

New data in upfront and relapsed aggressive B cell lymphoma

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Disclosures

Consulting advice:

Sutro, Epizyme, BMS/Celgene, Bayer, Gilead/Kite, GenMab, Genentech/Roche, Abbvie, Incyte, Janssen, Eisai, Mustang Bio, Second Genome

Diffuse large B cell lymphoma

- Most common lymphoma
- Median age 60, usually with advanced stage disease
- Practical objective of treatment – cure (70%)
- Reasonably good clinical prognostic tools
 - IPI (Age, PS, LDH, Extranodal, Stage = IPI 0-5)
- Most patients treated same (R-CHOP x 6 cycles)
- AutoSCT standard for chemosensitive relapsed disease
- CAR-T, novel agents/combinations in rel/ref setting

When have we frequently treated patients with DLBCL with something other than R-CHOP x 6?

Double hit subtype (MYC, BCL2, BCL6 translocations)

Primary mediastinal

HIV associated

Testicular

Limited stage (? 4 cycles)

CNS

Elderly (mini-R-CHOP)

What's new in DLBCL from ASH 2021?

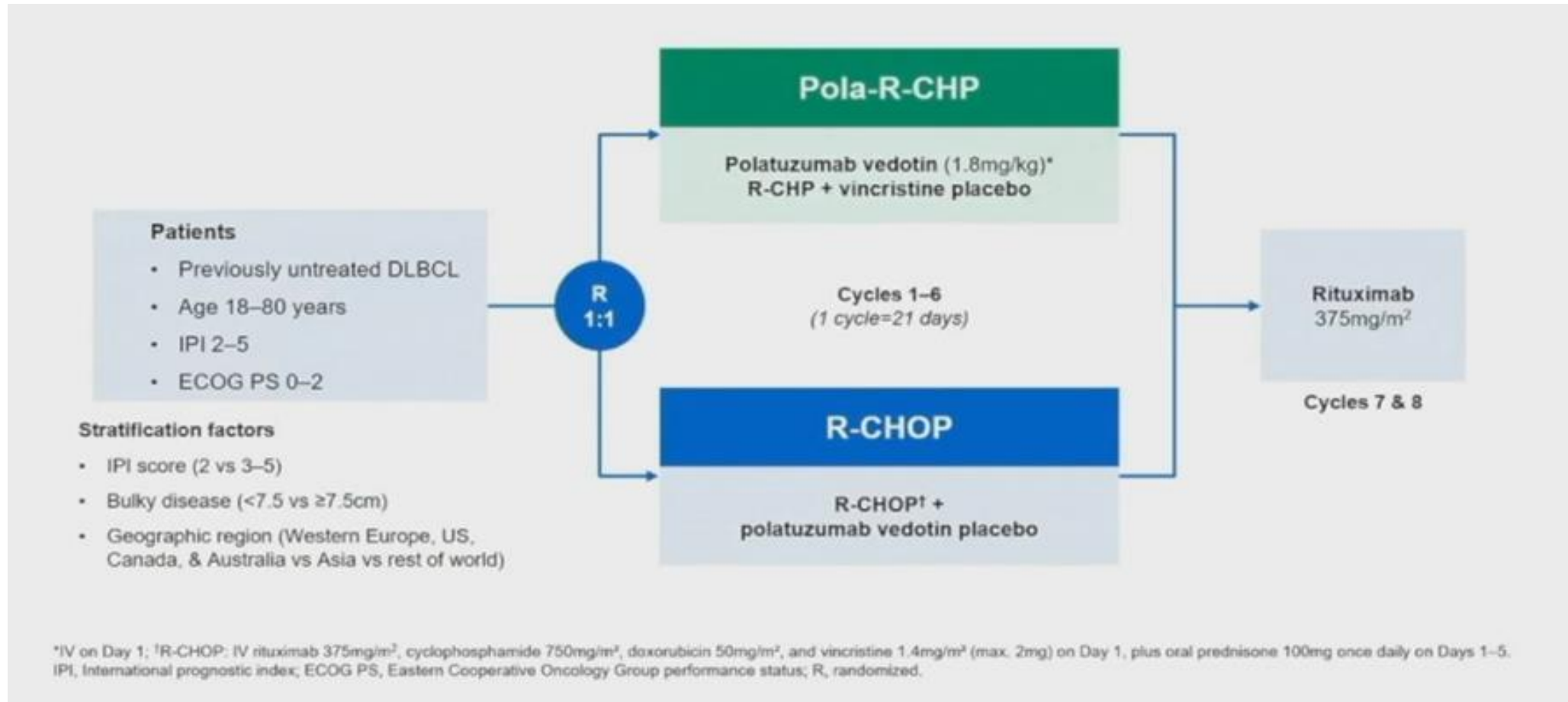
New upfront therapy for subset of patients

CAR-T as second line therapy

Bispecific antibodies

R-CHOP vs Polatuzumab-R-CHP in DLBCL (IPI 2-5)

Tilly et al, NEJM 2021



R-CHOP vs Polatuzumab-R-CHP in DLBCL

Tilly et al, NEJM 2021

Characteristic	Pola-R-CHP (N= 440)	R-CHOP (N= 439)
Median age (range) — yr	65 (19–80)	66 (19–80)
Age category — no. (%)		
≤60 yr	140 (31.8)	131 (29.8)
>60 yr	300 (68.2)	308 (70.2)
Female sex — no. (%)	201 (45.7)	205 (46.7)
Geographic region — no. (%)†		
Western Europe, United States, Canada, and Australia	302 (68.6)	301 (68.6)
Asia	81 (18.4)	79 (18.0)
Rest of world	57 (13.0)	59 (13.4)
Ann Arbor stage — no. (%)‡		
I or II	47 (10.7)	52 (11.8)
III or IV	393 (89.3)	387 (88.2)
No. of extranodal sites — no. (%)		
0 or 1	227 (51.6)	226 (51.5)
≥2	213 (48.4)	213 (48.5)
Bulky disease — no. (%)†§	193 (43.9)	192 (43.7)

R-CHOP vs Polatuzumab-R-CHP in DLBCL

Tilly et al, NEJM 2021

ECOG performance status score — no. (%)¶		
0 or 1	374 (85.0)	363 (82.7)
2	66 (15.0)	75 (17.1)
Lactate dehydrogenase level — no. (%)		
Normal	146 (33.2)	154 (35.1)
Elevated	291 (66.1)	284 (64.7)
IPI score — no. (%)†**		
2	167 (38.0)	167 (38.0)
3 to 5	273 (62.0)	272 (62.0)
Median time from initial diagnosis to treatment initiation (IQR) — days	26 (16.0–37.5)	27 (19.0–41.0)
Cell of origin — no./total no. (%)††		
Germinal-center B-cell–like subtype	184/330 (55.8)	168/338 (49.7)
Activated B-cell–like subtype	102/330 (30.9)	119/338 (35.2)
Unclassified	44/330 (13.3)	51/338 (15.1)
Double-expressor lymphoma — no./total no. (%)††	139/362 (38.4)	151/366 (41.3)
Double-hit or triple-hit lymphoma — no./total no. (%)††	26/331 (7.9)	19/334 (5.7)

R-CHOP vs Polatuzumab-R-CHP in DLBCL - Toxicity

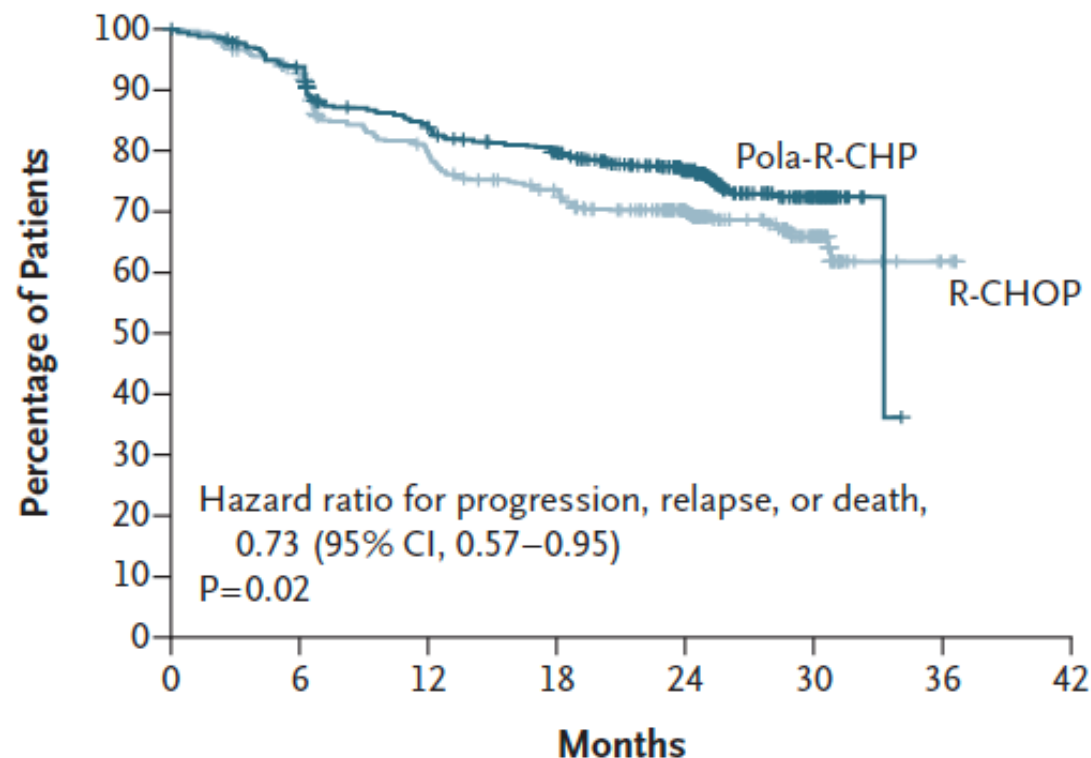
Tilly et al, NEJM 2021

Adverse Event	Pola-R-CHP (N=435)		R-CHOP (N=438)	
	Any Grade	Grade 3 or 4	Any Grade	Grade 3 or 4
	<i>number of patients (percent)</i>			
Peripheral neuropathy†	230 (52.9)	7 (1.6)	236 (53.9)	5 (1.1)
Nausea	181 (41.6)	5 (1.1)	161 (36.8)	2 (0.5)
Neutropenia	134 (30.8)	123 (28.3)	143 (32.6)	135 (30.8)
Diarrhea	134 (30.8)	17 (3.9)	88 (20.1)	8 (1.8)
Anemia	125 (28.7)	52 (12.0)	114 (26.0)	37 (8.4)
Constipation	125 (28.7)	5 (1.1)	127 (29.0)	1 (0.2)
Fatigue	112 (25.7)	4 (0.9)	116 (26.5)	11 (2.5)
Alopecia	106 (24.4)	0	105 (24.0)	1 (0.2)
Decreased appetite	71 (16.3)	5 (1.1)	62 (14.2)	3 (0.7)
Pyrexia	68 (15.6)	6 (1.4)	55 (12.6)	0
Vomiting	65 (14.9)	5 (1.1)	63 (14.4)	3 (0.7)
Febrile neutropenia	62 (14.3)	60 (13.8)	35 (8.0)	35 (8.0)
Headache	56 (12.9)	1 (0.2)	57 (13.0)	4 (0.9)
Cough	56 (12.9)	0	53 (12.1)	0
Decreased weight	55 (12.6)	4 (0.9)	52 (11.9)	1 (0.2)
Asthenia	53 (12.2)	7 (1.6)	53 (12.1)	2 (0.5)
Dysgeusia	49 (11.3)	0	57 (13.0)	0

R-CHOP vs Polatuzumab-R-CHP in DLBCL - PFS

Tilly et al, NEJM 2021

A Investigator-Assessed Progression-free Survival



24 mo PFS:
76.7% Polatuzumab-R-CHP
70.2% R-CHOP

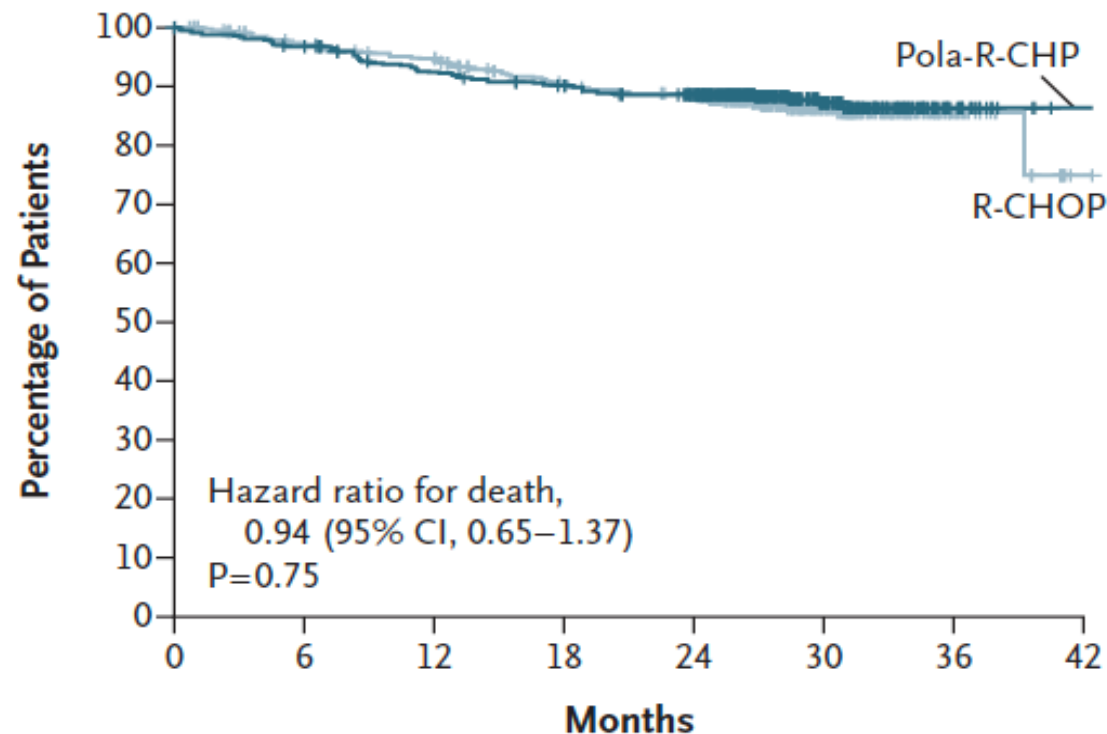
No. at Risk

Polatuzumab-R-CHP	440	404	353	327	246	78	NE	NE
R-CHOP	439	389	330	296	220	78	3	NE

R-CHOP vs Polatuzumab-R-CHP in DLBCL - OS

Tilly et al, NEJM 2021

D Overall Survival

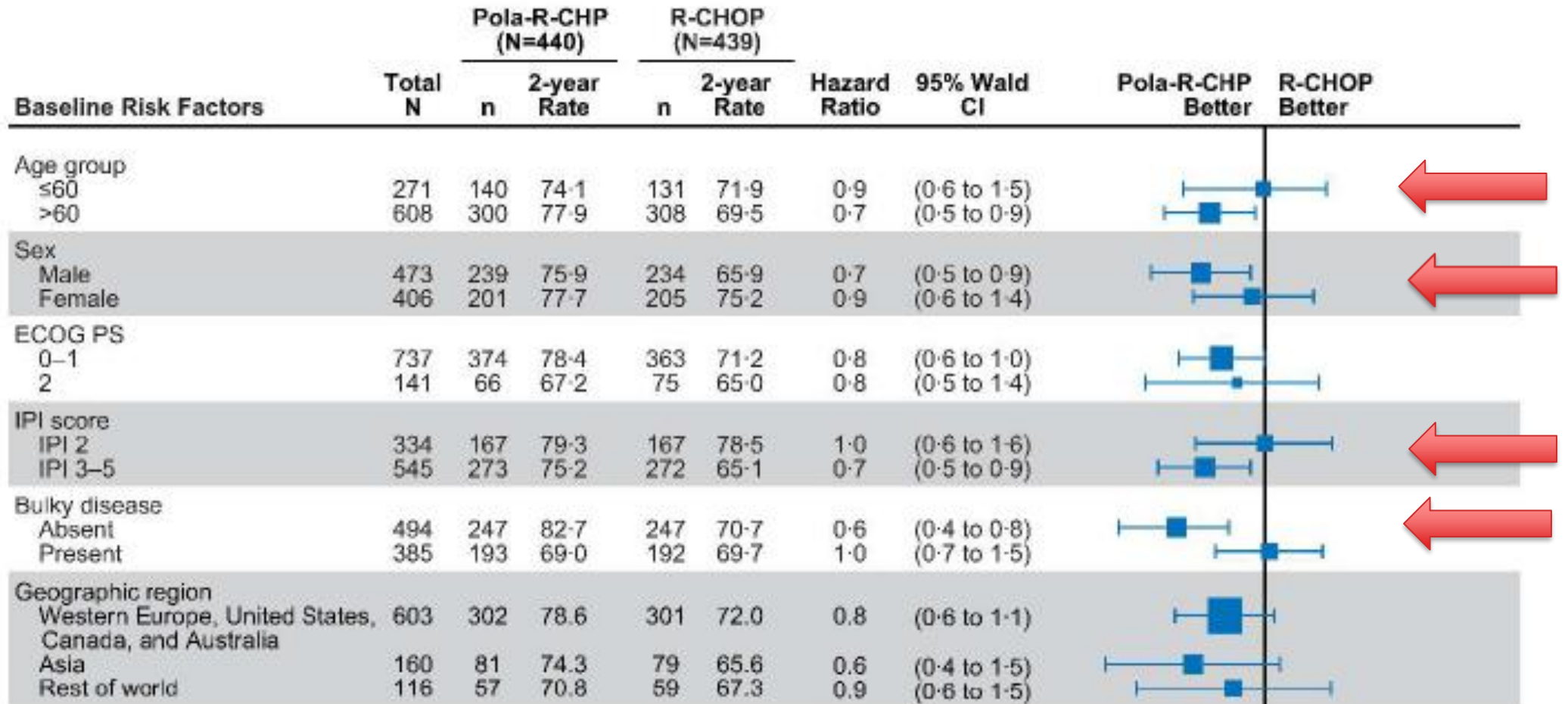


No. at Risk

Pola-R-CHP	440	423	397	384	362	140	15	1
R-CHOP	439	414	401	376	355	132	20	1

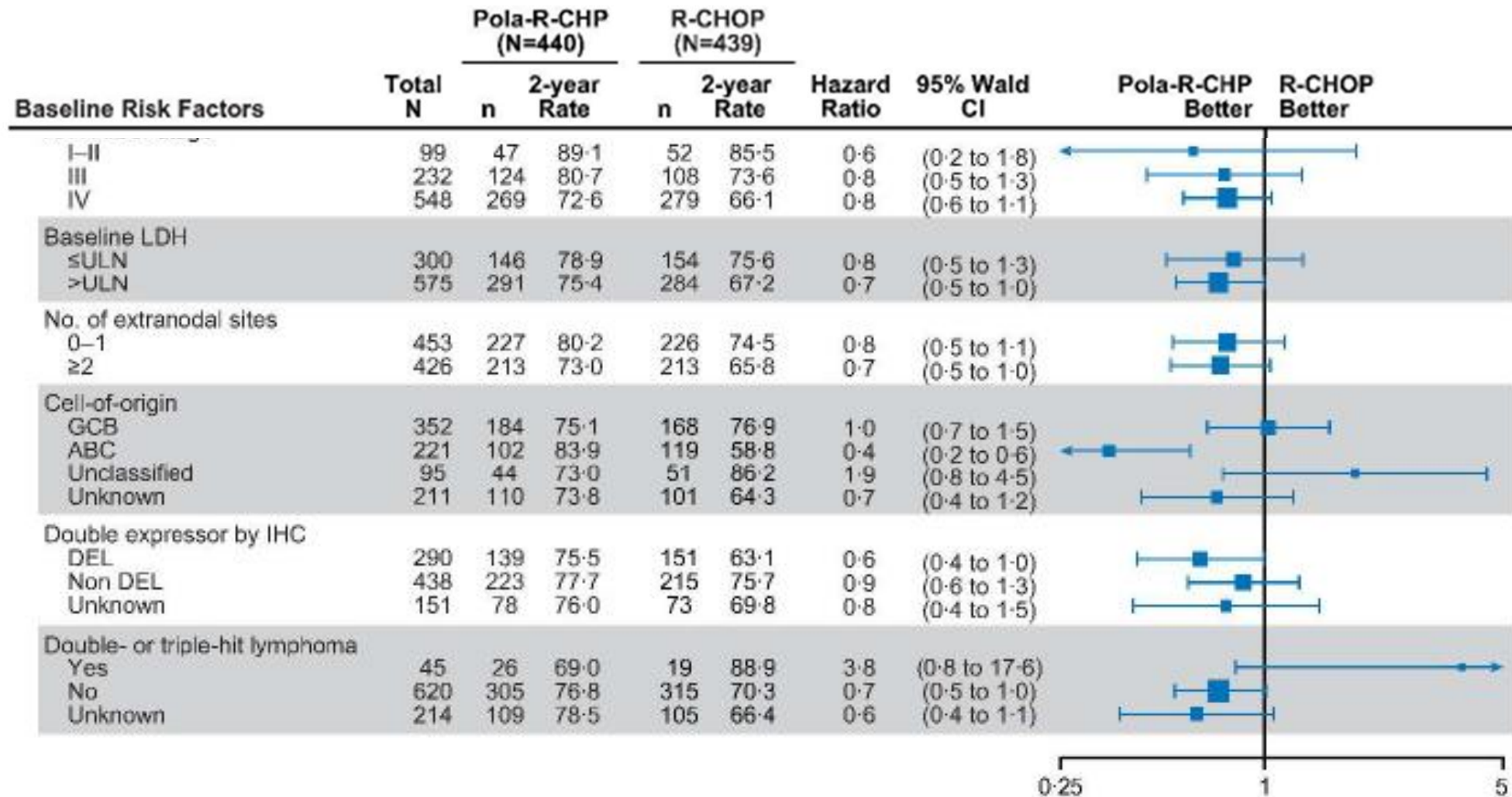
R-CHOP vs Polatuzumab-R-CHP in DLBCL - Subgroups

Tilly et al, NEJM 2021



R-CHOP vs Polatuzumab-R-CHP in DLBCL – Subgroups

Tilly et al, NEJM 2021



Implications of POLARIX study

Positive trial (6.5% benefit in PFS), no OS benefit in IPI 2-5 DLBCL patients

Generally comparable toxicity

Older, male patients, higher risk and ABC subtype benefitted most

Saves 6.5% (1 of 15 patients) from relapse and more therapy

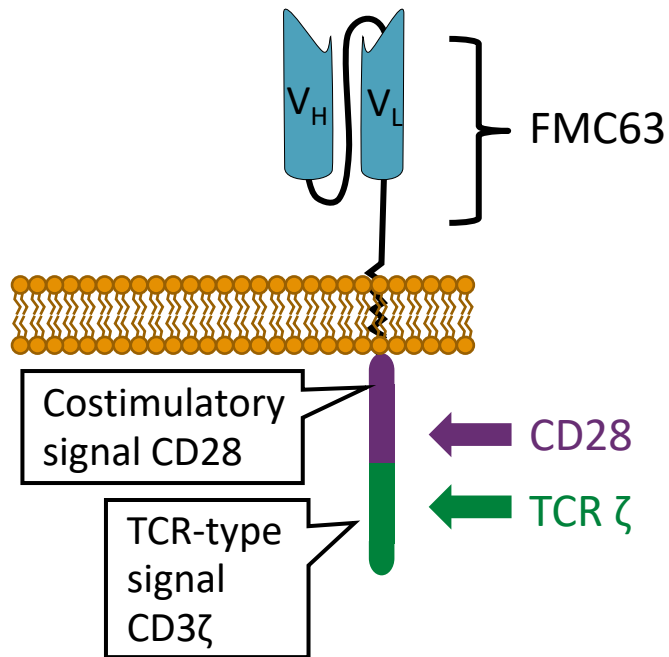
6 doses x \$15,669/dose/80kg pt x 15 patients

= \$1.4 million/relapse saved

CD19-directed CAR T-cell products

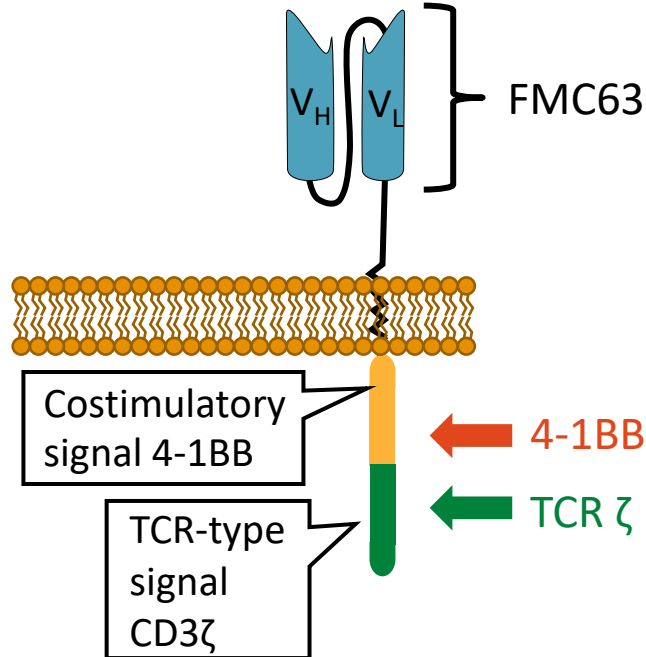
Axicabtagene ciloleucel (Axi-cel)

- CD28 costimulation
- Second generation



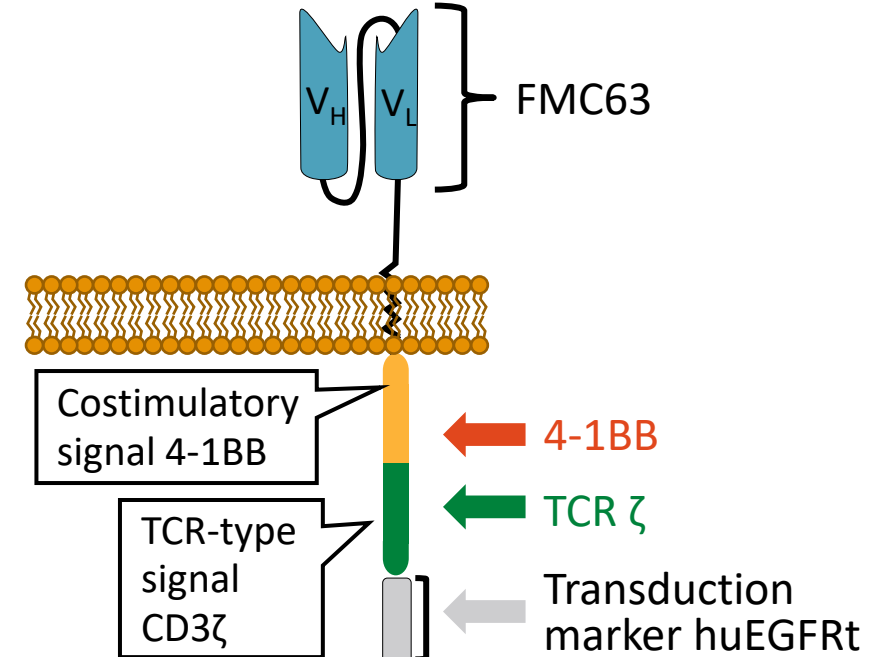
Tisagenlecleucel (Tisa-cel)

- 4-1BB costimulation
- Second generation



Lisocabtagene maraleucel (Liso-cel)

- 4-1BB costimulation
- Second generation



CD19-directed CAR T-cell products: Indications

Axicabtagene ciloleucel (Axi-cel)

- R/R large B-cell lymphoma after ≥2 lines of therapy
 - DLBCL, FL 3B, Transformed; after induction chemo, salvage chemo ± auto PSCT, or not a candidate
- R/R FL after ≥2 lines of systemic therapy (accelerated approval)

Tisagenlecleucel (Tisa-cel)

- R/R large B-cell lymphoma after ≥2 lines of therapy
 - DLBCL, FL 3B, Transformed FL/DLBCL; after induction chemo, salvage chemo ± auto PSCT, or not a candidate
- Patients aged 25 years or younger with **B-cell precursor ALL that is refractory or at least second relapse**

Lisocabtagene maraleucel (Liso-cel)

- R/R large B-cell lymphoma after ≥2 lines of therapy,
 - DLBCL, FL 3B, Transformed FL/DLBCL; after induction chemo, salvage chemo ± auto PSCT, or not a candidate

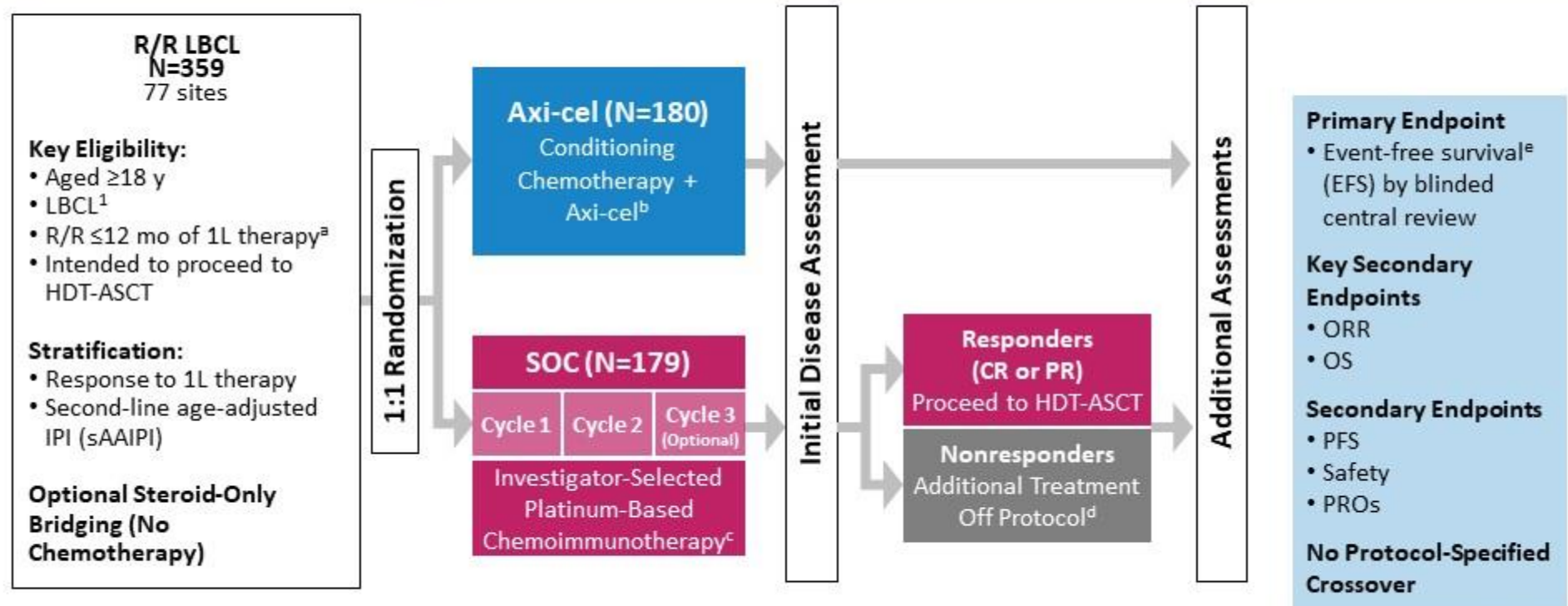
Brexucabtagene autoleucel: CAR T-cell therapy approved for mantle cell lymphoma (after chemoimmunotherapy and a BTK inhibitor, ± auto PSCT failure)

Others in clinical trials or many combinations with other agents or in earlier high risk DLBCL

Axicabtagene Ciloleucel for 2nd line (<12m) relapsed DLBCL

Locke et al, NEJM 2021

ZUMA-7 Study Schema and Endpoints: Axi-cel Versus SOC as Second-Line Therapy in Patients With R/R LBCL



^a Refractory disease was defined as no CR to 1L therapy; relapsed disease was defined as CR followed by biopsy-proven disease relapse ≤12 months from completion of 1L therapy. ^b Axi-cel patients underwent leukapheresis followed by conditioning chemotherapy with cyclophosphamide (500 mg/m²/day) and fludarabine (30 mg/m²/day) 5, 4, and 3 days before receiving a single axi-cel infusion (target intravenous dose, 2×10⁶ CAR T cells/kg).

^c Protocol-defined SOC regimens included R-GDP, R-DHAP, R-ICE, or R-ESHAP. ^d 56% of patients received subsequent cellular immunotherapy. ^e EFS was defined as time from randomization to the earliest date of disease progression per Lugano Classification, ² commencement of new lymphoma therapy, or death from any cause.

1. Swerdlow SH, et al. *Blood*. 2016;127:2375-2390. 2. Cheson BD, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2014;32:3059-3068.

Axicabtagene Ciloleucel for 2nd line (<12m) relapsed DLBCL

Locke et al, NEJM 2021

Table 1. Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of the Patients at Baseline.*

Characteristic	Axi-cel (N = 180)	Standard Care (N = 179)	Total (N = 359)
Age			
Median (range) — yr	58 (21–80)	60 (26–81)	59 (21–81)
≥65 yr — no. (%)	51 (28)	58 (32)	109 (30)
Male sex — no. (%)	110 (61)	127 (71)	237 (66)
Race or ethnic group — no. (%)†			
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	1 (1)	1 (<1)
Asian	12 (7)	10 (6)	22 (6)
Black	11 (6)	7 (4)	18 (5)
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	2 (1)	1 (1)	3 (1)
White	145 (81)	152 (85)	297 (83)
Other	10 (6)	8 (4)	18 (5)
Hispanic or Latino ethnic group — no. (%)†			
Yes	10 (6)	8 (4)	18 (5)
No	167 (93)	169 (94)	336 (94)
Not reported	3 (2)	2 (1)	5 (1)
ECOG performance-status score of 1 — no. (%)‡	85 (47)	79 (44)	164 (46)
Disease stage — no. (%)			
I or II	41 (23)	33 (18)	74 (21)
III or IV	139 (77)	146 (82)	285 (79)
Second-line age-adjusted IPI of 2 or 3 — no. (%)§	82 (46)	79 (44)	161 (45)

Axicabtagene Ciloleucel for 2nd line (<12m) relapsed DLBCL

Locke et al, NEJM 2021

Molecular subgroup according to central laboratory — no. (%)¶			
Germinal center B-cell–like	109 (61)	99 (55)	208 (58)
Activated B-cell–like	16 (9)	9 (5)	25 (7)
Unclassified	17 (9)	14 (8)	31 (9)
Not applicable	10 (6)	16 (9)	26 (7)
Missing data	28 (16)	41 (23)	69 (19)
Response to first-line therapy at randomization — no. (%)			
Primary refractory disease	133 (74)	131 (73)	264 (74)
Relapse at ≤12 mo after the initiation or completion of first-line therapy	47 (26)	48 (27)	95 (26)
Disease type according to central laboratory — no. (%)			
Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma	126 (70)	120 (67)	246 (69)
High-grade B-cell lymphoma, not otherwise specified	0	1 (1)	1 (<1)
High-grade B-cell lymphoma, including rearrangement of <i>MYC</i> with <i>BCL2</i> or <i>BCL6</i> or both	31 (17)	25 (14)	56 (16)
Not confirmed or missing data	18 (10)	28 (16)	46 (13)
Other	5 (3)	5 (3)	10 (3)
Disease type according to the investigator — no. (%)			
Large B-cell lymphoma, not otherwise specified	110 (61)	116 (65)	226 (63)
T-cell– or histiocyte–rich large B-cell lymphoma	5 (3)	6 (3)	11 (3)
Epstein–Barr virus–positive diffuse large B-cell lymphoma	2 (1)	0	2 (1)
Large-cell transformation from follicular lymphoma	19 (11)	27 (15)	46 (13)

Axicabtagene Ciloleucel for 2nd line (<12m) relapsed DLBCL

Locke et al, NEJM 2021

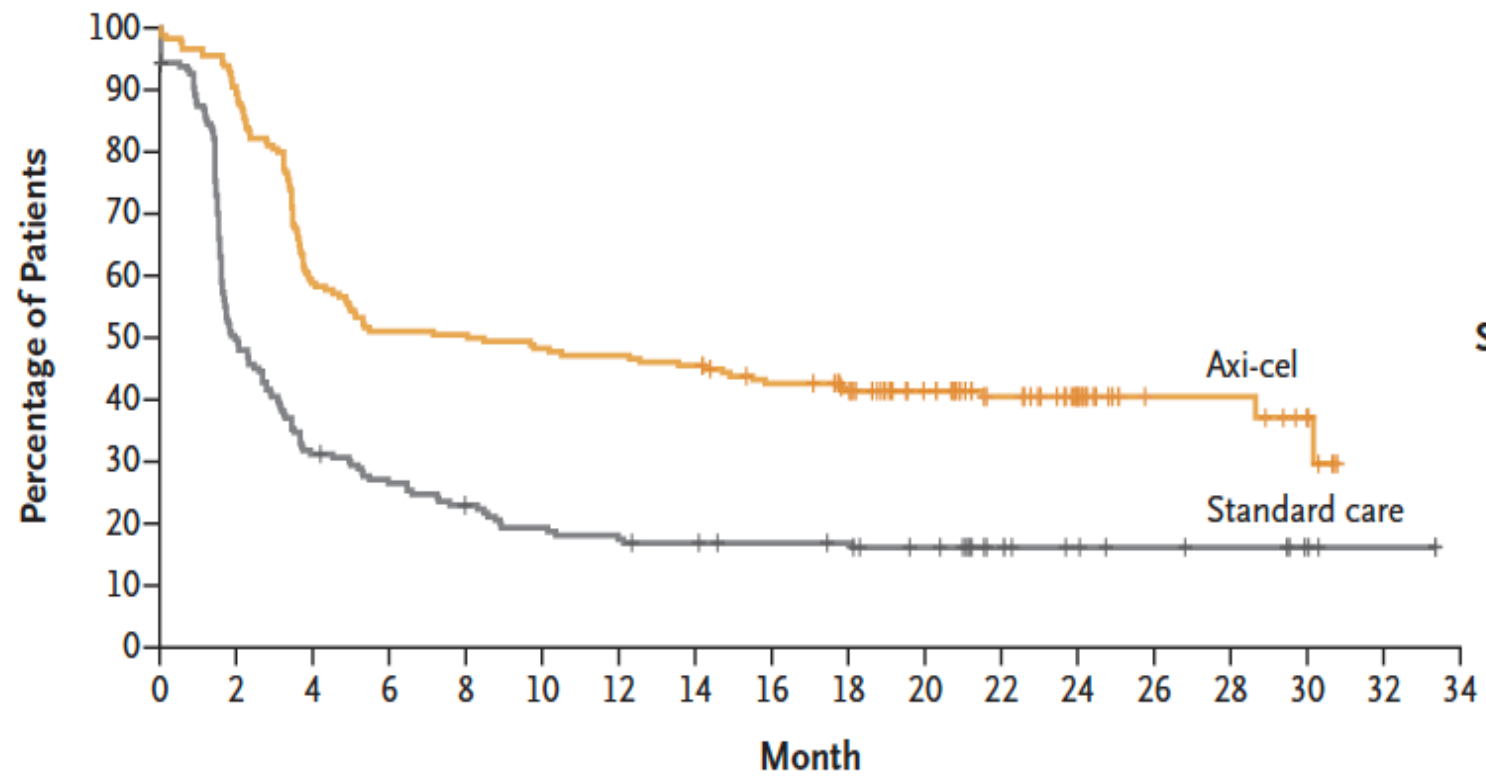
Table 2. Most Common Adverse Events, Cytokine Release Syndrome, and Neurologic Events.*

Event	Axi-cel (N = 170)		Standard Care (N = 168)	
	Any Grade	Grade ≥3	Any Grade	Grade ≥3
Cytokine release syndrome — no. (%)	157 (92)	11 (6)	—	—
Pyrexia — no./total no. (%)	155/157 (99)	14/157 (9)	—	—
Hypotension — no./total no. (%)	68/157 (43)	18/157 (11)	—	—
Sinus tachycardia — no./total no. (%)	49/157 (31)	3/157 (2)	—	—
Chills — no./total no. (%)	38/157 (24)	0/157	—	—
Hypoxia — no./total no. (%)	31/157 (20)	13/157 (8)	—	—
Headache — no./total no. (%)	32/157 (20)	2/157 (1)	—	—
Neurologic event — no. (%)	102 (60)	36 (21)	33 (20)¶	1 (1)
Tremor	44 (26)	2 (1)	1 (1)	0
Confusional state	40 (24)	9 (5)	4 (2)	0
Aphasia	36 (21)	12 (7)	0	0
Encephalopathy	29 (17)	20 (12)	2 (1)	0
Paresthesia	8 (5)	1 (1)	14 (8)	0
Delirium	3 (2)	3 (2)	5 (3)	1 (1)

Axicabtagene Ciloleucel for 2nd line (<12m) relapsed DLBCL

Locke et al, NEJM 2021

A Event-free Survival



	No. of Patients	Median Event-free Survival (95% CI) mo
Axi-cel	180	8.3 (4.5–15.8)
Standard Care	179	2.0 (1.6–2.8)

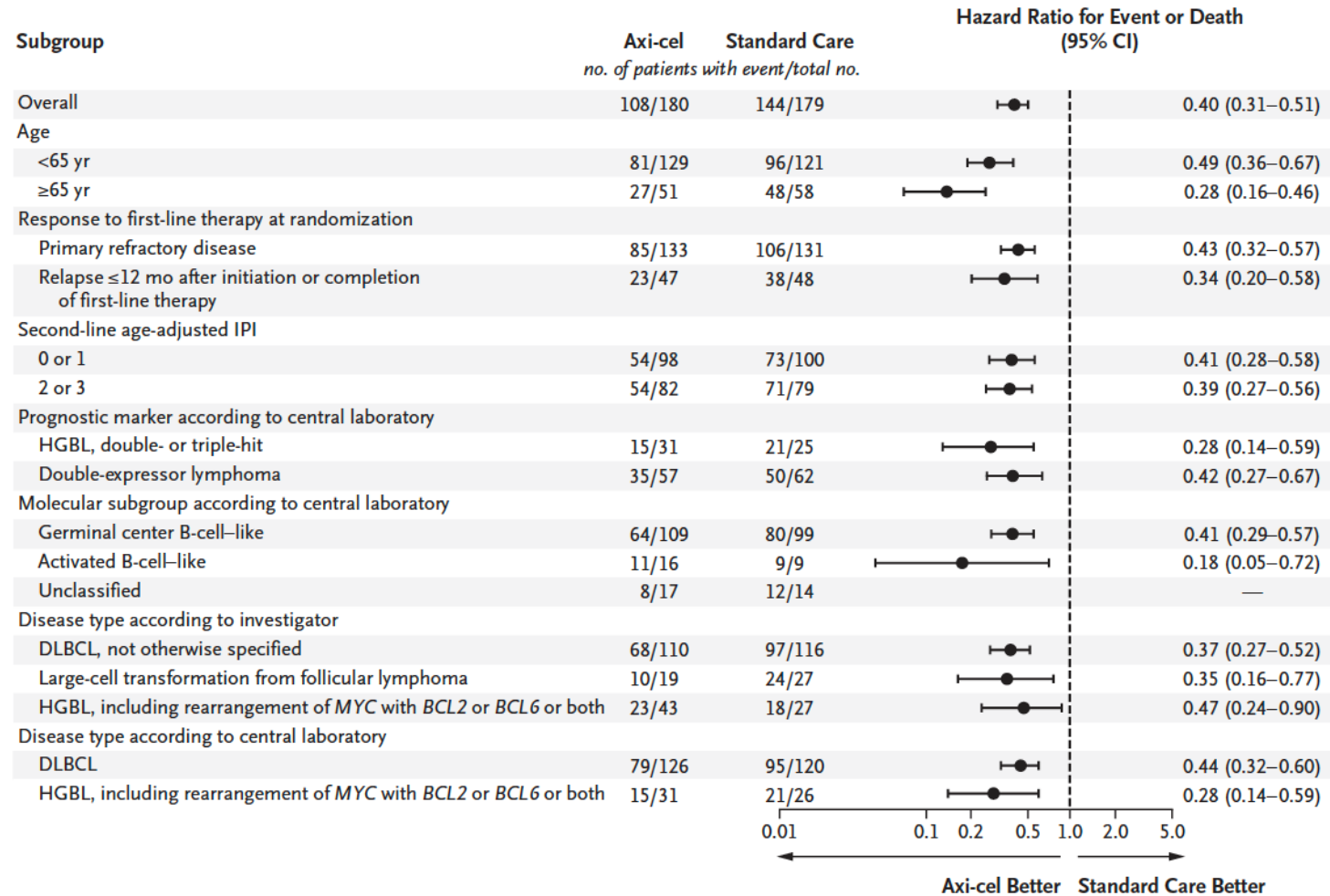
Stratified hazard ratio for event or death, 0.40 (95% CI, 0.31–0.51)
P<0.001

No. at Risk	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34
Axi-cel	180	163	106	92	91	87	85	82	74	67	52	40	26	12	12	6		
Standard care	179	86	54	45	38	32	29	27	25	24	20	12	9	7	6	3	1	0

Axicabtagene Ciloleucel for 2nd line (<12m) relapsed DLBCL

Locke et al, NEJM 2021

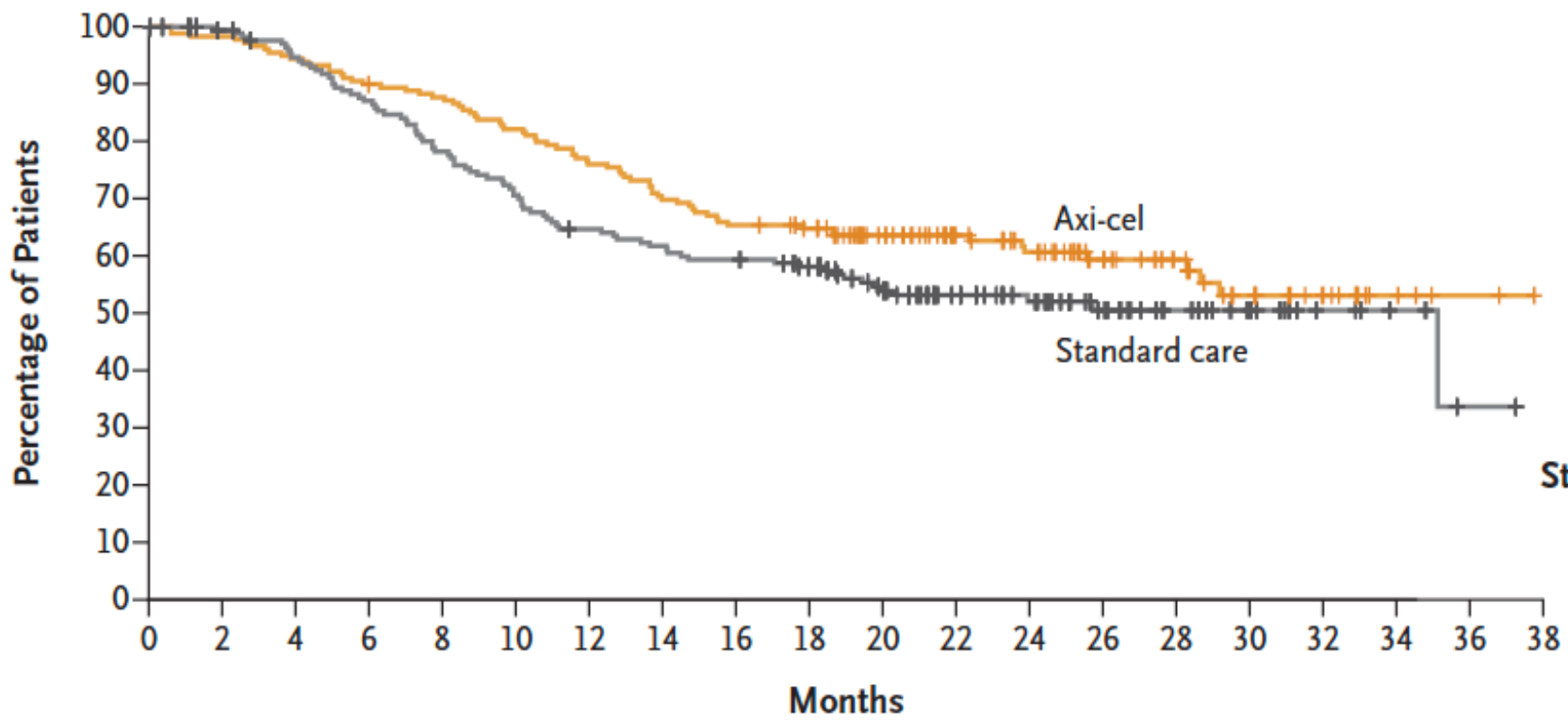
B Subgroup Analysis



Axicabtagene Ciloleucel for 2nd line (<12m) relapsed DLBCL

Locke et al, NEJM 2021

A Overall Survival



	No. of Patients	Median Overall Survival (95% CI) mo
Axi-cel	180	NR (28.3–NE)
Standard Care	179	35.1 (18.5–NE)

Stratified hazard ratio for death, 0.73 (95% CI, 0.53–1.01)

No. at Risk

Axi-cel	180	177	170	161	157	147	136	125	117	111	91	71	60	44	32	21	14	5	2	0
Standard care	179	171	161	148	133	120	109	104	100	91	74	58	47	33	21	14	7	4	1	0

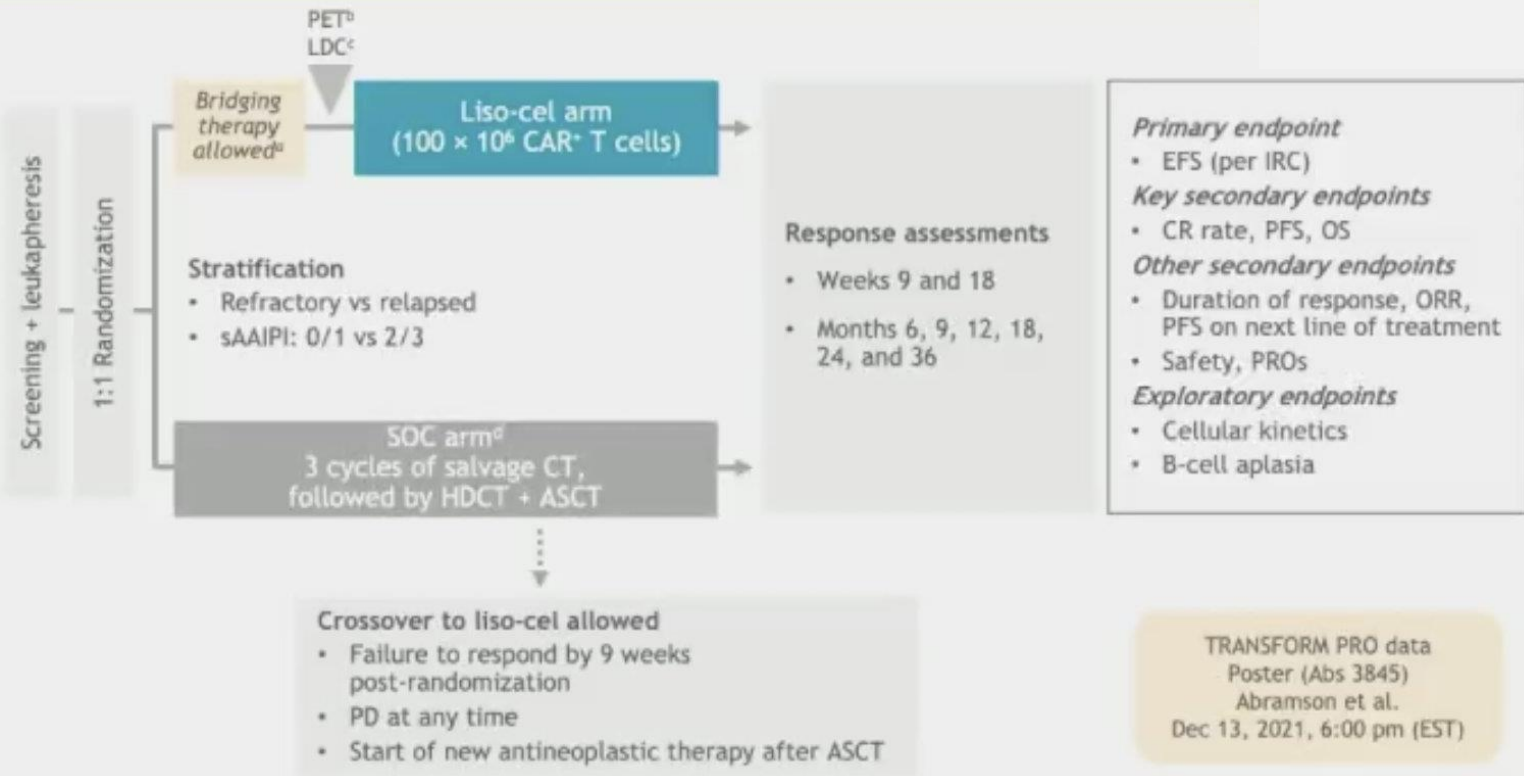
Lisocabtagene maraleucel for 2nd line (<12m) relapsed DLBCL

Kamdar et al, ASH 2021

TRANSFORM study design

Key eligibility

- Age 18–75 years
- Aggressive NHL
 - DLBCL NOS (de novo or transformed from indolent NHL), HGBCL (double/triple hit) with DLBCL histology, FL3B, PMBCL, THRBCL
- Refractory or relapsed ≤ 12 months after 1L treatment containing an anthracycline and a CD20-targeted agent
- ECOG PS ≤ 1
- Eligible for HSCT
- Secondary CNS lymphoma allowed
- LVEF > 40% for inclusion
- No minimum absolute lymphocyte count



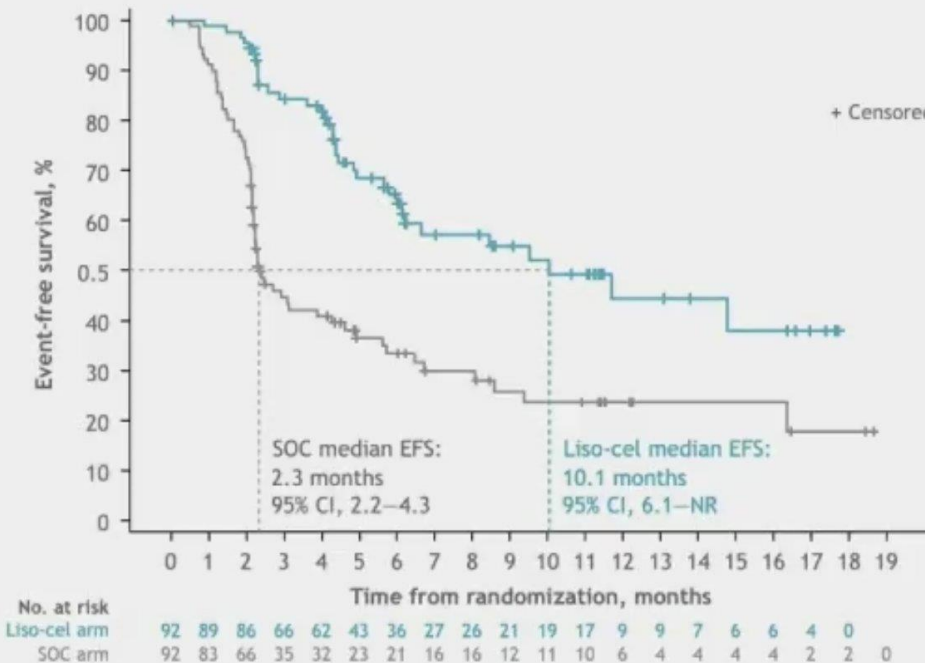
- EFS is defined as time from randomization to death due to any cause, progressive disease, failure to achieve CR or PR by 9 weeks post-randomization, or start of a new antineoplastic therapy, whichever occurs first

Lisocabtagene maraleucel for 2nd line (<12m) relapsed DLBCL

Kamdar et al, ASH 2021

TRANSFORM: Event-free survival per IRC (ITT set; primary endpoint)

Median follow-up in both arms: 6.2 months



EFS is defined as the time from randomization to death due to any cause, progressive disease, failure to achieve CR or PR by 9 weeks post-randomization or start of a new antineoplastic therapy due to efficacy concerns, whichever occurs first.
CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; NR, not reached; SE, standard error.

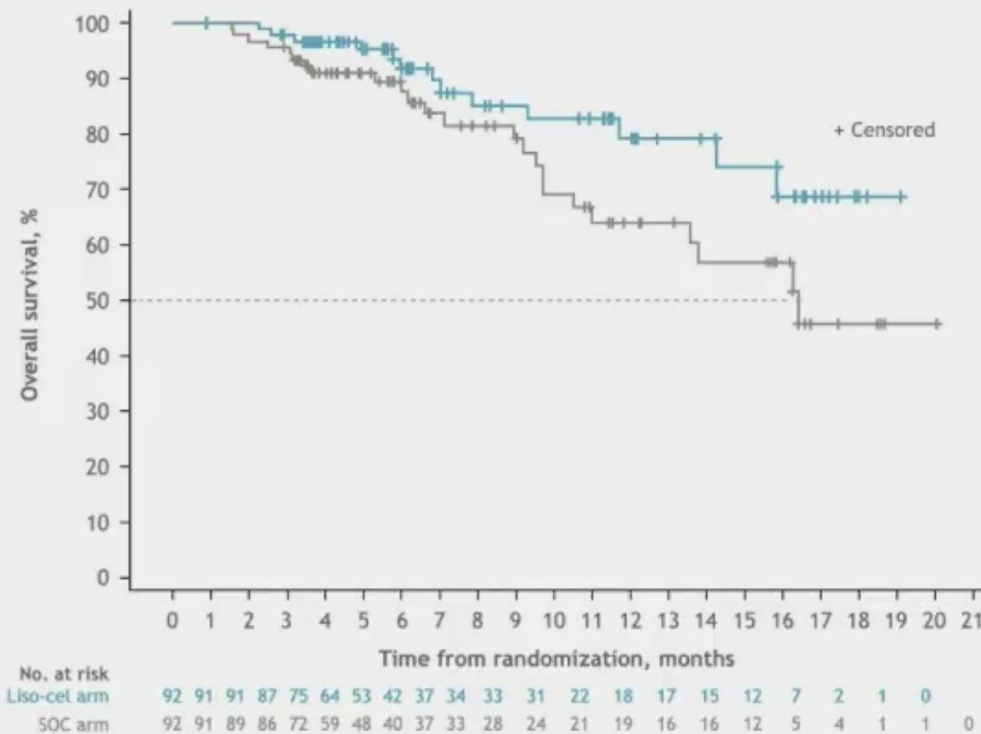
Kamdar M, et al. ASH 2021 [Abstract #91]

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Lisocabtagene maraleucel for 2nd line (<12m) relapsed DLBCL

Kamdar et al, ASH 2021

TRANSFORM: Overall survival (ITT set)



	Liso-cel arm (n = 92)	SOC arm (n = 92)
Patients with events, n	13	24
Stratified HR (95% CI)	0.509 (0.258–1.004) P = 0.0257	
Median OS (95% CI), months	NR (15.8–NR)	16.4 (11.0–NR)
6-month OS rate, % (SE)	91.8 (3.29)	89.4 (3.36)
Two-sided 95% CI	85.4–98.2	82.9–96.0
12-month OS rate, % (SE)	79.1 (6.13)	64.2 (6.99)
Two-sided 95% CI	67.1–91.1	50.5–77.9

Patients in the SOC arm that crossed over to receive liso-cel continue to be followed for OS in the SOC arm

One-sided P value significance threshold to reject the null hypothesis was < 0.012

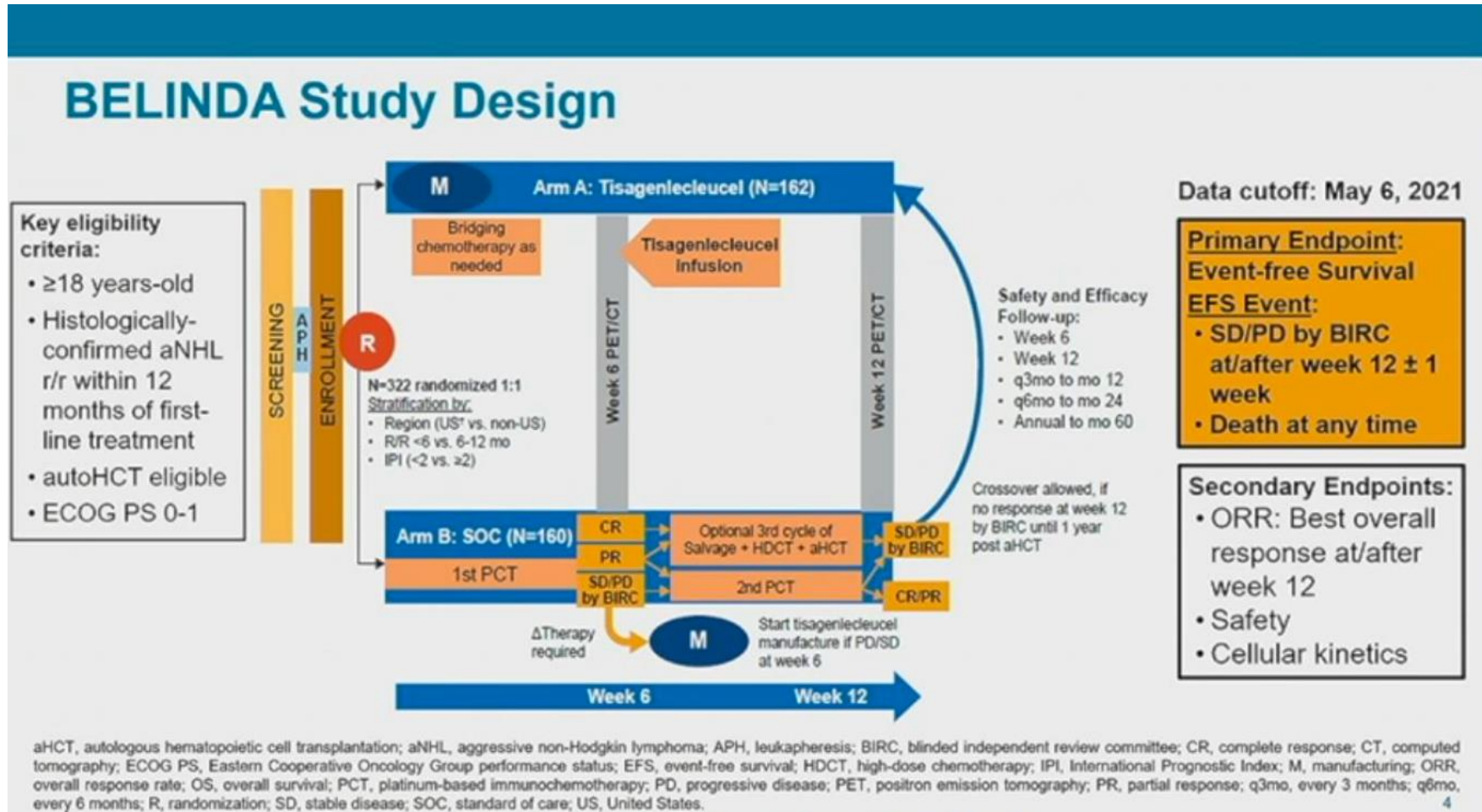
OS is defined as the time from randomization to death from any cause.

Kamdar M, et al. ASH 2021 [Abstract #91]

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Tisagenlecleucel for 2nd line (<12m) relapsed DLBCL

Bishop et al, NEJM 2021



Tisagenlecleucel for 2nd line (<12m) relapsed DLBCL

Bishop et al, NEJM 2021

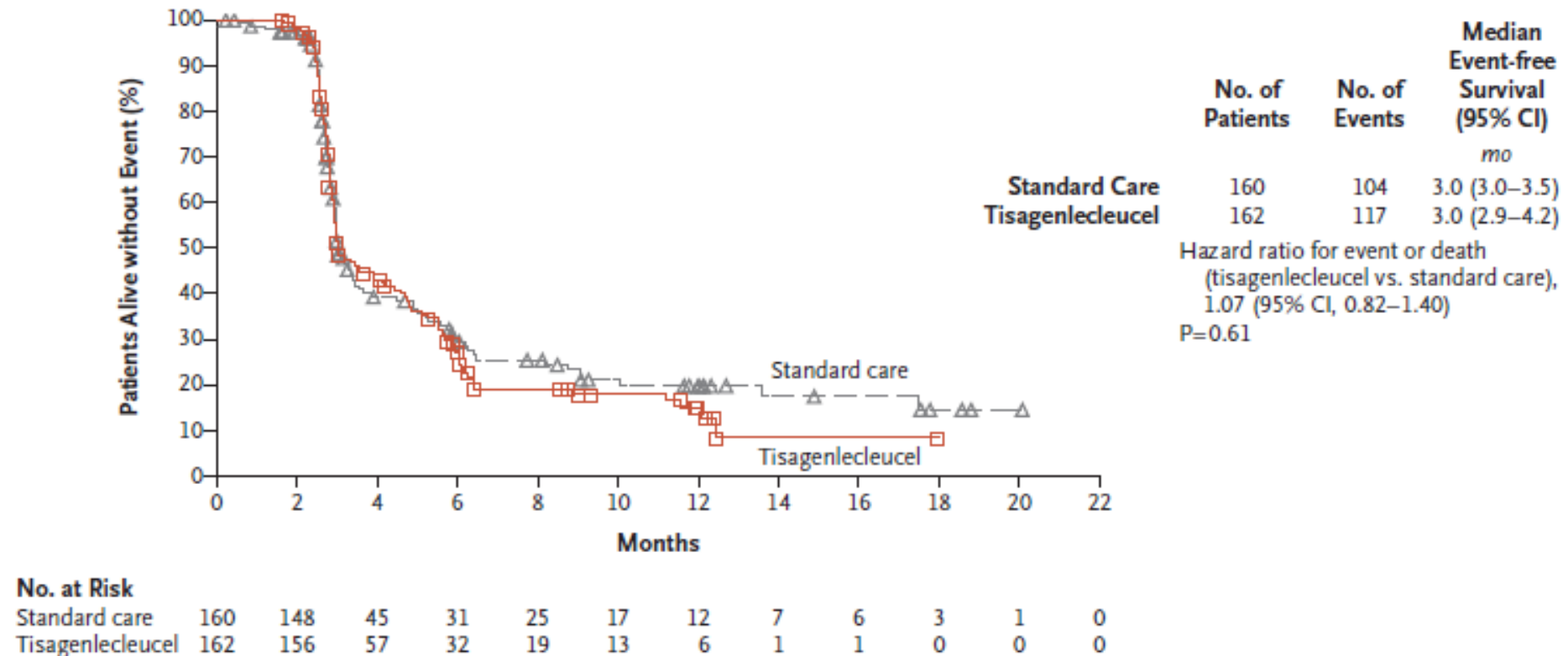


Figure 2. Kaplan–Meier Plot of Event-free Survival.

An event was defined as progressive disease or stable disease on or after day 71 or death at any time (i.e., event-free survival at a given time point represents the estimated percentage of patients who had a complete or partial response at this time point among all ran-

Differences of EFS definitions in second line CAR-T studies

EFS definitions in Phase-3 trials of CAR-T vs SOC in
transplant eligible patients with aggressive B-cell lymphoma

	ZUMA-7	TRANSFORM	BELINDA
EFS	1) Disease progression 2) Death from any cause 3) New therapy started 4) SD as best response within 150 days from randomization	1) Disease progression 2) Death from any cause 3) New therapy started 4) Not achieving CR/PR by 9-weeks.	1) SD or PD at or after week 12 2) Death (any time)
EFS TIME	From randomization	From randomization	From randomization

CR, complete response; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease; PD, progressive disease.

Locke, F. ASH21 (#2)

Kamdar, M. ASH21 (#91)

Bishop, M. ASH21 (#LBA-6)

Pere Barba

Summary of second line CAR-T studies

Randomized trials of CAR T-cells vs. SOC in 2nd line transplant-eligible DLBCL with primary refractory disease or relapse within 1 year of 1st line therapy

	ZUMA-7	TRANSFORM	BELINDA
CAR T-cell	Axicabtagene Ciloleucel	Lisocabtagene Maraleucel	Tisagenlecleucel
n	359	184	322
% infused in CAR arm	94%	98%	96%
Median EFS	8.3 mo vs. 2 mo	10.1 mo vs. 2.3 mo	3 mo vs. 3 mo
Hazard ratio	0.398 ($P < 0.0001$)	0.349; ($P < 0.0001$)	1.07 ($P = 0.69$)
Median follow-up	25 months	6 months	10 months
CR rate	65% vs 32%	66% vs 39%	28% vs 28%
Grade ≥ 3 CRS/NT	6% / 21%	1% / 4%	5% / 3%
	Locke, et al. Abstract 2	Kamdar, et al. Abstract 91	Bishop, et al. Abstract LBA-6

Toby Eyre

Implications of second line CAR-T studies

In patients with chemoresistant disease (short first remission), more chemo (and AutoSCT) is not effective

Why different outcome in BELINDA study with Tisagenlecleucel?

- chemotherapy bridging (sicker patients), additional chemo cycles for standard group, longer time (52d) to get CAR-T (and 25.9% pre-infusion PD), different agent, less lymphodepletion, event definitions

CAR-T will be SOC for those with PD < 1 year

- for practical reasons seems likely there will still be 2nd line chemo for many patients

AutoSCT remains SOC for those with later relapses

Conclusions

Polatuzumab + R-CHP a new option for patients with newly diagnosed DLBCL (IPI 2-5)

CAR-T option for second line DLBCL therapy in patients with relatively chemo-refractory disease (response < 12 mo)

Bispecifics of interest in recurrent DLBCL (and other subtypes)