

# Il concetto della "durata fissa" dal farmacologo all'ematologo

**Nel paziente in prima linea**

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## REVOLUTIONARY ROAD IN CLL

Innovazione rivoluzionaria nella terapia  
della leucemia linfatica cronica

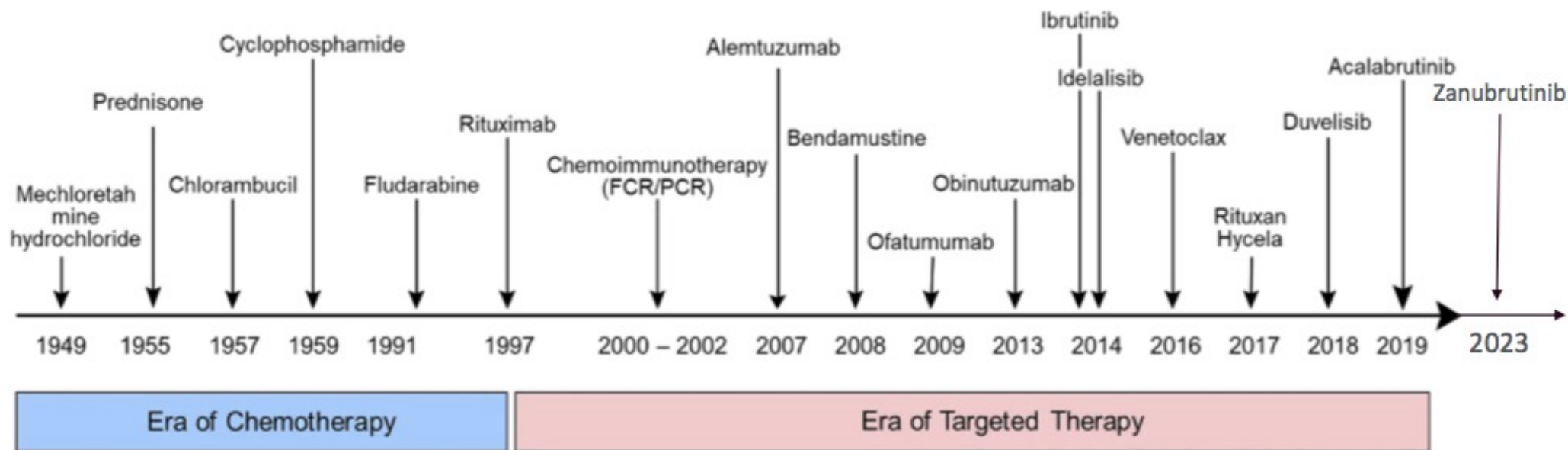
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## Annalisa Chiarenza Disclosure

Company name	Research support	Employee	Consultant	Stockholder	Speakers bureau	Advisory board	Other
Roche			X		X	X	X
Janssen					X	X	X
Abbvie					X	X	X
Gilead						X	
AstraZeneca					X	X	X
Takeda						X	X
Lilly					X		X
Beigene					X		X



# Evolution of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Therapy



FCR fludarabine, cyclophosphamide, and rituximab, PCR pentostatin, cyclophosphamide, and rituximab.

Modif. Parikh et al., Nature 2020

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## Target Therapy: FDA Approvals and Current Status in CLL

Agent	Target	Status in CLL/SLL
Ibrutinib <sup>1</sup>	BTK (covalent)	Approved
Acalabrutinib <sup>2</sup>		Approved
Zanubrutinib <sup>3</sup>		Approved
Pirtobrutinib	BTK (non-covalent)	Phase 3 BRUIN CLL-321 Phase 3 BRUIN CLL-313
Nemtabrutinib		Phase 2
Venetoclax <sup>4</sup>	BCL-2	Approved
Idelalisib <sup>5</sup>	PI3K	Approved
Duvelisib <sup>6</sup>		Approved

**Clinical note: In January 2023, pirtobrutinib was approved for the treatment of adult patients with R/R MCL after ≥2 lines of systemic therapy, including a BTK inhibitor<sup>7</sup>**

1. Imbruvica (ibrutinib) Prescribing Information. [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2015/205552s002lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2015/205552s002lbl.pdf). 2. Calquence (acalabrutinib) Prescribing Information. [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2017/210259s000lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2017/210259s000lbl.pdf). 3. Zanubrutinib prescribing information. [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2023/213217s007lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2023/213217s007lbl.pdf). 4. Venclexta (venetoclax) Prescribing information. [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2018/208573s009lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2018/208573s009lbl.pdf). 5. Zydelig (idelalisib) Prescribing information. [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2014/206545lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2014/206545lbl.pdf). 6. Copiktra (duvelisib) Prescribing information. [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2018/211155s000lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2018/211155s000lbl.pdf). 7. Jaypirca (pirtobrutinib) Prescribing Information. [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2023/216059s000lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2023/216059s000lbl.pdf).

Modif. Lamanna, 2023

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# Target Therapy: FDA Approvals and Current Status in CLL

- ◆ **Fixed-duration:** a therapy given for a set period of time in all patients and then stopping
  
- ◆ **Continuous:** a therapy given for unlimited period of time until acceptable toxicity or disease progression

# Modern therapy is very effective but can achieve different goal

## Continuous tx

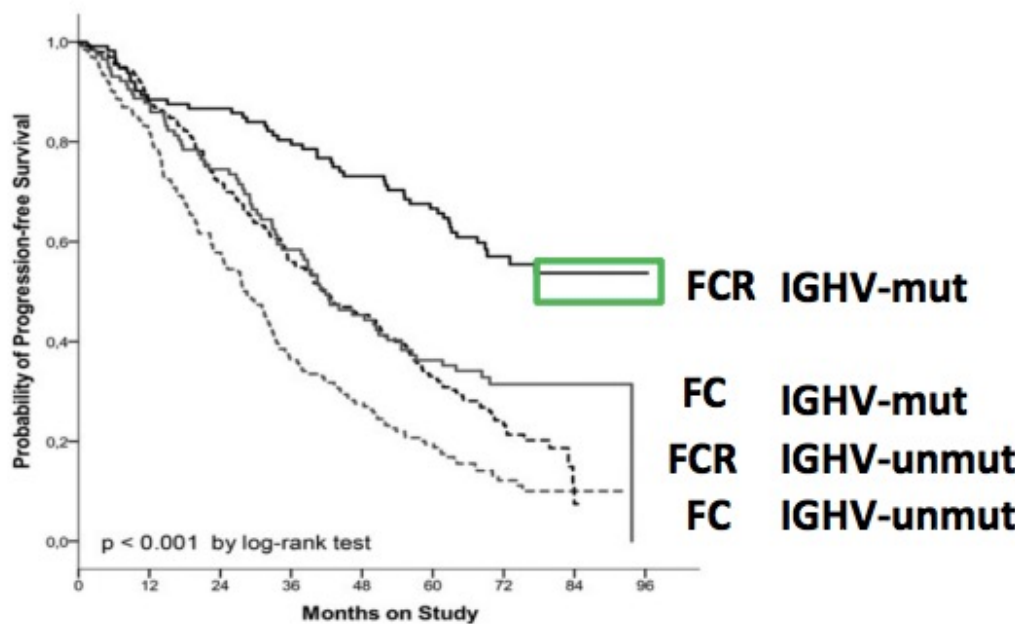
- Disease control
- Prolonged PFS
- Independent from response/MRD

## Fixed-duration

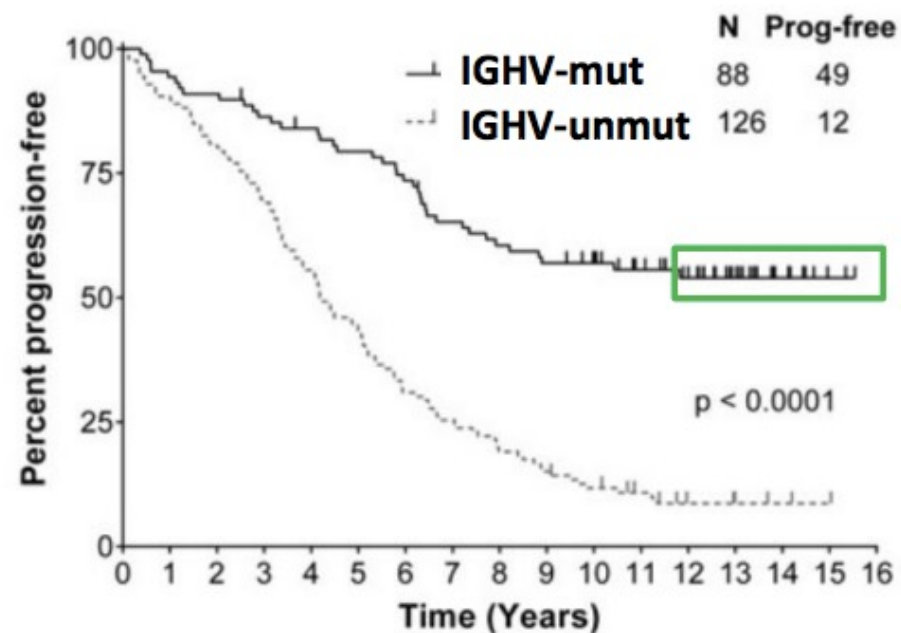
- Disease eradication
- Prolonged PFS
- Undetectable MRD

# ChemoImmunoTherapy (CIT) is the original Fixed-Duration therapy

## GCLLSG – CLL8



## MDACC – FCR 300



Thompson et al., *Blood*, 2016. Fischer et al., *Blood* 2016

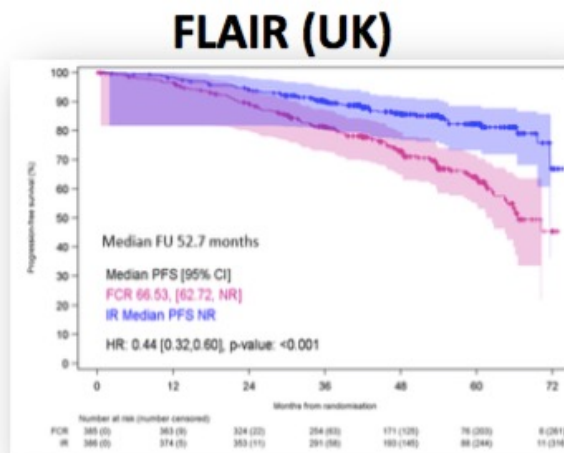
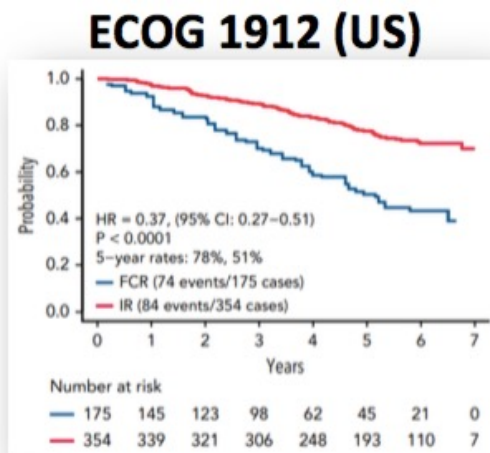
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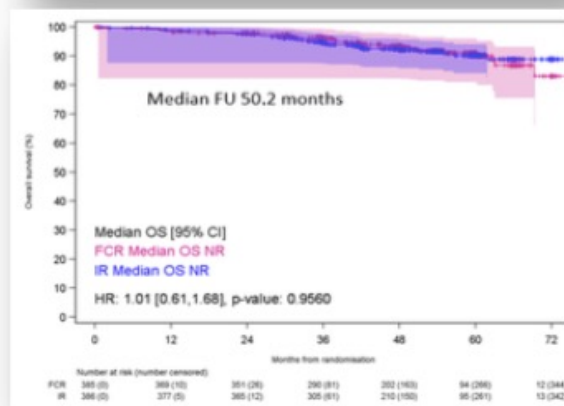
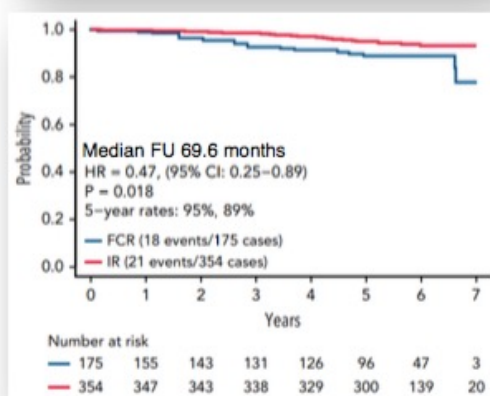
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# Survival benefit of continuous ibrutinib-based therapy

PFS



OS



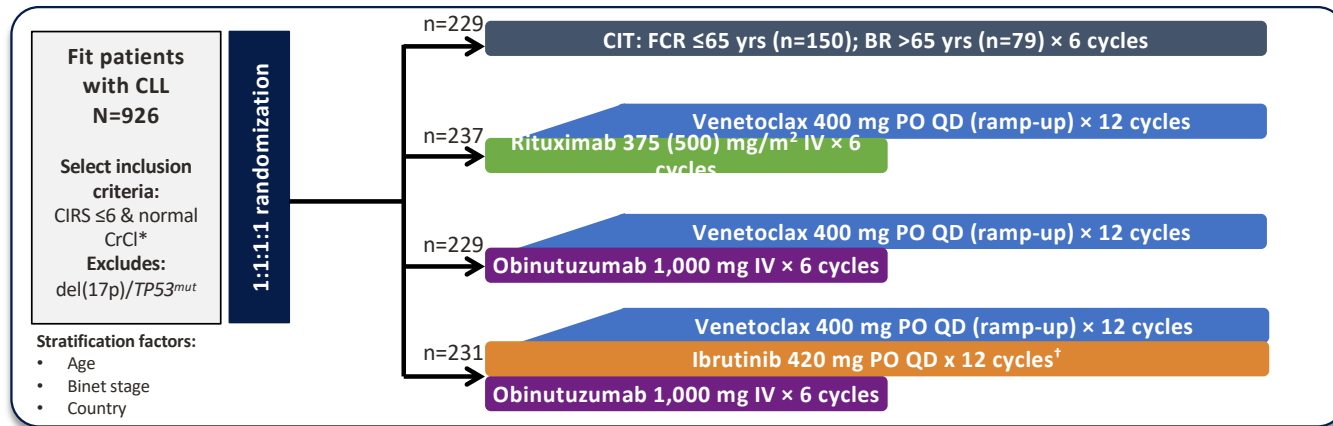
Shanafelt et al., *Blood*, 2022. Hillmen et al., ASH, 2021

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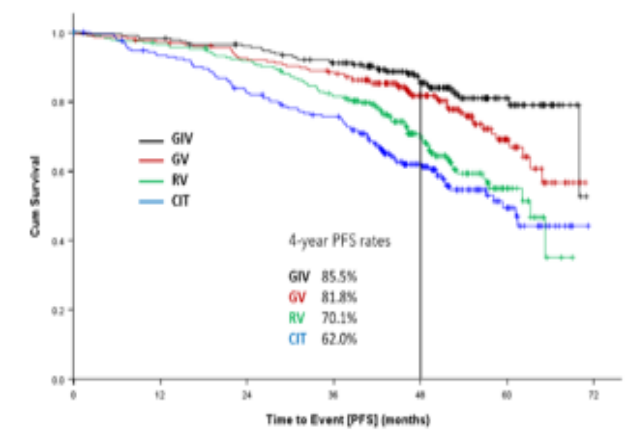
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# Survival benefit of continuous venetoclax-based therapy



**4 yr-PFS by treatment arm**



GV superior to CIT independent of IGHV  
 GIV superior to GV in terms of TTNT, not in OS  
 GIV: higher rates of infections and cardiac disorder

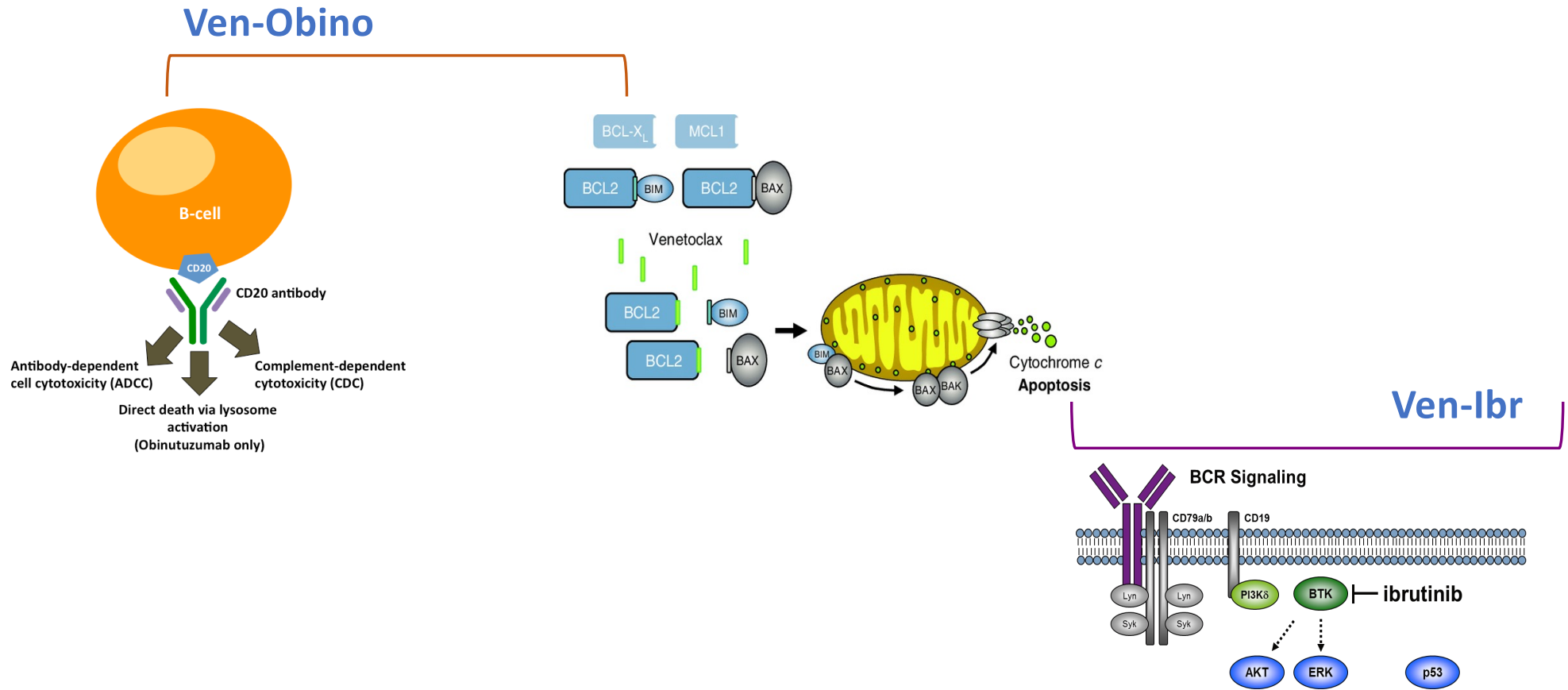
**GIV vs CIT:** HR 0.30, 97.5%CI: 0.19-0.47, *p*<0.001  
**GIV vs RV:** HR 0.38, 97.5%CI: 0.24-0.59, *p*<0.001  
**GIV vs GV:** HR 0.63, 97.5%CI: 0.39-1.02, *p*=0.03

**GV vs CIT:** HR 0.47, 97.5%CI: 0.32-0.69, *p*<0.001  
**GV vs RV:** HR 0.57, 97.5%CI: 0.38-0.84, *p*=0.001

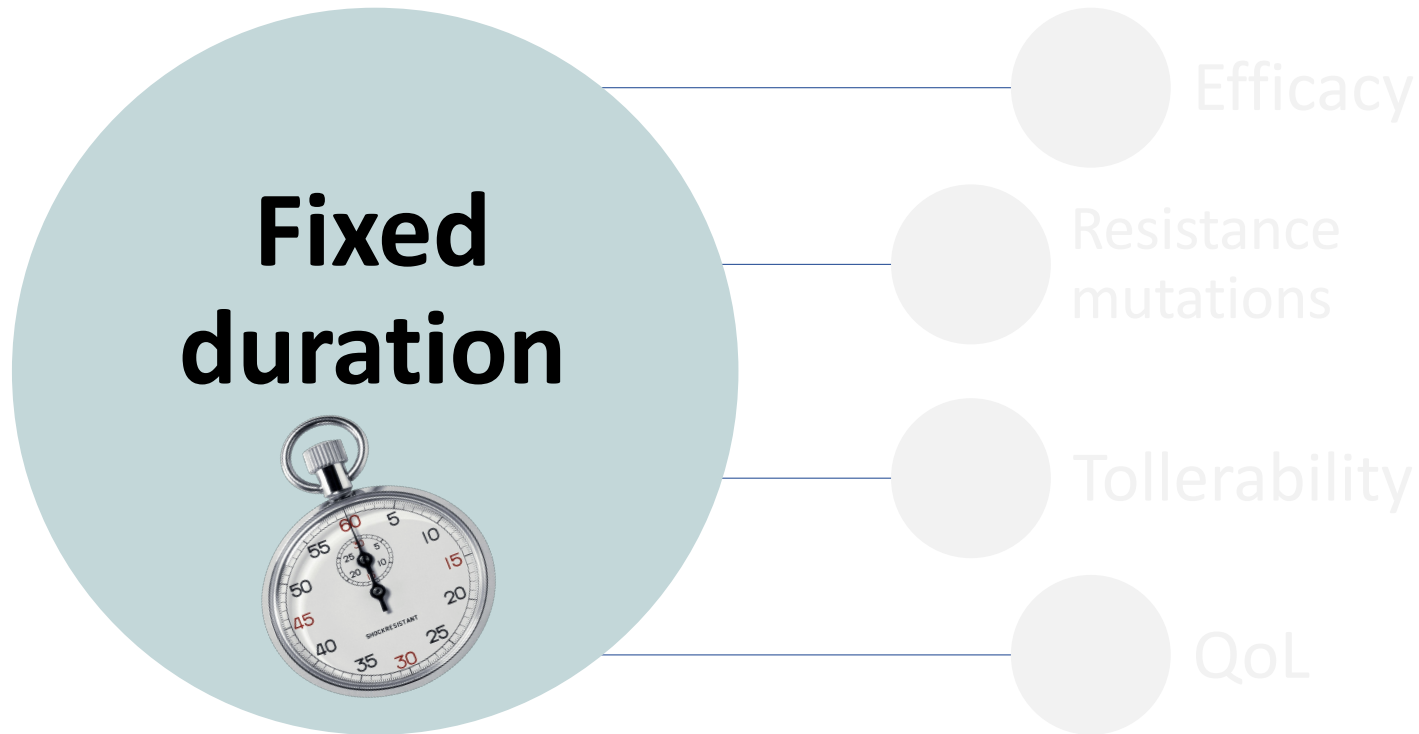
**RV vs CIT:** HR 0.78, 97.5%CI: 0.55-1.10, *p*=0.1

Eichhorst B, et al. EHA 2022. Abstract LB2365 (Oral). Furstenau et al., ASH 2023

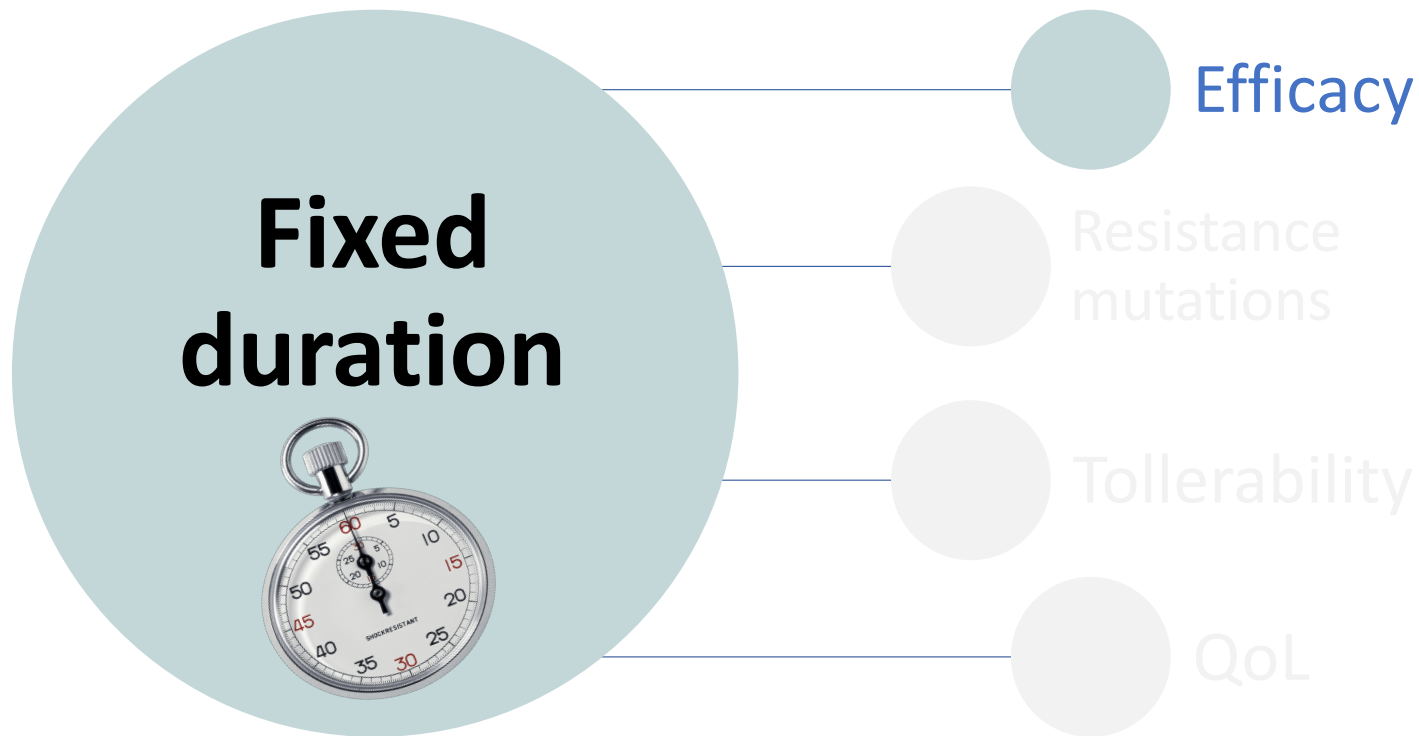
# Modern fixed-duration therapy



# Key Goals of Fixed-Duration Treatment Regimens

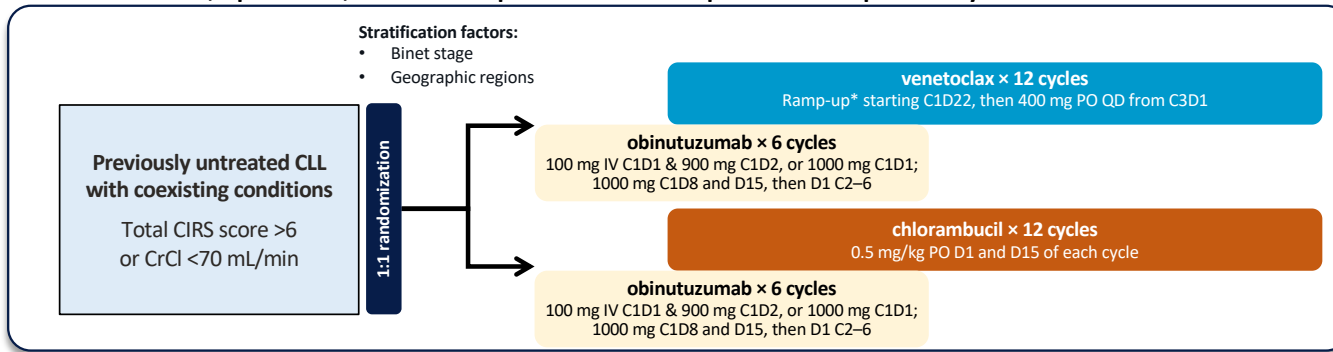


# Key Goals of Fixed-Duration Treatment Regimens



# CLL14: 6-Year Follow-Up Shows Efficacy of Frontline Venetoclax/Obinutuzumab vs Chlorambucil/Obinutuzumab

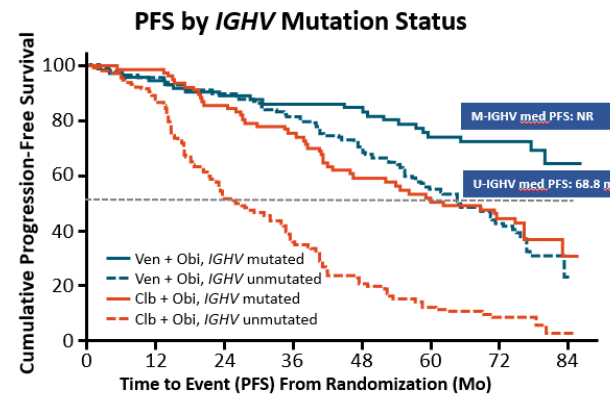
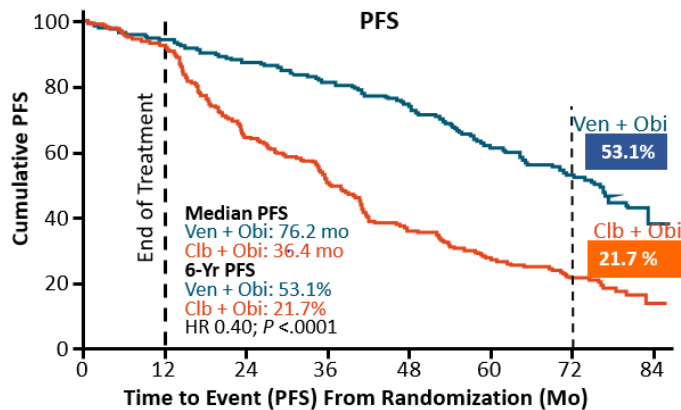
International, open-label, randomized phase III trial: 432 patients with previously untreated CLL



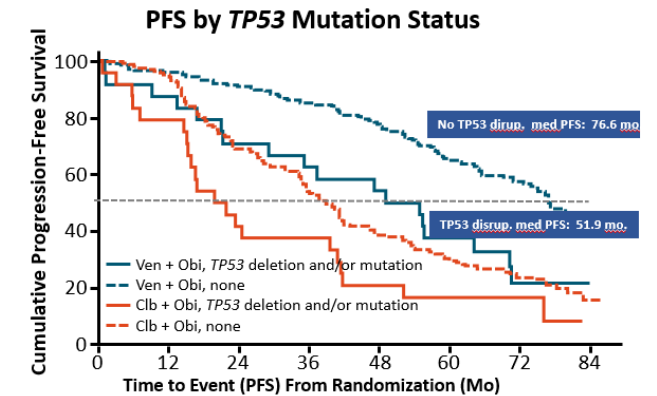
**Median Observation time: 76.4 months**

**Primary Endpoint:** inv-PFS

**Secondary Endpoint:** IRC-PFS, ORR, CR 3 months after EoT, MRD negativity (PB and BM) 3 months after EoT, OS

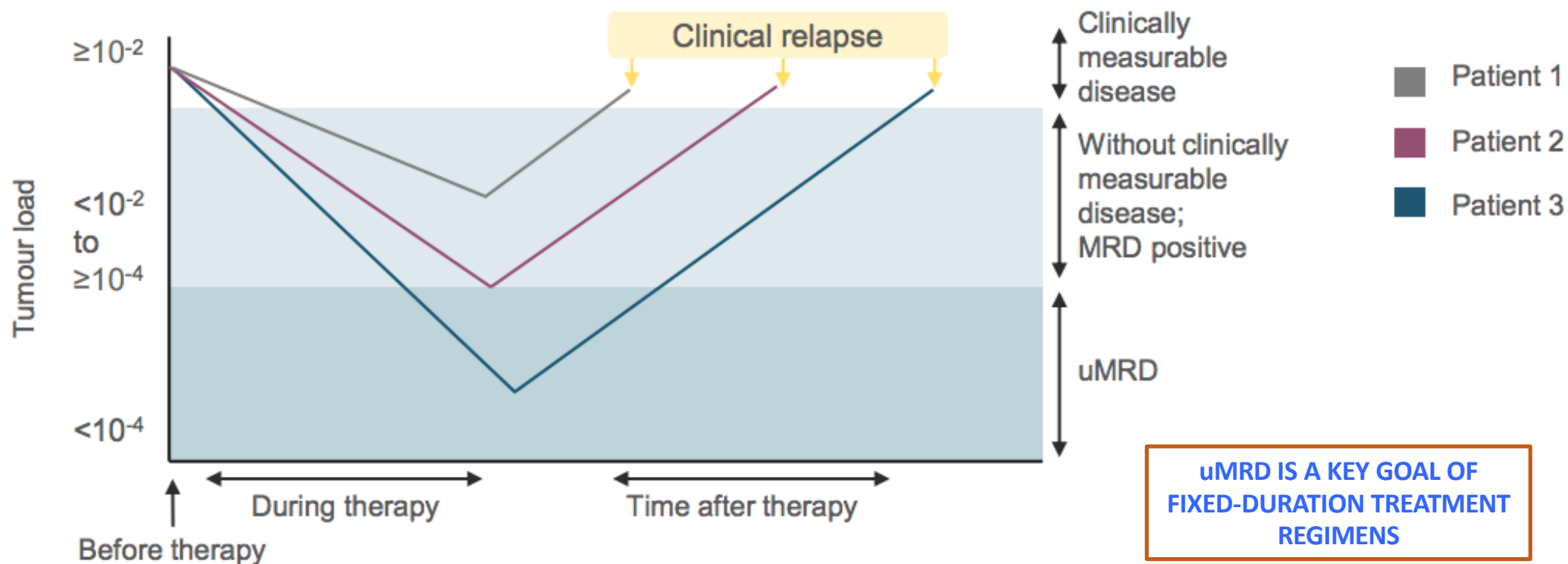


**Median PFS, Mo**  
Ven + Obi, IGHV mut: NR  
Ven + Obi, IGHV unmut: 64.8  
Clb + Obi, IGHV mut: 62.2  
Clb + Obi, IGHV unmut: 26.9



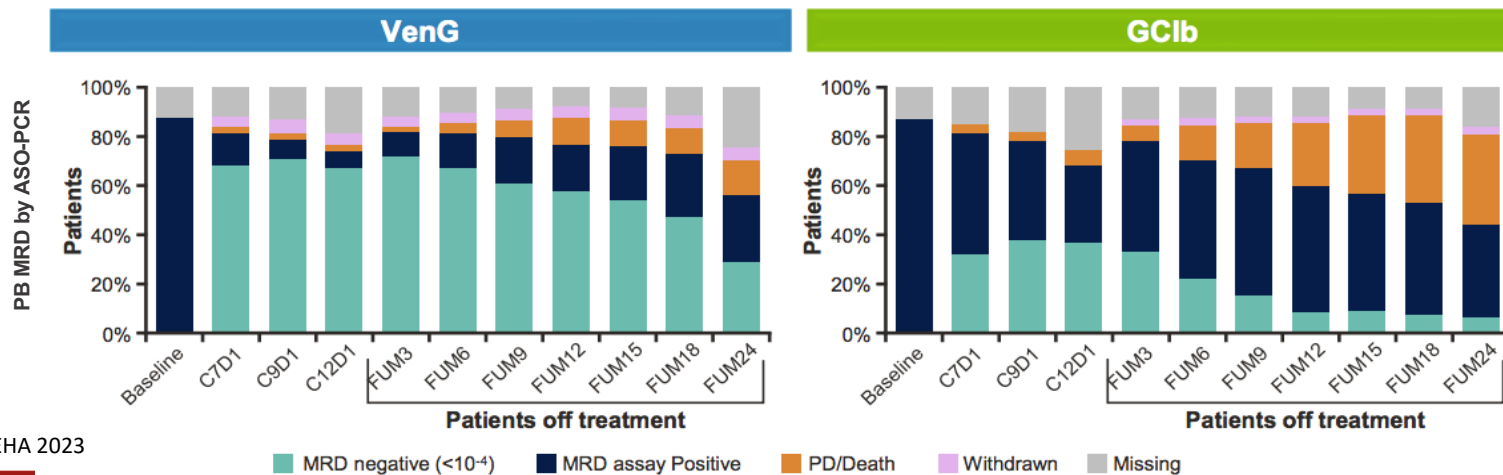
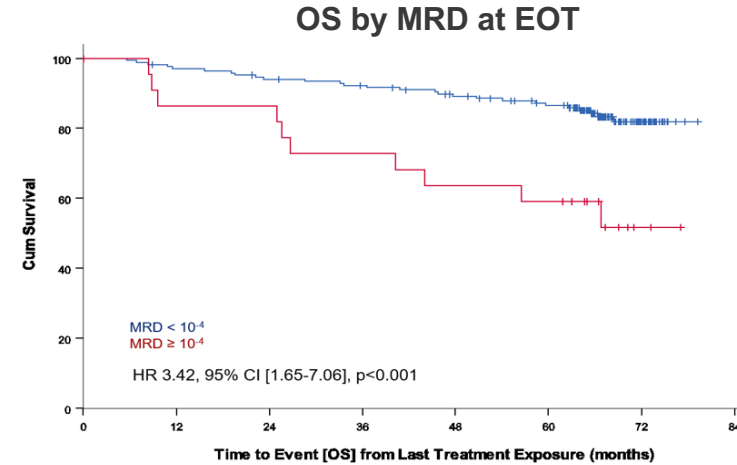
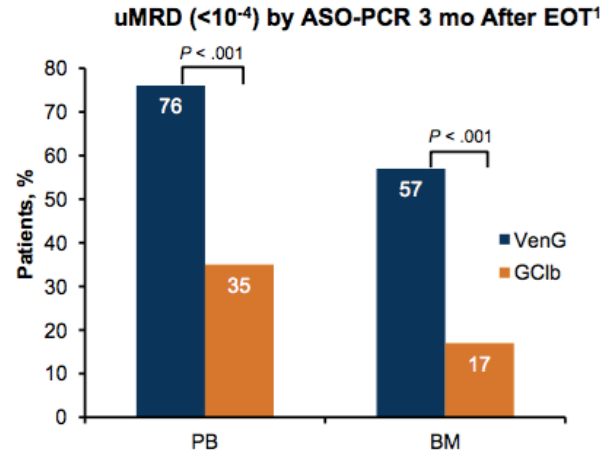
**Median PFS, Mo**  
Ven + Obi, no TP53 del/mut: 76.6  
Ven + Obi, TP53 del/mut: 51.9  
Clb + Obi, no TP53 del/mut: 38.9  
Clb + Obi, TP53 del/mut: 20.8  
HR: 2.29;  $P = .001$

## Achieving uMRD is associated with longer PFS



Adapted from Böttcher et al. 2013

# CLL14 study: VenG achieves uMRD for most patients

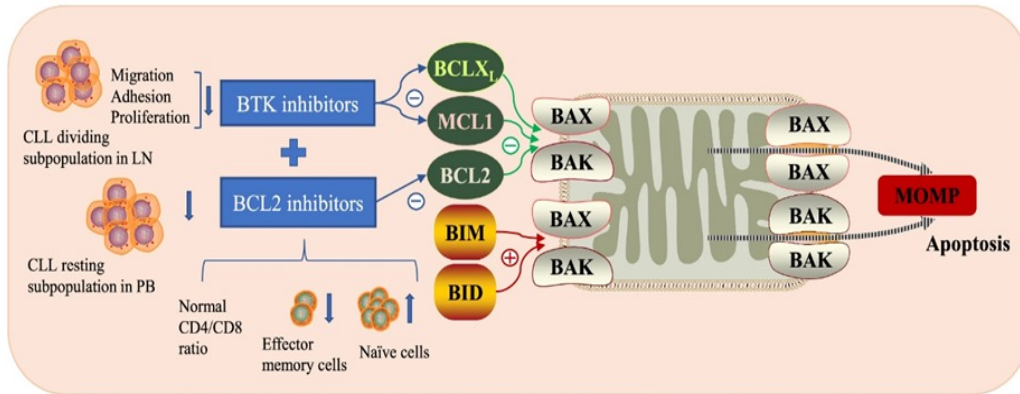


Al-Sawaf O, et al. Lancet Onc, 2020. EHA 2023

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# Ibrutinib and Venetoclax Combination



- Both BTKi and BCL2i are associated with superior PFS compared with CIT as first therapy for CLL patients
- Complementary mechanisms of action

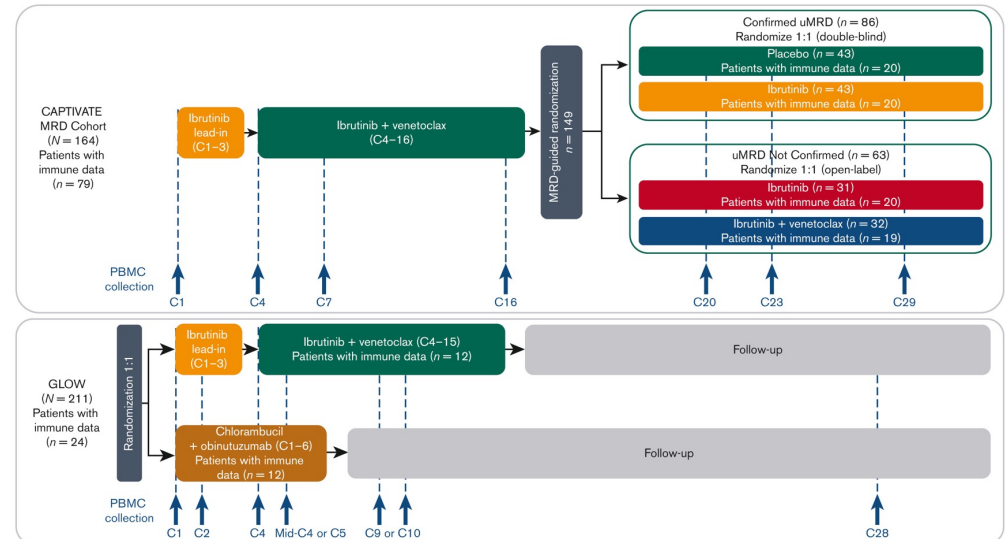


**Superior depth and durability of responses**

## Theoretical concern for BTKi-BCL2i combination:



- Potential for augmented adverse events
- Low efficacy in re-treatment option
- Acquisition of resistance

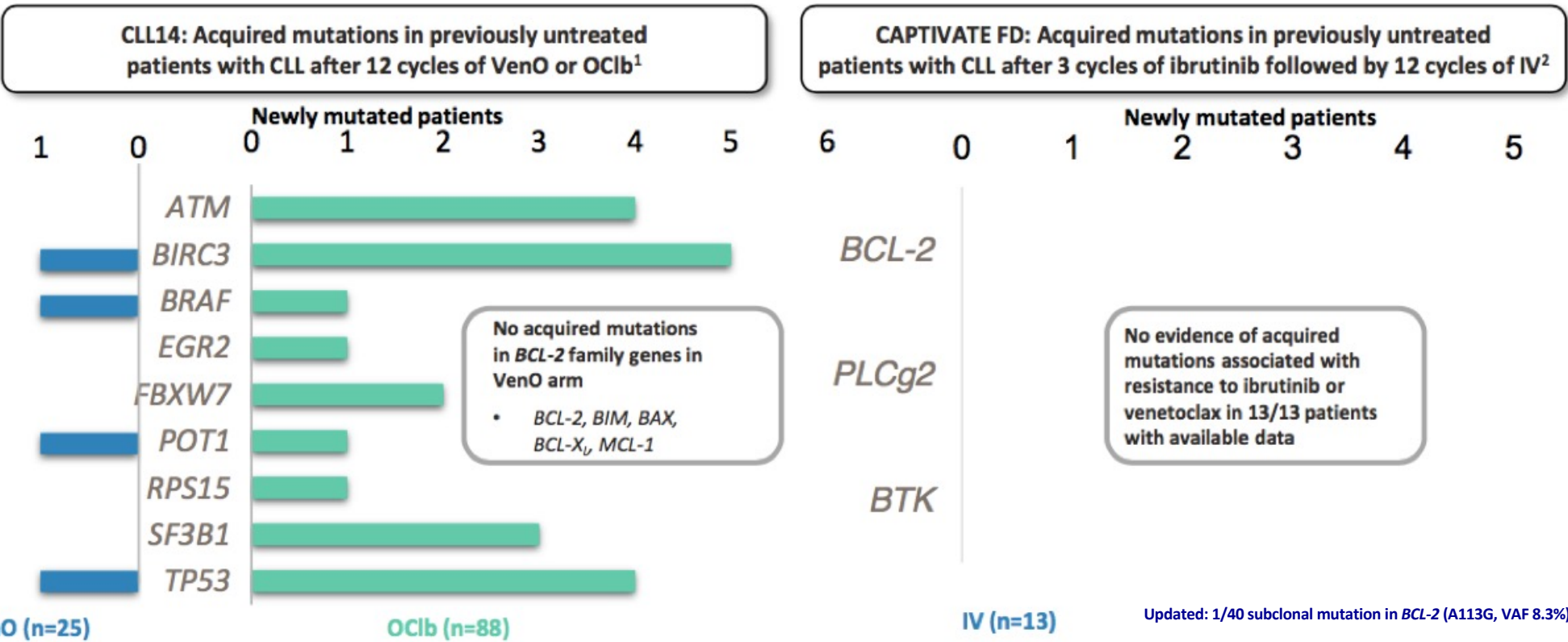




# Key Goals of Fixed-Duration Treatment Regimens

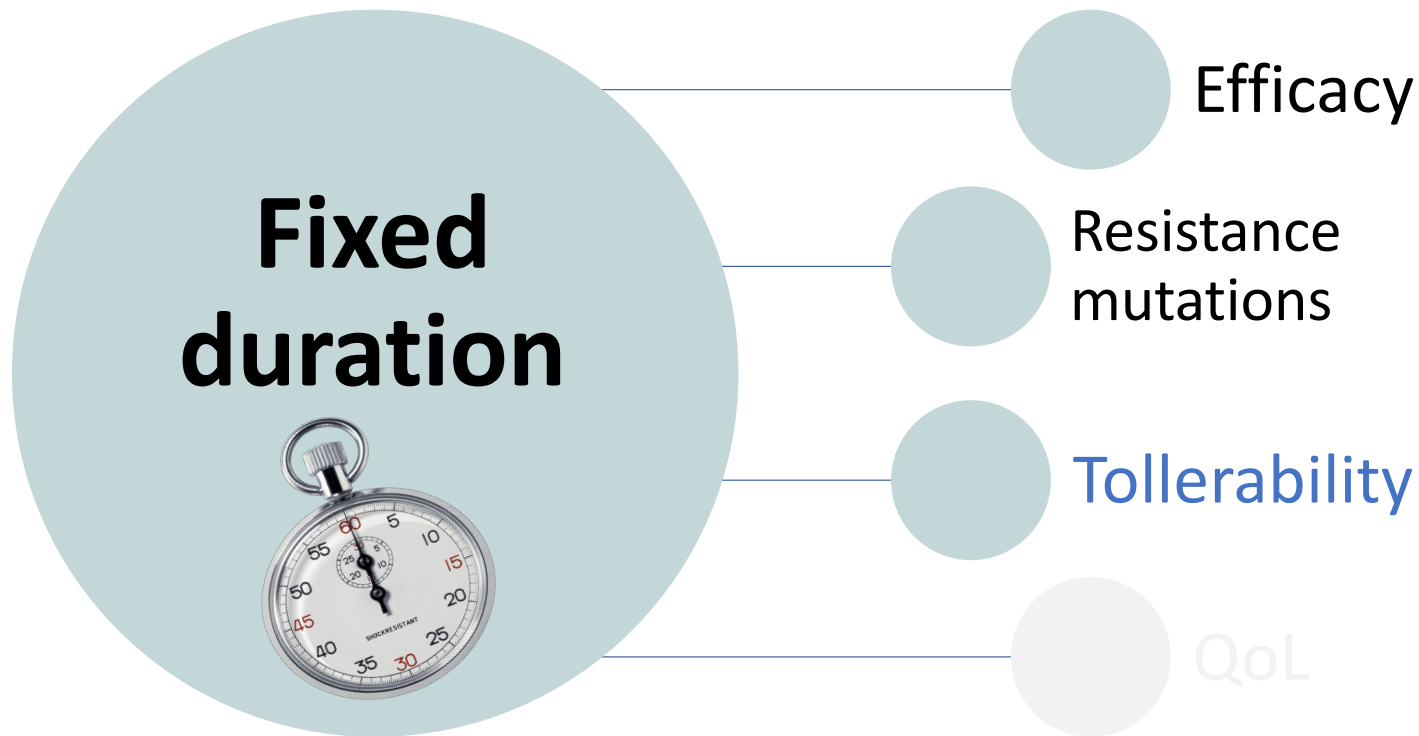


# Acquired mutations rare in CLL treated with fixed-duration venetoclax-based therapy



Tausch E, et al. EHA 2021. Abstract S144 (Oral); 2. Tam CS, et al. Blood 2022; 139:3278–3289.

# Key Goals of Fixed-Duration Treatment Regimens



## Obinutuzumab plus Venetoclax Safety Profile

Most frequent $\geq$ grade 3 adverse events	Venetoclax-obinutuzumab (N=212)		Chlorambucil-obinutuzumab (N=214)	
	During Treatment	After Treatment	During Treatment	After Treatment
Neutropenia	51.9%	4.0%	47.2%	1.9%
Thrombocytopenia	13.7%	0.5%	15.0%	0.0%
Anemia	7.5%	1.5%	6.1%	0.5%
Febrile neutropenia	4.2%	1.0%	3.3%	0.5%
Infusion-related reaction	9.0%	0.0%	9.8%	0.5%
Tumour lysis syndrome	1.4%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%
Neoplasms	1.4%	6.4%	1.4%	1.9%

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## Anti-CD20 MoAb Infusion Related Reaction (IRR)

IRR	G-CHL	FCR/BR	RVe	GVe	GIVe
CLL11 any grade G3 or higher	221 (66%) <b>67 (20%)</b>	-	-	-	-
CLL14 any grade G3 or higher	107 (55%) 22 (11%)	-	-	96 (44%) <b>19 (9%)</b>	-
CLL13 any grade G3 or higher	-	70 (32.4%) 12 (5.6%)	82 (34.6%) 18 (7.6%)	119 (52.2%) <b>10 (4.3%)</b>	53 (22.9%) 10 (4.3%)

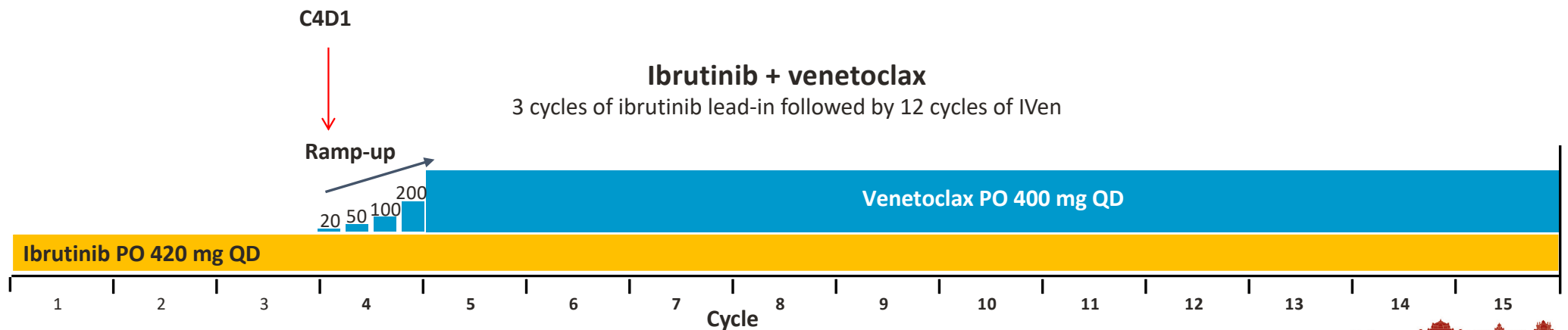
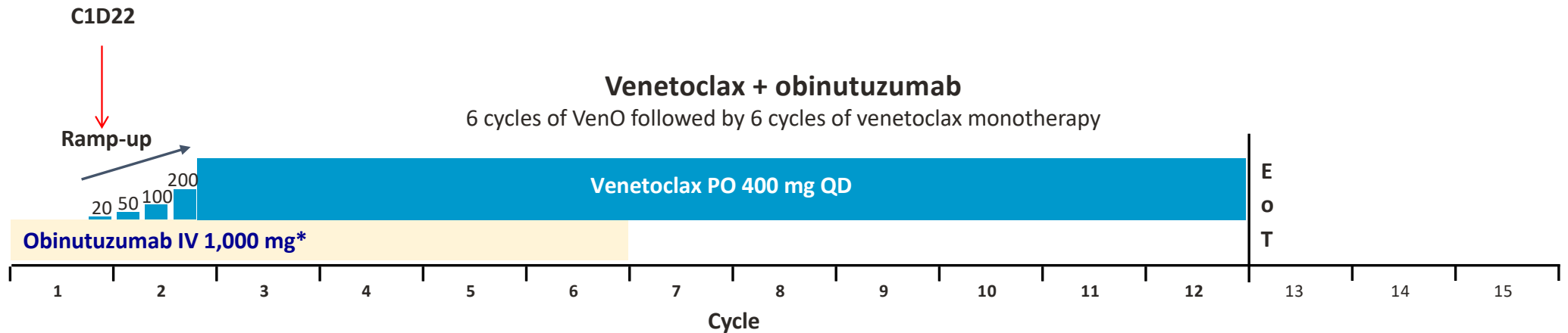
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# Lead-in time and Ramp up Phase



Kater AP, et al. *NEJM Evid* 2022. Fischer K, et al. *NEJM* 2019.

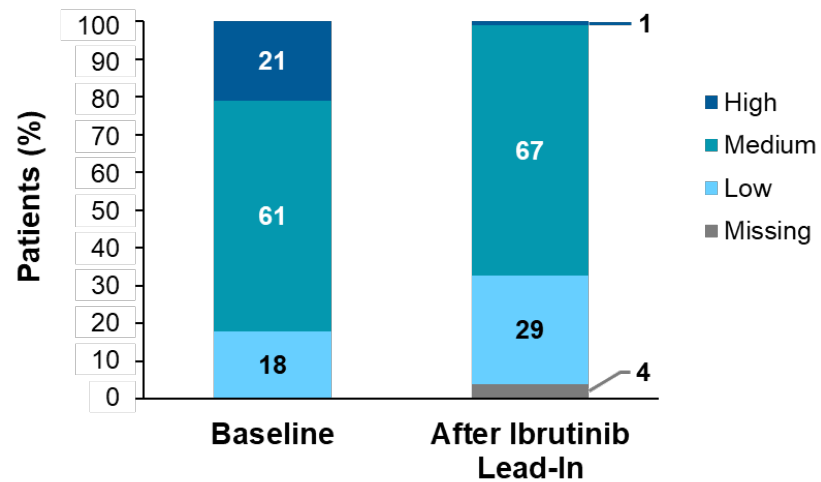
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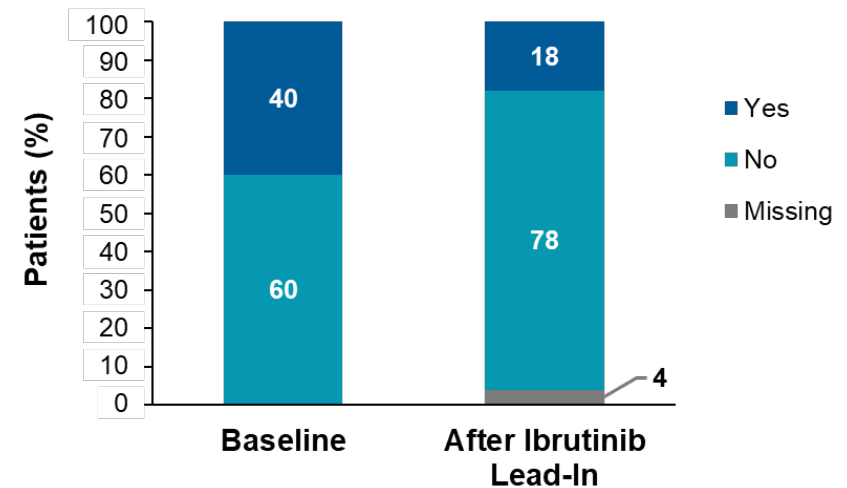
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# Primary Analysis of the FD Cohort Phase 2 CAPTIVATE Study

### Tumor Burden Category for TLS Prophylaxis (N=159)



### Indication for Hospitalization<sup>a</sup> (N=159)



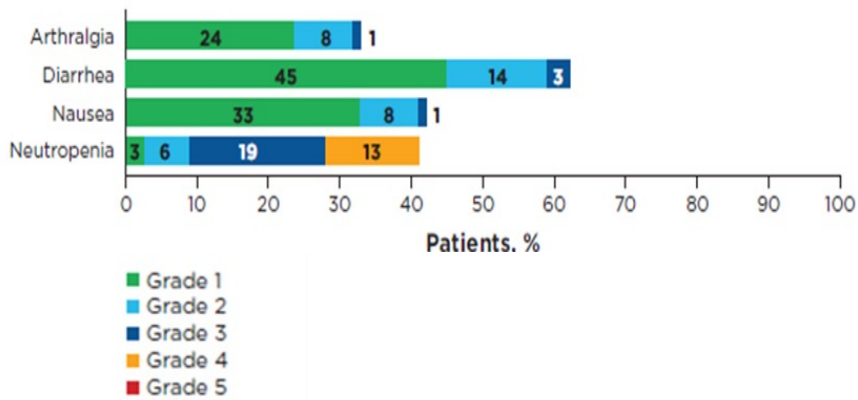
## Debulking With 3 Cycles of Ibrutinib Lead-In Reduces Tumor Burden Category for TLS

No clinical TLS occurred, and no patient had laboratory TLS per Howard criteria

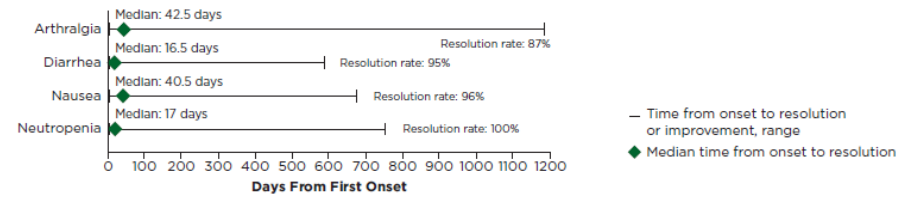
Ghia P et al. ASCO 2021. Oral Presentation. Abstract 7501; Tam CS et al. Blood 2022; 139(22): 3278-89.

# Ibrutinib plus Venetoclax Safety Profile

**AEs Occurring in >30% of Patients**



**Median Time From First Onset to Resolution of Frequently Occurring AEs**



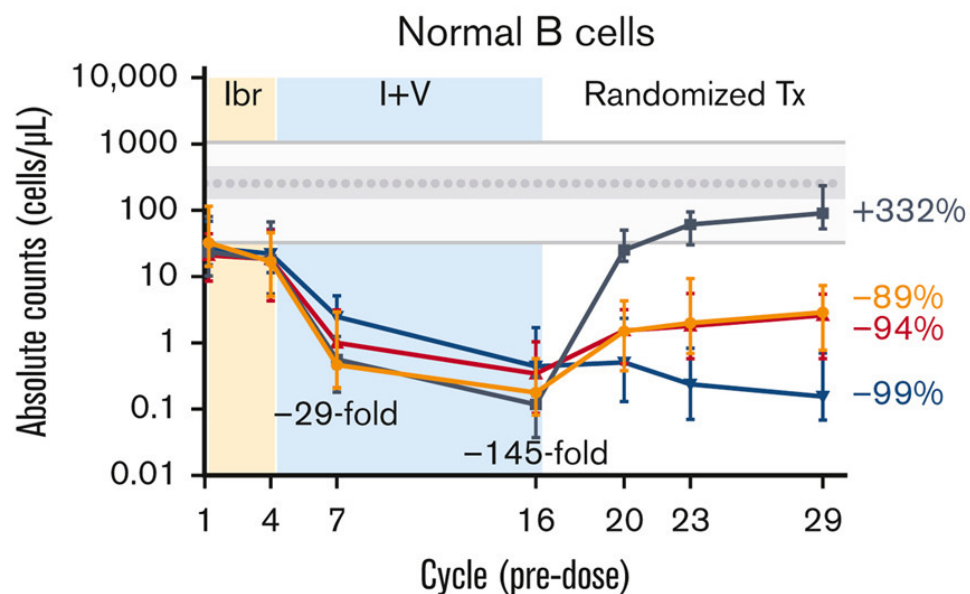
selected grade ≥ adverse events

	CAPTIVATE FD N=159	GLOW N=106
Median follow-up, months	27.9	46
Median age, years	60	71
Grade ≥3 granulocytopenia	38	34.9
Grade ≥3 infections	9	10.4
Atrial fibrillation/Flutter	2	<b>6.6</b>
Hypertension	16	7.5 (Gr 3-4)
Other severe CV events	1	<b>2.8</b>
Sudden deaths	-	<b>1.9 (+1.9)*</b>
Clinical TLS	0	0

Moreno C, et al. Blood Adv. 2023



# Normal B cells Increased to Healthy Donor Levels After Fixed-Duration Ibrutinib plus Venetoclax



- For patients receiving the fixed duration regimen (Confirmed uMRD randomized to placebo), normal B cells recovered to levels similar to those of healthy donors within 4 months of stopping treatment
- In patients who continued treatment after Cycle 16, normal B cell counts significantly increased after completion of venetoclax treatment:
  - Continued Ibr vs Ibr + Ven:  $P = .0001$  at Cycle 29

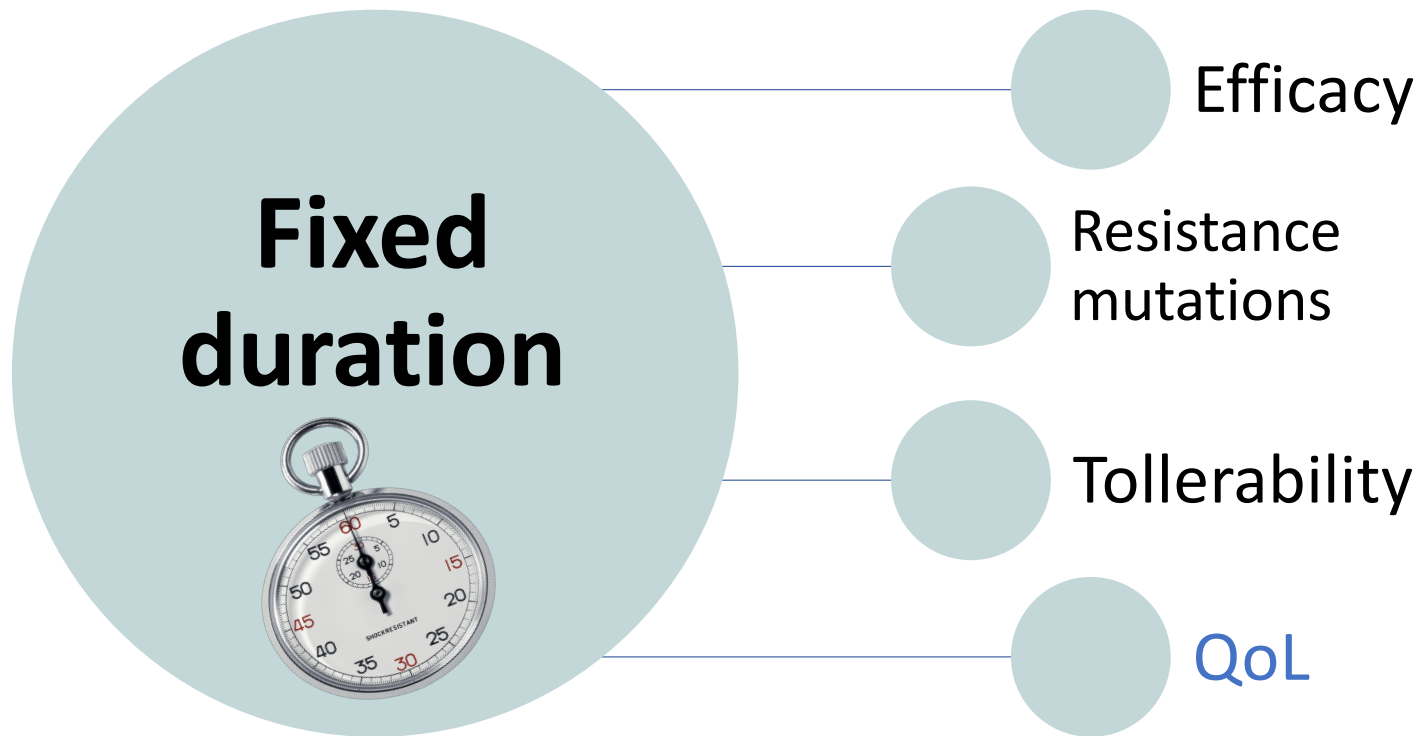
■ Healthy Donors (n = 20): median, IQR, and range  
 ■ Confirmed uMRD; Placebo (n = 20)    ■ uMRD Not Confirmed; Ibr (n = 20)  
 ■ Confirmed uMRD; Ibr (n = 20)        ■ uMRD Not Confirmed; I+V (n = 19)

Moreno C, et al. Blood Adv. 2023

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# Key Goals of Fixed-Duration Treatment Regimens



**Table 1. Participant-Reported Perceived Benefits and Drawbacks of Fixed-Duration Versus Treat-to-Progression Therapies**

	Benefits	Drawbacks
Fixed duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Budgeting and anticipating expenses (i.e., being able to plan for medical expenses and not having to pay for treatment repeatedly over an indefinite period of time)</li> <li>▪ Convenience (i.e., not having to take a treatment [freedom from medication])</li> <li>▪ Being more in control</li> <li>▪ Not having to refill prescription</li> <li>▪ Not having to travel for treatment</li> <li>▪ No short-term side effects when off treatment</li> <li>▪ Reduced risk of long-term side effects</li> <li>▪ Getting back to "normal" life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Concentrated costs (the cost can be very high over a short period of time)</li> <li>▪ Side effects might be worse if treatment duration is shorter</li> <li>▪ Their CLL might worsen or spread if they are not taking a medication</li> </ul>
Treat-to-progression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Doing something (i.e., the feeling of comfort gained by taking action and treating their cancer)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Worry that the medicine may become less effective over time</li> <li>▪ Cost of treatment</li> <li>▪ Taking a medicine continuously is a constant reminder of the cancer</li> <li>▪ Inconvenience (i.e., always taking a medicine)</li> <li>▪ Getting refills</li> <li>▪ Following up with nurse or pharmacy</li> <li>▪ Continual risk of short- and long-term side effects</li> </ul>

✘ Non è possibile visualizzare l'immagine.

## The Power of the Patient Perspective

Oncologists and CLL patients in the US, UK, Germany, France, and Australia were recruited into the study (259 oncologists, 192 patients) → online survey including a discrete choice experiment (DCE)

In contrast to oncologists, patients preferred FD oral therapy over TTP regimens.

Una terapia a durata fissa ha delle implicazioni importanti dal punto di vista emotivo e psicologico

# Is Fixed-Duration Therapy the New Standard of Care in Frontline Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia?

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# Is Fixed-Duration Therapy the New Standard of Care in Frontline Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia?

*Grazie per l'attenzione*

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# CIRS score and Performance Status significantly impact on tolerability in the phase 3 GLOW study

**Table 1. Baseline Patient Demographics and Disease Characteristics (Intent-to-Treat Population).\***

Characteristic	Ibrutinib-Venetoclax (n=106)	Chlorambucil-Obinutuzumab (n=105)
Age, yr	71.0 (47-93)	71.0 (57-88)
≥75	35 (33.0)	37 (35.2)
Men	59 (55.7)	63 (60.0)
ECOG PS 1 to 2	71 (67.0)	66 (62.9)
CIRS score	9 (1-20)	8 (0-22)
>6†	74 (69.8)	61 (58.1)
CrCl, ml/min‡	66.5 (34.0-168.1)	63.2 (32.3-180.9)
Rai stage III to IV§	55 (57.3)	53 (52.5)
Binet stage (CLL only)	96	101
A	7 (7.3)	8 (7.9)
B	46 (47.9)	53 (52.5)
C	43 (44.8)	40 (39.6)
Ann Arbor stage (SLL only)	10	4
IV	10 (100)	4 (100)
Bulky disease ≥5 cm	41 (39.0)	38 (36.2)
Elevated LDH¶	35 (33.0)	51 (48.6)
IGHV status		
Mutated	27 (25.5)	27 (25.7)
Unmutated	55 (51.9)	54 (51.4)
Unknown	24 (22.6)	24 (22.9)
Del(11q)	20 (18.9)	18 (17.1)
TP53 mutation	7 (6.6)	2 (1.9)

Seven (6.6%) treatment-emergent deaths, including four sudden cardiac deaths, occurred during Ibrutinib-Venetoclax treatment.

**All patients who suffered sudden cardiac death had CIRS ≥ 10 and/or ECOG performance status score of 2.**

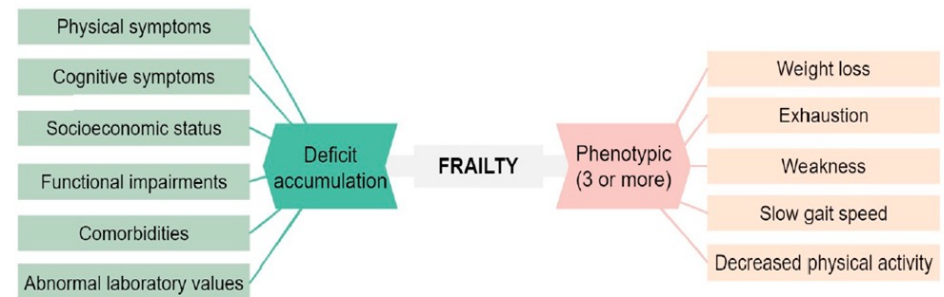
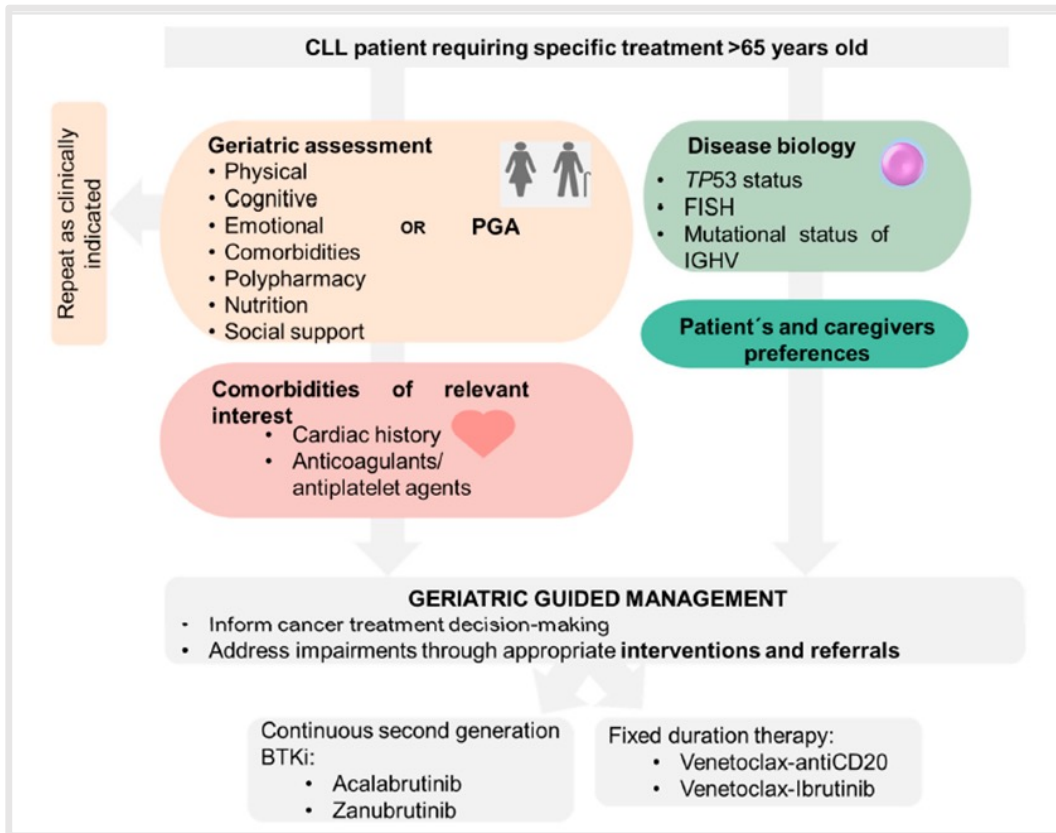
## Cumulative Illness Rating Scale

Score	Description
0	No problem affecting that system
1	Current mild problem/past significant problem
2	Moderate disability/morbidity and/or requires first-line therapy
3	Severe problem and/or constant and significant disability and/or hard-to-control chronic problems
4	Extremely severe problem and/or immediate treatment required and/or organ failure and/or severe functional impairment

**System scored:** cardiac, vascular, hematological, respiratory, EENT, upper lower GI, hepatic and pancreatic, renal, genitourinary, musculoskeletal, neurological, endocrine-metabolic, psychiatric

Total score: 0-56

# Role of comorbidities as a prognostic factor



González-Gascón-y-Marín I. et al. Cancers 2023, 15, 4391

**REVOLUTIONARY ROAD IN CLL**

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Catania, 28 maggio 2024  
Palace Catania UNA Esperienze