

# DLBCL TALK: efficacia e gestione di epcoritamab nella pratica clinica italiana nei pazienti recidivati refrattari

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#### Uomo di 59 anni

#### Anamnesi patologica remota

Ipertensione arteriosa

FA cronica in NAO

#### Presentazione clinica

- Comparsa di linfoadenopatie sopra e sottodiaframmatiche ( bulky lc 8 cm)
- ECOG 0
- Sintomi B (sudorazioni notturne)

#### Maggio 2023

#### Diagnosi

#### Stadiazione

#### I linea

**Biopsia** di linfonodo lc: linfoma follicolare G3a

**TC:** linfonodi sopra e sottodiaframmatici con bulky lc e mediastinico di 8,5 cm

**PET**: SUV max > 20

**BOM:** non infiltrazione

Esami di lab: Hb e LDH nei

limiti

I linea: GCHOP21X 6



RP (TC, PET DS4) Avvia mantenimento (Dicemb 2023- Aprile 2024)



Linfoma Follicolare G3a, stadio IIIB, FLIPI 2

#### ...in corso di mantenimento...

#### Diagnosi

Stadiazione

II linea

**Biopsia** di linfonodo lo DLBCL GCB cmyc 30%

TC: > In Ic sovraclaveare 3,4 cm vs 1,57cm PET: SUV max 20,5 in sede sovraclaveare Esami di lab: LDH nei

limiti

II Linea: R DHAOX + ASCT

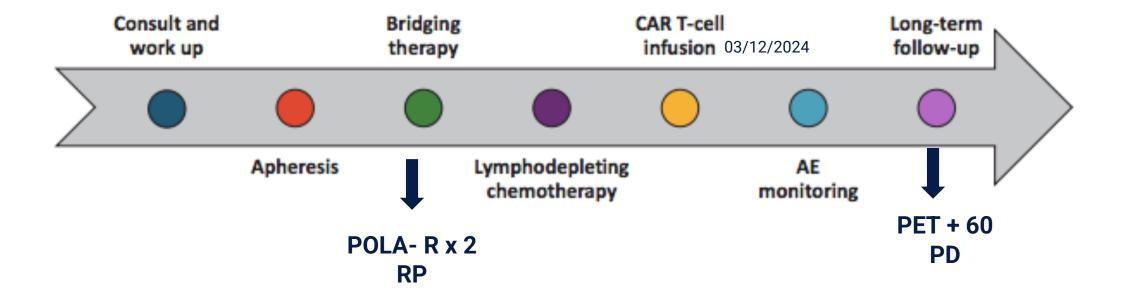


PET 2: DS 5 (incremento dell'estensione in sede sovraclaveare)



Paziente POD24 con trasformazione in DLBCL GB

#### **Terza Linea: CART**



#### Febbraio 2025

#### Diagnosi

Stadiazione

IV linea

Agobiopsia di linfonodo addominale DLBCL GCB CD20+, Cd19+

TC: linfonodi mediastinici (dt max 3 cm),addominali (dt max 5 cm)
PET: SUV max 17 in sede addominale

Epcoritamab sc

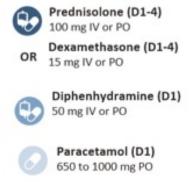
#### Administer subcutaneous epcoritamab according to the following schedule in 28-day cycles

# Dosing: Weekly Weekly Every 2 Weeks Every 4 Weeks Cycles 10+ until PD or unacceptable tox First full dose = 48 mg 48 mg



Patients should be hospitalised for 24 hours after administration of the Cycle 1 Day 15 dose of 48 mg to monitor for signs and symptoms of CRS and/or ICANS.

#### Pre-medication



#### Rivalutazione PET dopo IV cicli: RC



**Allotrapianto** 

#### Novel agents in R/R LBCL

Single US centre retrospective experience in R/R LBCL patients treated with novel agents (Jan 2019 – Mar 2024)





#### 132 patients identified

- Median age was 66 years (range 24–86)
- 60% of patients had DLBCL, 16% HGBCL, and 18% transformed indolent
- 78% had primary refractory or early relapse disease post first-line treatment
- 61% had prior CAR-T
- Median no. of prior LoT was 5 (range 2–17)

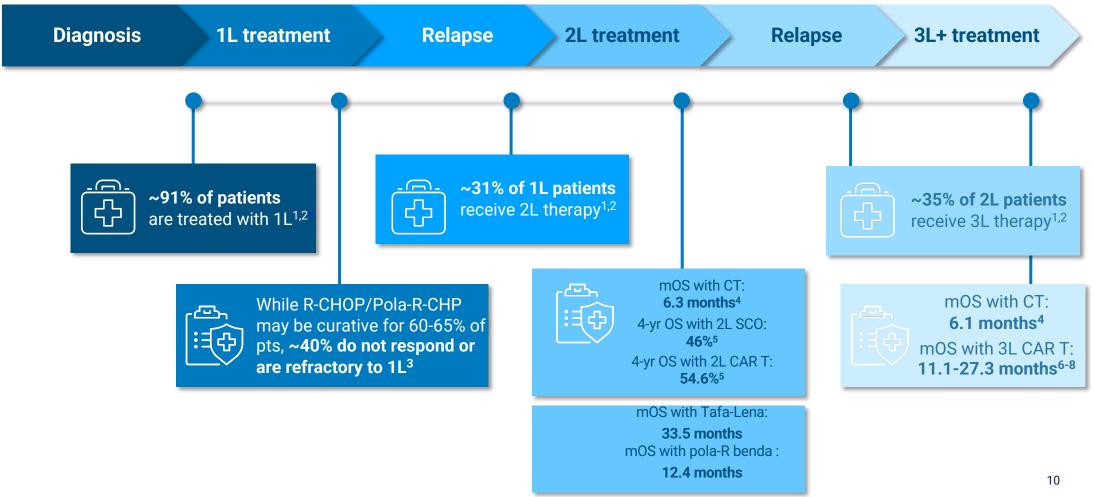
Treatment	N (%)	Treatment	ORR (%)	CRR (%)	Median EFS <sup>*</sup>	1-year EFS*
Pola (alone or with R±B)	91 (69)	40% bridging/holding tx	46	22	4.2 months (n=55)	24% (n=55)
Lonca	45 (34)	89% definitive tx	44	22	2.7 months (n=40)	6% (n=40)
Tafa/Len	39 (30)	95% definitive tx	30	14	2.5 months (n=37)	14% (n=37)
BsAb <sup>†</sup>	35 (27)	100% definitive tx	55	27	4.0 months (n=35)	28% (n=35)

Novel agent pre-	Novel a
CAR-T (n=30)	CAR-T (

Novel agents post-CAR-T (n=62) Patients who did not receive CAR-T (n=52

- The most used novel agent in the post-CAR-T and no-CAR-T setting was Pola (40%), followed by Lonca (23%)
- For the first novel agent after CAR-T:
  - Best ORR 54%, CR 31% (missing n=1)
  - Median EFS 3.1 months, 1-year EFS 17%

Study shows poor outcomes with currently-approved novel agents in post-CAR-T and CAR-T-ineligible patients.



1. Kanas G, et al. Leuk Lymphoma. 2022;63(1):54-63. 2. Johnston, et al. AMCP Nexus. 2022. 3. Sehn LH, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2020;38(2):155-165. 4. Crump M, et al. Blood. 2017;130(16):1800-1808.

## The therapeutic choice for R/R DLBCL patients is increasingly complex and many factors can be involved

#### **Disease factors**

- Biology of the disease (DH/TH lymphoma)
- Clinical presentation
- Refractoriness

#### **Patient factors**

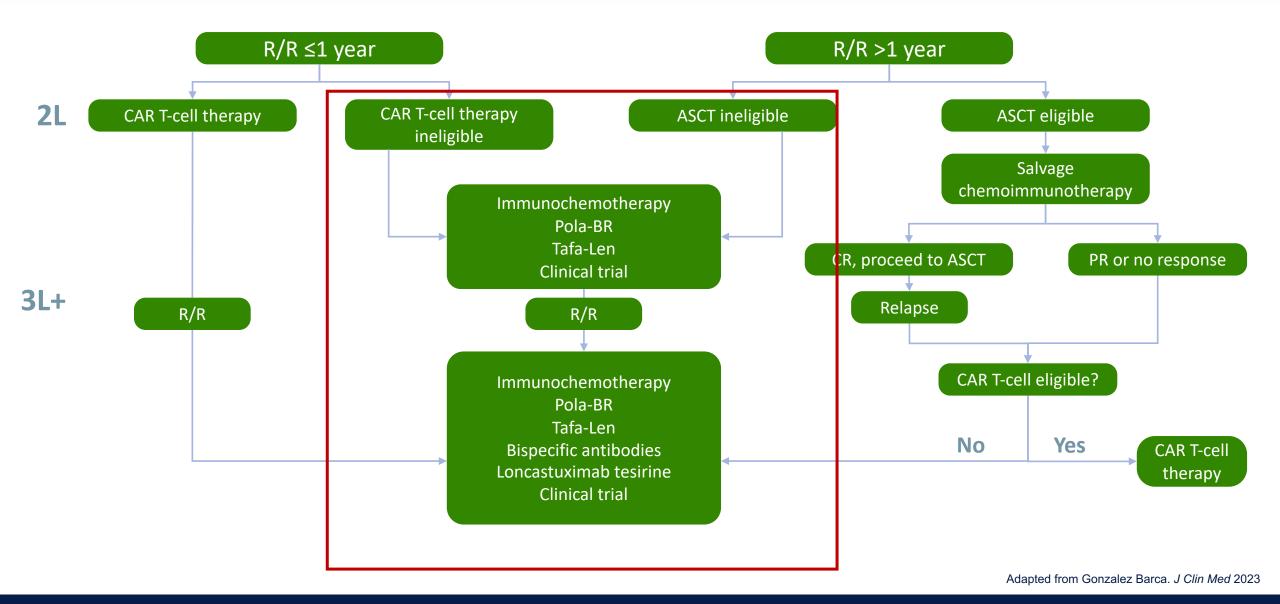
- Age
- Fitness/comorbidities
- Family/social support
- Patient preference

#### **Treatment considerations**

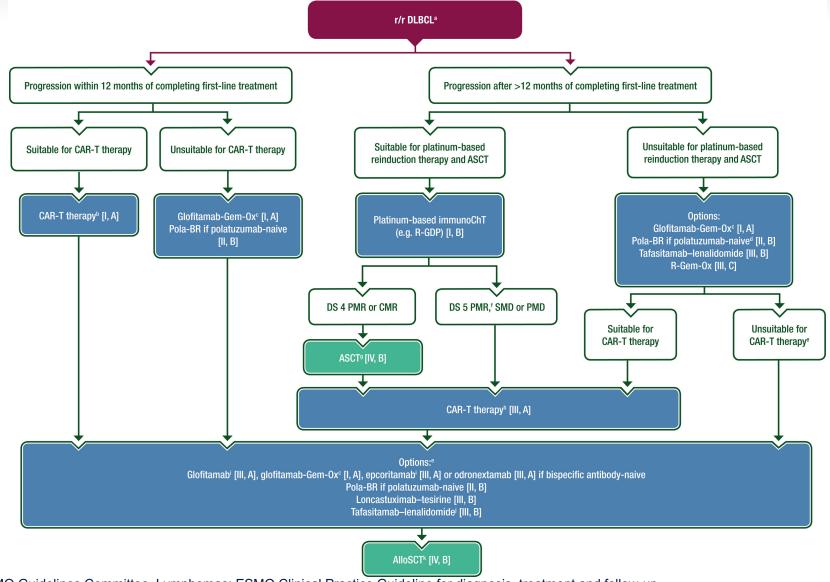
- Treatment history and sequencing
- Efficacy and tolerability
- Schedule of administration
- Cumulative toxicity
- Processing and logistics
- Availability and reimbursement

How do we navigate R/R DLBCL treatment?

## Novel 2L treatment options are available, but not all patients are eligible and only a small proportion are ultimately cured



## ESMO Clinical Practice Guideline for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up



Eyre TA, et al. on behalf of the ESMO Guidelines Committee. Lymphomas: ESMO Clinical Practice Guideline for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up Annals of Oncology (2025), doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/ j.annonc.2025.07.014.

## Deciding Between Available Bispecific Antibodies and Other 3L+ Treatments for R/R DLBCL

#### How do bispecific antibodies compare to other therapies?

"Off the shelf" option (availability): means we can give right away whereas therapies like CAR T-cells require adequate cell collection, manufacturing time, etc

#### **Safety profiles:**

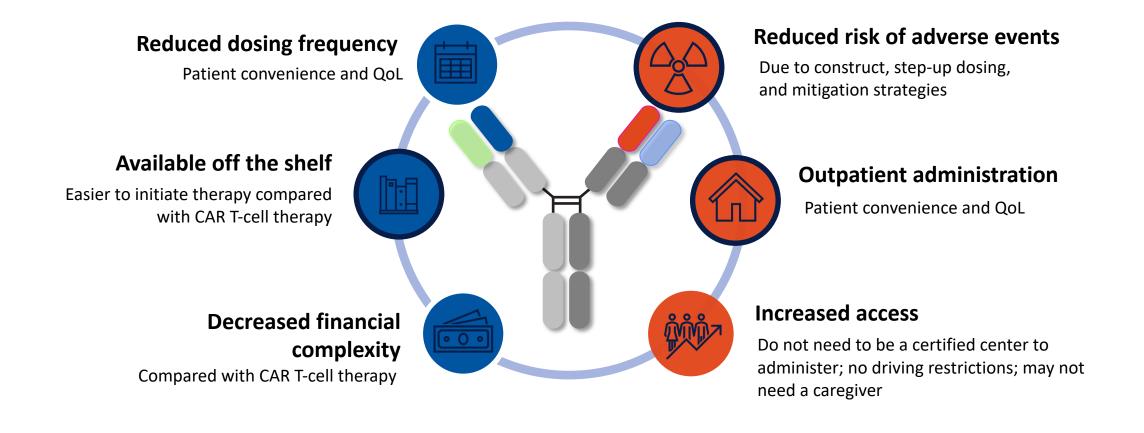
- Lower toxicity risks/safer: including for patients not good candidate for CAR T-cell therapy
- Shorter hospitalization times
- Different targets (CD20 vs CD19) which means that CAR T-cell does not preclude bispecific antibody and vice versa

#### What are the advantages for bispecific antibodies over chemotherapy?

Improved efficacy, potentially better safety and/or improved QoL

## Deciding Between Available Bispecific Antibodies and Other 3L+ Treatments for R/R DLBCL

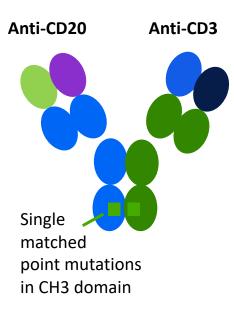
3L+ DLBCL



#### Focus on: CD20/CD3 Bispecific Antibodies in B-Cell

3L+ DLBCL

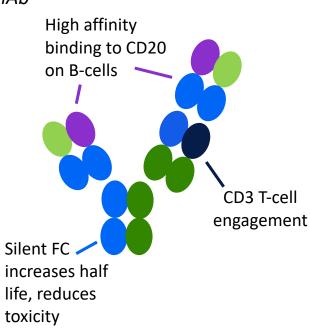
Humanized mouse IgG1-based mAb



Lymphomas

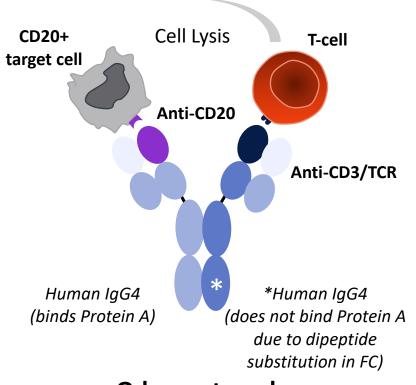
Epcoritamab (SC)

3L+ R/R DLBCL



Glofitamab (IV)

3L+ R/R DLBCL

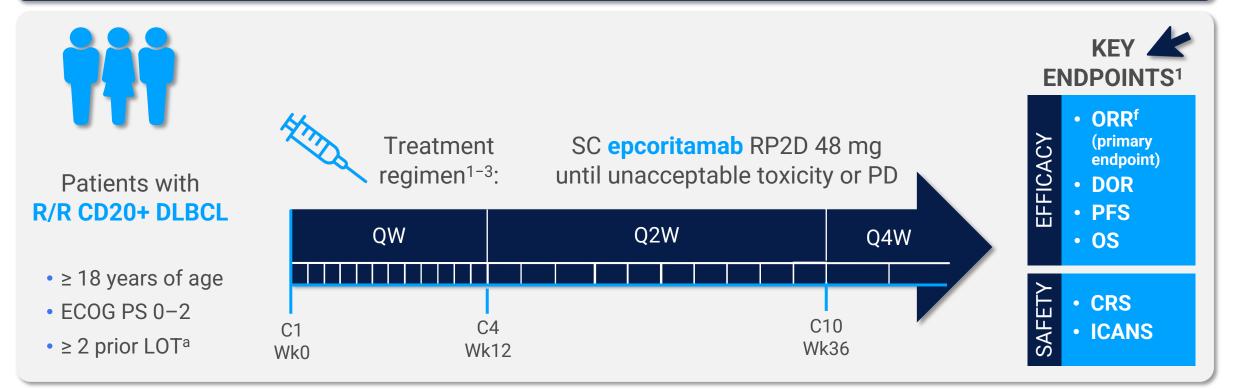


## Odronextamab (IV)

Approval Priority Review for Status: 3L+ R/R FL and DLBCL

Castaneda-Puglianni. Drugs Context. 2021;10:2021. Bannerji. ASH 2020. Abstr 42. Budde. ASH 2018. Abstr 399. Hutchings. Lancet. 2021;398:1157. Engelberts. eBioMedicine. 2020;52:102625. Hutchings. JCO. 2021;39:1959. Epcoritamab PI. Glofitamab PI.

#### Phase 2 of the ongoing multicenter, open-label, phase 1/2 clinical trial (NCT03625037)<sup>1-3</sup>



a Including an anti-CD20 mAb. b SUD 1: priming, 0.16 mg; SUD 2: intermediate, 0.8 mg. Corticosteroid prophylaxis was used in C1 to mitigate CRS. c Inpatient 24-hour monitoring was required at first full dose in the extension part of the study to ensure patient safety and better characterize CRS. Cl optimization recommendations: dexamethasone 15 mg premedications; administer 500 mL of isotonic IV fluids on the day of each dose prior to administration; hospitalization not required but patients must remain close to the treatment facility for 24 hours after the first full dose; other recommendations include 2–3 L of fluid intake during the 24 hours prior to and following each dose, holding antihypertensive medications for 24 hours prior to each dose, and self-monitoring of temperature 3 times daily for 4 days following each dose.

1. Thieblemont C, et al. *Leukemia* 2024 Sep 25:1-0. 2. Thieblemont C, et al. Poster at the European Hematology Association Annual Congress; June 13–16, 2024; Madrid, Spain. Poster P1151. 3. Thieblemont C, et al. Poster at the American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting; May 31–June 4, 2024; Chicago, IL, US. Poster 7039.

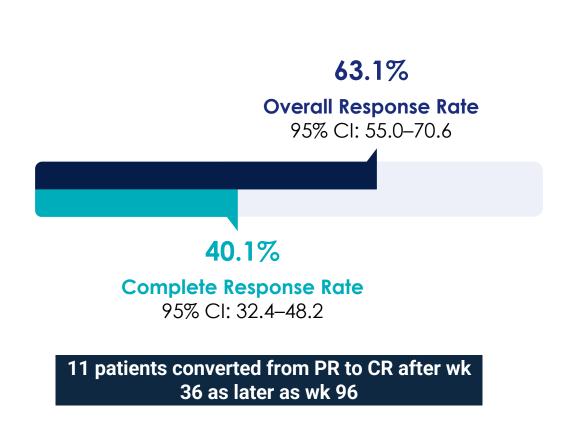
#### **Baseline characteristics**

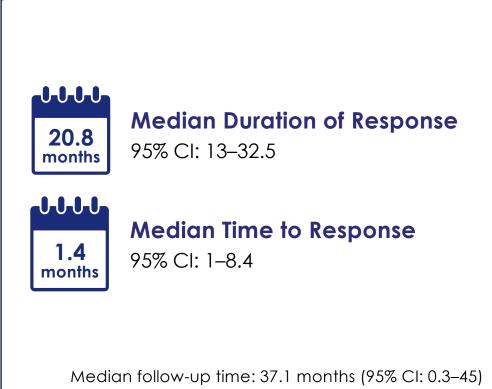
Demographics	LBCL, N=157
Median age (range), y	64 (20–83)
<65 y, n (%)	80 (51.0)
65 to <75 y, n (%)	48 (30.6)
≥75 y, n (%)	29 (18.5)
ECOG PSa, n (%)	
0	74 (47.1)
1	78 (49.7)
2	5 (3.2)
Disease Characteristics <sup>b</sup>	LBCL, N=157
Disease type, n (%)	
DLBCL°	139 (88.5)
De novo	97/139 (69.8)
Transformed	40/139 (28.8)
DLBCL with DH/TH by central FISHd	13/99 (13.1)
HGBCL	9 (5.7)
PMBCL	4 (2.5)
	<b>\</b>

Prior Treatments	LBCL, N=157
Median time from initial diagnosis to first dose <sup>e</sup> , y	1.6 (0.0–28.4)
Median time from end of last therapy to first dose, mo	2.4 (0.0–153.0)
Median prior lines of therapy (range)	3 (2–11)
≥3 Lines of therapy, n (%)	111 (70.7)
Primary refractory <sup>f</sup> disease, n (%)	96 (61.1)
Refractoryf to last systemic therapy, n (%)	130 (82.8)
Refractory <sup>f</sup> to ≥2 consecutive lines of therapy, n (%)	119 (75.8)
Prior ASCT, n (%)	31 (19.7)
Prior CAR T therapy, n (%)	61 (38.9)
Refractoryf to CAR T therapy	46/61 (75.4)

As of January 31, 2022, 51 patients (32%) were receiving epcoritamab treatment at a median follow-up of 10.7 months

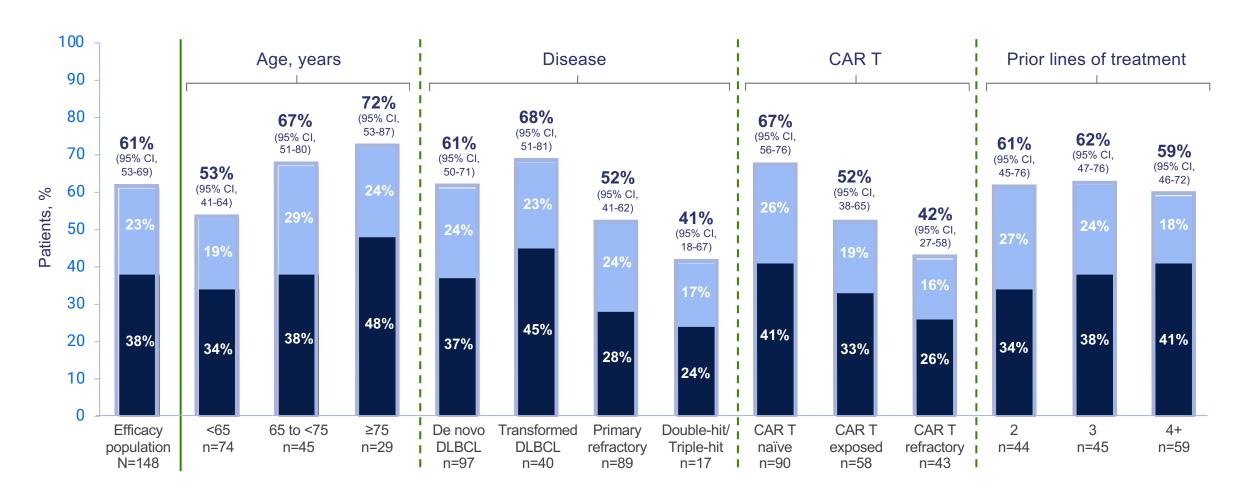
#### **Responses Rate and Duration of Response**





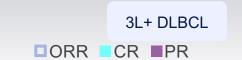
#### Response Rates Observed Across all Subgroups

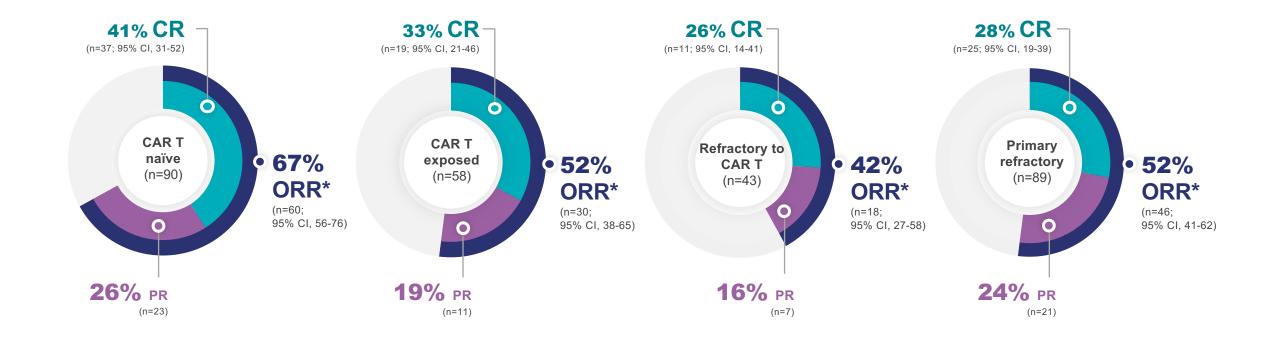




<sup>1,</sup> Thieblemont C, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2022. doi: 10.1200/JCO.22.01725.

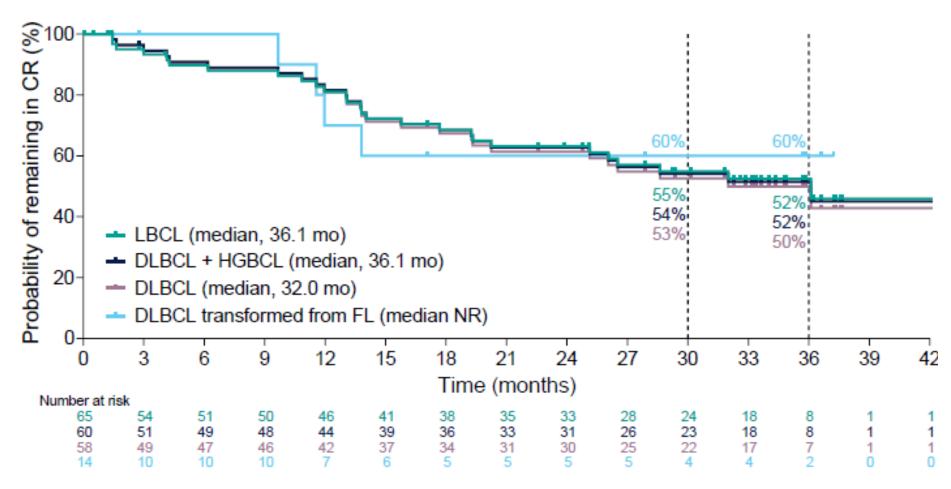
#### Response Rate according CART exposure





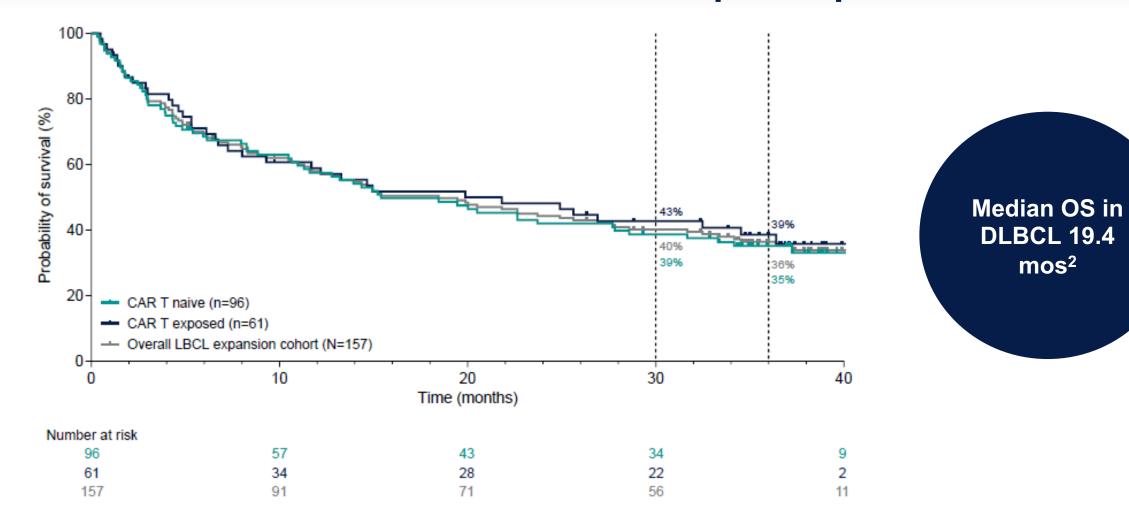
<sup>\*</sup>ORR was determined by Lugano criteria (2014) as assessed by an IRC. Thieblemont C, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2022. doi: 10.1200/JCO.22.01725.

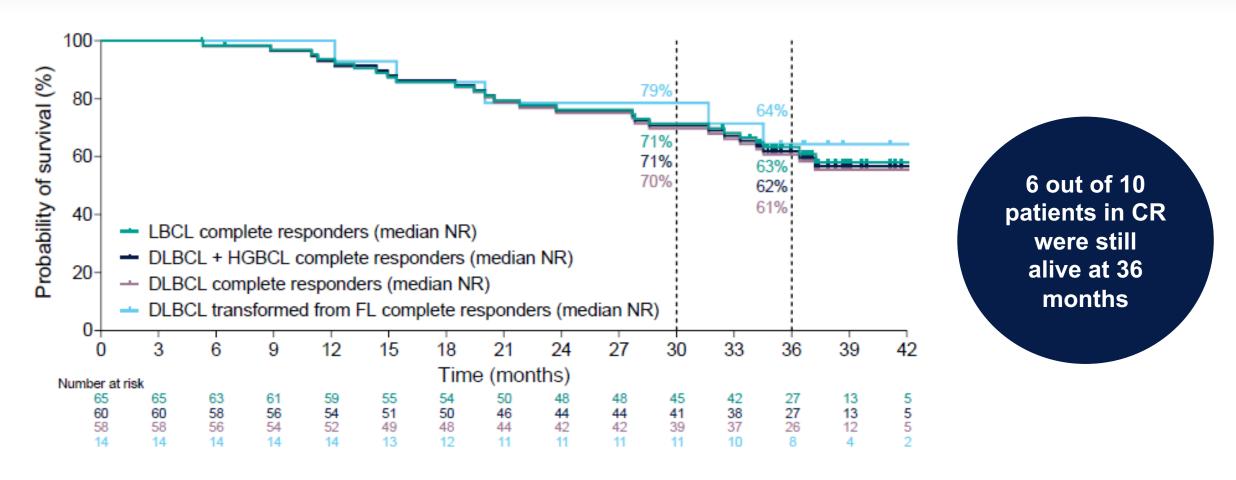
## Long-Term Efficacy Outcomes Deep and Durable Responses by Disease Subtype



Overall Median DOCR 36.1 months (20.2 - NR)

## Long Term Efficacy Overall Survival in CAR-T naive and Exposed patients

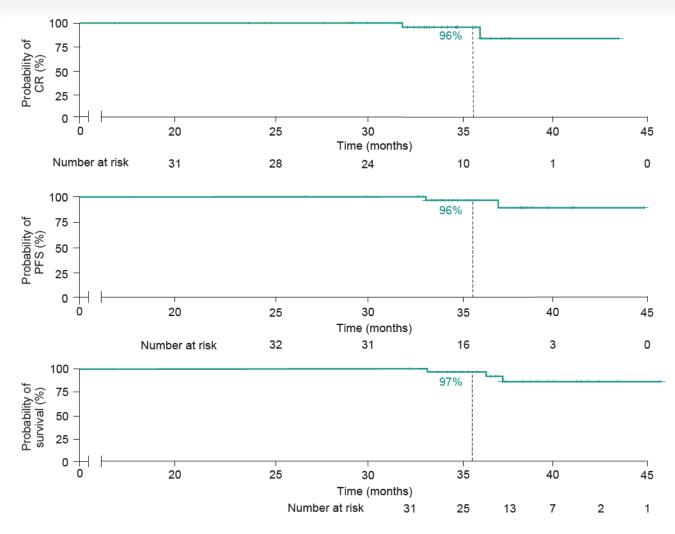




Among complete responders (n=65), median PFS was 37.3 mo (95% CI, 26-NR)

#### Long-Term Efficacy Outcomes in pts with CR after 2 ys

3L+ DLBCL



Median DOCR was not reached; an estimated 96% of patients remained in CR at 3 years, and the **longest ongoing CR was >43 months** Median PFS and median OS were not reached: An estimated 96% and 97% of patients remained progression free and alive, respectively, at 3 years

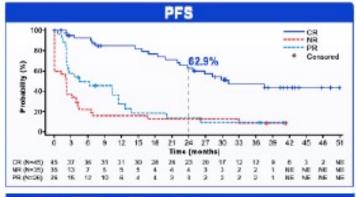
Chen Y. C. et al, Poster 320, EHA 2025

#### Landmark analysis

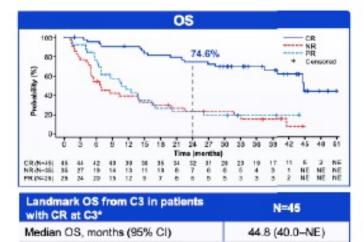
CR at C3 is an early predictor of long-term outcomes

#### **GLOFITAMAB**

by response at C3



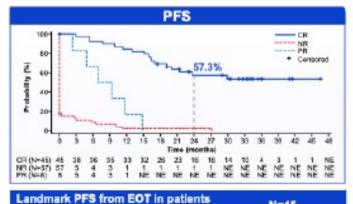
Landmark PFS from C3 in patients with CR at C3*	N=45
Median PFS, months (95% CI)	31.1 (23.8-NE)
24-month PFS rate, % (95% CI)	62.9 (47.5-78.4)



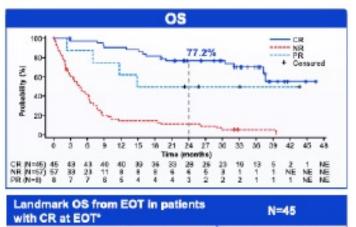
Most patients with a CR at C3 remained progression-free and alive after 24 months

24-month OS rate, % (95% CI)

by response at EOT



Landmark PFS from EOT in patients with CR at EOT*	N=45	
Median PFS, months (95% CI)	NE (20.0-NE)	
24-month PFS rate, % (95% CI)	57.3 (41.2-73.4)	



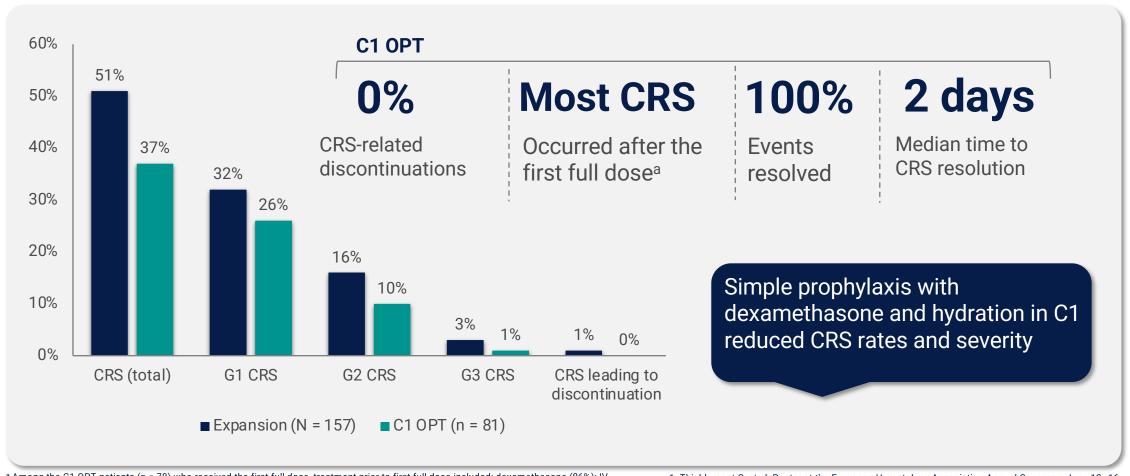
74.6 (61.6-87.6)

Landmark OS from EOT in patients with CR at EOT*	N=45
Median OS, months (95% CI)	NE (37.2-NE)
24-month OS rate, % (95% CI)	77.2 (64.8-89.6)

Dickinson M. et al., ASH 2024 oral presentation

Most patients with a CR at EOT remained progression-free and alive at 24 months after EOT

## Overview of CRS Events Cycle 1 Optimization Led to Decreased Rates and Severity of CRS



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Among the C1 OPT patients (n = 78) who received the first full dose, treatment prior to first full dose included: dexamethasone (86%); IV fluid (81%); IV fluid and dexamethasone (69%); other corticosteroids (14%).

C, cycle; OPT, optimization cohort; CRS, cytokine release syndrome; D, day; G, grade; IV, intravenous(Iy); LBCL, large B-cell lymphoma.

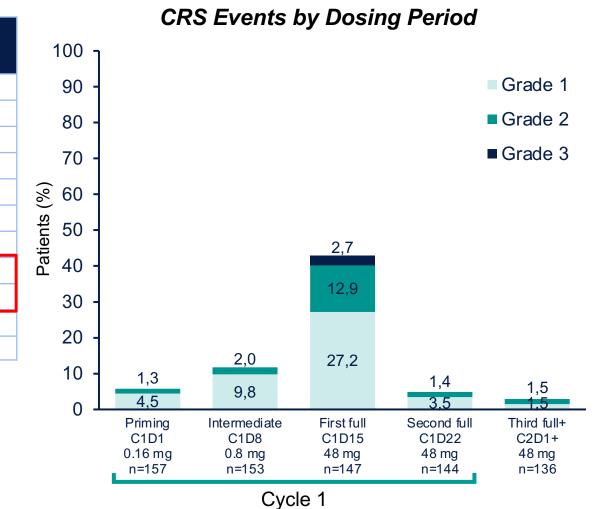
<sup>1.</sup> Thieblemont C, et al. Poster at the European Hematology Association Annual Congress; June 13–16, 2024; Madrid, Spain. Poster P1151.

<sup>2.</sup> Thieblemont C, et al. Poster at the American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting; May 31–June 4, 2024; Chicago, IL, US. Poster 7039.

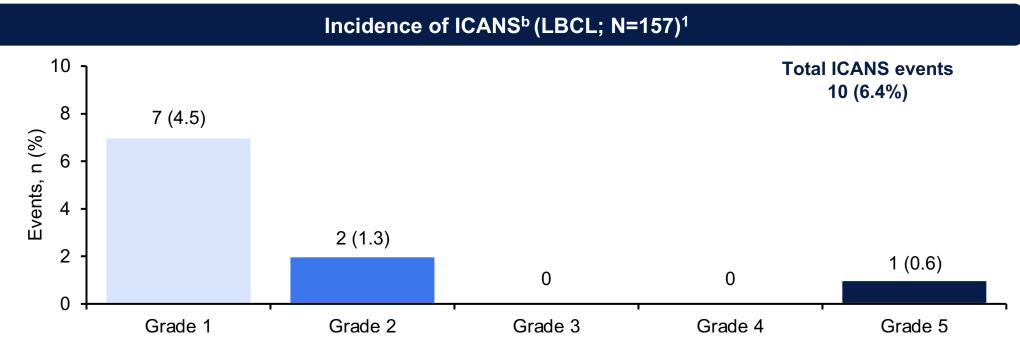
#### SC Administration and Step-up Dosing May Mitigate CRS

	LBCL N=157
CRS events, n (%)ª	78 (49.7)
Grade 1	50 (31.8)
Grade 2	24 (15.3)
Grade 3	4 (2.5)
Median time to onset from first full dose, d	0.8 (20 h)
CRS resolution, n (%)	77 (98.7)
Median time to resolution from first full dose, d	2 (48 h)
Treated with tocilizumab, n (%)	22 (14.0)
Treated with corticosteroids, n (%)	16 (10.2)
Leading to treatment discontinuation, n (%)	1 (0.6)
<sup>a</sup> Graded by Lee et al. 2019 criteria.	

CRS was primarily low grade and predictable: most events occurred following the first full dose

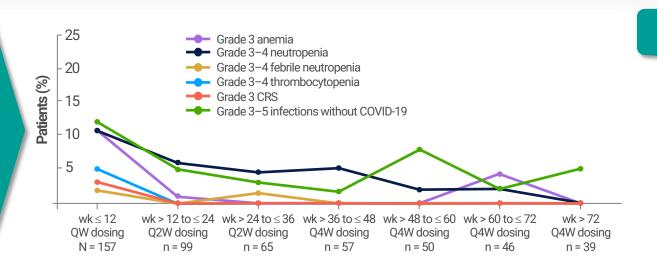


#### **ICANS** Incidence



As of the May 3, 2024, data cutoff, incidence and severity of ICANS remained unchanged from prior reports.<sup>2</sup>

## Median follow-up 20.0 months



#### Median follow-up 30.6 months

29%

Had Grade ≥ 3 serious infections

10%

Discontinued treatment due to infections

11%

Had fatal TEAEs

Median follow-up 25.1 months

Infections (Grade 3-4 in ≥ 2% patients)	Any grade No. (%)	Grade ≥ 3 No. (%)
COVID-19	30 (19.1)	13 (8.3)
Pneumonia	13 (8.3)	5 (3.2)
Sepsis	5 (3.2)	5 (3.2)
COVID-19 pneumonia	9 (5.7)	4 (2.5)

**12** 

Had Grade 5 infections<sup>a</sup>

2 of 3

Treatment-related Grade 5 AEs were infections<sup>b</sup> 6%

Had ICANS<sup>c</sup>

<sup>1.</sup> Thieblemont C, et al. *Leukemia* 2024 Sep 25:1-0.
2. Thieblemont C, et al. Poster at the European Hematology Association Annual Congress; June 13–16,

<sup>2024;</sup> Madrid, Spain. Poster at the European Hematology Association Alinda Congress, June 13–16, 2024; Madrid, Spain. Poster P1151. 3. Thieblemont C, et al. Poster at the American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting; May 31–June 4, 2024; Chicago, IL, US. Poster 7039.

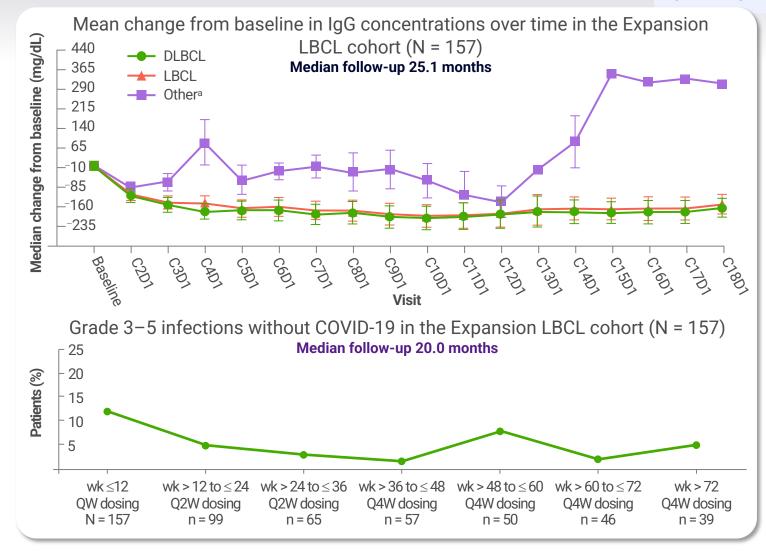
4. Thieblemont C, et al. J Clin Oncol 2023;41:2238–47.

## IgG levels remained stable after an initial drop



## Non-COVID infection rates were manageable

The percentage of patients with Grade 3 or 4 infections (excluding COVID-19) was higher during the first 12 weeks (10.8%) than during subsequent time periods (1.9–6.7% per analysis period)



#### Conclusions

- ✓ In less than 5 years the treatment landscape of DLBCL has dramatically changed with a significant improving in OS
- ✓ We are progressively going towards a chemo –free approach in DLBCL
- ✓ Despite a rapidly growing knowledge on the results of the new approaches, little is still known about the best association and sequencing
- ✓ In a short time we will have more possible treatment's choice for the first line of DLBCL but not compared them with each other and some options now available in second and third line will move in first line of therapy
- ✓ It is advisable in the therapeutic algorithm to try to replicate clinical studies to obtain the best results