

# CORSO EDUCAZIONALE GRUPPO LINFOMI IN PAZIENTI CON IMMUNODEFICIT

Milano, Starhotels Anderson  
24 maggio 2024

## PATOLOGIE KSHV/HHV8 RELATE

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Sistema Socio Sanitario

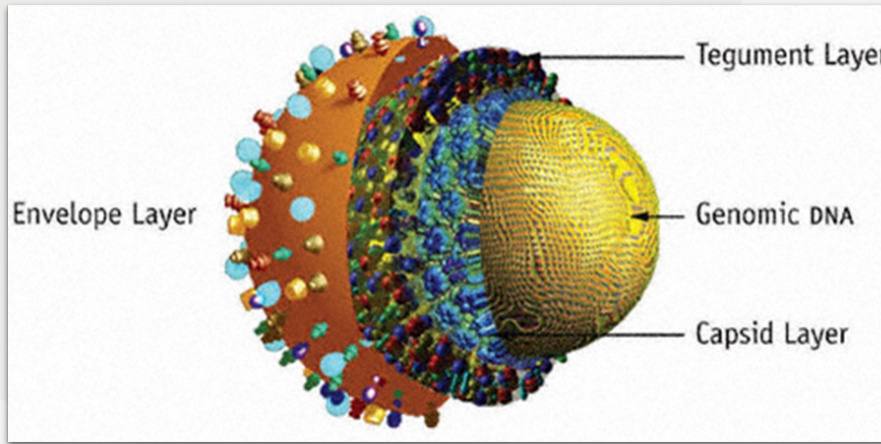


Regione  
Lombardia

## Disclosures of Name Surname

Company name	Research support	Employee	Consultant	Stockholder	Speakers bureau	Advisory board	Other
Pfizer					√		
Eusapharma					√		

# KSHV/HHV8 CARATTERISTICHE



- **KAPOSI SARCOMA ASSOCIATED HERPESVIRUS (KSHV) o human gammaherpesvirus 8 (HHV-8)** è un virus oncogenico a DNA a doppio filamento di circa 165 kilobasi, con capside a simmetria icosaedrica, rivestito, appartenente alla famiglia Herpesviridae e alla sottofamiglia dei gamma herpes virus.
- HHV-8 è **capace di infettare diversi tipi** di cellule: cellule B, cellule endoteliali, macrofagi, cellule epiteliali, attraverso un meccanismo di fusione di membrana mediato da GP.

## TAXONOMY AND CLASSIFICATION:

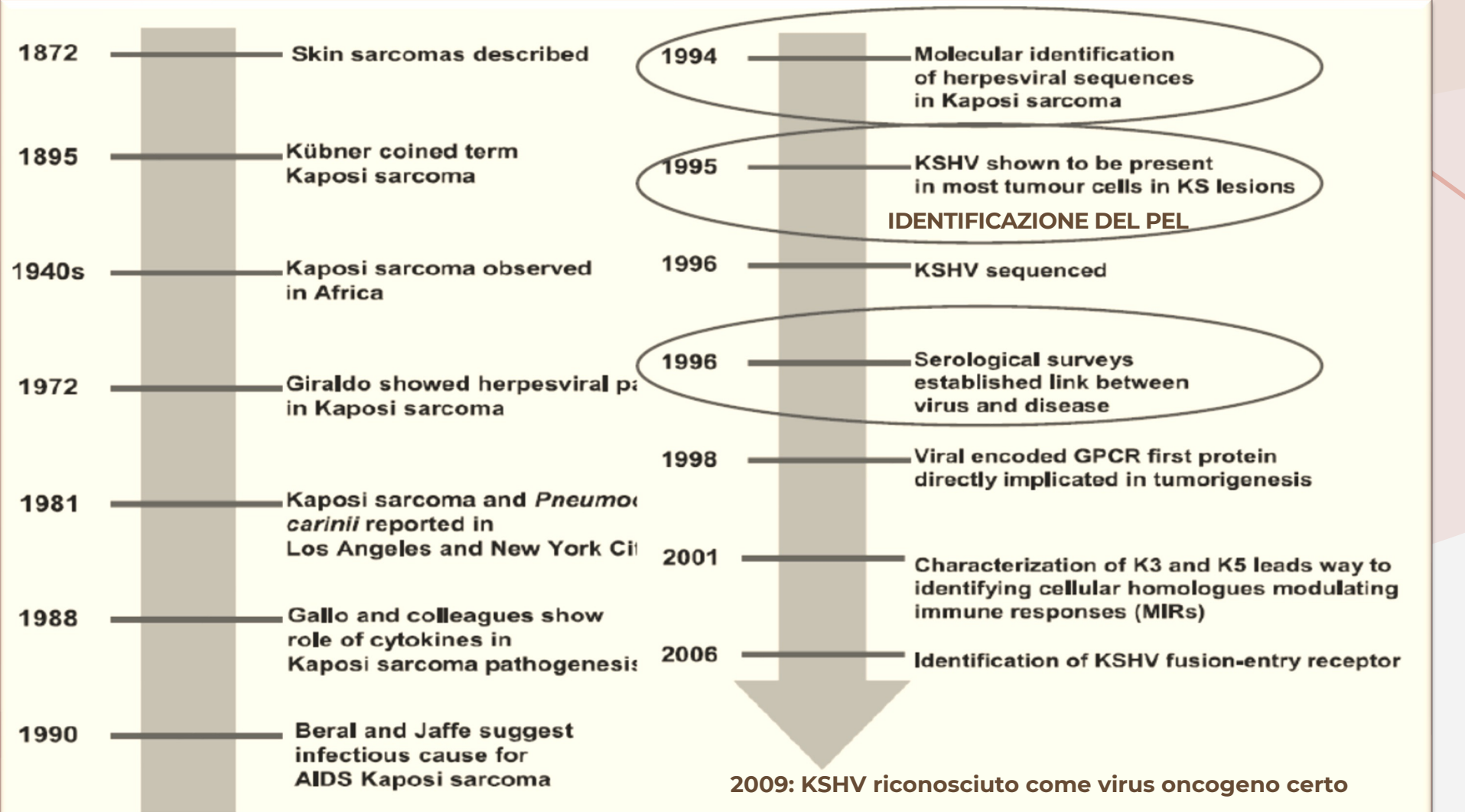
ORDER: Herpesvirales

FAMILY: Herpesviridae

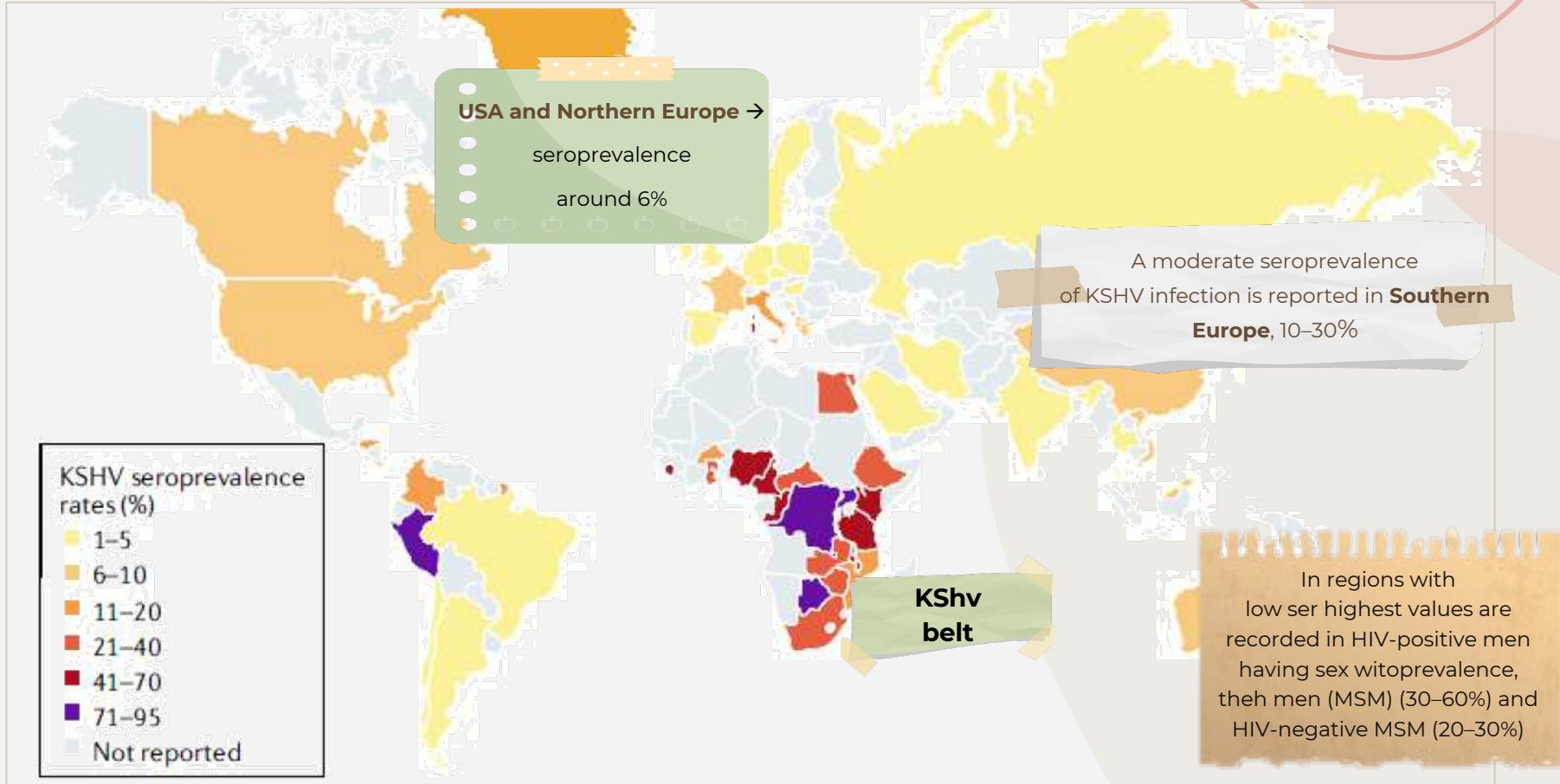
SUBFAMILY: Gammaherpesvirinae

GENUS: Rhadinovirus

SPECIES: Human Gammaherpesvirus 8



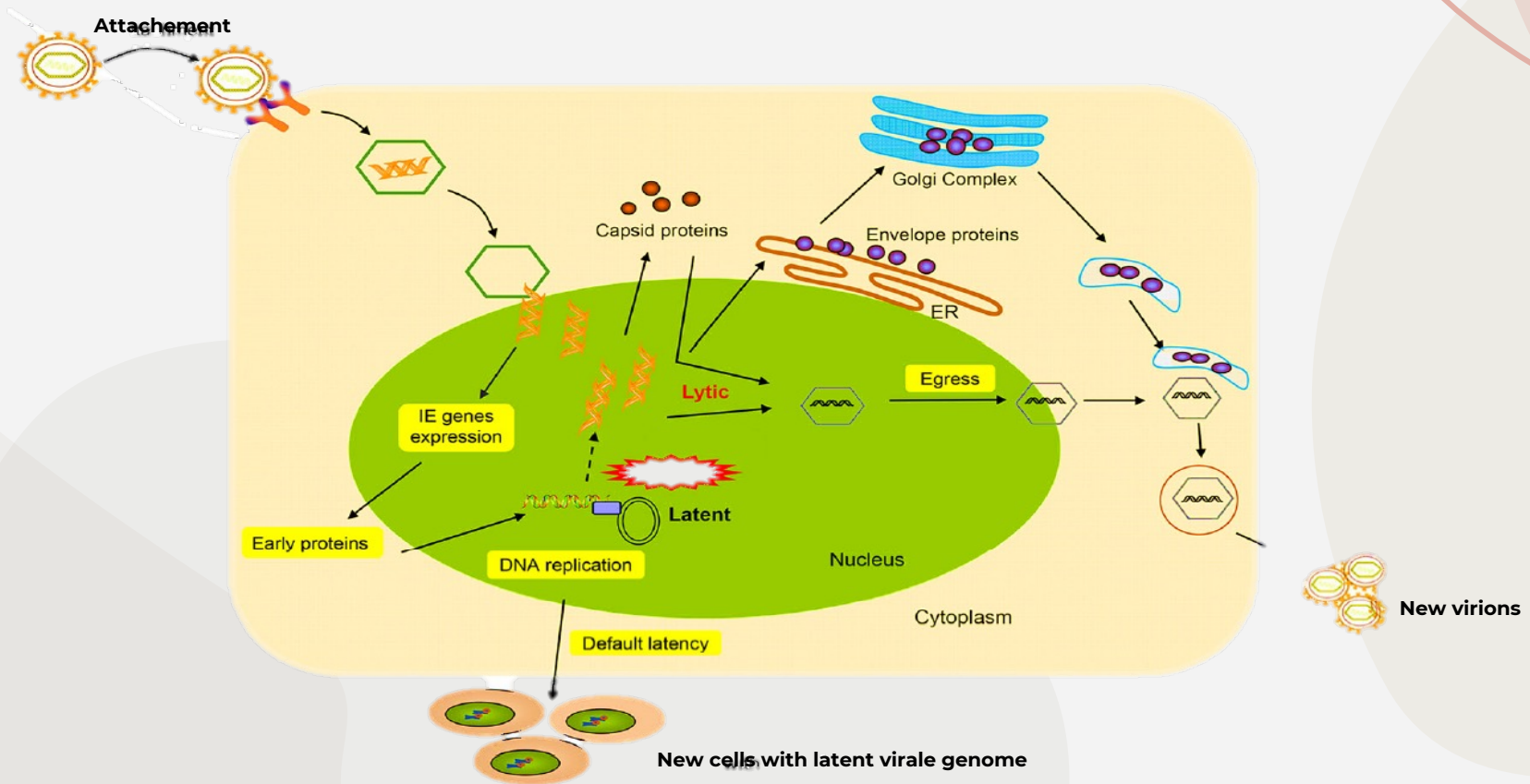
# KSHV EPIDEMIOLOGY



# TRANSMISSION

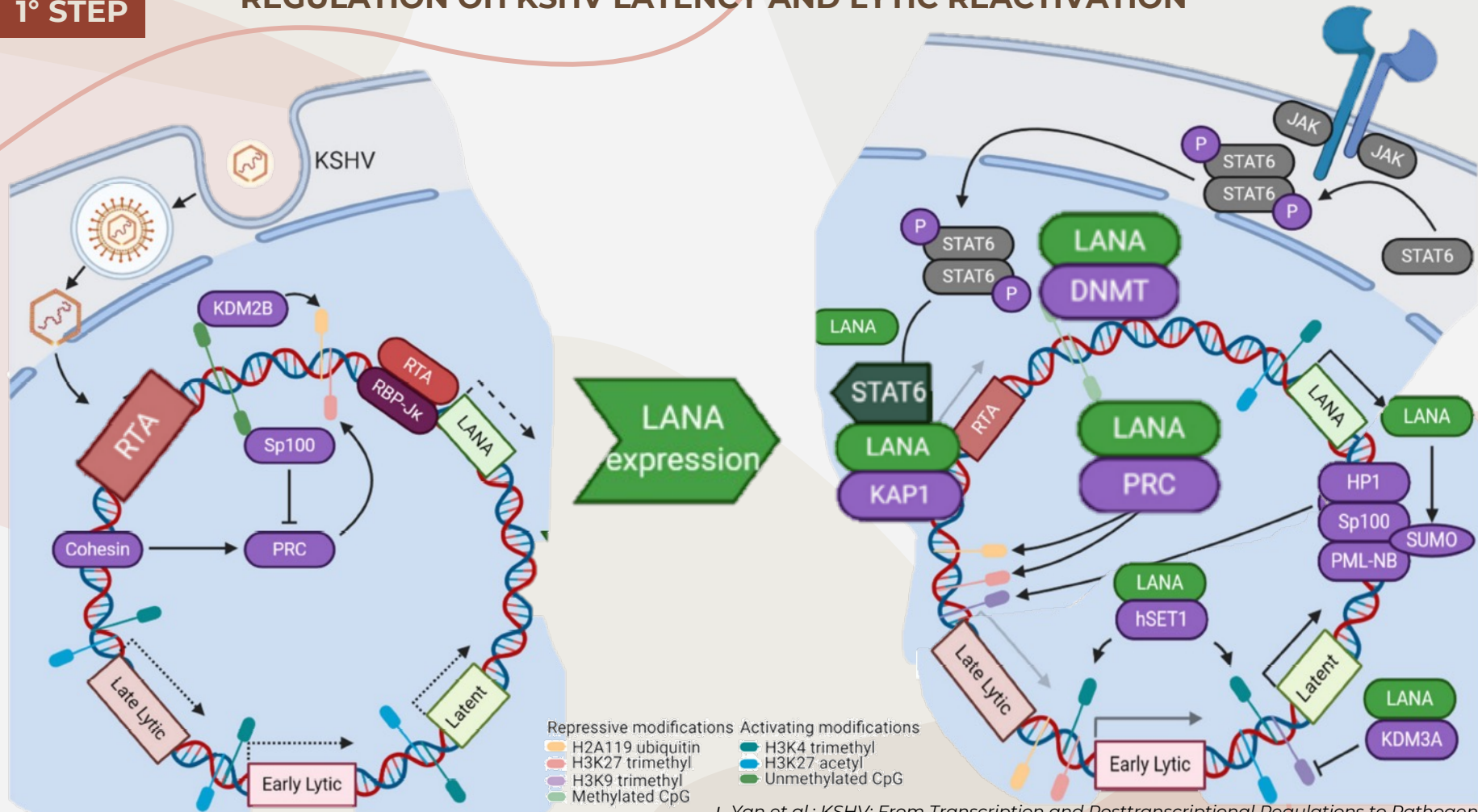
Presence of KSHV in potentially infectious body	HSHV+		
	KS+	KS-HIV+	KS- HIV-
saliva	22	20-35	10-20
semen	6	<1	<1
Vaginal fluid	NA	1	1
feces	0	NA	<1

# REGULATION OF KSHV LATENCY AND LYTIC REACTIVATION



# 1° STEP

## REGULATION OF KSHV LATENCY AND LYTIC REACTIVATION





# TRANSCRIPTION REGULATION OF GENES

Only a small portion of the latent KSHV genome is transcribed, and the major latency locus in latently infected cells include:

01

## ORF 7 LANA

04

## Kaposins (K12)

02

## ORF72 (v-Cyclin)

regulates the cell cycle and cell proliferation by constitutive activation of cellular cyclin-dependent kinase 6 (CDK6)

05

## Viral miRNA

a group of noncoding single stranded RNAs (20ncts) regulate gene expression by binding to the seed-matched regions of target mRNAs

03

## ORF71 (K13, v-FLIP)

activates NF-kB pathway → facilitates cell survival, proliferation and cell type-specific induced growth arrest and apoptosis during latency

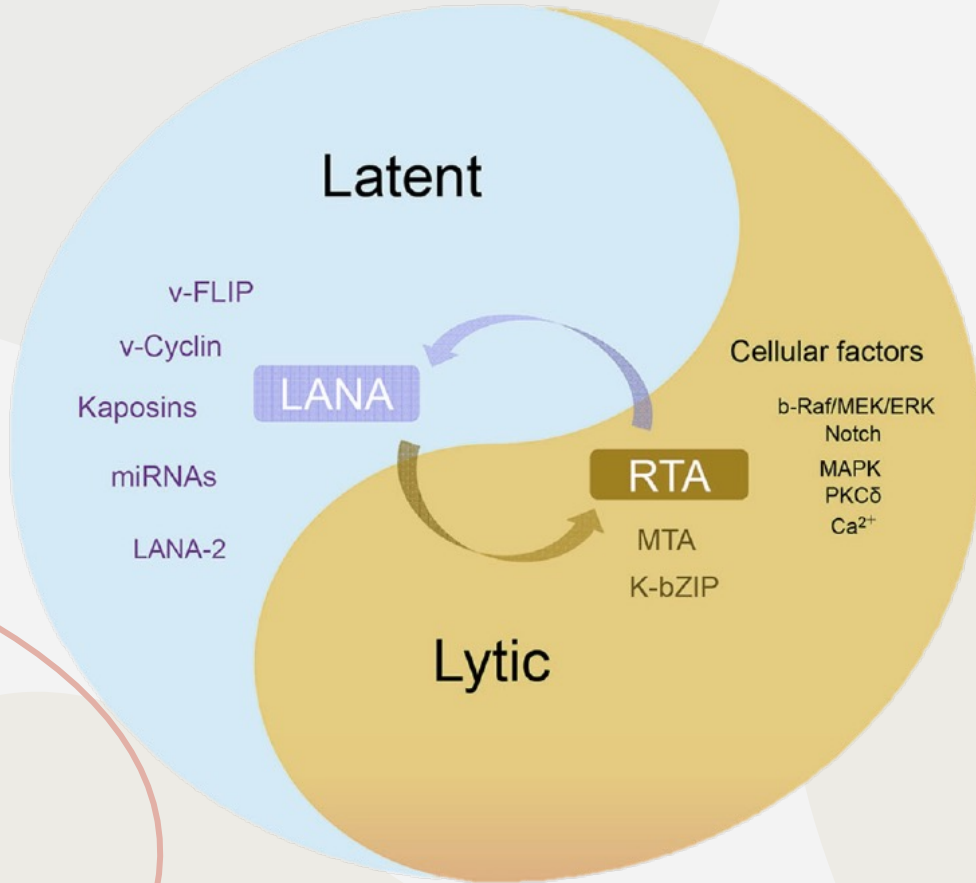
06

## LYTIC GENES

ORF74, K14, vIL-6 and ORF59, are transcribed at low → leaky expression of viral lytic genes during latent infection.

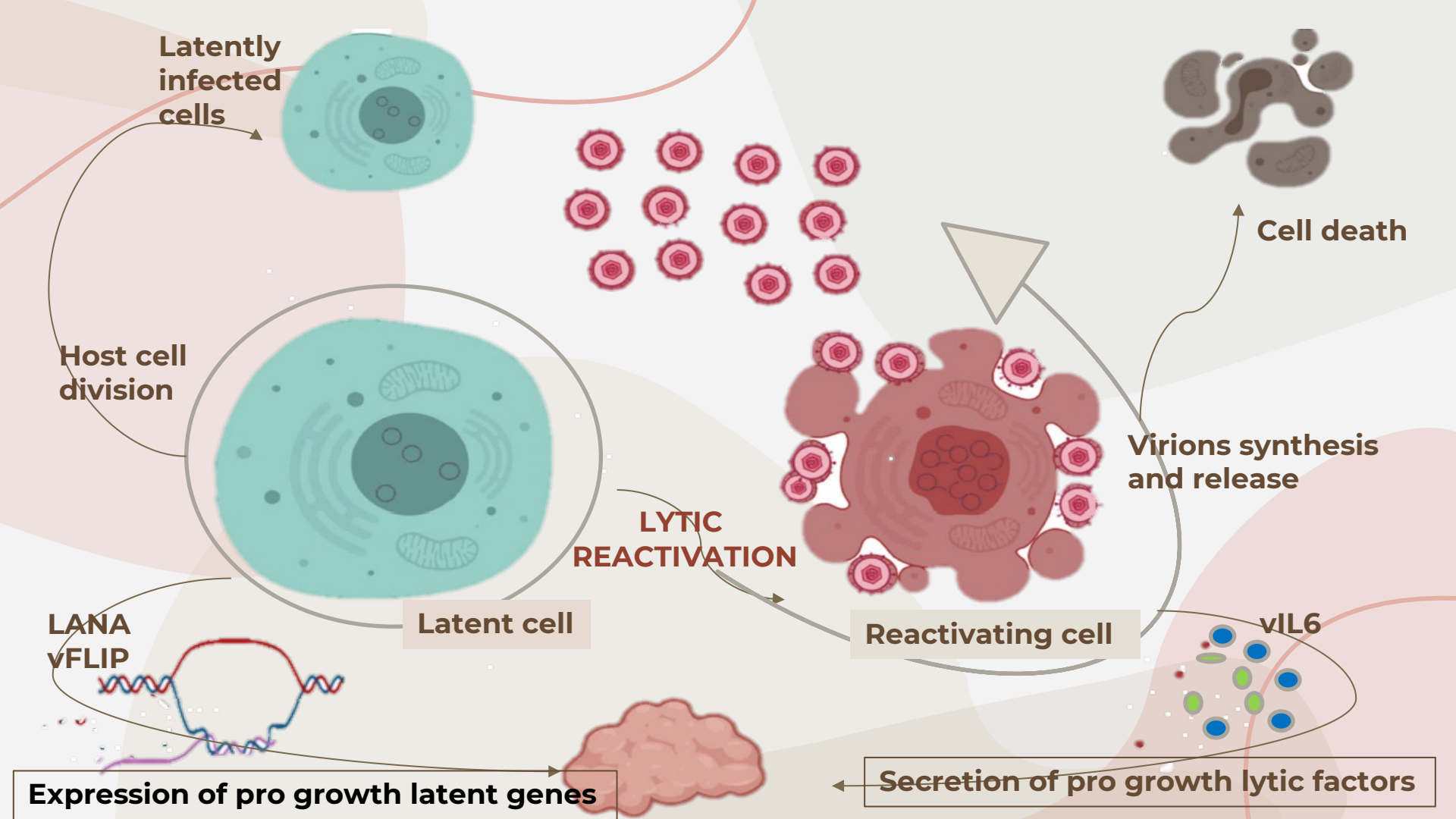
# KSHV LIFE CYCLE AND ONCOGENESIS

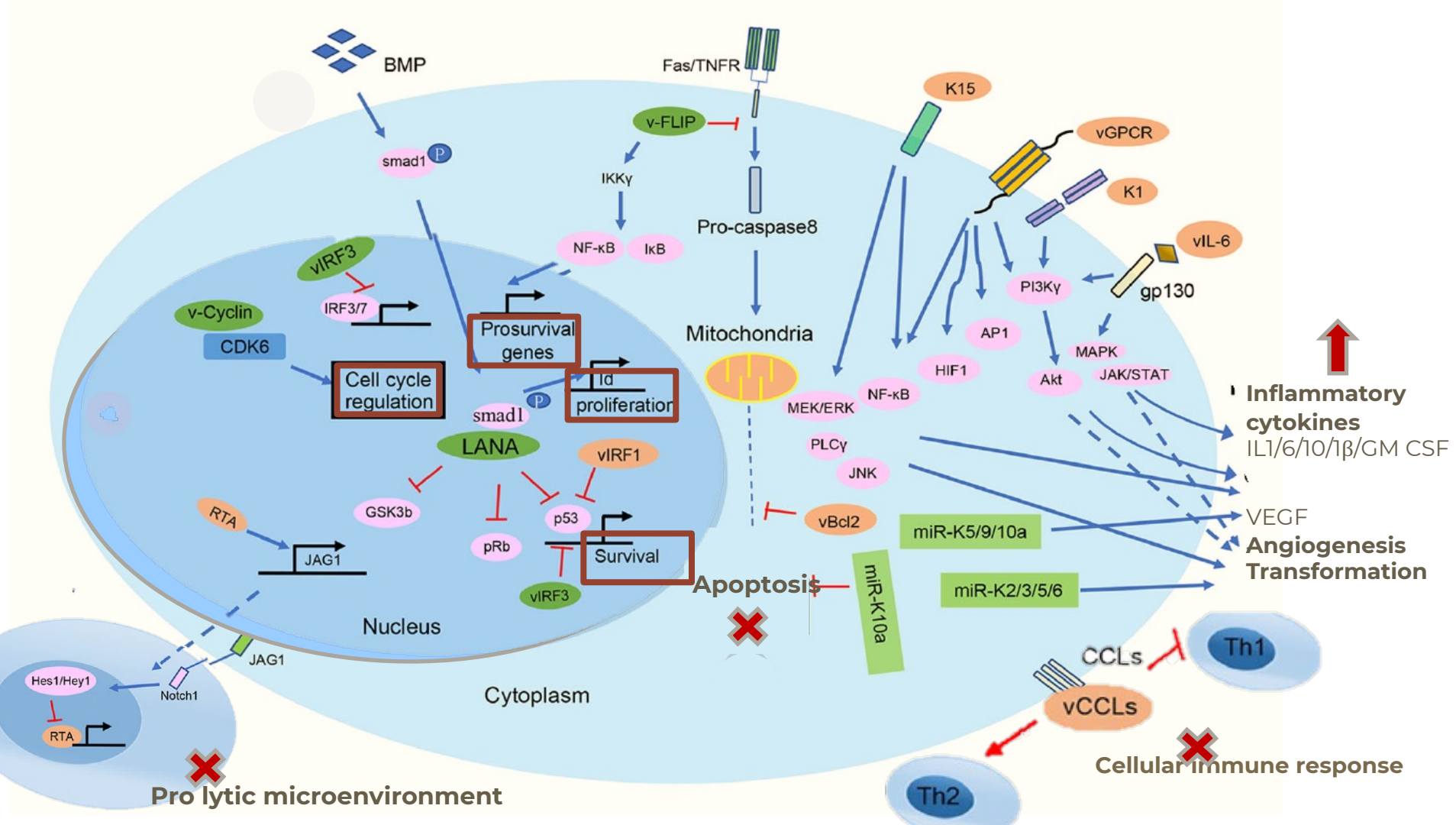
close association of KSHV with some human malignancies (KS, PEL and MCD) has caused virologists to consider KSHV as a human oncovirus.



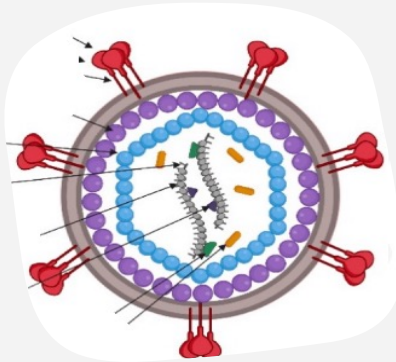
## The highlights of KSHV infection are:

- higher cell growth rate with an extended lifespan,
- altered cell morphology,
- deregulated angiogenesis,
- elevated inflammation and
- immune evasion to support tumor growth

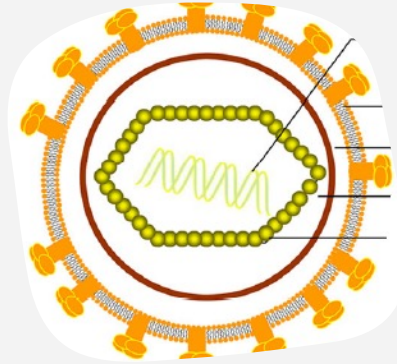




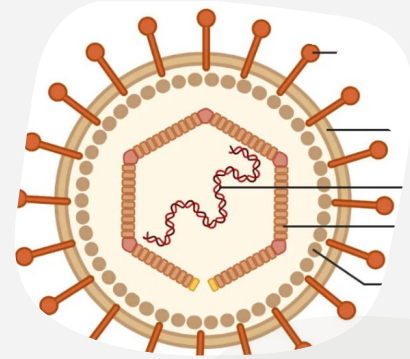
# ONCOGENIC VIRUSES and hematology



**HTLV-1**



**HHV8  
KSHV**



**EBV**

# WHO 2022

## **KSHV/HHV8-associated B-cell lymphoid proliferations and lymphomas**

	ID (hiv)	EBV
<b>Primary effusion lymphoma</b>	80% hiv+	80%
KSHV/HHV8-positive diffuse large B-cell lymphoma	>90% hiv+	--
KSHV/HHV8-positive germinotropic lymphoproliferative disorder	Very few cases	
<b>Tumour-like lesions with B-cell predominance</b>		
Reactive B-cell-rich lymphoid proliferations that can mimic lymphoma IgG4-related disease Unicentric Castleman disease Idiopathic multicentric Castleman disease		
<b>KSHV/HHV8-associated multicentric Castleman disease</b>	50-75%	

**The 5th edition of  
the World Health  
Organization  
Classification of  
Haematolymphoid  
Tumours:  
Lymphoid  
Neoplasms**

KSHV/HHV8-GLPD,  
KSHV/HHV8-MCD

PEL/EC-PEL and  
KSHV/HHV8-DLBCLs



elderly patients without  
overt immunodeficiency



Immunodeficiency setting



HIV+pts

### 3° STEP

## VIRAL COOPERATION

HIV infection and immunosuppression play an important role in the pathogenesis of both EBV and KSHV-associated cancers

**DEFINITION:** a mechanism by which different viruses coinfecting human tissues, have synergistic or regulatory effects on carcinogenesis

- detection of different viruses in the same neoplastic cells
- proof that immunodeficiency and/or chronic antigenic stimulation act in an indirect way in promoting tumor outgrowth



- the demonstration of viral-dependent molecular alterations inducing neoplastic transformation



# VIRAL COOPERATION

**Cooperazione virale**

```
graph LR; A[Cooperazione virale] --> B[Direttamente sulla cellula nella trasformazione tumorale]; A --> C[Indirettamente sul microambiente tumorale]; A --> D[Indirettamente sul Mi(a)croambiente «umano»];
```

Direttamente sulla cellula nella trasformazione tumorale

Indirettamente sul microambiente tumorale

Indirettamente sul Mi(a)croambiente «umano»

# VIRAL COOPERATION: PEL MODEL

Dually infected PEL cells

HIV

**KSHV**

**EBV**

RTA inhibits chemically-induced EBV lytic gene expression

EBV ZTA inhibits chemically-induced KSHV lytic expression

the KSHV RTA transactivates the EBV LMP-1 promoter

Expression of LMP1 ↓ KSHV and EBV lytic phase

**RTA indirectly contributes to EBV and KSHV latency**

LMP1 → negative-feedback loop that resulted in the expansion of PEL cells with no need of KSHV reactivation or lysis of the infected-cells

viral latency → expression of few low-immunogenic viral proteins

immune response against the virus diminished.

the immune escape and increased risk for the development of gammaherpesvirus-associated diseases

# PRIMARY EFFUSION LYMPHOMA

## DEFINITION

- Effusion-based, usually without a solid component
- Male, HIV +(md age 43) or elderly pts (md age 73)
- **Association with MCD and/or KS**
- **EBV+cases** → severely immunocompromised HIV+
- EBV- cases → HIV- elderly men
- Post-transplant PEL → EBV -

## MORPHOLOGY and IP

- Large cells with plasmablastic/immunoblastic/anaplastic cytology;
- Terminal B lineage; IP: **CD30 CD38 CD138 EMA MUM1 HLA DR +**; CD45+  
(lack markers of b cell differ.: PAX5, CD19, CD20, CD79a CD45 –  
expression of T/NL markers may occur  
CD10/BCL6 neg  
IGH gene → clonally rearranged and hypermutated/TCR  
only occasionally express Ig with some lamda liht chain+ cases

### Post GC profile

- NO MYC rearrangement
- Mutations in BCL6, MYC, pax5 RhoH/ITF



Thoracentesis sample of pleural fluid

- Cytology
- Flow cytometry
- Molecular analyses

# Caso 1

- Uomo di 30 anni con HIV di primo riscontro e ascite tesa.
- **Cd4 alla diagnosi: 8/mmc**
- Esame citologico su liquido peritoneale: numerosi elementi linfoidei ad abito plasmablastico di immunofenotipo MUM1+, HHV8+, EBER+, CD30+, CD79a+ focale, CD138-, CD20-, ALK-.
- Reperto compatibile con localizzazione sierosa di linfoma a cellule B mature CD30+ HHV8-EBV driven, tipo **PEL**.

A

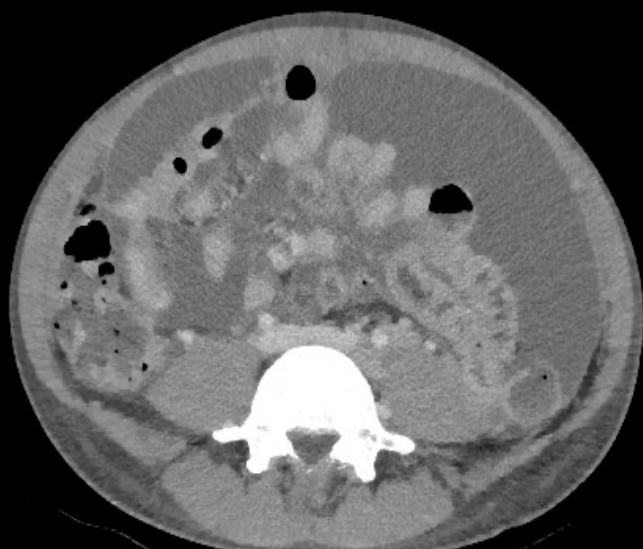
R



80mm

A

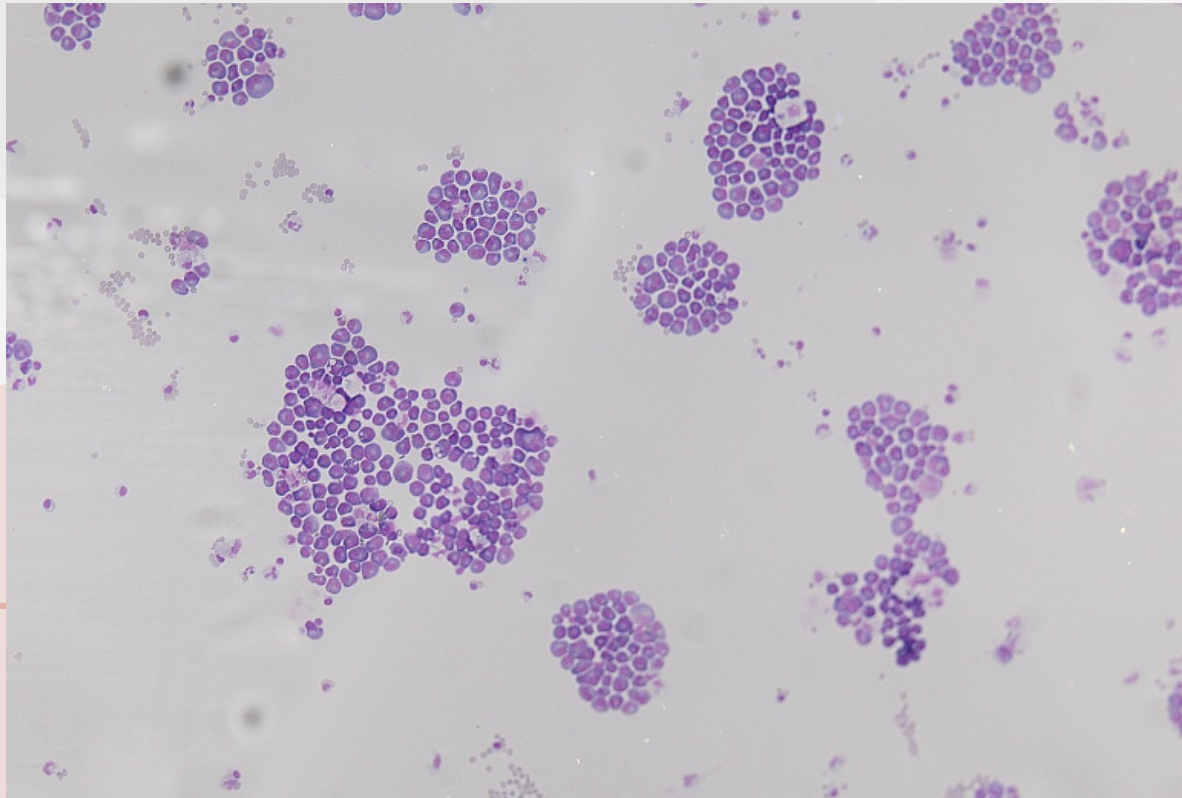
R



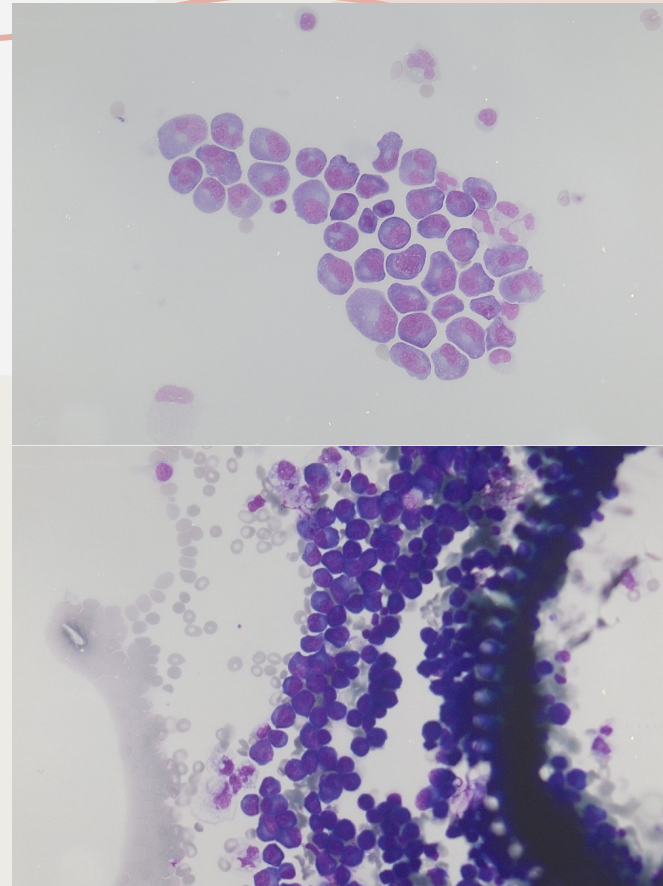
80mm

# MGG

10X



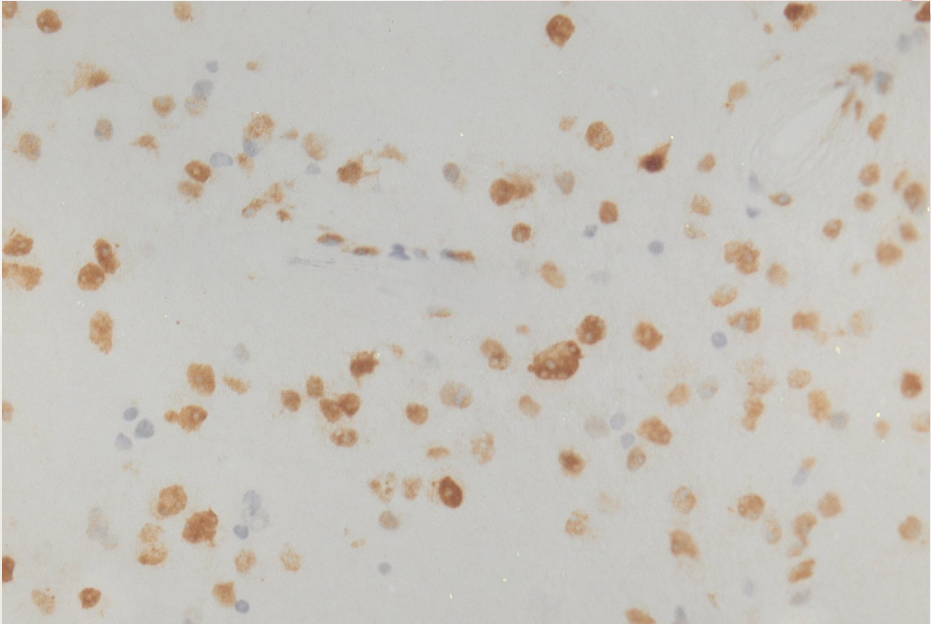
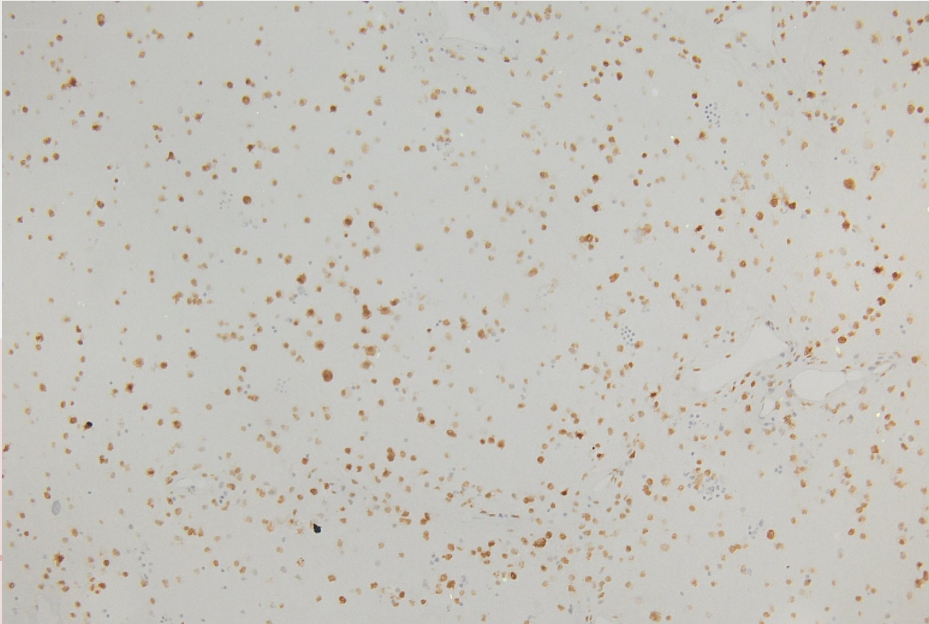
40X



# MUM1

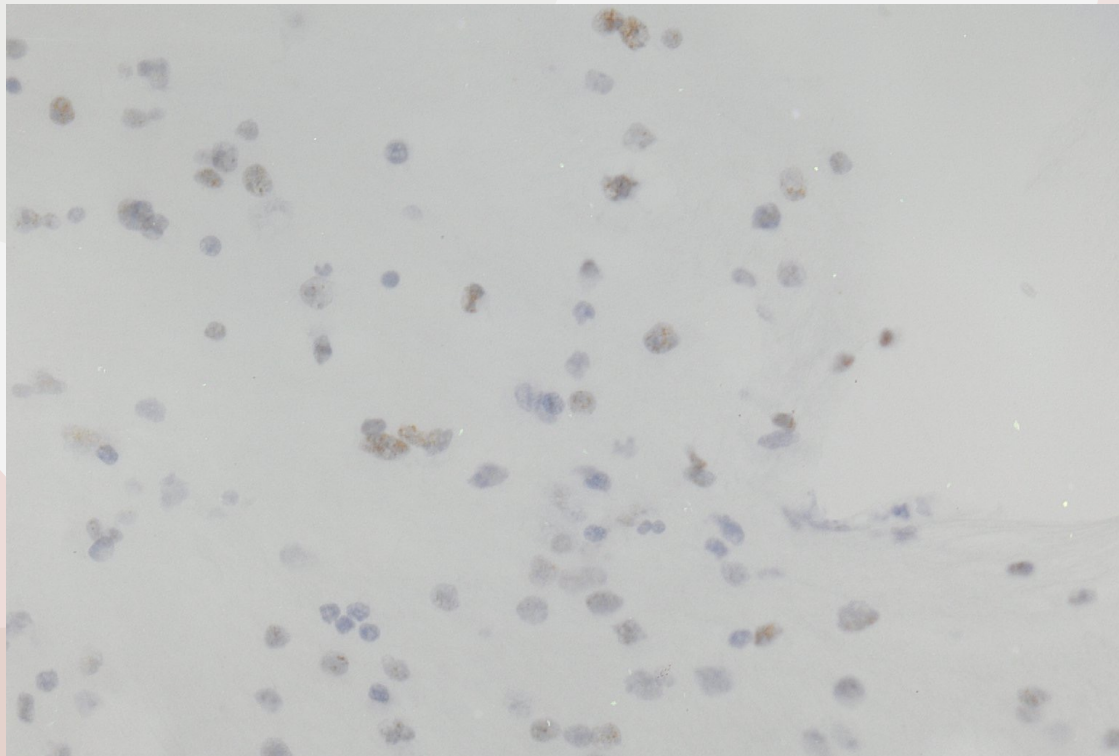
10X

40X



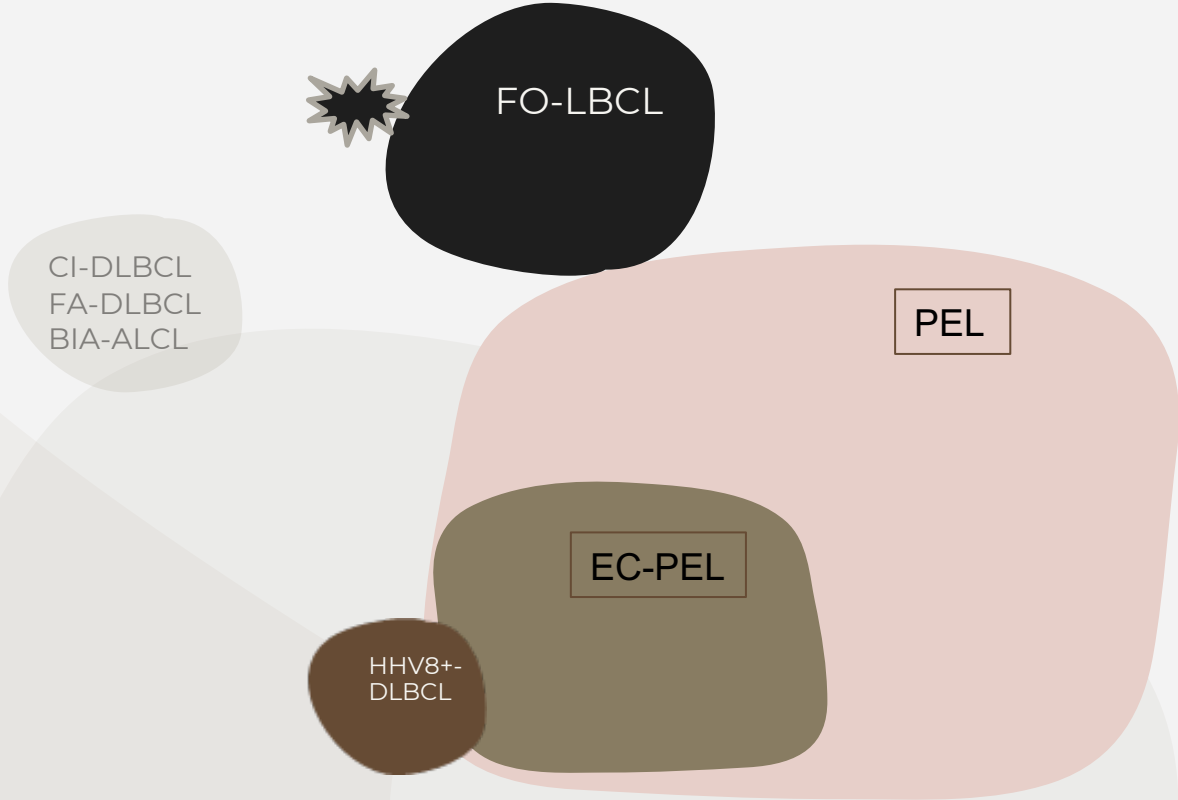
# LANA

40X

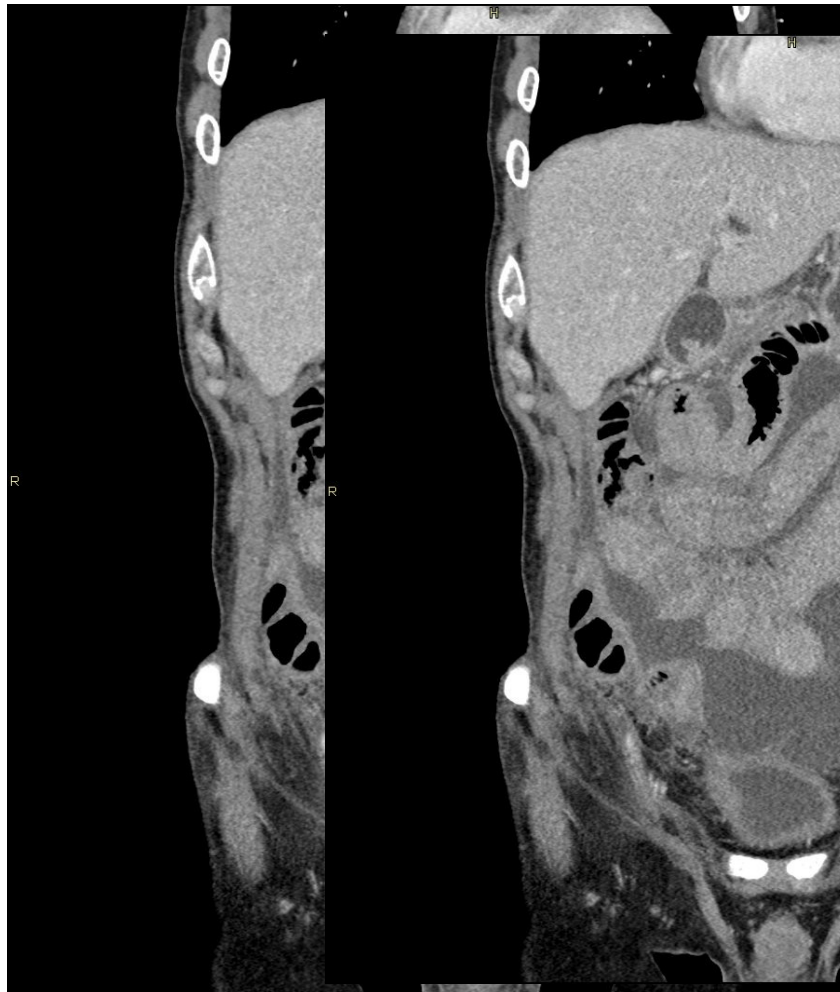




# CAVITY BASED LYMPHOMAs



- PEL  
EBV + (high) or -  
EBV  
LMP1/EBNA2  
latency-  
HIV+/-
- EC -PEL  
EBV+ (permitted -)  
HIV + most
- HHV8+DLBCL  
EBV-  
HIV+
- HHV8-effusion lymphoma  
«FO-LBCL» (WHO)  
HHV8 neg EBVneg PEBL  
(ICC)  
Elderly HIV-  
Medical cond → FO



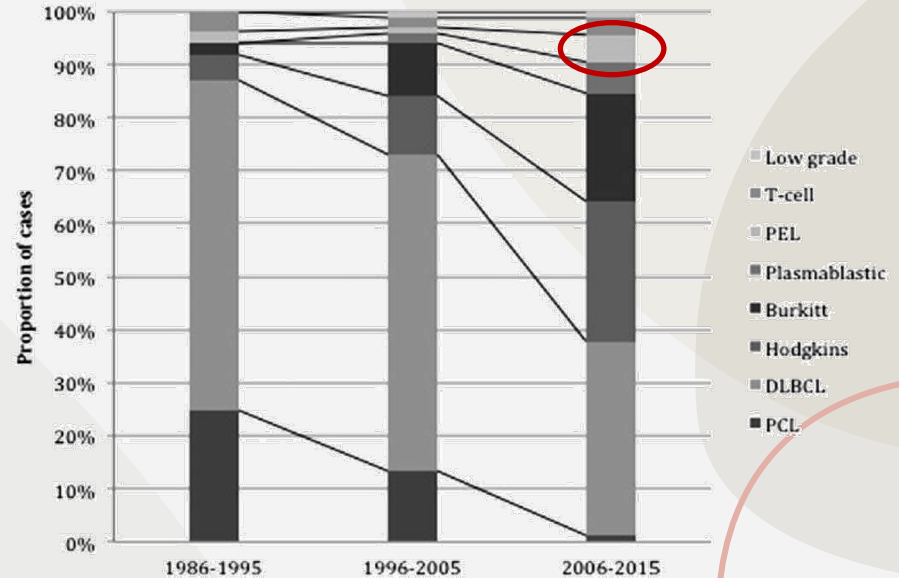
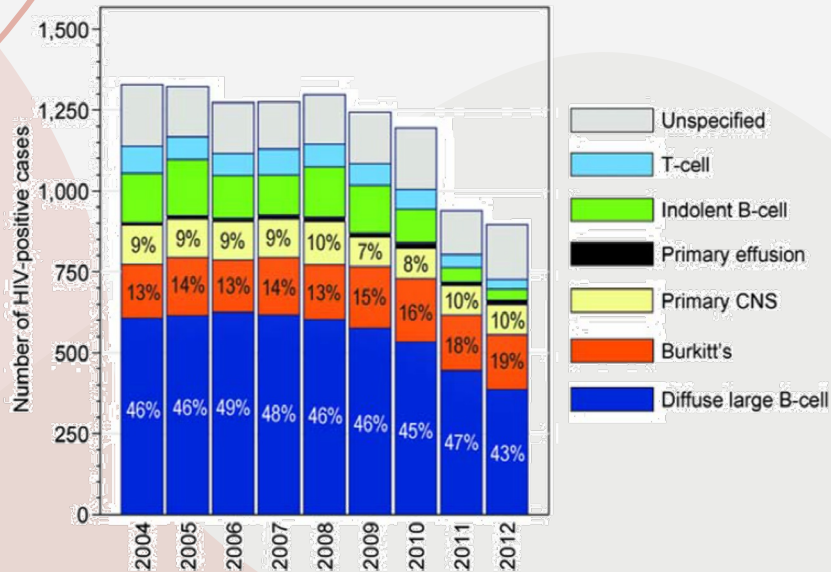
## DISTRIBUTION OVER TIME

Histotype	1986-1995; London (158 patients)	1996-2005; London (200 patients)	2006-2015; London (257 patients)	1996-2000; CNICS (132 patients)	2001-2005; CNICS (201 patients)	2006-2010; CNICS (143 patients)
BL	3%	10%	20% ↑	7.6%	10.9%	16.8% ↑
DLBCL	63%	59%	37% ↓	43.9%	45.8%	35.7% ↓
HL	4%	11%	26% ↑	15.2%	15.4%	19.6% ↑
PCNSL				14.4%	10.4%	9.8% ↓
PBL	0	2%	6% ↑			
PEL	2%	1%	5% ↑			
Other				18.9%	17.4%	18.2%

# DISTRIBUTION OVER TIME

Human Immunodeficiency Virus-Associated Lymphoma in the Antiretroviral Therapy Era: Analysis of the National Cancer Data Base  
*Cancer, 2016*

Evolution of HIV-Associated Lymphoma Over 3 Decades  
*J Acquir Immune def Syndr, 2016*



359,731 lymphomas between 2004 and 3.4% (10,769) were HIV-positive

**615 pts**; 158 with lymphoma in the pre-cART decade (1986–1995), 200 pts in the early cART era (1996–2005), and 257 patients in the late-cART era (2006–2015).

# CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS

## PEL

- neoplastic effusions in body cavities without extracavitary tumor masses, and the most common sites are the pleural (60-90%) , peritoneal (30-60%) and pericardial cavities(till 30%). Typically, only a single cavity is involved.
- *Often concomitant KSHVdiseases (KS -75%- and KSHV-MCD 33%)*



Shortness of breath, abdominal distension,chest pain

- KSHV can also cause immune dysregulation, inducing elevations of huLL-10, huLL-6, and vIL-6, which can result in many of the constitutional and laboratory abnormalities, including fever, cachexia, edema, and anemia

## EC-PEL

- Common sites: lymphnodes and GE tract
- Rare: skin presentation

# THERAPY

No. of patients	301	51	28	11	8	20	7	6
Year of study	2001-2012	1996-2013	1993-2003	1987-2002	1987-2001	2000-2013	2010-2017	2020
PEL, %	100	67	100	100	0	18	100	67
Solid PEL, %	24	33	0	0	100	1	0	33
Median age, y	55	45	44	41	40	44	NA	38
HIV, %	67	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
ART, %		100	78	NA	20	100	100	100
Median (range) CD4 <sup>+</sup> T-cell count, cells per $\mu$ L	NA	204 (90-370)	133 (5-756)		NA*	125 (53-389)	NA	231 (3-403)
EBV, %	50	66	71	NA	NA	73	60	
KS, %	28	49	67	27	25	75	NA	66
MCD, %	4	35	32	NA		30	NA	17
Receiving chemotherapy, %	86	88†	79	73	75	95‡	100	100
Chemotherapy backbone	Various	CHOP-like	CHOP-like	CHOP	CHOP	DA-EPOCH	DA-EPOCH	DA-EPOCHR
CR, %	NA	62 classic, 41 solid	41	42	NA	53	71	50
Median OS, mo	6	10.2	6.2	6	11	22	NA	Data not mature
OS rate, %	NA	43 (classic) and 39 (EC) at 5y	39 at 1y	NA	40 at 5y	47 cancer- specific survival at 3y	NA	67 at 2y
EFS rate, %	NA	71 (classic) and 100% (EC) DFS at 2y	NA	NA	NA	NA	71 3y EFS	NA

# Classic and extracavitary primary effusion lymphoma in 51 HIV-infected patients from a single institution

RETROSPECTIVE study



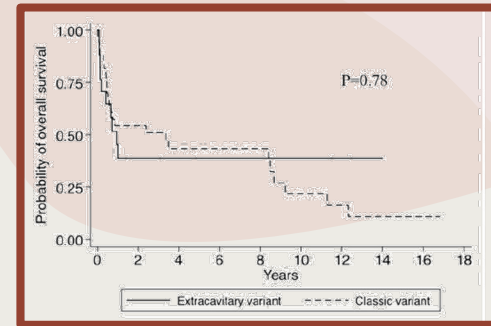
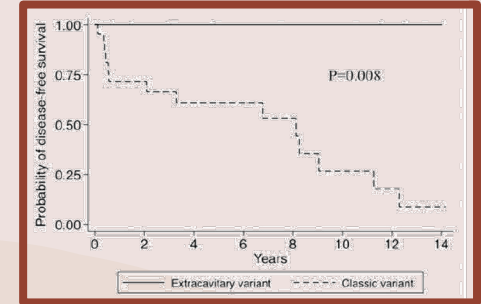
**OS:** doubled compared with CHOP-like treatment studies in the pre-ART/early ART era where ART was inconsistently or not administered either before or during treatment.

## Pts characteristics

## Outcome

**CR :** 21 pts (62%) in the classic group  
7(41%) in the extracavitary variant group

Characteristics	All patients (n = 51)	Classic group (n = 34)	Extracavitary group (n = 17)
<b>Demographic characteristics</b>			
Sex male, n (%)	47 (92)	31 (91)	16 (94)
Median age, years (IQR)	45 (39–53)	45 (40–54)	41 (36–48)
<b>HIV characteristics</b>			
Mode of HIV transmission, n (%)			
Sexual	45 (88)	30 (88)	15 (88)
IVDU	5 (10)	3 (9)	2 (12)
Unknown	1 (2)	1 (3)	0
Median HIV duration, years (IQR)	8 (1.5–15.7)	4 (1–12)	10 (8–16)
Prior AIDS, n (%)	22 (64.7)	24 (70.6)	9 (52)
cART at diagnosis, n (%)	35 (68.6)	24 (70.6)	11 (64.7)
Median cART duration, months (IQR)	40 (18–63.4)	30 (12.3–52.6)	62 (49.3–123)
Undetectable plasma HIV-RNA, n (%)	25 (49)	16 (47)	9 (53)
<b>CD4 cell count</b>			
Median, $\times 10^6 \text{ L}^{-1}$ , median (IQR)	204 (90–370)	185 (90–343)	207 (103–377)
Nadir, $\times 10^6 \text{ mL}^{-1}$ , median (IQR)	99 (45–180)	99 (56–145)	159 (35–228)
KS, n (%)	25 (49)	19 (56)	6 (35.3)
Castleman disease, n (%)	18 (35.3)	11 (32.3)	7 (41)
<b>PEL characteristics</b>			
IPI $> 2$ , n (%)	34 (67)	25 (80)	9 (53)
FS $> 2$ , n (%)	29 (57)	18 (53)	11 (65)
LDH $>$ normal, n (%)	26 (52)	16 (48.5)	10 (59)
ICU stay, n (%)	14 (29)	10 (32)	4 (23.5)
EBV + PEL, n (%)	34 (66.6)	24 (70.6)	10 (59)
CR, n (%)	28 (56)	21 (63.6)	7 (41)
<b>Treatment</b>			
Standard chemo, n (%)	45 (88.2)	28 (82.3)	17 (100)
With HD-MTX, n (%)	32 (62.7)	23 (67.6)	9 (53)
Without HD-MTX, n (%)	13 (25.5)	5 (14.7)	8 (47)
Low dose/no chemo, n (%)	6 (11.7)	6 (17.6)	0 (0)



**5-year OS:** 43% in the classic group  
39% in the extracavitary group

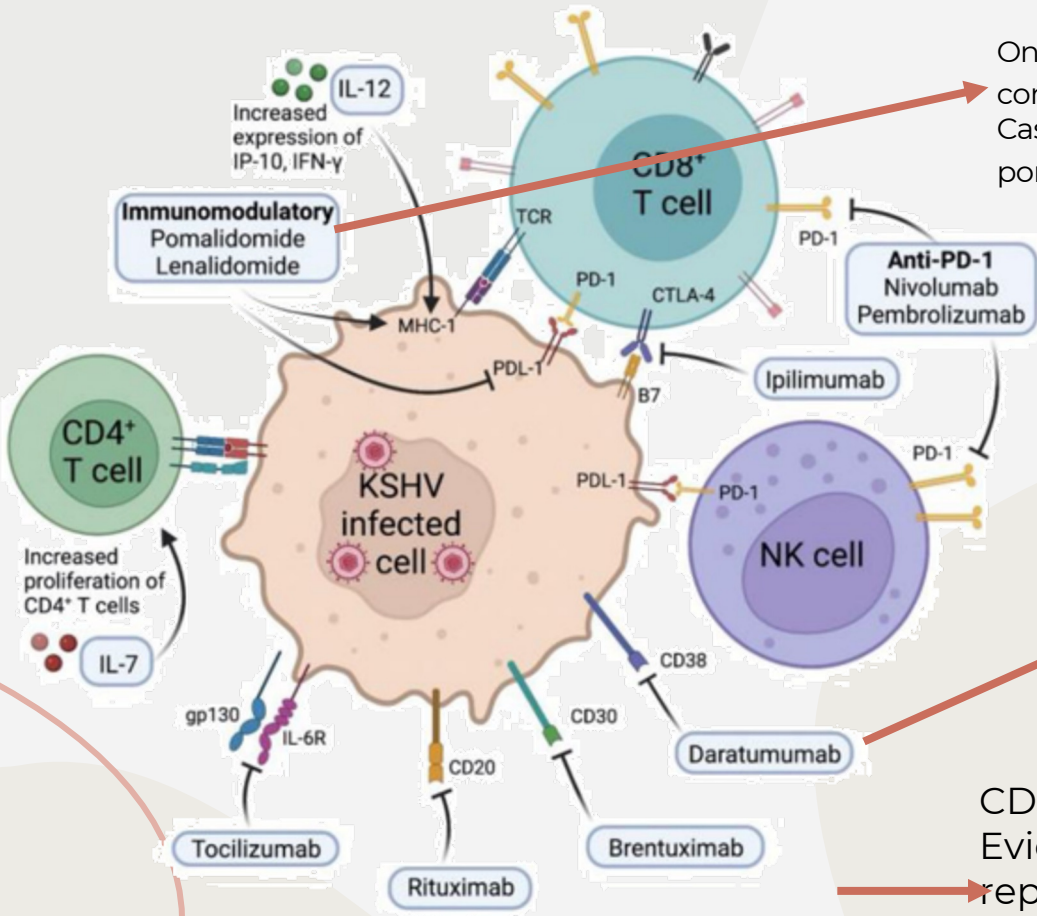
**All but two of the 13 patients who relapsed died with a 2-year OS: 8.5%.**  
median follow-up of 10 years: 34 pts have died  
**median OS: 10.2 months.**

# THERAPY

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EFS rate, %	NA	71 (classic) and 100% (EC) DFS at 2y	NA	NA	NA	NA	71 3y EFS	NA



# IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR KSHV-ASSOCIATED DISEASES



Ongoing study of patients with untreated PEL, lenalidomide is combined with rituximab and dose-adjusted EPOCH; Case series of pembrolizumab alone and in combination with pomalidomide demonstrated clinical benefit

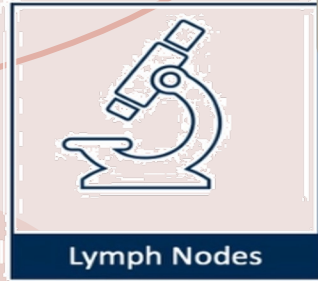
pembrolizumab alone and in combination with pomalidomide demonstrated clinical benefit

Preclinical studies demonstrate increases in PEL cell killing and NK mediated cytotoxicity

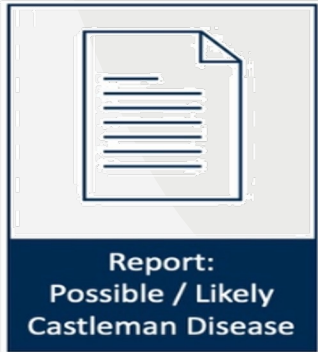
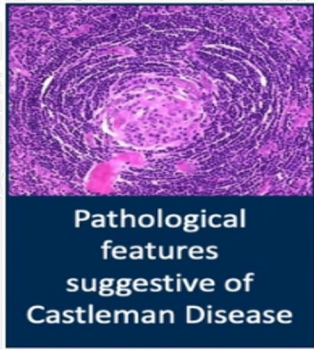
CD30 is expressed in the majority of PEL. Evidence from preclinical studies and case reports that suggest the clinical benefit of brentuximab in PEL

# KSHV-MCD

## Excisional lymph node biopsy

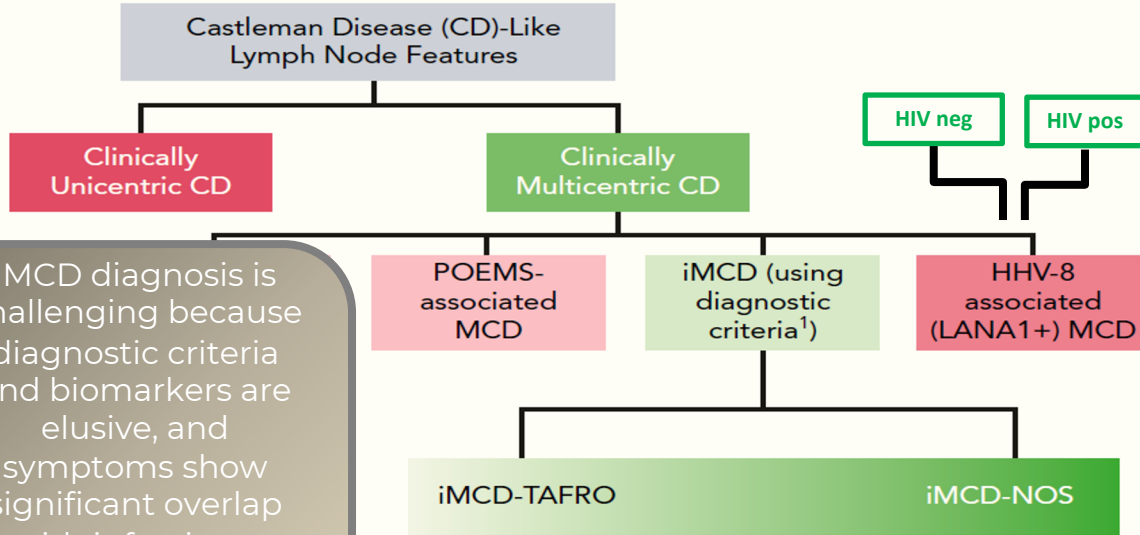


**Excisional** lympho node biopsy

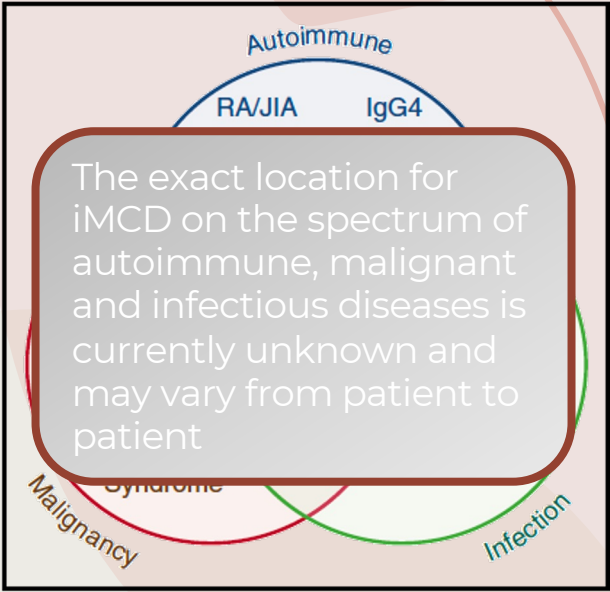


**THE TIMES  
THEY ARE  
A-CHANGIN'**

# HETEROGENEITY of CASTLEMAN DISEASE



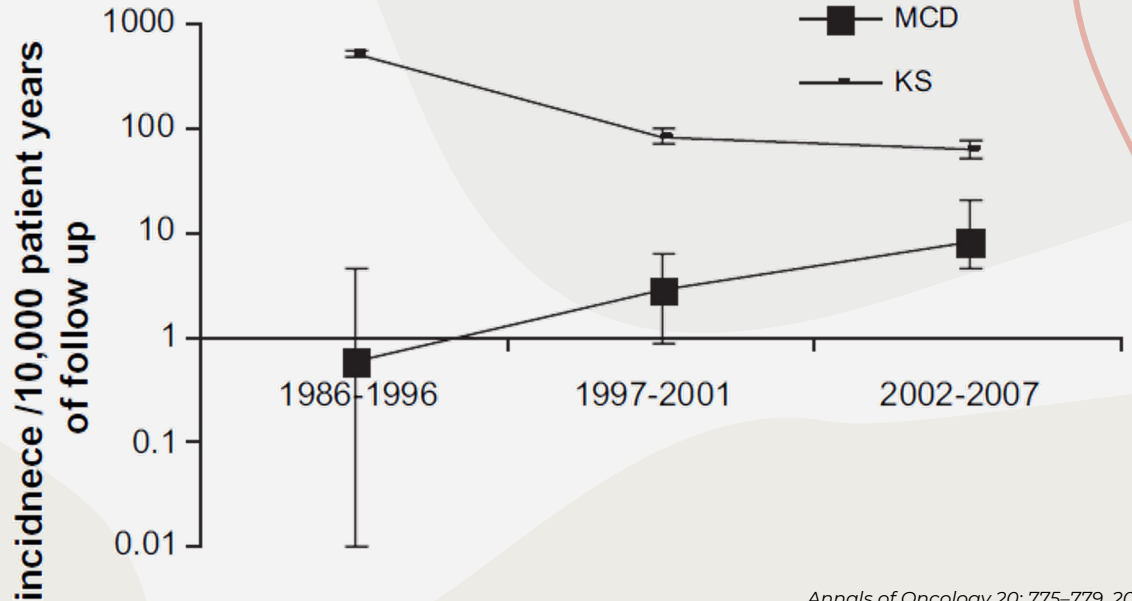
iMCD diagnosis is challenging because diagnostic criteria and biomarkers are elusive, and symptoms show significant overlap with infectious, malignant and immune diseases



# kSHV-MCD EPIDEMIOLOGY

- The estimated incidence of CD is 6500 to 7700 cases/year in the United States, with ~ 1650 cases of MCD
- ITALY: Expected annual incidence: 204 cases; Expected prevalence: 414 cases KSHV-MCD
- MCD cases are thought to be divided almost evenly between KSHV-MCD and iMCD  
lack of data in Italy

- nadir CD4 count >200/mm<sup>3</sup>,
- increased age,
- no previous HAART exposure and
- non-Caucasian ethnicity associated with an increased risk of MCD.



# CONSENSUS DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA for iMCD

A patient must fulfil the major, minor, and exclusion criteria

## Major criteria

**Both** features **must be present**

- **Histopathological lymph node features** consistent with the iMCD  
**Enlarged lymph nodes** ( $\geq 1$  cm in short-axis diameter) in  $\geq 2$  lymph node stations

## Minor Criteria:

$\geq 2$  of the following 11 features (including  $\geq 1$  laboratory condition) must be present

LABORATORY  
(6 FEATURES)

CLINICAL  
(5 FEATURES)

## Exclusion criteria

Each of the following diseases/disorders must be ruled out:

**Infection-related disorders**

**Malignant/  
lymphoproliferative disorders**

**Autoimmune diseases**

## MINOR CRITERIA for iMCD

≥2 of the following 11 features (including ≥1 laboratory condition) must be present:

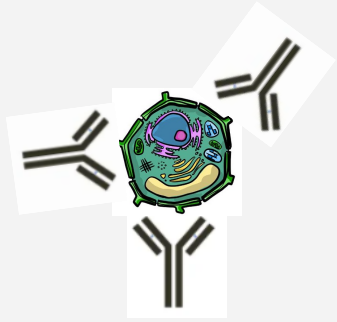
### LABORATORY

- Elevated CRP or ESR
- Anemia
- Thrombocytopenia or thrombocytosis
- Hypoalbuminemia
- Renal dysfunction or proteinuria
- Polyclonal hypergammaglobulinemia

### CLINICAL

- Constitutional symptoms such as night sweats, fever, weight loss or fatigue
- Hepatomegaly and/or splenomegaly
- Fluid accumulation: oedema, anasarca, ascites or pleural effusion
- Eruptive cherry hemangiomatosis or violaceous papules
- Lymphocytic interstitial pneumonitis

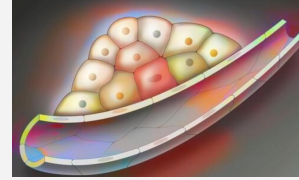
# PATHOGENESIS iMCD



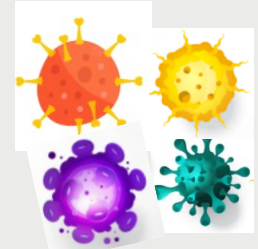
AUTOIMMUNE  
HYPOTESIS



AUTOINFLAMMATORY  
HYPOTESIS



NEOPLASTIC  
HYPOTESIS



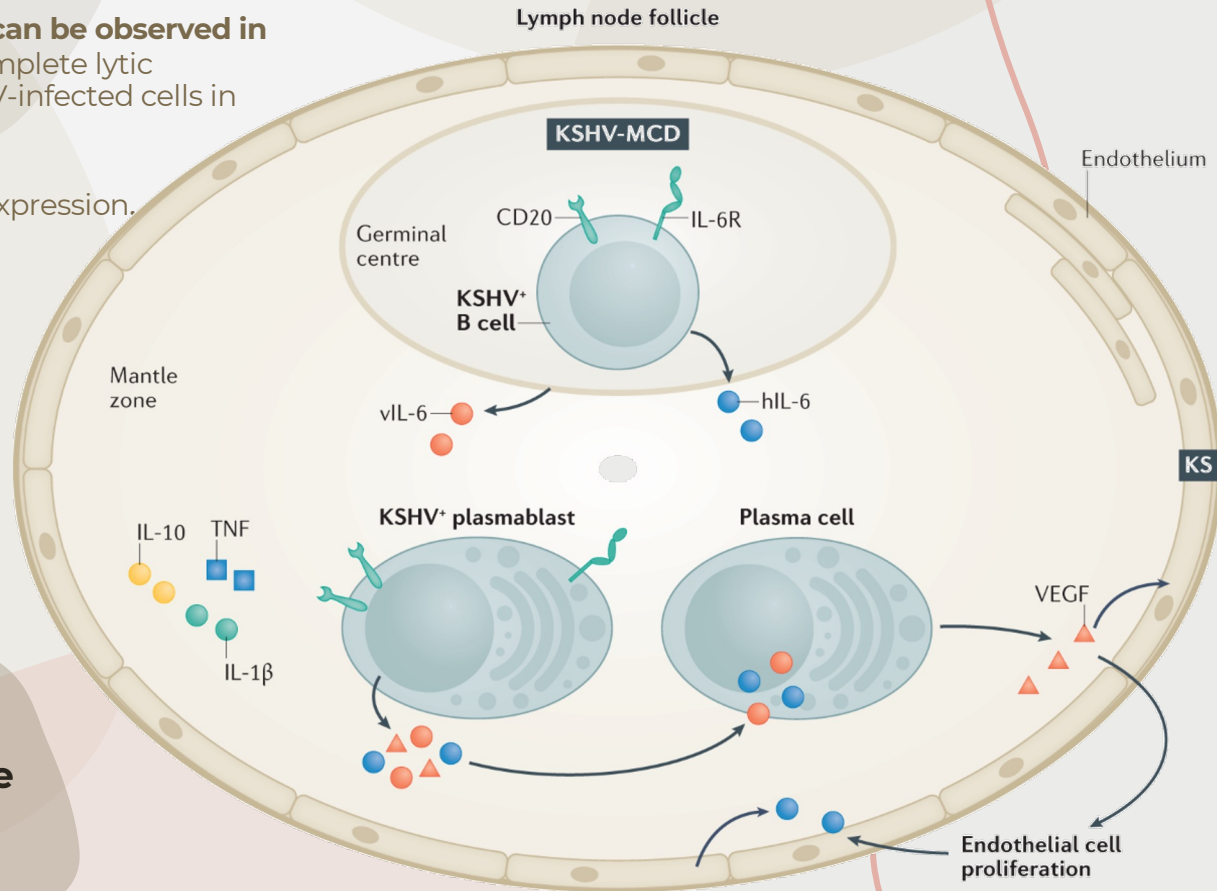
PATHOGEN  
HYPOTESIS

Proinflammatory cytokine(s)

IL-6

# PATHOGENESIS

- **Both latent and lytic KSHV viral proteins can be observed in KSHV-MCD lymph nodes** → abortive or complete lytic replication is occurring in some of the KSHV-infected cells in the lymph node
- LANA, but above all SHV viral lytic protein expression.
- Central role of vIL-6, hIL-6, IL-10, IL-1 $\beta$ , TNF
- **CD20** → expressed in the lymph nodes
- Higher viral load in peripheral blood than KS or PEL



**KSHVaMCD: «bandierina»  
che ci informa che il virus  
sta iniziando ad avere azione  
oncogena.  
Il patologo non ha trovato  
ciò che ancora non è emerso**



# PATHOGENESIS, THE ROLE OF IL-6

**IL-6**

Increased B cell growth

Overgrowth of B cells and plasma cells

Increased size of lymph nodes; lymphoma, MM

Increased VEGF

Formation of blood vessels

Increased blood supply to tumor

Increased T<sub>h</sub>2 cells

Autoimmune reactions

Autoantibodies targeted to organs

Inflammatory response

Elevated ESR, CRP, and IgG; anemia; and DVT

Systemic symptoms

KSHV-infected endothelial cell proliferation and vascularization has a central role in both KSHV-MCD and Kaposi sarcoma and cytokine expression seems to drive disease progression.

# Cytokine storm.

## Clinical presentation

Symptoms may be due

- directly to **cytokine induced tissue damage**

or

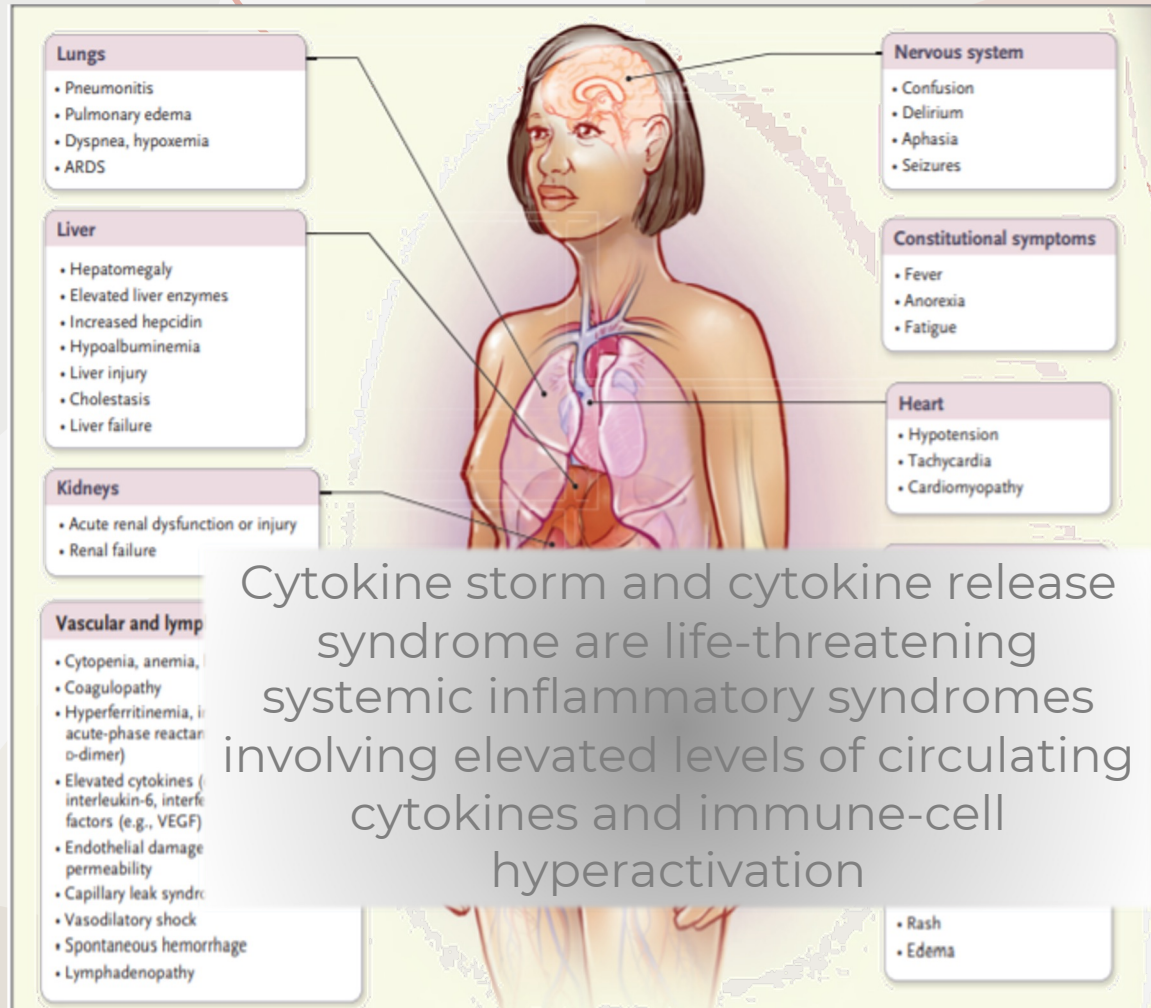
- may result from **immune cell-mediated responses.**

**HLH**

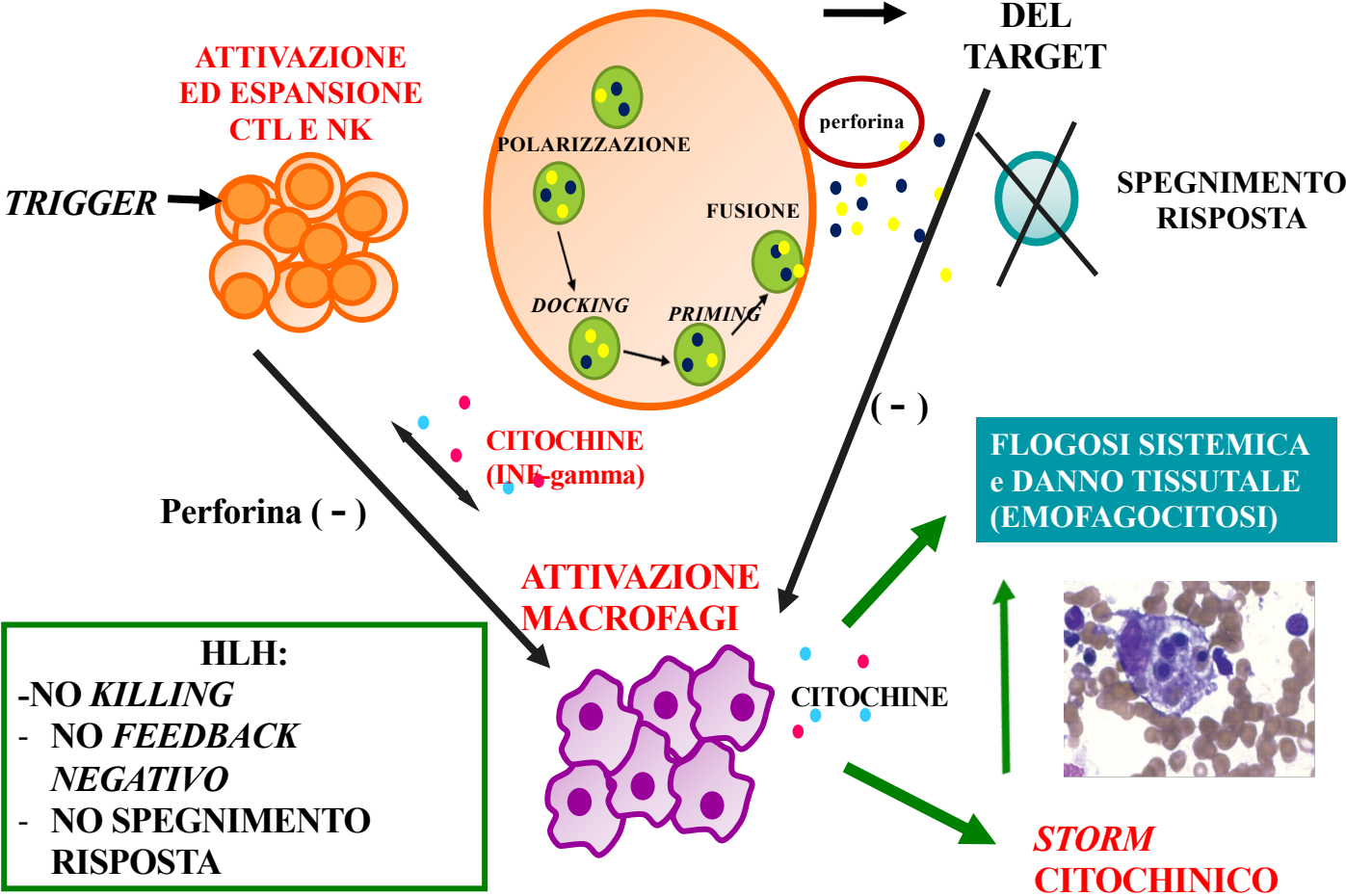
Progression to **disseminated intravascular coagulation**

- vascular occlusion
- catastrophic hemorrhages
- dyspnea
- hypoxemia
- hypotension

takotsubo-like cardiomyopathy  
**vasodilatory shock, and death.**



**RISPOSTA IMMUNITARIA NORMALE**



**HLH:**  
-NO KILLING  
- NO FEEDBACK NEGATIVO  
- NO SPEGNIMENTO RISPOSTA

# THERAPY

## Prospective Study of Rituximab in Chemotherapy- Dependent HIV-ass- MCD: ANRS I17 CastlemaB Trial

**AIM:** To evaluate the efficacy of **four weekly rituximab infusions (375 mg/m<sup>2</sup>)** after discontinuation of chemotherapy in HIV-associated MCD,  
**WHO: 24 pts**  
**Prospective** open-label trial.

Patient No.	Delay From MCD Diagnosis (months)	Associated KS	No. of Previous Different Chemotherapy Regimens	Splenectomy	MCD Treatment at Entry	Outcome at Day 365
1	7	No	1	No	Vinblastine	Alive, SR
2	20	No	2	No	Vinblastine	Alive, SR
3	8	No	2	No	Etoposide	Alive, SR
4	76	Yes	5	No	Etoposide	Death, day 15
5	7	Yes	5	Yes	Etoposide	Alive, SR
6	7	No	3	No	Etoposide	Failure, day 23
7	31	Yes	2	No	Liposomal doxorubicin	Alive, SR
8	42	Yes	5	Yes	Etoposide	Relapse, day 271
9	8	Yes	2	Yes	Etoposide	Alive, SR
10	4	No	4	No	Etoposide	Alive, SR
11	107	Yes	4	Yes	Etoposide	Alive, SR
12	52	Yes	4	Yes	Etoposide	Death, day 112
13	29	Yes	5	Yes	Liposomal doxorubicin	Alive, SR
14	5	No	1	No	Vinblastine	Alive, SR
15	84	No	5	Yes	Etoposide	Relapse, day 299
16	5	No	3	No	Etoposide	Alive, SR
17	109	No	3	Yes	Etoposide	Alive, SR
18	3	No	2	No	Etoposide	Alive, SR
19	9	No	1	Yes	Etoposide	Relapse, day 76
20	142	Yes	2	Yes	Vinblastine	Alive, SR
21	7	No	2	No	Etoposide	Alive, SR
22	22	Yes	1	No	Etoposide	Alive, SR
23	73	Yes	5	Yes	Etoposide	Relapse, day 173
24	26	Yes	2	No	Etoposide	Alive, SR

In another cohort study of 61 patients with HIVMCD

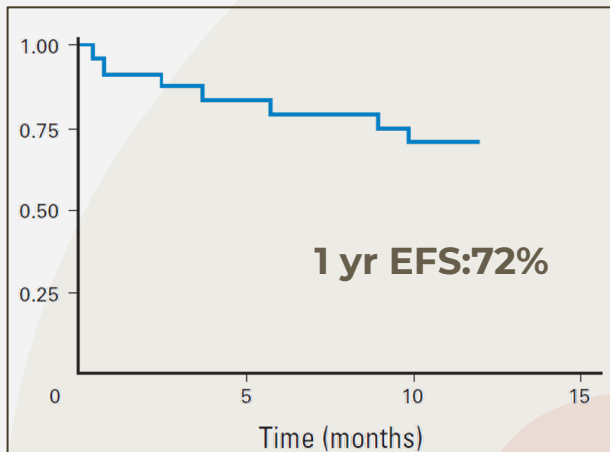
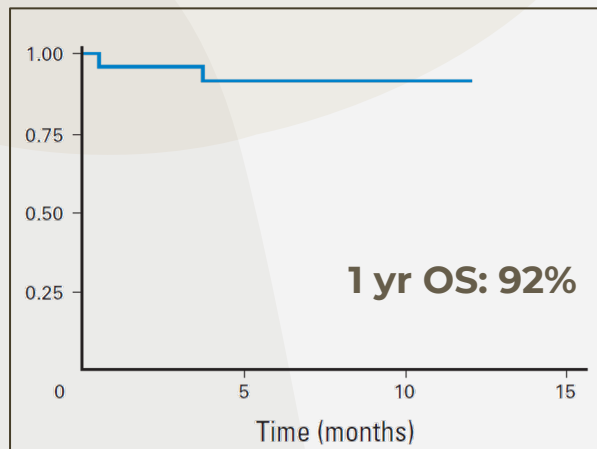
OS of 46 pts treated with rituximab-based treatment

**90% at 5 yrs vrs 33% before the introduction of rituximab**

# THERAPY

## Prospective Study of Rituximab in Chemotherapy- Dependent HIV-ass- MCD: ANRS 117 CastlemaB Trial

D+60: 22 pts alive and free of  
MCD-related symptoms after discontinuation of  
chemotherapy → SR rate of 92%



All the pts were in cART

**WARNING 1** relapse.

**WARNING 2** Exacerbation of KS  
lesions was noted in eight of 12  
patients who had a previous  
history of KS



Treatment modified according the severity of the  
disease



in the rituximab studies, worsening KS was  
observed in 35% to 67% of pts with baseline KS. v

# THERAPY

**WARNING 1** relapse.

**KSHV  
MCD**

PS 0-1  
No end organ damage

PS  $\geq$  2  
end organ damage

Rituximab

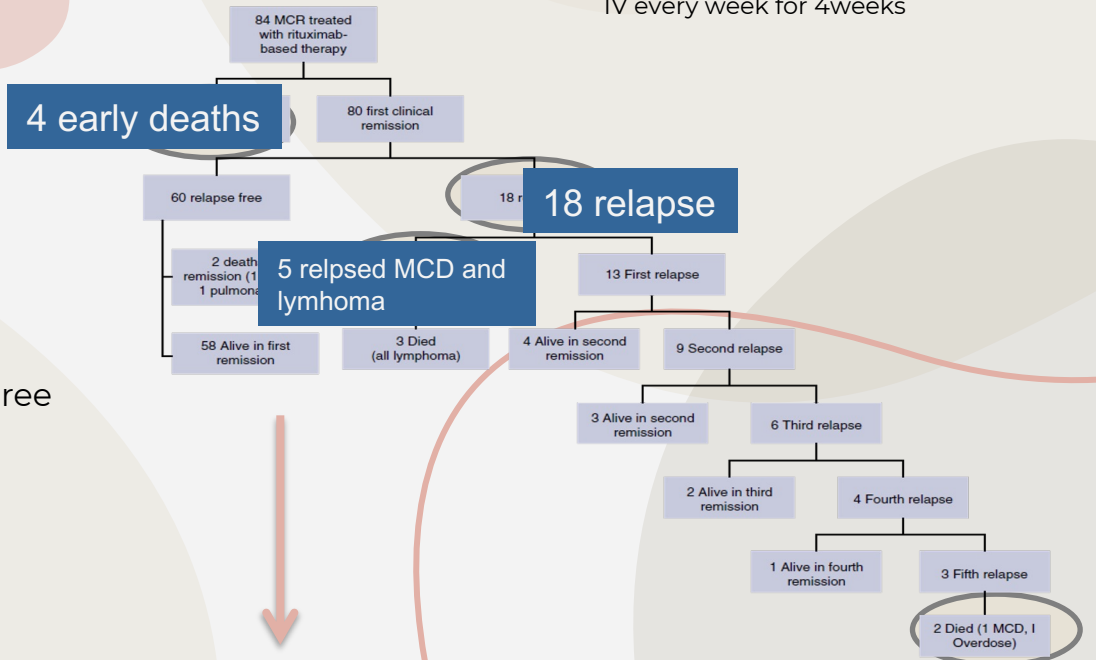
Etoposide and  
Rituximab

rituximab, 375mg/m<sup>2</sup>;  
etoposide, 100mg/m<sup>2</sup> both administered  
IV every week for 4weeks

## Relapse of HHV8-positive multicentric Castleman disease following rituximab-based therapy in HIV-positive patients

### Follow up:

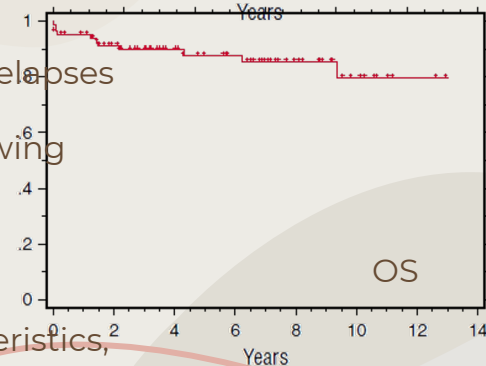
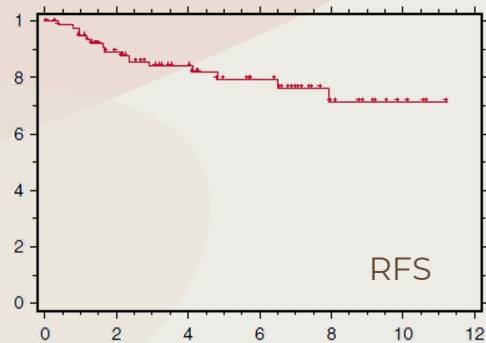
- clinical examination and blood tests
  - plasma HHV8 viral
  - Radiological examinations for relapse are based on symptoms and laboratory findings
  - relapses are confirmed by repeat biopsy and histological examination
- Every three mnths



# Relapse of HHV8-positive multicentric Castleman disease following rituximab-based therapy in HIV-positive patients

## THERAPY

- With a median follow-up of 6.9 years, **5-year OS for the entire cohort is 88%**
- Four patients died of progressive refractory MCD **before completing** the 4-week course of treatment and only 1 other patient died of MCD following 5 relapses
- 5 patients developed HHV8-associated **lymphoma**. The relapse rate at 5 years following first remission is 18%, and all achieved a second remission
- the **median time to first relapse** is 30 months; all pts with detectable viremia
- **The risk of relapse** of HIV/MCD was not significantly influenced by patient characteristics, use of cART, plasma HIV viral load, or lymphocyte subset counts
- Retreatment of patients with **histologically confirmed** HIV/MCD relapse with rituximab-based therapy achieved second remissions



# THERAPY

## Rituximab plus liposomal doxorubicin in HIV-infected patients with KSHV-aMCD

### RESPONSE

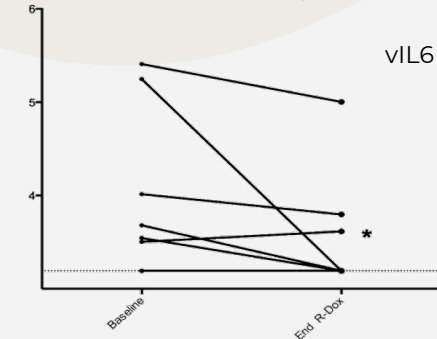
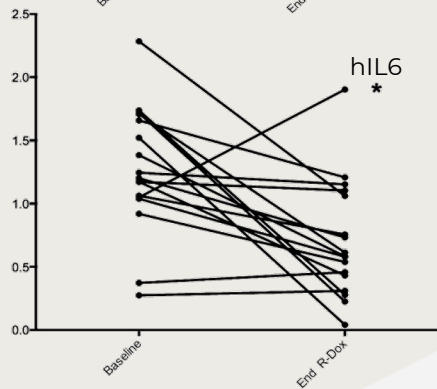
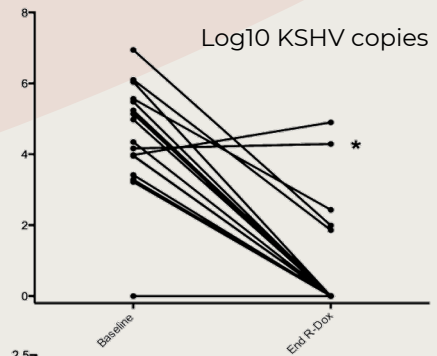
NCI-KSHV-MCD Response Criteria

Response category	Response	n(%)
Clinical response	Complete response	15 (88)
	Symptom-free disease	1 (6)
	Progressive disease§	1 (6)
	Major clinical response*	16 (94)
Biochemical response	Complete response	13 (76)
	Partial response	2 (12)
	Major biochemical response†	15 (88)
	Stable disease	1 (6)
Radiographic response	Complete response	
	Nodes	13 (76)
	Spleen	8 (47)
	Partial response	
	Nodes	4 (24)
	Spleen	7 (41)
	Major radiographic response‡	15 (88)
	Stable disease (spleen)	1 (6)
	Progressive disease§ (spleen)	1 (6)
Overall response	Complete response	5 (29)
	Partial response	9 (53)
	Stable disease	2 (12)
	Progressive disease§	1 (6)
KSHV-MCD Clinical Benefic Criteria	Complete response	14 (82)
	Partial response	1 (6)
	Stable disease	1 (6)
	Progressive disease	1 (6)

- **recurrent symptomatic KSHV-MCD** requiring therapy developed in 4 patients. Improved predictive factors for recurrence are needed
- The roles of **consolidation or maintenance therapy** as well as optimal management of patients with residual radiographic findings or elevated KSHV viral load remain areas of clinical uncertainty

Supplemental Table 2: Kaposi sarcoma (KS) response in 12 patients with baseline KS or History of KS

Patient	Previous cutaneous KS	Baseline cutaneous KS	Baseline lymph node KS	Response end R-Dox (# cycles)	Response criteria	Consolidation (months)	Response long-term follow-up	Months follow-up	Response criteria
1 (BK)	N	T <sub>1</sub>	Y	PR (5)	A	LD (14)	PR <sup>+</sup>	60	A
2 (ML)	N	T <sub>1</sub>	Y	CI (6)	C	None	CW	3.5	C
3 (TK)	N	T <sub>0</sub>	Y	CI (5)	C	IFN (10)	PR/cCR <sup>†</sup>	85	A
4 (CC)	N	T <sub>0</sub>	N	CI (7)	C	IFN (1)	CW/PR <sup>‡</sup>	55	A
3 (RP)	N	T <sub>1</sub>	Y	SD (5)	A	AZT/VGC (4)	PD <sup>§</sup>	42	A
6 (DW)	N	T <sub>0</sub>	N	PR (3)	A	IFN (4)	SD	6	A
7 (GB)	N	N	Y	NED (3)	-	IFN (10)	NED	91	A
8 (MC)	Y	N	Y	NED (3)	-	IFN (10)	NED	91	A
9 (MA)	N	N	Y	PD/PR <sup>  </sup> (3)	A	None	Lost to follow up	5	-
10 (KW)	N	N	Y	NED (5)	-	IFN (0.5)	NED	36	A
11 (JG)	Y	N	N	NED (3)	-	IFN (10)	NED	69	A
12 (RD)	Y	N	N	NED (4)	-	AZT/VGC (7)	NED	57	A







# KSHVaMCD, THERAPY



**cART      RITUXIMAB      ETOPOSIDE      L-DOXOR.**

HIVaMCD ECOG 0-1  
Cut KS Y/N

✓

✓

×

×

HIVaMCD ECOG>2; EOD  
Cut KS Y/N

✓

✓

✓



?

HIVaMCD ECOG 0-1  
Visc KS Y

✓

✓

?

✓

HIVaMCD ECOG ≥2  
Visc KS Y

✓

✓

✓

Multidisciplinary  
approach



- Att.ne! Un numero non indifferente di pazienti **muore durante le prime fasi del trattamento!**
- Att.ne!! A monitoraggio delle lesioni cutanee!
- Non dimenticarsi delle recidive anche dopo anni!
- Manteniamo monitoraggio per possibilità di avere linfomi HHV8 relati!

# KSHV INFLAMMATORY CYTOKINE SYNDROME (KICS)

First described 2010

## DEFINITION:

- clinical symptoms and systemic inflammation, but **without KSHV-MCD**
- High KSHV viremia and levels of hIL-6, vIL-6, and IL-10 comparable to those seen in active KSHVMCD, significantly elevated compared with controls with KS only
- Mortality is high despite therapies directed at KSHV replication (including valganciclovir) or at KSHV-related tumors (including liposomal doxorubicin).

1. Clinical manifestations	
a. Symptoms	b. Laboratory abnormalities
Fever	Anemia
Fatigue	Thrombocytopenia
Edema	Hypoalbuminemia
Cachexia	Hyponatremia
Respiratory symptoms	c. Radiographic abnormalities
Gastrointestinal disturbance	Lymphadenopathy
Athralgia and myalgia	Splenomegaly
Altered mental state	Hepatomegaly
Neuropathy with or without pain	Body cavity effusions
2. Evidence of systemic inflammation	
Elevated C-reactive protein ( $\geq 3$ g/dL)	
3. Evidence of KSHV viral activity	
Elevated KSHV viral load in plasma ( $\geq 1000$ copies/mL) or peripheral blood mononuclear cells ( $\geq 100$ copies/ $10^6$ cells)	
4. No evidence of KSHV-associated multicentric Castleman disease	
Exclusion of MCD requires histopathologic assessment of lymphadenopathy if present.	

**definition of KICS:**  
presence of at least **2 clinical manifestations drawn from at least 2 categories** (1a, b, and c),  
**+ each of the criteria in 2, 3, and 4.**

# KSHV INFLAMMATORY CYTOKINE SYNDROME (KICS)

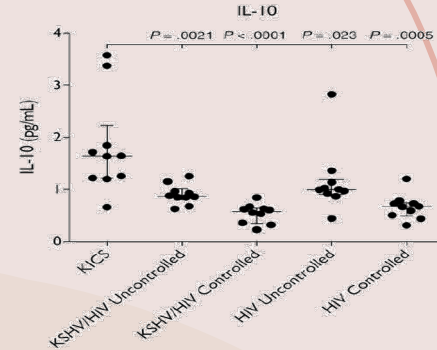
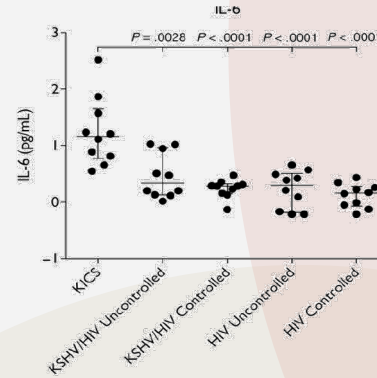
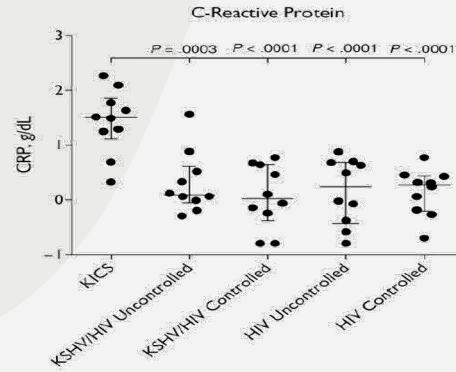
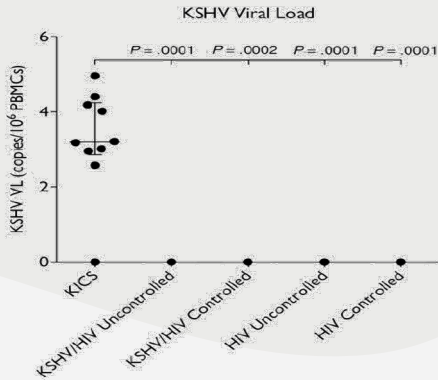
	KSHV and HIV Coinfected Subjects			HIV Infected Subjects	
	KICS Subjects (10)	HIV Uncontrolled (10)	HIV Controlled (10)	HIV Uncontrolled (10)	HIV Controlled (10)
Male sex	10 (100%)	9 (90%)	9 (90%)	8 (80%)	9 (90%)
Age (years)	36 (22–60)	38 (29–50)	46 (34–61)	37 (24–51)	37 (29–51)
Receiving ART	8 (80%)	0	10 (100%)	0	10 (100%)
HIV VL (copies/mL)	72 (<50–74 375)	61 600 (12 100–1 190 000)	<50 (<50–<50)	35 686 (1425–500 000)	<50 (<50–459)
CD4 (cells/ $\mu$ L)	88 (7–1308)	324 (75–568)	568 (261–972)	375 (12–860)	307 (100–577)

## CRITICALLY ILL PTS

	KSHV and HIV Coinfected Subjects						HIV Infected Subjects			
	KICS Subjects (10)		HIV Uncontrolled (10)		HIV Controlled (10)		HIV Uncontrolled (10)		HIV Controlled (10)	
	Abnormal (N, %)	Median, Range	Abnormal (N, %)	Median, Range	Abnormal (N, %)	Median, Range	Abnormal (N, %)	Median, Range	Abnormal (N, %)	Median, Range
KSHV VL (copies/ $10^6$ PBMCs)	NA	1569 (0–90909) <sup>a</sup>	NA	0 (0–1) <i>P</i> = .0001 <sup>b</sup>	NA	0 (0–1) <i>P</i> = .0002 <sup>b</sup>	NA	0 (0–1) <i>P</i> = .0001 <sup>b</sup>	NA	0 (0–1) <i>P</i> = .0001 <sup>b</sup>
C-reactive protein (g/dL)	10 (100%)	37.8 (4.9–185.0)	3 (30%)	1.2 (0.5–36.3) <i>P</i> = .0003 <sup>b</sup>	3 (30%)	1.1 (0.16–5.9) <i>P</i> < .0001 <sup>b</sup>	5 (50%)	2.0 (0.16–7.6) <i>P</i> < .0001 <sup>b</sup>	1 (10%)	1.9 (0.2–5.9) <i>P</i> < .0001 <sup>b</sup>
Hemoglobin (g/dL)	10 (100%)	9.0 (6.5–10.2)	2 (20%)	14.1 (9.5–15.4) <i>P</i> = .0001 <sup>b</sup>	3 (30%)	14.3 (9.5–15.6) <i>P</i> = .0001 <sup>b</sup>	6 (60%)	13.3 (7.4–16.1) <i>P</i> = .0009 <sup>b</sup>	4 (40%)	14.1 (11.1–15.6) <i>P</i> < .0001 <sup>b</sup>
White Cell Count	4 (40%)	5.2 (2.5–13.9)	3 (30%)	5.0 (2.5–7.8) <i>P</i> = .8 <sup>b</sup>	4 (40%)	5.2 (3.5–8.9) <i>P</i> = .91 <sup>b</sup>	4 (40%)	5.7 (1.7–6.6) <i>P</i> = .48 <sup>b</sup>	2 (20%)	5.0 (2.6–8.0) <i>P</i> = .85 <sup>b</sup>
Platelet Count	6 (60%)	138 (27–371)	0	204 (161–286) <i>P</i> = .22 <sup>b</sup>	1 (10%)	211 (156–253) <i>P</i> = .29 <sup>b</sup>	3 (30%)	194 (47–314) <i>P</i> = .74 <sup>b</sup>	1 (10%)	244 (154–291) <i>P</i> = .15 <sup>b</sup>
Albumin	10 (100%)	2.4 (1.6–3.1)	4 (40%)	3.8 (2.5–4.1) <i>P</i> = .0002 <sup>b</sup>	3 (30%)	3.9 (3.3–4.4) <i>P</i> < .0001 <sup>b</sup>	4 (40%)	3.7 (2.2–4.2) <i>P</i> = .0002 <sup>b</sup>	0	4.0 (3.7–4.3) <i>P</i> < .0001 <sup>b</sup>
Sodium	1 (10%)	136 (126–143)	0	138 (135–141) <i>P</i> = .58 <sup>b</sup>	1 (10%)	138 (133–140) <i>P</i> = .34 <sup>b</sup>	0	139 (135–144) <i>P</i> = .29 <sup>b</sup>	0	139 (135–140) <i>P</i> = .42 <sup>b</sup>

# KSHV INFLAMMATORY CYTOKINE SYNDROME (KICS)

Systemic inflammation, KSHV activation, (IL)-6 and IL-10 elevation in patients with KIC compared with controls



## Other typical characteristics (to guide the clinician):

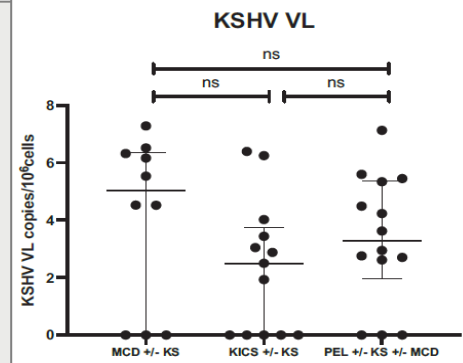
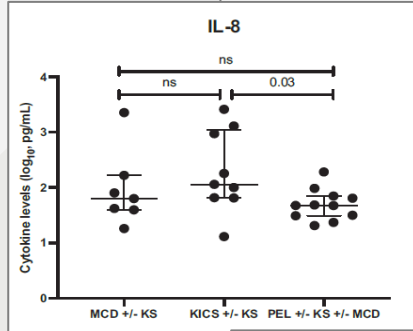
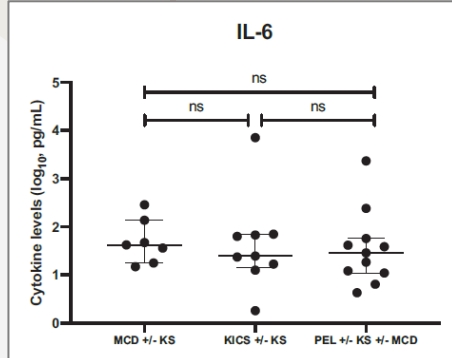
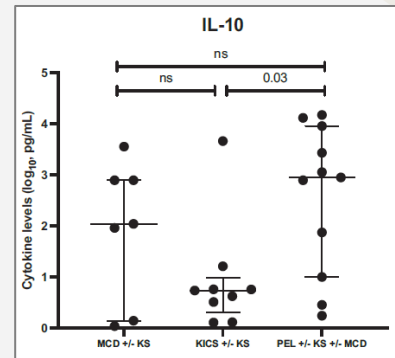
- HIV viremia (high)
- advanced CD4 lymphocytopenia
- the widespread adenopathy and splenomegaly that characterize KSHV-MCD are rare

# Characteristics of patients admitted to the ICU with Kaposi sarcoma herpesvirus-associated diseases

## Retrospective study

**WHO:** Forty-seven patients with KADs admitted to the ICU at the NIH Clinical Center between 2010 and 2021

**HOW:** evaluate the pts at ICU entry and ICU discharge/death



	All patients	Alive at 60 days	Died within 60 days
<b>Reasons for ICU admission [n (%)]</b>			
<i>Respiratory failure</i>			
Alone	26 (55)	17 (52)	9 (64)
+ Hypotension	9 (19)	7 (21)	2 (14)
+ Fever	8 (17)	3 (9)	5 (36)
+ Cardiac condition	2 (4)	2 (6)	0 (0)
+ Altered mental status (AMS)	1 (2)	1 (3)	0 (0)
+ Fever and AMS	2 (4)	1 (3)	1 (7)
+ Fever, hypotension, and AMS	3 (6)	3 (9)	0 (0)
	1 (2)	0 (0)	1 (7)
<i>Hypotension</i>			
Alone	10 (21)	6 (18)	4 (29)
+ Fever	5 (11)	2 (6)	3 (21)
+ Cardiac condition	2 (4)	1 (3)	1 (7)
+ Hemorrhage	1 (2)	1 (3)	0 (0)
<i>Cardiac condition</i>	2 (4)	1 (3)	0 (0)
Alone	4 (9)	4 (12)	0 (0)
+ Fever	2 (4)	2 (6)	0 (0)
+ Fever and AMS	1 (2)	1 (3)	0 (0)
	1 (2)	1 (3)	0 (0)
<b>ICU interventions [n (%)]</b>			
Intubation	16 (34)	7 (21)	9 (64)
CRRT/dialysis/CVVH	13 (28)	8 (24)	5 (36)
Vasopressors	24 (51)	14 (42)	10 (71)
>1 intervention as above	19 (40)	9 (27)	10 (71)
ICU chemotherapy/KAD therapy	20 (43)	13 (39)	7 (50)



# CYTOKINE STORM RELATED SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS/ CRITICALLY ILL PATIENTS

Though none of the cytokine levels were of prognostic value, **the measurement of these cytokines in combination with KSHV viral load levels** may aid critical care and infectious disease teams in **identifying KAD as a potential cause of multiorgan dysfunction** in PWH, especially **when patients present with a sepsis-like clinical picture but no identifiable source of infection**



- INFETTIVOLOGO
- PATOLOGO
- INTENSIVISTA
- CHIRURGO
- INTERNISTA

WORK UP DIAGNOSTICO RAPIDO MA COMPLETO!!

High viral load of KSHV/high level of cyotkines and inflammatory markers +/- HIV+

NO LPD

KICS

Siltuximab/tocilizumab? +  
Etoposide? +  
Rituximab?

PEL

KICS/CRS/HLH PEL ASSOCIATED

DA-EPOCH (R???)

SI LPD

KSHV aMCD

HLH syndrome + KSHVa MCD

R+ ETOPOSIDE, +L-DOXO



# TAKE HOME MESSAGE

- LE PATOLOGIE LINFOPROLIFERATIVE HHV8 RELATE rappresentano un gruppo di **patologie rare MA estremamente complesse**, e spesso sono un «continuum» ;
- Il **trattamento** di molte di queste patologie è a tutt'oggi «**aperto**», tuttavia la maggiore conoscenza della loro patogenesi ci può aiutare ad indirizzare i nostri sforzi terapeutici;
- L'approccio vincente è SICURAMENTE quello **multidisciplinare**. Da soli non bastiamo! E' pertanto indispensabile educare gli altri specialisti e /o internisti alla loro conoscenza perché esse spesso degenerano in situazioni «life-threatening»
  
- Forse è giunto il momento di abolire la definizione di «linfomi AIDS definenti e di sostituirla con «neoplasie associate ad infezione dal virus dell'HIV»



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sono ancora e quelli che sono  
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