

# **Front-Line Treatment of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia**

**Alexey Danilov, MD, PhD**

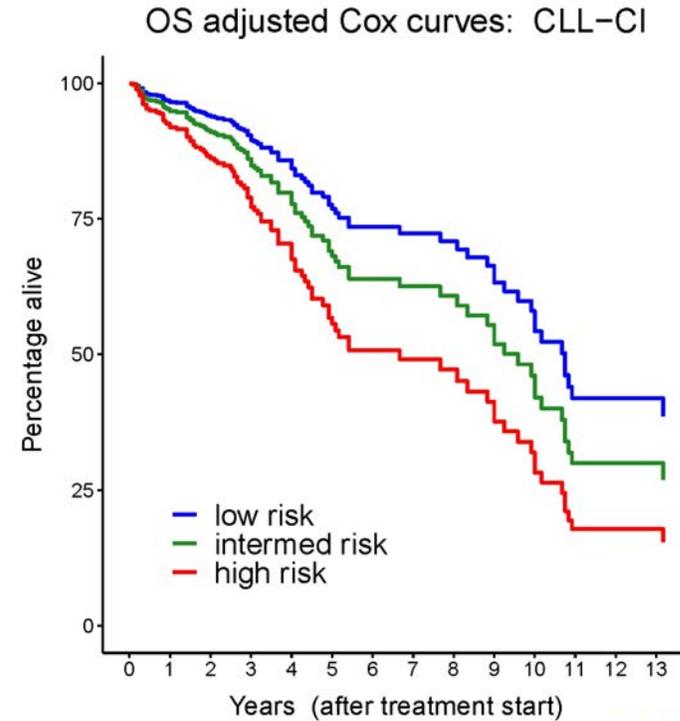
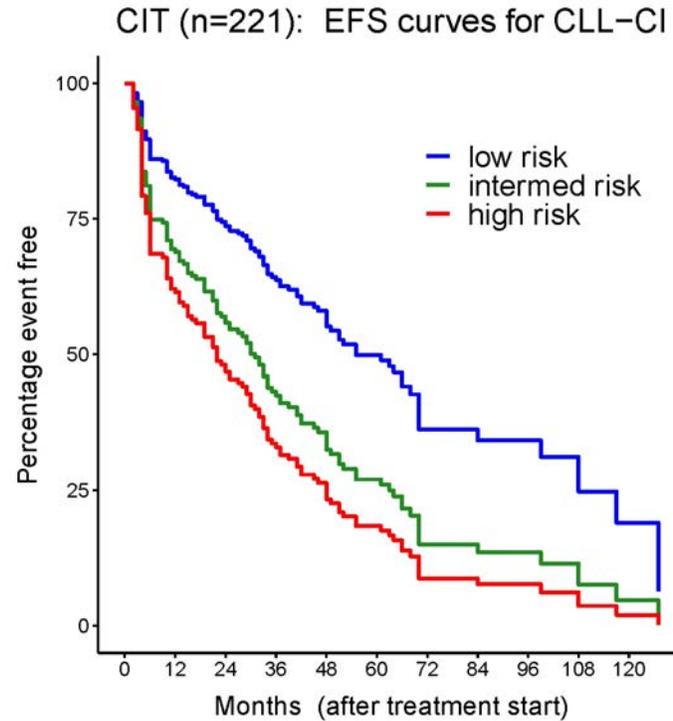
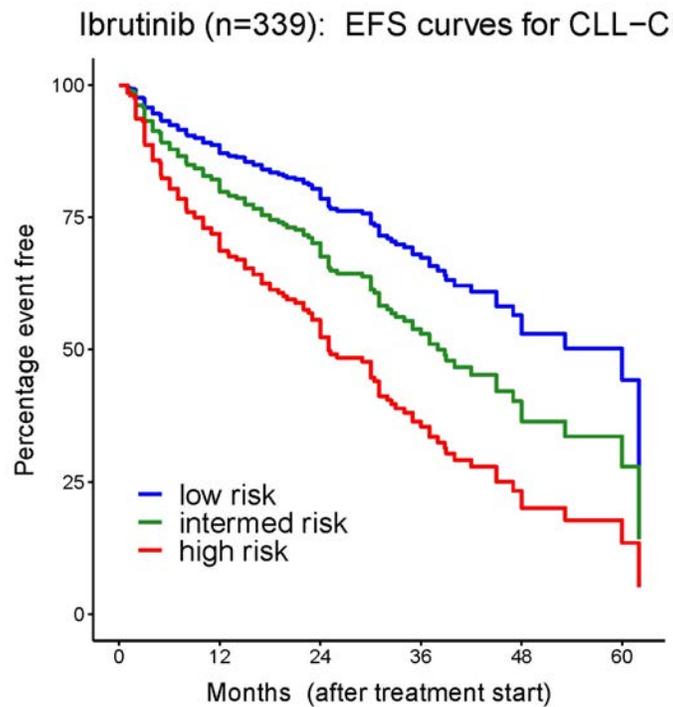
**Co-Director, Toni Stephenson Lymphoma Center**

**Professor, Department of Hematology & Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation**

**City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center**

# Factors to Consider when Selecting Treatment for CLL

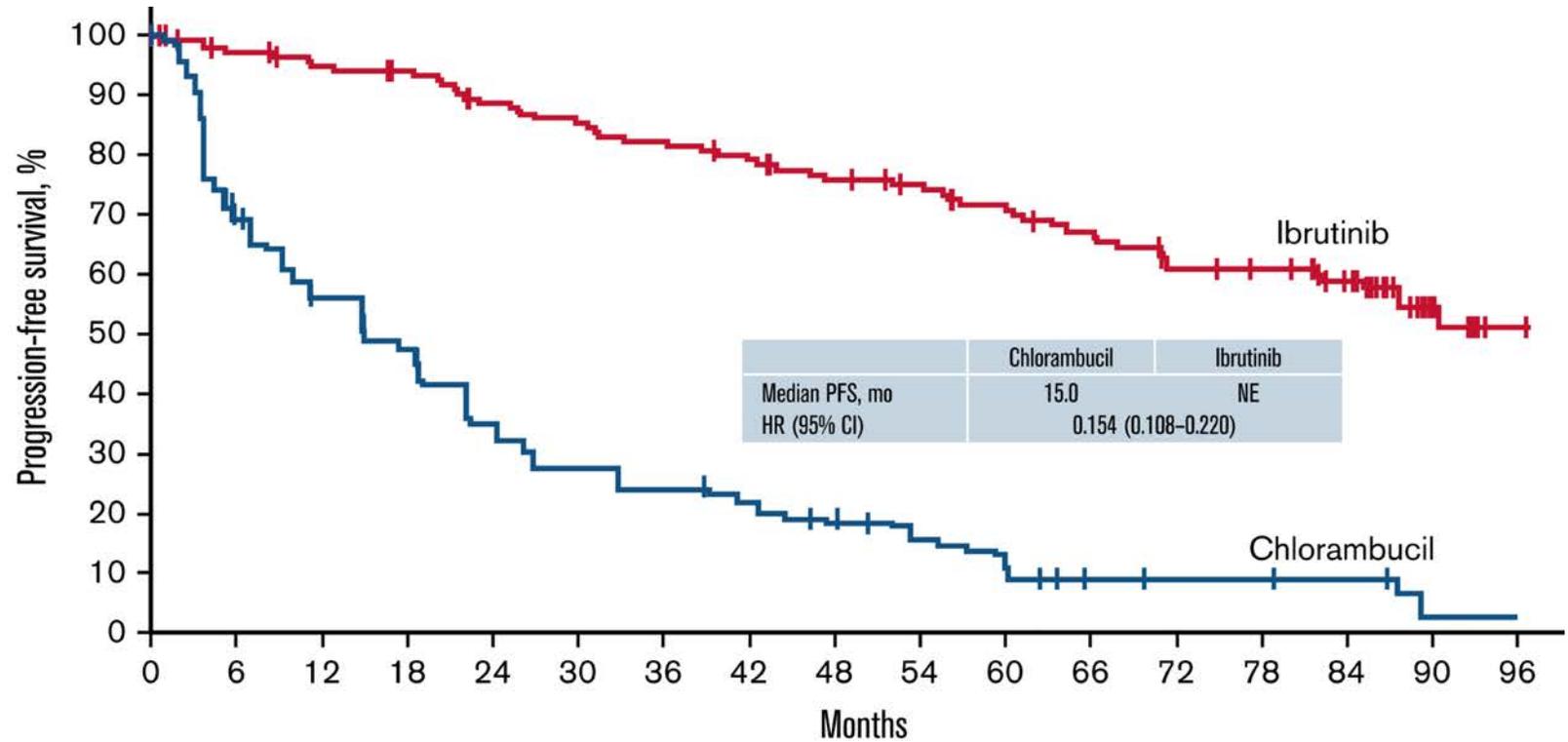
- ***IGHV*** mutation status: once
- **del(17p)** by FISH and ***TP53*** mutation status: frontline and before each line of therapy
- Patient's age and comorbidities (cardiac, vascular)



# Frontline Phase II Randomized Trials in CLL

BTKi	BCL2i	Novel-novel
<p><b>RESONATE-2</b> (&gt;65 or comorbidities) <b>Ibrutinib</b> vs. <b>Chlorambucil</b></p> <p><b>iLLUMINATE</b> (PCYC-1130) (&gt;65 or comorbidities) <b>Ibrutinib + O</b> vs. <b>Chlorambucil + O</b></p> <p><b>ECOG E1912</b> [&lt;70; non-del(17p)] <b>Ibrutinib + R</b> vs. <b>FCR</b></p> <p><b>Alliance</b> A041202 (&gt;65) <b>Ibrutinib</b> vs. <b>Ibrutinib + R</b> vs. <b>BR</b></p> <p><b>ELEVATE-TN</b> (&gt;65 or comorbidities) <b>Acala</b> vs. <b>Acala + O</b> vs. <b>Chlorambucil + O</b></p> <p><b>SEQUOIA</b> [<math>\geq</math>65 OR comorbidities; non-del(17p)] <b>Zanubrutinib</b> vs. <b>BR</b></p> <p><b>FLAIR</b> [<math>\leq</math>75; non-del(17p)] <b>Ibrutinib + R</b> vs. <b>FCR</b></p>	<p><b>CLL14</b> (CIRS &gt;6; CrCl &lt;70 mL/min) <b>Venetoclax + O</b> vs. <b>Chlorambucil + O</b></p>	<p><b>GLOW</b> (&gt;65 or comorbidities) <b>Ibrutinib + Venetoclax</b> vs. <b>Chlorambucil + O</b></p> <p><b>CLL13</b> (&gt;65yo or <math>\leq</math>65yo with comorbidities) <b>I+V+O</b> vs. <b>Ven+O</b> vs. <b>Ven+R</b> vs. <b>FCR/BR</b></p> <p></p>

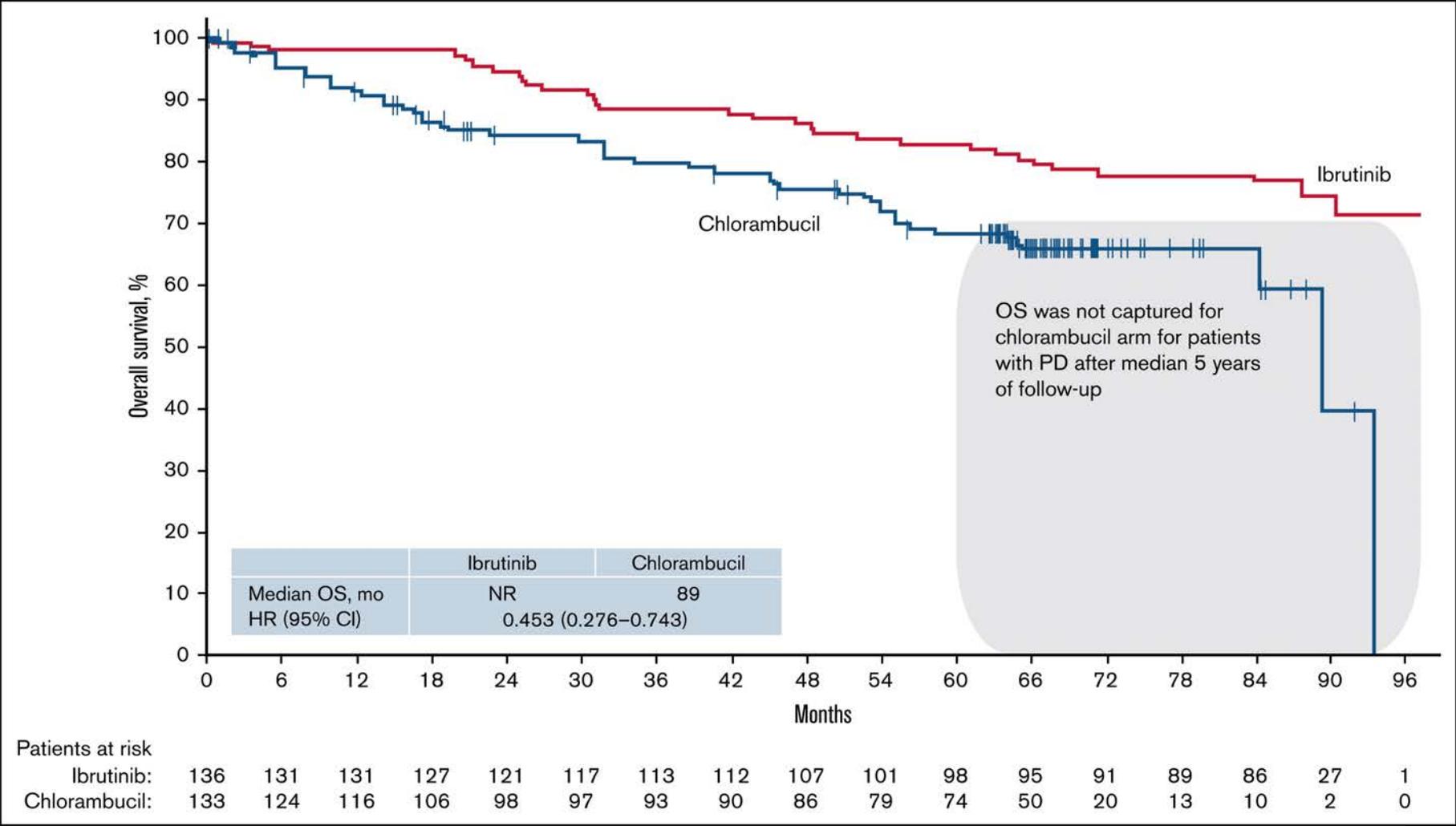
# RESONATE-2: PFS after 8-year follow-up



Patients at risk	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96
Ibrutinib:	136	129	124	121	112	108	104	99	92	88	81	76	67	65	57	17	1
Chlorambucil:	133	88	69	57	41	33	30	25	19	16	12	6	5	5	4	1	0

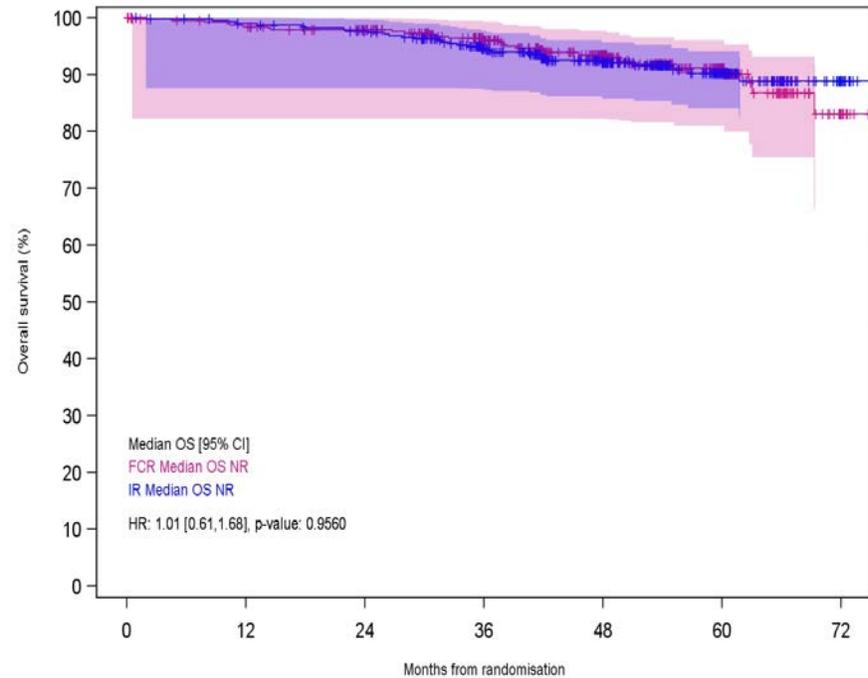


# RESONATE-2: OS after 8-year follow-up



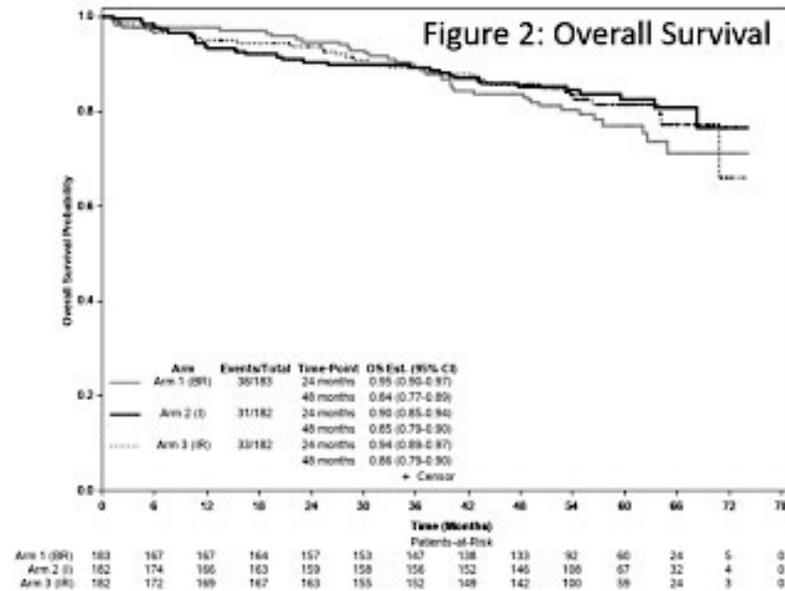
# OS across frontline Phase III ibrutinib vs chemo studies

## FLAIR (Hillmen, 2021)

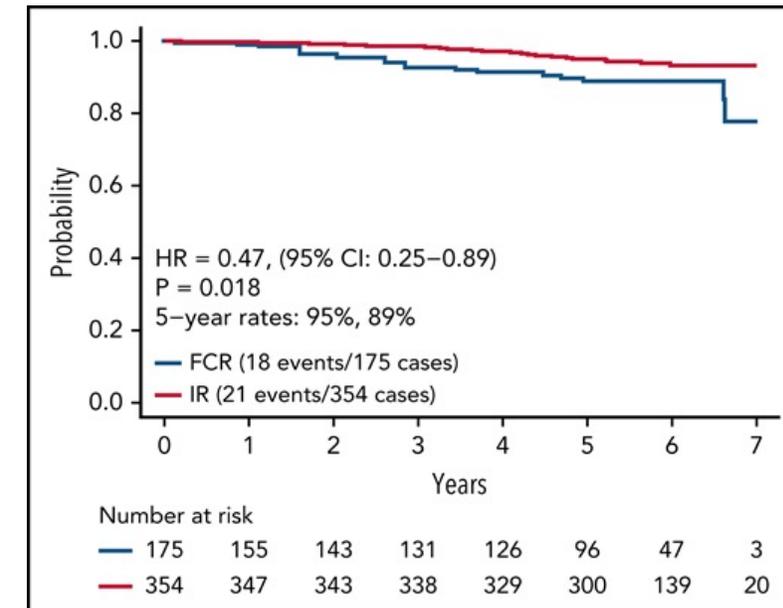


	0	12	24	36	48	60	72
FCR	385 (0)	369 (10)	351 (26)	290 (81)	202 (163)	94 (266)	12 (344)
IR	386 (0)	377 (5)	365 (12)	305 (61)	210 (150)	95 (261)	13 (342)

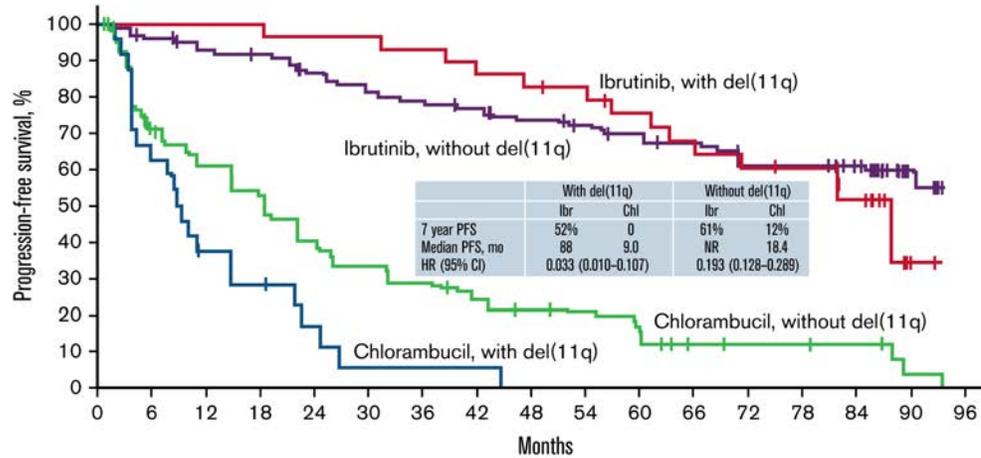
## Alliance (Woyach, 2021)



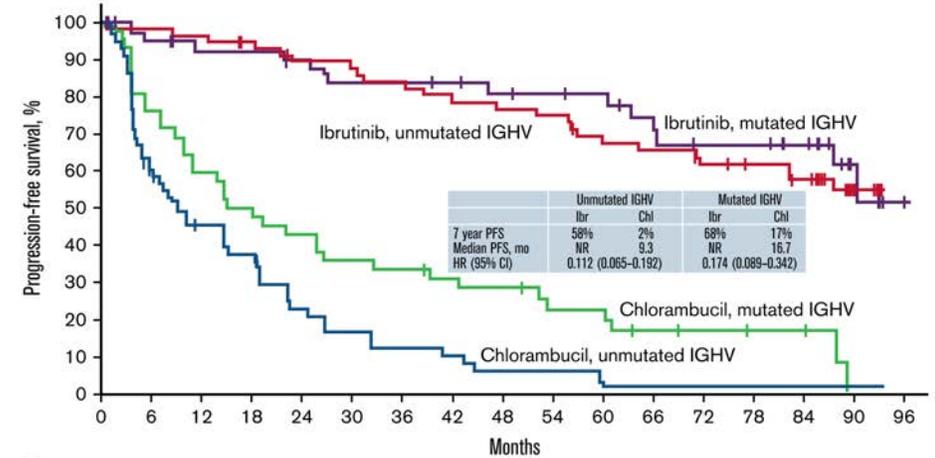
## ECOG1912 (Shanafelt, 2022)



# Ibrutinib Overcomes del(11q) and U-IGHV in RESONATE-2



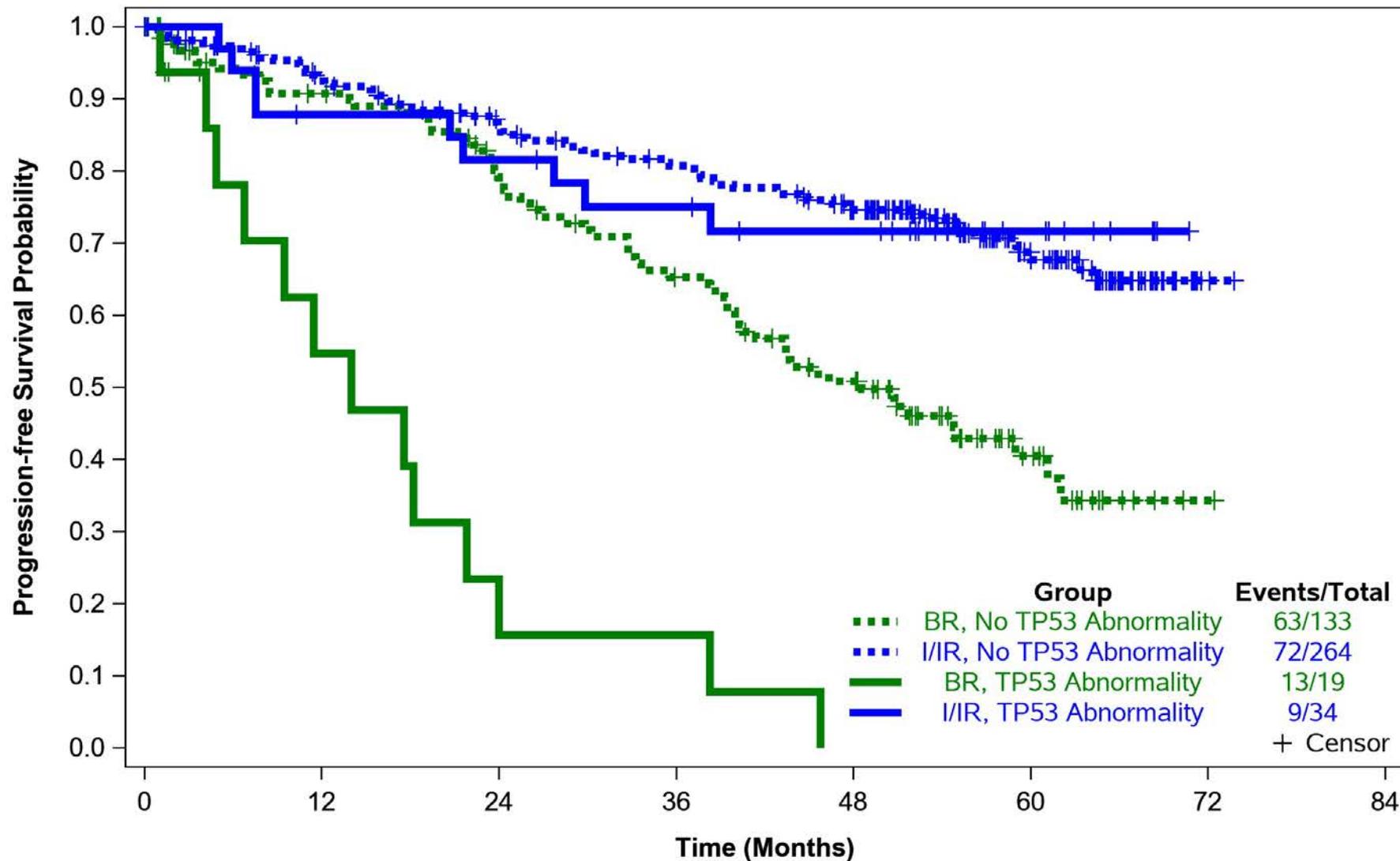
	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96
<b>Patients at risk</b>																	
Ibrutinib, without del(11q):	101	94	89	87	80	76	73	70	64	61	57	55	48	47	43	13	0
Ibrutinib, with del(11q):	29	29	29	29	28	28	27	25	24	23	20	18	16	16	12	2	0
Chlorambucil, without del(11q):	96	64	54	45	35	29	25	21	17	15	12	6	5	5	4	1	0
Chlorambucil, with del(11q):	25	15	8	6	3	1	1	1	0								



	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96
<b>Patients at risk</b>																	
Ibrutinib, mutated IGHV:	40	37	34	34	32	30	30	29	27	26	25	22	19	19	16	6	1
Ibrutinib, unmutated IGHV:	58	57	56	53	49	48	46	43	42	41	36	35	32	30	27	10	0
Chlorambucil, mutated IGHV:	42	32	25	21	18	15	14	12	11	8	5	4	4	3	0	0	0
Chlorambucil, unmutated IGHV:	60	33	23	19	11	8	6	5	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	0



# Ibrutinib and TP53 abnormalities: Alliance study



Treatment Effect

I/IR vs BR

No TP53 Abn

Hazard Ratio 0.39

95% CI: 0.27-0.55

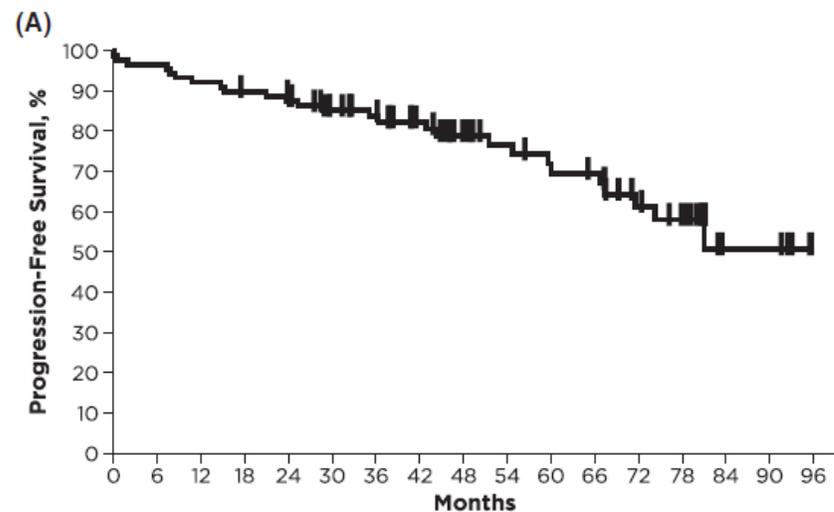
TP53 Abn

Hazard Ratio 0.07

95% CI: 0.03-0.18

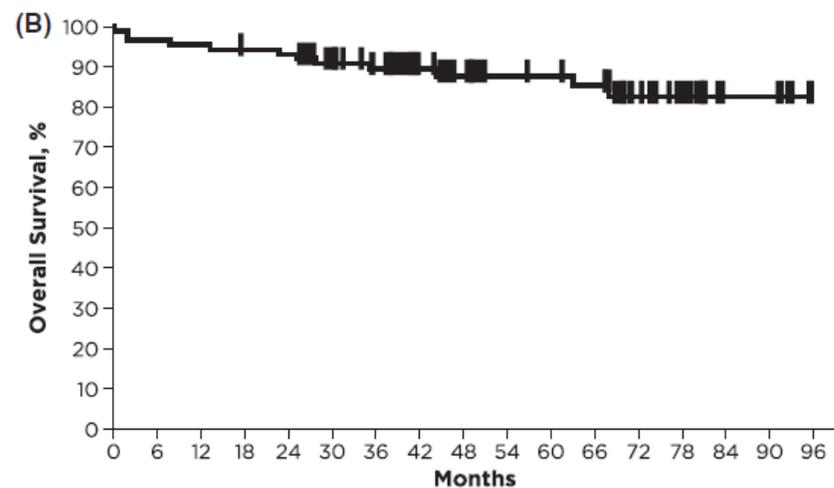
Interaction P = 0.0006

# Pooled analysis of ibrutinib in TN *TP53*<sup>mut</sup> CLL



4-year PFS – 80%

Patients at risk 89 86 82 79 75 66 60 49 39 33 29 28 20 16 5 5 0



4-year OS – 88%

Patients at risk 89 86 85 83 82 73 65 52 45 37 36 34 24 18 7 7 0

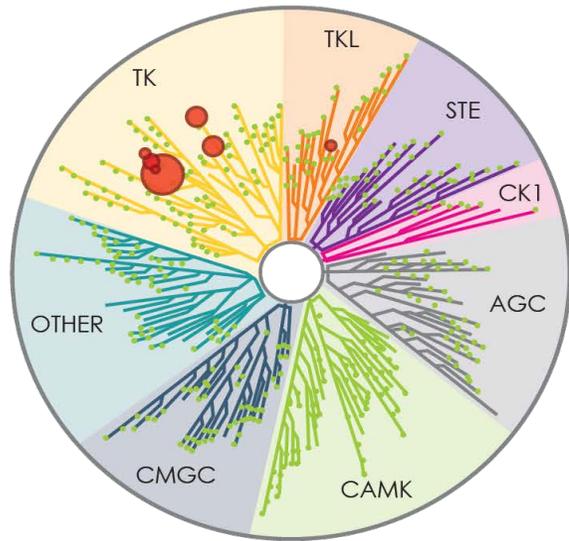
# Cardiac toxicity with ibrutinib

	FCR				IR			
	Sudden unexplained death or cardiac death				Sudden unexplained death or cardiac death			
Hypertension or prior history of cardiac disorder (on treatment at trial entry)		No	Yes	Total		No	Yes	Total
	No	288	2	290	No	276	1	277
	Yes	88	0	88	Yes	100	7	107
	Total	376	2	378	Total	376	8	384
	Relative Risk IE* Fisher's Exact P IE*				Relative Risk 18.1, 95%CI (2.3-146) Fisher's Exact P <0.001			

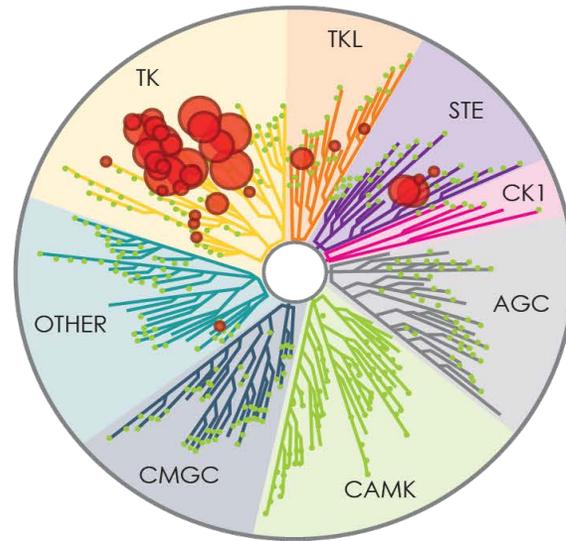
## Meta-analysis

FLAIR is not an outlier for sudden unexplained or cardiac deaths in ibrutinib-containing arms and is consistent with other phase III CLL ibrutinib-containing trials including ALLIANCE, ILLUMINATE, RESONATE, GENUINE and HELIOS.

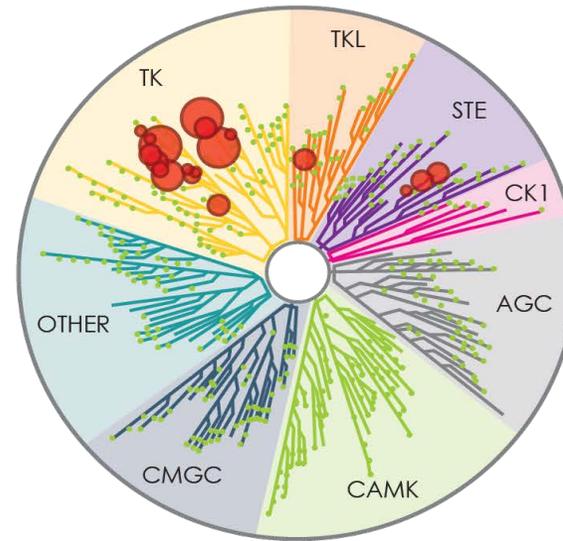
# BTKI's: Kinase Selectivity



Acalabrutinib

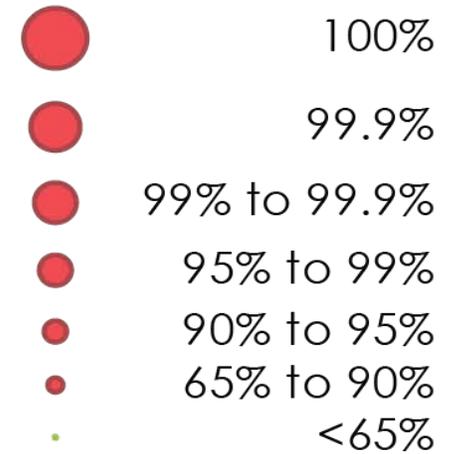


Ibrutinib

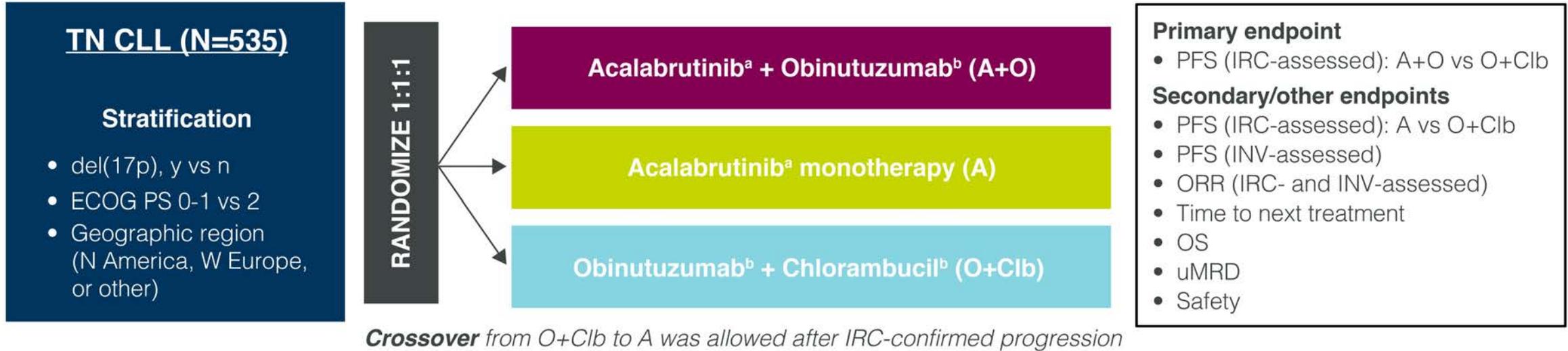


Zanubrutinib

## Percent Inhibition



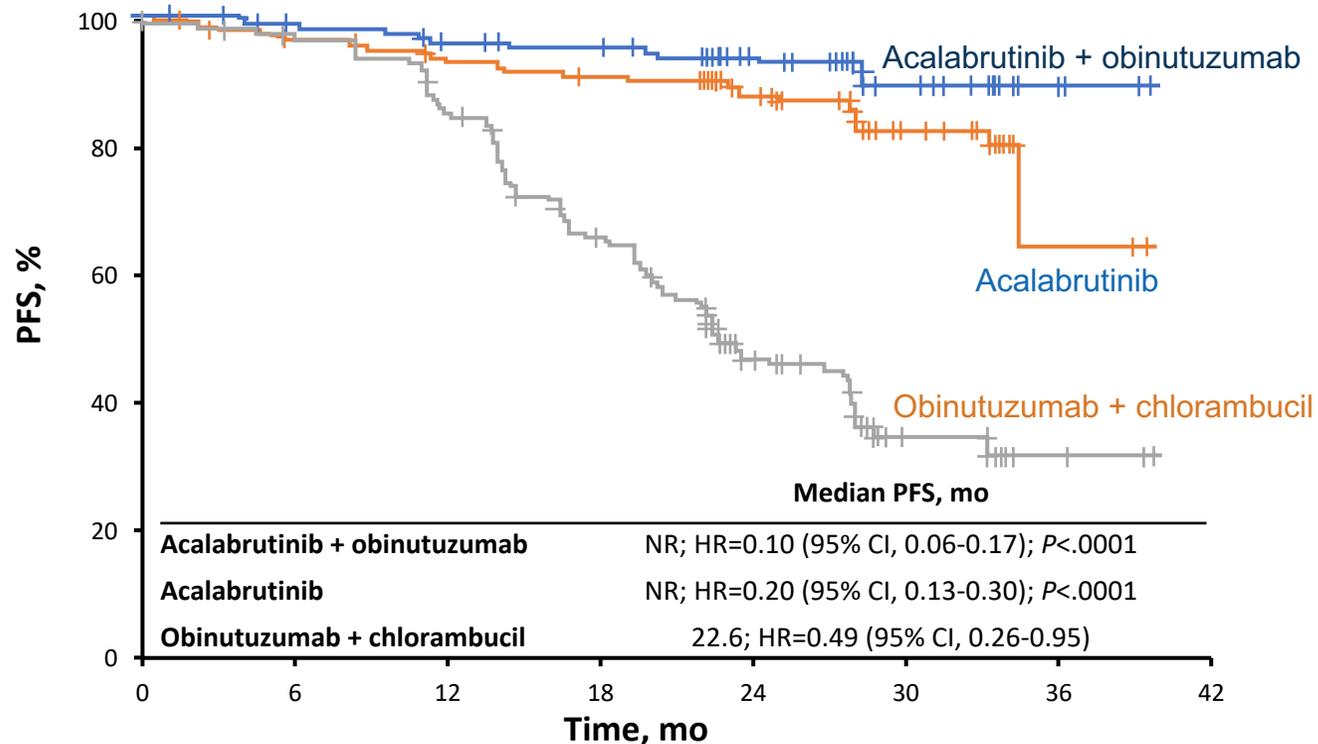
# Acalabrutinib in frontline CLL: ELEVATE-TN



**Note: After interim analysis,<sup>7</sup> PFS assessments were by investigator only**

# ELEVATE-TN: PFS (Primary Endpoint)

## PFS by IRC



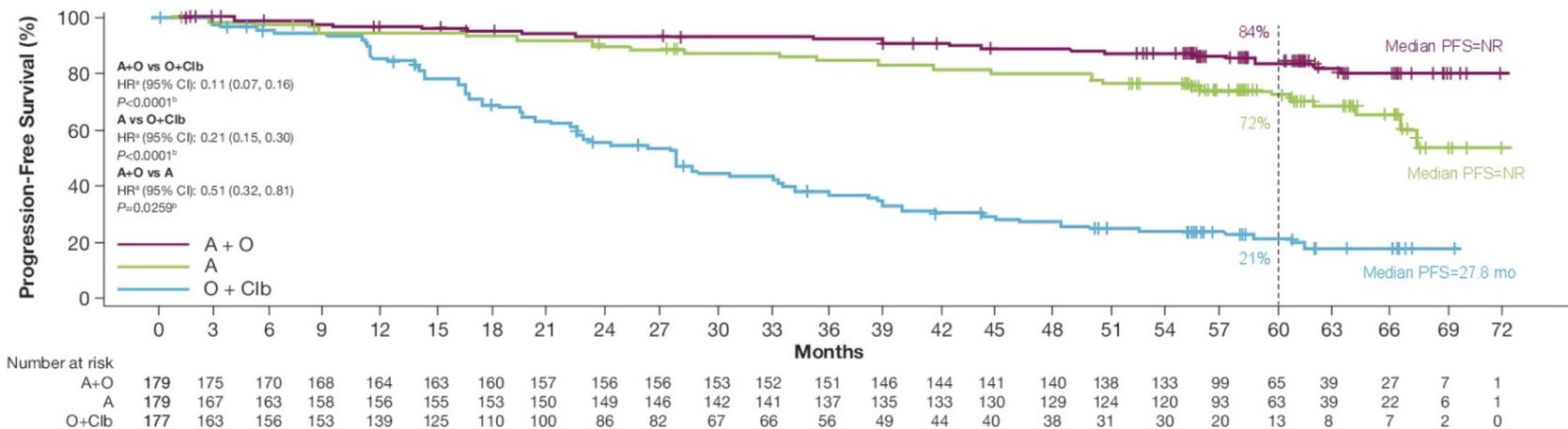
## Estimated PFS at 24 months

- 93% with acalabrutinib + obinutuzumab (95% CI, 87%-96%)
- 87% with acalabrutinib monotherapy (95% CI, 81%-92%)
- 47% with obinutuzumab + chlorambucil (95% CI, 39%-55%)

**Post-hoc analysis:** HR for PFS between acalabrutinib-obinutuzumab and acalabrutinib monotherapy was 0.49 (95% CI, 0.26-0.95)

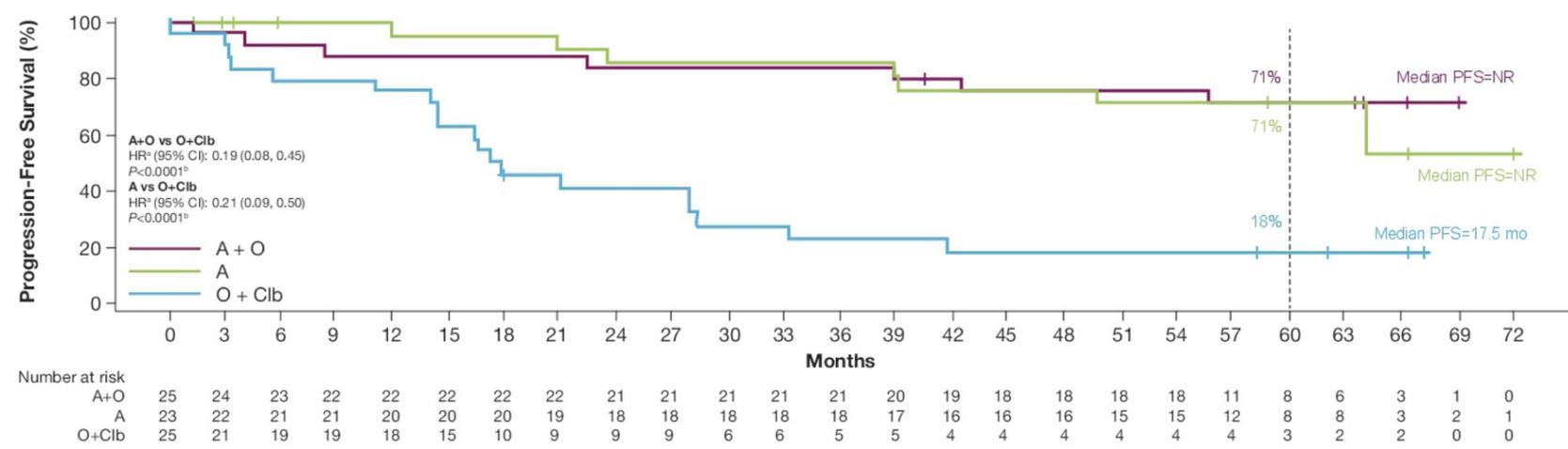
# 5-Year Follow-Up of the ELEVATE-TN Phase 3 Study: PFS

## INV-Assessed PFS

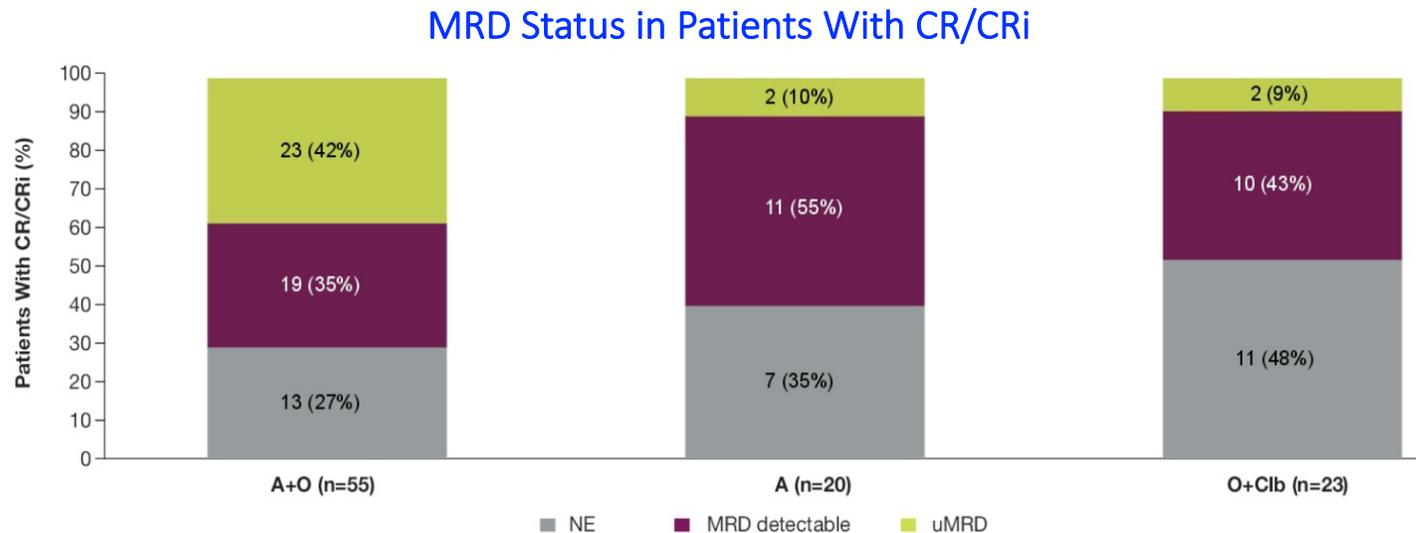
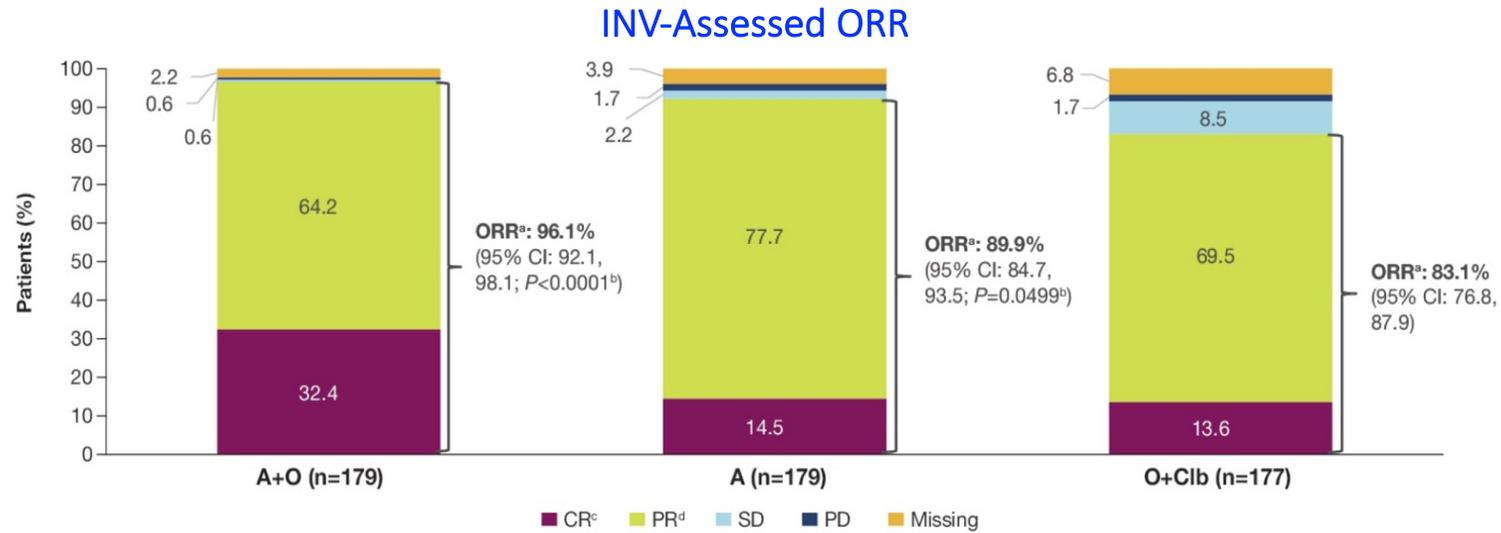


Median follow-up:  
58.2 months  
(range, 0.0-72.0)

## INV-Assessed PFS in Patients With del(17p) and/or Mutated TP53



# 5-Year Follow-Up of the ELEVATE-TN Phase 3 Study: ORR and uMRD



# 5-Year Follow-Up of the ELEVATE-TN Phase 3 Study: AEs of Clinical Interest

AEs of Clinical Interest, n (%)	A+O (n=178)		A (n=179)		O+Clb (n=169)	
	Any Grade	Grade ≥3	Any Grade	Grade ≥3	Any Grade	Grade ≥3
Cardiac events	43 (24.2)	17 (9.6)	39 (21.8)	18 (10.1)	13 (7.7)	3 (1.8)
AFib	11 (6.2)	2 (1.1)	13 (7.3)	2 (1.1)	1 (0.6)	0
Bleeding	88 (49.4)	8 (4.5)	78 (43.6)	6 (3.4)	20 (11.8)	0
Major bleeding	12 (6.7)	8 (4.5)	8 (4.5)	6 (3.4)	2 (1.2)	0
Hypertension	17 (9.6)	8 (4.5)	16 (8.9)	7 (3.9)	6 (3.6)	5 (3.0)
Infections	140 (78.7)	50 (28.1)	135 (75.4)	35 (19.6)	75 (44.4)	14 (8.3)
SPMs	31 (17.4)	14 (7.9)	27 (15.1)	7 (3.9)	7 (4.1)	3 (1.8)
Excluding non-melanoma skin	17 (9.6)	12 (6.7)	13 (7.3)	5 (2.8)	3 (1.8)	2 (1.2)

## Patient Disposition

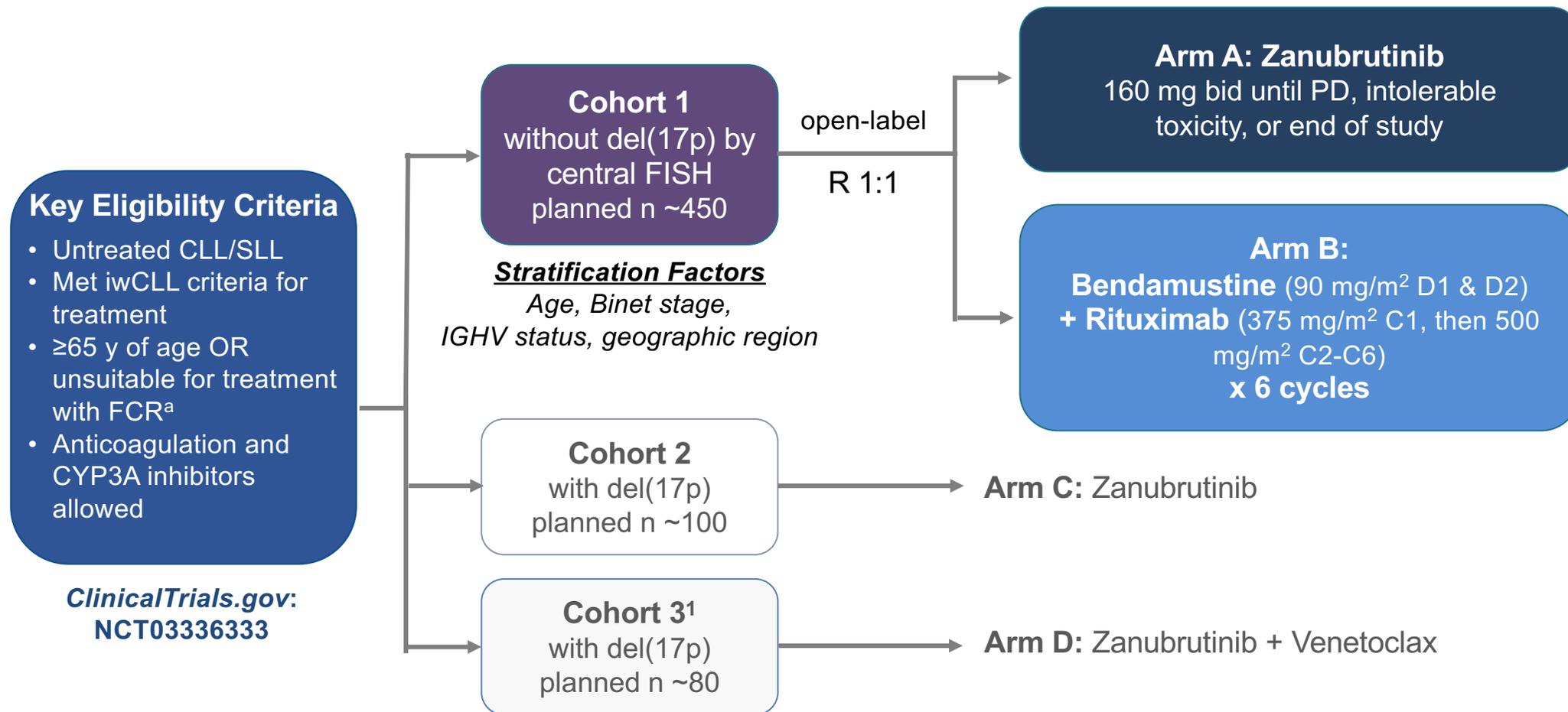
- Treatment still ongoing: A+O 64.8% and A 59.8%
- Discontinuation rates: A+O 35.2%, A 40.2%, O+Clb 22.6%
  - Due to AEs: 17.3%, 15.6%, 14.1%
  - Due to PD: 5.6%, 10.1%, 1.7%

## Safety

- Most common AEs were similar to prior analyses
- AEs that occurred more frequently in A+O and A vs O+Clb included headache, diarrhea, and arthralgia
- AEs that occurred more frequently with O+Clb included neutropenia, nausea, and IRR

# SEQUOIA (BGB-3111-304)

## Study Design

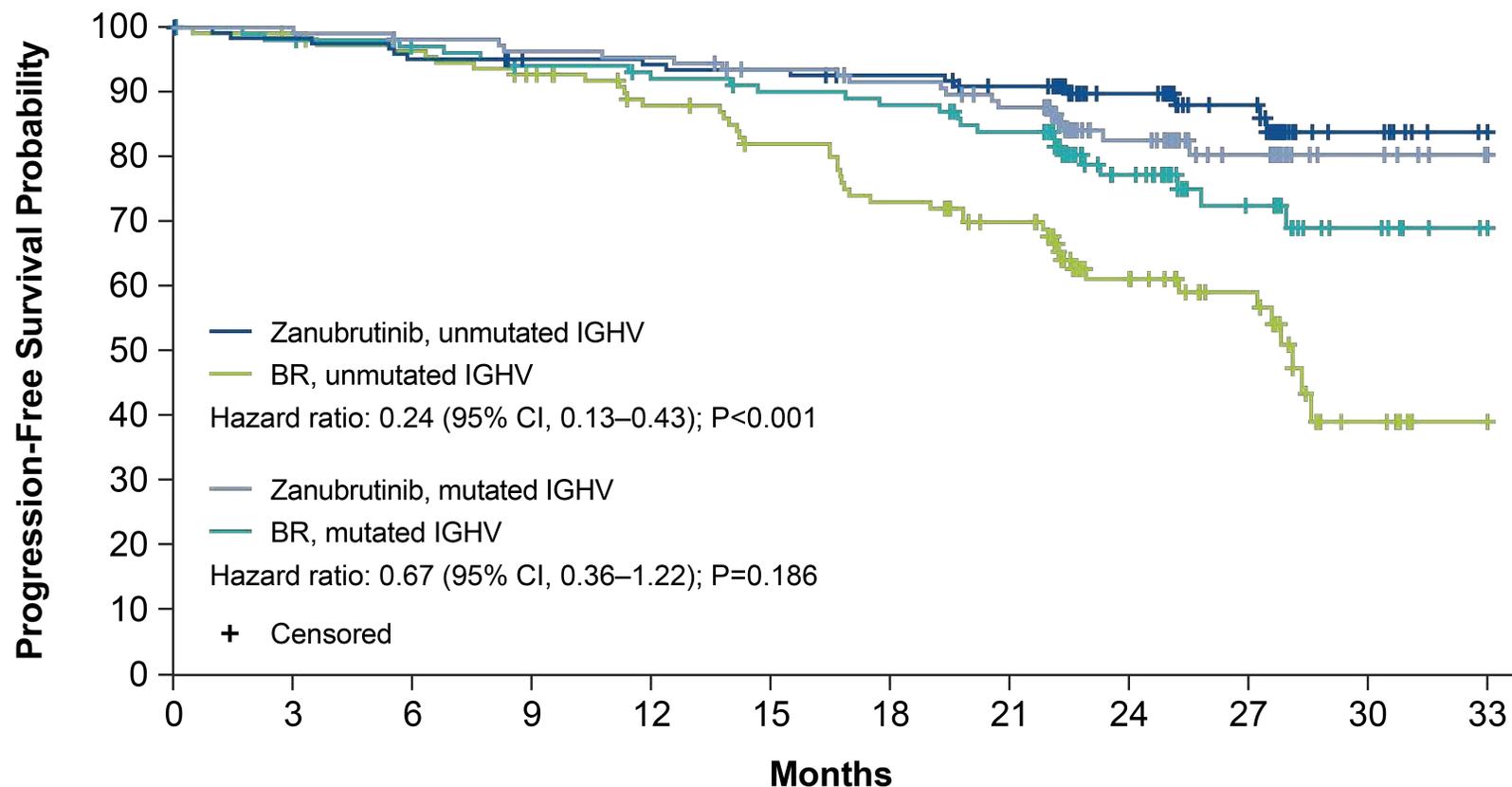


<sup>a</sup>Defined as Cumulative Illness Rating Scale >6, creatinine clearance <70 mL/min, or a history of previous severe infection or multiple infections within the last 2 years.

C, cycle; CLL/SLL, chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma; CYP3A, cytochrome P450, family 3, subfamily A; D, day; del(17p), chromosome 17p deletion; FCR, fludarabine, cyclophosphamide, and rituximab; FISH, fluorescence in-situ hybridization; IRC, independent review committee; IGHV, gene encoding the immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region; iwCLL, International Workshop on CLL; ORR, overall response rate; PD, progressive disease; R, randomized.

1. Tedeschi A, et al. ASH 2021. Abstract 67.

# Progression-Free Survival Per IRC Assessment by IGHV Status



	No. of patients at risk											
	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33
Zanubrutinib - Unmutated	125	121	117	114	113	112	109	104	68	44	14	6
BR - Unmutated	121	110	106	100	90	82	73	65	39	25	6	1
Zanubrutinib - Mutated	109	109	106	104	103	97	94	88	53	33	15	10
BR - Mutated	110	101	98	94	91	88	86	80	47	27	14	7

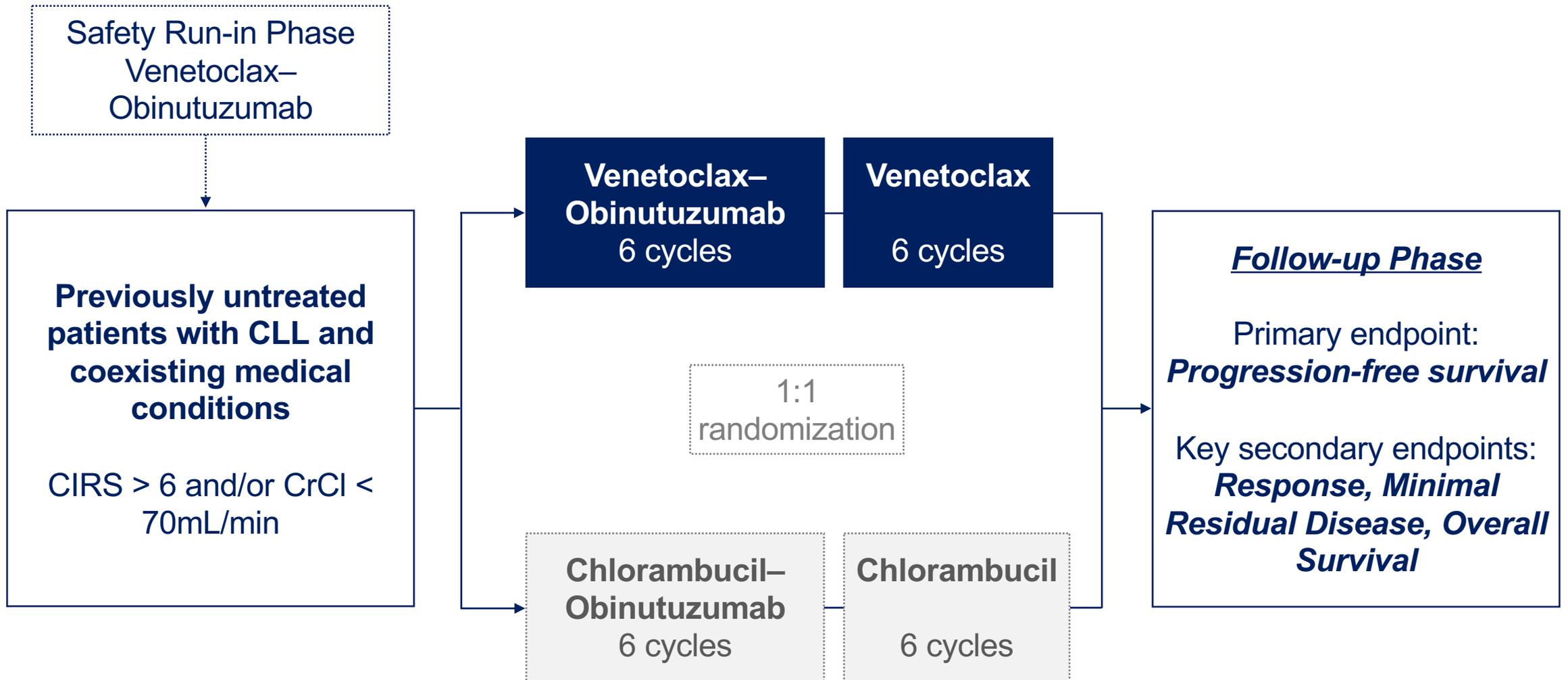
BR, bendamustine + rituximab; IGHV, gene encoding the immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region; IRC, independent review committee.

# Adverse Events of Interest

AE, n (%)	Arm A Zanubrutinib (n=240 <sup>a</sup> )		Arm B Bendamustine + Rituximab (n=227 <sup>a</sup> )	
	Any Grade	Grade ≥3	Any Grade	Grade ≥3
<b>Anemia</b>	11 (4.6)	1 (0.4)	44 (19.4)	4 (1.8)
<b>Neutropenia<sup>b</sup></b>	38 (15.8)	28 (11.7)	129 (56.8)	116 (51.1)
<b>Thrombocytopenia<sup>c</sup></b>	11 (4.6)	5 (2.1)	40 (17.6)	18 (7.9)
<b>Arthralgia</b>	32 (13.3)	2 (0.8)	20 (8.8)	1 (0.4)
<b>Atrial fibrillation</b>	8 (3.3)	1 (0.4)	6 (2.6)	3 (1.3)
<b>Bleeding<sup>d</sup></b>	108 (45.0)	9 (3.8)	25 (11.0)	4 (1.8)
Major bleeding <sup>e</sup>	12 (5.0)	9 (3.8)	4 (1.8)	4 (1.8)
<b>Diarrhea</b>	33 (13.8)	2 (0.8)	31 (13.7)	5 (2.2)
<b>Hypertension<sup>f</sup></b>	34 (14.2)	15 (6.3)	24 (10.6)	11 (4.8)
<b>Infections<sup>g</sup></b>	149 (62.1)	39 (16.3)	127 (55.9)	43 (18.9)
<b>Myalgia</b>	9 (3.8)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.3)	0 (0.0)
<b>Other cancers</b>	31 (12.9)	17 (7.1)	20 (8.8)	7 (3.1)
Dermatologic other cancers	16 (6.7)	2 (0.8)	10 (4.4)	2 (0.9)

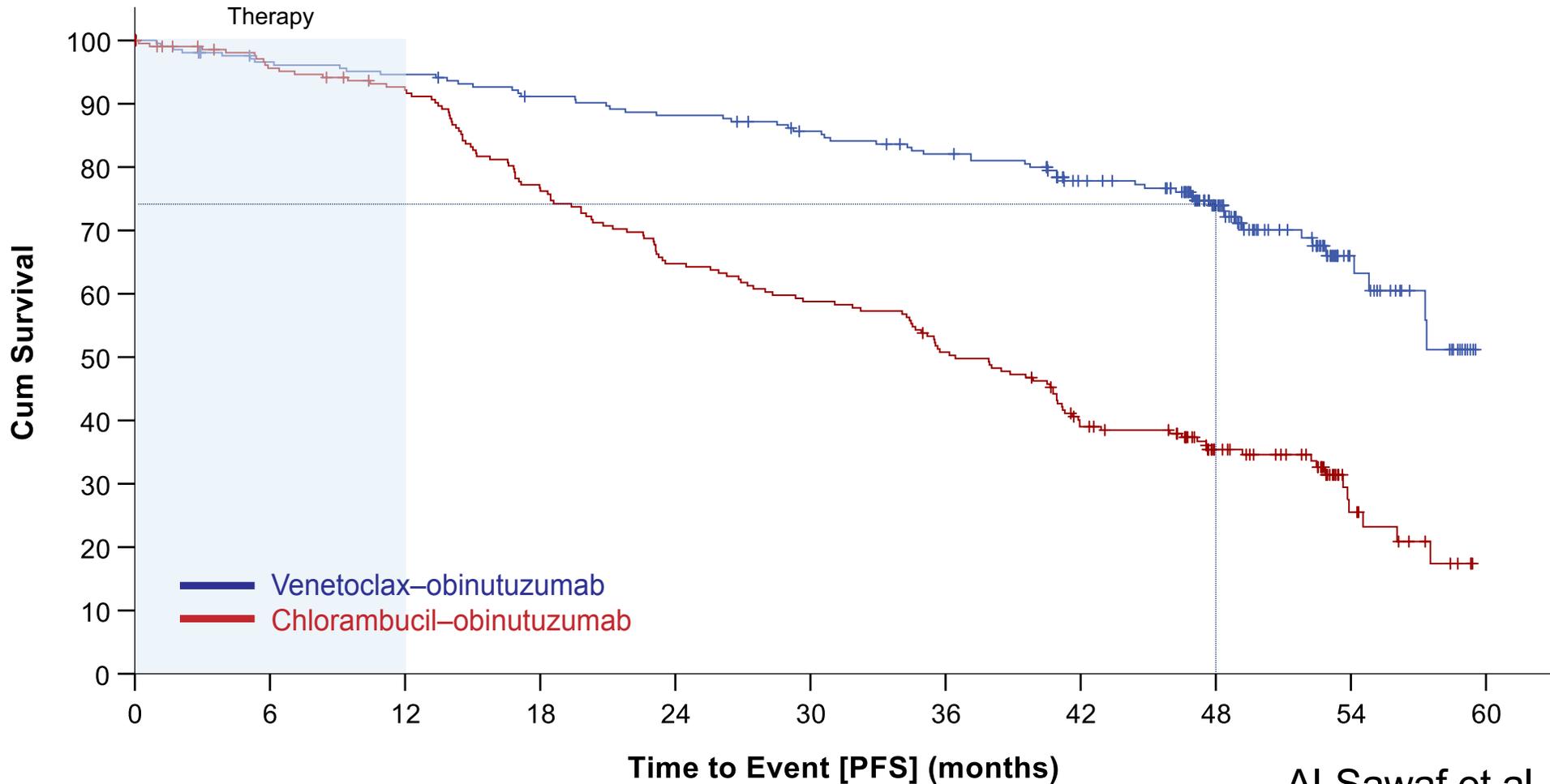
<sup>a</sup>Safety was assessed in patients who received ≥1 dose of treatment; 1 patient in Arm A and 11 patients in Arm B did not receive treatment. <sup>b</sup>Neutropenia, neutrophil count decreased, or febrile neutropenia. <sup>c</sup>Thrombocytopenia or platelet count decreased. <sup>d</sup>Pooled term of all-cause bleeding including bruising, petechiae, purpura, and contusion. <sup>e</sup>Major bleeding included all grade ≥3, serious, and any-grade central nervous system hemorrhage. <sup>f</sup>Hypertension, blood pressure increased, or hypertensive crisis. <sup>g</sup>All infection terms pooled. AE, adverse event.

# CLL14: Trial Design



# Progression-free Survival

Median observation time 52.4 months



## Median PFS

Ven-Obi: not reached

Clb-Obi: 36.4 months

## 4-year PFS rate

Ven-Obi: 74.0%

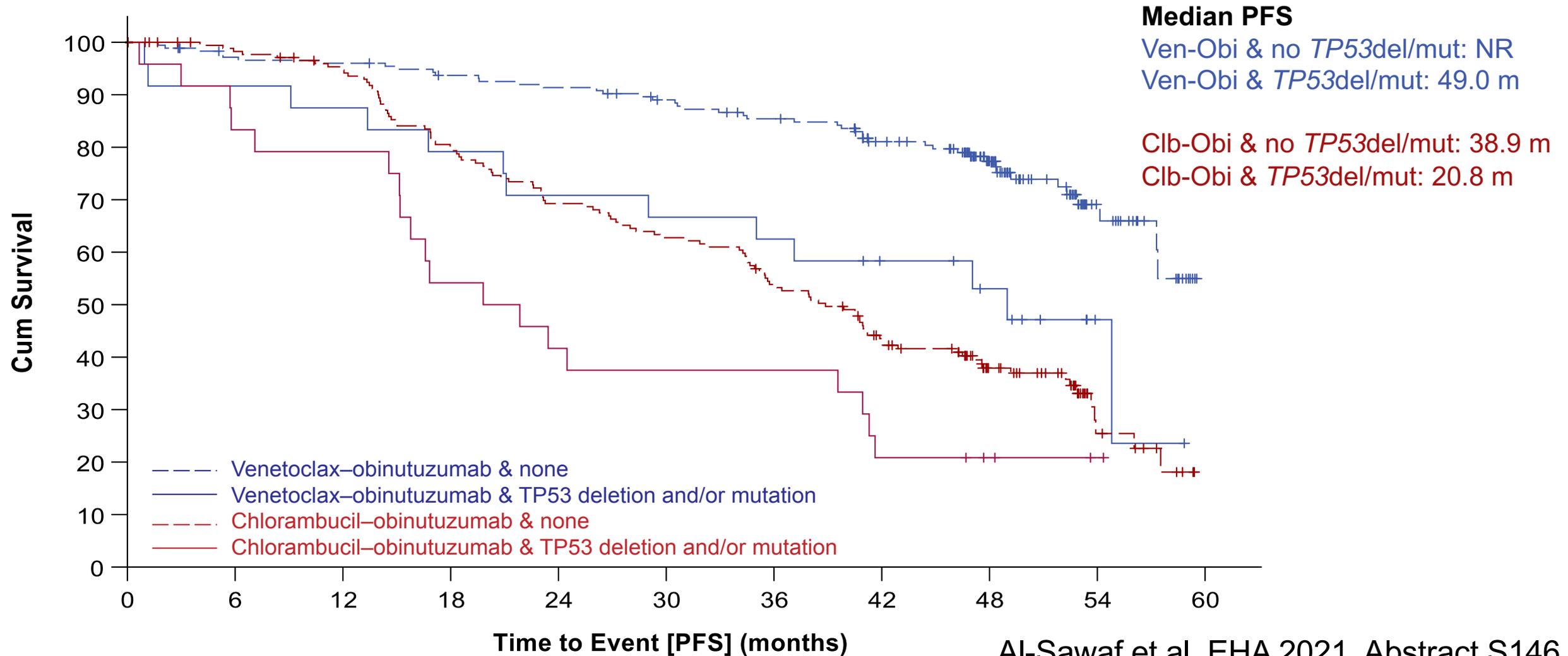
Clb-Obi: 35.4%

HR 0.33, 95% CI [0.25-0.45]

P<0.0001

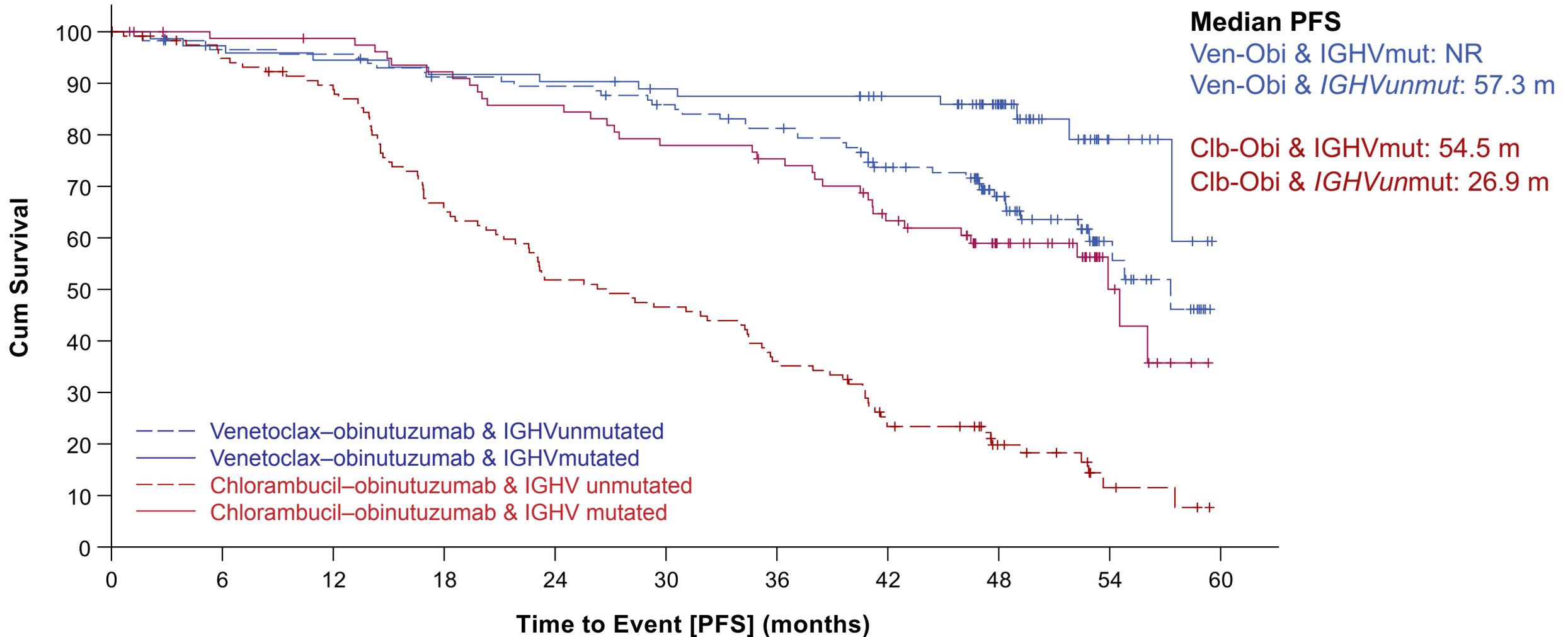
# Progression-free Survival – *TP53* Status

Median observation time 52.4 months

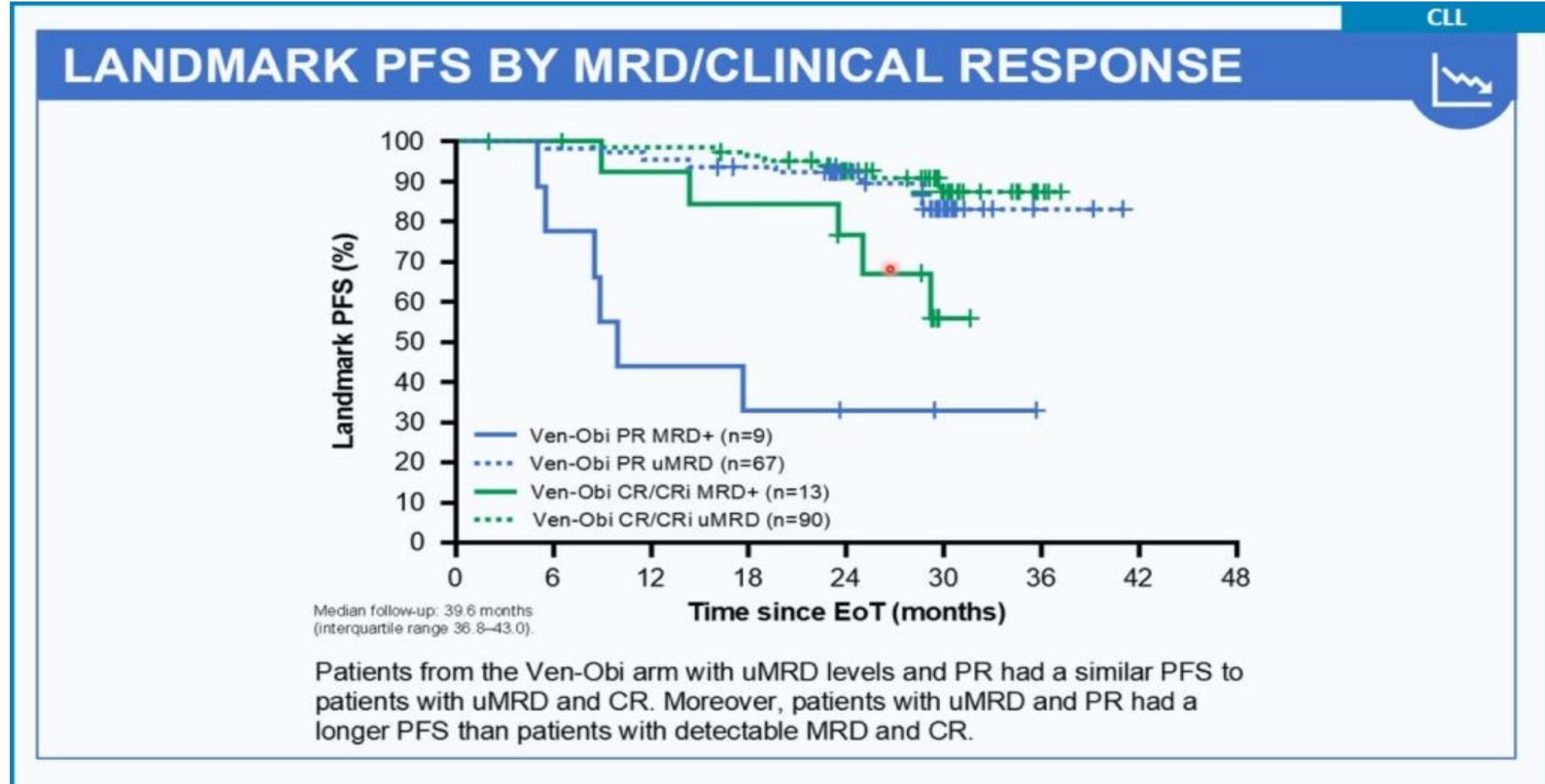


# Progression-free Survival – IGHV Status

Median observation time 52.4 months



# uMRD associated with improved responses



# Venetoclax vs Ibrutinib: Grade 3-4 events

	Venetoclax- Obinutuzumab (CLL14)	Ibrutinib (Alliance)
Number of patients, N	212	180
Follow up	28 months	38 months
Neutropenia	53 %	8 %
Thrombocytopenia	14 %	5 %
Anemia	8 %	7 %
Febrile neutropenia	5 %	2 %
Infections	18 %	16 %
Pneumonia	4 %	6%

# BTKi- vs. BCL-2i-based Treatment

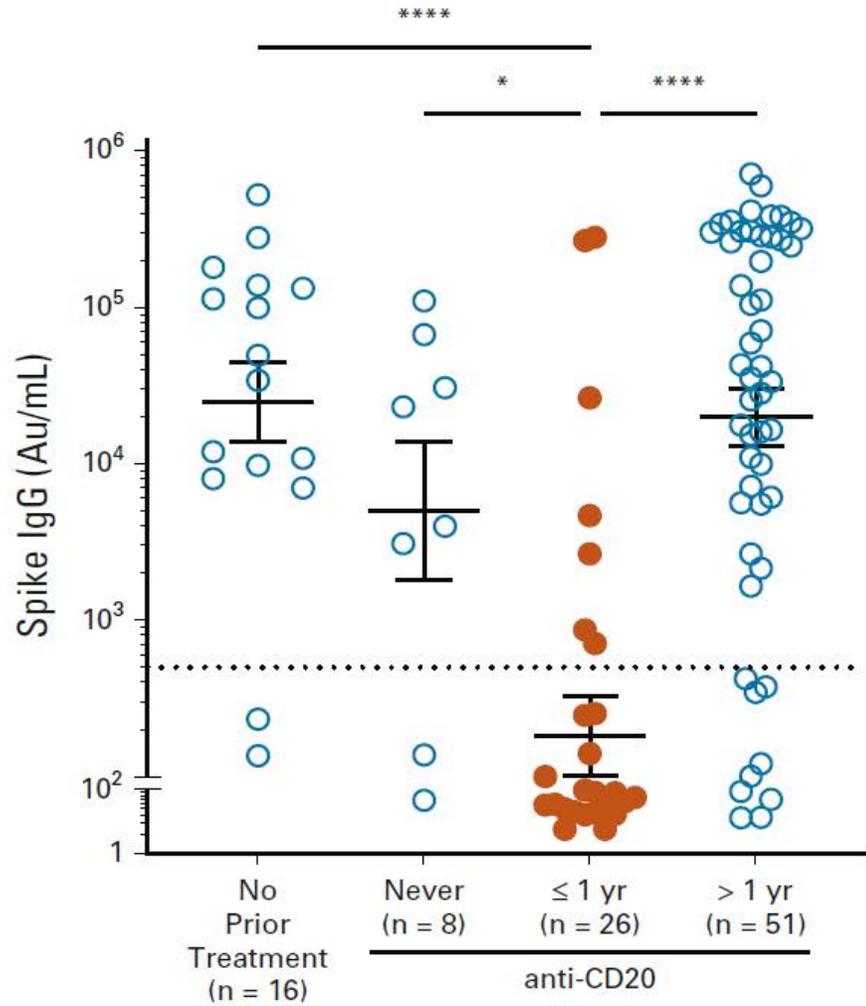
## BTK Inhibitor

- Easy initiation
- Continuous and indefinite therapy
- Very low TLS risk
- More cardiac risk

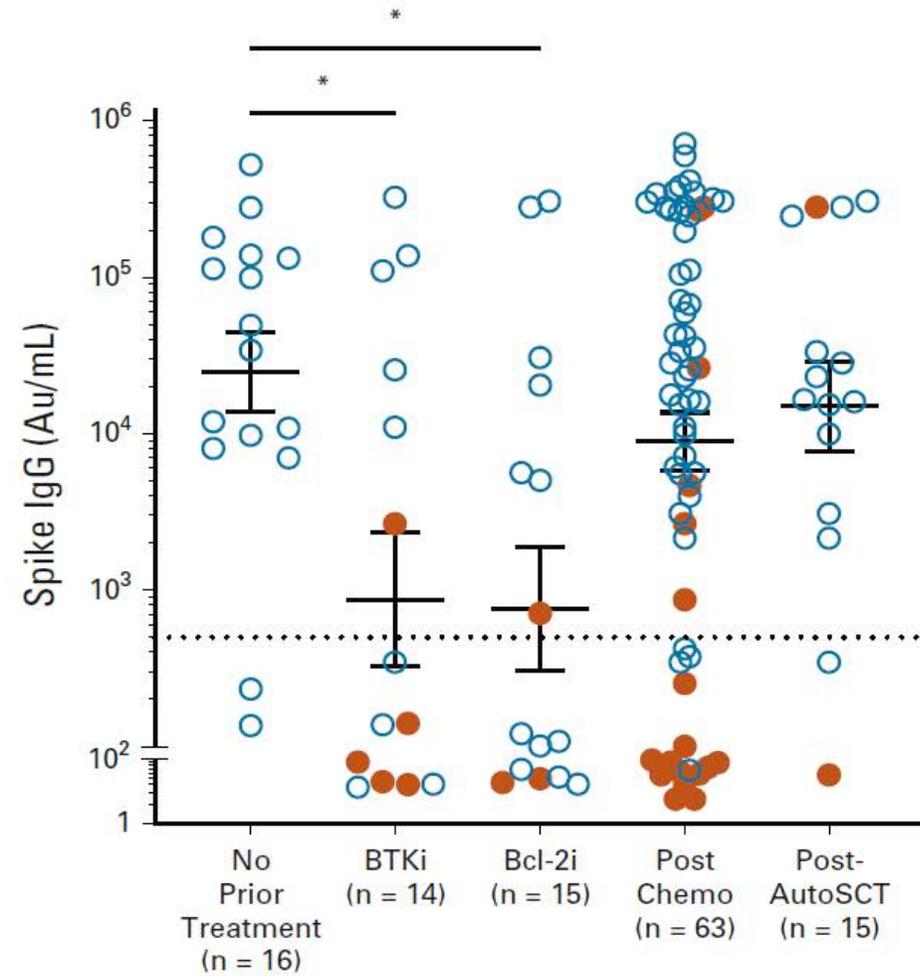
## BCL-2 Inhibitor

- Risk for TLS requires monitoring for initiation
- Includes CD20 mAb – immunosuppression
- Fixed duration
- GFR sensitivity
- Concern for del(17p)/mutated-*TP53*

# COVID Vaccination Efficacy



Lymphoma-Directed Therapy



Lymphoma-Directed Therapy

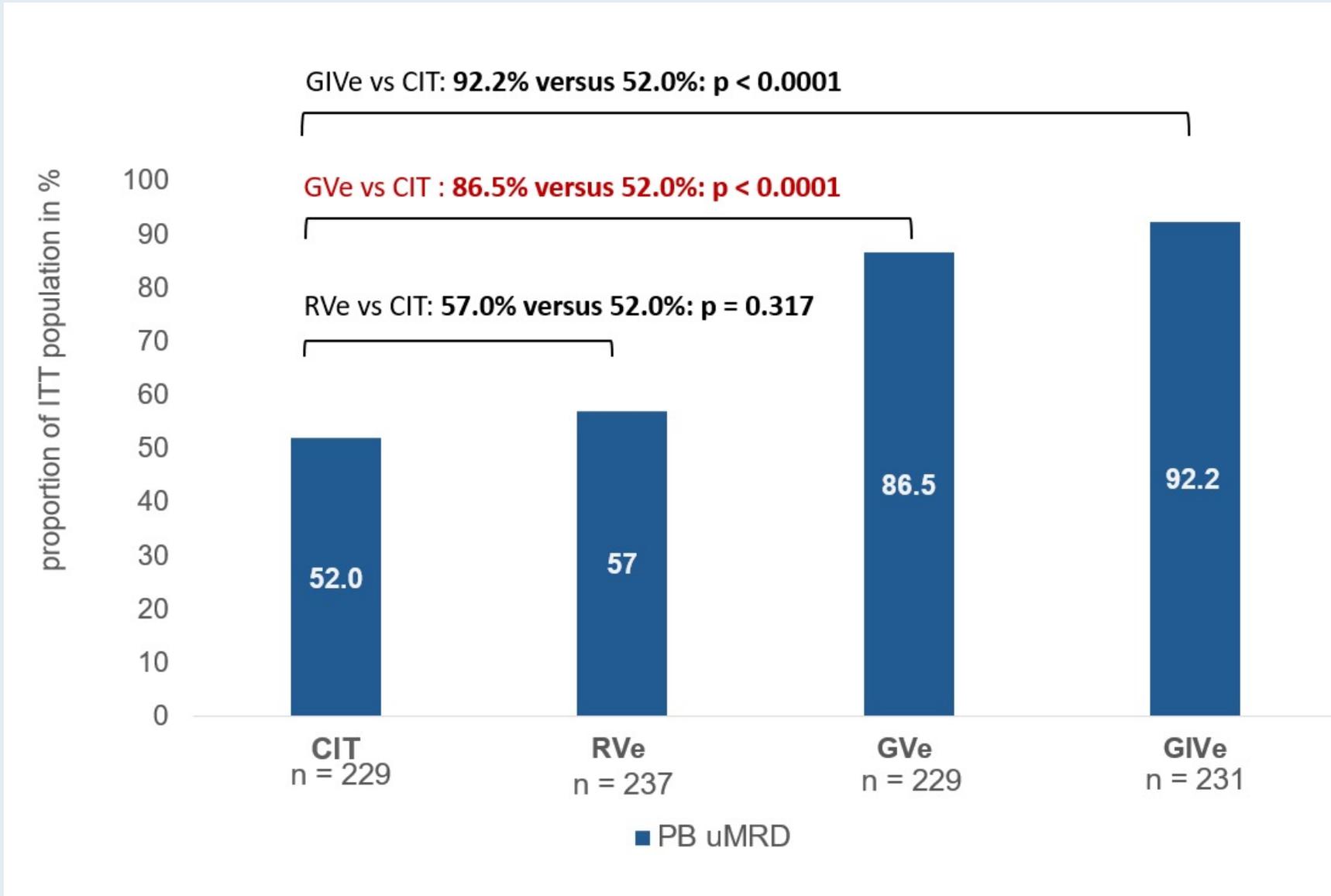
# Appendix

# **A Randomized Phase III Study of Venetoclax-Based Time-Limited Combination Treatments (RVe, GVe, GIVe) vs Standard Chemoimmunotherapy (CIT: FCR/BR) in Frontline Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL) of Fit Patients: First Co-Primary Endpoint Analysis of the International Intergroup GAIA (CLL13) Trial**

Eichhorst B et al.

ASH 2021;Abstract 71.

# GAIA/CLL13 Coprimary Endpoint: Undetectable MRD (uMRD, $<10^{-4}$ ) at Month 15 in Peripheral Blood by 4-Color Flow



## CIT

- BR >65
- $\leq$ FCR 65

## RVe

Rituximab/venetoclax

## GVe

Obinutuzumab/venetoclax

## GIVe

Obinutuzumab/ibrutinib/venetoclax

Abstract S148

## Venetoclax-Obinutuzumab for previously untreated chronic lymphocytic leukemia: 5-year results of the randomized CLL14 study

Othman Al-Sawaf, Can Zhang, Sandra Robrecht, Alex Kotak, Naomi Chang, Anna Maria Fink, Eugen Tausch,  
Christof Schneider, Matthias Ritgen, Karl-Anton Kreuzer, Brenda Chyla, Barbara Eichhorst, Yanwen Jiang,  
Stephan Stilgenbauer, Michael Hallek, Kirsten Fischer

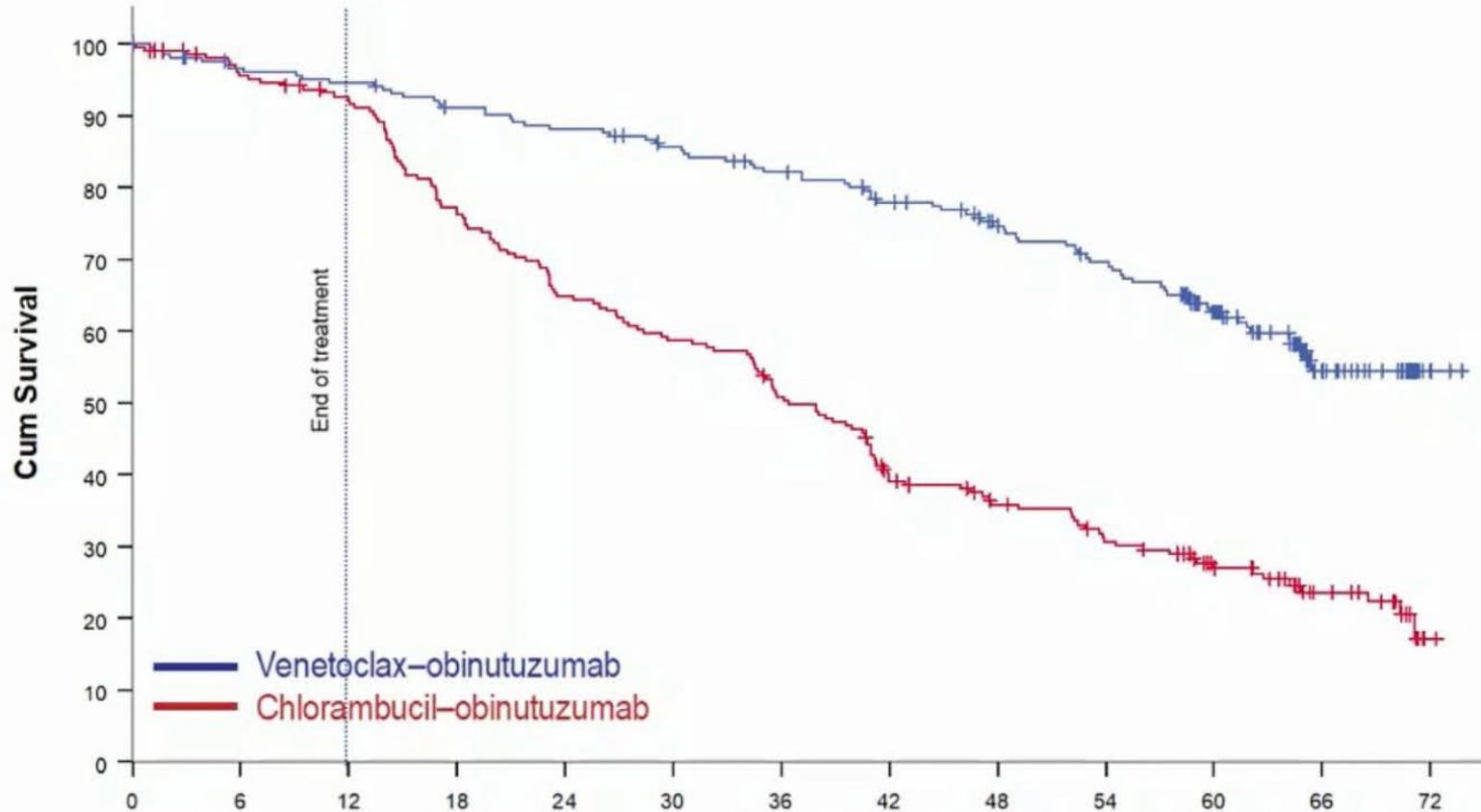
June 12th, 2022  
Clinical CLL Session



**Othman Al-Sawaf**

# CLL14: Progression-Free Survival

Median observation time 65.4 months



## Median PFS

Ven-Obi: not reached

Clb-Obi: 36.4 months

## 5-year PFS rate

Ven-Obi: 62.6%

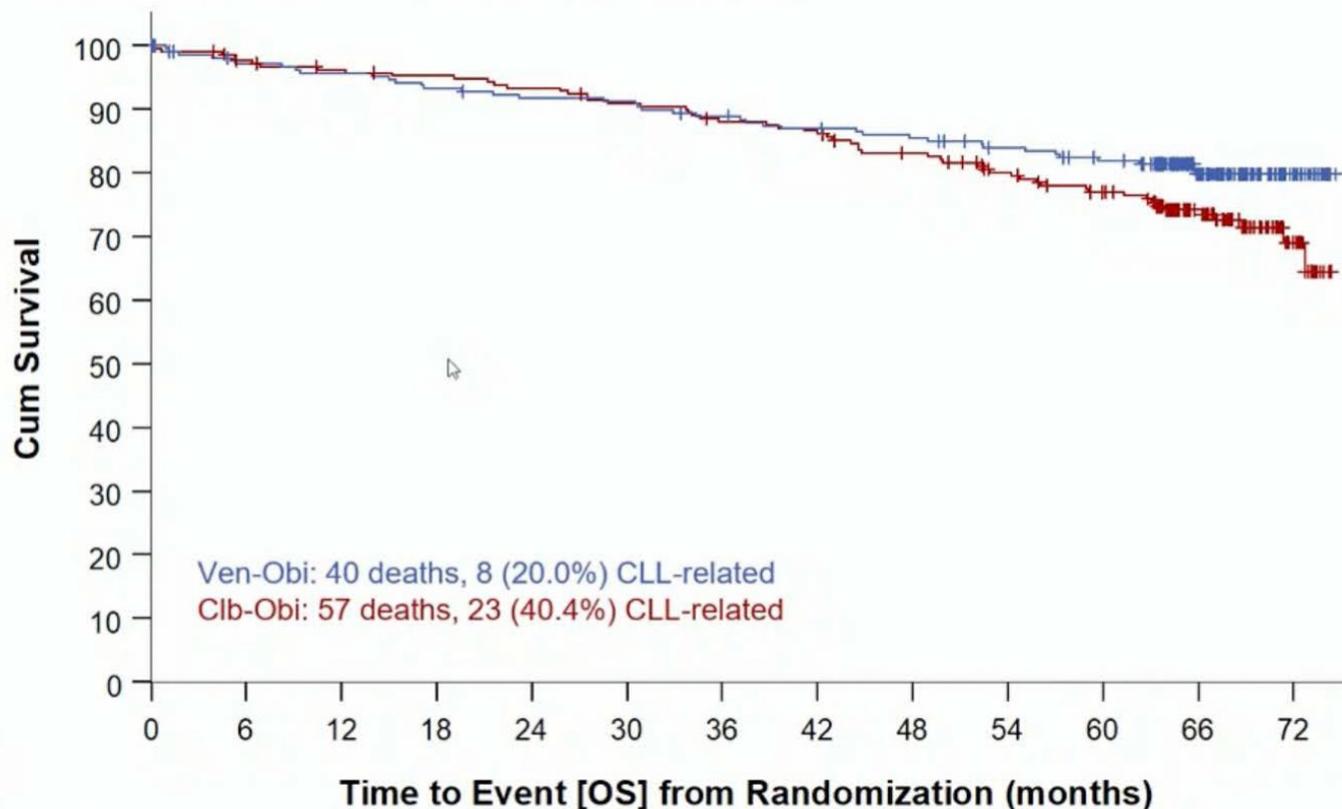
Clb-Obi: 27.0%

HR 0.35, 95% CI [0.26-0.46]

P<0.0001

# CLL14: Overall Survival

Median observation time 65.4 months



**Median OS**  
 Ven-Obi: not reached  
 Clb-Obi: not reached

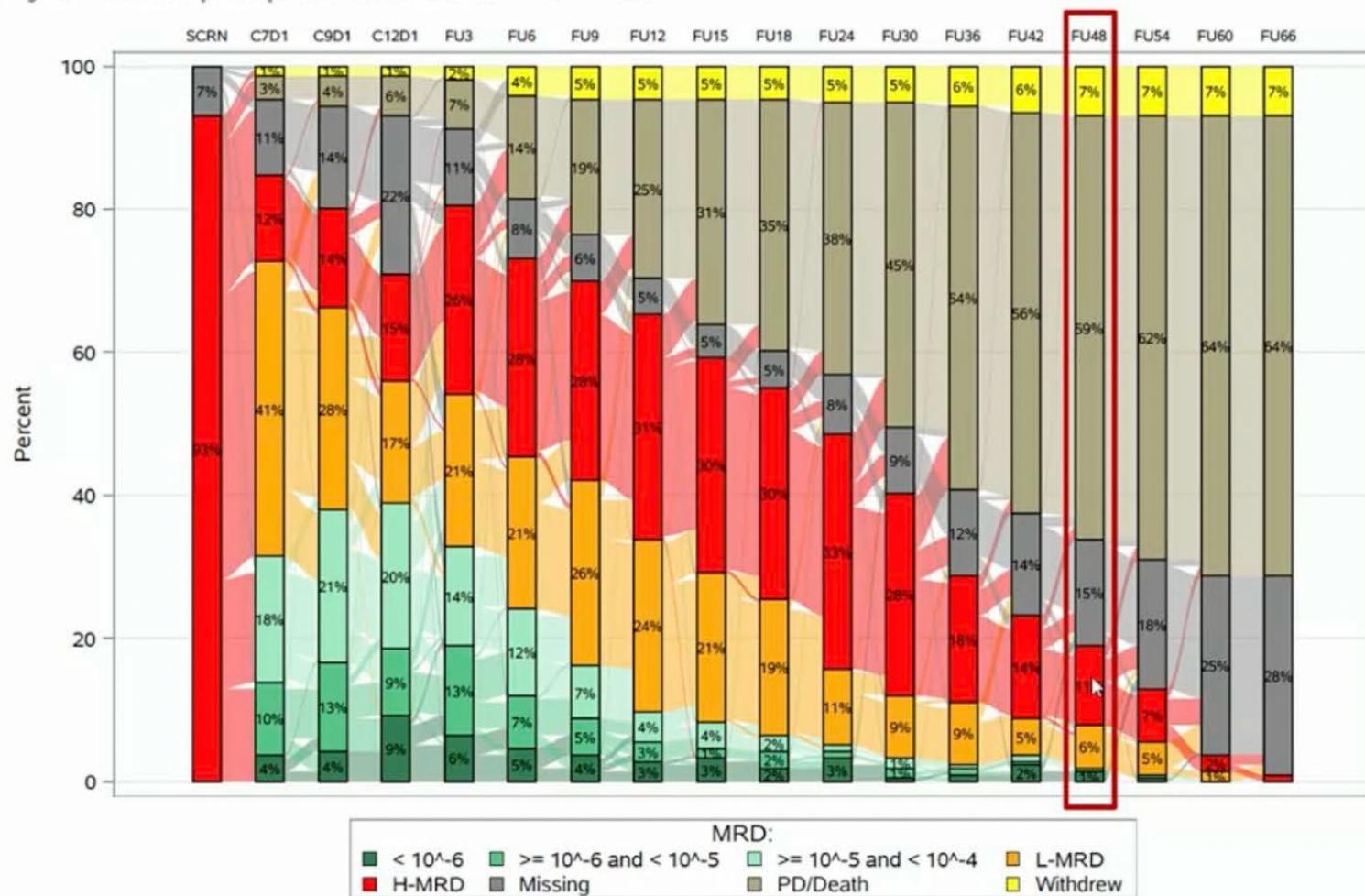
**5-year OS rate**  
 Ven-Obi: 81.9%  
 Clb-Obi: 77.0%

HR 0.72, 95% CI [0.48-1.09]  
 P=0.12

Ven-Obi	216	201	198	193	189	188	182	177	173	166	159	97	25
Clb-Obi	216	206	201	198	194	188	181	177	167	155	144	101	21

# CLL14: Longitudinal MRD Assessments

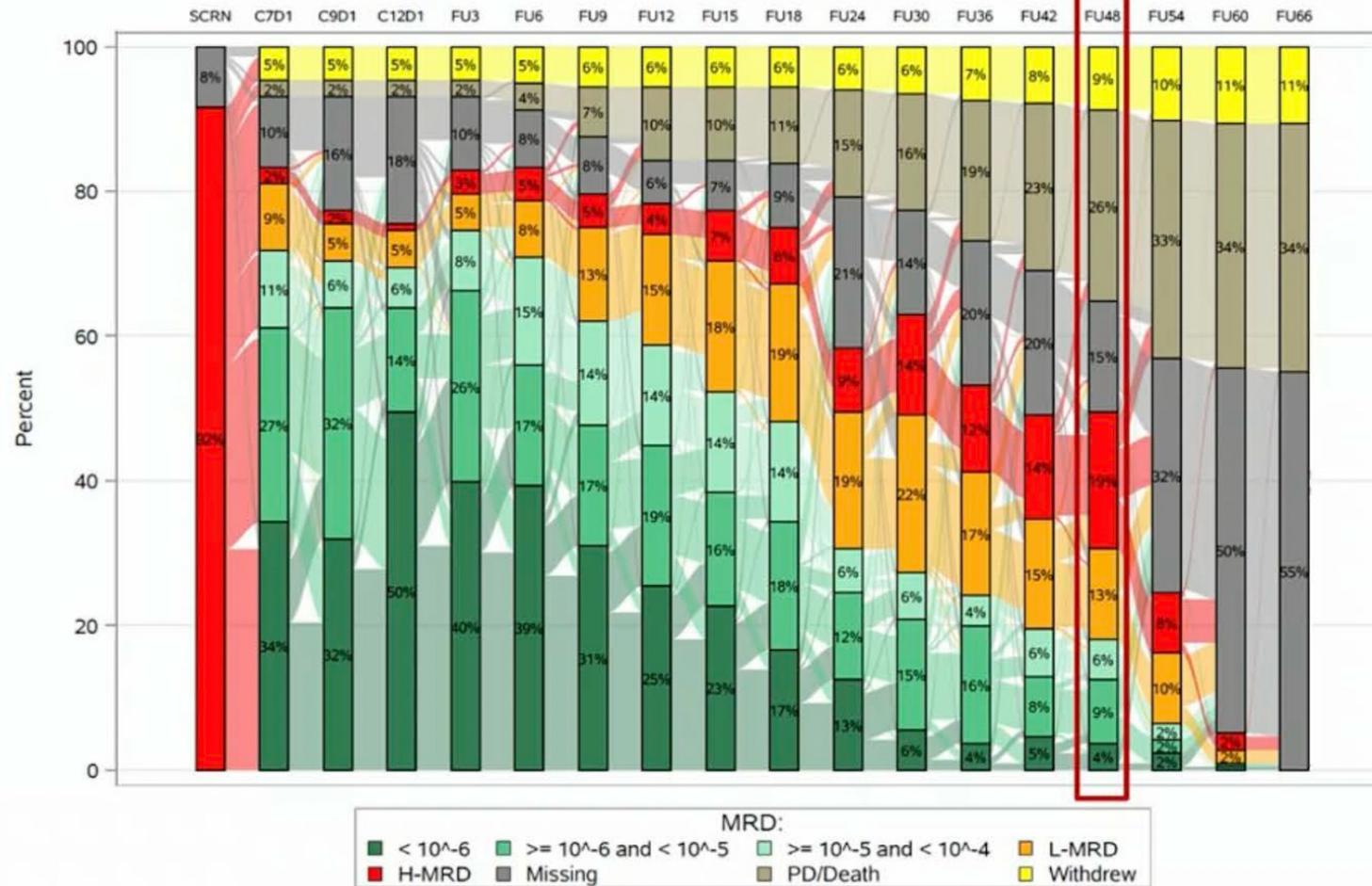
By NGS in peripheral blood: Clb-Obi



4 years after Clb-Obi, **4 (1.9%)** of patients had sustained MRD  $< 10^{-4}$ .

# CLL14: Longitudinal MRD Assessments

By NGS in peripheral blood: Ven-Obi



4 years after Ven-Obi, **39 (18.1%)** of patients had sustained MRD  $< 10^{-4}$ .

*Lancet Oncol* 2022 August;23(8):1031-43.

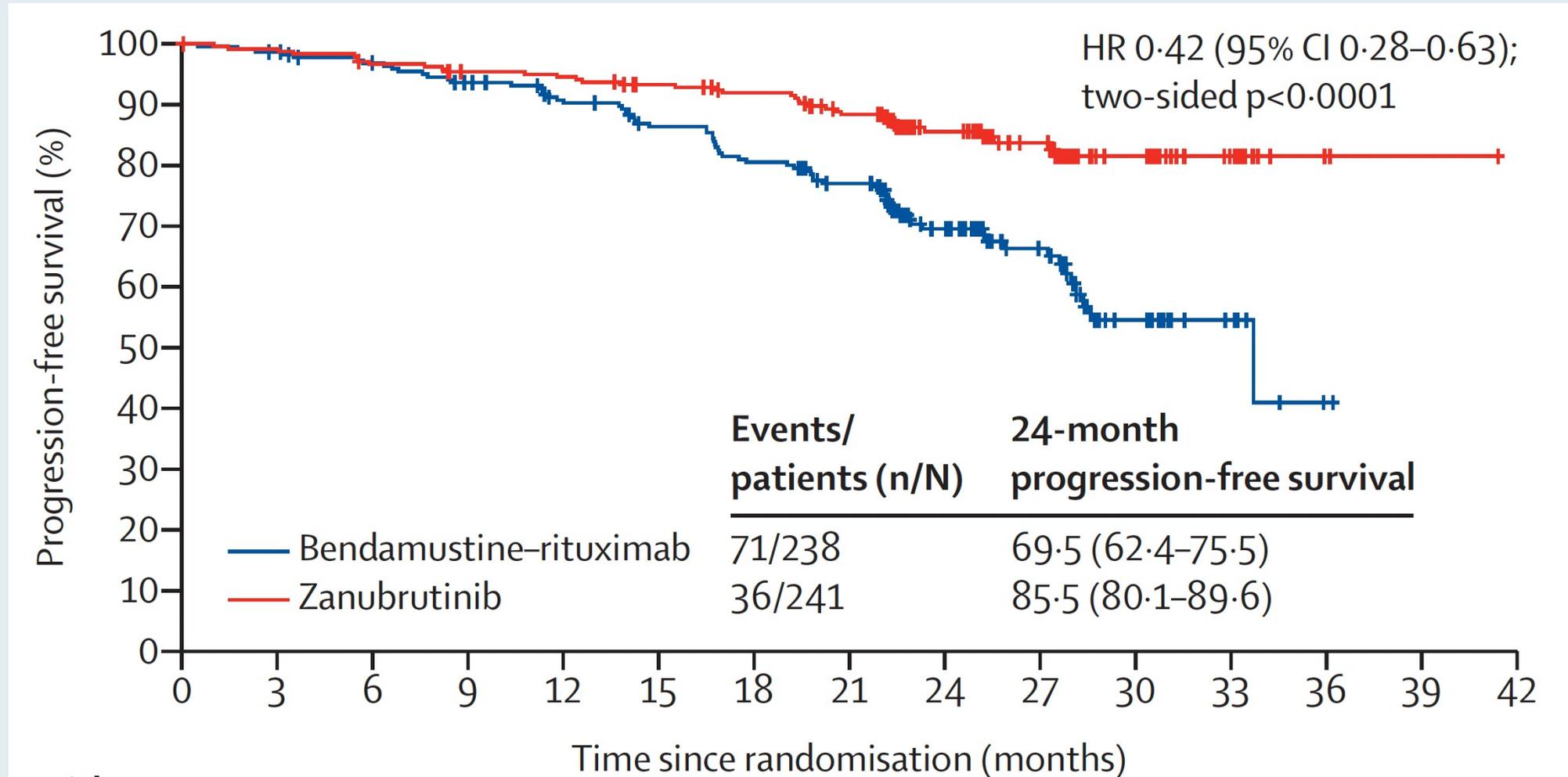
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# Zanubrutinib versus bendamustine and rituximab in untreated chronic lymphocytic leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma (SEQUOIA): a randomised, controlled, phase 3 trial

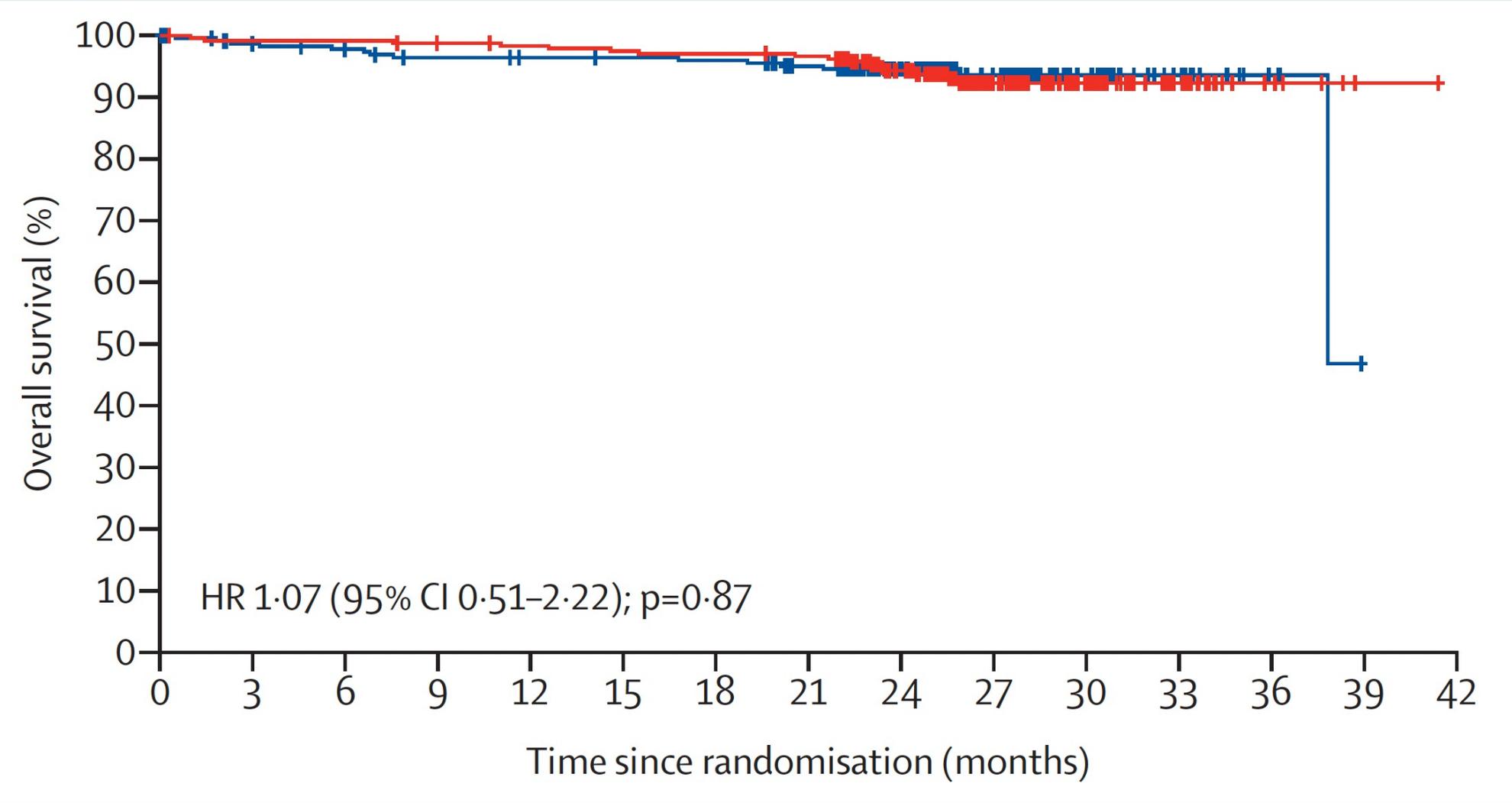


*Constantine S Tam, Jennifer R Brown, Brad S Kahl, Paolo Ghia, Krzysztof Giannopoulos, Wojciech Jurczak, Martin Šimkovič, Mazyar Shadman, Anders Österborg, Luca Laurenti, Patricia Walker, Stephen Opat, Henry Chan, Hanna Ciepluch, Richard Greil, Monica Tani, Marek Trněný, Danielle M Brander, Ian W Flinn, Sebastian Grosicki, Emma Verner, Alessandra Tedeschi, Jianyong Li, Tian Tian, Lei Zhou, Carol Marimpietri, Jason C Paik, Aileen Cohen, Jane Huang, Tadeusz Robak\*, Peter Hillmen\**

# SEQUOIA: Progression-Free Survival by IRC (ITT)



# SEQUOIA: Overall Survival



**The combination of ibrutinib plus venetoclax results in a high rate of MRD negativity in previously untreated CLL: The results of the planned interim analysis of the Phase III NCRI *Flair* Trial**

**Peter Hillmen**, Alexandra Pitchford, Adrian Bloor, Andrew Pettitt, Piers Patten, Francesco Forconi, Anna Schuh, Christopher Fox, Simona Gatto, Ben Kennedy, John Gribben, Nicholas Pemberton, Oonagh Sheehy, Gavin Preston, Dena Howard, Anna Hockaday, David Cairns, Sharon Jackson, Natasha Greatorex, Nichola McWhirter, Surita Dalal, Jane Shingles, Kate Cwynarski, Shankara Paneesha, David Allsup, Andrew Rawstron, Talha Munir  
on behalf of the NCRI CLL sub-group.

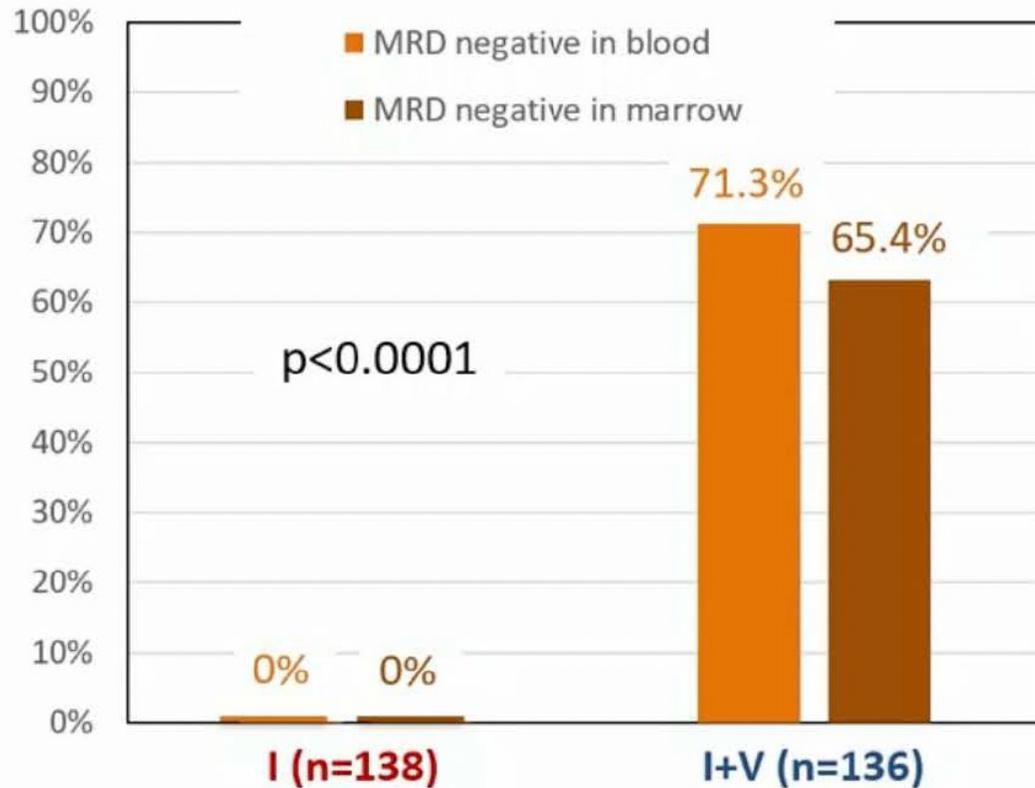


**Peter Hillmen**

Abstract No: S145, Oral Presentation, EHA Annual Meeting  
Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> 2022



# FLAIR Primary Endpoint: MRD Negativity at 2 Years



N (%), Exact 95% CI	I (n=138)	I+V (n=136)
MRD Negative in the marrow	0 [0%, 2.64%]	89 (65.4%) [56.81%, 73.38%]
MRD Negative in the blood	0 [0%, 2.64%]	97 (71.3%) [62.95%, 78.75%]

- MRD assessed by 8-colour flow cytometry
- MRD negative defined by IWCLL criteria of <math>< 1</math> CLL cell in 10,000 leucocytes