# Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia: An Evolving Treatment Landscape

# Pre-Read Material



### **Educational Objectives**

- Summarize the safety, effectiveness, and ways of functioning of novel and upcoming treatments for individuals diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)
- Examine and differentiate the effectiveness and safety profiles of both established and innovative Bruton tyrosine kinase (BTK) inhibitors utilized for managing CLL
- Provide an overview of the prevalent adverse effects associated with BTK inhibitors employed in the therapy of CLL, as well as their corresponding management strategies
- Present a summary of the favored and substitute treatment choices for varying stages of therapy in the management of CLL

### **Key Prognostic Markers**

**FISH<sup>1</sup>** 



del = deletion; FISH = fluorescence in situ hybridization; IGHV = immunoglobulin heavy chain variable (gene).

1. Döhner H, et al. N Engl J Med. 2000;343:1910-1916. 2. Hamblin TJ, et al. Blood. 1999;94:1848-1854. 3. Baliakas P, et al. Leukemia 2015;29:329-336.

### Somatic mutations<sup>3</sup>



### **CLL-IPI Predicted Survival in CIT Era**

### **CLL IPI factors include:**

- TP53
- IGHV
- B2M (>3.5 mg/L)
- Clinical stage (0/A vs other)
- Age (>65 years)



B2M = beta-2 microglobulin; CIT = chemoimmunotherapy; IPI = international prognostic index; TP53 = tumor protein p53.

CLL-IPI working group. Lancet Oncol. 2016;17:779-790.

### **Training dataset**

Intermediate risk

Low risk

<b>++</b> ]	High	risk
L		

### Very high risk

18	60	72	84 9	6 10	08 12	20 13	2 144	156	
me f	from	study	entr	y (mo	)				
279	270	224	169	118	81	40	20	8	0
352	312	232	143	83	52	27	13	5	1
205	178	120	69	40	19	12	4	1	0
16	13	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0

# **CLL-IPI May Not Be as Useful in Era of Targeted Therapies Reassessing CLL-IPI in era of targeted therapies**

**Patients and methods** 



**Conclusions: 1)** CLL-IPI retains prognostic value for PFS, but its impact appears diminished in predicting OS in CLL patients treated with targeted drugs; 2) Improved survival with targeted therapies vs CIT underscores need to reevaluate prognostic tools amid treatment shifts

### Main outcomes

CIT = Chemoimmunotherapy; Cum = cumulative; OS = overall survival; PFS = progression-free survival; TN

# IPS-E is a Simple, Robust Prognostic Model for Early-stage CLL

Variable	Points
IGHV unmutated	1
Lymphocytes >15x10 <sup>9</sup> /L	1
Nodal involvement	1

Risk group	Score
Low risk	0
Intermediate risk	1
High risk	2–3

<b>Cumulative incidence of treatment</b>					
1 year 5 year					
Low risk	<1%	8.4%			
Intermediate risk	3.1%	28.4%			
High risk	14.1%	61.2%			



Condoluci A, et al. Blood. 2020;135:1859-1869.



### iwCLL Indications for CLL Therapy Initiation Have Not Changed

### Indications include:

- Cytopenias
- Bulky or rapidly enlarging lymph node(s) or splenomegaly
- Symptoms (fatigue, fever, night sweats, unintentional weight loss)
- Refractory autoimmune conditions
- ± LDT <6 months

If none of the above...



### iwCLL guidelines for diagnosis, indications for treatment, response assessment, and supportive management of CLL

Michael Hallek,<sup>1,2</sup> Bruce D. Cheson,<sup>3</sup> Daniel Catovsky,<sup>4</sup> Federico Caligaris-Cappio,<sup>5</sup> Guillermo Dighiero,<sup>6</sup> Hartmut Döhner,<sup>7</sup> Peter Hillmen,<sup>8</sup> Michael Keating,<sup>9</sup> Emili Montserrat,<sup>10</sup> Nicholas Chiorazzi,<sup>11</sup> Stephan Stilgenbauer,<sup>7</sup> Kanti R. Rai,<sup>11</sup> John C. Byrd,<sup>12</sup> Barbara Eichhorst,<sup>1</sup> Susan O'Brien, 13 Tadeusz Robak, 14 John F. Seymour, 15 and Thomas J. Kipps16

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The previous edition of the consensus guidelines of the International Workshop on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (iwCLL), published in 2008, has found broad acceptance by physicians and investigators caring for patients with CLL. Recent advances including the discovery of the genomic landscape of the disease, the development of genetic tests with prognostic relevance, and the detection of minimal residual disease (MRD), coupled with

iwCLL = international workshop on CLL; LTD = Time-limited therapy.

### **Special Report**

the increased availability of novel targeted agents with impressive efficacy, prompted an international panel to provide updated evidence- and expert opinion-based recommendations. These recommendations include a revised version of the iwCLL response criteria, an update on the use of MRD status for clinical evaluation, and recommendations regarding the assessment and prophylaxis of viral diseases during management of CLL. (Blood. 2018;131(25):2745-2760)



# Several Studies Have Evaluated Early Intervention Strategies in Asymptomatic CLL

### Meta-analysis—OS<sup>1</sup>

CLL7—OS<sup>2</sup>



CI = confidence interval; FCR = fludarabine, cyclophosphamide, rituximab; Hi = high risk; HR = hazard ratio; Lo = low risk; NS = not significant; PBO = placebo; SD = standard deviation; W&W = watch and wait. 1. CLL Trialists' Collaborative Group. J Natl Cancer Inst. 1999;91:861-868. 2. Herling CD, et al. Leukemia. 2020;34:2038-2050. 3. Langerbeins P, et al. Hematol Oncol. 2023;4(suppl 2): 56-58.



### **Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplant**

- Prolonged DFS in advanced, refractory disease and in 17p-/TP53mut (~40% across studies)
- 17p-/TP53mut may lose its negative prognostic effect with AlloSCT
- Factors associated with poor outcome include:
  - >3 lines of therapy
  - Advanced clinical stage
  - Marked lymphadenopathy
  - Refractory disease at time of transplant

Allo-SCT = allogeneic stem-cell transplant; DFS = disease-free survival; mut = mutation.

Gribben JG, *Blood*. 2018;132:31-39.

# **Treatment-Naïve CLL**

# What are the data to support continuous BTKi monotherapy?

### Ibrutinib Can Provide Durable Response, Even for TP53-Aberrant CLL

### ALLIANCE: PFS ± TP53<sup>1</sup>



BR = Bendamustine-Rituximab; I/IR = ibrutinib/ibrutinib + rituximab; NHLBI = National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; Tx = treatment/therapy. 1. Woyach JA, et al. *Blood.* 2024;143:1616-1627. 2. Ahn IE, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2020;383:498-500. 3. Itsara A, et al. *Blood.* 2023;142(suppl 1): 201-202.

# **Discontinuation Rates with Ibrutinib Are Relatively High and Mostly Due to AEs**



AE = adverse event; URTI = upper respiratory tract infection; UTI = urinary tract infection.

Barr PM, et al. Blood Adv. 2022;6:3440-3450. Mato AR, et al. Haematologica. 2018;103:874-879.



Discontinuation due to AEs may be even more common in realworld setting (41%) discontinuation at median of 17 mo)

# Different Covalent BTKi Have Different Levels of Specificity for BTK

### Ibrutinib



### Acalabrutinib



Percent Inhibition			
	100%		
	99.9%		
	99% to 99.9%		
•	95% to 99%		
•	90% to 95%		
•	65% to 90%		
	<65%		

Kaptein A, et al. Blood. 2018;132(suppl 1): Abstract 1871.

### Zanubrutinib



### CLL14: 6-year PFS by IGHV and TP53 Mutation Status



Median PFS by IGHV mutation status					
	HR (95% CI)				
Ven-Obi, IGHV-M	NR	0.38 (0.23–0.61)			
Ven-Obi, IGHV-UM	64.8 mo	<i>P</i> < .001			
Clb-Obi, IGHV-M	62.2 mo	0.33 (0.23–0.47)			
Clb-Obi, IGHV-UM	26.9 mo	<i>P</i> < .001			

Median PFS by TP53 deletion/mutation status					
	mPFS	HR (95% CI)			
Ven-Obi, no TP53 D/M	76.6 mo	2.29 (1.37–3.83)			
Ven-Obi, TP53 D/M	51.9 mo	<i>P</i> = .001			
Clb-Obi, no TP53 D/M	38.9 mo	1.66 (1.05–2.63)			
Clb-Obi, TP53 D/M	20.8 mo	<i>P</i> = .03			

Clb = chlorambucil; D/M = deletion and/or mutation; Ven-Obi = Venetoclax-obinutuzumab.

### CLL14: 6-year Safety Update

Most frequent adverse events, grade 3 and above					
	Venetoclax-o (n =	binutuzumab 212)	nab Chlorambucil-obinutuzuma (n = 214)		
AEs	During Treatment	After Treatment	During Treatment	After Treatment	
Neutropenia	51.9%	3.8%	47.2%	1.9%	
Thrombocytopenia	14.2%	0.5%	15.0%	0.0%	
Anemia	7.5%	1.9%	6.1%	0.5%	
Febrile neutropenia	4.2%	0.9%	3.3%	0.5%	
Leukopenia	2.4%	0.0%	4.7%	0.0%	
Pneumonia	3.8%	3.3%	3.7%	1.4%	
Infusion-related reaction	9.0%	0.0%	9.8%	0.5%	
Tumor lysis syndrome	1.4%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	

# **Relapsed/Refractory CLL**

# MURANO: Venetoclax-Rituximab vs BR in R/R CLL—Study Design



- **Primary endpoint:** INV-assessed PFS
- Secondary endpoints: IRC-assessed PFS, INV- and IRC-assessed PFS (patients with del[17p]), ORR, CR, OS, DoR
- Stratification factors include del(17p), response to previous therapy, geographic region

BM = bone marrow; C = cycle; D = day; DoR = duration of response; INV = investigator; IRC = independent review committee; max = maximum; ORR = overall/objective response rate; PB = peripheral blood; PD = progressive disease; QD = once daily; R = randomized; Ven = venetoclax.

Seymour JF, et al. N Engl J Med 2018;378:1107-1120.

### **ALPINE Study Design**

### **Eligibility criteria**

### **Key inclusion criteria**

- R/R to  $\geq 1$  prior systemic therapy for CLL/SLL
- Measurable lymphadenopathy by CT or MRI

### **Key exclusion criteria**

- Prior BTK inhibitor therapy
- History of bleeding disorders, active infections, stroke or intracranial hemorrhage, recent previous cancer, or major surgery

N = 652



### **Primary endpoint:** INV-assessed ORR Secondary endpoints: INV-assessed PFS and incidence of atrial fibrillation or flutter Stratification factors include age, geographic region, refractoriness, del(17p)/TP53

BID = twice daily; CT = computed tomography (scan); MRI = magnetic resonance imaging.

Brown JR, et al. N Engl J Med. 2023;388:319-332 and supplement.



Zanubrutinib **160 mg BID** 

> Ibrutinib 420 mg QD

**Treatment until** disease progression or unacceptable toxicity

# Phase 3 ELEVATE-CLL R/R Acalabrutinib vs Ibrutinib in R/R High-Risk CLL

### **R/R high-risk CLL** N = 533

- ≥1 prior therapies for CLL
- ECOG PS of 0-2; active disease meeting  $\geq 1$  of the IWCLL 2008 criteria for requiring treatment; must have  $\geq 1$  high-risk prognostic factors (17p del and/or 11q del by central laboratory)
- No prior exposure to ibrutinib or to BCR or BCL-2 inhibitor

### **Key points**

- Acalabrutinib demonstrated noninferiority to ibrutinib (PFS)
  - At median follow-up of 40.9 mo (range, 0.0–59.1), mPFS was 38.4 mo for both acalabrutinib and ibrutinib (HR = 1.00; 95% CI, 0.79–1.27)
- Incidence of any-grade atrial fibrillation was significantly lower with acalabrutinib vs ibrutinib, at • rates of 9.4% vs 16%, respectively



### Phase 2 Study: Venetoclax + Obinutuzumab Retreatment In Relapsed CLL **Study design Objectives**



EoCT = end of combination therapy; IV = intravenous; PB = peripheral blood; PRO = patient-reported outcome; TTR = time to response.

Davids MS et al. *Blood.* 2021;138(suppl 1): Abstract 2634

**ReVenG study will assess whether patients with CLL who completed** first-line venetoclax + obinutuzumab (VenO) can derive clinical benefit with VenO retreatment following disease progression

> Primary objective is to evaluate ORR of VenO retreatment in patients who progressed >24 months after first-line VenO

Secondary objective is to quantify time-to-event efficacy endpoints and to assess safety of VenO retreatment in patients who progressed >24 months after first-line VenO

### **Study overview**





Phase 2

**UP TO** 

patients are planned for enrollment

### NCT04895436

Planned initiation in 12/2021

# What can we do for CLL patients who progress after covalent BTKi and venetoclax?

# Phase 1/2 BRUIN Study of Pirtobrutinib: Design, Eligibility, and Enrollment



\*Other includes diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, Waldenstrom macroglobulinemia, follicular lymphoma, marginal zone lymphoma, B-cell prolymphocytic leukemia, RT, hairy-cell leukemia, primary central nervous system lymphoma, and other transformation.

MCL = mantle-cell leukemia; MTD = minimal threshold detection; RP2D = recommended phase 2 dose.

NCT03740529 (https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT03740529). Accessed 9/10/24. Woyach JA, et al. Blood. 2023;142(suppl 1):325-330. Mato AR, et al. N Engl J Med. 2023;389:33-44 and supplement.

# **Emerging Data and Future Directions**



# Global MAJIC Phase 3 Study Seeks to Define Optimal MRD-Guided Venetoclax Doublet for Frontline CLL Treatment

### Key eligibility criteria

- TN CLL/SLL requiring treatment per 2018 iwCLL guidelines
- ECOG PS 0-2
- Antithrombotic agents permitted except for warfarin or equivalent vitamin K antagonists



- **Primary endpoint:** INV-assessed PFS
- Secondary endpoints: uMRD rates, CR, ORR, EFS, OS, quality of life/PROs, safety
- Stratified by age (<65 y vs  $\geq$  65 y), del17p and/or TP53 (+ vs –) and IGHV (mutated vs unmutated)
- N = ~600 patients
- Global study with ~40 sites
- First patient in 9/2022 and accrual completed in 3/2024

### of life/PROs, safety -) and IGHV (mutated vs unmutated)

# **BTK Degraders: BGB-16673**



### **Prior therapy**

CRIKI	ncBTKI	BCL2i	BTKi mutations		
			_		
			-		
			C481S, T474I, T474N, T474S		
			C481S		
			C481S		
			_		
			C481S		
			C481S		
			L528S, T474I, A428D		
			-		
			_		
			U		
			-		
			M437K, A428D, V416L		
			C481S		
			-		
			_		
			_		
			-		
			-		
			D43H, E7K		
			C481S		
			C481S		
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			—		
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			T474I		
			-		
			—		



- ORR was 72% (31/43) in response-evaluable patients with CLL/SLL ightarrow
- ORR for 200-mg group was 88%, with 2 patients achieving CR  $\bullet$

Parrondo R, et al. EHA. 2024 (www.beigenemedical.com/CongressDocuments/Parrondo\_BGB-16673-101\_EHA\_Abstract\_2024.pdf). Accessed 9/10/24.

## **CAR-T: Liso-cel** TRANSCEND CLL 004 Study Design: Phase 1/2, Open-label, Multicenter Study

### **Eligibility criteria**

- Age ≥18 years
- R/R CLL/SLL, indication for Tx
- Previously failed/ineligible for BTKi Tx
- Failure of >2 (high risk) or >3 (standard risk) lines of prior Tx
- ECOG PS ≤1
- Adequate bone marrow, organ, and cardiac function
- No RT or active CNS involvement



- Primary endpoint (PEAS at DL2): CR/CRi rate per iwCLL 2018 by IRC assessment
- Key secondary endpoints (PEAS at DL2): ORR, uMRD rate in blood
- Other secondary endpoints: DoR, DoCR, PFS, TTR, TTCR per IRC assessment, OS, uMRD CR in blood, safety
- Primary and key secondary endpoints were tested in prespecified subset of patients with BTKi progression and venetoclax failure (PEAS) at DL2 by following hierarchy: CR/CRi rate (Hy  $\leq$ 5%), ORR (Hy  $\leq$ 40%), and uMRD rate in blood (Hy  $\leq$ 5%)

\*Duration of follow-up was increased to 48 mo in protocol amendment (2/16/2021). Patients still in ongoing response per iwCLL 2018 criteria after the 2-year follow-up were followed for safety, disease status, additional anticancer therapies, and survival for an additional 2 years or until progression.

CNS = central nervous system; CY = cyclophosphamide; DL = dose level; DoCR = duration of complete response/remission; FLU = fludarabine; Hy = null hypothesis; PEAS = primary efficacy analysis set; TTCR = time to complete response/remission.

Siddiqi T, et al. Lancet. 2023;402:641-654. NCT03331198. (https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT03331198). Accessed 9/10/24.



Follow-up\* On-study: 24 or 48 mo **Long-term:** ≤15 years after last liso-cel Tx

### **CAR-T: Liso-cel—Efficacy Outcomes**

Efficacy	Full study population at DL2 (n = 87)	BTKi progression/venetoclax failure subset at DL2 (n = 49)
Primary endpoint: IRC-assessed CR/CRi rate (95% CI) per iwCLL 2018, %	18 (11–28)	18 (9–32); <i>P</i> =.0006
Key secondary endpoints IRC-assessed ORR (95% CI), % uMRD rate in blood (95% CI), %	47 (36–58) 64 (53–74)	43 (29–58); <i>P</i> = .39 63 (48–77)
Exploratory endpoint: uMRD rate in marrow (95% CI), %	59 (48–69)	59 (44–73)
Best overall response, n (%)		
CR/CRi	16 (18)	9 (18)
SD	25 (29) 34 (39)	21 (43)
PD Not ovoluphio	6 (7) 6 (7)	4 (8)
Modian (range) time to first response, me	$\frac{0(7)}{15(1021)}$	
Median (range) time to first CR/CRi, mo	4.4 (3.0–7.5)	3.0 (1.2–3.3)

- All MRD-evaluable responders were uMRD in blood and marrow
- 12 of 20 MRD-evaluable patients with SD were uMRD in blood

d marrow n blood

### **CAR-T:** Liso-cel—Progression-Free Survival

Full study population at DL2 (n = 87) Median (95% Cl) follow-up = 24.0 mo (18.3–26.4)



### **PEAS (BTKi progression/venetoclax failure** subset) at DL2 (n = 49)

Median (95% Cl) follow-up = 20.8 mo (17.6–25.2)

Data on Kaplan-Meier curves are expressed as median (95% Cl, if available).

# **Bispecific Abs Also Hold Promise in CLL**

Response, n (%)	Total efficacy evaluable n = 21	<i>TP53</i> aberration n = 14	Double- Exposed n = 17
Overall response	13 (62)	9 (64)	9 (53)
CR	7 (33)	4 (29)	5 (29)
PR	6 (29)	5 (36)	4 (24)
SD	4 (19)	2 (14)	4 (24)
PD	1 (5)	1 (7)	1 (6)
NE/no assessment	3 (14)	2 (14)	3 (18)



Time on treatment (weeks)



### **RS** = Richter's syndrome.

Kater et al., iwCLL. 2023

(https://de170d6b23836ee9498a-9e3cbe05dc55738dcbe22366a8963ae7. ssl.cf1.rackcdn.com/2501058-1432618-002.pdf). Accessed 9/10/24.

♦ Sinusitis

→ Ongoing treatment CR PR SD PD **Discontinued due to PD Discontinued due to AE** Discontinued due to patient withdrawal

66 72 78 84 90

	Evaluable n = 21
Median TTR, mo (range)	<b>1.9</b> (1.6–3.7)
Median TTCR, mo (range)	<b>3.6</b> (1.6–10.8)
Estimated DoR at 9 mo,%	83
Estimated PFS at 9 mo, %	67
Estimated OS at 9 mo, %	81

We look forward to seeing you at our TeleECHO sessions to discuss Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia!