



National Heart, Lung,  
and Blood Institute

# ***Biology of CLL (at Progression): How Does That Inform Treatment?***

**Adrian Wiestner, MD/PhD**

Hematology Branch, NHLBI,

National Institutes of Health

Bethesda, MD

## *Disclosures:*

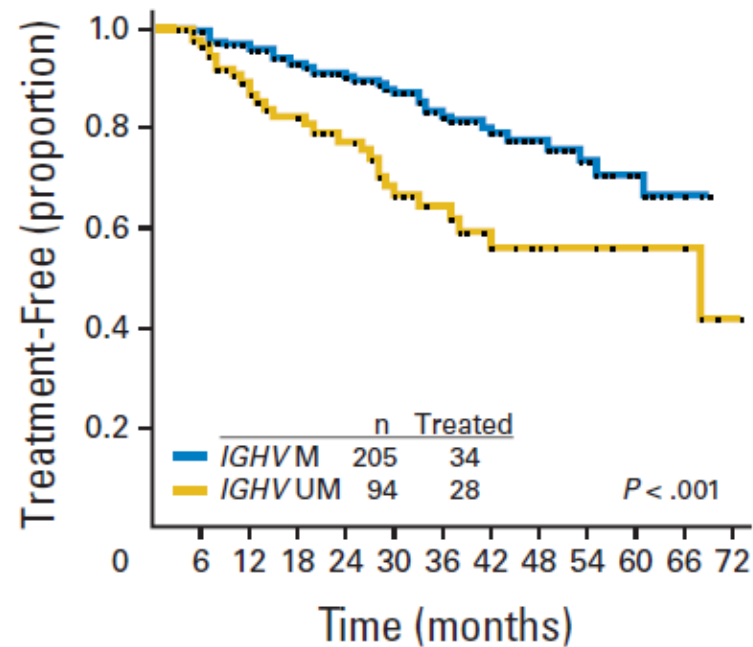
Research Support/P.I.	Pharmacyclics, an Abbvie Company Acerta Pharma, a member of the AstraZeneca group Genmab, Merck, Nurix, Verastem
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I will be discussing the following off label use

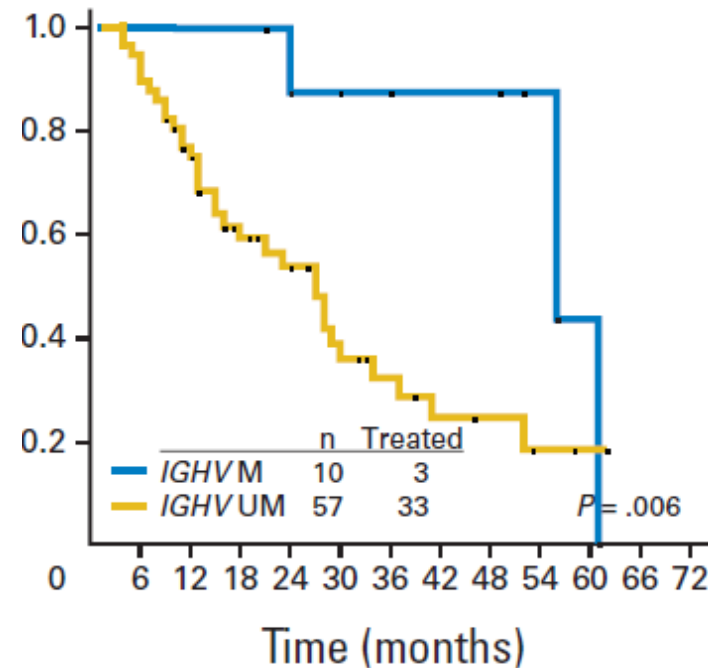
# Progression from diagnosis to 1<sup>st</sup> treatment

by IGHV status and FISH cytogenetics

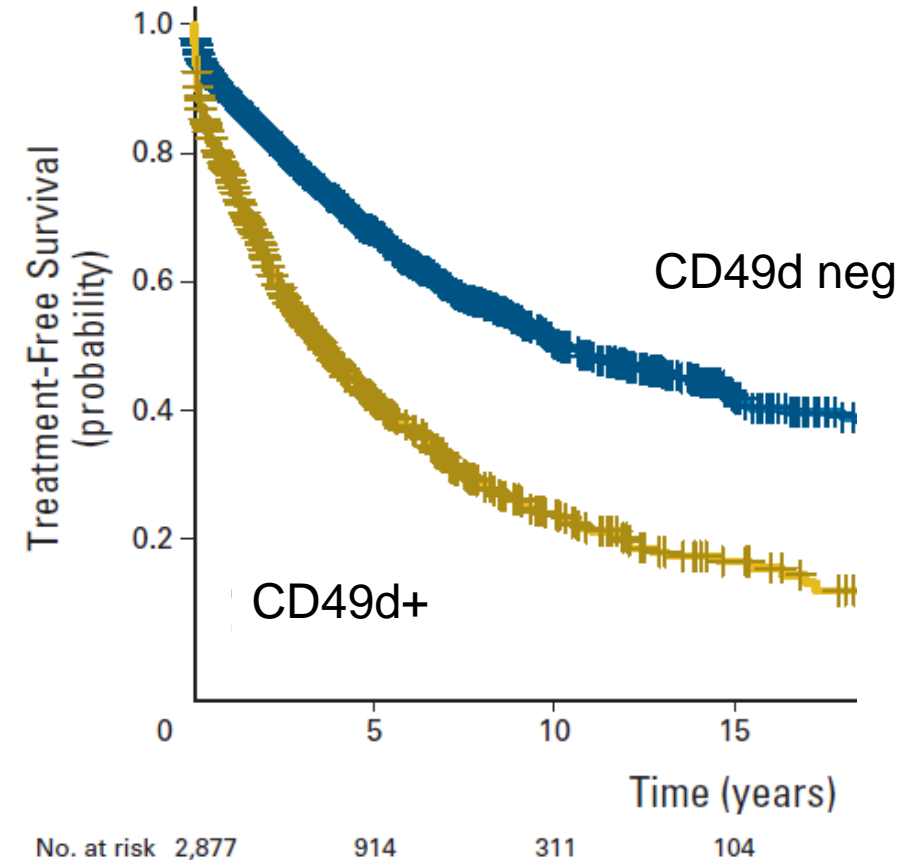
in del13q CLL



in del11q CLL



by CD49d

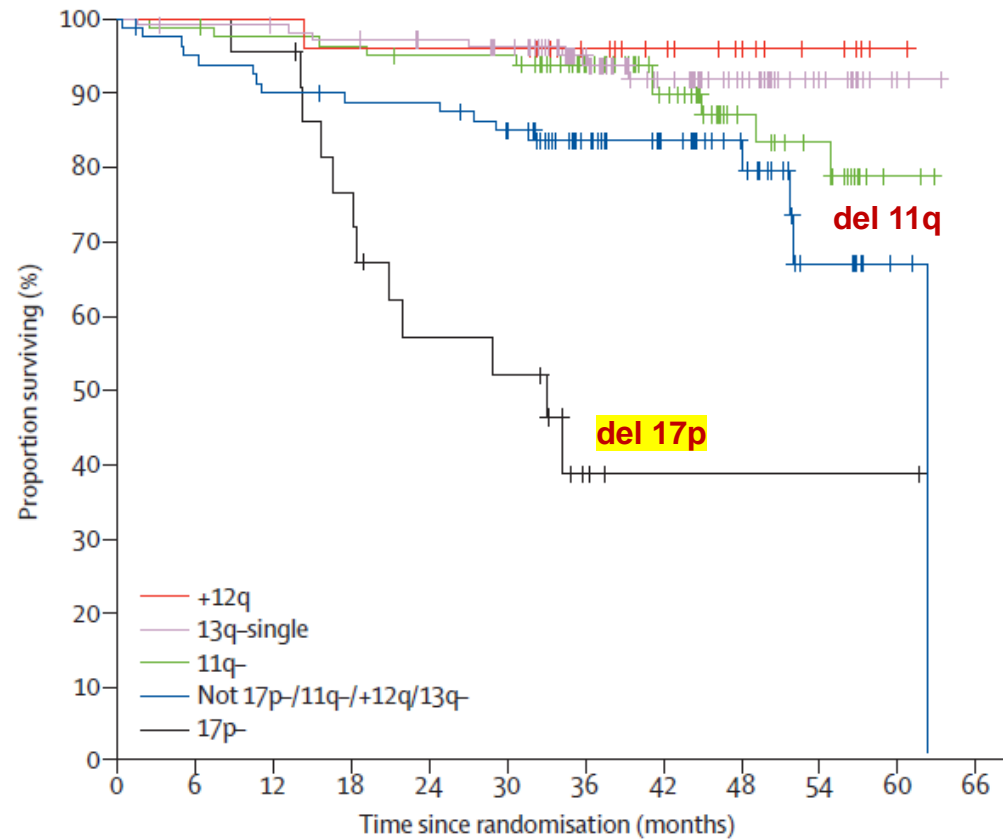


Wierda et al, JCO 2011

Bulian et al, JCO 2014

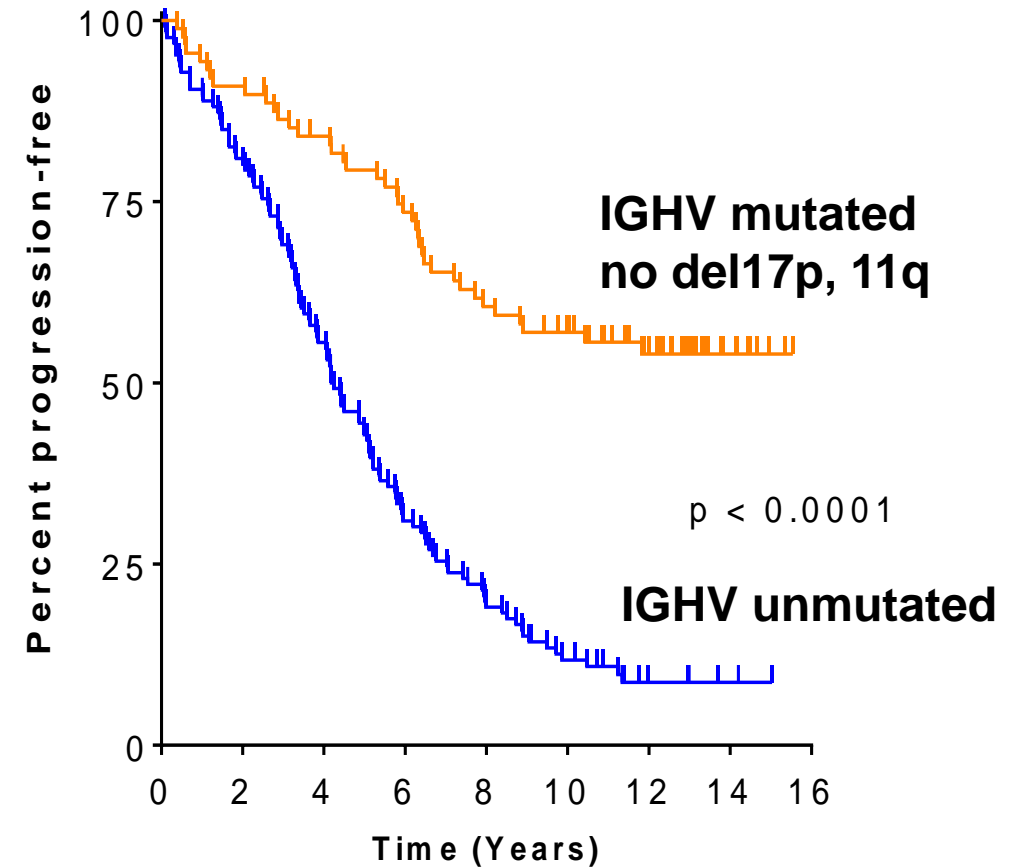
# Outcome with first-line chemoimmunotherapy

## Overall survival post FCR



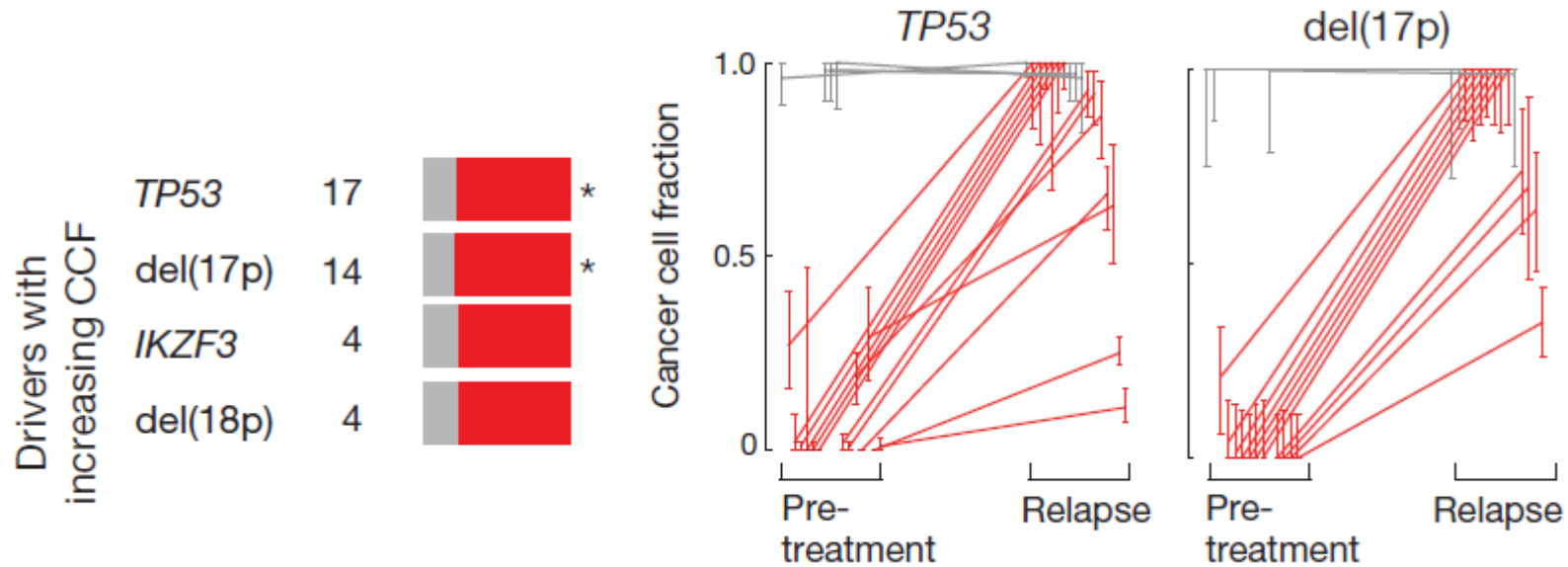
Hallek et al. Lancet, 2010

## Long term remissions post FCR

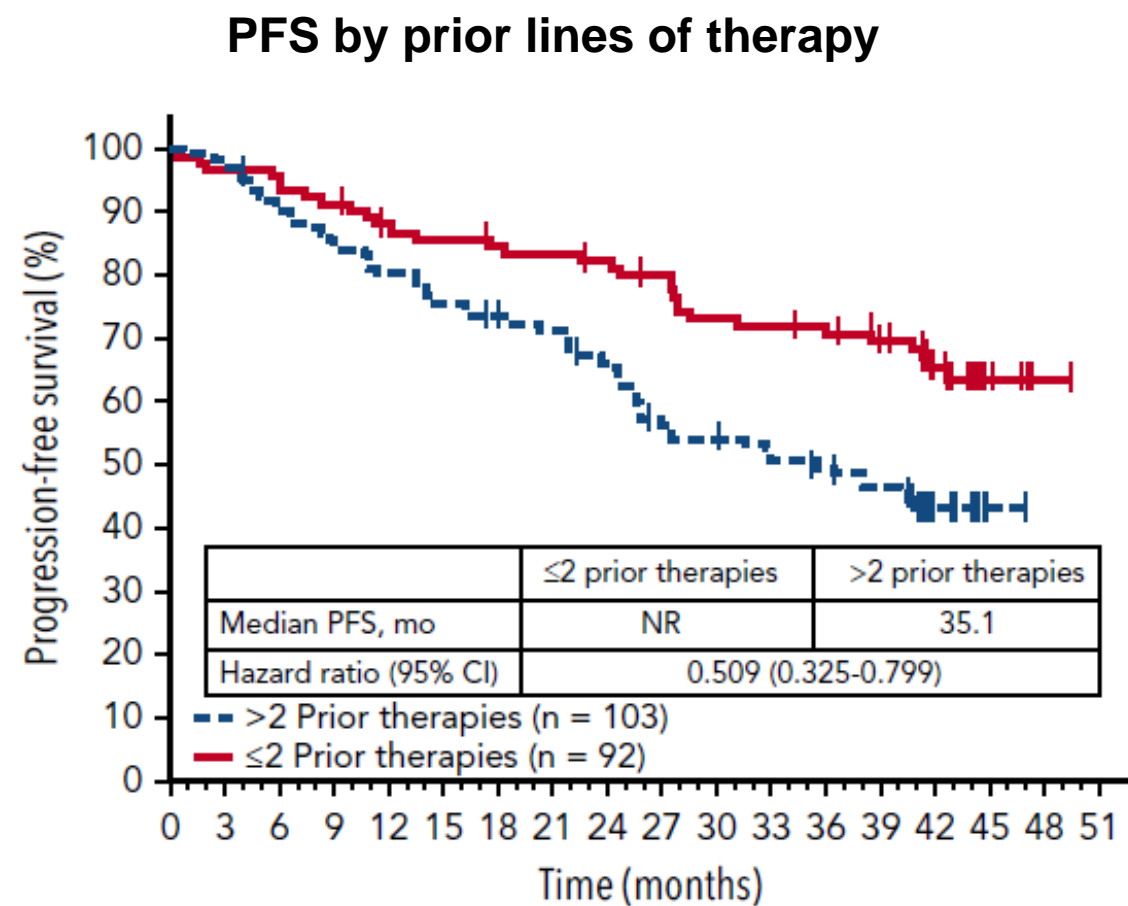
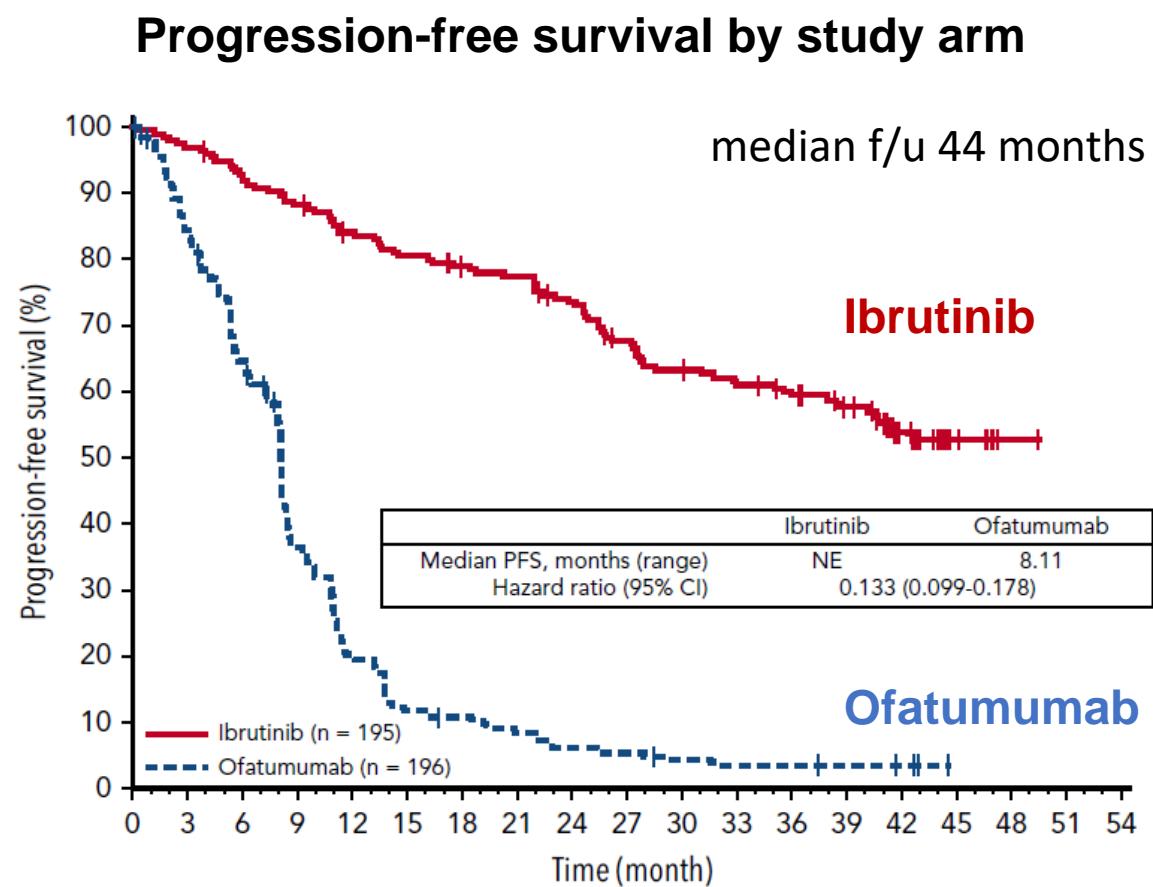


Thompson et al, Blood 2015

# Selection of clones carrying *TP53* aberrations during chemoimmunotherapy

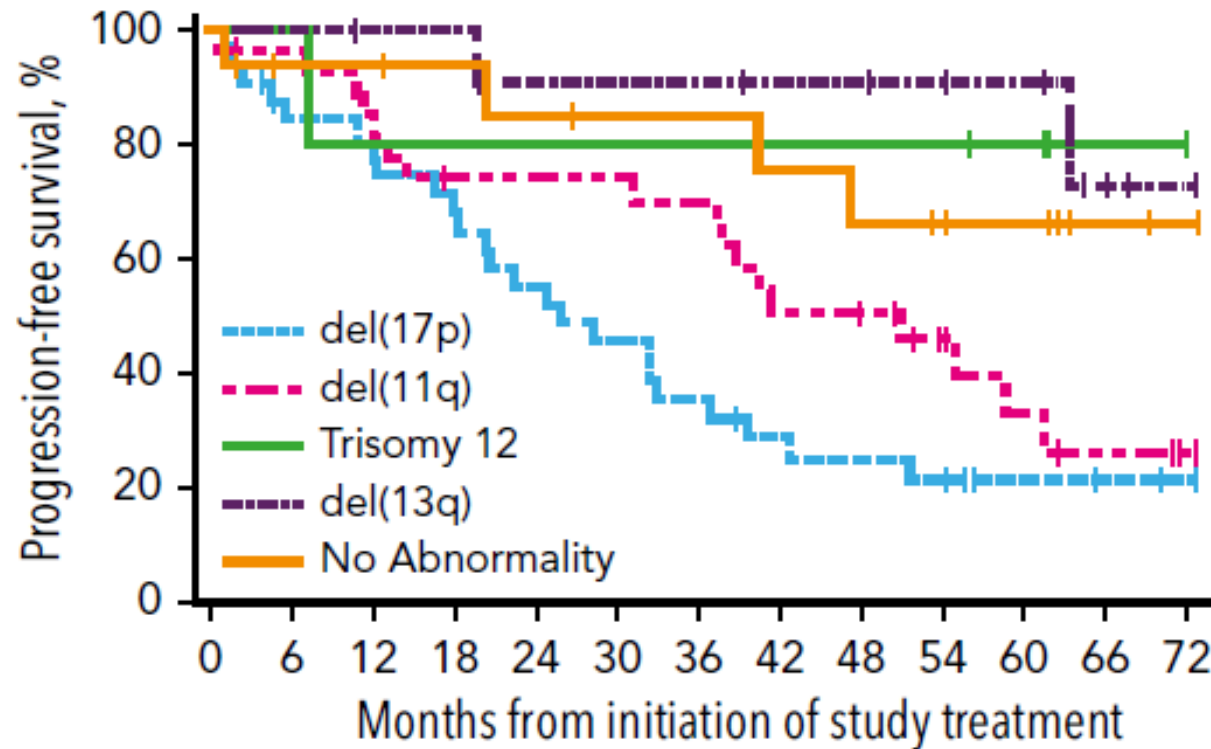


# Ibrutinib vs ofatumumab in relapsed/refractory CLL : Resonate study

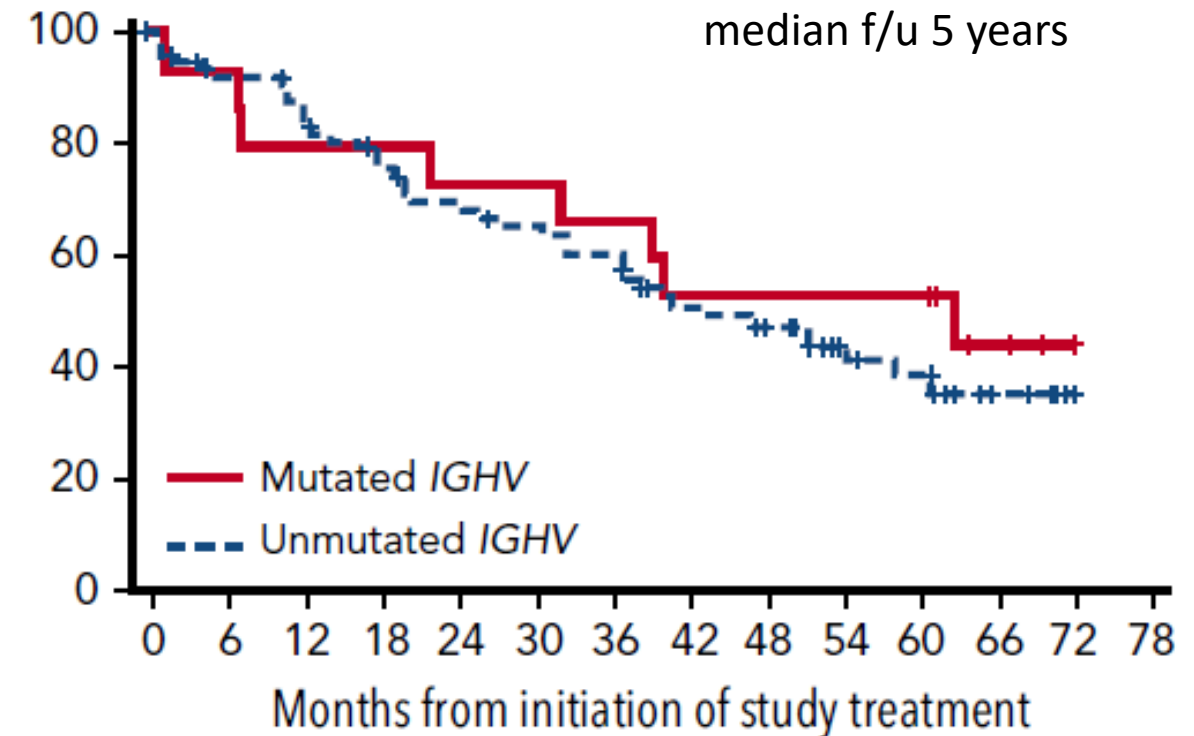


## Outcome with ibrutinib in relapsed/refractory CLL : phase 1b/2 study

**PFS on ibrutinib by cytogenetics**

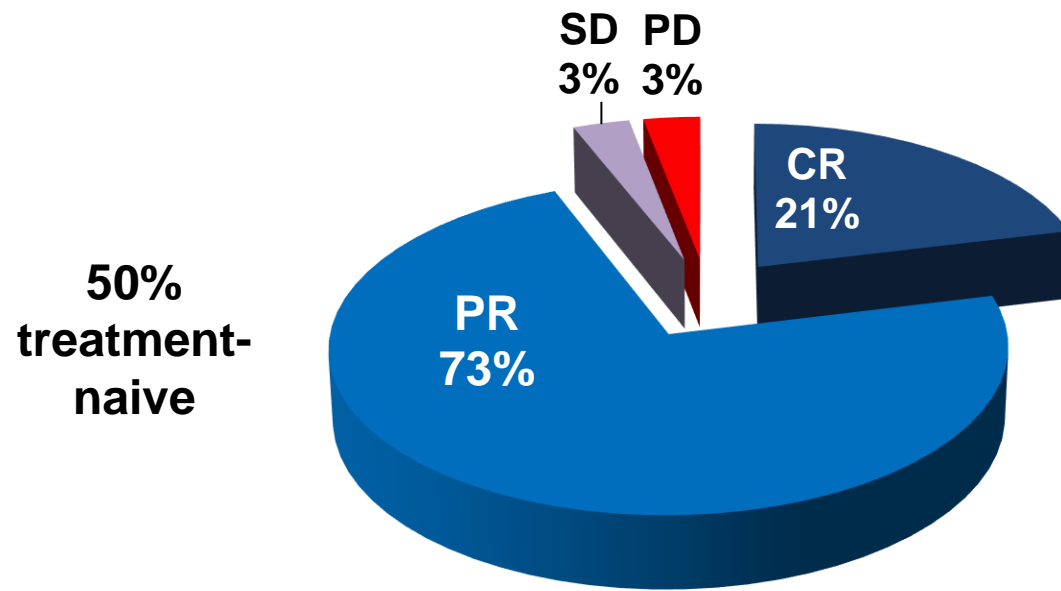


**PFS on ibrutinib by IGHV mutation status**

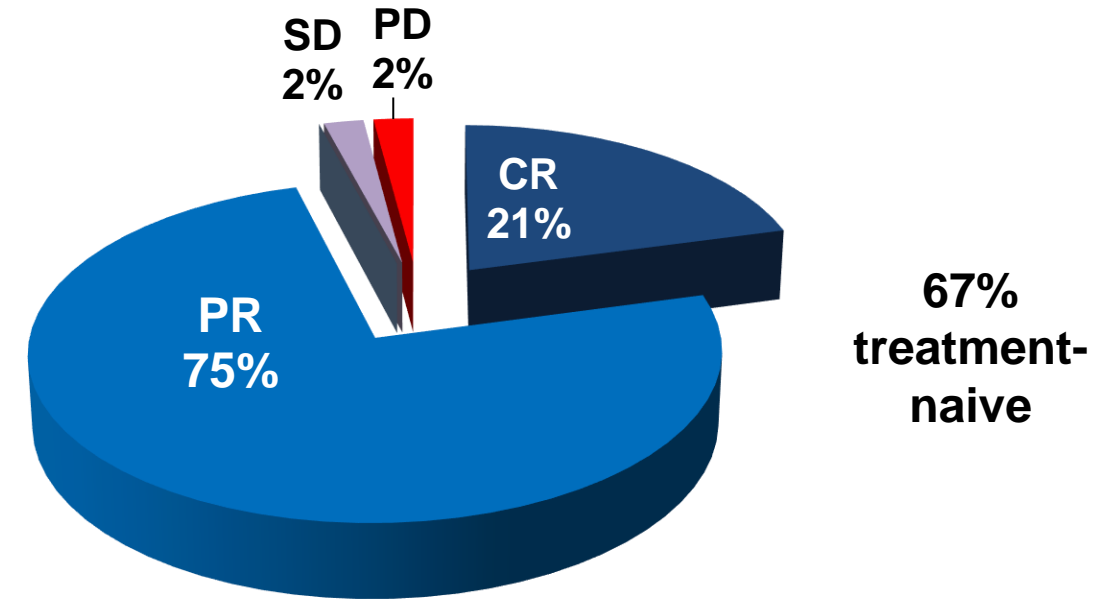


# *Ibrutinib for CLL with or without TP53 aberration (NHLBI IST)*

**No *TP53* aberration (n=33)**



**With *TP53* aberration (n=48)**



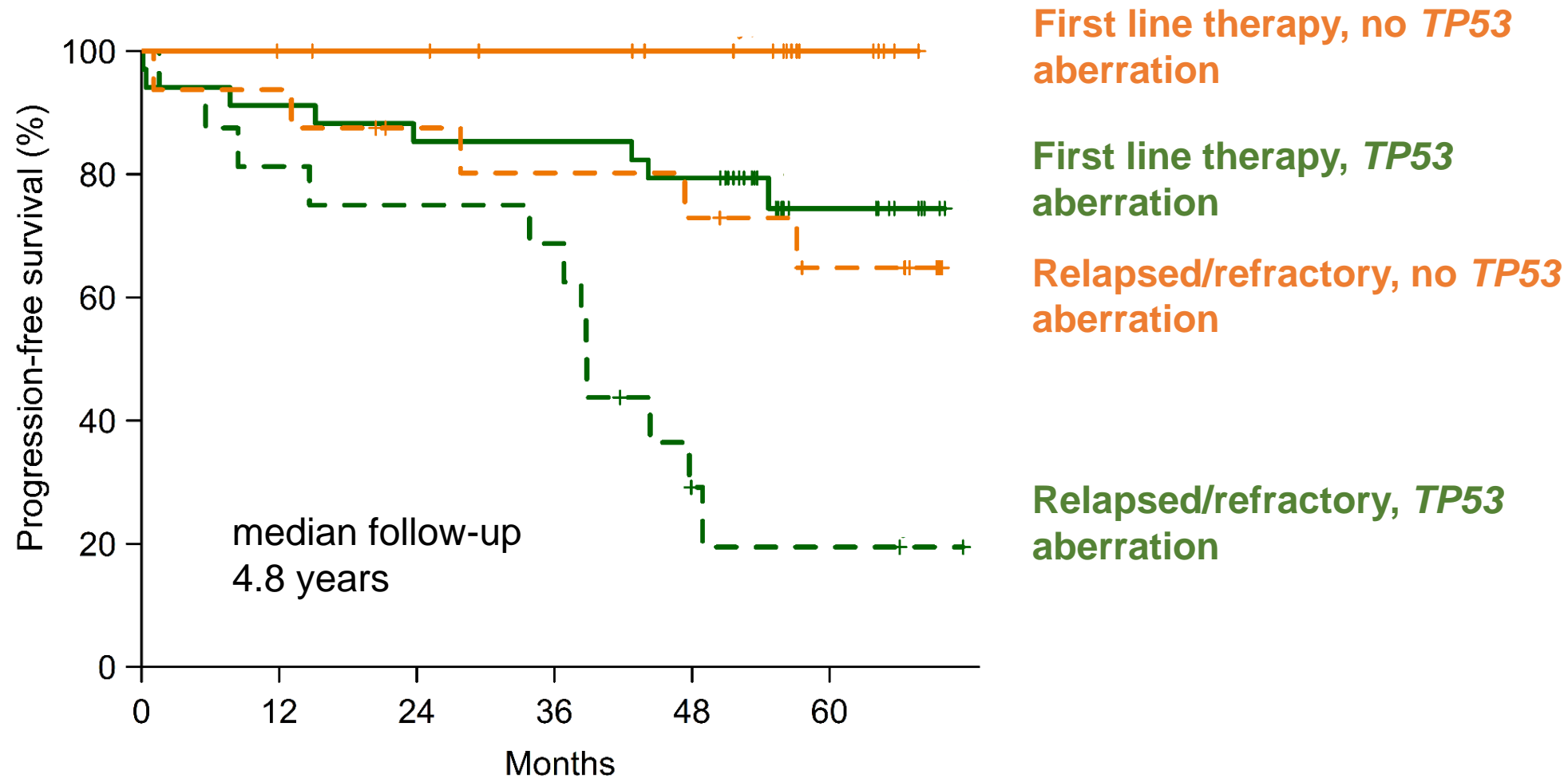
Median to best response 24 months

*TP53* aberration:  
del17p or *TP53* mutation

Farooqui et al, Lancet Oncology 2015  
Ahn et al, Blood 2018  
Ahn, Tian, Wiestner. NEJM 2020



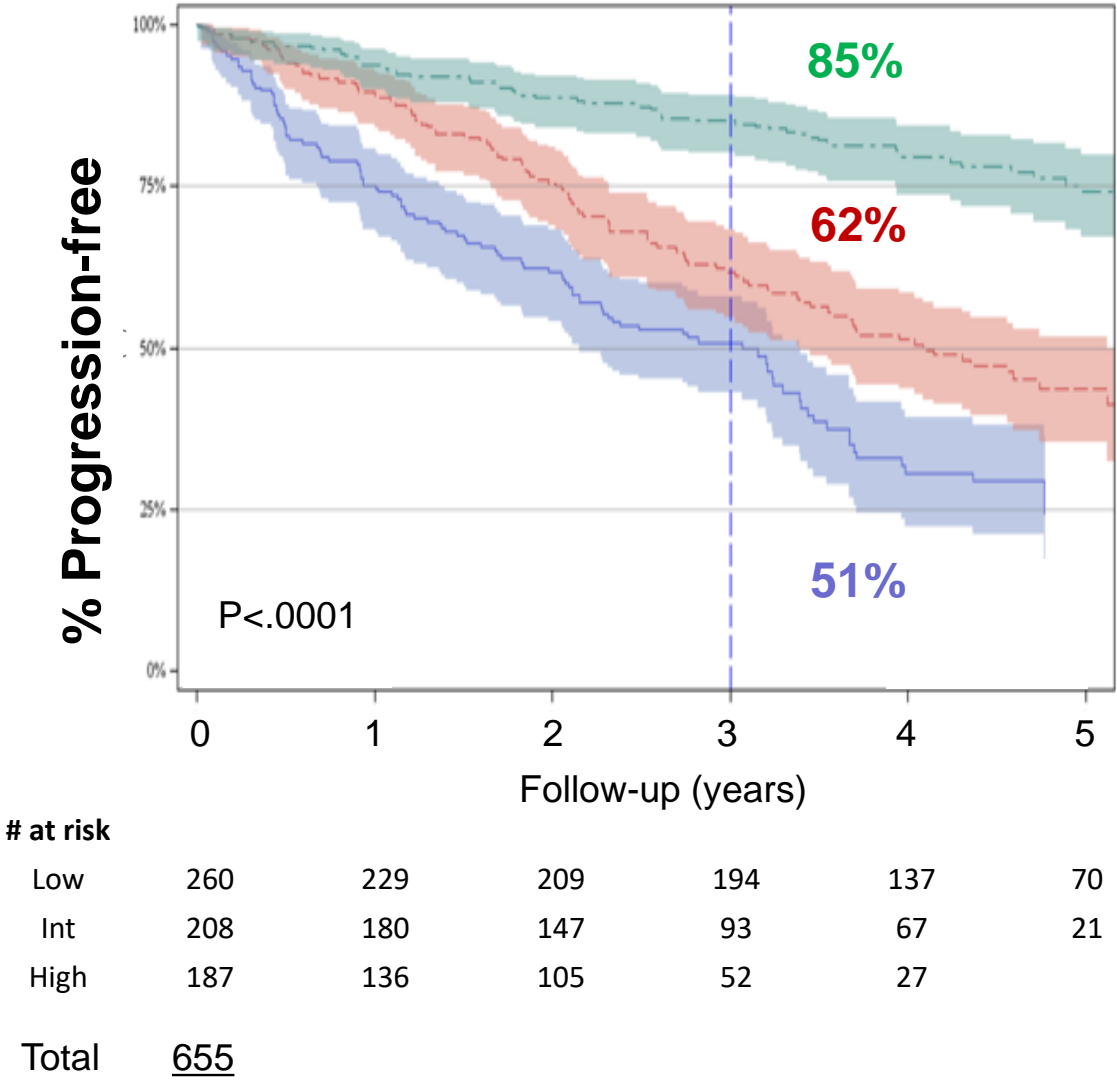
## *PFS on ibrutinib by treatment history and TP53 aberration*



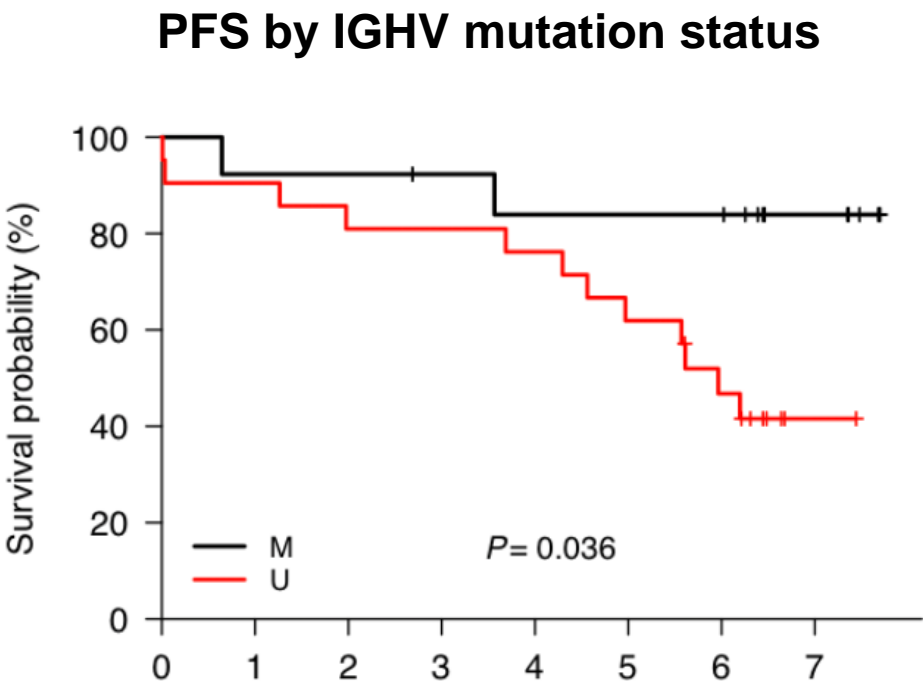
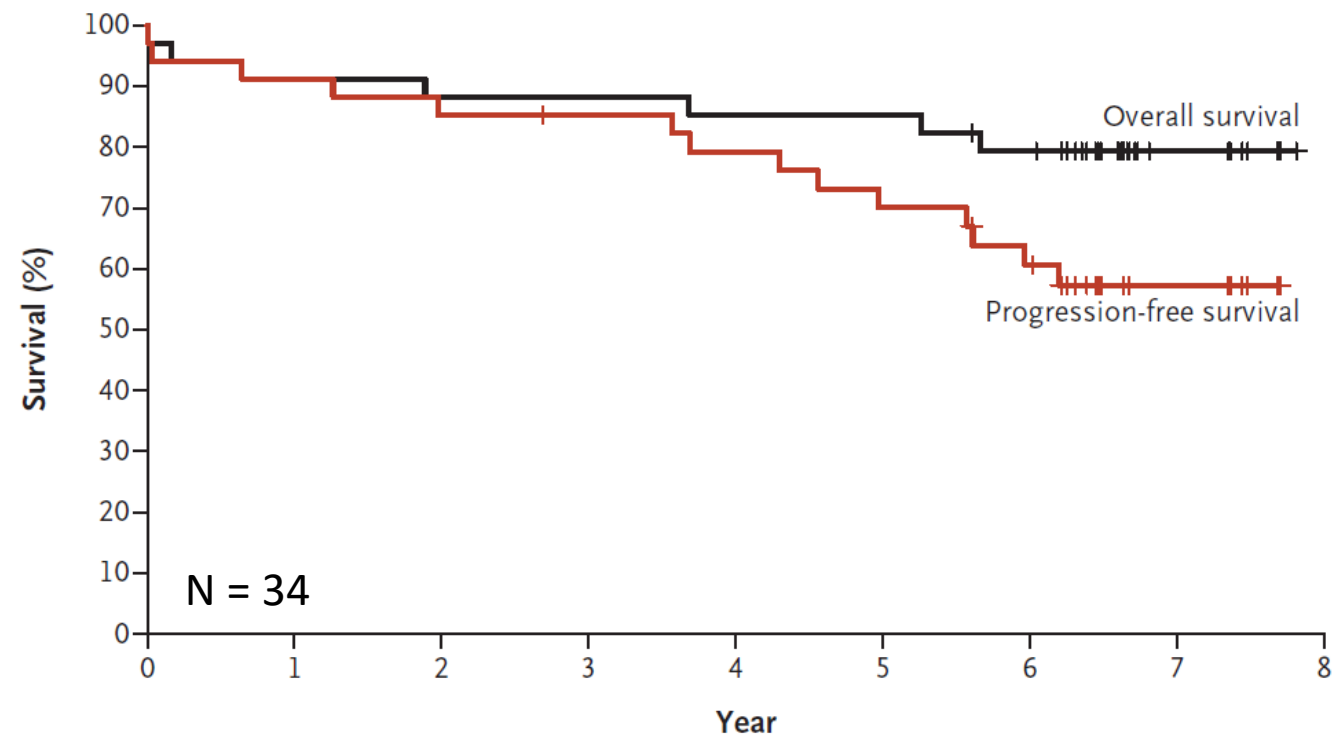
# Prognostic model of PFS on ibrutinib across CLL populations

Variables	Adverse Factors
Prior treatment	Yes
TP53 aberration	present
B2M	> 4.0 mg/L
# of Adverse Factors	Risk Group
0-1	Low
2	Int
3	High

Ahn et al, ASH 2018  
Ahn et al, JCO in press



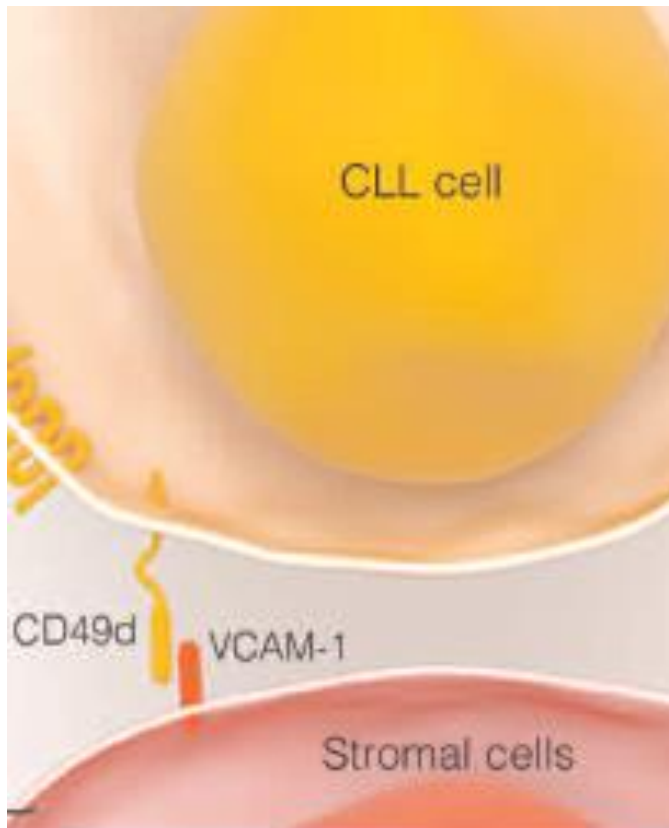
Long-term disease control with ibrutinib as first line therapy of CLL with TP53 aberration



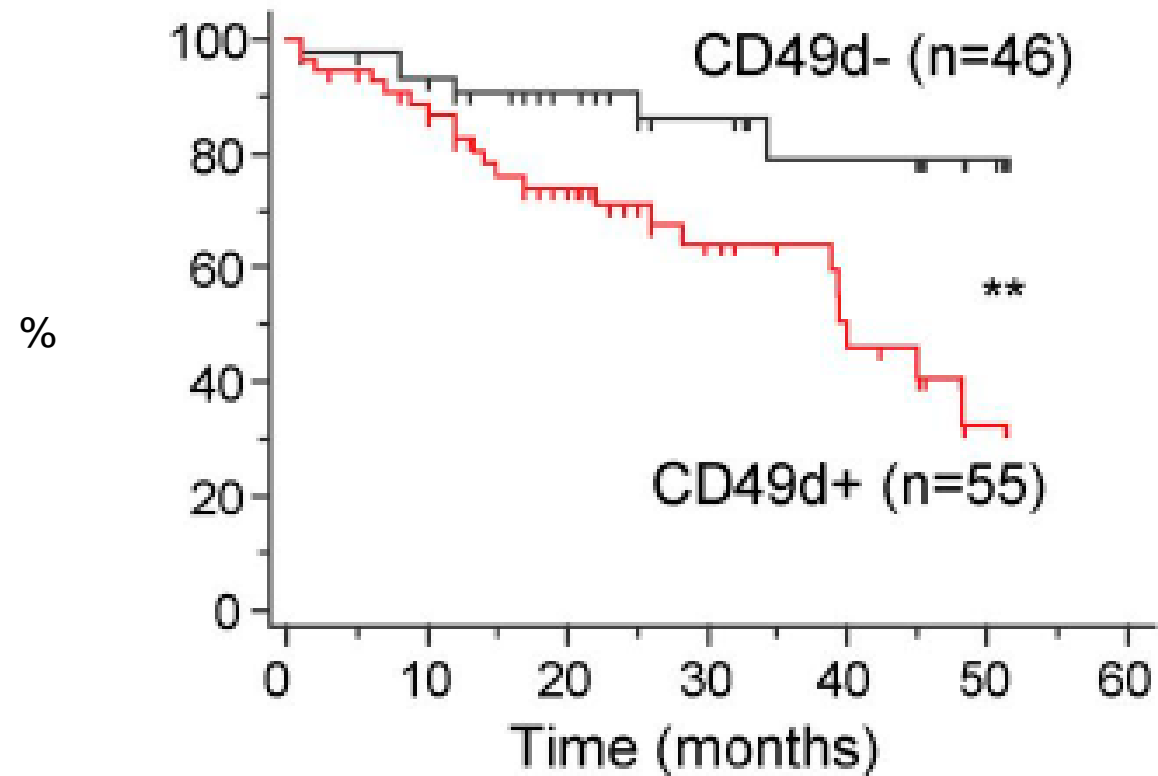
	2 Yr	3 Yr	4 Yr	5 Yr	6 Yr
	% (95% CI)				
Overall Survival	88 (78–100)	88 (78–100)	85 (74–98)	85 (74–98)	79 (67–94)
Progression-free Survival	85 (74–98)	85 (74–98)	79 (67–94)	70 (56–88)	61 (46–80)

# *CD49d expression is associated with inferior PFS with ibrutinib*

CD49d (integrin  $\alpha 1$ )  
mediates cell adhesion

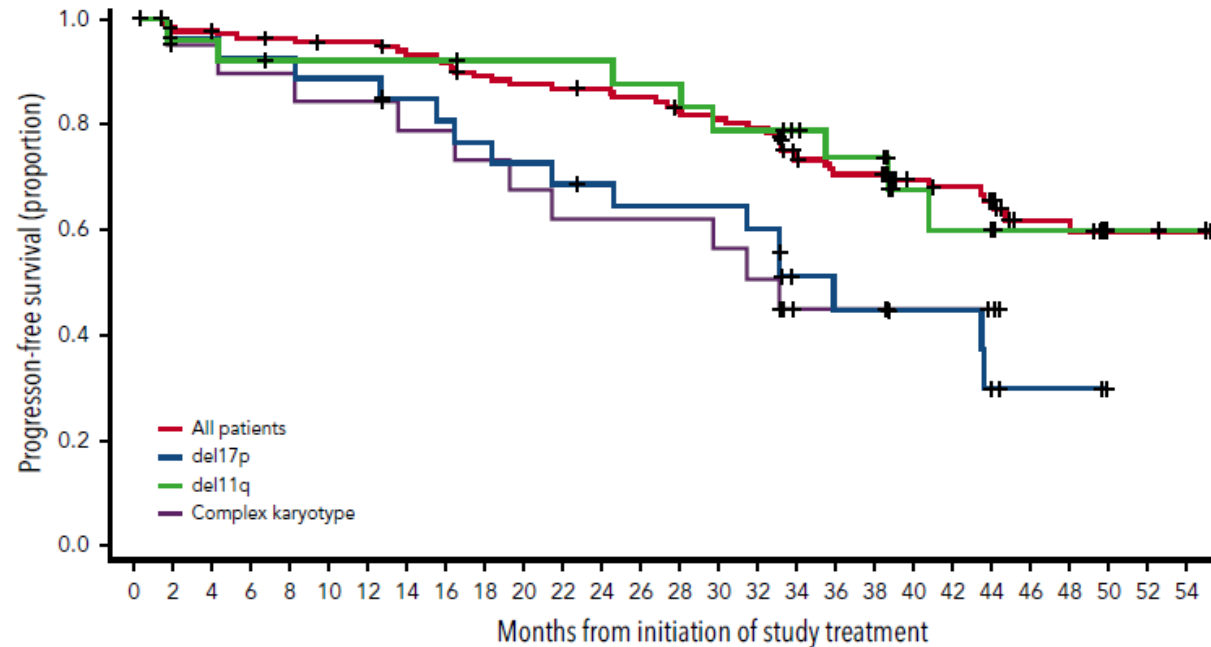


## Progression-free survival



# Acalabrutinib in relapsed/refractory CLL

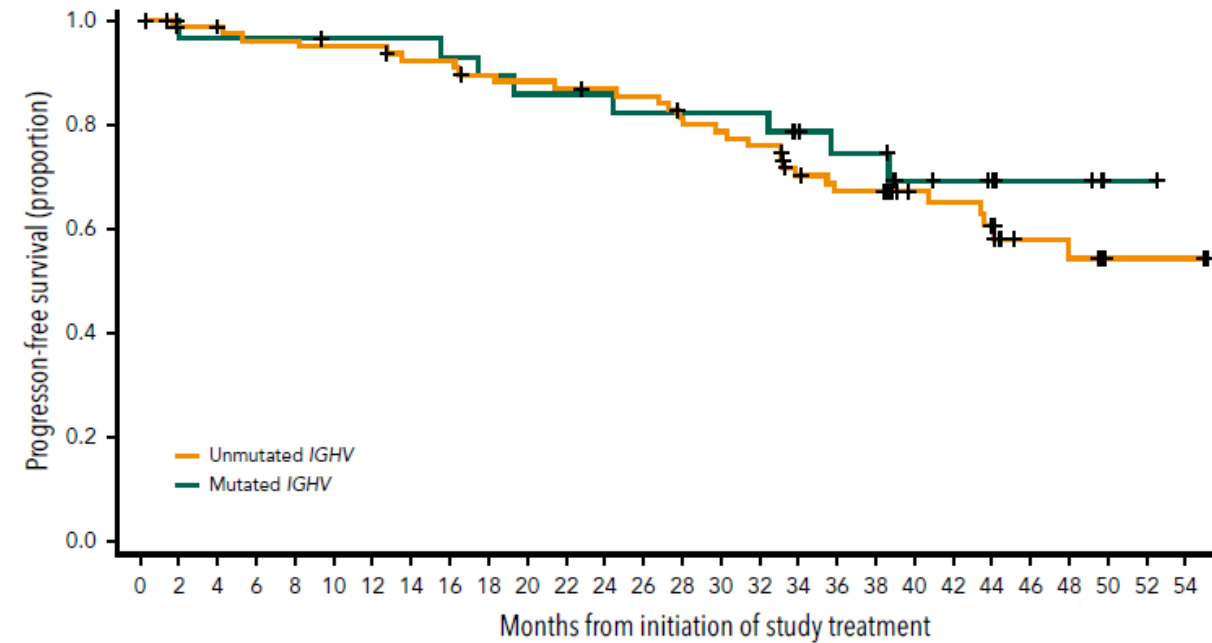
## Progression-free survival by cytogenetics



### Overall response rate by cytogenetics

All	94%
Del17p	93%
Del11q	95%
Complex	90%

## Progression-free survival by IGHV status

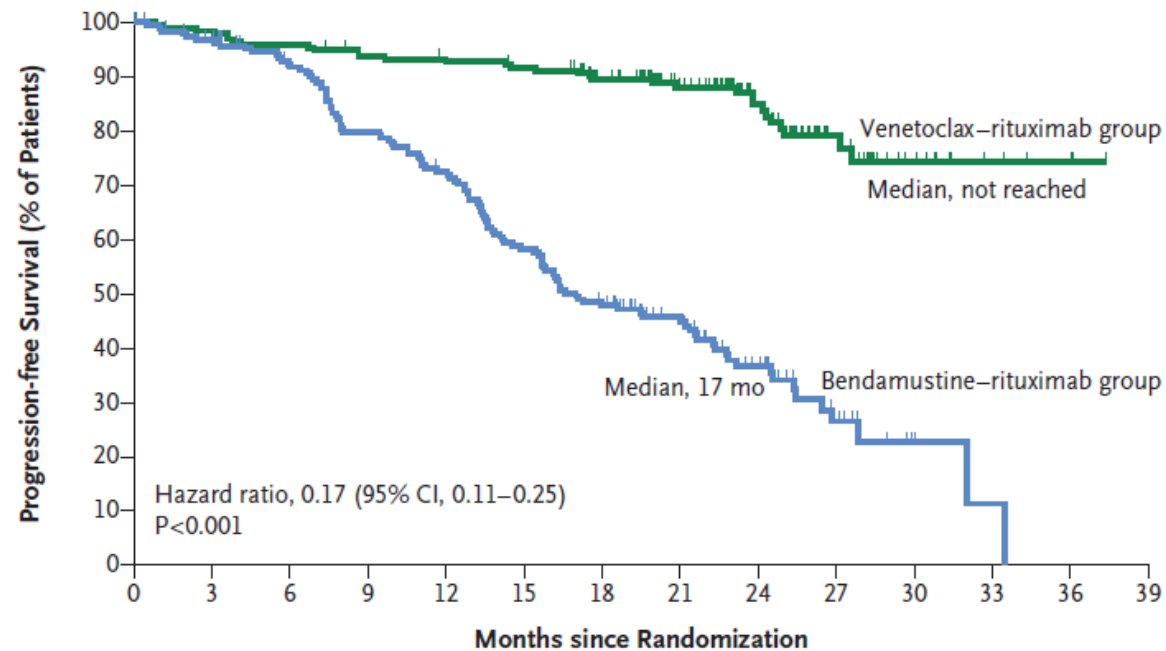


### Overall response rate by IGHV

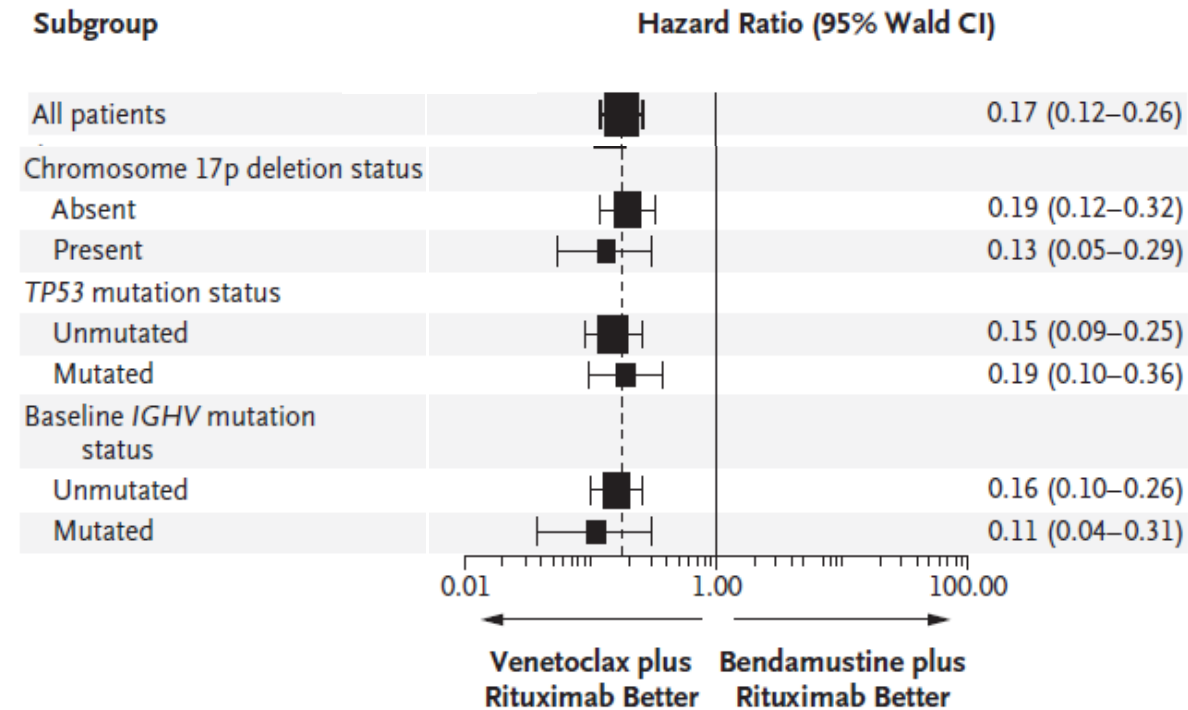
Unmutated	95%
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# Venetoclax-rituximab for relapsed/refractory CLL: the Murano study

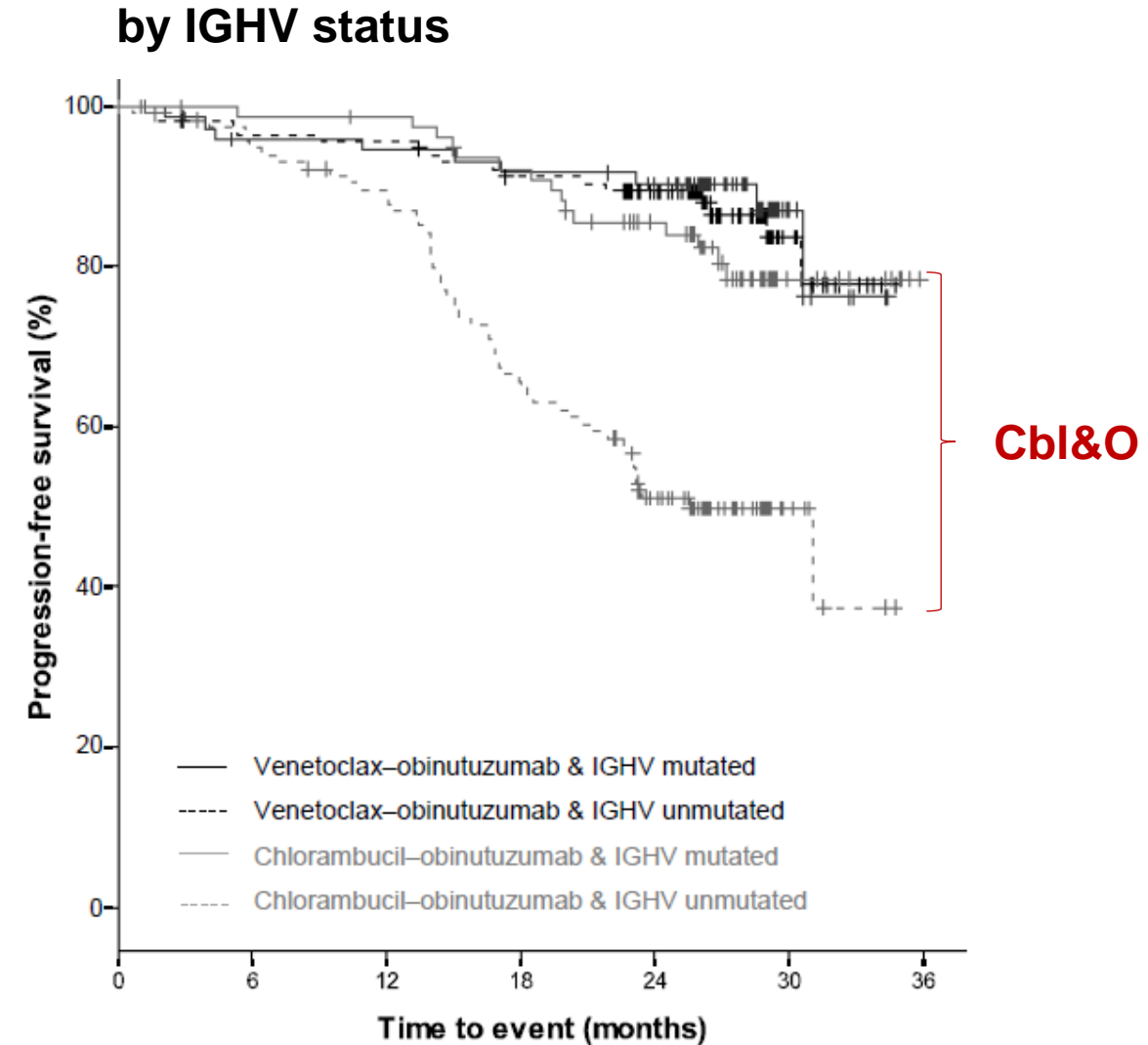
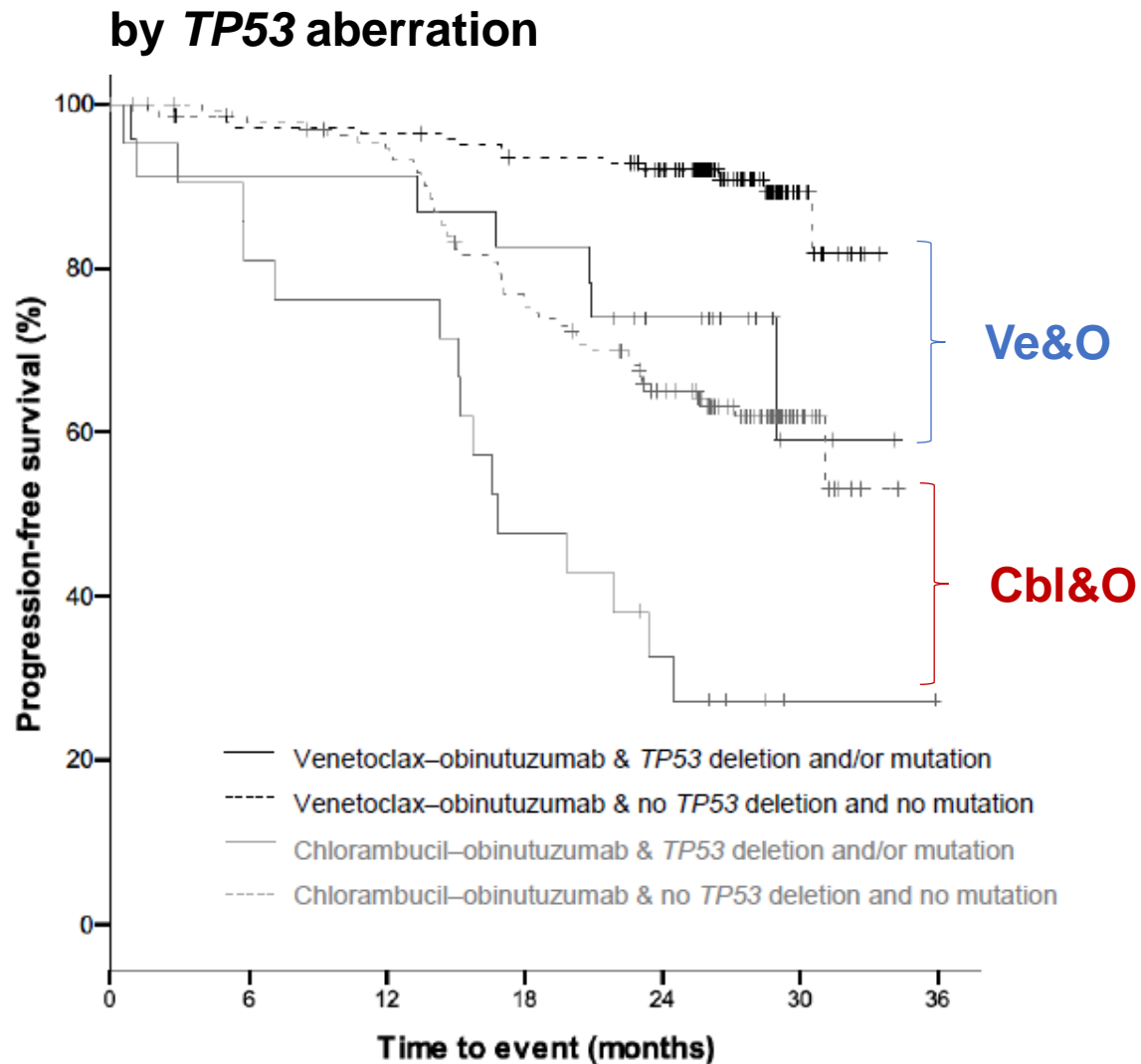
## Progression-free survival by study arm



## Superior activity across-risk groups

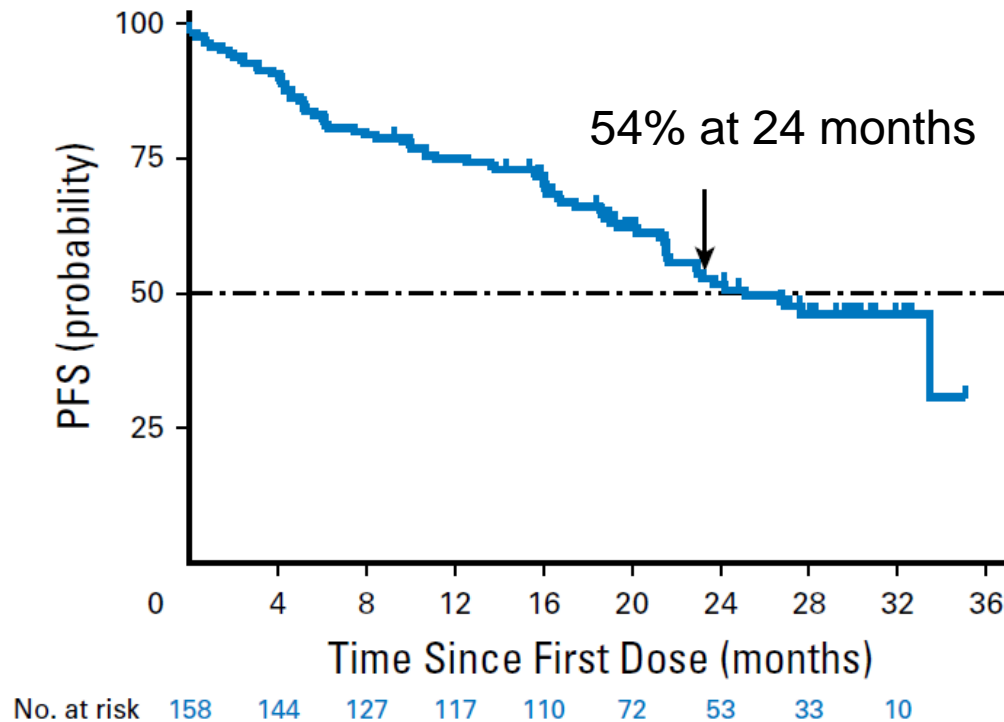


# PFS on venetoclax & obinutuzumab (CLL 14 trial) by TP53 and IGHV



# Targeted agents in relapsed/refractory CLL with TP53 aberration

## venetoclax

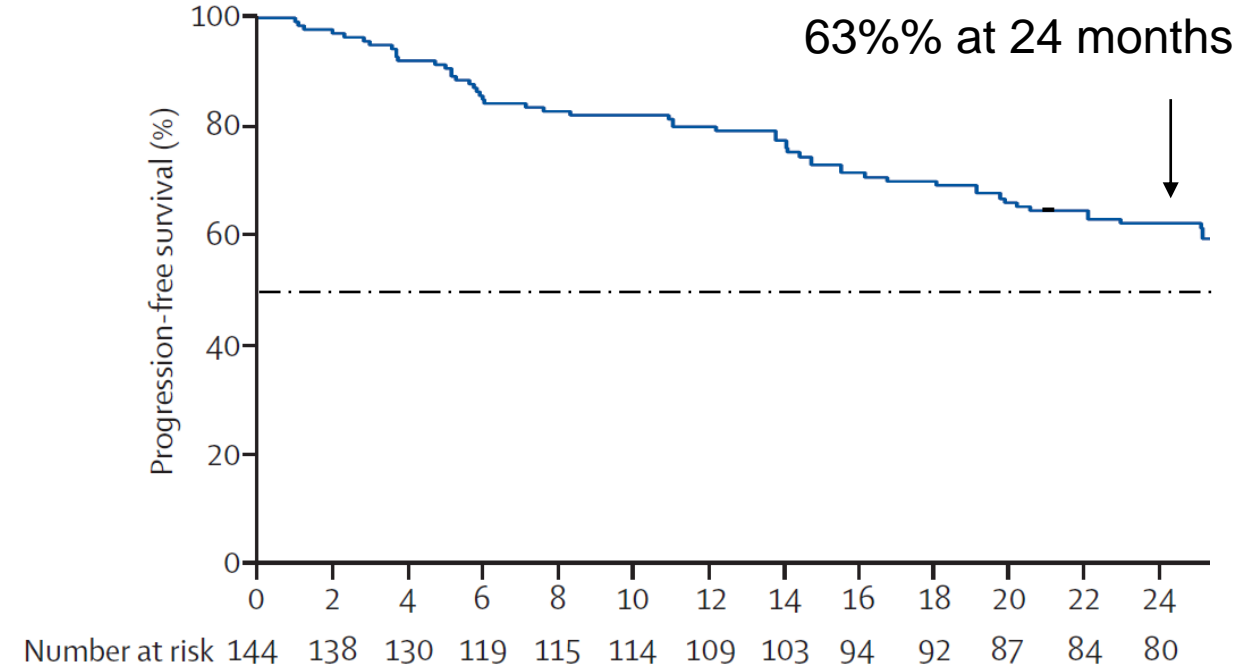


158 patients

Median prior therapies: 2 (0-10)

Stilgenbauer et al JCO 2018

## ibrutinib



145 patients

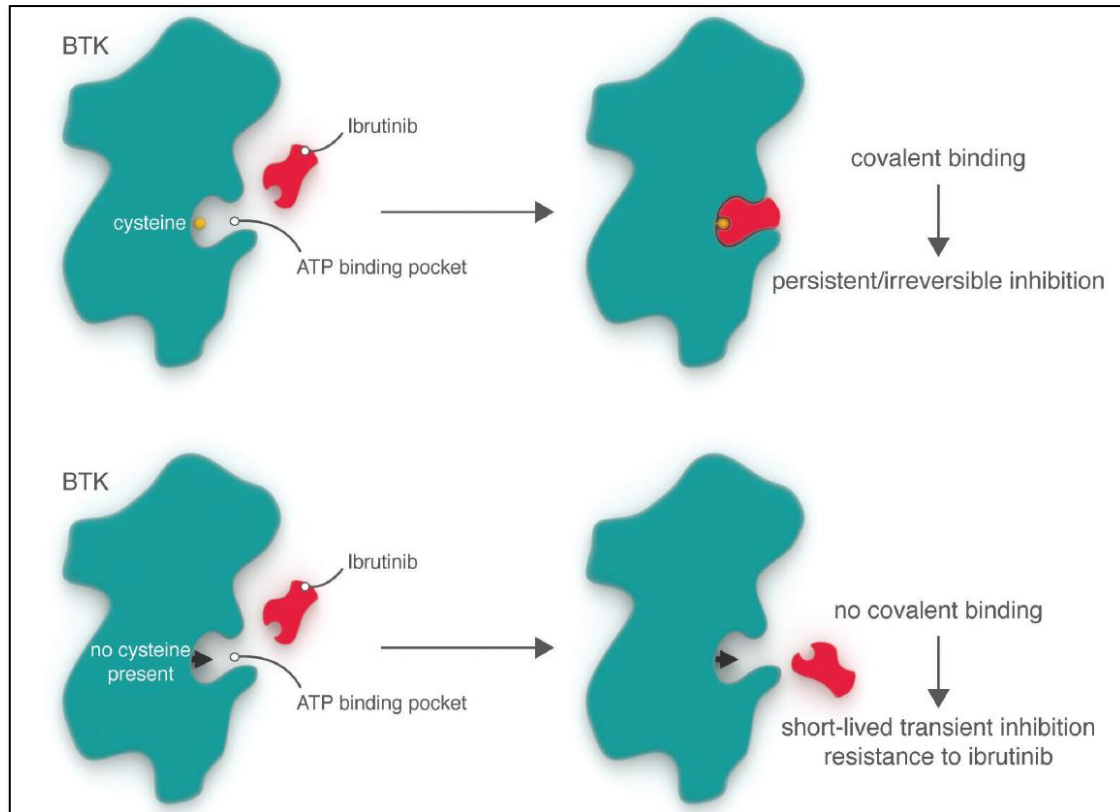
Median prior therapies: 2 (1-3)

O'Brien et al Lancet Onc 2016

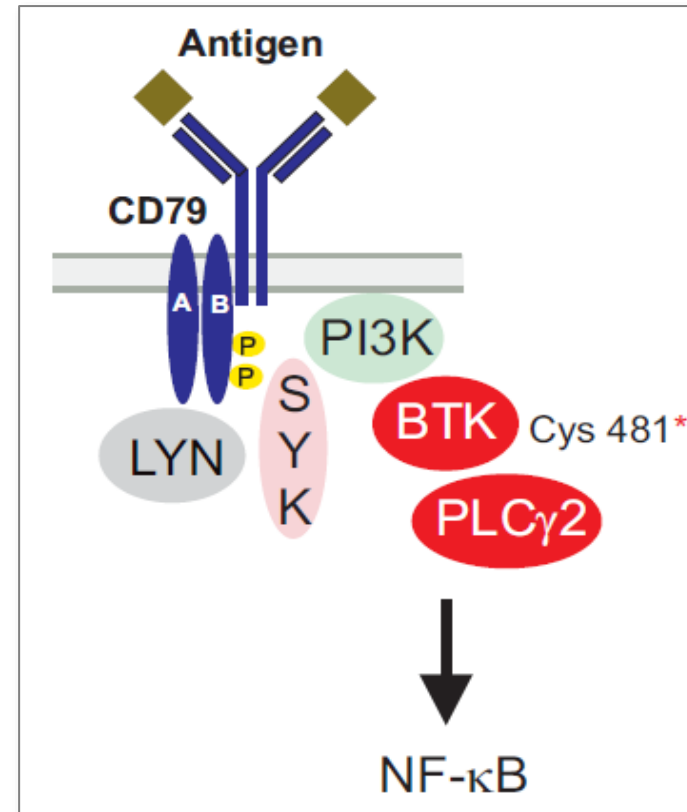


## *BTK inhibitor resistance and mutations in BTK & PLCG2*

### Mechanism of action and resistance to BTKi



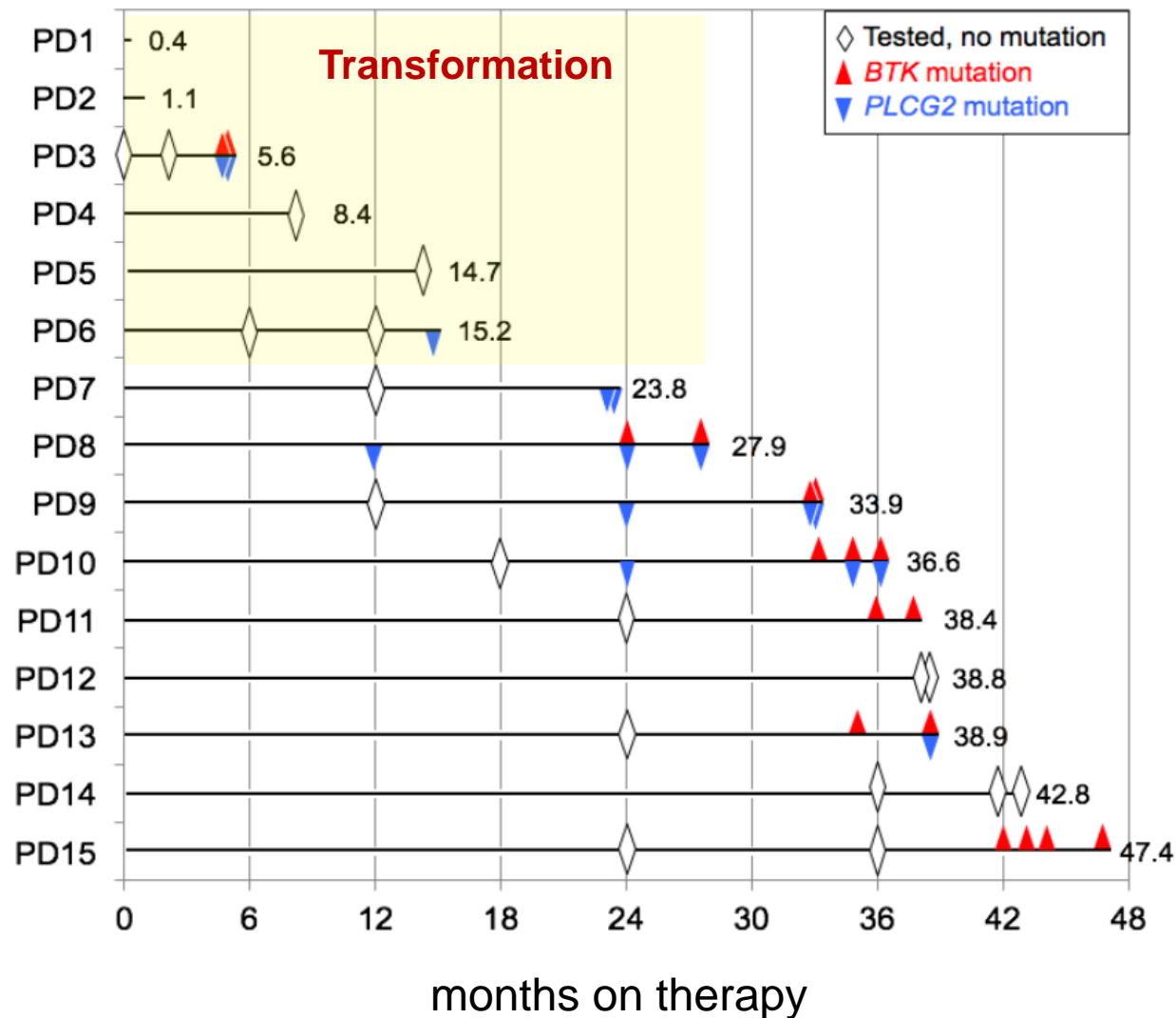
### Restoration of B-cell receptor signaling



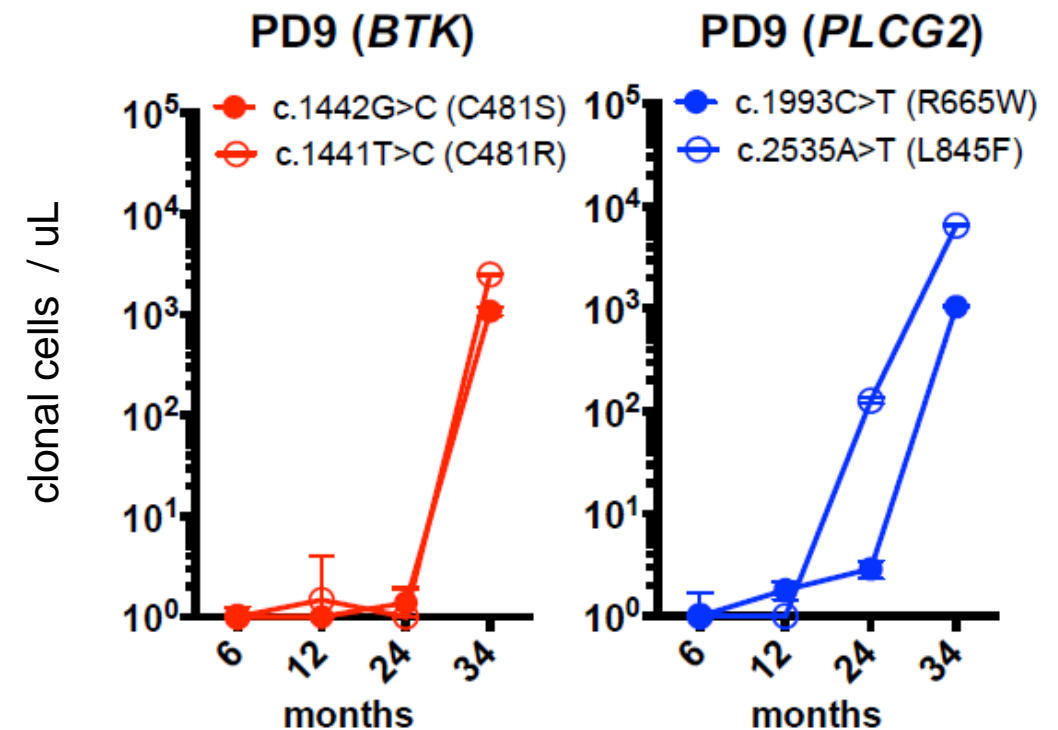
*From Wiestner, Haematologica 2015*

Chang, ASCO 2013; Woyach, NEJM 2014;  
Furman, NEJM 2014

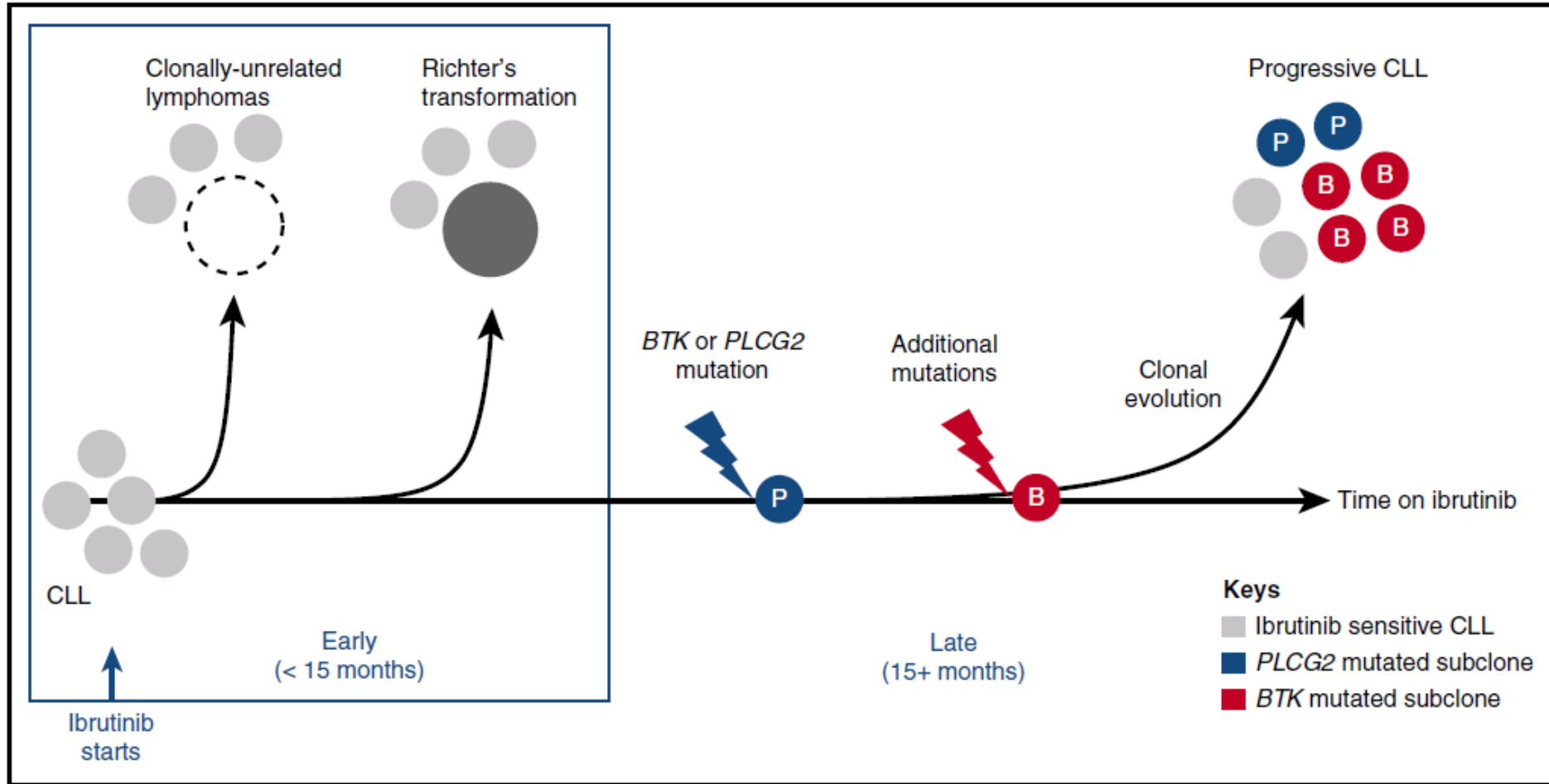
## Emergence of multiple ibrutinib-resistant clones over time



## Concurrent expansion of multiple drug resistant subclones



## Biology of progressive disease on ibrutinib (covalent BTK inhibitors)



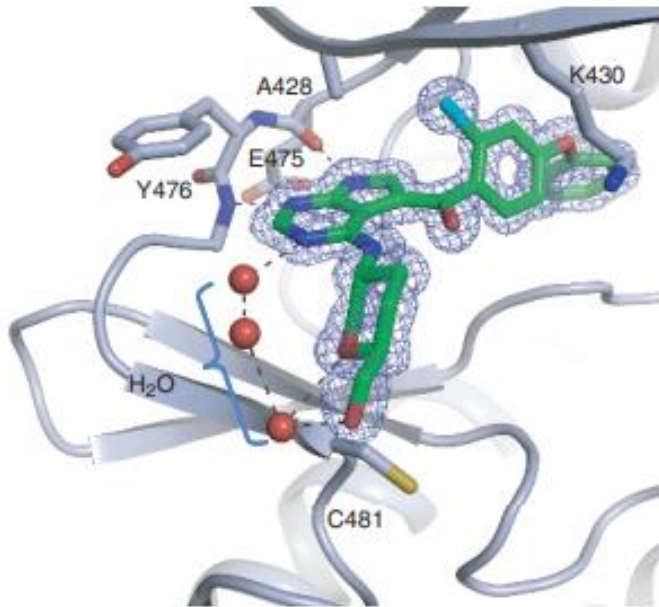
Specific mutations are found in ~ 60-70% of patients progressing with CLL.

Ahn, Blood 2017  
Woyach, JCO 2017  
Byrd, Blood 2020

Ahn, Underbayev et al, Blood 2017

# Overcoming BTKi resistance due to C481 mutations

## Reversible BTK inhibition independent of C481

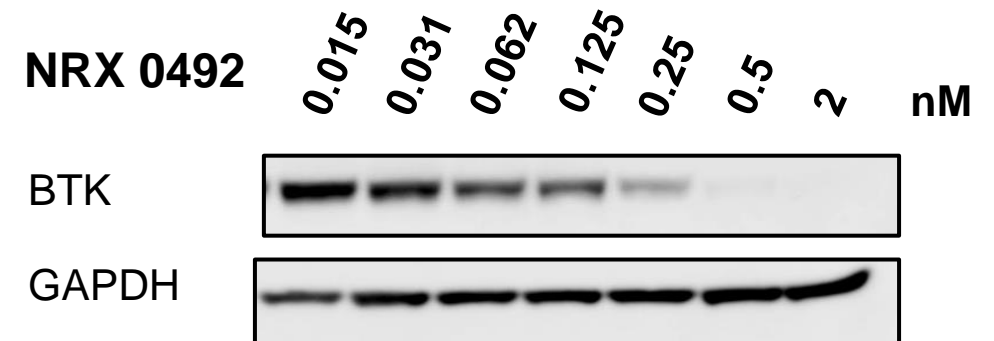
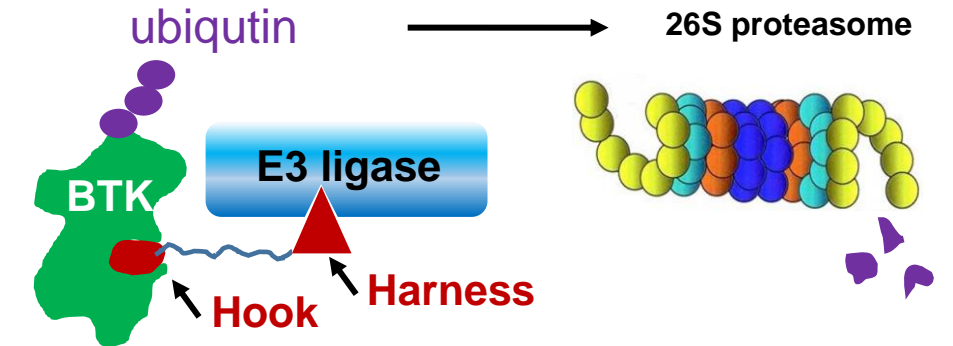


ARQ 531  
Loxo 305  
Vecabrutinib

[www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)

From Reiff et al, Cancer Discovery 2019

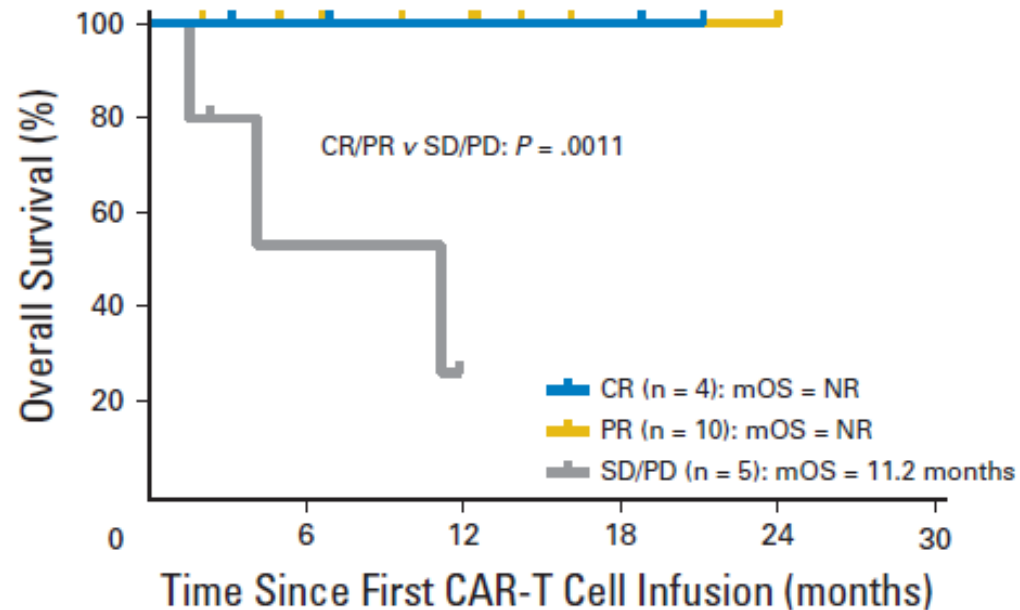
## Inducing BTK degradation



Zhang et al, ASH 2019

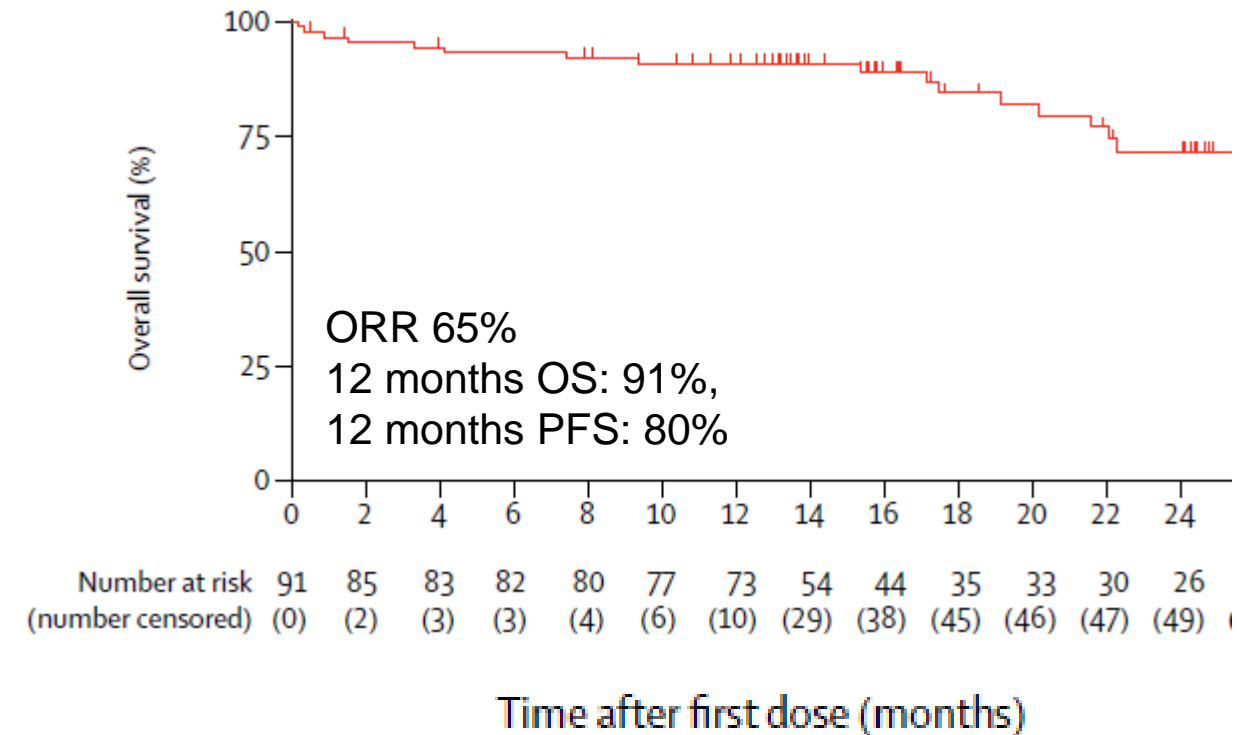
## Prognosis after ibrutinib failure: improved with novel therapies

### OS with CAR-T therapy



Turtle et al, JCO 2017

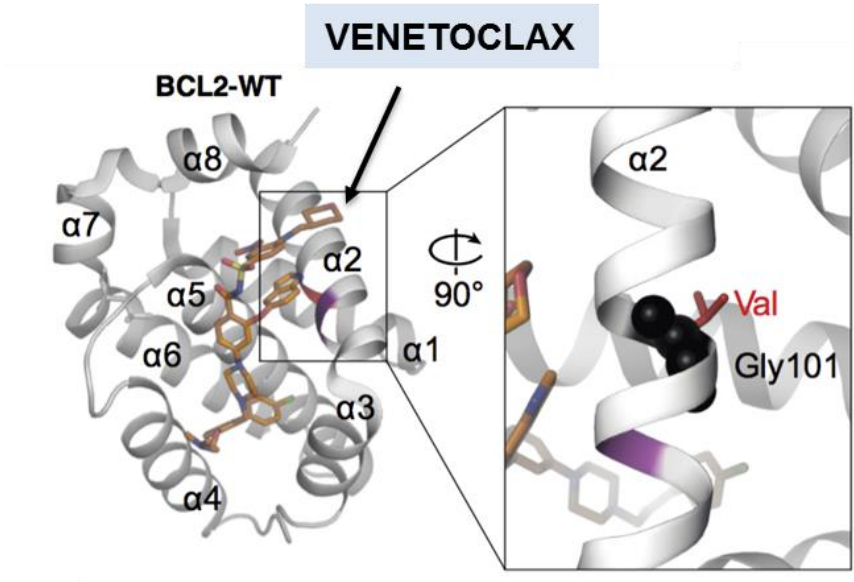
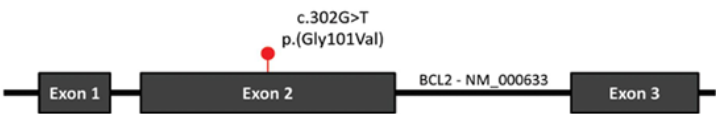
### OS with venetoclax after ibrutinib (68% ibrutinib refractory)



Jones et al, Lancet Oncol 2018

# Genetic mechanisms of venetoclax resistance

BCL2 c.302G>T, p.(Gly101Val) detected in samples from 4 patients at CLL-type progression on venetoclax



Population	Number Assessed	BCL2 Gly101Val Detected (%)
Venetoclax-naïve CLL	96	0 (0%)
CLL-type progression on venetoclax	15	7 (46.7%)
Other B-cell malignancies		
- Follicular lymphoma	28	0 (0%)
- Mantle cell lymphoma	28	0 (0%)
- Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma	47	0 (0%)
- Lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma	95	0 (0%)
- Multiple Myeloma	103	0 (0%)
Cancer Database (COSMIC <sup>a</sup> )	47, 628	0 (0%)
Population Database (gnomAD <sup>b</sup> )	30, 836	0 (0%)

## *CLL biology and treatment response*

### ***IGHV mutation status:***

no difference in ORR, PFS, or OS with ibrutinib (BTK inhibitors) or venetoclax in IGHV mutated CLL with no adverse cytogenetics chemoimmunotherapy can be equally effective in first line as targeted agents

### ***TP53 aberration:***

strongly favors use of ibrutinib (BTK inhibitors) or venetoclax over alternative agents remains associated with shorter PFS with targeted agents

***CD49d expression:*** possibly associated with inferior PFS with ibrutinib, awaiting independent confirmation

***Complex karyotype:*** conflicting data, needs standardized methods and confirmation of independent prognostic value

***Prior therapy:*** treatment history impacts PFS with targeted agents (BTKi)

***B2M:*** appears important – at least with ibrutinib, variable cutoffs used



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