

SIE Società Italiana di Ematologia

**2024**: È già ora di abbandonare la **chemioterapia** nella **malattia recidivata/refrattaria?** 

aserta

Napoli, Hotel Paradiso • 29–30 aprile 2024



SESSIONE I - DLBCL Moderatori: A. Di Rocco (Roma), C. Patti (Palermo)

#### Quando è possibile l'approccio con anticorpi ingegnerizzati o «Drug-coniugati»?

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# **Disclosure**

Company name	Research support	Employee	Consultant	Stockholder	Speakers bureau	Advisory board	Other
Roche					Х	X	
Gilead					X	X	
Novartis						x	
Takeda						X	
Recordati					X	X	
Incyte					X	X	
Janssen					Х	X	
BMS						X	
Beigene					X	X	
Alexion	X						

### CD19-Targeted CAR T-Cell Therapy Has Dichotomized the Management of R/R DLBCL

#### New algorithm for Second-line Therapy of LBCL



Westin. Blood. 2022;139:2737.

### Unsatisfactory outcome among patients non-eligible to ASCT

REGIMEN	N	Median age	ORR%	CR %	PFS	Reference
R-GEMOX	32	65	78	50	Median 9 mo	Corazzelli G, Cancer Oncol 2009
<b>R-Bendamustine</b>	55	76	50	28	Median 8.8 mo	Arcari A, Leuk Lymphoma 2015
Pixantrone	70	60	37	20	Median 5.3 mo	Pettengel R, Lancet Oncol 2012
Lenalidomide	49	65	35	12	Median 4 mo	Wiernik PH, JCO 2008

**R-GemOx** 



#### **R-bendamustine**



#### **Pixantrone**



#### Lenalidomide



### Novel strategies on immune-based therapy in DLBCL



\* FDA/EMA approved

# Novel therapies approved in **RR-DLBCL**

	Pola-BR	Tafasitamab/Lenalidomide	Loncastuximab Tesirine
ΜΟΑ	Anti-CD79b ADC	Anti-CD19 mAb/Immunomodulator	Anti-CD19 ADC
ORR	45%	58%	48%
CR rate	40%	40%	24%
PFS	9.2 m	11.6 m	4.9 m
DOR	12.6 m	43.9 m	10.3 m
OS	12.4 m	33.5 m	9.9 m

Sehn LH et al Blood Adv.2022; Caimi PF et al Lancet Oncol. 2021 ;Duell J.et al Haematologica 2021;

# Polatuzumab vedotin: ADC binds CD79b



# Randomised Phase II study of pola-BR versus BR (GO29365): study design

#### Key eligibility criteria

Inclusion: transplant-ineligible DLBCL, after at least 1 line of therapy

Exclusion: prior allogeneic SCT; history of transformation from indolent disease; current Grade >1 PN

Main study	Phase lb: Safety run-in Pola+BR	R/R DLBCL Pola+BR (n=6)		
Main study	Phase II: Randomization Pola+BR vs BR	R/R DLBCL Randomized BR (n=40) Median follow-up: 48.9 months Pola+BR (n=40)	Pod Pola coh (N=	oled a+BR norts 152)
Extension cohort	Phase II: Extension Pola+BR	R/R DLBCL Pola+BR (n=106) Median follow-up: 15.2 months		

# **Patient clinical characteristics**

	Randomized		Extension cohort	Pooled Pola+BR*
	BR (N=40)	Pola+BR (N=40)	Pola+BR (N=106)	Pola+BR (N=152)
Median age, years (range)	71 (30–84)	67 (33–86)	70 (24–94)	69 (24–94)
Male, n (%)	25 (62.5)	28 (70.0)	52 (49.1)	84 (55.3)
ECOG PS score, n (%) <sup>†</sup>				
0–1	31 (77.5)	33 (82.5)	92 (86.8)	131 (86.2)
2	8 (20.0)	6 (15.0)	14 (13.2)	20 (13.2)
Ann Arbor Stage III/IV at study entry, n (%)	36 (90.0)	34 (85.0)	84 (79.0)	122 (80.0)
IPI score 3–5 at enrollment, n (%)	29 (72.5)	22 (55)	70 (66.0)	94 (61.8)
Median no. of prior therapies (range)	2 (1–5)	2 (1–7)	2 (1–7)	2 (1–7)
1 line	12 (30.0)	11 (27.5)	37 (34.9)	50 (32.9)
2 lines	9 (22.5)	11 (27.5)	27 (25.5)	42 (27.6)
3 lines	10 (25.0)	12 (30.0)	19 (17.9)	31 (20.4)
≥4 lines	9 (22.5)	6 (15.0)	23 (21.7)	29 (19.1)
Prior stem cell transplant, n (%)	6 (15.0)	10 (25.0)	17 (16.0)	27 (17.8)
Primary refractory, n (%) <sup>‡</sup>	28 (70.0)	21 (52.5)	73 (68.9)	97 (63.8)
Refractory to last prior therapy, n (%) <sup>‡</sup>	33 (82.5)	30 (75.0)	81 (76.4)	116 (76.3)

### GO29365: Pola-BR improved response rates versus BR independent of patients' prior treatment experience



**OR and PET-CR rates by refractory status** 

Sehn L, et al. J.Clin Oncol 2019

OR

Relapsed

43

CR

80

90

# Best objective response in the pooled Pola+BR cohort (152 pts) according to line of therapy and refractory status



Responses were observed regardless of line of therapy and refractory status. The vast majority of responding patients achieved a CR

Sehn LH, et al. Blood advances 2021

## **PFS and OS in randomized and extension cohorts**



Sehn LH, et al. Blood advances 2021

# **Pola-BR Real Word Experience comparison**

	n	Refractory to last prior therapy	Median n° prior lines tx	mOS months	mPFS months	CR rate	ORR	mFUP months
Sehn et al.	152	76.3	2 (1-7)	12.5	6.6	40.1	57.9	
Pooled cohort								
Vodicka et al.	21	76.2		8.7	3.8	23.8	33.3	6.8
Dimou et al.	49*	78.0	2 (1-9)	8.5	4.0	20.0 25.0 (best)	35.0 43.0 (best)	10.8
Segman et al.	47	23.0	3 (2-4)	8.3	5.6	40.0	61.0	6.8
Liebers et al.	54	87	3	5.5	3.25	14.8 (best)	48.1 (best)	7.5
Northend et al.	133	68.4		8.2	4.8	31.6 (best)	57.0(best)	7.7
Argnani et al.	55	81.8		9.0	4.9	18.2 27.3 (best)	32.7 49.1(best)	11

# **Pola-BR Real Word Experience: conclusions**

#### **OVERALL INFERIOR OUTCOME RESULTS:**

- More heavily pretreated patients
- Prior CART treated patients

#### **USEFUL INFORMATION:**

- No New Safety Signal
- **Pola-R Similar Efficacy than Pola-BR** (No Randomized Data!) (Israel And Italian Data)
- 1 Prior Line patients Or No Refractoriness Are Better Candidates (Greek And Uk Data)
- **Pola-R Useful Bridge To Cart** (German Data)
- Signal possible efficacy post CART (few patients)

# **CD19 expression in B cells**



Baker et al, Lancet Disc Sci 2017

### **Multiple Targeting anti CD19 strategies**



Kellner et al., Oncoimmunol 2018.

### **Multiple Targeting anti CD19 strategies**



Kellner et al., Oncoimmunol 2018.

# Phase II a: MOR208 in R-R NHL – Best Overall Response Rate



Jurczak W and Zinzani PL, Ann Oncol 2018

# LENALIDOMIDE INCREASES NK-CELL EXPRESSION OF FCγRIII, ENHANCING XMAB5574 (TAFASITAMAB)-INDUCED NK CELL-MEDIATED ADCC AGAINST CLL



Lapalombella et al., Blood 2010

### MODE OF ACTIONS PROVIDE THE RATIONALE FOR TAFASITAMAB + LENALIDOMIDE COMBINATION



Salles 2020 on file

### RESPONSE PROBABILITY VERSUS AUC28 FOR TAFASITAMAB AND TAFASITAMAB-LENALIDOMIDE





# L-MIND: study design

### phase 2 single arm open label multicenter study (NCT 02399085)



- Sample size suitable to detect ≥15% absolute increase in ORR for Tafasitamab/LEN combination vs. LEN monotherapy at 85% power, 2-sided alpha of 5%
- Mature Data: Primary Endpoint Analysis with data cut-off 30 Nov 2018; minimum Follow-Up 12 months, median Follow-Up 17.3 months



# Primary end point: ORR by IRC (80pts)



Salles G et al. Lancet Oncology 2020

# MOR 208 (Tafasitamab ) and Lenalidomide (L-MIND) : patients alive after 3 years of follow-up



Duell J, ICML 2021

Long-term outcomes from the phase II L-MIND study of tafasitamab (MOR208) plus lenalidomide in patients with relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma



Haematologica 2021 Volume 106(9):2417-2426



Duell J. et al Haematologica 2021

# **Tafa-Lena US Real World: Patients**

Patient and Disease				
Characteristic	TLOC cohort	L-MIND trial		
Number of patients	157	81		
Female sex	51%	46%		
Age (yrs), median (range)	75 (26-94)	72 (41-86)		
Race				
White, all ethnicity	89%	89%		
Asian	6%	2%		
Other/Unknown	5%	1%		
Diagnosis				
DLBCL, NOS	59%	89%		
Transformed	23%	9%		
HGBCL (Double/Triple Hit)	15%	2%		
Other	3%	0%		
Cell of Origin (Hans)				
GCB	57%	47%		
non-GCB	34%	26%		
Unknown	10%	27%		
Risk (IPI)				
0-2	28%	49%		
3-5	72%	51%		
Ann Arbor Stage				
1-11	10%	25%		
III-IV	90%	75%		

Prior Treatment				
Characteristic	TLOC	L-MIND		
Prior lines of therapy for DLBCL				
Median (range)	2 (0-11)	2 (1-4)		
0	4%*	0%		
1	29%	49%		
2	30%	43%		
3	16%	6%		
4	6%	1%		
≥5	16%	0 (0)		
Primary Refractory	51%	18%		
Refractory to last therapy	66%	44%		
Prior SCT	13%	11%		
Prior CAR T	28%	0%		

L-MIND Eligible: 11%	
Reasons for L-MIND ineligibility:	
<ul> <li>EGFR &lt; 60 ml/min</li> </ul>	33%
<ul> <li>Prior anti-CD19 therapy</li> </ul>	28%
<ul> <li>&gt;3 prior lines of therapy</li> </ul>	23%
<ul> <li>ECOG PS 3-4</li> </ul>	18%
<ul> <li>High-grade B cell lymphoma</li> </ul>	15%

Qualls et al. ASH2022

### Tafa-Lena L-MIND and US Real World: response

Treatment	
Time on treatment	
Median (IQR), days	59 (28 - 118)
Lenalidomide treatment timing	
Patients with delay in initiation	46%
Median delay time, days (IQR)	7 (4-20)
Starting daily lenalidomide dose (L-M	IIND: 25 mg)
Patients with dose reduction at initiation	66%
Median starting dose, mg (IQR)	20 (10-25)
Reasons for initial lenalidomide redu	ction
Frailty/Performance status	43%
Renal dysfunction	35%
Cytopenias	10%
Other/unknown	12%

<sup>1</sup>Duell J et al., Haematologica 2021 <sup>2</sup>Duell J et al., presented at ASCO 2021



Qualls et al. ASH2022

### Tafa-Lena L-MIND and US Real World: advers events

**Clinically significant adverse events:** resulting in dose reduction, treatment delay, treatment discontinuation, hospitalization, or death

Event	Proportion affected (%)
Hematological (All)	38
Neutropenia	28
Anemia	15
Thrombocytopenia	15
Febrile Neutropenia	8

\*Other: autoimmune hemolysis (1), neuropathy (1), MDS, bowel obstruction/perf, AKI, pruritis, hypotension (2), pleural effusions, transaminase/bili elevations (2), myalgias, constipation, hematuria, cognitive decline, cough

Event	Proportion affected (%)
Infection	16
COVID-19	3
Asthenia	13
Decreased appetite	9
Fevers	7
Diarrhea	4
Rash	3
Peripheral Edema	3
DVT/PE	3
Other*	13

Treatment discontinued: 137 patients (POD 80%, Toxicity 13%, Death 3%, Other 13%) Deaths: 91 patients (POD 85%, Toxicity 1%, Unrelated 5%, Unknown 9%)

Qualls et al. ASH2022

# **Tafasitamab Lenalidomide Outcomes Consortium**



#### 90% did not meet L-MIND eligibility criteria



Qualls DA et al Blood 2023

### **Subgroup analysis of PFS**



### Tafasitamab for the Treatment of R/R DLBCL in the US Real-World Setting

Characteristics		All patients	Tafasitamab 2L	Tafasitamab 3L
		(N=181)	(n=130)	(n=43)
ECOG PS at tafasitamab initiation, n	0-1	95 (52.5)	69 (53.1)	21 (48.8)
(%)	≥2	86 (47.5)	61 (46.9)	22 (51.2)
Ann Arbor stage at tafasitamab initiation, n (%)	Stage I/II	10 (5.5)	9 (6.9)	1 (2.3)
	Stage III	58 (32.0)	50 (38.5)	7 (16.3)
	Stage IV	111 (61.3)	70 (53.8)	35 (81.4)
	Unknown	2 (1.1)	1 (0.8)	0
R-IPI at tafasitamab initiation, n	1-2 (good prognosis)	33 (19.5)	22 (18.3)	8 (19.0)
(% patients with data available)*	3-5 (poor prognosis)	136 (80.5)	98 (81.7)	34 (81.0)
Double-hit or triple-hit at tafasitamab initiation, n (%)	Yes, double-/triple-hit	22 (12.2)	14 (10.8)	8 (18.6)
	Tested, found to be negative	130 (71.8)	103 (79.2)	26 (60.5)
	Unknown	29 (16.0)	13 (10.0)	9 (20.9)
Cell of origin information, n (%)	GCB	81 (44.8)	60 (46.2)	17 (39.5)
	Non-GCB/ABC	39 (21.5)	28 (21.5)	9 (20.9)
	Unknown	61 (33.7)	42 (32.3)	17 (39.5)
Refractory to line prior to tafasitamab <sup>+</sup>		59 (32.6)	33 (25.4)	19 (44.2)
Lines of treatment, n (%)	2L 3L+	130 (72) 51 (28)		

Saverno K et al ASH 2023

### **Lenalidomide Treatment With Tafasitamab**

#### (Median follow-up time: 6.5 months)

	All Patients (N=181)
Prior ASCT therapy, n (%)	21 (11.6)
Prior CAR-T therapy, n (%)	6 (3.3)
Subsequent CAR-T therapy, n (%)	5 (2.8)



#### Common reasons for lenalidomide dose reduction

Reasons for dose reduction	Patients, %	
Neutropenia	73	
Thrombocytopenia	33	
Performance status/patient frailty	27	
Renal dysfunction	18	
Thirty-three nationts (19%) had >1 lenalidomide dose reduction during		

Thirty-three patients (19%) had  $\geq$ 1 lenalidomide dose reduction during the treatment

#### Saverno K et al ASH 2023

Tafasitamab discontinuation	Patients, %	
Confirmed by scan	50	
Progression defined clinically	17	
Toxicity	15	
Patient/caregiver request	3	
Complete response	2	
Other reasons	13	

### **Real-World Best Response**



Saverno K et al ASH 2023

### **Multiple Targeting anti CD19 strategies**



Kellner et al., Oncoimmunol 2018.

### **Loncastuximab Tesirine (ADCT-402)**



# Lotis 2: single-arm, open-label Phase 2 Study

Patient population: Patients with R/R DLBCL following ≥2 lines of prior systemic therapy

#### **Primary objective:** Evaluate efficacy, using ORR (central review), and safety of the full Phase 2 study population



Carlo-Stella C, et al. EHA 2020

# **Baseline Characteristics**

Patient charact	eristics	Total (N=145)	Patient treatment history		Total (N=145)
Sex, n (%)	Female Male	60 (41.4) 85 (58.6)	No. of previous systemic therapies,* median (range)		3 (2–7)
Age, years, median (min, max)		66.0 (23–94)	First-line systemic therapy response, n (%)	Relapse Refractory <sup>†</sup> Other <sup>‡</sup>	99 (68.3) 29 (20.0) 17 (11.7)
Histology, n (%)	DLBCL HGBCL PMBCL	127 (87.6) 11 (7.6) 7 (4.8)	Last-line systemic therapy response, <sup>¶</sup> n (%)	Relapse Refractory <sup>†</sup> Other <sup>‡</sup>	43 (29.7) 84 (57.9) 18 (12.4)
Double/triple hit, n (%)		15 (10.3)		Ves	25 (17 2)
Double/triple expressor, n (%)		20 (13.8)	Refractory to all prior therapies, n (%)	No	115 (79.3)
Transformed disease, n (%)		29 (20.0)		Other <sup>‡</sup>	5 (3.4)
Stage, n (%)	I–II III–IV	33 (22.8) 112 (77.2)	Prior stem cell transplant, n (%)	Allogeneic Autologous Both	2 (1.4) 21 (14.5) 1 (0.7)

145 patients were enrolled and received a mean of 4.3 cycles of Lonca (range: 1–15)

Carlo-Stella C, et al. EHA 2020

# Loncastuximab Teserine: LOTIS-2 Phase 2 Trial

### 1<sup>st</sup> end-point: ORR



- At data cut-off, 44,4% of pts remained in CR with no further treatment
- 13 patients received previously CART
- Most responders had a response after 2 cycles
- Median number of lonca cycles: 3 (1-26)

Carlo-Stella C, et al. EHA 2020

# Loncastuximab tesirine in relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (LOTIS-2): a multicentre, open-label, single-arm, phase 2 trial

Paolo F Caimi, Weiyun Ai, Juan Pablo Alderuccio, Kirit M Ardeshna, Mehdi Hamadani, Brian Hess, Brad S Kahl, John Radford, Melhem Solh, Anastasios Stathis, Pier Luigi Zinzani, Karin Havenith, Jay Feingold, Shui He, Yajuan Qin, David Ungar, Xiaoyan Zhang, Carmelo Carlo-Stella



#### Median duration of response was 10.25 months

Caimi F.L et al Lancet Oncology 2021

### **Duration of response by best overall response**

#### Final analysis: 2-year update



Caimi et al. Haematologica 2023

# **Progression-free survival**

Final analysis: 2-year update



Caimi et al. Haematologica 2023

# **Follow-up of complete responders**



Swimmer plot of complete responders (n=36)

Caimi et al. Haematologica 2023

### **Real-world analysis of Lonca in R/R DLCBL in the US**

Retrospective chart review of R/R DLBCL patients treated with Lonca at 21 academic centres in the US

	Real-world cohort	
n (%)*	(N=187)	n (%)*
Male	119 (64)	CD19 status overall
Age, years		Positive
<65	72 (39)	Negative
65–75	66 (33)	CD19 status post CAR-T
>75	39 (21)	Positive
Histology	160	Negative
de novo DLBCL	85 (53)	
HGBCL	40 (25)	
DH/TH	37 (21)	n (%)*
Transformed DLBCL	28 (18)	
Advanced stage disease	161 (86)	Lonca line of therapy
IPI >3	63 (77)	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>nd</sup>
ECOG PS >2	13 (7)	Primany refractory
eGFR <60	34 (19)	
Bulky disease (>10 cm)	32 (17)	Median time from ASCT (r
CNS involvement	12 (7)	Prior CAR-T
Cell of origin	157	CAR-T as 2 <sup>nd</sup> line
GCB	96 (61)	Median time from CAR-T (
Non-GCB	61 (38)	Last response prior to Lonca
Double expressor	61 (39)	CR
		DD

	n (%)*	Real-world cohort (N=187)
	CD19 status overall	128
	Positive	109 (85)
	Negative	19 (15)
_	CD19 status post CAR-T	90
	Positive	70 (78)
	Negative	20 (22)

n (%)*	Real-world cohort (N=187)
Lonca line of therapy	
2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup>	36 (19)
>3 <sup>rd</sup>	151 (81)
Primary refractory	47 (25)
Prior ASCT	31 (16)
Median time from ASCT (months)	25.9
Prior CAR-T	<mark>112 (60)</mark>
CAR-T as 2 <sup>nd</sup> line	<mark>11 (10)</mark>
Median time from CAR-T (months)	<mark>7.7</mark>
Last response prior to Lonca	
CR	16 (9)
PR	15 (8)
PD	144 (77)

In the real-world cohort, there were 66 documented adverse events (35%)

#### AEs led to Lonca discontinuation in 14%

n (%)	Incidence	Main reason for discontinuation
Pleural effusion	6 (3)	1 (<1)
Peripheral oedema	21 (11)	7 (4)
Pericardial effusion	1 (<1)	0 (0)
Rash	<mark>18 (10)</mark>	<mark>7 (4)</mark>
<mark>Cytopenias</mark>	<mark>31 (17)</mark>	<mark>13 (7)</mark>

4 3

Ayers et al, ASH 2023, #312

### **Real-world analysis of Lonca in R/R DLCBL in the US**



#### **Progression-free survival**



Median duration of treatment was 42 days (LOTIS-2 was 45 days)

Response	mPFS (mo)
ORR	7.8
CR	NR
PR	6.3
SD	2.8
PD	0.9

Ayers et al, ASH 2023, #312

### **Real-world analysis of Lonca in R/R DLCBL in the US**



Compared to LOTIS-2 cohort, this cohort was enriched with high-risk features to likely explain the lower response rates. Importantly, receipt of prior CAR-T did not negatively impact outcomes to Lonca.

Ayers et al, ASH 2023, #312

### Real-world effectiveness of Lonca monotherapy in R/R DLBCL following CAR-T therapy



Non-site based, online, retrospective chart review, in adult patients with R/R DLBCL<sup>+</sup> who initiated Lonca monotherapy following CAR-T therapy (2L or 3L)

#### **Study design** Index period **Follow-up period** April 2021 ≥6 months prior to Date of data entry data entry date **Eligible for inclusion** The follow-up period therapy in 2L or 3L, subsequently began ≥6 months disease progression before prior to data entry initiating on Lonca monotherapy as date to allow for a 3L/4L treatment between April minimum follow-up 2021 and the date $\geq 6$ months prior of 6 months for all to data entry date. patients.

Patient characteristics and treatment patterns (%, unless otherwise specified)	CAR-T 2L / Lonca 3L (N=121)	CAR-T 3L / Lonca 4L (N=27)
Median age (IQR), years	66.0 (60.5, 71.5)	59.0 (50.0, 72.0)
Male sex	59	44
DLBCL NOS, or high-grade	68	93
Transformed from low-grade	31	7
DHL/THL	41	11
Bulky disease (>7.5 cm) at index	23	7
Stage III–IV at index	70	85
High-intermediate risk/high-risk at index*	60	26
Primary refractory <sup>†</sup>	29	23
SCT received at 1L or 2L	25	59
Axicabtagene ciloleucel received	62	67
Lisocabtagene maraleucel received	38	0
Tisagenlecleucel received	0	33
CR to CAR-T	21	44
PR to CAR-T	49	19
Refractory to CAR-T	29	37
Bridging therapy to CAR-T received	11	48

Epperla et al. poster ASH 2023

### Real-world effectiveness of Lonca monotherapy in R/R DLBCL following CAR-T therapy



Lonca monotherapy, in both 3L and 4L after CAR-T, can be a reasonable and effective treatment option for patients who are resistant/progressed after CAR-T

# Conclusions

- Relapsed/refractory DLBCL (RR-DLBCL) treated with standard CHT-ASCT have a poor survival
- Pola + R-Bendamustina, Tafasitamab + Lenalidomide (L-MIND) are the first positive phase 2 studies in RR-DLBCL patients who are unfit for transplant
- Novel therapies as *conjugated (Loncastuzimab) or other monoclonal antibodies* as single agent may improve outcome in RR-DLBCL.
- **Loncastuzimab** showed efficacy in LOTIS-2 population including patients with DH/TH, refractory to previous therapies and who previously received CAR T-cell therapy.
- Loncastuzimab responses were confirmed in the 2-year follow-up analysis and in the Real Word analysis also in patients previously treated with CAR-T



Gruppo per la terapia dei linfomi non Hodgkin Ematologia Sapienza Roma









Grazie!

... a voi tutti per l'attenzione