

SESSIONE 6 - LA LEUCEMIA LINFATICA CRONICA

What's new in prognostic factors?

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Centro di Riferimento Oncologico di Aviano, Italy**



RENDE (CS)

23-24 MAGGIO 2025

Highlights in
EMATOLOGIA

Biomarkers in CLL in the era of pathway inhibitors

Diagnosis/first presentation

Before therapy

Progression under therapy

**Progression of
early stage CLL**

**Treatment
choice**

**Refractoriness
mutations**

**Richter
transformation**

*Prog.
model*

TP53

IGHV

BTK

*Clonal
Rel.*

*Int.
Prog.
model*

CD49d

BCL2

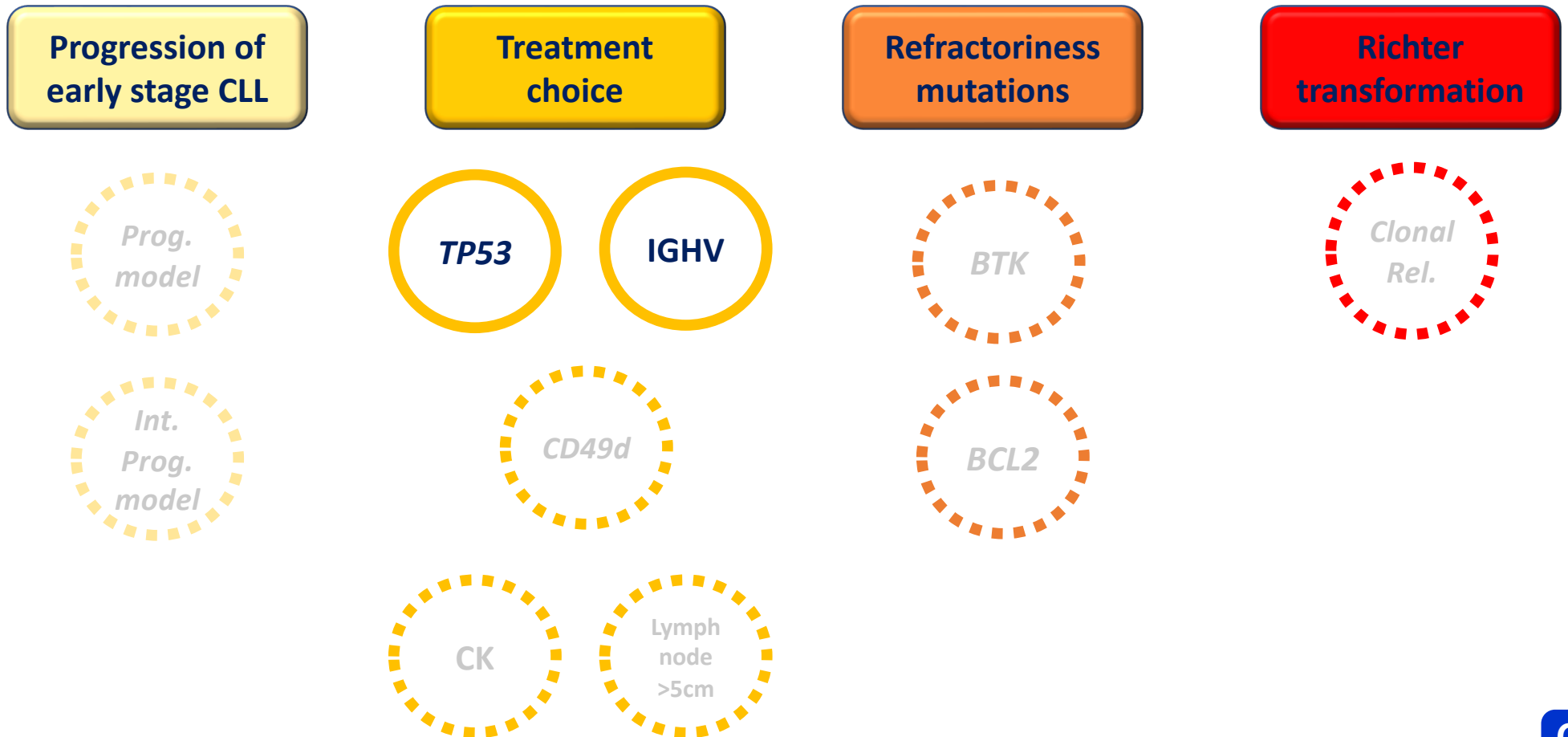
CK

*Lymph
node
>5cm*

The CLL patient journey

CRO
AVIANO

Biomarkers in CLL in the era of pathway inhibitors *according to guidelines*



Biomarkers in CLL in the era of pathway inhibitors *according to guidelines*

Predictive biomarkers

F CR 199

Prognostic biomarkers

Richter syndrome
Death
Progression

Less informative today than in the past
when the choice was between CIT and
target therapies

Treatment tailoring

TP53

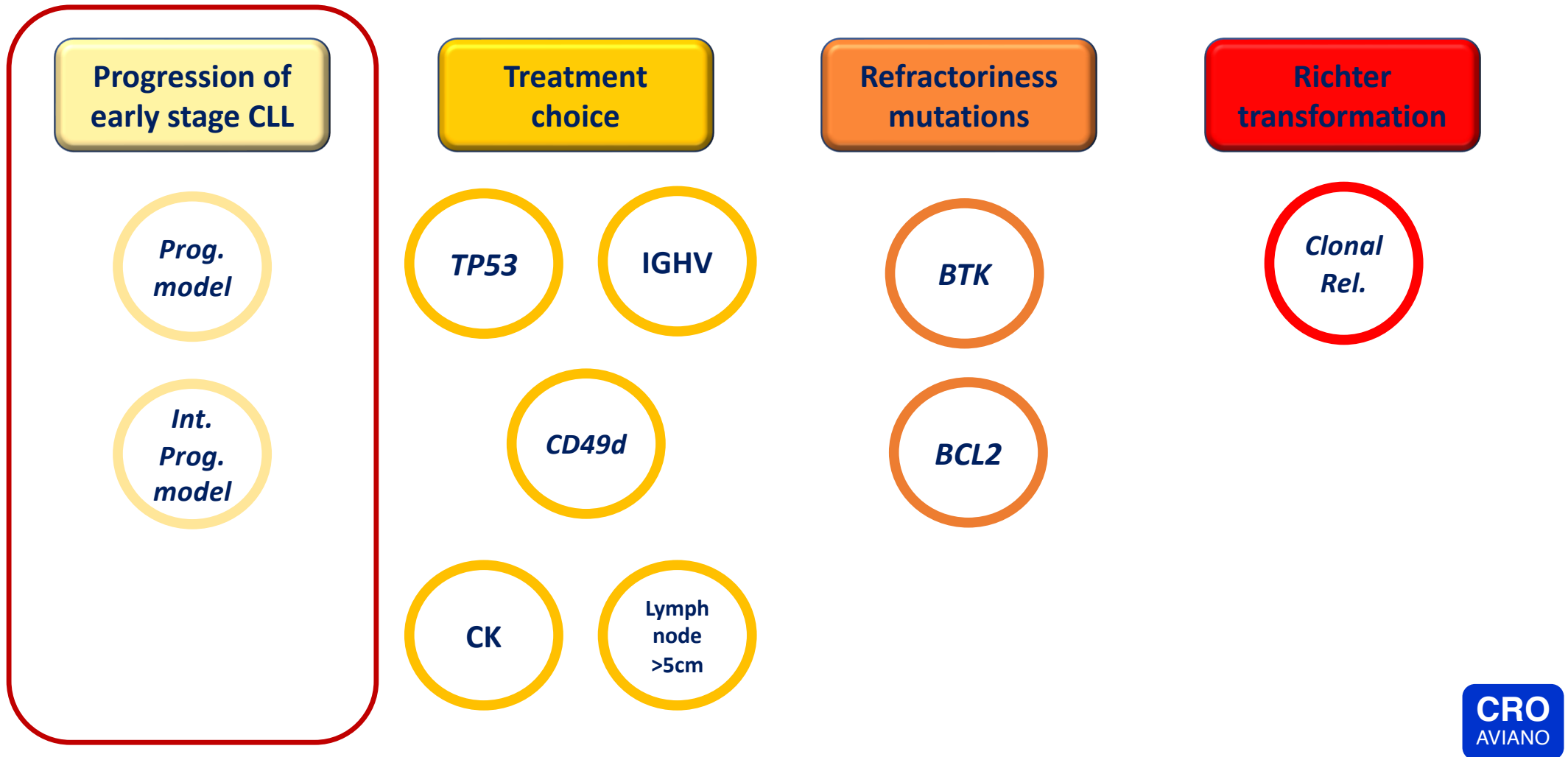
IGHV

Patient counseling

Frequency of follow-up

Identify those appropriate for
early intervention trials

Biomarkers in CLL in the era of pathway inhibitors



Prognostic score for early stage CLL patients

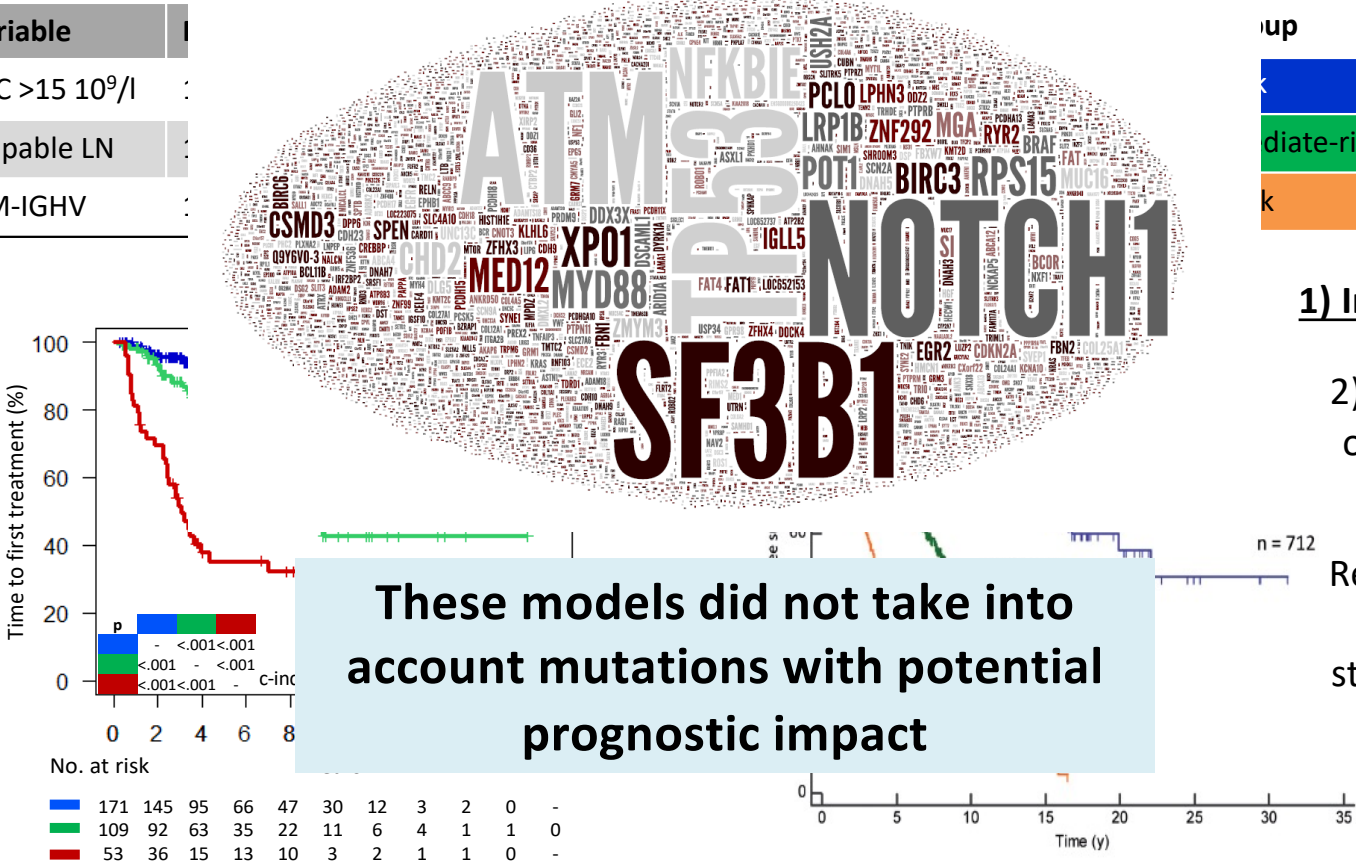
Binet A CLL patients

Rai 0 CLL patients

Variable	Point(s)
ALC >15 10 ⁹ /l	1
Palpable LN	1
UM-IGHV	1

Variable	Point(s)
----------	----------

Group	Score
Low-risk	0
Intermediate-risk	1-2
High-risk	3-5



1) Information on W&W phase

2) Risk-adapted BTKi therapies overcoming the W&W phase

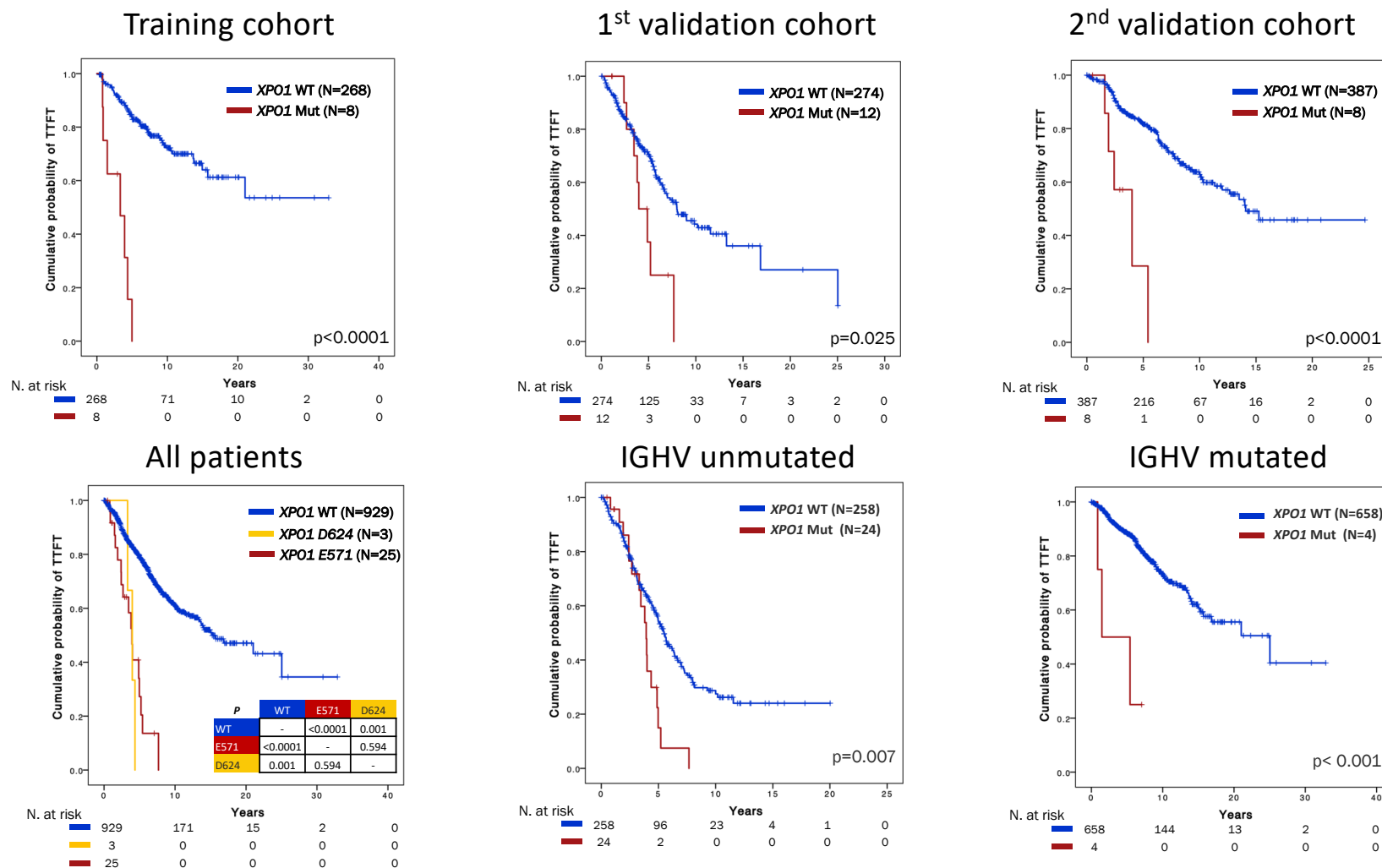


Results of CLL12 do not justify any change to the current standard of “watch and wait.”

Condoluci et al., Blood. 2020

Cohen et al., Haematologica. 2019

Clinical impact of *XPO1* mutations in early stage CLL

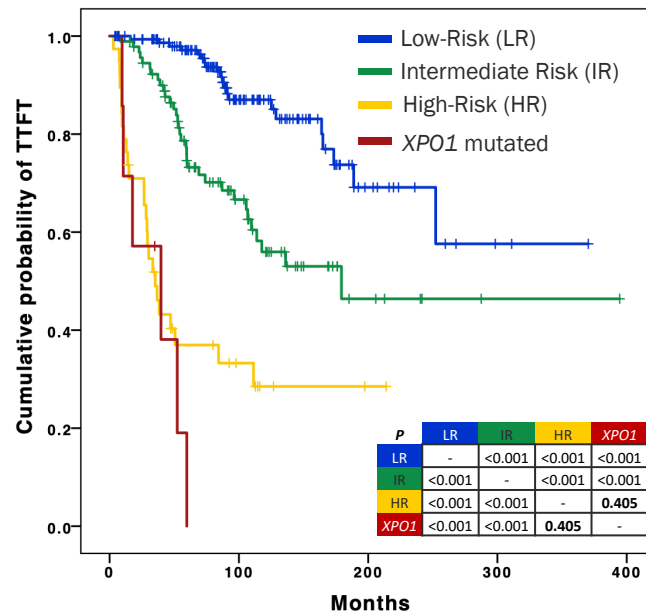


28/297
2.9%

XPO1 mutations integrate early stage CLL prognostic scores

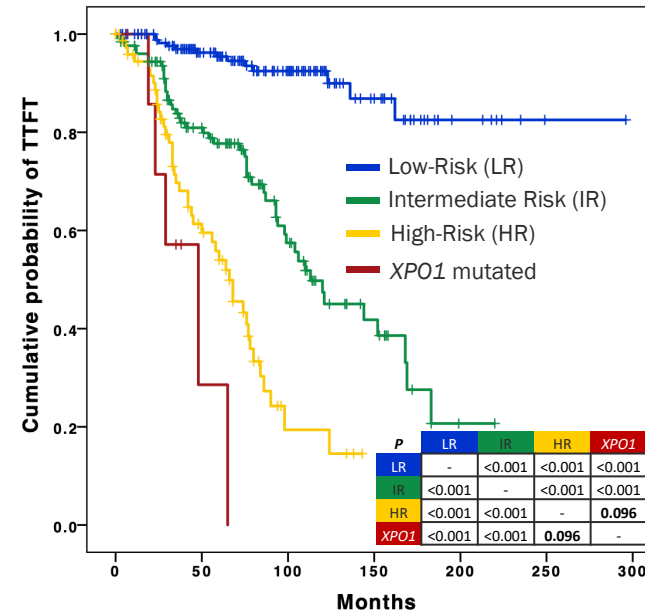
Binet A prognostic model¹
N=295 patients

Variable	HR	95% C.I.	p value
Unmutated IGHV	3.85	2.44-6.06	<0.0001
Palpable lymph nodes	2.49	1.57-3.97	<0.001
Lymphocyte >15,000/ μ L	1.98	1.23-3.20	0.005
XPO1 mutations	2.74	1.11-6.74	0.028



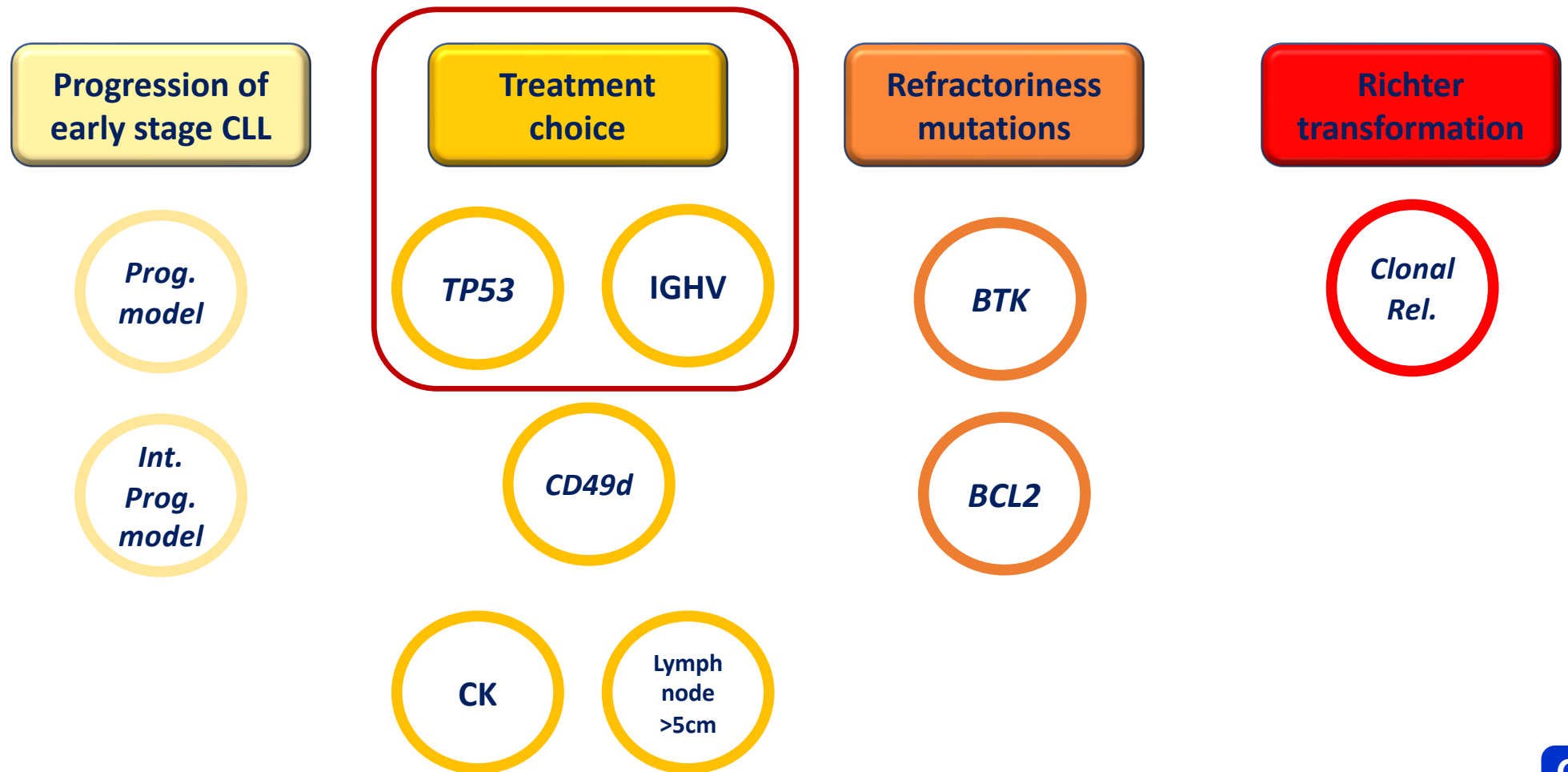
Rai 0 prognostic model²
N=395 patients

Variable	HR	95% C.I.	p value
WBC > 32,000/ μ L	2.96	1.98-4.30	<0.001
Unmutated IGHV	2.67	1.75-4.07	<0.001
Del 17p	1.97	1.06-3.67	0.032
Tris 12	1.76	1.11-2.78	0.016
Del 11q	2.31	1.36-3.39	0.002
XPO1 mutations	4.08	1.55-10.71	0.004

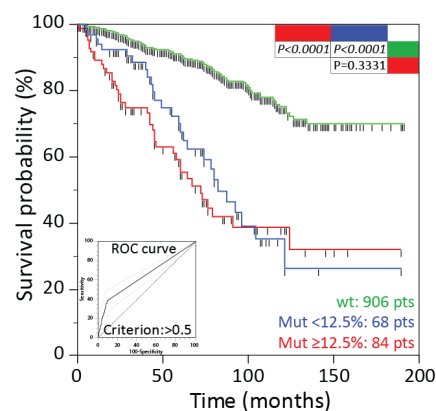
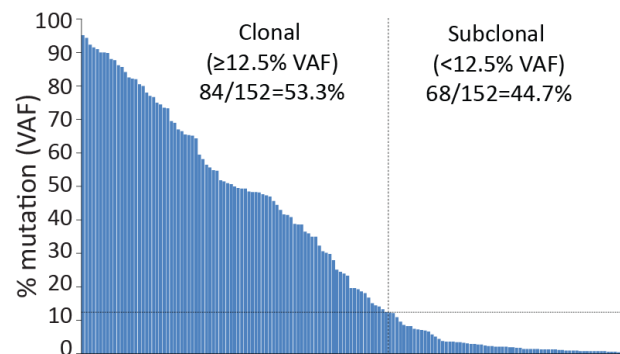


¹Condoluci *et al.*, *Blood*. 2020; ²Cohen *et al.*, *Haematologica*. 2020

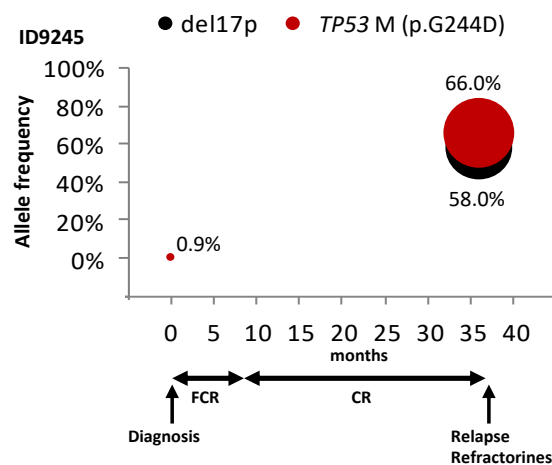
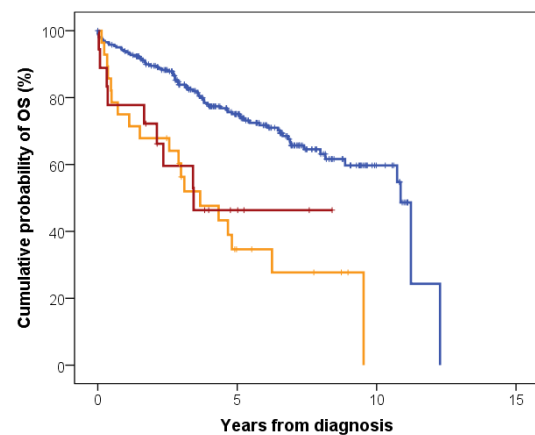
Biomarkers in CLL in the era of pathway inhibitors



TP53 mutational status and OS – CIT



wt	534	464	153	27	0
Mut clonal	56	35	12	2	0
Mut subclonal	40	32	10	1	0



HemaSphere

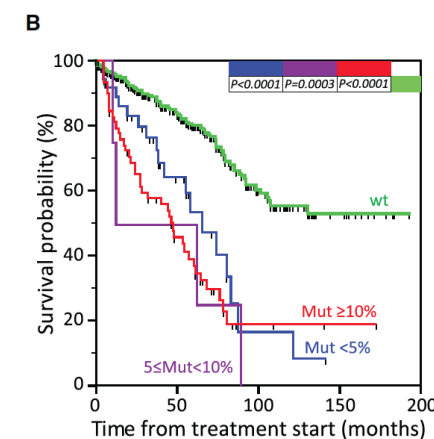
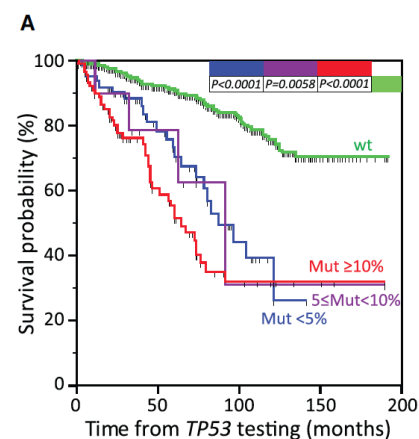
EUROPEAN
HEMATOLOGY
ASSOCIATION

Comment
Open Access

TP53 Mutations and Clinical Outcome in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia: Is a Threshold Still Needed?

Riccardo Bomben¹, Antonella Zucchetto¹, Federico Pozzo¹, Erika Tissino¹, Tamara Bittolo¹, Jacopo Olivieri², Annalisa Chiarenza³, Francesco Zaja⁴, Maria Iaria Del Principe⁵, Davide Rossi^{6,7}, Valter Gattei¹

Correspondence: Valter Gattei (vgattei@cro.it).



Rossi et al, Blood, 2014

Bomben et al., et al, Clin Cancer Res 2021

Front-line therapeutic algorithm – ESMO guidelines (2021)

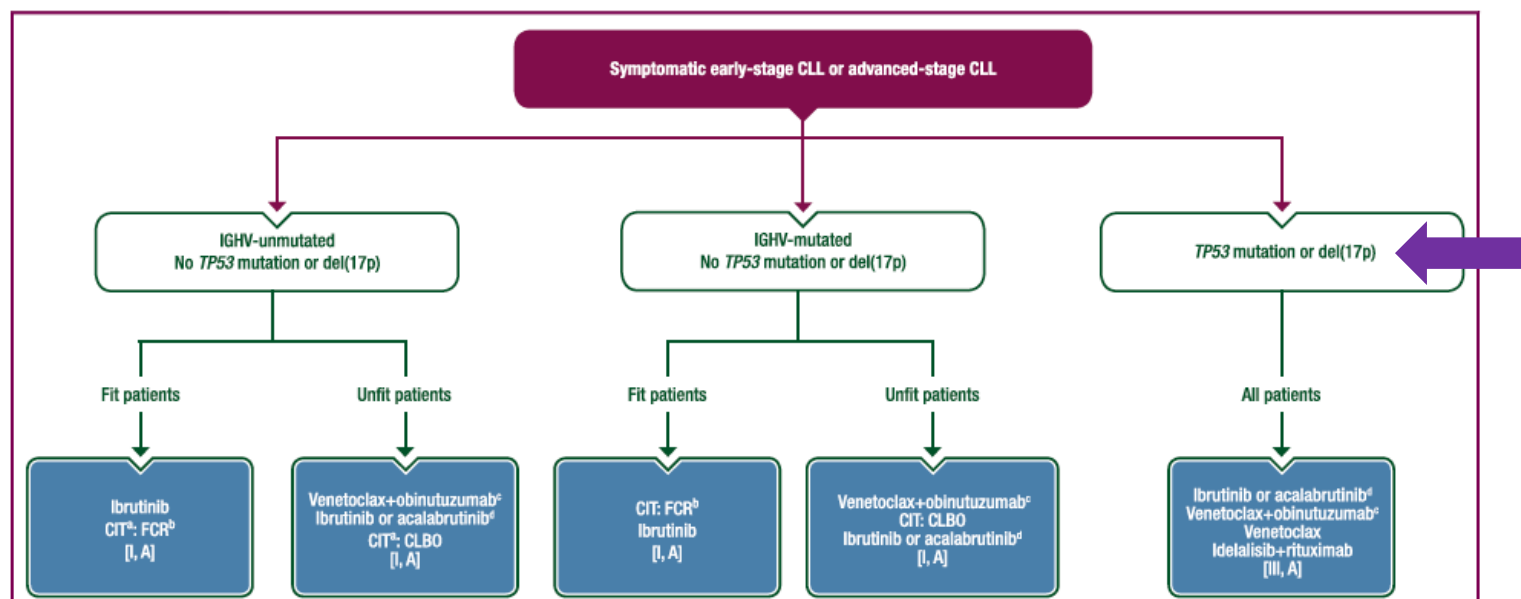


Figure 1. Front-line therapy.

The order of the recommended treatments for each subgroup is based on expert opinion considering time-limited as more valuable therapy, if there is equal evidence for two different treatment options.

BR, bendamustine plus rituximab; CIT, chemoimmunotherapy; CLBO, chlorambucil plus obinutuzumab; CLL, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia; FCR, fludarabine, cyclophosphamide and rituximab; IGHV, immunoglobulin heavy chain variable.

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^b BR might be considered alternatively in patients above the age of 65 years.

^c If available.

^d If approved and available.

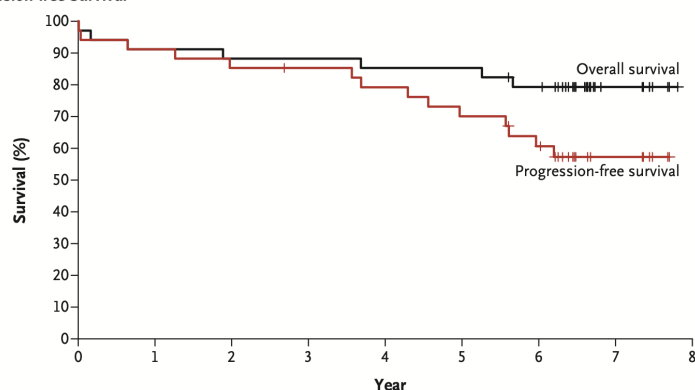
Ibrutinib allows to obtain prolong survival rates also in high risk *TP53* disrupted CLL

i) *TP53*

TP53 mut and/or 17p del

Phase 2 trial dedicated to *TP53* disrupted cases

A Overall and Progression-free Survival

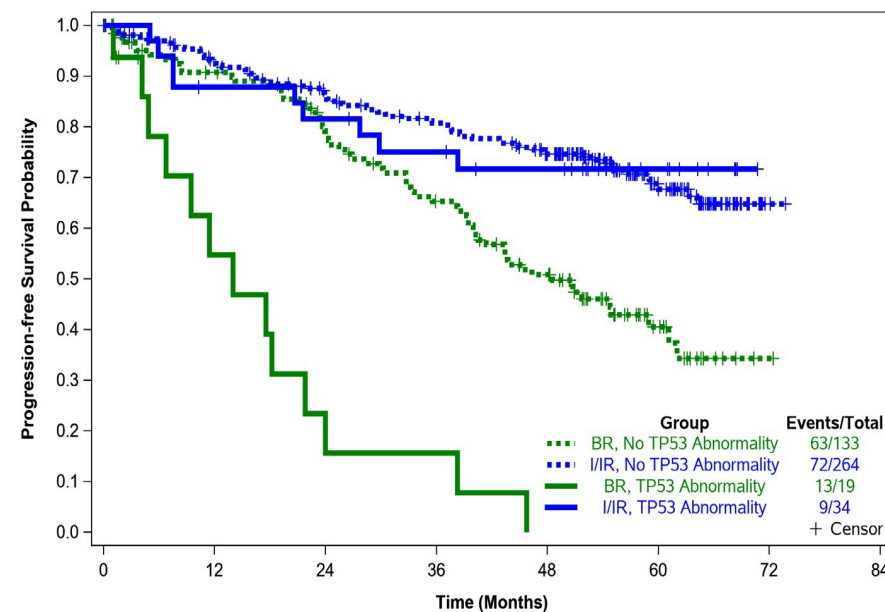


No. at Risk	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Overall survival	34	31	30	30	29	29	26	7	0
Progression-free survival	34	31	29	28	26	23	19	6	0

B Summary of Survival

	2 Yr	3 Yr	4 Yr	5 Yr	6 Yr
			% (95% CI)		
Overall Survival	88 (78–100)	88 (78–100)	85 (74–98)	85 (74–98)	79 (67–94)
Progression-free Survival	85 (74–98)	85 (74–98)	79 (67–94)	70 (56–88)	61 (46–80)

Phase 3 Alliance trial



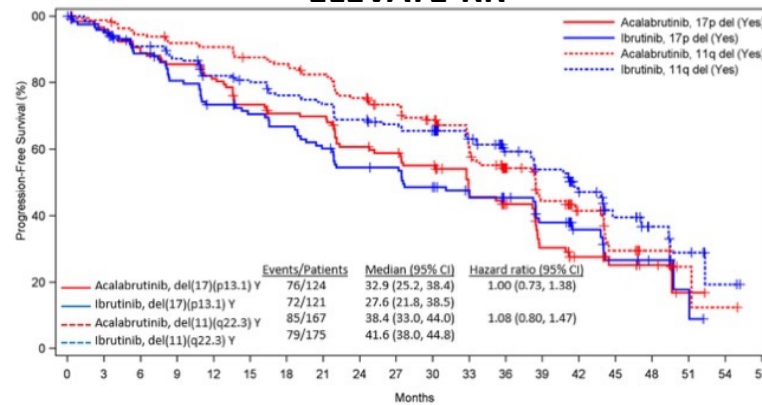
Ahn *et al.*, *NEJM*. 2020; Woyach *et al.*, *ASH* 2021

Acalabrutinib and zanubrutinib are active in *TP53* disrupted patients

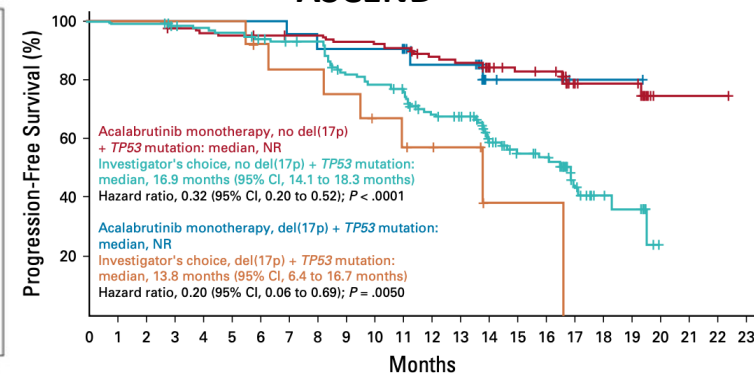
TP53 mut and/or 17p del

i) *TP53*

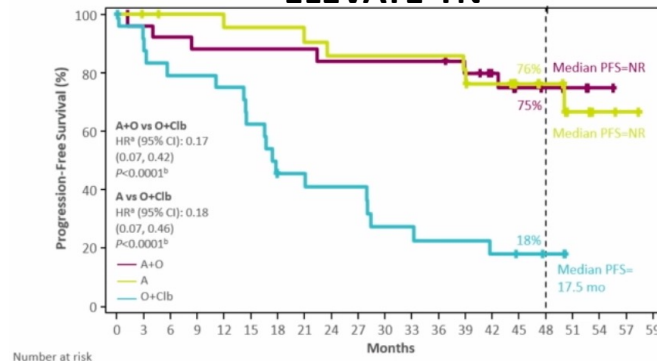
ACALABRUTINIB ELEVATE-RR



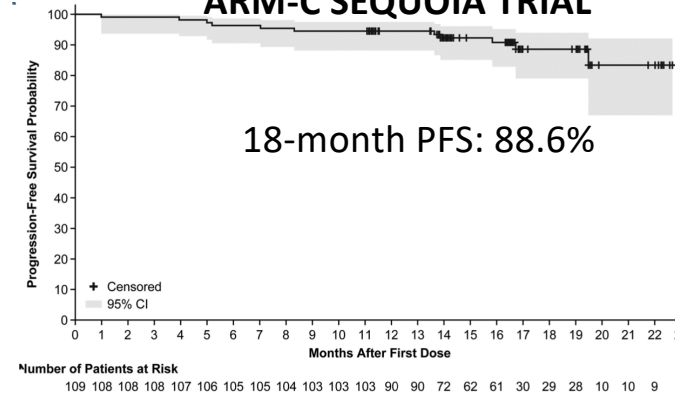
ACALABRUTINIB ASCEND



ACALABRUTINIB ELEVATE-TN



ZANUBRUTINIB ARM-C SEQUOIA TRIAL

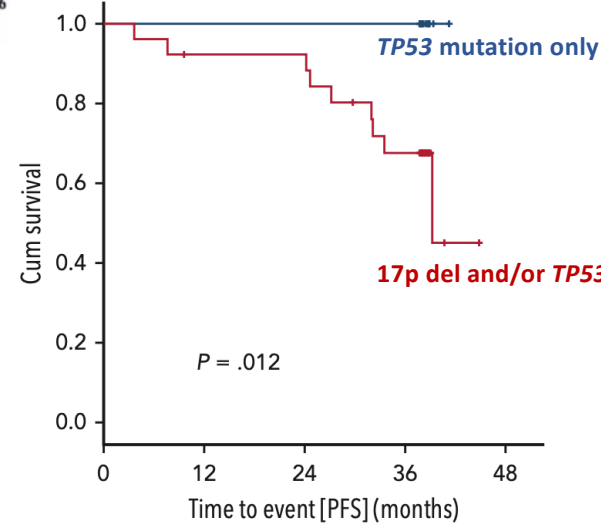
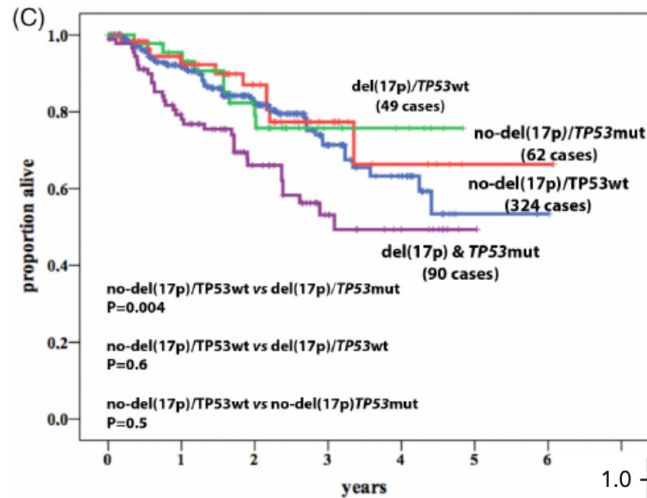


Byrd et al., JCO. 2021; Ghia et al., JCO. 2020; Sharman et al., Lancet. 2020; Tam et al., Haematologica. 2021.

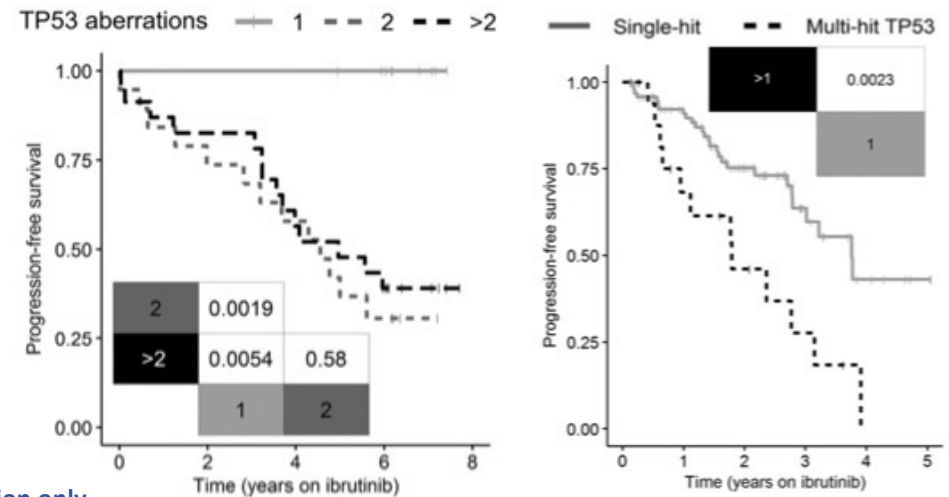
Clinical impact of different types of *TP53* abnormalities

i) *TP53*

Italian multicentre cohort

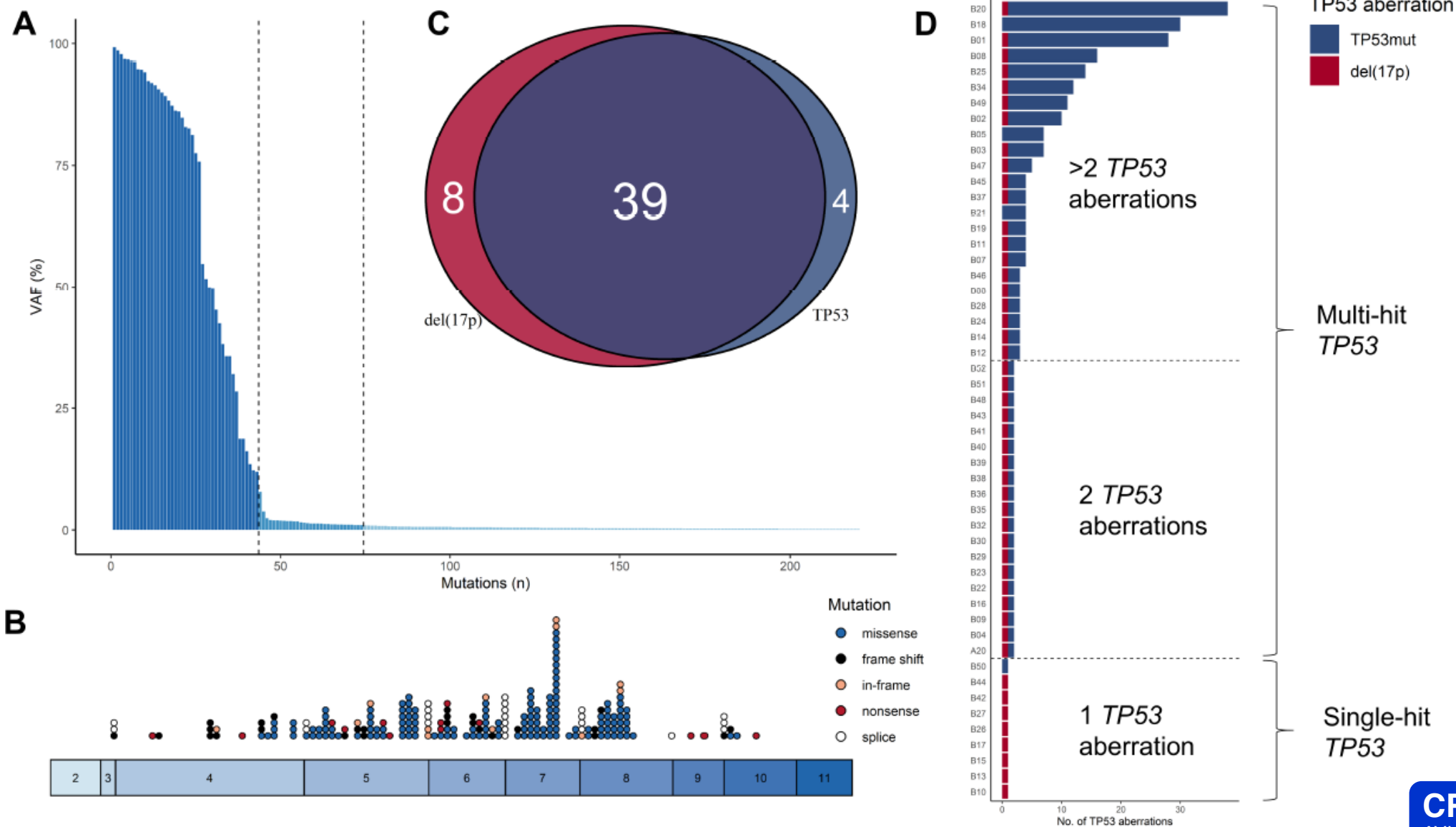


Phase 2 trial and Danish cohort



Phase 2 CLL2-GIVE trial

Morabito *et al.*, *Am J Hematol.* 2021; Brieghel *et al.*, *Clin Cancer Res.* 2021;
Huber *et al.*, *Blood.* 2023



CLL retrospective multicenter cohort (n=229)

TP53 mutations by NGS

FISH analysis for 17p deletion

Purified CD5+/CD19+ CLL

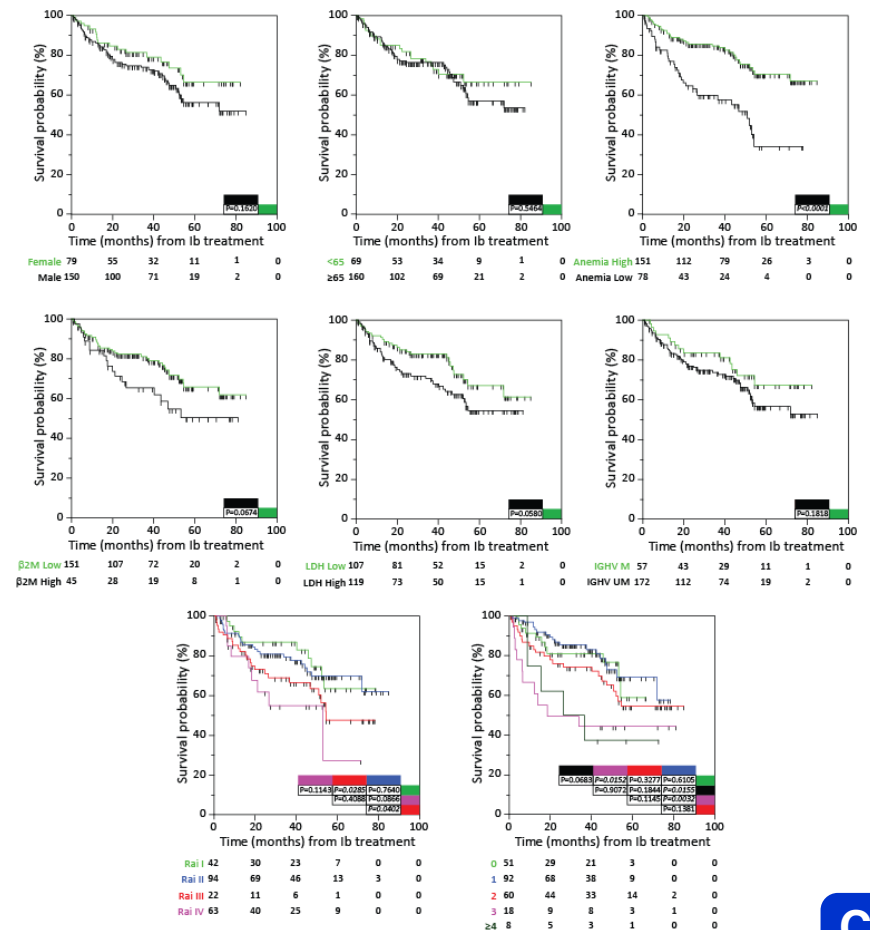
Ibrutinib start date

6 months

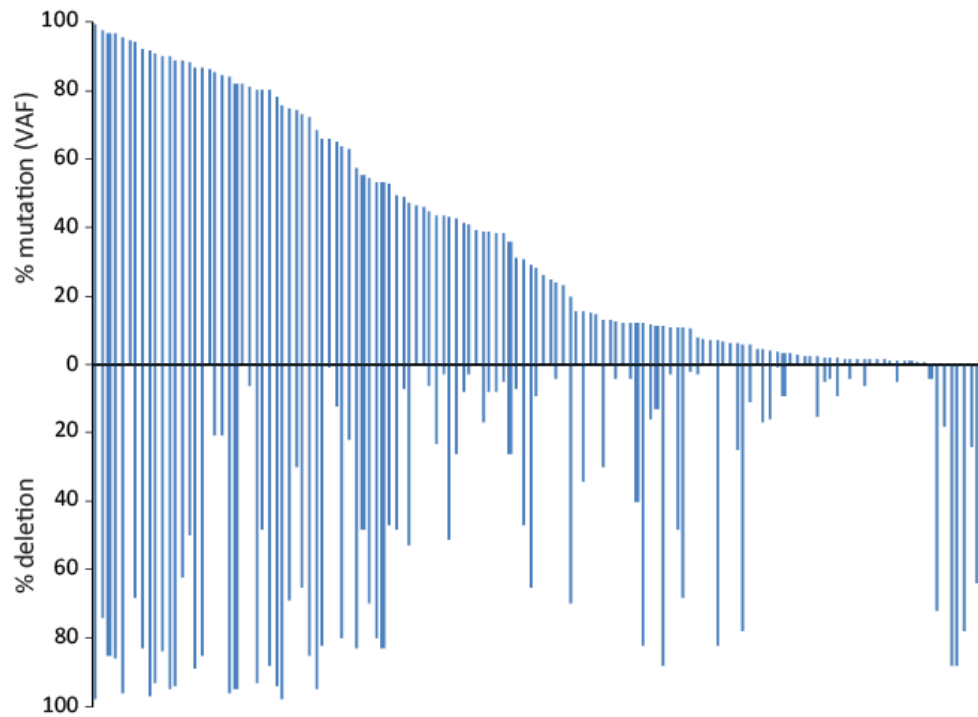
Included pts.

CLL retrospective multicenter cohort (n=229)

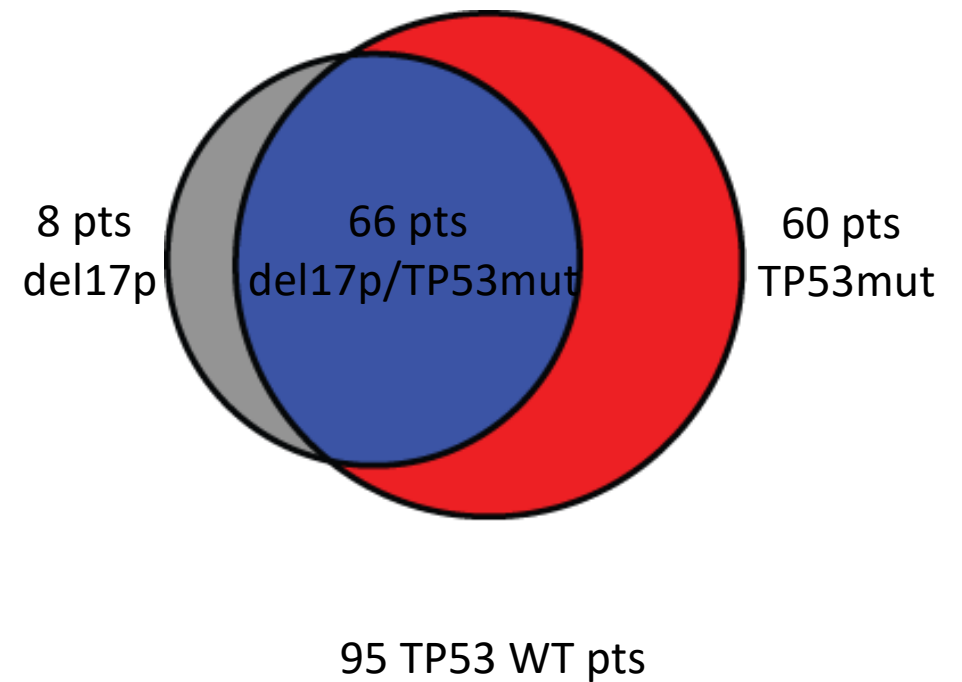
Parameter	Category	N	%
Age	<65	69	30.1
	≥65	160	69.9
Gender	Female	79	34.5
	Male	150	65.5
Previous Line of therapy ^a	0	51	22.3
	1	92	40.2
	2	60	26.2
	3	18	7.9
	>3	8	3.5
Rai stage	0	0	0.0
	I	42	18.3
	II	94	41.0
	III	22	9.6
	IV	63	27.5
del11q	Present	56	24.5
	Absent	171	74.7
	Missing	2	0.9
Hemoglobin g/L	>120 for men / >110 for women	151	65.9
	≤120 for men / ≤110 for women	78	34.1
β2 microglobulin mg/L	<5	151	65.9
	≥5	45	19.7
	Missing	33	14.4
Lactate dehydrogenase U/ml	Normal	108	47.2
	Elevated	119	52.0
	Missing	2	0.9
IGHV	Mutated	76	33.2
	Unmutated	153	66.8



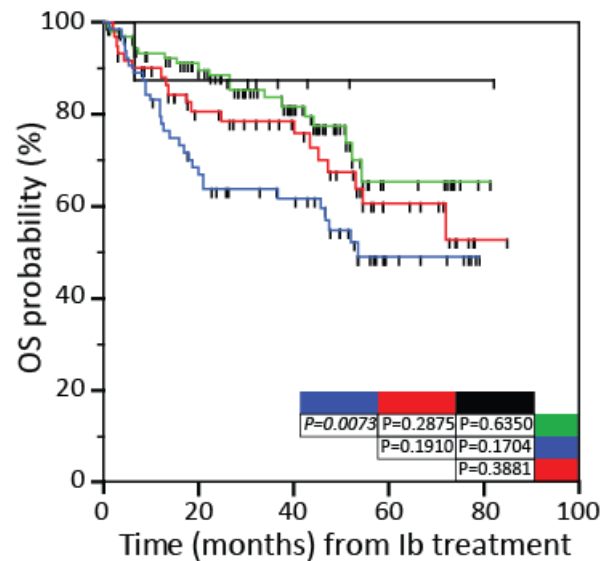
TP53 aberrations



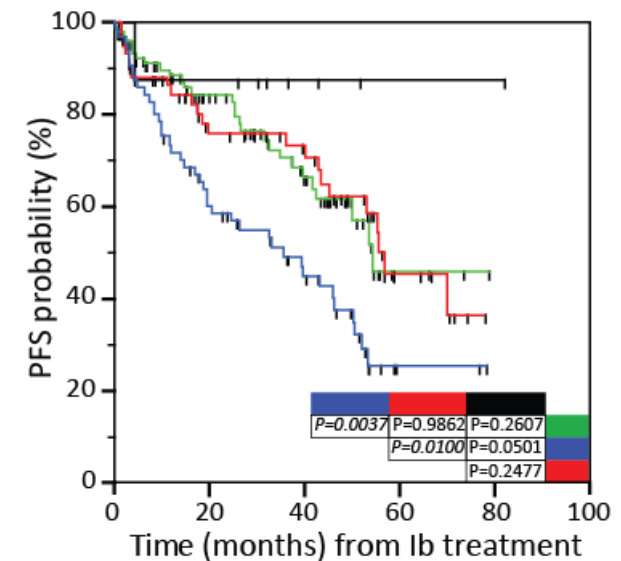
TP53 mutations = VAF $\geq 1\%$



TP53 aberrations and OS/PFS



non-del17/non-TP53mut	95	68	40	9	1	0
del17p/non-TP53mut	8	7	3	1	1	0
non-del17/TP53mut	60	39	39	12	1	0
del17/TP53mut	66	41	31	8	0	0



non-del17/non-TP53mut	95	54	30	3	0	0
del17p/non-TP53mut	8	7	3	1	1	0
non-del17/TP53mut	60	35	27	7	0	0
del17/TP53mut	66	36	21	2	0	0

Multivariable analysis

	OS				MVA ^a			
	UVA							
	HR	LCI	UCI	P	HR	LCI	UCI	P
Gender (Male)	1.47	0.86	2.51	0.1644	-			
Age (>65 y)	1.18	0.69	2.00	0.5489	-			
Rai stage (I-II versus III-IV) ^c	1.82	1.12	2.94	0.0147	ni			
Previous Line of therapy (0-1 versus >1)	1.93	1.19	3.12	0.0077	1.91	1.17	3.13	0.0093
Anemia	2.86	1.77	4.62	<0.0001	2.47	1.51	4.05	0.0003
β2 microglobulin (high) ^d	1.68	0.96	2.95	0.0689	-			
LDH (high) ^e	1.61	0.98	2.65	0.0607	ni			
IGHV (UM)	1.49	0.83	2.68	0.1849	-			
del11q (present) ^d	1.31	0.77	2.22	0.3233	-			
del17p/non-TP53mut ^f	0.60	0.08	4.50	0.6208	0.71	0.09	5.35	0.7391
non-del17p/TP53mut ^f	1.46	0.77	2.76	0.2467	1.43	0.74	2.79	0.2917
del17p/TP53mut ^f	2.16	1.21	3.85	0.009	2.27	1.24	4.14	0.0077

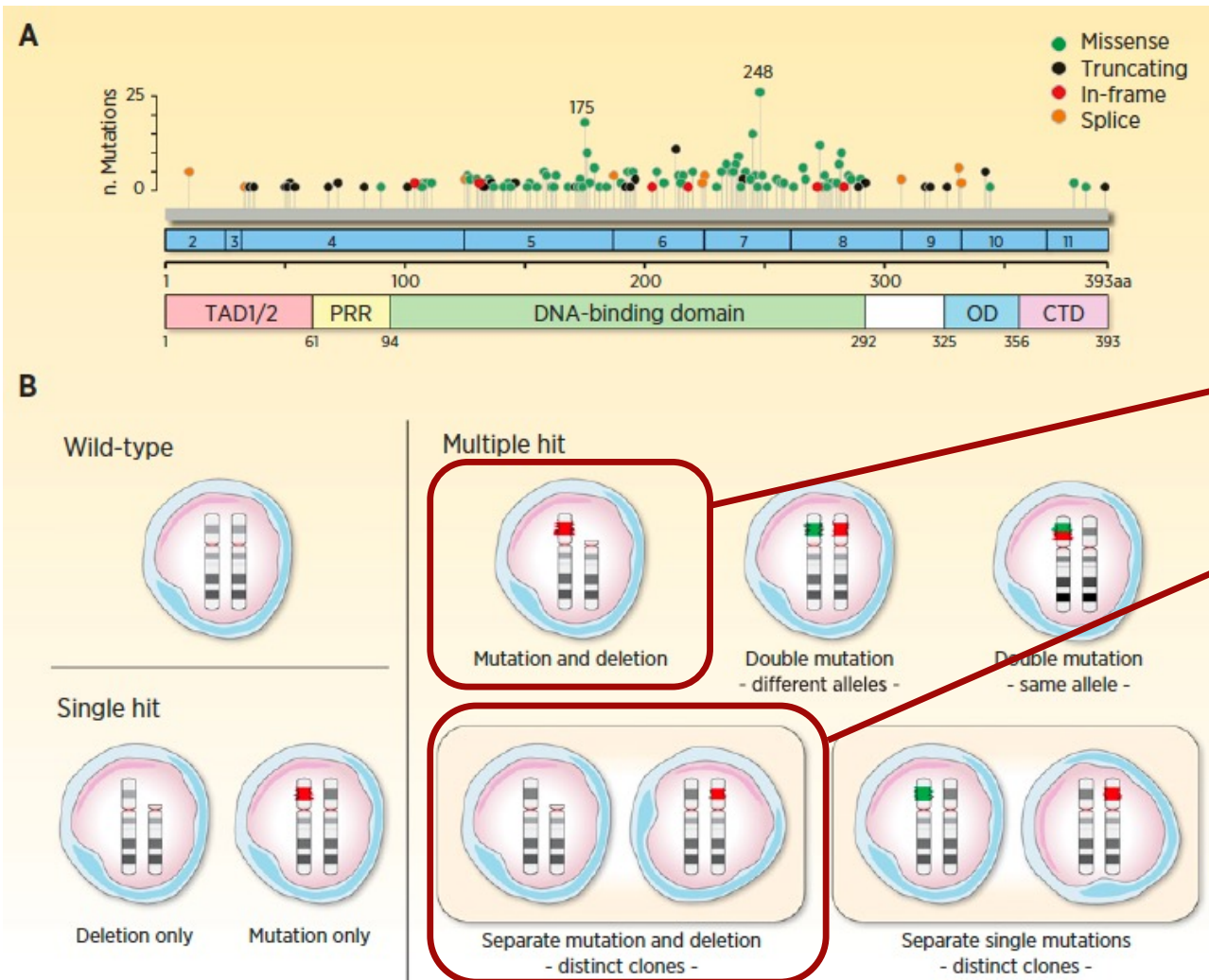
PFS							
UVA				MVA ^b			
HR	LCI	UCI	P	HR	LCI	UCI	P
1.73	1.08	2.78	0.0233	ni			
1.03	0.66	1.61	0.8928	-			
1.65	1.08	2.51	0.0201	ni			
2.34	1.54	3.55	<0.0001	2.44	1.59	3.74	<0.0001
2.25	1.49	3.41	0.0001	2.04	1.33	3.13	0.0011
1.61	0.99	2.61	0.0526	-			
1.74	1.14	2.67	0.0108	ni			
1.81	1.07	3.08	0.0272	ni			
1.21	0.76	1.93	0.4199	-			
0.33	0.05	2.42	0.2756	0.34	0.05	2.53	0.2942
1.02	0.58	1.77	0.9556	0.90	0.51	1.61	0.7340
2.01	1.24	3.25	0.0047	2.05	1.24	3.37	0.0049

OS and PFS were computed from date of ibrutinib treatment to date of death or progression/suspension or last follow-up

Clinical impact of different types of *TP53* abnormalities

i) *TP53*

Bomben et al., et al, Clin Cancer Res 2021



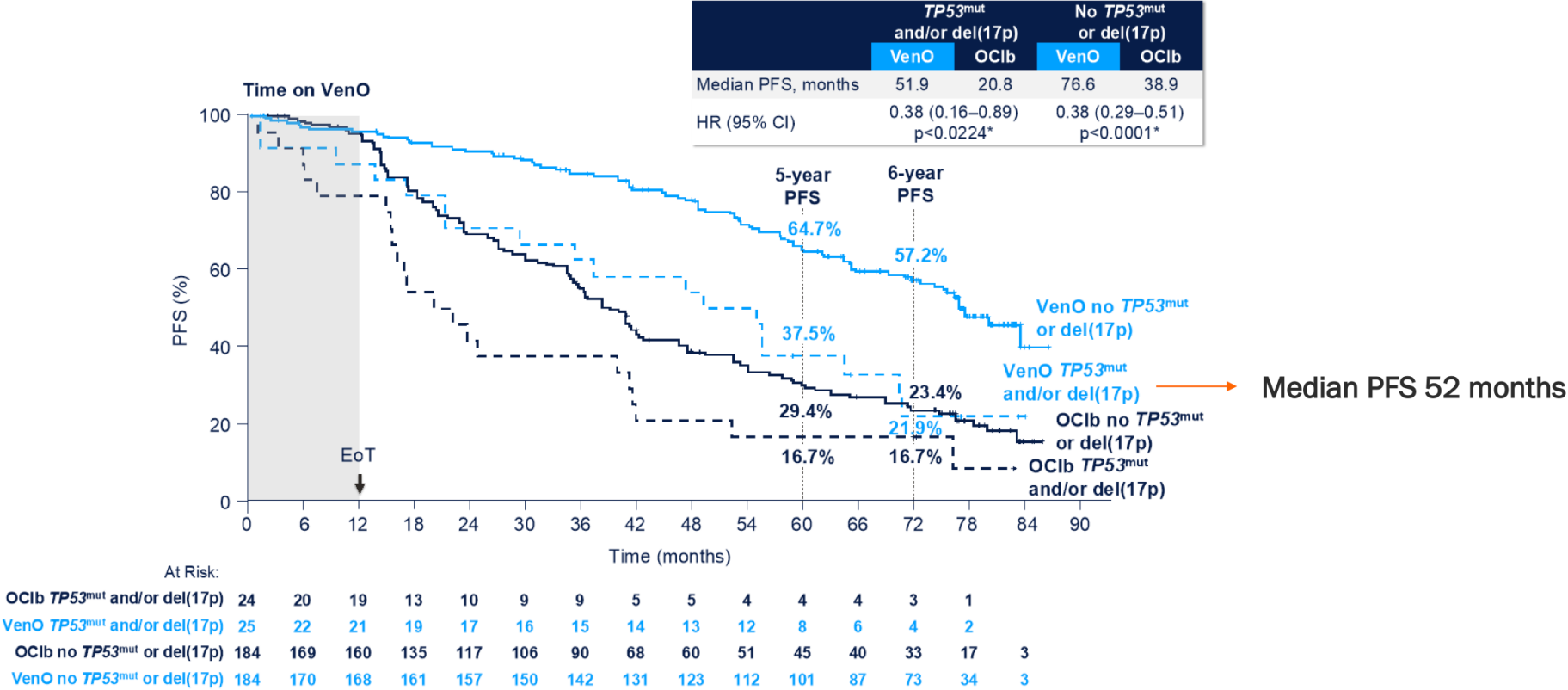
CK proxy?

BTKi are active in most of *TP53* disrupted patients

Clinical impact of TP53 in the CLL14 trial

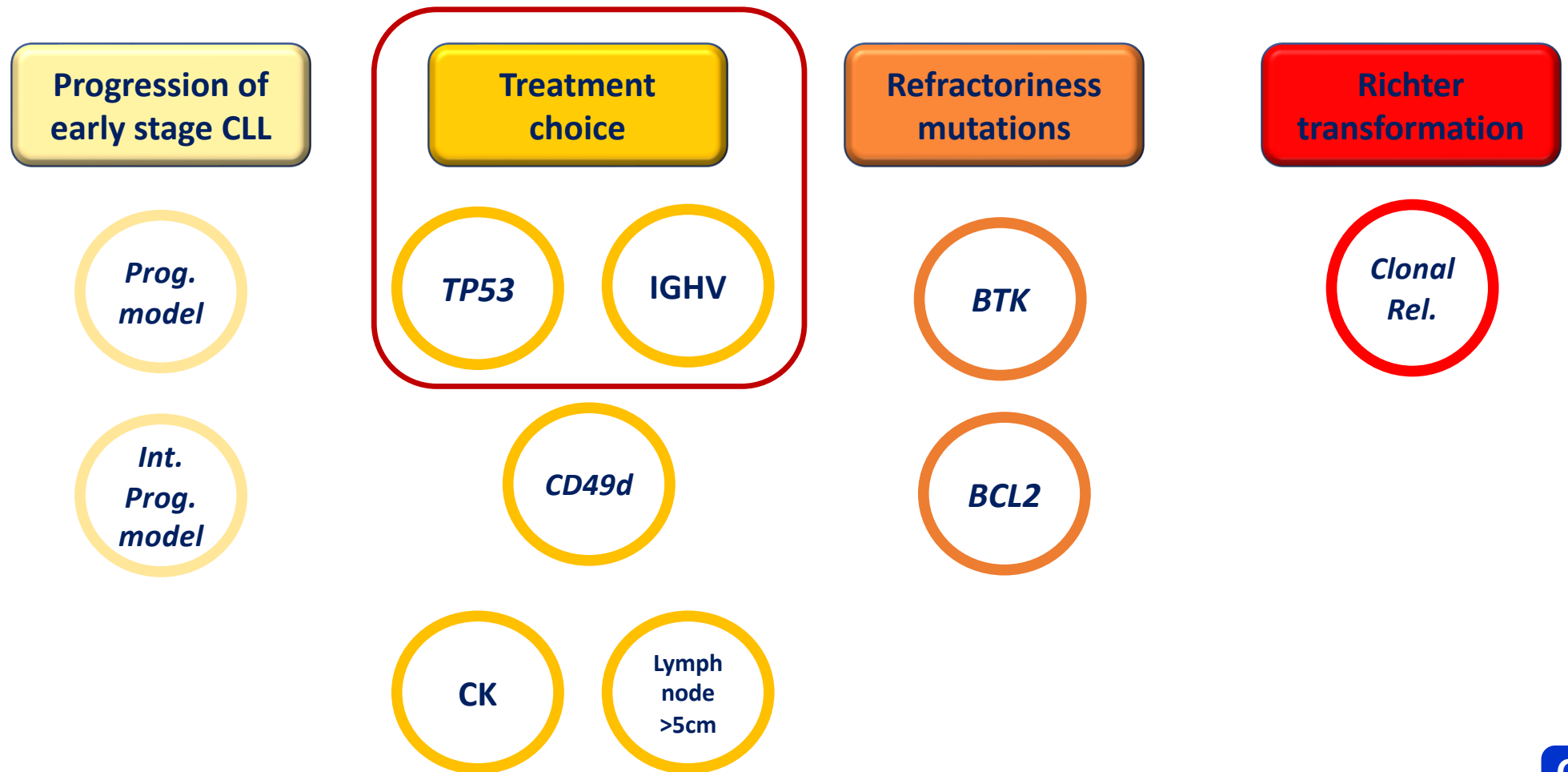
TP53 mut and/or 17p del

i) TP53

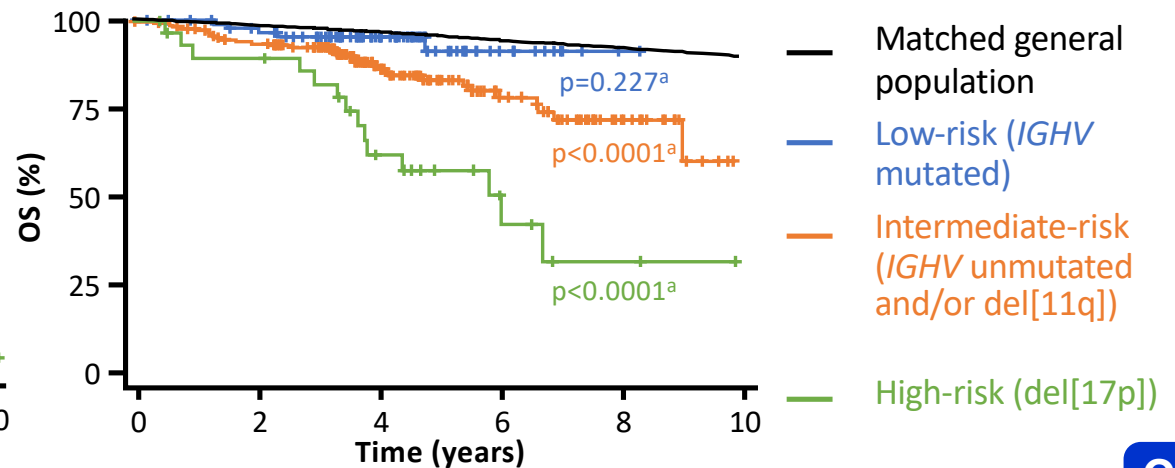
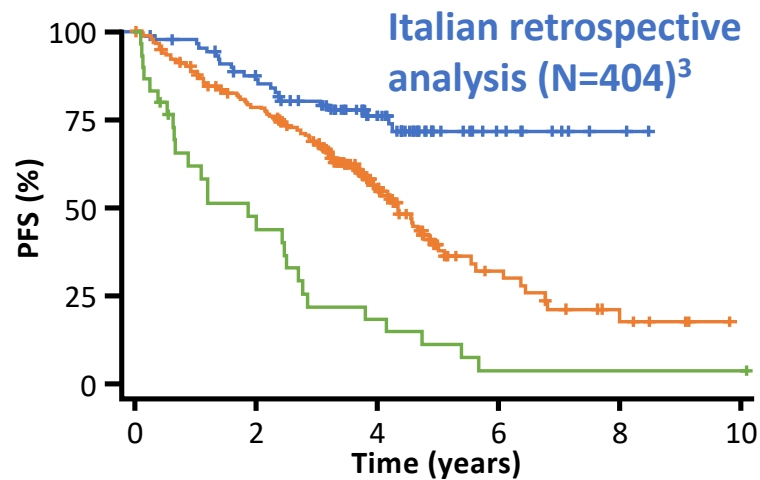
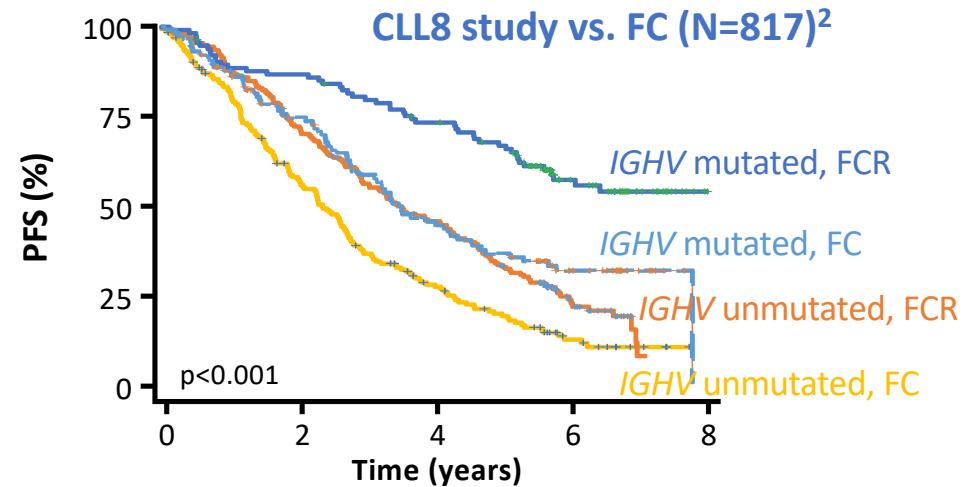
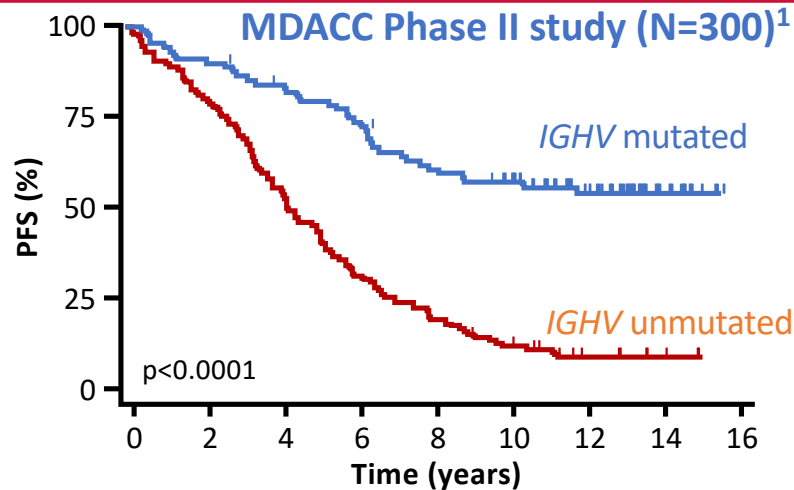


Ven-Obi mitigates, but does not abolish, the negative prognostic impact of TP53 disruption

Biomarkers in CLL in the era of pathway inhibitors



Impact of *IGHV* mutation status on outcome after FCR



1. Thompson PA, et al. *Blood* 2016; 127:303–309. 2. Fischer K, et al. *Blood* 2016; 127:208–215. 3. Rossi D et al. *Blood* 2015; 126 1921–1924.

Front-line therapeutic algorithm – ESMO guidelines (2021)

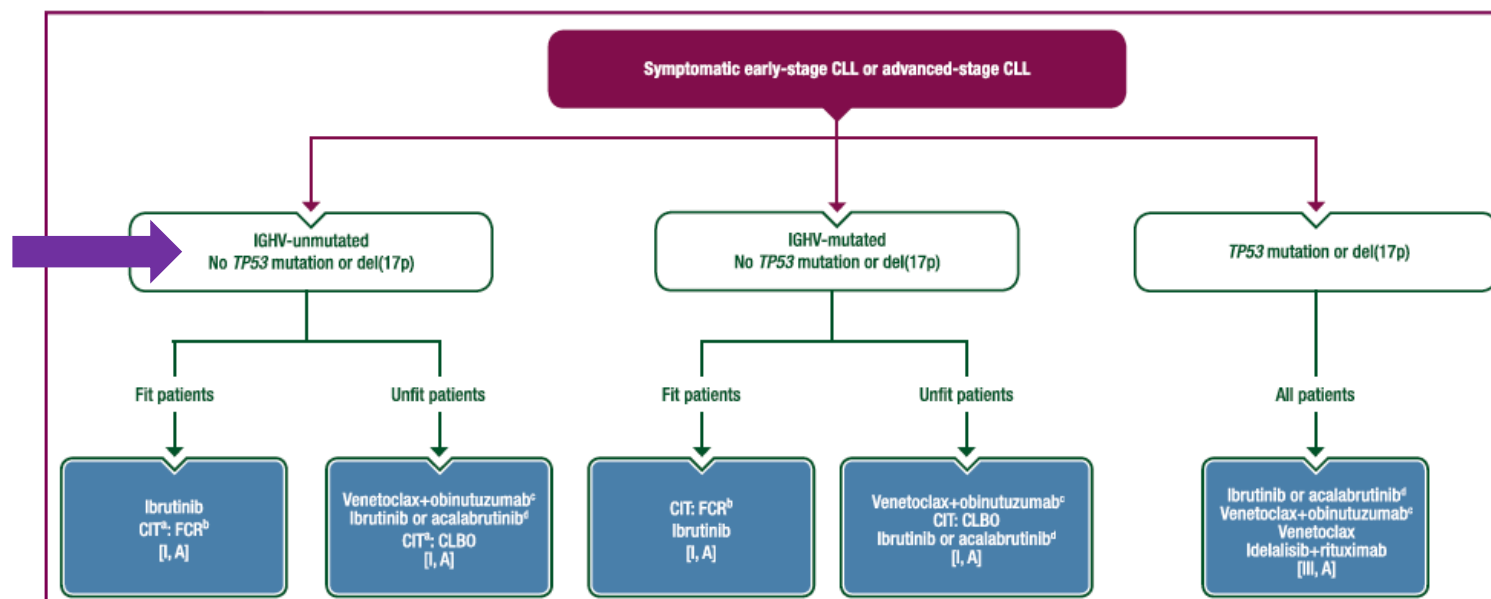


Figure 1. Front-line therapy.

The order of the recommended treatments for each subgroup is based on expert opinion considering time-limited as more valuable therapy, if there is equal evidence for two different treatment options.

BR, bendamustine plus rituximab; CIT, chemoimmunotherapy; CLBO, chlorambucil plus obinutuzumab; CLL, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia; FCR, fludarabine, cyclophosphamide and rituximab; IGHV, immunoglobulin heavy chain variable.

^a CIT as alternative treatment, only if reasons against treatment with targeted therapies or non-availability.

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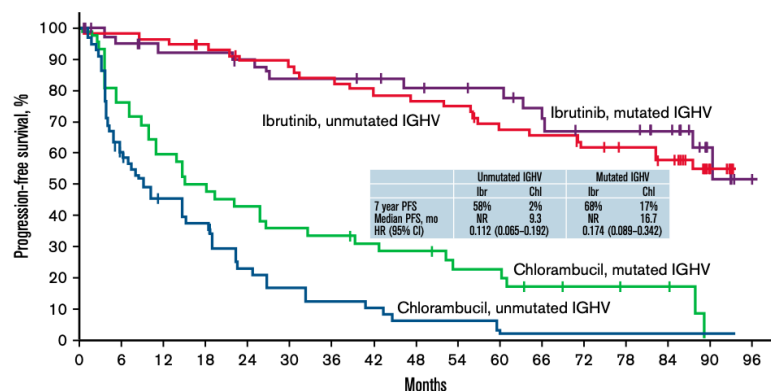
^c If available.

^d If approved and available.

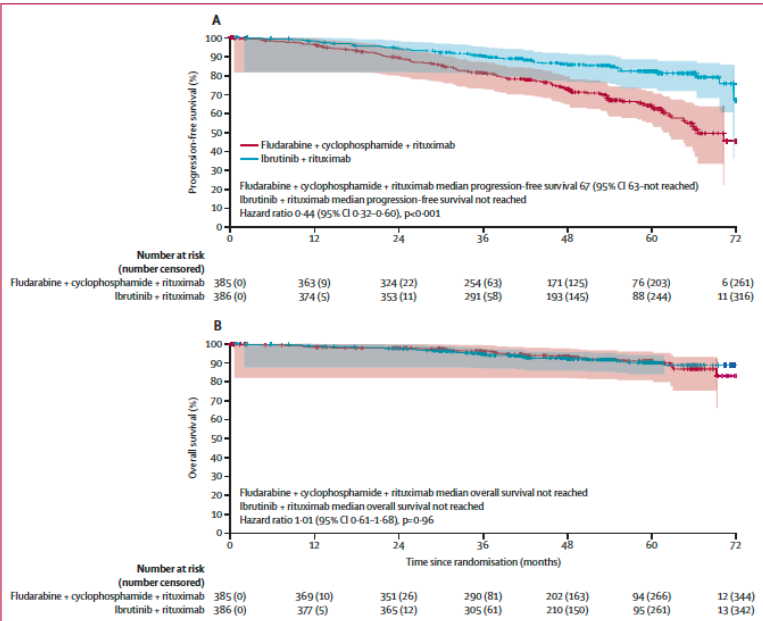
BTKi overcome the prognostic value of IGHV mutational status

ii) IGHV

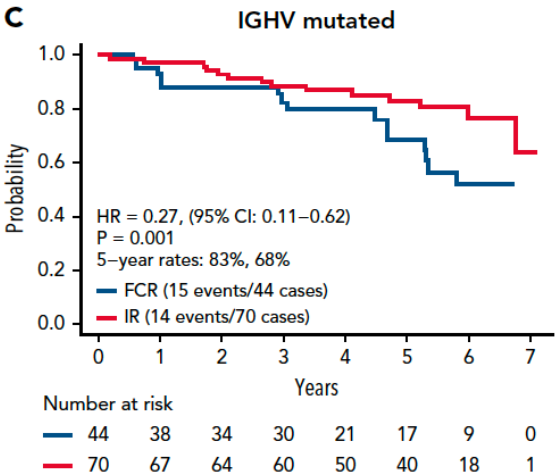
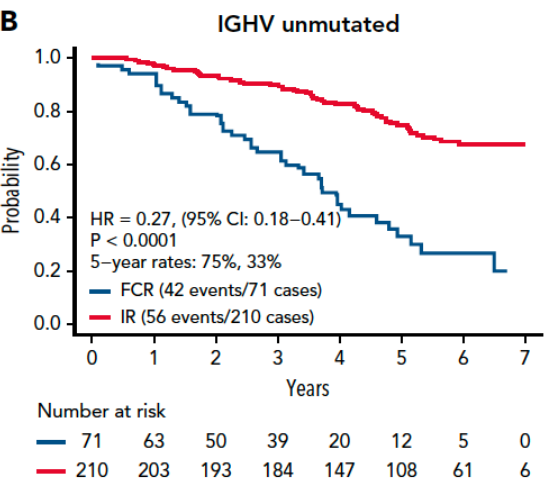
RESONATE 2 trial



FLAIR trial



E1912 trial

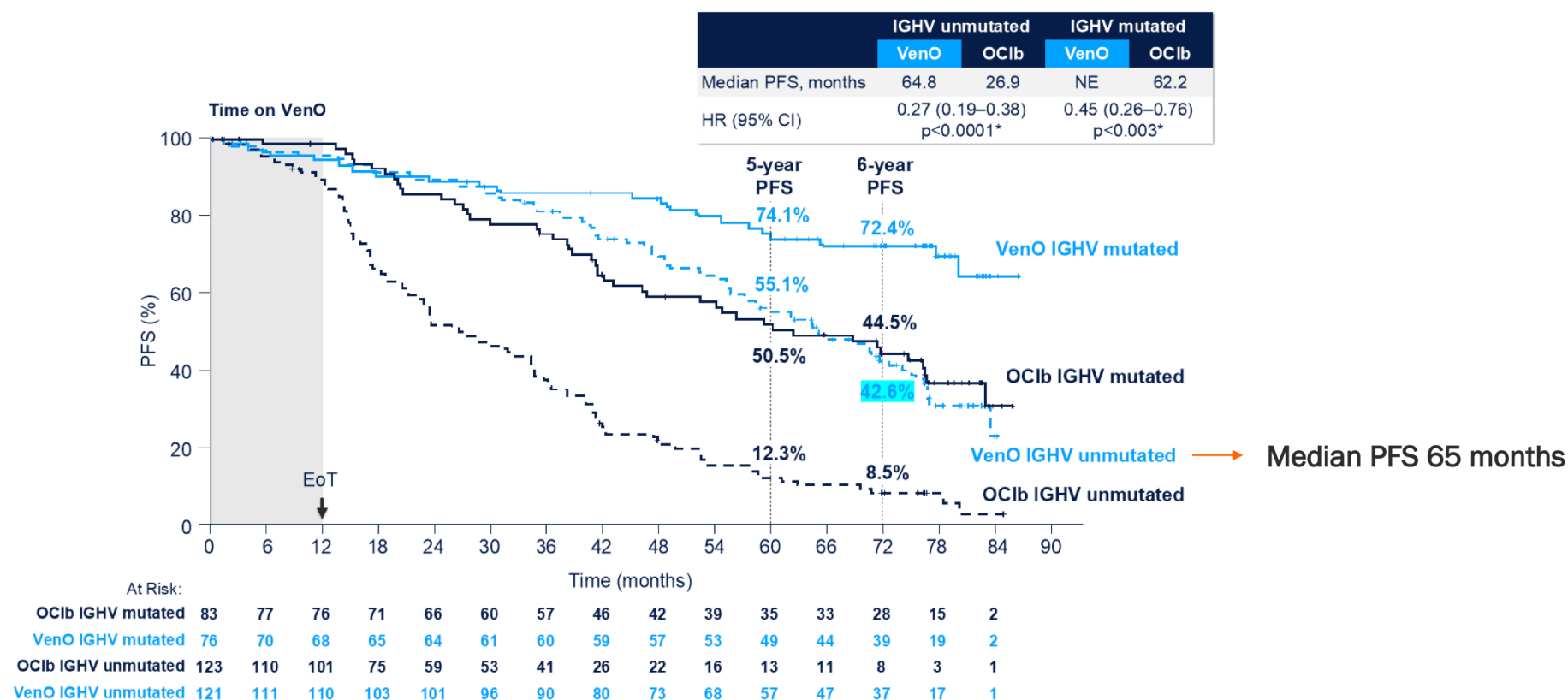


	IR, % (n = 352)	FCR, % (n = 158)	P value
Cardiac	7.7	0	<.001
Atrial fibrillation	4.5	0	.004
Other Cardiac*	4.3	0	.008

Barr et al., Blood Adv. 2022; Shanafelt et al., Blood. 2022; Hillmen et al., Lancet Oncol. 2023

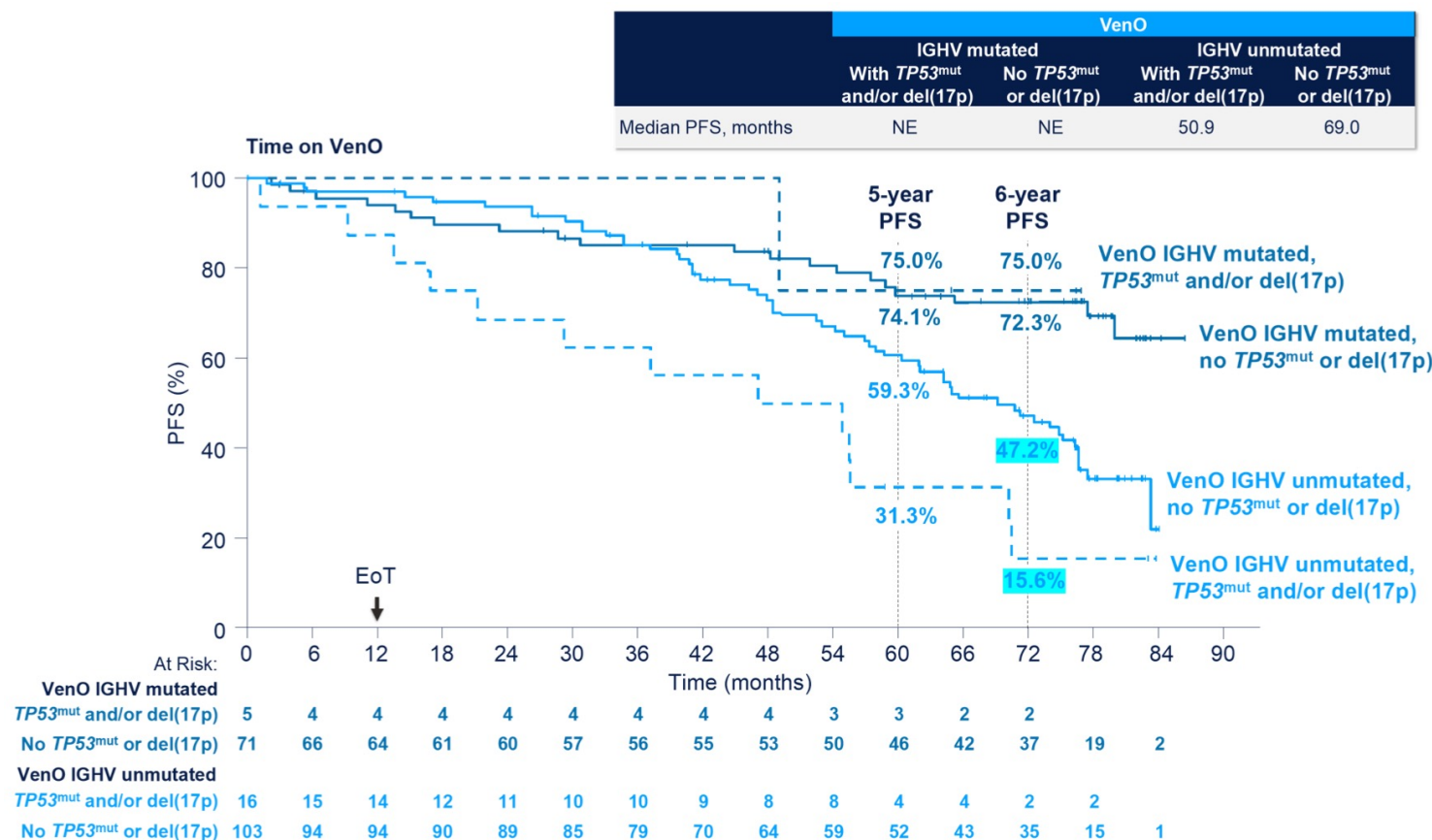
Venetoclax + antiCD20 mitigates but not completely overcome the negative prognostic impact of unmutated IGHV genes

ii) IGHV



The poor outcome of unmutated IGHV in Venetoclax + antiCD20 treated patients is reinforced by *TP53* disruption

ii) IGHV



Front-line therapeutic algorithm – from 2021 ESMO guidelines to....

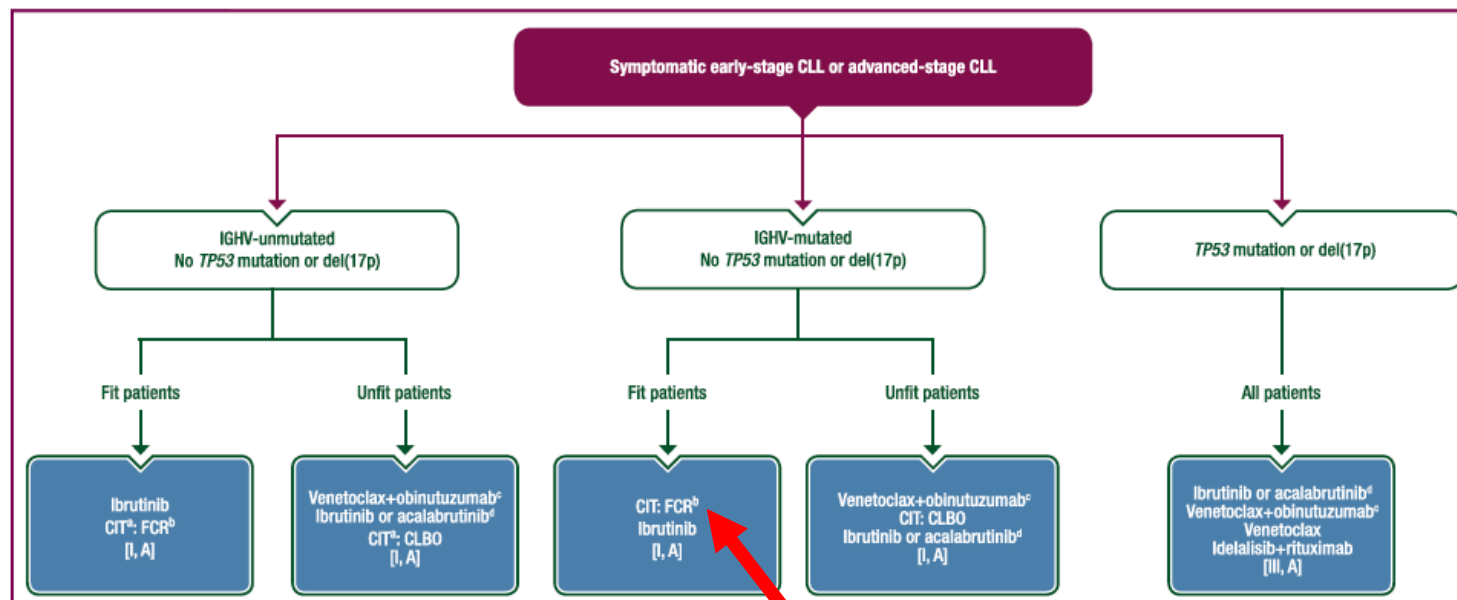


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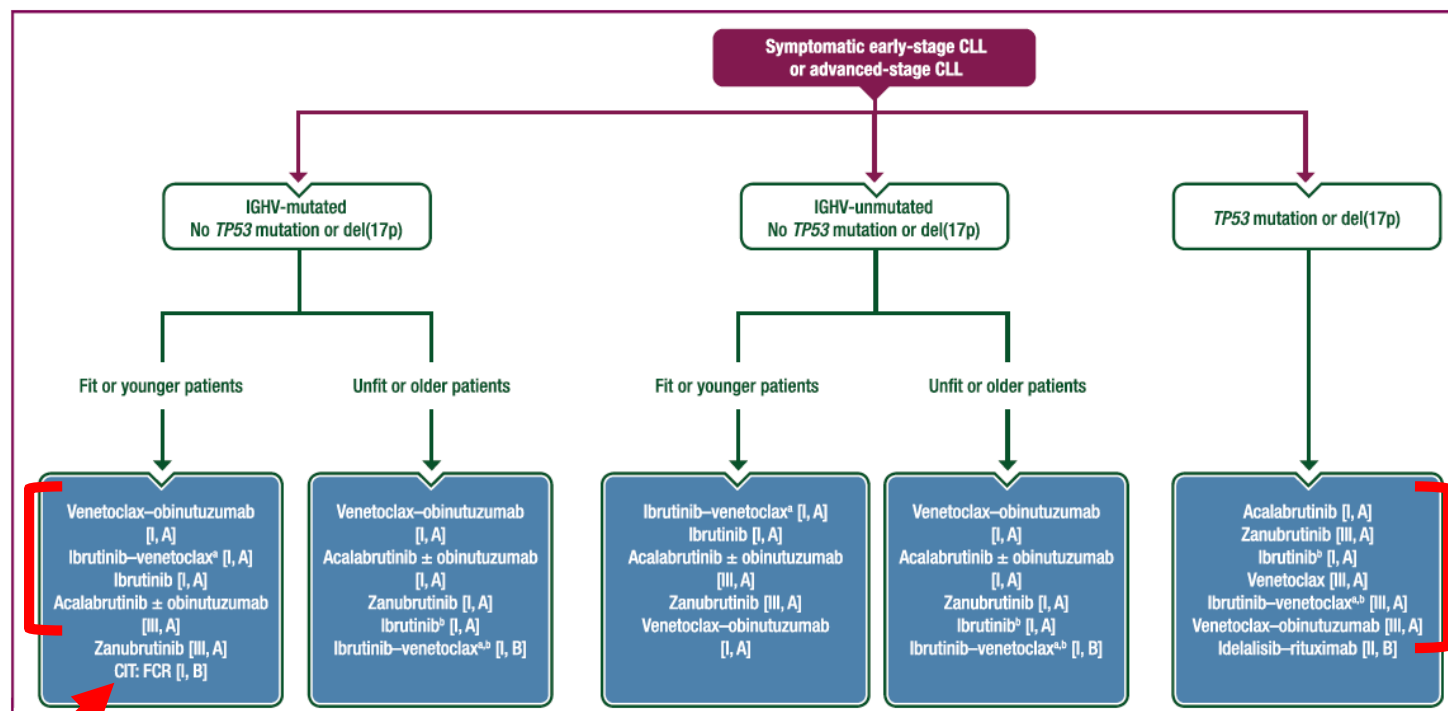
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^b BR might be considered alternatively in patients above the age of 65 years.

^c If available.

^d If approved and available.

Front-line therapeutic algorithm – ESMO guidelines (2024)



- 1) FCR no longer present
- 2) Same drugs but swapped

Figure 1. First-line therapy.

The order of the recommended treatments for each subgroup is based on the authors' expert opinion, which considers time-limited therapy as more valuable, if there is equal evidence for different treatment options.

Purple: algorithm title; blue: systemic anticancer therapy or their combination; white: other aspects of management and non-treatment aspects.

CIT, chemoimmunotherapy; CLL, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia; del, deletion; FCR, fludarabine–cyclophosphamide–rituximab; IGHV, immunoglobulin heavy chain variable; MRD, minimal residual disease.

^aIbrutinib–venetoclax with a 15-month fixed duration or with an MRD-guided duration.

^bIbrutinib or ibrutinib–venetoclax should be considered carefully in older patients with cardiac comorbidities.

Biomarkers in CLL in the era of pathway inhibitors *according to guidelines*

Predictive biomarkers

F CR 199

Prognostic biomarkers

Progression
Richter syndrome
Death

**Less informative today than in the past
when the choice was between CIT and
target therapies**

Treatment tailoring

TP53

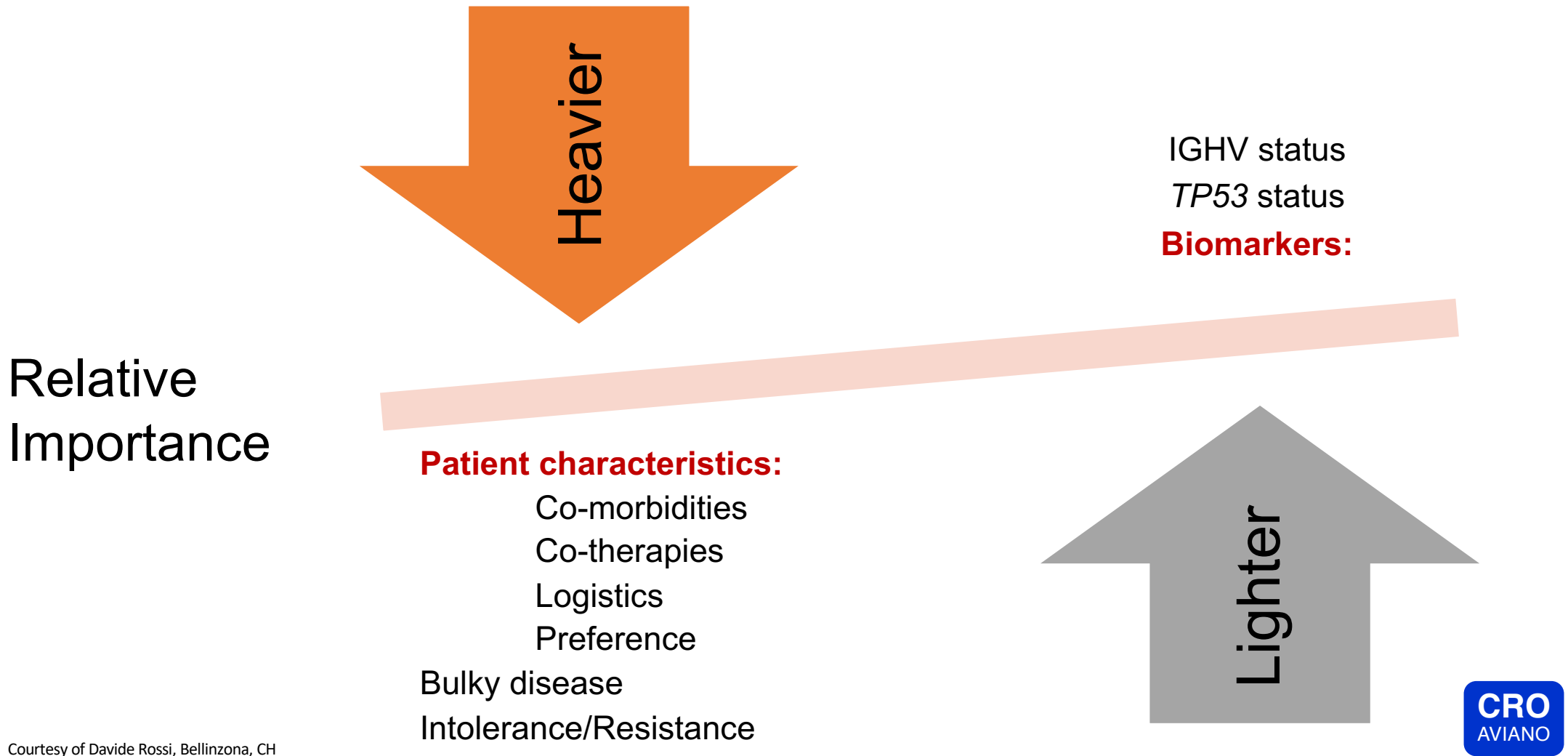
IGHV

Patient counseling

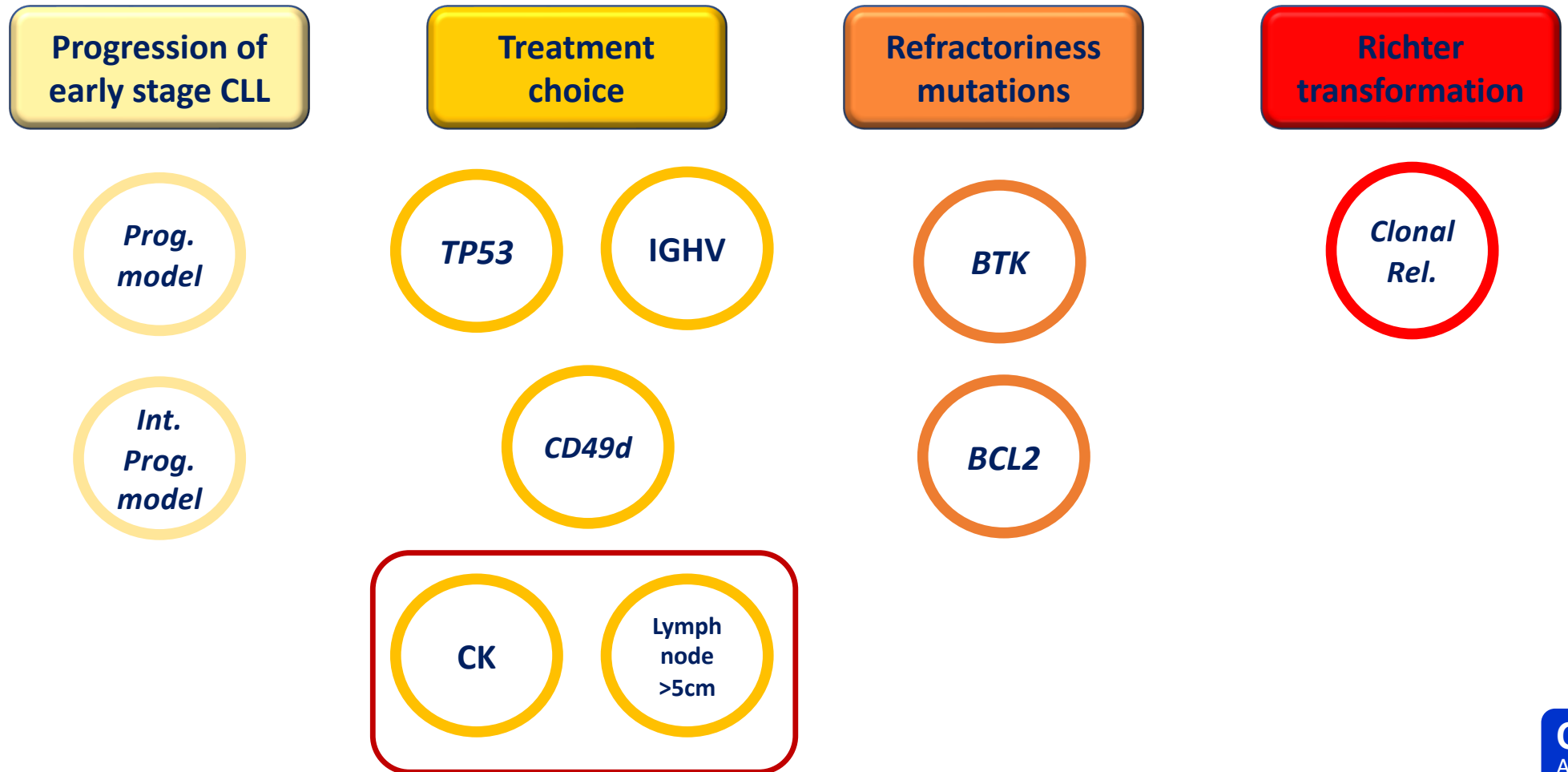
Frequency of follow-up

**Identify those appropriate for
early intervention trials**

Biomarkers vs. Patient-characteristics and Risk Stratification in CLL Therapy

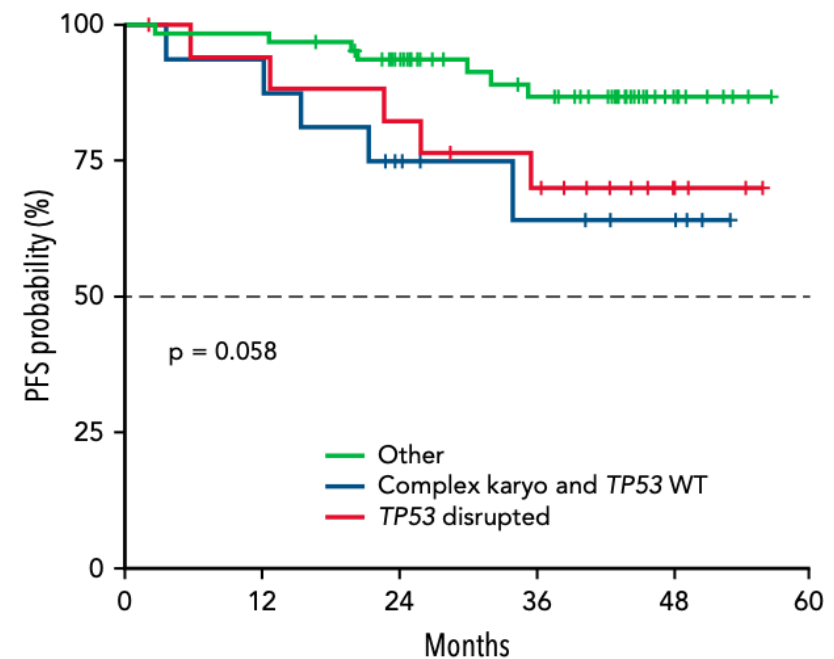
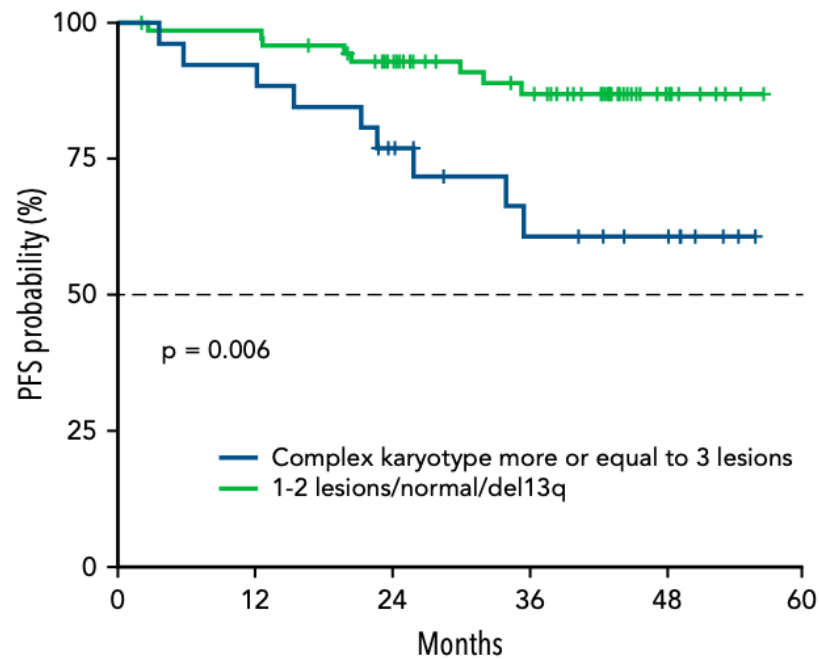


Biomarkers in CLL in the era of pathway inhibitors



Complex karyotype predicts PFS in ibrutinib-treated patients: Results from the GIMEMA1114 trial

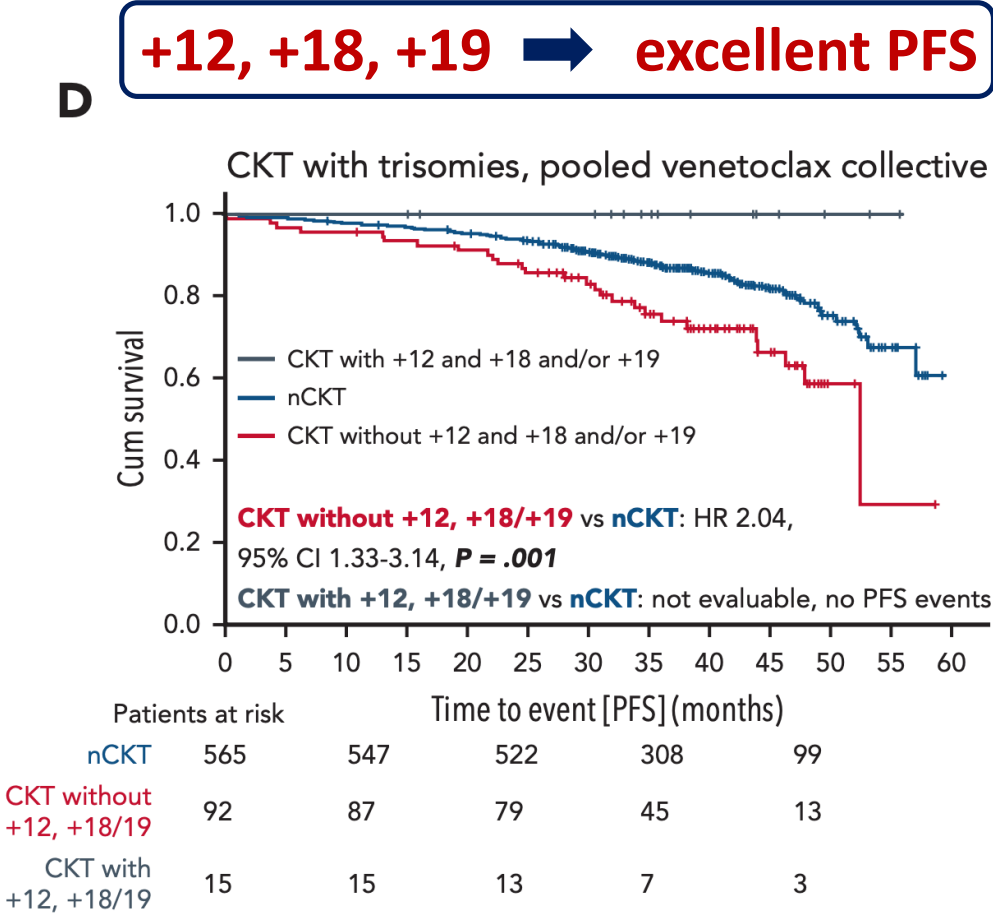
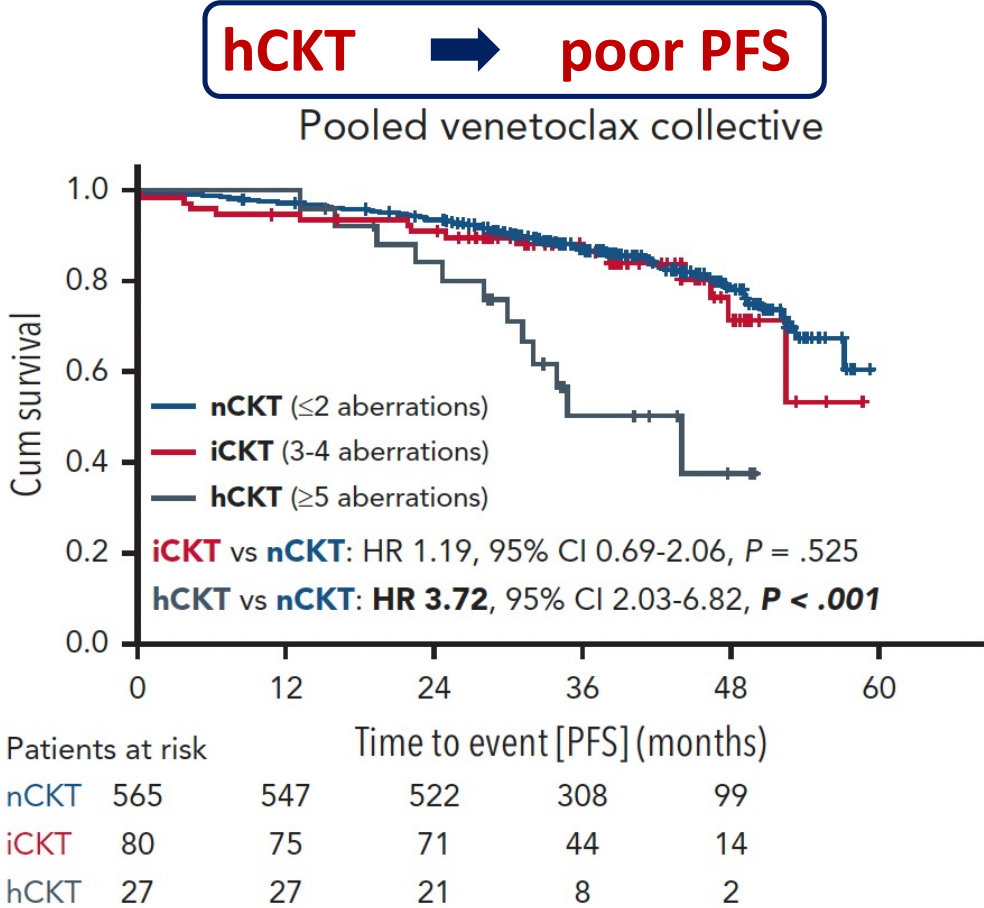
iii) CK



**CK>3 lesions = Borderline
significance when devoid of TP53
disruption**

Molecular predictors of PFS in CLL with venetoclax-based combinations in the CLL13/GAIA trial

iii) CK



Large lymph nodes predict outcomes in venetoclax-treated patients

iv) Lymph Node

Multivariate analysis from the CLL14 trial

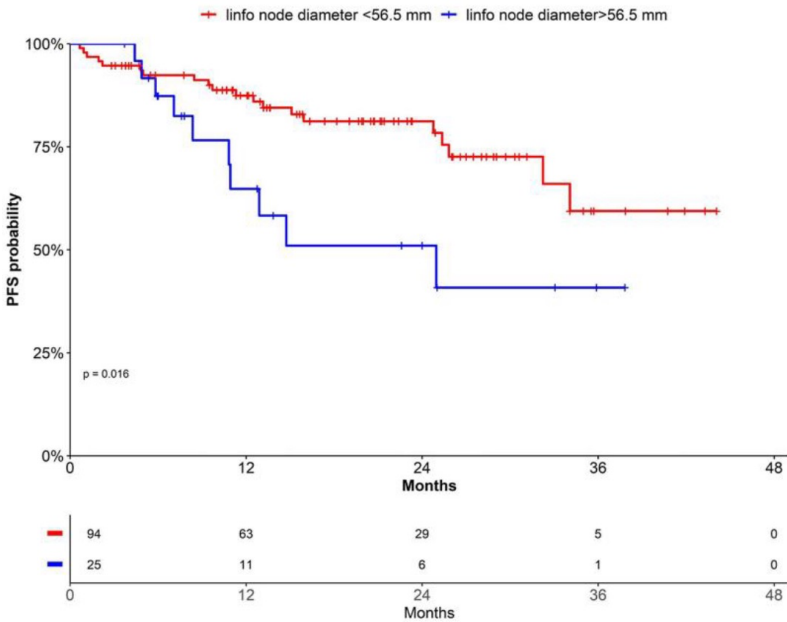
COX regression PFS	Univariate comparison	Hazard ratio	95% Wald CI	
Lymph node size				
≥ 5 cm	vs. < 5 cm	2.922	1.849-4.617	
Deletion 17p				
del(17p)	vs. no del(17p)	3.578	1.952-6.557	

0.1

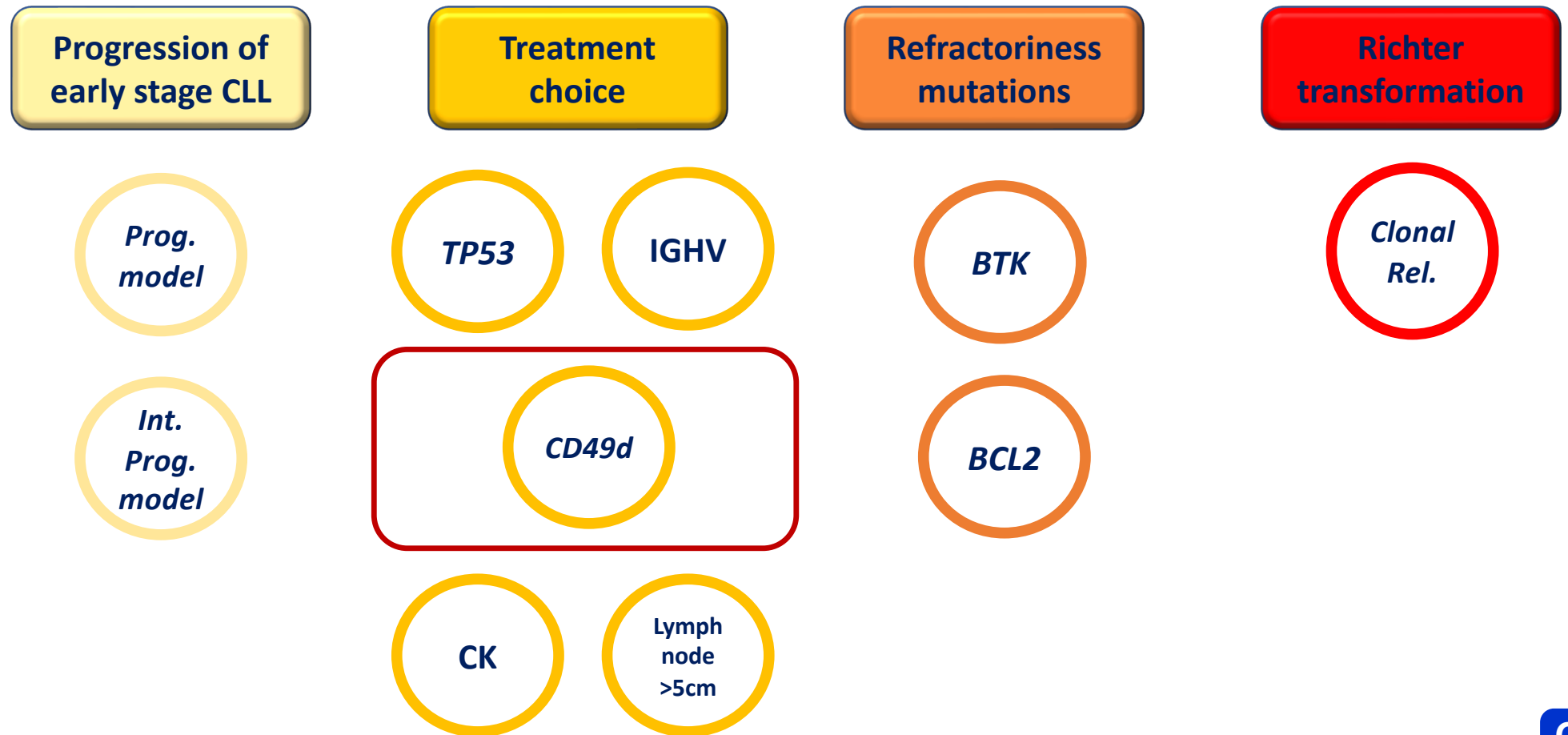
1.0

10.0

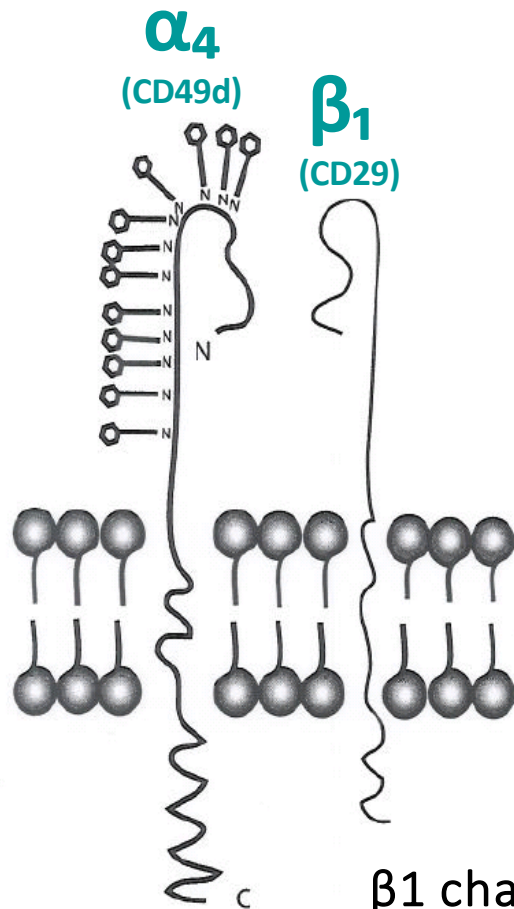
Real-life italian cohort



Biomarkers in CLL in the era of pathway inhibitors



VLA-4 (CD49d/CD29)



➤ heterodimeric integrin formed by non-covalent association of α_4 (CD49d; 155kDa) and β_1 (CD29; 150kDa) subunits

➤ It functions as a matrix and cell receptor

➤ It is expressed on:

- eosinophils
- basophils
- NK cells
- monocytes
- T cells
- B cells
- thymocytes
- myeloma cells

β_1 chain (CD29) = common chain

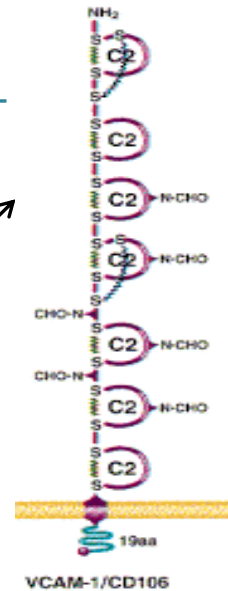
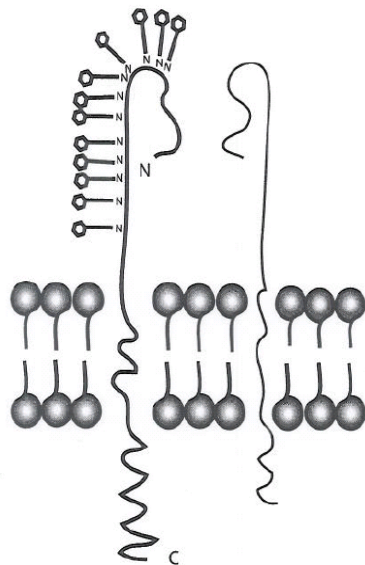
α_4 chain (CD49d) = binding specificity

LIGANDS OF CD49d

CD49d

Other Names

Integrin $\alpha 4$ -chain, VLA-4- α -chain.



VCAM-1

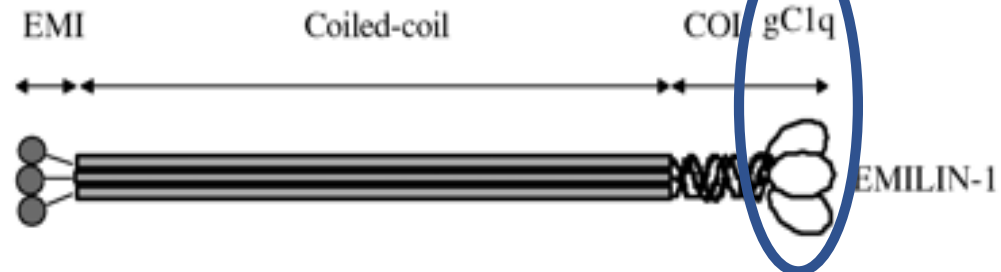
(Elices et al., 1990)



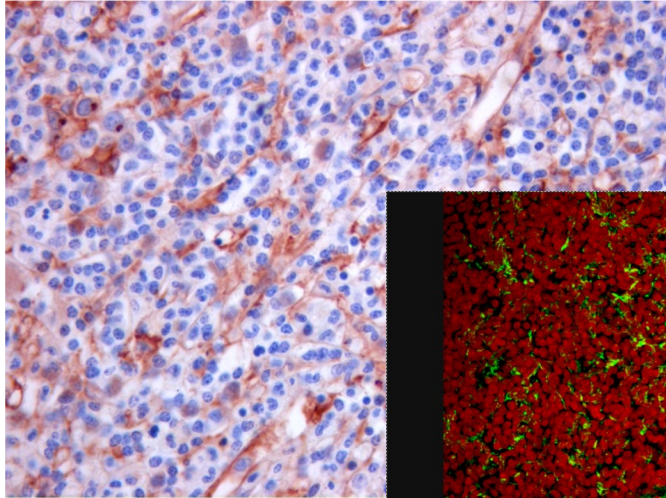
Fibronectin

(Wayner et al., 1989)

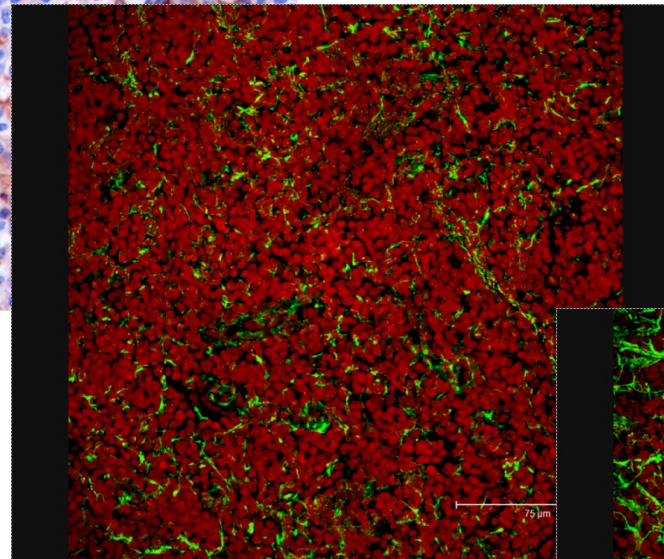
Emilin-1



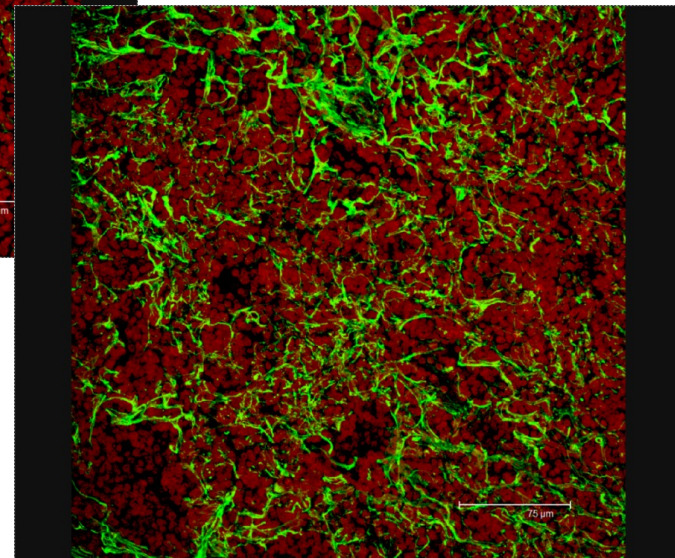
In vivo: CD49d ligands expression in CLL-involved area



VCAM-1



Fibronectin

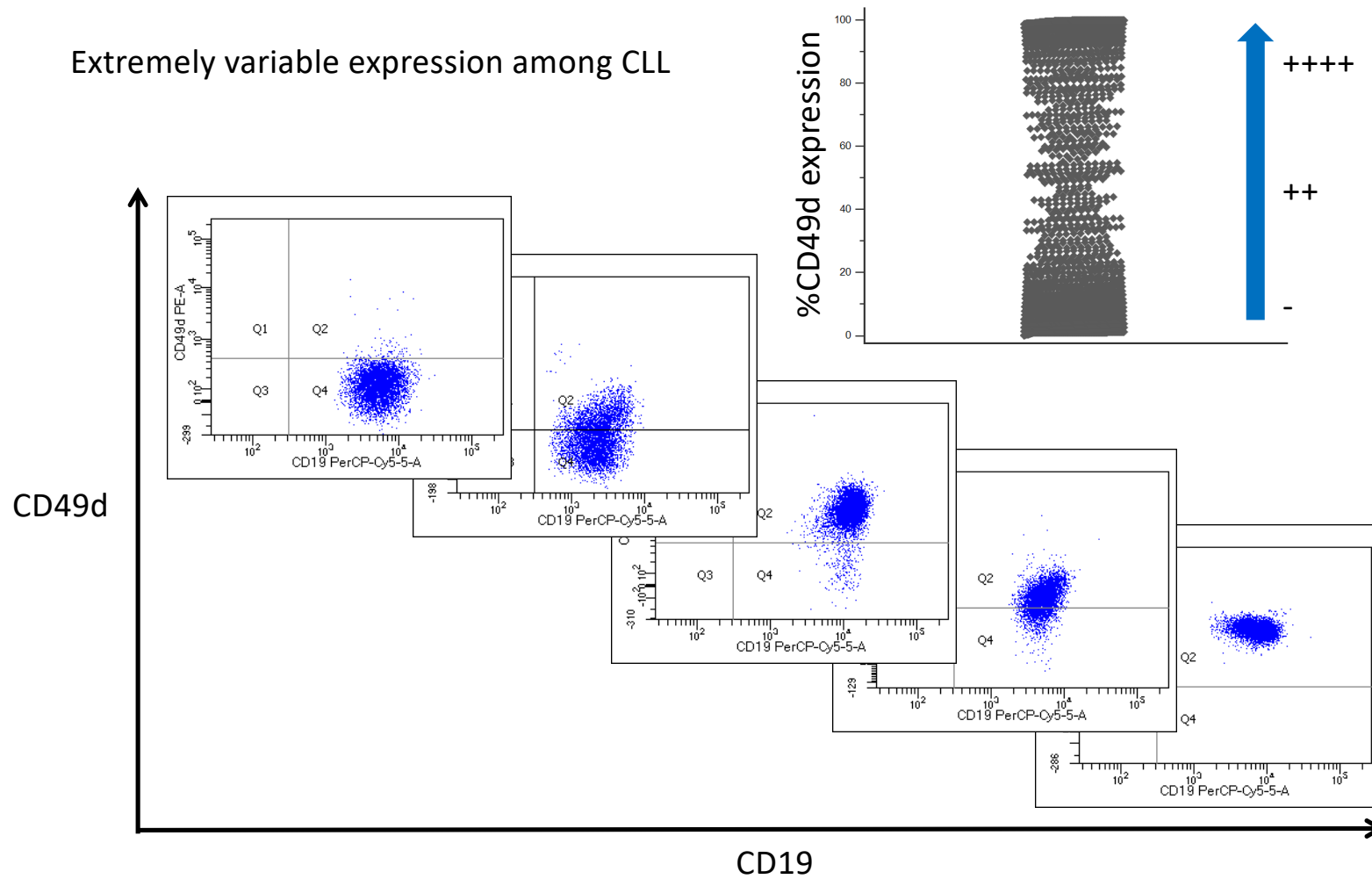


Emilin-1

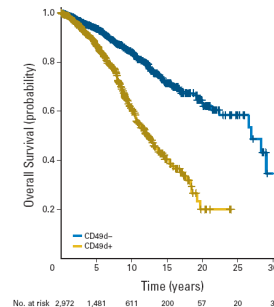
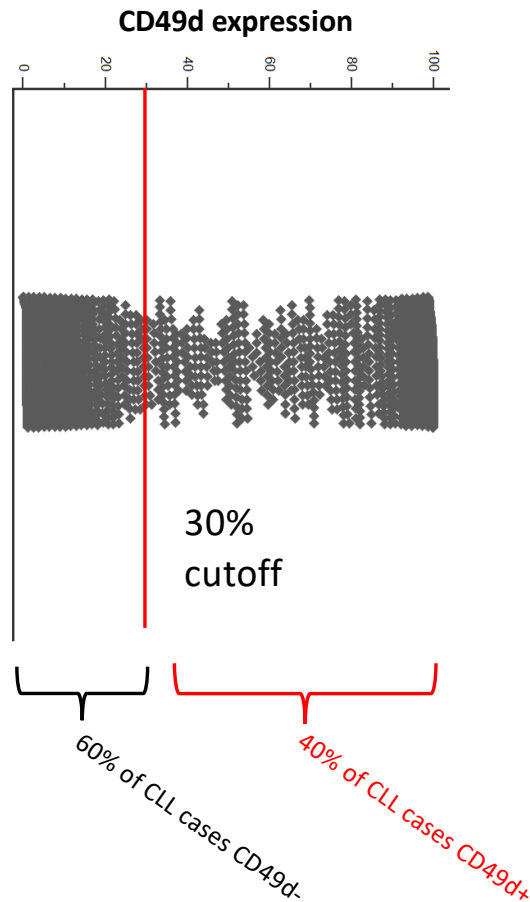
Zucchetto et al. Cancer Res, 2009
Tissino et al., Hematol Oncol, 2022

CD49d expression in CLL

Extremely variable expression among CLL



CD49d expression and prognosis



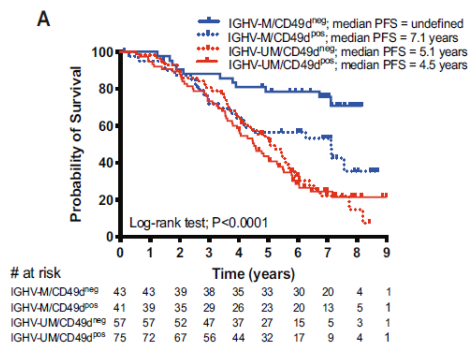
Prognosticator of shorter overall survival and treatment-free survival in the context of chemoimmunotherapy

Gattei V. et al. 2008 Blood; 111:865-73

Shanafelt TD. et al. 2008 Br J Haematol; 140:537-46

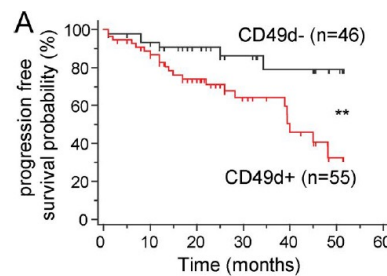
Bulian P. et al. 2014 JCO; 32:897-904

Tissino E. et al. 2020, Blood; 135:1244-54



Predictor of shorter progression-free survival in the context of FCR/FCR-like regimens (ARCTIC/ADMIRE clinical trials)

Pepper AGS. et al. 2022, Leukemia; 36:271-74



Prognosticator of shorter progression-free survival in the context of BTKi therapy

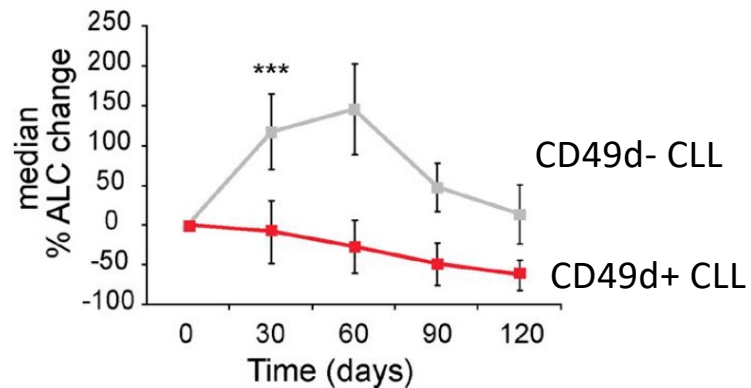
Tissino E. et al. 2018, J Exp Med; 215:681-97

Tissino E. et al. 2020, Blood; 135:1244-54

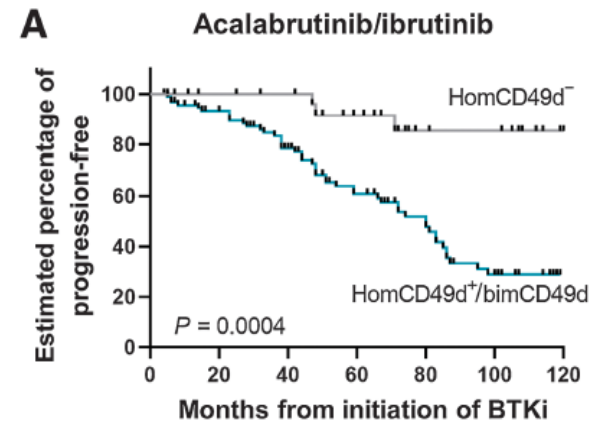
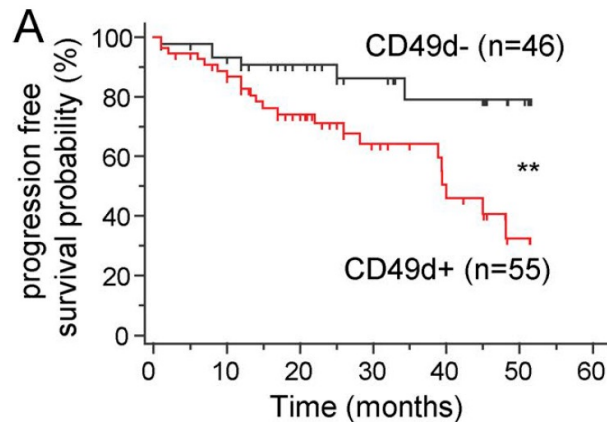
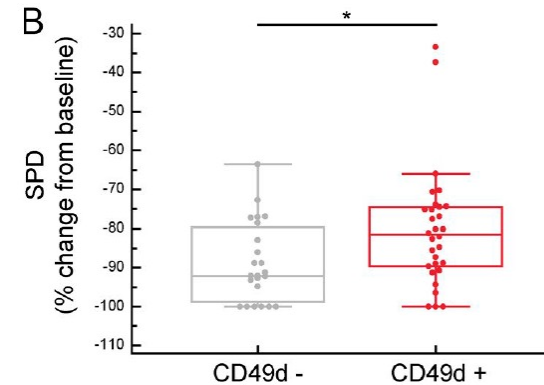
Alsadhan A. et al. 2023, Clin Cancer Res

CD49d expression: clinical consequences in ibrutinib-treated CLL

Reduced redistribution lymphocytosis

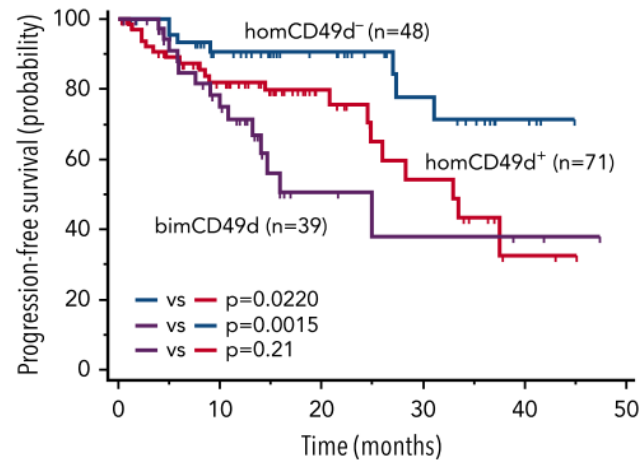


Reduced lymph node shrinkage

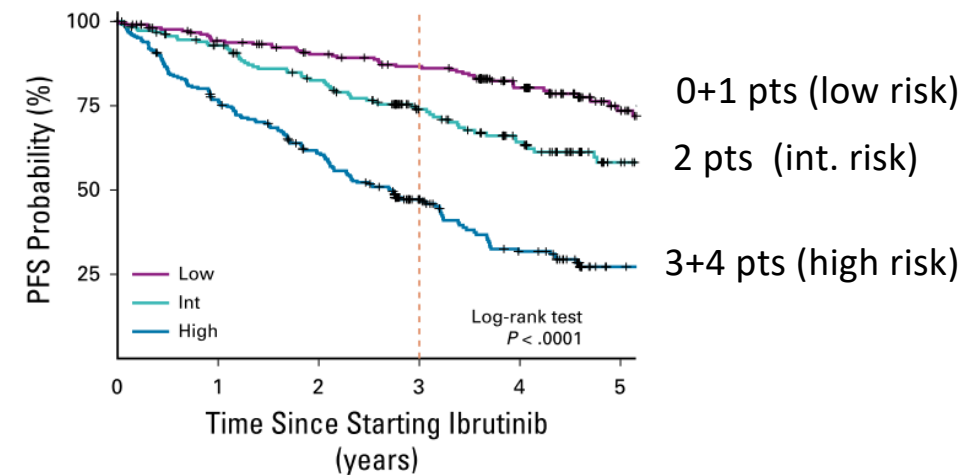


CD49d expression and the 4-factor prediction model for ibrutinib-treated CLL

CD49d expression



4-Factor model



- TP53 mut and/or 17p del
- B2M >5.0 mg/dl
- LDH >250 U/L
- Previous lines >0

Tissino E. et al. 2018, *J Exp Med*; 215:681-97

Tissino E. et al. 2020, *Blood*; 135:1244-54

Alsadhan A. et al. 2023, *Clin Cancer Res*

Ahn et al, *JCO* 2021

Morabito et al., *Am J Hematol*. 2021

CD49d expression and the 4-factor prediction model for ibrutinib-treated CLL

Received: 26 April 2024 | Accepted: 9 June 2024

DOI: 10.1002/hem3.128

LETTER

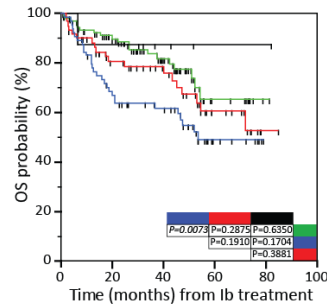
HemaSphere  EUROPEAN
HEMATOLOGY
ASSOCIATE

CD49d expression is included in a revised 4-factor model predicting outcome in patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia treated with ibrutinib: A multicenter real-world experience

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Annalisa Chiarenza³ | Jacopo Olivieri⁴ | Erika Tissino¹ | Francesca M. Rossi¹ |
Filippo Vit¹ | Tamara Bittolo¹ | Robel Papotti¹ | Federico Pozzo¹ |
Annalisa Gaglio¹ | Massimo Degan¹ | Jerry Polesel⁵ | Roberto Marasca^{6,7} |
Andrea Visentin⁸ | Riccardo Moia⁹ | Idanna Innocenti¹⁰ | Candida Vitale¹¹ |
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Davide Rossi¹⁷ | Antonio Cuneo¹⁸ | Francesco Di Raimondo³ |
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Marta Coscia¹¹ | Luca Laurenti¹⁰ | Gianluca Gaidano⁹ | Livio Trentin⁸ |
Maria I. Del Principe² | Massimo Gentile^{16,21} | Valter Gattei¹

«real-world» multicenter
italian cohort n=410 cases

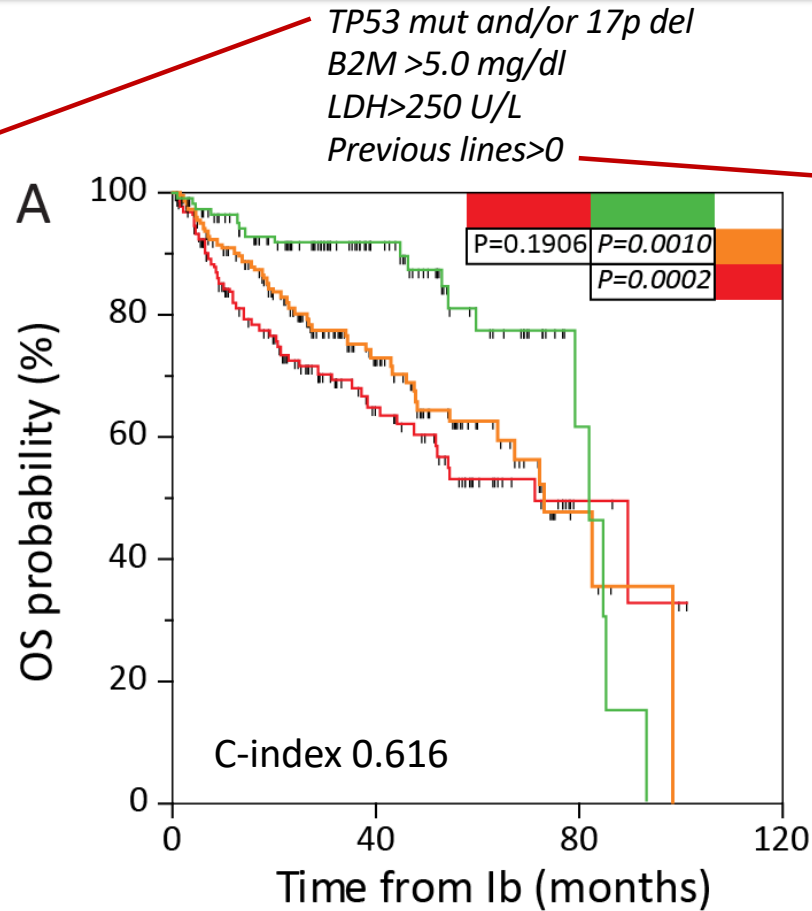
Revision of the canonical 4-factor



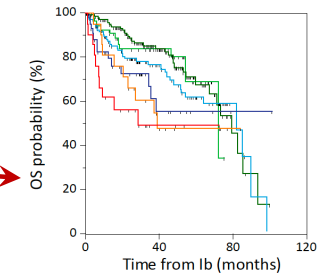
non-del17/non-TP53mut	95	68	40	9	1	0
del17p/non-TP53mut	8	7	3	1	1	0
non-del17/TP53mut	60	39	39	12	1	0
del17/TP53mut	66	41	31	8	0	0

TP53 disrupted = TP53 mut and 17p del

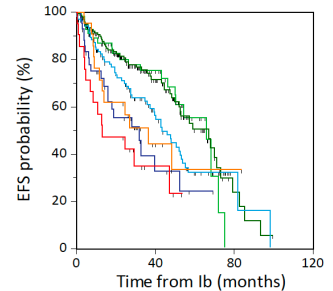
Morabito et al., Am J Hematol. 2021
Bomben et al, Leukemia 2023



Low	111	47	4	0
Int	163	58	5	0
High	136	47	4	0



0	57	27	0	0
1	157	57	6	0
2	109	45	5	0
3	44	10	1	0
4	22	7	1	0
5	21	3	0	0

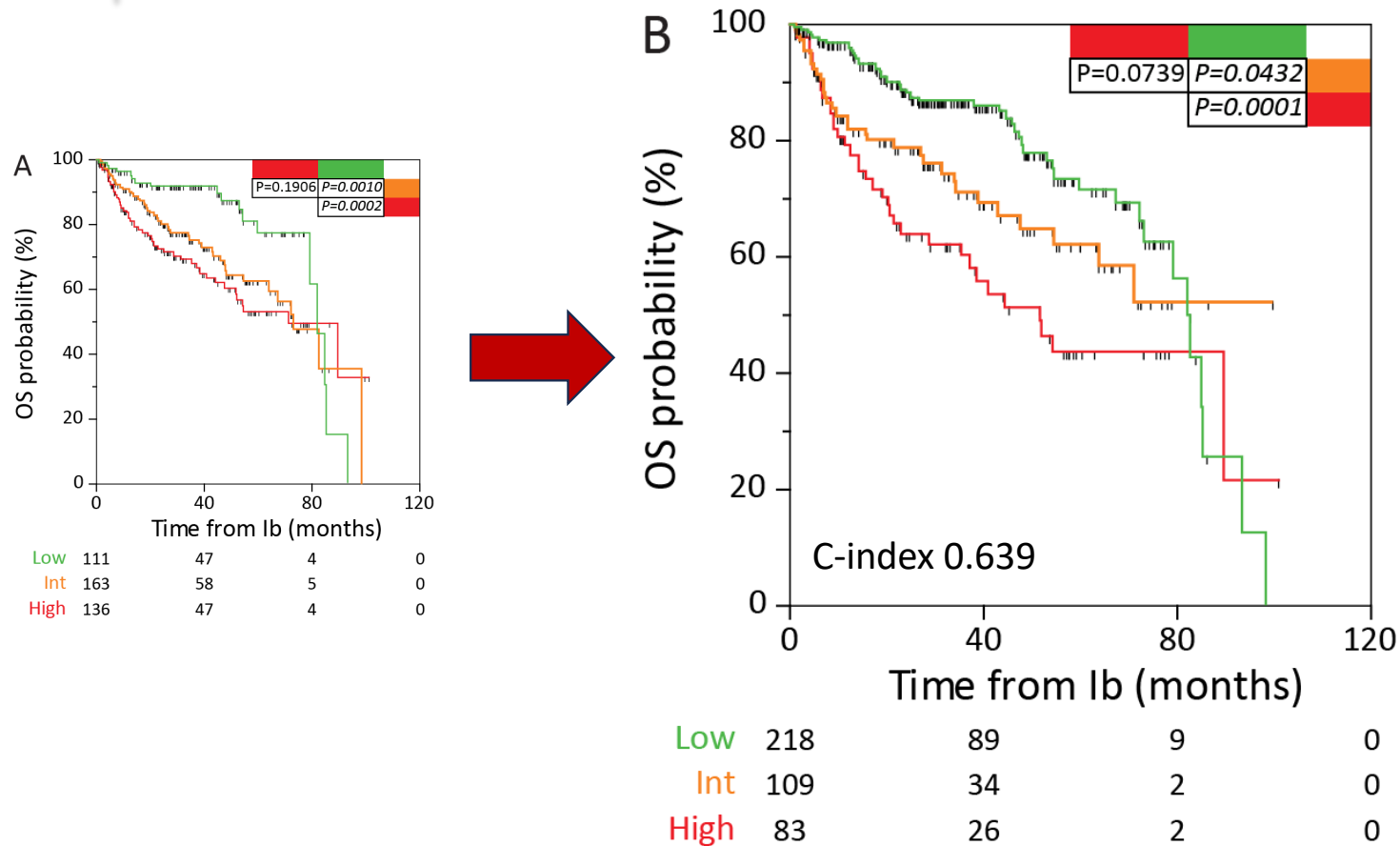


0	57	25	0	0
1	157	52	4	0
2	108	36	2	0
3	41	5	0	0
4	22	6	1	0
5	21	3	0	0

Previous lines >1

Modified 4-factor

Bomben et al, HemaSphere 2024



*TP53 mut **and** 17p del
B2M >5.0 mg/dl
LDH >250 U/L
Previous lines >1*

The modified 4-factor outperformed the canonical 4-factor score (C-indices 0.616 vs 0.639; $P < 0.0001$).

Modified 4-factor and CD49d

Bomben et al, HemaSphere 2024

MVA 1

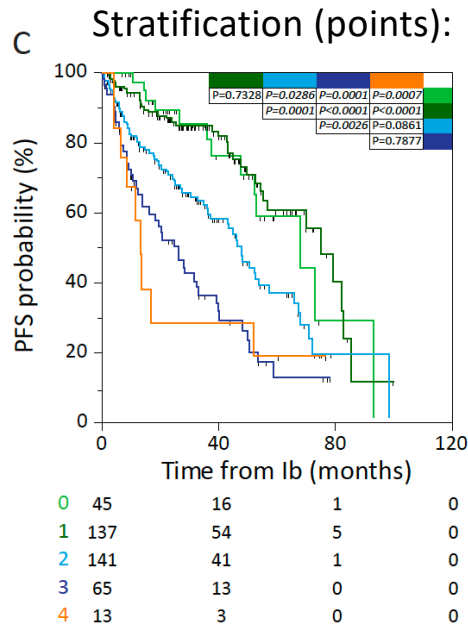
	UVA				MVA			
	HR	LCI	UCI	P	HR	LCI	UCI	P
CD49d (low vs high+bimodal)	2.20	1.40	3.45	0.0006	1.96	1.24	3.10	0.0040
Modified 4-factor intermediate ^a	1.59	1.01	2.49	0.0455	1.55	0.98	2.43	0.0585
Modified 4-factor high ^a	2.40	1.55	3.72	0.0001	2.10	1.34	3.24	0.0011

MVA 2

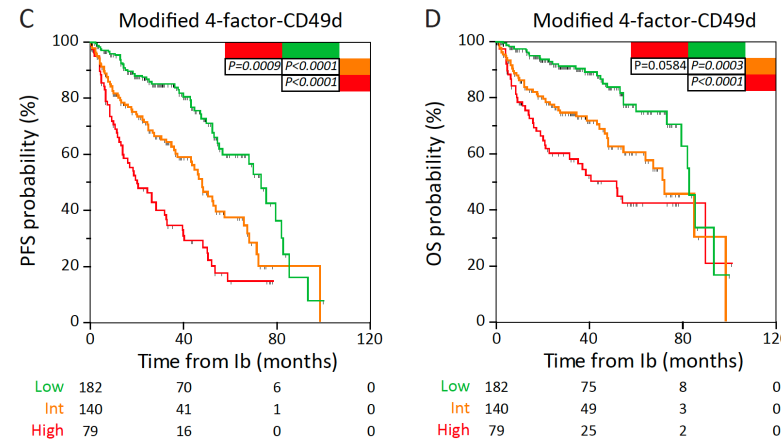
	UVA				MVA			
	HR	LCI	UCI	P	HR	LCI	UCI	P
Previous Line of therapy (0-1 versus >1)	1.70	1.17	2.49	0.0053	1.75	1.19	2.57	0.0043
β2M (low vs high)	1.62	1.10	2.39	0.0141	1.49	1.01	2.20	0.0451
TP53 disruption (wt, del17p only, TP53 mut only versus del17p and TP53 mut)	1.50	1.01	2.21	0.0445	1.54	1.03	2.31	0.0374
CD49d (low vs high+bimodal)	2.20	1.40	3.45	0.0006	2.16	1.36	3.43	0.0011
LDH (low vs high)	1.68	1.16	2.43	0.0061	ni			

Novel 4-factor-CD49d

Bomben et al, HemaSphere 2024



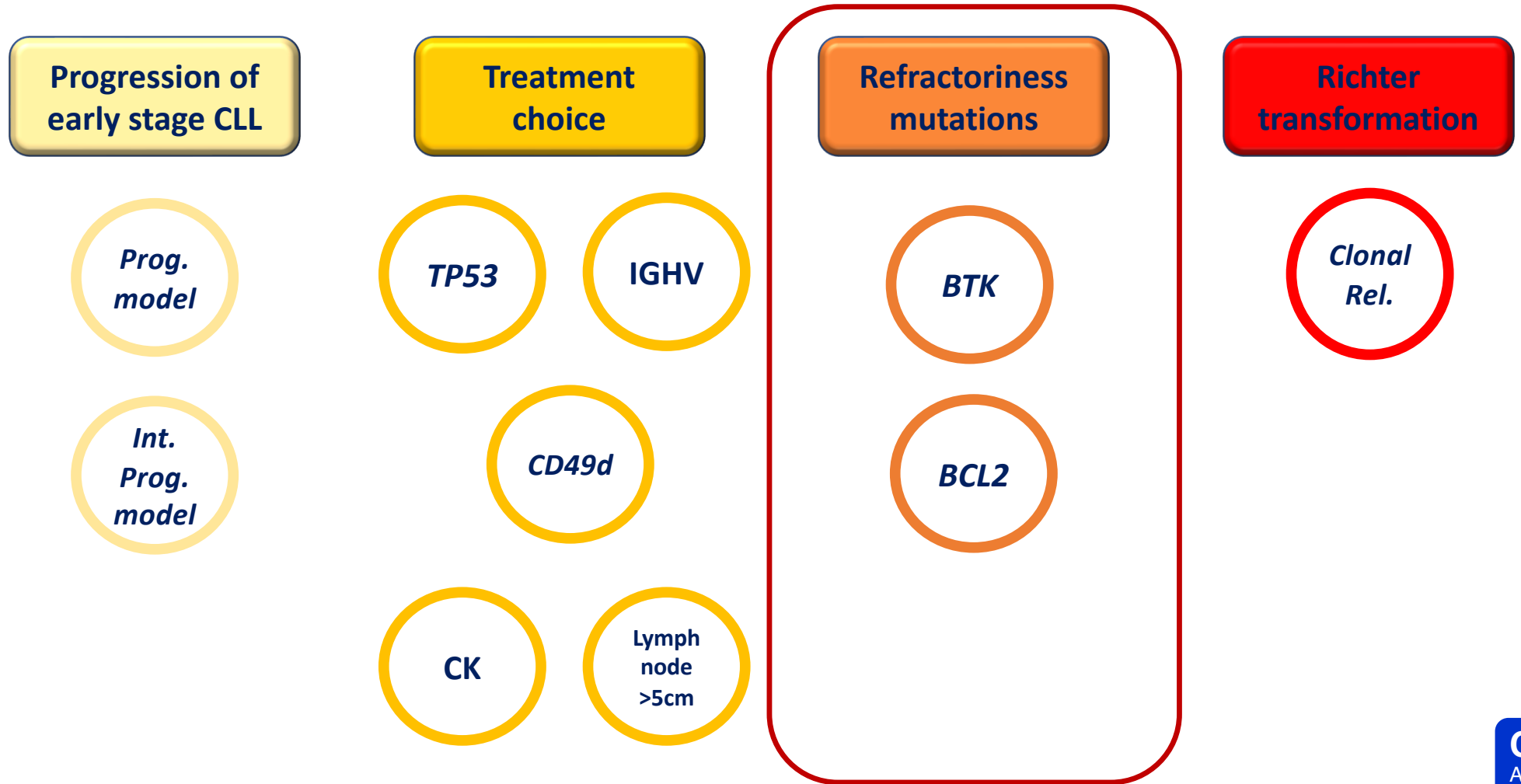
- 0+1 (low risk)
- 2 (int. risk)
- 3+4 (high risk)



The 4-factor-CD49d outperformed the modified 4-factor score (C-indices 0.663 vs 0.639; $P < 0.0001$)

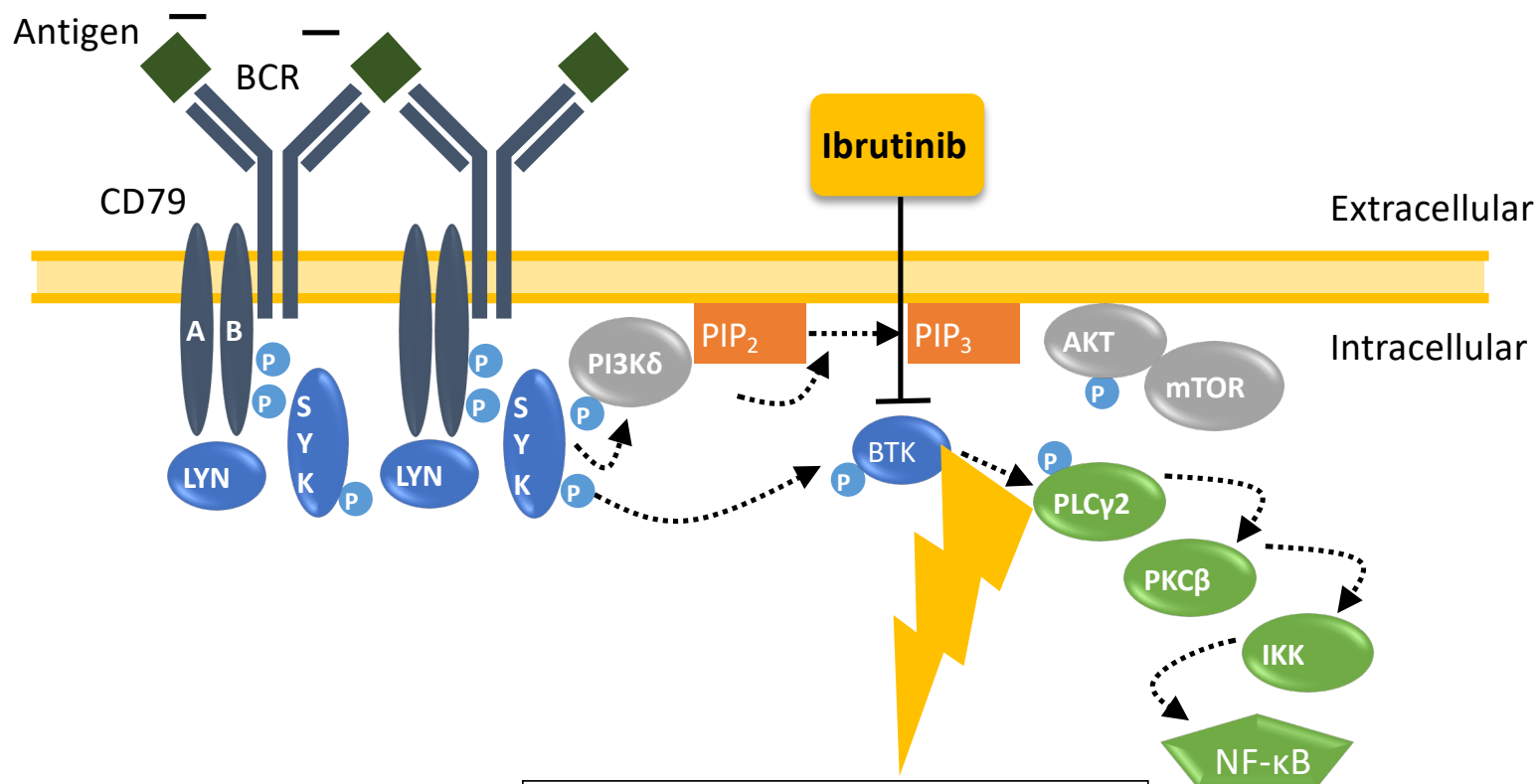
- 1 - **TP53** disruption (mutation & deletion)
- 2 – High **B2M** serum levels (>5.0 mg/dl)
- 3 – **>1** previous line of therapy
- 4 – High **CD49d** expression

Biomarkers in CLL in the era of pathway inhibitors



BTK mutations can be responsible for BTKi resistance

2/3 of refractory/relapsing patients



BTK C481S mutation
PLCG2 mutation
Absent in ibrutinib naïve patients

BTK mutations are not the sole responsible for BTKi resistance

IBRUTINIB TREATMENT

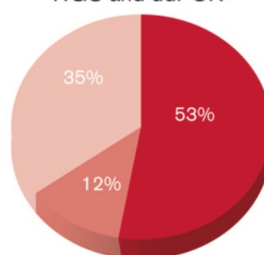


Relapsed patients



n = 49

BTK/PLCG2 mutated by
NGS and ddPCR



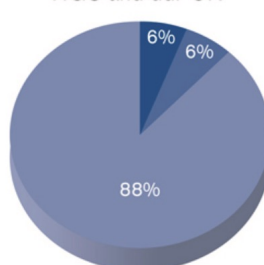
■ mutated (NGS&ddPCR)
■ mutated (ddPCR)
■ wild type

Responding patients



n = 49

BTK/PLCG2 mutated by
NGS and ddPCR



■ mutated (NGS&ddPCR)
■ mutated (ddPCR)
■ wild type

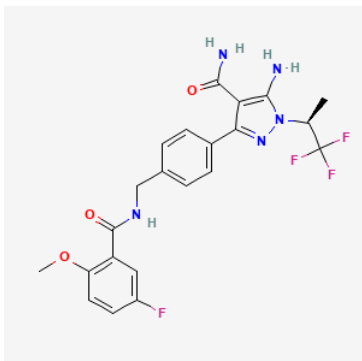
Genomic landscape



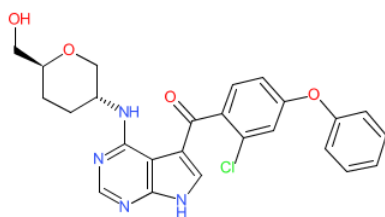
- **One-third of patients** with CLL relapsing on ibrutinib do not carry BTK/PLCG2 mutations, even with a 0.1% sensitivity
- **Additional mechanisms**, such as del(8p), EGR2 and NF-κB pathway mutations, may be cooperating in determining progression on ibrutinib

Non-covalent BTK-Inhibitors in CLL inhibit both wildtype and C481-mutant BTK

Pirtobrutinib



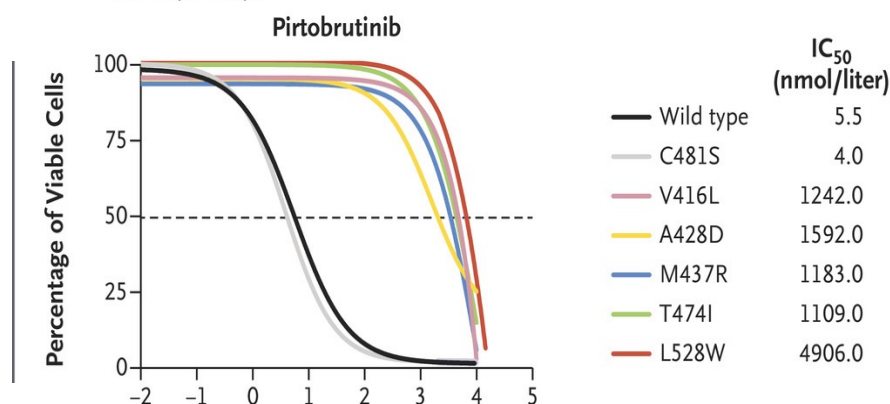
Nemtabrutinib



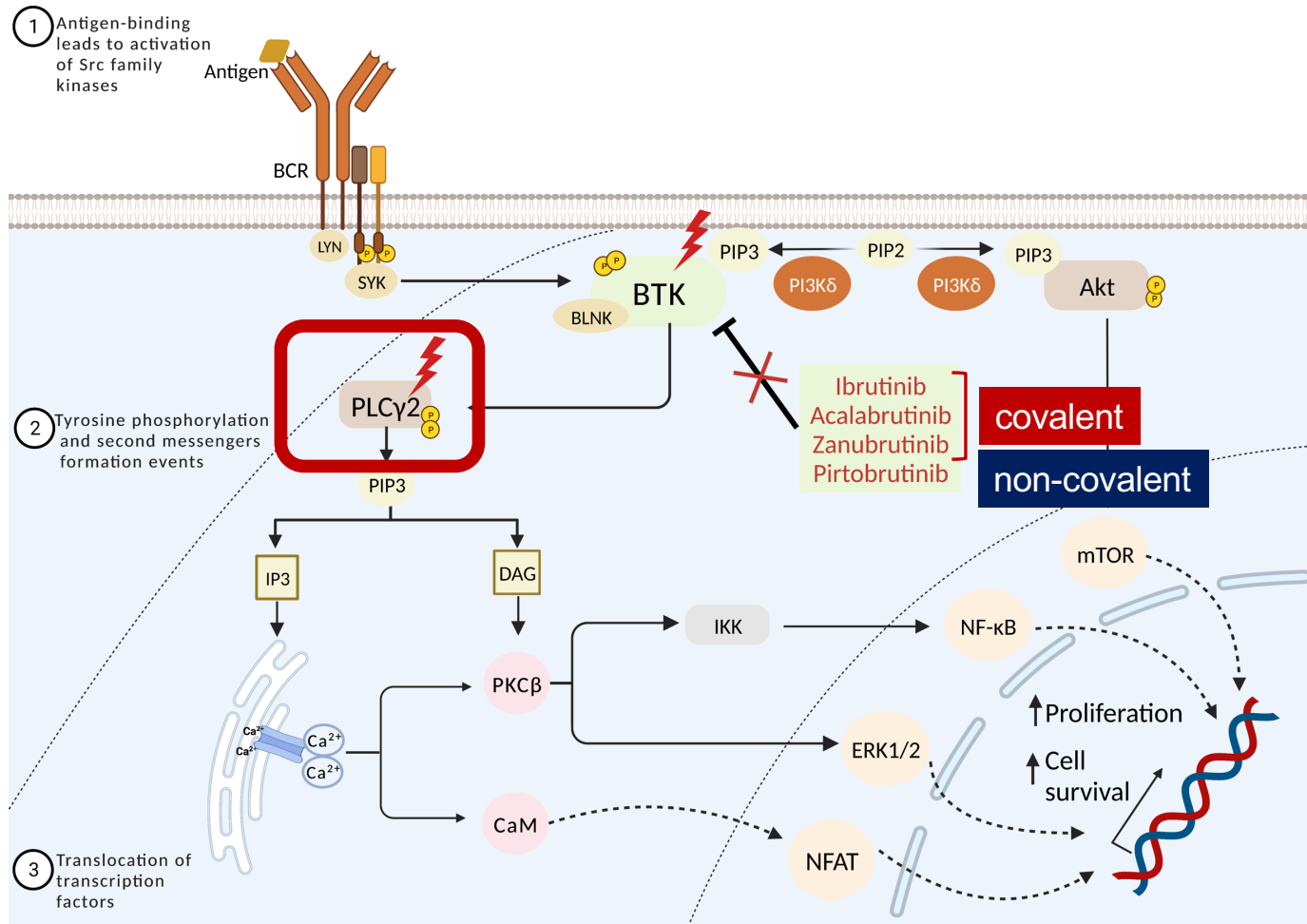
Zain R, et al. Front. Immunol. 2021; 12:694853.

Blombery et al., Blood Adv. 2022

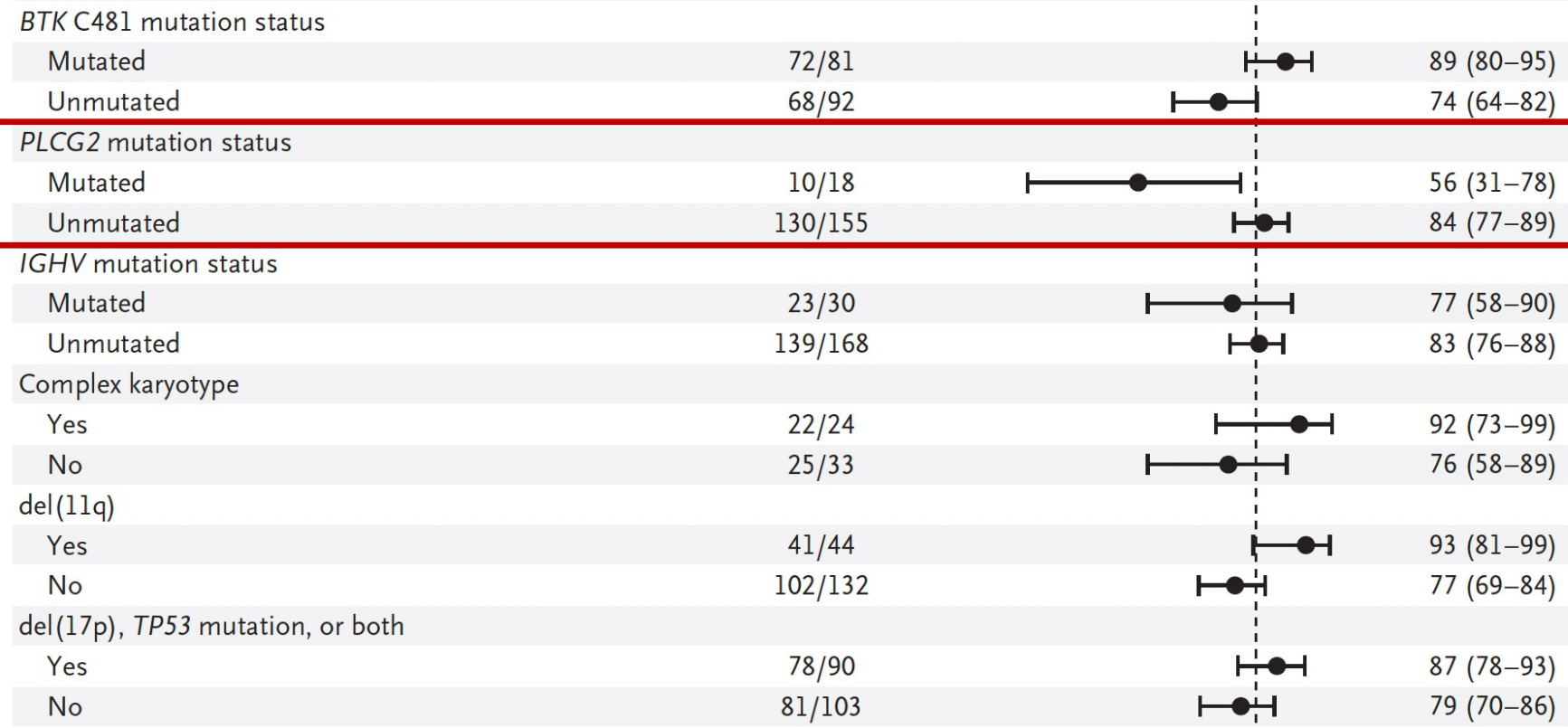
	● Non-covalent	● Covalent						
	Pirtobrutinib	Nemtabrutinib	Vecabrutinib	Fenebrutinib	Ibrutinib	Acalabrutinib	Zanubrutinib	
Wild type	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	
A428D	None	Decreased	None	None	None	None	None	
M437R	Decreased	Normal	Decreased	Decreased	Normal	Decreased	Normal	
T474I	Decreased	Decreased	Decreased	Normal	Normal	Decreased	Decreased	
L528W	None	None	Decreased	Normal	None	Decreased	None	
C481S	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Decreased	Decreased	Decreased	



Gain-of-function PLC γ 2 mutations bypass BTK targeting and constitutively activate BCR signalling



Response to the non-covalent BTK inhibitor pirtobrutinib according to biomarkers in the Bruin phase 1-2 trial for CLL previously treated with covalent BTKi

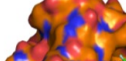
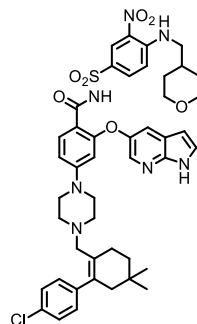


Response was 70-80% across clinical and molecular subgroups, with the **exception of patients expressing PLCG2 mutations**, for which additional data are needed

1. Plati J, *et al. Integr Biol (Camb)* 2011; **3**:279–296; 2. Czabotar PE, *et al. Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol* 2014; **15**:49–63; 3. Souers AJ, *et al. Nat Med* 2013; **19**:202–208 (incl. suppl.); 4. Oltsersdorf T, *et al. Nature* 2005; **435**:677–681; 5. Tse C, *et al. Cancer Res* 2008; **68**:3421–3428.



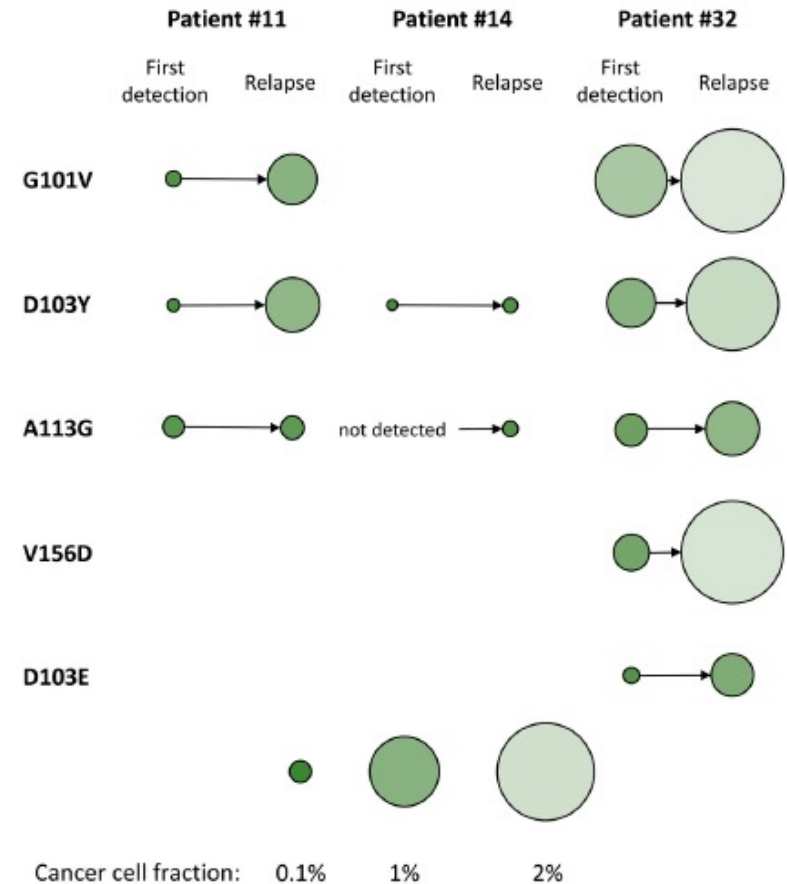
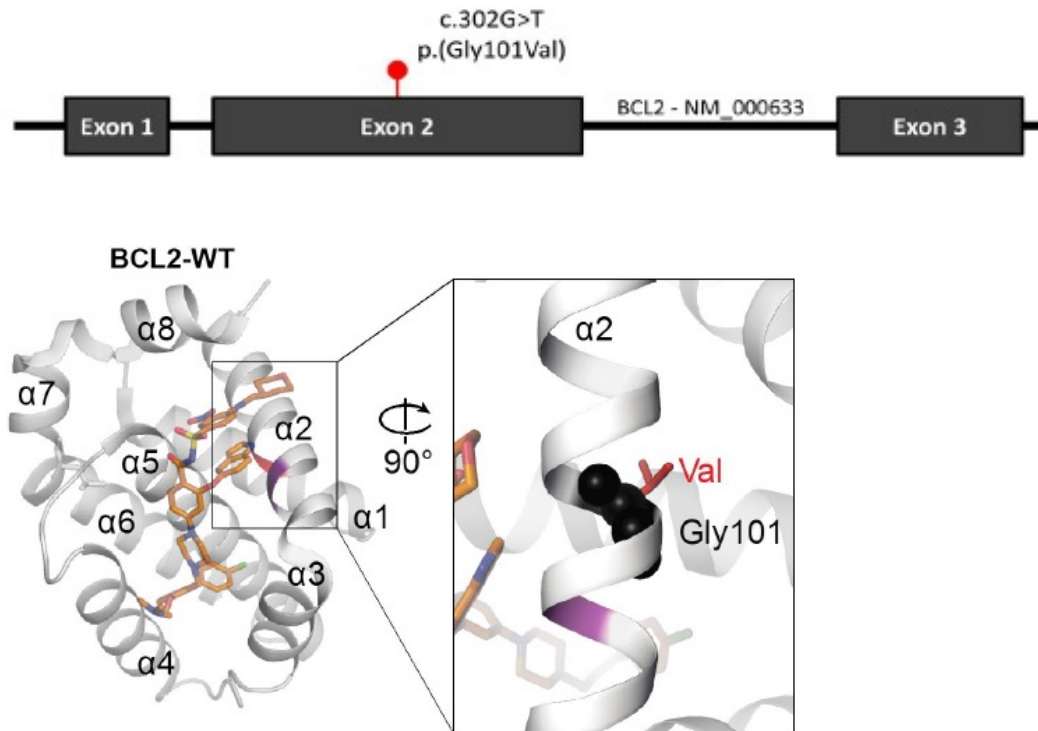
A 3D surface representation of a protein structure, colored in orange, red, and blue. A green helix is highlighted and labeled "BH3 motif".



A 3D molecular model showing the Venetoclax molecule (green stick representation) bound to a protein surface. The protein surface is colored by electrostatic potential, with red indicating negative charge and blue indicating positive charge. The Venetoclax molecule is shown in a green stick representation, highlighting its complex polycyclic structure.

Prognosticators/Predictors in the context of BCL2 inhibitors

Gly101Val was the first identified = reduced the ability of VEN to displace **BIM**



Biomarkers in CLL in the era of pathway inhibitors

Progression of early stage CLL

Prog. model

Int. Prog. model

Treatment choice

TP53

IGHV

CD49d

CK

Lymph node >5cm

Refractoriness mutations

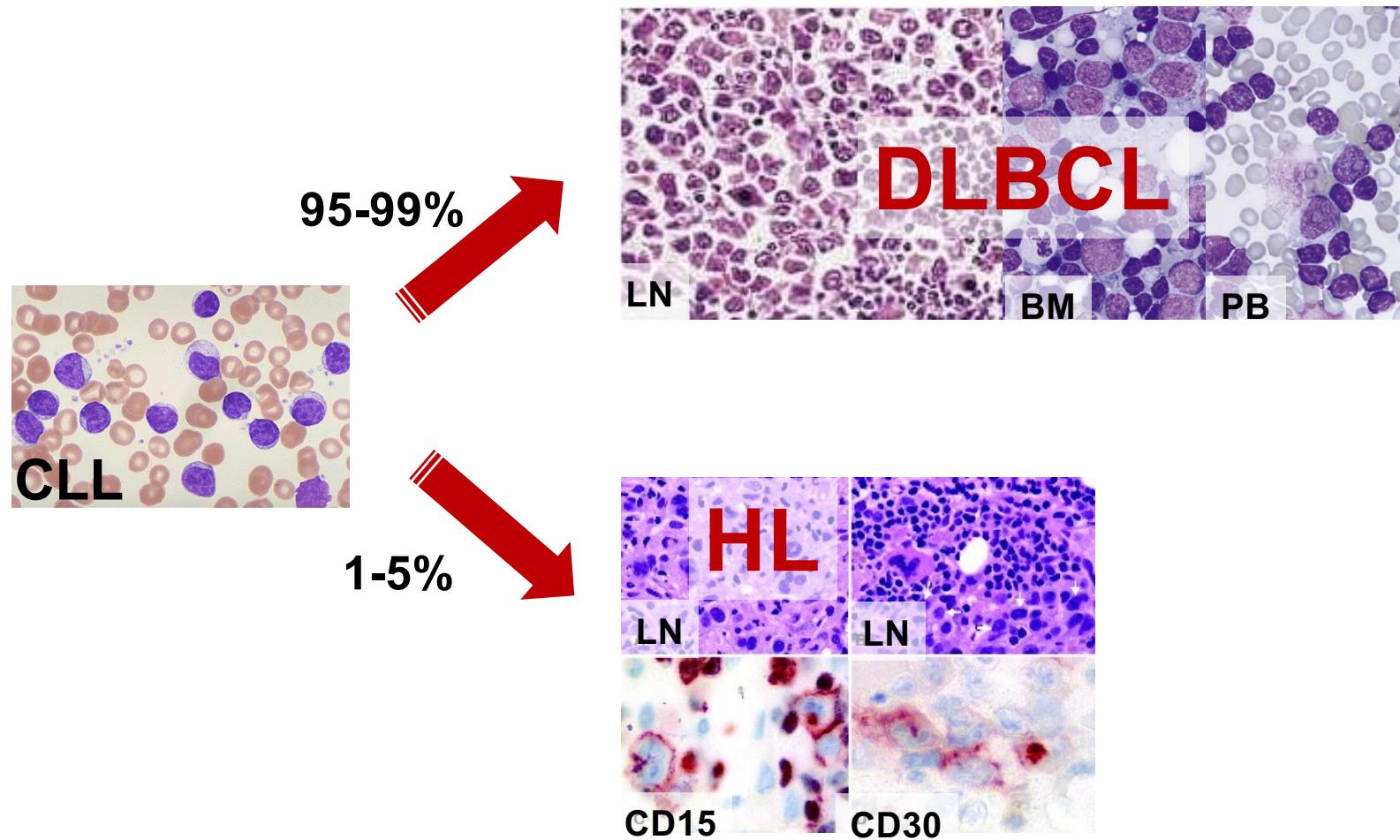
BTK

BCL2

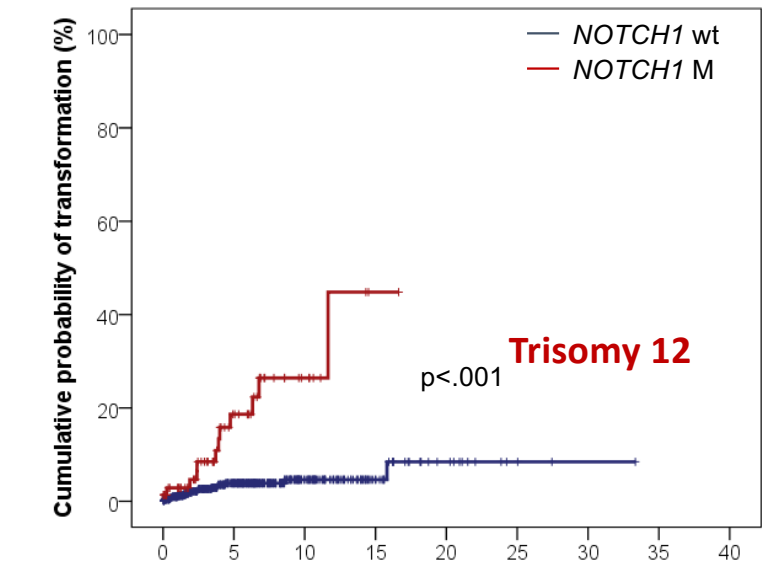
Richter transformation

Clonal Rel.

Definition of Richter syndrome

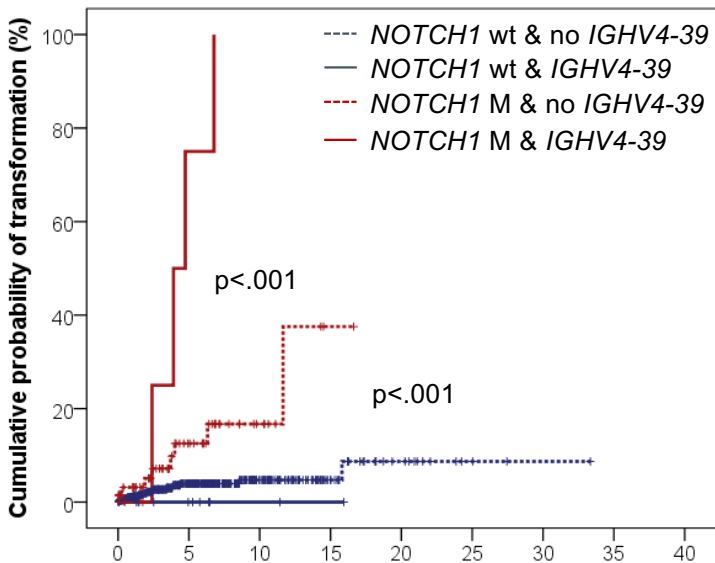


Risk of Richter transformation according to *NOTCH1* mutation status and IGHV usage at CLL diagnosis



No. at Risk									
<i>NOTCH1</i> wt	531	279	92	31	11	3	1	0	0
<i>NOTCH1</i> M	74	28	8	1	0	0	0	0	0

	Events	Total	5-year risk	95% CI
<i>NOTCH1</i> wt	18	531	3.9%	2.0-5.8
<i>NOTCH1</i> M	12	74	18.6%	7.3-29.9



No. at Risk									
<i>NOTCH1</i> wt & no <i>IGHV4-39</i>	519	273	90	30	11	3	1	0	0
<i>NOTCH1</i> wt & <i>IGHV4-39</i>	12	12	12	12	0	0	0	0	0
<i>NOTCH1</i> M & no <i>IGHV4-39</i>	67	27	8	1	0	0	0	0	0
<i>NOTCH1</i> M & <i>IGHV4-39</i>	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

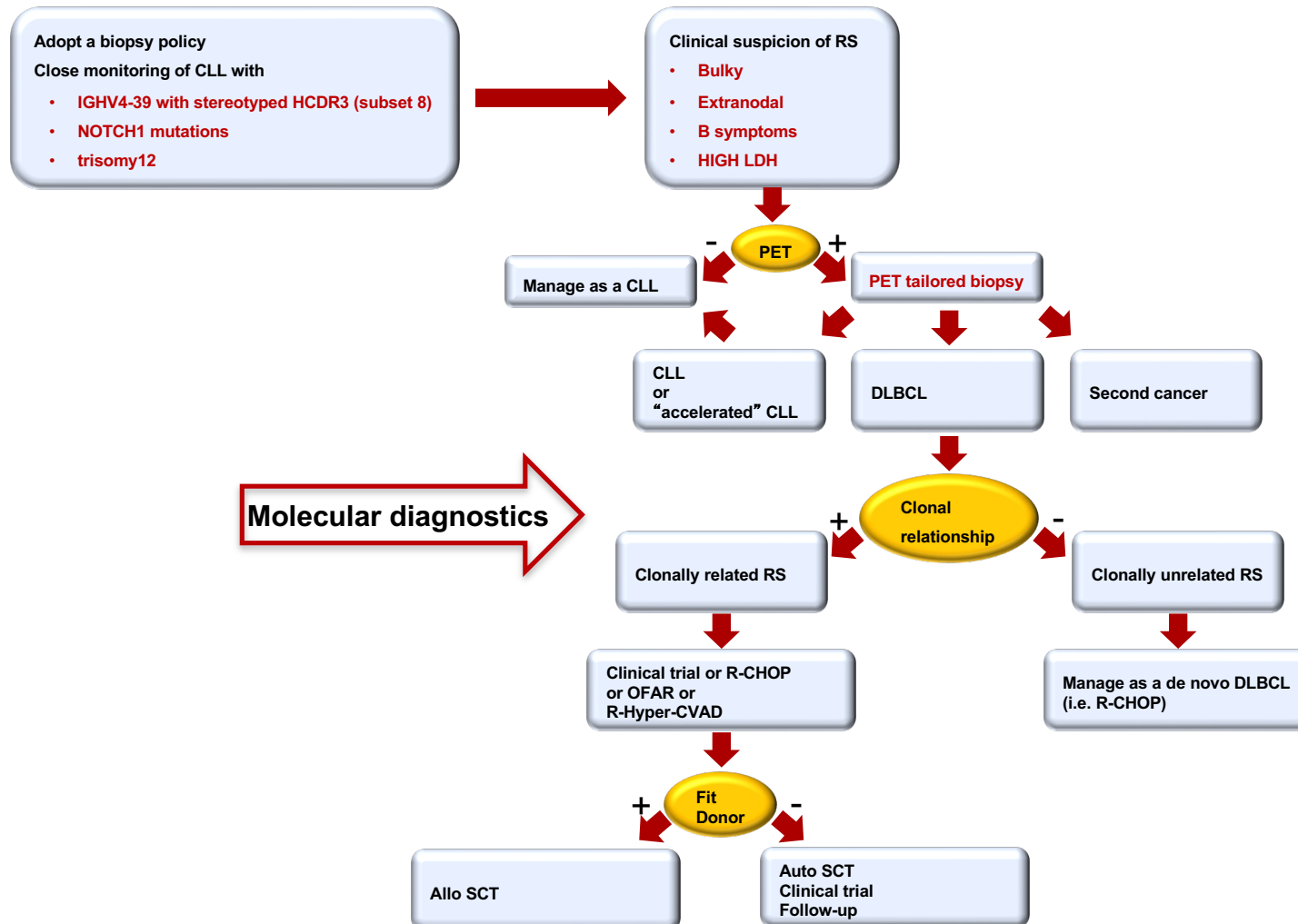
	Events	Total	5-year risk	95% CI
<i>NOTCH1</i> wt & no <i>IGHV4-39</i>	18	519	4.0%	2.1-5.9
<i>NOTCH1</i> wt & <i>IGHV4-39</i>	0	12	0	
<i>NOTCH1</i> M & no <i>IGHV4-39</i>	8	67	12.5%	2.9-22.1
<i>NOTCH1</i> M & <i>IGHV4-39</i>	4	7	75.0%	32.5-100

Trisomy 12

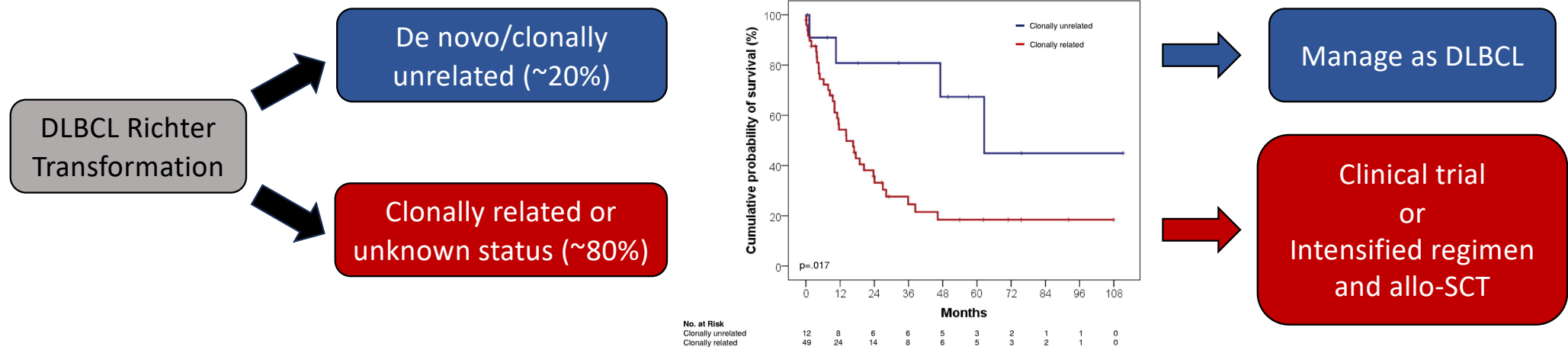
NOTCH1 mutations

BCR Subset #8

Clinical management of RS



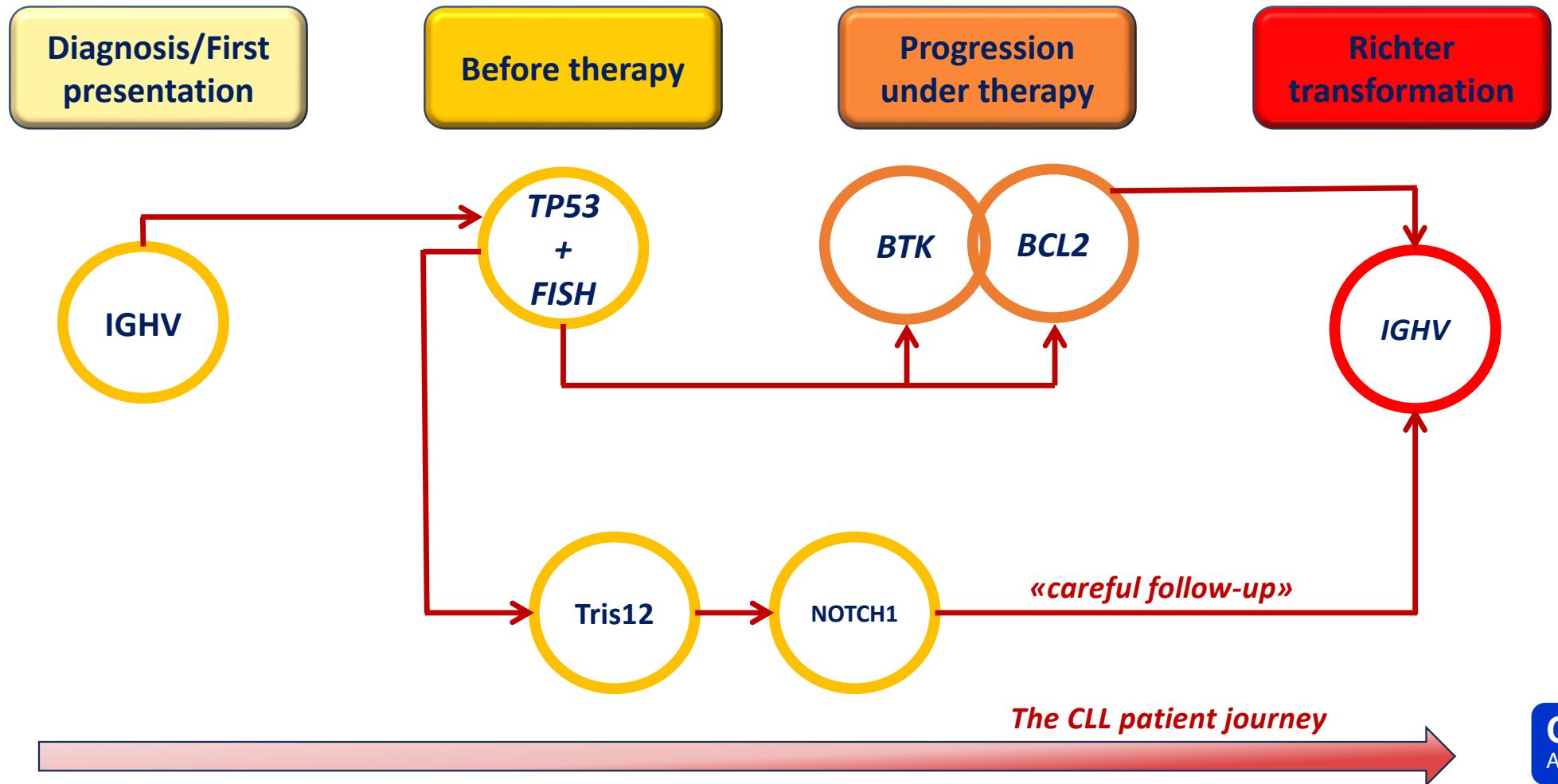
Clonal relationship represents the most important prognostic/predictive factor in Richter transformation



Open issues on clonal relationship in Richter syndrome

- Hurdles to collect tissue biopsy
- IGHV analysis not performed in all centers
- Hurdles in the evaluation of IGHV sequences especially in cases with concomitant presence of CLL and RS cells
- Need to confirm the prognostic role of clonal relationship in large datasets
- Need to define the best treatment regimen for each molecular group

Biomarkers in CLL in the era of pathway inhibitors



Acknowledgements



Clinical and Experimental Onco-Hematology Unit CRO, IRCCS, Aviano

Antonella Zucchetto	Pietro Bulian	Alessandra Braidà
Erika Tissino	Massimo Degan	Ilaria Cattarossi
Tamara Bittolo	Riccardo Bomben	Michele Berton
Federico Pozzo	Francesca M. Rossi	Laura Zanier
Filippo Vit	Paola Nanni	Paola Varaschin
Robel Papotti	Eva Zaina	Adelaide Cagnin
Andrea Stacchetti	Annalisa Gaglio	
	Giulia Ianna	

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Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
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Gianluca Gaidano, Riccardo Moia

Institute of Oncology of Southern Switzerland, Bellinzona
Davide Rossi, Gabriela Forestieri

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Division of Hematology, University of Udine
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S.Andrea Hospital, University La Sapienza, Rome
Agostino Tafuri

Division of Hematology, University of Catania
Francesco Di Raimondo, Annalisa Chiarenza

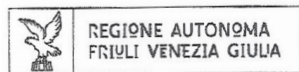
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Cancer Data Science Laboratory, University of Trieste
Giulio Caravagna, Nicola Calonaci, Riccardo Bergamin



Giovanni Del Poeta



Con la ricerca,
contro il cancro.

