

# **Venetoclax**

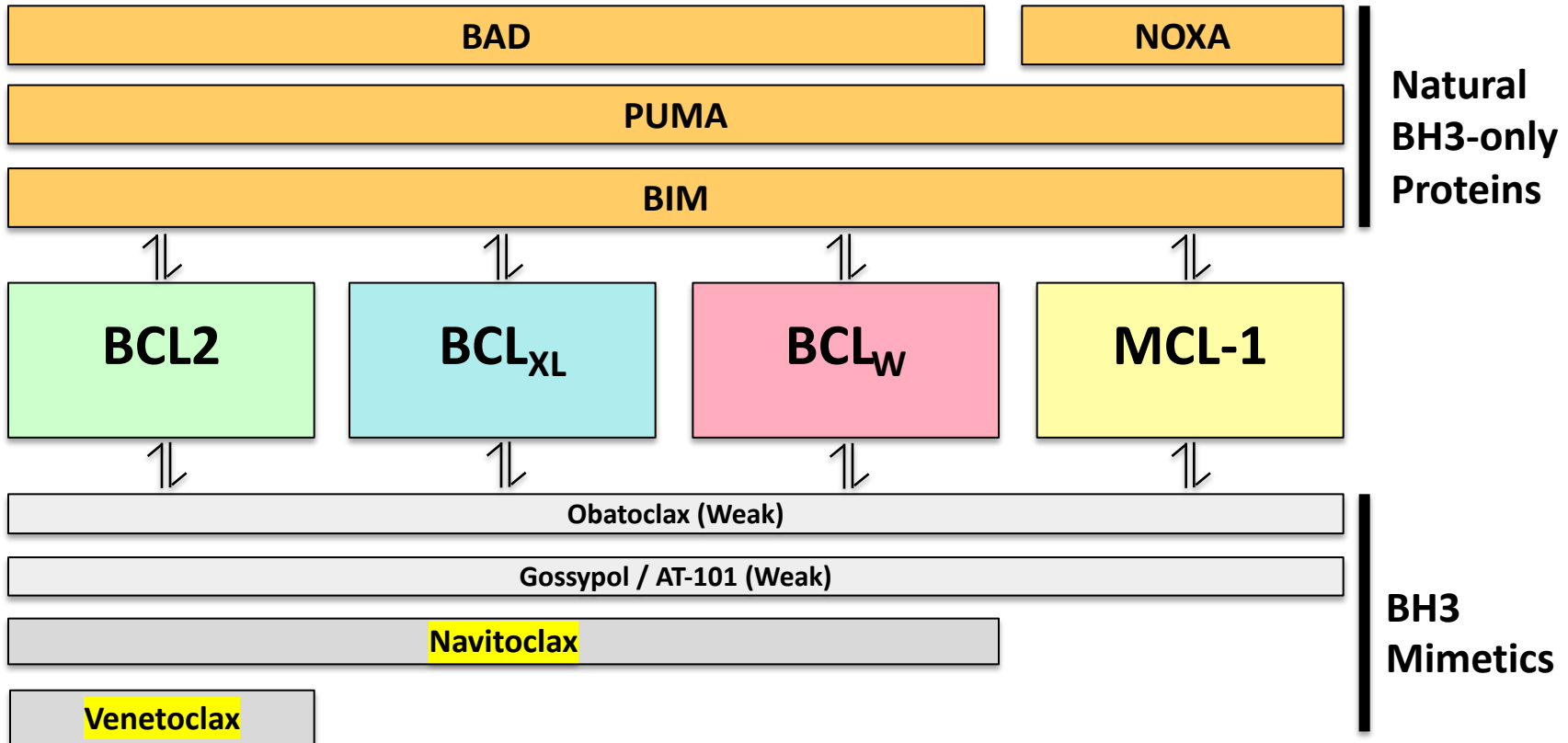
Constantine (Con) Tam

Head of Lymphoma Service, Alfred Hospital  
Professor of Haematology, Monash University

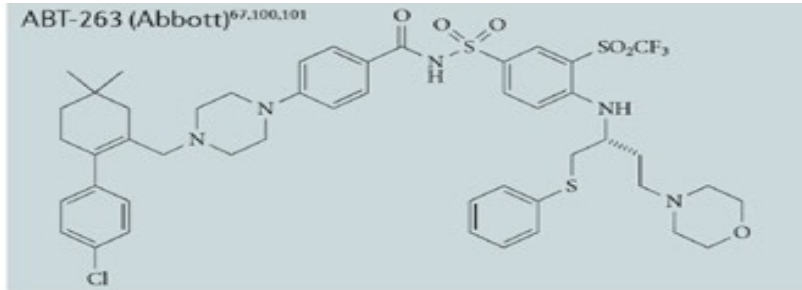
# Disclosure of Constantine TAM

Company name	Research support	Employee	Consultant	Stockholder	Speakers bureau	Advisory board	Other
Janssen	x					x	
AbbVie	x					x	
BeiGene	x					x	
LOXO						x	
AstraZeneca						x	

# BH3-Mimetics in the Clinic



# Navitoclax



*Park, J Med Chem, 2008*

- ◆ ABT-263 (navitoclax) entered clinical trials, having better oral bioavailability than ABT-737
- ◆ Phase I studies show 35% response rate as a single agent in relapsed refractory CLL (Roberts, JCO, 2012)

Bcl-2

Bcl-x

Bcl-w

Mcl-1

A1

Navitoclax

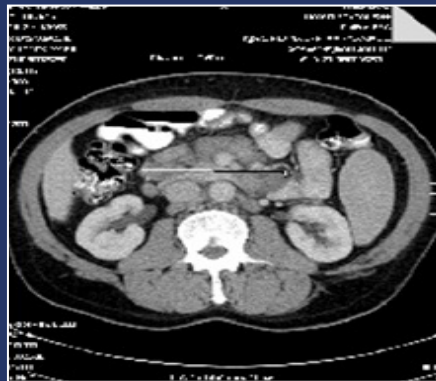
# Navitoclax (ABT-263) Phase II study in CLL: Rapid cytoreduction in refractory CLL

- 44 year-old man, Rai stage 3, del(11q)
  - Prior treatments: R-FC x 6 (PR 15 months) then R-CHOP x 6 (PR 6 months)
  - Tumor lysis after first 100 mg dose

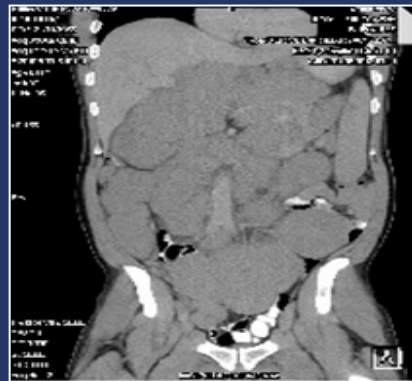
Baseline



Week 10



Baseline



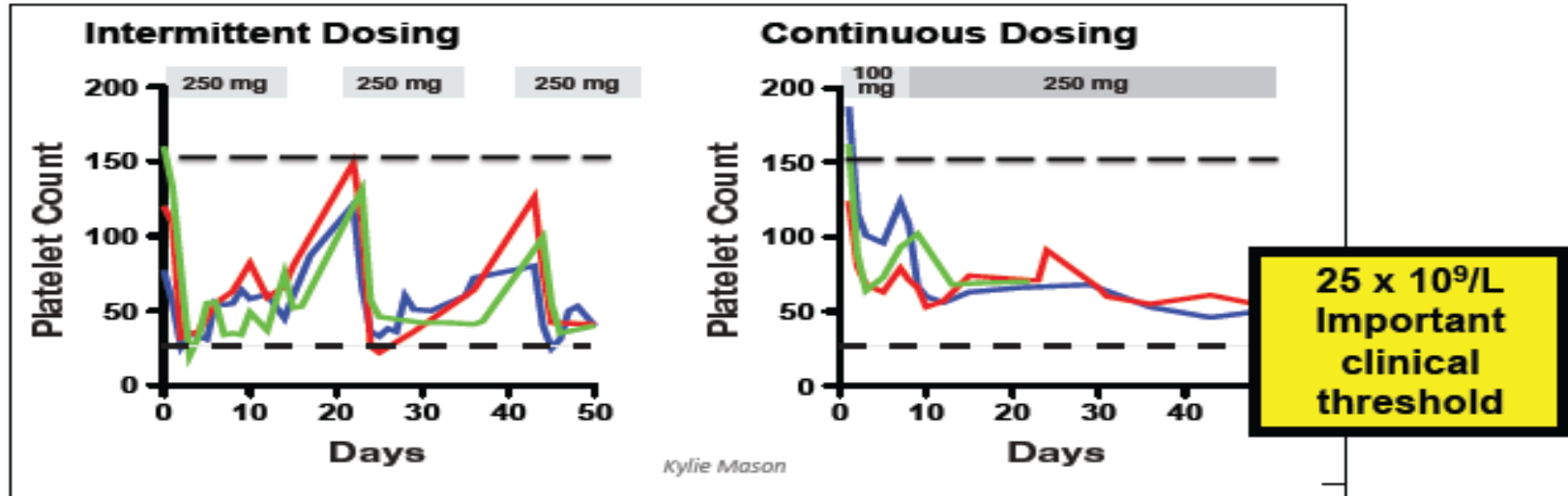
Week 10



19 month PR on study

# BH3 mimetics: navitoclax

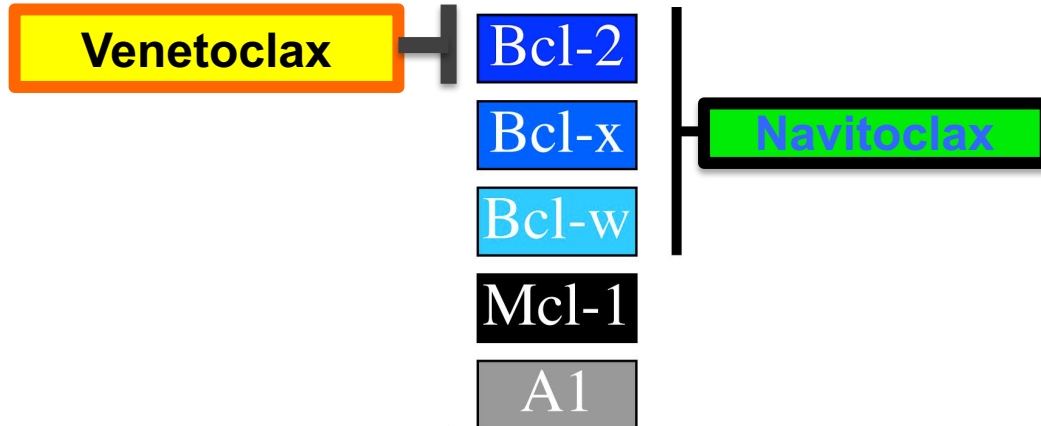
Dose limiting toxicity thrombocytopenia → in mice anti- BCL<sub>xL</sub> effect  
(Mason, Cell, 2007)



Thrombocytopenia limits the dose of navitoclax that can be safely given to patients

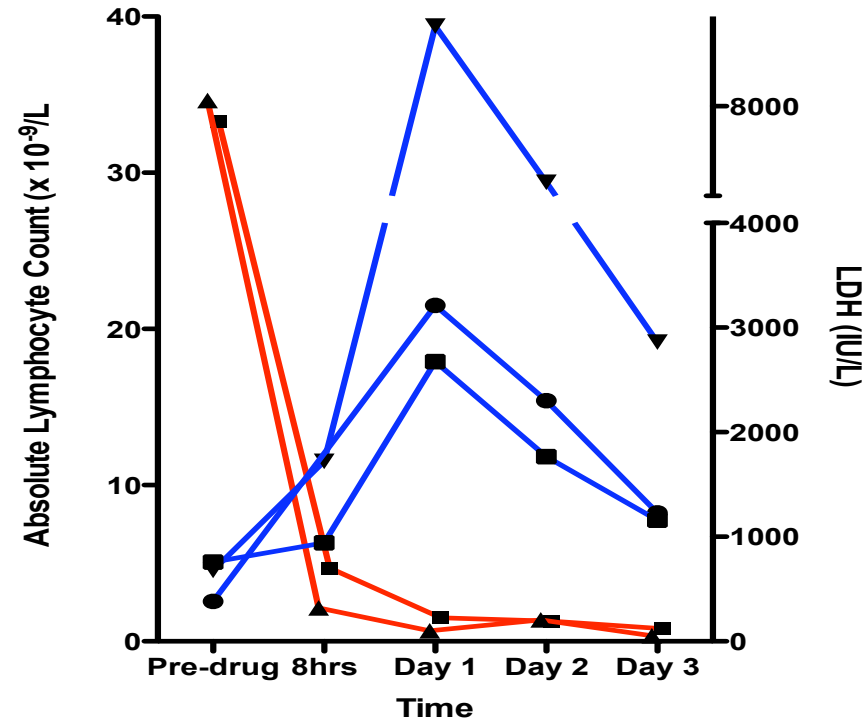
# ABT-199: Venetoclax

- Selectively targets BCL2
- Compared with navitoclax, venetoclax has significantly less binding to BCL<sub>x<sub>L</sub></sub> and BCL<sub>w</sub>
- Potential for giving higher doses without thrombocytopenia resulting in better clinical response rates



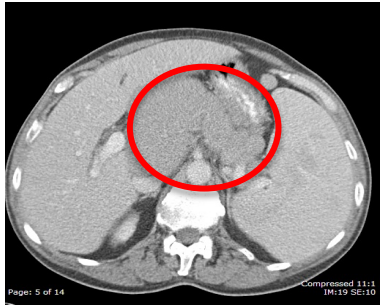
# ABT-199 induces rapid reduction in CLL

- Single dose of 200mg (n=2) or 100mg (n=1)
- Rapid reduction in CLL within 24hrs
- Evidence of tumor lysis in all 3 patients, one with transient disseminated intravascular coagulation

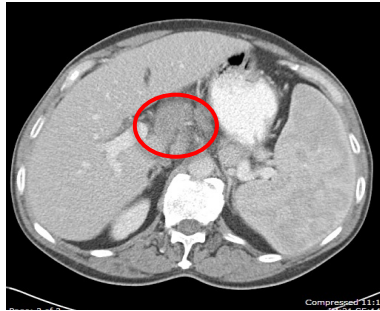




# Phase I Venetoclax Response



Baseline



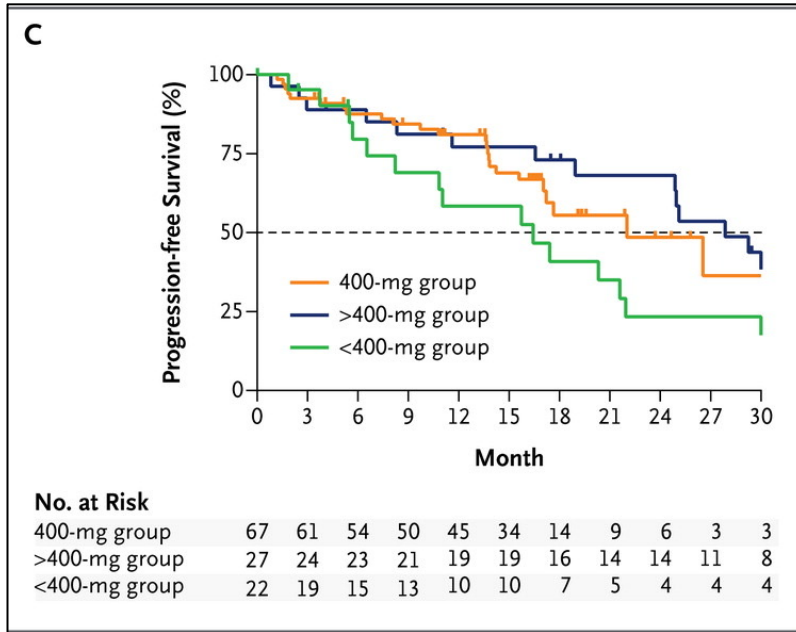
6 weeks of  
venetoclax



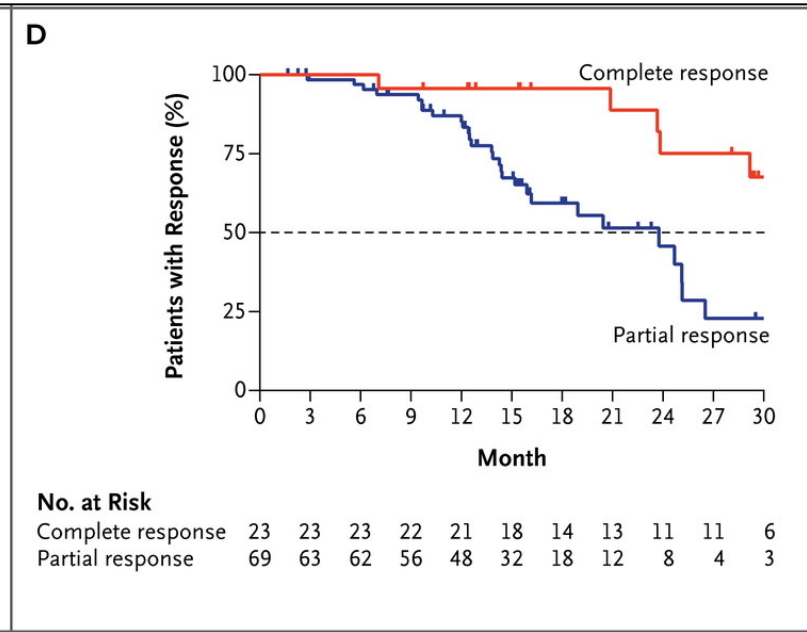
Images courtesy of MA Anderson

# Durability of benefit depends on dose and response

## Progression-free survival: impact of dose



## Duration of response: impact of depth of response

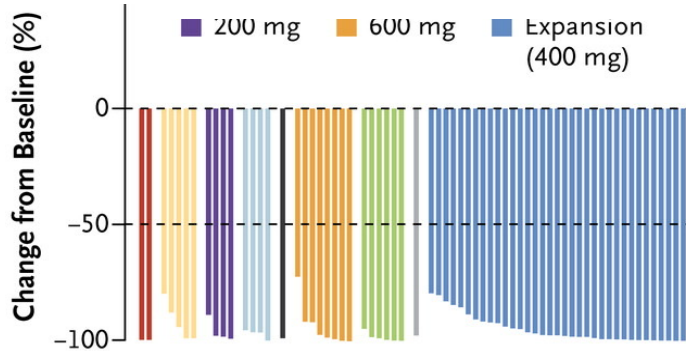


Roberts et al NEJM 2016

The dose studied ranges from <400, 400 and >400mg. The dose registered in Singapore is 400mg

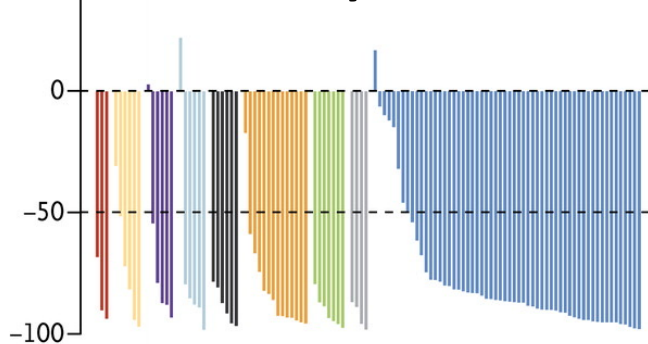
# Venetoclax – responses in all compartments

## Peripheral Blood Lymphocytes

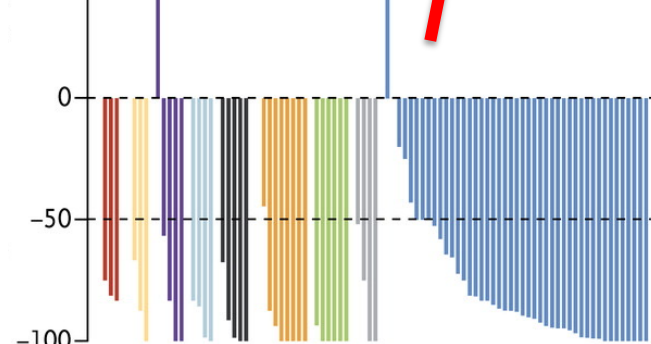


17 patients in CR were tested for MRD – 6 (35%) were MRD-negative

## Nodal Mass by CT

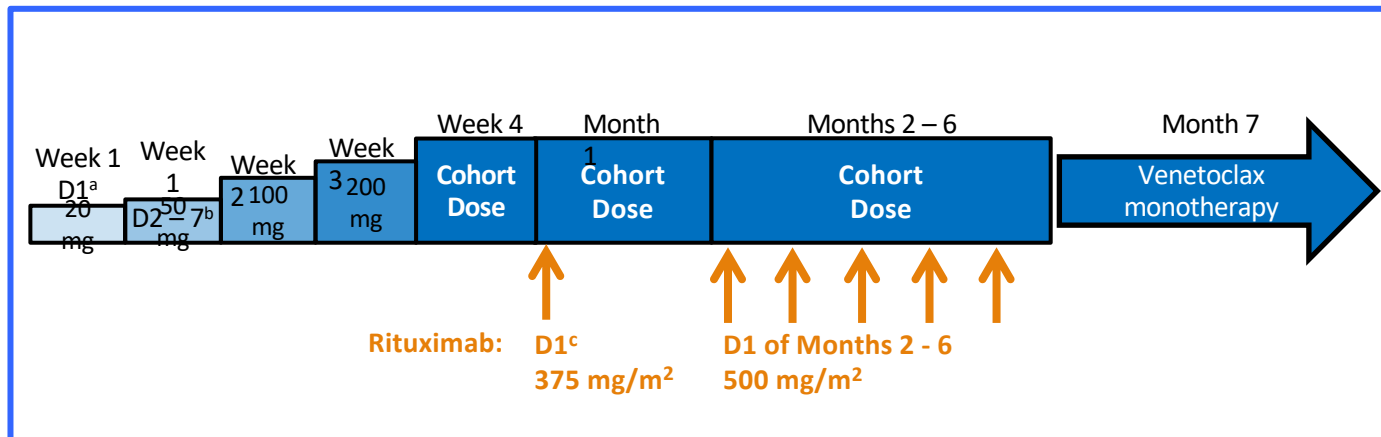


## Bone Marrow Infiltrate



# Adding Rituximab To Venetoclax

## Final Escalation Strategy:



D, day

<sup>a</sup> Test dose

<sup>b</sup> Protocol amendment permits 20 mg for first week, as needed, if one or more electrolytes meet Cairo-Bishop criteria and/or if there is  $\geq 30\%$  decrease in ALC with first dose

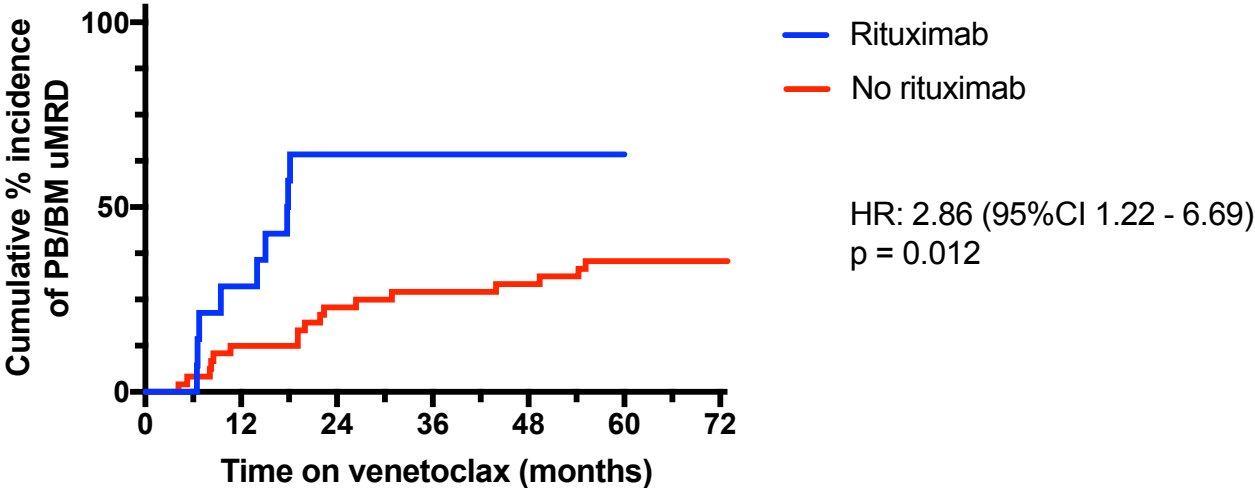
<sup>c</sup> May be split and administered over 2 consecutive days (Month 1 D1 and D2)

Dose escalation phase: 200, 300, 400, 500, 600mg/day cohorts (n = 41)

Safety expansion phase: 400mg/day cohort (n = 8)

Data pooled for these safety and efficacy analyses

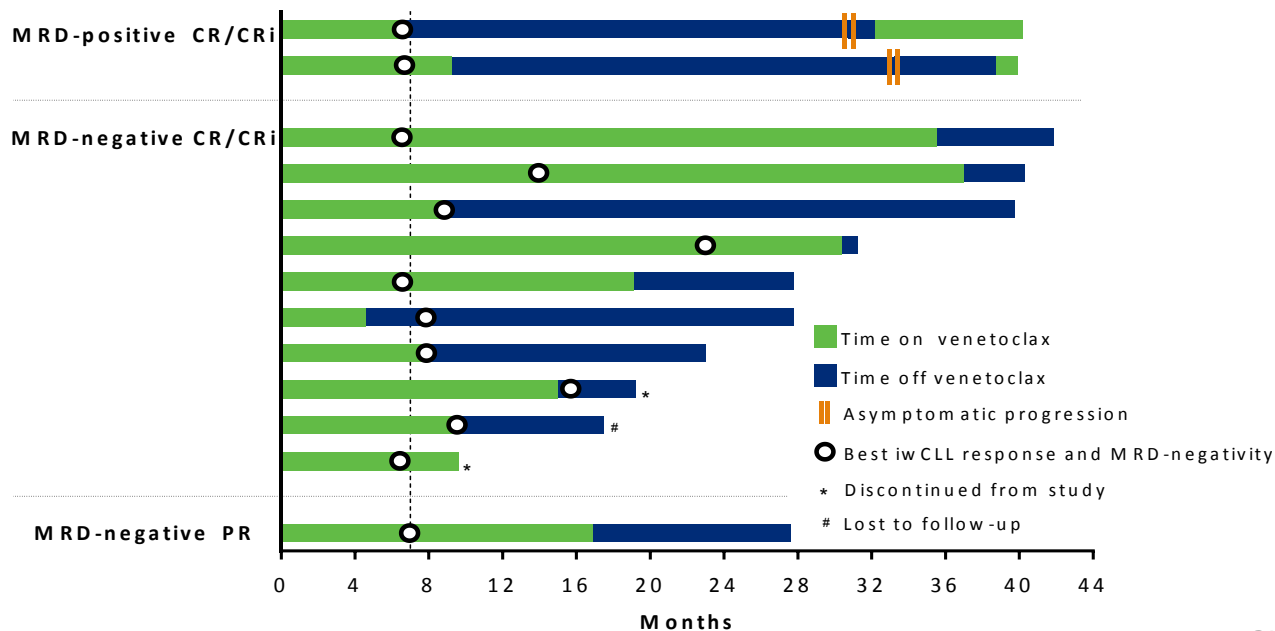
# Rituximab combination therapy is the dominant factor associated with uMRD attainment



no. at risk	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72
No rituximab	48	34	20	12	7	4	2						

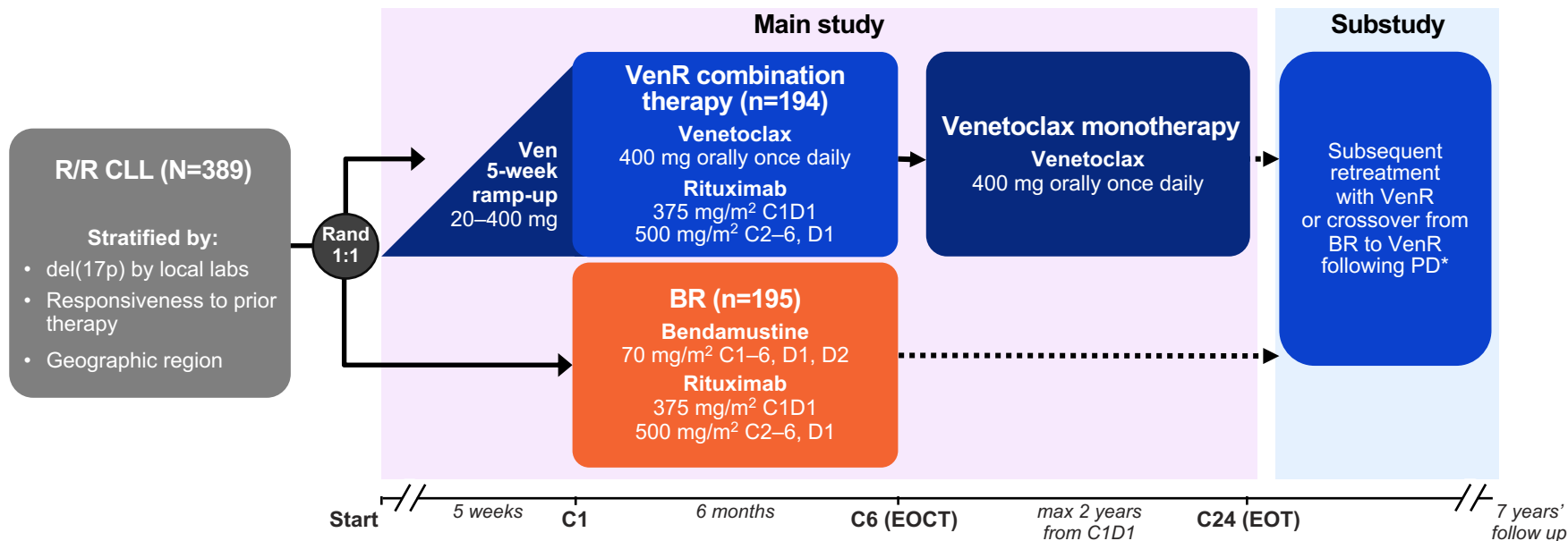
# Durability of complete responses following cessation of venetoclax

- 13 patients deep objective response (CR/CRi or MRD-negative PR)
- Stopped venetoclax after a median of 10 months of treatment (range: 4.5 – 35.5)



# MURANO (NCT02005471): 7 Year Update (EHA 2023)

- Global, Phase III, open-label, randomized study<sup>1</sup>



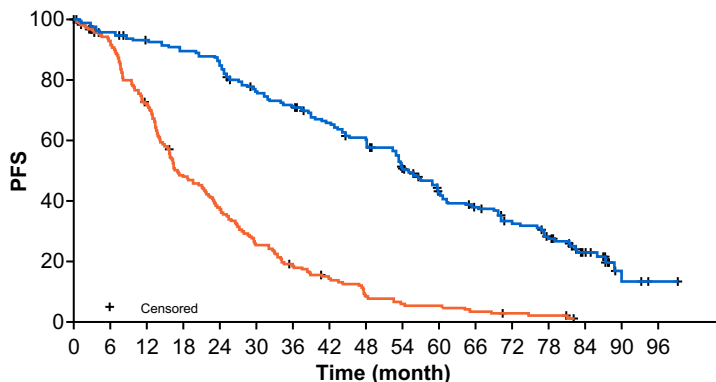
- Superior PFS and OS was observed with fixed-duration VenR vs BR in patients with R/R CLL<sup>1</sup>
- At 48 months of follow up, deep responses with uMRD<sup>†</sup> were associated with favorable PFS<sup>2</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Investigator-assessed PD according to International Workshop on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (iwCLL) criteria. <sup>†</sup>uMRD is defined as <1 CLL cell/10,000 leukocytes. BR, bendamustine-rituximab; C, cycle; D, day; del(17p), deletion 17p; EOCT, end of combination treatment; EOT, end of treatment; max, maximum; OS, overall survival; PD, progressive disease; PFS, progression-free survival; Rand, randomization; (u)MRD, (undetectable) minimal residual disease.

1. Seymour JF, et al. N Engl J Med 2018;378(12):1107–20.  
2. Kater AP, et al. J Clin Oncol 2020;38(34):4042–54.

# PFS and OS benefits with VenR over BR were sustained at 7 years

	Median PFS (95% CI), months	HR* (95% CI)	7-year PFS (%)
VenR (n=194)	54.7 (52.3–59.9)	0.23 (0.18–0.29)	23.0
BR (n=195)	17.0 (15.5–21.7)	Stratified P-value <0.0001†	NE

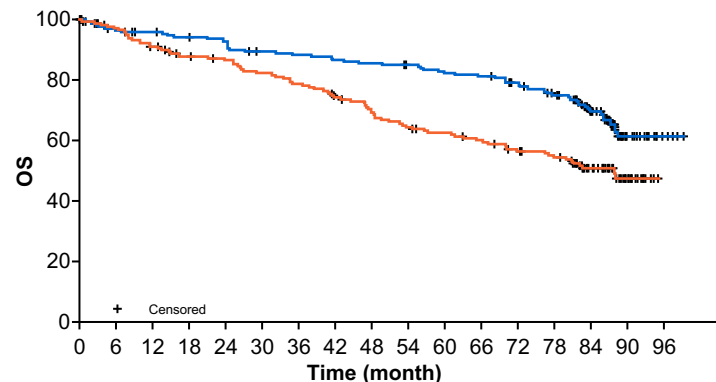


No. of Patients at Risk

— 194 190 185 179 176 174 170 167 161 150 142 136 133 125 119 111 107 102 88 79 68 63 57 54 46 45 37 34 19 14 4 4 1

— 195 178 166 144 129 104 85 80 66 58 45 40 32 27 24 21 14 13 10 9 9 8 6 5 4 3 3 2

	Median OS (95% CI), months	HR‡ (95% CI)	7-year OS (%)
VenR (n=194)	NE	0.53 (0.37–0.74)	69.6
BR (n=195)	87.8 (70.1–NE)	Stratified P-value <0.0002†	51.0



No. of Patients at Risk

— 194 190 185 183 182 179 178 176 173 168 166 165 164 163 161 160 159 158 156 153 151 150 149 147 141 136 131 125 82 53 19 11 4

— 195 181 175 167 162 155 152 150 147 141 140 138 134 131 124 121 115 110 107 103 102 99 97 94 88 86 83 78 55 35 17 3

- Median follow up for efficacy (range) was 86.8 months (0.3–99.2) for VenR and 84.4 months (0.0–95.0) for BR
- No new safety signals were identified since the 5-year data cut,<sup>1</sup> with all patients outside of the AE reporting window<sup>§</sup>

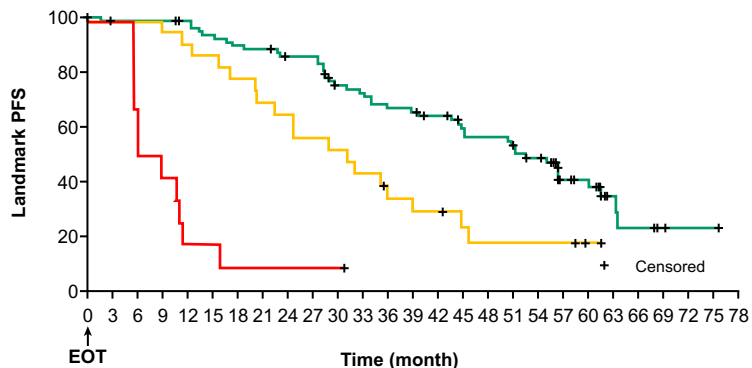
\*Stratified HR is presented, unstratified HR=0.25. †P-values are descriptive only. ‡Stratified HR is presented, unstratified HR=0.54. §All AEs were reported until 28 days after the last dose of Ven or 90 days after last dose of R, whichever was longer. After this, only deaths, serious AEs, or AEs of concern that were believed to be Ven-related were reported. AE, adverse event; CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; NE, not estimable.



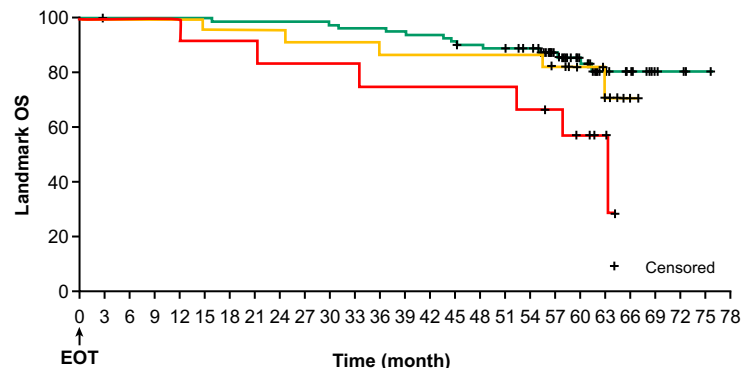
# uMRD at EOT is associated with improved outcomes in the VenR arm

Patients who completed 2 years of Ven without PD*	Median PFS since EOT (95% CI), months	HR (95% CI); P-value†
<b>uMRD (n=83)</b>	<b>52.5 (44.5–61.5)</b>	
<b>Low MRD+ (n=23)</b>	<b>29.3 (20.2–37.5)</b>	<b>vs uMRD: 3.46 (1.75–6.86); &lt;0.0001</b>
<b>High MRD+ (n=12)</b>	<b>4.6 (2.8–8.3)</b>	<b>vs uMRD: 17.22 (5.70–52.00); &lt;0.0001</b>

Patients who completed 2 years of Ven without PD*	Median OS since EOT (95% CI), months	HR (95% CI); P-value†
<b>uMRD (n=83)</b>	<b>NE (NE–NE)</b>	
<b>Low MRD+ (n=23)</b>	<b>NE (62.7–NE)</b>	<b>vs uMRD: 1.07 (0.34–3.35); NS</b>
<b>High MRD+ (n=12)</b>	<b>63.1 (51.5–NE)</b>	<b>vs uMRD: 2.39 (0.73–7.80); NS</b>



No. of Patients at Risk	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45	48	51	54	57	60	63	66	69	72	75	78		
uMRD	83	79	79	79	77	73	70	69	65	65	54	52	48	47	44	39	37	35	30	17	15	6	4	2	1	1			
Low MRD+	23	23	23	21	20	18	16	15	13	13	11	10	7	6	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	1							
High MRD+	12	8	6	2	2	1	1	1	1																				



No. of Patients at Risk	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45	48	51	54	57	60	63	66	69	72	75	78	
uMRD	83	81	81	81	81	80	80	80	80	80	79	78	78	76	76	74	72	71	68	48	35	16	11	4	3	1		
Low MRD+	23	23	23	23	23	22	22	22	21	21	21	21	20	20	20	19	19	19	16	11	5	1						
High MRD+	12	12	12	12	11	11	10	10	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	8	7	5	2									

Achievement of uMRD was associated with prolonged PFS in VenR-treated patients

Low MRD+ is defined as  $\geq 1$  CLL cell/10,000 leukocytes to  $< 1$  CLL cell/100 leukocytes, high MRD+ is defined as  $\geq 1$  CLL cell/100 leukocytes. Stratified HR (95% CI) for Low MRD+ vs High MRD+: PFS, 3.22 (1.04–9.97),  $P=0.0350$ ; OS, 2.27 (0.44–11.69),  $P=NS$ .

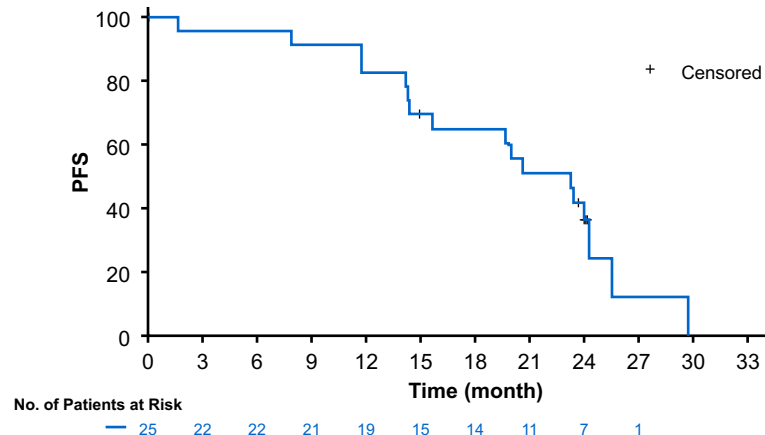
\*Investigator-assessed PD according to iwCLL criteria. †Stratified HRs and P-values are presented, P-values are descriptive only. NS, not significant.

# VenR retreatment resulted in high response rates, which translated to meaningful PFS amongst retreated patients

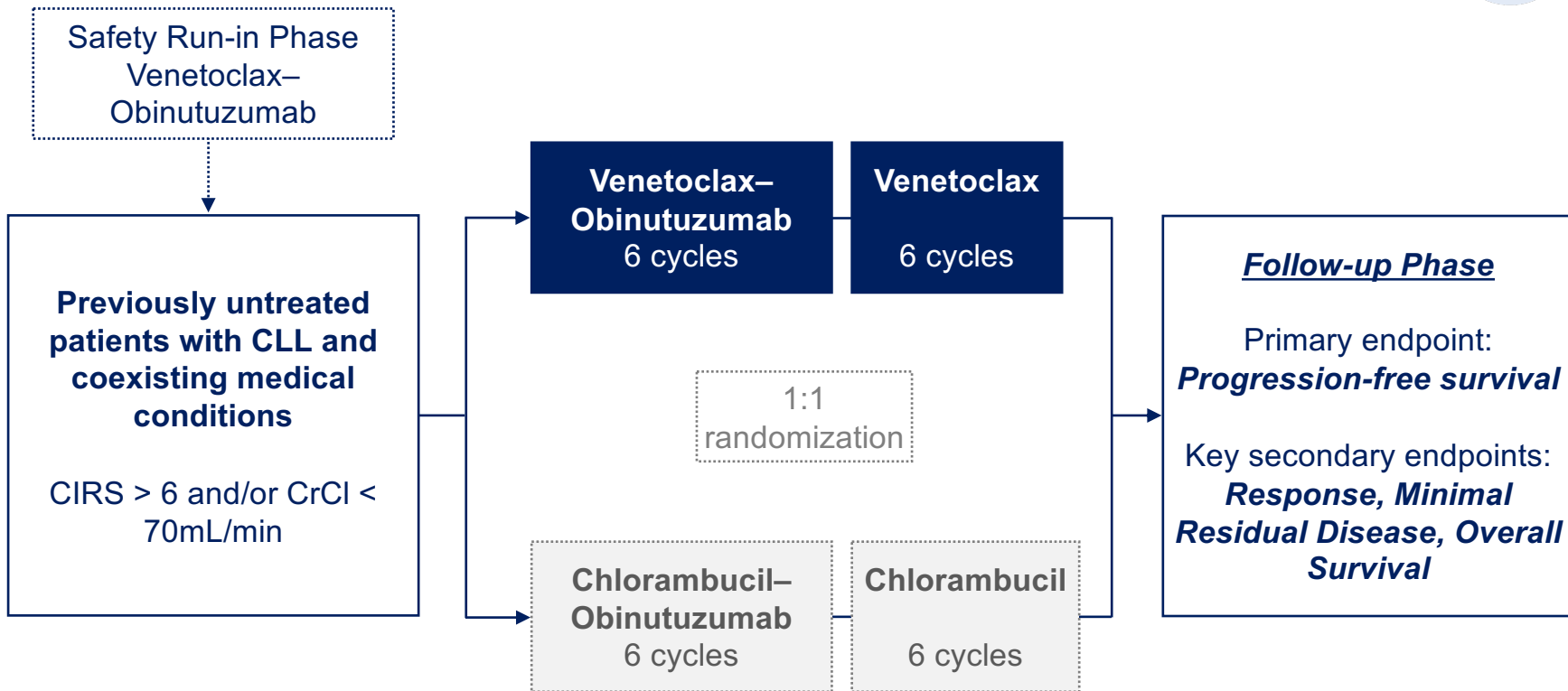
- Amongst VenR-retreated patients, median follow up (range) was 33.4 months (2.7–44.0)
  - Median PFS (95% CI) was 23.3 months (15.6–24.3)
  - Best ORR was high at 72.0%; CR rate was 24%
  - Median OS was not reached

Response rates indicate that VenR retreatment is a viable option for pretreated patients

## PFS for VenR-retreated patients in the substudy

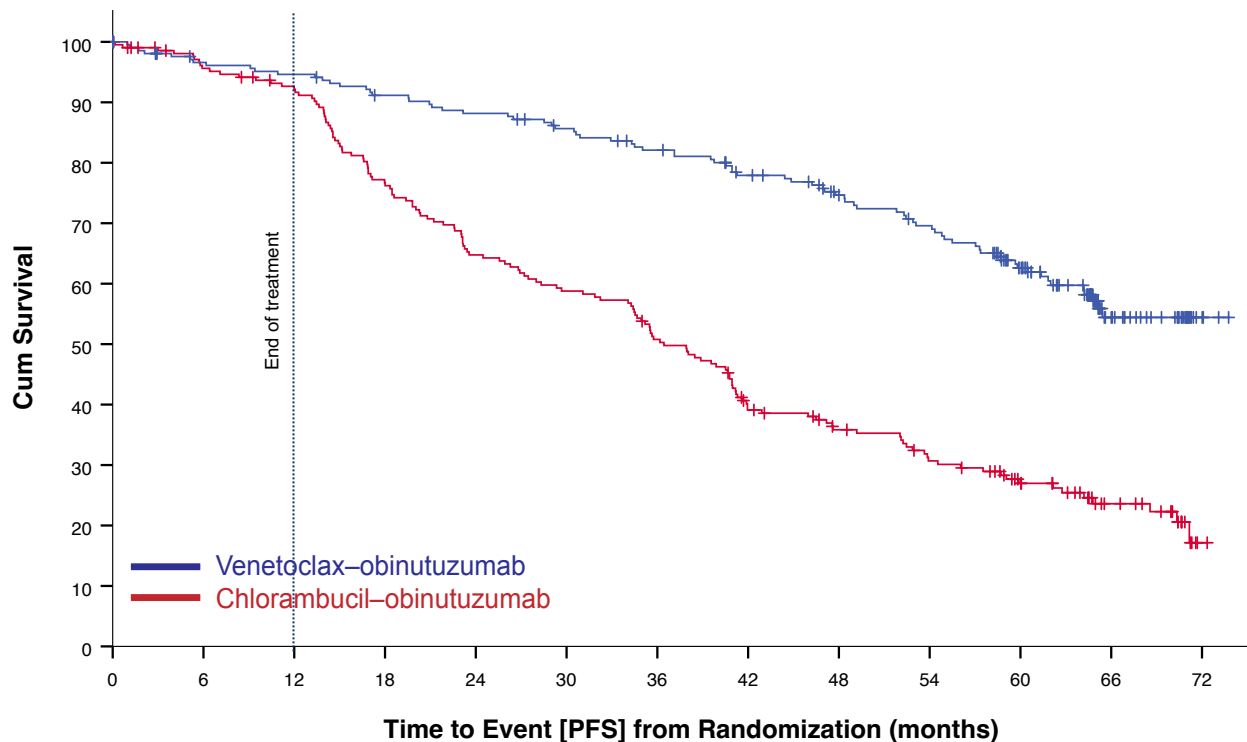


# CLL14 FIVE YEAR UPDATE (EHA 2022)



# 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%

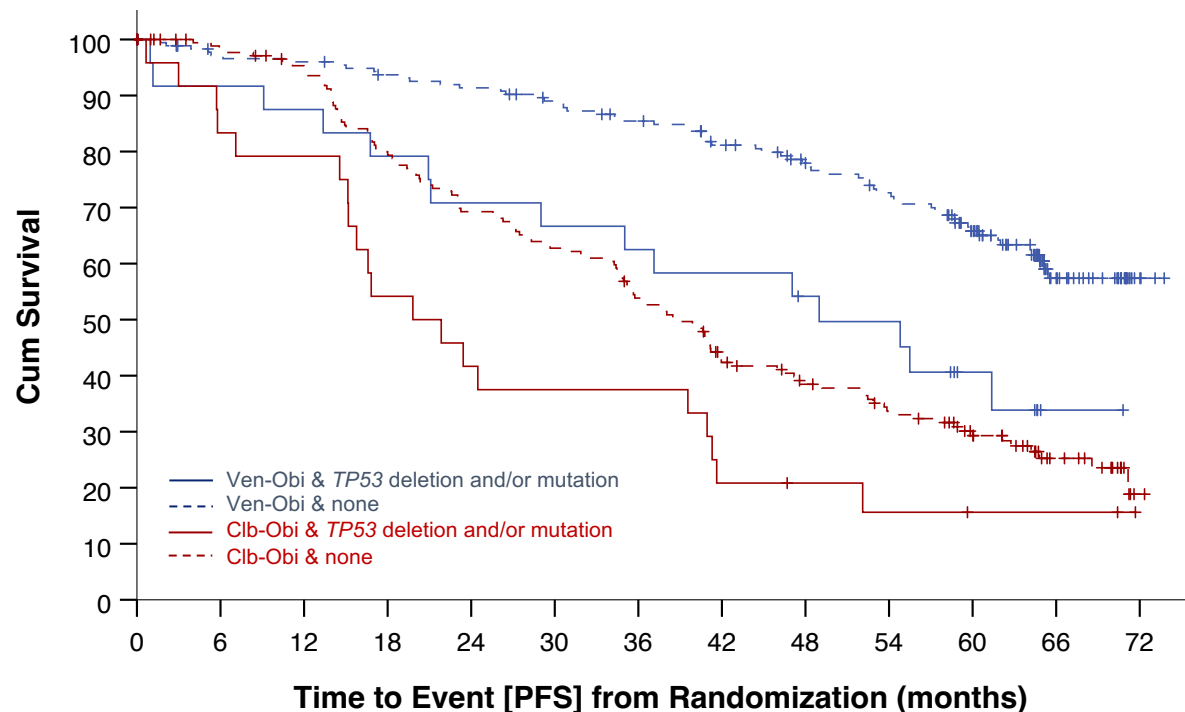
HR 0.35, 95% CI [0.26-0.46]

P<0.0001

Ven-Obi	216	196	192	183	177	169	160	147	134	123	97	35	4
Clb-Obi	216	195	185	154	130	118	101	75	64	53	39	21	1

# PROGRESSION-FREE SURVIVAL – *TP53* status

Median observation time 65.4 months



## Median PFS

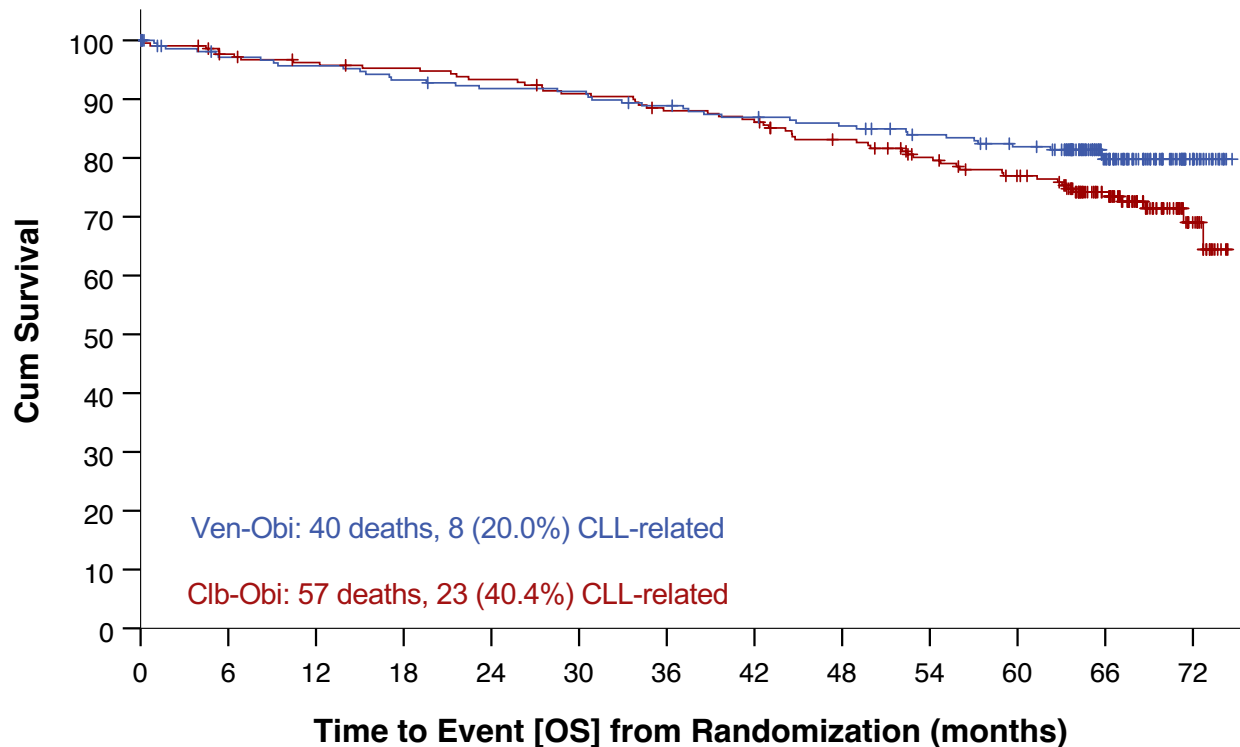
Ven-Obi & no *TP53*del/mut: NR  
 Ven-Obi & *TP53*del/mut: 49.0 m

Clb-Obi & no *TP53*del/mut: 38.9 m  
 Clb-Obi & *TP53*del/mut: 19.8 m

Ven-Obi & <i>TP53</i> del/mut	25	22	21	19	17	16	15	14	12	11	6	1	0
Ven-Obi & none	184	169	167	161	157	150	142	130	119	109	89	33	4
Clb-Obi & <i>TP53</i> del/mut	24	20	19	13	10	9	9	5	4	3	2	2	0
Clb-Obi & none	184	169	160	135	117	106	90	68	58	48	36	18	1

# OVERALL SURVIVAL

Median observation time 65.4 months



**Median OS**

Ven-Obi: not reached

Clb-Obi: not reached

**5-year OS rate**

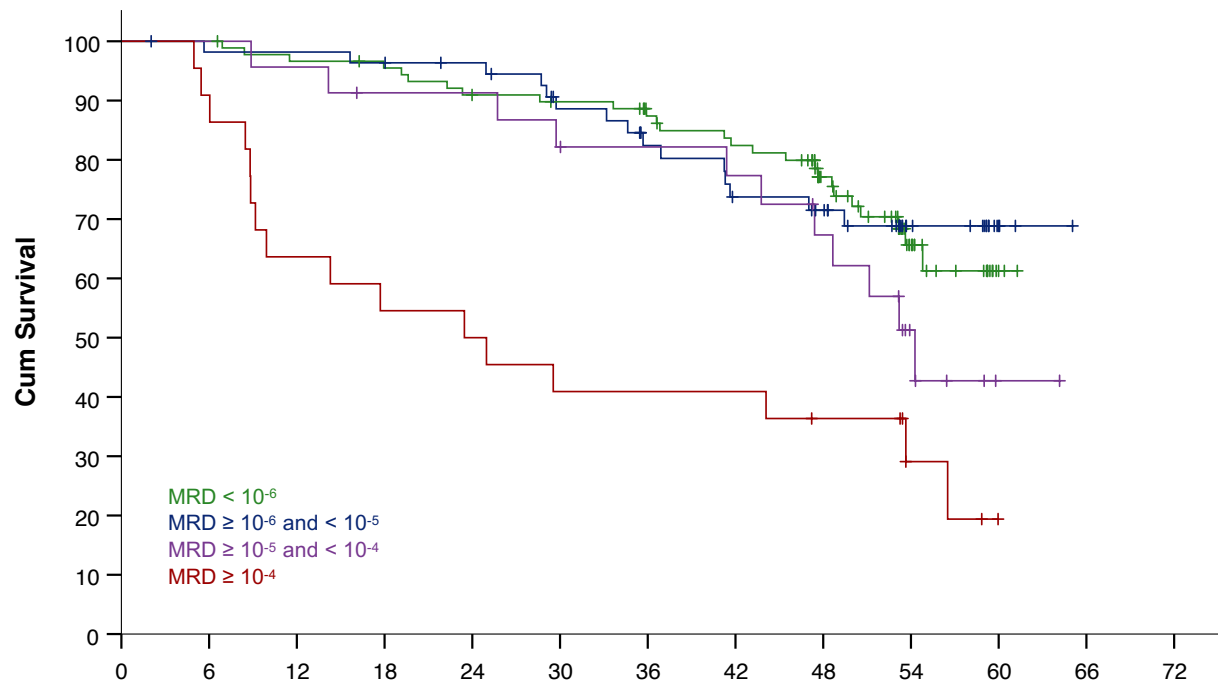
Ven-Obi: 81.9%

Clb-Obi: 77.0%

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

# PFS AFTER VEN-OB1 ACCORDING TO MRD STATUS

End of treatment MRD status in peripheral blood, by NGS



Depth of remission **beyond  $10^{-4}$**  correlates with **long-term PFS**, indicating the value of ultra-sensitive MRD assessments.

**Time to Event [PFS] from Last Treatment Exposure (months)**

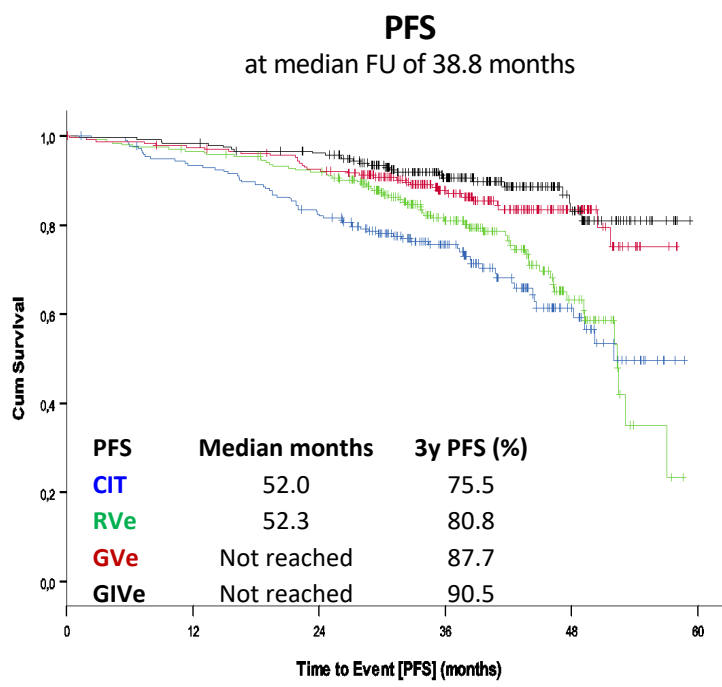
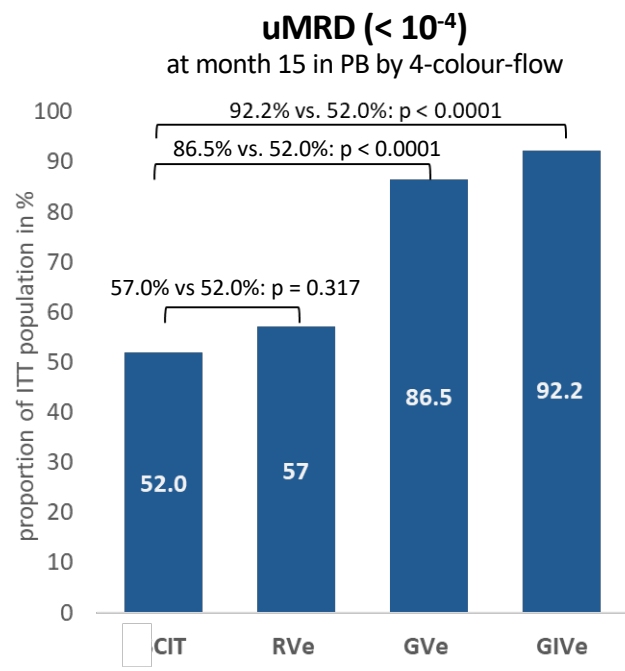
MRD < $10^{-6}$	90	90	86	84	79	77	71	66	48	21	2	0	0
MRD $\geq 10^{-6}$ and $< 10^{-5}$	56	54	54	53	51	44	38	33	30	14	3	0	0
MRD $\geq 10^{-5}$ and $< 10^{-4}$	23	23	22	20	20	18	17	16	13	6	1	0	0
MRD $\geq 10^{-4}$	22	20	14	12	11	9	9	9	7	3	0	0	0

# CLL13/GAIA: venetoclax-based treatments vs. CIT in younger/fit patients

Fit patients with untreated CLL: CIRS  $\leq 6$  & normal CrCl

No *TP53* mutation or del(17p) in central screening

- CIT: FCR/BR\***  
6 cycles, n=230
- RVe**  
12 cycles, n=230
- GVe**  
12 cycles, n=230
- GIVe**  
15<sup>#</sup> cycles, n=230



\*  $\leq 65$  years: FCR,  $> 65$  years: BR; [50% FCR / 50% BR]  
# continuation of ibrutinib up to cycle 36 if MRD detectable



## CONCLUSIONS

- Targeted BCL2 inhibition leads to potent killing in CLL
- Addition of anti-CD20 = faster and deeper response
- Time-limited therapy reduces medical burden and likely decreases rate of resistant BCL2 mutation emergence
- Ven-Obi is a standard-of-care 1L therapy for both older and younger patients