



UPDATES IN SMOLDERING MYELOMA

Nisha S. Joseph, MD

Associate Professor

Department of Hematology & Medical Oncology

Winship Cancer Institute, Emory University



National Cancer Institute-Designated
Comprehensive Cancer Center



LET'S START WITH A PATIENT CASE...

44 year old F referred to Hematology for an incidentally found elevated total protein.

Labs notable for: Hgb 12.1 g/dL, Ca 9.2, Cr 0.84

Immunologic studies: SPEP/IFE 3.1 g/dL IgG-lambda paraprotein, Free kappa light chain 6 mg/L, Free lambda light chain 274 mg/L, FLCr 0.02, UPEP/IFE negative

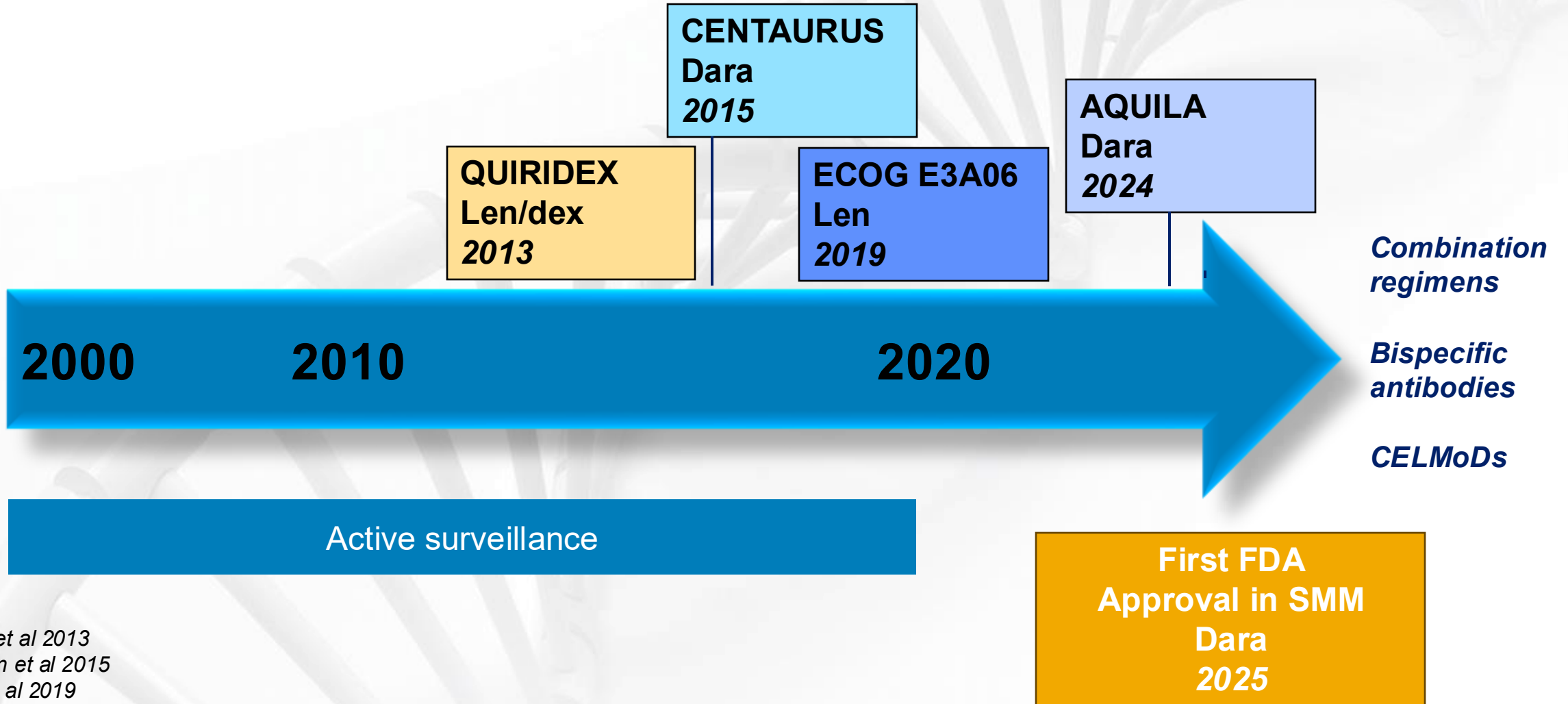
BMBX: 40% kappa restricted clonal plasma cells, FISH positive for +9, +11, +1q

PET-CT: no evidence of FDG-avid osseous lesions

WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP IN MANAGEMENT/TREATMENT OF THIS PATIENT?

- A) Active surveillance
- B) Induction therapy with Dara-RVD and referral for ASCT
- C) Lenalidomide
- D) Lenalidomide and dexamethasone
- E) Clinical trial
- F) Daratumumab*
- G) Bispecific antibody?*

ADVANCEMENTS IN SMOLDERING MYELOMA



Mateos et al 2013
Landgren et al 2015
Lonial et al 2019
Dimopolous et al 2024

Revised IMWG Diagnostic Criteria

MGUS

- M-protein < 3 g/dL
- Clonal plasma cells in marrow <10 %
- No SLiM-CRAB criteria

Smoldering Myeloma

- M-protein $\geq$ 3 g/dL (serum) or $\geq$ 500 mg/24 hrs (urine) and/or
- Clonal plasma cells in marrow >10 %
- No SLiM-CRAB criteria

Multiple Myeloma

- Clonal plasma cells $\geq$ 10% or $\geq$ 1 biopsy-proven plasmacytoma
- SLiM-CRAB criteria

SLiM

S Clonal plasma cells in BM $\geq$ 60%
Li Serum FLC ratio $\geq$ 100 *
M > 1 MRI focal lesion $\geq$ 5 mm

Any of these criteria associated with 75-95% risk of progression to symptomatic MM at 2 years

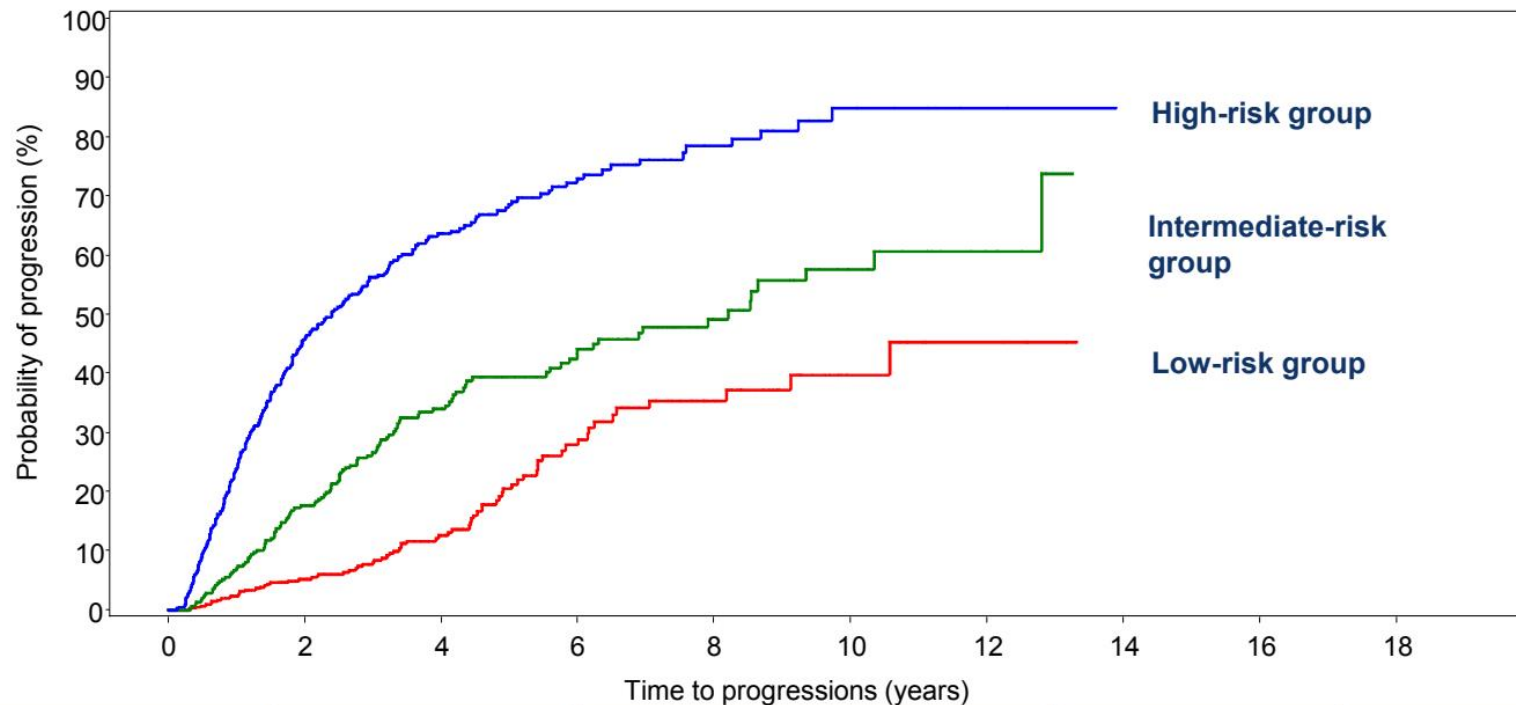
CRAB

C Calcium elevated (> 11 mg/dL or >1 mg/dL higher than ULN)
R Renal insufficiency (CrCl <40 mL/min or serum Cr > 2 mg/dL)
A Anemia (Hgb < 10 g/dL or 2 g/dL <normal)
B Bone disease ($\geq$ 1 lytic lesion on skeletal radiography, CT, or PET/CT)

* Involved FLC $\geq$ 100 mg/L

Rajkumar SV, et al. *Lancet Oncology*. 2014; 15(12):e538-e548.

Progression by risk group (n=1151 pts)



Characteristics included in the model

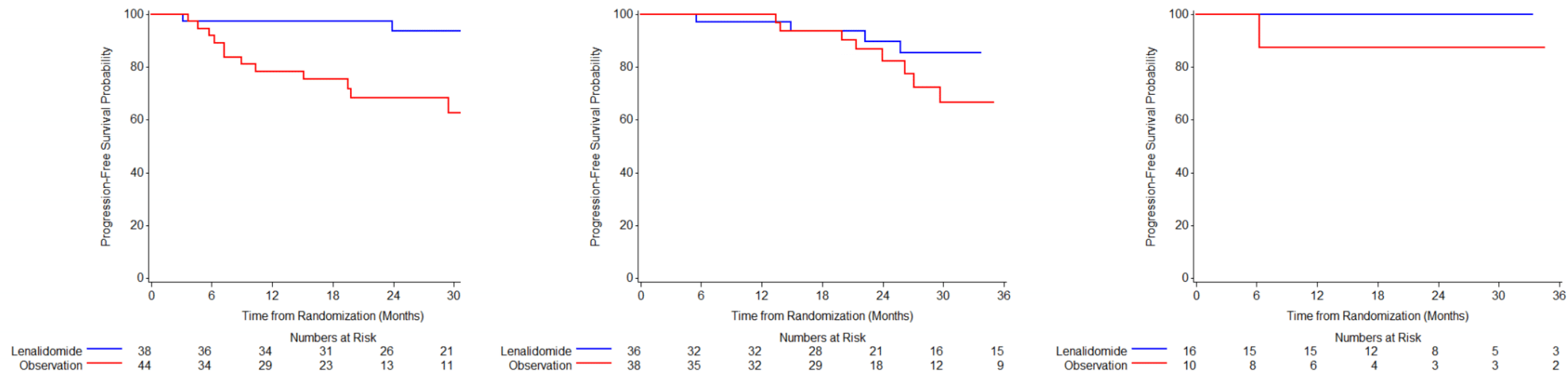
Serum M Spike: >2g/dL
FLC Ratio: >20
BMPC: >20%

Risk Stratification Groups	Number of risk factors	Hazard Ratio (95% CI) Versus Low-risk group	Risk of Progression at 2 years	Number of patients
Low-risk group	0	Reference	5%	424 (37%)
Intermediate-risk group	1	2.25 (1.68 to 3.01)	17%	312 (27%)
High-risk group	2-3	5.63 (4.34 to 7.29)	46%	415 (36%)

ANNUAL MEETING

permission required for reuse.

ECOG E3A06: Phase 3 PFS by Mayo 2018 Risk Criteria



STUDY DESIGN

****Currently enrolling at Emory**

Safety Run-in

Eligibility:
High-risk SMM
diagnosed
within 5 years
Age $\geq$ 18 yrs

1.3
mg

1.6
mg

- No DLTs at 1.6 mg dose
- Given recurrent issue with G3/4 neutropenia, decided to continue at 1.3 mg dose

Randomized Phase

Eligibility:
Intermediate-
and High-risk
SMM diagnosed
within 5 years
Age $\geq$ 18 yrs

R

Iberdomide 1.3
mg on days 1-21
every 28 days

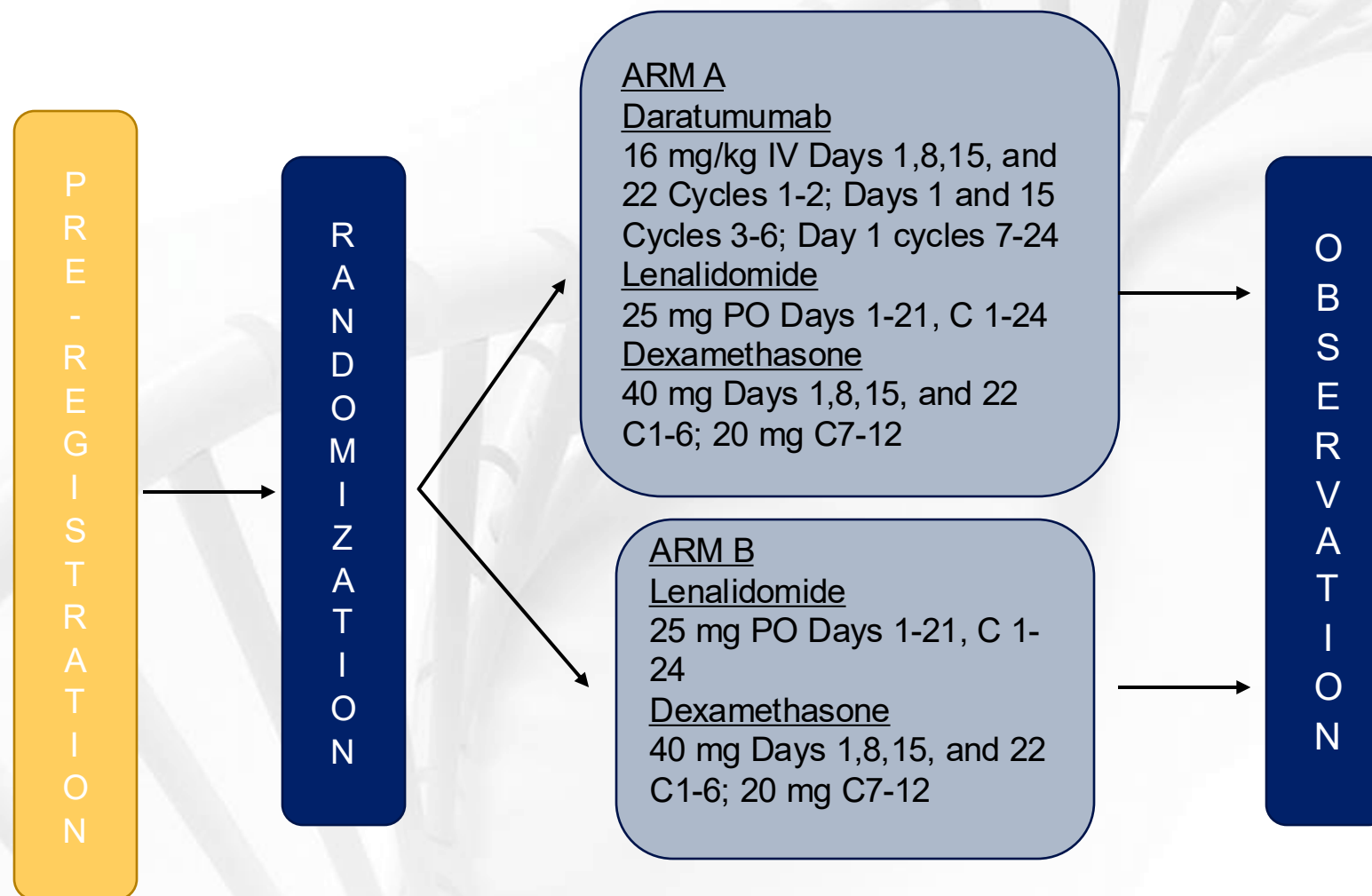
Iberdomide 1.3
mg with dex 20
mg weekly x 4
cycles

2 yrs

Continue on
follow up on
observation

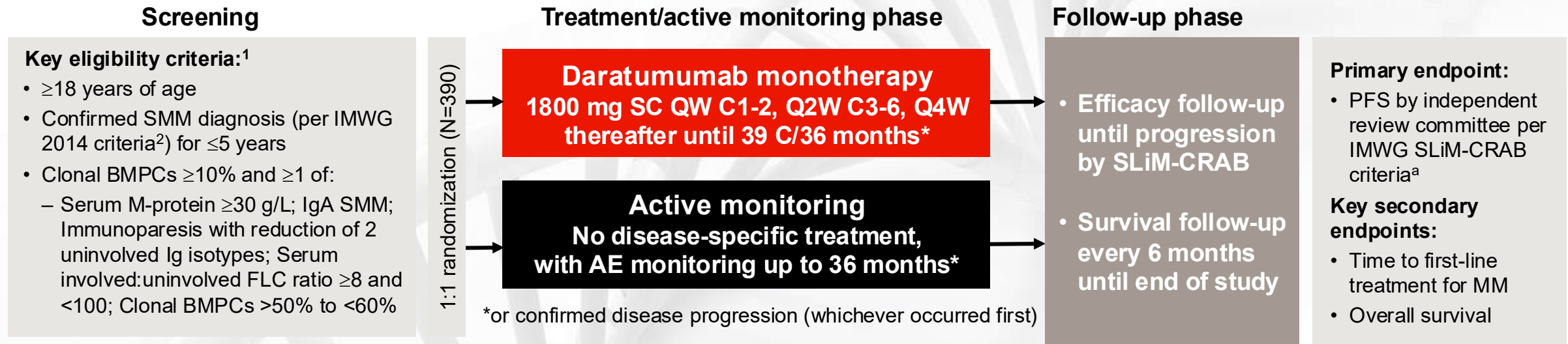
DETER-SMM

****Currently enrolling at Emory**



** Peripheral blood stem cells for future transplants should be collected between cycles 4-6 of therapy though not required

AQUILA: STUDY DESIGN AND RISK STRATIFICATION METHODS



- For this *post hoc* analysis, outcomes were assessed by:

IMWG 2020 validated risk stratification:

BMPC >20%, M spike >2 g/dL,
serum I/U FLC ratio >20

0 factors=low risk; 1 factor=intermediate risk;
≥2 factors=high risk

IMWG scoring system:

Points given based on values of serum FLC ratio, M
spike g/dL, percentage of BMPCs, and FISH
abnormalities

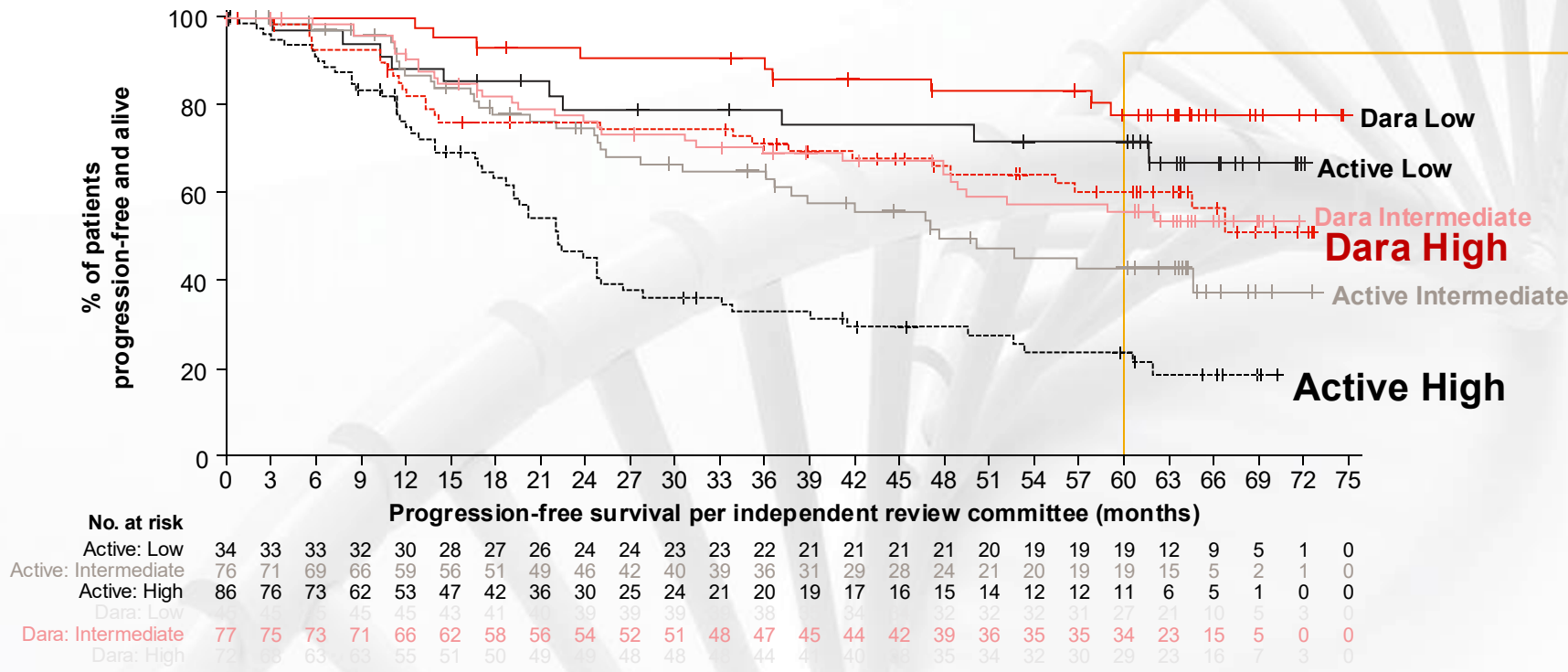
0–4 points=low risk; 5–8 points=low-intermediate risk; 9–
12 points=intermediate; >12 points=high risk

Age:

<65 years
65 to <75 years
≥75 years

AQUILA: IMWG 2020 SUBGROUPS: PFS

5 year PFS for overall population: 63.1% vs 40.8% (HR 0.49)



Daratumumab monotherapy showed a PFS benefit vs active monitoring across IMWG 2020 risk subgroups, with the largest benefit observed in the high-risk subgroup

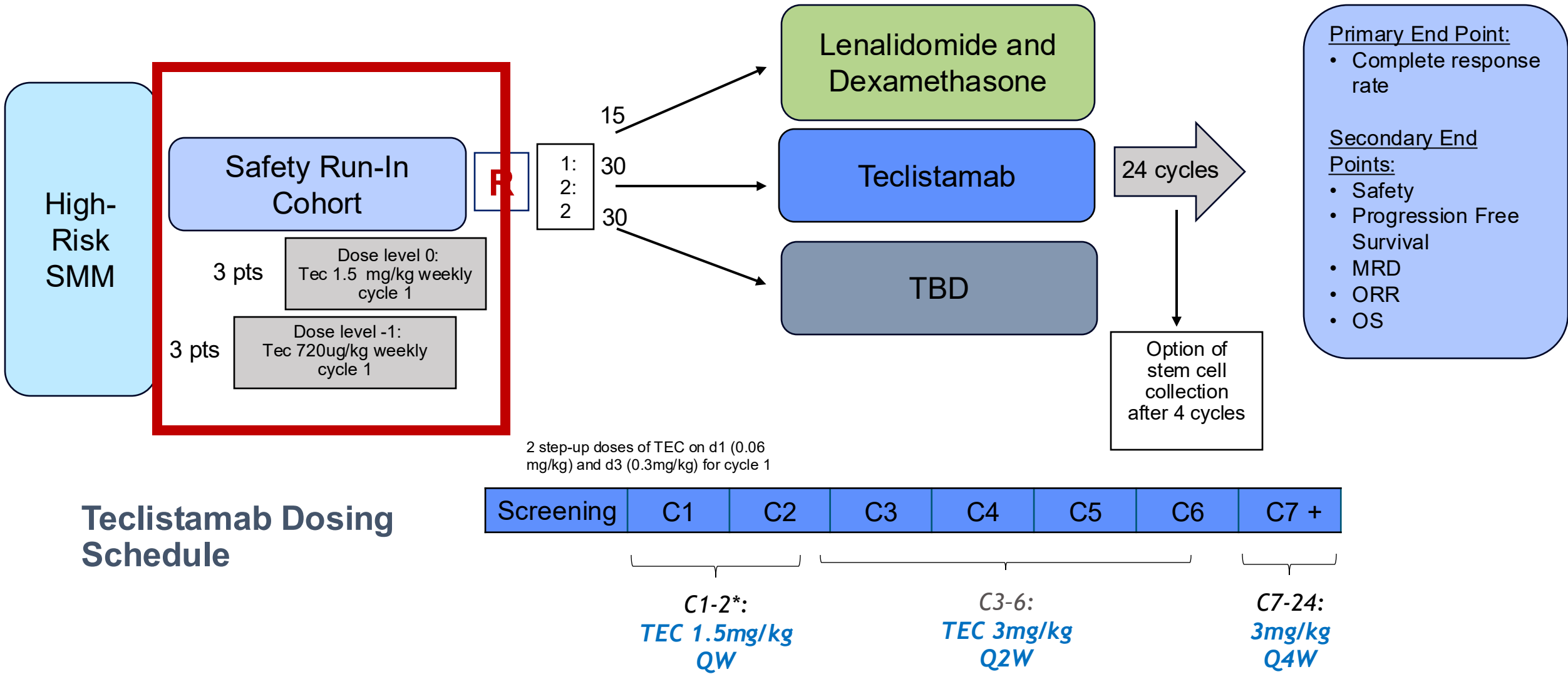
IMWG 2020 (aka Mayo 2018 or 20-2-20) risk stratification: BMPC >20%, monoclonal spike >2 g/dL, serum I/U FLC ratio >20.
0 factors=low risk; 1 factor=intermediate risk; ≥2 factors=high risk

AQUILA: AGE SUBGROUPS: SAFETY SUMMARY

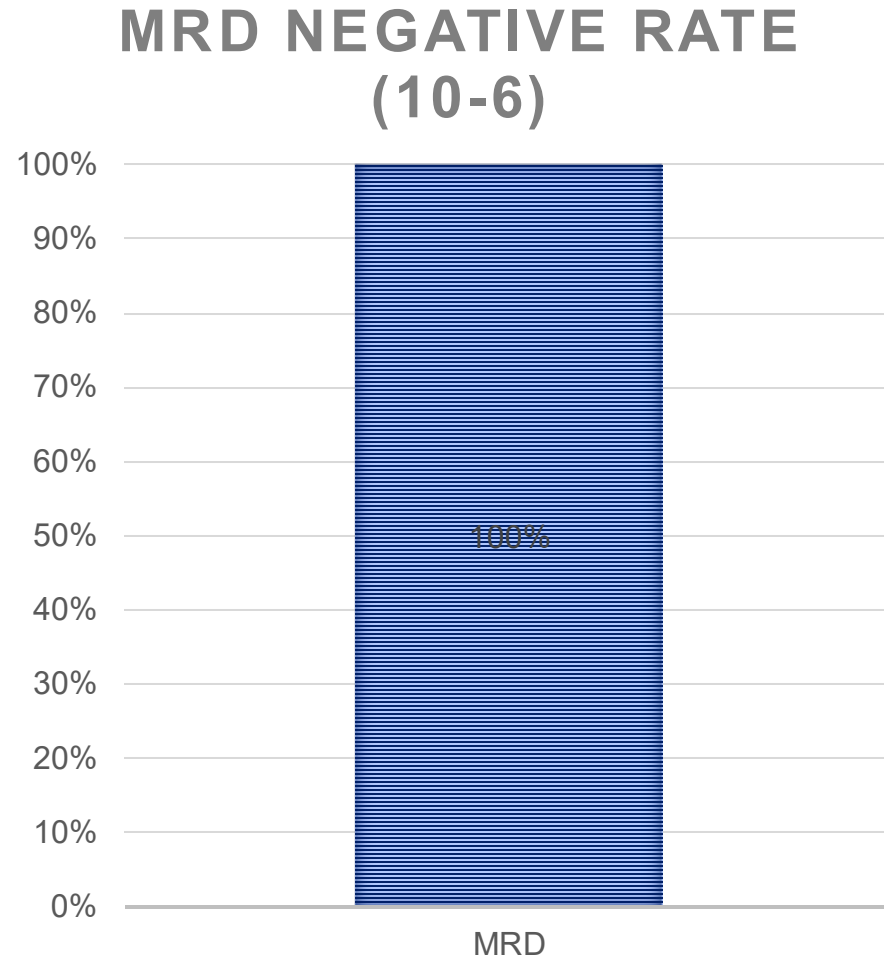
n (%)	Daratumumab			Active monitoring		
	<65 yrs n=105	65 to <75 yrs n=67	≥75 yrs n=21	<65 yrs n=98	65 to <75 yrs n=74	≥75 yrs n=24
Any TEAE	101 (96.2)	66 (98.5)	20 (95.2)	81 (82.7)	60 (81.1)	21 (87.5)
Infections and infestations SOC, any grade	86 (81.9)	57 (85.1)	11 (52.4)	49 (50.0)	29 (39.2)	10 (41.7)
Infections and infestations SOC, grade ≥3	10 (9.5)	18 (26.9)	3 (14.3)	3 (3.1)	3 (4.1)	3 (12.5)
Any serious TEAE	26 (24.8)	24 (35.8)	6 (28.6)	12 (12.2)	14 (18.9)	12 (50.0)
Serious TEAEs occurring in ≥5% of any group:						
Pneumonia	1 (1.0)	6 (9.0)	0	0	1 (1.4)	0
TEAE leading to discontinuation	2 (1.9)	6 (9.0)	3 (14.3)	-	-	-
TEAE leading to dose modification ^a	35 (33.3)	44 (65.7)	11 (52.4)	-	-	-

The rates of TEAEs and serious TEAEs in the daratumumab group were similar across age groups

IMMUNOPRISM STUDY DESIGN



MINIMAL RESIDUAL DISEASE (NEXT GENERATION SEQUENCING) IN TECLISTAMAB ARM N = 12



- **MRD-negativity rate at 10⁻⁵ is 100%**
- **MRD-negativity rate at 10⁻⁶ is 100%***
including 2 patients with VGPR-MRD negative disease.
- **Average time to MRD-ve was 4.25 cycles**

**1 patient with 0-1 cells/mill (detected below LOD)*

SAFETY: INFECTIONS IN TECLISTAMAB ARM, N=12

Infections (Grade 2 or Greater) N=12		
	Grade 2	Grade 3
Salmonella	0	1
Sinusitis	2	1
Upper respiratory infections		0
COVID-19	1	0
Adenovirus	1	0
Nonspecific	1	0

Other Notable Toxicities N=12		
	Grade 2	Grade 3
Uveitis	1	0
Pancreatitis	0	1

- Uveitis resolved with supportive care and patient remains on therapy.
- Pancreatitis was attributed to sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim and resolved after removal of agent.

All patients with hypogammaglobulinemia treated with TEC are receiving **IVIG**; with mean IgG level of 418mg/dL prior to IVIG initiation, 64% of patients have achieved normalization of IgG within two IVIG doses.

EMN34 ERASMM PHASE 2 STUDY DESIGN

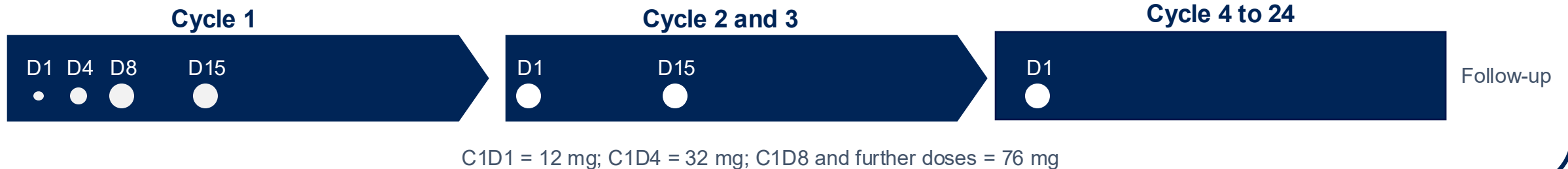
Key inclusion criteria

- **Smoldering MM**
≥10% BMPC and/or M-spike >3 g/dL,
absence of SLiM/CRAB criteria
- **At least 2 high-risk 2/20/20 criteria:**
BMPC>20%, M-spike >2 g/dL, FLC ratio >20

Objectives

- **Primary objective:** CR rate (after 6 cycles)
- **Key secondary endpoint:** safety
- **Secondary Objectives:** ORR, MRD, PFS, time to SLiM/CRAB, PFS2, OS

Elranatamab single agent SQ (28-day cycle) – Fixed duration (2 years)



EMN34 ERASMM - SAFETY

Most common hematologic AEs ≥10% of total, n (%)	N=50	
	Any grade	Grade 3–4
Neutropenia	22 (44)	20 (40)

5 (10%) patients discontinued therapy due to AE:

- Guillain-Barré syndrome: n=1 (AE recovered, patient in sCR)
- Hypertransaminasemia: n=1 (AE recovered, patient in PR)
- Infections: n=2 (patients respectively in VGPR and sCR)
- Peripheral neuropathy : n=1 (patients in VGPR)

Most common non-hematologic AEs ^a ≥10% of total, n (%)	N=50	
	Any grade	Grade 3
CRS	35 (70)	2 (4)
Infections	27 (54)	7 (14)
Skin rash	19 (38)	0
Fatigue	16 (32)	1 (2)
Diarrhea	13 (26)	1 (2)
Peripheral neuropathy	8 (16)	0
Injection site reaction	7 (14)	0
Weight loss	5 (10)	0

No new safety signals observed with elranatamab monotherapy in HR-SMM patients compared to RRMM patients

Low incidence of grade 3 non-hematologic adverse events

Data cut-off: April 13, 2026

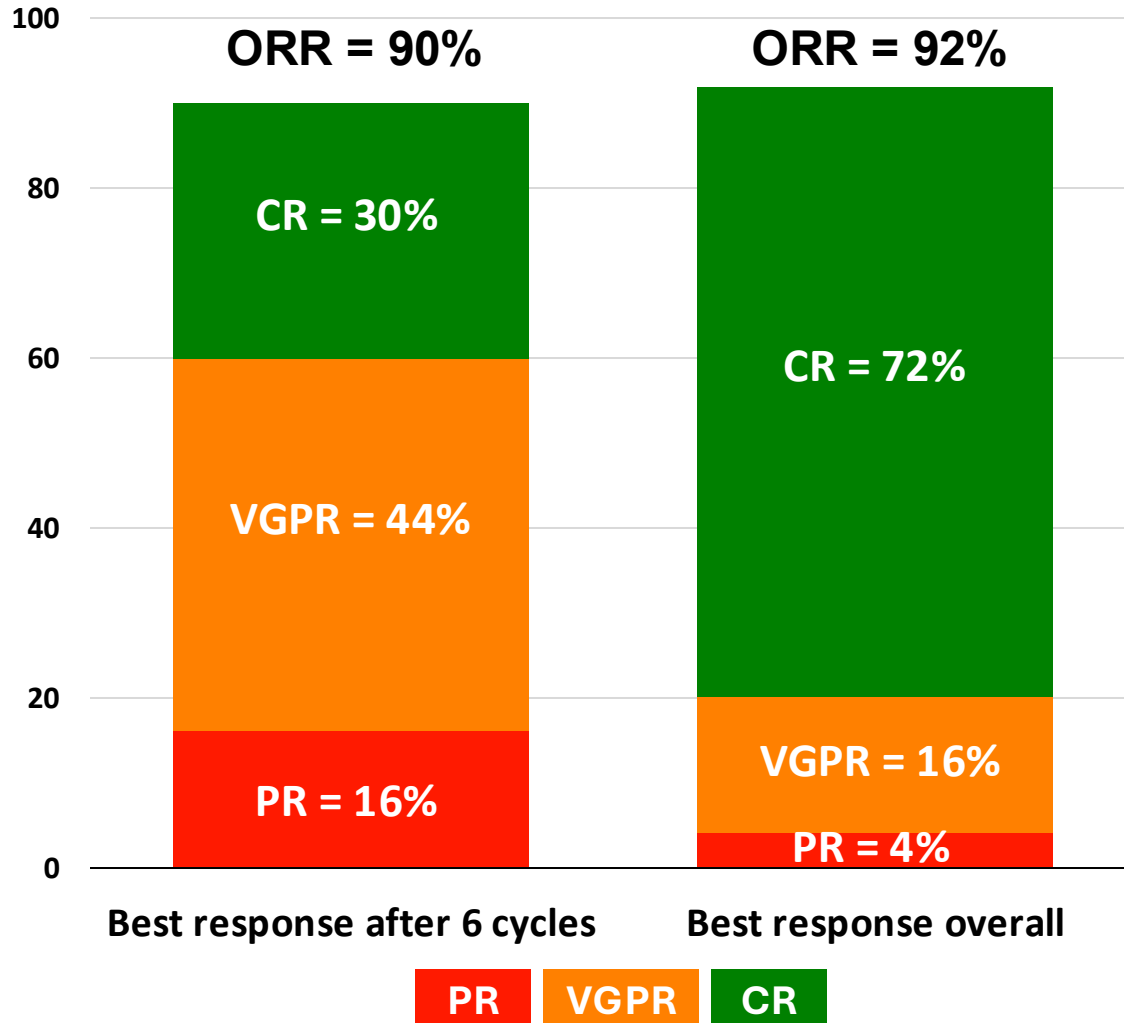
EMN34 ERASMM – INFECTIONS

	Any grade n (%)	Grade 3 n (%)
Infections	27 (54)	7 (14)
Most common infections (>5%)		
ENT infection	12 (24)	1 (2)
Respiratory tract infection	10 (20)	3 (6)
COVID-19	4 (8)	2 (4)

- No grade 4 or grade 5 infections
- 43 (86%) patients received prophylactic Ig replacement (SC/IV)
- 10 (20%) patients had IgG levels never lower than 400 mg/dL

The rate of infections with elranatamab in HR-SMM compared favorably with elranatamab in RRMM, including lower rates of grade 3 infections, and no grade ≥ 4 events

EMN34 ERASMM – RESPONSE RATES AND MRD



- After 6 cycles :

ORR: 90%
CR rate*: 30%

- With a median follow-up of 14 months:

ORR: 92%
CR rate*: 72%

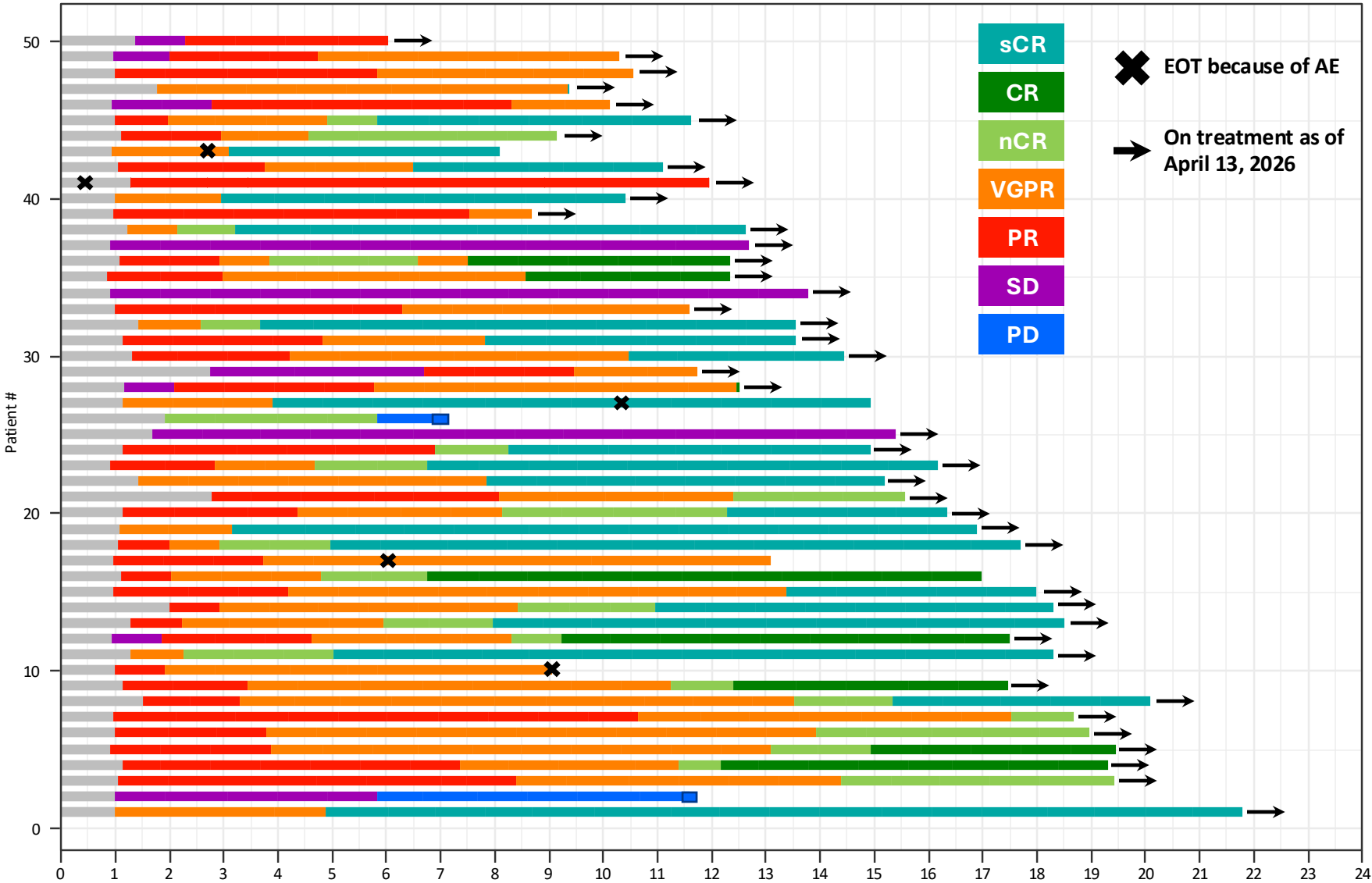
- MRD (NGS, available in 29 patients**):

undetectable MRD (10^{-6}): 90%

**Includes nCR, CR, and sCR.*

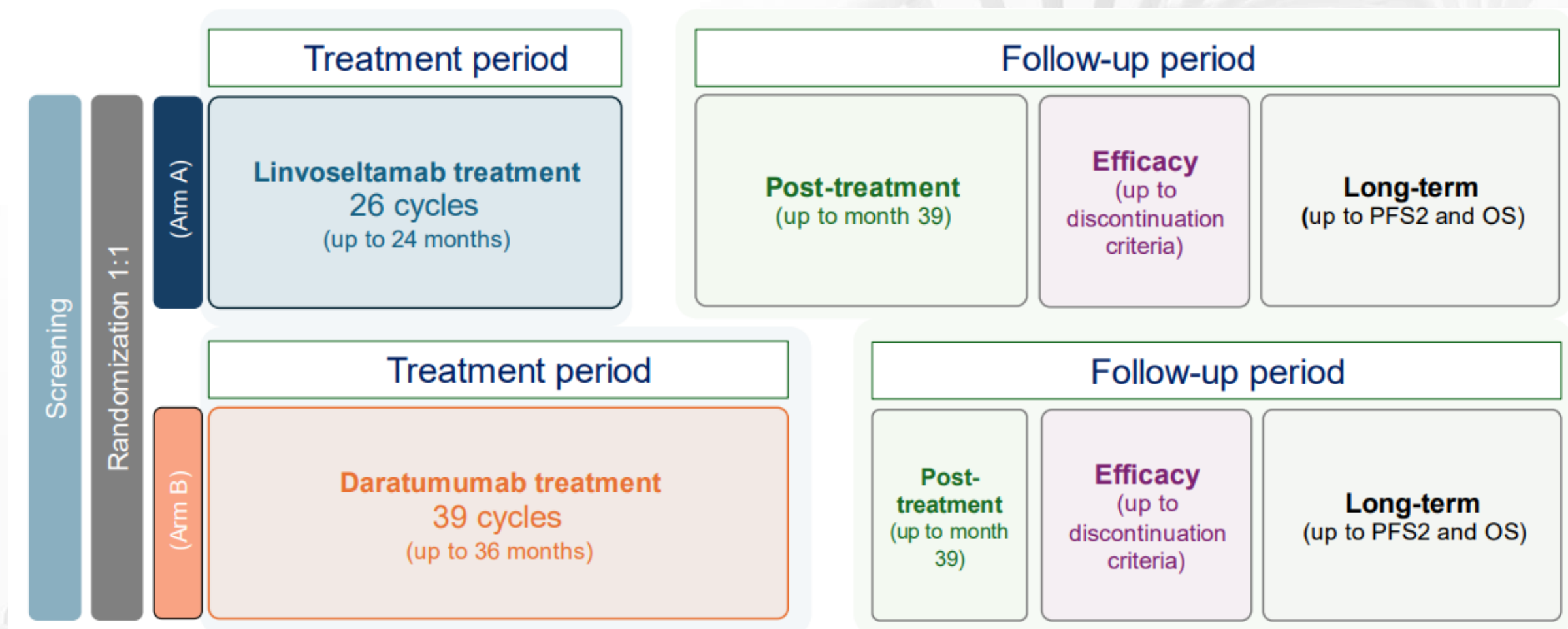
***MRD was performed in patients with suspected CR
Sample collection up to Nov 2025 in the present analysis.*

EMN34 ERASMM – RESPONSE RATES AND MRD

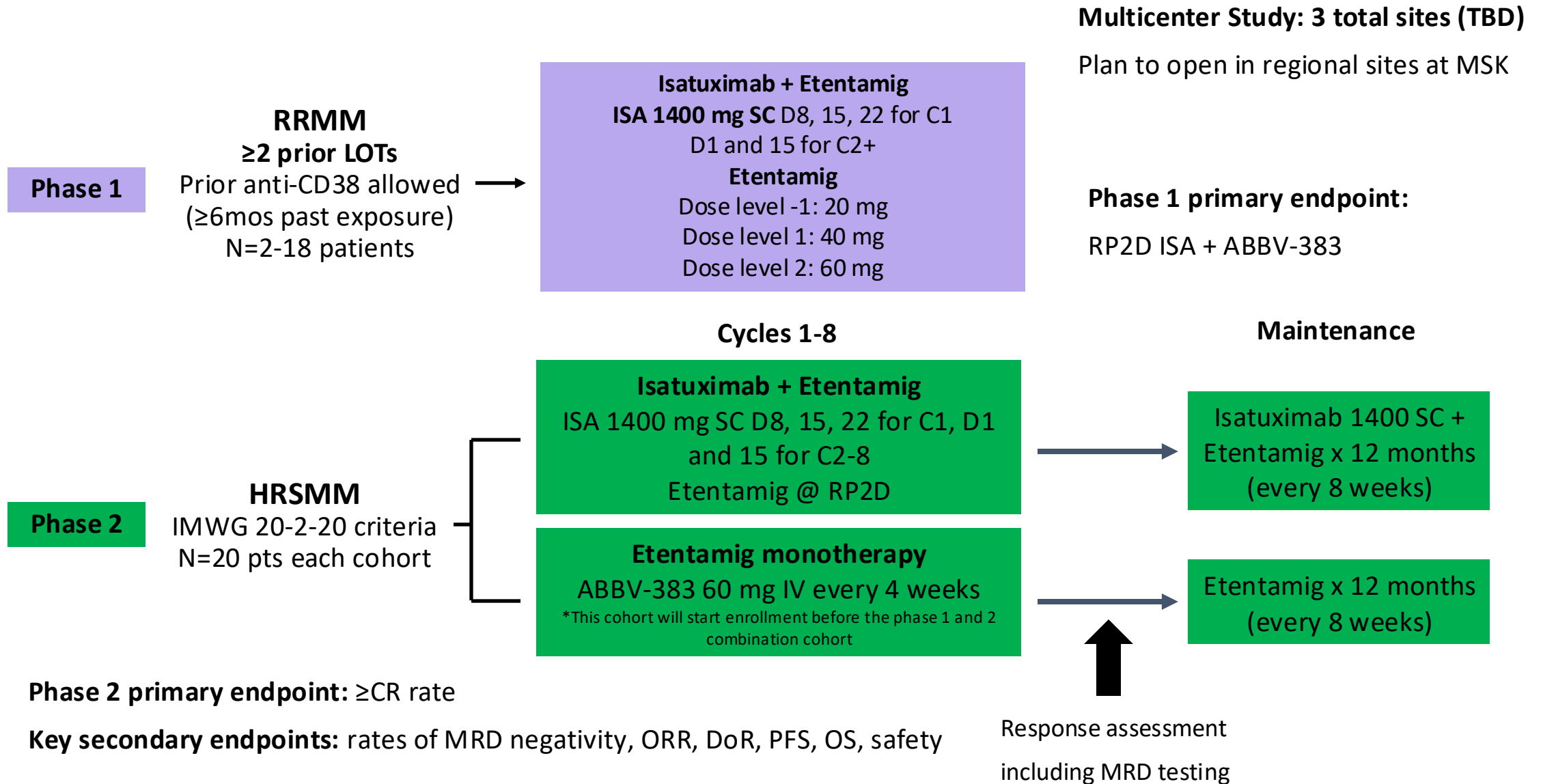


LINKER-SMM2

****Currently enrolling at Emory**



SMMART-1: STUDY DESIGN





SUMMARY

- Mayo 2018 or 20-2-20 criteria is used for risk stratification of SMM patients
- Results of the phase 3 AQUILA study led to first FDA approved treatment for SMM but optimal therapy for HRSMM is still debatable
- Ongoing clinical trial investigation regarding other approaches including BsAb in SMM
- Treatment should be considered for HR-SMM
 - Low and intermediate → observation or clinical trial
 - High risk → Pace of progression is an important caveat