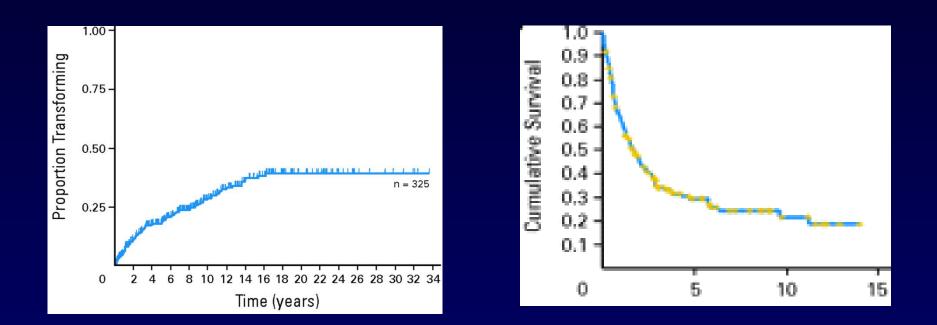
# How to treat transformed lymphoma

## Jonathan W. Friedberg MD, MMSc



## The past: Incidence and Outcome of Transformed NHL



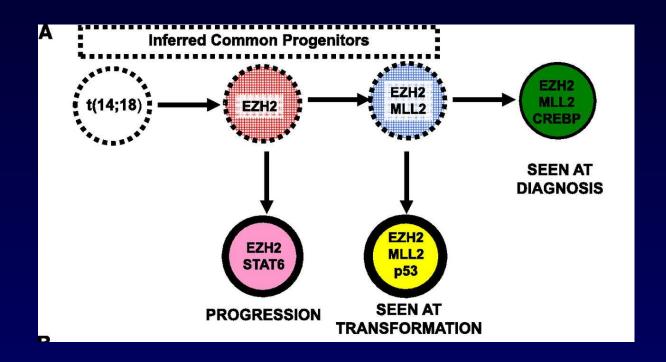
Steady risk of 3% per year for first 15 years of diagnosis Treatment (or lack thereof) does not impact risk Poor overall survival, particularly for advanced stage disease

> Montoto et al, *JCO* 25: 2426 Al-Tourah et al, *JCO* 26: 5165

## Key recent themes in transformed FL

- Remains an important cause of morbidity and mortality for patients with FL.
- Increased biological understanding will impact future clinical options
  - Heterogeneity of mutations have differential outcomes, i.e. "double hit" GCB DLBCL.
- Incidence of HT may be decreasing in rituximab era.
- Outcomes have improved significantly, for unclear reasons.
- These improved outcomes have led to significant OS improvements in FL.

## New biologic understanding of transformed FL

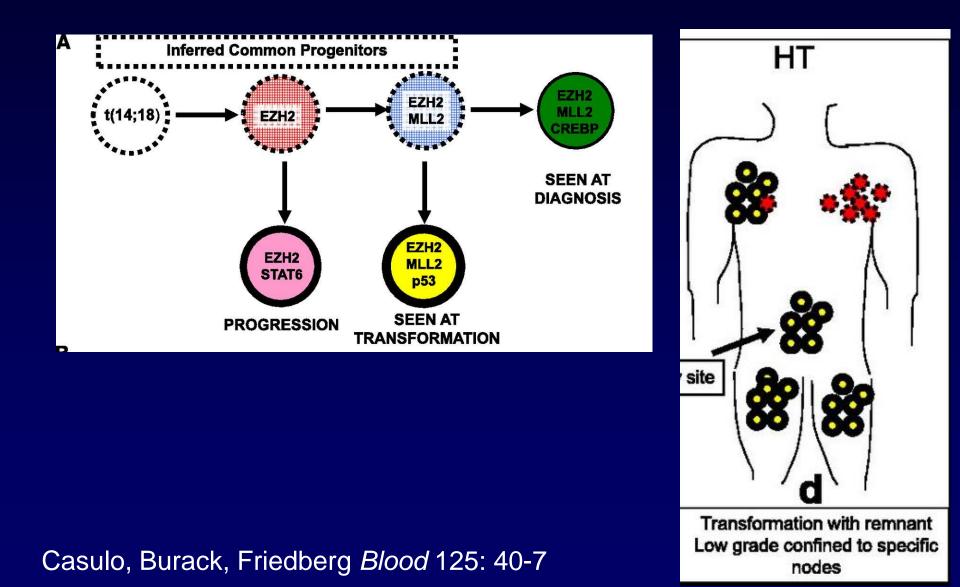


Numerous subclones present in FL.

Population that arises at HT is not directly descended from diagnosis or relapsed population.

Casulo, Burack, Friedberg *Blood* 125: 40-7

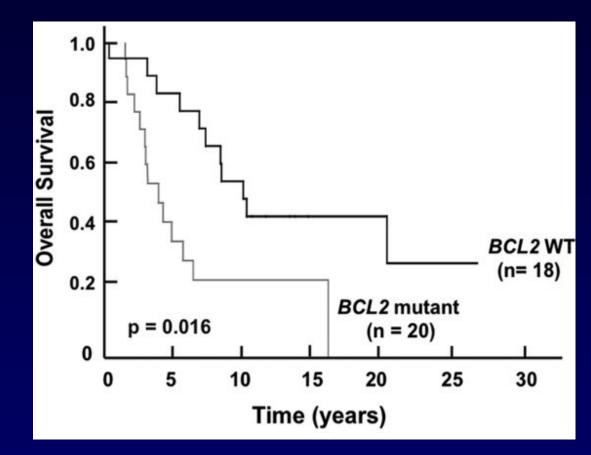
## New biologic understanding of transformed FL



# BCL-2 mutations and OS in FL Increased HT risk with mutations

Bcl-2 mutation: Decreased OS Transformation risk

However.... Pre-rituximab era Poor OS in controls Median OS 10 yrs.

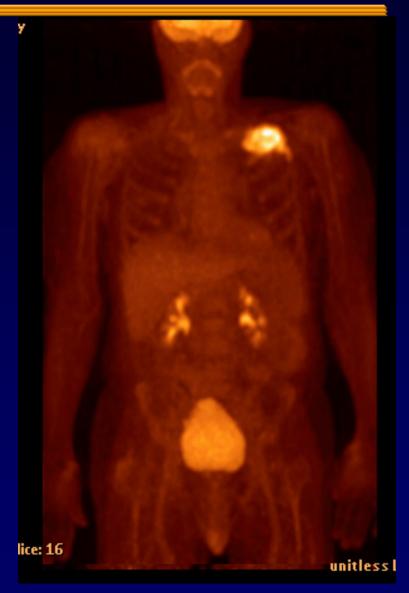


#### Correia et al, *Blood* in press 2015

#### FDG-PET in transformed FL

#### N=33 patients

- SUV of the biopsy site ranged from 3-38, mean 14, median 12.
- majority of transformations have a high SUV max for pretreatment staging study.



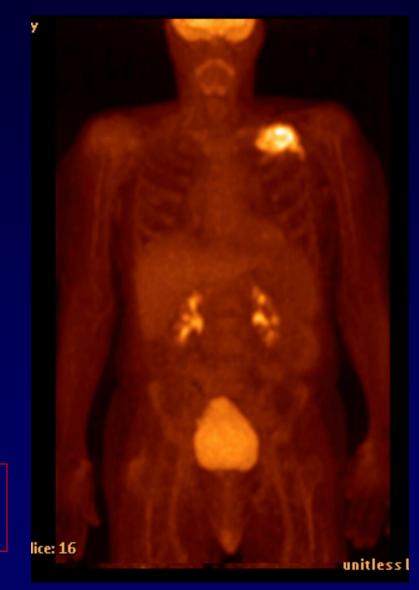
#### Noy et al, Annals Oncol 20:508

#### FDG-PET in transformed FL

#### N=33 patients

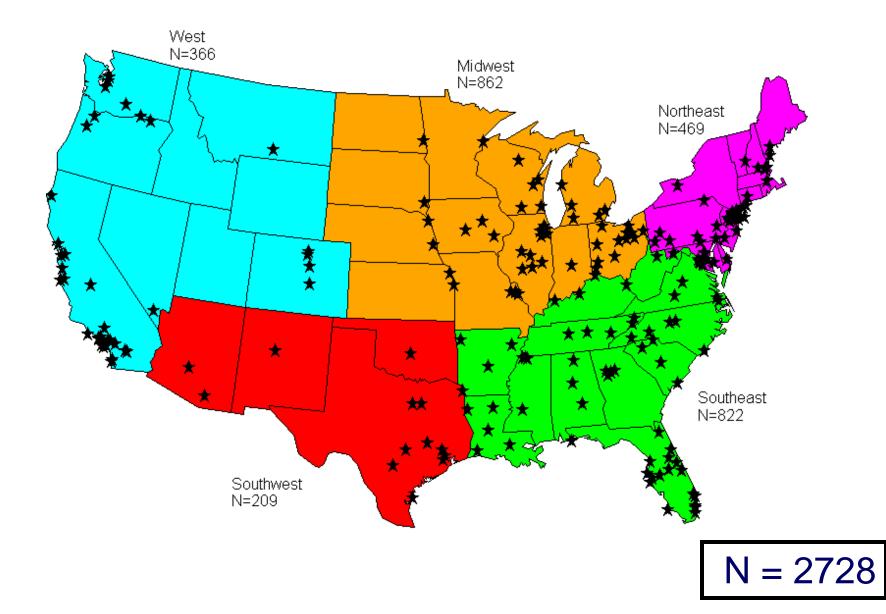
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- majority of transformations have a high SUV max for pretreatment staging study.

PET important tool to select biopsy site in suspected HT

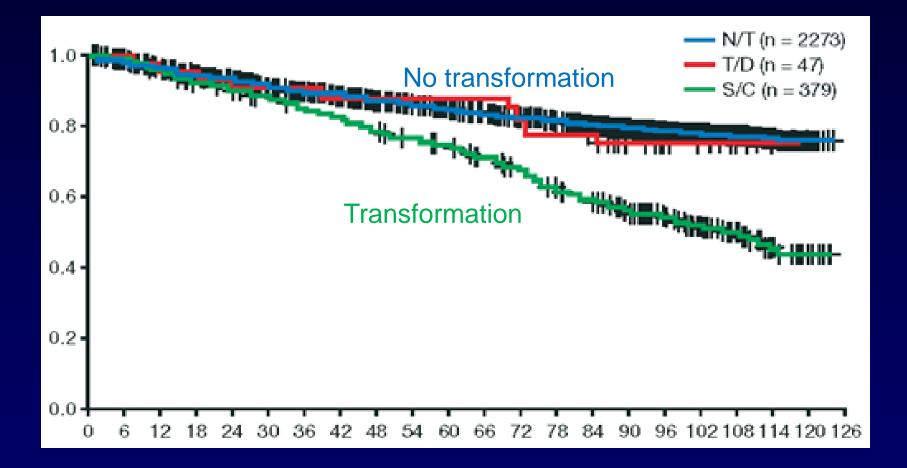


#### Noy et al, Annals Oncol 20:508

## National LymphoCare Study: 2004 - 2007



#### OS from FL diagnosis: LymphoCare data

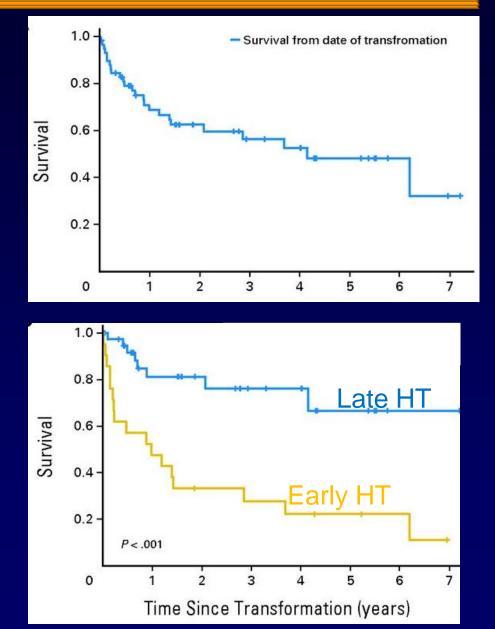


Unpublished data, NLCS

# Outcome (OS) of HT has improved

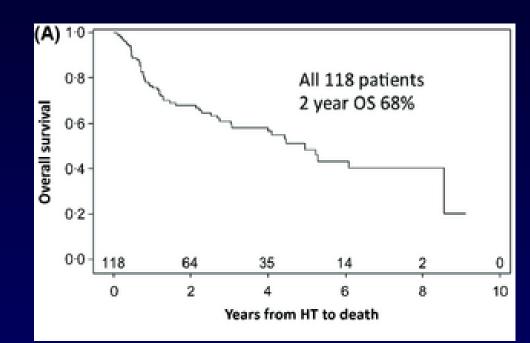
- N= 631 FL patients SPORE
  - 60 patients developed
     HT, 51 biopsy proven.
- Estimated HT rate of 2%/yr.
  Median f/u 5 yrs.
- Median OS post HT 50 months
  - Superior in pts > 18 months after FL diagnosis compared with patients with earlier HT (P < .001).</li>

Link et al, JCO 31:3272



# Outcome (OS) of HT has improved

- NCCN database, N=118:
  - biopsy confirmed
     HT
  - Survival
     improved with no
     prior FL therapy



Ban Hoefen...Friedberg, BJHaem 163: 487

# **HT Data considerations**

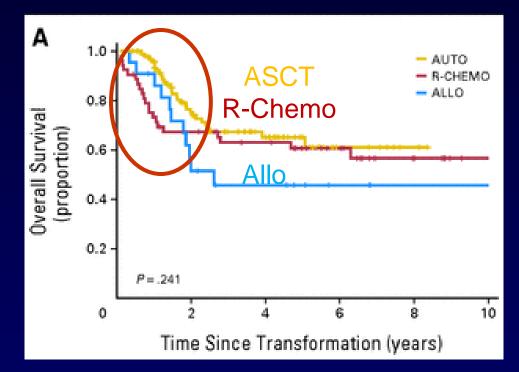
- No randomized or prospective trials
- Differential definitions

   Clinical vs. pathological confirmation
   Composite NHL vs. transformation
- Patient selection
  - Single institutional vs. registry
  - Elderly under-reported
- Rituximab era vs. no rituximab

# Role of ASCT for HT

#### N=172 Canadian Registry

- 22 (13%) alloSCT
- 97 (56%) ASCT
- 53 (31%) R-Chemo
- ASCT had improved OS compared with R-Chemo alone (P = .12).
  - OS and PFS similar between those treated with ASCT and alloSCT.

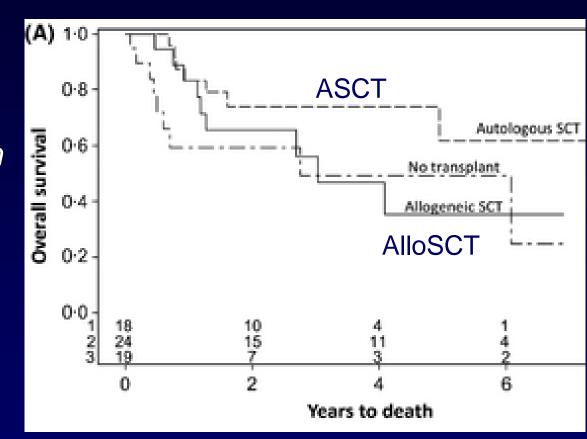


#### Villa et al, JCO 31: 1164

# Role of ASCT for HT

# NCCN database:

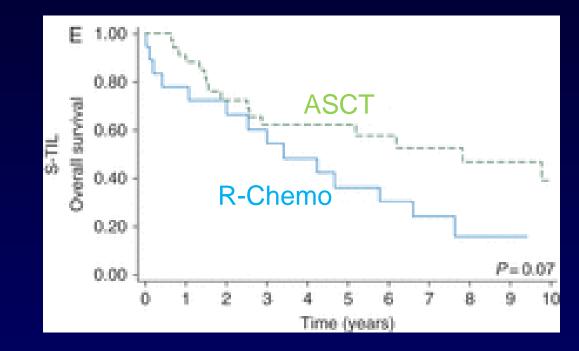
- ASCT ≤60 years (n
   = 24), 2-year OS
   was 74%.
- For nontransplanted aged
  ≤60 years (*n* = 19),
  the 2-year OS was 59%.



#### Ban Hoefen et al, *BJHaem* 163:487

# Role of ASCT in HT

- N=85 pts from Denmark:
  - OS improved with ASCT for "sequential" rather than "composite" HT.
  - Median f/u 3.4 yrs.
  - Similar findings to other studies.



#### Madsen et al, Annal Oncol 26:393

# Conclusions: ASCT for HT in rituximab era

- Outcomes in younger patients relatively favorable, with or without ASCT.
- Nonrandomized studies suggest small benefit of ASCT, with relatively short follow-up.
- No clear role for alloSCT.
- No evaluation of rituximab maintenance.

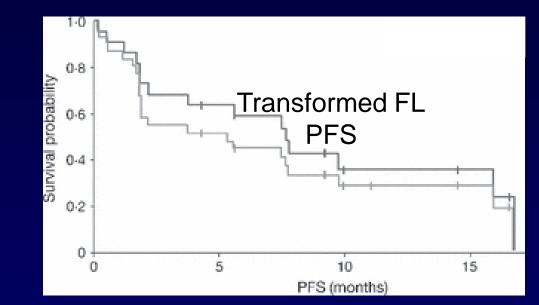
# Conclusions: ASCT for HT in rituximab era

- Outcomes in younger patients relatively favorable, with or without ASCT.
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- No clear role for alloSCT.

 Most patients older or frail and not ASCT candidates

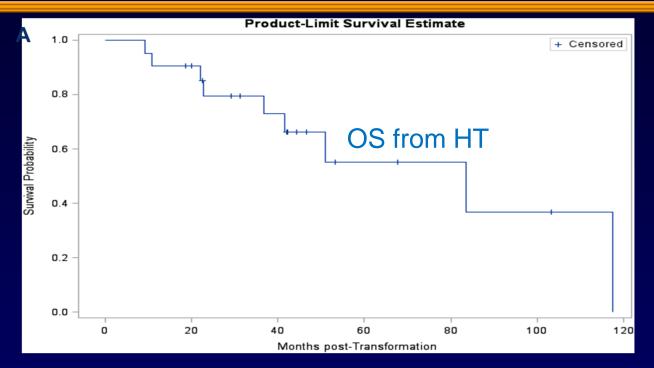
# Lenalidomide for HT

- N=33 pts
  - 25 mg dose
  - ORR 57%
  - Median DOR 1 yr
  - FL > other
     histologies



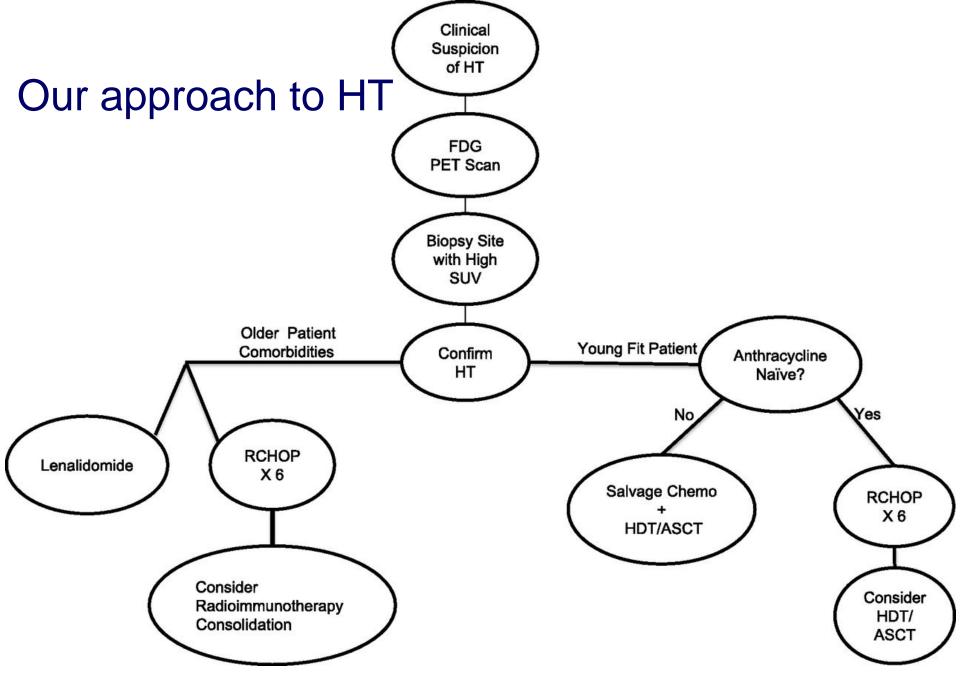
#### Czuczman et al, BJHaem 154: 477

# Consolidative RIT for HT: Patients unfit for ASCT

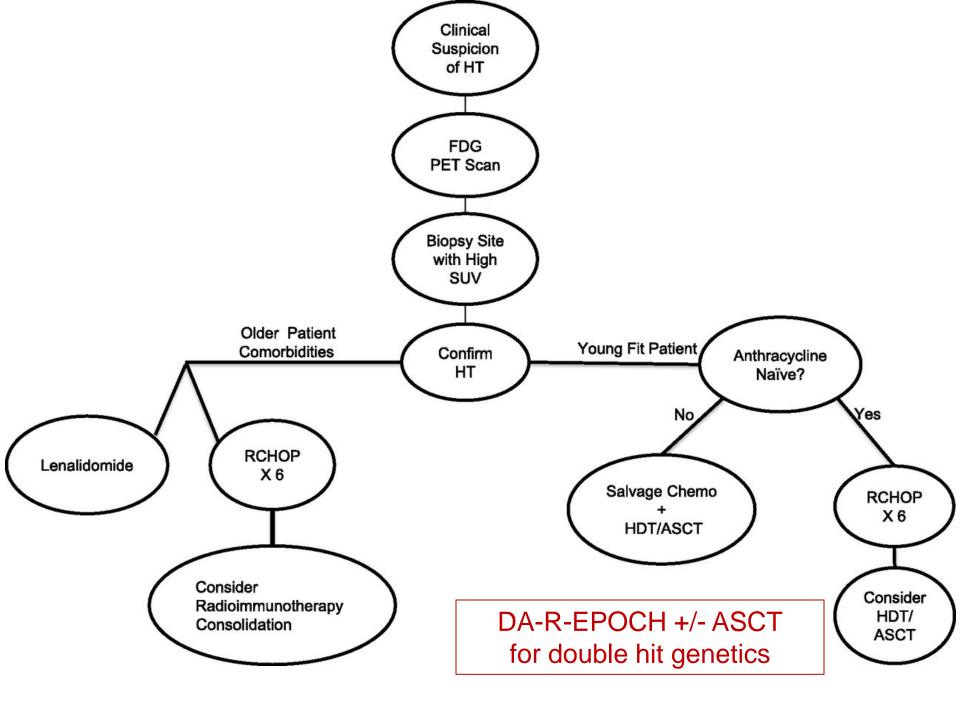


- N=21; R-CHOP + tositumomab or ibritumomab
- Median OS from HT: 84 months
- 2 cases of MDS/AML

Reagan et al, ASH 2014



Casulo, Burack, Friedberg *Blood* 125: 40, 2015



# Potentially rational agents for HT

- ABT-199
- Alisertib
- Immune-based approaches, including checkpoint inhibition

## Thank you! Questions?

JAMES P. WELMOT CANCER CENTER

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