



# CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKEMIA

## MRD AS A CLINICAL ENDPOINT IN FRONTLINE THERAPY - PRO

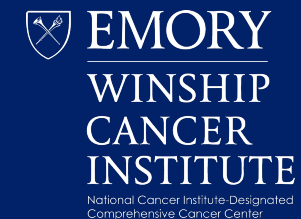
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Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

DDHO 2024



National Cancer Institute-Designated  
Comprehensive Cancer Center





# DISCLOSURES

Consultancy: AstraZeneca

# WHAT IS MRD AND WHY DO WE NEED IT?

Measures depth of remission (sensitivity to treatment)

One size does not fit all in CLL treatment

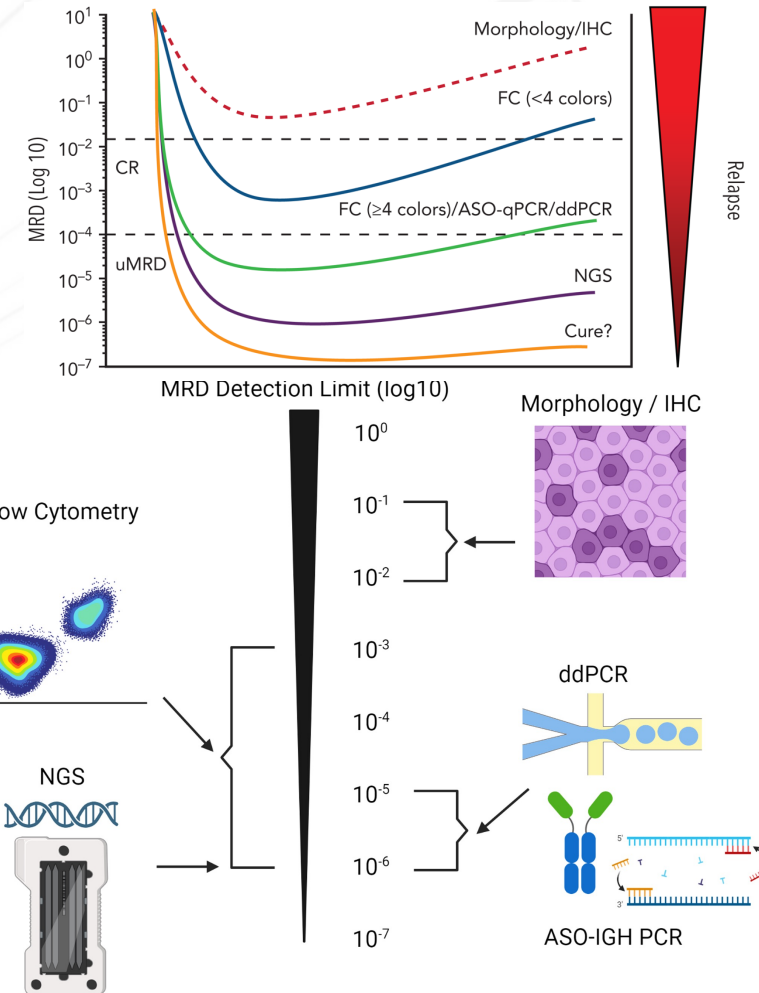
Define treatment **prognosis** (IGHV, FISH, TP53 mutation – none are perfect)

Need strategies that **guide treatment** – tailored, personalized approach

Outcomes are better with novel treatments (long PFS and OS)... but not cure yet

Need earlier readout for clinical trials

To get to cure we need to get to uMRD first

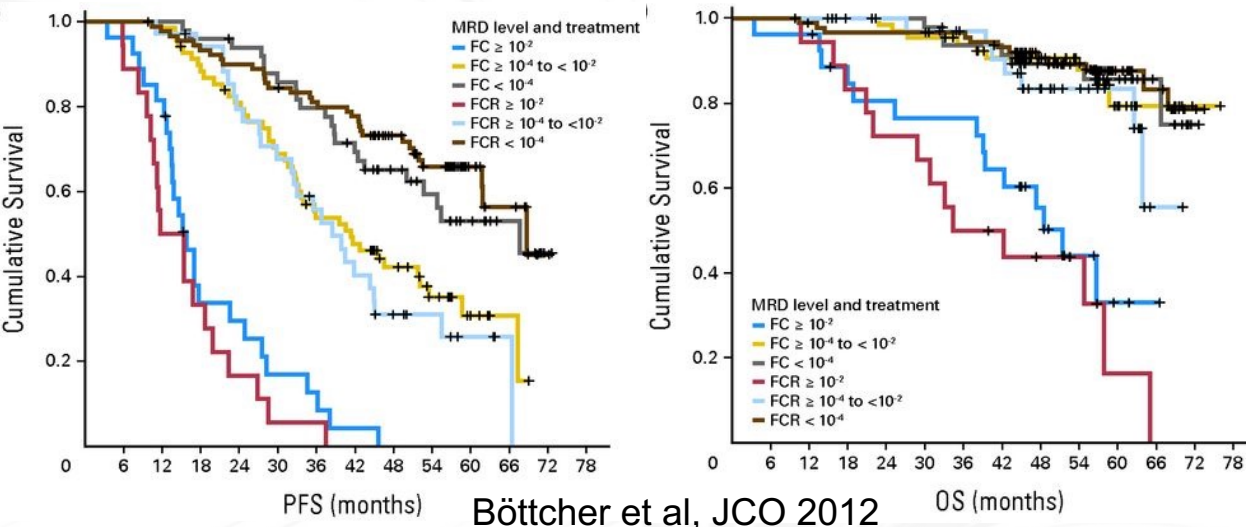
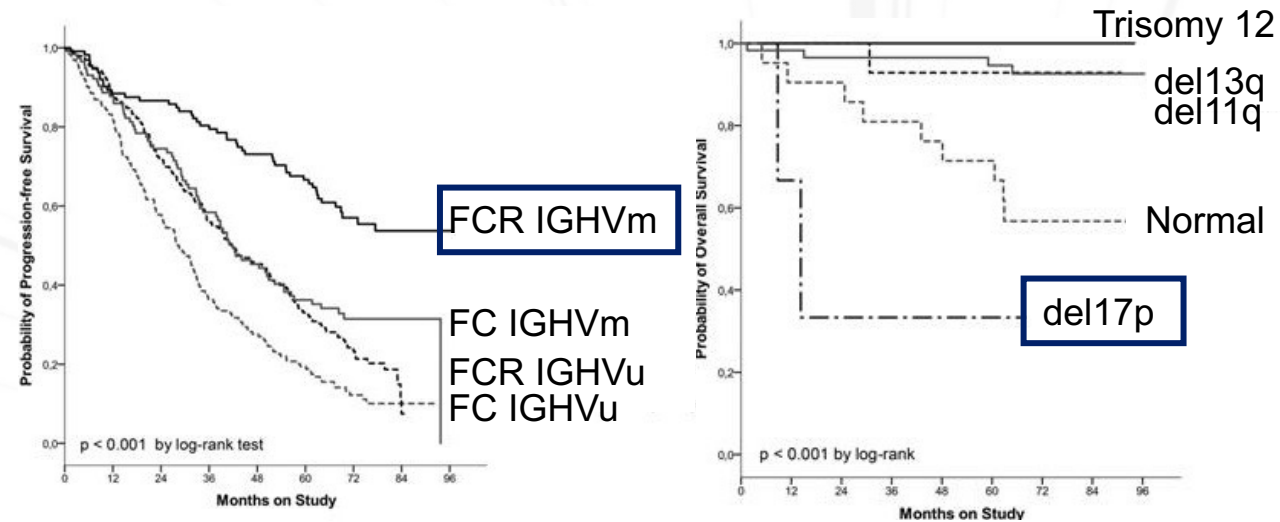


This image was created with Biorender

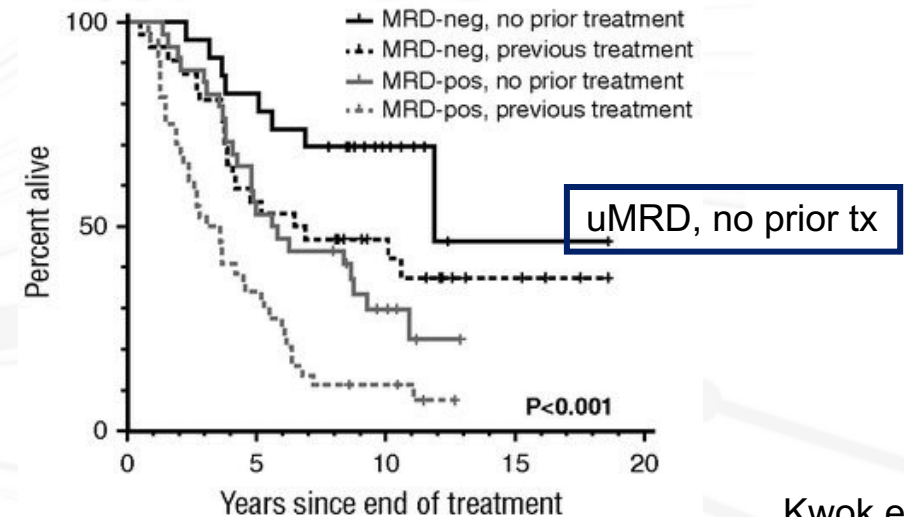
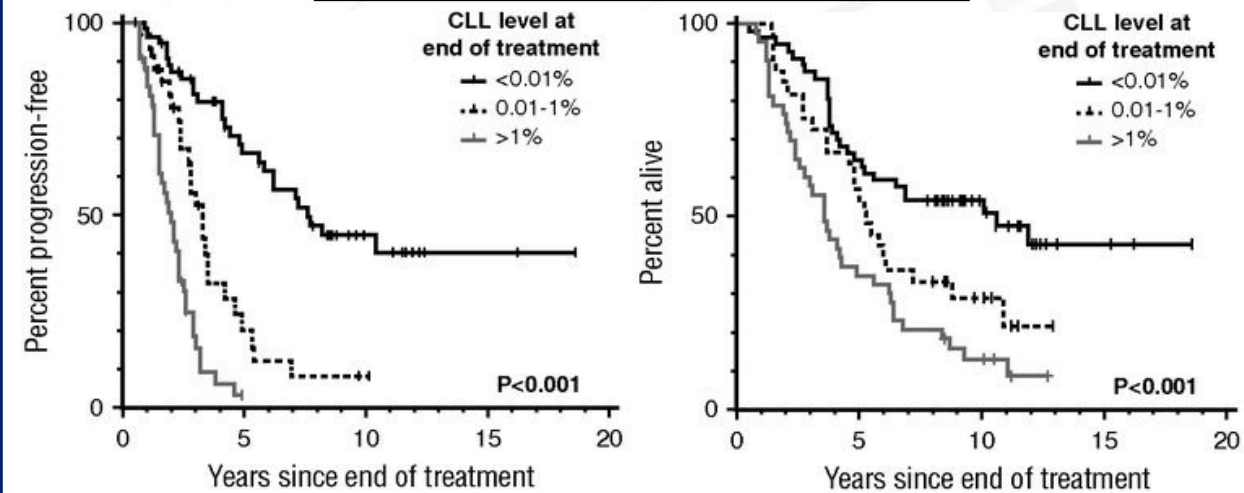
Adapted from Moreno and Mora, Blood 2021  
Rhodes, et al. Hematology ASH Educ Prog, 2023

# MRD CAN BE PROGNOSTIC

## CLL 8, phase 3 FC vs FCR x 6



## MRD predictive of 10-year PFS and OS in chemoimmunotherapy era



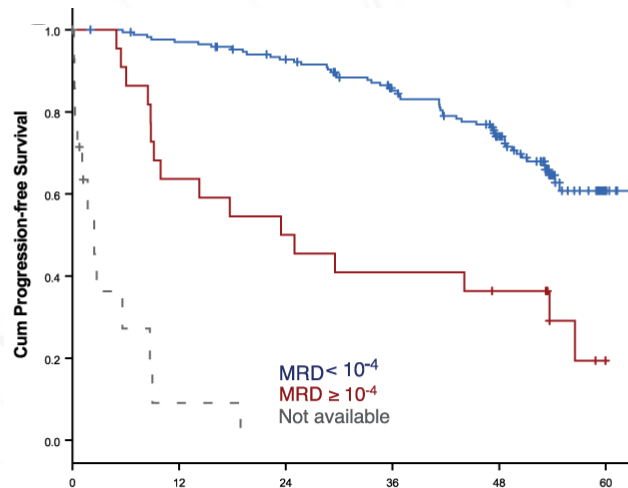
Kwok et al, Blood 2016



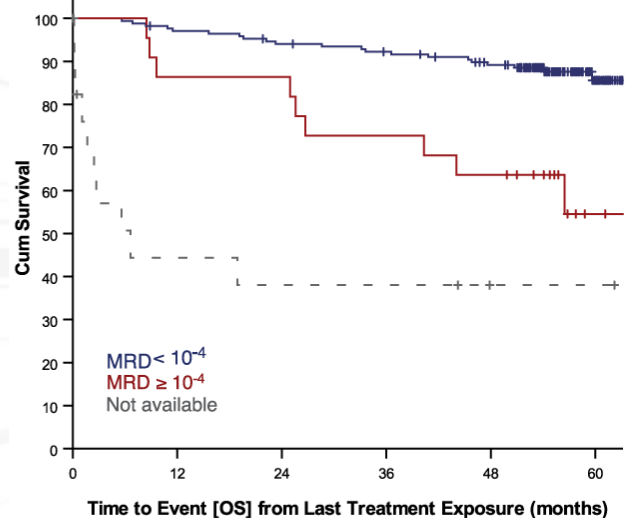
# MRD CAN BE PROGNOSTIC

## CLL 14, phase 3 Obi-Chb vs Ven-Obi

PFS



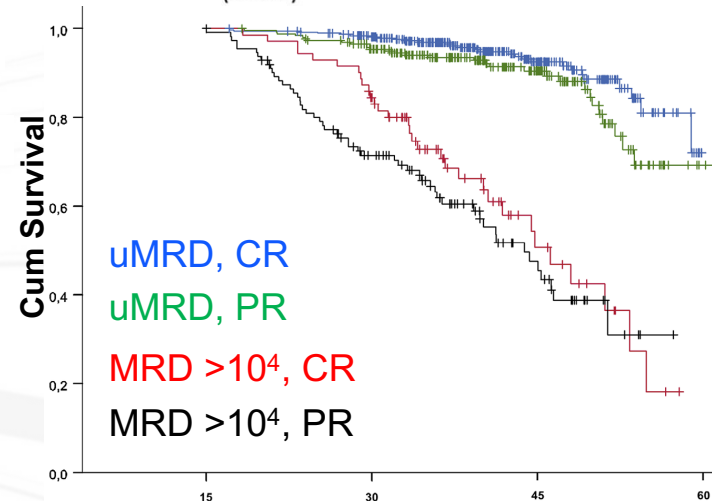
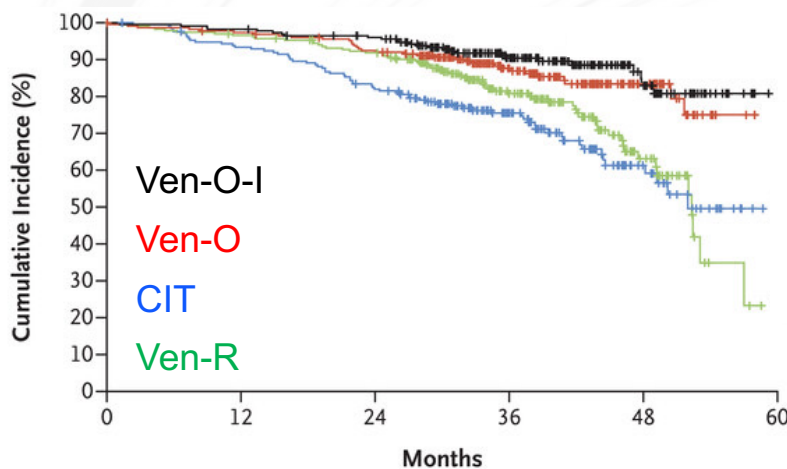
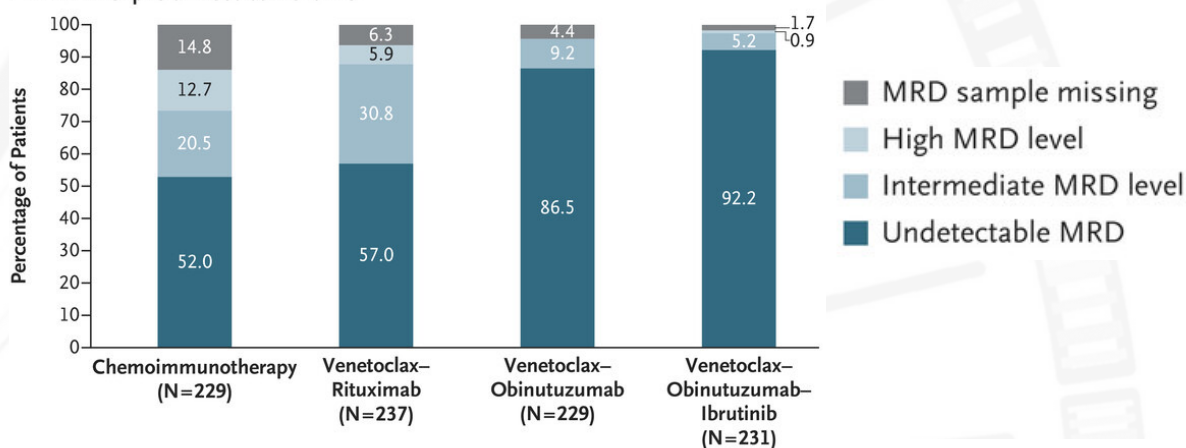
OS



Al-Sawaf et al, Nat Comm 2023

## GAIA - CLL 13, phase 3 CIT and Venetoclax therapies

MRD in Peripheral Blood at Month 15



PFS from 15 mo (months)

Eichhorst et al, NEJM 2023

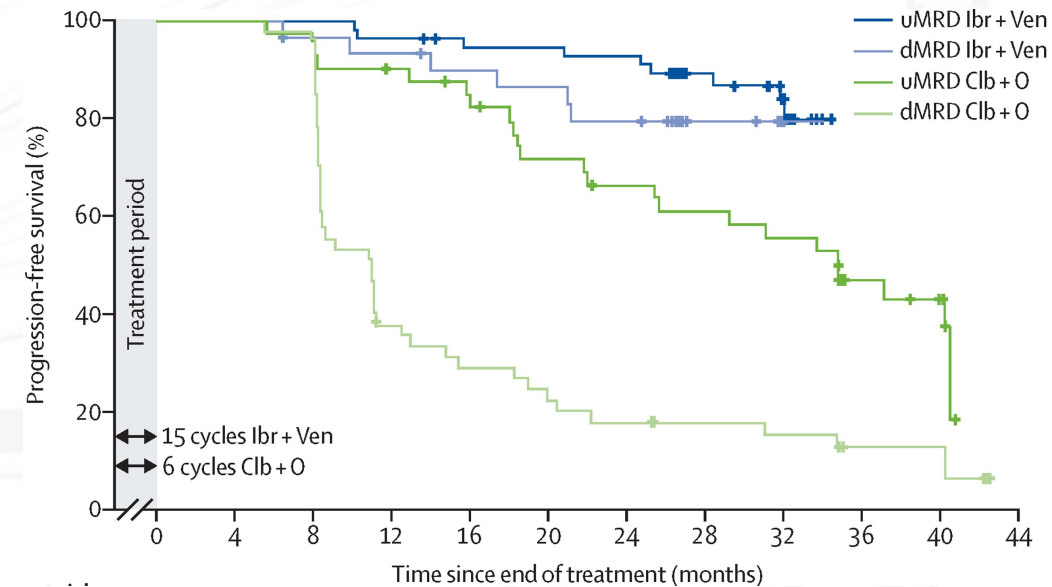
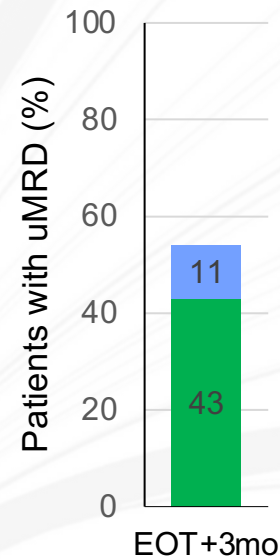
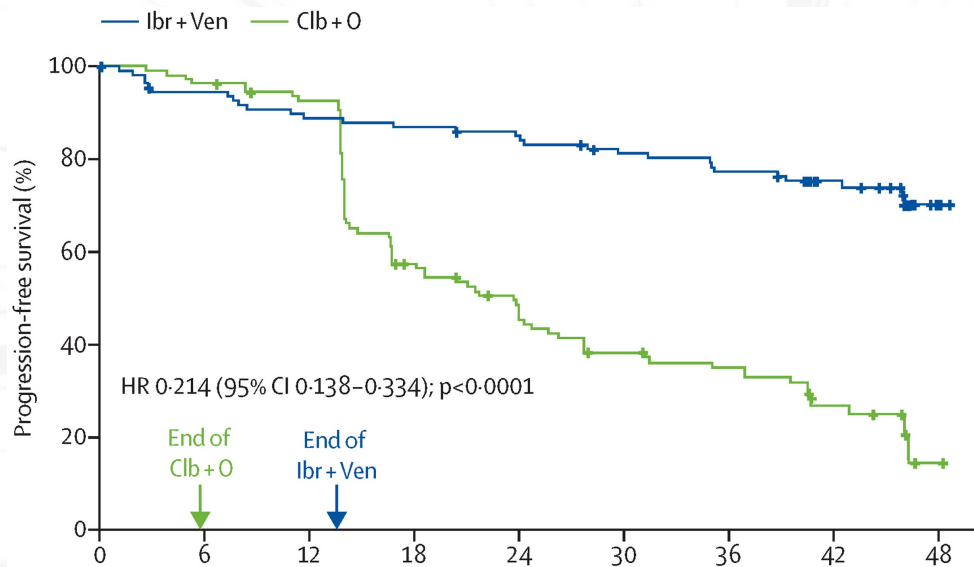
# MRD CAN GUIDE THERAPY

Measures disease sensitivity to a treatment

Allows for better strategies for discontinuation of therapy

Lower side effects, risk of resistant mutations, and cost. Improve adherence

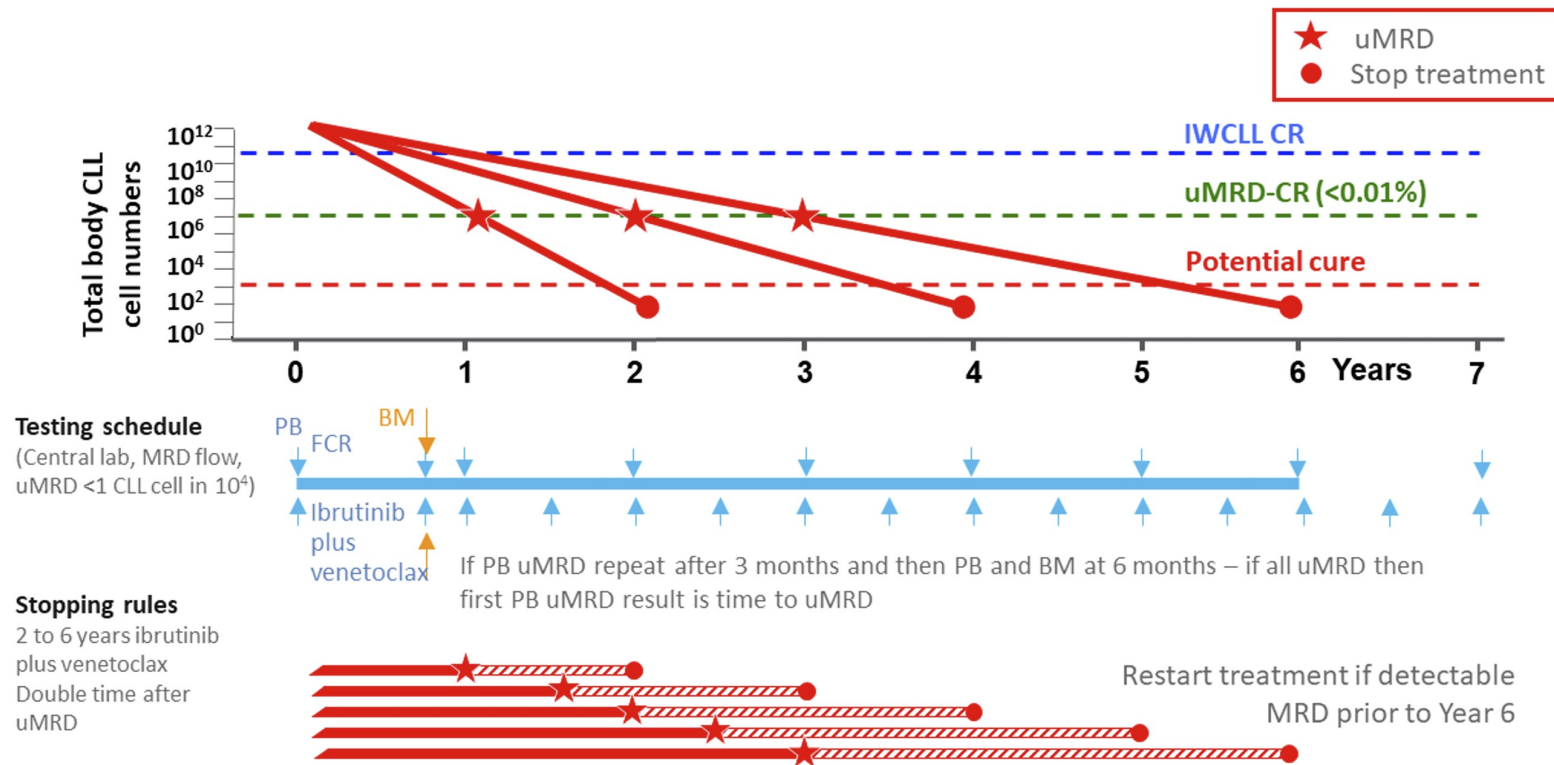
## GLOW Study: phase 3, fixed duration I+V vs Chb+Obin



Niemann et al, Lancet Onc, 2023

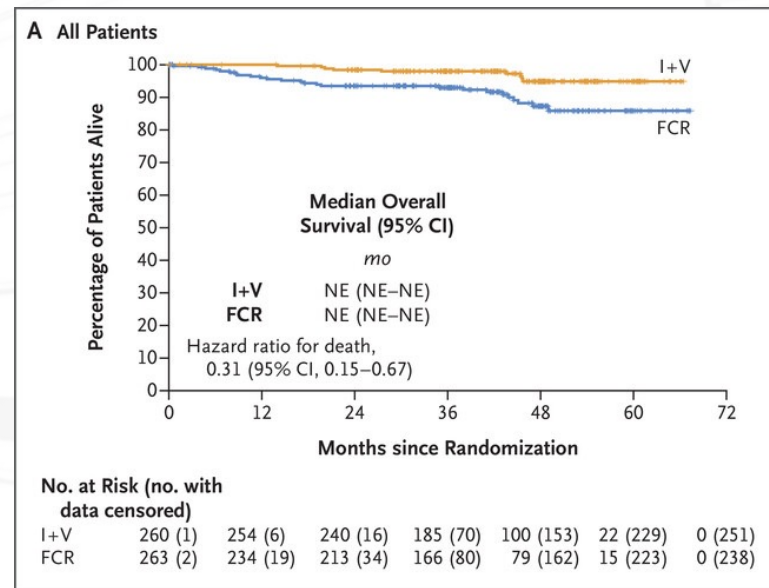
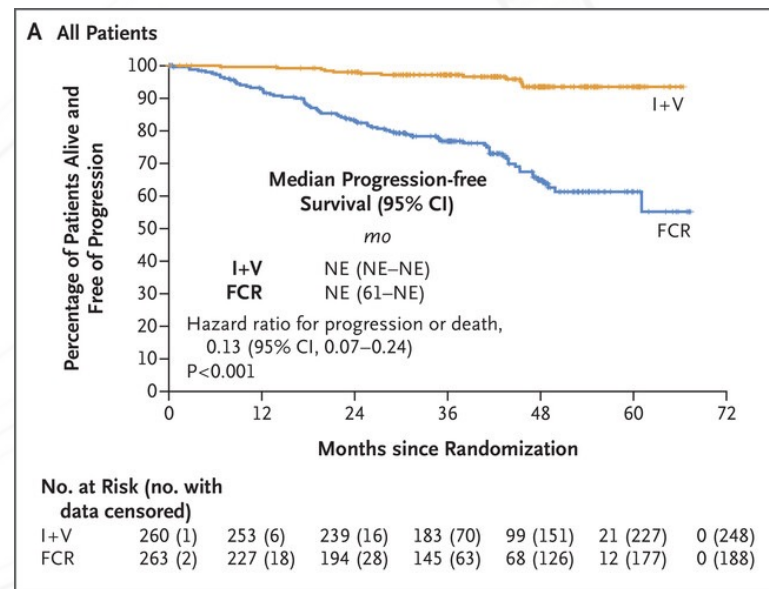
# MRD CAN GUIDE THERAPY

## FLAIR Study: phase 3, fixed duration I+V vs FCR



%uMRD	12mo	24mo	36mo	48mo	60mo
PB	47.5	70.5	83.2	89.2	92.7
BM	35.6	52.4	64.0	65.9	65.9

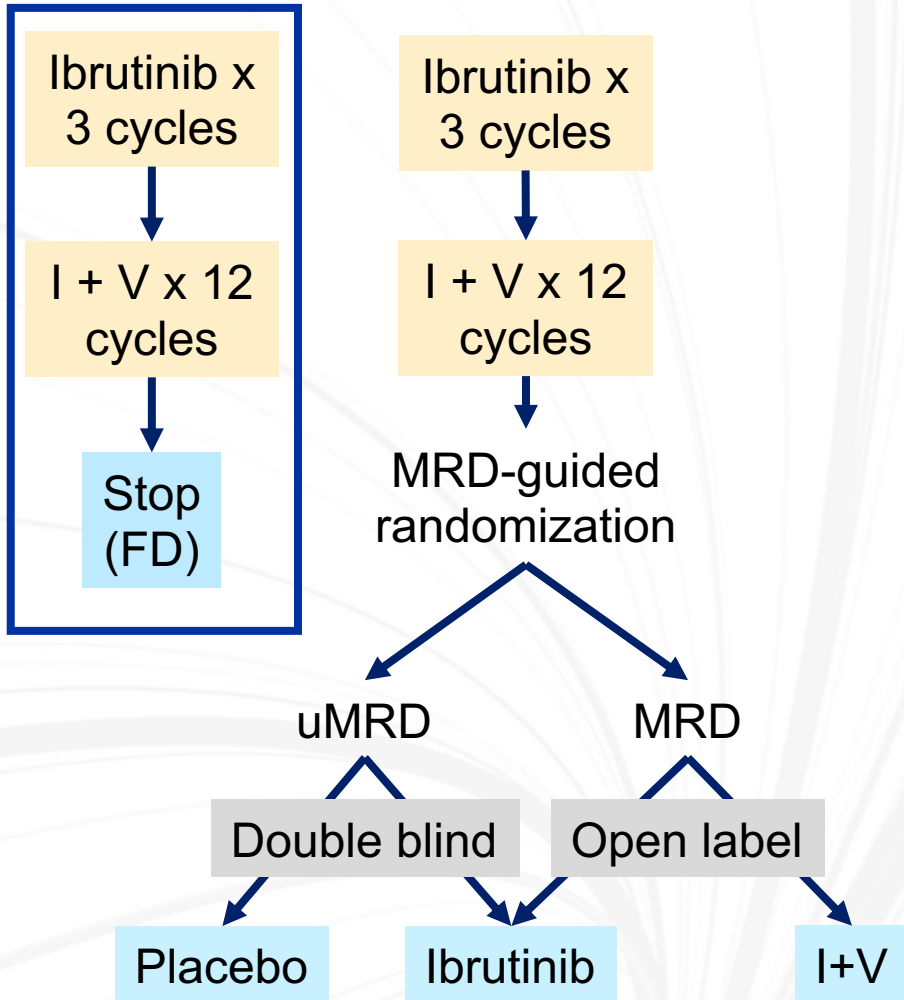
**78.4% of patients discontinued treatment per stopping rules at 60mo**



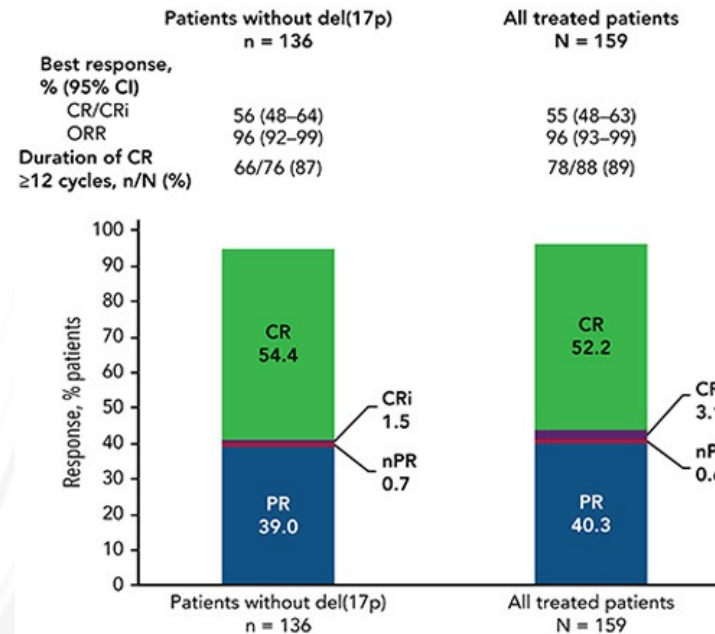
Munir et al, NEJM 2024

# MRD CAN GUIDE THERAPY

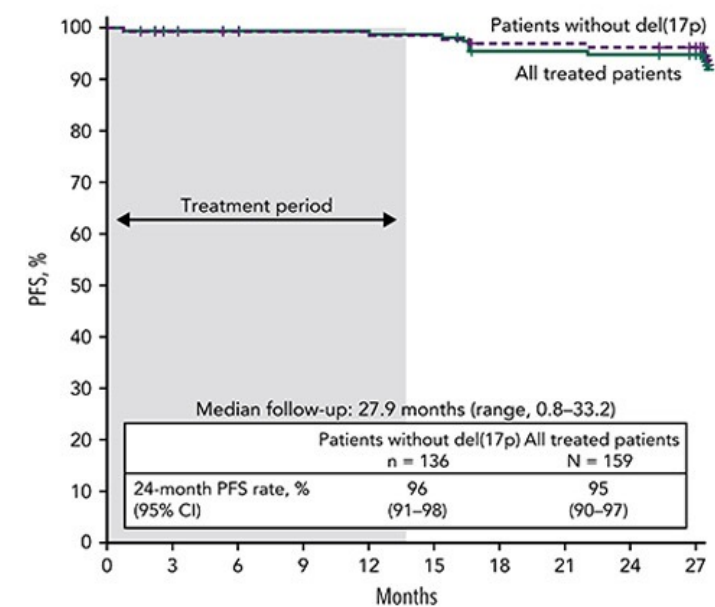
## CAPTIVATE: phase 2, I+V fixed vs MRD-guided



Best overall response rates with fixed-duration ibrutinib + venetoclax as assessed by investigators



PFS with fixed-duration ibrutinib + venetoclax as assessed by investigators



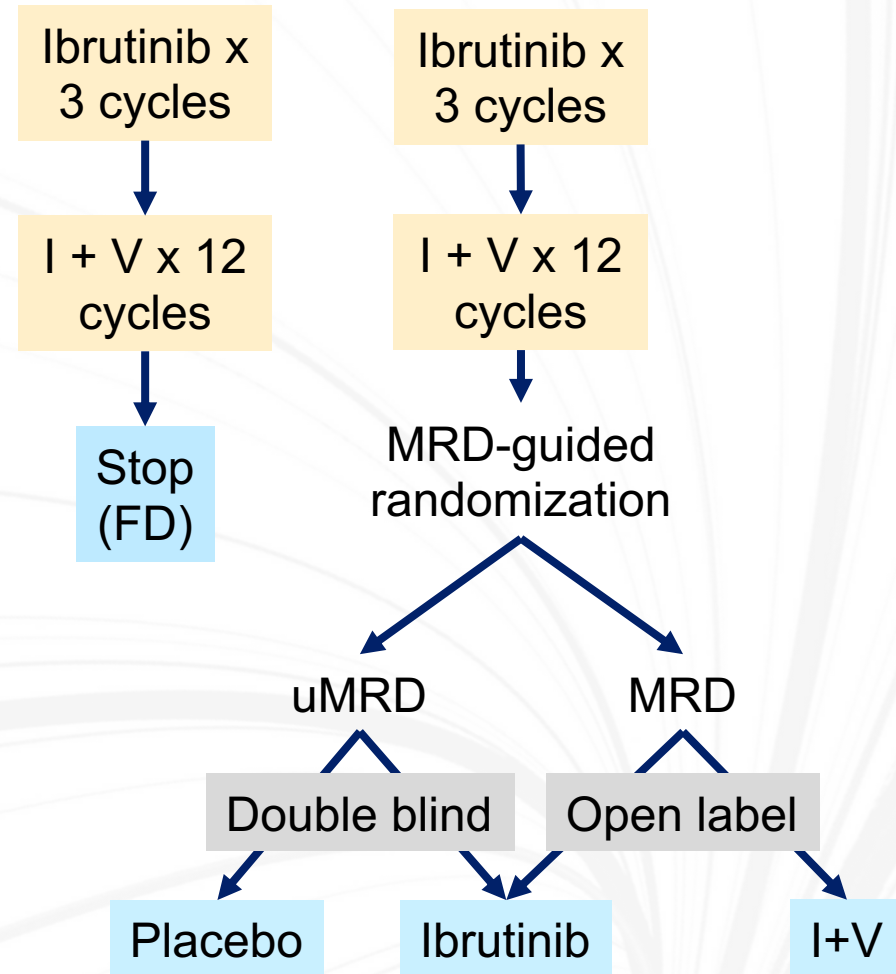
	uMRD 3mo EOT	MRD+	Overall
5y PFS	83% / 84%	48% / 50%	67%
5y OS			96%

Tam et al, Blood 2022; Wierda et al, ASCO 2024

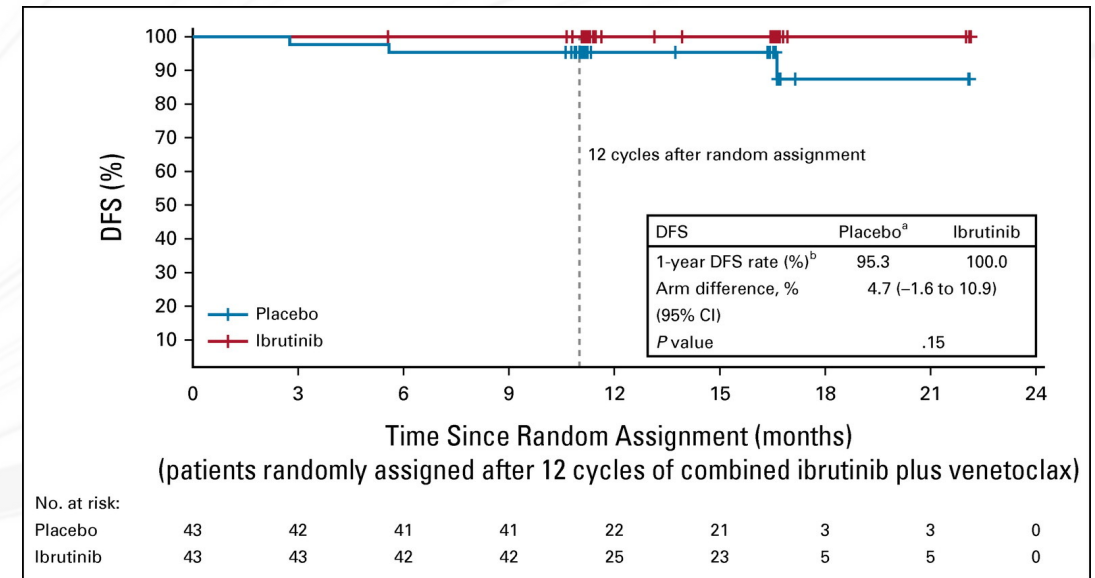


# MRD CAN GUIDE THERAPY

## CAPTIVATE: phase 2, I+V fixed vs MRD-guided



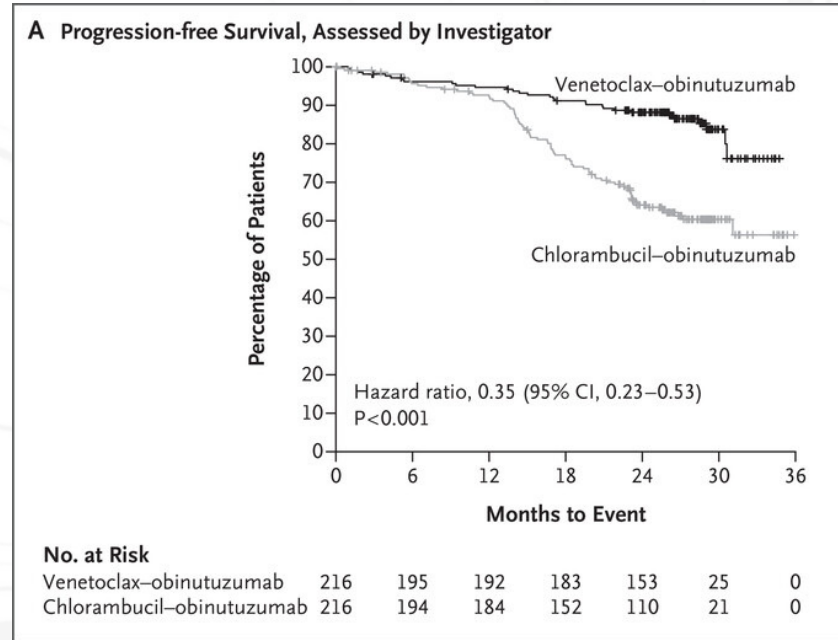
	Confirmed uMRD		uMRD Not Confirmed	
	Placebo n=43	Ibrutinib n=43	Ibrutinib n=31	Ibrutinib plus venetoclax n=32
Median	NE	NE	NE	NE
30-month PFS rate, %	95.3	100	95.2	96.7
95% CI	82.7-98.8	100-100	70.7-99.3	78.6-99.5



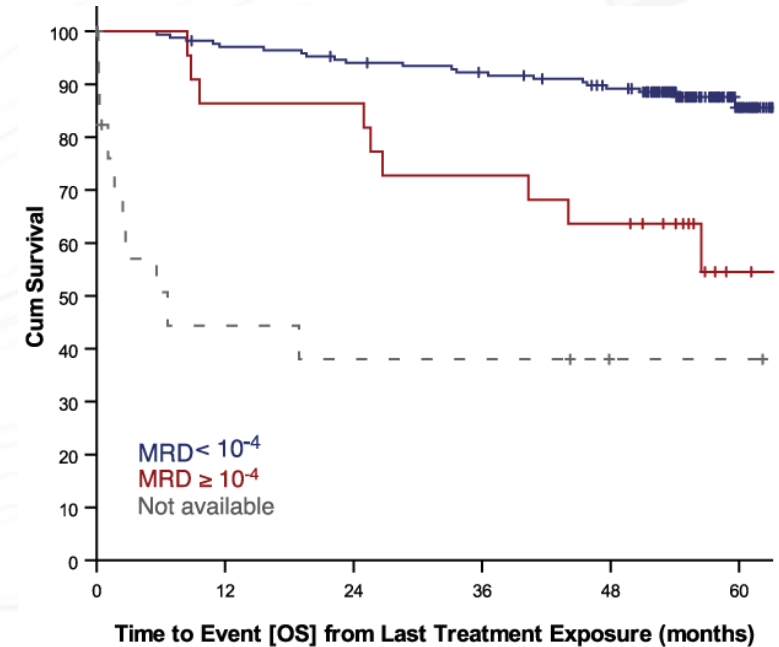
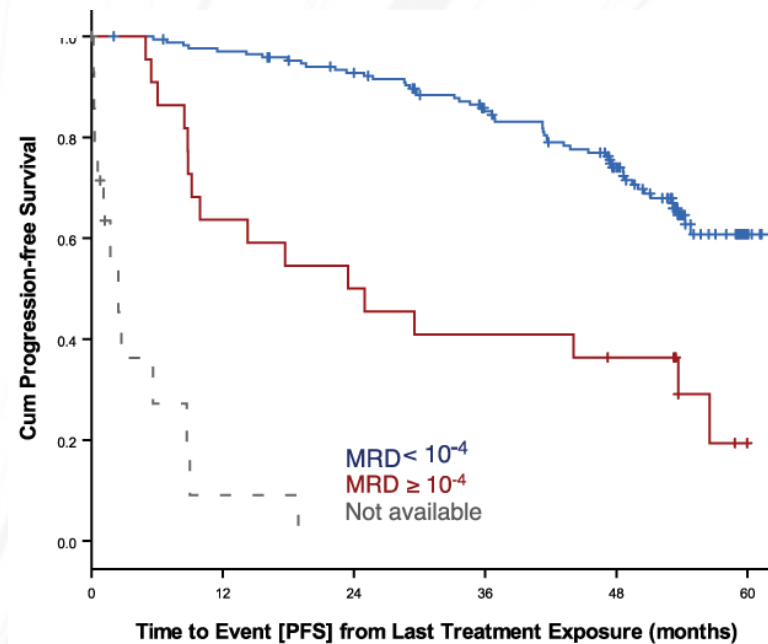
Tam et al, Blood 2022; Wierda et al, ASCO 2024

# MRD PROVIDES EARLIER TRIAL READOUT

## CLL 14, phase 3 Obi-Chb vs Ven-Obi



Median follow up: 28.1 mo  
24mo PFS: 88.2% vs 64.1%



PFS and OS based on end of treatment MRD levels

Fisher et al, NEJM 2019

Al-Sawaf et al, Nat Comm 2023

# CONCLUSION

One size does not fit all in CLL treatment

MRD has prognostic value in the era of novel therapies

MRD can be used to guide time-limited therapy approaches

Lower: side effects, risk of resistant mutations, cost

Improved: adherence

Allows for earlier readout for clinical trials

Undetectable MRD is the first step towards cure