



9th POSTGRADUATE
**Lymphoma
Conference**

**Frontline Treatments in DLBCL: Current scenario, ongoing trails
speculations and potential future vision**

Greg Nowakowski MD, FASCO

Mayo Clinic

Florence,
March 20-21, 2025

Hotel Brunelleschi

President:
P.L. Zinzani

Disclosures of Grzegorz S. Nowakowski

Employment: None

Consultancy: AbbVie, ADC Therapeutics, Bantam Pharmaceutical LLC, Blueprint Medicines, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene Corporation, Curis, Debiopharm, F Hoffmann-La Roche Limited, Fate Therapeutics, Genentech, Genmab, Incyte, Karyopharm Therapeutics, Kite Pharma, Kymera Therapeutics, MEI Pharma, MorphoSys AG, Regeneron, Roche, Ryvu Therapeutics, Seagen, Selvita Inc, TG Therapeutics, and Zai Lab Limited

Equity Ownership: None

Research Funding: None

Honoraria: None

Patents & Royalties: None

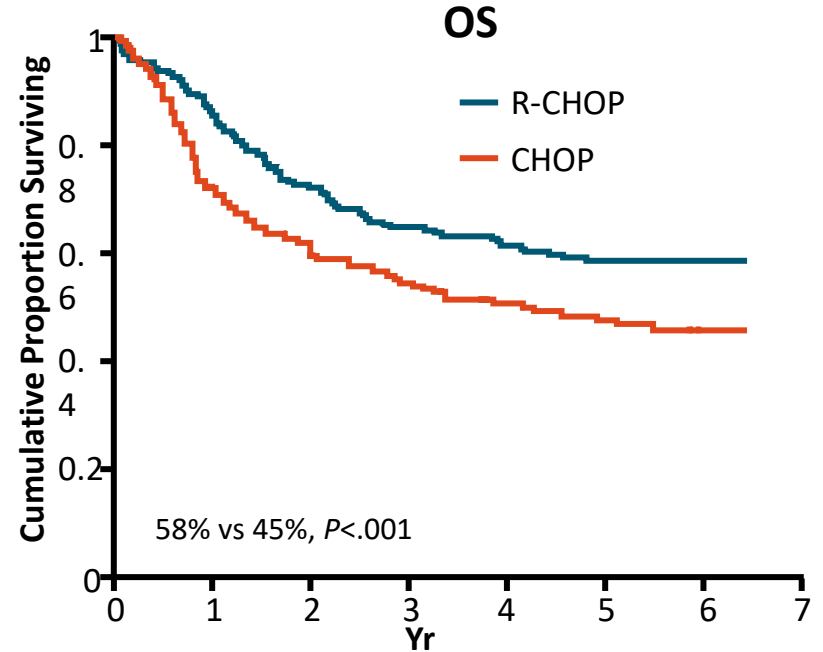
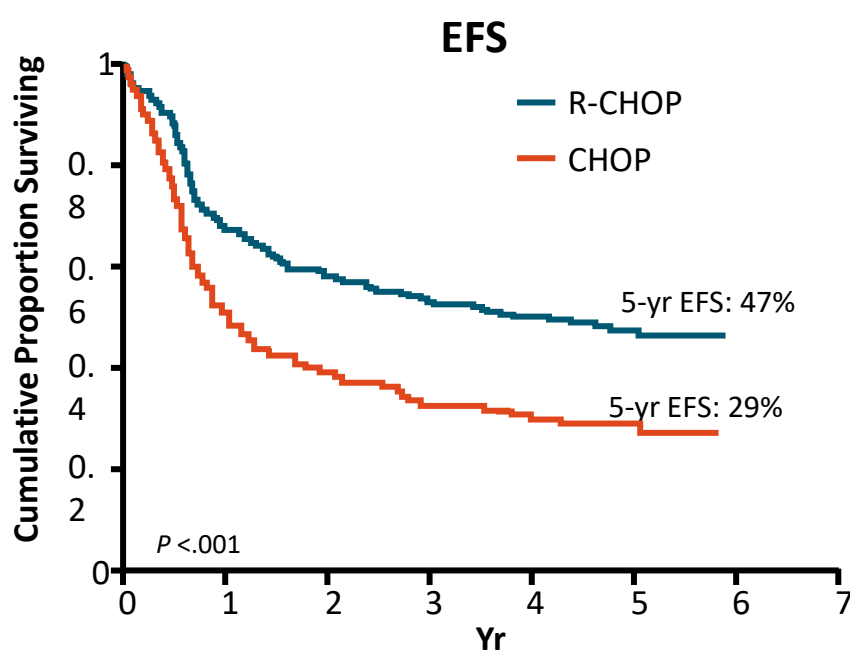
Speakers Bureau: None

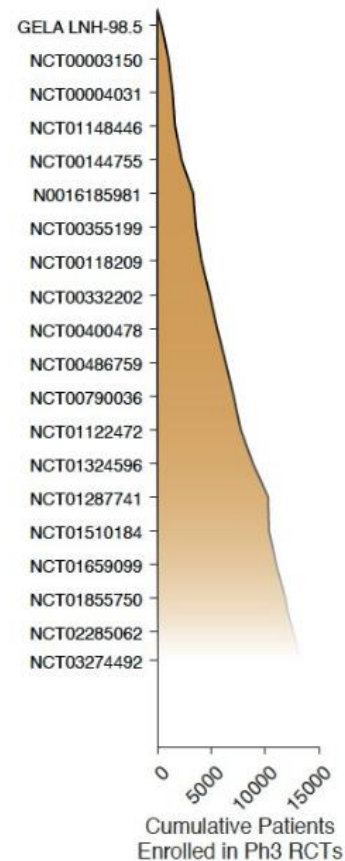
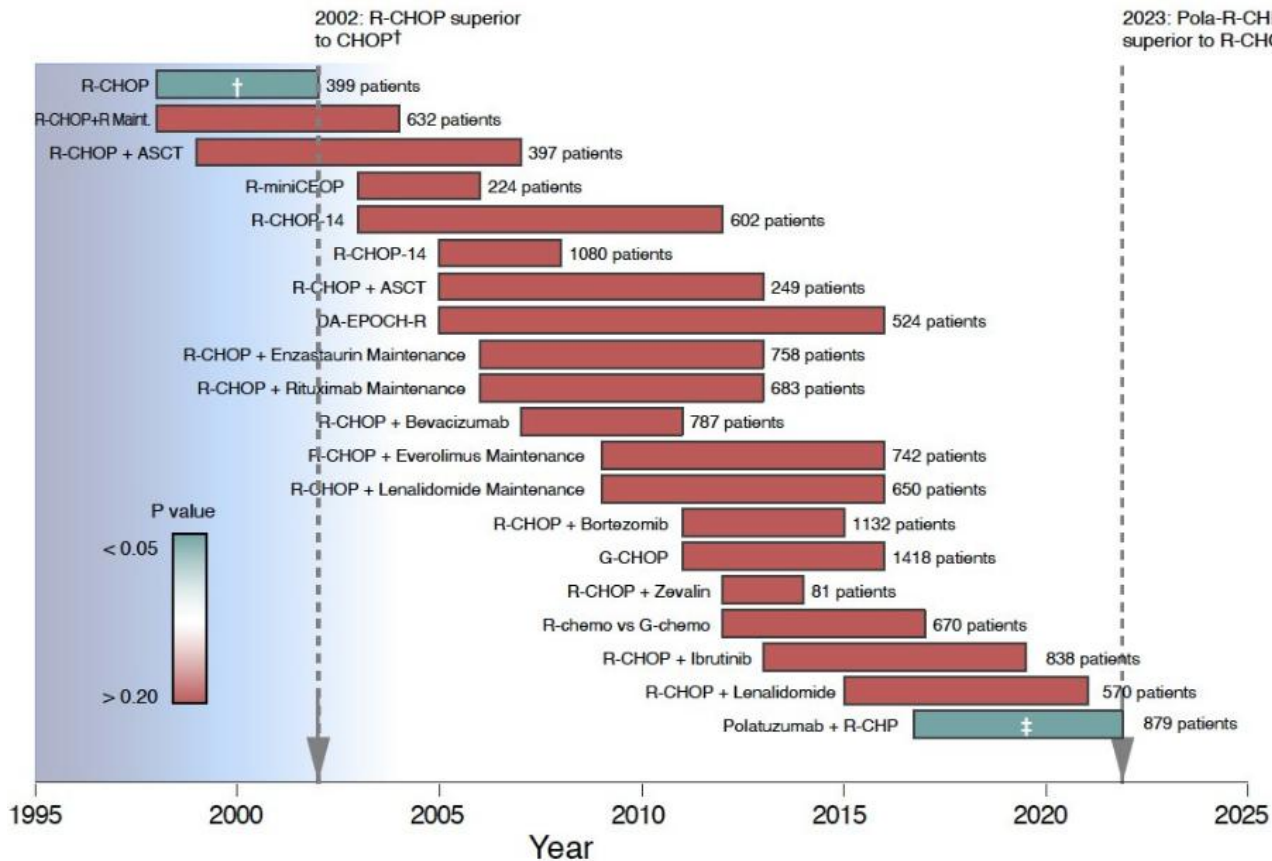
Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or standing advisory committees:

Ryvu Therapeutics, Fate Therapeutics, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Genmab, Genentech, AbbVie, Regeneron, Novou Therapeutics

R-CHOP Has Been the Standard Initial Therapy for DLBCL for >20 Yr

- Long-term outcomes from randomized study of 399 previously untreated patients with DLBCL



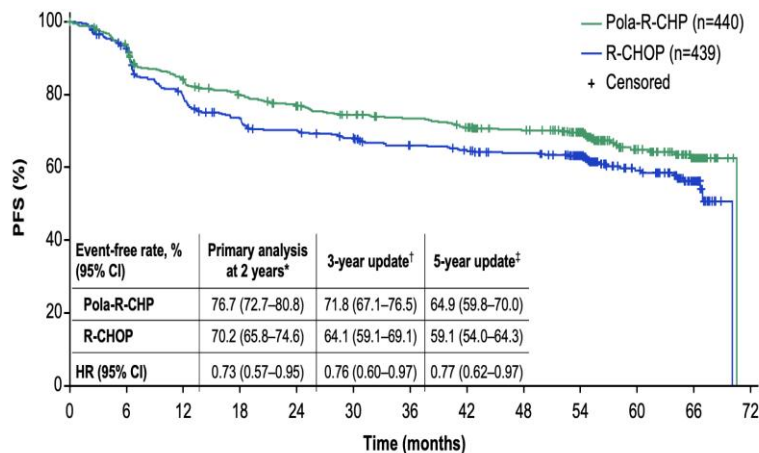


After Alizadeh and Kurtz; NEJM 2023

POLARIX: Polatuzumab Vedotin + R-CHP vs R-CHOP

5-year follow up

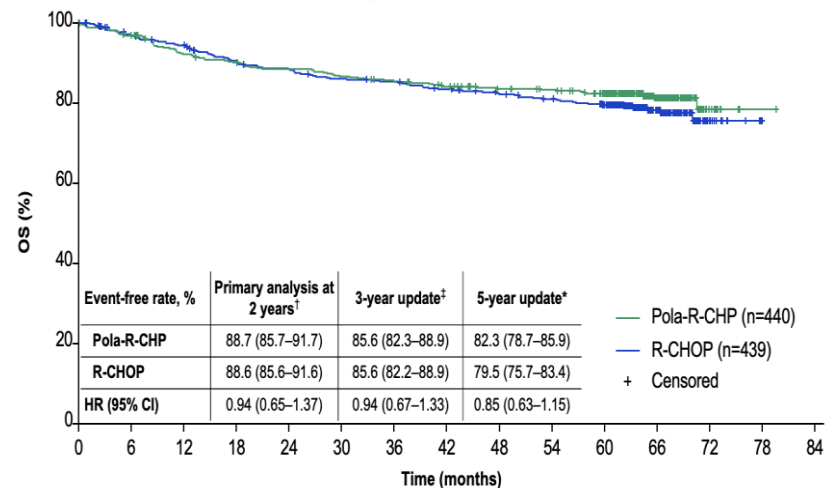
PFS in the global ITT population



Patients remaining at risk

	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72
Pola-R-CHP	440	407	357	335	318	303	292	280	258	213	100	56	NE
R-CHOP	439	391	332	302	287	274	258	251	240	192	95	54	NE

OS in the global population*



Patients remaining at risk

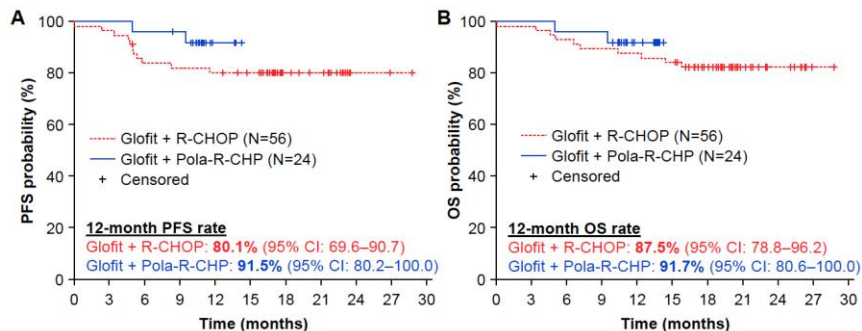
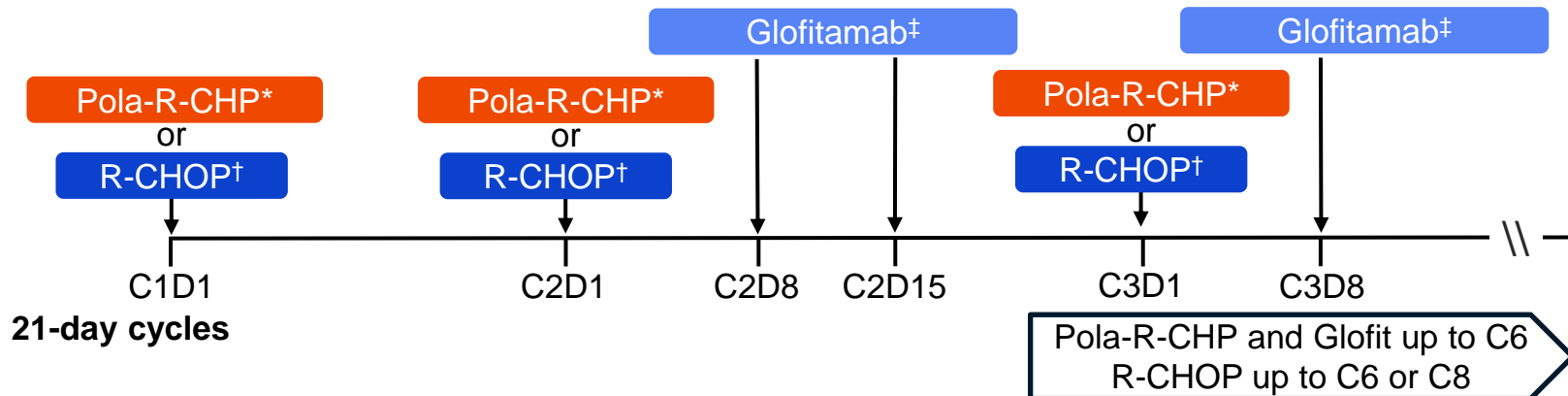
	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84
Pola-R-CHP	440	424	399	389	381	373	366	355	343	338	319	124	12	1	NE
R-CHOP	439	415	403	382	372	361	357	347	338	329	311	128	13	1	NE

Chemoimmunotherapy backbone in clinical trials

RCHOP vs Pola RCHP

Glofit + R-CHOP and Glofit + Pola-R-CHP in 1L DLBCL

Glofit + R-CHOP and Glofit + Pola-R-CHP administration



Time (months)	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30
Glofit + R-CHOP	56	54	46	45	44	40	22	19	2	1	NE
Glofit + Pola-R-CHP	24	24	23	22	3	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE

Time (months)	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30
Glofit + R-CHOP	56	55	52	50	49	47	35	19	12	1	NE
Glofit + Pola-R-CHP	24	24	23	23	11	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE

NCT03467373

SKYGLO (NCT06047080) is a Phase III, multicenter, randomized, open-label trial of Pola-R-CHP with or without glofitamab in 1L LBCL.

Study design

**Previously untreated,
CD20-positive LBCL
N=1130 (planned)**

Patients aged 18-79
yr with previously
untreated DLBCL and
HGL/DHL;
IPI 2- 5

1:1

Arm A: glofitamab + Pola-R-CHP

Pola-R-CHP C1-6

Glofitamab* C2-8

Follow-up

Arm B: Pola-R-CHP

Pola-R-CHP C1-6

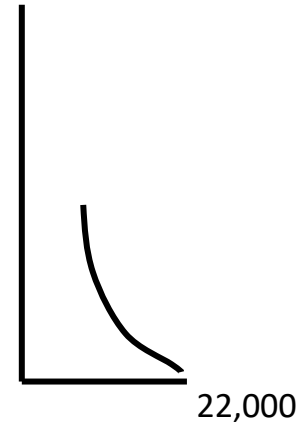
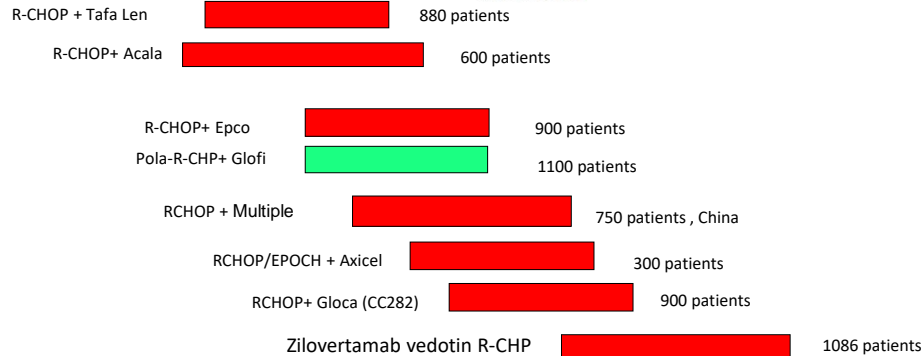
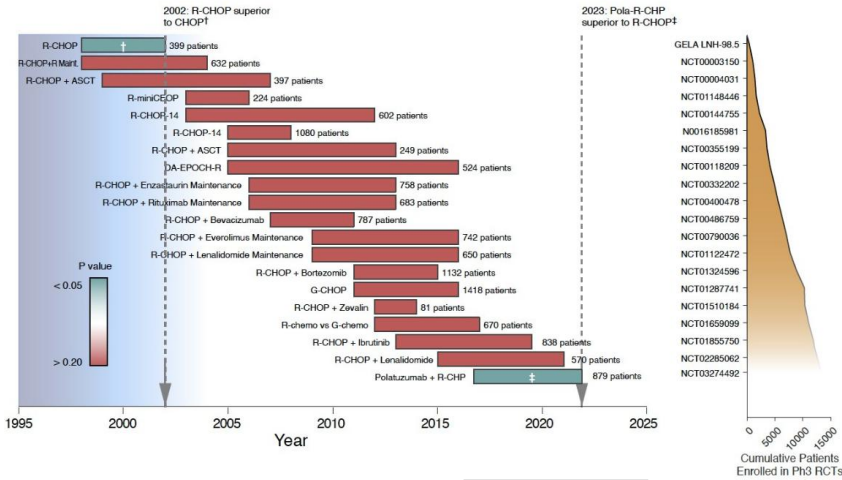
Rituximab C7-8

Follow-up

21-day cycles

*Administered with step-up dosing. C, cycle.

Beyond RCHOP – RCHOP Backbone Dominates in RP3



█ RCHP Backbone

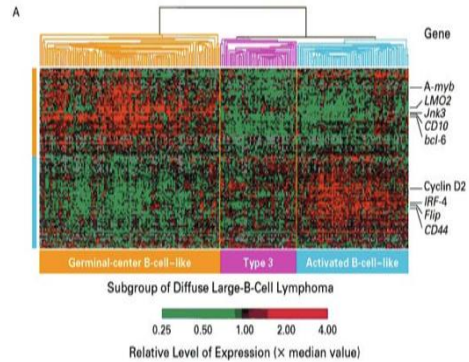
RCHOP vs Pola V-RCHP in ongoing studies

- RCHOP acceptable control arm
 - Studies are complicated depending on region and Pola-V approval status
- Pola-V activity in ABC DLBCL could affect control arm PFS in studies focusing on non-GCB/ABC subtypes

Patient selection:

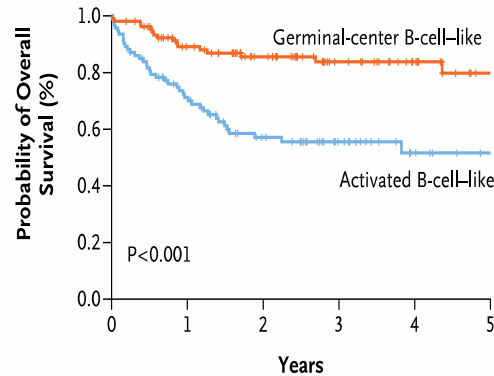
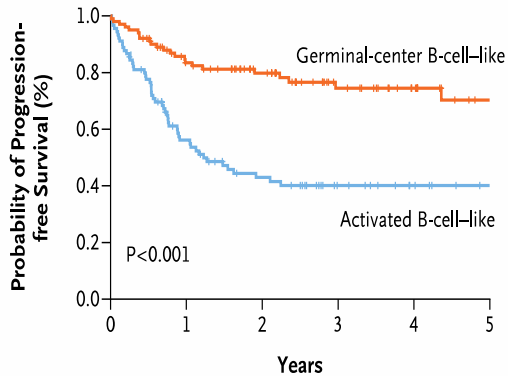
IPI and molecularly driven patient selection

Cell of Origin Subtypes in DLBCL – Over 25 Years in Making



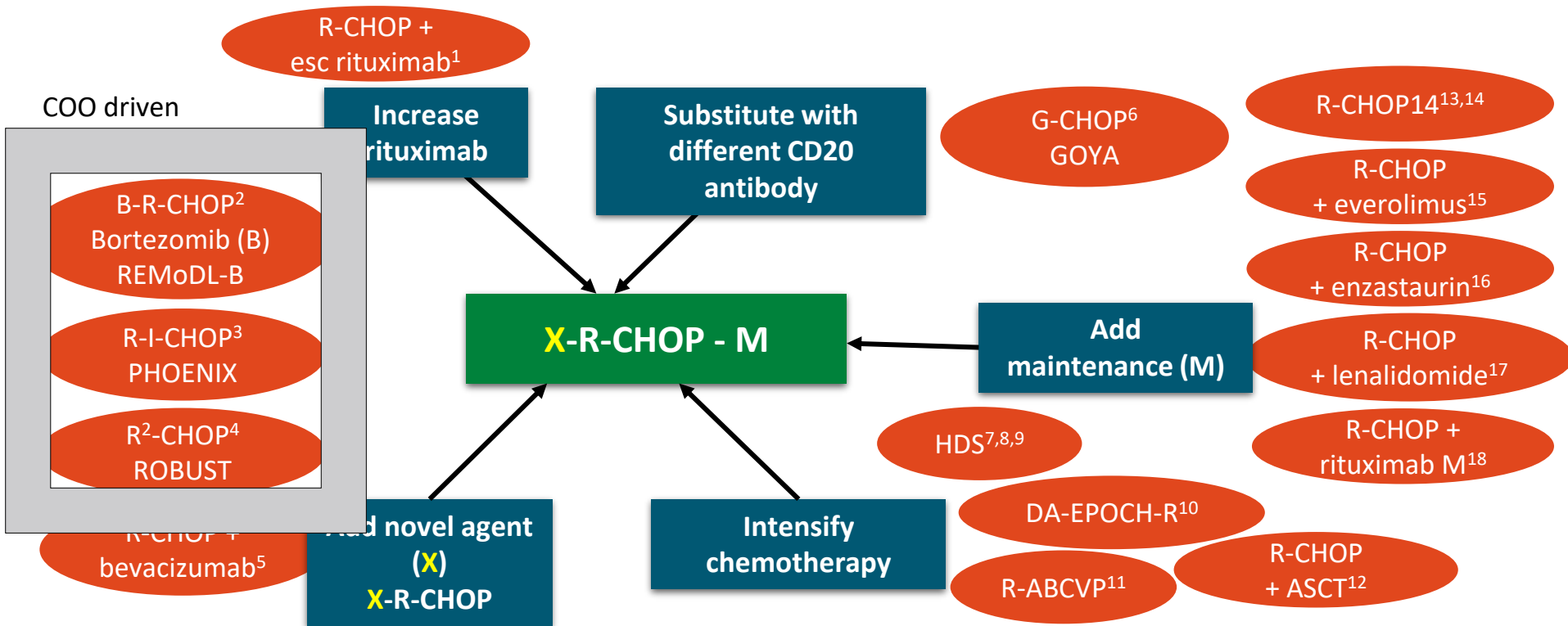
Two major molecular subtypes:

- Activated B-cell like (ABC)
 - B-cell receptor driven
- Germinal center B-cell like (GCB)



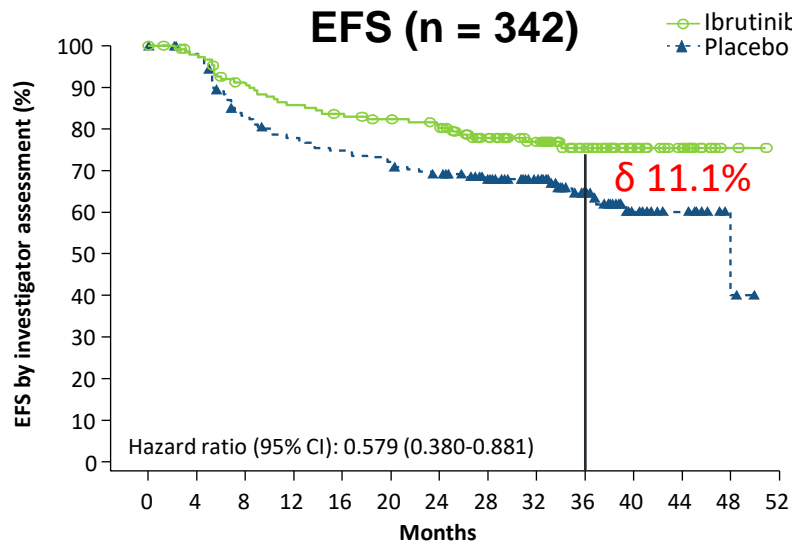
Lenz et al. N Engl J Med 2008;359:2313–2323.

Improving on R-CHOP in DLBCL



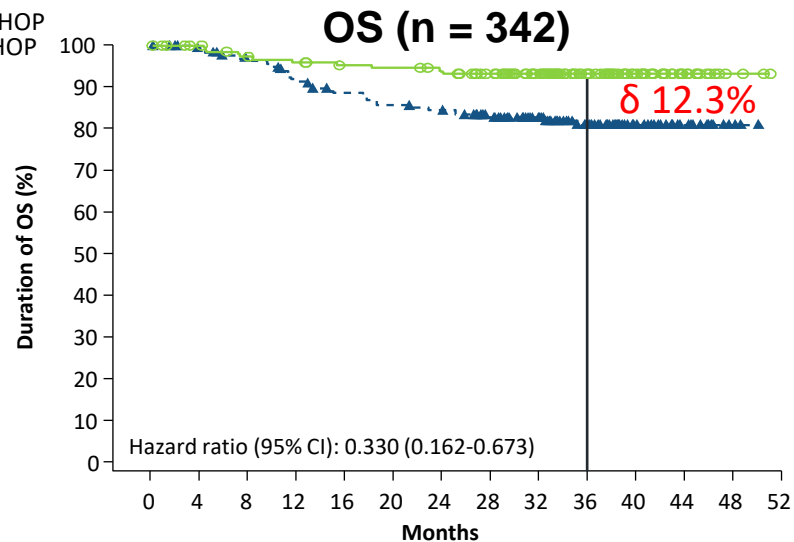
1. He. Cancer Med. 2021;10:7650. 2. Davies. Lancet Oncol. 2019;20:649. 3. Younes. ASH 2018. Abstr 784. 4. Vitolo. ICML 2019. 5. Seymour. Haematologica. 2014;99:1343. 6. Vitolo. JCO. 2017;35:3529. 7. Schmitz. Lancet Oncol. 2012;13:1250. 8. Cortelazzo. JCO. 2016;34:4015. 9. Chiappella. Lancet Oncol. 2017;18:1076. 10. Wilson. Blood. 2016;128:469. 11. Casasnovas. Blood. 2017;130:1315. 12. Stiff. NEJM. 2013;369:1681. 13. Delarue. Lancet Oncol. 2013;14:525. 14. Cunningham. Lancet. 2013;381:1817. 15. Witzig. Ann Oncol. 2018;29:707. 16. Crump. JCO. 2016;34:2484. 17. Thieblemont. JCO. 2017;35:2473. 18. Jaeger. Haematologica 2015;100:955.

EFS and OS in Patients < 60 Years



Patients at risk

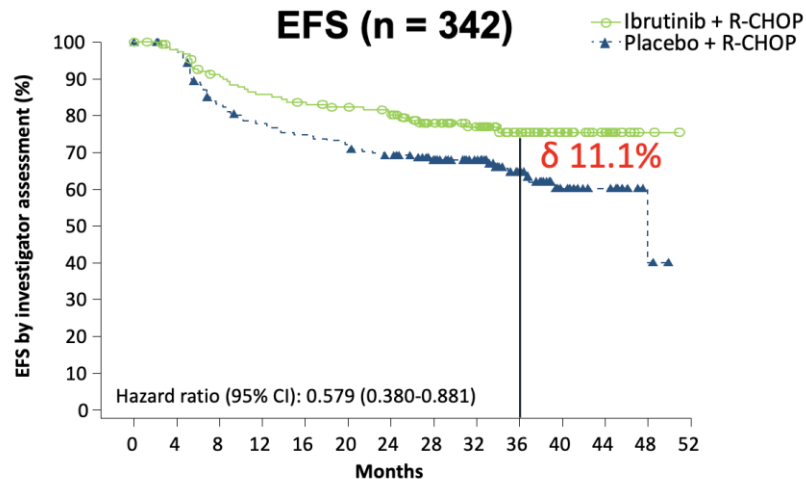
Ibrutinib + R-CHOP	156	146	133	125	121	117	113	93	72	44	27	13	2	0
Placebo + R-CHOP	186	177	148	137	132	127	120	104	78	52	24	16	3	0



Patients at risk

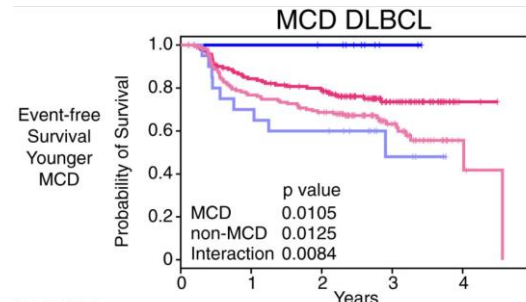
Ibrutinib + R-CHOP	156	151	145	142	138	137	134	125	96	62	39	18	3	0
Placebo + R-CHOP	186	181	173	161	153	148	145	130	101	70	38	21	5	0

Ibrutinib plus RCHOP in Patients < 60 Years and MCD/N1



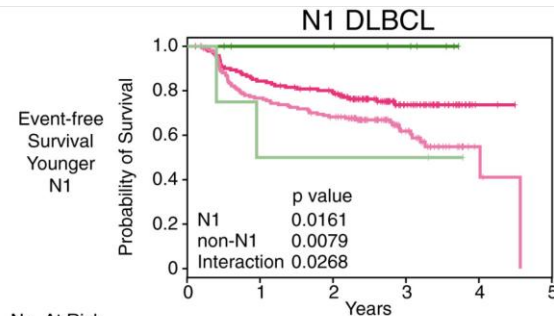
Patients at risk

	0	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48	52
Ibrutinib + R-CHOP	156	146	133	125	121	117	113	93	72	44	27	13	2	0
Placebo + R-CHOP	186	177	148	137	132	127	120	104	78	52	24	16	3	0



No. At Risk	0	1	2	3	4	5
MCD Ibrutinib	11	10	9	2	0	0
Non-MCD Ibrutinib	147	117	106	43	2	0
MCD Placebo	20	14	12	4	0	0
Non-MCD Placebo	157	114	100	41	4	0

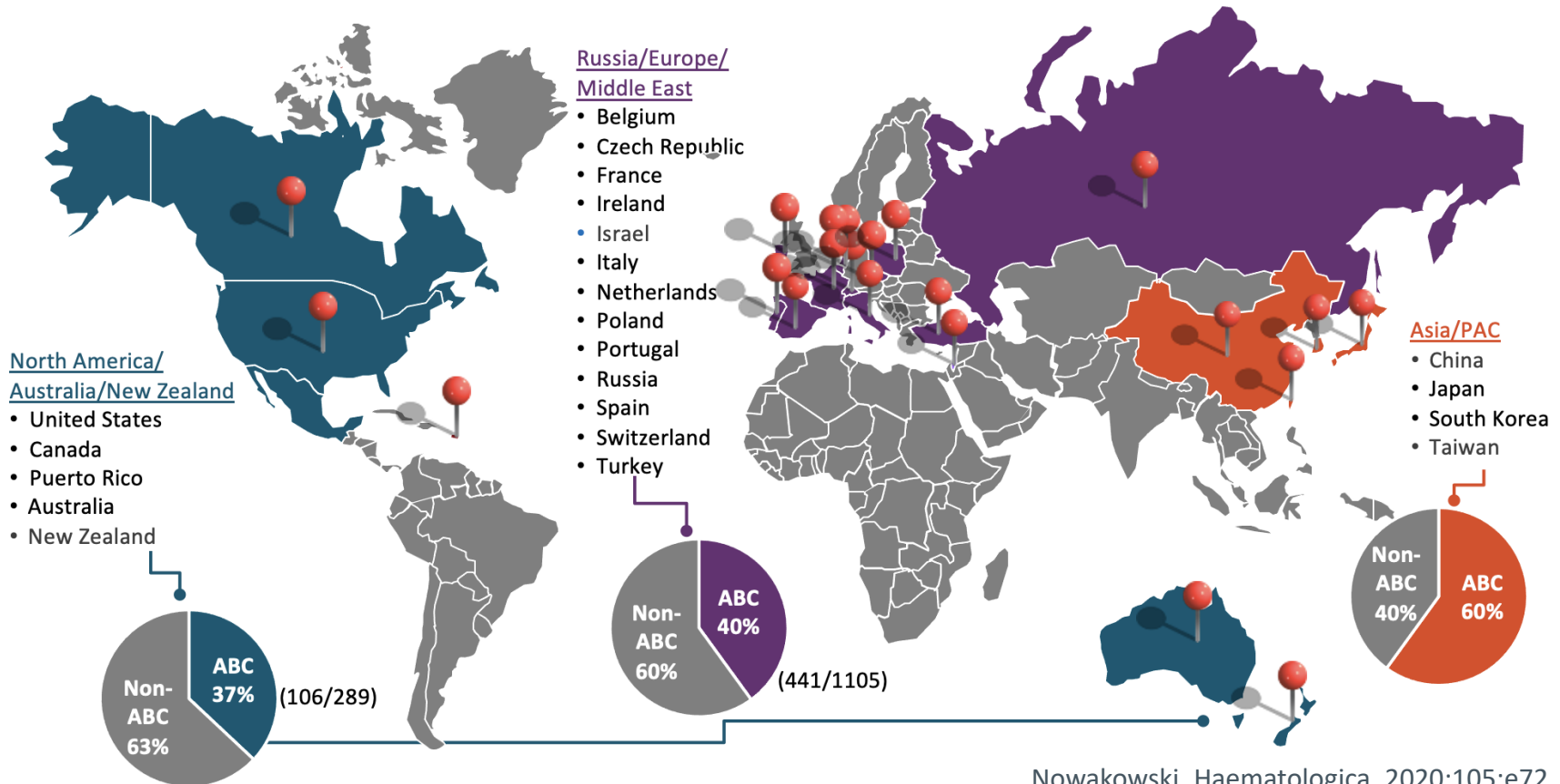
■ MCD Ibrutinib
■ MCD Placebo



No. At Risk	0	1	2	3	4	5
N1 Ibrutinib	9	7	7	5	0	0
Non-N1 Ibrutinib	148	119	107	41	2	0
N1 Placebo	4	2	2	2	0	0
Non-N1 Placebo	174	127	111	43	4	0

■ Non-N1 Ibrutinib
■ Non-N1 Placebo

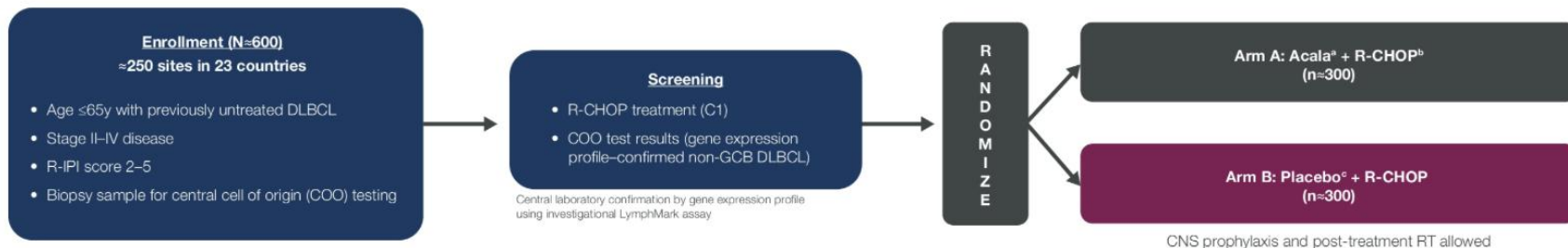
ROBUST Trial: Geographical Distribution of Cell of Origin in DLBCL



BTK inhibitors plus RCHOP approaches

▪ Younger patients

- Phase 3 study, <65 (now 70) yo, non-GCB : Acalabrutinib (A)R-CHOP vs RCHOP (Escalade)

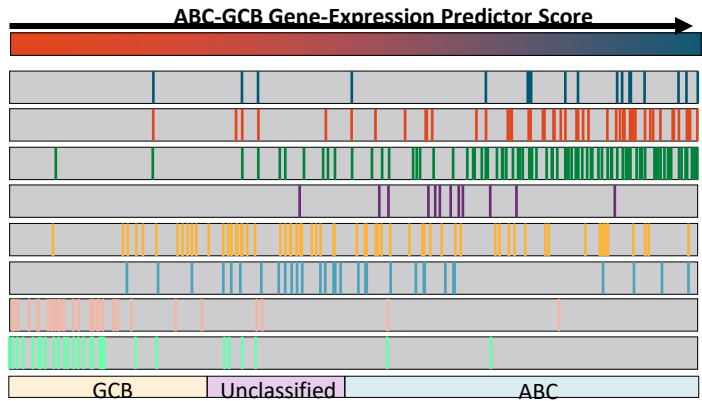


▪ Deeper molecular profiling

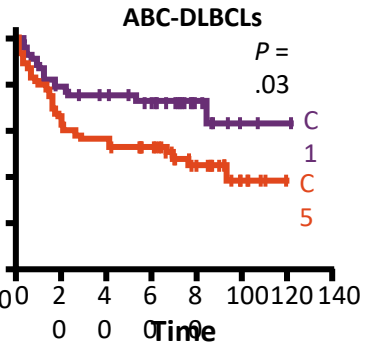
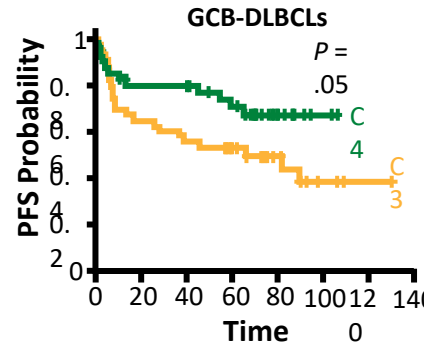
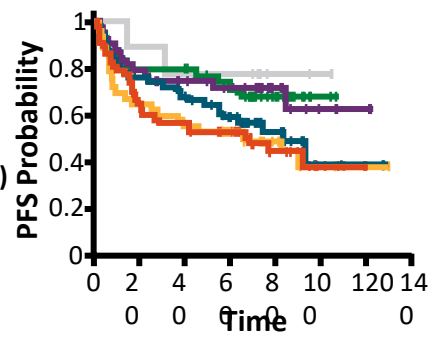
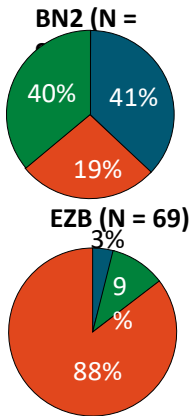
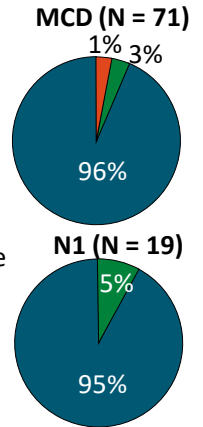
- Phase 3 Orlelabrutinib plus RCHOP vs RCHOP in **MCD subtype** of DLBCL (Belive 01) (NCT05234684) – **stopped**
- Guidance 2 – one of the arms

Integrated Genomic Analyses Identify Subgroups Within and Distinct From Cell of Origin

Genetic Feature	Log ₁₀ P Value	Unclassified Prevalence (%)		
		GCB	Unclassified	ABC
CD79B+MYD88 ^{L265P} Double mutation	-13.8	0.6	6.1	25.4
MYD88 ^{L265P} mutation	-17.0	1.2	7.8	28.8
NOTCH1 mutation	-3.8	0.0	0.9	6.1
BCL6 fusion	-4.1	11.6	33.0	18.6
NOTCH2 mutation	-5.3	3.0	20.0	6.4
BCL2 translocation	-20.4	28.0	5.2	0.7
EZH2 mutation	-12.1	22.0	5.2	1.7

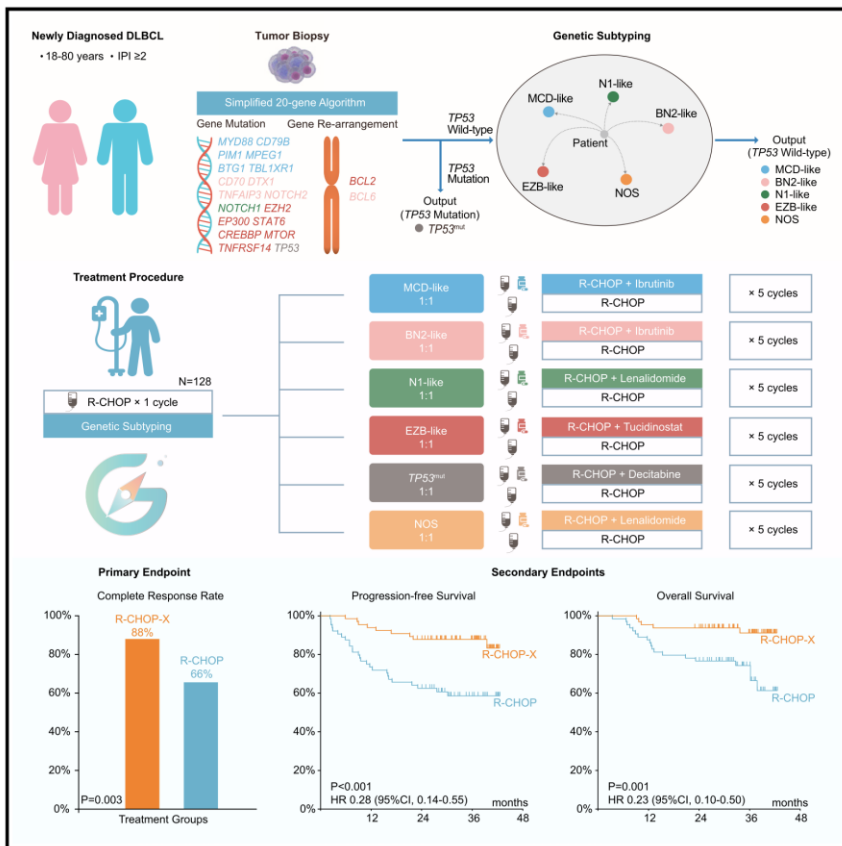


MCD
N1
BN2
EZB



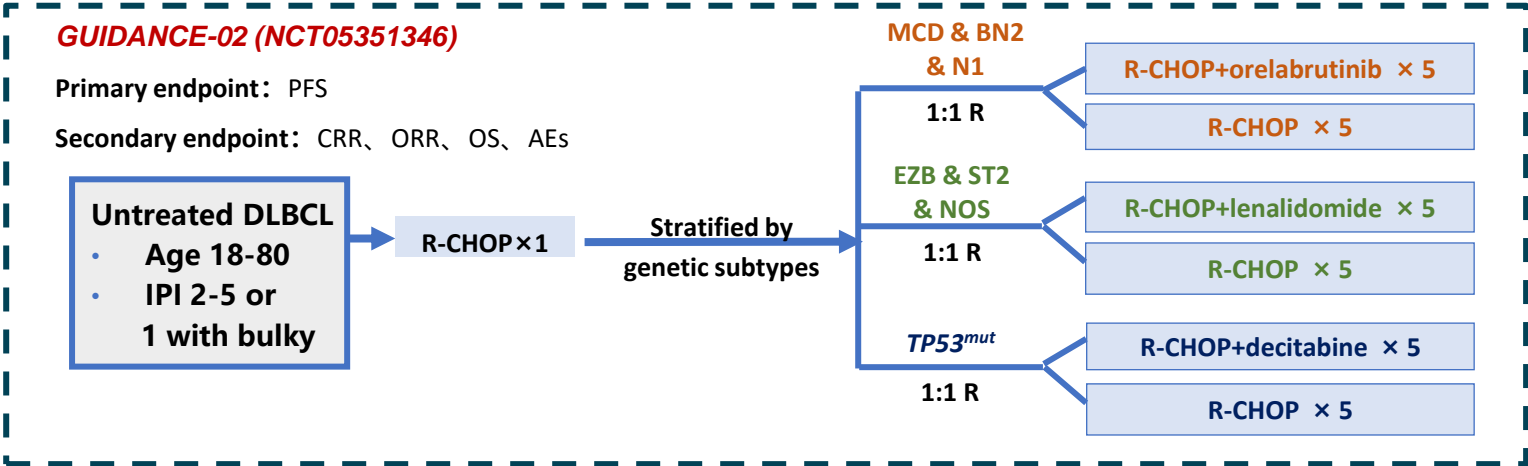
RCHOP vs RCHOP + Molecularly Selected X

Guidance-01

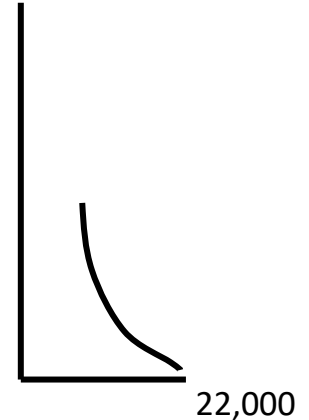
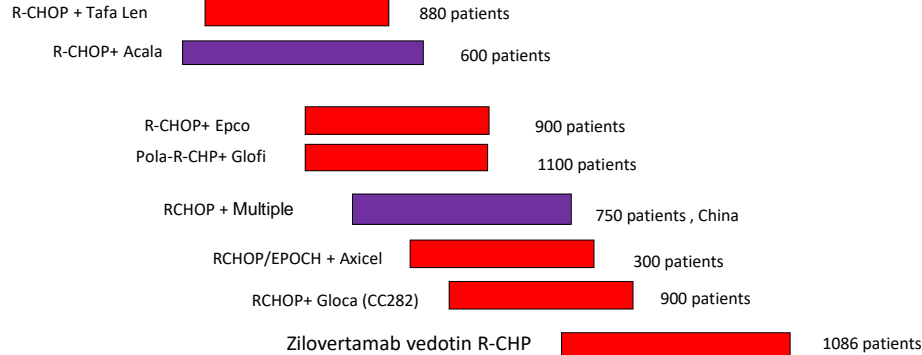
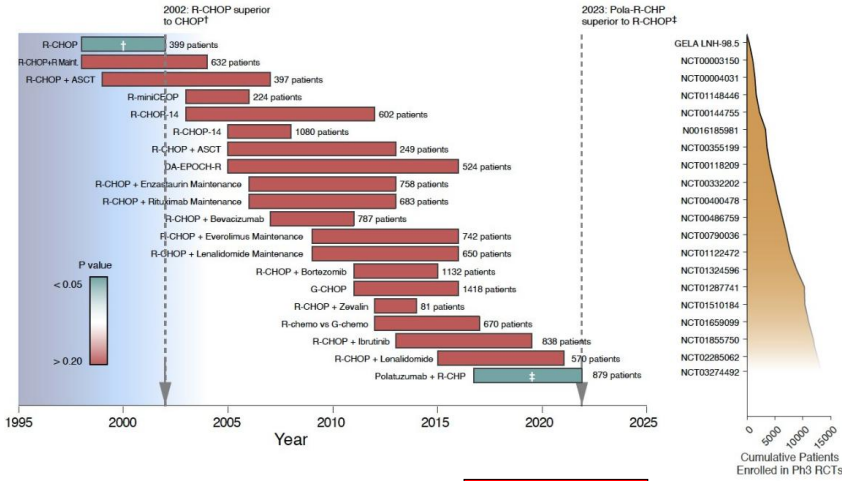


- ECOG-ACRIN working on molecularly targeted design with each arm independently powered
- Major limitation feasibility of molecular assessment
 - Looking into liquid bx vs tissue-based classifier

Ongoing multicenter trials: The *GUIDANCE-02* study



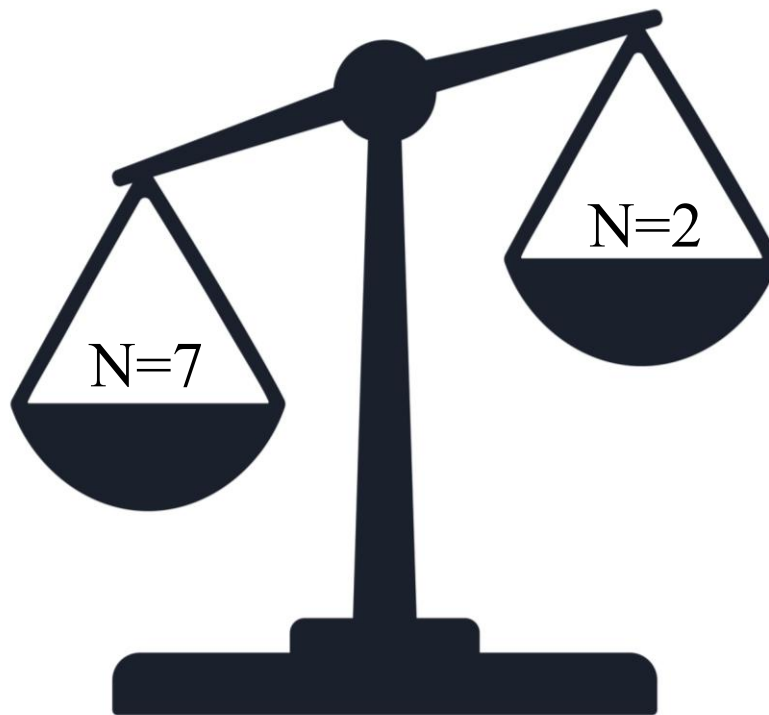
Beyond RCHOP – Subtype Driven vs Agnostic



■ RCHP Molecularly driven

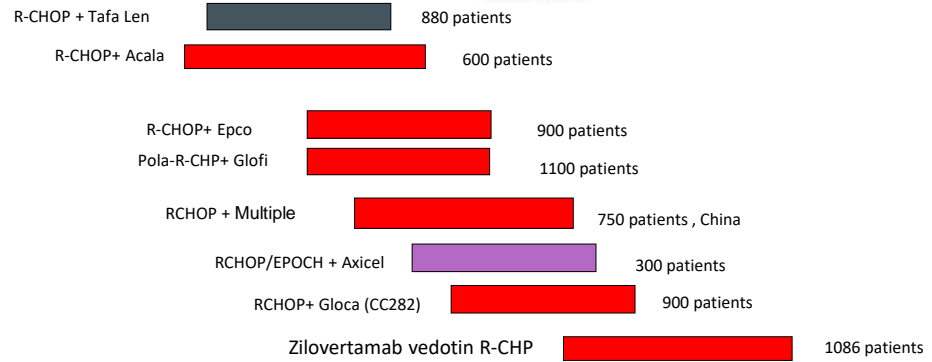
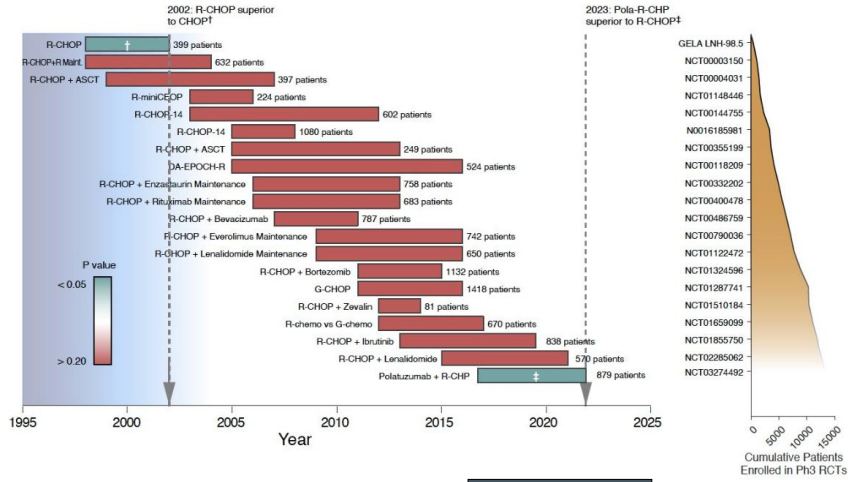
Front Line Subtype Driven vs Agnostic

Biological
subtype
agnostic



Biological
subtype specific

Beyond RCHOP – IPI



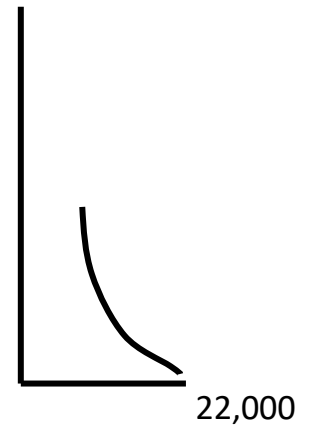
IPI 1*-5

IPI 2-5

IPI 3-5

IPI 4-5

* High risk IPI 1 and 2



High Risk Low IPI in Golcadomide plus RCHOP vs RCHOP Trial

GOLSEEK-1 trial design

Key eligibility criteria

- Previously untreated LBCL (WHO 2022 classification^a)
- IPI 1-2 HR or 3-5
- Age 18-80 years
- ECOG performance status 0-2
- Measurable disease per Lugano response criteria

R
1:1

Stratification factors

- IPI 1-2 HR and 3 vs 4-5
- Bulky disease > 7 cm vs ≤ 7 cm

Golcadomide (0.4 mg) + R-CHOP (6 cycles)

Placebo + R-CHOP (6 cycles)

Primary endpoint

- PFS by investigator

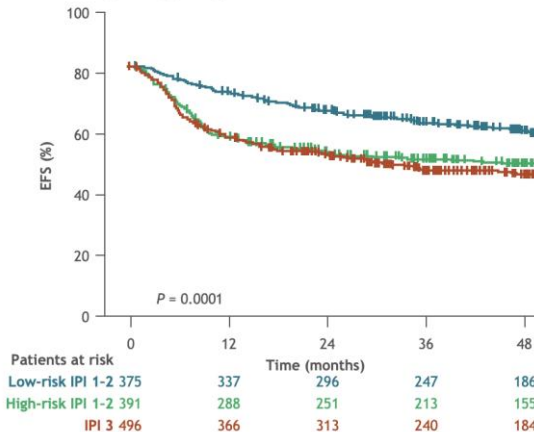
Key secondary endpoints

- OS
- EFS by investigator
- CMR by IRAC
- uMRD at EOT

Vassilakopoulos T, Nowakowski GS. EHA Abstract PB3076.

The presence of bulky disease and/or very high LDH defines a high-risk subset of IPI 1-2 for eligibility in clinical trials of newly diagnosed aggressive B-cell lymphoma.

LEO EFS by IPI group³



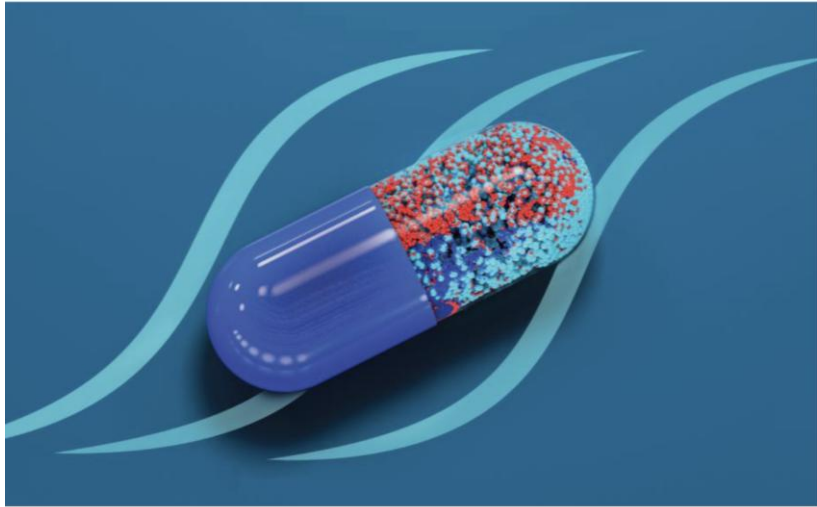
Maurer MJ et al, *Blood* 2023;142(suppl 1):4512-4514

Dose optimization in front like studies – totality of evidence or gut feeling

Project Optimus

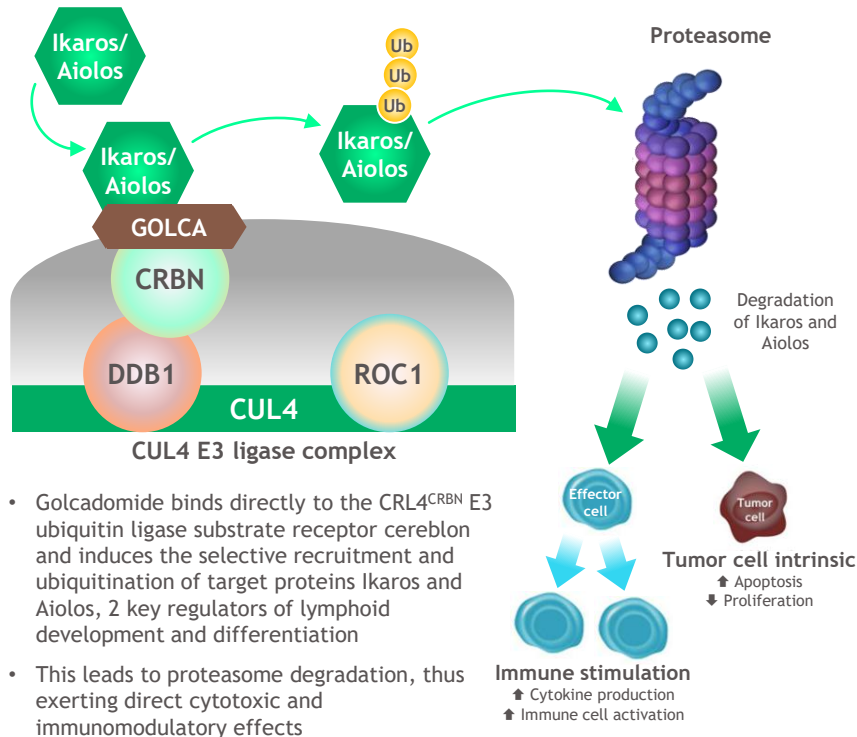
Transforming the dose optimization and dose selection paradigm in oncology

[f Share](#) [X Post](#) [in LinkedIn](#) [✉ Email](#) [🖨 Print](#)



Golcadomide as a potential first-in-class oral CELMoD™ agent for NHL

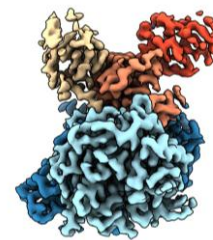
Mechanism of action¹



- Golcadomide binds directly to the CRL4^{CRBN} E3 ubiquitin ligase substrate receptor cereblon and induces the selective recruitment and ubiquitination of target proteins Ikaros and Aiolos, 2 key regulators of lymphoid development and differentiation
- This leads to proteasome degradation, thus exerting direct cytotoxic and immunomodulatory effects

Allosteric regulation of cereblon¹

Inactive/open cereblon
No Ikaros/Aiolos bound

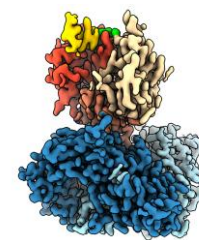


80
%
0
%

Lenalidomide

Golcadomide

Active/closed cereblon
Ikaros/Aiolos bound



20
%
100
%

- Recent cryo-EM data indicate that the cereblon complex has both an *open, inactive state* and a *closed, active state*¹
- Due to the unique binding modes of golcadomide, it is significantly more efficient than lenalidomide at driving the closed conformation,¹ leading to deeper and more rapid degradation of Ikaros/Aiolos

CELMoD, cereblon E3 ligase modulator; CRBN, cereblon; CRL4^{CRBN}, CRL4 E3 ubiquitin ligase complex; CUL, cullin; cryo-EM, cryo-electron microscopy; DDB, DNA damage-binding protein; GOLCA, golcadomide; ROC, regulator of cullins; Ub, ubiquitin.

1. Bristol Myers Squibb. Data on file - study report 06C74.

Example of small molecule optimization – Golcadomide (CC282)

Screening period

Key eligibility criteria

- Age ≥ 18 years
- Diagnosis of a-BCL
- Measurable lesion ≥ 1.5 cm (CT/MRI)
- Previously untreated
- ECOG PS 0-2
- IPI score
 - Part 1: 0-5
 - Part 2: 2-5

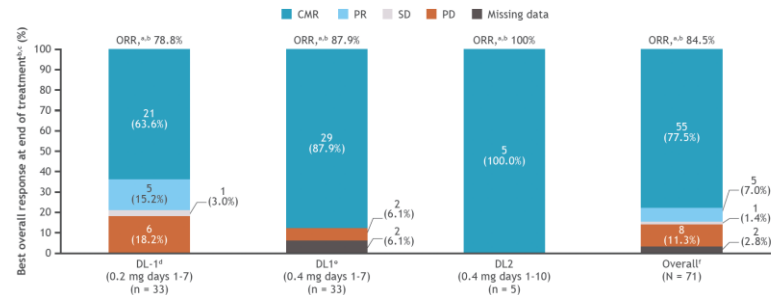
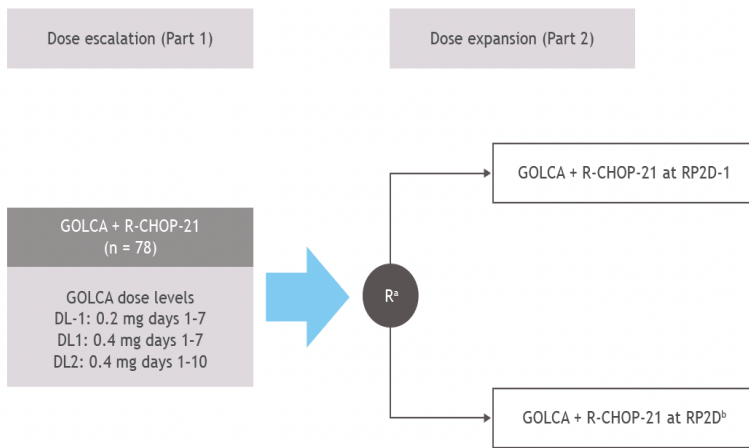
Primary endpoints

- Part 1: MTD, RP2D
- Part 2: Safety and tolerability at RP2D

Secondary efficacy endpoints

- Best ORR, CMRR, DOR, PFS, OS

Treatment period



	GOLCA		Cyclophosphamide		Doxorubicin		Vincristine	
	DL-1 ^a (n = 35)	DL1 ^b (n = 37)	DL-1 ^a (n = 35)	DL1 ^b (n = 37)	DL-1 ^a (n = 35)	DL1 ^b (n = 37)	DL-1 ^a (n = 35)	DL1 ^b (n = 37)
Median relative dose intensity, %	98.4	97.1	98.4	98.9	99.4	99.1	92.8	99.2
Proportion of patients with relative dose intensity ≥ 85%, n (%)	32 (91.4)	31 (83.8)	32 (91.4)	33 (89.2)	31 (88.6)	35 (94.6)	23 (65.7)	32 (86.5)

a-BCL defined according to World Health Organization 2016 classification, including: DLBCL, high-grade B-cell lymphoma with MYC and BCL2 and/or BCL6 rearrangements, primary mediastinal BCL, primary cutaneous DLBCL-leg type, ALK-positive large BCL, EBV-positive DLBCL, and grade 3b FL.

^aRandomization for the purpose of dose optimization; ^bThe safety review committee may reconsider the RP2D in regard to emergent AEs experienced from cycle 1 day 1 through completion of cycle 6.

a-BCL, aggressive B-cell lymphoma; AE, adverse event; ALK, anaplastic lymphoma kinase; BCL, B-cell lymphoma; CMRR, complete metabolic response rate; DL, dose level; DOR, duration of response; EBV, Epstein-Barr virus; FL, follicular lymphoma; MTD, maximum tolerated dose; ORR, overall response rate; OS, overall survival; R, randomization; R-CHOP-21, rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, and prednisone in 21-day cycles; RP2D, recommended phase 2 dose; RP2D-1, 1 step below recommended phase 2 dose.

Golcadomide (CC282) plus RCHOP vs RCHOP in Newly Diagnosed LBCL

GOLSEEK-1 trial design

Key eligibility criteria

- Previously untreated LBCL (WHO 2022 classification^a)
- IPI 1-2 HR or 3-5
- Age 18-80 years
- ECOG performance status 0-2
- Measurable disease per Lugano response criteria

R
1:1

Stratification factors

- IPI 1-2 HR and 3 vs 4-5
- Bulky disease > 7 cm vs ≤ 7 cm

Golcadomide (0.4 mg) + R-CHOP (6 cycles)

Placebo + R-CHOP (6 cycles)

Primary endpoint

- PFS by investigator

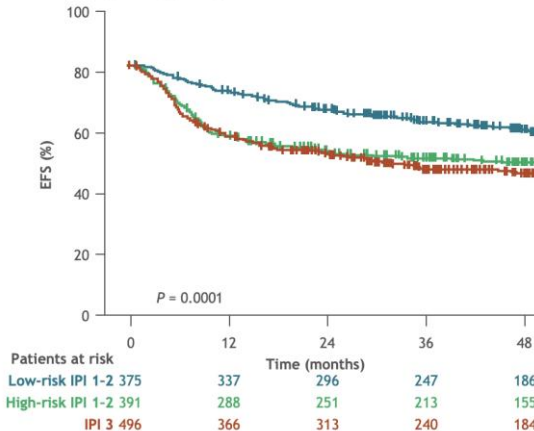
Key secondary endpoints

- OS
- EFS by investigator
- CMR by IRAC
- uMRD at EOT

Vassilakopoulos T, Nowakowski GS. EHA Abstract PB3076.

The presence of bulky disease and/or very high LDH defines a high-risk subset of IPI 1-2 for eligibility in clinical trials of newly diagnosed aggressive B-cell lymphoma.

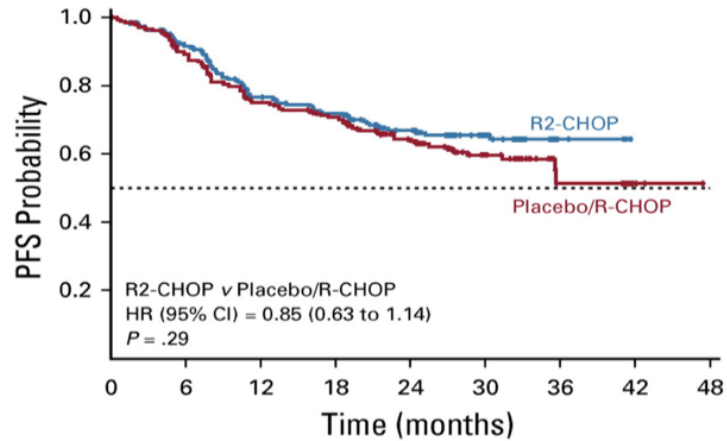
LEO EFS by IPI group³



Maurer MJ et al, *Blood* 2023;142(suppl 1):4512-4514

Results of Randomized Studies of Lenalidomide Plus RCHOP (R2CHOP) vs. RCHOP

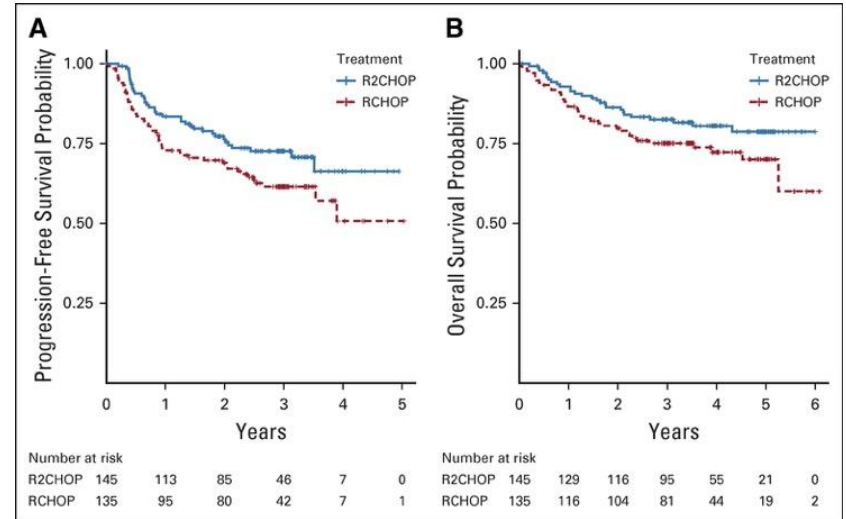
Robust



Number at Risk

	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48
R2-CHOP	285	221	178	162	119	57	10	0	
Placebo/R-CHOP	285	229	187	173	111	55	10	3	0

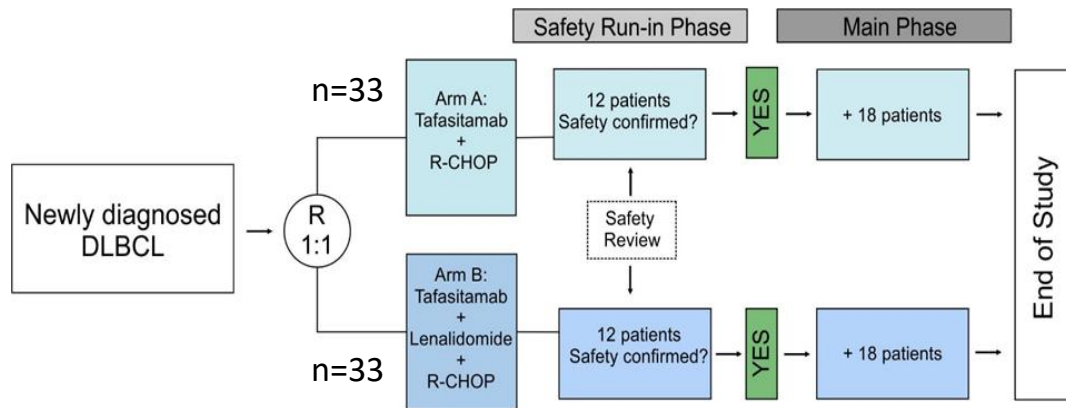
E1412



Nowakowski GS et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2021Feb23;JCO2001366.

Nowakowski GS et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2021 Feb 8;JCO2001375

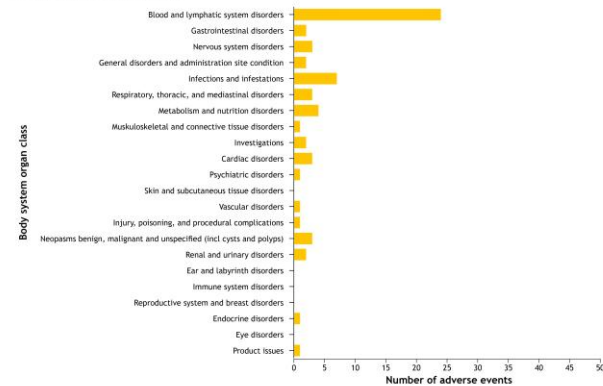
Example of Doublet Optimization: First-MIND Trial – RCHOP/R2CHOP (E1412 Dose) Plus Tafasitamab



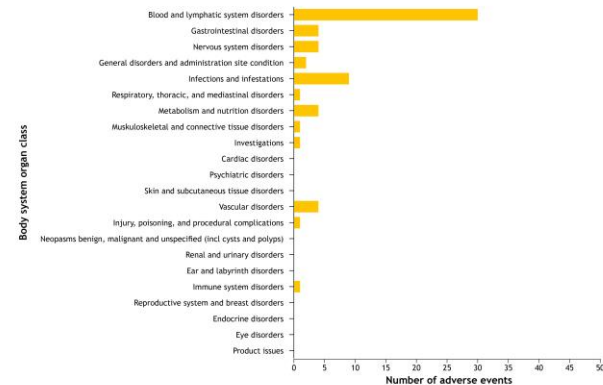
- Neutropenia and thrombocytopenia more common in arm B but no increase in neutropenic fever/infections
- Discontinuations due to AEs rare and not different
- average relative dose intensity of R-CHOP
- ORR at EOT was 75.8% (arm a) vs 81.8% (arm B)

Figure 1: Grade ≥3 TEAEs by system organ class and toxicity grade

Arm A: Tafasitamab + R-CHOP

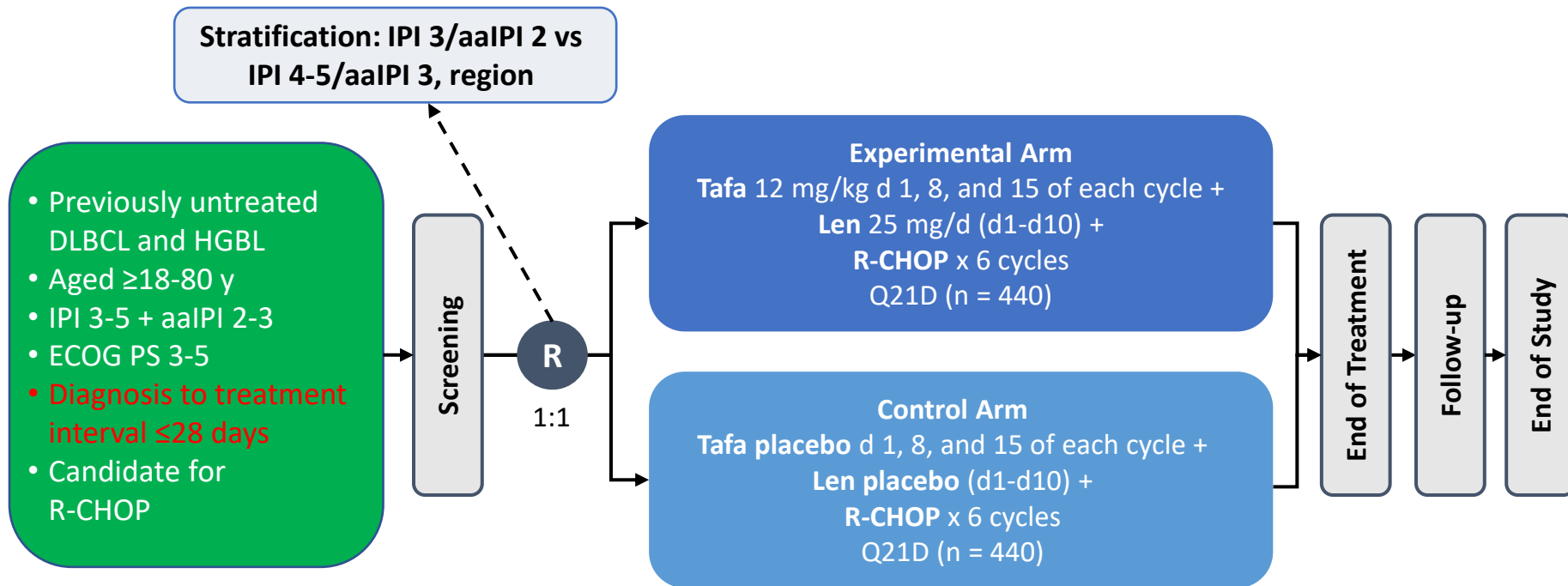


Arm B: Tafasitamab + Lenalidomide + R-CHOP



Front-MIND Newly Diagnosed DLBCL

Phase 3 Trial



Time from Diagnosis to Therapy and Outcome in DLBCL

Figure 1a) Mayo/Iowa SPORE DTI Distribution

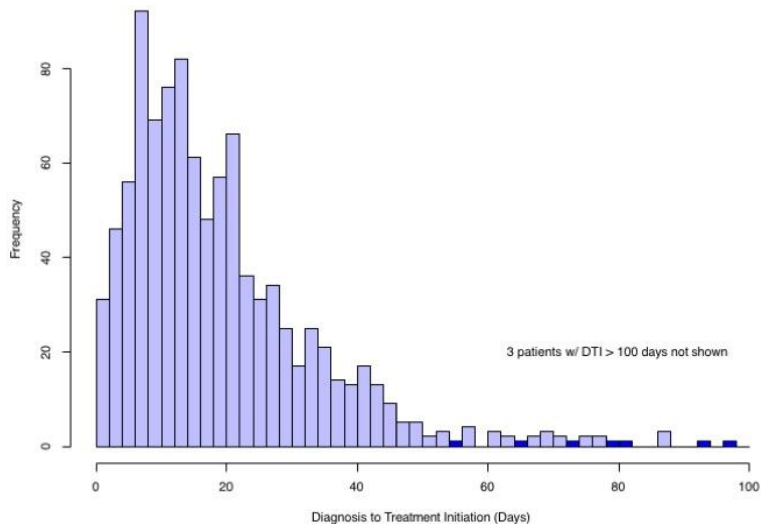
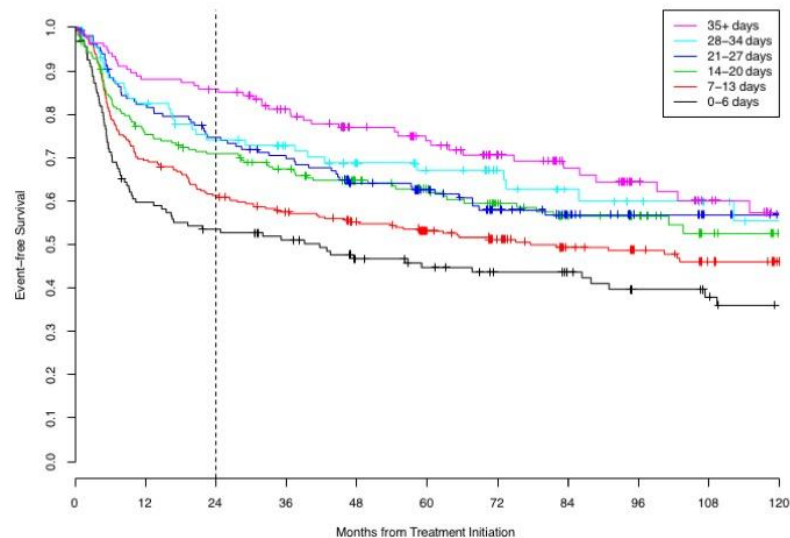
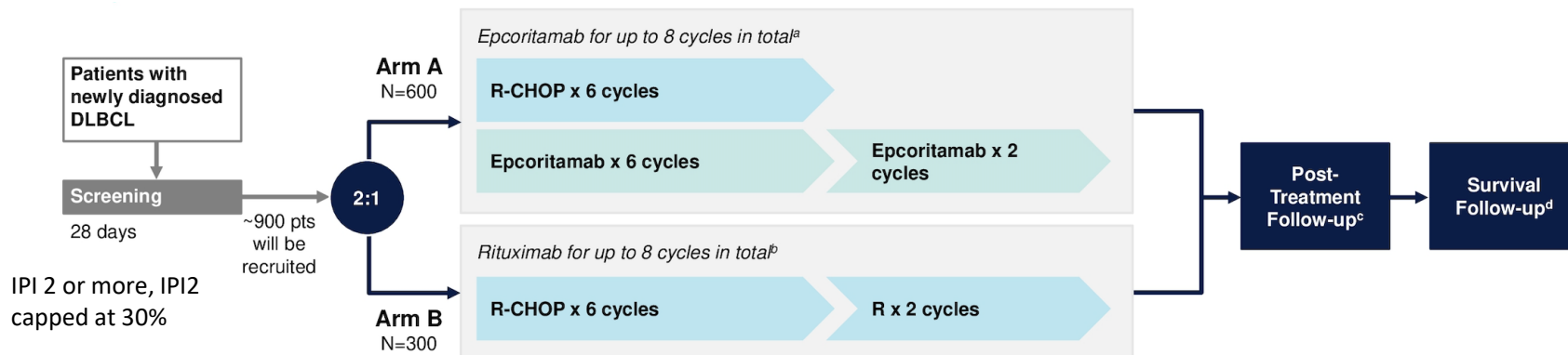


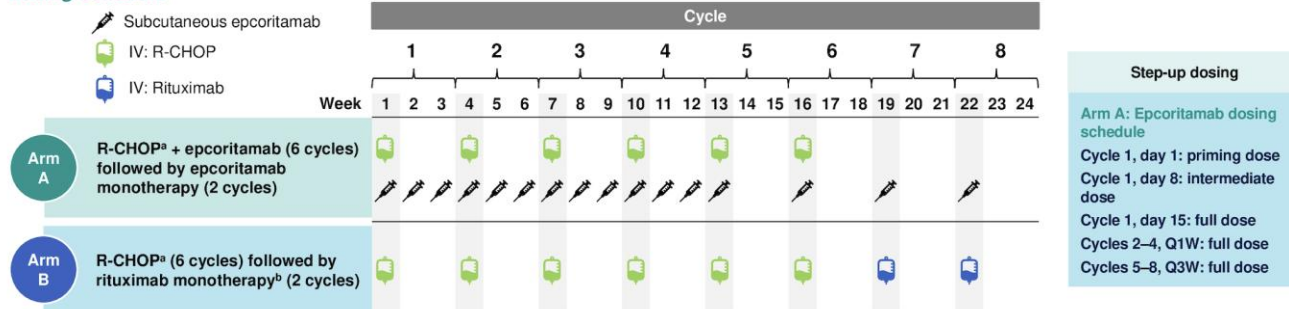
Figure 3a) MER EFS by DTI



Epcoritamab in Combination With R-CHOP vs R-CHOP in Newly Diagnosed DLBCL

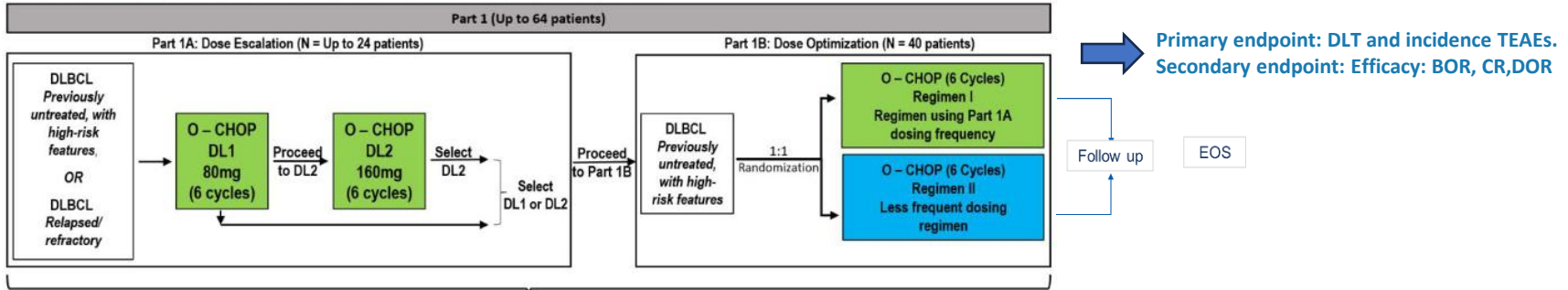


Dosing Schedule



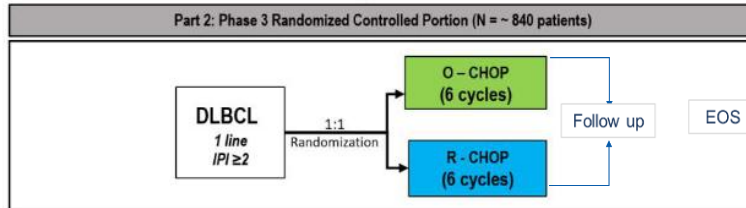
OLYMPIA-3: Odronextamab + CHOP in 1L DLBCL

Part 1 – Safety Lead-in



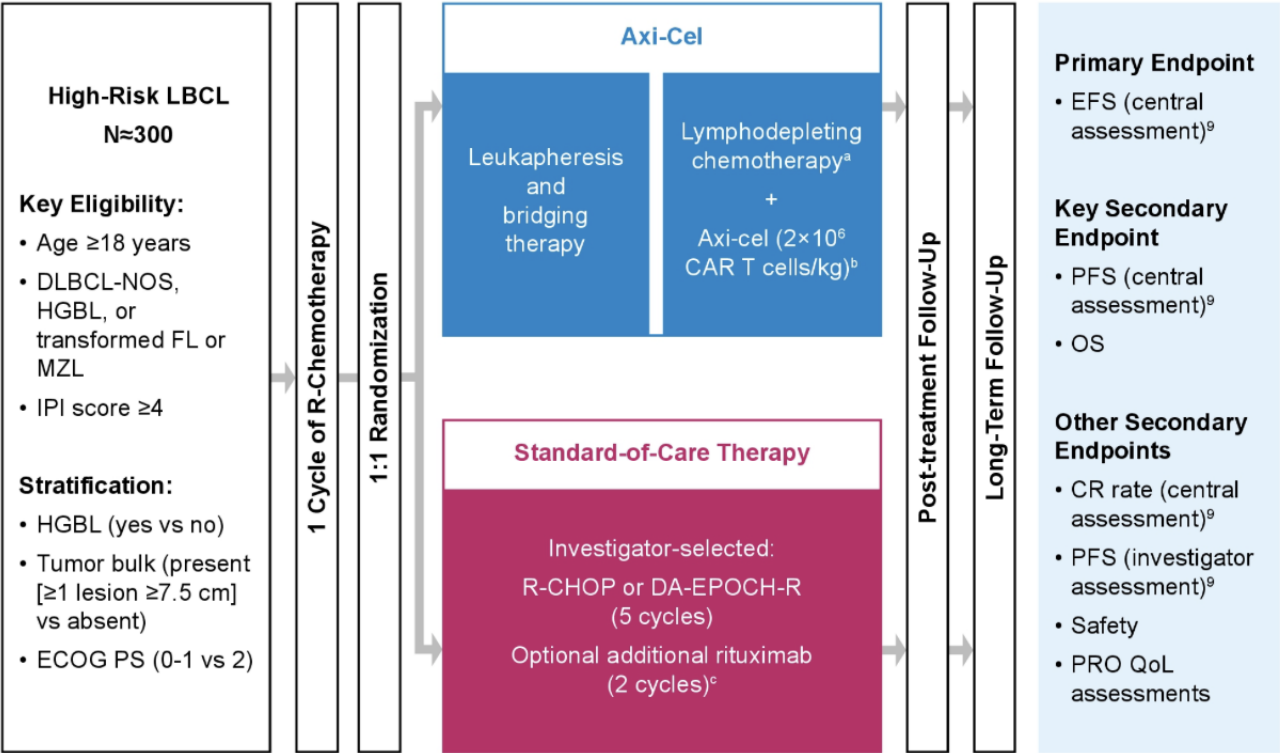
Safety, preliminary efficacy and immune biomarker (including immune cell count and phenotype and serum cytokines) data from Part 1A and Part 1B will be considered to select dose and regimen

Part 2 – RCT

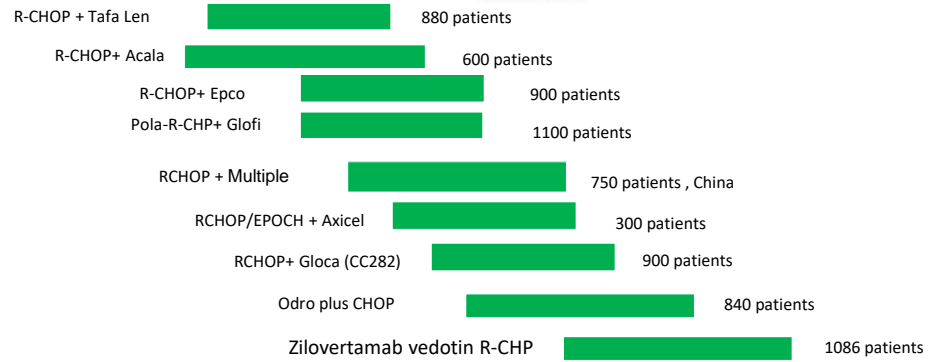
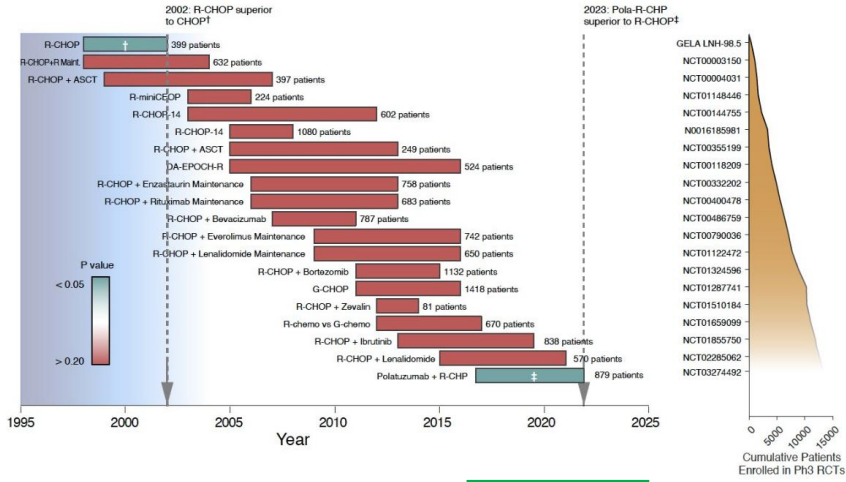


- CHOP treatment starts on Cycle 1 Day 1
- Odronextamab treatment begins on Cycle 1 Day 8;
- Ph3 Randomization Stratified by:
 - Age (<65 vs ≥ 65)
 - IPI Score (2 vs 3 vs 4 to 5)
- Primary endpoint: PFS by ICR
- Secondary endpoint: EFS, CR by ICR

Axicabtagene Ciloleucel vs CIT as First-line Treatment in Participants With High-risk Large B-cell Lymphoma (ZUMA-23)



Beyond RCHOP – Subtype Driven vs Agnostic

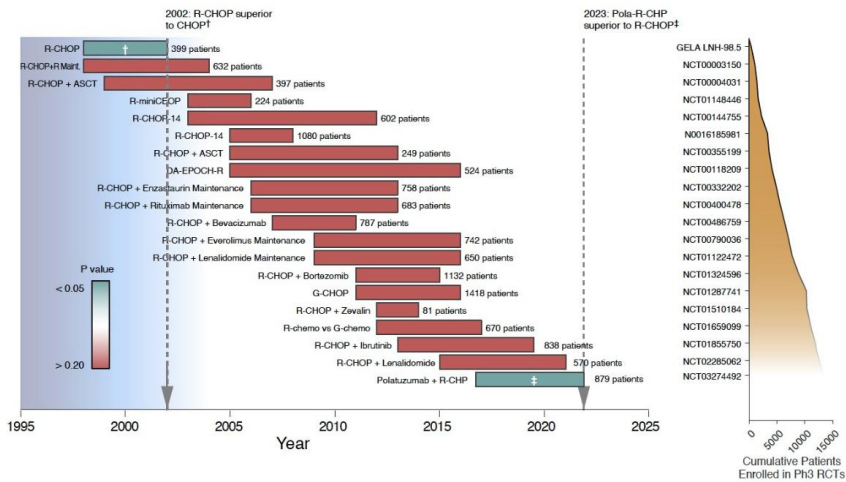


5 phase 3 studies in development...I know about

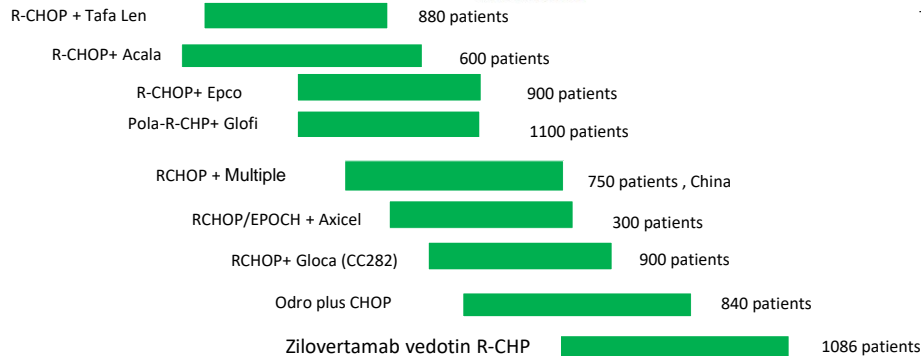
30,000

■ Ongoing

Beyond RCHOP – Subtype Driven vs Agnostic



Likely several positive



5 phase 3 studies in development...I know about

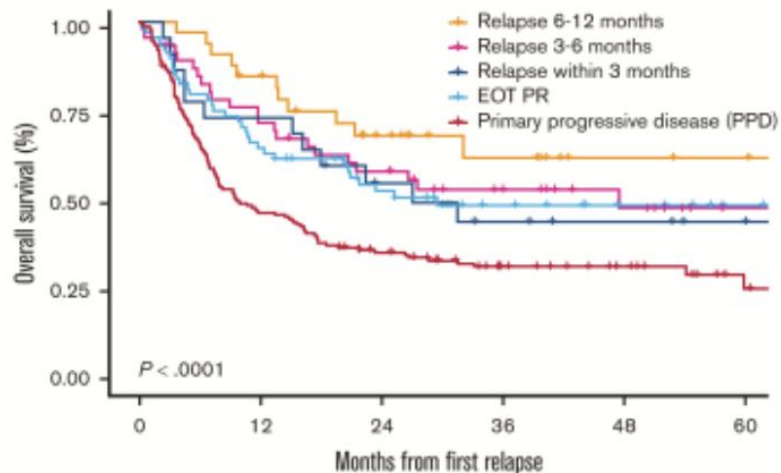
30,000

■ Ongoing

How do we choose if multiple trials positive

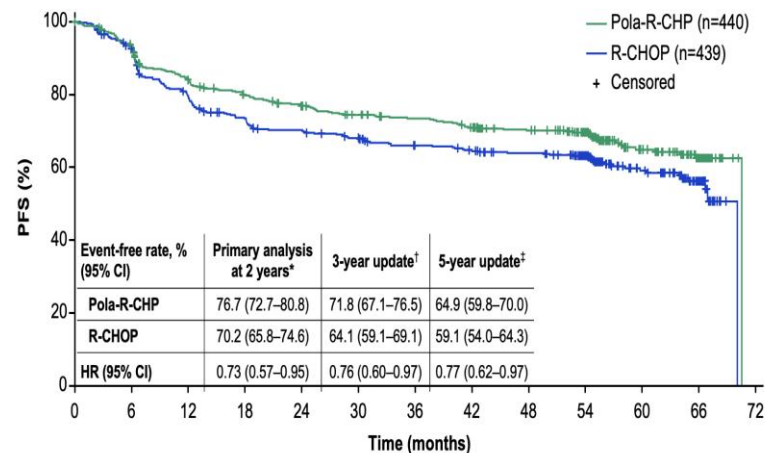
- OS advantage
- Degree of PFS advantage
 - Early separation of PFS curves e.i. reduction in primary progressive and refractory disease
 - Higher rate of MRD negativity
- If no OS but PFS in subset – may consider for subset
- Complexity/cost/logistics

Impact of primary progressive disease on OS



	0	12	24	36	48	60
Number at risk						
6-12 Months	31	25	15	9	3	2
3-6 Months	44	32	22	15	9	2
Within 3 Months	21	15	9	6	4	2
EOT PR	66	39	25	13	7	2
PPD	145	62	41	27	15	6

PFS in the global ITT population



Patients remaining at risk

Pola-R-CHP	440	407	357	335	318	303	292	280	258	213	100	56	NE
R-CHOP	439	391	332	302	287	274	258	251	240	192	95	54	NE

COO and Benefit of Polatuzumab Vedotin

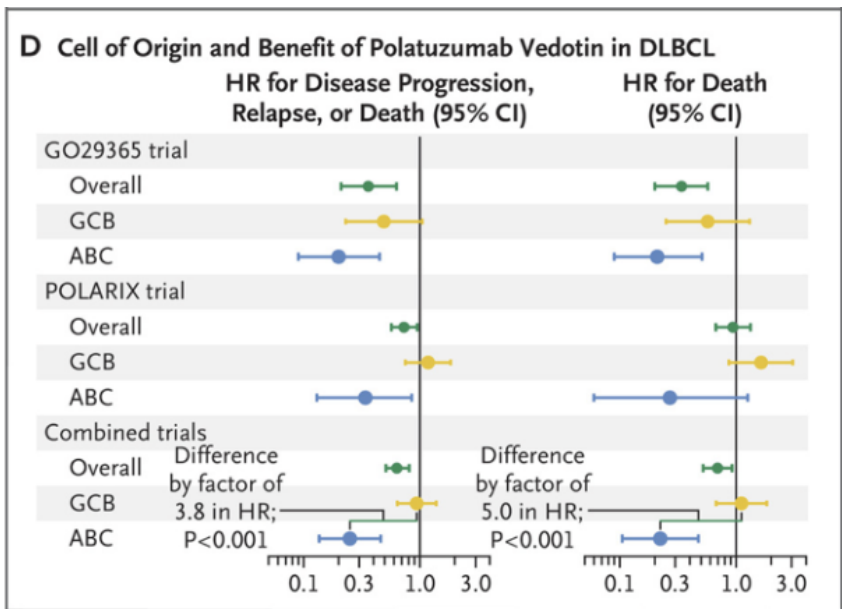
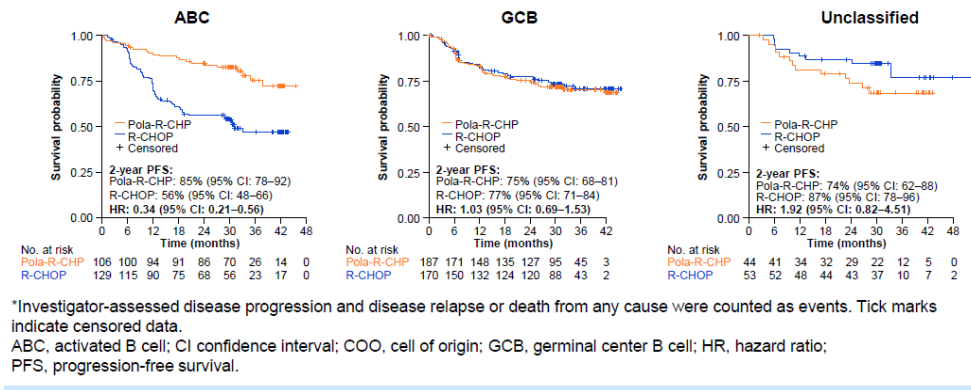


Figure 1. Kaplan–Meier Estimates of Investigator-Assessed PFS* by COO Subgroup.



Conclusions

- RCHOP remains a valid control arm and a valid backbone
- Pola RCHP alternative
- Optimization important
- Most trials focus on high-risk patients:
 - IPI
 - Short time from dx to rx
 - High molecular risk
- Molecularly driven or MRD driven trials difficult – lack of companion diagnostics; prolongs time to rx
 - Best option might be targeting MRD positive patients at the end of therapy
- Chemo free interesting but might be challenging as randomized study

A photograph of the Mayo Clinic building, a large, modern structure with a curved facade and many windows. The words "MAYO CLINIC" are visible on the building's facade. The sky is blue.

Thank You

nowakowski.grzegorz@mayo.edu