Highlights nella Leucemia Acuta Linfoblastica

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No conflicts to declare







Highlights on Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

- <u>Ph+ B-ALL</u>
- Ph- B-ALL
- New strategies





D-ALBA: treatment scheme

Designed for newly diagnosed Ph+ ALL, no upper age limit; sample size: 63



D-ALBA: results



- Median age **54** years (**24-82**);
- Median follow-up of **53** months;
- DFS, OS, and EFS were 75.8%,
 80.7% and 74.6%;
- Worse DFS for *IKZF1^{plus}* patients;
- DFS is 100% in molecular responders at the EOI → prognostic role of early molecular response in a chemotherapy-free setting.
- 9 Relapses (4 CNS-only);*
- 6 patients requiring a TKI switch:
 Pleural effusion was the most common adverse event.

Foà R et al. J Clin Oncol. 2024



GIMEMA LAL2820

Newly Diagnosed Adult Philadelphia Chromosome-Positive Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (Ph+ ALL). Sequential Treatment with Ponatinib and the Bispecific Monoclonal Antibody Blinatumomab vs Chemotherapy and Imatinib



Chiaretti et al, abs 835, ASH 2024



Ph-positive B-ALL GIMEMA ALL2820. Experimental arm: hematologic and molecular responses

End of induction (D+70)	Experimental arm (N=158)
CHR	151 (95.6%)
Deaths	4 (2.5%) *
Refractory	-
Off treatment	3 (1.9%)

Experimental arm (N=151)
7 (4.6%)
4 (2.6%)
2 (1.3%)

*1 relapse was due to a Ph- clone

*Median age: 67 yrs

Highlights in EMATOLOGIA

Experimental arm N=159	No molecular responses (%)	CMR	PNQ	Overall molecular responses (%)
End induction (d +70)	76/148 (51)	46/148	26/148	72/148 (49)
After 2 blina cycles	32/134 (24)	71/134	31/134	102/134 (76)



Ph-positive B-ALL GIMEMA ALL2820. Experimental arm: hematologic and molecular responses



Median follow-up: 8.5 months (0.1 - 36.1)

Chiaretti et al, abs 835, ASH 2024



Ponatinib + Blinatumomab in Ph+ ALL: Regimen



Highlights in EMATOLOGIA

Response, n/N (%)	N = 76	
	52/52 (00)	
CR/CRi*	52/53 (98)	
CR	51/53 (96)	
CRi	1/53 (2)	
Early death	1/53 (2)	
MMR**	64/66 (97)	
CMR**	57/69 (83)	
After 1 cycle	<u>41/69 (59)</u>	
NGS MRD negative	55/57 (96)	
After 1 cycle	17/36 (47)	Ť
-	8/8 of tested pts no	
*23 pts in CR at start ** 10 pts were in MMR, 7 were in CMR, and 2	achieving CMR wer NGS MRD negative	

Short et al, abs 837, ASH 2024



Ponatinib + Blinatumomab in Ph+ ALL



10 relapses= 5 were CNS-only*, 1 extramedullary and 4 hematological;

Short et al, abs 837, ASH 2024; Short et al, J Hematol Oncol. 2025



Ponatinib vs Imatinib in Frontline Philadelphia Chromosome–Positive Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

- 245 pts, random 2:1 ponatinib + LD CHT (n=154) : imatinib + LD CHT (n=78);
- Median age 54 yrs (19-82); 37.1% >60 years;

Highlights in EMATOLOGIA

- Median follow-up= 20.1 months (17.8-23.1) → 41.5% pts in Ponatinib vs 12.3% in Imatinib group continued treatment;
- Discontinuation for: SCT- Pona-group 30.5% vs Ima-group 37%; lack of efficacy- Pona-group 7.3% vs Ima-group 25.9%;
- Primary endpoint: EOI MRD- CR → Pona-group 43% vs Ima-group 22.1% (p=0.002)*;



*4-week durable complete remission (excluding incomplete remission) and MRD negativity as determined by the central laboratory at the end of induction

Jabbour, E., et al. JAMA 2024.



Ponatinib vs Imatinib in Frontline Philadelphia Chromosome–Positive Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia





- CMR rate after Cycle 9= 62.1% vs 44.9%
- Trend toward better PFS Pona group= 20.0 months vs Ima-group= 7.9 months;
- **SCT** 34.1% Pona group vs 48.1% Ima group (p= .03);

	No. (%) Ponatinib (n = 163)			
Adverse events			Imatinib (n = 81)	
reatment-emergent adverse events ^a				
Any	162 (99.4)		80 (98.8)	
Serious	97 (59.5)		45 (55.6)	
Grade 3-4	139 (85.3)		71 (87.7)	
Grade 5	8 (4.9)		4 (4.9)	
reatment-related adverse events ^a				
Any	141 (86.5)		67 (82.7)	
Serious	34 (20.9)		16 (19.8)	
Grade 3-4	107 (65.6)		48 (59.3)	
Grade 5	0		1 (1.2)	
Adverse events of special interest	Any grade	Grade 3-4	Any grade	Grade 3-4
Adjudicated arterial occlusive events ^b				
Апу	4 (2.5)	2 (1.2)	1 (1.2)	0
Cardiovascular events	2 (1.2)	2 (1.2)	0	0
Cerebrovascular events	1 (0.6)	0	1 (1.2)	0
Peripheral vascular events	1 (0.6)	0	0	0
Adjudicated venous thromboembolic events ^b	_		_	
Any	9 (11.7	6 (3.7)	0 (12.3	1 (1.2)
Peripherally inserted central catheter line or central venous catheter related	8 (4.9)	NA	6 (7.4)	NA
Deep vein thrombosis	13 (8.0)	5 (3.1)	9 (11.1)	0
Superficial vein thrombosis	5 (3.1)	0	0	0
Pulmonary embolism	2 (1.2)	1 (0.6)	1 (1.2)	1(1.2)

multiple categories ^b Arterial occlusive events and venous thromboembolic events were reviewed diagnoses, laboratory values, results of procedures, and hospital discharge summaries).

based on an adjudication charter written before the start of the study by an

59% had at least 1 cv comorbidity and 29.5% had 2 or more comorbidities at baseline;

Jabbour, E., et al. JAMA 2024.



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TKI Stop

	CAMPUS ALL ¹	MDACC ²
N pts	18	14
Induction therapy	Ima (10), Dasa (4), Pona (4)	Ima (2), Dasa (6), Pona (6)
Median TKI exposure, months (range)	84.5 (4-205).	60 (31-125)
Main reason for discontinuation	Toxicity (n=12); Pt decision (n=6)	Toxicity (100%)
Relapses (%)	5 (28%)	3 (21%), 1 hematological
Median time to relapse, months	4	6.4

- All relapsed pts regained **MMR** (except for 1 who refused TKI restart, in follow-up), in both groups;
- **4 pts** NGS-MRD neg in MDACC cohort in TFR group;

Highlights in EMATOLOGIA

- No relapses in pts in MMR >4 yrs in MDACC cohort, 1 in CAMPUS ALL cohort;



¹Dragani M. et al. Haemtologica, 2025; ²Kugler E. ASH 2024,

Highlights on Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

- Ph+ B-ALL
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Ph-Negative B-ALL Up-front Blinatumomab Improves MRD Clearance and Outcome in Adult Ph- B-lineage ALL: the GIMEMA LAL2317 Phase 2 Study



Bassan R, et al. Blood. 2025







Ph-Negative B-ALL Blinatumomab for MRD-Negative Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in Adults

- BCP-ALL, Ph negative, aged 30-70 yrs;
- 224 MRD negative pts (FCM) → randomization 1:1 Blina vs chemo-only consolidation;
- Primary endpoint: OS in the MRD-negative subpopulation
- Median follow up: 43 months;



- Deaths: 17 in blina-group (8 from relapse) vs 40 in chemo-only group (31 from relapse).
- Transplant performed equally in both arms.
- Treatment-related non-hematologic toxicity:
- gr. 3 43% vs 36%

gr. 4 in 14% vs 15%

gr. 5 in 2% and 1% in blina vs chemo arm



1.0

Number at risk

Figure S4. Overall survival for MRD-negative patients <55 years by treatment arm

Figure S5. Overall survival for MRD-negative patients ≥55 years by treatment arm





FDA and EMA approval

Litzow MR, et al. N Engl J Med. 2024

24 36 48 60 Months from Step 3 randomization





Ph-Negative B-ALL

Blinatumomab alternating with low-intensity

Chemotherapy in older adults with newly diagnosed B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL): safety run-in follow-up

for the phase 3 GOLDEN GATE study



Figure 1-2. Single-arm Safety Run-in Study Schema

- > 55 years ND Ph- B-ALL, CNS+ excluded (n=14 pts);
- Median age was **71** years (range 57-78);
- Median follow up= 6.7 months;
- 94.9% CR after week 14, 84.6% MRD-;
- Toxicity: 6 neurologic AE (1 non-reversible); no blinatumomab discontinuation due to neurological events, no >G3 CRS and Neurotoxicities;
- 2 relapses (1 EMD);
- Enrolling in selected centers in Italy!





Highlights on Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

- Ph+ B-ALL
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New Strategies

Updated Results from a Phase II Study Hyper-CVAD, with or without Inotuzumab Ozogamicin, and Sequential Blinatumomab in Patients with Newly Diagnosed B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

- 75 pts with ND Ph-neg B-ALL, (including pts who received **1 prior cycle of CHT**);
- Median age= 33y (18-59);
- 48% HR cytomolecular features; no CNS3.



Highlights in EMATOLOGIA

- 84% CR after 1° cycle (50/59)*; 71% NGS-MRD neg CR overall.
- Median follow-up= 38 months (5-91).



before enrollemnt

 Estimated 3-year RFS was 82% and the 3year OS 90% (both cohorts);

- HR pts outcomes comparable to SR (3y-OS 86% VS 95% p=0.3);
- No difference between SCT in 1° CR vs
 >2CR (p=0.9); neither for HR pts + SCT;
- 1 Blina discontinuation ; no VOD so far (24 pts transplanted);
- 10 relapses: 3 CNS (2 CNS-only), 2 relapses after SCT (both harboring TP53 mutation)→ amended to 15 doses of IT therapy;

Nguyen D., ASH 2024



New Strategies Sin

Single-Agent Subcutaneous Blinatumomab for Advanced B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia: Long-Term Follow-up from a Phase 1b Dose Expansion Cohort;

- 27 pts R/R BCP-ALL;
- Median age = 52 yrs (range 19-78)
- 1-5 Blinatumomab cycles (SCT permitted after 1°);
- EMD included (1 «other» localization);
- Median lines of therapy 2 (1-5): 9
 Primary refractory, 8 prev. SCT, 4 prev.
 CAR-T, 7 prev. InO, 5 prev. Blina EV;
- At data cut off 18 pts ALIVE;

Figure 1. Study Design



EFFICACY

Table 6. Efficacy with SC Blinatumomab Monotherapy

	250 µg QD→500 µg TIW (n = 14)	500 µg QD→1000 µg TIW (n = 13)	All (n = 27)
Achieved CR/CRh/CRi/BMR within 2 cycles*	12/14 (85.7%)	12/13 (92.3%)	24/27 (88.9%)
Relapsed	1/12 (8.3%)	1/12 (8.3%)	2/24 (8.3%)
Death due to disease progression	3/12 (25%)	2/12 (16.7%)	5/24 (20.8%)
Duration of response (DOR), Kaplan-Meier, months, median (range) [†]	5.8 (3.8–7.4+)†	12.6 (1.8–13.9+)†	12.2 (1.8–13.9+)†
Follow-up for DOR, Kaplan-Meier, months, median (range)	5.9 (0.7–7.4)	6.3 (0.5–13.9)	5.9 (0.5–13.9)
Negative for MRD (<10-4) within 2 cycles	10/12 (83.3%)	12/12 (100%)	22/24 (91.7%)
Received HSCT	7/12 (58.3%)	6/12 (50%)	13/24 (54.2%)
Alive in relapse	0	1	1
Alive in remission	3	4	7
Died in relapse or due to disease progression	3	1	4
Died in remission	1 [‡]	0	1‡
Deaths	6/14 (42.9%)	3/13 (23.1%)	9/27 (33.3%)
Time to death, Kaplan-Meier, months, median $(range)^{\dagger}$	14.5 (0.3–18.7+)†	NE (0.7–19.3+) [†]	NE (0.3–19.3+)†
Follow-up for survival, Kaplan-Meier, months, median (range)	13.5 (0.2–18.7)	14.4 (11.3–19.3)	14.1 (0.2–19.3)

Data are n (%) unless indicated otherwise.*Three patients did not have response evaluation - two due to fatal adverse events, unrelated to SC blinatumomab monotherapy, and one patient requested to discontinue treatment. ¹+ indicates a patient is still in follow up. ⁴Cause of death is unknown for this patient (best response CR). BMR, bone marrow response; CR, complete remission with full hematologic recovery; CRh, complete remission with partial hematologic recovery; CRi, complete remission with incomplete hematologic recovery; HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplant; MRD, measurable residual disease; NE, not estimable; QD, once daily; SC, subcutaneous; TIW, three times weekly.

Jabbour E., ASH 2024

RENDE (CS)

23-24 MAGGIO 2025

Highlights in EMATOLOGIA

New Strategies Single-Agent Subcutaneous Blinatumomab for Advanced B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia: Long-Term Follow-up from a Phase 1b Dose Expansion Cohort;

SAFETY

Table 5. Summary of Treatment-emergent Adverse Events

	250 µg QD→500 µg TIW 500 µg QD→ (n = 14) (n =	1000 µg TIW 13)		
Treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs), any grade	Table 3 Baseline Disease Charac	teristics		
Grade ≥ 3 TEAEs		250 up OD 500 up TIW	500 ug OD 1000 ug TIW	Total
Serious TEAEs		(n = 14)	(n = 13)	(n = 27)
Serious TEAEs leading to D/C of SC blinatumomab	Bone marrow blasts, %, median (range)	70 (15-95)	80 (5-98)	74 (5-98)
monotherapy (excluding DP)	Prior treatment lines, median (range)	2 (1-5)	2 (1-6)	2 (1-6)
	Prior inotuzumab ozogamicin	4 (28.6)	3 (23.1)	7 (25.9)
Fatal adverse events*	Previously received cIV blinatumomab	2 (14.3)	3 (23.1)	5 (18.5)
Grade ≥ 3 TEAEs of interest	Primary refractory	7 (50.0)	2 (15.4)	9 (33.3)
	Relapsed after prior HSCT	5 (35.7)	3 (23.1)	8 (29.6)
Cytokine release syndrome	Relapsed after prior CD19 CAR T-cell therapy	4 (28.6)	0 (0.0)	4 (14.8)
Blinatumomab.associated neurotoxicity‡	Extramedullary disease	1 (7.1)	0 (0.0)	1(3.7)
Dinatumoniab-associated neurotoxicity*	Central nervous system	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Infections	Testis	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Alanine aminotransferase increased	Other sites	1 (7.1)	0 (0.0)	+(3.7)
Aspartate aminotransferase increased	Data are n (%) unless otherwise indicated. CAR, chimeric an transplant; QD, once daily; TIW, three times weekly.	tigen receptor; cIV, continuous intrave	nous infusion; HSCT, hematopoietic ste	m cell

Data are n (%). *One patient in the blinatumomab monotherapy 250—500 µg cohort developed cerebral edema and one patient in the blinatumomab monotherapy 500—1,000 µg cohort developed DP with hepatic failure, both considered unrelated to SC blinatumomab. *One grade 3 CRS event at 250—500 µg occurred on Day 7, 1 day after restarting SC blinatumomab monotherapy following 5 days of interruption due to a grade 1 CRS. *Two grade 3 neurologic events occurred in Cycle 2, one at 250—500 µg (Cycle 2 Day 8) and one at 500—1,000 µg (Cycle 2 Day 3). *Includes one grade 3 headache associated with lumbar puncture. CRS, cytokine release syndrome; D/C, discontinuation; DP, disease progression; QD, once daily; SC, subcutaneous; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event; TIW, three times weekly.

Jabbour E., ASH 2024



Highlights in EMATOLOGIA

New Strategies Three-year analysis of adult patients with relapsed or refractory B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia treated with brexucabtagene autoleucel in ZUMA-3



Shah BD, et al. Leukemia 2025



New Strategies Role of prior and subsequent transplant in RW: GoCART

Prior transplant



Highlights in EMATOLOGIA

		Consolidative	Preemptive	Rescue
		(N=19)	(N=23)	(N=71)
Age at this HSCT	median [IQR]	13 [8.3-23.3]	13.6 [8.4-17]	15.9 [8.4-23.2
Age at this	Adult	7 (36.8)	5 (21.7)	26 (36.6)
HSCT	Child	12 (63.2)	18 (78.3)	45 (63.4)
Allo HSCT	No	17 (89.5)	17 (73.9)	33 (46.5)
before CART	Yes	2 (10.5)	6 (26.1)	38 (53.5)
	Kymriah	15 (78.9)	15 (65.2)	50 (70.4)
	ARI-0001	0(0)	6 (26.1)	15 (21.1)
	BREYANZI	0(0)	1 (4.3)	2 (2.8)
CART1	Sheba CART	2 (10.5)	0(0)	2 (2.8)
	Tecartus	2 (10.5)	1 (4.3)	1 (1.4)
	Tuebingen			
	CART	0(0)	0(0)	1 (1.4)
Months first	median [IQR]	3.5 [2.7-4.2]	4.4 [3.3-5.7]	9.7 [5.8-17.5]
CART to HSCT				
	CR MRD neg	19 (100)	23 (100)	59 (84.3)
Response	CR MRD pos	0(0)	0(0)	8 (11.4)
after CART1	No CR	0 (0)	0(0)	3 (4.3)
	missing	0	0	1
Musloshlativ	No	1 (5.3)	4 (18.2)	17 (25)
regimen	Yes	18 (94.7)	18 (81.8)	51 (75)
regimen	missing	0	1	3
TBI in	No	1 (5.3)	9 (40.9)	32 (46.4)
conditioning	Yes	18 (94.7)	13 (59.1)	37 (53.6)
regimen	missing	0	1	2

Consecutive transplant





Ottaviano G, et al. Abs 112. ASH 2024



New Strategies Role of prior and subsequent transplant in RW: CIBMTR

			Univariable analysis Multivariable analysis ^b		analysis ^b
Outcome	Subgroups (n)	n Evaluable ^c	6-month rate, % (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)	
DOR*	Post alloSCT No (n=164) Yes (n=76)	128 62	55 (42-66) 85 (71-92)		Reference 0.22 (0.10-0.49)
RFS*	Post alloSCT No (n=164) Yes (n=76)	164 76	47 (37-56) 67 (55-77)		Reference 0.62 (0.40-0.96)
	MRD status prior to LD chemotherapy CR/CRi, MRD negative CR/CRi, MRD positive Not in CR/CRi	59 16 148	67 (52-78) 49 (19-74) 47 (38-55)		Reference 1.44 (0.60-3.45) 2.08 (1.25-3.45)
	Ongoing infection at infusion No (n=220) Yes (n=22)	220 22	58 (50-65) 27 (8-50)	•	Reference 1.80 (1.02-3.19)
OS	ECOG PS ECOG PS <2 (n=200 ECOG PS ≥2 (n=17)	200 17	80 (74-85) 63 (36-82)	• •	Reference 2.05 (1.00-4.21)
	Ongoing infection at infusion No (n=220) Yes (n=22)	220 22	82 (76-87) 53 (30-71)	↓● _	Reference 2.67 (1.40-5.10)

Apparently mild impact of post allo-SCT

Wudhikarn et al. ASH 2024 (Abstract 5092; poster/oral presentation)



New Strategies

Efficacy and safety of Brexucabtagene Autolucel for Relapsed/Refractory B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in patients aged 60 and above.



• Real world data (2021-2024): 296/318 pts infused with Brexu-Cell → 76 aged 60 or above;

- No difference in PFS, OS and CR rate by age except for 12-months PFS in 70+ subgroup (38% vs 51% <60yrs vs 52% 60-69yrs) → small sample size.
- Higher incidence of ICANS 2-3 in 70+ subgroup;

Highlights in EMATOLOGIA

• Longer median time to platelet recovery in 70+ group (51d vs 27d in <60yrs vs 31 in 60-69 yrs)

Muhsen I. et al. ASH 2024



New Strategies Obecabtagene Autoleucel in Adults with B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

- 127 R/R BCP-ALL infused
- Median age 47 yrs (20-81), median line of treatment 2 (1-6);
- Bone marrow burden–adjusted split dose of Obe-cel after lymphodepletion [clinician' choice];



- Response in 77% of adults with refractory disease;
- Overall survival was 61% at 12 months, and serious toxic effects were rare.



= autologous **41BB-** ζ anti-CD19 CAR T-cell therapeutic using a different scFv with **intermediate affinity to CD19** (instead of a high affinity); \rightarrow reduction in toxic effects and improvement in CAR T-cell engraftment and persistence.



D Overall Survival According to Bone Marrow Burden before Lymphodepletion



Ghorashian S, et al. Nat Med. 2019; Roddie C et al. N Engl J Med2024

RENDE (CS)

23-24 MAGGIO 2025



New Strategies CD19-CAR T Cells As Definitive Consolidation for Older Adults with B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in First Complete Remission: A Pilot Study

- B-ALL >55 yrs in CR1 after any frontline treatment (regardless MRD);
- Low-intensity bridging consolidation as LD;
- Primary endpoint: safety and tolerability;
- 13 pts infused enriched-memory CAR-T; median age 66y (range 55-79), 5 Ph+ ALL, 77% previously tretated with Blina.
- All pts MRD- before LD.
- 1 molecular relapse (Ph+ ALL)



Aldoss I. et al. ASH 2024



Take home messages

- Chemo-free approaches show excellent outcomes for Ph+ ALL with the caveat of:
 - extramedullary and CNS relapses;
 - *IKZF1^{plus}* signature → SCT?
- In RW setting chemo-free approaches not always feasible \rightarrow LD Chemo + Ponatinib;
- Ph- ALL treatment still relies on chemotherapy but the addition of blinatumomab in first line is promising and safe
- Subcutaneous Blinatumomab showed encouraging response rate in R/R pts
- CAR-T are extremely effective in R/R BCP-ALL but correct allocation of pts is essential (timing, previous therapies etc)
- Post CAR-T SCT consolidation to be confirmed as the most effective strategy in R/R BCP ALL



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Thank you!



