

Will PTCy replace ATG as GVHD prophylaxis in unrelated donor HSCT for AML?

YES

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Controversies in **AML**

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No COI to disclose

Controversies in **AML**

Background: GVHD prophylaxis with ATG

- GVHD is associated with considerable morbidity and mortality related to allo-HSCT
- In vivo TCD with ATG has been shown to reduce the incidence of GVHD, particularly in its chronic form and when using PBSC
- ATG represents the standard GVHD prophylaxis in EU in HLA-id sib allo-HSCT or UD allo-HSCT

Table 4. Proposed indications for immunoregulation with ATG in patients given PBSC from allogeneic donors.

	Recommendation for ATG	Dose and timing of ATG
Myeloablative PBSCT from matched sibling donors ³⁸	standard of care	ATG-F 10 mg/kg/day on days -3, -2 and -1.
Myeloablative PBSCT from HLA-matchedunrelated donors 56,6857	standard of care	ATG-F 20 mg/kg/day on days -3, -2 and -1*. ATG-T 0.5 mg/kg on day -2 and 2 mg/kg on days -1 and +1.
RIC-PBSCT fludarabine-busulfan [®]	recommended	ATG-T 2.5 mg/kg/day on days -2 and -1.
Non-myeloablative PBSCT	developmental	/
HIA-haplo-identical stem cell transplantation (Bejing approach)8	standard of care	ATG-T 2.5 mg/kg/day from days -5 to -2.

* some centers use smaller doses such as 15 mil/kit total dose

Baron F et al. Haematologica 2017

ATG in GVHD prophylaxis

Table 1. Summary of 3 randomized trials

	GIT	MO ^{6,7}	Fir	nke ^{8,9}	Kr	öger ¹⁰	т	otal		
	ATG	noATG	ATG	noATG	ATG	noATG	ATG	noATG	RR	P
Patients, n	56	53	103	98	83	72	242	223	-	-
aGVHD IHV, %	50%	70%	33%	51%	11%	18%	31%	46%	1.47	.001
aGVHD IIHV, %	23%	43%	11%	24%	2%	8%	12%	25%	2.08	.0003
cGVHD, %	37%	60%	26%	50%	22%	46%	28%	52%	1.83	.00001
ext cGVHD, %	15%	41%	12%	45%	5%	24%	11%	37%	3.43	.00001
NRM, %	39%	47%	19%	33%	14%	12%	24%	31%	1.27	.1
Relapse, %	23%	21%	33%	28%	32%	25%	29%	25%	0.84	.2
Survival, %	55%	56%	55%	43%	74%	77%	61%	59%	1.04	.6

ext, extensive; GITMO, Italian Cooperative Transplant Group; NRM, non-relapse mortality; RR, relative risk of patients not receiving ATG as compared with ATG.

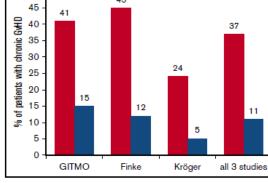


Figure 1. Percentage of patients with severe cGVHD in 3 randomized trials. (GITMO.^{6.7} Finke.^{8.9} Kröger.¹⁰ and combined data [total] are shown).

ARTICLES | VOLUME 17, ISSUE 2, P164-173, FEBRUARY 2016

Pretreatment with anti-thymocyte globulin versus no anti-thymocyte globulin in patients with haematological malignancies undergoing haemopoietic cell transplantation from unrelated donors: a randomised, controlled, open-label, phase 3, multicentre trial

Prof Irwin Walker, MBBS Prof Stephen Couban, MD • Prof Felix Couture, MD • Prof Gerald Devins, PhD • Mohamed Elemary, MD • Prof Geneviève Gallagher, MD • Holly Kerr, RN • John Kuruvilla, MD • Prof Stephanie J Lee, MD • John Moore, MD • Prof Thomas Nevill, MD • Gizelle Popradi, MD • Prof Jean Roy, MD • Kirk R Schultz, MD • David Szwajcer, MD • Prof Cynthia Toze, MD • Ronan Foley, MD • on behalf of the Canadian Blood and Marrow Transplant Group • Show less

Bacigalupo A. Blood Adv 2017

no ATG ATG

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ATG for GVHD prophylaxis: counterpoints

- Not all ATG formulations are the same → interpatient variability and lack of head-to-head comparative studies
- Delayed immune reconstitution¹
- Higher infectious risk, EBV reactivation and PTLD^{2,3}
- Higher relapse incidence⁴

¹Mohty M et al. Bone Marrow Transplant 2000 ²Bacigalupo A et al. Blood 2001 ³Walker I et al. Lancet Oncol 2016 ⁴Soiffer RJ et al. Blood 2011

The PTCy "revolution"

 In vivo T-cell depletion with the use of PTCy initially pioneered in the Haplo setting, resulted in favorable rates of both acute and chronic GVHD¹

- Ease manageability and availability, low cost, no PTLD are other potential advantages of PTCy
- Use of PTCy has subsequently been expanded to other donor settings, i.e. HLA-identical sibling, MUD and MMUD, confirming its safety and efficacy as GVHD prophylactic agent^{2,3,4}

¹Luznik L et al. Biol Blood Marrow Transplant 2008 ²Battipaglia G et al. Cancer 2021 ³Ruggeri A et al. J Hematol Oncol 2018 ⁴Battipaglia G et al. Blood 2019

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ATG vs PTCy: pick up the winner



Controversies in **AML**

ATG vs PTCy in UD allo-HSCT

Reference	Population	Donor type	N	Grade II-IV aGVHD	Grade III-IV aGVHD	All grades cGVHD	RI	NRM	PFS	OS	GRFS
Nykolyszyn 2020 (Marseille)	Hem malignancies PBSC	1-Ag MMUD	ATG, n=40 PTCy, n=22	35% 14%	18% 0%	26% 29%	32% 15%	22% 5%	45% 81%	56% 85%	27% 60%
Modi 2021 (USA)	AML, MDS	1-Ag MMUD	ATG, n=51 PTCy, n=25	52.9% 24.4%	19.6% 12%	49% 16%	15.7% 17%	31.4% 17%	52.9% 66%	56.9% 70.3%	21.6% 55.5%
Moiseev 2016 (Russian federation)	AML, ALL PBSC	MUD 1 or 2-Ag MMUD	ATG, n=125 PTCy, n=86	45% 19%	27% 4%	65% 16%	27% 19%	36% 16%	38% 65%	40% 69%	12% 52%
Ballen 2020 (Spain)	Hem malignancies	MUD 1-Ag MMUD	ATG, n=60 PTCy, n=72	67% 46%	34% 3%	23% 24%	22% 26%	24% 22%	51% 50%	58% 60%	44% 40%
Battipaglia, 2019 (EBMT)	AML	1-Ag MMUD	ATG, n=179 PTCy, n=93	32% 30%	19% 9%	36% 39%	37% 29%	29% 16%	34% 55%	38% 56%	21% 37%
Brissot, 2020 (EBMT)	AML	MUD	ATG, n=1452 PTCy, n=154	29.2% 28.8%	9% 8.8%	33.6% 31.4%	23.7% 25.2%	16.7% 15.2%	59.6% 59.7%	64.8% 62.7%	49.3% 41.6%

ATG vs PTCy: pick up the winner



10/10 MUD allo-HSCT



ATG vs PTCy in 10/10 MUD: GVHD

Table 2 Cumulative incidence of GVHD 180-day acute GVHD II–IV 180-day acute GVHD III–IV 2-year chronic GVHD 2-year ext. chronic GVHD PTCY 28.8% [22.2-35.7] 8.8% [5.1-13.7] 31.4% [23.3-39.8] 18.5% [12-26.1] ATG 29.2% [26.8-31.6] 9% [7.6–10.6] 33.6% [31-36.2] 13.1% [11.2–15] p value 0.68 0.89 0.43 0.11

Abbreviations: ATG antithymocyte globulin, Ext extensive, GVHD graft-versus host disease, PTCY post-transplantation cyclophosphamide

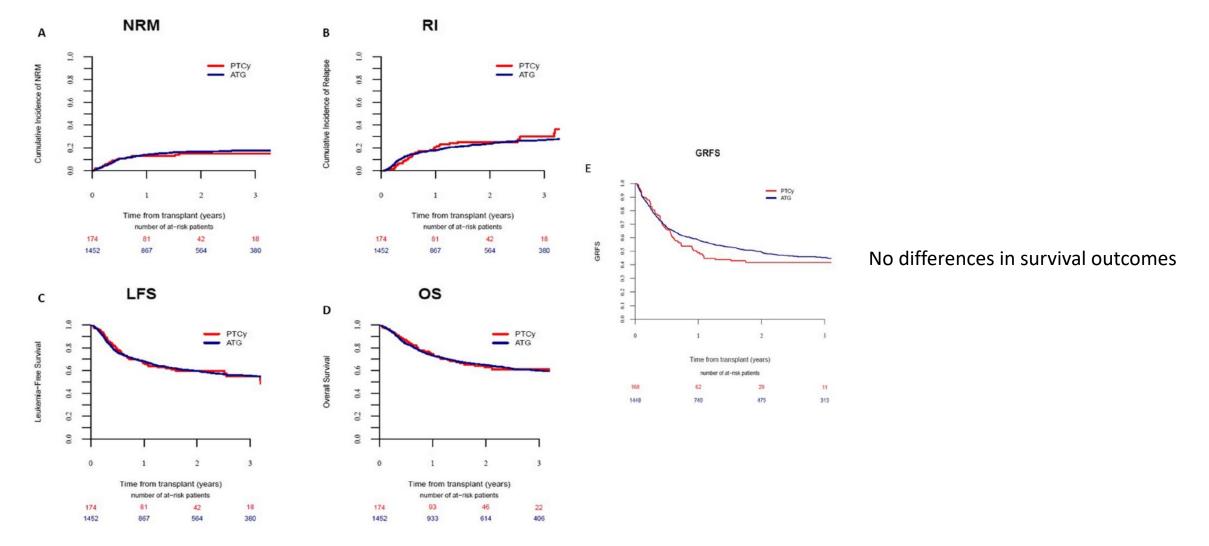
Table 3 Multivariate analysis for GVHD

	Acute GVHD II-IV	Acute GVHD II–IV		IV	Chronic GVHD		Ext. chronic GVHD	
	HR (95% CI)	p value	HR (95% CI)	p value	HR (95% CI)	p value	HR (95% CI)	p value
ATG vs PTCY	0.98 (0.66–1.46)	0.93	0.84 (0.42–1.71)	0.64	1.22 (0.79–1.87)	0.37	0.64 (0.37–1.09)	0.09
Age (per 10 years)	1 (0.91–1.09)	0.92	1.01 (0.86–1.18)	0.92	1.06 (0.97–1.16)	0.20	1.03 (0.89–1.18)	0.73
sec. AML vs de novo	1.23 (0.95–1.61)	0.12	1.26 (0.79–2)	0.34	1.01 (0.76–1.33)	0.96	1.62 (1.1–2.39)	0.01
Adverse cytogenetics vs other	0.94 (0.74–1.21)	0.65	1.12 (0.73–1.71)	0.60	0.73 (0.56–0.96)	0.03	0.61 (0.39–0.95)	0.03
Female donor-male recipient vs other	1.27 (0.96–1.68)	0.10	1.67 (1.05–2.66)	0.03	1.07 (0.79–1.45)	0.65	1.05 (0.66–1.67)	0.83
RIC vs MAC	0.79 (0.62–1)	0.046	0.89 (0.59–1.36)	0.60	0.97 (0.76–1.23)	0.79	0.78 (0.54–1.14)	0.20
KPS ≥ 90	0.83 (0.65–1.06)	0.13	0.64 (0.42–0.97)	0.03	0.91 (0.71–1.17)	0.45	0.92 (0.63–1.34)	0.67
Patient CMV positivity	1.05 (0.85–1.31)	0.64	1.01 (0.68–1.48)	0.98	1.28 (1.03–1.6)	0.03	1.05 (0.75–1.47)	0.77
Donor CMV positivity	1 (0.81–1.23)	0.99	1.06 (0.73–1.53)	0.77	0.97 (0.79–1.2)	0.80	1.32 (0.96–1.82)	0.09
Year of transplantation	1.01 (0.96–1.06)	0.75	1.03 (0.94–1.12)	0.57	1 (0.95–1.05)	0.94	1.07 (0.99–1.16)	0.09
PBSC vs BM	1.05 (0.75–1.47)	0.77	1.1 (0.6–2)	0.76	1.1 (0.78–1.55)	0.59	1.37 (0.79–2.4)	0.26

No differences in GVHD incidence

Brissot E et al. J Hematol Oncol 2020

ATG vs PTCy in 10/10 MUD: survival



Brissot E et al. J Hematol Oncol 2020

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ATG vs PTCy in 10/10 MUD: available data

 \rightarrow no differences between the two GVHD prophylaxis strategies

 \rightarrow PTCy is safe and feasible in 10/10 MUD allo-HSCT

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ATG vs PTCy: pick up the winner



What about 1-Ag MMUD allo-HSCT?



TRANSPLANTATION

Posttransplant cyclophosphamide vs antithymocyte globulin in HLA-mismatched unrelated donor transplantation

Giorgia Battipaglia,^{1,2} Myriam Labopin,^{1,3,4} Nicolaus Kröger,⁵ Antonin Vitek,⁶ Boris Afanasyev,⁷ Inken Hilgendorf,⁸ Johannes Schetelig,⁹ Arnold Ganser,¹⁰ Didier Blaise,¹¹ Maija Itälä-Remes,¹² Jakob R. Passweg,¹³ Francesca Bonifazi,¹⁴ Jurgen Finke,¹⁵ Annalisa Ruggeri,¹⁶ Arnon Nagler,^{3,17} and Mohamad Mohty^{1,3,4}

Inclusion criteria

Age \geq 18 years

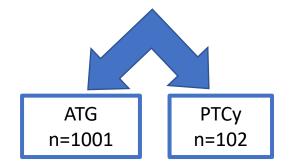
Diagnosis of AML (all disease status allowed)

Transplant from 1Ag-MMUD

High-resolution HLA-allele typing available in EBMT registry

Use of either ATG or PTCy as GVHD prevention strategy

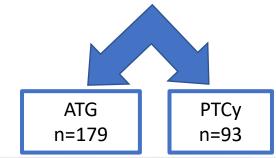
Transplant performed between 2011-2017



Propensity score matching was performed to reduce and eliminate confounding effects:

Each identified PTCy was matched with 2 ATG using the nearest neighbor or exact matching

Factors included in the propensity score model were: Disease status at time of allo-HSCT, conditioning regimen, age, secondary AML, female donor to male recipient, source of stem cells, patient and donor CMV serology status.

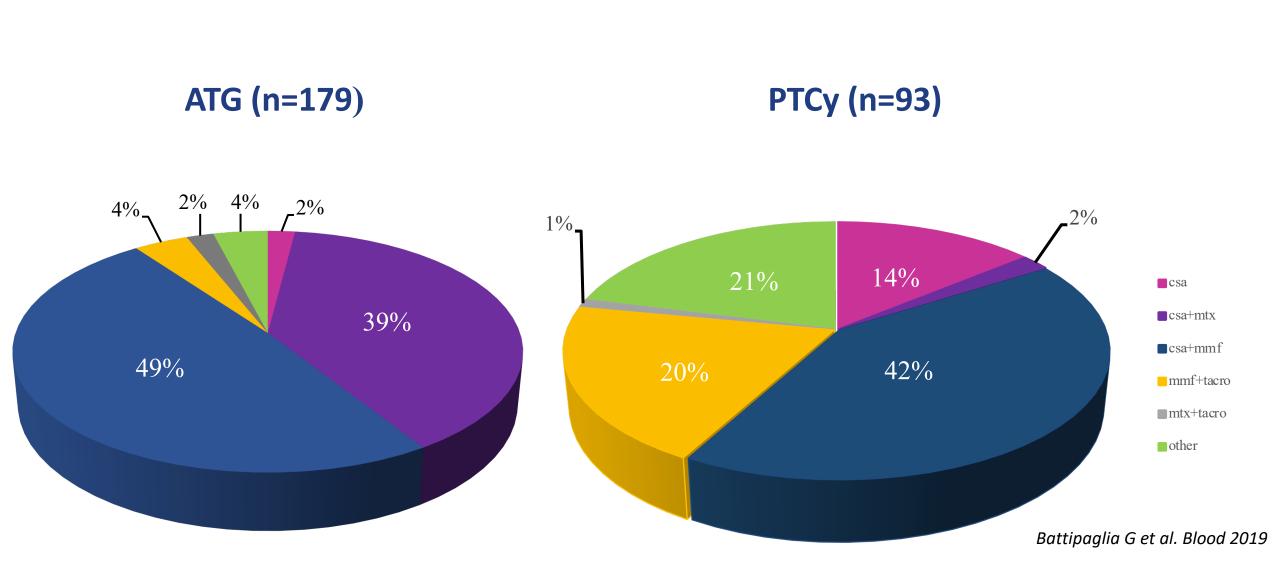


Patients and transplant characteristics (after pair-matching)

Characteristics	ATG, n=179 (%)	PTCy, n=93 (%)	p-value
Median age at allo-HSCT, years (range)	53 (19-75)	51 (20-73)	0.98
F/M	81 (45) / 98(55)	56(60) / 37(40)	<0.02
Secondary AML	36 (20)	17 (18)	0.72
Disease status at allo-HSCT CR1 CR2/3 Active disease	100 (56) 28 (16) 51 (28)	51 (55) 15 (16) 27 (29)	0.99
Karnofsky performance status < 80%	12 (7)	3 (3)	0.24
Female donor into male recipient	18 (10)	10 (11)	0.86
Interval from diagnosis to allo-HSCT, months (range)	6 (2-63)	6 (2-47)	0.98
Year of allo-HSCT (range)	2014 (2011-2017)	2015 (2011-2017)	<0.01
Conditioning regimen MAC RIC	90 (50) 89 (50)	47 (50) 46 (50)	0.97
Source of stem cells BM PBSC	15 (8) 164 (92)	8 (9) 85 (91)	0.95
Median follow-up, months (range)	27 (2-83)	14 (2-56)	<0.01

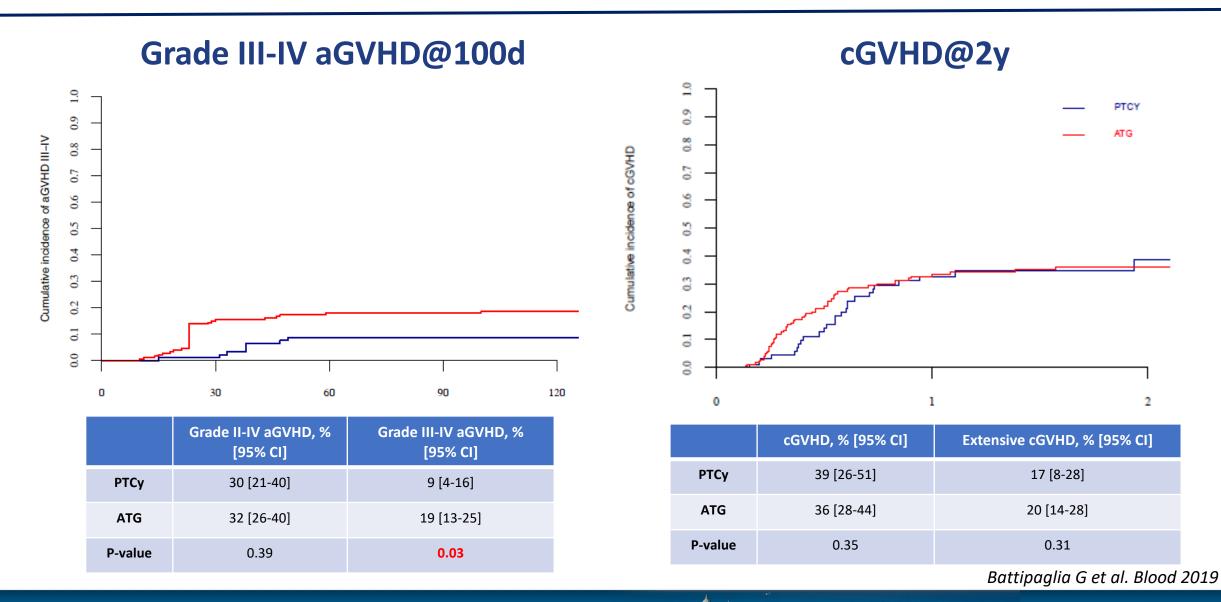
Battipaglia G et al. Blood 2019

Associated GVHD prophylaxis



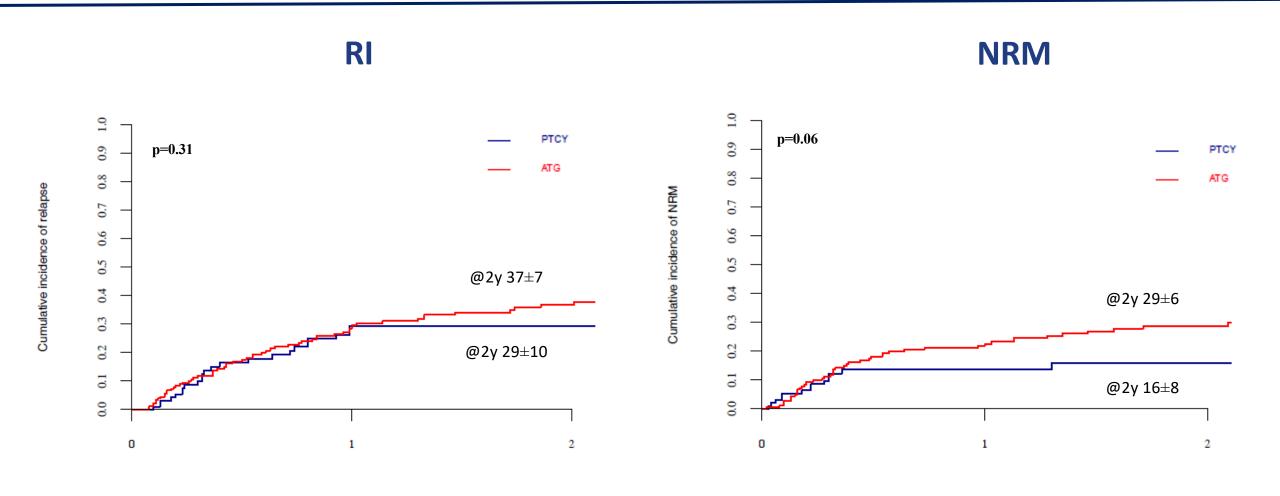
Controversies in **AML**

Acute and chronic GVHD



Controversies in **AML**

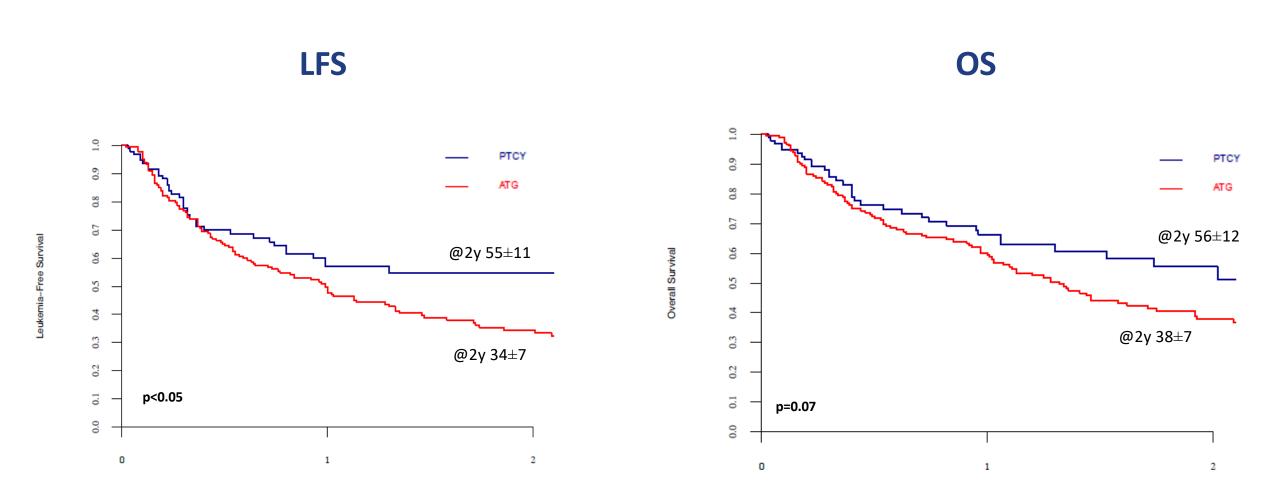
RI and NRM at 2 years



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Controversies in **AML**

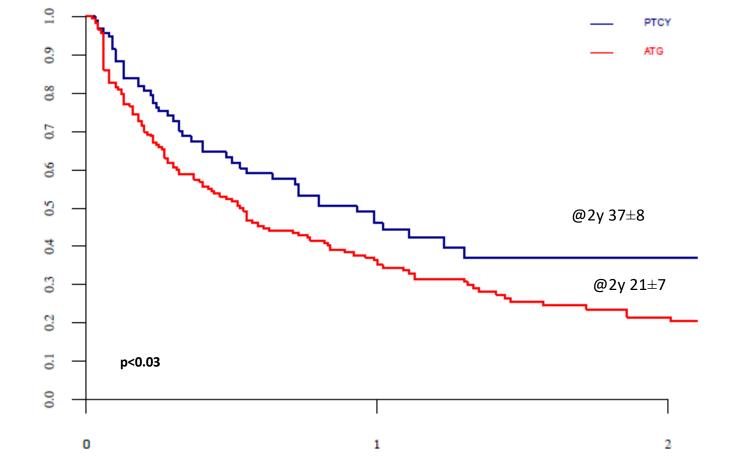
LFS and OS at 2 years



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Controversies in **AML**

GRFS at 2 years



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Controversies in AML

GRFS

Subgroups analysis: PTCY or ATG with CsA+MMF

	Grade II-IV aGVHD, % [95% CI]	Grade III-IV aGVHD, % [95% CI]	2y-cGVHD, any grade [95% CI]	2y-cGVHD, extensive [95% CI]
PTCy (n=38)	27 [14-42]	8 [2-19]	28 [13-46]	19 [5-40]
ATG (n=87)	36 [26-47]	22 [14-32]	31 [21-42]	21 [12-31]
P-value	0.23	0.07	0.42	0.48

	LFS, % [95% CI]	OS, % [95% CI]	GRFS [95% CI]	RI [95% CI]	NRM [95% CI]
PTCy (n=38)	58 [41-76]	59 [41-77]	40 [19-60]	31 [15-48]	11 [3-23]
ATG (n=87)	29 [19-39]	33 [22-43]	14 [6-22]	38 [27-49]	33 [22-43]
P-value	0.08	0.12	<0.02	0.52	0.07

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Subgroups analysis: CR at allo-HSCT

	Grade II-IV aGVHD, % [95% Cl]	Grade III-IV aGVHD, % [95% CI]	2y-cGVHD, any grade [95% CI]	2y-cGVHD, extensive [95% Cl]
PTCY (n=66)	32 [21-43]	8 [3-16]	45 [28-60]	21 [10-34]
ATG (n=128)	30 [22-38]	16 [10-24]	37 [28-46]	23 [15-32]
P-value	0.98	0.10	0.71	0.74

	LFS, % [95% CI]	OS, % [95% CI]	GRFS [95% CI]	RI [95% CI]	NRM [95% CI]
PTCY (n=66)	63 [50-77]	63 [48-78]	41 [26-56]	22 [12-34]	14 [6-26]
ATG (n=128)	42 [33-52]	45 [35-54]	25 [16-34]	30 [22-39]	27 [19-36]
P-value	0.04	<0.05	<0.05	0.29	0.13

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Subgroups analysis: PBSC as stem cell source

	Grade II-IV aGVHD, % [95% CI]	Grade III-IV aGVHD, % [95% CI]	2y-cGVHD, any grade [95% CI]	2y-cGVHD, extensive [95% CI]
PTCY (n=85)	29 [20-39]	8 [4-16]	38 [24-51]	19 [10-31]
ATG (n=164)	32 [25-39]	18 [13-25]	36 [28-44]	20 [14-28]
P-value	0.41	0.04	0.61	0.72

	LFS, % [95% Cl]	OS, % [95% CI]	GRFS [95% CI]	RI [95% CI]	NRM [95% CI]
PTCY (n=85)	57 [45-69]	60 [48-72]	37 [24-50]	29 [19-40]	14 [7-24]
ATG (n=164)	34 [26-43]	38 [30-47]	23 [15-30]	37 [29-45]	28 [21-36]
P-value	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.48	0.04

Battipaglia G et al. Blood 2019

ATG vs PTCy in UD: metanalysis

In the setting of unrelated donor allo-HSCT, prophylaxis based on PTCy compared to ATG has shown to be associated to:

- Lower incidence of grade II-IV aGVHD
- Lower incidence of grade III-IV aGVHD
- Lower NRM and EBV-related complications
- Higher OS

No differences between the 2 GVHD prophylaxis strategies in terms of:

- cGVHD
- RI
- CMV reactivation and BKV-related HC

Tang L et al. Front Oncol 2023

Controversies in **AML**

Is PTCy the answer?

• Studies comparing Haplo to UD showed no differences in transplant outcomes^{1,2}

Controversies in AML

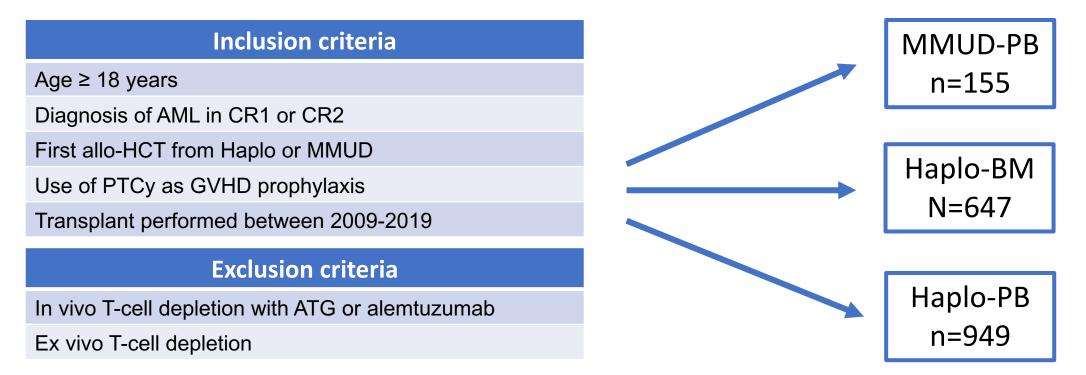


¹Piemontese S J Hematol Oncol 2017 ²Ciurea et al, Blood 2015

ARTICLE

Post-transplant cyclophosphamide in one-antigen mismatched unrelated donor transplantation versus haploidentical transplantation in acute myeloid leukemia: a study from the Acute Leukemia Working Party of the EBMT

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Patients and transplant characteristics

Characteristics (%)	MMUD-PB, n=155	Haplo-BM, n=647	Haplo-PB, n=949	p-value
Median age at allo-HSCT, years (range) Age > 55	52 (18-79) 70 (45)	52 (18-79) 298 (46)	55 (18-76) 510 (54)	<0.01
F/M	67 (43) / 88 (57)	287 (44) / 359 (56)	413 (43.5) / 536 (56.5)	0.93
Secondary AML	31 (20)	65 (10)	148 (16)	<0.01
Disease status at allo-HCT CR1 CR2	124 (80) 31 (20)	474 (73) 173 (27)	712 (75) 237 (25)	0.22
HLA mismatch Class I Class II	119 (77) 36 (23)	-	-	
Karnofsky performance status < 90	35 (24)	125 (20)	214 (24)	0.24
Female donor to male recipient	17 (11)	131 (20)	196 (21)	0.02
Interval from diagnosis to allo-HSCT, months (range)	5.7 (1.3-86.3)	6.2 (1.8-82.6)	5.9 (0.8-154.9)	0.16
Year of allo-HSCT (range)	2018 (2012-2019)	2016 (2009-2019)	2017 (2010-2019)	<0.01
Conditioning regimen RIC MAC	72 (46.5) 83 (53.5)	190 (29.4) 457 (70.6)	394 (41.5) 555 (58.5)	<0.01
Median follow-up, years (95% CI)	1.9 (1.3 - 2.1)	3 (2.7 - 3.3)	1.9 (1.7 - 2)	-

Battipaglia G et al. Bone Marrow Transplant 2022

Results

- The most frequently used conditioning regimen in the Haplo- setting was TBF, both as MAC and RIC. Flu-Cy-TBI was also frequently used as RIC.
- Bu-Flu followed by TBF were the preferred conditioning regimens, both as MAC and RIC, in the MMUD-PB group. Flu-Cy-TBI was also frequently used as RIC.
- A CNI (mainly CsA) with MMF were the most frequent adjuvant immunosuppressive agents in all groups.
- At 30 days, CI of neutrophil engraftment was 92%, 88% and 90% in MMUD-PB, Haplo-BM and Haplo-PB, respectively (p=0.01)
- Median time to neutrophil engraftment was 15 (range 5-42), 19 (range 1-62) and 16 (range 1-78) in MMUD-PB, Haplo-BM and Haplo-PB, respectively.

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Results: acute and chronic GVHD

Univariate analysis

Outcome [95% CI]	MMUD-PB	Haplo-BM	Haplo-PB	p-value
Grade II-IV aGVHD@100 days	30 [23-38]	20 [17-23]	32 [29-35]	<0.01
Grade III-IV aGVHD@100 days	12 [7-18]	5 [4-8]	12 [10-14]	<0.01
cGVHD all grades@2 years*	34 [25-43]	26 [22-29]	34 [30-37]	0.01
Extensive cGVHD@2 years*	14 [8-22]	9 [7-11]	13 [10-15]	0.09

*Due to the longer follow-up in Haplo-BM, outcomes were censored at 2 years.

Multivariate analysis*

	Grade II-IV Acute GVHD		Grade III-IV Acute GVHD		Chronic GVHD, all grades		Chronic GVHD, extensive	
	HR (95% CI)	p value	HR (95% CI)	p value	HR (95% CI)	p value	HR (95% CI)	p value
MMUD-PB (ref) Haplo-BM Haplo-PB	1 0.70 (0.47-1.03) 1.17 (0.83-1.65)	0.07 0.37	1 0.44 (0.24-0.81) 1.05 (0.63-1.78)	<0.01 0.84	1 0.74 (0.42-1.29) 1.08 (0.66-1.78)	0.29 0.76	1 0.87 (0.35-2.14) 1.17 (0.51-2.66)	0.76 0.71

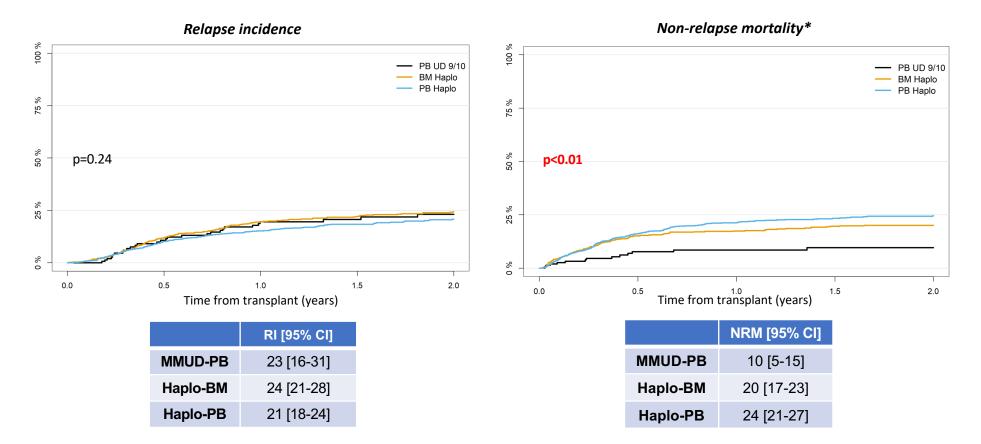
*Adjusted for donor type and stem cell source, secondary AML, F donor to M recipient, conditioning regimen intensity, age, year of transplant, patient CMV serology, disease status at transplant (CR1 vs CR2)

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Controversies in **AML**

Results: NRM and RI

Due to the longer follow-up in Haplo-BM, outcomes were censored at 2 years.



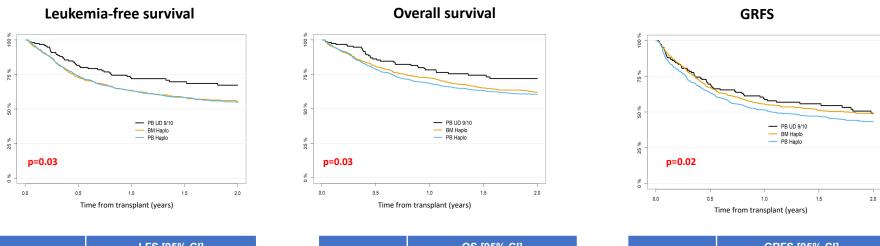
*main cause of death was attributable to infections in the Haplo groups (Haplo-BM 28%, Haplo-PB 27% versus 11% in MMUD-PB)

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Controversies in **AML**

Results: LFS, OS and GRFS

Due to the longer follow-up in Haplo-BM, outcomes were censored at 2 years.



	LFS [95% CI]		
MMUD-PB	67 [58-75]		
Haplo-BM	56 [51-60]		
Haplo-PB	55 [51-58]		

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	OS [95% CI]
MMUD-PB	72 [63-79]
Haplo-BM	62 [58-66]
Haplo-PB	60 [57-64]

	GRFS [95% CI]		
MMUD-PB	49 [39-58]		
Haplo-BM	49 [44-53]		
Haplo-PB	43 [39-47]		

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Results: MV analysis for survival

Multivariate analysis for RI and NRM*

	RI		NRM		
	HR (95% CI)	p value	HR (95% CI)	p value	
MMUD-PB (ref) Haplo-BM Haplo-PB	1 1.21 (0.80-1.83) 0.96 (0.64-1.43)	0.36 0.83	1 2.28 (1.23-4.24) 2.65 (1.46-4.81)	<0.01 <0.01	

Multivariate analysis for LFS, OS and GRFS

	LFS		OS		GRFS	
	HR (95% CI)	p value	HR (95% CI)	p value		
MMUD-PB (ref) Haplo-BM Haplo-PB	1 1.51 (1.06-2.14) 1.47 (1.05-2.05)	0.02 0.02	1 1.50 (1.02-2.21) 1.51 (1.05-2.19)	0.04 0.03	1 1.02 (0.76-1.36) 1.19 (0.91-1.56)	

*Adjusted for donor type and stem cell source, secondary AML, F donor to M recipient, conditioning regimen intensity, age, year of transplant, patient CMV serology, disease status at transplant (CR1 vs CR2)

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Conclusions

- Available data are still not mature to promote the use of PTCy over ATG in the 10/10 MUD
- Despite mainly retrospective, available data in the 1-Ag MMUD setting favor the use of PTCy over ATG as GVHD prophylaxis
- When facing the "alternative donor" options, preferring a 1-Ag MMUD with PTCy over a Haplo (if timing allows) should be considered

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Controversies in AML