

# Advances in Leukemia

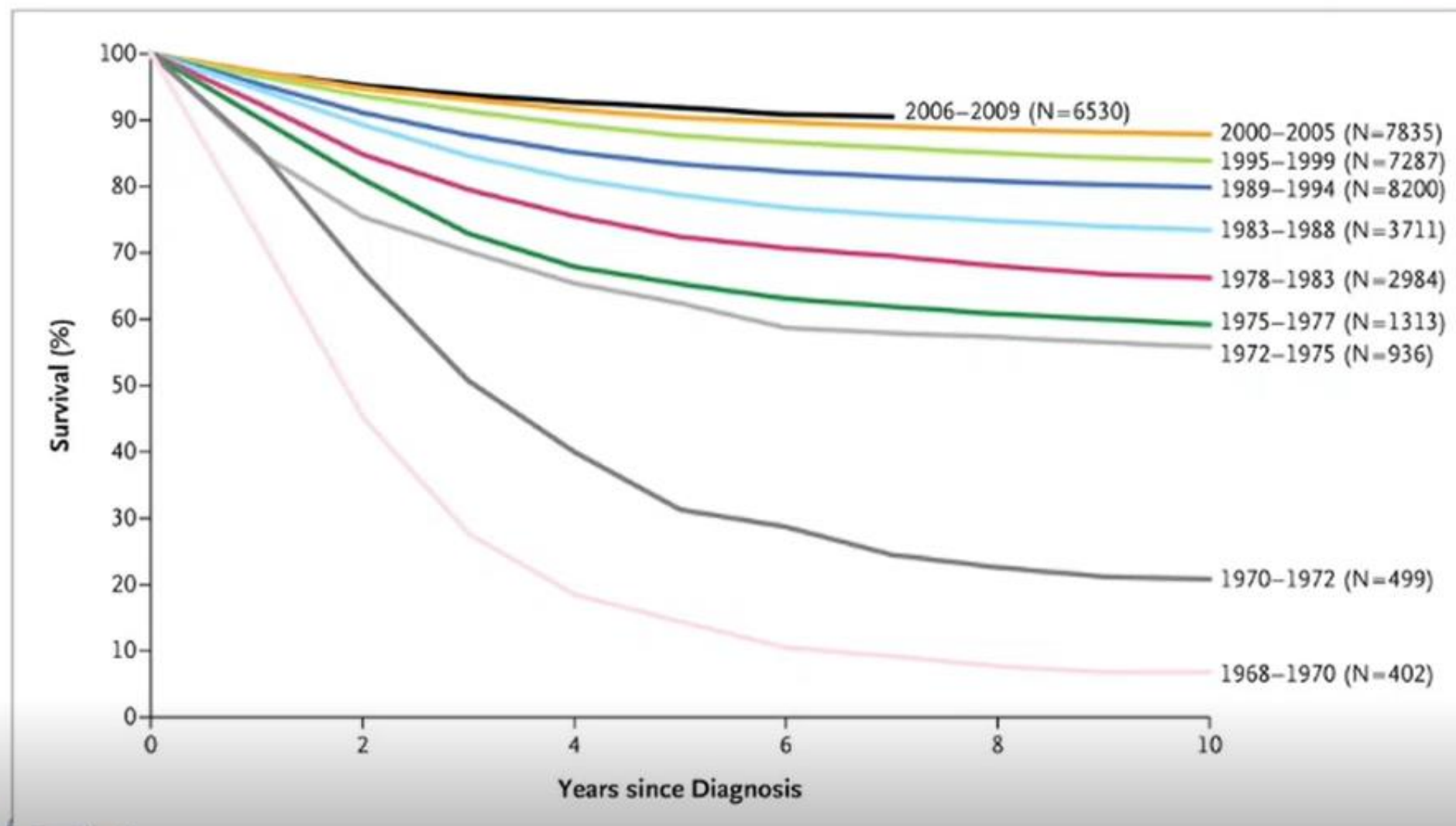


Edited By:

Gr. Bahoush, M.D.



# Many patients with ALL can be cured with conventional chemotherapy



...with agents approved decades ago...and with modern risk stratification implemented more recently...

Agent	Year Approved by FDA
6-Mercaptopurine	1953
Methotrexate	1953
Prednisone	1955
Dexamethasone	1958
Cyclophosphamide	1959
Vincristine	1964
Cytarabine	1969
L' Asparaginase	1978
Daunorubicin	1979

**Risk “categories” used by COG to inform the intensity of therapy:**

1. Age 1-9 or > 10 years
2. Presenting white blood cell count < or > 50,000/dL
3. Leukemia genetics-fav and unfav
4. Early response to therapy in the peripheral blood on day 8 and bone marrow on day 29  
(Note: Similar practices used by all other consortia)
5. CNS or testicular Status





# Why continue trying to improve outcomes for ALL?

- Relapse remains a high burden for this most common of childhood cancers
- Despite better outcomes in general, NCI Standard Risk (SR) patients (age < 10 years, WBC < 50K at diagnosis) contribute to more than half of treatment failures.

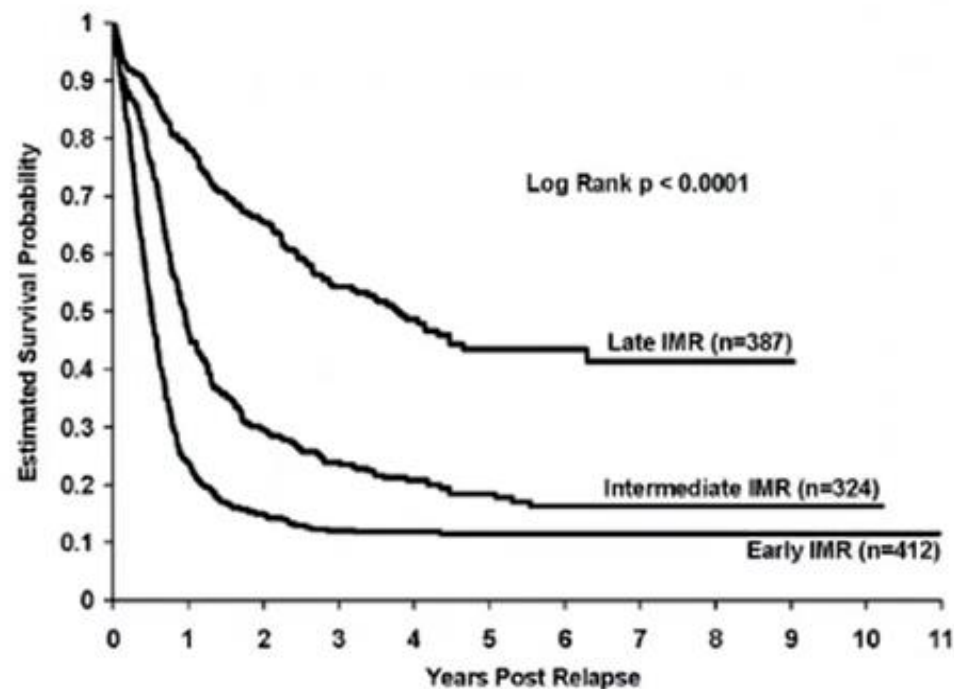
NCI Risk Group (B-ALL, non infant)	No. eligible (%) N=13,771	No. relapse (%) N=1,715
Standard Risk	9797 (71.1%)	961 (56%)
High Risk	3974 (28.9%)	754 (44%)

Patients were enrolled on COG or legacy CCG/POG protocols between 1996-2014.

*Rheingold S, Ji L, Bhojwani D et al, in preparation, ASCO 2019, and SIOP 2022*

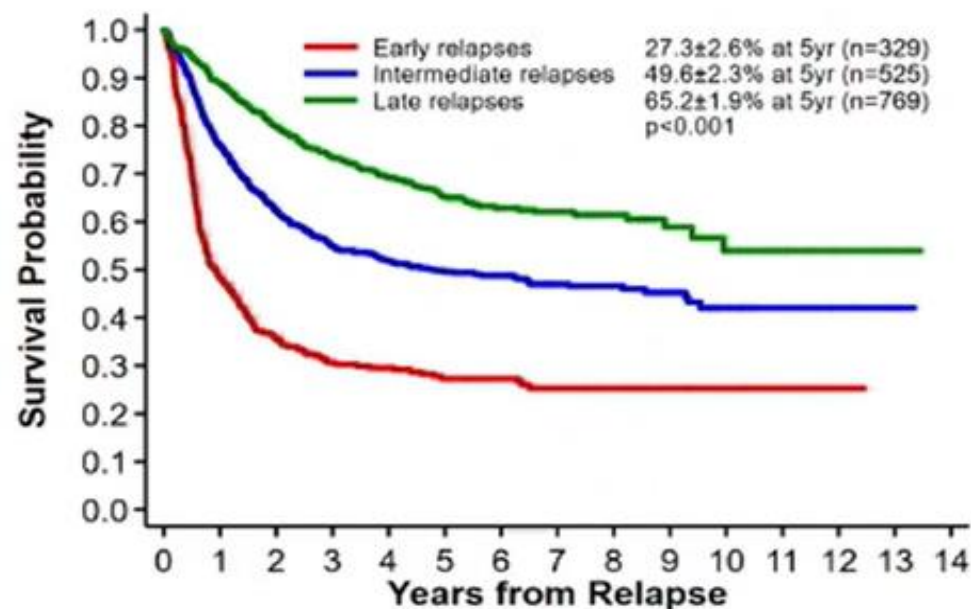


# Survival for childhood ALL is worse after relapse



1988-2002

Nguyen et al, Leukemia 2008



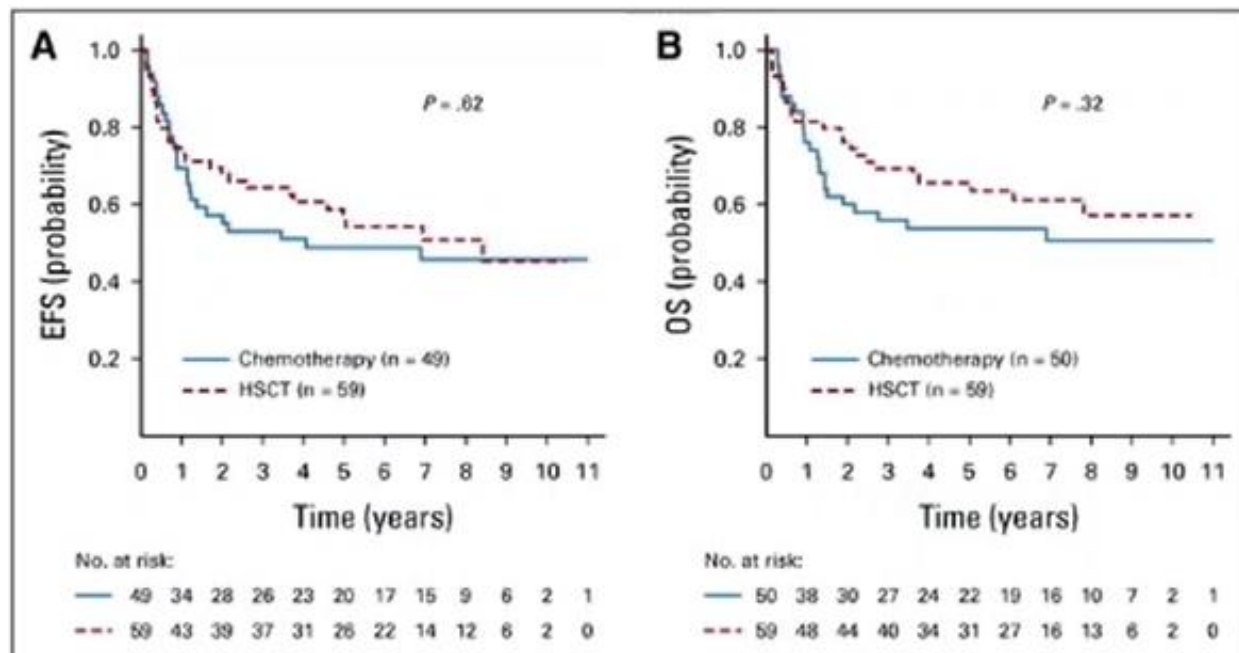
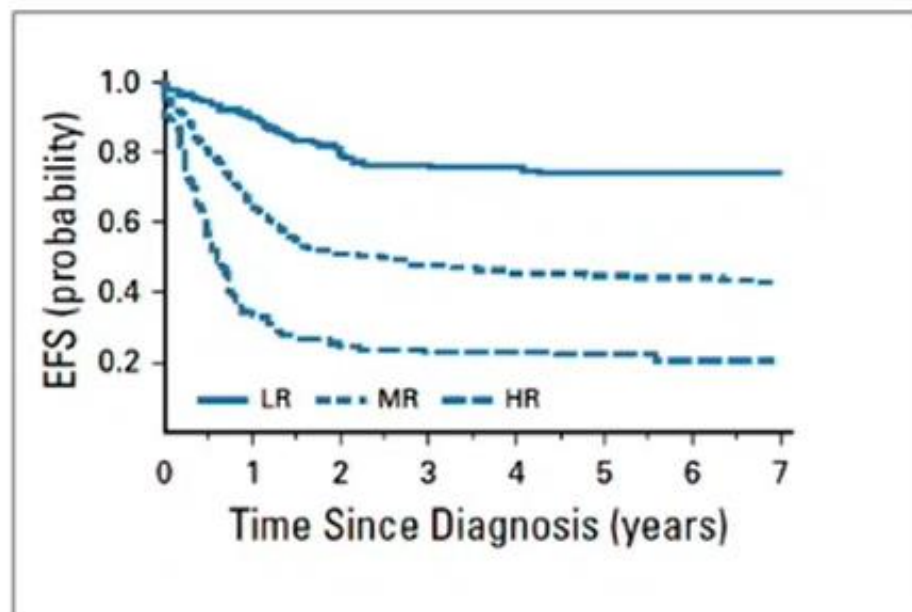
At Risk	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Early	329	156	111	88	76	57	45	36	31	25	15	5	1	0	0
Interm.	525	391	311	258	225	197	156	111	83	51	21	8	3	1	0
Late	769	637	540	461	380	286	174	112	71	32	19	10	4	2	0

1996-2014

Rheingold, Bhojwani et al, in preparation and ASCO 2019



# Certain subsets of ALL continue to have poor outcomes...and stem cell transplant may not help....



4 year EFS

LR – 75.5 (Interfant-99 = 74.5)

MR – **45.7** (Interfant-99 = 45.5)

HR – **23.2** (Interfant-99 = 18.6)





# Intensification of cytotoxic chemotherapy: More is not better!

- Second IM + DI (CCG 1961) or DI (CCG 1991)
- Dex vs. Pred (AALL0232, pts  $\geq 10$  yrs)
- Intensive consolidation (AALL0331, NCI SR)
- Additional long acting asparaginase (AALL0331, NCI SR)
- Clofarabine/Etoposide/Cyclophosphamide (AALL1131 HR)
- Etoposide/Cyclophosphamide (AALL1131 HR)
- Methotrexate  $40 \text{ mg/m}^2$  vs.  $20 \text{ mg/m}^2$  (AALL0932 SR)
- Intrathecal triple therapy vs. IT MTX (AALL1131 HR)
- Q 4 pulses of Vincristine/steroids (AALL0932 SR)



All of which begs the question....

***When is it time to stop asking conventional chemotherapy intensification questions in ALL?***

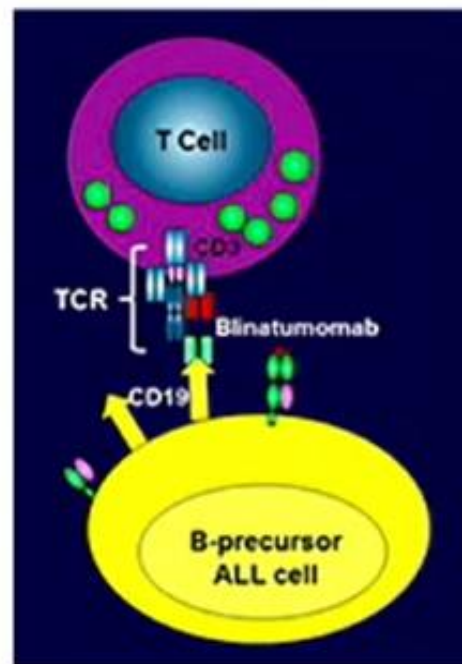
***And what therapeutics are available?***



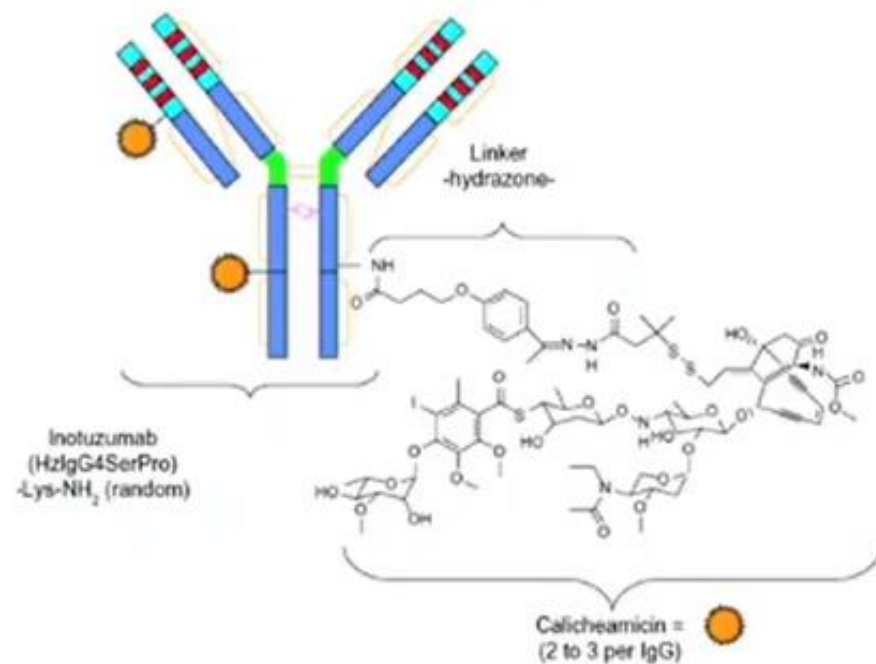


# Novel agents for ALL-ready for frontline?

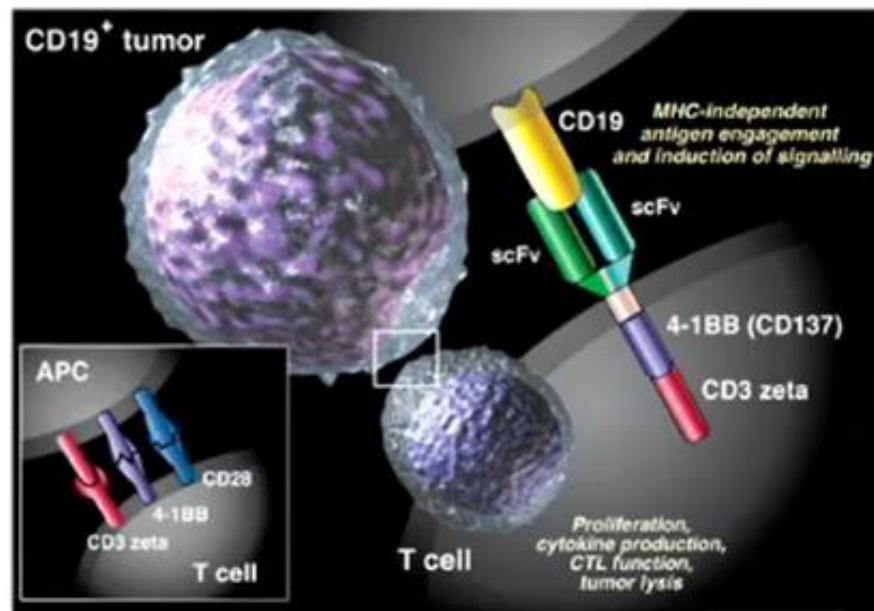
## Blinatumomab



## Inotuzumab



## Chimeric Antigen Receptor therapy



# Novel agents and response rates in R/R ALL

Immune Therapy	Mechanism of Action	Patient Population Studied	Efficacy
<b>Blinatumomab</b>	Bispecific T cell receptor engager (BiTE) that redirects CD3+ T cells to CD19+ blasts	Adults with R/R Ph- B-ALL Children with Relapsed B-ALL	39% CR  <b>59.3%</b> 2 yr DFS, AALL1331
<b>Inotuzumab</b>	CD22-directed humanized moAB conjugated to calicheamicin	Adults with CD22+ R/R B-ALL	80.7% CR/CRi
<b>CAR T cells</b>	T cells transduced ex-vivo with chimeric anti-CD19 receptor	Children with CD19+ R/R B-ALL	83% CR/CRi

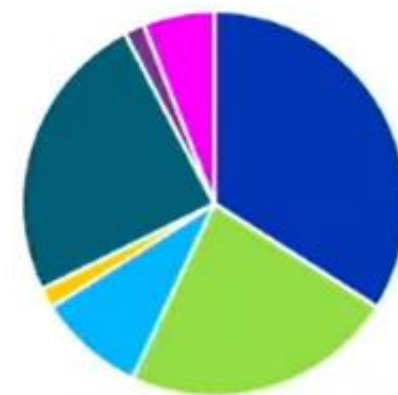
Kantarjian et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2016;375:740-753, Maury S et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2016;375:1044-1053, Topp M et al. *EHA.* 2016;149, von Stackelberg A et al. *Blood.* 2016;128:222, Maude et al. *NEJM,* 2014 and 2018, Grupp SA et al. *Blood.* 2016;128:221, Brown, et al. *JAMA* 2021





# Introduction of molecularly or immunologically targeted therapy for newly diagnosed B-ALL

Risk Group	Projected 5-yr DFS	Protocol	Therapeutic Question
SR-Favorable	>95%	AALL1731	Standard therapy with 2 year duration from IM1
HR-Favorable	>94%	AALL1732	
SR-Avg & High	~89%	AALL1731	Blinatumomab randomization
High Risk	~80%	AALL1732	Inotuzumab randomization
Very High Risk	<50%	AALL1721	CAR T-cell therapy in CR1
Ph+, Ph-like	60-85%	AALL1631 (int) AALL1521	Molecularly targeted therapy



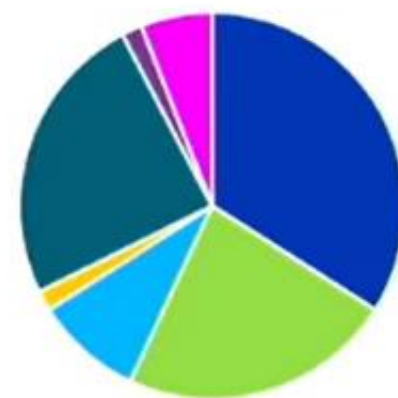
B-ALL





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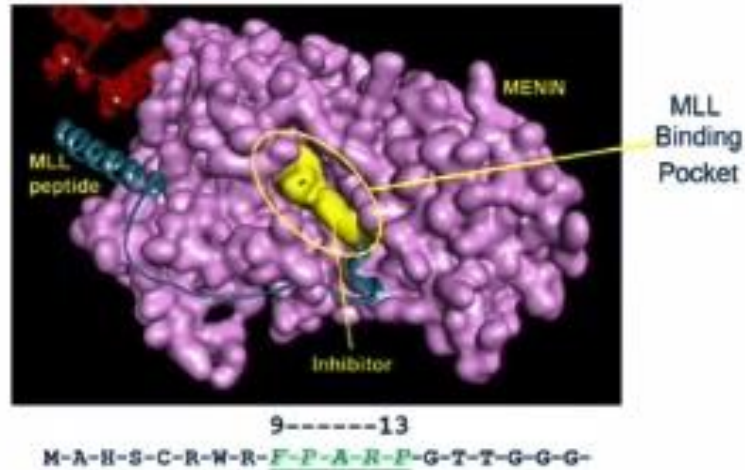


B-ALL

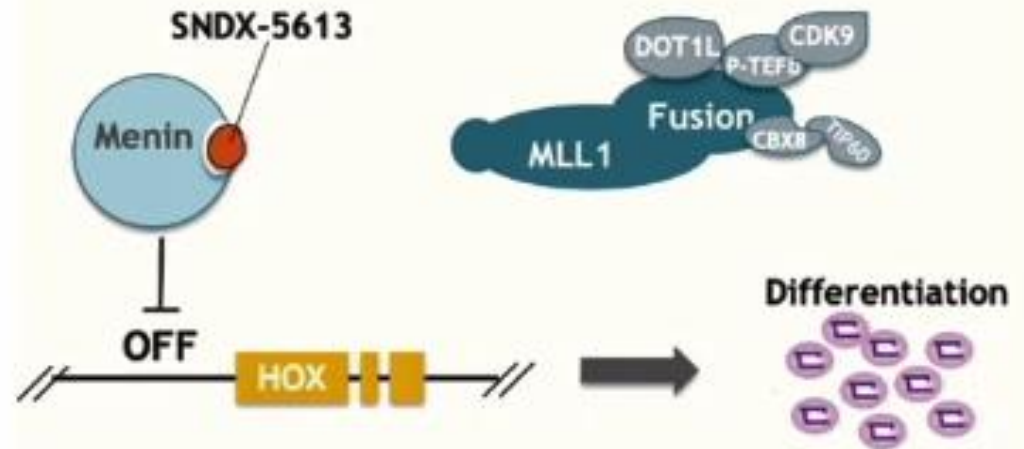
AALL1731 is also treating all Down Syndrome (DS) patients—HR DS patients have one month of DI substituted by blinatumomab



# Menin-KMT2A inhibition in Acute Leukemia

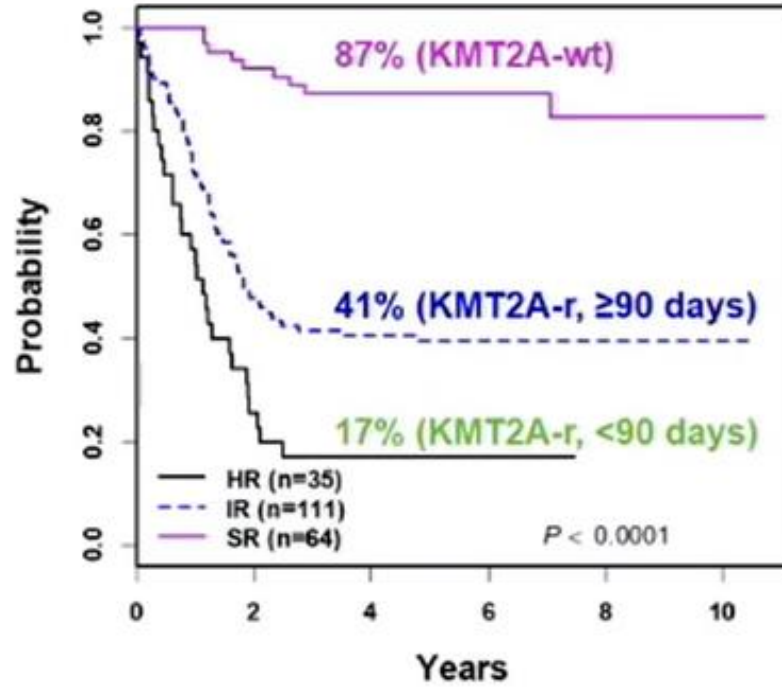


- Menin-KMT2A interaction induces transcriptional deregulation of target genes critical for leukemogenesis
- Menin inhibition occupies the KMT2A binding pocket on Menin leading to:
  - Loss of the leukemic transcription program
  - Disruption of chromatin-associated protein complexes
  - Terminal differentiation and apoptosis



Adopted from: Uckelmann HJ et al, ASH Annual Meeting, 2018  
McGeehan J, AACR 2020

# What about infants?



AALL0631 outcomes

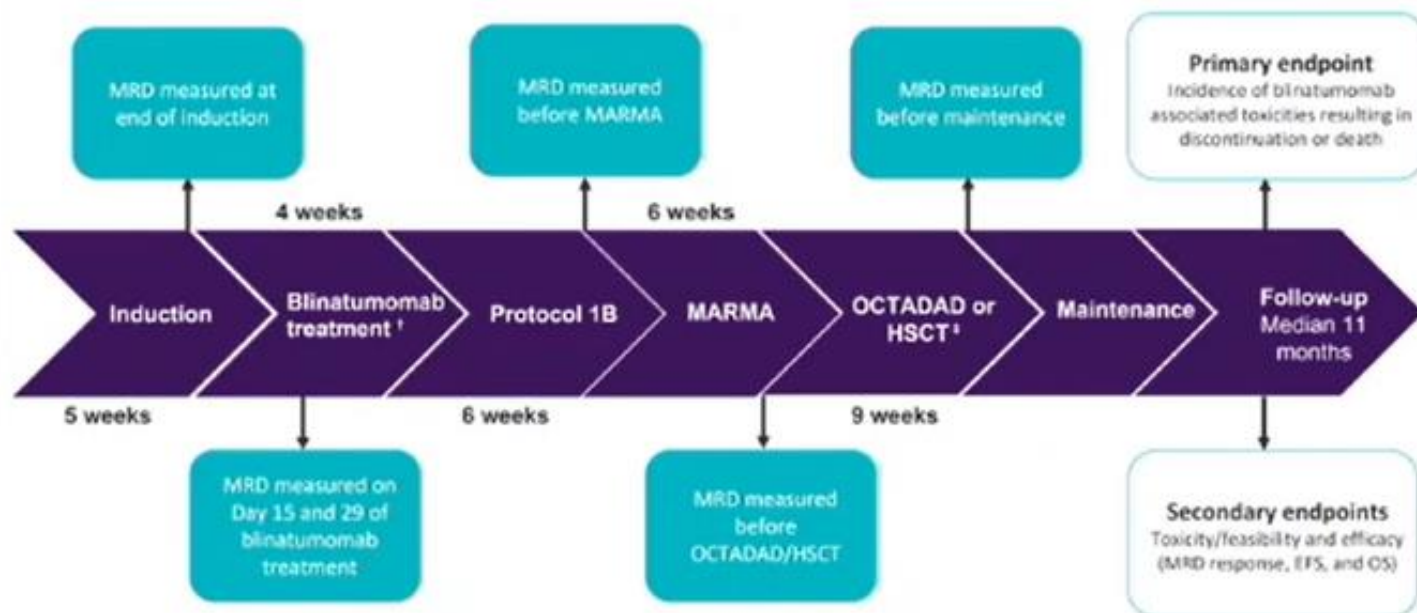
	INTERFANT-99 (4-year EFS)	INTERFANT-06 (4-year EFS)	COG AALL0631 (3-year EFS)
LR	74.5%	75.7%	87%
MR/IR	45.5%	45.7%	41%
HR	18.6%	23.2%	17%





# Single course of blina in newly diagnosed infants...

Figure 1. Study Design\*



EFS, event-free survival; HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplant; MRD, minimal residual disease; OS, overall survival.

\*Adapted from Van Der Sluis, *et al.*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>†</sup>15 ug/m<sup>2</sup>/day, 28-day continuous infusion.

<sup>‡</sup>Medium risk patients with MRD levels  $\geq 0.05\%$  before OCTADAD and all high-risk patients in complete remission were eligible for HSCT.

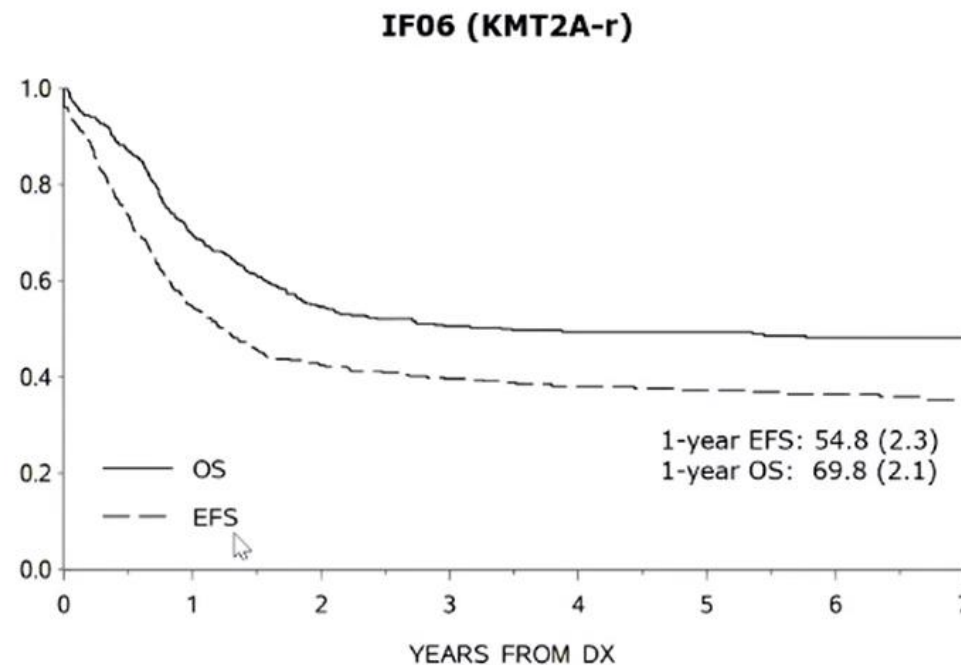
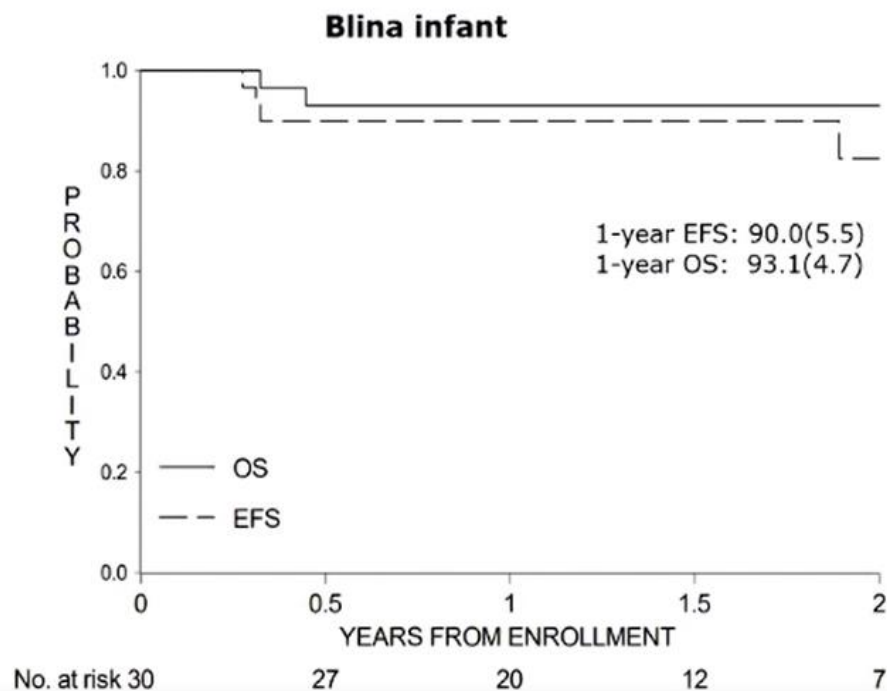


# ...has improved outcomes!

Talking: Inge van der Sluis



## EFS and OS



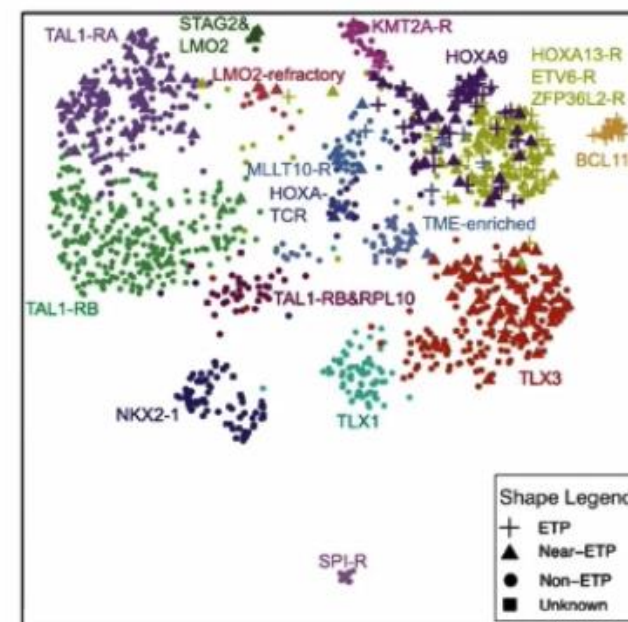
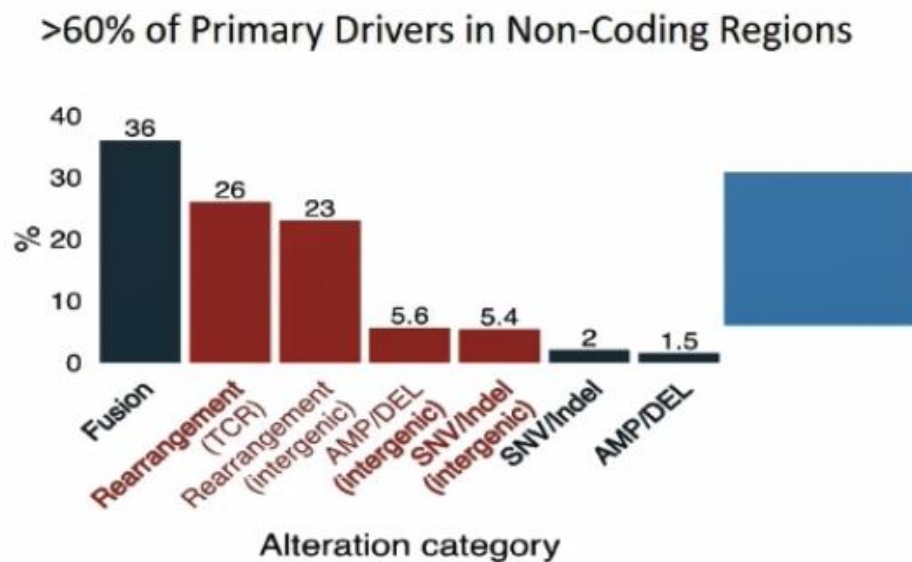
**Follow-up (months)**  
**Median: 16.3**  
**Range: 3.3 - 36.7**

Note: 1/3 of patients (HR) were transplanted



# What about T-cell?

- Dissect out genomics more comprehensively to identify drivers and risk factors for relapse (Teachey, Pölönen, EHA plenary 2022)



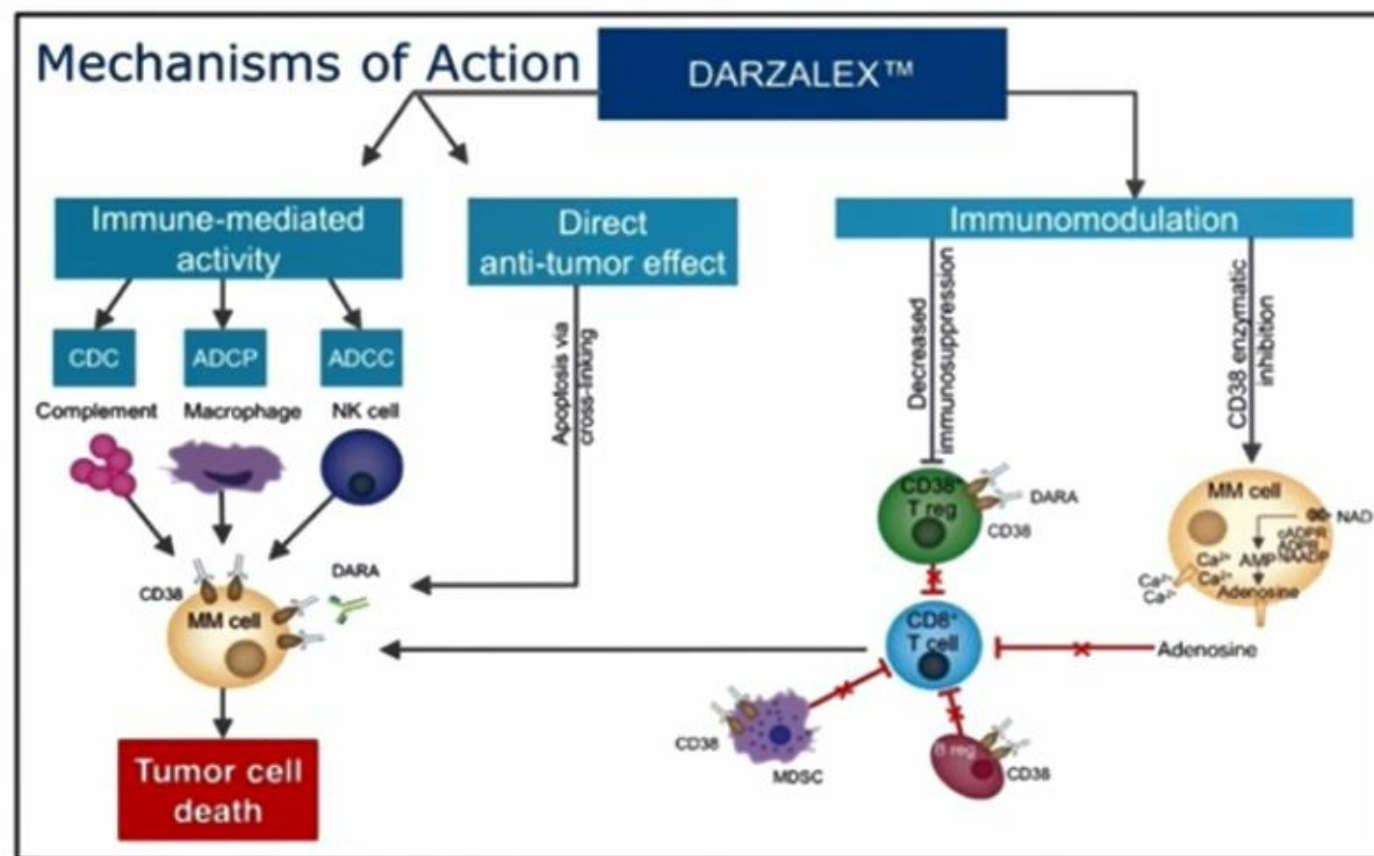
- Randomize to CD38 moAB (daratumumab) (with ALL-Together) (not yet approved by CTEP)
- Utilize bortezomib for T-Lymphoblastic Lymphoma based on AALL1231 results





# Targeted therapy for T cell ALL?

- CD38 monoclonal antibody
- FDA approved in MM (effective and safe)
- CD38 is highly expressed in pediatric T-ALL
- Clinical responses observed in 14/15 T-ALL PDX models



# Delphinus Phase 2 Trial

ALL			
Cohort	Daratumumab Janssen Delphinus T-cell ALL (1-17 yo) n = 24	Daratumumab Janssen Delphinus T-cell ALL (TOTAL COHORT) n = 29	Bortezomib AALL07P1 T-cell ALL (TOTAL COHORT) n = 22
Response evaluable (n)	22	27	22
12- month Event Free Survival	49.4%	49.5%	45%
12- month Overall Survival	57.9%	59.4%	59%
Received HSCT	62.5%	62.1%	45%

- N.B. In cycle 1 AALL07P1 gave weekly Pegaspargase (4 doses) vs. Delphinus which gave q2 week Pegaspargase (2 total doses)





54<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY



BARCELONA, SPAIN  
SEPTEMBER 28 -  
OCTOBER 1  
2022

# CAR-T Cells

## for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia: ready for prime time ?

**André Baruchel**

University Hospital Robert Debré & Université Paris Cité

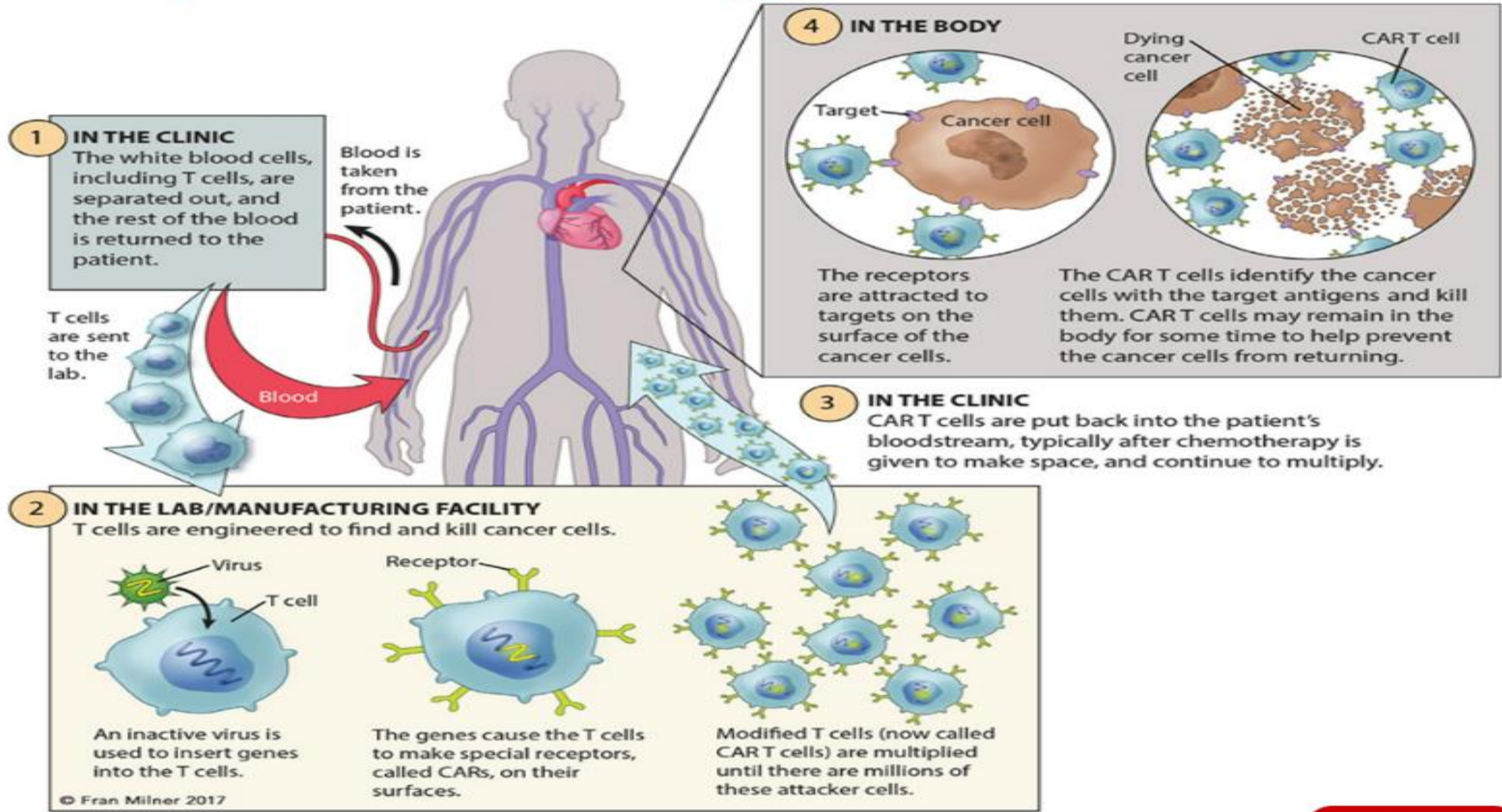
Paris, France

ASSISTANCE PUBLIQUE  HÔPITAUX DE PARIS





# Autologous CAR T-Cell Therapy Process



## The remaining problems in acute lymphoblastic leukemia

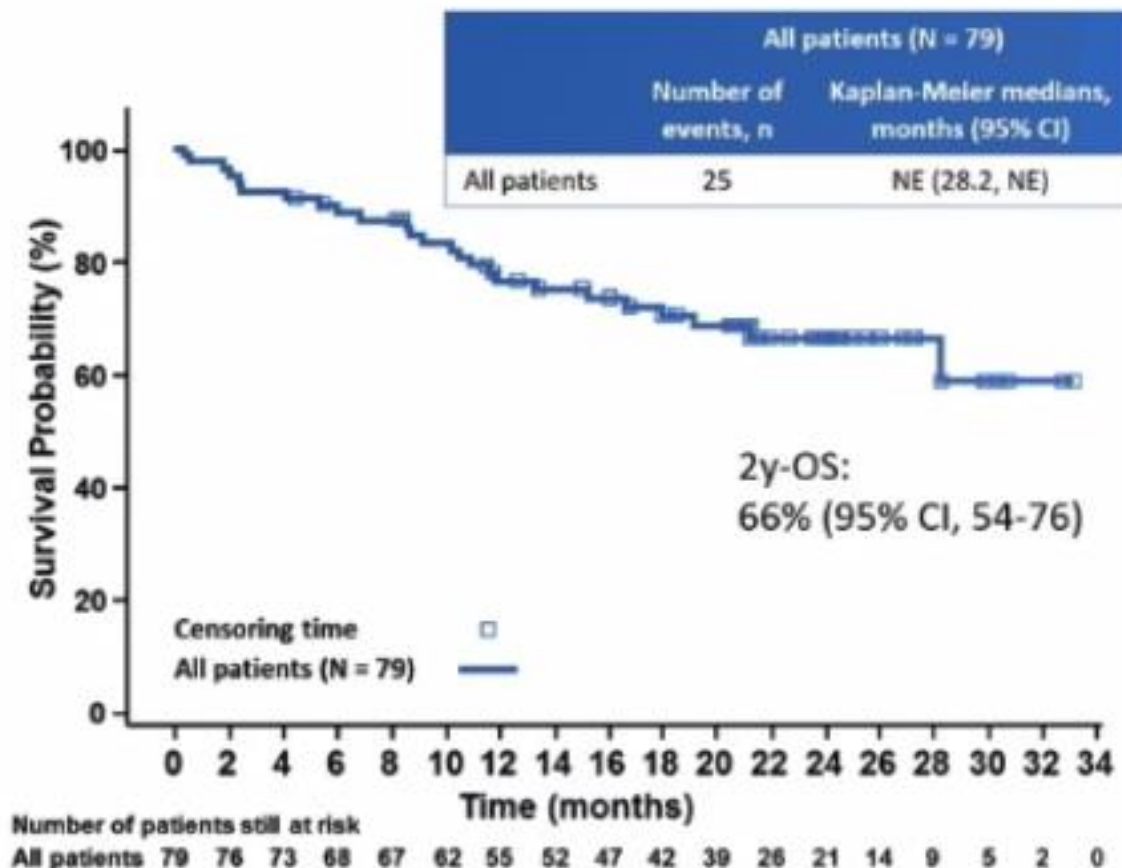
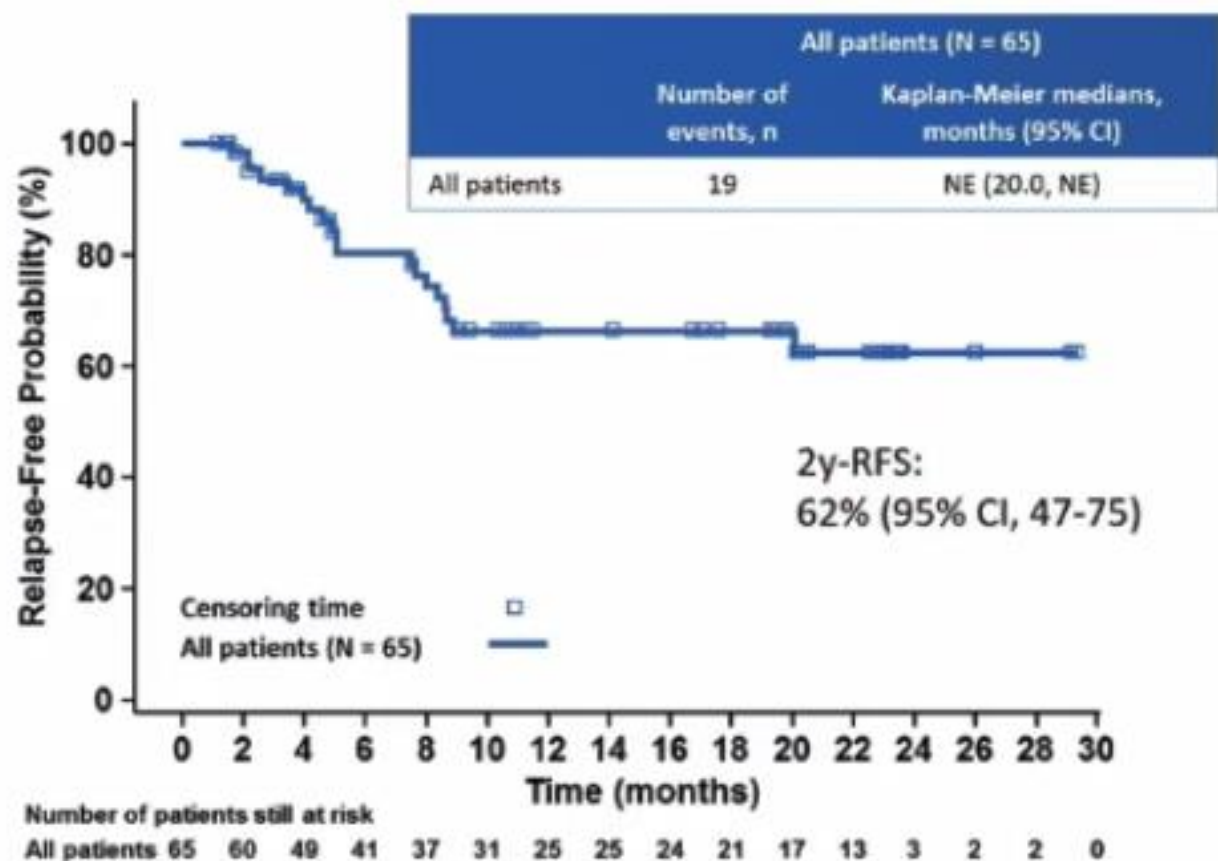
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- Efficacy ++ in children ( 5y-OS >90%)
  - still relapses
    - 15% in children
      - much more in infants (35-40%), adolescents (25%), adults (≥35%+)
    - some relapses rarely curable: t(1;19), t(17;19), hypodiploidy, p53 mut, T-ALL
- ***overall : unsatisfactory prognosis of relapsed ALL***
- Toxicity:
  - non leukemic deaths : induction deaths and deaths in CR
  - prolonged treatment with immune suppression and many treatment-related AEs
    - the more intensive, the longest the therapy, the highest the burden
    - at the top : HSCT (GVHD, TBI-related AEs, etc)



# ELIANA trial (Tisagenlecleucel/CTL019): ASH 2018 update

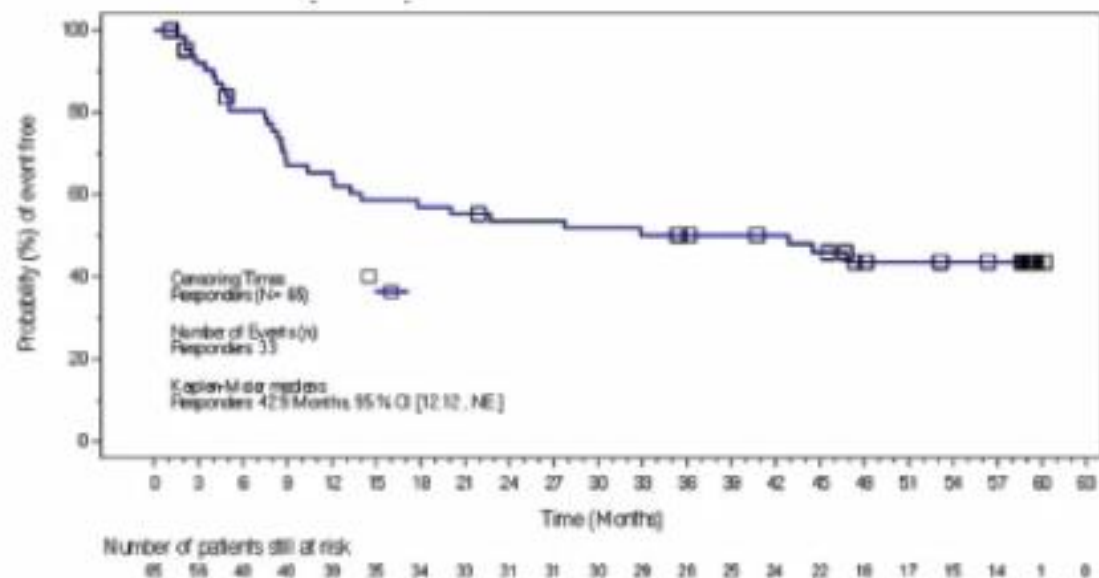
N=79 patients, median follow-up, 24 months



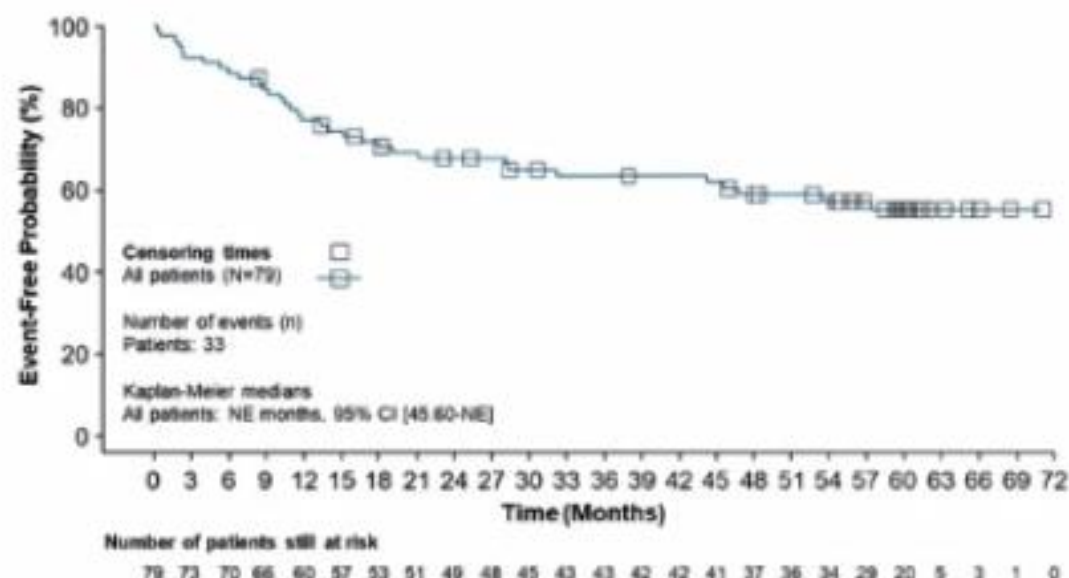


# ELIANA trial update 2022 (EHA 2022)

**RFS for Patients With a CR/CRi within 3 months**  
**5-year RFS: 43.6% (95% CI, 31%-56%)**



**Overall Survival**  
**5-year OS: 55% (95% CI, 46%-66%)**



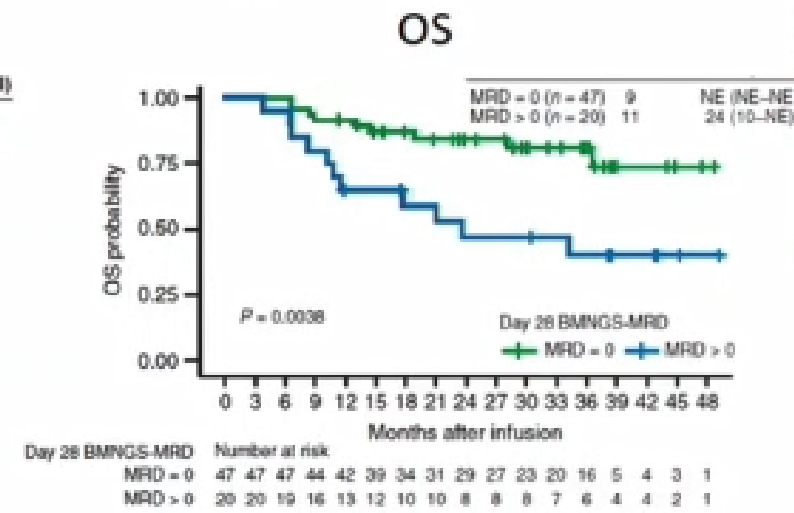
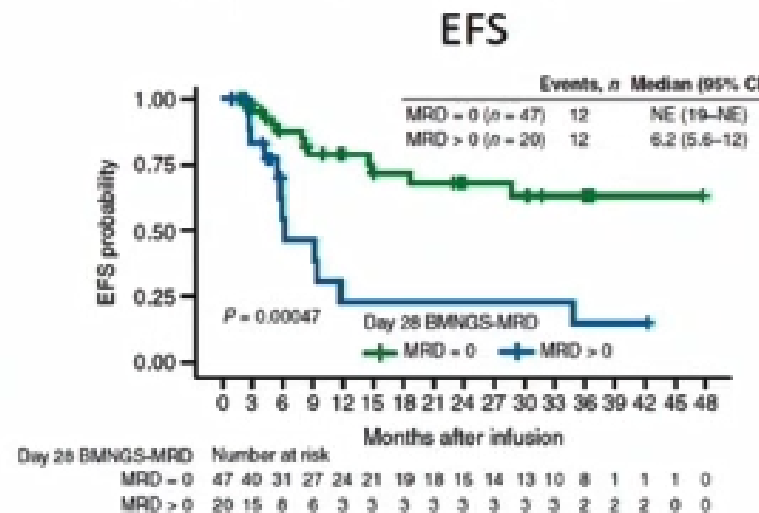
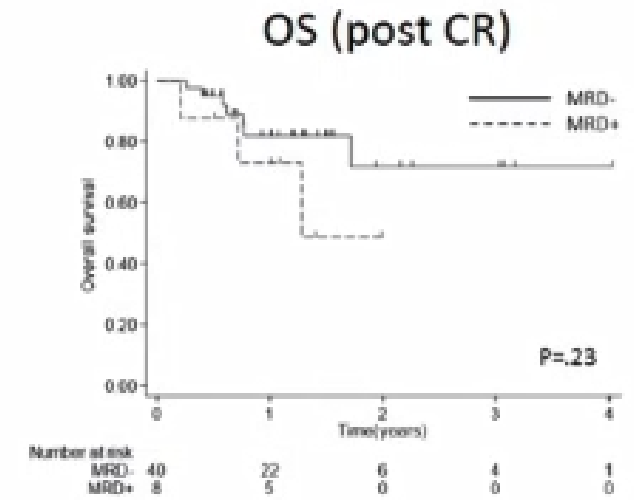
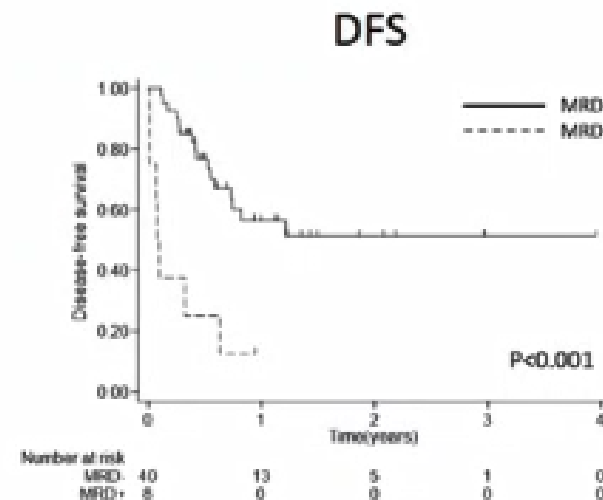
Note: OS is without censoring for alloSCT.  
17 alloSCT, allogeneic stem cell transplant; NE, not estimable; OS, overall survival.

12 **Median time from infusion to data cutoff: 5.5 years.**

Rives S et al, EHA 2022

# Prognostic impact of early sensitive MRD detection

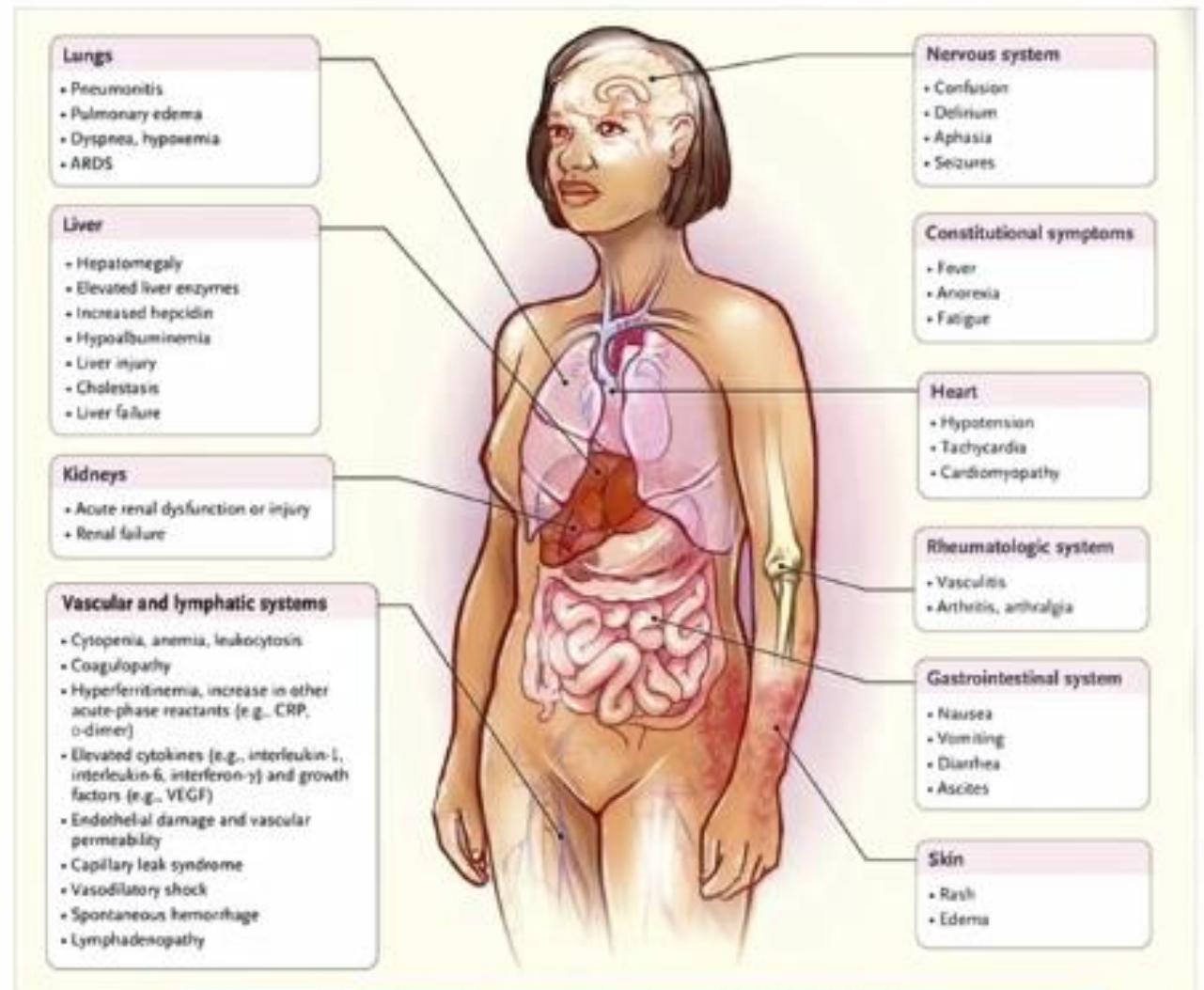
- **French cohort (N=51, Tisacel)<sup>1</sup>**
  - D28 BM-MRD+ by **qPCR** associated with:
    - shorter DFS
    - CD19 neg. relapse
- **ELIANA + ENSIGN (N=109, Tisacel)<sup>2</sup>**
  - D28 BM-MRD+ by **NGS** associated with:
    - shorter EFS and OS



1. Dourthe ME et al., *Leukemia*. 2021 Dec;35(12):3383-3393.
2. Pulsipher M et al., *Blood Cancer Discov*. 2022 Jan;3(1):66-81.

## A significant set of AEs

- CRS : « cytokine storm »
- Neurotoxicity
- Macrophage Activation Syndrome
- Prolonged cytopenias
- Infections
- « B-cell aplasia »





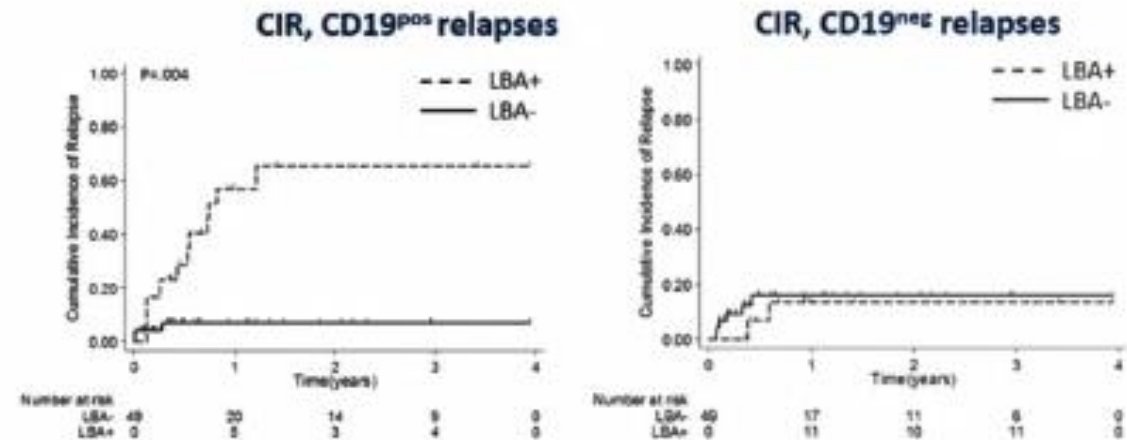
## CRS and neurotoxicity in CD19 CAR-T ALL studies

Study	CD19-CAR	N	Population	CR	CRS	Neurotoxicity/CRES
Maude, 2013 <sup>1</sup>	4-1BB	30	Ped+Adult	90%	100% 27% severe	43% encephalopathy, seizure, aphasia
Lee, 2015 <sup>2</sup>	CD28	21	Ped+YA	68%	76% 28% severe	29% encephalopathy, hallucination
Gardner, 2017 <sup>3</sup>	4-1BB	45	Ped+YA	93%	93% 23% severe	49% 21% severe
Maude, 2018 <sup>4</sup>	4-1BB	75	Ped+YA	81%	77% <b>46% severe</b>	40% <b>13% severe</b>
Gorashian, 2019	4-1BB	14	Ped +YA	86%	3/14 grade 3	6/14 grade 1-2
Park, 2018 <sup>5</sup>	CD28	53	Adult	83%	85% 26% severe	43% <b>42% severe</b>
Hay, 2019 <sup>6</sup>	4-1BB	53	Adult	85%	75% <b>19% severe</b>	23% severe

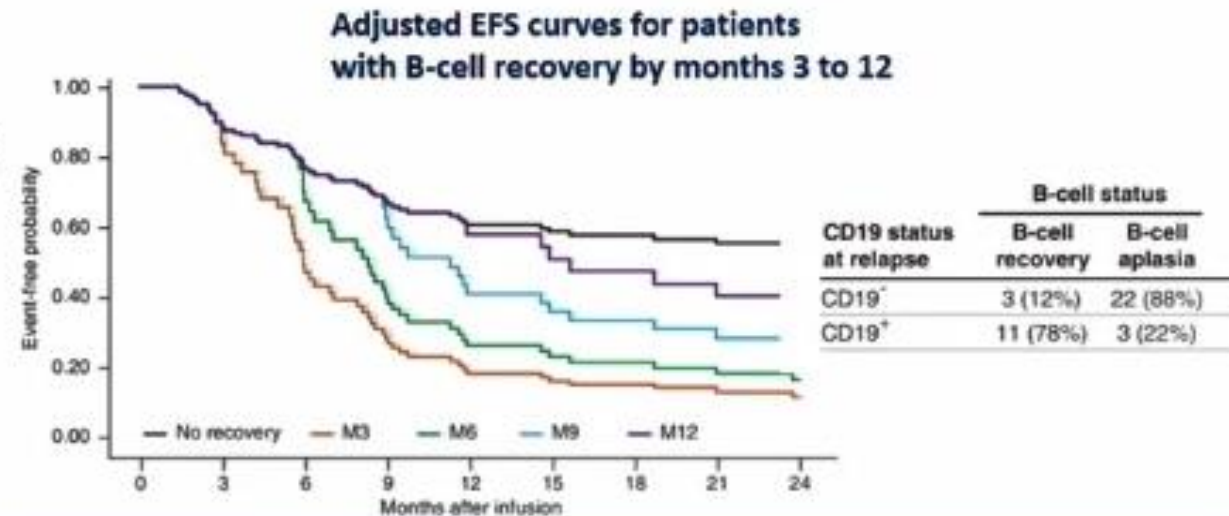
# Role of CAR T-cell persistence

- **B-cell aplasia :**
  - a surrogate of CAR-T persistence/function
  - loss : a time-dependent event
- **Loss of B-cell aplasia** associated with an increased risk of CD19-positive relapse<sup>1,2</sup>
- CD19-negative relapses tend to occur earlier than CD19-positive<sup>1,3</sup>
- **Consequence :**
  - Monthly B-cell count monitoring +++
  - Best cut-off for intervention = 6 months?

French cohort  
(N=51, Tisacel)<sup>5</sup>

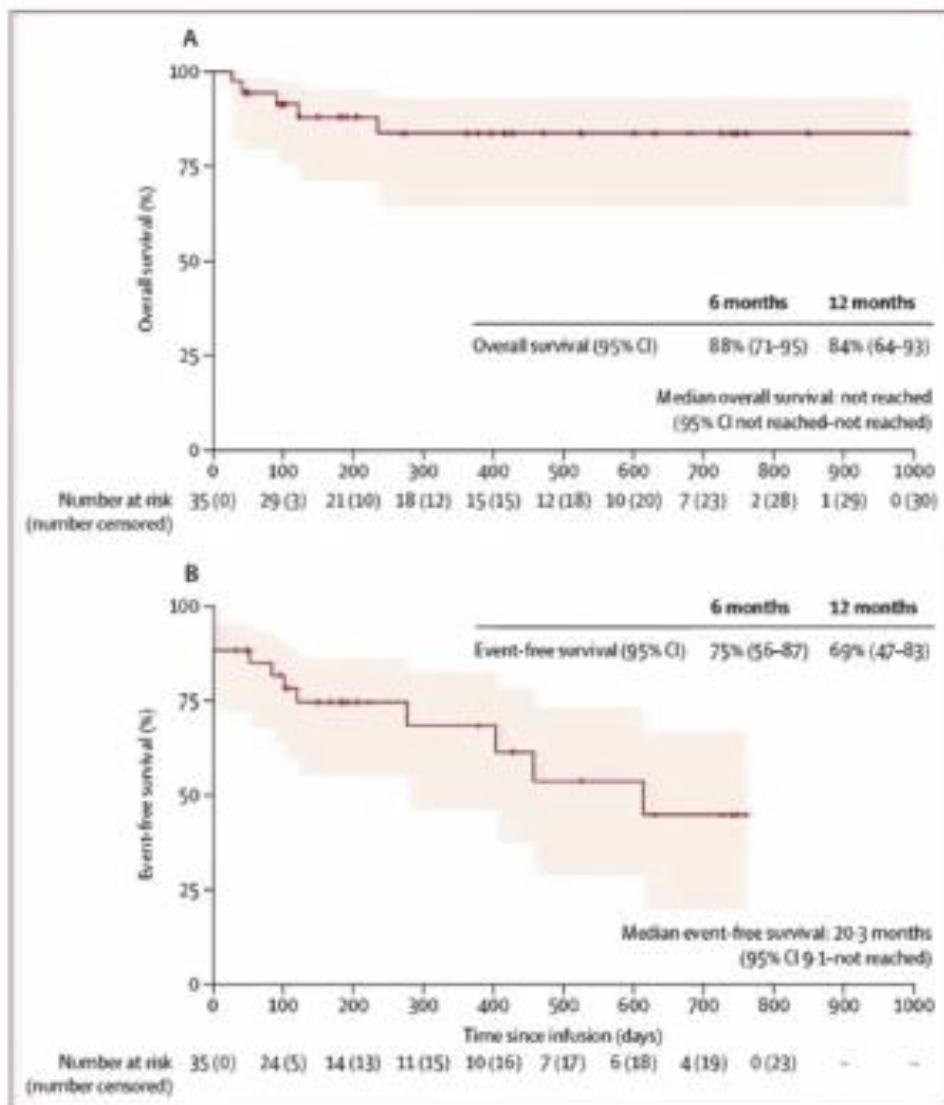


ELIANA + ENSIGN  
(N=109, Tisacel)

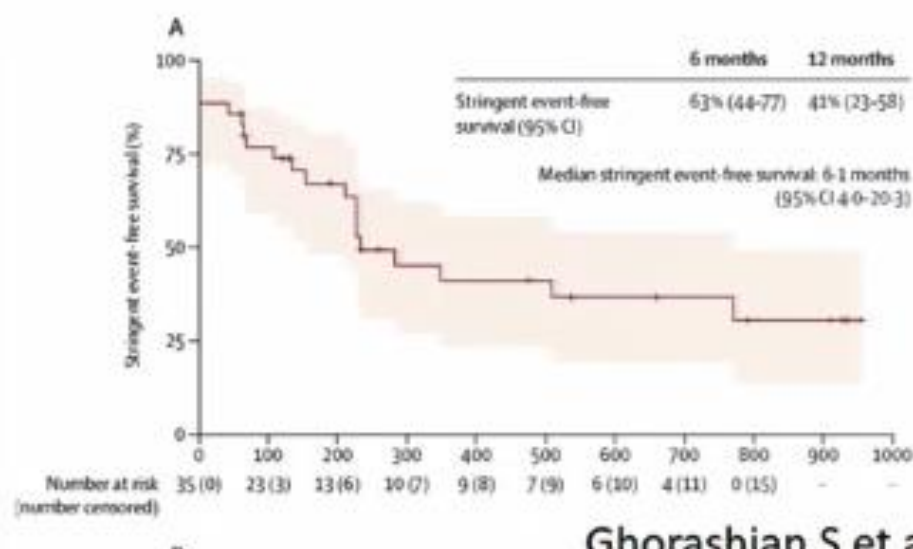


1. Dourthe ME, et al. *Leukemia*. 2021 Dec;35(12):3383-3393  
 2. Pulsipher M, et al. *Blood Cancer Discov*. 2022 Jan;3(1):66-81.  
 3. Hay KA, et al. *Blood*. 2019 Apr 11;133(15):1652-1663.

# Tisa-cel for children less than 3 years (35 pts; 76% MLL-R): - an IBFM retrospective study -

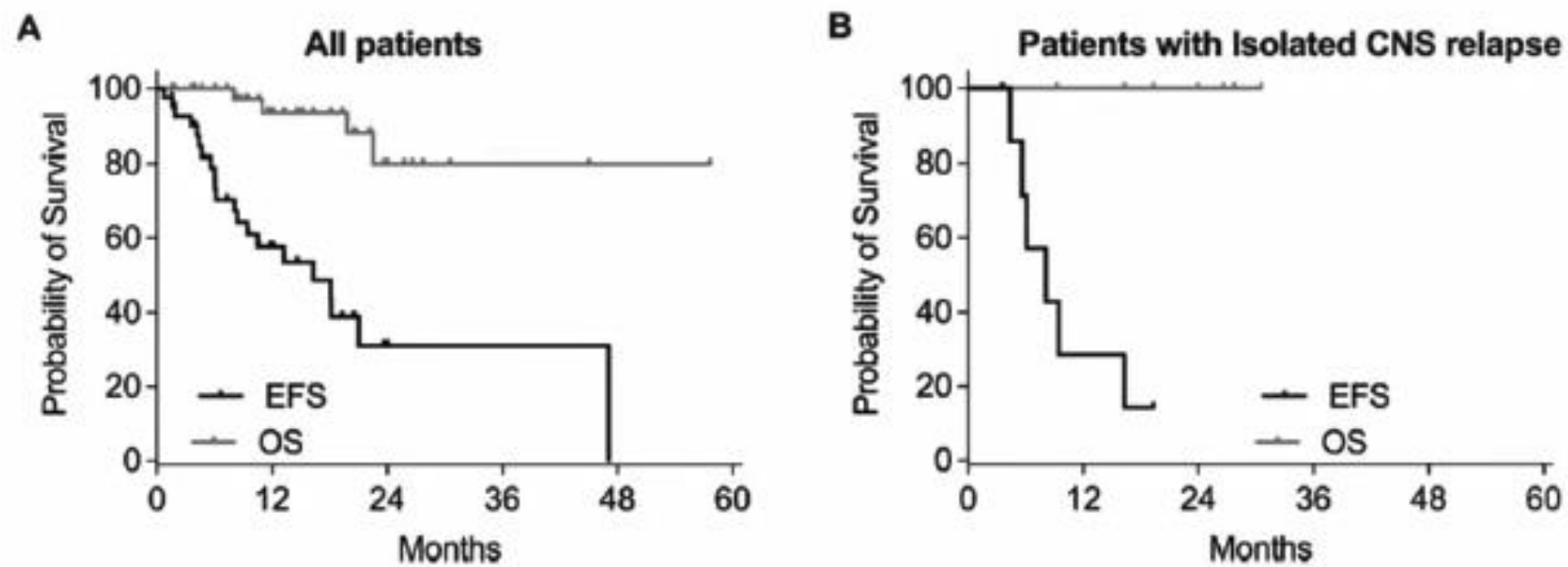


## « STRINGENT EFS »





# Tisa-cel for combined (33 pts) vs isolated CNS relapse (8 pts): - an IBFM retrospective study-



**Table 4.** Cause-specific hazard regression for CNS relapse of patients treated with 4-1BB-based CAR T-cells.

	CNS relapse	
	HR (95% CI)	P
Previous HSCT	0.598 (0.1-3.46)	0.56
Previous CNS radiation	0.78 (0.230-2.99)	0.72
CNS-positivity pre LD	4.29 (1.01-18.12)	0.047
Isolated CNS relapse	5.254 (1.2-22.95)	0.02

# Current products available in (some) EU centers

	NOVARTIS Tisagenlecleucel	KITE ZUMA 4 Phase 2	CELGENE JCAR-017 Phase 1	
Indication or eligibility criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary refractory: not achieving a CR/CRi after 2 or more induction regimens (or not achieving CR/CRi after 1 cycle of chemotherapy for relapsed ALL)</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> relapse or more</li> <li>Post HSCT, any</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary refractory</li> <li>1<sup>st</sup> early relapse (&lt;18 m)</li> <li>1<sup>st</sup> refractory relapse</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> relapse or more</li> <li>Post HSCT, any</li> <li>Disease burden : M2 or MRD+ (<math>\geq 10^{-4}</math>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary refractory: not achieving a CR/CRi after 2 or more induction regimens (or not achieving CR/CRi after 1 cycle of chemotherapy for relapsed ALL)</li> <li>First or greater marrow relapse</li> <li>Post HSCT, any</li> <li>Ineligible for allogeneic HSCT</li> <li>Disease Burden: M2</li> </ul>	
Status	commercial use (except CASSIOPEIA clinical trial : 1st line NCI HR ALL patients with MRD+ after consolidation)	clinical trial: opened	clinical trial: opened	
Age	0-25	$\leq 21$ y and weight $\geq 6$ kg	< 18y and weight $\geq 6$ kg	
Peexposure to blina	Y	Y	Y	
Preexposure to ino	Y	Y	Y	
Prev. anti-CD19 CAR	Y	N	N	

# CAALL-F01: B-lineage ALL groups

SR	P	Induction 3 drugs	Conso	SR-DI	Maintenance (104 weeks) (12 monthly pulses)
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MR	P	Induction 4 drugs	Conso	M	MR-DI	Maintenance (76 weeks) (6 pulses, every 10 weeks)
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HR	P	Induction 4 drugs	Conso	M1	HR-DI 1	M2	HR-DI 2	Maintenance (until week 104)
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VHR				VANDA	VHR1 +/-	VHR2 +/-	HSCT
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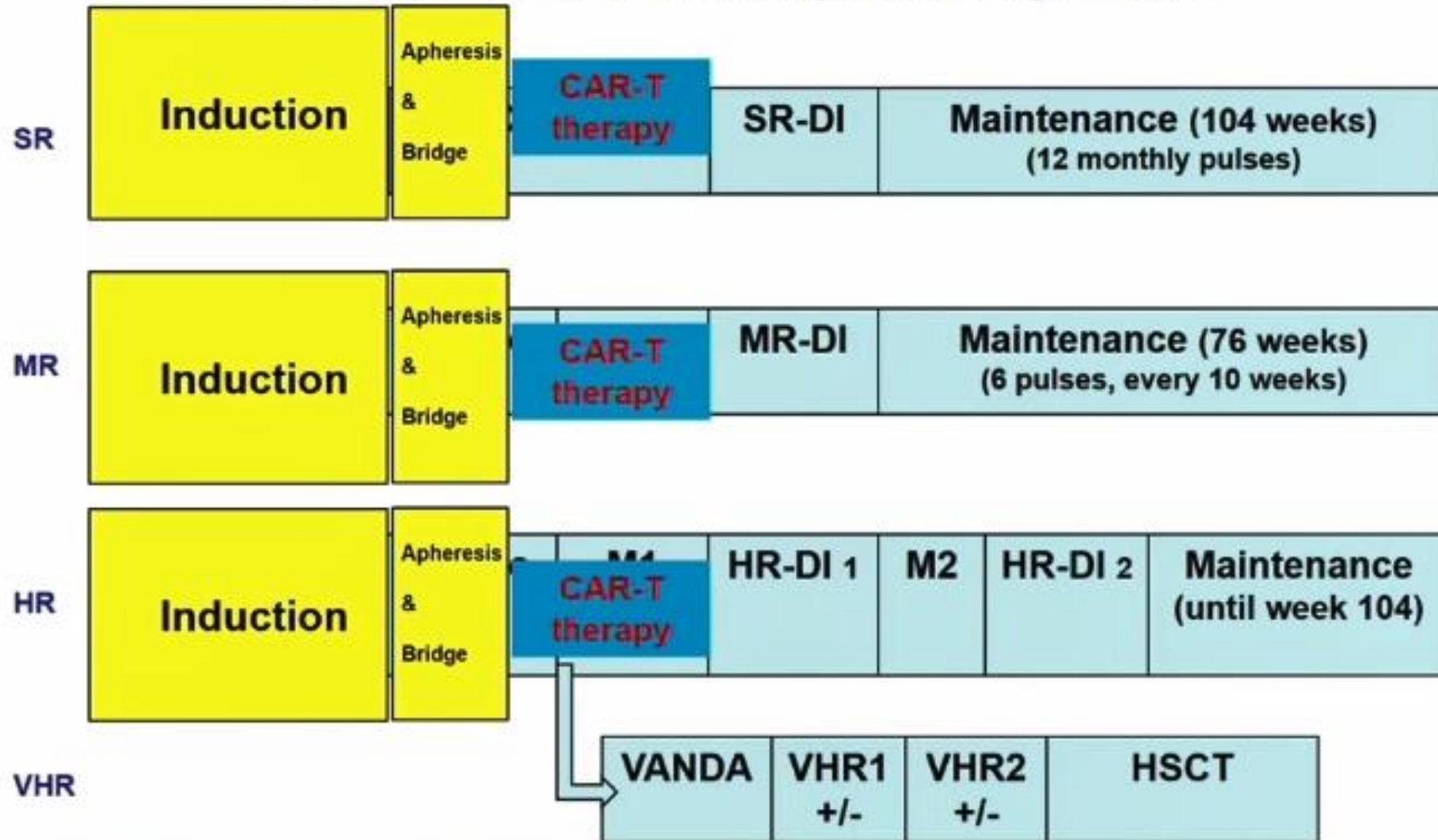
*P: Prednisone prephase; Conso: consolidation course*

*DI: delayed intensification; M: high dose MTX cycles;*

*HSCT: hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; VANDA/VHR1V/HR2: intensive courses pre HSCT*



# CAALL-F01: B-lineage ALL groups



*P: Prednisone prephase; Conso: consolidation course*

*DI: delayed intensification; M: high dose MTX cycles;*

*HSCT: hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; VANDA/VHR1V/VHR2: intensive courses pre HSCT*

# To Transplant or Not to Transplant?

No clear consensus on consolidative HSCT after CD19 CAR-T in transplant-naïve patients

Probable benefit in relapse reduction

Blanket approach may incur excess toxicity

Table 1. Outcomes of HSCT post CD19 CAR T-cell therapy

Reference	Number of subjects	Age years. Median (range)	CAR costimulatory domain	Median time from CAR to HCT days (range)	EFS HCT vs No HCT at 2 yrs	Post-HSCT relapse and TRM in HCT arm
Frey [43]	HCT N=9 No HCT N=15	HCT 39 [24-50] No HCT 36 [26-63]	4-1BB	78 [51-162]	HCT ~85% No HCT ~35%	Not specified
Hay [17*]	HCT N=18	HCT 35 [22-73]	4-1BB	70 [44-138]	HCT 61%	Relapse 17% TRM 23%
Jiang [44]	HCT N=21 No HCT N=26	Not specified	4-1BB	Not specified	HCT ~70% No HCT ~30%	Not specified
Summers [26]	HCT N=23 No HCT N=27	HCT 15 [1-25] No HCT 12 [1-22]	4-1BB	Approximately 3 months	HCT 75% No HCT 40%	Relapse 5/23 [22%] TRM 1/23 [4.3%]
Zhang [24]	HCT N=75 No HCT N=27	(all) 12 [2-61]	CD28 and 4-1BB	63 [63-120]	HCT 76.9% No HCT 11.6%	Relapse 10/75 [13.3%] TRM 3/75 [4%]
Shah [23**]	HCT N=21 No HCT N=7	(all) 13.5 [4.3-30.4]	CD28	54 [42-97]	HCT 62% No HCT 0%	Relapse 9.5% TRM 6/21 [29%]
Park [12]	HCT N=17 no HCT N=16	(all) 44 [23-74]	CD28	74 [44-312]	HCT ~30% No HCT ~30%	Relapse 6/17 [35%] TRM 6/17 [35%]
Curran [15*]	HCT N=15 no HCT N=3	(all) 13.5 [1-22.5]	CD28	57 [30-200]	HCT 8/15 No HCT 0/3	Relapse 4/15 [26.7%] TRM 3/15 [20%]

CAR, chimeric antigen receptor; EFS, event-free survival; HCT, hematopoietic cell transplantation; OS, overall survival.

Qayed M, Bleakley M, and Shah NN. *Curr Opin Hematol* 2021, 27:000-000



# Possible Concepts if CARs make it

(LTFU efficacy & safety)



*years  
to  
come*

## Autologous & persistent CARs

### 1. could first replace allo HSCT for :

- advanced disease
  - relapse  $\geq 2$ , relapse post HSCT, refractory relapse
  - 1st high-risk relapse
- 1st line Very-High Risk ALL (non responding to I+C chemo)

### 2. could replace prolonged intensive and toxic chemo in 1st line HR ALL :

- e.g. induction-(consolidation)-bridge-CAR



# Management of refractory and relapsed childhood AML

Henrik Hasle

Department of Pediatrics

Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark

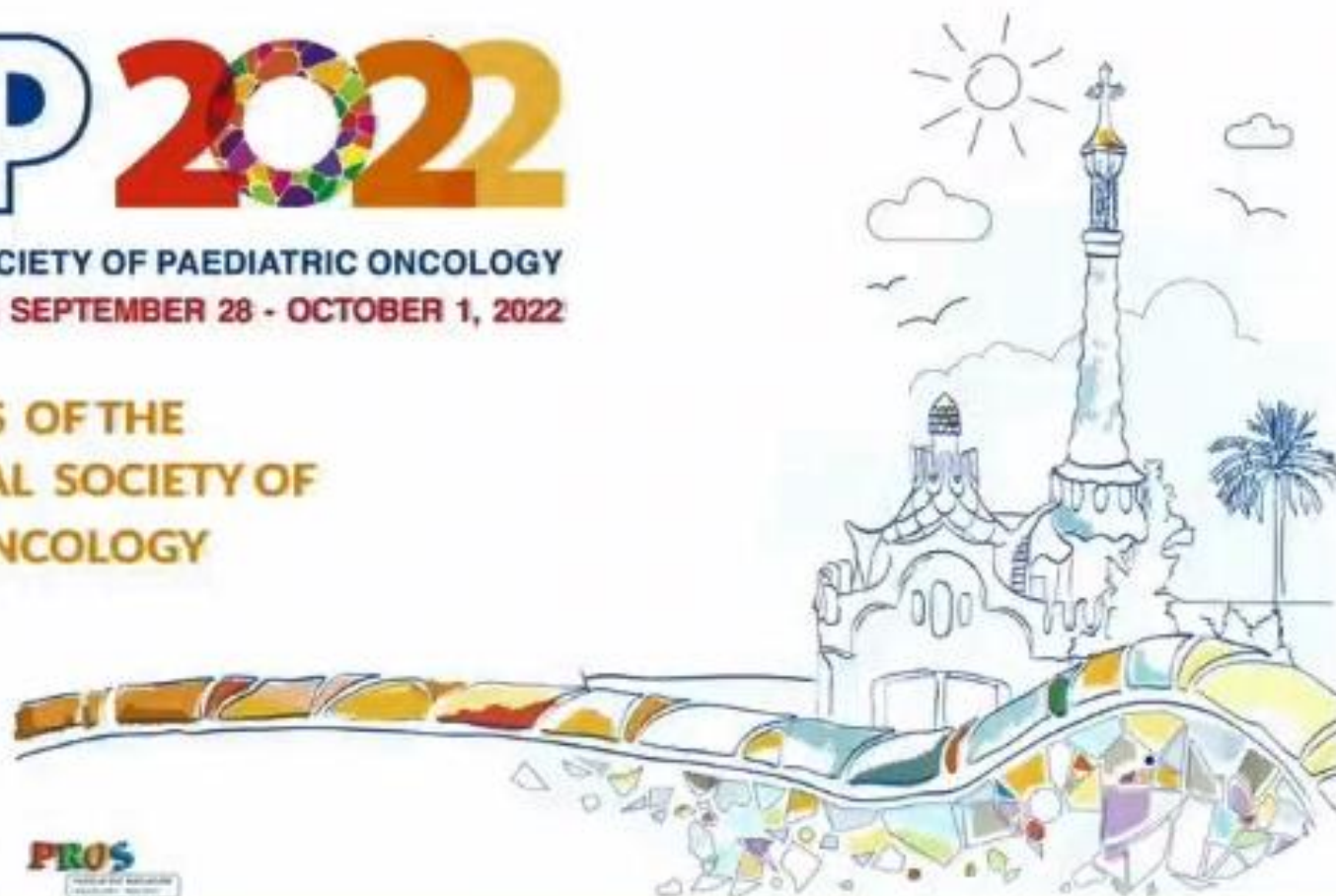


INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY  
BARCELONA, SPAIN | SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 1, 2022

54<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY



In conjunction with



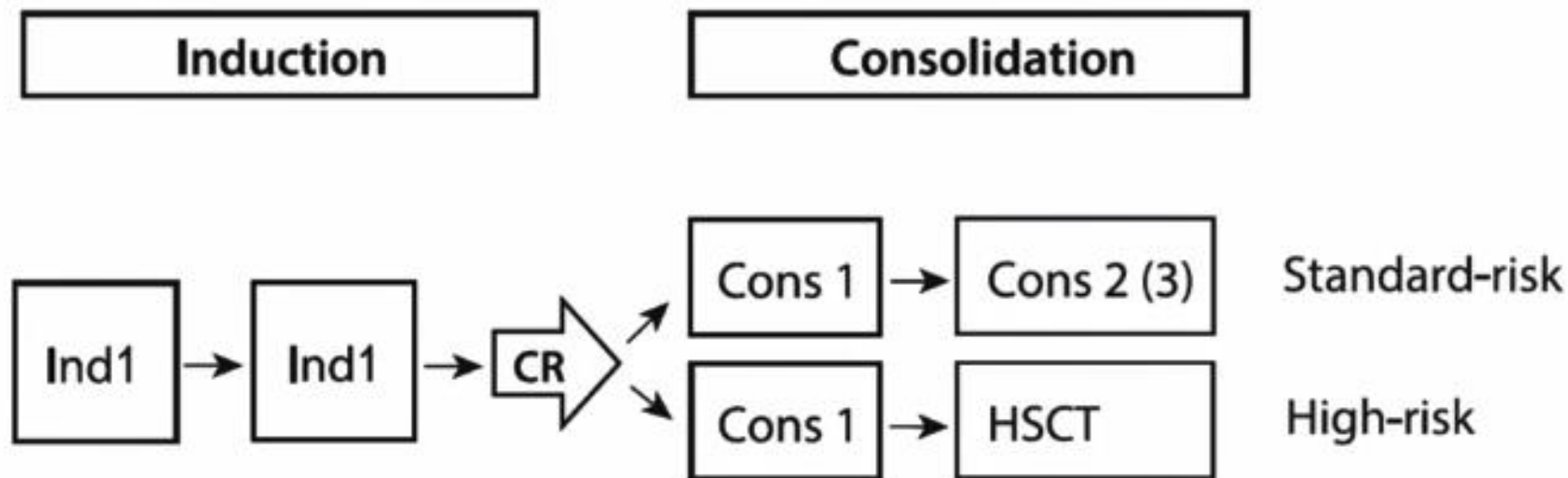
# Management of refractory and relapsed childhood AML

## Definitions

- Refractory AML
  - No complete remission (blasts >5%) after 2 induction courses
- Relapse
  - A single PB/BM sample showing  $\geq 5\%$  leukemic blasts by morphology, flow cytometry, or karyotype/FISH
  - A single bone marrow sample with at least two tests showing  $\geq 1\%$  leukemic blasts examples of tests include:
    - Flow cytometry showing leukemia by multidimensional flow cytometry (MDF).
    - Karyotypic abnormality.
    - FISH abnormality identical to diagnosis (above level of sensitivity of specific FISH probe).
    - PCR or NGS-based demonstration of leukemogenic lesion (e.g., fusion, mutation) matching diagnosis
  - Two consecutive PB/BM sample with at least two tests showing a one log increase of leukemic cells with the second tests quantified as  $\geq 5 \times 10^{-4}$
- Extramedullary relapse
  - CNS leukemia or biopsy proven extramedullary disease after documented CR

# Therapy and risk stratification for children with de novo AML

Hasle. Br J Haematol 2014; 116: 23



Duration of standard therapy approximately 6 months

The ratio of high-risk (i.e. HSCT in CR1) varies between protocols from 10 to 40%



# Risk stratification in current European protocols

NOPHO-DBH AML 2012	BFM-AML2012	MyeChild	AIEOP
<p>HR  <math>\geq 15\%</math> LC after C1  <math>\geq 0.1\%</math> LC after C2                      FLT3-ITD wo NPM1 mut</p> <p>All other patients are                      Standard risk</p>	<p>HR                      Poor response after C2                      t(4;11)                      t(5;11)/NUP98/NSD1                      t(6;11)                      t(10;11)                      t(6;9)                      t(7;12)                      der(12p)                      -7 (isolated)                      t(9;22)                      FLT3-ITD-WT1 mut                      Complex karyotype</p>	<p>HR  <math>\geq 0.1\%</math> LC after C2                      t(4;11)(q21;q23)/KMT2A-AFF1                      t(5;11)(q35;p15.5)/NUP98-NSD1                      t(6;11)(q27;q23)/KMT2A-KMT2AT4                      t(10;11)(p11-14;q23)/KMT2A-KMT2AT10                      t(6;9)(p23;q34)/DEK-NUP214                      abnormal 12p</p> <p>monosomy 7                      t(9;22)(q34;q11)/BCR-ABL1                      FLT3-ITD wo favorable genetic features                      inv(3)(q21;q26)/t(3;3)(q21;q26)/abn(3q)                      inv(16)(p13.3;q24.3)/CBFA2T3-GLIS2                      monosomy 5/del(5q)</p>	<p>HR  <math>&gt; 1\%</math> LC after C1  <math>&gt; 0.1\%</math> LC after C2                      t(4;11)                      t(5;11)                      t(6;11)                      t(10;11)                      t(6;9)                      t(7;12)                      der(12p)                      -7 (isolated)                      t(9;22)                      FLT3-ITD-WT1                      mut                      Complex karyotype</p>

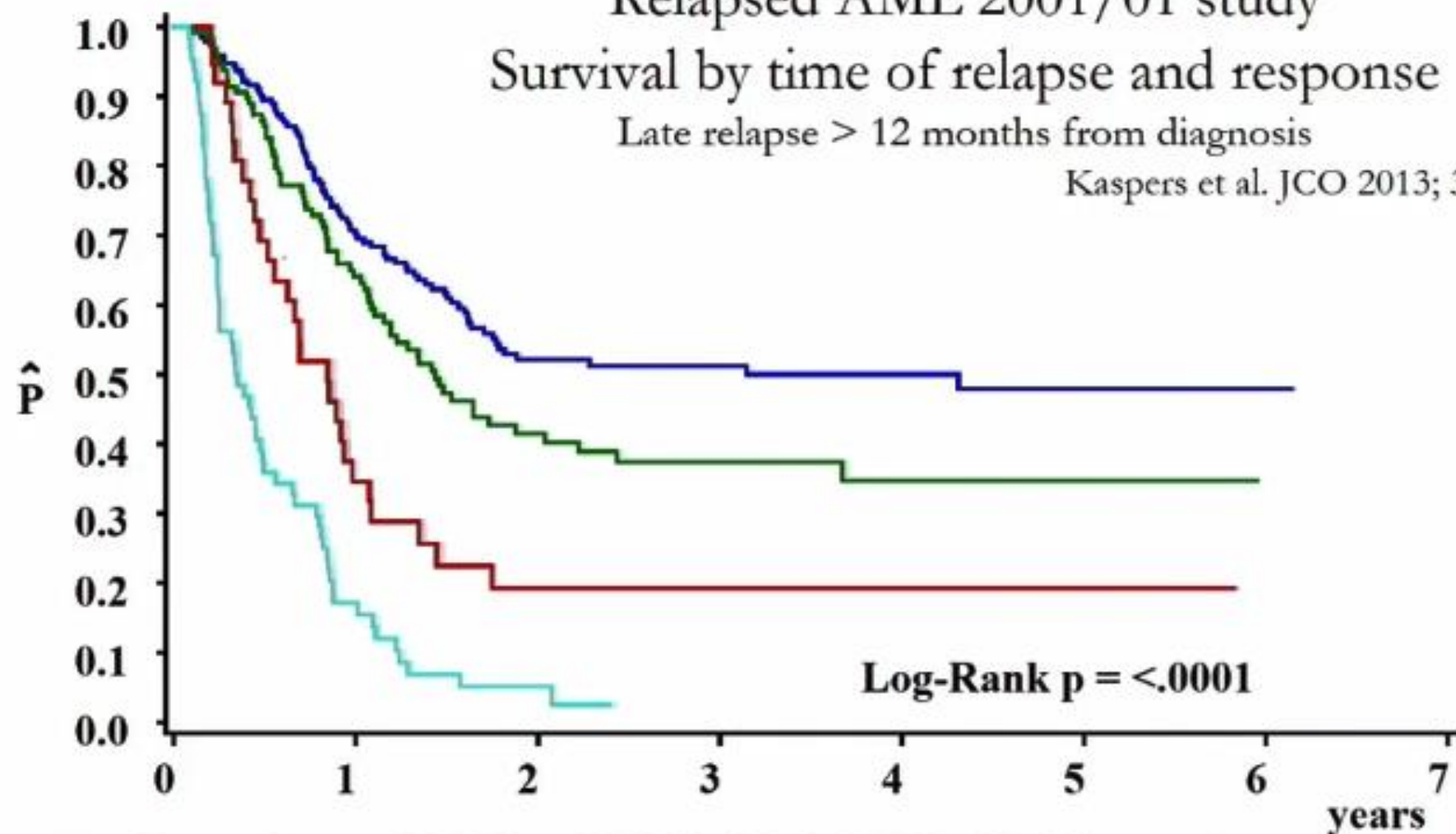
All groups now use SCT as consolidation therapy for HR patients

# Relapsed AML 2001/01 study

## Survival by time of relapse and response

Late relapse > 12 months from diagnosis

Kaspers et al. JCO 2013; 31: 599

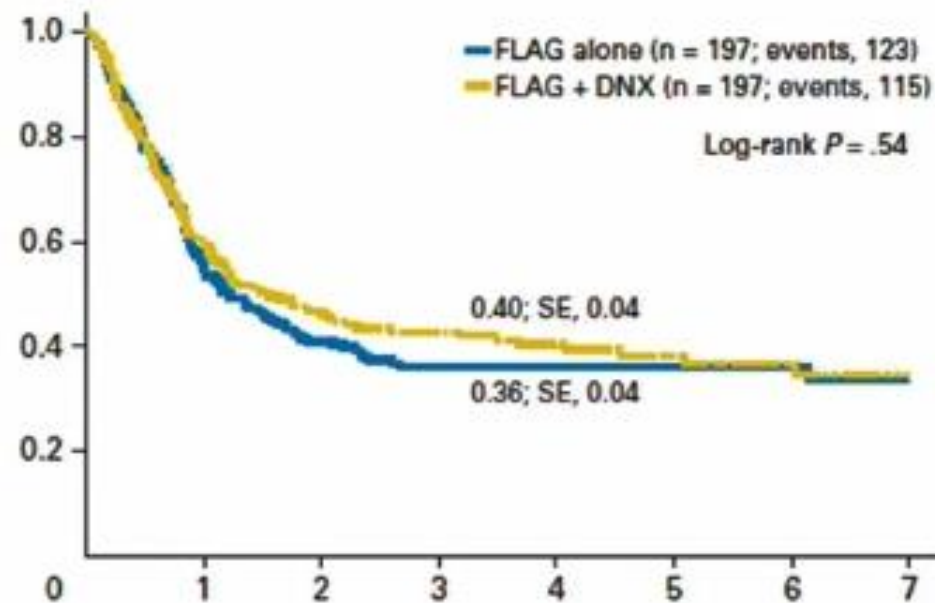


- Late relapse BM 28 ≤ 20 0.50, SE=0.04 (N=195, 85 events)
- Late relapse BM 28 > 20 0.19, SE=0.07 (N= 39, 28 events)
- Early relapse BM 28 ≤ 20 0.35, SE=0.05 (N=130, 69 events)
- Early relapse BM 28 > 20 0.03, SE=0.02 (N= 64, 61 events)

# Relapsed AML 2001/01 study - Overall Survival by induction course FLAG +/- DNX

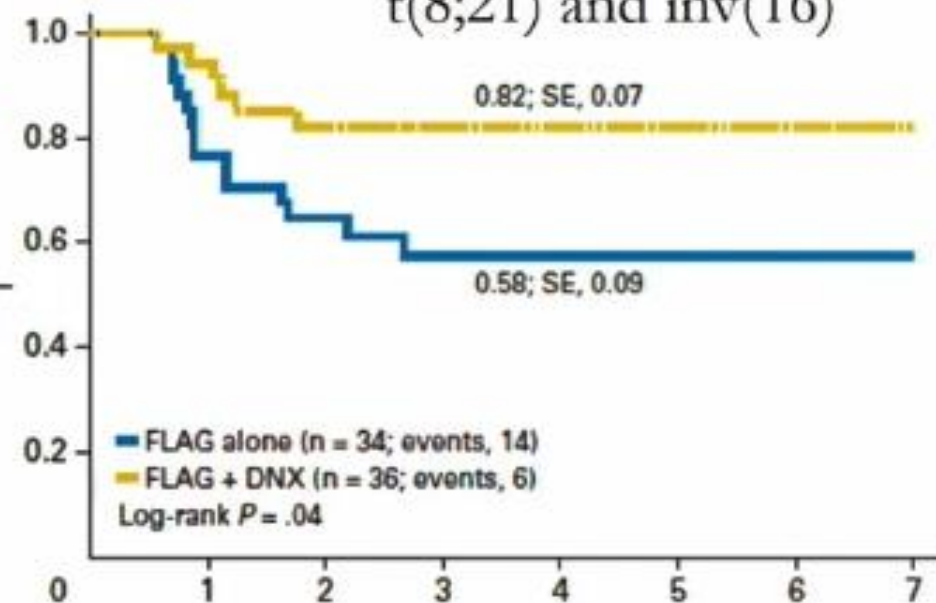
Kaspers et al. JCO 2013; 31: 599

### All patients



### CBF AML

#### t(8;21) and inv(16)

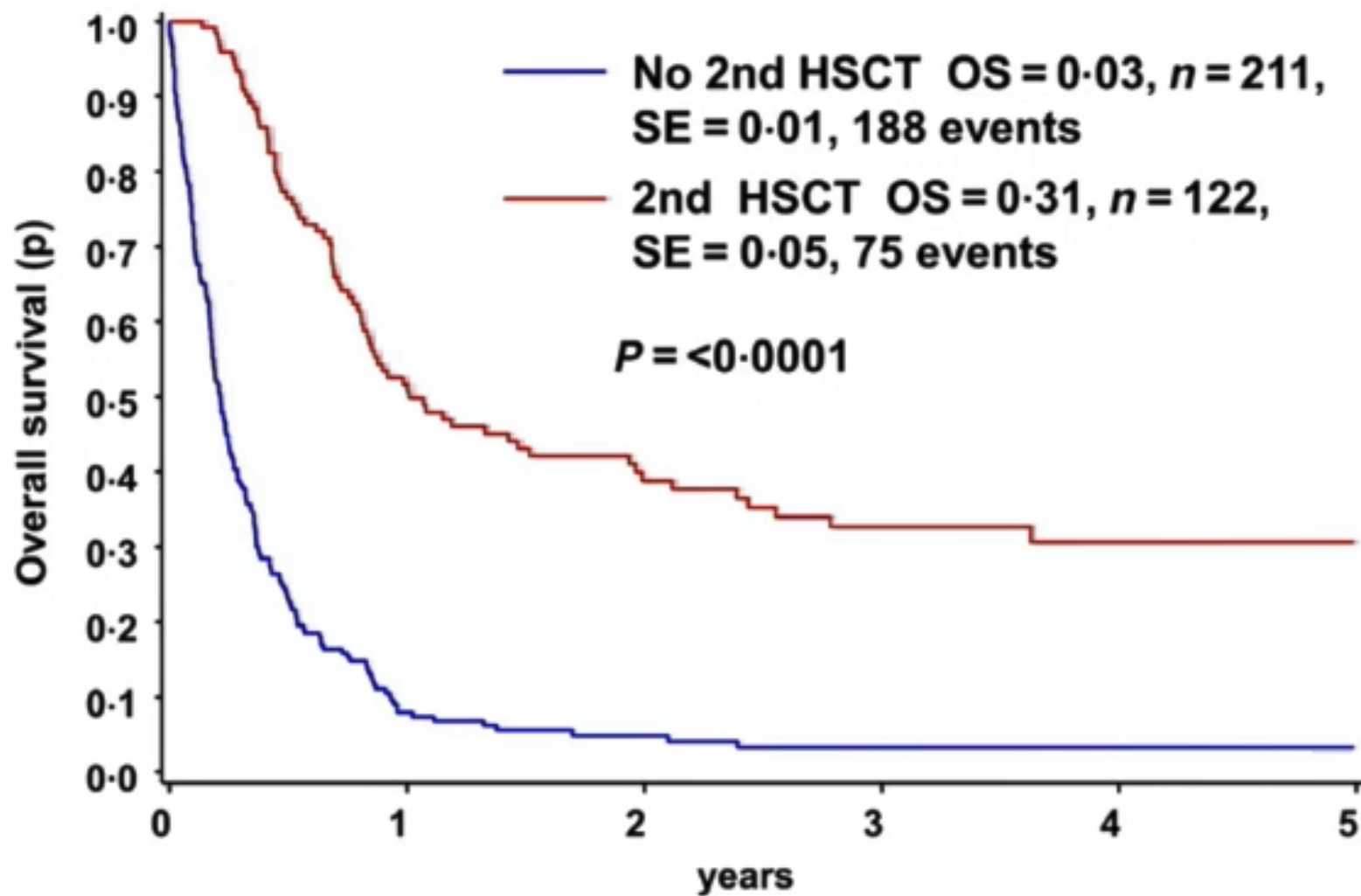




# Outcome of children relapsing after HSCT for AML

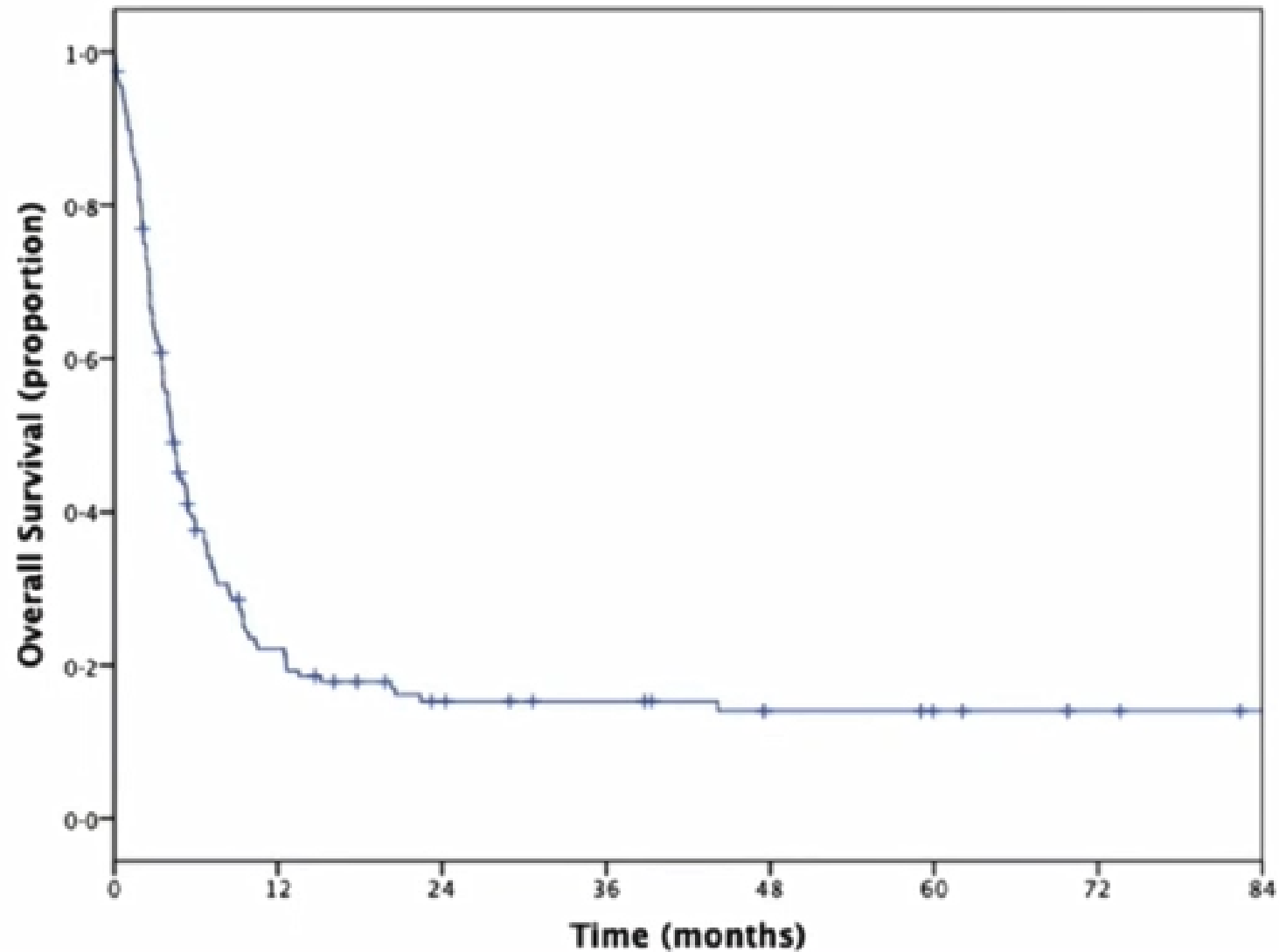
a retrospective I-BFM analysis of 333 children

Uden et al. BJH 2020

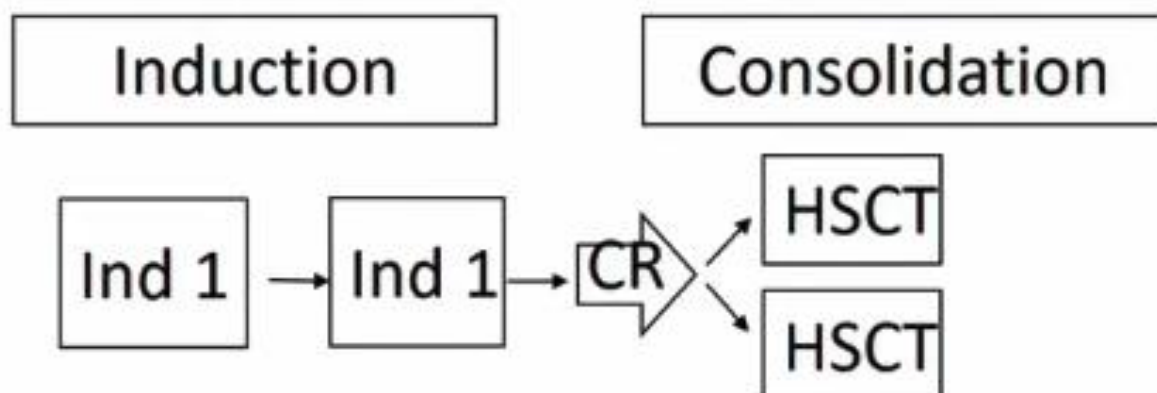


# Survival of 157 patients with a refractory first relapse or second relapse from the NOPHO-DB-SHIP consortium

White T et al, BJH 2022



## Current therapy for children with relapsed AML



Outcome has improved but less than 50% of the patients are cured

Therapy based upon intensity chemotherapy followed by HSCT

Major acute and long-term toxicity

Limited targeted therapy



# How to improve therapy for children with relapsed AML?

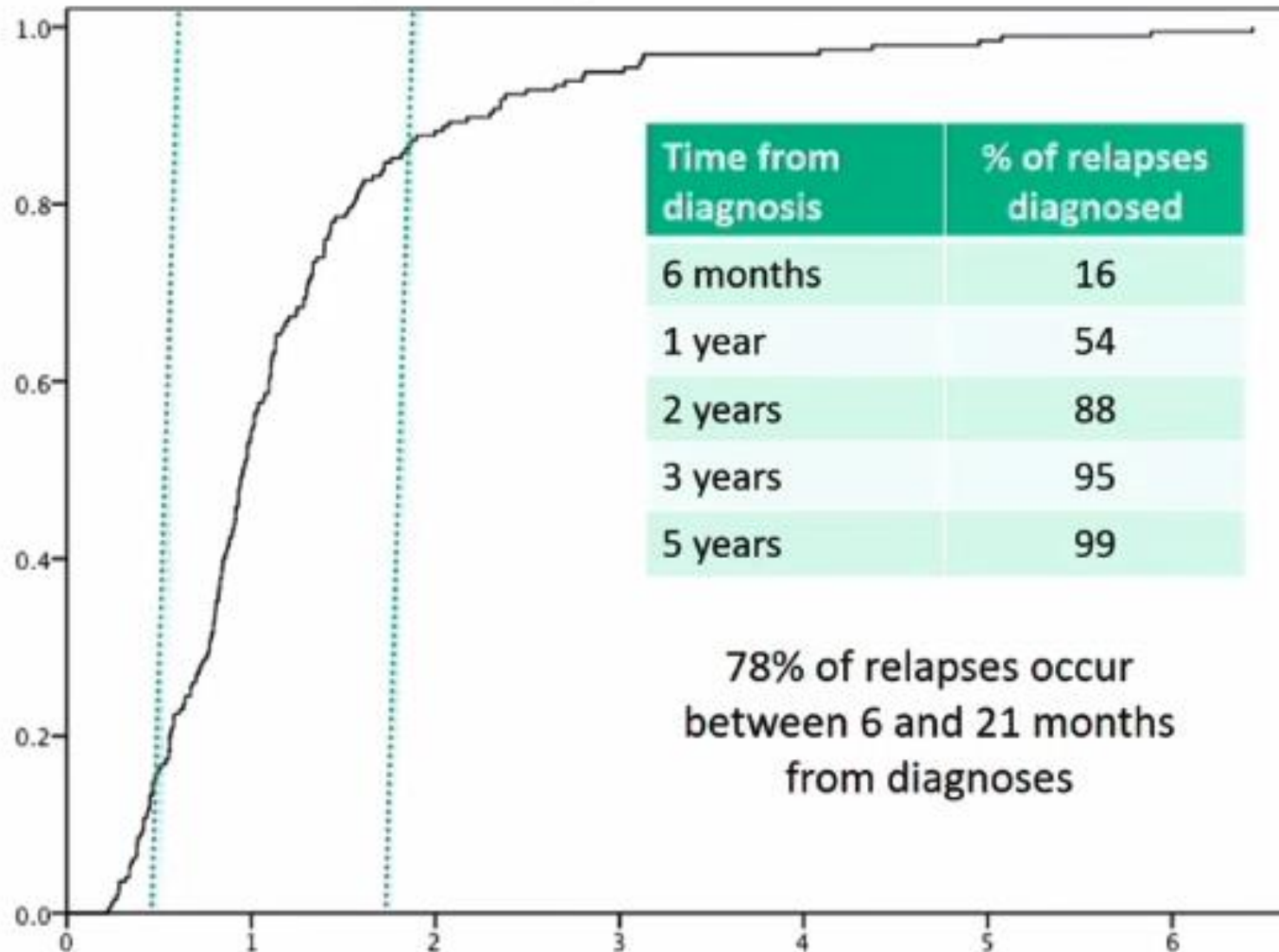
Optimal supportive care

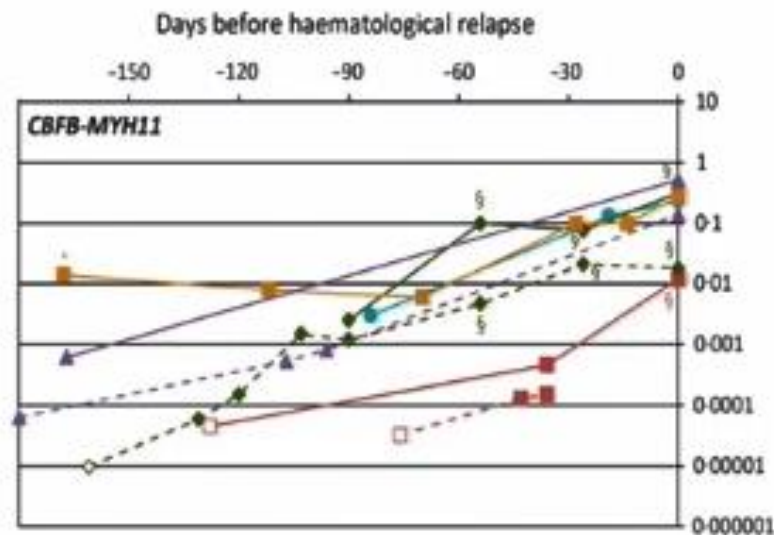
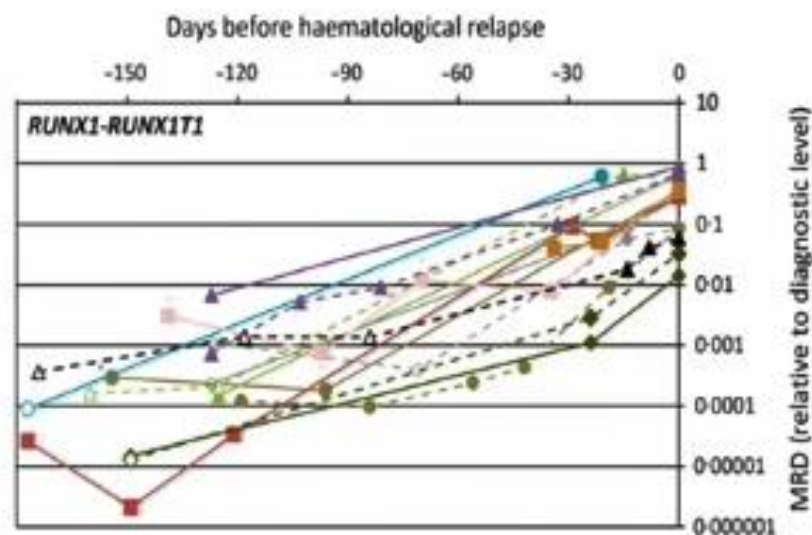
Preemptive therapy

New trials including targeting drugs

# Time to relapse (n=196)

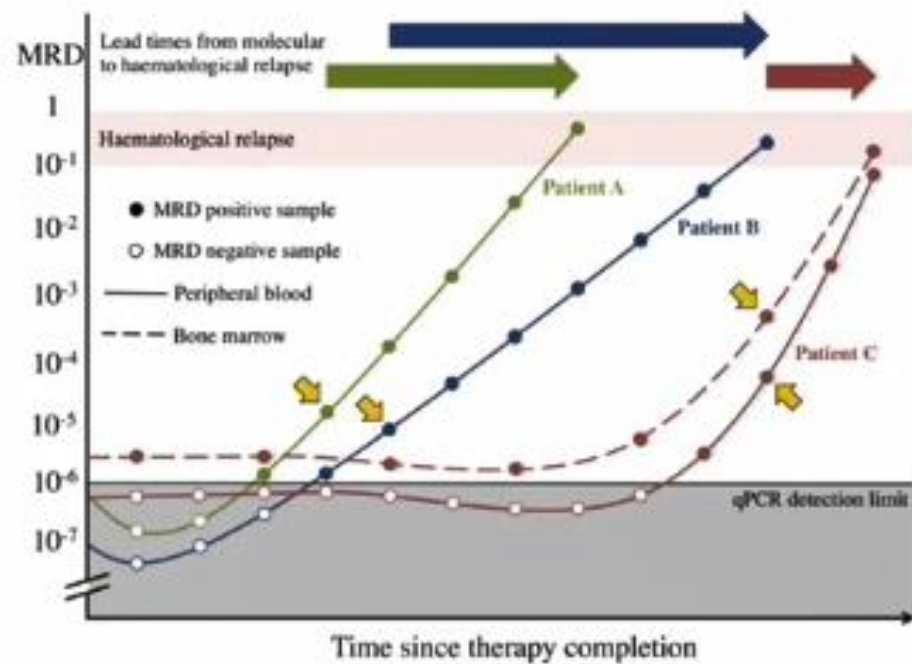
Data from NOPHO-AML 1993 and 2004 trials (unpublished)





MRD monitoring by qPCR  
in PB after end of therapy

Juul-Dam et al. Br J Haematol 2020; 190: 198

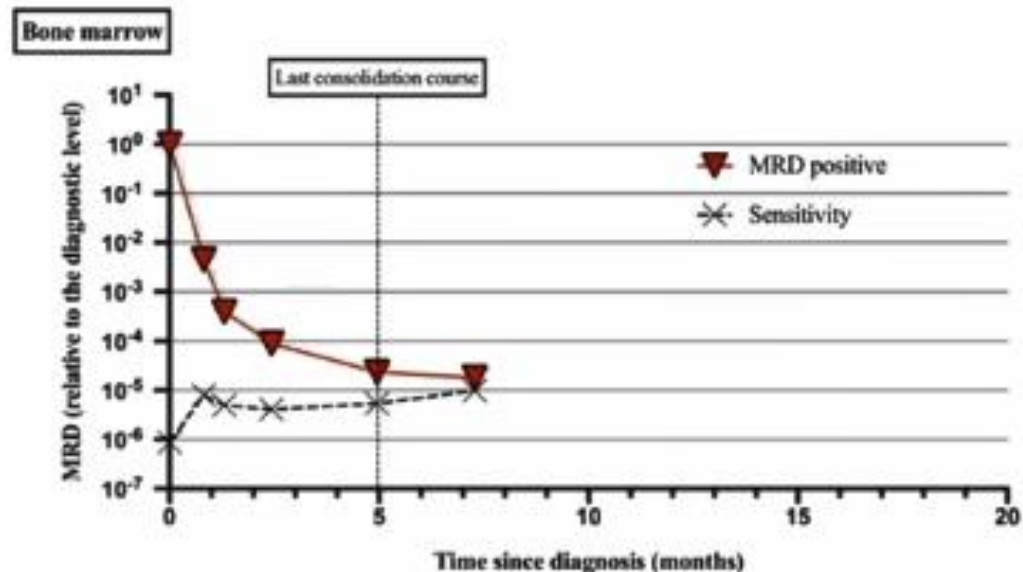


Leukemic growth depended on AML subtypes:  
*inv(16) CBFβ::MYH11* AML regrowth of 0.3 log/month  
*t(8;21) RUNX1::RUNX1T1* AML regrowth of 0.6 log/month

Skou et al. Br J Haematol 2021 PMID: 33851435



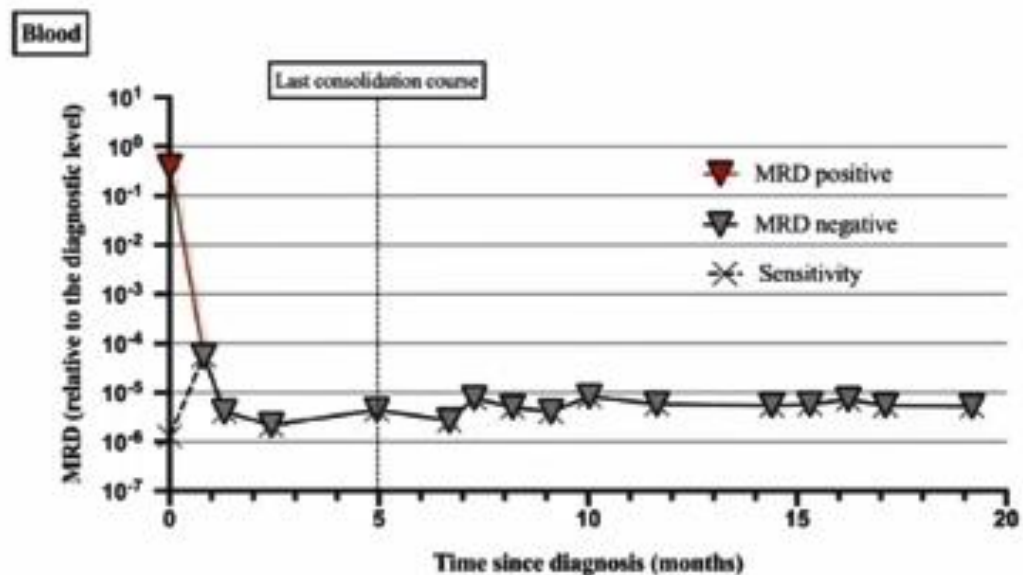
# MRD monitoring by qPCR in PB after end of AML therapy



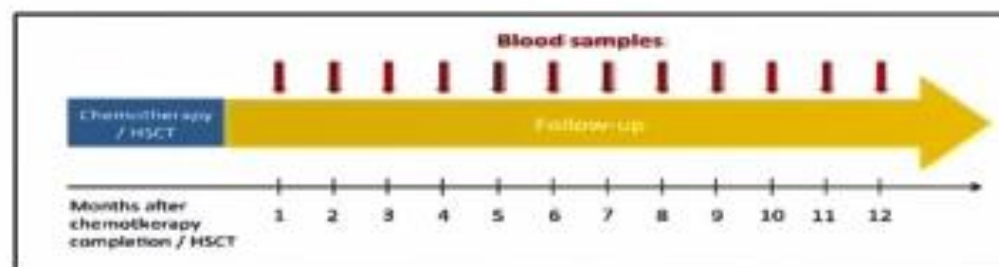
- Shifting from MRD negative to positive ( $>5 \times 10^{-4}$ ) in PB predicts subsequent relapse
- BM may remain MRD pos with PCR without relapse

## Recommendation

PB at monthly intervals until 12–18 months from therapy  
 Increase by 1 log or to  $>5 \times 10^{-4}$  defines molecular relapse  
 Confirmed in a paired PB and BM sample



Skou et al. Br J Haematol 2021 PMID: 33851435



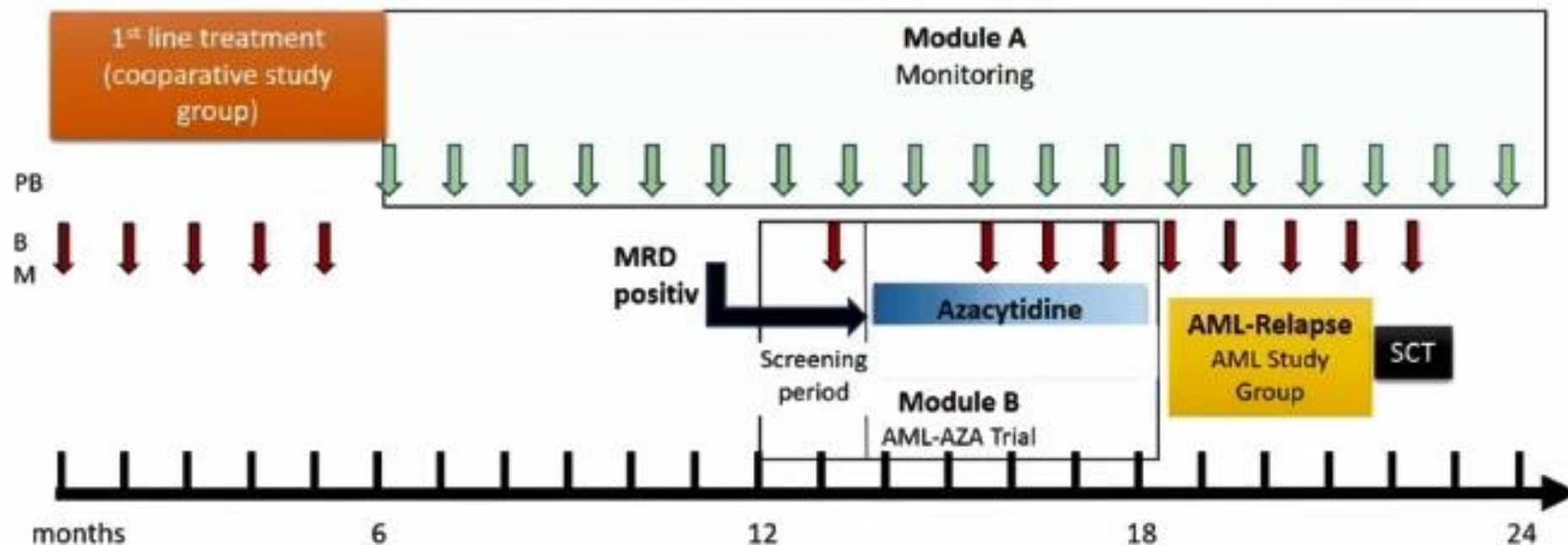
# Preemptive therapy of molecular relapse



- A) Detection and confirmation of molecular relapses in pediatric acute myeloid leukemia (AML)
- B) Treatment of molecular relapse in (AML) with azacitidine

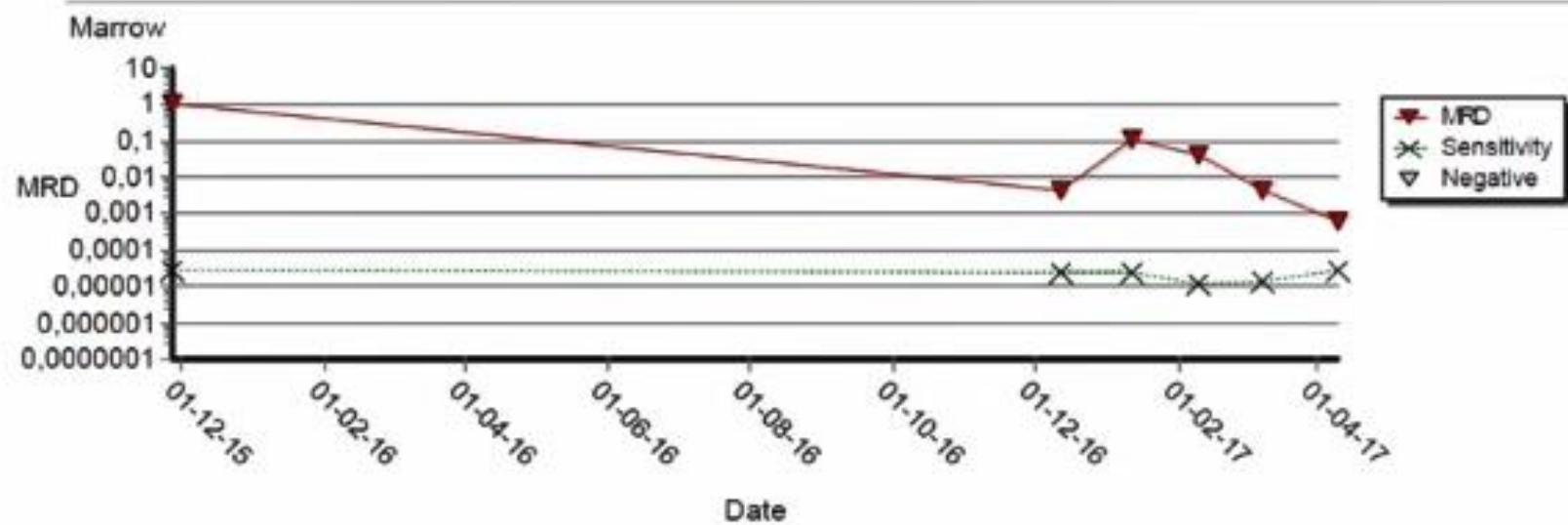
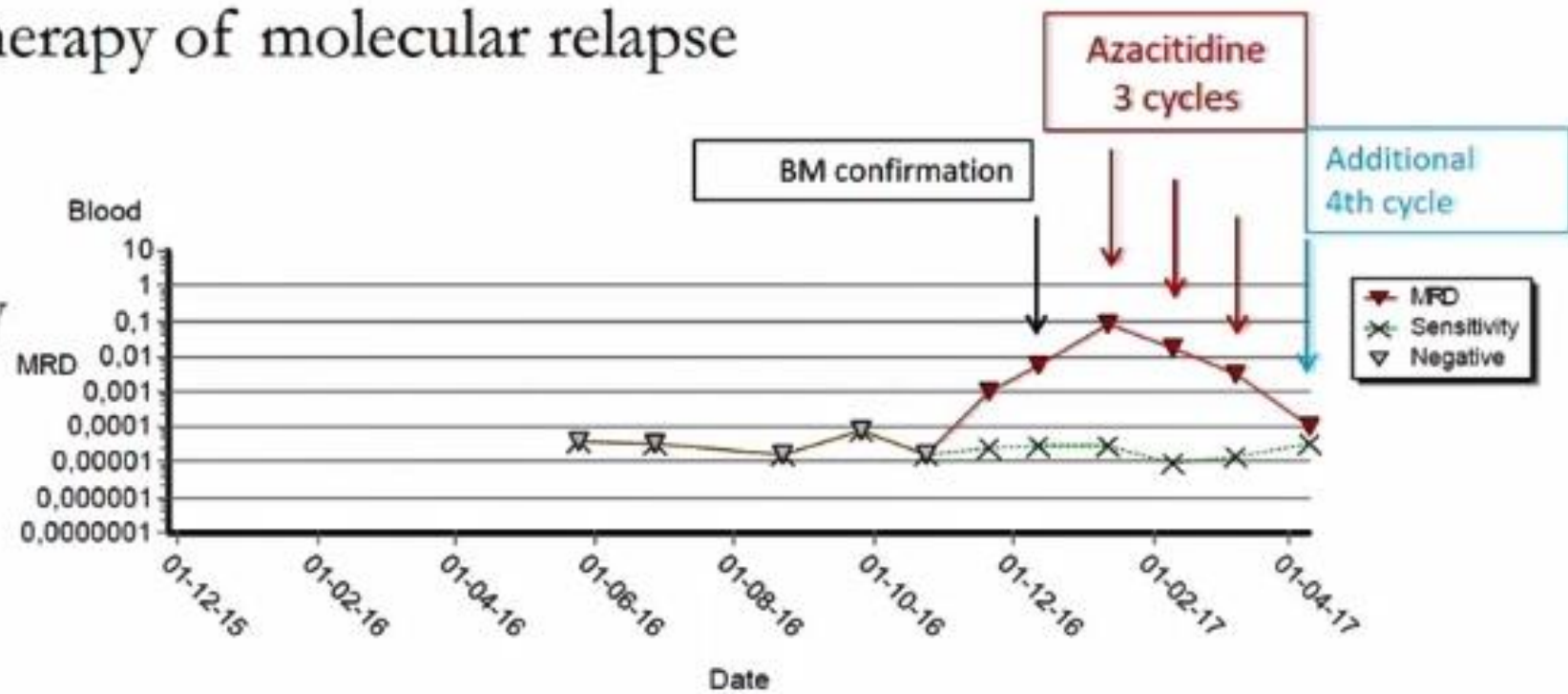
## Diagnosis

t(8;21), inv (16), MLL, NPM1, FLT3-ITD, WT1 exp.



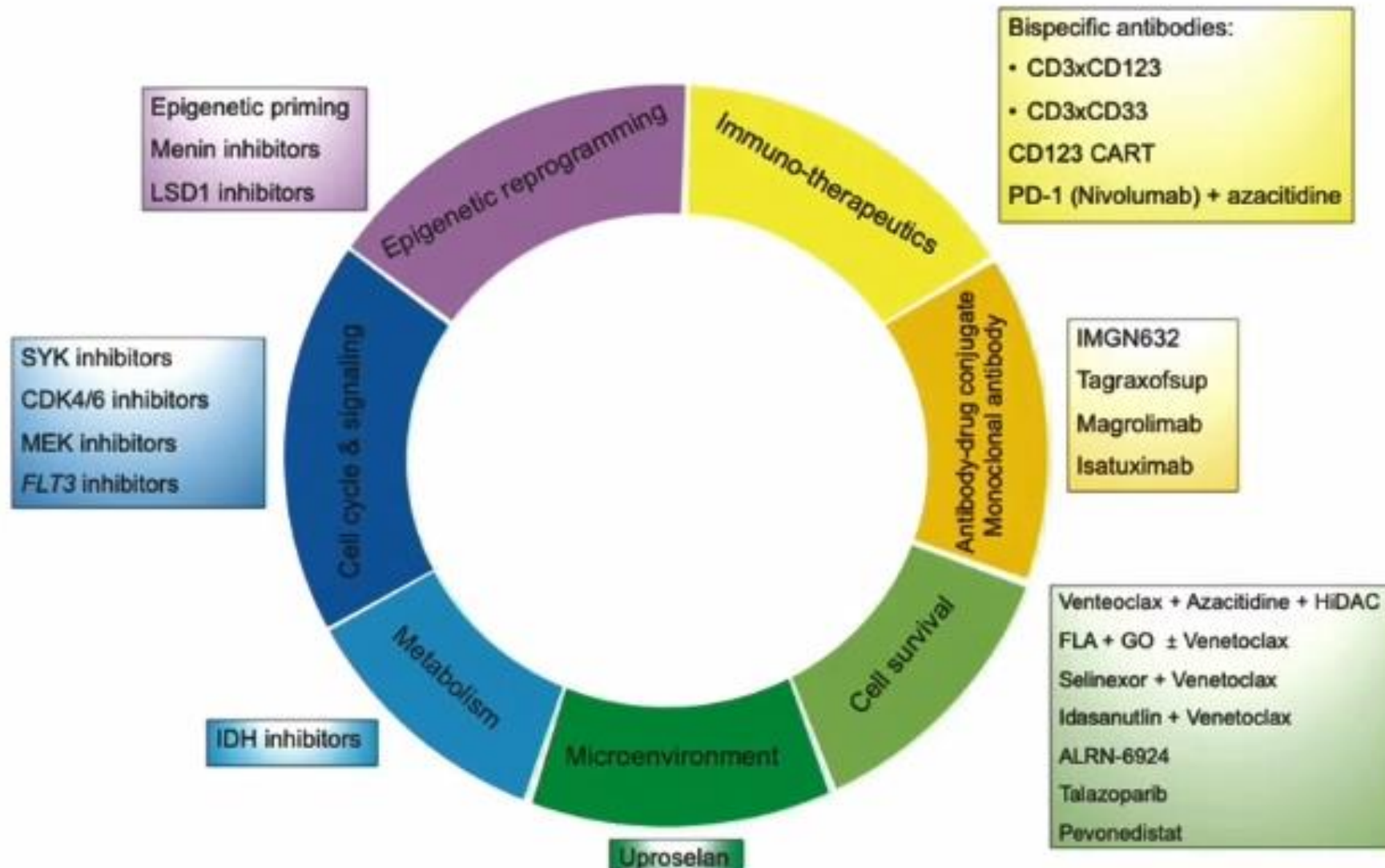
# Example of preemptive therapy of molecular relapse

Aim:  
Disease control with little toxicity  
HSCT with low MRD





# Current and future targets by therapeutic subclass



Zarnegar-Lumley et al,  
Leukemia 2022; 36: 1951

## Extramedullary relapse

- Should be considered and treated as systemic relapse
- Local therapy (except for i.t. chemotherapy) is not indicated

# Myeloid Leukemia in Down syndrome

International European multicenter study of ML-DS 2006

**AIE**

	day
cytarabine 100 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /d	1,2
cytarabine 100 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /12h	3-8
idarubicin 8 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /d	3,5,7
etoposide 150 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /d	6,7,8
cytarabine i.th.	1

**AI**

	day
cytarabine 500 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /d	1- 4
idarubicin 7 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /d	3,5
cytarabine i.th.	1

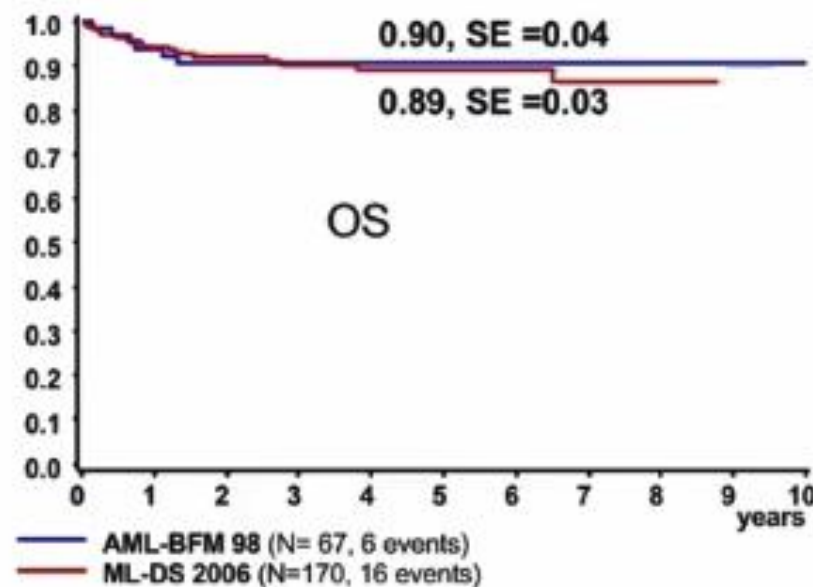
**haM**

	day
HD-cytarabine 1 g/m <sup>2</sup> /12h	1-3
mitoxantrone 7 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /d	3, 4
cytarabine i.th.	1

**HA**

	day
HD-cytarabine 3 g/m <sup>2</sup> /12h	1-3
cytarabine i.th.	1

OS about 90% reported from  
Europe, Japan, NA



Uffmann et al. Blood 2017; 129: 3314





ML-DS

ML-DS 2006

AIE

AI

haM

HA

AML-BFM 98

AIE

AI

haM

HAE

Maintenance

Day 0

21- 28

42- 54

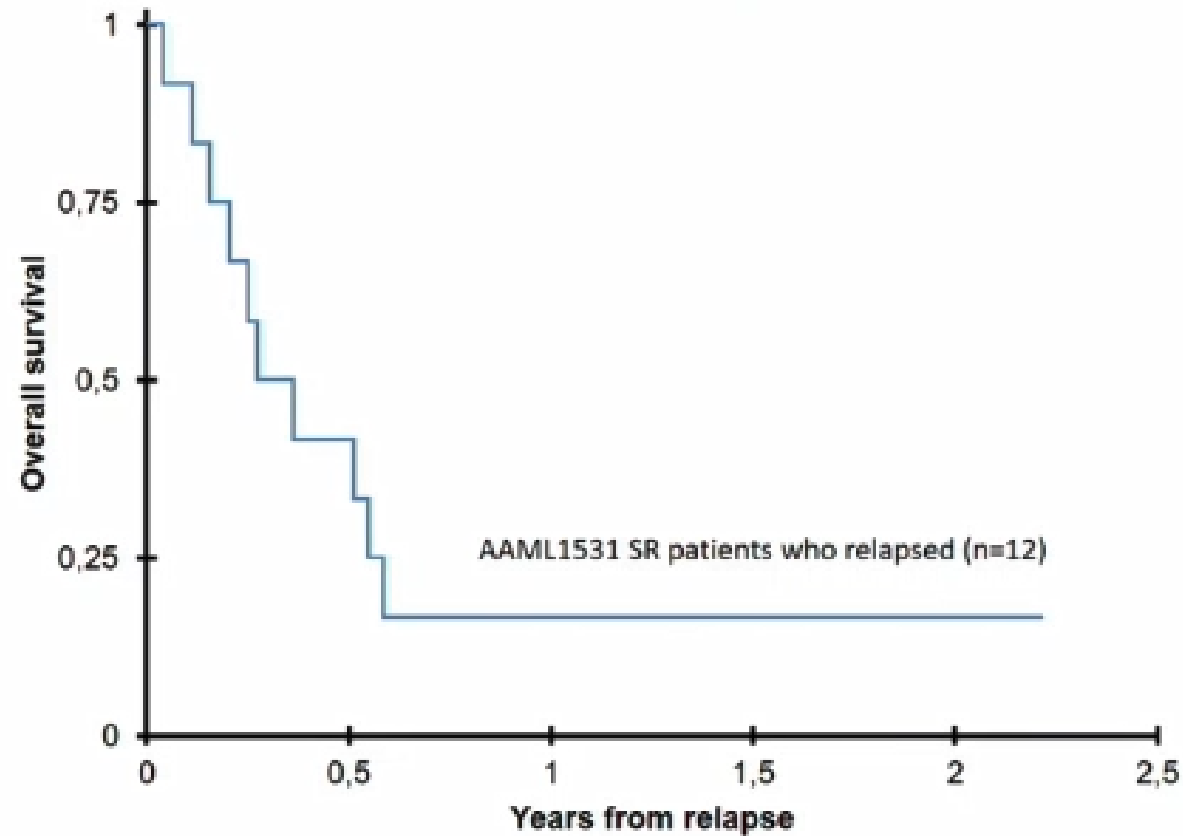
88

-112

-140

//

# Overall Survival of Standard Risk ML-DS Patients after Relapse (AAML1531)



Hitzler et al. Blood 2021

Group	Number at risk at year					
	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5
AAML1531 SR relapse patients	12	5	1	1	1	0

# Management of relapsed AML

## Summary

- Avoid relapse
  - Improve therapy and risk classification
    - MRD monitoring
    - Targeted therapy
    - Risk group adapted therapy
      - Identifying the right target and treatment
      - International subgroup therapy
    - Improvements in supportive care
    - Better SCT indications and regimens





## The outcomes of patients with *ETV6-RUNX1* and hyperdiploid B-acute lymphoblastic leukemia treated in the St. Jude Total XV and XVI studies

Katelyn Purvis, MD<sup>1</sup>; Yinmei Zhou, MS<sup>2</sup>; Seth E. Karol, MD<sup>1</sup>; Jeffrey E. Rubnitz, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Raul C. Ribeiro, MD<sup>1</sup>; Shawn Lee, MD<sup>3</sup>; Jun J. Yang, PhD<sup>3</sup>; Cheng Cheng, PhD<sup>2</sup>; Charles G. Mullighan, MBBS, MSc, MD<sup>4</sup>; Sima Jeha, MD<sup>1,5</sup>; Ching-Hon Pui, MD<sup>1,5</sup>; Hiroto Inaba, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>

Departments of <sup>1</sup>Oncology, <sup>2</sup>Biostatistics, <sup>3</sup>Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, <sup>4</sup>Pathology, and <sup>5</sup>Global Pediatric Medicine

# Background: Risk Classification

## NCI Risk Classification (Standard Risk)

- WBC  $<50 \times 10^9/L$  and Age 1-9.9 years

## St Jude Risk Classification (Low Risk)

- WBC  $<50 \times 10^9$  and Age 1-9.9 years
- Hyperdiploid with DNA Index  $\geq 1.16$
- *ETV6-RUNX1*
  
- No testicular involvement
- No CNS 3
- No *TCF3-PBX1*, *BCR-ABL1*, hypodiploid
- MRD Day 15  $<1\%$  and end of induction  $<0.01\%$

# Patient Demographics

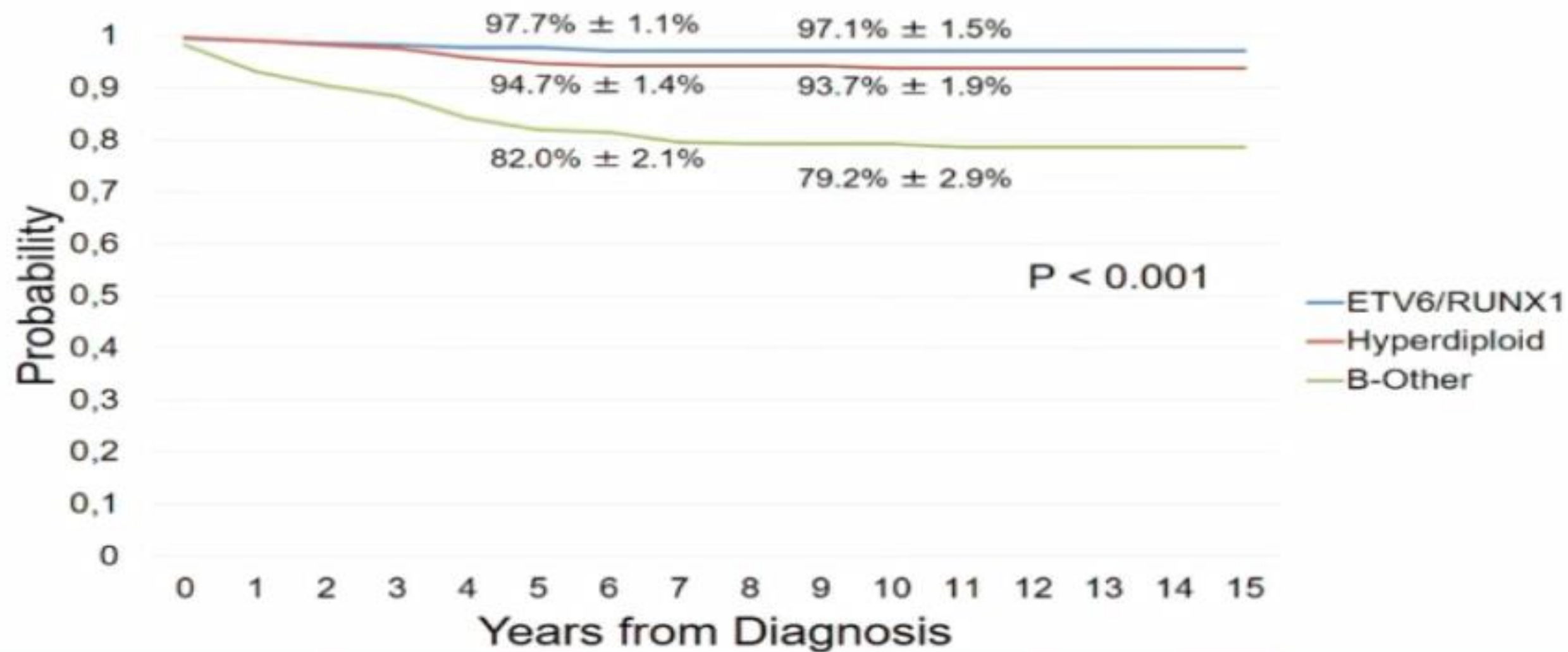
Clinical Features	<i>ETV6/RUNX1</i> (A) (N= 222)	Hyperdiploid (B) (N= 296)	Other B-ALL (C) (N=388)	A + B vs. C	A vs. B
<b>Age Groups</b> 1-10 years ≥10 years	211 (95%) 11 (5%)	256 (86.5%) 40 (13.5%)	224 (57.7%) 164 (42.3%)	<0.001	0.001
<b>Initial WBC</b> <50 x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L ≥50 x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L	192 (86.5%) 30 (13.5%)	276 (93.2%) 20 (6.8%)	284 (73.2%) 104 (26.8%)	<0.001	0.010
<b>Race</b> White Black Other	169 (76.1%) 39 (17.6%) 14 (6.3%)	260 (87.8%) 21 (7.1%) 15 (5.1%)	300 (77.3%) 65 (16.8%) 23 (5.9%)	0.075	<0.001
<b>CNS Status</b> CNS1 CNS2 CNS3 TLP with blasts	175 (78.9%) 34 (15.3%) 1 (0.5%) 12 (5.4%)	192 (64.9%) 90 (30.4%) 5 (1.7%) 9 (3.0%)	245 (63.1%) 111 (28.6%) 13 (3.4%) 19 (4.9%)	0.038	<0.001



# Patient Demographics

Clinical Features	<i>ETV6/RUNX1</i> (A) (N= 222)	Hyperdiploid (B) (N= 296)	Other B-ALL (C) (N=388)	A + B vs. C	A vs. B
<b>MRD day 15</b>					
<1%	210 (94.6%)	231 (78.0%)	251 (64.7%)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<0.001
≥1%	10 (4.5%)	60 (20.3%)	130 (33.5%)		
Not available	2 (0.9%)	5 (1.7%)	7 (1.8%)		
<b>MRD End of Induction</b>					
<0.01%	201 (90.5%)	267 (90.2%)	297 (76.5%)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.445
≥0.01% to <1%	20 (9.0%)	24 (8.1%)	65 (16.8%)		
≥1%	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.7%)	21 (5.4%)		
Not available	1 (0.5%)	3 (1.0%)	5 (1.3%)		
<b>NCI Risk Group</b>					
Standard risk	182 (82.0%)	237 (80.1%)	163 (42.0%)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.583
High risk	40 (18.0%)	59 (19.9%)	225 (58.0%)		
<b>St. Jude Risk Group</b>					
Low risk	195 (87.8%)	220 (74.3%)	85 (21.9%)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<0.001
Standard/high risk	27 (12.2%)	76 (25.7%)	303 (78.1%)		

# EFS by B-ALL Subtype



# Outcomes for *ETV6/RUNX1* by NCI and St. Jude Risk

	NCI Risk		<i>P</i>	St. Jude Risk		<i>P</i>
	SR (N=182)	HR (N=40)		LR (N=195)	SR (N=27)	
<b>5-year EFS</b>	<b>97.8 %±1.2%</b>	<b>97.5%±2.6%</b>	<b>0.917</b>	<b>97.4% ± 1.2%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.360</b>
<b>5-year OS</b>	<b>99.5%± 0.6%</b>	<b>97.5%±2.6%</b>	<b>0.511</b>	<b>99.0% ± 0.8%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.521</b>
<b>5-year CIN</b>	<b>1.1%± 0.8%</b>	<b>2.5%± 2.5%</b>	<b>0.733</b>	<b>1.6% ± 0.9%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.455</b>

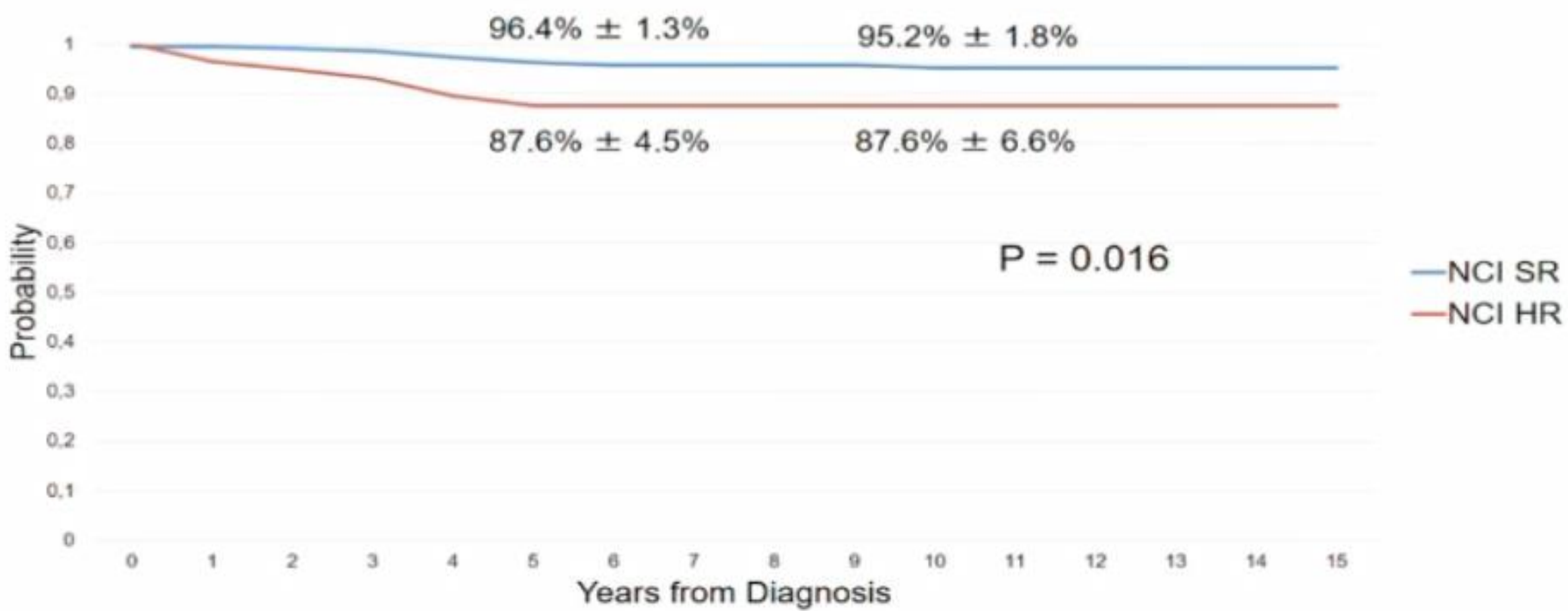


# Outcomes for Hyperdiploid by NCI and St. Jude Risk

	NCI Risk		<i>P</i>	St. Jude Risk		<i>P</i>
	NCI SR (N=237)	NCI HR (N=59)		SJ LR (N=220)	SJ SHR (N=76)	
<b>5-year EFS</b>	<b>96.4% ± 1.3%</b>	<b>87.6% ± 4.5%</b>	<b>0.016</b>	<b>96.1% ± 1.4%</b>	<b>90.6% ± 3.6%</b>	<b>0.133</b>
<b>5-year OS</b>	<b>99.2% ± 0.6%</b>	<b>94.9% ± 3.0%</b>	<b>0.023</b>	<b>99.1% ± 0.7%</b>	<b>96.1% ± 2.4%</b>	<b>0.079</b>
<b>5-year CIN</b>	<b>3.1% ± 1.2%</b>	<b>7.2% ± 3.5%</b>	<b>0.282</b>	<b>3.0% ± 1.2%</b>	<b>6.7% ± 2.9%</b>	<b>0.288</b>

NCI HR had worse EFS/OS than NCI SR patients

# EFS in Hyperdiploid Patients by NCI risk

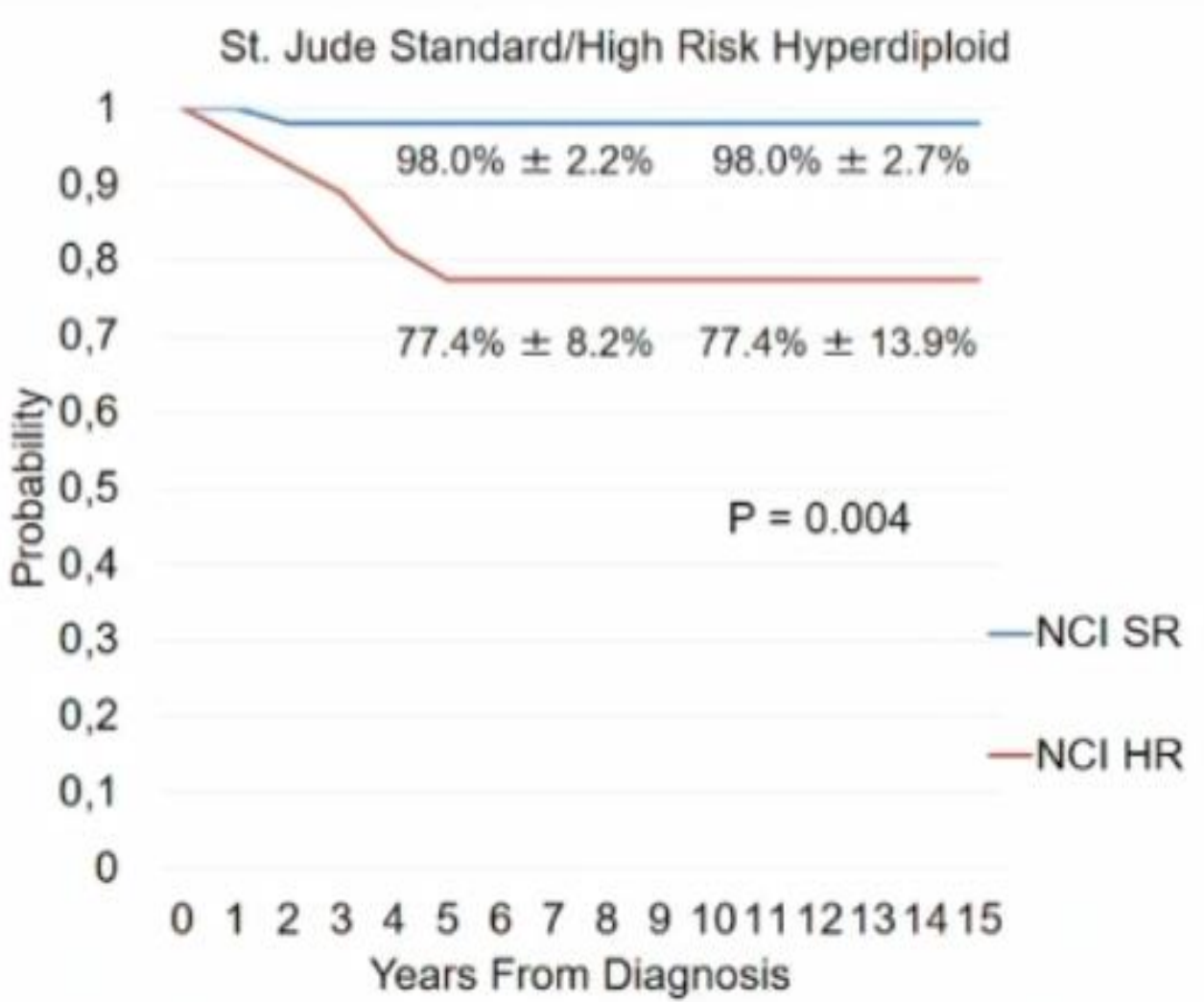
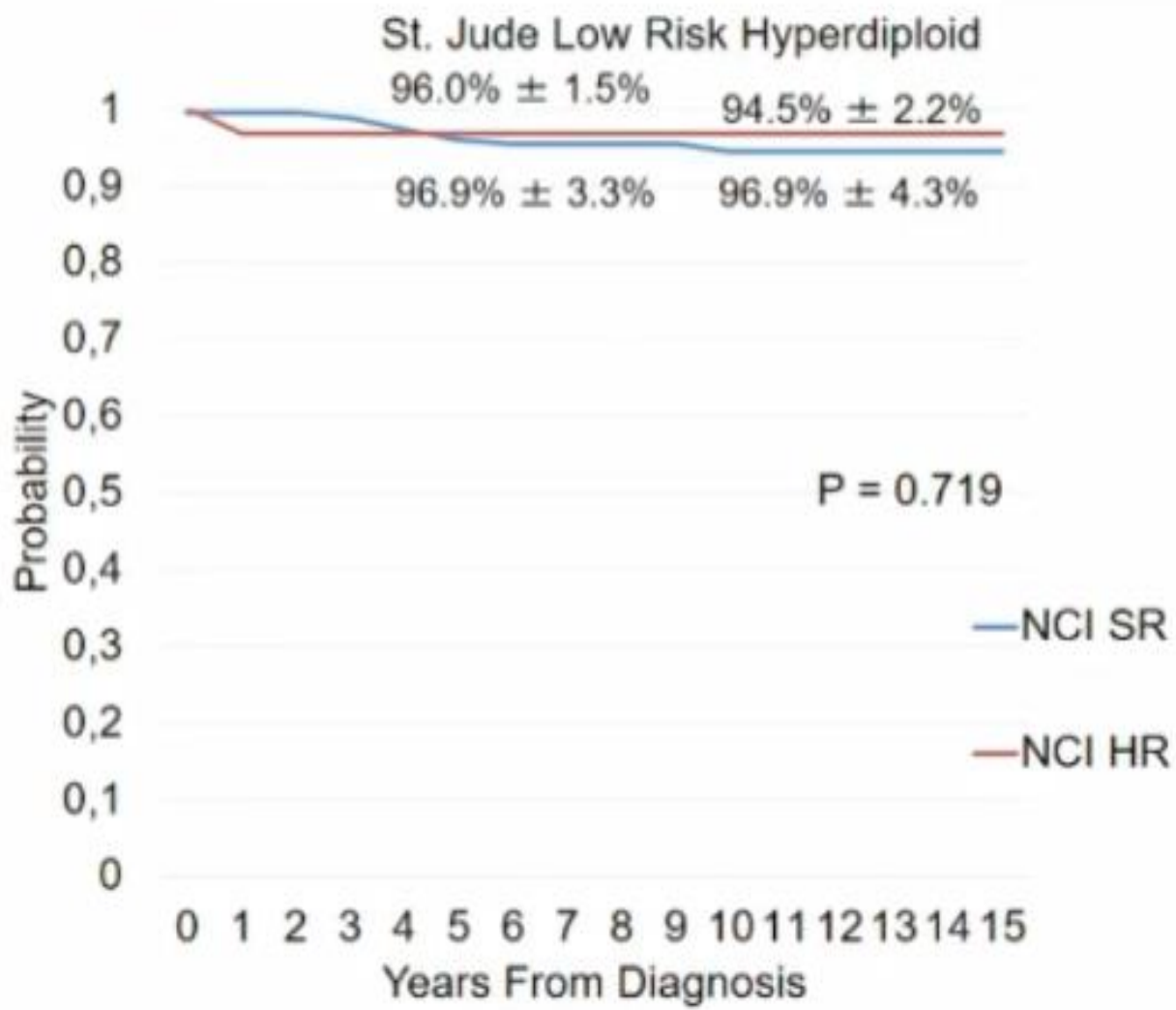


# Outcomes for Hyperdiploid by St. Jude and NCI Risk

	St. Jude LR		<i>P</i>	St. Jude SHR		<i>P</i>
	NCI SR (N=188)	NCI HR (N=32)		NCI SR (N=49)	NCI HR (N=27)	
<b>5-year EFS</b>	<b>96.0% ± 1.5%</b>	<b>96.9% ± 3.3%</b>	<b>0.719</b>	<b>98.0% ± 2.2%</b>	<b>77.4% ± 8.2%</b>	<b>0.004</b>
<b>5-year OS</b>	<b>99.5% ± 0.6%</b>	<b>96.9% ± 3.2%</b>	<b>0.156</b>	<b>98.0% ± 2.2%</b>	<b>92.6% ± 5.1%</b>	<b>0.244</b>
<b>5-year CIN</b>	<b>3.4% ± 1.4%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.249</b>	<b>2.0% ± 2.0%</b>	<b>15.2% ± 7.2%</b>	<b>0.034</b>



# EFS in Hyperdiploid Patients by SJ and NCI Risk



# Conclusions

- Compared with *ETV6/RUNX1*, patients with hyperdiploid have
  - Older age, low initial WBC, less African American
  - Poor initial response and more St. Jude SHR (no difference in NCI risk)
- Contemporary MRD-directed therapy provided excellent outcomes in NCI HR and SJ LR patients with a low-intensity regimen
  - 37 of 40 (93%) *ETV6-RUNX1* patients
  - 32 of 59 (54%) hyperdiploid patients
- Hyperdiploid patients with both NCI HR and SJ S/HR features require new therapeutic approach to improve the outcomes

iAMP21 Predicts Poor Outcomes in B-Acute Lymphoblastic  
Leukemia: A Report From the Children's Oncology Group  
AALL1131

## **Faculty Disclosure**

**Nothing to Disclose**





# Background – Intrachromosomal Amplification of Chromosome 21 (iAMP21)

- iAMP21 is defined as multiple copies of RUNX1 on chromosome 21
- 2% of children and young adults with B-ALL have iAMP21
- iAMP21 is associated with a high risk of relapse, and this risk is higher for patients treated with lower intensity regimens
- NCI Standard Risk (SR) and High Risk (HR) patients with B-ALL and iAMP21 treated on COG AALL0331 and COG AALL0232, respectively, had a 4 year event free survival (EFS) of  $72.7\% \pm 5.8\%$  (Heerema, 2013)
- iAMP21, identified by central fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH) review, was defined on this study as at least 4 copies of RUNX1 on a single chromosome
- SR and HR patients with iAMP21 were assigned to the Very High Risk (VHR) Arms of COG AALL1131



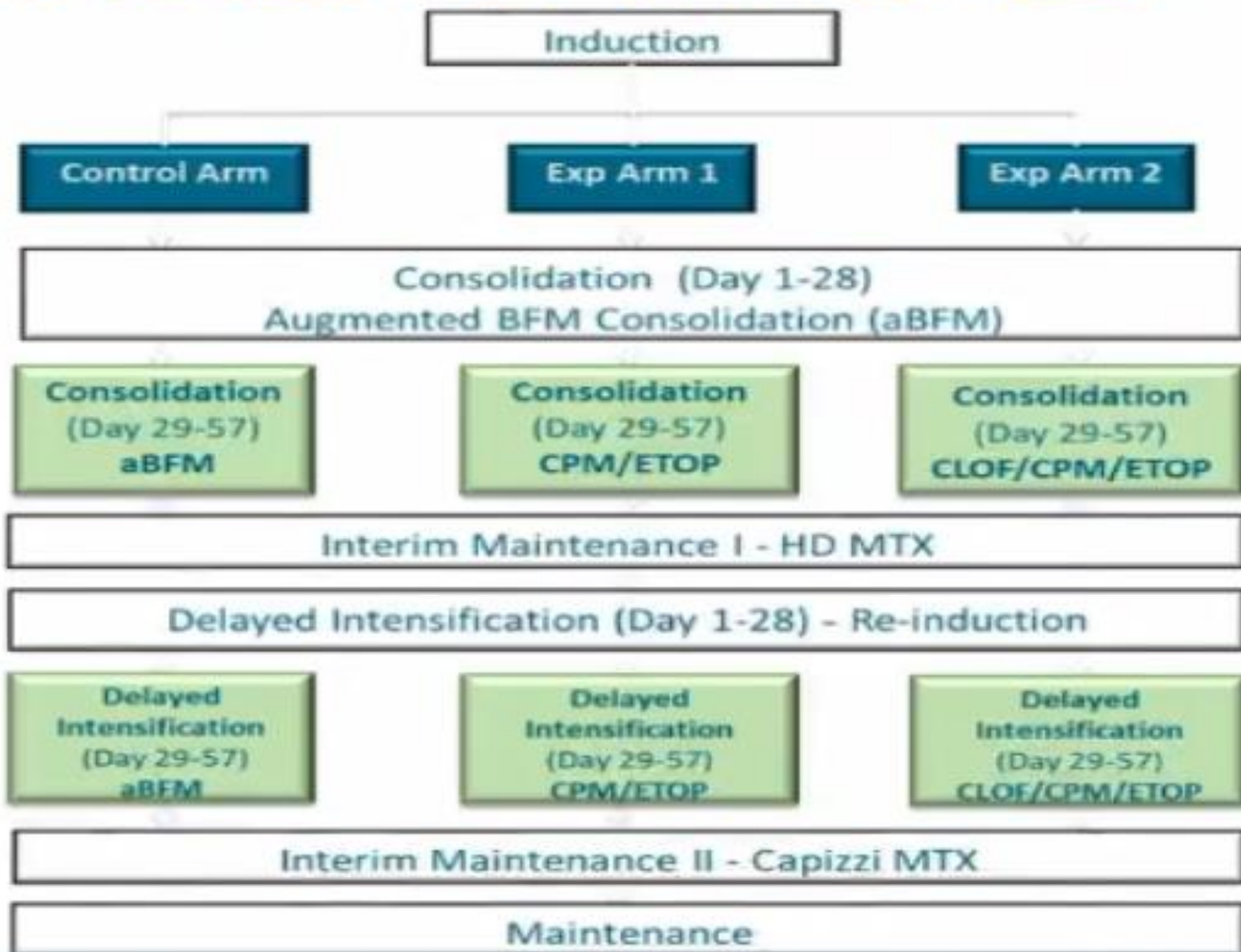
# Eligibility – Post-Induction COG AALL1131 VHR B-ALL

- 1 - 30 years of age with newly diagnosed B-ALL who at the completion of Induction therapy are identified as VHR
- Induction was completed on COG AALL0932 for SR patients and COG AALL1131 for HR patients
- VHR criteria include any of the following:
  - $\geq 13$  years of age
  - *KMT2A* rearrangements
  - **iAMP21**
  - Hypodiploidy ( $< 44$  chromosomes/DNA index  $< 0.81$ )
  - Central nervous system disease (CNS3)
  - End of Induction (EOI) MRD positive  $\geq 0.01\%$  (and no *ETV6-RUNX1* or double trisomies 4+10 for NCI SR patients)
  - Induction Failure -  $>25\%$  blasts



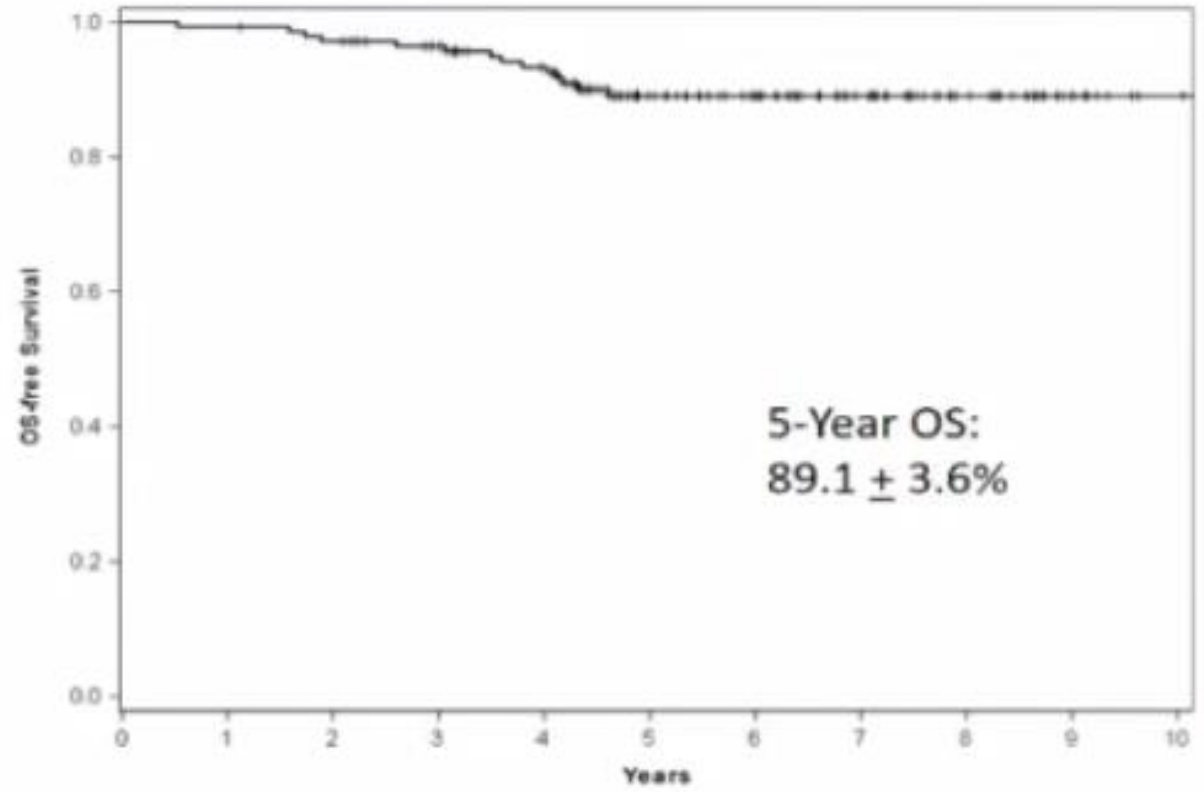
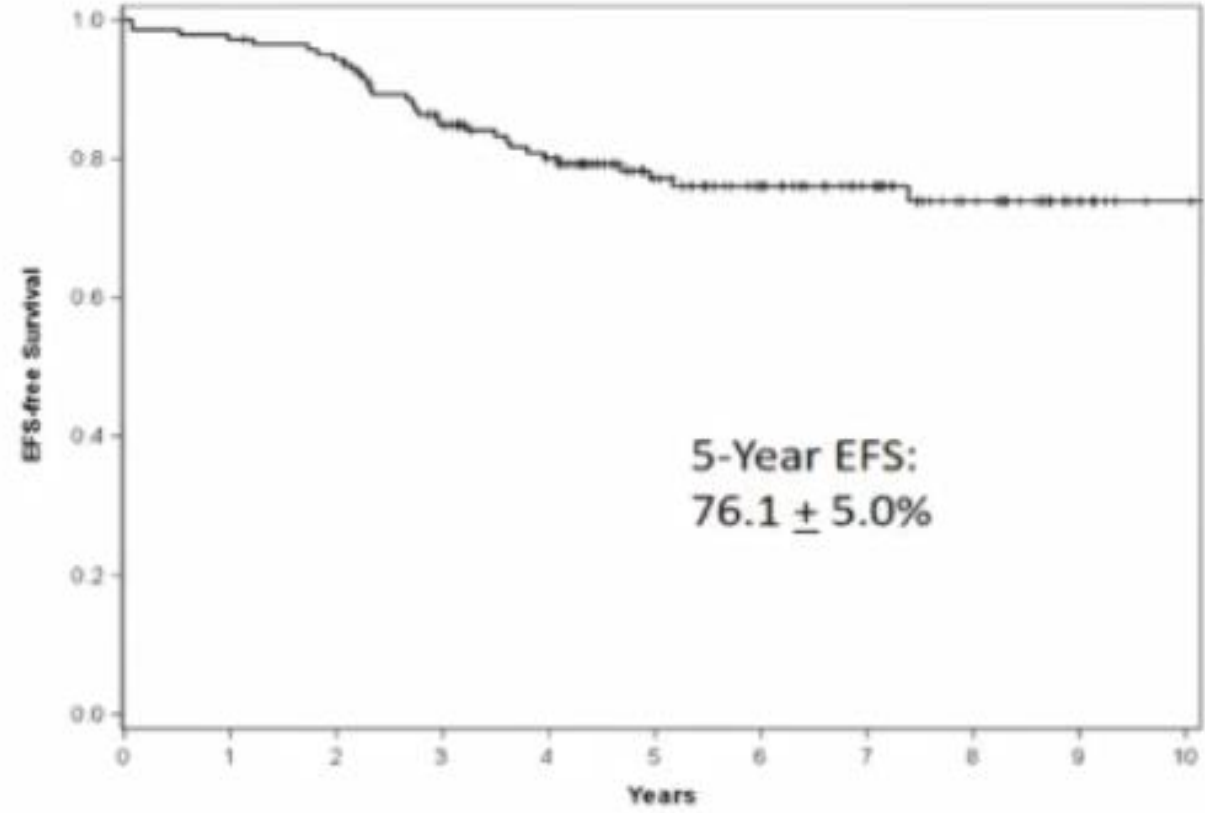


# Schema – COG AALL1131 VHR B-ALL



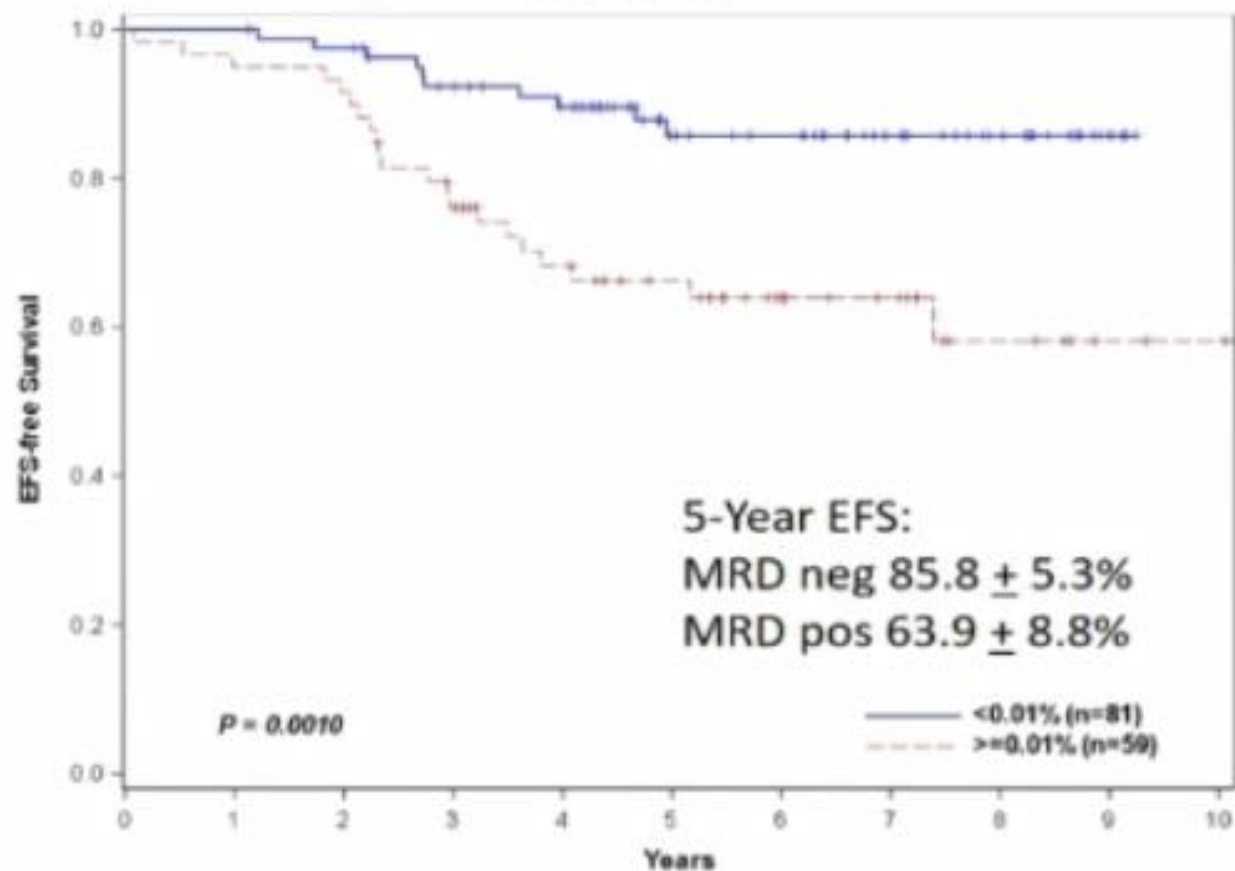


# Survival – NCI SR

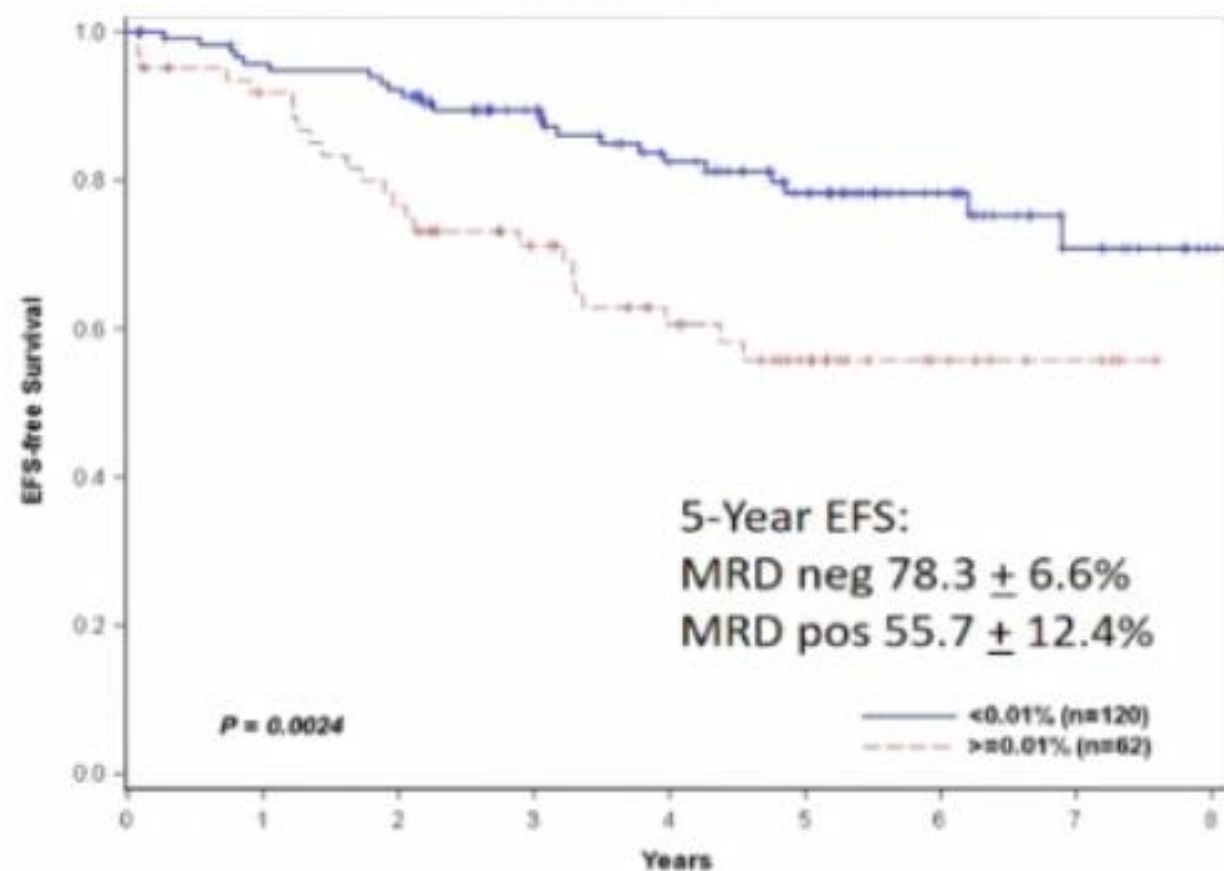


# Survival – NCI SR and HR Based on EOI MRD

## NCI SR



## NCI HR



## COG AALL1131 – iAMP21 B-ALL Conclusion



- Outcomes remain inferior for patients with NCI SR and HR B-ALL and iAMP21
- Patients with iAMP21 who are EOI MRD-positive have significantly inferior EFS, warranting new treatment approaches for these patients
- Since most patients were not randomized post-induction due to closure of the VHR arms of COG AALL1131, it is not possible to compare outcomes based on treatment regimen





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