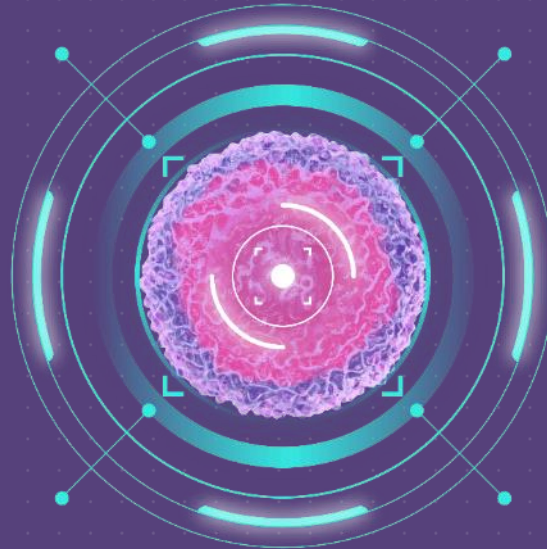




NEW CHEMOTHERAPY-FREE APPROACHES FOR THE TREATMENT OF LYMPHOID MALIGNANCIES



DLBCL – Chemotherapy-free Regimens
Pros and Cons

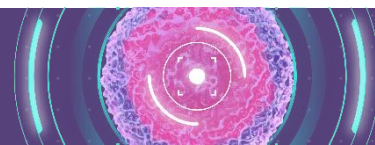
Ulrich Jäger

Medizinische Universität Wien
Department of Internal Medicine
Division of Hematology & Hemostaseology

 **LymphomaHub**

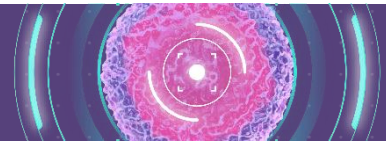
Disclosures - Ulrich Jäger, MD

Research support: (to institution)	Celgene, Emergent, Infinity, Janssen, Mundipharma, Roche, Novartis, Takeda-Millenium, True North Therapeutics
Consultant	Novartis, Roche, Abbvie, True North Therapeutics
Speakers Bureau	Roche
Honoraria	Abbvie, Amgen, AOP Orphan, Celgene, Emergent, Gilead, GSK, Janssen, Mundipharma, Novartis, Roche, Takeda-Millenium, True North Therapeutics
Scientific Advisory Board	Abbvie, Celgene, Gilead, Janssen, Millenium, Roche, Mundipharma, Novartis, True North Therapeutics



Considerations

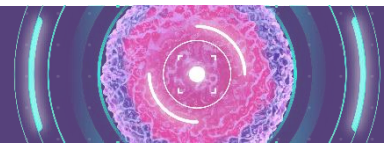
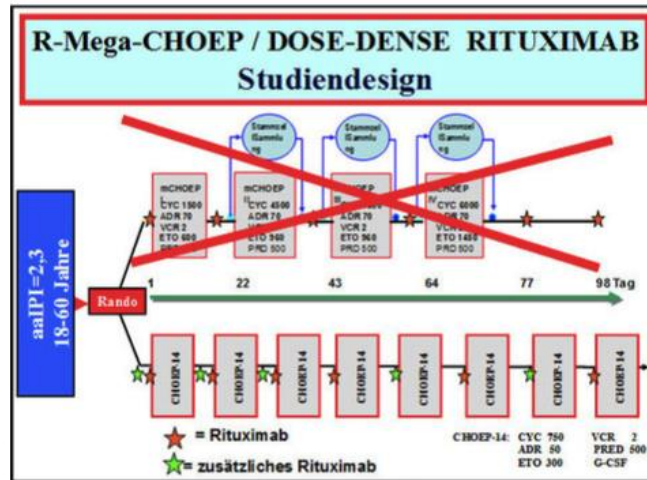
- Chemo-combinations
- Antibody conjugated drugs
- True chemo-free
 - Induction, maintenance
 - Mono- or combination therapy
 - Cellular therapy (CAR-T)
- Prediction of response (precision approach)
 - Next-generation sequencing (NGS), biomarkers
 - Functional drug testing



Chemotherapy remains the backbone of first-line treatment of DLBCL

All major clinical evidence suggests that aggressive chemotherapy is mandatory...

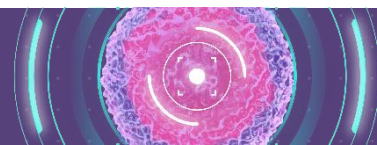
...in the era of precision medicine...dreaming is allowed...



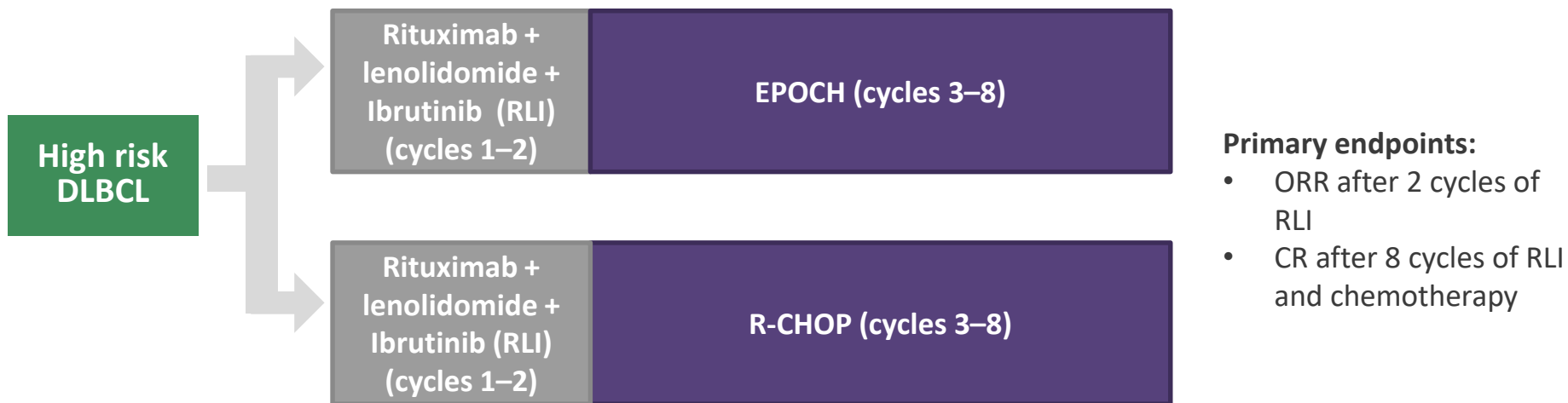
Improving R-CHOP: R-CHOP + X in first line

Drug		Trial name		Results
Induction X / R-CHOP				
Bevacizumab	RA-CHOP	DLBCL	MAIN ¹	No benefit
Bortezomib	BorR-CHOP	DLBCL	ReMoDL-B ²	No benefit 30-month PFS
Ibrutinib	IR-CHOP	ABC DLBCL	PHOENIX ³	No benefit EFS. <i>ICML abstract #093</i>
Lenalidomide	R ² -CHOP	ABC DLBCL	ROBUST ⁴	PFS not superior vs R-CHOP <i>ICML abstract #005</i>
Venetoclax	R-CHOP	DLBCL	CAVALLI ⁵	Phase Ib trial completed. Manageable safety profile. <i>ICML abstract #085</i>
Durvalumab	R-CHOP (+/- lenalidomide)	DLBCL (high risk)	FUSION ⁶	Phase II, recruiting. Sep 2017: Partial Clinical Hold for Arm A. <i>ICML abstract #087</i>
Maintenance R-CHOP + X				
Rituximab		DLBCL	NHL13 ⁷	No benefit 3y EFS
Enzastaurin		DLBCL	PRELUDE ⁸	No benefit 4y DFS
Everolimus		DLBCL	PILLAR-2 ⁹	No benefit 2y DFS
Lenalidomide		DLBCL	REMARC ¹⁰	PFS benefit

1. Seymour *et al. Haematologica*. 2014;99:1343–9; 2. Davies *et al. Lancet Oncology*. 2019;20:649–62; 3. Younes *et al. J Clin Oncol*. 2019 DOI: 10.1200/JCO.18.02403; 4. Celgene Reports First Quarter 2019 Operating and Financial Results. Celgene. Published April 25, 2019. <https://bit.ly/2UX0RGZ>; 5. Zelenetz *et al. Blood*. 2019 DOI: 10.1182/blood-2018-11-880526; 6. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03003520>; 7. Jaeger *et al. Haematologica*. 2015;100:955–63; 8. Crump *et al. J Clin Oncol*. 2016;34:2484–92; 9. Witzig *et al. ASCO* 2016. Abstract 7506; 10. Thieblemont *et al. J Clin Oncol*. 2017;35:2473–81

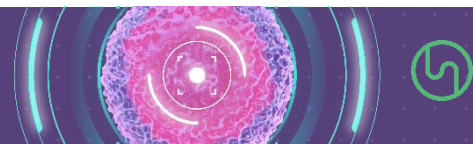


SMART START – non-randomised, parallel Phase II study



Rituximab 375 mg/m² IV Day 1, ibrutinib 560 mg PO daily, and lenalidomide 25 mg PO Days 1–10 of 21 day cycles for 2 cycles, followed by 6 additional cycles of RLI with chemotherapy

CR, complete response; EPOCH, etoposide, prednisone, vincristine, cyclophosphamide, and doxorubicin; IV, intravenous; ORR, overall response rate; PO, orally; RLI, rituximab, lenalidomide and ibrutinib; R-CHOP, rituximab, prednisone, vincristine, cyclophosphamide, and doxorubicin



SMART START – results

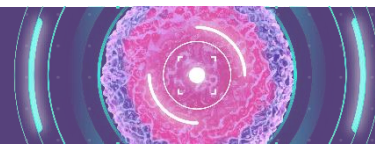
Outcome	RLI (n=58)	RLI + chemotherapy (n=49)
ORR	86%	NA
CR	36%	96%
PR	50%	4%
SD	7%	-
MR	5%	-
PD	2%	-

Adverse effect in $\geq 25\%$ patients

- Nausea
- Peripheral sensory neuropathy
- Diarrhea
- Mucositis oral
- Anemia
- Thrombocytopenia
- Rash
- Neutropenia
- Dyspnea

ORR, overall response rate; CR, complete response; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease; MR, minor response; PD, progressive disease; RLI, rituximab, lenalidomide and ibrutinib;

Westin *et al.* ASCO 2019 abstract 7508;



Antibody-drug-conjugates in DLBCL

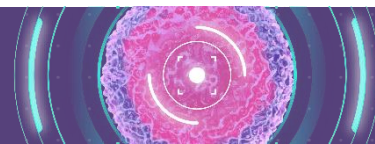
Product	Combination partner	Indication	Phase II	Results
Polatuzumab vedotin	Rituximab (or obinutuzumab)	R/R DLBCL	ROMULUS ^{1,2}	ORR: 54% mPFS: 5.6 months mDoR: 13.4 months
	Rituximab (or obinutuzumab) plus bendamustine	R/R DLBCL	NCT02257567 ^{3,4}	CR: 40% mPFS: 6.7 months mOS: 11.8 months
Brentuximab vedotin	Rituximab	R/R DLBCL	NCT01421667 ⁵	ORR: 44% CR: 17% mPFS: 4 months mDoR: 5.6 months mDoR in CR pts: 16.6 months
	R-CHOP	DLBCL	NCT01925612 ⁶	ORR: 97% CR: 80%

CR, complete response; DoR, duration of response; m, median; ORR, overall response rate; PFS, progression-free survival.

1. Morschhauser *et al. Lancet Haematol.* 2019 DOI: 10.1016/S2352-3026(19)30026-2; 2. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01691898>;

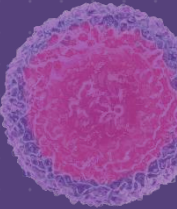
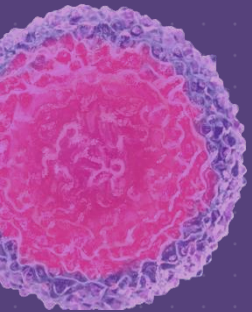
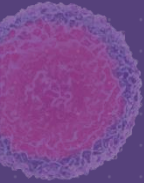
3. Sehn *et al. ASH* 2018. Abstract #7507; 4. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02257567>; 5. Jacobsen *et al. Blood.* 2015;125:1394–1402; 6. Bartlett *et al.*

ASCO 2015. Abstract #8506



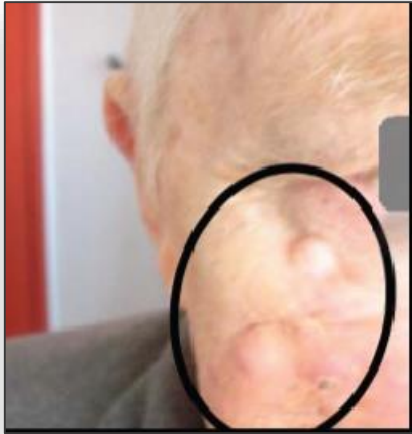


Chemo-free treatment options beyond first line



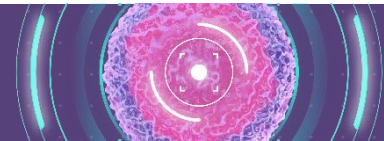
Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (*MYD88^{mut}*)

Ibrutinib treatment
Day 0



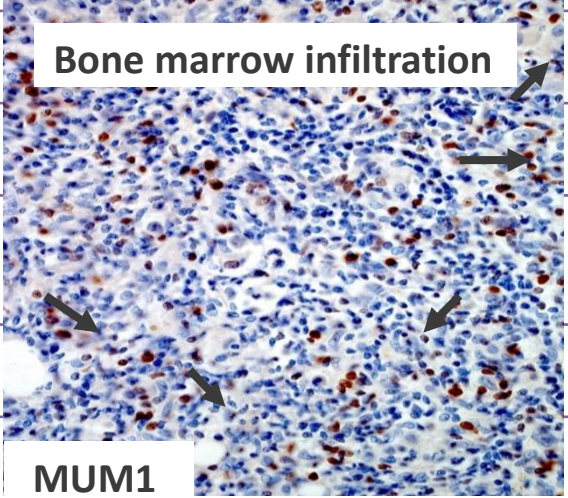
Drug name	Rank	RBF	P-value
Cisplatin	1	0.504	2.34e-06
Ibrutinib	2	0.661	0.000477
Ixazomib	3	0.797	0.00915
Oxaliplatin	4	0.807	0.00666
Vinblastine Sulfate	5	0.829	0.0174
EPZ-5676	6	0.836	0.0162

Ibrutinib treatment
Day 26



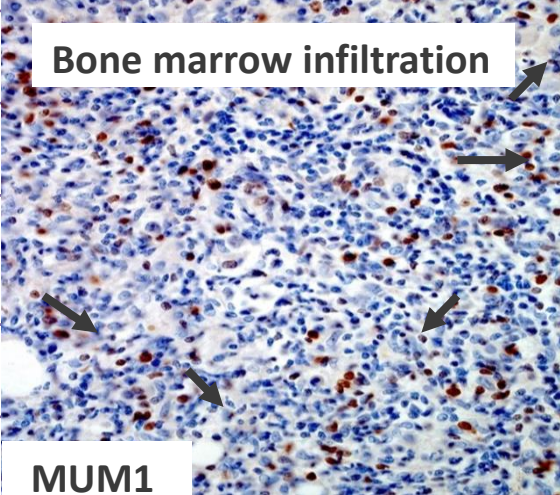
Case report: DLBCL elderly – relapsed

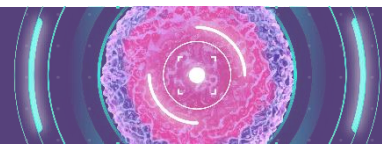
Pat. G. B., 80 yrs, Architect

Date	Diagnosis		Response/ Relapse	Duration (mo)			
2002	DLBCL, CD20+, CS IIA (abdominal, splenomegaly; IPI: 2 [LDH, age > 60])			1st CR 12/2002	48		
03/2006	1st relapse: T-cell rich DLBCL, CD20+, CS IVA (BM, lumbar spine); IPI: 3; cardiac comorbidity: NSTEMI, pacemaker				2nd CR 12/2006	27	
07/2008	2nd relapse: TCR-DLBCL, CD20-; CS IVA (BM), PET +					No response	
12/2008	Still BM infiltration with bc16+, mum-1 + DLBCL						

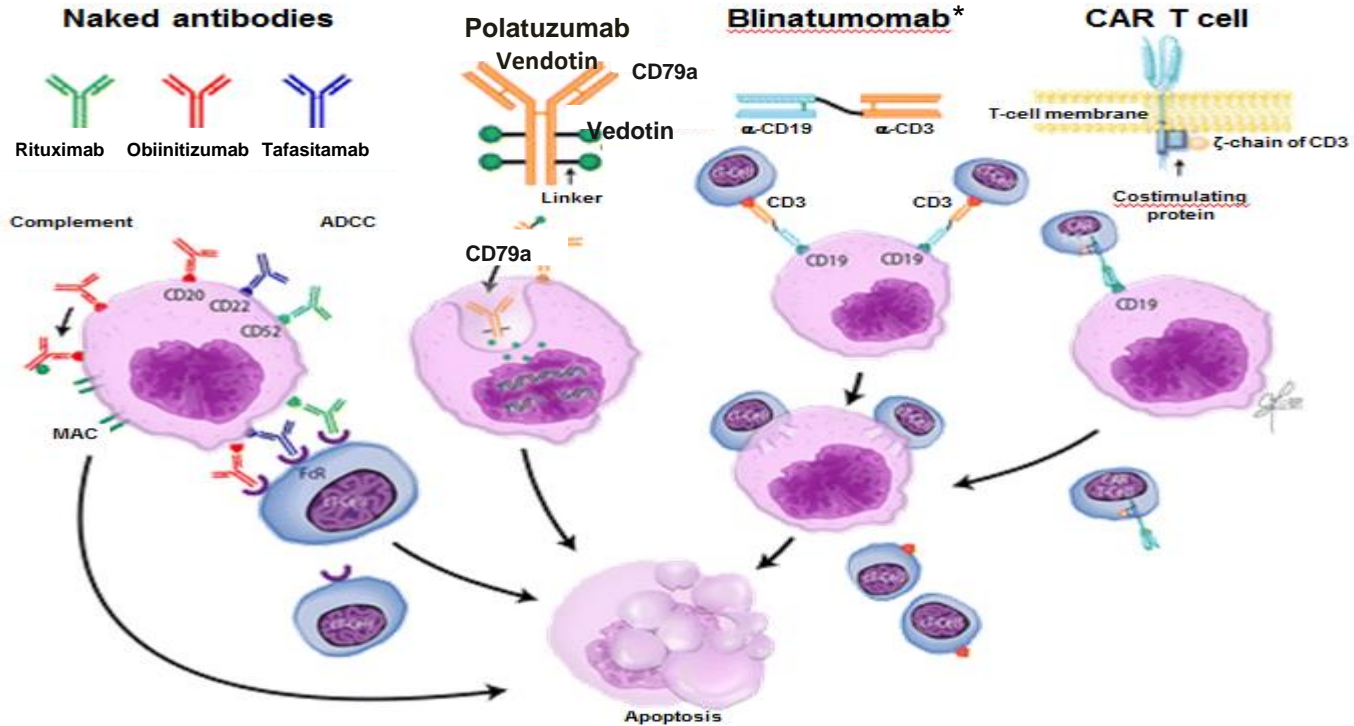
Case report: DLBCL elderly – relapsed

Pat. G. B., 80 yrs, Architect

Date	Diagnosis		Response/ Relapse	Duration (mo)
2002	DLBCL, CD20+, CS IIA (abdominal, splenomegaly; IPI: 2 [LDH, age > 60])		1st CR 12/2002	48
03/2006	1st relapse: T-cell rich DLBCL, CD20+, CS IVA (BM, lumbar spine); IPI: 3; cardiac comorbidity: NSTEMI, pacemaker		2nd CR 12/2006	27
07/2008	2nd relapse: TCR-DLBCL, CD20-; CS IVA (BM), PET +		No response	
12/2008	Still BM infiltration with bc16+, mum-1 + DLBCL			
01/2009	Still BM infiltration with bc16+, mum-1 + DLBCL		Salvage treatment with lenalidomide (25mg – 21d/8 day off courses)	3rd CR 3/2009 (BM biopsy, PET neg)
01/2010		Maintenance with 10mg lenalidomide	3rd CCR	14 (died: pulmonary embolism)

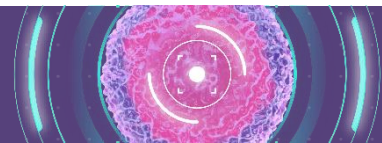


Treating R/R B-NHL with antibody driven approaches



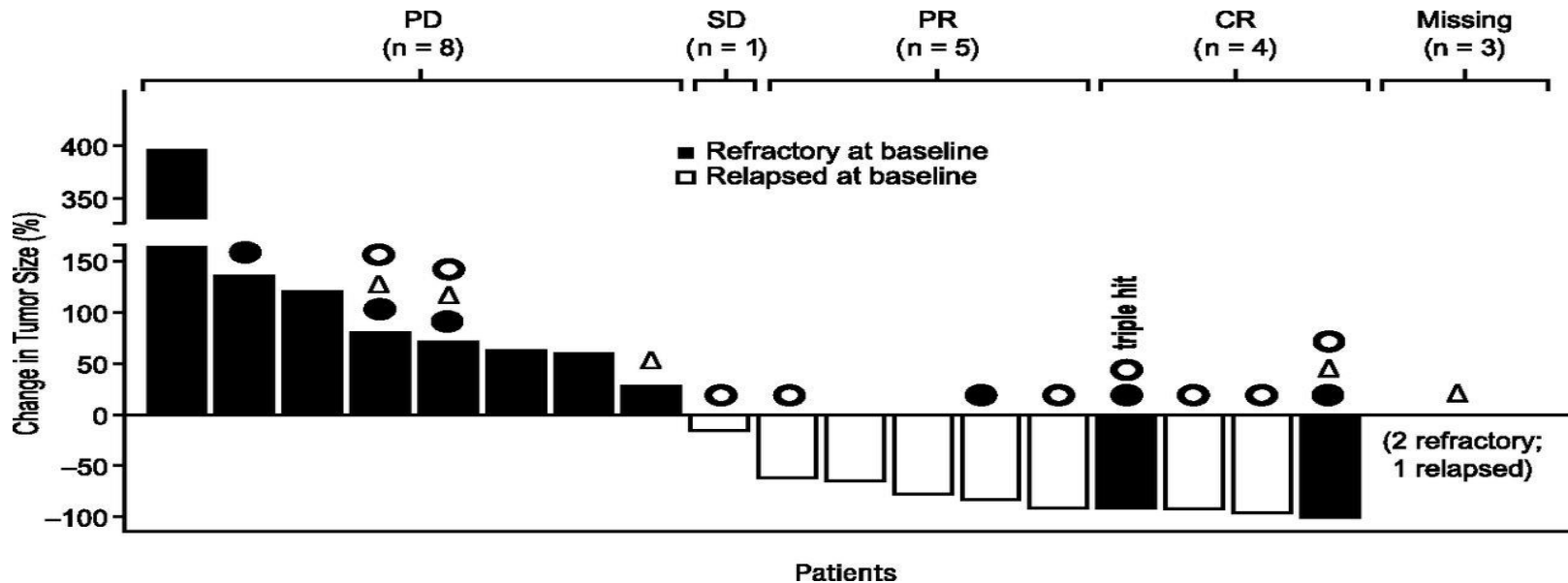
B-NHL, b-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma; R/R, relapsed/refractory

Courtesy: Max Topp, Würzburg



Activity of blinatumomab in DLBCL

Change in tumor size during Cycle 1

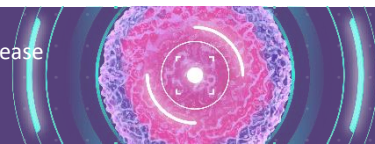


● patients who had previous ASCT

△ patients with bulky disease (diameter >7.5 cm) at baseline

○ patients with transformed disease at baseline

Overall response rates (n=25):
 4 CR, 5 PR = 36%

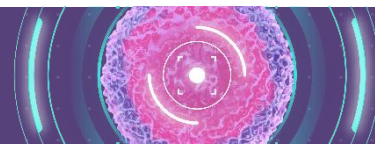


Bispecific antibody trials in R/R B-NHL

Modality and specificity	Name	Disease setting	Development stage
Dual affinity re-targeting (DART [®]) anti-CD19/CD3	Duvortuxizumab	R/R B-NHL	Phase I
Bispecific anti-CD19/CD3 tandem diabody (TandAb [®])	AFM11	R/R B-NHL	Phase I
Bispecific native format anti-CD20/CD3	REGN1979	R/R B-NHL + CLL	Phase I
Bispecific next generation anti-CD20/CD3 (2:1 format)	CD3xCD20 TCB	R/R B-NHL	Phase I
Bispecific native format anti-CD20/CD3	Mosenutuzumab	R/R B-NHL	Phase I + II
Bispecific T-cell engaging (BITE [®])	Blinatumomab	R/R B-NHL	Phase I + II

B-NHL, b-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma; CLL, chronic lymphocytic leukemia; R/R, relapsed/refractory

Courtesy: Max Topp, Würzburg

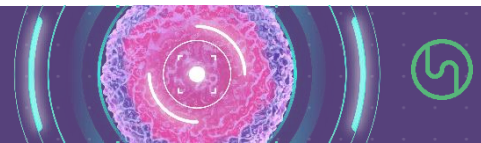


True 'chemo-free' therapy in R/R DLBCL

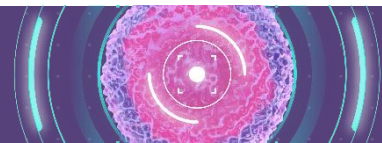
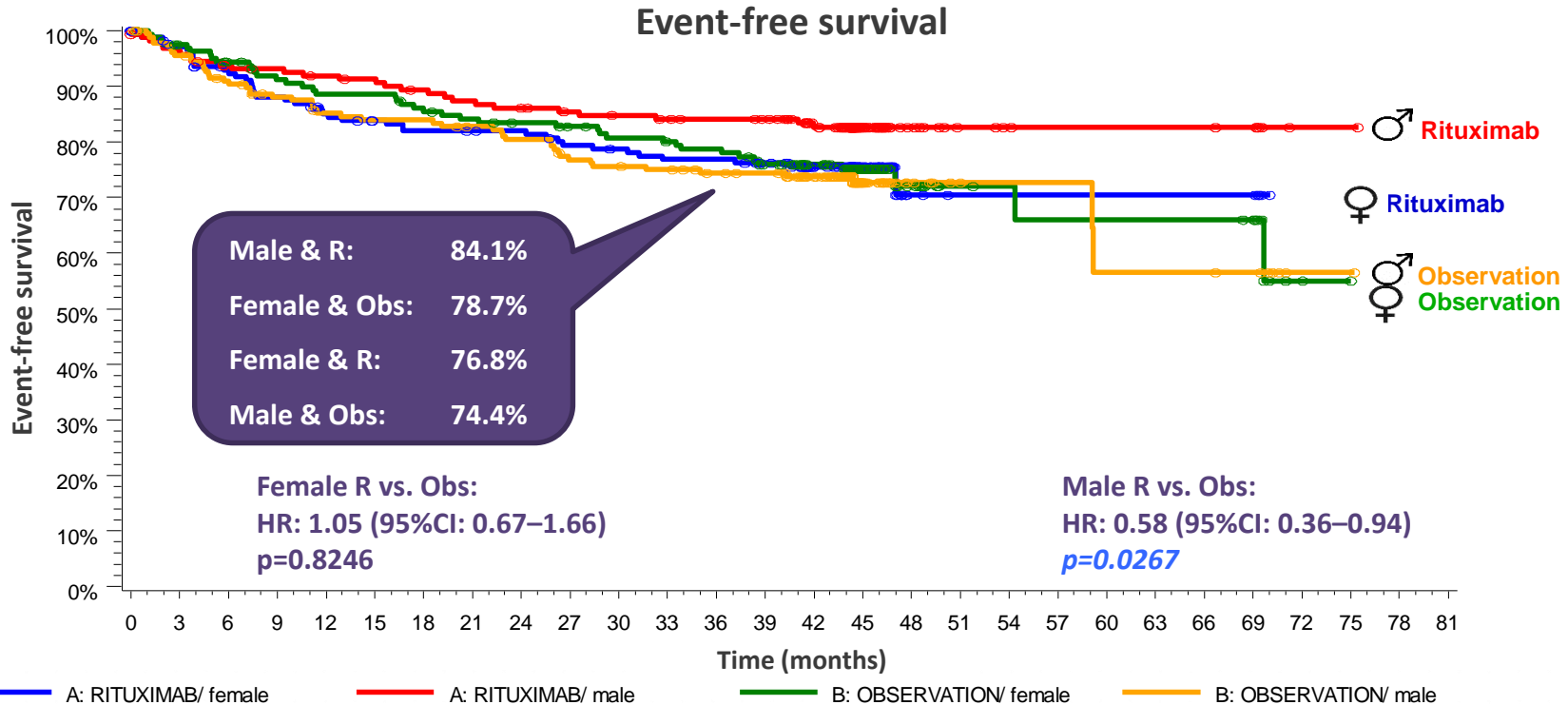
Agent	Studies	Endpoint	ORR/CR	References
Ibrutinib	Phase 1/2, 80 DLBCL	ORR	37% in ABC, 5% in GCB; 80% in MYD88mut	Wilson WH <i>et al. Nat Med</i> 2015 ¹
Ibrutinib + Nivolumab	Multicenter Phase 1/2a, 45 DLBCL included	ORR	36%	Younes A <i>et al. Lancet Haematol</i> 2019 ²
Lenalidomide	Multicenter, Phase 2/3, 102 DLBCL	ORR	27.5%	Czuczman MS <i>et al. Clin Cancer Res</i> 2017 ³
Lenalidomide + Obinutuzumab	Phase 1b/2, 77 DLBCL included	ORR	35.2% / 16.9%	Morschhauser F <i>et al. Blood</i> 2016 ⁴
EZH2 inhibitor (tazemetostat)	Multicenter, Phase 2, 95 DLBCL included	ORR	40% in DLBCL with <i>EZH2</i> gene mutation; 18% in DLBCL with wt <i>EZH2</i>	Morschhauser F <i>et al. ICML</i> 2017 ⁵
Blinatumomab	Phase 2, 21 DLBCL	ORR	43% / 19%	Viardot A <i>et al. Blood</i> 2016 ⁶
Pembrolizumab	Phase 1/2, 8 DLBCL	Safety	25% (1 CR, 1 PR, 6 PD)	Chong E <i>et al. Blood</i> 2017 ⁷
Obinutuzumab + venetoclax	AGMT NHL15B	ORR	NA	Recruiting ⁸
Tafasitamab (MOR208) + lenalidomide	L-MIND	ORR	58%	Maddocks <i>et al. ASCO</i> 2019 ⁹
CAR-T cells	ZUMA-1, JULIET, TRANSCEND	ORR	52–83% / 40–58%	Locke FL <i>et al. Lancet Oncol</i> 2019 ¹⁰ Schuster S <i>et al. NEJM</i> 2019 ¹¹ Abramson J <i>et al. J Clin Oncol</i> 2018 ¹²

ABC, activated B cell-like; CR, complete response; EZH2, enhancer of zeste homolog 2; GCB, germinal center B cell-like; ORR, overall response rate

1. Wilson *et al. Nat Med.* 2015;21:922–6; 2. Younes *et al. Lancet Haematol.* 2019 DOI: 10.1016/S2352-3026(18)30217-5; 3. Czuczman *et al. Clin Cancer Res.* 2017;23:4127–37; 4. Morschhauser *et al. Blood.* 2016;128:4202; 5. Morschhauser *et al. J Clin Oncol.* 2017;34: 15 suppl; 6. Viardot A *et al. Blood.* 2016;127:1410–6; 7. Chong *et al. Blood.* 2017;130:4121; 8. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02987400>; 9. Maddocks *et al. ASCO poster* 7521, 2019; 10. Locke FL *et al. Lancet Oncol.* 2019;20:31–42; 11. Schuster SJ *et al. N Engl J Med.* 2019;380: 45–56; 12. Abramson J *et al. J Clin Oncol.* 2018;36:7505.

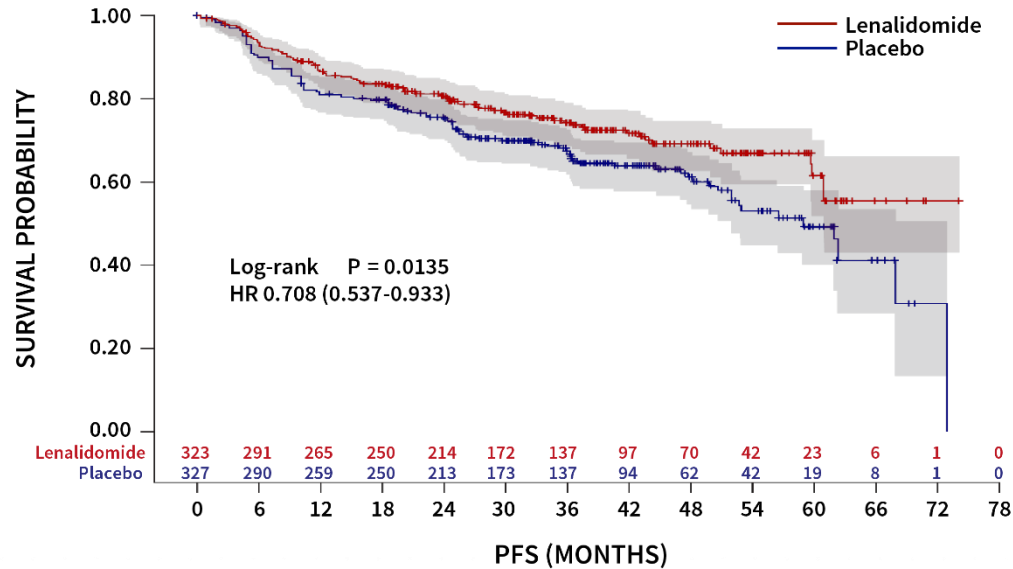


Male patients benefit from R-maintenance

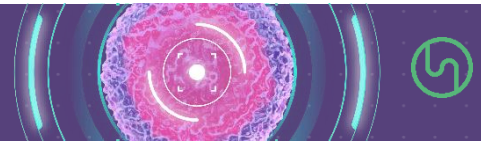


REMARC: Progression-free survival (central review)

Progression-free survival

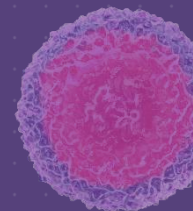
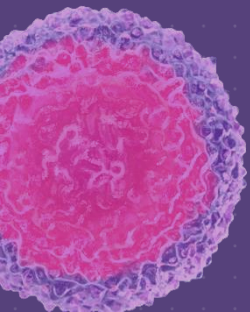
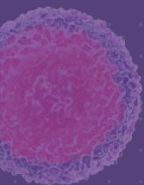


- At a median follow-up of 40 months, median PFS was not reached for lenalidomide and 58.8 months for placebo





CAR-T cell treatment in R/R setting



Long-term outcome of patients with R/R DLBCL after CD-19 CAR-T cell therapy

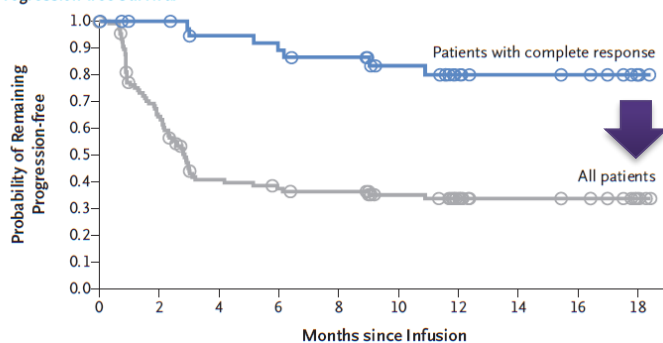
The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Tisagenlecleucel in Adult Relapsed or Refractory Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma

Stephen J. Schuster, M.D., Michael R. Bishop, M.D., Constantine S. Tam, M.D., Edmund K. Waller, M.D., Ph.D., Peter Borchmann, M.D., Joseph P. McGuirk, D.O., Ulrich H. Janssen, M.D., Szymon Jaskowski, M.D., Charles Lamb, Andrew D. Coombs, M.D., Jason A. Novak, M.D., S. John Lee, M.D., Lida B. Wang, M.D., Gilles S. Tilly, M.D., and the TIGER Investigators

Progression-free Survival



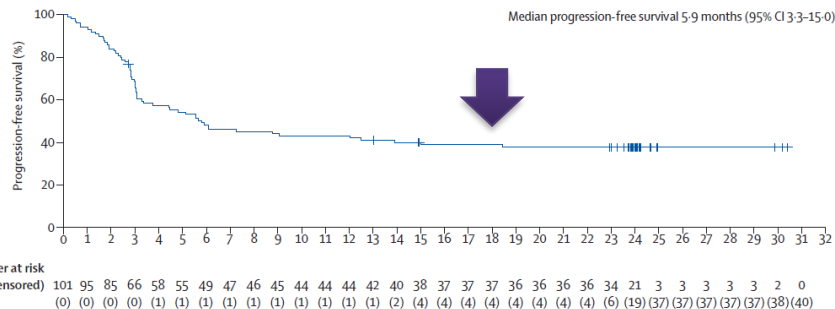
No. at Risk	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
Patients with complete response	40	39	39	36	35	35	33	31	31	29
All patients	111	65	38	34	32	25	16	10	9	3

Articles

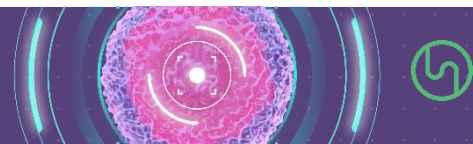
Long-term safety and activity of axicabtagene ciloleucel in refractory large B-cell lymphoma (ZUMA-1): a single-arm, multicentre, phase 1-2 trial



Frederick L. Locke*, Armin Ghotbi, Caron A. Jacobson, David B. Miklos, Lazaros J. Laskaris, Olaidekan O. Okunwole, Yi Lin, Ira Braunschweig, Brian T. Hill, John M. Timmerman, Abhinav Desai, Patrick M. Reagan, Patrick Stiff, Ian W. Flinn, Umar Farooq, Andre Goy, Peter A. McSwaney, Javier Munoz, Tanya Siddiqui, Julio C. Chavez, Alex F. Herrera, Nancy L. Bartlett, Jeffrey S. Wierczek, Lynn Navale, Allen Xue, Yizhou Jiang, Adrian Bat, John M. Rossi, Jenny Kim, William Y. Go, Sattva S. Neelapu*

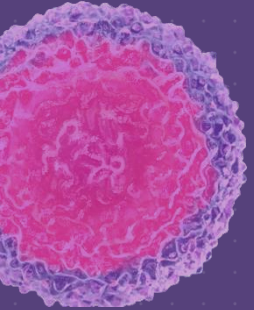
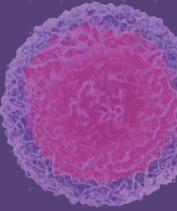
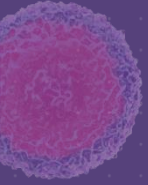


18 months PFS ≈ 40%





Predicting response

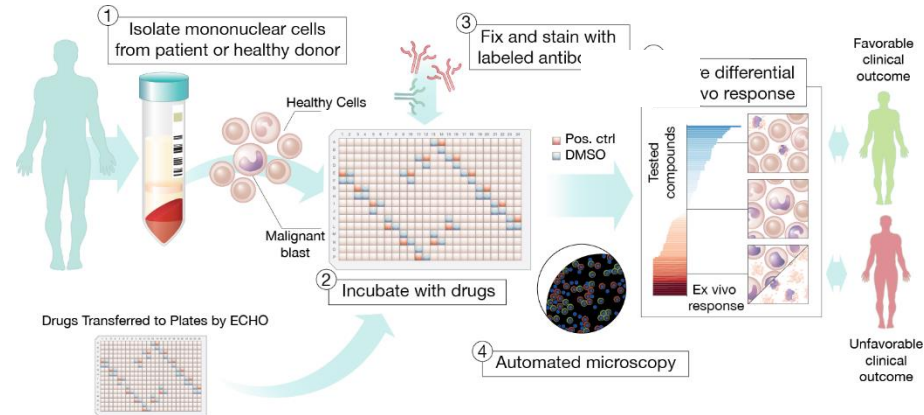


Predicting response – Defining subgroups

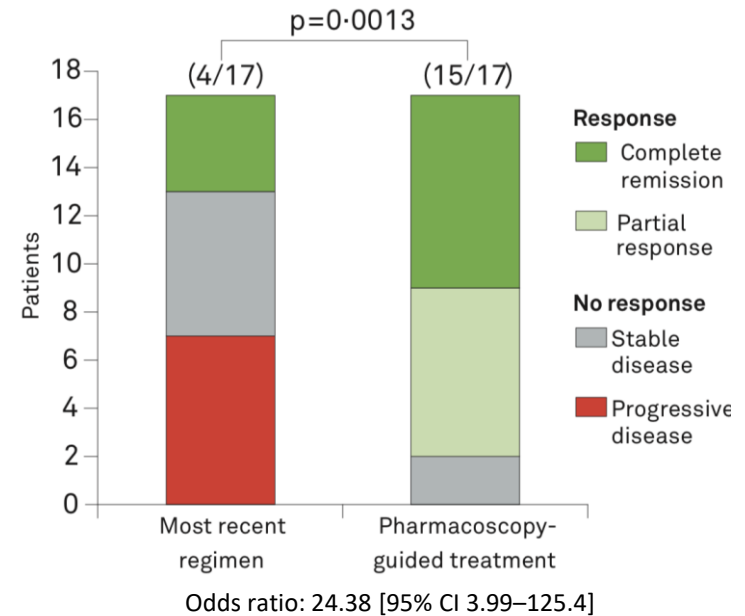
Functional drug testing

Image-based ex-vivo drug screening for patients with aggressive haematological malignancies: interim results from a single-arm, open-label, pilot study

Berend Snijder*, Gregory I Vladimer*, Nikolaus Krall, Katsuhiko Miura, Ann-Sofie Schmolke, Christoph Kornauth, Oscar Lopez de la Fuente, Hye-Soo Choi, Emiel van der Kouwe, Sinan Gültekin, Lukas Kazianka, Johannes W Bigenzahn, Gregor Hoermann, Nicole Prutsch, Olaf Merkel, Anna Ringler, Monika Sabler, Georg Jerczynski, Marius E Mayerhoefer, Ingrid Simonitsch-Klupp, Katharina Ocko, Franz Felberbauer, Leonhard Müllauer, Gerald W Prager, Belgin Korkmaz, Lukas Kenner, Wolfgang R Sperr, Robert Kralovics, Heinz Gisslinger, Peter Valent, Stefan Kubicek, Ulrich Jäger, Philipp B Stabert, Giulio Superti-Furga†

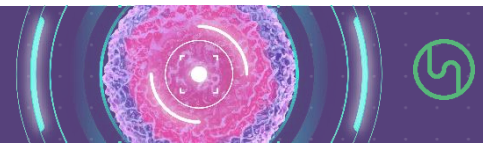


Overall response rate: from 24% to 88%



11/17 patients with R/R B-cell malignancies:

- 6 DLBCL; 3 B-LBL/ALL; 1 PMBL; 1 FL G3A



Chemotherapy-free treatment of DLBCL: options for further development

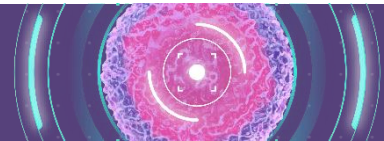
PRECISION APPROACH

Establish PREDICTORS for chemo-free single agent or combination Tx



Study COMBINATIONS of chemo-free Tx with conventional CTx

Develop NOVEL, more active small molecules/ antibodies/ cellular immuno Tx





**Round table
discussion**



Thank you