

# Controversies in AML



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SEEPOR HOTEL

**What is the best induction treatment?**

**HMA+VEN**

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# Disclosures of Name Surname

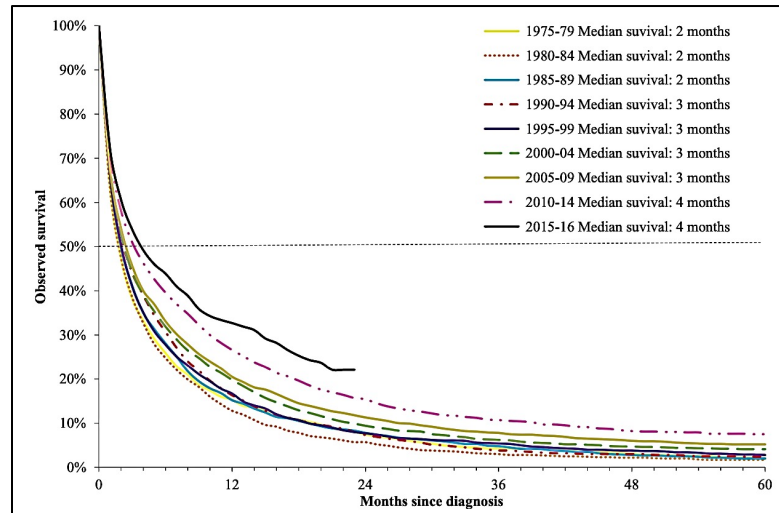
Company name	Research support	Employee	Consultant	Stockholder	Speakers bureau	Advisory board	Other
Abbvie						X	
BMS						X	
Incyte						X	
JAZZ-Pharma					X		



# Historical «uncertainties» using IC

- While progress has been made particularly in younger patients through intensive chemotherapy (IC) and stem cell transplantation (HSCT), the majority of AML patients (> 60 years of age) have historically been considered to be ineligible for intensive therapies because of **comorbidities, more aggressive leukemia biology, and reduced tolerance to intensive therapy**.<sup>1</sup>
- Approximately 80% of patients aged  $\geq 65$  years are predicted to have induction mortality rates of  $\geq 30\%$  with intensive chemotherapy.<sup>3</sup>
- Only **2,4%** of patients aged  $\geq 60$  years are **disease-free at 10 years** after diagnosis (not transplanted setting).<sup>2</sup>
- The ideal IC aims to balance between **efficacy** and therapy-induced **morbidity** and **mortality** without selection bias and still needs to be defined.<sup>1</sup>

Median OS in pts > 65yo<sup>4</sup>



**As a matter of fact...**

Majority of patients with newly diagnosed AML who are age > 60 years receive lower-intensity therapies.<sup>5</sup>

1. Niederweiser D, *Annals of hematology*, 2023; 2. Vasu S. et al., *blood advances*, 2018; 3. Kantarjian et al., *Cancer*, 2006; 4. Shallis RM, *Blood Rev* 2019; 5, Medeiros et al., *Curr Med Res Opin* 2019

# Azacitidine vs conventional care regimens in older patients with newly diagnosed AML with >30% blasts

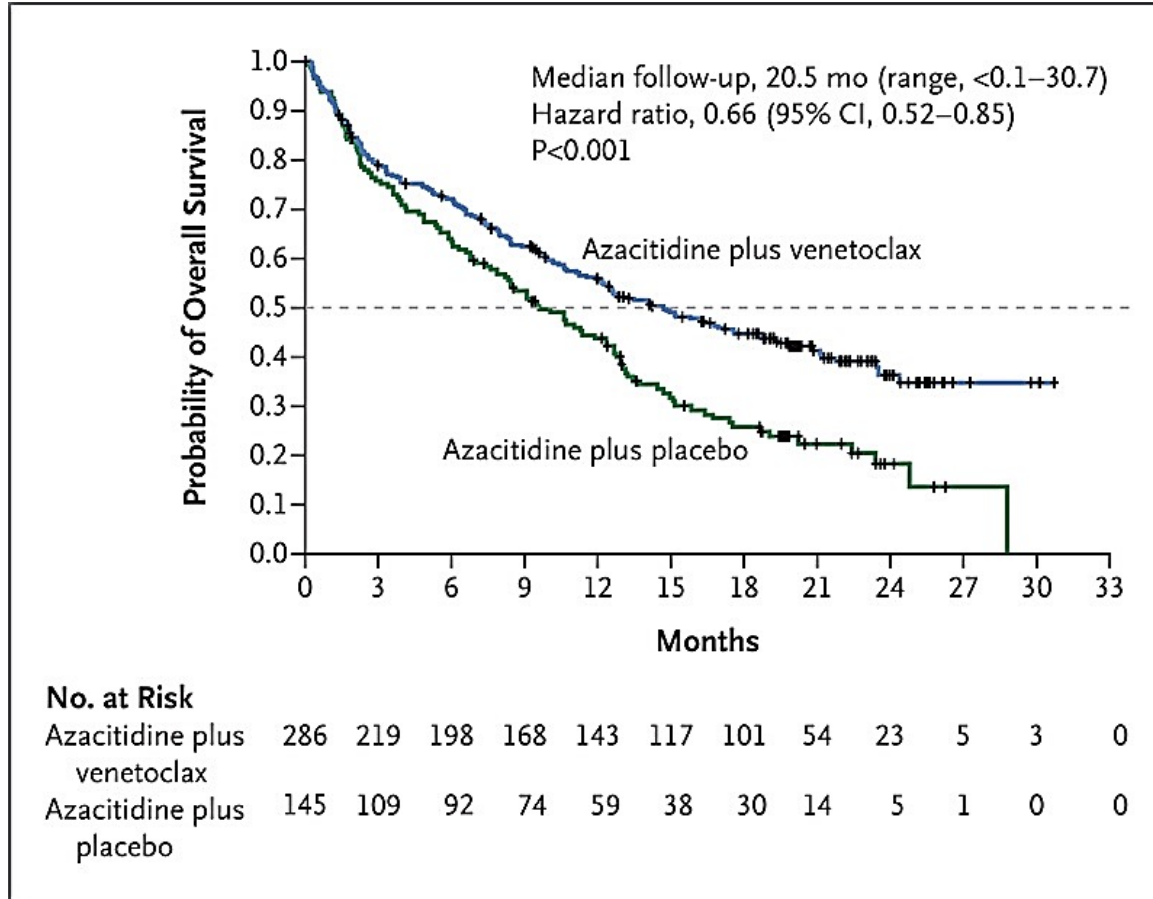
	No. of patients	OS							1-y survival			
		Median		Difference		HR	95% CI	P	%	95% CI	Difference	95% CI
		Months	95% CI	Months	95% CI							
<b>Preselected for BSC only</b>	89											
Azacitidine	44	5.8	3.6-9.7	2.1	-1.0-5.2	0.60	0.38-0.95	.0288	30.3	17.5-44.2	11.7	-6.3-29.8
BSC	45	3.7	2.8-5.7									
<b>Preselected for LDAC</b>	312											
Azacitidine	154	11.2	8.8-13.4	4.8	1.7-7.9	0.90	0.70-1.16	.4270	48.5	40.3-56.2	14.5	3.5-25.5
LDAC	158	6.4	4.8-9.1									
<b>Preselected for IC</b>	87											
Azacitidine	43	13.3	7.2-19.9	1.1	-5.4-7.6	0.85	0.52-1.38	.5032	55.8	39.8-69.1	4.9	-16.2-26.0
IC	44	12.2	7.5-15.1									



Dombret et al., Blood, 2015



# VIALE-A: OUTCOME AND SURVIVAL ANALYSIS



Complete remission plus complete remission with partial hematologic recovery was achieved in 64.7% (95% CI, 58.8 to 70.2) of the patients in the azacitidine–venetoclax group and in 22.8% (95% CI, 16.2 to 30.5) of those in the control group (P<0.001)

The 30-day mortality rate was 6%.

Transfusion independence conversion  
(conversion from dependent to independent)

**VEN+AZA**      **AZA**  
**49%**      **27%**  
(76/155)      (22/81)

RBC and PLATELET

Patients were dependent on RBC and/or platelet transfusions at baseline

Transfusion independence maintenance  
(independent from baseline to post-baseline period)

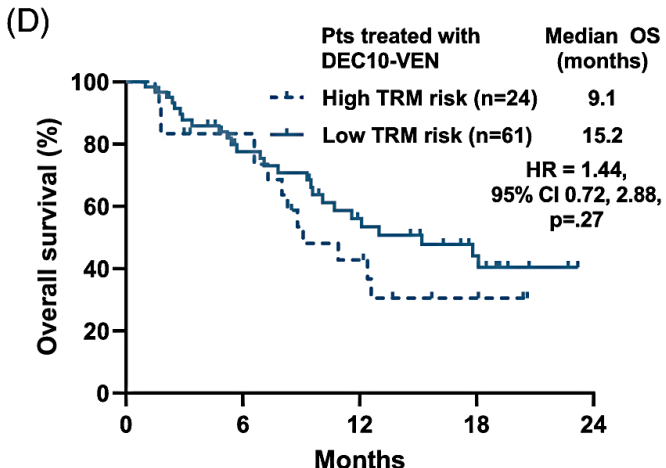
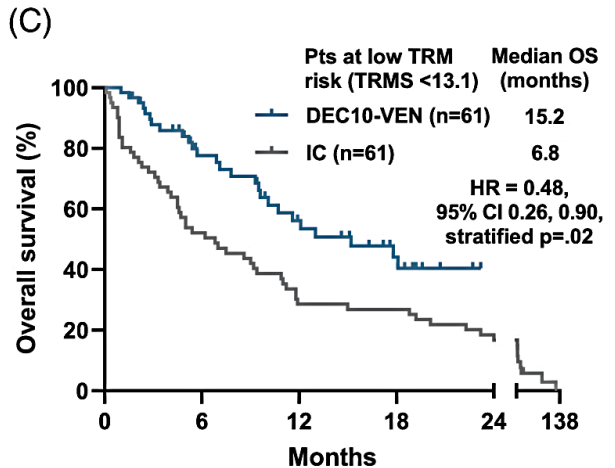
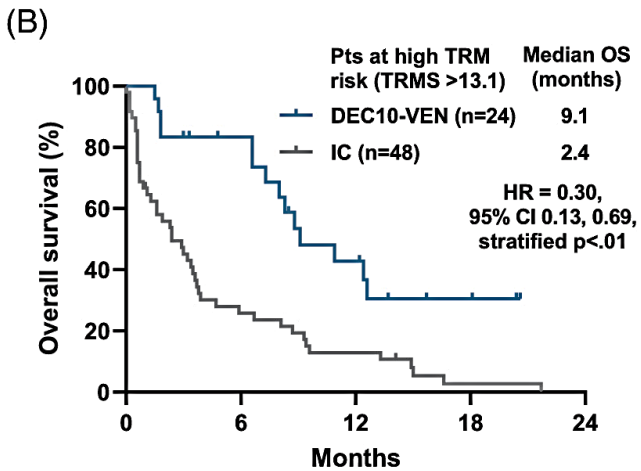
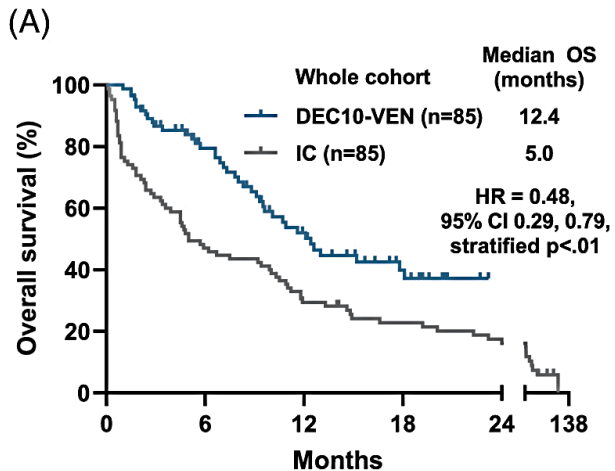
**VEN+AZA**      **AZA**  
**69%**      **42%**  
(90/131)      (27/64)

RBC and PLATELET

Patients were independent of both RBC and platelet transfusions at baseline

Di Nardo et al., NEJM, 2020

# DEC10-VEN vs IC (retrospective)



**(E)**

Subgroups	No. of patients	Median overall survival (months)		Hazard ratio for death (95% confidence interval)
		DEC10-VEN (n=85)	IC (n=405)	
<b>Age</b>				
61-70 yrs	322	10.9	9.9	0.91 (0.57, 1.46)
71-80 yrs	148	18.1	4.7	0.44 (0.30, 0.65)
<b>ECOG PS</b>				
0	77	NR	16.2	0.91 (0.42, 1.96)
1	282	13.0	9.2	0.64 (0.42, 1.00)
2	95	9.2	4.6	0.61 (0.38, 0.98)
<b>BM blasts</b>				
Up to 30%	132	10.7	11.2	1.05 (0.62, 1.79)
>30%	358	13.0	8.1	0.55 (0.39, 0.77)
<b>AML</b>				
De novo	333	NR	10.7	0.46 (0.32, 0.66)
With AHD	69	7.8	6.7	1.11 (0.59, 2.09)
Therapy-related	97	6.9	5.9	0.93 (0.50, 1.72)
<b>Cytogenetics</b>				
Intermediate	294	NR	12.4	0.47 (0.31, 0.70)
Adverse	195	8.0	4.7	0.75 (0.52, 1.09)
Complex	126	7.3	4.5	0.74 (0.42, 1.31)
<b>Mutations</b>				
<i>NPM1</i>	62	NR	11.3	0.39 (0.19, 0.80)
<i>IDH1/2</i>	52	NR	10.1	0.12 (0.06, 0.25)
<i>FLT3-ITD/TKD</i>	87	NR	10.3	0.21 (0.10, 0.43)
<i>RAS</i>	52	12.1	14.8	1.17 (0.58, 2.36)

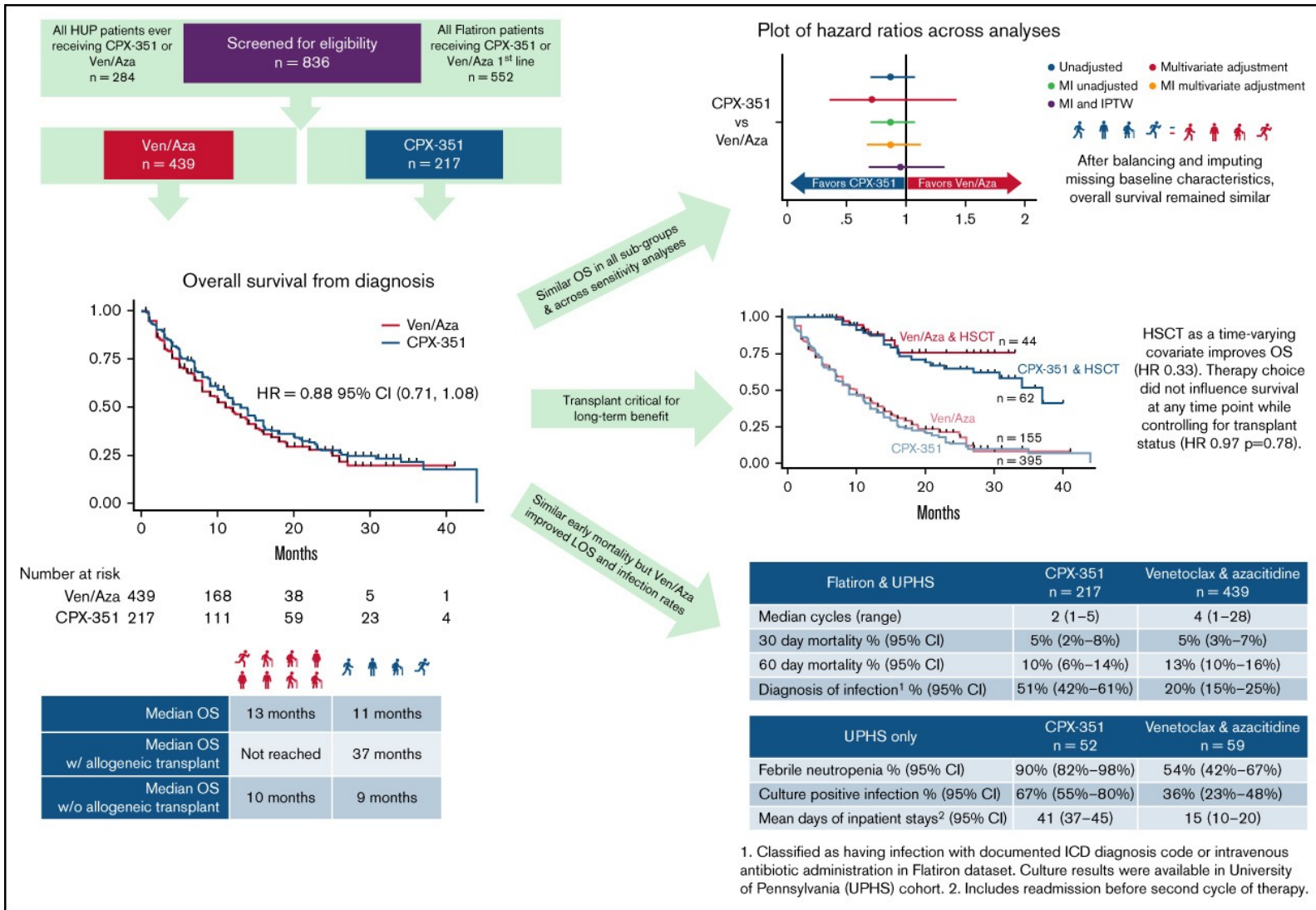
0.00 0.50 1.00 1.50 2.00  
 ← DEC10-VEN better | IC better →

DEC10-VEN compared to intensive che-motherapy offered comparable rates of CR but lower 30-day mortality (0% vs 33%, p=N/A) and lower 60-day mortality (17% vs 44%, p=0,03).

Maiti et al., American Journal of Hematology, 2020



# Real-world effectiveness of CPX-351 vs venetoclax and azacitidine in acute myeloid leukemia



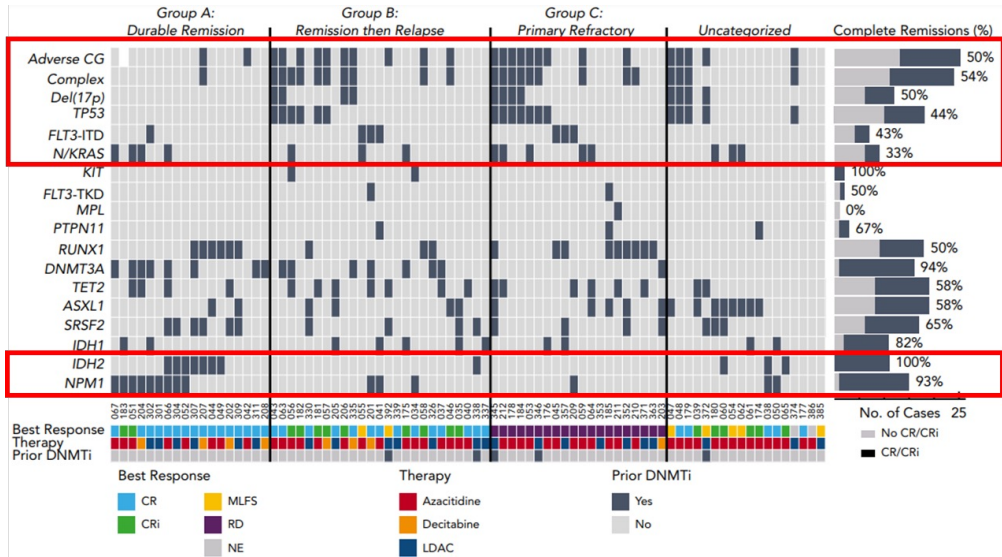
• First-line treatment with CPX-351 or the combination of venetoclax and azacitidine resulted in similar overall survival.

• Early mortality was also similar; infection, neutropenic fever, and inpatient length of stay were higher with CPX-351.

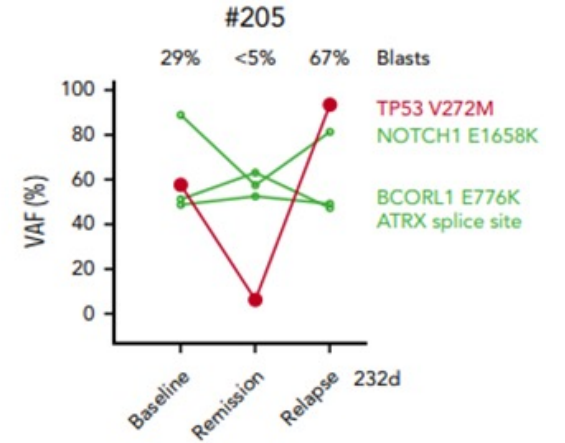
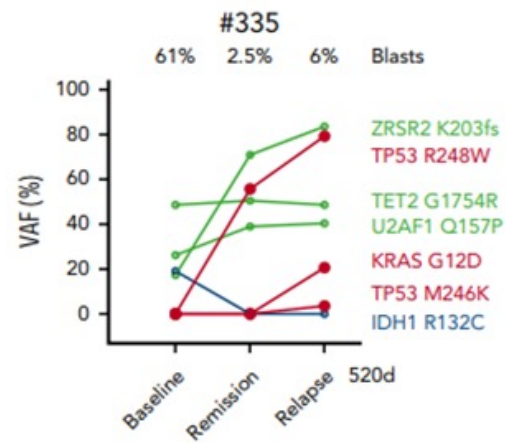
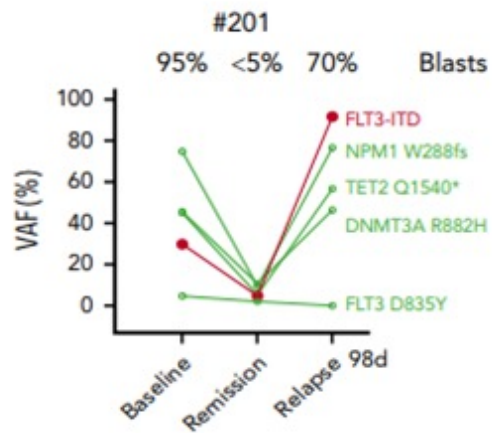
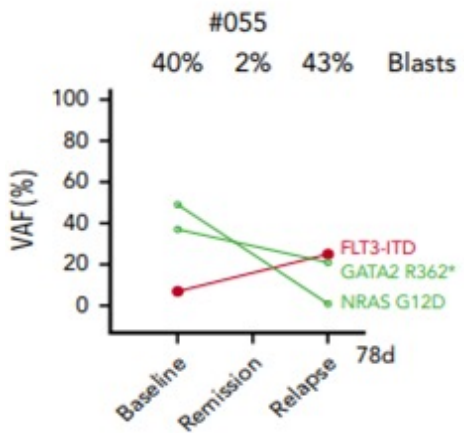
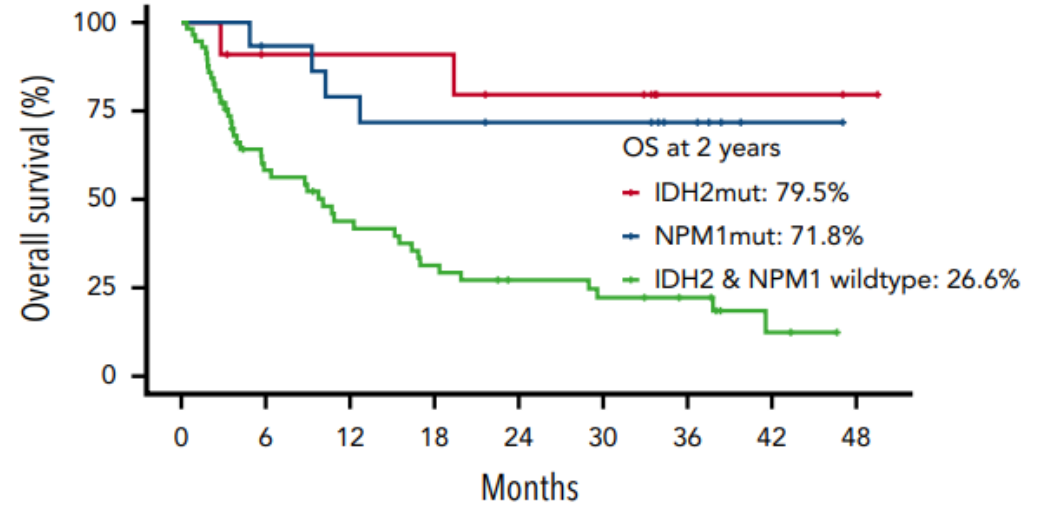
Matthews et al., Blood Adv, 2022



# Molecular pattern in older patients treated with venetoclax combinations



R/R  
Durable remission

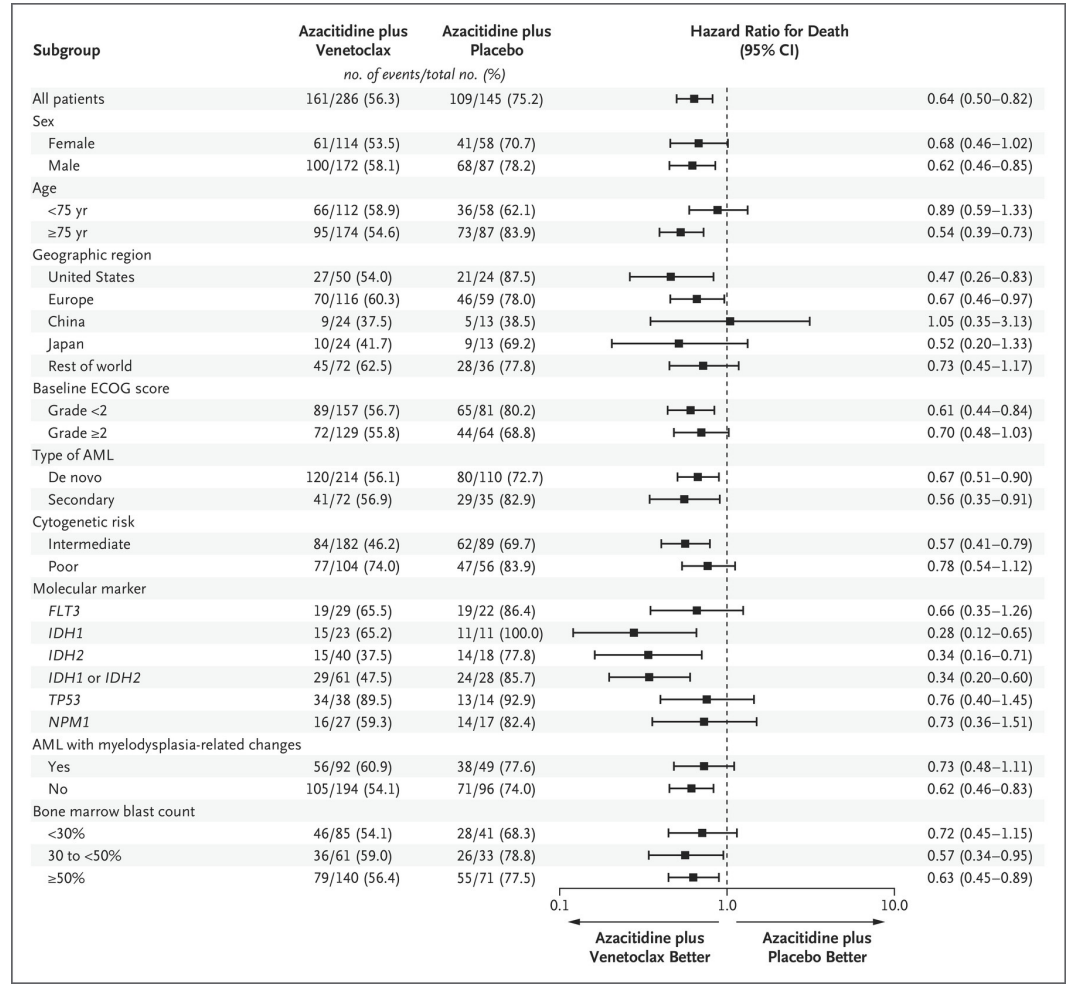
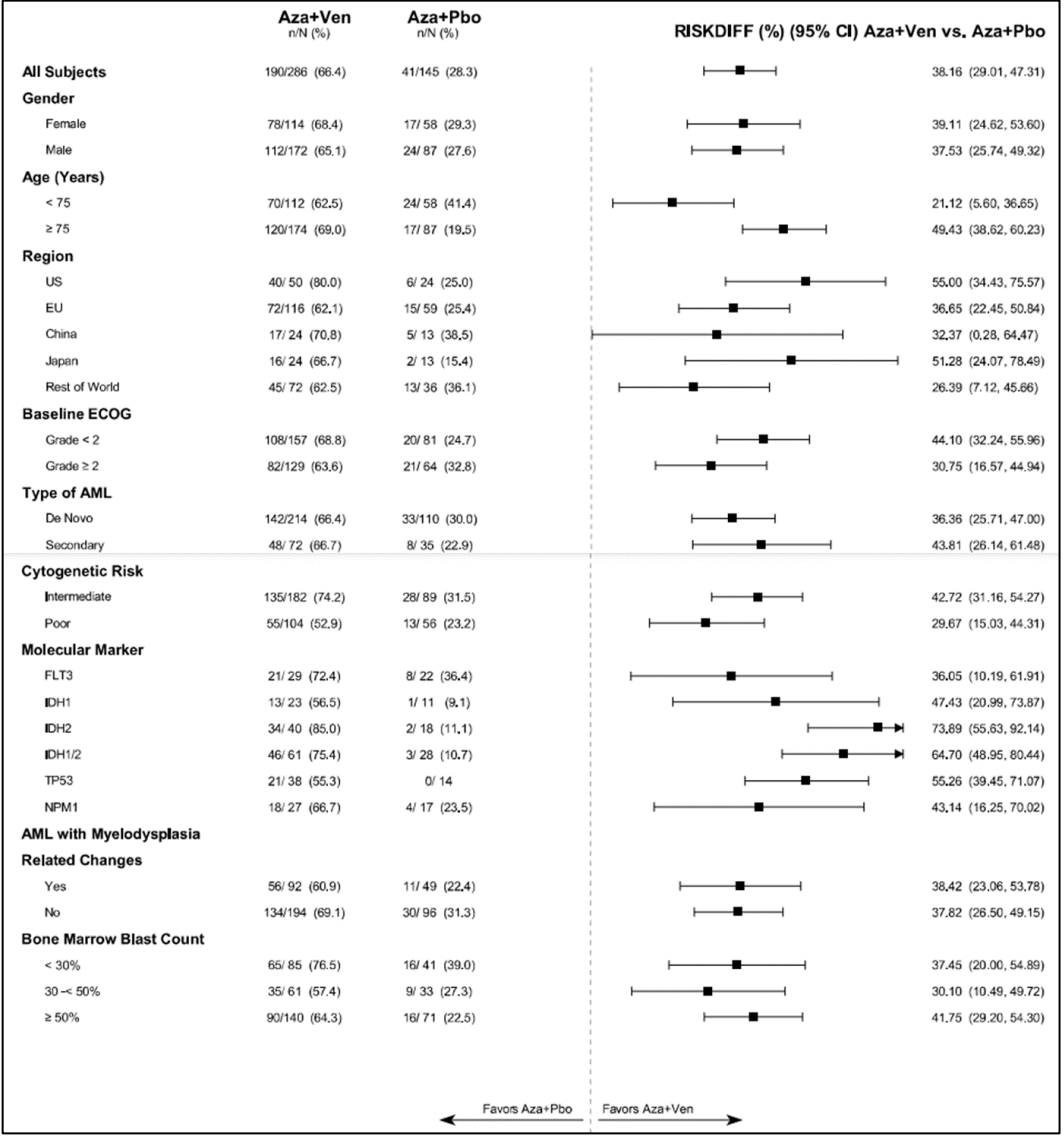


Di Nardo et al., Blood. 2020;135(11):791-803





# VIALE-A: Subgroup Analysis of Overall Survival



Di Nardo et al., NEJM, 2020



# Should high risk AML >60 yo receive HSCT?

HSCT seems to be the only «curative» option

BUT

- frequency of comorbidities increases with age
- biological reserve declines
- socioeconomic support is often tenuous

# HMA/VEN as bridge to transplant strategy

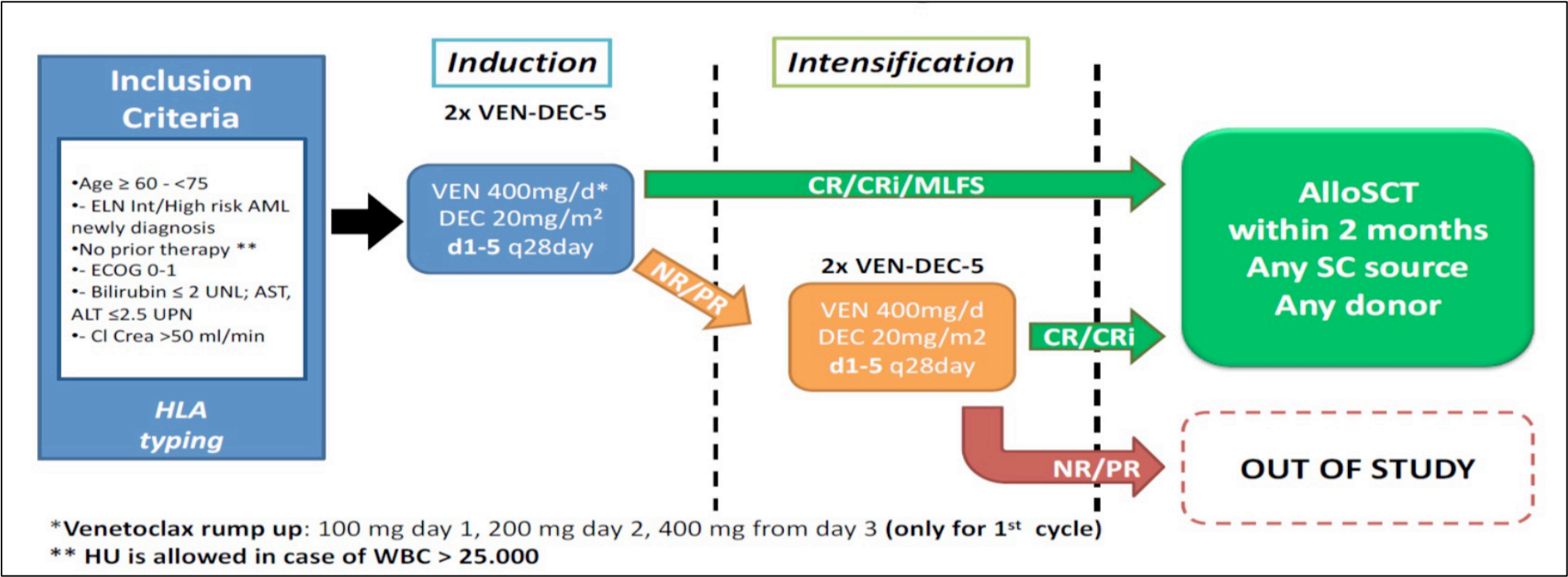
Study	Sample size	cCR	12-mo NRM	%12-mo RFS	12-mo OS
Sandhu et al., 2020*	32	-----	18,8 %	43,8 %	62,5 %
Salhotra et al., 2021	51	68,6%	100 day NRM 12%	67% in case of HSCT 33% in case of no HSCT	58% (88% in case of HSCT)
Apel et al., 2021					Not reached median after
Pollyea et al., 2022*	- 21 HSCT - 31 potentially eligible	-----	CI of TRM %	CIR 12%	- Median survival not reached - Median survival 17 mo
Winters et al., 2022*	- 140 IC - 29 AZA/VEN	-----	-----	- IC 66,1% - AZA/VEN 73,2 %	- IC 74,1 % - AZA/VEN 76,3 %
Pasvolsky et al., 2022*	24	-----	19%	58	63%
Short et al., 2022*	- 44 IC - 29 LIT - 54 LIT+VEN	-----	- 27% (2y-NRM) - 17% - 16%	- 54% - 41% - 60%	- 58% - 41% - 72%

\* post-HSCT analysis only

Retrospective studies



# PHASE II STUDY ON VENETOCLAX PLUS DECITABINE FOR ELDERLY ( $\geq 60 < 75$ YEARS) PATIENTS WITH NEWLY DIAGNOSED HIGH-INTERMEDIATE RISK AML ELEGIBLE FOR ALLO-SCT : MIDTERM UPDATE OF VEN-DEC GITMO STUDY



At data cut-off, 41/94 (43.6%) patients have been successfully undergone allo-SCT and 12 patients are awaiting for transplant.

Russo D. et al., EHA 2023



### Venetoclax and Azacitidine for Non-Elderly Adult Patients With Acute Myeloid Leukemia

The safety and scientific validity of this study is the responsibility of the study sponsor and investigators. Listing a study does not mean it has been evaluated by the U.S. Federal Government. [Know the risks and potential benefits](#) of clinical studies and talk to your health care provider before participating. Read our [disclaimer](#) for details.

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03573024

[Recruitment Status](#) ⓘ : Recruiting  
[First Posted](#) ⓘ : June 28, 2018  
[Last Update Posted](#) ⓘ : March 17, 2023

See [Contacts and Locations](#)

[View this study on Beta.ClinicalTrials.gov](#)

**Sponsor:**

University of Colorado, Denver

**Collaborator:**

AbbVie

**Information provided by (Responsible Party):**

University of Colorado, Denver

### Venetoclax + Azacitidine vs. Induction Chemotherapy in AML

The safety and scientific validity of this study is the responsibility of the study sponsor and investigators. Listing a study does not mean it has been evaluated by the U.S. Federal Government. [Know the risks and potential benefits](#) of clinical studies and talk to your health care provider before participating. Read our [disclaimer](#) for details.

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT04801797

[Recruitment Status](#) ⓘ : Recruiting  
[First Posted](#) ⓘ : March 17, 2021  
[Last Update Posted](#) ⓘ : November 17, 2022

See [Contacts and Locations](#)

[View this study on Beta.ClinicalTrials.gov](#)

### Venetoclax + Decitabine vs. "7+3" Induction Chemotherapy in Young AML

The safety and scientific validity of this study is the responsibility of the study sponsor and investigators. Listing a study does not mean it has been evaluated by the U.S. Federal Government. [Know the risks and potential benefits](#) of clinical studies and talk to your health care provider before participating. Read our [disclaimer](#) for details.

**Sponsor:**

Massachusetts General Hospital

**Collaborator:**

AbbVie

**Information provided by (Responsible Party):**

Amir Fathi, Massachusetts General Hospital

[View this study on Beta.ClinicalTrials.gov](#)

**Sponsor:**

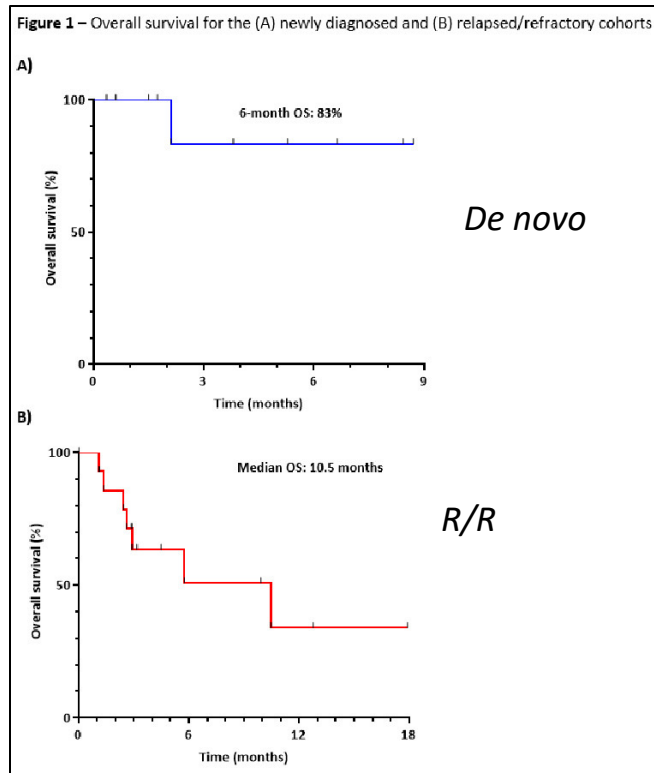
Chen Suning

**Information provided by (Responsible Party):**

Chen Suning, The First Affiliated Hospital of Soochow University

# Addition of a third agent?

## AZA/VEN/GILT (Phase 1b/2)



Short et al., *Blood*, Volume 138, Supplement 1, 23 November 2021, Page 696

## IVO/VEN ± AZA (Phase 1b/2)

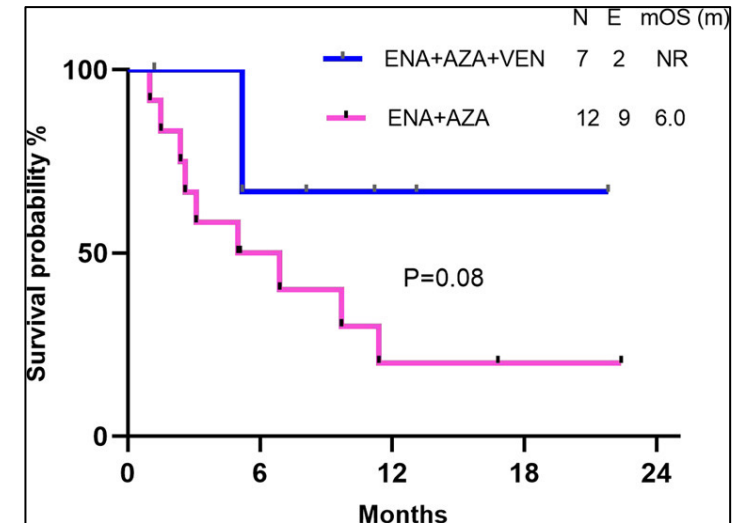
	All (N=25)	DL #1 (N=6)	DL #2 (N=6)	DL #3 (N=13)
ORR	23	4	6	13
CRc	21	4	6	11
CR	13	3	3	7
CRh	2	-	2	-
CRI	6	1	1	4
MLFS	1	-	-	1
PR	1	-	-	1
NR	2	2	-	-
EFS	NR (9.4-NR)	9.6 (2.8-NE)	9.4 (7-NE)	NR
OS	NR	9.7 (4.5-NE)	NR (8.5-NE)	NR

DL1: IVO/VEN 400  
DL2: IVO/VEN 800  
DL3: IVO/VEN 400 + AZA

ORR 92%

Lachowicz et al., *J Clin Oncol* 39, 2021 (suppl 15; abstr 7012)

## AZA/VEN/ENA (Phase 2)



ORR 100% in ND

Venogupal et al., *Blood Cancer J.* 2022

# CLAD and LDAC plus VEN alternating with AZA in older patients with de novo AML

Response, % (unless otherwise stated)	Total (N = 60)
Best response	
CR	80
CRi	13
NR	5
Died	1.7
ORR (CR + CRi + PR)	93
CRc rate (CR + CRi)	93
Patients requiring re-induction cycle (n = 57)	7
MRD at response assessment (n = 51)	
Negative	84
Positive	16
Median number of treatment cycles (IQR)	3.0 (2.0–5.0)
Responders receiving allo-HSCT (n = 56)	34
Mortality rate at 4 weeks	1.7
Mortality rate at 8 weeks	6.7

Allo-HSCT, allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; CR, complete response; CRc, composite complete response; CRi, complete response with incomplete hematologic recovery; MRD, measurable residual disease; NR, no response; ORR, overall response rate; PR, partial response; IQR, interquartile range.

- The most frequent Grade 3 or 4 nonhematologic adverse events (AEs) was febrile neutropenia (55%), pneumonia (23%), and allergic reaction (3%).
- Grade 4 tumor lysis occurred only in one patient.
- Median time to absolute neutrophil count (ANC) recovery of >500 and >1,000 was 25 and 27 days, respectively, and median time to platelet recovery of >50,000 and >100,000 was 21 and 24 days, respectively.

Reville et al., ASH 2021



# Conclusions

- HMA/VEN possible option in fit AML >60y
- Pitfalls:
  1. Standardization of treatment (ancillary therapy; number of cycles...)
  2. Lack of prospective randomized trials
  3. HSCT approach
- Addition of a third agent could increase remission rate and, hopefully, survival





