

# Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Hematologic Malignancies

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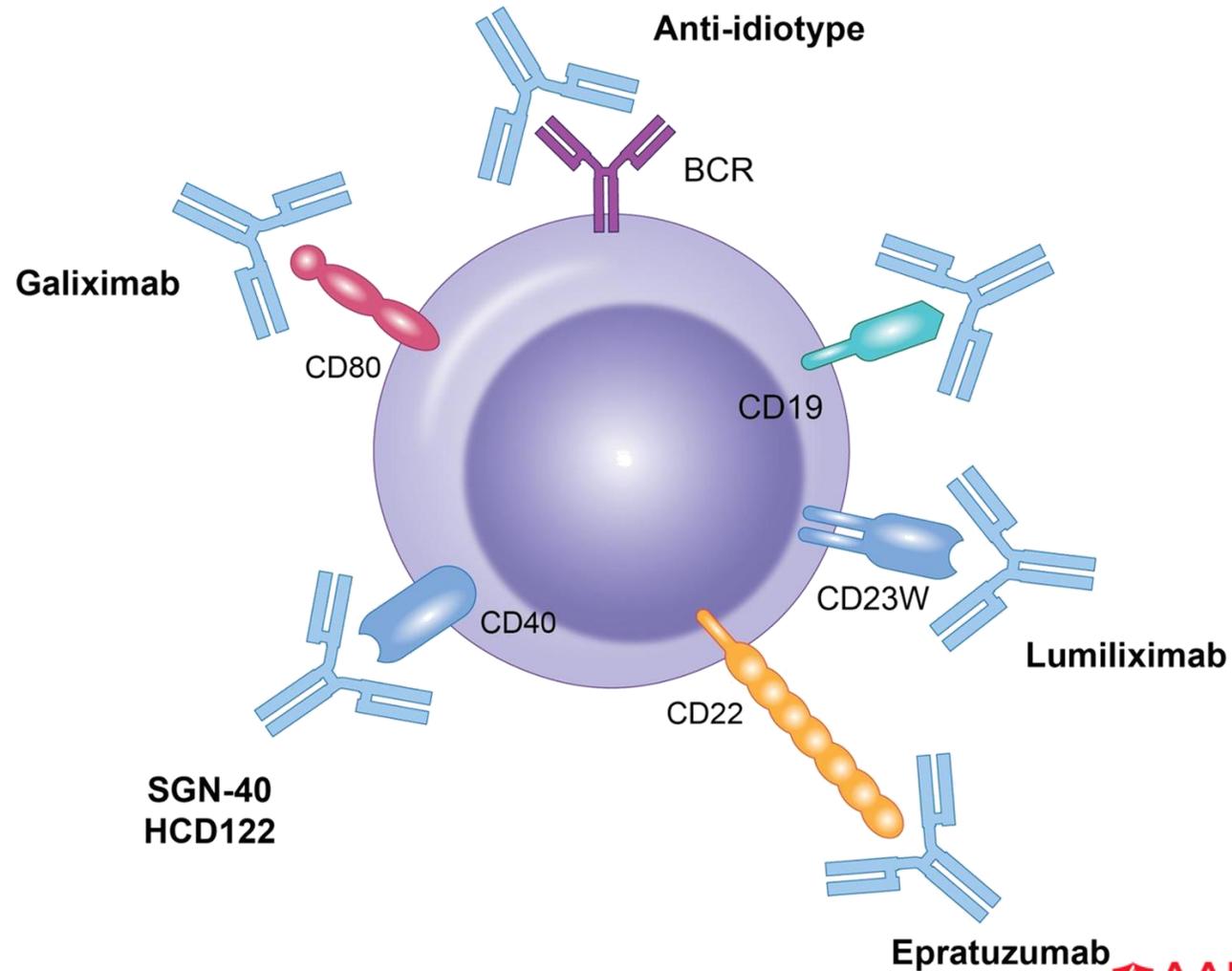
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# Disclosures

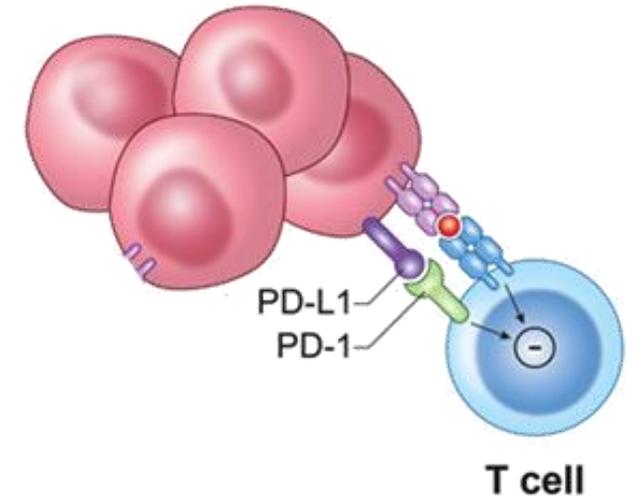
- **Consultancy:** Abbvie, Genentech, Sound Biologics
- **Advisory board:** Abbvie, Genentech, Verastem and ADC therapeutics
- **Research funding:** Mustang Biopharma, Pharmacyclics, Gilead, Genentech, TG therapeutics, Beigene, Acerta, Emergent, Merck

# Monoclonal Antibodies Targeting B Cell Lymphomas



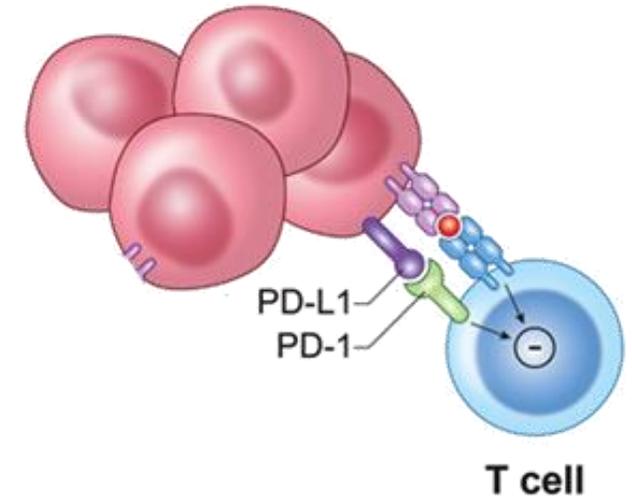
# FDA-approved Checkpoint Inhibitors for Lymphomas

- Nivolumab (anti-PD-1)
  - CheckMate 205/039: Patients with cHL that has relapsed or progressed after autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation and post-transplantation brentuximab vedotin
- Pembrolizumab (anti-PD-1)
  - KEYNOTE-087: Adult and pediatric patients with refractory cHL, or patients whose disease has relapsed after three or more lines of therapy
  - KEYNOTE-170: Adult and pediatric patients with refractory primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma (PMBCL), or those who have relapsed after 2 or more prior lines of therapy



# Patient Selection Criteria for Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapies

- Expression of the ligand for checkpoint inhibition
  - e.g. PD-L1 expression for anti-PD-1 therapy
- Relapse or progression after previous therapies
  - Nivolumab: After prior HSCT and brentuximab therapy
  - Pembrolizumab: Relapse after three prior treatments, PMBCL
- Presence of co-morbidities
  - e.g. Presence of active autoimmune disease which could be worsened



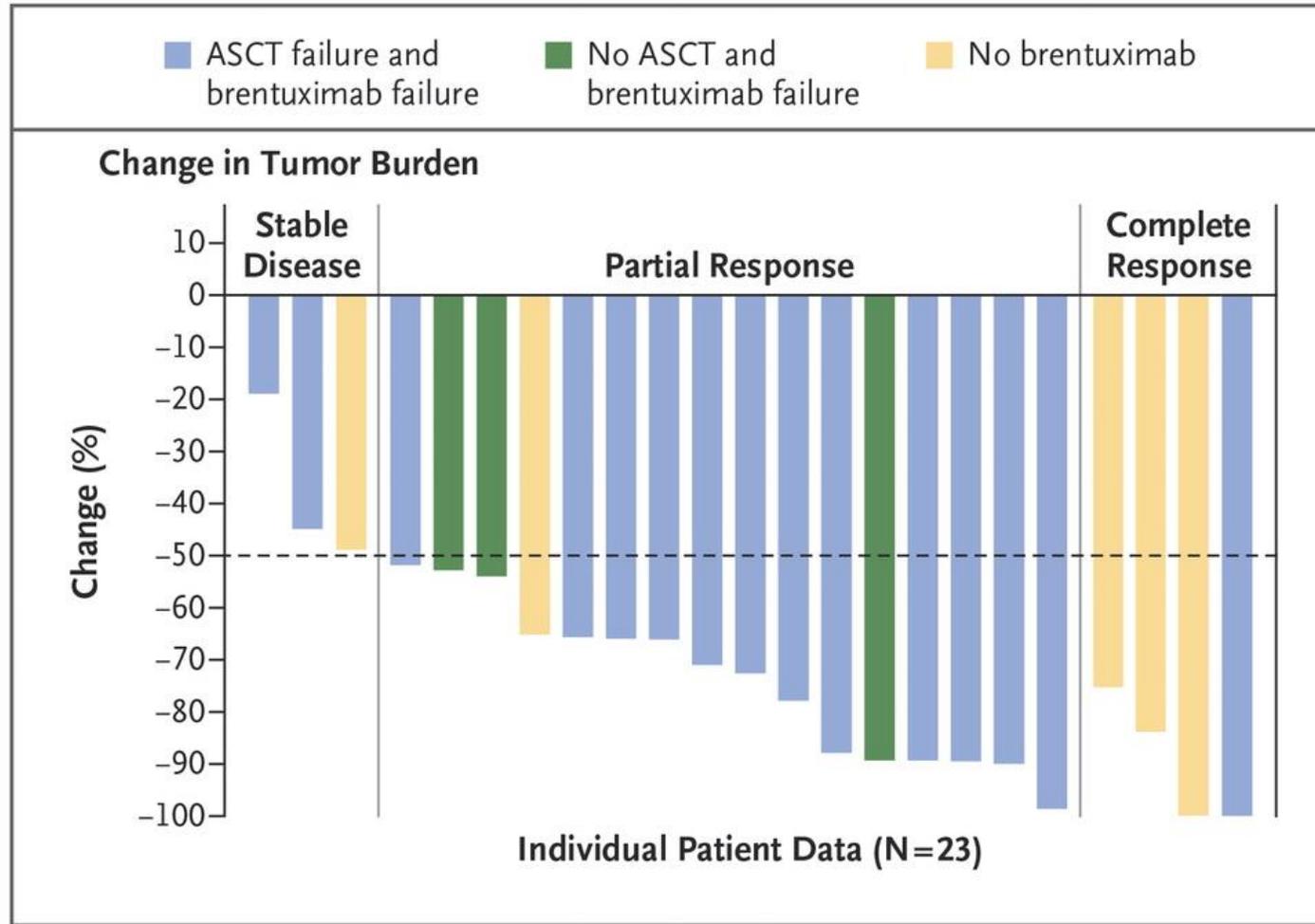
# Nivolumab in Hodgkin Lymphoma

**Table 3. Clinical Activity in Nivolumab-Treated Patients.\***

Variable	All Patients (N=23)	Failure of Both Stem-Cell Transplantation and Brentuximab (N=15)	No Stem-Cell Transplantation and Failure of Brentuximab (N=3)	No Brentuximab Treatment (N=5)†
Best overall response — no. (%)				
Complete response	4 (17)	1 (7)	0	3 (60)
Partial response	16 (70)	12 (80)	3 (100)	1 (20)
Stable disease	3 (13)	2 (13)	0	1 (20)
Progressive disease	0	0	0	0
Objective response				
No. of patients	20	13	3	4
Percent of patients (95% CI)	87 (66–97)	87 (60–98)	100 (29–100)	80 (28–99)
Progression-free survival at 24 wk — % (95% CI)‡	86 (62–95)	85 (52–96)	NC§	80 (20–97)
Overall survival — wk				
Median	NR	NR	NR	NR
Range at data cutoff¶	21–75	21–75	32–55	30–50

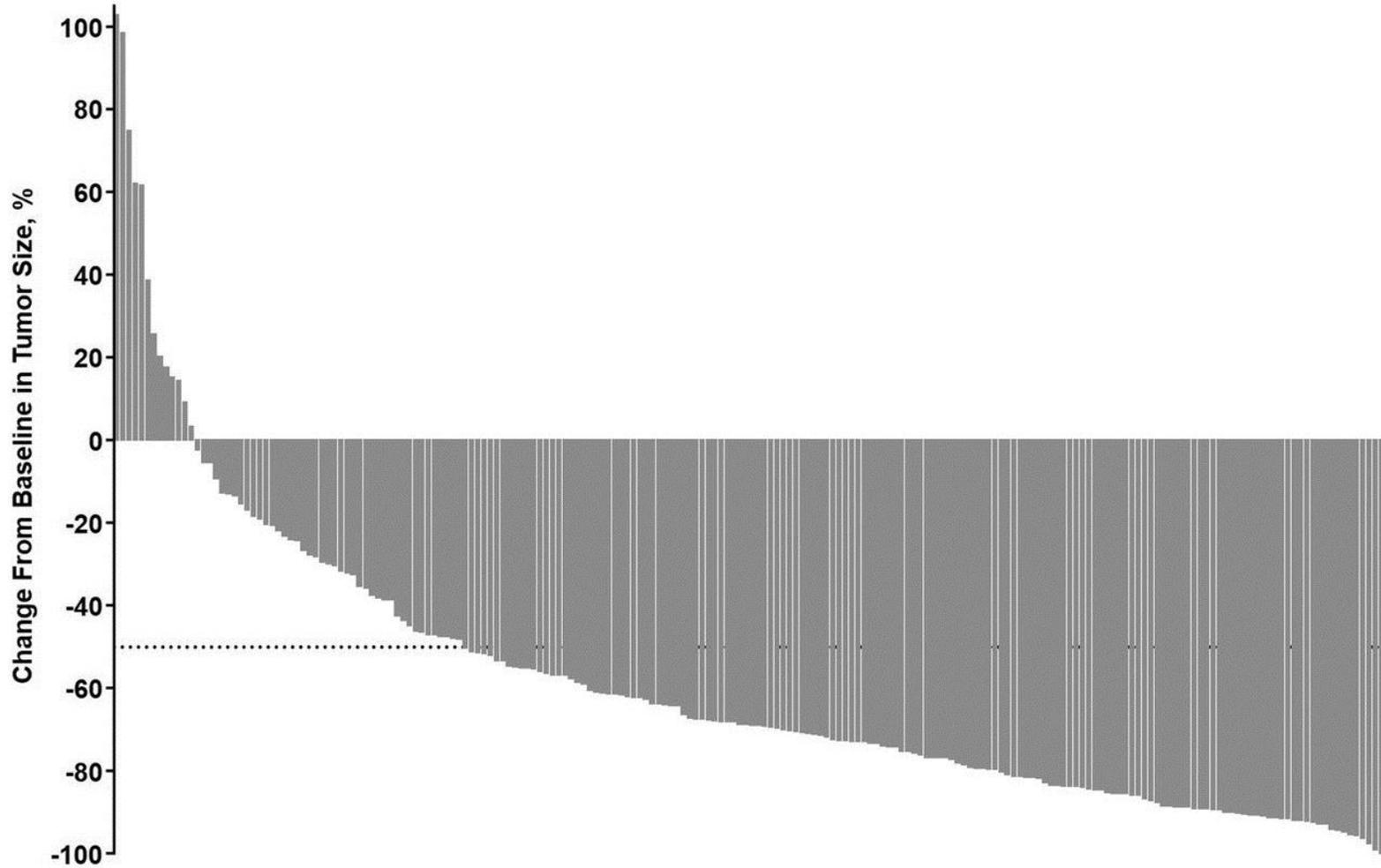
Ansell et al. NEJM 2015

# Nivolumab in Hodgkin Lymphoma



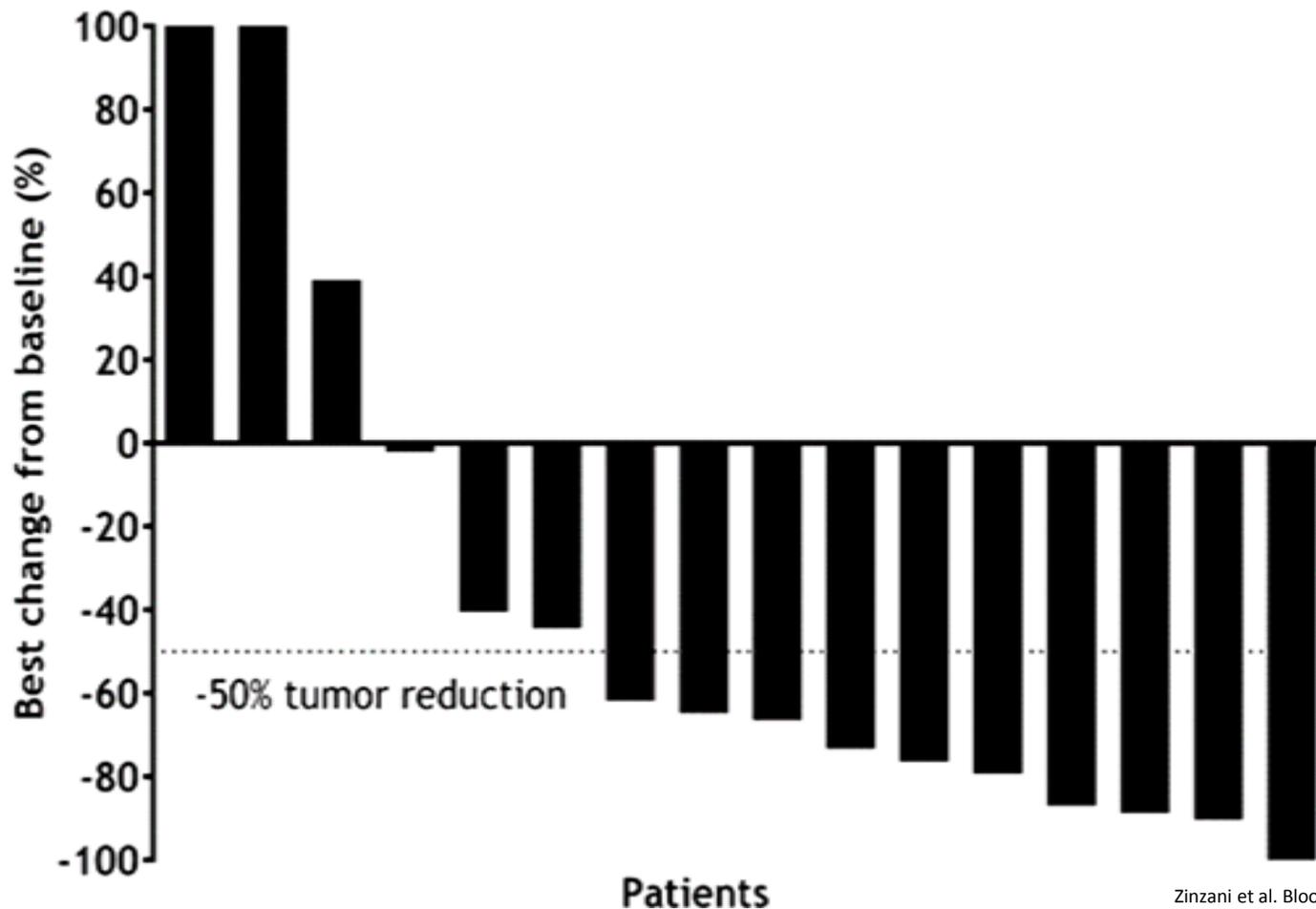
Ansell et al. NEJM 2015

# Pembrolizumab in Hodgkin Lymphoma



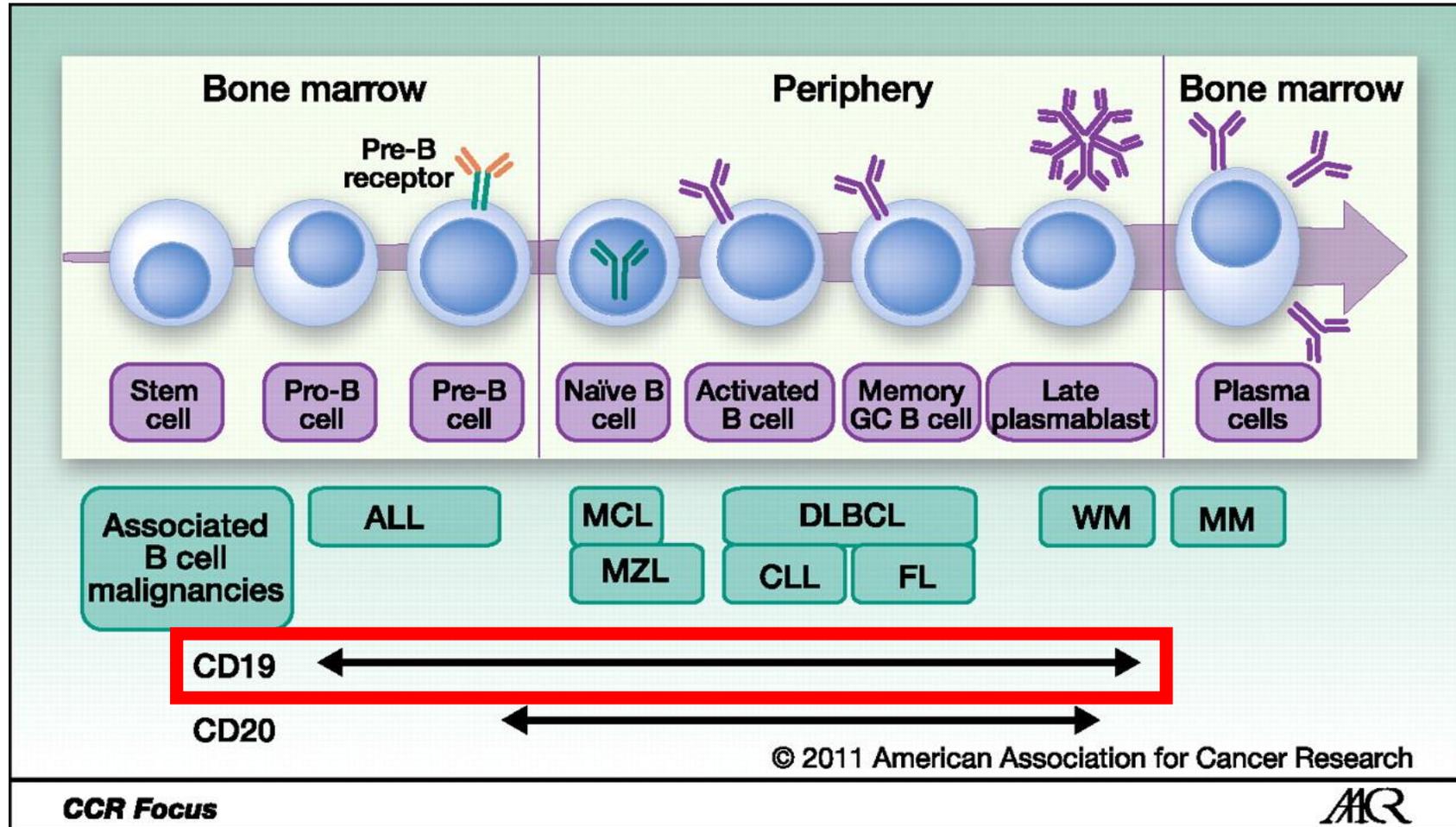
Zinzani et al. Hematological Oncology 2017

# Pembrolizumab in Primary Mediastinal Large B cell Lymphoma



Zinzani et al. Blood 2016

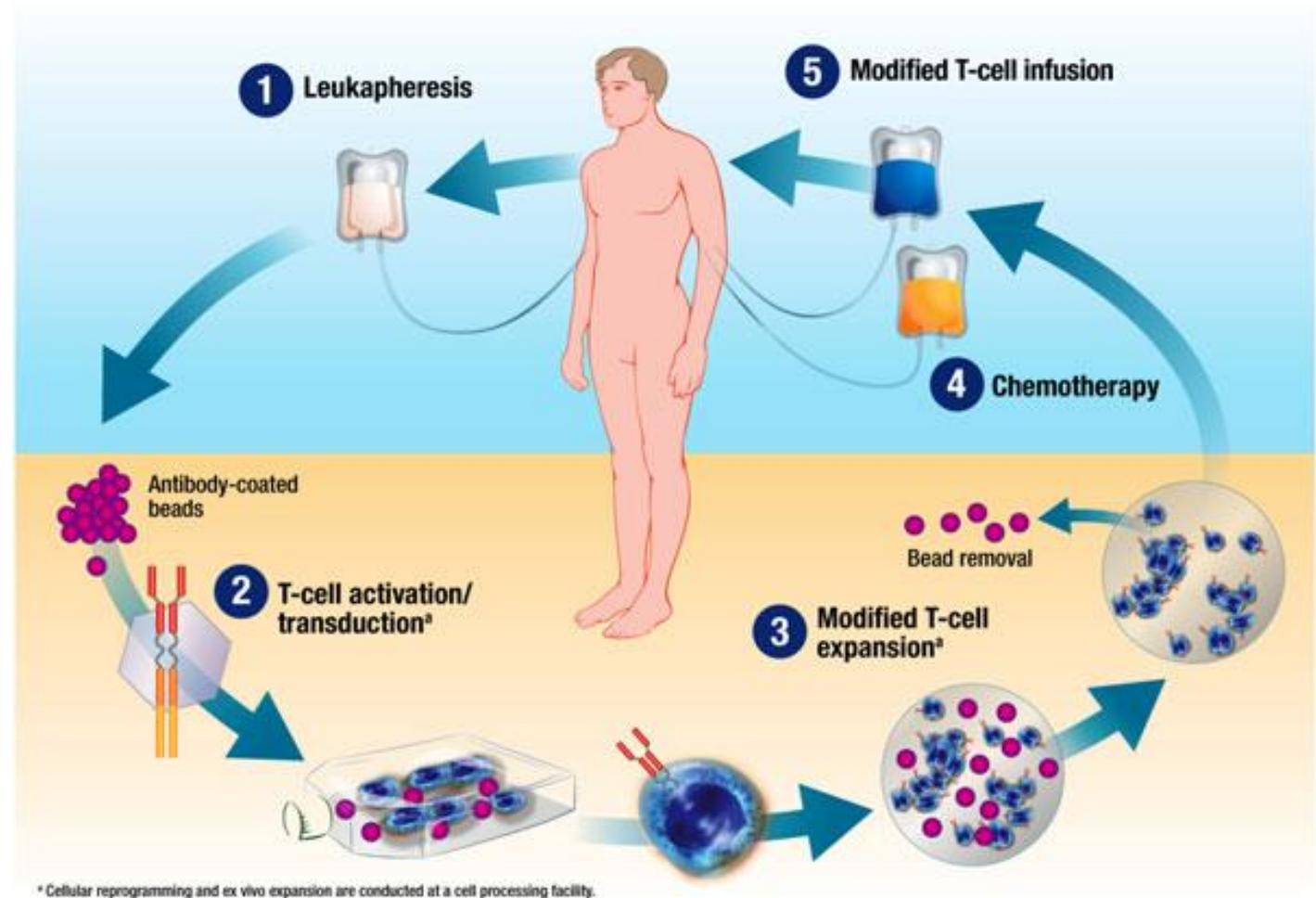
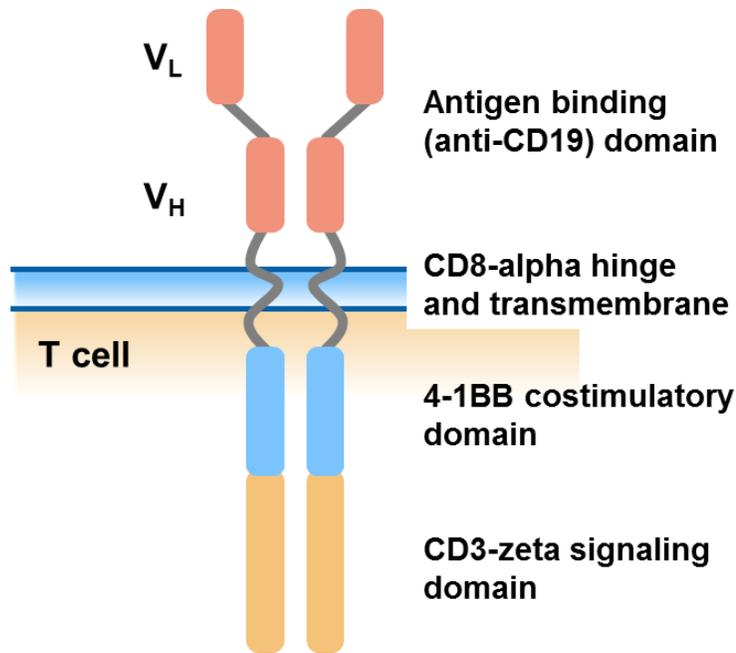
# B Cell Malignancies are CD19+



Blanc et al. Clinical Cancer Research 2011

# Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T cell Therapy

- Engineering patient T cells to target and eliminate cells presenting specific antigens



# FDA-approved CAR T Cell Therapies for Lymphoma

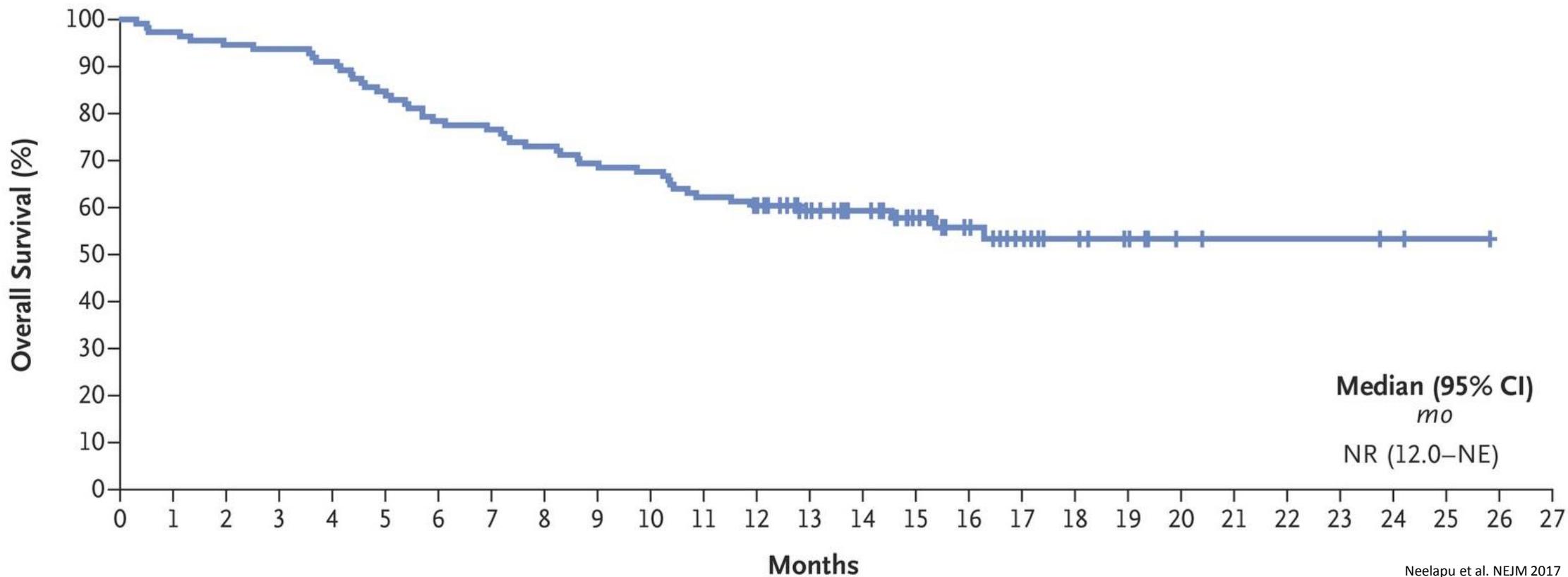
- Axicabtagene ciloleucel
  - ZUMA-1: Adult patients with relapsed or refractory large B cell lymphoma after two or more lines of systemic therapy, including diffuse large B cell lymphoma, high-grade B cell lymphoma, and DLBCL arising from follicular lymphoma
- Tisagenlecleucel
  - JULIET: adult patients with relapsed/refractory large B cell lymphoma—including diffuse large B cell lymphoma (DLBCL), high-grade B cell lymphoma and DLBCL arising from follicular lymphoma—after 2 or more lines of systemic therapy.

# Patient Selection Criteria for CAR T Therapies

- Expression of the desired antigen for CAR T therapy
  - e.g. CD19
- Disease burden
  - CAR T trials: <30% to minimize the risk of cytokine release syndrome
- Presence of co-morbidities
  - e.g. Presence of active autoimmune diseases which could be worsened

# Axicabtagene ciloleucel in B Cell Lymphoma

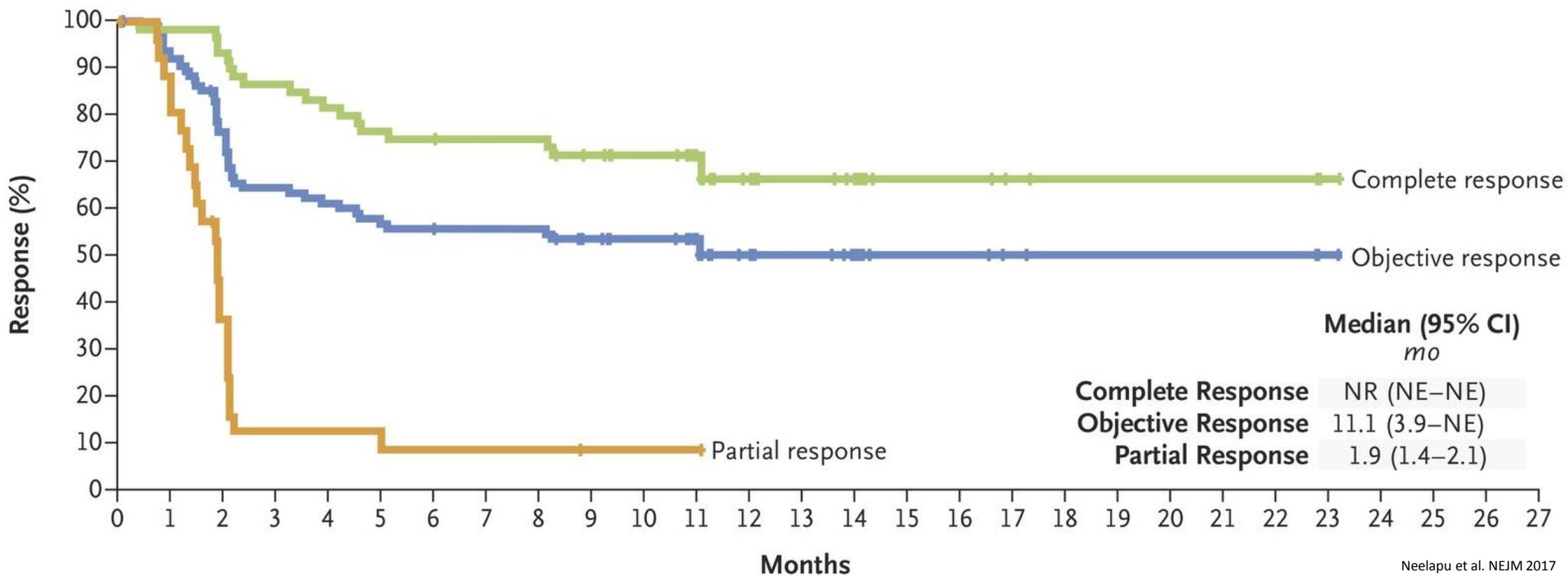
## Overall Survival



Neelapu et al. NEJM 2017

# Axicabtagene ciloleucel in B Cell Lymphoma

## Duration of Response

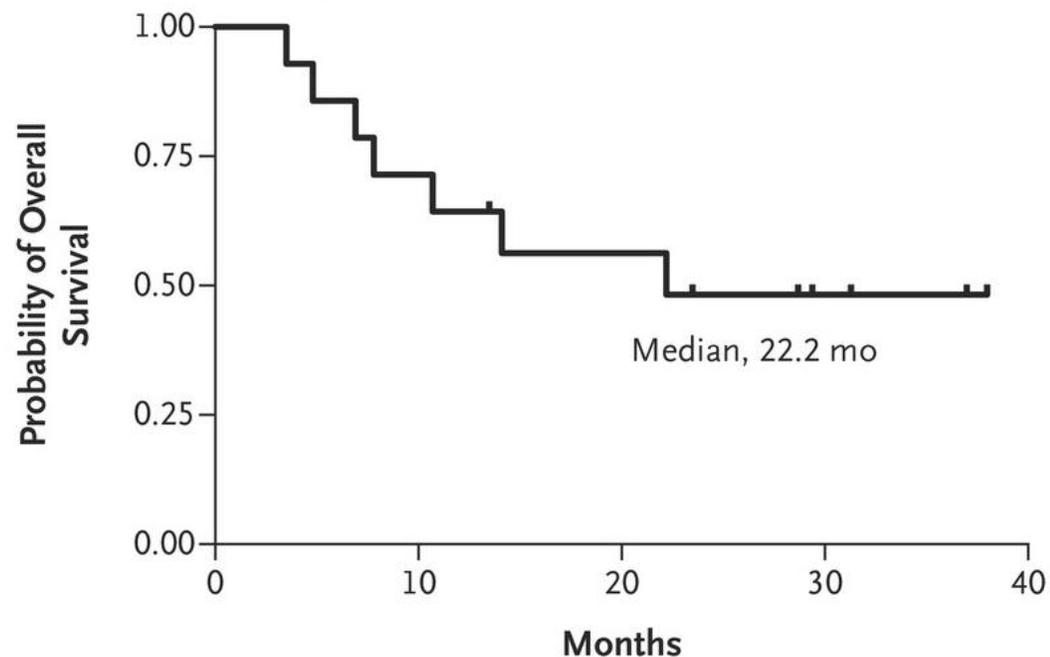


Neelapu et al. NEJM 2017

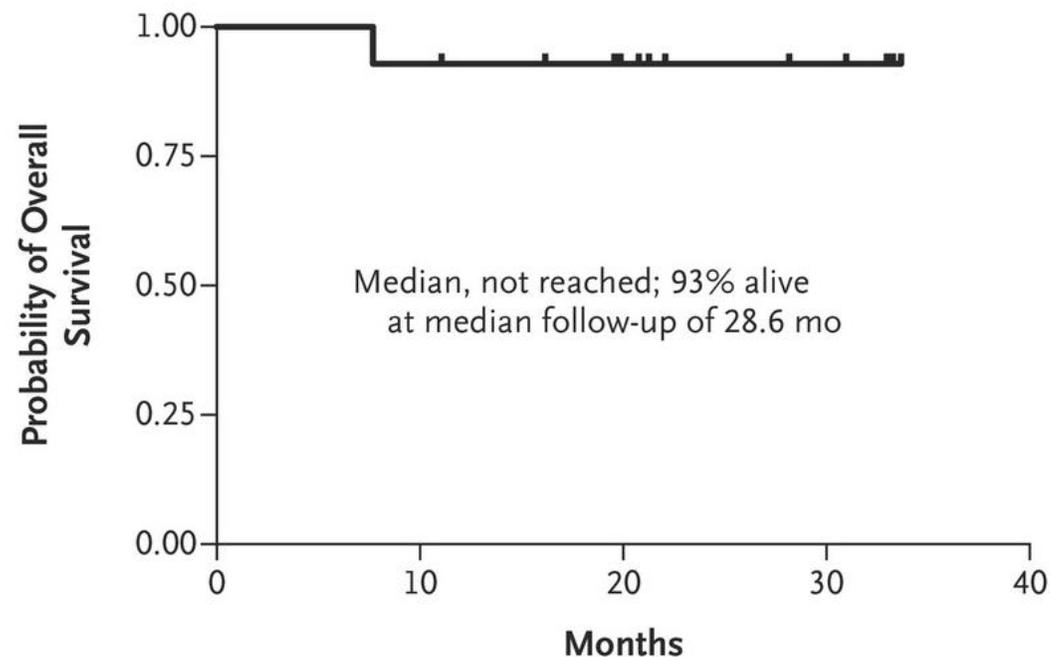
# Tisagenlecleucel in B Cell Lymphoma

## Overall Survival

Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma, Overall Survival



Follicular Lymphoma, Overall Survival

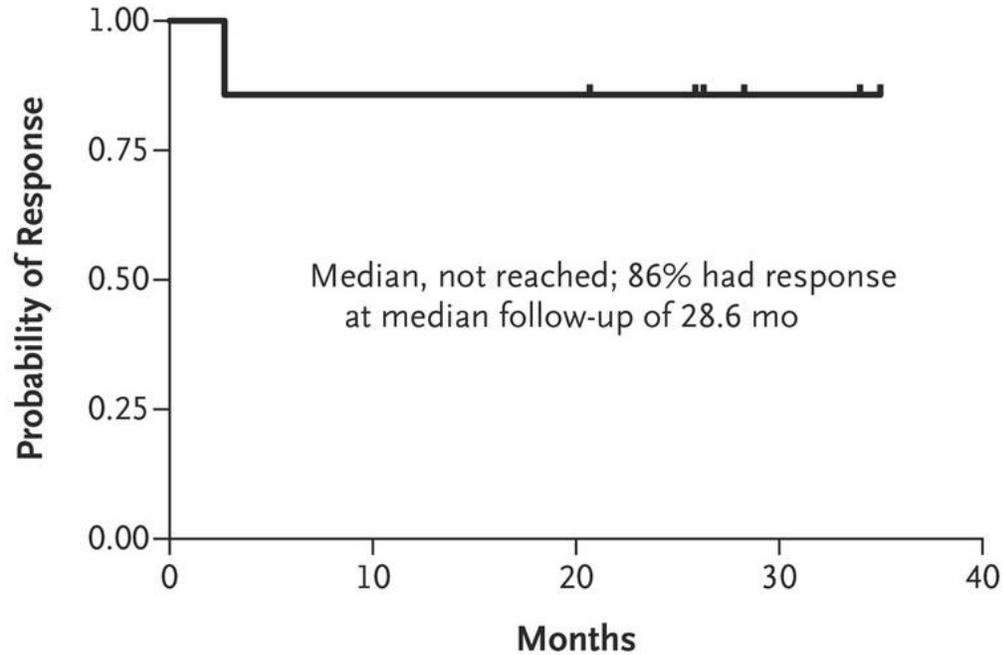


Schuster et al. NEJM 2017

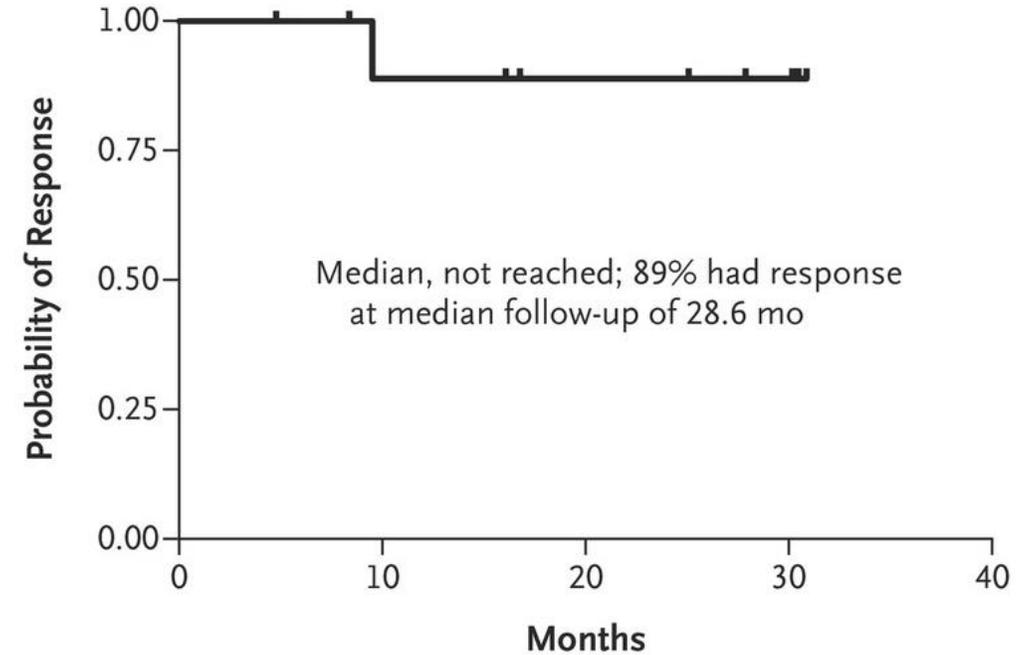
# Tisagenlecleucel in B Cell Lymphoma

## Duration of Response

**Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma, Response Duration**



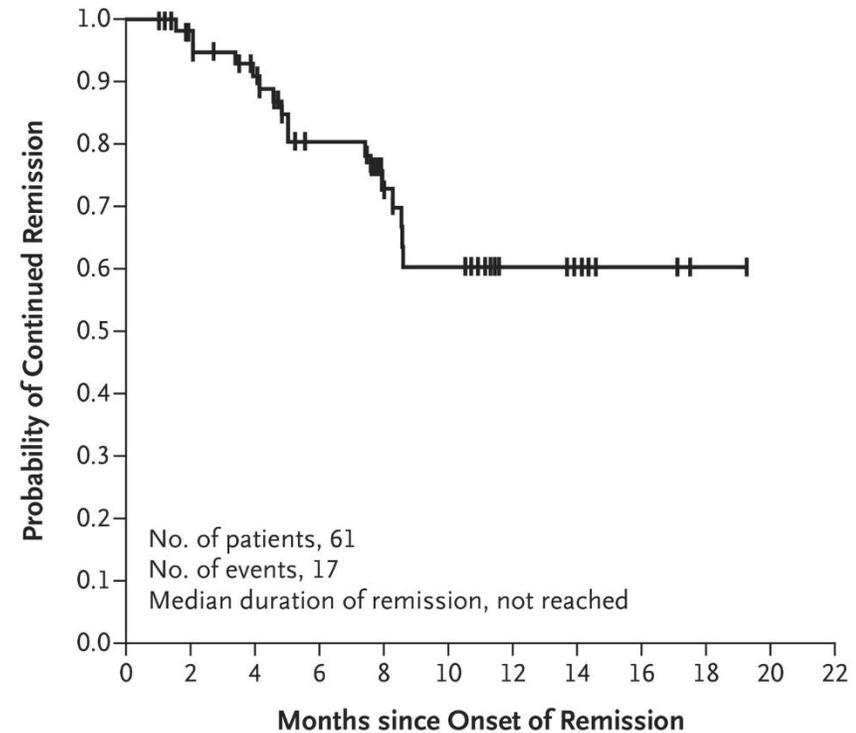
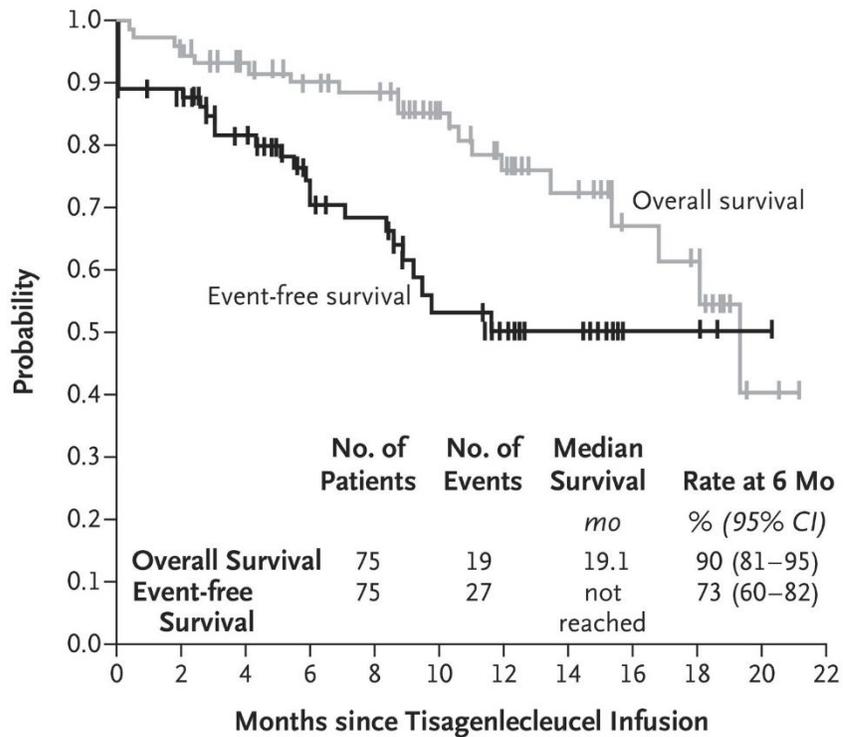
**Follicular Lymphoma, Response Duration**



Schuster et al. NEJM 2017

# FDA-approved CAR T Cell Therapies for Acute Leukemia Tisagenlecleucel

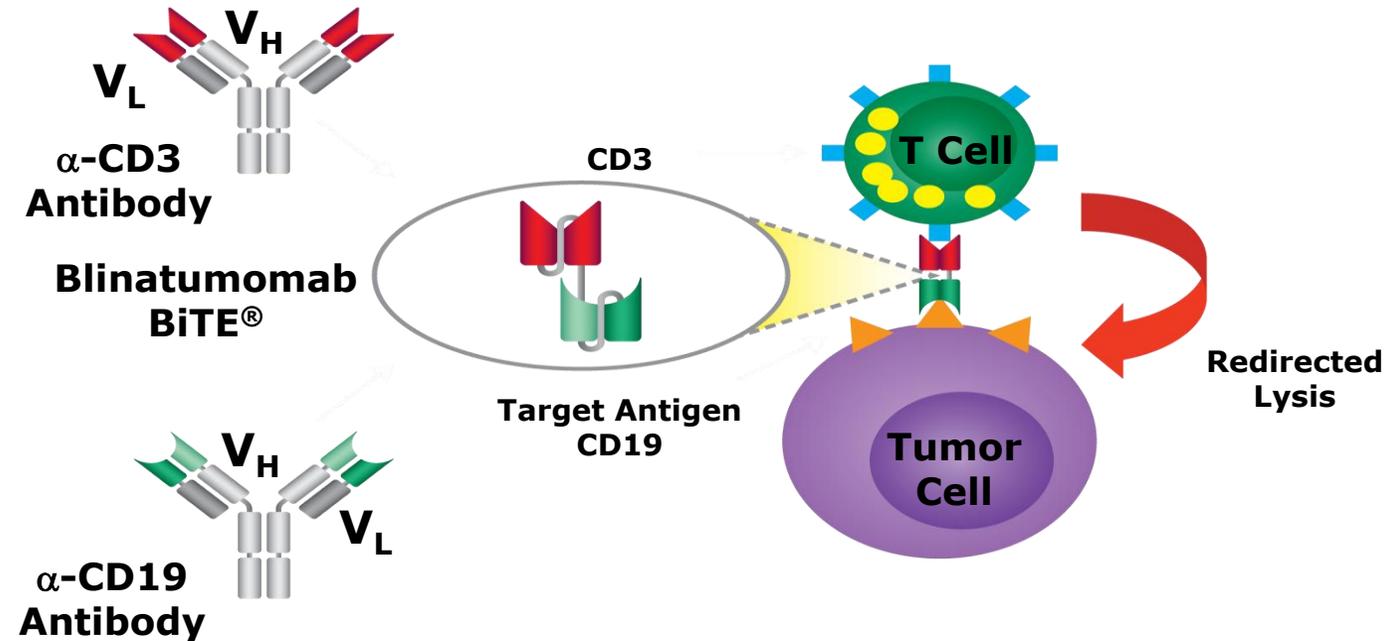
- ELIANA: patients up to age 25 years with B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) that is refractory or in second or later relapse



Maude et al. NEJM 2018

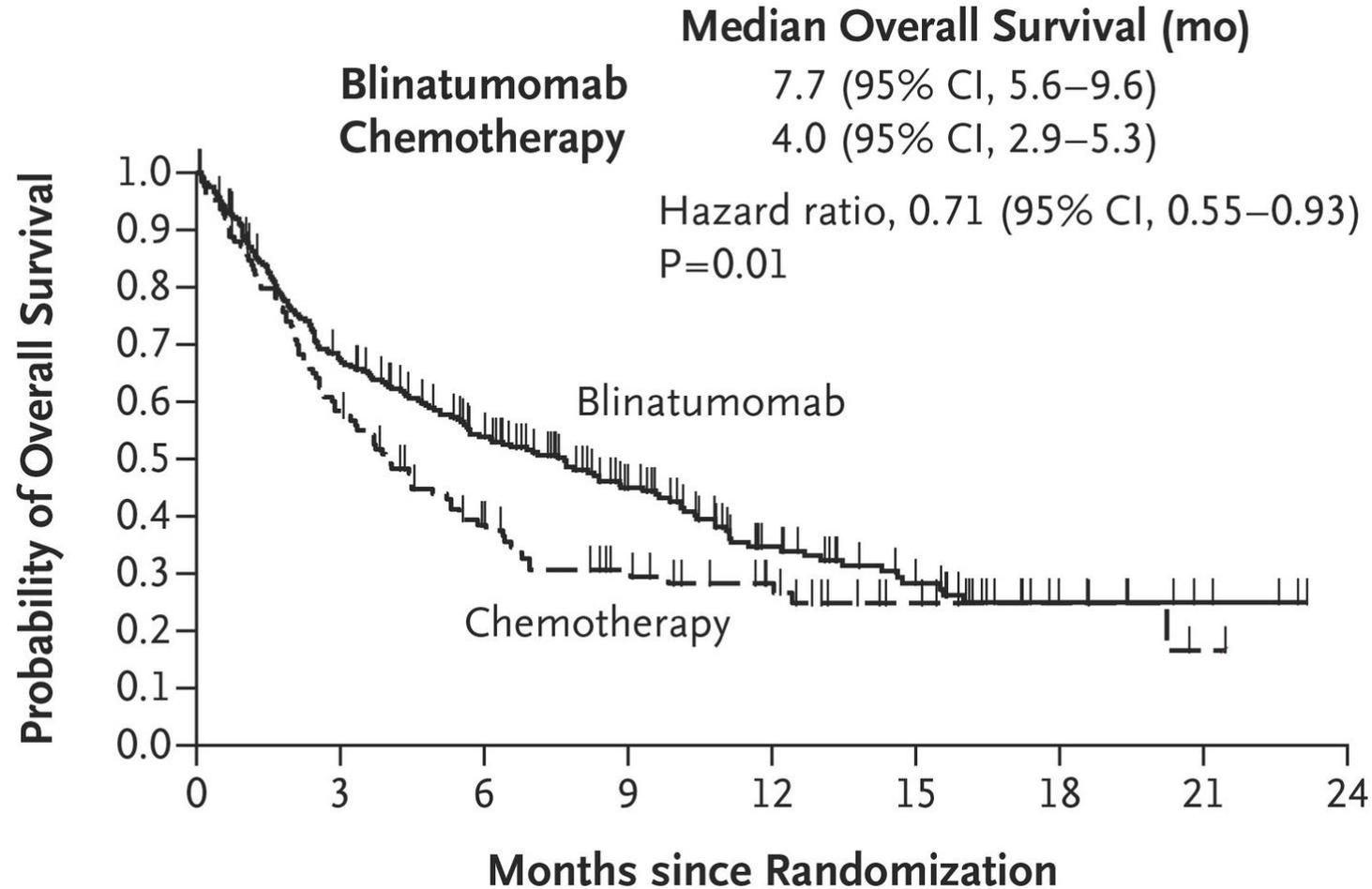
# BiTE (Blinatumumab) Therapy

- Combines anti-CD19 F(ab) with anti-CD3 F(ab)
- Lacks the Fc region
- Facilitates T cell engagement with CD19+ tumor cells (Similar to CD19 CAR T)
- FDA approval: Patients with relapsed/refractory B cell precursor ALL



Bargou et al. Science 2008

# Blinatumomab for B-ALL



Kantarjian et al. NEJM 2017

# Immunotherapies for Multiple Myeloma

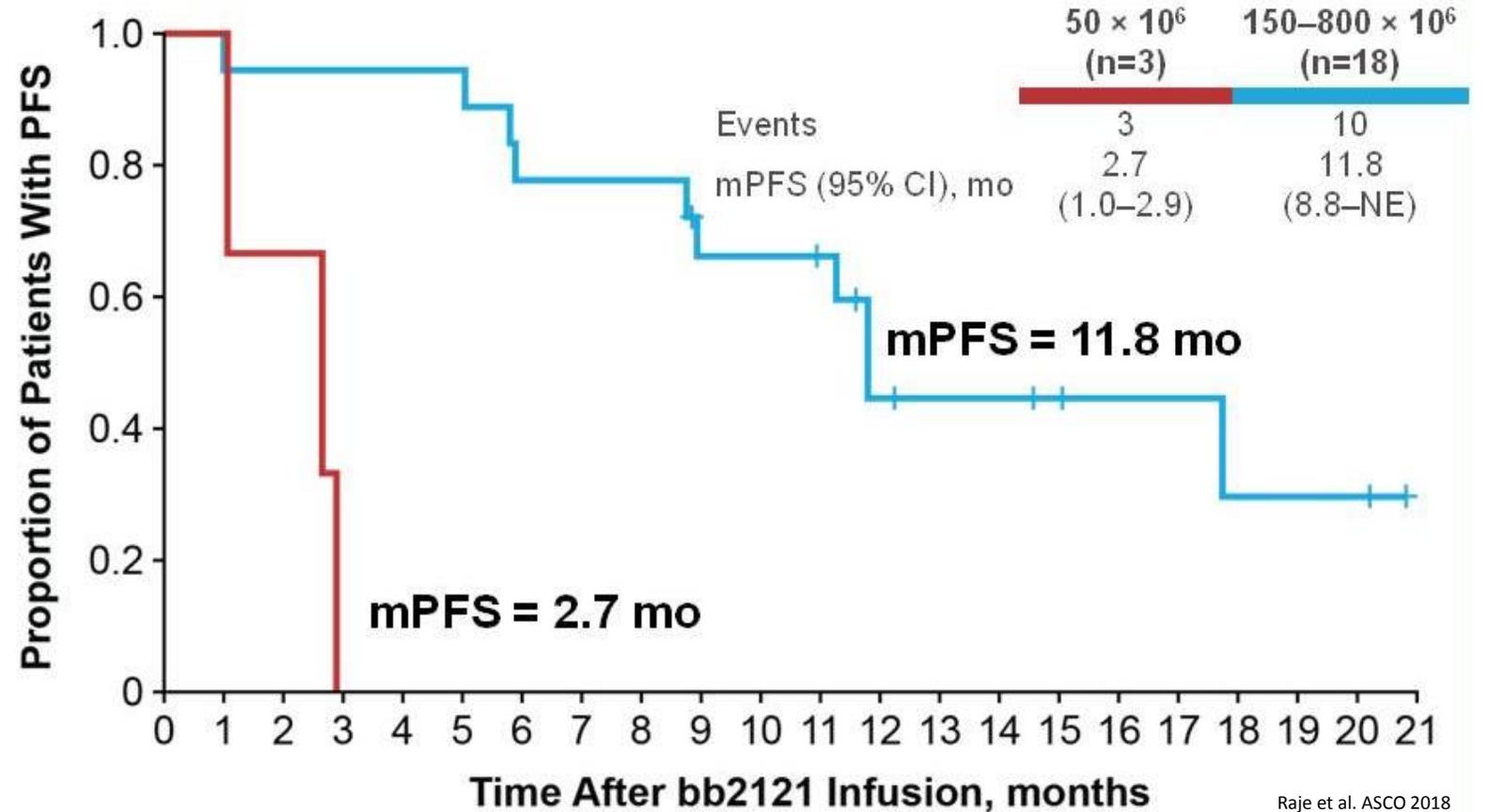
- No approved checkpoint inhibitors
  - KEYNOTE-183/185/023: Halted or discontinued due to risk/benefit profile
- Vaccine-based approaches
  - Non-antigen Specific
    - Attenuated measles
    - Whole cell – FM-CSF
    - Dendritic – tumor fusions
  - Antigen Specific
    - Idiotypic: RNA < DNA, protein
    - Pulsed dendritic cells
    - Tumor-specific peptides



# In Development: BCMA+ CAR T Therapy for Myeloma

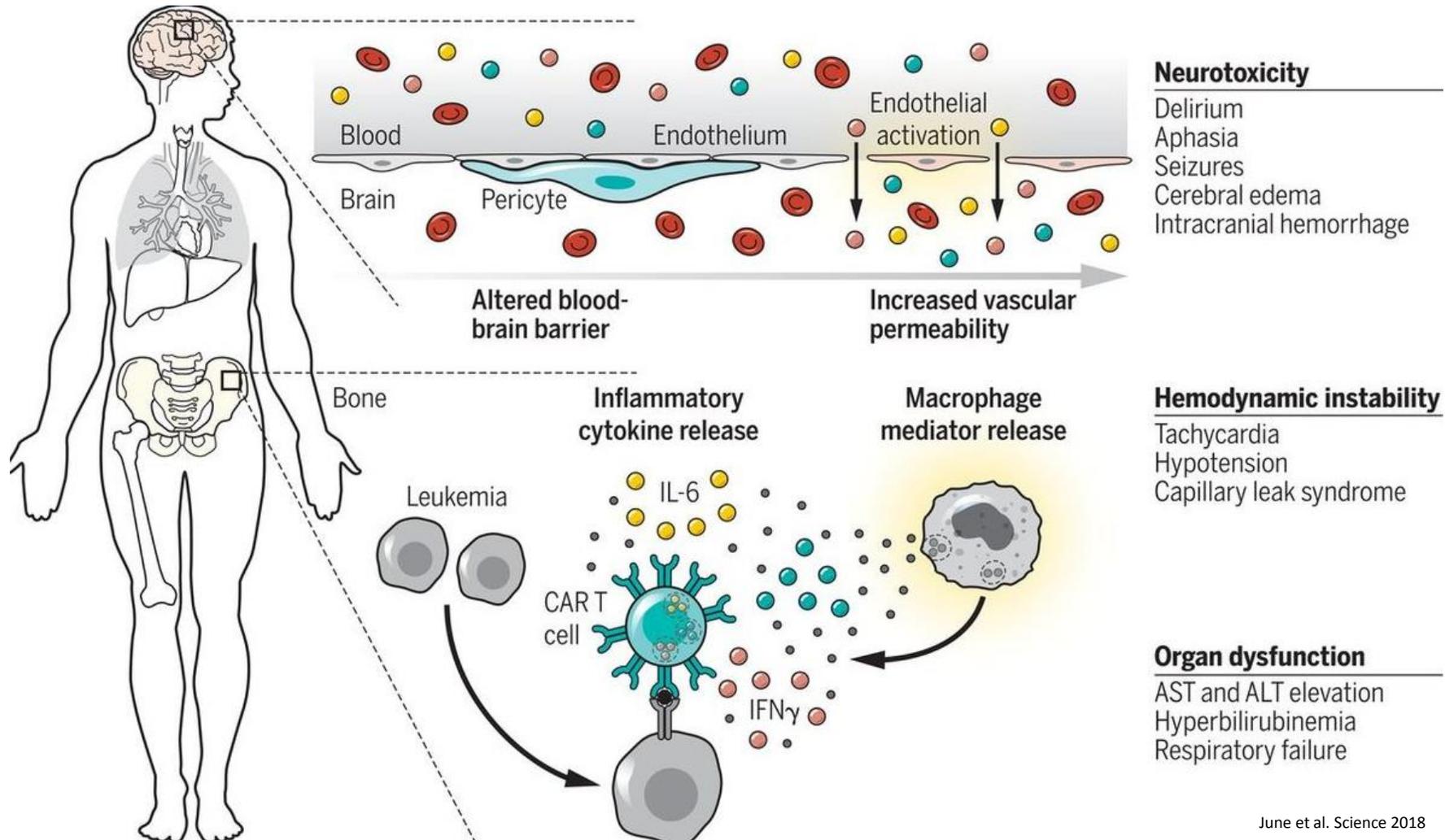
- **bb2121**

- B cell maturation antigen (BCMA)
- Phase I CRB-401 study
- Previously treated patients with relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma



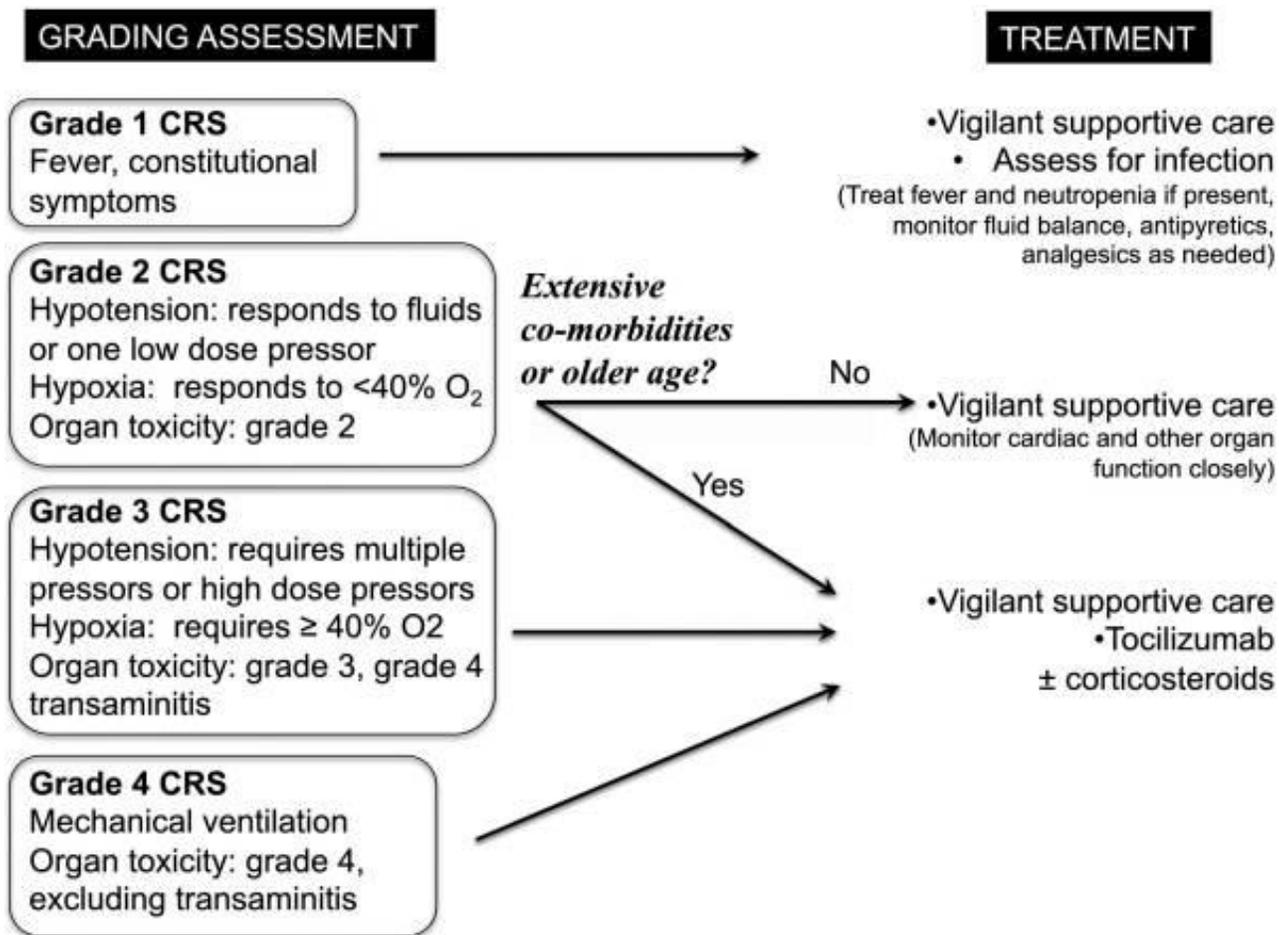
Raje et al. ASCO 2018

# Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS)

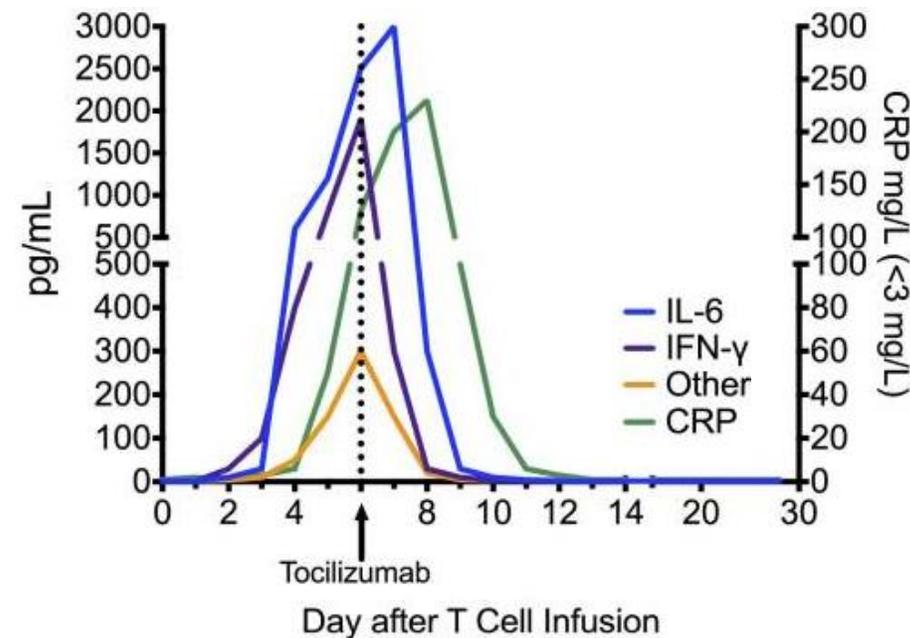


June et al. Science 2018

# CRS management



- Tocilizumab
  - Monoclonal antibody that blocks IL-6 signaling



Lee et al. Blood 2014

**POSITION ARTICLE AND GUIDELINES**

**Open Access**



## The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer consensus statement on immunotherapy for the treatment of hematologic malignancies: multiple myeloma, lymphoma, and acute leukemia

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# Case 1

A 64 year-old man with a diagnosis of Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma (DLBCL), Stage IV, NCCN-IPI 7 (high-risk), Double-hit (MYC and BCL2) presents for a second opinion. He was treated with 6 cycles of DA-R-EPOCH (reached level 4) and achieved a complete remission (CR by Lugano PET criteria). Six months later, noted an enlarging left cervical LN and an excisional biopsy was done and showed relapsed DLBCL (DH).

What is considered to be standard of care next step for this patient?

1. CAR-T therapy with Axicabtagene ciloleucel (axi-cel)
2. CAR-T therapy with Tisagenlecleucel (tisa-cel)
3. CAR-T therapy with lisocabtagene (liso-cel)
4. 1 or 2
5. Salvage chemotherapy treatment (R-ICE, R-GDP, etc)

# Indications for CD 19 CAR-T for DLBCL

- **Axicabtagene ciloleucel (axi-cel ; Yescarta):** Treatment of relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma **after 2 or more lines** of systemic therapy, including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified, primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma, high grade B-cell lymphoma, and DLBCL arising from follicular lymphoma
- **Tisagenlecleucel (Tisa-cel; Kymriah):** Treatment of relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma in adults (**after 2 or more lines of systemic therapy**), including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified, high-grade B-cell lymphoma, and DLBCL arising from follicular lymphoma.

A 64 year-old man with a diagnosis of Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma (DLBCL), Stage IV, NCCN-IPI 7 (high-risk), Double-hit (MYC and BCL2) presents for a second opinion. He was treated with 6 cycles of DA-R-EPOCH (reached level 4) and achieved a complete remission (CR by Lugano PET criteria). Six months later, noted an enlarging left cervical LN and an excisional biopsy was done and showed relapsed DLBCL (DH).

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5. Salvage chemotherapy treatment (R-ICE, R-GDP, etc)

Patient starts salvage treatment with R-ICE. After 2 cycles, a CT scan was done and showed progression of lymphadenopathy in multiple areas. Urgent referral was made for an transplant/immunotherapy consult.

Which one of the following is the most reasonable recommendation for this patient?

1. Axicabtagene ciloleucel (axi-cel)
2. Tisagenlecleucel (tisa-cel)
3. lisocabtagene (liso-cel)
4. 1 or 2
5. Start second salvage and achieve at least a partial response before considering a transplant or CAR-T therapy

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When evaluating a patient for the FDA approved CAR-T cell products for DLBCL, which one of the following conditions is a major concern and can potentially exclude the patient for such treatment?

1. Primary CNS Lymphoma
2. HIV-associated lymphoma
3. Rheumatoid arthritis requiring active systemic treatment
4. High disease burden which may require chemotherapy between T-cell collection and lymphodepletion
5. 1,2,3
6. All of the above

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3. Rheumatoid arthritis requiring active systemic treatment
4. High disease burden which may require chemotherapy between T-cell collection and lymphodepletion
5. 1,2,3
6. All of the above

# Case 2

A 58 year-old man with DLBCL relapsed after autologous stem cell transplant is in hospital after receiving CAR-T cells (axicabtagene ciloleucel). His lymphodepletion included fludarabine (30 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) and cyclophosphamide (500 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) each given for 3 days.

On day +4, patient's wife noted speech changes and word finding difficulties. On further evaluation, he was found to be disoriented (time and location) and shortly becomes somnolent. His vital signs were all within normal range.

What intervention is recommended at this time?

1. Close observation, neurology consult
2. Close observation, neurology consult and transfer to the ICU
3. 1 & 2 and Dexamethasone
4. 1 & 2 and Tocilizumab (anti IL-6 receptor)
5. 1 & 2 and Dexamethasone and Tocilizumab (anti IL-6 receptor)

A 58 year-old man with DLBCL relapsed after autologous stem cell transplant is in hospital after receiving CAR-T cells (axicabtagene ciloleucel). His lymphodepletion included fludarabine (30 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) and cyclophosphamide (500 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) each given for 3 days.

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4. 1 & 2 and Tocilizumab (anti IL-6 receptor)
5. 1 & 2 and Dexamethasone and Tocilizumab (anti IL-6 receptor)

Patient was transferred to the ICU and was started on dexamethasone (10 mg IV). Two hours later, he became hypoxic (SaO<sub>2</sub> 85% on RA) and hypotensive. He was placed on supplemental O<sub>2</sub> (FiO<sub>2</sub> = 30%) and IV fluids were initiated. Despite the fluid resuscitation, blood pressure remained soft and norepinephrine was started to keep the mean arterial pressure (MAP) in the safe range. On neurological assessment he remained disoriented (grade 2 NT).

What intervention is recommended at this time?

1. Continue dexamethasone
2. Stop dexamethasone and start tocilizumab
3. Add tocilizumab and continue dexamethasone

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Patient fully recovered from the CRS and NT and was discharged from hospital 8 days after CAR-T administration. On day 30, he underwent a restaging PET/CT which showed significant improvement (PR) in the diffuse lymphadenopathy but still had 2 small pelvic lymph nodes less than 3 cm and SUVs ~ 8.

Patient asks about the next treatment step. What would be the recommendation considering the current evidence?

1. Start salvage chemotherapy as soon as possible
2. Refer for allogeneic transplant
3. Repeat PET/CT in 2 months

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# Patients who achieve less than a CR

- Active area of research
- ~ 1/3 of patients with PR at 1 month may convert to CR at 3 months <sup>1</sup>
- It is reasonable to follow the patient with repeat imaging
- Clinical trials are highly encouraged
- Other options (allogeneic HCT, etc) should be discussed

1-Locke, ASCO, 2018; #3003