqi<sup>1</sup>, Saro Armenian<sup>1</sup>, Yuan Shan<sup>1</sup>, Leslie Popplewell<sup>1</sup>, Stephen Forman<sup>1</sup>



# Study Schema



# Response Rate

|     | Best response | Best response at cycle 2 | Response at cycle 4 or EOT |
|-----|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| ORR | 25/36 (69%)   | 24/36 (67%)              | 22/36 (61%)                |
| CR  | 13/36 (36%)   | 13/36 (36%)              | 13/36 (36%)                |
| PR  | 12/36 (33%)   | 11/36 (31%)              | 9/36 (25%)                 |
| SD  | 10/36 (28%)   | 11/36 (31%)              | 10/36 (27%)                |
| PD  | 1/36 (3%)     | 1/36 (3%)                | 4/36 (11%)                 |

Univariate analysis: no differences in terms of age, sex, disease stage, response to induction, bulky disease, or B symptoms.

# ASCT

- **33/37 successfully proceeded to ASCT (89%): 1 went to allo-HCT, 3 could not be salvaged**
- **17/33 (52%) received BV only**
- **16/37 (48%) received additional salvage chemotherapy (ICE/DICE/IGEV/GVD)**
- **13 CR and 4/12 PR went to ASCT directly**
- **24/33 (73%) were in CR at time of ASCT**



# My Critique

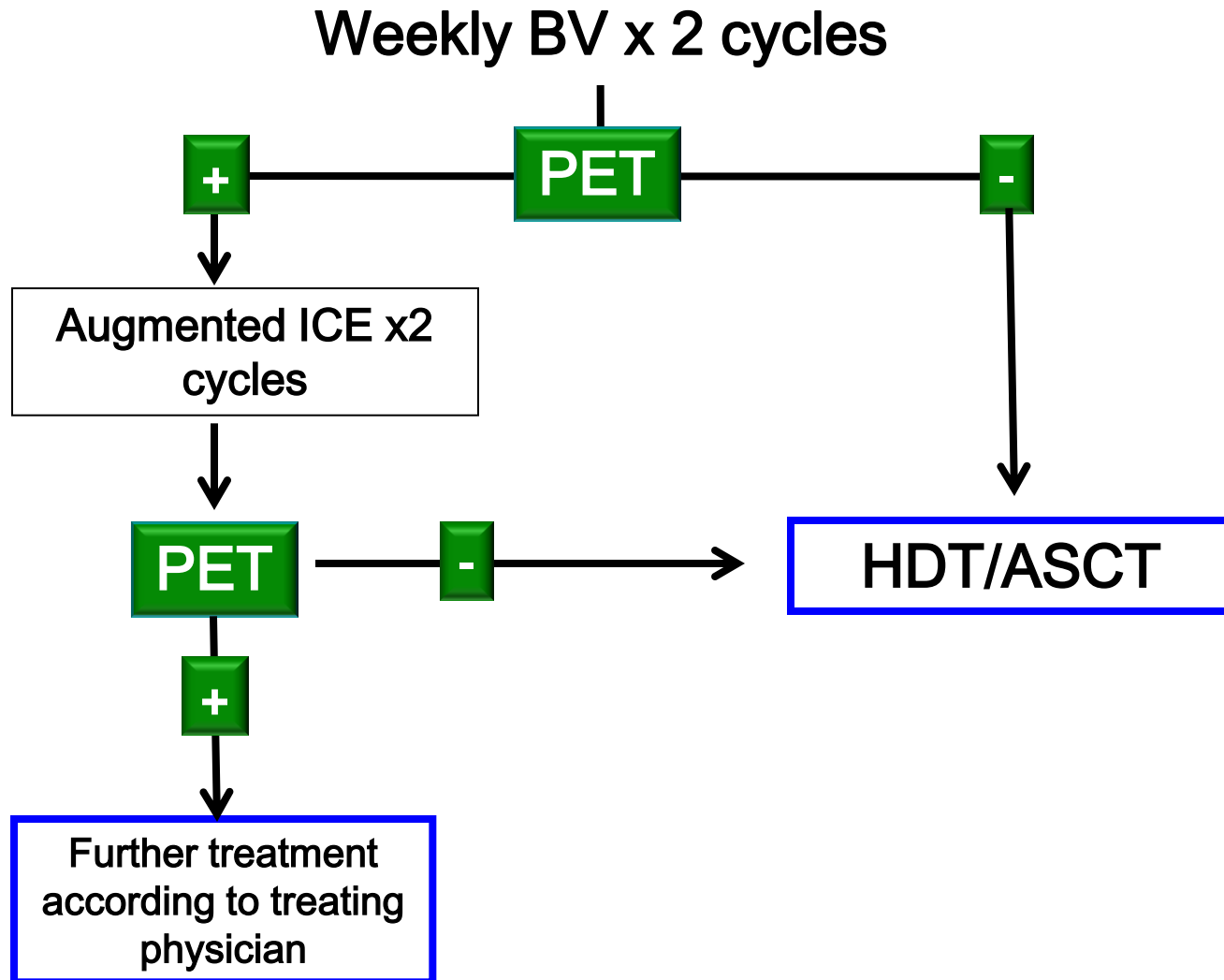
- **The CR rate is most important endpoint for salvage tx in H; 36% with BV; luckily it nearly always happens at the first restaging, hence no “bridge burning”**
- **Study is not an intent to treat design and the chemotherapy-based salvage regimen was not fixed for type, dose, or number of cycles**



# MSKCC 11-142: Relapsed/refractory HL

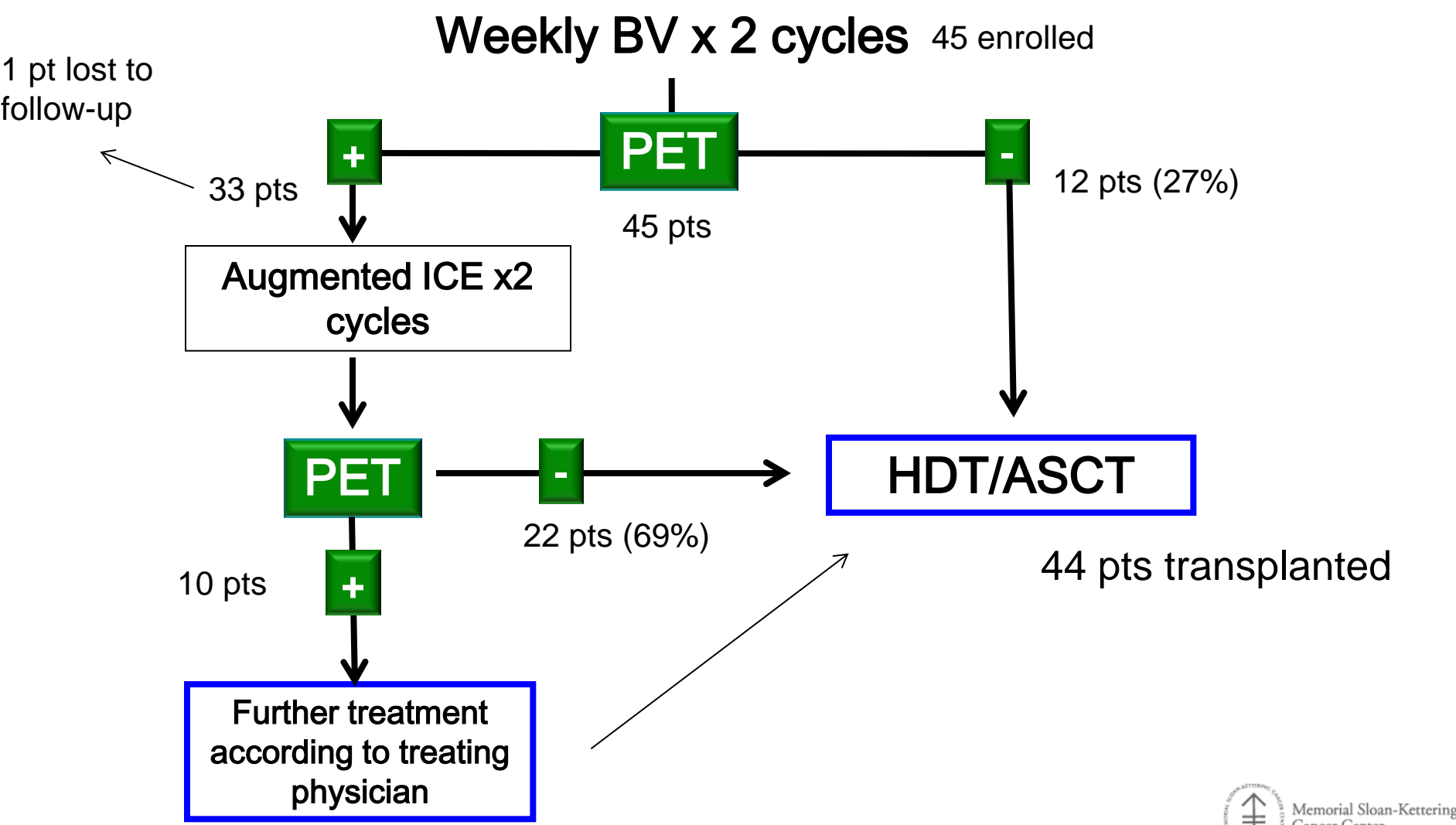
First TX following upfront therapy

Lancet Oncology 16, No 3, 284-292, March 2015





**MSKCC 11-142**  
**45 evaluable patients**



# Deauville response to salvage therapy

**BV (n=45)**

| Deauville score | n  |
|-----------------|----|
| 1               | 4  |
| 2               | 8  |
| 3               | 8  |
| 4               | 21 |
| 5               | 4  |

**AugICE (n=32)**

| Deauville score | n  |
|-----------------|----|
| 1               | 8  |
| 2               | 14 |
| 3               | 2  |
| 4               | 8  |
| 5               |    |

# Adverse events due to BV in at least 10% of patients

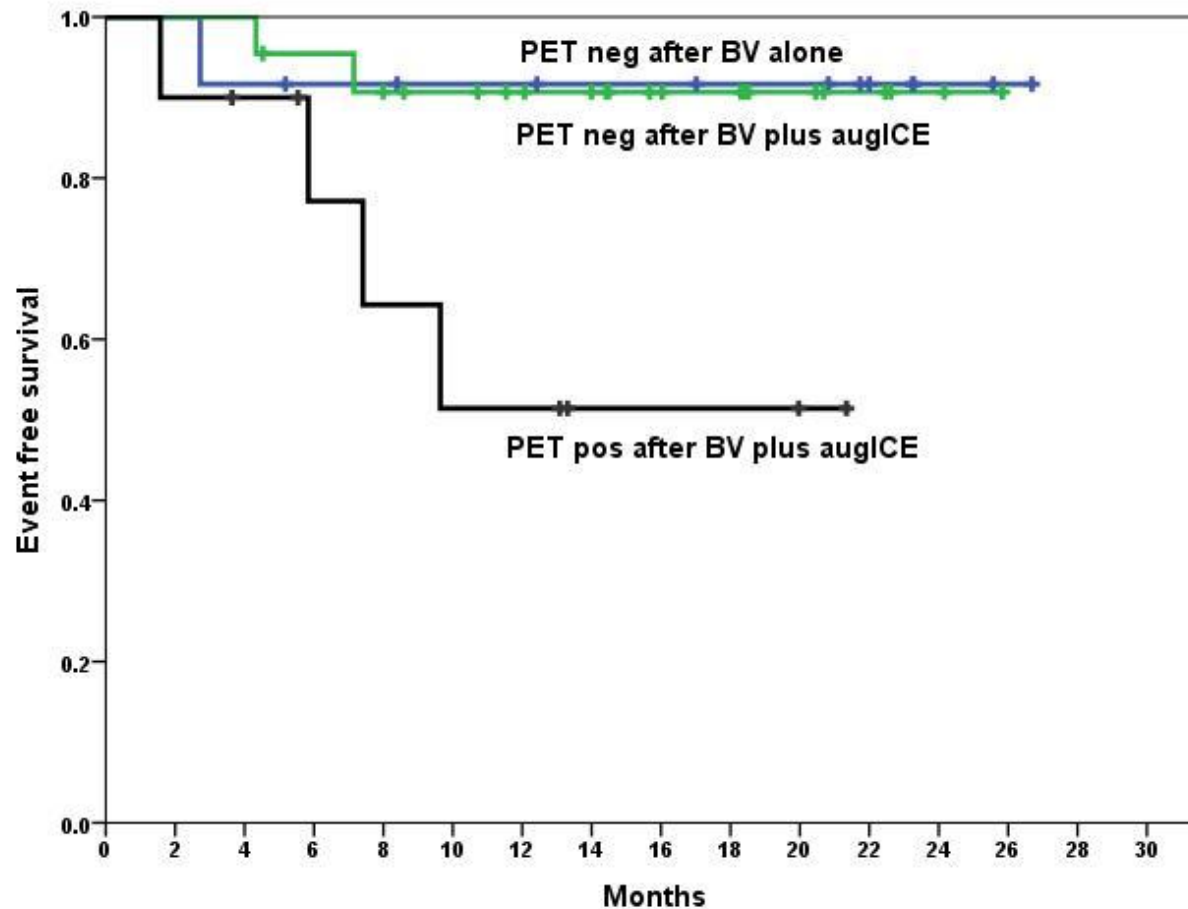
- **Neuropathy: 58%**  
**grade 1: 17 (43%)**  
**grade 2: 6 (15%)**
- **Rash: 73%**  
**grade 1: 22 (55%)**  
**grade 2: 6 (15%)**  
**grade 3: 1 (3%)**
- **Systemic steroids administered: 10 (25%)**



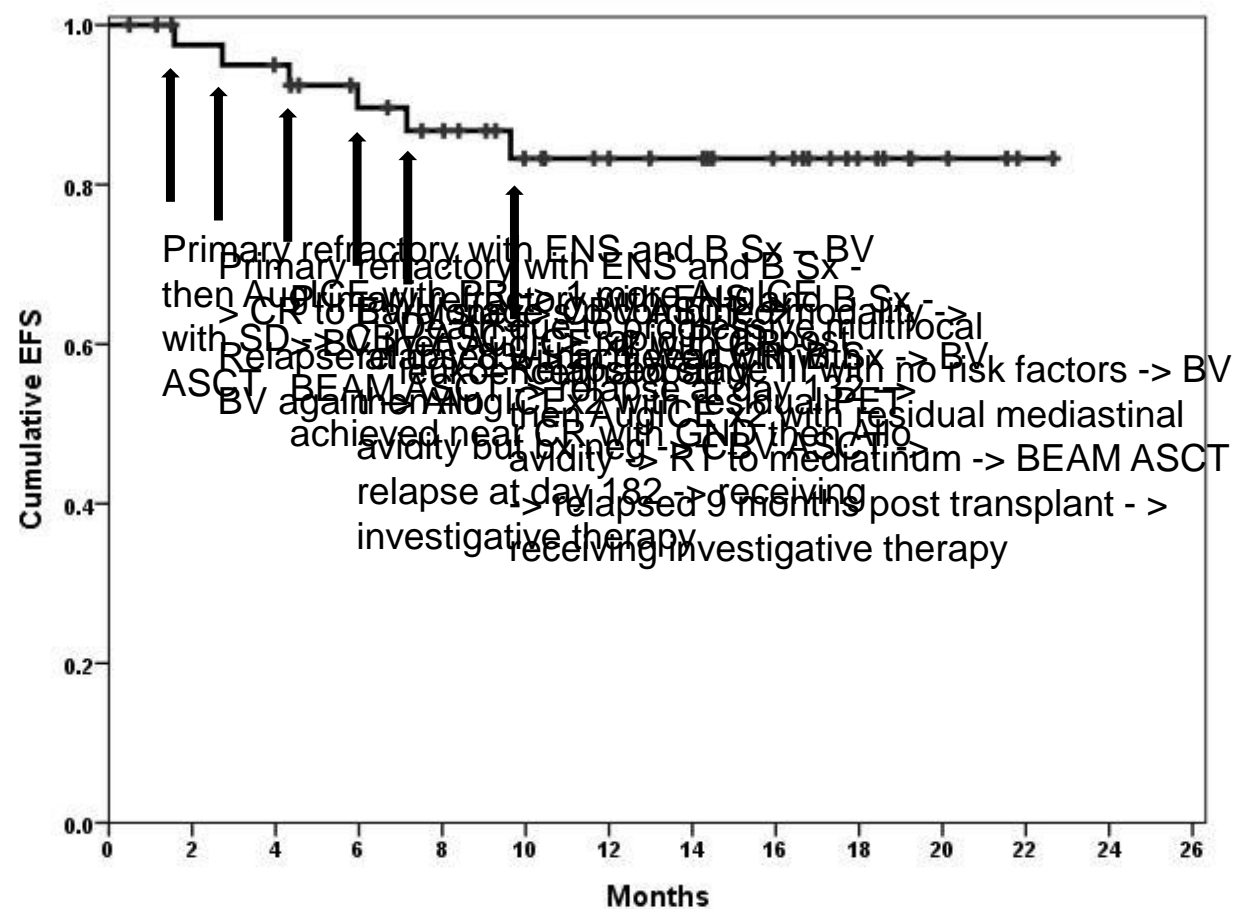
# Post-salvage outcome

- **80% CR (Deauville 2) following BV +/- AugICE**
- **10 patients did not achieve CR**
  - 3 proceeded directly to ASCT (2 deauville 3, 1 deauville 4)
  - 6 received involved field RT followed by ASCT
  - 1 (not eligible for RT) received 3<sup>rd</sup> AugICE (SD) then ASCT
- **Stem cell collection**
  - **BV alone:**
    - Median  $6.3 \times 10^6/\text{kg}$  (range  $2.96\text{-}13.29 \times 10^6/\text{kg}$ )
  - **BV-> AugICE**
    - Median  $9.4 \times 10^6/\text{kg}$  (range  $5.15\text{-}31.43 \times 10^6/\text{kg}$ )
- **Conditioning**
  - Chemo (BEAM, CBV): 36
  - TLI/cytosan/etoposide: 7
  - Pre-transplant IFRT: 17

# EFS according to treatment and PET status



# EFS for transplanted patients

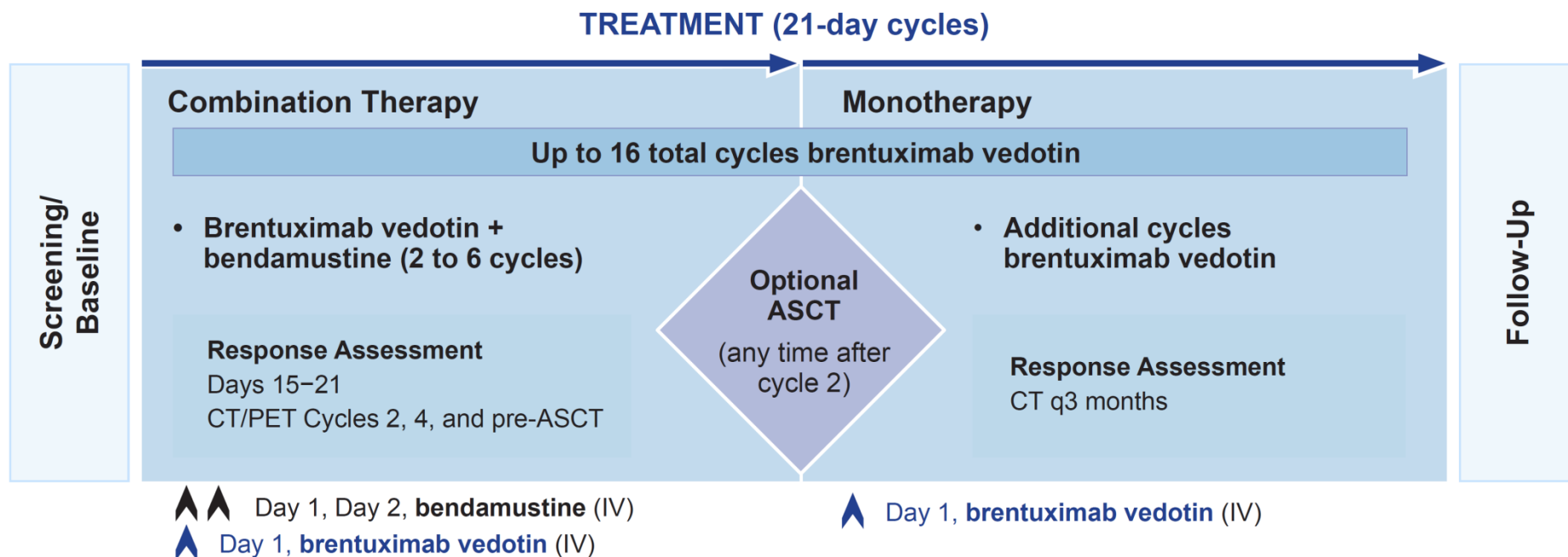


# Brentuximab Vedotin in Combination with Bendamustine for Patients with Rel/Ref HL

Ann LaCasce<sup>1</sup>, R. Gregory Bociek<sup>2</sup>, Jeffrey Matous<sup>3</sup>, Ahmed Sawas<sup>4</sup>, Paolo Caimi<sup>5</sup>, Stephen Ansell<sup>6</sup>, Miguel Islas-Ohlmayer<sup>7</sup>, Eric Cheung<sup>8</sup>, Edward Agura<sup>9</sup>, Caroline Behler<sup>10</sup>, Howland Crosswell<sup>11</sup>, Julie Vose<sup>2</sup>, Neil Josephson<sup>12</sup>, Ranjana Advani<sup>13</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA, USA; <sup>2</sup>University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE, USA; <sup>3</sup>Colorado Blood Cancer Institute, Denver, CO, USA; <sup>4</sup>Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY, USA; <sup>5</sup>University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland, OH, USA; <sup>6</sup>Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA; <sup>7</sup>The Jewish Hospital-Mercy Health, Cincinnati, OH, USA; <sup>8</sup>The Oncology Institute of Hope & Innovation, Whittier, CA, USA; <sup>9</sup>Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center, Dallas, TX, USA; <sup>10</sup>Pacific Hematology Oncology Associates, San Francisco, CA, USA; <sup>11</sup>St. Francis Hospital, Greenville, SC, USA; <sup>12</sup>Seattle Genetics, Inc., Bothell, WA, USA; <sup>13</sup>Stanford Cancer Center, Stanford, CA, USA

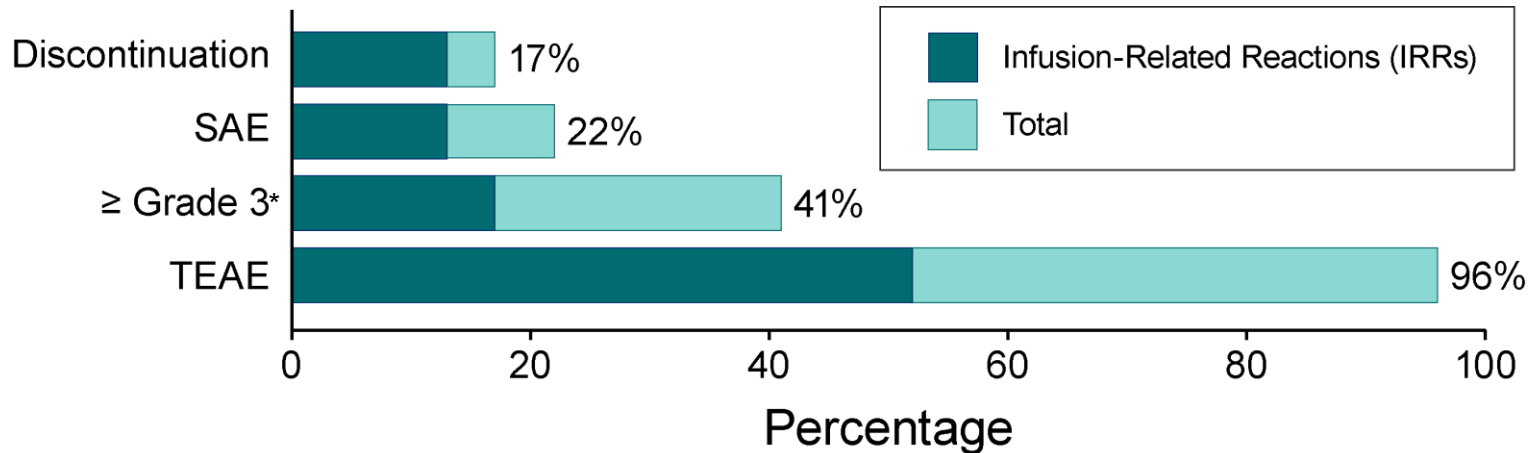
# Study Design



Main eligibility:  $\geq 18$  years old, Classical HL, R/R disease after frontline chemotherapy, ECOG performance status 0–2



# Adverse Events on Combination Therapy

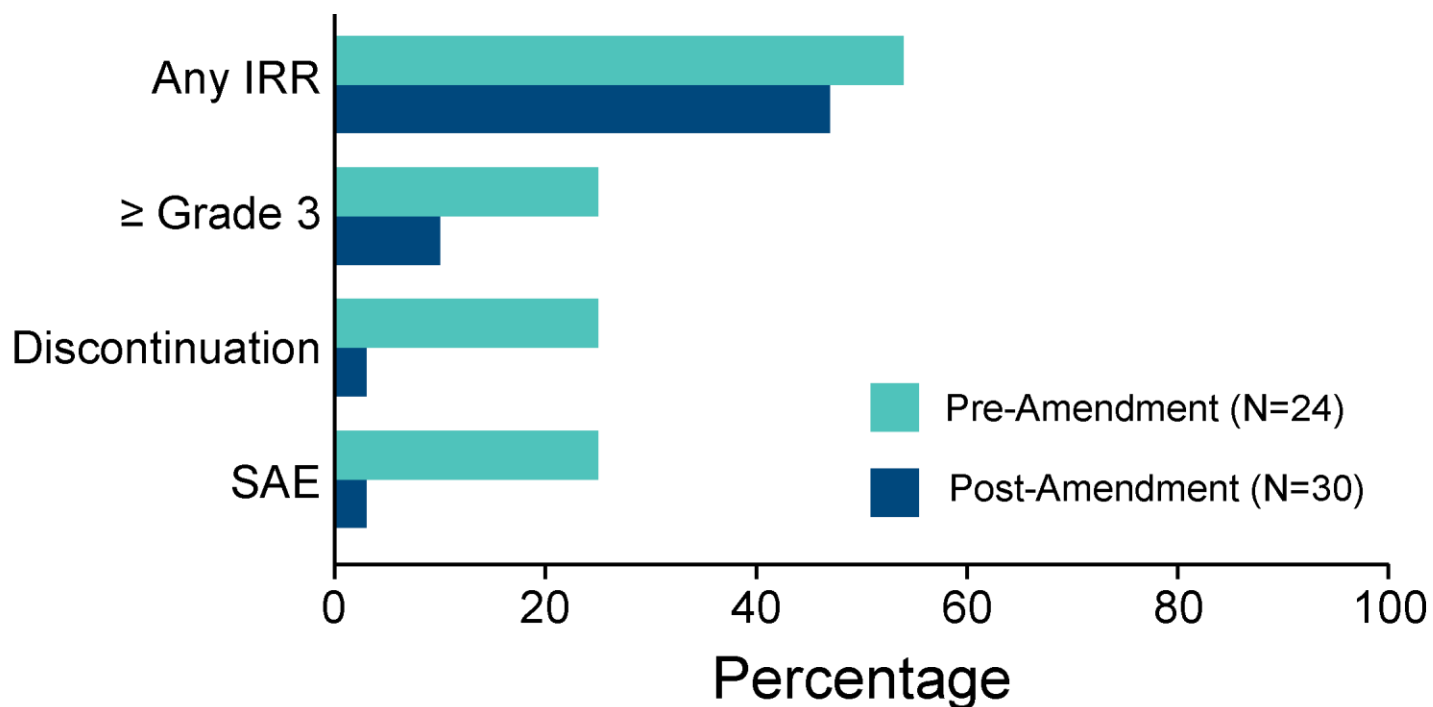


\* Grade 3 IRR per NCI CTCAE 4.03: Prolonged (e.g., not rapidly responsive to symptomatic medication and/or brief interruption of infusion); recurrence of symptoms following initial improvement; hospitalization indicated for clinical sequelae

- Main toxicities observed on combination treatment were IRRs
  - Dyspnea (15%), chills (13%) and flushing (13%) were most common symptoms; hypotension requiring vasopressor support also occurred
  - Majority of reactions occurred within 24 hrs of Cycle 2 infusion and were considered related to both agents
- Delayed hypersensitivity reactions also occurred, the most common of which was rash (14 patients up to 22 days after infusion)

# IRR Premedication

- Protocol was amended to require premedication with corticosteroids and antihistamines
- Premedication decreased severity of IRRs



# Best Response on Combination Therapy

|                                         | N=48    |            |
|-----------------------------------------|---------|------------|
|                                         | n (%)   | 95% CI     |
| Best clinical response*                 |         |            |
| Complete remission (CR)                 | 40 (83) | 69.8, 92.5 |
| Partial remission (PR)                  | 6 (13)  |            |
| Stable disease (SD)                     | 1 (2)   |            |
| Progressive disease (PD)                | 1 (2)   |            |
| Objective response rate (ORR [CR + PR]) | 46 (96) | 85.8, 99.5 |

\*Prior to ASCT

- Majority of CRs (34/40) achieved at Cycle 2 restage

# Stem Cell Mobilization and Collection

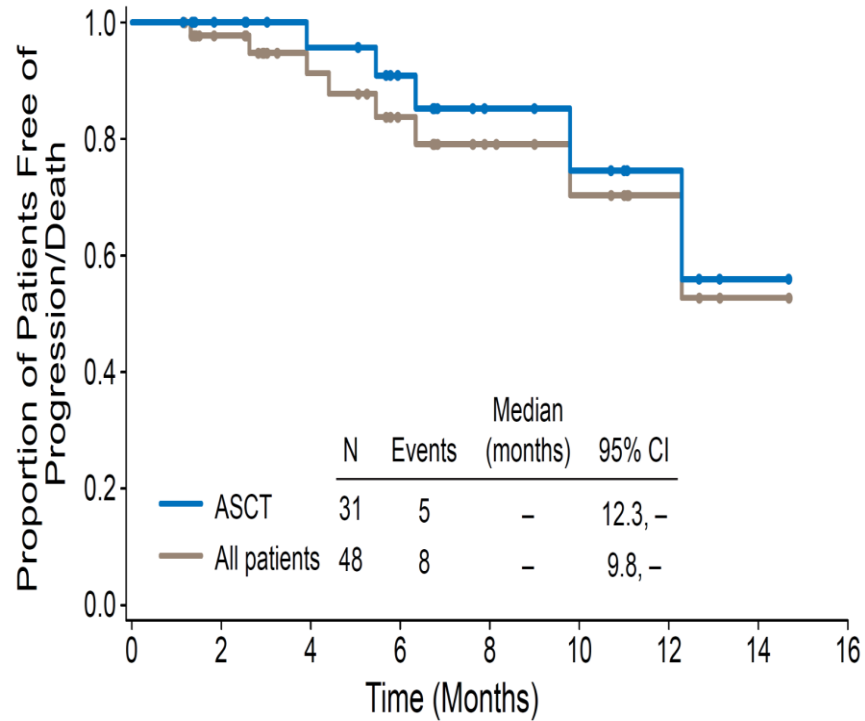
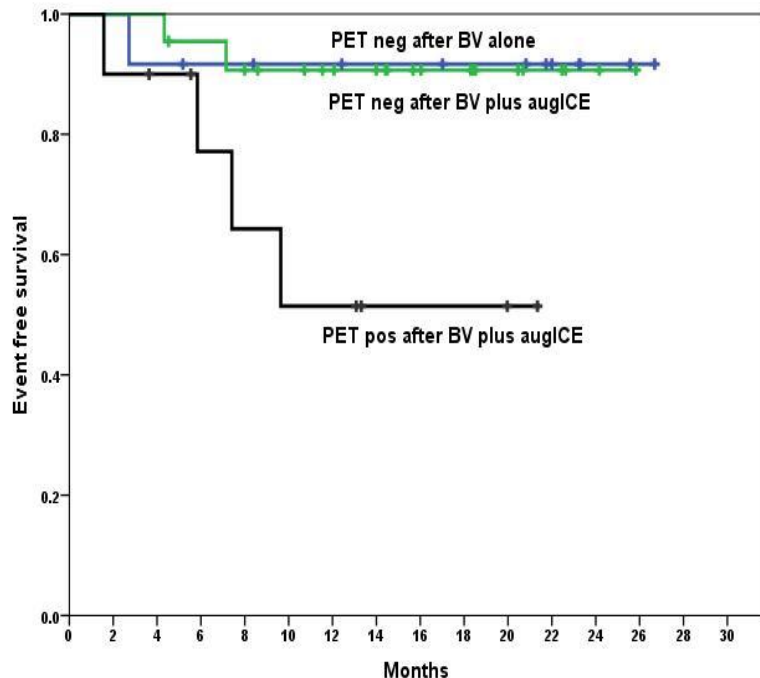
|                                              | N=33                         |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Median number of apheresis sessions, (range) | 2 (1–5)                      |
| Median CD34+ cell yield (cells/kg), (range)  | $4.0 \times 10^6$ (1.7–11.8) |
| > $2 \times 10^6$ Cells Collected, n         | 32*                          |

\*Patient with  $1.7 \times 10^6$  cells collected was able to undergo transplant with engraftment

- First-line mobilization (G-CSF alone or combined with plerixafor) successful in all but 1 patient\*
- Approximately half of patients who underwent mobilization (17/33) did so after 2 treatment cycles
- Median time to platelet and neutrophil engraftment <2 weeks

\* Patient underwent bone marrow harvest due to failure of G-CSF (rescue plerixafor not used)

# EFS: MSKCC 11-142 vs. Benda-BV



# My Critique

- **I am concerned that there is a number of relapses early post-ASCT in pts that were in CR pre-ASCT this has not been seen in other cohorts**
- **PBPC mobilization as expected is not robust**



# **The AETHERA Trial: Results of a Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Phase 3 Study of Brentuximab Vedotin in the Treatment of Patients at Risk of Progression Following Autologous Stem Cell Transplant for HL**

CH Moskowitz, A Nademanee, T Masszi, E Agura, J Holowiecki,  
MH Abidi, AI Chen, P Stiff, AM Gianni, A Carella, D Osmanov,  
V Bachanova, J Sweetenham, A Sureda, D Huebner, EK Larsen,  
NN Hunder, and J Walewski

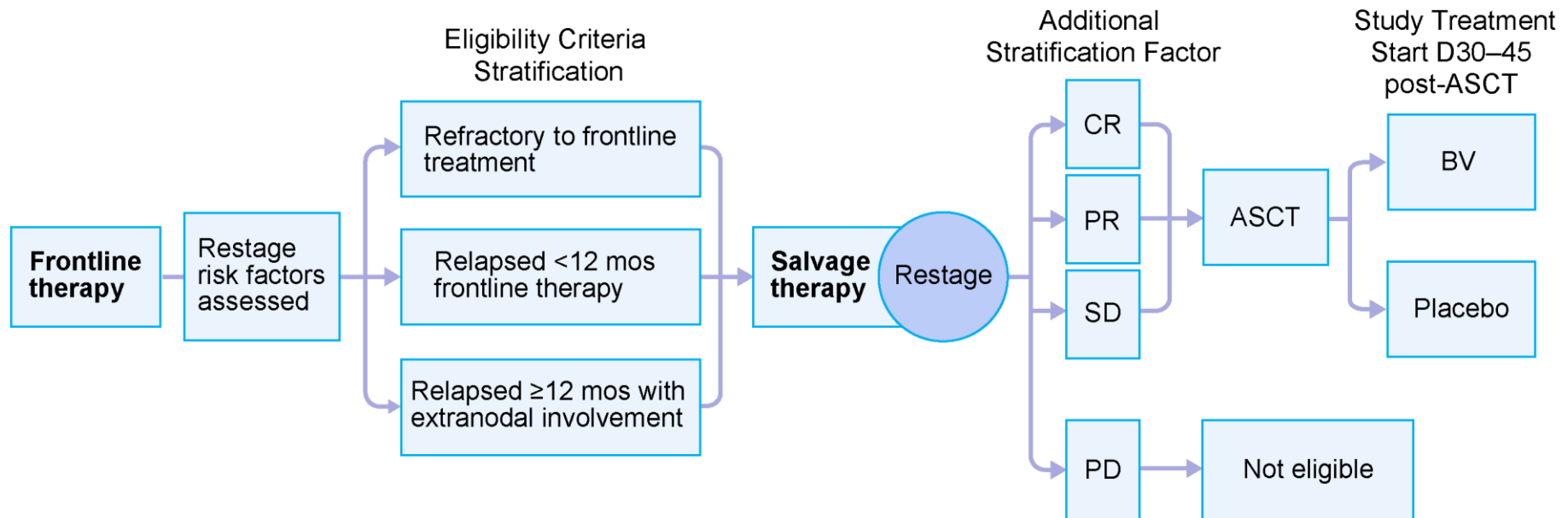
---

**In press: The Lancet, March 19, 2015**



# Study Design and Key Eligibility Criteria

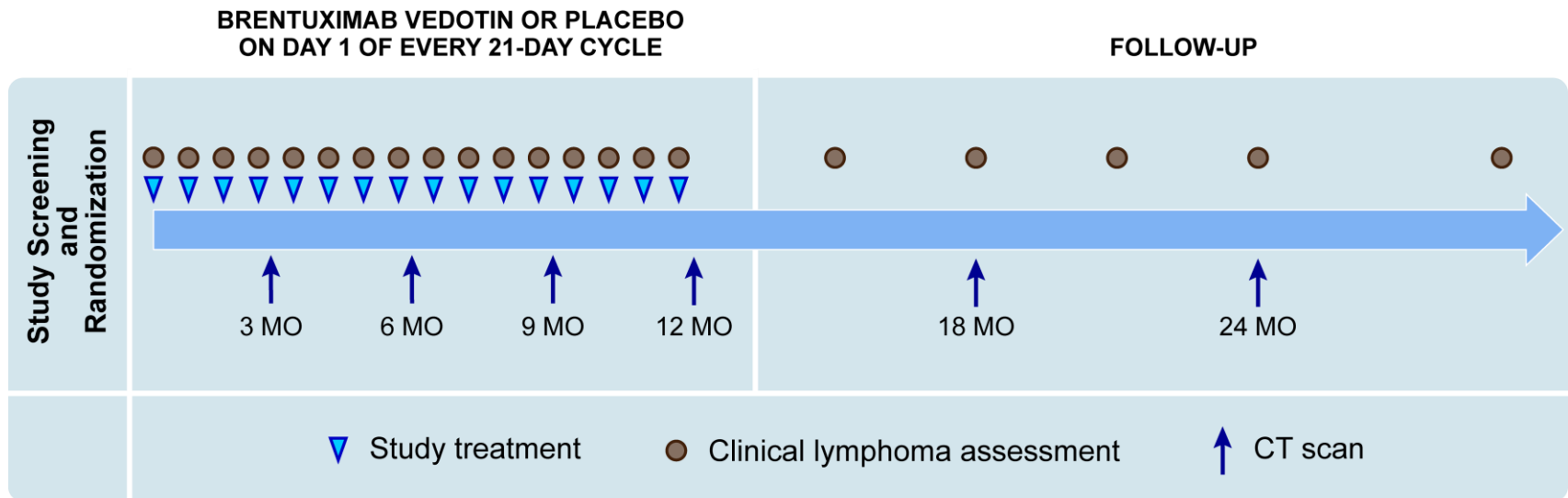
- 329 patients were randomized at 78 sites in North America and Europe





# Treatment and Assessment Schedule

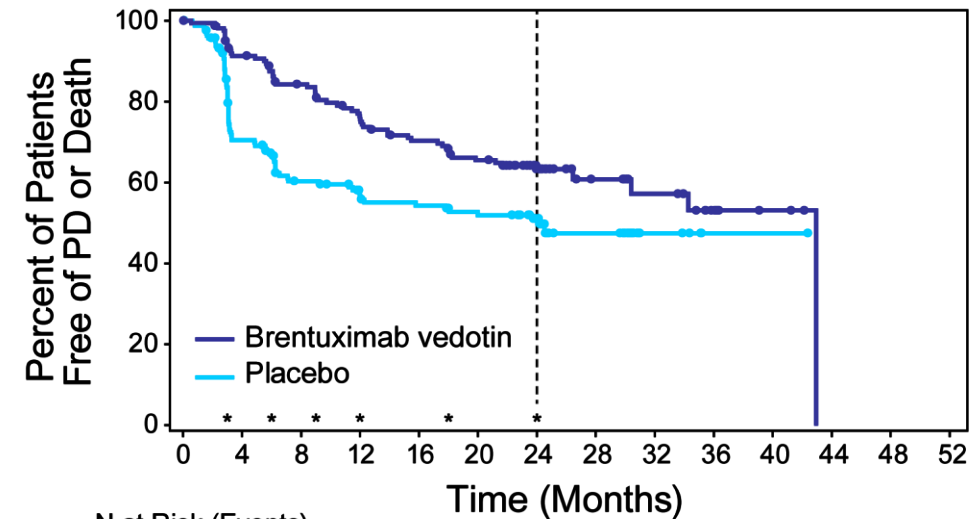
- Patients were randomized to receive 16 cycles of BV or placebo
- They were evaluated and treated every 21 days
- Imaging quarterly for first year, then at 18 and 24 months
- **Importantly, patients who progressed on the placebo arm could subsequently receive BV on another trial**



# Main Objectives

- **Primary**
  - To compare progression-free survival (PFS) per independent review facility (IRF) between the 2 treatment arms
- **Secondary**
  - To compare overall survival (OS) between the 2 treatment arms
  - To evaluate the safety and tolerability of BV compared to placebo

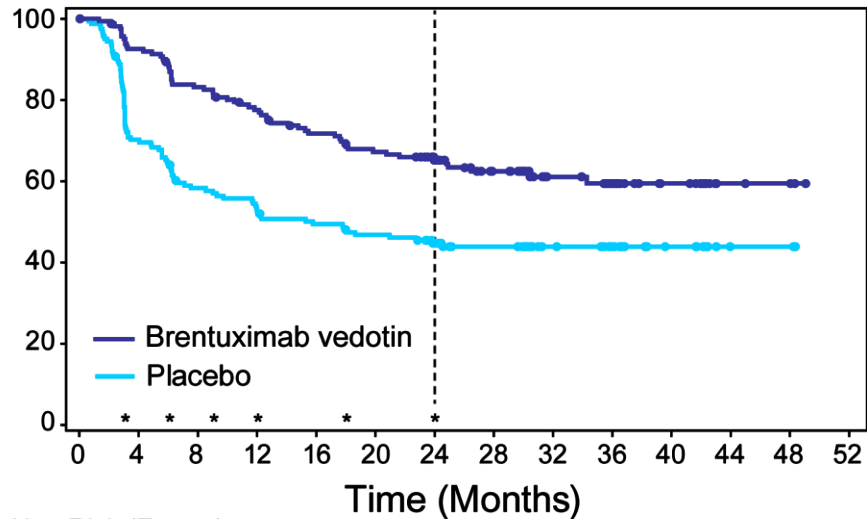
# Progression-Free Survival



N at Risk (Events)

|     |         |          |          |          |          |         |         |         |         |        |        |        |        |        |
|-----|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| BV  | 165 (0) | 145 (14) | 129 (25) | 114 (38) | 104 (46) | 95 (53) | 68 (56) | 22 (57) | 16 (58) | 9 (59) | 3 (59) | 0 (60) | 0 (60) | 0 (60) |
| PLA | 164 (0) | 108 (46) | 85 (61)  | 75 (66)  | 71 (69)  | 65 (72) | 44 (73) | 17 (75) | 5 (75)  | 1 (75) | 1 (75) | 0 (75) | 0 (75) | 0 (75) |

|                       | BV<br>(N=165)             | Placebo<br>(N=164) |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Hazard Ratio (95% CI) | 0.57 (0.40–0.81, P=0.001) |                    |
| Events                | 60                        | 75                 |
| Median PFS (months)   | 43                        | 24                 |
| 2-year PFS rate       | 63%                       | 51%                |



N at Risk (Events)

|     |         |          |          |          |          |          |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |        |
|-----|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| BV  | 165 (0) | 149 (12) | 133 (27) | 122 (36) | 111 (45) | 103 (52) | 90 (55) | 62 (58) | 40 (59) | 33 (60) | 16 (60) | 4 (60) | 3 (60) | 0 (60) |
| PLA | 164 (0) | 113 (48) | 92 (67)  | 83 (76)  | 77 (81)  | 71 (85)  | 61 (88) | 45 (89) | 28 (89) | 23 (89) | 13 (89) | 3 (89) | 3 (89) | 0 (89) |

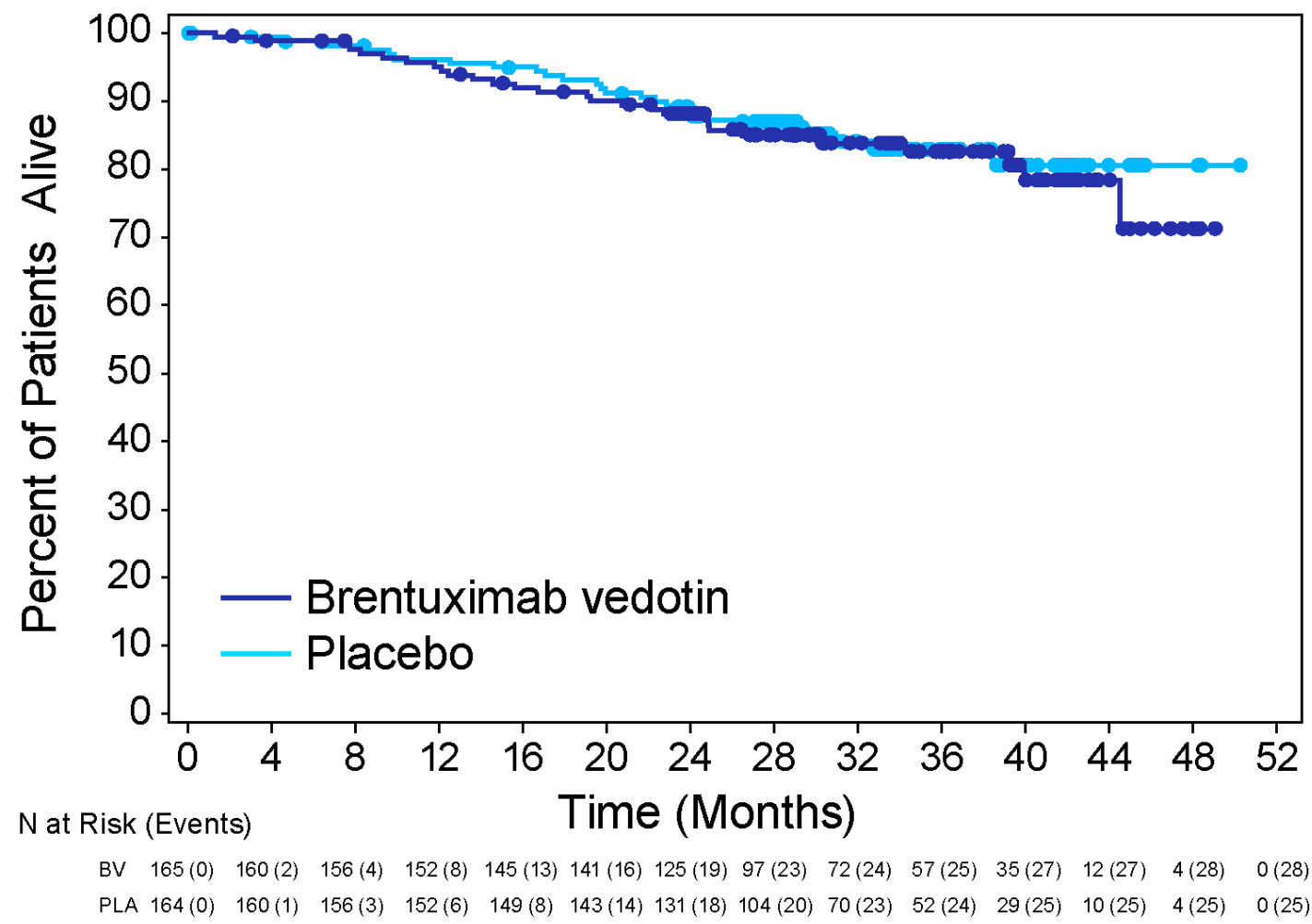
|                       | BV<br>(N=165)    | Placebo<br>(N=164) |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Hazard Ratio (95% CI) | 0.50 (0.36–0.70) |                    |
| Events                | 60               | 89                 |
| Median PFS (months)   | --               | 16                 |
| 2-year PFS rate       | 65%              | 45%                |

# Censoring Rules

| Analysis     | CT Scans<br>(per IRF) | CT Scans<br>(per INV) | Biopsy<br>Reports | Lymphoma<br>Assessments | Death    |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| IRF          | <b>X</b>              |                       | <b>X</b>          |                         | <b>X</b> |
| Investigator |                       | <b>X</b>              | <b>X</b>          | <b>X</b>                | <b>X</b> |

|                      | Number of Patients at Risk after 24 Months |           |           |           |           |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                      | 28 Months                                  | 32 Months | 36 Months | 40 Months | 44 Months |
| PFS per IRF          | 39                                         | 21        | 10        | 4         | 0         |
| PFS per investigator | 107                                        | 68        | 56        | 29        | 7         |

# Overall Survival



# PFS and OS by Number of Risk Factors

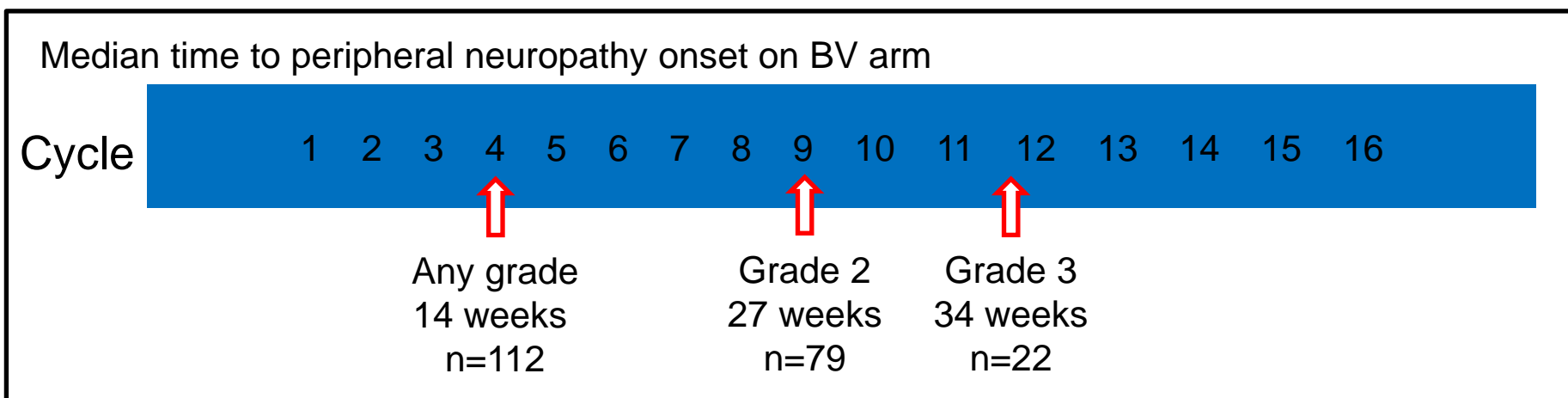
| No. Risk Factors | N   | PFS per IRF<br>HR (95% CI) | PFS per Investigator<br>HR (95% CI) | OS<br>HR (95% CI) |
|------------------|-----|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| ≥1               | 329 | 0.57 (0.40–0.81)           | 0.50 (0.36, 0.70)                   | 1.15 (0.67–1.97)  |
| ≥2*              | 280 | 0.49 (0.34–0.71)           | 0.40 (0.28, 0.57)                   | 0.94 (0.53–1.67)  |
| ≥3*              | 166 | 0.43 (0.27–0.68)           | 0.38 (0.25, 0.58)                   | 0.92 (0.45–1.88)  |

## Risk Factors

- Relapsed <12 months or refractory to frontline therapy
- Best response of PR or SD to most recent salvage therapy
- Extranodal disease at pre-ASCT relapse
- B symptoms at pre-ASCT relapse
- Two or more prior salvage therapies

# Peripheral Neuropathy\*

|                                              | BV<br>(N=167)<br>n (%) | Placebo<br>(N=160)<br>n (%) |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Any treatment-emergent peripheral neuropathy | 112 (67)               | 31 (19)                     |
| Grade 3                                      | 22 (13)                | 2 (1)                       |
| Grade 4                                      | 0                      | 0                           |



\*Standardized MedDRA Query (SMQ) analysis

# Conclusions

- Early consolidation post-ASCT with BV demonstrated improved PFS per IRF in HL patients with risk factors for relapse or progression (HR=0.57, P=0.001)
  - PFS benefit was sustained, with 2-year PFS rates per investigator of 65% and 45% on the BV and placebo arms, respectively
  - Consistent benefit was observed across subgroups
- Interim analysis of overall survival did not show a significant difference between treatment arms (P=0.62)
  - Analysis limited by small number of events and the large number of patients on the placebo arm crossing over to BV after progression
  - More patients on the placebo arm received subsequent anti-tumor therapy and/or allogeneic stem cell transplant
- Consolidation therapy was generally well tolerated
  - Peripheral sensory neuropathy and neutropenia were common, and were manageable with dose reductions or delays
  - Two deaths occurred within 40 days of dosing with BV
- BV consolidation therapy is an important therapeutic option for HL patients undergoing ASCT to reduce the risk of relapse or progression



# Interesting Case

Segue to checkpoint inhibition in HL



# Patient: AH, Primary Ref HL

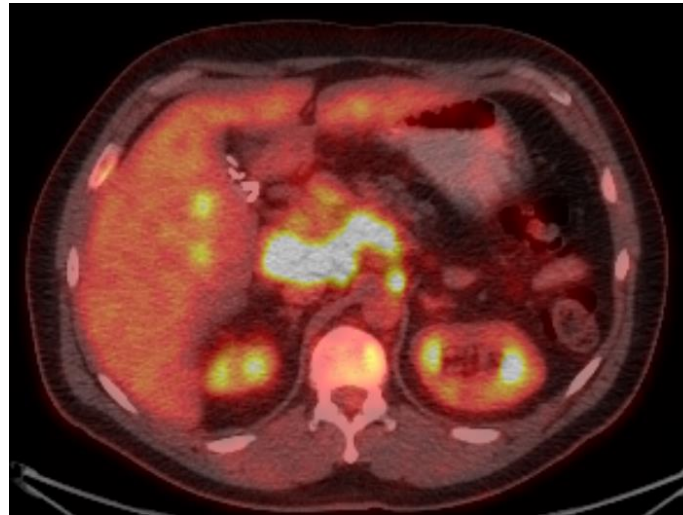
- **ABVD, DHAP, BV-PR**
- **8/2013: BEAM → auto-SCT with plan for post-SCT axillary XRT**
- **11/2013: PET-CT with worsening R axillary LAD**
- **11-12/2013: XRT 4400 cGy to R axilla**
- **2/14, 6/14, 9/14: slowly progressive PET-avid LAD in mediastinal, hilar, RP LN and bone disease in 9/2014**
  - **Mediastinal surgical biopsy 9/22/14: relapsed dz**





## PET-CT (9/14)

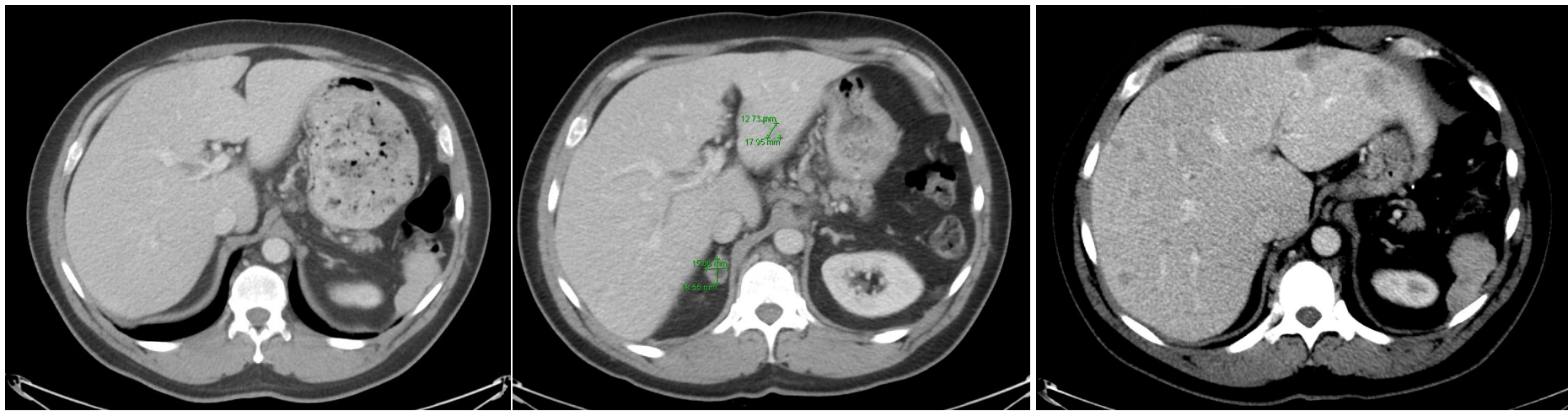
1. increased mediastinal LAD including subcarinal LN 2.8 x 2.1 intensely avid, L supraclavicular, innumerable RP LN including conglomerate portocaval LN 4.1 x 2.6 from 3.4 x 1.6 cm
2. multiple foci of FDG activity within axial skeleton.



# Patient: AH, continued

- **Off protocol salvage options: MOPP, GVD, Bendamustine**
- **Enrolled in 12-142: Ipilimumab + Nivolumab**
  - 11/13/14: Ipi/Nivo C1 (c/b leukocytosis, fevers)
  - 12/3/14: Ipi/Nivo C2
  - 12/24/14: Ipi/Nivo C3
  - 1/2014: Ipi/Nivo C4





- **12/2014 CT: mixed response with new hypointense liver lesions but stable by immune response criteria: continued nivolumab alone q2w x2c**
- **02/2015: increase and development of multiple new liver lesions**
  - Given dramatic clinical improvement (resolution of B symptoms), arranged for liver biopsy
- **2/20/15: Liver, right lobe biopsy: benign liver parenchyma with mild, predominantly portal chronic inflammation. No evidence of lymphoma seen. Note: Additional deeper levels were obtained. Performed immunohistochemical stains reveal that the majority of inflammatory cells are CD3 positive T cells.**

# Lymphoma\* and Lymphoma Transplant\*\* Services-MSKCC

- John Gerecitano\*
- Paul Hamlin\*
- Steve Horwitz\*
- Anita Kumar\*
- Matthew Matasar\*/\*\*
- Alison Moskowitz\*
- Craig Moskowitz\*/\*\*
- Ariela Noy\*
- Lia Palomba\*
- Miguel Perales\*\*
- Carol Portlock\*
- Craig Sauter\*\*
- David Straus\*
- Joachim Yahalom\*/\*\*
- Anas Younes\*
- Andrew Zelenetz\*

