

Nuovi farmaci e trapianto  
Aula Magna Kolbe  
Università di Udine  
21 gennaio 2016



# Inibitori delle tirosin kinasi nelle Ph+ ALL dell'adulto: prima, dopo o in alternativa al trapianto allogenico

Alessandro Rambaldi



# Agenda

1. Overcome primary refractory resistance and early relapse
2. Achieve (before allo) and maintain (after allo) a complete molecular remission
3. Impact of the conditioning regimen and the stem cell source
4. AlloHSCT for every patient in CR1?

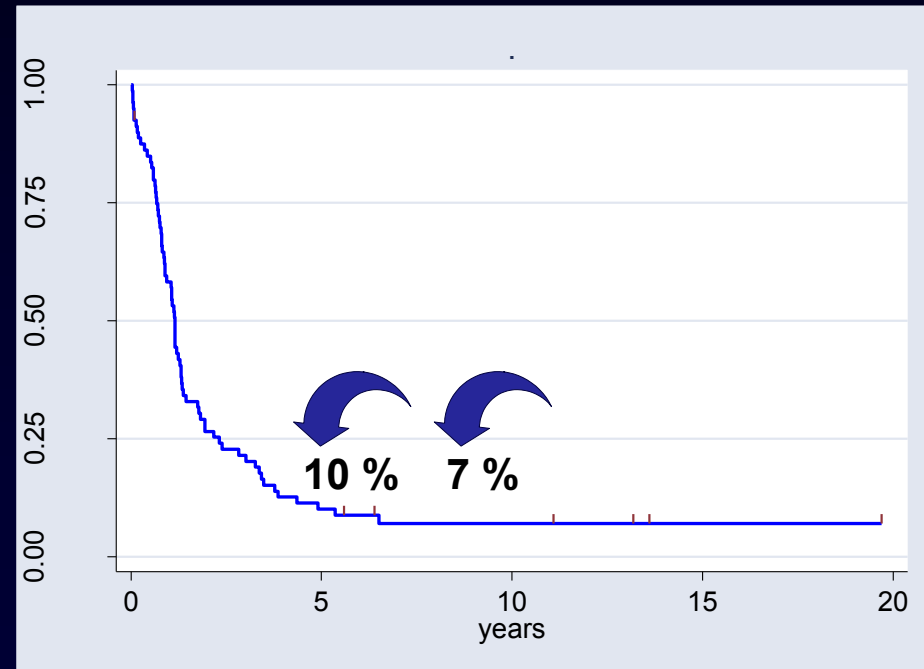


# CLINICAL OUTCOME OF Ph+ ALL PATIENTS TREATED IN A PRE-IMATINIB ERA (1990 - 2000)

N	80
CR	63/80 (79%)
Allo TRX	16 (20%)

## Disease Free Survival (n=63)

## Overall Survival (n=80)

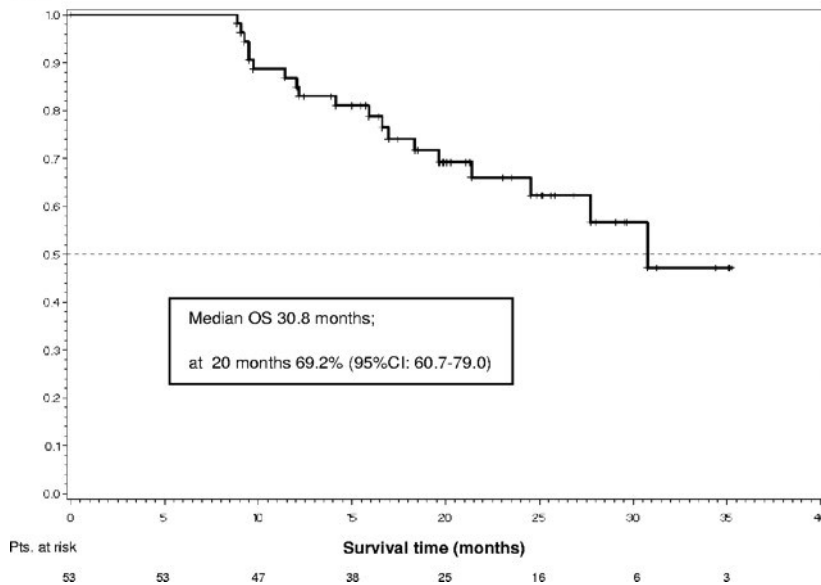


# Overcome primary refractory resistance and early relapse

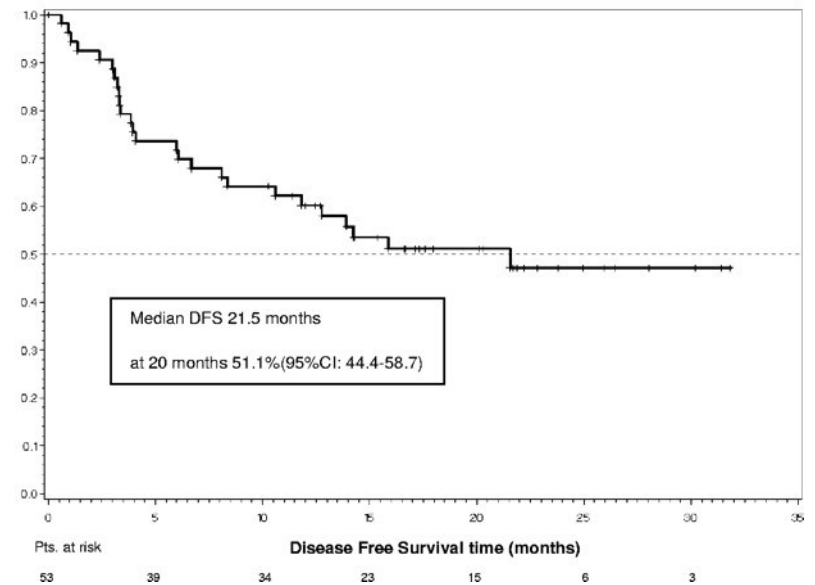


# Survival after treatment with Dasatinib and steroids in older Ph+ ALL

**A** Overall survival (OS)

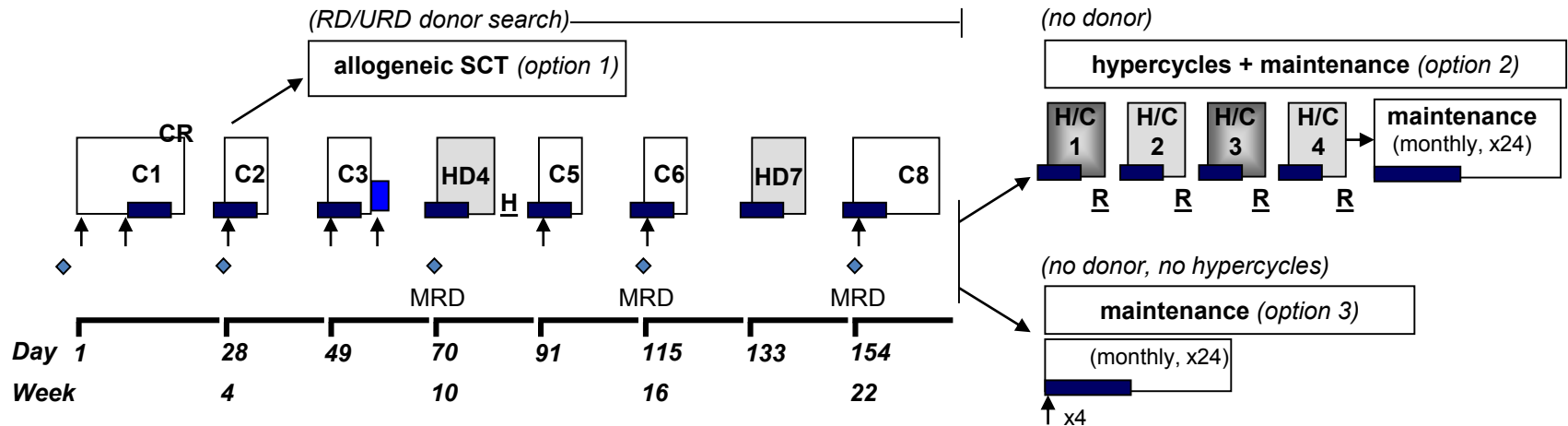


**B** Disease-free survival (DFS), from day +85



Robin Foà et al. Blood 2011;118:6521-6528

# Chemotherapy-Phased Imatinib Pulses for Adult Patients with Ph+ ALL Northern Italy Leukemia Group Protocol 09/00



## Key:

◆ = bone marrow examination

↑ = intrathecal prophylaxis (MTX/Ara-C/PDN)

MRD = minimal residual disease analysis

■ = cranial irradiation (18 Gy)

■ = 7-day imatinib pulse (600 mg/d)

C = standard chemotherapy cycle  
 (1: IDR/VCR/L-Asp/PDN;  
 2,3,5,6: IDR/VCR/CY/DXM;  
 8: IDR/VCR/PDN)

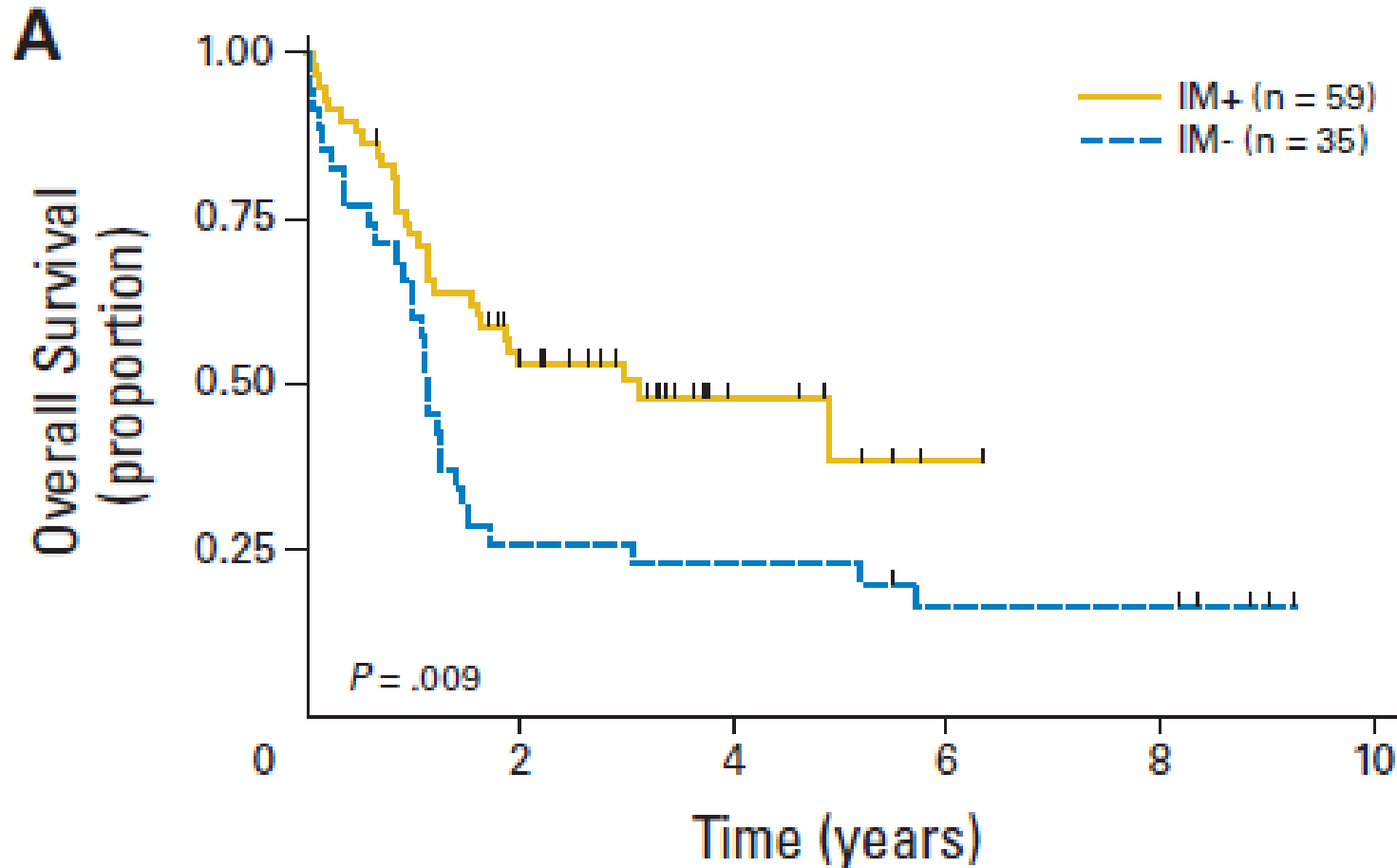
H / R = autologous blood stem cell harvest / reinfusion

HD = high dose chemotherapy cycle (MTX/Ara-C)

H/C = hypercycle with autologous blood stem cell support  
 (1, 3: high dose L-PAM/VP16/6MP;  
 2, 4: high dose MTX/Ara-C)

■ = 14-day IM pulse (600 mg/d)

# Chemotherapy-Phased Imatinib Pulses for Adult Patients with Ph+ ALL Northern Italy Leukemia Group Protocol 09/00

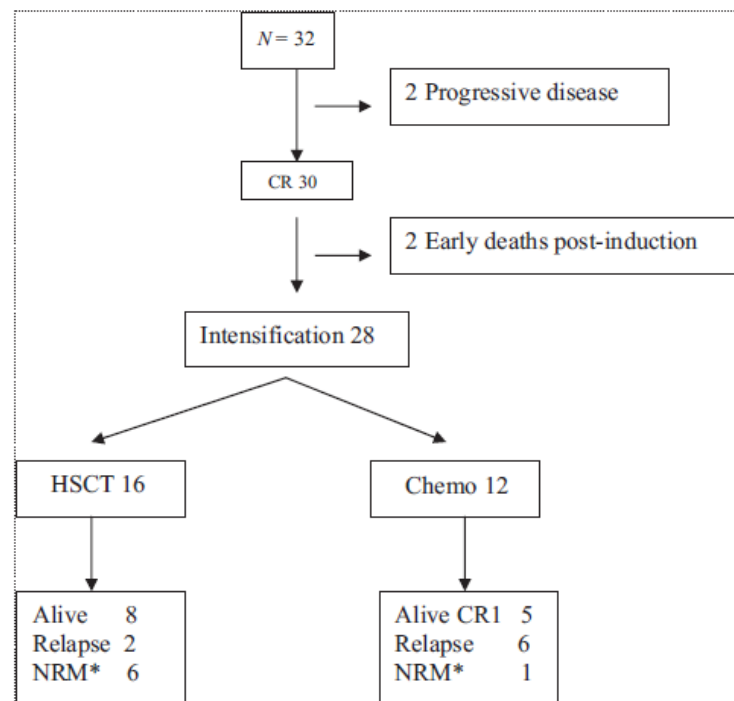


# Treatment of Philadelphia chromosome-positive acute lymphoblastic leukaemia with imatinib combined with a paediatric-based protocol

Santhosh Thyagu,<sup>1</sup> Mark D. Minden,<sup>1</sup>  
 Vikas Gupta,<sup>1</sup> Karen W.L. Yee,<sup>1</sup> Aaron  
 D. Schimmer,<sup>1</sup> Andre C. Schuh,<sup>1</sup> Jeffrey  
 H. Lipton,<sup>1</sup> Hans A. Messner,<sup>1</sup> Wei Xu<sup>2</sup>  
 and Joseph M. Brandwein<sup>1</sup>

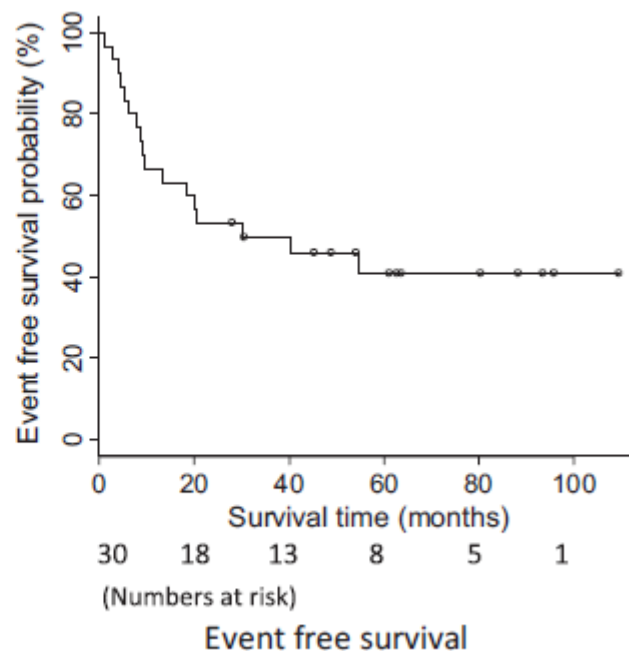
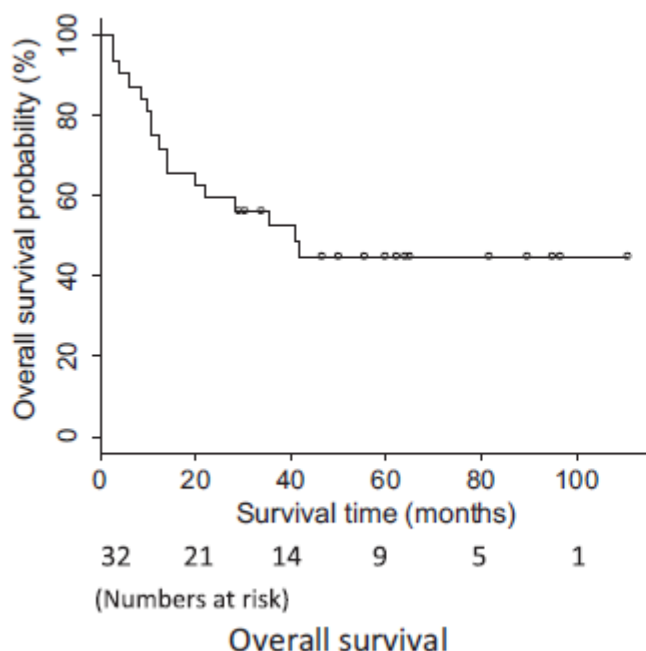
<sup>1</sup>Department of Medical Oncology and Hematology, and <sup>2</sup>Department of Biostatistics, Princess Margaret Hospital, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

Patient characteristic	Number
Age, years: median (range)	46 (18–60)
Age subgroups: 18–40 years/41–60 years	11/21





# Treatment of Philadelphia chromosome-positive acute lymphoblastic leukaemia with imatinib combined with a paediatric-based protocol

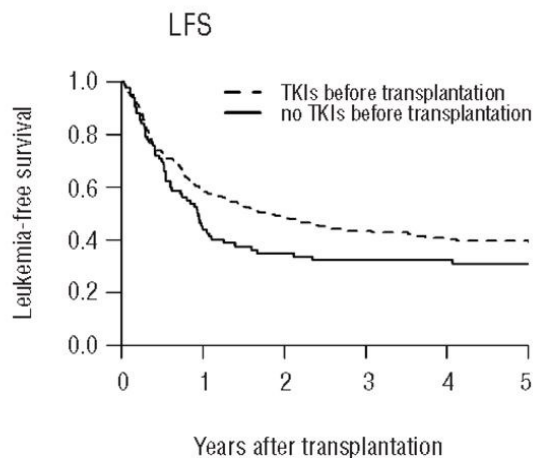


# Impact of TKIs before transplant

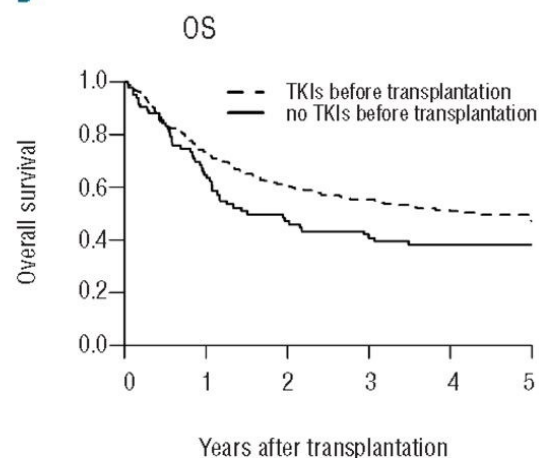


# Probability of (A) leukemia-free survival (LFS), (B) overall survival (OS), (C) relapse incidence (RI), and (D) non-relapse mortality (NRM) in allografted patients with Ph+ALL in first complete remission with TKIs before allogeneic stem cell transplantation

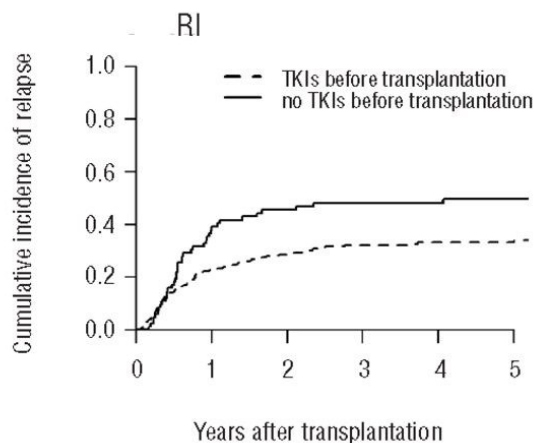
**A**



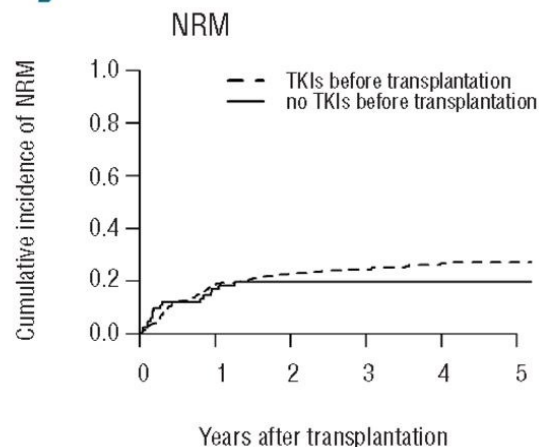
**B**



**C**



**D**

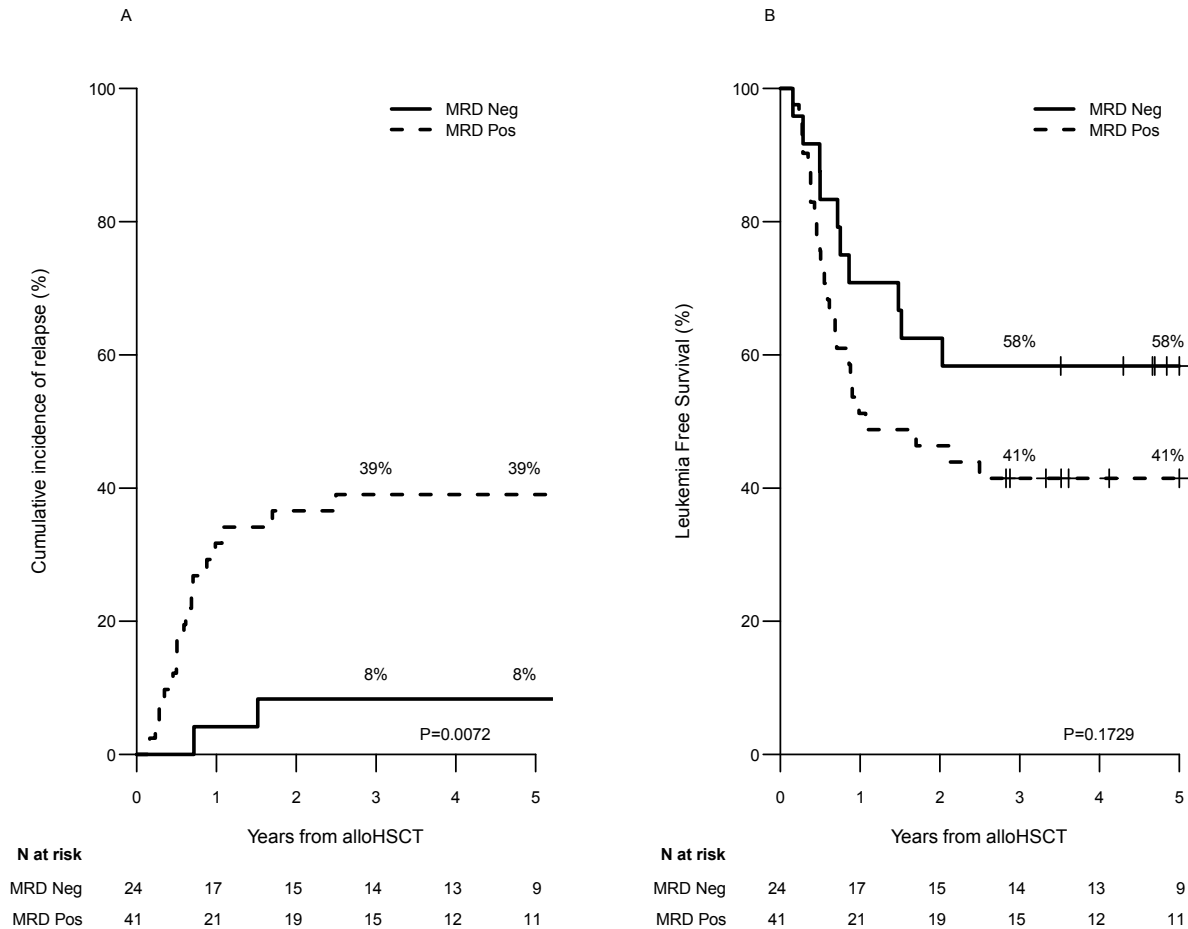


Eolia Brissot et al. *Haematologica* 2015;100:392-399

# Impact of MRD at time of conditioning



# Allogeneic transplantation for adult Ph+ ALL: impact of MRD status at conditioning

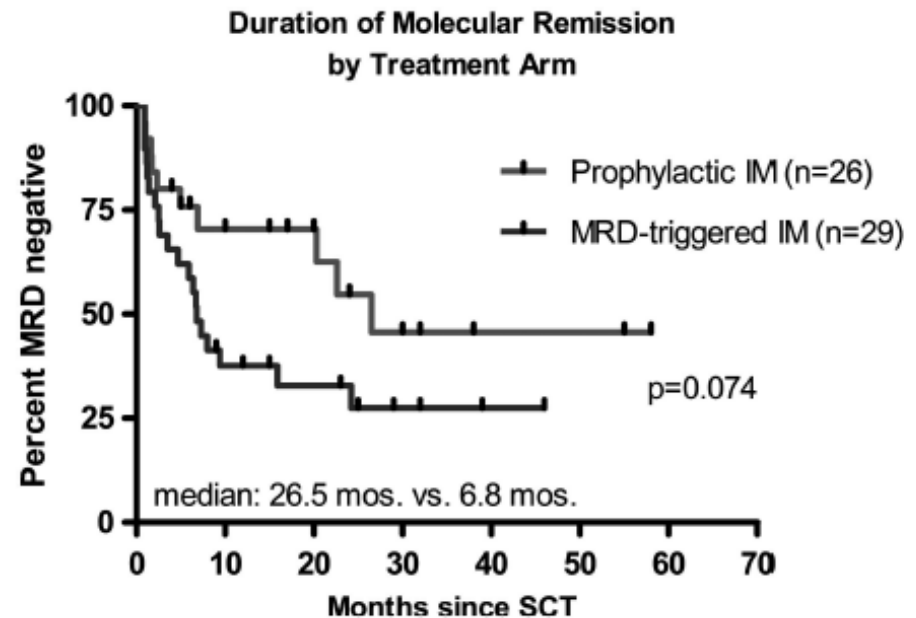


# Impact of MRD after transplant



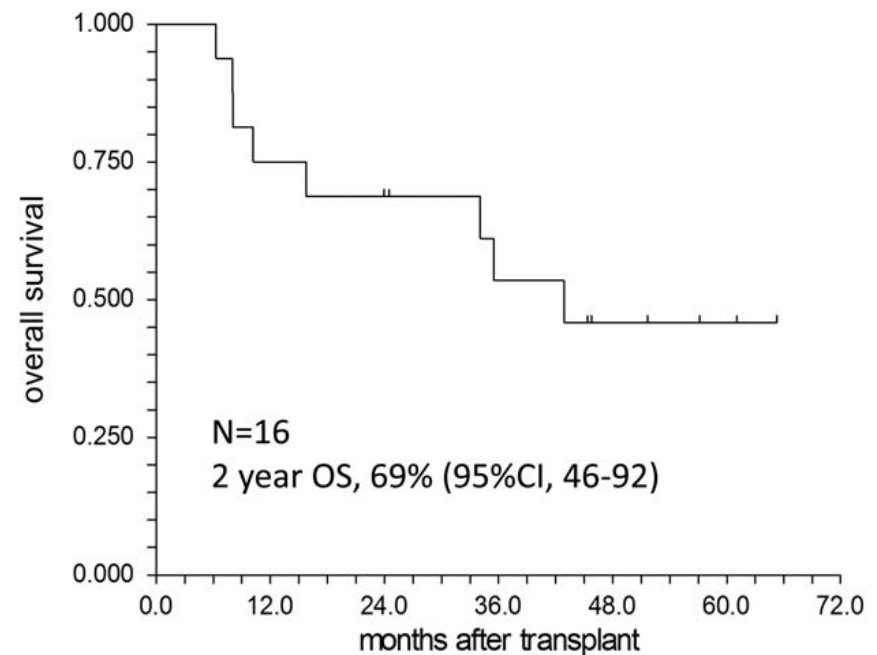
# Randomized comparison of prophylactic and MRD-triggered imatinib after alloH SCT for Ph+ ALL

- MRD after allogeneic SCT for Ph+ ALL is predictive of relapse and Imatinib may prevent it
- imatinib was administered either prophylactically or following detection of MRD
- Prophylactic imatinib significantly reduced the incidence of molecular recurrence (40% vs 69%;  $P=0.046$ )



# Phase 1/2 study of nilotinib prophylaxis after alloH SCT in patients with advanced CML or Ph+ ALL

- Prophylactic nilotinib maintenance started at a median of 38 days after alloH SCT
- Most patients achieved or maintained a complete MR, and only 1 of them later relapsed
- With a median follow-up of 46 months the 2-year OS and PFS rates were 69% and 56%, respectively

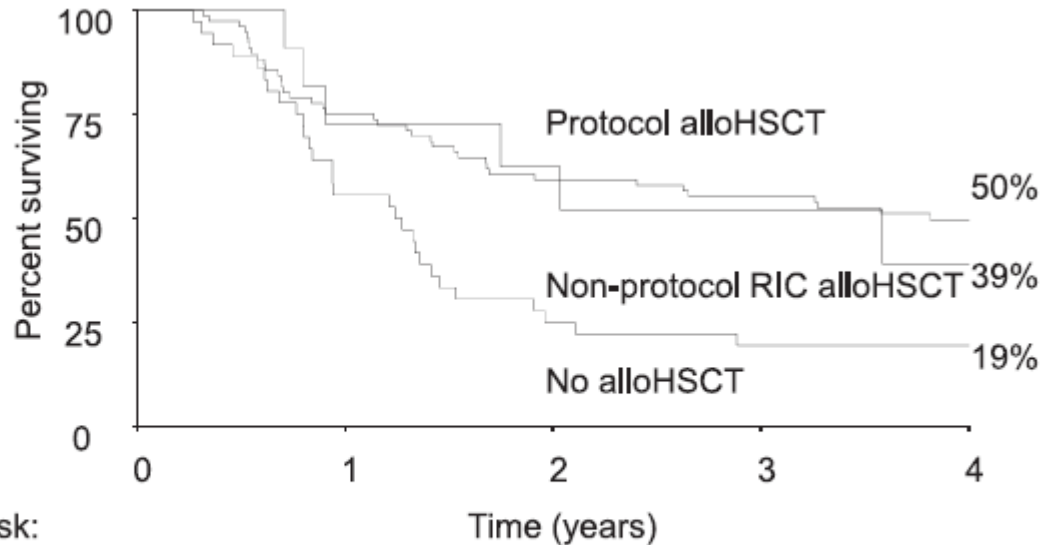




# Impact of the conditioning regimen and the stem cell source



# Protocol myeloablative sibling/MUD alloH SCT, nonprotocol RIC alloH SCT or no alloH SCT

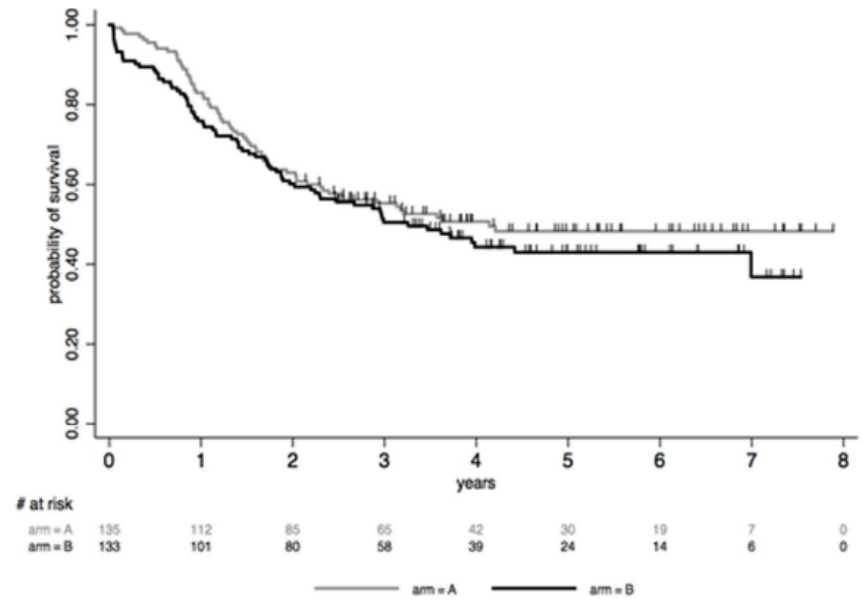
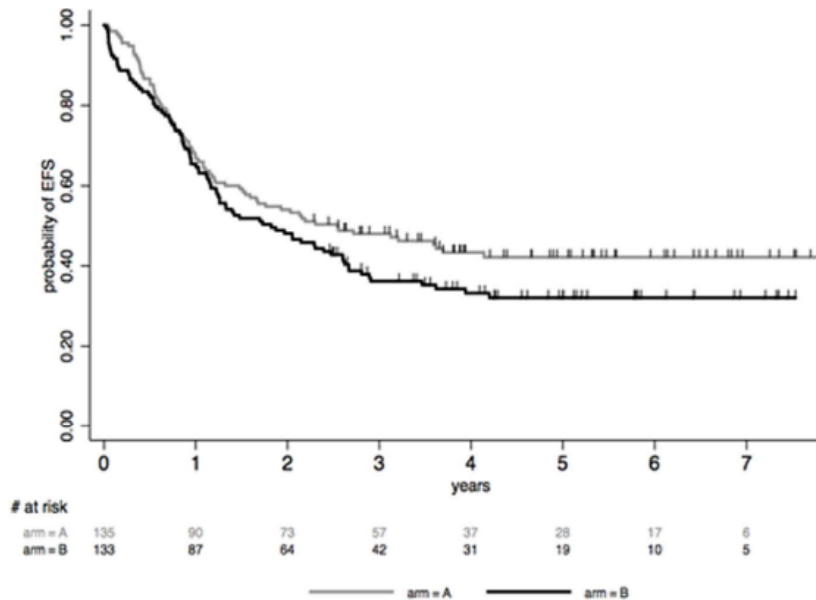


	At risk:				
	0	1	2	3	4
Protocol alloH SCT	76	57	45	42	31
Non-protocol RIC alloH SCT	11	8	6	5	3
No alloH SCT	38	20	9	7	6

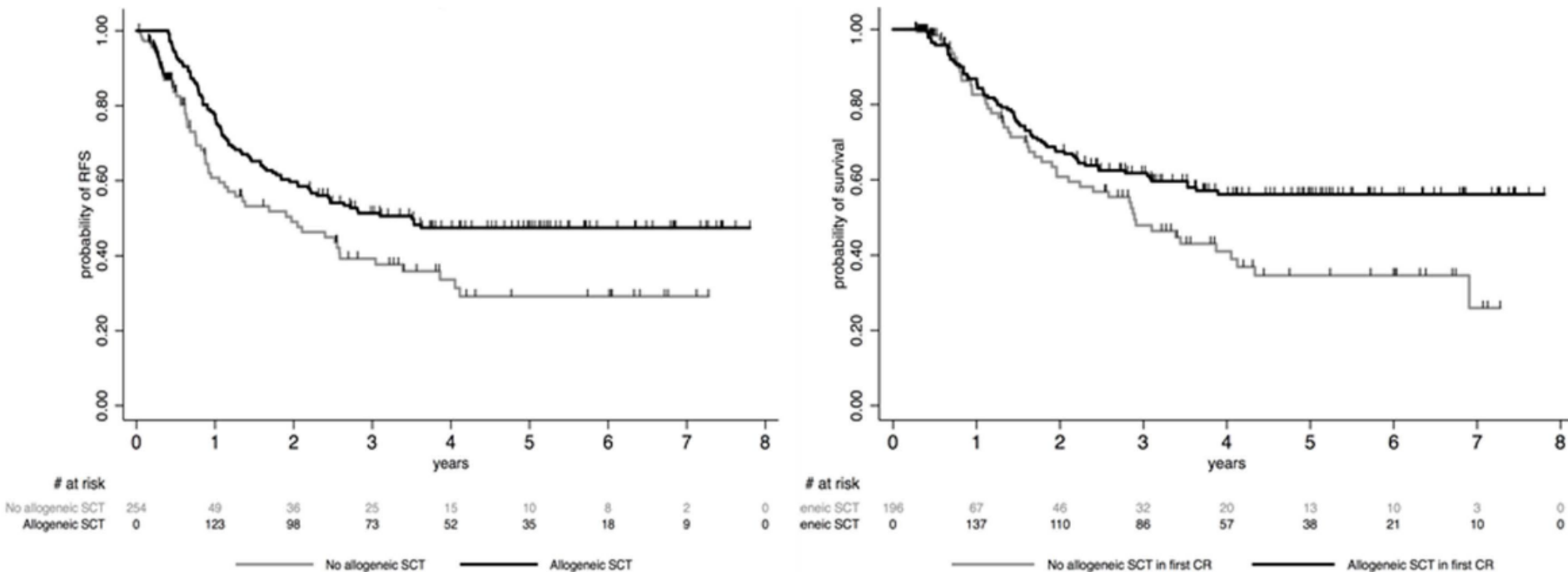
# AlloH SCT for every patient in CR1?



# Randomized study of reduced-intensity chemotherapy combined with imatinib in adults with Ph-positive acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

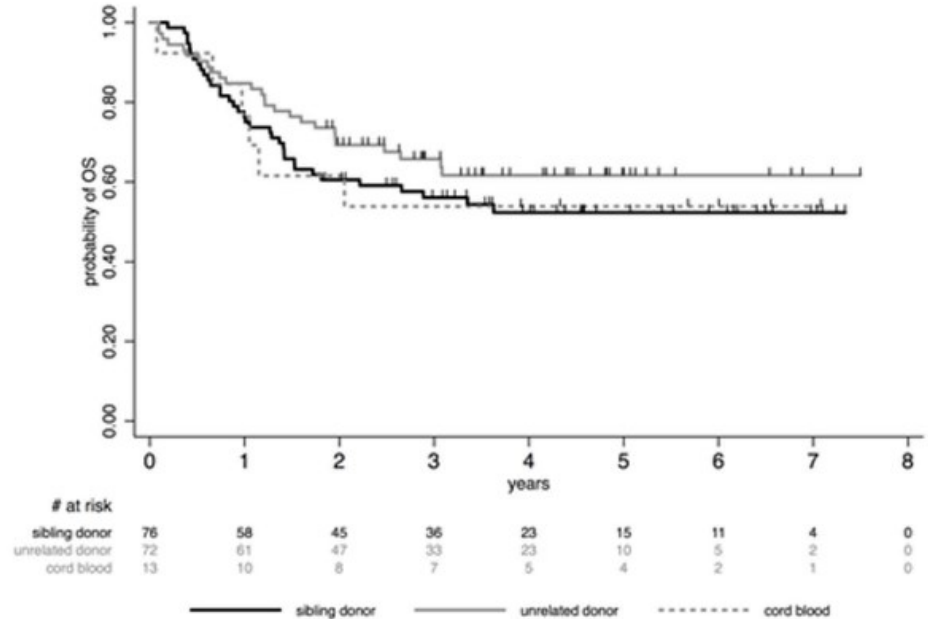
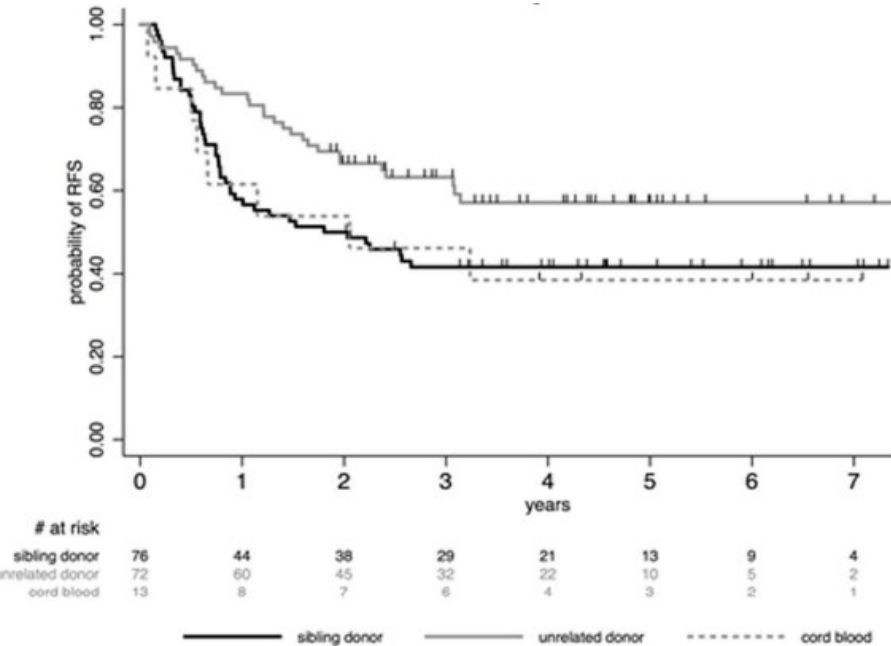


# Simon-Makuch plots for RFS in CR patients. *t<sub>0</sub>* was the time of hematological CR achievement



A 3-month RFS landmark period (median time from CR to transplantation) was used here, as patients should be alive but also in first CR to be actually transplanted. This landmark minimizes the bias related to early relapses

# SCT outcome, by stem cell source

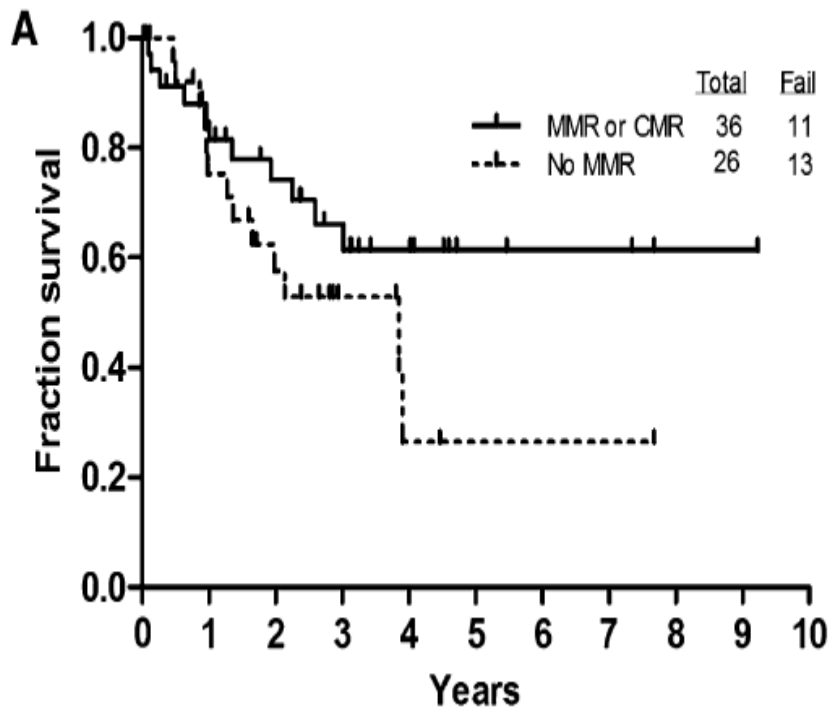


AlloH SCT for every patient in CR1?

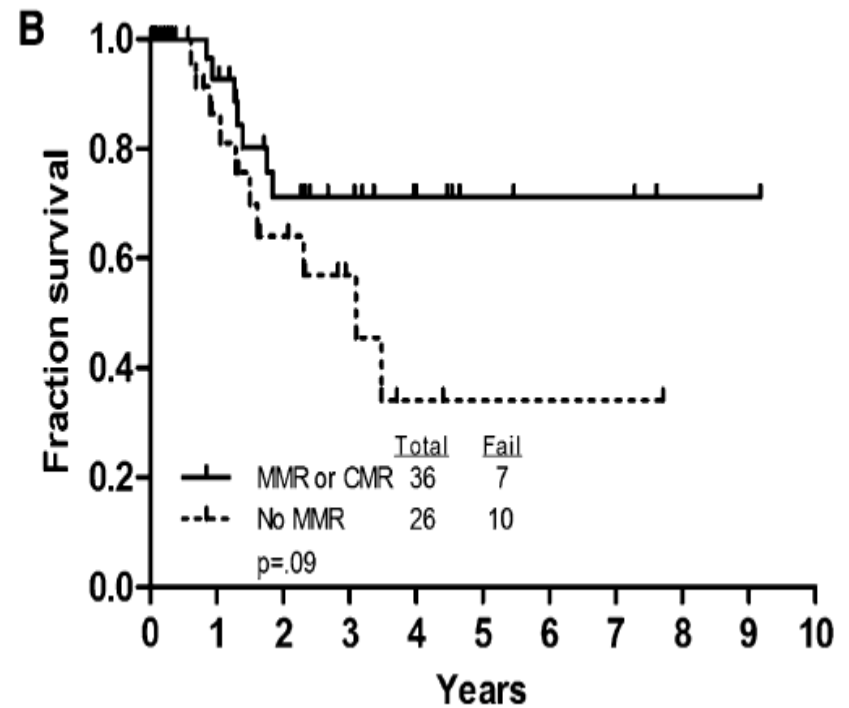
Probably no!



## Detection of MRD may predict the outcome of patients with Philadelphia chromosome –positive ALL treated with tyrosine kinase inhibitors plus chemotherapy



**OS**



**EFS**



# Combination of hyper-CVAD with ponatinib as first-line therapy for patients with Philadelphia chromosome-positive acute lymphoblastic leukaemia: a single-centre, phase 2 study



Elias Jabbour, Hagop Kantarjian, Farhad Ravandi, Deborah Thomas, Xuelin Huang, Stefan Faderl, Naveen Pemmaraju, Naval Daver, Guillermo Garcia-Manero, Koji Sasaki, Jorge Cortes, Rebecca Garris, C Cameron Yin, Joseph D Khoury, Jeffrey Jorgensen, Zeev Estrov, Zachary Bohannon, Marina Konopleva, Tapan Kadia, Nitin Jain, Courtney DiNardo, William Wierda, Vicky Jeanis, Susan O'Brien

Participants (n=37)	
Age	
Median (years)	51 (27-75)
≥50 years	20 (54%)
≥60 years	12 (32%)
Males	20 (54%)
ECOG performance status	
0-1	31 (84%)
2	6 (16%)
White blood cells (×10 <sup>9</sup> per L)	8 (1-630)
CNS disease	
CD20-positive	11 (30%)
BCR-ABL1 transcript	
p190	27 (73%)
p210	10 (27%)
Cytogenetics	
Diploid	5 (14%)
Philadelphia chromosome-positive	32 (86%)
Baseline cardiovascular risk factors	
Hypertension	18 (49%)
Dyslipidaemia	4 (11%)
Coronary artery disease	4 (11%)
Peripheral arterial disease	1 (3%)

Data are n (%) or median (range). ECOG=Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group.

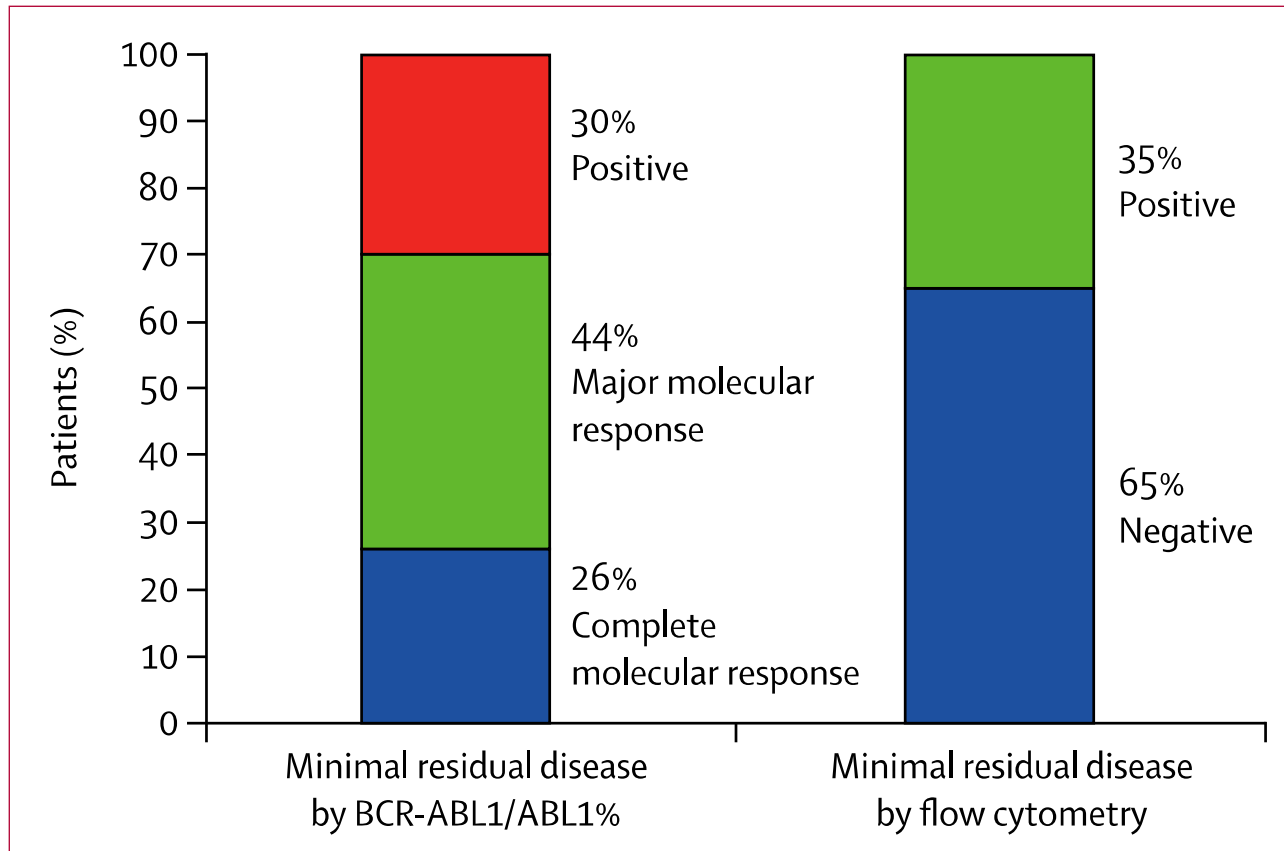
**Table 1: Patient characteristics**

Number of patients (%)	
Complete response*	36/36 (100%)
Complete cytogenetic response†	32/32 (100%)
Major molecular response	35/37 (95%)
Complete molecular response	29/37 (78%)
Flow cytometry negative‡	35/36 (97%)

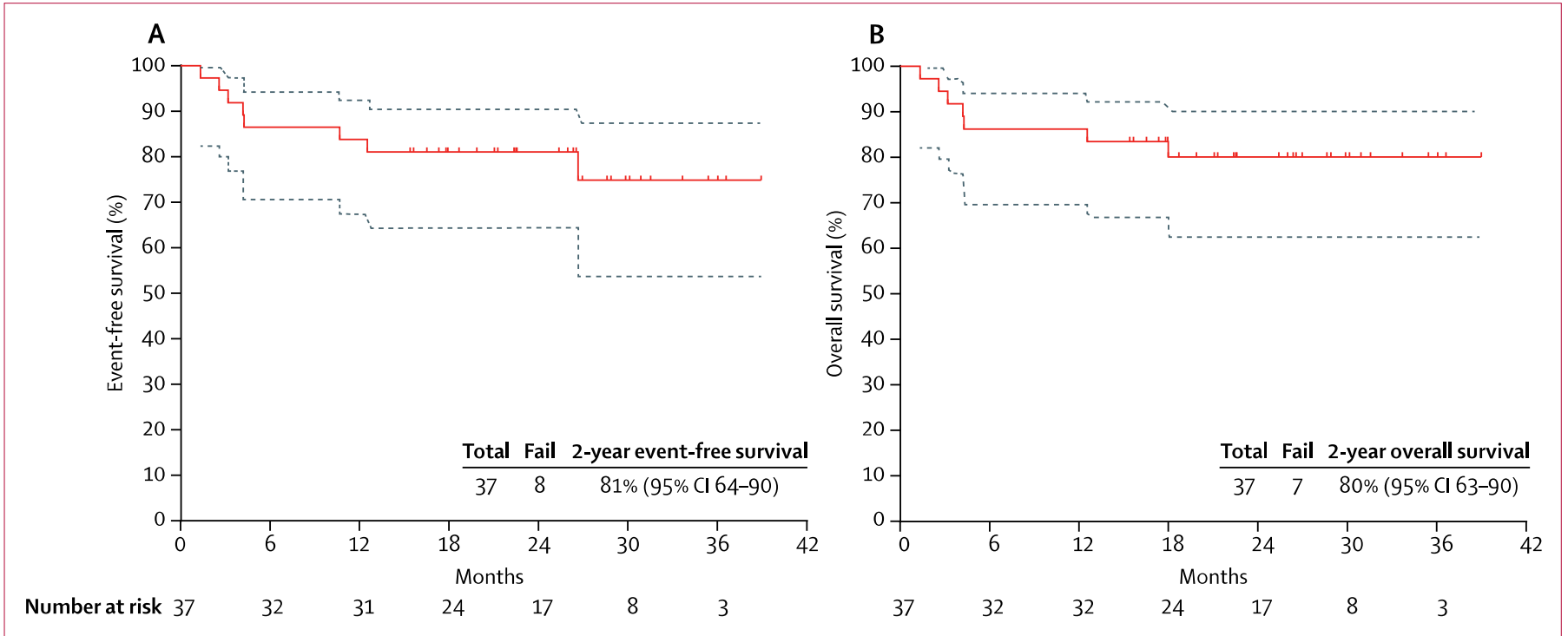
Data are n/N (%). \*One patient in complete response at beginning of study. †Five patients were diploid by conventional cytogenetics at beginning of study. ‡One patient had no sample sent to flow cytometry.

*Jabbour, E et al. Lancet Oncol 2015*

# MRD levels after one cycle of protocol therapy in CR



# Clinical Outcomes



*Jabbour, E et al. Lancet Oncol 2015*

# Why TKIs have improved the outcome?

- More patients in CR and less primary refractory diseases
- Less early death
- More patients achieving a molecular CR (> 40%)
- More patients to and better results after alloH SCT

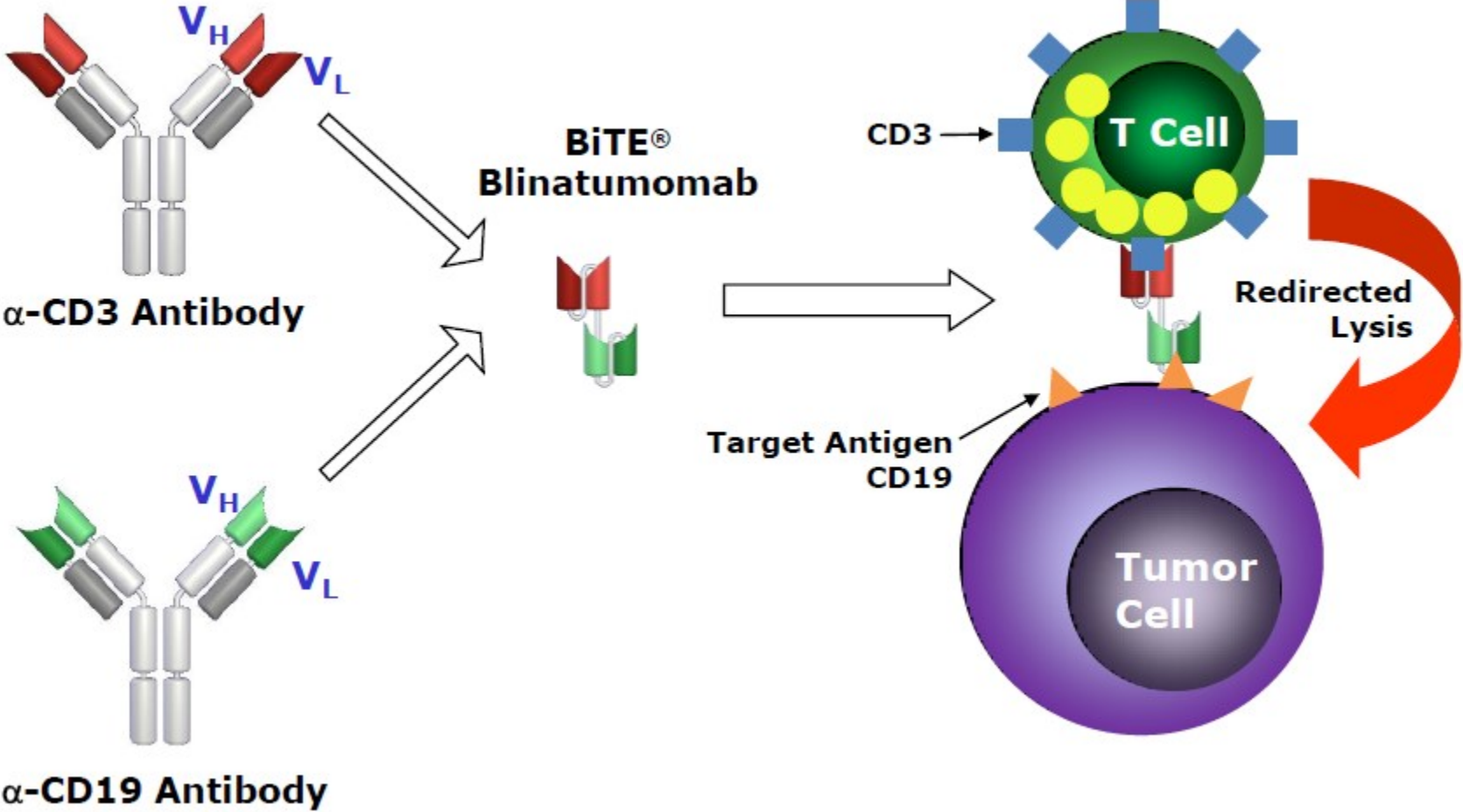


# Research questions

- MRD before transplant matters! How to get it?
- Can we avoid chemotherapy?
- Can we avoid AlloHSCT?



# Blinatumomab , a Bispecific T-Cell Engaging (BiTE) Antibody



Dirk Nagorsen and Patrick A. Baeuerle  
Experimental Cell Research

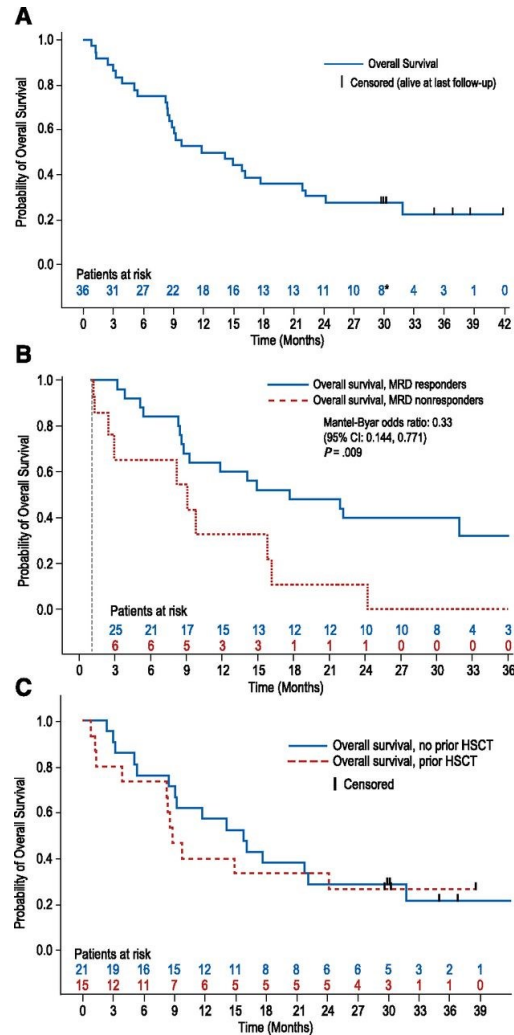


## **Long-term survival and T-Cell kinetics in adult patients with relapsed/refractory B-precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia who achieved minimal residual disease response following treatment with Anti-CD19 BiTE® antibody construct blinatumomab**

Gerhard Zugmaier, Nicola Gökbüget, Matthias Klinger, Andreas Viardot, Matthias Stelljes, Svenja Neumann, Heinz-A. Horst, Reinhard Marks, Christoph Faul, Helmut Diedrich, Albrecht Reichle, Monika Brüggemann, Chris Holland, Margit Schmidt, Hermann Einsele, Ralf C. Bargou and Max S. Topp

- an open-label, multicenter, exploratory, single-arm, phase 2 study in adult patients with r/r B-precursor ALL conducted in collaboration with the German Study Group for ALL
- Ph negative and Ph-positive patients with primary refractory disease or relapse

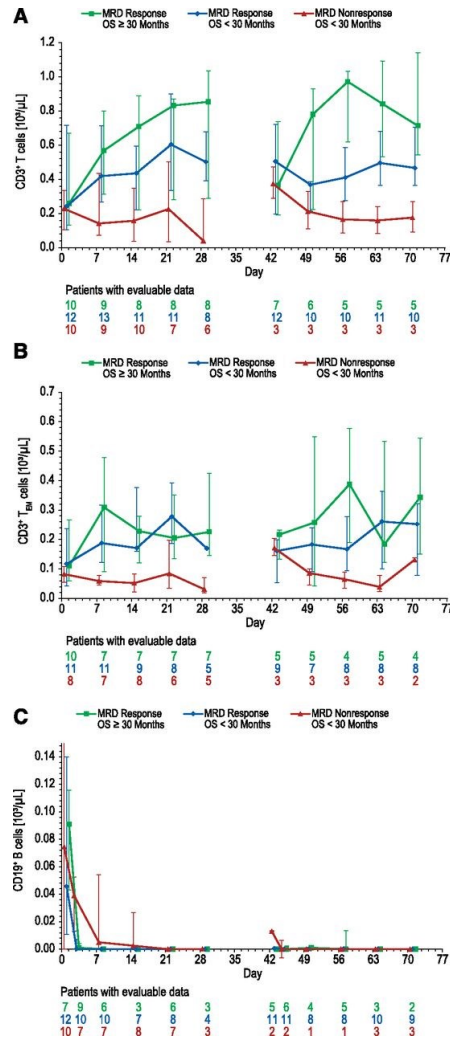
# Overall Survival



Gerhard Zugmaier et al. Blood 2015;126:2578-2584



# T-cell and B-cell kinetics during cycle 1 (day 1 to 29) and cycle 2 (day 43 to 71) of blinatumomab treatment.

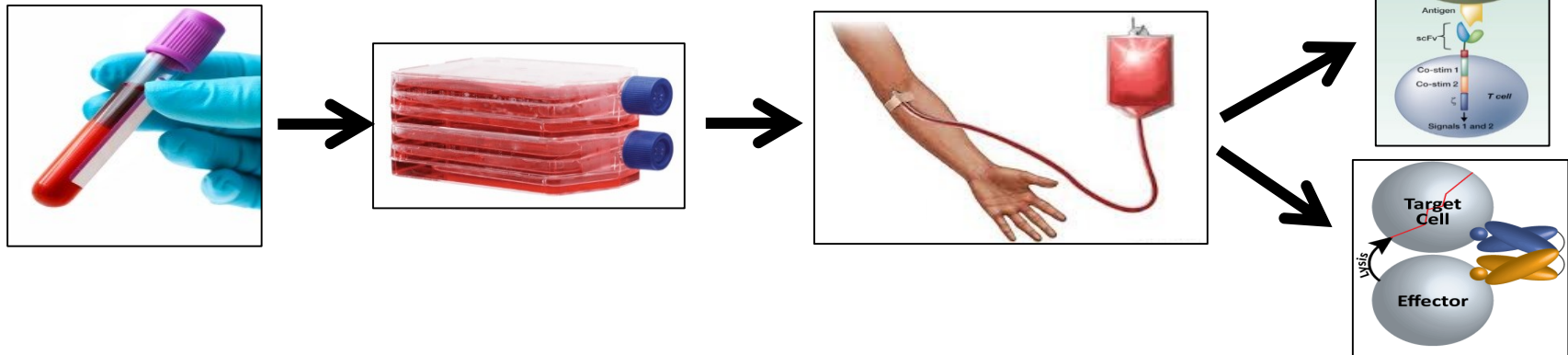
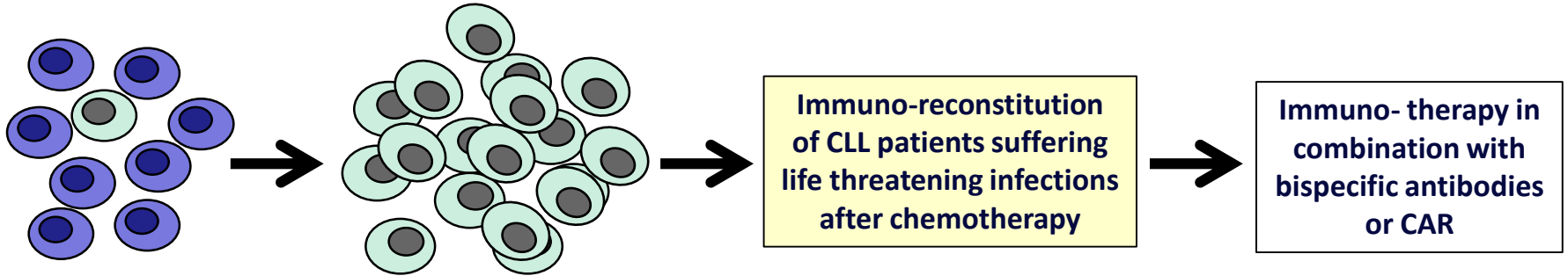


Gerhard Zugmaier et al. Blood 2015;126:2578-2584

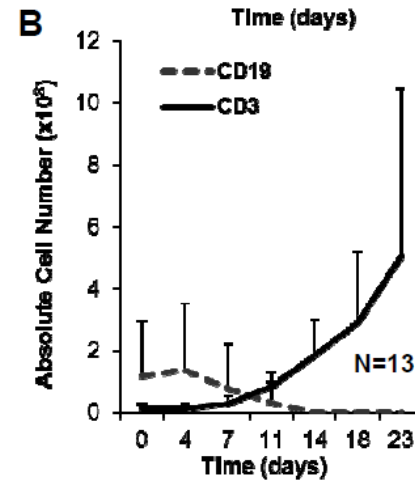
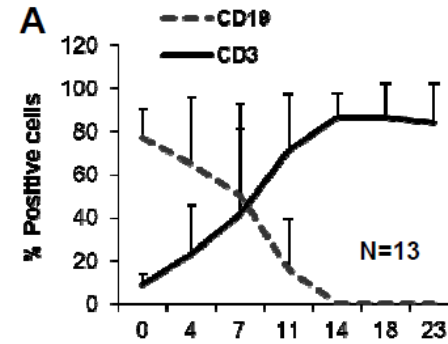
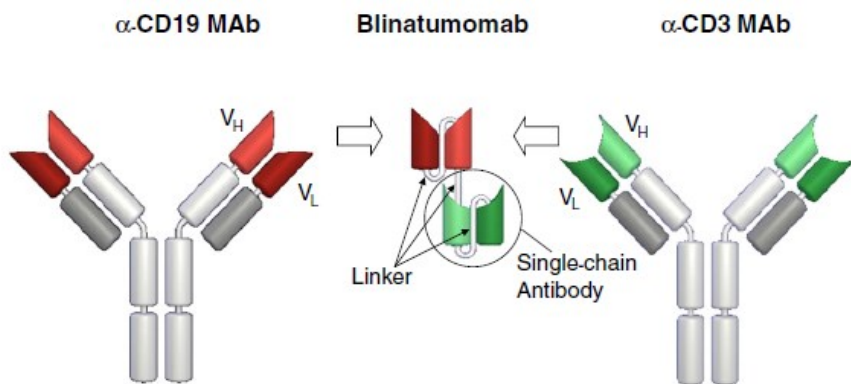
## **Reasons of blinatumomab failure**

- **Loss of CD19 on the leukemic blast cell surface**
  - **Lack of CD3+ effector cells**

# Expanding autologous polyclonal T cells in CLL for immunotherapy



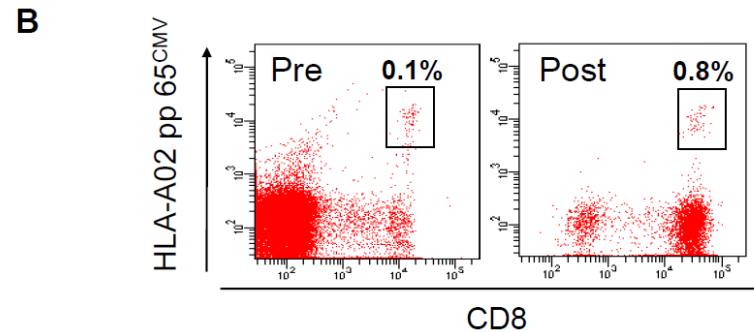
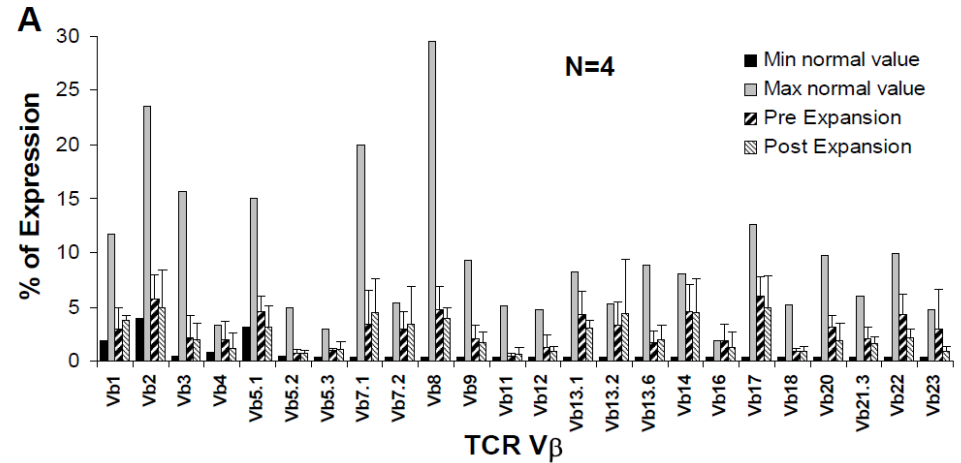
# Expansion of T cells from CLL patients using blinatumomab and rhIL-2



Golay J et al, *The Journal of Immunology*, 2014, 193: 4739–4747.

# Blinatumomab Expanded T cells (BET)

- Polyclonal
- contain virus specific T cell clones



# CONCLUSIONS

- TKIs-based protocols improved the CR rate, the proportion of patients having an alloHSCT and the long-term outcome of adult Ph+ ALL
- MRD remains the most powerful predictor of outcome. Additional intensification with TKIs before and after transplantation could further improve the outcome
- AlloHSCT remains the post-remissional treatment of choice at least up to the age of 60. Non relapse mortality remains a major problem.
- TKIs and chemotherapy may achieve long term remission even without a transplant consolidation to cure
- Blinatumomab and TKIs may represent an effective innovative treatment approach

