

# Ritrattamento e Sequencing

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DIPARTIMENTO  
DI MEDICINA E CHIRURGIA

# LEUCEMIA LINFATICA CRONICA:

L'INNOVATIVITÀ TERAPEUTICA ED  
OLTRE...



**28-29 MARZO 2023**

**BOLOGNA** ROYAL HOTEL CARLTON

# Treatment sequencing selection depends on several factors

- What frontline therapy?
- Efficacy and long-term disease control
- Age and comorbidities (eg, fitness, cardiac issues, renal insufficiency)
- Current disease status (eg, repeat cytogenetics/FISH, imaging, BM test if necessary to elucidate immune cytopenias)
- Patient preference
- The unspoken: impact of social support, ease of administration (eg, Is hospitalization required? Multiple visits, COVID-19), finances



1L and 2L

# Which therapy is the “best initial therapy” in CLL?

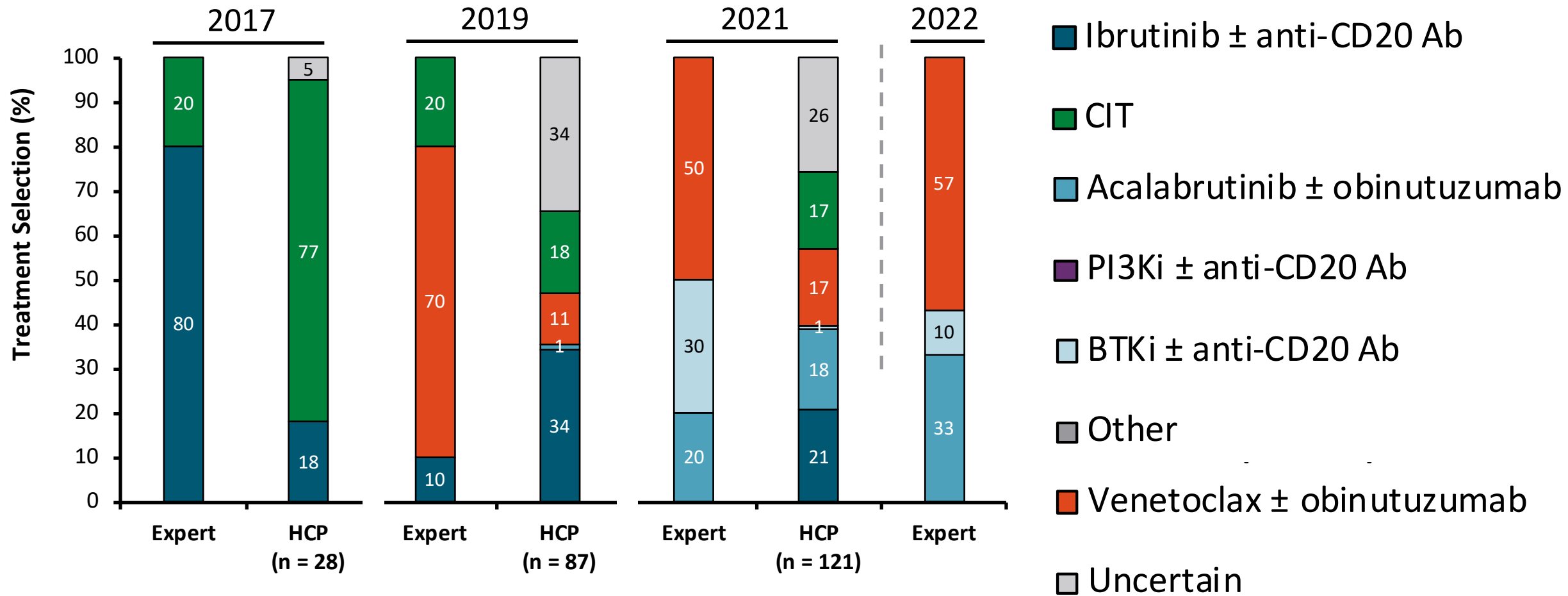
There is no single best initial target therapy

Targeted Therapies	PFS Outcomes
Phase III E1912: ibrutinib + rituximab <sup>1</sup>	78% at 5 yr
ELEVATE-TN: acalabrutinib <sup>2</sup>	72% at 5 yr
ELEVATE-TN: acalabrutinib + obinutuzumab <sup>2</sup>	84% at 5 yr
CLL14: venetoclax + obinutuzumab <sup>3</sup>	74% at 5 yr
SEQUOIA: zanubrutinib <sup>4</sup>	~ >80% at 4 yr

1. Shanafelt. Blood. 2022;140:112. 2. Sharman. ASCO 2022. Abstr 7539. 3. Al-Sawaf. EHA 2021. Abstr S146.

4. Tam. Lancet Oncol. 2022;23:1031

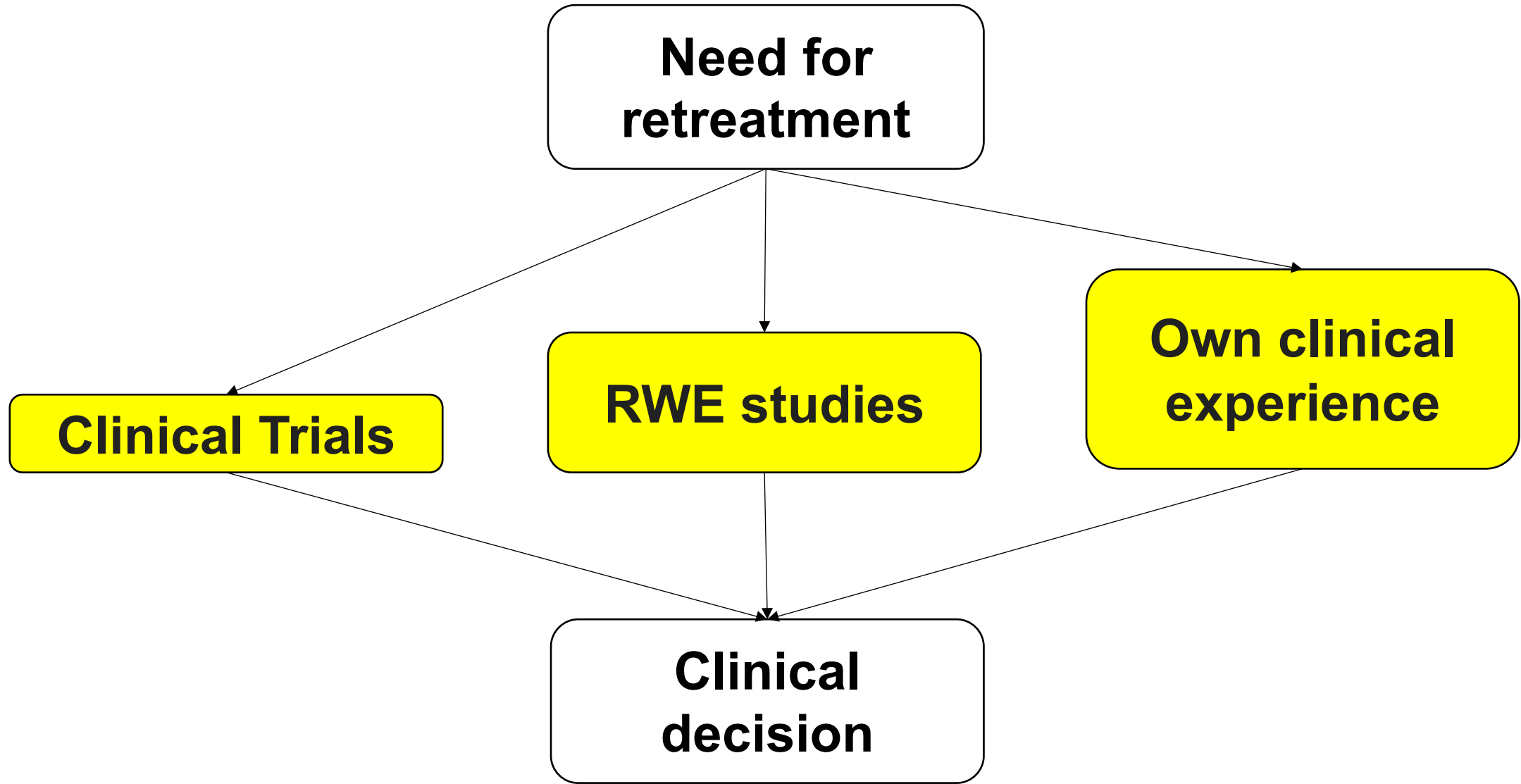
# First-line treatment: CLL *without* del(17p), *TP53* mutation, or *IGHV* Mutation

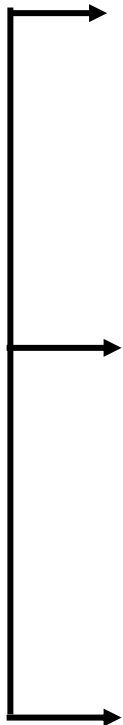


Additional variables (yes or no): 2017, age ≥65 yr and renal impairment; 2018, age ≥65 yr and fitness; 2019, age ≥65 yr and fitness and cardiac/bleeding concerns; 2020-2022, cardiac/bleeding concerns, bulky disease, or renal impairment. Analysis of younger, fit patients through 2019, then all patients included (no option to differentiate for these variables).



**Sources**





Prior CIT

Prior BTKi

Prior BCL2i



Prior CIT



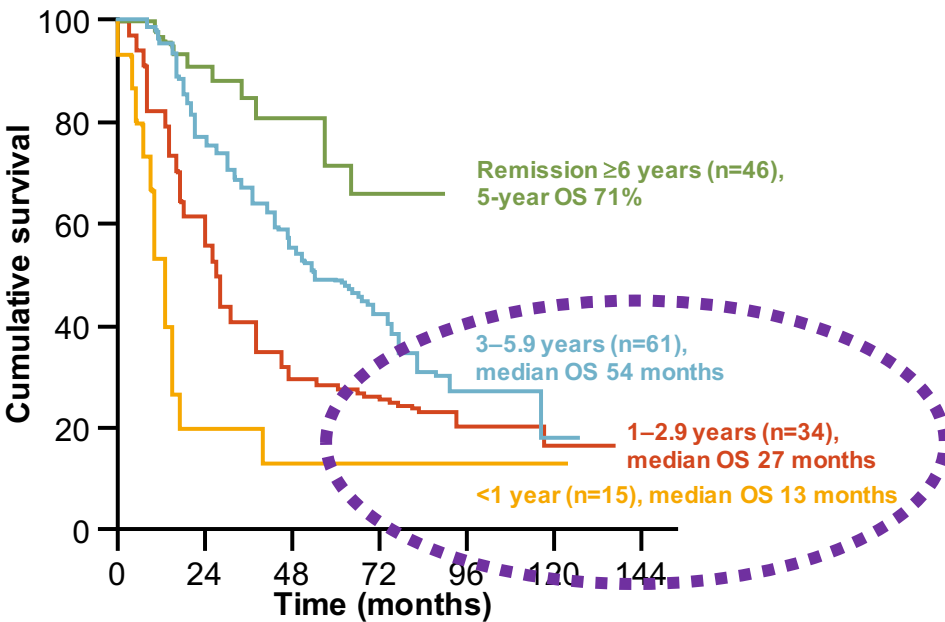
# No role for second-line chemoimmunotherapy in CLL

Poor results in

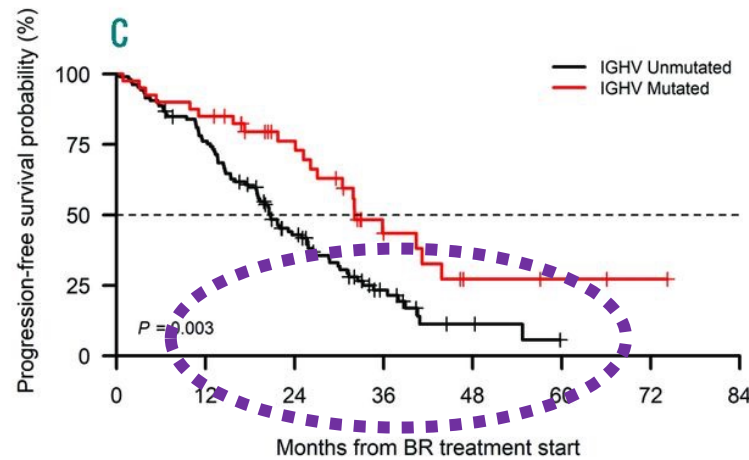
PFS < 24-36 months

unmutated IGHV

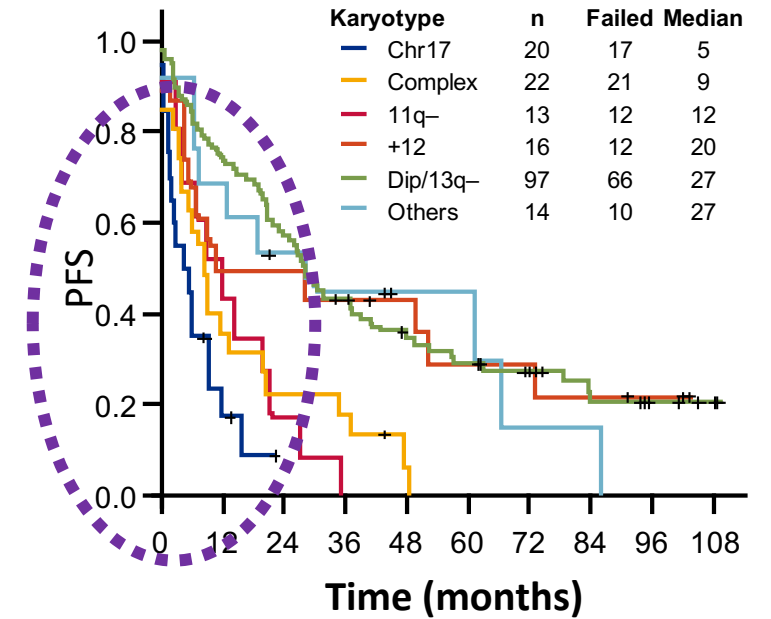
TP53 aberrations



Tam CS, et al. *Blood* 2014; 124:3059–3064.

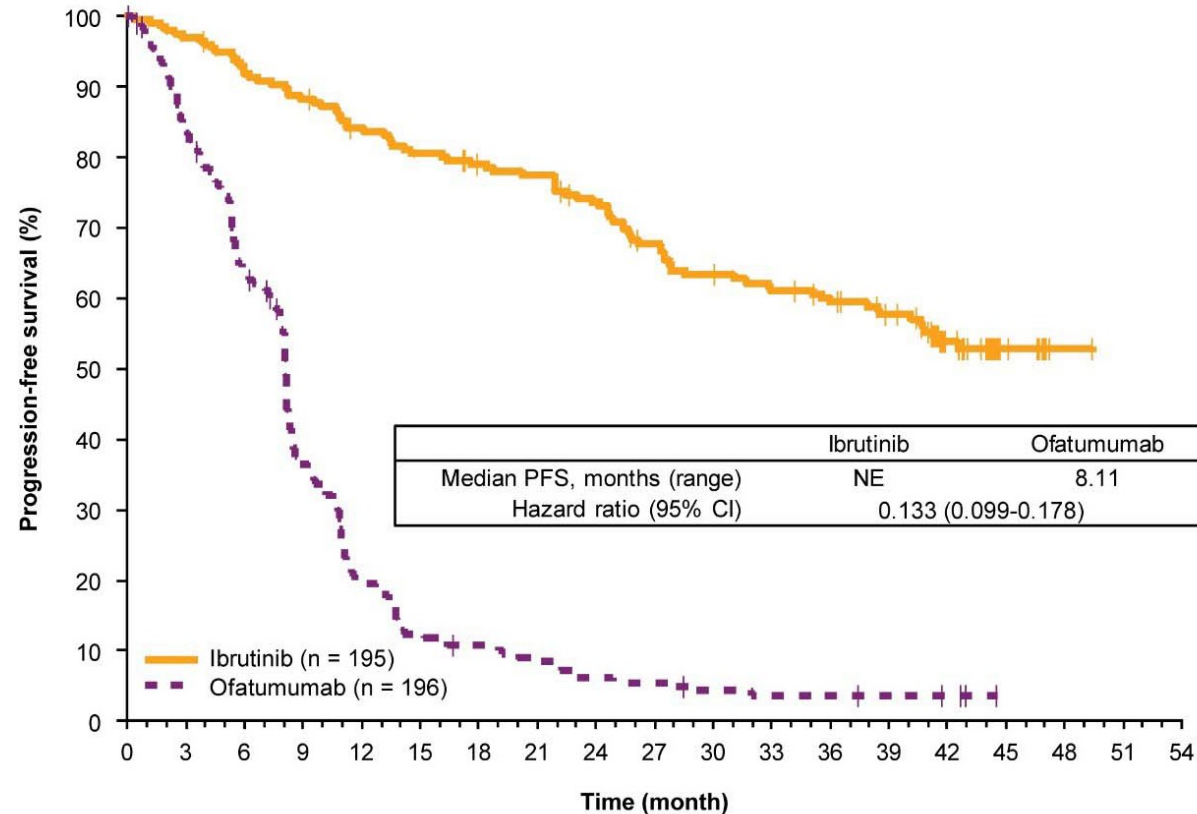


Cuneo A, et al. *Hematologica* 2018; 103:1209–1217



Badoux XC, et al. *Blood* 2011; 117:3016–3024.

# Rationale for using Ibrutinib in R/R CLL: PFS Updated after 44 months of follow-up

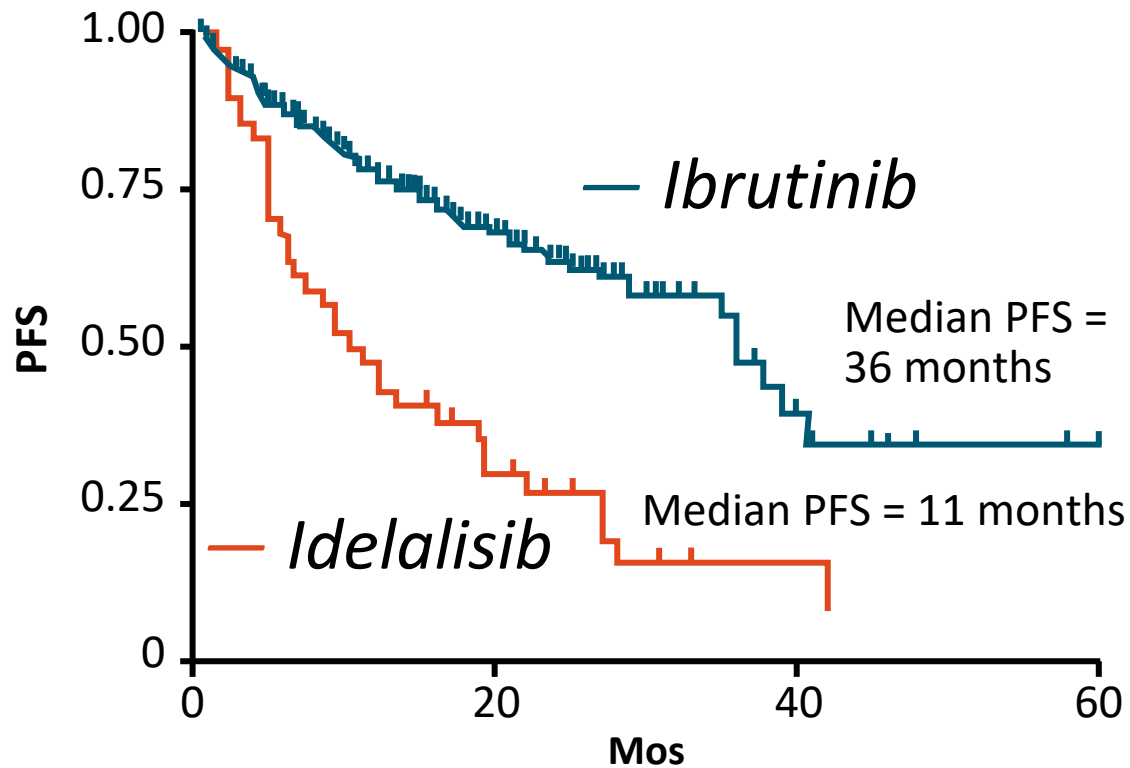


**PFS mediana** non raggiunta nel braccio Ibrutinib vs 8.11 mesi nel braccio Ofatumumab  
HR 0.133

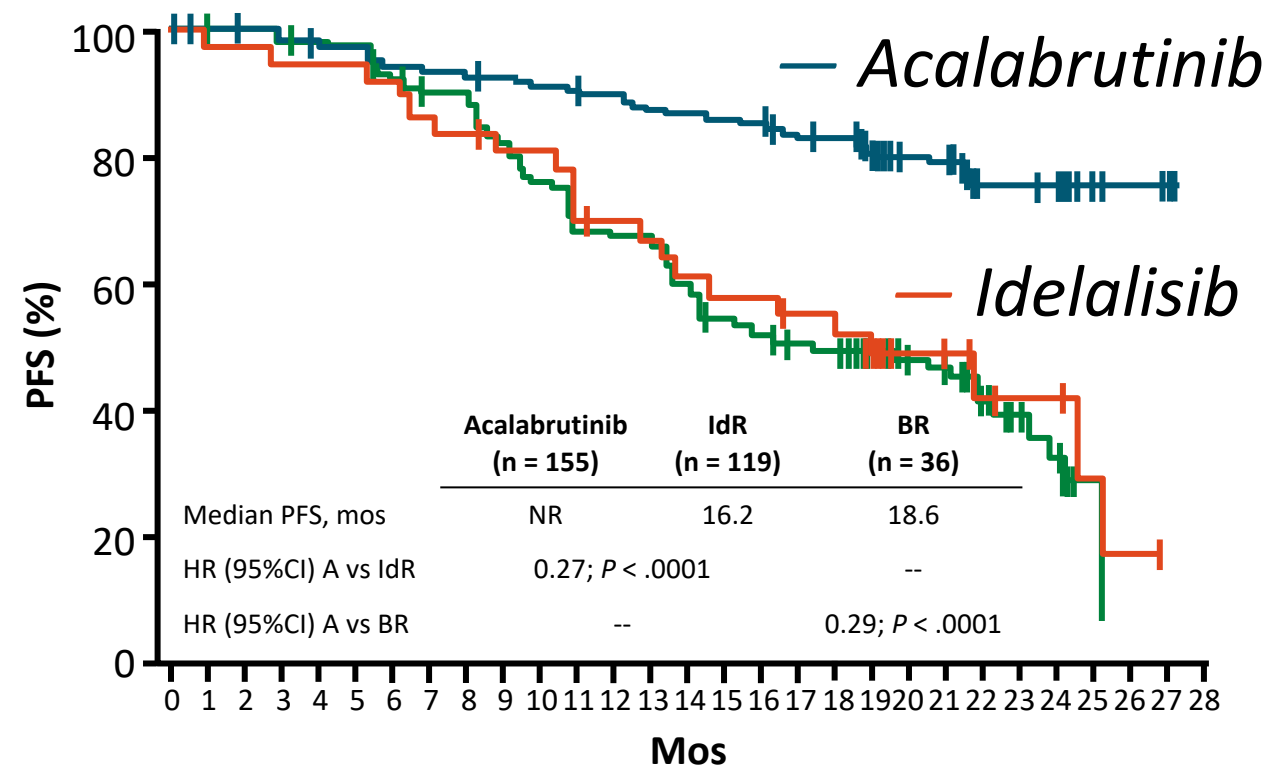
**Durata mediana della terapia:**  
41 mesi  
Il 46% dei pazienti è ancora in trattamento

# BTKi vs Idelalisib in R/R CLL (RWE and RCT Data)

RWE (2017): Multicenter Retrospective Analysis  
– PFS by First Kinase Inhibitor in R/R CLL<sup>1</sup>



RCT (2020): Phase III ASCEND Trial of Acalabrutinib vs Bendamustine-R or Idelalisib-R in R/R CLL<sup>2</sup>



**BTKi vs Idelalisib: Superior PFS and, with acalabrutinib, fewer discontinuations due to AEs in real-world setting and RCT<sup>1,2</sup>**

# Acalabrutinib vs Ibrutinib in Patients With High-Risk Relapsed/Refractory CLL (ELEVATE-RR)

Adults with previously treated CLL requiring treatment per iwCLL 2008; presence of del(17p) or del(11q); no significant CV disease; no prior tx w/BTK, PI3K, Syk, or BCL2 inhibitors; ECOG PS 0-2 (N = 533)

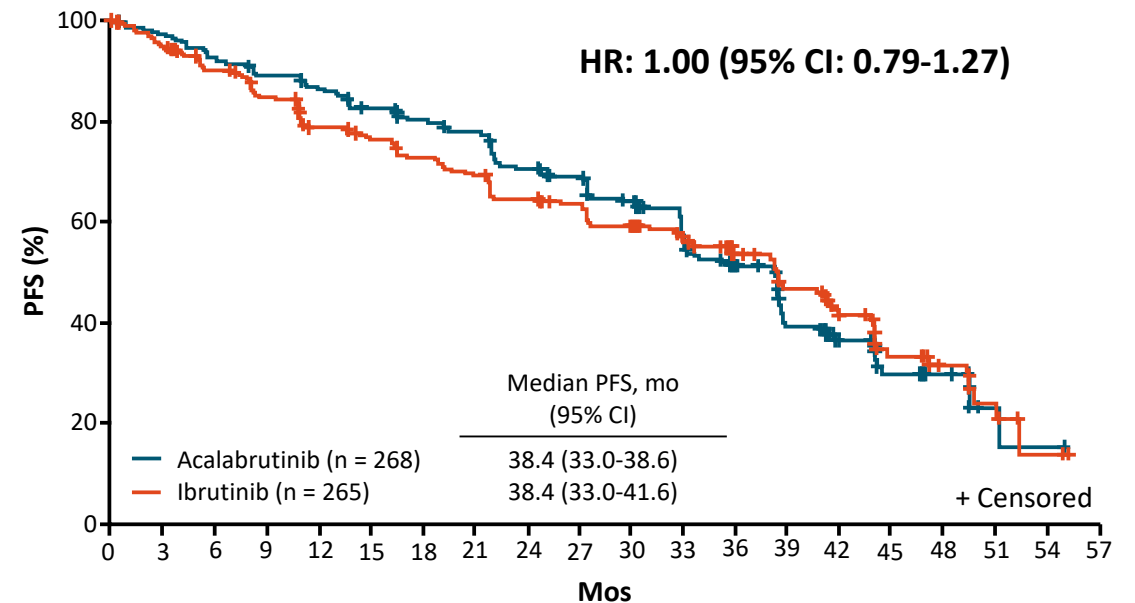
1:1

**Acalabrutinib 100 mg PO BID**  
(n = 268)

**Ibrutinib 420 mg PO QD**  
(n = 265)

*Continued until PD or unacceptable toxicity*

- Primary endpoint: noninferiority of IRC-assessed PFS (upper bound of 2-sided 95% CI for HR <1.429)
- Secondary endpoints: any-grade atrial fibrillation/flutter, grade ≥3 infection, Richter transformation, OS



# Elevate R/R trial: Most common AE's (any grade $\geq 15\%$ ) in either arm

	Any grade		Grade $\geq 3$	
Events, n (%)	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)

## PROS

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

## 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.

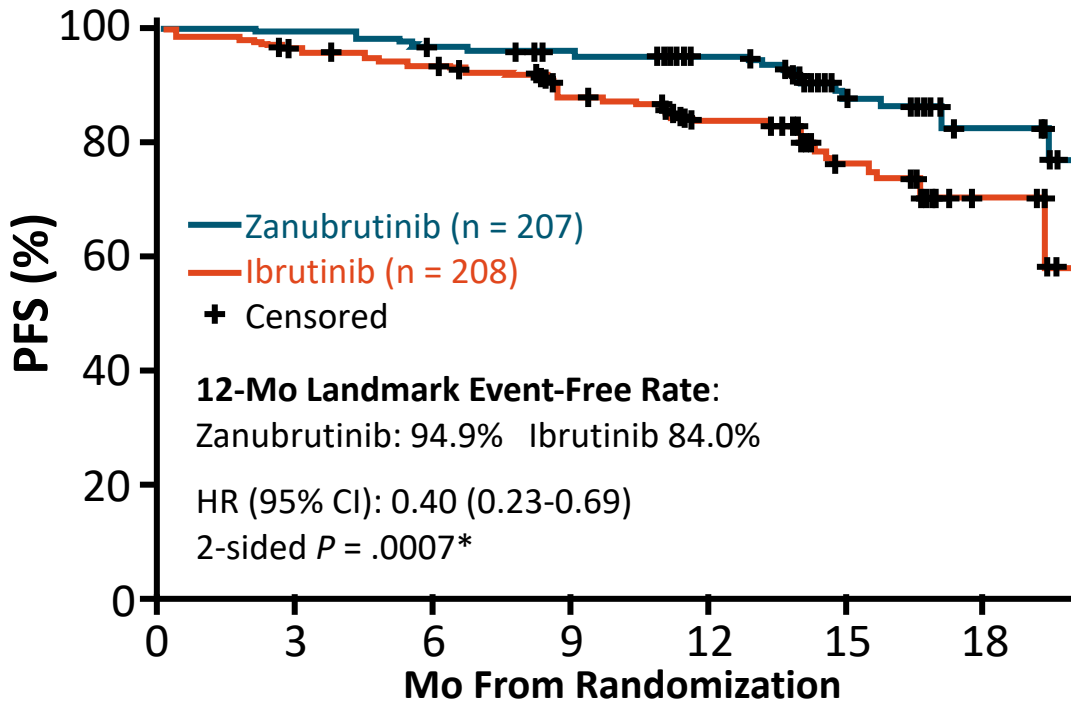
AE = adverse event; URTI = upper respiratory tract infection.

# Zanubrutinib vs Ibrutinib in R/R CLL/SLL (ALPINE trial)

Open-label, randomized phase III trial of Zanubrutinib vs Ibrutinib for Patients with R/R CLL/SLL;  $\geq 1$  prior systemic tx for CLL/SLL; (N = 652; interim analysis: n = 415)

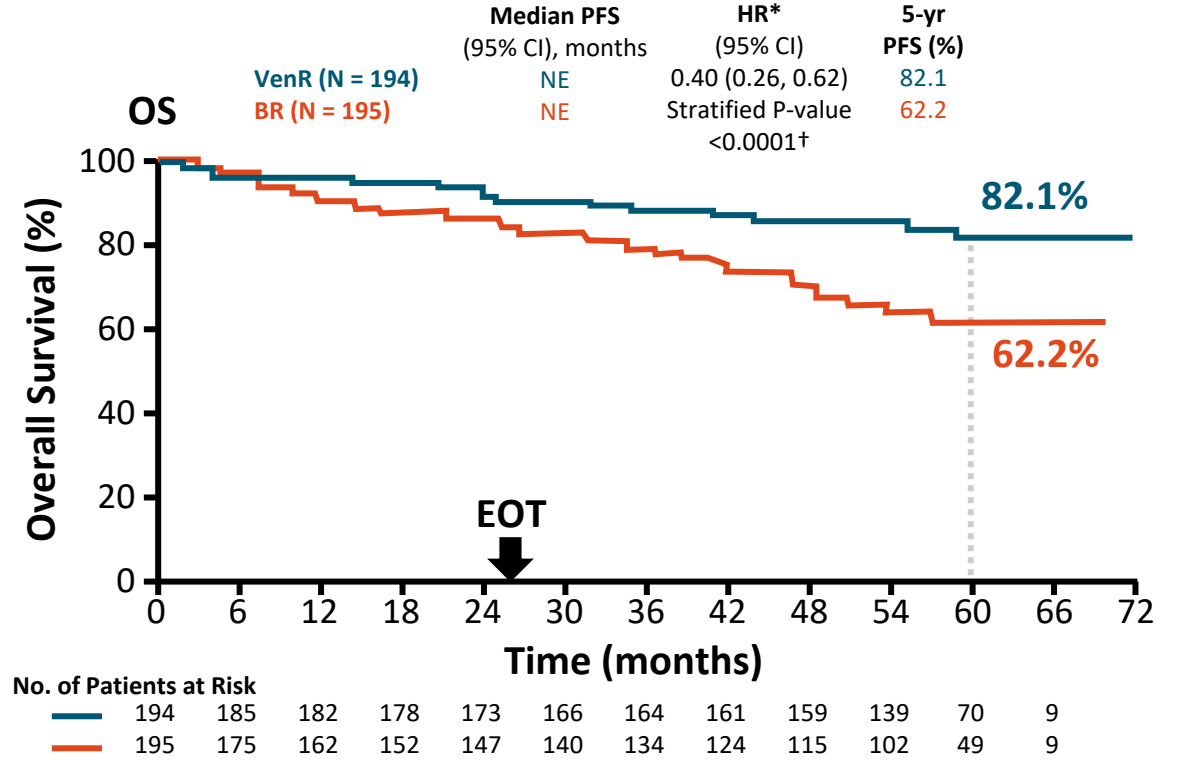
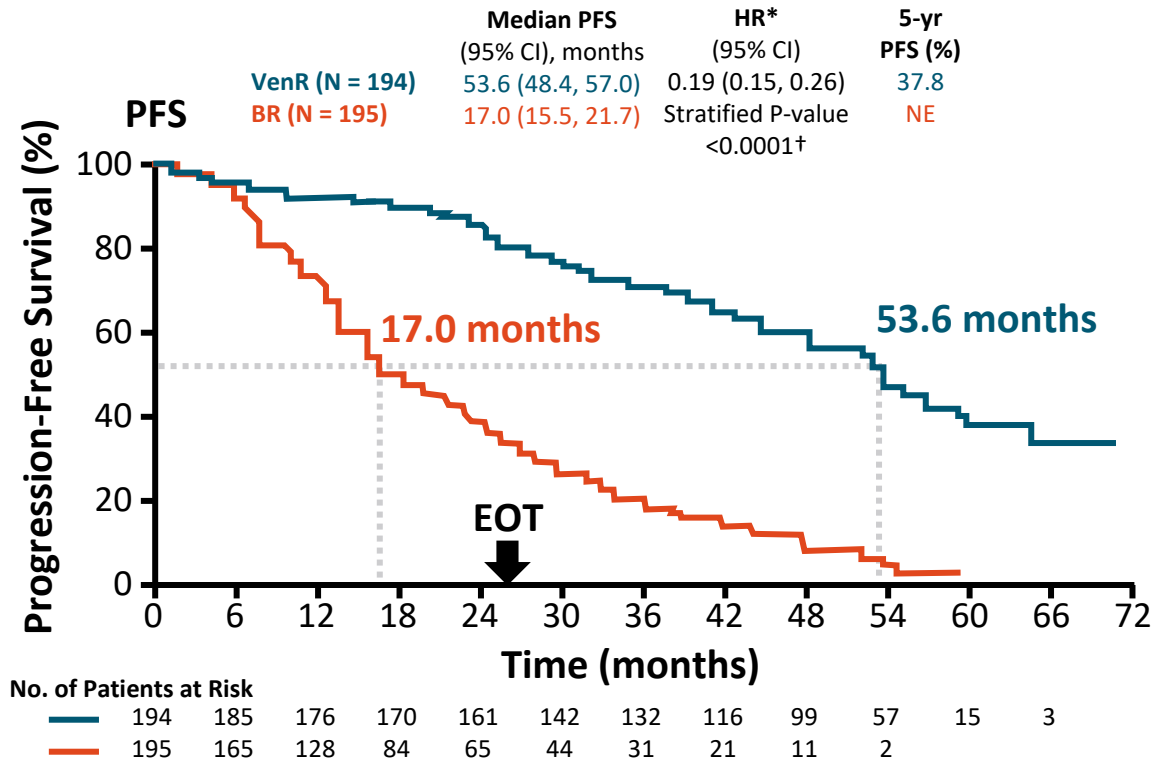
- Zanubrutinib significantly improved ORR vs ibrutinib (superiority 2-sided  $P = .0006$ ; prespecified  $\alpha = 0.0099$ )

ORR, n/N (%)	Zanubrutinib (n = 207)	Ibrutinib (n = 208)
All patients	162/207 (78.3)	130/208 (62.5)
Patients with del(17p)	20/24 (83.3)	14/26 (53.8)



AE of Special Interest, n (%)	Zanubrutinib (n = 204)		Ibrutinib (n = 207)	
	Any Grade	Grade $\geq 3$	Any Grade	Grade $\geq 3$
Cardiac disorders	28 (13.7)	5 (2.5)	52 (25.1)	14 (6.8)
Atrial fibrillation and flutter	5 (2.5)*	2 (1.0)	21 (10.1)*	4 (1.9)
Hemorrhage	73 (35.8)	6 (2.9)	75 (36.2)	6 (2.9)
Major hemorrhage	6 (2.9)	6 (2.9)	8 (3.9)	6 (2.9)
Hypertension	34 (16.7)	22 (10.8)	34 (16.4)	22 (10.6)
Infections	122 (59.8)	26 (12.7)	131 (63.3)	37 (17.9)
Neutropenia	58 (28.4)	38 (18.6)	45 (21.7)	31 (15.0)
Thrombocytopenia	19 (9.3)	7 (3.4)	26 (12.6)	7 (3.4)
Secondary primary malignancies	17 (8.3)	10 (4.9)	13 (6.3)	4 (1.9)
Skin cancers	7 (3.4)	3 (1.5)	10 (4.8)	2 (1.0)

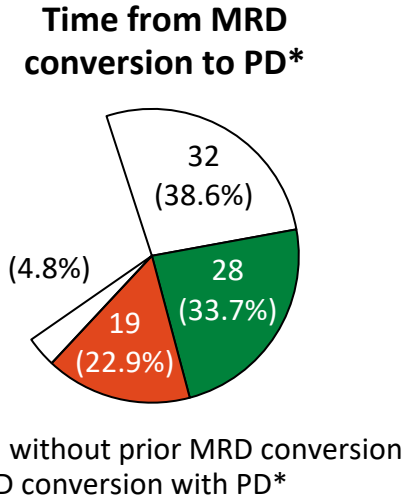
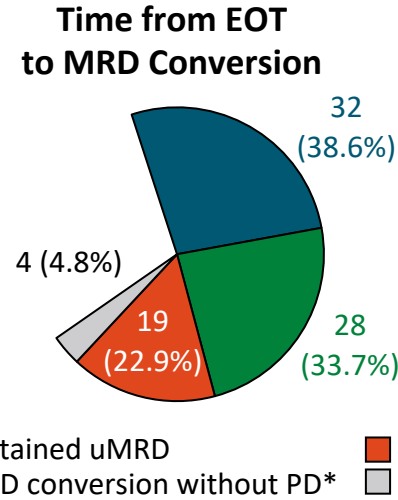
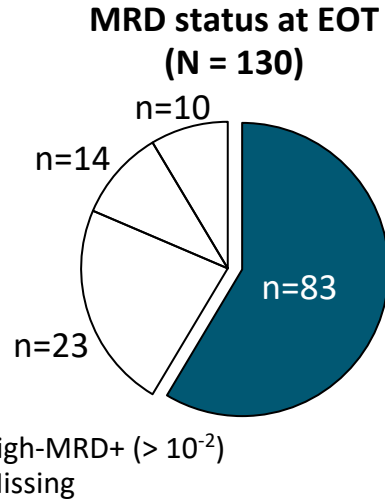
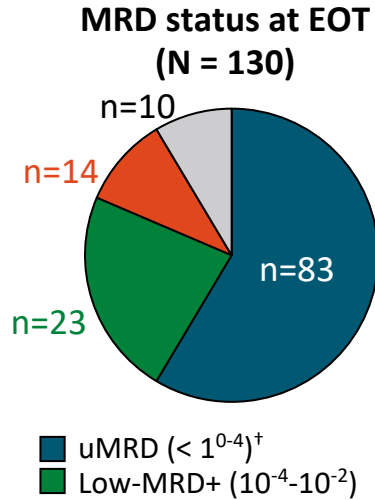
# 5-Yr Analysis of the MURANO Study: PFS and OS



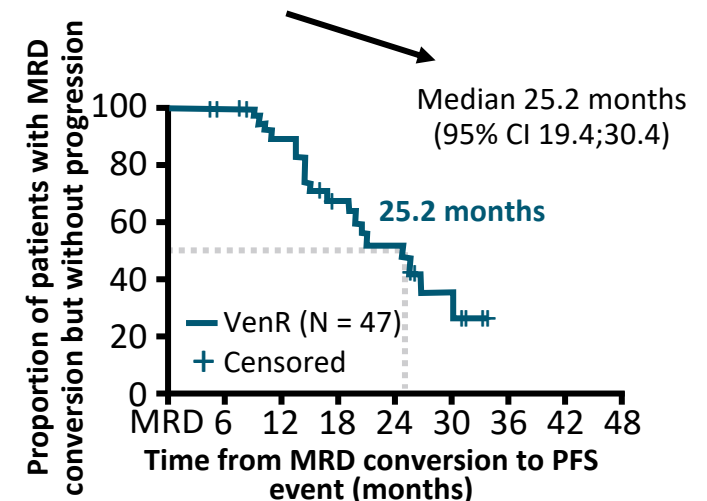
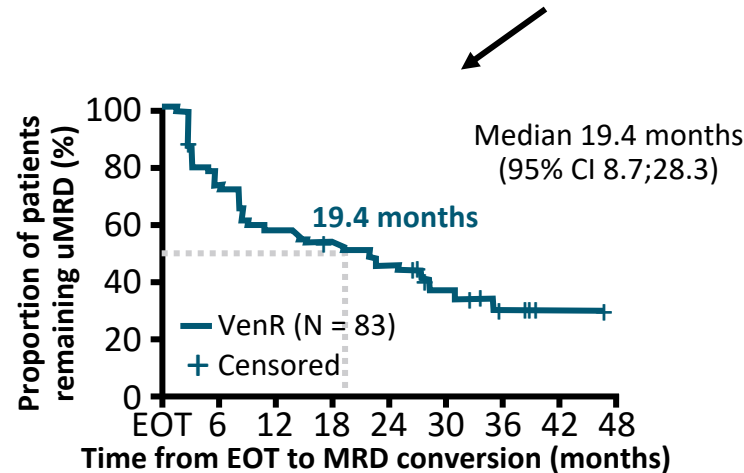
■ This report included:

- Outcomes with a median follow-up of 59 mos (range: 0-71.5)
- Outcomes of patients off-therapy based on MRD status at EOT
- MRD kinetics and MRD status of patients who received VenR retreatment

# 5-Yr Analysis of uMRD From the MURANO Study



uMRD: <math>< 1</math> CLL cell/10,000 leukocytes.





# Relapsed/Refractory Setting in Novel Agent–Naive Patients: BTKi vs PI3Ki vs Venetoclax as Novel Agent?

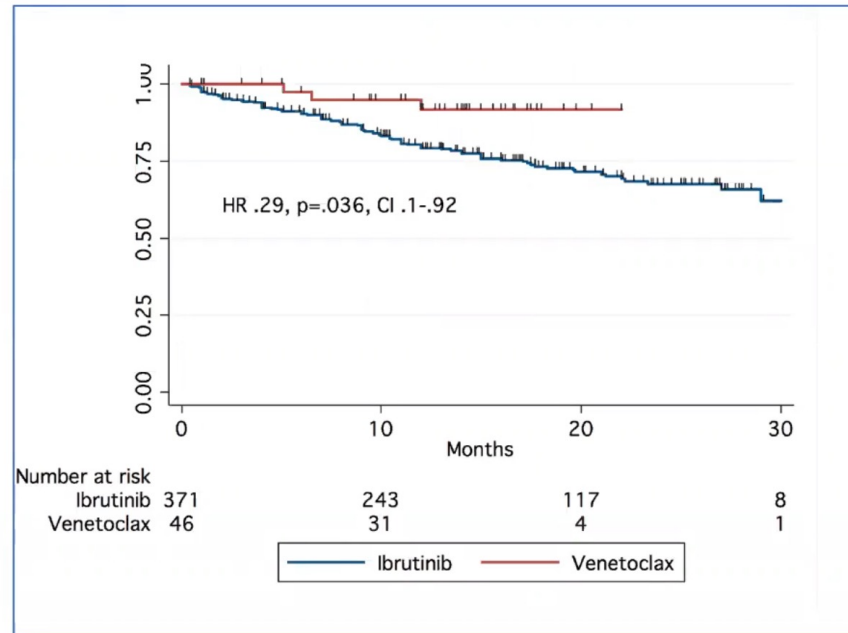
*In all circumstances, when clinically acceptable, the data support BTKi or Ven before approved PI3Ki*

No definitive comparative data to support Ven vs BTKi as first novel agent in novel agent–naive R/R CLL, but limited RWE data are intriguing

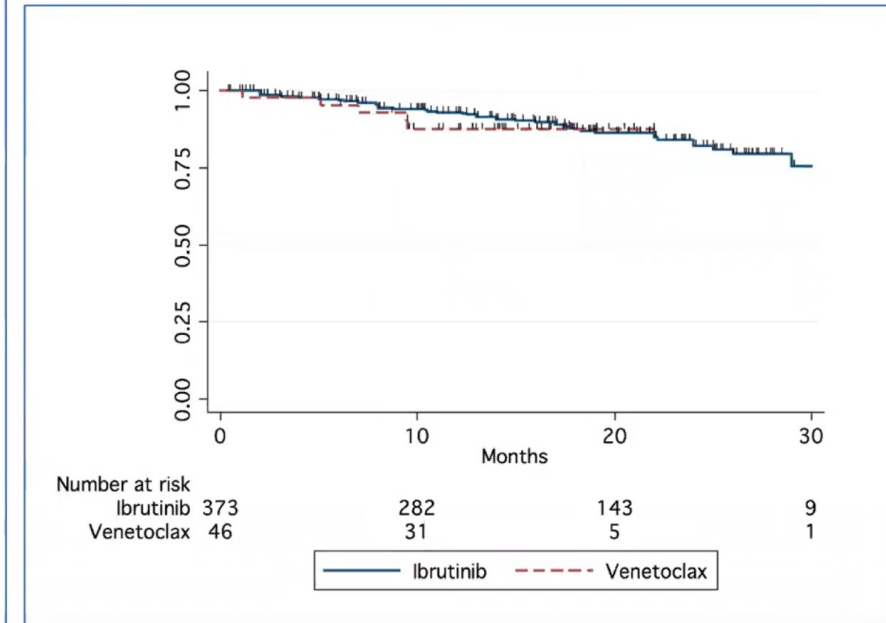
Table 1: Baseline characteristics of each novel therapy cohort

Baseline characteristics	Novel Agent			
	N	Ibrutinib	N	Venetoclax +/- anti-CD20
First novel therapy				
Median age at treatment (years; range)	382	69 (27-95)	48	65 (39-87)
Median number of prior therapies (number; range)	385	2 (1-4)	48	2 (1-4)
Del(17p)	255	24%	47	34%
Complex karyotype	157	32%	17	24%
Elevated LDH	189	45%	20	45%

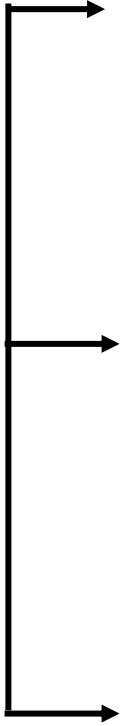
*Well Balanced*



**PFS**



**OS**



Prior BTKi

Prior BCL2i

# How to best organize CLL treatment sequencing after front-line CT-free approach?

## Consideration 1

### Available options

*“Sequences are partially a consequence of the order in which they were **approved** rather than intrinsic tumor biology.”*

## Consideration 2

### Reasons for discontinuation

- Completion of planned therapy (Ven-G only) with subsequent PD
- PD (known or unknown resistance mechanisms)
- Intolerance/AEs

## Consideration 3

### Levels of evidence

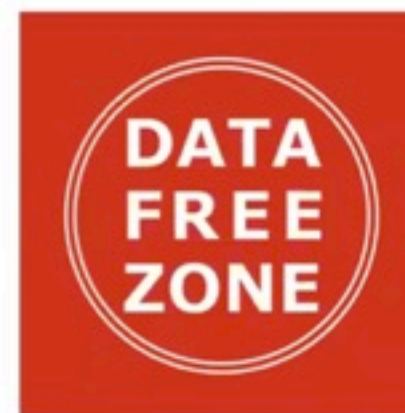
- Prospective data/interventional study (randomized data, single arm)
- Prospective registry data
- Retrospective “real-world” data

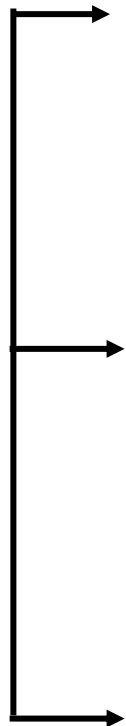
*“How readily data from **CIT** exposed patients can be **extrapolated** to the chemotherapy free pathway remains to be seen due to AE differences and resistance mechanisms”*

## The majority of CLL patients on landmark R/R studies were not treated with prior novel agents

Agent	Study Name (Control Arm)	Number treated	Median (range) prior therapies	Percent on modern chemotherapy free pathways	Percent treated with $\geq 1$ BTK, Ven or PI3K-i
Ibrutinib	Resonate (ofatumumab)	195	3 (1 - 12)	0%	0%
Acalabrutinib	ASCEND (investigator's choice: BR or idela-ritux)	155	1 (1 - 8)	0%	0%
Venetoclax monotherapy	Del 17p study (single arm)	107	2 (0 - 10)	Unknown <3.7%	3.7% (n=4)
Venetoclax-rituximab	Murano (BR)	194	1 (1 - >3)	Unknown <2.6%	2.6% (n=5)
Idelalisib-rituximab	STUDY 116 (placebo-ritux)	110	3 (1 - 12)	0%	0%
Duvelisib	DUO (ofatumumab)	160	2 (1 - 10)	0%	0%

Only 9 of 921 patients (.001%) from 6 landmark studies were previously treated with at least one BTKi, Pi3Ki or venetoclax and likely none on a truly modern chemotherapy free pathway





Prior BTKi

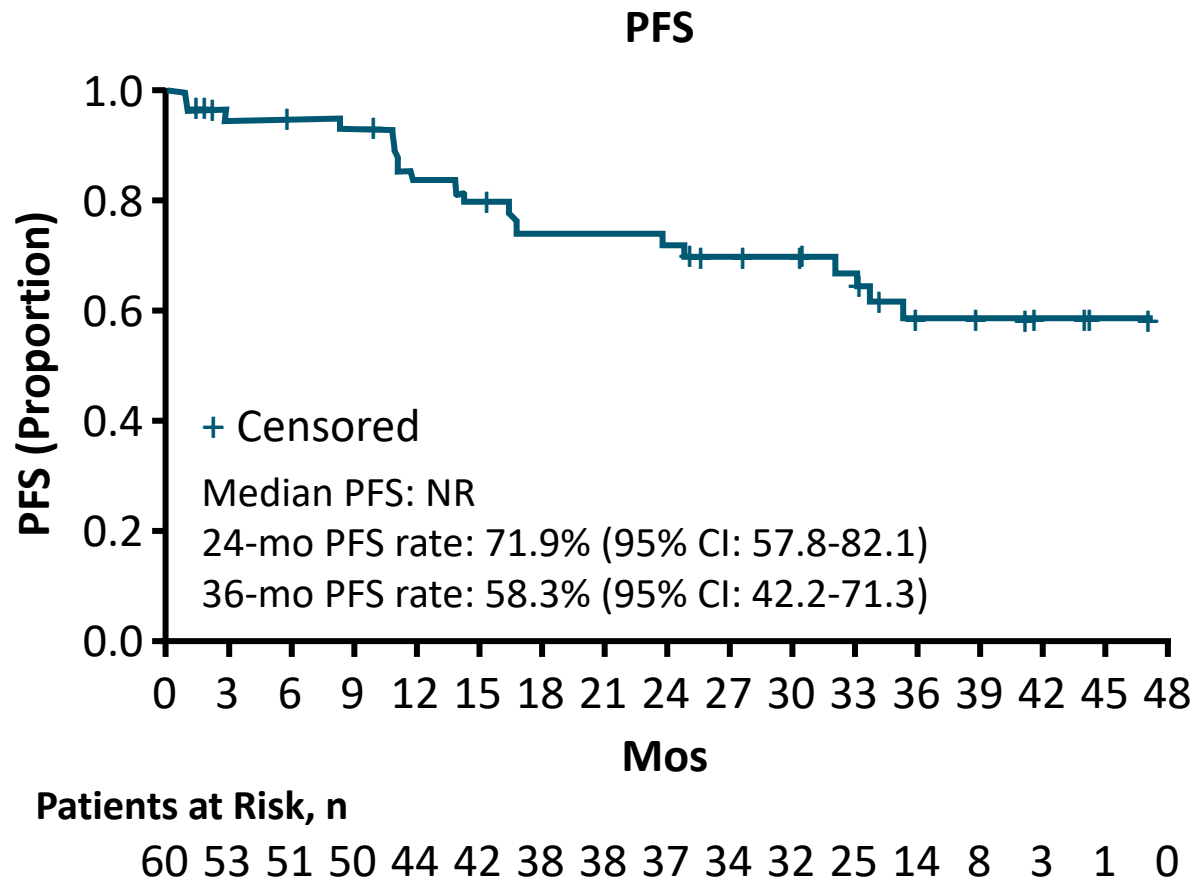
**A Growing List of Options**

- **Alternate BTKi**
  - Ibrutinib → acalabrutinib
  - Acalabrutinib → ibrutinib
  - *Non-covalent BTKi?*
- **Venetoclax**
  - Monotherapy
  - Venetoclax + rituximab
- **PI3Ki**
  - Idelalisib-R
  - *Duvelisib*

All BTK inhibitor options are continuous therapies; treat until disease progression, transformation, or AE

# Prospective Sequencing Data: Ibrutinib Intolerance → Acalabrutinib

- Phase II trial of acalabrutinib in patients with R/R CLL, ibrutinib intolerance, and disease activity



Parameter, n (%)	Patients (N = 60)
Median follow-up, mo (range)	34.6 (1.1-47.4)
On acalabrutinib	29 (48)
Discontinued acalabrutinib	31 (52)
▪ PD	14 (23)
▪ AE	10 (17)
▪ Patient withdrawal	3 (5)
▪ Physician decision	3 (5)
▪ Death	1 (2)*
▪ Other	1 (2) <sup>†</sup>
Death on study	11 (18)

\*Due to AE leading to discontinuation (pneumonia). <sup>†</sup>Comorbid anorexia.

- At median follow-up of 34.6 mo, 48% of patients remain on acalabrutinib

# ACE-CL-208: Sequential Use of Acalabrutinib in Patients With Ibrutinib Intolerance is Safe and Effective

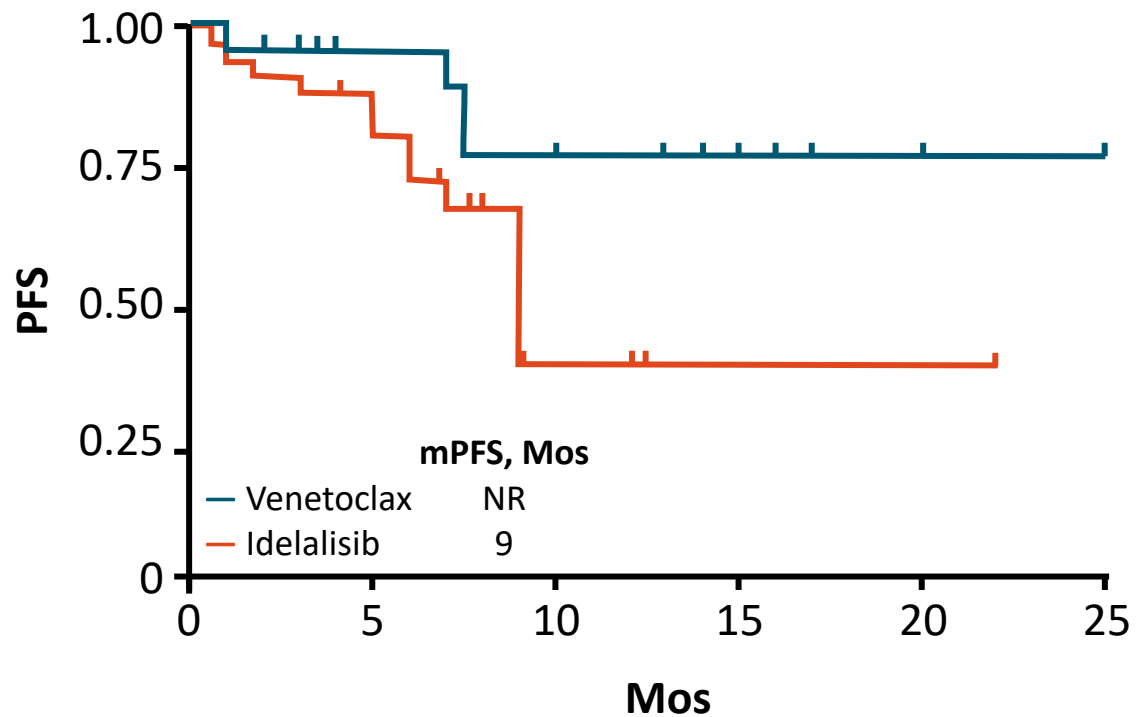
- ORR with acalabrutinib: 73% (CR/CRi: 8%)

Events Resulting in Ibrutinib Intolerance*	No. of Patients	Acalabrutinib Experience for Same Patient, n			
		Overall	Lower Grade	Same Grade	Higher Grade
Atrial fibrillation	16 <sup>†</sup>	2	2	0	0
Diarrhea	7	5	3	2	0
Rash	7	3	3	0	0
Bleeding <sup>‡¶</sup>	6	5	3	2	0
Arthralgia	7 <sup>§</sup>	2	1	1	0

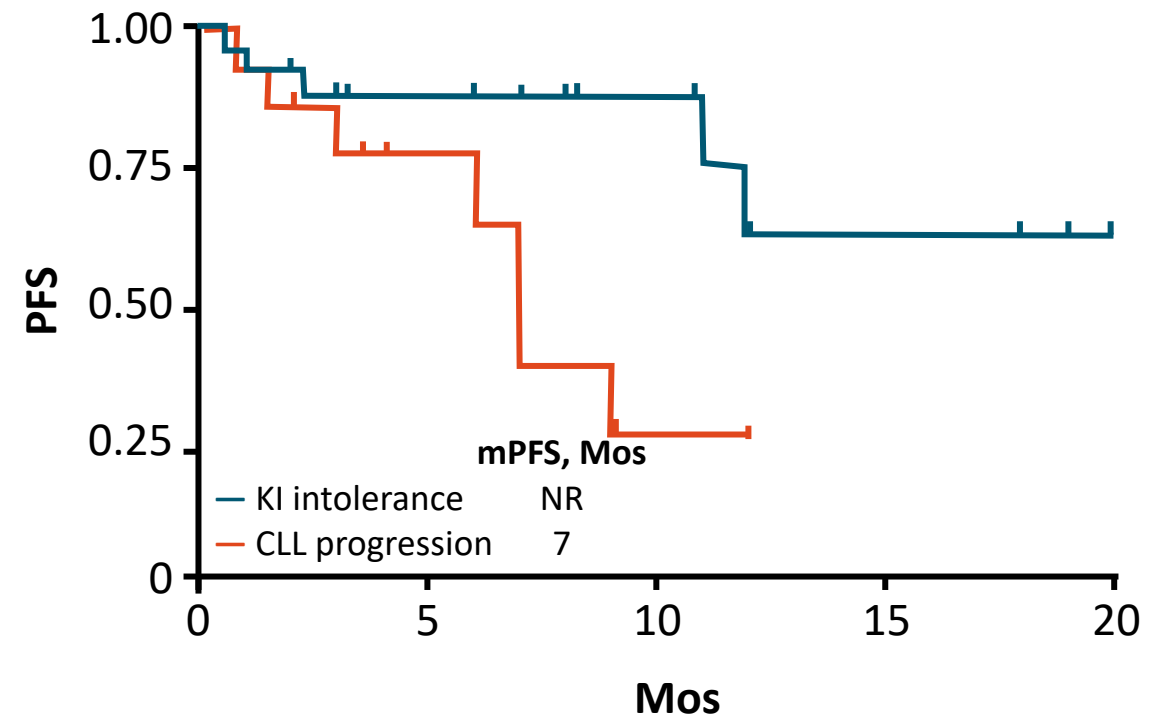
\*41 of 60 patients meeting the study enrollment criteria had a medical history of  $\geq 1$  (43 events in total) of the following categories of ibrutinib intolerance events: atrial fibrillation, diarrhea, rash, bleeding, arthralgia. <sup>†</sup>Includes patients with atrial flutter (n = 2). <sup>‡</sup>Events categorized as bleeding included ecchymosis, hemorrhage, epistaxis, contusion, hematuria, and subdural hematoma. <sup>¶</sup>All but 1 patient experienced a different type of bleeding event with acalabrutinib compared with ibrutinib treatment. <sup>§</sup>Includes 1 patient with arthritis.

# Real-World Outcomes Following Ibrutinib in Patients Who Discontinued for Failure or Intolerance

RWE (2017): Multicenter Retrospective Analysis  
– PFS by Second Novel Agent After Ibrutinib Failure<sup>1</sup>

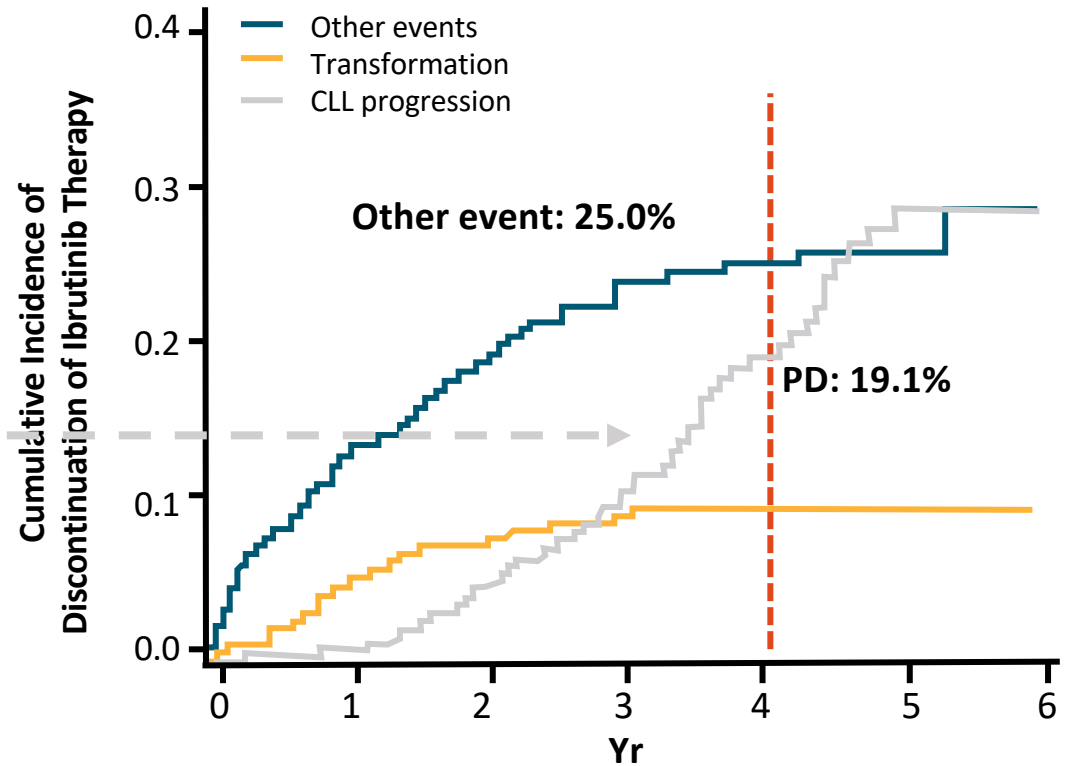
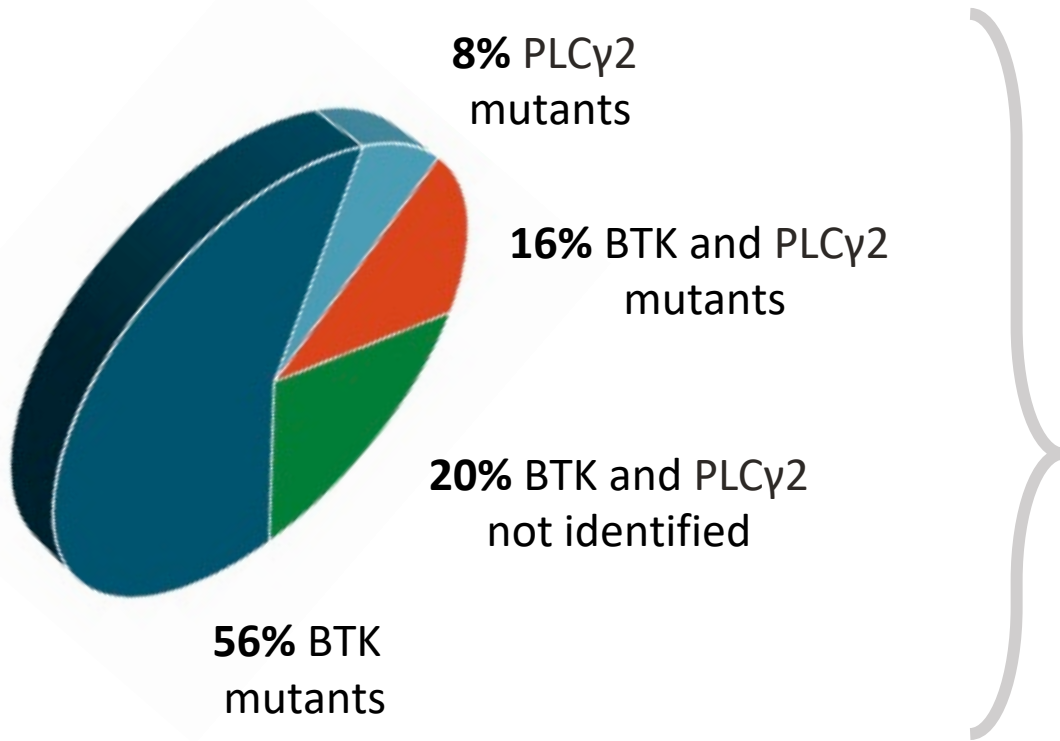


RWE (2016): Multicenter Retrospective Analysis  
– PFS by Discontinuation Reason  
(Treated With Alternate Kinase Inhibitor)<sup>2</sup>





# Why Planning for Sequential Therapy Is Important? Resistance to Covalent BTK Inhibitors

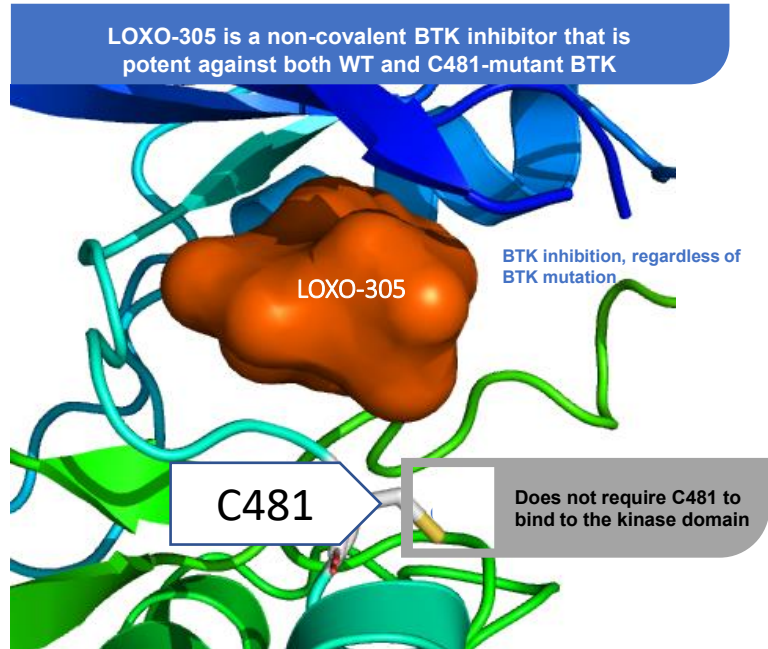
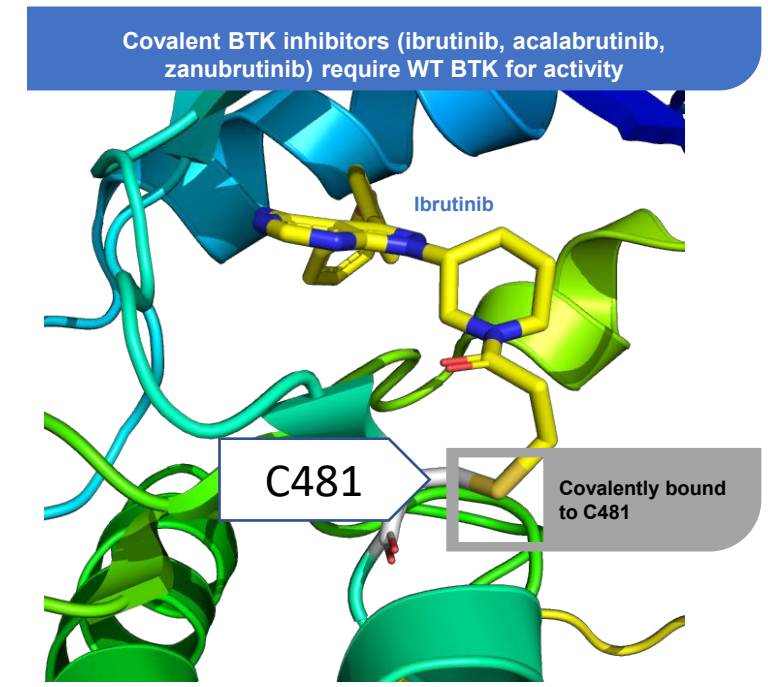
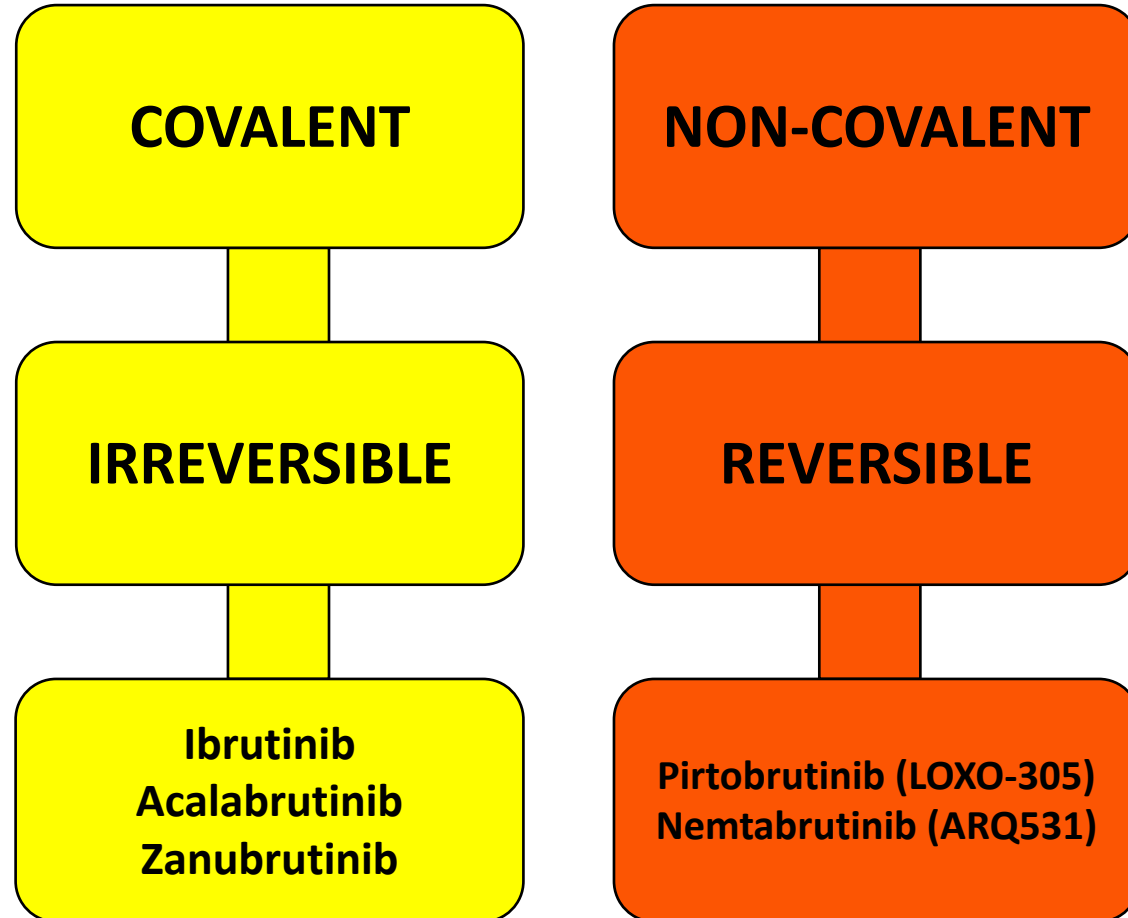


- BTK-activating mutations cause BTK inhibition by ibrutinib to be reversible and significantly decrease ibrutinib and BTK affinity (~50×)
- PLCγ2-activating mutations lead to autonomous activation of the B-cell receptor signal transduction pathway and are insensitive to BTK inhibition by ibrutinib

## Ibrutinib Discontinuation Across 4 Clinical Trials

(Front line, 41%; R/R, 54% at 5 yrs FU)

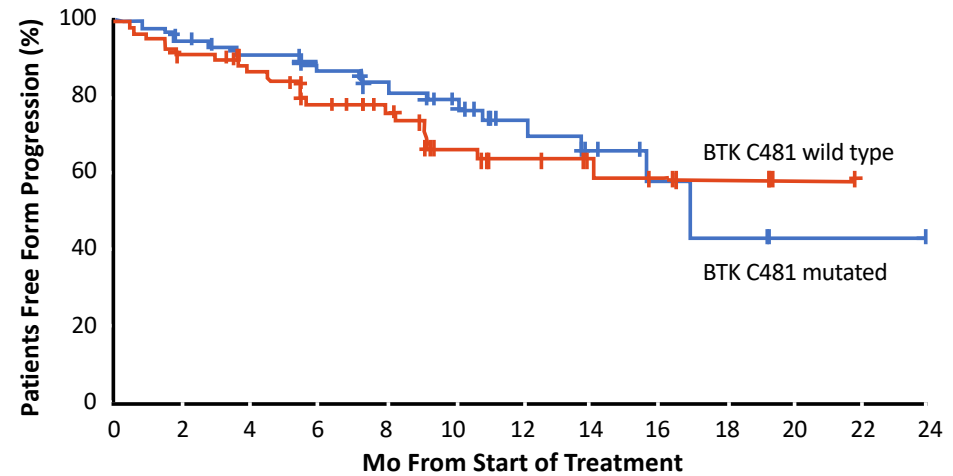
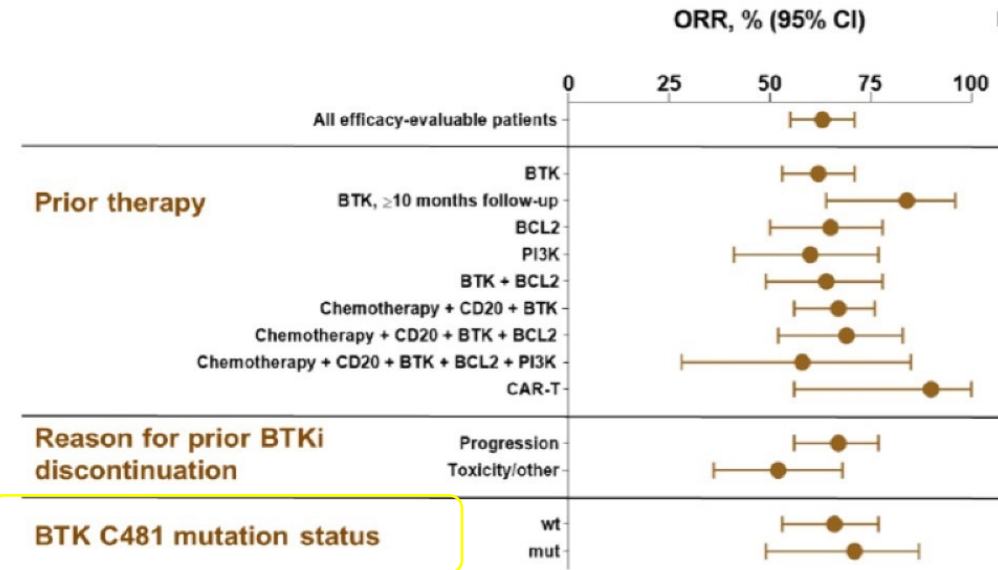
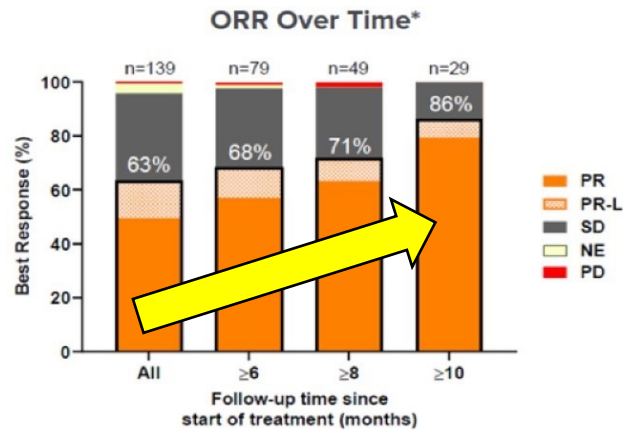
# Classes of BTK Inhibitors



# Pirtobrutinib efficacy regardless of BTK experience, C481 mutations and other prior therapy

Overall Response Rate in all CLL/SLL patients and BTK pre-treated subgroup

Response	Efficacy Evaluable (n = 139)	BTK-Pretreated Efficacy Evaluable (n = 121)
ORR, % (95% CI)	63 (55-71)	62 (53-71)
Best response, n (%)		
CR	0	0
PR	69 (50)	57 (47)
PR-L	19 (14)	18 (15)
SD	45 (32)	41 (34)

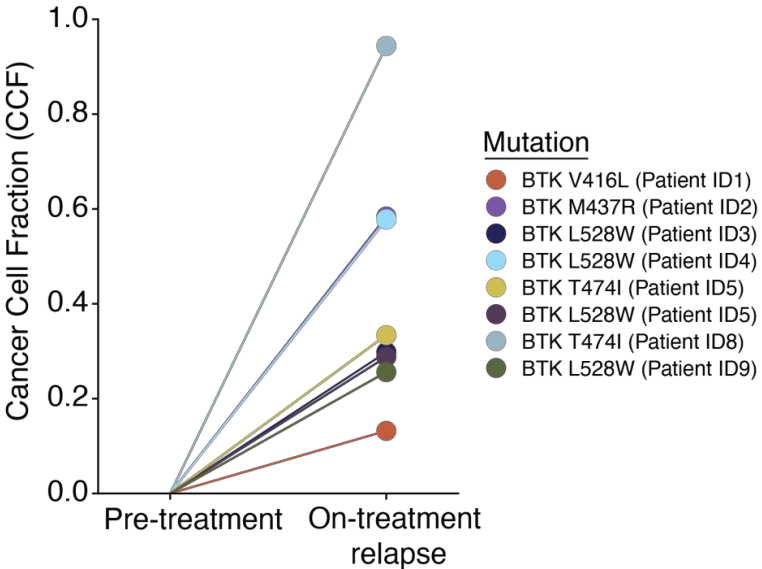


# Pirtobrutinib Safety Profile

Adverse Event	All doses and patients (n=323)					Treatment-related AEs, n (%)	
	Treatment-emergent AEs, (≥10%), n (%)					Grades 3/4	Any Grade
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Any Grade		
Fatigue	40 (12%)	22 (7%)	3 (1%)	-	65 (20%)	2 (<1%)	27 (8%)
Diarrhea	45 (14%)	10 (3%)	-	-	55 (17%)	-	28 (9%)
Contusion	37 (12%)	5 (2%)	-	-	42 (13%)	-	29 (9%)
<b>AEs of special interest</b>							
Bruising	48 (15%)	5 (2%)	-	-	53 (16%)	-	37 (12%)
Rash	30 (9%)	5 (2%)	-	-	35 (11%)	-	18 (6%)
Arthralgia	13 (4%)	3 (1%)	-	-	16 (5%)	-	5 (2%)
Hemorrhage	10 (3%)	4 (1%)	1 (<1%)	-	15 (5%)	-	5 (2%)
Hypertension	2 (<1%)	9 (3%)	4 (1%)	-	15 (5%)	-	4 (1%)
Atrial fibrillation/flutter (<1%)	-	2	-	-	2 (<1%)	-	-

No DLTs reported and MTD not reached  
 5 of 323 patients (1.5%) discontinued due to treatment-related AEs  
 200mg QD selected as recommended Phase 2 dose

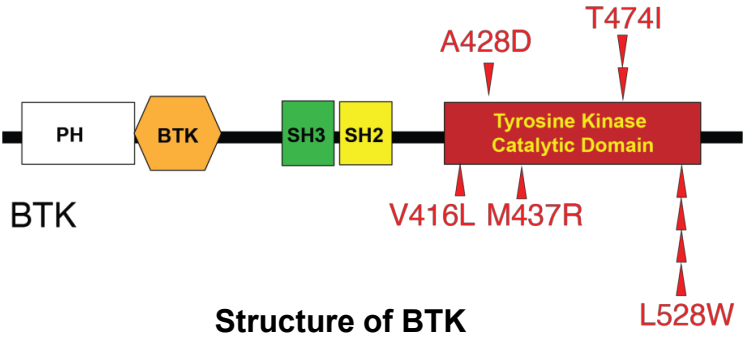
# Acquired BTK mutations on Pirtobrutinib



We identified novel acquired mutations in BTK at the time of disease progression including:

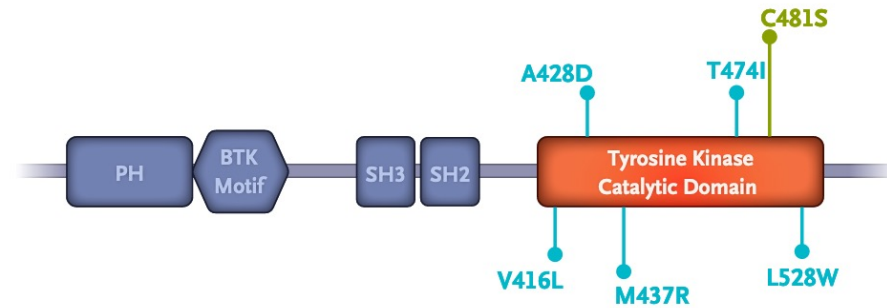
- **BTK L528W**
- **BTK V416L**
- **BTK M437R**
- **BTK T474I**
- **BTK A428D**

These mutations cluster around the tyrosine kinase catalytic domain of BTK.



Additionally, several patients with progressive disease had pre-existing PLCG2 mutations.

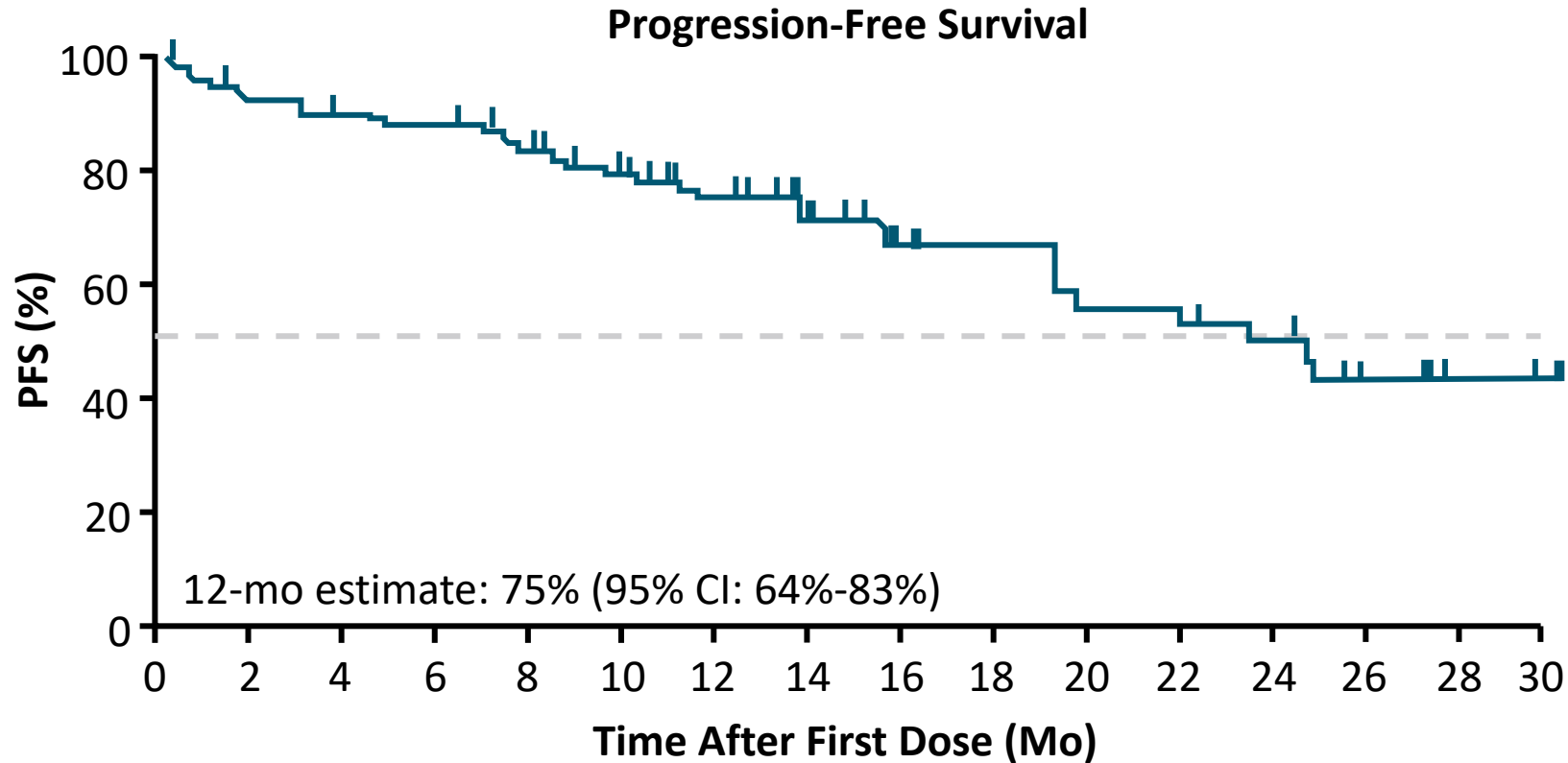
### Mutations Conferring Resistance to BTK Inhibitors



### Binding Affinities of BTK Inhibitors

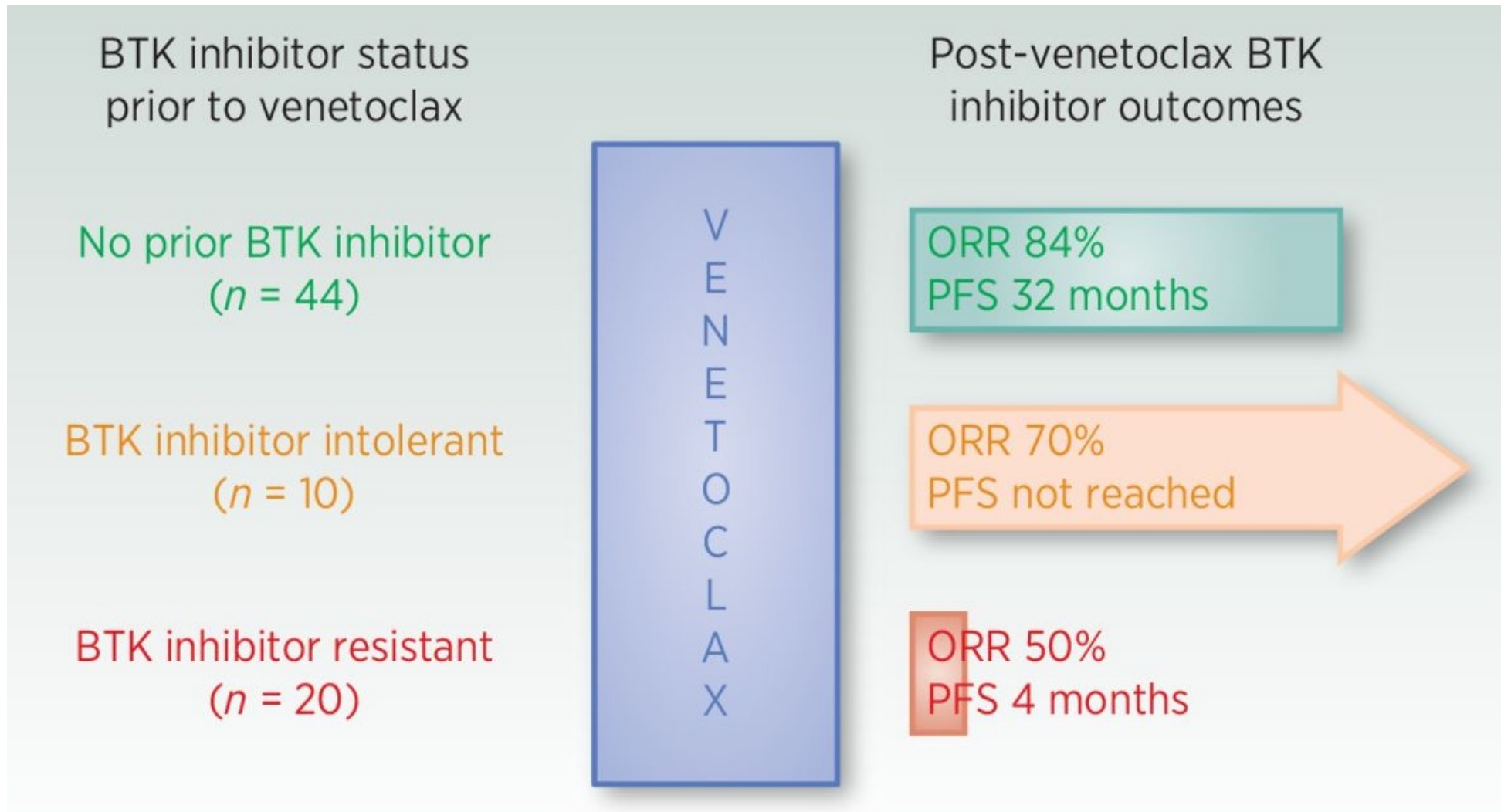
	Noncovalent				Covalent
	Pirtobrutinib	ARQ-531	Vecabrutinib	Fenebrutinib	Ibrutinib
Wild type	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
A428D	None	Decreased	None	None	None
M437R	Decreased	Normal	Decreased	Decreased	Normal
T474I	Decreased	Decreased	Decreased	Normal	Normal
L528W	None	None	Decreased	Normal	None
C481S	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Decreased

# Venetoclax is an Active Option in Ibrutinib-Refractory/Ibrutinib-Intolerant CLL



- Median of 4 prior therapies
- 47% del(17p)
- ORR: 70%

<b>Patients at Risk, n</b>	91	81	79	77	70	61	53	36	28	23	20	18	16	7	4	3
<b>Censored, n</b>	0	2	3	3	6	12	17	32	37	42	42	42	44	51	55	56





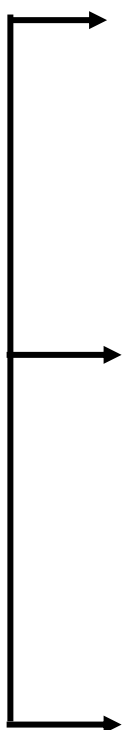
# Next Options Determined by Reason for BTK Inhibitor Discontinuation

## BTK Inhibitor Intolerance

- Alternative BTK inhibitor
- Venetoclax-based therapy
- PI3K inhibitor

## BTK Inhibitor Resistance

- Venetoclax-based therapy
- PI3K inhibitor (untested prospectively/limited data to show)
- *Alternative:* noncovalent BTK inhibitor on a clinical study



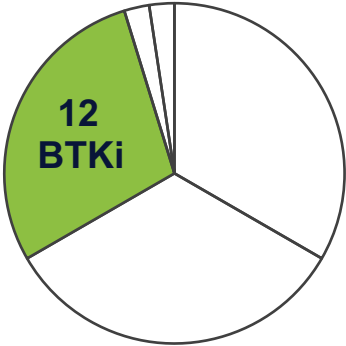
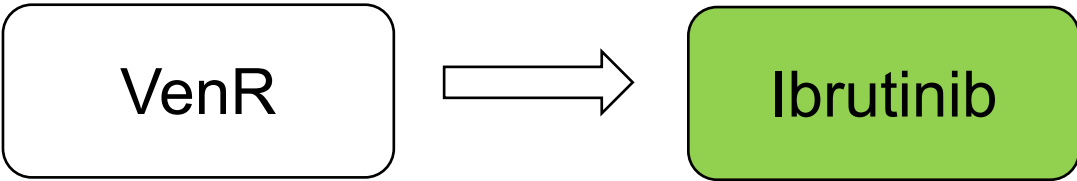
Prior BCL2i

### A Growing List of Options/Less Data

- **Venetoclax-based therapy in retreatment**
  - Ven-G
  - Ven-R
  - Ven monotherapy
- **BTKi**
  - Covalent
  - *Non-covalent*
- **PI3Ki**
  - idelalisib-R
  - *duvelisib*

Time limited for 12 mo; treat to completion of therapy, CLL progression, transformation, or AE

# Retreatment With Venetoclax Following Time-Limited Venetoclax-Based Regimens: Response to Ibrutinib



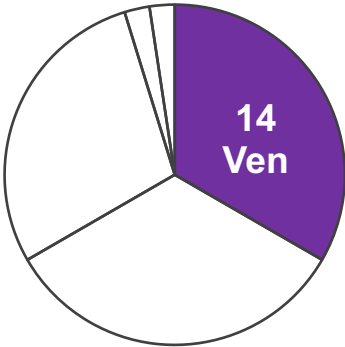
- 9/12 patients completed MURANO therapy regimen
- 2/12 discontinued treatment early due to AE, but had meaningful treatment-free intervals of 857 and 874 days
- 1/12 progressed on active venetoclax therapy and appeared to be Ven refractory

Time on lbr	Best response to lbr
190*	PR
215	PR
250	Not available
359*	PR
364*	PR
374*	PR
431*	PR
458	PR
470*	PR
665*	PR
683*	Not available
1304	PR

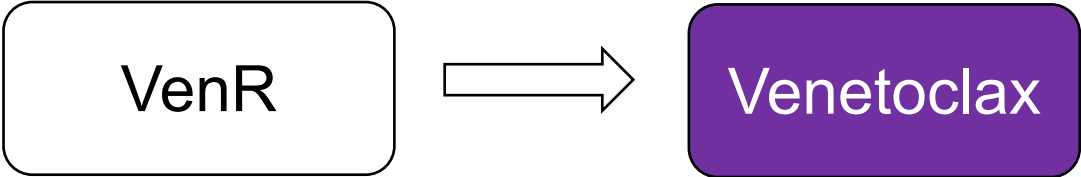
- 8/12 patients have ongoing lbr treatment.
- 3/12 patients have progressed (one death due to PD).
- 1/12 patients did not progress but has started new therapy

**Response rate: 10/10 (100%)**

# Retreatment With Venetoclax Following Time-Limited Venetoclax-Based Regimens: Response to Venetoclax



- 13/14 patients completed MURANO therapy regimen
- 1/14 discontinued treatment early
- 4/14 achieved CR as best response on MURANO



	Time on Ven-based regimen	Best response to Ven-based regimen
Ven	20	Not available
	281*	Not available
	504	PR
Ven R	221*	PR
	59	PR
Ven Ven + Ibr	867*	PR?
VenR (MURANO regimen)	49	PD
	160*	Not available
	175*	Not available
	243	PD
	252*	PR
	259*	PR
	261*	SD
270*	SD	

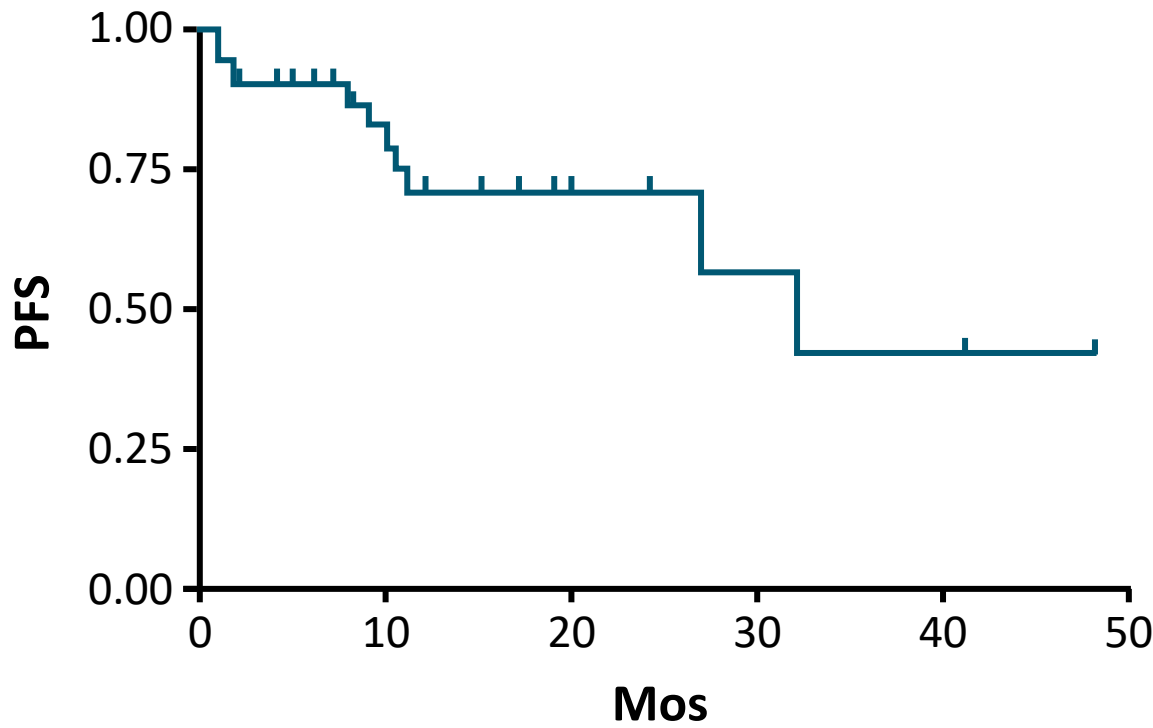
- 9/14 patients have ongoing treatment with Ven-based regimen.
- 2/14 achieved stable disease status – both of which are participants in the substudy and both patients continue therapy.
- 3/14 had PD (one death).

Clinical response rates for patients who received salvage therapy with venetoclax or ibrutinib support early use of venetoclax

**Response rate: 6/10 (60.0%)**

# Efficacy of Therapies After Venetoclax Discontinuation: *BTKi in BTKi-Naive Patients*

Venetoclax → BTKi produces high ORR and durable remissions in BTKi-naive patients

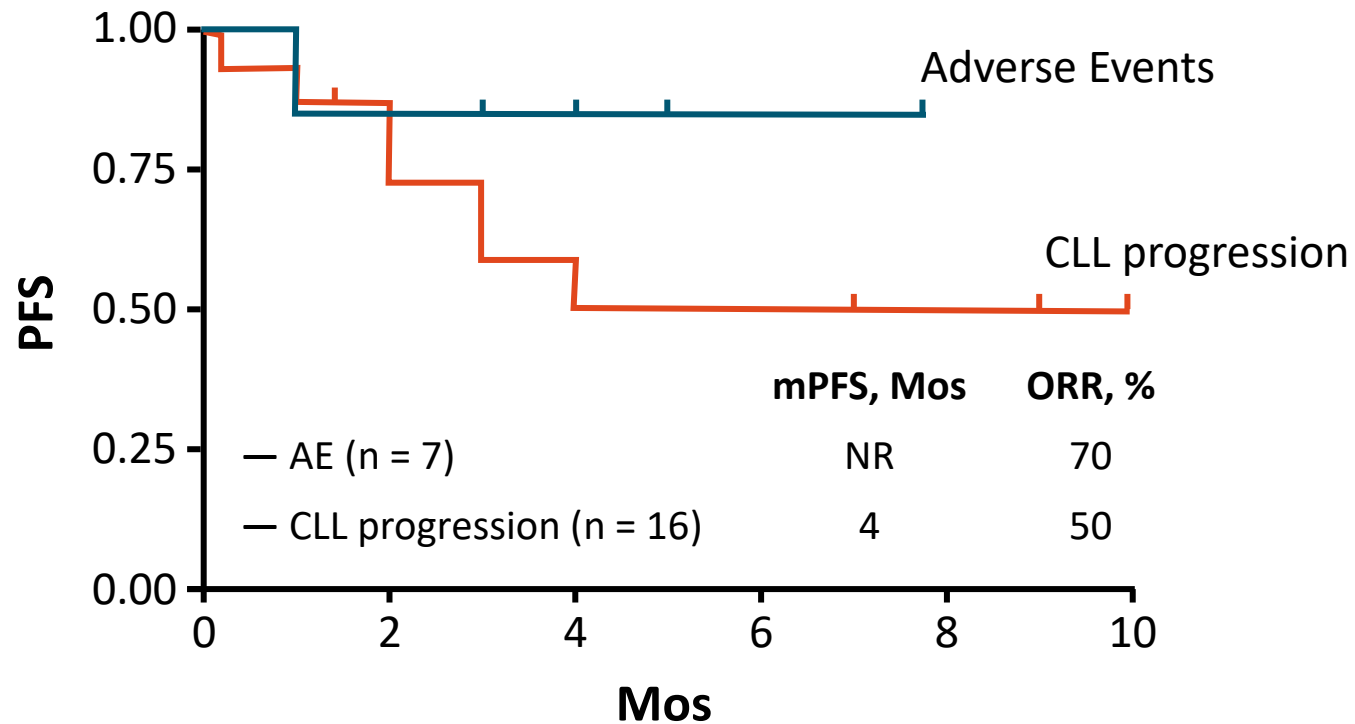


- N = 44 BTKi-naive patients:
- ORR: 83.9%
  - Median PFS: 32 mo
  - Median follow-up: 10.5 mo

**PFS for BTKi in BTKi-Naive Patients Post Venetoclax  
(n = 42)**

# Efficacy of Therapies After Venetoclax Discontinuation: BTKi in BTKi-Exposed Patients

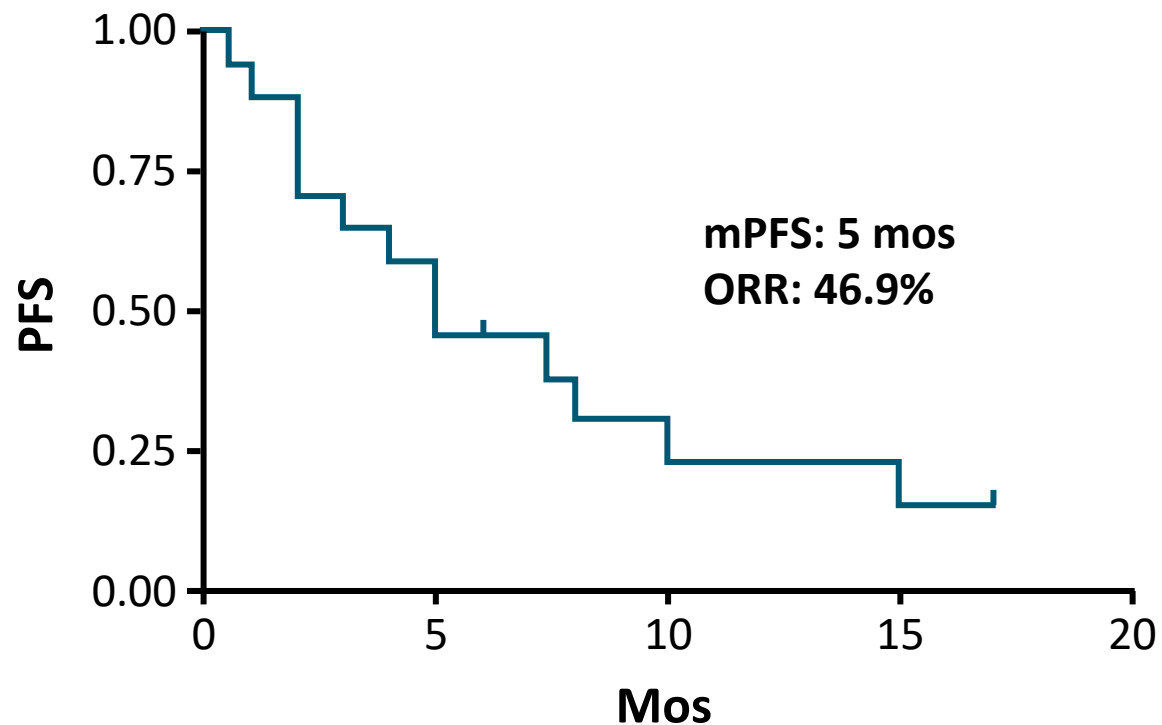
Venetoclax → Response to BTKi in BTKi-exposed patients depends on reason for discontinuation



**PFS for BTKi in BTKi-Exposed Patients  
Post Venetoclax**

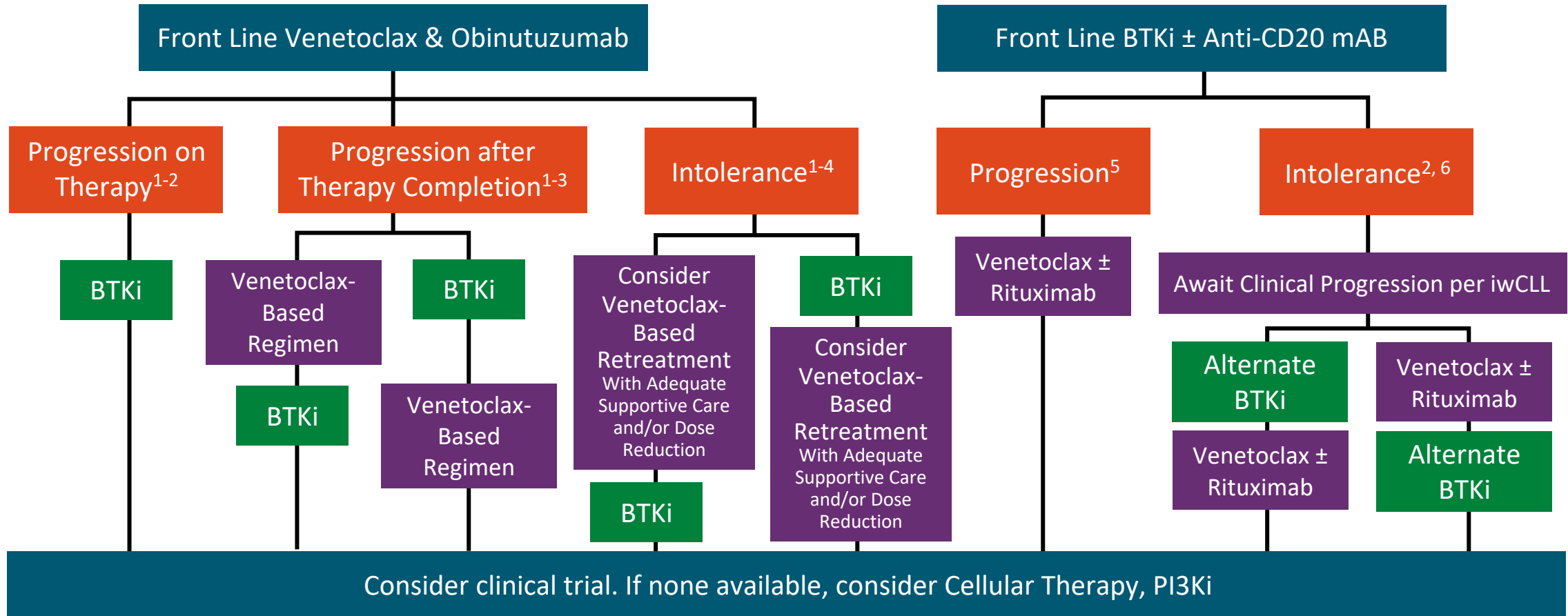
# Efficacy of Therapies After Venetoclax Discontinuation: *PI3Ki in PI3Ki-Naive, BTKi-Exposed Patients*

BTKi → Venetoclax → PI3Ki did not result in durable remissions



PFS for PI3Ki in PI3Ki-Naive, BTKi-Exposed  
Patients Post Venetoclax (n = 17)

# Treatment Algorithm: CT-Free Management of CLL



1. Harrup. ASH 2020. Abstr 3139. 2. Mato. Clin Cancer Res. 2020;26:3589. 3. Thompson. ASH 2020. Abstr 3136.  
 4. Kater. ASH 2020. Abstr 125. 5. Jones. Lancet Oncol. 2018;19:65. 6. Rogers. Haematologica. 2021;[Epub].