

# Farmacologicamente discutendo

Romano Danesi  
Dipartimento di Oncologia ed Emato-Oncologia  
Università degli Studi di Milano



## REVOLUTIONARY ROAD IN CLL

Innovazione rivoluzionaria nella terapia  
della leucemia linfatica cronica

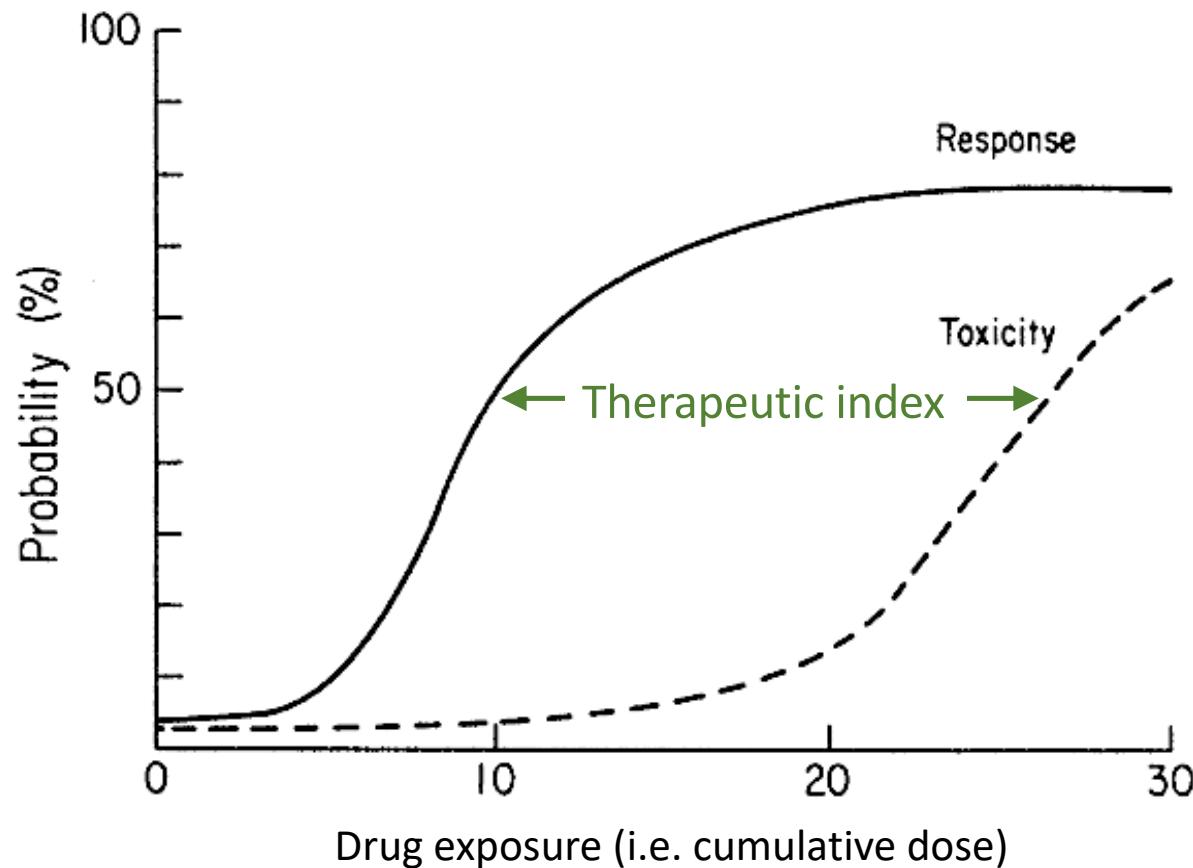
**Padova, 22 maggio 2024**  
Hotel NH Padova

# Disclosures

Company name	Research support	Employee	Consultant	Stockholder	Speakers bureau	Advisory board	Other
MSD			X		X		
Eisai			X		X	X	
AstraZeneca	X		X		X	X	
BeiGene						X	
Janssen	X		X		X		
Novartis			X		X		
Lilly			X		X		
Incyte			X		X		
AB Science			X				
Sanofi			X		X	X	
Abbvie			X		X		



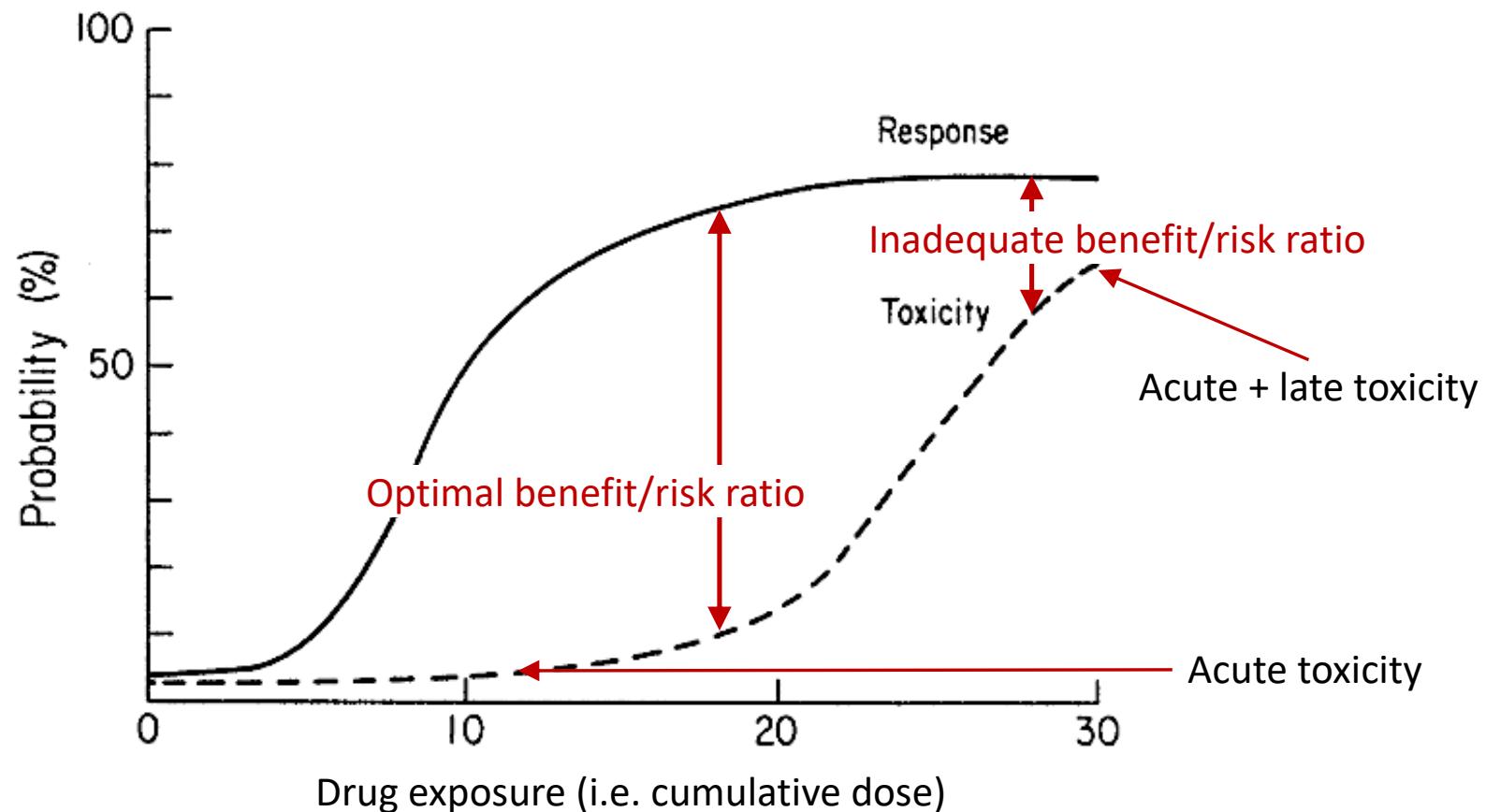
## Relationship between drug exposure and effects (therapeutic and adverse)



Applied Pharmacokinetics, 3rd ed. Vancouver, WA: Applied Therapeutics; 1992. pp.1–3



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# The rationale of venetoclax-ibrutinib combination

- Ibrutinib and venetoclax have distinct and complementary modes of action that work synergistically to eliminate distinct CLL cell populations.
- CLL cells rely on the overexpression of antiapoptotic proteins (BCL-2, BCL extralarge [XL], and myeloid cell leukemia-1 [MCL-1]) for survival.
- Ibrutinib decreases BCL-XL and MCL-1, but not BCL-2, in highly proliferative lymph node emigrant B cells (CD5hi CXCR4dim), mobilizes CLL cells from lymph nodes and lymphoid niches into the peripheral blood, and enhances their susceptibility to venetoclax-induced apoptosis.

Moreno C et al. Blood Advances 2023; 7:5294-5303

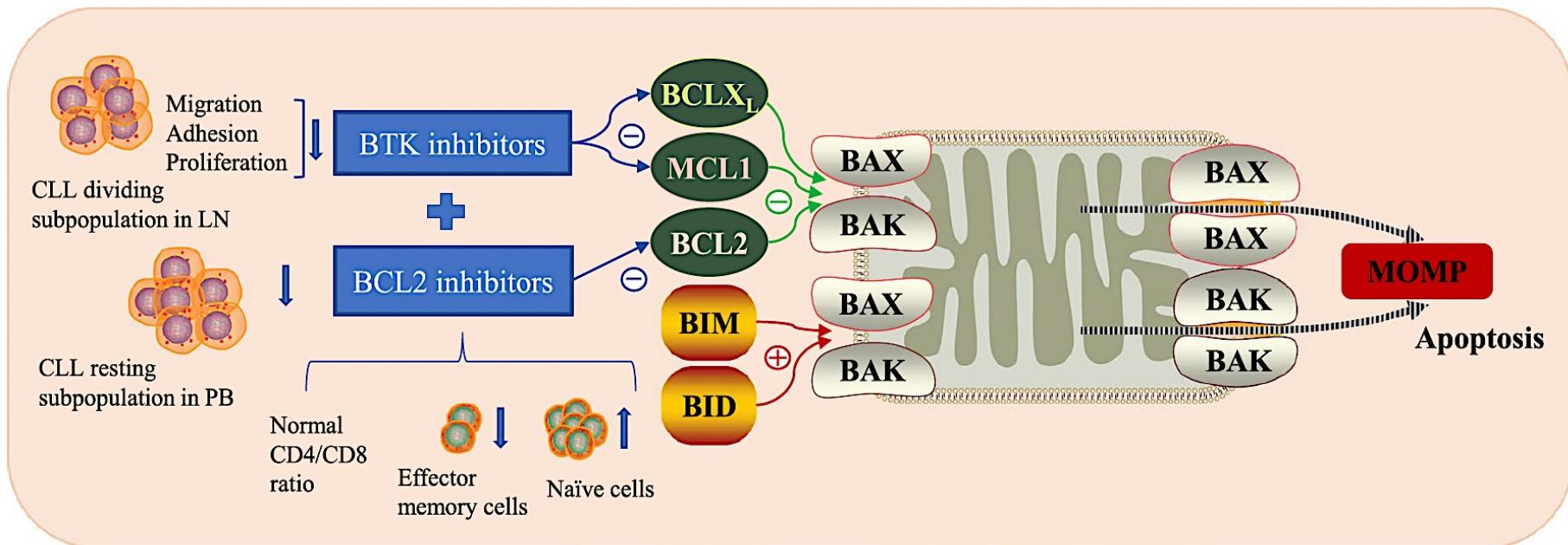
# The rationale of venetoclax-ibrutinib combination

- Combined venetoclax plus ibrutinib demonstrated synergistic antitumor activity in preclinical CLL models, with greater cytotoxicity observed with the combination than with either agent alone.
- Additionally, recent clinical studies with venetoclax plus ibrutinib demonstrated high undetectable minimal residual disease rates in both peripheral blood and bone marrow in patients with CLL.

Tam CS et al. <https://doi.org/10.1182/blood.2021014488>



# The distinct and complementary mechanisms of ibrutinib and venetoclax

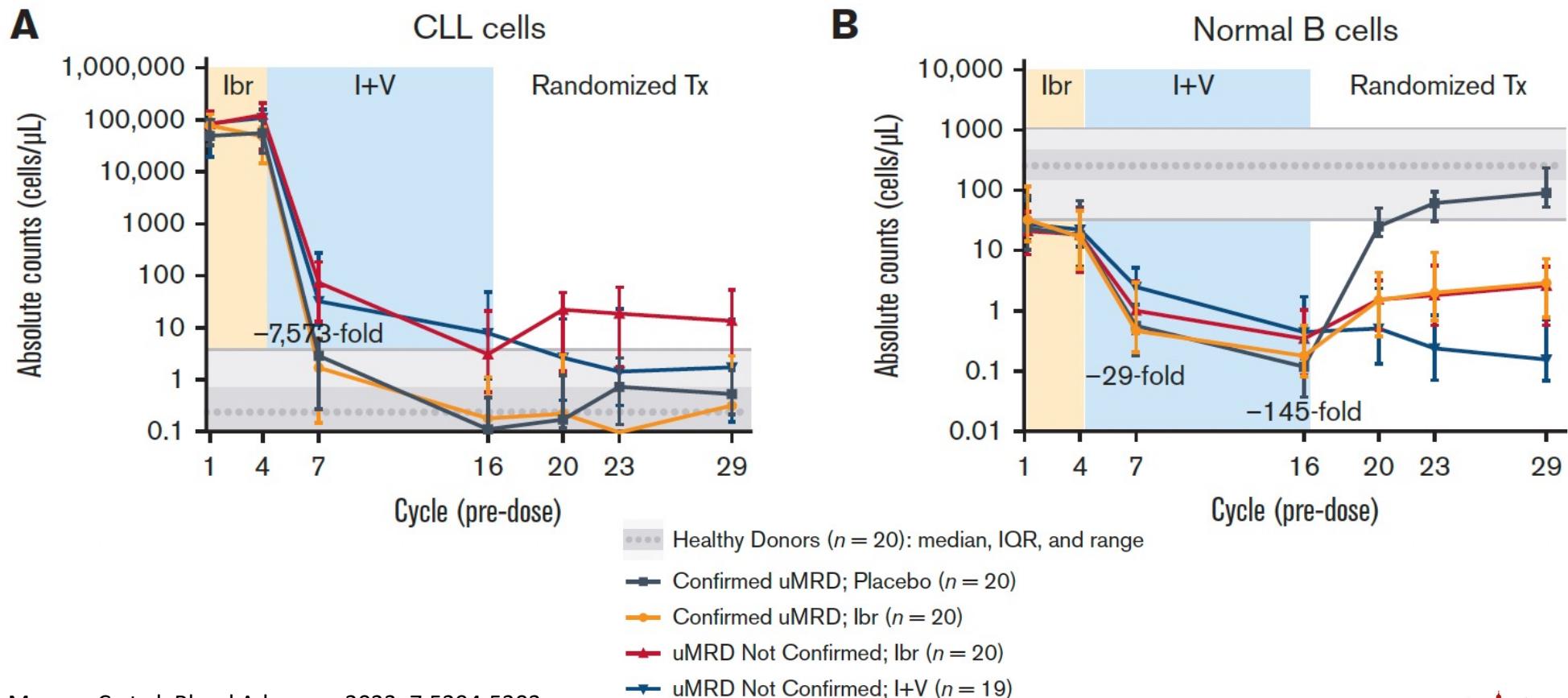


Zhang et al. Biomarker Research (2022) 10:17



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# Ibrutinib plus venetoclax rapidly eradicates CLL cells (data from CAPTIVATE)



Moreno C et al. Blood Advances 2023; 7:5294-5303

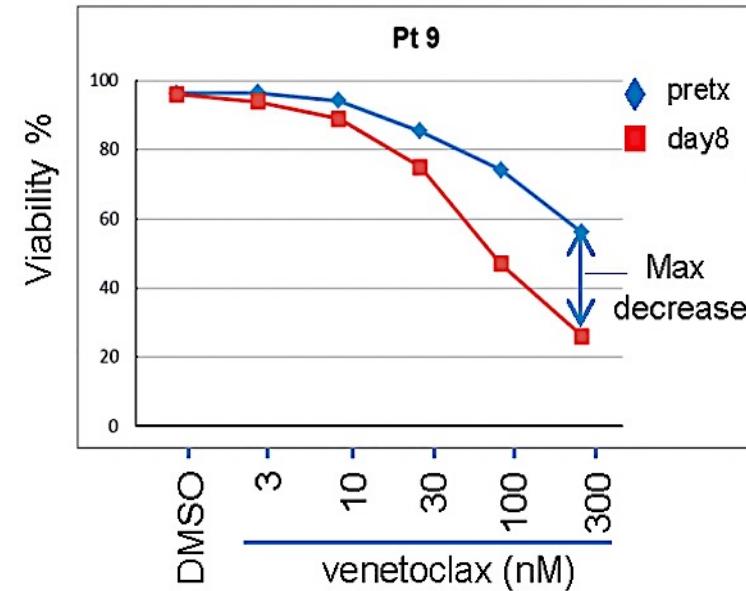
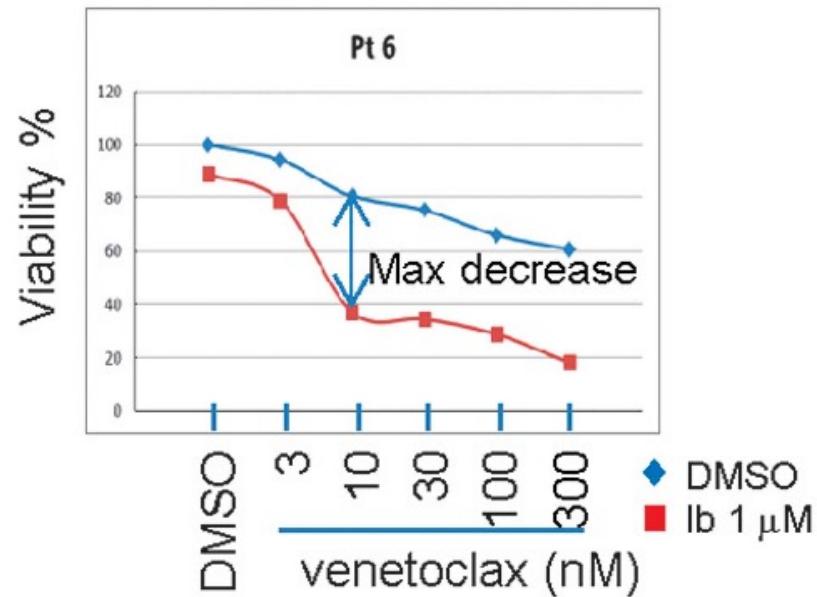


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## REVOLUTIONARY ROAD IN CLL

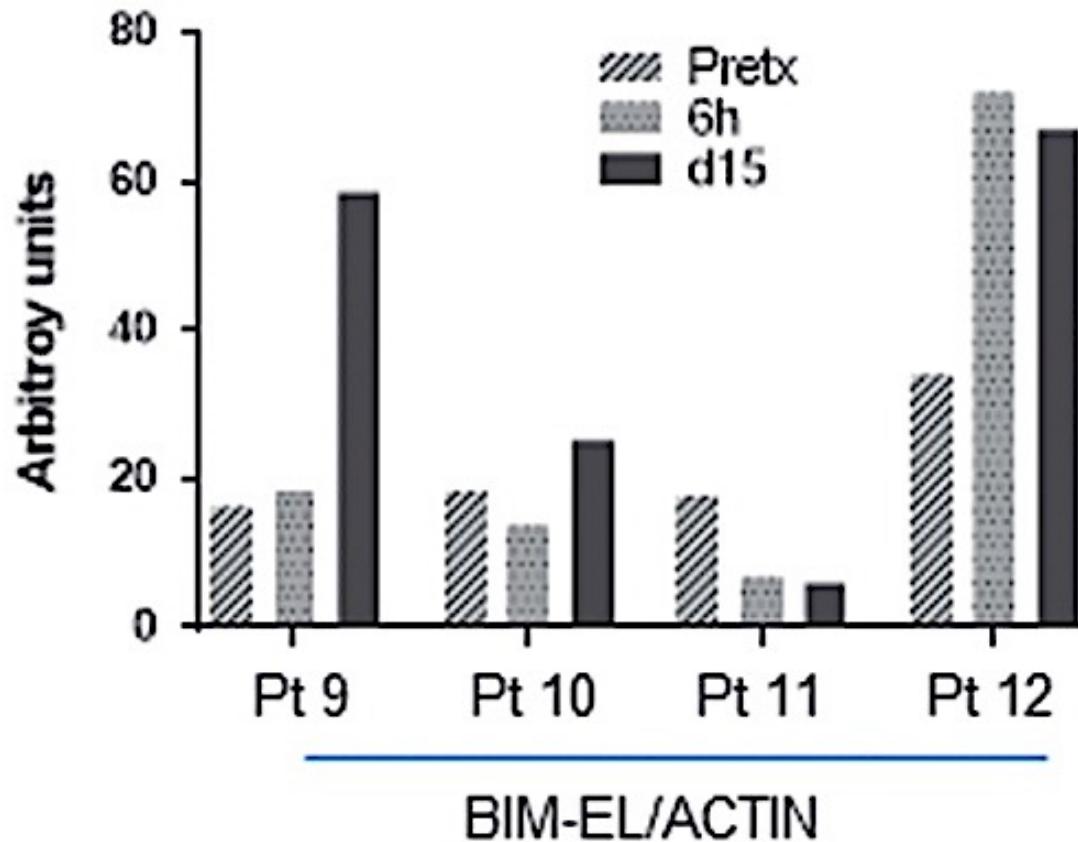
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# Pre-treatment with ibrutinib increases CLL cell sensitivity to venetoclax



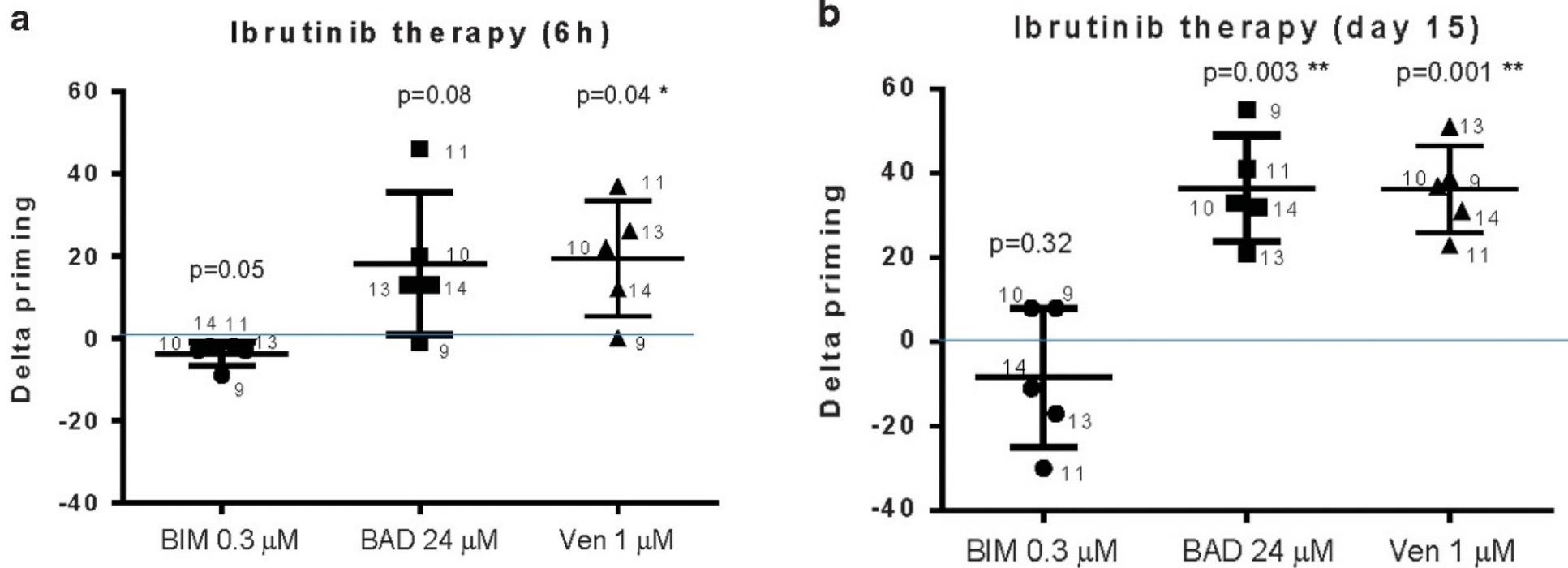
Deng J et al. Leukemia (2017) 31, 2075–2084

## BIM expression is increased in CLL cells treated *in vivo* with BTK inhibition



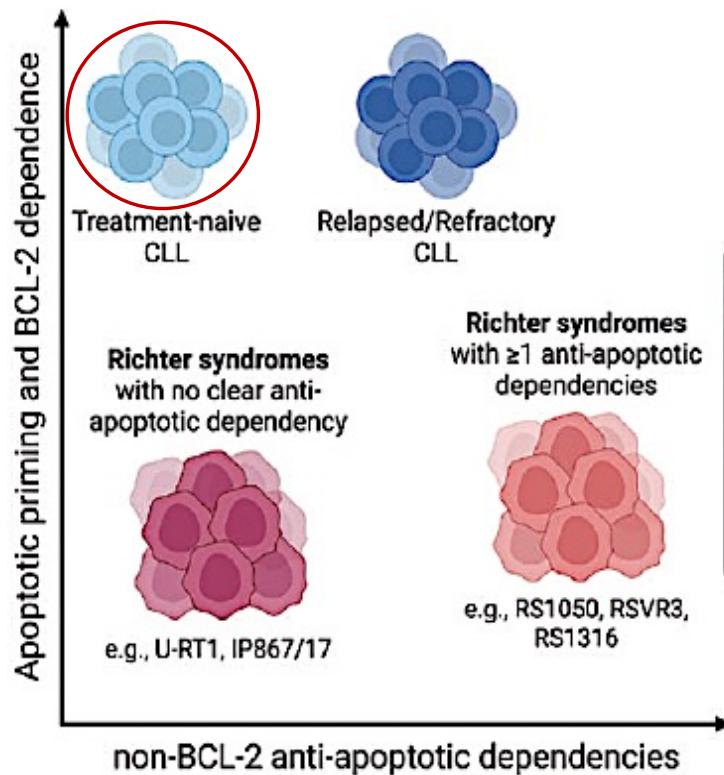
Deng J et al. Leukemia (2017) 31, 2075–2084

# In vivo BTK inhibition increases BCL-2 dependence in cells from CLL patients

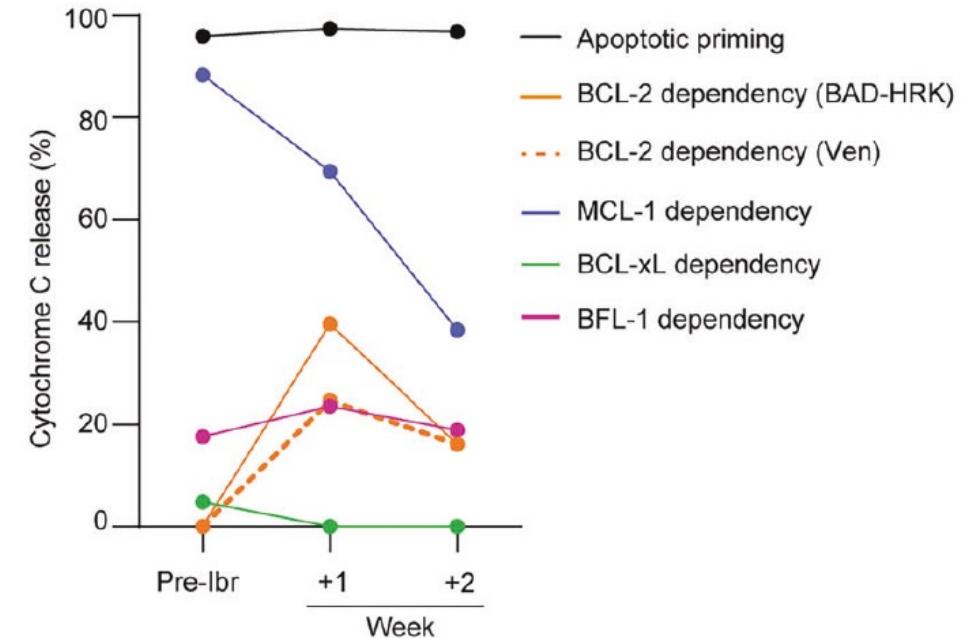


Deng J et al. Leukemia (2017) 31, 2075–2084

# Treatment-naive CLL cells are characterized by both high BCL-2 dependency and apoptotic priming

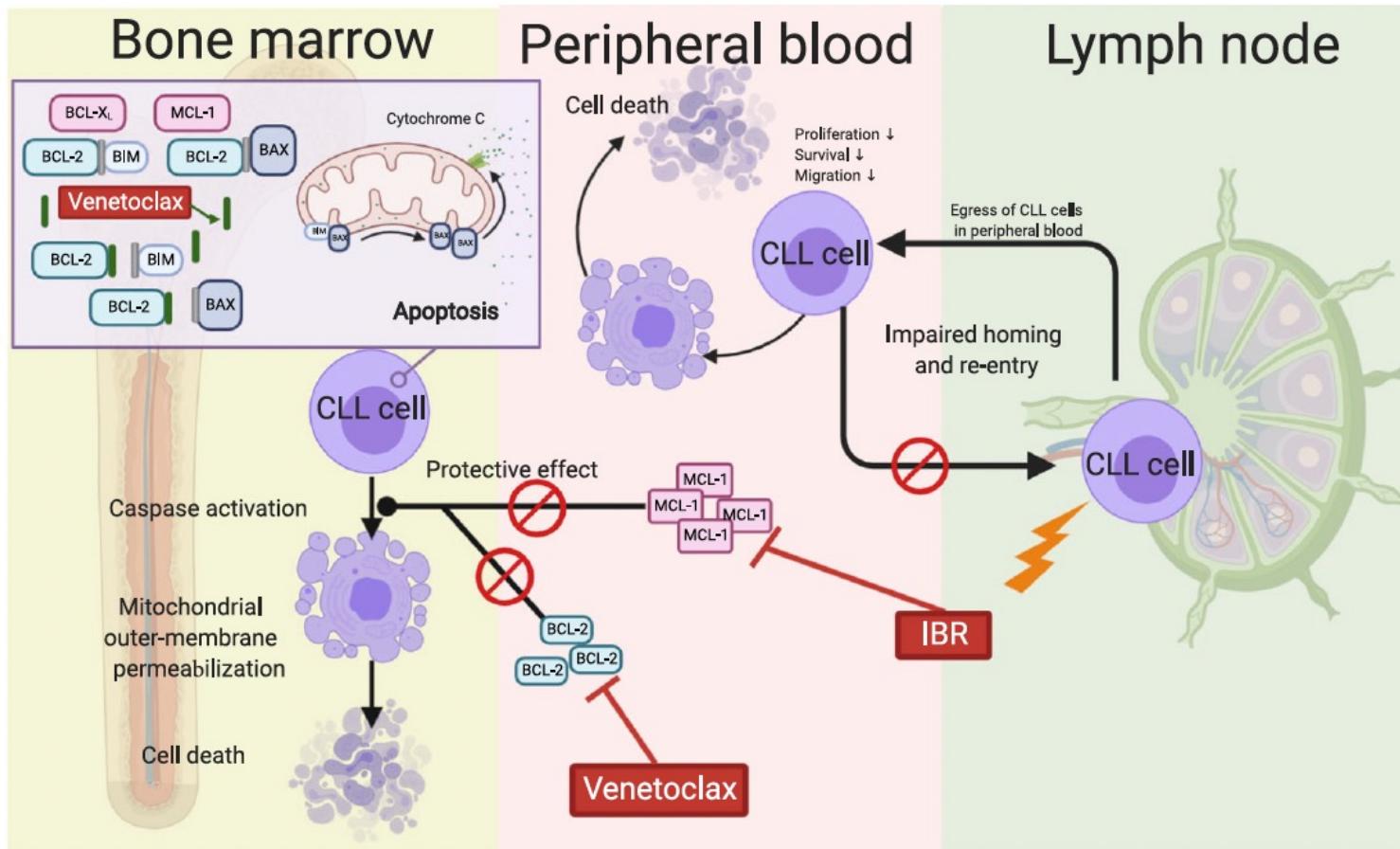


- Therapeutic implications**
- ✗ Direct antagonism of MCL-1 or BCL-xL
  - ✗ Indirect suppression of MCL-1 or BCL-xL
  - ✓ Inhibition of upstream signaling to increase apoptotic priming



Rigo A et al. Cell Death and Disease (2024) 15:323

# Rationale for ibrutinib combination with targeted agent venetoclax



## Conclusions

- The complementary effects of venetoclax and ibrutinib on CLL mitochondria strongly supports their exploration of these combinations in the clinic.
- The combination of venetoclax and ibrutinib is highly active and well-tolerated and provide fixed-duration options for patients with CLL.



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