

**Come riconoscere (e quali sono) i  
criteri per selezionare la strategia  
terapeutica ottimale per il  
paziente?**

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**unipg**

DIPARTIMENTO  
DI MEDICINA E CHIRURGIA

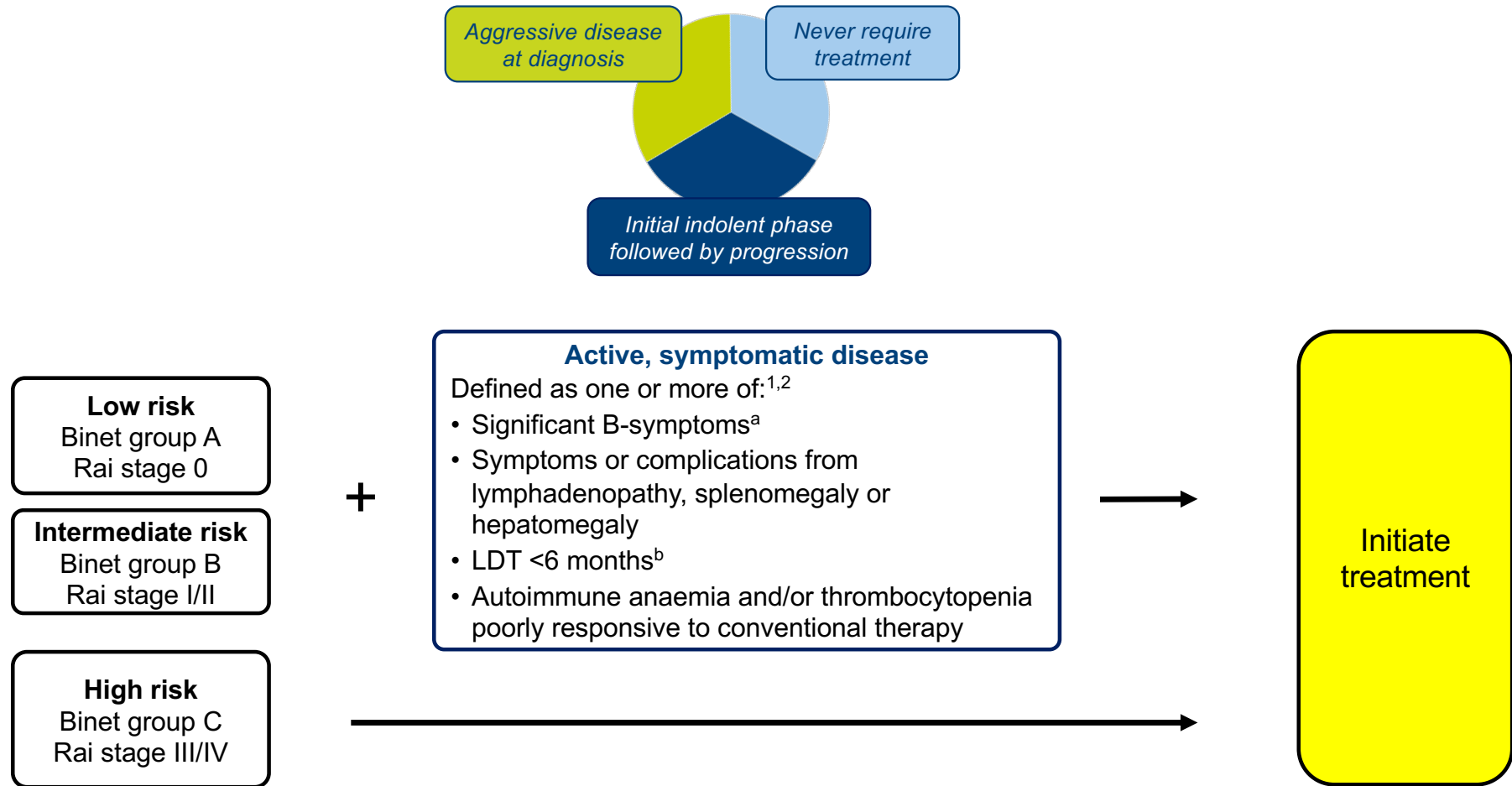
L'OTTIMIZZAZIONE DELLA  
**TERAPIA LEUCEMIA  
LINFATICA CRONICA:**

UNA CONDIZIONE DINAMICA  
ED INNOVATIVA

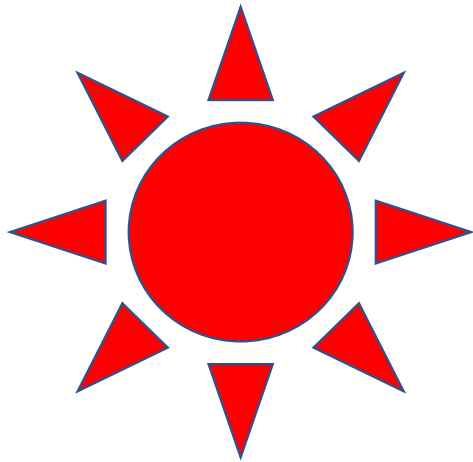


**12-13 APRILE 2022 BOLOGNA ROYAL HOTEL CARLTON**

# Treatment is not always required for CLL

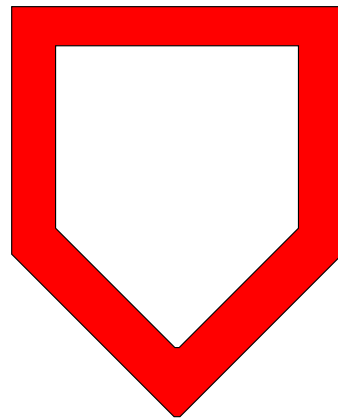


# The armamentarium of treatments for CLL has expanded tremendously



## CHEMOTHERAPIES

Non-specific inhibition of cell division



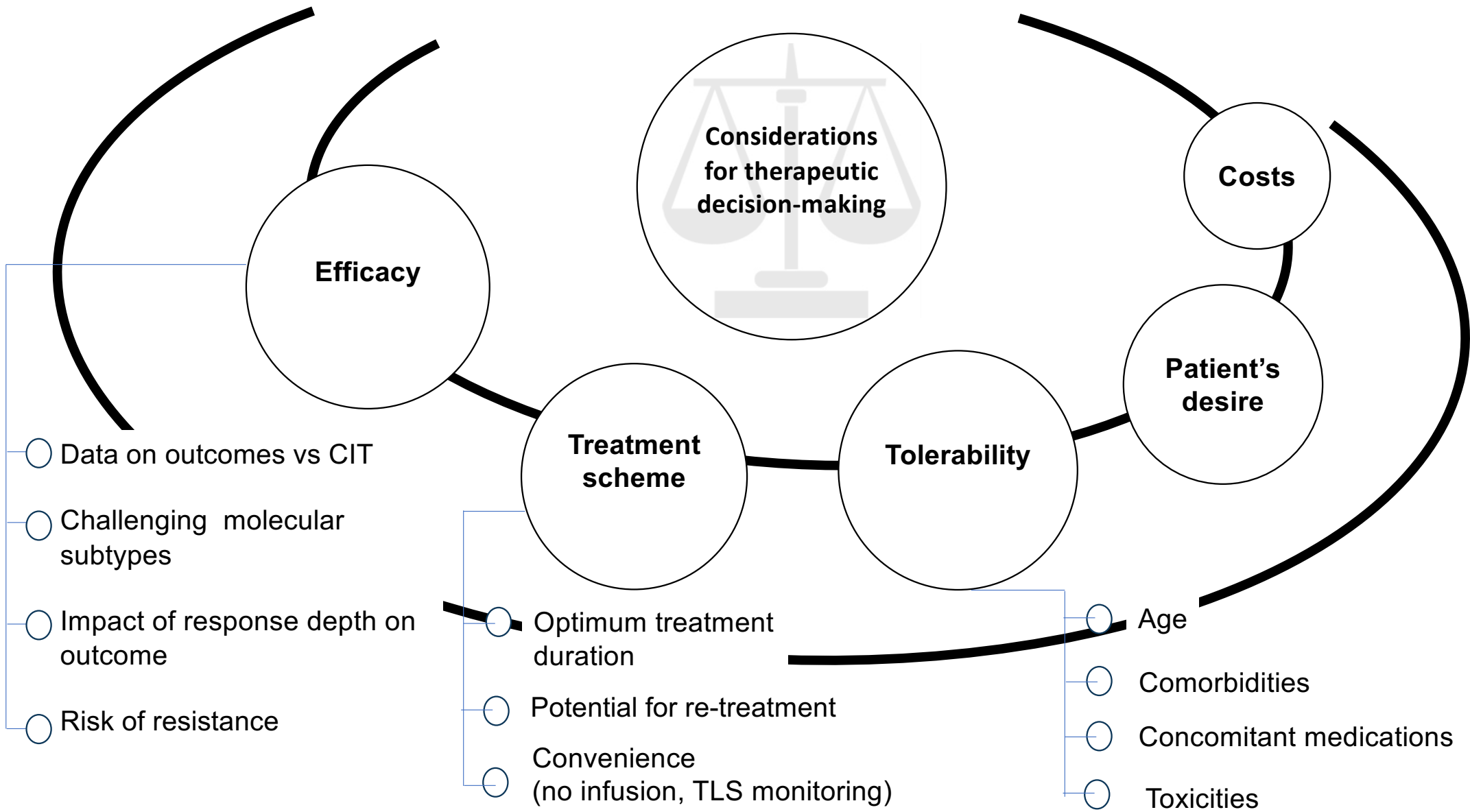
## IMMUNOTHERAPIES

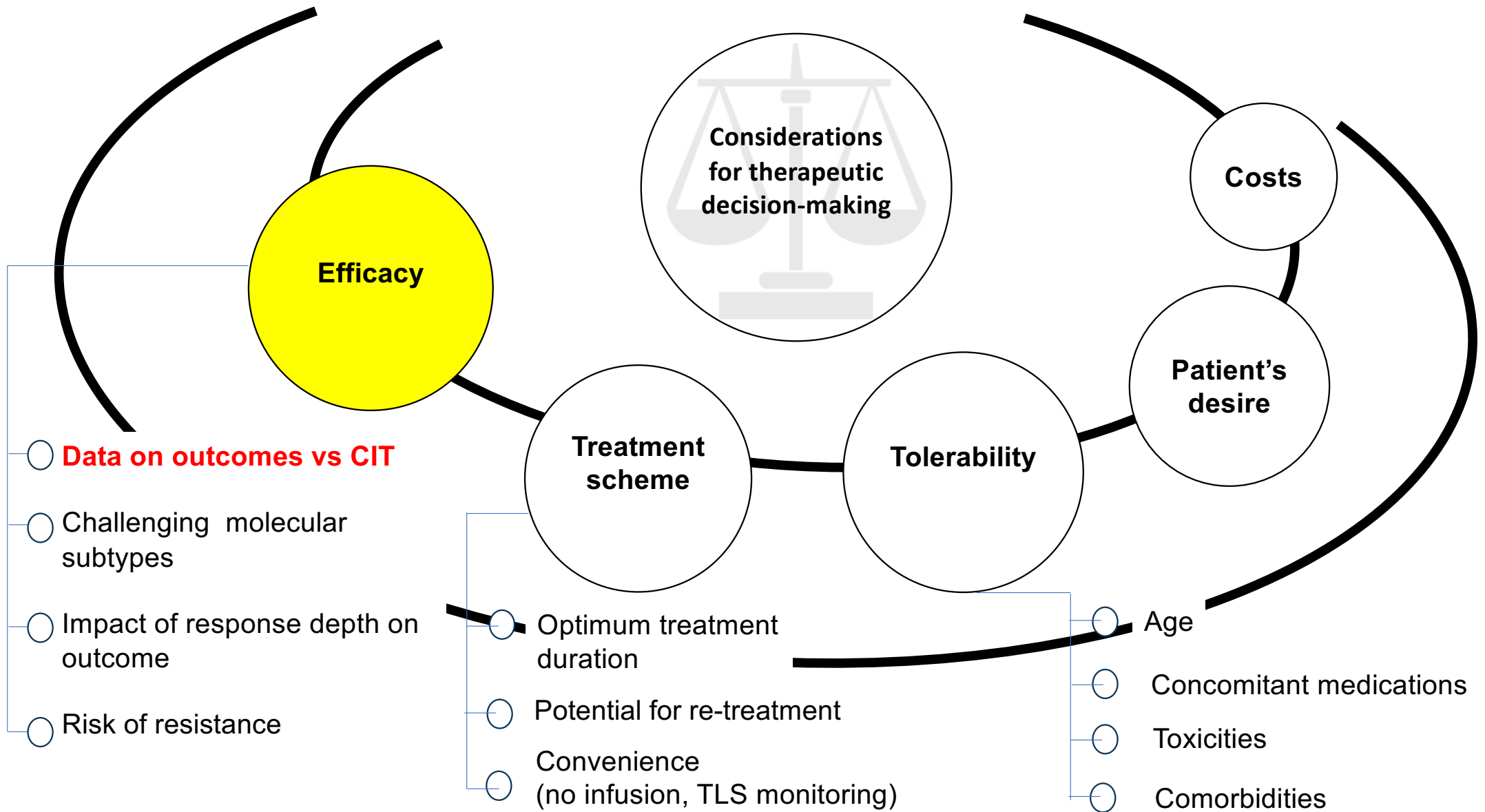
Help the immune system fight cancer by flagging cancer cells for destruction



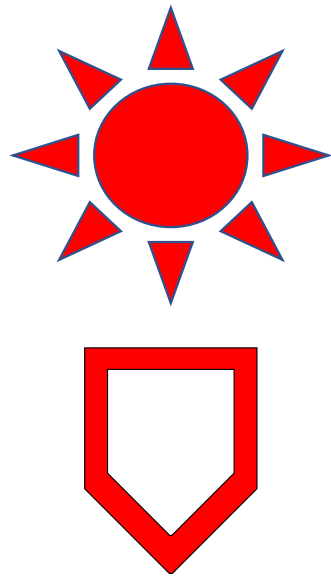
## TARGETED THERAPIES

Block distinct molecular pathways inside cancer cells

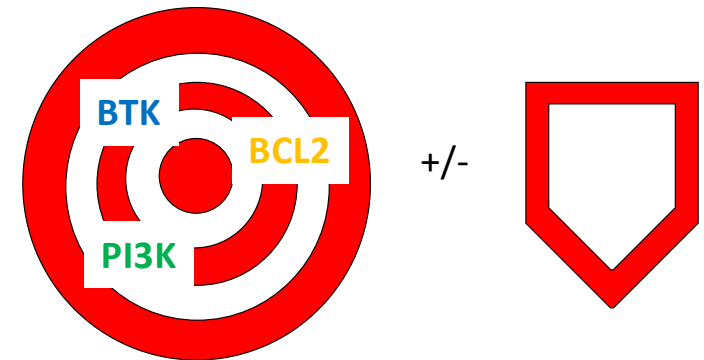
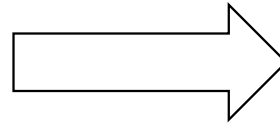




**Novel agents have eclipsed chemoimmunotherapy as treatment for CLL in the vast majority of patients**



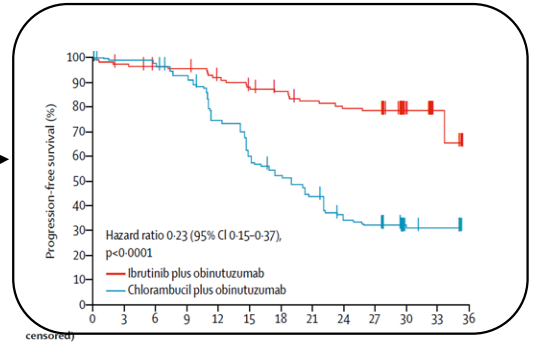
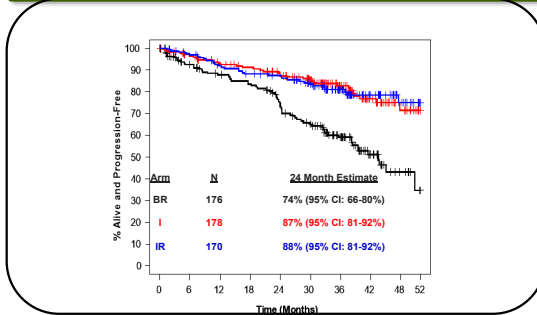
**CHEMOIMMUNOTHERAPIES**



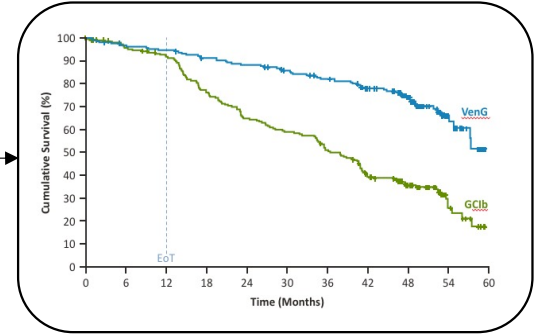
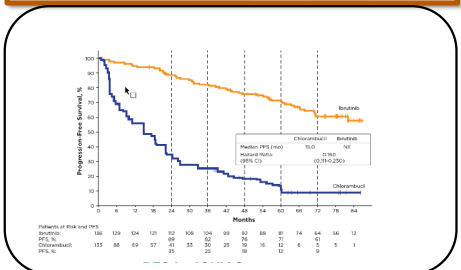
**TARGETED THERAPIES**

# Targeted therapy outperform CIT in key phase 3 trials in first line CLL

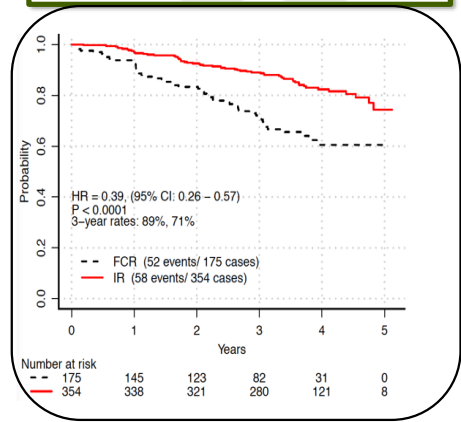
**Alliance 202<sup>1</sup>** Ibr vs IR vs BR



**RESONATE-2<sup>4</sup>** Ibr vs Clb



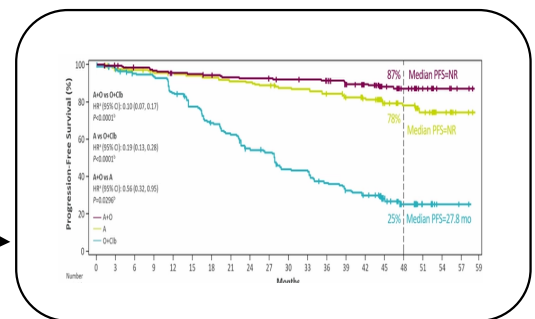
**ECOG 1912<sup>2,3</sup>** IR vs FCR



**iLLUMINATE<sup>5</sup>** IO vs OC1b

**CLL14<sup>6</sup>** VenO vs OC1b

**ELEVATE TN<sup>7</sup>** A vs AO vs OC1b

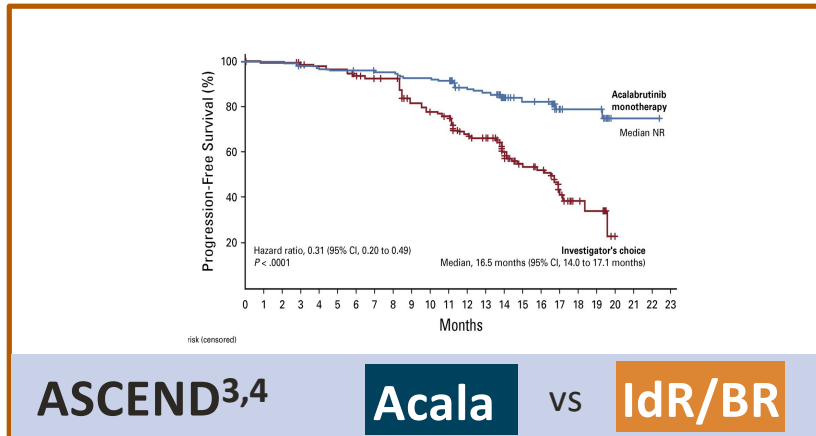


Fit Unfit

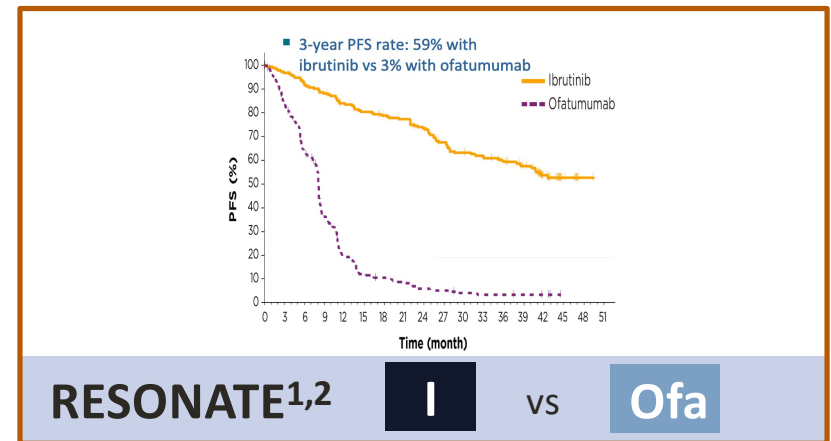
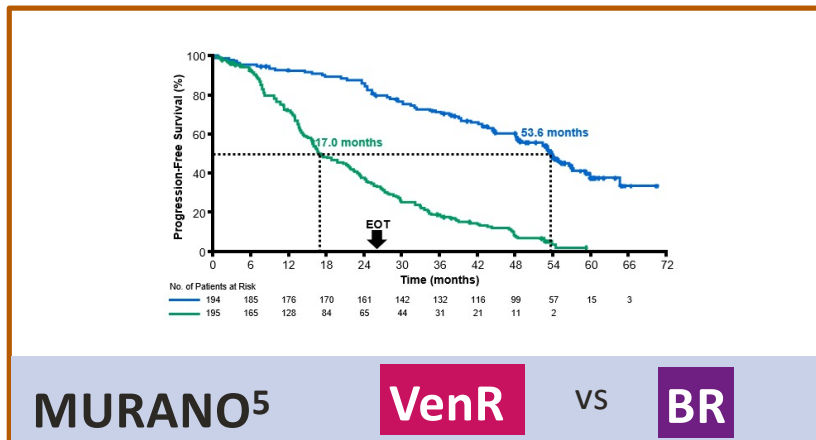
A, acalabrutinib; AO, acalabrutinib + obinutuzumab; BR, bendamustine + rituximab; Clb, chlorambucil; IO, ibrutinib + obinutuzumab; IR, ibrutinib + rituximab.

1. Woyach JA, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2018; **379**:2517-2528 (incl. suppl.); 2. Shanafelt TD, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2019; **381**:432-443 (incl. suppl); 3. Shanafelt TD, et al. *ASH* 2019; Abstract 33 (Oral); 4. Burger JA, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2015; **373**:2425-2437; 5. Moreno C, et al. *Lancet Oncol* 2019; **20**:43-56; 6. Fischer K, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2019; **380**:2225-2236 (incl. suppl); 7. Sharman JP, et al. *Lancet* 2020; **396**:1278-1291.

# Patients with relapsed/refractory CLL have multiple treatment options with targeted agents



- BTK inhibitors have proven track record of providing durable remission and are generally well tolerated
- In the case of ibrutinib intolerance, prospective data support tolerability of acalabrutinib
- Time-limited therapy with venetoclax in combination with rituximab outperforms chemotherapy with both PFS and OS benefit
- Though effective, currently available PI3K inhibitors are limited by toxicity profile

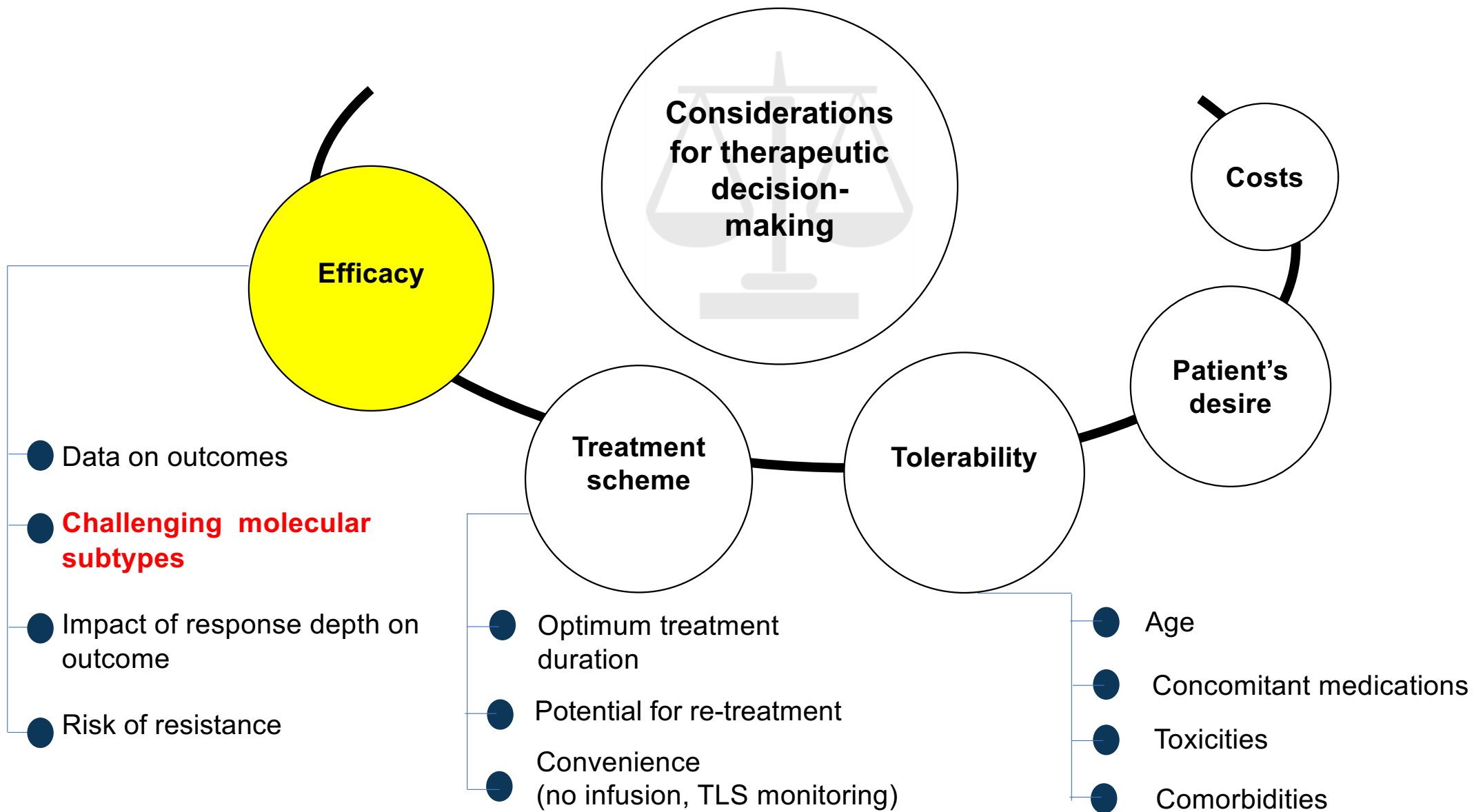


Median prior lines of therapy (experimental arm)

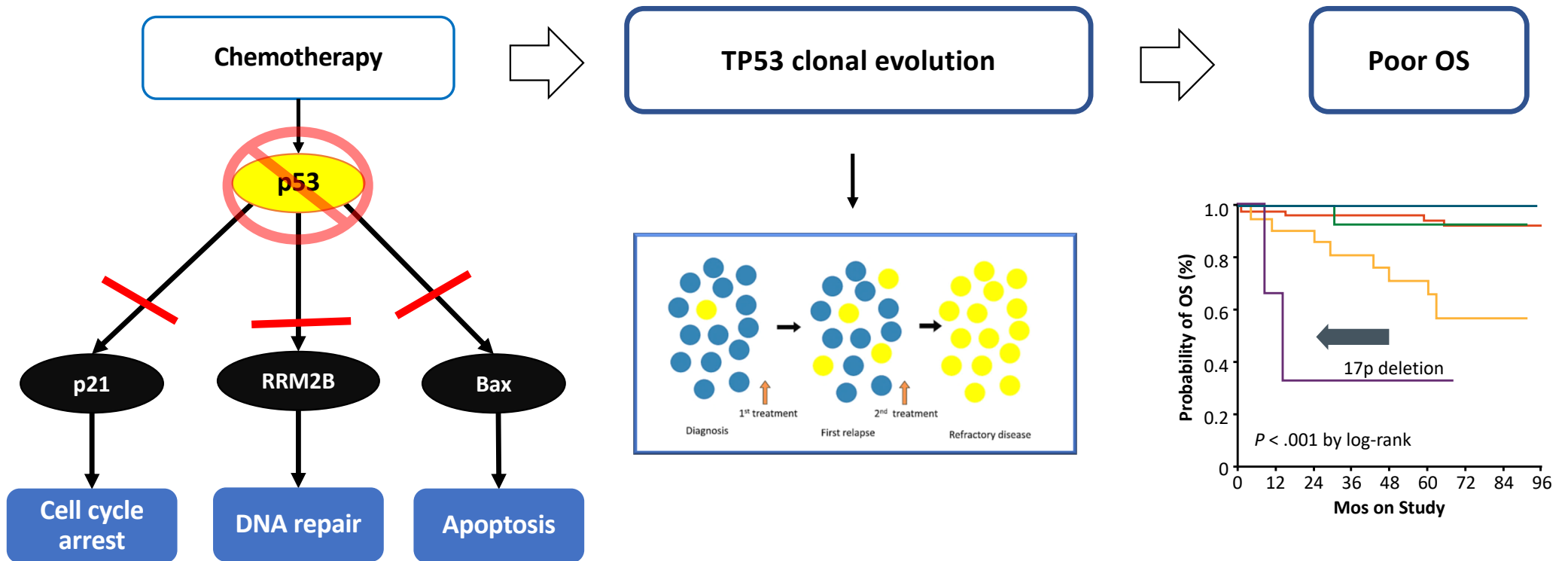
IdR, idelalisib + rituximab; Ofa, ofatumumab; VenR, venetoclax + rituximab.

1. Byrd JC, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2014; **371**:213–223; 2. Munir T, et al. *Am J Hematol* 2019; **94**:1353–1363 (incl. suppl.); 3. Ghia P, et al. *J Clin Oncol* 2020; **38**:2849–2861; 4. Ghia P, et al. *ASH* 2020; Abstract 3140 (Poster); 5. Seymour JF, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2018; **378**:1107–1120 (incl. suppl.).





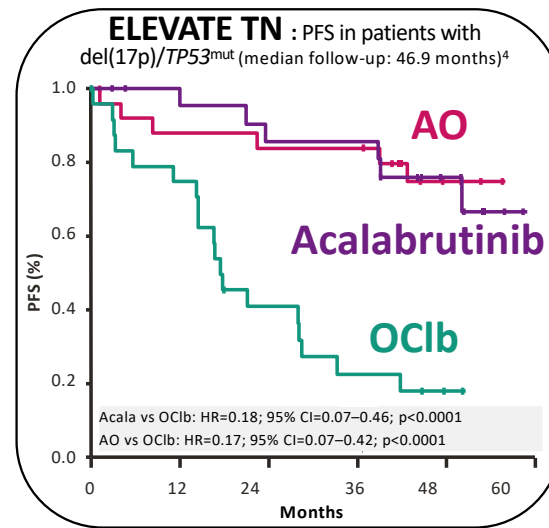
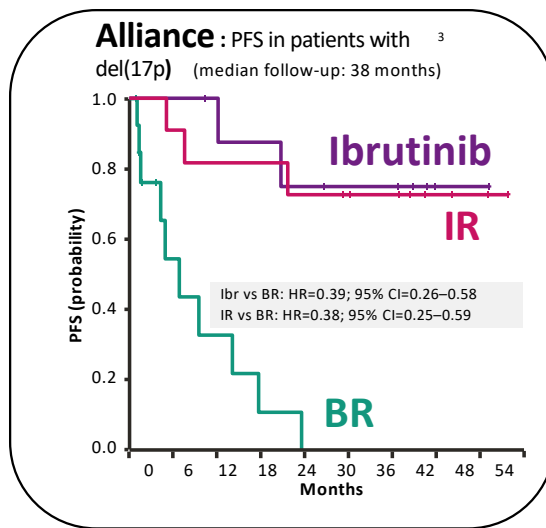
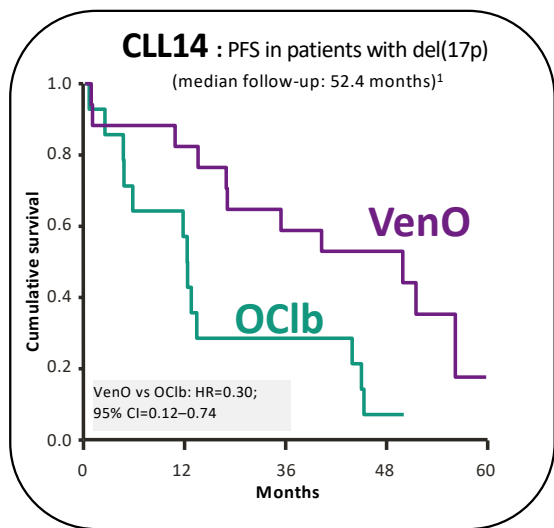
# TP53 aberrations lead to resistance, clonal evolution and poor outcomes with chemoimmunotherapy



Trbusek M & Malcikova J. *Adv Exp Med Biol* 2013; 792:109–131.  
 Hanahan D & Weinberg RA. *Cell* 2000; 100:57–70.  
 Dearden C. Clonal selection: survival of the fittest? *Blood*. 2014  
 Landau D et al. *Nature* 2015; 526(7574):525-30

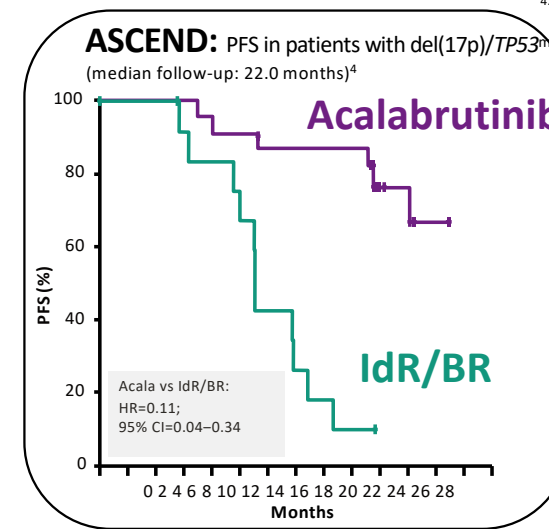
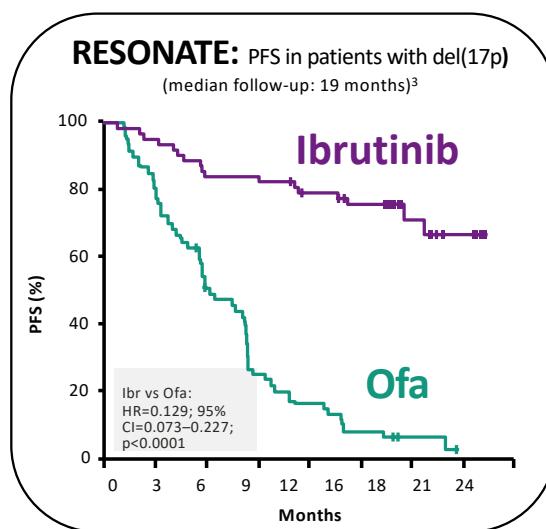
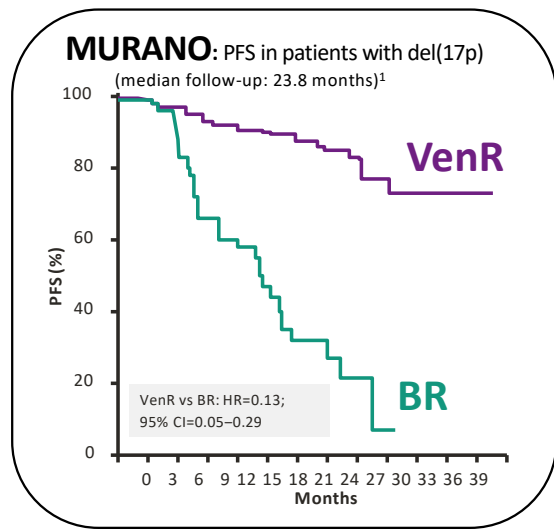
# Targeted agents improve outcomes vs CIT in CLL with del(17p)/TP53<sup>mut</sup>

1L



1. Tausch E, et al. EHA 2021; Abstract S144 (Oral);  
2. Tausch E, et al. EHA 2021. Abstract S146;  
3. Woyach JA, et al. N Engl J Med 2018; 379:2517–2528 ;  
4. Sharman JP, et al. EHA 2021; Abstract S148 (Oral);  
5. Moreno C, et al. Lancet Oncol 2019; 20:43–56;

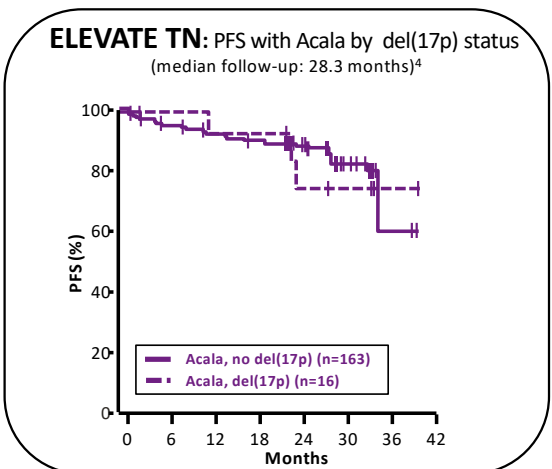
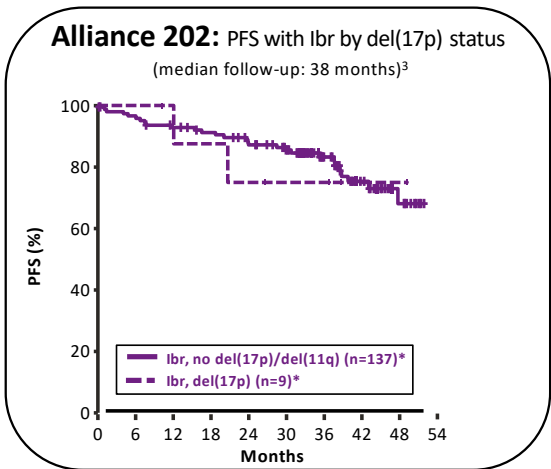
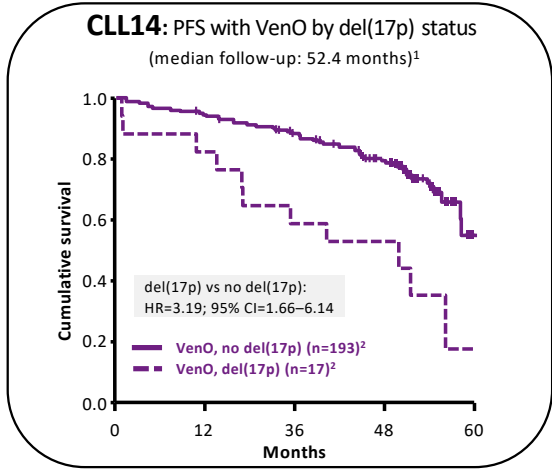
R/R



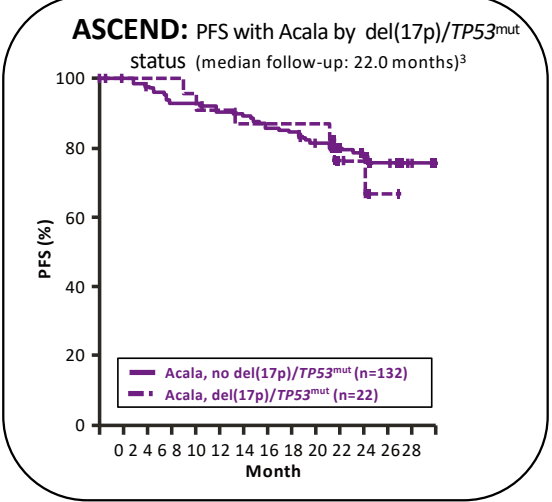
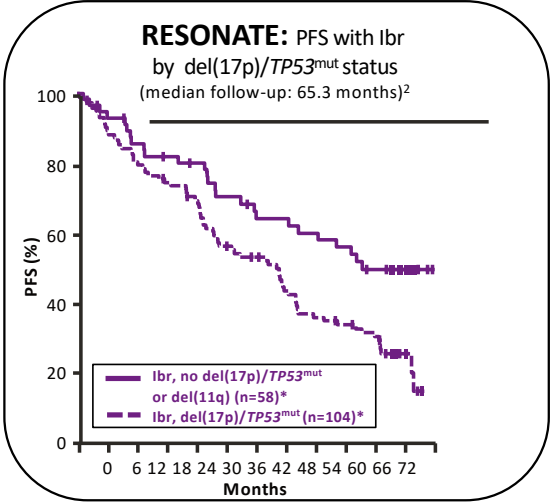
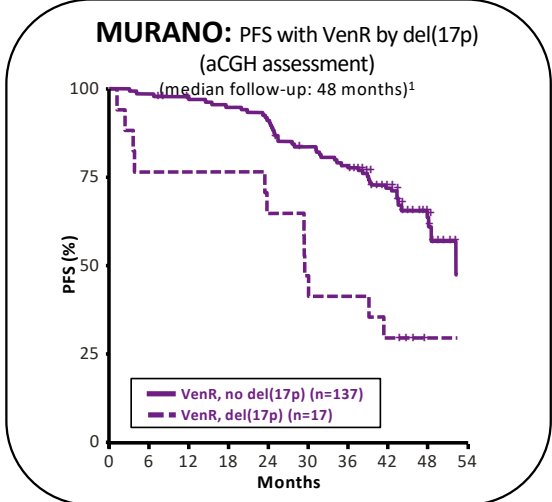
1. Seymour JF, et al. N Engl J Med 2018;;  
2. Venclxyto® (venetoclax) SmPC; June 2021 update (accessed July 2021);  
3. Brown JR, et al. Leukemia 2018; 32:83–91 (incl. suppl.)  
; 4. Ghia P, et al. ASH 2020; Abstract 3140 (Poster).

# TP53 aberrations continue to be an adverse prognostic factor, but these patients do much better in the modern era of targeted therapies

1L



R/R

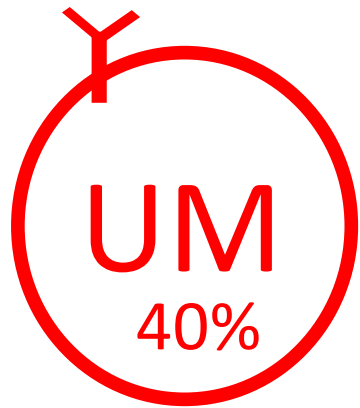


1. Kater AP, et al. *J Clin Oncol* 2020; **34**:4042-4054 (incl. suppl.);

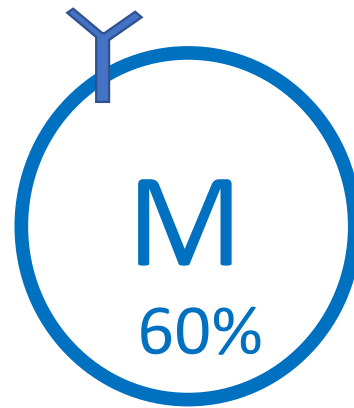
\* mPFS NR for no del(17p)/TP53<sup>mut</sup> or del(11q), mPFS 40.6 months for del(17p)/TP53<sup>mut</sup>.  
aCGH, array comparative genomic hybridization.

2. Munir T, et al. *Am J Hematol* 2019; **94**:1353-1363 (incl. suppl.); 3. Ghia P, et al. ASH 2020; Abstract 3140 (Poster).

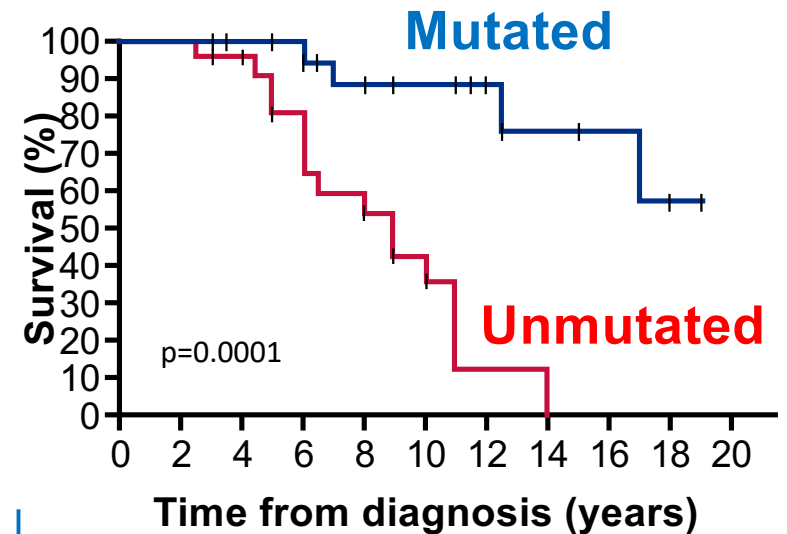
# Impact of IGHV mutation status: biological and clinical differences



- Active, treatment-resistant disease<sup>2,3</sup>
- Faster clonal expansion, and shorter survival with chemo-based therapy<sup>2,3</sup>
- Higher genetic instability and higher risk of unfavorable genetic mutations<sup>1,2</sup>



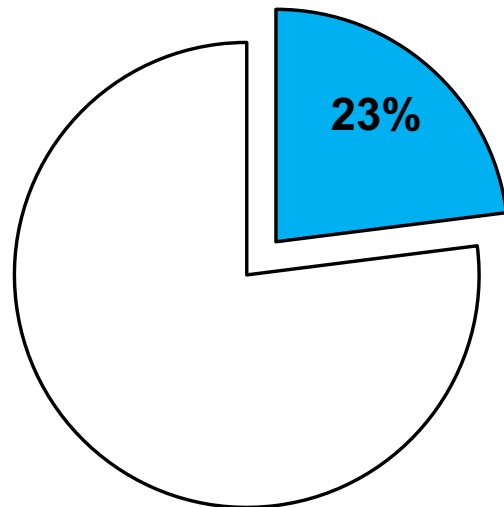
- Indolent disease<sup>2-4</sup>
- Stable/slow expansion of CLL clones<sup>2-4</sup>
- Lower degree of clonal evolution



Damle RN, *et al. Blood* 1999.  
Stilgenbauer S, *et al. Blood* 2014.  
Fabri and Dalla-Favera, *Nature Reviews Cancer*, 2016

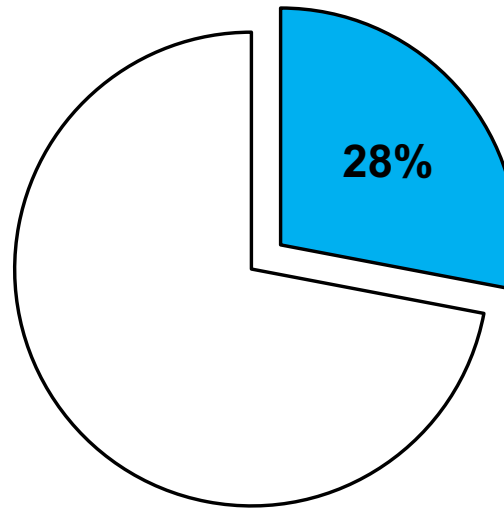
# First-line FCR induces long-term remissions in IGHV mutated patients

Thompson et al., Blood 2016



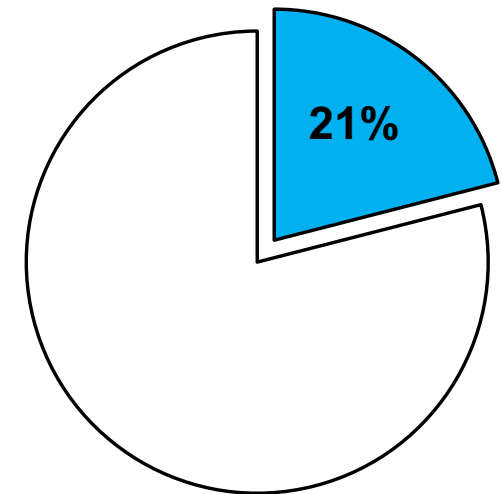
- Mut IGHV Progressio-free @13 yrs
- Mut/Unmut progressed

Fisher et al. Blood 2016



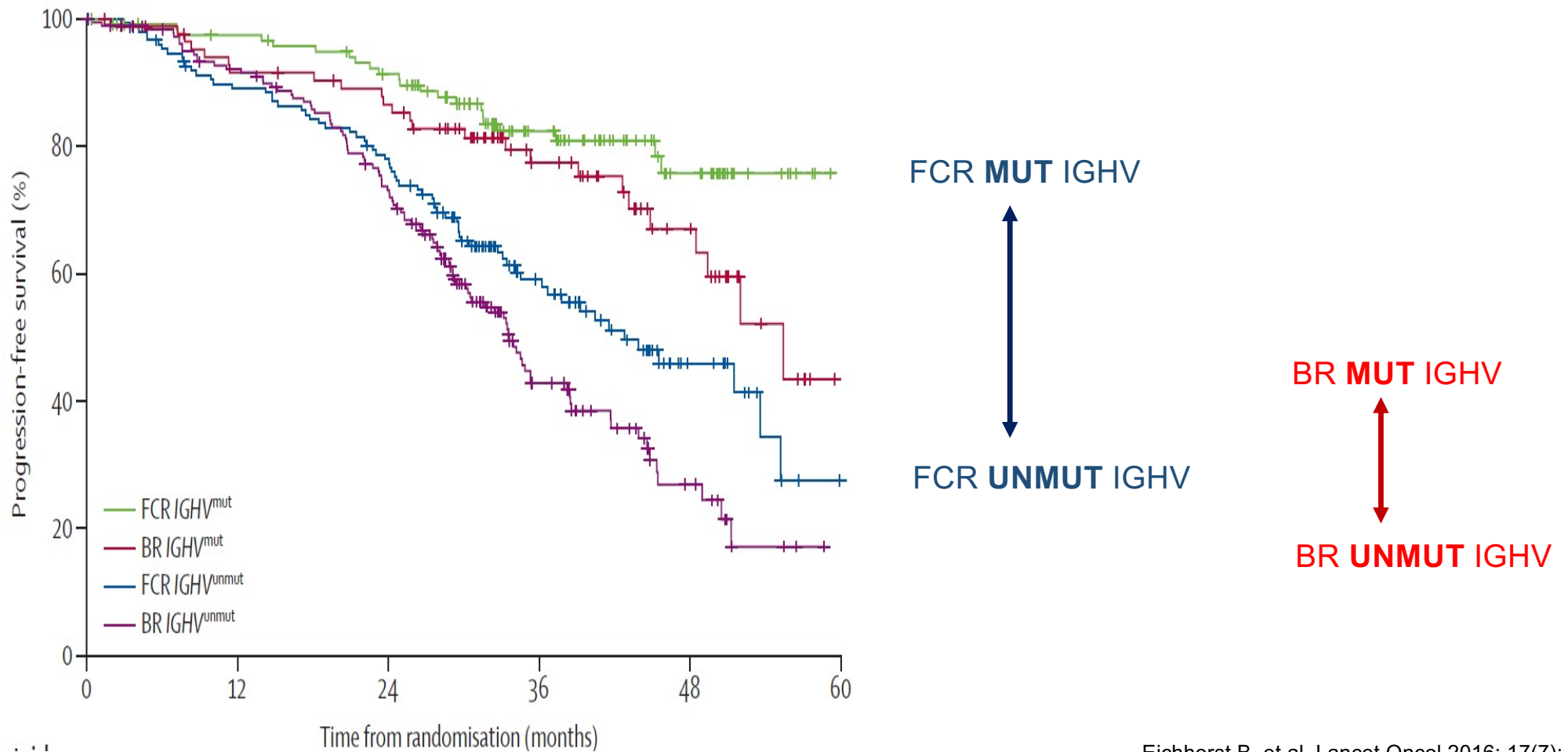
- Mut IGHV Progressio-free @6 yrs
- Mut/Unmut progressed

Rossi et al., Blood 2015

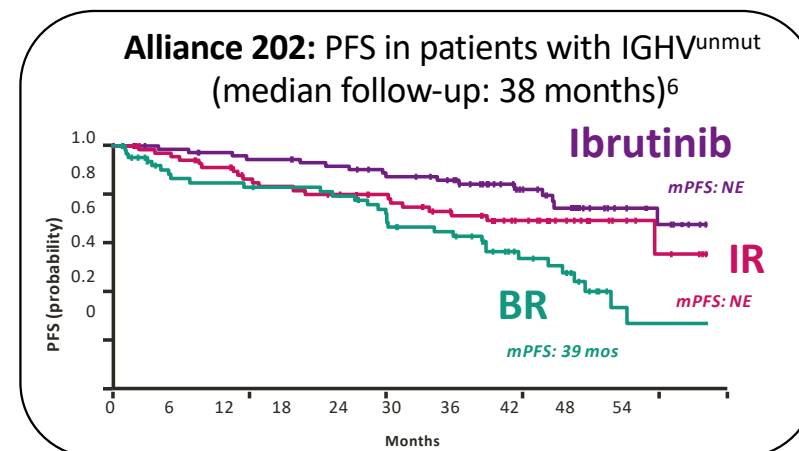
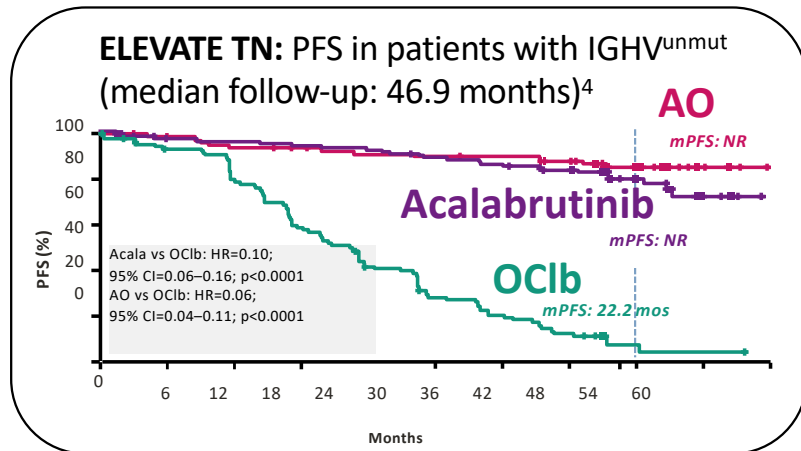
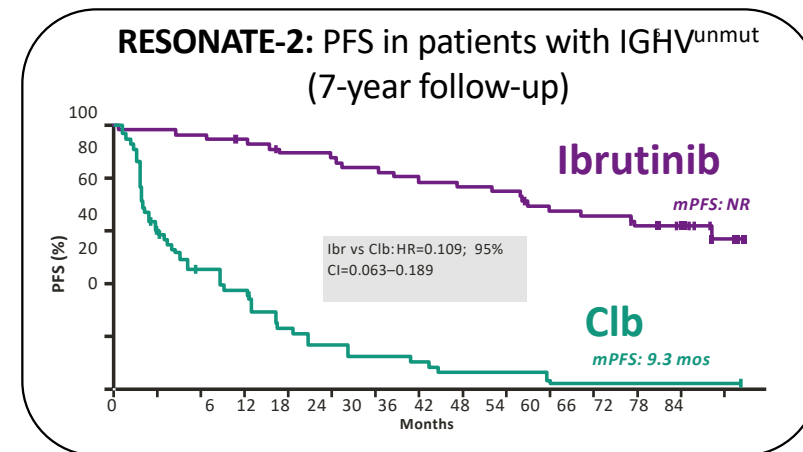
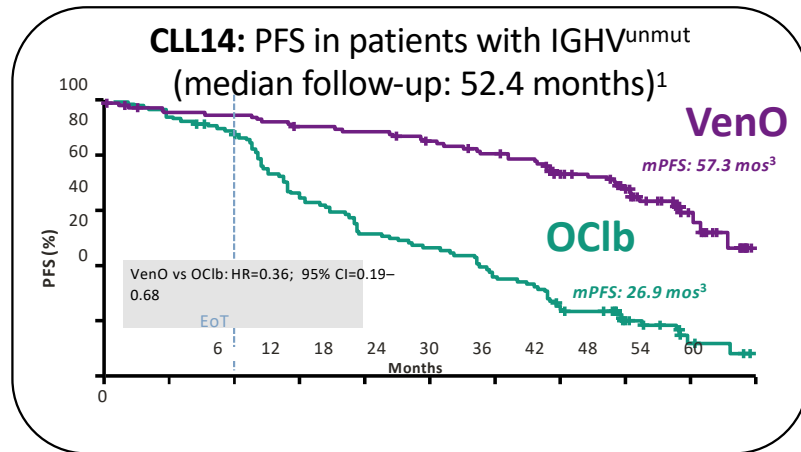


- Mut IGHV , no del 17p/11q Progressio-free @ >5 yrs
- Mut/Unmut progressed

# Unmutated *IGHV* is associated with a higher risk of progression after first-line chemoimmunotherapy



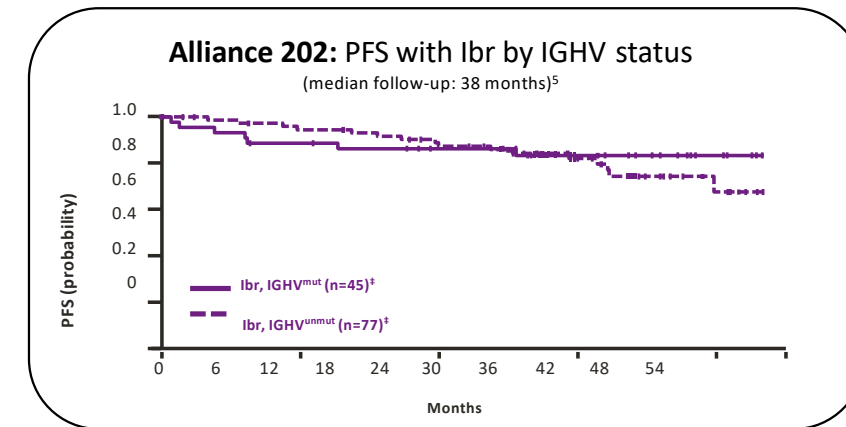
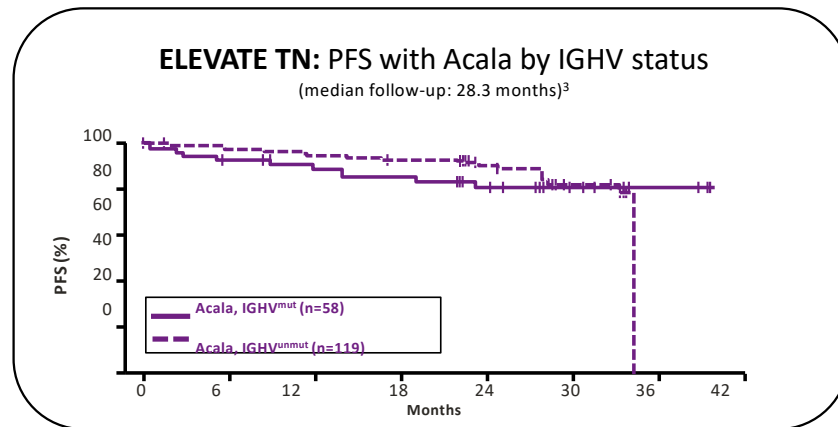
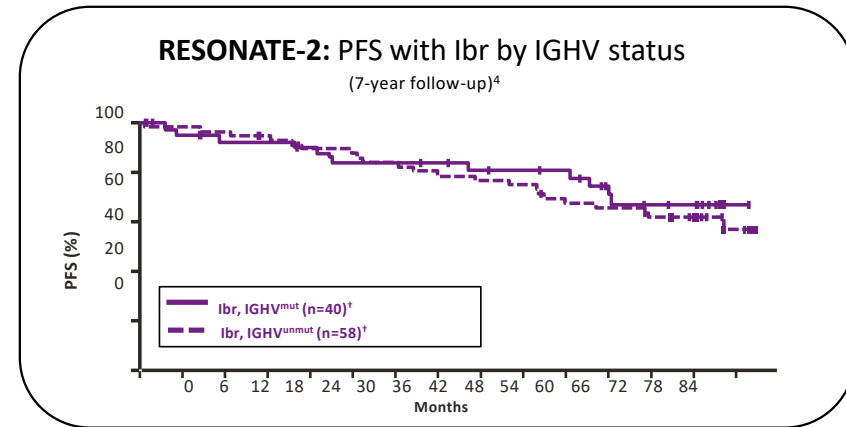
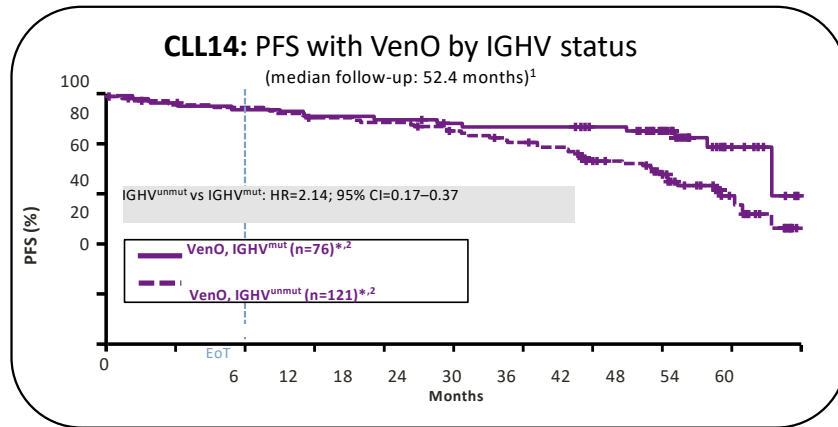
# Improved outcomes with targeted agents vs CIT/chemotherapy in 1L patients with unmutated IGHV



1. Tausch E, et al. EHA 2021; Abstract S144 (Oral); 2. Tausch E, et al. EHA 2021; Abstract S144; 3. Al-Sawaf O, et al. EHA 2021; Abstract S146 (Oral); 4. Sharman JP, et al. EHA 2021; Abstract S148 (Oral); 5. Ghia P, et al. EHA 2021; Abstract EP636 (Poster); 6. Woyach JA, et al. N Engl J Med 2018; 379:2517-2528 (incl. appendix).



# Outcomes observed with targeted agents in 1L patients by IGHV status

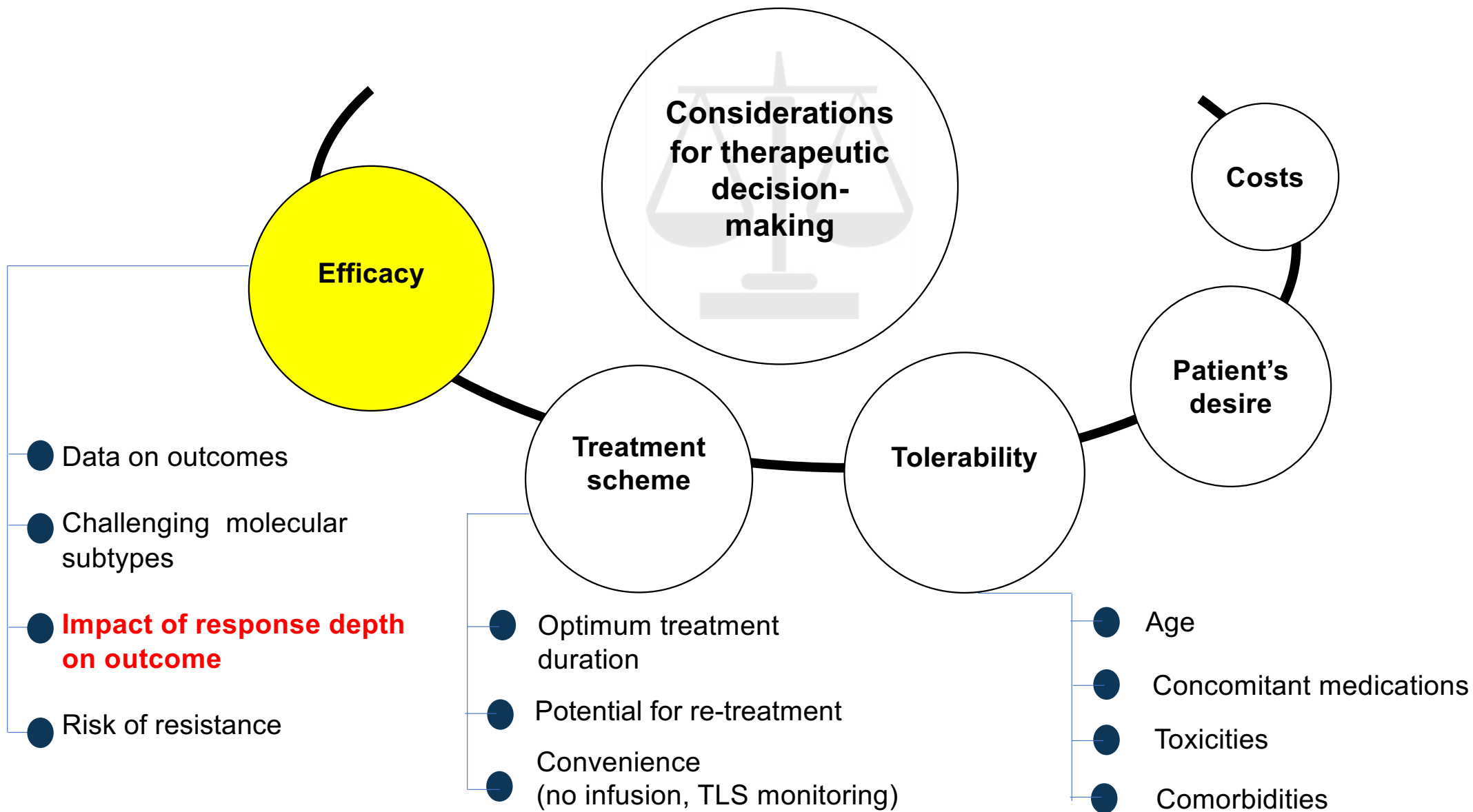


\* mPFS NR for IGHV<sup>mut</sup>; mPFS 57.3 months for IGHV<sup>unmut</sup>; † mPFS NR in all arms; ‡ mPFS NE in all arms.

1. Tausch E, et al. EHA 2021; Abstract S144 (Oral); 2. Tausch E, et al. EHA 2021. Abstract S144; 3. Sharman JP, et al. Lancet 2020; 396:1278-1291; 4. Ghia P, et al. EHA 2021; Abstract EP636 (Poster); 5. Woyach JA, et al. N Engl J Med 2018; 379:2517-2528 (incl. appendix); 6. Al-Sawaf O, et al. EHA 2021; Abstract S146 (Oral).

## Defining the place for chemoimmunotherapy in CLL

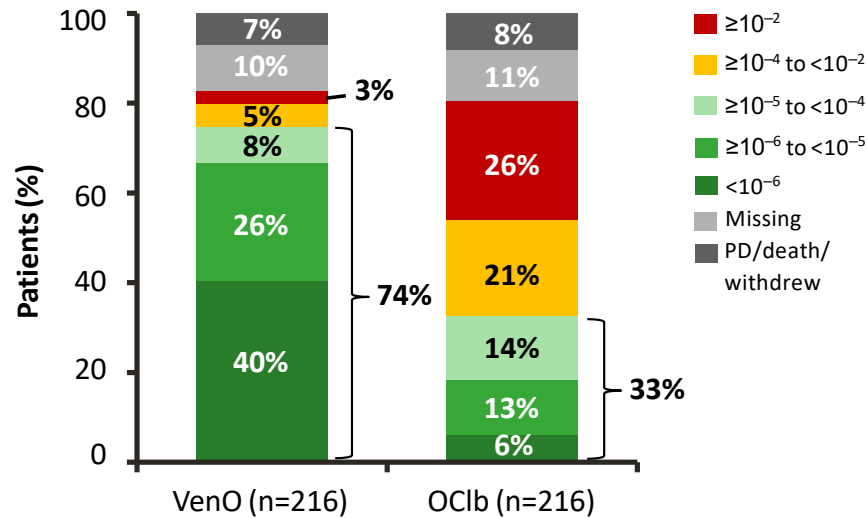
- Ideal FCR candidates
    - Young
    - Fit
    - *TP53* intact
    - *IGHV* mutated
  - For patients who are “ideal FCR candidates”, BR is not an ideal substitute
  - BR may play a limited role in 2022 in older, *TP53* intact, *IGHV* mutated patients, but there are many other choices to consider
  - Short- and long-term toxicities should be discussed
-



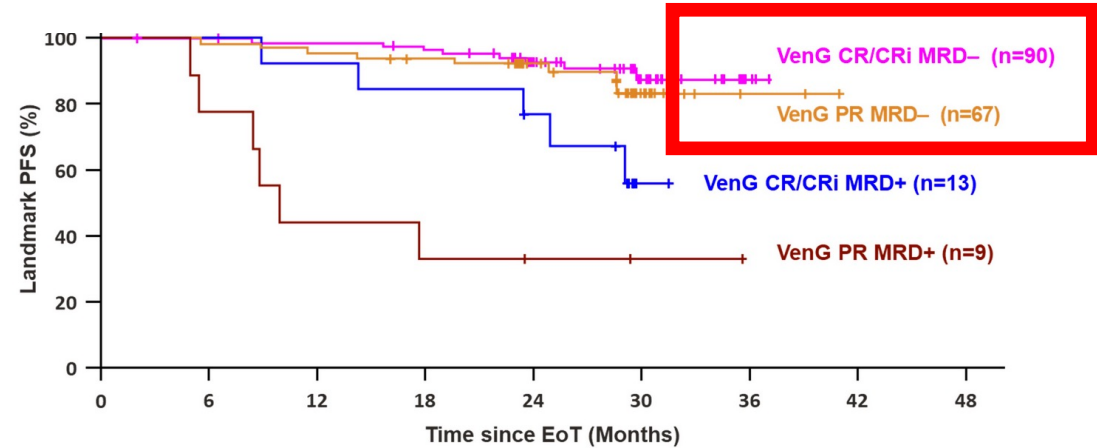
# uMRD is a key goal of fixed-duration targeted treatment regimens: the CLL 14 study

CLL14: Phase 3 trial of VenO vs OClb in previously untreated patients with CLL (N=432)<sup>1,3</sup>

PB MRD response by NGS\* 3 months after EoT

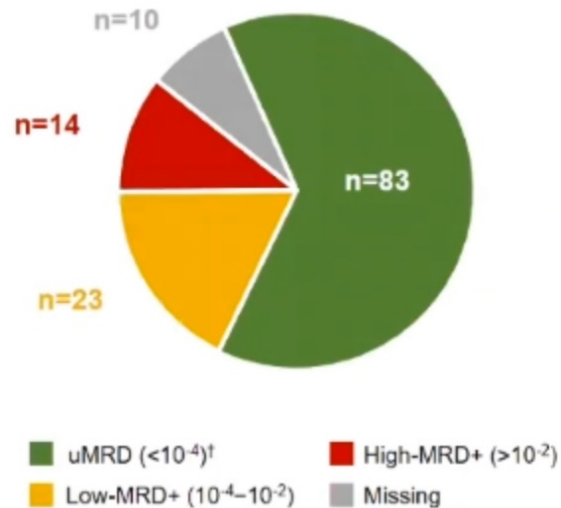


Patients in PR have a similar outcome as patients with CR **when uMRD levels are achieved**

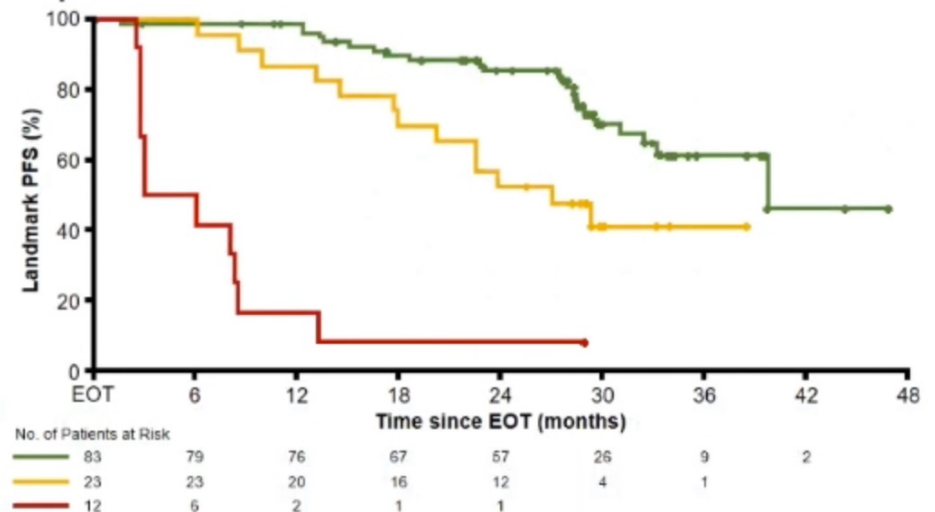


# High uMRD rates predicting longer PFS in the MURANO trial

MRD status at EOT (N=130)

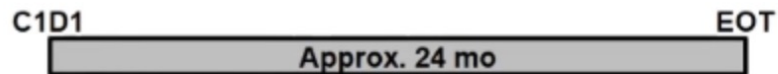


PFS post-EOT



\*uMRD  $<1$  CLL cell/10,000 leukocytes, + censored

CI, confidence interval; EOT, end of treatment; NE, not evaluable; NS, not significant; OS, overall survival; PFS, progn



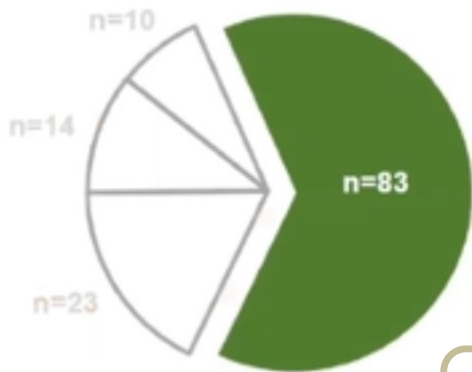
N=130; †uMRD  $<1$  CLL cell/10,000 leukocytes

\*Investigator-assessed PD according to International Workshop on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (iwCLL) criteria

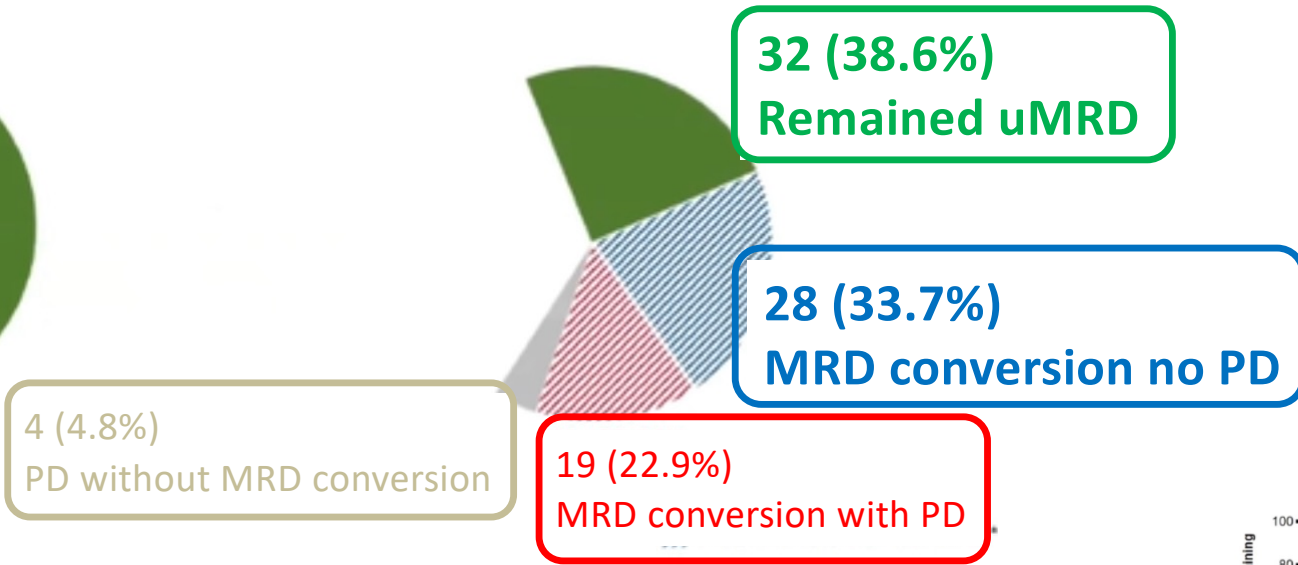
C, cycle; D, day; CLL, chronic lymphocytic leukemia; EOT, end of treatment; mo, months; PD, progressive disease; (u)MRD, (undetectable) minimal residual disease; Ven, venetoclax

# Long delay between EOT and MRD conversion observed

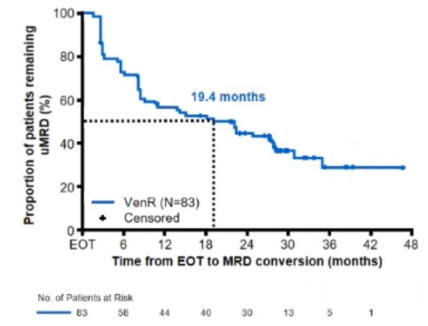
MRD status at EOT (N=130)



Time from EOT to MRD Conversion



Time from EOT to MRD Conversion  
Median 19.4 months  
(95% CI 8.7; 28.3)

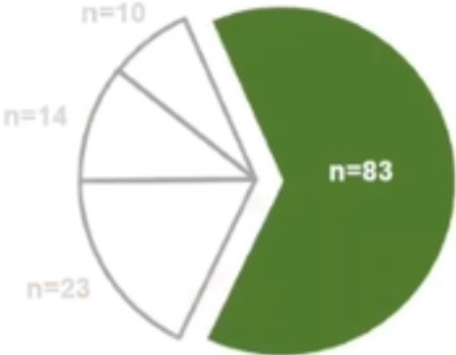


N=130; uMRD <1 CLL cell/10,000 leukocytes

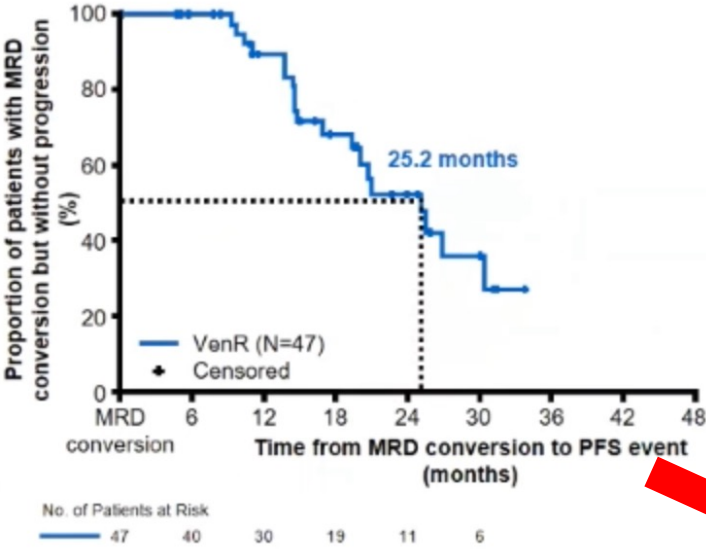
\*Investigator-assessed PD according to International Workshop on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (iwCLL) criteria  
C, cycle; D, day; CLL, chronic lymphocytic leukemia; EOT, end of treatment; mo, months; PD, progressive disease; (u)MRD, (undetectable) minimal residual disease;

# Long delay between MRD conversion and clinical PD observed

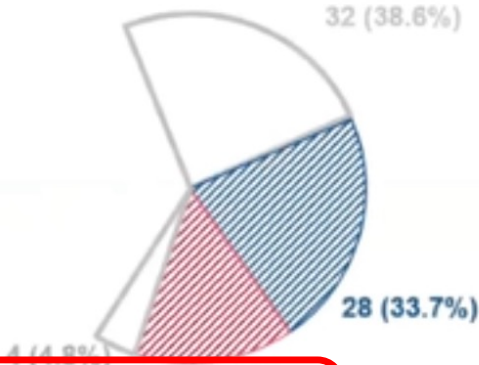
MRD status at EOT (N=130)



Time from MRD conversion to PD\*  
Median 25.2 months  
(95% CI 19.4; 30.4)



Time from MRD conversion to PD\*

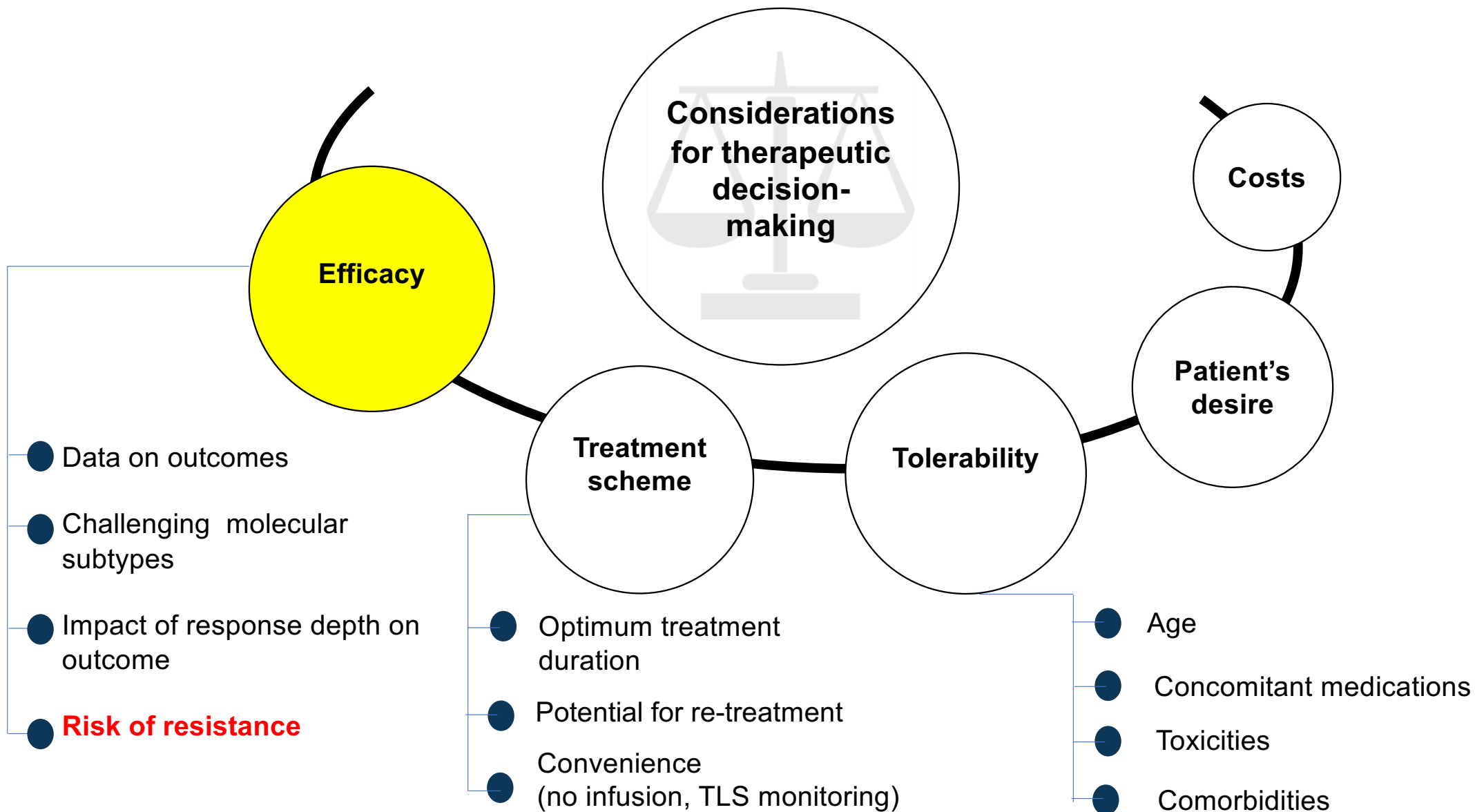


19 (22.9%)  
MRD conversion with PD



**MEDIAN TIME from MRD  
CONVERSION to PD 25 months**

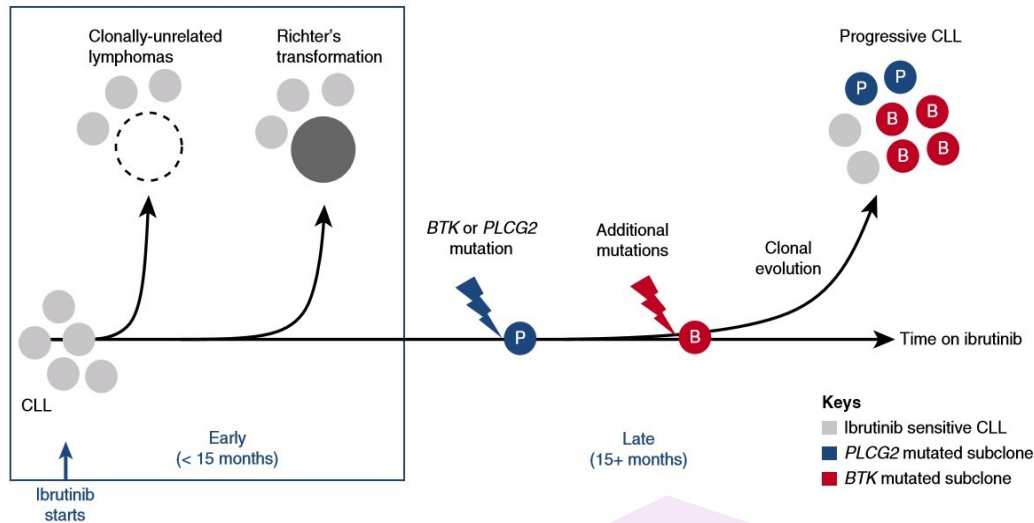
N=130; uMRD <1 CLL cell/10,000 leukocytes  
\*Investigator-assessed PD according to International Workshop on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (iwCLL) criteria  
C, cycle; D, day; CLL, chronic lymphocytic leukemia; EOT, end of treatment; mo, months; PD, progressive disease; (u)MRD, (undetectable) minimal residual disease





# Resistance to targeted therapies: Continuous monotherapy treatment

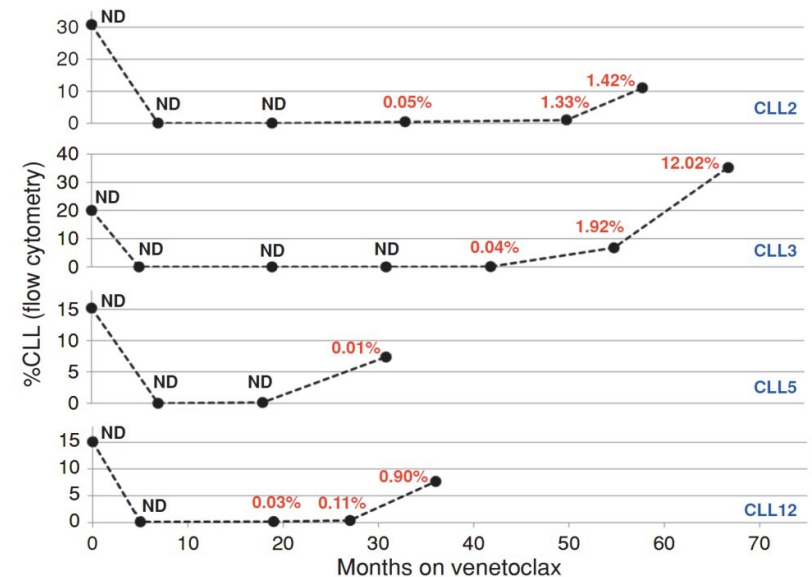
## Molecular patterns of ibrutinib-resistant disease<sup>1</sup>



**BTK/PLCγ2 resistance mutations: preceded PD by ≤15.4 months (median 8 months)<sup>1</sup>**

\* CLL burden measured by multiparameter flow cytometry in serial BM aspirates from 4 patients from initiation of venetoclax until the clinical diagnosis of PD. The VAF of *BCL2* p.G101V in BM samples measured by droplet digital PCR is overlaid; *BCL2* p.G101V VAF is indicated in red. BM, bone marrow; ND, not detected; PLCγ2, phospholipase C gamma 2; VAF, variant allele frequency.

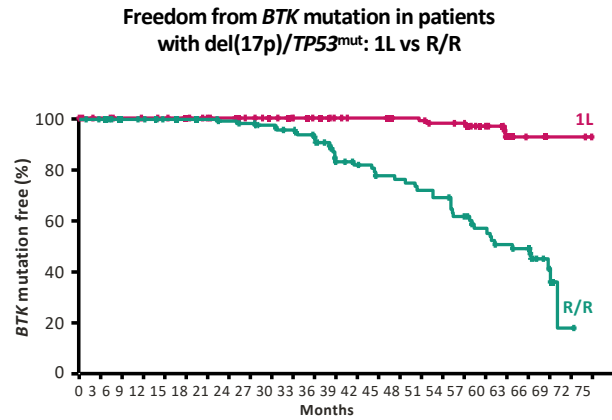
## Acquired resistance mutations in *BCL2* to venetoclax monotherapy (n=4)<sup>\*,2</sup>



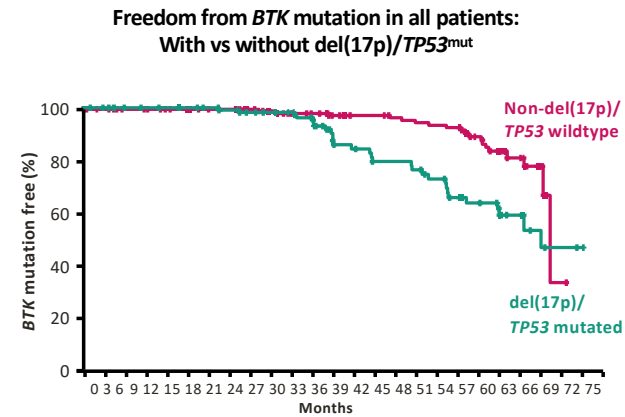
***BCL2* G101V mutations: preceded PD by ≤25 months (median 32 months on venetoclax)<sup>2</sup>**

1. Ahn IE, et al. *Blood* 2017; **129**:1469–1479; 2. Blomberg P, et al. *Cancer Discov* 2019; **9**:342–353.

# BTK mutations occur more frequently in patients with del(17p)/TP53<sup>mut</sup> treated with ibrutinib



|   | 1L<br>(n=238)       | R/R<br>(n=150) |
|---|---------------------|----------------|
| Median time to detection (95% CI)       | NR (NE-NE)          | 61 (53-67)     |
| 3-year mutation-free estimates (95% CI) | 100 (100-100)       | 83 (74-90)     |
| HR (95% CI)                             | 0.069 (0.027-0.175) |                |
| p value                                 | <0.001              |                |

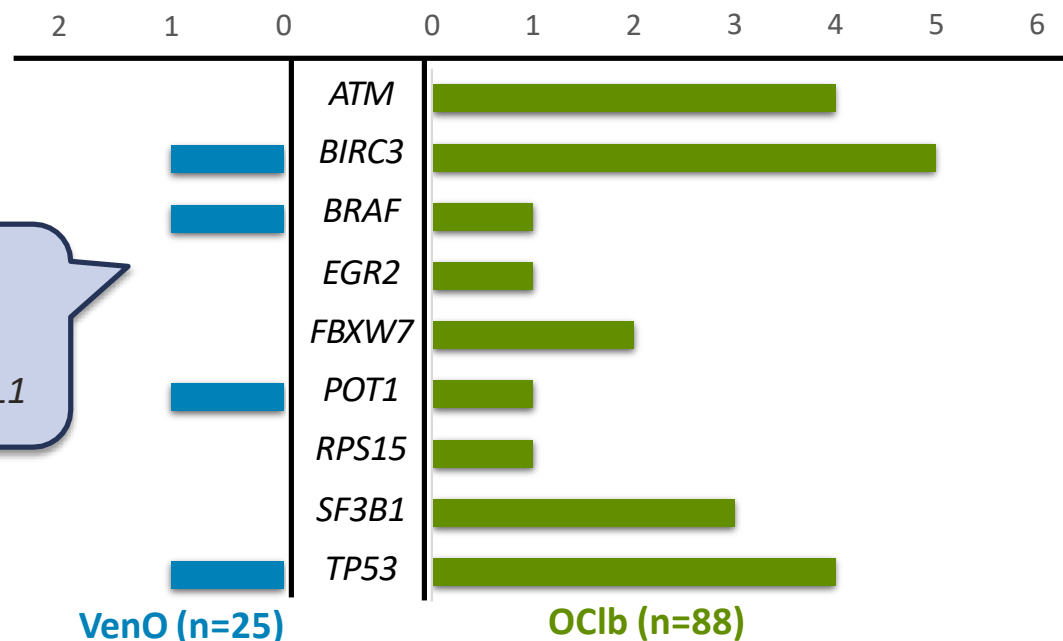


|   | del(17p)/TP53 <sup>mut</sup><br>(n=149) | Non-del(17p)/TP53 <sup>mut</sup><br>(n=237) |
|---|---|---|
| Median time to detection (95% CI)       | 66 (60-NE)                              | 67 (66-NE)                                  |
| 3-year mutation-free estimates (95% CI) | 86 (76-92)                              | 98 (94-99)                                  |
| HR (95% CI)                             | 0.350 (0.197-0.621)                     |   |
| p value                                 | <0.001                                  |   |

**Pooled analysis of BTK and PLCG mutations in 5 ibrutinib trials (N=338)**  
 1L: RESONATE-2, ILLUMINATE, NCT01500733; R/R: RESONATE, RESONATE-17

## No acquired *BCL2* resistance mutations with fixed-duration venetoclax therapy

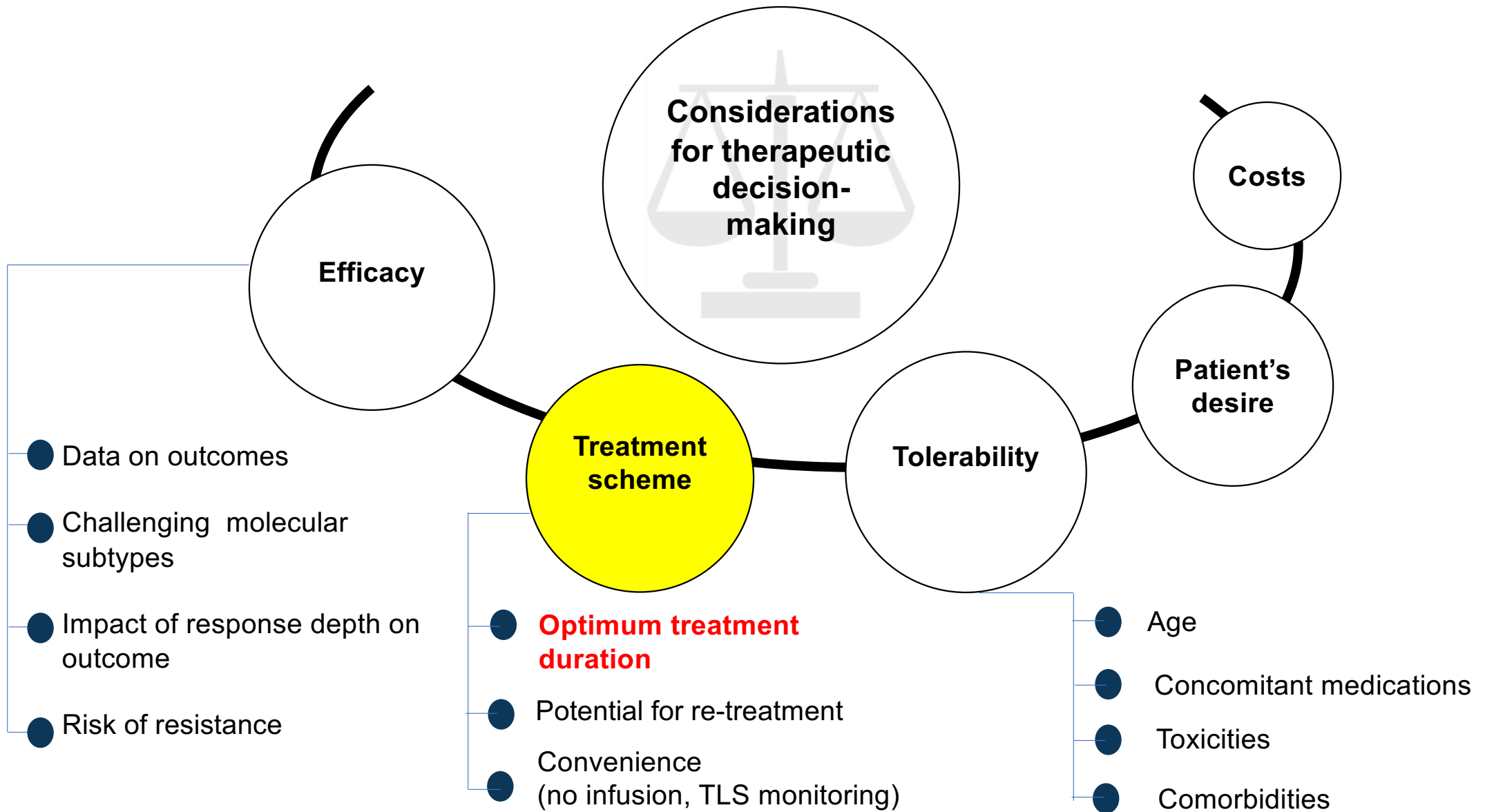
### Newly mutated patients



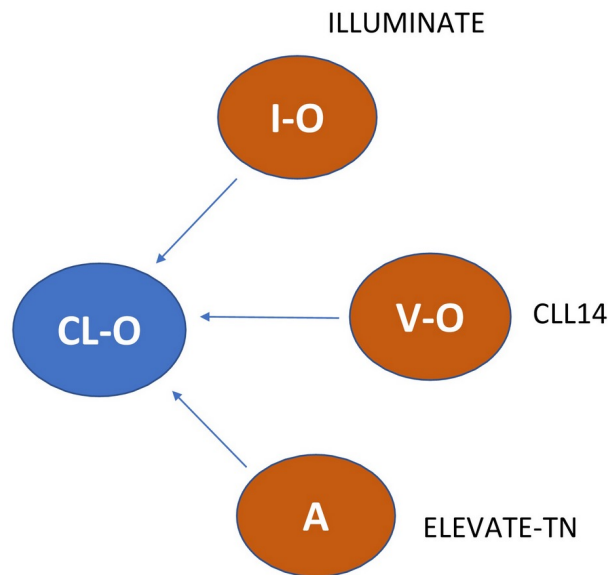
No acquired mutations in *BCL2* family genes in VenO arm

- *BCL2*, *BIM*, *BAX*, *BCL-XL*, *MCL1*

### CLL14: Acquired mutations in previously untreated CLL patients after 12 cycles of VenO or OClb

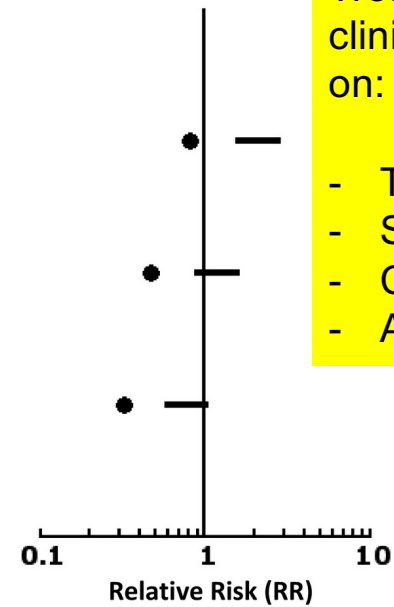


# Lack of significant difference in PFS for time-limited and continuous therapy in a network meta-analysis



IO, Ibrutinib-Obinutuzumab  
 A, Acalabrutinib  
 VO, Venetoclax-Obinutuzumab  
 CL-O, Chlorambucil-Obinutuzumab

| Comparison | RR (95%CI)       |
|------------|------------------|
| VO vs IO   | 1.52(0.82-2.81)  |
| A vs IO    | 0.87 (0.47-1.61) |
| A vs VO    | 0.57 (0.32-1.03) |

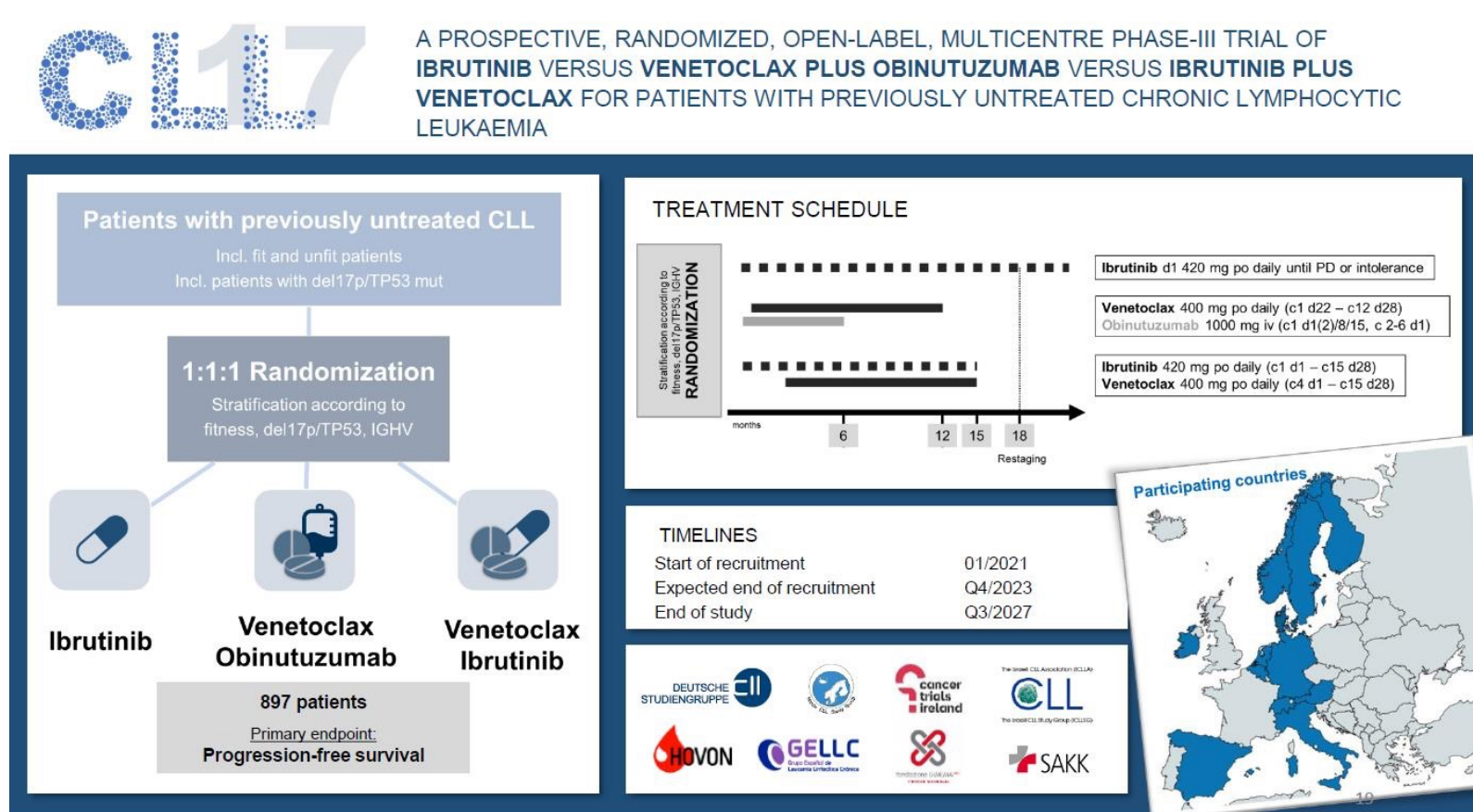


Treatment selection in routine clinical practice should be based on:

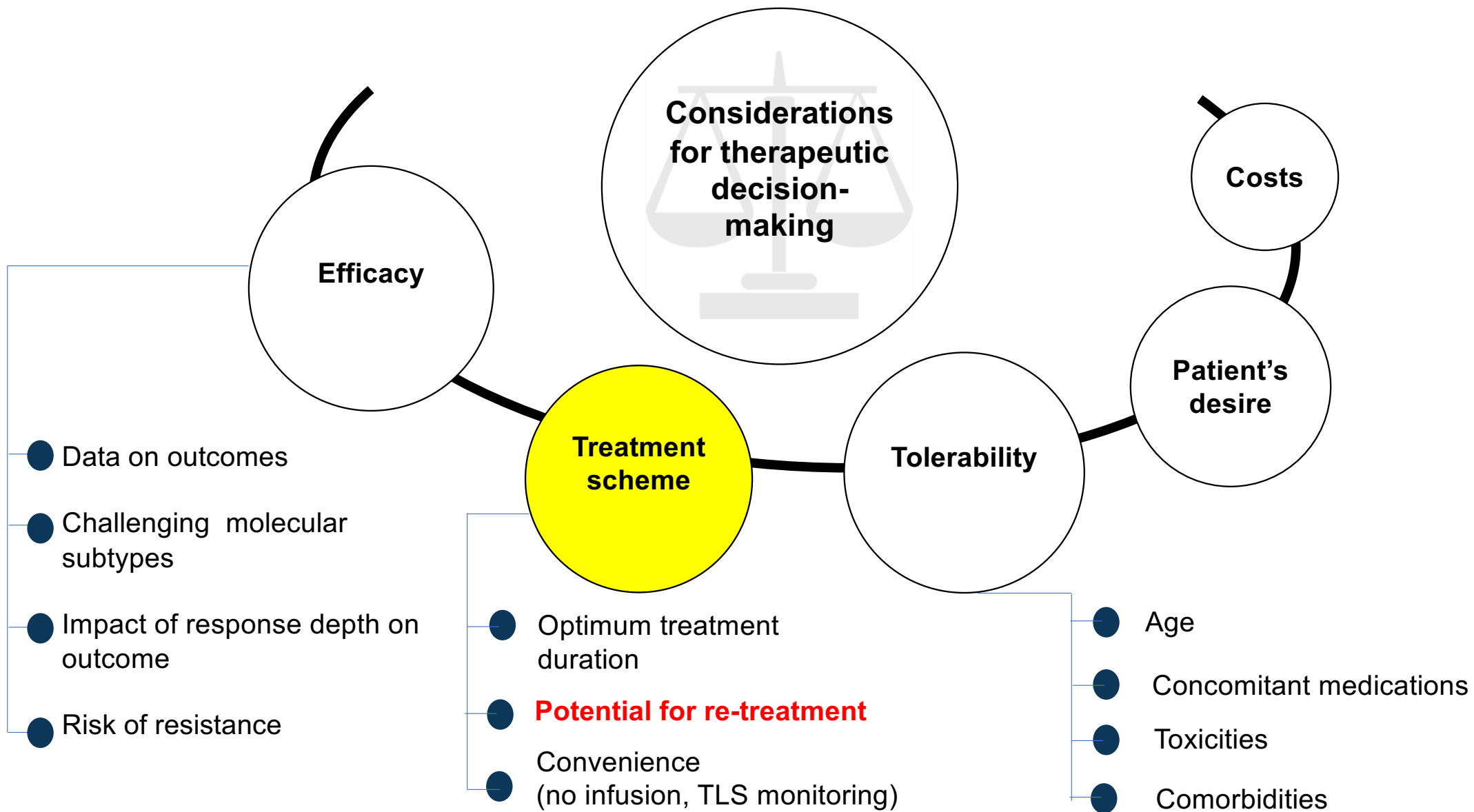
- Treatment objectives
- Safety
- Costs
- Availability

Upper limit of 95% CI for RR crossing 1.0 indicates no statistical difference among different regimens. Relative Risks (RRs) are represented in the forest plot in logarithmic scale.

# The discussion will be addressed in the CLL17 trial by the German Study Group

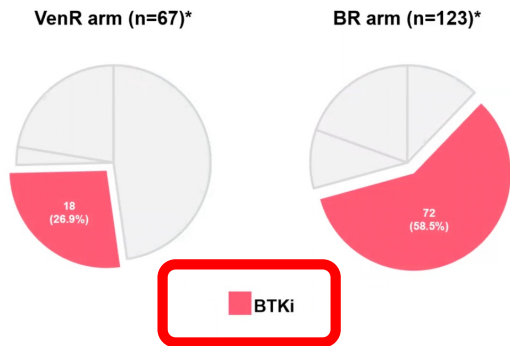


but we will need a couple of years until we have the answers on this trial!!!

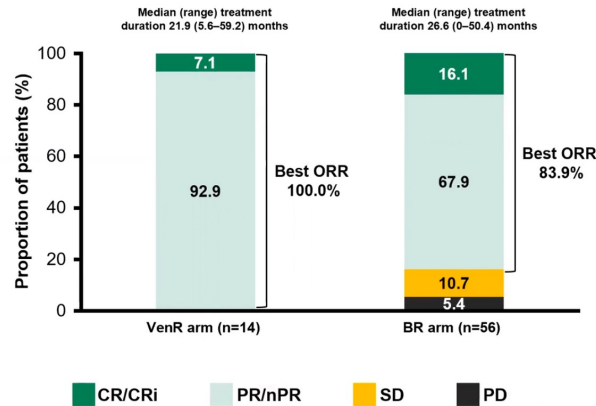


# High response rates to subsequent therapy in the MURANO trial

Subsequent therapy (ITT)



Best overall response rate (ORR)<sup>†</sup> to subsequent BTKi-based therapy<sup>#</sup>



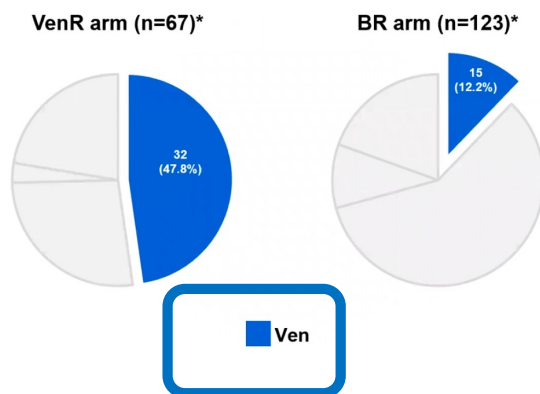
VenR



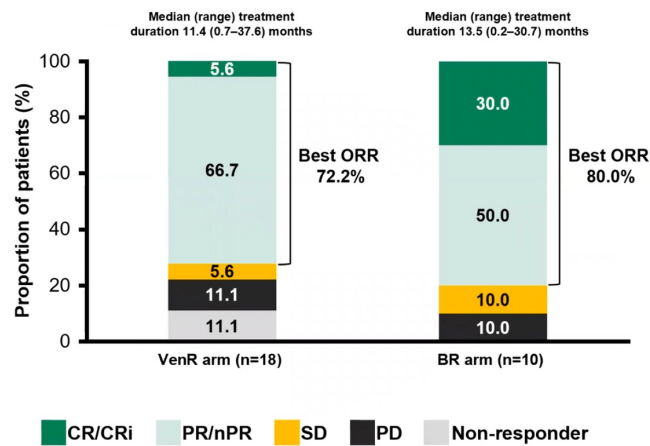
**BTKi**

**14/14**

Subsequent therapy (ITT)



Best overall response rate (ORR)<sup>†</sup> to subsequent Ven-based therapy<sup>#</sup>



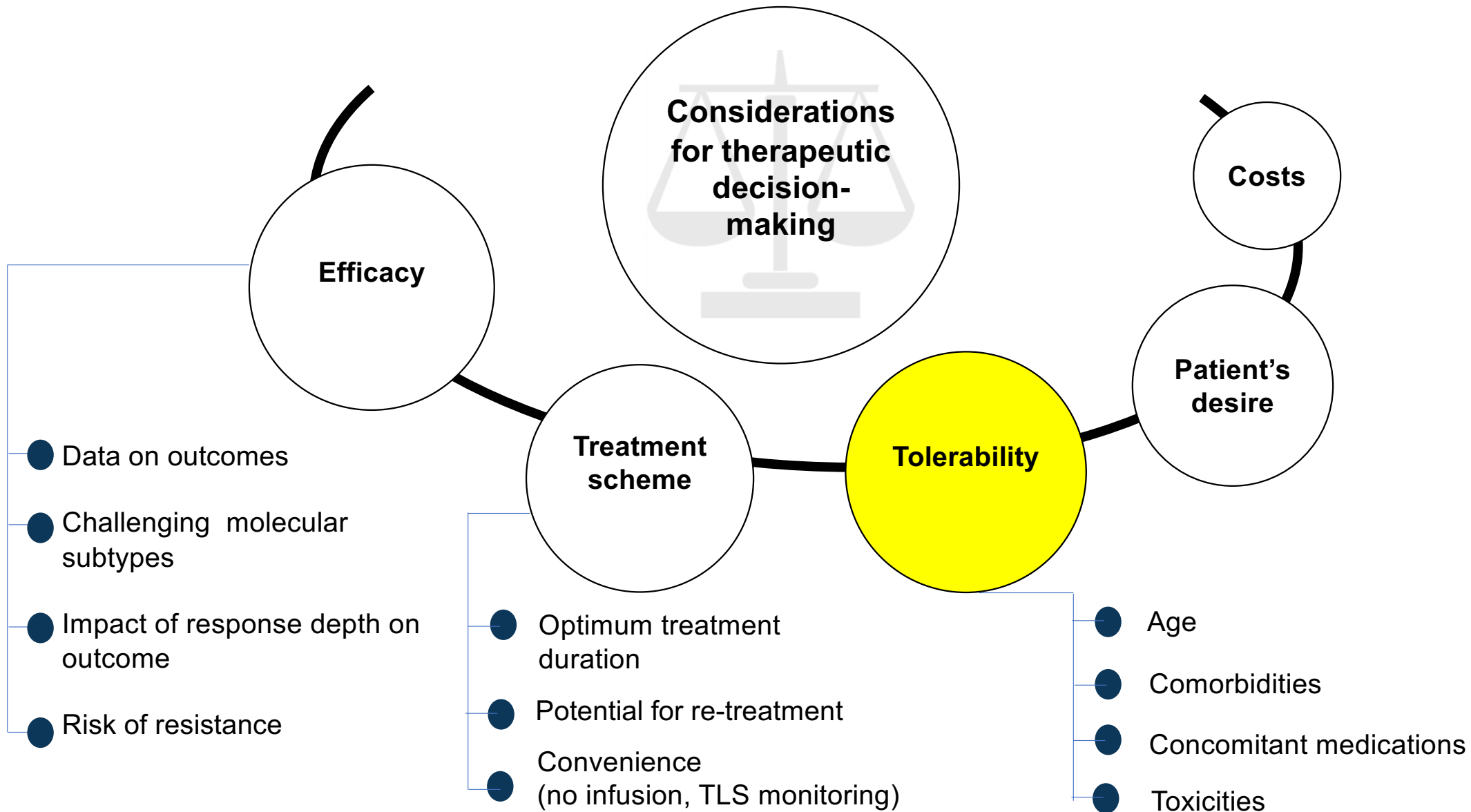
VenR



**Ven**

**13/18**





## The age of a patient is linked to life expectancy, which in turn may determine the treatment paradigm

**TABLE 2. Additional Expected Life Years According to Age and Sex**

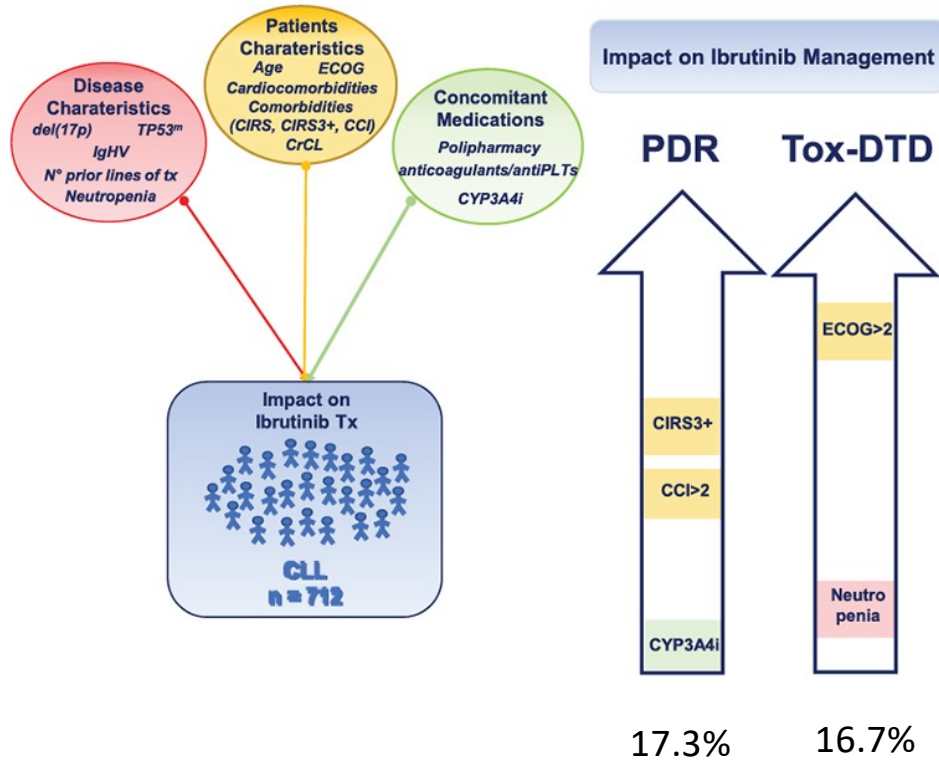
| Patient Age, Years | Additional Years of Life Expectancy |       |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
|                    | Men                                 | Women |
| 65                 | 19.2                                | 21.7  |
| 70                 | 15.4                                | 17.4  |
| 75                 | 11.8                                | 13.6  |
| 80                 | 8.7                                 | 10.1  |
| 85                 | 6.2                                 | 7.3   |

According to U.S. Social Security data.

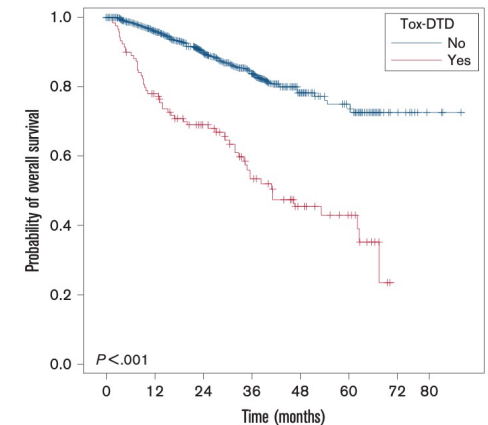


Avoid excessive treatment-related toxicity may be most appropriate in an older patient who has severe comorbid conditions that limit life expectancy

# Not age per se, but age-related conditions, may affect ibrutinib management



- Presence of a severe comorbidity was significantly associated with PDR (not translating into worse outcomes)
- CYP3A4 inhibitors use correlated with an increased risk of PDR.
- ECOG-PS and neutropenia resulted as the most accurate predictors of treatment feasibility (negatively affecting OS)



PDR: permanent dose reduction  
 Tox-DTD: definitive treatment discontinuation owing to toxicity

*Tedeschi et al. Do age, fitness, and concomitant medications influence management and outcomes of patients with CLL treated with ibrutinib? Blood Adv 2021*

# Coexisting conditions and concomitant medications do not affect venetoclax management

221 relapsed/refractory patients

## Venetoclax dosing and discontinuations

|  | Rate, % (proportion)  |
|--|-----------------------|
| Achieved 400 mg daily  | 100% (221/221)        |
| Maintained 400 mg daily  | 39.8% (88/221)        |
| Required dose reduction at least once  | 21.7% (48/221)        |
| Permanently maintained lower dosage after ≥1 dose reduction                  | 70.8% (34/48)         |
| Permanently reduced dosage   | <b>21.7%</b> (48/221) |
| Required interruption at least once  | 31.2% (69/221)        |
| Definitively discontinued due to toxicity after ≥1 dose interruption         | 11.6% (8/69)          |
| Interrupted for ≥ 7 days   | 20.8% (46/221)        |
| Definitively discontinued due to toxicity after ≥1 dose interruption ≥7 days | 13% (6/46)            |
| Definitively discontinued due to toxicity                                    | 5.9% (13/221)         |

## PDR

### Main reasons:

- Ven-induced cytopenia (53.8%)
- drug-to-drug interference (10.4%)
- infections (8.3%)

## Reasons for tx discontinuations

### Venetoclax definitive discontinuation on 221 pts

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| All reasons            | 85 (38.5%)     |
| CLL progression        | 38 (17.2%)     |
| Richter transformation | 20 (9%)        |
| Toxicity               | 13 <b>5.9%</b> |
| Allo transplant        | 8 (3.6%)       |
| Secondary malignancies | 3 (1.4%)       |
| Other reasons          | 3 (1.4%)       |

## Tox-DTD

- m time: 2.3 mo (range 0.1-12.2 mo)
- Main reasons: infections (53.8%) cytopenia (30.8%)

Not influenced by: fitness parameter, age, concomitant medication, baseline neutropenia, or impaired renal function

None of the parameters generally considered for treatment choice should rule the decision process with this agent

## Adverse Events of BTK vs BCL2 inhibitors

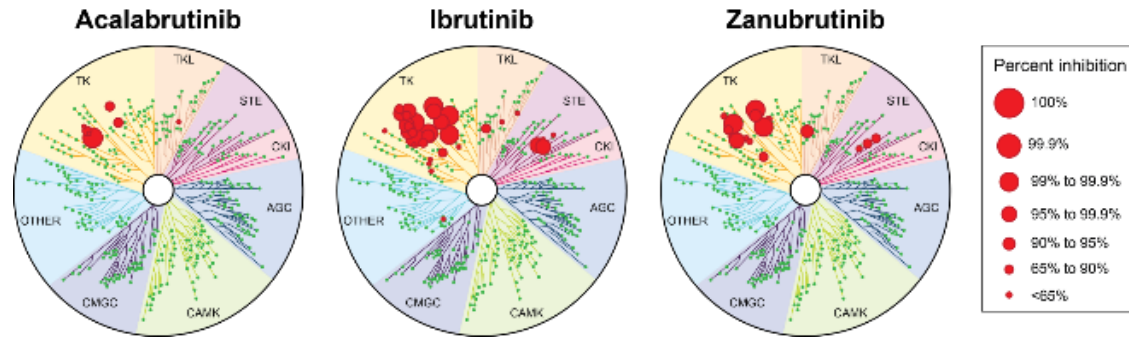
### VENETOCLAX

- **Neutropenia**
  - Transient and manageable
  - Grade III/IV neutropenia in 37% of patients, predominantly in the first 3-6 months of therapy;
  - GCS-F treatment and occasional dose interruptions are effective in the majority of cases
  - febrile neutropenia (4-5%)
  - Grade III/IV infections and infestations (18%)
- **Tumour Lysis Syndrome**
  - Warrant careful prophylaxis and monitoring,
  - Often laboratory TLS (Hyperphosphatemia)
  - Can be prevented or mitigated in the majority of cases (dose ramp-up, TLS prophylaxis, surveillance program, rare dose interruptions)
- **Diarrhea**

### IBRUTINIB

- **Toxicity is the most common reason for cessation**
  - May compromise the potential durable disease control of ibrutinib
  - 41% of patients discontinued therapy at a median of seven months
  - 63% of terminations in TN and 50% of R/R patients
  - Young TN patients 14% of cessation median F-U of 45 months
  - Older, heavily pre-treated and comorbid patients more likely to discontinue due to toxicity
  - Higher CIRS associated with a higher rate of cessation
- Most common adverse effects accounting for termination:
  - **Arthralgia**, data on the management are lacking
  - **Atrial Fibrillation** (10% of patients over 36 months)
  - **Rash**
  - **Infection**
  - **Bleeding** (50% pts, typically minor, major in 9%)
  - **Diarrhea**
- Increase the risk of sudden cardiac death and ventricular arrhythmias. (2-4% HELIOS and ALLIANCE trial)

# Differences in overall kinase selectivity have been observed among BTKis



| Kinase | IC <sub>50</sub> (nM) (N=2) |           |              |
|--------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|
|        | Acalabrutinib               | Ibrutinib | Zanubrutinib |
| BLK    | >1000                       | 0.1 ± 0.0 | 2.5 ± 0.4    |
| FGR    | >1000                       | 3.3 ± 1.1 | 101 ± 20     |
| FYN    | >1000                       | 29 ± 0    | 755 ± 15     |
| HCK    | >1000                       | 29 ± 0    | >1000        |
| LCK    | >1000                       | 6.3 ± 1.3 | 147 ± 13     |
| LYN    | >1000                       | 20 ± 1    | 668 ± 127    |
| SRC    | >1000                       | 19 ± 1    | 504 ± 37     |
| YES1   | >1000                       | 4.1 ± 0.2 | 420 ± 143    |

Mild effects of Acalabrutinib on TEC

No effects of Acalabrutinib on ITK

No effects of Acalabrutinib on EGFR  
(10 times lower affinity than Ibrutinib)

| Kinase             | IC <sub>50</sub> (nM) (N=3) |           |              |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|
|                    | Acalabrutinib               | Ibrutinib | Zanubrutinib |
| BTK <sup>a</sup>   | 5.1 ± 1.0                   | 1.5 ± 0.2 | 0.5 ± 0.0    |
| TEC <sup>b</sup>   | 126 ± 11                    | 10 ± 12   | 44 ± 19      |
| ITK <sup>c</sup>   | >1000                       | 4.9 ± 1.2 | 50 ± 5       |
| TXK <sup>c</sup>   | 368 ± 141                   | 2.0 ± 0.3 | 2.2 ± 0.6    |
| BMX <sup>c</sup>   | 46 ± 12                     | 0.8 ± 0.1 | 1.4 ± 0.4    |
| EGFR <sup>c</sup>  | >1000                       | 5.3 ± 1.3 | 21 ± 1       |
| ERBB2 <sup>c</sup> | ~1000                       | 6.4 ± 1.8 | 88 ± 26      |
| ERBB4 <sup>c</sup> | 16 ± 5                      | 3.4 ± 1.4 | 6.9 ± 0.6    |
| BLK <sup>c</sup>   | >1000                       | 0.1 ± 0.0 | 2.5 ± 0.4    |
| JAK3 <sup>c</sup>  | >1000                       | 32 ± 15   | >1000        |

Profiling of BTKi interactions with kinases having Cys in same position as Cys481 of BTK\*

Profiling of BTKis on Src family kinases<sup>†</sup>

<math><10</math>-fold selectivity versus BTK

>10- to <math><100</math>-fold selectivity versus BTK

>100-fold selectivity versus BTK

No effects of Acalabrutinib on SRC family kinases

Figures from Kaptein et al. Blood. 2018;132(Suppl 1):1871. \*Values are mean ± SD, and are from: a)MAP assay, b)LanthaScreen assay, c)Z'-LYTE assay  
<sup>†</sup>Values are mean ± SD and are from Z'-LYTE assay. 1. Kaptein et al. Blood 2018;132(Suppl 1):1871; 2. Barf et al. J Pharmacol Exp Ther 2017;363(2):240–252; 3. Estupiñán et al. Front Cell Dev Biol 2021;9:630942  
 AE, adverse event; BTK, Bruton tyrosine kinase; BTKi, BTK inhibitor; CV, cardiovascular; Cys, cysteine; HTN, hypertension; VF, ventricular fibrillation

## Acalabrutinib vs ibrutinib: incidence of events of clinical interest in the Elevate R/R trial

| Events, n (%)                        | Any grade             |                   | Grade ≥3              |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
|                                      | Acalabrutinib (n=266) | Ibrutinib (n=263) | Acalabrutinib (n=266) | Ibrutinib (n=263) |
| Cardiac events                       | 64 (24.1)             | 79 (30.0)         | 23 (8.6)              | 25 (9.5)          |
| Atrial fibrillation <sup>a*</sup>    | 25 (9.4)              | <b>42 (16.0)</b>  | 13 (4.9)              | 10 (3.8)          |
| Ventricular arrhythmias <sup>b</sup> | 0                     | 3 (1.1)           | 0                     | 1 (0.4)           |
| Bleeding events <sup>*</sup>         | 101 (38.0)            | <b>135 (51.3)</b> | 10 (3.8)              | 12 (4.6)          |
| Major bleeding events <sup>c</sup>   | 12 (4.5)              | 14 (5.3)          | 10 (3.8)              | 12 (4.6)          |
| Hypertension <sup>d*</sup>           | 25 (9.4)              | <b>61 (23.2)</b>  | 11 (4.1)              | <b>24 (9.1)</b>   |
| Infections <sup>e</sup>              | 208 (78.2)            | 214 (81.4)        | 82 (30.8)             | 79 (30.0)         |
| ILD/pneumonitis <sup>*</sup>         | 7 (2.6)               | <b>17 (6.5)</b>   | 1 (0.4)               | 2 (0.8)           |
| SPMs excluding NMSC                  | 24 (9.0)              | 20 (7.6)          | 16 (6.0)              | 14 (5.3)          |

Statistically significant reduction in any grade atrial fibrillation rates, lower incidence of bleeding events, hypertension, interstitial lung disease/pneumonitis

Higher incidence indicated in **bold** for terms with statistical differences.

\*Two-sided *P*-value for event comparisons <0.05 without multiplicity adjustment.

<sup>a</sup>Includes events with preferred terms atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter. <sup>b</sup>Includes events with preferred terms torsade de pointes, ventricular arrhythmia, ventricular extrasystoles, ventricular fibrillation, ventricular flutter, ventricular tachyarrhythmia, and ventricular tachycardia. <sup>c</sup>Defined as any hemorrhagic event that was serious, grade ≥3 in severity, or a central nervous system hemorrhage (any severity grade). <sup>d</sup>Included events with the preferred terms of hypertension, blood pressure increased, and blood pressure systolic increased. <sup>e</sup>Most common grade ≥3 infections were pneumonia (acalabrutinib, 10.5%; ibrutinib, 8.7%), sepsis (1.5% vs 2.7%, respectively), and UTI (1.1% vs 2.3%).

ILD = interstitial lung disease; NMSC = nonmelanoma skin cancer; SPMs = second primary malignancies; UTI = urinary tract infection.

## Acalabrutinib vs ibrutinib: incidence of Most common AE's (any grade $\geq$ 15%) in the Elevate R/R trial

**PROS**  
Any grade diarrhea, arthralgia, hypertension, contusion, and atrial fibrillation occurred less frequently with acalabrutinib vs ibrutinib



| Events, n (%)                    | Any grade             |                   | Grade $\geq$ 3        |                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
|                                  | Acalabrutinib (n=266) | Ibrutinib (n=263) | Acalabrutinib (n=266) | Ibrutinib (n=263) |
| Diarrhea <sup>a,b</sup>          | 92 (34.6)             | <b>121 (46.0)</b> | 3 (1.1)               | <b>13 (4.9)</b>   |
| Headache <sup>a,b</sup>          | <b>92 (34.6)</b>      | 53 (20.2)         | <b>4 (1.5)</b>        | 0                 |
| Cough <sup>a</sup>               | <b>77 (28.9)</b>      | 56 (21.3)         | 2 (0.8)               | 1 (0.4)           |
| URTI                             | 71 (26.7)             | 65 (24.7)         | 5 (1.9)               | 1 (0.4)           |
| Neutropenia                      | 56 (21.1)             | 65 (24.7)         | 52 (19.5)             | 60 (22.8)         |
| Pyrexia                          | 62 (23.3)             | 50 (19.0)         | 8 (3.0)               | 2 (0.8)           |
| Arthralgia <sup>a</sup>          | 42 (15.8)             | <b>60 (22.8)</b>  | 0                     | 2 (0.8)           |
| Hypertension <sup>a,b</sup>      | 23 (8.6)              | <b>60 (22.8)</b>  | 11 (4.1)              | <b>23 (8.7)</b>   |
| Anemia                           | 58 (21.8)             | 49 (18.6)         | 31 (11.7)             | 34 (12.9)         |
| Fatigue <sup>b</sup>             | 54 (20.3)             | 44 (16.7)         | <b>9 (3.4)</b>        | 0                 |
| Nausea                           | 47 (17.7)             | 49 (18.6)         | 0                     | 1 (0.4)           |
| Contusion <sup>a</sup>           | 31 (11.7)             | <b>48 (18.3)</b>  | 0                     | 1 (0.4)           |
| Pneumonia                        | 47 (17.7)             | 43 (16.3)         | 28 (10.5)             | 23 (8.7)          |
| Atrial fibrillation <sup>a</sup> | 24 (9.0)              | <b>41 (15.6)</b>  | 12 (4.5)              | 9 (3.4)           |
| Thrombocytopenia                 | 40 (15.0)             | 35 (13.3)         | 26 (9.8)              | 18 (6.8)          |

**CONS**  
Headache, cough and fatigue occurred more frequently with acalabrutinib vs ibrutinib



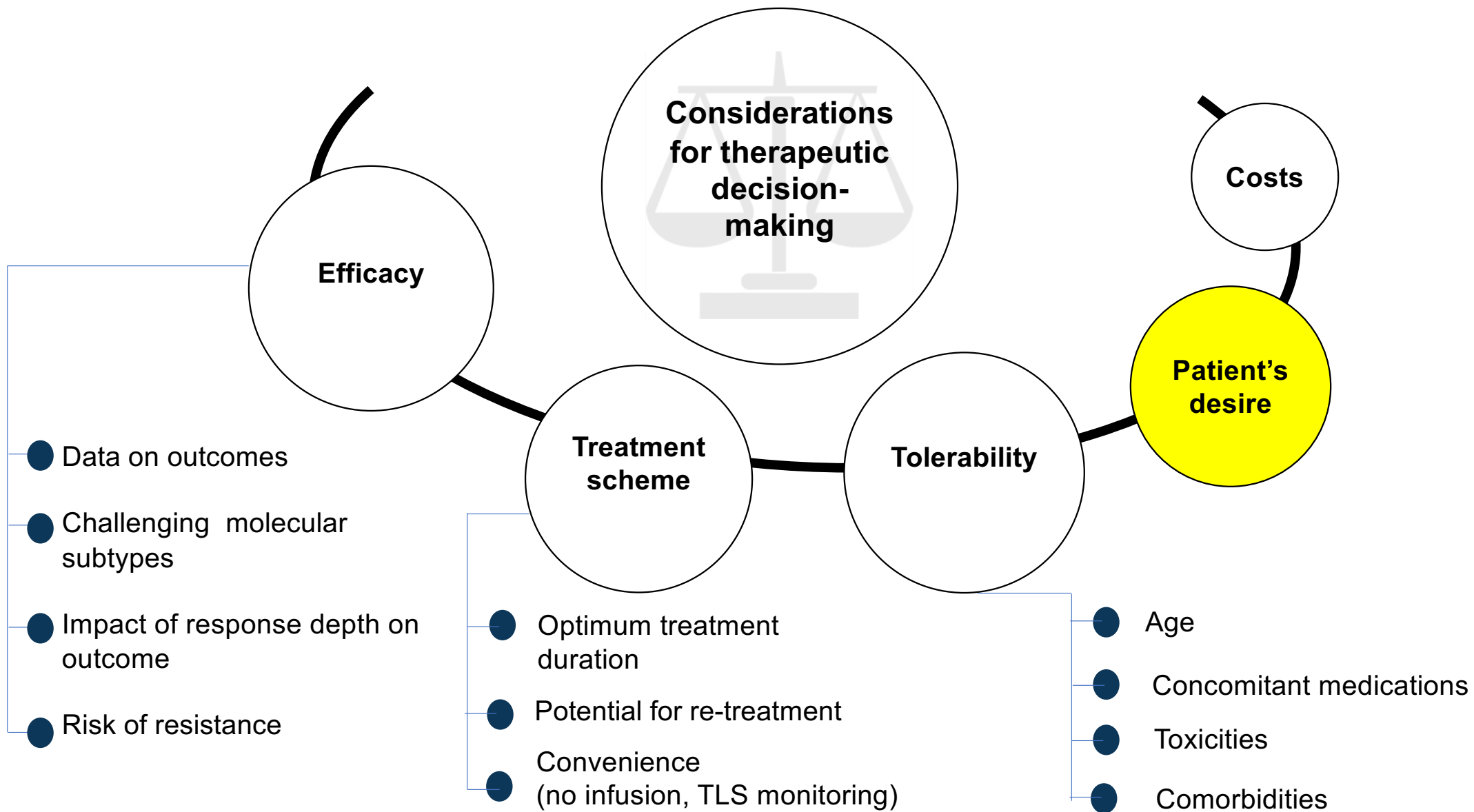
Higher incidence in **bold** for terms with statistical differences.

<sup>a</sup>Based on Barnard's exact test, two-sided *P*-value <0.05 without multiplicity adjustment for any grade events. <sup>b</sup>Based on Barnard's exact test, two-sided *P*-value <0.05 without multiplicity adjustment for grade  $\geq$ 3 events.

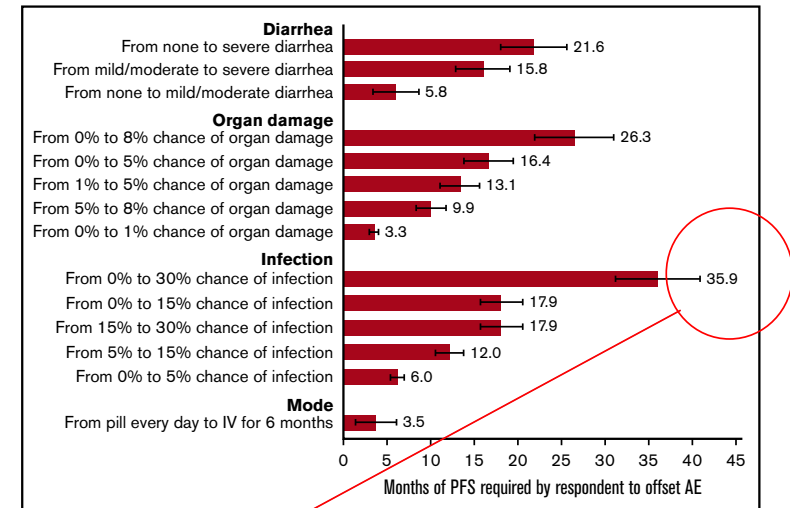
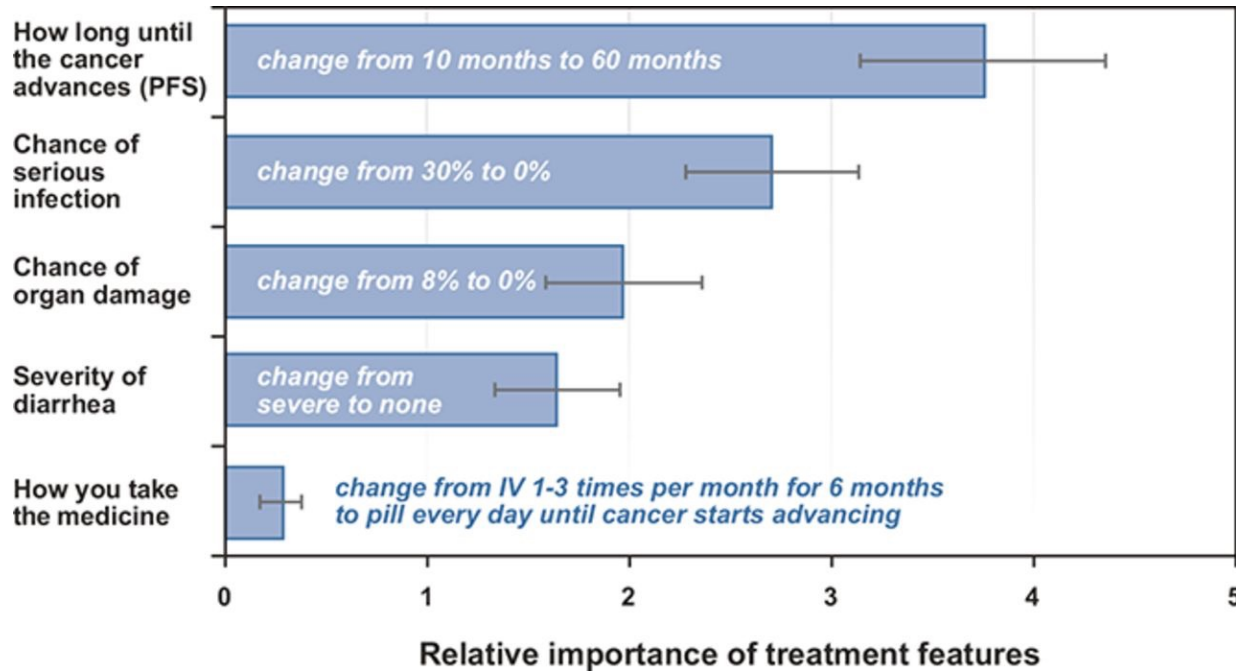
AE = adverse event; URTI = upper respiratory tract infection.

Byrd JC et al. Poster Presented at: ASCO Virtual Annual Meeting; June 4-8, 2021.





# Patients' priorities in selecting treatments: CLL patients value higher PFS



On average, 36 additional months of PFS would compensate respondents for an increase in the risk of serious infection from 0% to 30%.

## CLL Patients' Preferences Towards Therapies: the Italian Experience (CHOICE Study)

Cross-sectional multicenter observational study

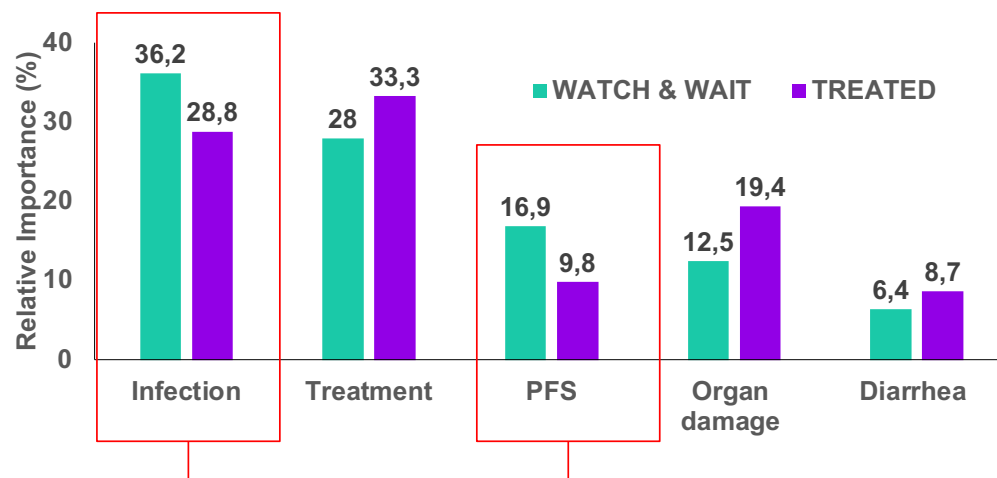
401 patients: 199 W&W and 198 Treated pts, 16 Italian centers

During the 1<sup>st</sup> wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Italy (From February to July 2020)

Discrete Choice Experiment questionnaire

| Variabili                             | Pazienti Naïve   | Pazienti Trattati   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
|                                       | Livelli  | Livelli   |
| Durata e schema di terapia            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral until progression</li> <li>• IV 6 months</li> <li>• Oral 6 months + IV 6 months</li> <li>• Oral 12 months + IV 6 months</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral until progression</li> <li>• IV 6 months</li> <li>• Oral 24 months + IV 6 months</li> <li>• Oral until progression + IV 6 months</li> </ul> |
| PFS                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 months</li> <li>• 36 months</li> <li>• 48 months</li> <li>• 60 months</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 months</li> <li>• 24 months</li> <li>• 60 months</li> </ul>   |
| Possibile incidenza di Infezioni      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10%</li> <li>• 15%</li> <li>• 30%</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10%</li> <li>• 15%</li> <li>• 30%</li> </ul>   |
| Possibile incidenza di Diarrea        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5%</li> <li>• 10%</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5%</li> <li>• 15%</li> </ul>   |
| Possibile incidenza di Danno D'organo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1%</li> <li>• 6%</li> <li>• 10%</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1%</li> <li>• 6%</li> <li>• 10%</li> </ul>   |

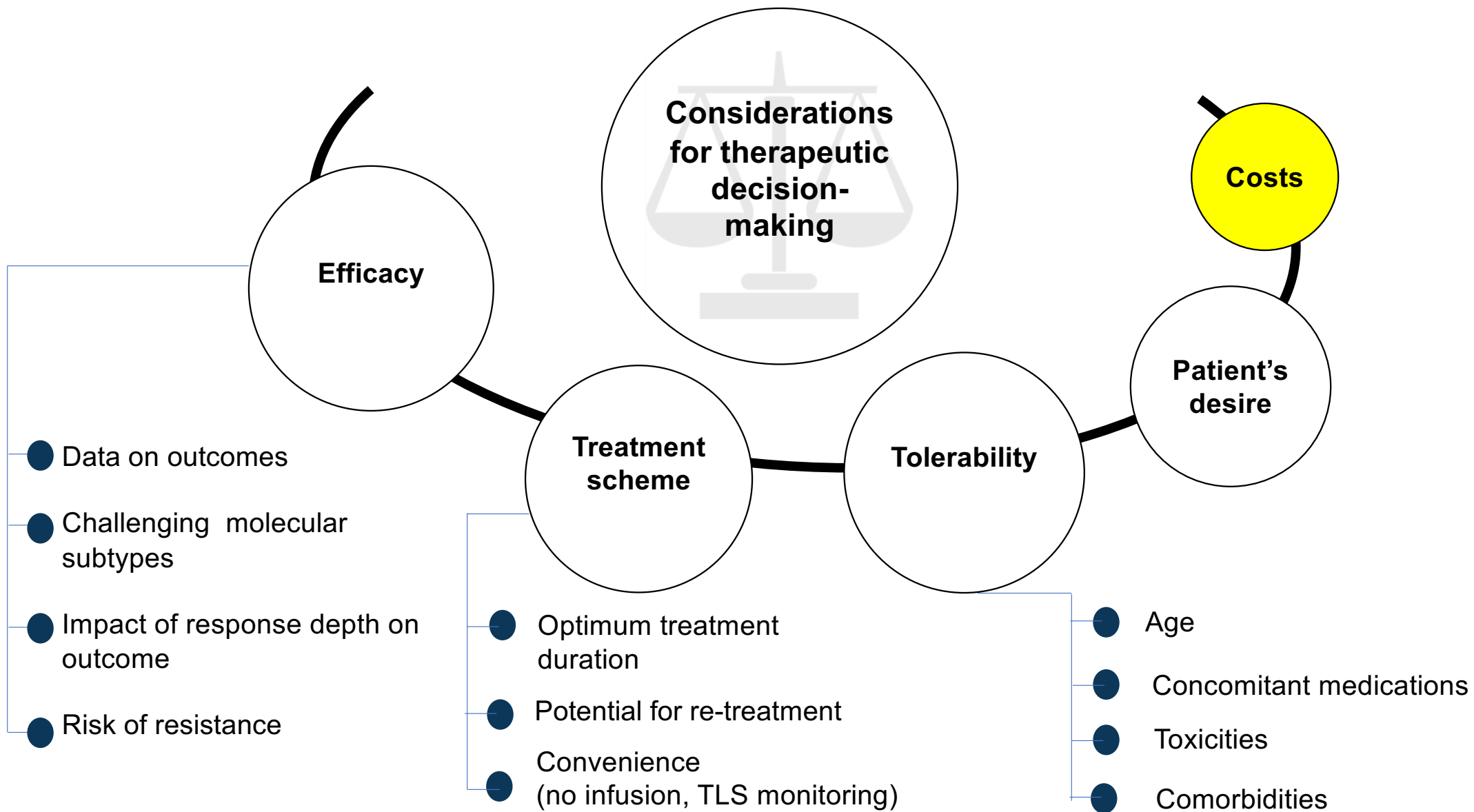
## In the CHOICE study patients had more concerns about possible infections



In contrast to previously published DCEs where PFS was the most important attribute



The limitation in hospital access during the 1<sup>st</sup> wave and the overall need of personal protection (masks usage) and social distancing might have influenced patients' responses



## Analisi di costo-terapia nel trattamento della leucemia linfatica cronica recidivata/refrattaria : Venetoclax-Rituximab vs Ibrutinib

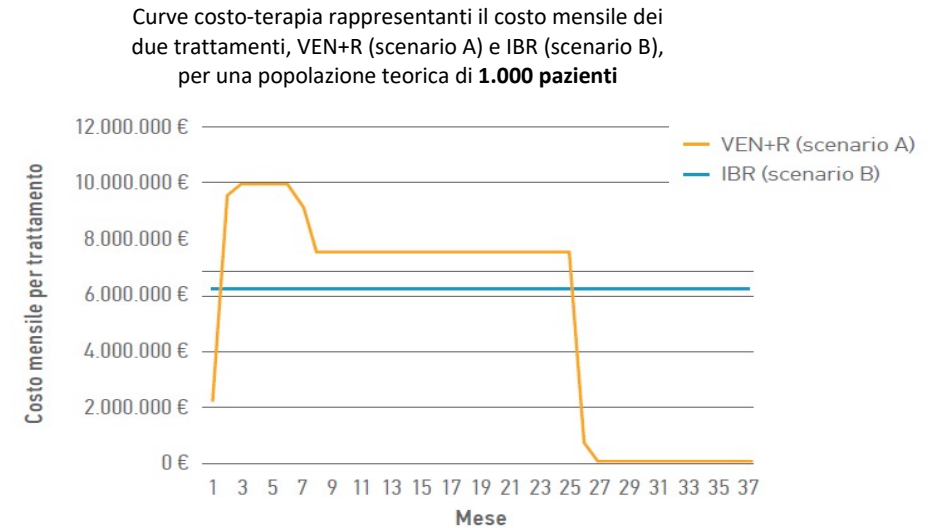


La terapia con Venetoclax-Rituximab genera un risparmio economico rispetto a Ibrutinib pari a circa 31.000€ per paziente

| Cicli                        | Ramp-up    | 1-6        | da 7 - 24  | da 24 - 37 | Totale Costo Ex-Factory/pz |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Costo/Ciclo VenR</b>      | -          | 9.139,37 € | 6.919,03 € | -          | <b>196.546,61 €</b>        |
| Costo/ciclo Ven              | 3.329,79 € | 6.919,03 € | 6.919,03 € | -          | 183.224,57 €               |
| Costo/ciclo R                | -          | 2.220,34 € | -          | -          | 13.322,04 €                |
| <b>Costo/Ciclo Ibrutinib</b> | -          | 6.147,03 € | 6.147,03 € | 6.147,03 € | <b>227.440,18 €</b>        |

Prezzo Ex-Factory

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Costo per paziente VEN in 37 mesi   | 183.224,57 €        |
| Costo per paziente R in 37 mesi   | 13.322,04 €         |
| Costo per paziente IBR  | 7.670,09 €          |
| <b>Costo-terapia per paziente con VEN+ R (incluso ritrattamento con IBR) in 37 mesi</b>   | <b>204.216,70 €</b> |
| Costo per paziente della terapia con IBR nell'orizzonte temporale di 37 mesi (scenario B) | 227.440,18 €        |



Dal risparmio generato nell'arco temporale di 37 mesi con l'utilizzo della terapia VenR su 1000 pazienti, considerando anche i costi di ritrattamento per progressione della malattia, è possibile trattare **114 pazienti in più**<sup>1</sup>

VenR= Venclyxto+rituximab; Ven= Venclyxto; R= Rituximab

Rigolin et al. Analisi di costo-terapia nel trattamento della leucemia linfatica cronica recidivata/refrattaria.Clinico Economics.Vol.14.2019

## Conclusions

- Novel agents have eclipsed chemoimmunotherapy as treatment for CLL in the vast majority of patients (especially high risk patients)
- CIT (FCR) reserved to a limited number of patients
- Continuous versus time-limited treatment discussions are long discussions now and should be individualized to particular patients and their comorbidities
- Besides efficacy, treatment selection in routine clinical practice should be based on safety, treatment objectives and costs

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