





# 17<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL ULTMANN CHICAGO LYMPHOMA SYMPOSIUM

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# Richter's Syndrome

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#### **Disclosure Information**

- I have the following relevant financial relationships to disclose:
  - Consulting: Jannsen, Pharmacyclics, Beigene, Karyopharm, Innate
  - Research Funding: Arqule, JUNO, Acerta, MingSight, Verastem, Gilead, Karyopharm
- I will discuss the following off-label and or investigational use in my presentation:
  - No therapy is approved specifically for Richter's syndrome, therefore all therapy is off-label or investigational

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# Richter's Syndrome Overview

- Definition
- Risk Factors
- Biology: Clonal Relationship
- Treatment Options
  - Chemoimmunotherapy
  - Immunotherapy
  - Novel agents
- Summary

# Definition

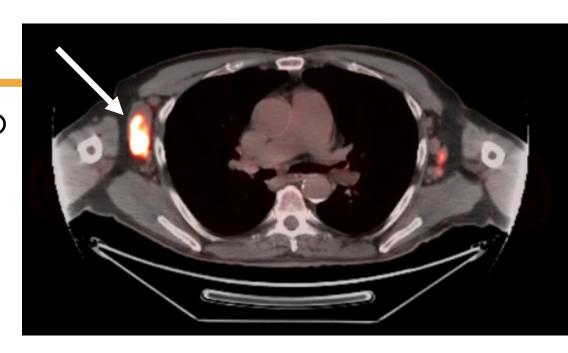
# Richter's Syndrome

- Originally described in 1928 by Maurice Richter
- Transformation of CLL into a more aggressive lymphoma
- Occurs in up to 16% of CLL patients over lifetime
- 90% Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
- ~5-9% Hodgkin lymphoma

References Rossi, BJH 2008

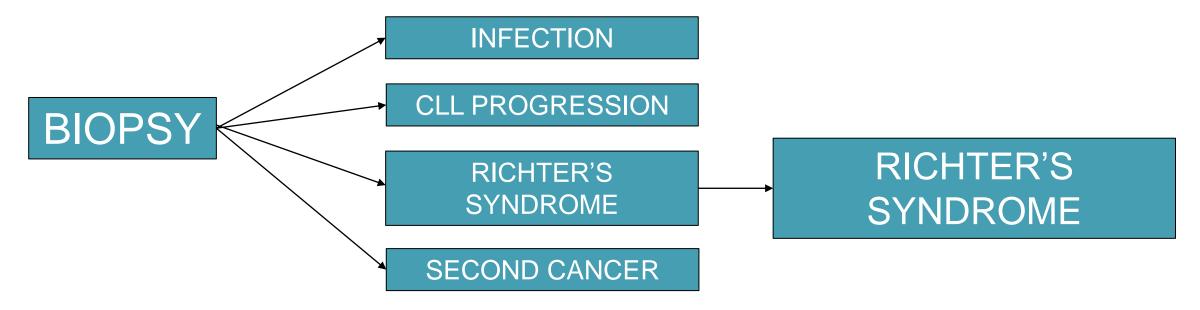
#### Case

- 65M diagnosed with CLL 8 years ago
- Unmutated IgVH
- FCR x 4 6 years ago: Remission
- Ibrutinib for the last 1.5 year
- Presents with ECOG PS 1
  - Progressive LAD
  - Drenching night sweats
- WBC 15, Hgb 10.7, Platelets 87, LDH 3 x ULN
- PET is shown: R axillary node (5.7 x 2.1cm) SUV = 32



# Diagnosis

- Only indication for PET in CLL patients
- Selection biopsy site with SUV ≥10
  - Sensitivity 91%
  - Specificity 95%



References: Michallet, Leuk Lymph 2016

# Risk Factors

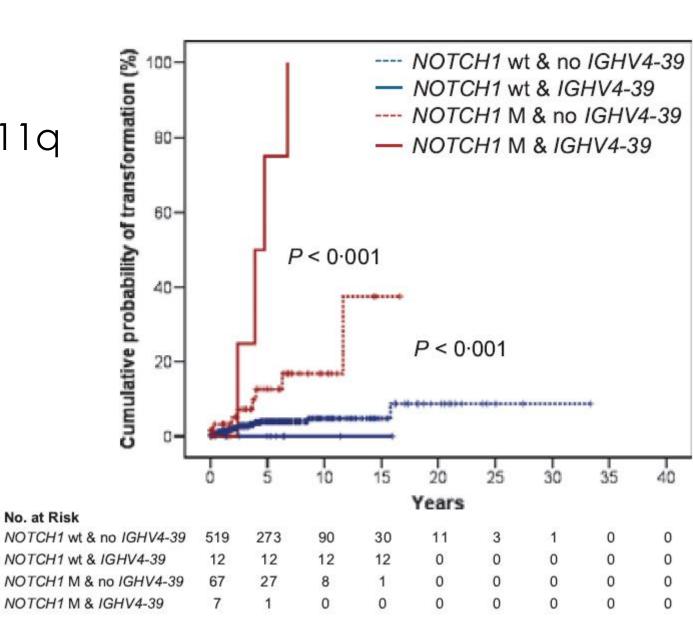
## **Risk Factors: Clinical**

- Many clinical and molecular risk factors identified:
  - At RS Diagnosis:
    - More lines of prior therapy at RS diagnosis
  - At CLL Diagnosis:
    - Younger age
    - Lymph nodes > 3 cm
    - Advanced Rai Stage
    - Elevated beta-2-microglobulin

### Risk Factors: Molecular

- Unmutated IgVH, del17p, del11q
- 40 Patients with RS
- *TP53* (60% of samples)
- NOTCH1 (40% of samples)
- NOTCH1 = 5 year risk 18.5%
- + IGHV4-39 = 5 year risk 70%!

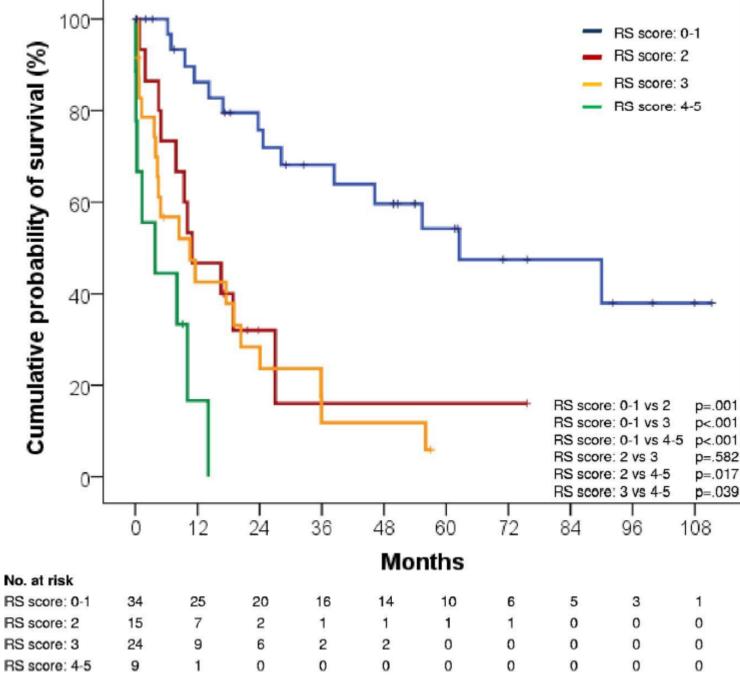
• SF3B1 = protective



References: Rossi, BJH 2012

# **Prognosis**

- Richter's Score:
  - ECOG PS >1
  - LDH > 1.5 ULN
  - Plt < 100
  - Tumor Size > 5 cm
  - # prior CLL Tx > 1
- Our patient: RScore of 4
  - Median OS = 3.8 months

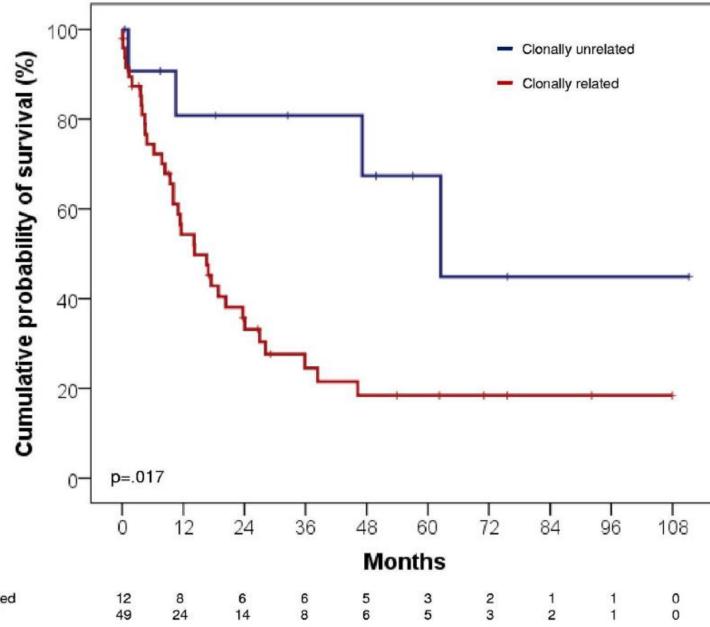


References: Rossi, Blood 2011

# Biology

# **Clonal Relationship**

- 80% Clonally Related
- Median OS
  - Unrelated = 62.5 mos
  - Related = 14.2 mos
  - (P=0.017)
- Our patient = clonally related



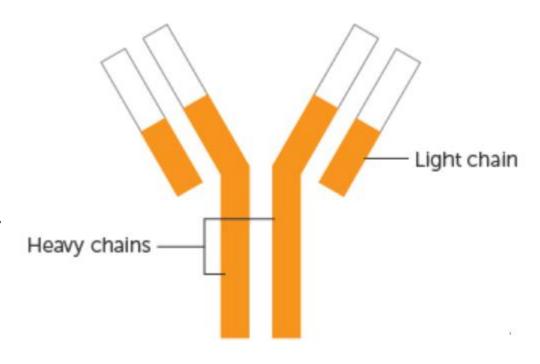
No. at Risk Clonally unrelated Clonally related

# **Determining Clonal Relationship**

Surrogate Markers:

	Unrelated	Related
BCL6 translocation	Possible	Rare
Overexpression of PD1	Rare	Likely

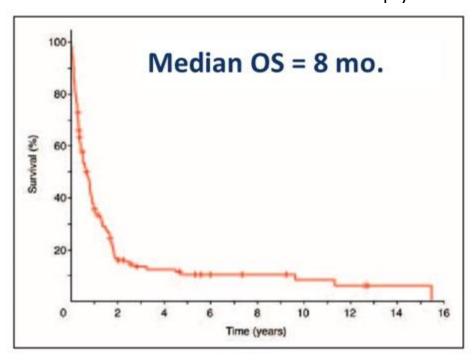
- Common Method to Evaluate:
  - PCR for immunoglobulin heavy and light chain clones
  - Best if clonal population is >10% of the population identified
  - Recommend testing blood for CLL clone and section of lymph node or bone marrow heavily involved with lymphoma
  - Can be done on FFPE tissue



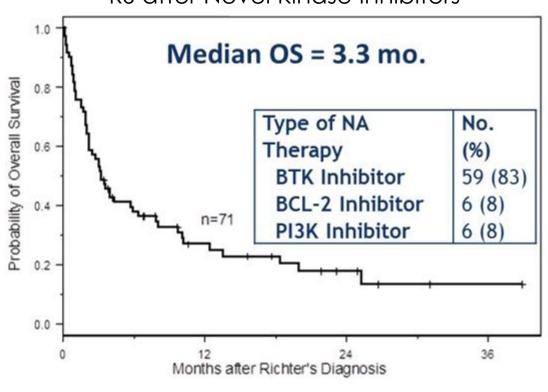
# Treatment

## **Survival Over Time**

#### RS after Chemoimmunotherapy



#### RS after Novel Kinase Inhibitors



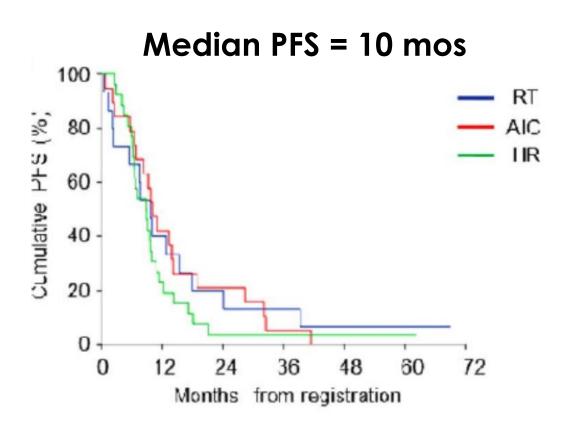
# Chemoimmunotherapy in RS

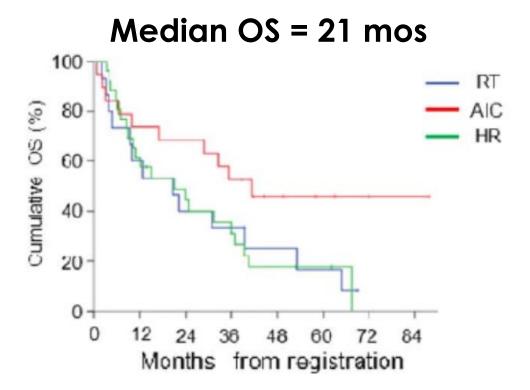
# Select Chemoimmunotherapy Regimens in RS

Regimen	N	ORR (%)	OS (mos)	Ref
RCHOP	15	67	21	Langerbeins (2014)
OCHOP+O	37	44	11	Eyre (2016)
hypCVAD	29	44	10	Dabaja (2001)
hypCVAD-R MA	30	41	10	Tsimberidou (2003)
OFAR1	20	50	8	Tsimberidou (2008)
OFAR2	35	39	6	Tsimberidou (2013)
REPOCH*	46	39	6	Rogers (2015)
*Retrospective				

References

- 15 RT patients
- ORR = 67% (CR 7%)

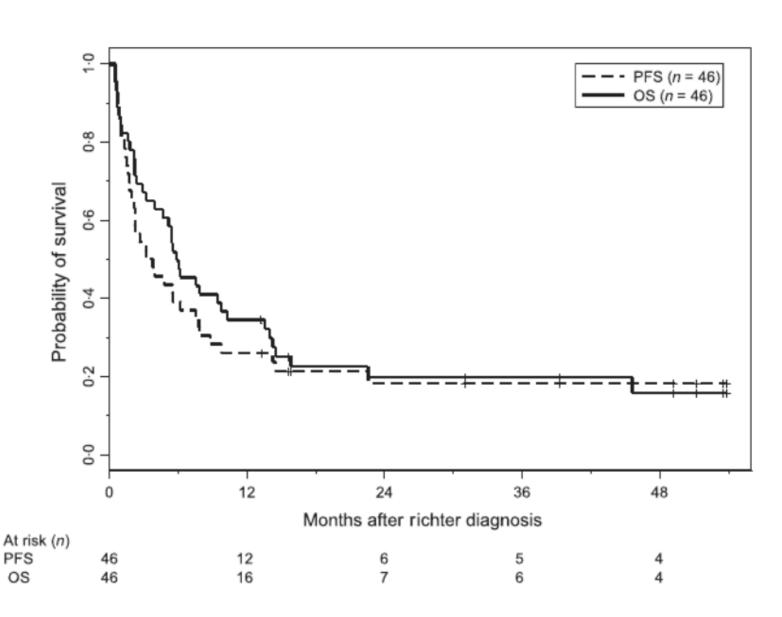




References: Langerbeins, AJH 2014

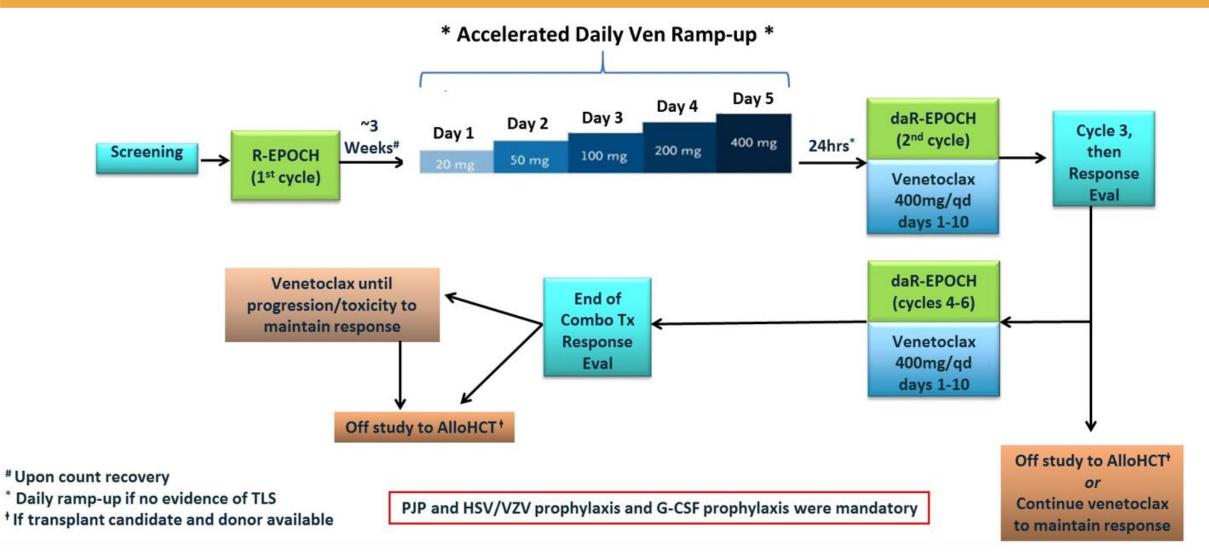
#### **REPOCH**

- Retrospective
- 46 RT patients
- Median PFS 3.5 mos
- Median OS 5.9 mos
- Toxic:
  - 30% died without progression or response



References: Rogers, BJH 2017

# REPOCH + Venetoclax (BCL2 inhibitor)



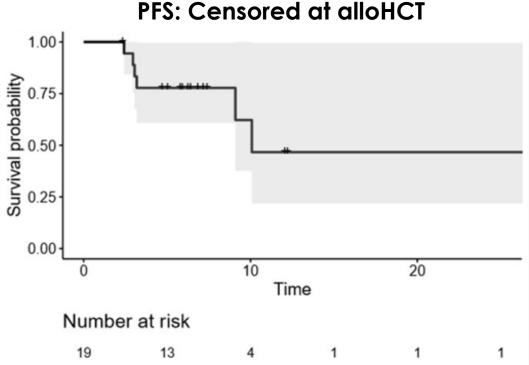
References Davids ASCO 2020; Abstract 8004

#### **REPOCH + Venetoclax**

- Phase 2 Study
- 3 Institutions
- 26 Patients Enrolled
  - Median Age = 63 (44-77)
  - Del(17p) = 26%
  - TP53 Mutation = 44%
  - Median Prior Therapies = 2 (0-5)

- ORR by ITT = 62%
- CR by ITT = 50%
- 8/17 (47%) patients initially deemed candidate for alloHCT proceeded to transplant

References: Davids ASCO 2020; Abstract 8004



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OS: Censored at alloHCT

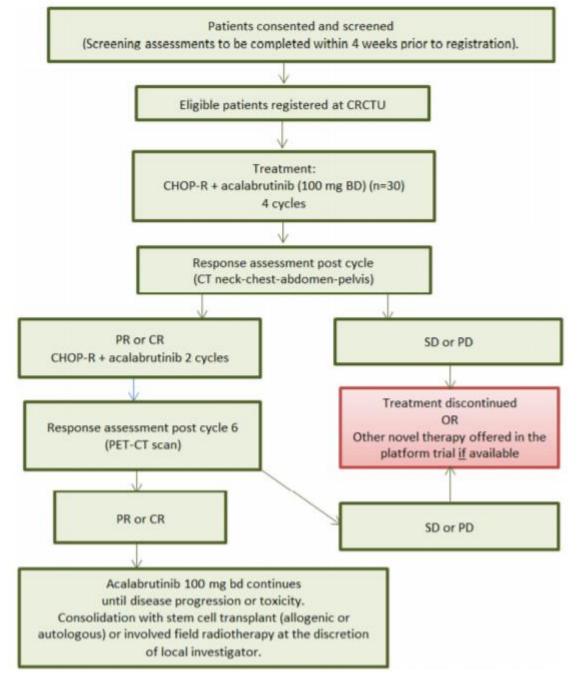
Median PFS: 16.3 mos

Median OS: 16.3 mos

**Future Direction:** Cohort with VRCHOP Therapy

#### **STELLAR**

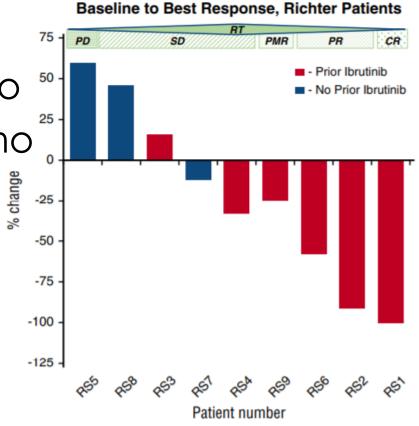
- RCHOP vs RCHOP+ acalabrutinib
- Platform to test novel agents

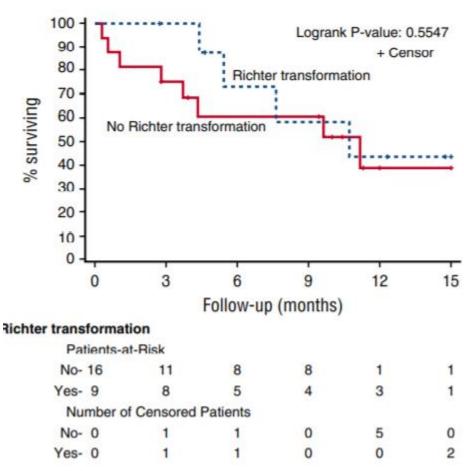


References: Appleby, BMC Cancer 2019

# Immunotherapy in RS

- PD1 Inhibitor
- 200mg Q3 weeks
- 9 RS patients
- Median PFS 5.4 mo
- Median OS 10.7 mo

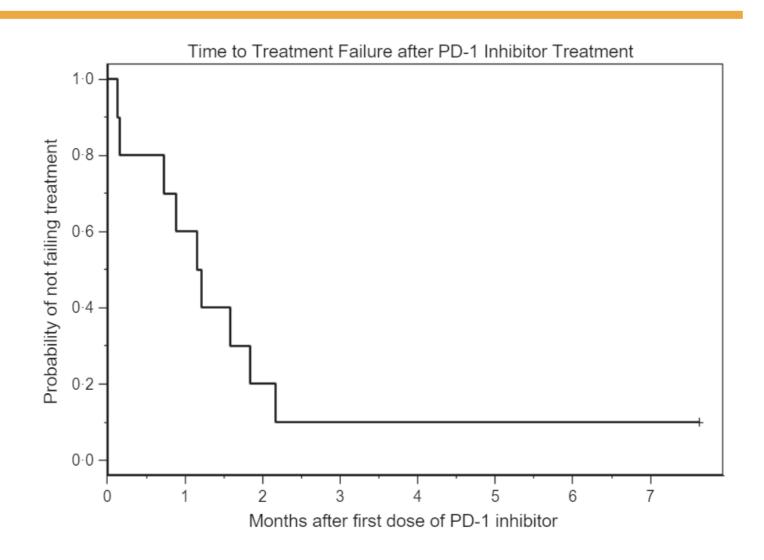




References: Ding, Blood 2017

# PD1 Retrospective

- 10 RS patients
- 7 = nivolumab
- 3 = pembrolizumab
- Median time to treatment failure 1.2 mo
- Median OS from time of PD1 = 2 mos
- Median OS from RT = 4.2 mos



References: Rogers, BJH 2019

#### Median Follow-up 8.7 mos

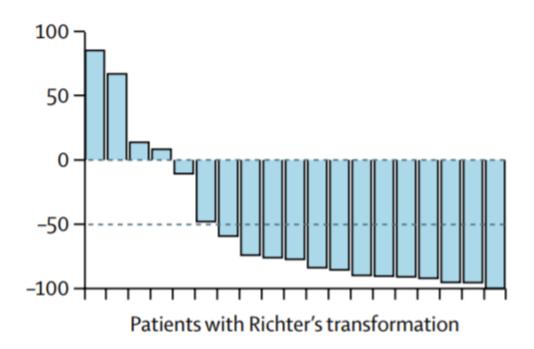
- Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia or small lymphocytic lymphoma
- Follicular lymphoma
- Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
- → Richter's transformation

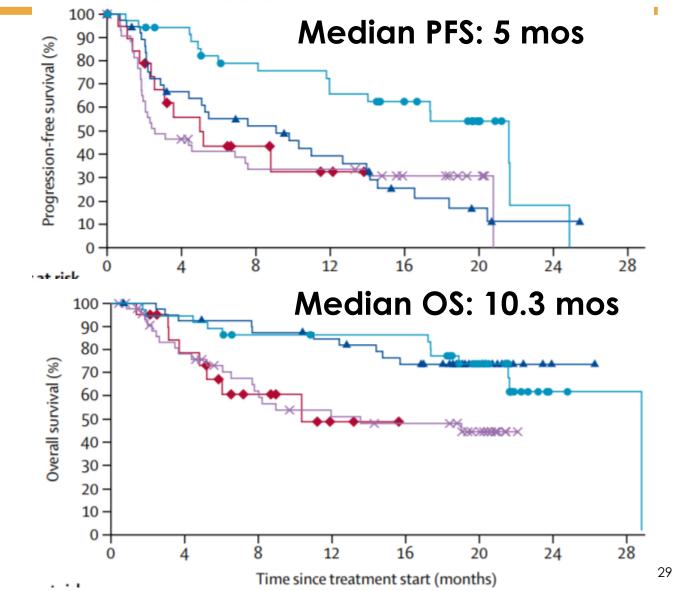


• 3mg/kg Q2 + 560mg ibrutinib

Nivolumab + Ibrutinib

• ORR 65% (CR 10%)





References: Younes, Lancet

#### U2-Pembro

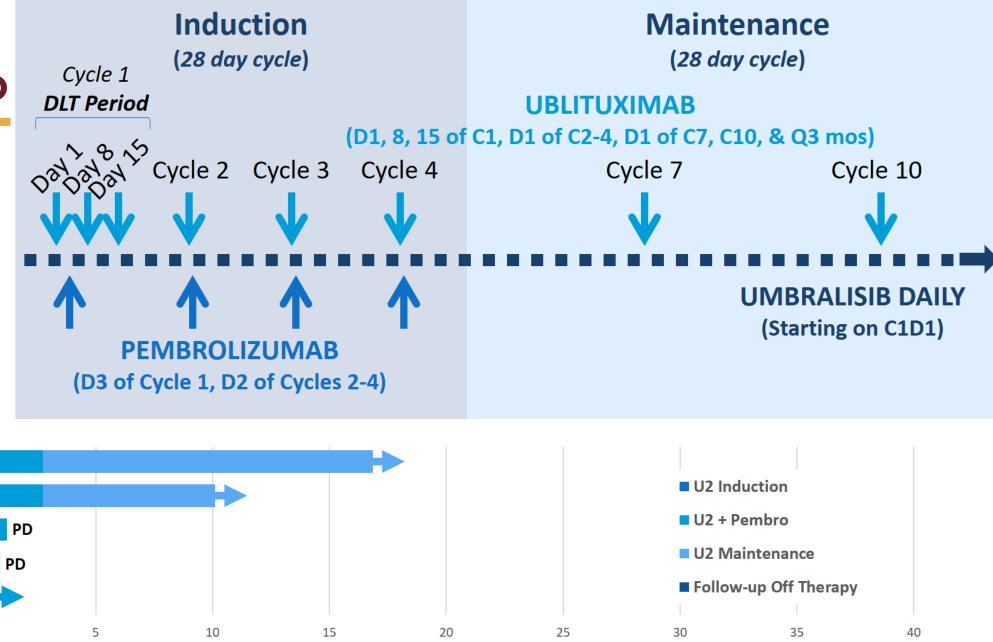
Refractory

Refractory

Refractory

Refractory

Richter's Refractory



References: Mato, ICML 2019; Abstract 73

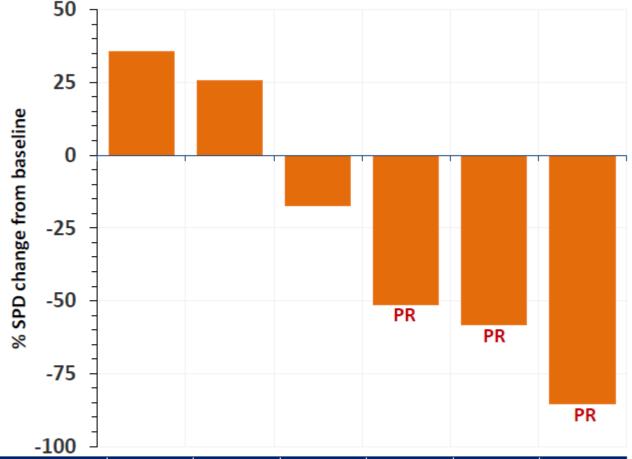
Months

# Select Other Novel Therapies in RS

## **ARQ531**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Reversible BTK Inhibitor
- Phase 1 Study
- Recommended Dose = 65mg daily

#### Best Responses in Richter's Transformation Evaluable Patients Treated at 65 mg QD (N =6)



Pt#	41	45	122-36	42	34*	47
Weeks on therapy	10	13	12	19	26	12
IGHV unmutated	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Del 17p/del 11q/ del 13q		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes

<sup>\*</sup> MYC(+)/BCL6(+) positive

# Additional Therapies/Combinations of Interest

- CART (CD19-directed)
- Blinatumumab (CD3/CD19 bispecific antibody)
- Selinexor (selective inhibitor of nuclear export)
- G-CHOP + Ibrutinib
- Obinutuxumab + HDMP + Ibrutinib
- Etc...

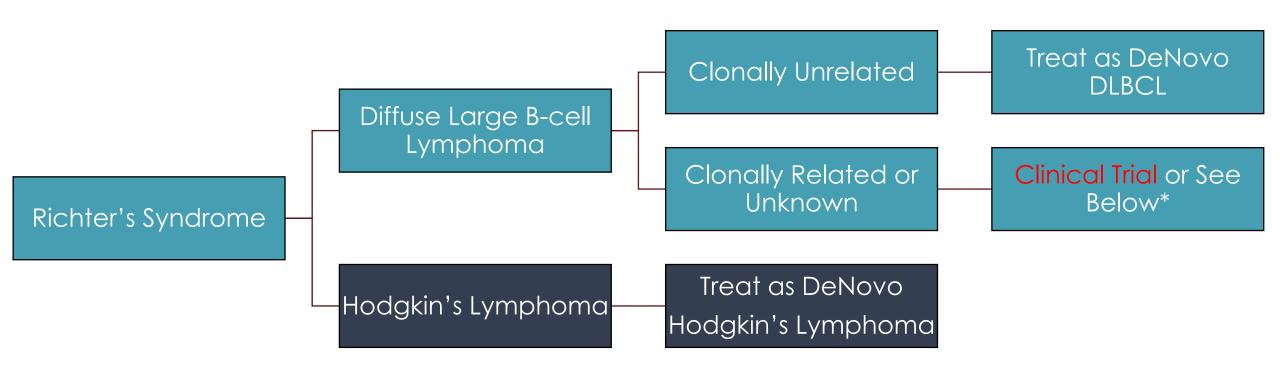
References 3

# **Transplant?**

EGBMT Group*	N	3yr OS (%)	NRM (%)
Autologous SCT	34	59	12
Allogeneic SCT	25	36	26
CR/PR at alloSCT	15	41	17
PD at alloSCT	9	17	44
*Retrospective			

AutoSCT and AlloSCT are options in the setting of chemotherapy-sensitive RS

References: Cwynarski, JCO 2012



#### Suggested Regimens\*

- RCHOP or REPOCH +/- venetoclax
- PD1 + BTKi
- Consider alloSCT if remission is achieved

References 35

#### Case

- No current clinical trial
- REPOCH x 3: Some response but < partial</li>
- Added venetoclax D1-10 with cycle 4
- Clinically responding
- Will continue venetoclax maintenance as is not candidate for transplant d/t comorbidities

References

# Summary

- Richter's syndrome is a rare and deadly complication of CLL
- Clinical and molecular risk factors can predict transformation and survival
- Clonally related RS is more common and shorter survival
- Many therapies have been tested, but significant improvements are still needed
- Consider enrollment of these patients on clinical trial

eferences







Glenn



**Primary Mentors** 



Deininger



Byrd



Patients, Families, Colleagues



Key Collaborators



Marth



Boucher



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