

Roma, 4 Aprile 2024 NH Vittorio Veneto

Il linfoma follicolare. Seconda e terza linea

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OSPEDALE POLICLINICO SAN MARTINO Sistema Sanitario Regione Liguria Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico



Confluenza di interessi:

Vertex (DMC), BMS (DMC), Vifor (DMC), Sanofi, Regeneron, Novartis, Gilead, Menarini



Follicular Lymphoma – a complex tumor microenvironment





Laurent et al. Blood 143.12 (2024): 1080-1090.

CAR-T: una continua innovazione nel mondo "Linfoma"



Follicular Lymphoma – a complex tumor microenvironment

2) Survival promoting T Follicular helper (TFh) via IL-4, IL-21 and CD40L

Follicular T cells that support follicle tumor cell survival



Activating

Tumor Associated Macrophages (TAMs) Trigger BCR signaling via DC-SIGN Macrophage cells that activate tumor cells through BCR

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Beyond the first line: several classes of agents, opportunities for synergy

Immunomodulatory drugs (IMIDs – lenalidomide)

PI3K inhibitors (idelasilib)

Novel Monoclonal Antibodies (es anti CD19, CD 20)

Bispecific Antibodies

CAR-T cells



Qualls et al. Haematologica 107.1 (2022): 19.

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Prognostic determinants at first progression following ICT: POD24

POD24: recurrence or progression of disease within 24 months of front-line treatment



Landmark analysis: OS in pts alive 24 months following trial registration

Casulo et al. Blood 139.11 (2022): 1684-1693.



Determinants of POD24

Patient factors

gender: male

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- PS: ECOG ≥2

Disease factors

- High beta2 microglobulin
- High Risk FLIPI

*consider aggressive transformation

- Frequent: >20% cases of POD24
- Impacts survival
- \rightarrow Rule out histological transformation



Second Line – First progression



Adapted from Qualls et al. *Haematologica* 107.1 (2022): 19.

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Second Line – First progression



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Second Line – First progression



Adapted from Qualls et al. *Haematologica* 107.1 (2022): 19.

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Third Line – Subsequent progressions



Adapted from Qualls et al. *Haematologica* 107.1 (2022): 19.

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Adapted from Qualls et al. *Haematologica* 107.1 (2022): 19.

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Consolidation with ASCT in R/R FL



- ASCT improves PFS in R/R FL
- ASCT improves PFS & OS in HR patients (POD24; Transformed FL) Jurinovic et al. Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation 24.6 (2018): 1172-1179.

Sarkozy et al. Journal of Clinical Oncology 34.22 (2016): 2575-2582.

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Progression: an Unmet Need despite ASCT – long term follow up

- most patients undergoing autoSCT as a consolidation strategy eventually relapse and most experience short- and long-term complications.
- Work in progress: novel treatments (CAR-T): efficacy despite active disease at treatment, with prolonged duration of response



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CAR-T experiences



Kochenderfer et al. 2010 NIH - NCT00924326 Trial

First report of B-cell lymphoma eradication with anti-CD19 CAR-T cells



FMC63-28Z autologous CAR-T

Kochenderfer et al. Blood. 116.20 (2010): 4099-4102.

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BM CD19+ (malignant and normal): pre vs 36-weeks post CAR-T



Schuster et al. 2017 UPENN – NCT02030834 Trial First evidence of efficacy with CTL019 for NHLs

28 Adult Patients with B-cell lymphoma

- 14 DLBCL \rightarrow CR 6/14 (43%)
- 14 FL → CR 10/14 (71%)

Follicular Lymphoma (N=14)				
Double Refractory, n(%)	8 (57)%			
Previous lines, median (range)	5 (2-10)			
Previous SCT, n(%)	4 (28%)			

UPENN CTL019 FMC63-41BBZ autologous CAR-T

Schuster et al. NEJM. 377.26 (2017): 2545-2554.

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Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma, Progression-free Survival



Follicular Lymphoma, Progression-free Survival



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Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma, Progression-free Survival

Selected CAR-T trials including Follicular Lymphoma

Product	Trial	Phase	Prior lines of therapy	Key Exclusion Criteria
Tisagenlecleucel	ELARA NCT03568461	II	≥2	Transformed FLGr.3B FL
Axicabtagene ciloleucel	ZUMA-5 NCT03105336	II	≥2	Transformed FLGr.3B FL
Lisocabtagene maraleucel	TRANSCEND FL NCT04245839	II	≥2*	Transformed FLGr.3B FL

*High-Risk cohort with Liso-cel as 2nd line therapy



Second generation CAR-T

- anti-CD19
- single costim. (CD28 or 4-1BB)
- autologus

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ELARA: Efficacy and Safety of Tisagenlecleucel in Adult Patients With Refractory or Relapsed Follicular Lymphoma



Study design: multicenter, single-arm, open-label, Phase II study of a single infusion of tisagenlecleucel in adult

patients with r/r FL (NCT03568461). 97 patients

Study treatment	End points
Fisagenlecleucel dose range (single IV infusion) was	Primary: CRR by IRC
0.6-6×10 ⁸ CAR-positive viable T cells	
	Secondary: ORR, DOR, PFS,
	OS, safety, cellular kinetics
	Study treatment isagenlecleucel dose range (single IV infusion) was .6-6×10 ⁸ CAR-positive viable T cells



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ELARA: Study Population and Primary End Point Results

		Infused Patients (N=97)
	Median age (range), y ≥65 y, %	57.0 (29-73) 24.7
	ECOG PS prior to infusion, % 0 1 2	56.7 39.2 4.1
	Stage at study entry III-IV, %	85.6
	FLIPI ≥3, %	59.8
	Median no. of prior therapies (range) ≥3, %	4 (2-13) 76.3
	POD24 from first anti-CD20 mAb containing therapy, ^a %	62.9
	Refractory to last line of therapy, ^b %	78.4
	Prior autologous HSCT, %	36.1
	Refractory to ≥2 regimens, %	71.1
•	Prior therapy, % Anti-CD20 mAb and alkylating agents ^c PI3K inhibitors Lenalidomide and rituximab	100 20.6 16.5

Primary E	nd Point	Secondary End Points			
Complete response	e rate	 ORR DOR, PFS, OS Safety, cellular kinetics 			
Endpoint in Effica (IRC Asses	cy Analysis Set ssment)	% (95% CI) N=94			
CRR		<mark>68 (58-77)</mark>			
ORR		<mark>86 (78-92)</mark>			
Baseline Disease Characteristic	All Patients n (%) N=97	CRR % (95% CI)	ORR % (95% Cl)		
POD24	61 (63)	<mark>59 (46-71)</mark>	<mark>82 (70-91)</mark>		
High metabolic tumor volume	20 (21)	<mark>40 (19-64)</mark>	<mark>75 (51-91)</mark>		
Bulky disease	62 (64)	<mark>65 (51-76)</mark>	<mark>86 (74-93)</mark>		
Double refractory	65 (67)	<mark>66 (53-77)</mark>	<mark>85 (74-92)</mark>		
High FLIPI (≥3)	57 (59)	<mark>61 (48-74)</mark>	<mark>81 (68-90)</mark>		



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Secondary End Point	29 Months Median Follow-Up Analysis
Duration Of response, median	Not reached
Progression Free Survival, median	Not reached
Overall Survival, median	Not reached

Progression Free Survival

100





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ELARA: Efficacy Subanalysis according to 9 High-Risk Subgroups: metabolic tumor volume (=> 510 ml)

High-Risk Group	Patients (N=94), %									
≥5 lines of prior therapy	28.7	_								
High FLIPI score at study entry	60.6	_								
				n	CRR %	1				
Prior HSCT thorapy	27.2	- Overall		94	69.1	i		-+	-	
	57.2	_ Prior therapy	<5 lines	67	73.1	i				
POD24	64.9		≥5 lines	27	59.3	i i			—	
Bully disease at baseline (CELE	64.0	 High TMTV (>510 ml) 	No	72	76.4			+		
critoria)	04.9		Yes	20	40.0	i —		_		
criteria)		_ POD24	No	33	87.9	i				
LDH prior to infusion > ULN	31.9		Yes	61	59.0			<u> </u>		
CRP prior to infusion > ULN	51.1	-			0	20	40 CRR (9	60 5% CI)	80	
Double refractory	69.1	-					(-)		
High TMTV >510 ml at baseline	21.3	_								



ELARA: higher (=>510 ml) Metabolic Tumor Volume associated with shorter PFS and DOR

PFS by Metabolic Tumor Volume



DOR by Metabolic Tumor Volume

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27

3 (9)

27

зo

0 (16)

0 (9)

30

24

3 (9)

24

15 (16) 8 (16)

ELARA: Adverse Events of Special Interest

Solocted Advorse Events Anytime Dest Infusion	Safety Analysis Set (N=97)		
Selected Adverse Events Anytime Post musion	All Grade, n (%)	Grade ≥3, n (%)	
Number of patients with at least 1 AE	73 (75)	45 (46)	
CRS (Lee Scale)	47 (49)	0	
Hematalogical disorders including cytopenias	45 (46)	43 (44)	
Neutropenia	23 (24)	23 (24)	
Anemia	13 (13)	7 (7)	
Thrombocytopenia	6 (6)	5 (5)	
Infections	16 (17)	9 (9)	
Hypogammaglobulinemia	11 (11)	1 (1)	
Serious neurological adverse events	8 (8)	2 (2)	
ICANS	4 (4)	1 (1)	
Encephalopathy	3 (3)	1 (1)	_
Dyskinesia	1 (1)	0	
Muscular weakness	1 (1)	0	
Tremor	1 (1)	0	



ZUMA-5: Axicabtagene ciloleucel in Subjects With Relapsed/Refractory <u>Indolent</u> Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

Bridging therapy administered per investigator discretion



Study design: multicenter, single-arm, open-label, Phase II study of a single infusion of Axicabtagene ciloleucel in adult patients with r/r indolent lymphoma (NCT03105336)

Key eligibility criteria	Study treatment	End points
• ≥18 years of age	Axicabtagene ciloleucel dose (single IV infusion) was	Primary: ORR (CR+PR)
• FL grade 1, 2, or 3A (FL cohort)	2 × 10^6 CAR-T cells per kg	
 progressed after at least 2 lines of treatment with combination chemoimmunotherapy 		Key Secondary: DOR, PFS, OS, incidence of AEs
 No evidence of histological transformation/FL3B (FL cohort) 		
 No ASCT within 6 weeks of planned leukapheresis or allogeneic HSCT 		
 No requirement for urgent therapy due to ongoing or impending oncologic emergency 		



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ZUMA-5: Study Population and Primary End Point Results

Characteristic	FL (n = 127)	MZL (n = 31)	All patients (N = 159)*
Age, median (range), y	60 (34-79)	64 (43-77)	60 (34-79)
≥65 y, n (%)	40 (31)	14 (45)	54 (34)
Male sex, n (%)	75 (59)	15 (48)	90 (57)
FL histological category, n (%)			
Grade 1	34 (27)	_	_
Grade 2	63 (50)	-	-
Grade 3a	30 (24)	-	—
MZL histological category, n (%)			
Nodal	_	10 (32)	-
Extranodal	—	21 (68)	_
ECOG PS of 1, n (%)	48 (38)	16 (52)	65 (41)
Stage III-IV disease, n (%)	109 (86)	29 (94)	139 (87)
High-risk FLIPI (≥3), n (%)	56 (44)	_	_
High tumor bulk (GELF criteria), n (%)†	65 (51)	16 (52)	82 (52)
SPD, median (range), mm ²	2604.15 (289.2-34 675.0)	1746.45 (306.5-7 471.8)	2449.50 (289.2-34 675.0)
TMTV, median (range), mL	438.50 (11.21-5 576.58)	368.83 (5.15-3 239.43)	420.33 (5.15-5 576.58)
Number of prior therapies, median (range)‡	3 (1-10)	3 (2-8)	3 (1-10)
R/R subgroup, n (%)			
Refractory to last prior therapy	87 (69)	25 (81)	113 (71)
Double refractory to prior anti-CD20 mAb and alkylating agent	56 (44)	13 (42)	70 (44)
POD24 from initiating first anti-CD20 mAb–containing therapy§	70 (56)	18 (60)	89 (57)



Neelapu et al. *Blood* 143.6 (2024): 496-506. Jacobson et al. The lancet oncology 23.1 (2022): 91-103.

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ZUMA-5: Updated, Three-Year Follow-Up Survival Analysis



FL: Median PFS (95% CI), months: 40.2 (28.9-NE)

FL: Median OS (95% CI), months: NR (NE-NE)

Neelapu et al. Blood 143.6 (2024): 496-506.



ZUMA-5: Efficacy Analysis according to High-Risk Subgroups

Progression Free Survival, according to POD24



- 36 month PFS, w/o POD24 : 52%

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ZUMA-5: Efficacy Analysis according to High-Risk Subgroups

Quartile of MTV Estimated PES **O**2 Q3 Median (95% CI), months NR (24.4-NE) NR (38.6-NE) 25.4 (7.0-NE) 24.2 (12.8-NE) 36-month rate (95% CI), % 60 (39-76) 82 (60-92) 42 (22-61) 33 (16-51) 100 Progression-free survival, % 80 60 40 20 2 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 28 30 32 34 36 38 40 42 44 46 0 4 6 26 48 50 Months

Metabolic Tumor Volume, median, mL: 438.5

- 36-month PFS, below the median: 71.2%
- 36-month PFS, above the median: 37.3%
- No association with ORR and CR

Progression Free Survival, according to

Metabolic Tumor Volume (quartiles)

Neelapu et al. Blood 143.6 (2024): 496-506.

Progression Free Survival, according to Benda prior to LA



Bendamustine prior to Leukapheresis: 88/128 (68%)

 Higher CR rate and 36 month duration of response in pts not exposed to Bendamustine

BUT

- Small subgroup numbers prevent further analysis
- Higher prevalence of high-risk features in the Benda group

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Selected Adverse Events Anytime Dest Infusion	FL, Safety Analysis Set (N=124)		
Selected Adverse Events Anytime Post infusion	All Grade, n (%)	Grade ≥3, n (%)	
CRS	97 (78)	8 (6)	
Neutropenia	79 (64)	75 (60)	
Anemia	44 (35)	29 (23)	
Thrombocytopenia	44 (35)	29 (23)	
Neurological adverse events	70 (56)	19 (15)	
Encephalopathy	24 (19)	10 (8)	
Confusional state	28 (23)	6 (5)	
Tremor	36 (29)	1 (1)	

ZUMA-5: Adverse Events of Special Interest, FL cohort



TRANSCEND FL: Efficacy and Safety of JCAR017 in Adult Subjects With Relapsed or Refractory Indolent Bcell Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma



ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: NCT04245839

3L+ cohort (Leukapheresis, N = 114; Infused, N = 107)

2L cohort (Leukapheresis, N = 25; Infused, N = 23)

^aPOD24: progression within 24 months of diagnosis after treatment with an anti-CD20 antibody and an alkylating agent within the first 6 months of initial FL diagnosis.

Patients who did not meet criteria of POD24 had to meet at least 1 criterion of the mGELF criteria (symptoms attributable to FL; threatened end-organ function, or cytopenia secondary to lymphoma or bulky disease [single mass > 7 cm, or 3 or more masses > 3 cm]; splenomegaly; or steady progression over the second and the model of the model of



TRANSCEND FL: Patient demographics and baseline characteristics

	2L FL (n = 23)	3L+ FL (n = 107)
Median (range) age, y	53 (34–69)	62 (23-80)
Male, n (%)	17 (74)	66 (62)
FL grade 1 or 2 / 3a at screening,ª n (%)	17 (74) / 6 (26)	81 (76) / 25 (23)
Ann Arbor stage at screening, n (%)		
Stage I/II	6 (26)	12 (11)
Stage III/IV	17 (74)	95 (89)
FL International Prognostic Index at screening, n (%)		
Low risk $(0-1)$ / intermediate risk (2)	11 (48) / 4 (17)	12 (11) / 34 (32)
High risk (3–5)	8 (35)	ói (57)
LDH > ULN before lymphodepletion, n (%)	6 (26)	47 (44)
Met mGELF criteria at most recent relapse, n (%)	16 (70)	57 (53)
Symptoms attributable to FL	6 (26)	13 (12)
Threatened end-organ function/cytopenia secondary to lymphoma/bulky disease	7 (30)	24 (22)
Splenomegaly	0	4 (4)
Steady progression over at least 6 months	3 (13)	16 (15)
Median (range) prior lines of systemic therapy	1 (1-1)	3 (2–10)
Prior HSCT, n (%)	0	33 (31)
Received prior rituximab and lenalidomide, n (%)	0	23 (21)
Refractory to last systemic therapy, ^b n (%)	15 (65)	72 (67)
Double refractory (anti-CD20 and alkylator), ^c n (%)	11 (48)	69 (64)
POD24 from initial immunochemotherapy, n (%)	15 (65)	58 (54)
POD24 from diagnosis, n (%)	12 (52)	46 (43)
Received bridging therapy, n (%)	5 (22)	44 (41)

Similar characteristics (POD 24) but less high risks, less LDH and less chemo in 2L

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TRANSCEND FL: Primary End Point Results, 2L and 3L+ cohorts

96% 100 3L FL ORR **CR** rate 90 80 96% 96% % n = 22 Best response per IRC, n = 22 70 (95% CI, 78.1-99.9) (95% CI, 78.1-99.9) ORR was 96%, with all responders 60 *P* < 0.0001^a $P < 0.0001^{a}$ achieving CR 50 In patients with 3L+ FL 40 30 • ORR = 97% 20 4% • CR rate = 94% 10 0 CR PR SD PD Not evaluable

2L FL efficacy set (n = 23)

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TRANSCEND FL: Survival Analysis, 2L and 3L+ cohorts



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TRANSCEND FL: Adverse Events of Special Interest, 2L and 3L+ cohorts

CRS 30% grade 1 (n = 7) 52% any grade (n = 12) 30% grade 2 (n = 5)	NEs 17% any grade (n = 4)	13% grade 1 (n = 3) 4% grade 3 (n = 1)
No grade 3—5 CRS Median time to onset: 6 days Median time to resolution: 3 days	No grade 4–5 NE Median time to onset Median time to resolu	s : 8.5 days ution: <mark>2.5 days</mark>
	3L+ c	ohort
CRS and NEs incidence	All Grade	Grade ≥3
CRS	59%	1%
Median time to CRS resolution: 4 days		
Neurological adverse events	15%	2%
Median time to resolution: 4.5 days		

2L FL (n = 23)

CRS and ICANS, 2L & 3L+ with Liso-cel

Low rate of Gr.3-4 CRS and NEs

2L vs 3L+: possible impact on NEs duration and subsequent need of mitigation strategies (steroids; tocilizumab)

2L NE (gr. 3) = 1 case, duration 2 days

13% vs 31% received tocilizumab and/or corticosteroids to manage CRS/NEs

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REAL LIFE early experiences with CAR-T cells for Follicular Lymphoma

Ysebaert et al. Axi-cel / Tisa-cel for R/R FL, French DESCART ASH 2023		
Patients, n (Tisa-cel; Axi-cel)	70 (62; 8)	
Median Age	62у	
POD24 after 1st CT, %	62.8	
Previous ASCT, %	44.3	
Previous lines, median (range)	3 (2-9)	
ORR, %	97.5	
CR, %	87.5	
CRS Gr.≥3	1.4	
ICANS Gr.≥3	4.3	
6-month estimated PFS	71.8 (56.6-82.4)	
6-month estimated OS	97.4 (83.2-99.6)	•
Median FU	7.3 months	

JACOBSON et al. Axi-cel for R/R FL, U ASCO 2023	IS	
Patients, n	230	
Median Age	62у	
Chemo-resistant, %	66	
ZUMA-5 ineligible, %	40	
Previous lines, median (range)	4 (1-13)	
ORR, % (95% CI)	93 (88-97)	
CR, % (95% CI)	84 (77-89)	
CRS Gr.≥3, % (95% CI)	2 (0-6)	
ICANS Gr.≥3, % (95% CI)	13 (8-19)	
6-month estimated PFS	88 (81-92)	
6-month estimated OS	96 (91-98)	
Median FU	6.2 months	

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Comparative effectiveness of ZUMA-5 (axi-cel) vs SCHOLAR-5 external control in relapsed/refractory follicular lymphoma

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Inclusion criteria, external control

- diagnosed r/r FL
- <mark>3 or more lines</mark> of therapy, on or after 23 July 2014

	SCHOLAR-5 (n = 85)*	ZUMA-5 (n = 86)	Treatment effect
Response outcomes	Responders (%)	Responders (%)	Odds ratio (95% CI)
ORR	42 (49.9%)	81 (94.2%)	OR: 16.2 (5.6, 46.9)
CR	25 (29.9%)*	68 (79.1%)†	OR: 8.9 (4.3, 18.3)





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Efficacy comparison of tisagenlecleucel vs usual care in patients with relapsed or refractory follicular lymphoma

Gilles Salles,¹ Stephen J. Schuster,² Martin Dreyling,³ Luca Fischer,³ John Kuruvilla,⁴ Piers E. M. Patten,^{5,6} Bastian von Tresckow,^{7,8} Sonali M. Smith,⁹ Ana Jiménez-Ubieto,¹⁰ Keith L. Davis,¹¹ Carla Anjos,¹² Jufen Chu,¹² Jie Zhang,¹² Chiara Lobetti Bodoni,¹² Catherine Thieblemont,¹³ Nathan H. Fowler,¹⁴ Michael Dickinson,¹⁵ Joaquin Martínez-López,¹⁰ Yucai Wang,¹⁶ and Brian K. Link¹⁷

Usual Care data obtained from ReCORD-FL, a global retrospective cohort study of clinical outcomes in patients who met the ELARA trial's eligibility criteria.



Solood advances

PFS, 12-month Tisa: 70.5% (61.4%-79.7%) UC: 51.9% (40.6%-63.3%) HR: 0.60 (0.34-0.86)

OS, 12-month

Tisa: 96.6% (92.9%-100%) UC: 71.7% (61.2%-82.2%) HR: 0.20 (0.02-0.38)

CAR-T: una continua innovazione nel mondo "Linfoma"

Conclusions - Discussion

- How to treat
 - Who to treat with CAR-T
 - When to use CAR-T
 - Predictive characteristics
- Referral
 - > Out patients setting ?
- Availability
- Risk-cost/benefit ratio
- Cost effectiveness
- New products (CAR-NK ?)

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Thank you for your kind attention





OSPEDALE POLICLINICO SAN MARTINO Sistema Sanitario Regione Liguria Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico

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