

Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Hematologic Malignancies

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Disclosures

- Spouse Janssen Research & Development, LLC
- Research funding from Merck, Bayer, Takeda, Seattle Genetics, and Celgene
- I will be discussing non-FDA approved indications during my presentation.

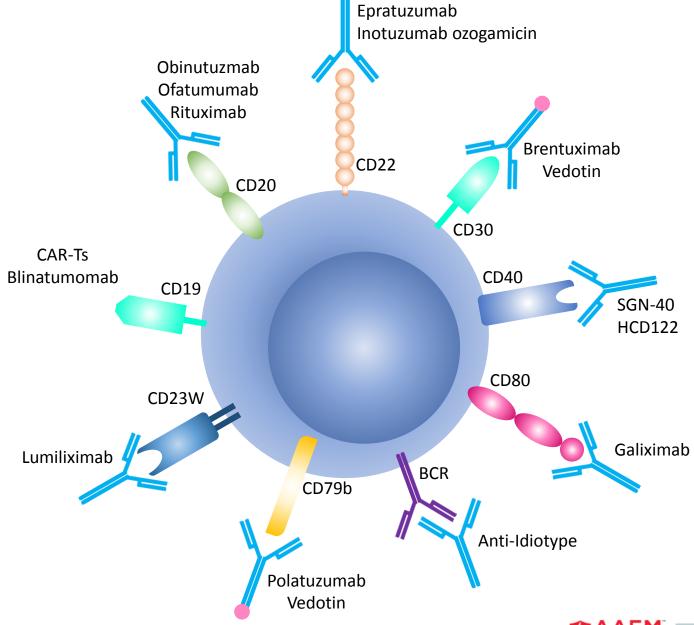






















Checkpoint inhibitors











FDA-approved Checkpoint inhibitors: Lymphoma

Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Nivolumab	2016	Classical Hodgkin lymphoma, relapsed after HSCT and brentuximab vedotin or ≥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)



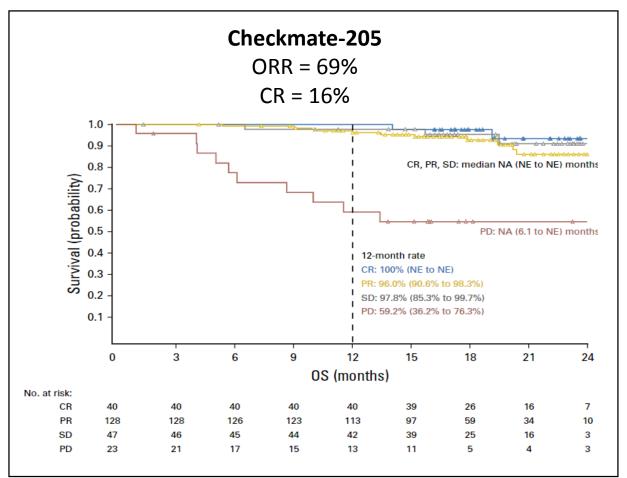


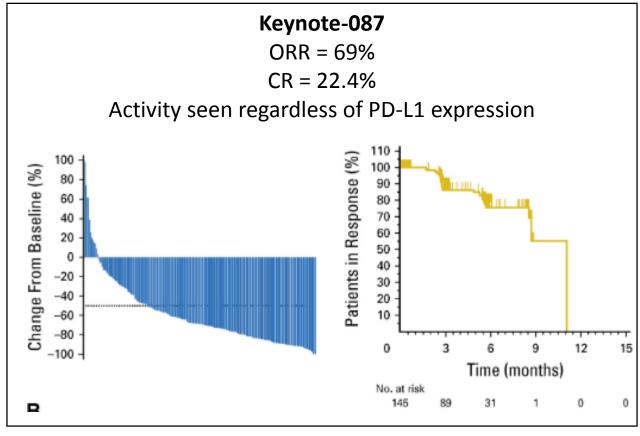






Checkpoint inhibitors: Hodgkin Lymphoma







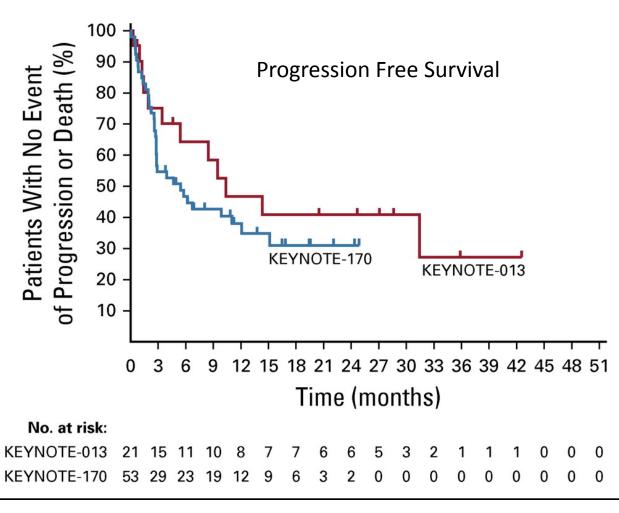


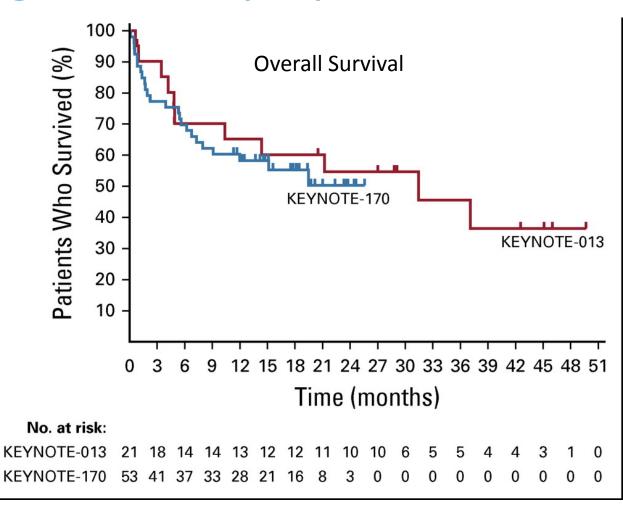






Pembrolizumab in Primary Mediastinal Large B cell Lymphoma











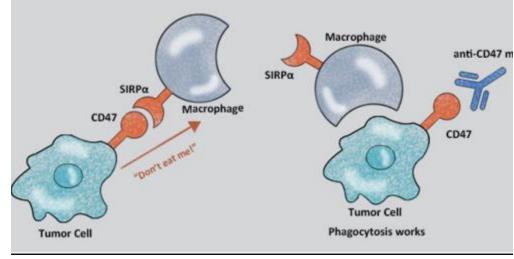


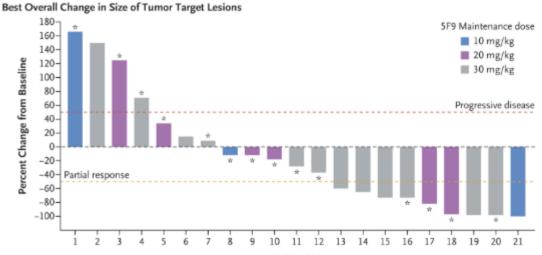


In development: Macrophage

checkpoint: CD47

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















Bi-specific T-cell engagers (BiTEs)





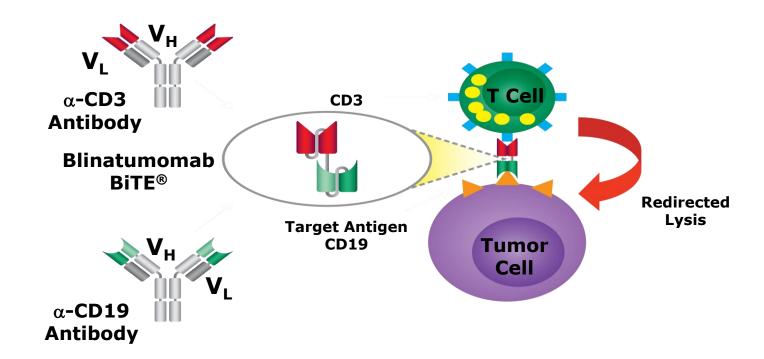






BiTE (Blinatumomab) Therapy

- 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 ≥ 0.1%





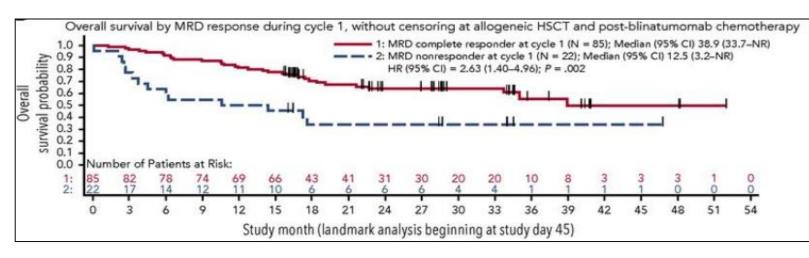


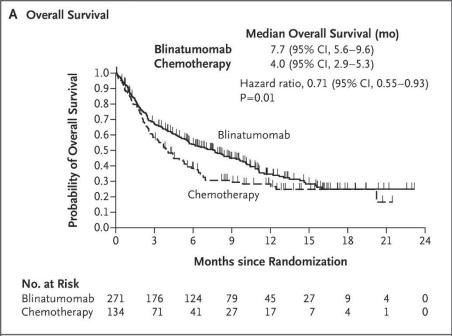






Blinatumomab: B-ALL















Antibody-drug conjugates (ADC)











FDA-Approved Antibody-Drug Conjugates

Drug	Target antigen	Year of approval	Indication
Brentuximab vedotin	CD30	2011	 Classical Hodgkin lymphoma, relapsed after HSCT or ≥2 previous therapies Anaplastic large cell lymphoma ≥ 1 previous therapies
		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 ≥ 2 previous therapies



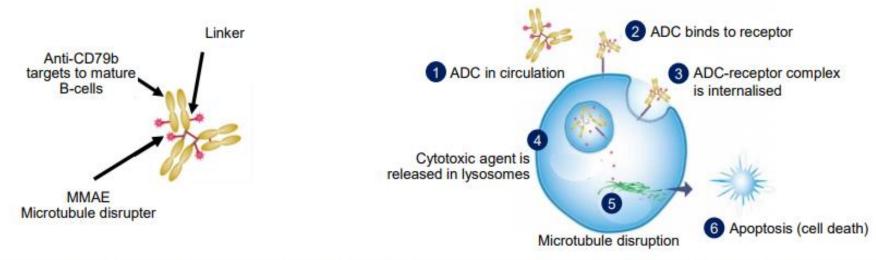








Polatuzumab vedotin: DLBCL



Polatuzumab vedotin has demonstrated efficacy in R/R DLBCL in combination with rituximab^{1,2} and rituximab-bendamustine³

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

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

 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





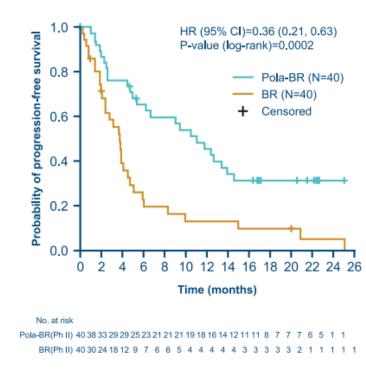


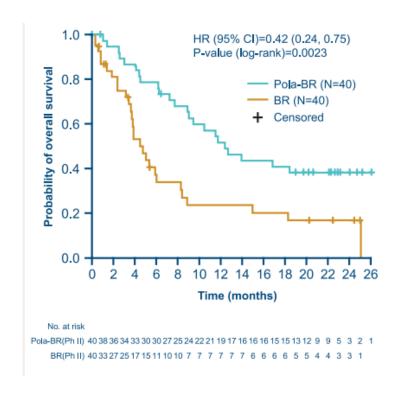




Polatuzumab vedotin: DLBCL

- 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









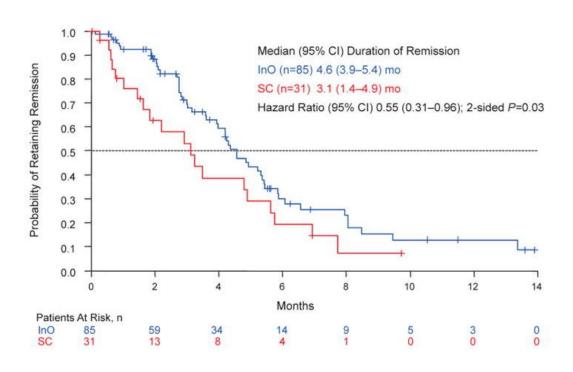


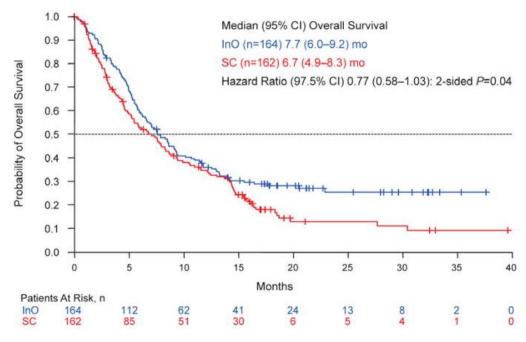




Inotuzumab ozogamicin for ALL

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















Chimeric Antigen Receptor Therapy (CAR T)





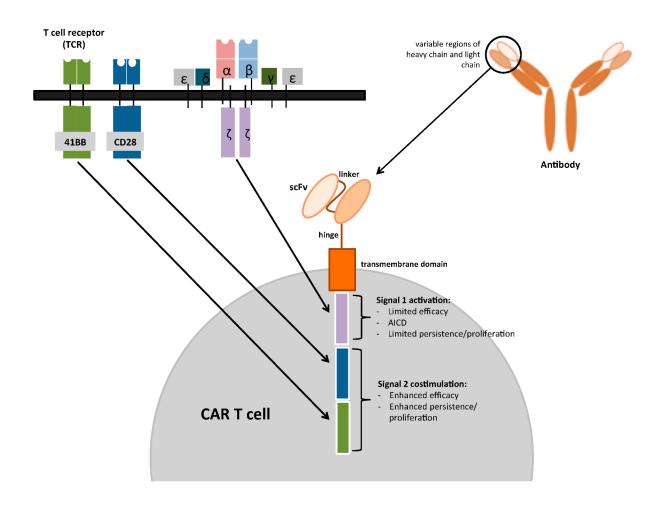






Chimeric antigen receptors

- Specific and potent: B specific, T - toxic
- Overcome immune tolerance
- Targets surface molecules in native conformation
- Independent of antigen presenting cell and MHC complex





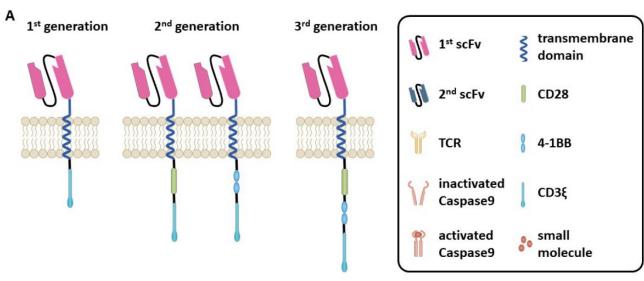


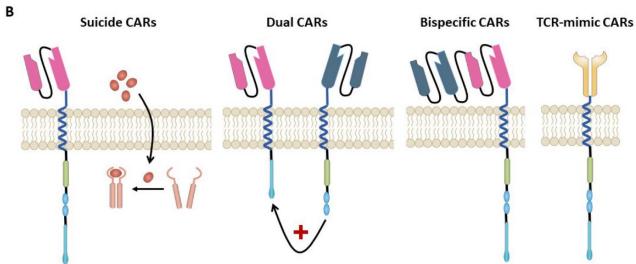






Evolution of CAR Constructs







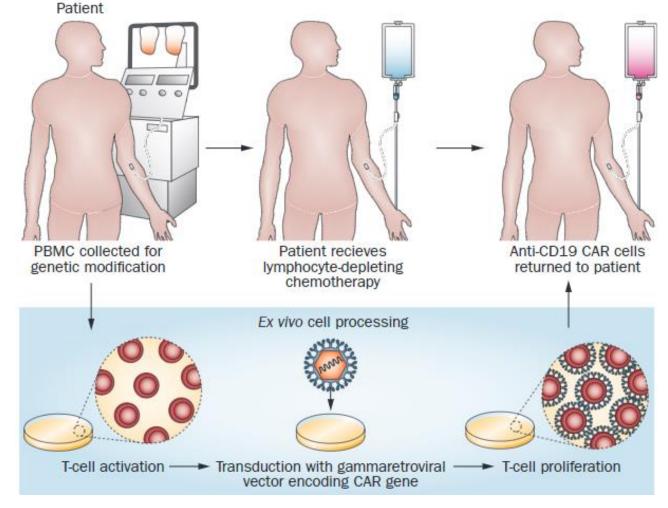








CAR T manufacturing and administration













CAR T Side Effects

Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS)

Neurotoxicity

B Cell aplasia

Macrophage Activation Syndrome (MAS)/HLH





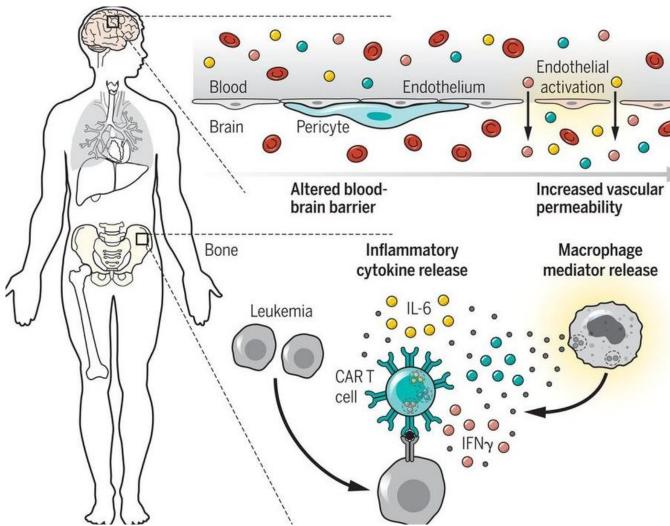






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CAR T Side Effects



Treatment

Steroids Anti-epileptics

Hemodynamic instability

Intracranial hemorrhage

Neurotoxicity

Cerebral edema

Delirium

Aphasia

Seizures

Tachycardia Hypotension Capillary leak syndrome Tocilizumab Steroids

Organ dysfunction

AST and ALT elevation Hyperbilirubinemia Respiratory failure











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 x 10 ⁶ CAR-positive, viable T-cells per kg bodyweight (up to 2x10 ⁸)
Tisagenlecleucel	2017	Patients ≤25 yr with refractory B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia or in 2+ relapse	0.2-0.5x10 ⁶ CAR-positive, viable T-cells per kg if under 50 kg 0.1-2.5x10 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	0.6-6.0 x 10 ⁸ CAR-positive, viable T- cells











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





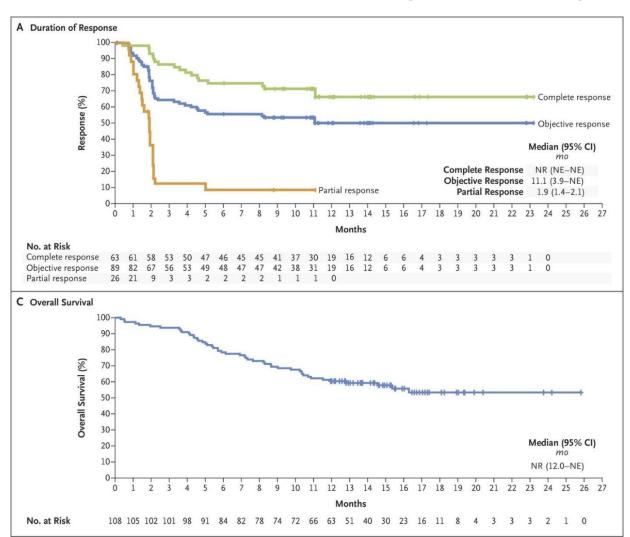






CD19 CAR in DLBCL- ZUMA1 (Axi-cel)

- CD19/CD283
- ORR = 82%
- CR = 54%
- 1.5-yr estimated OS = 52%
- CRS grade ≥3 = 13%
- Neurotox grade ≥3 = 28%







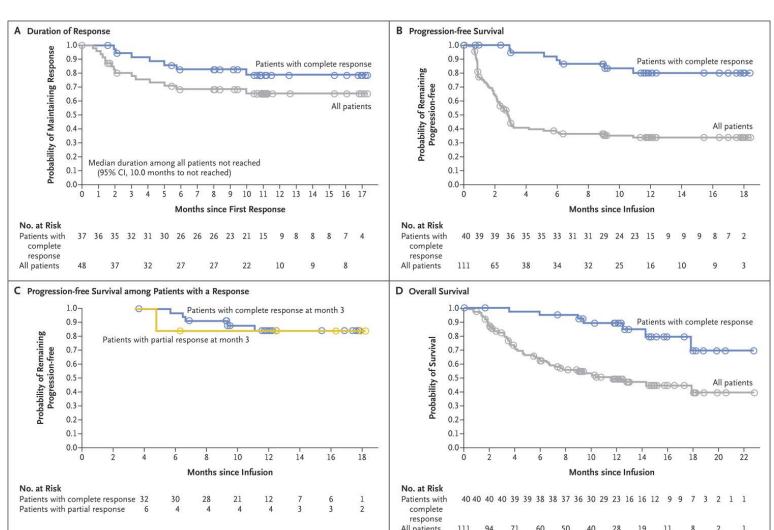






CD19 CAR in DLBCL - JULIET (Tisa-cel)

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







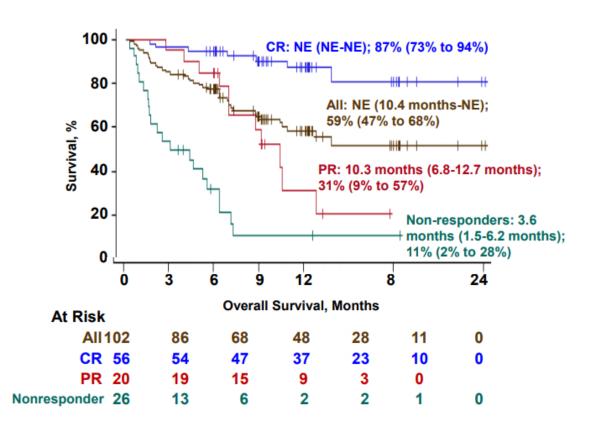






CD19 CAR in DLBCL - TRANSCEND (Liso-Cel)

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







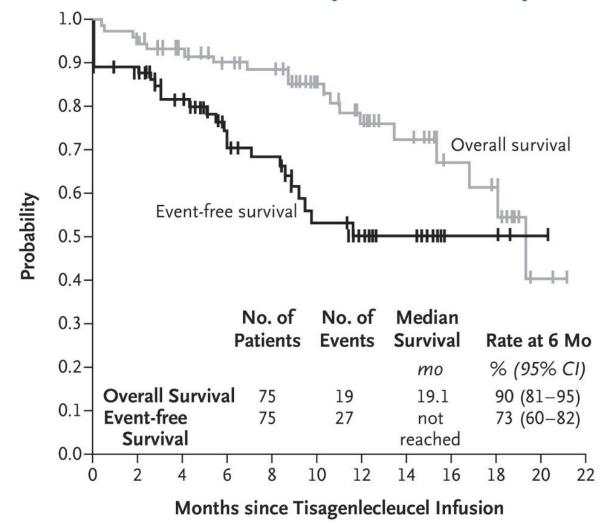






CD19 CAR in B-ALL: ELIANA (Tisa-cel)

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







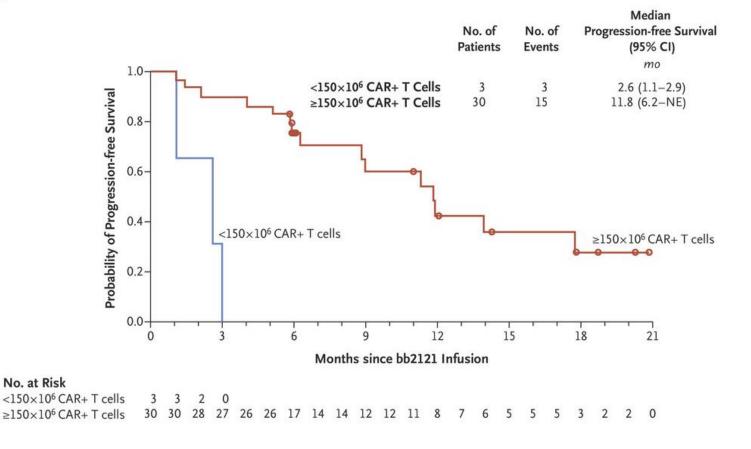






In Development: BCMA+ CAR T Therapy for Myeloma

- bb2121
 - B cell maturation antigen (BCMA)
 - Phase I CRB-401 study
 - Previously treated patients with relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma
 - ORR: 85%, CR: 45%













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 still concerns











Additional Resources



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

and Madhav V. Dhodapkar^{44*}

Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer

POSITION ARTICLE AND GUIDELINES

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

Michael Boyiadzis^{1†}, Michael R. Bishop^{2†}, Rafat Abonour³, Kenneth C. Anderson⁴, Stephen M. Ansell⁵, David Avigan⁶, Lisa Barbarotta⁷, Austin John Barrett⁸, Koen Van Besien⁹, P. Leif Bergsagel¹⁰, Ivan Borrello¹¹, Joshua Brody¹², Jill Brufsky¹³, Mitchell Cairo¹⁴, Ajai Chari¹², Adam Cohen¹⁵, Jorge Cortes¹⁶, Stephen J. Forman¹⁷, Jonathan W. Friedberg¹⁸, Ephraim J. Fuchs¹⁹, Steven D. Gore²⁰, Sundar Jagannath¹², Brad S. Kahl²¹, Justin Kline²², James N. Kochenderfer²³, Larry W. Kwak²⁴, Ronald Levy²⁵, Marcos de Lima²⁶, Mark R. Litzow²⁷, Anuj Mahindra²⁸, Jeffrey Miller²⁹, Nikhil C. Munshi³⁰, Robert Z. Orlowski³¹, John M. Pagel³², David L. Porter³³, Stephen J. Russell⁵, Karl Schwartz³⁴, Margaret A. Shipp³⁵, David Siegel³⁶, Richard M. Stone⁴, Martin S. Tallman³⁷, John M. Timmerman³⁸, Frits Van Rhee³⁹, Edmund K. Waller⁴⁰, Ann Welsh⁴¹, Michael Werner⁴², Peter H. Wiernik⁴³











Case Studies











- 44 year old female with a history of Stage IV follicular lymphoma s/p R-CHOP x 6 cycles with a partial response, followed by maintenance rituximab, now with evidence of transformed large B-cell lymphoma
- She initially presented with a 19 cm mesenteric mass with hepatosplenomegaly.
 Biopsy was consistent with follicular lymphoma, grade 1. She had bone marrow
 involvement. She tolerated 6 cycles of R-CHOP with a very good partial response.
 She was then started on maintenance rituximab.
- Three months after starting rituximab, she developed worsening abdominal pain.
 PET/CT showed extensive disease above and below the diaphragm with increasing size and activity of mesenteric adenopathy.
- She underwent laparoscopic biopsy of the mesenteric mass which was consistent with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, germinal center type with high grade features. FISH was positive for t(14;18) but negative for MYC and BCL2 rearrangement.



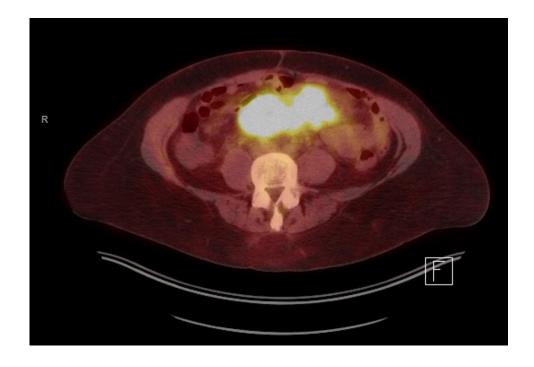








- She received 2 cycles of R-ICE. PET/CT after 2 cycles of R-ICE showed persistent FDGavid mesenteric mass.
- PS: ECOG 1
- What would be your next step?
 - A. Chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy
 - B. Allogeneic stem cell transplant
 - C. High-dose chemotherapy with autologous stem cell transplant
 - D. Clinical trial





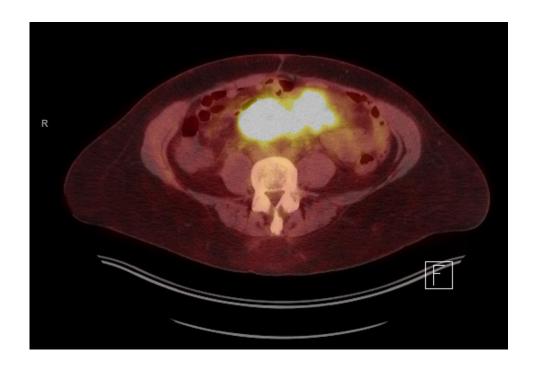








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- Received 1 cycle of R-DHAP as bridging therapy prior to CAR-T therapy (Axi-cel).
- Received fludarabine/cyclophosphamide conditioning chemotherapy followed by Axi-cel infusion.
- On day +3, the patient developed fevers (39 C) with hypotension (BP 90/55) but not requiring vasopressor support.
 - Grade 2 CRS based on the ASBMT consensus group grading system
 - Supportive care with acetaminophen, IV fluid bolus, antibiotics (ANC <500)
- Day +4: Persistent fevers, hypotension requiring vasopressor support, hypoxia requiring O2 by NRB mask
 - Grade 3 CRS
 - Transferred to ICU
 - Given tocilizumab with improvement of symptoms



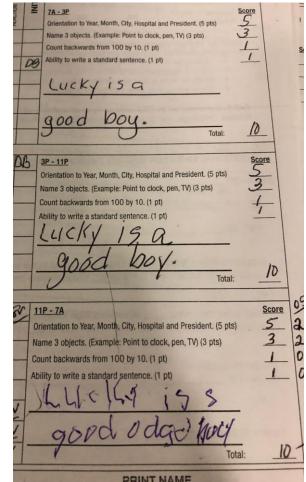


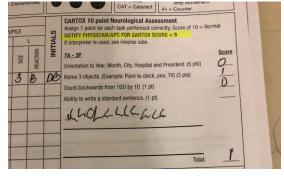






- Day +6, the patient developed aphasia, confusion, dysgraphia. Awakens only to tactile stimulus. No concurrent CRS.
- CARTOX 10 score was 1
- MRI brain: unremarkable. LP opening pressure: 15 cm H2O (normal).
- No seizure activity. Patient was on levetiracetam prophylaxis.
- What would you give this patient?
 - A. Tocilizumab
 - B. Corticosteroids
 - C. IV antibiotics
 - D. Antithymocyte globulin







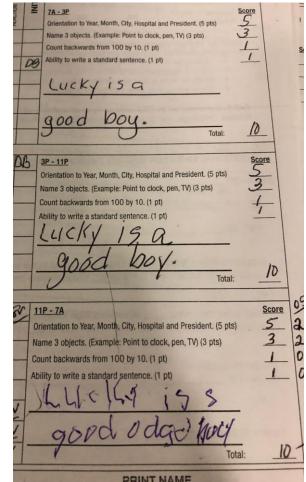


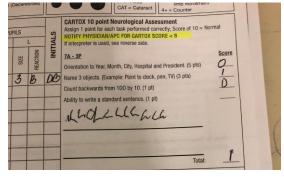






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 - C. IV antibiotics
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- Patient had resolution of her CNS symptoms. She was transferred out of the ICU and discharged a few days later.
- Repeat PET/CT on day +30 showed a partial response (smaller mesenteric mass with lower SUV) with Deauville score of 4.
- Patient went on to receive radiation therapy to the mesenteric mass and systemic pembrolizumab.
- Repeat PET/CT showed no FDG avid lesions/complete metabolic response











- 42 year old female with history of sarcoidosis with non-ischemic cardiomyopathy (LVEF 25-30%) presenting with relapsed/refractory Stage IV DLBCL, non-GCB subtype (BM involvement).
- Initially presented with right sided hip pain and was found to a right hip mass, which was biopsied and was consistent with DLBCL, non-GCB subtype.
- Received R-CVP x 4 cycles with progressive disease
- R-GemOx x 6 cycles with complete metabolic response. Patient was not considered a transplant candidate due to her NICM/HFrEF.
- 3 months after completing R-GemOx, the patient developed worsening right hip pain. PET/CT showed increased FDG avid right iliac mass and abdominopelvic lymphadenopathy.



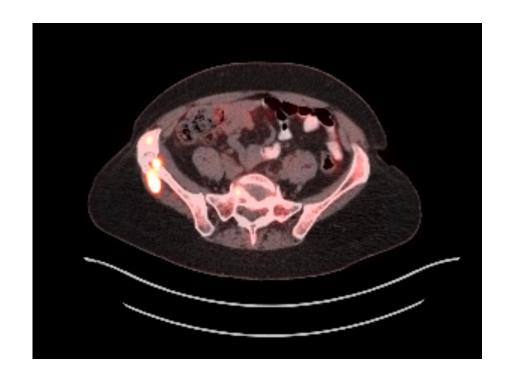








- Biopsy of the right iliac mass was consistent with DLBCL, non-germinal center subtype. CD30 negative.
- FISH negative for BCL2, BCL2, and MYC rearrangements.
- What would you use to treated her relapsed/refractory DLBCL?
 - A. Polatuzumab vedotin-piiq, bendamustine, rituximab
 - B. Chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy
 - C. Allogeneic stem cell transplant
 - D. Brentuximab vedotin













- Patient started on polatuzumab vedotin-piiq with bendamsutine and rituximab
- Fatal and/or serious infections have occurred in patients treated with polatuzumab vedotin
 - Package insert recommends prophylaxis for *Pneumocystis jiroveci* pneumonia and herpesvirus through treatment with polatuzumab vedotin.
- The patient was started on acyclovir and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole prophylaxis
- She has tolerated 3 cycles and will be getting an interim scan to assess her response.







