

# Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Hematologic Malignancies

**Jacqueline S. Garcia, MD**

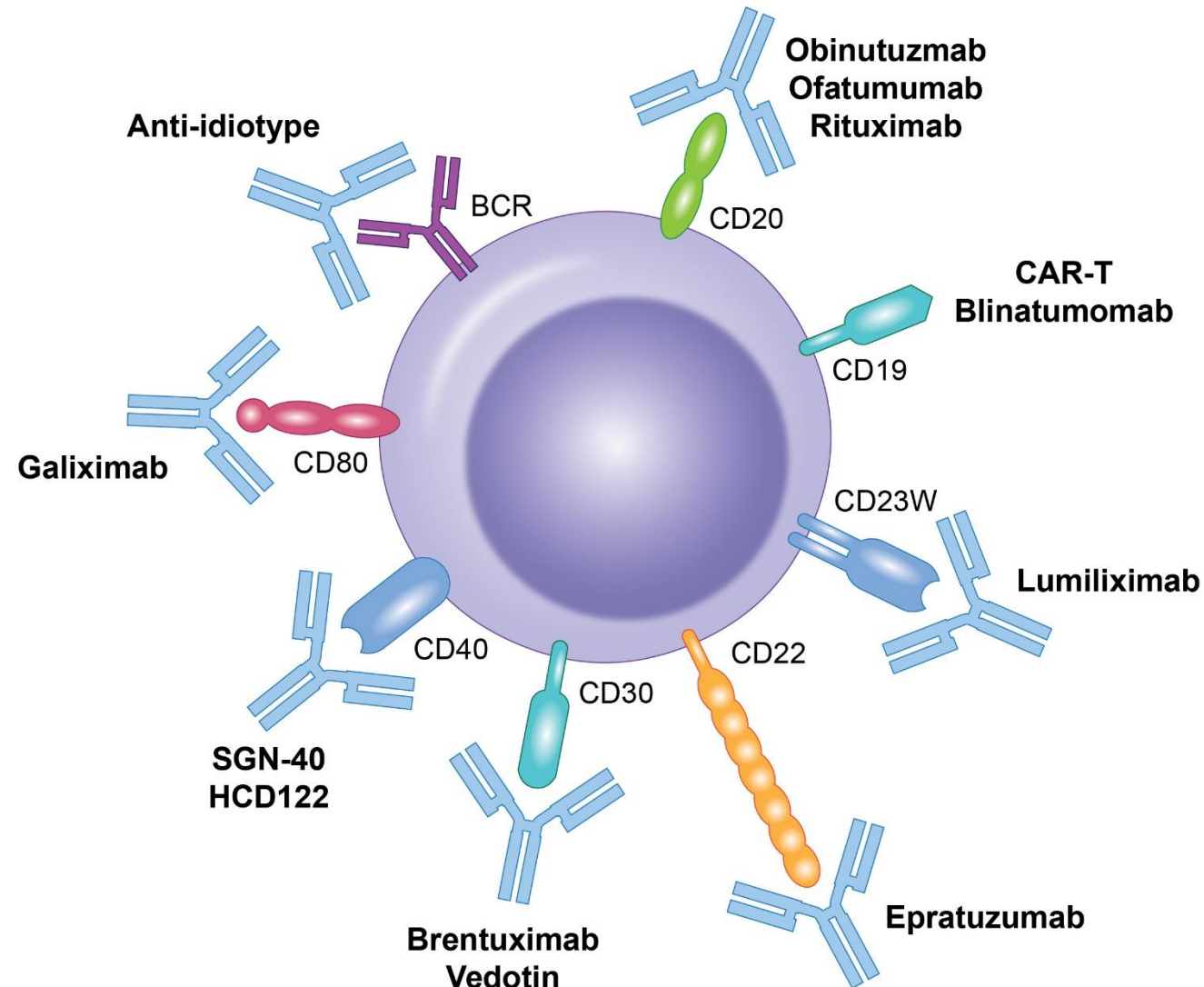
Instructor in Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Brigham & Women's Hospital

# Disclosures

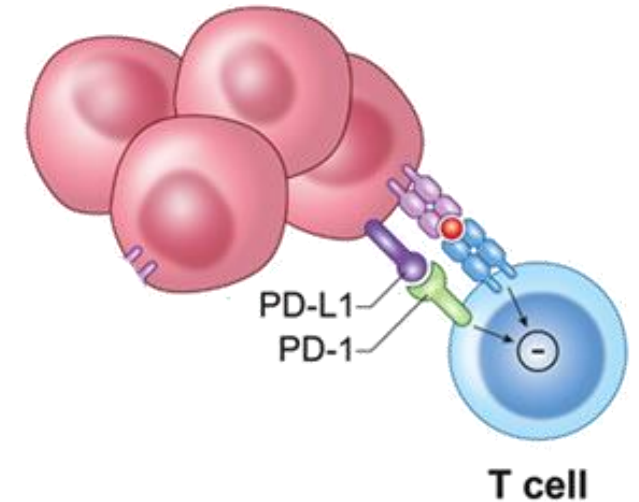
- Disclosures: None
- I will not be discussing non-FDA approved indications during my presentation.

# Monoclonal Antibodies Targeting B Cell Lymphomas



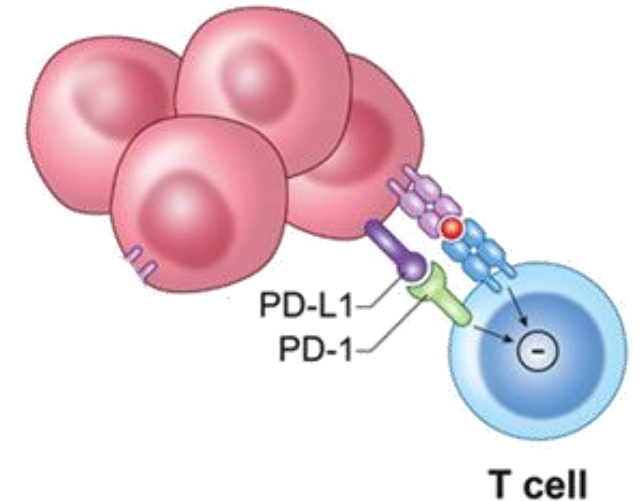
# FDA-approved Checkpoint Inhibitors for Lymphomas

- 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



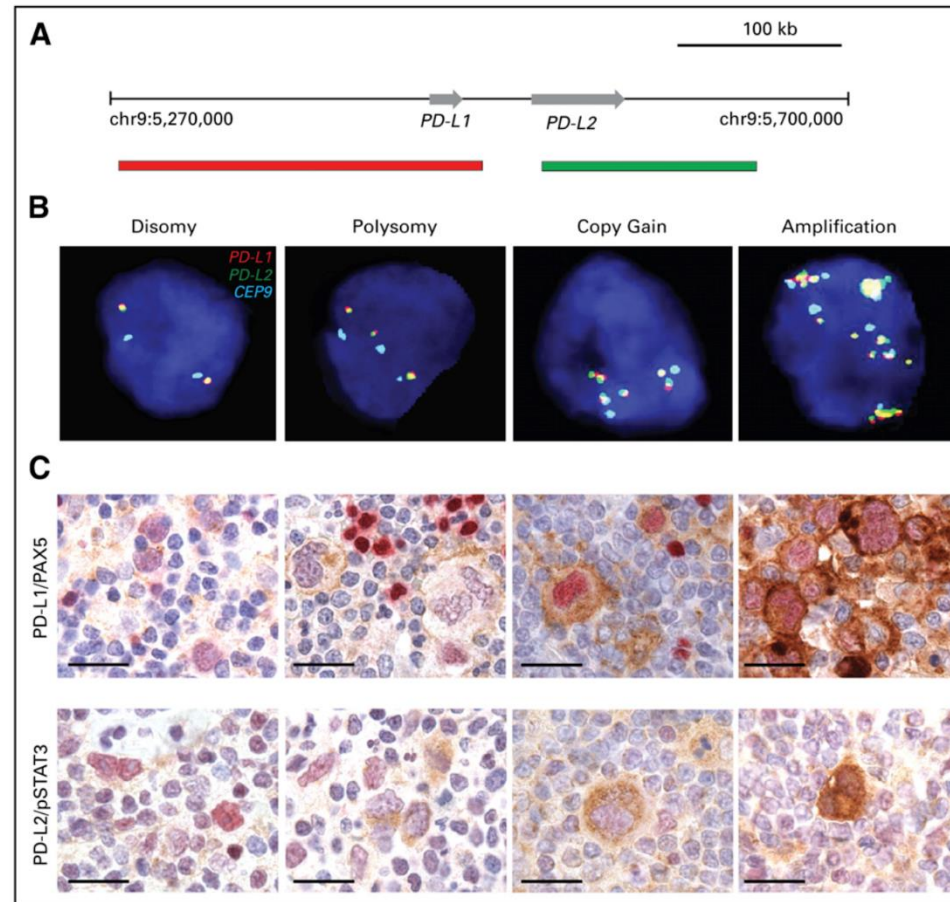
# Patient Selection Criteria for Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapies

- 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





# Classical Hodgkin Lymphoma has a genetic basis for immune evasion



Roemer MGM et al., J Clin Oncol, 2016 Aug;34:2690-2697.

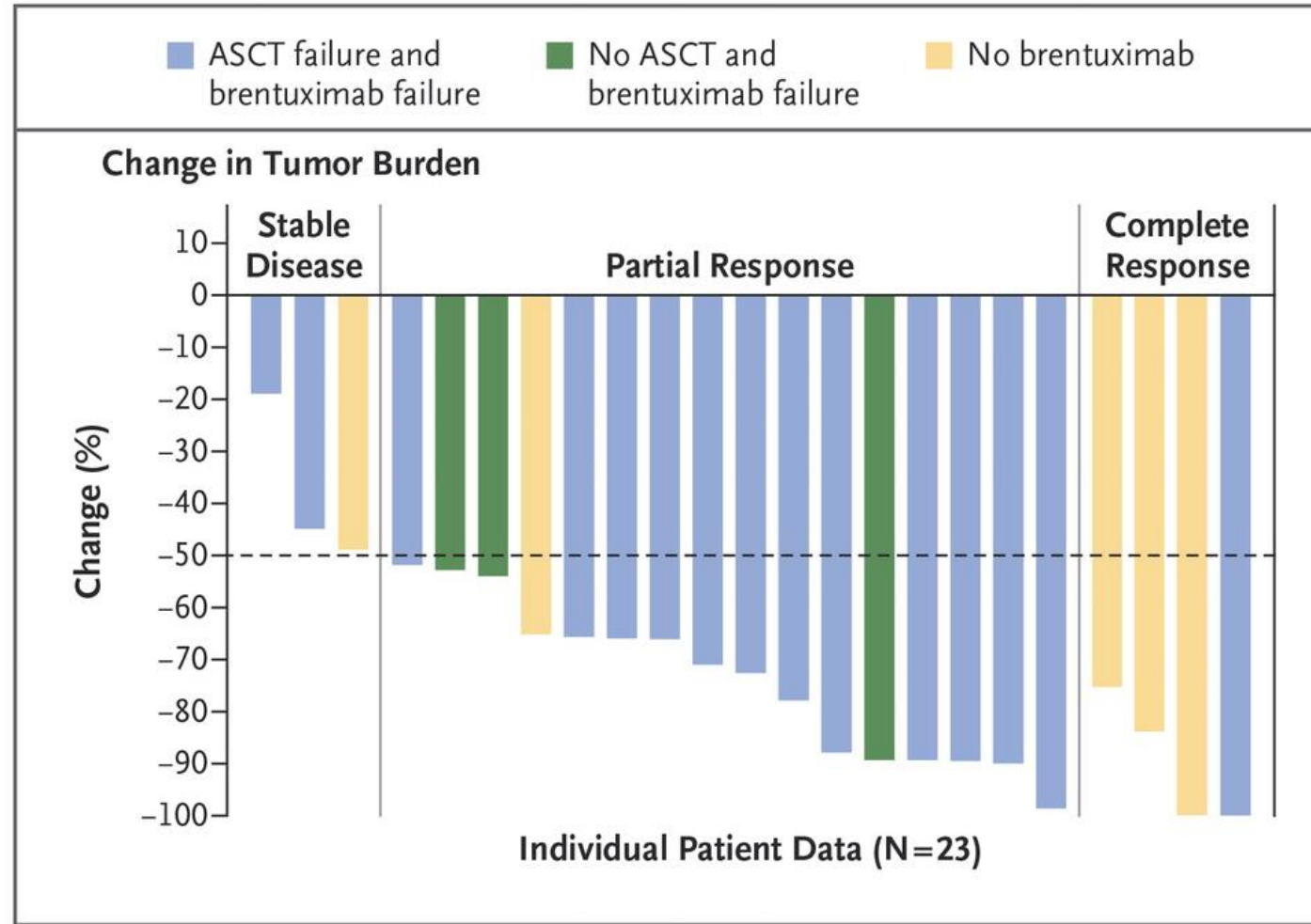
# Nivolumab in Hodgkin Lymphoma

**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

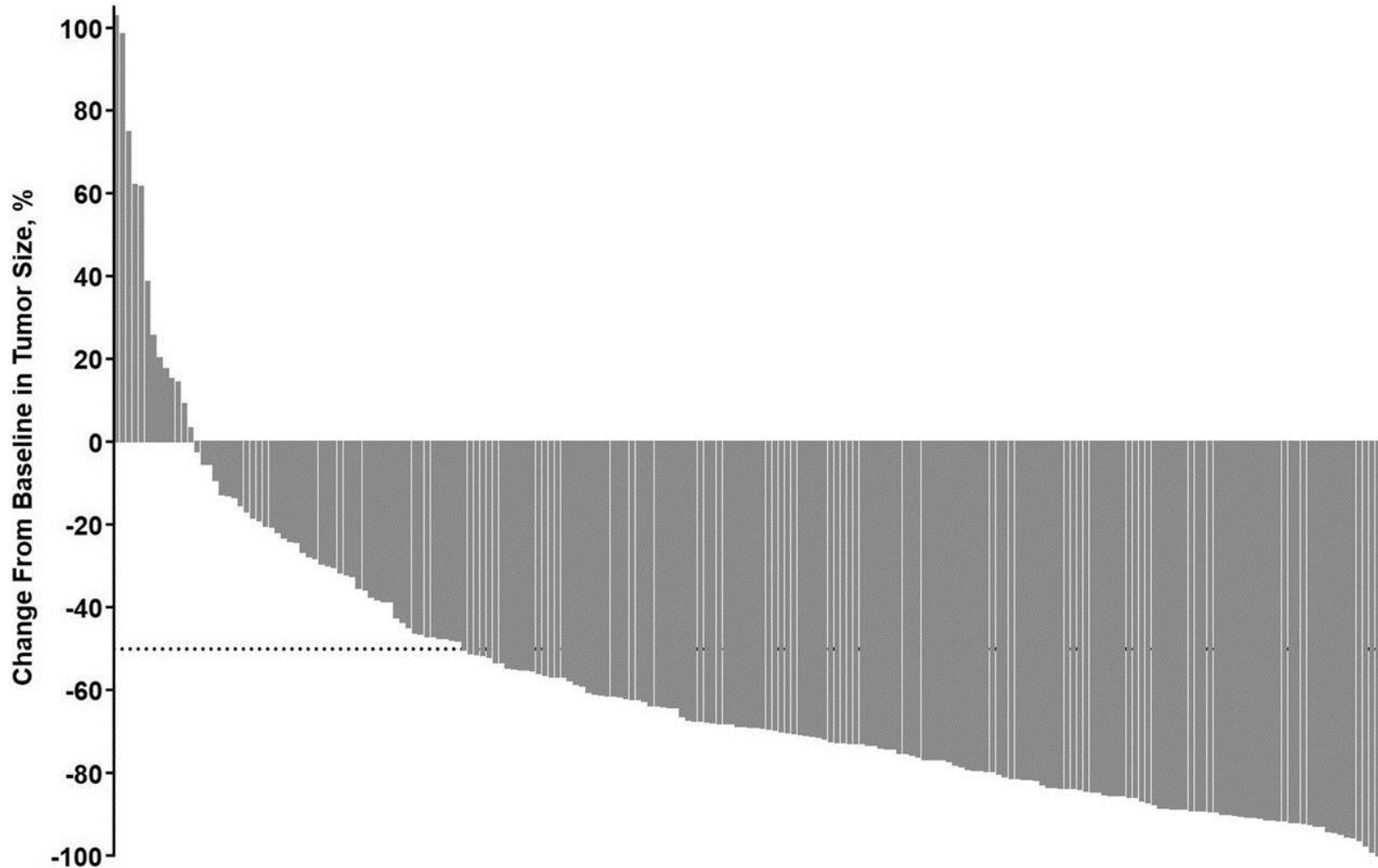
# Nivolumab in Hodgkin Lymphoma



Ansell et al. NEJM 2015

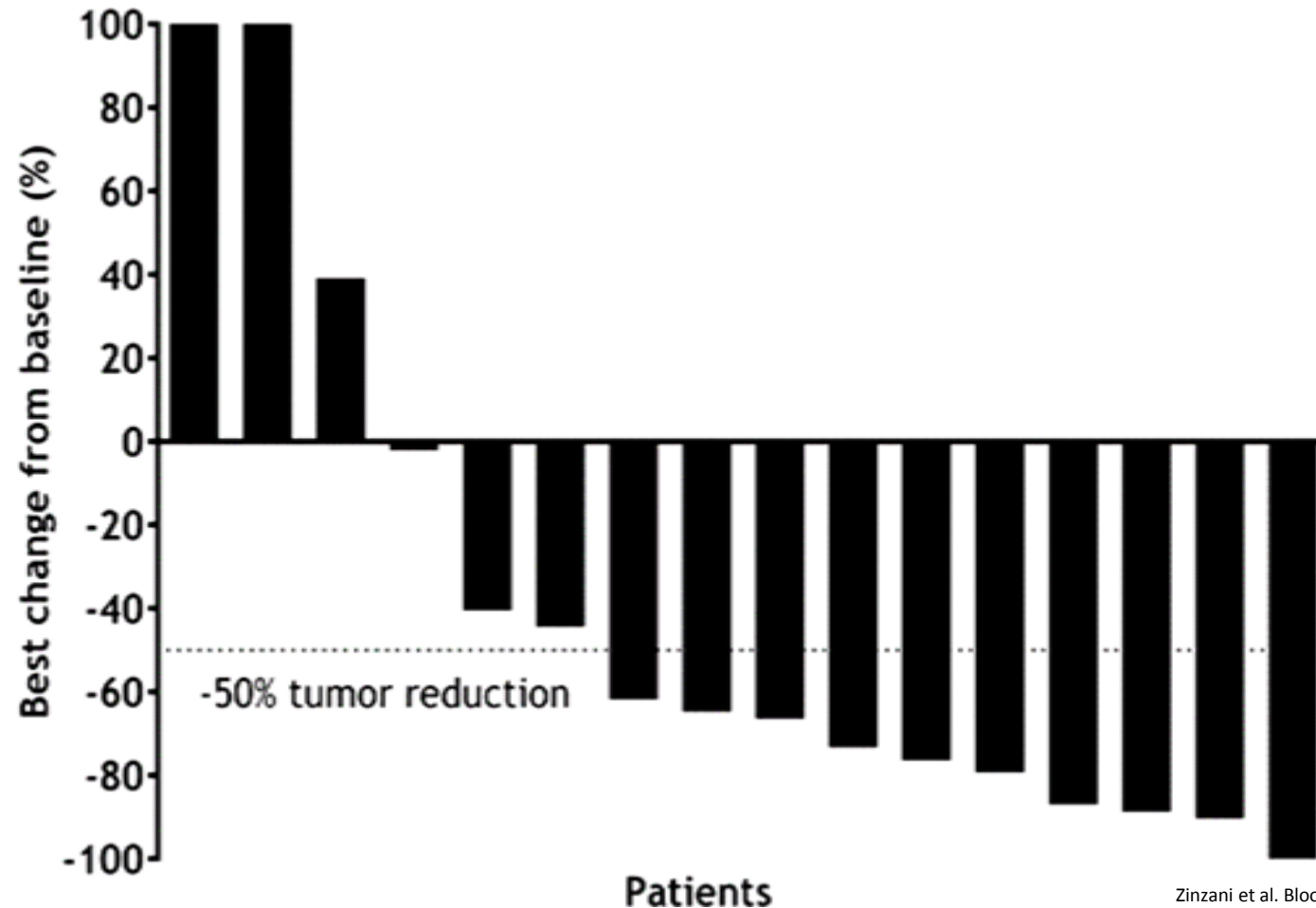


# Pembrolizumab in Hodgkin Lymphoma



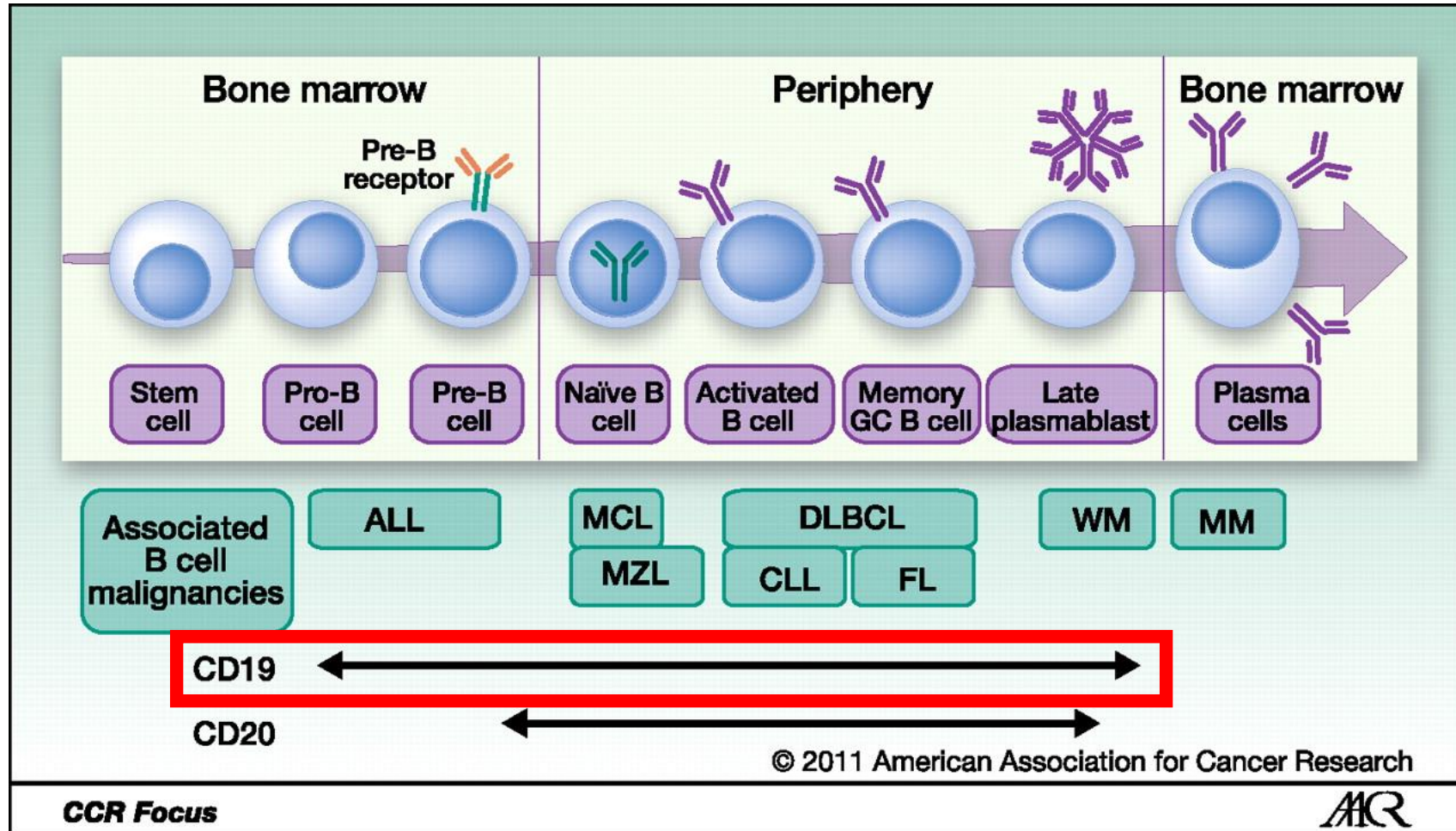
Zinzani et al. Hematological Oncology 2017

# Pembrolizumab in Primary Mediastinal Large B cell Lymphoma



Zinzani et al. Blood 2016

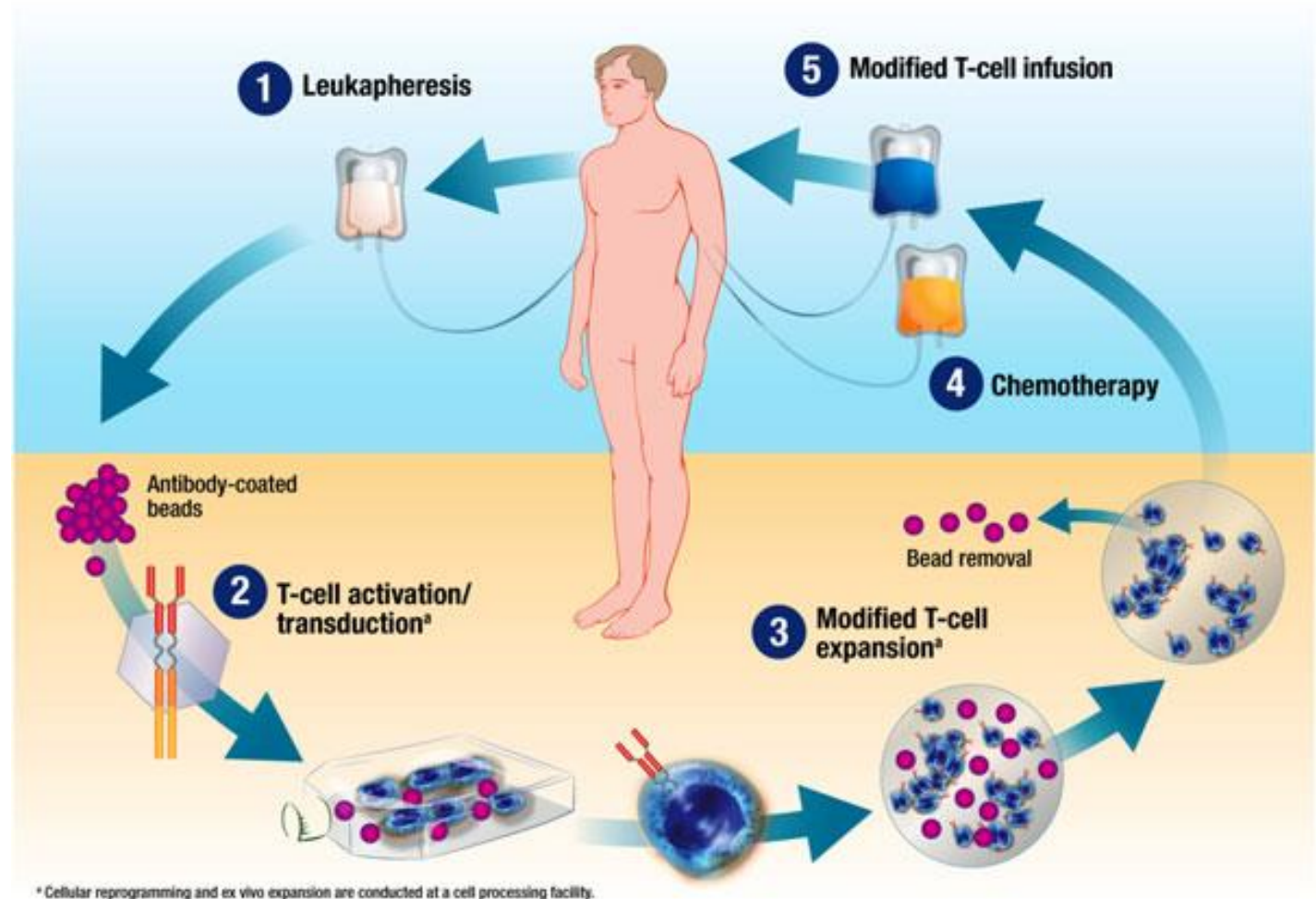
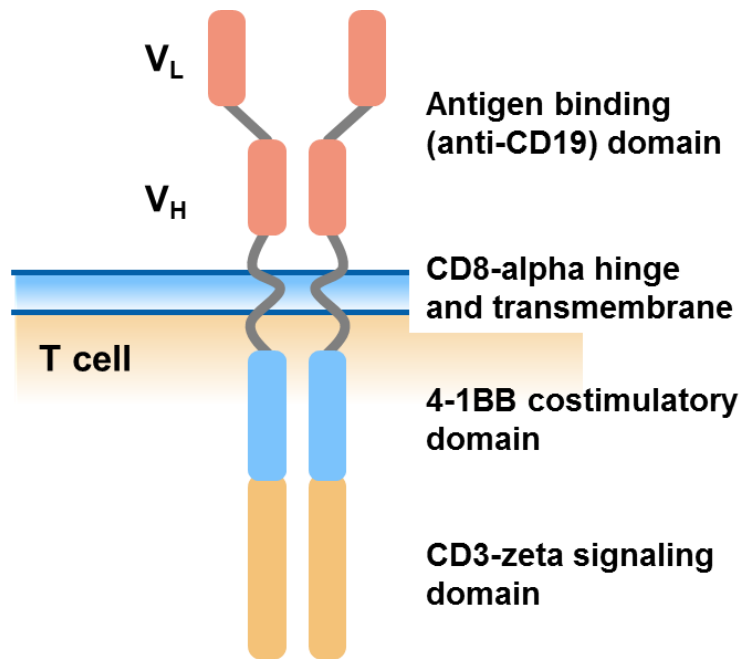
# B Cell Malignancies are CD19+



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.

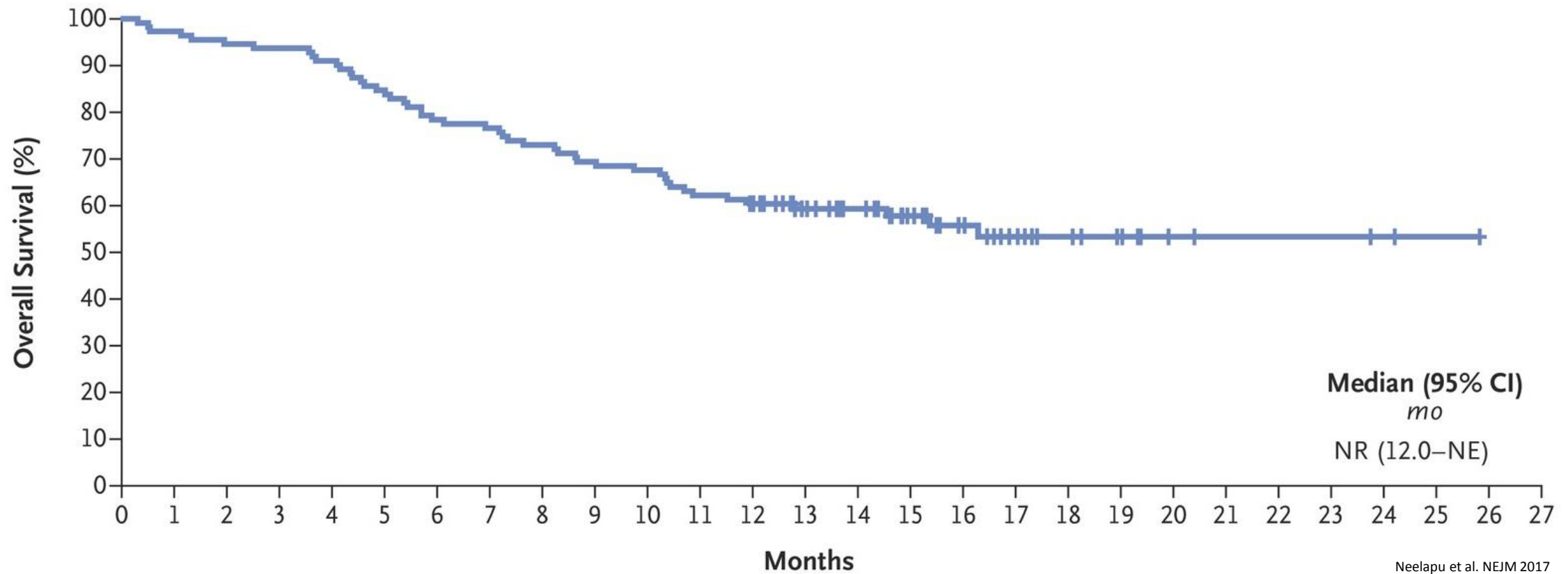


# Patient Selection Criteria for CAR T Therapies

- 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

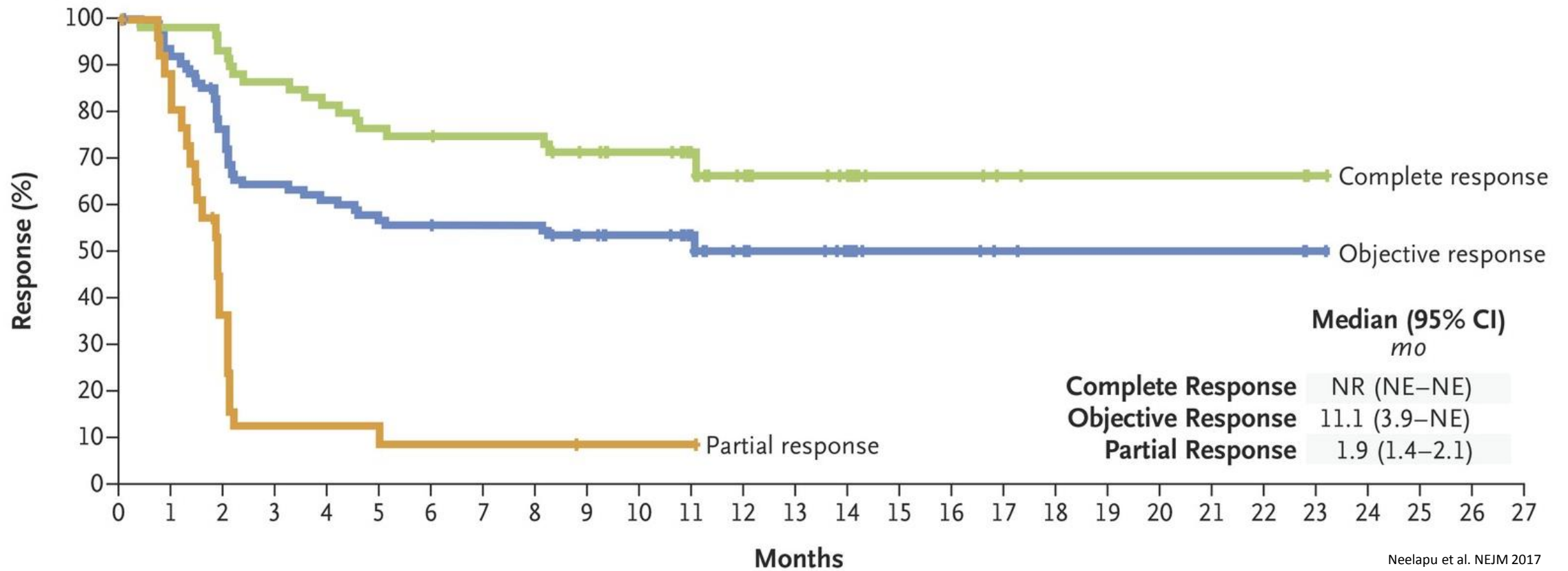
# Axicabtagene ciloleucel in B Cell Lymphoma

## Overall Survival



# Axicabtagene ciloleucel in B Cell Lymphoma

## Duration of Response

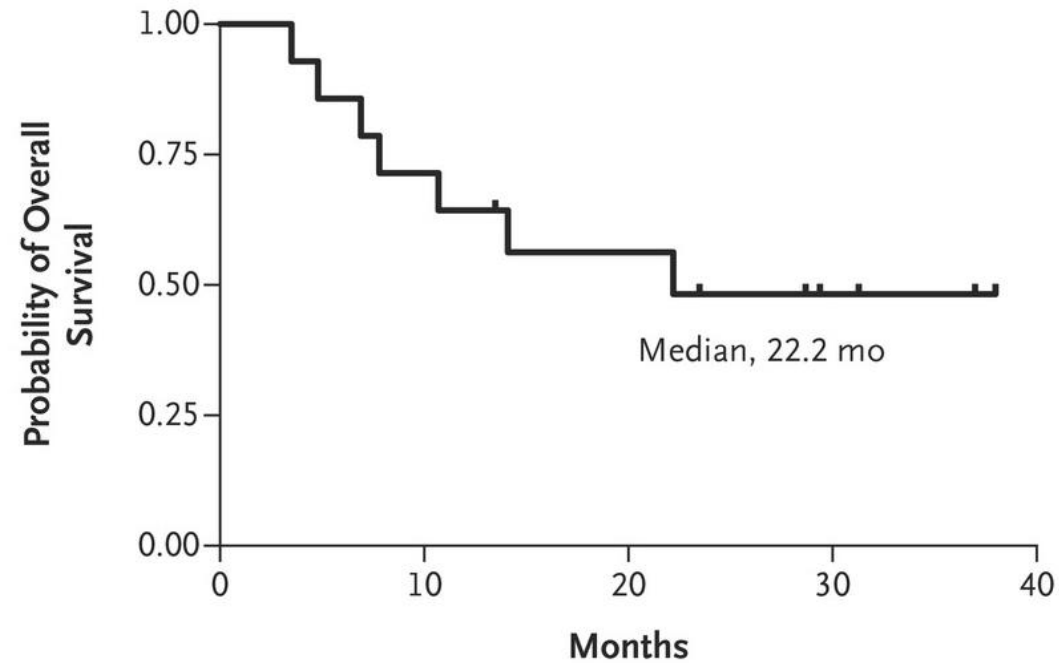


Neelapu et al. NEJM 2017

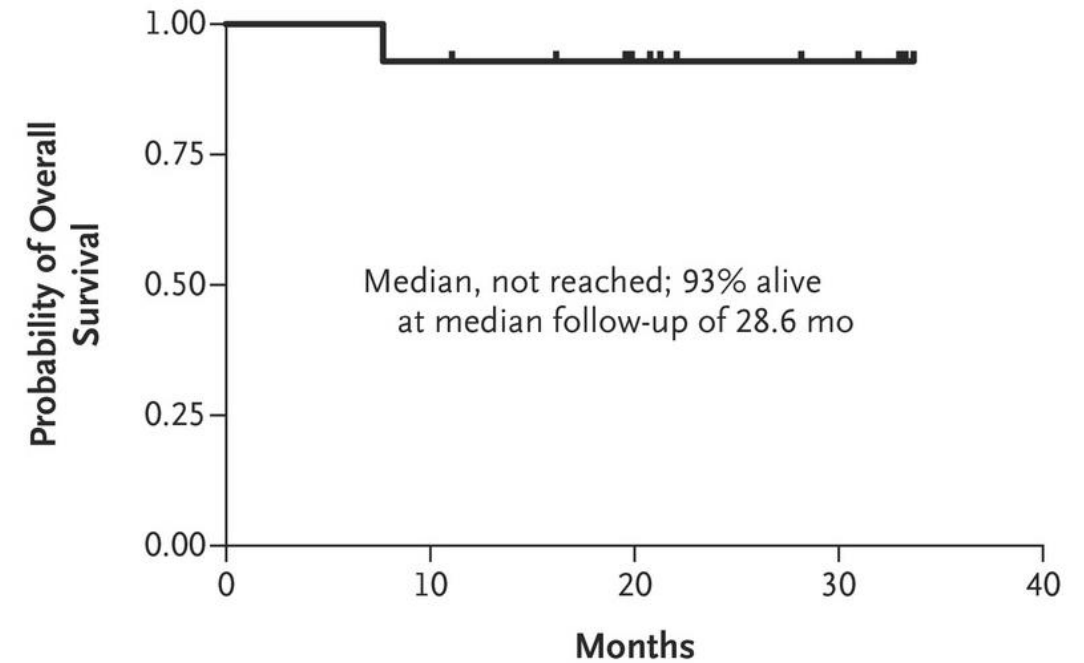
# Tisagenlecleucel in B Cell Lymphoma

## Overall Survival

Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma, Overall Survival



Follicular Lymphoma, Overall Survival

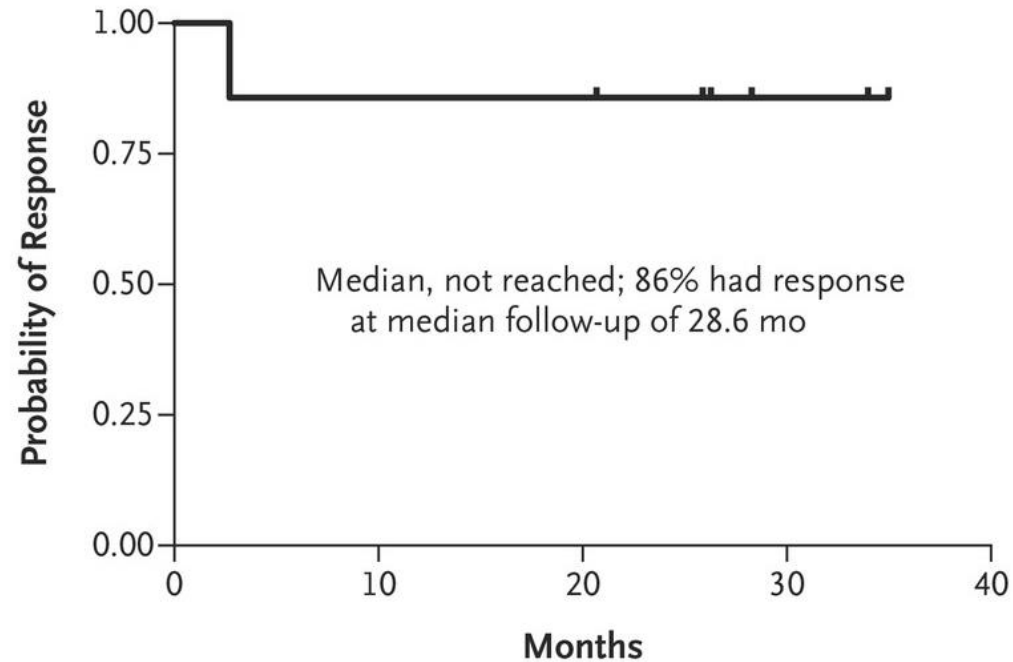


Schuster et al. NEJM 2017

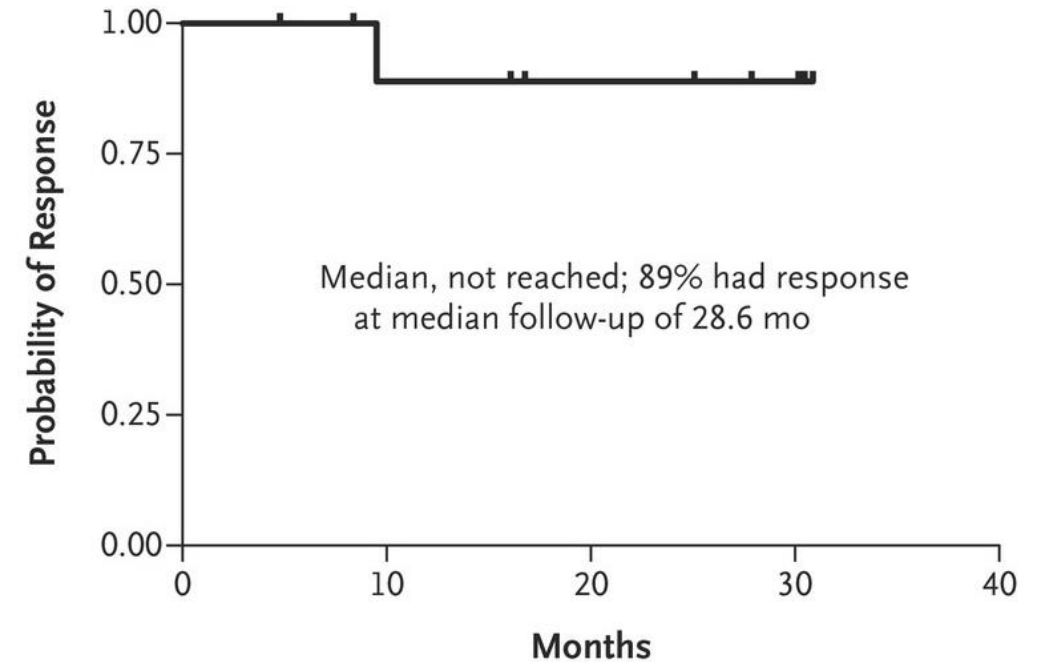
# Tisagenlecleucel in B Cell Lymphoma

## Duration of Response

Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma, Response Duration



Follicular Lymphoma, Response Duration

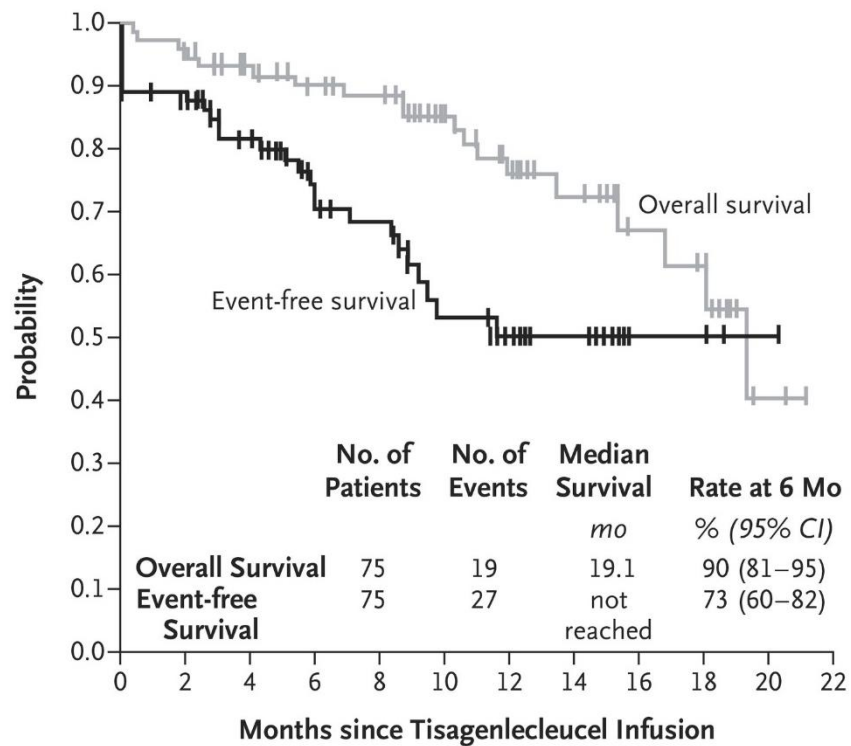


Schuster et al. NEJM 2017

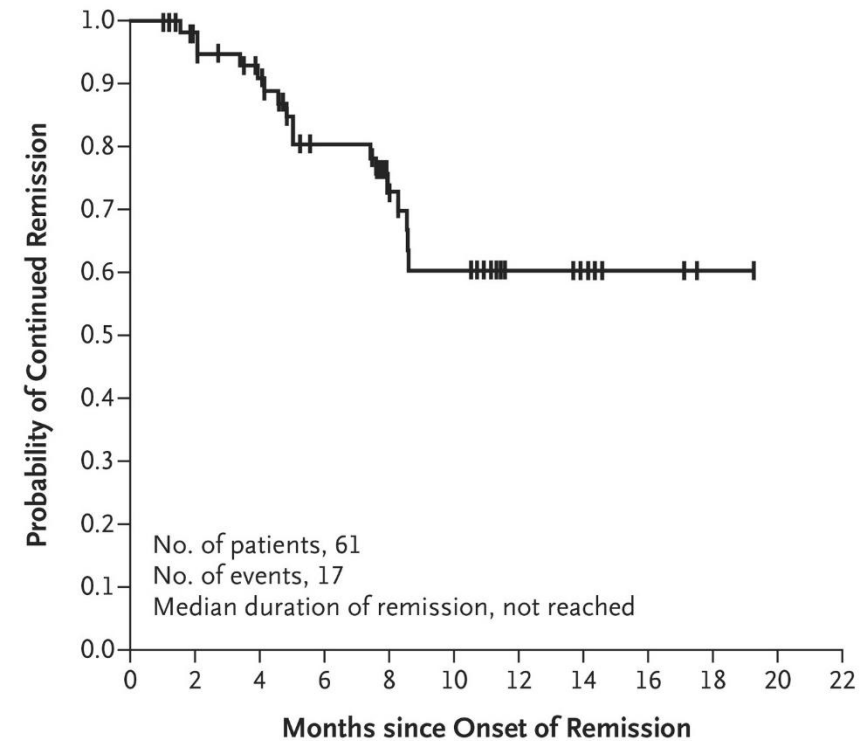


# FDA-approved CAR T Cell Therapies for Acute Leukemia Tisagenlecleucel

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

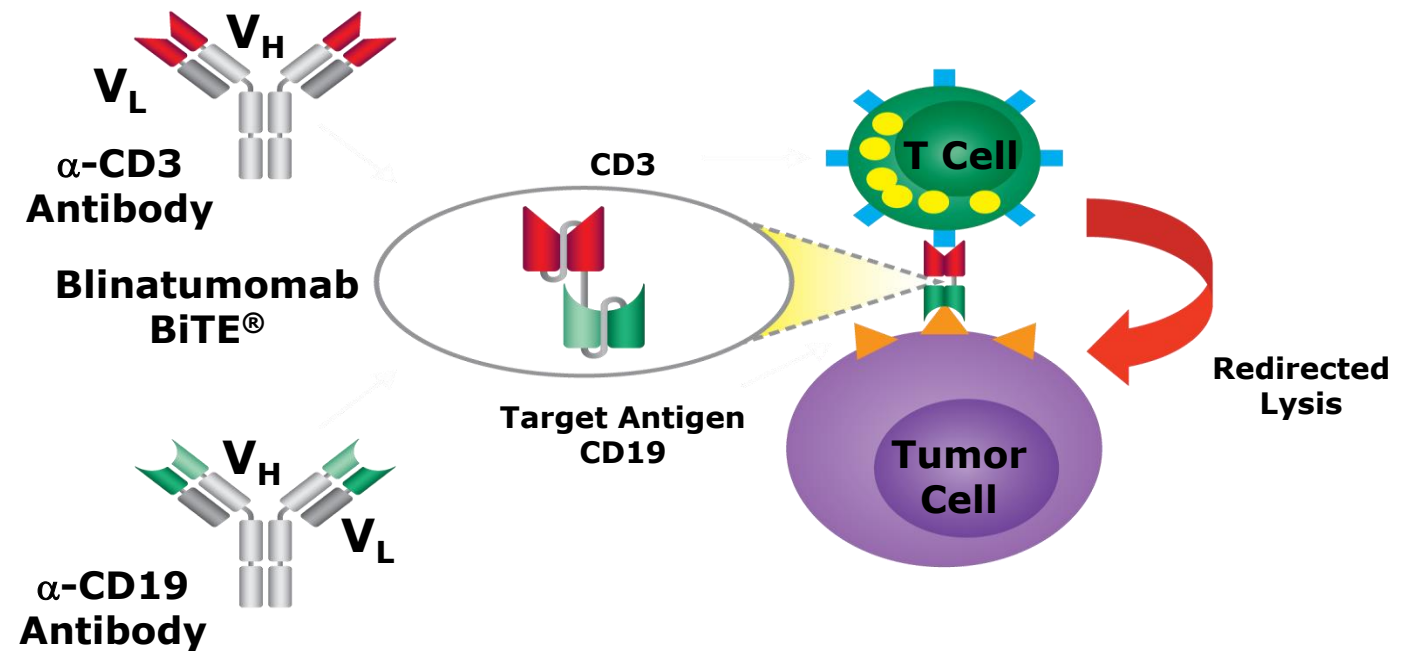


Maude et al. NEJM 2018



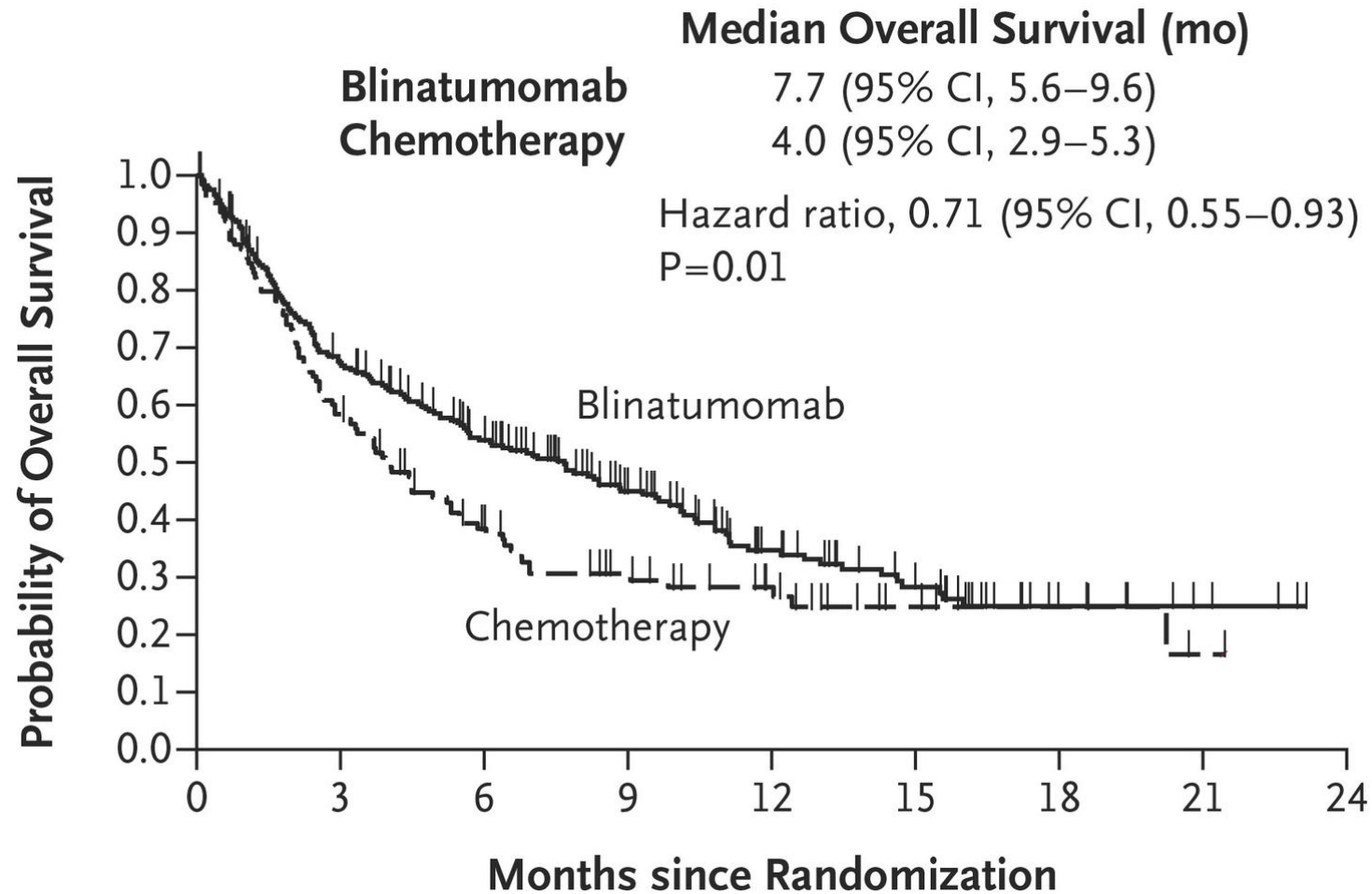
# BiTE (Blinatumumab) Therapy

- 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

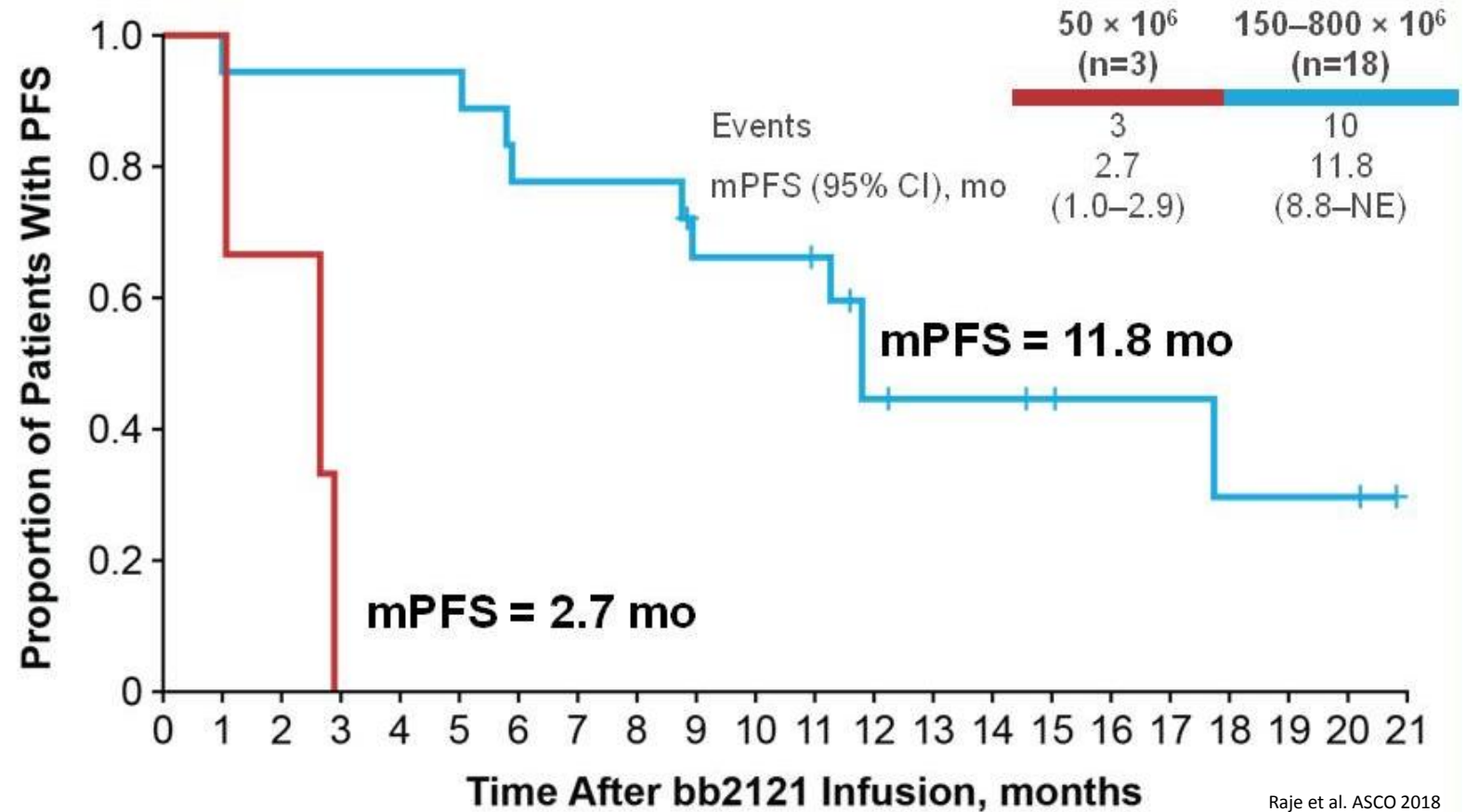
# Immunotherapies for Multiple Myeloma

- 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



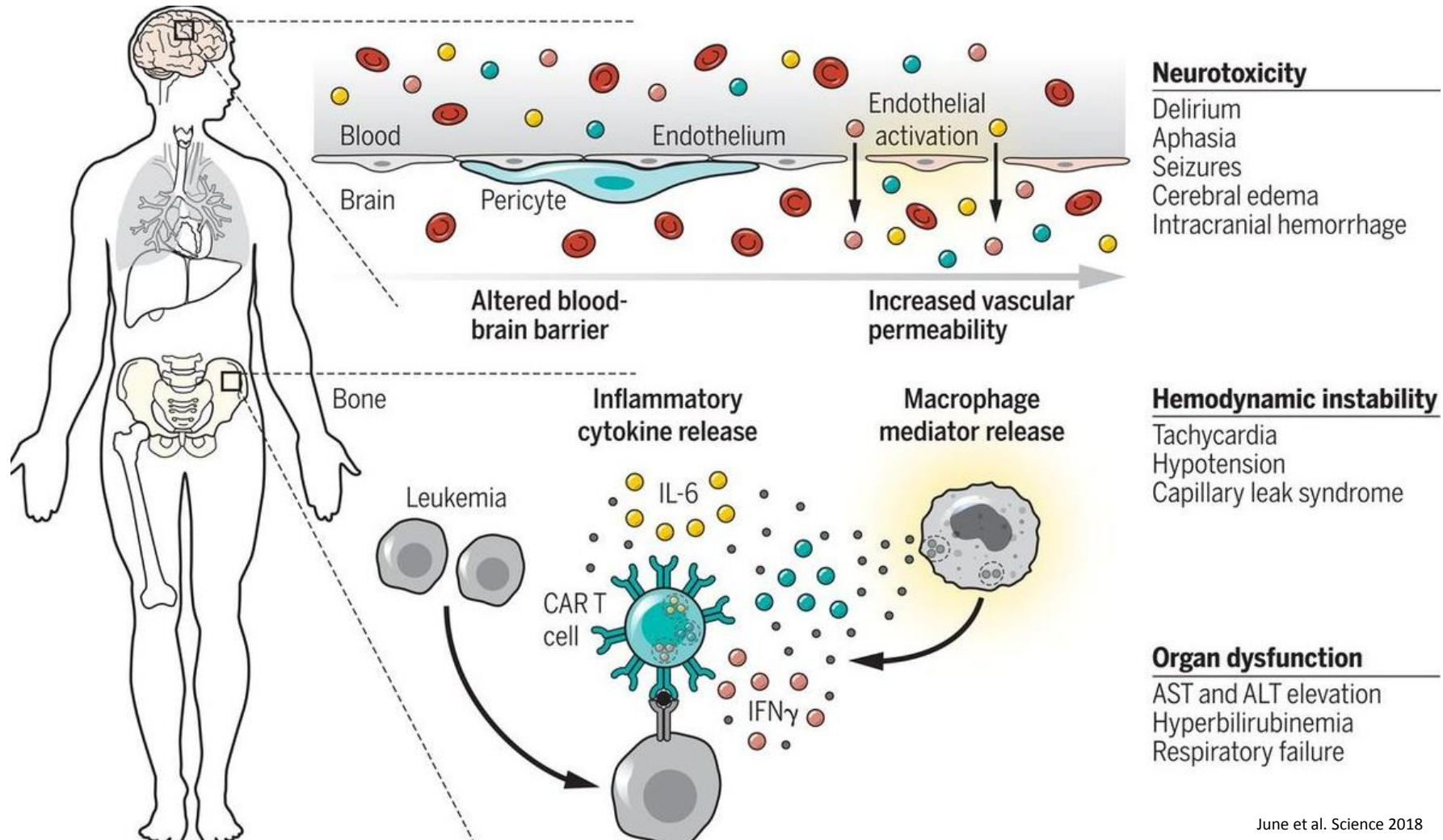
# In Development: BCMA+ CAR T Therapy for Myeloma

- **bb2121**
  - B cell maturation antigen (BCMA)
  - Phase I CRB-401 study
  - Previously treated patients with relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma



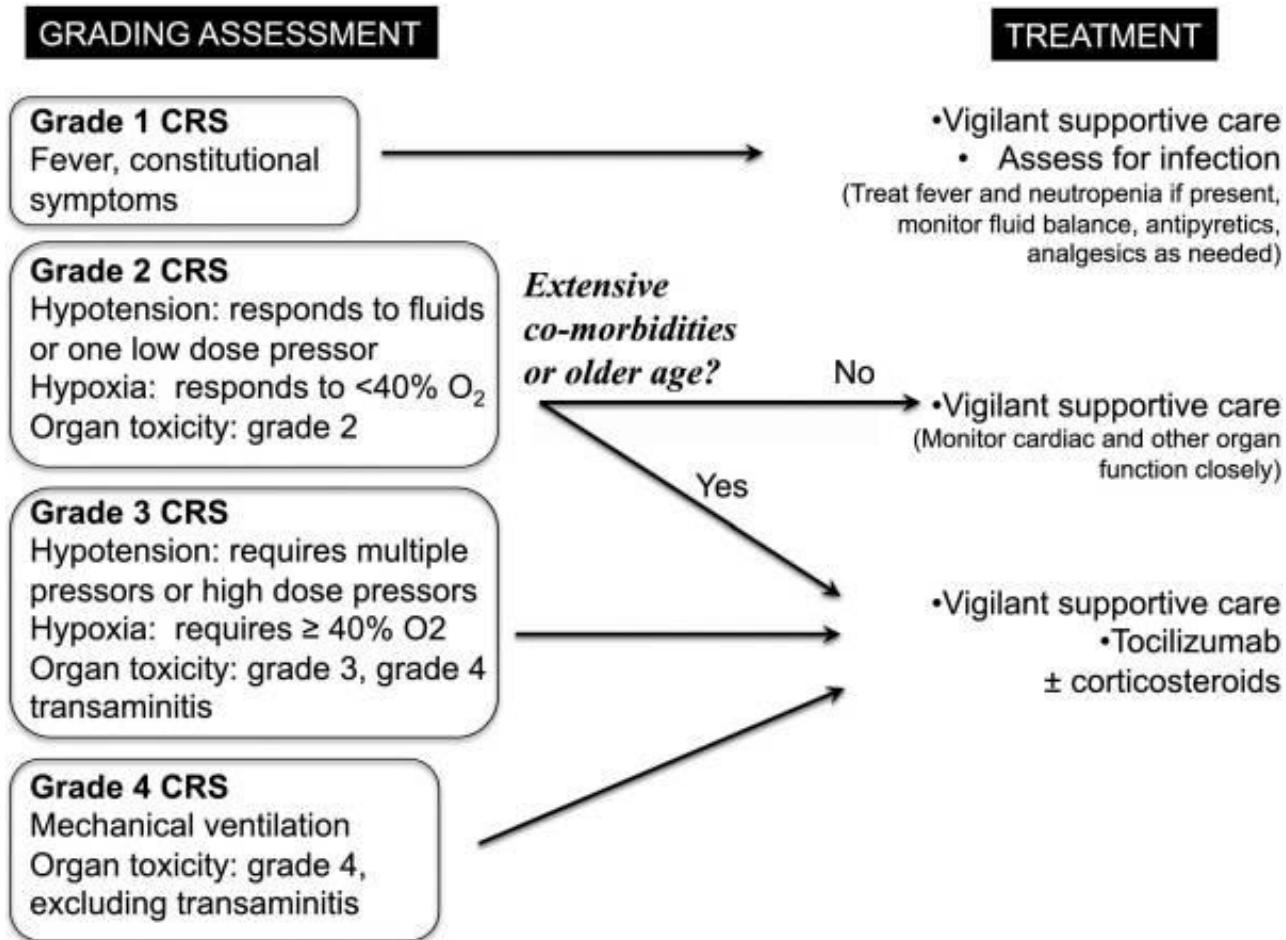


# Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS)



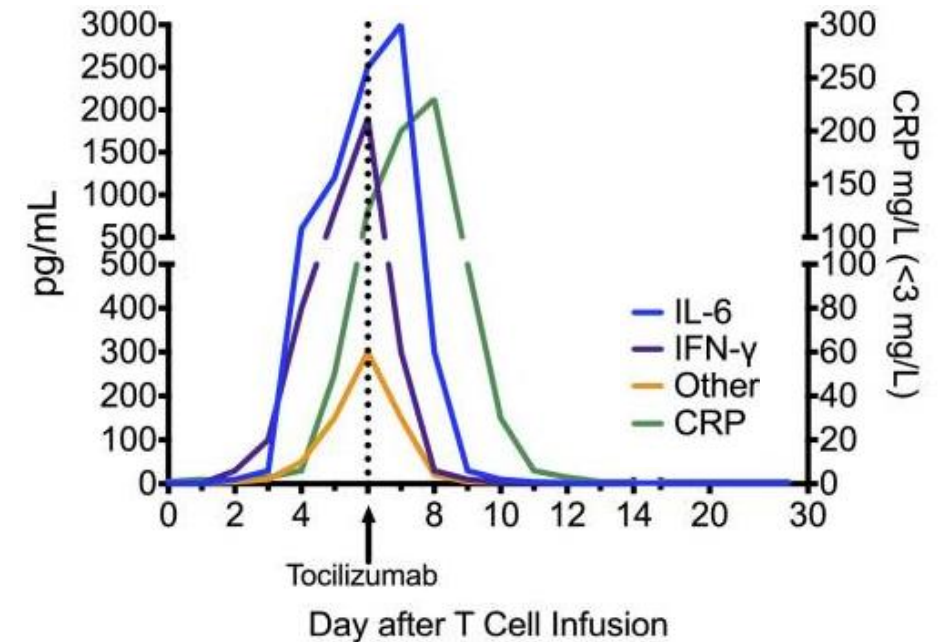
June et al. Science 2018

# CRS management



Lee et al. Blood 2014

- Tocilizumab
- Monoclonal antibody that blocks IL-6 signaling



# Further 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

Michael Boyiadzis<sup>1†</sup>, Michael R. Bishop<sup>2†</sup>, Rafat Abonour<sup>3</sup>, Kenneth C. Anderson<sup>4</sup>, Stephen M. Ansell<sup>5</sup>, David Avigan<sup>6</sup>, Lisa Barbarotta<sup>7</sup>, Austin John Barrett<sup>8</sup>, Koen Van Besien<sup>9</sup>, P. Leif Bergsagel<sup>10</sup>, Ivan Borrello<sup>11</sup>, Joshua Brody<sup>12</sup>, Jill Brufsky<sup>13</sup>, Mitchell Cairo<sup>14</sup>, Ajai Chari<sup>12</sup>, Adam Cohen<sup>15</sup>, Jorge Cortes<sup>16</sup>, Stephen J. Forman<sup>17</sup>, Jonathan W. Friedberg<sup>18</sup>, Ephraim J. Fuchs<sup>19</sup>, Steven D. Gore<sup>20</sup>, Sundar Jagannath<sup>12</sup>, Brad S. Kahl<sup>21</sup>, Justin Kline<sup>22</sup>, James N. Kochenderfer<sup>23</sup>, Larry W. Kwak<sup>24</sup>, Ronald Levy<sup>25</sup>, Marcos de Lima<sup>26</sup>, Mark R. Litzow<sup>27</sup>, Anuj Mahindra<sup>28</sup>, Jeffrey Miller<sup>29</sup>, Nikhil C. Munshi<sup>30</sup>, Robert Z. Orlowski<sup>31</sup>, John M. Pagel<sup>32</sup>, David L. Porter<sup>33</sup>, Stephen J. Russell<sup>5</sup>, Karl Schwartz<sup>34</sup>, Margaret A. Shipp<sup>35</sup>, David Siegel<sup>36</sup>, Richard M. Stone<sup>4</sup>, Martin S. Tallman<sup>37</sup>, John M. Timmerman<sup>38</sup>, Frits Van Rhee<sup>39</sup>, Edmund K. Waller<sup>40</sup>, Ann Welsh<sup>41</sup>, Michael Werner<sup>42</sup>, Peter H. Wiernik<sup>43</sup> and Madhav V. Dhodapkar<sup>44\*</sup>

# Case Study 1

- 62 yo man with history of CAD s/p CABG, IDDM complicated by mild neuropathy, atrial fibrillation, and gout with hyperdiploid acute lymphoblastic leukemia (cytogenetics: NK ; molecular: *TP53* mutation positive) with persistent disease after two cycles of modified Larson regimen (multi-agent age-adjusted cytotoxic chemotherapy).
- His EF is 40% and he is not symptomatic.
- Outside of clinical trials, what are some good treatment options and what should I look out for given his history?

# Case Study 1

- **Off trial options:** blinatumomab and inotuzumab (anti-CD22 antibody drug conjugate)
- **Plan:** Blinatumomab
- **Treatment:** He was initiated in the hospital with dose ramp up of 9 mcg/day on days 1-7 and to 28 mcg/day on days 8-28; premedicated with dexamethasone per protocol
- What toxicities should we look for during therapy?



# Case Study 1

**Pre-treatment**  
**BS 400s: tight**  
**insulin control**

**Day 1: Febrile, grade 3 AMS (confused),  
no CRS → blina held for a few hours,  
extra dex dose given, AMS resolved,  
Blina restarted 3 days later**

**Day 14: fever, cultures  
negative, no hypotension  
or weight gain → consistent  
with gr 1 CRS**

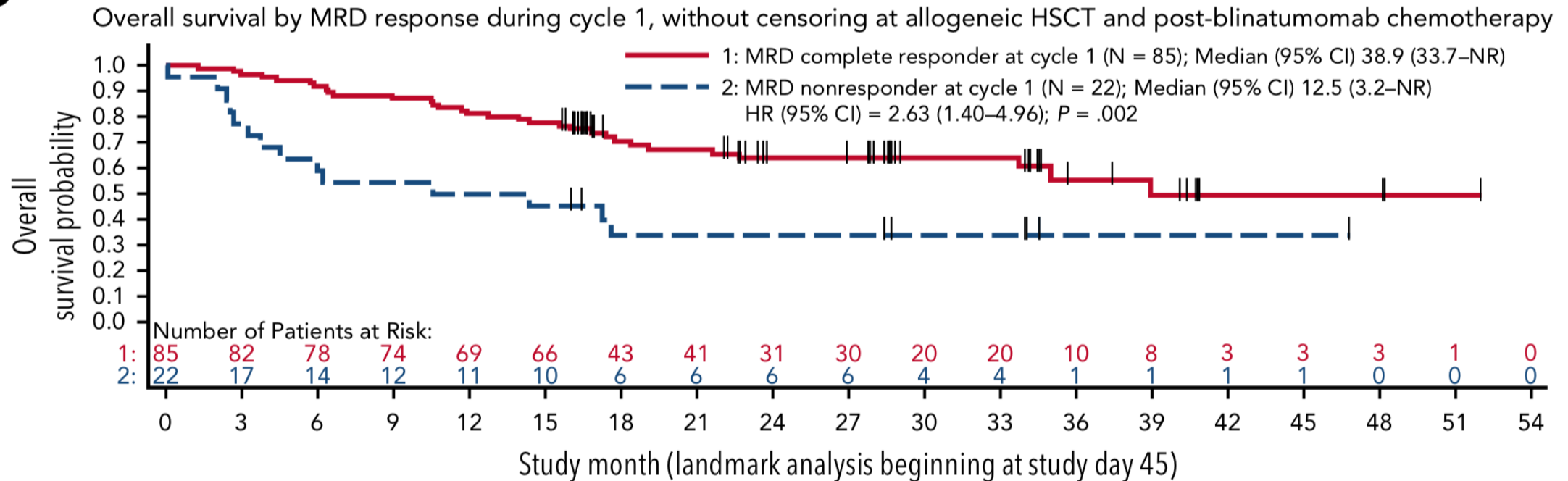
**Day 26: gr1 CRS**

**Symptoms during cycle 1 of Blinatumomab**

**Day 1: Rigors & Fever to 101.2F → Meperidine,  
diphenhydramine, famotidine, acetaminophen,  
methylprednisolone, cultured**

# Case Study 1

- **Response at end of cycle 1:** achieved complete remission (CR) but was minimal residual disease (MRD) positive by flow cytometry (0.03% positive)
- **Next steps:** Continue blinatumomab until consolidation with allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation when MRD negative

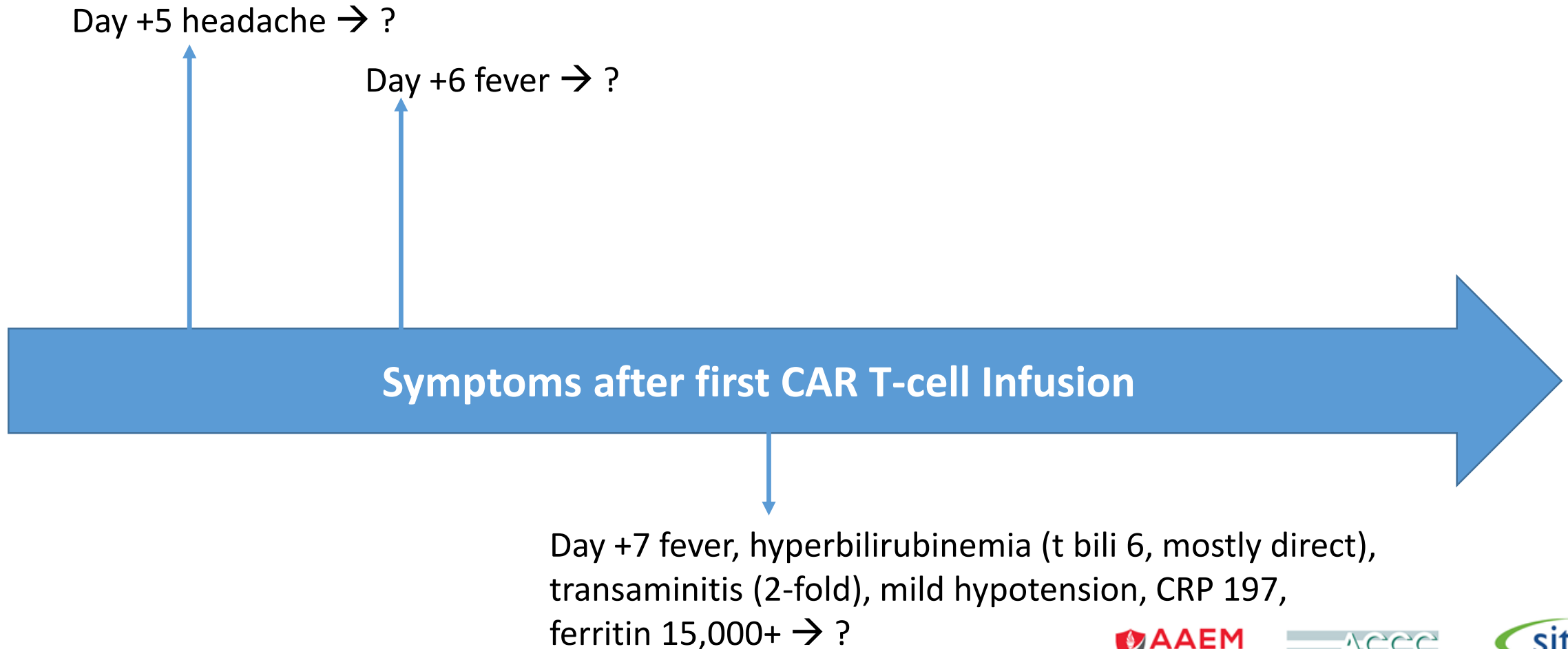


Gokbuget N al., *Blood*, 2018 Apr 5;131(14): 1522-1531.

## Case Study 2

- 27 yo woman with relapsed B-Cell (s/p AYA regimen; HyperCVAD; blinatumomab), AVN of b/l hips s/p replacement, ETOH withdrawal, chronic migraines, obesity and asthma.
- Treated with CAR T-cell therapy on a clinical trial. Bone marrow at time of screening had 90% blast burden.
- She received –liposomal vincristine and prednisone for cytoreduction and Cytosan for lymphodepletion per CAR T cell therapy protocol; well-tolerated.
- What are symptoms to watch for?

# Case Study 2: Management of a high risk patient receiving CAR T cell therapy



# Case Study 2: How to recognize Cytokine Release Syndrome

