



Fred Hutch · Seattle Children's · UW Medicine

# Indolent Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma: 2020

Solomon A Graf

VA/UW/FHCRC

# Disclosures

---

## Research Support

- \* TG Therapeutics
- \* BeiGene
- \* AstraZeneca / Acerta Pharma

## Consulting / Advisory

- \* MorphoSys

# Objectives

---

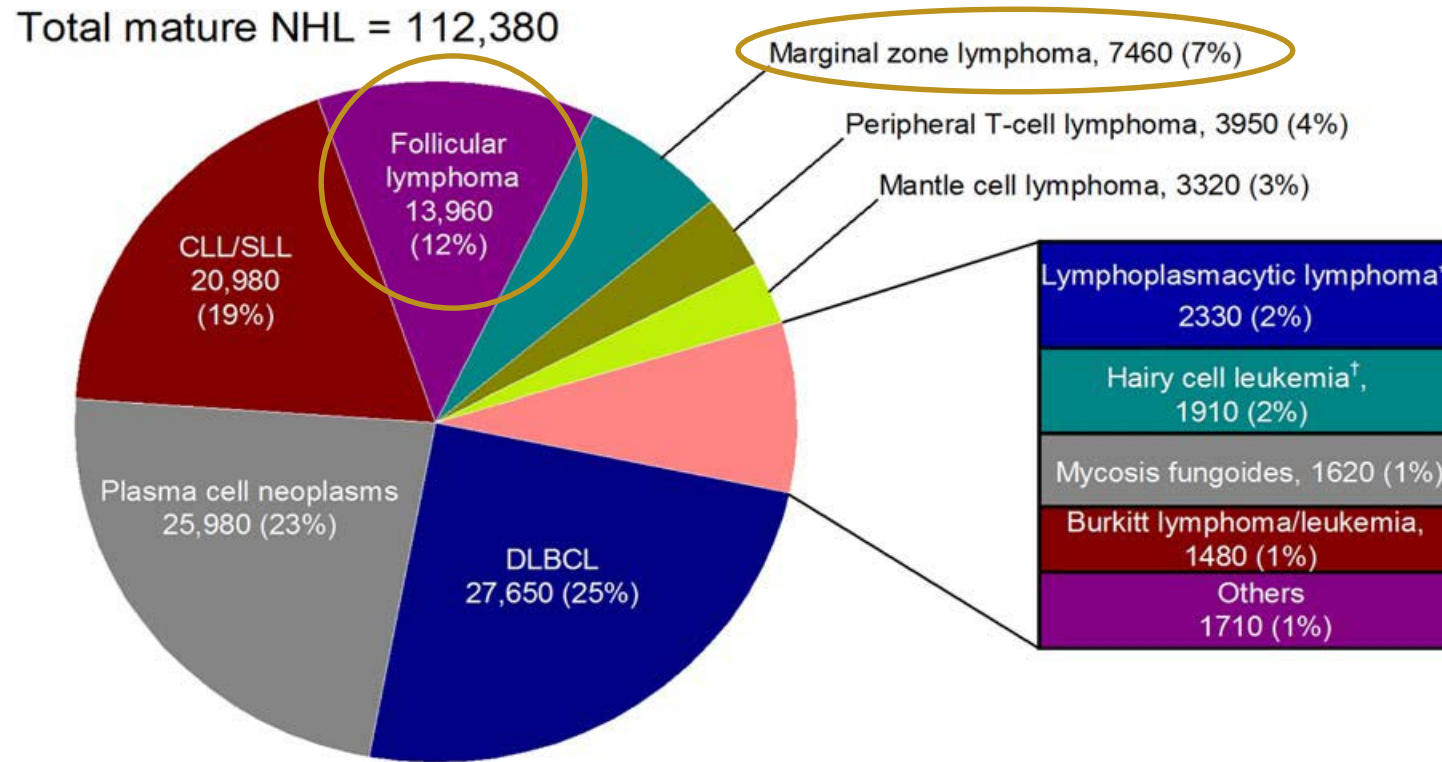
- Epidemiology and pathology
- Management
  - Indication for treatment, options for frontline and relapsed/refractory
- Areas of unmet need and anticipated next steps

# Natural History

---

- Presents with advanced disease, progresses slowly
- Iterative treatment responses and relapses
- Not thought curable with conventional therapies
  - Exceptions include certain examples of limited stage disease treated with local therapies
- Most patients die from causes unrelated to lymphoma

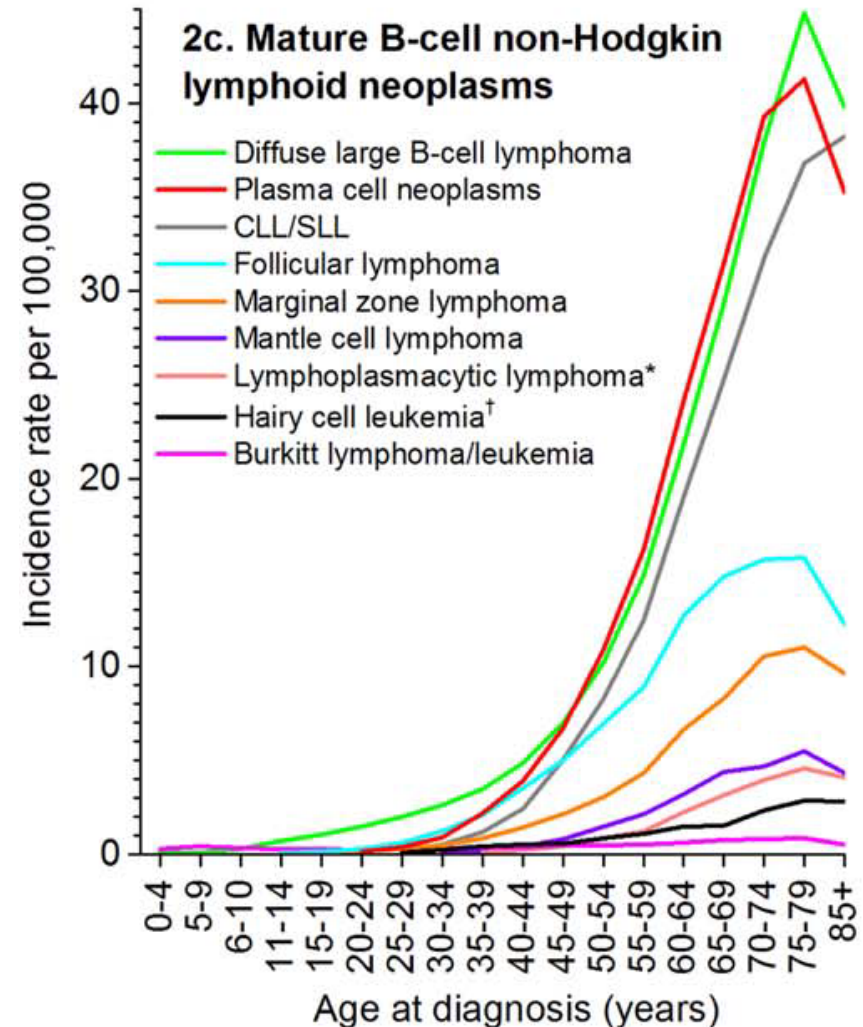
# Epidemiology



Estimated Cases and Distribution of Mature Non-Hodgkin Lymphoid Neoplasm Subtypes: US, 2016

# Risk Factors

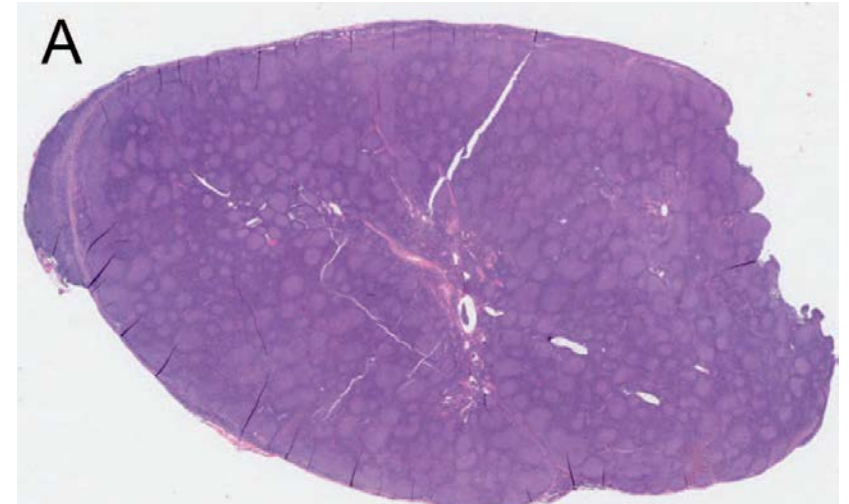
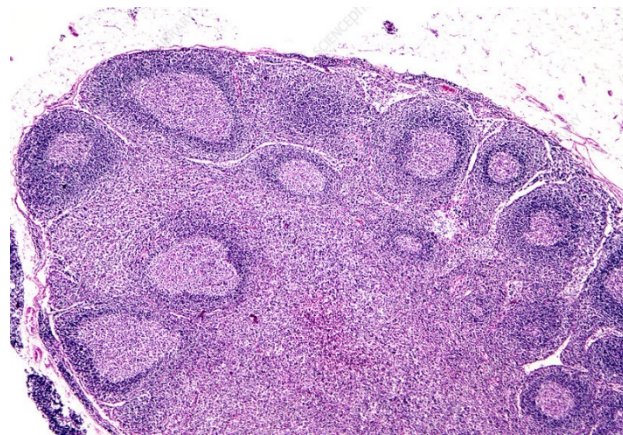
- Follicular lymphoma
  - Autoimmune conditions
  - Cigarette smoking (women)
  - Benzene, other solvents
  - Agent Orange, other herbicides
- Marginal zone lymphoma
  - As above, also specific infections (e.g. H pylori)



# Work-up

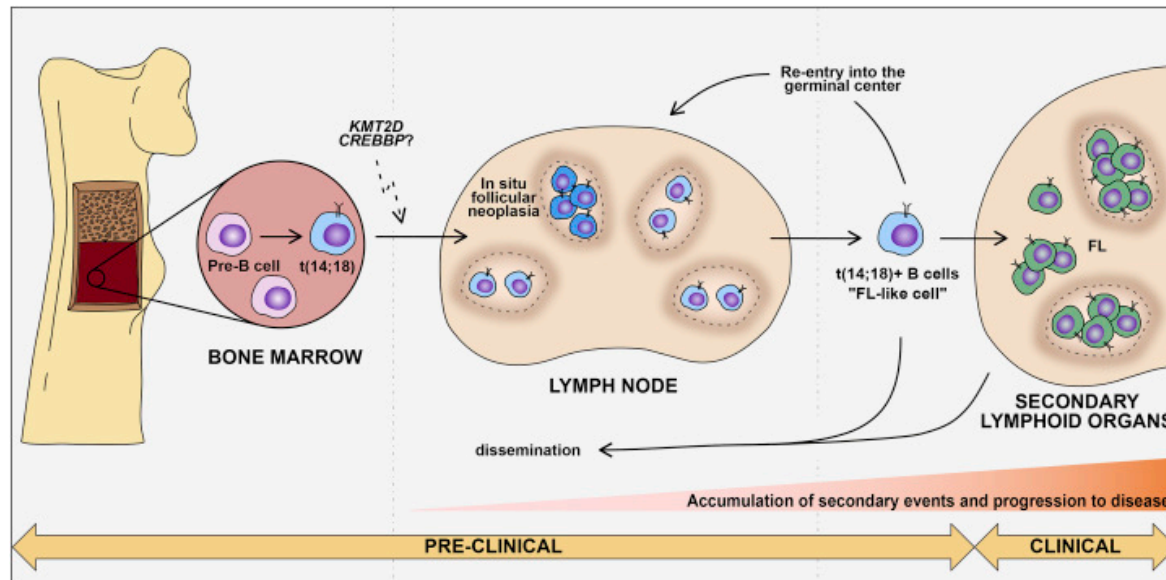
---

- Excisional or incisional biopsy preferred to core (FNA inadequate)
- Labs including LDH, hepatitis B
- Diagnostic CT, whole-body PET
- Marrow exam (clinical stage I-II disease)



# Typical Follicular Lymphomagenesis

- B cells differentiate in lymph node germinal centers
- Maturation occurs by random genetic modification followed by antigen driven selection
- FL arises from developmentally-blocked germinal center B cells

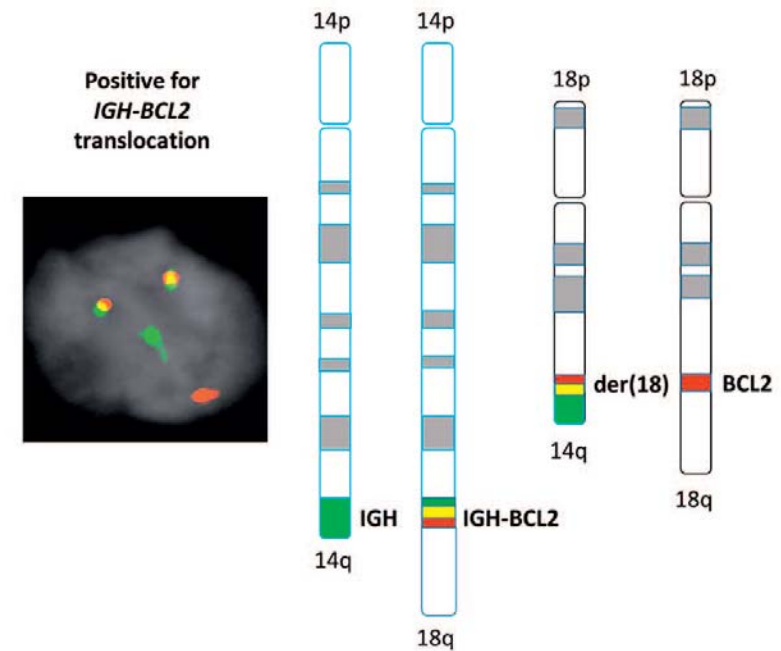


- 1<sup>st</sup> step: acquisition of t(14;18) that occurs in the bone marrow (pre-B cell stage)
  - Leads to constitutive expression of anti-apoptotic protein BCL-2
- B cells with t(14;18) that enter the germinal center (highly mutagenic environment) are at risk for developmental arrest leading to clonal expansion, new mutations, and ultimately FL

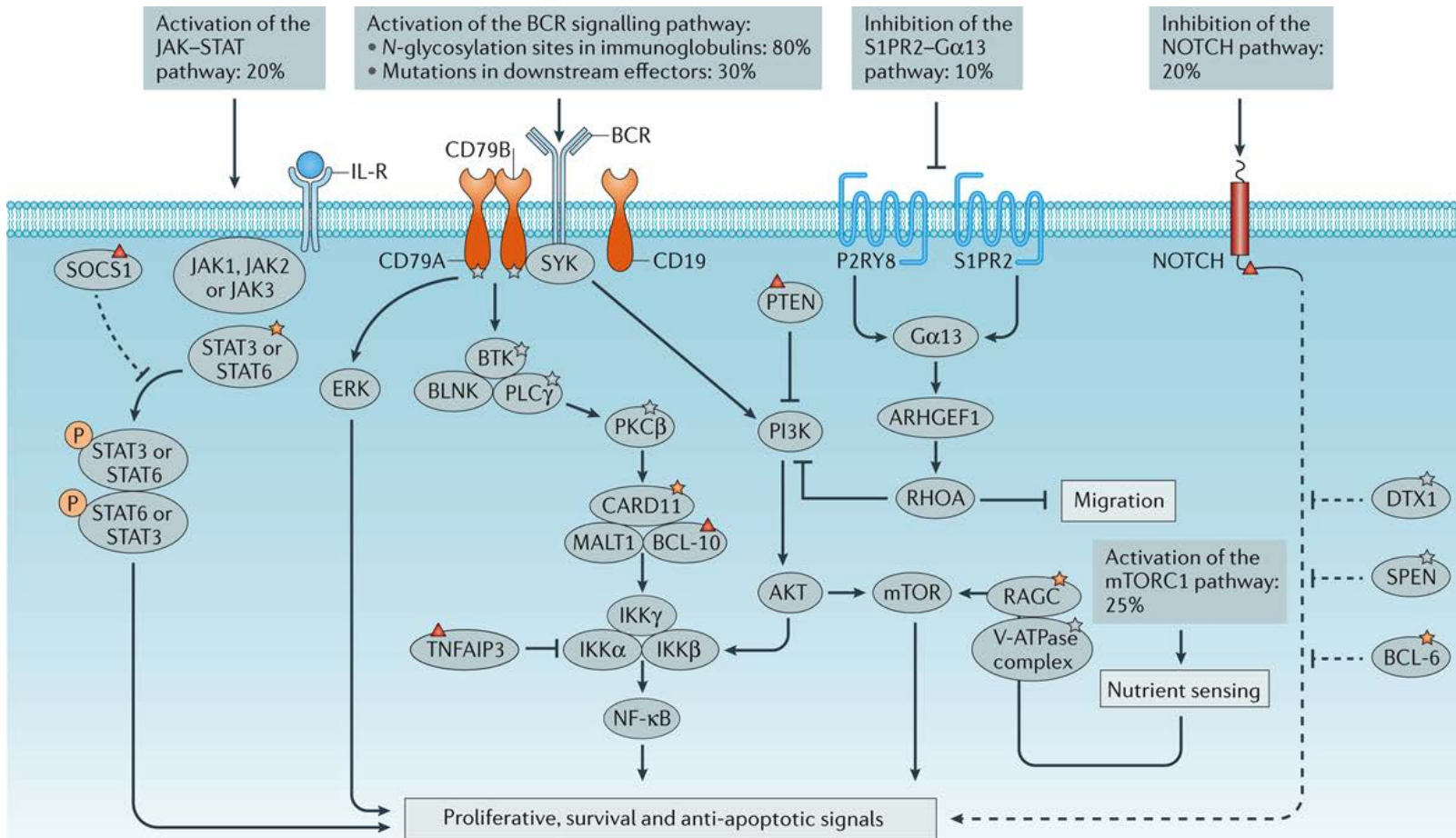


# Molecular Characteristics: Typical FL

- Light chain restricted
- Pan B-cell markers (CD20+, CD19+)
- Arise from germinal center B-cells, thus CD10+ and BCL6+
- Also typically BCL2+ and CD5-
- [t(14;18)(q32;q21)] ~85% of cases
  - Juxtaposes Ig heavy chain promoter with *BCL-2*
  - Constitutive *BCL-2* expression (anti-apoptosis)
  - Variants [t(2;18)] and [t18;22)]
    - Alternative *BCL-2* juxtapositions (kappa LC / lambda LC)



# Pathways in Follicular Lymphomagenesis



Survival pathways in FL

▲ Inactivating mutations  
 ★ Activating mutations  
 ☆ Mutations with unknown functional impact

→ Also, mutations in epigenetic modifiers occur in nearly 90% of cases of FL

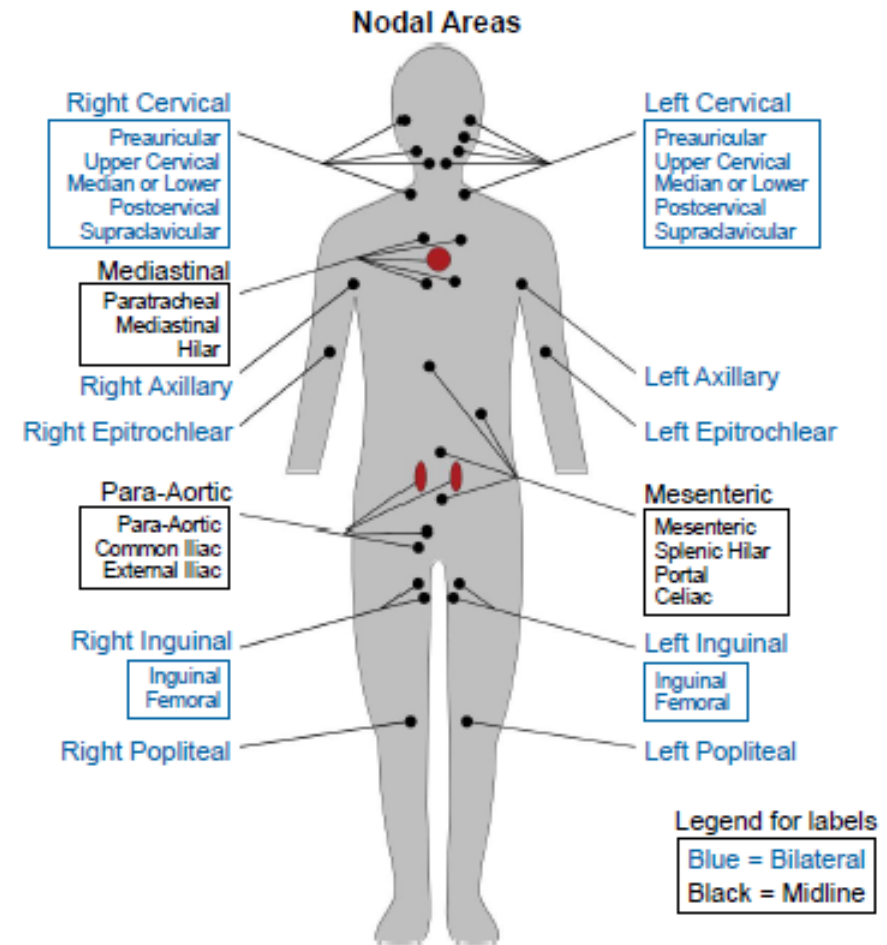
# Pediatric-type FL

---

- Definitive entry in 2016 WHO Lymphoma Classification
- Clinical presentation
  - Localized disease
  - Males > Females
  - Not necessarily young patients!
- Key pathologic/molecular features
  - High Ki67 (> 30%)
  - No t(14;18)
  - (Not commonly mutated in epigenetic modifiers)
  - (Low genetic complexity)
- Local therapy preferred

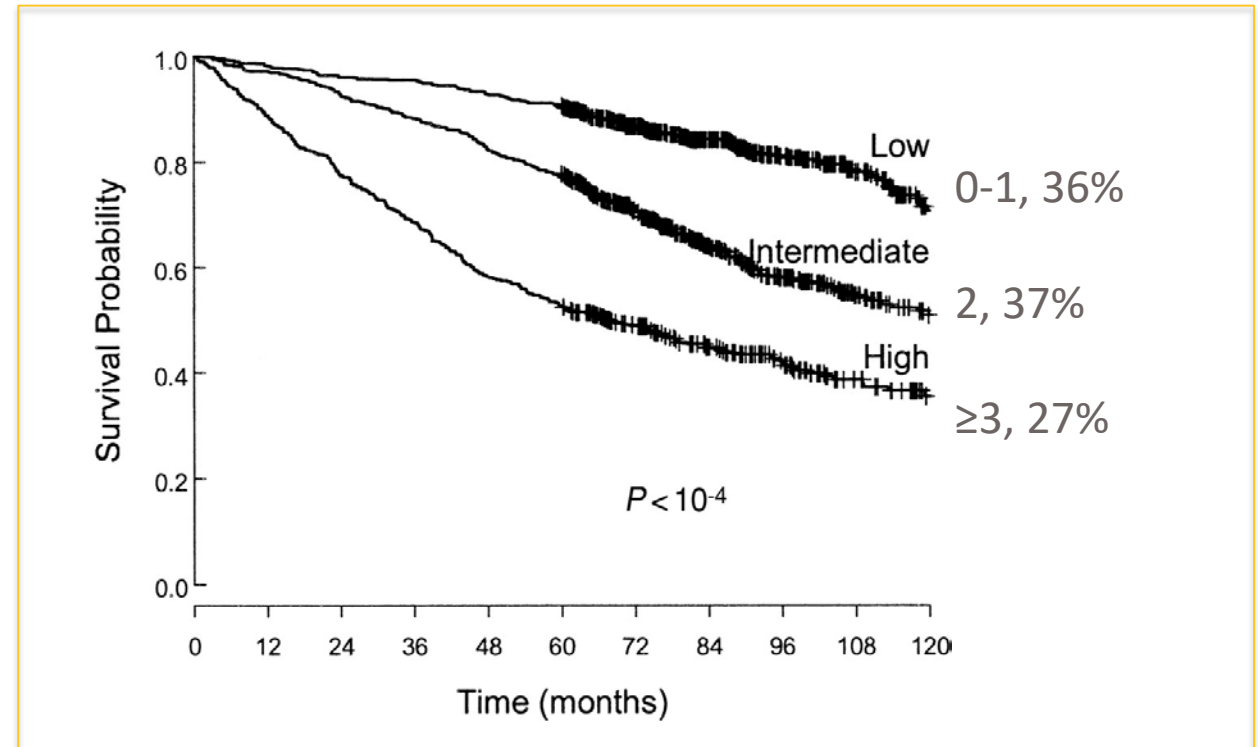
# Clinical Characteristics of Follicular Lymphoma

- Median age at diagnosis approximately 65 years
- Multiple sites of waxing and waning adenopathy
- Approximately 25% present with B symptoms
- 65-70% stage III/IV



# Follicular Lymphoma International Prognostic Index

- N = 4,167 diagnosed 1985 - 1992
- Adverse factors
  - Nodal areas (> 4) No
  - LDH (elevated) L
  - Age (> 60) A
  - Stage (III/IV) S
  - Hemoglobin (< 12 g/dL) H



# Next Generation FLIPIs

	FLIPI	FLIPI-2	PRIMA-PI	M7-FLIPI
Age	✓	✓		✓
Stage	✓			✓
Hemoglobin	✓	✓		✓
LDH	✓			✓
Nodal sites	✓			✓
B2M ≥ 3 gm/L		✓	✓	
Marrow inv		✓	✓	
Mass ≥ 6 cm		✓		
ECOG				✓
7-gene mutations				✓

Federico et al. J Clin Oncol 27: 4555-4562, 2009; Jurinovic et al. Blood 128: 1112-20; Huet et al, ICML 2017; Salles et al. Blood. 2018 Jul 5;132(1):49-58.

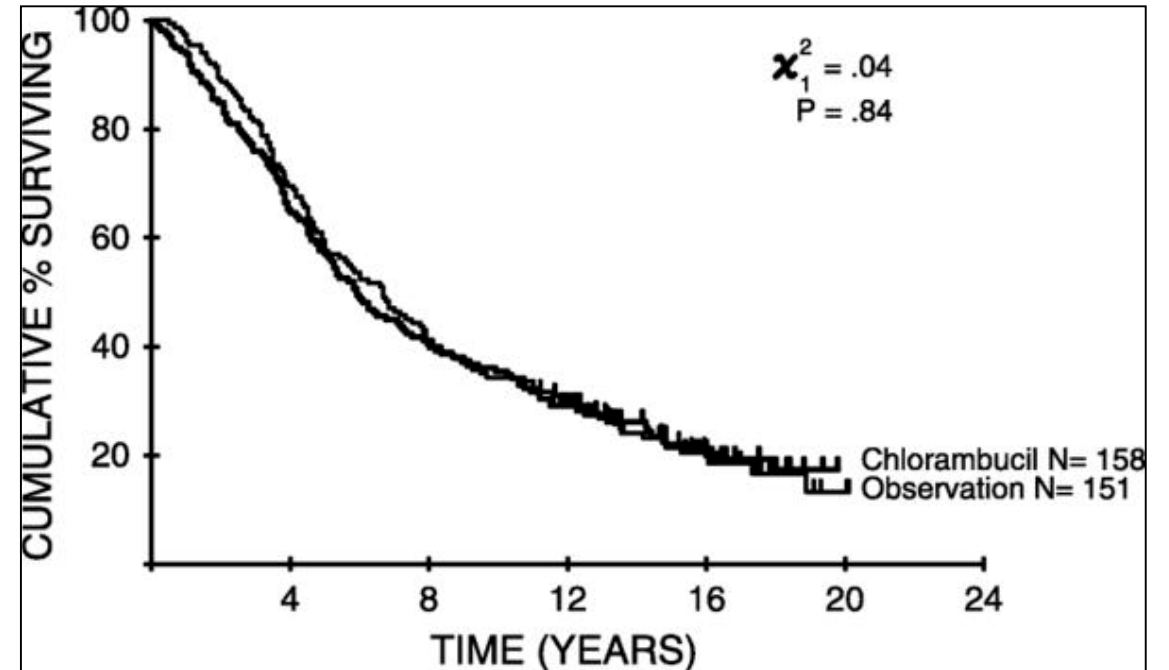
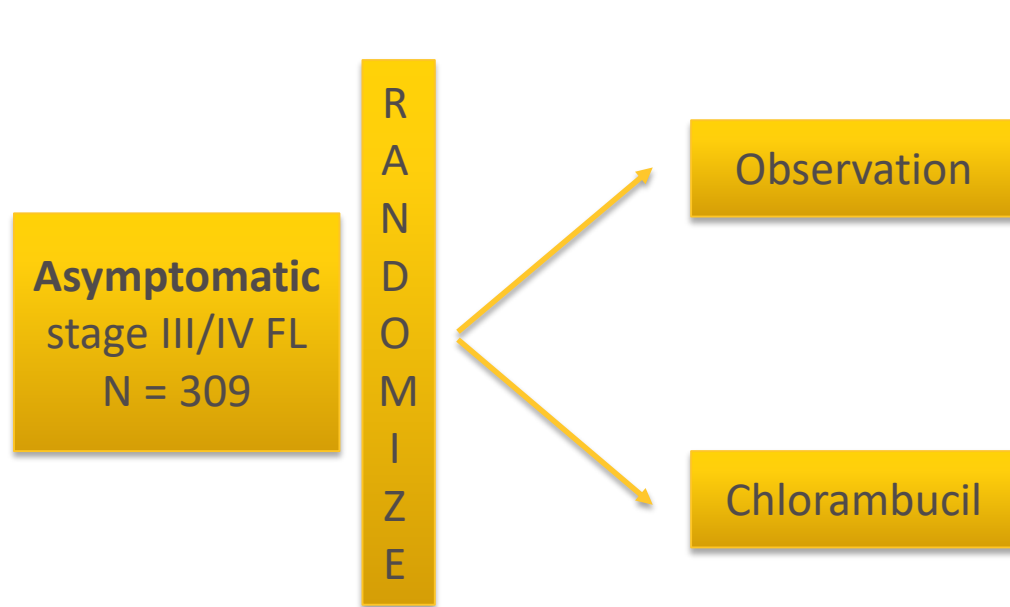
# Advanced Stage FL: Treatment Initiation

**Table 2. Spontaneous Regressions in Initially Untreated Patients.\***

	NO. OF PATIENTS (%)	MONTHS TO REGRESSION		MONTHS OF REGRESSION	
		<i>median</i>	<i>range</i>	<i>median</i>	<i>range</i>
Total	19/83	8	2-120	>13	>4->72
FSC/NLPD	13/44 (30)	7	2-120	15	>4->72
FM/NM	3/18 (17)		2-23		>4-12
SL/DLWD	3/21 (14)		26-93		6->72

FSC = Follicular small cleaved; FM = follicular mixed; SL = small lymphocytic; DLWD = diffuse well differentiated lymphocytic

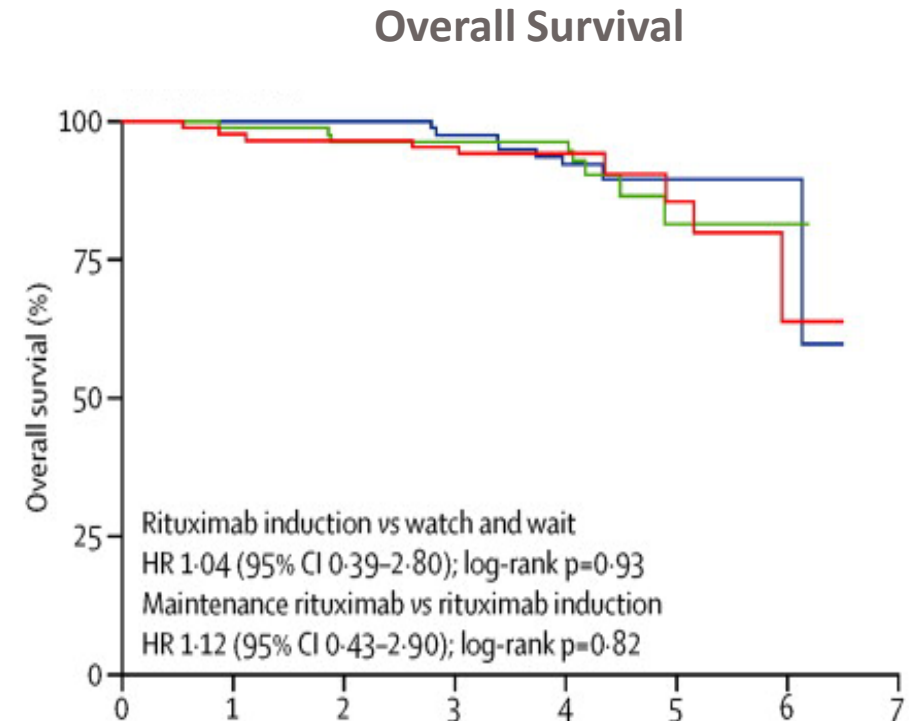
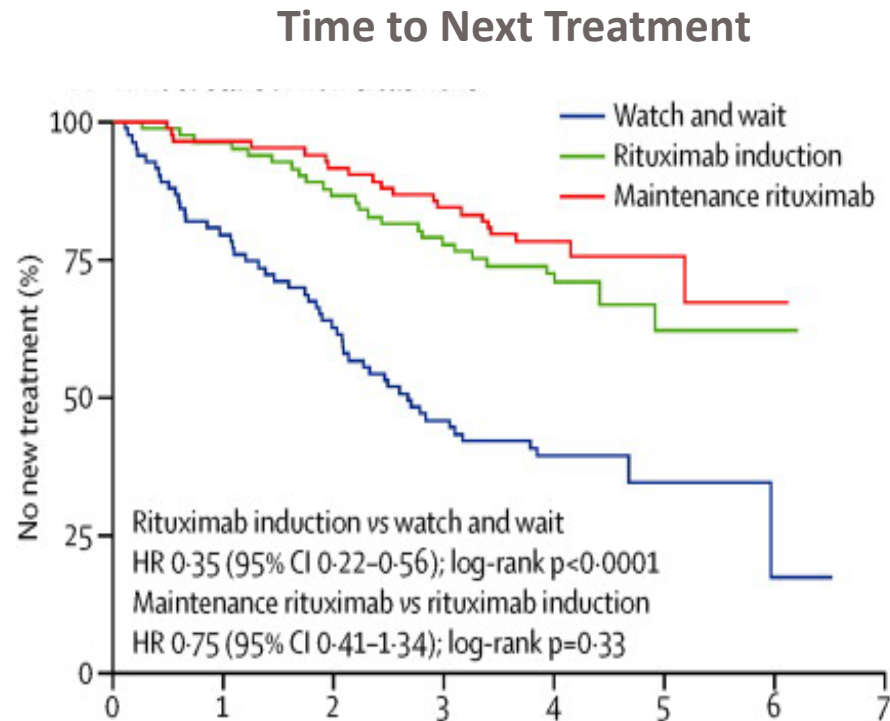
# Advanced Stage Early Treatment (Chlorambucil)



19% did not require treatment at 10 years



# Advanced Stage Early Treatment (Rituximab)



- Those that received induction plus maintenance rituximab had some benefit related to anxiety
- Conversation on toxicities, costs, and potential for never requiring therapy

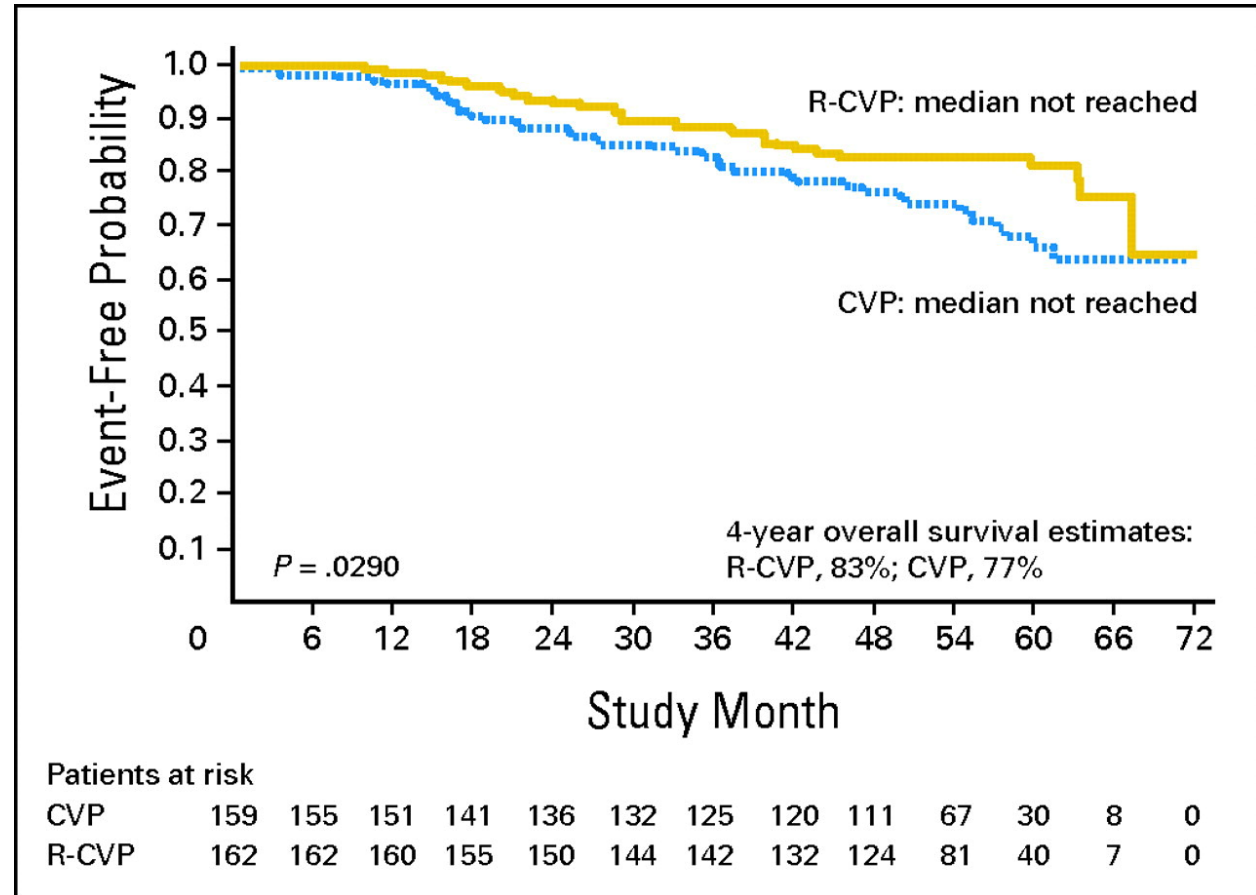
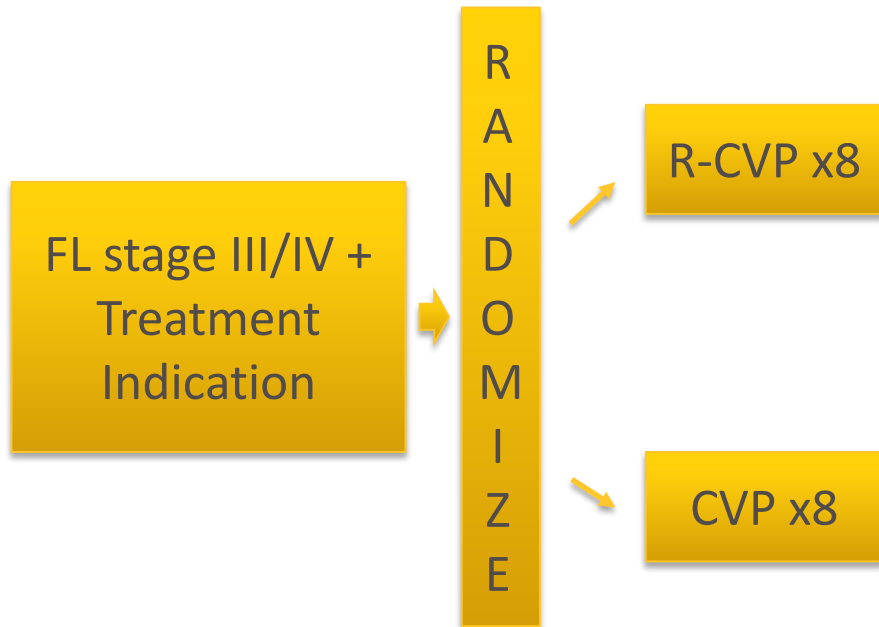
# Groupe d'Etude des Lymphomes Folliculaires Criteria

---

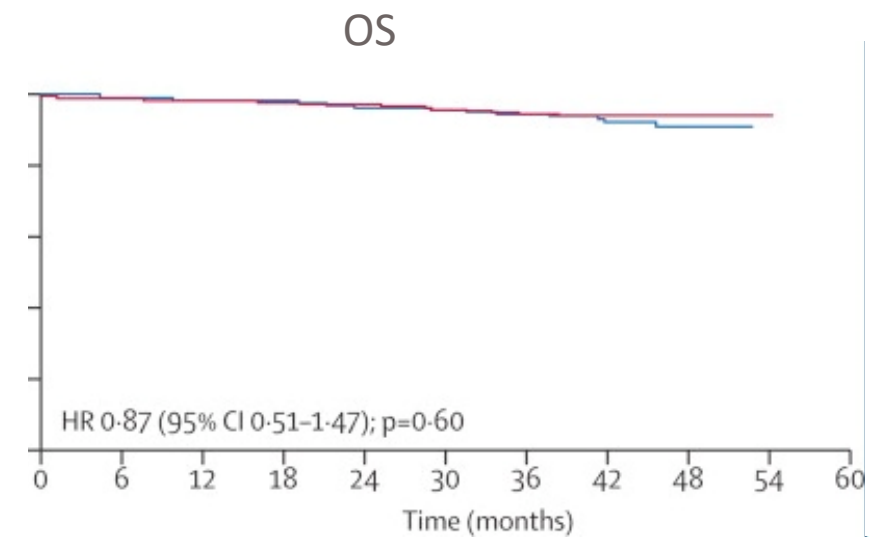
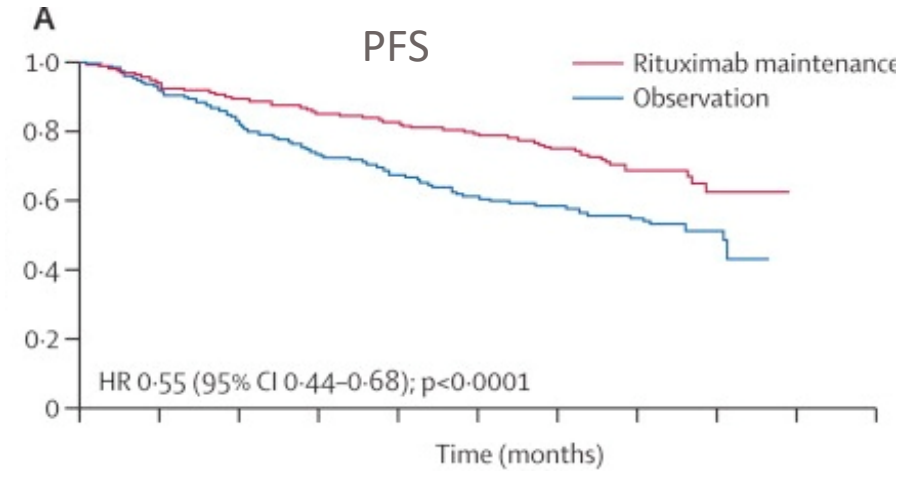
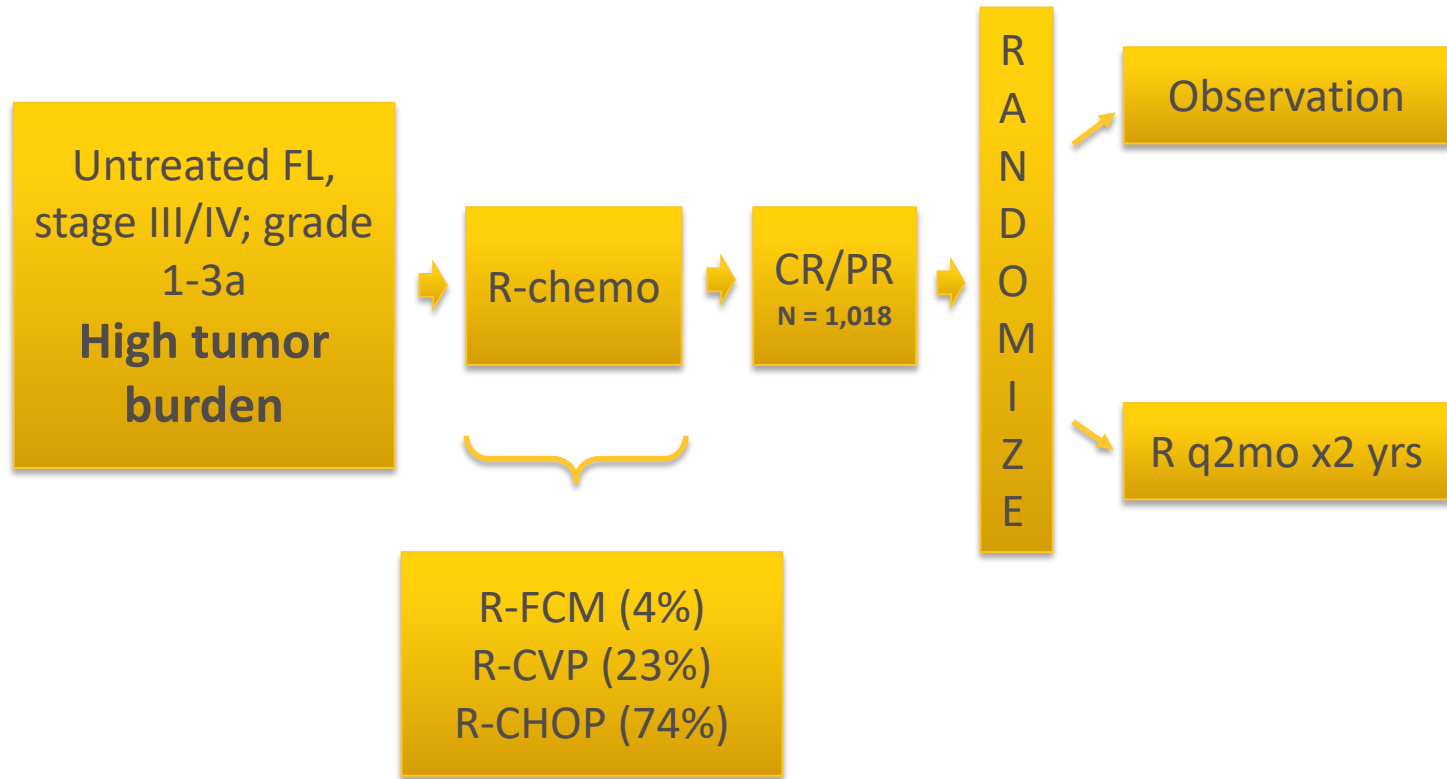
- Involvement of  $\geq 3$  nodal sites, each  $> 3$  cm
- Any lesion  $> 7$  cm
- B symptoms
- Splenomegaly
- Threatened organ function
- Pleural/peritoneal effusion
- Cytopenias (leukocytes  $< 1k$  or platelets  $< 100k$ ) or leukemia
  
- NCCN: also, steady or rapid progression, candidate for trial
  
- Median time between diagnosis and start of treatment = 2 to 3 years

} “Bulky”

# Frontline Treatment: Addition of Rituximab



# Primary Rituximab and (Maintenance v Observation) PRIMA

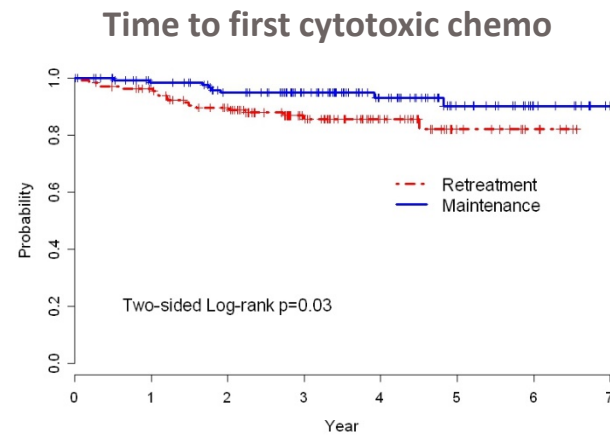
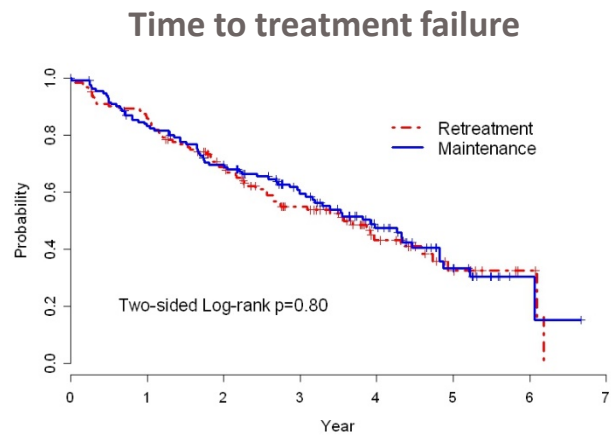
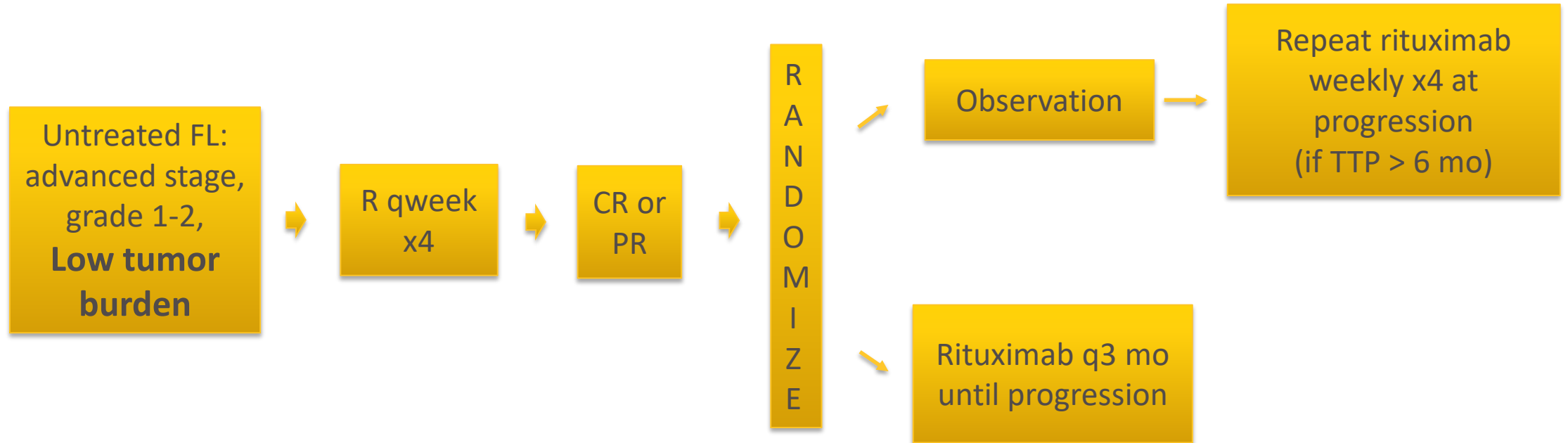


# PRIMA: Toxicity

	Observation (n=508)		Rituximab maintenance (n=501)	
	Grade 3/4	Leading to treatment discontinuation	Grade 3/4	Leading to treatment discontinuation
All adverse events	84 (17%)	8 (2%)	121 (24%)	19 (4%)†
Neoplasia	17 (3%)	6 (1%)	20 (4%)	5 (1%)
Neutropenia	5 (1%)	0	18 (4%)	0
Febrile neutropenia	2 (<1%)	0	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)
Infections	5 (1%)	0	22 (4%)	4 (1%)
CNS disorders	13 (3%)	0	10 (2%)	0
Cardiac disorders	5 (1%)	0	11 (2%)	1 (<1%)
Pregnancy	NA	2 (<1%)	NA	3 (1%)

➤ Logistics, financial

# Rituximab Extended Schedule or Re-treatment (RESORT)



**Doses of Rituximab**

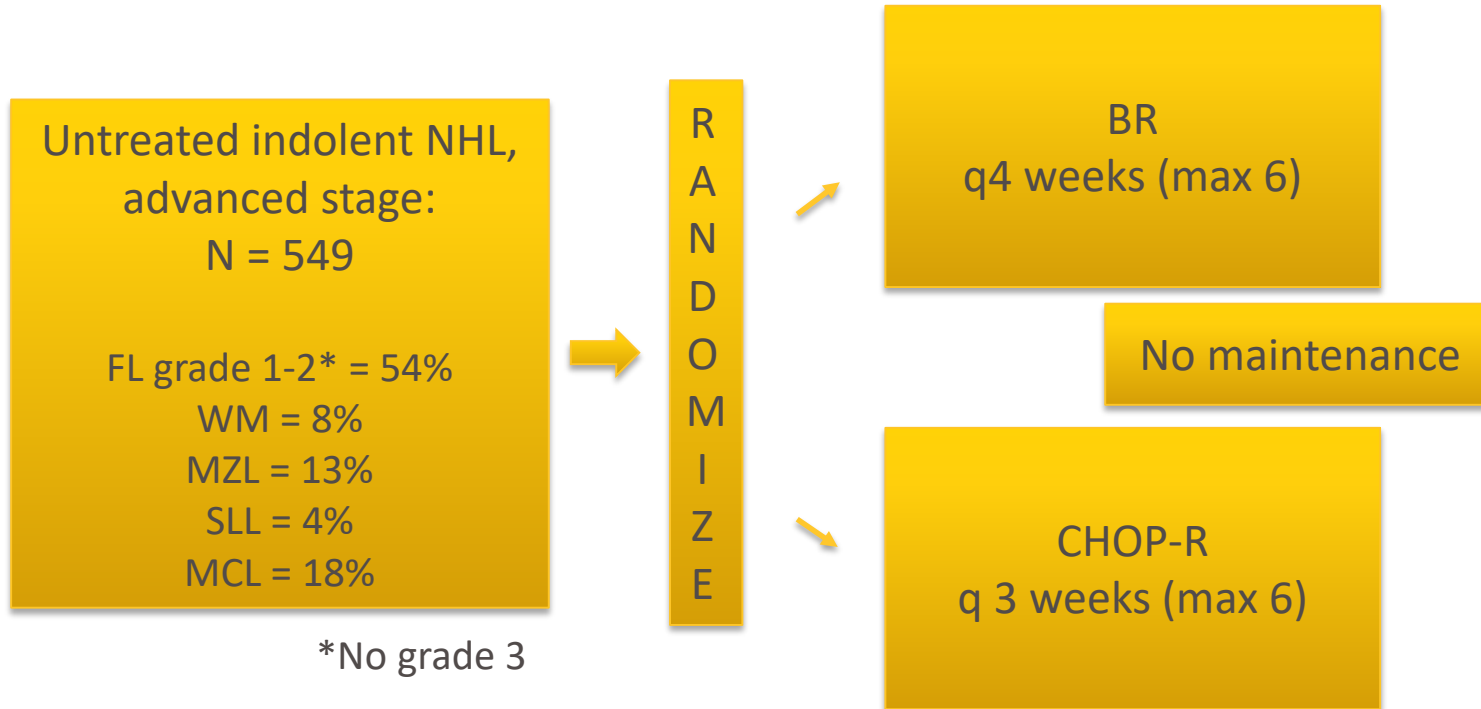
	Min	Max	Median	Mean
<b>Re-treat</b>	4	16	4	4.5
<b>Maint</b>	5	31	15.5	15.8

# Rituximab Hyaluronidase

- Subcutaneous injection over ~ 5 minutes
- Efficacy and safety are similar to IV
- May be substituted after patients have received 1st full dose of IV rituximab
- Time-saving (for patients and infusion clinic) → monitor for 15 min post injection
- Injection-site erythema in 11%



# BR vs CHOP-R (StiL NHL1)

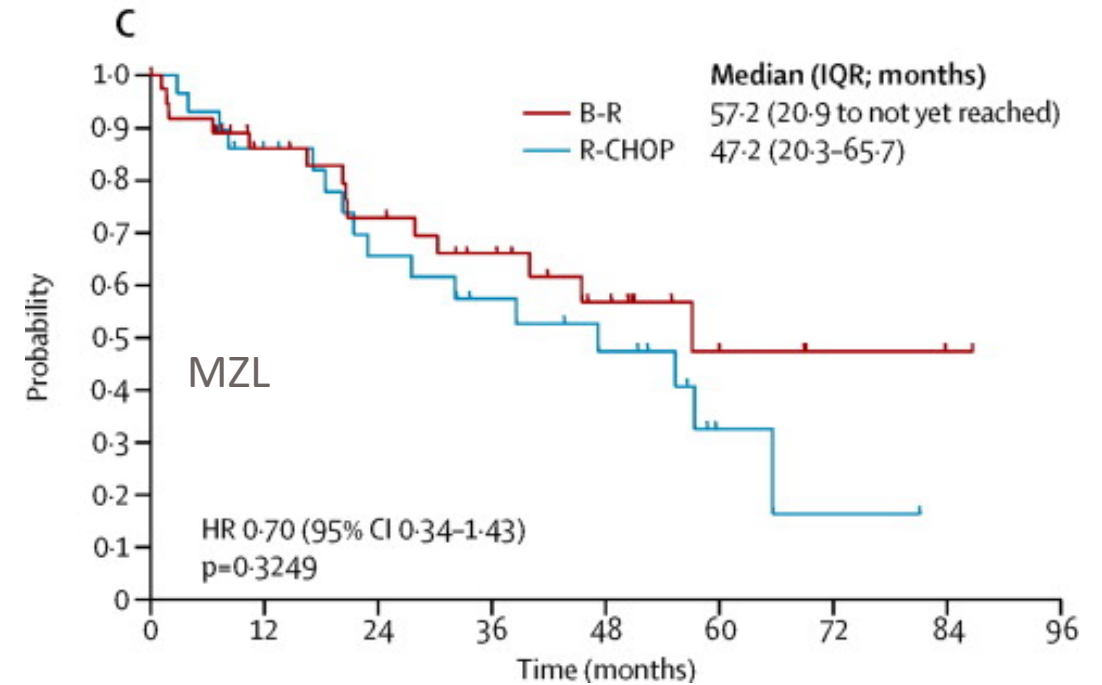
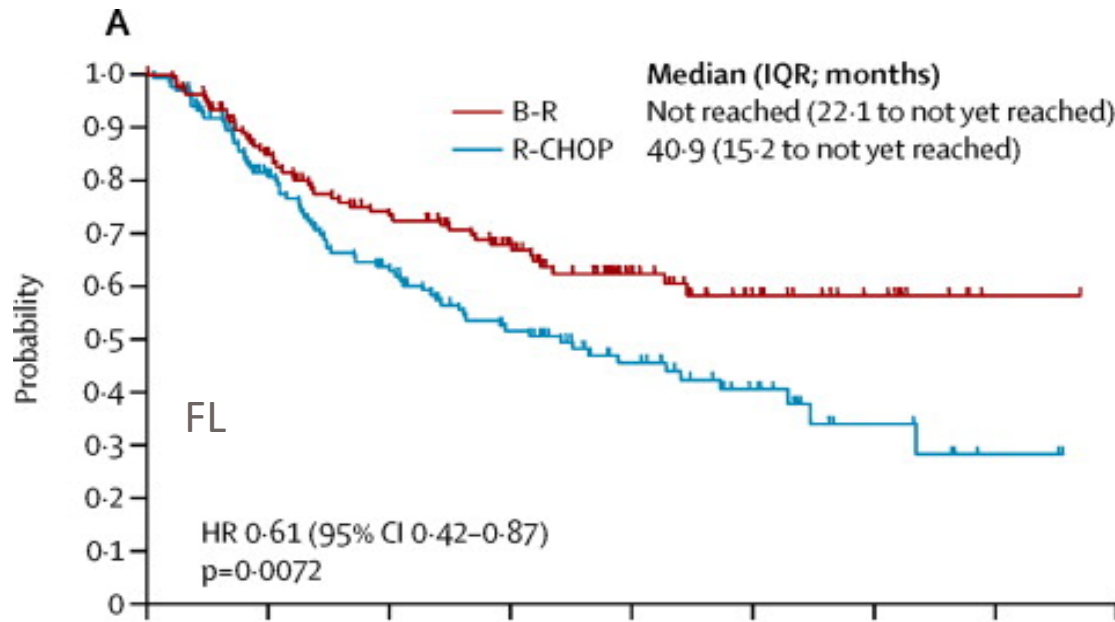


	B-R N = 260	CHOP-R N = 253	P
Alopecia	0	245	< 0.0001
Paresthesias	18	73	< 0.0001
Stomatitis	16	47	< 0.0001
Allergic reaction	40	15	0.0003
Infections	96	127	0.0025
Sepsis	1	8	0.0190
Neutropenia G3/4	11%	47%	



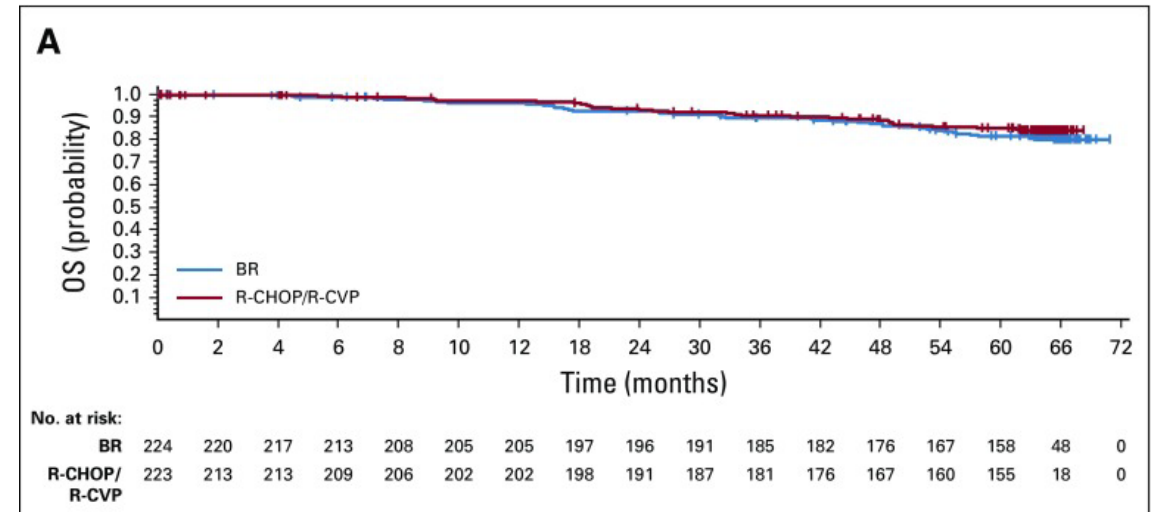
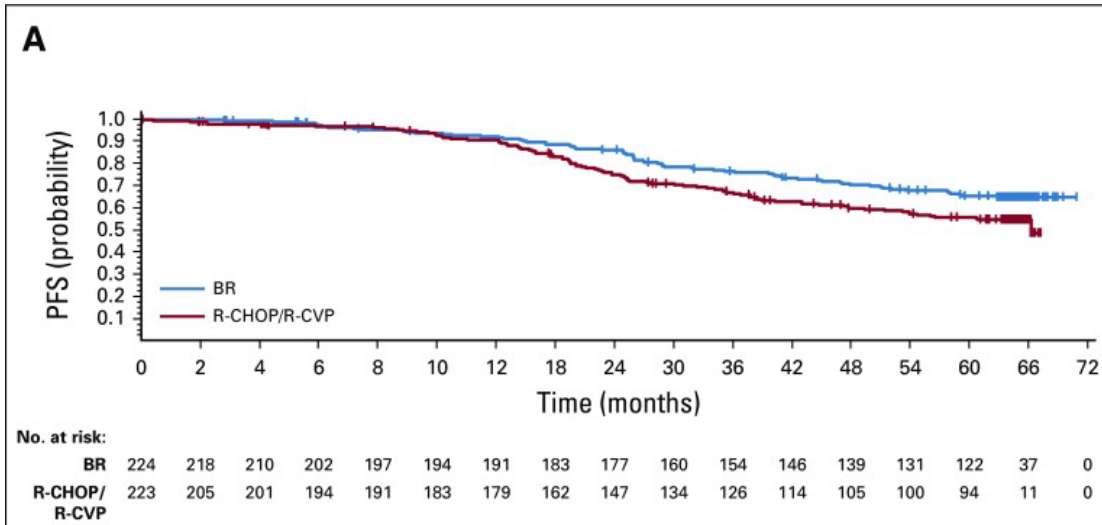
# StiL NHL1

	BR	CHOP-R
ORR	93%	91%
CR	40%	30%



➤ No difference in OS

# BRIGTH: BR vs R-CVP or R-CHOP (5-year follow-up)



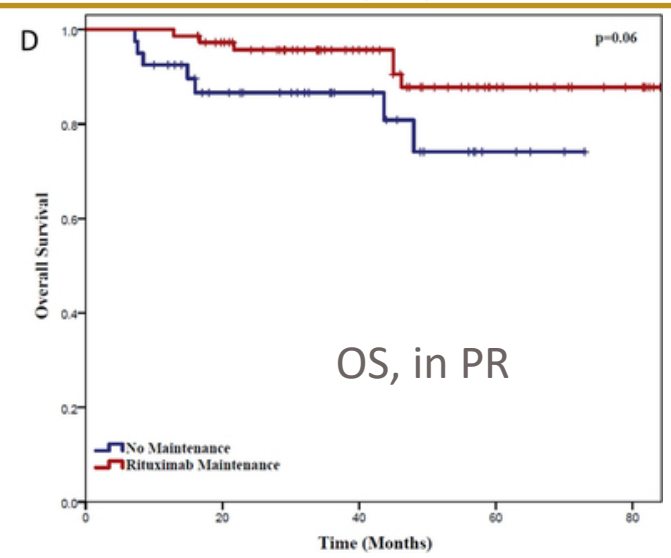
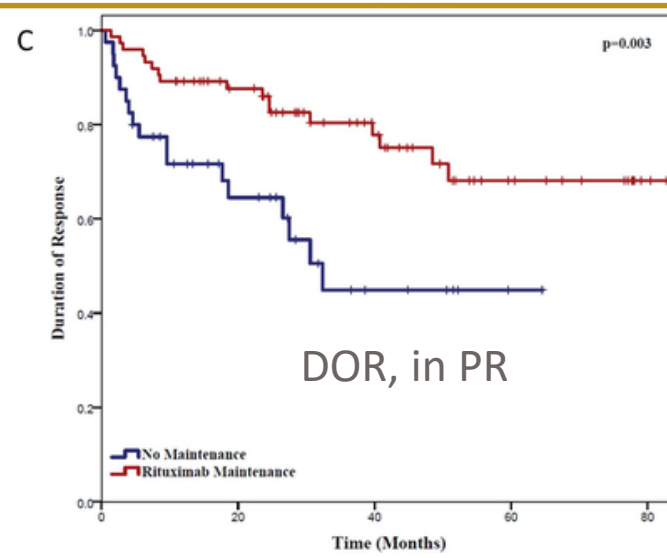
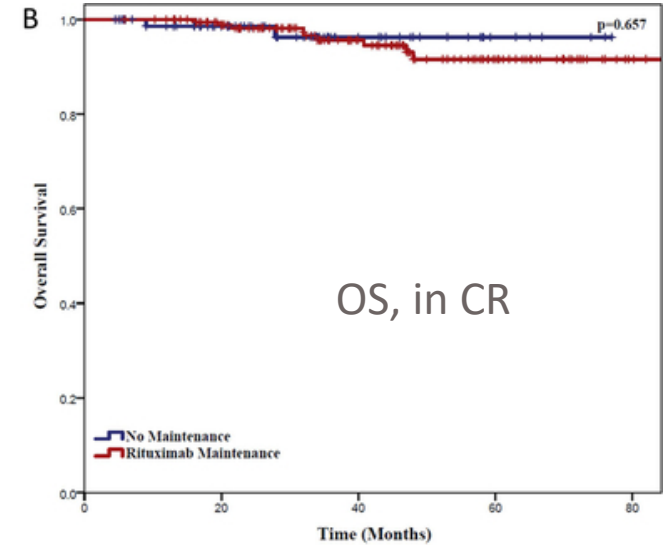
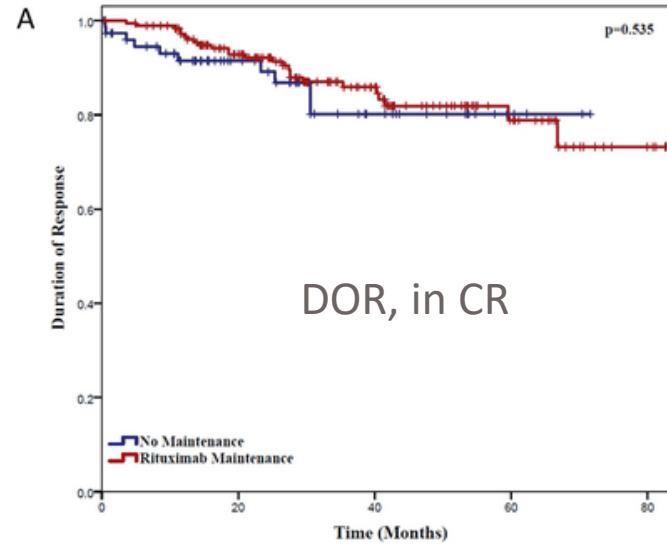
- Primary endpoint: noninferior CR rate (31% vs 25%; P for NI = .0225)
- 5 year PFS 65.5% vs 55.8% (HR 0.61, 95% CI 0.45 – 0.85; P = .0025)
- No difference in OS
- Comparable safety data to StIL
- Use of maintenance rituximab at discretion of clinician; similar across arms

# Maintenance Rituximab after BR

- Retrospective, limited to patients in CR or PR after induction BR (at least 4 cycles)
- Findings comparable to other, cross-trial analyses

## Maintenance Rituximab after R-chemo

For	Neutral/Against
PR	CR
Concern for toxicity from 2 <sup>nd</sup> line	
	Cost, time
	Some toxicity

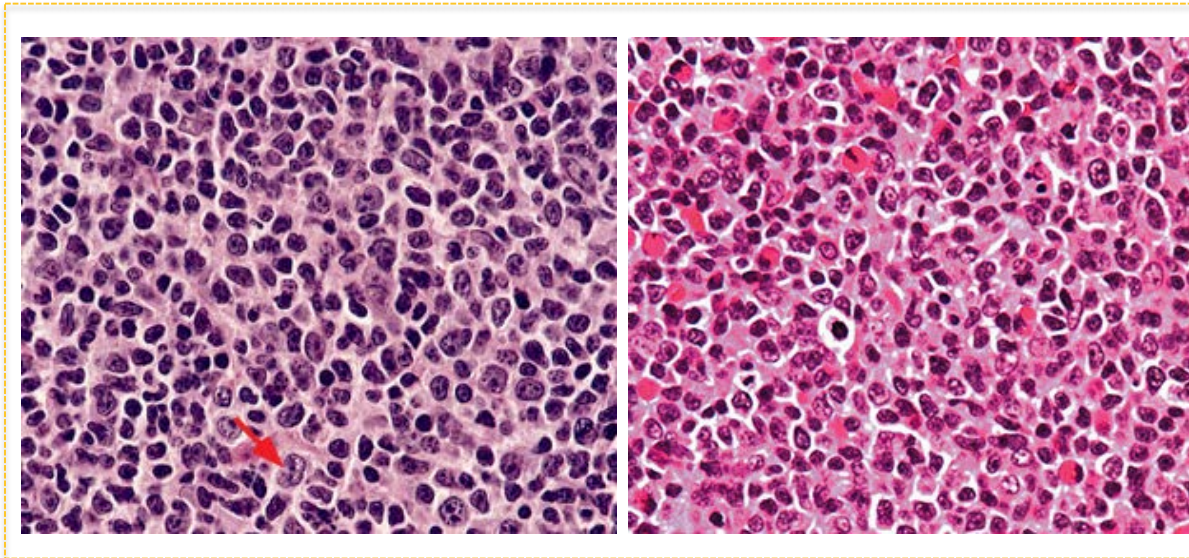


# BR for Frontline Treatment of FL

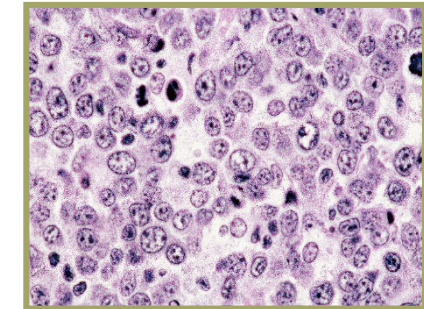
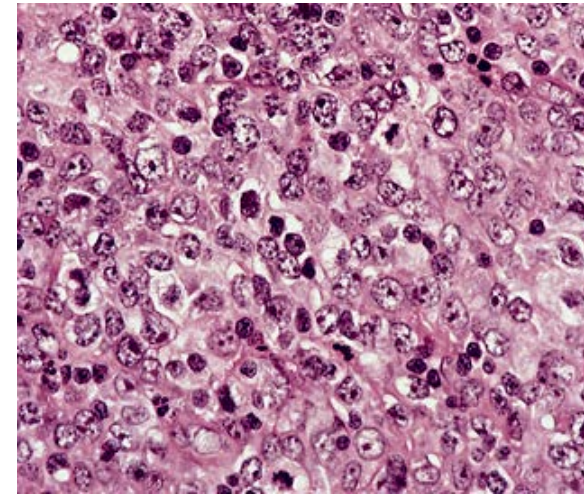
---



# FL Histologic Grade

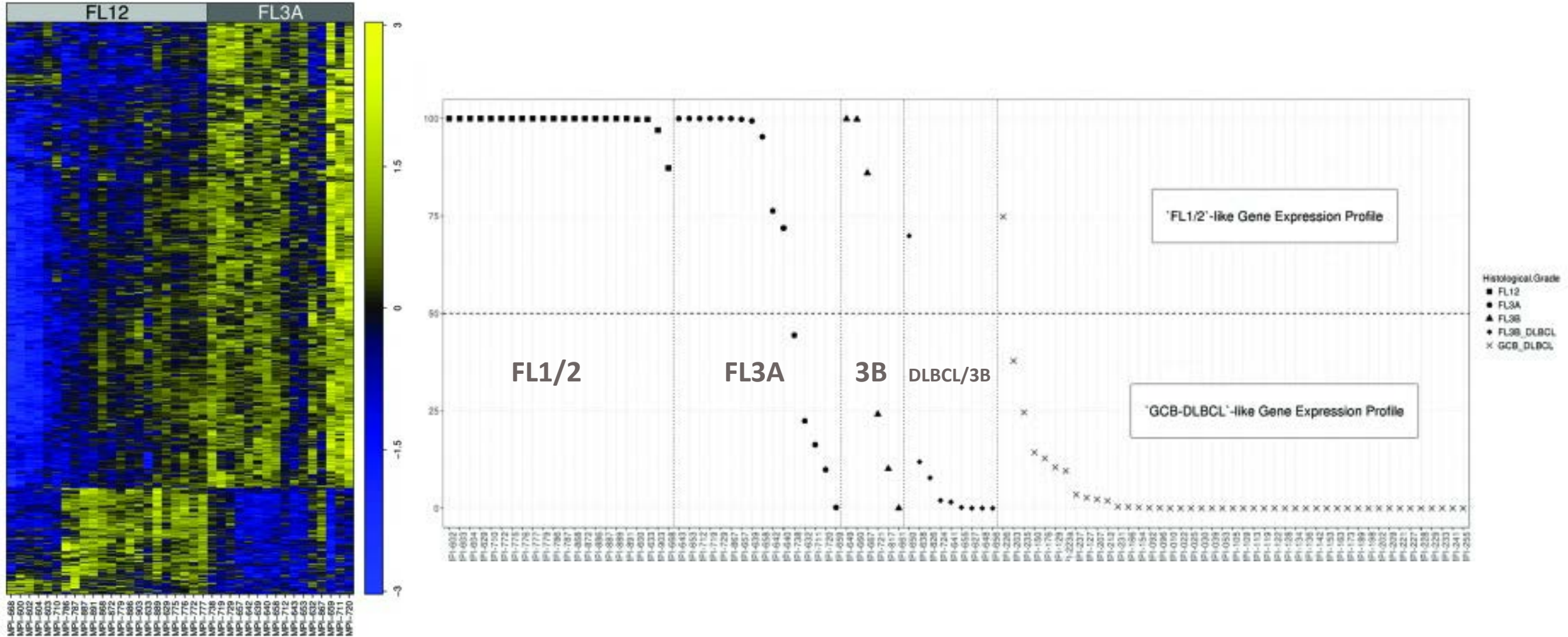


25-30% of FL

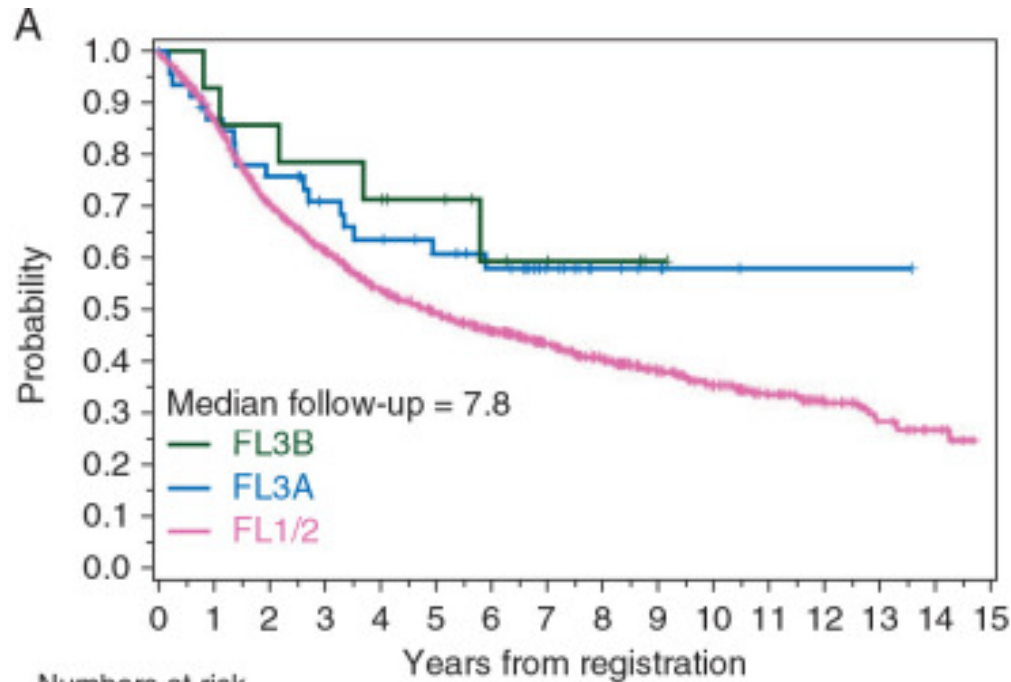


	1/2	3A	3B
Diffuse areas	Absent	Absent	Present
Centrocytes	Present	Present	Absent
Marrow invasion	Frequent	Frequent	Uncommon
CD10+	100%	83%	43%
<i>BCL2</i> break	88%	58%	9%

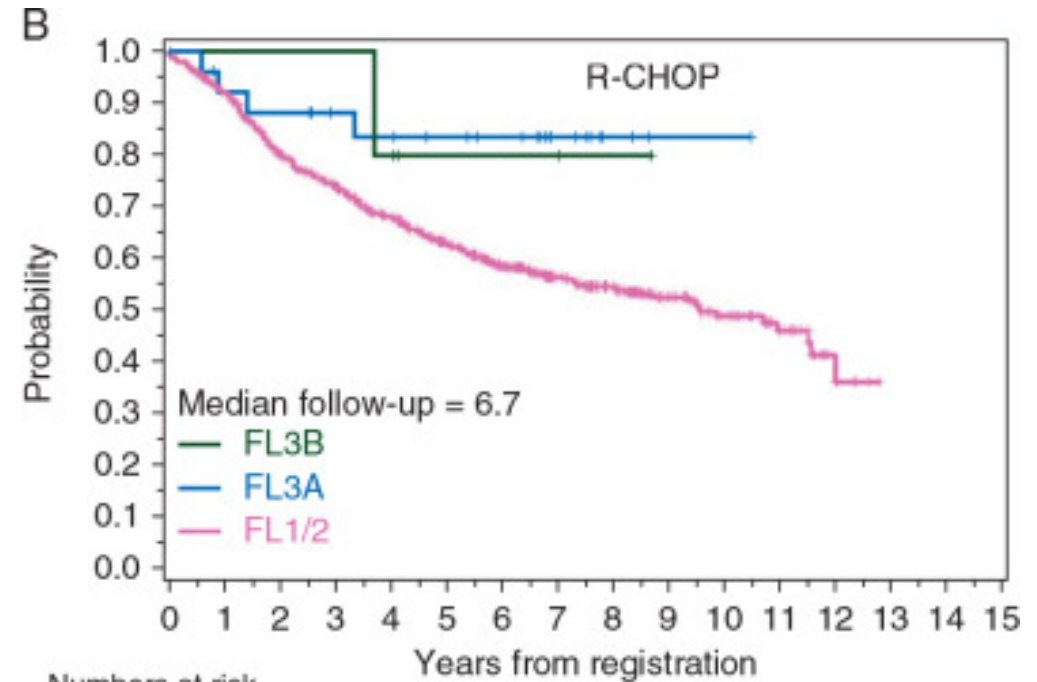
# FL Histologic Grade



# FL PFS by Grade



Numbers at risk	
FL3B	14 13 12 11 10 8 5 4 3 1 0
FL3A	47 39 34 29 26 23 20 12 6 4 2 1 0
FL1/2	158412891016 855 702 606 510 407 318 232 164 112 65 37 19



Numbers at risk	
FL3B	5 4 2 1 0
FL3A	27 23 22 19 18 16 14 8 3 1 0
FL1/2	744 625 516 452 375 319 259 195 150 90 53 28 6 0

# R-Chemo Frontline for Advanced FL: Conclusions

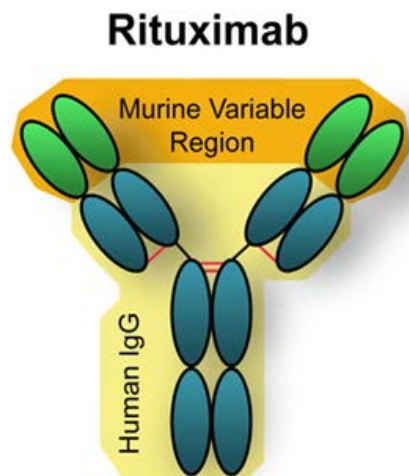
---

- BR preferred standard for bulky disease, treatment indication
- R-CHOP perfectly acceptable alternative considering no difference in OS
  - Deserves particular consideration in case of 3A grade
- Maintenance rituximab can be offered
  - Benefit and limitations in shared-decision making

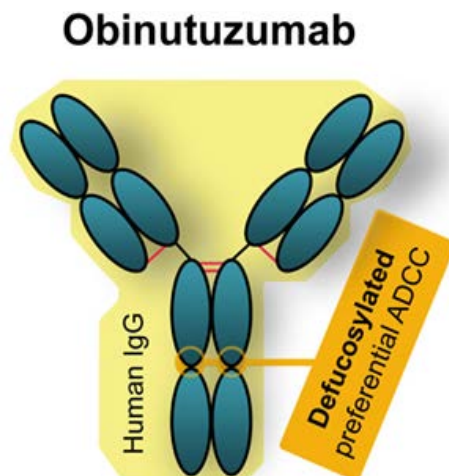


# Alternatives to R-Chemo: #1, O-Chemo

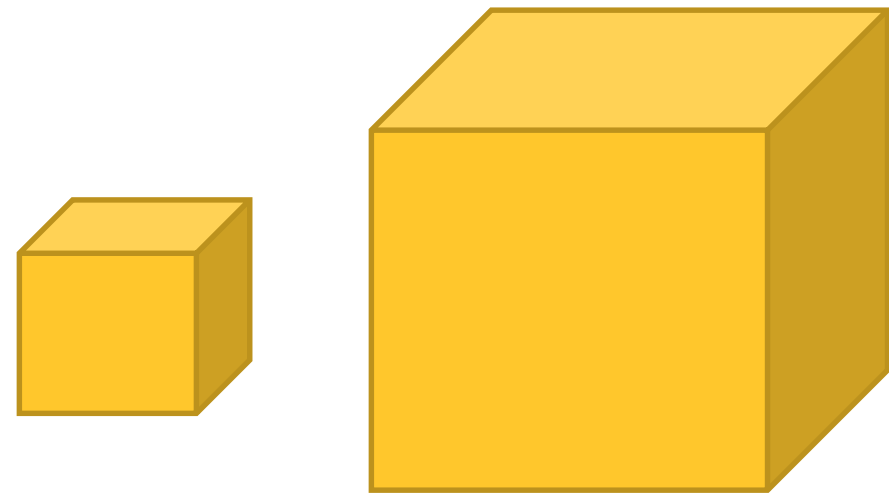
- Obinutuzumab binds overlapping epitope of CD20 (as rituximab) but in different orientation: results in different CD20 arrangement in cell membrane and increased apoptosis (type II)
- By manipulating glycosylation of cells that produce obinutuzumab, improvement in direct cell death and higher antibody dependent cell-mediated cyto-toxicity (via NK cell recruitment) is achieved



**Type I**  
Direct Killing +  
CDC +++  
ADCC ++  
ADP ++

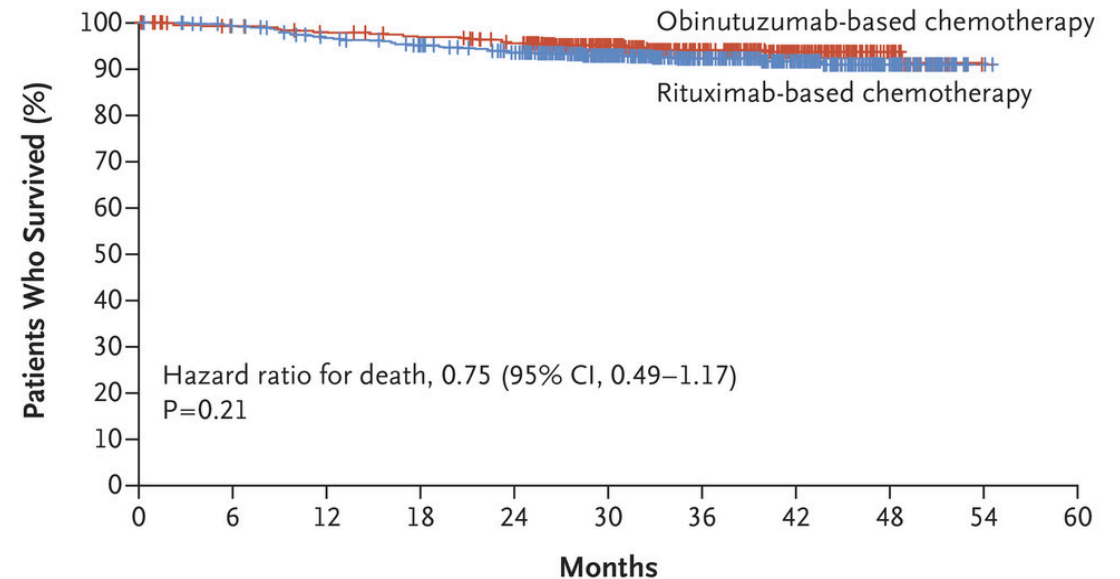
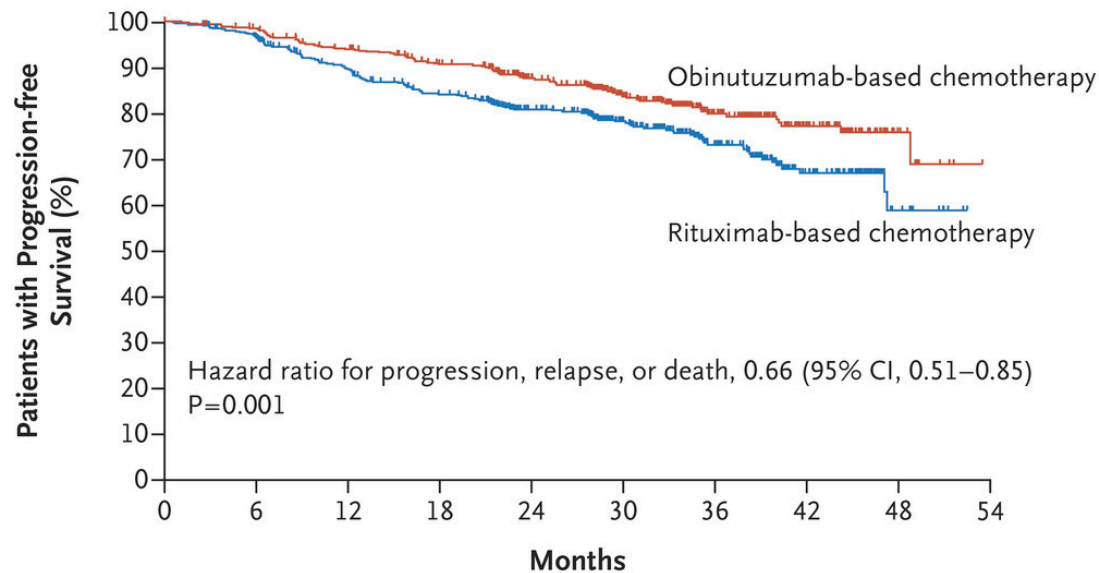


**Type II**  
Direct Killing +++  
CDC +  
ADCC +++  
ADP +++



# GALLIUM: R-Chemo vs O-Chemo, Frontline FL

- FL only, grades 1 – 3A
- Maintenance antibody given q2 mo x2 years
- Dosing: obinutuzumab: 1000 mg days 1, 8, 15 of C1 then 1000 mg D1 subsequent cycles



# GALLIUM: Higher Toxicity with O-Chemo, Bendamustine

**Table 3.** Adverse Events and Serious Adverse Events, According to Treatment Phase, and Selected Grade 3 to 5 Adverse Events during Treatment, According to Chemotherapy Agent and Treatment Phase in the Safety Population.\*

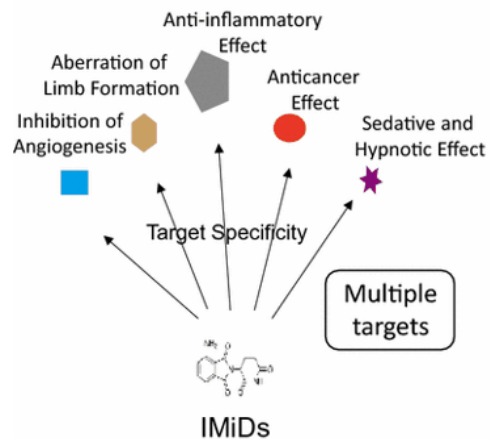
Event	Overall Trial†		Induction Phase		Maintenance and Observation Phases		Follow-up	
	Obinutuzumab Group (N=595)	Rituximab Group (N=597)	Obinutuzumab Group (N=595)	Rituximab Group (N=597)	Obinutuzumab Group (N=548)	Rituximab Group (N=535)	Obinutuzumab Group (N=427)	Rituximab Group (N=428)
No. of events	10,311	9343	7012	6533	3002	2578	295	230
Patients with ≥1 adverse event — no. (%)								
Any event	592 (99.5)	587 (98.3)	580 (97.5)	577 (96.6)	501 (91.4)	458 (85.6)	130 (30.4)	106 (24.8)
Event of grade 3 to 5	444 (74.6)	405 (67.8)	357 (60.0)	336 (56.3)	205 (37.4)	169 (31.6)	56 (13.1)	33 (7.7)
Event of grade 5‡	24 (4.0)	20 (3.4)§	4 (0.7)	3 (0.5)	10 (1.8)	10 (1.9)	10 (2.3)	7 (1.6)
Infection¶	—	—						
Bendamustine	—	—	27/338 (8.0)	26/338 (7.7)	52/312 (16.7)	39/305 (12.8)	25/270 (9.3)	6/263 (2.3)
CHOP	—	—	14/193 (7.3)	13/203 (6.4)	7/179 (3.9)	11/187 (5.9)	2/128 (1.6)	2/143 (1.4)
CVP	—	—	3/61 (4.9)	4/56 (7.1)	5/57 (8.8)	1/43 (2.3)	1/44 (2.3)	2/45 (4.4)

➤ Bendamustine associated OIs: PJP and VZV prophylaxis, especially with B-O

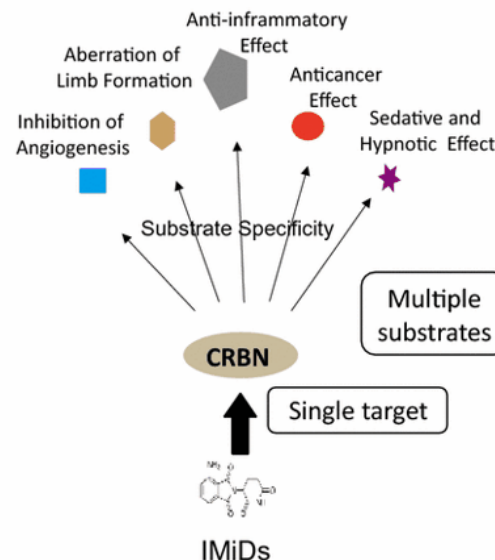
# Alternatives to R-Chemo: #2, R-Lenalidomide

- Lenalidomide: immune-mediated inflammatory disease immunomodulatory agent
- Combined with rituximab: enhanced antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity and direct cytotoxicity

Older model

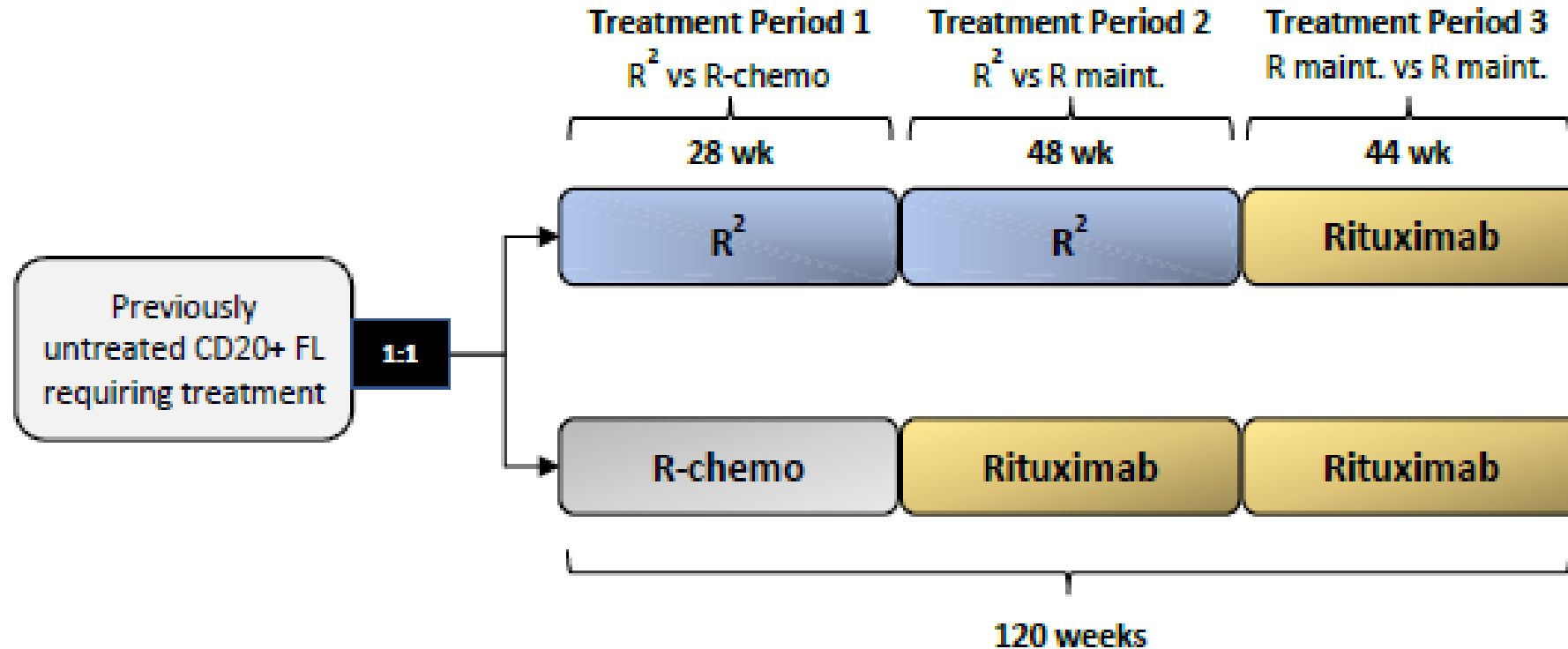


Newer model



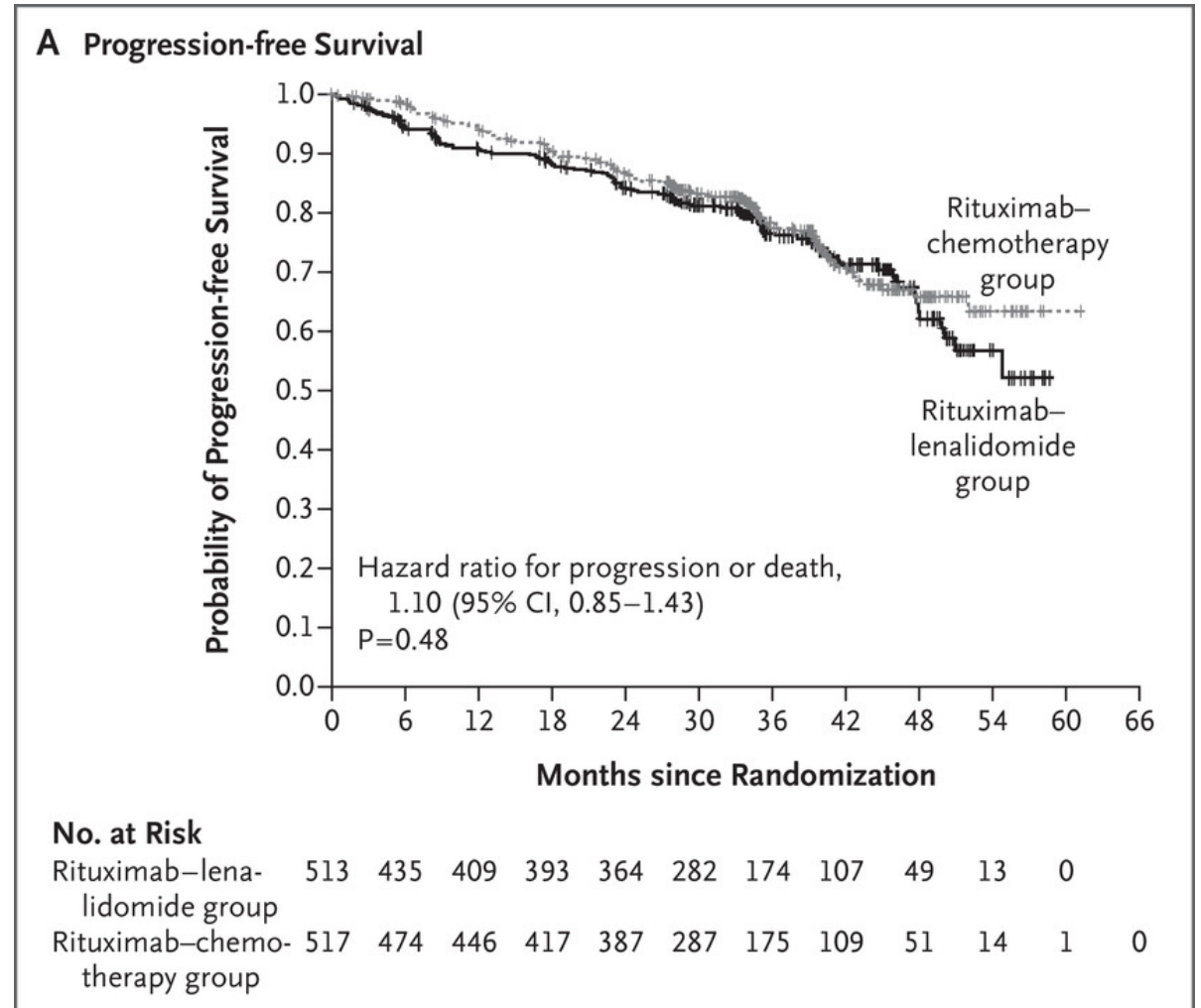
- Cereblon is a substrate receptor of a ubiquitin ligase; executes pleiotropic effects of lenalidomide

# RELEVANCE: Lenalidomide + Rituximab vs R-Chemo



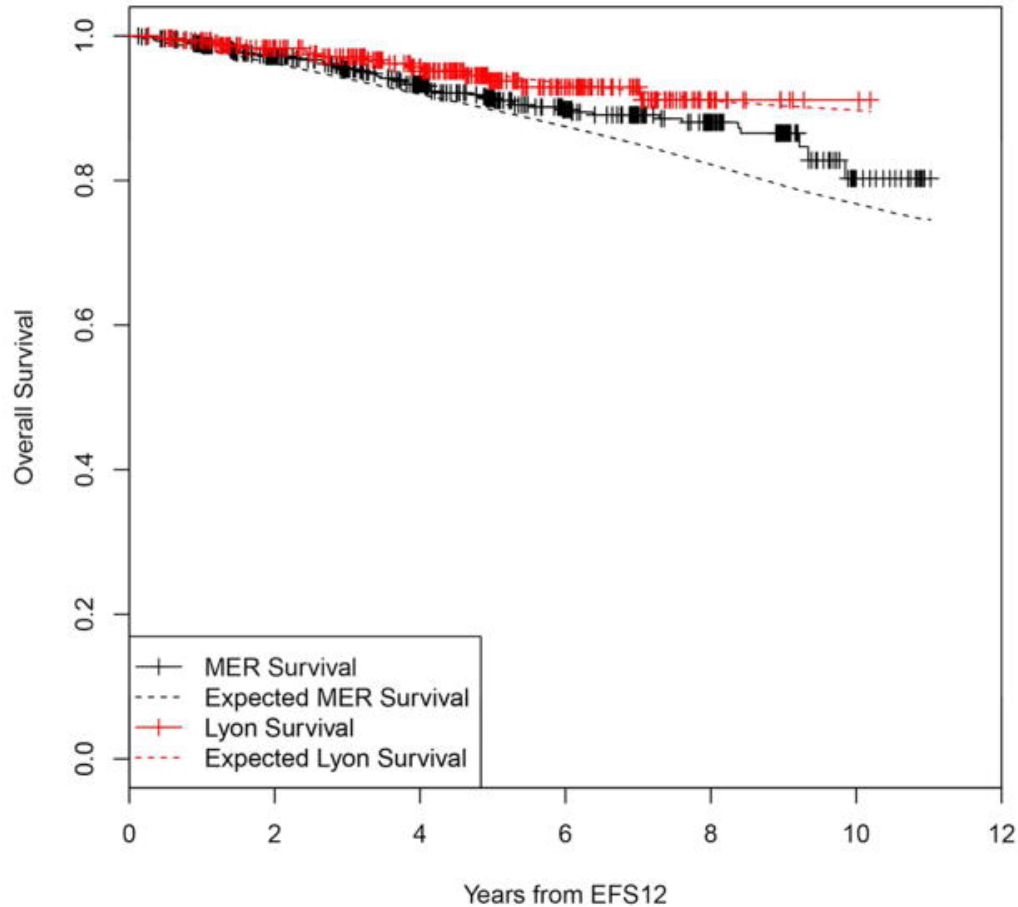
# RELEVANCE: “Inferior” Primary End-Point?

- N = 1,030
- CR / CRu at 24 months
  - R2 = 48%
  - R-chemo = 53% (P = 0.13)
- Toxicity
  - Overall, comparable frequencies
  - R2 = less nausea, vomiting
  - R2 = more rash, diarrhea
  - R2 = toxicities drawn out
- No FDA approval (though NCCN inclusion)

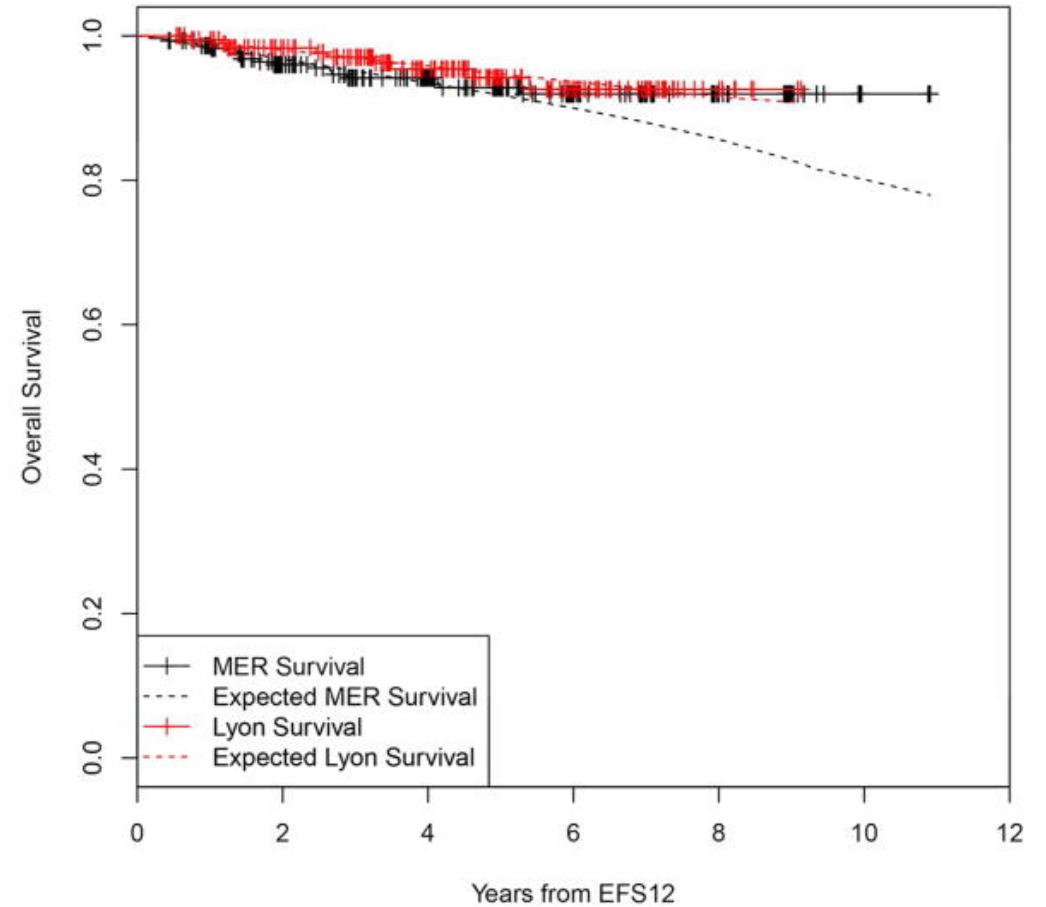


# Outcomes of Patient with FL and “EFS12”

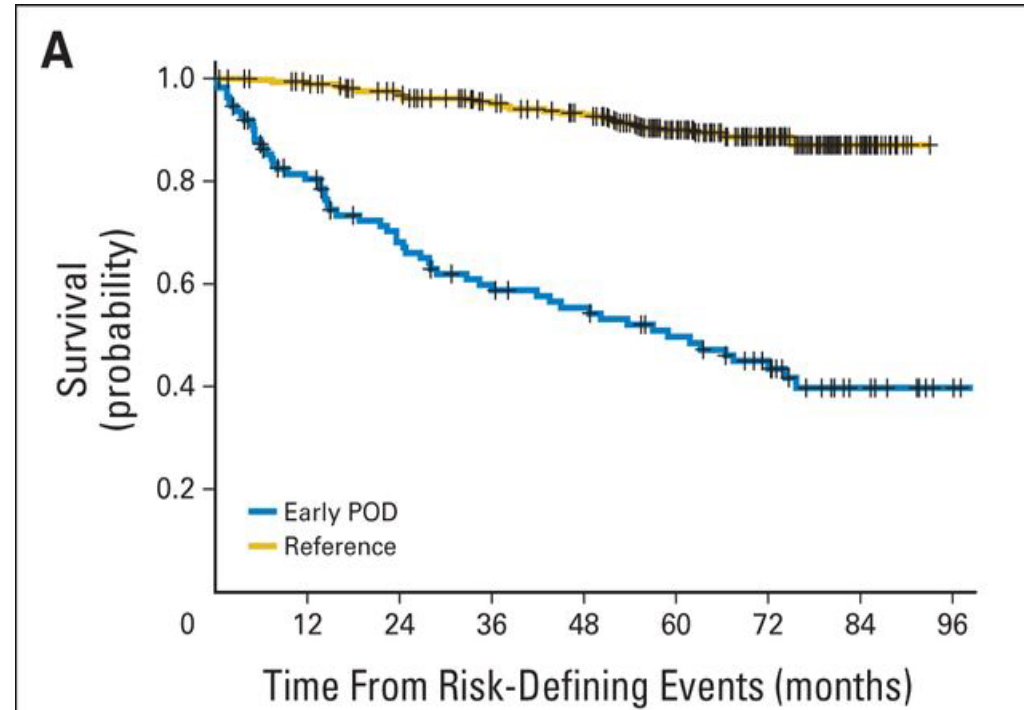
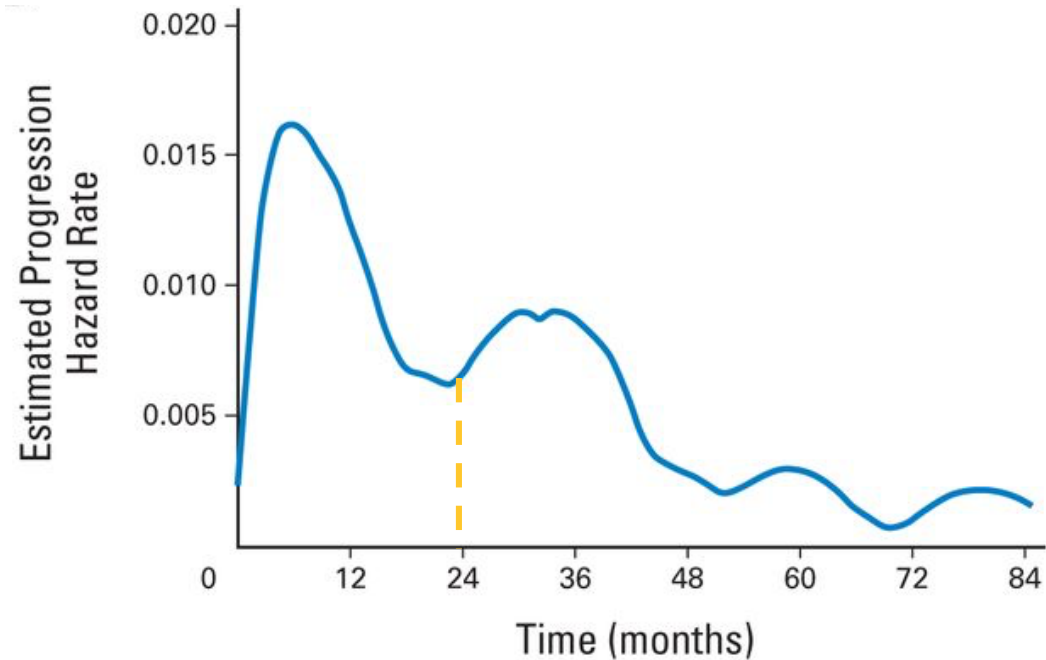
**A All Patients Achieving EFS12**



**B Immunochemotherapy Treated Patients Achieving EFS12**



# Follicular Lymphoma: Relapse



➤ Risk of progression highest in 24 months after R-CHOP

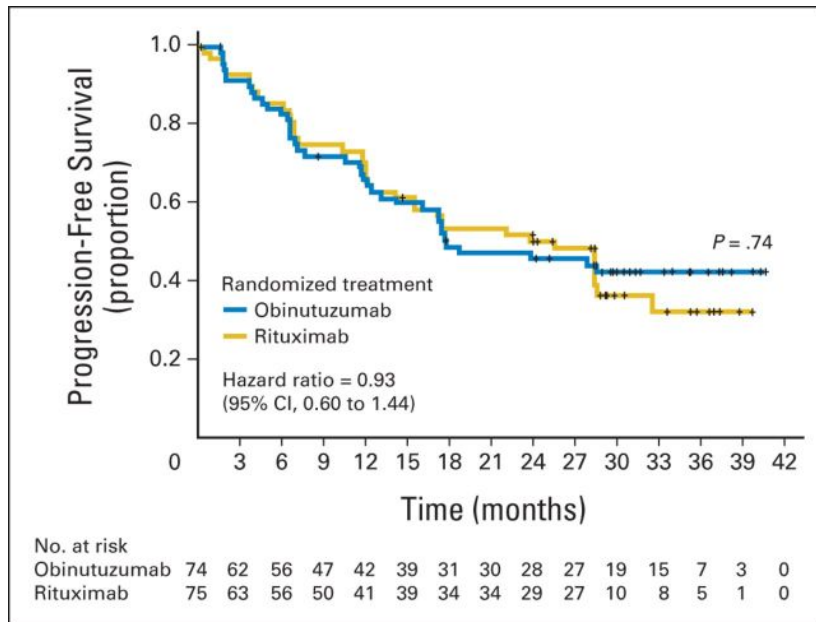
➤ In the 20% with “early” (< 24 mo) progression, survival markedly worse (independent of FLIPI)

➤ To date, no reliable marker for early POD or preferred treatment

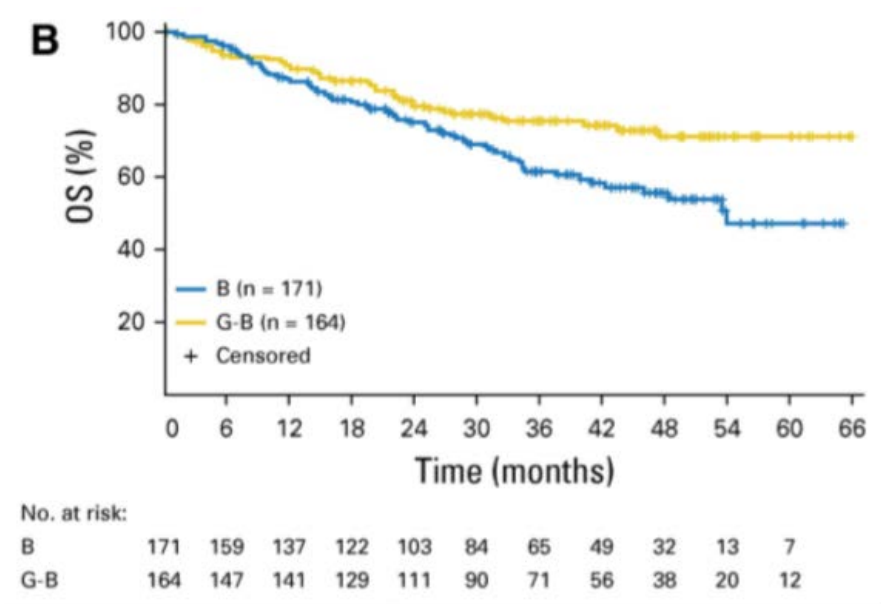


# Relapsed FL: Treatment

- Treatment indication?
- Switch out chemotherapy backbone and/or antiCD20
  - Obinutuzumab vs rituximab in R/R FL
  - GAUSS (R-sensitive): equivalent outcomes; GADOLIN (R-resistant): superior survival (albeit, to nothing)



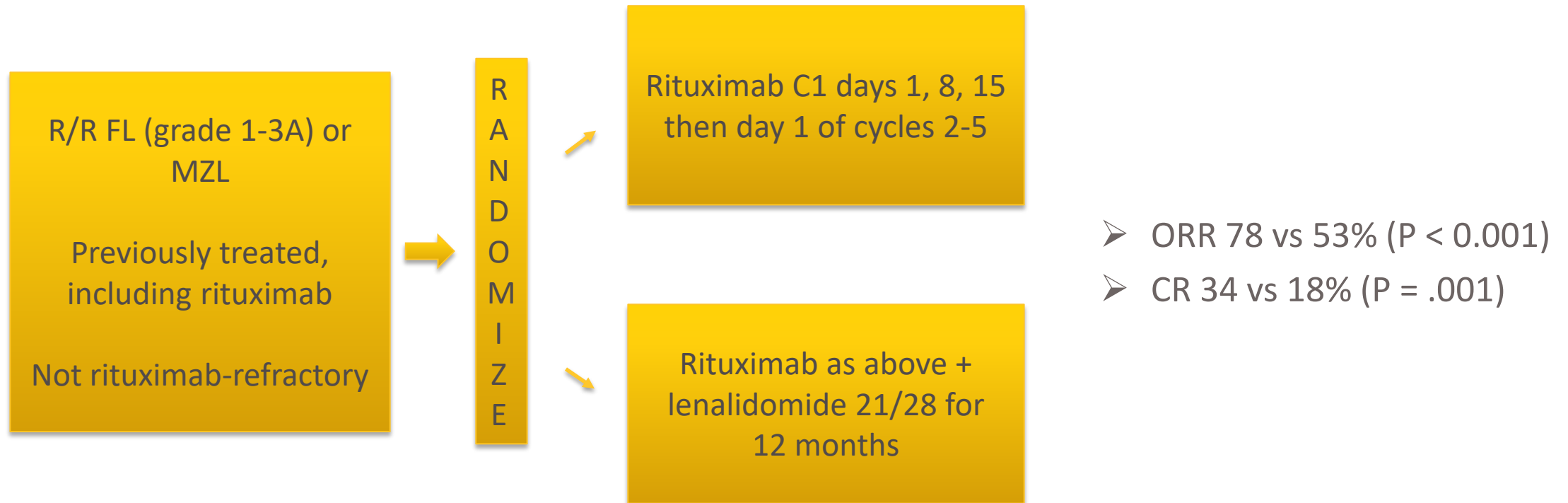
Sehn et al. J Clin Oncol. 2015 Oct 20;33(30):3467-74.



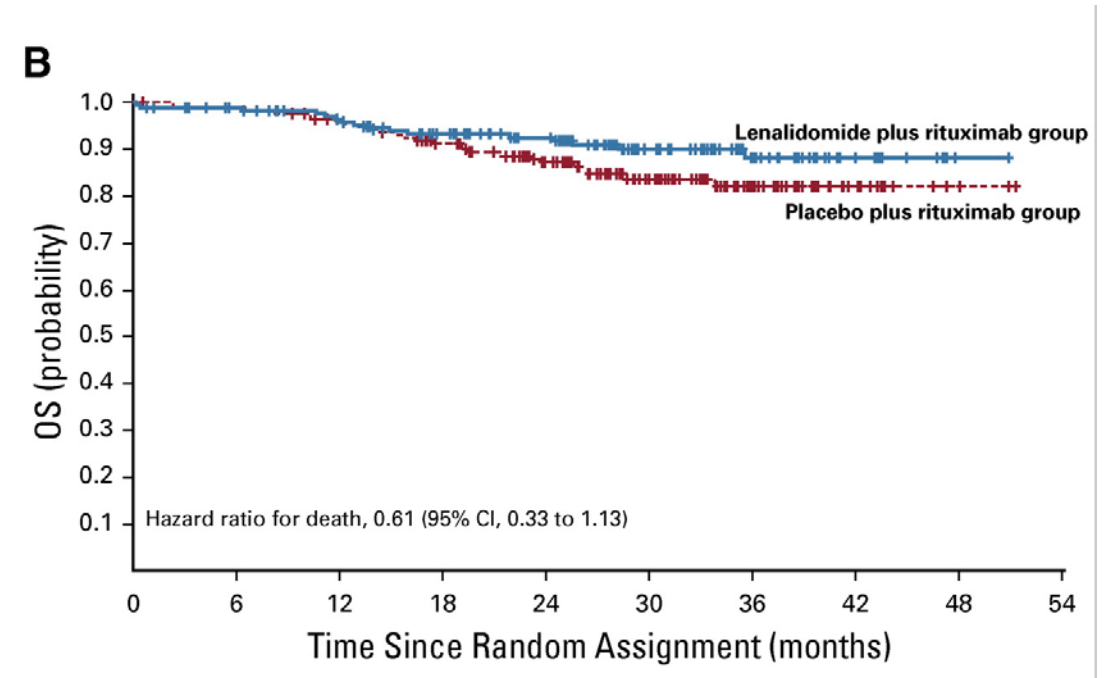
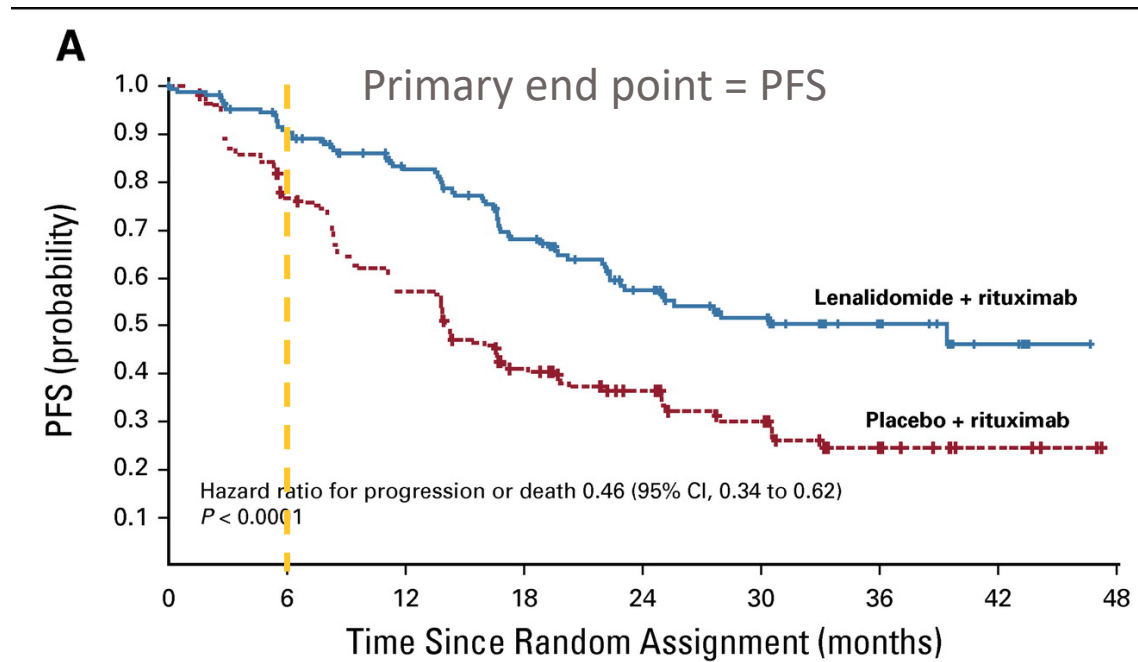
Cheson et al. J Clin Oncol. 2018 Aug 1;36(22):2259-2266.

# R2 in the R/R Setting: AUGMENT

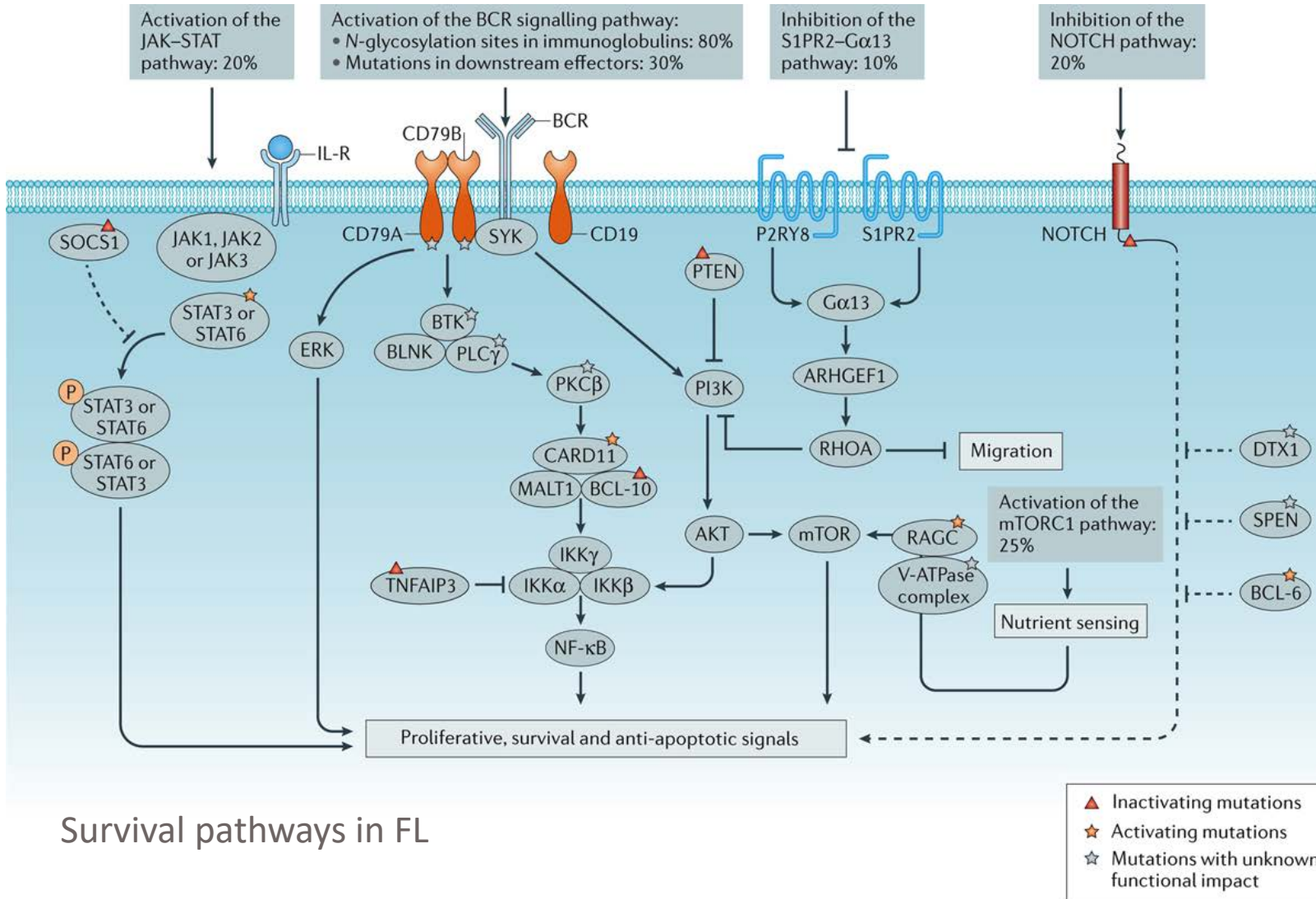
- FL grade 1 – 3A or MZL, previously treated, and in need of treatment for relapse. Prior treatment necessarily included rituximab, though cannot be considered rituximab-refractory



# AUGMENT: Results



# Molecular Targets in Follicular Lymphoma



→ Also, mutations in epigenetic modifiers occur in nearly 90% of cases of FL

# Other Oral Oncolytics for R/R iB-NHL

	FL	MZL
BTK inhibitors		Ibrutinib
PI3K inhibitors	Idelalisib Copanlisib Duvelisib	

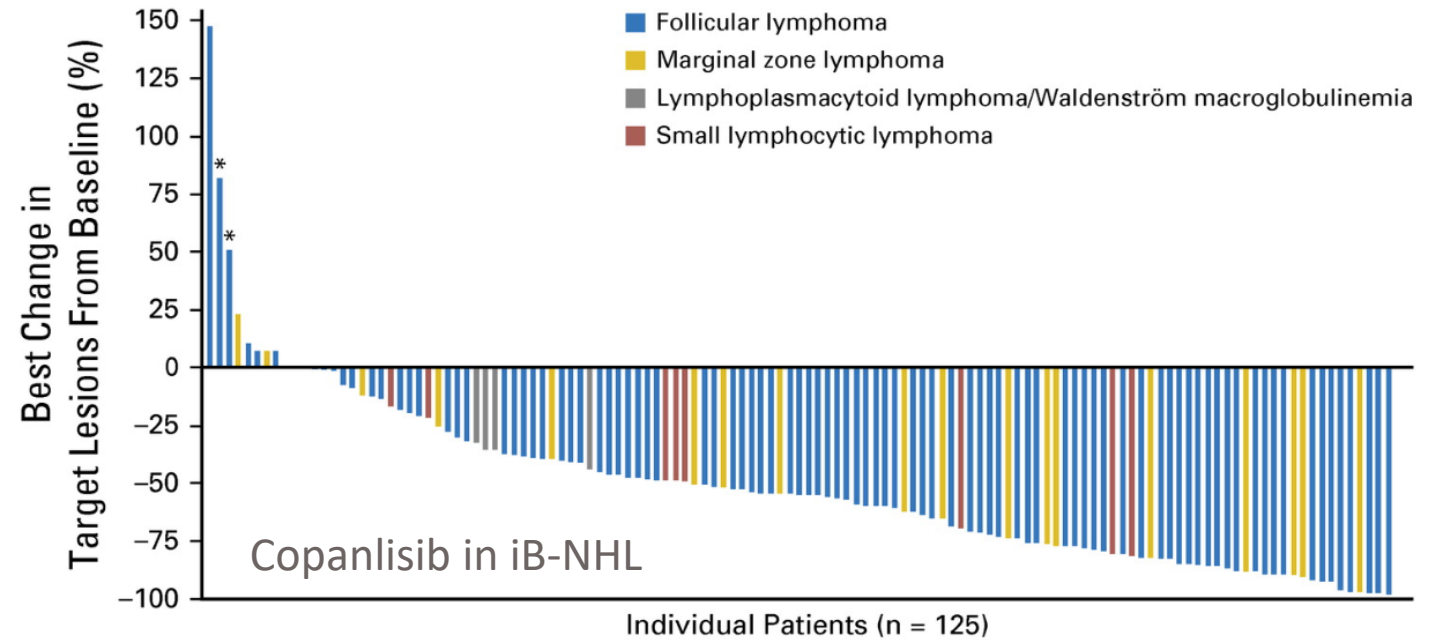
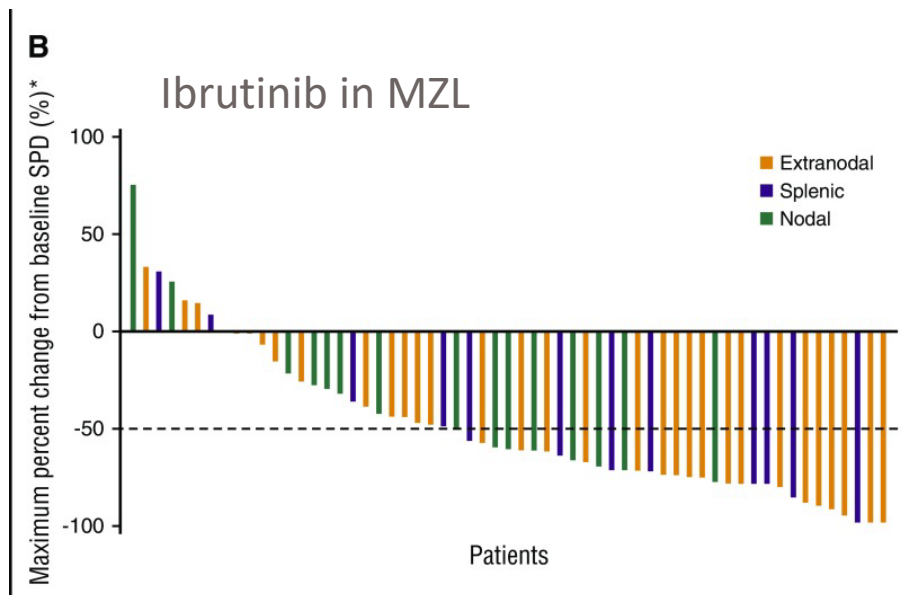
	Setting	ORR	CR	mPFS
Idelalisib ( $\delta$ )	Double refractory (R, alkylator) FL	56%	6%	11.0 mo
Duvelisib ( $\gamma, \delta$ )	Double refractory (R, alkylator) FL	47%	2%	9.5 mo
Copanlisib* ( $\alpha, \delta$ )	$\geq 2$ prior lines of therapy for FL	59%	12%	11.0 mo
Ibrutinib	$\geq 1$ prior anti-CD20 therapy in MZL	48%	3%	14.2 mo

\*IV on days 1, 8, 15 q28

Gopal et al. N Eng J Med. 2014 Mar 13;370(11):1008-18  
 Dreyling et al. J Clin Oncol. 2017 Dec 10;35(35):3898-3905  
 Flinn et al. J Clin Oncol. 2019 Apr 10;37(11):912-922  
 Noy et al. Blood. 2017 Apr 20;129(16):2224-2232

# Single Arm Phase 2 Studies of Oral Oncolytics for R/R iBNHL

➤ Primary endpoint = ORR



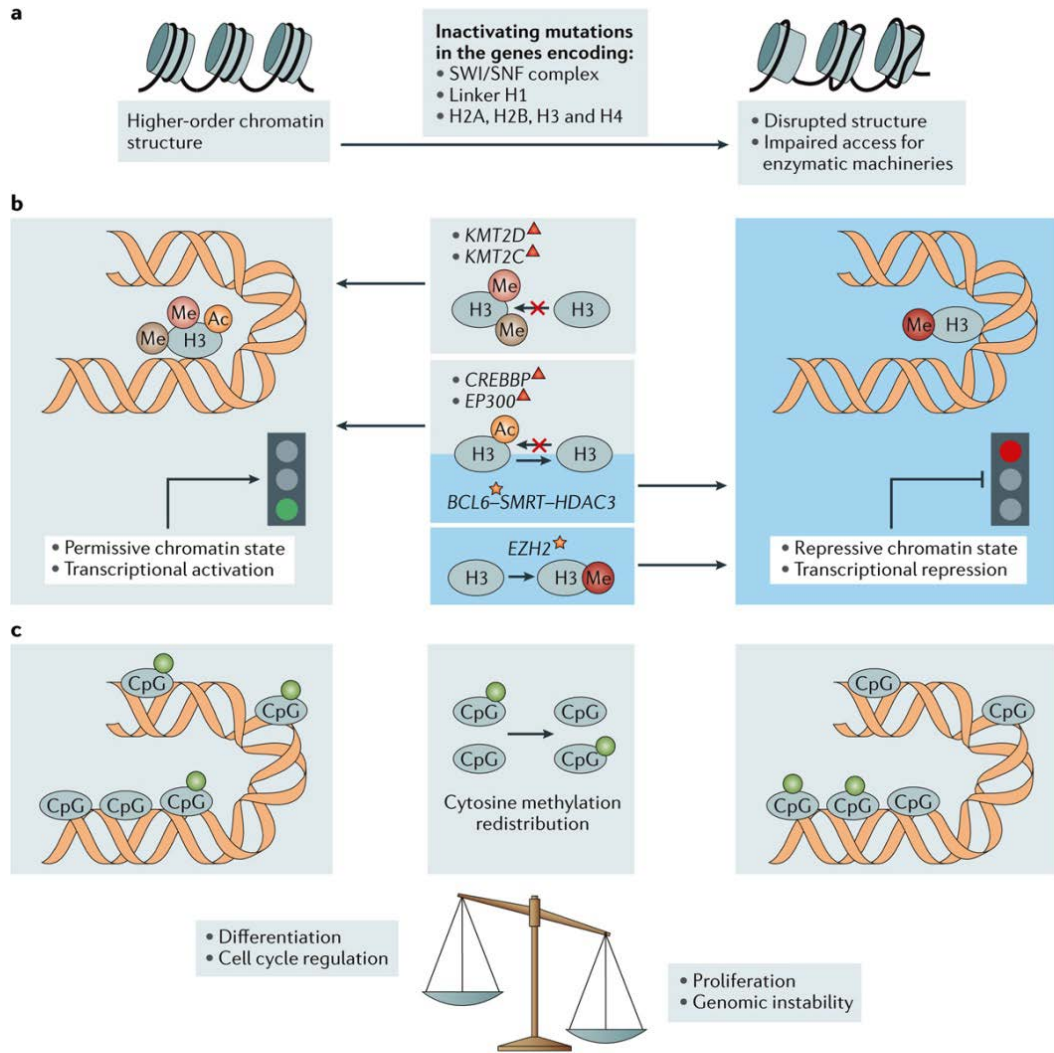
Dreyling et al. J Clin Oncol. 2017 Dec 10;35(35):3898-3905  
 Noy et al. Blood. 2017 Apr 20;129(16):2224-2232

# Toxicities of Targeted Oral Oncolytics

	Key Toxicities	Recommended prophylaxis
Idelalisib Duvelisib	Opportunistic infections, transaminitis, diarrhea/colitis, pneumonitis, intestinal perforation, dermatologic events	PJP; CMV monitoring
Copanlisib	Ol's, Hyperglycemia (short-lived), hypertension	PJP
Ibrutinib	Atrial fibrillation, hemorrhage	

<p><b>X</b> Idelalisib (CYP3A4 Inhibitors (Strong)) Simvastatin</p> <hr/> <p><b>X</b> Idelalisib (CYP3A4 Inhibitors (Strong)) Sonidegib</p> <hr/> <p><b>X</b> Idelalisib St John's Wort</p>	<p><b>D</b> Copanlisib Voriconazole (CYP3A4 Inhibitors (Strong))</p> <hr/> <p><b>C</b> <u>Duvelisib (CYP3A4 Substrates (High risk with Inhibitors))</u> <u>Grapefruit Juice (CYP3A4 Inhibitors (Moderate))</u></p>
---	--

# Zeste Homolog 2 (EZH2)



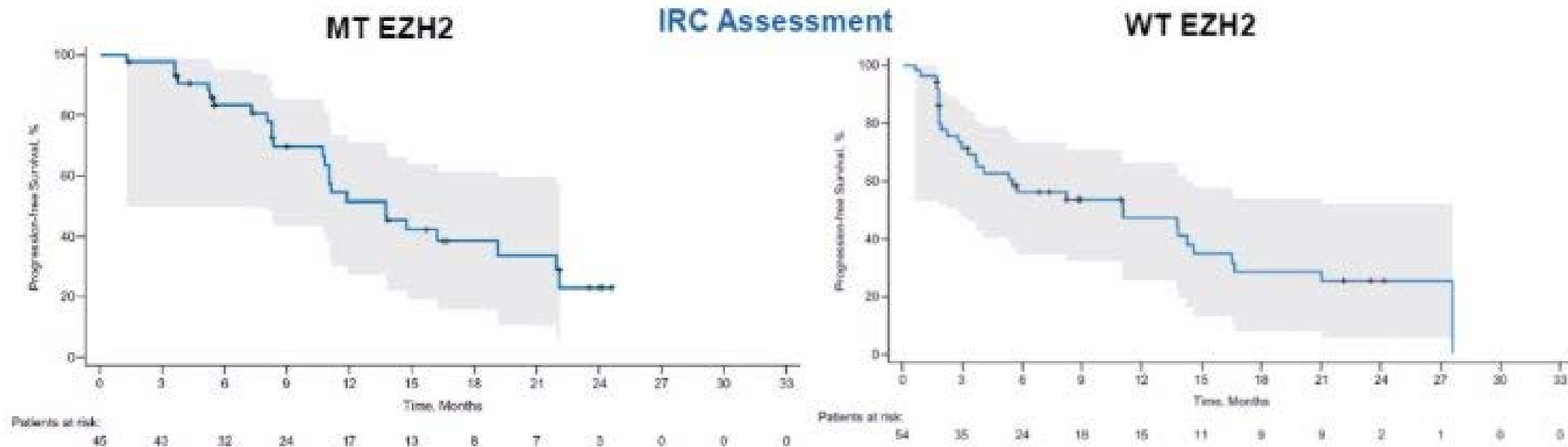
- Genetic lesions that disrupt histone-modifying enzymes occur in nearly all cases of FL
- Gain of function mutation to *EZH2* found in ~20% of FL
- Reduction in histone methyltransferase EZH2 activity → B cell differentiation

● H3K27Ac (enhancers)   
 ● H3K4me3 (promoters)   
 ● DNA methylation   
 ★ Activating mutations  
● H3K4me1 (enhancers)   
 ● H3K27me3 (promoters)   
 ▲ Inactivating mutations   
 ✗ Pathway inactivation



# Zeste Homolog 2 (EZH2) Inhibitor: Tazemetostat

▶ Median PFS of 13.8 and 11.1 months was Observed in MT and WT EZH2 Cohorts



- ORR in N = 45 *EZH2* mutant FL = 69% (13% CR); mDOR = 11 mo
- ORR in N = 54 *EZH2* WT FL = 34% (4% CR); mDOR = 13 mo
- AEs = fatigue, URI, MSK pain, nausea, abdominal pain
- Accelerated approval in June 2020: *EZH2* mutant FL: 2 prior therapies; *EZH2* WT FL: no satisfactory alternatives
- Companion diagnostic for *EZH2* mutation also approved

# Topics of Special Interest in iB-NHL: 2020

- Early relapse
  - Prediction

	High risk FLIPI*, %	High risk m7-FLIPI, %	High risk POD24-PI, %
Sensitivity	70-78	43-61	61-78
Specificity	56-58	79-86	67-73

\*High-risk pre-treatment FLIPI found in 75% of patients with POD24 and 40% of patients without POD24

- Bottom line: ongoing research into clinical, molecular, radiographic factors

- Management

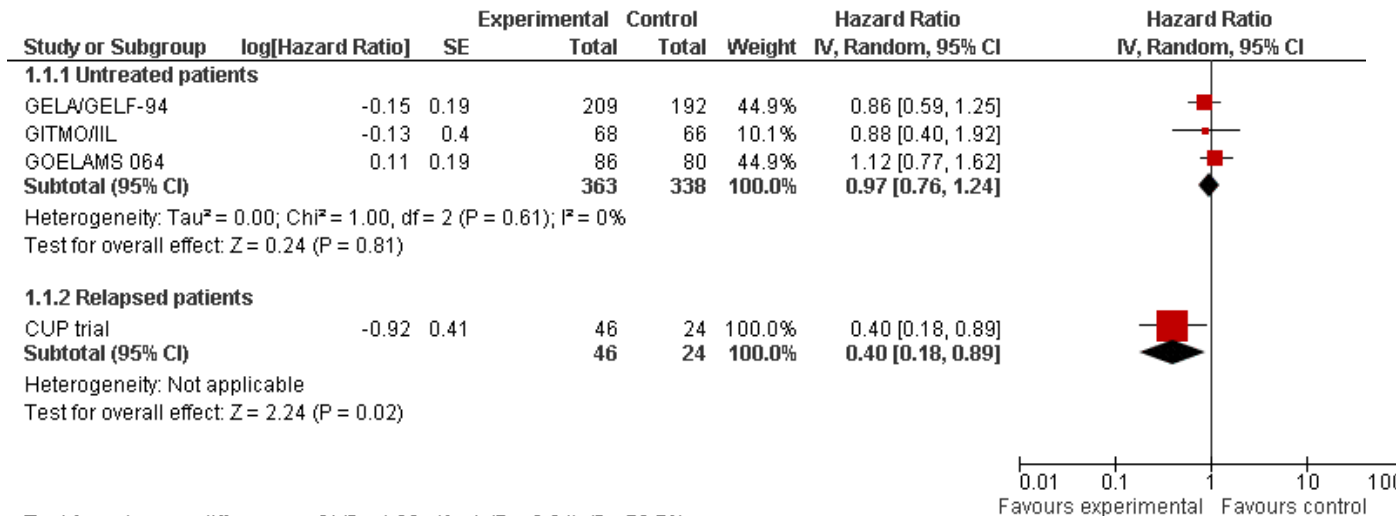
- Biopsy if possible: HT identified in 20% - 75% of cases of early relapse

- Cellular therapy
  - Autologous SCT
  - CAR-T
  - Bi-specifics

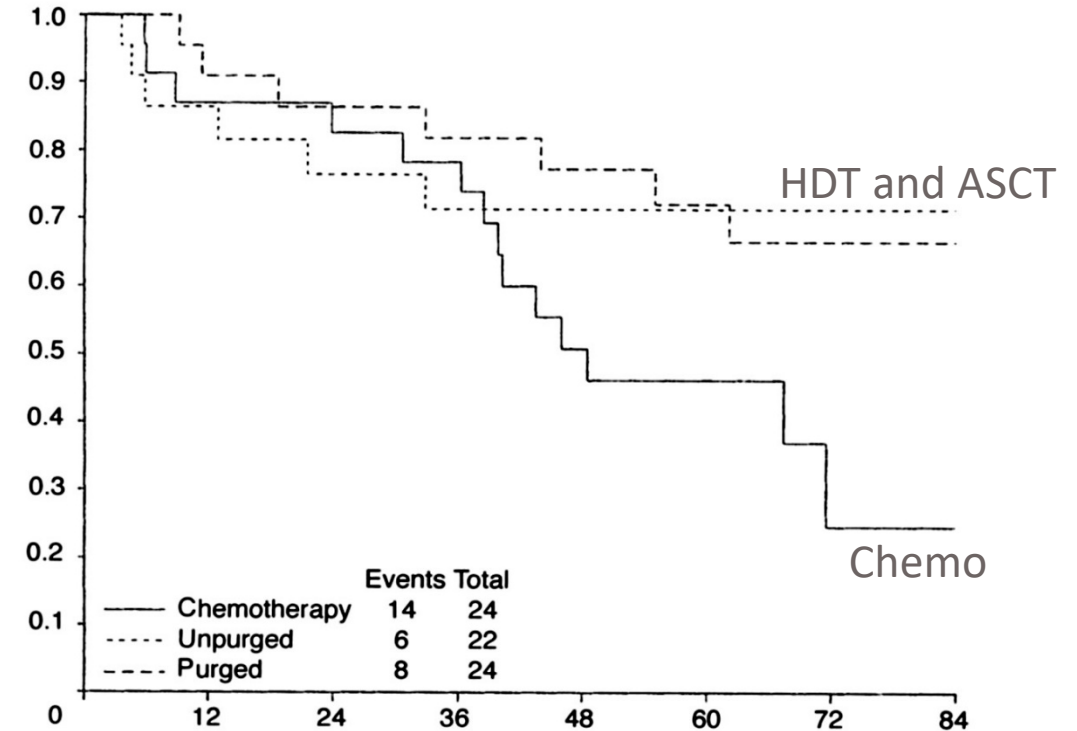
} No current FDA approval

# High Dose Therapy and Autologous SCT in FL

- CUP trial (2003, pre-rituximab)
- Randomized 70 patients with at least PR to 3 cycles of R-CHOP(like) for relapsed FL to HDT and autoSCT or 3 more cycles



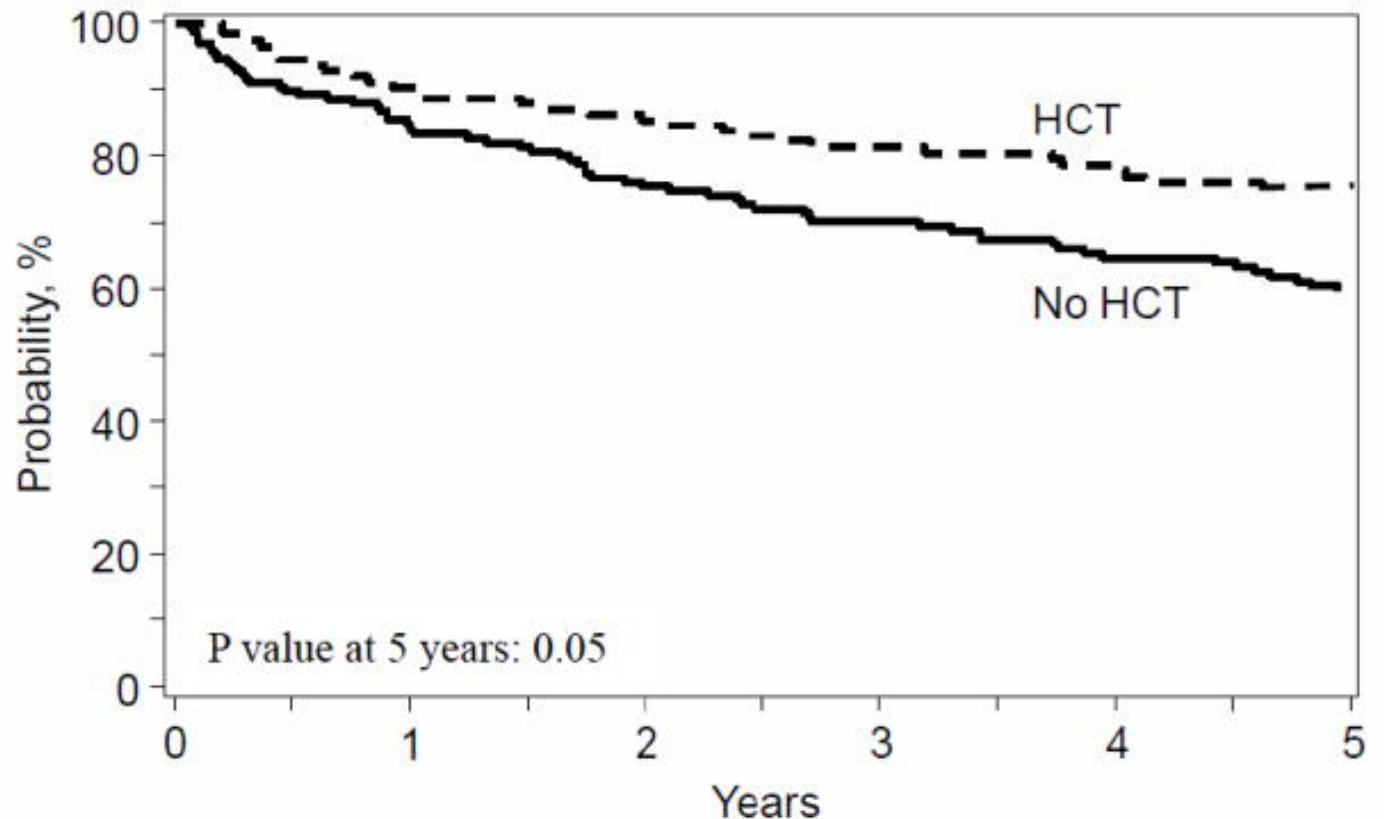
Test for subgroup differences: Chi<sup>2</sup> = 4.29, df = 1 (P = 0.04), I<sup>2</sup> = 76.7%



# HDT and ASCT for Early Relapse FL

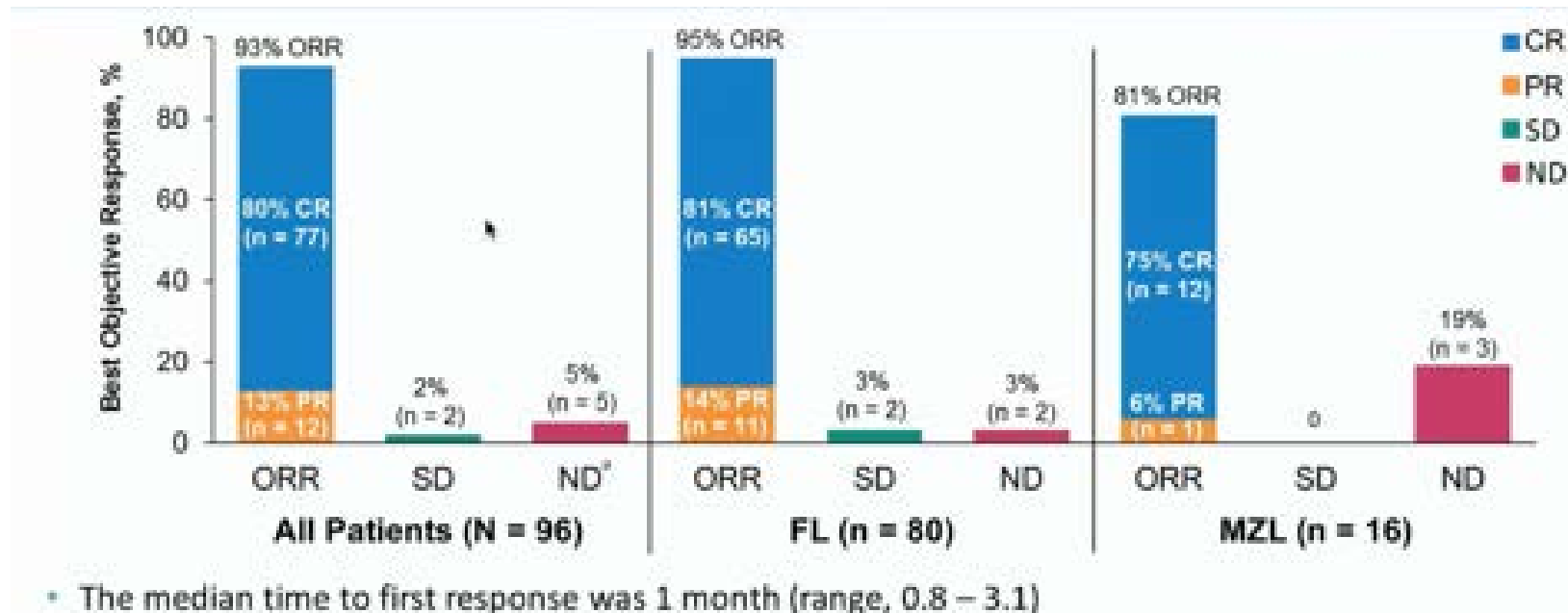
- Retrospective analysis of CIBMTR and NLCS (N = 174 + 175)
- Overall, no significant improvement in OS with ASCT
- Planned subgroup: OS benefit if early ASCT (within 1 year of ETF), 73 vs 60% at 5 years

Overall Survival of Patients Receiving HCT Within 1 year of Therapy Failure Compared to no HCT

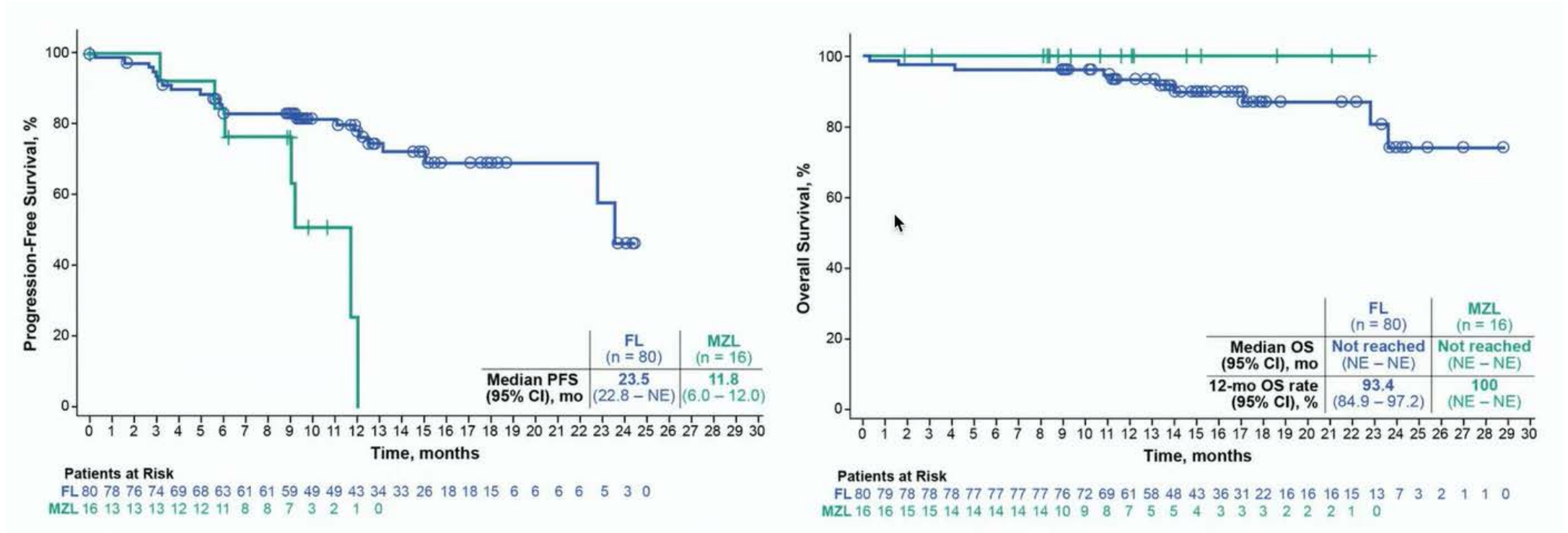


# CAR-T for iB-NHL

- ZUMA-5: R/R iB-NHL
  - N = 96 (80 FL, 14 MZL)
  - 66% with POD24
  - ORR 94% in 87 evaluable patients
    - ORR 95% in cases of FL with 80% CR rate

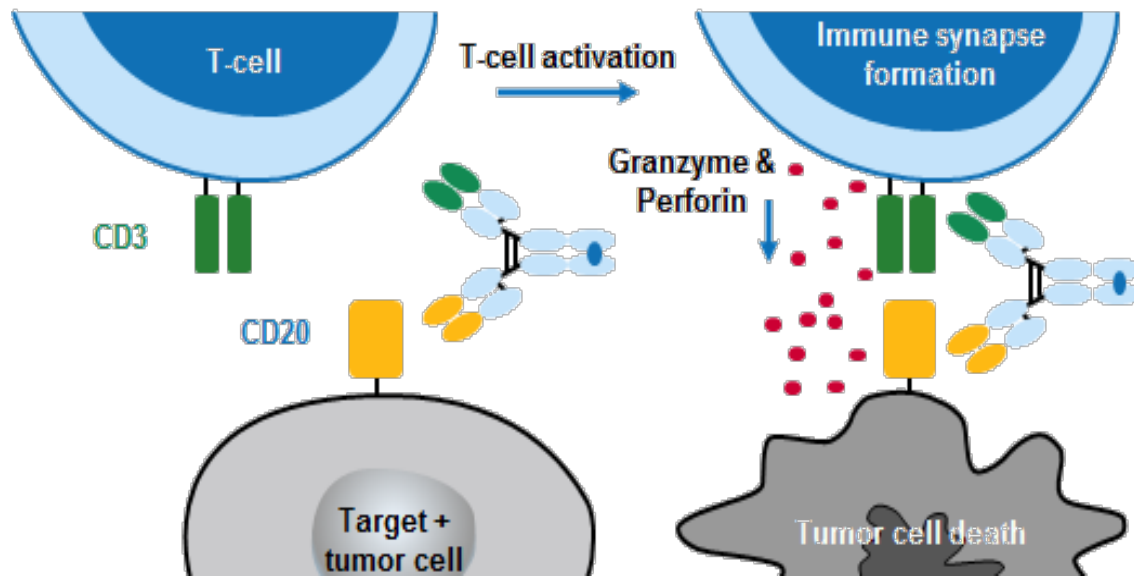


# CAR-T for iB-NHL



# Bi-Specific Antibodies

- Mosunetuzumab: redirects T cells to engage and eliminate B cells



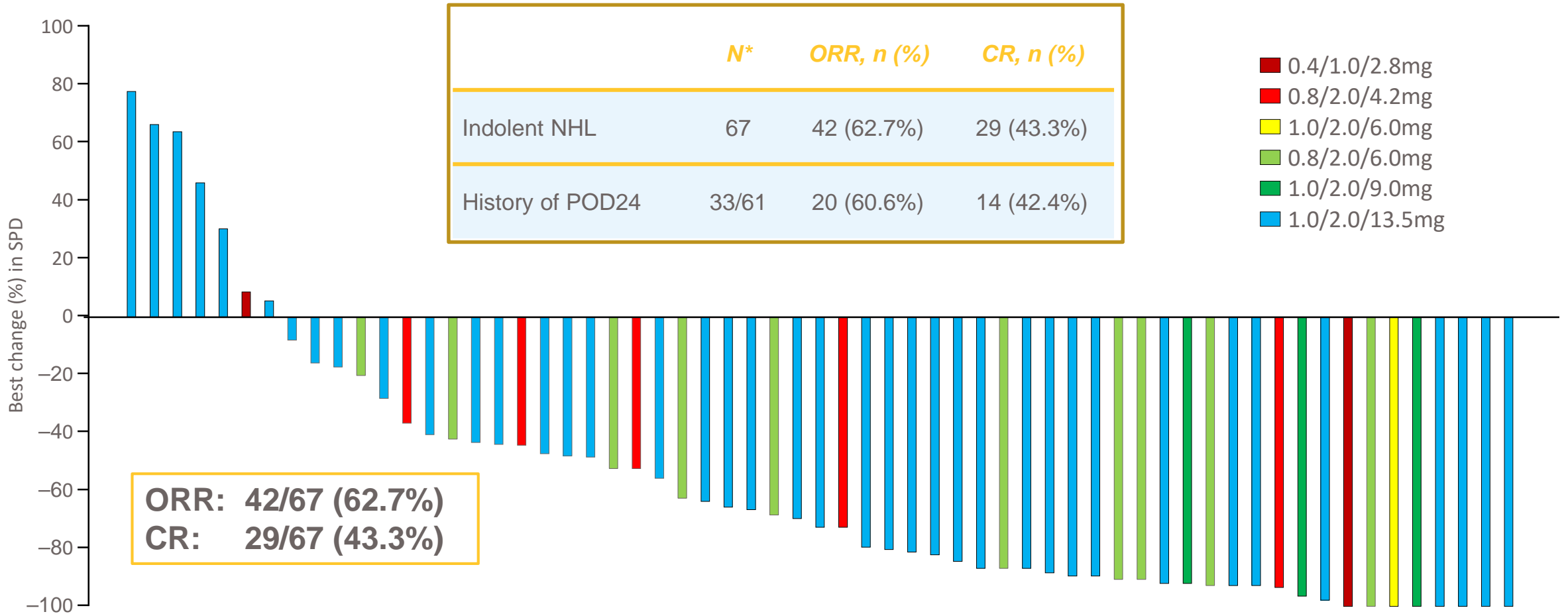
## All Gr AEs in >15% pts

N=270

Cytokine release syndrome	78 (28.9%)
Neutropenia <sup>‡</sup>	65 (24.1%)
Fatigue	55 (20.4%)
Hypophosphatemia	52 (19.3%)
Diarrhea	45 (16.7%)
Pyrexia	44 (16.3%)
Headache	42 (15.6%)
Nausea	41 (15.2%)

	Grade 3 or Higher	Tocilizumab
CRS	1.1%	3%
NAEs	3.7%	

# Mosunetuzumab in R/R iB-NHL



Indolent NHL: FL (Grade 1–3A), marginal zone lymphoma and small lymphocytic lymphoma



# Summary

---

- iB-NHL often not a life-limiting diagnosis
- Clinical variables
  - remain standard for prognostic stratification
  - inform treatment initiation and follow-up
- New options in frontline and relapsed settings allow better precision fitting of treatment to patient
- Oral targeted oncolytics associated with important limitations and toxicities
- Cellular therapies likely to have a growing role in certain iB-NHL, e.g. early relapse

# Marginal Zone Lymphoma

- Extranodal MZL, nodal MZL, splenic MZL
- Immunophenotype: typically negative for CD10, CD5, and BCL2
- Advanced stage: generally apply FL principles and management

Site	Putative pathogen	Treatment	ORR
Gastric EMZL	Helicobacter pylori	PPI + triple antibiotics	~75%
Ocular adnexal MZL	Chlamydia psittaci	Doxycycline	~50%
MZL, splenic lymphoma, MALT	Hepatitis C	IFN, DAA's	~75%
Small intestinal variant EMZL	Campylobacter jejuni		
Pulmonary EMZL	Achromobacter xylosoxidans		
Cutaneous MALT	Borrelia burgdoferi (Lyme)		

# Questions

[grafsa@uw.edu](mailto:grafsa@uw.edu)

