

SHIFTING STRATEGIES
AND OPTIMIZING OUTCOMES





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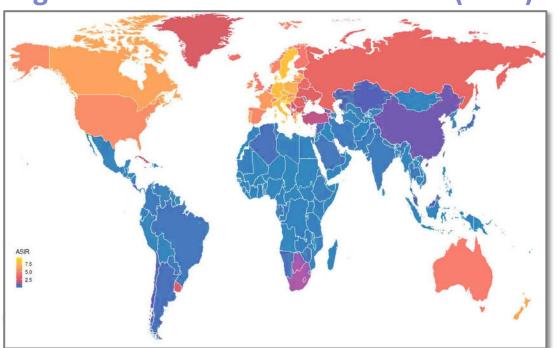


Learning Objectives

- Assess testing strategies that may inform clinical decision making in the management of chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).
- Utilize updated guidelines and evidence supporting the integration of targeted agent classes in CLL as single agents or as part of combination regimens, including continuous therapy, fixed-duration options, and novel combinatorial regimens.
- Evaluate recent clinical evidence on current and emerging therapeutic approaches that have been evaluated for the treatment of patients with relapsed/refractory (R/R) CLL and/or therapeutic intolerance.

Global CLL Incidence Rate

Age-standardized Incidence Rate (ASIR)



1990–2019 Estimated Annual Percentage Changes in Age-standardized Rates			
	Incidence	Death	
Overall	1.86 (1.79–1.92)	1.17 (1.07–1.27)	
Male	1.78 (1.71–1.85)	1.13 (1.03–1.23)	
Female	1.93 (1.86–1.99)	1.21 (1.12–1.31)	
High SDI	1.11 (1.08–1.15)	0.53 (0.48–0.59)	
High-middle SDI	3.13 (3.07–3.18)	1.70 (1.62–1.78)	
Middle SDI	5.19 (5.07–5.32)	3.09 (2.95–3.24)	
Low-middle SDI	2.84 (2.71–2.97)	2.20 (2.07–2.34)	
Low SDI	1.27 (1.13–1.41)	0.92 (0.77–1.06)	

SDI, social-demographic index.

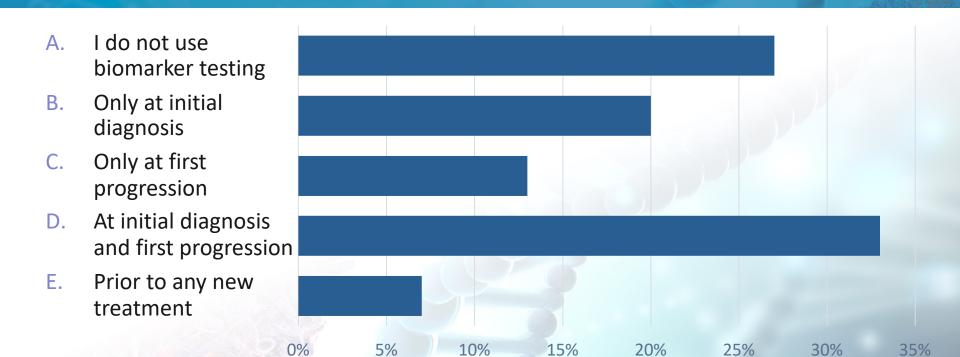


When do you use biomarker testing for patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)/small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL)?

- A. I do not use biomarker testing
- B. Only at initial diagnosis
- C. Only at first progression
- D. At initial diagnosis and first progression
- E. Prior to any new treatment



When do you use biomarker testing for patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)/small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL)?



Biomarker Testing

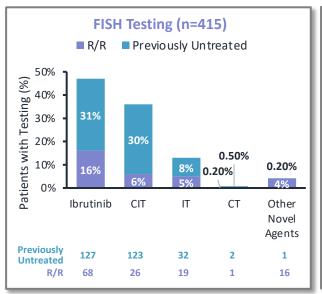
- Minimum testing should include fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH), TP53, and immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region (IGHV) mutation
- Adverse prognostic factors
 - Deletions of chromosomes 17p or 11q—del(17p) or del(13q)
 - TP53 gene mutation
 - Unmutated IGHV gene
 - High karyotype complexity
- Favorable prognostic factors
 - del(13q) with no other chromosome abnormalities found by FISH
 - Mutated IGHV gene
- Retest before each line of treatment
- Access to testing varies by location
 - Resource-limited settings pose greater challenges

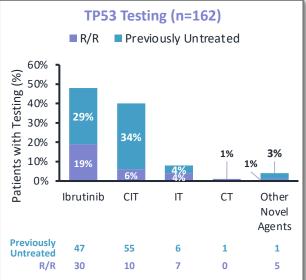
Inadequate Biomarker Testing

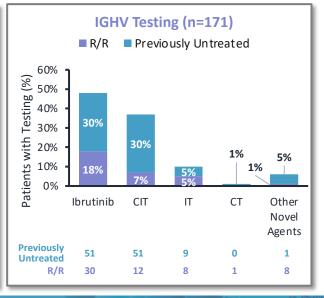


Biomarker Testing by Treatment (2015–2019, United States)

- More than half did not receive biomarker testing at all
- Of those who did receive biomarker testing, 99% had it performed prior to treatment
- Of treatment-naïve patients with del(17p), over a quarter received chemotherapy that was almost certainly of no value (but was still toxic) instead of newer and better treatment options, such as ibrutinib (Ibr), acalabrutinib (Acal), or venetoclax (Ven)







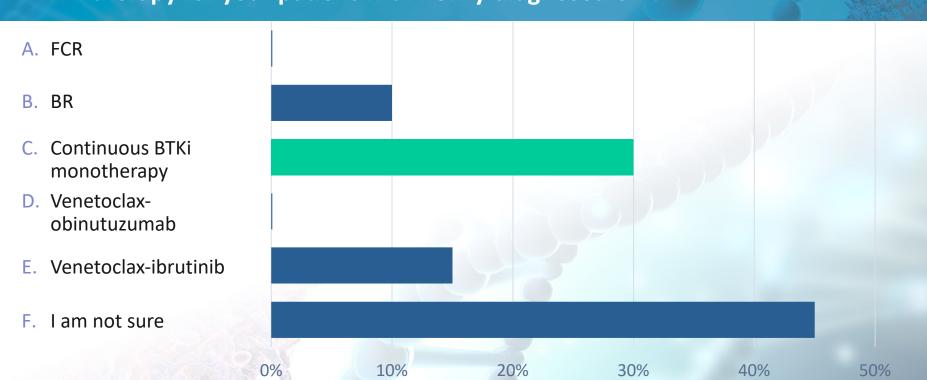


Your 62-year-old patient presents to you with leukocyte count of approximately 120,000/ μ l (80% lymphocytes), hemoglobin level of 8.5 g/dl, and platelet count 85,000/ μ l. Immunophenotyping confirms that he has CLL, which carries del(17p). Which of the following is the best choice of therapy for your patient with newly-diagnosed CLL?

- A. Fludarabine-cyclophosphamide-rituximab (FCR)
- B. Bendamustine-rituximab (BR)
- C. Continuous BTKi monotherapy
- D. Venetoclax-obinutuzumab
- E. Venetoclax-ibrutinib
- F. I am not sure

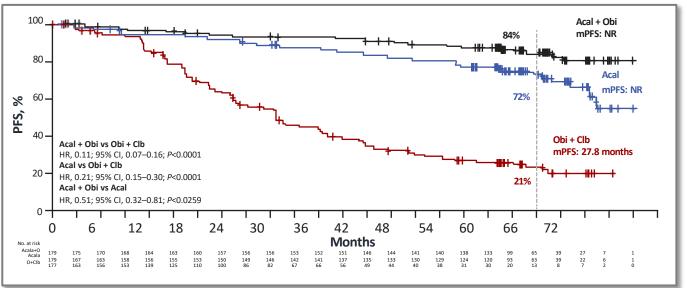


Your 62-year-old patient presents to you with leukocyte count of approximately $120,000/\mu l$ (80% lymphocytes), hemoglobin level of 8.5 g/dl, and platelet count $85,000/\mu l$. Immunophenotyping confirms that he has CLL, which carries del(17p). Which of the following is the best choice of therapy for your patient with newly-diagnosed CLL?



ELEVATE-TN

5-year Follow-up of Acal ± Obi vs Clb-Obi for Previously Untreated CLL



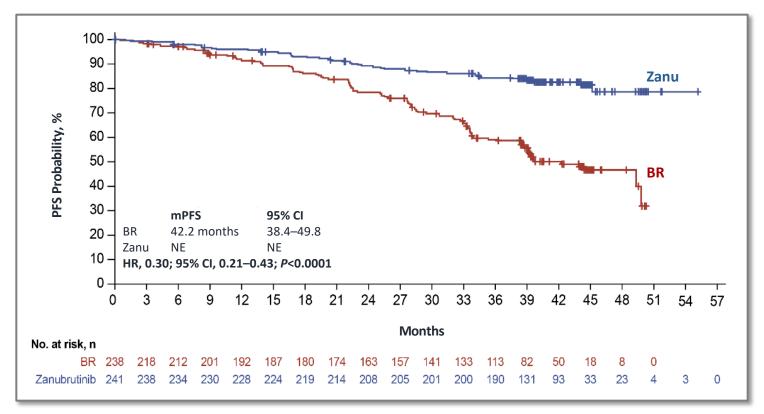
- PFS benefit is greater with Acal-Obi vs Acal monotherapy
- Low incidence of cardiovascular AEs (Afib/flutter and hypertension)
- Low rates of treatment discontinuation despite longer treatment exposure





SEQUOIAZanu vs BR for Previously Untreated CLL



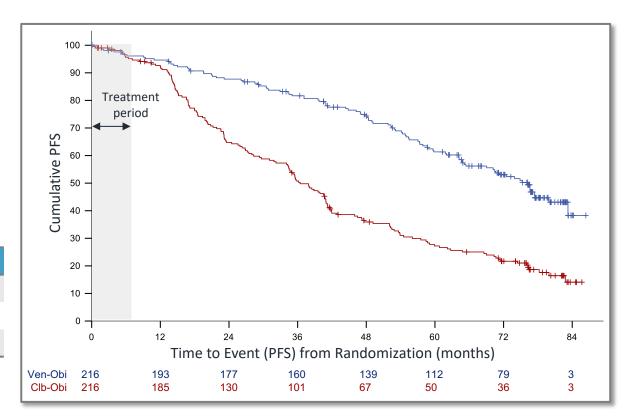


CLL14

6-year PFS Follow-up of Ven-Obi for Previously Untreated CLL

- Long-term efficacy and safety of fixed-duration
 Ven-Obi vs Clb-Obi
- Median follow-up: 76.4 months
 - 12% del(17p)/TP53 mut
 - ~60% unmutated IGHV

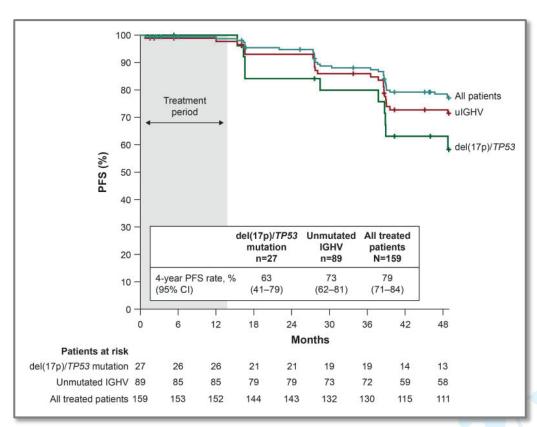
	Median PFS	6-year PFS
Ven-Obi	76.2 months	53.1%
Clb-Obi	36.4 months	21.7%
HR (95% CI)	0.40 (0.31–0.52); <i>P</i> <0.0001



CAPTIVATE

4-year PFS Follow-up of Ven-Ibr for Previously Untreated CLL/SLL

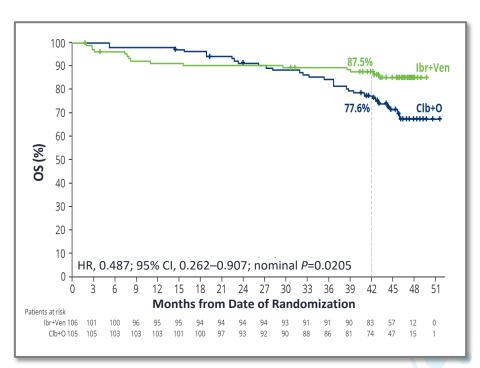
- Long-term efficacy and safety of fixed-duration Ven-Ibr
- Median follow-up: 49.8 months
- High-risk features
 - 56% IGHV mut
 - 30% del(17p)/TP53 mut



GLOW

4-year OS Follow-up of Ven-Ibr vs Clb-Obi for Previously Untreated CLL

- At 28-month follow-up, the median PFS was not reached for Ven-Ibr and 21 months for Clb-Obi (HR, 0.22; 95% Cl, 0.13-0.36; P<0.001)¹
 - At 46 months, the PFS HR was essentially unchanged (HR, 0.21; 95% CI, 0.14–0.33; P<0.0001)²
- With a median follow-up of 46 months in GLOW, fixed-duration Ven-Ibr achieved significantly improved OS vs Clb-Obi across most genomic subgroups of patients with previously untreated CLL²



Summary of Studies in Previously Untreated CLL



Trial	Treatment Regimen	PFS	os
ELEVATE-TN ¹ (5-year data)	Acalabrutinib + obinutuzumab Acalabrutinib Chlorambucil + obinutuzumab	84% 72% 21%	90% 84% 82%
SEQUOIA ⁶ (42-month data)	Zanubrutinib, with/without del(17p) Bendamustine + rituximab, without del(17p)	79%/82% 50%	90%/89% 88%
CLL14 ² (6-year data)	Venetoclax + obinutuzumab Chlorambucil + obinutuzumab	53% 22%	79% 69%
CAPTIVATE ³ (4-year data)	Venetoclax + ibrutinib	79%	98%
GLOW ^{4,5} (4-year data)	Venetoclax + ibrutinib Chlorambucil + obinutuzumab	HR, 0.21 95% CI, 0.14–0.33	HR, 0.49 95% CI, 0.26–0.91

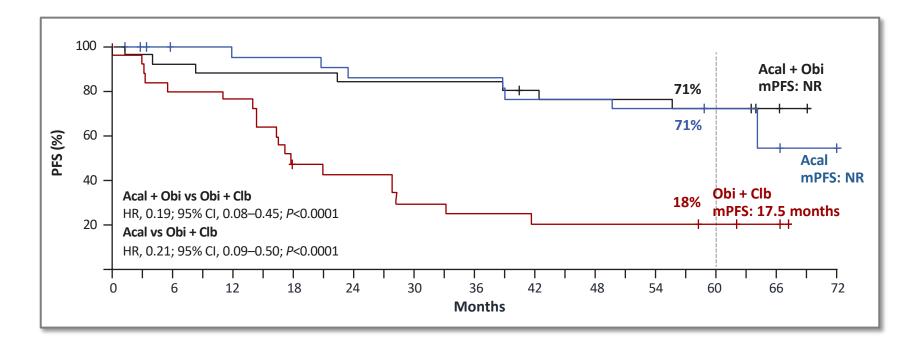
¹Sharman JP, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2022;40(16 Suppl):7539. ²Al-Sawaf O, et al. *Hematol Oncol*. 2023;41(S2):58–60. ³Ghia P, et al. 2023 International Conference on Malignant Lymphoma. Abstract 155. ⁴Kater Arnon P, et al. *NEJM Evidence*. 2022;1(7):EVIDoa2200006. ⁵Kater A, et al. 2023 European Hematology Association Congress. Abstract P620. ⁶Shadman M, et al. *Hematol Oncol*. 2023;41(S2):235–238.



ELEVATE-TN

PFS in Patients with Del(17p) or mutated TP53

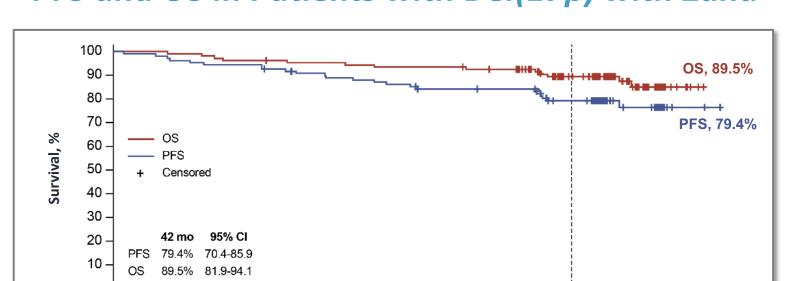


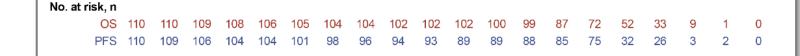




SEQUOIA

PFS and OS in Patients with Del(17p) with Zanu



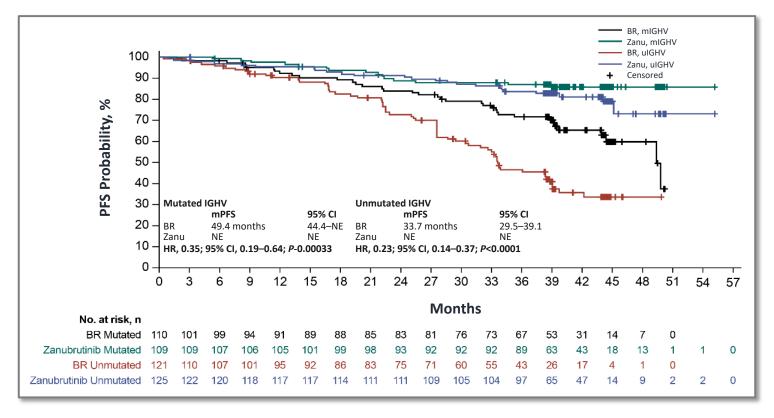


Months



SEQUOIA PFS in Patients without Del(17p) by IGHV Status

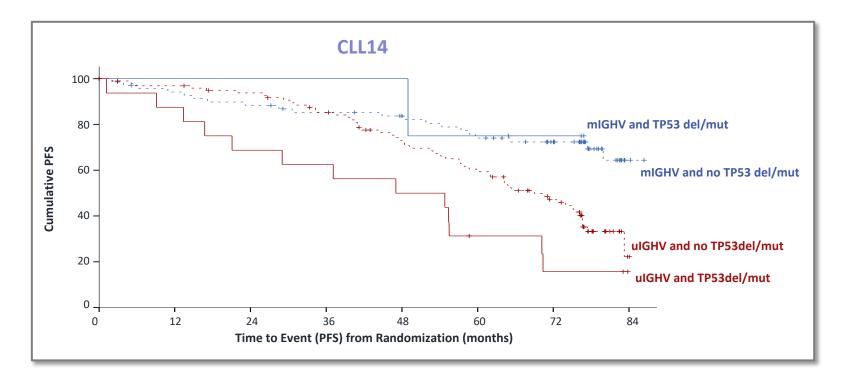






CLL14 PFS by IGHV and TP53 Status

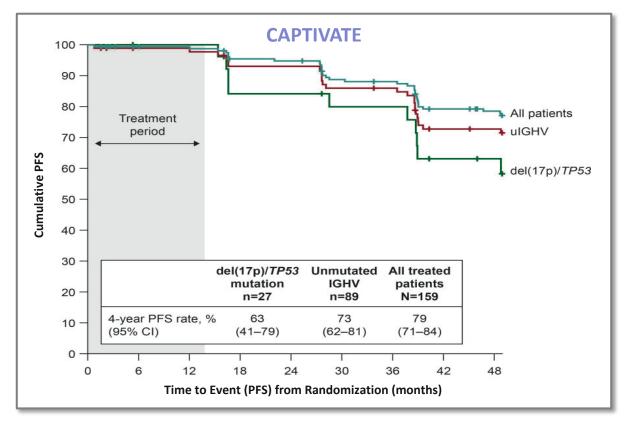






CAPTIVATEPFS by IGHV and TP53 Status



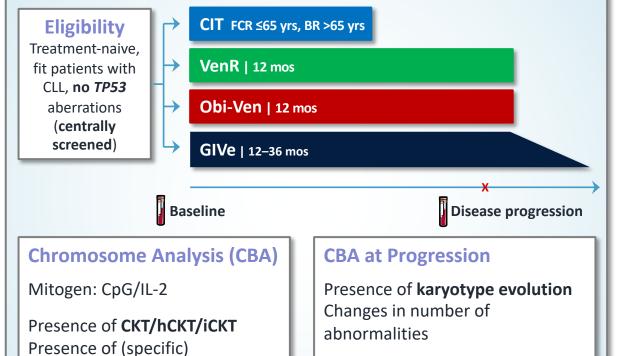




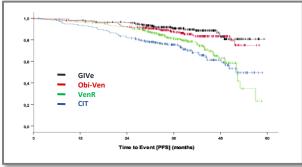
translocations

GAIA/CLL13 Design





Primary Endpoint Analysis, PFS Data cut 01/22, median OT: 38.8 months, n=926



GIVe vs **CIT**

HR, 0.32; 97.5% CI, 0.19–0.54; *P***<0.000001**

Obi-Ven vs CIT

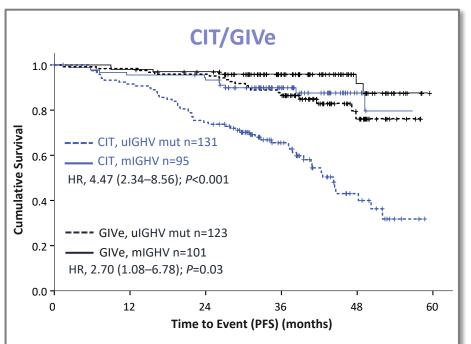
HR, 0.42; 97.5% CI, 0.26–0.68; *P*<**0.0001**

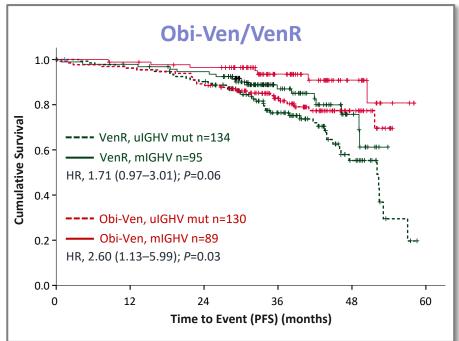
VenR vs CIT

HR, 0.79; 97.5% CI, 0.53–1.18; *P*=0.183

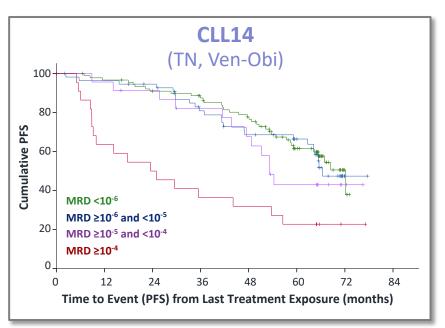
GAIA/CLL13

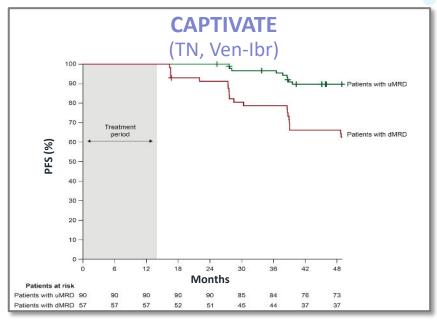
PFS with CIT, Obi-Ven, GIVe, and VenR and Unmutated-IGHV





Minimal Residual Disease



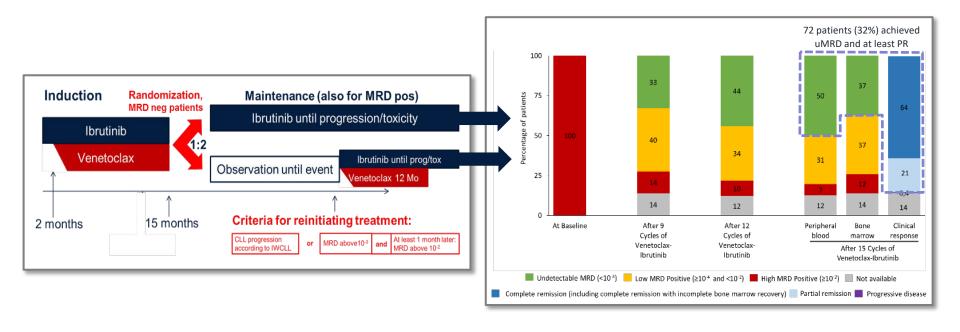


Depth of remission correlates with long-term PFS and OS in treatment-naïve (TN) CLL, indicating the prognostic value of the EoT MRD status.



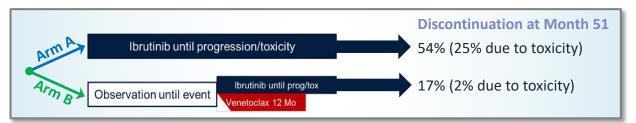
Vision/HO141 MRD-guided Stop/Start in R/R CLL

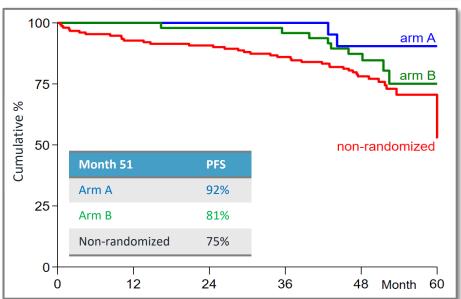


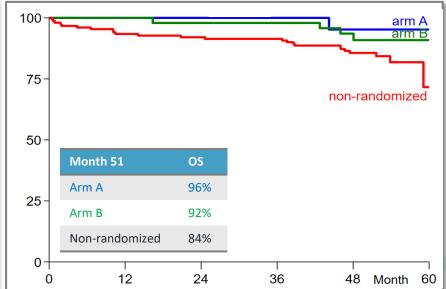


Vision/HO141 MRD-guided Stop/Start in R/R CLL









Kater AP, et al. 2023 European Hematology Association Congress. Abstract S148.



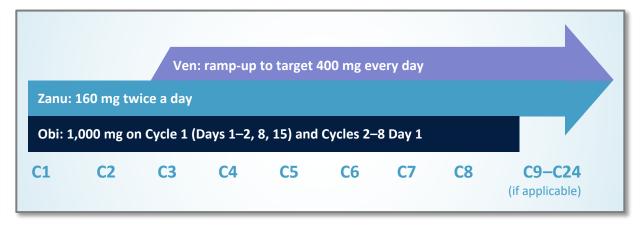
BOVen





Key Eligibility Criteria

- Previously untreated CLL/SLL
- Requires treatment (iwCLL) guidelines)
- ECOG 0–2
- ANC ≥1,000, PLT count ≥75 (unless due to CLL)
- Coumadin and dual antiplatelet excluded



Treatment Duration/MRD-directed Treatment Discontinuation Criteria

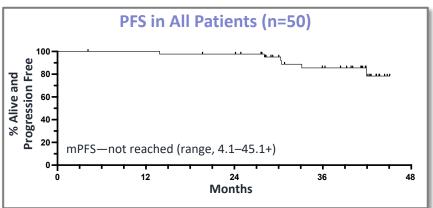
- Treatment duration: minimum 8 months to maximum 24 months (including 2-month doublet lead-in prior to Ven)
- PB MRD (flow cytometry) assessed every 2 cycles
 - If PB uMRD <10⁻⁴ (flow), then BM MRD assessment within 14 days
 - If PB and BM uMRD <10⁻⁴ (flow), then repeat PB MRD assessment after 2 additional cycles
 - If PB × 2 (consecutively) and BM uMRD <10⁻⁴ (primary endpoint), treatment is discontinued

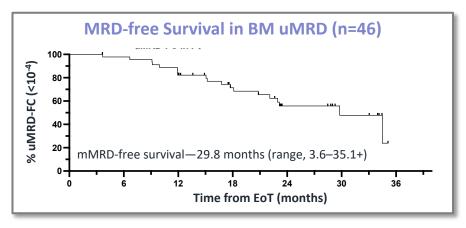


BOVen

Zanu-Obi-Ven for Previously Untreated CLL/SLL







- BOVen was well tolerated with no additional safety signals with long-term follow-up
- BOVen achieved frequent uMRD (<10⁻⁴) in PB (96%) and BM (92%)
- Median duration of therapy was 10 months (IQR 8–12) including 2-month lead-in

ΔMRD400	n	Median Time on Therapy	Median MRD-free Survival
Achieved	21	8 months	Not reached
Failed	13	13 months	18.1 months
		HR, 4.02 (95% CI, 1.37–11.81); <i>P</i> =0.003	

AMRD400 is decrease in PB MRD at C5D1 (1 month of Ven at target dose) and 400-fold reduction optimal cutoff for predicting uMRD at <10-4 within 8 months

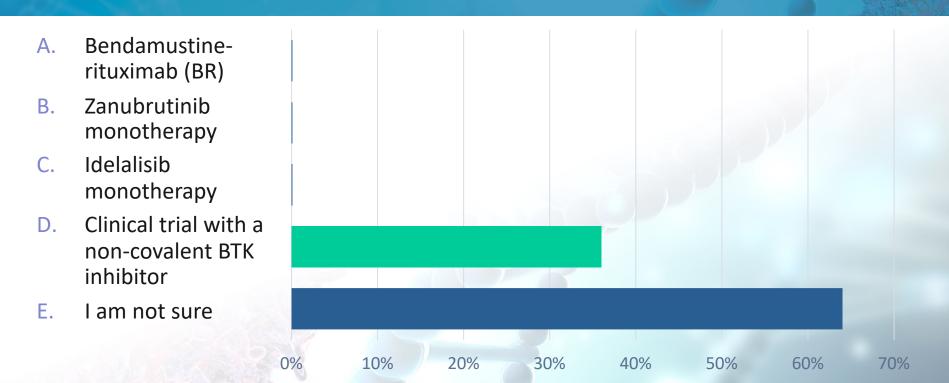


Your 71-year-old patient received first-line venetoclax-obi and second-line ibrutinib therapies for her CLL (unmutated IGHV, intact TP53), and now comes to you after 3 years of continuous ibrutinib therapy with increasing circulating lymphocyte counts and decreasing hemoglobin levels. Which is the best choice of therapy for your patient?

- A. Bendamustine-rituximab (BR)
- B. Zanubrutinib monotherapy
- C. Idelalisib monotherapy
- D. Clinical trial with a non-covalent BTK inhibitor
- E. I am not sure



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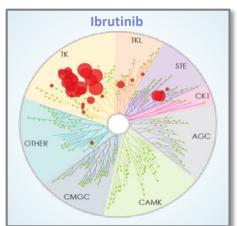
BTKi Resistance

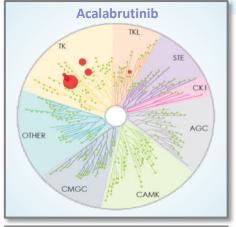
- 16%–23% of patients on continuous BTKi therapy develop BTKi resistance
 - Most information comes from studies with ibrutinib
 - However, similar mechanisms were reported for acalabrutinib
 - The two most common alterations are C481S or C481R in the ATP binding site
 - The mutations prevent attachment of first- and second-generation covalent BTKis
- Resistance typically arises with indefinite treatment
 - More common in pretreated patients and patients with TP53 abnormalities

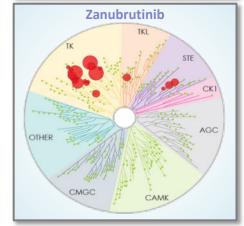
BTKi Resistance

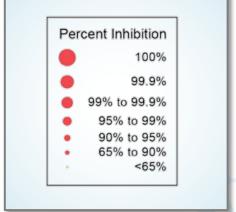
- Non-covalent BTKis do not require attachment to residue 481
 - Highly selective, reversible binding
 - Can act on both wild-type and Cys481-mutated BTK
 - MOA may reduce off-target effects and associated toxicity

Inhibitor name	Binding mechanism
Ibrutinib	Covalent, irreversible
Acalabrutinib	Covalent, irreversible
Zanubrutinib	Covalent, irreversible
Fenebrutinib	Noncovalent, reversible
Nemtabrutinib	Noncovalent, reversible
Pirtobrutinib	Noncovalent, reversible

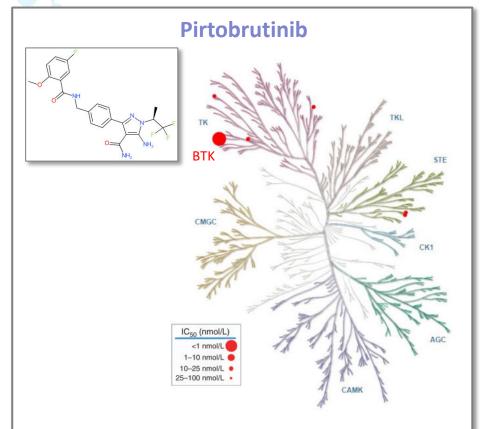


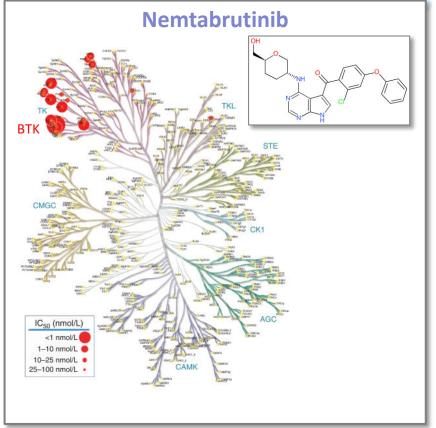






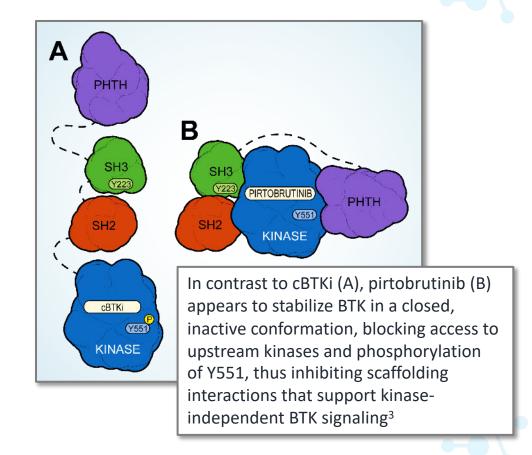
Characteristics of Reversible BTK Inhibitors





Pirtobrutinib

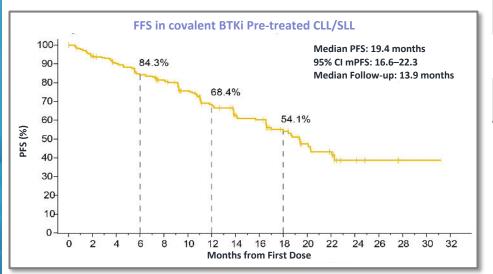
- Pirtobrutinib is approved in the United States to treat relapsed or refractory MCL after at least two lines of systemic therapy, including prior BTK inhibitor¹
- Inhibits both WT and C481mutant BTK with equal low nM potency in in vitro models² and CLL cells³
- Steady state plasma exposure corresponding to 96% BTK target inhibition and a pirtobrutinib-BTK binding complex half-life of about 2 hours



Pirtobrutinib

BRUIN-CLL

- Phase 1/2, open-label, pirtobrutinib monotherapy, N=170
- Median 3 prior therapies
- 25% del(17p), 30% TP53-mut, 88% unmutated IGHV



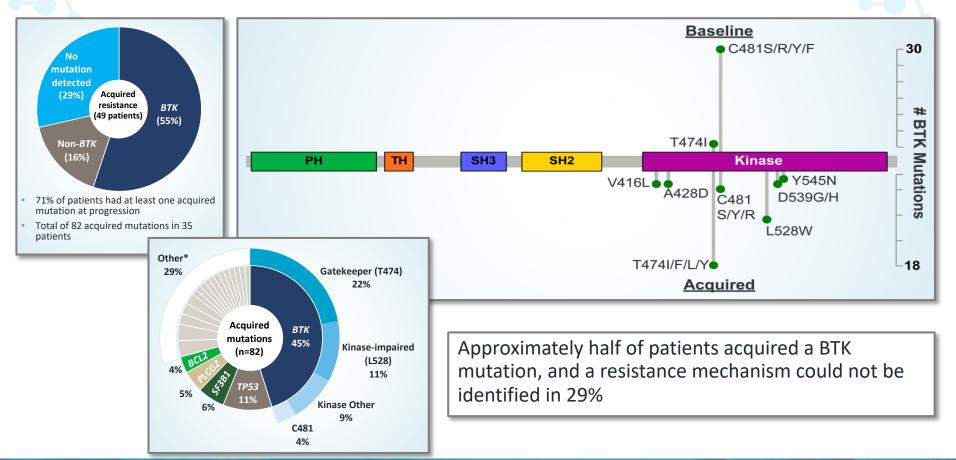
		BTKi Pretreated CLL/SLL	Response Evaluable Cohort, n	ORR, % (95% CI)	mPFS, months (95% CI)	Estimated 12-month PFS rate, % (95% CI)	Estimated 18-month PFS rate, % (95% CI)
Overall		276	273	74 (68–79)	19.4 (16.6–22.3)	68 (62–74)	54 (46–61)
Age	≥75	57	56	71 (58–83)	20.1 (15.7–NE)	78 (63–87)	62 (44–75)
Age	<75	219	217	74 (68–80)	18.7 (16.6–NE)	66 (58–73)	52 (43–60)
At least	Yes	122	119	(68–80) (16.6–NE) (58–73) 73 14.1 58		42 (29–55)	
prior BTKi and BCL2i	No	154	154	74 (66–81)	22.1 (18.4–NE)	75 (67–82)	62 (52–70)
Del(17p) and/or TP53	Yes	99	98	80 (70–87)	16.6 (13.8–22.1)	69 (58–78)	47 (33–59)
mutation	No	107	107	67 (58–76)	19.4 (14.1–NE)	66 (55–75)	58 (46–68)
BTK C481	Mutated	85	85	81 (71–89)	17.0 (13.8–20.3)	69 (57–79)	49 (35–61)
status*	Unmutated	91	91	65 (54–75)	20.3 (13.8–NE)	63 (52–73)	54 (40–65)
Reason for prior BTKi	Disease progression	206	205	73 (66–79)	18.6 (13.9–20.3)	66 (58–73)	50 (41–59)
discontin- uation	Intolerance and other	68	66	76 (64–85)	NE (18.4–NE)	77 (64–86)	67 (51–79)

^{*}Patients with available mutation data who progressed on any prior covalent BTKi, excluding those who were covalent BTKi intolerant.

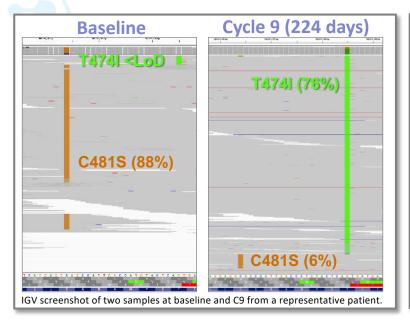
- ORR 74% (n=232); 1% CR; 64% PR; 8% PR with lymphocytosis
- 20% grade 3/4 neutropenia, hypertension (3%) and hemorrhage (2%), 1% Afib

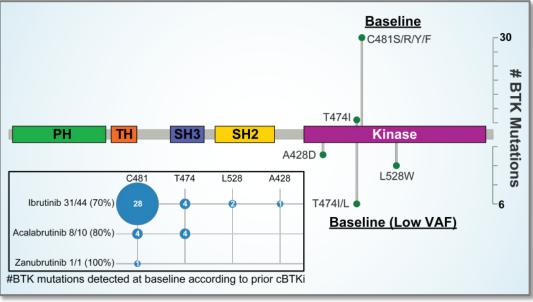
N, number of patients; n, number of response evaluable patients in sample; NE, not evaluable.

Pirtobrutinib Resistance



BTK Mutations Found at Low VAF at Baseline

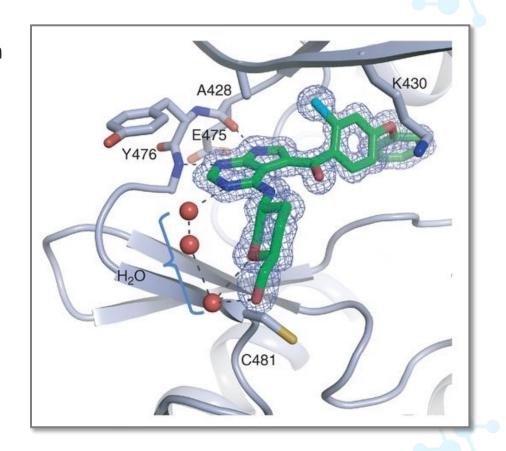




- 9/37 (24%) acquired non-C481 BTK mutations at PD (median VAF at PD: 40% [range, 9–84]) preexisted at baseline at low VAFs (1%–3%)^a
- These patients had similar responses to pirtobrutinib (6/8, 75% ORR [95% CI, 35–97], median time on pirtobrutinib of 11.2 months, range [3.9–14.5 months]) and included patients who received prior ibrutinib (n=4), acalabrutinib (n=3), and ibrutinib + acalabrutinib (n=1)

Nemtabrutinib

- Nemtabrutinib noncovalently binds to the kinase domain's ATP binding region and competes with ATP^{1,2}
- Nemtabrutinib forms hydrogen bonds with the backbone residues G475 and Y476²
- The solvent-exposed polar tetrahydropyran methanol side chain facilitates an extensive hydrogen bonding network through exposure to water molecules²
- Binding of nemtabrutinib is not dependent on C481, suggesting mutations at this residue should not impact binding²



Nemtabrutinib

BELLWAVE-001

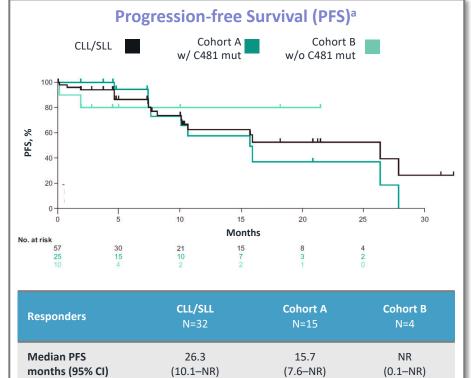
- Phase 1/2, open-label
- Cohort A
 - ≥2 prior therapies, including a covalent BTKi
 - With a C481 mutation
- Cohort B
 - ≥2 prior therapies, intolerant to a BTKi
 - Without a C481 mutation
- Among all patients with B-cell malignancies treated with twice daily 65 mg nemtabrutinib
- 73% had any-grade treatment-related AEs
 - Grade 3 or 4 AEs occurred in 45 patients (40%); 17% neutrophil count decreased
 - The most common AEs of special interest: hypertension (30%) and arthralgia (20%)

CLL/SLL N=57
66 (45–86)
41 (72)
49 (86) 4 (7) 4 (7)
50 (88) 6 (11)
4 (1–18) 54 (95) 24 (42)
36 (63) 18 (32) 22 (39) 19 (33) 3 (5)

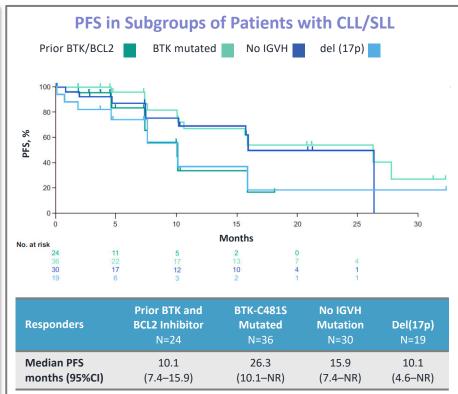


Nemtabrutinib **Progression-free Survival**





Responders	CLL/SLL	Cohort A	Cohort B
	N=32	N=15	N=4
Median PFS	26.3	15.7	NR
months (95% CI)	(10.1–NR)	(7.6–NR)	(0.1–NR)

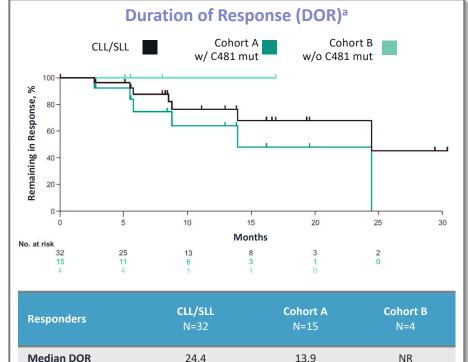




month (95%CI)

Nemtabrutinib Duration of Response





(5.5-NR)

(NR-NR)

(13.9-NR)

% 880 60	NO. at fi	14 21 15 10	8 18 13 5	1 12 9 2 BTK and	0 7 4 1	3 1 1	2 0 1	
	o r g t t t Remaining in Response	60 - 40 - 20 - 0 0	1 5	10		20	25	30

BTKi Therapy Sequencing

Covalent BTKi Resistance

Ibrutinib — Nemtabrutinib/pirtobrutinib

Acalabrutinib — Nemtabrutinib/pirtobrutinib

Zanubrutinib —— Nemtabrutinib/pirtobrutinib (Non-L528W mutation ??)

Covalent BTKi Intolerance

Ibrutinib ——— Acalabrutinib or zanubrutinib or nemtabrutinib/pirtobrutinib

Acalabrutinib — Zanubrutinib or nemtabrutinib/pirtobrutinib

Zanubrutinib — Nemtabrutinib/pirtobrutinib



To Ask a Question

Please select the Ask Question tab.

If your question is for a specific faculty member, please include their name.

Summary

- Longer follow-up data confirm the utility of BTKi-based combination therapy for CLL
- Fixed-duration therapies are associated with lower toxicity and equivalent efficacy
- IGHV and TP53 mutation status and karyotype complexity have prognostic implications
- MRD-guided stop/start therapy in R/R CLL may reduce toxicity and discontinuation, while retaining OS
- Mutations arising after first-/second-generation BTKi may suggest most appropriate next-line therapy
- Noncovalent BTKis offer opportunity to circumvent resistance to first-/second-generation BTKis

SMART Goals Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely

- Clinicians should ensure that patients receive the minimal biomarker testing for IGHV and TP53 mutations and del(17p) and discuss the prognostic implications of the results with their patients.
- Clinicians should recommend BTK inhibitor doublet therapy in all eligible patients.
- Clinicians should discuss with patients who achieve undetectable MRD after first-line treatment the benefits and risks of stopping therapy until such time that their disease progresses.
- Clinicians should encourage clinical trial participation, particularly for patients whose disease has progressed after BTK inhibitor therapy or are intolerant of BTK inhibitor therapy.

CME/CE Credit

To receive CME/CE credit for this activity, participants must complete the post-test and evaluation online.

Participants will be able to download and print their certificate immediately upon completion.



SHIFTING STRATEGIES
AND OPTIMIZING OUTCOMES