



Treatment approaches at
relapse

Conventional and new drugs

Massimo Breccia

Sapienza University

Rome

8th SYMPOSIUM ON Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia

Dedicated to Prof. Francesco Lo Coco

Featuring an AML meeting coordinated by EHA SWG AML

10-11 Aprile 2024

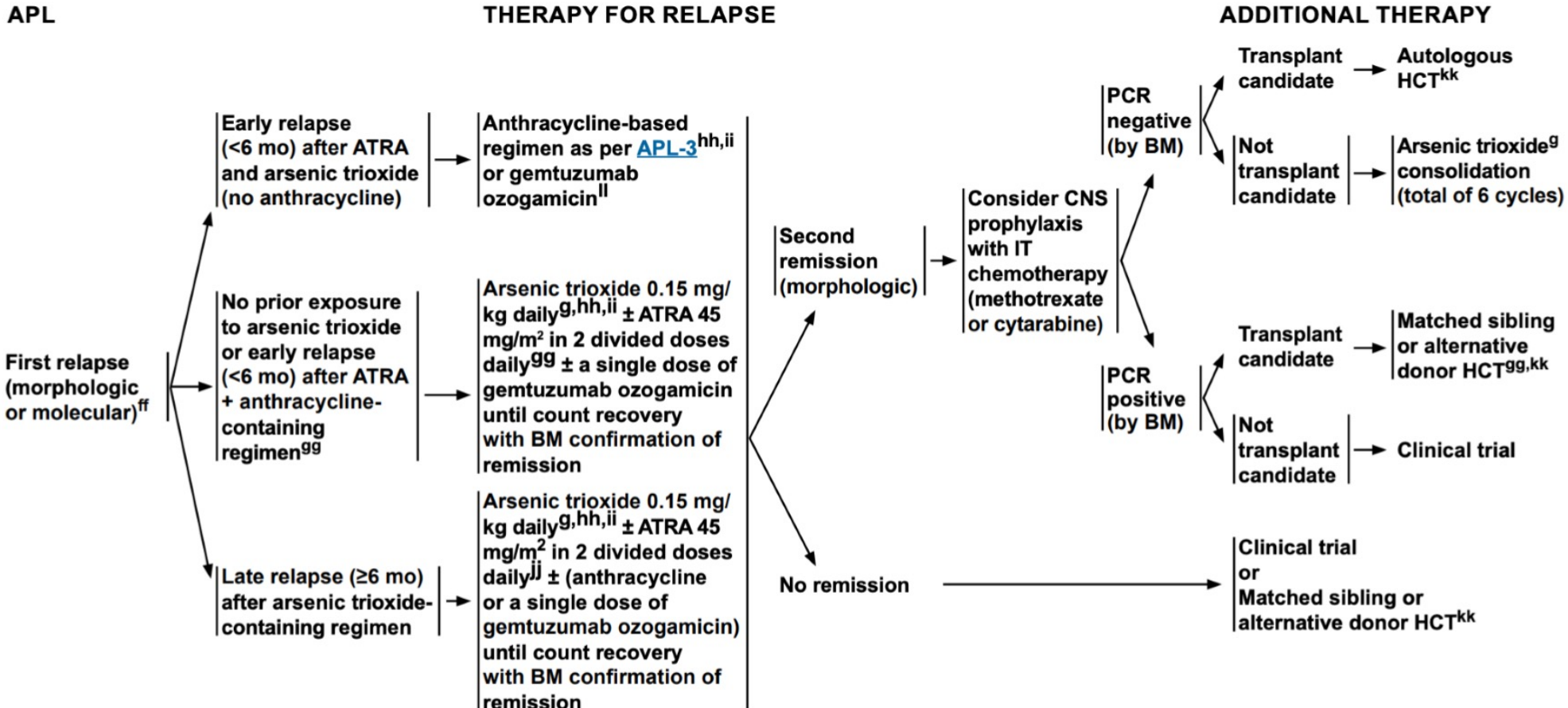
ROMA • Hotel NH Collection Roma Centro



Disclosures of Name Surname

Company name	Research support	Employee	Consultant	Stockholder	Speakers bureau	Advisory board	Other
Novartis					X	X	
Incyte			x		x	x	
Pfizer					x		
BMS					x		
GSK					x		
AOP					x		

2024 NCCN guidelines for relapsed APL

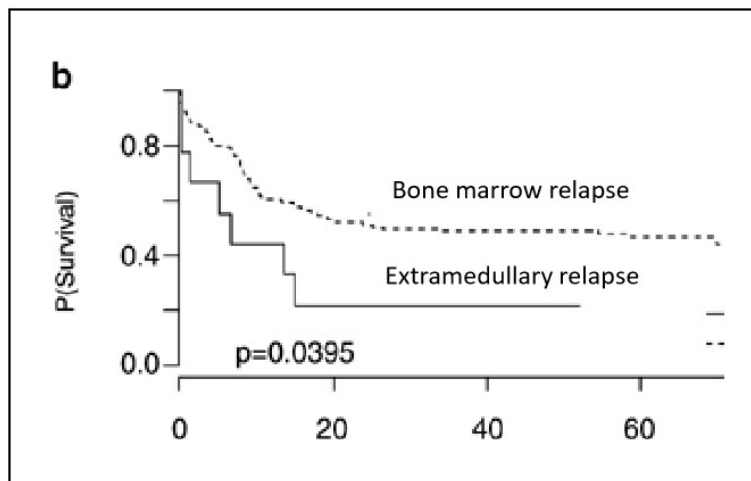


Outcome of APL relapsed patients in the pre-ATO era

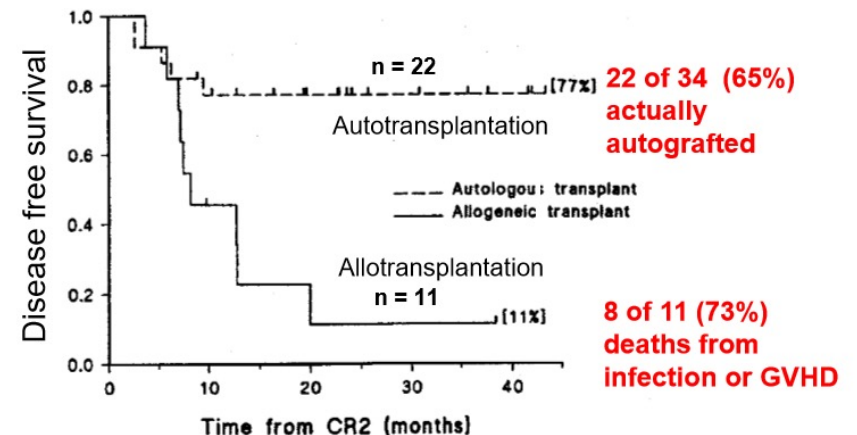
Results with chemotherapy:

Complete remission:	90% (85 - 95)
Failure (death, refractory):	approx. 10%
Survival after 2 to 3 years:	40 - 50%

Castagnola, Haematologica 1998; Fenaux, Leukemia 2000; Thomas, Leukemia 2000; Estey, Best Pract Res Clin Haematol 2003.

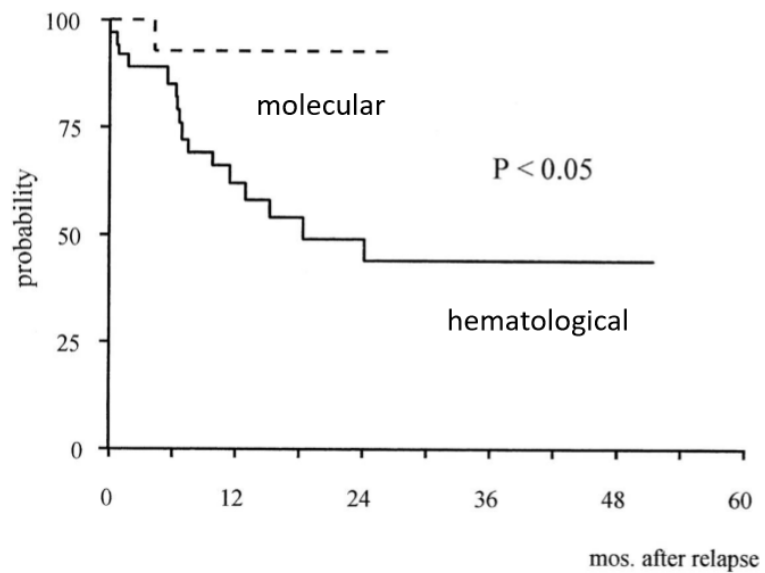


De Botton S et al., Leukemia 2006;20:35-41.

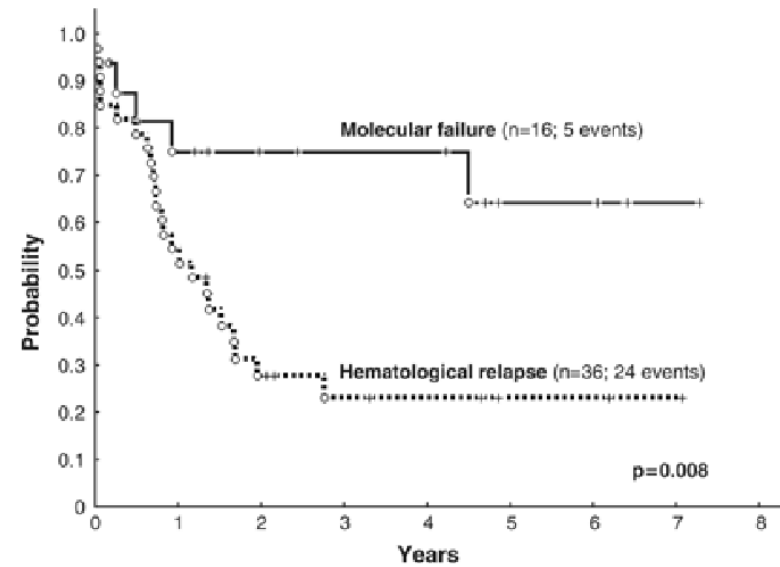


Thomas X et al, Leukemia 2000;14:1006-1013

Outcome of patients in molecular vs hematological relapse



Lo Coco et al, Blood 1999;94:2225-2229



Esteve et al, Leukemia 2007;21:446-452

Literature review of more than 300 pts

<i>Author^{ref.}</i>	<i>Patients n</i>	<i>Age (years) range (median)</i>	<i>ATO daily dose</i>	<i>Induction with ATO (days)</i>	<i>Post-induction therapy</i>	<i>Stem cell transplantation n</i>
Shen ²⁴	15	14–53	10 mg	28–54	1 course ATO	
Soignet ^{20,44}	52	9–75	0.15 mg/kg	maximum 60	maximum 5 courses ATO	auto. 3, allo. 14
Niu ⁴⁵	47	7–55 (35)	10 mg	42 ^a	ATO ± chemotherapy or chemotherapy alone	
Shen ⁴⁶	20	6–55	0.08 mg/kg	28 ^a	daunorubicin	
Kwong ⁴⁷	8	22–45	10 mg	28–51	idarubicin	
Leoni ⁴⁸	7	21–71 (55)	10 mg	28–40	high-dose Ara-C, mitoxantron	auto. 2, allo. 2
Ohnishi ⁴⁹	14	23–65	0.15 mg/kg	maximum 60	1 course ATO, various chemotherapy ± ATRA	allo. 2
Lazo ⁵⁰	12	26–72 (44)	0.15 mg/kg	maximum 60	up to 4 courses ATO ± various therapy	allo. 1
Raffoux ⁵¹	20	NR	0.15 mg/kg	maximum 56 ^b	1 to 2 courses ATO ± ATRA	auto. 1, allo. 7
Carmosino ⁵²	11	5–53	0.15 mg/kg	maximum 60	1 course ATO, ± ATRA+idarubicin	auto. 2, allo. 2
Shigeno ⁵³	34	17–82 (47)	0.15 mg/kg	maximum 60	1 course ATO ± chemotherapy+ATRA ± ATO	auto. 1, allo. 9
Thomas ⁵⁴	25	21–80 (53)	0.15 mg/kg	maximum 60	1 course ATO, ± various therapy ± ATO; MT	auto. 9, allo. 3
Aribi ⁵⁵	8	18–68	0.15 mg/kg	maximum 60	5 courses ATO+ATRA+GO; MT	allo. 1
Alimoghaddam ⁵⁶	31	10–79 (27)	0.15 mg/kg	maximum 60	1 course ATO, since the year 2006: 4 courses ATO	
Total	304	5–82 years		up to 60	ATO consolidation ± variable chemotherapy ± ATRA	n = 59

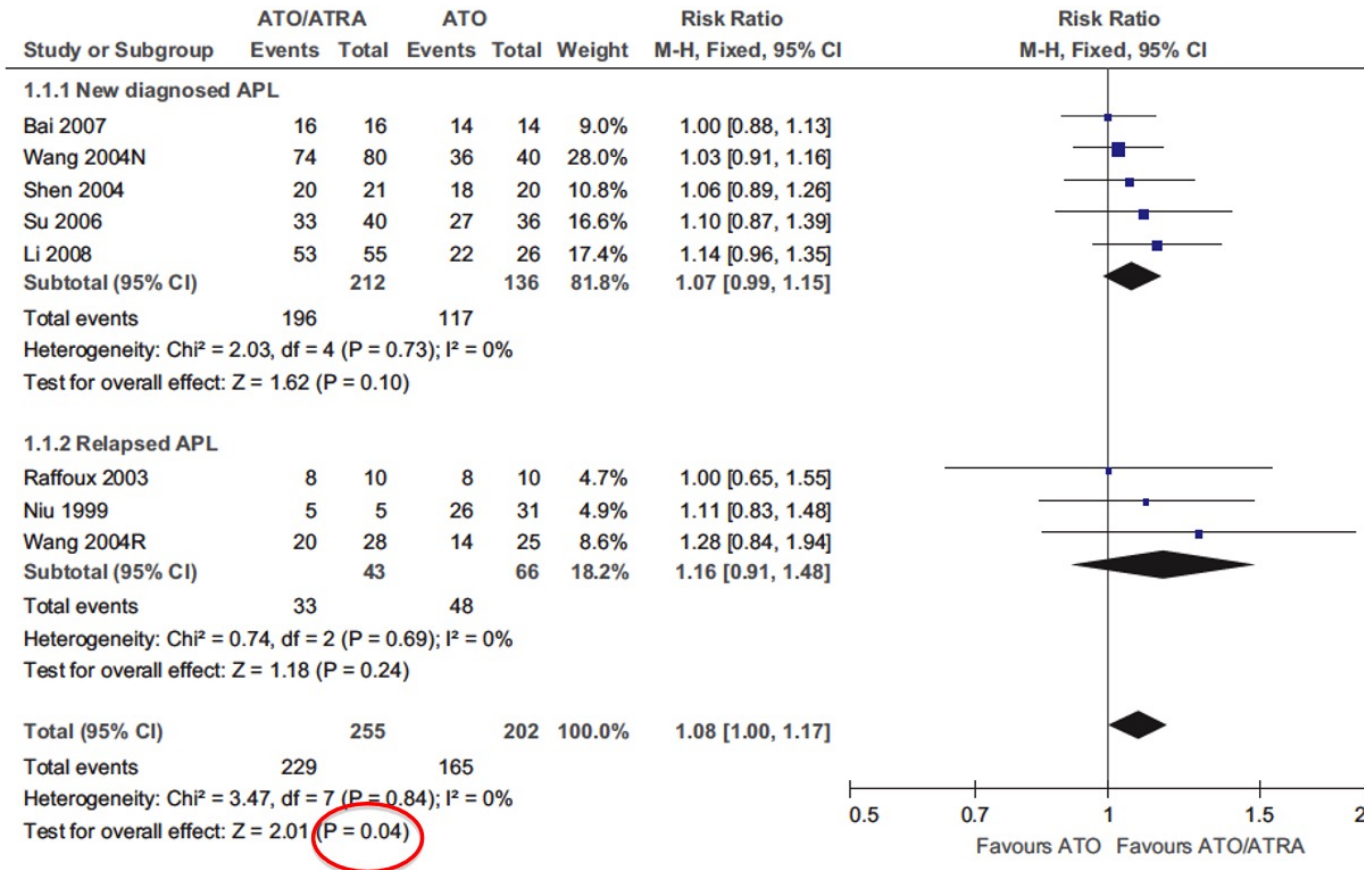
Results of ATO treatment in relapsed APL

<i>Author^{ref.}</i>	<i>Patients</i> n	<i>CR</i> n (%)	<i>Doc. mCR</i> n (%)	<i>Resistance</i> n (%)	<i>ED</i> n (%)	<i>Days to CR</i> median (range)	<i>Estimated survival</i> (%)
Shen ²⁴	15	14 (93)	1/10 (10) ^a	1 (7)	0	38 (28–54)	> 80 after 17 months
Soignet ²⁰	12	11 (92)	8/11 (73) ^b	0	1 (8)	47 (24–83)	
Niu ⁴⁵	47	40 (85)	1/15 (7) ^a	3 (6)	4 (8.5)	31	50 after 24 months
Soignet ⁴⁴	40	34 (85)	25/29 (86) ^b	6 (15)	0	59 (28–85)	66 after 18 months
Shen ⁴⁶	20	16 (80)	0/6 ^a	2 (10)	2 (10)		62 after 24 months
Kwong ⁴⁷	8	8 (100)	0/8 ^a	0	0	45	
Leoni ⁴⁸	7	6 (86)	NR	0	1 (14)	20–40	> 80 after 24 months
Ohnishi ⁴⁹	14	11 (79)	6/10 (60) ^a	2 (14)	1 (7)	43 (27–60)	
Lazo ⁵⁰	12	12 (100)	7/10 (70) ^a	0	0	52 (27–75)	
Raffoux ⁵¹	20	16 (80)	3/16 (19) ^a	2 (10)	2 (10)	42 (14–86)	59 after 24 months
Carmosino ⁵²	11	8 (73)	8/11 (73) ^b	0	3 (27)	37.5 (28–50)	
Shigeno ⁵³	34	31 (91)	18/25 (72) ^b	2 (6)	1 (3)	46 (26–60)	56 after 24 months
Thomas ⁵⁴	25	21 (84)	8/21 (38) ^a	2 (8)	2 (8)	49	77 after 24 months
Aribi ⁵⁵	8	8 (100)	8/8 (100) ^b	0	0	39 (21–56)	75% after 36 months
Alimoghaddam ⁵⁶	31	27 (77)	NR	3 (10)	4 (13)	30	81% after 24 months
Total	304	263 (86)	93/180 (52)	23 (7)	21 (7)	30–59 (range of study medians)	50–81% after 24 months

Meta-analysis of ATRA+ATO for relapsed pts

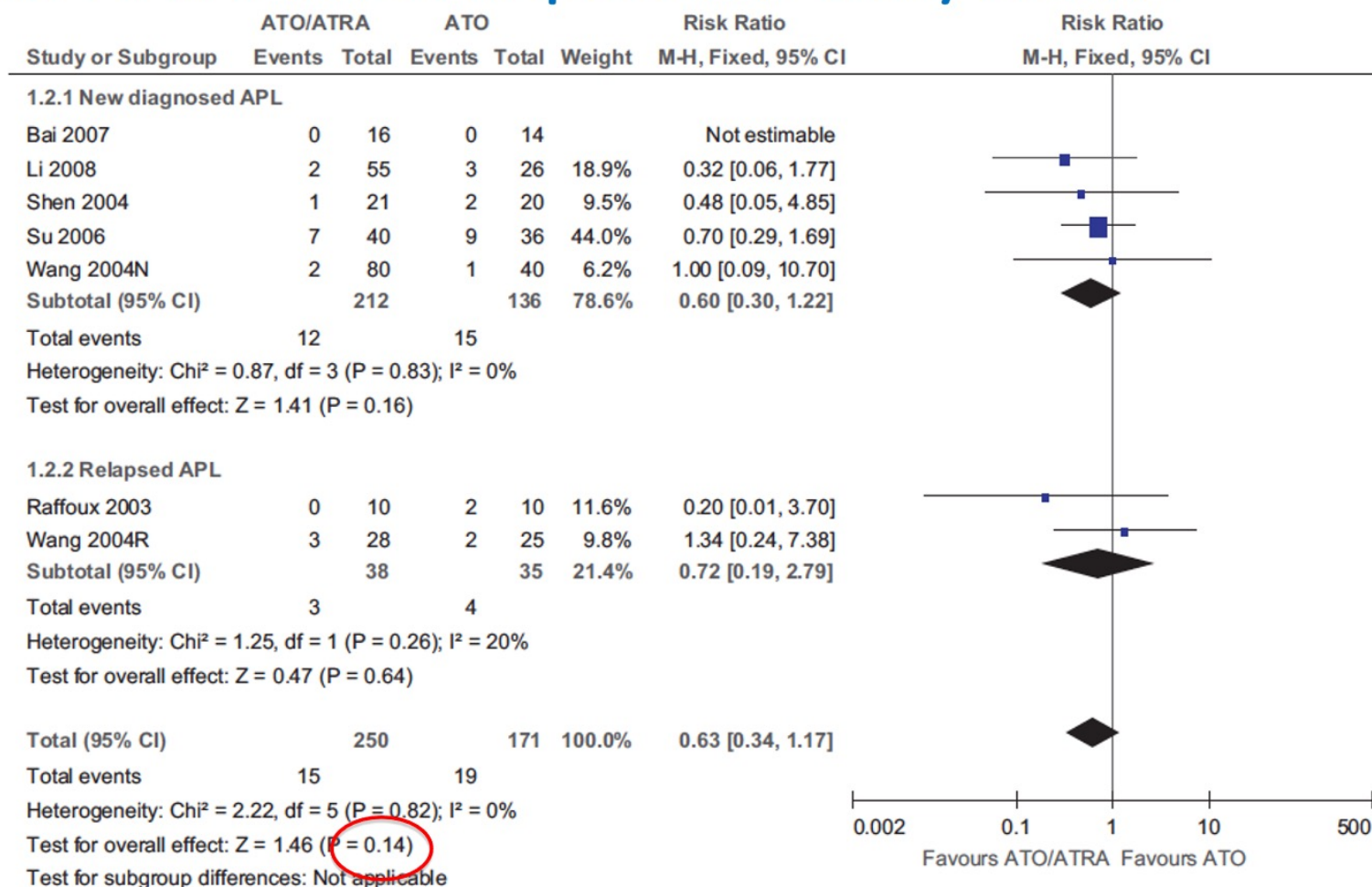
	ATO+ATRA (255 pts)	ATO (202 pts)	Significance
CR	89.8%	81.7%	ns
Time to CR	Heterogenous data		nr
ED	6%	11%	ns
mCR post 1 ^o cycle	25%	22.7%	ns
mCR post consolidation	70%	39%	0.01
DFS 2-year	84.6%	63.6%	0.07

Synergism ATRA+ATO: impact on CR



Meta-analysis results reported a significant increase of CR both in relapsed and newly diagnosed pts with ATO+ATRA association

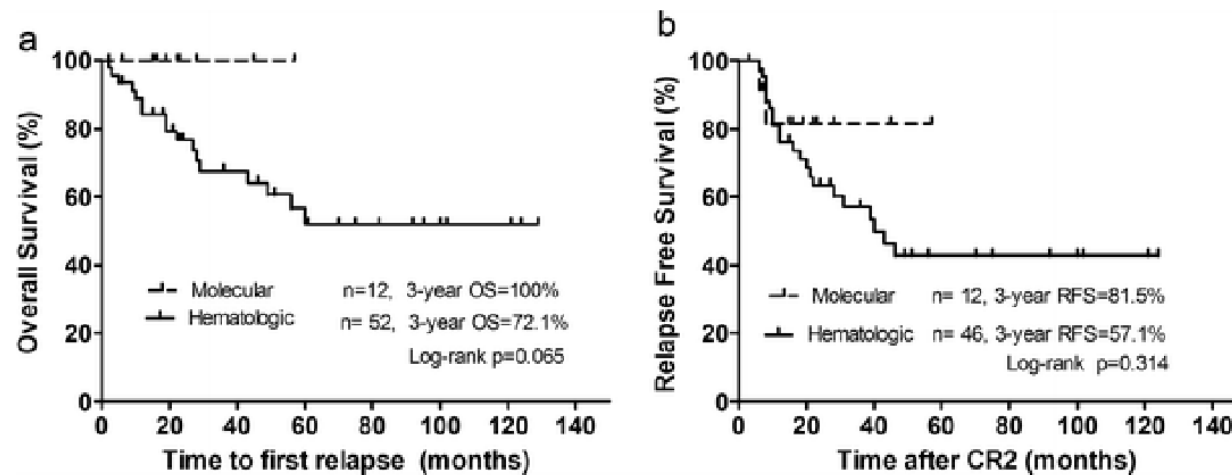
Synergism ATRA+ATO: impact on early death



Meta-analysis results did not report an increase of ED with ATO+ATRA association

Shanghai experience

- 64 relapsed pts treated in first relapse with ATO (12 pts with molecular and 52 with hematologic relapse)
- With a median follow-up of 27 months (range, 6–57) in the molecular relapsed subgroup, the 3-year relapse-free survival (RFS) and overall survival (OS) rates were 81.5 % and 100 %, respectively. With a median follow-up of 38 months (range, 0–129) in the hematologic relapse group, the 3-year RFS and OS rates were 57.1 % and 72.1 %, respectively.
- Increased relapse rate in pts who received ATO after previous induction with the same drug

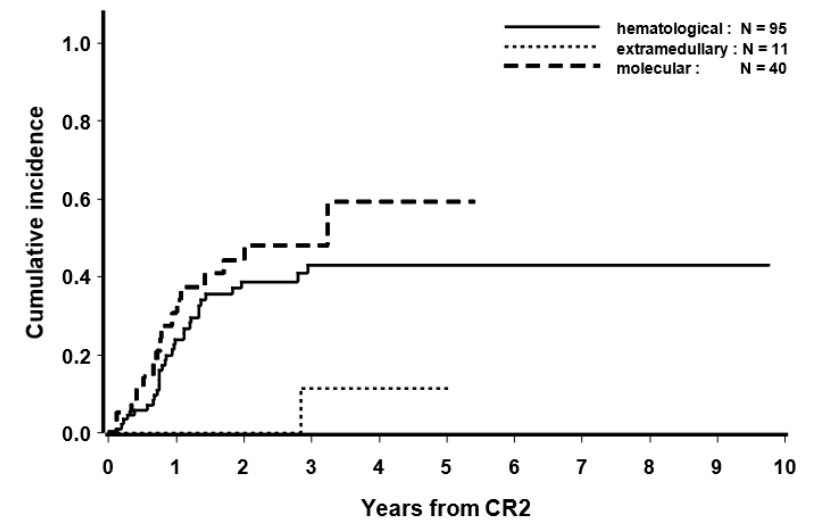
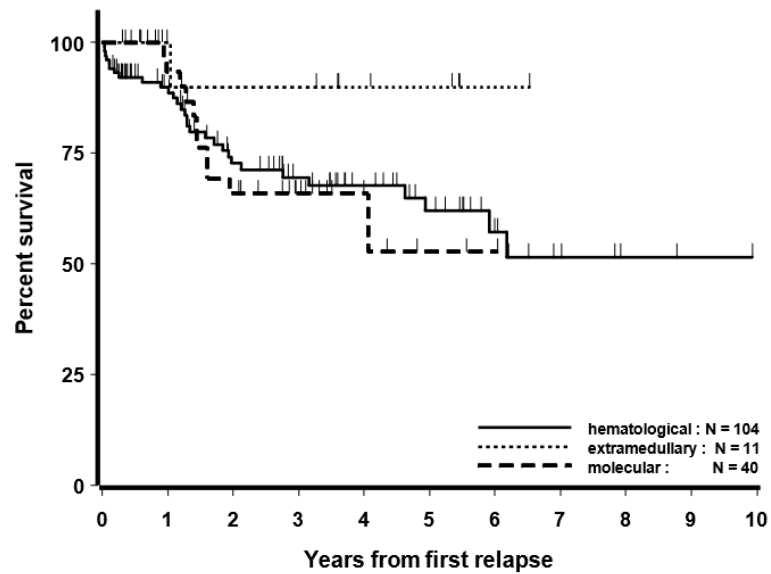


ELN registry of ATO relapsed treated pts

- 155 relapsed pts treated in first relapse with ATO

	Hematological relapse		Molecular relapse		P value*		Extramedullary relapse	
No of patients N=155	104		40				11	
	N	%	N	%			N	%
Results after induction								
CR (hematological)	92/104	88	-				11/11	100
Resistance (hematological) *	5/104	5	-				0	0
Death	7/104	7	0/40	0	0.19		0/11	0
Side effects of ATO during induction								
APL diff. syndome	22/83	27	0/40	0	<0.001		0/11	0
Leukocytosis*	36/92	39	0/40	0	<0.001		0/11	0
Infection /FUO	27/63	43	3/29	10	0.002		4/11	36
Hepatotoxicity	11/56	20	3/28	11	0.37		2/8	25
Rate of molecular remission								
After induction	40/76	53	21/39	54	1.0		9/9	100
After consolidation	39/53	74	18/29	62	0.32		11/11	100
Outcome								
OS	% [95% CI]		% [95% CI]		0.85		% [95% CI]	
at 3 years	68 [58;78]		66 [57;75]				90 [82;100]	
No of patients N=146								
CIR	95		40		0.3		11	
at 3 years	41 [29;52]		48 [29;64]				11 [0;42]	

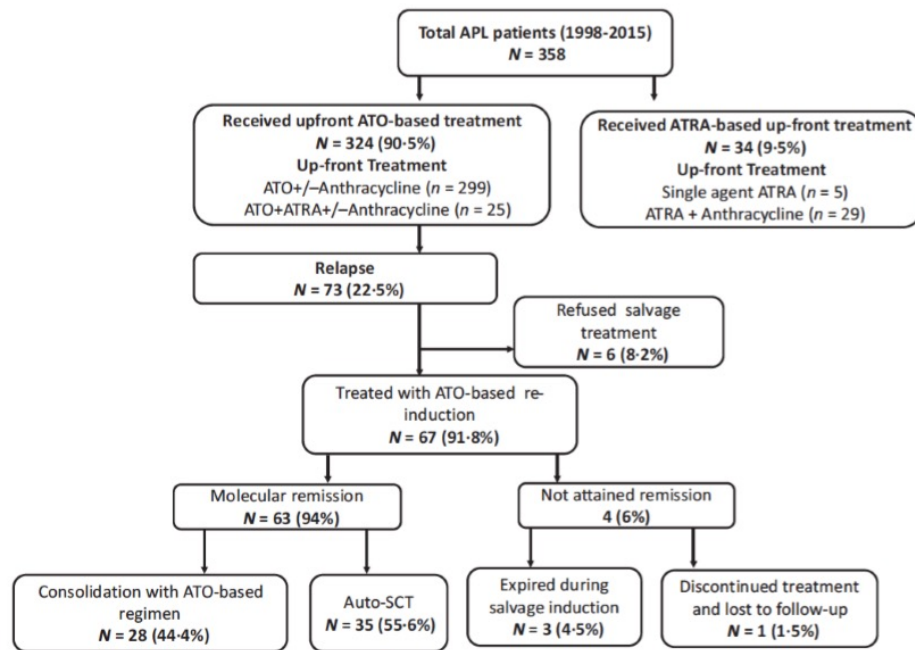
ELN registry: OS and CIR according to type of relapse



Summary of results of «induction» in relapsed APL

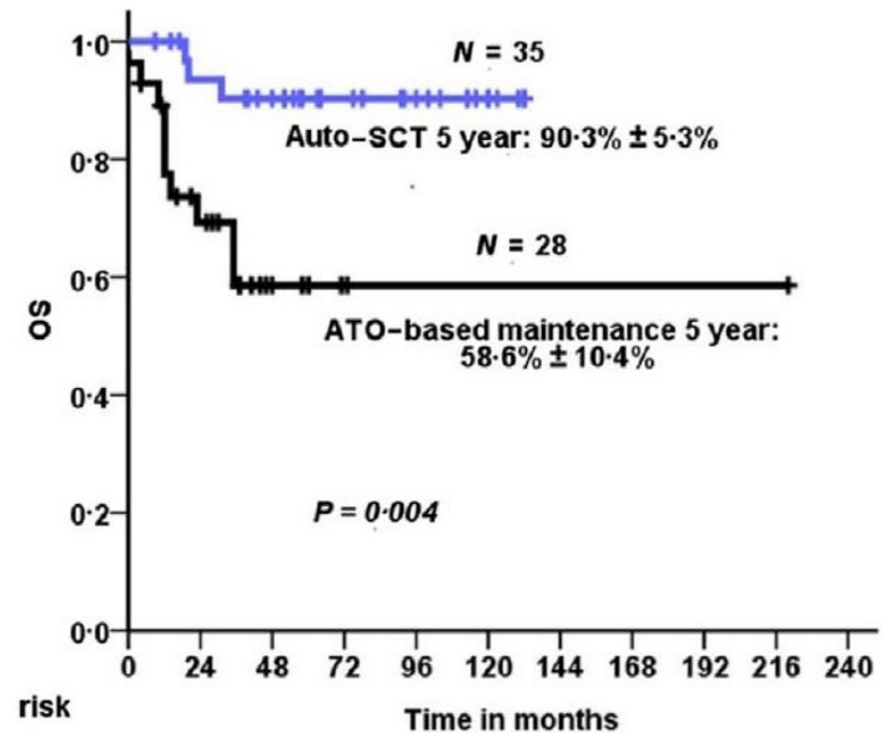
<i>Study</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Study type</i>	<i>Previous therapy</i>	<i>Induction therapy</i>	<i>Hematological CR*</i>	<i>Molecular CR</i>
Niu et al., 1999 [15]	47	Retrospective	ATRA + chemotherapy	ATO-based	85%	NA
Soignet et al., 2001 [16]	40	Prospective	ATRA + chemotherapy	ATO	85%	86%
Shigeno et al., 2005 [17]	34	Prospective	ATRA + chemotherapy	ATO	91%	72%
Yanada et al., 2013 [18]	35	Prospective	ATRA + chemotherapy	ATO	81%	71%
Raffoux et al., 2003 [19]	20	Prospective	ATRA + chemotherapy	ATO ± ATRA	80%	NA
Russell et al., 2018 [20]	31	Retrospective	ATRA + chemotherapy	ATRA + ATO	100%	100%
Cicconi et al., 2018 [21]	22	Retrospective	ATRA + chemotherapy	ATRA + ATO	100%	91%
Lo-Coco et al., 2004 [22]	16	Prospective	ATRA + chemotherapy	GO	-†	88%
Tobita et al., 1997 [23]	24	Prospective	ATRA + chemotherapy	Tamibarotene	58%	NA
Kulkarni et al., 2020 [24]	22	Prospective	ATO-based	ATRA + ATO + MIT + BTZ	100%	91%
Fouzia et al., 2021 [25]	67	Retrospective	ATO-based	ATO-based	94%	94%
Sanford et al., 2015 [26]	14	Prospective	ATRA + ATO-based	Tamibarotene	64%	21%

ATO-based regimens as salvage Tx after ATO 1st line



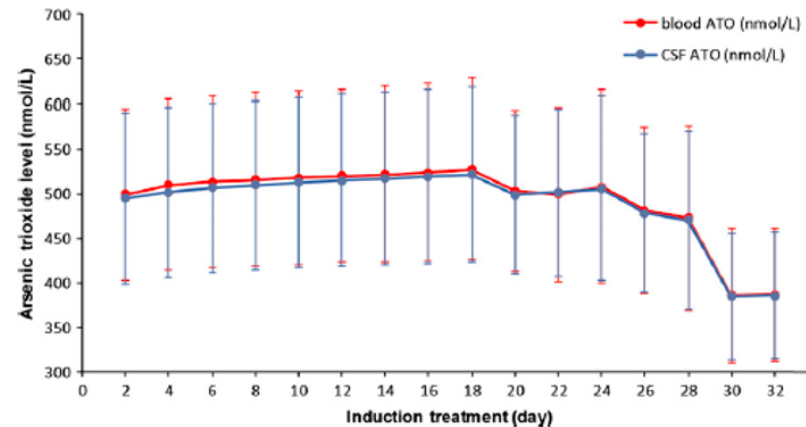
17/28 (60%) in CR

32/35 (91%) in CR



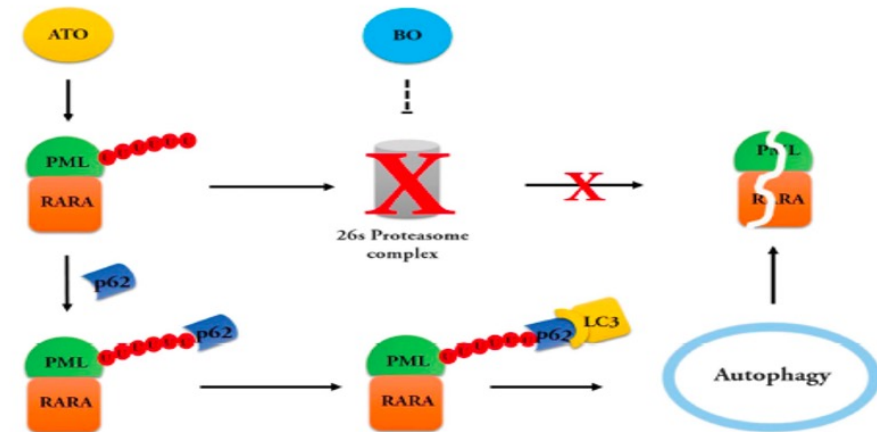
ATO for CNS relapsed patients

- 17 pts in CNS relapse
- Treatment 125 mL of 20% mannitol followed by the same therapy + 7 mg/mq ATO. Pts remained in bed for the entire procedure
- After induction, 3 cycles of consolidation for 14 days and then long-term maintenance
- No particular toxicity observed. No differences observed between CSF and blood levels
- 16/17 pts achieved CR after 1st cycle and 9 pts maintained mCR in the long-term

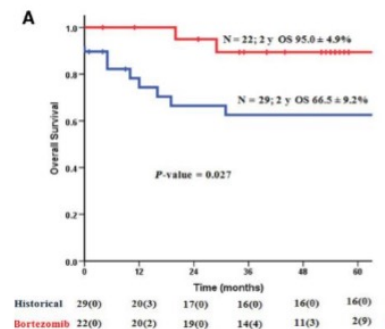


ATO + bortezomib: a potential combination

- Significant micro-environment-mediated drug resistance to ATO in APL demonstrated by Indian group
- Synergistic effect of combination of ATO+bortezomib in ATO-sensitive and ATO-resistant APL cells in vitro
- The mechanisms involved downregulation of NFkB pathway, increase in unfolded protein response, increase in ROS generation by blast cells, apoptosis
- PML-RARa is cleared by this combination through p62-dependent autophagy pathway



- A phase II trial enrolled 22 relapsed pts
- 19/22 (86%) in mCR after induction
- 1 pt required discontinuation for neuropathy
- 12 pts performed autoSCT: 11/12 alive
- 7 pts performed maintenance and 3/7 relapsed



Kulkarni et al, Cancer Med 2019

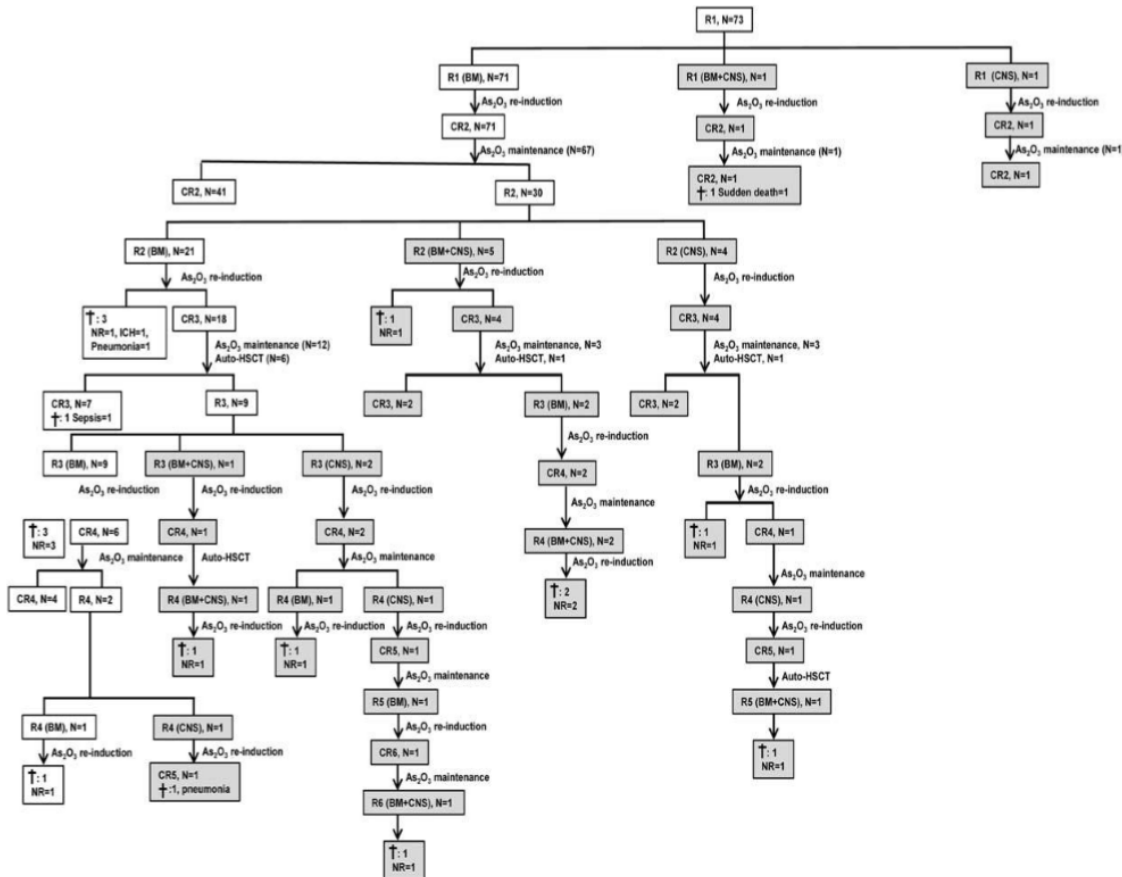
Realgar: oral ATO for relapsed patients

- 8 pts in first relapse, 4 pts in second relapse
- All pts achieved morphologic CR after first cycle (+/- ATRA or CHT) , but none mCR
- In second CR, 5 pts were treated with oral ATO as consolidation
- 11/12 pts reached long-lasting mCR

Table 1. Clinicopathologic features and outcome of 12 consecutive patients with relapsed-acute promyelocytic leukemia treated with oral As₂O₃

Patient no.	Sex/ age, y	Status	Previous induction treatment	Time from last CR, mo	Relapse			Oral As ₂ O ₃ therapy				Latest PCR [†] (mo)	DFS, mo	Remarks
					Hb, g/L	WBC, × 10 ⁹ /L	Plat, × 10 ⁹ /L	Duration, d	Additional Rx	Result	Consolidation			
1*	M/23	R1	ATRA + Dauno	11	156	2.1	87	59	Ida	CR	Ida		13	—
		R2	IV As ₂ O ₃ + Ida	10	140	2.5	25	76	ATRA	NR	—	+ (dead)		—
2*	M/33	R2	Dauno/IV As ₂ O ₃ + Ida	25	134	2.1	20	32	ATRA	CR	As ₂ O ₃ + ATRA	— (18)	19+	—
3*	F/13	R2	ATRA + IV As ₂ O ₃	12	86	1.2	15	30	ATRA	CR	As ₂ O ₃ + ATRA	— (18)	19+	—
4	M/54	R1	ATRA + Dauno	100	85	34.8	81	40	Ida	CR	Ida	— (18)	18+	Mother: AML
5*	M/32	R1	ATRA + Dauno + MP	22	145	2.4	177	33	NA	CR	Ida	— (18)	18+	—
6	F/32	R1	ATRA + Dauno	12	122	0.8	84	51	NA	CR	Ida	— (12)	18+	—
7*	F/45	R2	ATRA + Dauno/IV As ₂ O ₃ + Ida	17	112	1.9	50	37	ATRA	CR	As ₂ O ₃ + ATRA	— (14)	17+	—
8	F/65	R1	ATRA	16	72	2.8	141	28	NA	CR	As ₂ O ₃ + ATRA	— (12)	15+	CRF due to DM on CAPD, Ida consolidation omitted due to CRF
9	F/18	R2	ATRA + Dauno/IV As ₂ O ₃ + Ida	12	101	1.9	180	28	ATRA	CR	As ₂ O ₃ + ATRA	— (12)	14+	—
10*	F/18	R1	ATRA + Dauno	12	82	12.6	54	44	Ida	CR	Ida	— (6)	9+	—
11*	M/45	R1	ATRA + Dauno	240	42	0.6	9	22	NA	CR	As ₂ O ₃	— (3)	7+	Ida consolidation omitted due to high cumulative doses of anthracycline
12	F/40	R1	ATRA + Ara-c	23	85	6.5	39	28	Ida	CR	Ida	— (3)	6+	CRHD, double valve rep

Oral ATO for relapsed patients after 15-year prospective study

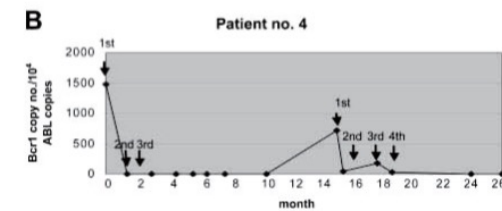
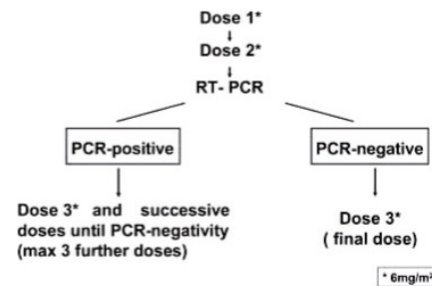


- 73 pts in first relapse
- All pts treated with oral ATO achieved a CR2
- At a median FU of 94 months, 43 pts still in CR2.
- Hepatotoxicity occurred in 47.9%
- 10-year LFS was 56.8%
- 30 pts in R2: oral ATO led to CR3 in 90% of pts
- At a FU of 30 months, 11 pts still in CR3

GO as single agent for relapsed APL

Patient no.	Results of qualitative RT-PCR for PML-RAR α *			No. GO cycles received	Relapse/type	Duration of molecular remission, mos.	Successive therapies	Outcome
	1st cycle	2nd cycle	3rd cycle					
1	ND	Negative	Negative	3	No	31+	—	Alive in MR
2	Negative	Negative	Negative	3	No	14+	—	Alive in MR
3	Positive	Positive	—	2	Yes/morphologic	NE	MITOX, MITOX†	Alive in MR
4	Negative	Negative	Negative	3	Yes/molecular	13	GO†/MITOX + ARA-C	Alive in MR
5	Negative	Negative	Negative	3	Yes/morphologic	6	MITOX + ARA-C	Died of disease progression
6	ND	Negative	Negative	3	No	7+	—	Alive in MR
7	ND	ND	—	2	Yes/morphologic	NE	—	Died of disease progression
8	Negative	ND	Negative	3	Yes/molecular	7	MITOX + ARA-C	Alive in MR
9	ND	Negative	Negative	3	Yes/molecular	8	GO‡	Alive in MR
10	ND	Negative	Negative	3	No	19+	—	Alive in MR
11	Negative	—	—	1	Yes/molecular	6	DLI	Alive in MR
12	ND	ND	Negative	3	No	12+	—	Alive in MR
13	ND	ND	Negative	3	No	19+	DLI	Alive in MR
14	ND	Positive	Negative	3	No	15+	—	Alive in MR
15	ND	Negative	Negative	3	Yes/molecular	15	—	Alive in MR
16	Negative	Negative	Negative	3	Yes/morphologic	3	ATO	Died of disease progression

56% → 81%



Lo Coco et al, Blood 2004

ATO+ATRA+GO as consolidation for relapsed APL

- 7 patients in 1st relapse
- All received ATO until CR
- Once in CR, they received consolidation with ATO+ATRA+GO for 10 months
- Then, a maintenance with idarubicin, ATRA, 6-MP and oral MTX for 11 months
- At a median FU of more than 36 months, 6 remained in second CR (2 pts died for second neoplasia and one for sepsis)

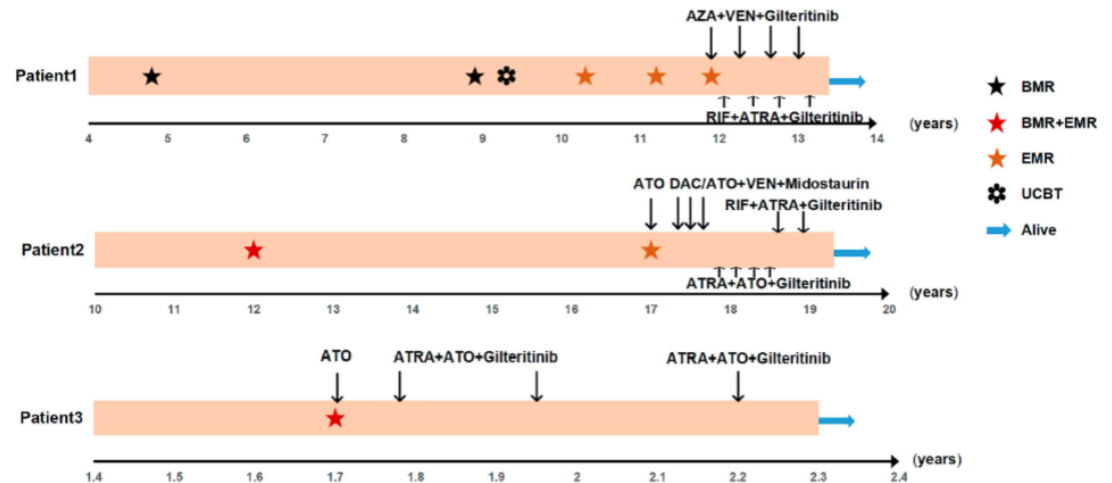
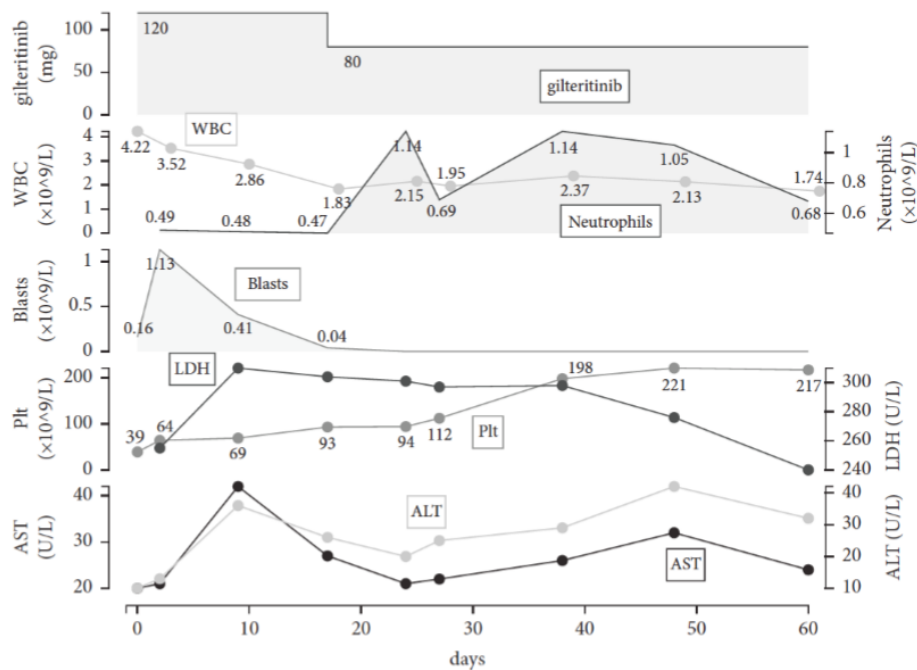
Patient	Age, y	No. of days to achieve CR	No. of days to achieve negative PCR	Previous CR duration, mo	Duration of second CR, mo
1	64	21	91	17	≥55
2	43	0	165	20	≥51
3	68	28	127	28	≥48*
4	51	56	125	22	≥45
5	54	56	123	16	≥7*
6	18	28	24	7	≥27
7	22	56	177 [†]	15	≥23
8	52	39	96	48	≥1

Tamibarotene for rAPL after ATRA+ATO

- 14 patients in 1st relapse after ATRA+ATO
- ORR 64% (CMR 21%)
- Relapses were frequent: 7/9 after a median of 4.6 mos, with median OS 9.5 mos and EFS 3.5 mos

Patient	Disease status at enrolment			Haematological response	Cytogenetic response (Y/N)	Molecular response (Y/N)	Relapse (Y/N)	Time to relapse (d)	Overall survival (d)	Alive at last follow-up (Y/N)
	Haematological relapse (Y/N)	Cytogenetic relapse (Y/N)	Molecular relapse (Y/N)							
1	Y	Y	Y	RD	N	N	–	–	289	N
2*	Y	Y	Y	CR	Y	N	N	–	257	N
3*	Y	Y	Y	CR	Y	N	N	–	526	N
4	Y	Y	Y	CRi	Y	N	Y	183	213	N
5	Y	Y	Y	RD	N	N	–	–	378	N
6 [†]	Y	Y	N/A	CR	N	Y	Y	117	183	Y
7*	Y	Y	Y	CRi	Y	Y	Y	816	1432	N
8	Y	Y	N/A	RD	N	N	–	–	154	N
9	N	N	Y	CRi	Y	N	Y	295	320	N
10	Y	Y	Y	CR	Y	Y	Y	49	233	N
11 [‡]	Y	Y	Y	CR	N/A	Y	Y	56	1769	Y
12	N	N	Y	CRi	N/A	N	Y	141	385	N
13	Y	Y	Y	RD	–	–	–	–	64	N
14	Y	Y	Y	RD	–	–	–	–	93	N

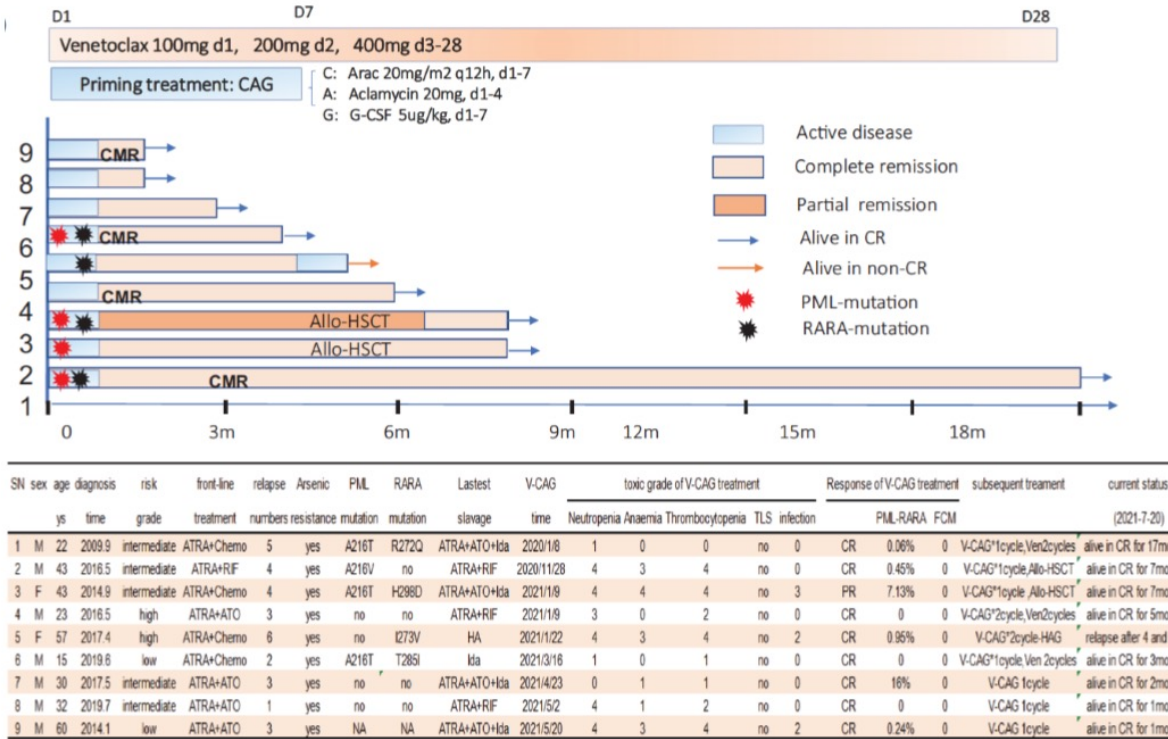
Gilteritinib for FLT3+ rAPL after ATRA+ATO



- Female pt, 52 y, treated with ATRA+CHT and IT for CNS
- Relapse after 14 mos, FLT3+ (79%). ATO for relapse but failure
- Tamibarotene yielded a CR. High dose cytarabine as consolidation
- 2 relapse: gilteritinib with 2CR after 60 days

- 3 pts treated with gilteritinib in combination
- 2 pts with isolated persistent extramedullary relapse achieved CR
- 1 pt had BM+CNS and achieved mCR

Venetoclax combined with chemo for rAPL



- 9 patients
- Median age 35 years
- All pts resistant to ATO
- 8 pts achieved CR, among them 3 achieved mCR and 1 PMCR

Conclusions

- ATO is the most effective drug for relapsed pts (synergism with ATRA)
- ATO is the first choice considered by ELN recommendations and NCCN guidelines
- ATO could be considered also for CNS involvement
- ATO based regimens could also be considered for pts in >2 relapses (bortezomib, GO)
- New possible drugs in multi-relapsed patients (Venetoclax) or for selected patients (Gilteritinib)