

# Advances in ALL (2008-2017)

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- **Pediatric or pediatric like approaches in young/adults**
- **MRD driven treatment in either Ph+ or Ph- ALL**
- **Different approaches for other subtypes (Ph like ALL)**
- **New MoAbs (RTX, Blina and Ino)**
- **CAR-T cells**

Novità dall'EHA >> [ Leucemie acute linfoidi ]  
ALL

Relatore: R. FOÀ

27-28 ottobre 2008

Borgo S. Luigi – Monteriggioni (Siena)

1. *Treatment of adults with newly diagnosed ALL with multiple doses of intravenous pegylated asparaginase in an intensified pediatric regimen. P. Srivastava, Los Angeles*

- Aim: Assess feasibility of using an intensive pediatric regimen containing multiple doses of PEG-ASP in adults with newly-diagnosed ALL
- Results: Administration of multiple doses of PEG-ASP IV to adults (ages 19-57 years) in an intensified BFM-based pediatric-like strategy is feasible and provides long term asparagine depletion.

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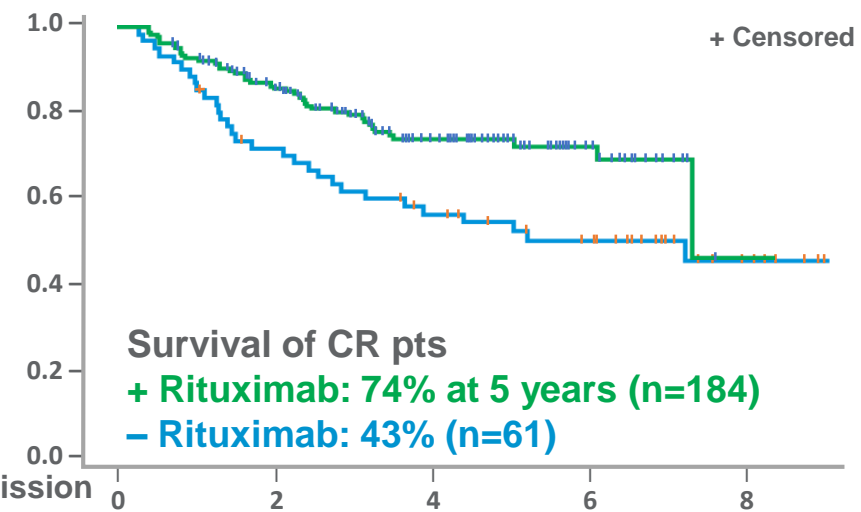
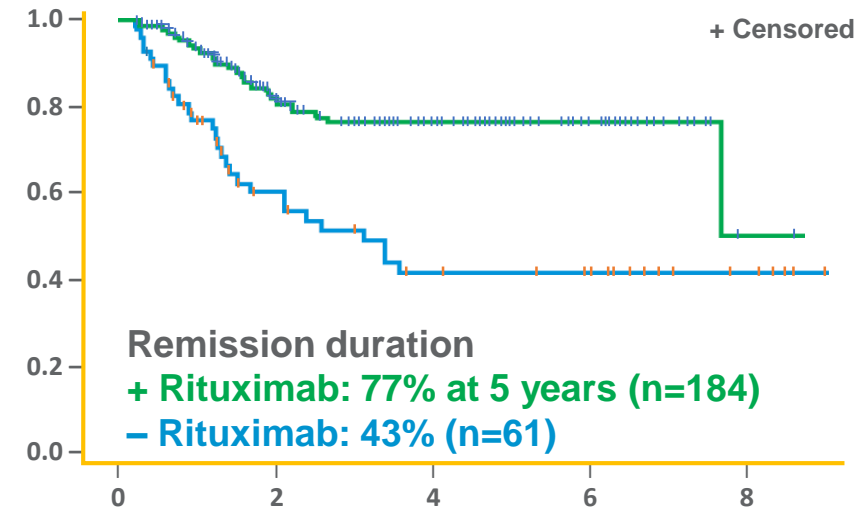
INTERIM ANALYSIS OF GIMEMA LAL1205.  
CONCLUSIONS I

- Feasible with overall good compliance, also in old(er) patients
- No deaths
- Together with Imatinib protocol for patients >60 yrs, over 70 Ph+ ALL treated with a TK inhibitor alone as 1<sup>st</sup> line treatment with no deaths in induction
- 100% HCR, with early HCR achievement in most patients (94.12%)
- Marked and rapid debulking of disease documented by immunophenotypic and molecular monitoring
- Evidence of immunophenotypic and molecular negativity

# Results of Induction Therapy ± Rituximab in CD20+ SR ALL: GMALL, 07/2003

N=264		
Characteristics	- R	+ R
Patients (n)	66	198
Median age (years)	31	34
<b>Results (%)</b>		
CR	92	93
MoICR, week 16	62	89
PR/failure	5	3
Death in induction	3	5

2009 – Foà, Gubbio



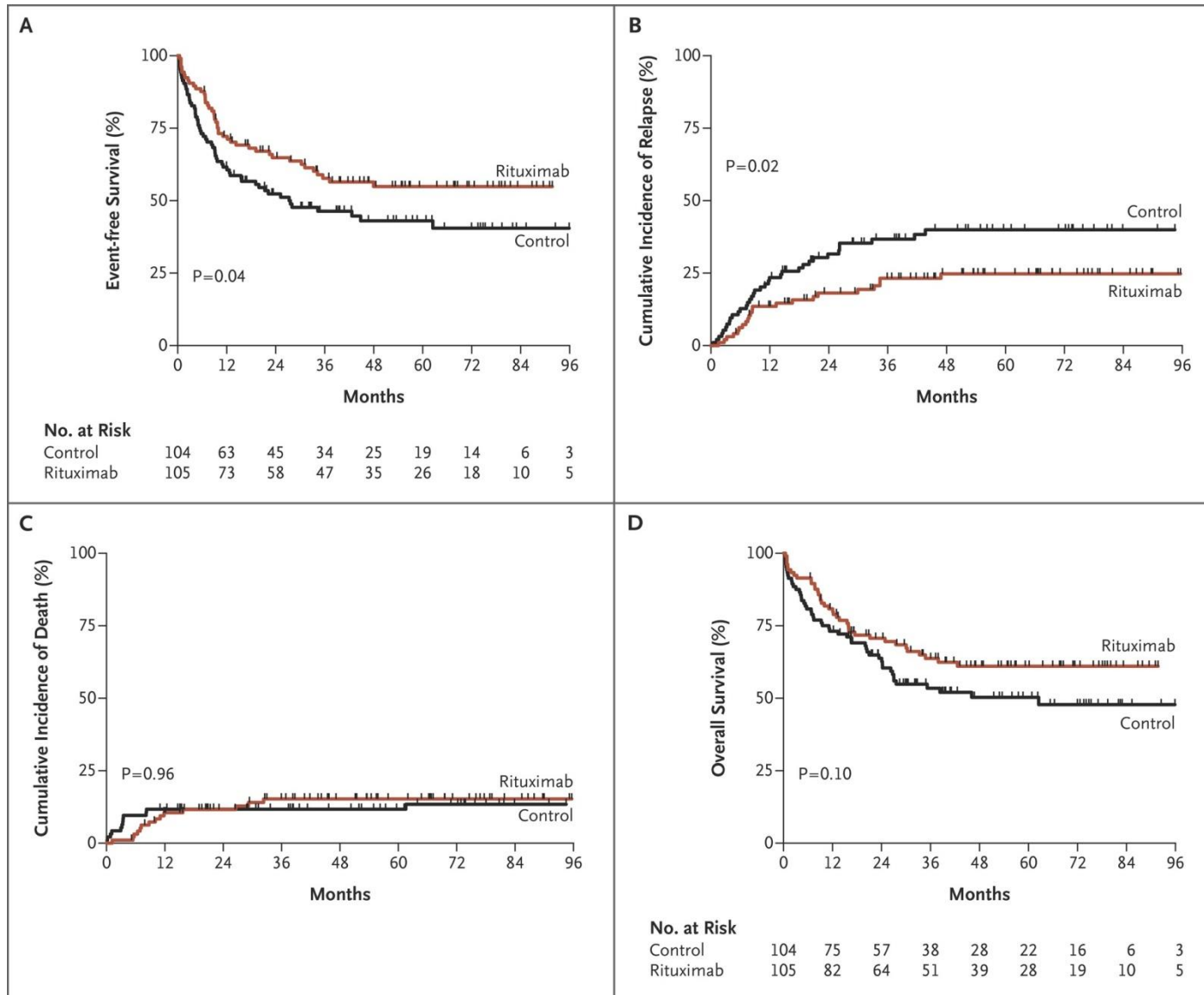
➤ Prospettico randomizzato (GRAAL)

➤ 209 pz

➤ CD20 blast positivity >20%

➤ 16-18 RTX infusions

➤ 2-y EFS 65% vs 52%



## Prognostic Significance of MRD in Adults with Ph-negative ALL Clinical Trials **Without Therapeutic Consequences**

Author	Year	Group	Method	N	Prognostic Model	DFS
Holowiecki	2008	PALG	Flow	115 SR & HR	< 10 <sup>-3</sup> (4 wks)	61%
					> 10 <sup>-3</sup> (4 wks)	17%
Patel*	2010	UKALL	PCR	161 B-lin SR & HR	Neg or <10 <sup>-4</sup> wk10*	71%
					>10 <sup>-4</sup> wk 10*	15%
Beldjord	2009	GRAALL	PCR	212 SR & HR	Neg or <10 <sup>-4</sup> wk6	80%
					>10 <sup>-4</sup> wk6	40%

\* Prognostic significance for SR patients, or patients randomised to autologous SCT, but not for those allocated to allogeneic SCT. Prognostic significance also seen in other time-points (wk 5, wk 17, 6-9 mo.)

# SCT for MRD positivity: worse if $\geq 10^{-3}$

5<sup>th</sup> EDITION

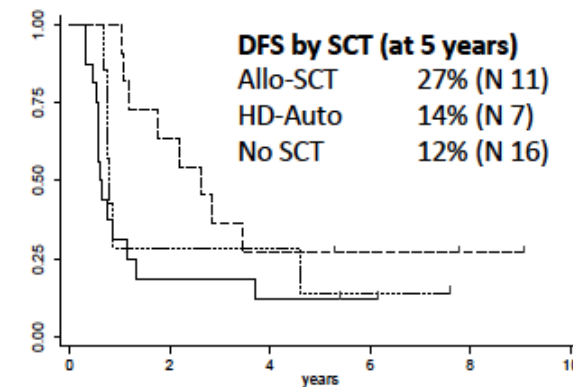
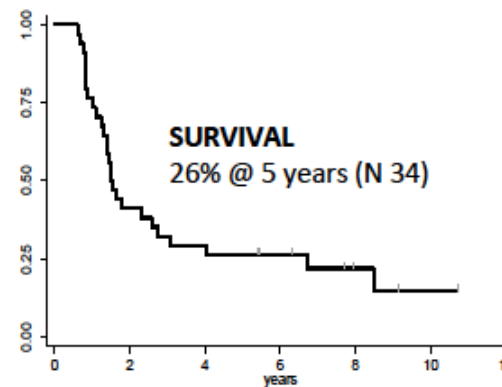
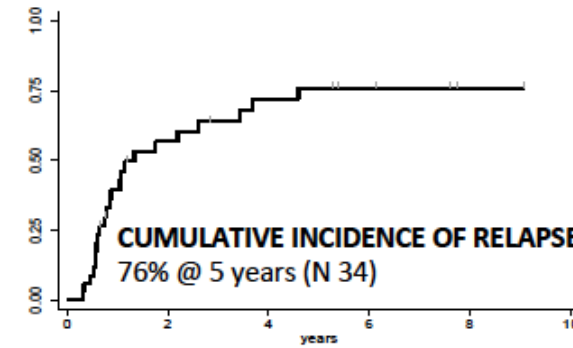
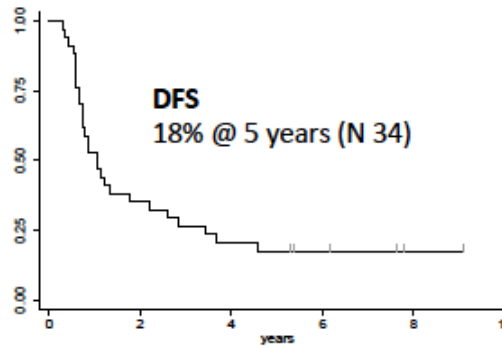
Highlights from EHA

2010 – Ferrara, Stresa

a) *GOEKBUGET et al, Blood 2012 [in press]*

	N	Median time from MRD failure to hematological relapse (without SCT)
MRD failure (unselected)	63	7.6 mos.
MRD failure ( $>10^{-3}$ )	41	4.9 mos.

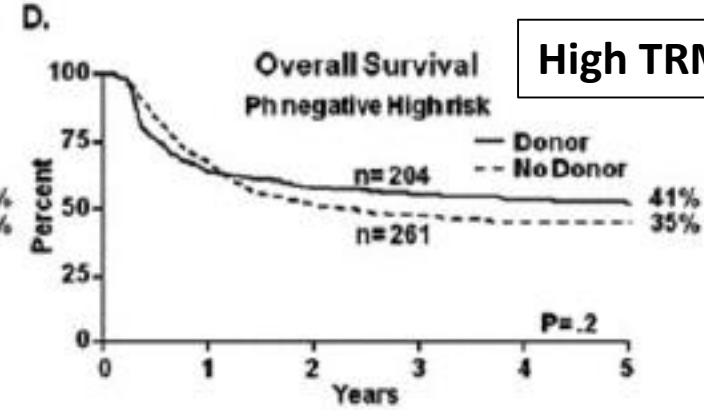
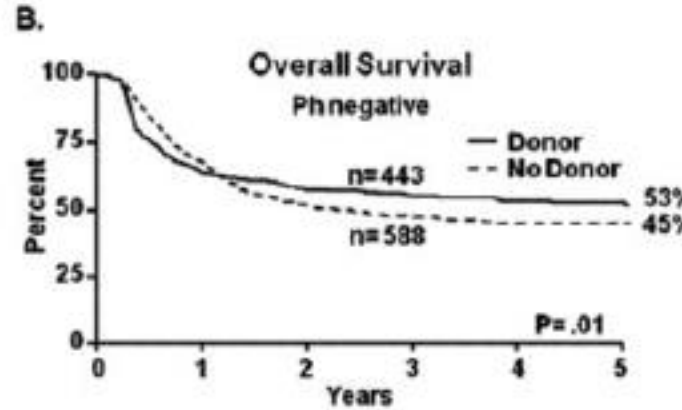
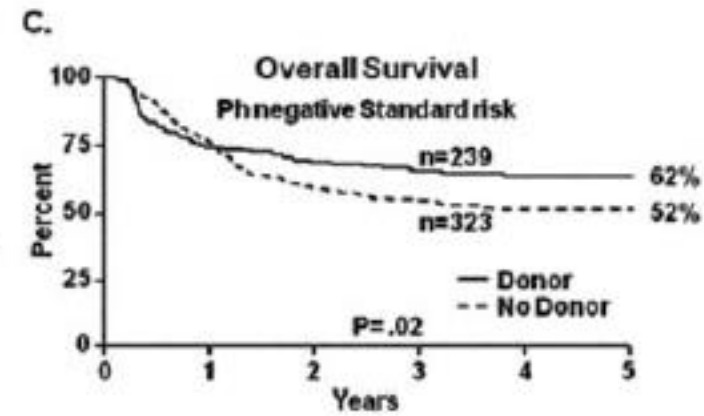
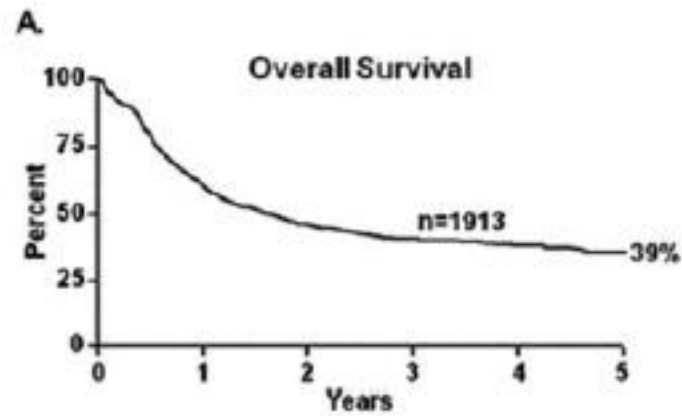
b) *BASSAN et al, Blood 2009 [updated]\**  
*\*Ph-, age  $\geq 18$  years, only B-lineage, MRD wk 10-22*



# The MRC/ECOG international ALL Trial

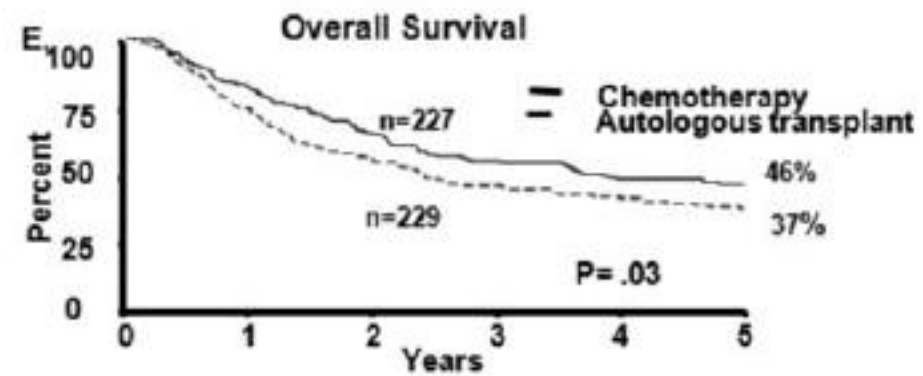
London

2011 – Ferrara,  
Gubbio



High TRM

Risk factors:  
  
Age > 35  
WBC count  
Response to IND



J. Rowe & C. Ganzel



# Hot questions

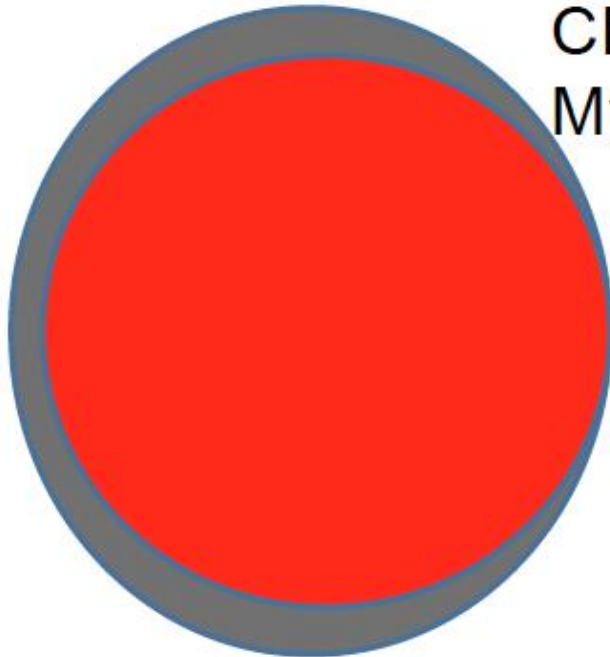
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- Which patients with ALL should receive allo-SCT in CR1 ?
- Should post-CR therapy be driven by MRD results ?
- Are there clinically useful new biologic markers (apart from BCR/ABL) ?

## Early T precursor ALL

2012 – Ferrara  
Matera

CD1a neg  
CD8 neg  
CD5 weak or neg  
MyAg +



**15 % of T-ALL**  
**Poor prognosis**

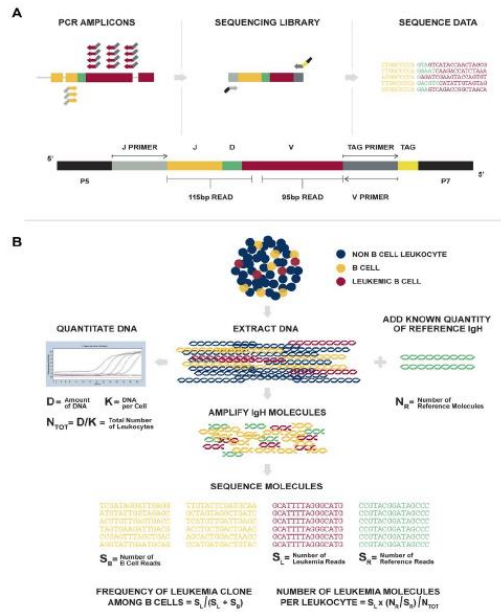
# Hot questions

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- Should patients with early T-ALL receive a different therapy ?
- Which treatment (if any) for relapsed patients with high levels of MRD before and/or allo-SCT ?
- Should we consider an age limit for SCT in high risk ALL (Ph+ or Ph-) ?

# 2013 – Ferrara

## COMPARISON OF NEXT-GENERATION SEQUENCING AND ASO-PCR METHODS FOR MRD DETECTION IN ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA



Faham M et al, Blood 2012

Malnassy et al, et al. EHA 2013, Abst S537

Table 2. Examples of molecular biomarkers in ALL.

Type of molecular biomarker	Examples in ALL
Diagnostic and prognostic	<i>BCR-ABL1</i> ← <i>ETV6-RUNX1</i> ← <i>MLL</i> -rearrangement <i>TCF3</i> -rearrangement <i>IKZF1</i> deletions ← <i>BCR-ABL1</i> -like gene expression signature <i>JAK2</i> mutations and translocations ← deregulated <i>CRLF2</i> expression
Surrogate response	Minimal residual disease
Predictive (for selecting drugs)	<i>BCR-ABL1</i> and mutation status (imatinib, dasatinib, nilotinib, ponatinib) <i>FLT3</i> expression levels and mutation status (midostaurin, lestaurtinib, sunitinib) ← <i>JAK2</i> mutations and translocations (ruxolitinib) ← RAS-MEK pathway activating mutations (selumetinib, trametinib) ←
Pharmacodynamic (for monitoring response)	<i>pABL1</i> , <i>pCRKL</i> (ABL1 tyrosine kinase inhibitors) <i>pFLT3</i> (FLT3 inhibitors) <i>pSTAT5</i> (JAK inhibitors) <i>pPERK</i> (MEK inhibitors)
Pharmacokinetic	<i>TPMT</i>

den Boer ML, EHA 2013, Educational Program

# HOT QUESTIONS

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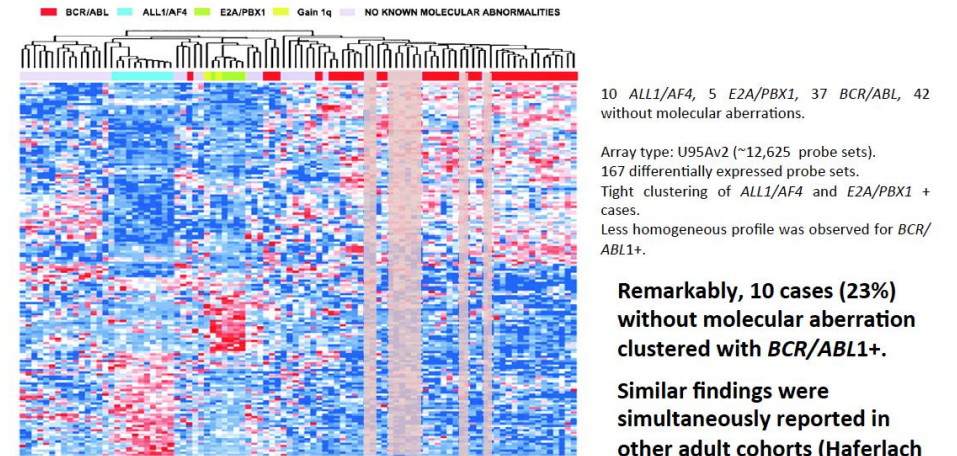
- Which are the most promising new drugs in ALL ?
- Will NGS be the future standard for MRD ?
- What about allo-SCT in Ph ALL ?

## Ph-like ALL

- Similar gene expression profile to Ph+ ALL
- Peak incidence in young adults
  - 12% (<15 years)
  - 20.6% (16-20 years)
  - 27.4% (21-39 years)
- Poor prognosis
- Actionable genetic lesions
  - Ruxolitinib, dasatinib, crizotinib

2014 – Ferrara

## Gene expression profile of 94 B-ALL enrolled in the GIMEMA 0496 protocol



Chiaretti S et al. Clin Cancer Res 2005;11:7209-7219

Remarkably, 10 cases (23%) without molecular aberration clustered with *BCR/ABL1+*.

Similar findings were simultaneously reported in other adult cohorts (Haferlach et al, Blood 2005).

## AALL1131: Study Design



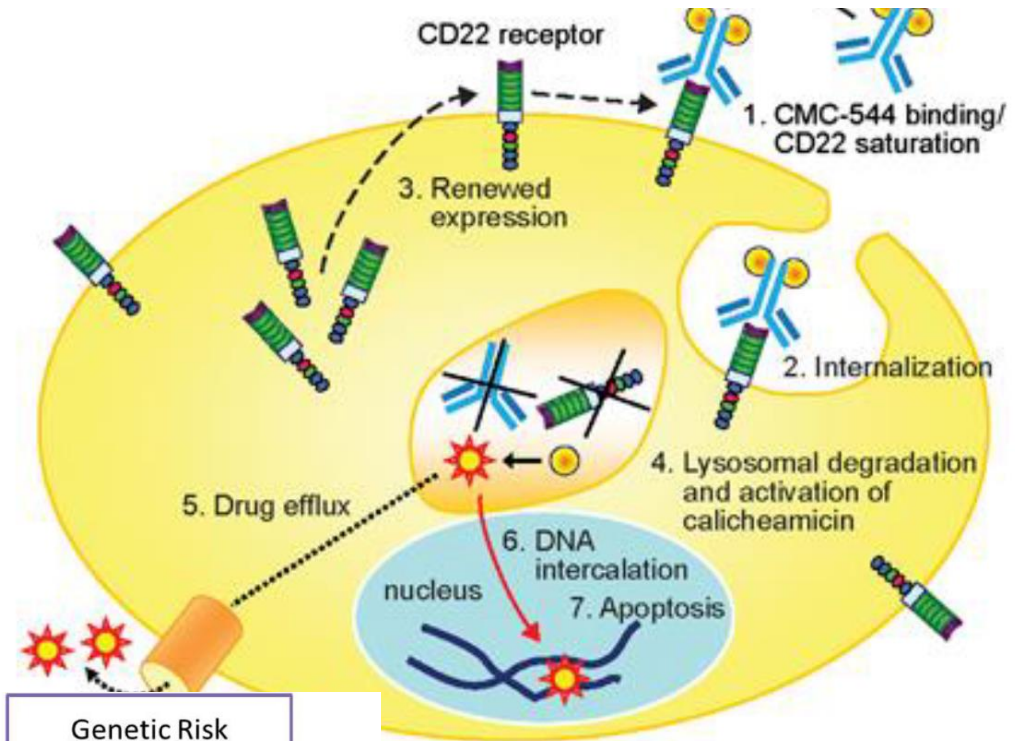
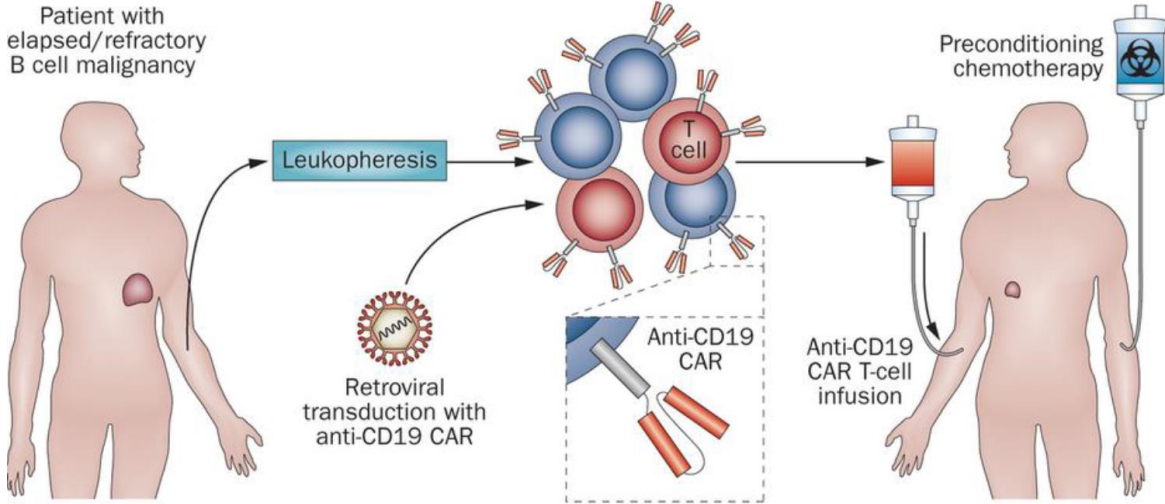
HR = high-risk; SR = standard-risk; LDA = low-density microarray;  
MBFM = modified Berlin-Frankfurt-Munster; IMHDM = interim maintenance high-dose methotrexate.  
COG, 2016.

## QUESTIONS

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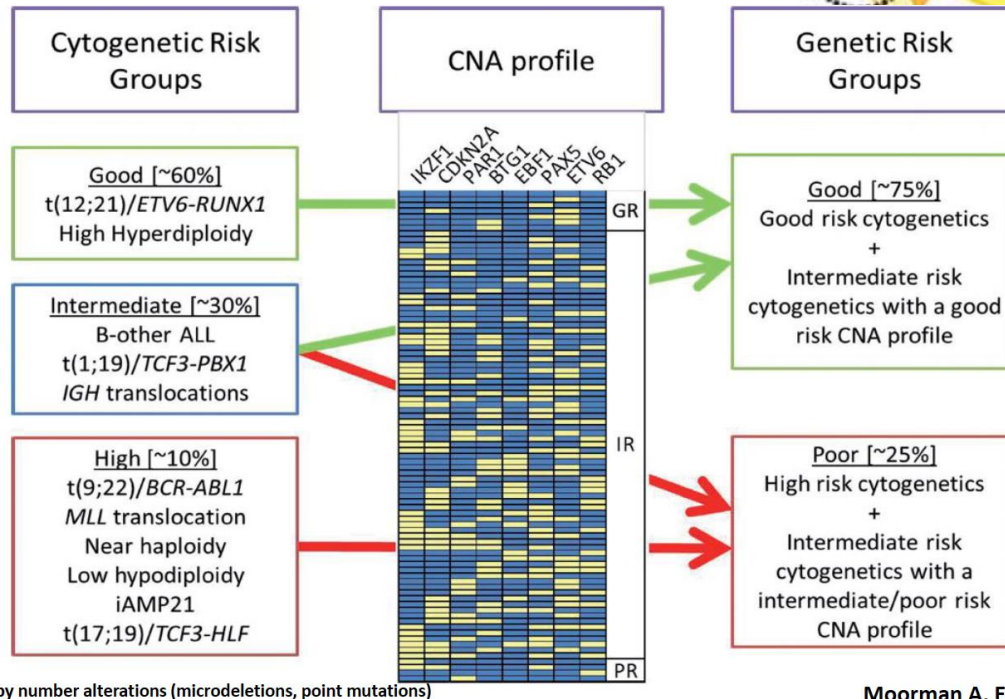
- 1) Should Ph-like ALL considered as a separate entity in the clinics?
- 2) Should IKZ1 mutations be considered in the prognostic stratification of ALL ?
- 3) Blinatumumab in ALL: - 1° or subsequent relapse ?  
- treatment of MRD ?  
- 1° line in very high risk patients
- 4) Has Ponatinib a role in the treatment of Ph+ ALL ?

**T Cells Engineered with a Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) Targeting CD19 Have Long Term Persistence and Induce Durable Remissions in Relapsed, Refractory ALL.**

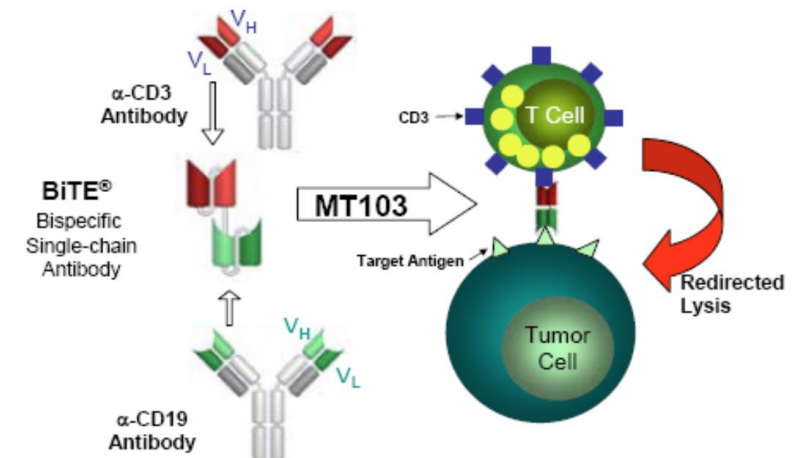


**OPEN-LABEL, SINGLE-ARM, MULTICENTER CONFIRMATORY PHASE 2 STUDY OF THE BiTE® ANTIBODY BLINATUMOMAB IN PATIENTS WITH RELAPSED/REFRACTORY B-PRECURSOR ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKAEMIA**

**2015 – Ferrara**



Moorman A, EHA, 2015





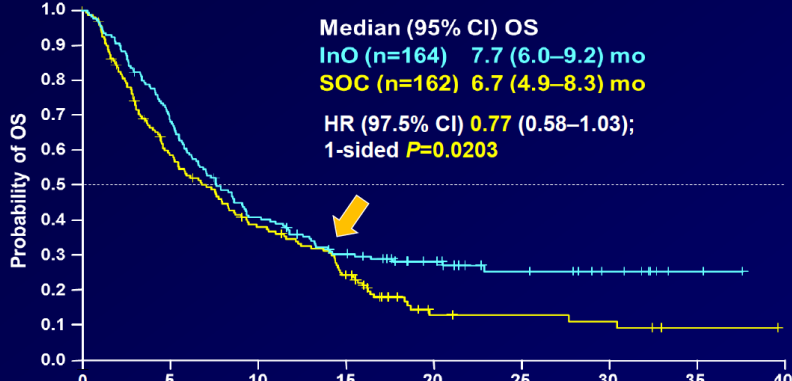
## QUESTIONS

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- **Is it time for a new integrated diagnostic/prognostic classification (MOL/GEN BASED) in ALL (either for children or adults) ?**
- **Which is the role of new monoclonal antibodies (Blinatumomab, Inotuzumab-GO) in the treatment of ALL ?**
- **Which patients should receive CART therapy ?**

# Overall Survival

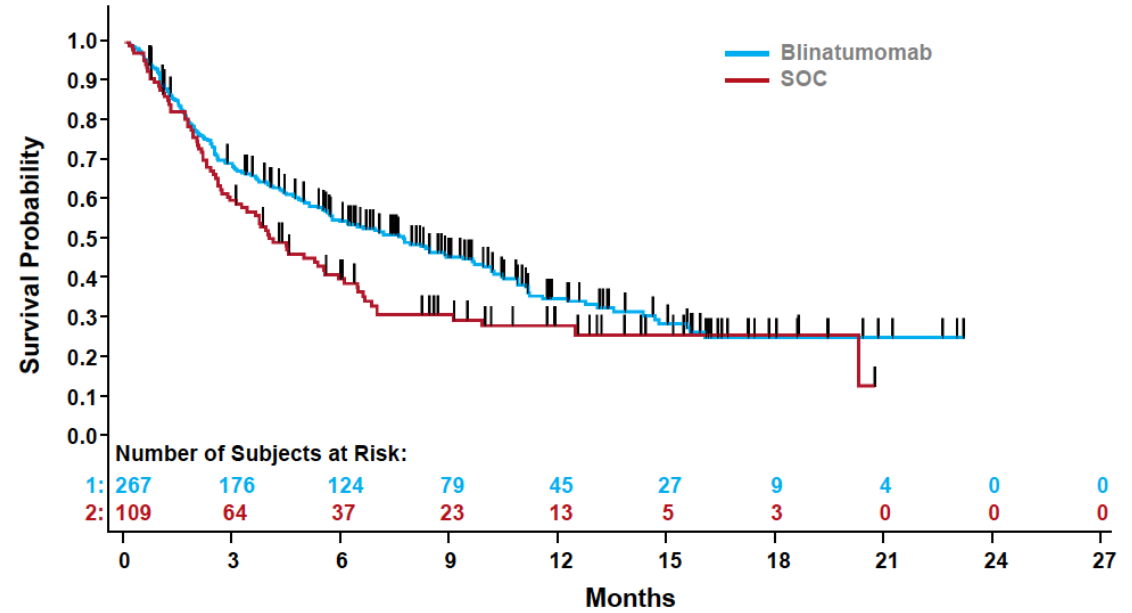
Median (95% CI) OS  
**InO (n=164) 7.7 (6.0–9.2) mo**  
**SOC (n=162) 6.7 (4.9–8.3) mo**  
 HR (97.5% CI) **0.77 (0.58–1.03)**;  
 1-sided **P=0.0203**



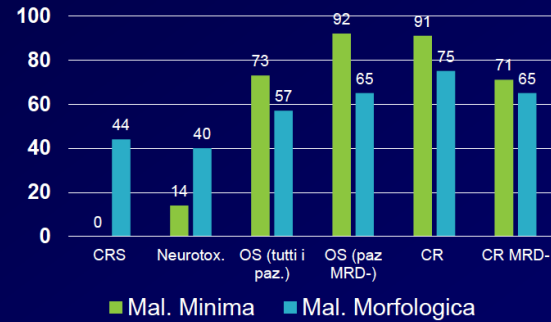
Patients At Risk, n	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40
InO	164	112	62	41	24	13	8	2	0
SOC	162	85	51	30	6	5	4	1	0

- Data appeared to depart from proportional hazards assumption
- 2-yr survival probability higher with InO (23% [95% CI: 16–30] vs 10% [5–16])

# Overall Survival (as Treated)



## IMPACT OF DISEASE BURDEN ON LONG-TERM OUTCOME OF CD19-TARGETED CAR MODIFIED T CELLS IN ADULT PATIENTS WITH RELAPSED B-ALL



2016 – Ferrara

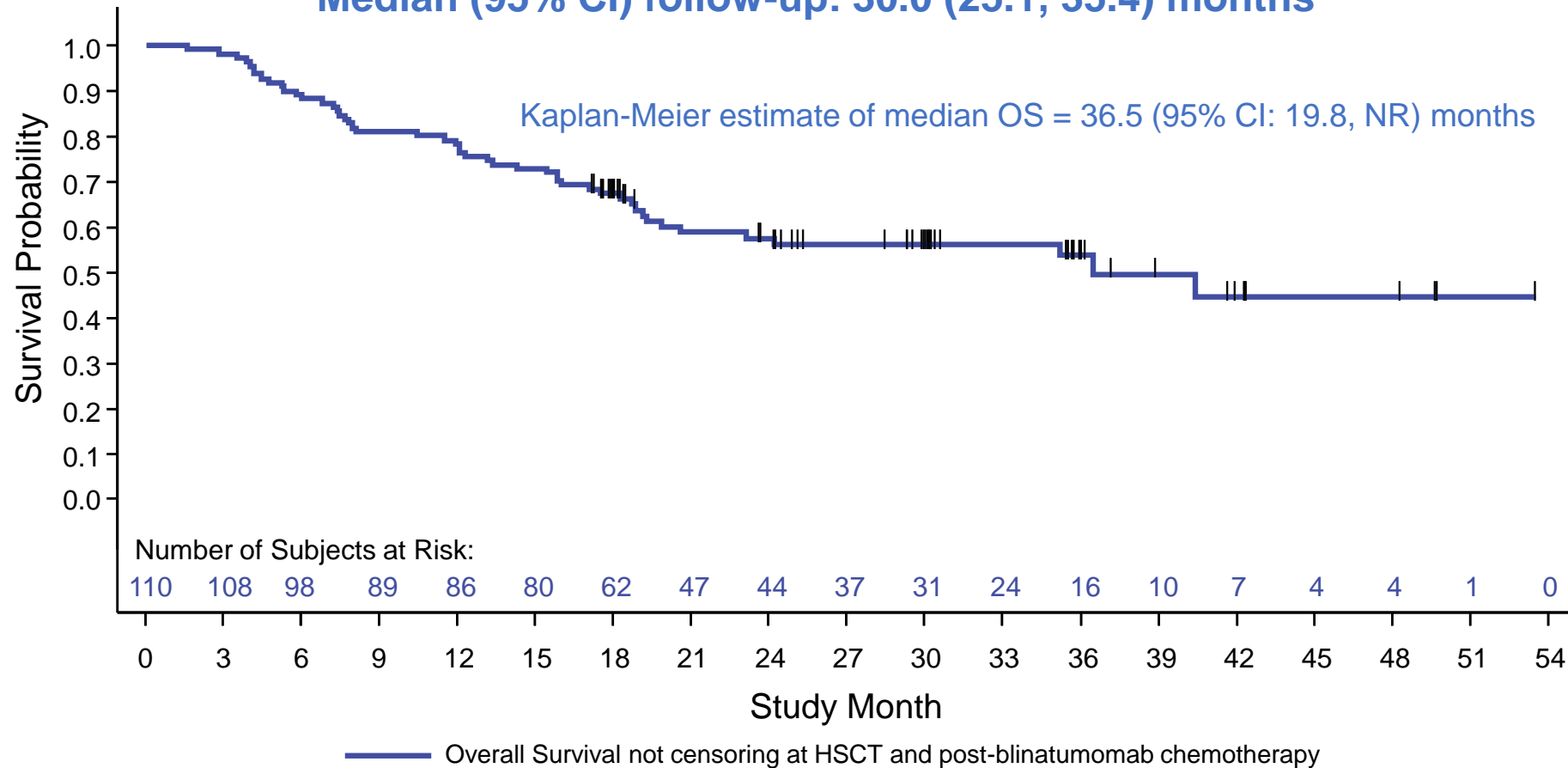
# BLINA for MRD+ pts.

## Overall Survival

Median age: 45 (18-76) yrs

Philadelphia-negative patients in hematologic CR

Median (95% CI) follow-up: 30.0 (25.1, 35.4) months



NR = not reached.

- **Ritenete i risultati dello studio Inno-Vate convincenti per la rapida introduzione di Inotuzumab-Ozogamicin nella pratica clinica ?**
- **Qual è il timing ideale dell'impiego di Blinatumomab nella ALL ?**
- **Quale età e quali comorbidità vanno considerate nell'approccio "true pediatric" o "pediatric-like" nella ALL ?**

# Highlights from EHA 2016

## *Gruppo lavoro LAL*



**Felicetto Ferrara**  
**Giovanni Pizzolo**  
**Enrico Attingenti**  
**Marinella Veltroni**  
**Sabina Chiaretti**  
**Paola Ursoleo**  
**Anna Rita Guarini**  
**Michela Ansuinelli**  
**Andrea Camera**  
**Federica Barone**  
**Arianna Fani**  
**Catello Califano**  
**(Angelo Michele Carella)**

# Topics

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- **European Working Group on ALL (EWALL) “Adult ALL first line therapy: Major results and future approaches of national ALL study groups”**
  - GRAAL - Hervet Dombret
  - GIMEMA - Sabina Chiaretti
  - UKALL - Adele Fielding
  - GMALL - Nicola Goekbuget
- Novel treatments:
  - focus on CAR-T
  - updates on blinatumomab and inotuzumab treatment

# GRAALL-2014 trial options

- Dose adaptations:
  - Reduce L-asparaginase and steroids doses in patients aged  $\geq 45$  years.
  - Higher MTX dose ( $5 \text{ g/m}^2$ ) in those aged  $< 45$  years.
- CNS prophylaxis:
  - No CNS irradiation, with more triple ITs.
- L-asparaginase Tx monitoring:
  - L-aspa immunization and activity to guide switch from *E. Coli* asparaginase to erwiniase.
- Rapid centralized diagnosis of actionable Ph-like BCP-ALL cases.
- New agents front-line in high-risk patients:
  - **Blinatumomab** in BCP-ALL patients (QUEST Phase 2 study)
  - **Nelarabine** in T-ALL patients (ATRIALL Phase 2 study)
- Allogeneic SCT in first CR restricted to poor early MRD responders.
- Allow enrollment of patients aged 55y+ into innovative older ALL trials
  - EWALL-INO
  - EWALL-BOLD

# UKALL: moving forward

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UKALL14

## **Aim 1B. (precursor-B ALL) MONOCLONAL ABS**

Does the addition of rituximab to standard induction chemotherapy result in improved EFS in patients with precursor B-cell ALL?

Specific  
Aims

## **Aim 1T (T ALL) NELARABINE**

Does the addition of nelarabine improve outcome for patients with T cell ALL?

Aged  
25-65

## **Aim 2. ASPARAGINASE**

To determine the tolerability of pegylated asparaginase in induction and to compare anti-asparaginase antibody levels between patients in the rituximab randomisation groups from aim 1.

## **Aim 3. ROLE OF BMT IN HIGH RISK**

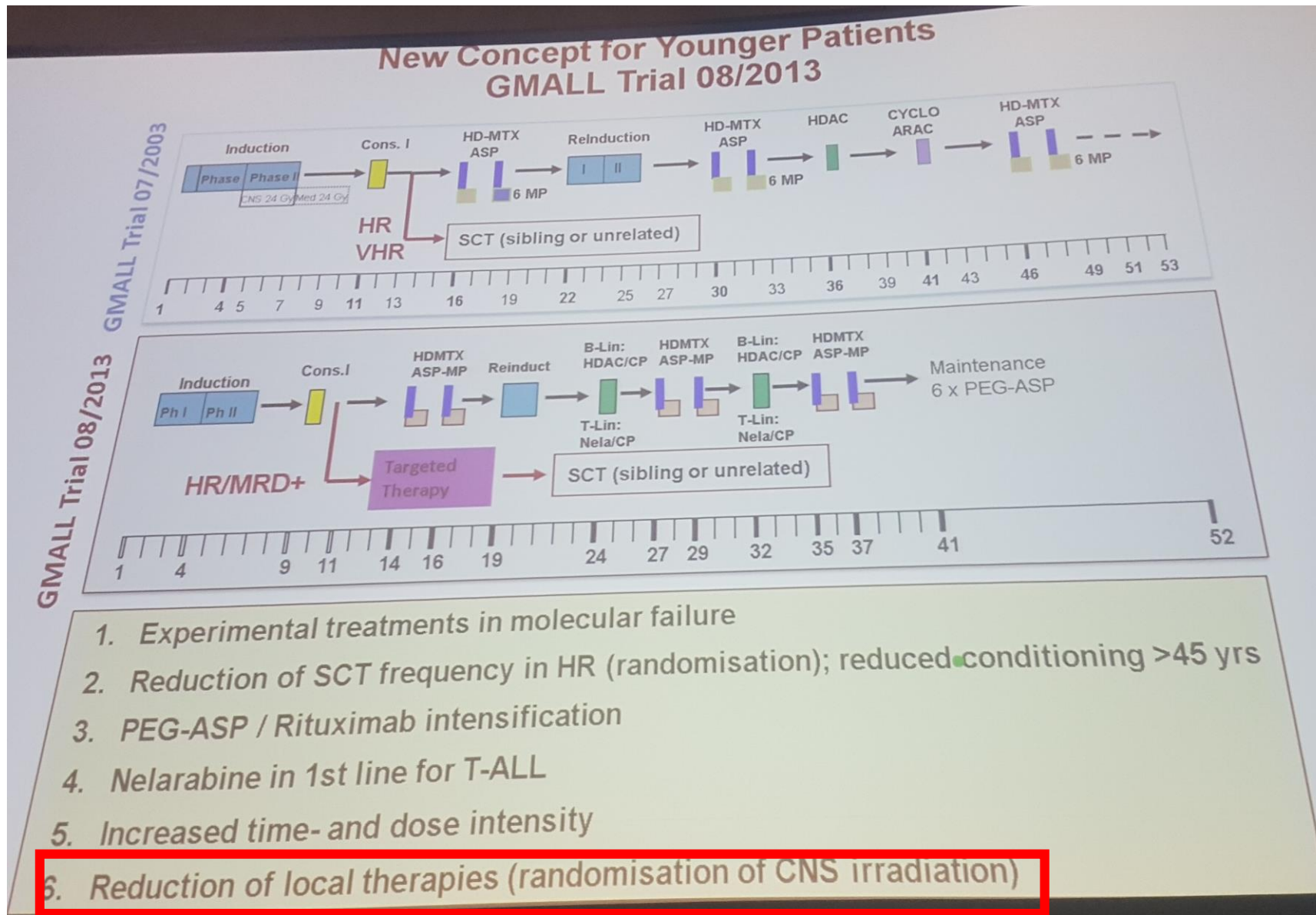
To determine whether risk-adapted introduction of unrelated donor HSCT (myeloablative conditioning in patients <40 years old and non-myeloablative conditioning in patients >40 years old) improves EFS in patients at highest risk of relapse.



Fielding A



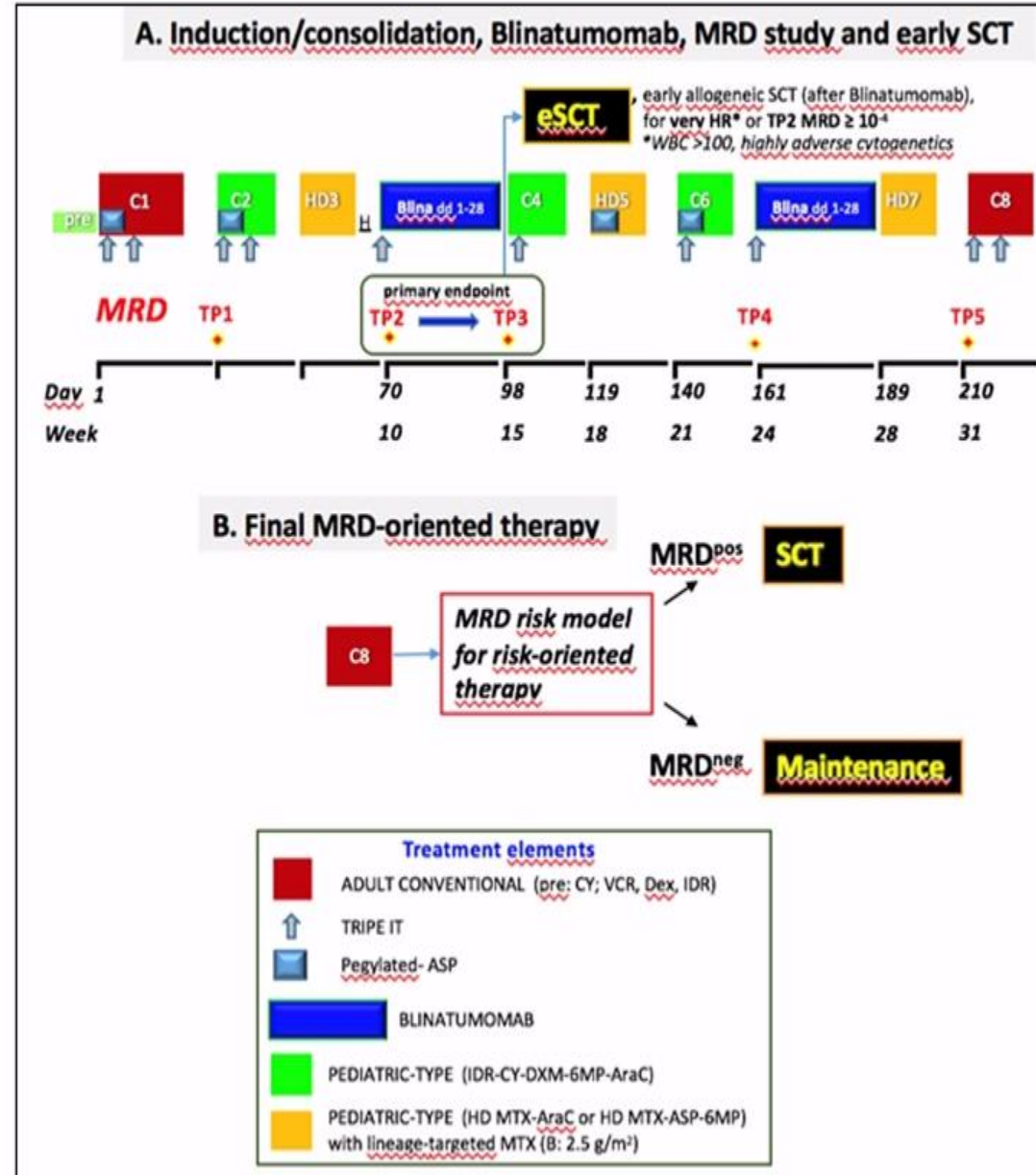
# GMALL: moving forward



# Ph- ALL (B-ALL): the forthcoming future

National Treatment Program with Sequential Chemotherapy and Blinatumomab to Improve Minimal Residual Disease Response and Survival in Philadelphia Chromosome-Negative B-Cell Precursor Adult Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

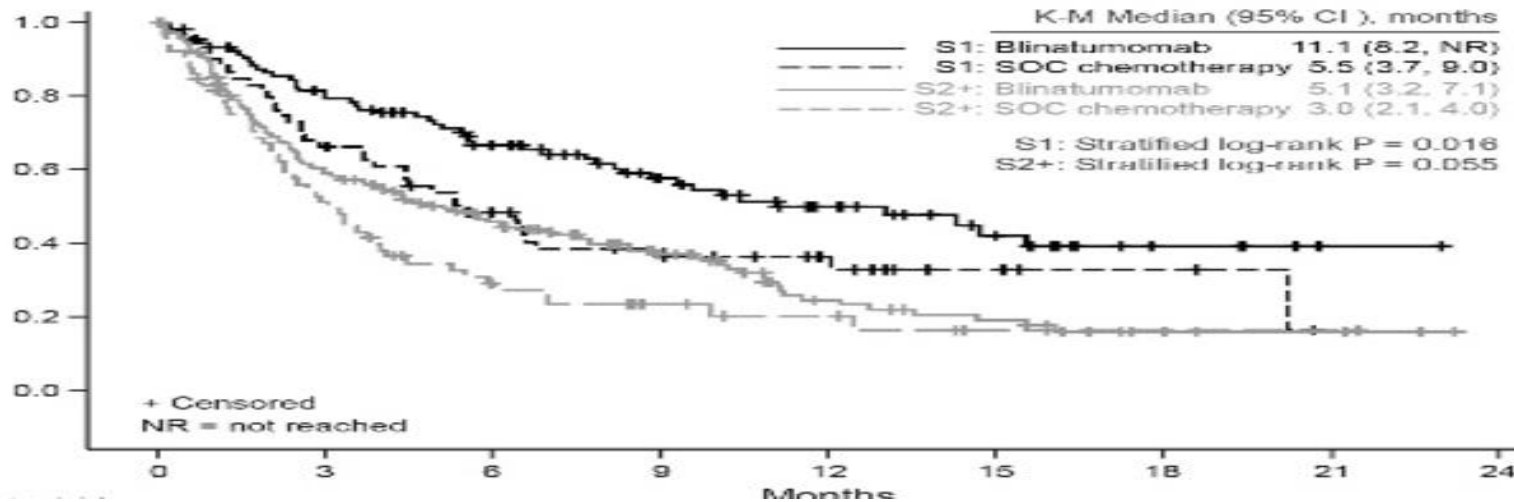
Nuova Proposta GIMEMA 16-272



- **Atriance in 1 linea- Protocollo lineage adapted**
- **Blina in 1 linea (indipendente da MRD)**
- **Quale profilassi per SNC ?**

# Blinatumomab vs SOC chemotherapy in first salvage compared with second or greater salvage in a Phase 3 study

	No prior salvage (S1)		Any prior salvage (S2+)	
	Blinatumomab (n=104)	SOC (n=63)	Blinatumomab (n=167)	SOC (n=71)
Age ≥35 years, n (%)	65 (62.5)	37 (58.7)	82 (49.1)	37 (52.1)
Prior HSCT, n (%)	29 (27.9)	20 (31.7)	65 (38.9)	26 (36.6)
First relapse with remission duration <12 mo, n (%)	58 (55.8)	30 (47.6)	51 (30.5)	19 (26.8)
Maximum blasts ≥50% by central/local lab, n (%)	78 (75.0)	45 (71.4)	123 (73.7)	59 (83.1)
K-M Median OS, mo (95% CI)	11.1 (8.2, NR)*	5.5 (3.7, 9.0)	5.1 (3.2, 7.1)	3.0 (2.1, 4.0)
	HR 0.59 (95% CI 0.38, 0.91) P=0.016		HR 0.72 (95% CI 0.51, 1.01) P=0.055	
Best response (CR/CR/CRi), n (%) [95% CI]	53 (51.0) [41.0, 60.9]	23 (36.5) [24.7, 49.6]	66 (39.5) [32.1, 47.4]	10 (14.1) [7.0, 24.4]
	P=0.07		P<0.001	



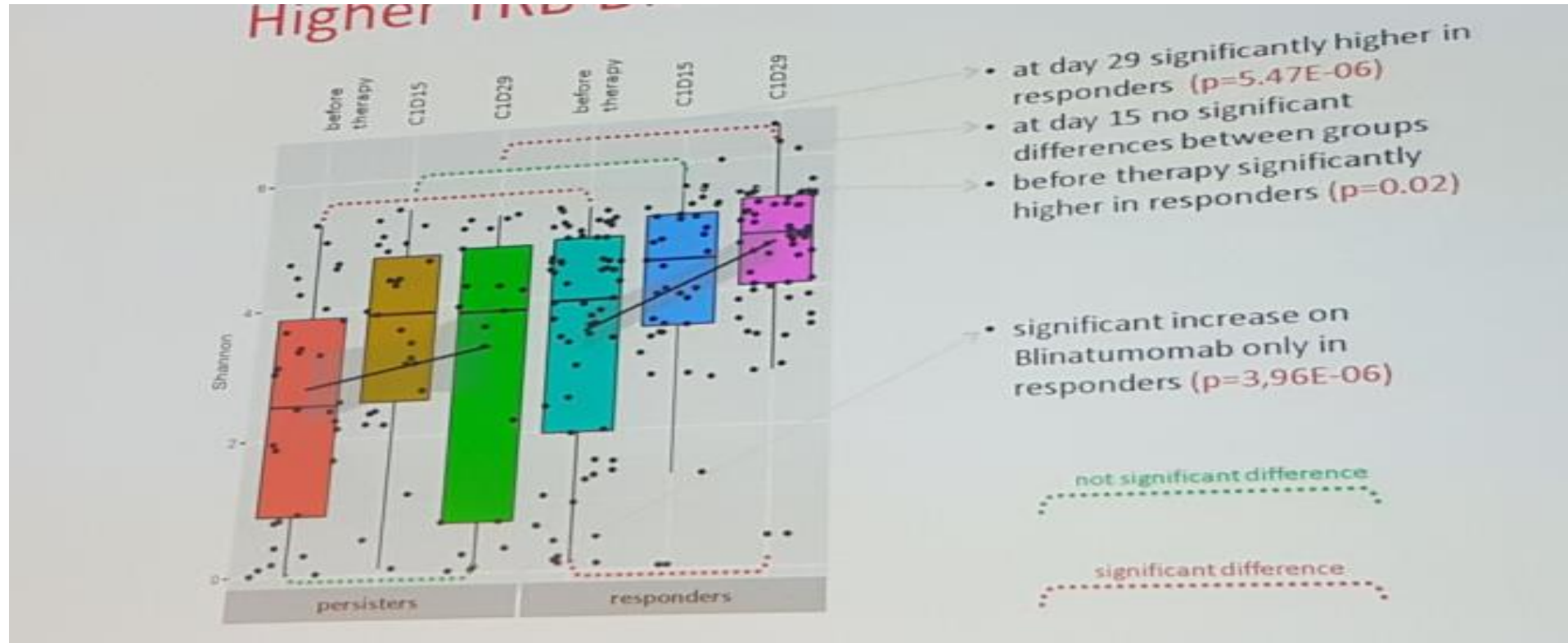
Earlier use of blinatumomab is more effective also in the R/R setting

# **Blina – problemi aperti**

- **Fattori predittivi della risposta - % linfociti T, Tregs, necessità di studi biologici**
- **Necessità di criteri condivisi di impiego del farmaco (RR/ALL)**

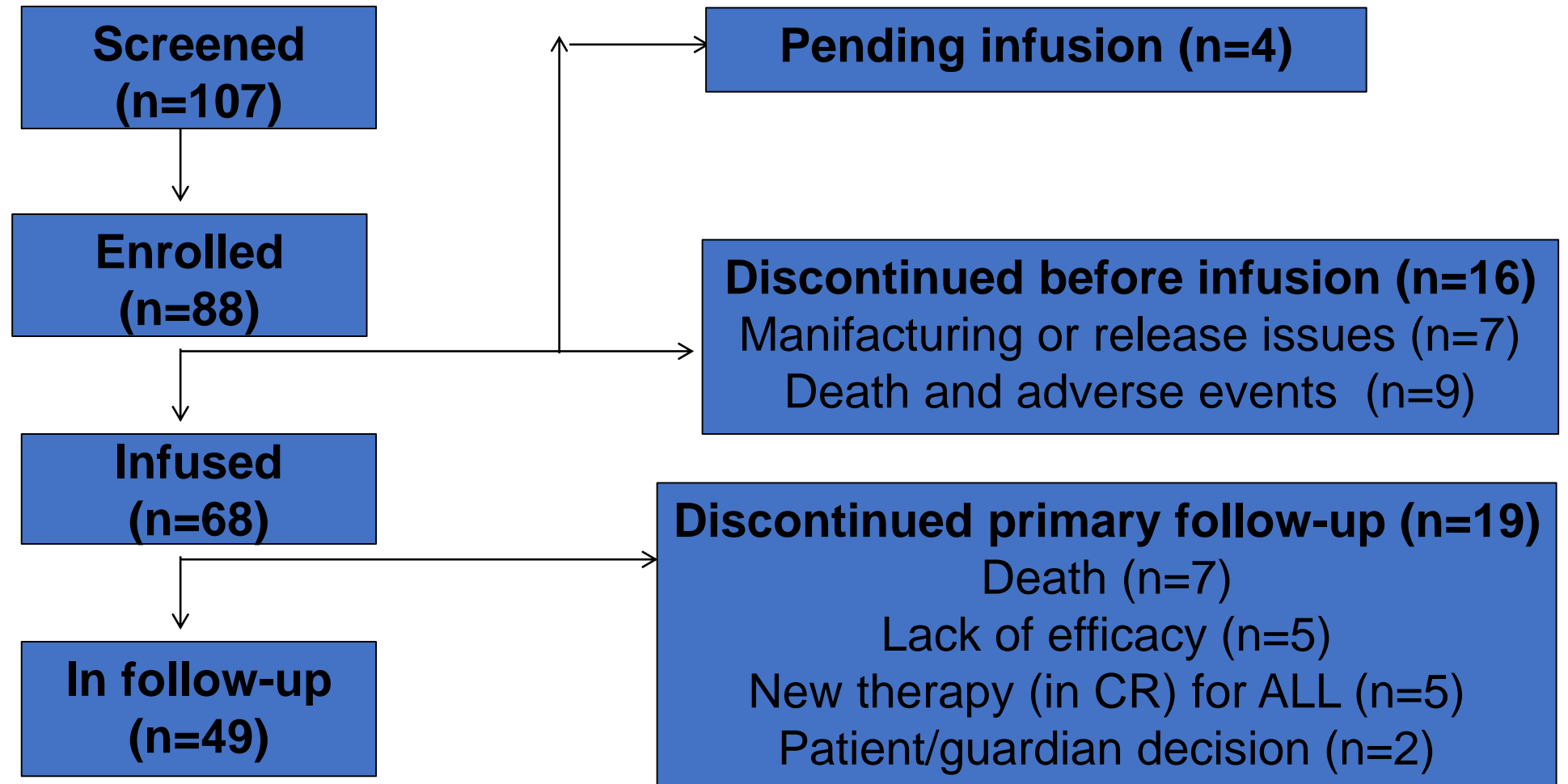
# T-cell receptor $\beta$ (TRB) repertoire characteristics in relapsed/refractory (R/R) B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia (BCP-ALL) on blinatumomab treatment.

- Aims: To compare the differences in TRB repertoire diversity and composition between two groups of patients with r/r ALL



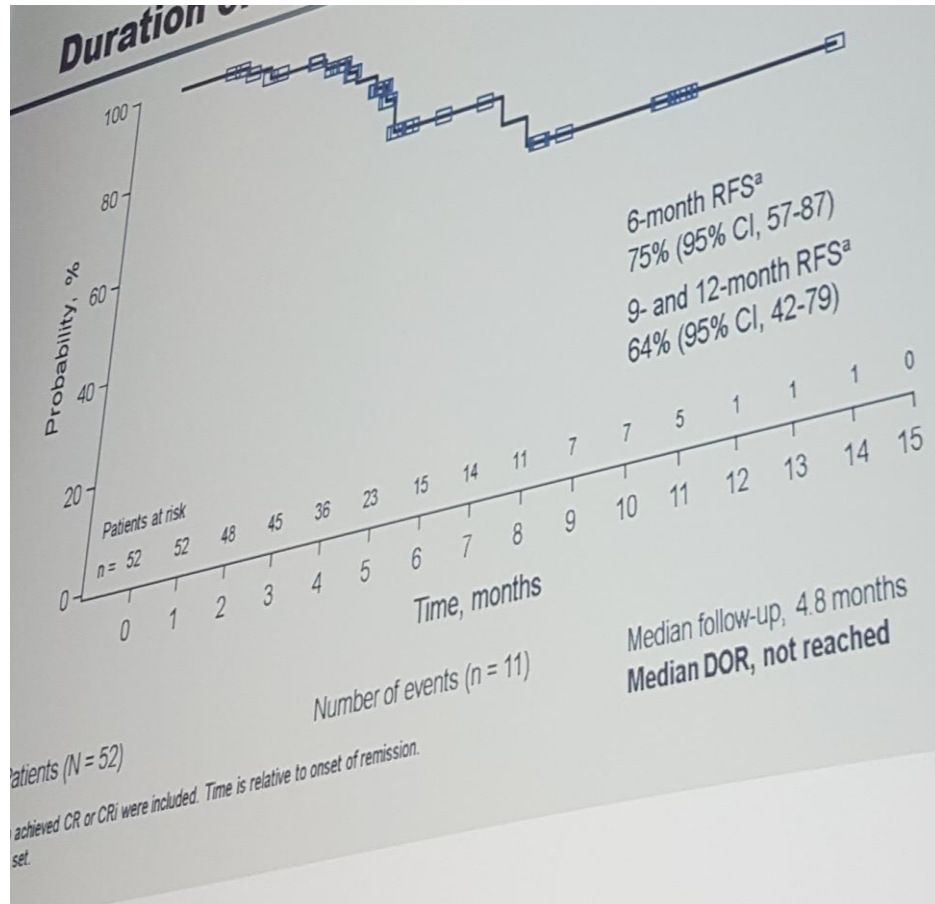
Blin responders have significantly higher TRB repertoire diversity at screening compared to persisters and that the repertoire expansion during Blin treatment is sharper in responders.

# Global registration trial of efficacy and safety of CTL019 in pediatric and young adult patients with relapsed/refractory (R/R) acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL): update to the interim analysis

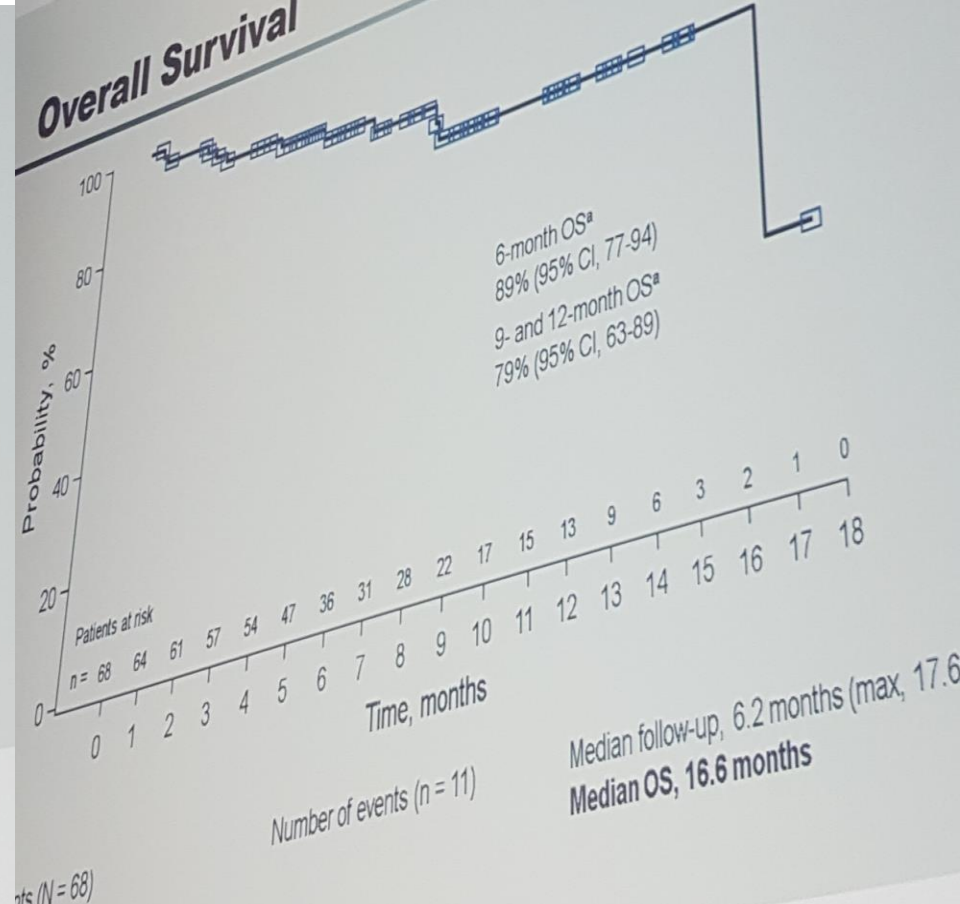


Median time from infusion to cut-off: 8.8 months (range: 0.3-18.5)

# RFS and OS



6 months RFS: 75%



6 months OS: 89%



# Overall safety

AE	%
Grade 3-4 AE, suspected to be drug related	85, 72
<i>Most common AE</i>	<i>Overall (G 3-4)</i>
CRS	78 (21-27)
Fever	40 (12-3)
Decreased appetite	37 (13-2)
Febrile neutropenia	37 (34-3)
Hypotension	31 (12-10)
↑GOT-GPT	28 (12-4)
Hypokalemia	24 (12-3)
Hypoxia	24 (12-6)
Infections	43 (24-3)
Neurologic events	44 (15-0)

	CRS
Days of duration	8 (1-36)
ICU admission,%	46
Anticytokine therapy,%	38
Hypotension requiring intervention,%	51
HD vasosuppressors,%	25
Intubation,%	15
Dialysis,%	10

CRS	Any neurologic event,%	G3 neurologic event,%
No CRS (n=15)	27	7
G1/2 (n=21)	33	5
G3 (n=14)	50	14
G4 (n=18)	67	33

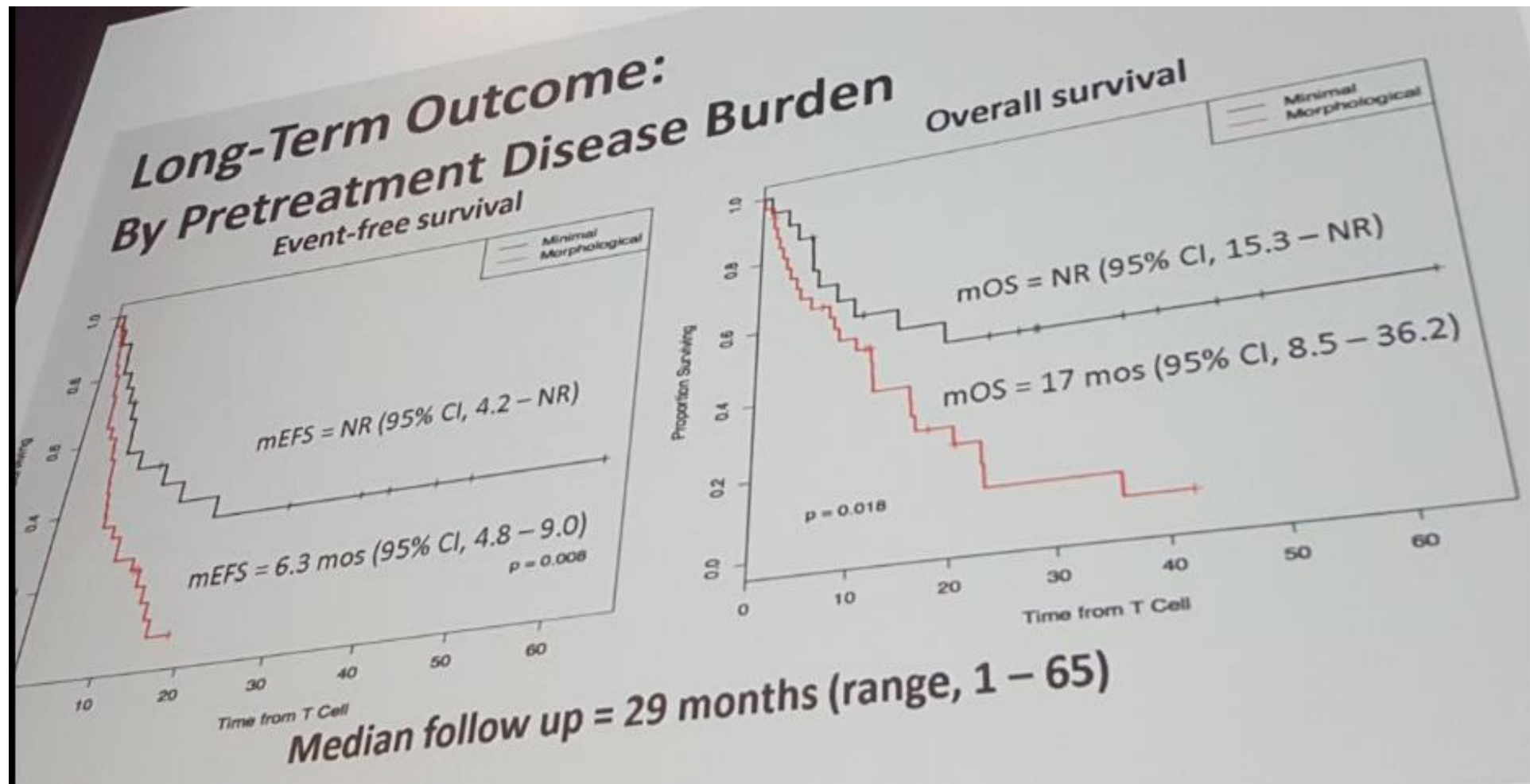
2 deaths within 30 days of infusion (1 cerebral hemorrhage)

No deaths for CRS or neurologic events

Neurologic events: encefalopathy (12%), confusional state (10%) and delirium (10%)

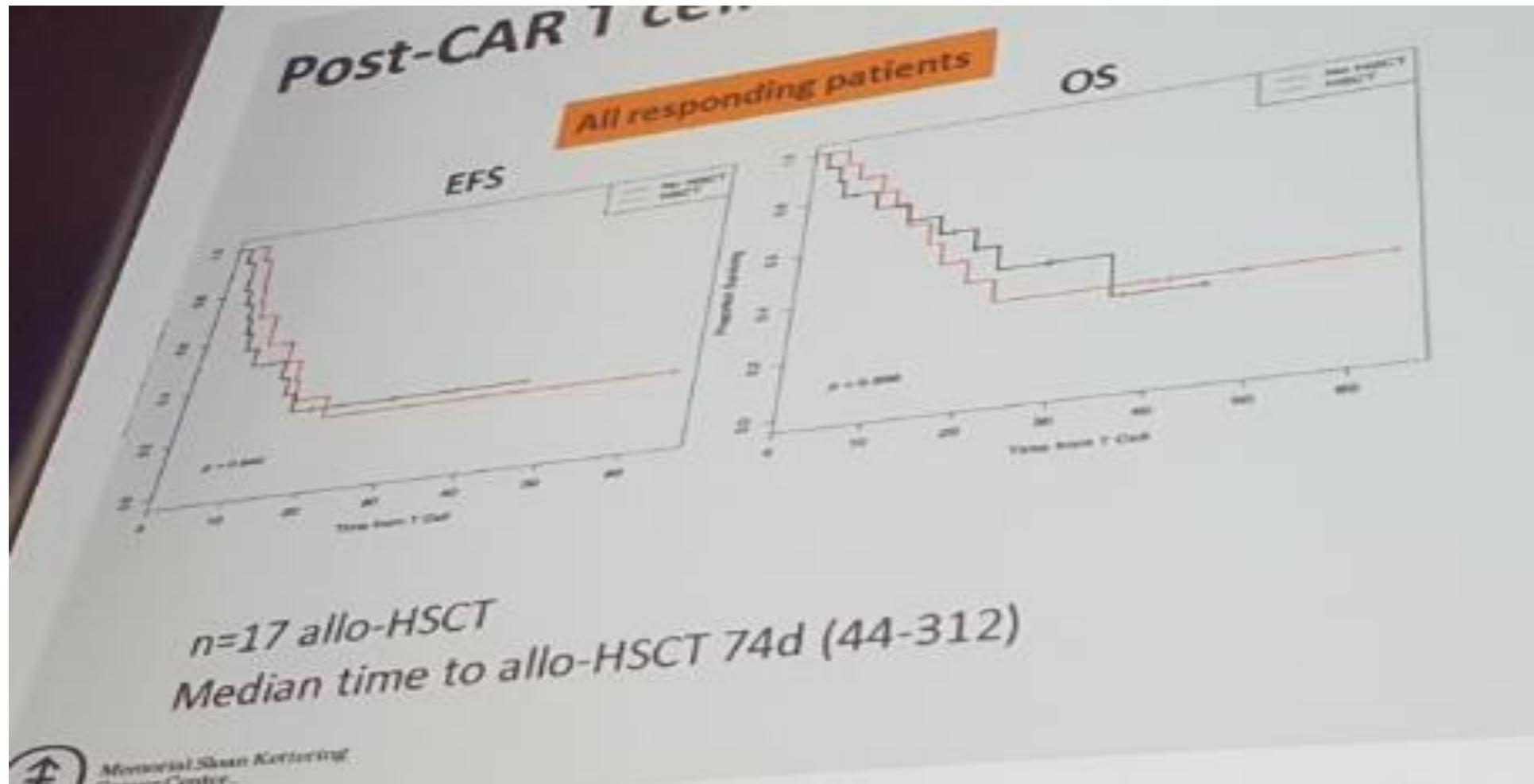
**Association between CRS and neurologic events**

# Long-term outcome by disease burden

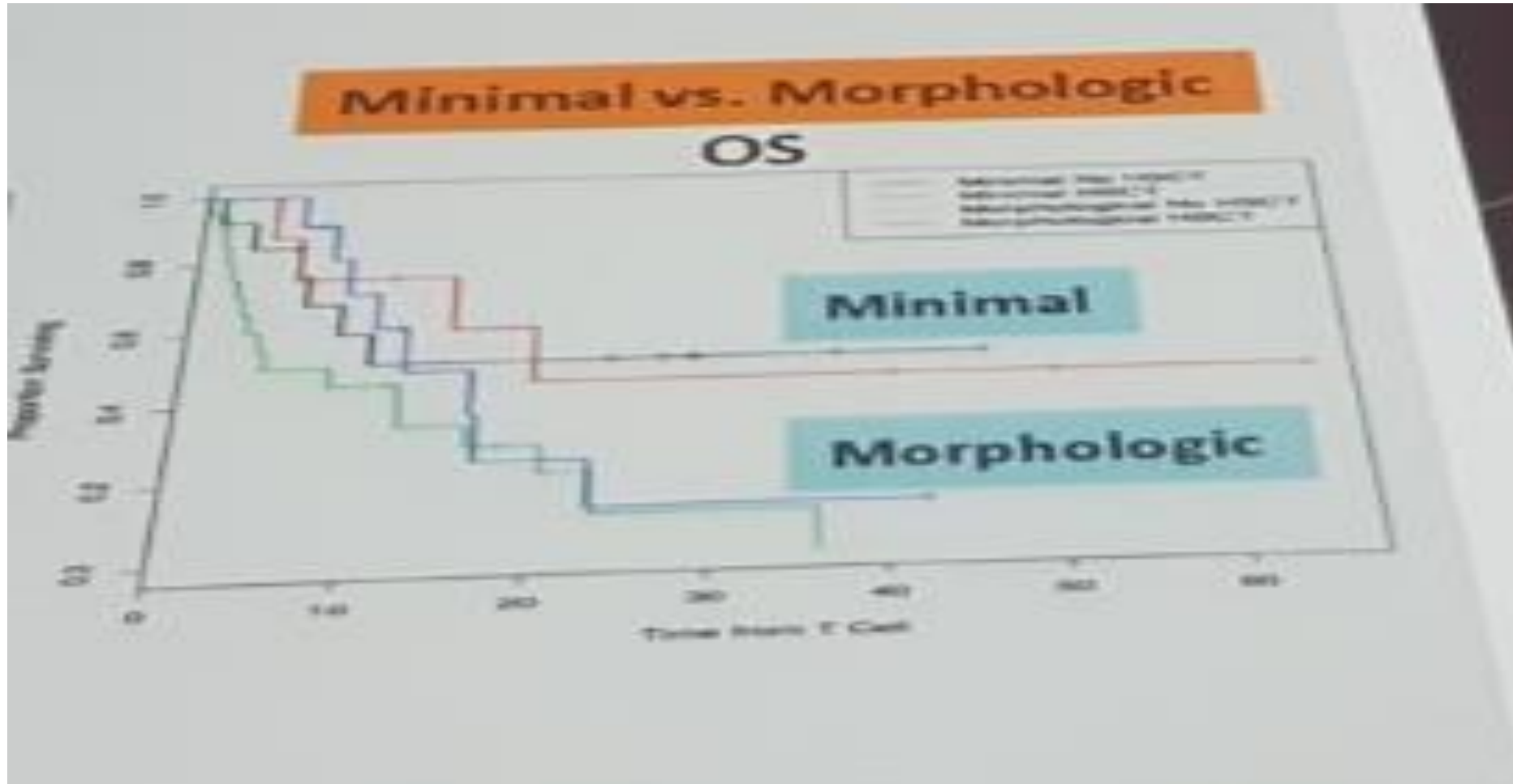


Better outcomes in MRD+ vs morphological

# Role of allo-SCT after CAR T (I)



# Role of allo-SCT after CAR T (II)



No advantages in performing allo-SCT post CAR T.  
*Observation based on 17 patients*

# Conclusions on CAR T therapy

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- CAR T therapy appears promising in the R/R setting, both in children and adults.
- Management of patients is still an important concern, though we are learning!
- Allo-SCT post CAR-T????

# Burning questions

- In case of molecular relapse, what therapy is the best (considering that in the forthcoming future blinatumomab /ino will be incorporated in the front-line setting?)
- In case of hematologic relapse, what therapy is the best?
- Who is the ideal candidate for CAR T ?
- Sequential use of different Moabs or CAR-T Moabs ?