

# Lymphoma CAR T cells Loretta J. Nastoupil, MD Associate Professor UT MD Anderson Cancer Center Inastoupil@mdanderson.org





# Disclosures

- I have the following disclosures:
  - Honorarium: ADC Therapeutics, Bayer, BMS/Celgene, Epizyme, Genentech, Gilead/Kite, Janssen, Morphosys, Novartis, Takeda, TG Therapeutics
  - Research support: BMS/Celgene, Epizyme, Genentech, Gilead/Kite, Janssen, Novartis, Takeda, TG Therapeutics
- I will be discussing non-FDA approved indications during my presentation.



## SCHOLAR-1 (Retrospective Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma Research)

SCHOLAR-1, a retrospective, international, patient-level, multi-institution study with the largest reported analysis of outcomes in patients with refractory large B cell lymphoma

- N = 636 (post-rituximab era, 2000-2017)
- ORR = 26%
- CR rate = 7%
- Median OS = 6.3 months
- These results provided a benchmark for evaluation of new approaches



Crump, Blood 2017

### Auto CD19 CAR T-cell Products



## ZUMA-1 Axi-Cel in Patients With R/R LBCL



One patient's event time was updated from Month 42 to 39 after data cutoff and is not reflected in this figure NE, not estimable; OS, overall survival.

## JULIET Tisa-Cel in Patients With R/R DLBCL

Patient Characteristic	Phase 1 and 2 (N = 111)
Median age (range), y	56 (22-76)
Double- /triple-hit lymphoma, %	27
No. of prior lines of therapy, %	
2	44
3	31
4-6	21
Refractory to last therapy, %	55
Prior ASCT, %	49

- ORR, %: 52
- CR, %: 40
- CRS (%): Any (58); Grade  $\geq$  3 (22)
- Neurotoxicity (%): Any (21); Grade  $\geq$  3 (12)\*
- \*Penn scale.
- Schuster SJ, et al. N Engl J Med. 2019;380:45-56. Jaeguer ASH 2020#1194



- Median follow-up of 40.3 months
  - Relapse-free probability was 60.4% at 24 and 30 months
  - Median OS was 11.1 months (95% CI, 6.6-23.9)
  - Survival probability at 12, 24, and 36 months was 48.2%, 40.4%, and 36.2%

## TRANSCEND-NHL-001 Liso-Cel in Patients With R/R LBCL

Patient Characteristic	Patients (N = 269)
Median age (range), y	63 (54-70)
Double- /triple-hit lymphoma, No. (%)	36 (13)
CNS involvement, No. (%)	7 (3)
Median prior lines, No. (range)	3 (2-4)
Chemo-refractory, No. (%)	181 (67)
Prior HSCT. No. (%)	94 (35)
Best Response	Patients (N = 256)
Best ORR, %	73
Best CR, %	53
12-month DOR, %	55

- CRS (%): Any (42); Grade ≥ 3 (2)
- Neurotoxicity (%): Any (30); Grade  $\geq$  3 (10)

Abramson JS, et al. Lancet. 2020;396:839-852; Abramson ASH 2021 #2840





# **Outcomes with SOC Axi-Cel**









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# ZUMA-7- Axi-Cel in Second-line LBCL



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Locke, ASH 2021 plenary abstract 2



Axi-Cel in Second-line LBCL



20 12

6

3 1 0

97



0

#### No. at Risk

 Axi-cel
 180
 177
 170
 161
 157
 147
 136
 125
 117
 111
 91
 71
 60
 44
 32
 21
 14
 5
 2

 Standard care
 179
 171
 161
 148
 133
 120
 109
 104
 100
 91
 74
 58
 47
 33
 21
 14
 7
 4
 1



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179 86 54 45 38 32 29 27 25 24

Standard care

Locke et al, NEJM 2021

 Axi-cel
 180
 166
 112
 100
 99
 94
 90
 88
 80
 73
 56
 43
 28
 12
 12
 6

 Standard care
 179
 94
 61
 47
 43
 35
 33
 31
 28
 27
 24
 15
 11
 9
 7
 4
 1
 0



# TRANSFORM: Liso-cel in 2<sup>nd</sup>-line

### TRANSFORM study design



• EFS is defined as time from randomization to death due to any cause, progressive disease, failure to achieve CR or PR by 9 weeks post-randomization, or start of a new antineoplastic therapy, whichever occurs first

<sup>a</sup>Patients may have received a protocol-defined SOC regimen to stabilize their disease during liso-cel manufacturing; <sup>b</sup>Only for patients who received bridging therapy; <sup>c</sup>Lymphodepletion with fludarabine 30 mg/m<sup>2</sup> and cyclophosphamide 300 mg/m<sup>2</sup> for 3 days; <sup>d</sup>SOC was defined as physician's choice of R-DHAP, R-ICE, or R-GDP. DLBCL, diffuse large-B cell lymphoma; FL3B, follicular lymphoma grade 3B; HGBCL, high-grade B-cell lymphoma; IRC, independent review committee; LDC, lymphodepleting chemotherapy; NOS, not otherwise specified; PD, progressive disease; PMBCL, primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma; PRO, patient-reported outcome; sAAIPI, secondary ageadjusted International Prognostic Index; THRBCL, T-cell/histiocyte-rich large B-cell lymphoma.

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Kamdar M, et al. ASH 2021 [Abstract #91]

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### TRANSFORM: CONSORT diagram



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\*During screening, patients were assessed for eligibility, underwent unstimulated leukapheresis, and subsequent randomization; \*Patients received LDC followed by liso-cel infusion; bridging therapy was allowed per protocol; \*Patients received 3 cycles of SOC salvage CT (see Methods for details) followed by HDCT and ASCT; \*Patients received bridging therapies and, therefore, were included in the safety analysis set; \*Nonconforming product was defined as any product wherein one of the CD4 oc IC ecil components did not meet release criteria for liso-cel but was considered safe for infusion; 'Patients could discontinue the treatment period, defined as the period from Week 18 to Month 36, but continue to be followed up for OS; \*Six patients who discontinued the treatment period remained in the study follow-up period.



### TRANSFORM: Event-free survival per IRC (ITT set; primary endpoint)



Median follow-up in both arms: 6.2 months



	Liso-cel arm (n = 92)	SOC arm (n = 92)
Patients with events, n	35	63
Stratified HR (95% CI)	0.349 (0.229–0.530) <i>P</i> < 0.0001	
6-month EFS rate, % (SE) Two-sided 95% Cl	63.3 (5.77) 52.0–74.7	33.4 (5.30) 23.0–43.8
12-month EFS rate, % (SE) Two-sided 95% CI	44.5 (7.72) 29.4–59.6	23.7 (5.28) 13.4–34.1

One-sided P value significance threshold to reject the null hypothesis was < 0.012

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EFS is defined as the time from randomization to death due to any cause, progressive disease, failure to achieve CR or PR by 9 weeks post-randomization or start of a new antineoplastic therapy due to efficacy concerns, whichever occurs first.

CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; NR, not reached; SE, standard error.



### TRANSFORM: Overall survival (ITT set)



	Liso-cel arm (n = 92)	SOC arm (n = 92)
Patients with events, n	13	24
Stratified HR (95% CI)	0.509 (0.258–1.004) P = 0.0257	
Median OS (95% CI), months	NR (15.8-NR)	16.4 (11.0-NR)
6-month OS rate, % (SE) Two-sided 95% CI	91.8 (3.29) 85.4–98.2	89.4 (3.36) 82.9–96.0
12-month OS rate, % (SE) Two-sided 95% CI	79.1 (6.13) 67.1–91.1	64.2 (6.99) 50.5–77.9

Patients in the SOC arm that crossed over to receive liso-cel continue to be followed for OS in the SOC arm

One-sided P value significance threshold to reject the null hypothesis was < 0.012

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## **BELINDA Study Design**



aHCT, autologous hematopoietic cell transplantation; aNHL, aggressive non-Hodgkin lymphoma; APH, leukapheresis; BIRC, blinded independent review committee; CR, complete response; CT, computed tomography; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; EFS, event-free survival; HDCT, high-dose chemotherapy; IPI, International Prognostic Index; M, manufacturing; ORR, overall response rate; OS, overall survival; PCT, platinum-based immunochemotherapy; PD, progressive disease; PET, positron emission tomography; PR, partial response; q3mo, every 3 months; q6mo, every 6 months; R, randomization; SD, stable disease; SOC, standard of care; US, United States.



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## **Time to Tisagenlecleucel Infusion**

• Median time to infusion for all patients on the Tisagenlecleucel arm was 52 days (range, 31-135)



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### No Difference in EFS Between Treatment Arms

EFS per BIRC in Tisagenlecleucel and SOC Arms



- EFS<sup>a</sup> was not significantly different between treatment arms
  - Primary analysis: Stratified unadjusted HR: 1.07 (95% CI, 0.82-1.40, p<sup>b</sup>=0.69)
  - Supportive analysis: Stratified adjusted<sup>c</sup> HR: 0.95 (95% CI, 0.72-1.25)
  - 6 patients responded to tisagenlecleucel infusion, but were captured as an EFS event due to SD/PD before or soon after infusion<sup>d</sup>

\*EFS events defined as PD/SD after day 71 or death at any time. \*p-value derived from 1-sided stratified log-rank test. \*Adjusted for for potential imbalances in patient characteristics with pre-specified covariates of age, sex, race, ECOG performance status, histological subgroup, disease stage, and disease subtype. \*Stratified adjusted HR accounting for delayed responses in both arms yield HR of 0.84 (95% CI: 0.63, 1.12).

BIRC, blinded independent review committee; CI, confidence interval; EFS, event-free survival; HR, hazard ratio; OS, overall survival; PD, progressive disease; SD, stable disease; SOC, standard of



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### **ZUMA-12 Study Design**



\* Administered after leukapheresis and completed prior to initiating conditioning chemotherapy. Therapies allowed were corticosteroids, localized radiation, and HDMP+R. PET-CT was required after bridging. 1. Cheson BD, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2014;32:3059-3068.

Axi-cel, axicabtagene ciloleucel; CAR, chimeric antigen receptor; CR, complete response; CT, computed tomography; DOR, duration of response; DS, Deauville score; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; EFS, event-free survival; HDMP+R, high-dose methylprednisolone plus rituximab; HGBL, high-grade B-cell lymphoma; IPI, International Prognostic Index; IV, intravenous; LBCL, large B-cell lymphoma; mAb, monoclonal antibody; ORR, objective response rate; OS, overall survival; PET, positron-emission tomography; PFS, progression-free survival.

Neelapu et al ASH 2021 Abstract 739



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### Duration of Response, Event-Free Survival, Progression-Free Survival, and Overall Survival<sup>a</sup>



Analyses done in all treated patients with centrally confirmed disease type (double- or triple-hit lymphomas) or IPI score ≥3 who received ≥1×10<sup>6</sup> CAR T cells/kg. DOR, duration of response; EFS, event-free survival; NE, not evaluable; NR, not reached; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival.

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## **ZUMA-5 Study Design**



#### Key ZUMA-5 Eligibility Criteria

- R/R FL (Grades 1–3a) or MZL (nodal or extranodal)<sup>a</sup>
- ≥2 Prior lines of therapy that must have included an anti-CD20 mAb combined with an alkylating agent<sup>b</sup>

#### **Primary Endpoint**

 ORR (IRRC assessed per the Lugano classification<sup>1</sup>)

#### **Key Secondary Endpoints**

- CR rate (IRRC assessed)
- Investigator-assessed ORR<sup>a</sup>
- DOR, PFS, OS
- AEs
- CAR T-cell and cytokine levels

<sup>a</sup> Patients with stable disease (without relapse) >1 year from completion of last therapy were not eligible. <sup>b</sup> Single-agent anti-CD20 antibody did not count as line of therapy for eligibility. 1. Cheson BD, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2014;32:3059-3068.

AE, adverse event; axi-cel, axicabtagene ciloleucel; CAR, chimeric antigen receptor; CR, complete response; DOR, duration of response; FL, follicular lymphoma; iNHL, indolent non-Hodgkin lymphoma; IRRC, Independent Radiology Review Committee; IV, intravenous; mAb, monoclonal antibody; MZL, marginal zone lymphoma; ORR, overall response rate; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; R/R, relapsed/refractory.

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# **Safety Results**

- Consistent with prior reports, the most common Grade ≥3 AEs were neutropenia (33%), decreased neutrophil count (28%), and anemia (25%)
- Grade ≥3 CRS and NEs occurred in 7% of patients (6% FL; 8% MZL) and 19% of patients (15% FL; 36% MZL), respectively
  - Most CRS cases (120 of 121) and NEs (82 of 87) of any grade resolved by data cutoff<sup>a</sup>
  - Nearly half of NEs (49%) resolved ≤2 weeks after onset; most NEs (76%) resolved ≤8 weeks after onset
- Grade ≥3 cytopenias present ≥30 days post-infusion were reported in 34% of patients (33% FL; 36% MZL), most commonly neutropenia in 29% of patients (27% FL; 36% MZL)

# **ELARA Study Design**



Key eligibility criteria	Study treatment	End points
<ul> <li>≥18 years of age</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Lymphodepleting chemotherapy options:</li> </ul>	Primary: CRR by IRC
FL grade 1, 2, or 3A	<ul> <li>Fludarabine (25 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV daily for 3 days) +</li> </ul>	
Relapsed/refractory disease <sup>c</sup>	cyclophosphamide (250 mg/m <sup>2</sup> IV daily for 3 days)	Secondary: ORR, DOR, PFS,
No evidence of histological transformation/FL3B	<ul> <li>Bendamustine 90 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV daily for 2 days</li> </ul>	OS, safety, cellular kinetics
No prior anti-CD19 therapy or allogeneic HSCT	<ul> <li>Tisagenlecleucel dose range (single IV infusion) was 0.6-6×10<sup>8</sup> CAR-positive viable T cells</li> </ul>	

- Bridging therapy was allowed and was followed by disease re-evaluation before tisagenlecleucel infusion
- Timing of planned analyses

Planned analyses	Minimum follow-up from infusion	Median follow-up
Interim analysis	≈50 patients with ≥6 months follow-up	10 months
Primary analysis	90 patients with ≥6 months follow-up	11 months
Extended follow-up analysis	90 patients with ≥12 months follow-up	17 months

aDisease was reassessed prior to infusion for all patients requiring bridging therapy. bInfusion was conducted on an in- or outpatient basis at investigator discretion. cRefractory to ≥2nd line of systemic therapy (including an anti-CD20 antibody and alkylating agent) or relapsed within 6 months after ≥2nd line of therapy or after an autologous HSCT.

CAR, chimeric antigen receptor; CD, cluster of differentiation; CRR, complete response rate; DOR, duration of response; EAS, efficacy analysis set; FL, follicular lymphoma; HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplant; IRC, independent review committee; IV, intravenous; ORR, overall response rate; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival.

## ELARA: Durable Response and Promising 12-mo PFS Confirmed with Longer Follow-up

- With a longer median follow-up of 21 months (August 3, 2021 data cutoff)
  - Median PFS was 29.5 months (95% CI, 17.9-NE)<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup>Median PFS should be interpreted with caution due to the low number of patients at risk after Month 24. CI, confidence interval; IRC, independent review committee; NE, not estimable; PFS, progression-free survival.

## ZUMA-2: Phase 2 study of KTE-X19 in r/r MCL



## ZUMA-2: DOR, PFS, and OS



- Median DOR, PFS, and OS were not reached after a median f/u of 17.5 mos
- 48% of all efficacy-evaluable patients at the data cutoff date
- 70% of patients who achieved CR remain in response

## TRANSCEND NHL 001: Preliminary results with liso-cel in r/r MCL



- MCL after ≥2 lines of therapy<sup>a,b</sup>
- Prior BTKi, alkylating agent, and an anti-CD20  $\mbox{agent}^{\rm c}$
- Prior HSCT allowed (autologous/allogeneic)
- Secondary CNS lymphoma allowed
- ECOG PS of  $0-2^d$
- CrCl >30 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>
- LVEF  $\geq 40\%$
- No lower threshold for ALC, ANC, platelets, or hemoglobin

#### **End Points**

#### Primary

• AEs, DLTs, ORR by IRC per Lugano classification

#### Secondary

• CR rate by IRC, duration of response, PFS, OS, cellular kinetics, HRQoL, number of ICU days

### **TRANSCEND MCL:** Patient responses over time





# Conclusions

- CAR T cell therapy has transformed the management of chemo-refractory large B-cell lymphoma
- Commercial CAR T has resulted in similar efficacy and comparable safety despite application in sicker/frailer patients
- CAR T is superior to salvage chemo/ASCT in high risk patients in 2<sup>nd</sup>-line
  - How do we approach those that relapse > 12 months
  - Will we bridge to CAR T at relapse?
- How do we balance safety with efficacy in indolent NHL in the ever expand treatment landscape?
- CAR T post BTKi is effective in R/R MCL,
  - will bispecifics be disruptive?