

# Session II – Current initial treatment

## Is there still a role for the conventional chemoimmunotherapy?

A panoramic photograph of the Munich skyline at sunset. The sky is a warm orange and yellow. In the foreground, there are several buildings, including a large one with a prominent green dome and a tall tower. The Marienplatz church is visible in the background. The overall atmosphere is architectural and historical.

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# Potential Conflicts of Interest

Research Support/P.I.	Hoffmann-La Roche, GSK, Cilag-Janssen, Gilead, Genentech, Morphosys, AbbVie, AstraZeneca, BeiGene
Employee	NA
Consultant	Hoffmann-La Roche, GSK, Cilag-Janssen, Gilead, Genentech, Morphosys, AbbVie, Amgen, AstraZeneca, BioNTech, Lilly, BeiGene
Major Stockholder	NA
Speakers Bureau	NA
Honoraria	Hoffmann-La Roche, GSK, Cilag-Janssen, Gilead, Genentech, Morphosys, AbbVie, Amgen, AstraZeneca, BioNTech, Lilly, BeiGene
Scientific Advisory Board	Hoffmann-La Roche, GSK, Cilag-Janssen, Gilead, Genentech, Morphosys, AbbVie, AstraZeneca, BioNTech, Lilly, BeiGene

**How many of your CLL patients did you treat in the last 6 months with conventional chemoimmunotherapy?**

- 1) none**
- 2) 1-5 pts**
- 3) 6-10 pts**
- 4) >10 pts**

Case:

**68 year-old man**

**chronic kidney failure (creatinine clearance 15 ml/min)**

**history of ventricular arrhythmias (Brugada syndrome) → ICD**

**diagnosis of CLL in 9/2022, stage Binet C with massive lymphadenopathy and B symptoms**

**IGHV mutated**

**13q-**

**no TP53 mutation**

**no complex karyotype**

**How would you treat this patient in your daily practice?**

- 1) ibrutinib**
- 2) acalabrutinib plus obinutuzumab**
- 3) venetoclax plus obinutuzumab**
- 4) bendamustine plus rituximab**



# International consensus statement on the management of cardiovascular risk of Bruton's tyrosine kinase inhibitors in CLL

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**Table 3. Recommendations for patients with CV risk**

**Atrial fibrillation**

Determine whether the patient is high or low risk

Low-risk cases may be safely treated with BTKis

Favor more second-generation BTKis (acalabrutinib or zanubrutinib) or alternative treatments

BTKi treatment may be continued in consultation with MDT for patients with:

Permanent/persistent AF

HTN

History of myocardial infarction

BTKis **NOT** recommended for patients with:

History of ventricular arrhythmia

Family history of sudden cardiac death

Severe, uncontrolled HTN

Severe or uncontrolled congestive heart failure (LVEF <30%)

**Hypertension**

If HTN is well-controlled, BTKi therapy may be used

Monitor blood pressure at least biweekly for the first 3-6 mo of BTKi therapy

Maintain early threshold for treatment during BTKi therapy

**CHF**

Examine with echocardiogram

Restrict to <2 g daily sodium intake

Monitor weight daily

Monitor blood pressure twice weekly

Manage care with MDT (preferred) or in collaboration with a cardio-oncologist

**Ventricular arrhythmias**

Ibrutinib should be avoided

The risk of second-generation BTKis (acalabrutinib or zanubrutinib) is not currently known

LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; MDT, multidisciplinary team.

**PRODUCT MONOGRAPH**  
**INCLUDING PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION**

**PrVENCLEXTA®**

**Dose Modifications for Patients with Renal Impairment**

No dose adjustment is recommended for patients with mild or moderate renal impairment ( $\text{CrCl} \geq 30 \text{ mL/min}$ ). While severe renal impairment ( $\text{CrCl} \geq 15 \text{ mL/min}$  and  $< 30 \text{ mL/min}$ ) did not affect venetoclax pharmacokinetics in 6 patients with AML, clinical experience is limited and a recommended dose has not been determined for patients with severe renal impairment ( $\text{CrCl} < 30 \text{ mL/min}$ ) or patients on dialysis (see **7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS** and **10 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**).

**Renal Insufficiency**

Based on a population pharmacokinetic analysis that included 321 subjects with mild renal impairment ( $\text{CrCl} \geq 60$  and  $< 90 \text{ mL/min}$ , calculated by Cockcroft-Gault equation), 219 subjects with moderate renal impairment ( $\text{CrCl} \geq 30$  and  $< 60 \text{ mL/min}$ ), 6 subjects with severe renal impairment ( $\text{CrCl} \geq 15$  and  $< 30 \text{ mL/min}$ ) and 224 subjects with normal renal function ( $\text{CrCl} \geq 90 \text{ mL/min}$ ), venetoclax exposures in subjects with mild, moderate or severe renal impairment are similar to those with normal renal function. The pharmacokinetics of venetoclax has not been studied in subjects with end-stage renal disease ( $\text{CrCl} < 15 \text{ mL/min}$ ) or subjects on dialysis (see **7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS** and **4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

# Successful treatment of relapsed chronic lymphocytic leukemia with venetoclax in a patient with severe chronic kidney disease

Hiroyuki Sugiura<sup>1</sup>  | Nobuo Sezaki<sup>1</sup> | Tatsunori Ishikawa<sup>1</sup> | Taiga Kuroi<sup>1</sup> |  
Sachiyo Okamoto<sup>1</sup> | Naho Nomura<sup>1</sup> | Taro Masunari<sup>1</sup> | Yukio Nakasako<sup>2</sup> |  
Toru Kiguchi<sup>3</sup> | Mitsune Tanimoto<sup>1</sup>

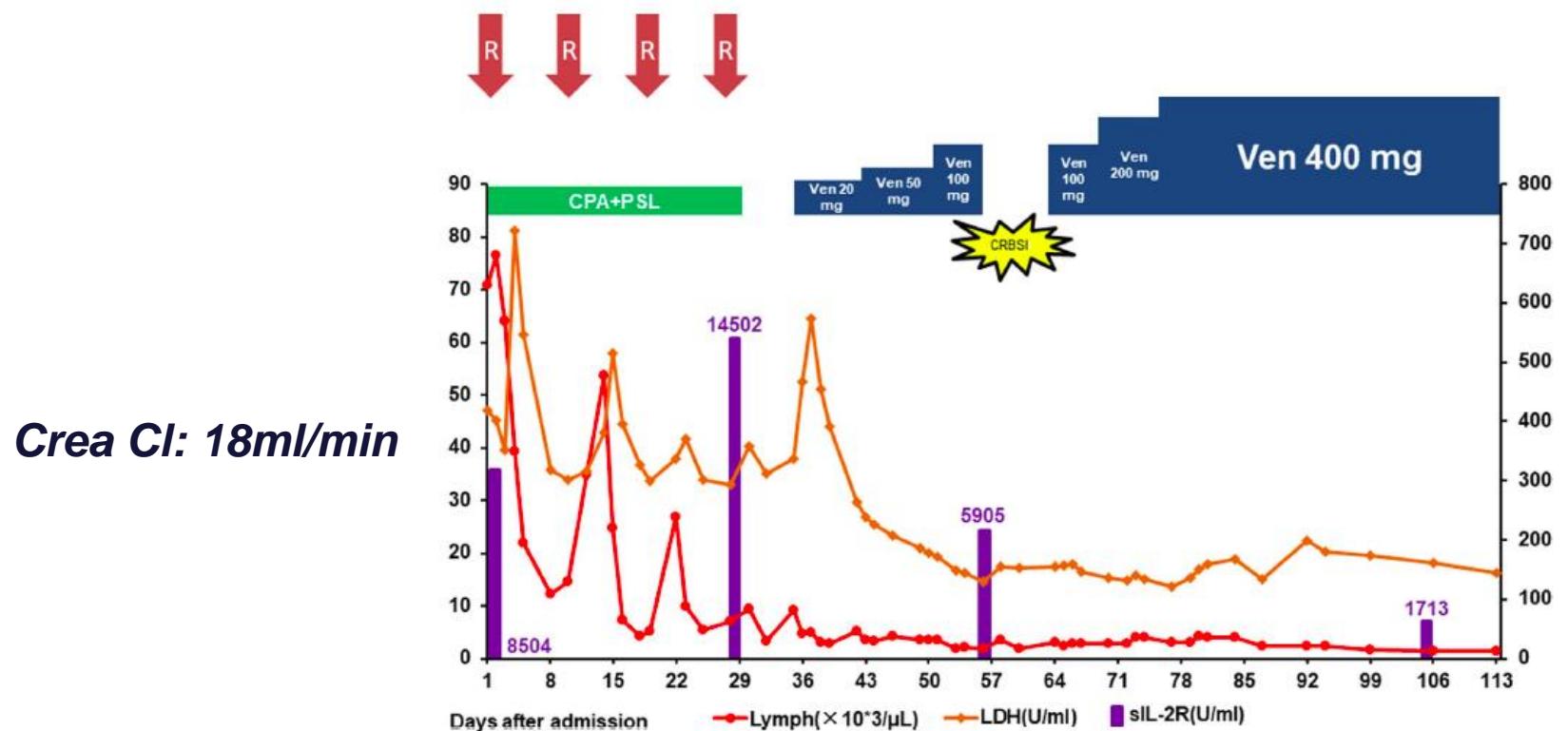
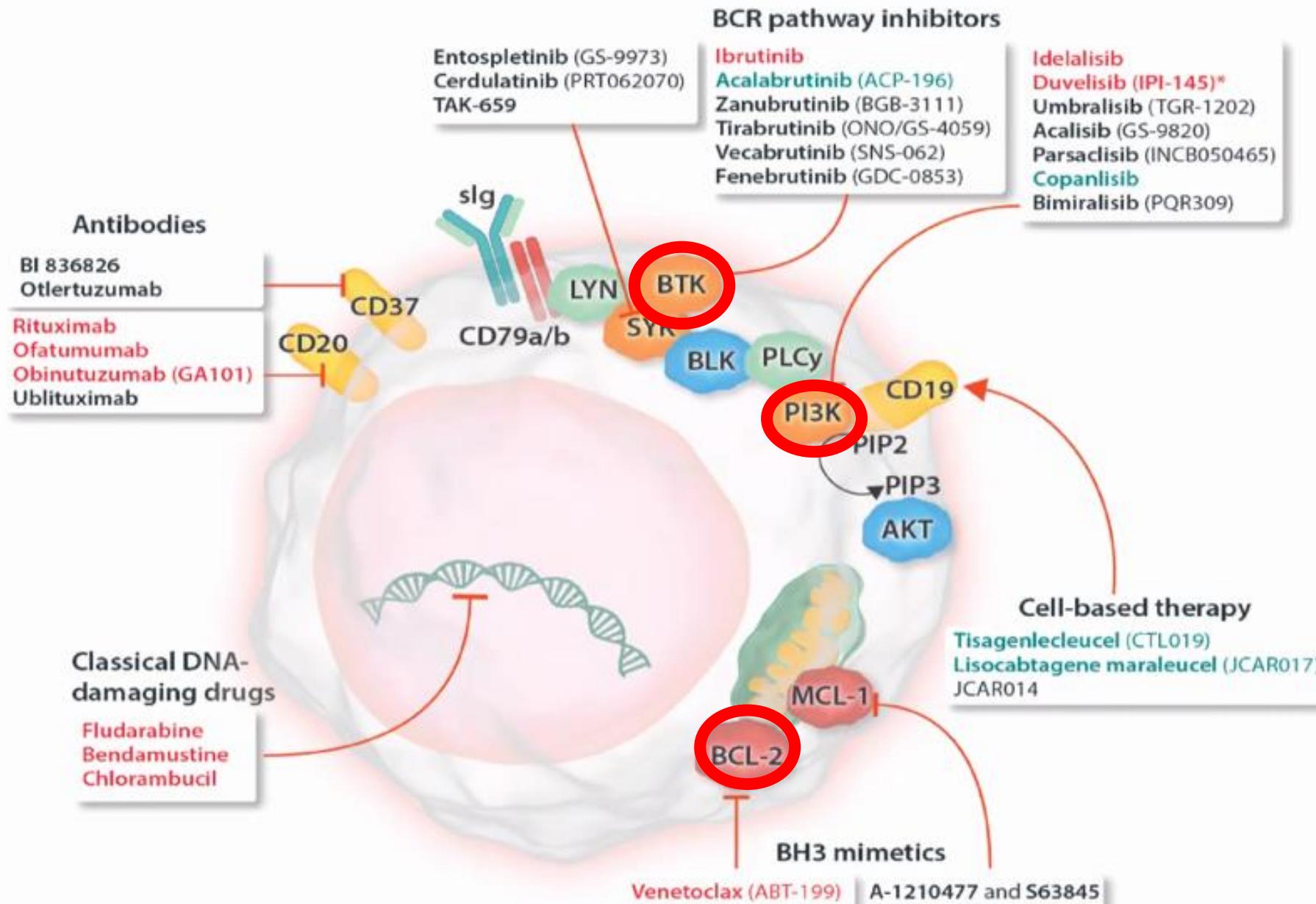


FIGURE 2 Clinical course of the patient from the admission day to the discharge day (Day 113). Lymphocyte follows left axis and LDH follows right axis. After debulking by CPA + PSL + Rituximab, venetoclax was started, and the dose was increased gradually; the treatment response was good. Because of the complications of CRBSI, venetoclax treatment was stopped. After the exchange of the catheter and antibiotic therapy, venetoclax was restarted safely. CPA, cyclophosphamide; CRBSI, catheter-related bloodstream infection; PSL, prednisolone; R, rituximab; Ven, venetoclax

# From Biology to Therapy: Model System CLL

Yosifov, et al. Hemashere 2019





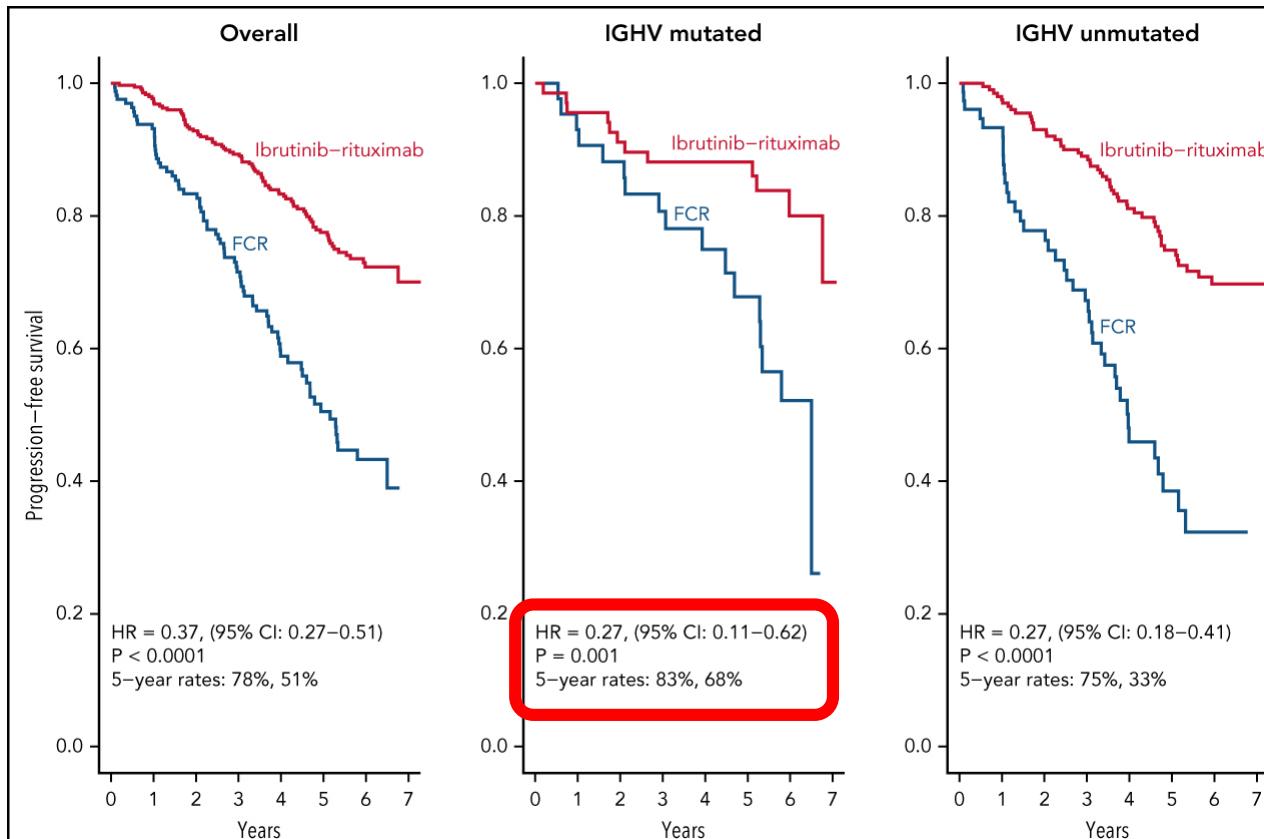
**ECOG 1912: Ibrutinib/Rituximab (IR) vs FCR**

**Based on ECOG1912 (IR vs FCR), which statement is wrong?**

- 1) median PFS is superior for ibrutinib/rituximab (IR) compared to FCR**
- 2) PFS benefits for IR were only seen in the IGHV<sub>unmut</sub> subgroup**
- 3) after a median follow-up of 5.8 yrs only 60.5% of pts remain on IR**
- 4) OS was significantly superior for pts being treated with IR (vs. FCR)**

# Long-term outcomes for ibrutinib–rituximab and chemoimmunotherapy in CLL: updated results of the E1912 trial

Tait D. Shanafelt,<sup>1</sup> Xin Victoria Wang,<sup>2</sup> Curtis A. Hanson,<sup>3</sup> Elisabeth M. Paietta,<sup>4</sup> Susan O'Brien,<sup>5</sup> Jacqueline Barrientos,<sup>6</sup> Diane F. Jelinek,<sup>3</sup> Esteban Braggio,<sup>3</sup> Jose F. Leis,<sup>3</sup> Cong Christine Zhang,<sup>7</sup> Steven E. Coutre,<sup>1</sup> Paul M. Barr,<sup>8</sup> Amanda F. Cashen,<sup>9</sup> Anthony R. Mato,<sup>10</sup> Avina K. Singh,<sup>11</sup> Michael P. Mullane,<sup>12</sup> Richard F. Little,<sup>13</sup> Harry Erba,<sup>14</sup> Richard M. Stone,<sup>2</sup> Mark Litzow,<sup>3</sup> Martin Tallman,<sup>10</sup> and Neil E. Kay<sup>3</sup>



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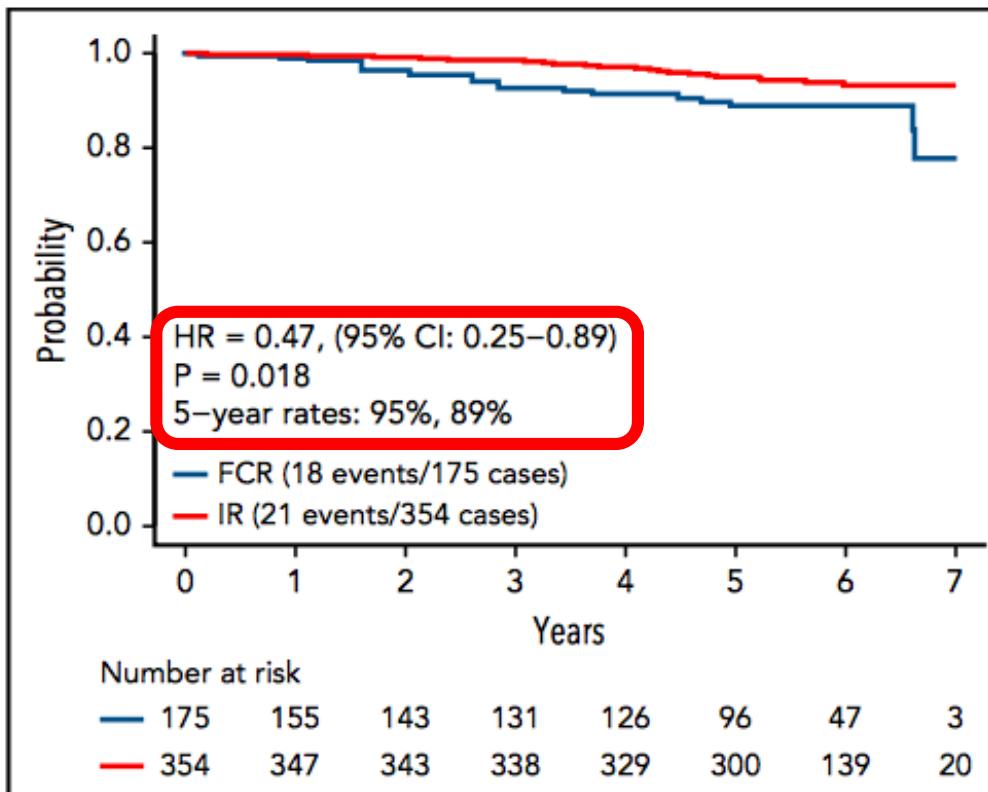
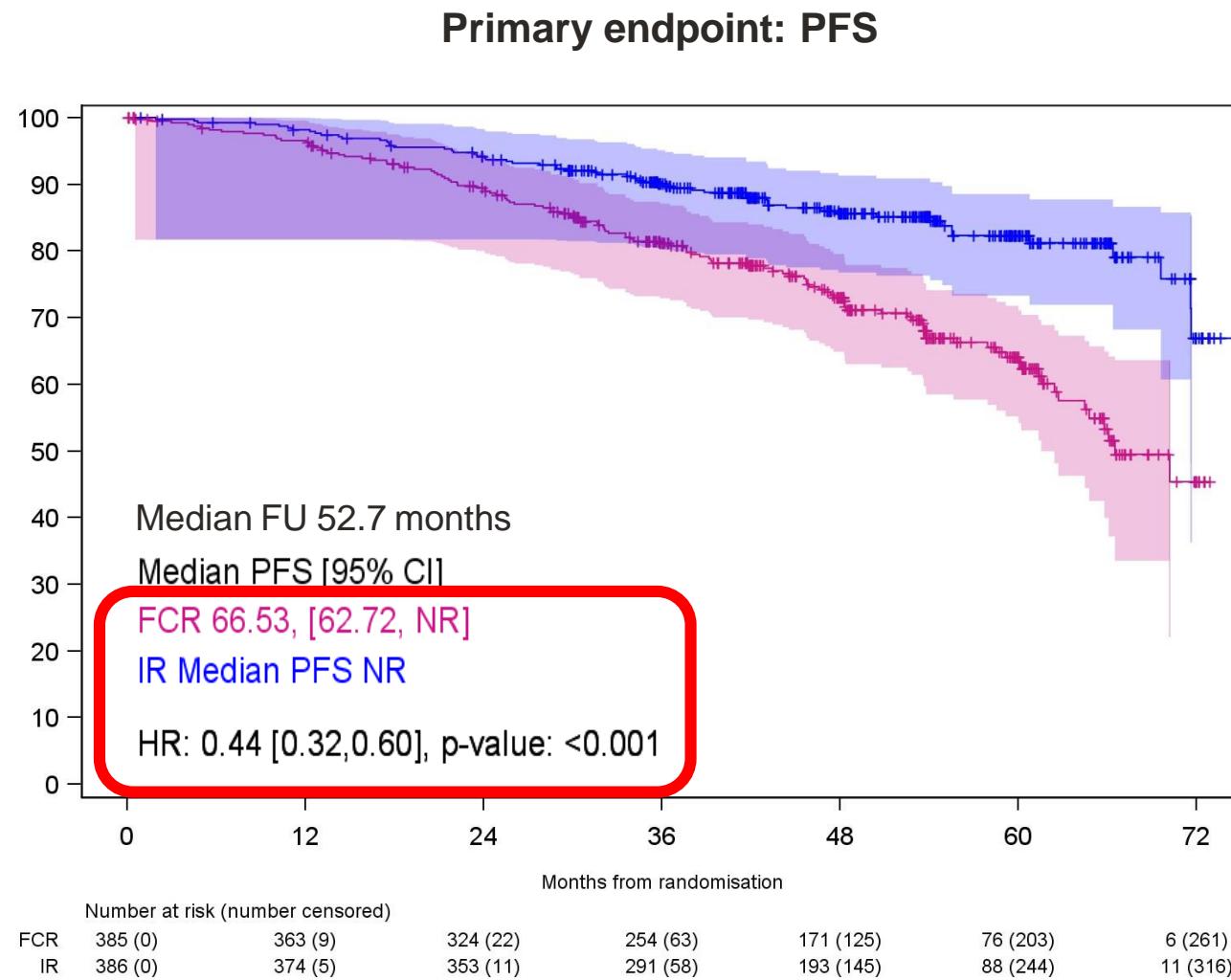


Figure 4. OS comparison for IR vs FCR arms.

# Phase III NCRI FLAIR Trial: Ibrutinib plus rituximab vs FCR

Progression-free survival (%)



IWCLL Response 3-months post-treatment with FCR/R

	FCR (n=385)	IR (n=386)
CR	233 (60.5%)	81 (21.0%)
PR	106 (27.6%)	271 (70.2%)
SD/PD/NR	46 (11.9%)	34 (8.8%)

Proportion of participants with MRD negativity\* in the bone marrow at 3-months post-treatment with FCR/R

	FCR (n=385)	IR (n=386)
MRD Negative	213 (55.3%)	15 (3.9%)
MRD Positive	140 (36.4%)	357 (92.5%)
N/A	32 (8.3%)	14 (3.6%)

\* , MRD flow cytometry <1 CLL cell/10,000 (IWCLL criteria)

A greater percentage of participants in the FCR arm became MRD negative in the bone marrow 3-months post-treatment compared to the IR arm (55.3% vs 3.9%)



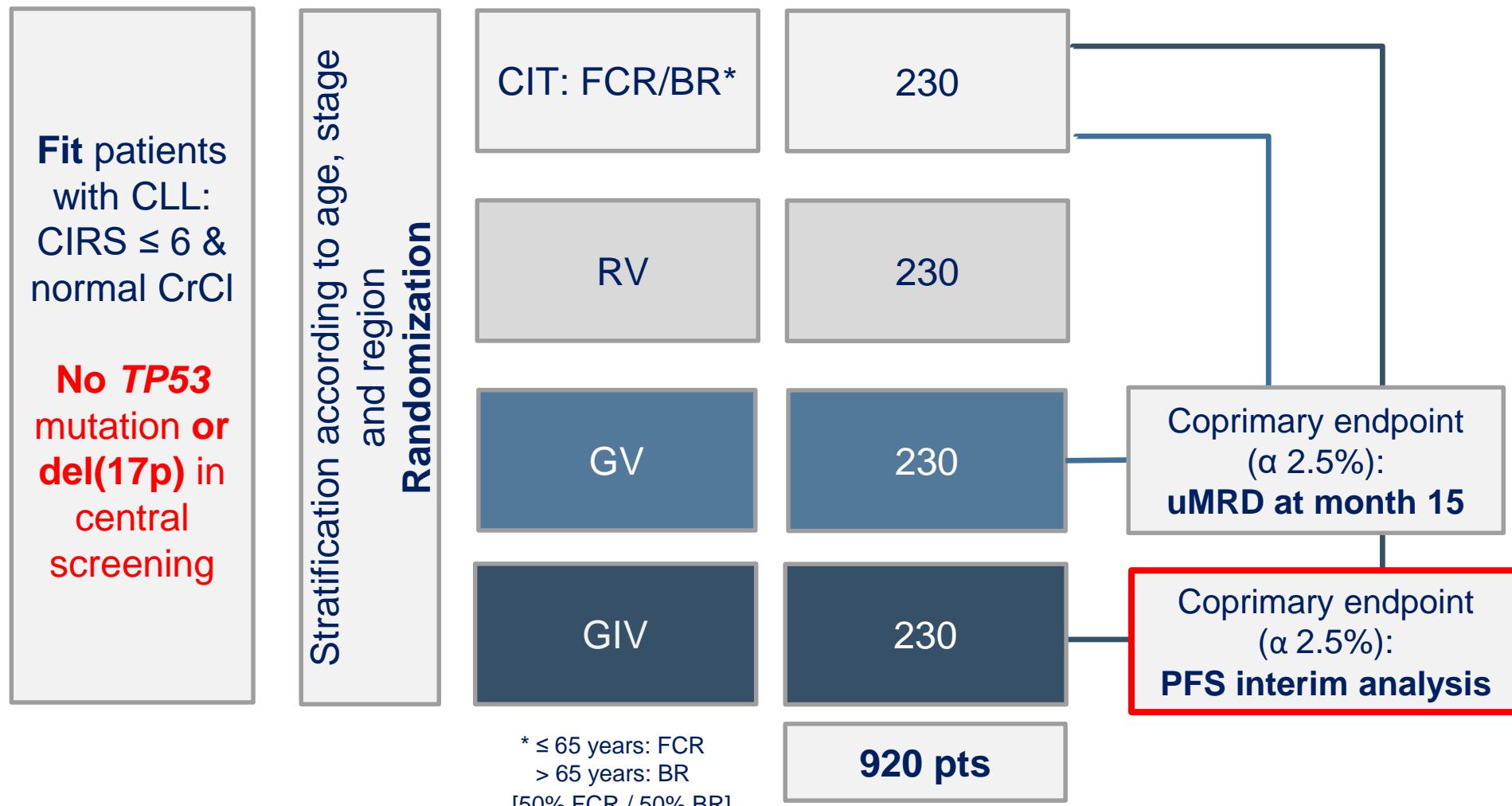
# **TIME-LIMITED VENETOCLAX-OBINUTUZUMAB +/- IBRUTINIB IS SUPERIOR TO CHEMOIMMUNOTHERAPY IN FRONTLINE CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKEMIA (CLL): PFS CO-PRIMARY ENDPOINT OF THE RANDOMIZED PHASE 3 GAIA/CLL13 TRIAL**

Barbara Eichhorst, Carsten U Niemann, Arnon P Kater, Moritz Fürstenau, Julia von Tresckow, Can Zhang, Sandra Robrecht, Michael Gregor, Gunnar Juliussen, Patrick Thornton, Philipp B. Staber, Tamar Tadmor, Vesa Lindström, Caspar da Cunha-Bang, Christoph Schneider, Christian Poulsen, Thomas Illmer, Björn Schöttker, Ann Janssens, Ilse Christiansen, Thomas Nösslinger, Michael Baumann, Marjolein van der Klift, Ulrich Jäger, Henrik Frederiksen, Maria BL Leys, Mels Hoogendoorn, Kourosh Lotfi, Holger Hebart, Tobias Gaska, Harry Koene, Florian Simon, Nisha De Silva, Anna Fink, Kirsten Fischer, Clemens Wendtner, Karl A Kreuzer, Matthias Ritgen, Monika Brüggemann, Eugen Tausch, Mark-David Levin, Marinus van Oers, Christian Geisler, Stephan Stilgenbauer, Michael Hallek

# GAIA/CLL13 study design for fit patients with CLL

Chemoimmunotherapy (FCR/BR) versus Rituximab + Venetoclax versus Obinutuzumab (G) + V versus G + Ibrutinib + V

Recruitment in 10 countries (DE, AT, CH, NL, BE, DK, SE, FI, IE, IL)

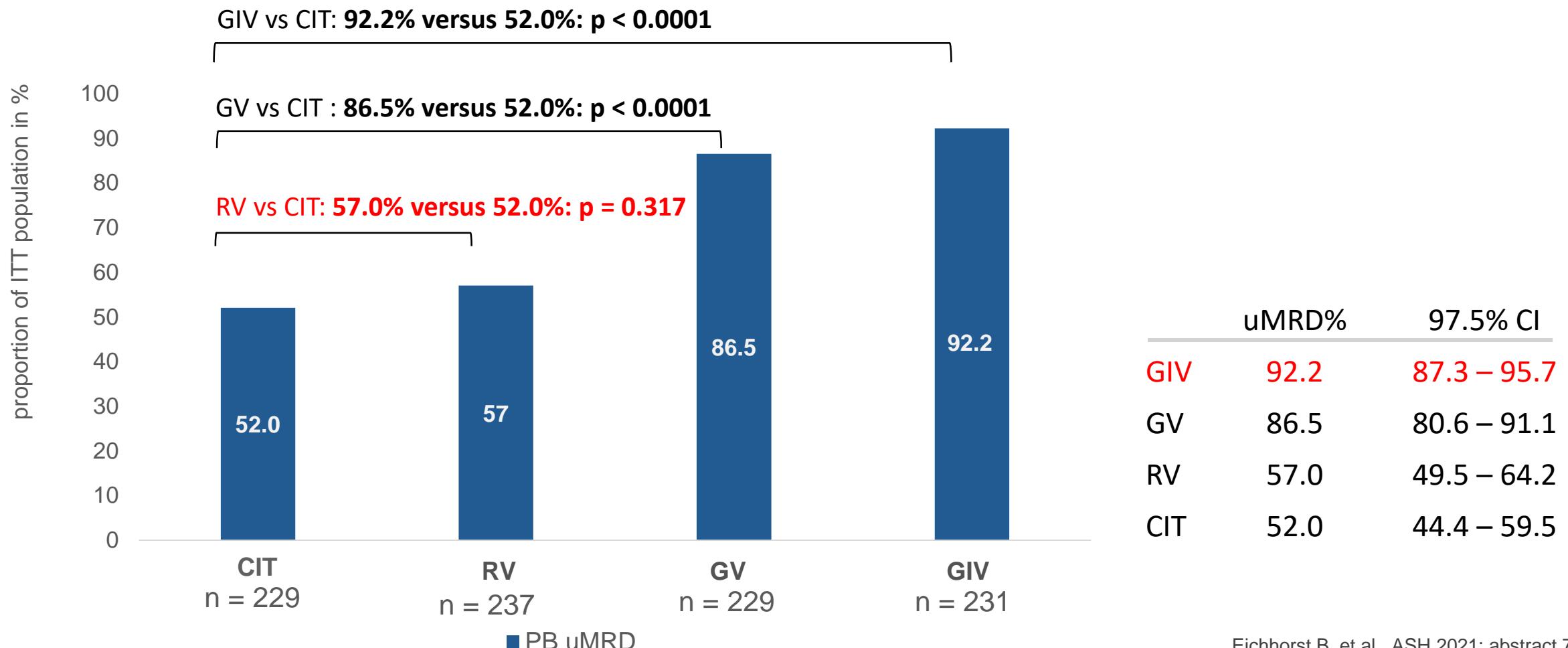


**Based on CLL13, which statement is wrong?**

- 1) triple combo obinutuzumab/ibrutinib/venetoclax (GIV) induces uMRD ( $<10^{-4}$ ) in 92% of treated pts**
- 2) venetoclax/rituximab is equally effective with respect to uMRD compared to CIT (FCR, BR)**
- 3) 3-yr PFS rate is 80% for GIV-treated pts**
- 4) more than 20% of pts suffered from severe infections (III/IV) under GIV treatment**

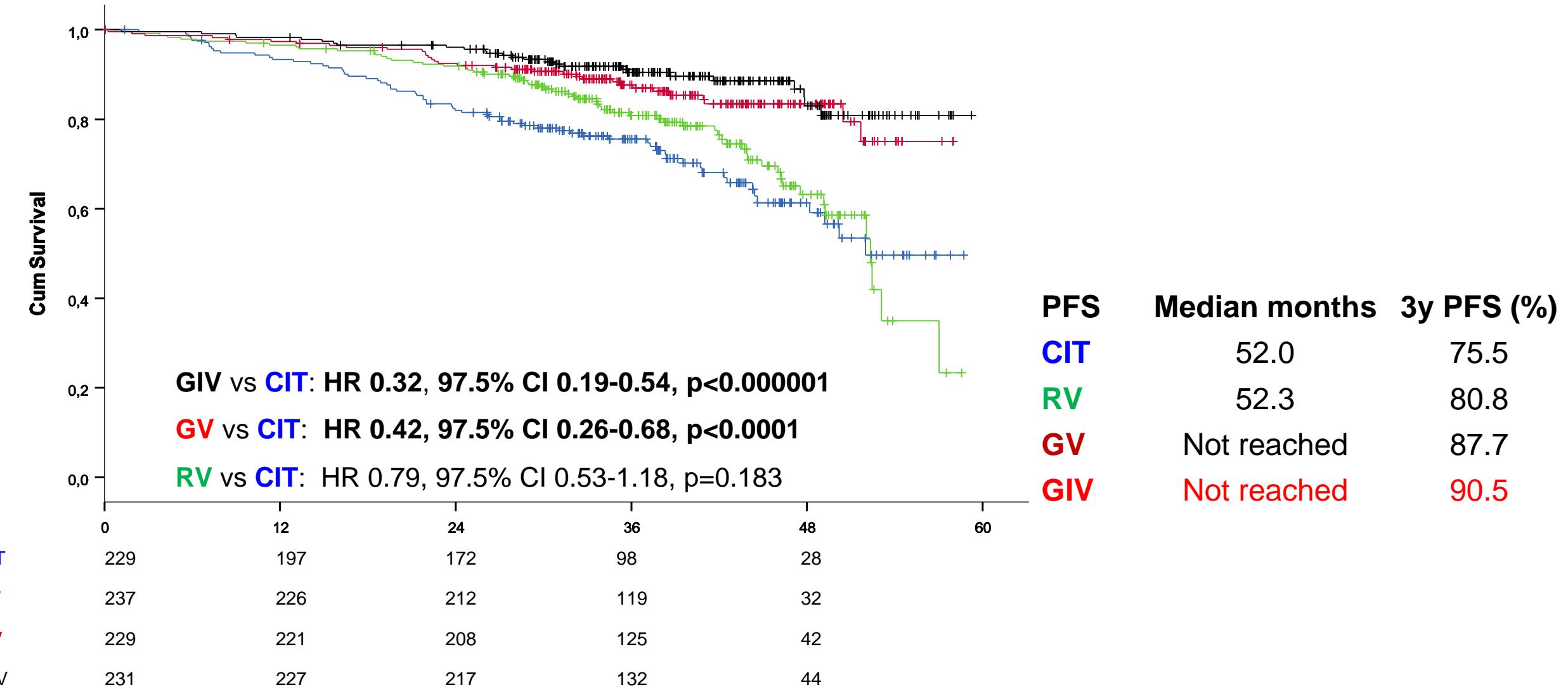
# Results of coprimary endpoint rate of undetectable minimal residual disease (uMRD)

Coprimary endpoint: uMRD ( $< 10^{-4}$ ) at Mo15 in PB by 4-colour-flow



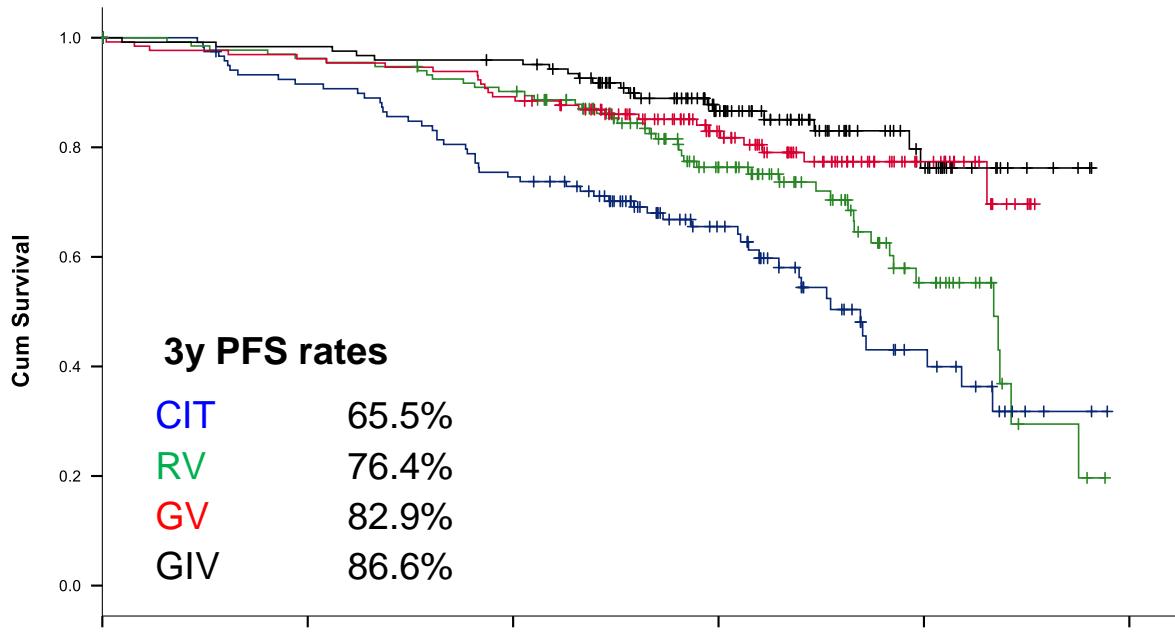
# Results of the coprimary endpoint progression-free survival (PFS)

Median FU 38.8 months (range: 0.0 – 59.2)

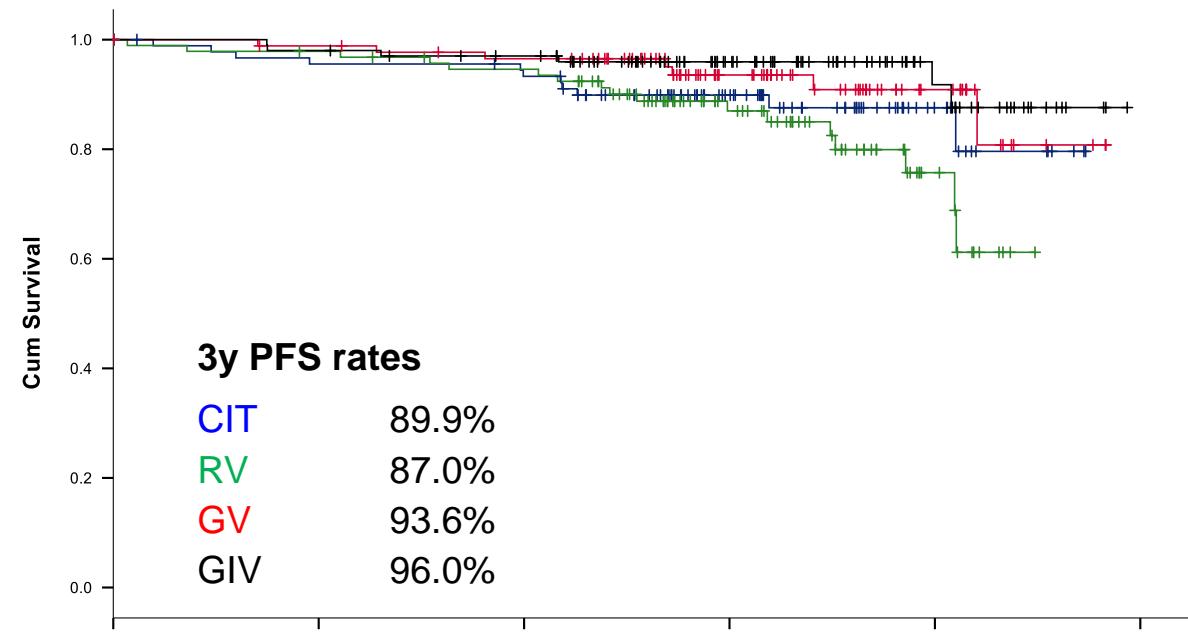


# PFS according to IGHV status

Unmutated IGHV



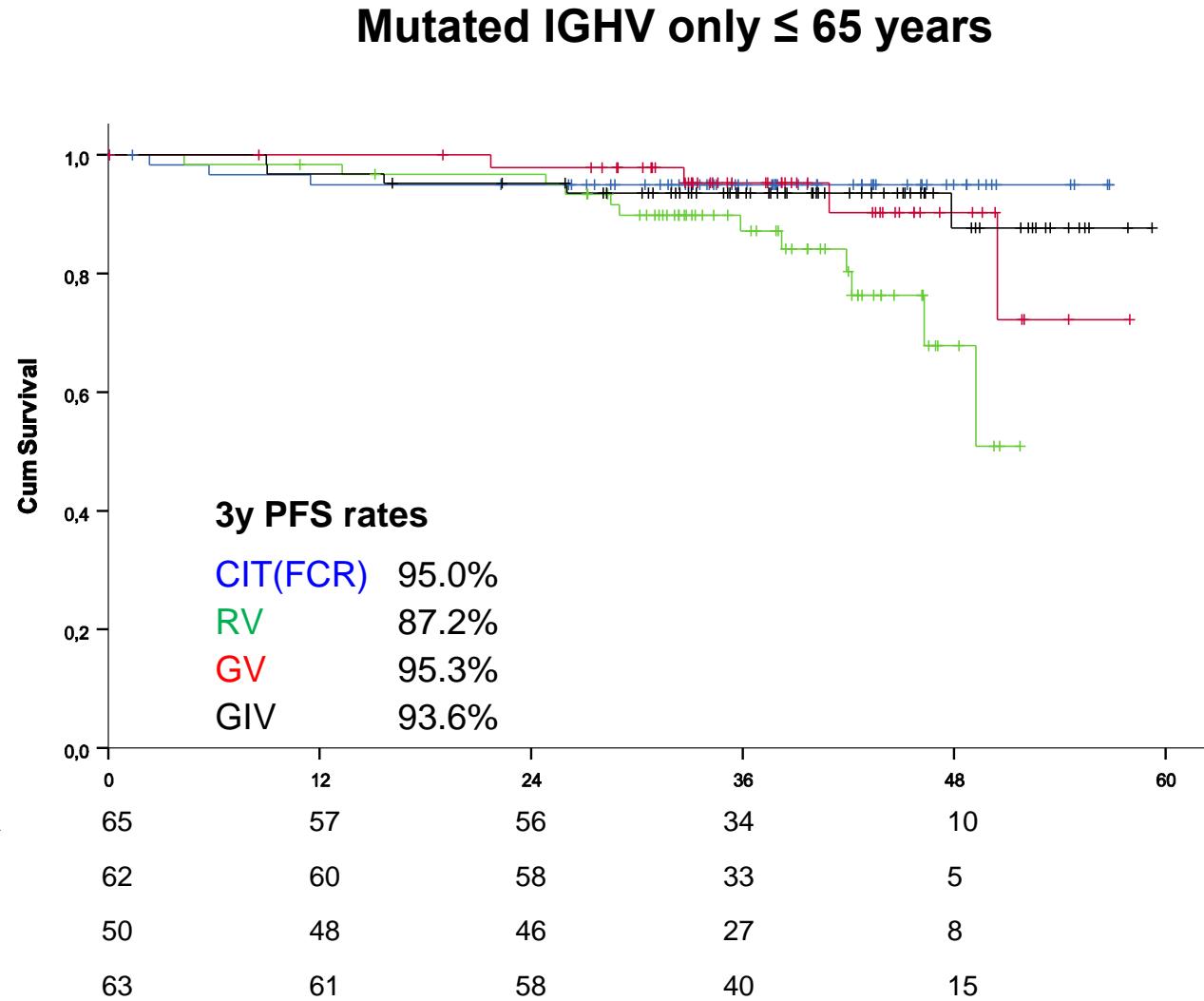
Mutated IGHV



CIT	131	108	88	48	14
RV	134	128	119	67	20
GV	130	125	116	71	21
GIV	123	121	117	70	22

CIT	95	86	83	50	14
RV	95	91	86	49	12
GV	89	86	82	48	17
GIV	101	99	94	59	22

# PFS according to IGHV status: Subgroup mutated IGHV AND ≤ 65 years



## Adverse Events ≥ CTC Grade 3 Overview

Severe AEs occurring in ≥5% of pts in at least one arm and of interest

	CIT	RV	GV	GIV
<b>All patients of safety population</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>231</b>
<b>All ≥ CTC grade 3 events (%)</b>	<b>176 (81.5)</b>	<b>173 (73.0)</b>	<b>192 (84.2)</b>	<b>193 (83.5)</b>
Blood and lymphatic system (%)	122 (56.5)	103 (43.5)	128 (56.1)	117 (50.6)
Infections and infestations (%)	44 (20.4)	27 (11.4)	34 (14.9)	51 (22.1)
Febrile neutropenia (%)	24 (11.1)	10 (4.2)	7 (3.1)	18 (7.8)
Infusion related reaction (%)	12 (5.6)	19 (8)	26 (11.4)	10 (4.3)
Tumor lysis syndrome (%) *	9 (4.2)	24 (10.1)	19 (8.3)	15 (6.5)
Hypertension (%)	3 (1.4)	5 (2.1)	4 (1.8)	13 (5.6)

\* Defined by Cairo-Bishop criteria

**BTKi**

Continuous  
monotherapy

**BCL2i/BTKi  
/CD20**

Fixed-duration  
combination  
therapy



**ECOG1912:** I/R

**RESONATE:** I

**iLLUMINATE:** I+Obi

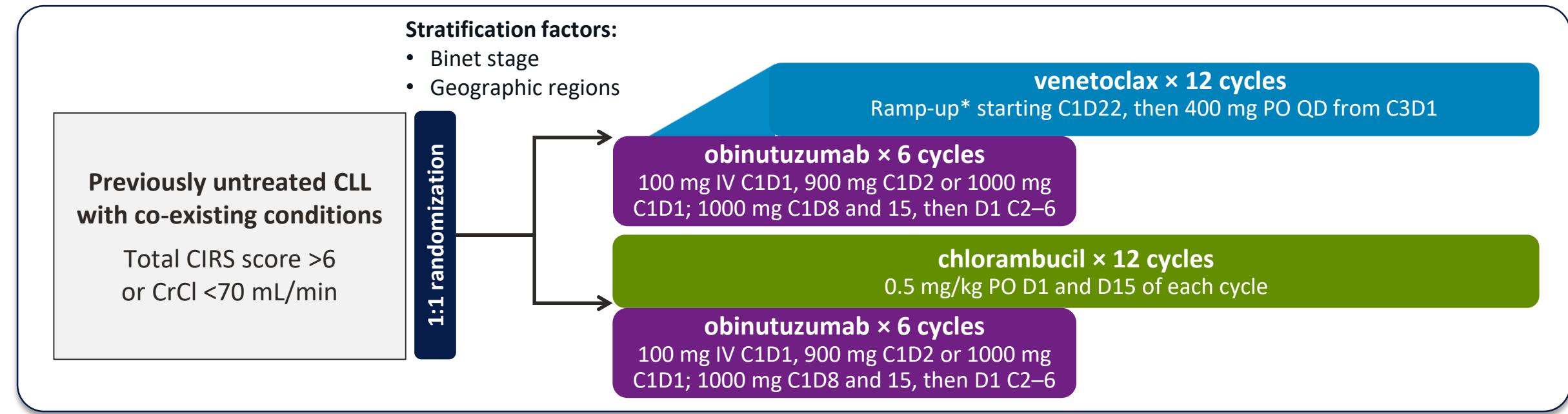
**ELEVATE-TN:** Acalabrutinib +/- Obi

**SEQUOIA:** Zanubrutinib

**CLL13/CLL14: VenObi**

**GLOW:** I+V

# CLL14 Study Design



## Primary Endpoint (ITT population):

- PFS – investigator-assessed

## Key Secondary Endpoints (ITT population):

- PFS – IRC-assessed
- ORR and CR 3 months after EoT
- MRD response rate (PB and BM) 3 months after EoT:
  - All patients
  - Patients with CR
- Overall survival

## Analyses:

- Interim analysis: 110 PFS events
- Final PFS analysis: 170 PFS events
- Final OS analysis: End of study, 5 years after last patient enrolled

28-day cycles.

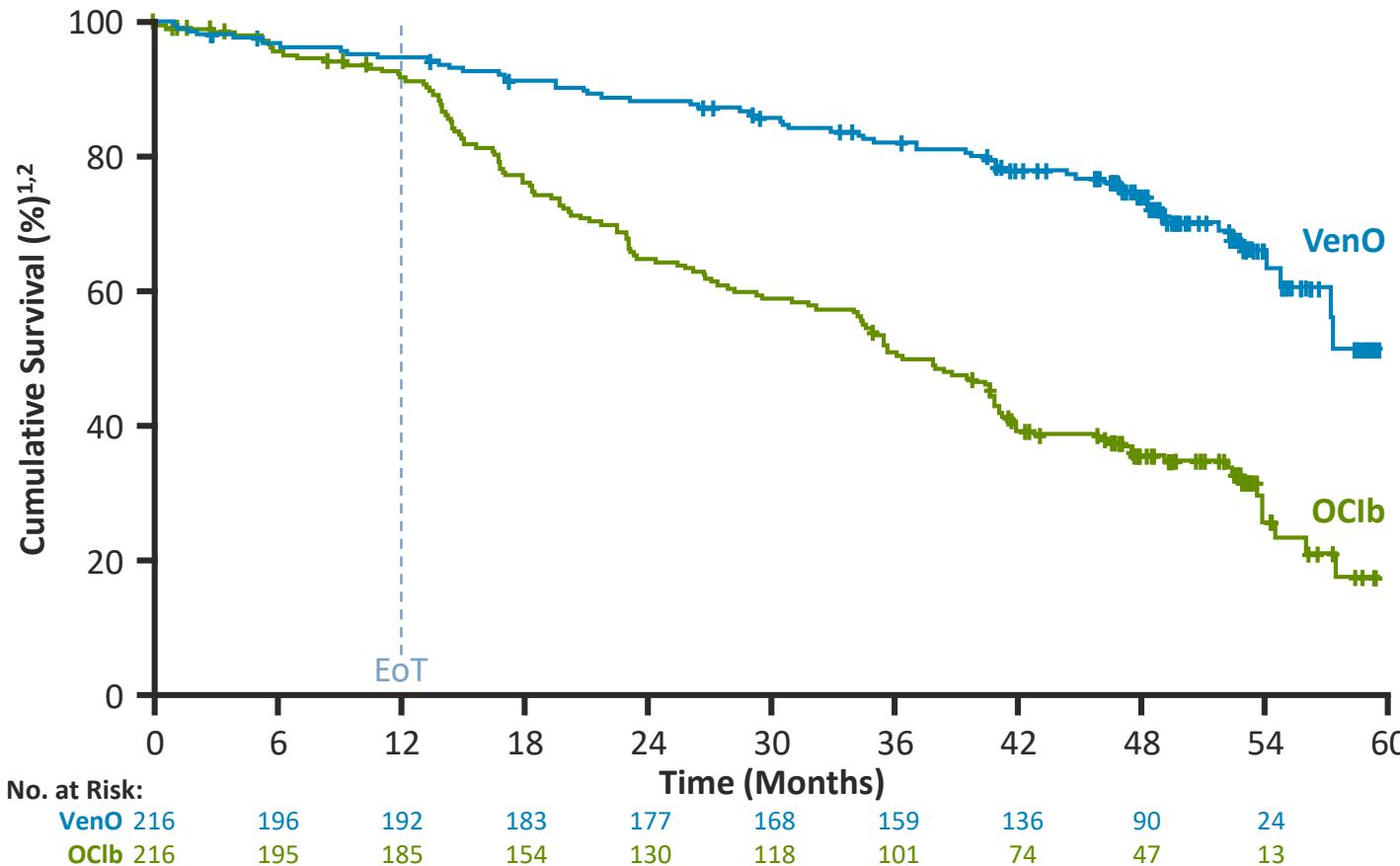
\* Venetoclax 5-week dose ramp-up starting C1D22: 1 week each of 20, 50, 100, and 200 mg, then 400 mg for 1 week, thereafter continuing at 400 mg until completion of cycle 12. BM, bone marrow; CIRS, cumulative illness rating scale; CR, complete remission; CrCl, creatinine clearance; EoT, end of treatment; IRC, Independent Review Committee; ITT, intention-to-treat; IV, intravenous; ORR, overall response rate; PB, peripheral blood; PO, orally; QD, daily.

Fischer K, et al. N Engl J Med 2019; **380**:2225–2236.

**Based on CLL14 (VenObi vs ClbObi), which statement is wrong?**

- 1) 4 yrs after treatment start, 3 out of 4 pts showed no progression on VenObi.**
- 2) 4 yrs after treatment start, 1 out of 3 pts showed no progression on ClbObi.**
- 3) In pts with an aberrant TP53 status, 2 out of 3 were without progression with VenObi after 4 yrs.**
- 4) Pts with IGHV<sub>unmut</sub> (vs. IGHV<sub>mut</sub>) showed an inferior PFS on VenObi.**

# Investigator-Assessed PFS (ITT Population): 4 Years Post-Randomization



- Median follow-up: 52.4 months (range, 0–61.1 months)<sup>2</sup>
- All patients off treatment for  $\geq 3$  years

	VenO (n=216)	OClb (n=216)
Median PFS, months (95% CI) <sup>1</sup>	NR	36.4
HR (95% CI)*, descriptive p-value <sup>1</sup>	0.33 (0.25–0.45); <0.0001	
48-month PFS estimate, % <sup>1</sup>	74.0	35.4

At the 4-year analysis (median follow-up 52.4 months),  
the risk of progression or death was decreased by 67% with VenO vs OClb

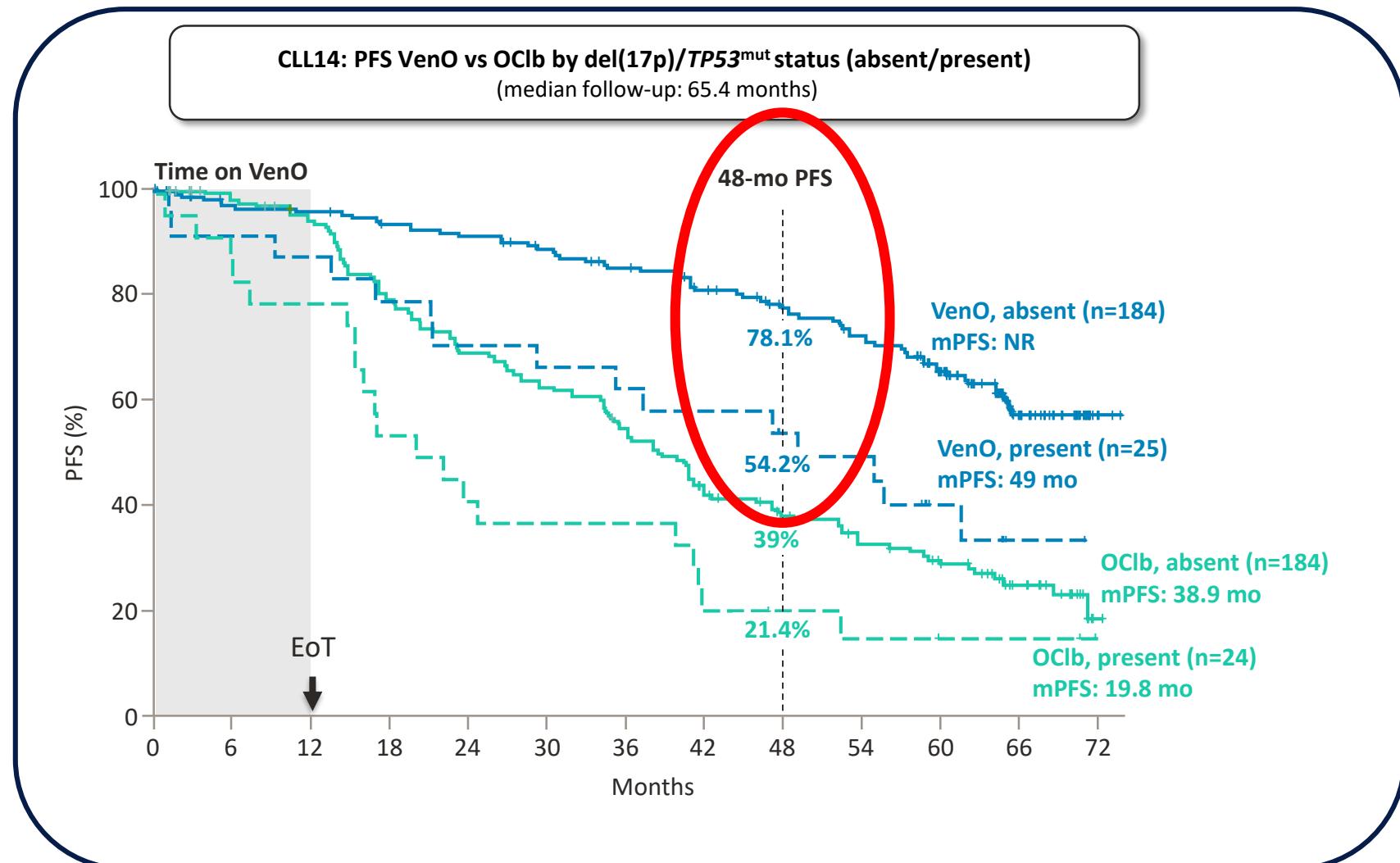
Data cutoff: September 11, 2020.

\* Stratified by Binet and geographic region; hazard ratio estimated by Cox regression model.

CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; NR, not reached; PFS, progression-free survival.

Al-Sawaf et al, JCO, 2021

# In patients with **del(17p)/TP53<sup>mut</sup>** CLL, fixed-duration **BCL-2i-based therapy** improves PFS vs CIT



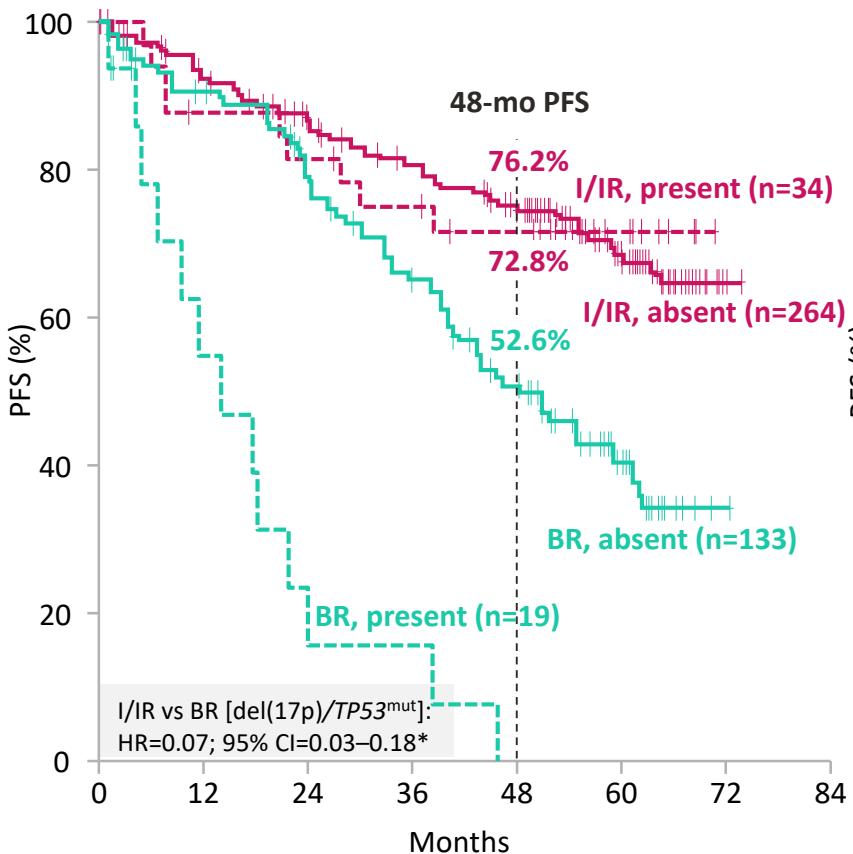
48-month PFS rates are estimated from KM curve using Graphreader (<http://www.graphreader.com/>).

BCL-2i, B-cell lymphoma 2 inhibitor; CIT, chemoimmunotherapy; Clb, chlorambucil; EoT, end of treatment; NR, not reached; O, obinutuzumab; Ven, venetoclax.

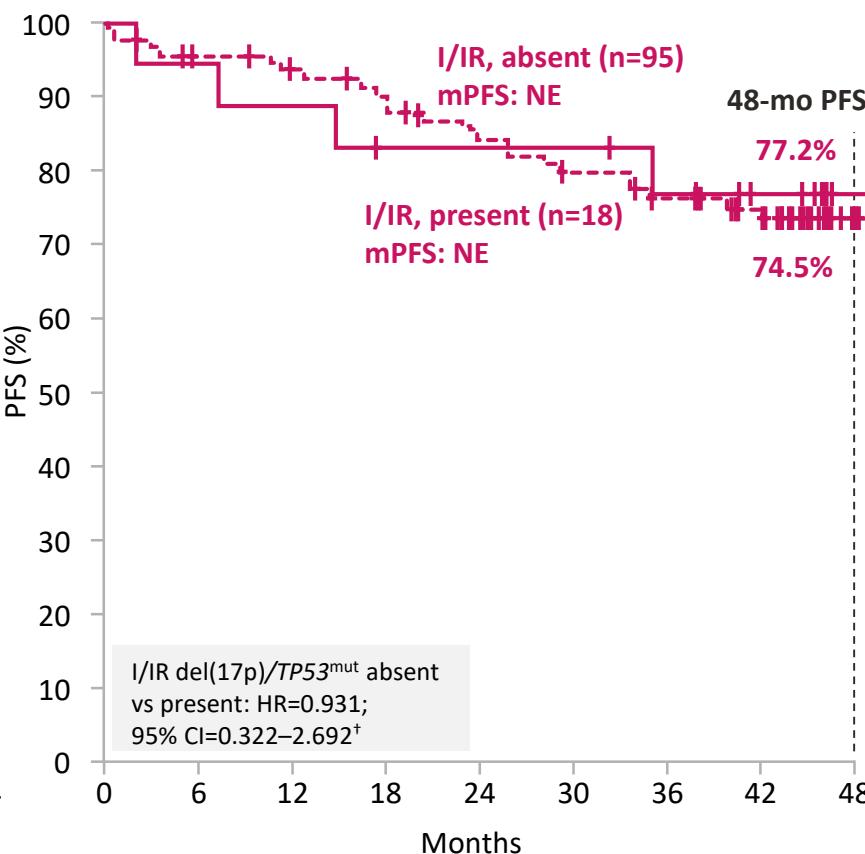
Al-Sawaf O, et al. EHA 2022. Abstract S148 (Oral).

# In 1L **del(17p)/TP53<sup>mut</sup>** CLL, continuous **BTKi** therapies improve PFS vs CIT

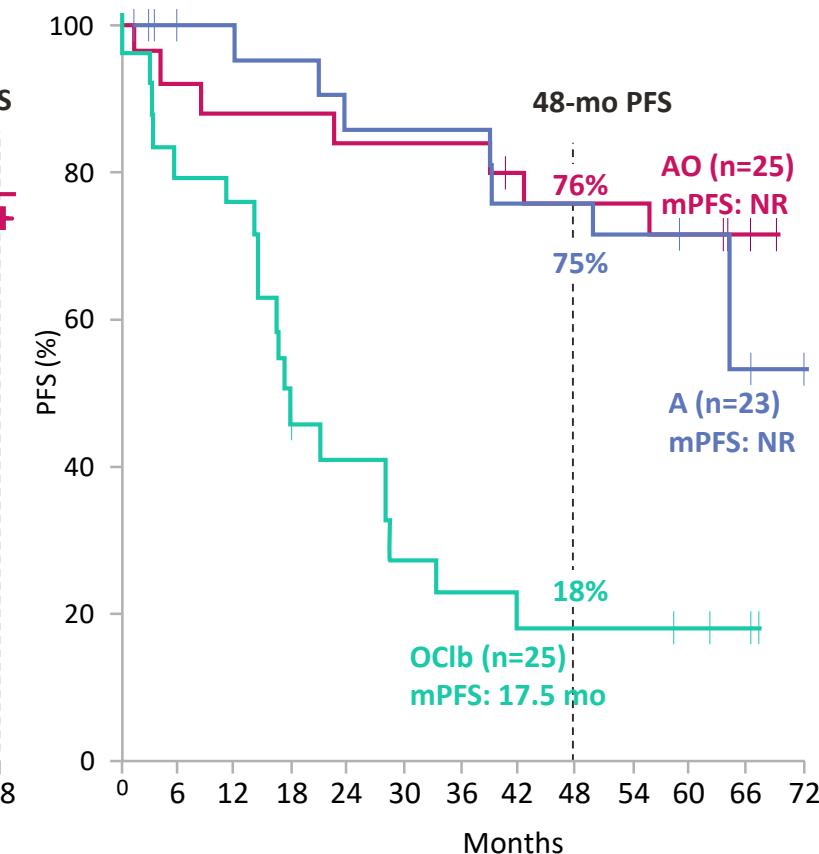
Alliance A041202: PFS I/IR vs BR by  
**del(17p)/TP53<sup>mut</sup>** status (absent/present)  
(median follow-up: 55 months)<sup>1</sup>



iLLUMINATE: PFS with IO by  
**del(17p)/TP53<sup>mut</sup>** status (absent/present)  
(median follow-up: 45 months)<sup>2</sup>



ELEVATE TN: PFS A/AO vs OClb by  
**del(17p)/TP53<sup>mut</sup>** status (present)  
(median follow-up: 46.9 months)<sup>3,4</sup>



48-month PFS rates for ALLIANCE and iLLUMINATE are estimated from KM curve using Graphreader (<http://www.graphreader.com/>).

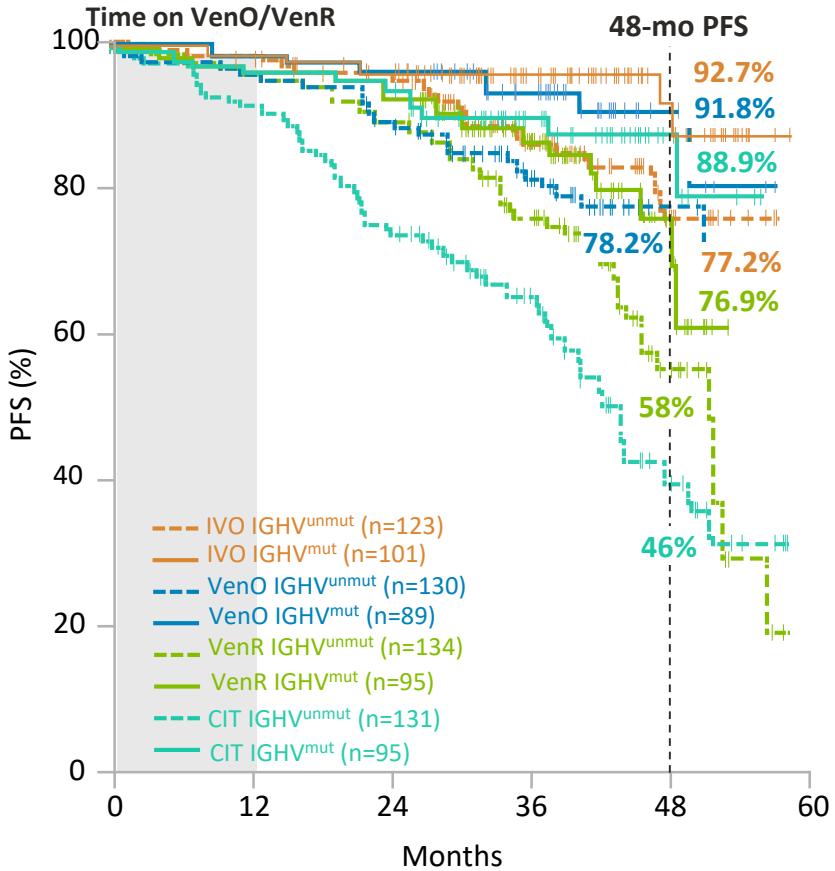
\* p=0.0006; † p=0.8945.

A, acalabrutinib; B, bendamustine; CIT, chemoimmunotherapy; Clb, chlorambucil; I, ibrutinib; NE, not estimable; NR, not reached; O, obinutuzumab; R, rituximab.

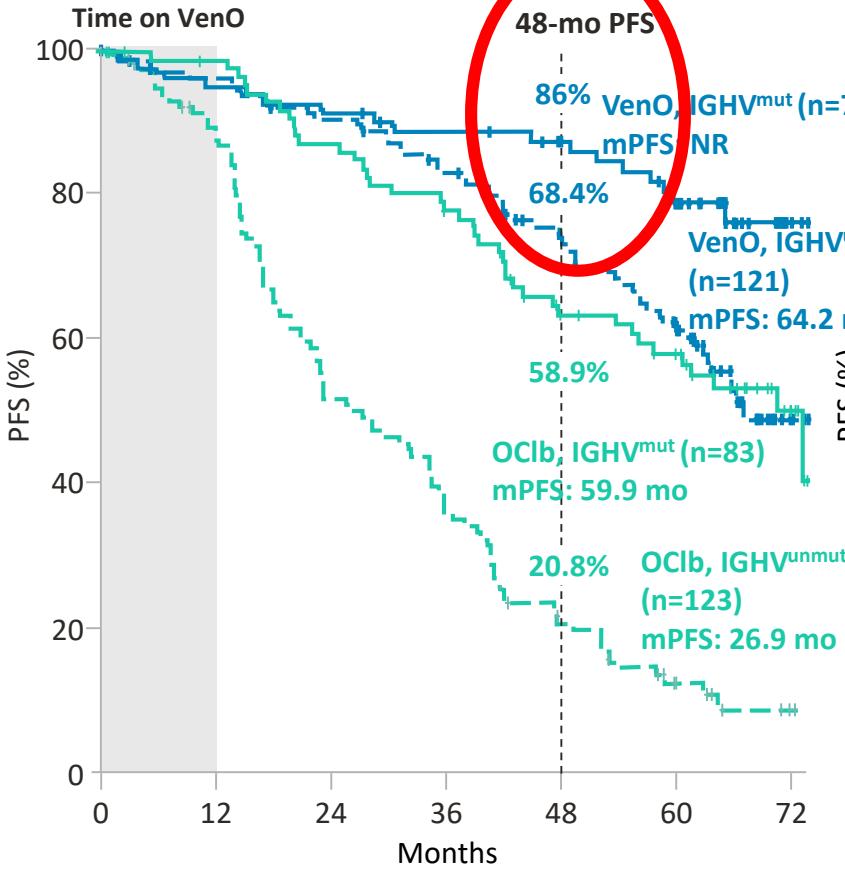
1. Woyach J, et al. ASH 2021. Abstract 639 (Oral); 2. Moreno C, et al. Haematologica 2022; doi: 10.3324/haematol.2021.279012; 3. Sharman JP, et al. Leukemia 2022; 36:1171–1175; 4. Sharman JP, et al. EHA 2022. Abstract P666 (Poster).

# In patients with **IGHV<sup>unmut</sup>** CLL, fixed-duration **BCL-2i**-based therapies improve PFS vs CIT

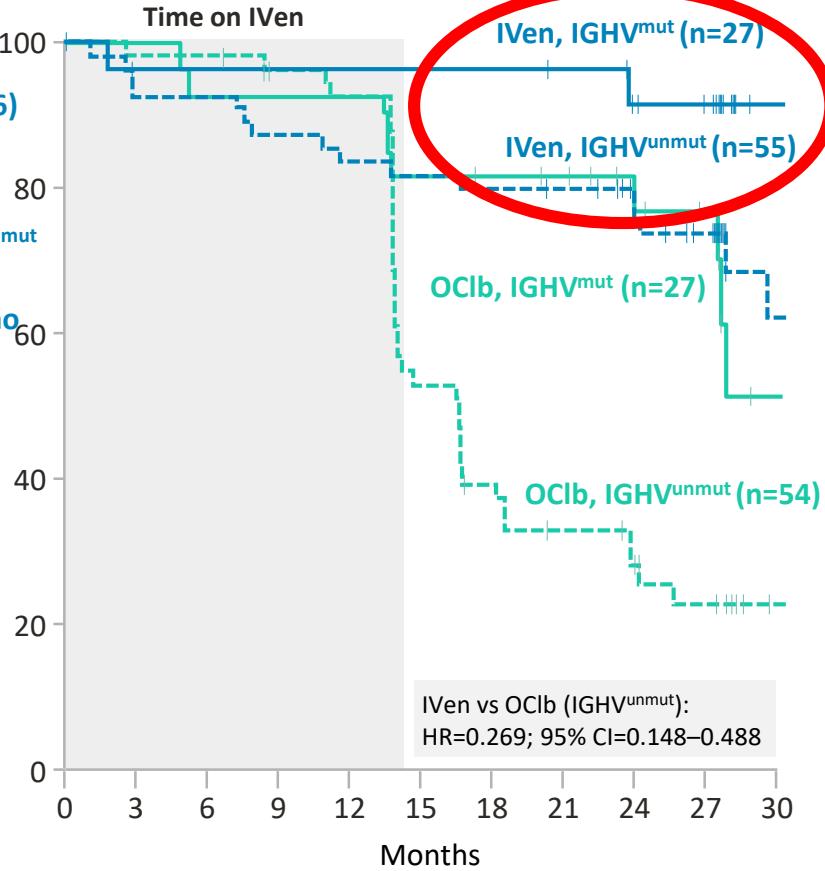
**GAIA/CLL13: PFS VenO/IVO/VenR vs CIT by IGHV status**  
(median follow-up: 38.8 months)<sup>1</sup>



**CLL14: PFS VenO vs OClb by IGHV status**  
(median follow-up: 65.4 months)<sup>2</sup>



**GLOW: PFS IVen vs OClb by IGHV status**  
(median follow-up: 27.7 months)<sup>3</sup>

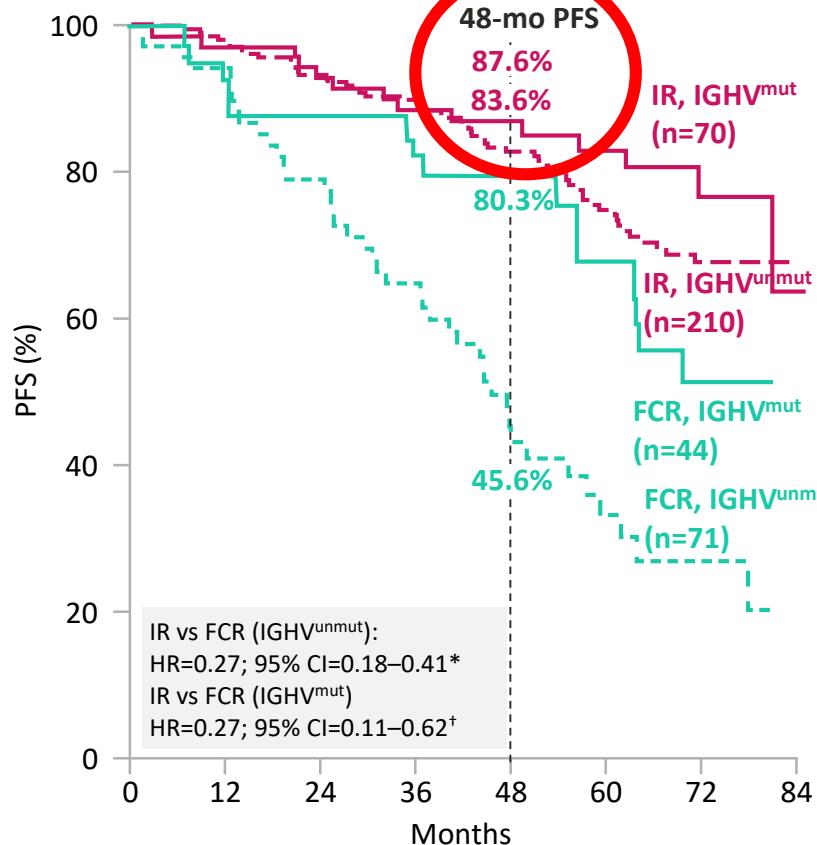


48-month PFS rates are estimated from KM curve using Graphreader (<http://www.graphreader.com/>).  
BCL-2i, B-cell lymphoma 2 inhibitor; CIT, chemoimmunotherapy; Clb, chlorambucil;  
I, ibrutinib; NR, not reached; O, obinutuzumab; R, rituximab; V / Ven, venetoclax.

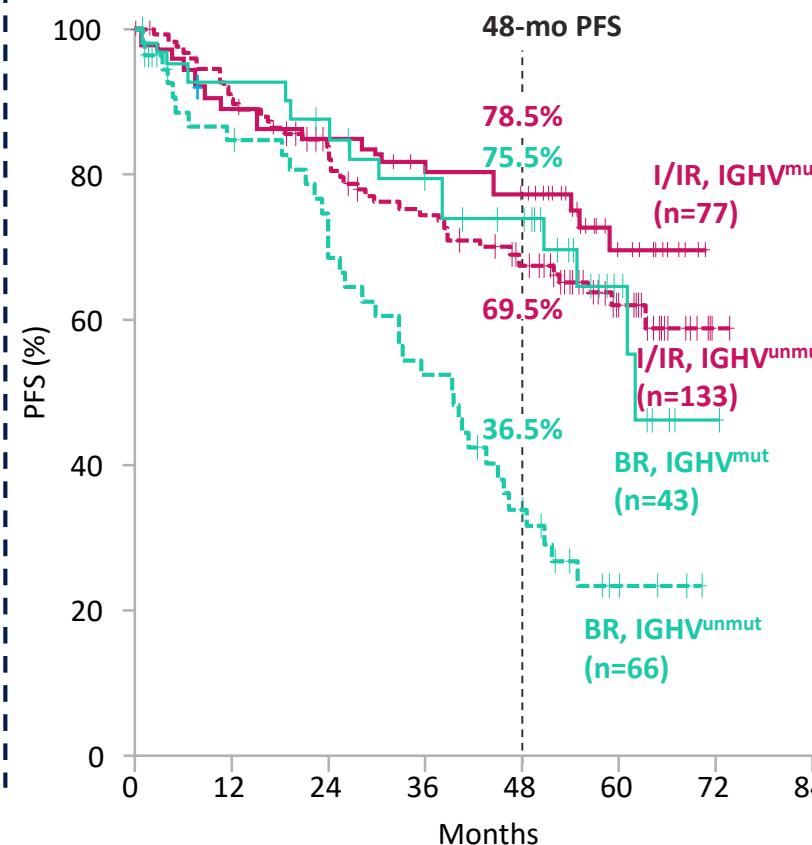
1. Eichhorst B, et al. EHA 2022. Abstract LB2365 (Oral); 2. Al-Sawaf O, et al. EHA 2022. Abstract S148 (Oral);  
3. Kater AP, et al. NEJM Evid 2022; 1 (incl. suppl.).

# In patients with **IGHV<sup>unmut</sup>** CLL, continuous **1L BTKi** therapies improve PFS vs CIT

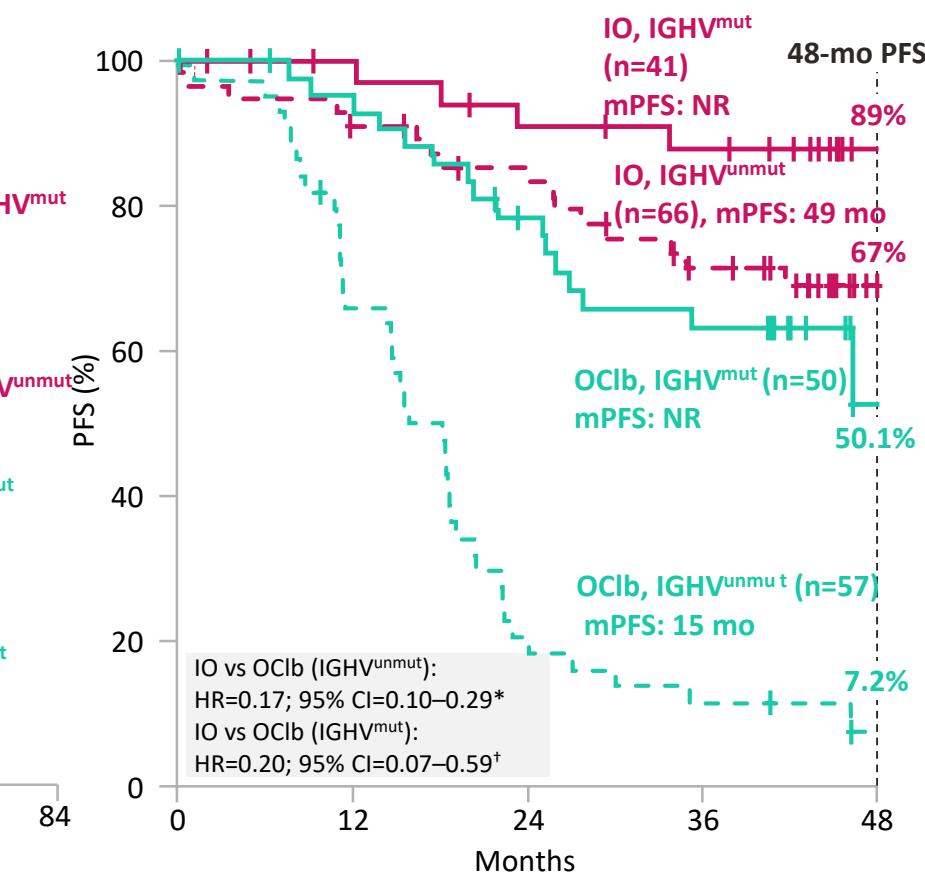
**ECOG 1912: PFS IR vs FCR by IGHV status**  
(median follow-up: 70 months)<sup>1</sup>



**Alliance A041202: PFS I/IR vs BR by IGHV status**  
(median follow-up: 55 months)<sup>2</sup>



**iLLUMINATE: PFS IO vs OClb by IGHV status**  
(median follow-up: 45 months)<sup>3</sup>



48-month PFS rates are estimated from KM curve using Graphreader (<http://www.graphreader.com/>).

\* p<0.0001; † p<0.001.

B, bendamustine; BTKi, Bruton's tyrosine kinase inhibitor; C, cyclophosphamide; CIT, chemoimmunootherapy;  
Clb, chlorambucil; F, fludarabine; I, ibrutinib; NR, not reached; O, obinutuzumab; R, rituximab.

1. Shanafelt TD, et al. *Blood* 2022; **140**:112–120; 2. Woyach J, et al. *ASH* 2021. Abstract 639 (Oral);  
3. Moreno C, et al. *Haematologica* 2022; doi: 10.3324/haematol.2021.279012.



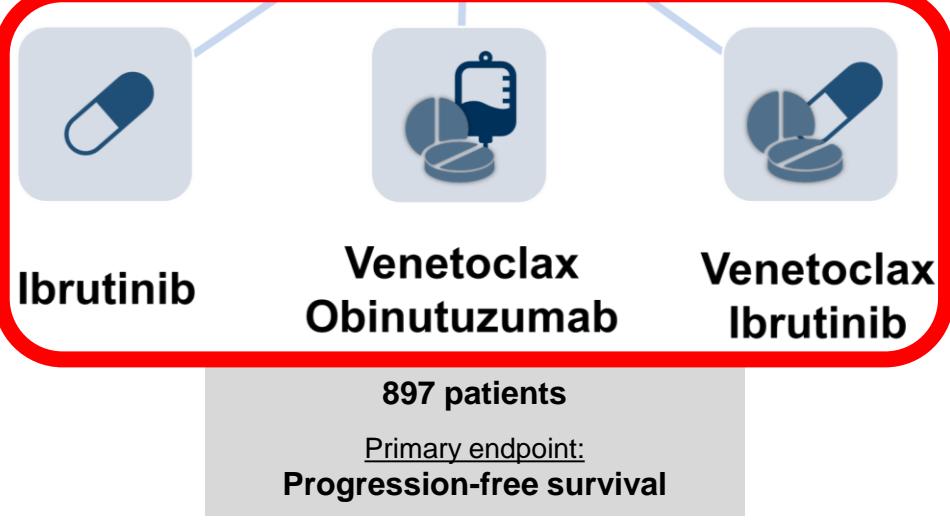
# A PROSPECTIVE, RANDOMIZED, OPEN-LABEL, MULTICENTRE PHASE-III TRIAL OF IBRUTINIB VERSUS VENETOCLAX PLUS OBINUTUZUMAB VERSUS IBRUTINIB PLUS VENETOCLAX FOR PATIENTS WITH PREVIOUSLY UNTREATED CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKAEMIA

## Patients with previously untreated CLL

Incl. fit and unfit patients  
Incl. patients with del17p/TP53 mut

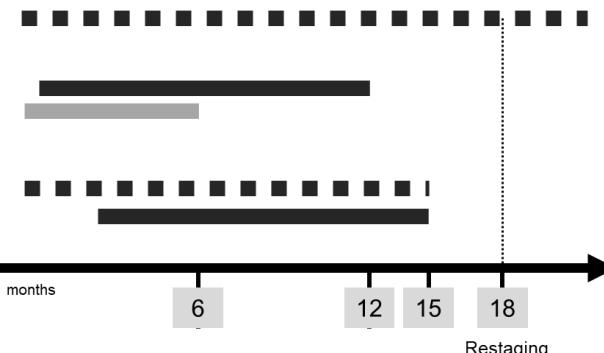
### 1:1:1 Randomization

Stratification according to  
fitness, del17p/TP53, IGHV



## TREATMENT SCHEDULE

RANDOMIZATION  
Stratification according to  
fitness, del17p/TP53, IGHV



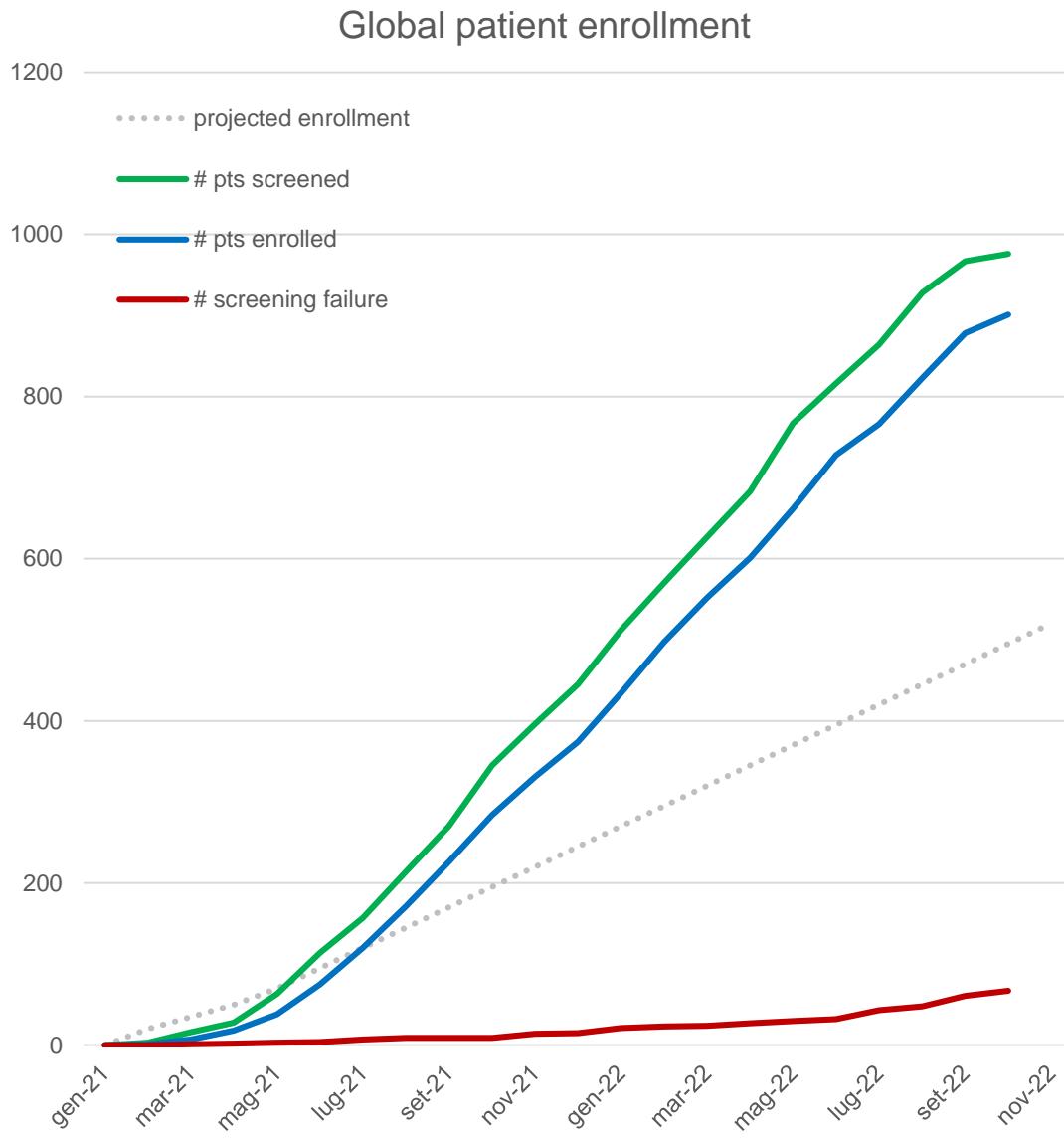
- Ibrutinib d1 420 mg po daily until PD or intolerance
- Venetoclax 400 mg po daily (c1 d22 – c12 d28)  
Obinutuzumab 1000 mg iv (c1 d1(2)/8/15, c 2-6 d1)
- Ibrutinib 420 mg po daily (c1 d1 – c15 d28)  
Venetoclax 400 mg po daily (c4 d1 – c15 d28)

## TIMELINES

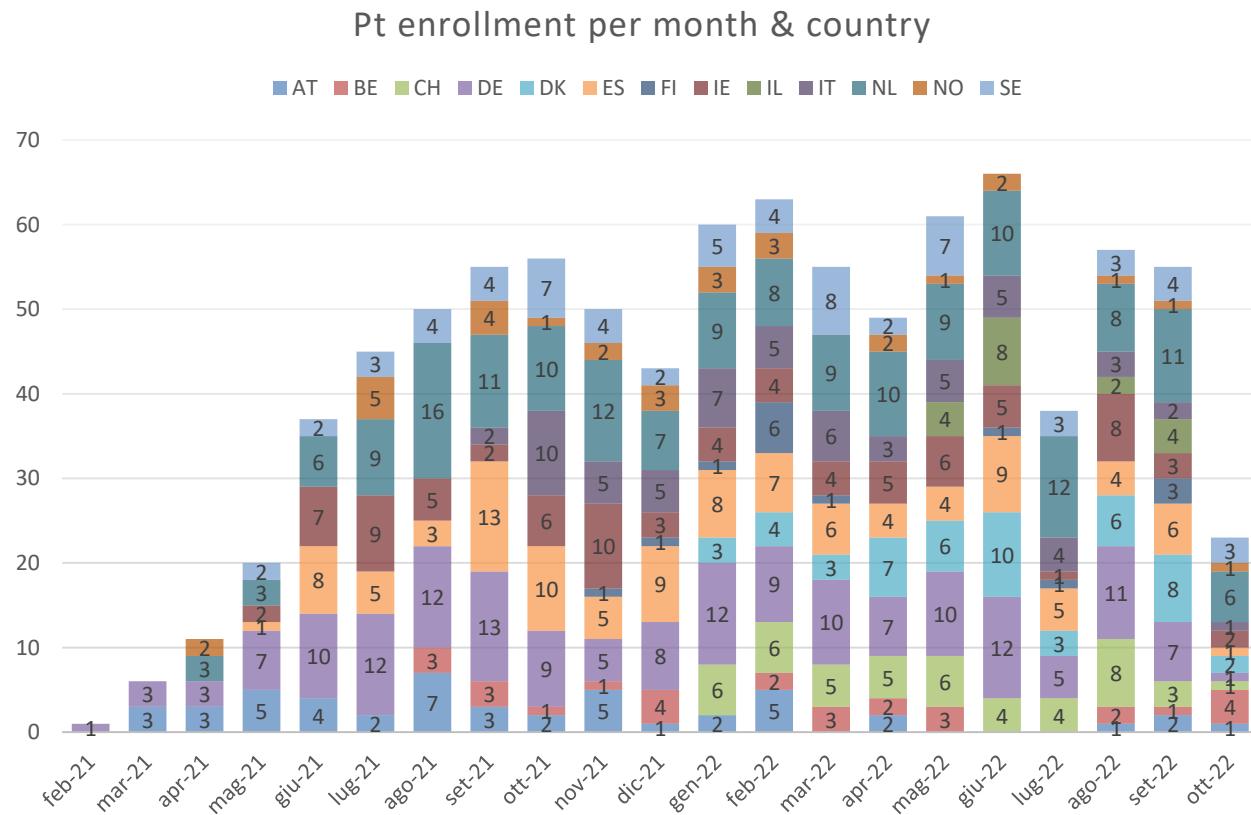
Start of recruitment	Q4/2020
Expected end of recruitment	Q4/2023
End of study	Q1/2027



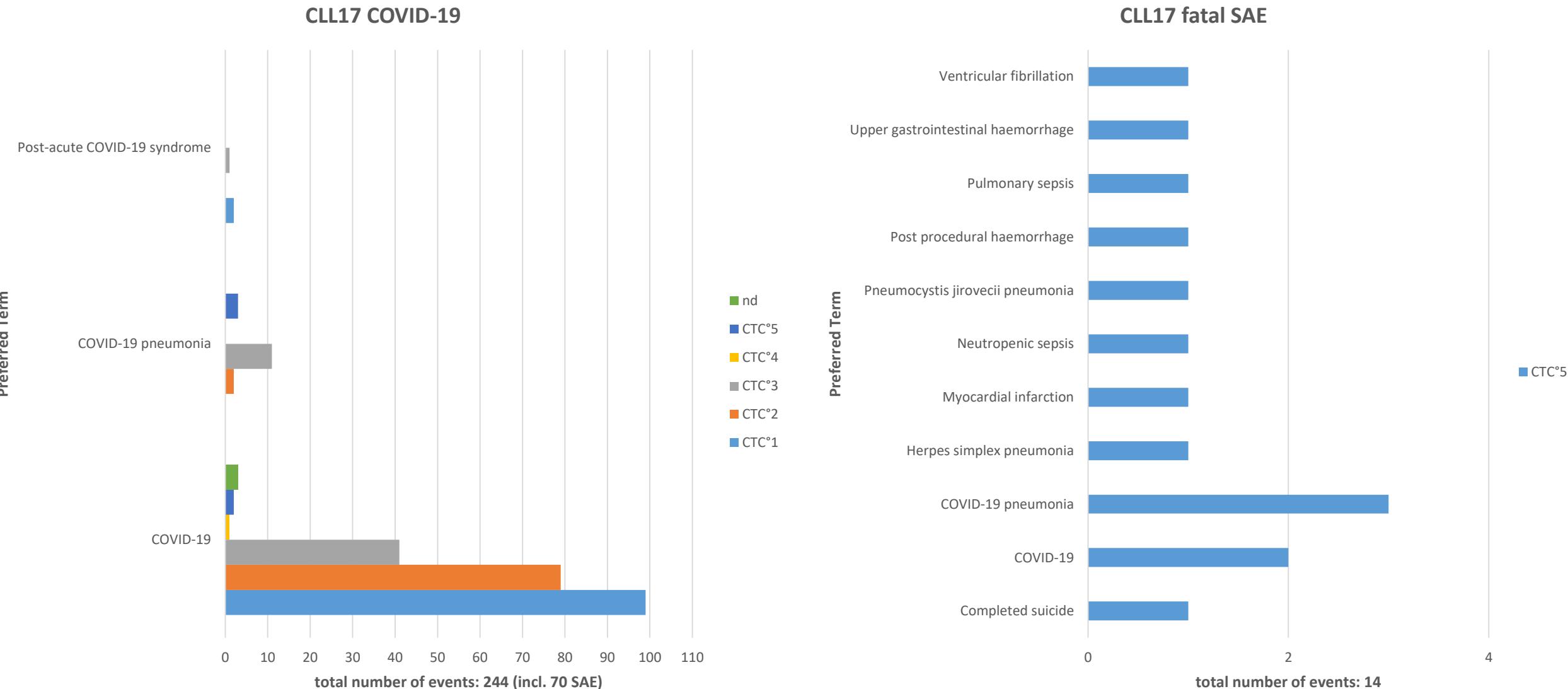
# PATIENT STATUS – CLL17 – OCT 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

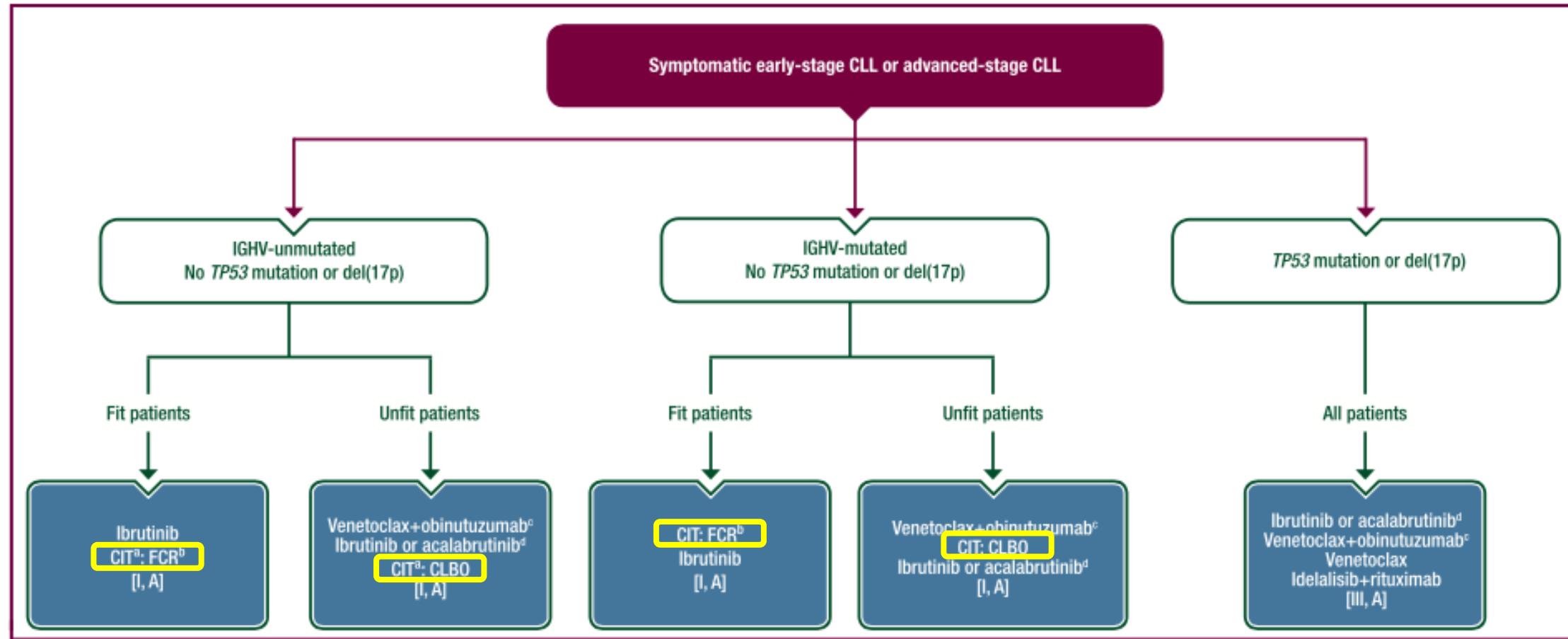


**# pts screened:** 976  
**# pts enrolled:** 901 (99,3%) of 907  
**# screening failure:** 67  
**# pts screening ongoing:** 8



# SAFETY STATUS





**Figure 1. Front-line therapy.**

The order of the recommended treatments for each subgroup is based on expert opinion considering time-limited as more valuable therapy, if there is equal evidence for two different treatment options.

BR, bendamustine plus rituximab; CIT, chemoimmunotherapy; CLBO, chlorambucil plus obinutuzumab; CLL, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia; FCR, fludarabine, cyclophosphamide and rituximab; IGHV, immunoglobulin heavy chain variable.

<sup>a</sup> CIT as alternative treatment, only if reasons against treatment with targeted therapies or non-availability.

<sup>b</sup> BR might be considered alternatively in patients above the age of 65 years.

<sup>c</sup> If available.

<sup>d</sup> If approved and available.

# Chemo-free 1<sup>st</sup> line algorithm in CLL ?

