

ASH Updates

MDS

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Outline

- MDS – genetics and changes to risk assessment
- ARCH, CHIP, CCUS – do we care? Do we treat?
- Low risk MDS – new drugs and management
- High risk MDS – starting to look more like AML
- Immunotherapy in MDS – seems like it should work?

IPSS-R: Cytogenetics, blasts, CBC predict risk

Table 3. IPSS-R prognostic score values

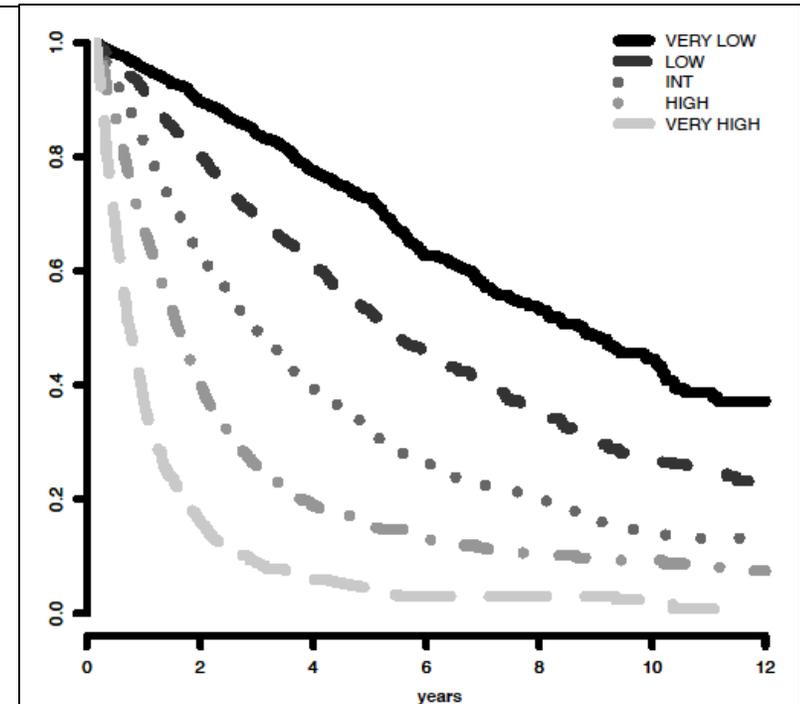
Prognostic variable	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	3	4
Cytogenetics	Very good	—	Good	—	Intermediate	Poor	Very poor
BM blast, %	≤ 2	—	> 2%- < 5%	—	5%-10%	> 10%	—
Hemoglobin	≥ 10	—	8- < 10	< 8	—	—	—
Platelets	≥ 100	50-< 100	< 50	—	—	—	—
ANC	≥ 0.8	< 0.8	—	—	—	—	—

— indicates not applicable.

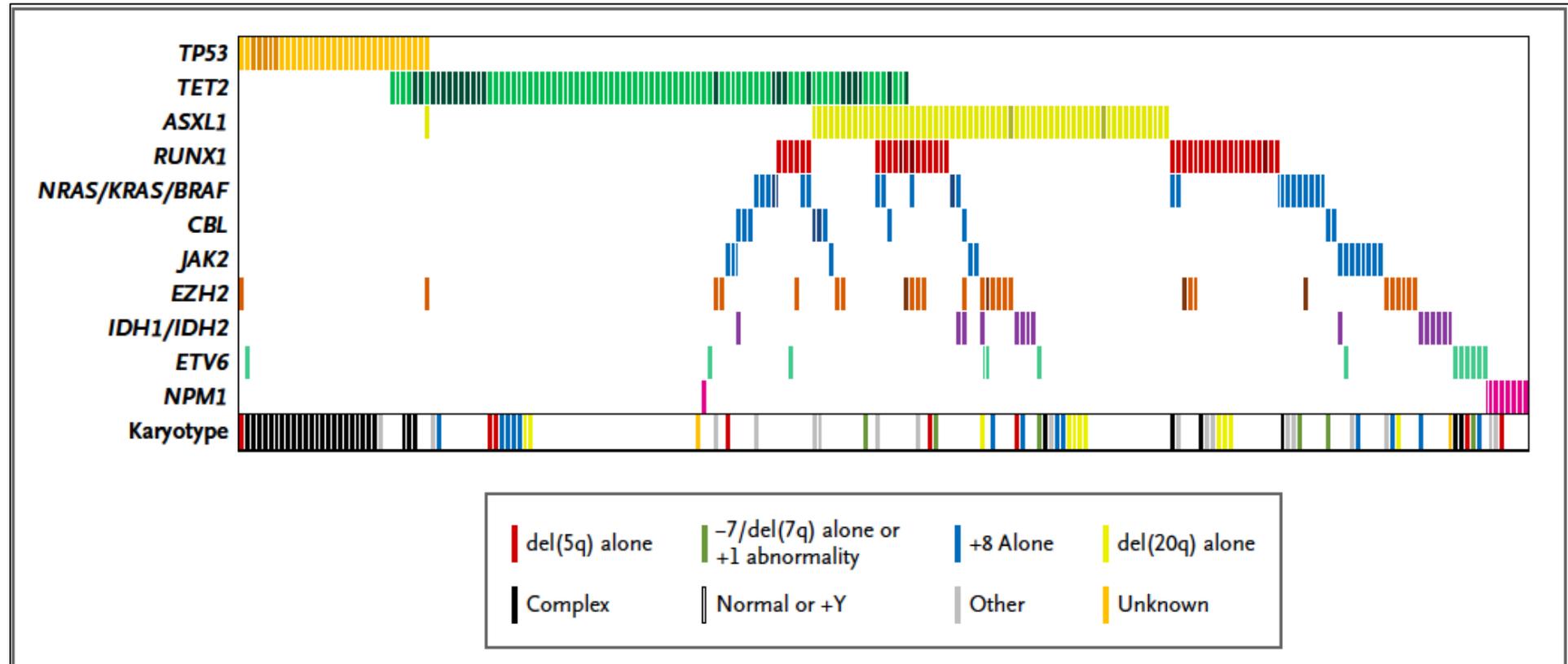


Table 4. IPSS-R prognostic risk categories/scores

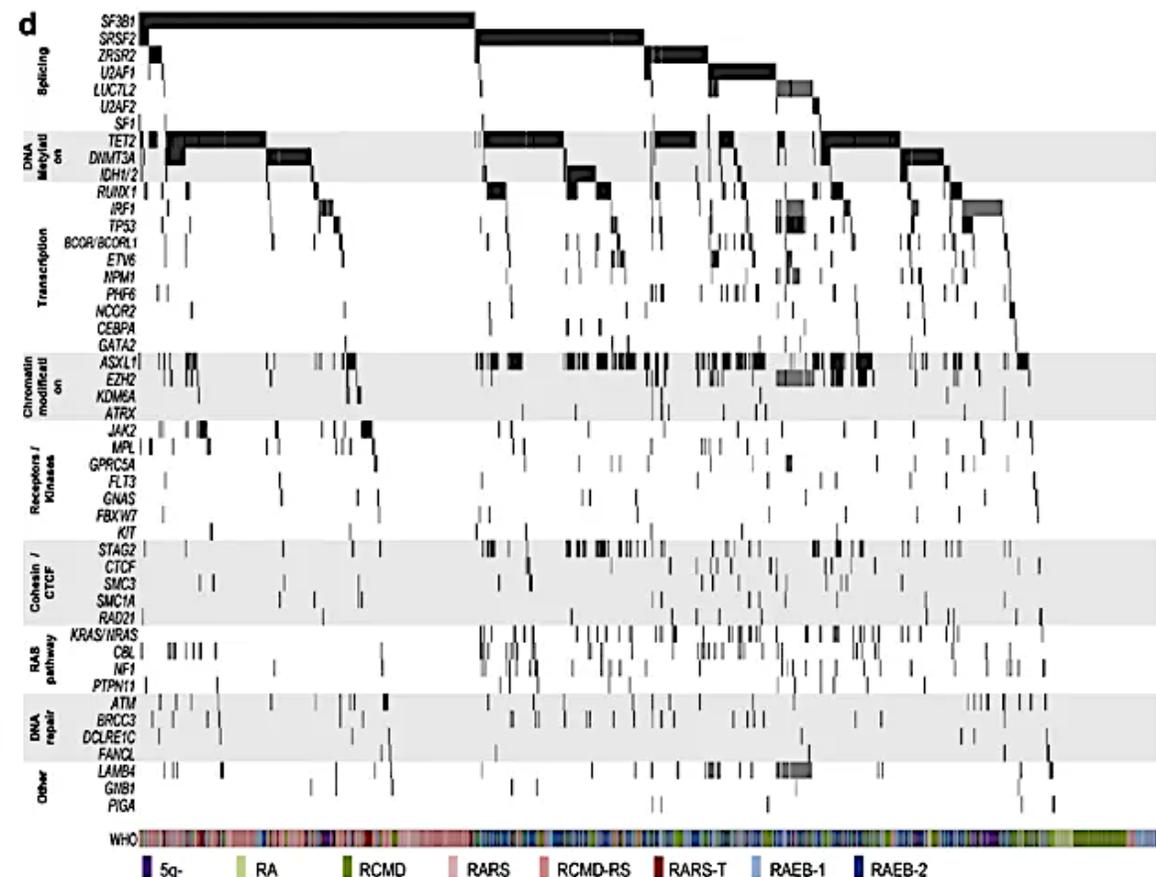
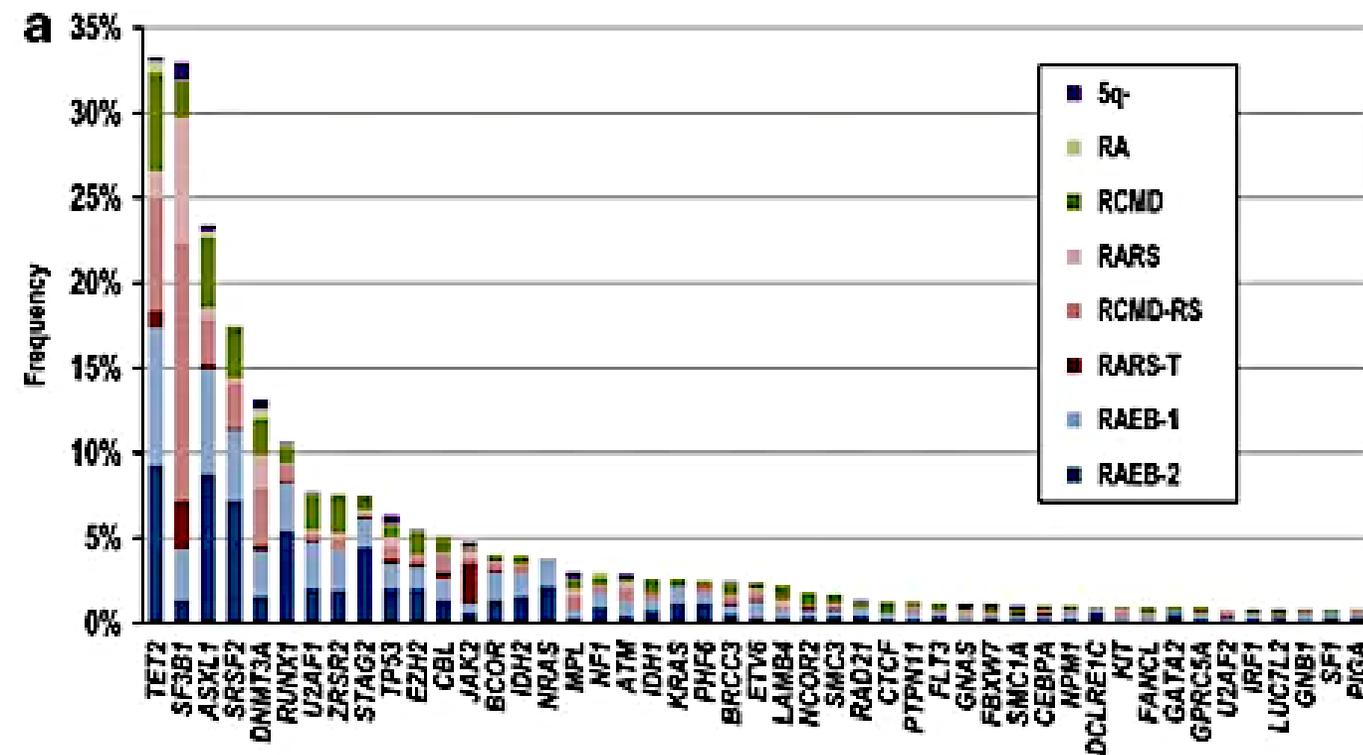
Risk category	Risk score
Very low	≤ 1.5
Low	> 1.5-3
Intermediate	> 3-4.5
High	> 4.5-6
Very high	> 6



MDS point mutations



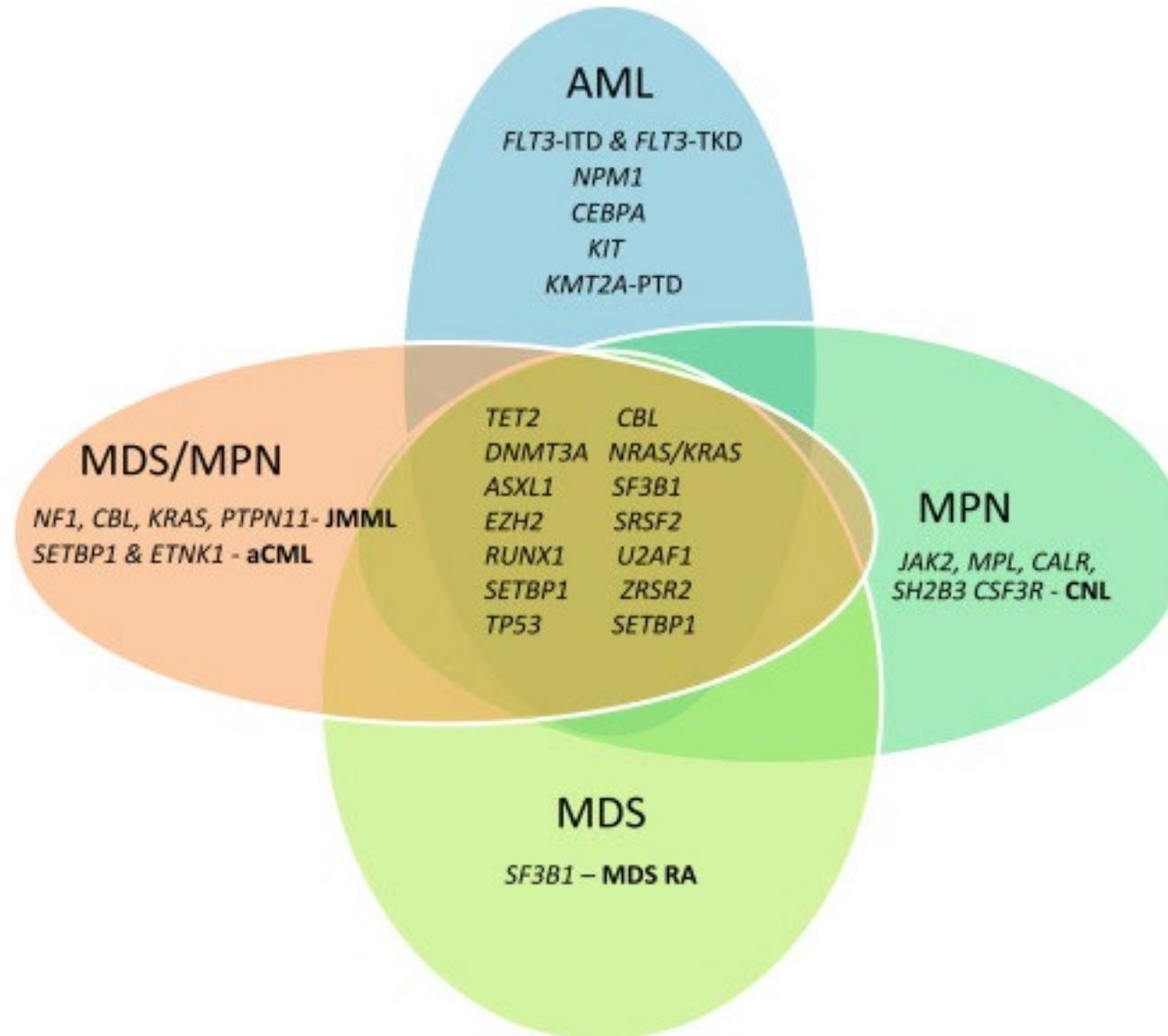
More MDS mutations



Haferlach T et al. Leukemia 2014

Spliceosome, epigenetic, transcription, chromatin mutations very common

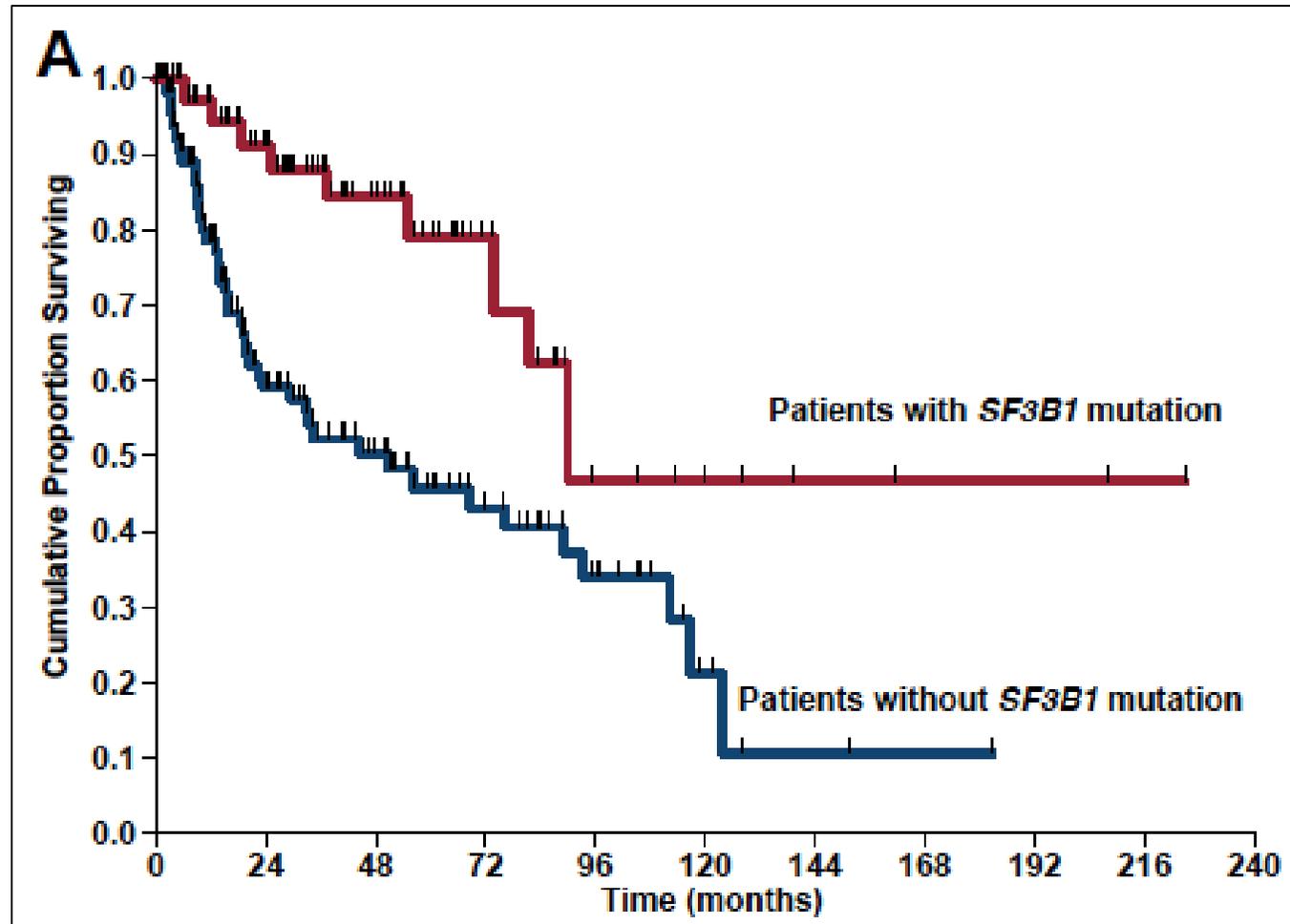
Myeloid neoplasms – genetic overlap



Mutations also affect risk

Risk Factor	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	P Value
Age \geq 55 yr vs. <55 yr	1.81 (1.20–2.73)	0.004
IPSS risk group		
Intermediate-1 vs. low	2.29 (1.69–3.11)	<0.001
Intermediate-2 vs. low	3.45 (2.42–4.91)	<0.001
High vs. low	5.85 (3.63–9.40)	<0.001
Mutational status		
<i>TP53</i> mutation present vs. absent	2.48 (1.60–3.84)	<0.001
<i>EZH2</i> mutation present vs. absent	2.13 (1.36–3.33)	<0.001
<i>ETV6</i> mutation present vs. absent	2.04 (1.08–3.86)	0.03
<i>RUNX1</i> mutation present vs. absent	1.47 (1.01–2.15)	0.047
<i>ASXL1</i> mutation present vs. absent	1.38 (1.00–1.89)	0.049

SF3B1 mutations – improved OS!



Blood 2011 118(24):6239-46

* Not independent of morphology

Development of IPSS-M: Background and Method

- Current risk stratification guidelines, including IPSS/IPSS-R, do not account for mutations that are now recognized to affect prognosis in MDS^{1,2}
- Current report details efforts by the IWG-PM to integrate key mutations into the IPSS/IPSS-R, yielding the IPSS-M
 - Developed in an IWG discovery cohort (n = 2957) and validated in a Japanese cohort (n = 754)

Development of IPSS-M: Patient Characteristics and Molecular Characterization in Discovery Cohort

- Inclusion criteria: diagnostic samples; blasts <20%, WBC <13 x 10⁹/L

Characteristic	All Patients (N = 2957)
Median age, yr (95th range)	72 (39-88)
Therapy-related MDS, %	8
Treated with disease-modifying agents according to guidelines, %	30
Median follow-up, yr	3.8
≥1 oncogenic lesion, %*	94
Median number oncogenic lesions per patient, n (range)	4 (0-20)

*48 genes mutated in >1% of patients.

- Molecular characterization: conventional cytogenetics; assessed oncogenic mutations from 152 genes (VAF >2%)
 - Findings: 48 genes mutated in ≥1% of patients; ≥1 oncogenic mutation in 94% of patients

Development of IPSS-M: Association Between Gene Mutations and Clinical Endpoints in Discovery Cohort

- After adjusting for age, sex, MDS type (primary vs therapy related), and IPSS-R raw score, multiple genes were associated with adverse outcomes including LFS (14 genes), OS (16 genes), and AML transformation (15 genes)¹
- Strongest associations found with:
 - *TP53* multi-hit (multiple mutations, mutation with deletion or copy-neutral LoH)² (7% of patients)
 - *MLL* partial tandem duplication (2.5% of patients)
 - *FLT3* mutations (1.1% of patients)

Development of IPSS-M: Association Between Gene Mutations and Clinical Endpoints in Discovery Cohort

- *SF3B1* mutations were associated with favorable outcomes, modulated by pattern of comutations
 - *SF3B1*^{5q}: concomitant isolated del(5q) (7%)
 - *SF3B1*^β: co-occurrence of mutations in *BCOR*, *BCORL1*, *RUNX1*, *NRAS*, *STAG2*, *SRSF2* (15%)
 - *SF3B1*^α: any other *SF3B1* mutations

Development of IPSS-M: Model Development Steps 1 and 2

Step	Development
Encoding for clinical and molecular variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Continuous encoding of clinical variables; linear function for BM blasts, Hg▪ Platelet values capped at $250 \times 10^9/L$; ANC not included▪ Maintained 5 IPSS-R cytogenetic categories▪ Gene mutations incorporated as binary variables aside from <i>TP53</i> allelic state and <i>SF3B1</i> subsets accounting for comutations
Determination of independent IPSS-M prognostic variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Model fit with a Cox multivariable regression adjusted for confounder variables (age, sex, primary vs therapy-related MDS)▪ Continuous clinical parameters▪ IPSS-R cytogenetic categories▪ 17 genetic variables from 16 main effect genes▪ 1 genetic variable from 15 residual genes (<i>BCOR</i>, <i>BCORL1</i>, <i>CEBPA</i>, <i>ETNK1</i>, <i>GATA2</i>, <i>GNB1</i>, <i>IDH1</i>, <i>NF1</i>, <i>PHF6</i>, <i>PPM1D</i>, <i>PRPF8</i>, <i>PTPN11</i>, <i>SETBP1</i>, <i>STAG2</i>, <i>WT1</i>)

Development of IPSS-M: Model Development Steps 3 and 4

Step	Development
Construction of IPSS-M risk score as a continuous patient-specific score	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Interpretable risk scoring system▪ Prominent 0 value established for a hypothetical average patient▪ 1 unit increase/decrease in risk score = double/half risk
Definition of IPSS-M risk categories for discrete risk grouping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 6 risk groups established<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Very low: 14%– Low: 33%– Moderate low: 11%– Moderate high: 11%– High: 14%– Very high: 17%

- IPSS-M demonstrated improved prognostic discrimination vs IPSS-R with 5-point increase in concordance index across all endpoints
- **46% of patients restratified from IPSS-R to IPSS-M, with 7% restratified by >1 strata**

Development of IPSS-M: Clinical Applicability

- IPSS-M web calculator returns individualized risk score and category
- Strategy for missing variables: IPSS-M calculated for best, average, and worst scenarios

Development of IPSS-M: Conclusions

- IPSS-M combines conventional parameters with mutations in 31 key genes to improve MDS risk stratification
- Risk score is personalized as a continuous score, reproducible, and interpretable, as 1-unit increase in score doubles risk
- 6-category risk schema developed
- Includes a strategy to handle missing data and a web calculator

Summary

- IPSS-R is still useful, and frequently used in clinical trials
- However, mutation analysis can improve risk stratification and “highly recommended” in NCCN guidelines
- With development of targeted therapies, can be opportunities for clinical trials
 - IDH1 inhibitor in AML for R/R MDS at OHSU
- **Next-gen panel should be done routinely on all new MDS pts**

What's new

CCUS and low risk MDS

MDS treatment – 2019 summary

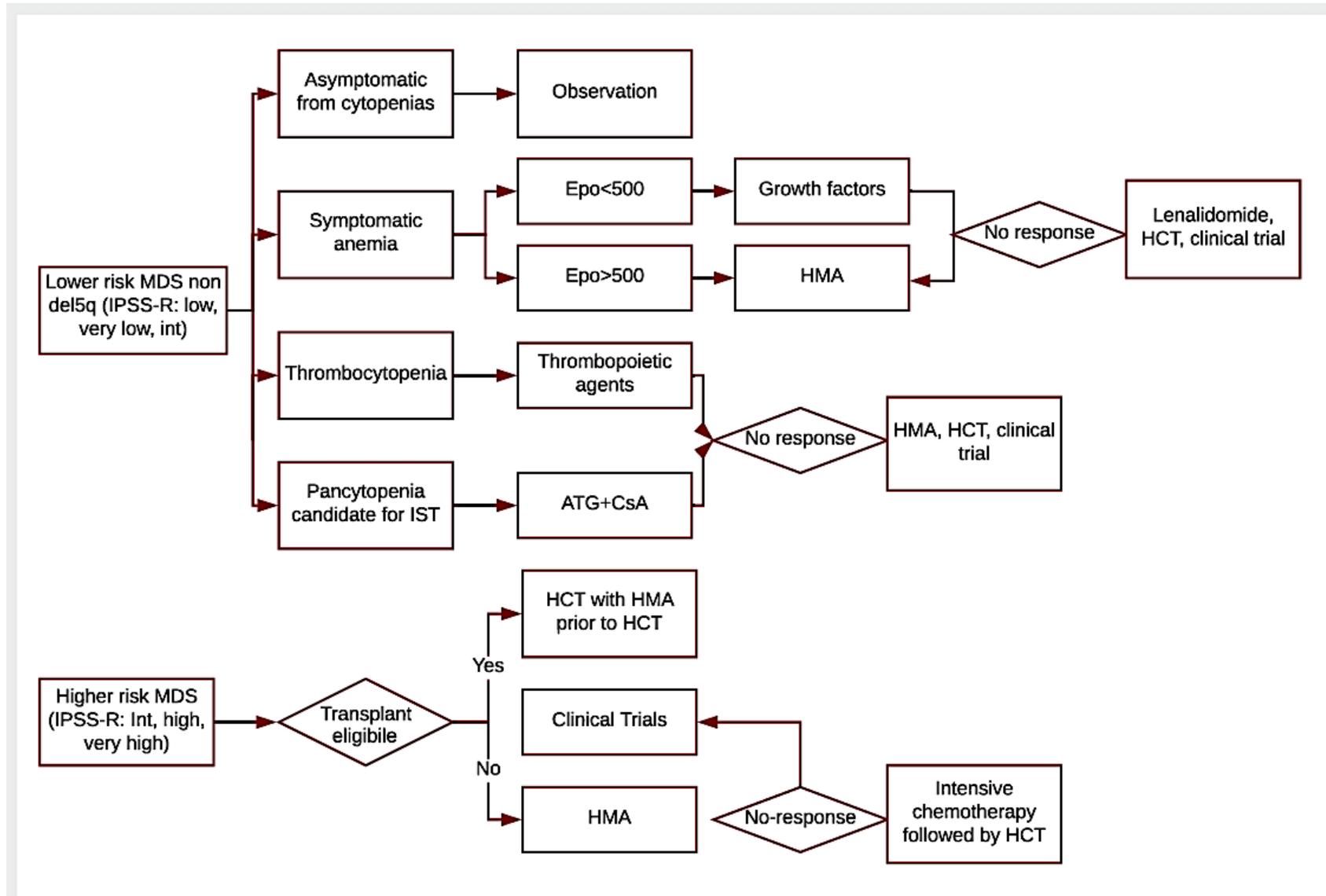
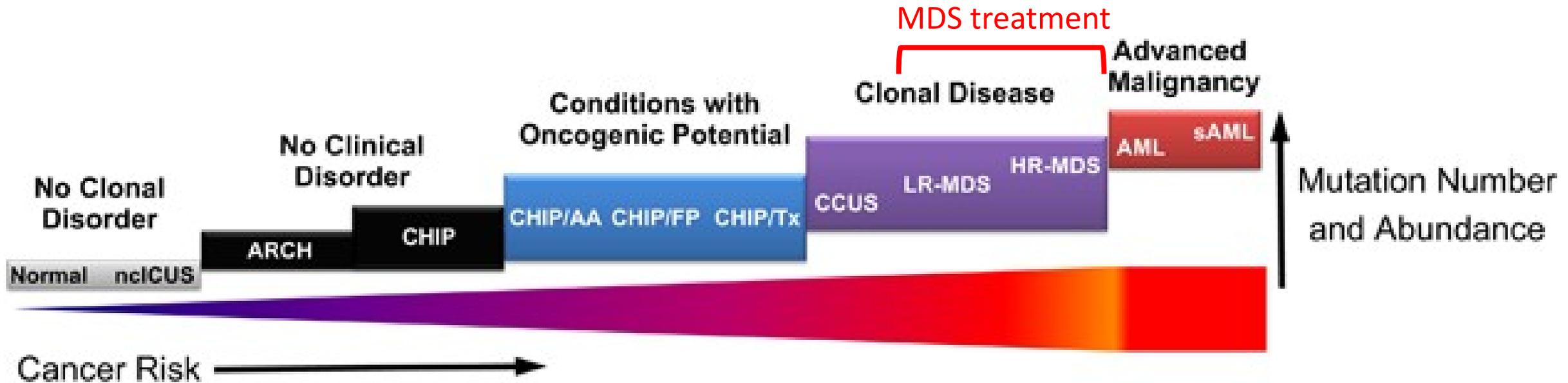


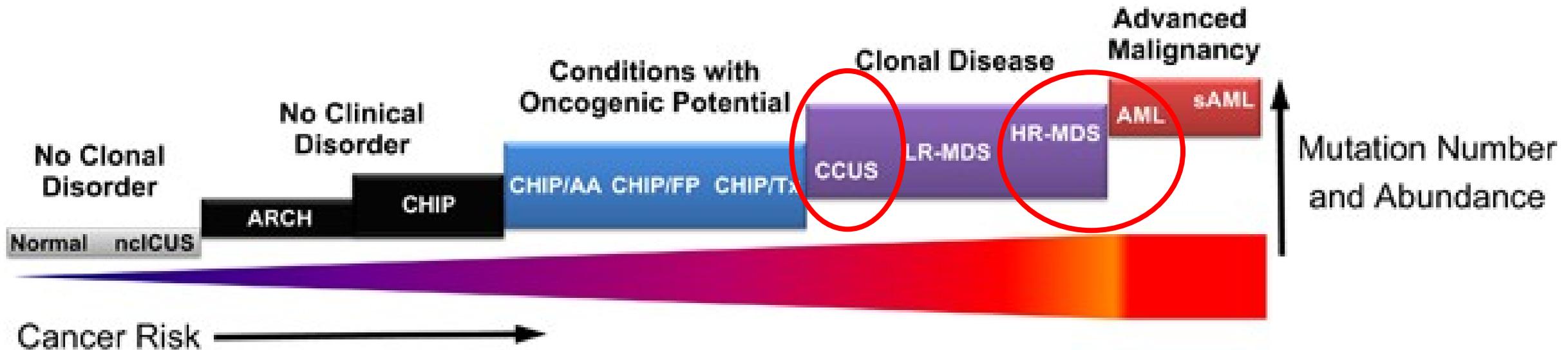
Figure 1. Clinical pathway for patients without del(5q) type MDS disease management

Increasing spectrum of myeloid malignancies - and terminology!



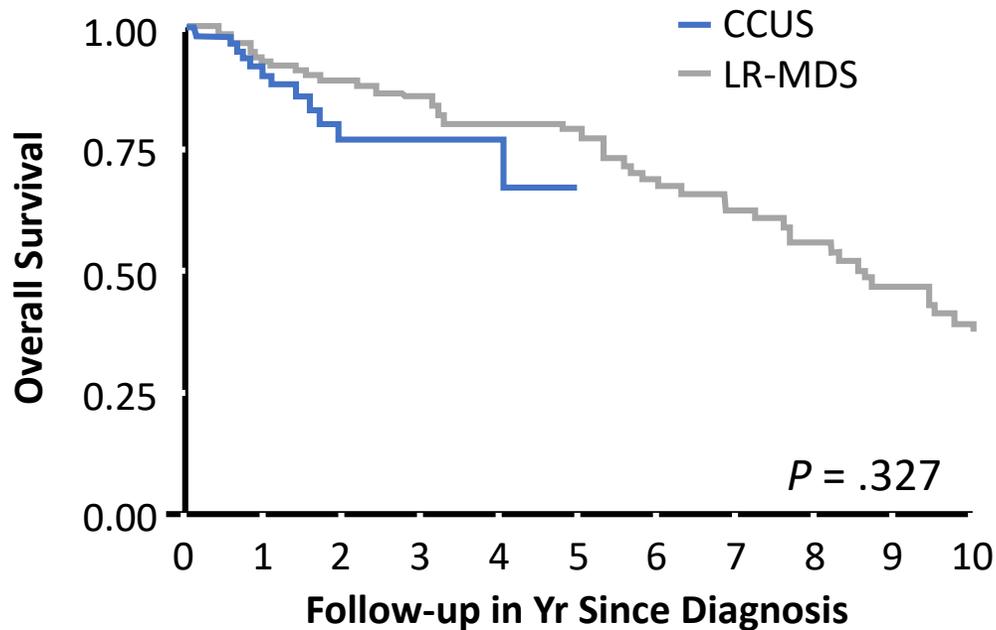
Bejar, R. CHIP, ICUS, CCUS and other four-letter words. *Leukemia* **31**, 1869–1871 (2017)

Changes happening at ends of spectrum



CCUS is Evolving to an *Interventional* State

OS in Patients with CCUS and LR-DMS



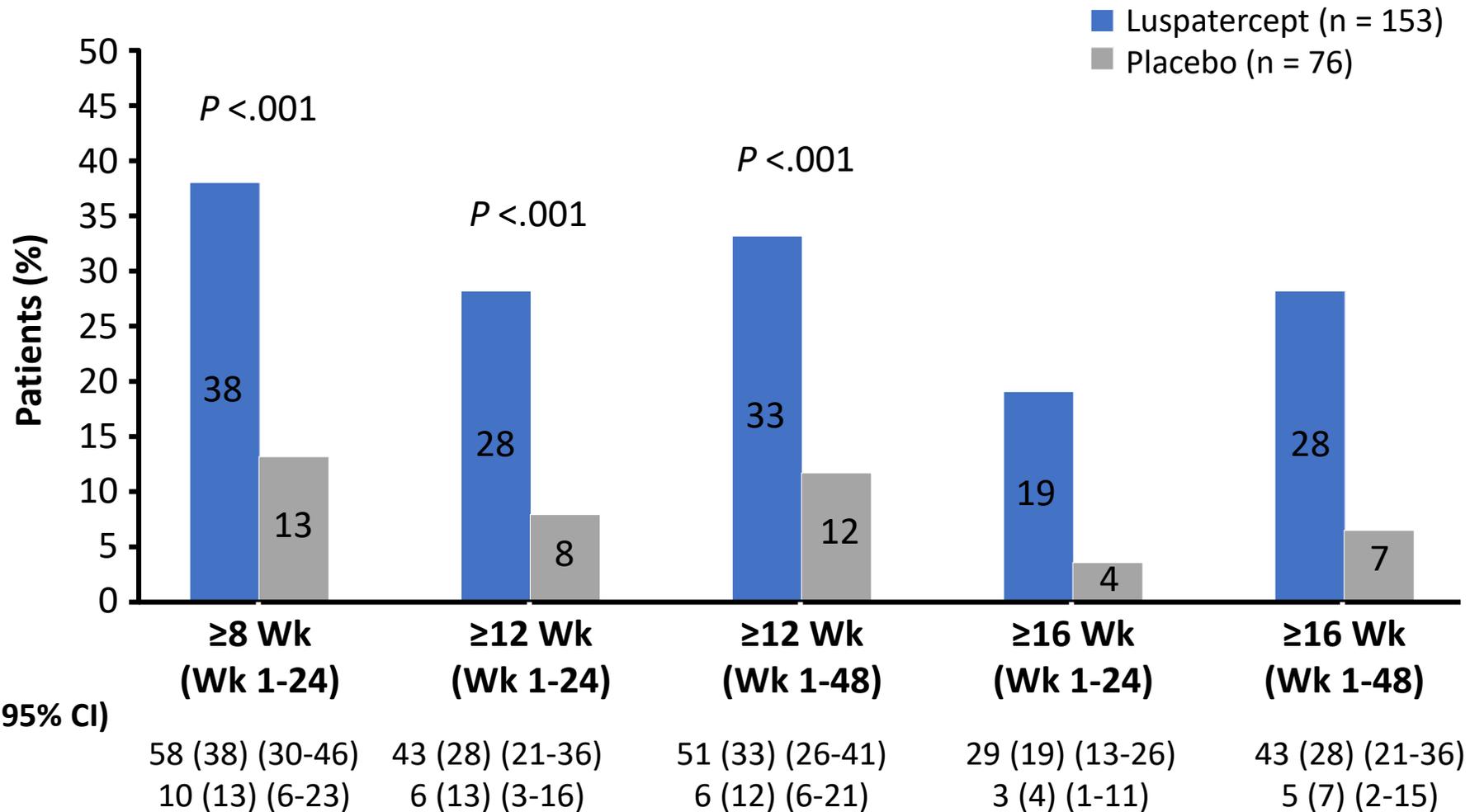
LR-MDS	112	89	78	69	57	55	46	39	33	25	19
CCUS	75	51	25	15	8	1	1	1	1	1	1

- NCT05030441: ivosidenib for patients with CCUS and mutations in IDH1
 - US multi-institutional study
 - Ivosidenib: IDH1 inhibitor, 500 mg daily for up to 18 mo
- NCT04741945: repurposing metformin as a leukemia-preventive drug in CCUS and LR-MDS
 - Denmark multi-institutional study
 - 2000 mg/daily for 12 mo with a slow up-titration 2 wk before to full dose
- NCT03418038: IV ascorbic acid in *TET2*-mutated CCUS
- Canakinumab in CCUS
 - Multi-institutional study
 - Canakinumab: a human monoclonal antibody targeting IL-1 β

Early Erythropoiesis Stimulation in Low-Risk MDS Remains Standard of Care

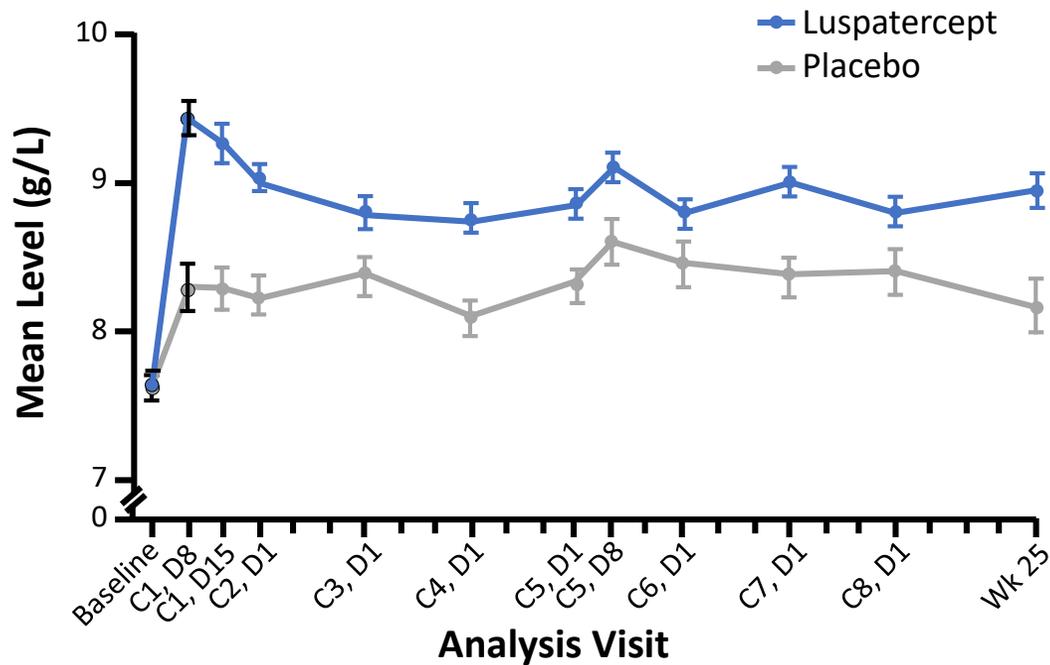
- Recombinant erythropoietin can lead to long-term responses in LR-MDS
 - With MDS with isolated anemia
 - EPO levels <500 U/L, usually <200 U/L
 - Considerable variation in dose and schedule
- Low thromboembolic risk if given with lower Hgb
- Sequencing of ESAs with other therapy for LR-MDS: unclear

Luspatercept vs Placebo in MDS (MEDALIST): Red Blood Cell Transfusion Independence



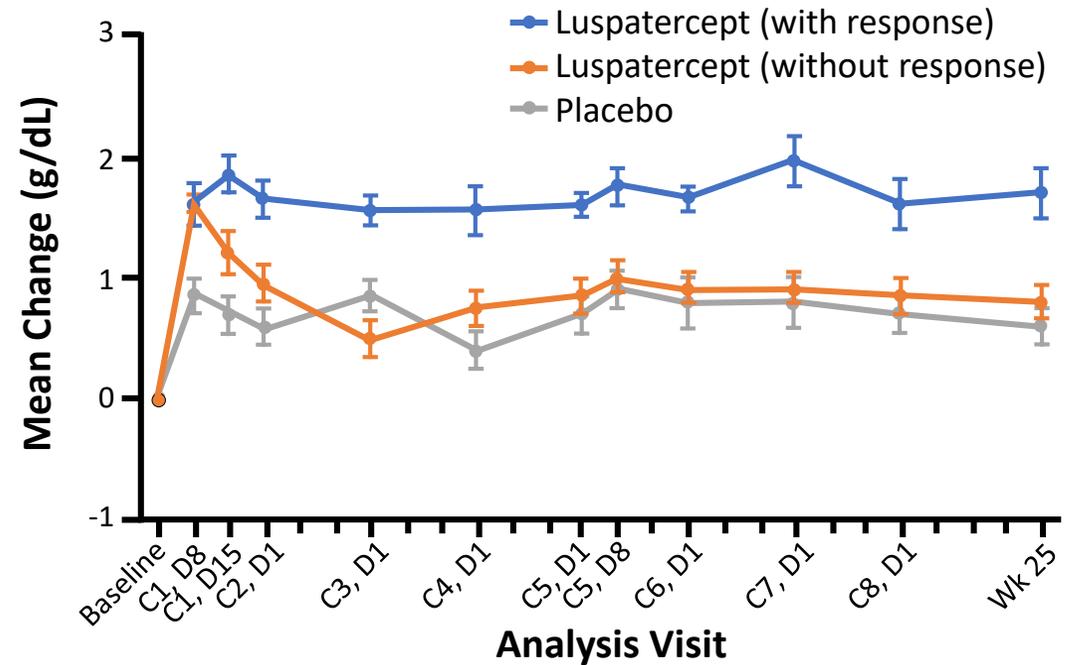
MEDALIST: Change in Hemoglobin Levels

Change in Mean Observed Hemoglobin Level



Patients at Risk, n	
Lusatercept	153 57 87 116 105 112 103 76 92 106 90 80
Placebo	76 32 36 41 47 44 52 29 44 47 44 32

Change in Hemoglobin Level From Baseline



Patients at Risk n	
Lusatercept (with response)	- 24 36 55 53 52 50 42 47 50 42 45
Lusatercept (without response)	- 33 51 61 52 60 53 34 45 56 48 35
Placebo	- 32 36 41 47 44 52 29 44 47 44 32

MEDALIST: Adverse Events

AE in ≥10% of patients*	Luspatercept (n = 153)		Placebo (n = 76)	
	Any Grade	Grade 3	Any Grade	Grade 3
General or administration-site condition				
▪ Fatigue	41 (27)	7 (5)	10 (13)	2 (3)
▪ Asthenia	31 (20)	4 (3)	9 (12)	0
▪ Peripheral edema	25 (16)	0	13 (17)	1 (1)
Gastrointestinal disorder				
▪ Diarrhea	34 (22)	0	7 (9)	0
▪ Nausea [†]	31 (20)	1 (1)	6 (8)	0
▪ Constipation	17 (11)	0	7 (9)	0
Nervous system disorder				
▪ Dizziness	30 (20)	0	4 (5)	0
▪ Headache	24 (16)	1 (1)	5 (7)	0
Musculoskeletal/connective tissue disorder				
▪ Back pain [†]	29 (19)	3 (2)	5 (7)	0
▪ Arthralgia	8 (5)	1 (1)	9 (12)	2 (3)

AE in ≥10% of patients*	Luspatercept (n = 153)		Placebo (n = 76)	
	Any Grade	Grade 3	Any Grade	Grade 3
Respiratory, thoracic, or mediastinal disorder				
▪ Dyspnea	23 (15)	1 (1)	5 (7)	0
▪ Cough	27 (18)	0	10 (13)	0
Infection or infestation				
▪ Bronchitis [†]	17 (11)	1 (1)	1 (1)	0
▪ UTI [†]	17 (11)	2 (1)	4 (5)	3 (4)
Injury, poisoning or fall	15 (10)	7 (5)	9 (12)	2 (3)

Lenalidomide and Eltrombopag for Low-Risk/ Intermediate-Risk MDS: Study Design

Multicenter, open-label phase II trial

If PLTs <50,000

If PLTs <50,000

Patients ≥18 yr with low-risk/intermediate-1-risk MDS per IPSS (or non-proliferative CMML); symptomatic anemia untransfused with Hb ≤10 g/dL or with RBC transfusion dependence, or PLTs <50,000 with Hb >10 g/dL; no prior exposure to LEN (for >2 mo) or ELT (N = 52)

Arm A: PLTs ≥50,000
LEN 10 mg PO QD
on Days 1-21
(n = 28)

LEN d/c and ELT
100-300 mg PO QD given
until PLTs ≥50,000 for
2 wk; patients then
resumed LEN

LEN d/c and ELT
100-300 mg PO QD given
until PLTs ≥50,000 for 2 wk;
patients then resumed LEN
+ ELT in combination

Arm B: PLTs <50,000
ELT 100-300 mg PO QD on Days 1-28
until PLTs ≥50,000 for 2 wk, then
followed treatment scheme in Arm A
(n = 24)

Patients were allowed to stay on ELT alone if they reached HI-E and HI-PLT on ELT

Primary endpoints: HI (per 2006 IWG criteria), safety and tolerability

Secondary endpoints: HI duration, time to HI, clinically significant bleeding events, BM response (CR + PR), cytogenetic response

Lenalidomide and Eltrombopag for Low-Risk/ Intermediate-Risk MDS: Baseline Characteristics

Characteristic	ELT (n = 21)	LEN (n = 16)	ELT + LEN (n = 15)	Total (N = 52)
Mean age, yr (range)	68 (34-93)	74 (59-86)	73 (56-85)	71 (34-93)
Male, n (%)	17 (81)	9 (56)	11 (73)	36 (71)
Mean Hb, g/dL (range)	8.6 (6.1-11.7)	8.2 (6.2-9.5)	8.14 (6.4-10.8)	8.35 (6.1-11.7)
Mean PLT count, cells/mm ³ (range)	21.8 (1-97)	256.7 (88-457)	133.5 (16-280)	126.3 (1-457)
Treatment naïve, n (%)	NR	NR	NR	21 (40)
IPSS risk, n (%)				
▪ Very low	0	1	0	1 (2)
▪ Low	6	8	10	24 (46)
▪ Intermediate	15	7	5	27 (52)
MDS WHO category, n (%)				
▪ MDS-SLD	0	5	0	5 (10)
▪ MDS-MLD	18	3	6	27 (52)
▪ MDS-RS-SLD	0	6	3	9 (17)
▪ MDS-RS-MLD	0	0	3	3 (6)
▪ MDS-EB-1	1	1	1	3 (6)
▪ MDS del(5q)	0	1	1	2 (4)
▪ CMML	2	0	1	3 (6)

Lenalidomide and Eltrombopag for Low-Risk/ Intermediate-Risk MDS: Safety

AEs, n (%)	ELT		LEN	
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 3	Grade 4
Anemia	0	0	3 (6)	0
Neutropenia	0	0	3 (6)	6 (12)
Febrile neutropenia	0	0	0	1 (2)
Thrombocytopenia	0	0	6 (12)	3 (6)
Bilirubin rise	1 (2)	0	2 (4)	0
ALT/AST elevation	1 (2)	0	0	0
Diarrhea	0	0	1 (2)	0
Rash	0	0	2 (4)	0
Arthralgia	0	0	1 (2)	0
Bleeding	2 (4)	0	0	0

- 3 deaths occurred
 - 1 each due to pneumonia, sepsis, and gallbladder cancer
- 2 patients had major bleeding events
- 1 patient on ELT had reversible increase in peripheral blasts during an episode of acute cholecystitis
- 1 patient developed BM fibrosis after 6 yr on ELT
- 5 patients discontinued treatment due to AEs

Lenalidomide and Eltrombopag for Low-Risk/ Intermediate-Risk MDS: Efficacy

Efficacy Outcome	ELT (n = 21)	LEN (n = 16)	ELT + LEN (n = 15)	Total (N = 52)
ORR (ITT), %	33	38	33	35
Evaluable responses, %				
▪ RBC-TI	24	46	21	30
▪ HI-PLT	35	0	21	20
▪ Bilineage response	29	0	14	16
▪ CR	6	0	14	7
Median TTR, wk (range)	9.4 (6-12.4)	10.9 (2.4-16)	9.9 (2-20)	10.05
Median DoR, wk (range)	102 (8-295)	63 (25-141)	66 (8.3-107)	77.08

- At the time of data cutoff (Sept 22, 2021), 2 patients on ELT, 1 patient on LEN, and 2 patients on ELT + LEN are still on trial with ongoing responses

Lenalidomide and Eltrombopag for Low-Risk/ Intermediate-Risk MDS: Investigators' Conclusions

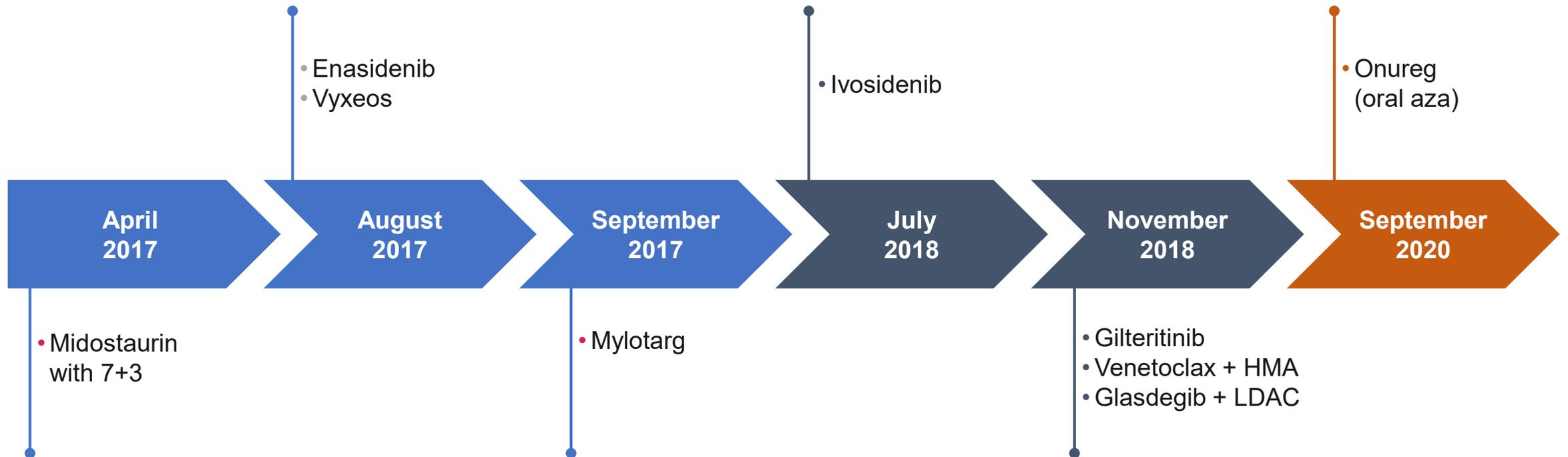
- Treatment with ELT and LEN showed good efficacy and safety in patients with low-risk/intermediate-risk MDS
 - ORR of 35% in ITT population
 - Median DoR: 1.5 yr
 - Acceptable safety profile
- ELT monotherapy yielded responses with a sizeable proportion of bilineage responses
- 1 patient developed BM fibrosis and only 1 patient had transient increase in blasts, allaying these preexisting safety concerns

What's new

High risk MDS – starting to look more like AML!

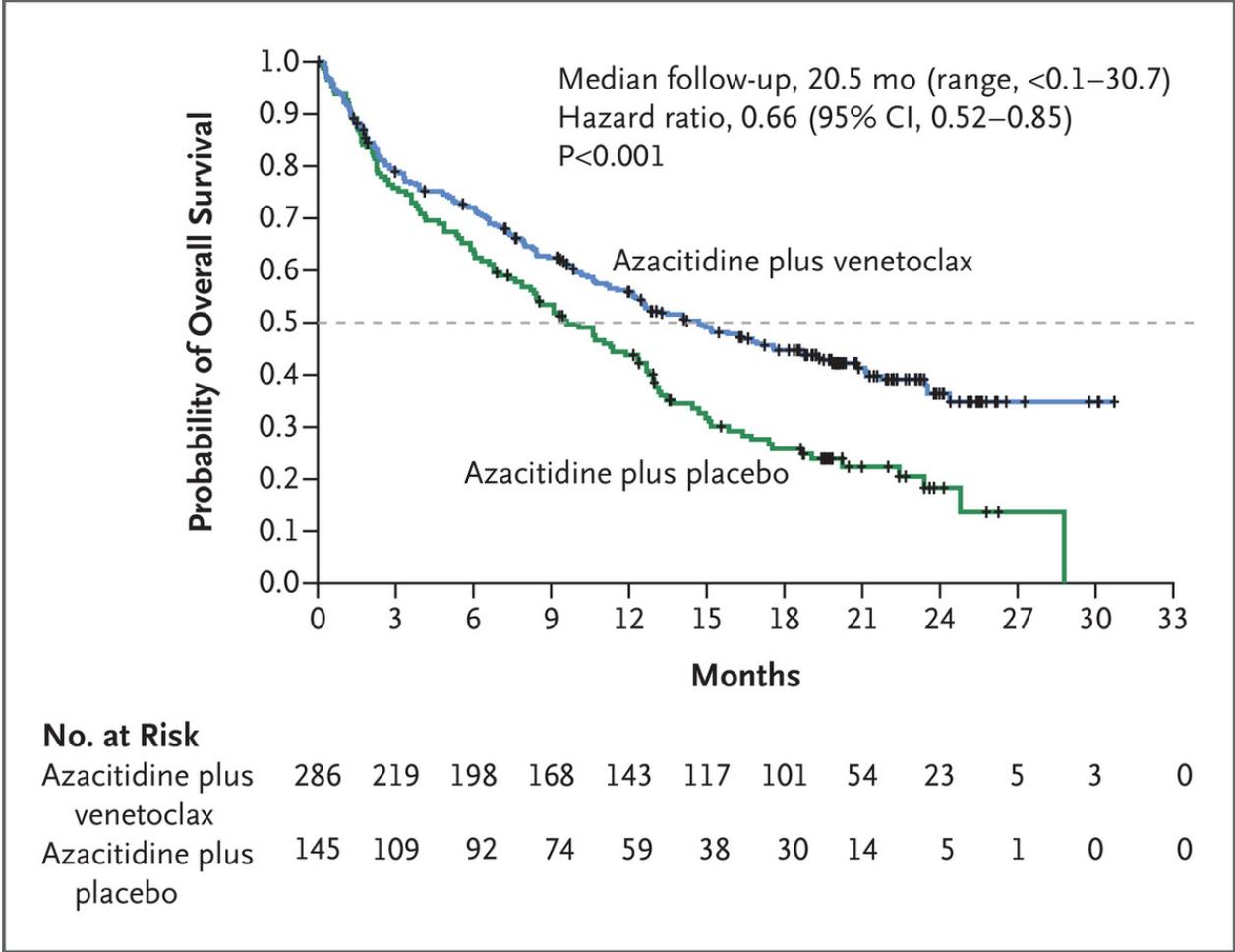
And even being incorporated into AML trials

9 drugs approved in AML since 2017!



Aza + ven: VIALE-A trial results

One combo to treat all AML?



CD DiNardo et al. N Engl J Med 2020;383:617-629.

Table 1. Baseline Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of the Patients.*

Characteristic	Azacitidine–Venetoclax Group (N=286)	Azacitidine–Placebo Group (N=145)
Age		
Median (range) — yr	76 (49–91)	76 (60–90)
≥75 yr — no. (%)	174 (61)	87 (60)
Male sex — no. (%)	172 (60)	87 (60)
AML type — no (%)		
De novo	214 (75)	110 (76)
Secondary	72 (25)	35 (24)
Secondary AML — no./total no. (%)		
History of myelodysplastic syndrome or CMML	46/72 (64)	26/35 (74)
Therapy-related AML	26/72 (36)	9/35 (26)
ECOG performance-status score — no. (%)†		
0–1	157 (55)	81 (56)
2–3	129 (45)	64 (44)
Bone marrow blast count — no. (%)		
<30%‡	85 (30)	41 (28)
≥30 to <50%	61 (21)	33 (23)
≥50%	140 (49)	71 (49)
AML with myelodysplasia-related changes — no. (%)	92 (32)	49 (34)
Cytogenetic risk category — no. (%)§		
Intermediate	182 (64)	89 (61)
Normal karyotype — no.	128	62
Trisomy 8; +8 alone — no.	13	10
Poor	104 (36)	56 (39)
7 or 7q deletion — no.	20	11
5 or 5q deletion — no.	46	22
Complex, ≥3 clonal abnormalities — no.	75	36
Somatic mutations — no./total no. (%)		
<i>IDH1</i> or <i>IDH2</i>	61/245 (25)	28/127 (22)
<i>FLT3</i> ITD or TKD	29/206 (14)	22/108 (20)
<i>NPM1</i>	27/163 (17)	17/86 (20)
<i>TP53</i>	38/163 (23)	14/86 (16)
Baseline cytopenia grade ≥3¶		
Anemia — no. (%)	88 (31)	52 (36)
Neutropenia — no./total no. (%)	206/286 (72)	90/144 (62)
Thrombocytopenia — no. (%)	145 (51)	73 (50)
Baseline transfusion dependence — no. (%)		
Red cells	144 (50)	76 (52)
Platelets	68 (24)	32 (22)
≥2 Reasons for ineligibility to receive intensive therapy — no. (%)	141 (49)	65 (45)

* AML denotes acute myeloid leukemia, CMML chronic myelomonocytic leukemia, ITD internal tandem duplications, and TKD tyrosine kinase domain.
† Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance-status scores range from 0 to 5, with 0 indicating no symptoms and higher scores indicating greater disability.
‡ These bone marrow blast counts were between 20 and 29%.
§ Only cytogenetic risks of interest are shown.
¶ Cytopenia was graded according to the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events.
|| Baseline transfusion dependence was transfusion within 8 weeks before the first dose of azacitidine–venetoclax or azacitidine–placebo or randomization.

Venetoclax and HMA in Higher-Risk MDS: Background

- HMAs remain standard of care for patients with higher-risk MDS
 - HMA treatment associated with <20% CR rate and median OS of 12-18 mo¹
- Early suggestions of higher response rate with the addition of venetoclax to HMAs in higher-risk MDS^{2,3}
- The current retrospective analysis compared clinical outcomes in patients with higher-risk MDS treated with first-line HMA, first-line HMA + venetoclax, or HMA with venetoclax given after HMA failure⁴

Venetoclax and HMA in Higher-Risk MDS: Study Design

- Retrospective analysis of clinical outcomes in patients with MDS who were classified as intermediate or higher risk by R-IPSS and received first-line treatment with HMA at Moffitt Cancer Center (N = 1193)
 - Single-agent HMA: n = 1158 (azacitidine n = 1027; decitabine n = 131)
 - **First-line HMA + venetoclax*: n = 35 (azacitidine n = 26; decitabine n = 9)**
 - Of patients who received single-agent HMA, n = 31 subsequently received HMA + venetoclax for R/R MDS without transformation to AML
- Response rate and median OS assessed (OS from diagnosis)
 - Median follow-up from diagnosis: 96 mo for first-line single-agent HMA, 15 mo for first-line HMA + venetoclax, 36 mo for HMA + venetoclax in R/R MDS

Venetoclax and HMA in Higher-Risk MDS: Baseline Characteristics by First-line Therapy

Characteristic	HMA Alone (n = 1127)	HMA + Ven (n = 35)	P Value
Mean age, yr	68.4	67.8	.76
Male, %	66	71	.5
White, %	90	97	.66
t-MDS, %	24	23	.86
WHO 2016 classification, %			
▪ MDS-SLD/MLD	18	4	.04
▪ MDS-RS	6	4	
▪ MDS-EB1	33	9	
▪ MDS-EB2	39	78	
R-IPSS, %			
▪ Intermediate	31	17	.22
▪ High	31	37	
▪ Very high	38	46	

Characteristic	HMA Alone (n = 1127)	HMA + Ven (n = 35)	P Value
Mean myeloblasts, %	8	13	<.005
Mean Hb, g/dL	9	9	1.0
Mean WBC x 10 ⁹ /L	4	10.6	<.005
Mean ANC x 10 ⁹ /L	1.8	4.1	<.005
Platelets x 10 ⁹ /L	96	100	.80
Somatic mutations, %*			
▪ <i>SF3B1</i>	5	0	.3
▪ <i>TET-2</i>	16	23	.3
▪ <i>IDH-1</i>	3	3	.7
▪ <i>IDH-2</i>	5	14	.056
▪ <i>ASXL-1</i>	21	46	.002
▪ <i>TP53</i>	27	34	.6
▪ <i>NRAS</i>	4	11	.07

Venetoclax and HMA in Higher-Risk MDS: Efficacy of First-line Therapy

Best Response, %	HMA + Ven (n = 35)	HMA Alone (n = 1127)	P Value
ORR	77	40	<.005
▪ CR	34	13	
▪ mCR	37 (62 + HI)	11	
▪ PR	3	1	
▪ HI	3	15	
ASXL-1 mut	(n = 16)	(n = 106)	
ORR	87	32	<.005
▪ CR	44	8	
TP53 mut	(n = 12)	(n = 137)	
ORR	75	44	.038
▪ CR	25	17	.47

Outcome	HMA + Ven (n = 35)	HMA Alone (n = 1127)	P Value
Median OS, mo			
▪ From diagnosis (95% CI)	21 (11-32)	20 (19-22)	.86
▪ From start of treatment*	19.4	17.2	.88
AML transformation, %	23	37	.08
AH SCT cohort[†]	(n = 13)	(n = 256)	
Median OS, mo (95% CI)	NR	38 (27-50)	.20
2-yr OS, %	91	51	

*Median time from diagnosis to treatment was 1 mo in both arms.

[†]Patients who went on to AHCST.

Venetoclax and HMA in Higher-Risk MDS: Conclusions

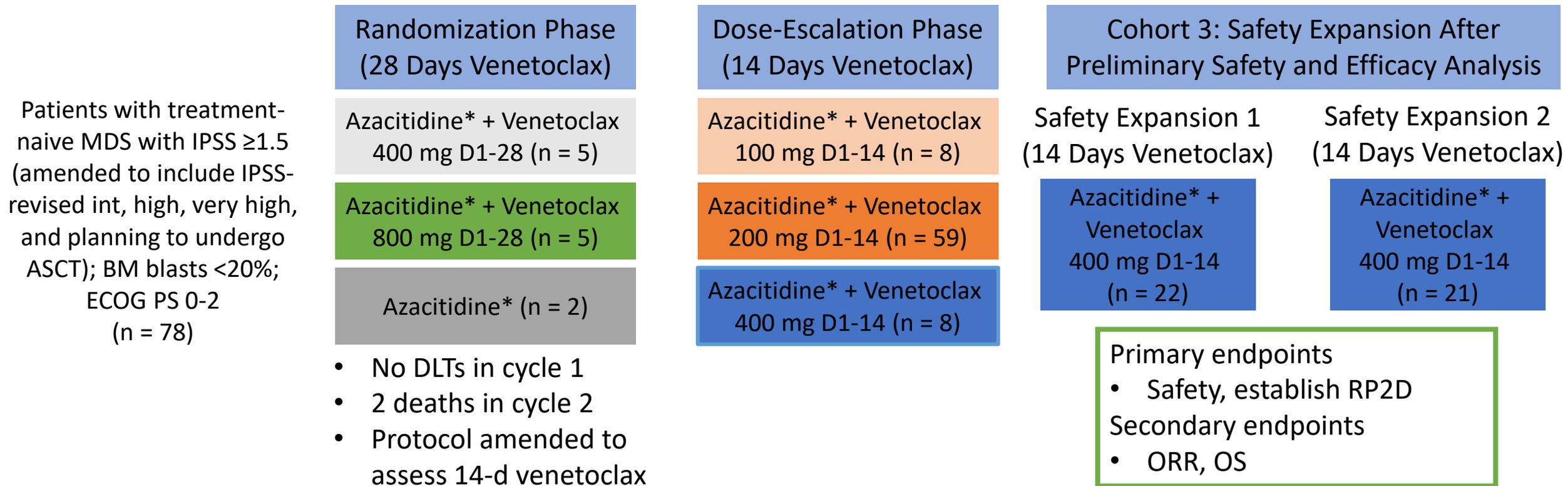
- In this retrospective analysis, treatment with first-line HMA + venetoclax was associated with significantly higher CR rates vs HMA alone in patients with higher-risk MDS, including those with *ASXL-1*–mutant MDS
 - Investigators suggested promising clinical activity of first-line HMA + venetoclax in patients who proceed to AHSCT
 - Caveats: small population, short follow-up of combination therapy group
 - No adverse event or dose adjustment data available
- Adding venetoclax to HMA after relapse may prolong OS
- Prospective, randomized trial needed to confirm findings

Venetoclax/Azacitidine in Treatment-Naive HR-MDS: Background

- The BCL-2 inhibitor venetoclax has shown synergy with hypomethylating agents such as azacitidine in preclinical studies and in clinical trials in patients with myeloid malignancies¹⁻⁴
 - Mechanism of action: Azacitidine targets BCL-X_L and MCL-1, and venetoclax targets BCL-2; all 3 targets are expressed on HR-MDS blast cells
- Current study undertaken to evaluate combination of venetoclax and azacitidine in patients with treatment-naive HR-MDS⁵

Venetoclax/Azacitidine in Treatment-Naive HR-MDS (Phase Ib): Study Design

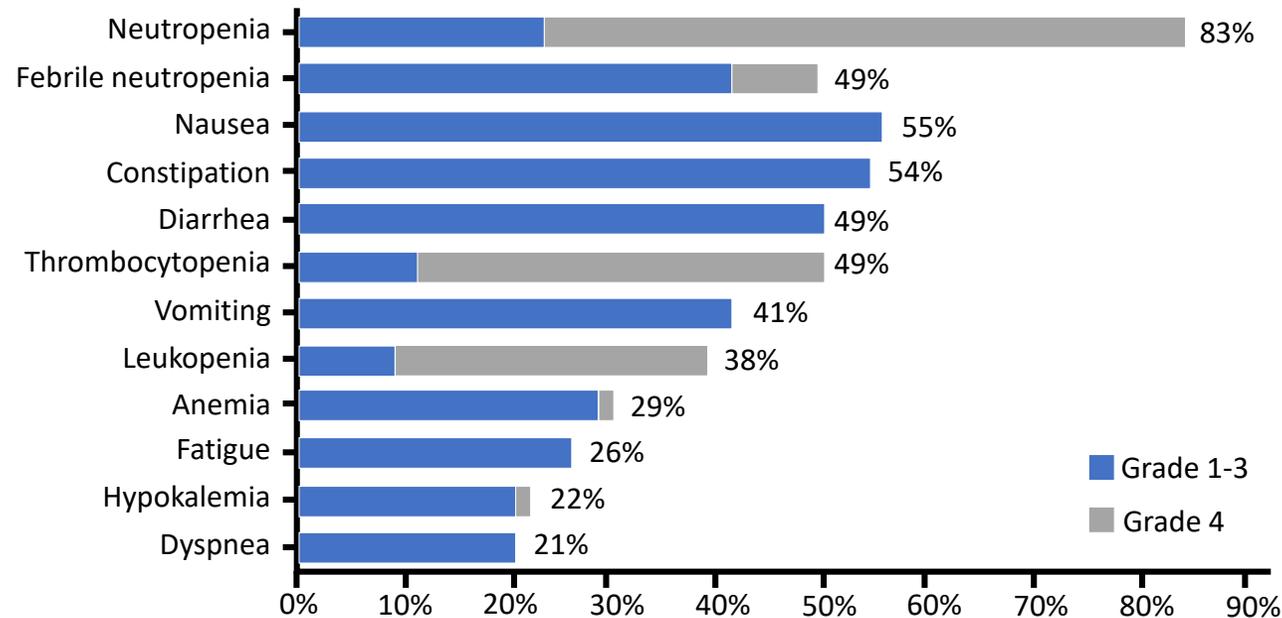
- Ongoing phase Ib clinical trial in higher-risk MDS, including assessment of molecular determinants of response



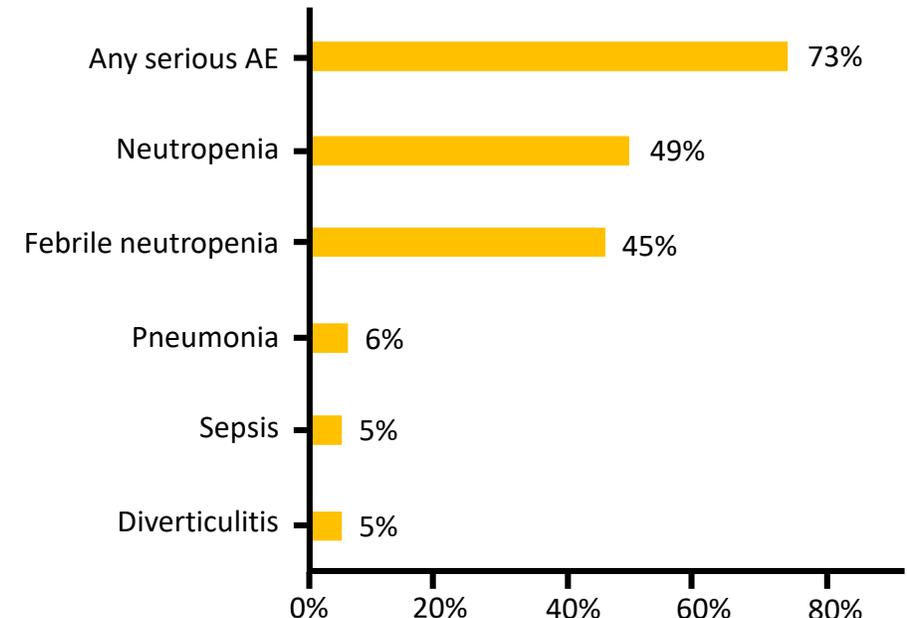
Venetoclax/Azacitidine in Treatment-Naive HR-MDS (Phase Ib): Safety

- Median cycles received: azacitidine, 4 (range: 1-27); venetoclax, 4 (range: 1-27)
- 30-day mortality after first dose: 1%; AEs leading to death: n = 7 (9%)

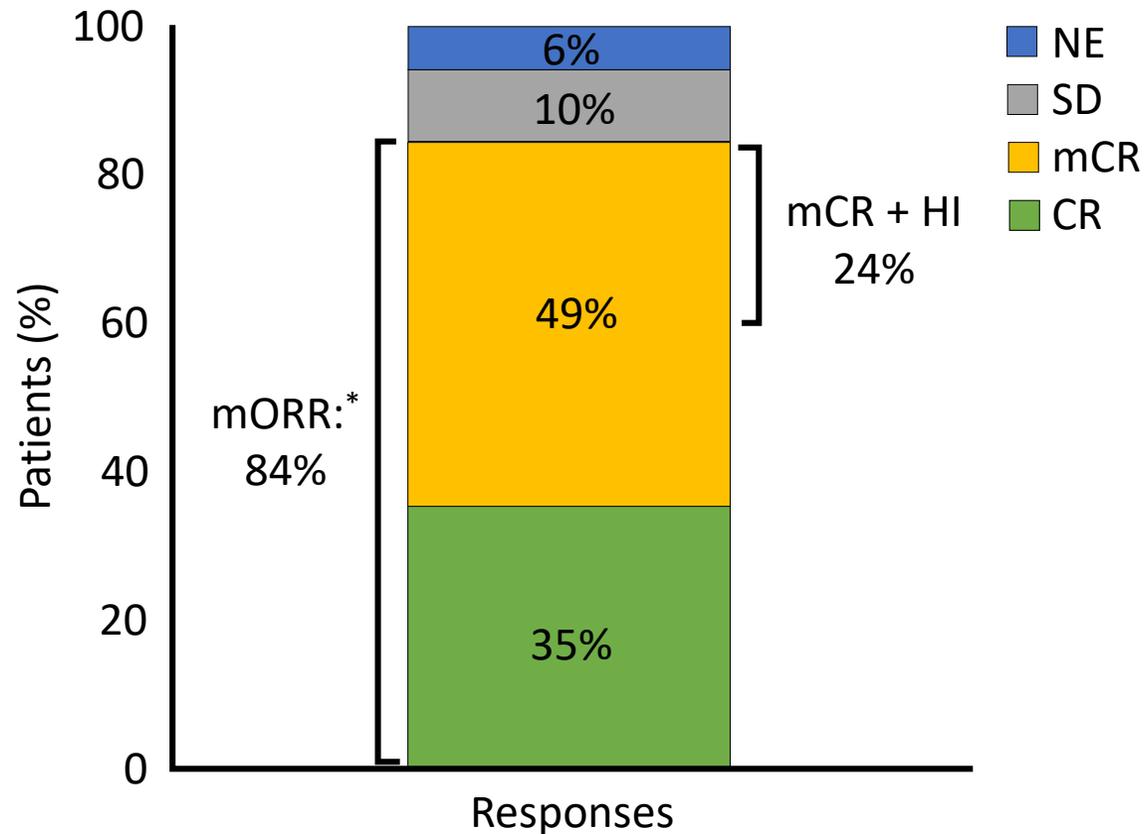
Adverse Events



Serious Adverse Events



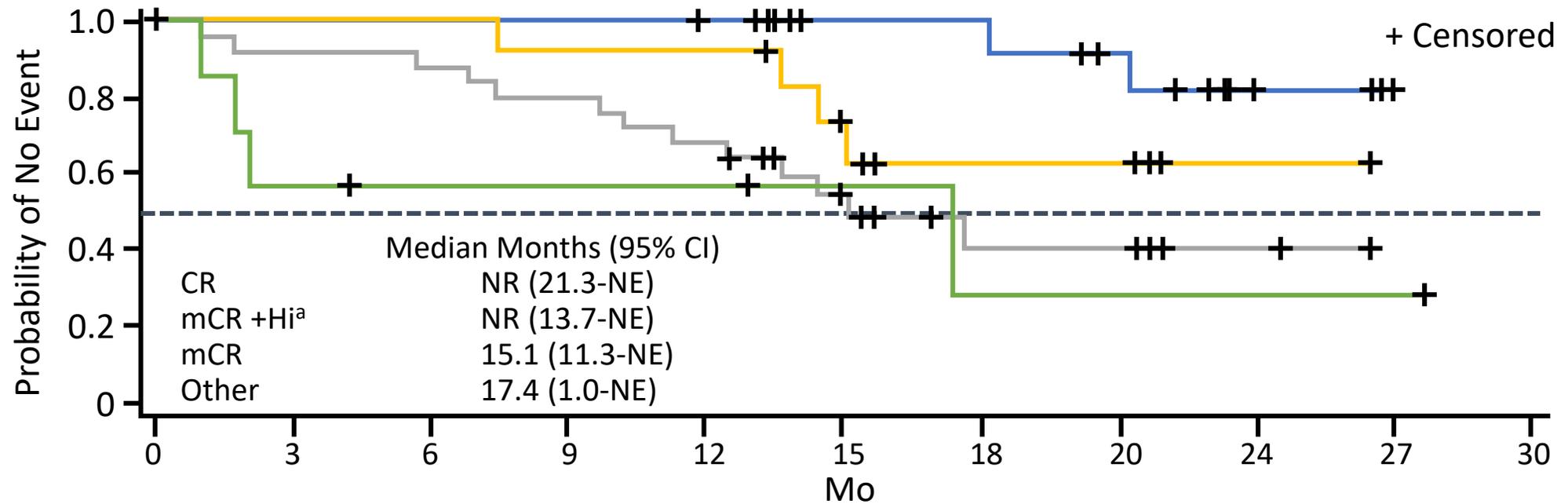
Venetoclax/Azacitidine in Treatment-Naive HR-MDS (Phase Ib): Responses



- Median time to response: 0.9 mo (95% CI: 0.7-5.8)
- Median duration of response: 12.4 mo (95% CI: 9.9-NR)

*mORR: CR + mCR + PR.

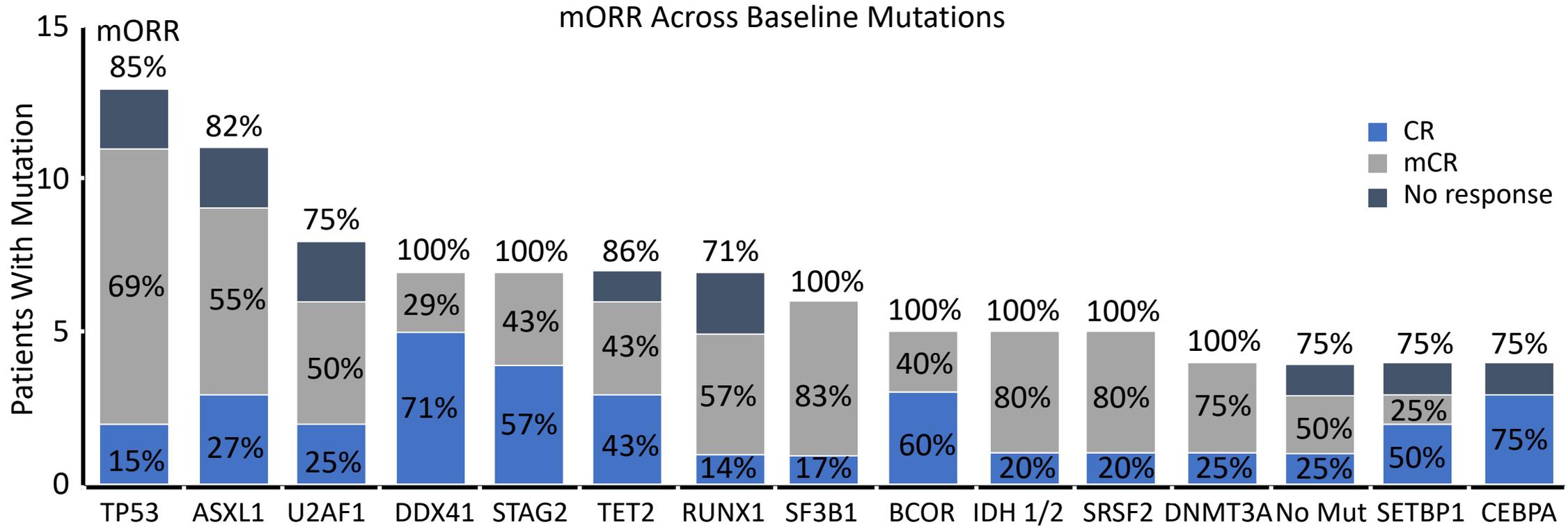
Venetoclax/Azacitidine in Treatment-Naive HR-MDS (Phase Ib): Overall Survival by Best Response at RP2D



Number at Risk

	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	20	24	27	30
CR	18	18	18	18	17	12	12	9	3	1	0
mCR +Hi ^a	12	12	12	11	11	8	4	4	1	0	
mCR	25	23	22	20	17	11	5	5	2	0	
Other	8	4	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	0

Venetoclax/Azacitidine in Treatment-Naive HR-MDS (Phase Ib): mORR Across Baseline Mutations

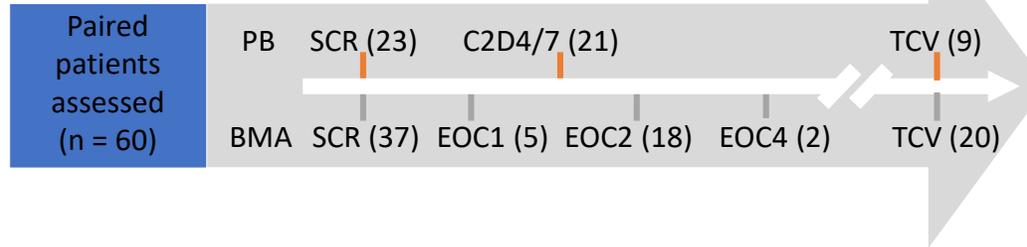


Responses in patients with multi-hit/biallelic *TP53* mutations similar to those in patients with any *TP53* mutations

CR: 28.6%; mORR: 71.4%

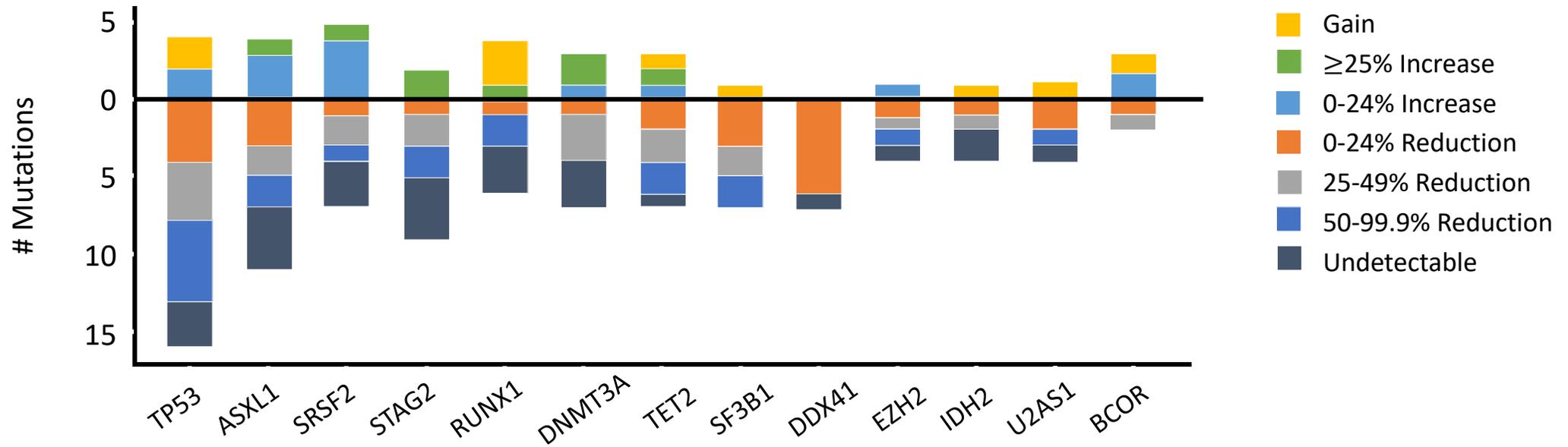
Venetoclax/Azacitidine in Treatment-Naive HR-MDS (Phase Ib): VAF Changes

Timing of Molecular Response Assessment

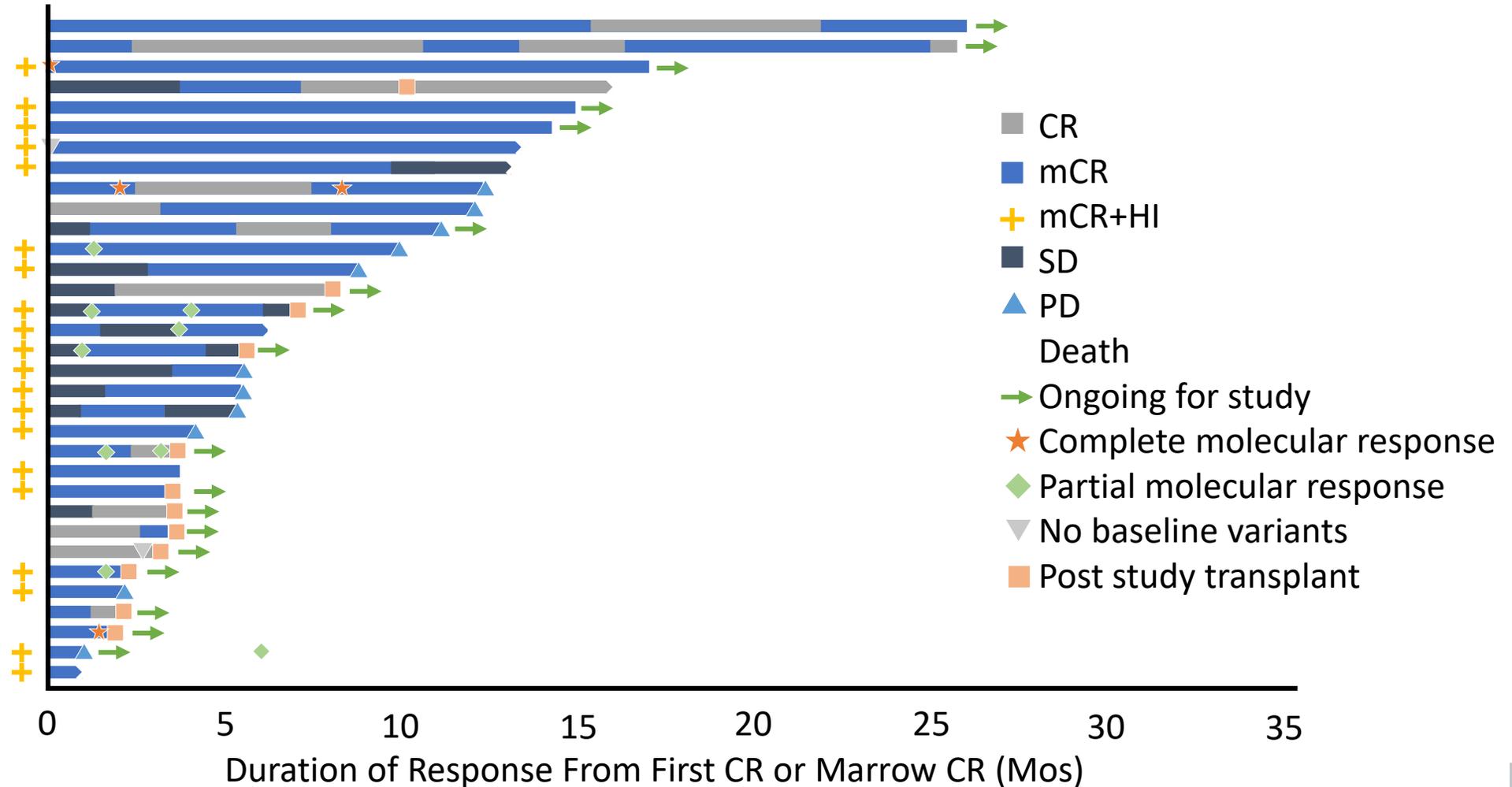


Differences in VAF for individual genes compared for similar specimen types: PB pre- vs PB post-therapy initiation or BMA pre- vs BMA post-therapy initiation

VAF Changes in Patients With ≥ 1 On-Treatment/TCV Sequenced Sample



Venetoclax/Azacitidine in Treatment-Naive HR-MDS (Phase Ib): Molecular Responses



Venetoclax/Azacitidine in Treatment-Naive HR-MDS (Phase Ib): Investigator Conclusions

- In this phase Ib trial, venetoclax/azacitidine had an acceptable safety profile in patients with treatment-naive higher-risk MDS
- RP2D venetoclax 400 mg on D1-14 + azacitidine 75 mg/m² induced rapid, durable responses and a high remission rate
- Clinical and molecular responses were observed across mutational profiles, including in patients with poor prognostic mutations

VERONA: Venetoclax + Azacitidine in Treatment-Naive Patients With Higher-Risk MDS

- Randomized phase III trial

Patients with newly diagnosed MDS, IPSS-R >3 (intermediate, higher, very high risk); HSCT eligible; no previous HMA or venetoclax therapy; ECOG PS ≤2 (planned N = 500)

Stratified by IPSS-R, HSCT eligible vs ineligible, geography

Venetoclax 400 mg QD (Days 1-14) +
+ Azacitidine 75 mg/m²
(7 days within 9 calendar days/28-day cycle)

Placebo + Azacitidine 75 mg/m²
(7 days within 9 calendar days/28-day cycle)

*Until relapse,
disease progression,
unacceptable
toxicity, or HSCT*

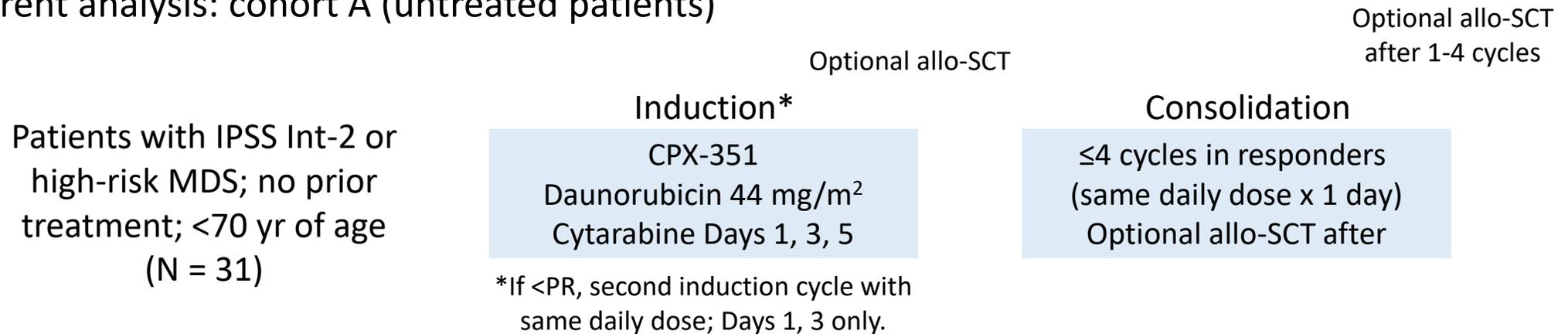
- Primary endpoints: CR, OS
- Secondary endpoints: transfusion independence, ORR, modified ORR, QoL, PRO

Aza + ven in MDS summary

- Good activity and higher response rates
 - Similar to AML
- Toxicity and neutropenia still an issue
 - Similar to AML
- Not very durable responses... Wait for phase III results
- Good for high risk and transition to transplant (getting into CR)

CPX-351 as First-line Treatment in Higher-Risk MDS: Study Design

- Prospective study involving 12 GFM centers
- Current analysis: cohort A (untreated patients)



Primary endpoint: response to induction (CR, CRi, or PR)

Evaluated Days 28-42; delays due to prolonged cytopenias

Responses evaluated using ELN 2017 criteria for AML and IWG 2006 criteria for MDS

Secondary endpoints: ORR (CR/CRi/PR/Hi) to induction, EFS, DoR, OS, safety, MRD

CPX-351 as First-line Treatment in Higher-Risk MDS: Safety

Hematologic Recovery, Days (Range)	Patients (n = 31)
Median days to platelets $>20 \times 10^9$ g/L	16 (0-55)
Median days to platelets $>50 \times 10^9$ g/L	28 (8-51)
Median days to ANC $>1 \times 10^9$ g/L	26 (2-60)

AEs during induction

1 grade 3 mucositis

4 grade 1-2 alopecia

No deaths or ICU management required during induction

CPX-351 as First-line Treatment in Higher-Risk MDS: Investigators' Conclusions

CPX-351 is an effective first-line treatment for patients with higher-risk MDS/CMML, particularly to achieve blast clearance, and as a **bridge to allogeneic SCT**

Safety

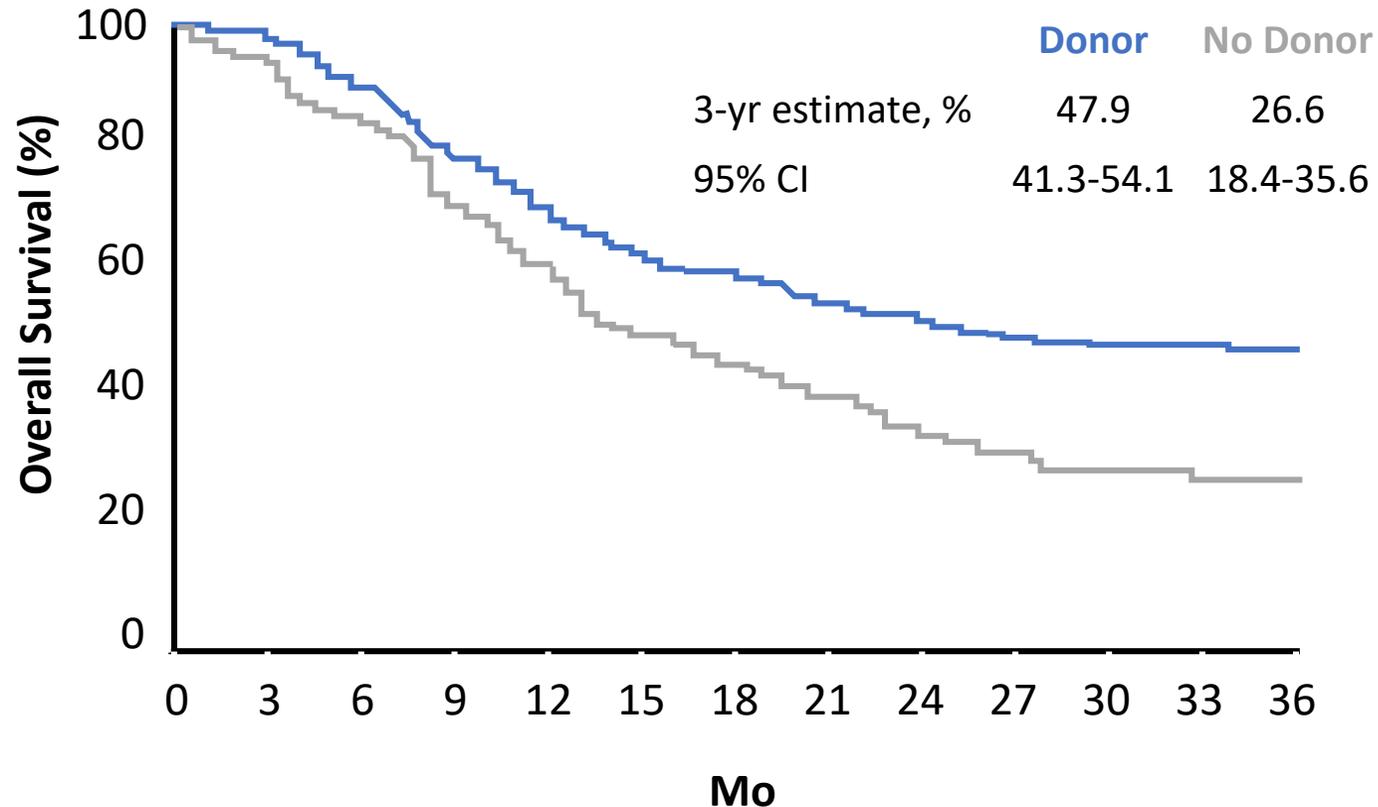
Myelosuppression not longer than classical 7 + 3 intensive chemotherapy

Mucous toxicity lower than 7 + 3, similar to that observed in AML

Normal karyotype was observed in most patients

RIC + Allogeneic HSCT Improves Survival in Higher-Risk MDS With Matched Donor

- BMT CTN 1102 study: N = 384 patients aged 50-75 yr with intermediate-2 or high-risk MDS



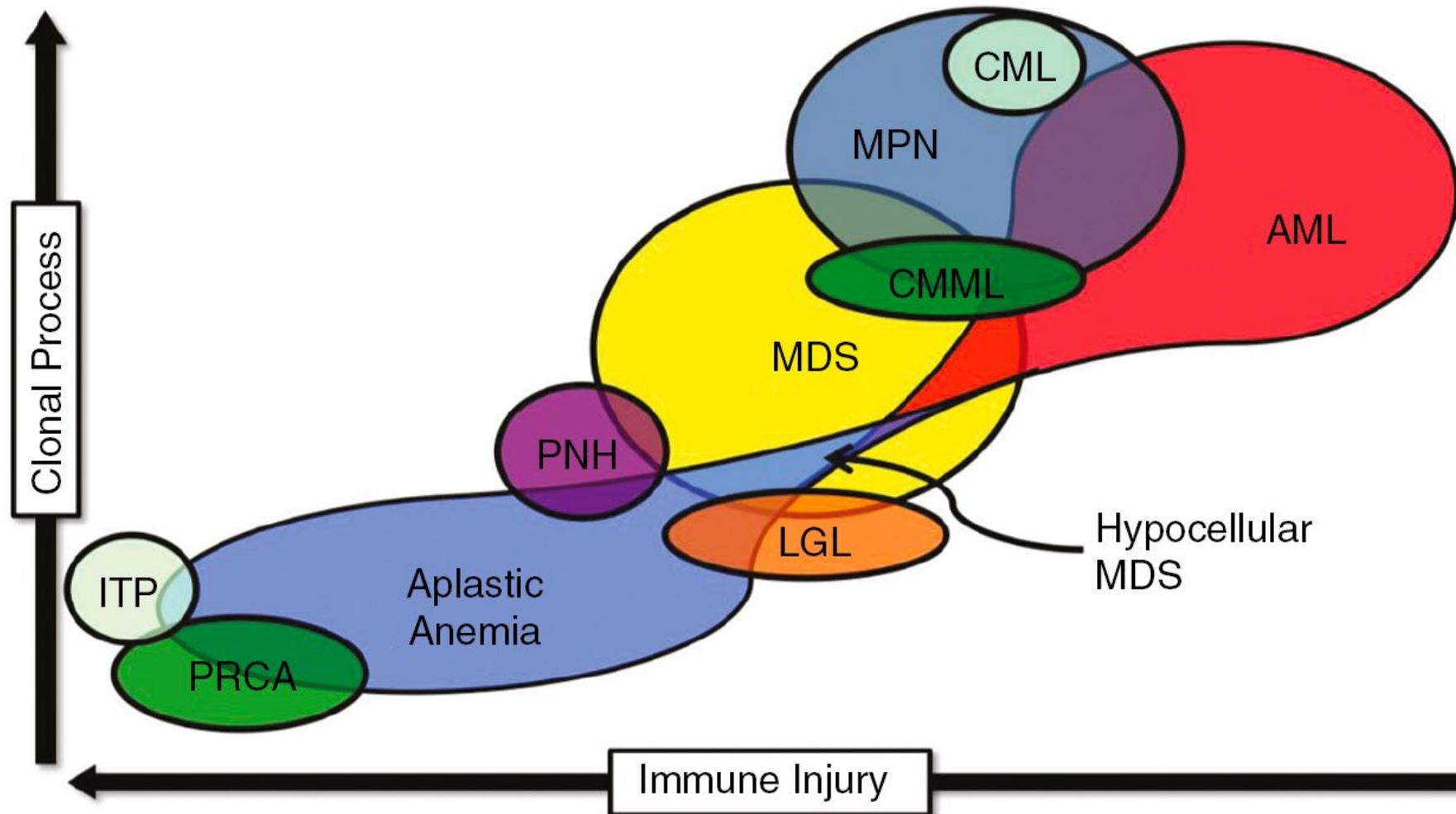
Patients at Risk, n

	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36
Donor	260	253	233	201	176	155	129	117	102	86	76	72	27
No donor	124	116	103	84	71	56	49	40	30	22	15	14	7

What's new

Immunotherapies... are we there yet?

Myeloid neoplasms – genetic + immune overlap



Gerds, A., Tiu, R., & Sekeres, M. (2016). Myelodysplastic/myeloproliferative neoplasm overlap syndromes. In R. Mesa & C. Harrison (Eds.), *Managing Myeloproliferative Neoplasms: A Case-Based Approach* (pp. 120-128). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/CBO9781316017852.015

Targets

- PD1/PDL1
- CD47
- TIM3

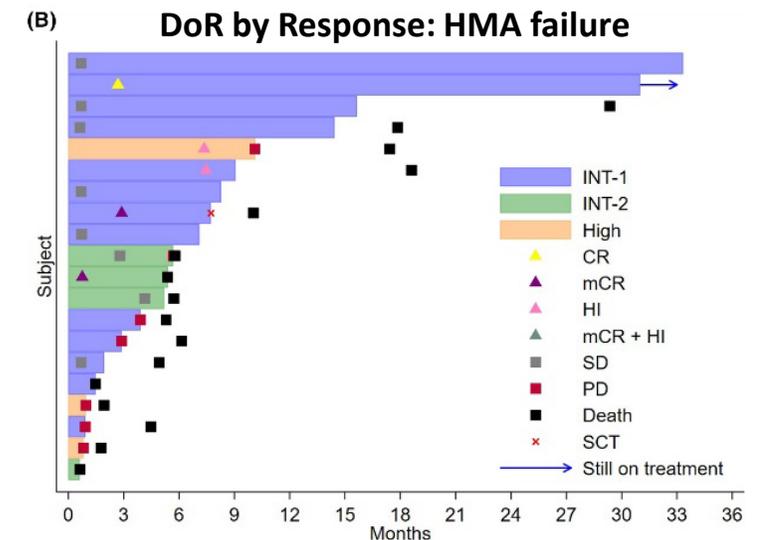
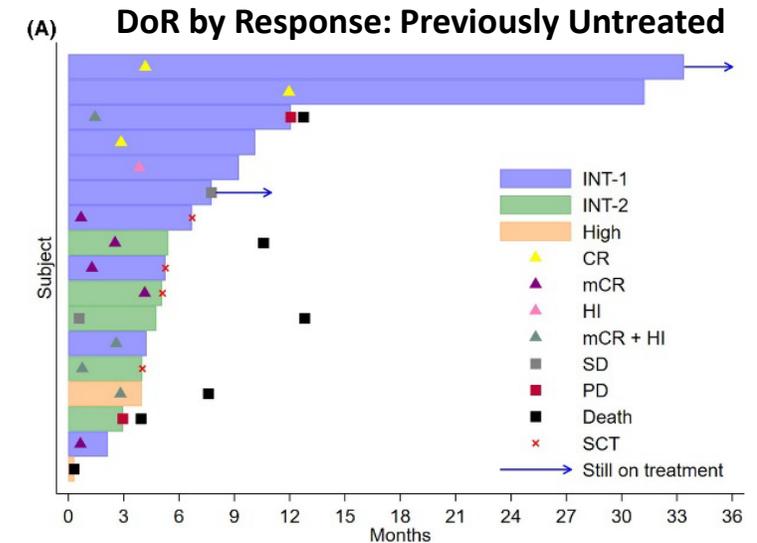
Phase II Trial: Azacitidine + Pembrolizumab in HR-MDS

- N = 37 patients with intermediate-1 or higher-risk MDS

Result	Previously Untreated (n = 17)	HMA Failure (n = 20)
ORR, %	76	25
CR, %	18	5
Median OS, mo	Not reached	5.8
Median follow-up, mo	12.8	5.8

Most common toxicities: pneumonia (32%), arthralgias (24%), and constipation (24%)

Immune-related AEs requiring corticosteroids: 43%

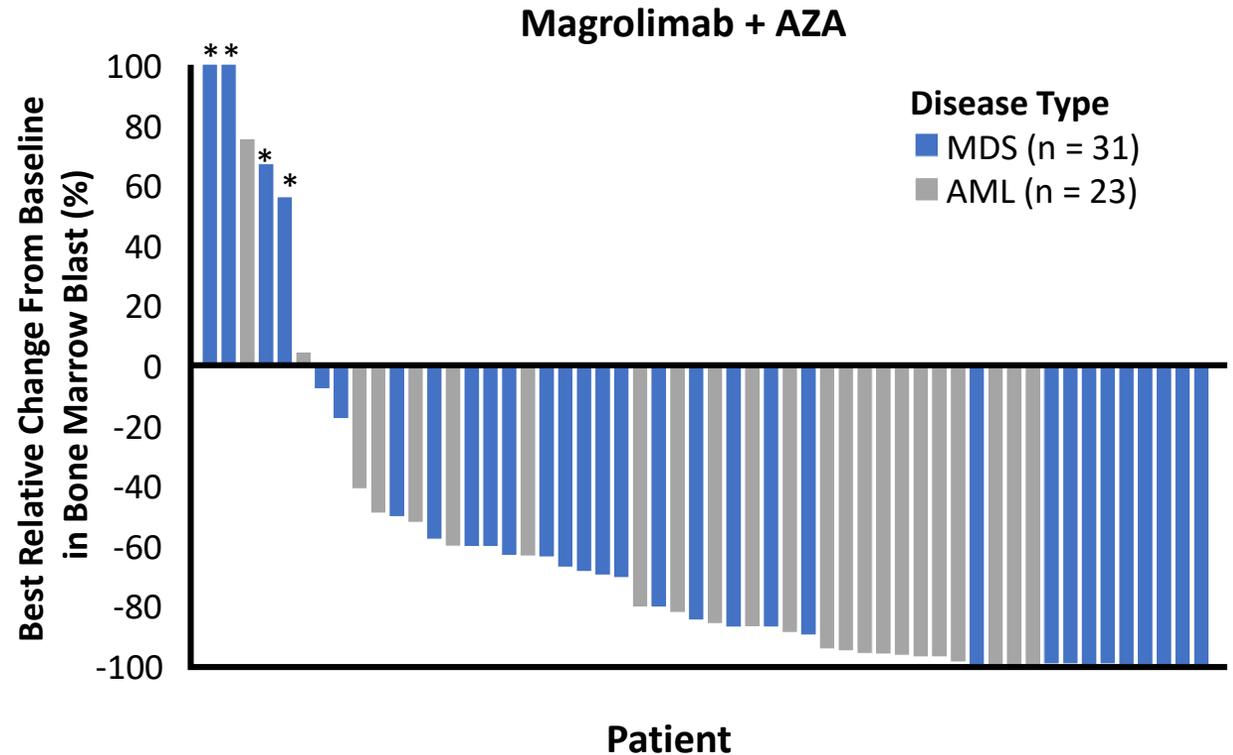


Anti-Leukemic Activity is Observed with Magrolimab + AZA in MDS and AML

Best Overall Response*	1L MDS N = 33	1L AML N = 25
ORR	30 (91%)	16 (64%)
CR	14 (42%)	10 (40%)
CRi	-	4 (16%)
PR	1 (3%)	1 (4%)
MLFS/marrow CR	8 (24%) 4 with marrow CR + HI	1 (4%)
Hematologic improvement (HI)	7 (21%)	-
SD	3 (9%)	8 (32%)
PD	0	1 (4%)

*Response assessments per 2006 IWG MDS criteria and 2017 AML ELN criteria. Patients with ≥1 post-treatment response assessment are shown. Patients not evaluable: 2 MDS patients (withdrawal of consent) and 3 AML (1 AE, 2 early withdrawal).

- Magrolimab + AZA ORR
 - MDS: 91% ORR (50% CR)
 - AML: 64% ORR (56% CR/CRi)
- Median time to response: 1.9 mo, more rapid than AZA alone
- Magrolimab + AZA response higher than AZA monotherapy



4 patients not shown due to missing values.
 <5% blasts imputed as 2.5%.
 *Baseline bone marrow blasts ≤5%.

ENHANCE: Magrolimab + Azacitidine vs Placebo + Azacitidine in Treatment Naive Higher-risk MDS

- Randomized, double-blind, phase III trial

Patients with untreated intermediate to very high risk MDS by IPSS-R, adequate PS (Planned N = 520)

**Magrolimab* +
+ Azacitidine 75 mg/m² days 1-7**

**Placebo +
Azacitidine 75 mg/m² days 1-7**

Until disease progression, loss of benefit, unacceptable toxicity, or 5 yr

*Cycle 1: 1mg/kg priming dose on D1, D4; 15 mg/kg on D8; 30 mg/kg on D11, 15, 22.
Cycle 2: 30 mg/kg once weekly (D1, 8, 15, 22). Cycle ≥3: 30 mg/kg Q2W on D1, D15.

- Primary endpoints: CR, OS
- Secondary endpoints: Duration of CR, ORR, DoR, RBC TI, PFS, EFS, MRD negative RR, time to transformation to AML, safety, PK

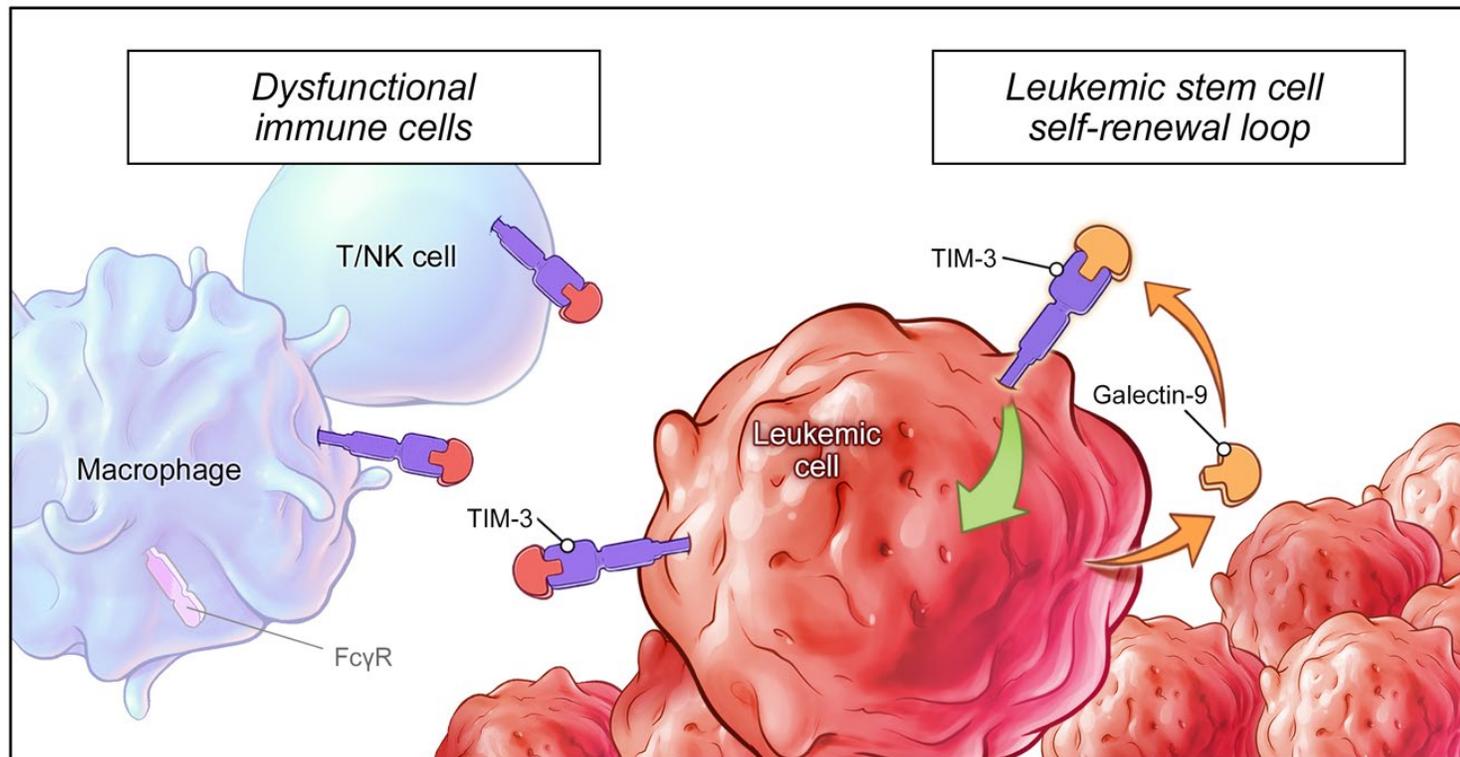
Open at OHSU but currently on hold – anticipate we will open again soon!!

Other Agents Targeting CD47 in Development

Agent	Type of Agent	Patient Population	Phase	Trial Identifier
Lemzoparlimab (TJC4)	Anti-CD47 monoclonal Ab	Newly diagnosed patients not candidates for induction therapy (+ Aza)	II	NCT04202003
Evorpaccept (ALX148)	Fusion protein, CD47/SIRPα	Newly diagnosed patients not candidates for induction therapy (+ Aza/Ven)	I/II	NCT04755244 (ASPEN-05)
TTI-622	Fusion protein, SIRPα-IgG4 Fc	Cohort: Older patients with newly diagnosed <i>TP53</i> wild-type AML (+ Aza/Ven) Cohort: Newly diagnosed <i>TP53</i> mutant AML (+ Aza)	I	NCT03530683
TTI-621	Fusion protein, SIRPα-IgG1 Fc	R/R hematologic malignancies	I	NCT02663518
DSP107	Bifunctional protein, CD47x41BB	R/R AML ≤2 prior therapies	I	NCT04937166



TIM-3 is an immuno-myeloid regulator expressed on immune and leukemic cells

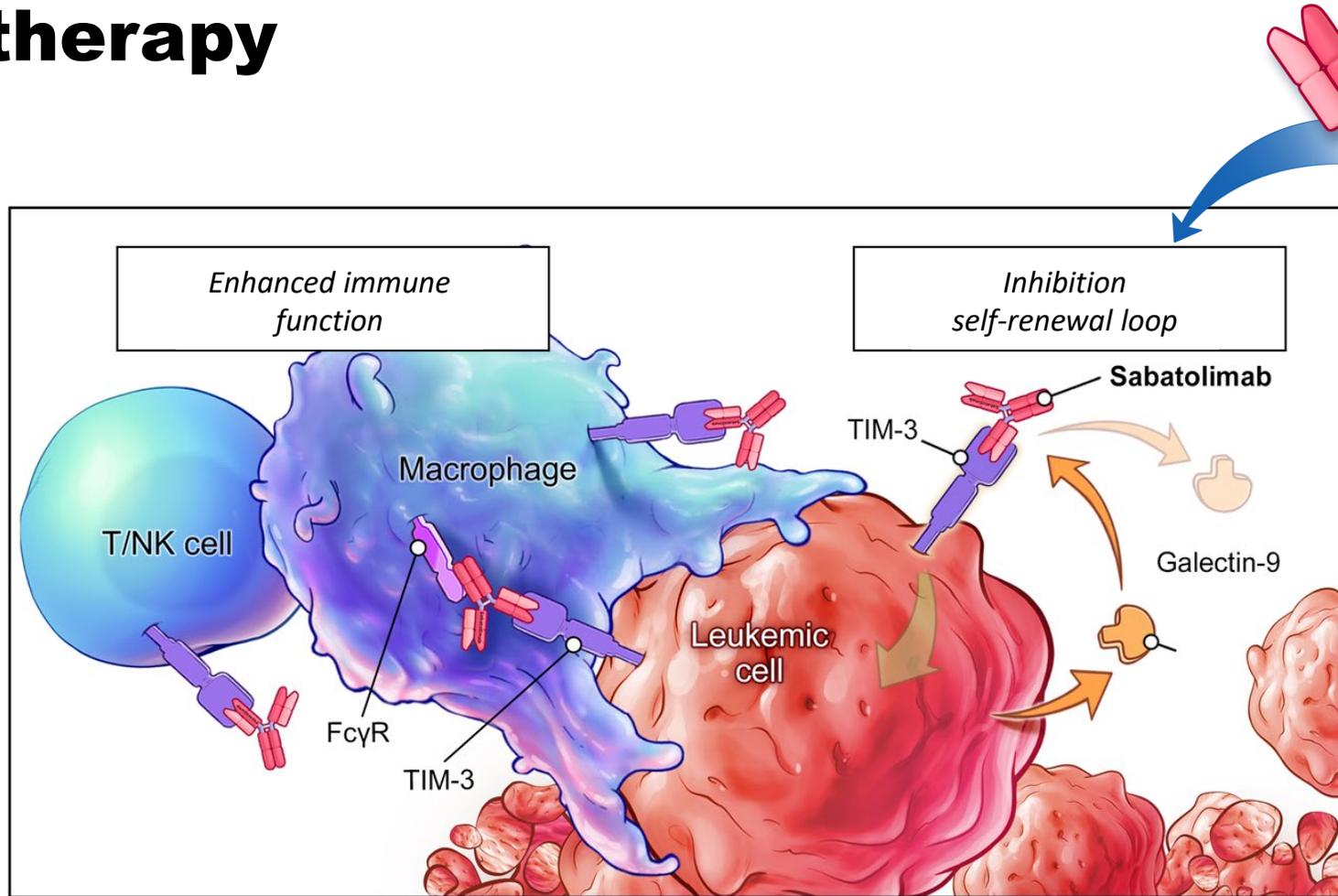


- TIM-3 plays a key role in regulating innate and adaptive immune responses^{1,2}
- TIM-3 is aberrantly expressed on LSCs and blasts, but not on normal HSCs,¹⁻⁵ which makes it a promising target in treatment for MDS and AML^{2,4,6}
- TIM-3/galectin-9 interaction forms an autocrine stimulatory loop, which promotes LSC self-renewal^{2,7,8}

FcγR, Fc gamma receptor; HSC, hematopoietic stem cell; LSC, leukemic stem cell; NK, natural killer; TIM-3, T-cell immunoglobulin domain and mucin domain-3.

1. Pardoll DM. *Nat Rev Cancer*. 2012;12(4):252-264; 2. Das M, et al. *Immunol Rev*. 2017;276(1):97-111; 3. Kikushige Y, Miyamoto T. *Int J Hematol*. 2013;98(6):627-633; 4. Kikushige Y, et al. *Cell Stem Cell*. 2010;7(6):708-717; 5. Ngiew SF. *Cancer Res*. 2011;71(10):3540-3551; 6. Sakuishi K, et al. *Trends Immunol*. 2011;32(8):345-349; 7. Sabatos-Peyton C. AACR 2016. Oral presentation; 8. Borate U, et al. ASH 2019. Oral presentation.

Sabatolimab targets TIM-3 on immune and leukemic cells: A novel immuno-myeloid therapy



- Sabatolimab binds TIM-3 on immune cells, which enhances antileukemic immune function and phagocytic killing of LSCs and blasts¹⁻⁴
- Sabatolimab directly targets TIM-3 on LSCs, inhibiting TIM-3/galectin-9–driven self-renewal^{1,2}

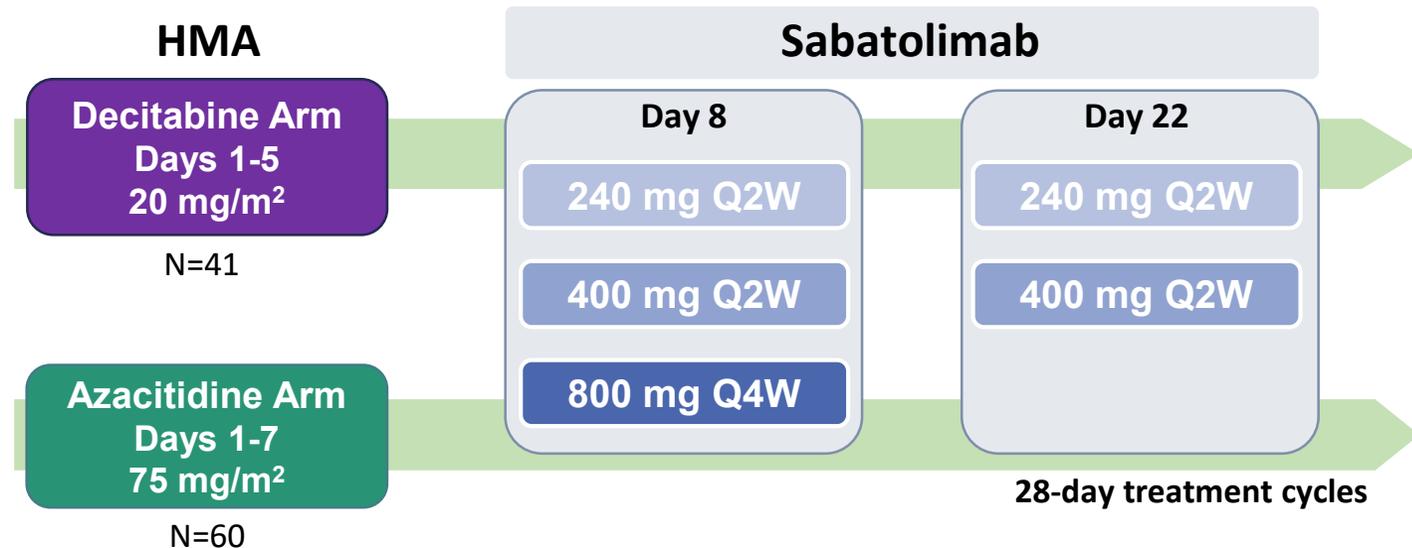
Trial design: Phase Ib study of sabatolimab + HMA in MDS and AML

 **vHR/HR-MDS:** IPSS-R high- or very high-risk MDS

 **ND-AML:** Unfit, newly diagnosed AML, ineligible for standard chemotherapy

Patients with prior HMA treatment excluded

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: **NCT03066648^a**



8 countries



11 trial centers

Primary Endpoints:

Maximum tolerated dose/recommended dose, safety, and tolerability

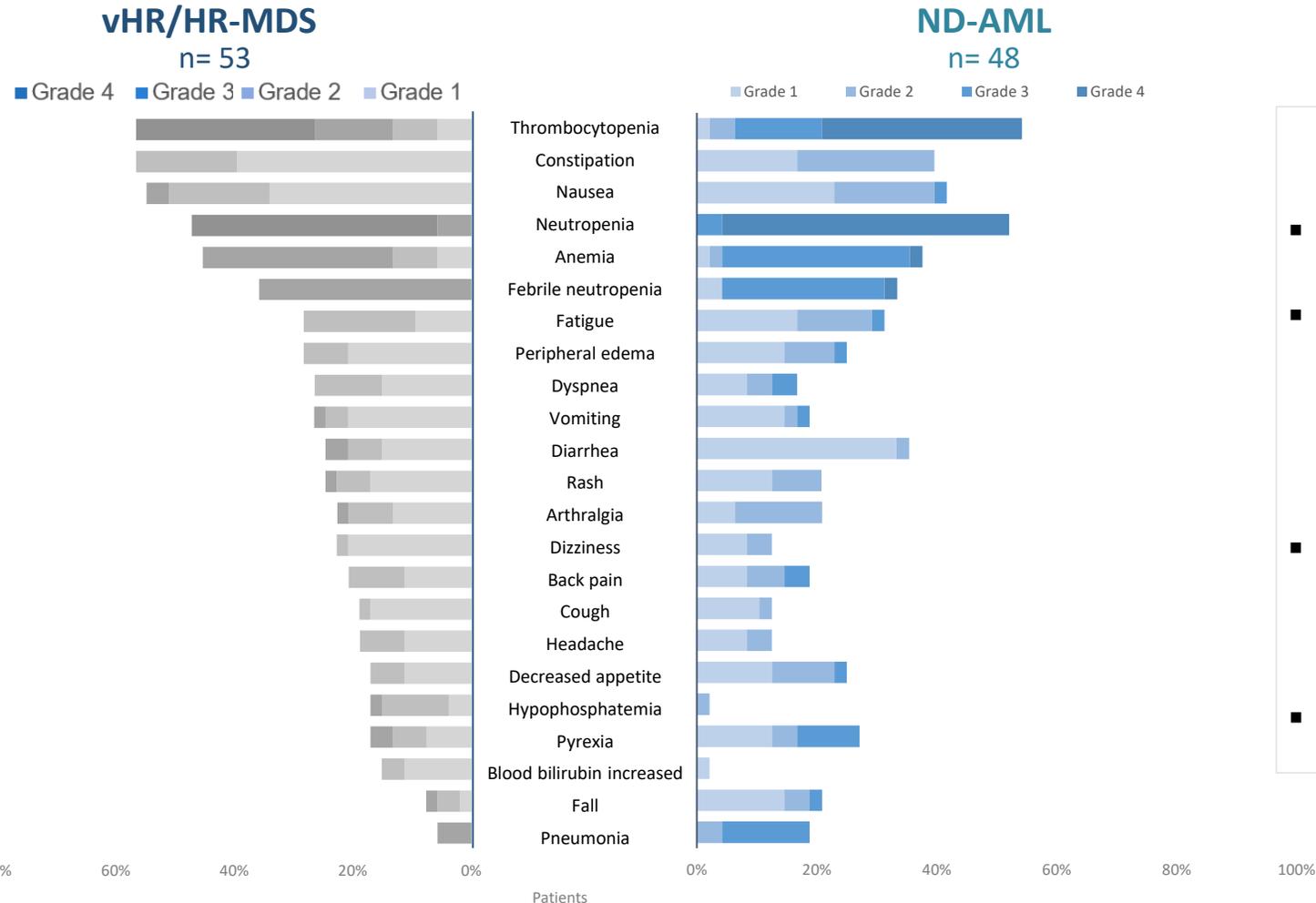
Secondary Endpoints:

Preliminary efficacy: Response rates and duration of response

^aMulti-arm, open-label, Phase Ib dose-escalation and -expansion study of sabatolimab as a single agent or in combination with HMAs or spartalizumab. AML, acute myeloid leukemia; HMA, hypomethylating agent; HR, high-risk; IPSS-R, Revised International Prognostic Scoring System; MDS, myelodysplastic syndrome; ND, newly diagnosed; Q2W, every 2 weeks; Q4W, every 4 weeks; vHR, very high-risk.

Sabatolimab + HMA was safe and well tolerated in patients with vHR/HR-MDS and ND-AML

Most commonly occurring AEs ($\geq 15\%$ in either population, regardless of relationship to treatment)



vHR/HR-MDS and ND-AML AEs

- Most common reported AEs were consistent with HMA alone
- Low rate of sabatolimab dose modification:
 - 1/101 (1%) patients had dose reduction
 - 38/101 (38%) patients had dose interruption^a due to AE
 - No patient with vHR/HR-MDS and only 3 with ND-AML discontinued treatment due to an AE
- One patient with neutropenic colitis reported as suspected to be related to study treatment died of septic shock. No other treatment-related deaths were reported
- No DLTs in vHR/HR-MDS and only 1 in ND-AML

^aDose interruption: Cycle delay >7 days.

Few patients had clinically significant possible imAEs with sabatolimab + HMA

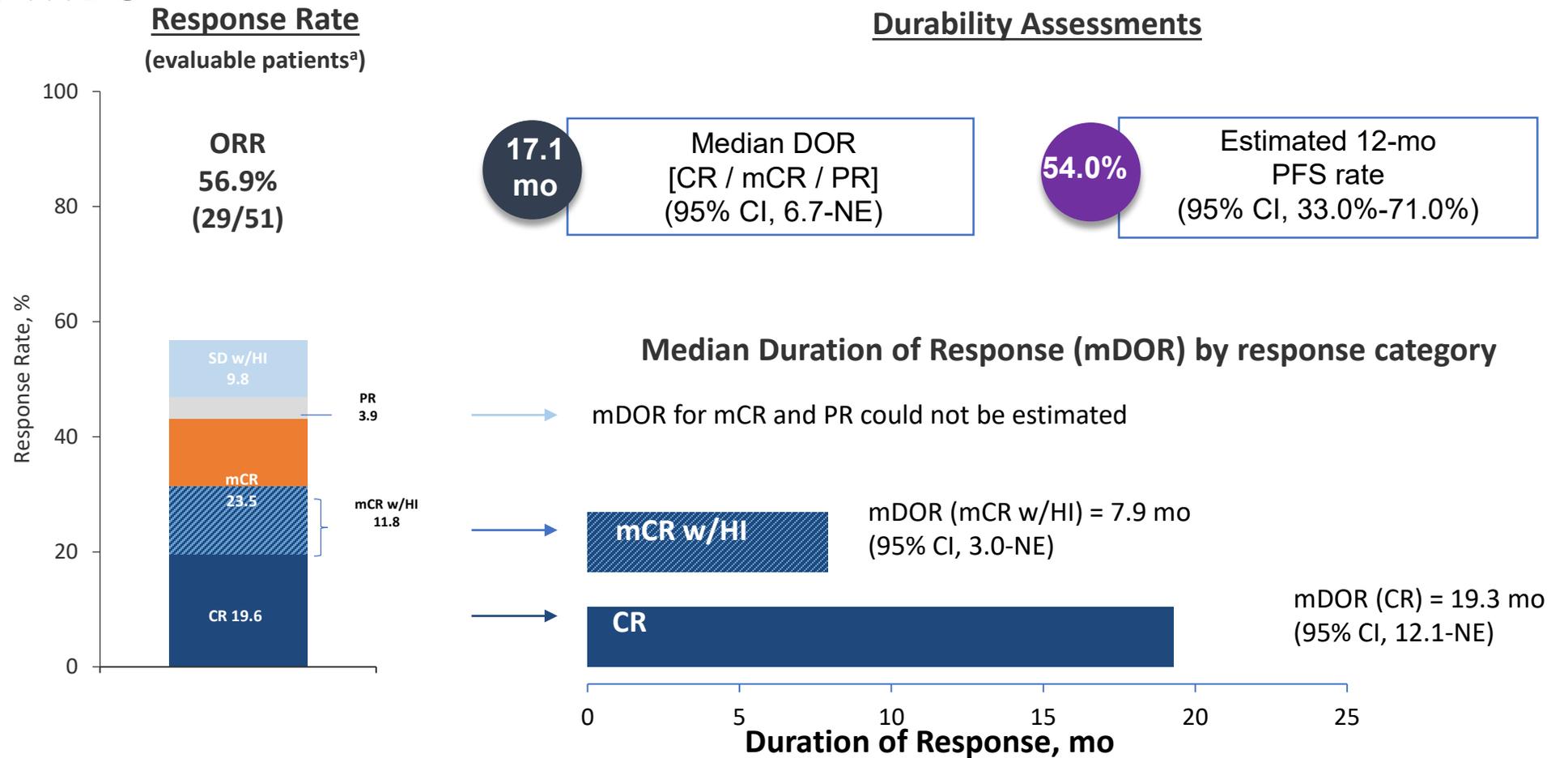
	vHR/HR-MDS n=53		ND-AML n=48	
	Gr 1/2	Gr 1/2	Gr 1/2	Gr 3
Patients with possible imAEs regardless of relationship to study treatment ^a	7 (13.2)	5 (10.4)	5 (10.4)	
Peripheral neuropathy	2 (3.8)	1 (2.1)	1 (2.1)	
Acute febrile neutrophilic dermatosis	1 (1.9)	0	0	
Autoimmune hepatitis	1 (1.9)	0	0	
Dermatitis	1 (1.9)	1 (2.1)	0	
Pericarditis	1 (1.9)	0	0	
Pneumonitis	1 (1.9)	0	0	
Arthritis	0	3 (6.3)	0	
Colitis	0	1 (2.1)	1 (2.1)	
Cutaneous vasculitis	0	0	0	
Encephalopathy	0	0	1 (2.1)	
Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis	0	0	1 (2.1)	
Hepatitis	0	0	1 (2.1)	
Hypothyroidism	0	0	1 (2.1)	
Immune-mediated lung disease	0	0	1 (2.1)	

- 7/53 (13%) patients with vHR/HR-MDS and 10/48 (21%) patients with ND-AML experienced ≥1 possible imAEs
- No grade ≥3 possible imAEs were observed in patients with vHR/HR-MDS; no grade 4/5 possible imAEs were observed in patients with AML
- No patient with vHR/HR-MDS and 1 patient with ND-AML discontinued treatment due to a possible imAE suspected to be related to sabatolimab
- No serious late-onset sabatolimab-related imAEs were identified^b
- Of the 7 patients with vHR/HR-MDS who had an imAE, all achieved remission
- Among patients with ND-AML, the frequency of possible imAEs was similar regardless of remission status

^aBased on maximum grade. Events retrieved based on pre-defined case retrieval strategy including MedDRA SMQ immune-mediated disorder terms.

^bEvents 150 days after last dose of sabatolimab

Sabatolimab + HMA demonstrates durable clinical responses in vHR/HR-MDS



^aEvaluable patients, including patients with a valid baseline and at least 1 postbaseline bone marrow assessment or if they had disease progression or disease-related death prior to the first marrow assessment.

CR, complete remission; DOR, duration of response; HI, hematologic improvement; mCR, bone marrow CR; mDOR, median duration of response; NE, not estimable; ORR, overall response rate; PFS, progression-free survival; PR, partial remission; SD, stable disease.

Conclusions

- Sabatolimab + HMA is well tolerated in MDS/AML
 - The most commonly observed AEs similar to HMA alone
 - Very few patients had clinically significant treatment-related possible imAEs
- Sabatolimab + HMA demonstrated durable clinical benefits in patients with vHR/HR-MDS and ND-AML
 - vHR/HR-MDS, ORR: 56.9%; Median DOR: 17.1 months (95% CI, 6.7-NE)
 - ND-AML, ORR: 42.5%; Median DOR: 12.6 months (95% CI, 5.2-18.0)
- Durable responses seen in patients with mutations conferring adverse risk
- The STIMULUS clinical trial program is evaluating sabatolimab-based combination therapy in multiple Phase II and III studies in MDS and AML

Oral HMAs

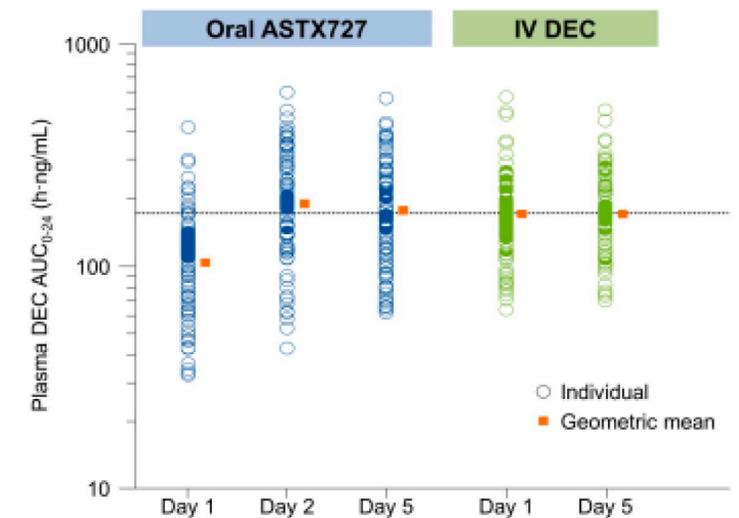
- Onureg approved for maintenance in AML
- Oral decitabine-cedurazidine approved for MDS
- Oral azacitidine-cedurazidine in clinical trials now

More tools for combinations, all oral regimens?

ASCERTAIN Primary Endpoint: 5-Day Decitabine AUC Equivalence

		IV DEC (n = 123)	Oral ASTX727 (n = 123)	Ratio of Geo LSM Oral/IV, % (90% CI)	Intrasubject (% CV)
Decitabine 5-day AUC ₀₋₂₄ (h ng/mL)		Geo LSM	Geo LSM		
Primary analysis	Paired*	864.9	855.7	98.9 (92.7, 105.6)	31.7

*Paired patient population: patients who received both ASTX727 and IV decitabine in the randomized first 2 cycles with adequate PK samples.



- Primary endpoint met: oral/IV 5-day decitabine AUC ~99% with 90% CI of ~93% to 106%
- All PK AUC analyses (sensitivity and secondary) confirmed findings from primary analysis

ASCERTAIN: Response in MDS/CMML (IRC)

Response Measure, n (%)	Treated Patients (N = 133)	95% CI
CR	29 (22)	15-29.8
PR	0	
Marrow CR	43 (32.3)	24.5-41.0
▪ Marrow CR with hematologic improvement	22 (16.5)	10.7-24.0
Hematologic improvement	10 (7.5)	3.7-13.4
▪ HI: erythroid	2 (1.5)	0.2-5.3
▪ HI: neutrophils	1 (0.8)	0.0-4.1
▪ HI: platelet	7 (5.3)	2.1-10.5
Overall response (CR + PR + marrow CR + HI)	82 (61.7)	52.8-69.9
• PD	6 (4.5)	1.7-9.6
• No response	28 (21.1)	14.5-29.0
• NE	17 (12.8)	7.6-19.7

*Patients becoming transfusion independent (n)/patients transfusion dependent at baseline.

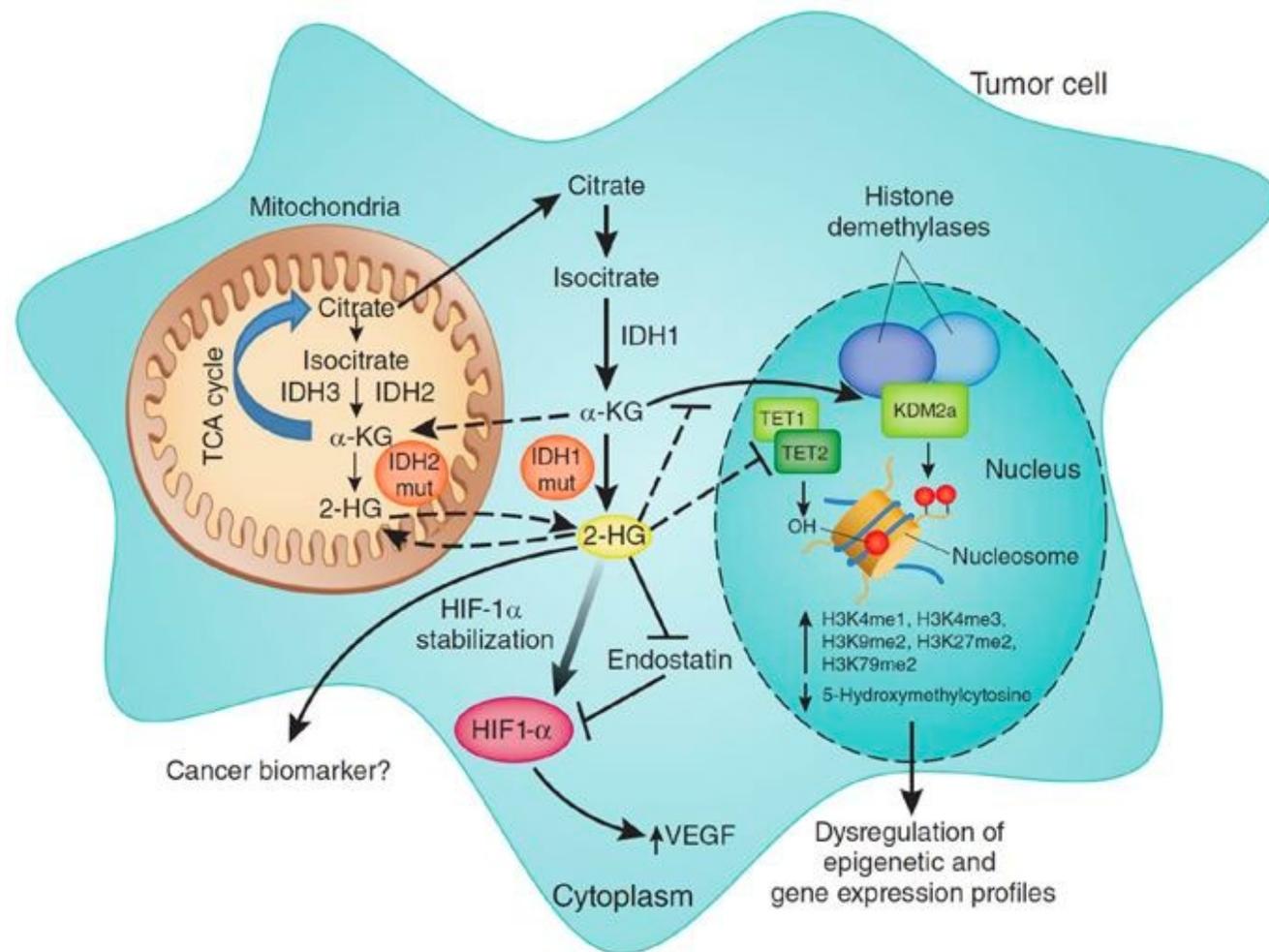
- Median duration of CR was 14.0 mo, and median duration of best response was 12.7 mo
- 26% of patients proceeded to hematopoietic cell transplantation

What's new

Targeted therapies

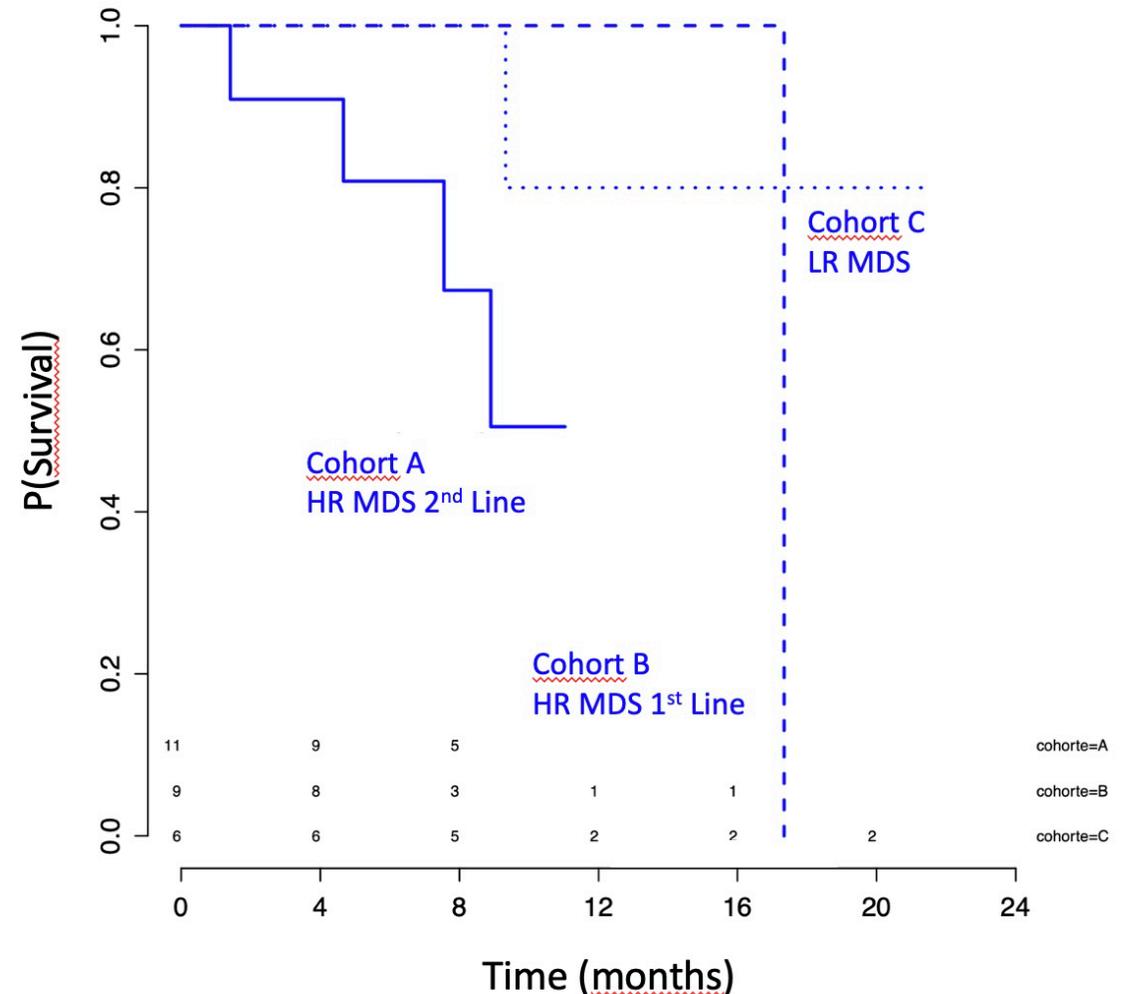
IDH1/2 inhibitors in myeloid malignancies

- IDH mutations cause production of 2-HG instead of α -KG
- 2-HG inhibits TET2 and methylation of DNA
- This blocks normal maturation of white blood cells
- Drugs developed to block the mutated IDH1 or IDH2 proteins



Promising data with IDH inhibitors in MDS

- Enasidenib for IDH2m in MDS
 - 3 cohorts
 - A – failed HMA
 - B – High Risk MDS 1st line therapy
 - C – Low risk
 - Tolerable safety profile
 - N=26 patients
 - ORR (42 %) 11 patients
 - 6 CR (55%), 2 PR (18%), 2 mCR with HI (18%)
 - Encouraging results
 - Study ongoing



Promising data with IDH inhibitors in MDS

- Ivosidenib for IDH1m in MDS
 - 3 cohorts
 - A – failed HMA
 - B – High Risk MDS 1st line therapy
 - C – Low risk
 - Tolerable safety profile
 - N=32 patients
 - ORR 69% (18 patients)
 - CR (46%) 12 patients, 1 PR and 5 HI
 - Encouraging results
 - Study ongoing

Trials for MDS at OHSU

Low risk

- ASTEX-03 – oral decitabine for low risk AML

Immunotherapy

- Aza + magrolimab phase III (hope to re-open soon)
- anti-TIM3 antibody sabatolimab – opening soon

Targeted agents

- IDH1 inhibitor for R/R MDS

Thank you!

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