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4<sup>th</sup> POSTGRADUATE

# CLL Conference

Bologna  
November 13-14  
2023

Royal Hotel Carlton

President:  
Pier Luigi Zinzani



HARVARD  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

# 4th Postgraduate CLL Conference Bologna



**Dana-Farber**  
Cancer Institute

## Acalabrutinib

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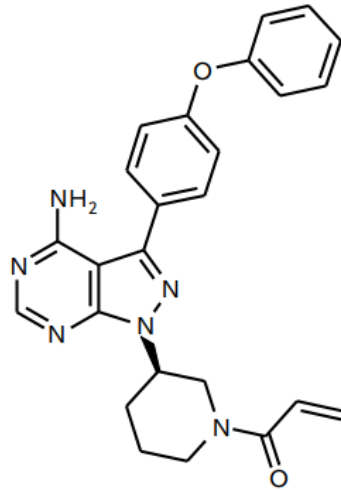
Associate Professor of Medicine | Harvard Medical School

13 November, 2023

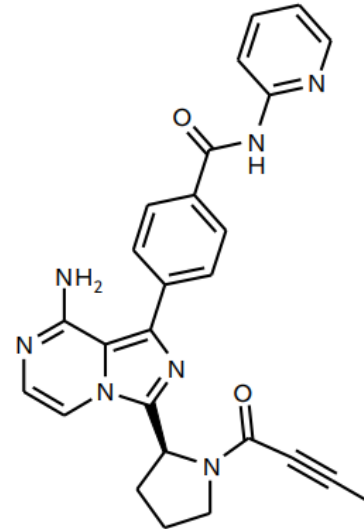
## Disclosures of Matthew S. Davids, MD, MMSc

Company name	Research support	Employee	Consultant	Stockholder	Speakers bureau	Advisory board	Other
AbbVie	✓		✓			✓	
Adaptive Biotechnologies			✓			✓	
Ascentage Pharma	✓		✓				
AstraZeneca	✓		✓			✓	
BeiGene			✓			✓	
Bristol-Myers Squibb			✓			✓	
Eli Lilly			✓			✓	
Genentech	✓		✓			✓	
Genmab			✓				
Janssen			✓			✓	
Merck			✓			✓	
Novartis	✓						
Nuvlaent			✓				
Research to Practice							✓ (Honoraria)
Secura Bio	✓		✓				
Takeda			✓			✓	
TG Therapeutics	✓		✓			✓	

# A new generation of covalent BTKi is born



Ibrutinib



Acalabrutinib

Targets and Inhibitory Concentration (nM)

	BTK	ITK	TEC	EGFR
Ibrutinib	1.5	4.9	7	5.3
Acalabrutinib	5.1	>1000	93	>1000

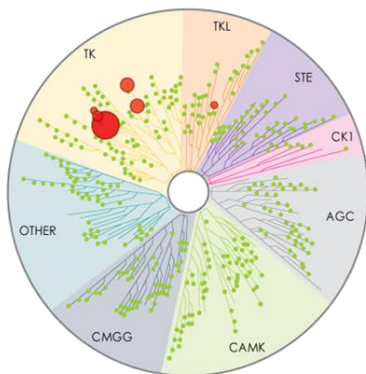
Byrd et al., NEJM, 2016

# Acalabrutinib

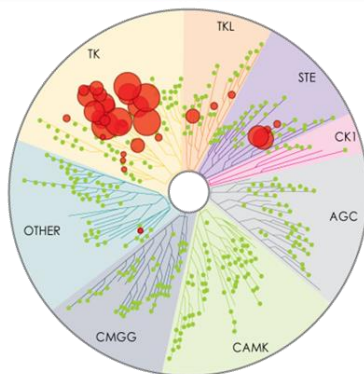
- Highly-selective, potent BTK inhibitor
- Designed to minimize off-target activity, with minimal effects on TEC, EGFR, or ITK signaling

## Kinase selectivity profiling at 1 $\mu$ M

**Acalabrutinib**



**Ibrutinib**



The size of the red circle is proportional to the degree of inhibition.

### Kinase Inhibition IC<sub>50</sub> (nM)

Kinase	Acalabrutinib	Ibrutinib
BTK	5.1	1.5
TEC	126	10
BMX	46	0.8
TXK	368	2.0
ERBB2	~1000	6.4
EGFR	>1000	5.3
ITK	>1000	4.9
JAK3	>1000	32
BLK	>1000	0.1

- Barf T, et al. *J Pharmacol Exp Ther.* 2017.

# Acalabrutinib: Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics

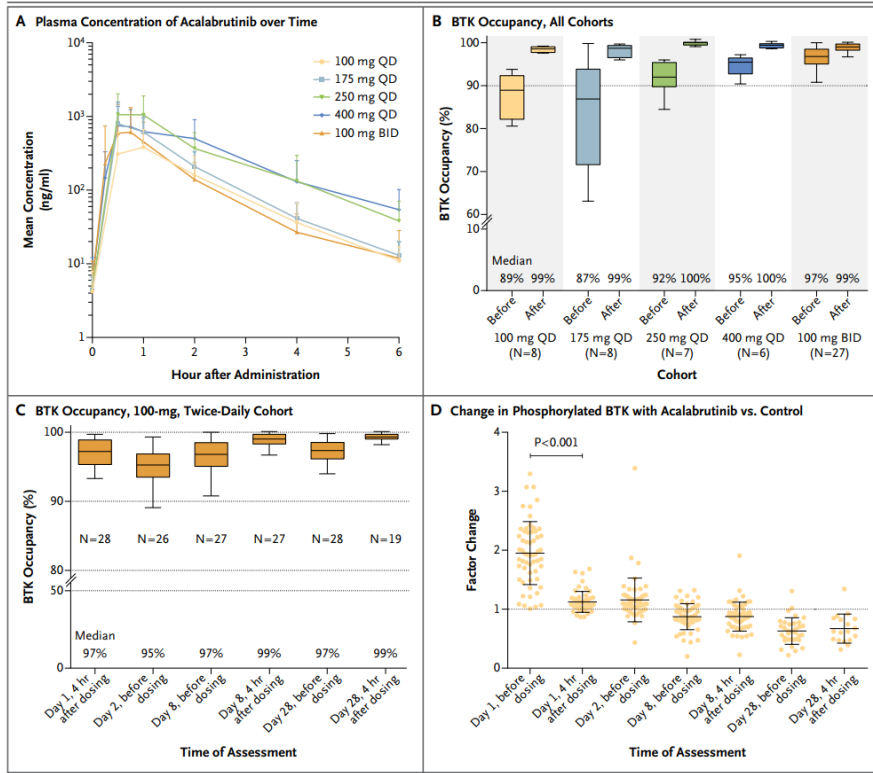
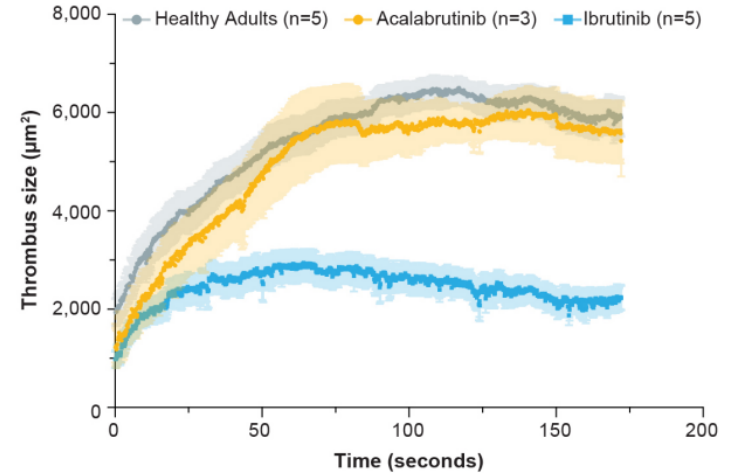
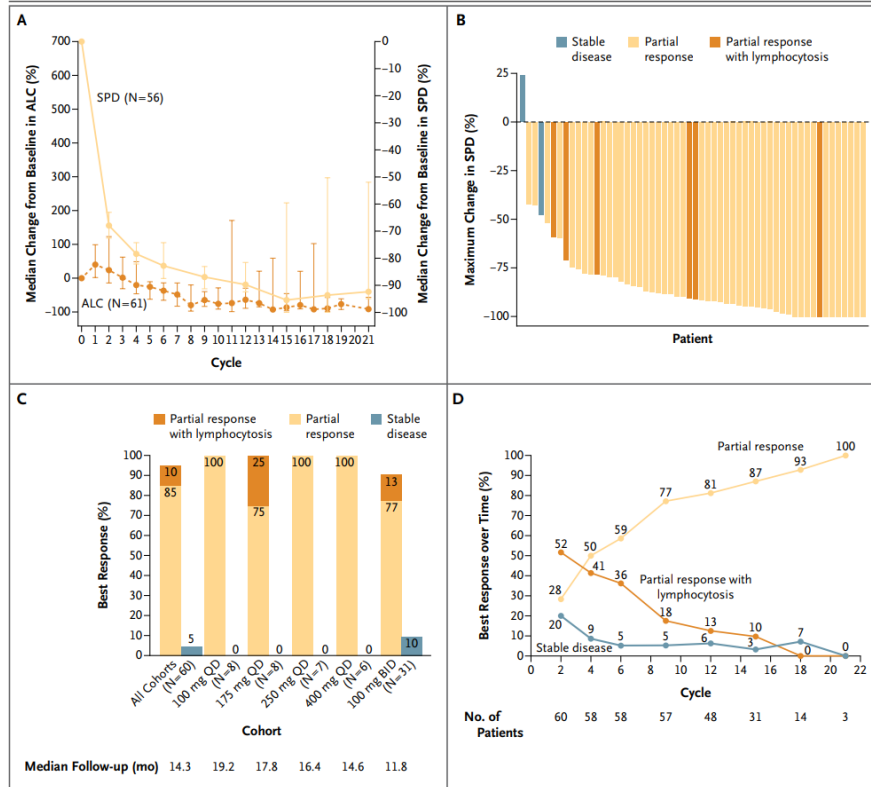


Figure S4. In Vivo Thrombosis Formation Model



Platelets from patients treated with ibrutinib 420 mg once per day (QD) (n=5) or acalabrutinib 100 mg twice per day (BID) (n=3) were evaluated for their ability to support thrombus formation in laser injured arterioles of VWF<sup>fl/fl</sup> mice. Freshly isolated platelets from healthy volunteers (n=5) were used as non-drug treated controls. A minimum of 4 arterioles per mouse was used to assess thrombus formation for each patient/volunteer sample. Median fluorescence intensity as a function of time is provided in the figure (shading denotes standard error of the median).

# Acalabrutinib: Response

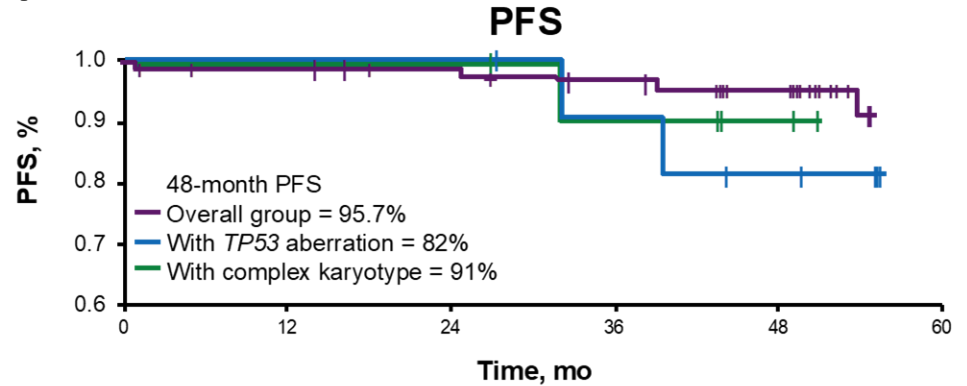


Byrd et al., NEJM, 2016

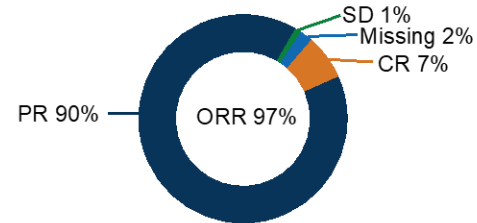
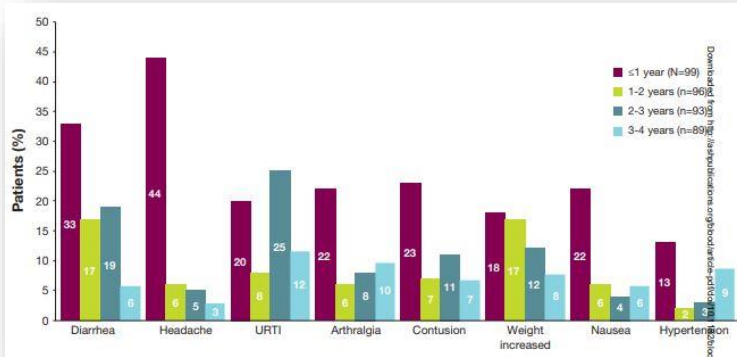
# Acalabrutinib in TN CLL: Phase 1/2 Trial

## Baseline characteristics (N = 99):

- 46% aged ≥ 65 years
- 18% TP53 aberration
- 18% complex karyotype
- 66% ECOG PS = 1



## AE profile by year



Median DOR not reached

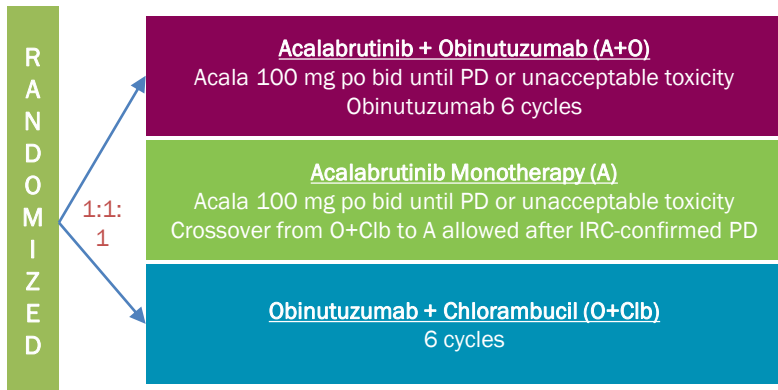
Byrd JC, et al. Blood. 2021;137:3327-3338.



## 5-Year Follow-Up of ELEVATE-TN: Acalabrutinib ± Obinutuzumab vs Obinutuzumab + Chlorambucil in TN CLL – Study Design and Patient Characteristics<sup>1-3</sup>

### Key Eligibility Criteria

- Aged ≥65 years or >18 to <65 years with comorbidities (defined as CrCl 30-69 mL/min and CIRS-G >6)
- Untreated CLL requiring treatment per iwCLL 2008 criteria
- ECOG PS ≤2
- No significant cardiovascular disease



**Primary endpoint:** IRC-assessed PFS (A+O vs O+Clb)

**Secondary endpoints:** IRC-assessed PFS (A vs O+Clb), INV-assessed PFS, IRC- and INV-assessed ORR, TTNT, OS, uMRD, safety

Patient Characteristics		A+O (n=179)	A (n=179)	O+Clb (n=177)
Median age (range), years		70 (41-88)	70 (44-87)	71 (46-91)
ECOG PS, n (%)	0-1	169 (94.4)	165 (92.2)	167 (94.4)
	2	10 (5.6)	14 (7.8)	10 (5.6)
Bulky disease ≥5 cm, n (%)		46 (25.7)	68 (38.0)	54 (30.5)
Rai stage, n (%)	III	47 (26.3)	51 (28.5)	40 (22.6)
	IV	38 (21.2)	37 (20.7)	38 (21.5)
Cytogenetic s, n (%)	del(17p)	17 (9.5)	16 (8.9)	16 (9.0)
	del(17p) and/or mutated <i>TP53</i>	25 (14.0)	23 (12.8)	25 (14.1)
Mutated <i>TP53</i> , n (%)		21 (11.7)	19 (10.6)	21 (11.9)
Unmutated <i>IGHV</i> , n (%)		103 (57.5)	119 (66.5)	116 (65.5)
Treatment ongoing, n (%)		116 (64.8)	107 (59.8)	0

Data cutoff: October 1, 2021.

1. Sharman JP, et al. EHA 2021. Abstract S148. 2. Sharman JP, et al. ASCO 2022. Abstract 7539. 3. Sharman JP, et al. EHA 2022. Abstract P666.

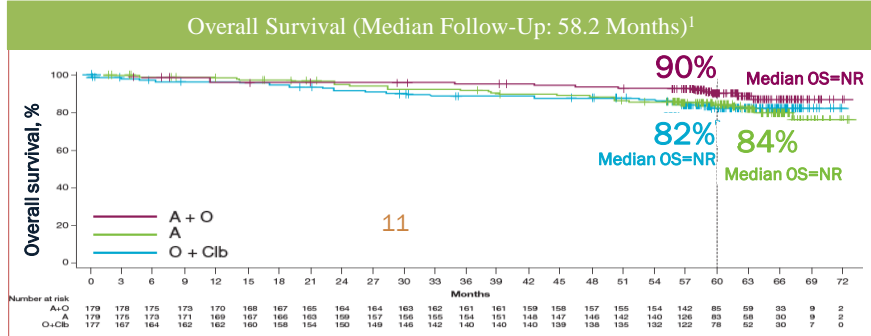
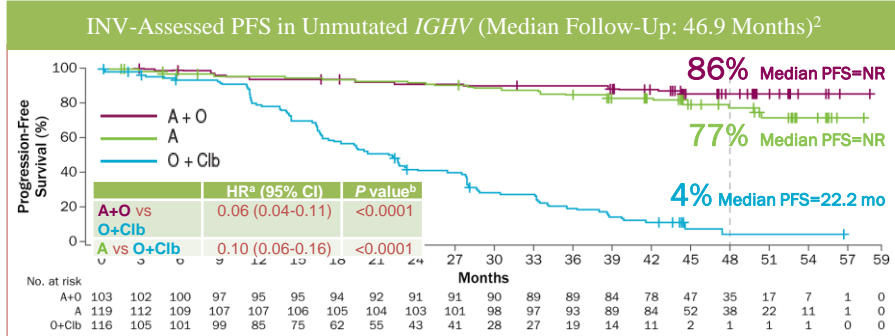
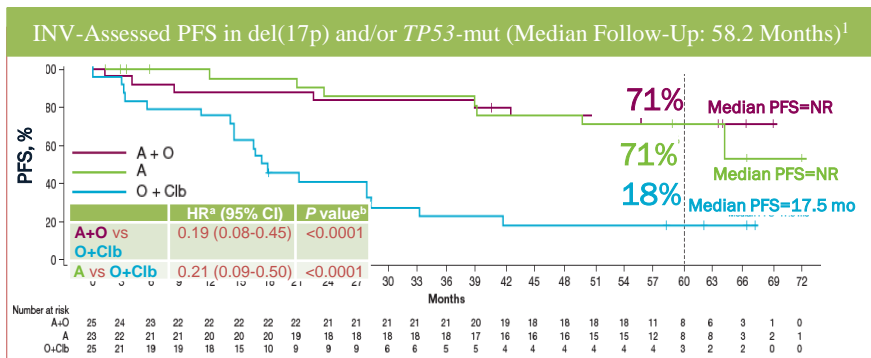
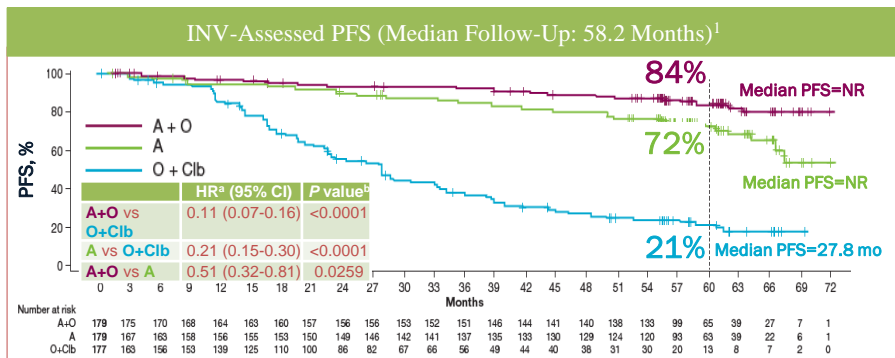
# 5-Year Follow-Up of ELEVATE-TN: Acalabrutinib ± Obinutuzumab vs Obinutuzumab + Chlorambucil in TN CLL – Safety<sup>1,2</sup>

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

<sup>a</sup> Defined as any serious or grade ≥3 hemorrhagic event, or any grade hemorrhagic event in the central nervous system.

1. Sharman JP, et al. ASCO 2022. Abstract 7539. 2. Sharman JP, et al. EHA 2022. Abstract P666.

# 5-Year Follow-Up of ELEVATE-TN: Acala ± Obin vs Obin + Chl in TN CLL – PFS and OS<sup>1,2</sup>



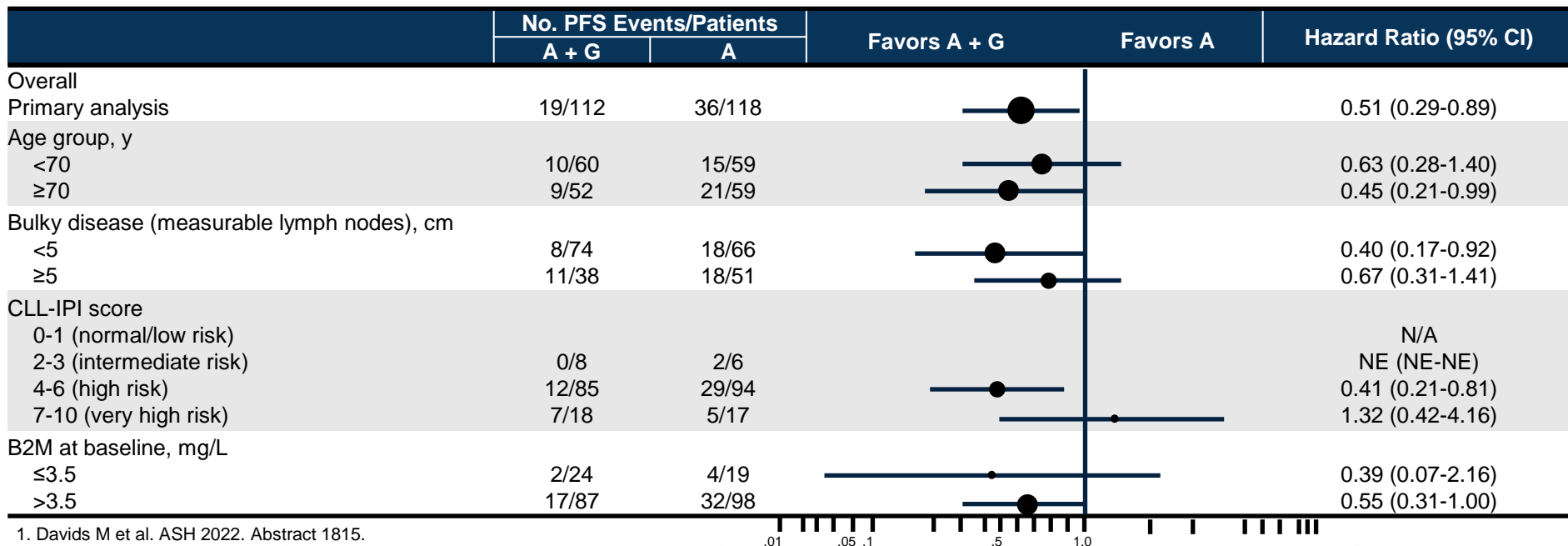
- At a median follow-up of 58.2 months (range, 0.0-72.0), OS data were immature, and medians were not reached in any treatment arm
- Relative risk for death was lower in the A+O vs O+Cb arm (HR=0.55, 95% CI: 0.30-0.99)
  - Crossover from O+Cb to A occurred after disease progression in 72 patients (41%)
- All analyses are based on descriptive statistics

1. Sharman JP, et al. ASCO 2022. Abstract 7539. 2. Sharman JP, et al. *Leukemia*. 2022;36(4):1171-1175.

# Acala/Obin Combo May Provide Benefits in Certain CLL Subgroups<sup>1</sup>

- ELEVATE-TN post hoc analysis of data pooled from 376 patients with TN CLL suggests that for patients with unmutated IGHV, the A + G combination may lead to improved PFS and OS compared with those receiving A monotherapy

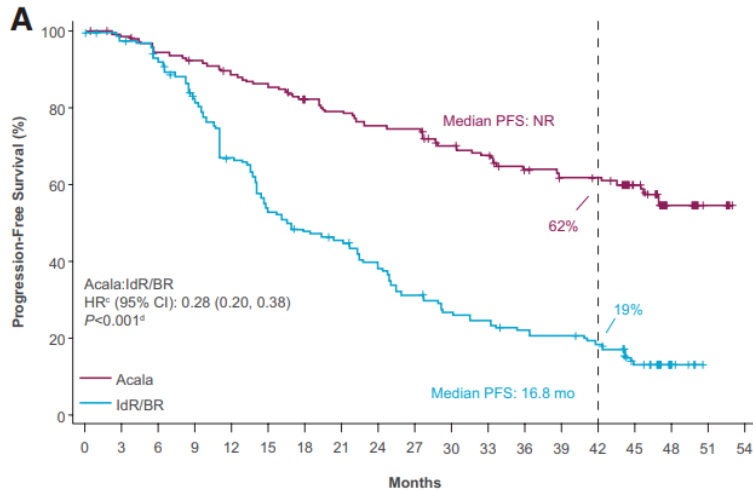
## Investigator-Assessed PFS: PFS Improved With A + G Versus A in Patients With Unmutated IGHV



1. Davids M et al. ASH 2022. Abstract 1815.

# ASCEND: IRC-assessed PFS was superior for Acala vs Idela-R or B-R in R/R CLL

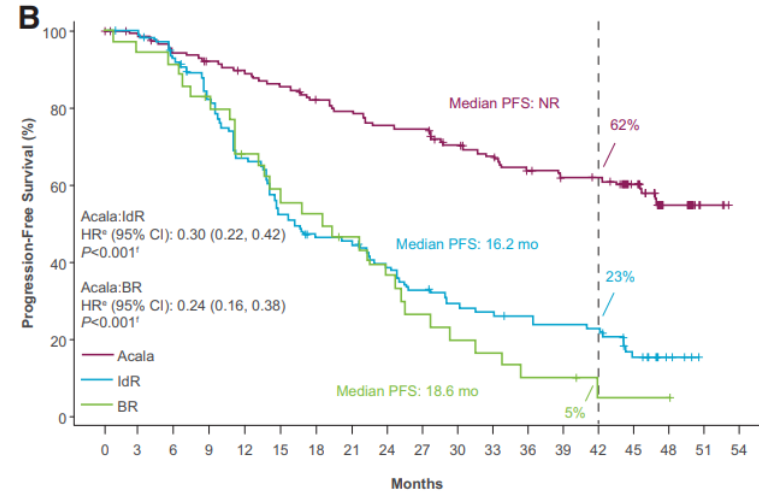
**Final PFS Analysis**



Number at risk

Acala	155	151	143	139	133	128	121	117	111	110	100	94	85	80	79	52	21	4	0
IdR/BR	155	147	138	118	95	76	66	62	52	42	35	32	28	26	23	12	5	0	0

**PFS By Treatment Received**

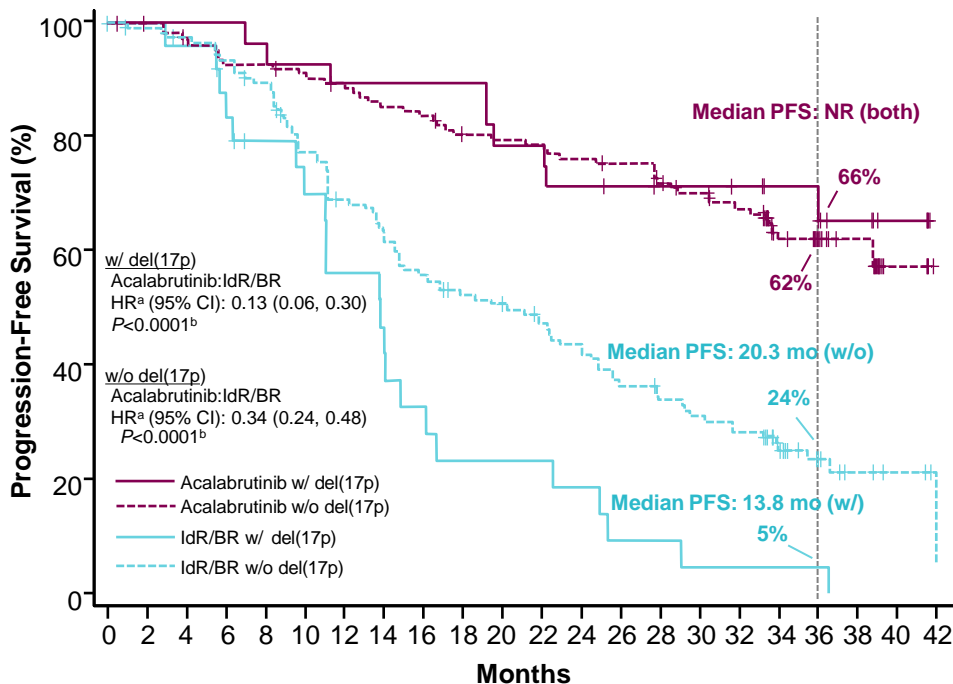


Number at risk

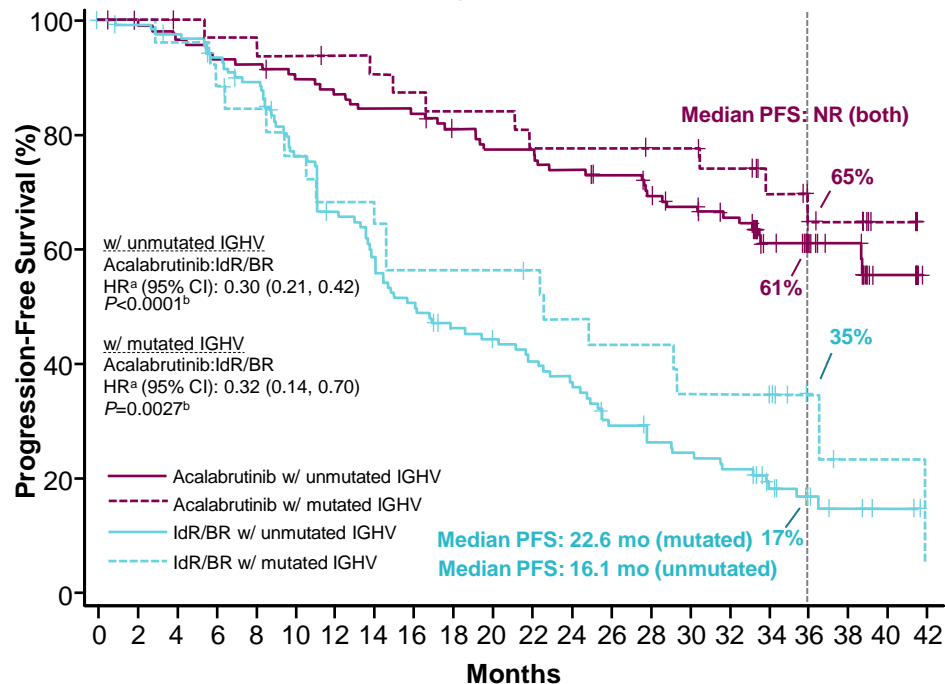
Acala	155	151	143	139	133	128	121	117	111	110	100	94	85	80	79	52	21	4	0
IdR	119	114	106	90	73	57	49	48	40	34	29	27	25	23	22	11	4	0	0
BR	36	33	32	28	22	19	17	14	12	8	6	5	3	3	1	1	1	0	0

# ASCEND: Investigator-Assessed PFS in Patients with High-Risk Features

## PFS by del(17p)

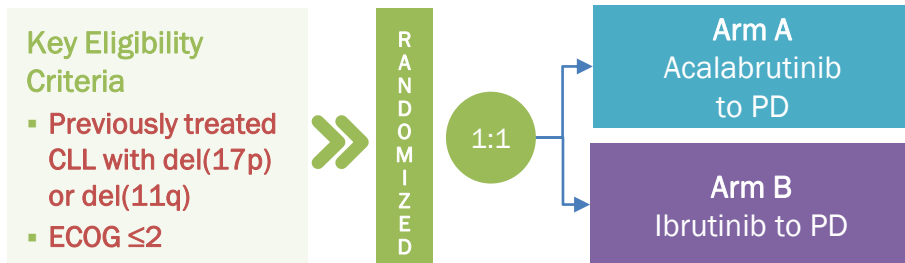


## PFS by IGHV



- Acalabrutinib resulted in similar PFS in patients with del(17p)/TP53 mutations and unmutated IGHV

# ELEVATE-RR: Phase 3 Study of Acalabrutinib vs Ibrutinib in Patients With R/R CLL – Study Design and Patient Characteristics<sup>1,2</sup>

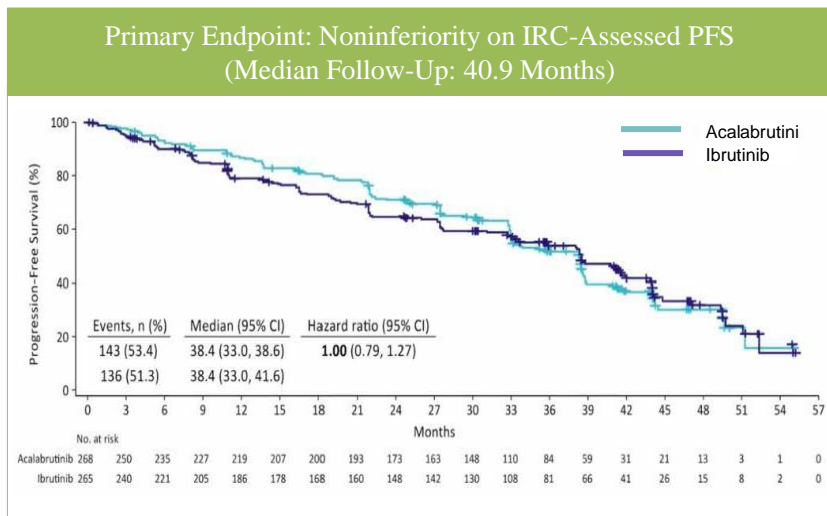


Patient Characteristics <sup>2</sup>	Acalabrutinib (n=268)	Ibrutinib (n=265)
Median age (range), years	66 (41-89)	65 (28-88)
≥75 years, n (%)	44 (16.4)	43 (16.2)
ECOG PS 0-1, n (%)	247 (92.2)	243 (91.7)
Median prior lines of therapy (range), n	2 (1-9)	2 (1-12)
≥4 prior lines, n (%)	33 (12.3)	28 (10.6)
del(17p), n (%)	121 (45.1)	120 (45.3)
TP53-mut, n (%)	100 (37.3)	112 (42.3)
del(11q), n (%)	167 (62.3)	175 (66.0)
Unmutated IGHV, n (%)	220 (82.1)	237 (89.4)
Complex karyotype, n (%)	124 (46.3)	125 (47.2)
Bulky disease (≥5 cm), n (%)	128 (47.8)	136 (51.3)

<p><b>N=533</b></p> <p><b>Enrolled from<sup>2</sup>:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Europe (75%)</li> <li>United States (22%)</li> <li>New Zealand and Australia (3%)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Primary endpoint:</b> PFS by IRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noninferiority<sup>a</sup>; tested after 250 events</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stratification by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presence of del(17p)</li> <li>ECOG PS (2 vs <math>\leq 1</math>)</li> <li>Number of prior therapies (1-3 vs <math>\geq 4</math>)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Secondary endpoints<sup>b</sup>:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incidence of atrial fibrillation</li> <li>Incidence of grade <math>\geq 3</math> infections</li> <li>Incidence of Richter transformation</li> <li>OS</li> </ul>

1. Hillmen P, et al. EHA 2021. Abstract S145. 2. Byrd JC, et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2021;39(31):3441-3452.

# ELEVATE-RR: Phase 3 Study of Acalabrutinib vs Ibrutinib in Patients with R/R CLL – Efficacy and Safety Analysis<sup>1</sup>



<b>Median follow-up</b>	<b>Treatment ongoing</b>	<b>Most common reasons for discontinuation</b>	<b>Median treatment exposure (range)</b>
40.9 months	46 (Acala) and 41 (Ibr)	PD (31 Acala vs 26 Ibr), AEs (15 Acala vs 22 Ibr)	38.3 mo (0.3-55.9) Acala vs 35.5 mo (0.2-57.7) Ibr

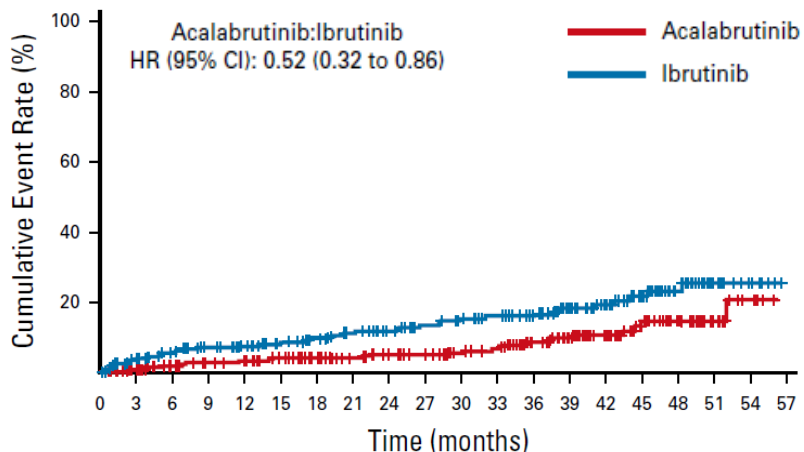
AEs	Any grade		Grade ≥3	
	Acala <sup>a</sup>	Ibr <sup>b</sup>	Acala <sup>a</sup>	Ibr <sup>b</sup>
<b>Events of clinical interest, %</b>				
Cardiac events	24	30	9	10
Atrial fibrillation/flutter	9	16*	5	4
Hypertension <sup>c</sup>	9	23*	4	9*
Bleeding events <sup>d</sup>	38	51*	4	5
Major bleeding events <sup>e</sup>	5 <sup>f</sup>	5 <sup>g</sup>	4	5
Infections <sup>h</sup>	78	81	31	30
<b>Selected common AEs, <sup>i</sup> %</b>				
Diarrhea	35	46*	1	5*
Headache	35*	20	2*	0
Cough	29*	21	1	<1
Fatigue	20	17	3*	0
Arthralgia	16	23*	0	1
Back pain	8	13*	0	1
Muscle spasms	6	13*	0	1
Dyspepsia	4	12*	0	0

1. Hillmen P, et al. EHA 2021. Abstract S145..



# ELEVATE-RR: Phase 3 Study of Acalabrutinib vs Ibrutinib in Patients With R/R CLL – Additional Safety Analyses

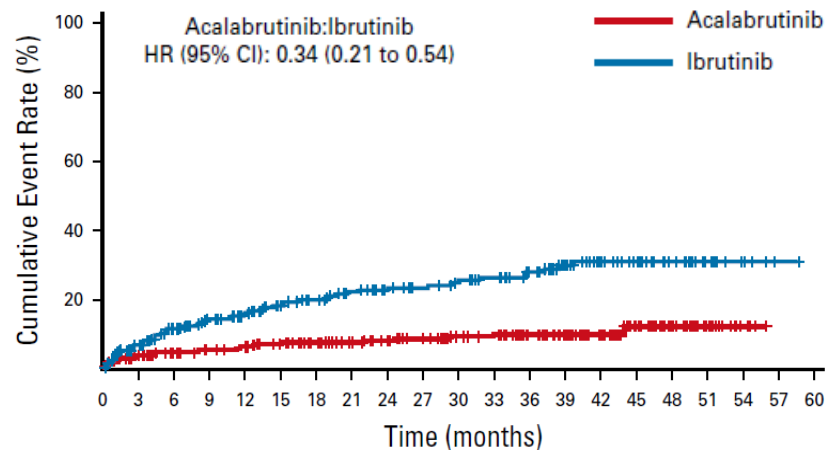
## Cumulative Incidence of Atrial Fibrillation/Flutter



No. at risk:

Acalabrutinib	266	255	240	231	228	218	206	197	188	183	172	167	142	115	89	58	35	19	8	0
Ibrutinib	263	241	224	208	199	185	176	166	156	143	136	128	117	96	73	56	36	18	8	0

## Cumulative Incidence of Hypertension



No. at risk:

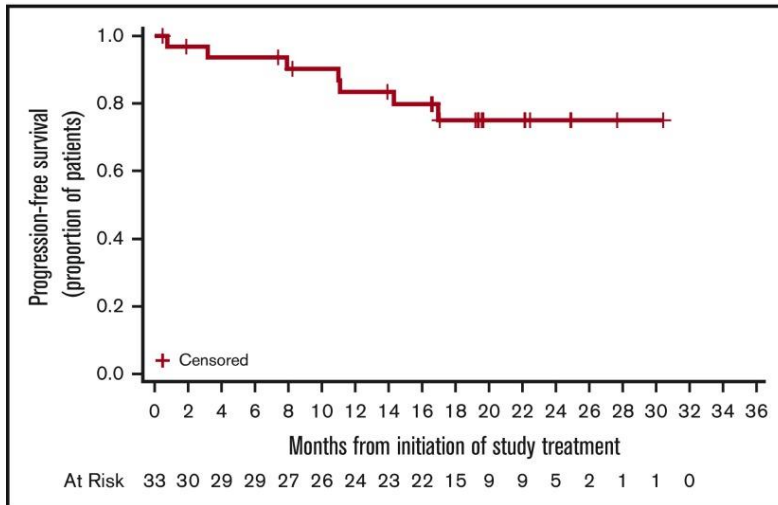
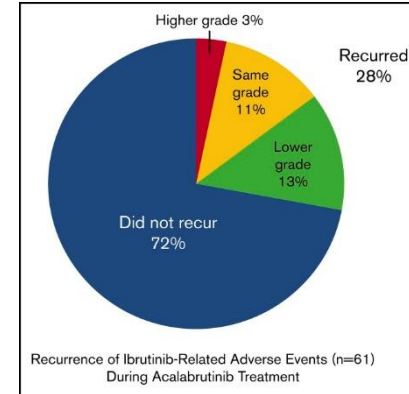
Acalabrutinib	266	246	229	220	216	205	193	184	176	169	157	153	136	114	89	60	34	17	5	0	0
Ibrutinib	263	230	203	183	170	153	141	130	120	111	104	98	85	69	48	40	27	15	7	1	0

Byrd JC, et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2021;39:3441-3452.

# Acalabrutinib in Ibrutinib-Intolerant Patients

## Subset analysis of patients with ibrutinib intolerance enrolled in phase 1/2 ACE-CL-001 (n = 33)

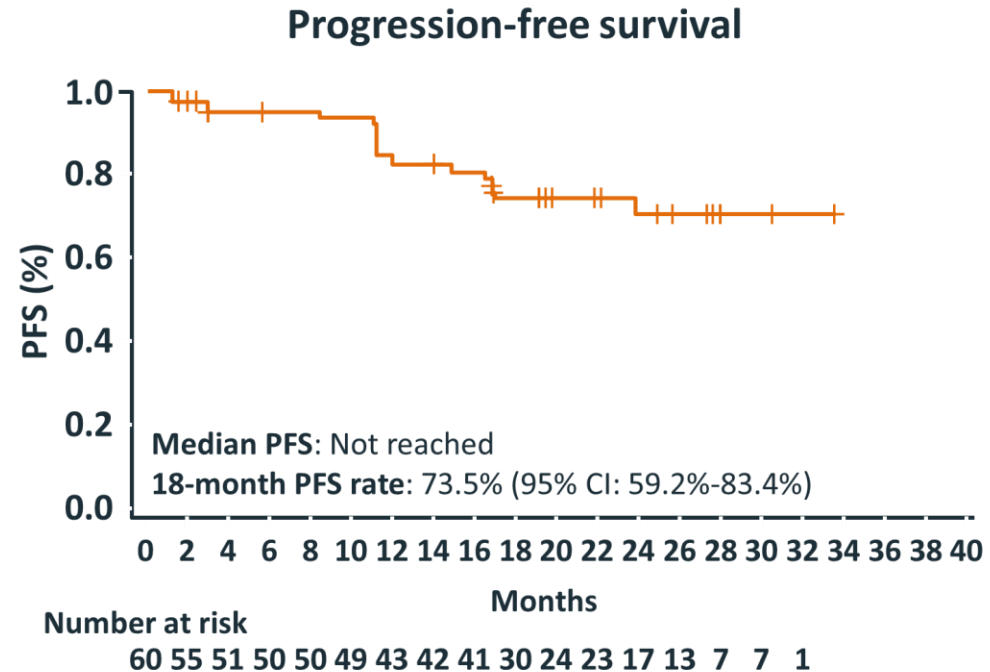
- Median duration of prior ibrutinib, 11.6 months
- ~70% of patients remained on acalabrutinib after a median of 19 months
  - 3 patients had discontinued acalabrutinib due to AEs; 4 patients discontinued due to progressive disease



- Median duration of response was not reached
- Median PFS was not reached
- 1-year PFS was 83.4% (95% CI, 64.5%-92.7%)

# ACE-CL-208: Acalabrutinib in Patients Who Discontinued Ibrutinib Due to AEs

	N = 60
Follow-up, median (range), months	
On acalabrutinib, n (%)	
Discontinued acalabrutinib, n (%)	
Disease progression	
Adverse event	
Patient withdrawal	
Physician decision	
Death	
Other	
Deaths on study, n (%)	

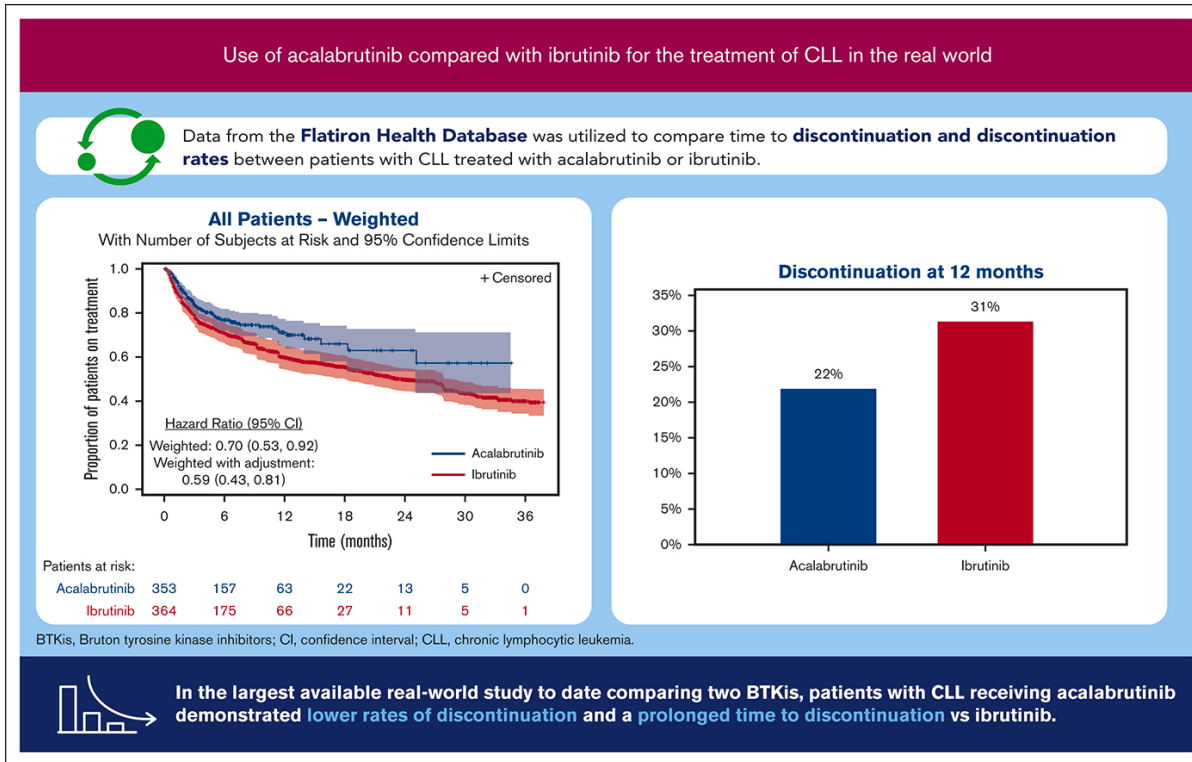


Rogers K, et al. *Haematologica*. 2021;106(9):2364-2373.

## ACE-CL-208: Reoccurrence of Adverse Events With Acalabrutinib

AE	Patients who discontinued ibrutinib, n	Median time to onset on ibrutinib (range), days	Patients with recurrent AEs on acalabrutinib	
			Total, n	Median time to onset on acalabrutinib (range), days
Atrial fibrillation	16	88 (1-1721)	3	141 (27-311)
Diarrhea	7	26 (2-277)	5	15 (7-713)
Arthralgia	7	27 (1-956)	1	43
Rash	7	1 (1-231)	2	31 (30-32)
Bleeding	7	428 (1-1688)	5	30 (15-441)
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>N/A</b>

# Emerging real-world data confirm improved tolerability of acalabrutinib



Roeker et al, *Blood Adv*, 2023

## Acalabrutinib Tablet Formulation



Acalabrutinib tablets are smaller in size compared with acalabrutinib capsules, and have a film coating to improve swallowing ability<sup>1</sup>

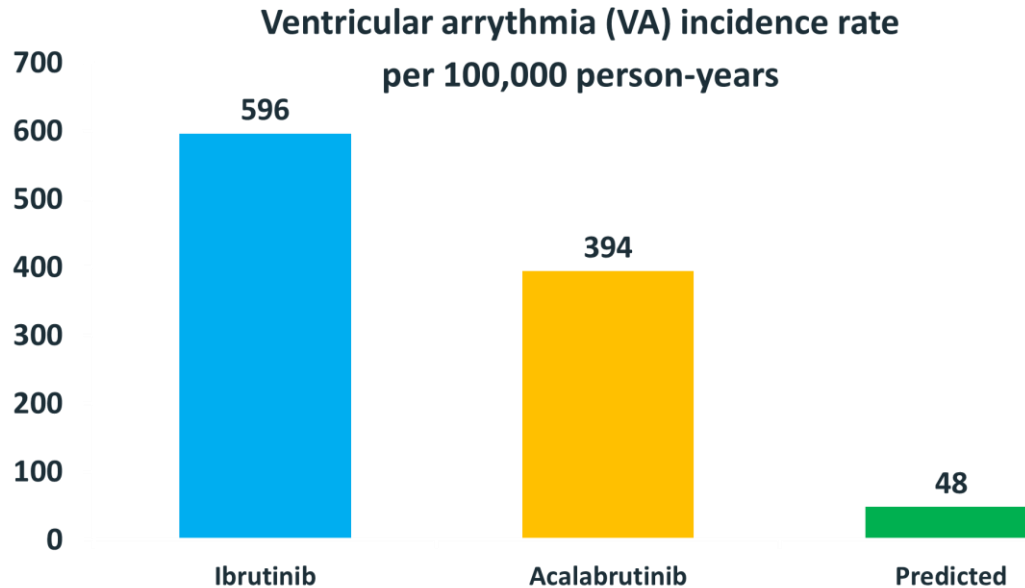
- **PPI Coadministration:** Acalabrutinib tablets can be taken with acid-reducing agents such as PPIs, antacids, or H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonists<sup>1,2</sup>
  - **Same Efficacy and Safety Expected:** The new tablet formulation has been proven to be bioequivalent to capsules<sup>1</sup>
  - **Same Dosing Schedule:** As with acalabrutinib 100 mg capsules, patients take one 100 mg tablet twice daily<sup>2,3,a</sup>
- Same CYP3A interaction with acalabrutinib tablets and capsules:
    - **Strong CYP3A Inhibitors:** Avoid co-administration of acalabrutinib with a strong CYP3A inhibitor. If these inhibitors will be used short term, interrupt acalabrutinib. After discontinuation of strong CYP3A inhibitor for at least 24 hours, resume previous dosage of acalabrutinib
    - **Moderate CYP3A Inhibitors:** Reduce the dosage of acalabrutinib to 100 mg once daily when co-administered with a moderate CYP3A inhibitor
    - **Strong CYP3A Inducers:** Avoid co-administration of acalabrutinib with a strong CYP3A inducer. If co-administration is unavoidable, increase the dosage of acalabrutinib to 200 mg approximately every 12 hours

<sup>a</sup> Approximately every 12 hours.<sup>2</sup>

1. Sharma S, et al. *Blood*. 2021;138(Suppl 1):4365. 2. Acalabrutinib tablets. Prescribing information. AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP; 2022. 3. Acalabrutinib capsules. Prescribing information. AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP; 2022.

# Ventricular Arrhythmias With BTK Inhibitors

Monocentric retrospective study in 394 patients receiving  
acalabrutinib with historic ibrutinib control



Bhat SA, et al. *Blood*. 2022;140(20):2142-2145.

# Acalabrutinib-based Regimens in Frontline or Relapsed/Refractory Higher-Risk CLL: Pooled Analysis of 5 Clinical Trials

Davids MS, et al.

Pooled Analysis  
of 5 Acalabrutinib  
Clinical Trials



N=808

- Pts with TN or R/R CLL and higher-risk genomic features
- Treated with A-based regimens

**TN CLL (n=320)**  
A±O (efficacy + safety)

del(17p)/TP53m



uIGHV



CK\*



CK without del(17p)/TP53m



**R/R CLL (n=488)**  
A monotherapy (efficacy) A±O (safety)

del(17p)/TP53m



uIGHV



CK\*



CK without del(17p)/TP53m



Median follow-up



59.1 mo (TN CLL)

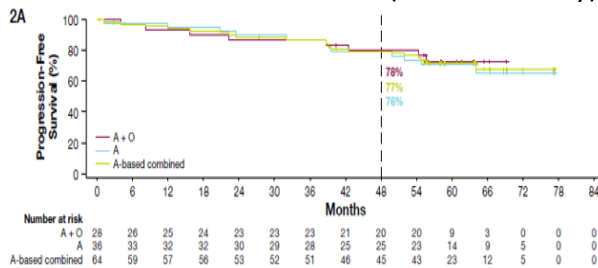
44.3 mo (R/R CLL)

High ORR across  
subgroups

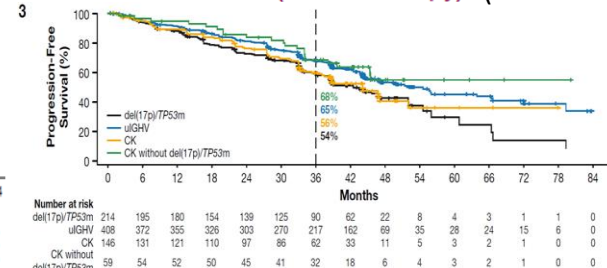
	TN	R/R
del(17p)/TP53m	91%	86%
uIGHV	96%	87%
CK	91%	84%

## PFS and OS benefits observed across higher-risk subgroups in both cohorts

TN Cohort (TP53 abnl only)



R/R Cohort (A monotherapy) (TP53 abnl only)



## AE incidence was similar to the reported overall safety profile of acalabrutinib

\*CK defined as ≥3 chromosomal abnormalities with ≥1 structural abnormality excluding inversion of chromosome 9.  
A, acalabrutinib; AE, adverse event; CK, complex karyotype; CLL, chronic lymphocytic leukemia; mo, months; NR, not reached; O, obinutuzumab; ORR, overall response rate; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; R/R, relapsed/refractory; TN, treatment naive; TP53m, tumor protein p53 mutation; uIGHV, unmutated immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region genes.

### Conclusions



PFS and OS rates are high with A-based regimens in pts with higher-risk CLL



A-based regimens had a consistent tolerability profile



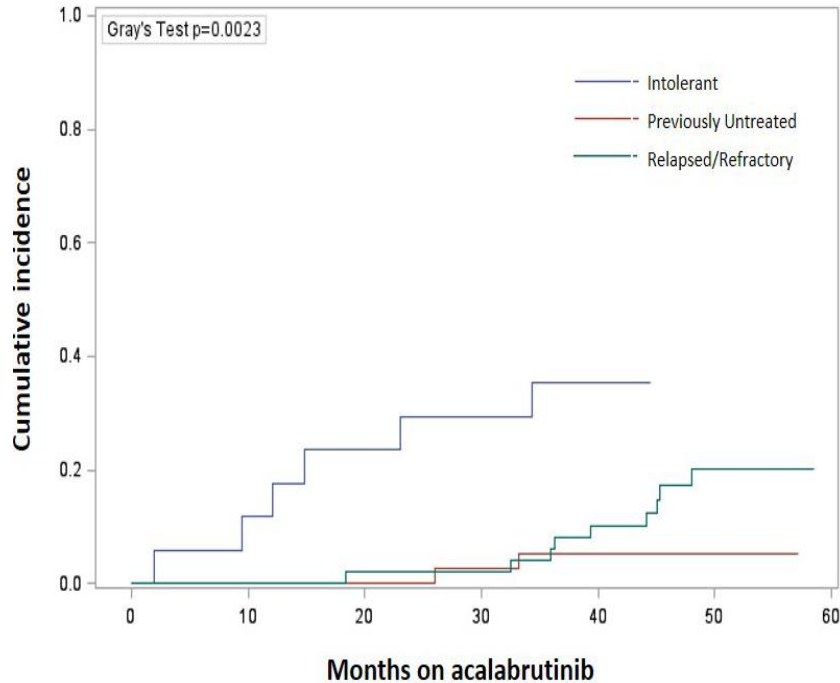
These data demonstrate the long-term benefit of A-based regimens in pts with CLL and higher-risk genomic features, regardless of line of therapy

Davids et al., *in revision*



# Resistance to Acalabrutinib: *OSU Experience*

Figure 1: Cumulative Incidence of Progression



- Of 16 progressors, 11 had *BTK C481x* mut, 2 also *PLCG2*
- 103 pts were screened, 22 had mut at median 32 mos
- Median time to relapse after mut: 12 mos

# Could time-limited acala decrease risk of resistance mutations?

ACTIVE, NOT RECRUITING ⓘ

A Study on Limiting Treatment Time With **Acalabrutinib** Combined With **Obinutuzumab** in People With CLL or SLL

ClinicalTrials.gov ID ⓘ NCT04722172

Sponsor ⓘ Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Information provided by ⓘ Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (Responsible Party)

Last Update Posted ⓘ 2023-08-18

(Clinicaltrials.gov accessed 25 Oct 2023)

## Conclusions

- **Acalabrutinib is a potent covalent BTKi with greater specificity than ibrutinib**
- **Robust phase 3 data support the efficacy and safety of acalabrutinib in TN and R/R CLL**
- **Head-to-head data confirm that acalabrutinib has comparable efficacy and improved safety compared to ibrutinib**
- **Acalabrutinib can be well-tolerated in patients with poor tolerance of ibrutinib**
- **Resistance to acalabrutinib appears to be driven by similar mutations as with ibrutinib**
- **Ongoing combination strategies are incorporating acalabrutinib into time-limited regimens**



**Grazie!**