

# T Cell-engaging Antibodies for Cancer Therapy

iSBTc Workshop on Monoclonal Antibodies in Cancer

Washington DC, October 1, 2010



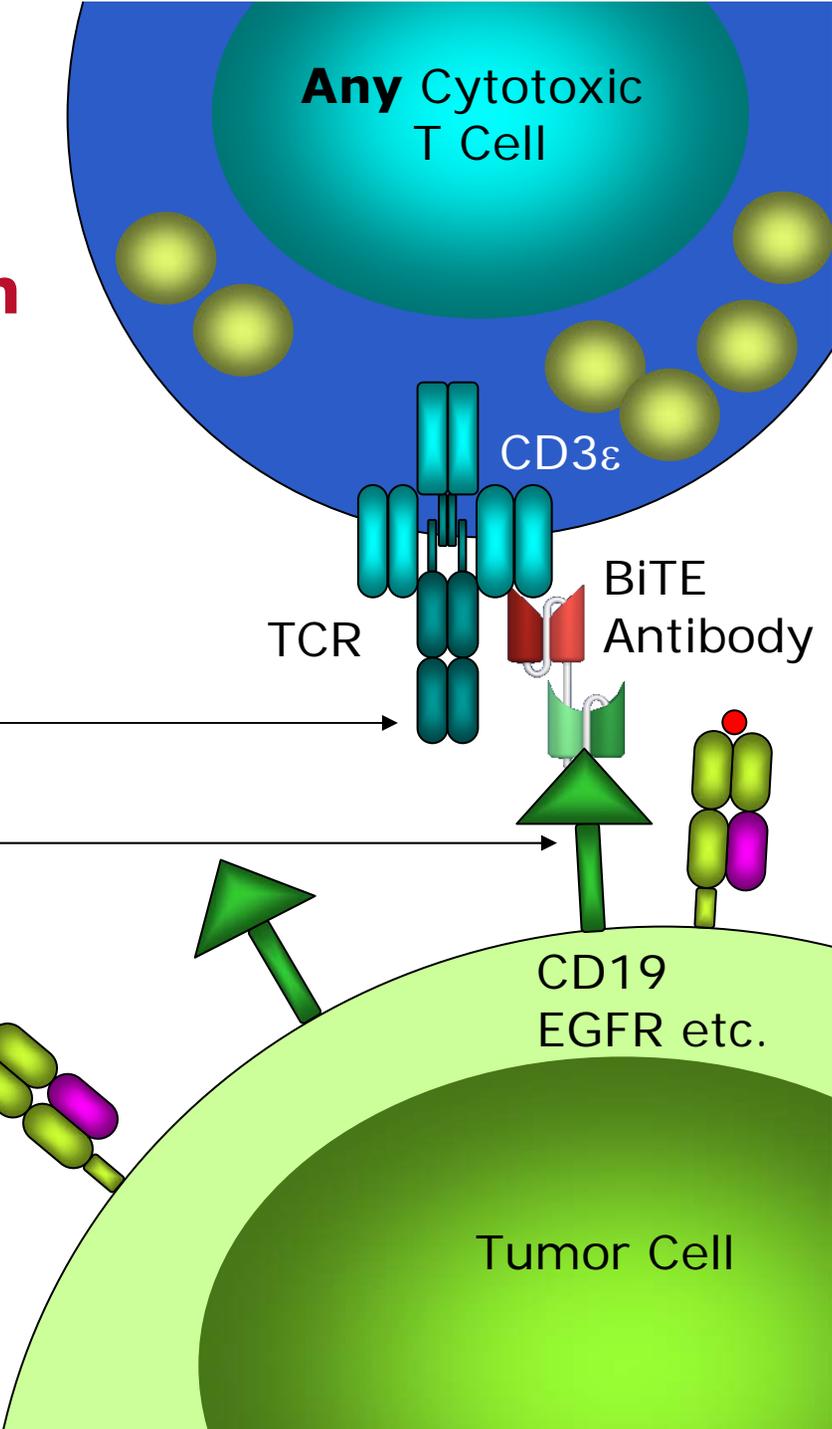
**Patrick A. Baeuerle**  
Micromet, Inc., Bethesda, MD

# Bispecific T Cell-engaging (BiTE) Antibodies Allow All Cytotoxic T Cells Recognition of a Surface Antigen

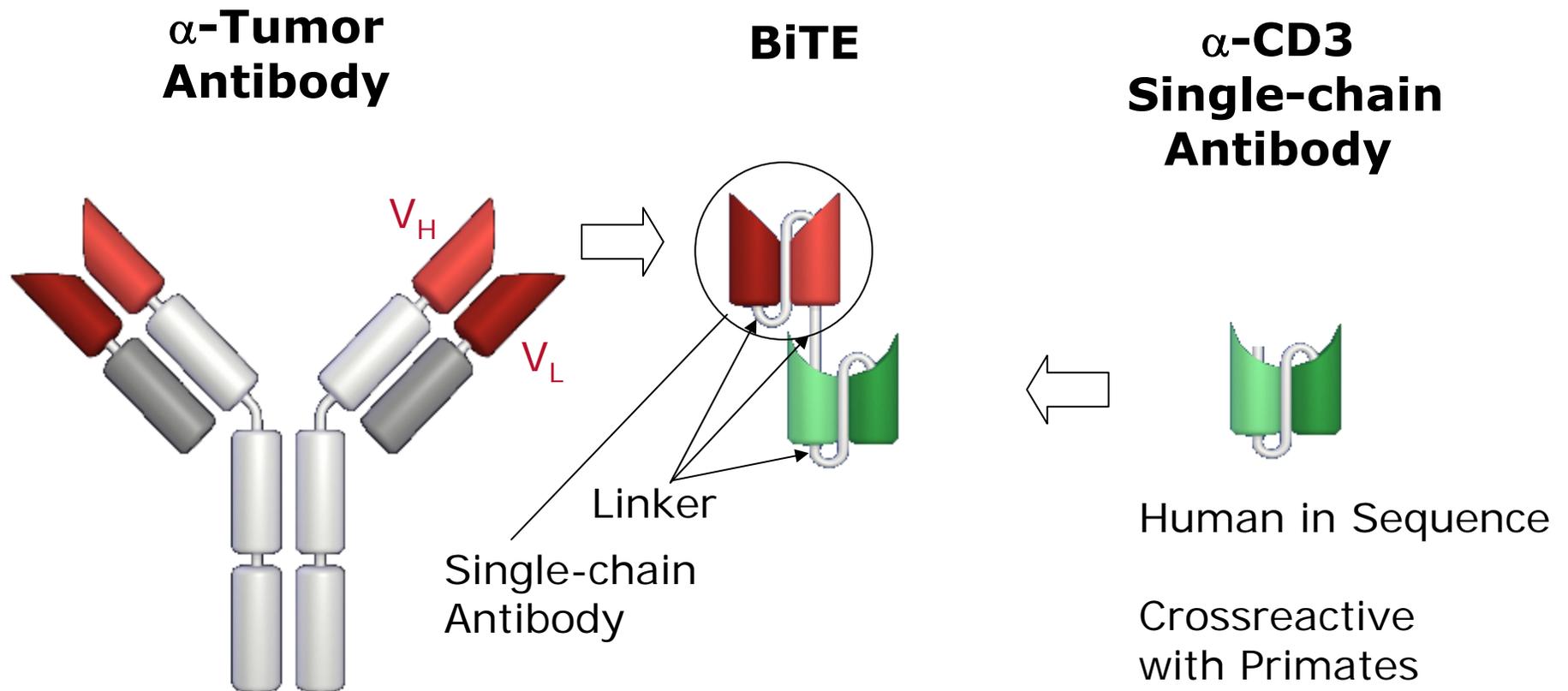
Act Independently of Specificity of T Cell Receptor

Allow T Cells Recognition of Tumor-associated Surface Antigen

Do not Require MHC Class I and Peptide Antigen

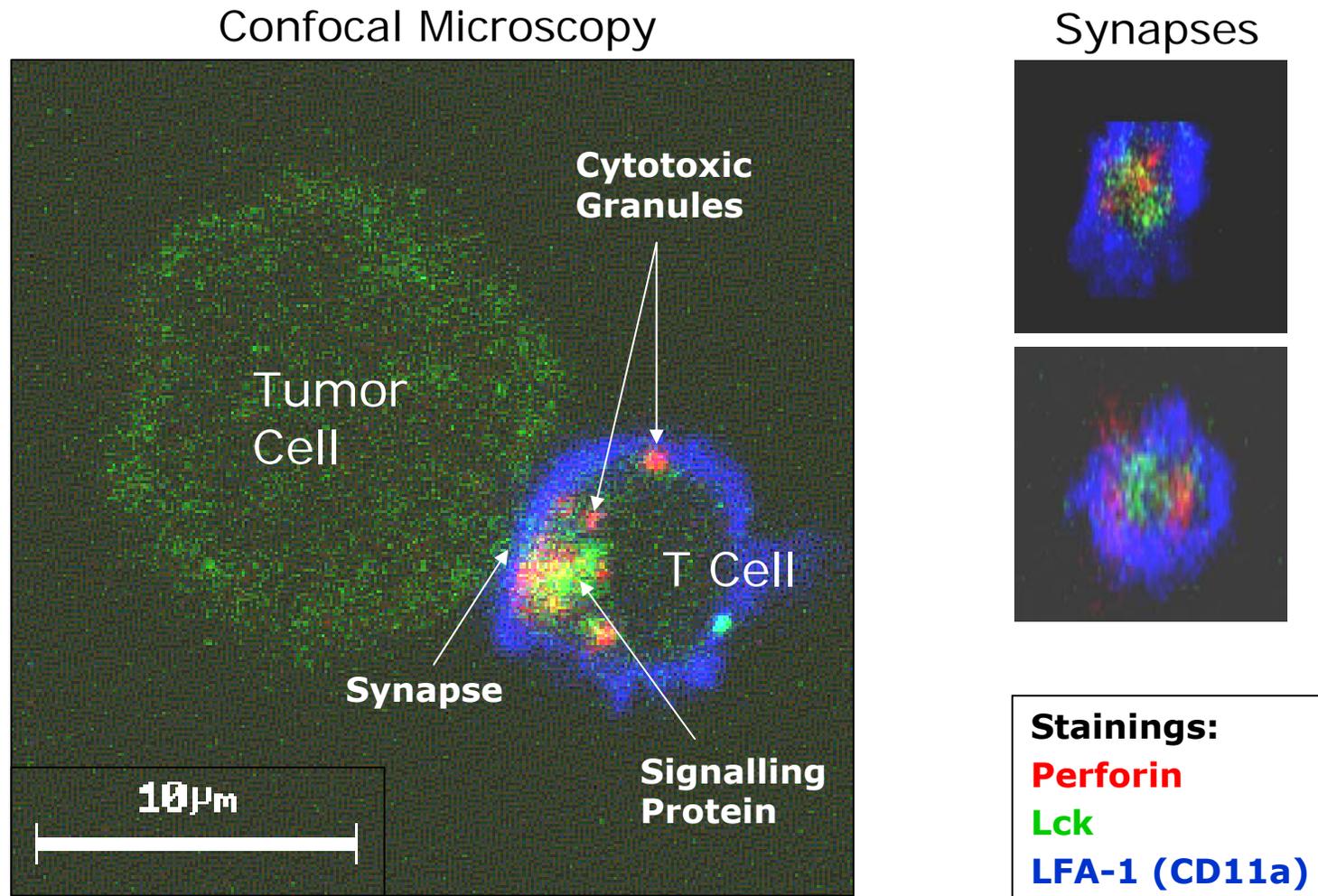


# BiTE Technology Teaches Antibodies to Engage T Cells



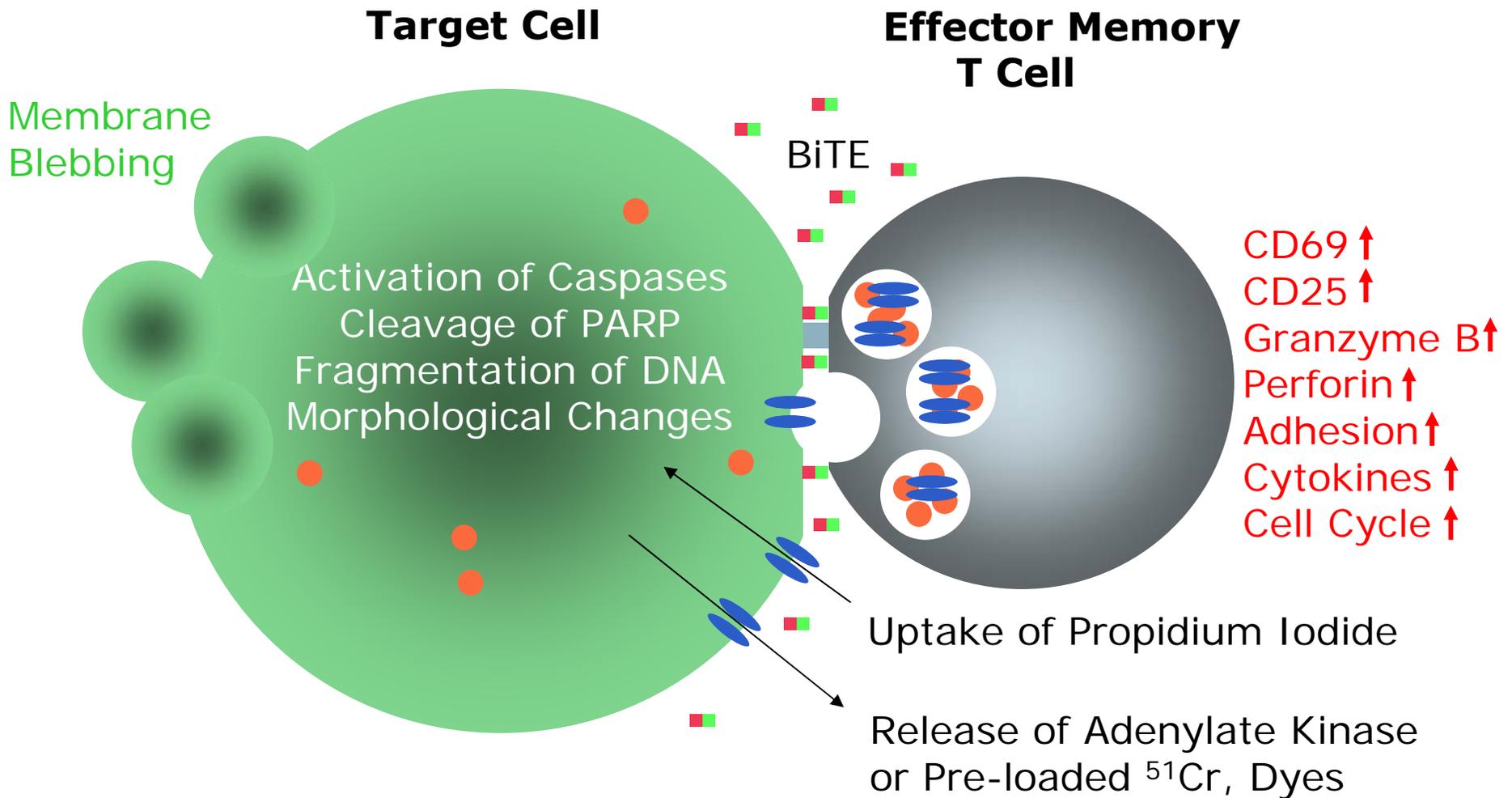
# BiTE-engaged T Cells Form Cytolytic Synapses

Offner, S. et al. *Mol. Immunol.* **43**: 763-771 (2006)



# BiTE Mode of Action

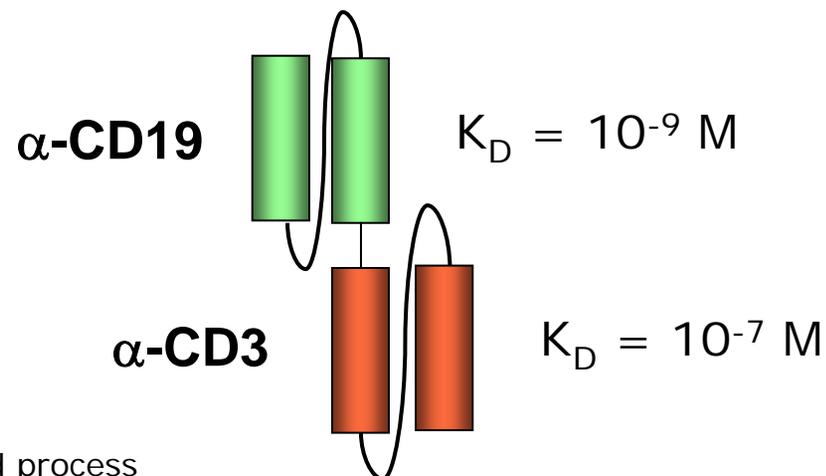
Haas, C. et al. *Immunobiol.* **214**: 441-453 (2009)



**Clinical Proof of Concept with  
CD19/CD3-bispecific BiTE Antibody  
Blinatumomab (MT103)**

## Blinatumomab: First BiTE to Enter Clinical Trials

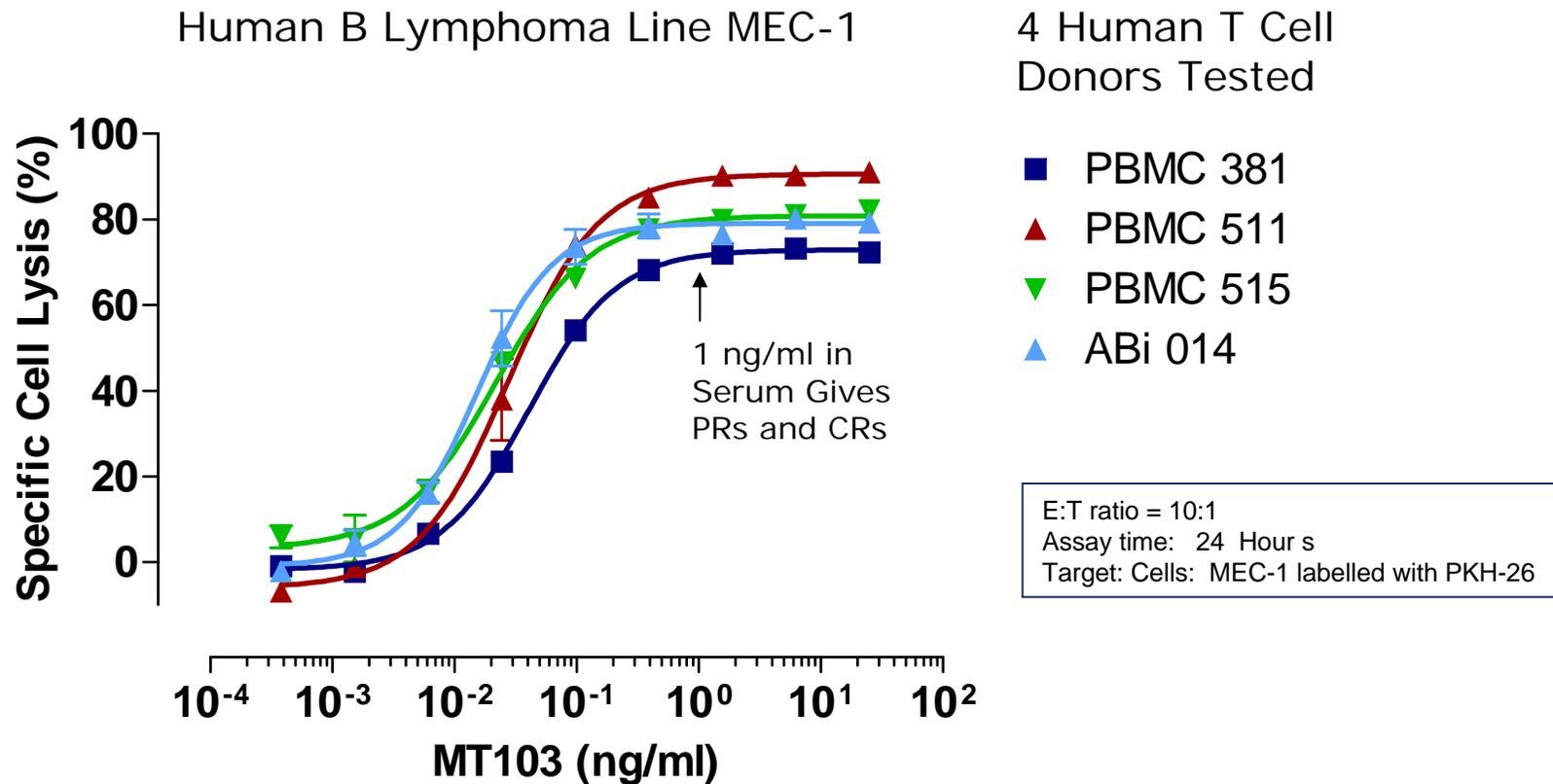
- ❑ **Bispecific for CD19 and CD3**
- ❑ **CD19 is pan-B cell antigen absent from stem cells and plasma cells but present on most human B cell malignancies**
- ❑ **Ongoing phase 1 trial in patients with refractory/relapsed non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL)**
- ❑ **Completed phase 2 study in patients with minimal residual B-precursor acute lymphocytic leukemia (B-ALL)**
- ❑ **Initiated pivotal study in minimal residual B-ALL, and phase 2 study in relapsed/refractory ALL of adults**



Mol. Wt.: 55 kDa  
 T1/2  $\beta$ : ca. 2 h  
 Produced by CHO cell-based process



# Blinatumomab Triggers Potent Lysis of Lymphoma Cells by Previously Unstimulated Human T Cells

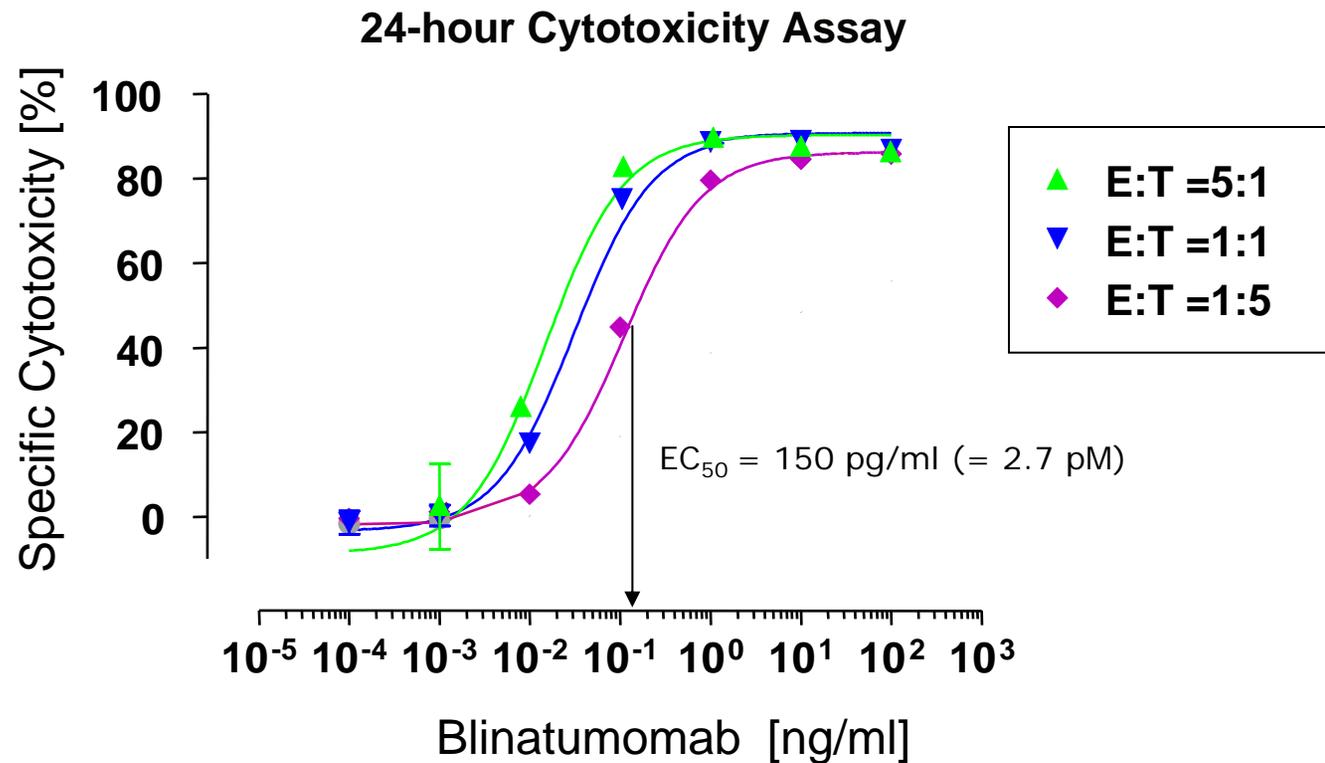


**EC<sub>50</sub> Range: 15–40 pg/ml = 0.27 - 7.2 pM**

# Serial Lysis by Blinatumomab-Engaged T Cells

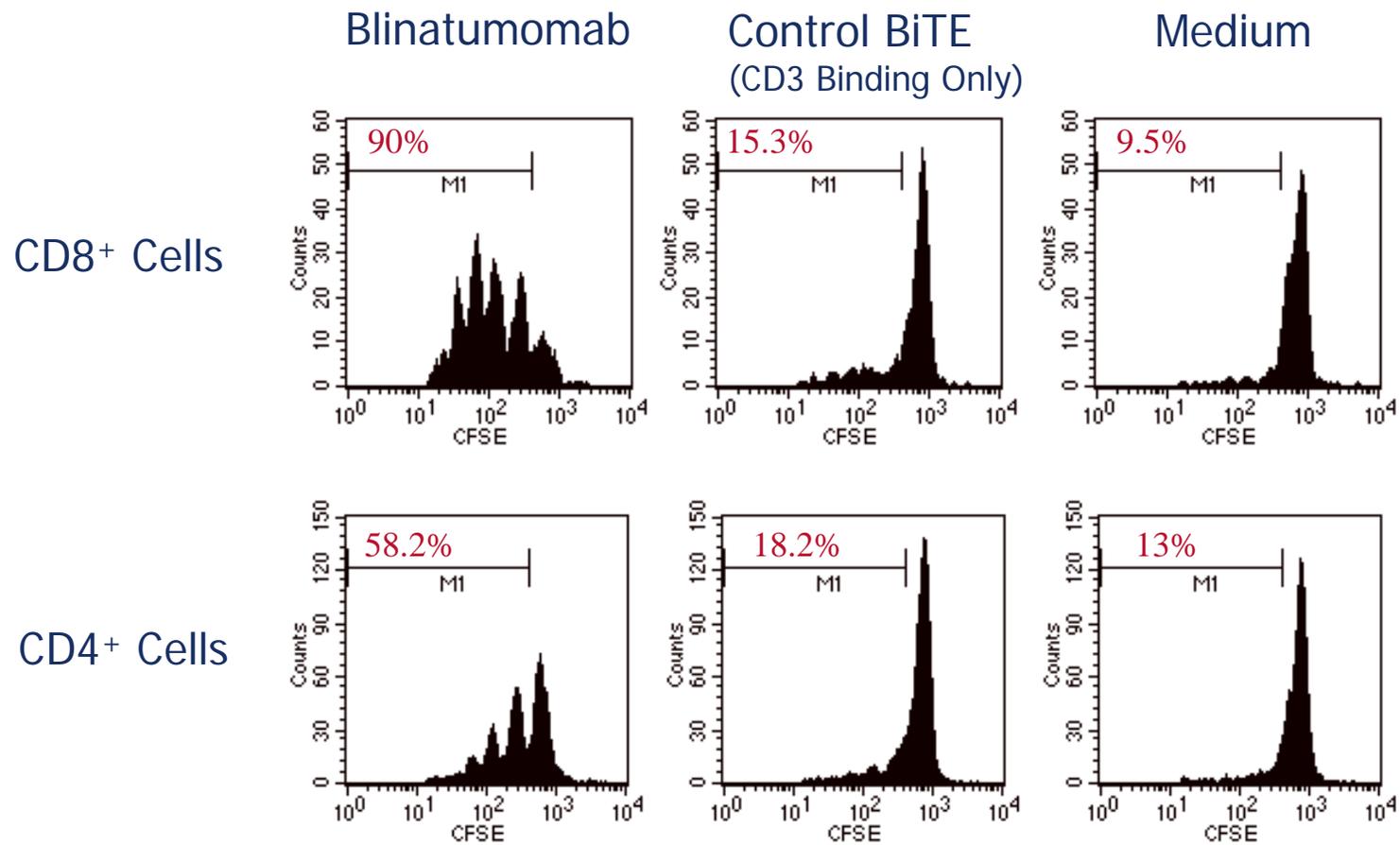
Hoffmann, P. et al., *Int. J. Cancer* (2005)

Effector (E) = Unstimulated human CD8<sup>+</sup> T Cells  
 Target (T) = Human Pre-B ALL Line NALM-6



# Blinatumomab Induces T Cell Proliferation

Brandl et al., *Cancer Immunol. Immunother.* **56**:1551 (2007)



# Key Hallmarks of Blinatumomab and Other BiTE Antibodies

- ❑ **Strictly target cell-dependent activation of resting T cells**
  - Monovalent binding of BiTE to CD3 does not activate TCR complex
- ❑ **Highly potent redirected lysis of target cell**
  - At femtomolar concentrations
  - CD8<sup>+</sup> CD4<sup>+</sup> and effector memory T cells contribute
  - Lysis of dividing and non-dividing target cells
- ❑ **Serial lysis by BiTE-activated T cells**
  - Activity at low E:T ratios <1
- ❑ **Proliferation of BiTE-activated T Cells**
  - Contribution to in-vivo efficacy
- ❑ **No internalization of target antigens or CD3**
  - Monovalent binding does not modulate surface expression

# Ongoing Phase 1 Study in NHL Patients with Blinatumomab

## □ Study Population

- Relapsed/refractory NHL patients
- Mostly follicular and mantle cell lymphoma
- Median of 3 previous chemo/immunotherapies (some up to 12)
- 86% pretreated with rituximab (up to 3 different rituximab-based single agent or combination regimens per patient)

## □ Design

- 3+3 patient dose escalation
- Thus far dose levels ranging from 0.0005 – 0.090 mg/m<sup>2</sup> per day
- Continuous i.v. infusion via port with portable pump over 4-8 weeks (out-patient as of week 3)
- Steroids at infusion start
- Objectives: Safety and tolerability, PK, PD, anti-tumor activity

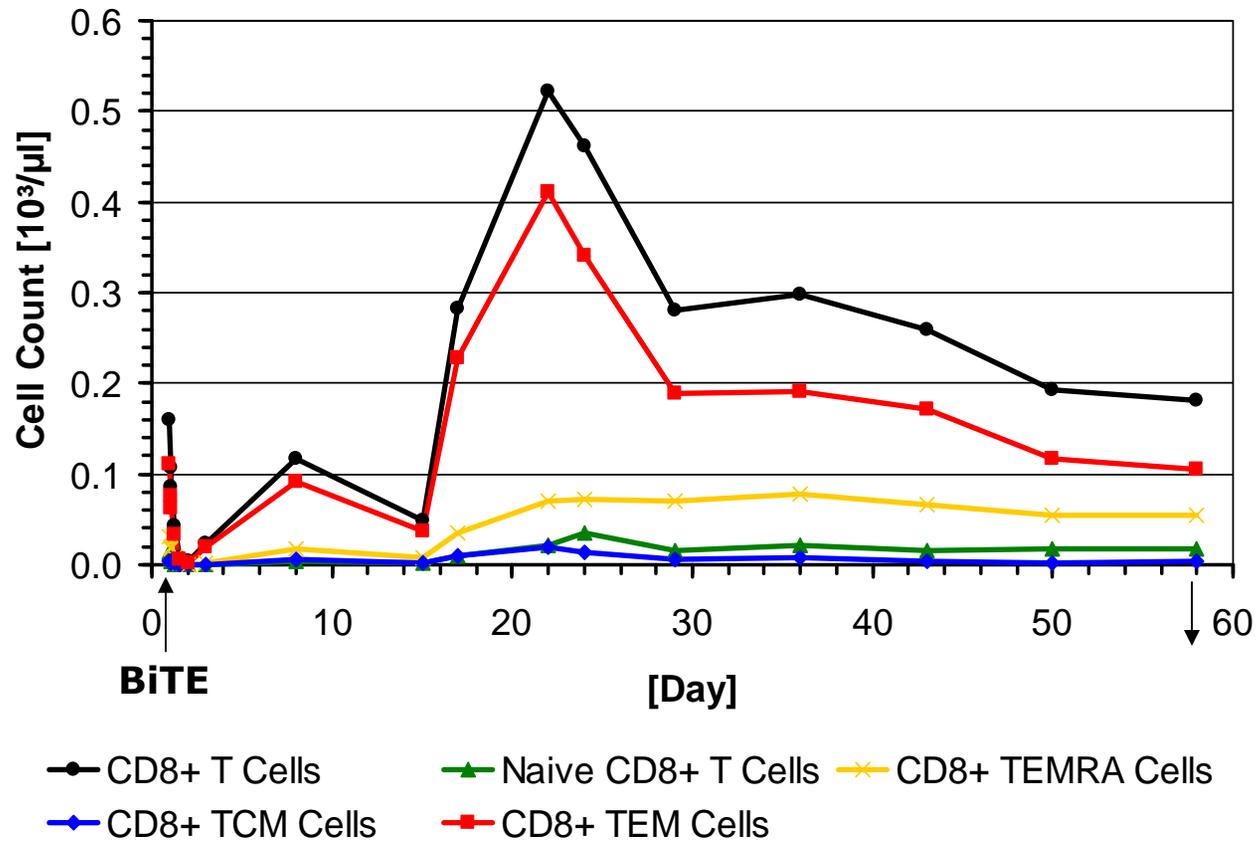
## Safety of Blinatumomab in NHL Patients

- ❑ **To date, no cytokine storm, no autoimmunity, no lymphoproliferative disorder, no immune response to drug, no drug-related death**
- ❑ **Most frequent clinical adverse events (AEs) were flu-like: Pyrexia, chills, headache**
- ❑ **Most frequent laboratory AEs were as expected by mode of action: Lymphopenia and leukopenia**
- ❑ **Dose-dependency for certain AEs, e.g., pyrexia, chills, and CRP and D dimer increases**
- ❑ **50% frequency of AEs during first three days, 50% during following 4-8 weeks (first dose phenomena)**
- ❑ **Most significant AEs leading to discontinuation were CNS-related AEs, such as aphasia, confusion, ataxia, seizure; occur shortly after treatment start; all fully reversible within days; no findings by MRI**
- ❑ **CNS events predominantly seen in patients with very low peripheral B cell counts (=> biomarker)**
- ❑ **CNS events can be mitigated by sneak-in dosing regimen**

# Activation and Selective Expansion of Effector Memory T Cells upon Start of BiTE Infusion

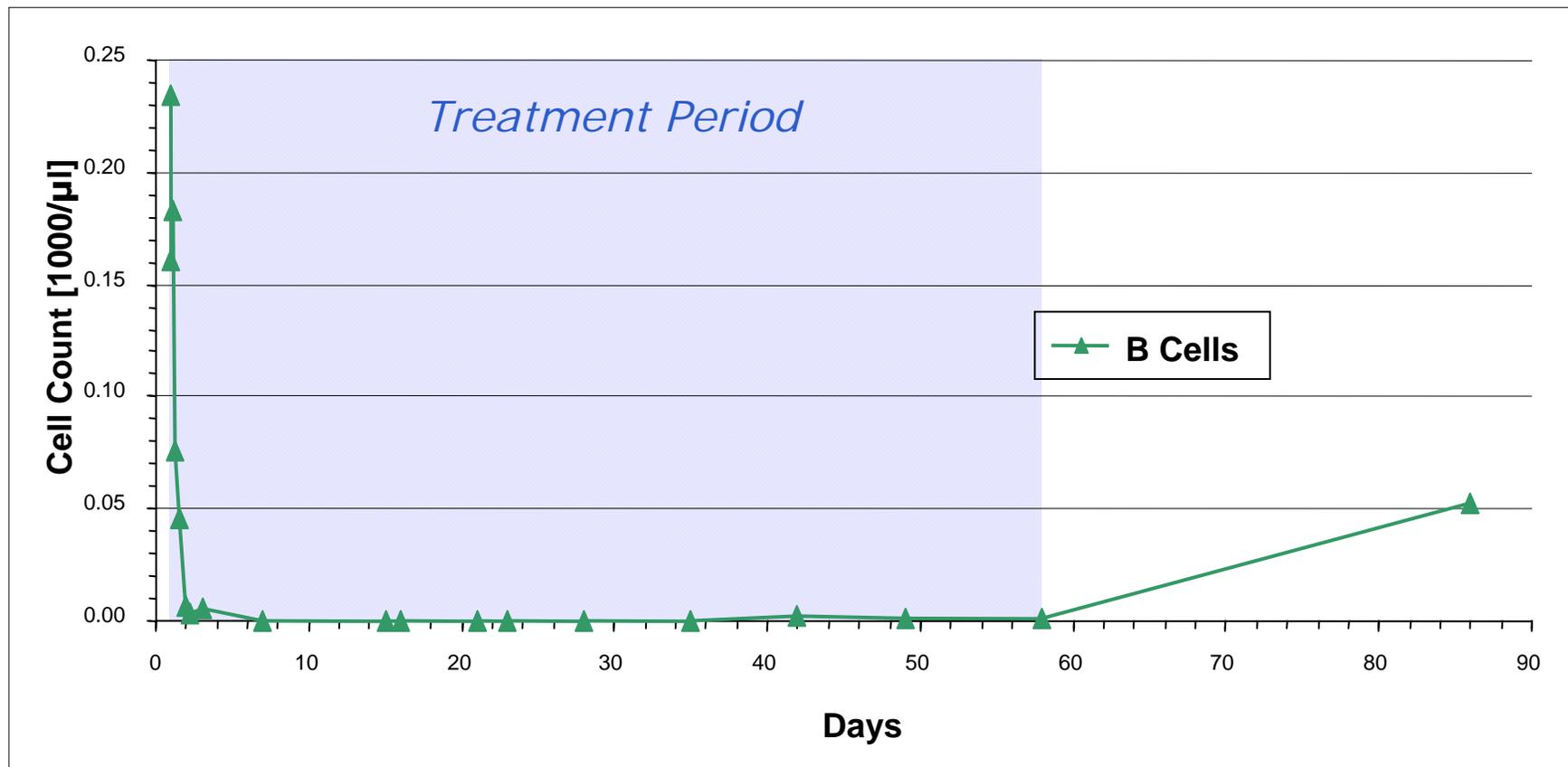
Bargou, R. et al. *Science* **321**: 974-977 (2008)

Example of Patient at 60  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{d}$

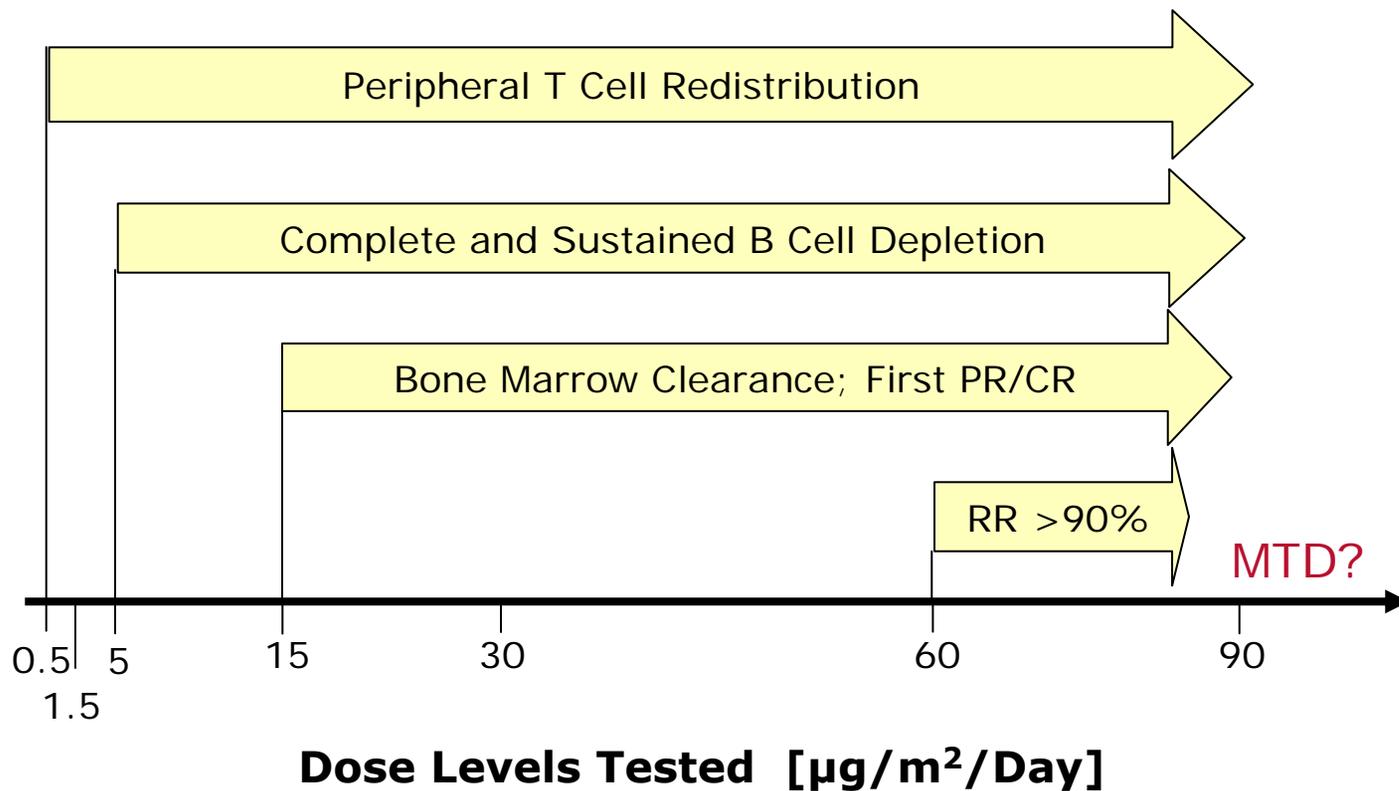


# B Cell Depletion in Patient with Mantle Cell Lymphoma

**Dose Level: 30  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2/24 \text{ h}$**



# Dose-dependent Activity of Blinatumomab in NHL Patients



## Dose-dependent Clinical Responses in NHL Patients in a Phase 1 Study (ASH Dec. 2009)

- By Cheson criteria and independent review of CT scans
- Mainly follicular and mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) patients

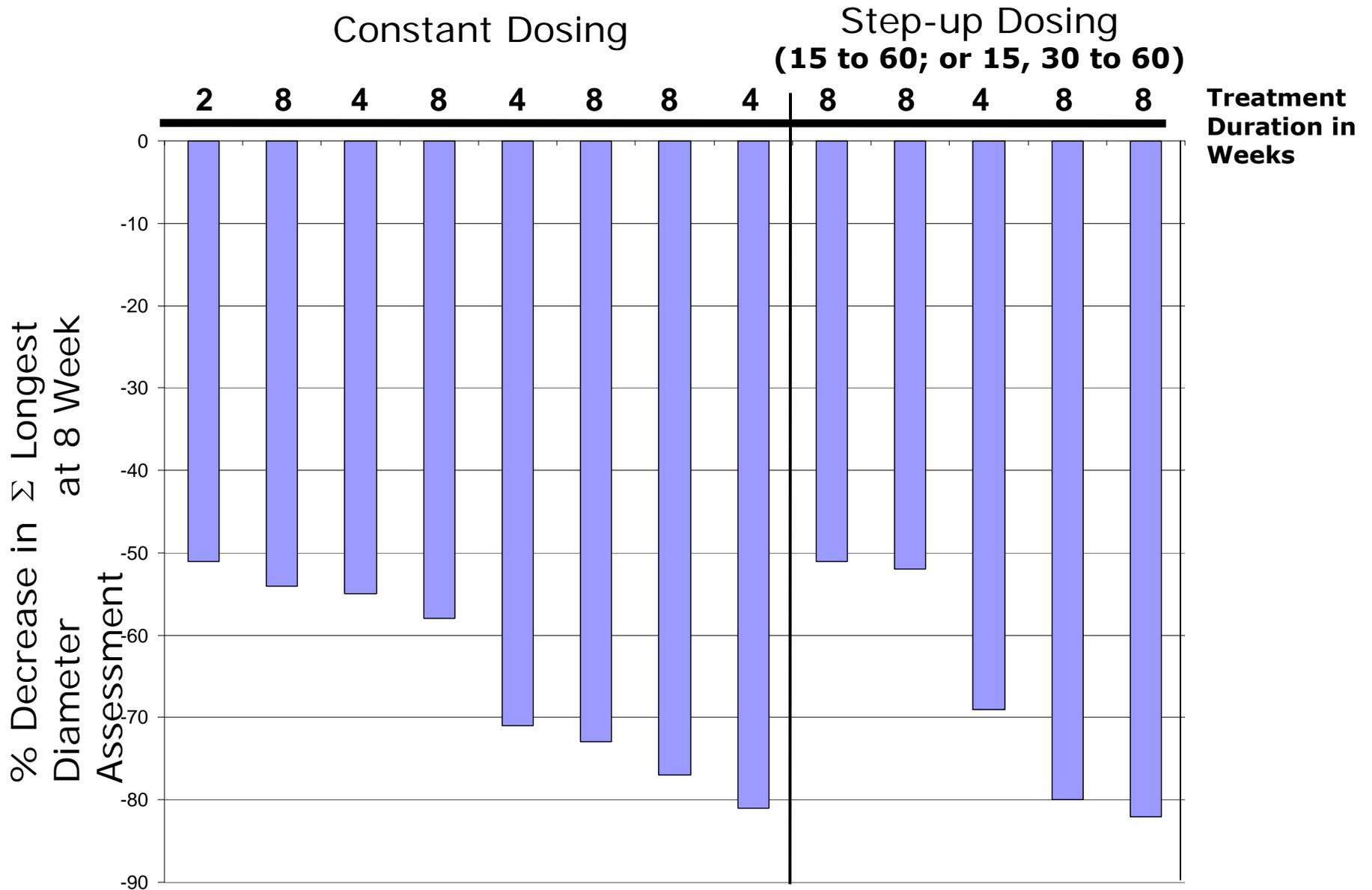
Dose Level	Patients (N = 50)	Complete Response	Partial Response	Overall Response Rate
0.5, 1.5 and 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ per Day	13	0	0	0/13
15 and 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ per Day	20	2	2	4/20
60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ per Day	13	5	7	12/13*
90 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ per Day	4	1	1	2/4#

\*One patient not evaluable due to treatment discontinuation after 2 days

#Two patients not evaluable due to DLTs

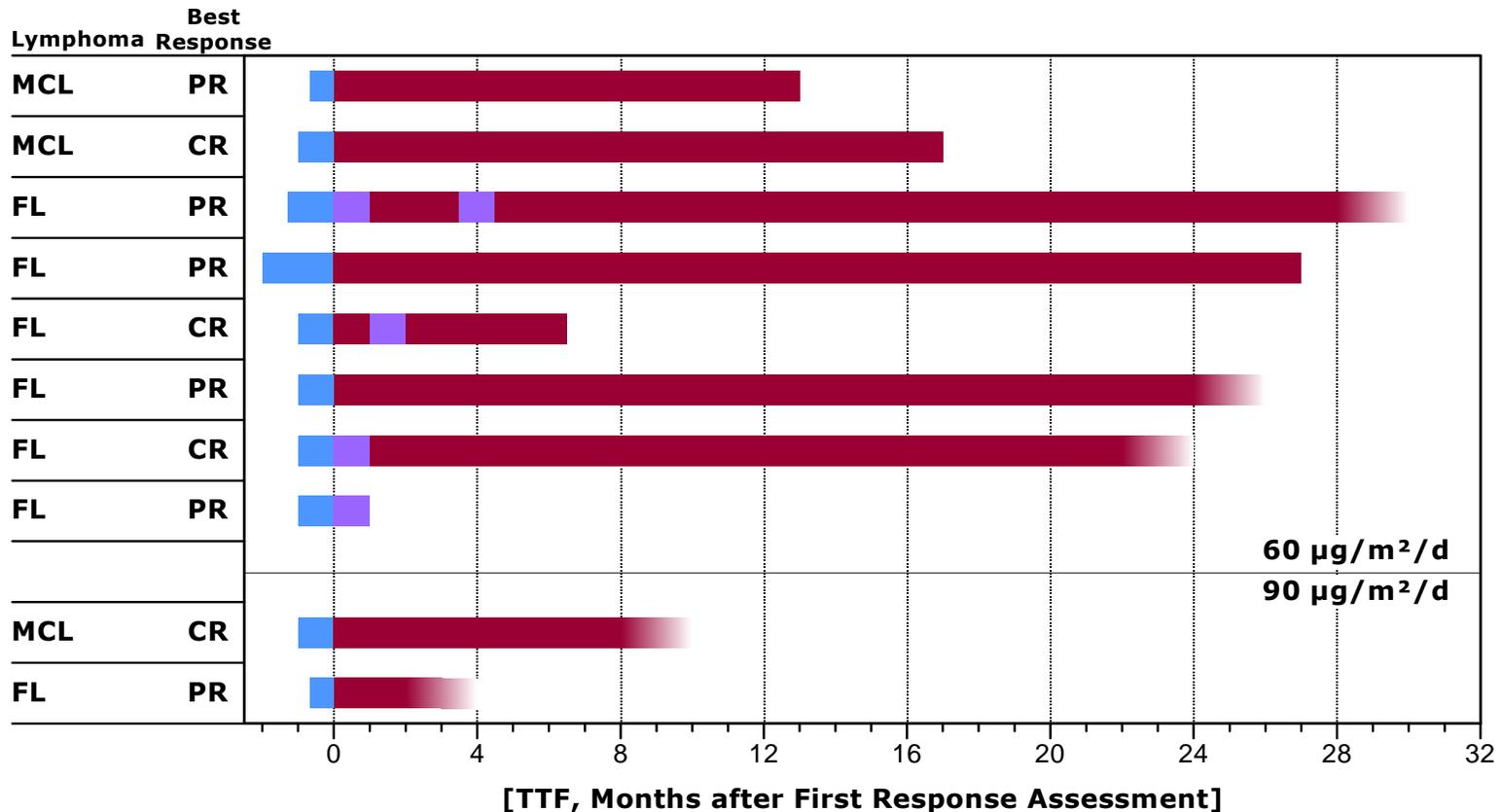
# Response Assessment at 60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{d}$

(EHA June 2010)



# Durability of Responses in FL and MCL for Constant Dosing at 60 and 90 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ per Day

EHA June 2010



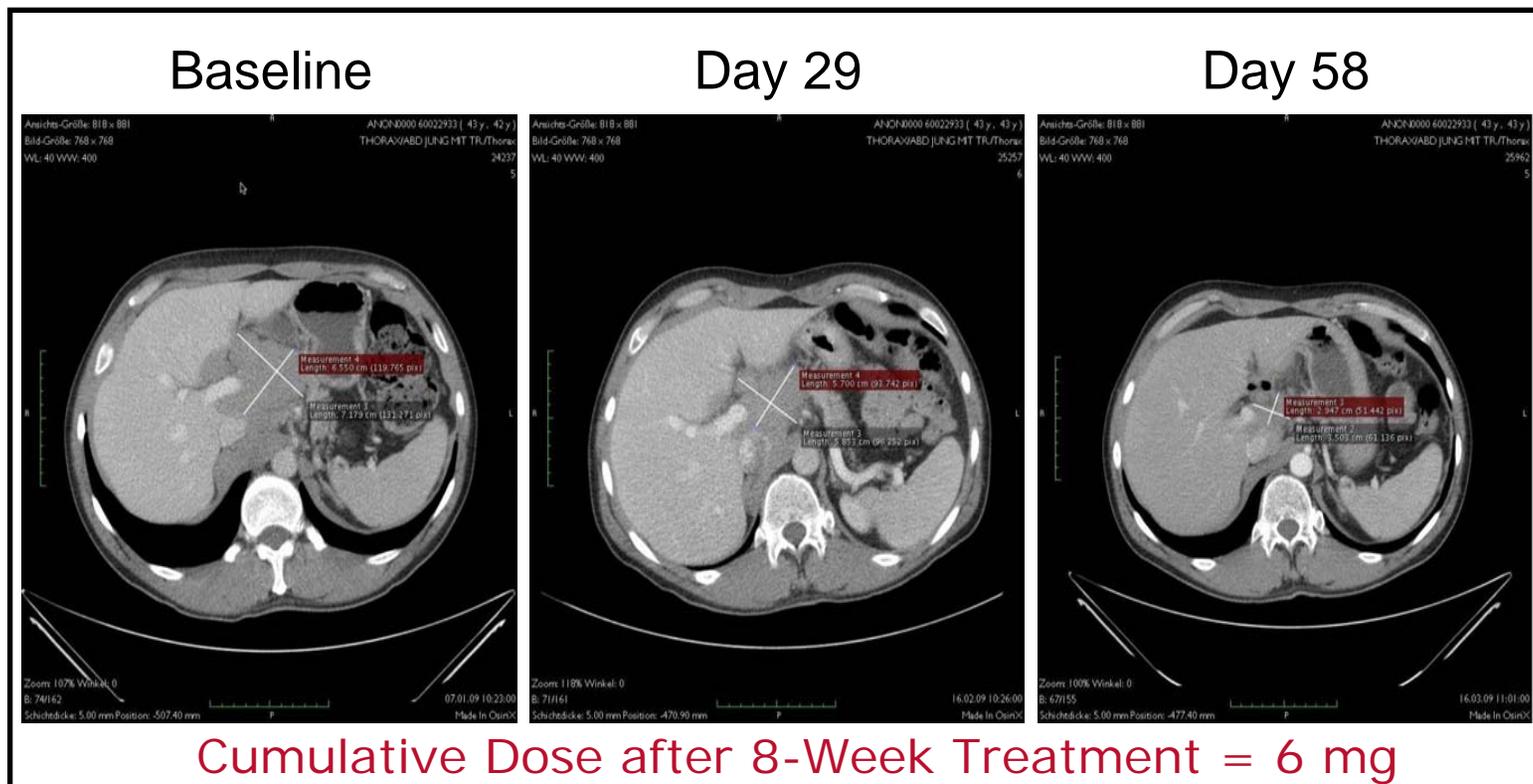
Responses at 60  $\mu\text{g}$ : Median duration 21+ months  
 Duration up to 30 months  
 4 patients = 2 years duration  
 Three out of 8 ongoing

Responses at 90  $\mu\text{g}$ : Two out of 2 ongoing



# Response in a Patient with Bulky Mantle Cell Lymphoma

- ❑ Patient with MCL, stage IV A, 42 years, male
- ❑ Blinatumomab treatment at 60  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{d}$  (monotherapy)



## Status of Phase 1 Study in NHL Patients

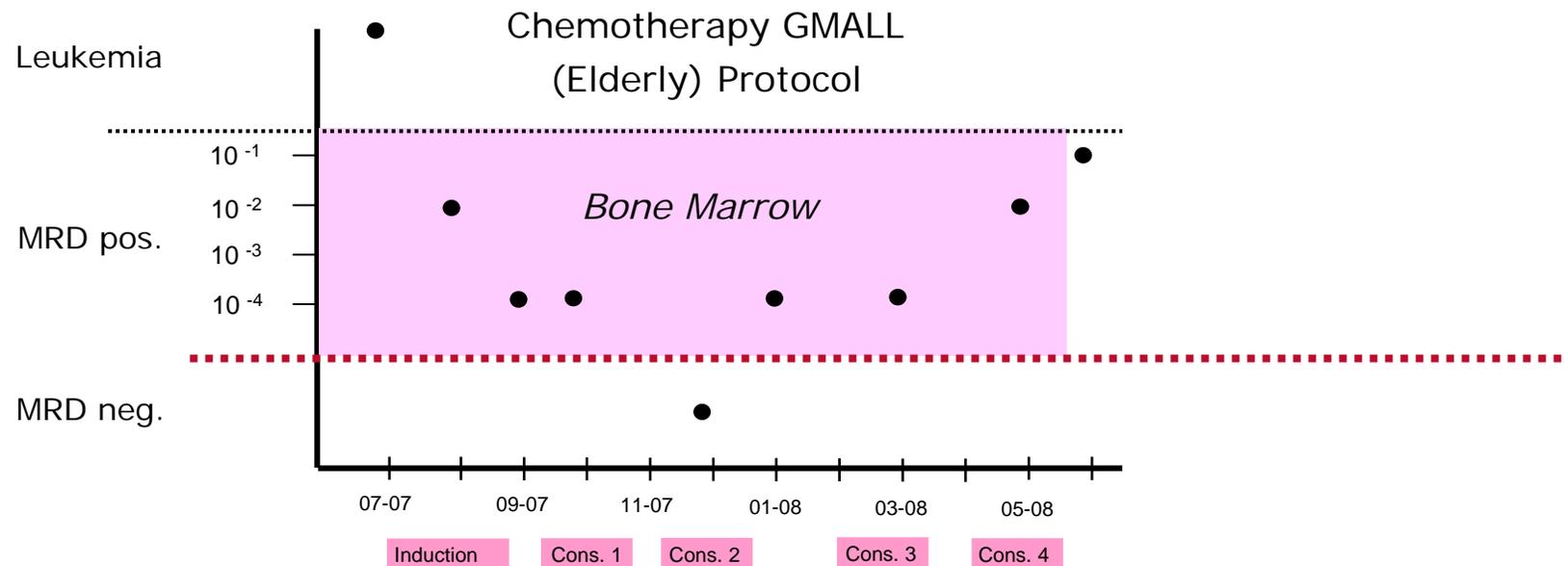
- ❑ Favorable safety profile
- ❑ Very high response rate at dose levels  $\geq 60 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$  per day
- ❑ Ongoing responses in half of the patients without further treatment or alternative therapies
- ❑ Study ongoing for optimization of dose and schedule and for exploration of other CD19<sup>+</sup> B cell malignancies

## Completed Phase 2 Study in Patients with B-lineage Leukemia (B-ALL)

- ❑ Patient population: B-ALL patients with high risk of relapse due to remaining bone marrow disease after standard therapy (= minimal residual disease; MRD); detectable by PCR
- ❑ Patients treated: 21, with the following MRD marker:
  - Bcr/abl neg. (individ. rearrangements) 14 patients
  - Bcr/abl neg., t(4;11) 2 patients
  - Bcr/abl pos. 5 patients
- ❑ Median age: 48 y (20-77); 12 female, 9 male patients
- ❑ Dosing: 15 µg blinatumomab/m<sup>2</sup>/day by repeated 4-week continuous infusions; at least 3 consolidation cycles *post* positive MRD response with 2-week intervals
- ❑ Prior treatment: At least induction/consolidation chemotherapy I (some up to consolidation V)
- ❑ 17 patients had never achieved MRD negativity on prior treatments

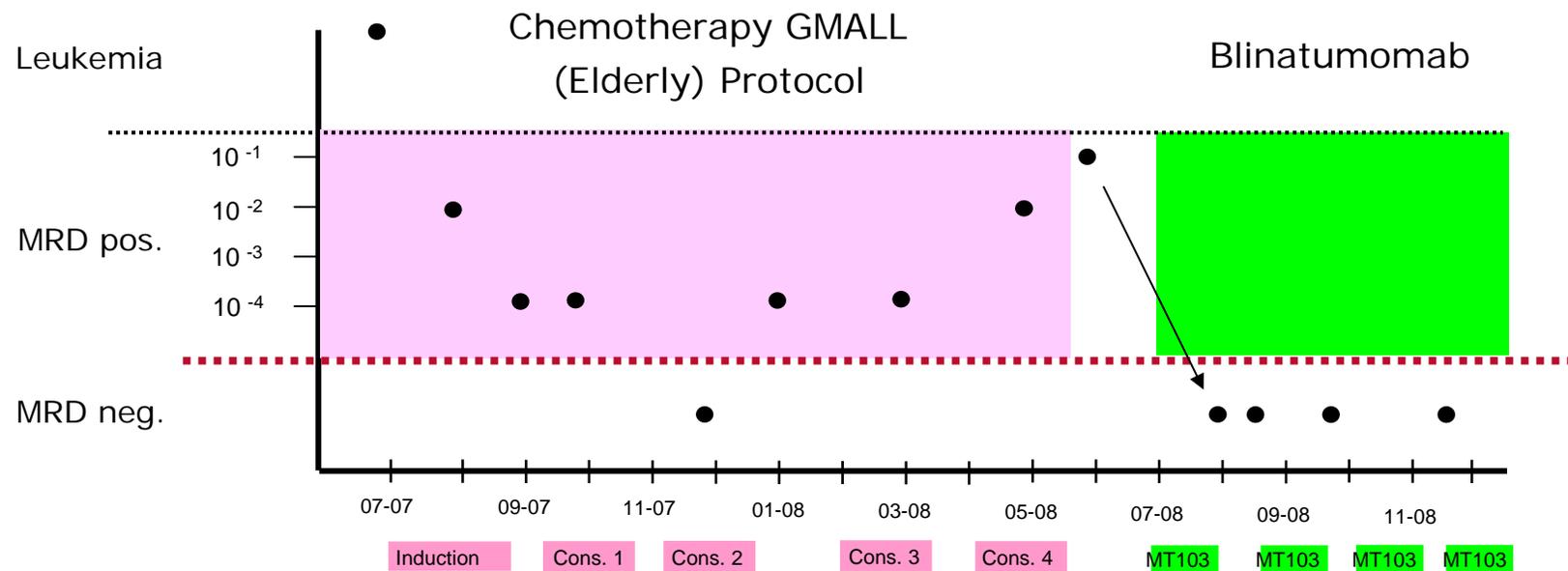
# Course of Minimal Residual Disease During Frontline Consolidation Chemotherapy of ALL

## Example of Patient #109-002



# Effective Treatment of Minimal Residual Disease (MRD) with Blinatumomab

## Patient #109-002



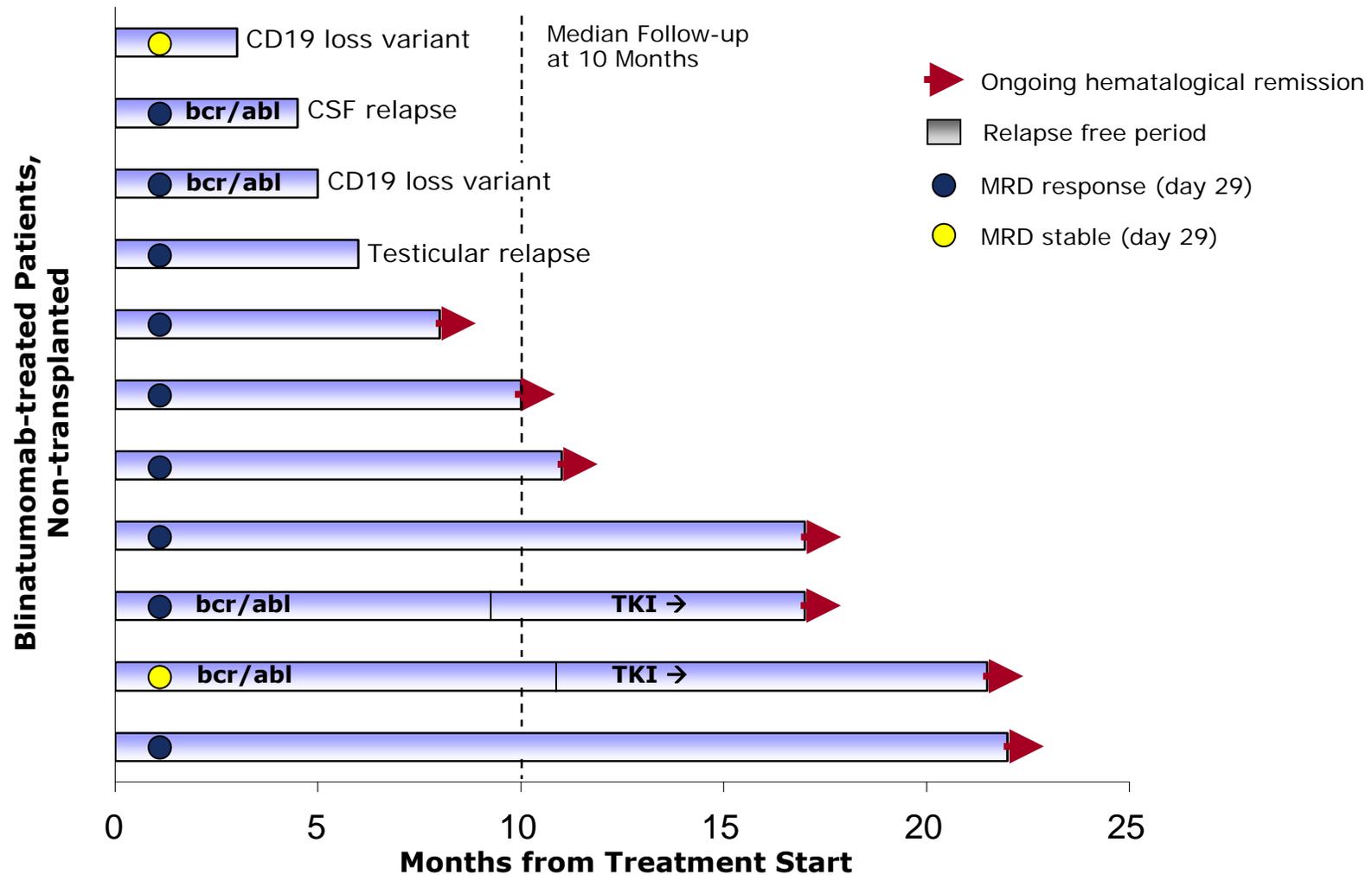
## Response Data

Number of Patients Included in Study	Number of Patients Evaluable for Response Assessment	Number of Patients Reaching MRD Negativity	<b>MRD Response Rate</b>
21	20*	16	<b>80%</b>

\*One patient not evaluable due to less than one treatment cycle and lack of response assessment

# Hematological Relapse-Free Survival

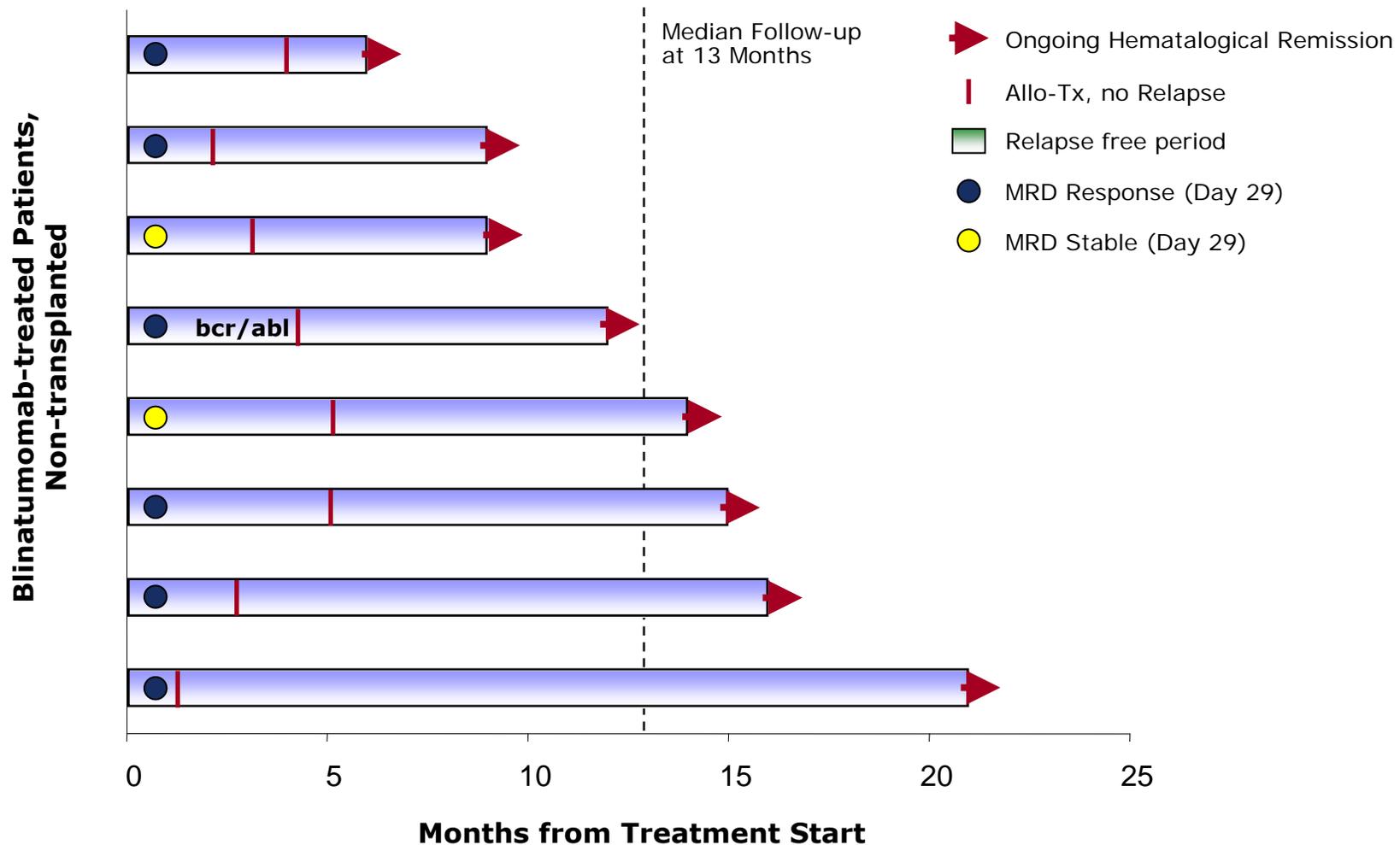
*Non-transplanted Patients (EHA 2010)*



- One patient was not evaluable due to early treatment stop (AE), one patient (who responded to treatment) withdrew consent
- TKI – tyrosine kinase inhibitor given at indicated time
- Current median relapse-free survival (RFS) is 10+ months

# Hematological Relapse-Free Survival

*Transplanted Patients (EHA 2010)*



- Blinatumomab provides an active therapy that permits time to arrange for allogeneic transplant
- Patients receiving blinatumomab prior to transplant tolerate allogeneic transplant well
- Current median RFS is 13+ months; no clinical relapses encountered to date

## Summary of Phase 2 Study in Patients with Minimal Residual B-lineage ALL (EHA 2010)

- ❑ Complete molecular response in 80% (16 out of 20) of evaluable ALL patients
- ❑ Relapse free survival (RFS) so far up to 22 months, and ongoing; no median reached after 408 days; historical median RFS in this patient population is only 200 days
- ❑ Responses also observed in patients with tyrosine kinase inhibitor-refractory bcr/abl ( $T_{315}I$ ), and with (4;11) translocation
- ❑ No mortality upon subsequent transplantation (N=8)
- ❑ Very favorable safety profile

## BiTE Antibodies Can Use Many Targets

<b>BiTE Target (Development Partner)</b>	<b>Indication/Target Tissue</b>	<b>Developmental Status</b>
<b>CD19</b>	<b>B cell malignancies and disorders</b>	<b>Pivotal</b>
<b>EpCAM</b>	<b>EpCAM<sup>+</sup> solid tumors</b>	<b>Phase 1</b>
<b>CEA</b> (MedImmune/AZ)	<b>CEA<sup>+</sup> solid tumors</b>	<b>Pre-clinical</b>
<i>N.d.</i> (Bayer Schering Pharma)	<b>Solid tumors</b>	<b>Pre-clinical</b>
<i>N.d.</i> (Sanofi-aventis)	<b>Solid tumors</b>	<b>Pre-clinical</b>
<i>N.d.</i> (Boehringer Ingelheim)	<b>Multiple myeloma</b>	<b>Pre-clinical</b>
<b>EGFR</b>	<b>EGFR<sup>+</sup> solid tumors</b>	<b>In-vivo PoC (monkey, mouse)</b>
<b>CD33</b>	<b>AML, CML, MDS</b>	<b>In-vivo PoC (monkey, mouse)</b>
<b>MCSP</b>	<b>Melanoma</b>	<b>In-vivo PoC (monkey, mouse)</b>
<b>EphA2</b>	<b>EphA2<sup>+</sup> solid tumors</b>	<b>In-vivo PoC (mouse)</b>
<b>PSCA</b>	<b>Prostate cancer</b>	<b>In-vitro activity shown</b>
<b>FAP-alpha</b>	<b>Sarcoma, stromal fibroblasts</b>	<b>In-vitro activity shown</b>
<b>IGF-1R</b>	<b>IGF-1R<sup>+</sup> solid tumors</b>	<b>In-vitro activity shown</b>
<b>Her-2/neu</b>	<b>Breast and gastric cancer</b>	<b>In-vitro activity shown</b>
<b>Endosialin</b>	<b>Neovasculature</b>	<b>In-vitro activity shown</b>
<b>Carboanhydrase IX</b>	<b>Renal cancer</b>	<b>In-vitro activity shown</b>
<b>cMet</b>	<b>cMet<sup>+</sup> solid tumors</b>	<b>In-vitro activity shown</b>

# Contributors

## Academia

**Ralf C. Bargou (PI)**  
**Maximillian Topp**  
**Nicola Goekbuget**  
**Dieter Hölzer**  
**Hermann Einsele**  
**Mariele Goebeler**  
**Stefan Knop**  
**Rudolf Noppeney**  
**Andreas Viardot**  
**Georg Hess**  
**Martin Schuler**  
**Svenja Neumann**  
**Heinz-A. Horst**  
**Thorsten Raff**  
**Monika Brüggemann**  
**Oliver Ottmann**  
**Heike Pfeiffer**  
**Thomas Burmeister**

## Micromet

**Peter Kufer**  
**Tobias Raum and team**  
**Ralf Lutterbuese and team**  
**Roman Kischel and team**  
**Patrick Hoffmann and team**  
**Gerhard Zugmaier**  
**Dirk Nagorsen and team**  
**Dominik Ruettinger and team**  
**Margit Schmidt and team**  
**Benno Rattel and team**  
**Thomas Urbig and team**  
**Andreas Wolf and team**  
**Maria Amann**  
**Markus Muenz**  
**Klaus Brischwein**  
**Torsten Dreier**  
**Robert Hofmeister**

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**Rudolf Koehne-Volland and team**  
**Gert Riethmüller**

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