

# High-risk APL

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**Rome**  
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# What is high-risk APL?

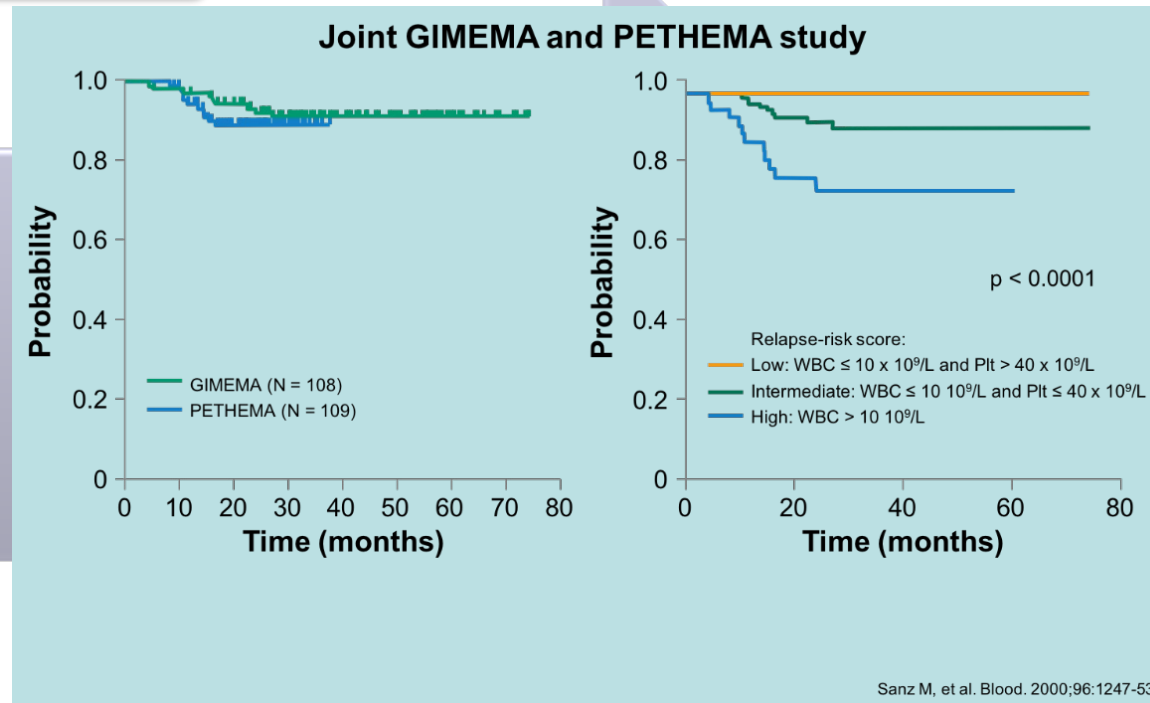
Reduction of dose intensity in elderly<sup>1</sup>

One size fits all

LPA96

Nov. 1996  
Oct. 1999

Definition of relapse risk groups



1. Sanz M, et al. Blood. 1999;94:3015-21.

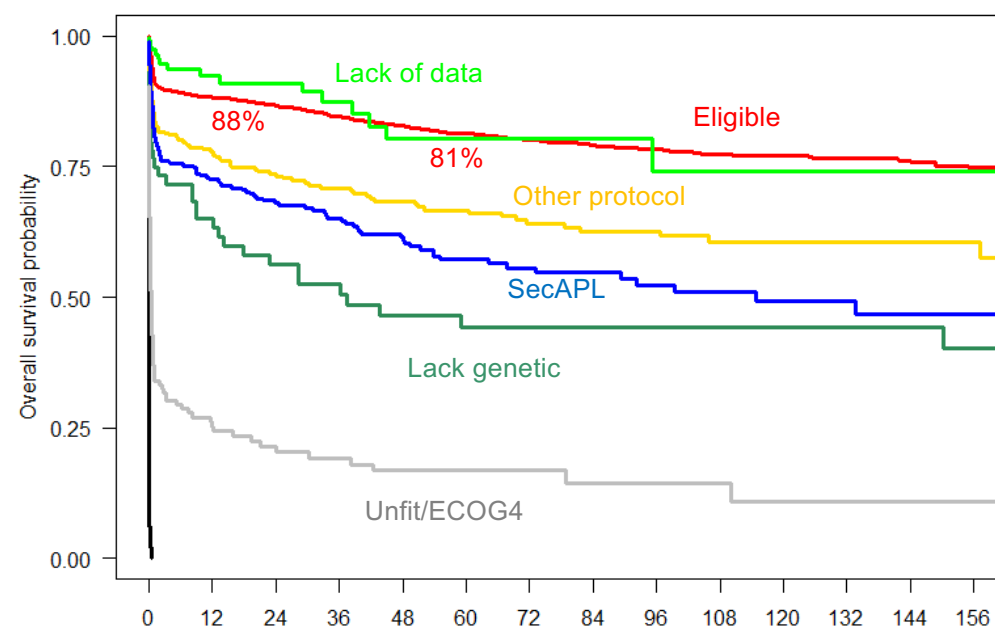
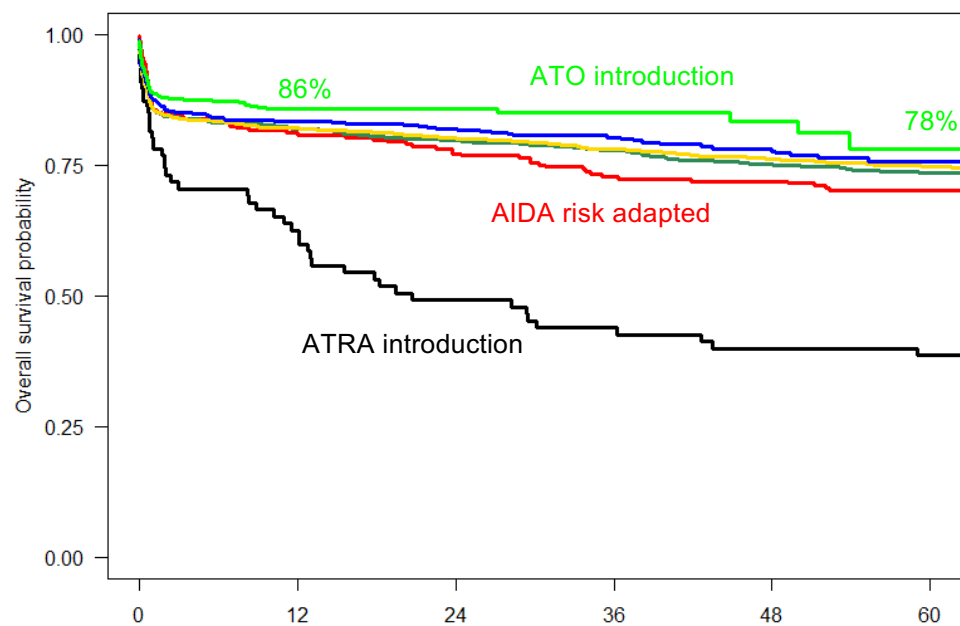
# Main characteristics according to eligibility

## PETHEMA registry

	Overall N = 4156	Eligible N = 2740	Other protocol N = 407	Lack of data N = 360	Sec APL N = 350	Unfit N = 147	Lack of genetic N= 95	Early death N = 50	P-value
Median age, years	46	44	48	45	58	58	41	48	<0.001
Female (%)	50	50	48	48	55	46	51	38	0.21
ECOG 3-4 (%)	10	5	7	8	14	81	36	34	<0.001
Median WBC (10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	2.5	2.4	2.5	3.2	2.2	8.5	5.1	16.6	<0.001
Risk category <sup>a</sup> (%)									
Low/inter	71	73	66	66	74	69	69	42	<0.001
High	29	27	34	34	26	31	31	58	

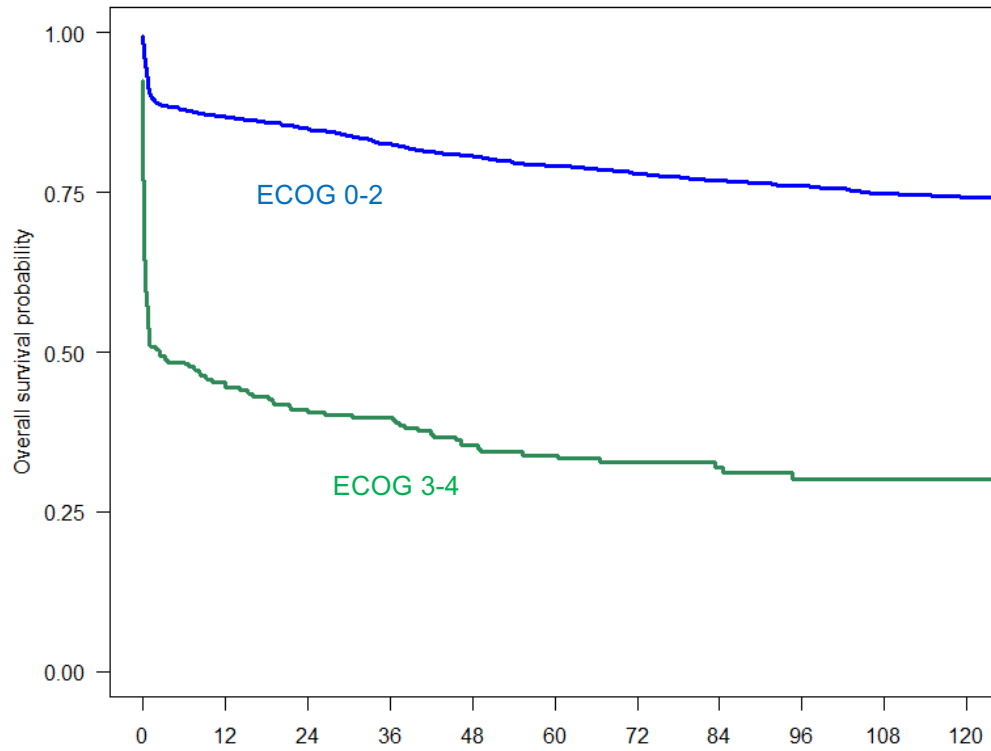
<sup>a</sup> Prognostic score of APL (Sanz Score): WBC < 10.0 10<sup>9</sup>/L (low- to intermediate-risk) vs WBC ≥ 10.0 10<sup>9</sup>/L (high-risk). BM, bone marrow; WBC, white blood cell count. Sanz MA, et al. Blood. 2009;113:1875-91.

# OS per period and eligibility PETHEMA registry

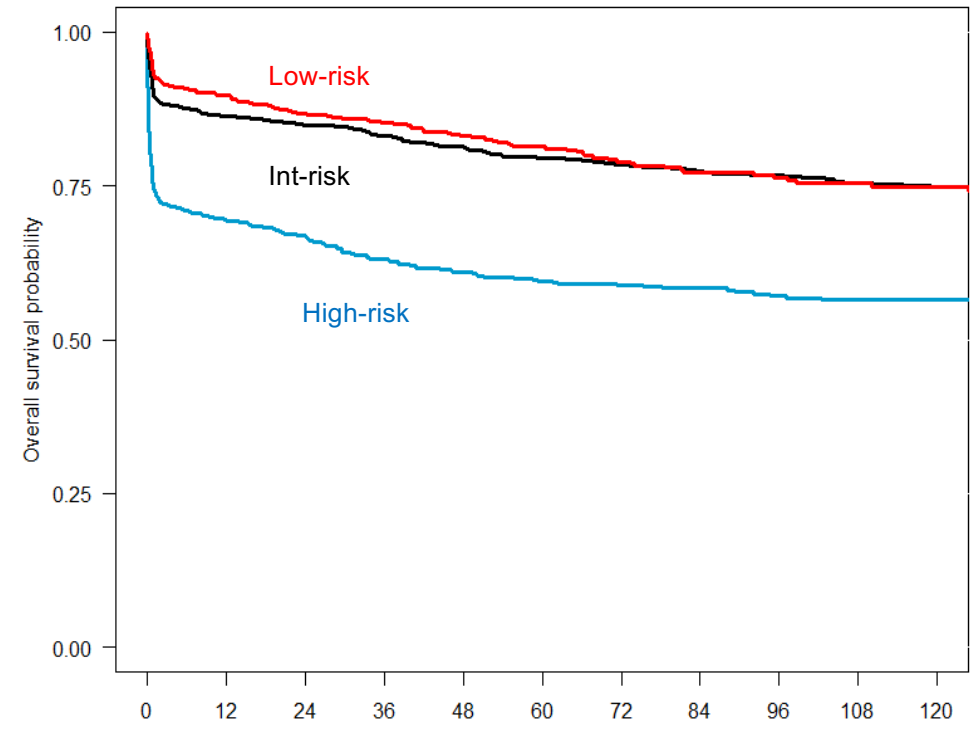


	0	12	24	36	48	60		0	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144	156	
[Protocolo= 93]	89	47	37	33	30	29	∑C=earlydeath ]	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
[Protocolo= 96]	229	184	176	164	160	155	SEC=Elegible ]	2738	2065	1813	1581	1392	1186	1013	883	717	588	487	385	283	196	
[Protocolo= 99]	811	610	589	566	535	511	∑EC=lackdata ]	350	72	58	42	33	30	23	17	12	11	10	10	9	8	
[Protocolo=2005]	1554	1087	978	862	750	610	∑C=lackgenetic ]	93	38	30	27	21	19	19	19	19	16	14	13	11	10	
[Protocolo=2012]	758	420	348	238	175	120	∑=othertherapy]	404	205	176	143	123	112	95	78	70	55	52	41	33	20	
[Protocolo=2017]	691	247	122	74	40	13	C=secundaria ]	350	187	153	128	108	81	63	51	43	31	23	21	16	12	
							∑ASEC=unfit ]	147	28	20	16	13	10	8	5	4	4	3	1	1	1	

# OS per ECOG and relapse-risk score PETHEMA registry

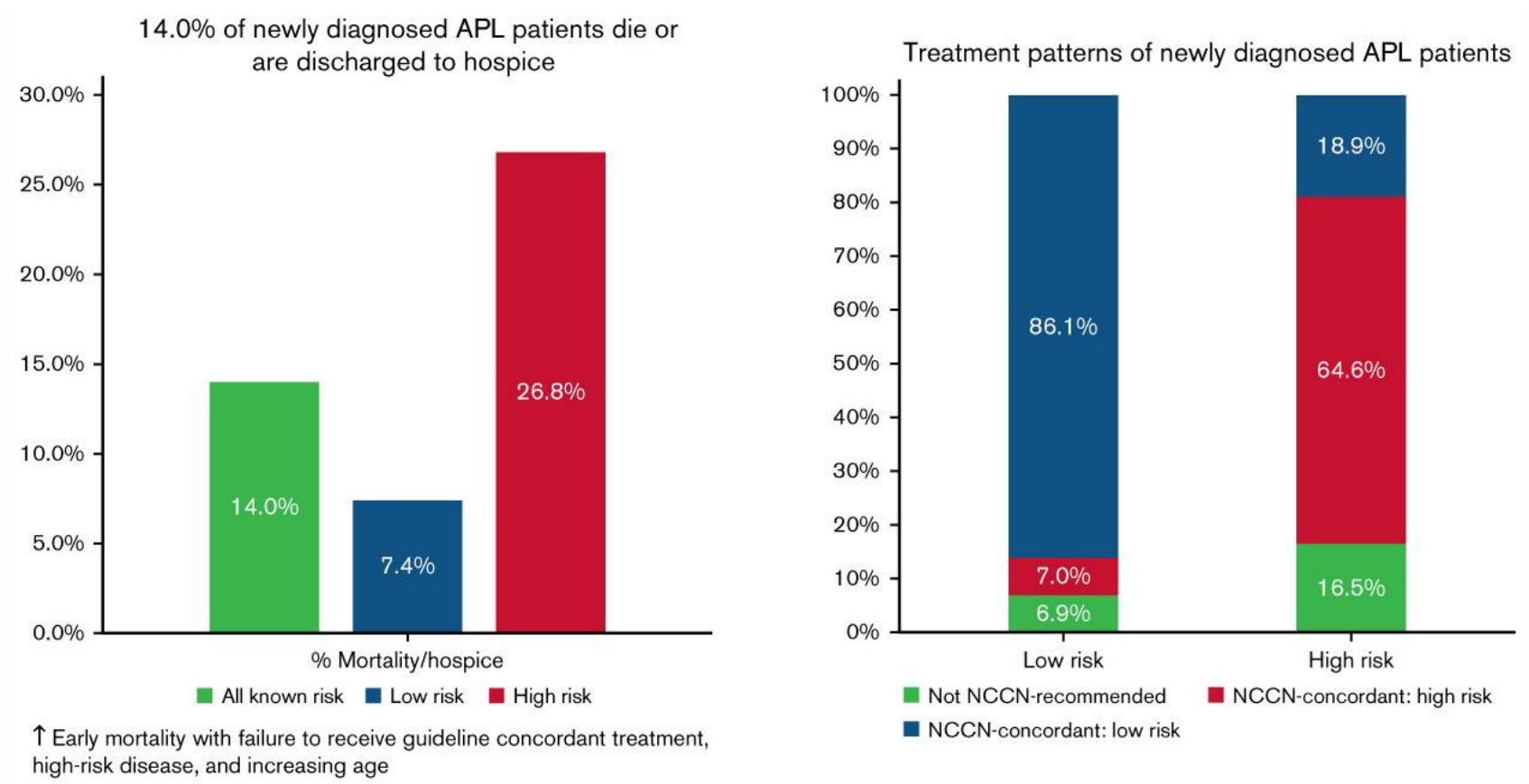


	0	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120
ECOG 0-2	2840	2041	1773	1525	1342	1143	974	841	694	563	470
ECOG 3-4	323	120	102	93	74	62	51	39	33	25	20

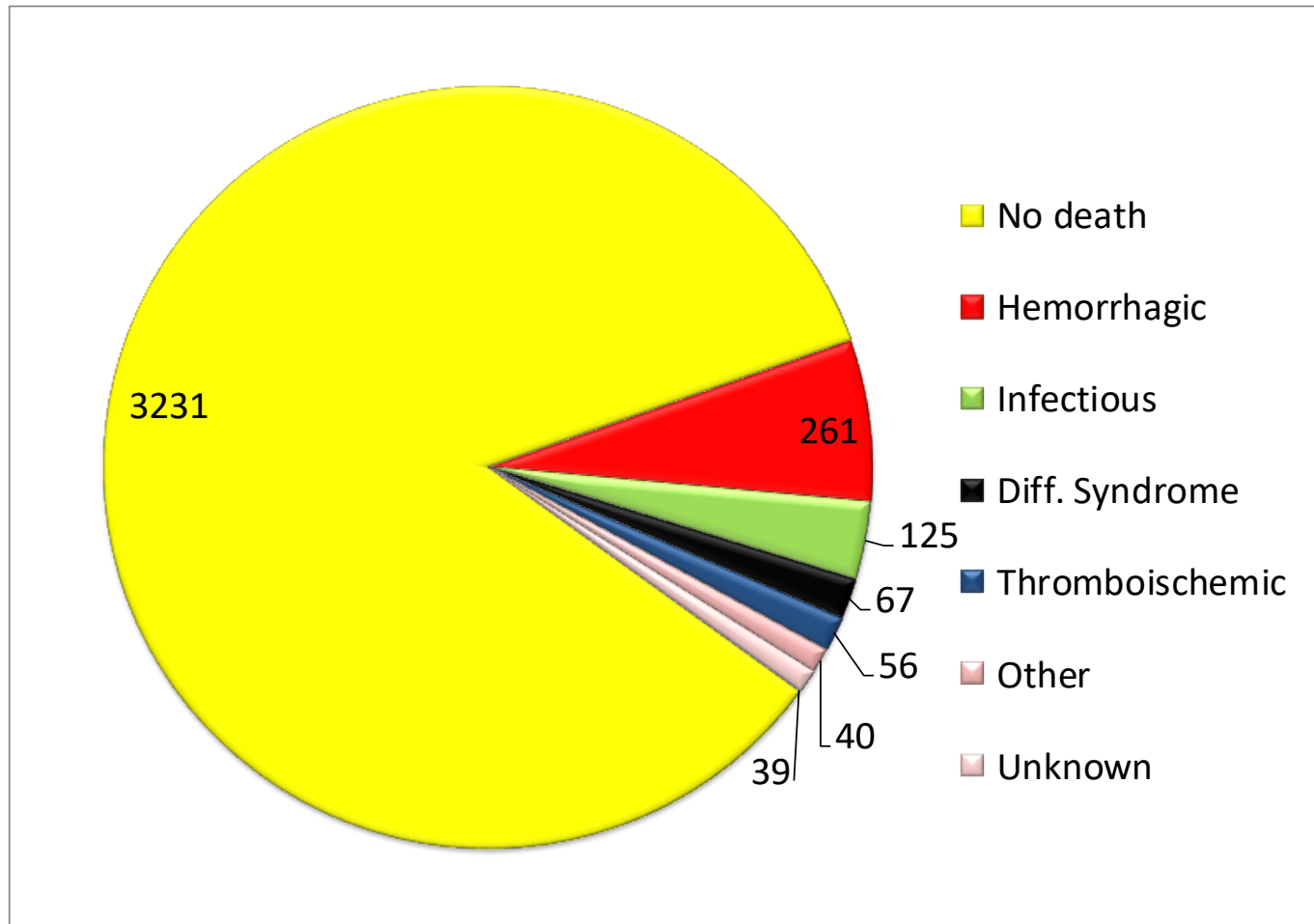


	0	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120
high	1080	571	496	427	362	303	253	211	178	147	126
intermediate	1831	1301	1158	1007	908	782	680	596	481	392	320
low	842	609	506	433	364	305	247	207	173	138	115

## Practice patterns and real-life outcomes for patients with APL in the United States



# Early death among 3819 patients of the PETHEMA APL registry N=588 (15.4%)



## Early death according to trial eligibility

### PETHEMA registry

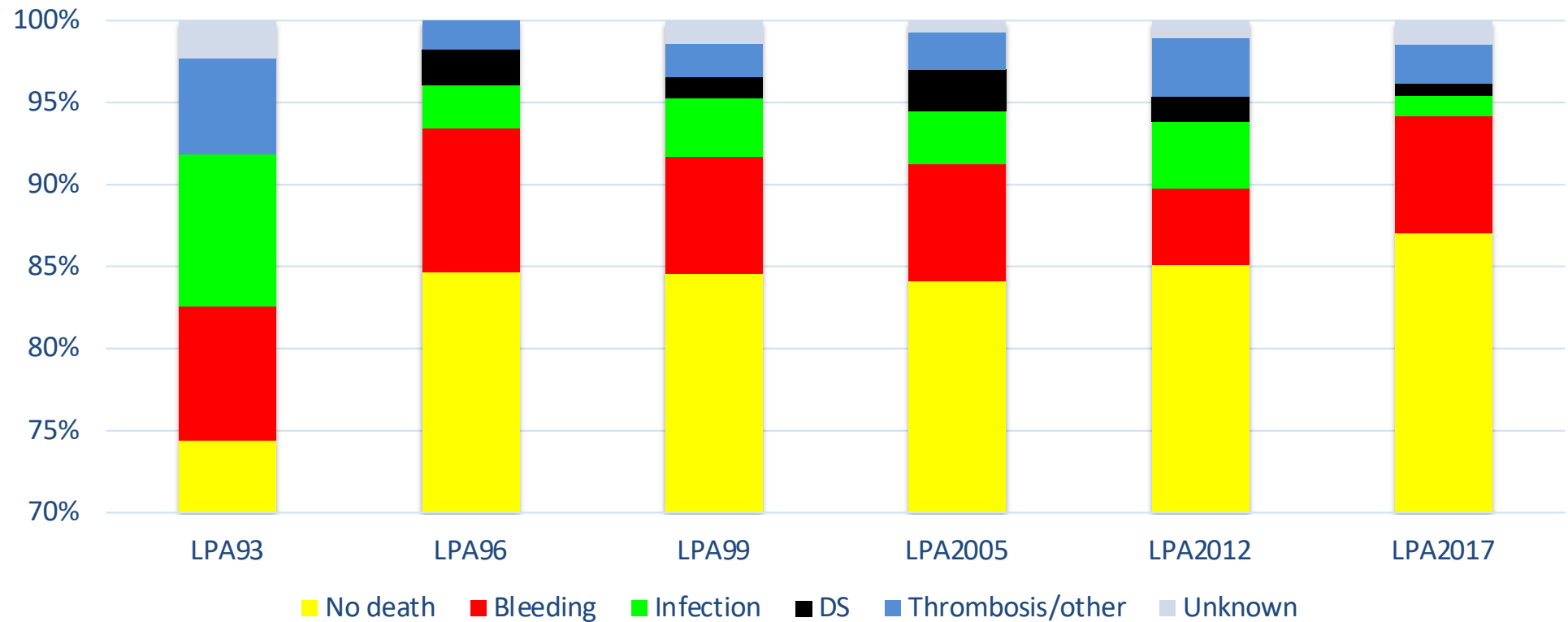
	Eligible (n = 2740)	sAPL (n = 324)	No genetics (n = 63)	Unfit/very ED (n = 189)	p
Early death (%)	9.9	23.5	28.6	78.3	<.001
Cause of death					
Hemorrhage	4.3	8.3	16.4	44.4	
Infection	2.0	8.3	3.3	10.1	
DS	1.6	2.2	0.0	5.3	
Thrombosis/other	1.6	4.0	3.2	14.3	
Unknown	0.3	0.6	6.4	4.2	



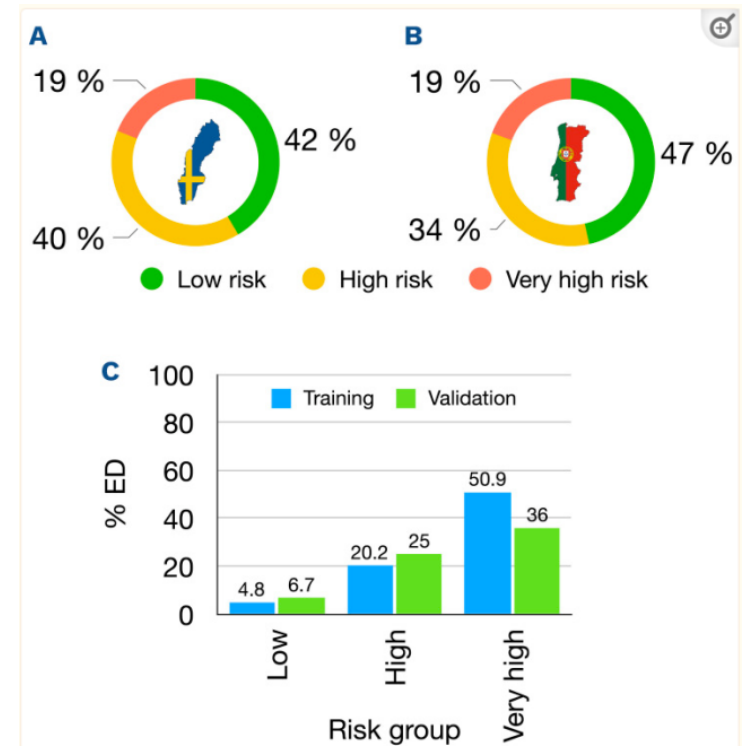
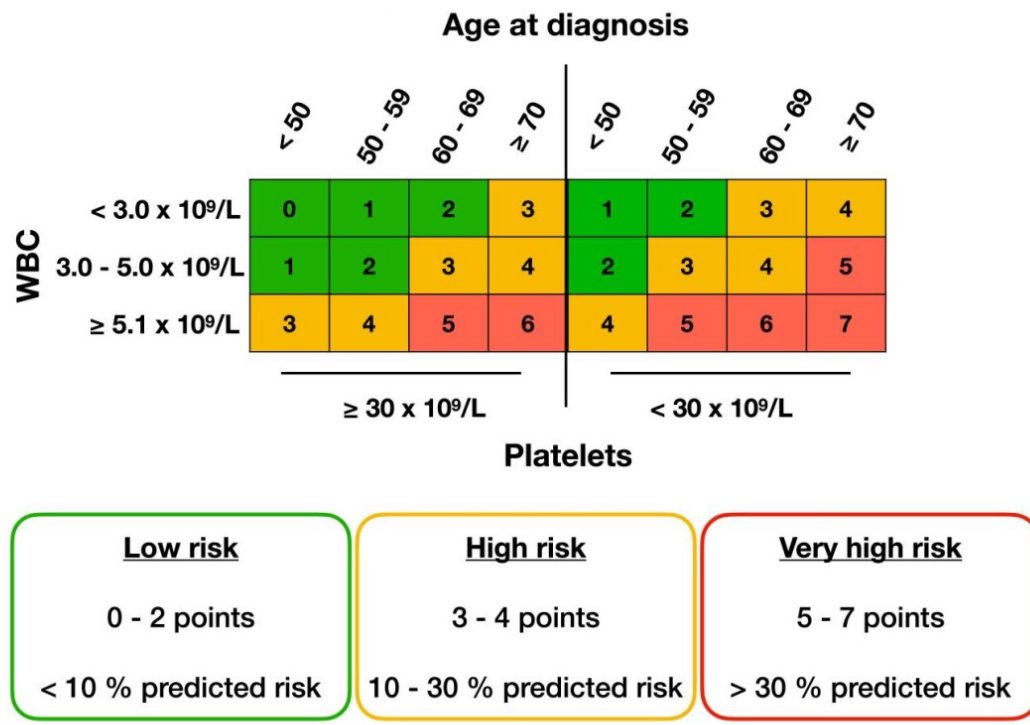
# Early death according to treatment period

PETHEMA registry

p-value = 0.008



# A risk score based on real-world data to predict early death in APL Swedish registry

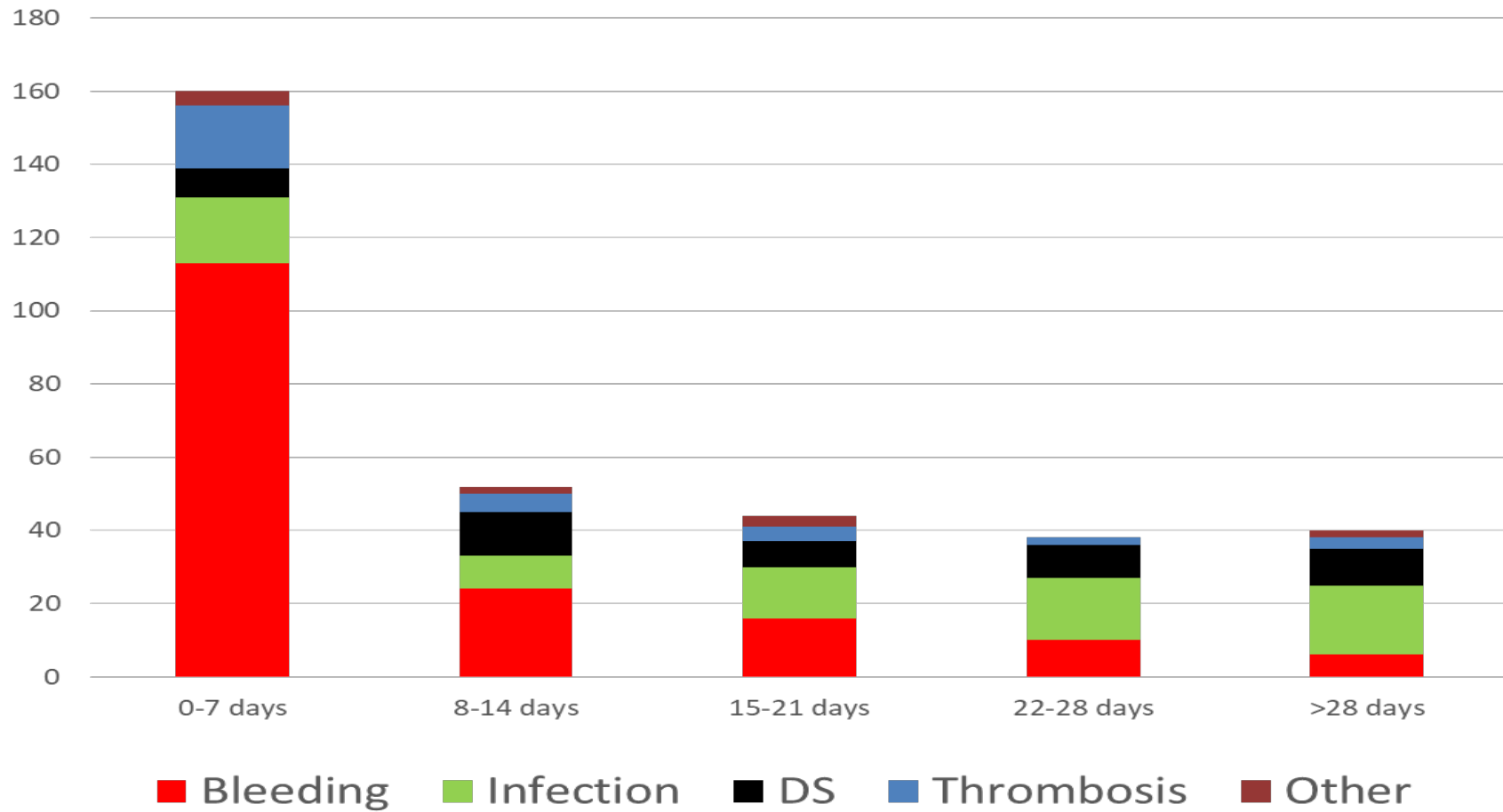


# Overall ED: Multivariate análisis

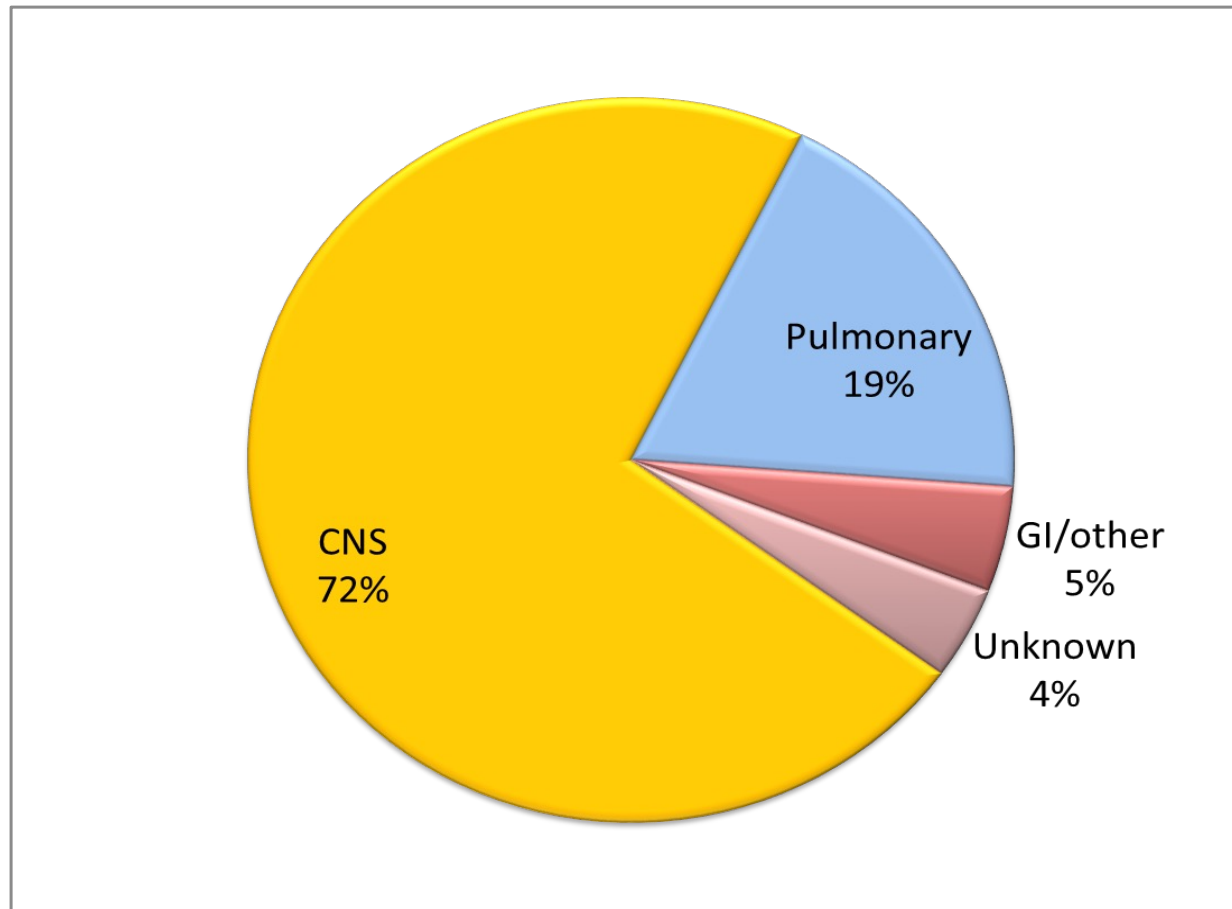
## PETHEMA registry

Risk factor	RR	P value
Age (per year)	1.03	<0.0001
WBC >10x10 <sup>9</sup> /L	2.1	<0.0001
ECOG (per unit)	1.9	<0.0001
LDH >ULN	1.7	0.006
Creatinine >ULN	4.2	<0.0001
Blasts in PB (per 1x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	1.009	0.005
sAPL	1.7	0.03

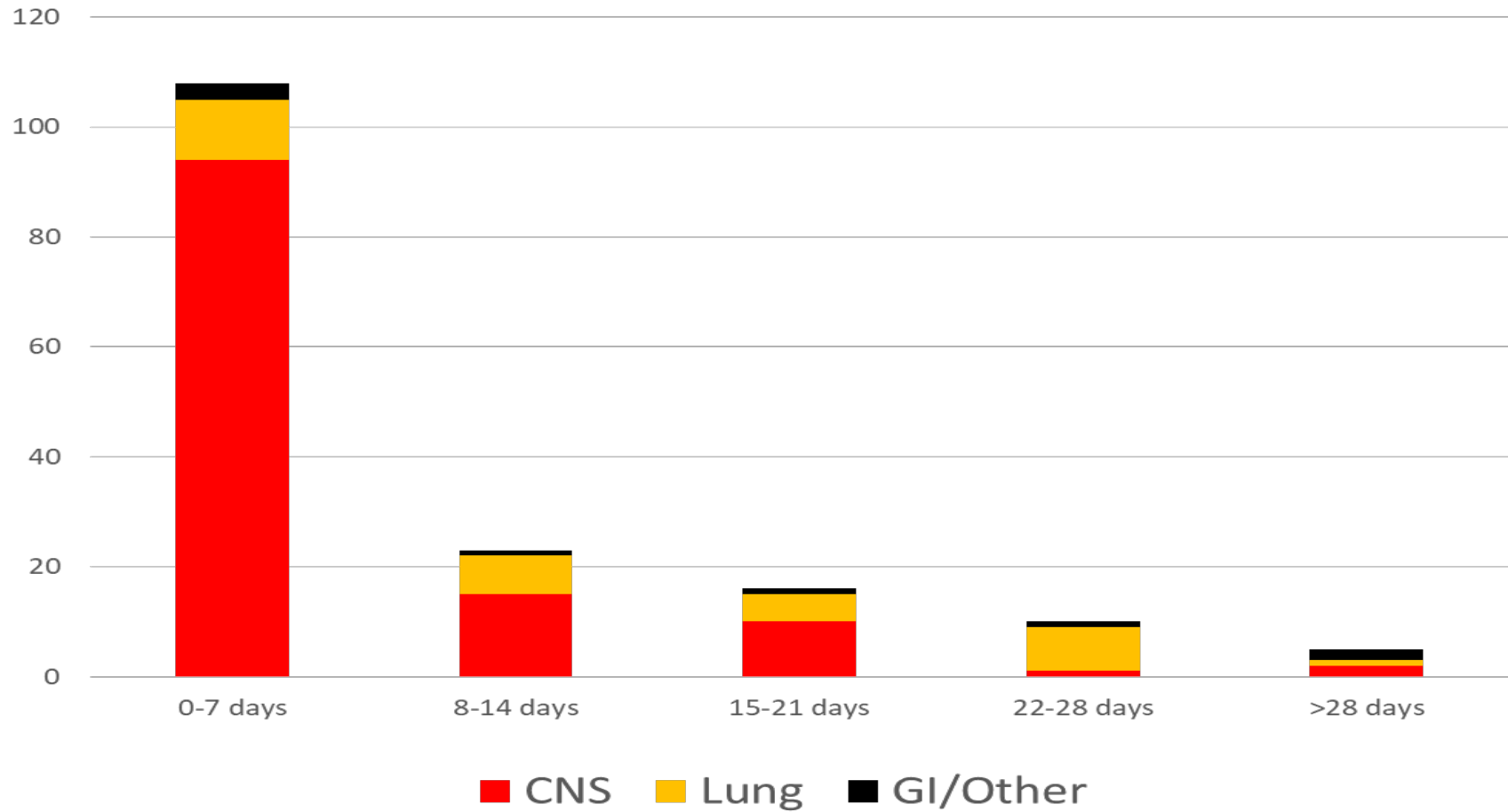
# Causes of death by timing PETHEMA registry



## Sites of lethal bleeding N=261 (6.8%)



## Sites of fatal bleeding by timing PETHEMA registry



## Hemorrhagic ED: Multivariate análisis PETHEMA registry

Risk factor	RR	P value
Age (per year)	1.01	0.048
WBC >10x10 <sup>9</sup> /L	2.1	0.02
ECOG (per unit)	1.8	<0.0001
Creatinine >ULN	3.1	<0.0001
Blasts in PB (per 1x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	1.01	0.005

## **ELN 2019 guidelines**

### **Appropriate setting for the management of APL**

“The panel again recommends that patients with APL be managed by an experienced team in centers with documented rapid access to genetic diagnosis, a broad range of blood products, as well as ATRA, ATO, and chemotherapy”.



# ELN 2019 guidelines

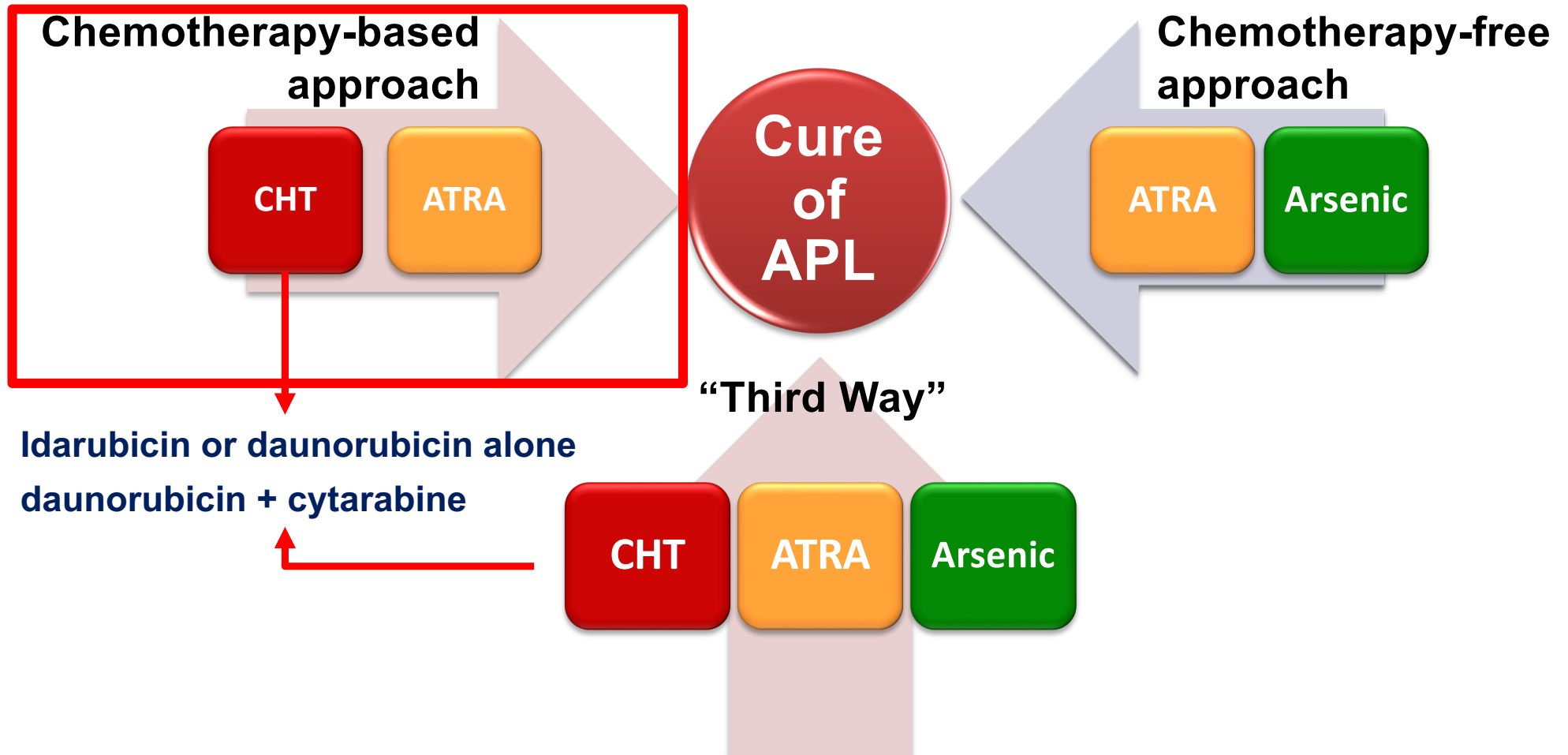
## Initiation of therapy

- For non-high risk patients, starting ATO can be delayed until genetic diagnosis
- For high-risk patients:

### *Management of hyperleukocytosis (WBC >10 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L) at presentation*

1.10. Cytoreductive chemotherapy should be started without delay, even if the molecular results are still pending: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For patients to be <u>treated</u> with ATRA plus chemotherapy, idarubicin or daunorubicin alone or combined with cytarabine should be given.</li> <li>• For patients to <u>be treated</u> with ATRA plus ATO, cytoreduction can be done with idarubicin (12 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) or <u>gemtuzumab ozogamicin</u> (6-9 mg/ m<sup>2</sup>).</li> </ul>	IV - C	Updated
1.11. <u>Leukapheresis</u> should be avoided due to risk of precipitating fatal hemorrhage.	III - B	Unchanged
1.12. Prophylactic corticosteroids <u>can be given</u> , which may reduce the risk of APL differentiation syndrome.	IV - C	Unchanged

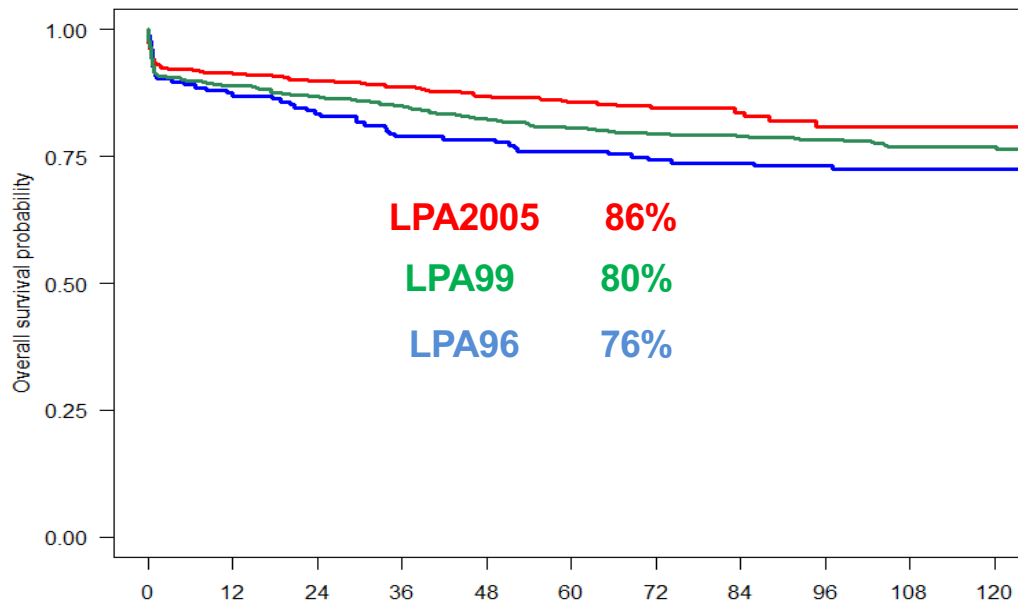
## Current Treatment Approaches in high-risk APL



# Improved outcomes at 5 years using risk-adapted trials

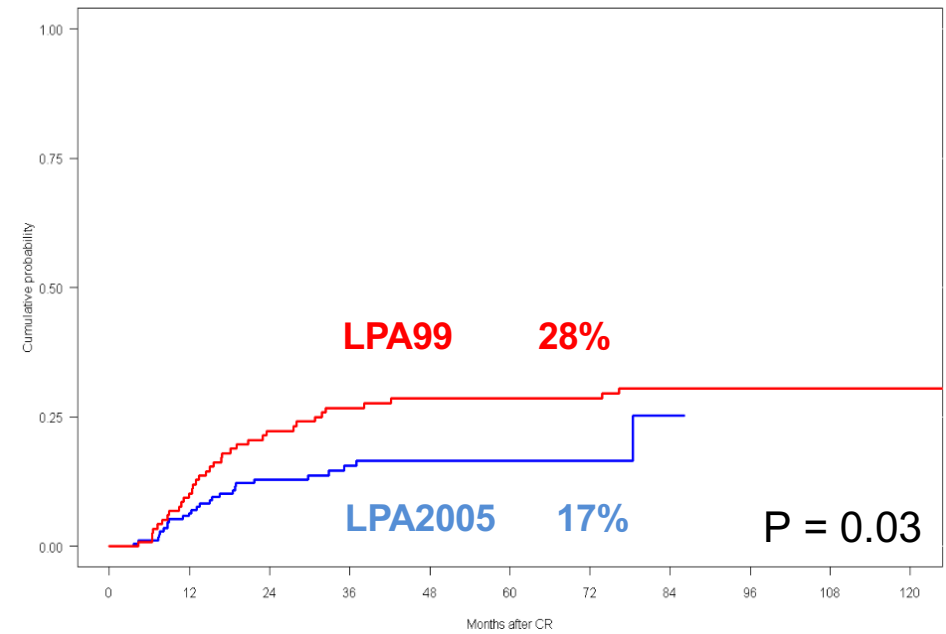
## PETHEMA/HOVON/PALG/GATLA

OS in all eligible patients



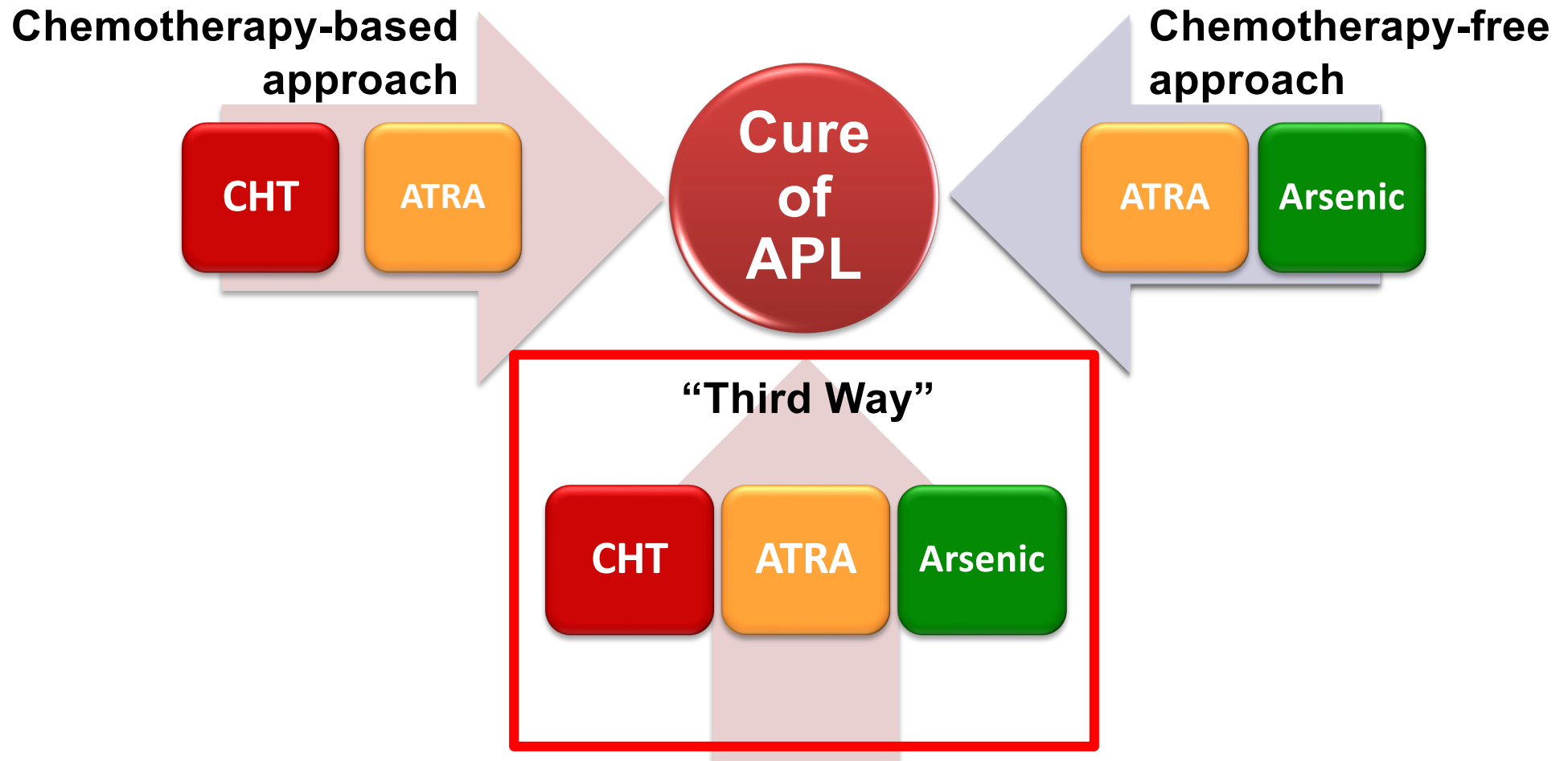
	0	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120
LPA2005	830	695	609	510	412	300	182	111	68	42	24
LPA96	175	152	146	138	137	132	129	128	126	125	123
LPA99	567	500	486	469	448	430	416	394	339	271	215

CIR in High-risk eligible patients



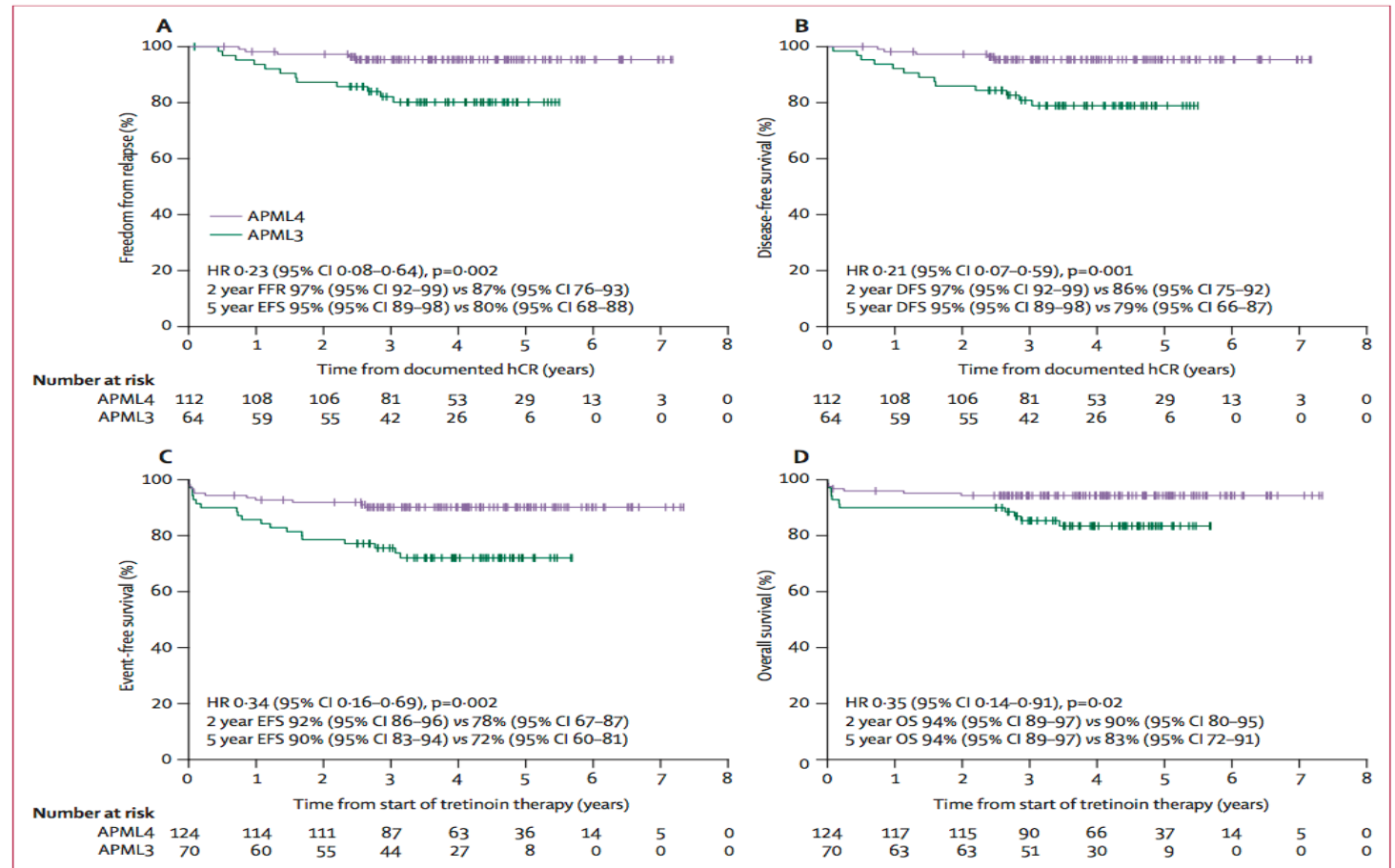
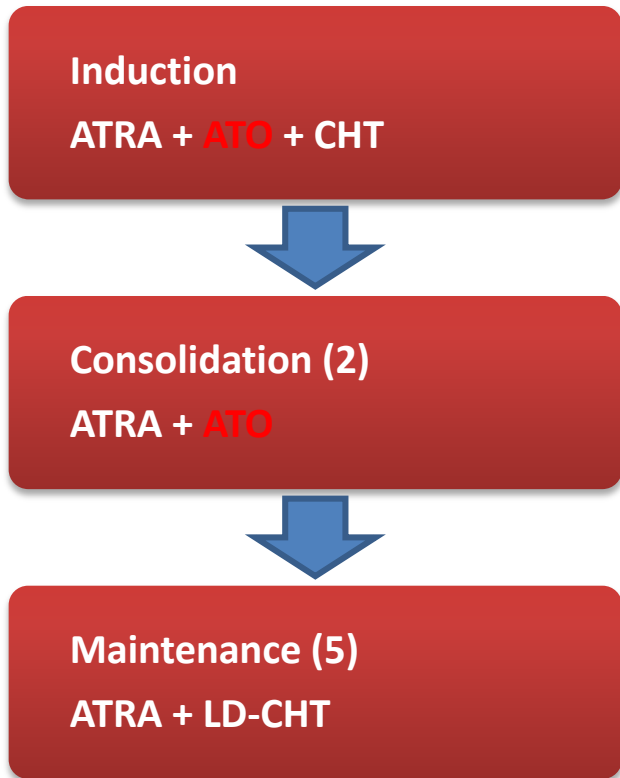
	0	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120
LPA2005	182	148	118	84	64	37	17	2	0	0	0
LPA99	117	105	88	80	77	77	74	67	54	45	32

## Current Treatment Approaches in high-risk APL



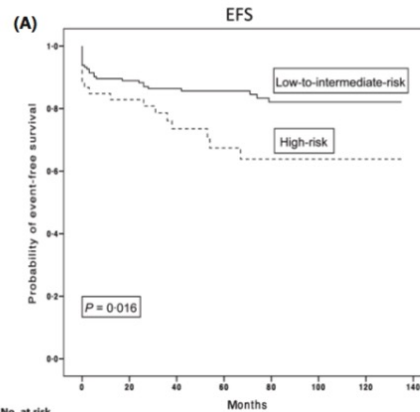
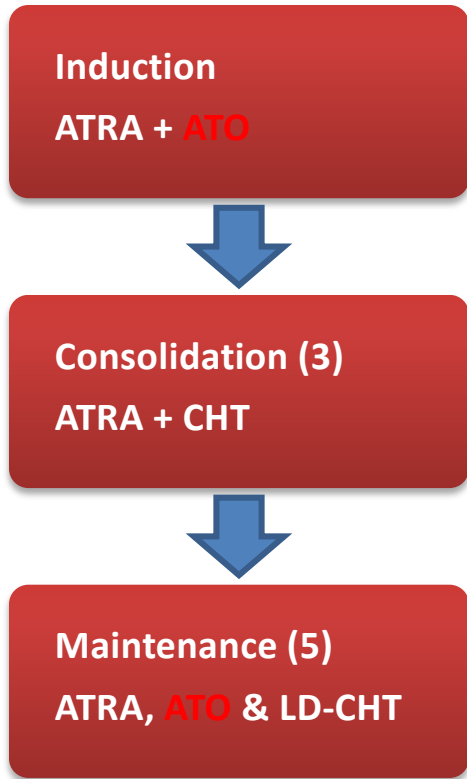
# ATRA + ATO + CHT

## Australasian Leukemia and Lymphoma Group

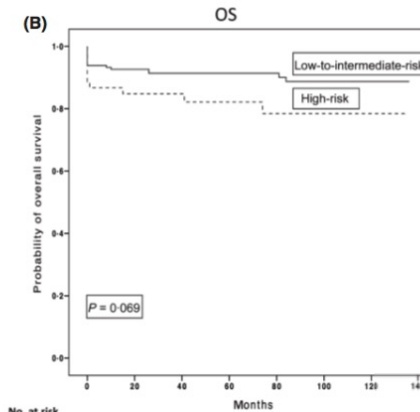


# ATRA + ATO + CHT

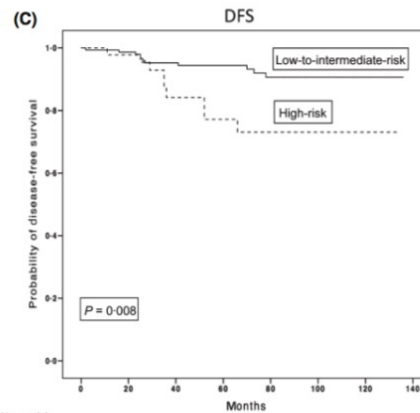
## Shanghai Group



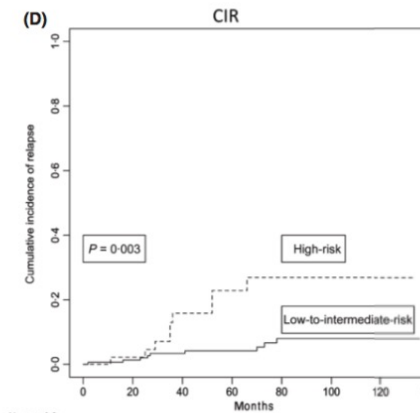
No. at risk	0	20	40	60	80	100	120	140
Low-to-int-risk	164	142	117	89	65	46	22	
High-risk	53	41	28	20	18	10	5	



No. at risk	0	20	40	60	80	100	120	140
Low-to-int-risk	164	148	118	92	71	47	24	
High-risk	53	41	32	24	20	12	6	

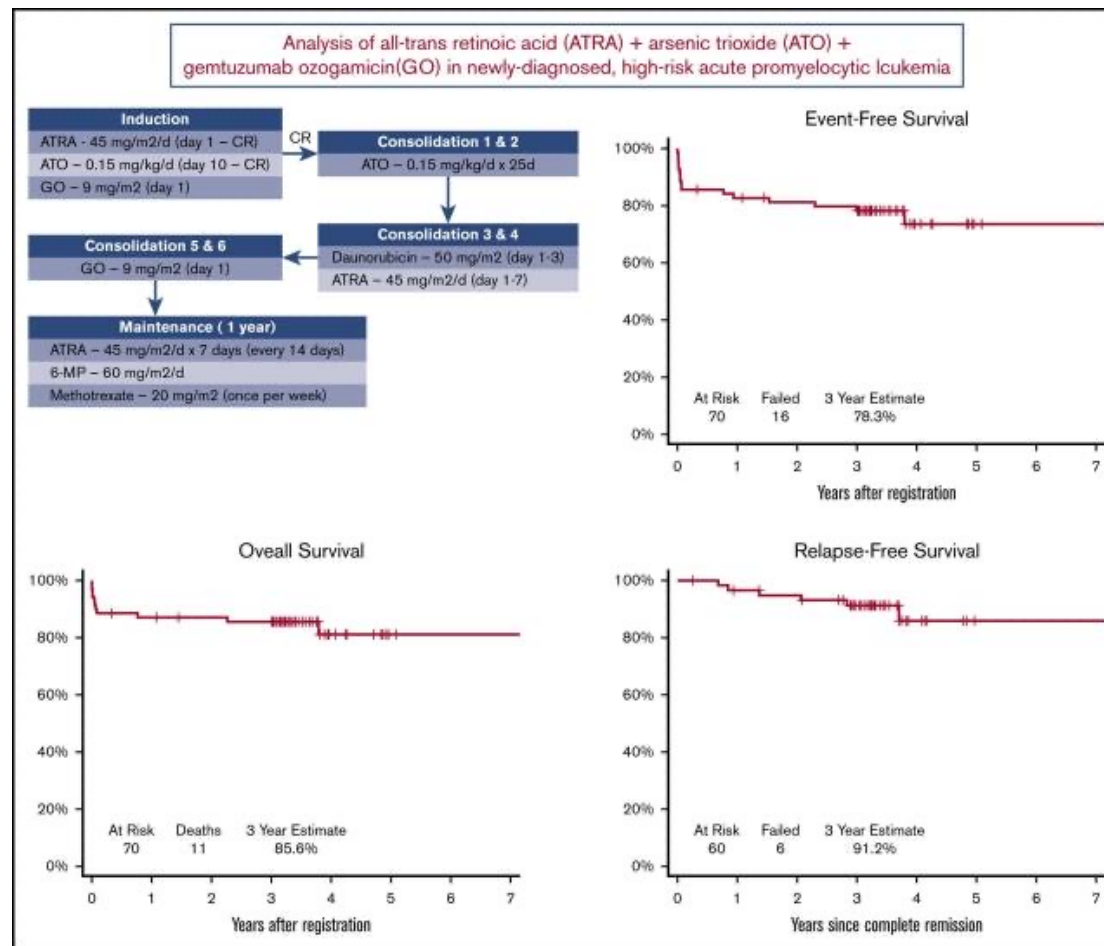


No. at risk	0	20	40	60	80	100	120	140
Low-to-int-risk	153	147	118	89	66	44	22	
High-risk	46	41	28	20	17	9	5	

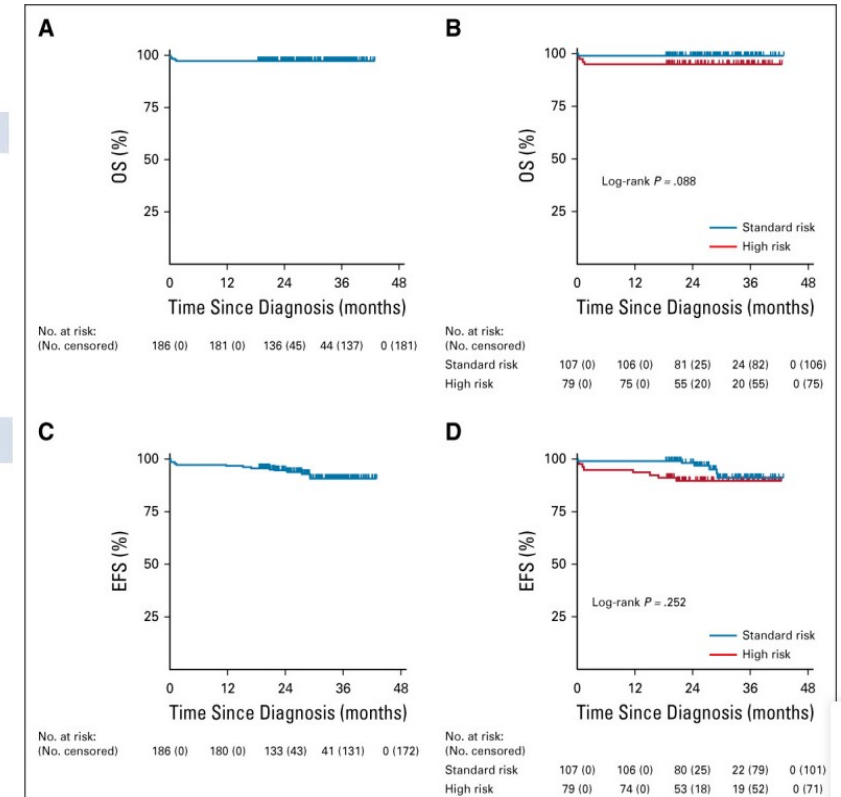
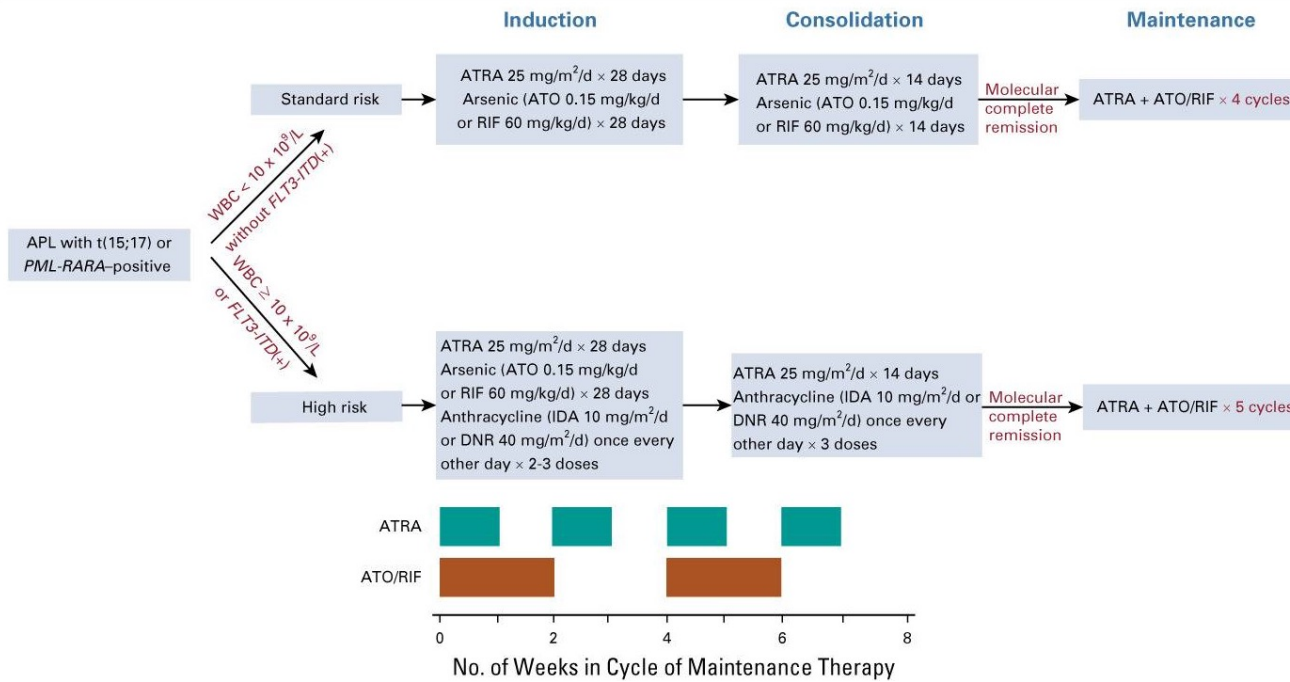


No. at risk	0	20	40	60	80	100	120	140
Low-to-int-risk	0	2	5	6	9	9	9	
High-risk	0	1	6	8	9	9	9	

# A phase 2 study of ATRA + ATO + CHT in high-risk APL (SWOG 0535)



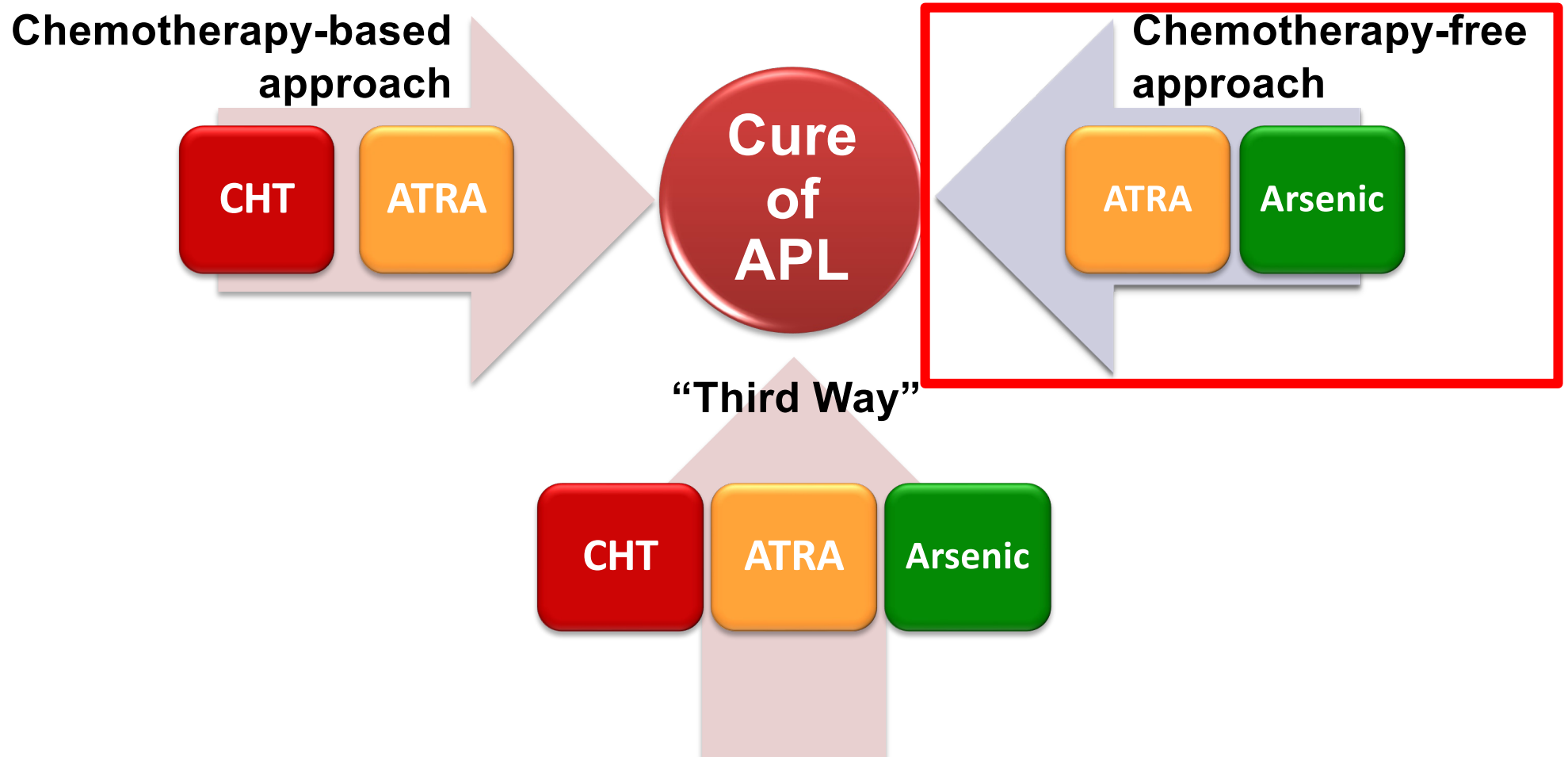
# ATO + ATRA + CHT for High-risk Pediatric APL CCLG-APL2016 Study



Zheng H, Jiang H, Hu S, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2021 Oct 1;39(28):3161-3170.

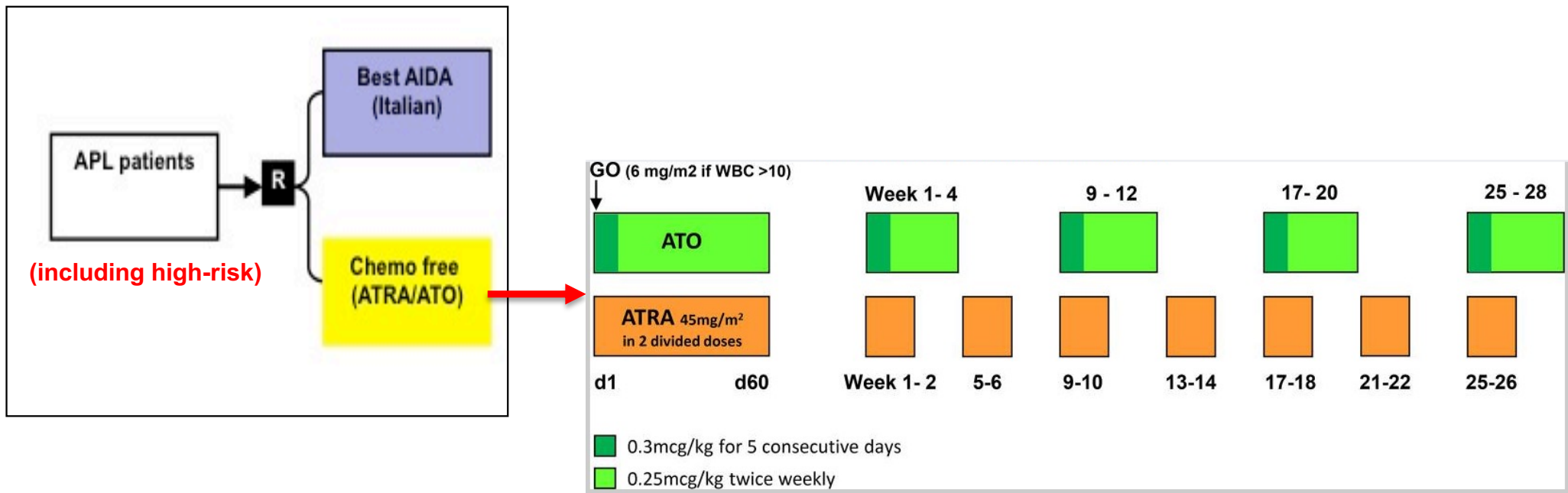


## Current Treatment Approaches in high-risk APL



# ATO + ATRA vs. AIDA

## UK NCRI - AML 17 trial

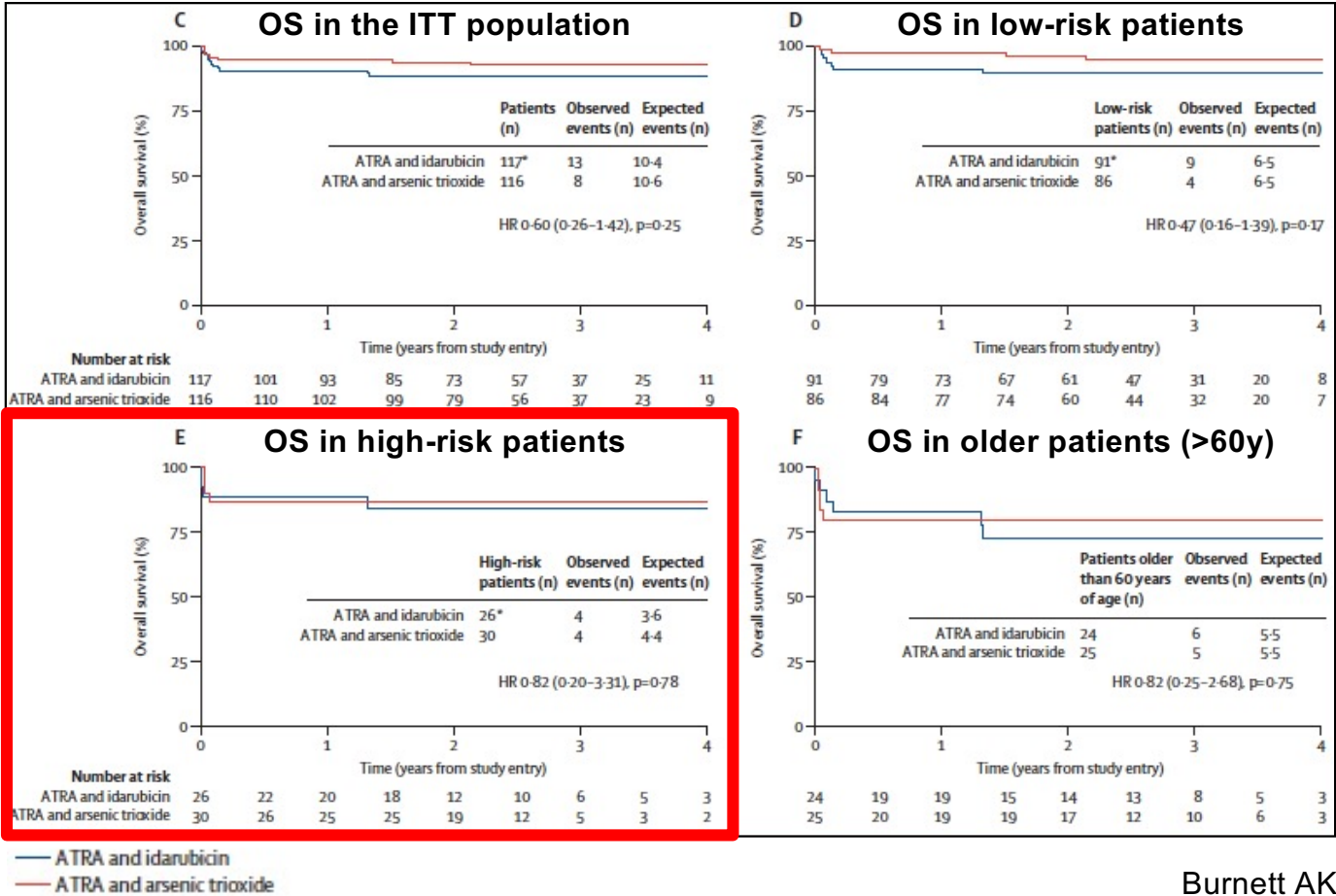


Burnett AK, *et al.* Lancet Oncol 2015;16: 1295–305

Russell N, Dillon R. Front Oncol. 2020 Nov 11;10:594129.

# ATO + ATRA vs. AIDA

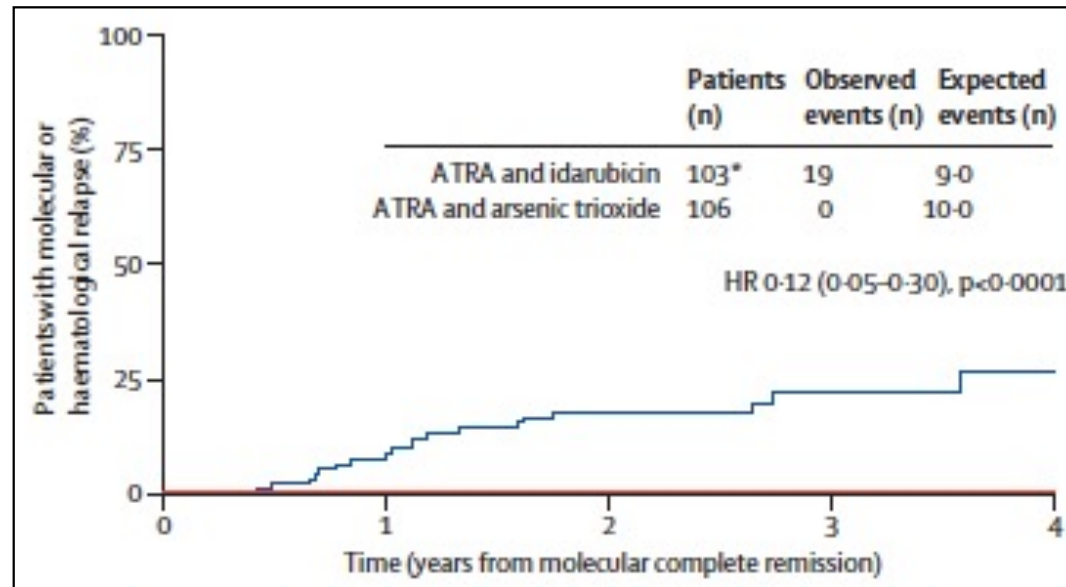
## UK NCRI - AML 17 trial



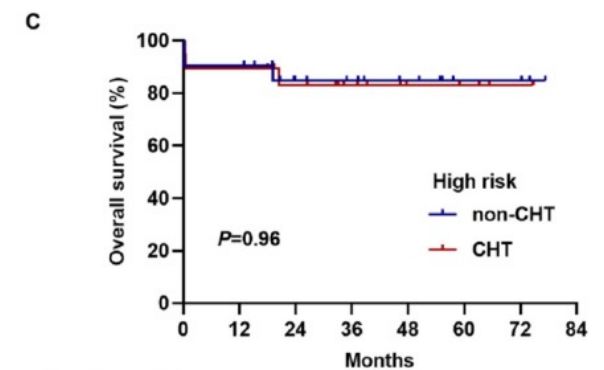
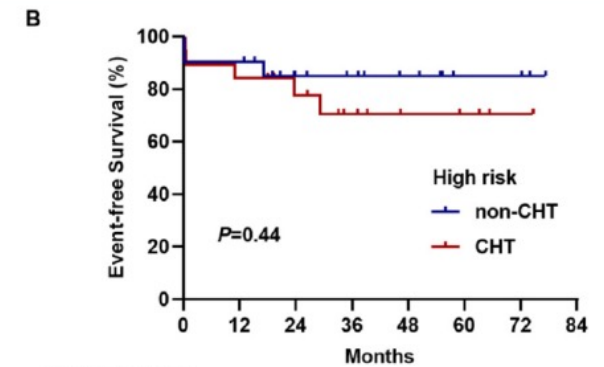
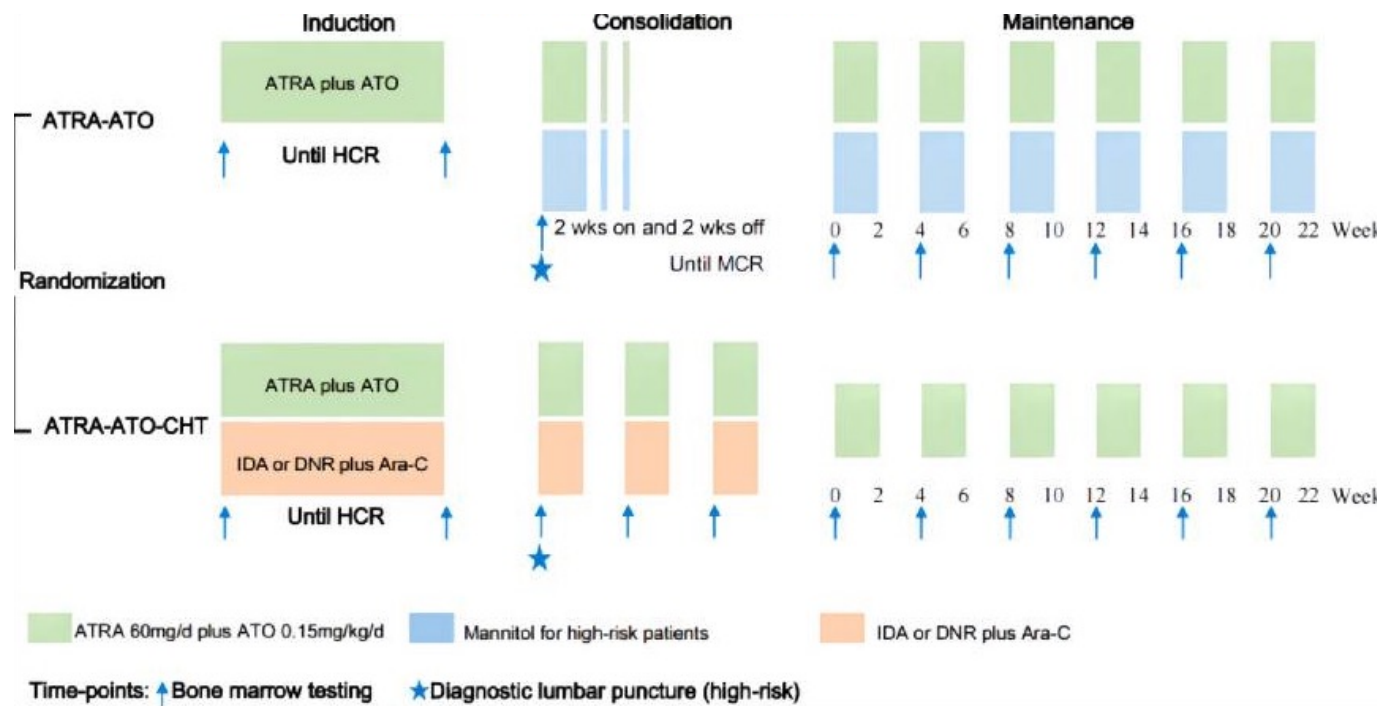
# ATO + ATRA vs. AIDA

## UK NCRI - AML 17 trial

Cumulative incidence of molecular or hematological relapse

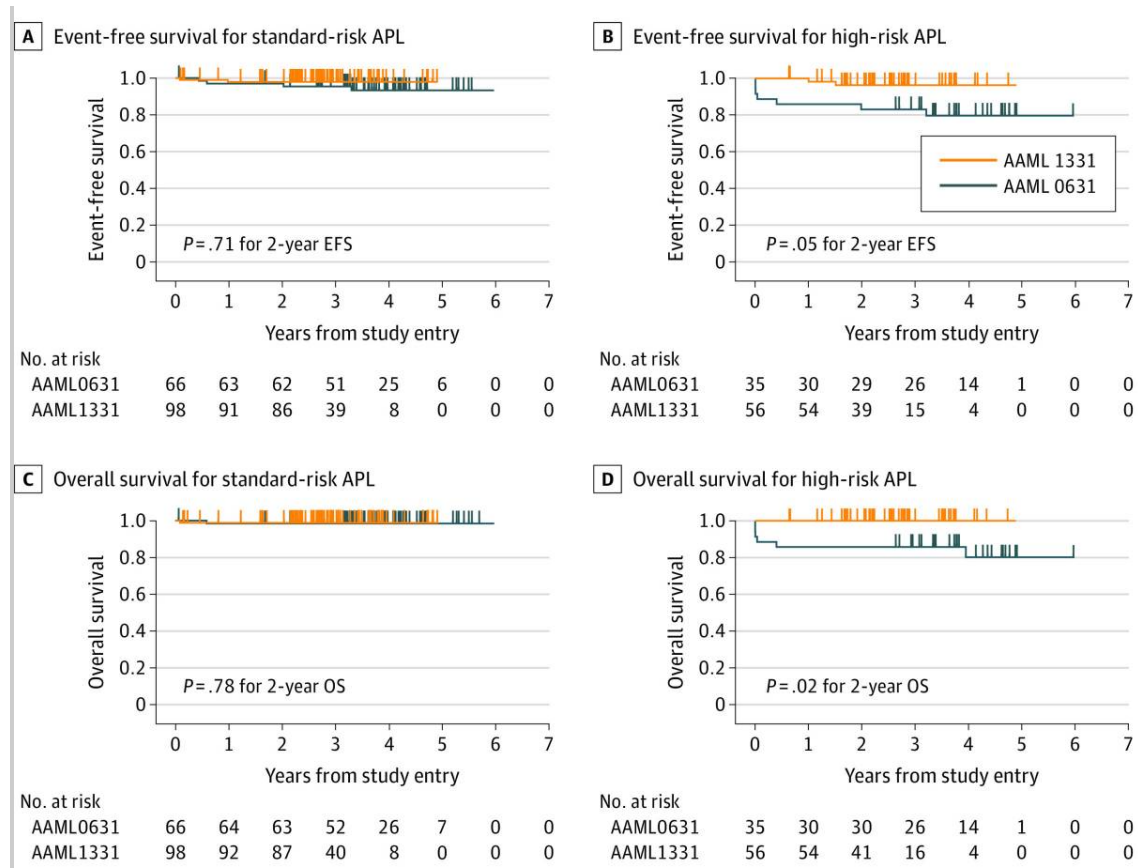


# ATO + ATRA vs. ATO + ATRA + CHT in high-risk APL (APL15 trial)



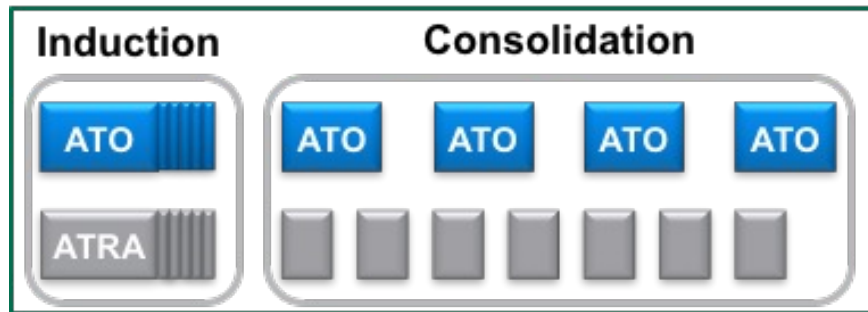
# ATO + ATRA vs. ATRA + CHT

## Children's Oncology Group AAML1331 Trial



# Current PETHEMA risk-adapted strategy in APL

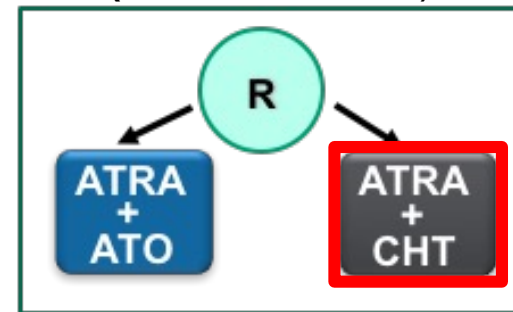
**Low and intermediate risk**  
(WBC  $\leq 10 \times 10^9/L$ )



Lo-Coco F, et al. N Engl J Med. 2013;369:111-21

**High risk**  
(WBC  $> 10 \times 10^9/L$ )

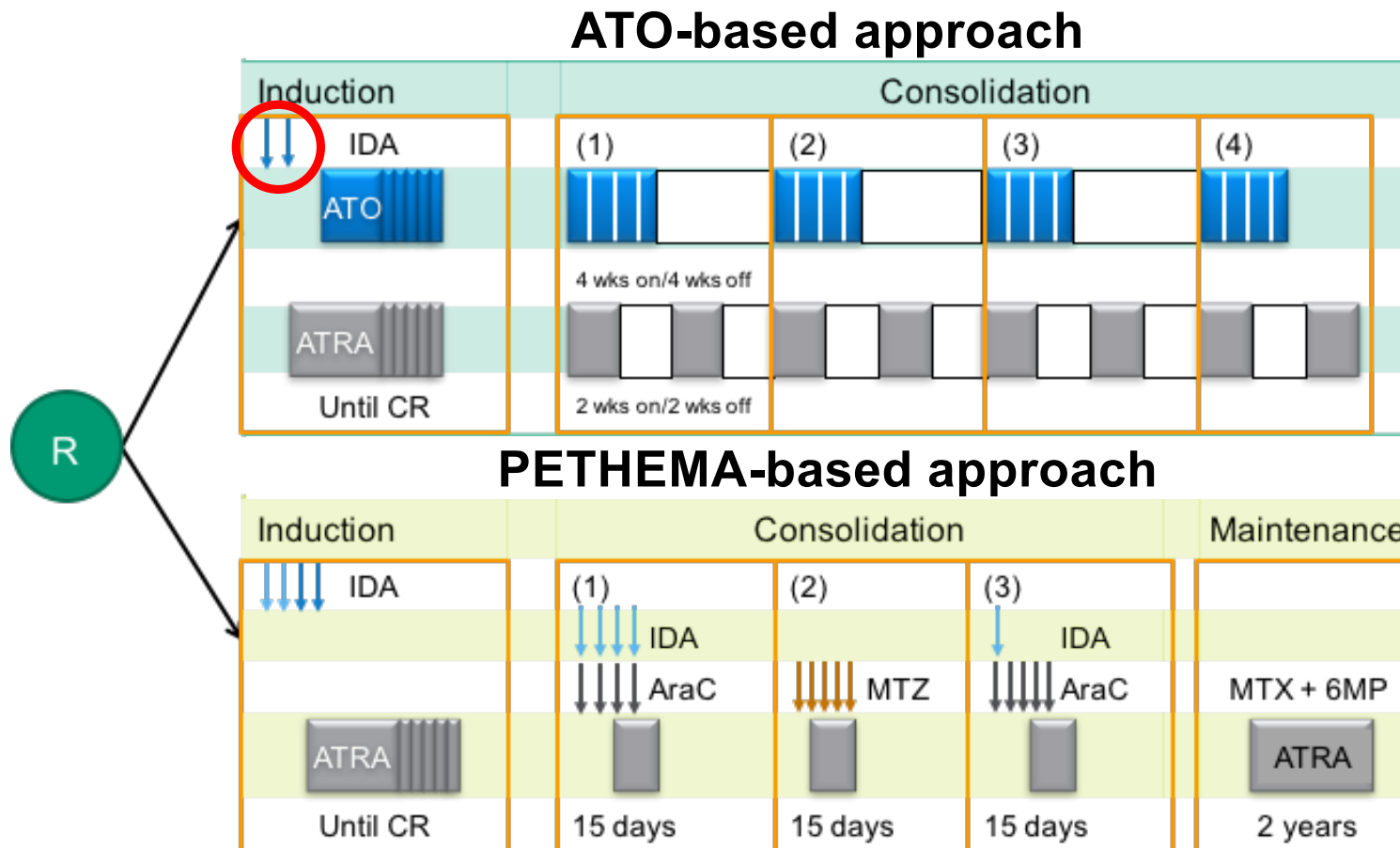
**APOLLO trial**  
(NCT02688140)



**Institutions not  
participating in  
the trial**

ATO, arsenic trioxide; CHT, chemotherapy; R, randomised.

# Pan-European randomized trial in high-risk APL (18-65 years old) (APOLLO trial - NCT02688140)





## International registry study in >70 years old APL Baseline Characteristics

	CTX/ ATRA N = 260	ATO/ATRA/ ±CTX N = 177	Less intensive N = 26	P-value
Median age, years	73.5	73.6	79.6	<0.001
Median WBC (10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	2.05	1.2	2.8	<0.001
BM blasts (%)	80	70.5	82	0.006
<b>Risk categorization<sup>a</sup> (%)</b>				
Low / Intermediate	71	90	69	<0.001
High	29	10	31	

Kayser S. et al, Leukemia 2020

<sup>a</sup>Prognostic score of APL (Sanz Score):<sup>1</sup> WBC < 10.0 10<sup>9</sup>/L (low- to intermediate-risk) vs WBC ≥ 10.0 10<sup>9</sup>/L (high-risk)<sup>1</sup>. BM, bone marrow; WBC, white blood cell count. 1. Sanz MA, et al. Blood. 2009;113:1875-91.

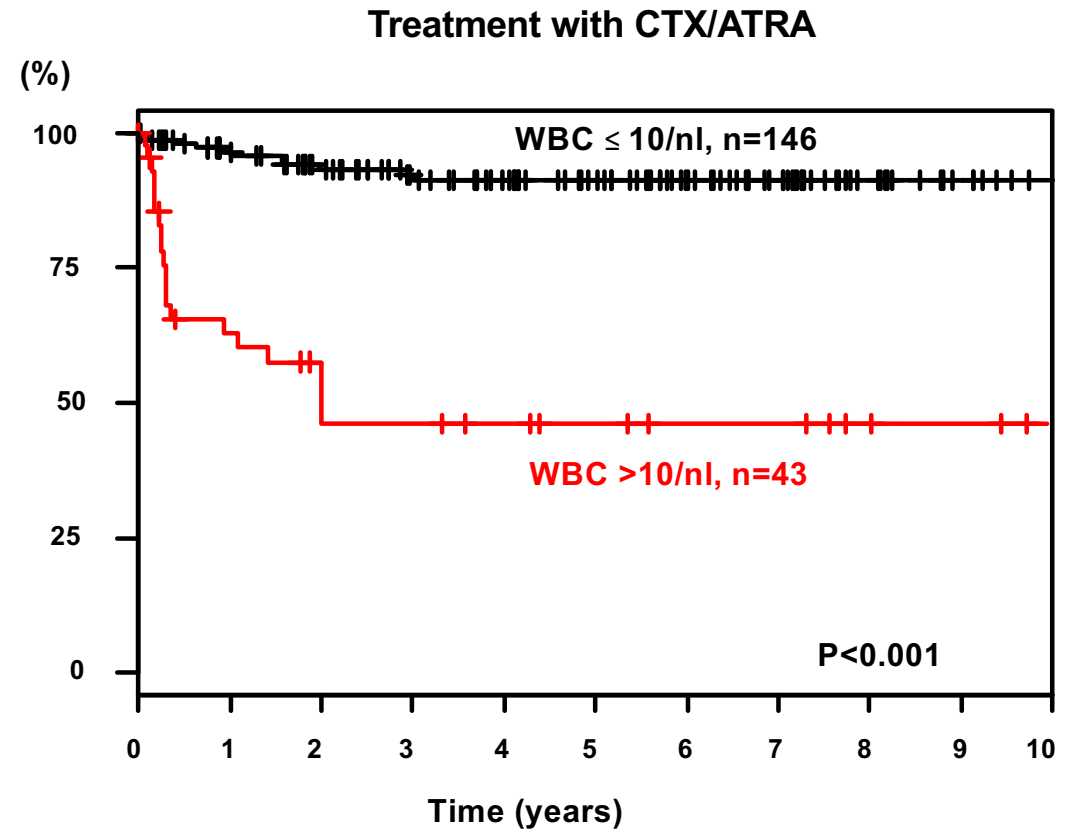
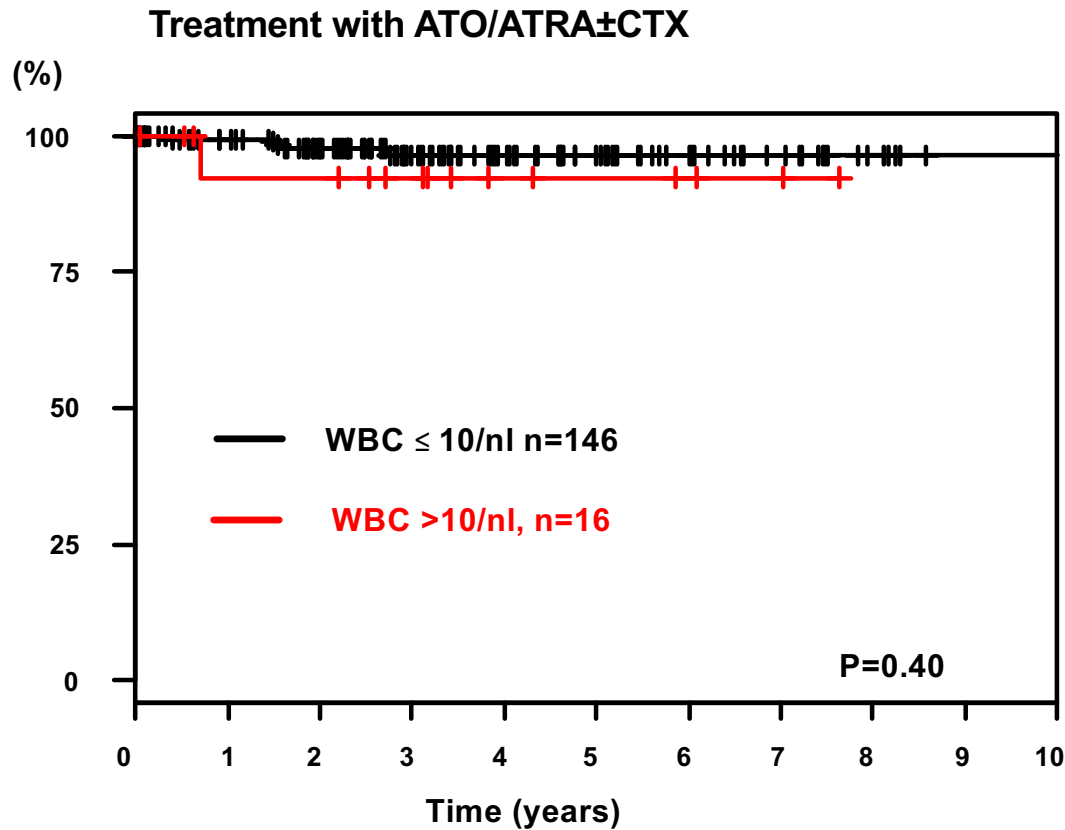
## Response to Induction Therapy in >70 years old APL pts

% (N)	CTX/ ATRA N = 259	ATO/ATRA/ ±CTX N = 174	Less Intensive N = 26
<b>CR</b>	<b>75 (194)</b>	<b>93 (162)</b>	<b>50 (13)</b>
<b>RD</b>	<b>1 (2)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>4 (1)</b>
<b>ED*</b>	<b>24 (63)</b>	<b>7 (12)</b>	<b>46 (12)</b>

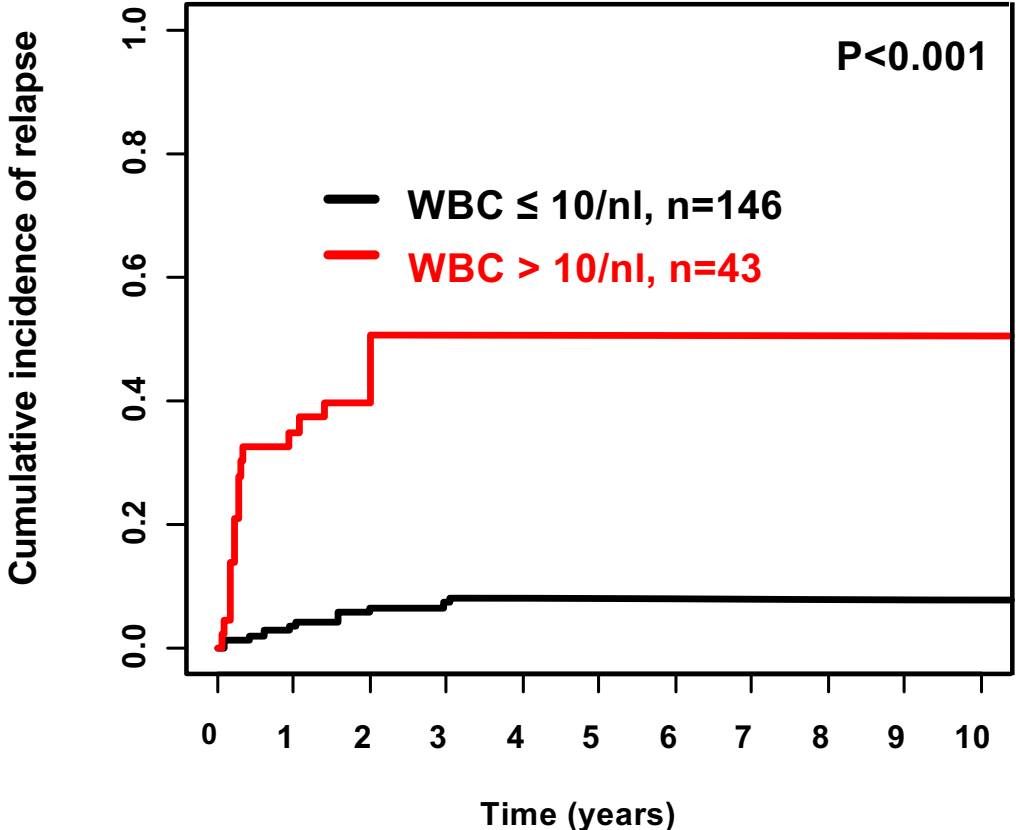
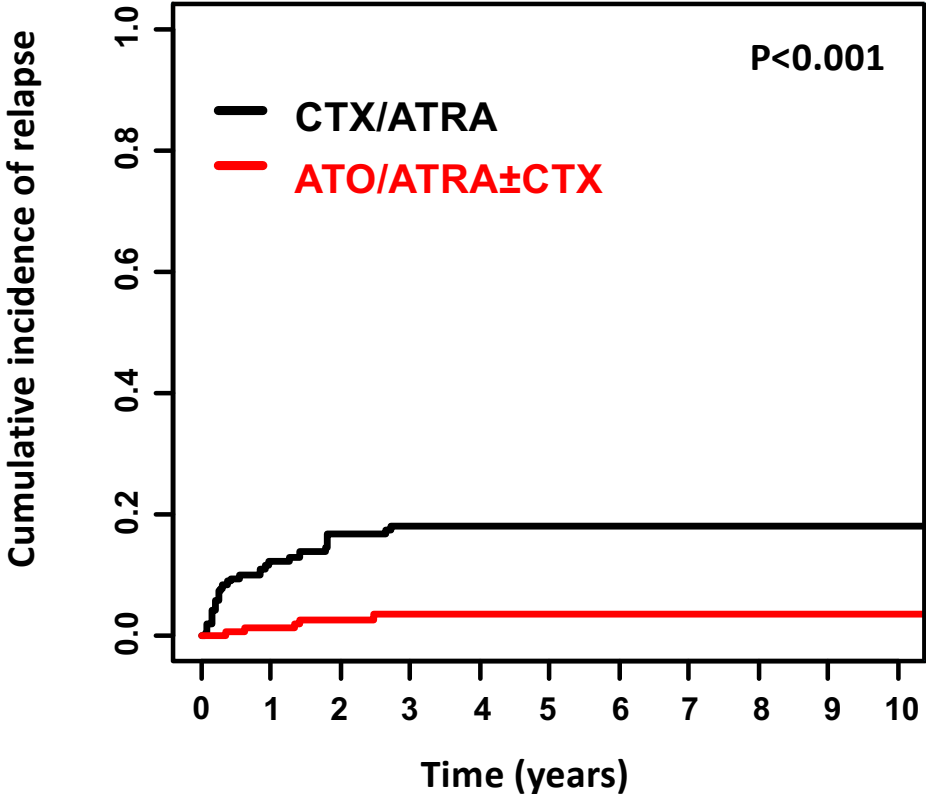
**\* ED defined as death occurring within 43 days after treatment initiation**

Response data were available in 97% (n=459/475) patients  
 (missing data: CTX/ATRA, n=1; ATO/ATRA/±CTX, n=3; no treatment/unknown, n=12)  
 CR, complete remission; ED, early death; N, numbers; RD, refractory disease.

# Relapse-Free Survival according to WBC Count (>70 yo)



# Cumulative Incidence of Relapse according to Treatment



Kayser S. et al, Leukemia 2020

# Treatment of high-risk APL

## Future directions and remaining issues

- **ATRA + ATO (+ limited CHT) could become the new standard of care**
  - Less toxic option
  - Access limitations
- Oral arsenic formulations remain a promising alternative to IV arsenic
- **Unsolved issues** in a sizable fraction of patients:
  - **Death before induction**
  - **Death during induction**
  - **Death in CR:** long-term effects of ATO not well addressed
  - **Relapse:** almost only in high-risk patients

# Acknowledgements

- Participating institutions and physicians in the PETHEMA trials
- PALG, GATLA, HOVON, GRELAM, ACHO
- Miguel Sanz
- David Martínez-Cuadrón (Research Institute La Fe, Valencia, Spain)