#### CAR-T and other innovative treatments for ALL



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#### Disclosures

#### Amgen, Kite-Gilead, Novartis, Celgene-BMS, Sanofi,

#### Jazz, Pfizer, Astellas, Abbvie, Incyte, Omeros, Roche











## Primary endpoint: DFS











-- <40 -- 40-55 -- 55+





DFS by age group

### **GIMEMA 2317 study protocol**



Bassan R, et al. EHA 2021; Abstract S114 and oral presentation; ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT03367299.

### **Outcome according to Ph-like signature**

#### **Disease-free survival by Ph-like signature**



#### Relapse incidence in MRD<sub>neg</sub> group by Ph-like signature



1-year relapse rate:	Ph-like	40.1%
	Not Ph-like	3.2%
		P=0.0005

## Ph-like ALL

- In 2009, "Ph-like" or "BCR-ABL1-like" ALLs were independently described by the Children's Oncology Group (COG)/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital<sup>1</sup> and the Dutch Childhood Oncology Group<sup>2</sup> using gene expression profiling
- Ph-like ALL is a subtype of B-cell precursor ALL characterized by a poor outcome and a diverse group of genetic alterations that activate cytokine receptor and kinase signaling similar to that of BCR-ABL1-positive ALL<sup>3</sup>.
- These alterations result in a poor response to standard chemotherapy, with response rates similar to those found in BCR-ABL1-positive ALL<sup>3</sup>
- Over 90% of patients with Ph-like ALL harbor genetic alterations that are amenable to treatment with targeted inhibition (TKI therapy)<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Mullighan CG, Su X, Zhang J, et al; N Engl J Med. 2009;360(5):470-480., <sup>2</sup>Den Boer ML, et al. Lancet Oncol. 2009;10(2):125-134, 17;35:975–83. <sup>3</sup> lacobucci I and Mullighan CG.; J Clin Oncol 2017;35: 975-983 <sup>4</sup> Roberts K Best Practice & Research: Clinical Haematology, 2018; (31): 351-356,

## **BP-ALL** subtypes in Adult patients

## Frequency of ALL subtypes in adult patients



## Frequency of Ph-like ALL subtypes in adult patients

Total (21-86 yrs; n=194)



Roberts, K et al.: J Clin Oncol. 2017 Feb;35(4):394-401

## Ph-like ALL: a high-risk subtype in adults



Roberts, K et al.: J Clin Oncol. 2017 Feb;35(4): 394-401



Jain N et al.: Blood. 2017;129(5):572-581

No consensus exists regarding the preferred approach to be used for the diagnosis of Ph-like ALL

- Screening for the Ph-like pattern should be adopted in routine clinical practice
- Patients should be informed that current screening methods may miss rare gene mutations
- If the ABL-activating aberration is identified, adding TKI to therapy is advised.
- All patients with identified kinase-activating aberrations should be defined as high risk; hence, intensification of chemotherapy, treatment with kinase targeting agents and/or antibody-derived novel agents may be considered.

Avraham Frisch and Yishai Ofran, Haematologica 2019 Volume 104(11):2135-2143

# Screening of newly diagnosed cases of ALL (our current approach)



# Current clinical trials of kinase inhibitor therapies for children and adults with Ph-like ALL

Ph-like alteration	Kinase inhibitor	Disease status	Age, y	Clinical trial	Trial phase	
ABL class	Dasatinib	Newly diagnosed	1-30	NCT01406756 (COG AALL1131)	3 (dasatinib subarm)	*
	Dasatinib	Newly diagnosed	1-18	NCT03117751 (SJCRH Total XVII)	3 (dasatinib subarm)	**
	Dasatinib	Relapsed	≥10	NCT02420717 (MDACC)	1/2	-
CRLF2/JAK pathway	Ruxolitinib	Newly diagnosed	1-21	NCT02723994 (COG AALL1521)	2	**
	Ruxolitinib	Newly diagnosed	1-18	NCT03117751 (SJCRH Total XVII)	3 (ruxolitinib subarm)	**
	Ruxolitinib	Newly diagnosed	18-39	NCT03571321	1 (planned phase 2 expansion)	**
	Ruxolitinib	Relapsed	≥10	NCT02420717 (MDACC)	1/2	-

Active not recruiting\* Active recruiting \*\* Terminated has results (updated May 2022)

Harvey RC and Tasian SK, Blood Adv, 14 January 2020 • Volume 4, Number 1, 218-228

## Outcomes of allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation in adults with fusions associated with Ph-like ALL







Aldoss I et al:, Blood Adv, 13 September 2022 • Volume 6, Number 17, 4936-4948

## The role of conditioning regimen: the pediatric trial



## Blinatumomab maintenance after allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation for B-lineage ALL



#### MAIN RESULTS

- 12/ 23 pts (57%) completed all 4 cycles (17 pts were alive at the end of the study; 6 pts relapsed)
- With a median follow up of 14 3 months, the 1year OS, PFS, and non relapse mortality rates were 85%, 71% and 0%. CIR,29%
- The cumulative incidence of acute GVHD grades 2 to 4 and 3 to 4 were 33% and 5%, respectively; 2 cases of mild (10%) and 1 case of moderate (5%) chronic GVHD were noted
- In a matched analysis with a contemporary cohort of 57 patients, no significant difference between groups regarding blinatumomab's efficacy
- Responders had greater numbers of CD3, CD4, CD160 T cells compared with non responders. In addition, responders had higher levels of CD8 T cells after therapy
- Blinatumomab is safe and feasible for use in B-ALL after allogeneic HCT
- The composition of a patient's T-cell subsets at the time of treatment is indicative of whether they will respond to blinatumomab

ALL, acute lymphoblastic leukemia; MRD, minimal residual disease; HCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; HR, high-risk; PFS, progression free survival; OS, overall survival; NRM, non relapse mortality Gaballa M, et al. Blood 2022 Mar 24;139(12):1908-1919.

# CAR-T cells in BP-ALL: where do we stand in adults?

#### Disease Burden Affects Outcomes in Pediatric and Young Adult B-Cell Lymphoblastic Leukemia After Commercial Tisagenlecleucel: A Pediatric Real-World Chimeric Antigen Receptor Consortium Report

Carr	Male	Deference		
Jex	( <i>n</i> = 111)	nelelence	Ţ	
	Female (n = 73)	1.37 <i>(0.719-2.62)</i>		.338
Age diagnosis	[0–3) ( <i>n</i> = 35)	Reference	÷	
	[3–10) (n = 65)	0.27 (0.103-0.69)	·	.006
	[10–13) ( <i>n</i> = 24)	0.87 (0.324-2.36)	·	.789
	[13–21) (n = 50)	1.00 (0.450-2.23)	<b>⊢</b>	.995
	21 or elder ( <i>n</i> = 10)	0.12 (0.015-1.00)		.05
Prior lines of therapy	(n = 184)	1.40 (1.050-1.86)	- <b>-</b>	.022
Prior HSCT	No (n = 137)	Reference	+	
	Yes (n = 47)	0.34 (0.136-0.84)		.019
Prior CD19 therapy	No (n = 146)	Reference	÷	
	Yes ( <i>n = 38</i> )	0.42 (0.169-1.04)	· • •	.062
Disease burden	No detectable disease (n = 46)	Reference	÷	
	Low-disease burden (n = 41)	1.34 (0.346-5.18)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	.672
	High-disease burden (n = 93)	5.10 ( <i>1.790-14.56</i> )	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Time diagnosis to infuse	(n = 184)	0.78 (0.670-0.90)		< .001
Relapses preinfusion	(n = 184)	1.58 (1.153-2.17)		.005
No. of events: 49; global P (log AIC: 424.8; concordance index	g-rank): 1.1286e–08 :: 0.83			
		0.01	0.05 0.1 0.5 1 5 10	



Schultz, LM et al.: J Clin Oncol 2021

### CHIMERIC ANTIGEN RECEPTOR T-CELL THERAPY IN ADULTS WITH B-CELL ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA



## KTE-X19 for relapsed or refractory adult B-cell ALL: phase 2 results of the single-arm, open-label, multicentre ZUMA-3 study

- The median age of treated patients was 40 years
- 71% had complete remission
- median duration of remission was 12.8 months
- median RFS was 11.6 months
- median OS was 18.2 months

#### **Among responders**

- the median OS was not reached
- 97% had MRD negativity
- 10 patients (18%) received allo-SCT after KTE-X19
- The most common adverse events of grade 3 or higher were anaemia (49%) and pyrexia (36%)
- Two grade 5 events occurred (brain herniation and septic shock)
- CRS of grade 3 or higher occurred in 24% and neurological events of grade 3 or higher occurred in 25%



### Durable Responses and Low Toxicity After Fast Off-Rate CD19 Chimeric Antigen Receptor-T Therapy in Adults With Relapsed or Refractory B-Cell ALL

Baseline Characteristic	n = 20
Sex, No. (%)	
Female	7 (35)
Male	13 (65)
Median age, years (range)	41.5 (18-62)
Chromosomal or molecular status, No. (%)	
Ph+ (bcr-abl)	6 (30)
MLL	1 (5)
Others	8 (40)
Normal	4 (20)
Failed	1 (5)
Previous treatment	
Median previous lines (range)	3 (2-6)
Inotuzumab ozogamicin exposure, No. (%)	10 (50)
Blinatumomab exposure, No. (%)	5 (25)
Previous allo-SCT, No. (%)	13 (65)



Roddie C et al.: Journal of Clinical Oncology 39:3352-3363. 2021

### Durable Responses and Low Toxicity After Fast Off-Rate CD19 Chimeric Antigen Receptor-T Therapy in Adults With Relapsed or Refractory B-Cell ALL



Roddie C et al.: Journal of Clinical Oncology 39:3352-3363. 2021

### Should we advise an alloHSCT to every patient achieving CR?

## HCT may improve EFS following CD19 CAR in some published studies

Landmark Analysis for EFS

by Subsequent Allogeniec HSCT

48

2

0

HSCT

48

2

0





0.8



Jiang, et al. AJH 2019

Hay, et al. Blood 2019

Frey, et al. JCO 2020

## What's next in BP-ALL?

## Co-administration of CD19- and CD22-Directed CAR-T Cell Therapy in Childhood B-Cell ALL: A Single-Arm, Multicenter, Phase II Trial

#### Results

- Patients registered (N = 232); infused (N= 225); achieving CR (N= 192);
- Patients consolidated with transplant (N= 78) (due to KMT2A rearrangement, (n = 22), ZNF384 fusion (n = 2), parent request (n = 54)



## Outcome of chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy following treatment with inotuzumab ozogamicin in children with R/R ALL



Duration of response after CAR-T

Outcome of the entire cohort

## Next-day manufacture of a novel anti-CD19 CAR-T therapy for B-ALL: first-in-human clinical study



**Clinical outcome** 

Yang J et al.: Blood Cancer Journal (2022) 12:104 ; https://doi.org/10.1038/s41408-022-00694-6

## Phase I, open label, multicenter, dose escalation study of YTB323 in adult patients with CLL/sLL, DLBCL and ALL

- A first-in-human study to evaluate the feasibility, safety and preliminary antitumor efficacy of YTB323, a Novel, Autologous CD19-Directed CAR-T Cell Therapy Manufactured Using the Novel T-Charge<sup>™</sup> Platform
- T-Charge<sup>™</sup> minimizes the ex vivo culture time and reduces the manufacturing process time to < 2 days
- Starting from cryopreserved leukapheresis, T cells are transduced with a lentiviral vector encoding for the same CAR used for tisagenlecleucel
- The T-Charge<sup>™</sup> platform preserves naive/T<sub>scm</sub> cells, leading to potentially higher potency and longer persistence

#### A non-viral platform to generate allogeneic CAR-T cells



#### SLEEPING BEAUTY-ENGINEERED CARCIK CELLS ACHIEVE ANTI-LEUKEMIC ACTIVITY WITHOUT SEVERE TOXICITIES



Magnani, J Clin InvestJ Clin Invest. 2020;130(11):6021-6033

### Early peak of CAR-CIK19

#### ID Patient: **PUC2002001** Time Point: **Day 7** (28/03/2023)



**PERIPHERAL BLOOD (PB):** CD3<sup>+</sup> = 1041/μL CAR<sup>+</sup> = 37.80% of CD3<sup>+</sup> (393.5/μL) **CAR<sup>+</sup> SUBSETS:** CD8<sup>+</sup> = 93.03% (366.1/μL) CD4<sup>+</sup> = 4.97% (19.3/μL)

## Study profile and baseline characteristics





## CARCIK-CD19 in B-ALL post HSCT: selected adverse event

Events	Patients
CRS, n (%)	
<ul><li>Grade 1</li><li>Grade 2</li><li>Grade 3</li></ul>	4 (15%) 5 (19%) 0 (0%)
ICANS, n (%)	
Grade 3	2 (7%)
GvHD, n (%)	
Grade I-IV	0 (0%)
Infection, n (%)	
<ul> <li>Grade 1-2</li> <li>Grade ≥ 3</li> </ul>	2 (7%) 7 (26%)
Prolonged cytopenia, n (%)	
Severe neutropenia, day 28 Severe thrombocytopenia, day 28	7 (32%) 17 (68%)

- no dose limiting toxicity was observed
- CRS and ICANS were observed in patients treated with the highest doses and were manageable
- Although 10 out of 27 had experienced GVHD after the previous HSCT, secondary GVHD was never observed
  - 17 out of 25 patients remained with persistent cytopenia at day 28

CRS criteria (Lee et al. Blood. 2014); ICANS, immune-effector cell-associated neurotoxicity syndrome; severe neutropenia <500/mmc; severe thrombocytopenia <5000/mmc



## Response data



- CR: 18/27 patients (66.7%, 95%CI=46-84%)
- CR: 16/21 patients (76.2%, 95%CI=53-92%) treated with the 2 highest doses
- Fourteen (77.8%) of the overall responders and 13 of the responders at the highest doses (81.3%) achieved MRD negativity
- The type of donor did not influence the achievement of CR 28 days post-infusion



## Main outcomes

Duration of remission



#### **Overall survival**





S American Society *of* Hematology

## CD3+ T cells and CARCIK-CD19 reconstitution











Time







#### **FT03CARCIK Phase 2: Flow-chart**



## Conclusions

- Major improvements have been achieved by the National Treatment Program for ALL
- Ph-like ALL represents the major problem in the setting of B precursor ALL. Although no consensus exists regarding the preferred approach to be used for the diagnosis of Ph-like ALL, screening for the Ph-like pattern should be adopted in routine clinical practice
- MRD drives the daily clinical practice. Allo HSCT remains mandatory for patients not achieving MRD negativity after intensive chemotherapy.
- Immunotherapy with blinatumomab, Inotuzumab and CAR-T cells are changing the treatment landscape of adult ALL

CAR T-Cell Immunotherapy Treating T-ALL: Challenges and Opportunities

#### Thee major challenges for CAR-T cell therapy in T-ALL



Ren, A.; Tong, X.; Xu, N.; Zhang, T.; Zhou, F.; Zhu, H. Vaccines 2023

### Donor-Derived CD7 Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cells for T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia: First-in-Human, Phase I Trial

#### Design

- To minimize CD7 CAR T-cell—mediated fratricide, a CD7-targeting CAR construct using IntraBlock technology, which prevents CD7 cell surface expression
- Anti-CD7 CAR T cells, manufactured from either previous stem-cell transplantation donors or new donors, to patients with r/r T-ALL
- Single infusions at doses of 5 × 10<sup>5</sup> or 1 × 10<sup>6</sup> (±30%) cells per kilogram of body weight
- The primary end point was safety with efficacy secondary

#### Safety

AE	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
CRS				
Total score	10 (50)	8 (40)	1 (5)	1 (5)
Fever	20 (100)	0	0	0
Нурохіа	0	8 (40)	1 (5)	1 (5)
Hypotension	0	0	2 (10)	0
ICANS				
Total score	3 (15)	0	0	0
ICE score	3 (15)	0	0	0
Depressed consciousness	0	0	0	0
Seizure	0	0	0	0
Motor weakness	0	0	0	0
Elevated ICP or cerebral edema	0	0	0	0
GVHD				
Total score	11 (55)	1 (5)	0	0
Skin	12 (60)	0	0	0
Liver	0	1 (5)	0	0
Intestinal	0	0	0	0

Pang J et al.: Journal of Clinical Oncology 39, no. 30 (October 20, 2021) 3340-3351

#### Donor-Derived CD7 Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cells for T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia: First-in-Human, Phase I Trial



Pang J et al.: Journal of Clinical Oncology 39, no. 30 (October 20, 2021) 3340-3351

## Naturally selected CD7 CAR-T therapy without genetic manipulations for T-ALL/LBL: first-in-human phase 1 clinical trial

- Naturally selected CD7 CAR T cells manufactured without additional genetic manipulations contained a high percentage of CAR1 cells.
- Naturally selected CD7 CAR T cells were safe and effective among T-ALL/LBL patients in a firstin-human phase 1 trial.



# Chimeric antigen receptor T cells for gamma-delta T cell malignancies



P A Wawrzyniecka, L Ibrahim, G Gritti, M A Pule and P M Maciocia: Leukemia 2022 Feb;36(2):577-579

# Anti-CCR9 chimeric antigen receptor T cells for T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia

- The chemokine receptor CCR9 is expressed in >70% of cases of T-ALL, including >85% of relapsed/refractory disease, and only on a small fraction (<5%) of normal T cells
- CAR-T cells targeting CCR9 are resistant to fratricide and have potent antileukemic activity both in vitro and in vivo
- anti-CCR9 CAR-T cells could be a highly effective treatment strategy for T-ALL, avoiding T cell aplasia and the need for genome engineering that complicate other approaches



## Conclusions

- CAR-T cells are changing the treatment landscape of hematologic malignancies
- In ALL results are less impressive and patients can require a subsequent allogeneic transplant after achieving a complete hematologic response
- Rapid progress is ongoing with new generation of autologous CAR-T cells
- The use of different cell platforms and allogeneic donors is rapidly expanding including the setting of T-ALL