



HEMATOLOGY

2024:

NEW TARGETS
NEW BULLETS
OLD TOOLS
...AND LIMITED BUDGET...

21-23 OTTOBRE 2024
ANCONA, EGO HOTEL

LMC, perché rinviare il trapianto



Gianantonio Rosti, MD
Scientific Direction
IRCCS/SIRHHC Scientific Institute for Research, Hospitalization
and Health Care
«Dino Amadori» – Meldola (FC), Italy



PERSPECTIVE OPEN



Questions concerning tyrosine kinase-inhibitor therapy and transplants in chronic phase chronic myeloid leukaemia

Michele Baccarani ^{1,2,7}, Francesca Bonifazi ¹✉, Simona Soverini ², Fausto Castagnetti^{1,2}, Gabriele Gugliotta¹, Wael Saber^{3,4}, Noel Estrada-Merly³, Gianantonio Rosti⁵ and Robert Peter Gale ⁶

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«We suggest transplants should be more often considered in the metric when counseling people with CML»

«The question of who should receive a transplant in CP is complex and controversial.»

Marrow Transplantation for the Treatment of Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia, ED Thomas et al , Annals of Internal Medicine 1986; Vol 104, Number 2

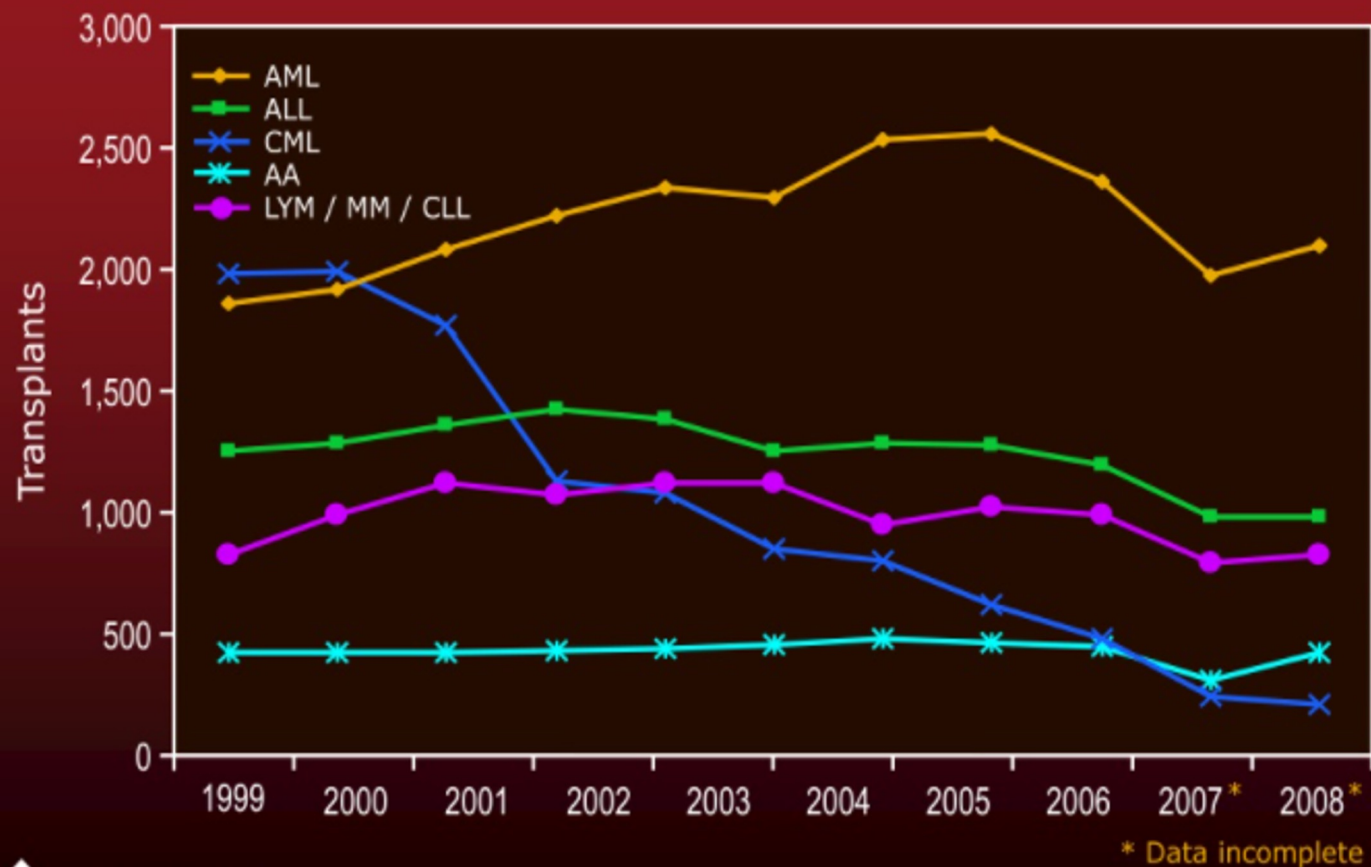
OS & Disease phase (50% OS in CP) and age (increased TRM in older)

CML main indication for AlloSCT until

1999 STI571 Signal Transductor Inhibitor

STI571 Stop Transplant Immediately

Number of allogeneic transplants, by disease, registered with CIBMTR 1998-2008



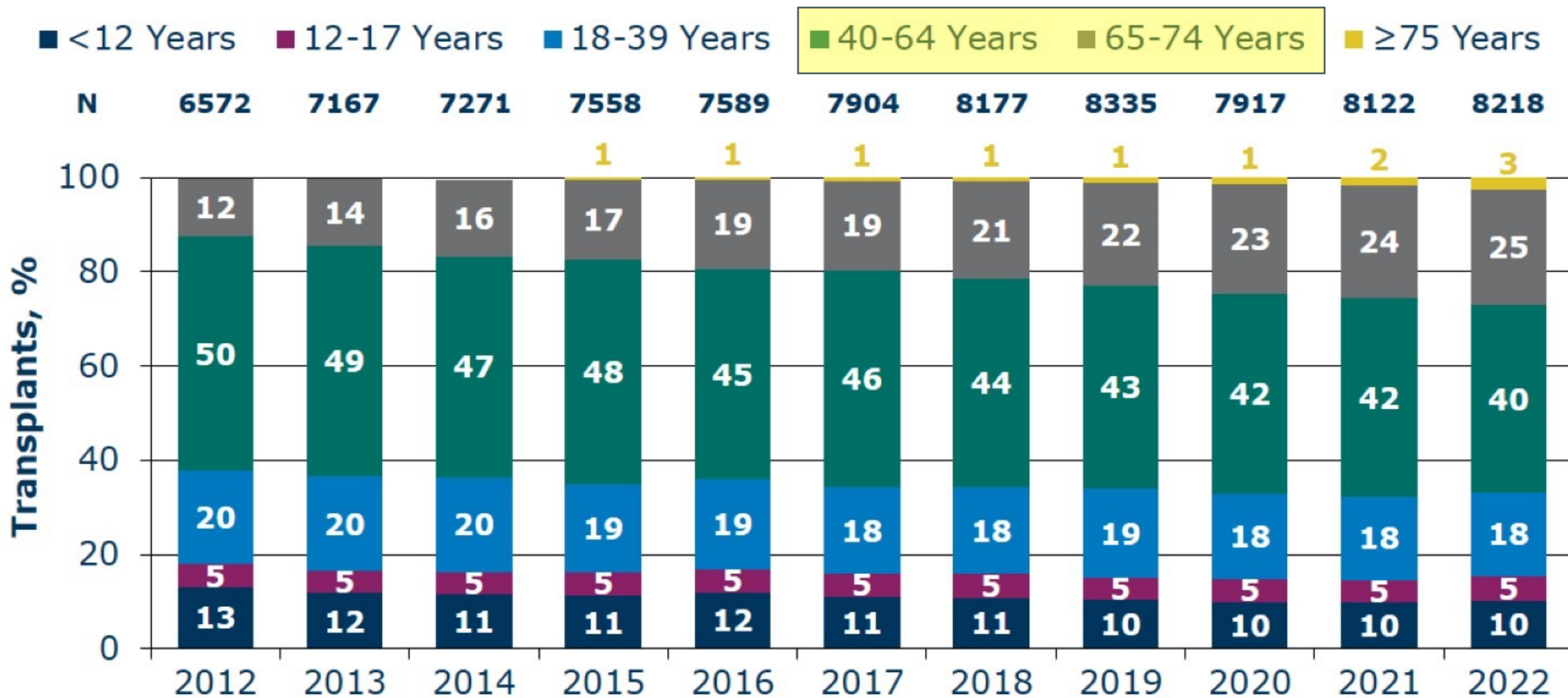
2024 STI571 Some Transplants Indicated

« *Today, we are on the opposite side of the spectrum, and physicians and **patients often wait too long to transplant...** hoping that the “N +1”^h TKI will magically eliminate resistance and/or intolerance where other TKIs have persistently failed.*

*However, **hope is not a plan.***

Thus, it is reasonable to at least begin preparing for the possibility of transplant «

Recipient Age of Allogeneic HCTs in the US



CML 1st CP, allo-SCT outcomes

Study ¹	Registry	interval	N	Median age	Conditioning	Donor	1-year survival	5-year survival	10-year survival
Millot et al. ²	SGFMTC	1982–1998	42	14	MA	REL	87%	73%	73%
Cwynarski et al. ³	EBMT	1985–2001	156	14	NR	REL	78%	72%	70%
Arora et al. ⁴	CIBMTR	1988–2003	3514	36	MA	REL	74%	63%	60%
Arora et al. ⁴	CIBMTR	1988–2003	531	37	MA	UNR	70%	55%	50%
Radich et al. ⁵	Seattle	1995–2000	131	43	MA	REL	91%	NA	NA
Gratwohl et al. ⁶	German Study III	1997–2004	151	38	MA	REL	90%	78%	76%
Gratwohl et al. ⁶	German Study III	1997–2004	148	41	MA	UNR	97%	76%	76%
Bacher et al. ⁷	German Registry	1998–2004	1084	40	MA 62%	REL 61%	67%	64%	64%
Ohashi et al. ⁸	Japanese Registry	2000–2009	531	40	MA 89%	UNR 51%	87%	85%	78%
Chaudury et al. ⁹	CIBMTR	2001–2010	224	24	MA	REL	90%	83%	NA
Chaudury et al. ⁹	CIBMTR	2001–2010	225	24	MA	UNR	80%	68%	NA
Lee et al. ¹⁰	Korean	2001–2012	47	32	MA 77%	UNR 43%	88%	NA	NA
Lee et al. ¹⁰	Korean	2001–2012	50	33	MA 48%	UNR 42%	90%	NA	NA
Koenecke et al. ¹¹	EBMT	2002–2005	193	31	MA	REL	90%	85%	84%
Saussele et al. ¹²	German Study IV	2003–2008	19	35	MA 79%	REL 53%	95%	NA	NA
Saussele et al. ¹²	German Study IV	2003–2008	37	38	MA 65%	UNR 70%	95%	NA	NA

CIBMTR, Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplantation; EBMT, European Group for Marrow and Blood Transplantation; MA, myeloablative; NA, not reported; REL, related donor; SGFMTC, Société Française de Greffe de Moelle et de Thérapie Cellulaire; UNR, unrelated donor; .

1. Bacarani, M, et al. *Leukemia* 2022; 2. Millot F, et al. *Bone Marrow Transplantation* 2003;32:993-999; 3. Cwynarski K, et al. *Blood* 2003;102:1224-1231; 4. Arora M, et al. *Journal of Clinical Oncology* 2009;27:1644-1652; 5. Radich J, et al. *Blood* 2003;102:31-35; 6. Gratwohl A, et al. *Leukemia*, 2015;30:562-569; 7. Bacher U, et al. *Annals of Hematology* 2009;88:1237-1247; 8. Ohashi K, et al. *International Journal of Hematology* 2014;100:296-306; 9. Chaudhury S, et al. *Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation* 2016;22:1056-1064; 10. Lee S, et al. *Hematology* 2013;19:63-72; 11. Koenecke C, et al. *Bone Marrow Transplantation* 2016 51;1259-61; 12. Saussele, S, et al. *Blood* 2010;115:1880-1885.

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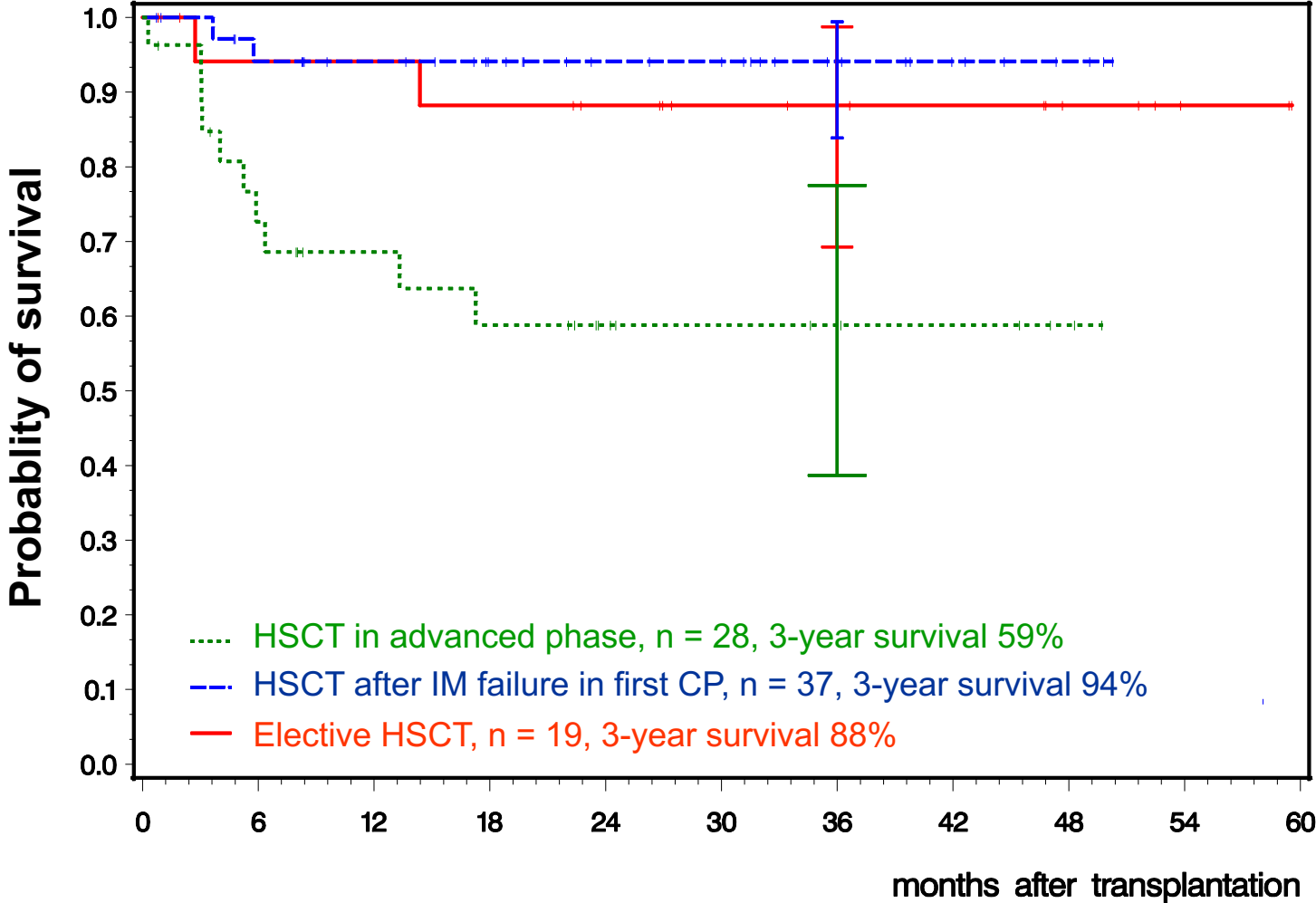
1. Bacarani, M, et al. *Leukemia* 2022; 2. Millot F, et al. *Bone Marrow Transplantation* 2003;32:993-999; 3. Cwynarski K, et al. *Blood* 2003;102:1224-1231; 4. Arora M, et al. *Journal of Clinical Oncology* 2009;27:1644-1652; 5. Radich J, et al. *Blood* 2003;102:31-35; 6. Gratwohl A, et al. *Leukemia*, 2015;30:562-569; 7. Bacher U, et al. *Annals of Hematology* 2009;88:1237-1247; 8. Ohashi K, et al. *International Journal of Hematology* 2014;100:296-306; 9. Chaudhury S, et al. *Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation* 2016;22:1056-1064; 10. Lee S, et al. *Hematology* 2013;19:63-72; 11. Koenecke C, et al. *Bone Marrow Transplantation* 2016 51;1259-61; 12. Saussele, S, et al. *Blood* 2010;115:1880-1885.

ALLOGENEIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION, AGE, AND TRANSPLANT RELATED MORTALITY (TRM)

3033 HLA-MATCHED PATIENTS

AGE	RELATIVE RISK OF TRM	P-value
< 20 y	1.00	
20-39 y	1.21	0.29
40-49 y	1.48	0.04
50-59 y	1.75	0.004
≥ 60 y	1.84	0.005

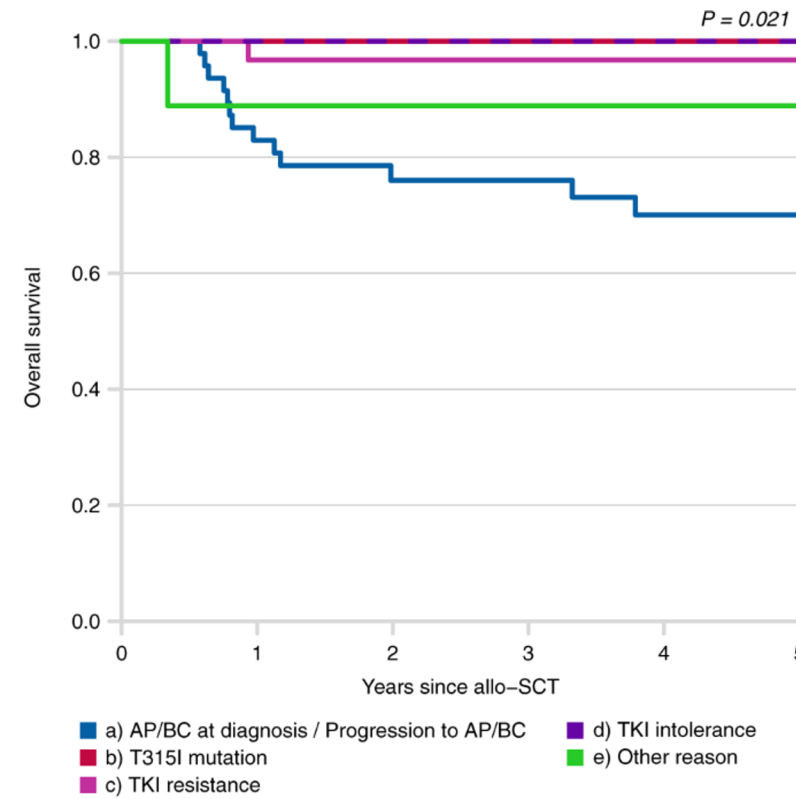
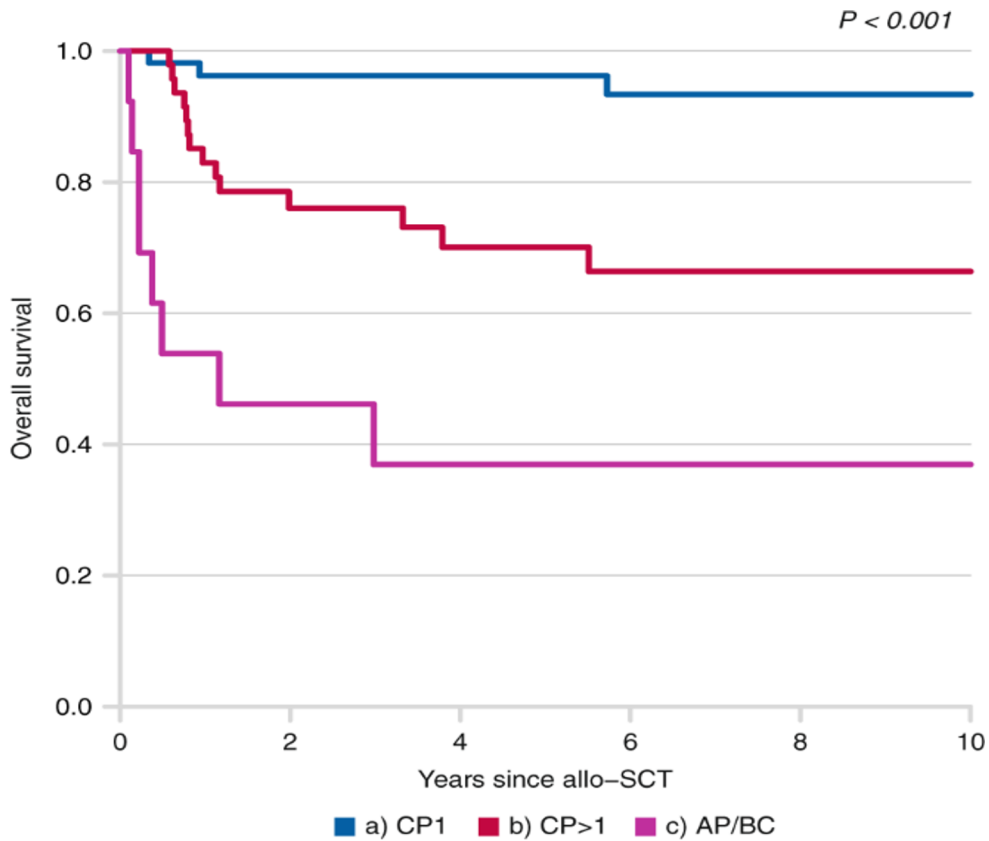
CML study IV: outcome of alloSCT patients (n = 84)



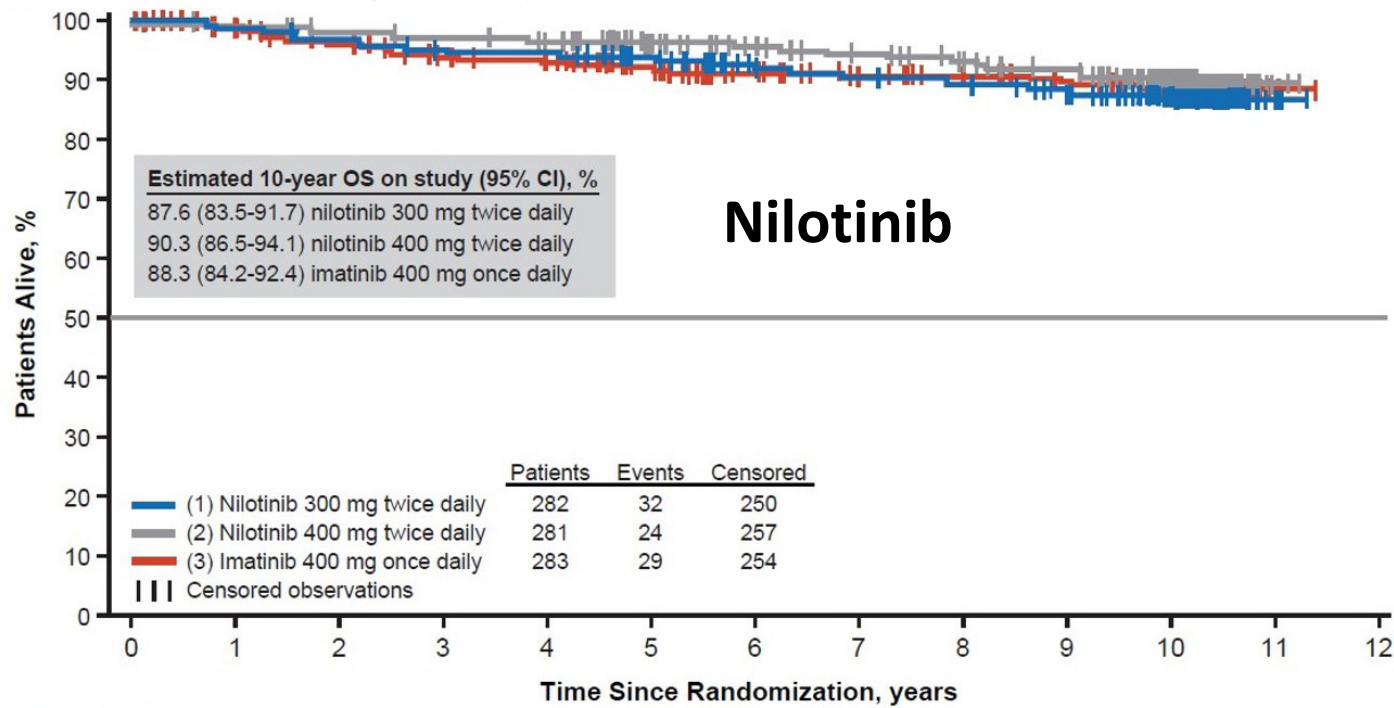
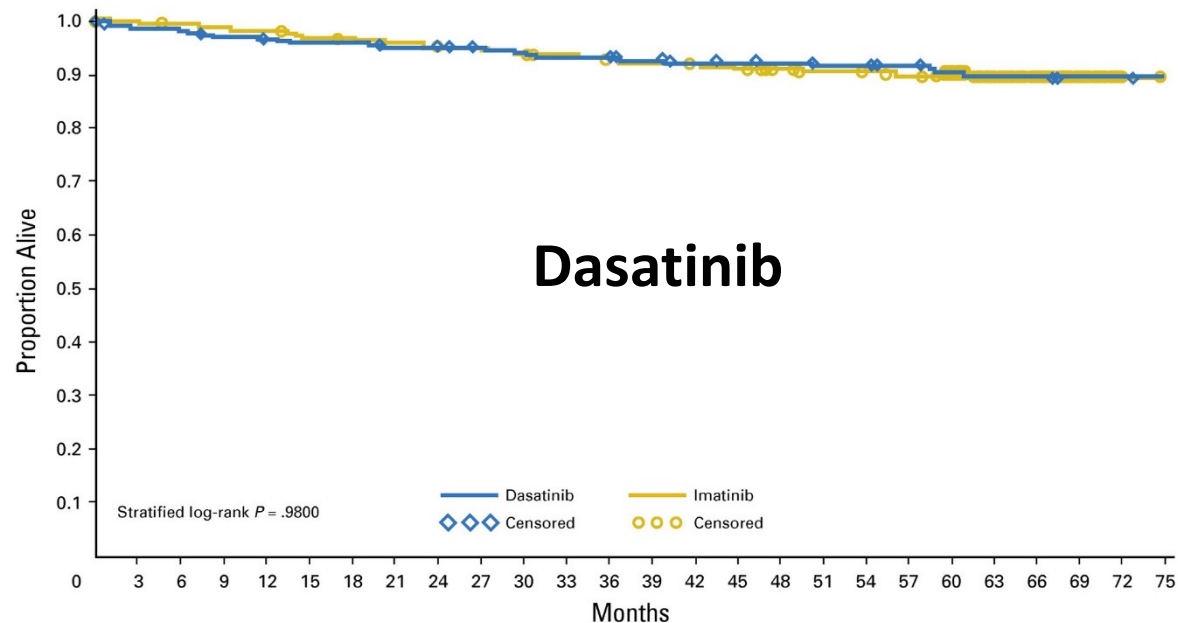
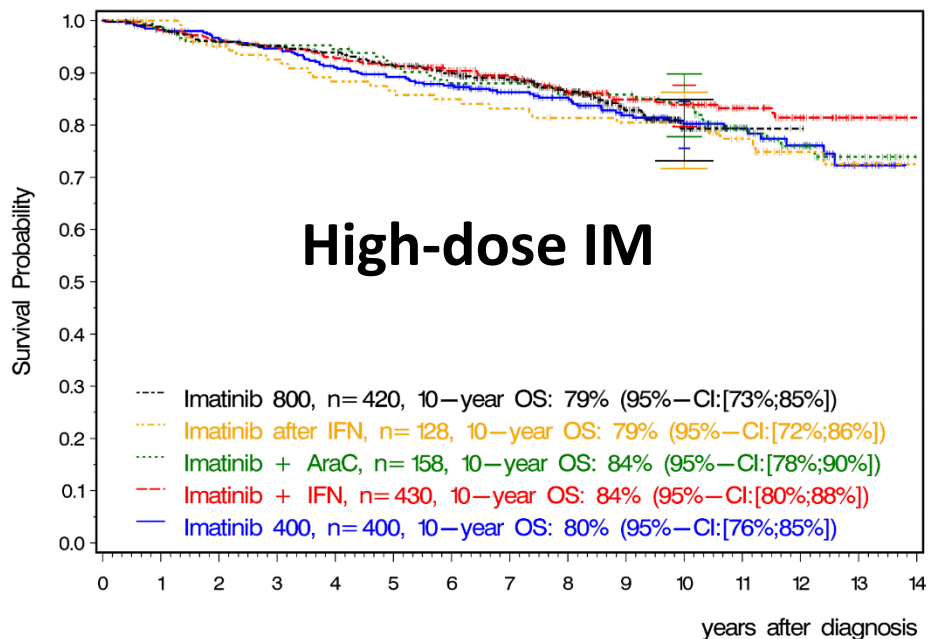
Age at diagnosis
37 (16-56)

Population-based data from the Swedish cancer registry

CP1 n. 56, age 43 (21–65)

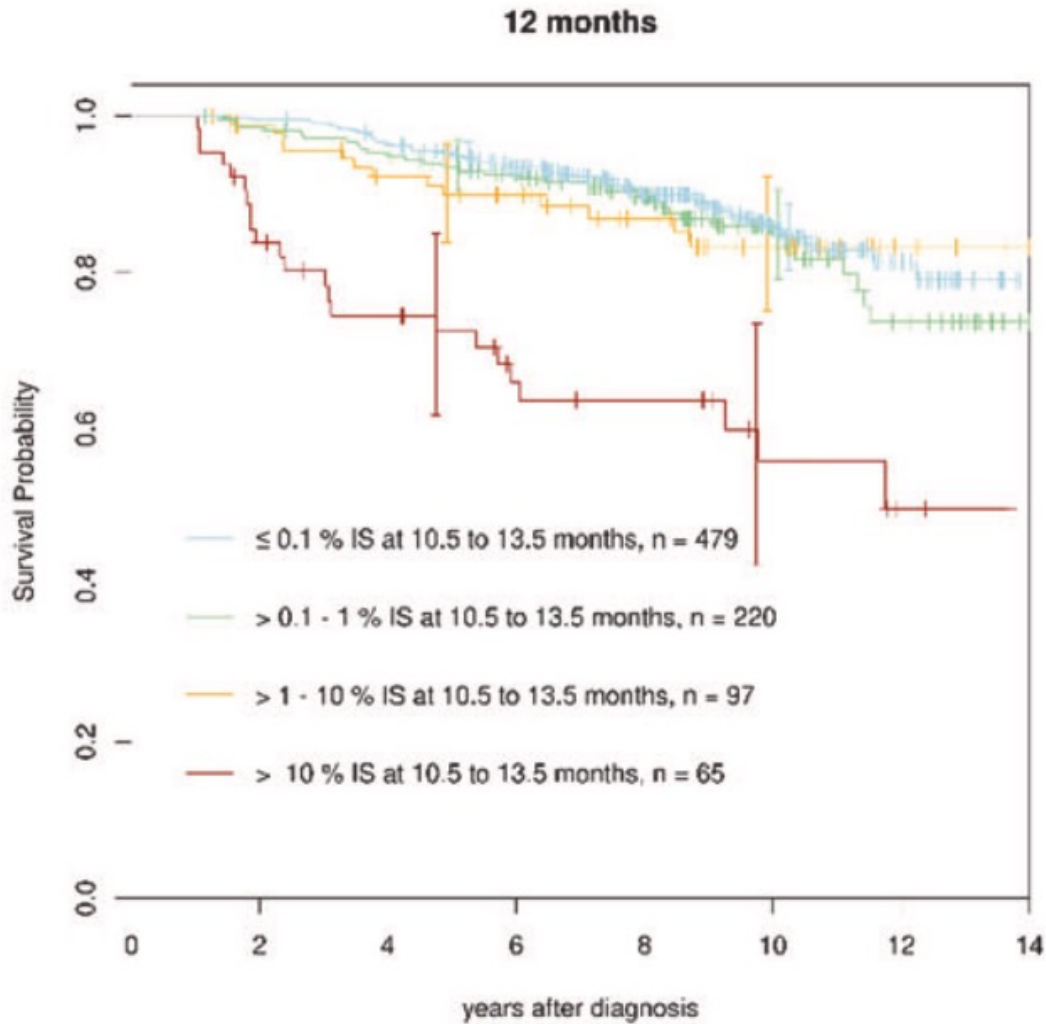


OS with high-dose IM, dasatinib and nilotinib vs IM 400mg

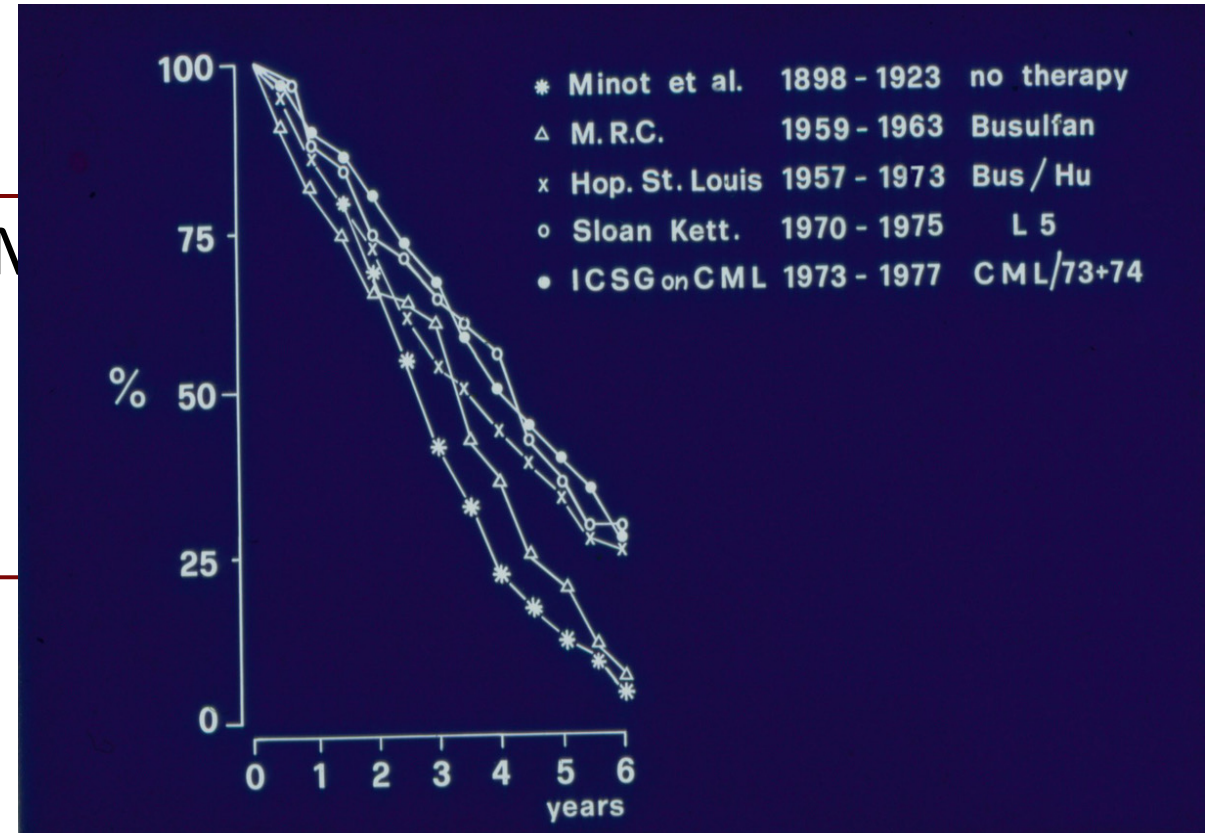


Spostiamo l'attenzione sui pazienti che falliscono la terapia con TKIs

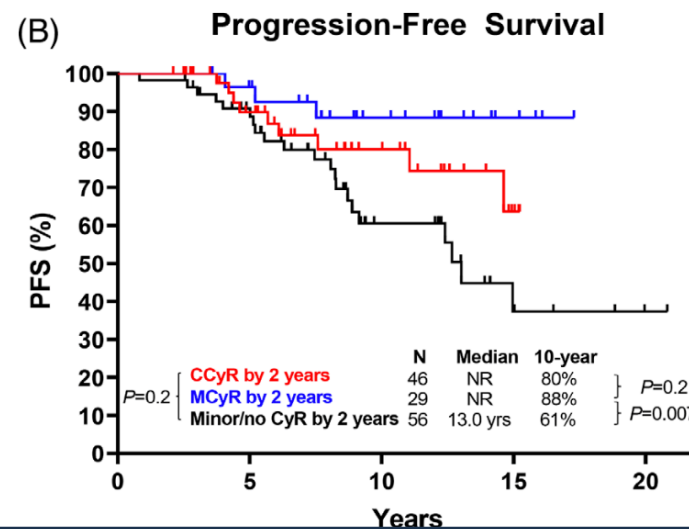
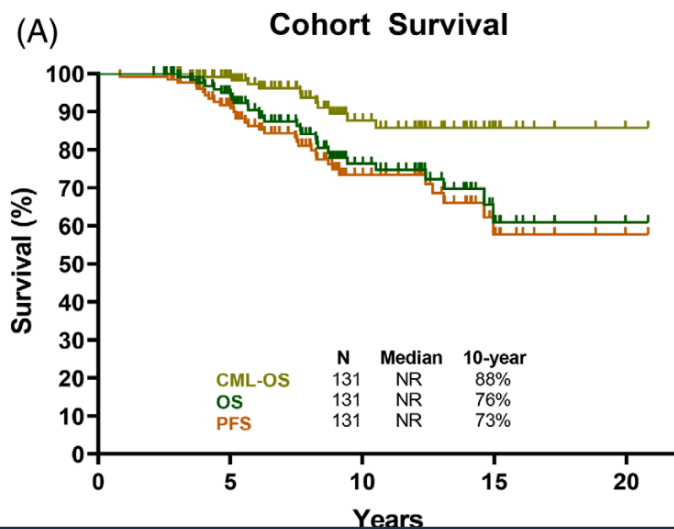
Survival with chronic myeloid leukaemia after failing milestones



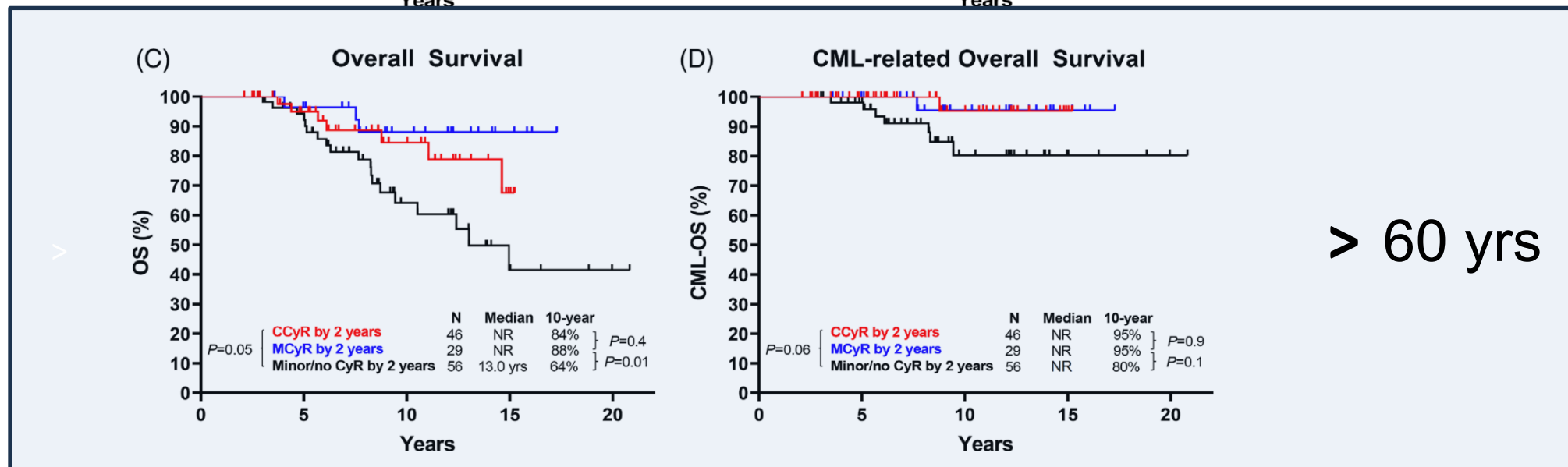
CML



Chronic myeloid leukemia without major molecular response after 2 years of treatment with tyrosine kinase inhibitor

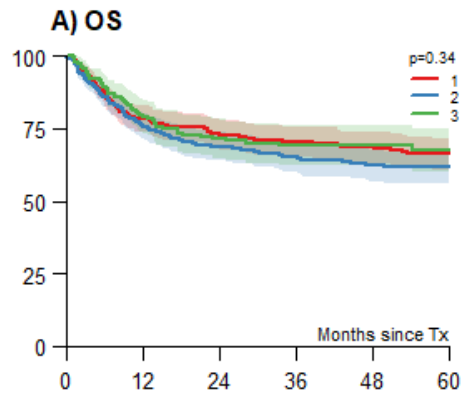


131 CP patients

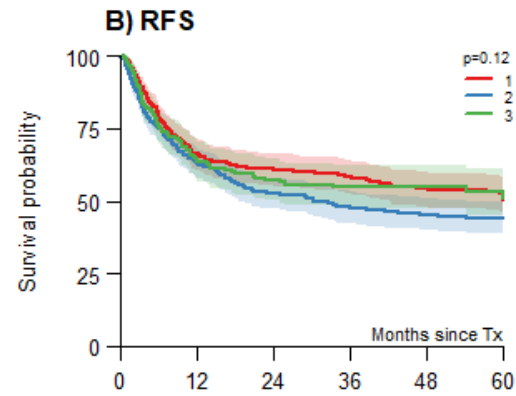


> 60 yrs

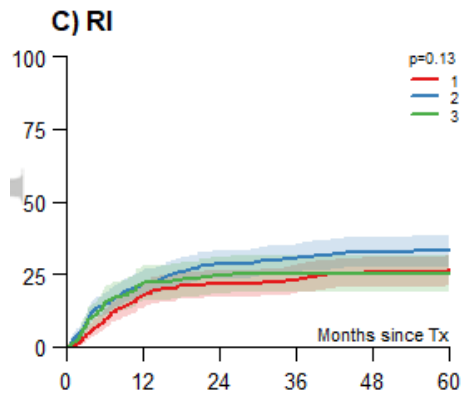
No impact of the use of multiple TKIs prior to SCT



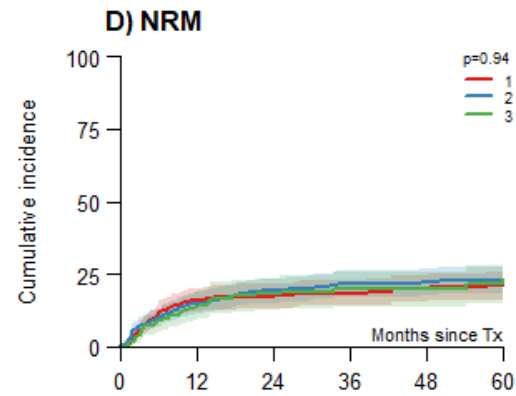
1:	323	227	184	159	138	127
2:	371	251	202	164	133	95
3:	210	138	99	75	57	33



1:	323	191	150	128	104	97
2:	370	207	152	118	91	64
3:	210	112	78	60	44	24



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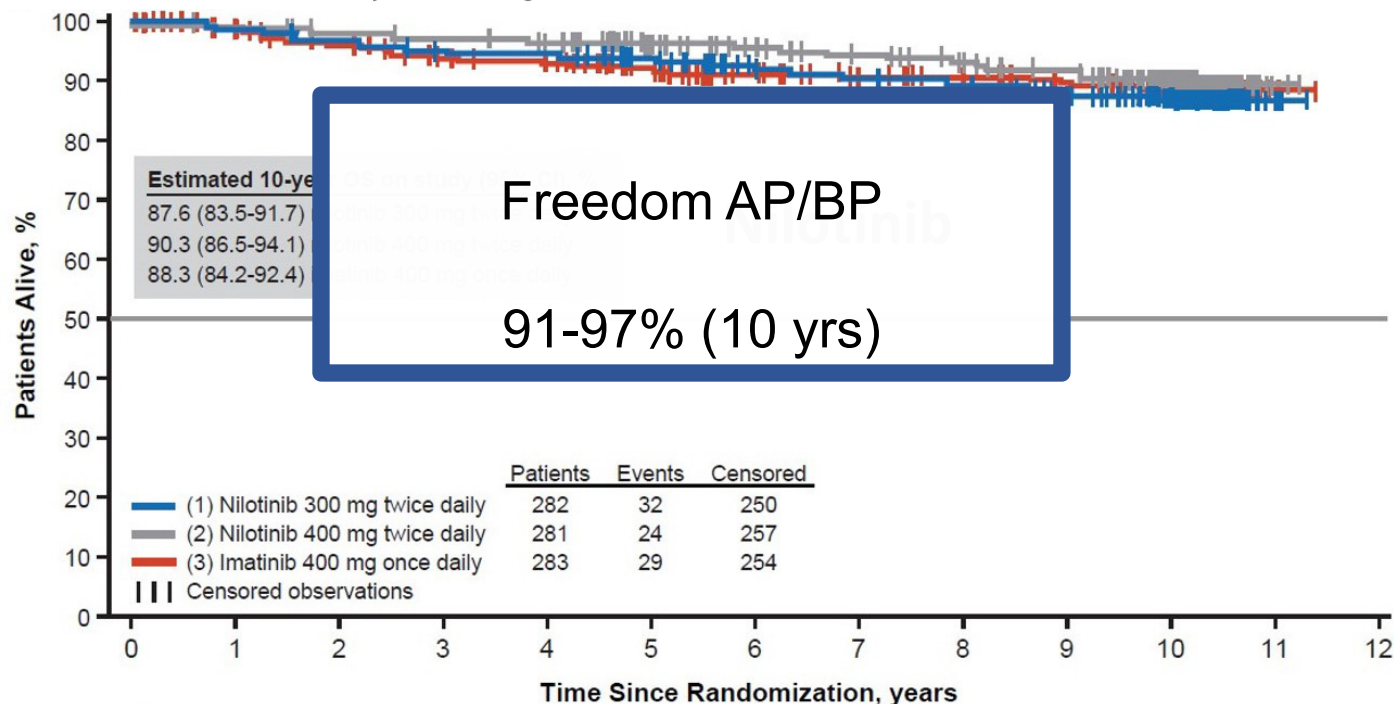
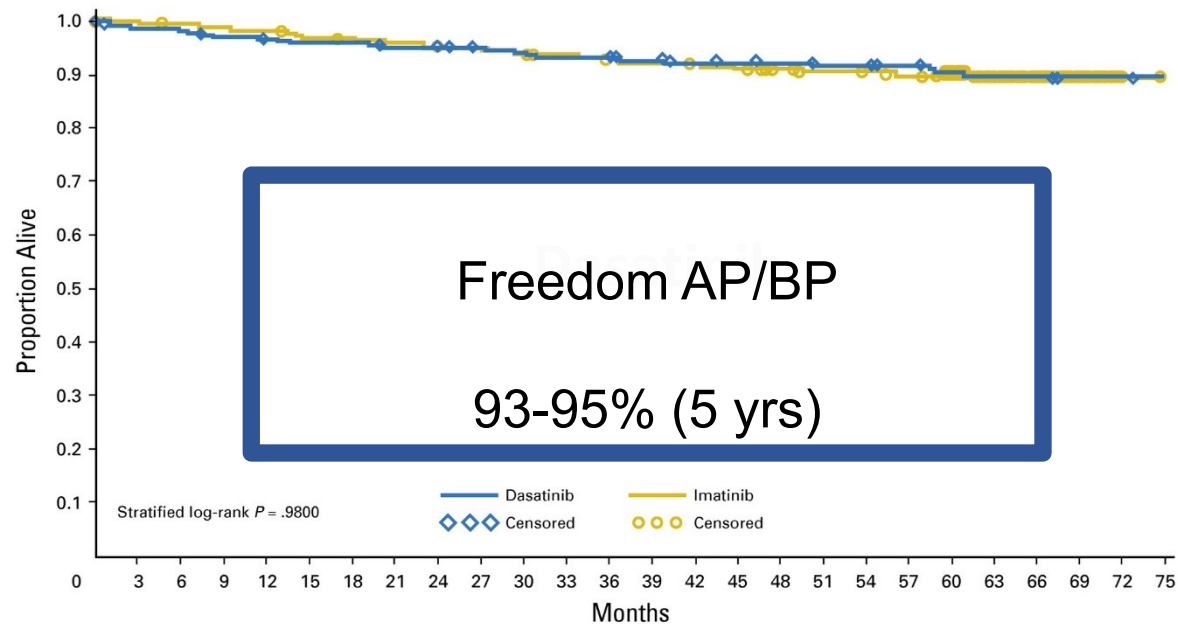
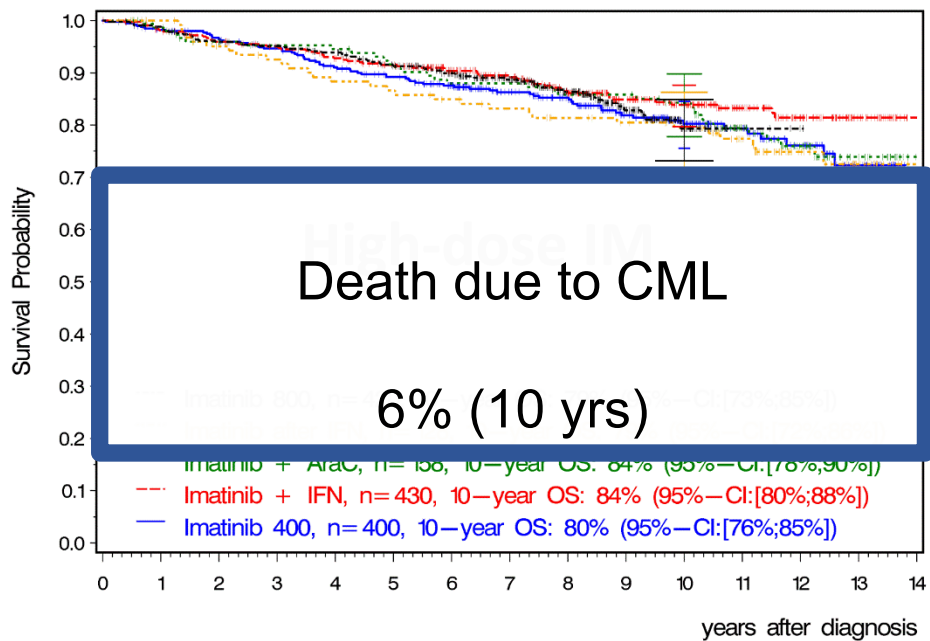
1:	323	191	150	128	104	97
2:	370	207	152	118	91	64
3:	210	112	78	60	44	24

n. 904, alloSCT 2006-2016

Transplantation in CML in the TKI era: who, when, and how ?

Accelerated phase (AP)
<p>ELN 2020²⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A patient presenting in AP should be treated as a high-risk patient, becoming eligible for HSCT if the response is not optimal <p>A patient progressing to AP during treatment should immediately be considered for HSCT</p>
<p>NCCN guidelines²⁶</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Disease progression to AP while on TKI therapy should be considered for HSCT- Patients who present with AP at diagnosis should be treated with a TKI, followed by evaluation for allogeneic HSCT based on response to therapy after 3, 6, or 12 months

OS with high-dose IM, dasatinib and nilotinib vs IM 400mg



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CML Risk factors

At diagnosis		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High ELTS score • 10–19% blasts in the peripheral blood and/or bone marrow^{ab} • ≥20% basophils in the peripheral blood • Additional chromosomal abnormalities in Ph+ cells, including 3q26.2 rearrangements, monosomy 7, isochromosome 17q and complex karyotype • Additional chromosomal abnormalities in Ph+ cells, including trisomy 8, 11q23 rearrangements, trisomy 19, trisomy 21, additional Ph+ (evidence of association with disease progression less clear) • Clusters of small megakaryocytes (including true micromegakaryocytes similar to those seen in myelodysplastic syndromes), associated with significant reticulin and/or collagen fibrosis, which is best assessed in biopsy sections. 		
<p>a. The finding of bona fide lymphoblasts in the peripheral blood or bone marrow (even if <10%) is consistent with the diagnosis of blast phase</p> <p>b. ≥20% blasts in the peripheral blood or bone marrow, or an infiltrative proliferation of blasts in an extramedullary site, is diagnostic of blast phase</p>		
ELTS score	$0.0025 \times (\text{age}/10)^3$ $+ 0.0615 \times \text{spleen size}$ $+ 0.1052 \times \text{peripheral blood blasts}$ $+ 0.4104 \times (\text{platelet count}/1000)^{-0.5}$	Low-risk: < 1.5680 Intermediate-risk: 1.5680- 2.2185 High-risk: > 2.2185
Emerging on treatment		
Resistance to TKI as defined by ELN 2020, including loss of prior responses, emergence of ACA and BCR::ABL1 kinase domain mutations.		

Transplantation in CML in the TKI era: who, when, and how ?

Chronic phase (chP)

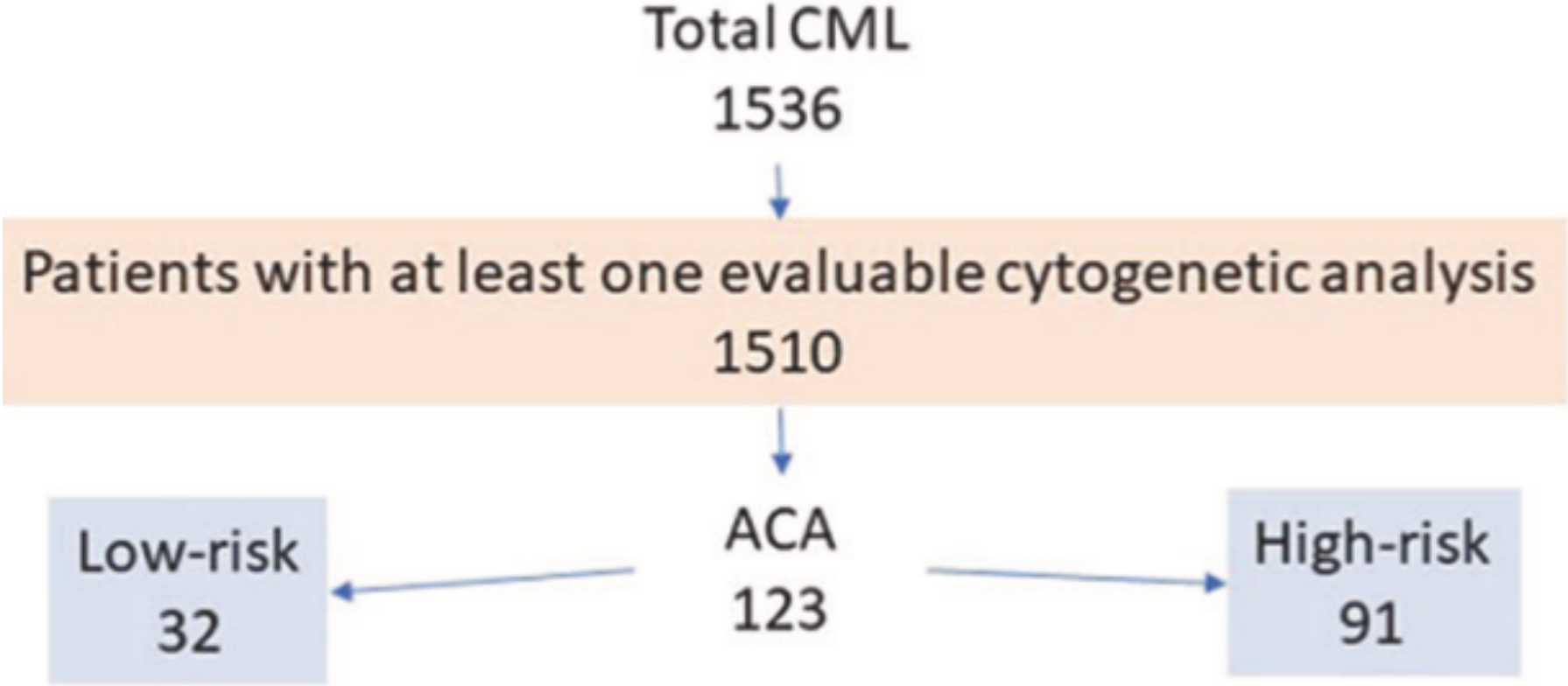
ELN 2020²⁵

- Disease resistant or intolerant (suboptimal response to 2 or more TKIs)
- For the very rare patient with inadequate recovery of normal hematopoiesis
- Resistance to 2G-TKIs (first or second line) ponatinib or experimental agent
- Failure to respond to ponatinib after 3 months' treatment
- Emergence of high-risk cytogenetics: observe closely, consider intensification of treatment (ponatinib, early allo-SCT)

NCCN guidelines²⁶

- If TKI-resistant disease *BCR-ABL1* (IS) >10% at >3 months, switch to alternate TKI and evaluate for HSCT

High risk additional chromosomal aberrations herald advanced disease and predict survival probability: CML IV cohort



High risk additional chromosomal aberrations herald advanced disease and predict survival probability: CML IV cohort

Total CML
1536

25/123 at diagnosis

66/123 during the course of the disease

Patients with at least one evaluable cytogenetic analysis
1510

Hematological and clinical abnormalities at ACA appearance

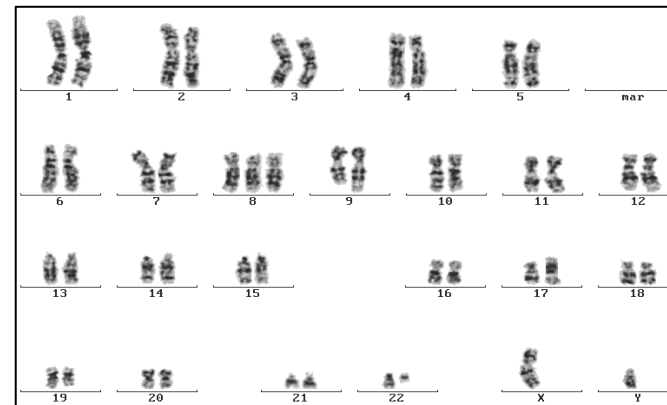
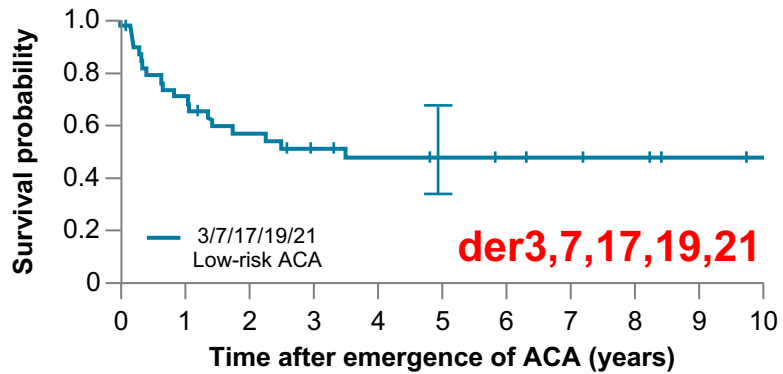
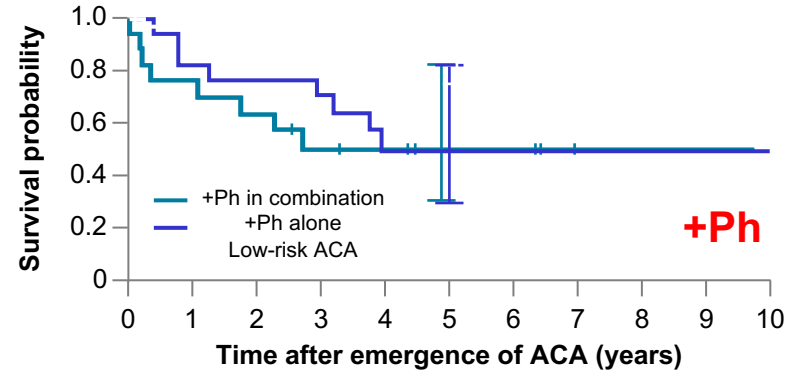
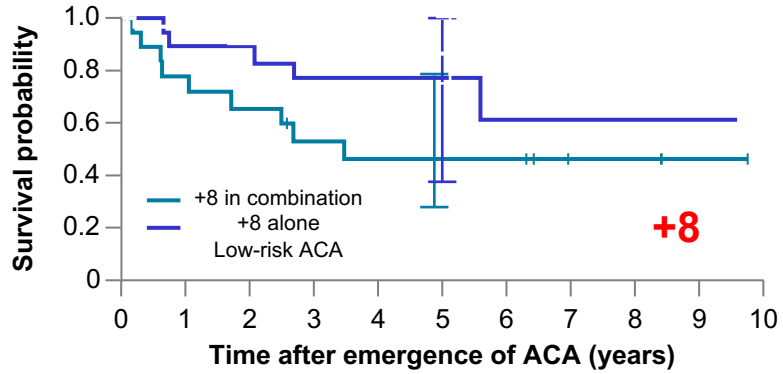
Low-risk
32

42/138 (30%) of alloSCT@ CML IV for the 6% ACA patients:

26/42 in AP/BP 2 yrs OS 44%

13/42 in CP 2 yrs OS 77%

High risk additional chromosomal aberrations herald advanced disease and predict survival probability: CML IV cohort



ACA, Additional cytogenetic abnormalities.

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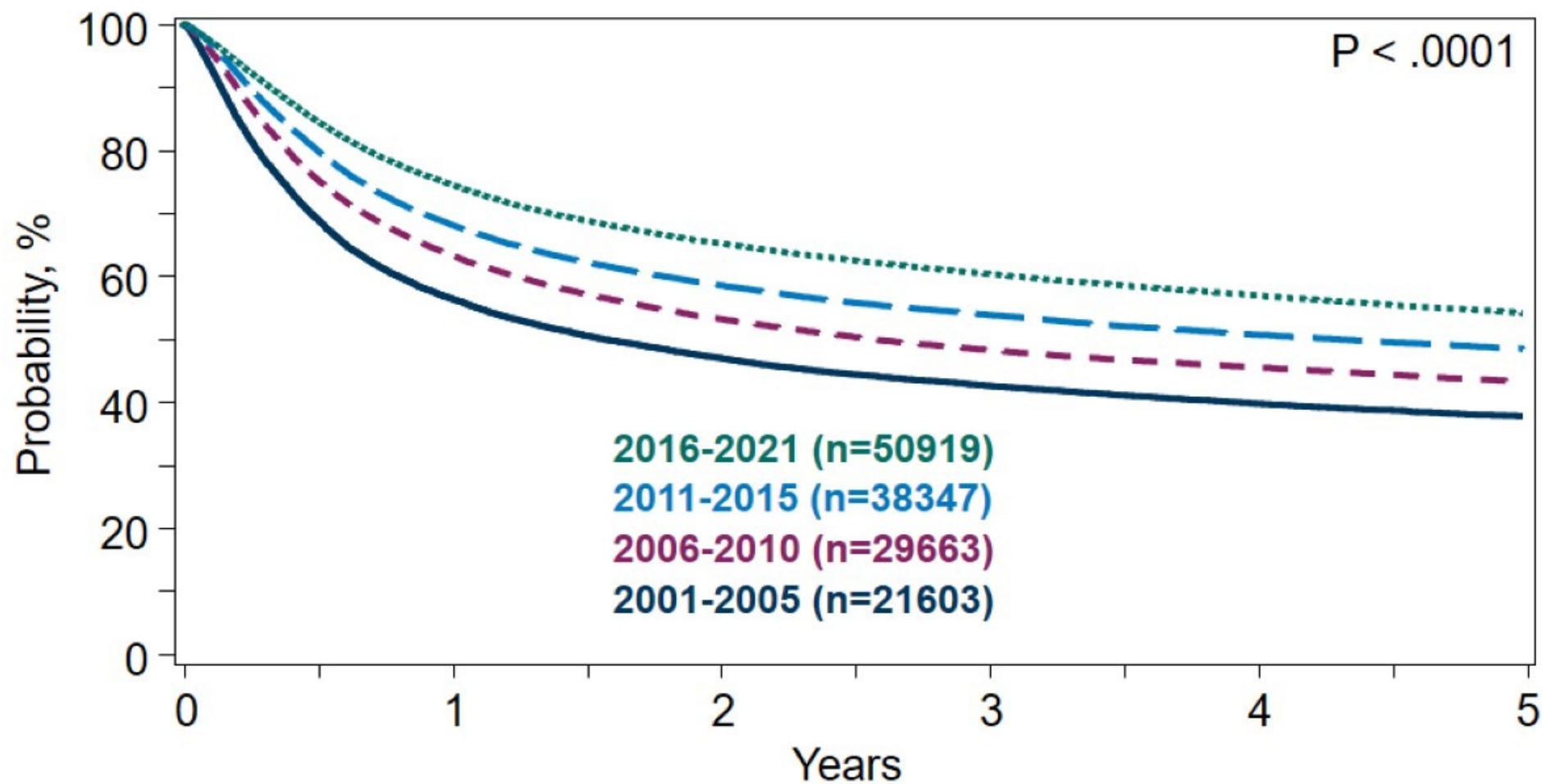
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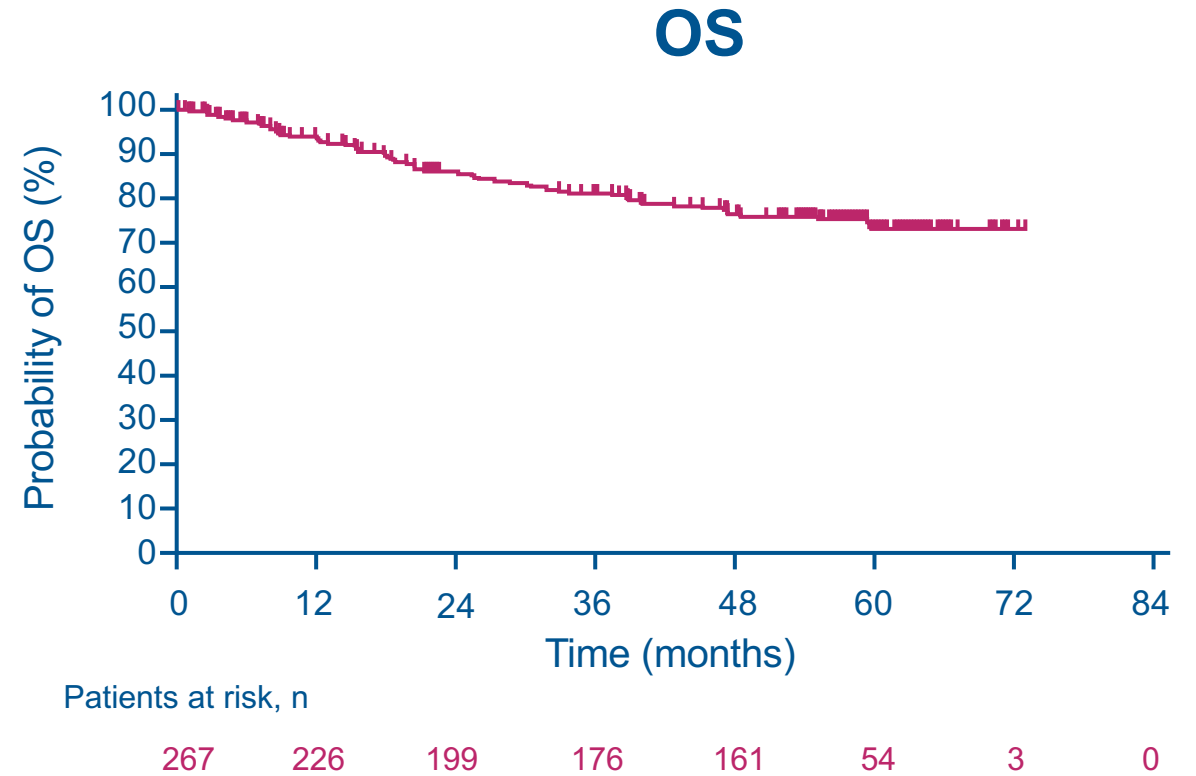
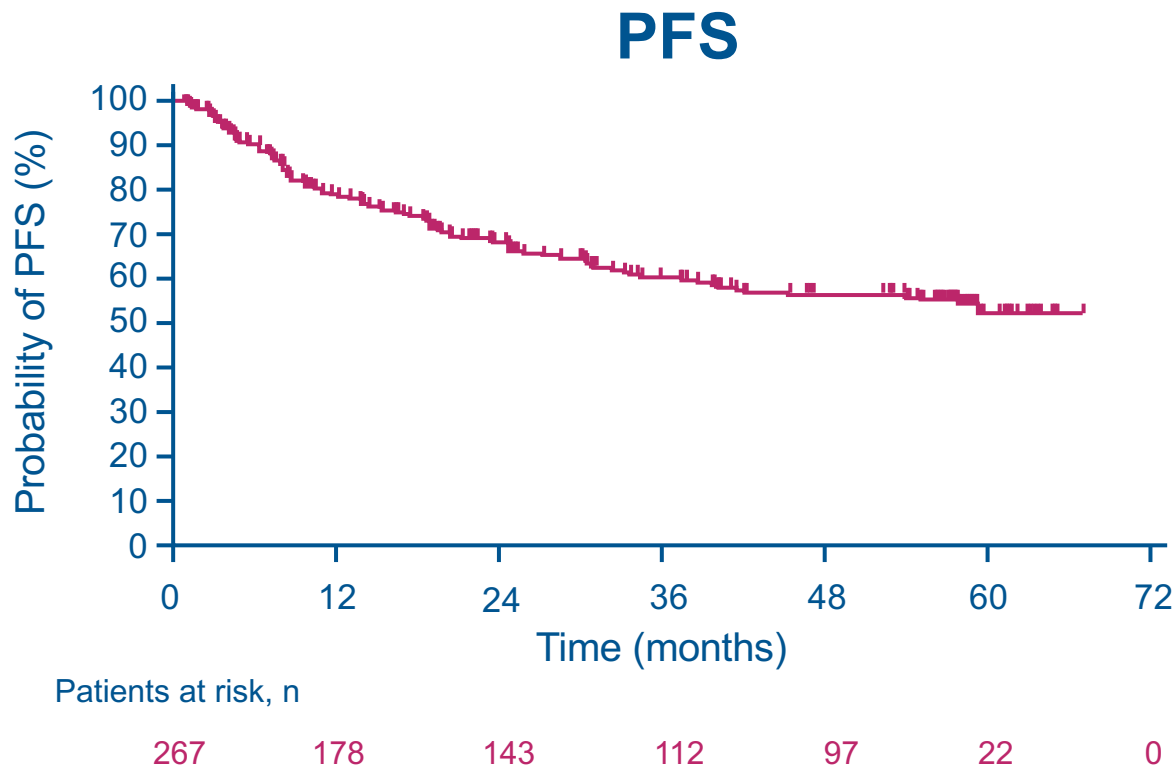
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Trends in Survival after Allogeneic HCTs, in the US, 2001-2021



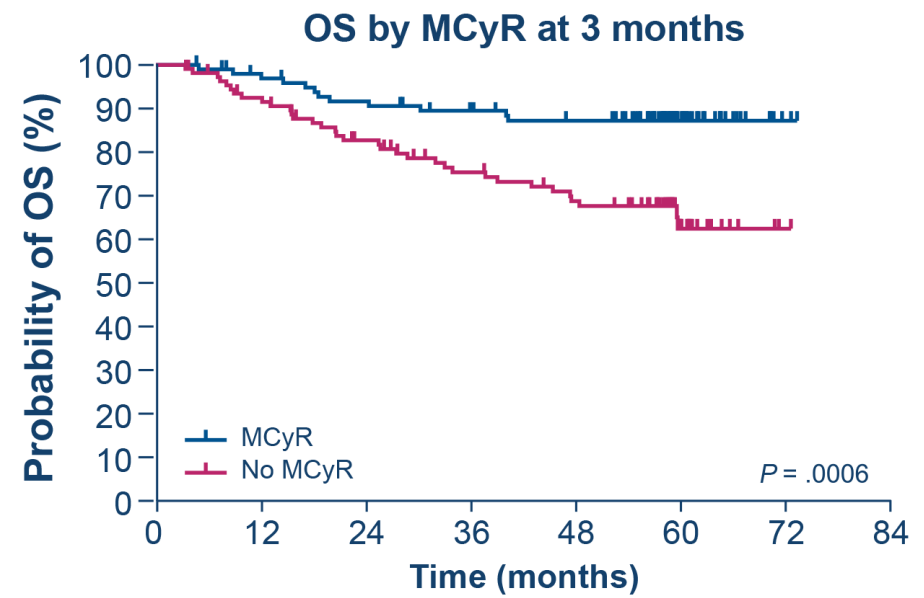
PACE (Ponatinib in multiresistant CML) PFS and OS in the Overall Population



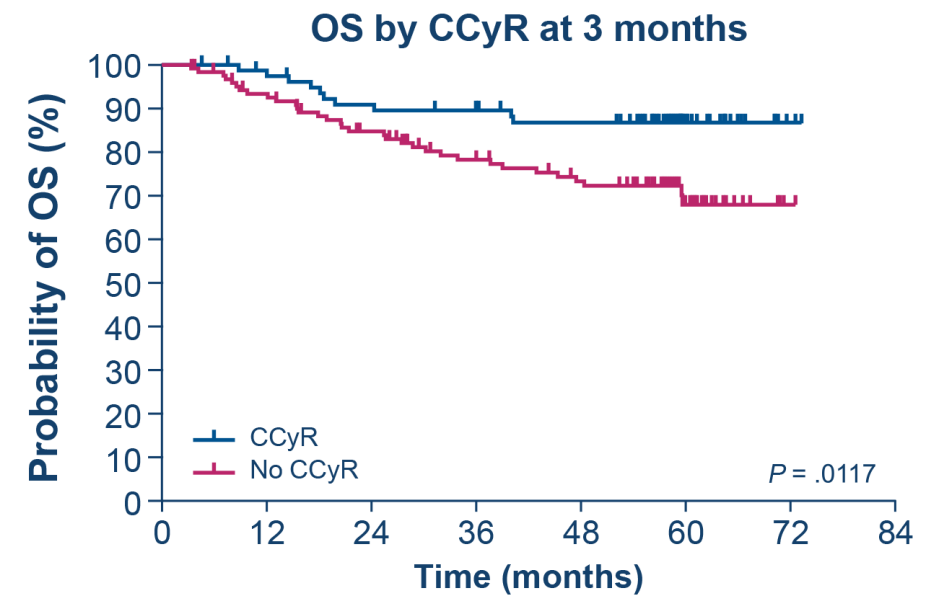
n. 233, 61% res/int \geq 3 TKIs

PACE (Ponatinib in multiresistant CML) OS^a by cytogenetic response at 3 months

- Patients with cytogenetic responses of MCyR or CCyR were significantly more likely to have improved OS at 4 years compared with patients who did not achieve a cytogenetic response



Patients at risk, n		0	12	24	36	48	60	72	84
MCyR	100	94	87	80	75	28	2	0	
No MCyR	109	97	82	70	62	19	1	0	

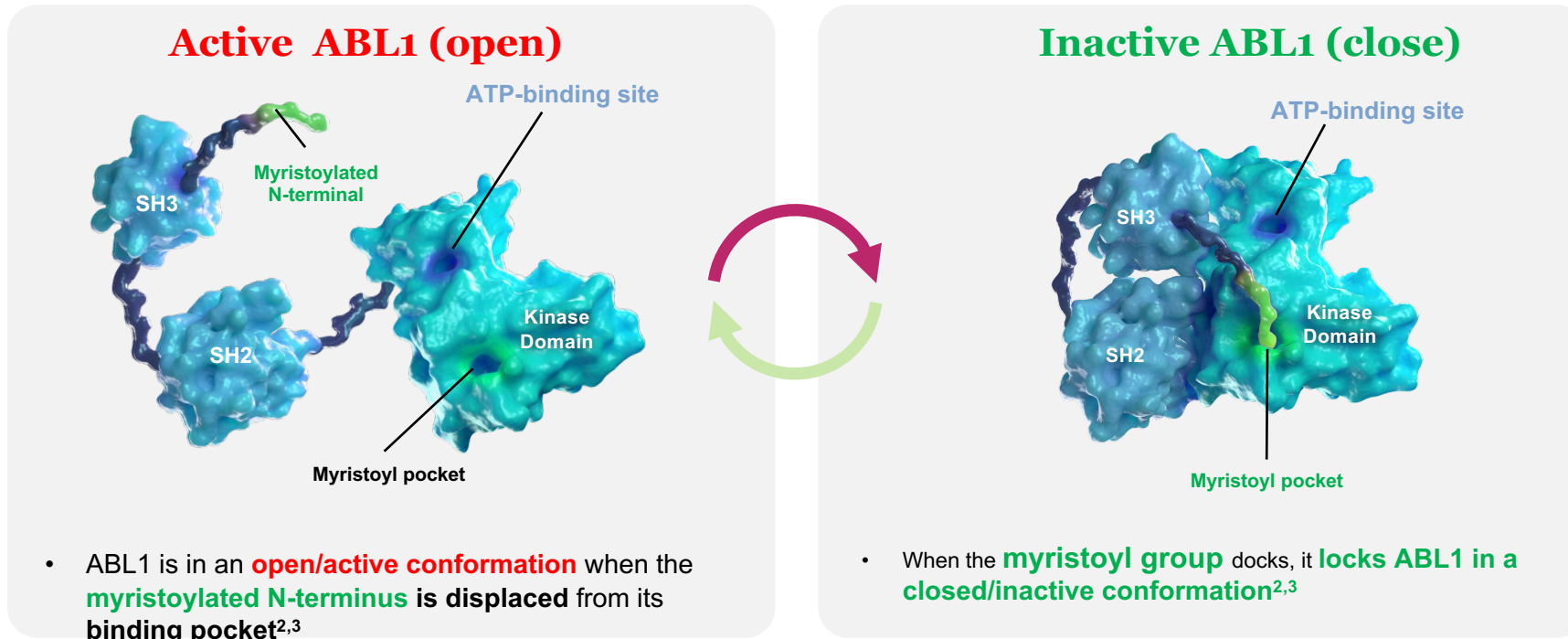


Patients at risk, n		0	12	24	36	48	60	72	84
CCyR	80	76	69	66	62	20	2	0	
No CCyR	123	110	95	80	72	26	1	0	

^a Patients who discontinued were followed approximately every 12 weeks for survival; patients without an event at the time of the analysis were censored at last contact
CCyR, complete cytogenetic response; MCyR, major cytogenetic response

Autoregulation of ABL1 kinase occurs when a myristoyl group at the N-terminus of ABL1 binds to the myristoyl-binding pocket

close (inactive) and open (active) conformation



From Hughes TP, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2019;381(24):2315-2326. Copyright © 2019 Massachusetts Medical Society. Reprinted with permission from Massachusetts Medical Society.

Preliminary safety and efficacy of ELVN-001, a selective active site inhibitor of BCR::ABL1 in CML

ELVN-001:

- Selectively inhibits ABL with low off target activity against other kinases
- Maintains activity against T315I and other BCR::ABL1 mutations known to confer resistance to asciminib

Patient population:

- ≥18 years (≥19 years in Korea) with BCR::ABL1-positive CP-CML, ± T315I mutation
- Intolerant to, failed, or not a candidate for available therapies for CML
- ECOG PS 0-2
- Bone marrow transplantation allowed only if ≥6 months prior

Study design:

- **Ph. 1a (N=50 max.):** Dose escalation 10/20/40/80/120 mg QD; **Ph. 1b (N=60):** Dose expansion, stratified by *T315I* status
- **Primary endpoint:** Dose-limiting toxicities, AEs, clinically significant lab and ECG abnormalities
- **Secondary endpoints (Ph. 1a):** PK parameters, molecular response

PERSPECTIVE OPEN

Check for updates

Questions concerning tyrosine kinase-inhibitor therapy and transplants in chronic phase chronic myeloid leukaemia

Michele Bacarani ^{1,2,7}, Francesca Bonifazi ¹ , Simona Soverini ², Fausto Castagnetti^{1,2}, Gabriele Gugliotta¹, Wael Saber^{3,4}, Noel Estrada-Merly³, Gianantonio Rosti⁵ and Robert Peter Gale ⁶

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LMC, perché rinviare il trapianto



Gianantonio Rosti, MD
Scientific Direction
IRCCS/SIRHHC Scientific Institute for Research, Hospitalization
and Health Care
«Dino Amadori» – Meldola (FC), Italy



DO WE NEED TO RECONSIDER USE OF TRANSPLANT IN CHRONIC PHASE CML?

Rates of cure are higher in persons receiving a transplant vs. TKIs (few patients will reach TFR)

HOWEVER:

- (1) **few transplants** have been done for CML recently, limiting the certainty of estimating outcomes;
- (2) selection **biases favoring transplants** including younger **age**, **better performance score** and **fewer comorbidities** in transplant recipients compared with persons receiving TKIs;
- (3) selection **biases against transplant** recipients who are more likely to have had a **worse prognosis at diagnosis or soon thereafter** compared with those receiving only TKI therapy;
- (4) the almost **20% 1-year mortality** associated with transplants and risk of transplant-related complications such as **chronic GvHD**

WHO 2022 CML

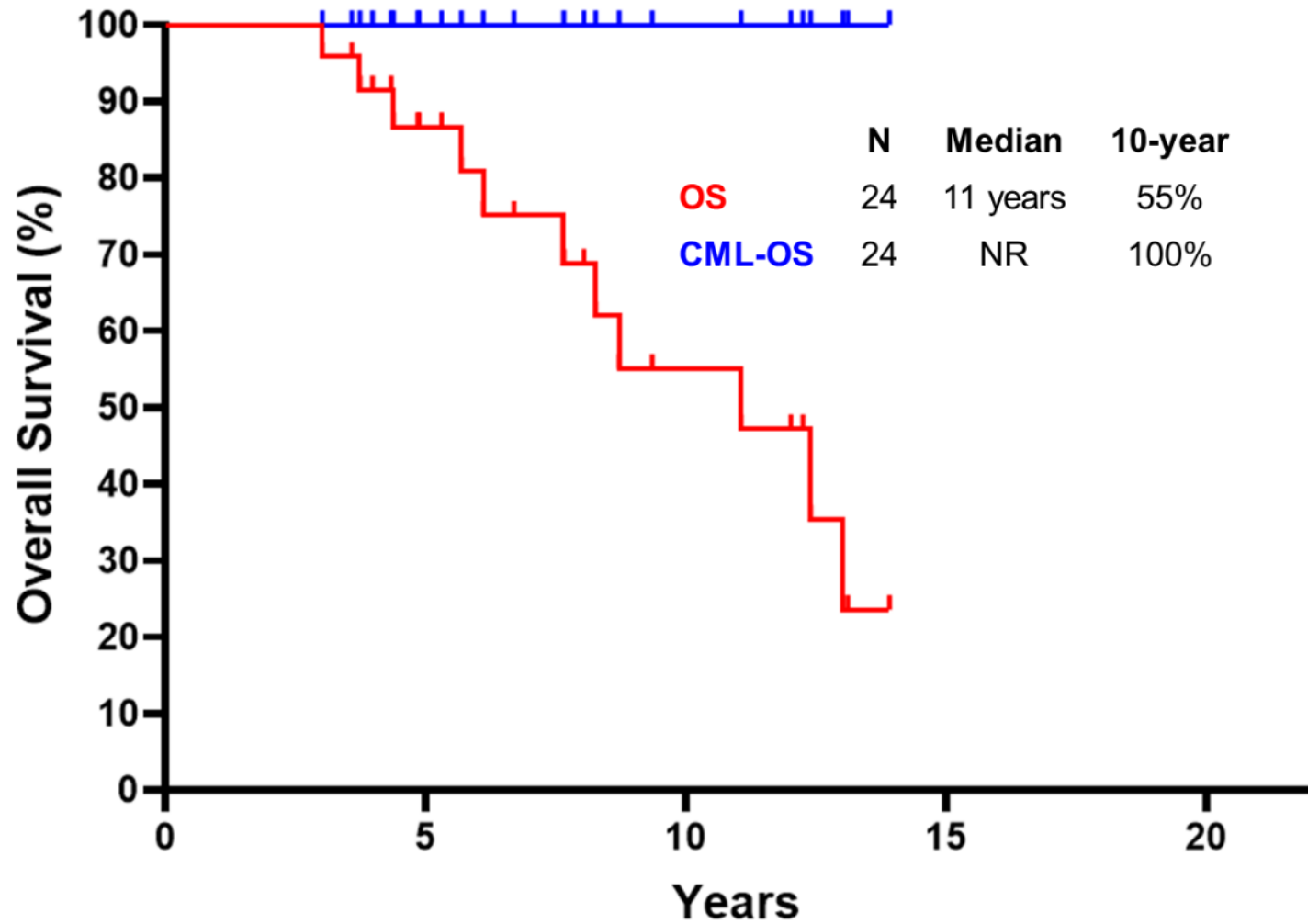
2 phase disease

Diagnosis: CP (with clinical and biological risk factors)
BP ($\geq 20\%$ blasts)

On therapy: CP (Remission status according to ELN)
BP ($\geq 20\%$ blasts)

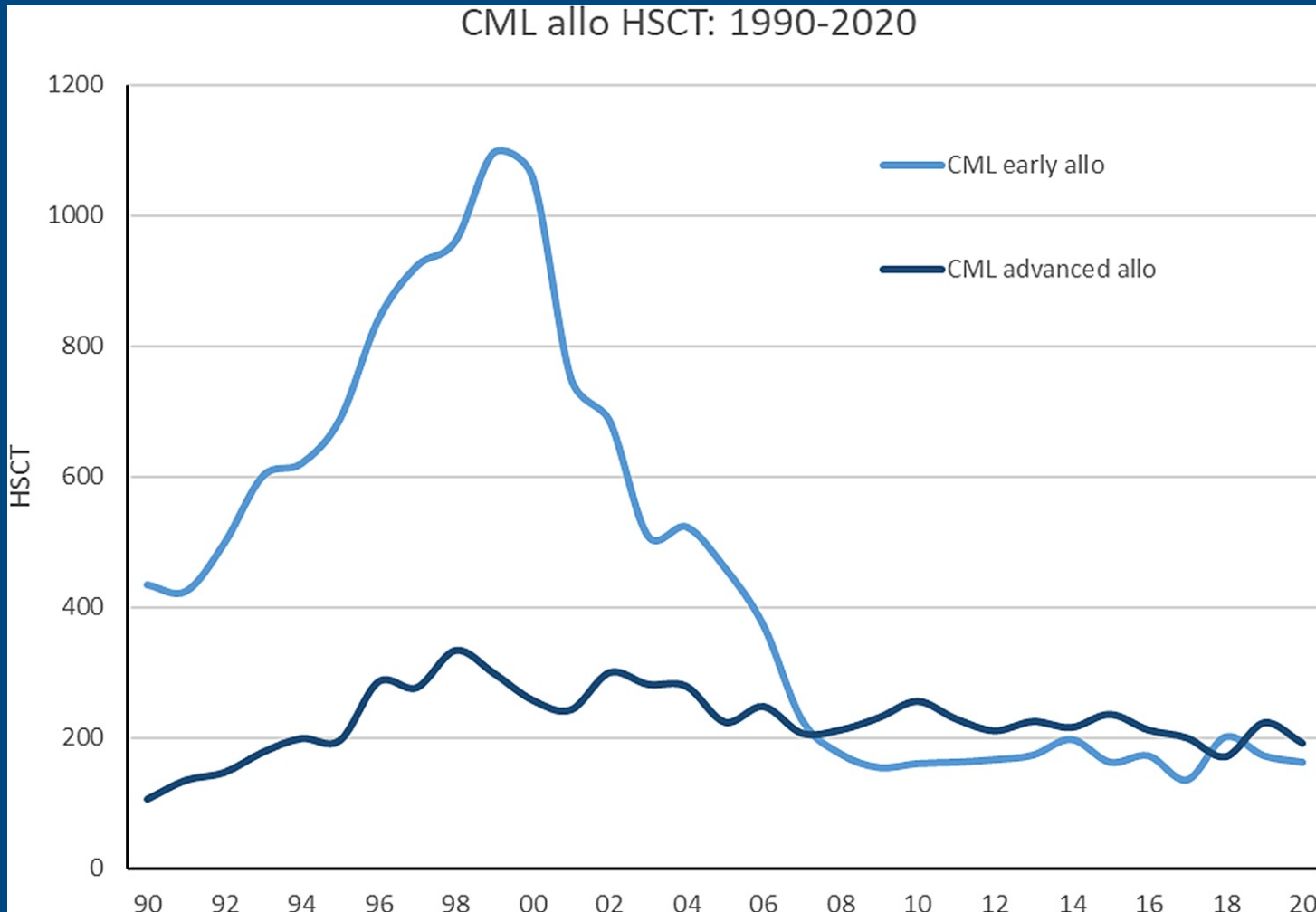
AP definition in TKI era less important.

Chronic myeloid leukemia without major molecular response after 2 years of treatment with tyrosine kinase inhibitor



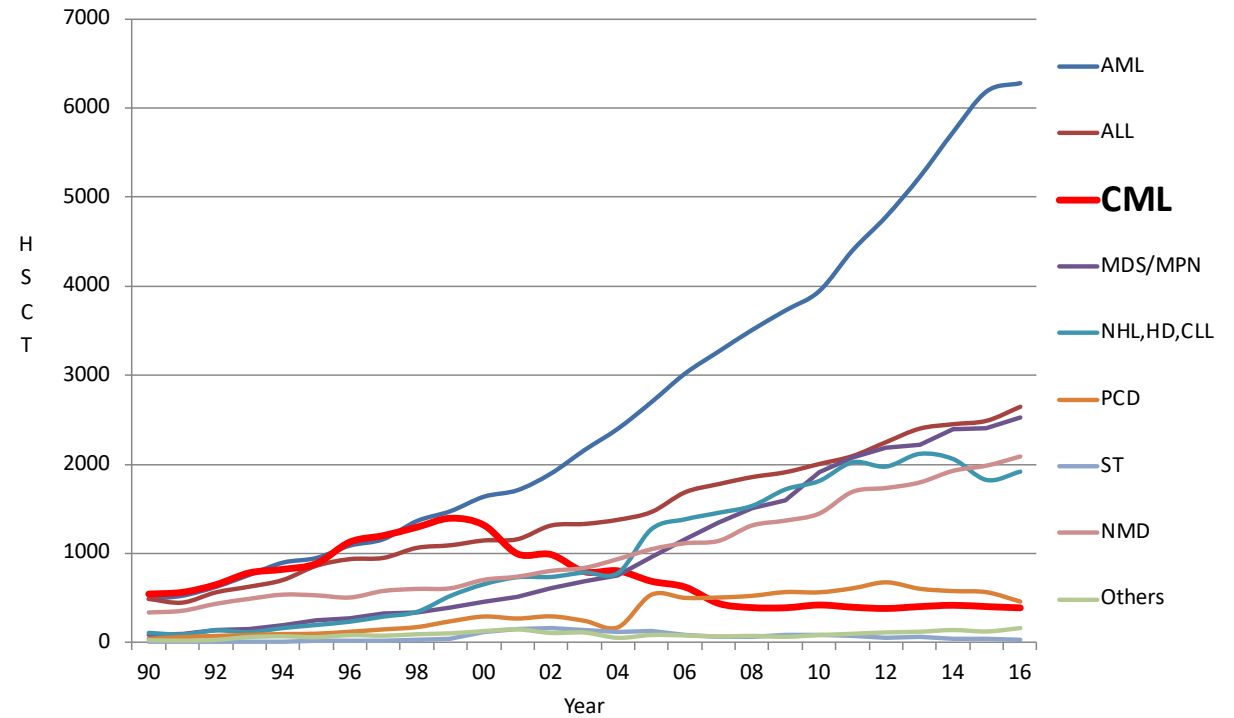
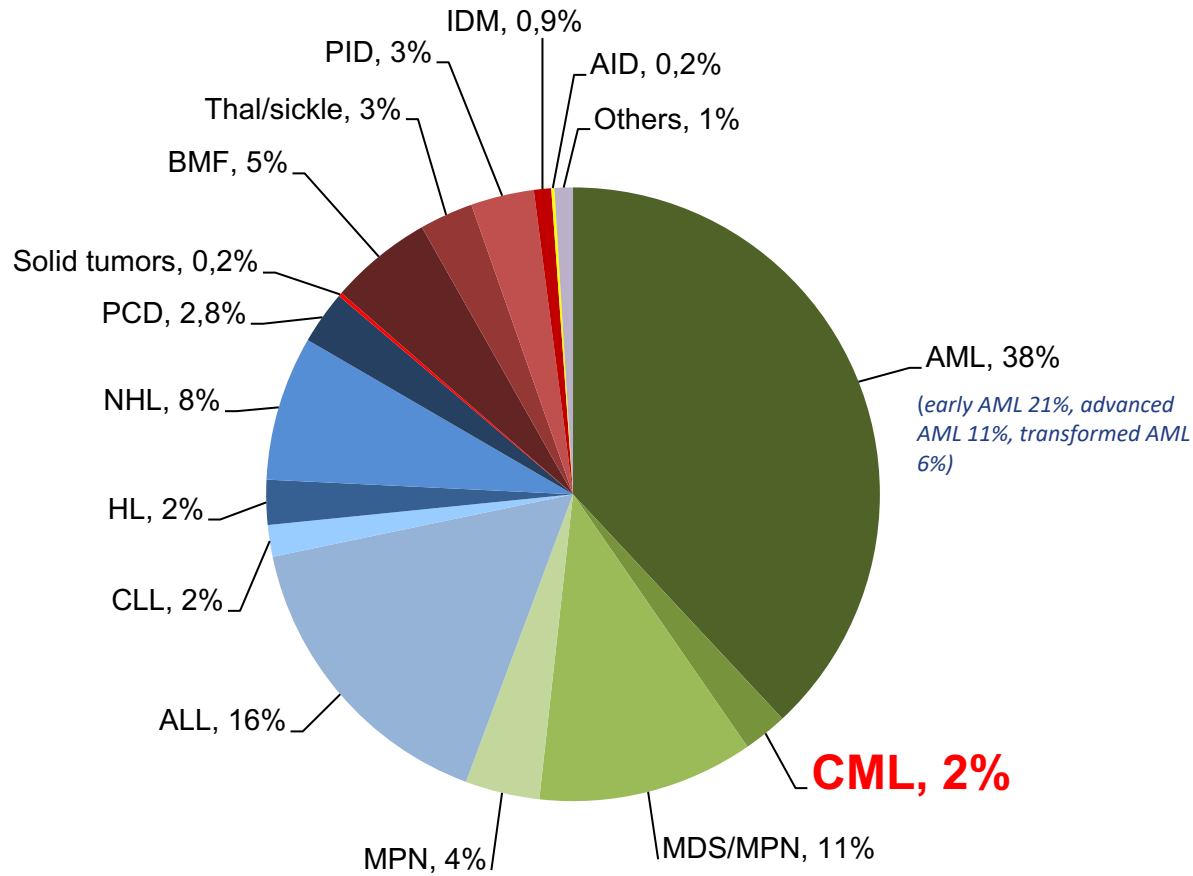
Overall survival (OS) and CML-related overall survival (CML-OS) of patients aged ≥ 60 years at diagnosis without MMR after two years of TKIs

SCT for CML in Europe



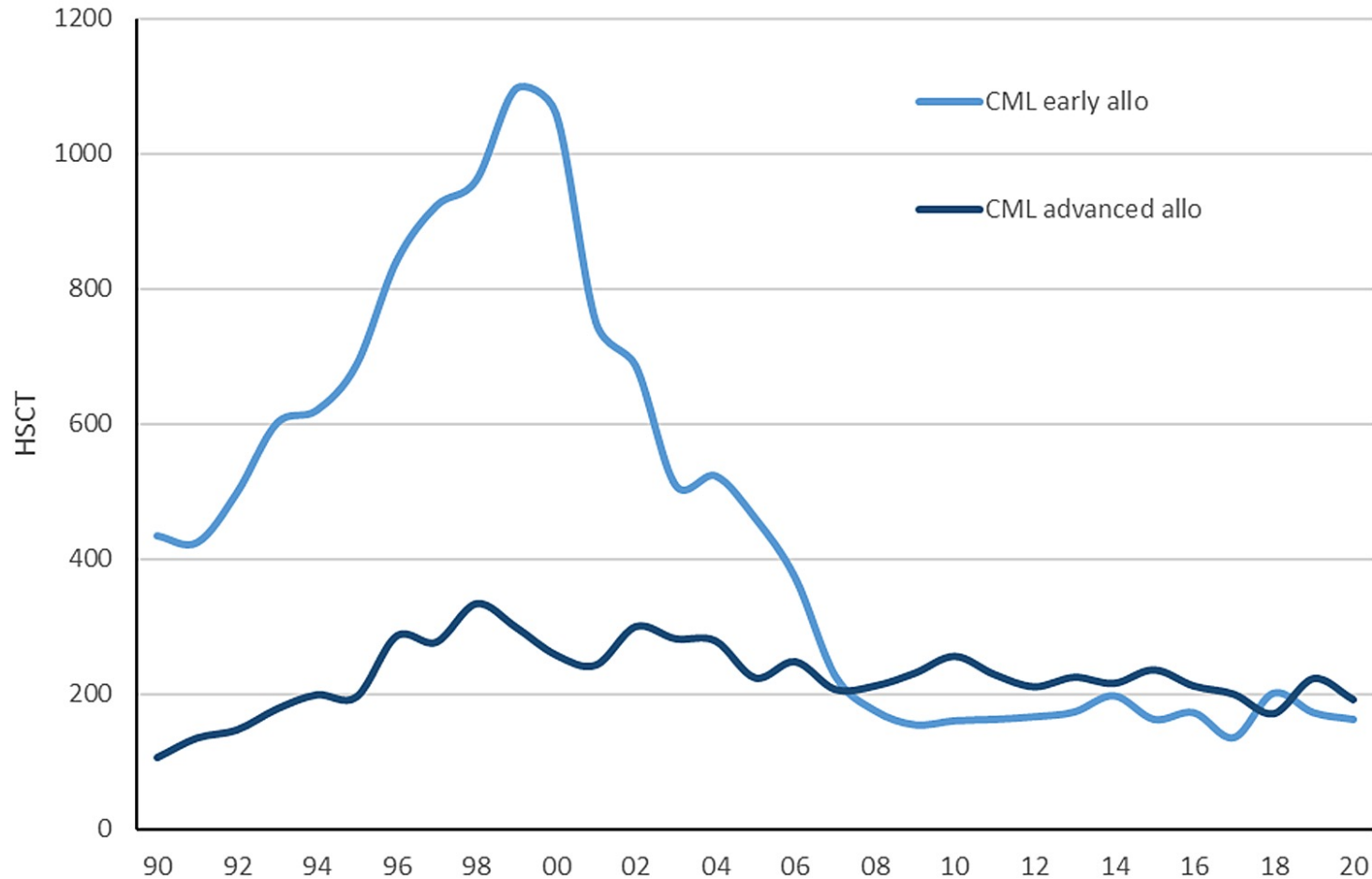
Allogeneic HSCT in Europe 2016

1st HSCT



SCT for CML in Europe

CML allo HSCT: 1990-2020



More patients in advanced phase than in CP are transplanted world wide, underlying the importance of optimizing outcome by improving the **timing** of HSCT

DO WE NEED TO RECONSIDER USE OF TRANSPLANT IN CHRONIC PHASE CML?

- There are several time- dependent predictive and prognostic models and scores which enable physicians to estimate the **likelihood of success of TKI therapy in achieving TFR** reasonably early after starting TKI therapy.
- In potential transplant candidates, physicians and patients must choose between probable lifetime TKI therapy with attendant medical, physical and psychological costs versus likelihood of success and risks of a transplant.

The issue is not whether one or the other therapy is better, but which therapy is more appropriate for different persons at different times after CML diagnosis and after observing response to TKI therapy

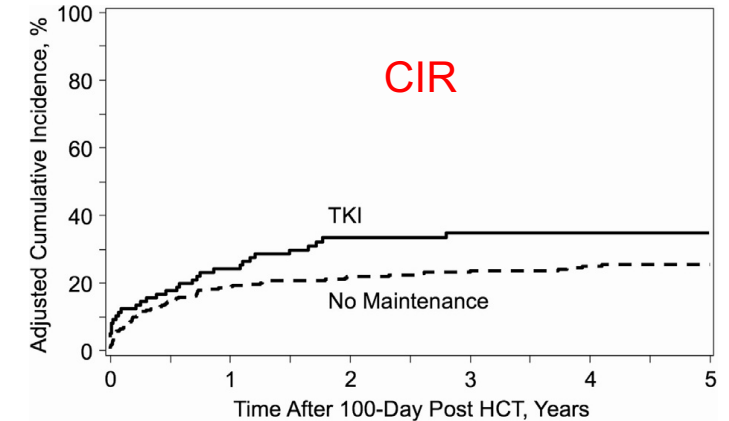
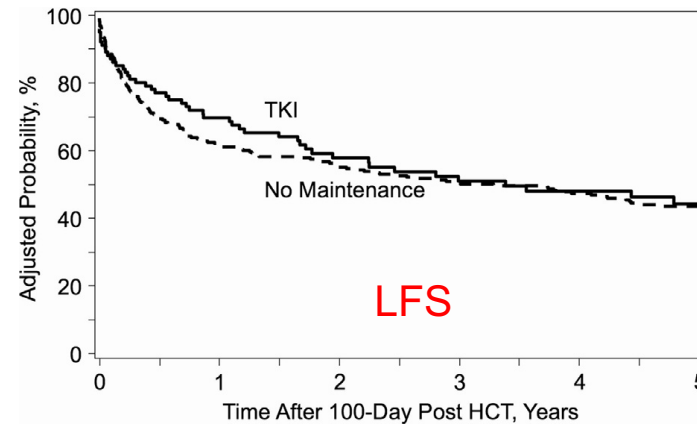
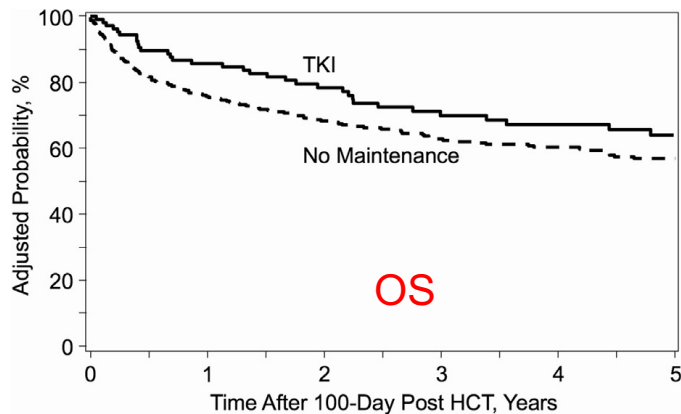


ELSEVIER

Post-SCT maintenance

390 adult patients with CML who underwent transplantation between 2007 and 2014 and received maintenance TKI following HCT (n = 89) compared with no TKI maintenance (n = 301)

Maintenance Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors Following Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation for Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia: A Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research Study



- Results unchanged in multivariate analysis and were not modified by disease status before transplantation.
- In conclusion, **NO significant impact of maintenance TKI therapy on clinical outcomes.**
- **The optimal approach to TKI administration in the post-transplantation setting in patients with CML remains undetermined.**

Incidence of GVHD after DLI (n=500)

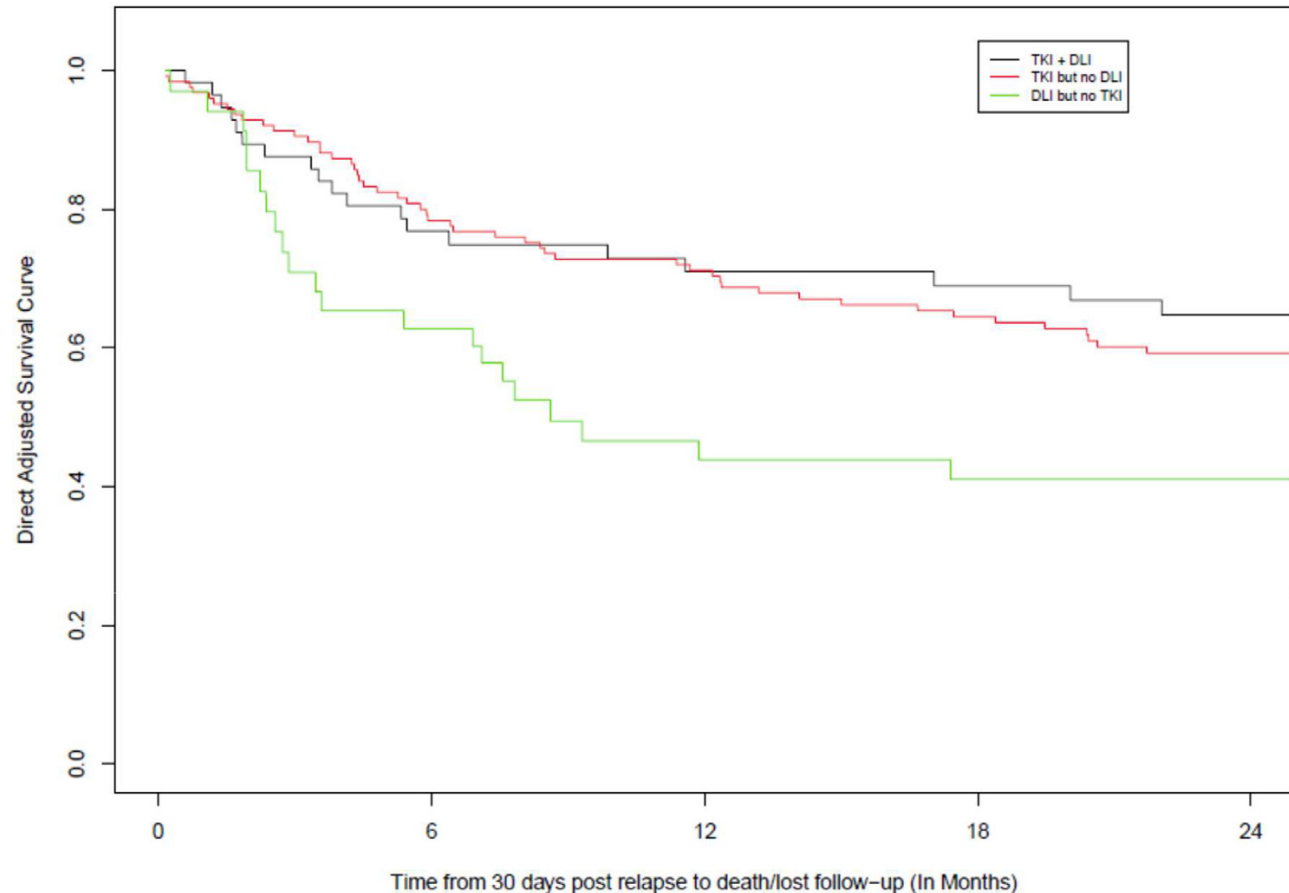
		GVHD post DLI	
		No	Yes
Response (CCyR/CMR)	No	24%	8%
	Yes	32%	36%

The Role of Donor Lymphocyte Infusion (DLI) in Post-Hematopoietic Cell Transplant (HCT) Relapse for Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML) in the Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor (TKI) Era



A total of 215 HCT recipients relapsed and were analyzed in the following groups:

- (1) TKI alone (n = 128)
- (2) TKI with DLI (n = 48)
- (3) DLI without TKI (n = 39)



Take home-messages

WHO and WHEN?

- ELN RECOMMENDATIONS / EBMT and HCI SCORE

WHICH DONOR / SOURCE?

- Any, but HLA-id sib better / Marrow better than blood

WHICH CONDITIONING?

- Myeloablative first option

TKI MAINTENANCE AFTER TRANSPLANT?

- Benefit undetermined

RELAPSE AFTER SCT?

- preferably TKI alone (+/- DLI)

PERSPECTIVE: TRANSPLANT IN 1ST CP IN PATIENTS NOT CANDIDATE FOR TFR?



Clinical impact of pretransplant use of multiple tyrosine kinase inhibitors on the outcome of allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for chronic myelogenous leukemia

237 pts diagnosed in CP between 2001 and 2012 in Japan, which received allo-SCT

TABLE 3 Multivariate analysis of variables affecting RI and NRM

Outcome	Factors		HR	95% CI	P-value
RI	Disease status at SCT	CP1	1		
		CP2	2.163	0.858–5.455	.100
		CP3-	1.110	0.158–7.784	.920
		AP	2.378	0.902–6.269	.080
		BC	5.299	2.385–11.770	<.001
NRM	Pretransplant TKI Number	TKI=1/2	1		
		TKI=3	2.554	1.185–5.504	.017
	Male recipient/Female donor	no	1		
		yes	2.107	1.022–4.346	.044
	Age at SCT	-49	1		
50-		3.016	1.520–5.984	.002	

“TKI = 3 is a significant factor for survival after allo-HSCT besides disease progression and patient’s age. Allo-HSCT could be considered for young patients with CML showing resistance to second-line TKI therapy who did not have disease progression and who have an appropriate donor”



Clinical impact of pretransplant use of multiple tyrosine kinase inhibitors on the outcome of allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for chronic myelogenous leukemia

