



**HOT  
NEWS**

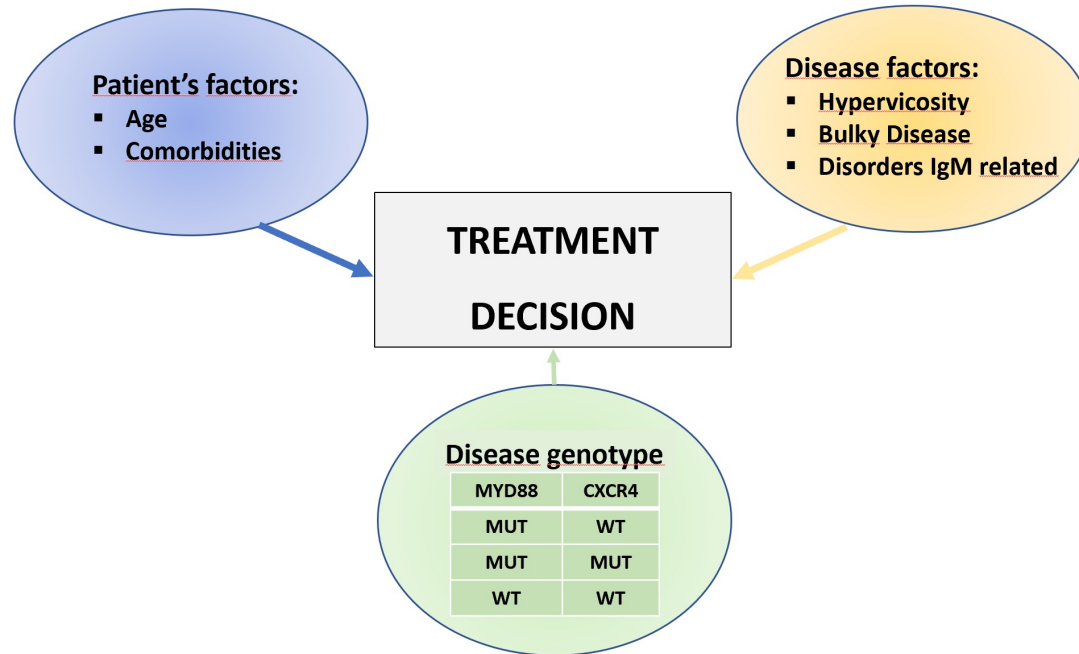
**IN HEMATOLOGY**

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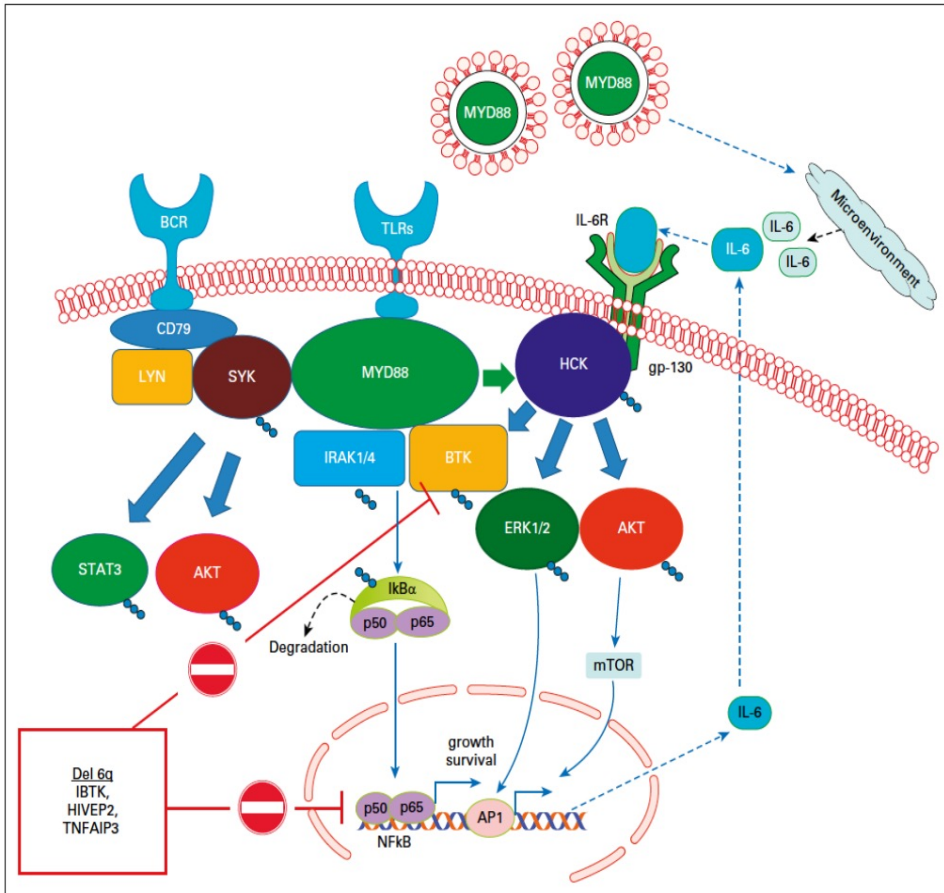
## **MACROGLOBULINEMIA DI WALDENSTROM**

*Alessandra Tedeschi  
Division of Hematology  
Niguarda Hospital, Milano*

# WM TREATMENT



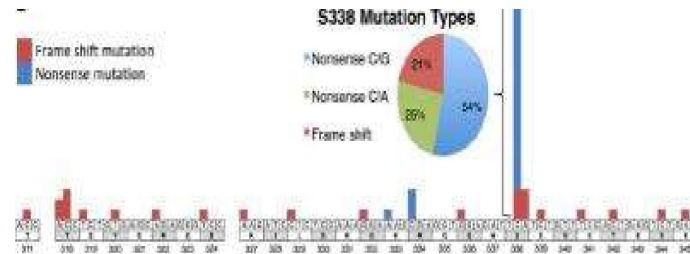
# MYD88 in WM



- ~ 95% of WM patients carry the somatic mutation of MYD88 (L265P)
- MYD88, IRAK1/IRAK4 and BTK are components of the Myddosome complex that activates NFκB
- Mutated MYD88 upregulates hematopoietic cell kinase (HCK) transcription and activates HCK via IL-6. Activated HCK promotes survival through BTK, PI3K/AKT and MAPK/ERK1/2
- Evidence of cross talk between mutated MYD88 and BCR pathway with SYK activation that triggers STAT3 and AKT prosurvival signaling

# CXCR4 in WM

- ❖ Over 30 nonsense (NS) or frameshift (FS) C-tail mutations
- ❖ The most common CXCR4 mutation is S338X (~ 50% of all CXCR4 mutations)
- ❖ Similar to germline mutations typical of WHIM syndrome
- ❖ Detected in 30-40% of WM patients, and usually associated with MYD88 mutations



## **PATIENTS WITH CXCR4 mutations**

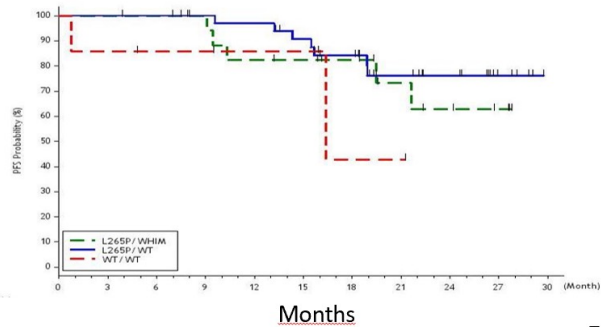
- ✓ **higher IgM levels**
- ✓ **higher incidence of hyperviscosity**
- ✓ **higher BM infiltration**
- ✓ **shorter time to first treatment**

*Treon SP et al, 2014;  
Poulain S et al, 2016;  
Schmidt J et al, 2015;  
Treon SP et al, 2015.*

# WM TREATMENT

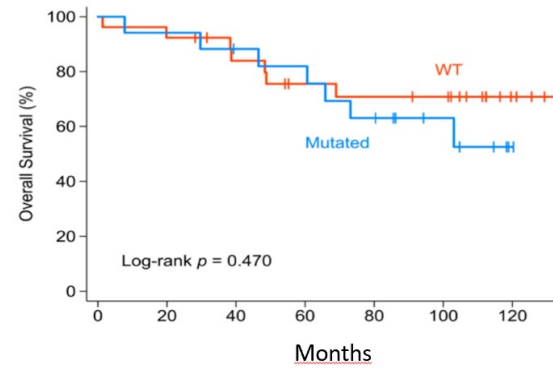
## PFS according to MYD88 & CXCR4 mutation status

### Ibrutinib Monotherapy R/R

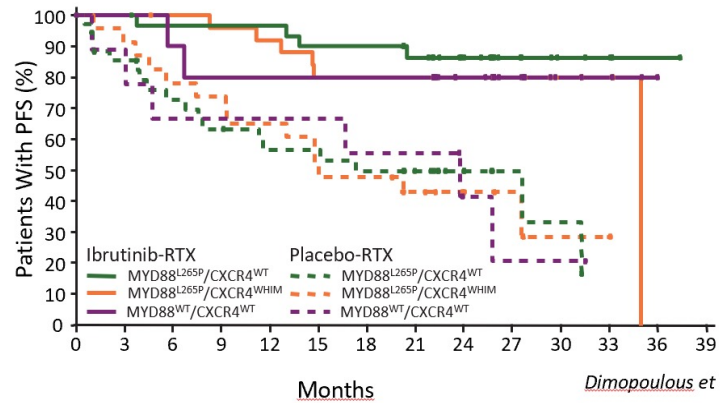


Treon et al, 2015

### Bortezomib Rituximab First Line according to CXCR4

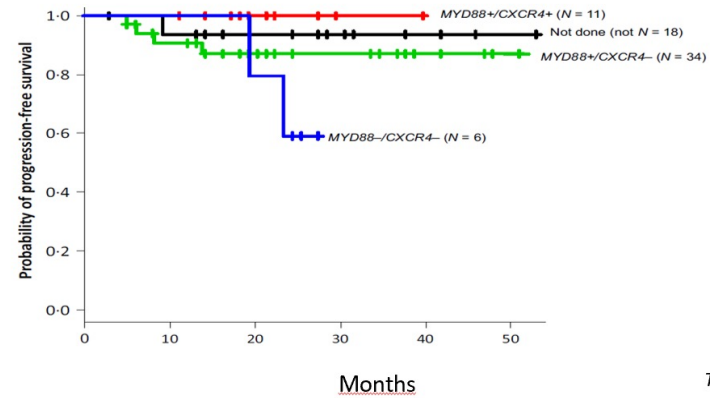


Sklavenitis et al, 2018



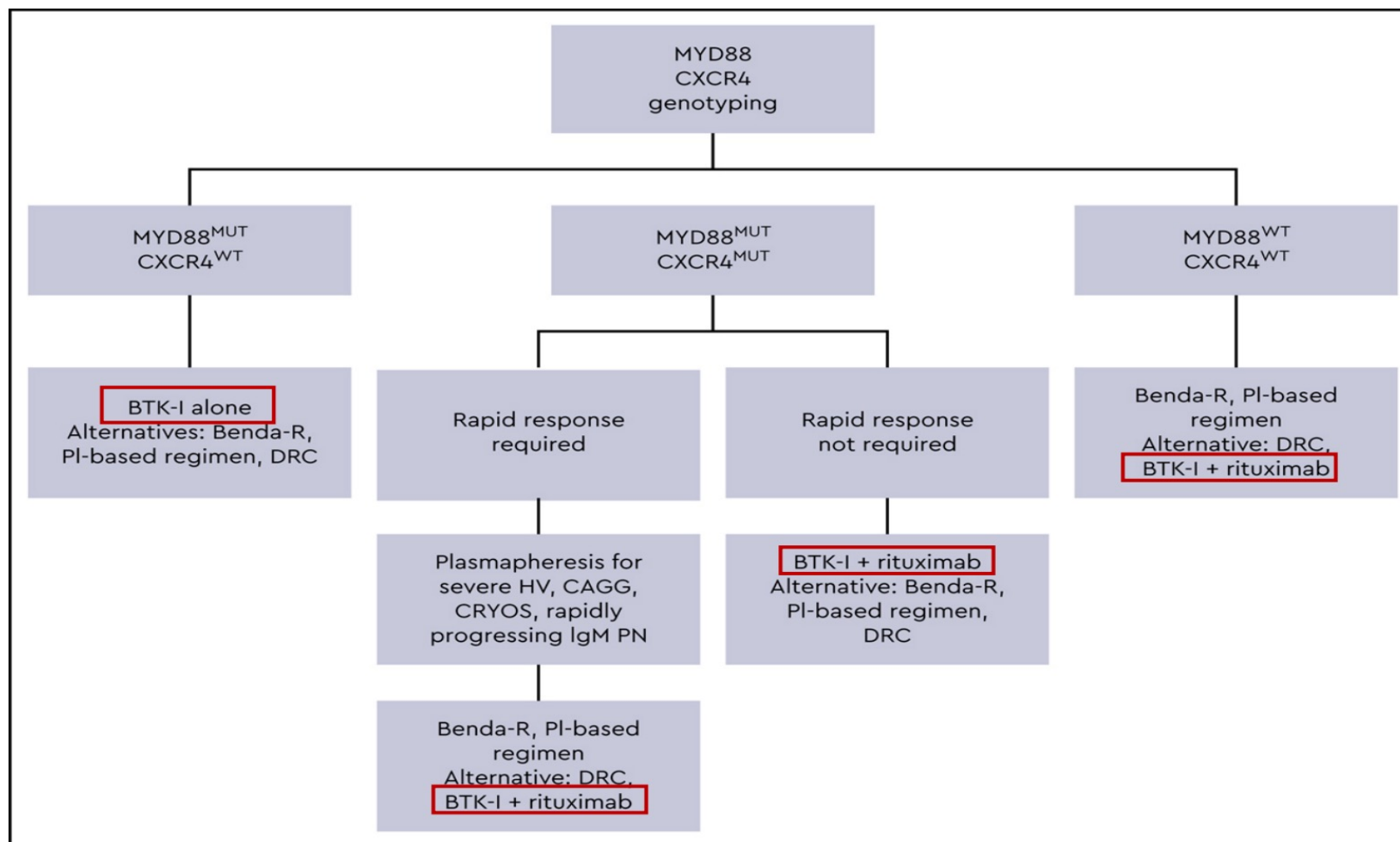
Dimopoulos et al 2018

### Bendamustine Rituximab First Line



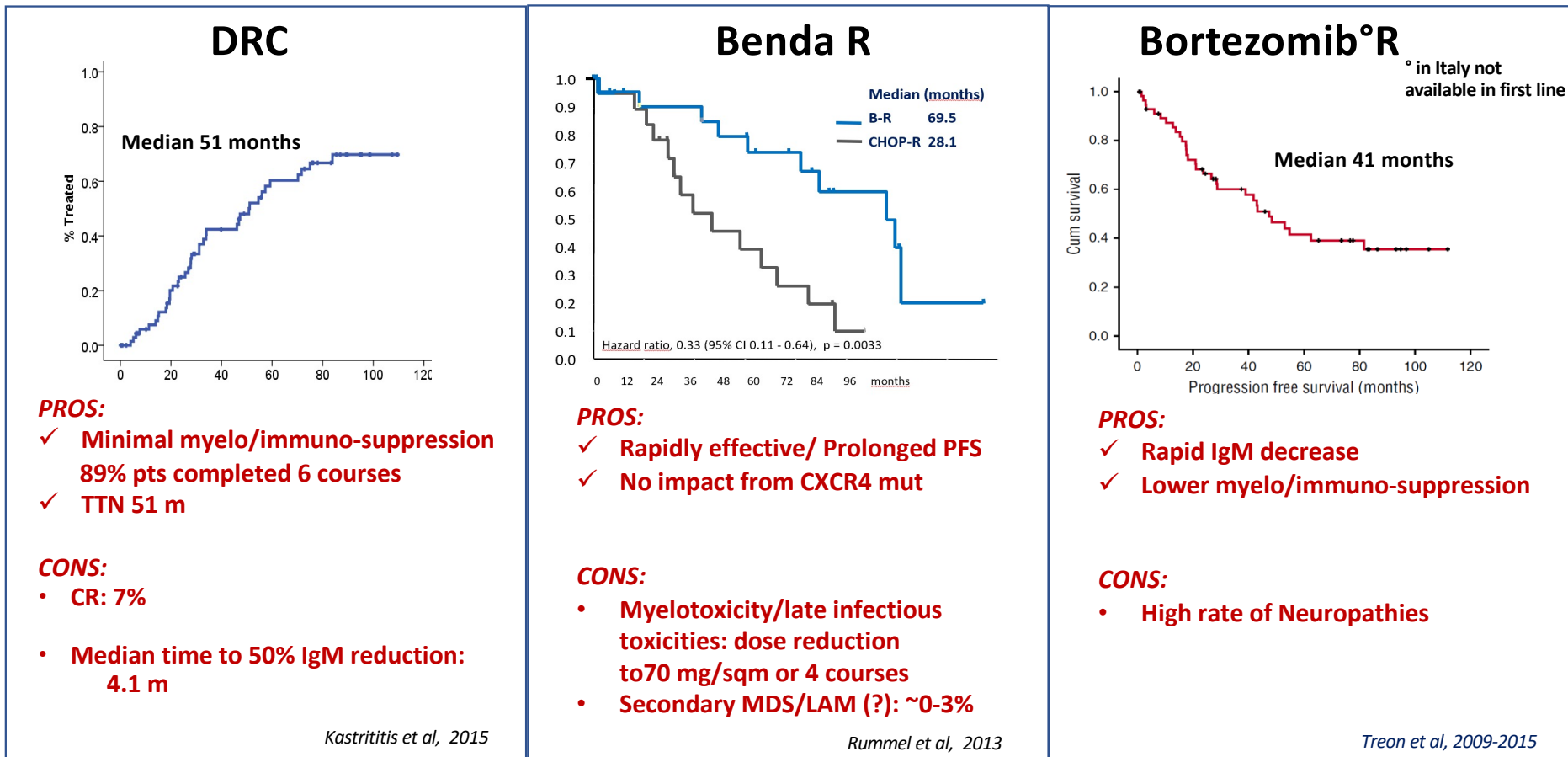
Tricot et al, 2018

# WM: Genomic based treatment algorithm



# WM TREATMENT FIRST LINE TREATMENT

## Rituximab Combination Treatment



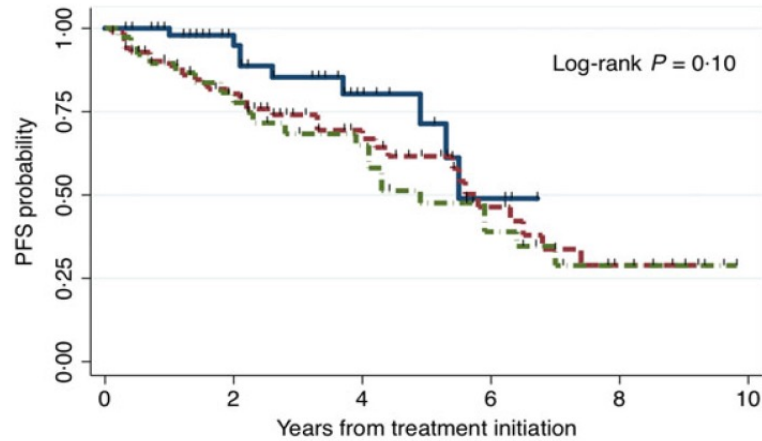
# WM TREATMENT FIRST LINE TREATMENT

## *Response and survival for primary therapy and maintenance rituximab*

Benda-R 57 pts (31%)  
 BDR 87 pts (48%)  
 CDR 38 pts (21%)

No difference in response rates

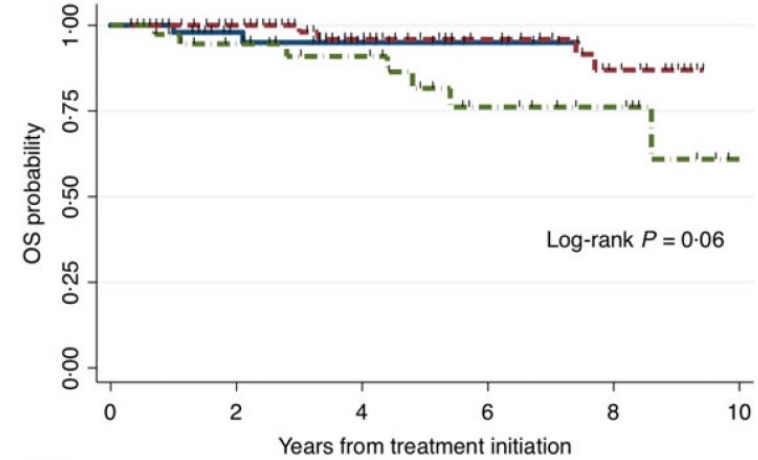
(A)



Number at risk						
	0	2	4	6	8	10
Benda-R	57	32	12	3	0	0
BDR	85	54	27	12	4	0
CDR	38	27	19	9	4	0



(A)



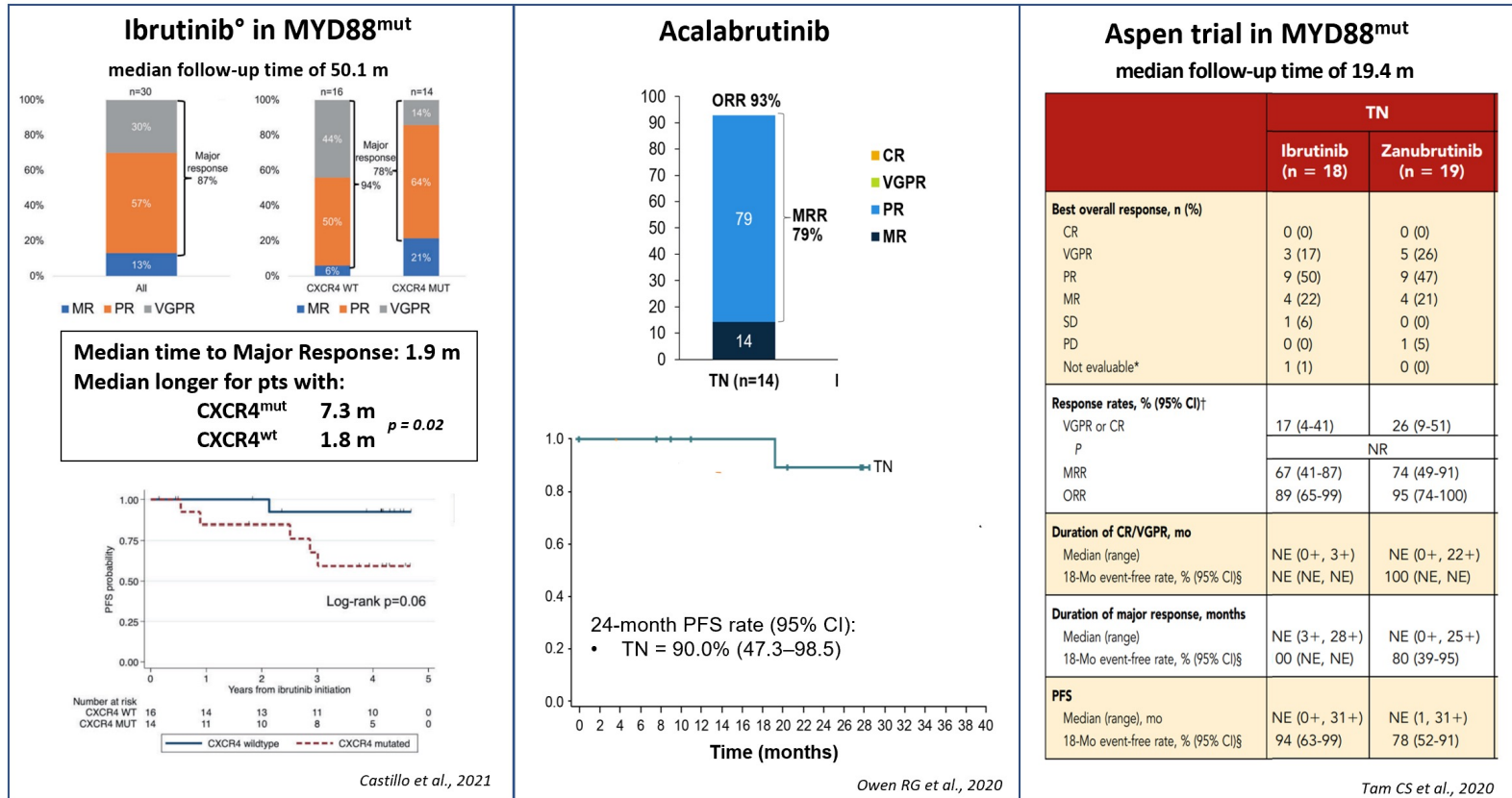
Number at risk						
	0	2	4	6	8	10
Benda-R	57	33	13	5	0	0
BDR	85	70	39	27	17	2
CDR	38	30	22	12	8	1





# WM TREATMENT FIRST LINE TREATMENT

## BTKi\*



\* approved by EMA in unfit PTS not reimbursed in Italy

# WM TREATMENT FIRST LINE TREATMENT

## *Rituximab combination treatments*



Effective, Long Time to Retreatment



Fixed duration



Myelosuppression/Immunosuppression

## *BTKi*



Effective, prolonged PFS



Continuous treatment



Resistance Development

# WM TREATMENT FIRST LINE TREATMENT

UNFIT PATIENTS → UNMET CLINICAL NEED

## Rituximab mono

ORR 44-65%

Short PFS

**Effective in specific  
IgM related disease symptoms**

Gertz et al , 2009  
Dimopoulos et al, 2010

# Consensus treatment recommendations from the tenth International Workshop for Waldenström Macroglobulinaemia



Lancet Haematol 2020;  
7: e827–37

*Jorge J Castillo, Ranjana H Advani, Andrew R Branagan, Christian Buske, Meletios A Dimopoulos, Shirley D'Sa, Marie José Kersten, Veronique Leblond, Monique C Minnema, Roger G Owen, M Lia Palomba, Dipti Talaulikar, Alessandra Tedeschi, Judith Trotman, Marzia Varettoni, Josephine M Vos, Steven P Treon, Efsthios Kastritis*

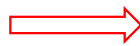
- **CONSENSUS** that CDR, or bendamustine plus rituximab, BDR ibrutinib alone, and ibrutinib plus rituximab
  - are preferred options as **primary therapy**
  - these regimens can also be used in the management of **relapsed or refractory pts**
- **NO** consensus on which treatment regimen provides the best safety and efficacy profile.  
central to this lack of consensus is the absence of prospective randomised studies
- **NO** consensus on the recommendations for fixed or indefinite duration regimens
- **CONSENSUS** that there are currently noconvincing data to recommend the combination of ibrutinib and rituximab over ibrutinib alone.

**THE CHOICE OF PRIMARY AND SUBSEQUENT THERAPY SHOULD BE PERSONALISED  
CONSIDERING THE: TOXICITY PROFILE**

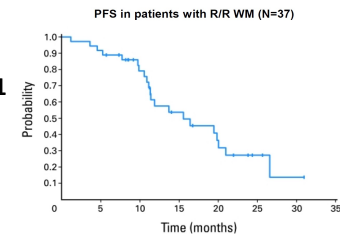
**ADMINISTRATION SCHEDULE AND ROUTE  
DRUG ACCESSIBILITY  
PTS PREFERENCE**

# RELAPSED/REFRACTORY WM

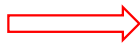
Long Reponse Duration



- ✓ Repeat First Line Treatment
- ✓ Change Rituximab Combination Treatment
- Bortezomib R<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ BTKi<sup>°</sup>



Short Reponse Duration  
Refractory



- ✓ BTKi<sup>°</sup>

<sup>°</sup>EMA approved:

Ibrutinib (AIFA: reimbursed in monotherapy)

Ibrutinib Rituximab (AIFA: not reimbursed)

Zanubrutinib (AIFA: pending)

# RELAPSED/REFRACTORY WM

## Ibrutinib Phase II study

### Baseline characteristics (ibrutinib n=63):

- Median age: 63 (44-86) yrs
- Median n° of prior therapies: 2 (1-9)
- 40% pts refractory to most recent therapy
- Median bone marrow involvement: 60%

Variable	All	<i>MYD88</i> <sup>Mut</sup> <i>CXCR4</i> <sup>WT</sup>	<i>MYD88</i> <sup>Mut</sup> <i>CXCR4</i> <sup>Mut</sup>	<i>MYD88</i> <sup>WT</sup> <i>CXCR4</i> <sup>WT</sup>	<i>P</i>
No. of patients	63	36	22	4	
Overall response rate	57 (90.5)	36 (100.0)	19 (86.4)	2 (50.0)	< .0100
Major response rate	50 (79.4)	35 (97.2)	15 (68.2)	0 (0.0)	< .0001
Categorical responses					
No response	6 (9.5)	0 (0.0)	3 (13.6)	2 (50.0)	< .0001
Minor response	7 (11.1)	1 (2.8)	4 (18.2)	2 (50.0)	
Partial response	31 (49.2)	18 (50.0)	13 (59.1)	0 (0.0)	
Very good partial response	19 (30.2)	17 (47.2)	2 (9.1)	0 (0.0)	
Median time to response, months					
Major response (≥ partial response)	1.8	1.8	4.7	NA	.0200

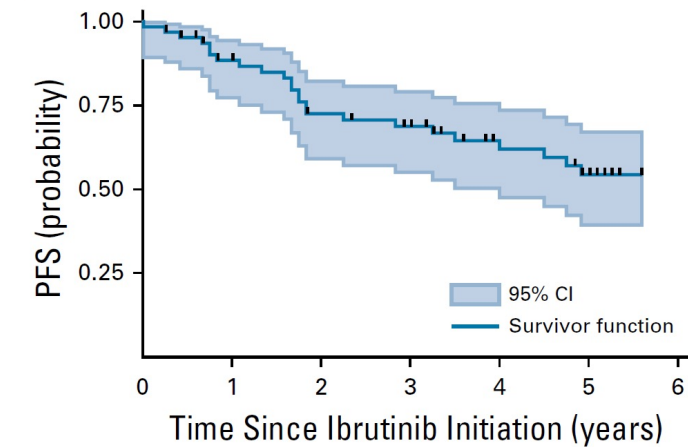
NOTE. Data presented as No. (%). Response rates, including categorical responses and median time to attainment of least a minor and a major response for all patients and those stratified by *MYD88* and *CXCR4* mutation status, are provided. *P* values denote three-way comparisons among genomic cohorts.

Abbreviations: Mut, mutant; NA, not applicable; WM, Waldenström macroglobulinemia; WT, wild type.

# RELAPSED/REFRACTORY WM

## Ibrutinib Phase II study

Median study follow-up: 59 months

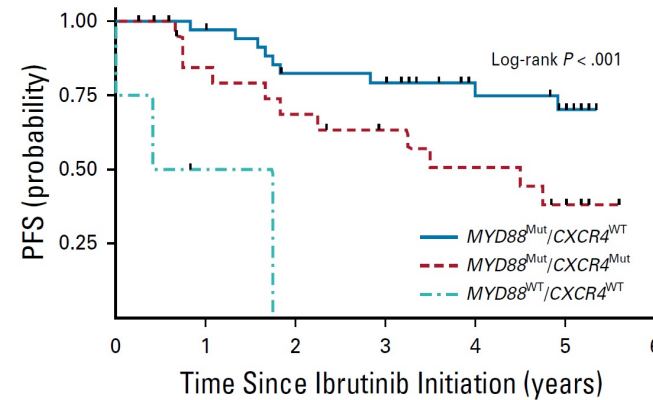


No. at risk:

63 51 39 35 26 19 0

No. at risk:

$MYD88^{Mut}/CXCR4^{WT}$	36	34	26	25	18	14	0
$MYD88^{Mut}/CXCR4^{Mut}$	22	16	13	10	8	5	0
$MYD88^{Mut}/CXCR4^{Mut}$	4	1	0	0	0	0	0

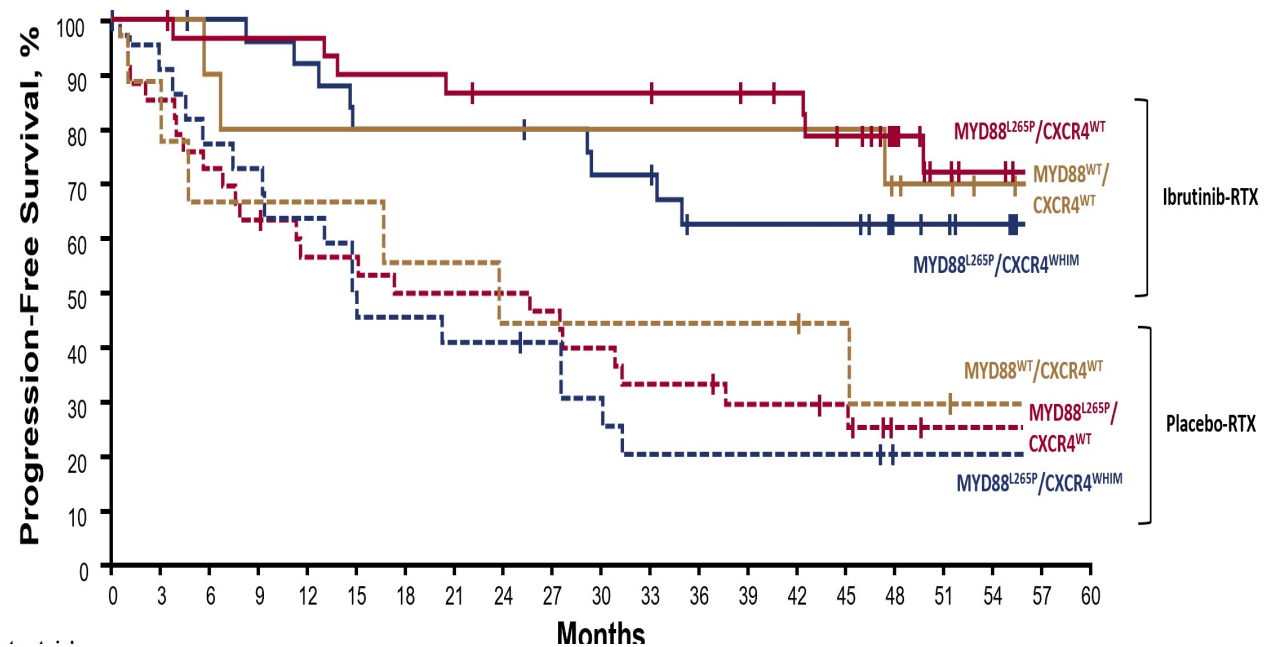
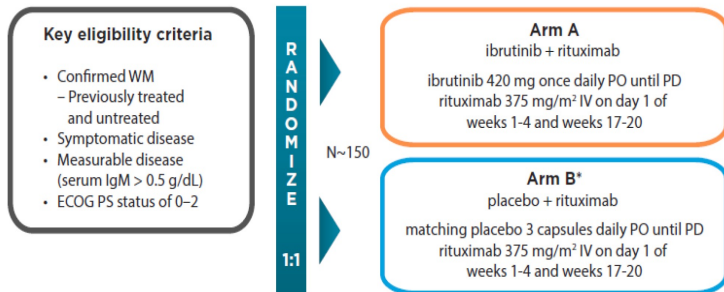


### By multivariable analysis:

- **BM involvement 50%,**
  - **prior treatment with three or more lines of therapy**
  - **presence of  $MYD88^{WT}$ , and  $CXCR4^{Mut}$  disease**
- were significant predictors for shorter PFS**

# RELAPSED/REFRACTORY WM

## Innovate Study: Ibrutinib plus R vs Placebo plus R (Innovate study)





# RELAPSED/REFRACTORY WM

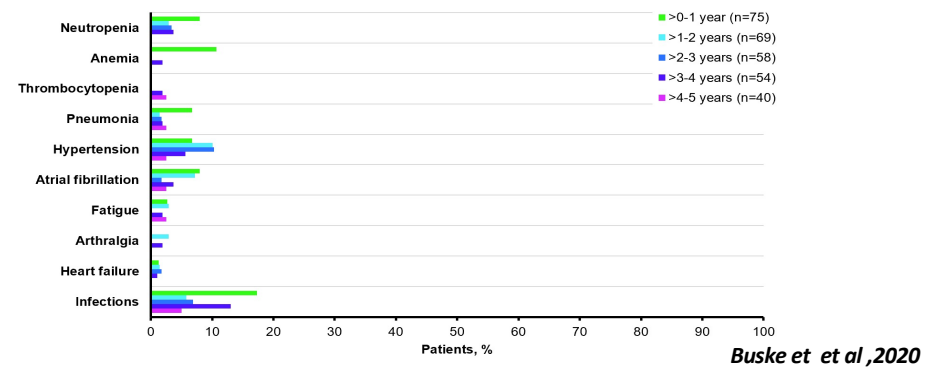
## Ibrutinib Toxicity

Safety in 63 RR pts, median FU 59 m

- 12.7% atrial arrhythmia
- 19% patients experienced dose reductions

*Treon et al. JCO 2020*

## Prevalence of Grade $\geq 3$ AEs of Clinical Interest With Ibrutinib-RTX



# Second generation BTKi

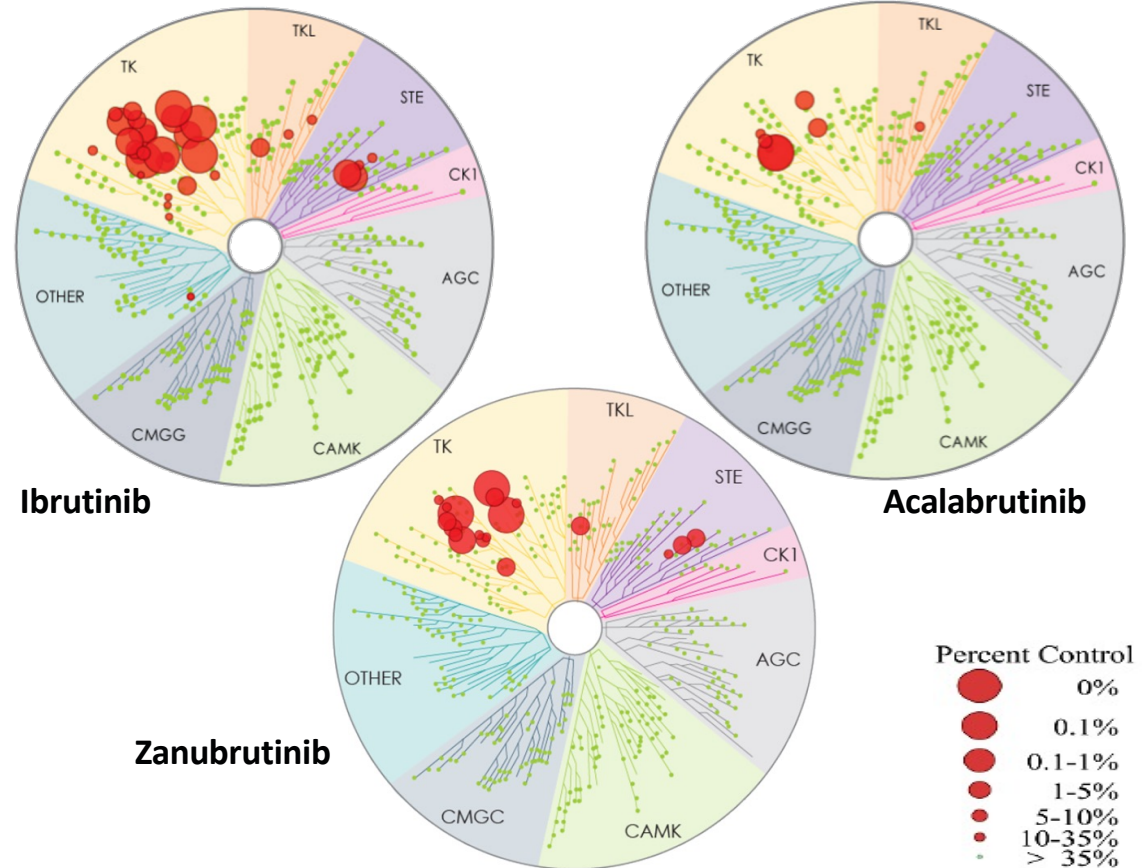
## Kinase Selectivity Profiles

IC<sub>50</sub>/EC<sub>50</sub> (nM)

Kinase	IC <sub>50</sub> /EC <sub>50</sub> (nM)		
	Ibrutinib	Acalabrutinib	Zanubrutinib
BTK	1.5	5.1	0.5
TEC	10	126	44
ITK	4.9	>1000	50
BMX	0.8	46	1.4
EGFR	5.3	>1000	21
ERBB4	3.4	16	6.9
JAK3	32	>1000	1377
BLK	0.1	>1000	2.5

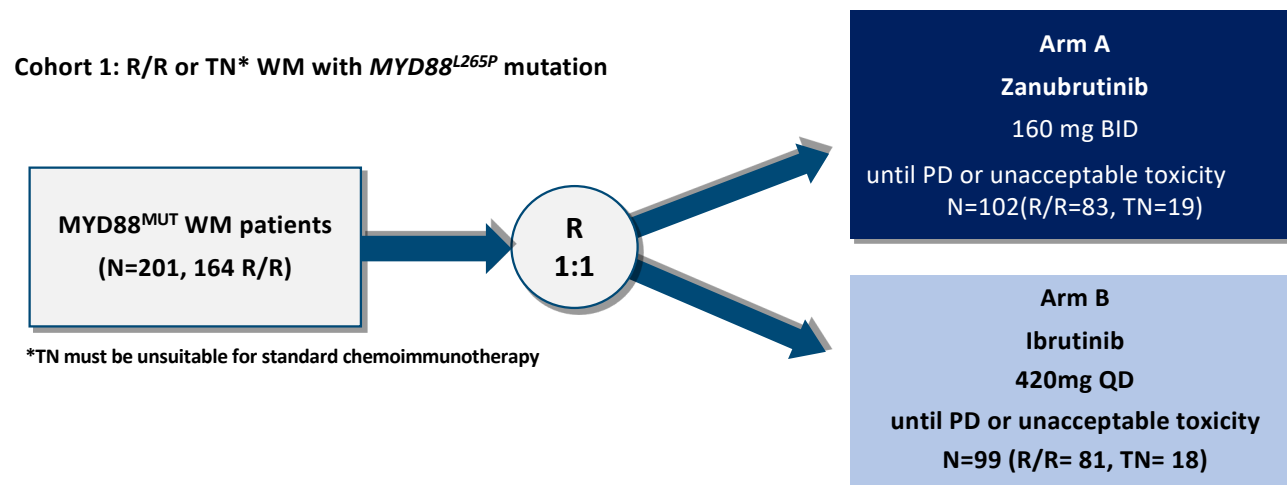
Kinase Selectivity Profiling at 1 μmol/L (in vitro)

Larger red circles represent stronger inhibition



# ZANUBRUTINIB IN WM

## ASPEN STUDY: Zanubrutinib vs Ibrutinib



**Primary endpoint:**

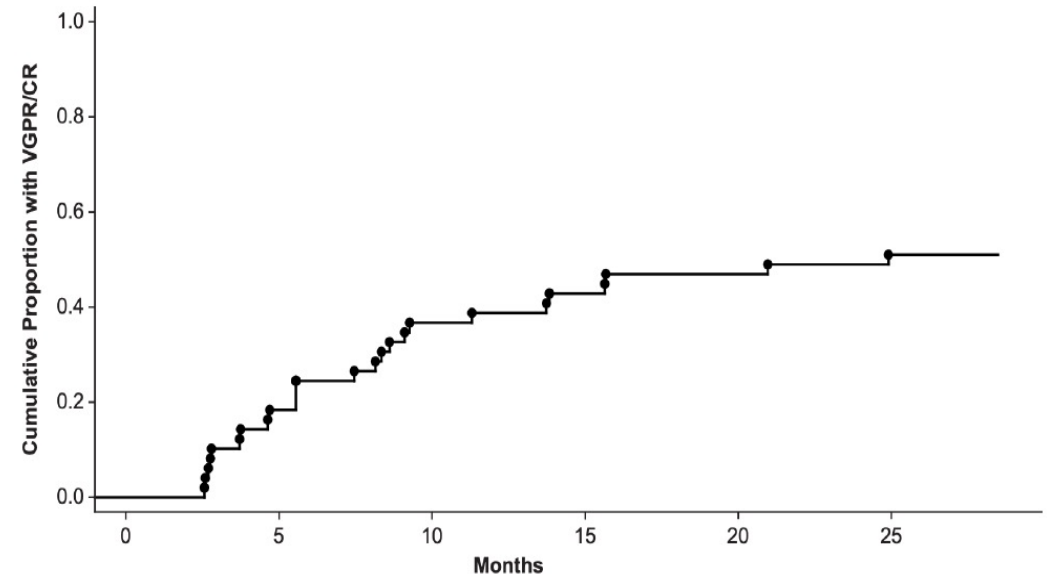
**superiority of zanubrutinib in terms of CR or VGPR,  
per modified IWWM6, by independent review**

WM=Waldenström's macroglobulinemia, BID=twice daily, CR=complete response, ITT=intent-to-treat, MRR=major response rate, MUT=mutation, PD=progressive disease, PFS=progression-free survival, PR=partial response, QD=once daily, R=randomization, R/R=relapsed/refractory, TN=treatment naïve, VGPR=very good partial response, WM=Waldenström's macroglobulinemia, WT=wild type.

# Phase 1/2 BGB-3111-AU-003 Study Efficacy Results

	TN (n = 24)	R/R (n = 49)	Total (N = 73)
Duration of follow-up, median, mo	23.5	35.8	30.3
<b>Best overall response, n (%)</b>			
CR	0	1 (2.0)	1 (1.4)
VGPR	8 (33.3)	24 (49.0)	32 (43.8)
PR	13 (54.2)	14 (28.6)	27 (37.0)
MR	3 (12.5)	7 (14.3)	10 (13.7)
SD	0	3 (6.1)	3 (4.1)
PD	0	0	0
VGPR/CR rate, % (95% CI)	33.3 (15.6-55.3)	51.0 (36.3-65.6)	45.2 (33.5-57.3)
<b>VGPR/CR rate by genotype, % (95% CI)</b>			
MYD88 <sup>L265P</sup> /CXCR4 <sup>WT</sup> (n = 39)			59.0 (42.1-74.4)
MYD88 <sup>L265P</sup> /CXCR4 <sup>WHIM</sup> (n = 11)			27.3 (6.0-61.0)
MYD88 <sup>L265P</sup> /CXCR4 <sup>FS</sup> (n = 6)			33.3 (4.3-77.7)
MYD88 <sup>L265P</sup> /CXCR4 <sup>NS</sup> (n = 5)			20.0 (0.5-71.6)
MYD88 <sup>WT</sup> (n = 8)			25.0 (3.2-65.1)
ORR (MR or better), % (95% CI)	100.0 (85.8-100.0)	93.9 (83.1-98.7)	95.9 (88.5-99.1)
MRR (PR or better), % (95% CI)	87.5 (67.6-97.3)	79.6 (65.7-89.8)	82.2 (71.5-90.2)

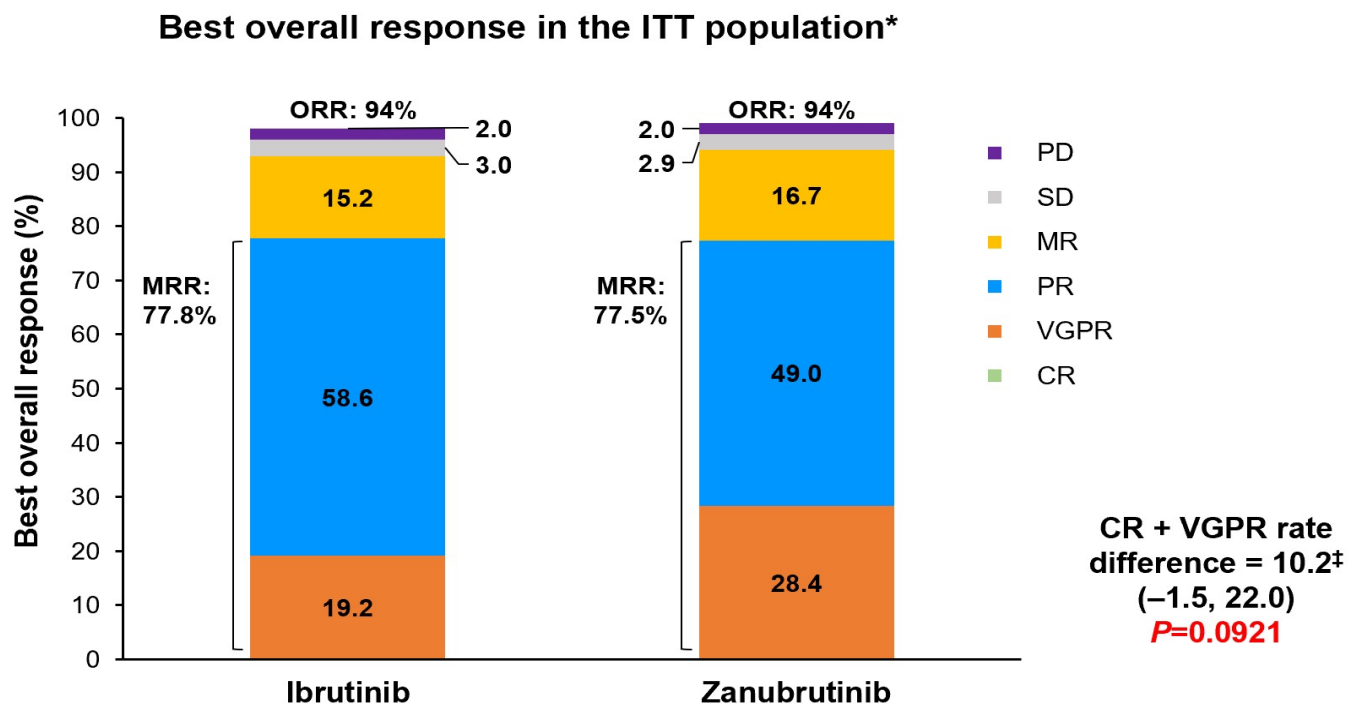
VGPR/CR Rate Increases Over Time (R/R Pts WM Cohort)



# ZANUBRUTINIB IN WM

## ASPEN STUDY: Zanubrutinib vs Ibrutinib Efficacy According to IRC

- Superiority in **CR + VGPR rate** for zanubrutinib compared with ibrutinib in the R/R population (primary study hypothesis) was not significant



Overall concordance between IRC and investigators = 94%. \*Data cut-off: August 31, 2019. †Adjusted for stratification factors and age group.

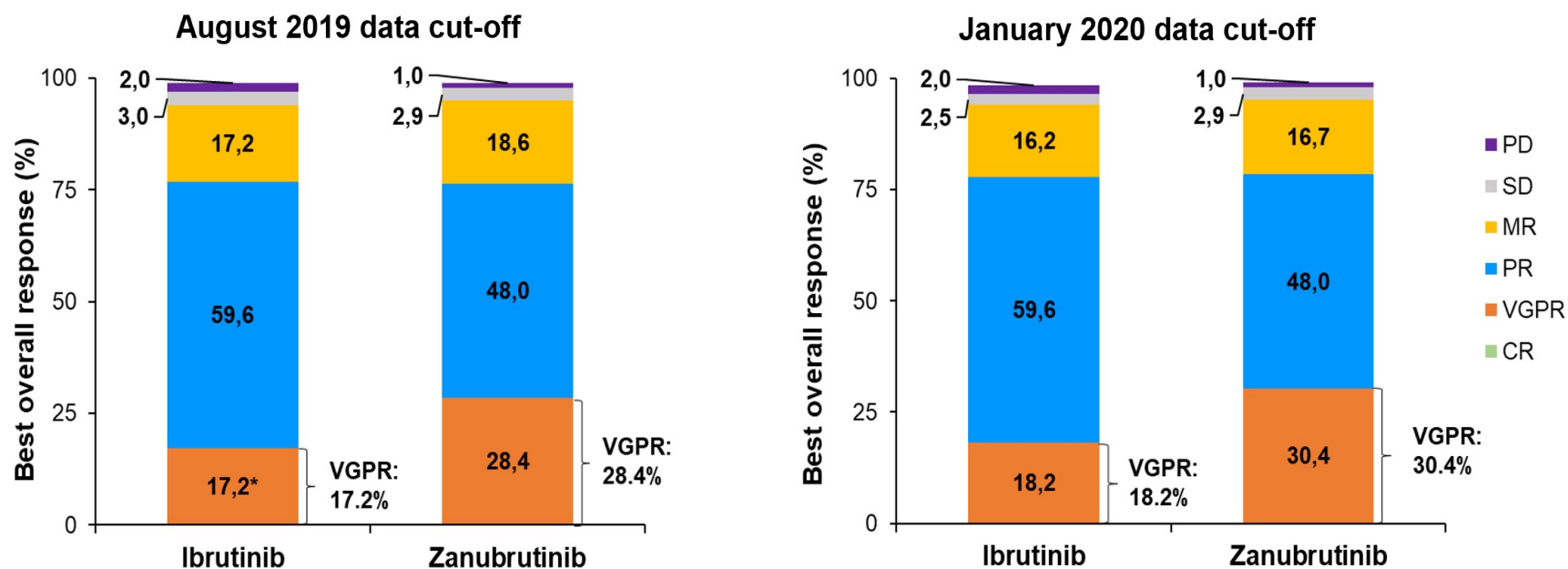
CR, complete response; IRC, independent review committee; ITT, intention-to-treat; MR, minor response; MRR, major response rate; ORR, overall response rate; PD, progressive disease; PR, partial response; R/R, relapsed/refractory; SD, stable disease; VGPR, very good partial response.

Tam CS *et al.* Abstract 8007 presented at the 2020 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting (virtual); May 29–31, 2020.

Tam CS *et al.*, 2020

# ZANUBRUTINIB IN WM

## ASPEN STUDY: Zanubrutinib vs Ibrutinib Efficacy According to Investigators



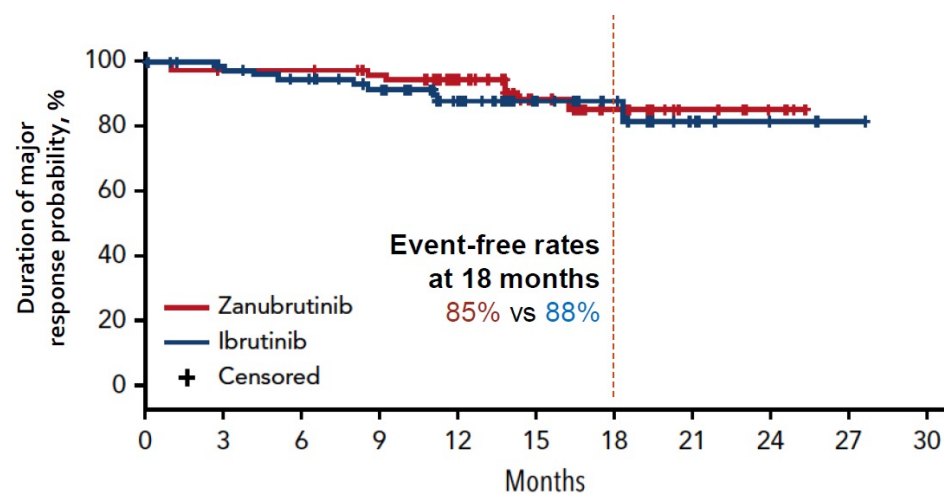
**IgM reduction:** AUC for IgM reduction over time was significantly greater for zanubrutinib vs. ibrutinib ( $P=0.037$ )

\*Excluded 2 patients with VGPR by IRC: MR (extramedullary disease present) and PR (immunoglobulin M assessment by local serum protein electrophoresis M-protein test).  
AUC, area under the curve; CR, complete response; IgM, immunoglobulin M; MR, minimal response; PD, progressive disease; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease; VGPR, very good partial response.

# ZANUBRUTINIB IN WM

## Zanubrutinib vs Ibrutinib: Duration of major response and CR/VGPR

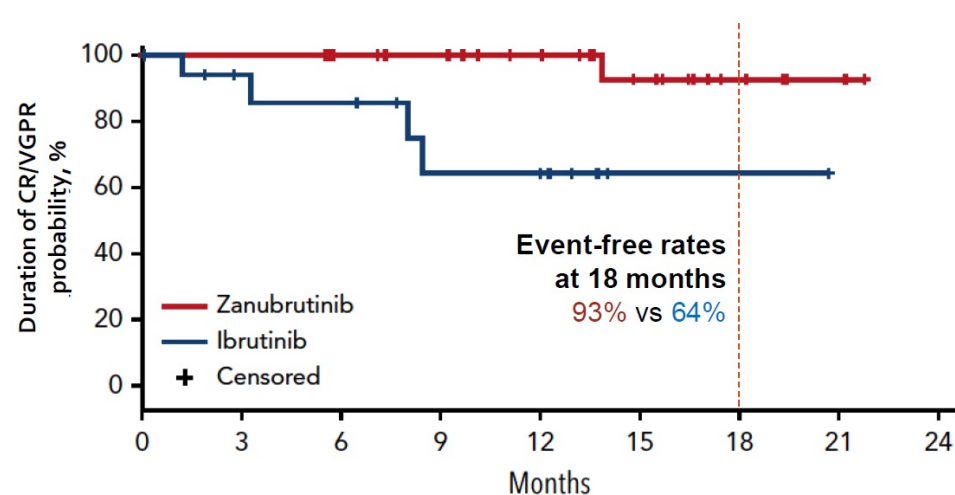
Duration of major response



No. of Patients at Risk

Zanubrutinib	79	72	71	66	52	32	21	10	6	0
Ibrutinib	77	72	67	59	44	29	15	7	3	1

Duration of CR/VGPR



Zanubrutinib	29	27	24	22	18	12	5	2	0
Ibrutinib	19	11	10	6	5	1	1	0	0

- CR, complete response; VGPR, very good partial response.

# ZANUBRUTINIB IN WM

## Zanubrutinib vs Ibrutinib: Tollerability

Category, n (%)	Zanubrutinib (n=101)	Ibrutinib (n=98)
<b>Patients with ≥1 AE</b>	98 (97.0)	97 (99.0)
Grade ≥3	59 (58.4)	62 (63.3)
Serious	40 (39.6)	40 (40.8)
<b>Fatal AEs</b>	1 (1.0)*	4 (4.1)‡
<b>AEs leading to treatment discontinuation</b>	4 (4.0)†	9 (9.2)§
<b>AEs leading to dose reduction</b>	14 (13.9)	23 (23.5)
<b>AEs leading to dose held</b>	47 (46.5)	55 (56.1)
<b>Patients with ≥1 treatment-related AE</b>	80 (79.2)	84 (85.7)
<b>Patients with ≥1 AE of interest</b>	86 (85.1)	81 (82.7)

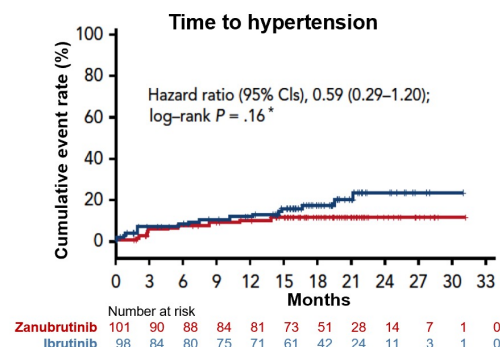
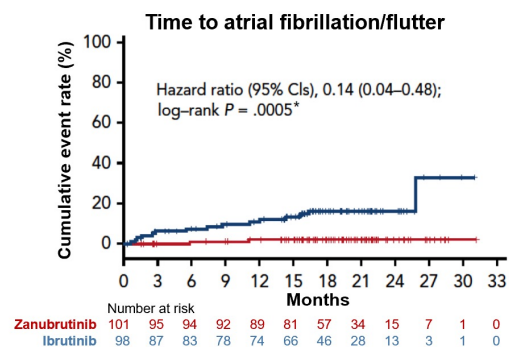
- \*Cardiac arrest after plasmapheresis. †G5 cardiac arrest after plasmapheresis; G4 neutropenia; G4 subdural hemorrhage; G2 plasma cell myeloma. ‡Cardiac failure acute; sepsis (n=2); unexplained death. §G5 sepsis (n=2); G5 unexplained death; G3 acute myocardial infarction; G3 hepatitis; G3 pneumonia; G2 drug-induced liver injury; G2 pneumonitis; G1 pneumonitis.
- AE, adverse event.



# ZANUBRUTINIB IN WM

## Zanubrutinib vs Ibrutinib: AE of interest

Event preferred term, n (%)	All grades (≥20%)		Grade ≥3 (≥5%)	
	Ibrutinib (n=98)	Zanubrutinib (n=101)	Ibrutinib (n=98)	Zanubrutinib (n=101)
Atrial fibrillation/Flutter	<b>18 (18.4)</b>	3 (3.0)	7 (7.1)	0 (0.0)
Diarrhea (PT)	<b>32 (32.7)</b>	22 (21.8)	2 (1.0)	3 (3.0)
Hemorrhage	<b>59 (60.2)</b>	51 (50.5)	9 (9.2)	6 (5.9)
Major hemorrhage	10 (10.2)	6 (5.9)	9 (9.2)	6 (5.9)
Hypertension	20 (20.4)	13 (12.9)	<b>15 (15.3)</b>	8 (7.9)

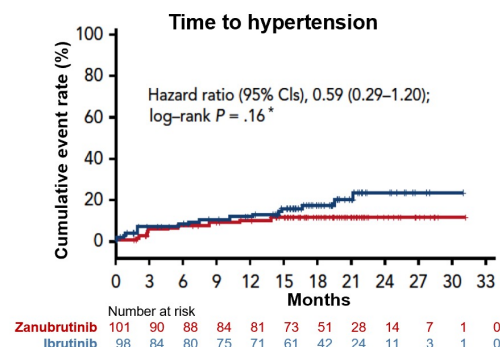
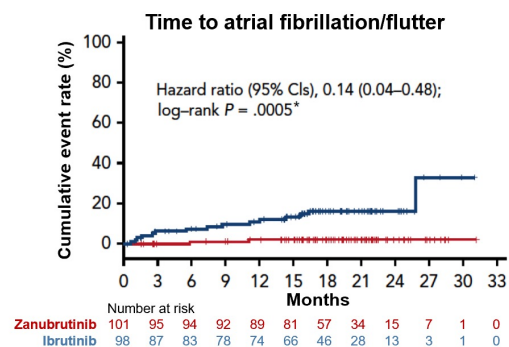


AE, adverse event; CI, confidence interval; PT, preferred term.

# ZANUBRUTINIB IN WM

## Zanubrutinib vs Ibrutinib: AE of interest

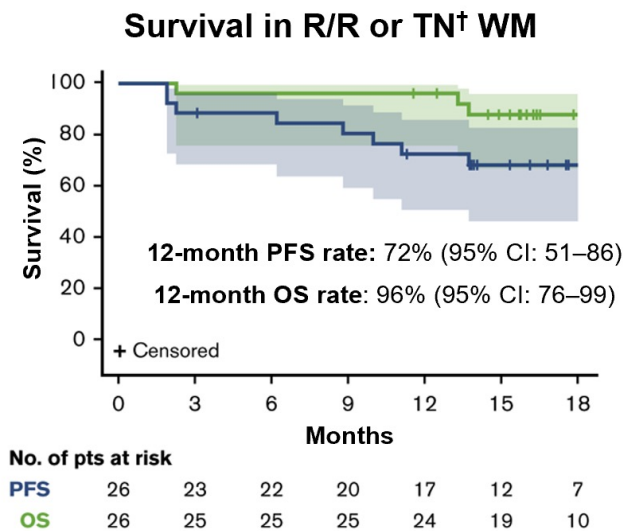
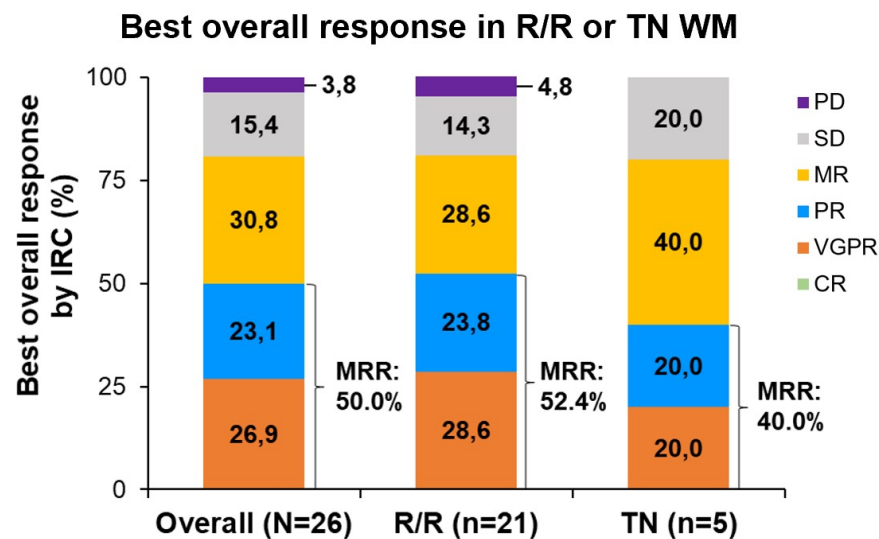
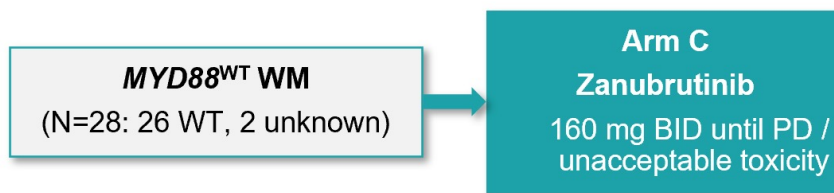
Event preferred term, n (%)	All grades (≥20%)		Grade ≥3 (≥5%)	
	Ibrutinib (n=98)	Zanubrutinib (n=101)	Ibrutinib (n=98)	Zanubrutinib (n=101)
Atrial fibrillation/Flutter	<b>18 (18.4)</b>	3 (3.0)	7 (7.1)	0 (0.0)
Diarrhea (PT)	<b>32 (32.7)</b>	22 (21.8)	2 (1.0)	3 (3.0)
Hemorrhage	<b>59 (60.2)</b>	51 (50.5)	9 (9.2)	6 (5.9)
Major hemorrhage	10 (10.2)	6 (5.9)	9 (9.2)	6 (5.9)
Hypertension	20 (20.4)	13 (12.9)	<b>15 (15.3)</b>	8 (7.9)



AE, adverse event; CI, confidence interval; PT, preferred term.

# ZANUBRUTINIB IN WM

## Zanubrutinib in MYD88<sup>wt</sup>



BID, twice a day; CI, confidence interval; CR, complete response; IRC, independent review committee; MR, minimal response; MRR, major response rate; OS, overall survival; PD, progressive disease; PFS, progression-free survival; PR, partial response; pts, patients; R/R, relapsed/refractory; SD, stable disease; TN, treatment-naïve; VGPR, very good partial response; WM, Waldenström's macroglobulinemia; WT, wild-type.

# WHAT COMES NEXT IN WM?

## Proteasome inhibitors

### First Line

#### CARFILZOMIB

**Induction ( q 21 days x 6 cycles)**  
iv CFZ, DEXA, Rituximab

**Maintenance: (every 8 w for 8 cycles)**  
iv CFZ, DEXA, Rituximab

Median PFS: 51 m

ORR: 87.1%

MR: 67.7%

CR/VGPR: 36%

#### IXAZOMIB

**Induction: ( q 21 days x 6 cycles)**  
Oral Ixazomib, DEXA, Rituximab

**Maintenance: (every 8 w for 8 cycles)**  
iv CFZ, DEXA, Rituximab

18 m PFS: 90%

ORR: 96%

MR: 77%

VGPR: 15%

**Low Neuropathy Rate: ~20%**  
**Grade 2: 0**  
**Grade 3: 3,2%**  
**NO impact from CXCR4 mut**

*Treon et al, 2014; Meid et al, 2018 Castillo et al, 2018*

### Relapsed Refractory

**Induction:**  
8 cycles q28 days

- Ixazomib citrate 4 mg d1,8,15
- Rituximab 1400 mg sc d1
- Dexamethasone 20 mg d1,8,15,22

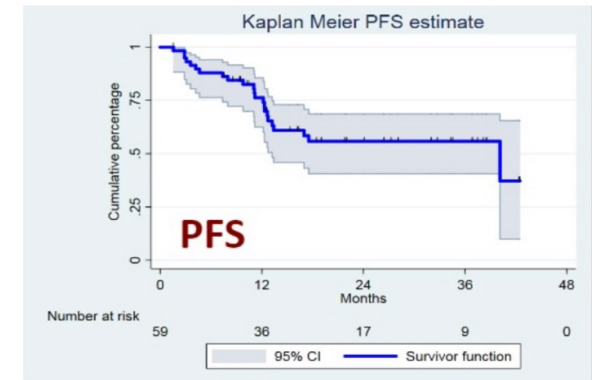
> SD

**Maintenance:**  
2 years q3months

- Rituximab 1400 mg sc d1

**59 pts**  
**Mdian prior tx: 2**

**ORR: 85%**  
**VGPR: 15%**  
**PR 46%**

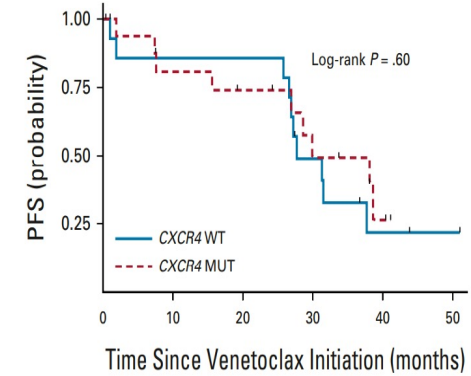
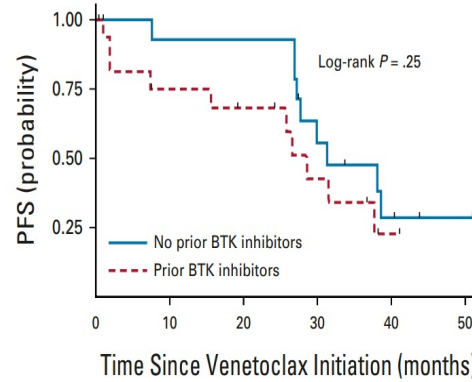
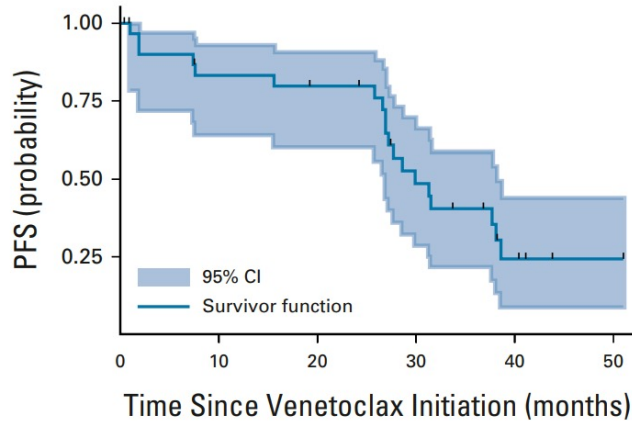
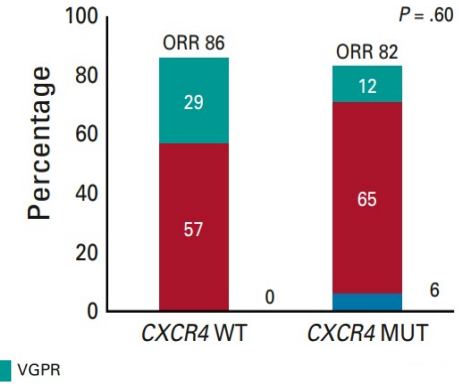
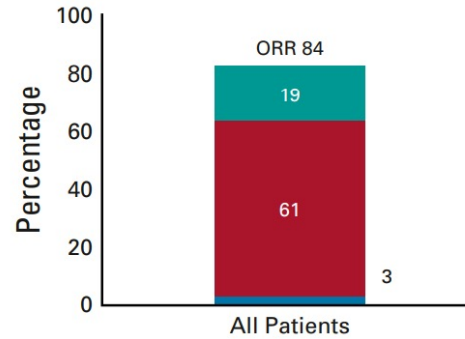


Kersten et al, 2019

# WHAT COMES NEXT IN WM?

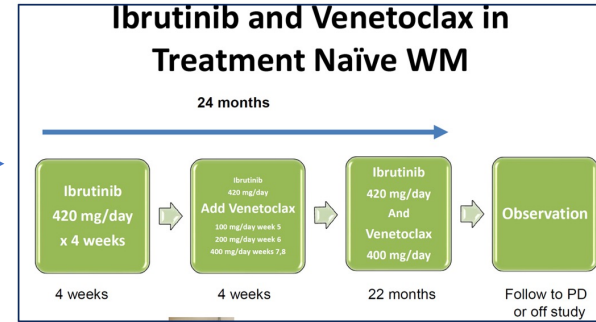
## Venetoclox Monotherapy

<b>32 pts</b>	
<b>Median prior Tx:</b>	<b>2(1-10)</b>
<b>Prior BTKi:</b>	<b>66%</b>
<b>MYD88<sup>mut</sup>:</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>CXCR4<sup>mut</sup>:</b>	<b>53%</b>



# WHAT COMES NEXT IN WM?

*Combination treatments to allow therapy discontinuation* →



*New target agents* →

- ✓ Pirtobrutinib (19 WM: ORR 68% no difference if prior BTKi)
- ✓ Anti MALT1 Mato et al 2021
- ✓ Anti ERK in combination with Ibrutinib

*Daratumumab* →

- ✓ Monotherapy: 23%ORR, median PFS 2 m Castillo et al 2020
- ✓ In combination with Ibrutinib: ongoing

*European Study Ongoing: Phase II randomized study (CZAR-1)*



# HOT NEWS IN WM CONCLUSIONS

## Conclusions

### FIRST LINE

- The choice of primary therapy should be personalized (consider toxicity, patients and disease characteristics)
- Although there is a lack of prospective randomised studies consensus that DRC or Bendamustine Rituximab are preferred options
- Monotherapy may be a choice in unfit patients (BTKi)

### RELAPSED/REFRACTORY

- BTKi best salvage regimens
  - Zanubrutinib: better tolerability=adherence dose intensity
- Everyday clinical practice: Lack of salvage regimens after BTKi failure!!!!