

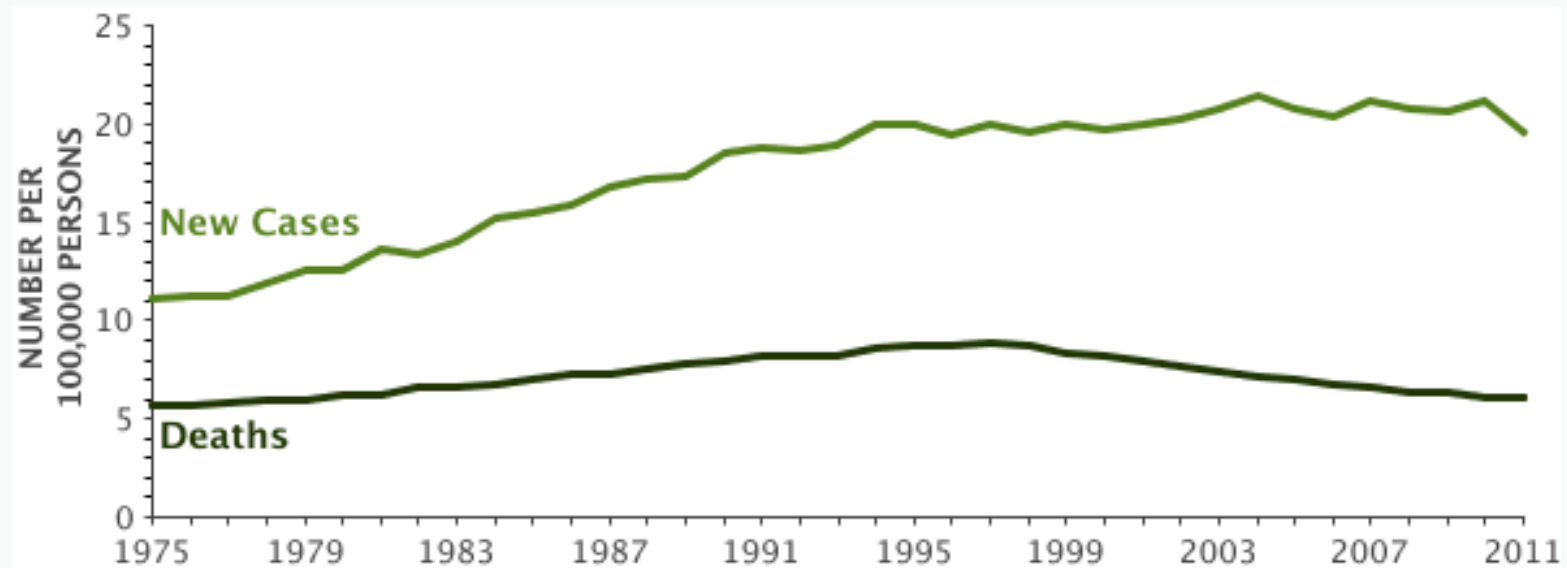
# Rituximab Sottocute: è un passo avanti?

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Francesco Merli  
ASMN IRCCS  
Reggio Emilia

# Epidemiology of Lymphomas

## New Cases, Deaths and 5-Year Relative Survival

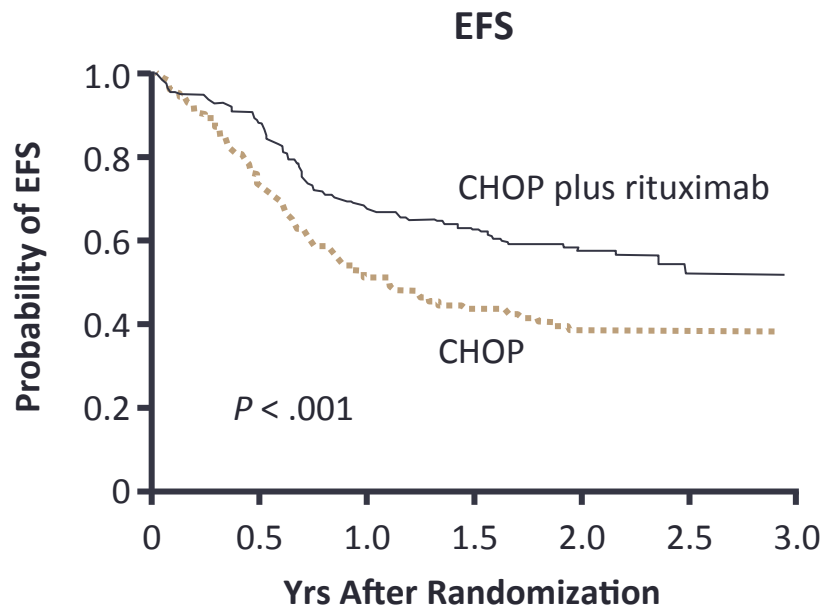
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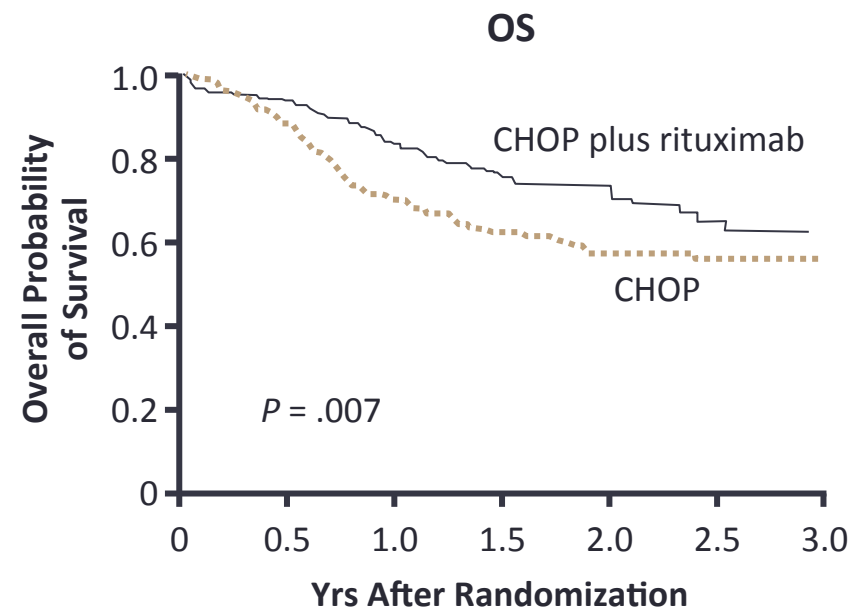
Year	1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	1998	2002	2006
5-Year Relative Survival	45.8%	49.1%	52.4%	49.7%	52.8%	61.0%	69.3%	70.3%

SEER 9 Incidence & U.S. Mortality 1975-2011, All Races, Both Sexes. Rates are Age-Adjusted.

# CHOP ± Rituximab in DLBCL: 3-Yr Survival Results (GELA LNH-98.5 Study)

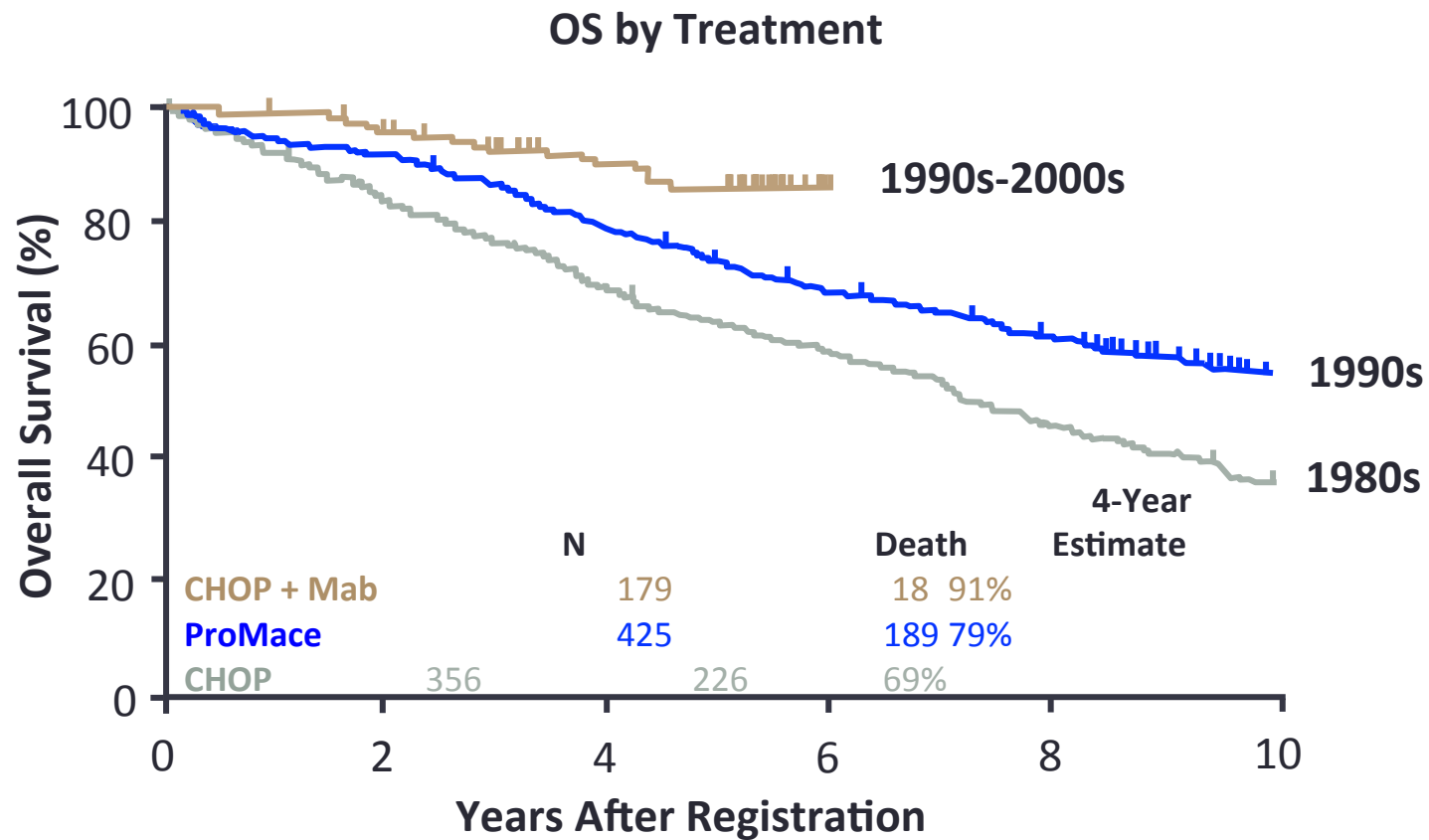


Pts at Risk, n		0	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0
CHOP plus rituximab	202	177	137	108	63	19		
CHOP	197	144	101	72	42	17		

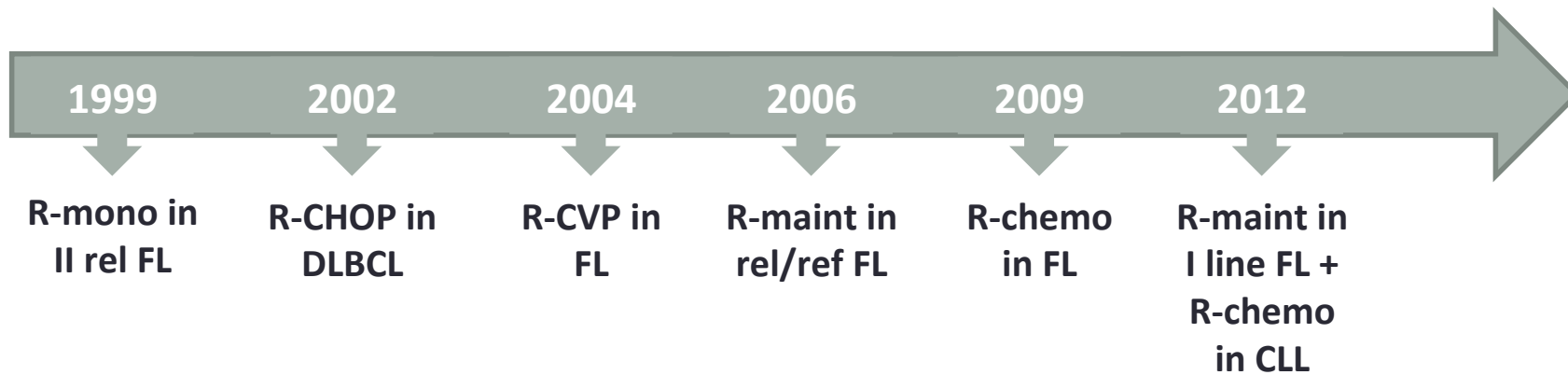


Pts at Risk, n		0	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0
CHOP plus rituximab	202	187	167	118	64	21		
CHOP	197	171	136	96	58	16		

# Improving Survival of Follicular NHL: Impact of Antibody-Based Therapy



# Success of Rituximab





## Is it possible to improve the R-side of ICT?

- Dosing
- Administration
- Efficacy

# More appropriate use of rituximab

## SMART-E –R-CHOP-14 TRIAL

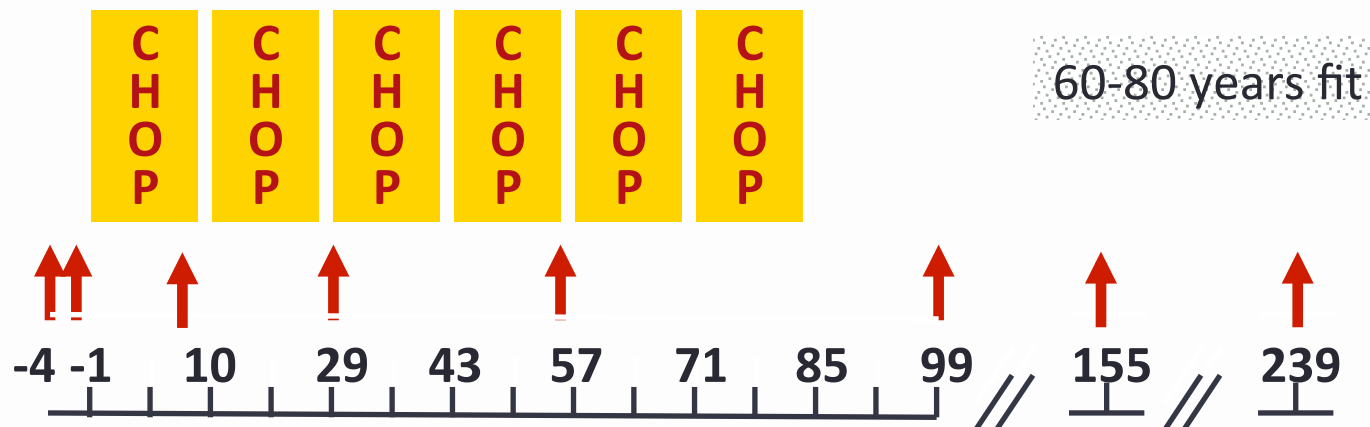


- ✓ RCHOP 14 is not superior to RCHOP 21 (2 prospective trials)
- ✓ Pharmacokinetics of RCHOP 14 → plateau R – serum level not until cycle 5

### AIM:


- ✓ achieve high R levels early
- ✓ maintain R serum levels over a prolonged period

## SMART-E- R-CHOP-14 (8 x R)



# SMART-E-R-CHOP vs RCHOP 14 (RICOVER 60)

RETROSPECTIVE MATCHED COMPARISON (\*data in percent)

	ALL PATIENTS						IPI 3-5		
	N^	CR*	PD*	G 3-4 Infect*	EFS*	OS*	N^	EFS *	OS*
SMART-E	99	84	5.6	3.3°	67.5	81.4	50	69°	78
RICOVER 60	306 	78	3	6.6°	66.5	78.1	123	54°	67

° p significant

 → more high risk cases in SMART-E



**Pharmakokinetic analysis:**  
earlier maximal R level in SMART-E vs RICOVER (2<sup>nd</sup> vs 6<sup>th</sup> course)





# RCHOP & GENDER

ORIGINAL ARTICLE: CLINICAL



## Prognostic role of gender in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma treated with rituximab containing regimens: a Fondazione Italiana Linfomi/Grupo de Estudios en Moléstias Onco-Hematológicas retrospective study

Angelo M. Carella<sup>1</sup>, Carmino A. de Souza<sup>2</sup>, Stefano Luminari<sup>3</sup>, Luigi Marcheselli<sup>3</sup>, Annalisa Chiappella<sup>4</sup>, Alice Di Rocco<sup>5</sup>, Marina Cesaretti<sup>3</sup>, Andrea Rossi<sup>6</sup>, Luigi Rigacci<sup>7</sup>, Gianluca Gaidano<sup>8</sup>, Francesco Merli<sup>9</sup>, Michele Spina<sup>10</sup>, Caterina Stelitano<sup>11</sup>, Stefan Hohaus<sup>12</sup>, Anna Barbui<sup>6</sup>, Benedetta Puccini<sup>7</sup>, Eliana C. Miranda<sup>2</sup>, Annalisa Guida<sup>3</sup> & Massimo Federico<sup>3</sup>

### 1793 DLBCL PTS 2001-2007

- ✓ All treated with R-CT
- ✓ 53% males
- ✓ 5-yr PFS 76 % (whole cohort)
- ✓ Male gender significant univariate - HR 1.52
- ✓ Male gender significant multivariate adjusted by IPI

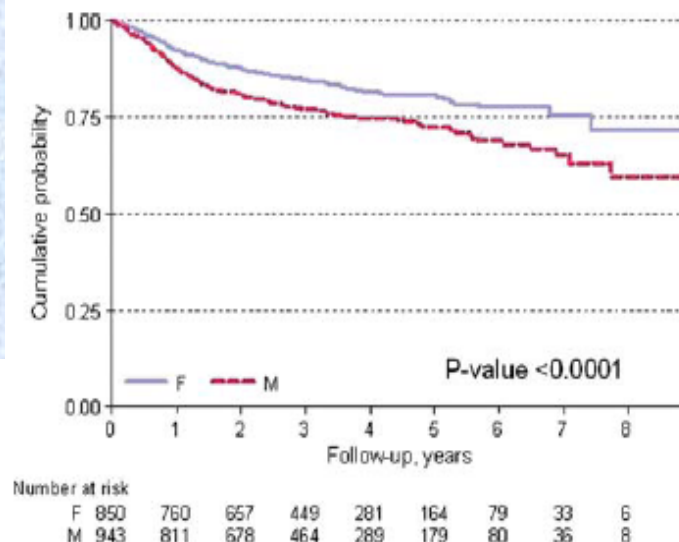
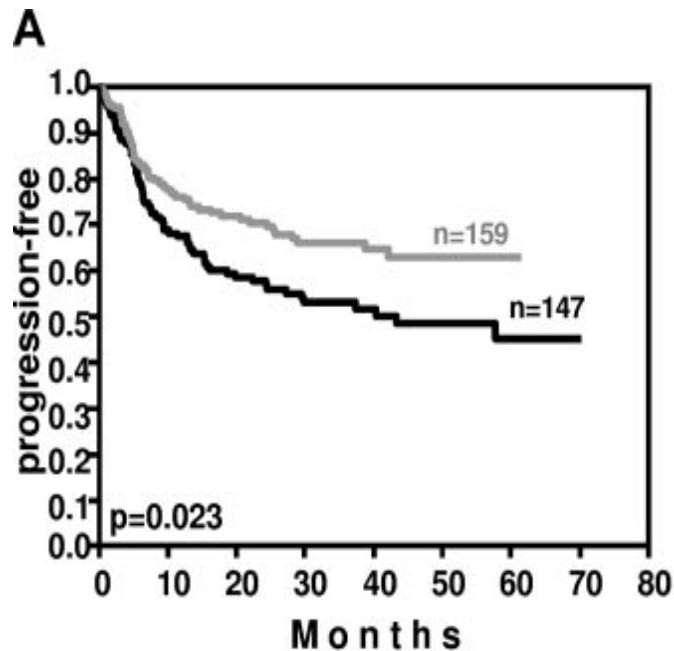


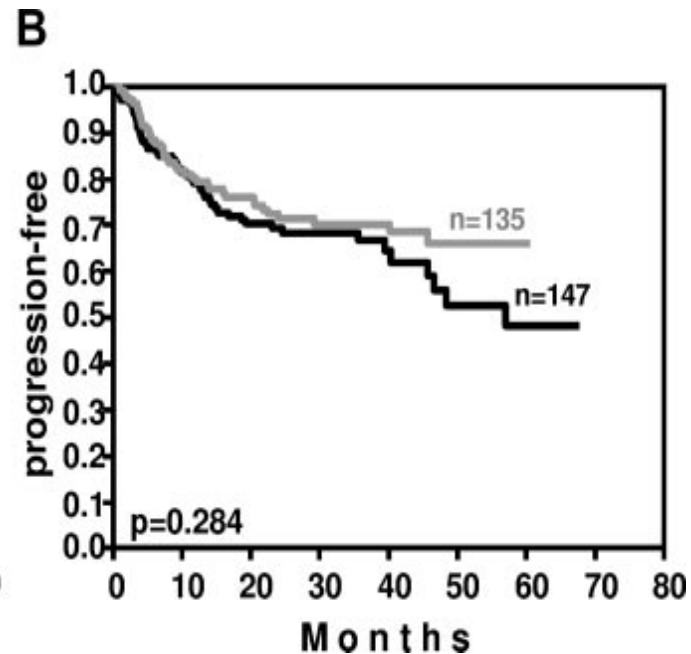
Figure 1. OS stratified by gender.

# Impact of weight in R- pharmacokinetic

## Impact of weight on PFS in RICOVER 60



Weight within lower quartile  
(female  $\leq 60$ , male  $\leq 73$  Kg)



Weight within upper quartile  
(female  $\geq 70$ , male  $\geq 89$  Kg)

# Role of gender & weight

**20 pts RCHOP 14 RICOVER 60**

Blood samples

10 min pre-R → 1 wk - 3,6,9 mos post R

**Clearance  
ml/h**

**Half life  
days**

**Male 12.6**

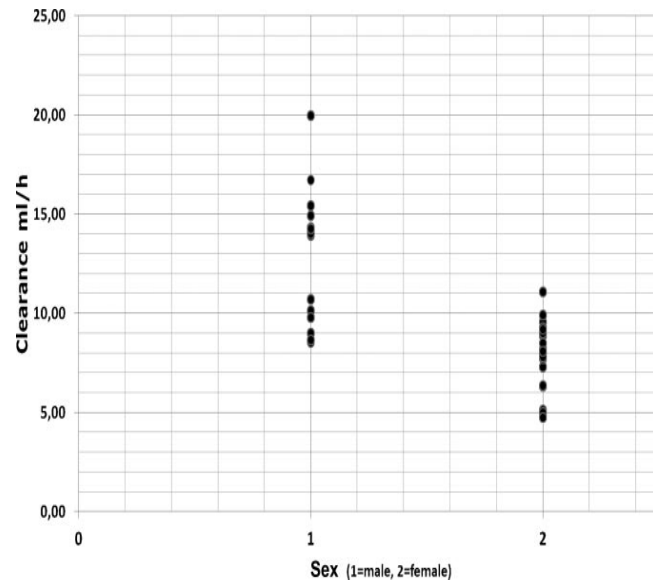
**24.7**

*p0.03*

*p0.03*

**Female 8.21**

**30.7**



**Table 4. Impact of weight on rituximab clearance and serum  $t_{1/2\beta}$  in elderly male patients with DLBCL**

	Median	Median + 25%	Median - 25%
Weight	88.8 kg	111.0 kg	66.6 kg
Clearance, mL/h	12.43	15.90	8.96
$t_{1/2\beta}$	527.0	412.0	731.3

**Table 5. PFS rates of female and male patients treated in the RICOVER-60 trial with CHOP-14 with and without rituximab**

	CHOP-14	R-CHOP-14
<b>2-year PFS, % (95% CI)</b>		
Female patients (n = 287/285)	62 (56-68)	77 (72-82)
Male patients (n = 325/325)	61 (56-67)	71 (66-76)
Difference	1.0 (0.7-1.3)	5.7 (5.4-6.0)
<b>3-year PFS, % (95% CI)</b>		
Female patients (n = 287/285)	60 (53-66)	75 (70-81)
Male patients (n = 325/325)	55 (49-60)	68 (62-73)
Difference	5.1 (4.8-5.5)	7.7 (7.4-8.0)
<b>4-year PFS, % (95% CI)</b>		
Female patients (n = 287/285)	50 (42-58)	72 (65-78)
Male patients (n = 325/325)	49 (42-56)	64 (58-70)
Difference	0.9 (0.3-1.5)	7.6 (7.2-8.0)

# What are the challenges faced for IV administration?



IV infusion times for rituximab are long; inconveniencing patients



Preparation, premedication, monitoring and observation of patients are time-consuming tasks for healthcare professionals

IV infusion of treatments presents a challenge to organisational capacity



IV infusion is associated with a higher PK variability, and is a poor indicator of optimal drug exposure\*

Salar A, *et al.* ASH 2010. Abstract 2858 (poster).

\* Golay J. *et al.*, *mAbs* 5:6, 1–12; November/December 2013

\* Cartron G. *et al.*, *Clin Cancer Res* 2011;17:19-30

# SC Rituximab: Physicochemical Properties

## Rituximab S.C. :

Same molecule of rituximab i.v.

**Concentrating the rituximab 12-fold** (MabThera i.v. : 10 mg/ml MabThera s.c: 120 mg/ml ) **resulting in volume of 11.7 ml** (=1400:120)

## Addition of hyaluronidase as permeation enhancer

Efforts have been made to concentrate the dose of rituximab IV; however, volume of 11.7 ml still remain too large to be effectively administered SC without permeation enhancer

## rHuPH20 Gen2 =

2000 U / ml (2000 x 11,7 ml = 23400 U)

## Classified as a novel permeation enhancer

No therapeutic effect

Transient and reversible impact

## NHL Registration Clinical Development Plan Based on 2 studies

### Spark-Thera

Phase 1b in **FL patients during maintenance** Trial central to filing strategy of  $C_{\text{trough}}$  non-inferiority

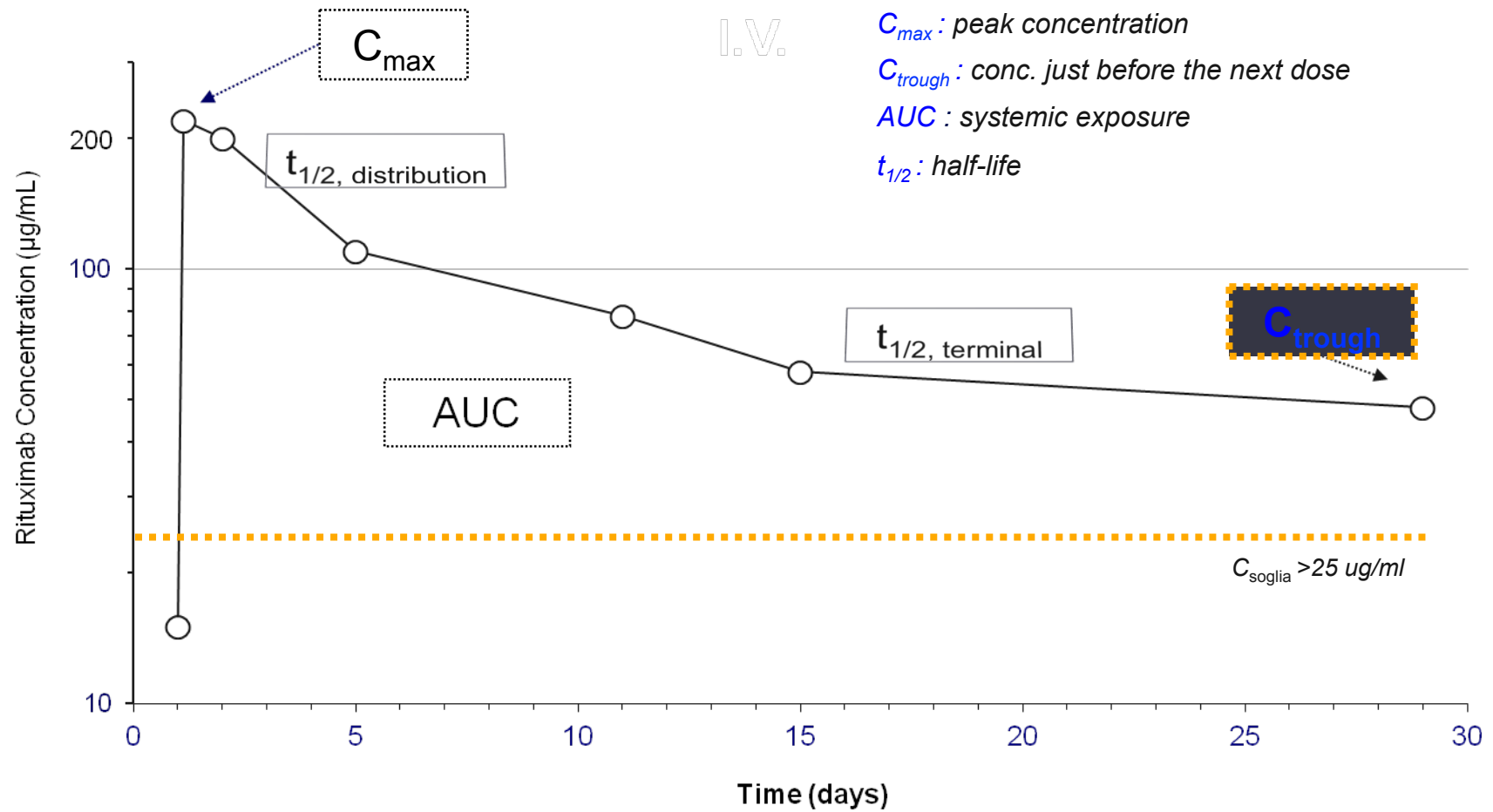
Part 1 (dose-definition): 88 pts  
Part 2 (confirmation part): 153 pts  
Only complete study at filing

### Sabrina

Phase III trial in FL patients during induction & Maintenance

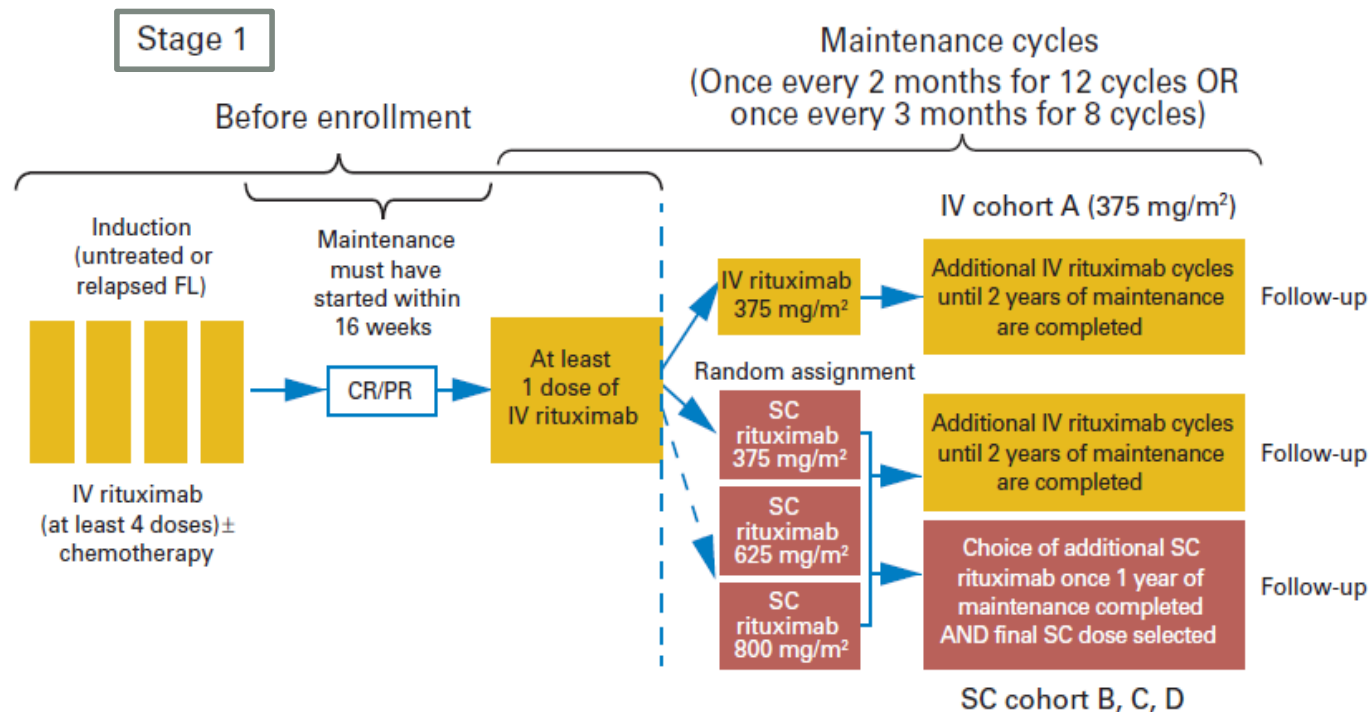
Part 1: PK in induction phase  
Part 2: Assess efficacy

# Rituximab disposition after Intravenous administration



The most important PK parameter of rituximab is  $C_{trough}$

# A Comparison of Subcutaneous Versus Intravenous Administration of Rituximab as Maintenance Treatment for Follicular Lymphoma: Results from a Two-Stage, Phase Ib Study SPARK-THERA STUDY



- **Primary Objective:** to determine a SC rituximab dose that results in non-inferior C<sub>trough</sub> levels compared to an IV rituximab dose of 375 mg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Non- inferiority = 90% CI of R-SC/R-IV C<sub>trough</sub> ratio above 0.8



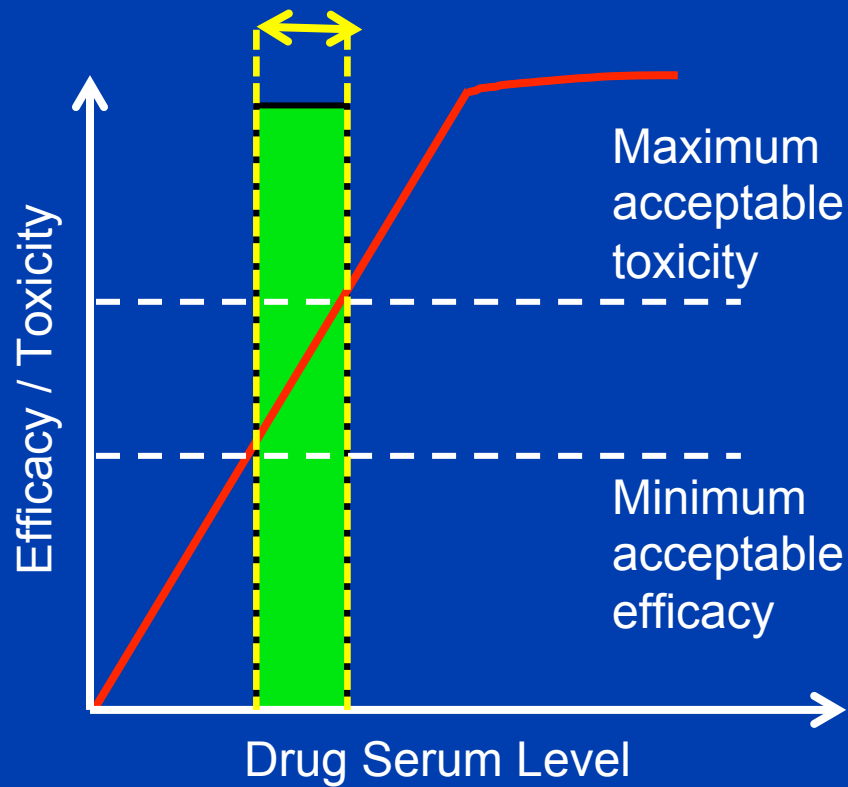
## SPARK-THERA STUDY stage1

Cohort	Regimen	PK parameter, mean $\pm$ standard deviation (n)		
		C <sub>trough</sub> ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )	AUC <sub>0-57</sub> (day $\cdot$ $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )	AUC <sub>0-85</sub> (day $\cdot$ $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )
375 mg/m <sup>2</sup> IV	q2m	45.2 $\pm$ 32.5 (8)	4,830 $\pm$ 1,550 (9)	-
	q3m	14.6 $\pm$ 6.76 (5)	-	4,300 $\pm$ 946 (7)
375 mg/m <sup>2</sup> SC	q2m	19.1 $\pm$ 11.7 (15)	2,380 $\pm$ 944 (17)	-
	q3m	13.8 $\pm$ 10.0 (11)	-	2,880 $\pm$ 1,240 (16)
625 mg/m <sup>2</sup> SC	q2m	42.5 $\pm$ 18.0 (15)	4,530 $\pm$ 1,580 (18)	-
	q3m	15.6 $\pm$ 9.76 (9)	-	4,130 $\pm$ 1,700 (15)
800 mg/m <sup>2</sup> SC	q2m	52.1 $\pm$ 21.0 (16)	5,120 $\pm$ 2,010 (20)	-
	q3m	19.9 $\pm$ 11.8 (7)	-	5,740 $\pm$ 1,710 (18)

- Rituximab C<sub>trough</sub> on Day 28 and AUC in patients administered 625 mg/m<sup>2</sup> Rituximab SC were comparable to those in patients given Rituximab intravenously (375 mg/m<sup>2</sup>)

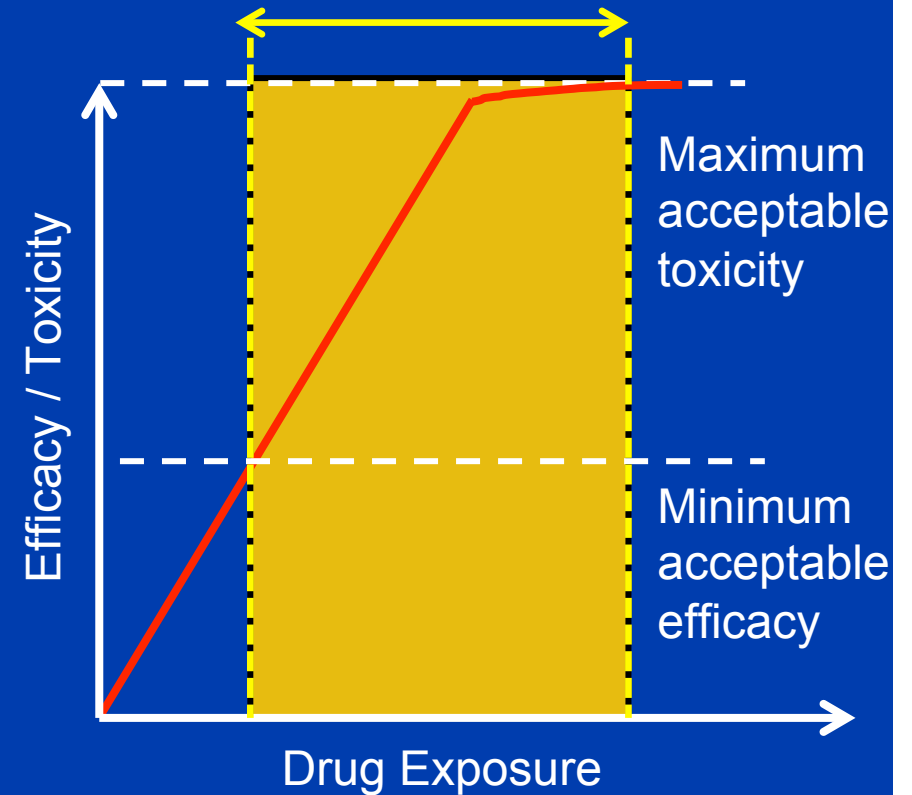
# Therapeutic Windows: Cytotoxic Drugs vs Rituximab

Therapeutic window



Cytotoxic Drug

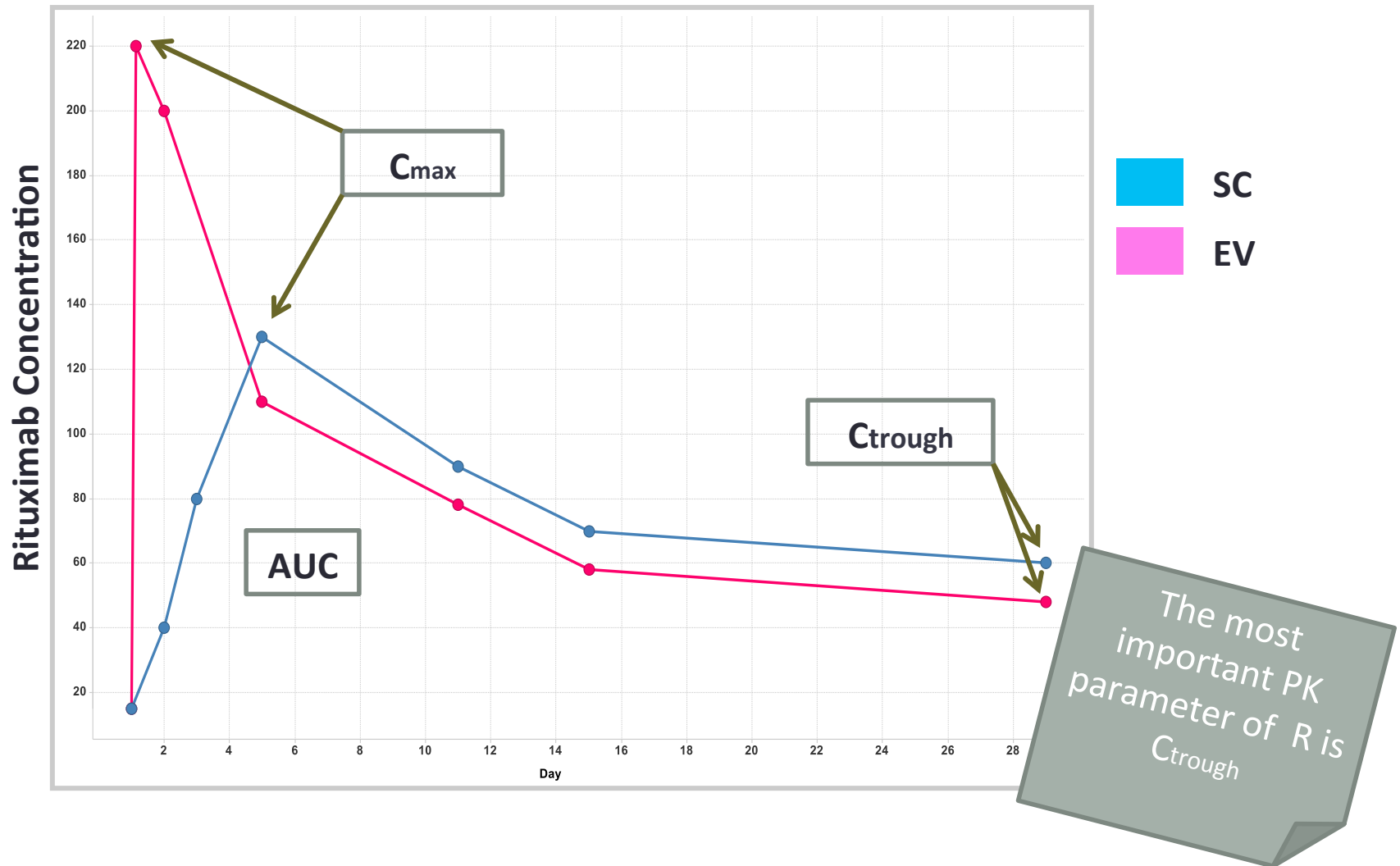
Therapeutic window



Rituximab

# Rituximab SC fixed Dose

The fixed dose has been calculated from the PK results of the dose-finding stage of BP22333 (SparkThera trial)



# MabThera IV administration vs SC

## Mabthera IV

About 700mg containing 375mg/mq administered in 2,5-4,5 hours

Concentrate for solution for infusion

Rituximab at a concentration of 10 mg/mL (total 500 mg or 100 mg)

To be diluted in glucosate or saline solution to a calculated concentration of 1 to 4 mg/ml prior to administration

The drug product is a sterile, clear, colourless liquid

Vials: colorless 50 ml or 10 ml vials

## Mabthera SC

11.7 ml containing 1400 mg administered in 6 minutes

Ready to use liquid formulation

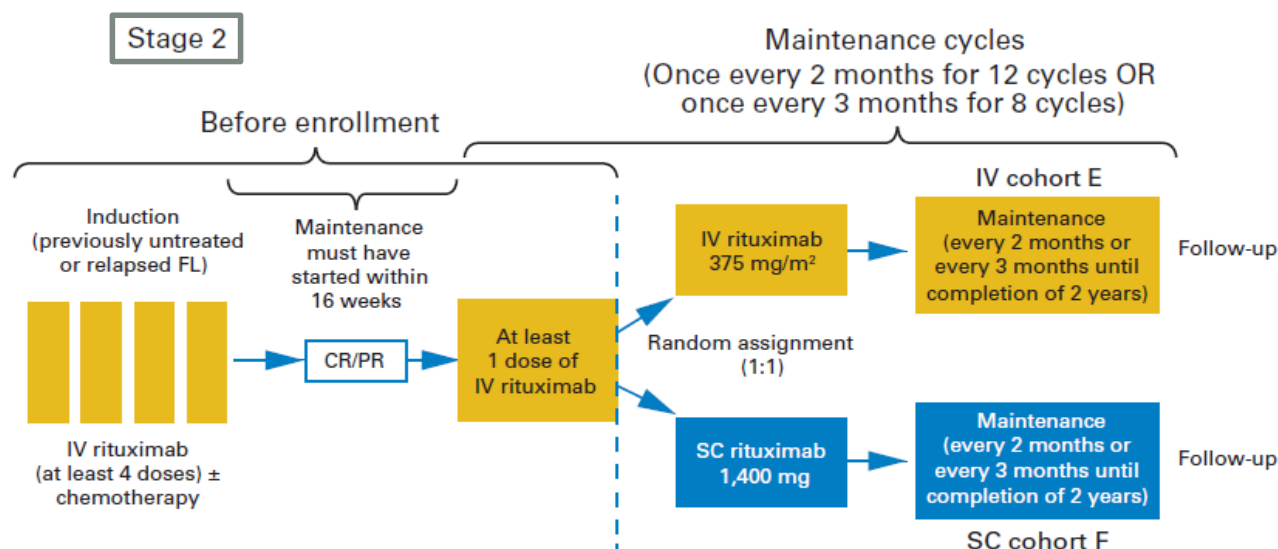
Rituximab at a concentration of 120 mg/mL (total 1400 mg)

Must not be diluted prior to administration

The drug product is a sterile, colorless to yellowish, clear to opalescent liquid

Vials: colorless 11.7 mL vials

# SPARK-THERA STUDY stage2



Stage 1 identified a flat dose of 1.400 mg rituximab SC for non-inferiority testing

➔ Stage 2: N = 154 (IV, n = 77; SC, n = 77)

➔ Stage 2 primary endpoint: Non-inferiority of rituximab SC  $C_{trough}$  compared with IV

- Protocol-specified non-inferiority limit was an SC:IV  $C_{trough}$  ratio of 0.8

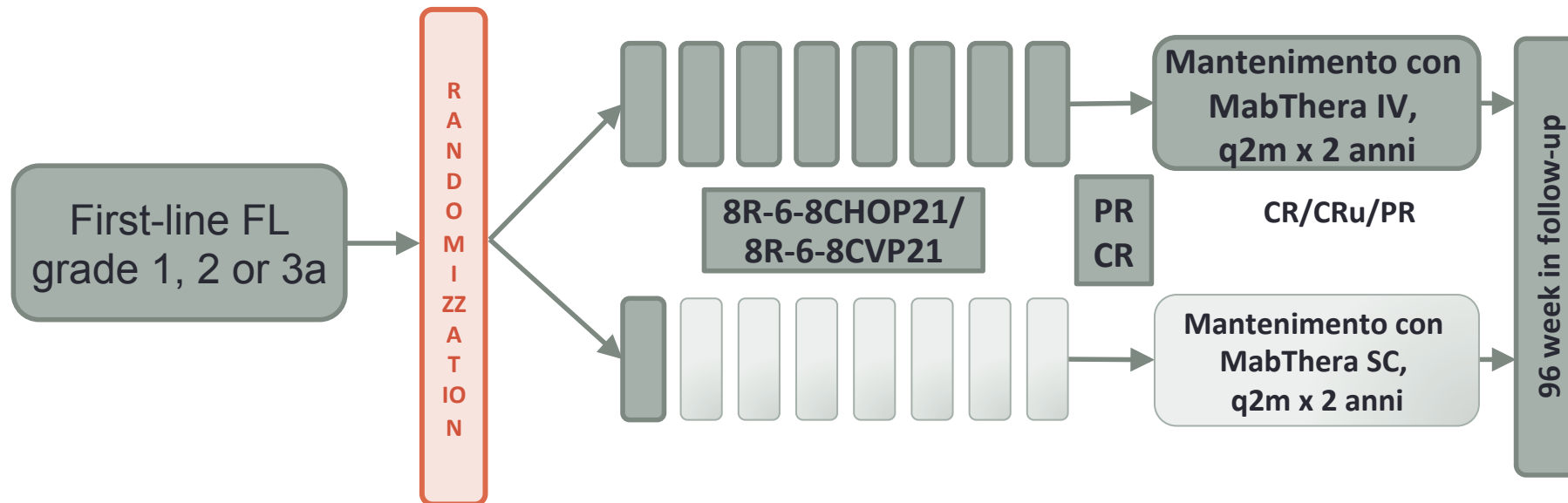
➔ Secondary endpoints included: PK (AUC) and safety

## SPARK-THERA STUDY stage2: AEs

AE, n (%)	SC 1400 mg (n=77)	IV 375 mg/m <sup>2</sup> (n=77)
<b>Any AE</b>	61 (79)	61 (79)
Leading to withdrawal from treatment	4 (5)	4 (5)
Leading to temporary dose modification/interruption	8 (10)	7 (9)
<b>Grade 3 (severe) AE</b>	14 (18)	13 (17)
<b>Serious AE</b>	9 (12)	11 (14)
Leading to withdrawal	2 (3)	2 (3)
Leading to temporary dose modification/interruption	2 (3)	0 (0)
Related to treatment	2 (3)	1 (1)
<b>Treatment-related AE</b>	37 (48)	19 (25)
Leading to withdrawal from treatment	2 (3)	2 (3)
Leading to temporary dose modification/interruption	5 (6)	3 (4)
<b>ARRs*</b>	24 (31)	3 (4)
Erythema	10 (13)	–
Injection-site erythema	4 (5)	–
Myalgia	4 (5)	–

Overall safety profiles were similar for SC vs IV. Local administration-related reactions (ARRs; mainly mild-to-moderate) were more frequent with MabThera SC

# Pharmacokinetics and safety of subcutaneous rituximab in follicular lymphoma (SABRINA): stage 1 analysis of a randomised phase 3 study



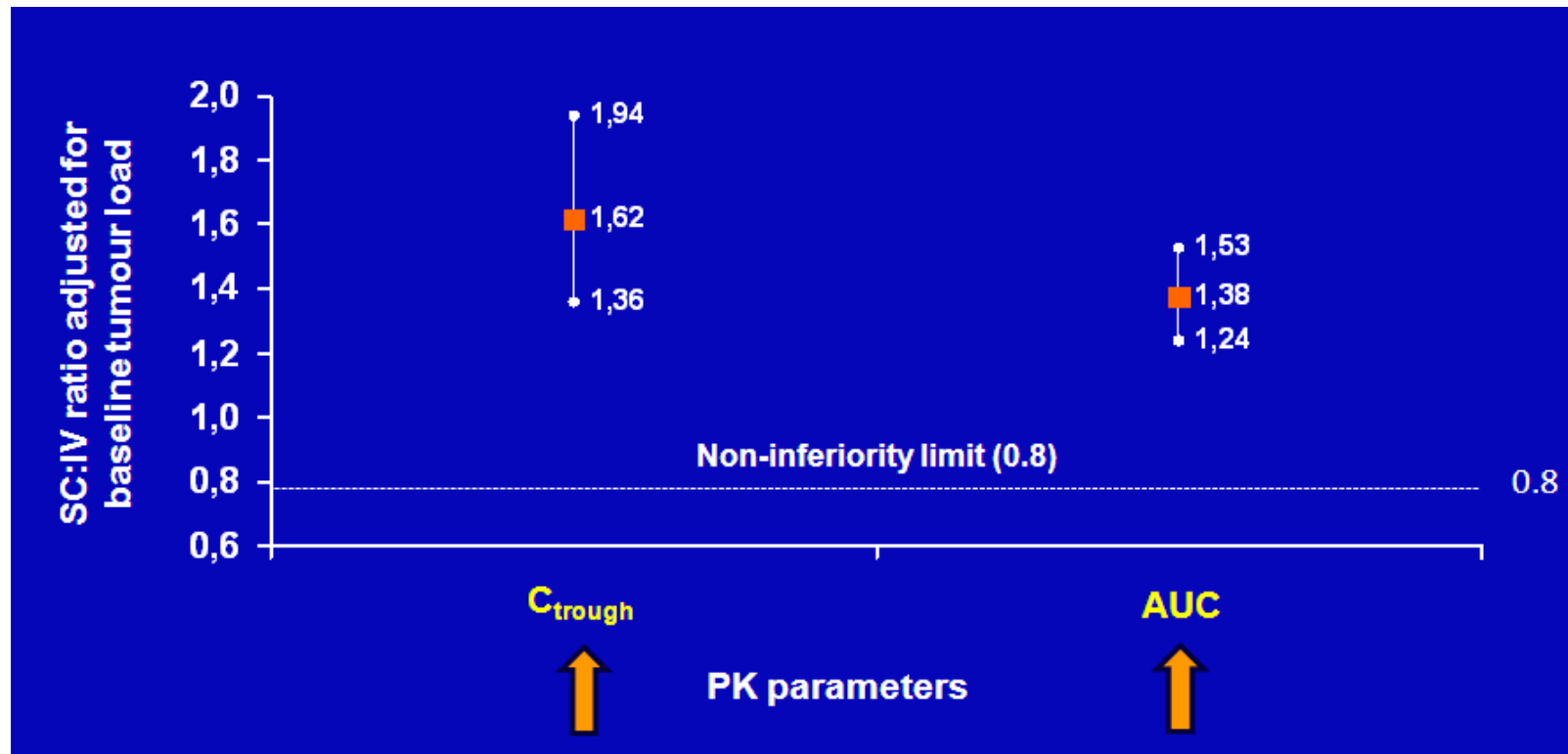
- **Stage 1**, N = 127 (rituximab IV, n = 64; rituximab SC, n = 63)
- Stratified by FLIPI, chemotherapy and region: 40 pts in each arm (63%) received R-CHOP
- **Stage 1 primary endpoint:** *non-inferiority PK* of the SC:IV  $C_{trough}$  ratio at cycle 7 of induction (limit for non-inferiority was SC:IV  $C_{trough}$  ratio > 0.8)
- **Secondary endpoints:** other PK endpoints, safety, efficacy and pharmacoeconomic parameters

## SABRINA STUDY stage1: PK endpoint

Primary PK endpoint was met: SC:IV  $C_{trough}$  ratio of 1.62 (90% CI: 1.36, 1.94)

Therefore, SC rituximab (1,400 mg) is non-inferior to IV rituximab (375 mg/m<sup>2</sup>)

SC:IV AUC ratio 1.38 [90% CI: 1.24, 1.53]) is also non-inferior





# SABRINA STUDY stage1: Efficacy

	Intravenous rituximab plus chemotherapy (n=64)		Subcutaneous rituximab plus chemotherapy (n=63)	
	Investigator assessment	Independent review	Investigator assessment	Independent review
Overall response	54 (84%)	56 (88%)	57 (90%)	54 (86%)
CR or CRu	19 (30%)	12 (19%)	29 (46%)	17 (27%)
PR	35 (55%)	44 (69%)	28 (44%)	37 (59%)
Stable disease	3 (5%)	1 (2%)	2 (3%)	4 (6%)
Progressive disease	1 (2%)	0	0	2 (3%)
Missing or invalid*	6 (9%)	7 (11%)	4 (6%)	3 (5%)

	Overall response (CR, CRu, PR)		Complete response (CR or CRu)	
	Intravenous rituximab plus chemotherapy	Subcutaneous rituximab plus chemotherapy	Intravenous rituximab plus chemotherapy	Subcutaneous rituximab plus chemotherapy
Overall	54/64 (84%)	57/63 (90%)	19/64 (30%)	29/63 (46%)
Low BSA*	15/16 (94%)	22/26 (85%)	5/16 (31%)	14/26 (54%)
Medium BSA*	20/26 (77%)	15/16 (94%)	7/26 (27%)	8/16 (50%)
High BSA*	18/21 (86%)	20/21 (95%)	7/21 (33%)	7/21 (33%)
Male	27/33 (82%)	25/26 (96%)	7/33 (21%)	11/26 (42%)
Female	27/31 (87%)	32/37 (86%)	12/31 (39%)	18/37 (49%)
CHOP	34/40 (85%)	37/40 (93%)	13/40 (33%)	17/40 (43%)
CVP	20/24 (83%)	20/23 (87%)	6/24 (25%)	12/23 (52%)

## SABRINA STUDY stage2: Safety Results

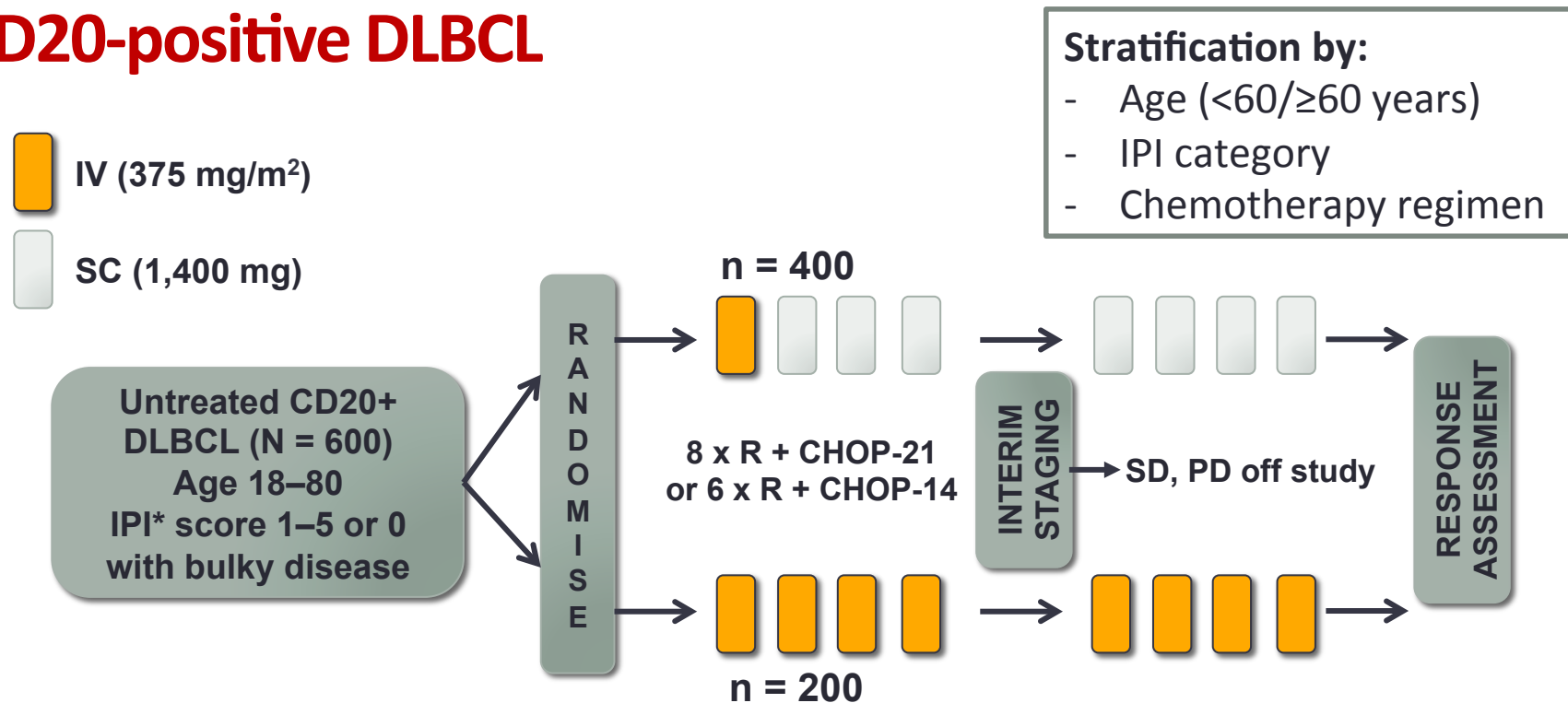
	Rituximab	
	IV	SC
AE	92%	93%
AEs grade ≤2	88%	90%
Patients with at least one toxicity of Grade ≥3 (%)	47%	49%
SAE	26%	29%
Infections	8%	10%
Febrile neutropenia	6%	4%
ARRs	33%	47%

## SABRINA STUDY stage2: Response Rate

	Rituximab	
	IV (n. 205 )	SC (n. 205)
ORR	84 % (78.7 - 89.1%)	83 % (77.6 - 88.2%)
CR/CRu	31.7%	32.7%

ORR and CR Rate indicate that switching to the SC route of administration does not impair rituximab's anti-lymphoma activity (follow-up 14.4 months)

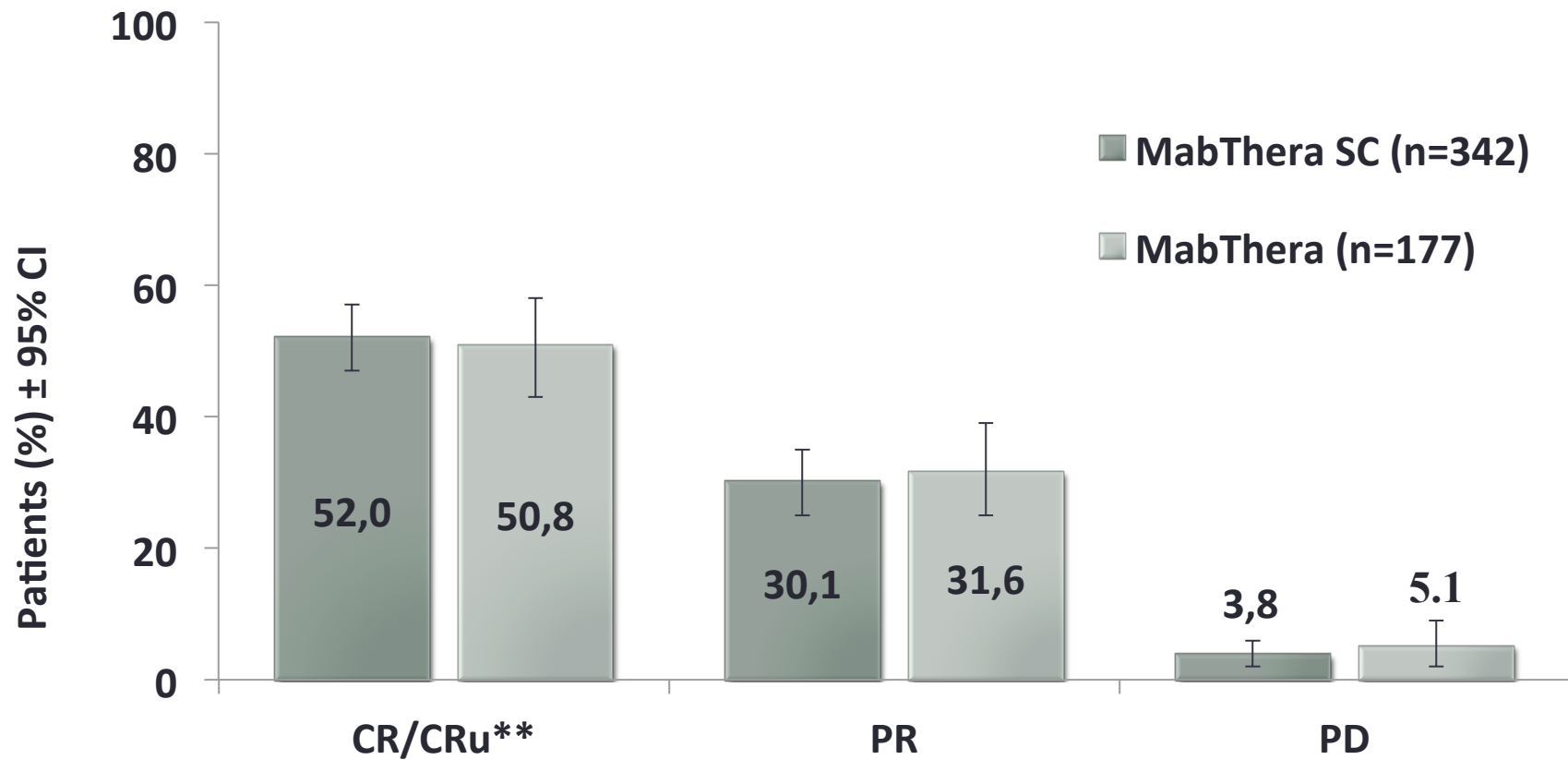
# MabEase: Comparative, randomised (2:1), multicentre, open-label, phase IIIb study in previously untreated CD20-positive DLBCL



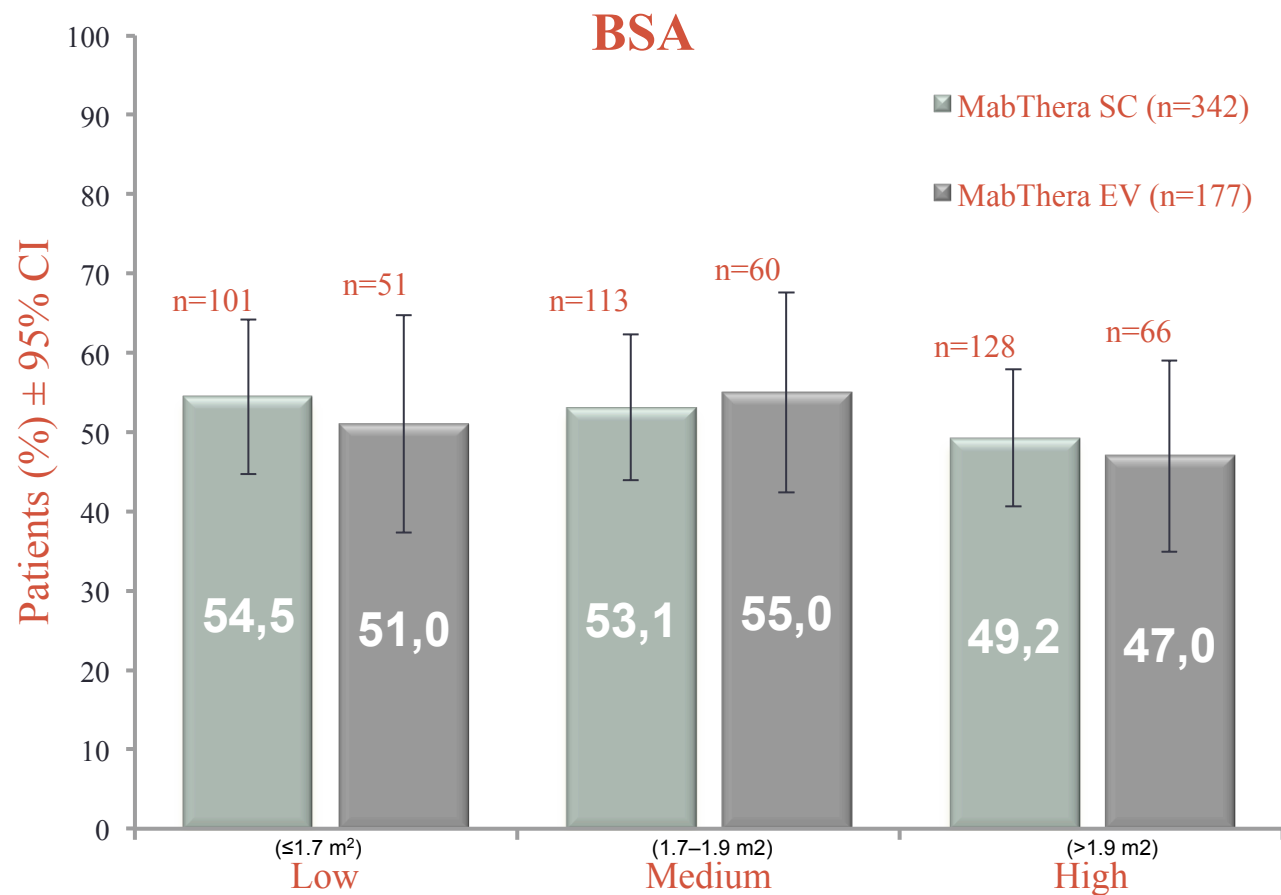
**Primary objective:** efficacy (CR) 4–8 weeks after the end of treatment

**Secondary objectives:** patient satisfaction with Rituximab SC vs Rituximab administered intravenously in patients with DLBCL, efficacy (EFS, DFS, PFS and OS from randomisation), safety

## MabEase Study: End of treatment response rate ITT

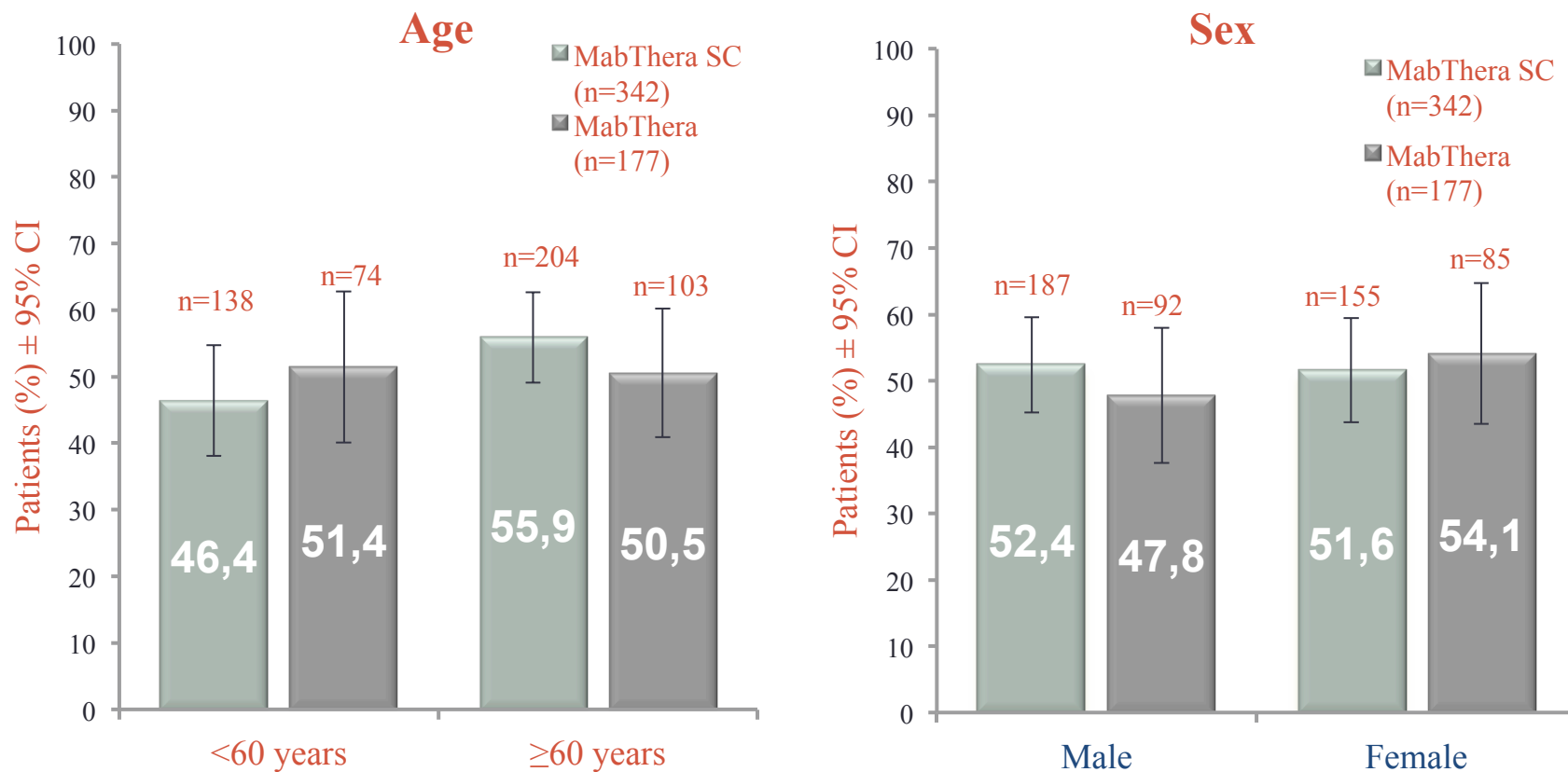


## MabEase: CR/CRu\* by BSA



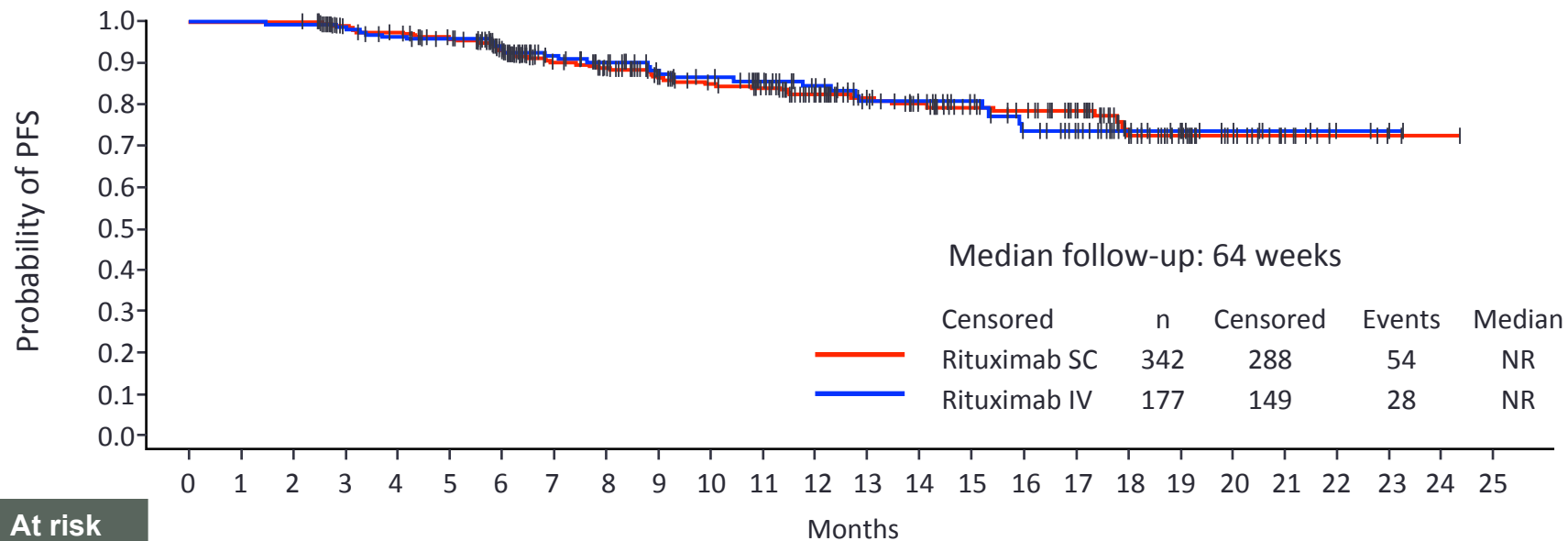
**End-of-induction CR/CRu was comparable between treatment arms**

## MabEase: CR/CRu\* by age and sex (ITT)



**End-of-induction CR/CRu was comparable between treatment arms**

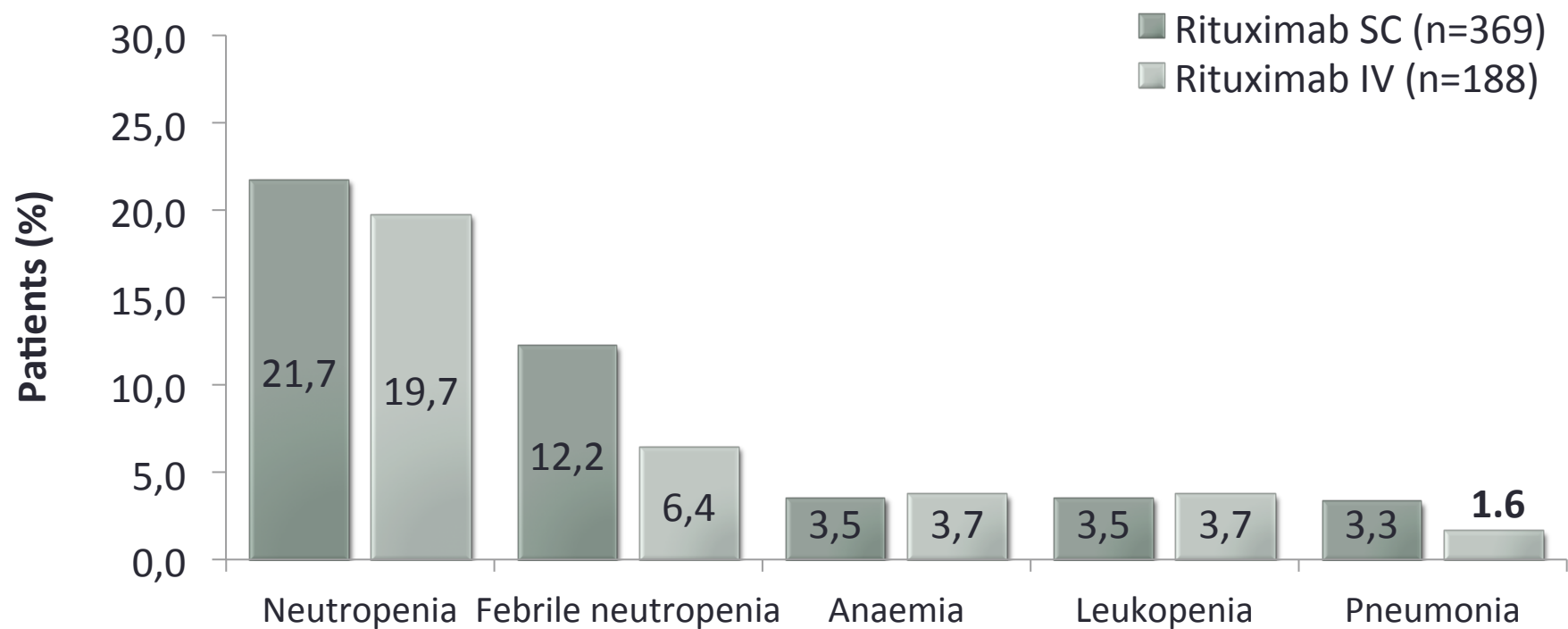
# MabEase Study: Progression free survival



At risk	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
SC, n	342	342	342	322	316	303	264	217	296	183	168	160	135	113	101	88	83	72	44	32	21	11	4	2	1	0
IV, n	177	177	176	169	163	159	141	115	107	97	94	84	72	62	57	48	41	33	20	15	9	6	4	2	0	0

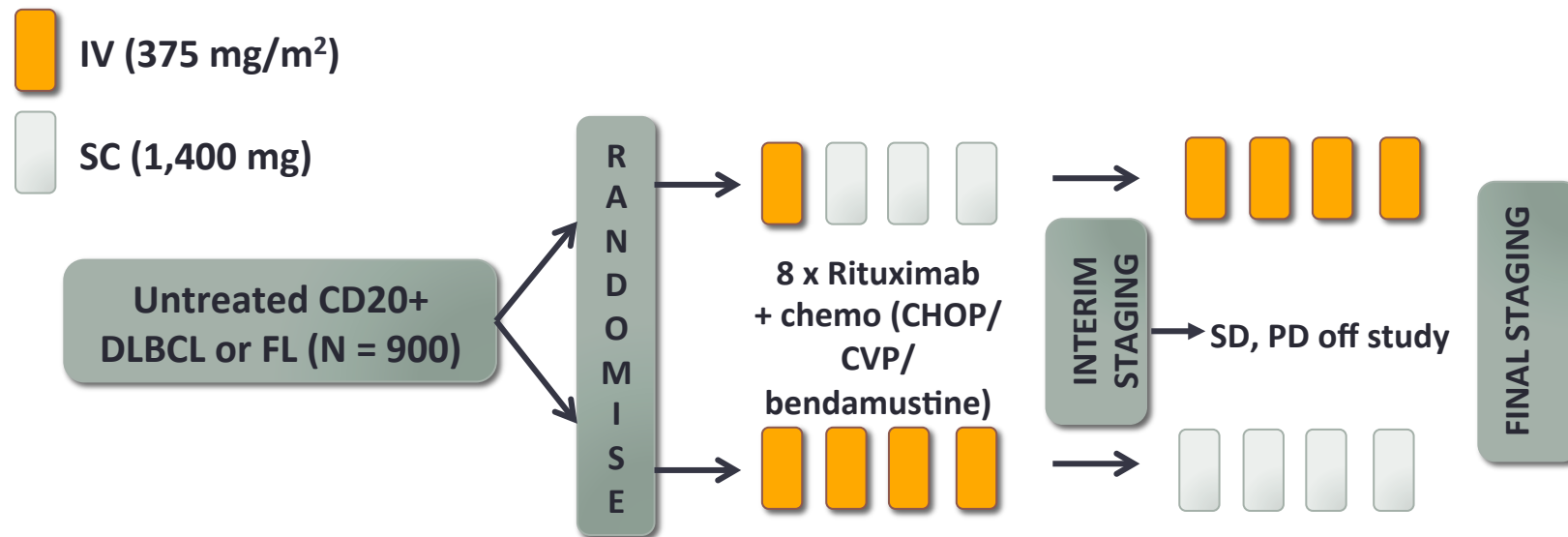
## MabEase Study: Adverse events grade $\geq 3$ in cycle 2 or later (safety population)

AE of grade $\geq 3$ in cycle 2 or later	Rituximab SC	Rituximab IV
Total number of patients with $\geq 1$ AE of grade $\geq 3$	195 (52.8%)	93 (49.5%)
Total number of events of grade $\geq 3$	476	229



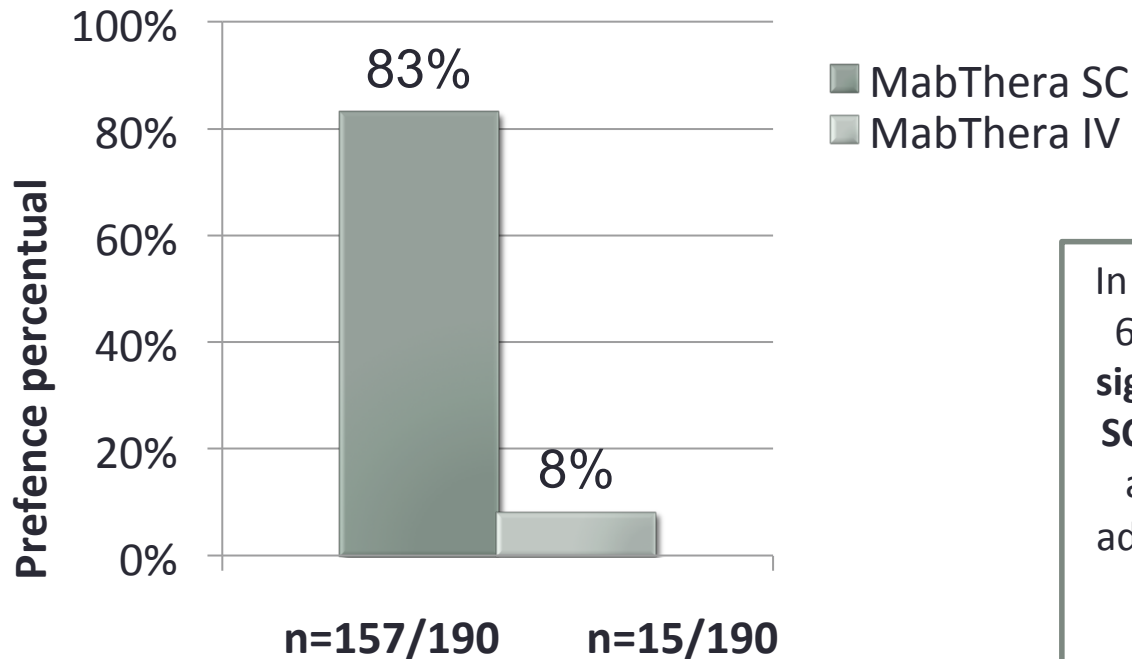


# PrefMab (MO28457): Study design



- Primary objective: proportion of patients with a preference for Rituximab SC or Rituximab administered intravenously, to be assessed using a Preference Questionnaire
- Secondary objectives:
  - Safety of Rituximab SC
  - Efficacy (CR including CRu, EFS, DFS, PFS and OS)
  - Comparisons of administration time, patient-assessed satisfaction and convenience using the Cancer Therapy Satisfaction Questionnaire and Rituximab Administration Satisfaction Questionnaire and immunogenicity for Rituximab SC vs Rituximab administered intravenously

## PrefMab (MO28457): Study design



In the study, 83% of patients in Cycle 6 (and 86% in Cycle 8) **expressed a significant preference for Rituximab SC compared to the IV formulation**, after experiencing both modes of administration during induction with MabThera plus chemotherapy in DLBCL and follicular lymphoma.

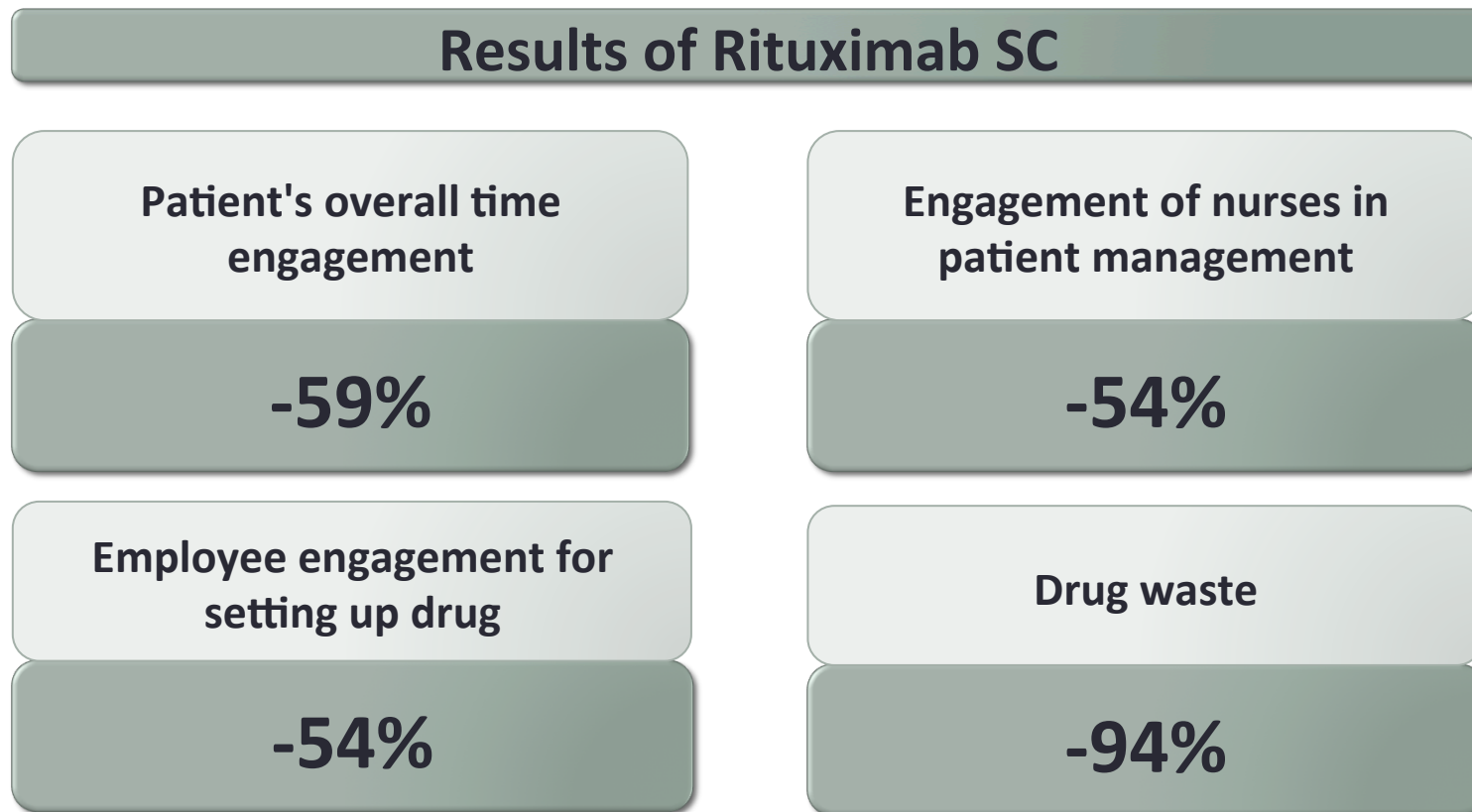
190 patients completed the *Patient Preference Questionnaire* at cycle VI.

Rituximab SC was preferred to Rituximab EV for:

- Less time in hospital (**68%**)
- Less emotic stress (**31%**)
- More comfortable administration (**42%**)

## Impact analysis of the technical and organizational benefits of a subcutaneous formulation in patients with lymphoma path

The project involved 17 centers of Hematology and the results have shown that the use of Rituximab SC can reduce:



## Is it possible to improve the R-side of ICT?

- Dosing: fixed dose grants for a higher exposure to MoAb (ca +30%) and probably removes sex and BMI differences
- Administration: administration time is greatly reduced (better for hospital and for the patient)
- Efficacy: sc therapy is at least as effective as iv administration

# Rituximab SC: indication

