

# Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Hematologic Malignancies

Jacalyn Rosenblatt, MD

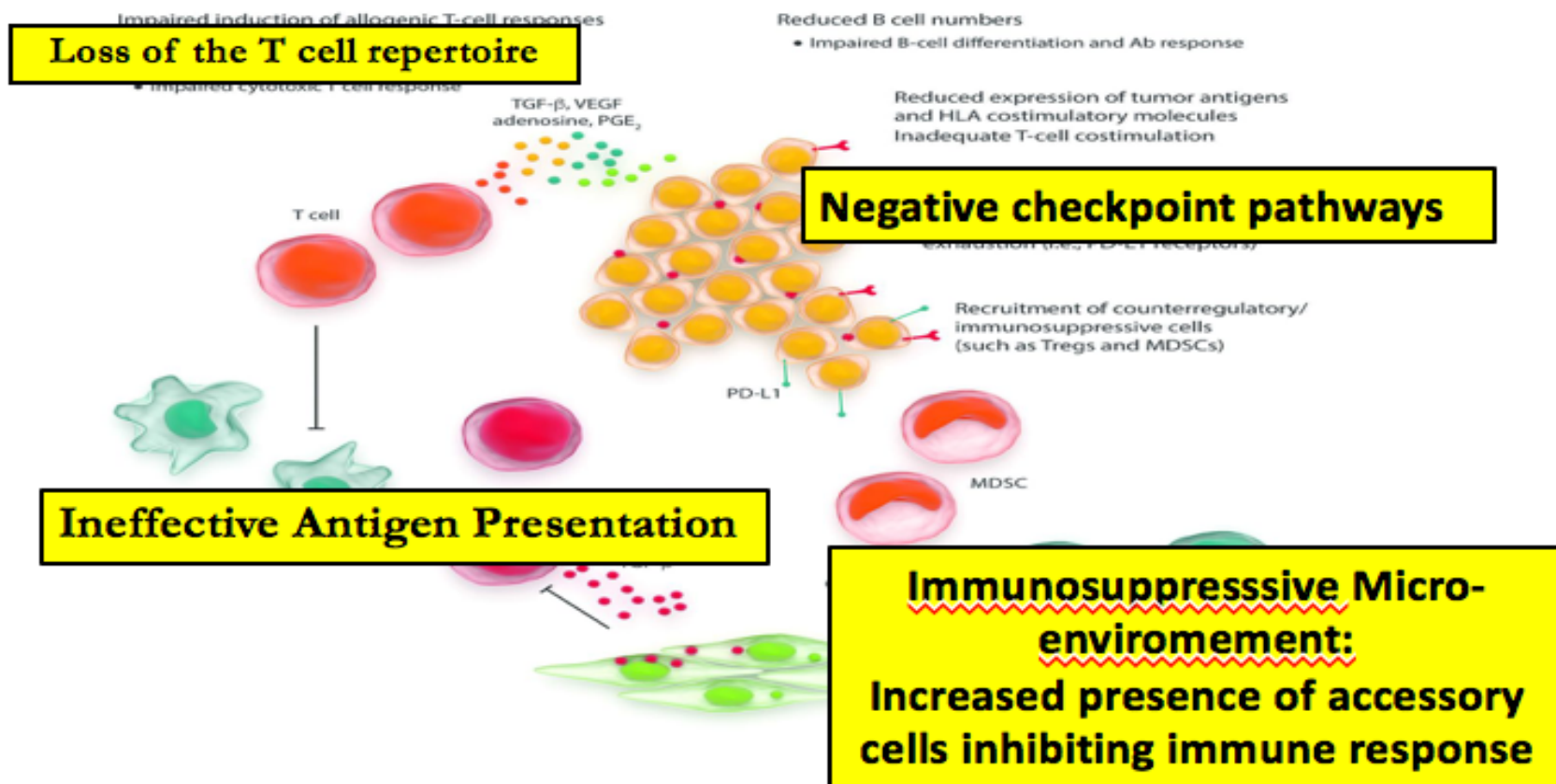
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

# DISCLOSURES

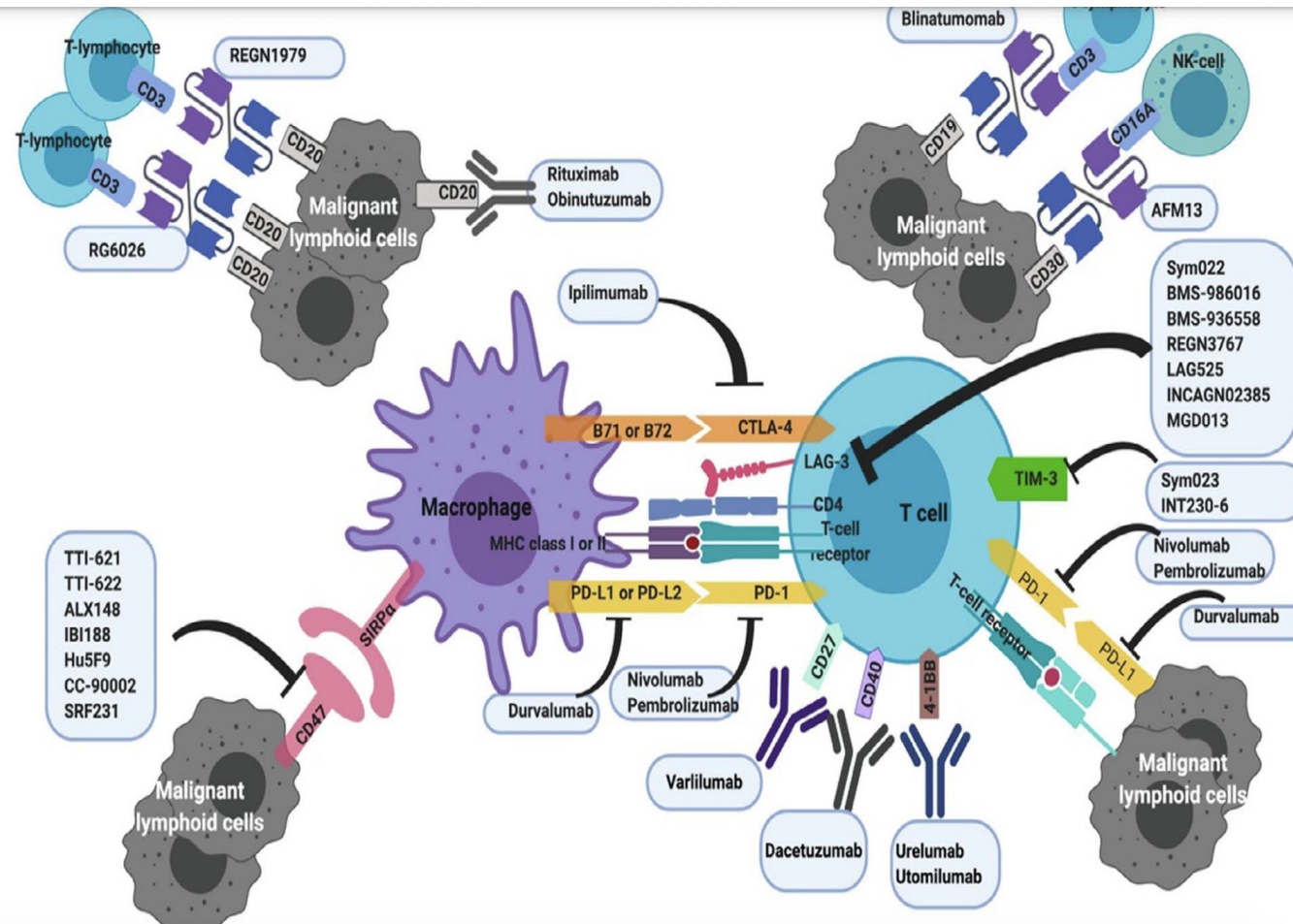
- I will be discussing non-FDA approved indications during my presentation
- Consultant: Celgene, BMS, Amgen, Merck, Partner TX, Parexel, and Imaging Endpoints
- Other: Research Support: Celgene, BMS, Dava Oncology, Education: Dava Oncology

# Immune Tolerance in Malignancy



Paula Rodríguez-Otero et al. Haematologica 2017;102:423-432

# IMMUNE THERAPY FOR LYMPHOID MALIGNANCY



- Checkpoint Blockade: Hodgkins Disease, NHL
- ADC: NHL
- BITE: ALL
- CAR T cells: NHL, ALL

# FDA-approved Checkpoint inhibitors: Lymphoma

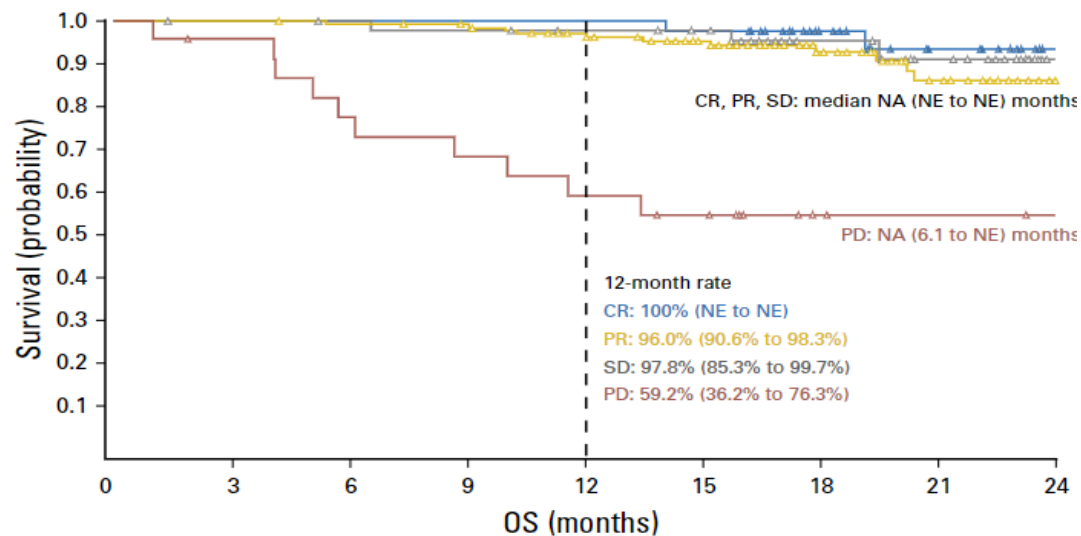
Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Nivolumab	2016	Classical Hodgkin lymphoma, relapsed after HSCT and brentuximab vedotin or $\geq 3$ previous therapies	240 mg q2w or 480 mg q4w
Pembrolizumab	2017	Adult/pediatric refractory classical Hodgkin lymphoma or relapsed after 3 previous therapies	200 mg q3w adults 2 mg/kg (up to 200 mg) q3w (pediatric)
Pembrolizumab	2018	Adult/pediatric refractory primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma or relapsed after 2 previous therapies	200 mg q3W adults 2 mg/kg (up to 200 mg) q3w (pediatric)

# Checkpoint inhibitors: Hodgkin Lymphoma

## Checkmate-205

ORR = 69%

CR = 16%



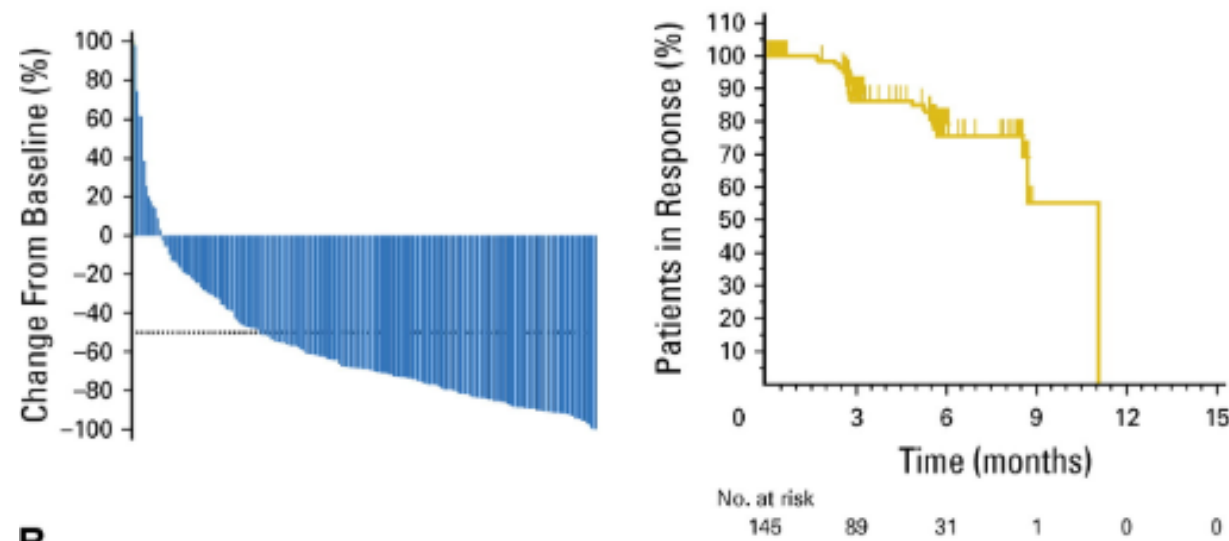
No. at risk:									
CR	40	40	40	40	40	39	26	16	7
PR	128	128	126	123	113	97	59	34	10
SD	47	46	45	44	42	39	25	16	3
PD	23	21	17	15	13	11	5	4	3

## Keynote-087

ORR = 69%

CR = 22.4%

Activity seen regardless of PD-L1 expression

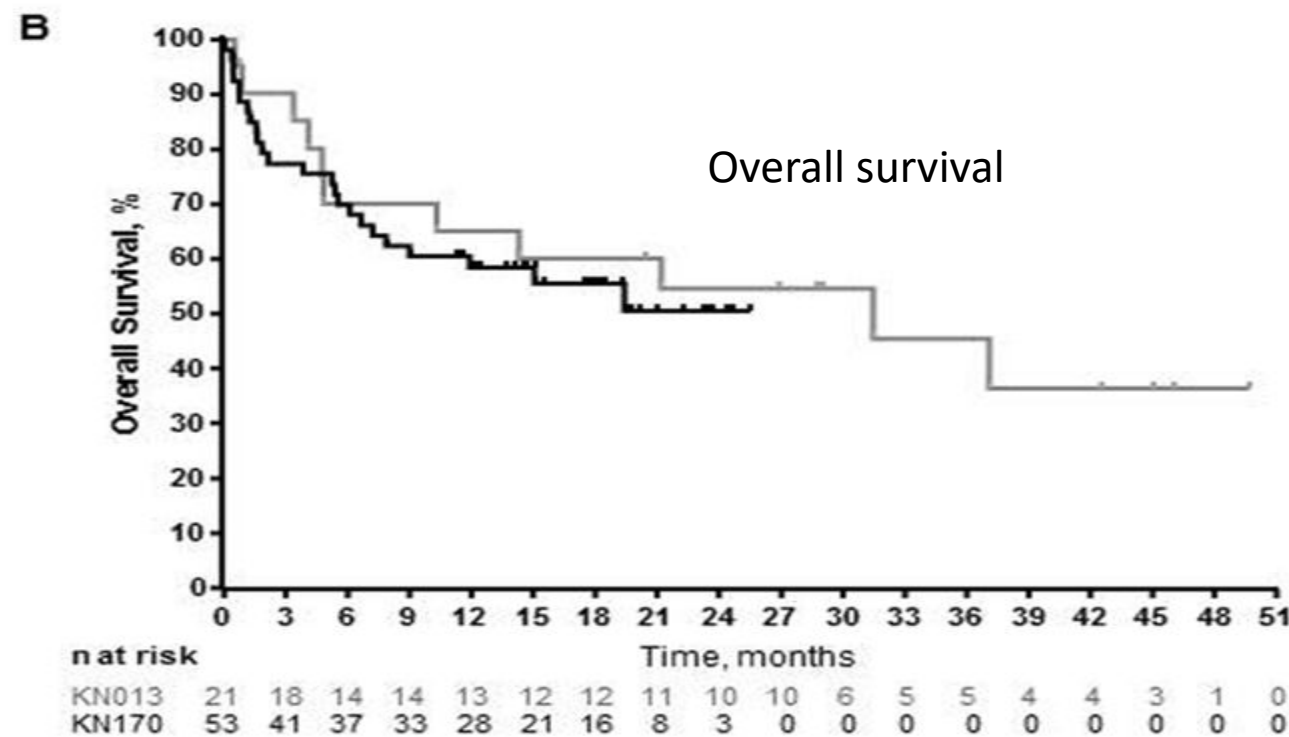
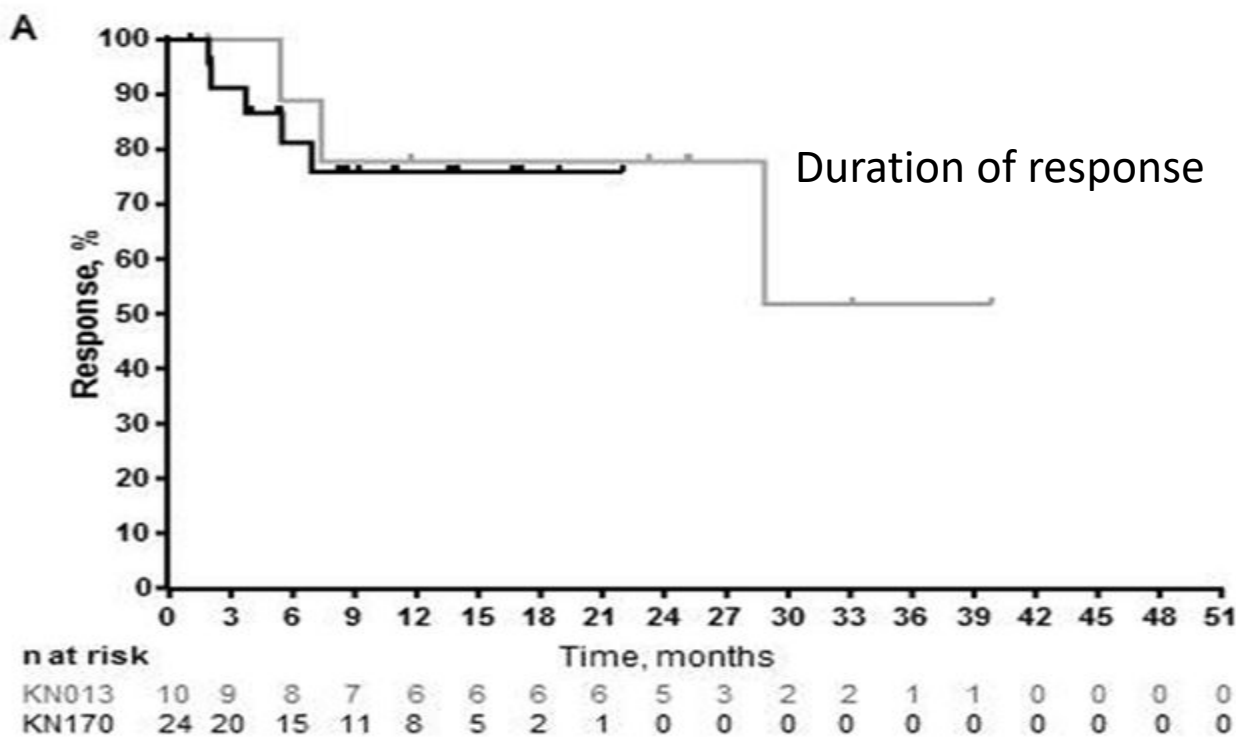


# Pembrolizumab in Primary Mediastinal B cell Lymphoma

Grey = KEYNOTE-013 (rrPMBCL with failed, ineligible, or refused ASCT)

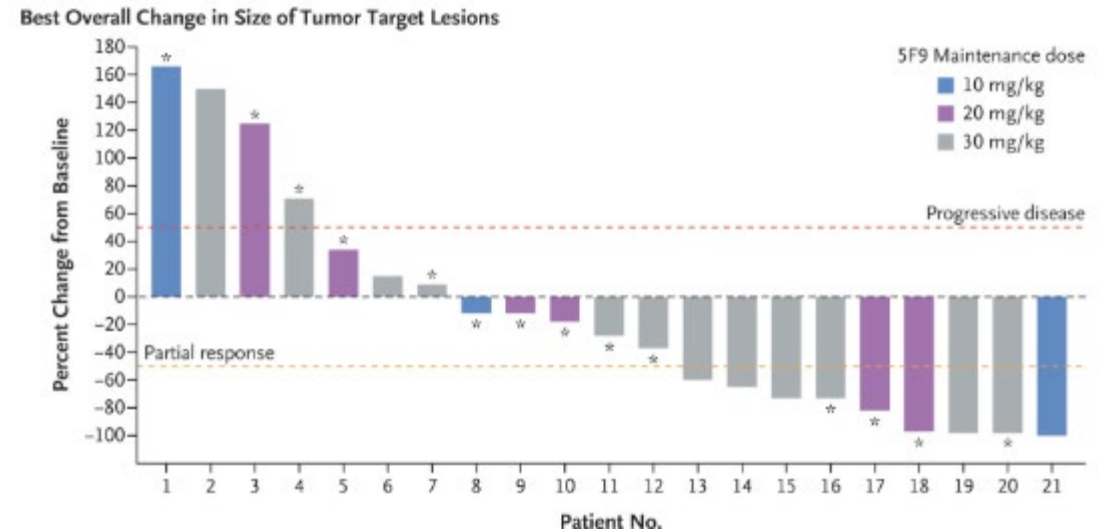
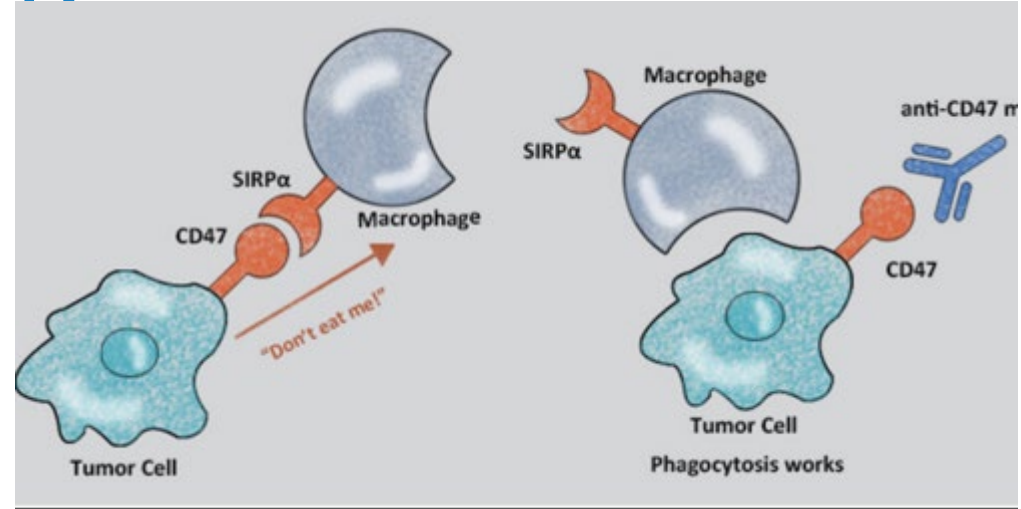
Black = KEYNOTE-170 (rrPMBCL with relapse or ineligible for ASCT with  $\geq 2$  prior therapies)

- ORR was 41% (7/17); 6 additional patients (35%) had stable disease
- Median DOR and OS NR



# In development: Macrophage checkpoint: CD47

- Phase 1b: Hu5F9-G4 + rituximab in rituximab refractory disease
- DLBCL – ORR = 40%, CR = 33%
- Follicular lymphoma – ORR = 71%, CR = 43%



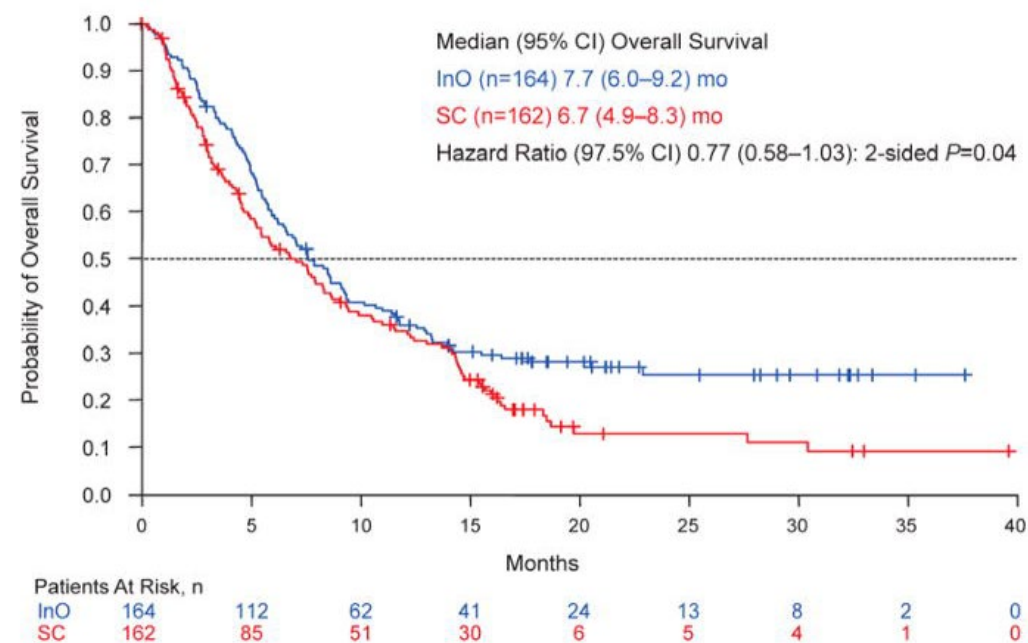
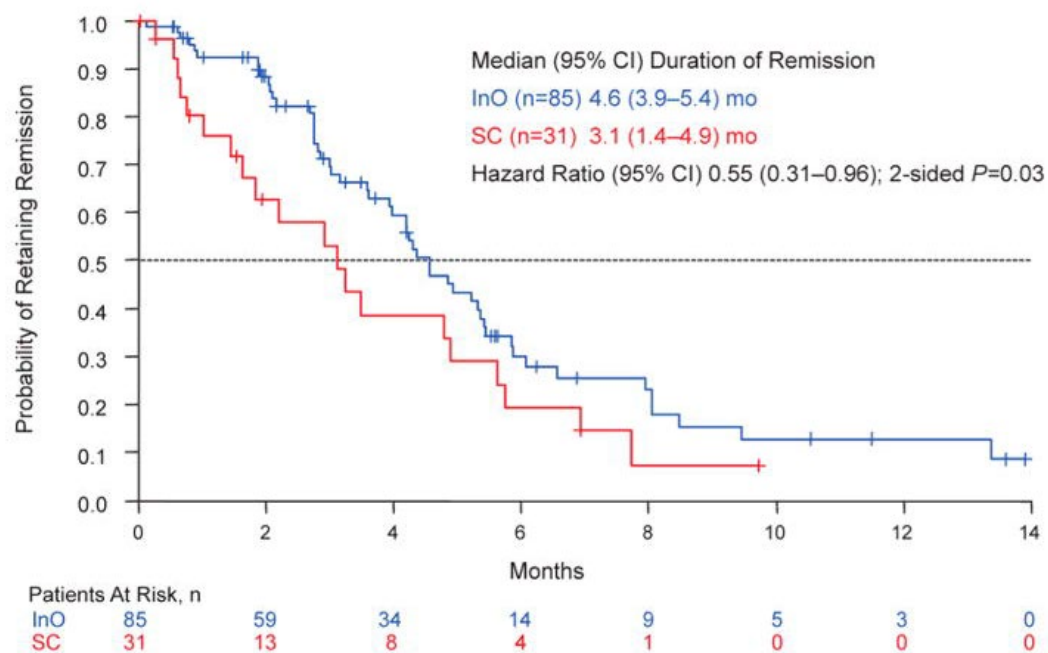
# Antibody-drug conjugates (ADC)

# FDA-Approved Antibody-Drug Conjugates

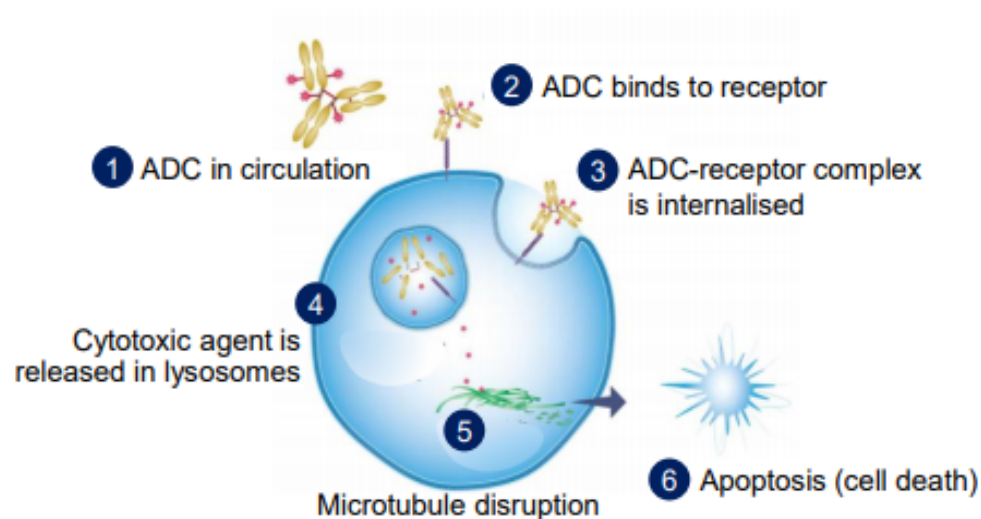
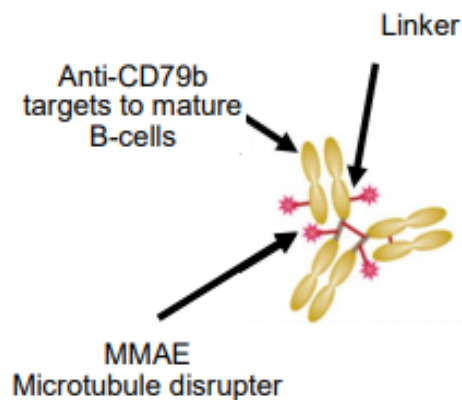
Drug	Target antigen	Year of approval	Indication
Brentuximab vedotin	CD30	2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classical Hodgkin lymphoma, relapsed after HSCT or <math>\geq 2</math> previous therapies</li> <li>Anaplastic large cell lymphoma <math>\geq 1</math> previous therapies</li> </ul>
		2018	cHL - first line with combination chemo
Inotuzumab ozogamicin	CD22	2017	Relapsed/refractory/MRD+ B-cell ALL
Polatuzumab vedotin (w/ bendamustine & rituximab)	CD79b	2019	DLBCL $\geq 2$ previous therapies

# Inotuzumab ozogamicin for ALL

- Anti-CD22 antibody conjugated to calicheamicin
- Higher response, MRD-negativity, PFS, and OS than standard-of-care



# Polatuzumab vedotin: DLBCL



Polatuzumab vedotin has demonstrated efficacy in R/R DLBCL in combination with rituximab<sup>1,2</sup> and rituximab-bendamustine<sup>3</sup>

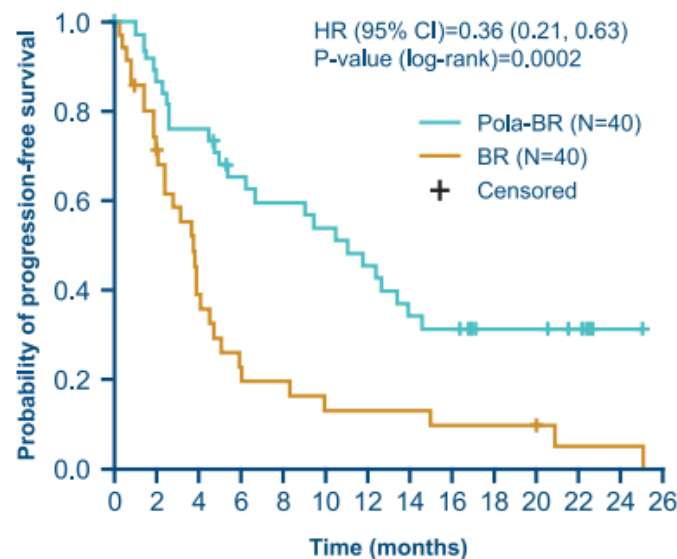
Treatment	Best overall response
Pola +/- rituximab	51–56% <sup>1,2</sup>
Pola + rituximab + bendamustine	68% <sup>3</sup>

ADC, antibody-drug conjugate; MMAE, monomethyl auristatin E

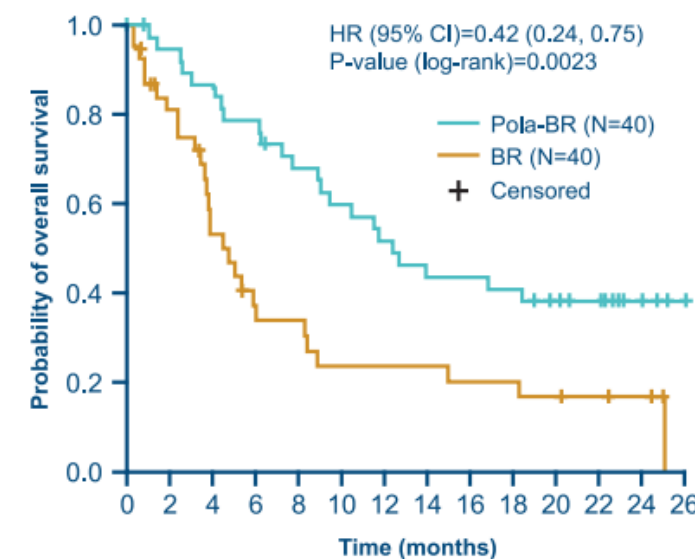
1. Palanca-Wessels A, et al. Lancet Oncol 2015;16:704–15; 2. Morschhauser F, et al. Lancet Hematology 2019;6:e254–65; 3. Sehn H, et al. Blood 2018;132:1683

# Polatuzumab vedotin: DLBCL

- Randomized phase 2 study
- Pola-BR vs. BR in R/R DLBCL
- Higher CR = 40% vs. 18% (p: 0.03)
- Median PFS = 7.6 m (HR=0.34, p<0.01)
- Median OS = 12.4 m (HR=0.42, p<0.01)
- Ongoing phase 3 (POLARIX)
- Frontline DLBCL- R-CHOP vs R-CHP+Pola



No. at risk  
Pola-BR(Ph II) 40 38 33 29 25 23 21 21 19 18 16 14 12 11 11 8 7 7 6 5 1 1  
BR(Ph II) 40 30 24 18 12 9 7 6 6 5 4 4 4 4 3 3 3 3 2 1 1 1 1

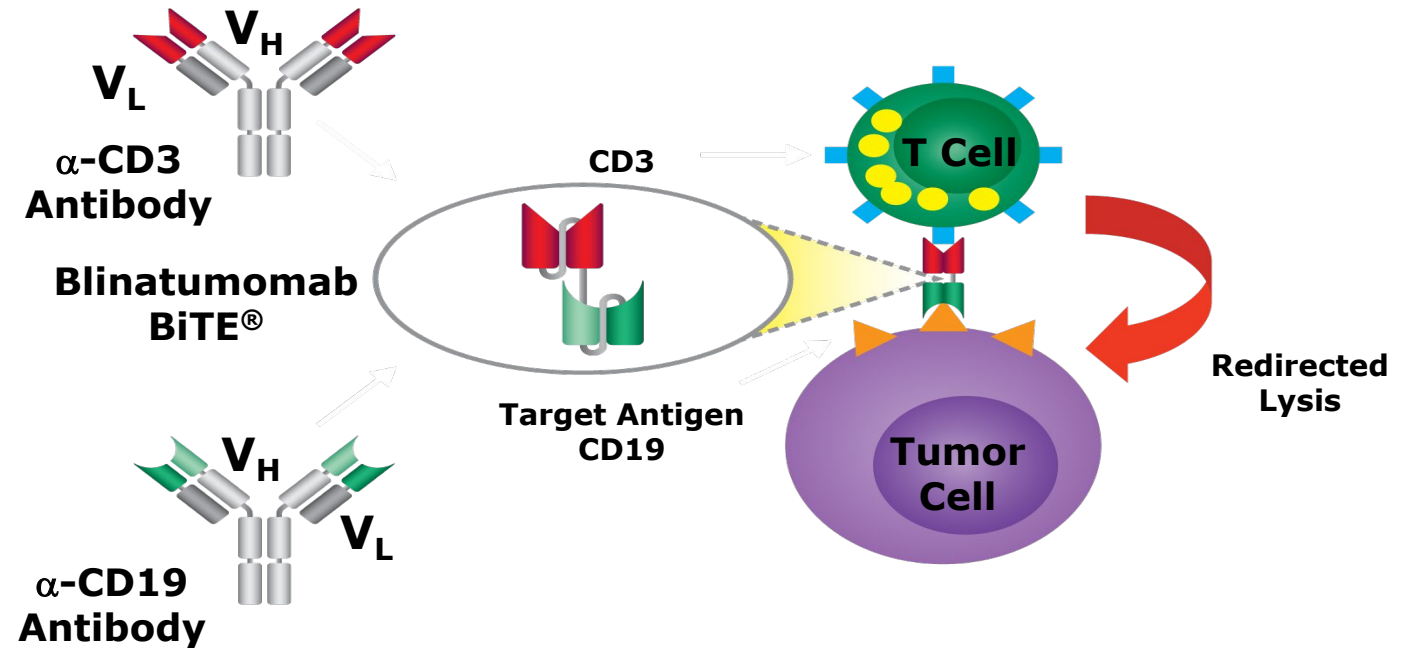


No. at risk  
Pola-BR(Ph II) 40 38 36 34 33 30 30 27 25 24 22 21 19 17 16 16 15 15 13 12 9 9 5 3 2 1  
BR(Ph II) 40 33 27 25 17 15 11 10 10 7 7 7 7 7 6 6 6 5 5 4 4 3 3 1

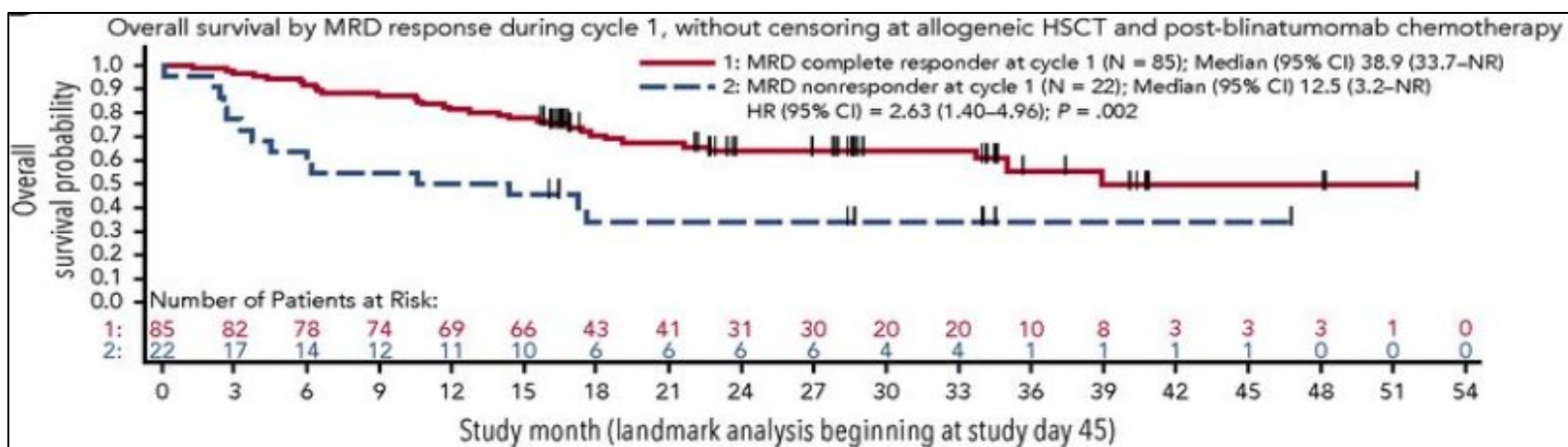
# Bi-specific T-cell engagers (BiTEs)

# BiTE (Blinatumomab) Therapy

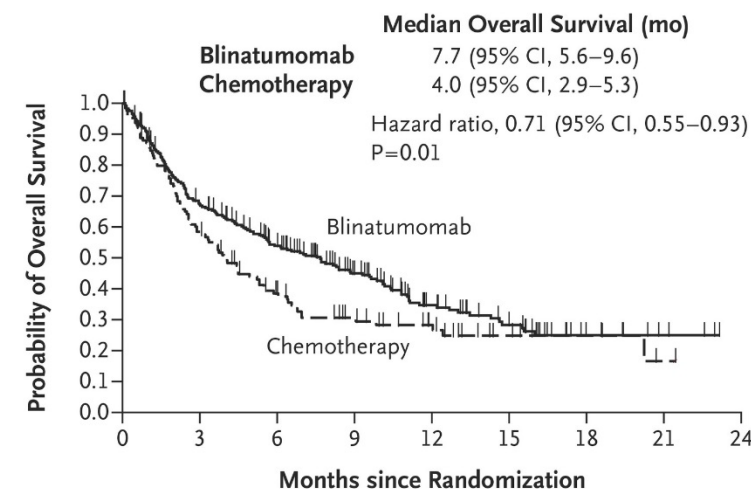
- Facilitates T cell engagement with CD19+ tumor cells (Similar to CD19 CAR T)
- Approval:
  - Adult/pediatric R/R B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia
  - Adult/pediatric B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia in 1st or 2nd complete remission, MRD  $\geq 0.1\%$



# Blinatumomab: B-ALL



## A Overall Survival



## No. at Risk

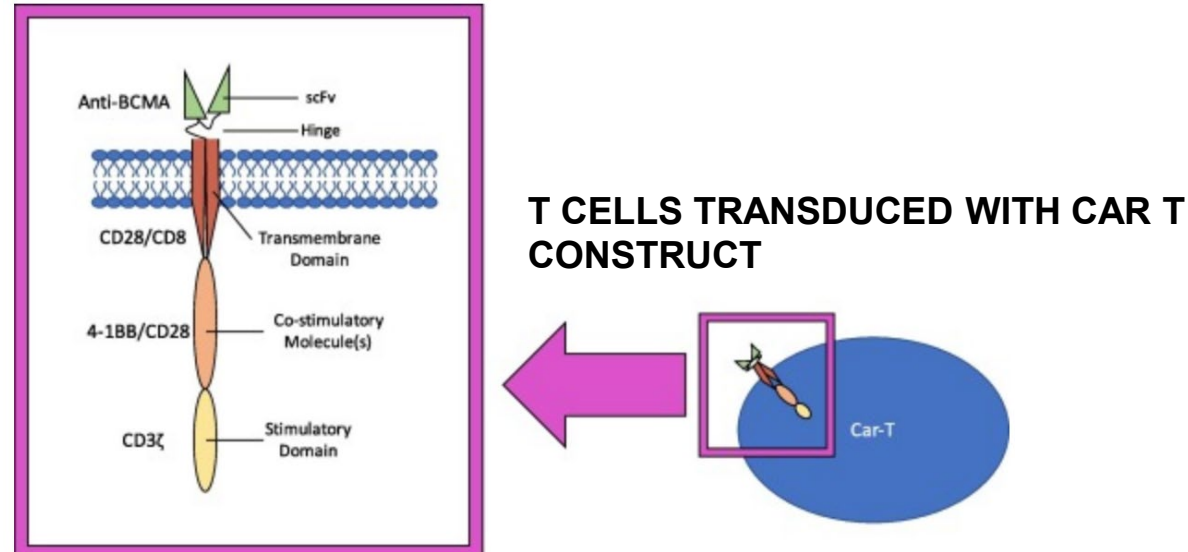
Blinatumomab	271	176	124	79	45	27	9	4	0
Chemotherapy	134	71	41	27	17	7	4	1	0

Pivotal study	Study population	Primary outcome	Other key outcomes
NCT02013167 (TOWER) [43]	R/R Ph- BCP-ALL (Adult)	Median OS: 7.7 months (95% CI, 5.6–9.6 months)	CR within 12 weeks of treatment initiation: 91/267 (34%) (95% CI, 28.0–39.5%; $p < 0.001$ ) CRh within 12 weeks of treatment initiation: 119/267 (44%) (95% CI, 37.9–50.0%; $p < 0.001$ ) EFS (6-month estimate): 31% MRD remission (defined as an MRD level below 0.0001): 76% Adverse events (grade $\geq 3$ ): 231/267 (87%)
NCT01466179 (Study MT103-211) [40]	R/R Ph- BCP-ALL (Adult)	CR or CRh: 81/189 (43%) (95% CI, 36–50%) within the first two cycles of treatment	Median RFS in patients with CR/CRh: 5.9 months (95% CI, 4.8–8.3 months) Median OS: 6.1 months (95% CI, 4.2–7.5 months) alloHSCT after blinatumomab-induced remission: 32/81 (40%) 100-day mortality following alloHSCT: 11% (95% CI, 0–23%) MRD response: 60/73 (82%) (95% CI, 72–90%) Adverse events (grade $\geq 3$ ): 71 (38%)
NCT01207388 (BLAST) [39]	MRD-positive BCP-ALL (Adult)	Complete MRD response: 88/113 (78%) patients after one cycle of treatment	Median OS: 36.5 months (95% CI, 19.8 months to not estimable) Median RFS: 18.9 months (95% CI, 12.3–35.2 months) Duration of hematologic remission: not reached
NCT02000427 (ALCANTARA) [49]	R/R Ph+ BCP-ALL (Adult)	CR or CRh: 16/45 (36%) (95% CI, 22–51%) within the first two cycles of treatment	Complete MRD response: 14/16 (88%) (95% CI, 62–98%) during the first two cycles of treatment Median RFS: 6.7 months (95% CI, 4.4 months to not estimable) Median OS: 7.1 months (95% CI, 5.6 months to not estimable) alloHSCT after blinatumomab-induced remission: 4/16 (25%) (95% CI, 7–52%) Adverse events (grade $\geq 3$ ): 37/45 (82%)
NCT01471782 (Study MT103-205) [29]	R/R BCP-ALL (Pediatric)	Maximum-tolerated dosage: 15 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day CR: 27/70 (39%) (95% CI, 27–51%)	Median RFS in responders ( $n = 27$ ): 4.4 months (95% CI, 2.3–7.6 months) Median OS ( $n = 70$ ): 7.5 months (95% CI, 4.0–11.8 months) alloHSCT after blinatumomab treatment: 24/70 (34%) Complete MRD response ( $< 10^{-4}$ ): 14/27 (52%) (95% CI, 32–71%) Adverse events (grade $\geq 3$ ): 61 (87%)

Andreas Viardot, [Annals of Hematology](#) (2020)

# Chimeric Antigen Receptor Therapy (CAR T)

# CAR T CONSTRUCT



**Single-chain variable fragment (scFv):** derived from the variable region of an antibody specific for tumor surface antigen

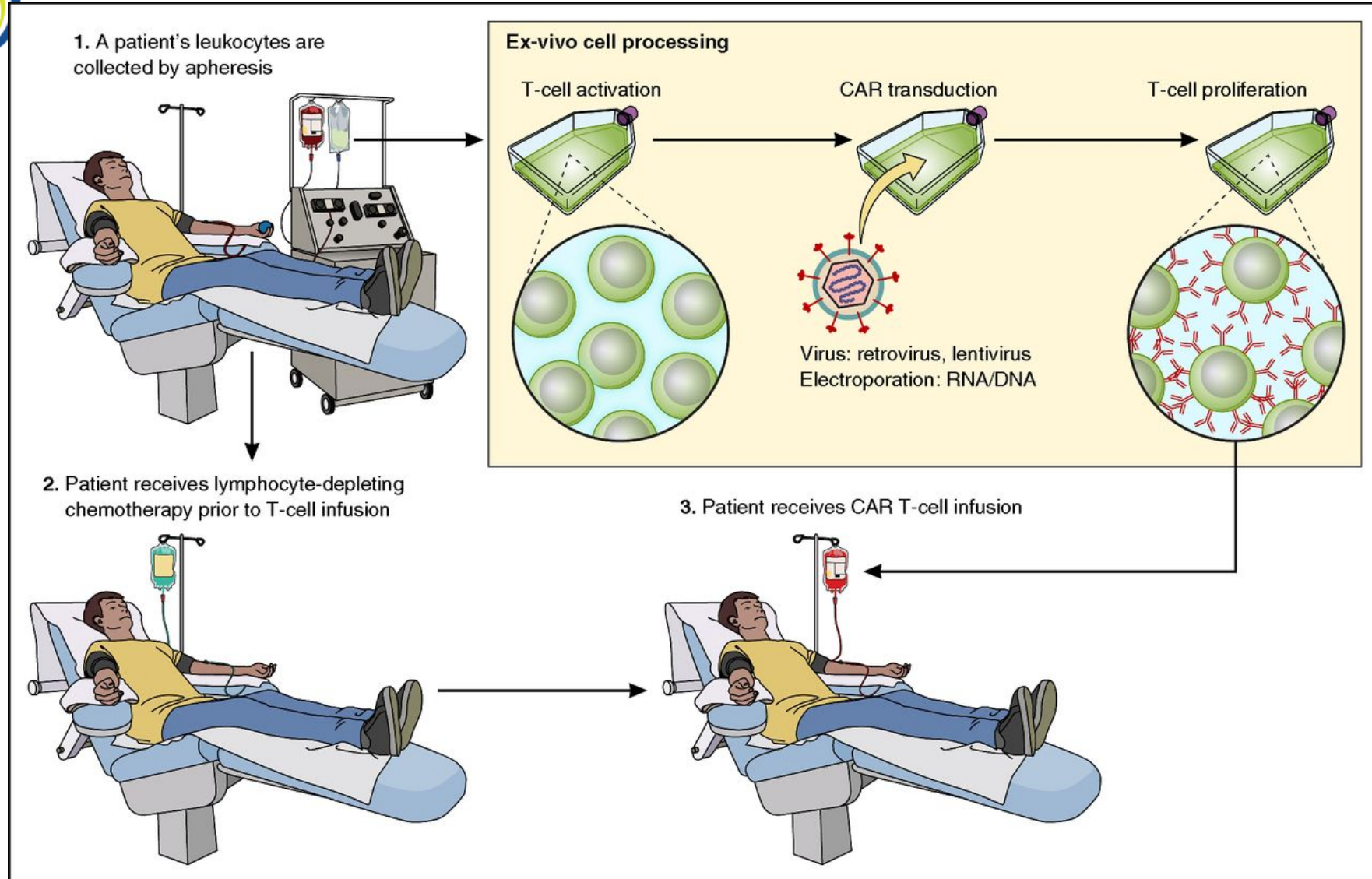
**Transmembrane domain:** hydrophobic  $\alpha$ -helix derived from CD8, CD28 or immunoglobulin that is inserted into the membrane lipid bilayer spanning the cell membrane.  
Anchors the CAR in the T cell membrane

**Costimulatory molecule(s):** required for T cell activation

**Stimulatory molecule:** required for T cell activation

David Feinberg et al Cell Immunol. 2019

# Process of generation and delivery of CAR-T therapy



# FDA-Approved CAR T cell therapies

DRUG	APPROVED	INDICATION	DOSE
Axicabtagene ciloleucel	2017	Adults with r/r large B-cell lymphoma. Including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma, high-grade B-cell lymphoma, and DLBCL arising from follicular lymphoma	$2 \times 10^6$ CAR-positive, viable T-cells per kg bodyweight (up to $2 \times 10^8$ )
Tisagenlecleucel	2017	Patients $\leq 25$ yr with refractory B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia or in 2+ relapse	$0.2\text{--}0.5 \times 10^6$ CAR-positive, viable T-cells per kg if under 50 kg $0.1\text{--}2.5 \times 10^8$ CAR-positive, viable T-cells if over 50 kg
Tisagenlecleucel	2018	Adults with r/r large B-cell lymphoma after 2+ therapies Including DLBCL, high-grade B-cell lymphoma, DLBCL arising from follicular lymphoma	$0.6\text{--}6.0 \times 10^8$ CAR-positive, viable T-cells

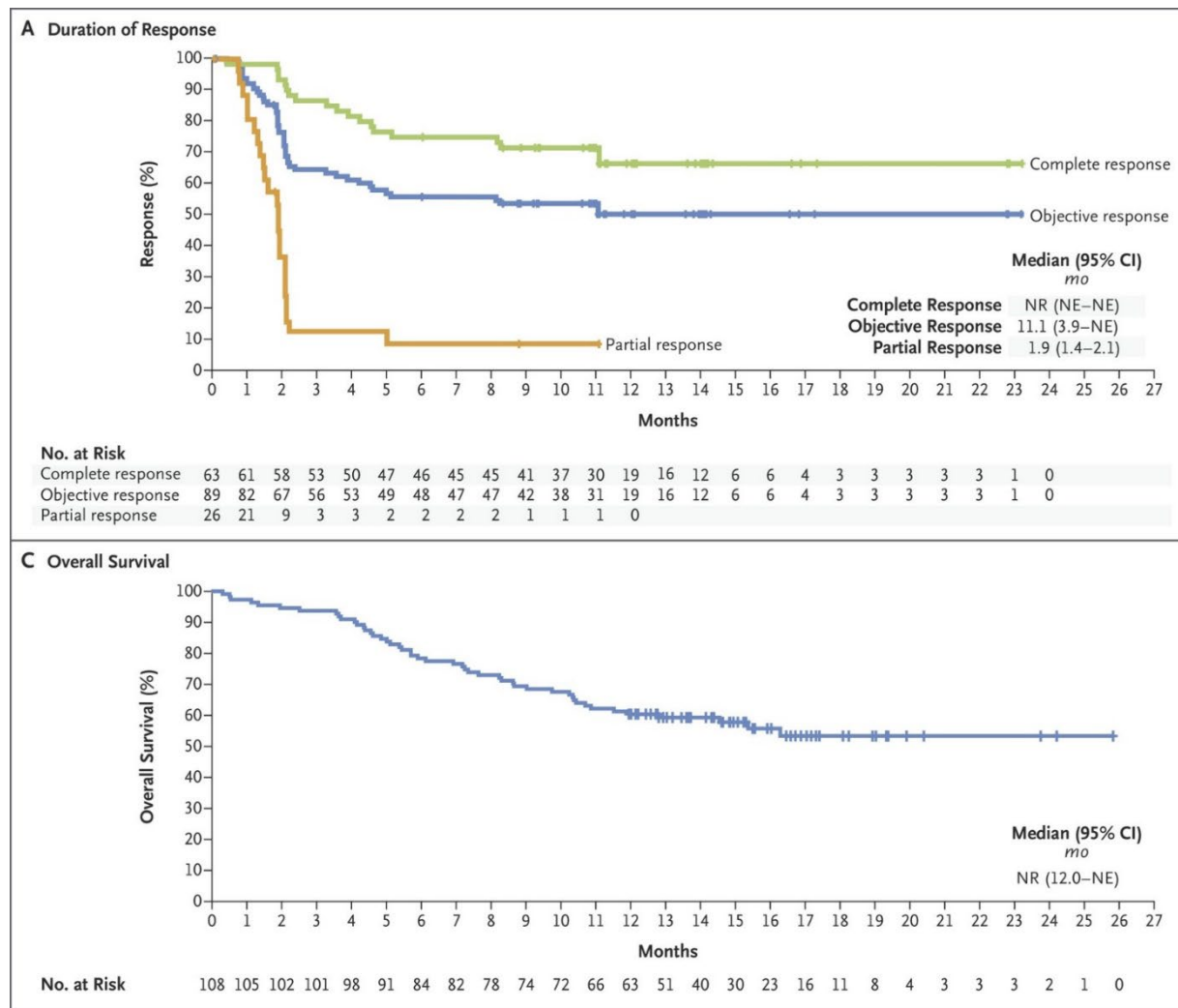
## CAR T cell therapy in lymphoma

CAR T cell product	Axicabtagene ciloleucel (Yescarta)	Tisagenlecleucel (Kymriah)	Lisocabtagene maraleucel
Costimulation domain	CD-28	4-1BB	4-1BB
Vector	Retrovirus	Lentivirus	Lentivirus
Conditioning regimen	Fludarabine, cyclophosphamide	Fludarabine, cyclophosphamide, or bendamustine	Fludarabine, cyclophosphamide
Pivotal trial	ZUMA-1 ( <i>N</i> = 108)	JULIET ( <i>N</i> = 111)	TRANSCEND-NHL-001 ( <i>N</i> = 102)
Histology	DLBCL, tFL, PMBCL	DLBCL, tFL	DLBCL, PMBCL, FL, tFL
CAR T cell dosage	$2 \times 10^6$ cells/kg	$3 \times 10^8$ cells/kg	$1 \times 10^8$ cells/kg
ORR	83%	52%	75%
CR	58%	40%	55%
Median DOR (months)	11.1 (95% CI, 4.2—NE)	NR (95% CI, 10—NR)	NA
Overall survival	24-month survival, 50.5% (95% CI 40.2–59.7)	11.7 months (95% CI, 6.6—NE)	NA
Any grade CRS/NT	93%/64 %	58%/21%	37%/25 %
Grade $\geq 3$ CRS	13%	22%	1%
Grade $\geq 3$ NT	28%	12%	15%
Tocilizumab/steroid usage	43%/27%	15%/10%	17%/21%
Grade 5 AEs	4%	None	None

Sabarish Ayyappan, Kami Maddocks  
J Hematol Oncol. 2019; 12: 82.

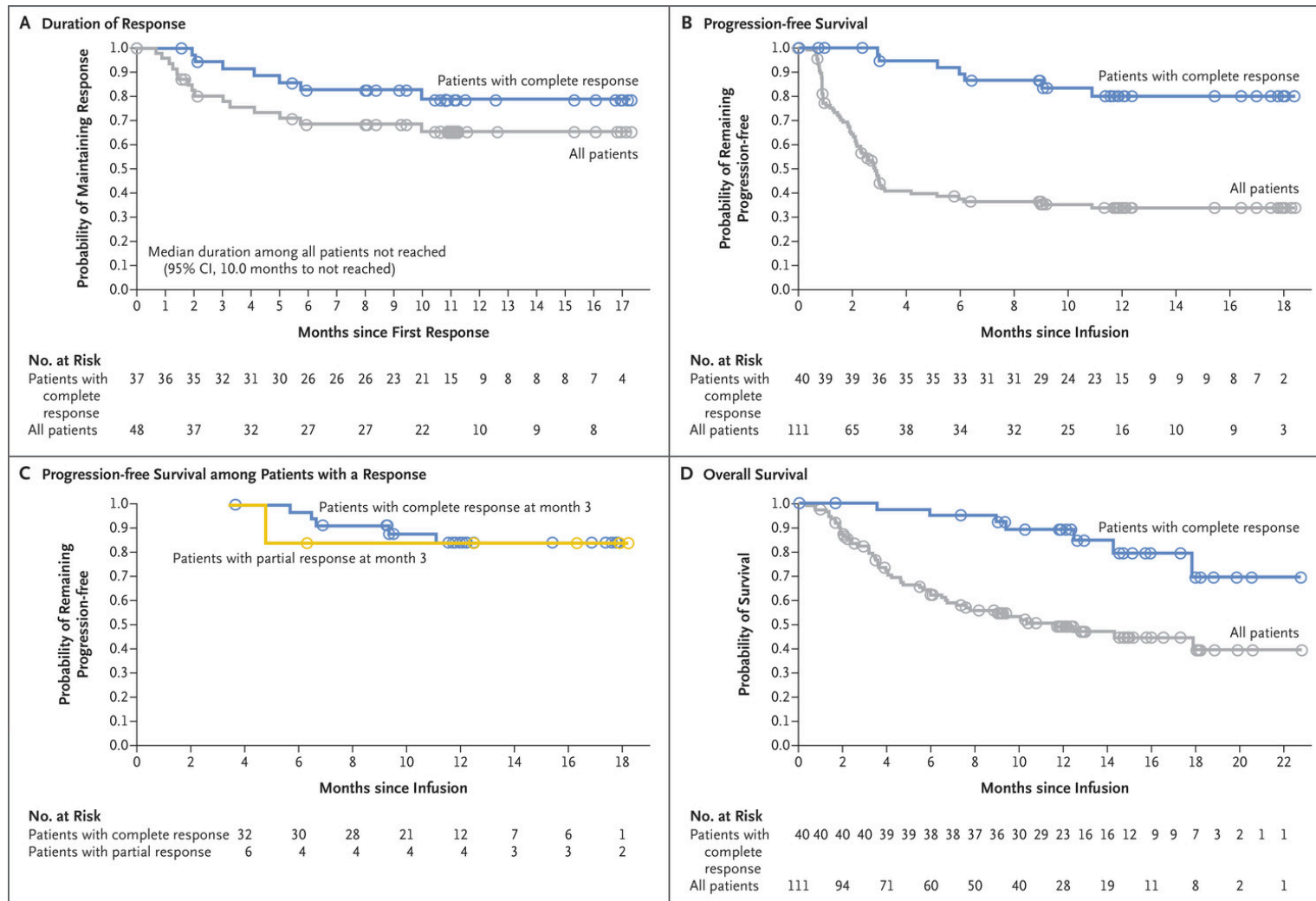
# CD19 CAR in DLBCL- ZUMA1 (Axi-cel)

- CD19/CD28 $\zeta$
- ORR = 82%
- CR = 54%
- 1.5-yr estimated OS = 52%
- CRS grade  $\geq 3$  = 13%
- Neurotox grade  $\geq 3$  = 28%



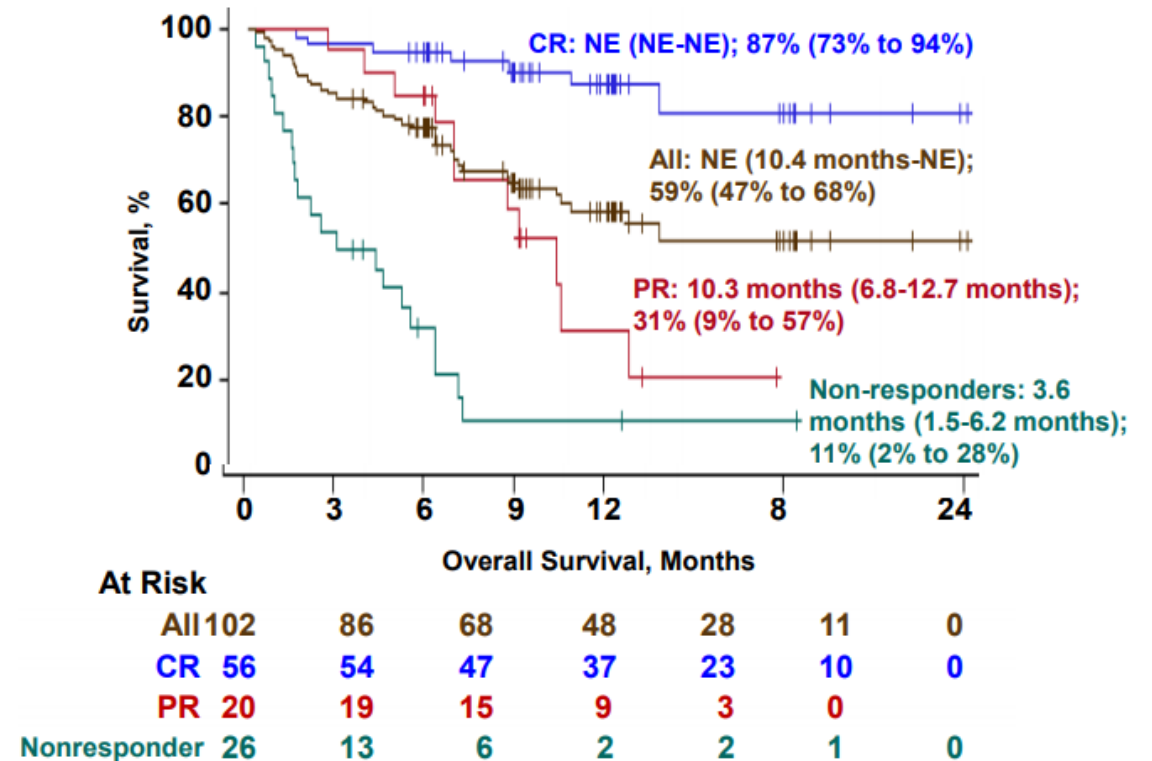
# CD19 CAR in DLBCL - JULIET (Tisa-cel)

- CD19/4-1-BB
- ORR = 52%
- CR = 40%
- 1-yr estimated OS = 49%
- CRS grade  $\geq 3$  = 18%
- Neurotox grade  $\geq 3$  = 11%



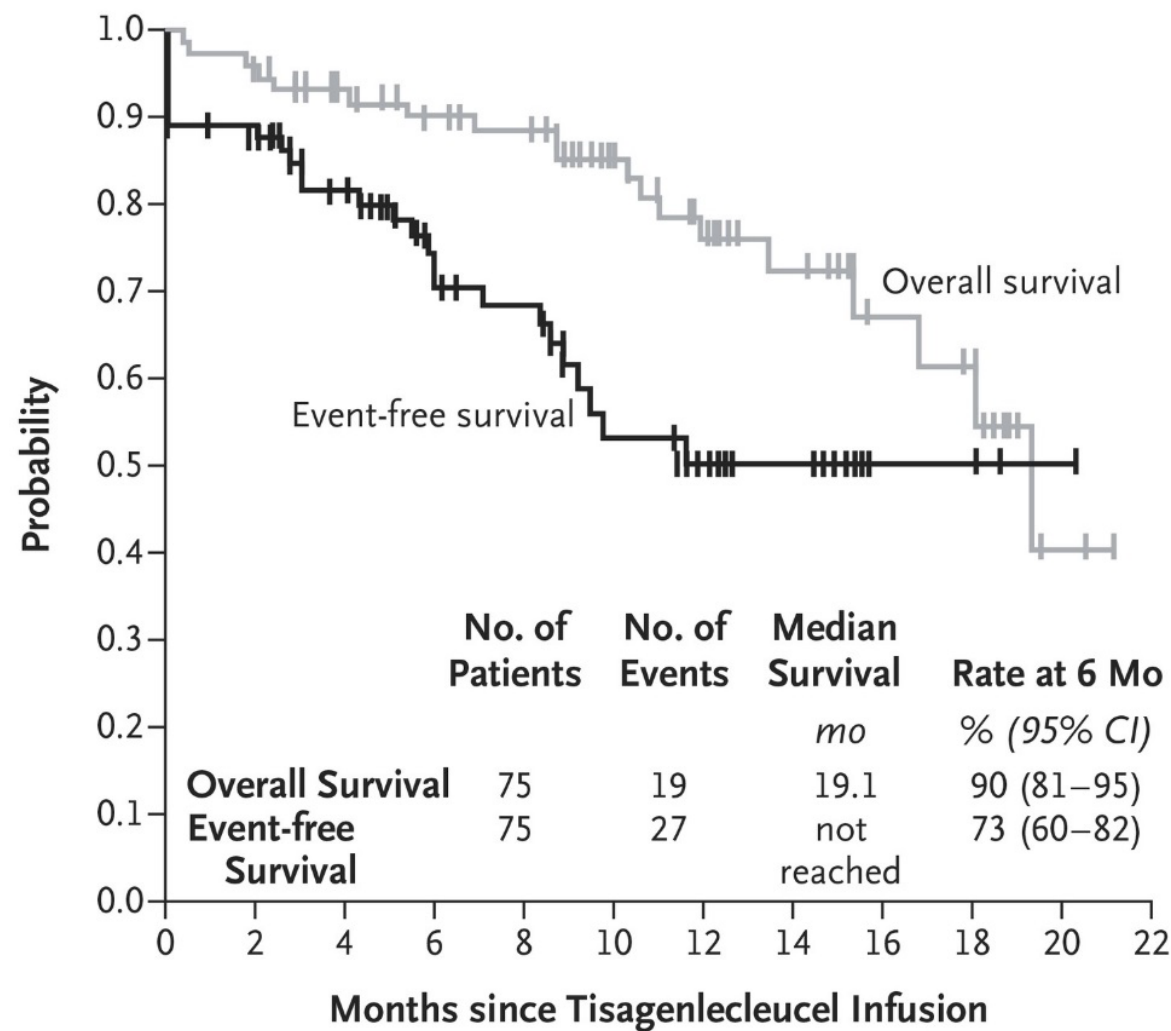
# CD19 CAR in DLBCL - TRANSCEND (Liso-Cel)

- CD19/4-1-BB, CD4:CD8 = 1:1
- ORR = 75%
- CR = 55%
- 1-yr estimated OS = 59%
- CRS grade  $\geq 3$  = 1%
- Neurotox grade  $\geq 3$  = 13%

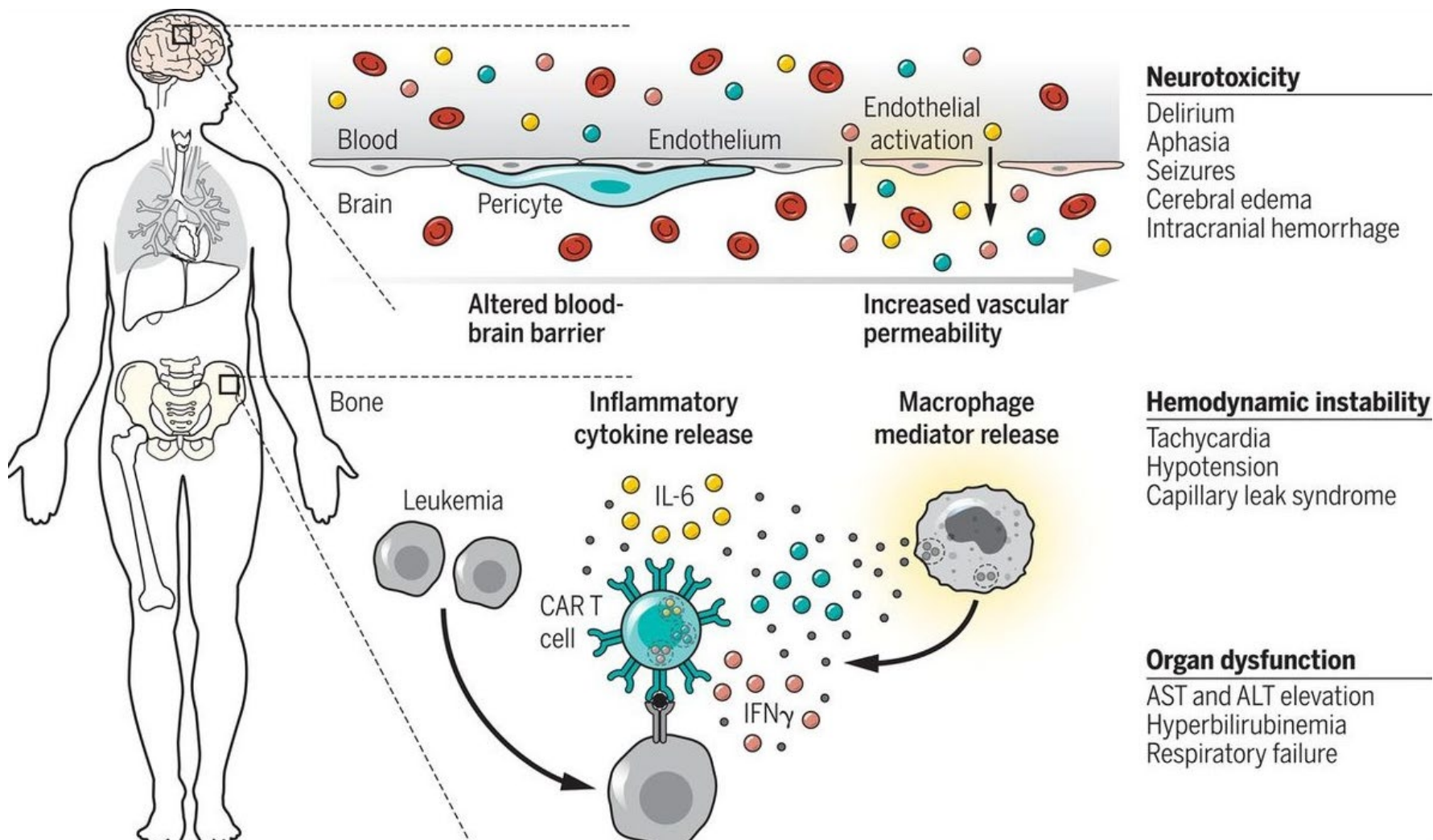


# CD19 CAR in B-ALL: ELIANA (Tisa-cel)

- CD19/4-1-BB
- ORR = 81%
- CR = 60%, CRi = 21%
- CRS grade  $\geq 3$  = 47%
- Neurotox grade  $\geq 3$  = 13%



# CAR T Side Effects



# CAR T Side Effects

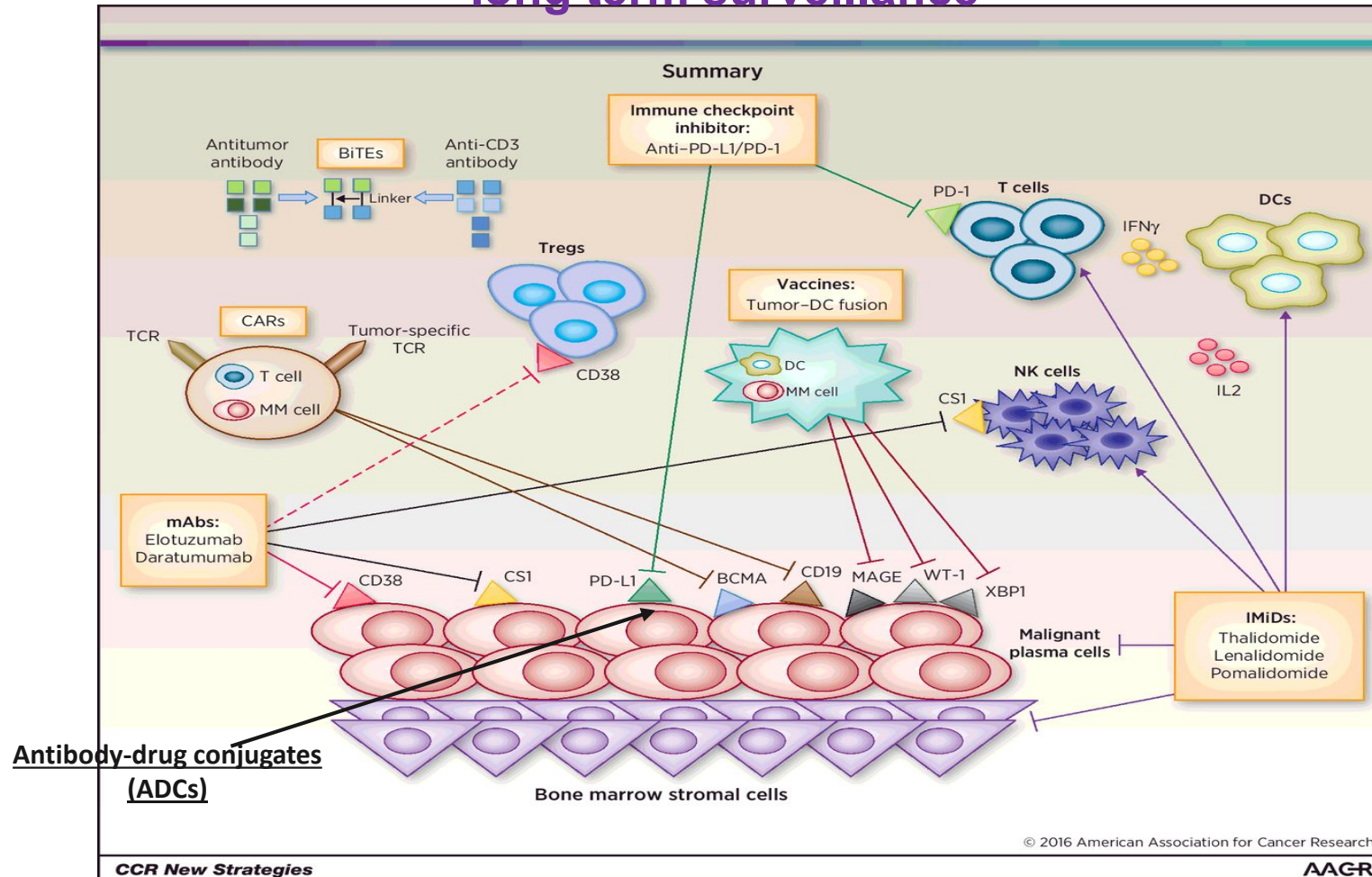
- Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS)
- Neurotoxicity
- B Cell aplasia
- Macrophage Activation Syndrome (MAS)/HLH

# Eligibility considerations for CAR

- Disease
  - Relative stability during CAR T manufacturing (~2-6 weeks)
  - Bridging therapy (chemo, RT, steroids, lenalidomide, ibrutinib)
  - CNS control
- Patient
  - Adequate cell counts
  - DVT, bleeding, infection, neuro disorders
  - Functional status: at screen vs. day of CAR T infusion
- Other
  - Social support, reimbursement

# PROMISE OF IMMUNOTHERAPY IN MM

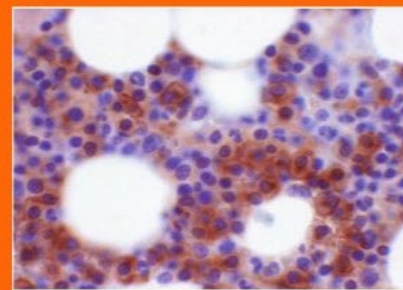
Great potential to incorporate **Immune based therapy** in order to **overcome resistance** and provide the **potential for memory and long term surveillance**



# BCMA: A promising target in MM

## B cell maturation antigen (BCMA)

- A member of the TNF receptor superfamily
- Expression is largely restricted to plasma cells and mature B cells
- Not detectable in any other normal tissues
- Expressed nearly universally on multiple myeloma cells
- Anti-MM efficacy validated in initial studies<sup>1</sup>



Multiple myeloma cells  
expressing BCMA

(brown color = BCMA protein)

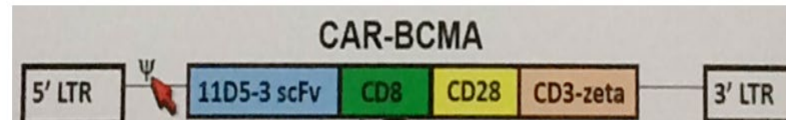
Raje ASCO 2018

**Table 1.** Characteristics of trials evaluating BCMA-targeted CAR T-cells in MM.

	NCI	UPenn (Novartis)	bb2121 (Bluebird)	LCAR-B38M (Legend)	MCARH171 MSK/Juno Therapeutics
Reference (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier)	Brudno and colleagues <sup>125</sup> (NCT02215967)	Cohen and colleagues <sup>127</sup> (NCT02546167)	Raje and colleagues <sup>126,129</sup> (NCT02658929)	Zhang and colleagues <sup>130</sup> (NCT03090659)	Smith and colleagues <sup>131</sup> (NCT03070327)
Ag-binding domain	scFv (murine)	scFv (human)	scFv (murine)	Bispecific variable fragments of llama heavy-chain antibodies	scFv (human)
Signaling domains	CD3ζ/CD28	CD3ζ/4-1BB	CD3ζ/4-1BB	CD3ζ/4-1BB	CD3ζ/4-1BB
Suicide gene	None	None	None	None	EGFRt
Lymphodepletion	Flu/Cy	± Cy	Flu/Cy	Cy	Cy or Flu/Cy
BCMA expression required	Yes	No	In dose-escalation phase required, not in expansion cohort	Yes	Yes
Number of patients included	26	24	43	35	6
Number of prior therapies (median)	10	7	7	4	7.5
High-risk cytogenetics	38% (31% del(17p))	96% (71% del(17p) or TP53 mutation)	Del(17p); t(4;14); t(14;16): dose-escalation cohort: 38%; expansion cohort: 41%	NA	67%
CAR T dose/kg	$9 \times 10^6$	Cohort 1: $1-5 \times 10^8$ Cohort 2: $Cy+1-5 \times 10^7$ Cohort 3: $Cy+1-5 \times 10^8$	$50-800 \times 10^6$	Median dose: $4 \times 10^6$	Mean dose: $72-137 \times 10^6$
≥PR	81%	Cohort 1: 44% Cohort 2: 20% Cohort 3: 60%	$150-800 \times 10^6$ cells ( $n = 36$ ): 81%	100%	5 evaluable patients: 80%
CR	13%	Cohort 1: 11% Cohort 2: 0% Cohort 3: 10%	$150-800 \times 10^6$ ( $n = 36$ ): 47%	63% (sCR)	5 evaluable patients: 0%
CRS (all grades)	81%	83%	63%	83%	50%

Ag, antigen; BCMA, B-cell maturation antigen; CAR, chimeric antigen receptor; CR, complete response; CRS, cytokine-release syndrome; Cy, cyclophosphamide; EGFRt, truncated Endothelial Growth Factor Receptor; Flu, fludarabine; NA, not available; NCI, National Cancer Institute; NCT, ClinicalTrials.gov identifier; PR, partial response; scFv, single-chain variable fragment; sCR, stringent complete response.

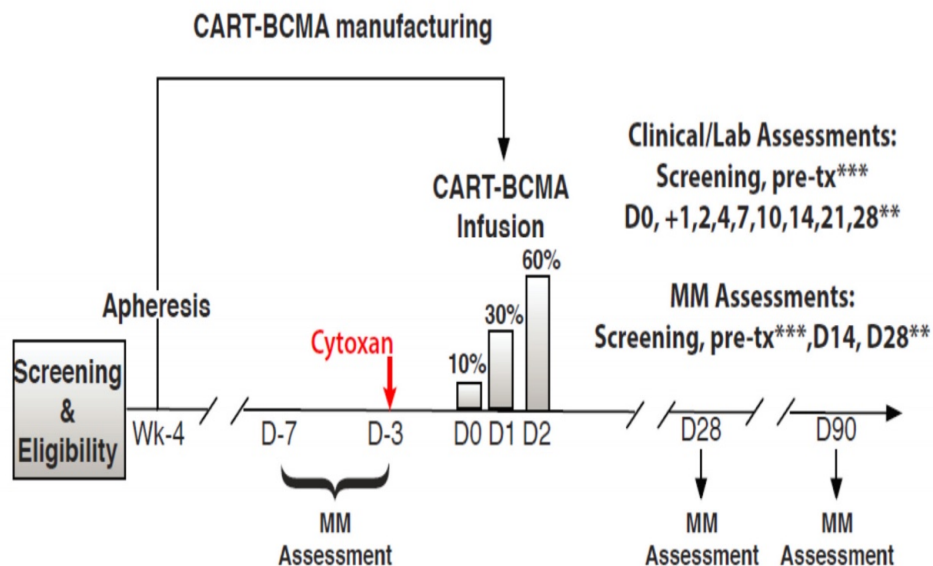
## NCI BCMA-specific CAR in rel/ref MM



- Dose:  $9 \times 10^6$  BCMA CAR T cells/kg after fludarabine and cytoxan lymphodepletion
- 16 patients treated
- Median 10 prior lines of therapy
- 6/16 (38%) had high risk cytogenetics; 5/16 (31%) deletion p53
- **ORR: 81%; 63% VGPR or CR**
- **Median EFS: 31 weeks**
- High peak blood CART cells was associated with response
- The latter 14 patients required to have a low burden of myeloma in the bone marrow to limit toxicity related to cytokine release syndrome (CRS). All patients had < 30% plasma cells by IHC of the core biopsy.

Brudno et al. J Clin Oncol. **2018** Aug 1;36(22):2267-2280

# UPENN



- 24 subjects
- 96% high risk cytogenetics
- 7 prior lines of therapy

\* Patients may receive therapy during manufacturing to maintain disease control

\*\* After first 28 days, follow-up is q4 wks up to 6 mos., then q3 mos. up to 2 years

\*\*\* Pre-tx = Pre-treatment. 3 to 7 days before CART cell infusion

[Adam Cohen et al. J Clin Invest.](#) 2019 Mar 21;130. pii: 126397

## ORR

Cohort 1: 44%

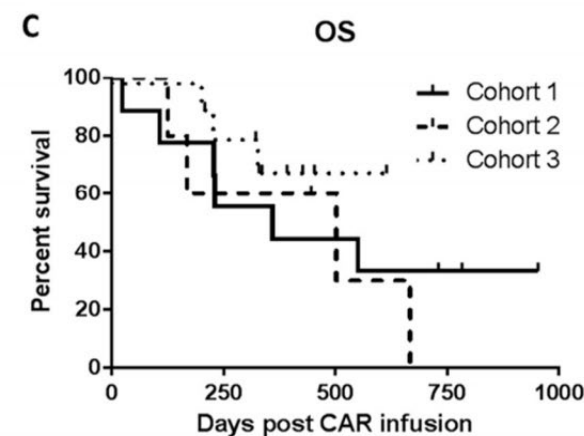
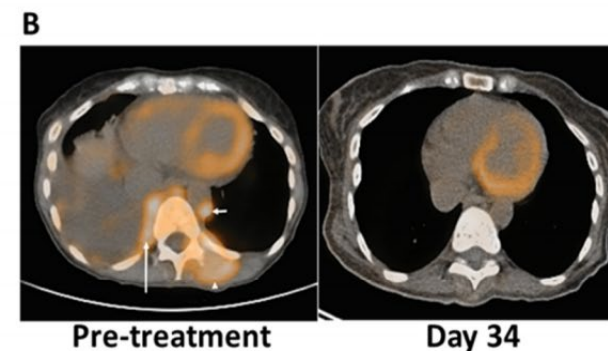
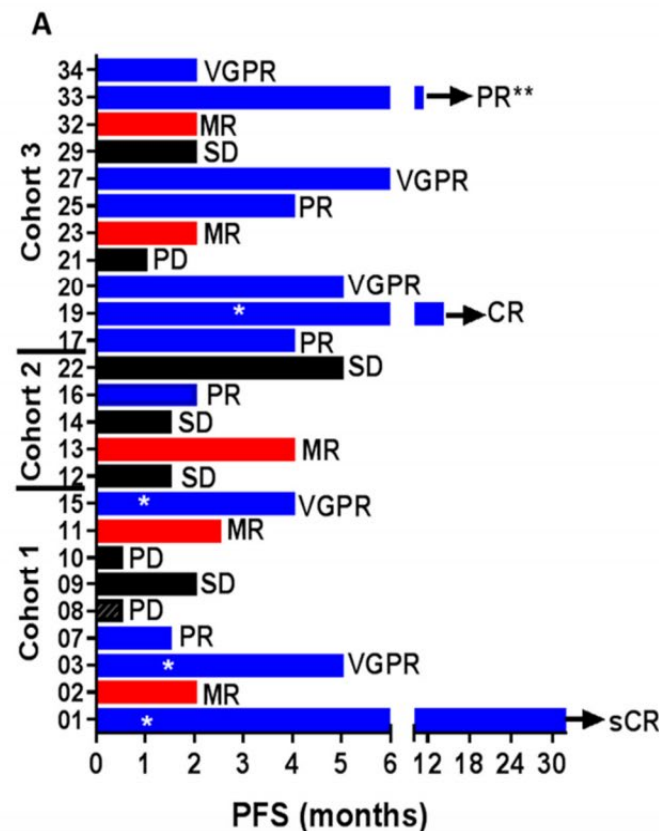
Cohort 2: 20%

Cohort 3: 64%

Median Duration  
Of response:  
124.5 days

3 patients  
ongoing

Remission more  
than 11 months,  
1 sCR>2.5 YRS



[Adam Cohen et al. J Clin Invest. 2019 Mar 21;130. pii: 126397](#)

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Anti-BCMA CAR T-Cell Therapy bb2121 in Relapsed or Refractory Multiple Myeloma

Noopur Raje, M.D., Jesus Berdeja, M.D., Yi Lin, M.D., Ph.D.,  
David Siegel, M.D., Ph.D., Sundar Jagannath, M.D., Deepu Madduri, M.D.,  
Michaela Liedtke, M.D., Jacalyn Rosenblatt, M.D., Marcela V. Maus, M.D., Ph.D.,  
Ashley Turka, Lyh-Ping Lam, Pharm.D., Richard A. Morgan, Ph.D.,  
Kevin Friedman, Ph.D., Monica Massaro, M.P.H., Julie Wang, Pharm.D., Ph.D.,  
Greg Russotti, Ph.D., Zhihong Yang, Ph.D., Timothy Campbell, M.D., Ph.D.,  
Kristen Hege, M.D., Fabio Petrocca, M.D., M. Travis Quigley, M.S.,  
Nikhil Munshi, M.D., and James N. Kochenderfer, M.D.

New England Journal of Medicine 380;18 nejm.org May 2, 2019

**Table 1. Baseline Characteristics of the Safety Population.\***

Characteristic	Dose-Escalation Cohort (N=21)	Expansion Cohort (N=12)	Total (N=33)
Median age (range) — yr	57 (37–74)	64 (46–75)	60 (37–75)
Male sex — no. (%)	13 (62)	8 (67)	21 (64)
Median time since diagnosis (range) — yr†	4 (1–16)	6 (1–36)	5 (1–36)
High tumor burden — no. (%)‡	11 (52)	5 (42)	16 (48)
Extramedullary disease — no. (%)	4 (19)	5 (42)	9 (27)
Tumor BCMA expression ≥50% — no. (%)§	21 (100)	2 (17)	23 (70)
ECOG performance-status score — no. (%)¶			
0	8 (38)	2 (17)	10 (30)
1	11 (52)	10 (83)	21 (64)
2	2 (10)	0	2 (6)
High-risk cytogenetic profile — no. (%)	8 (38)	7 (58)	15 (45)
Bridging therapy — no. (%)**	7 (33)	7 (58)	14 (42)
Progressive disease during most recent line of therapy — no. (%)	11 (52)	10 (83)	21 (64)
Median no. of previous antimyeloma regimens (range)	7 (3–14)	8 (3–23)	7 (3–23)
Previous autologous stem-cell transplantation — no. (%)	21 (100)	11 (92)	32 (97)
Previous therapies — no. (%)			
Bortezomib			
Exposed	21 (100)	12 (100)	33 (100)
Refractory	13 (62)	7 (58)	20 (61)
Carfilzomib			
Exposed	19 (90)	11 (92)	30 (91)
Refractory	12 (57)	7 (58)	19 (58)
Lenalidomide			
Exposed	21 (100)	12 (100)	33 (100)
Refractory	17 (81)	7 (58)	24 (73)
Pomalidomide			
Exposed	19 (90)	12 (100)	31 (94)
Refractory	14 (67)	12 (100)	26 (79)
Daratumumab			
Exposed	15 (71)	12 (100)	27 (82)
Refractory	9 (43)	9 (75)	18 (55)

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**Table 3. Tumor Response According to Dose of Chimeric Antigen Receptor–Positive (CAR+) T Cells.\***

Variable	50×10 <sup>6</sup> CAR+ T Cells (N=3)	150×10 <sup>6</sup> CAR+ T Cells (N=8)	450×10 <sup>6</sup> CAR+ T Cells		800×10 <sup>6</sup> CAR+ T Cells (N=3)	150×10 <sup>6</sup> – 800×10 <sup>6</sup> CAR+ T Cells (N=30)	50×10 <sup>6</sup> – 800×10 <sup>6</sup> CAR+ T Cells (N=33)
			<50% BCMA (N=8)†	≥50% BCMA (N=11)†			
<b>Objective response‡</b>							
No. of patients with a response	1	6	8	10	3	27	28
Rate — % (95% CI)	33 (1–91)	75 (35–97)	100 (63–100)	91 (59–100)	100 (29–100)	90 (74–98)	85 (68–95)
<b>Best overall response — no. (%)</b>							
Stringent complete response	0	5 (63)	3 (38)	4 (36)	0	12 (40)	12 (36)
Complete response	0	0	0	1 (9)	2 (67)	3 (10)	3 (9)
Very good partial response	0	0	4 (50)	4 (36)	1 (33)	9 (30)	9 (27)
Partial response	1 (33)	1 (12)	1 (12)	1 (9)	0	3 (10)	4 (12)
Stable disease	2 (67)	1 (12)	0	1 (9)	0	2 (7)	4 (12)
Progressive disease	0	1 (12)	0	0	0	1 (3)	1 (3)
Median duration of response (95% CI) — mo	1.9 (NE–NE)	NE	7.7 (5.3–14.8)		12.9 (10.9–12.9)	10.9 (7.2–NE)	10.9 (7.2–NE)
<b>Negativity for MRD§</b>							
No. of patients with a response who could be evaluated for MRD	0	4	11		1	16	16
Rate — %	0	100	100		100	100	100

New England Journal of Medicine 380;18 nejm.org May 2, 2019



RESEARCH

Open Access



# A phase 1, open-label study of LCAR-B38M, a chimeric antigen receptor T cell therapy directed against B cell maturation antigen, in patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma

Wan-Hong Zhao<sup>1†</sup>, Jie Liu<sup>1†</sup>, Bai-Yan Wang<sup>1†</sup>, Yin-Xia Chen<sup>1</sup>, Xing-Mei Cao<sup>1</sup>, Yun Yang<sup>1</sup>, Yi-Lin Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Fang-Xia Wang<sup>1</sup>, Peng-Yu Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Bo Lei<sup>1</sup>, Liu-Fang Gu<sup>1</sup>, Jian-Li Wang<sup>1</sup>, Nan Yang<sup>1</sup>, Ru Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Hui Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Ying Shen<sup>1</sup>, Ju Bai<sup>1</sup>, Yan Xu<sup>1</sup>, Xu-Geng Wang<sup>1</sup>, Rui-Li Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Li-Li Wei<sup>1</sup>, Zong-Fang Li<sup>2</sup>, Zhen-Zhen Li<sup>2</sup>, Yan Geng<sup>3</sup>, Qian He<sup>3</sup>, Qiu-Chuan Zhuang<sup>4</sup>, Xiao-Hu Fan<sup>4</sup>, Ai-Li He<sup>1,2</sup> and Wang-Gang Zhang<sup>1\*</sup>



## Exploratory trial of a biepitopic CAR T-targeting B cell maturation antigen in relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma

Jie Xu<sup>a,1</sup>, Li-Juan Chen<sup>b,1</sup>, Shuang-Shuang Yang<sup>a,1</sup>, Yan Sun<sup>a,1</sup>, Wen Wu<sup>a</sup>, Yuan-Fang Liu<sup>a</sup>, Ji Xu<sup>b</sup>, Yan Zhuang<sup>c</sup>, Wu Zhang<sup>a</sup>, Xiang-Qin Weng<sup>a</sup>, Jing Wu<sup>a</sup>, Yan Wang<sup>a</sup>, Jin Wang<sup>a</sup>, Hua Yan<sup>a</sup>, Wen-Bin Xu<sup>a</sup>, Hua Jiang<sup>c</sup>, Juan Du<sup>c</sup>, Xiao-Yi Ding<sup>d</sup>, Biao Li<sup>d</sup>, Jun-Min Li<sup>a</sup>, Wei-Jun Fu<sup>c</sup>, Jiang Zhu<sup>a</sup>, Li Zhu<sup>e</sup>, Zhu Chen<sup>a,2</sup>, Xiao-Hu (Frank) Fan<sup>e,2</sup>, Jian Hou<sup>c,2</sup>, Jian-Yong Li<sup>b,2</sup>, Jian-Qing Mi<sup>a,2</sup>, and Sai-Juan Chen<sup>a,2</sup>

<sup>a</sup>State Key Laboratory of Medical Genomics, Shanghai Institute of Hematology, National Research Center for Translational Medicine, Ruijin Hospital affiliated with Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, 200025 Shanghai, China; <sup>b</sup>Department of Hematology, Jiangsu Province Hospital, First Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medical University, 210029 Nanjing, China; <sup>c</sup>Department of Hematology, Changzheng Hospital, The Second Military Medical University, 200003 Shanghai, China; <sup>d</sup>Department of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, Ruijin Hospital affiliated with Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, 200025 Shanghai, China; and <sup>e</sup>Nanjing Legend Biotech, 210008 Nanjing, China

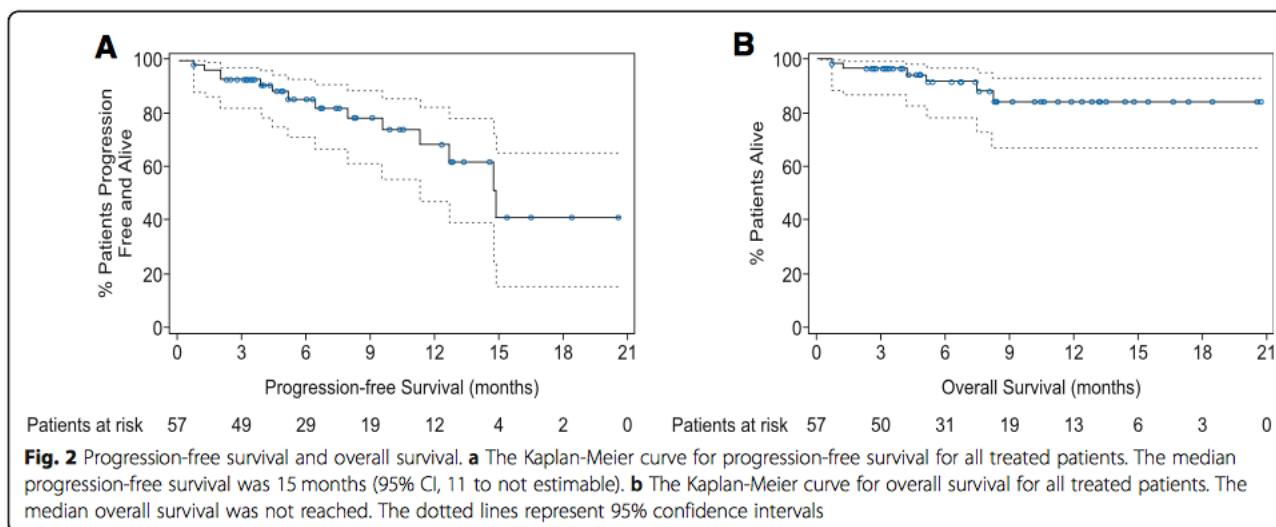
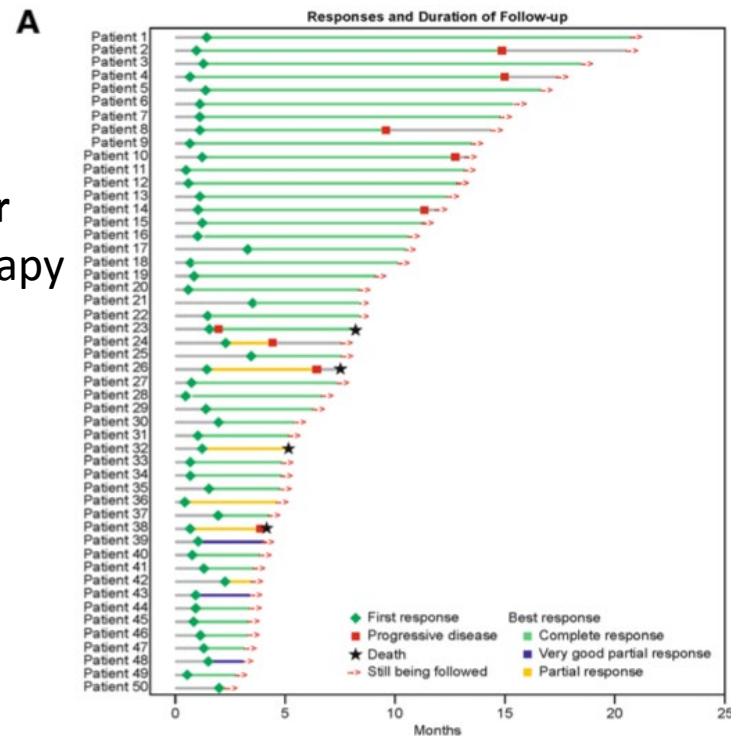
Contributed by Zhu Chen, December 17, 2018 (sent for review November 19, 2018; reviewed by Didier Blaise and Genhong Cheng)

**Table 2** Adverse events that occurred in at least 10% of patients

AE, n (%)	All grade	Grades 1–2	Grade ≥ 3
Pyrexia	52 (91)	41 (72)	11 (19)
Cytokine release syndrome <sup>a</sup>	51 (90)	47 (83)	4 (7)
Thrombocytopenia	28 (49)	15 (26)	13 (23)
Leukopenia	27 (47)	10 (18)	17 (30)
AST increased	22 (39)	10 (18)	12 (21)
Anemia	17 (30)	7 (12)	10 (18)
Hypotension	12 (21)	9 (16)	3 (5)
ALT increased	10 (18)	10 (18)	0
Cough	10 (18)	10 (18)	0
Disseminated intravascular coagulation	10 (18)	9 (16)	1 (2)
Hypocalcemia	9 (16)	7 (12)	2 (4)
Hyponatremia	8 (14)	5 (9)	3 (5)
Dyspnea	6 (11)	6 (11)	0
Nausea	6 (11)	6 (11)	0

Mean 3 prior  
Lines of therapy

ORR 88%  
CR 68%



Median PFS 15 months  
Median OS not reached

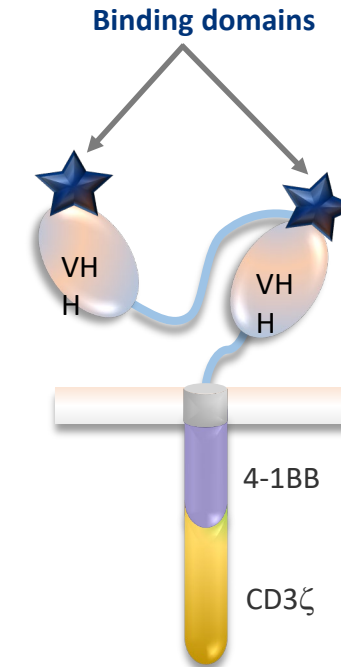
# Results from CARTITUDE-1: A Phase 1b/2 Study of JNJ-4528, a CAR-T Cell Therapy Directed Against B-Cell Maturation Antigen (BCMA), in Patients with Relapsed and/or Refractory Multiple Myeloma (R/R MM)

Deepu Madduri,<sup>1</sup> Saad Z. Usmani,<sup>2</sup> Sundar Jagannath,<sup>1</sup> Indrajeet Singh,<sup>3</sup> Enrique Zudaire,<sup>3</sup> Tzu-Min Yeh,<sup>4</sup> Alicia J. Allred,<sup>3</sup> Arnob Banerjee,<sup>3</sup> Jenna D. Goldberg,<sup>4</sup> Jordan M. Schecter,<sup>4</sup> Sen Zhuang,<sup>4</sup> Jeffrey R. Infante,<sup>3</sup> Syed Rizvi,<sup>5</sup> Frank Fan,<sup>6</sup> Andrzej Jakubowiak,<sup>7</sup> Jesus G. Berdeja<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, NY, USA; <sup>2</sup>Levine Cancer Institute-Atrium Health, Charlotte, NC, USA; <sup>3</sup>Janssen R&D, Spring House, PA, USA; <sup>4</sup>Janssen R&D, Raritan, NJ, USA; <sup>5</sup>Legend Biotech USA Inc., Piscataway, NJ, USA; <sup>6</sup>Nanjing Legend Biotech, Nanjing, China; <sup>7</sup>University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA; <sup>8</sup>Sarah Cannon Research Institute, Nashville, TN, USA

# JNJ-4528: BCMA-targeted CAR-T Cell Therapy

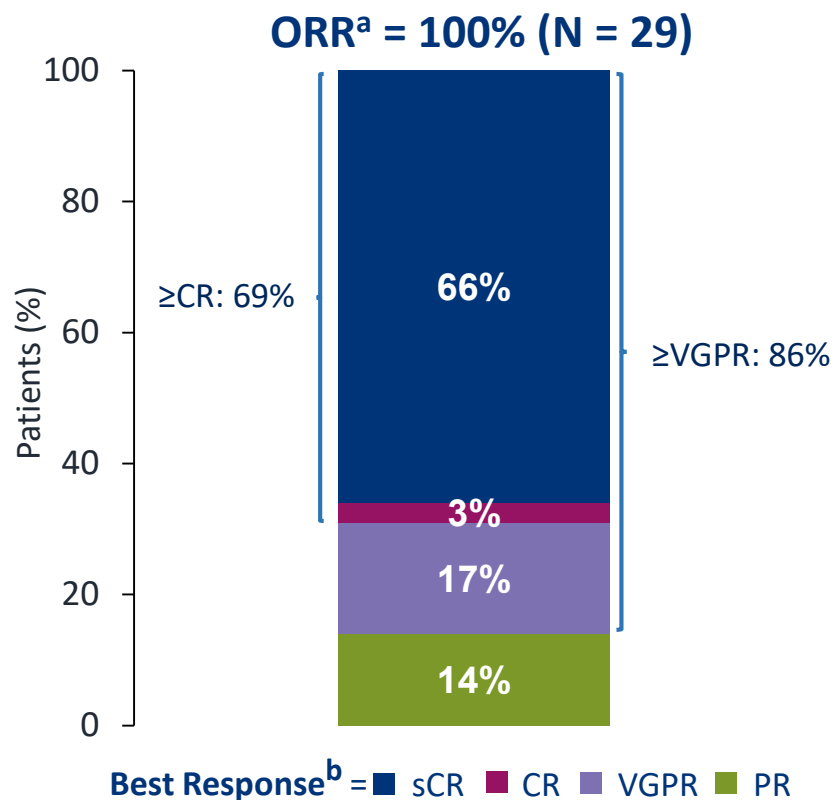
- **JNJ-68284528 (JNJ-4528) is a structurally differentiated chimeric antigen receptor T (CAR-T) cell therapy**
  - Contains a CD3ζ signaling domain and 4-1BB costimulatory domain
  - 2 BCMA-targeting single domain antibodies designed to confer avidity
  - Identical to the CAR construct used in the LEGEND-2 study
- **LEGEND-2 (N = 74): Phase 1 investigator-initiated study conducted in China**
  - High, deep, and durable overall response and manageable safety in R/R MM<sup>a,b</sup>



**JNJ-4528 CAR**

<sup>a</sup>Zhao et al. *JHO* 2018;11(1):141; <sup>b</sup>Xu et al. *PNAS* 2019;116(19):9543; BCMA=B-cell maturation antigen; MM=multiple myeloma; R/R=relapsed/refractory; VHH=single variable domain on a heavy chain

## CARTITUDE-1: Overall Response Rate

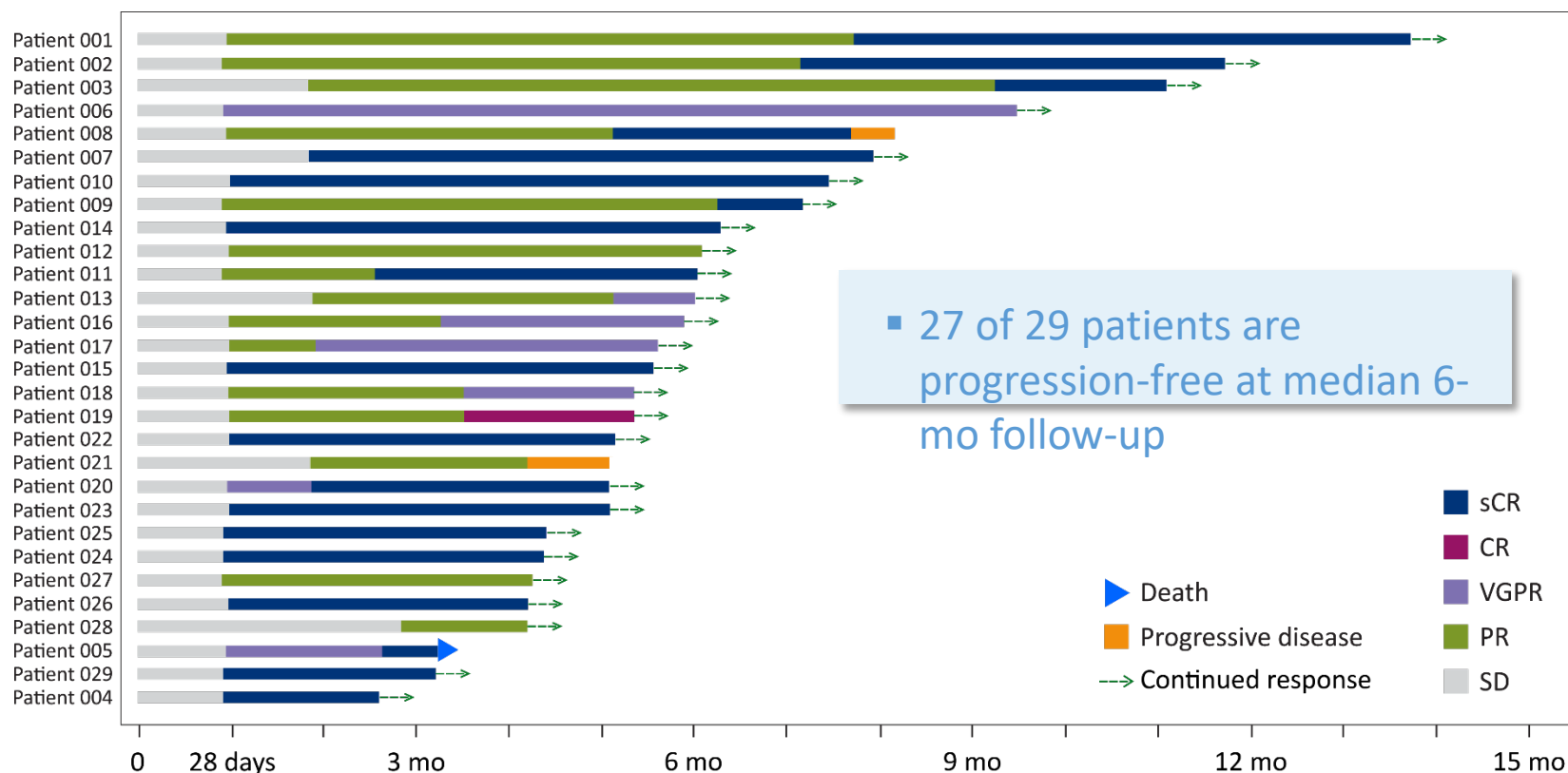


- ORR and depth of response were independent of BCMA expression on MM cells at baseline
- Median time to first response = 1 mo (1 – 3)
- Median time to ≥CR = 1 mo (1 – 9)

<sup>a</sup>PR or better; Independent Review Committee-assessed, <sup>b</sup>No patient had stable disease or progressive disease as best response. CR=complete response; ORR=overall response rate; PR=partial response; sCR=stringent complete response; VGPR=very good partial response

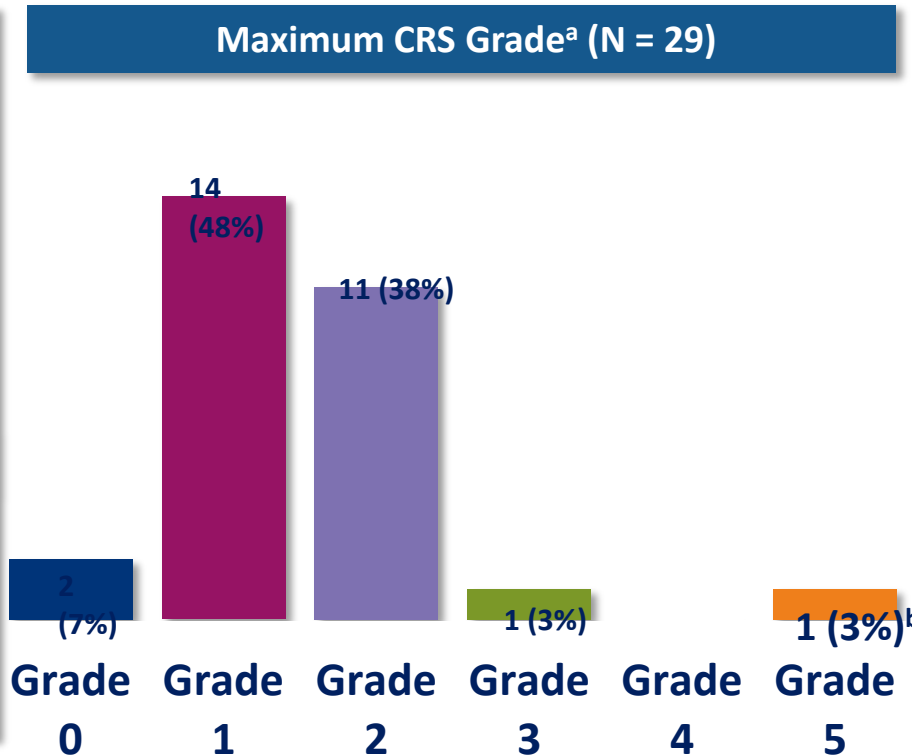
ASH Annual Meeting; Madduri et al Abstract #577

# CARTITUDE-1: Duration of Response



## CARTITUDE-1: Safety

	N = 29	
Hematologic AEs (≥25% All Grade)	All Grade	Grade ≥3
Neutropenia	27 (93)	27 (93)
Anemia	25 (86)	16 (55)
Thrombocytopenia	25 (86)	20 (69)
Leukopenia	15 (52)	15 (52)
Lymphopenia	13 (45)	9 (31)
Non-Hematologic AEs (≥25% All Grade)		
Increased AST	9 (31)	2 (7)
Increased ALT	8 (28)	1 (3)
Diarrhea	8 (28)	1 (3)
Upper respiratory tract infection	8 (28)	0



ASH Annual Meeting; Madduri et al Abstract #577

## CARTITUDE-1 Cytokine Release Syndrome and Neurotoxicity

Cytokine Release Syndrome	Total (N = 29)
Patients with CRS, n (%)	27 (93)
Median time to onset of CRS, days (range)	7 (2 – 12)
Median duration of CRS, days (range)	4 (1 – 60)
Supportive Measure to Treat CRS	
Tocilizumab	22 (76)
Anakinra	6 (21)
Corticosteroids	6 (21)
Vasopressor used	2 (7)
Intubation/Mechanical Ventilation	1 (3)
Other <sup>a</sup>	22 (76)

CAR-T-associated AEs	N = 29	
	All Grade	Grade ≥3
Neurotoxicity consistent with ICANS <sup>b</sup>	3 (10)	1 (3)

ASH Annual Meeting; Madduri et al Abstract #577

**Mechanisms of action**

- 1) **BCMA receptor signaling inhibition**
- 2) **ADC mechanism**  
Targets dividing cells
- 3) **ADCC mechanism**  
Targets dividing and non dividing cells
- 4) **Immunogenic cell death**

ADC, antibody-dependent cytotoxicity; ADCC, antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity;  
BCMA, B cell maturation antigen; MMAF, monomethyl auristatin-F.



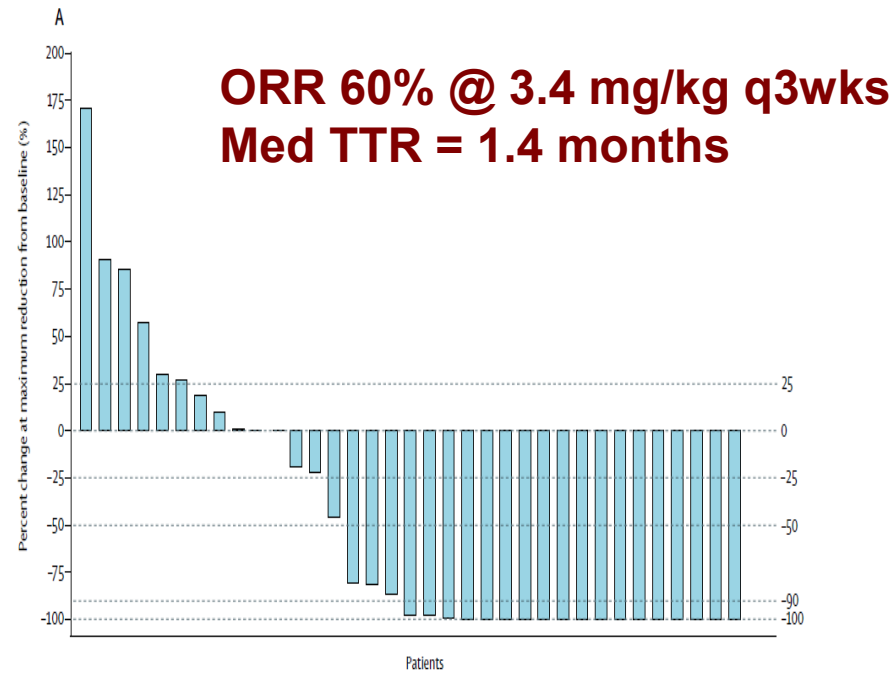
## DREAMM-1 Part 2: Adverse Events Regardless of Relationship

n (%)	N=35	
	Any grade	≥Grade 3*
Any event	35 (100)	28 (80)
Thrombocytopenia	20 (57)	12 (34)
→ Vision blurred	16 (46)	0
→ Dry eye	12 (34)	1 (3)
Anemia	10 (29)	5 (14)
AST increased	10 (29)	2 (6)
Cough	9 (26)	0
IRR	8 (23)	3 (9)
Nausea	8 (23)	0
→ Photophobia	8 (23)	0
Pyrexia	8 (23)	0
Chills	8 (23)	0
Fatigue	7 (20)	0

- Any ocular symptoms = 63%
  - Grade 3 = 9%
- Median time to onset= 23 days (range 1-84)
- Median duration = 30 days (range 5 – 224)
- Treat by dose delay and reduction
  - Artificial tears
  - Role of steroid eye drops?
- Corneal findings on exam in 89%
  - Microcystic changes, keratitis
  - Reversible

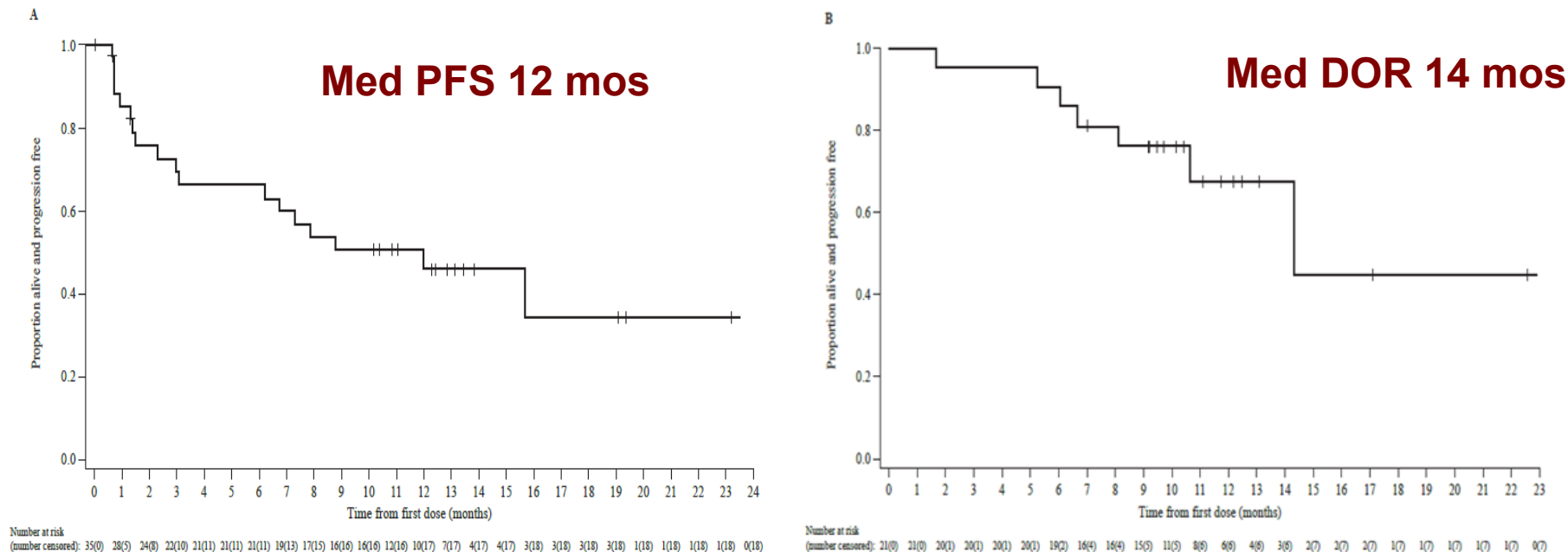
# Belantamab mafadotin

Part 2 expansion (n=35)



Trudel et al, Lancet Onc 2018; Trudel et al, Blood Cancer J 2019

# Belantamab mafadotin



**PI/IMiD/Dara-ref (n=13)**  
**ORR 39%, PFS 6 mos.**

Trudel et al, Blood Cancer J 2019

## **Belantamab mafodotin for relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma (DREAMM-2): a two-arm, randomised, open-label, phase 2 study.**

Lonial S<sup>1</sup>, Lee HC<sup>2</sup>, Badros A<sup>3</sup>, Trudel S<sup>4</sup>, Nooka AK<sup>5</sup>, Chari A<sup>6</sup>, Abdallah AO<sup>7</sup>, Callander N<sup>8</sup>, Lendvai N<sup>9</sup>, Sborov D<sup>10</sup>, Suvannasankha A<sup>11</sup>, Weisel K<sup>12</sup>, Karlin L<sup>13</sup>, Libby E<sup>14</sup>, Arnulf B<sup>15</sup>, Facon T<sup>16</sup>, Hulin C<sup>17</sup>, Kortüm KM<sup>18</sup>, Rodríguez-Otero P<sup>19</sup>, Usmani SZ<sup>20</sup>, Hari P<sup>21</sup>, Baz R<sup>22</sup>, Quach H<sup>23</sup>, Moreau P<sup>24</sup>, Voorhees PM<sup>20</sup>, Gupta I<sup>25</sup>, Hoos A<sup>25</sup>, Zhi E<sup>25</sup>, Baron J<sup>25</sup>, Piontek T<sup>25</sup>, Lewis E<sup>26</sup>, Jewell RC<sup>26</sup>, Dettman EJ<sup>25</sup>, Popat R<sup>27</sup>, Esposti SD<sup>28</sup>, Opalinska J<sup>25</sup>, Richardson P<sup>29</sup>, Cohen AD<sup>30</sup>.

- Phase 2 study
- Patients with three or more lines of therapy
- refractory to immunomodulatory drugs and proteasome inhibitors, and refractory or intolerant (or both) to an anti-CD38 monoclonal antibody
- 2·5 mg/kg or 3·4mg/kg belantamab mafodotin via intravenous infusion every 3 weeks on day 1 of each cycle until disease progression or unacceptable

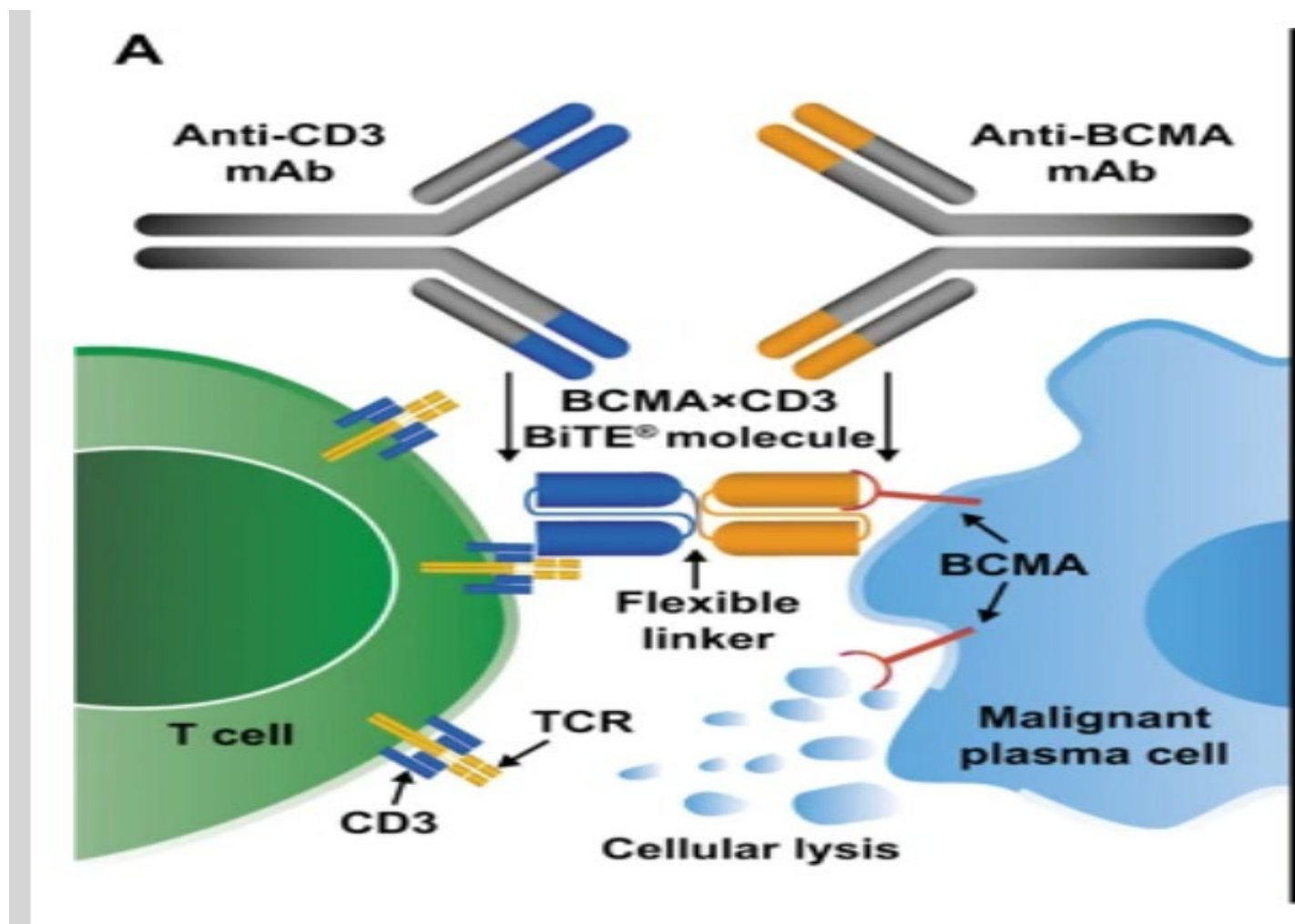
## DREAM-2 DATA

- 196 were included (97 in the 2·5 mg/kg cohort and 99 in the 3·4 mg/kg cohort).
- ORR:
  - 31%; in the 2·5 mg/kg cohort
  - 34% in the 3·4 mg/kg cohort achieved an overall response.

Most common grade 3-4 adverse events :

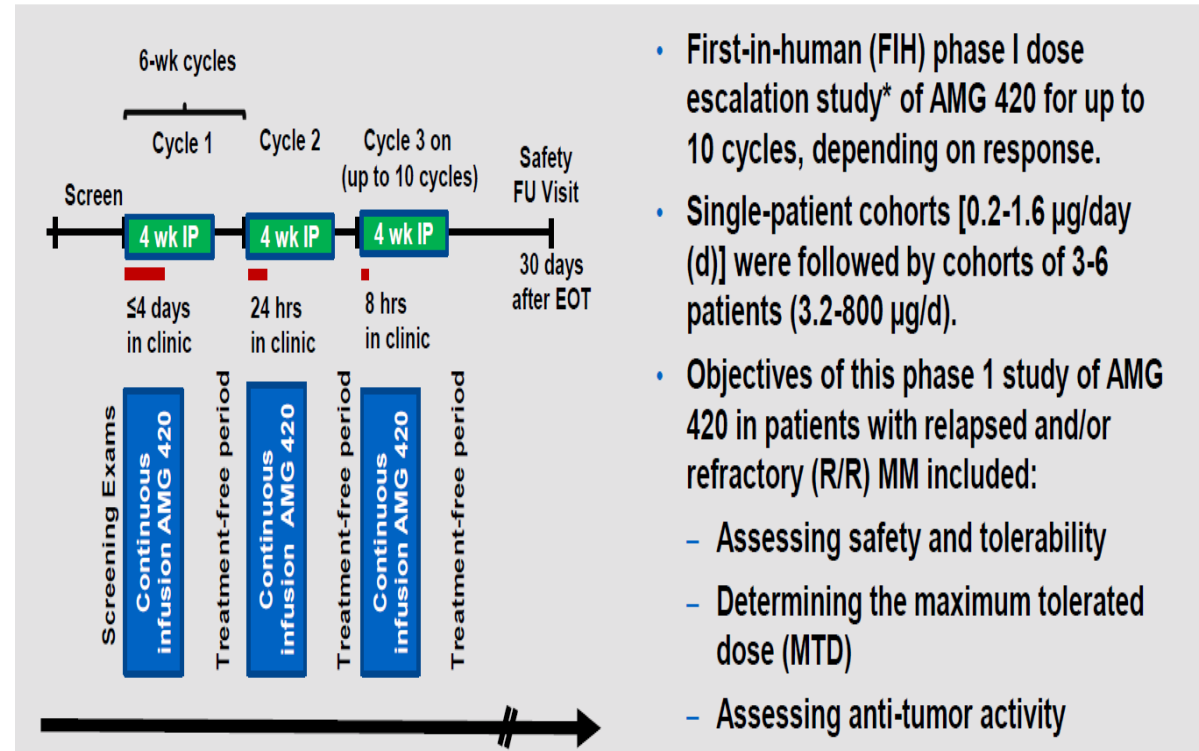
- keratopathy 27% in the 2·5 mg/kg cohort and 21% in the 3·4 mg/kg cohort),
- thrombocytopenia 20% , 33%
- anaemia 20% and 25%
- Two deaths were potentially treatment related (one case of sepsis in the 2·5 mg/kg cohort and one case of haemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis in the 3·4 mg/kg cohort).
- Single-agent belantamab mafodotin shows anti-myeloma activity with a manageable safety profile in patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma.

# BITE



# BCMA BiTE: AMG 420 Phase 1

## AMG 420: STUDY SCHEMATIC/ OBJECTIVES



- First-in-human (FIH) phase I dose escalation study\* of AMG 420 for up to 10 cycles, depending on response.
- Single-patient cohorts [0.2-1.6 µg/day (d)] were followed by cohorts of 3-6 patients (3.2-800 µg/d).
- Objectives of this phase 1 study of AMG 420 in patients with relapsed and/or refractory (R/R) MM included:
  - Assessing safety and tolerability
  - Determining the maximum tolerated dose (MTD)
  - Assessing anti-tumor activity

**TABLE 3.** Cytokine Release Syndrome and Serious AEs

Variable	No. (%)	No. of Patients With AEs at Each Grade				
		1	2	3	4	5
No. of patients	42					
Infections serious AEs						
All	14 (33)	—	4	8	—	2 <sup>b</sup>
Pulmonary <sup>a</sup>	6 (14)	—	3	3	—	—
Central line/port infections	5 (12)	—	—	5	—	—
Adenovirus <sup>b,c</sup>	1 (2)	—	—	—	—	1
Aspergillosis/influenza <sup>b</sup>	1 (2)	—	—	—	—	1
Infection of unknown origin (fever) <sup>d</sup>	1 (2)	—	1	—	—	—
Treatment-related serious AEs						
Peripheral polyneuropathy	2 (5)	—	—	2	—	—
Edema	1 (2)	—	—	1	—	—
Cytokine release syndrome						
All treatment related, maximum grade	16 (38)	13	2	1	—	—

Abbreviation: AE, adverse event.

<sup>a</sup>Includes pneumonia (n = 4) and 1 each of bronchiopulmonary infection and infectious pneumopathy.

<sup>b</sup>One patient died as a result of aspergillosis/influenza and 1 as a result of fulminant hepatitis related to adenovirus infection; neither death was treatment related.

<sup>c</sup>Death in 400 µg/d cohort as a result of fulminant hepatitis related to adenovirus infection in the setting of immunosuppression not considered related to AMG 420. The trial sponsor held enrollment of new patients while responding to regulatory questions; subsequently, it was decided to halt enrollment after 10 patients had enrolled at 400 µg/d because an additional study of AMG 420 was being initiated.

<sup>d</sup>Accompanied by treatment-related SAE of grade 1 fever.

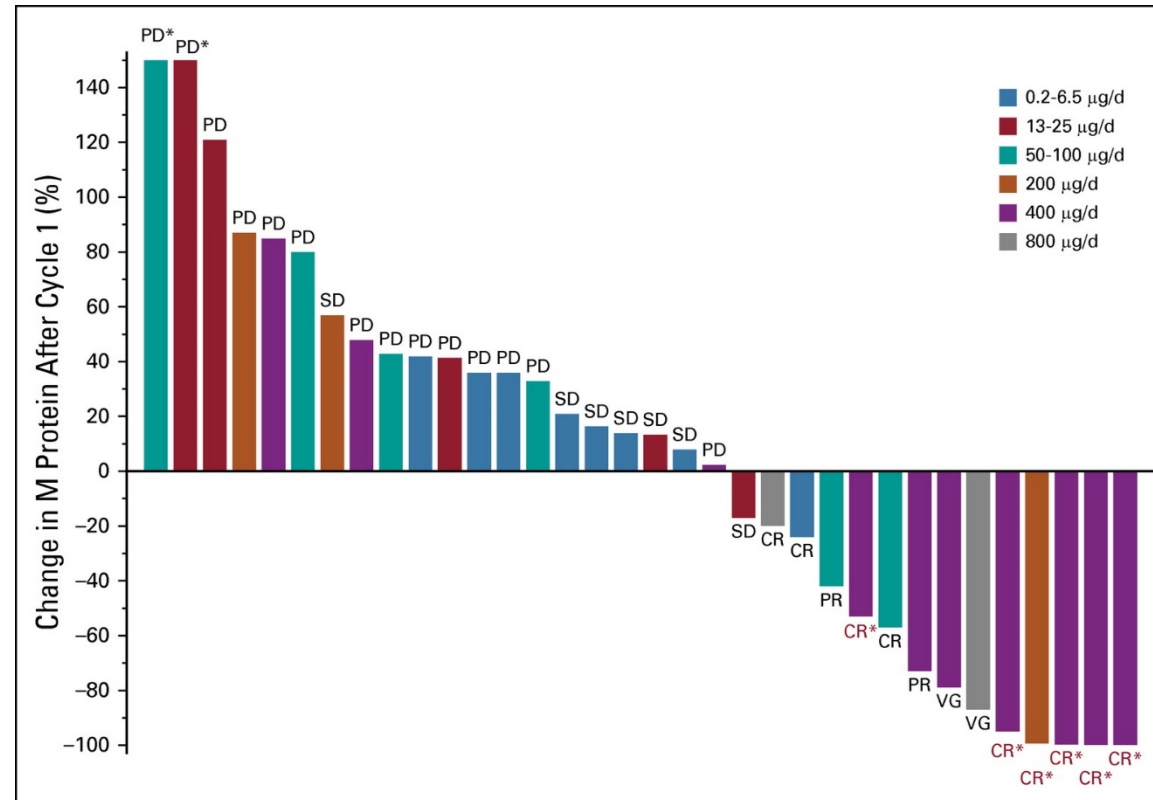
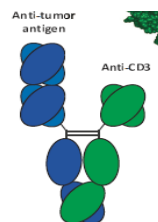


FIG A2. Cycle 1 change in M protein with best overall response. Best overall responses per investigator are shown next to percent change in M protein in the first cycle. Patients who lacked baseline M-protein values ( $n = 2$ ), M-protein values at least 2 weeks postbaseline ( $n = 3$ ), or postbaseline response assessments ( $n = 3$  of whom 2 were treated  $\leq 14$  days before discontinuation because of an adverse event) were not included in this graph. CR, complete response; CR\*, minimal residual disease-negative CR; PD, progressive disease; PD\*, progressive disease with increase in M protein  $> 150\%$ ; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease; VG, very good partial response.

**ORR : 31%**  
**AT THE MTD OF 400 µg/d: ORR 70%**

# Newer Bispecific Antibodies for Myeloma



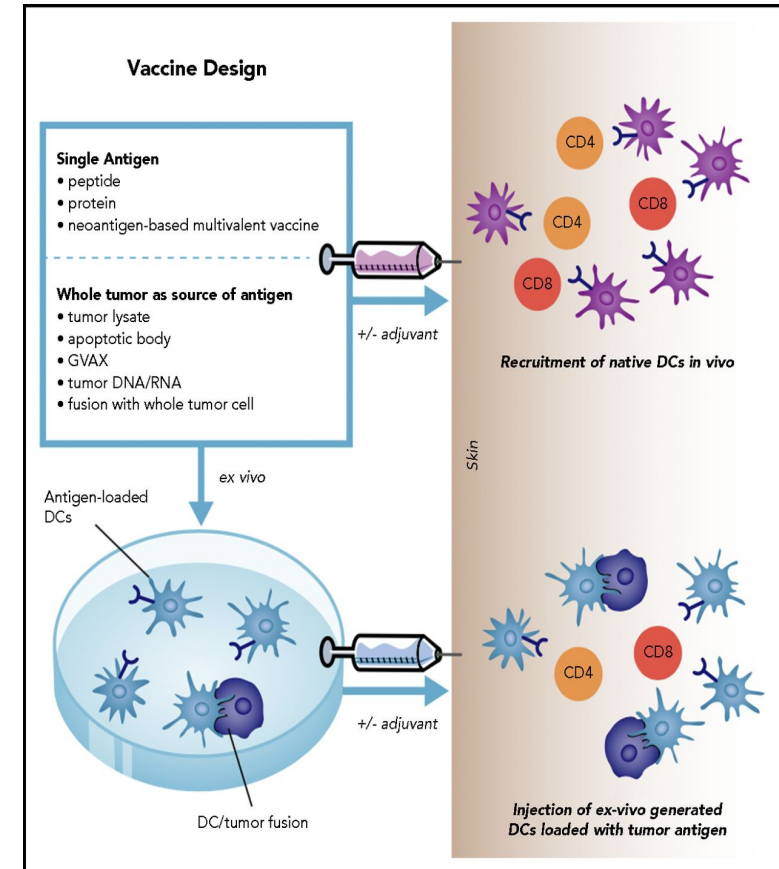
	IgG-like molecules	Non-IgG-like molecules
Fc domain	Yes	No
Half-life	Long	Short

**AMG701 (BCMA)**  
**PF-06863135 (BCMA)**  
**JNJ-64007957 (BCMA)**  
 EM801 (BCMA)  
**CC-93269/EM901 (BCMA)**  
**REGN5458 (BCMA)**  
 HPN217 (BCMA)  
**TNB-383B (BCMA)**  
 AFM26 (BCMA)  
**BFCR4350A (FcRH5)**  
**GBR1342 (CD38)**  
**AMG424 (CD38)**  
**JNJ-64407564 (GPRC5D)**

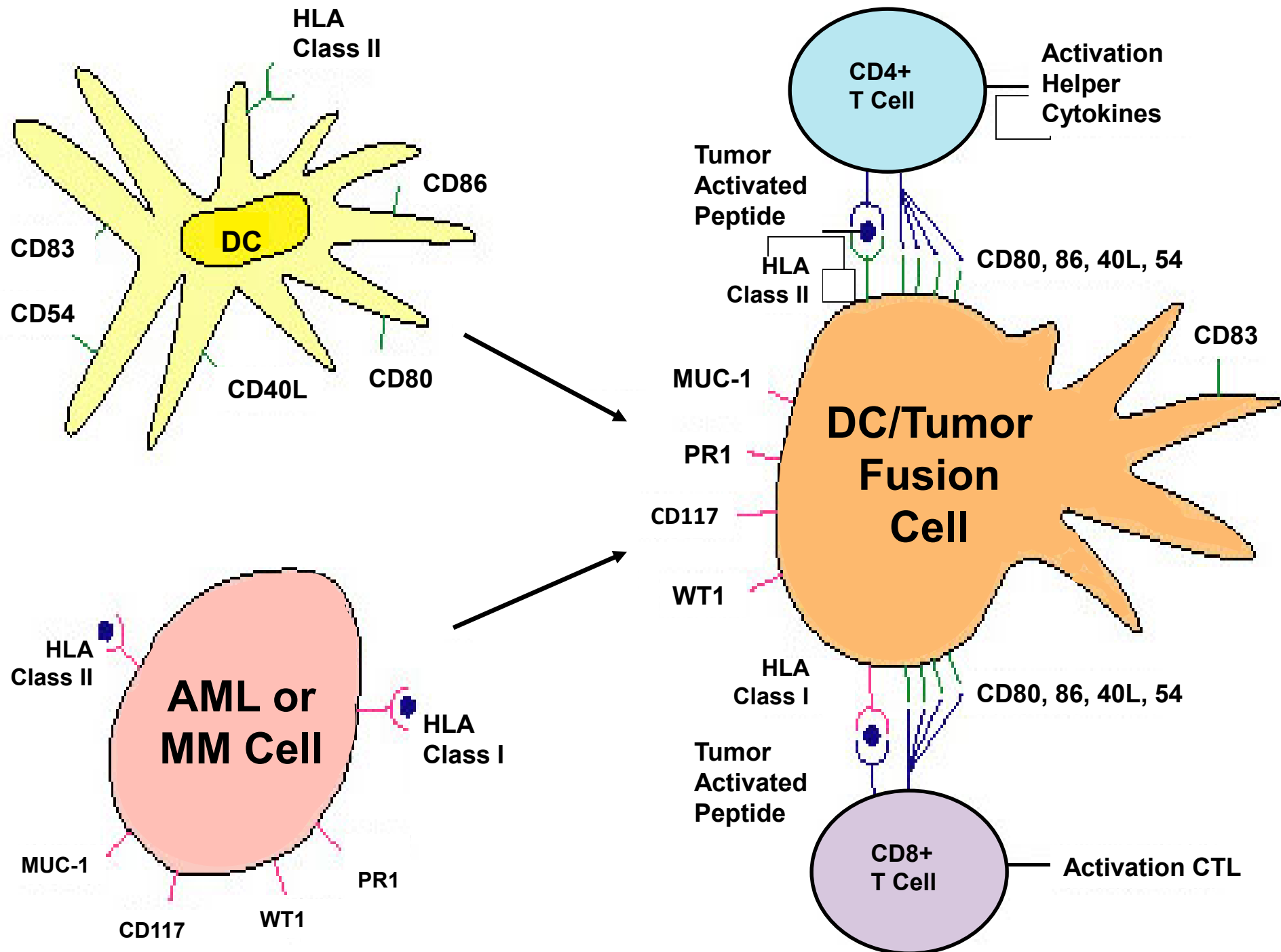
**AMG420 (BCMA)**  
**Blinatumumab (CD19)**

# Designing an Effective Cancer Vaccine

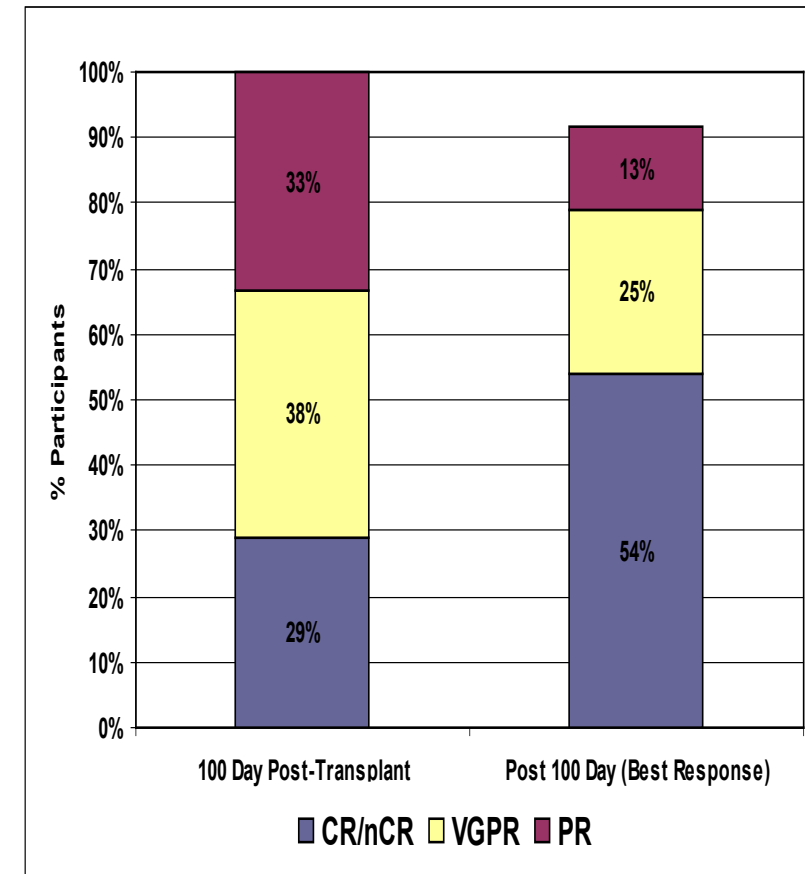
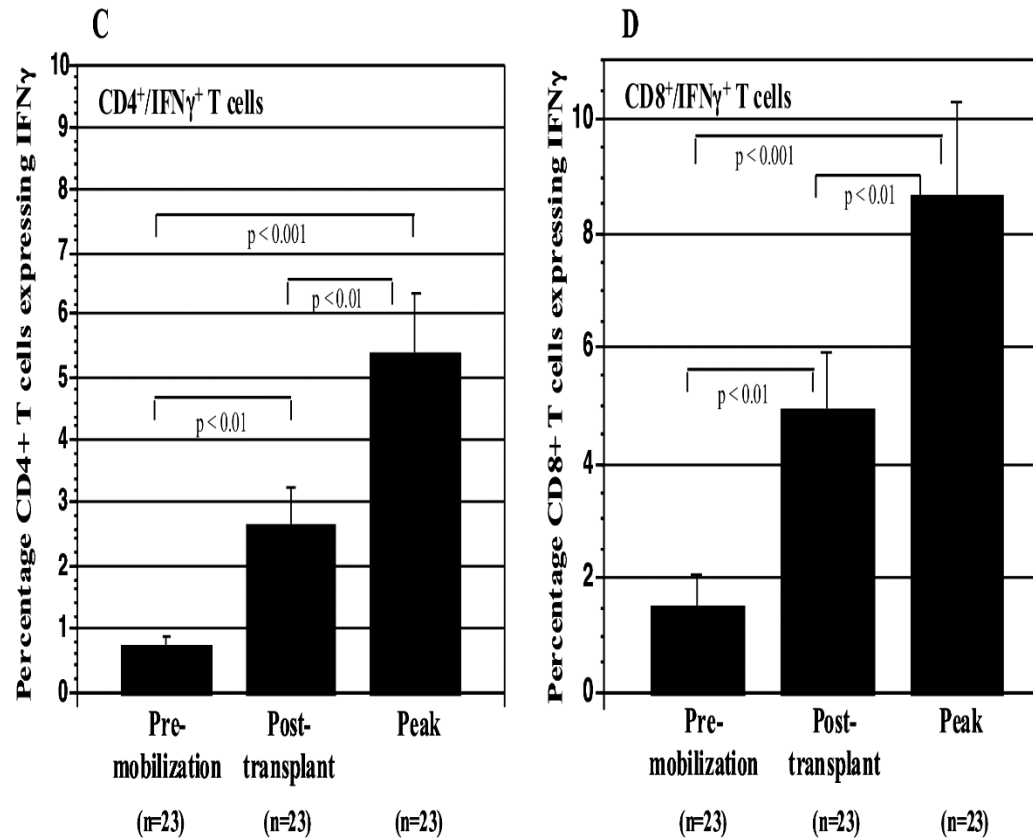
- Expansion and activation of tumor specific lymphocytes to eliminate disease and prevent recurrence
  - Selective targeting of malignant cells
  - Capturing tumor heterogeneity
  - Creation of memory for long term immune surveillance
  - Reversal of the immune suppression of the tumor microenvironment
- Combinatorial strategies



David Avigan, and Jacalyn Rosenblatt Blood 2018;131:2640-2650



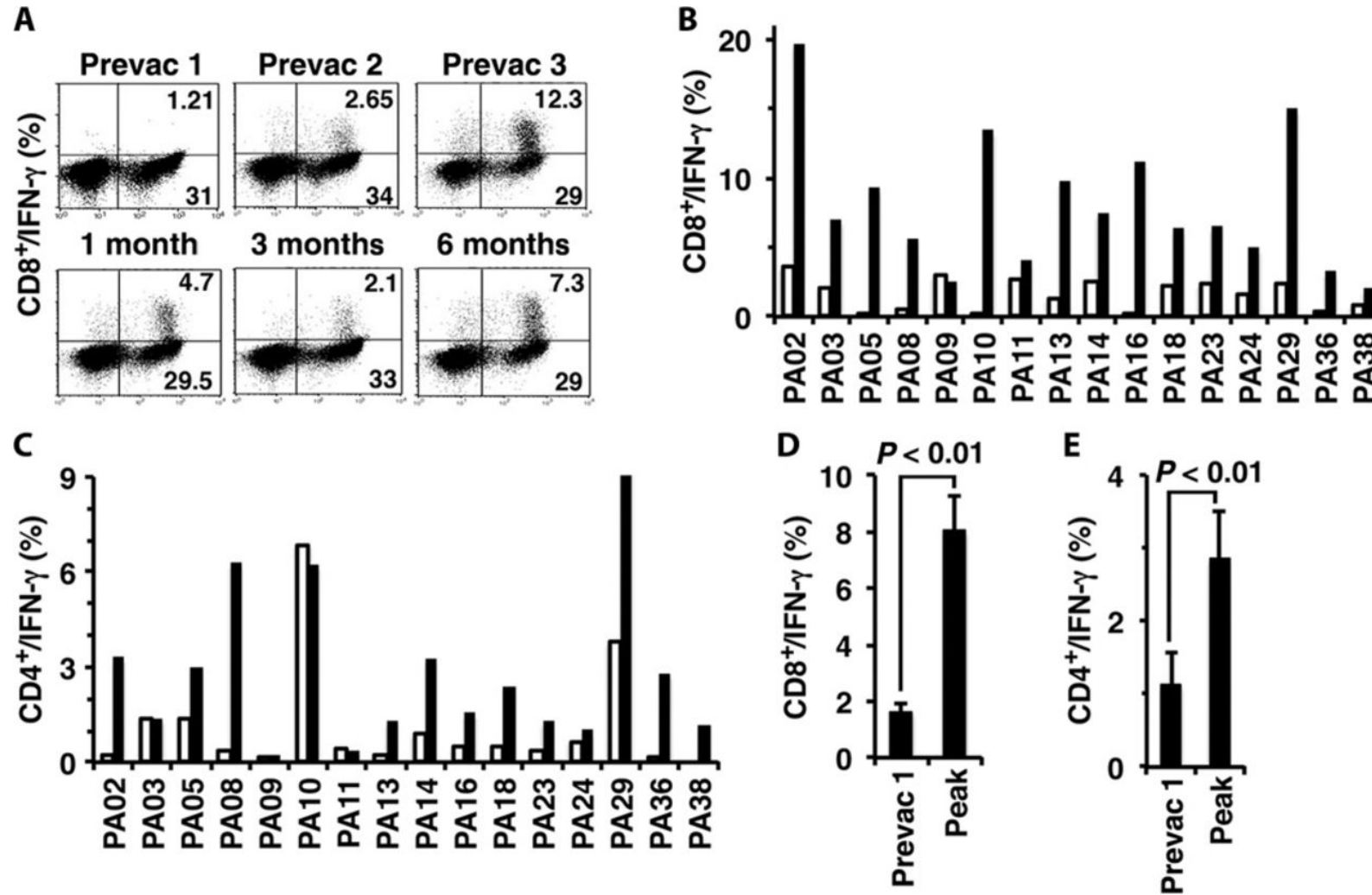
# Vaccination Induced Expansion of MM reactive T cells and Targeting of MRD



# **BMT CTN Protocol 1401**

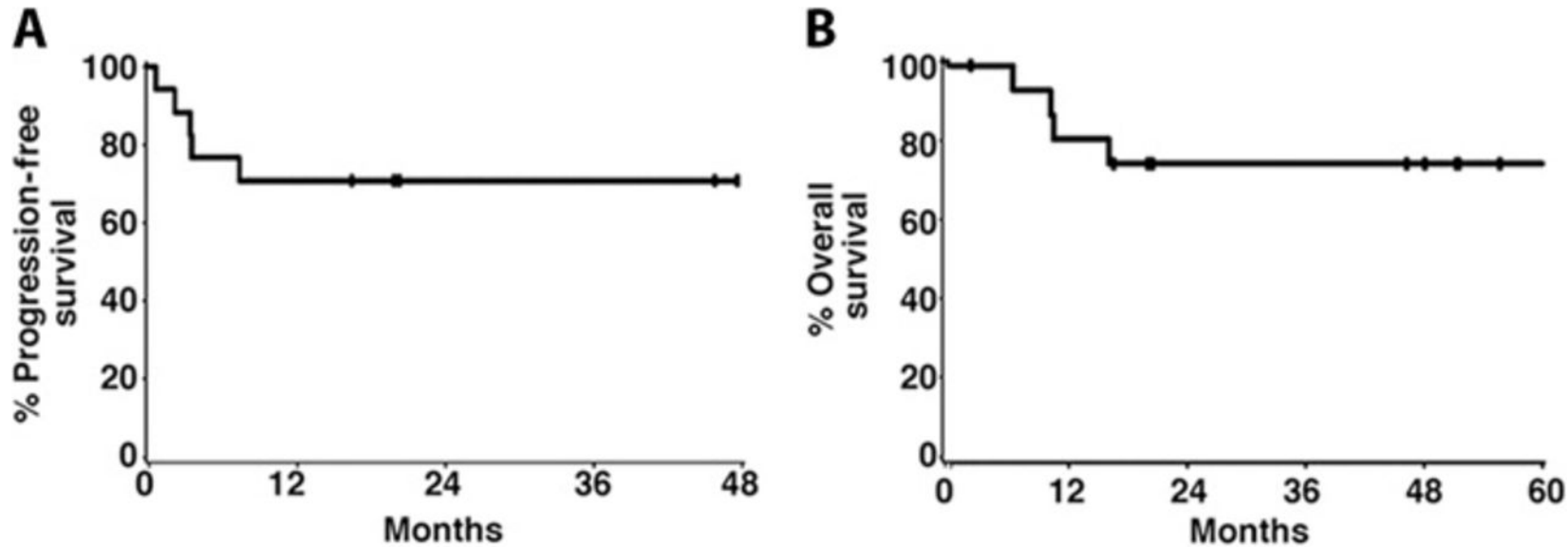
*Phase II Multicenter Trial of Single Autologous Hematopoietic Cell Transplant Followed by Lenalidomide Maintenance for Multiple Myeloma with or without Vaccination with Dendritic Cell (DC)/Myeloma Fusions (MY T VAX)*

# Expansion of leukemia-specific CD4+ and CD8+ T cells after vaccination



Rosenblatt et al Sci Transl Med 2016;8:368ra171

# Clinical Outcome



- 12 of 17 patients who received at least one dose of vaccine remain alive and in remission (**71%**; 90% CI, 52 to 89%) at 16.7 to 66.5 months from initiating vaccination
- **Median follow-up: 57 months**

# Ongoing Clinical Trials in AML

- **Randomized phase II study evaluating DC/AML fusion vaccine versus control following remission**
- Patients 55 years or older who achieve remission are randomized to either
  - DC/AML fusion vaccine alone
  - observation
- Primary clinical endpoint: 2-year progression free survival
- Secondary clinical endpoint: overall survival
- **Clinical Trial of Vaccination with DC/AML fusions following allogeneic transplantation**

**5R01CA212649**

SPORE IN LEUKEMIA, 1 P50 CA 206963-01; PROJECT 4

# Conclusions

- Many immunotherapy options for hematological malignancies
- Checkpoint inhibitors for Hodgkin lymphoma and PMBCL – high response rate, excellent tolerance, durable responses if CR
- Blinatumomab and inotuzumab for ALL – effective salvage, deeper remissions
- Polatuzumab vedotin for DLBCL – effective salvage, potential to become frontline
- CAR T therapy – ever-increasing indications; patient selection and toxicity management
- Critical to consider combination therapy and biomarkers of response/resistance

# Additional Resources

Boyiadzis et al. *Journal for Immunotherapy of Cancer* (2016) 4:90  
 DOI 10.1186/s40425-016-0188-z

Journal for Immunotherapy  
 of Cancer

**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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