

# Selection and Sequencing of Therapies for R/R CLL

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Swedish Cancer Institute

Chief of Hematologic Malignancies Program

Seattle, WA



**Dr Neil Morganstein**  
**Summit, New Jersey**

## **A 75-year-old man with CLL and a history of Barrett's esophagus**

# Selection and Sequencing of Therapies for R/R CLL

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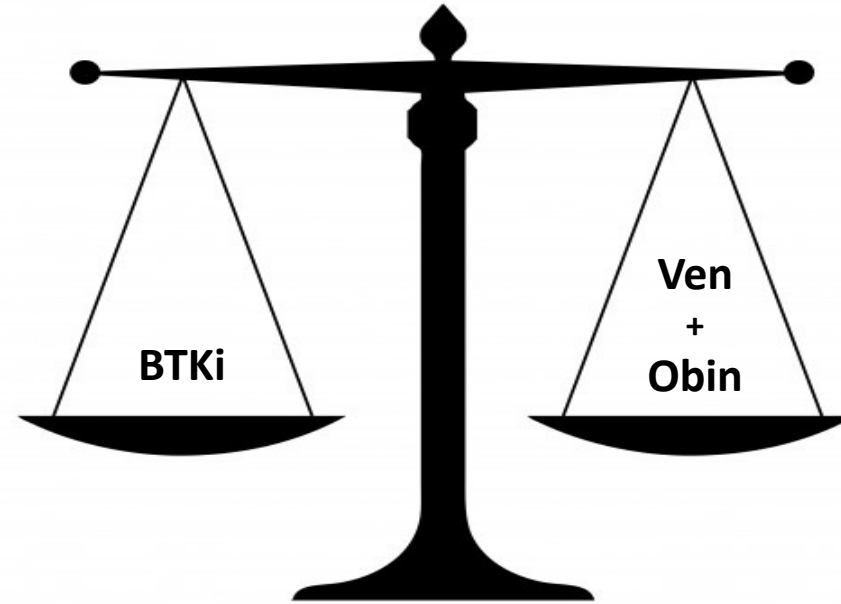
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# Where Do We Use Novel Inhibitors for CLL in 2021?

So, in retrospect, in 2016,  
not a single person got  
the answer right to:  
“Where do you see  
yourself 5 years from  
now?”

# *The CLL Scale of Justice*



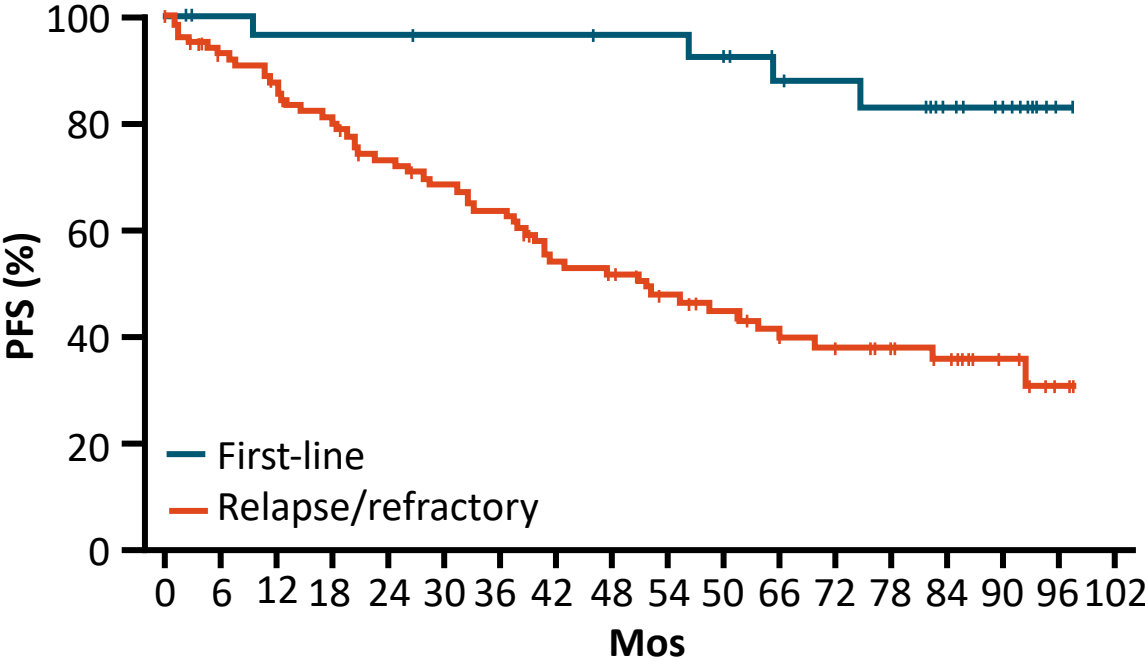
- Excellent PFS and OS with indefinite therapy
  - Mostly PR with limited uMRD
  - More potential discontinuations
- More concern for long-term adherence
- More expense over the long-term
- Excellent PFS and OS with finite therapy
  - High CR and significant uMRD
  - Low level discontinuations
- Less concern for long-term adherence
- Potential for cost-savings

# How do we Sequence Therapy?



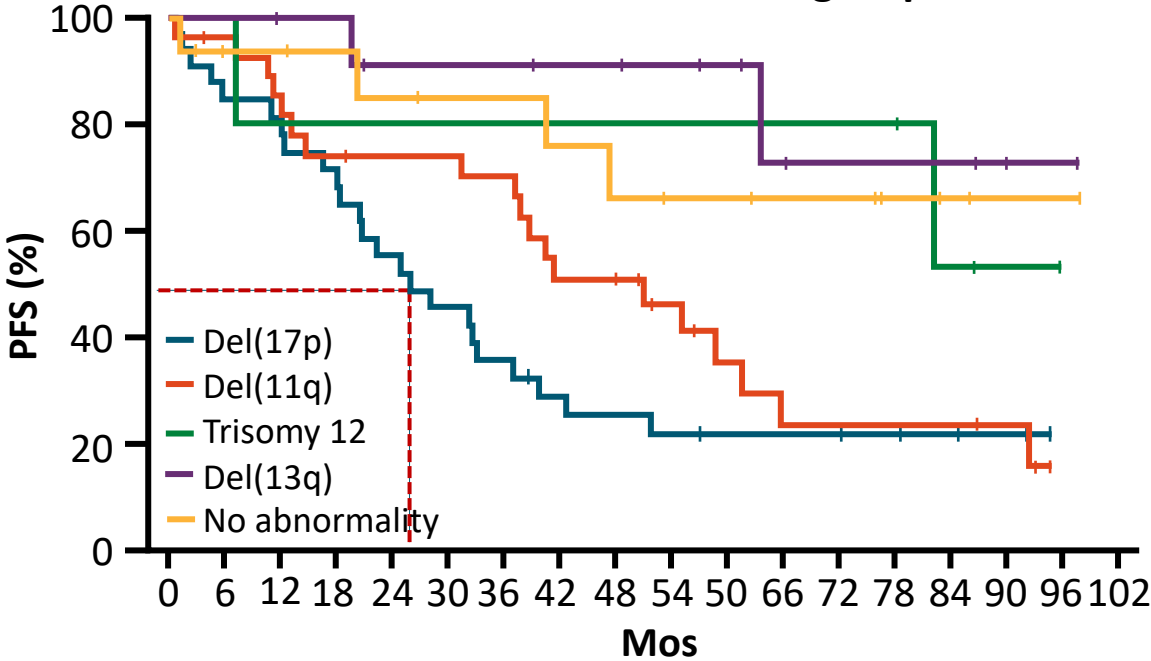
# 7-Yr PFS Outcomes With Ibrutinib in R/R CLL

PFS: TN vs RR



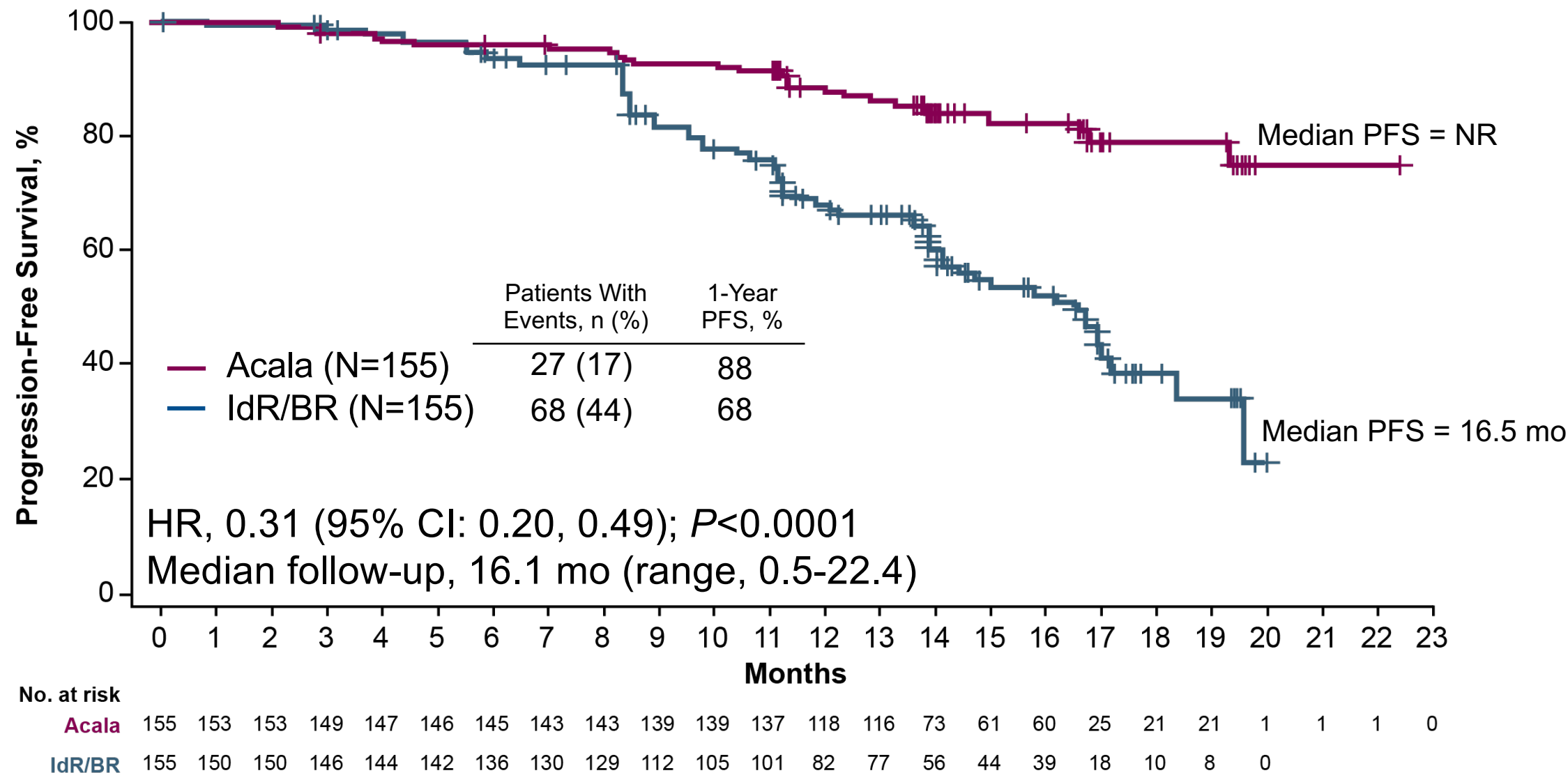
	Median PFS, Mos	7-Yr PFS, %
TN (n = 31)	NR	83
R/R (n = 101)	52	34

PFS in R/R CLL: FISH Subgroups



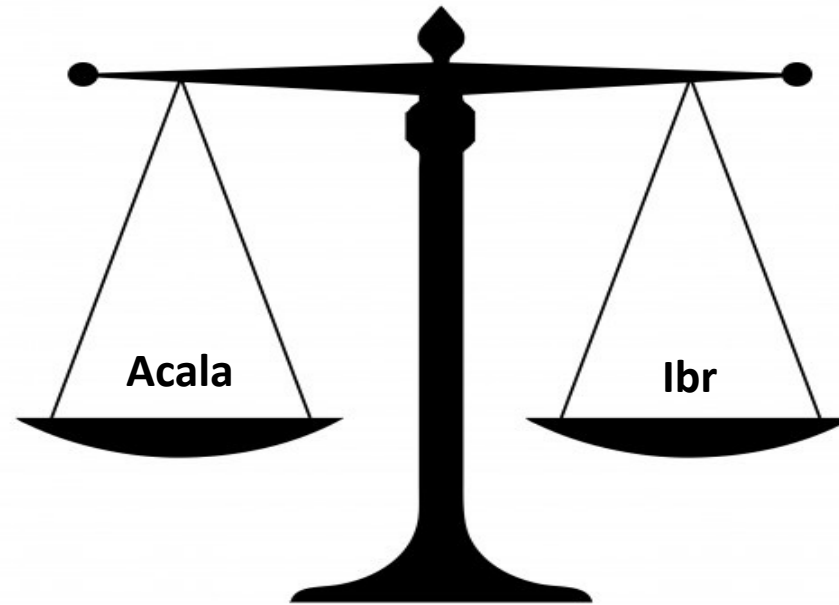
	Median PFS, Mos	7-Yr PFS, %
del17p (n = 34)	26	17
del 11q (n = 28)	51	23
Trisomy 12 (n = 5)	NR	53
del 13q (n = 13)	NR	73
No abnormality	88	66

# IRC-Assessed PFS Superior for Acalabrutinib vs IdR/BR





# Acalabrutinib vs. Ibrutinib: *The CLL Scale of Justice*

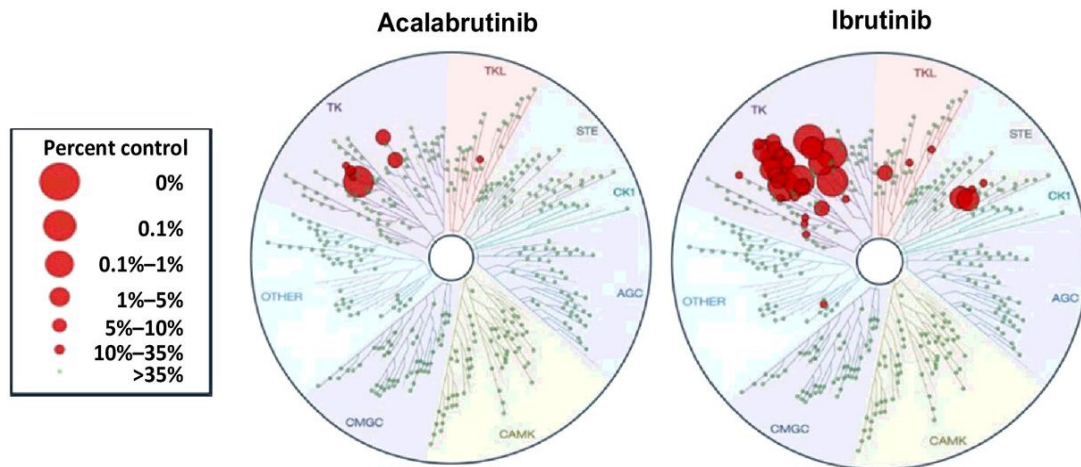


- Better tolerated
  - Low rates of adverse events of significance
    - Fewer discontinuations
  - Can “rescue” after Ibrutinib discontinuation due to adverse event
- More patients treated with longer follow up
  - More adverse events of significance
    - More discontinuations

# Acalabrutinib versus Ibrutinib

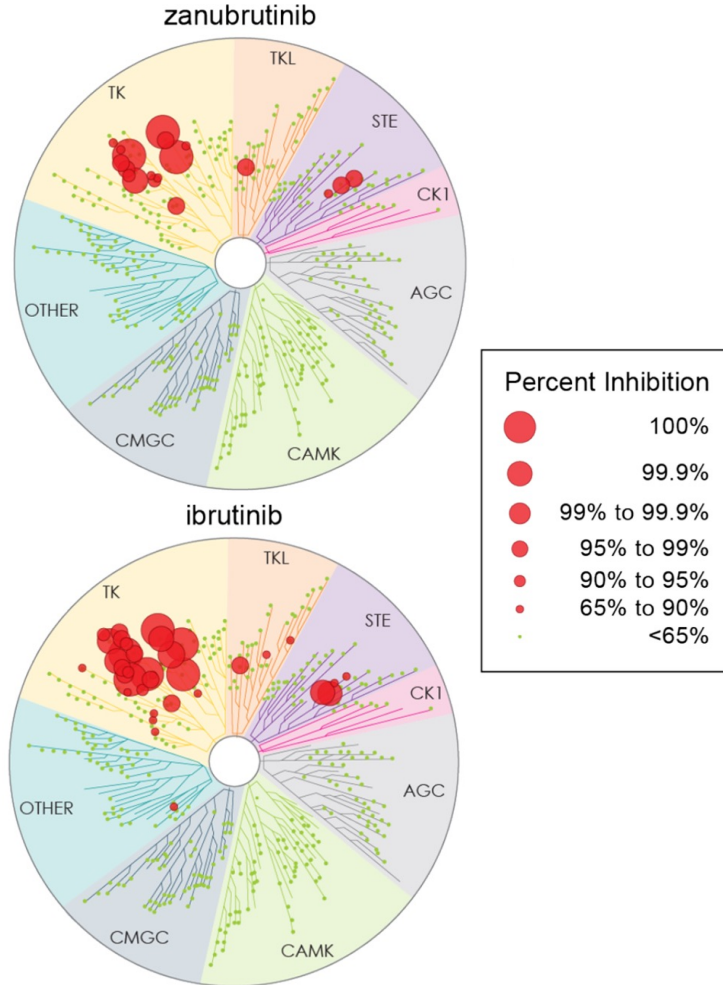
- Selective, covalent 2<sup>nd</sup>-generation BTK inhibitor approved in Canada in August 2019
- Indicated for R/R MCL and frontline and R/R CLL\*
- Associated with limited off-target effects in preclinical studies

Kinase Inhibition (Average IC <sub>50</sub> , nM)		
Kinase	Acalabrutinib	Ibrutinib
BTK	5.1	1.5
TEC	126.0	10
ITK	> 1000	4.9
BMX	46	0.8
TXK	368	2.0
EGFR	> 1000	5.3
ERBB2	~ 1000	6.4
ERBB4	16	3.4
BLK	> 1000	0.1
JAK3	> 1000	32

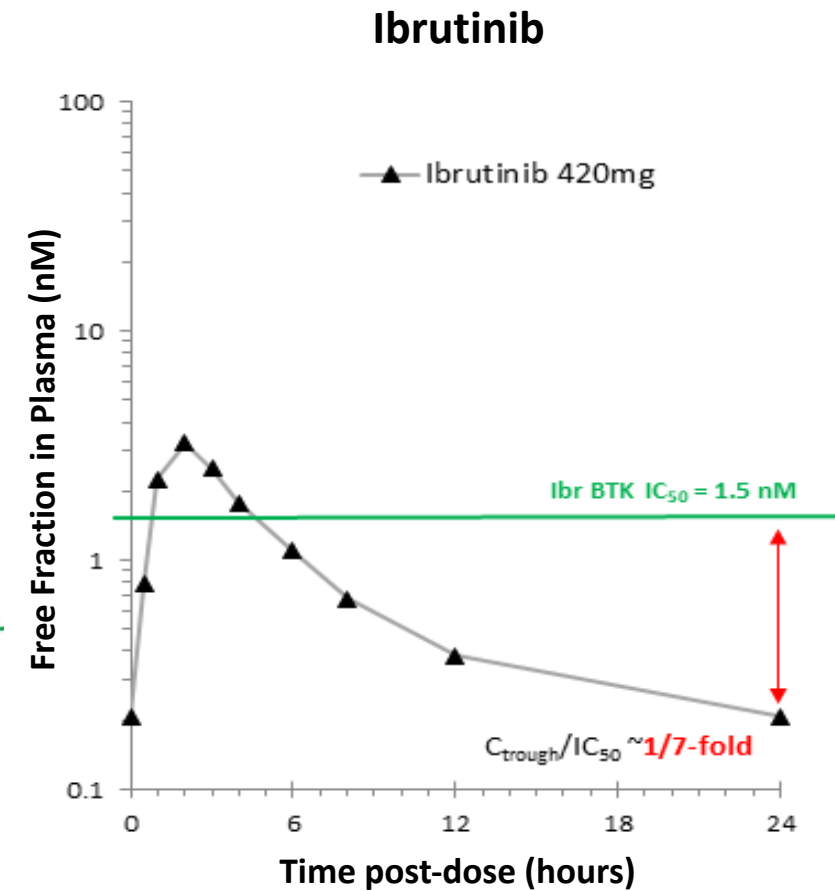
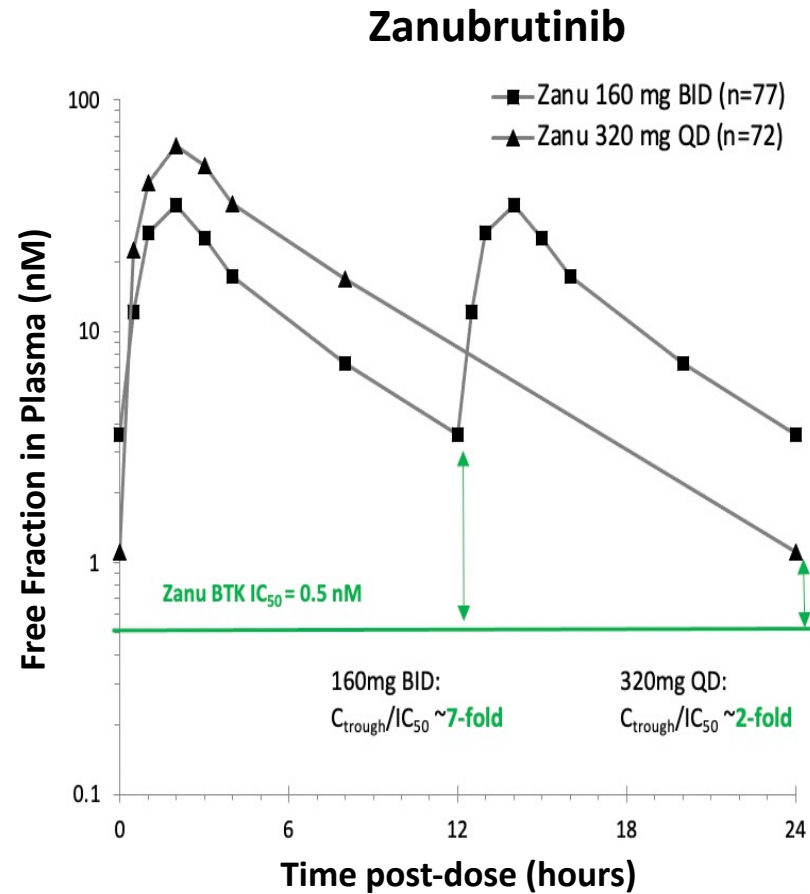


# Pharmacokinetics and Selectivity of Zanubrutinib and Ibrutinib

## Whole Kinase Panel Selectivity Profiles

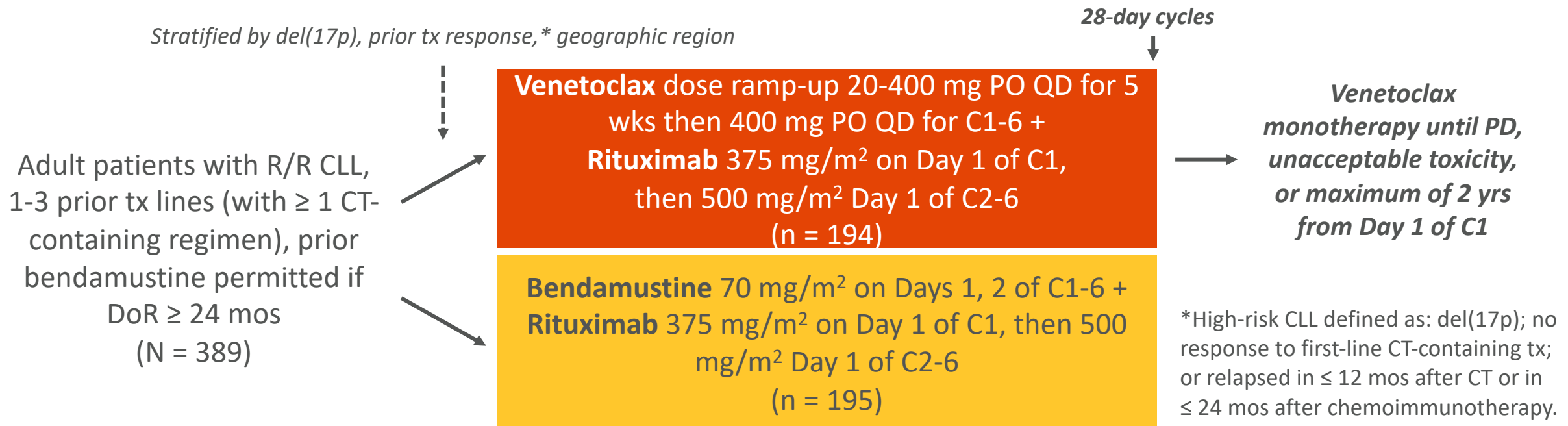


## Free Drug Concentration Time Profiles Relative to $IC_{50}$



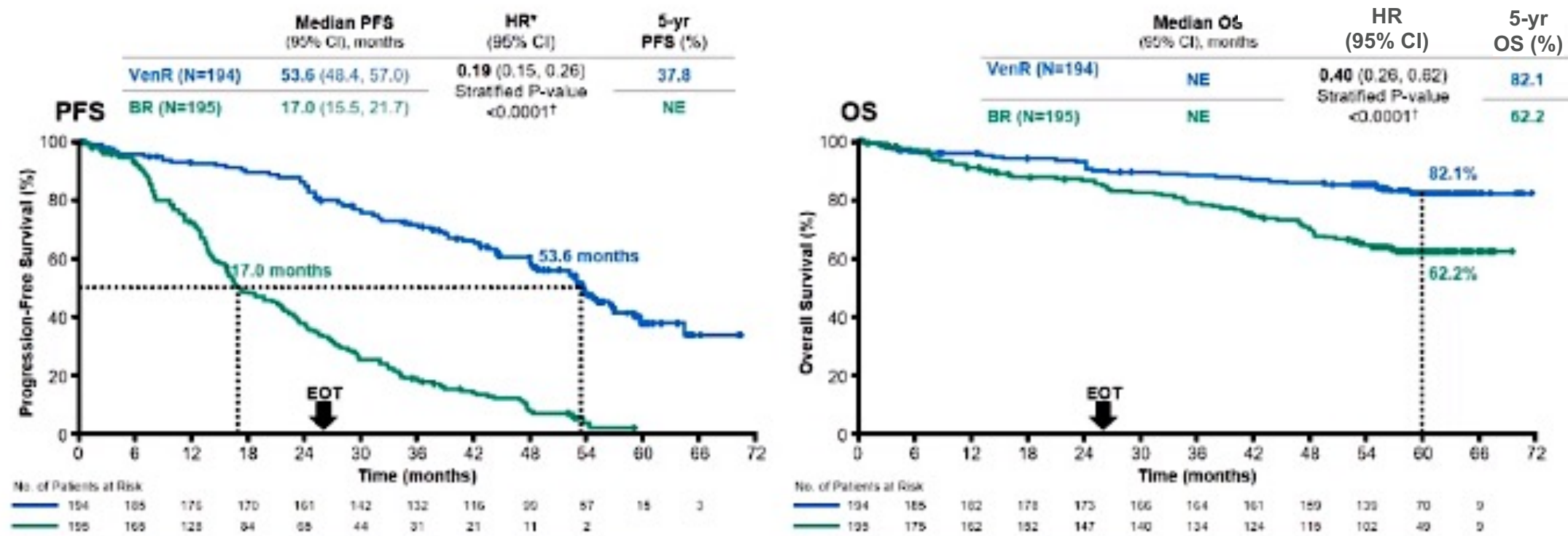
# MURANO: Venetoclax + Rituximab vs BR in Previously Treated CLL/SLL

Multicenter, randomized, open-label phase III trial



- Primary endpoint: investigator-assessed PFS
- Secondary endpoints: IRC-assessed PFS and MRD negativity, IRC-assessed CR → ORR → OS, safety

# PFS and OS Benefit with VenR over BR Sustained 3 Years after EOT



- With this 5-year update we can now accurately define the median PFS of VenR-treated patients
- No new safety signals were identified 3 years after EOT with longer follow up and patients are outside of the adverse event reporting window

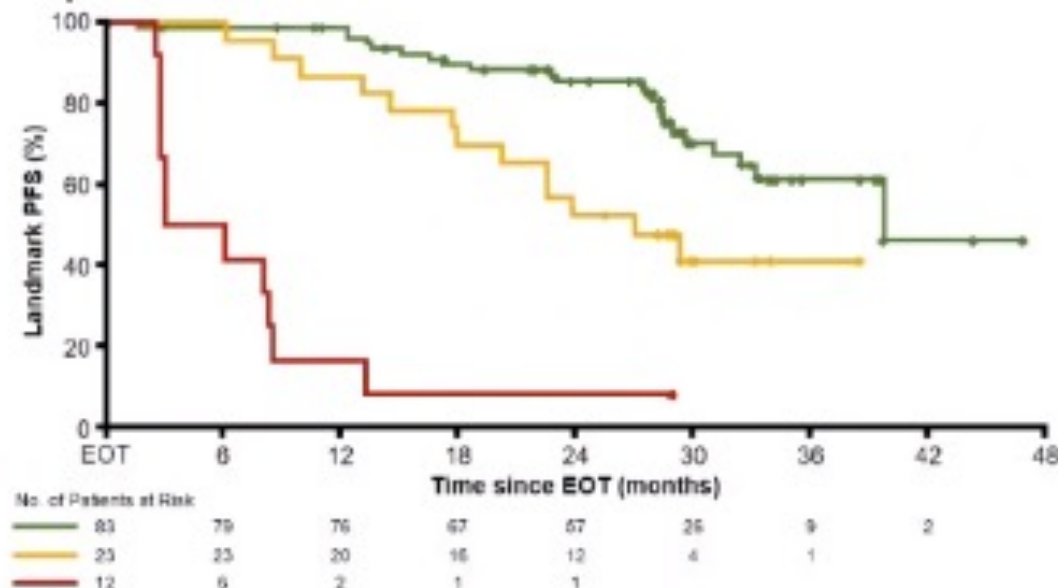


# uMRD at EOT is Associated with Improved Outcomes in VenR Patients

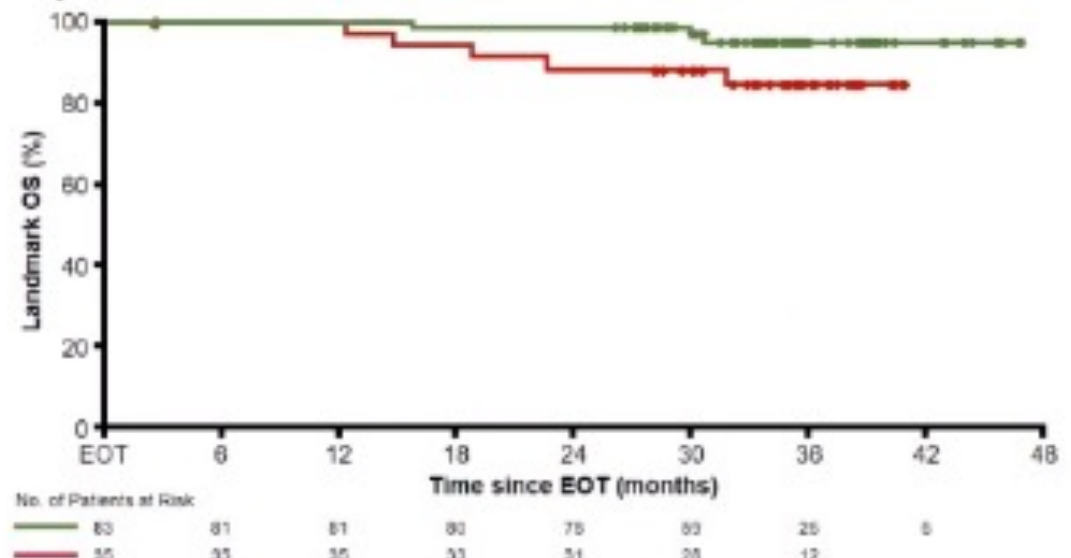
Category	24 month	36 month
uMRD ( $<10^{-4}$ ) (N=83)	85.4% (77.4, 93.4)	81.3% (47.3, 95.2)
Low-MRD+ ( $10^{-4}$ – $10^{-3}$ ) (N=23)	52.2% (31.8, 72.6)	40.7% (19.2, 62.2)
High-MRD+ ( $>10^{-3}$ ) (N=12)	8.3% (0.0, 24.0)	NE
	HR (95% CI)	P-value
uMRD vs Low-MRD+	0.40 (0.15, 0.91)	0.0246
uMRD vs High-MRD+	0.02 ( $<0.01$ , 0.18)	$<0.0001$
Low-MRD+ vs High-MRD+	0.52 (0.10, 0.99)	0.0410

Category	24 month	36 month
uMRD ( $<10^{-4}$ ) (N=83)	95.8% (95.4, 100.0)	95.3% (90.0, 100.0)
MRD ( $\geq 10^{-4}$ ) (N=35)	60.6% (78.0, 99.1)	60.0% (72.8, 97.2)
	HR (95% CI)	P-value
uMRD vs MRD	NS	NS

PFS post-EOT



OS post-EOT



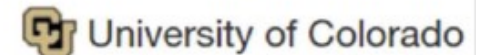
# Venetoclax Re-Treatment of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Patients after a Previous Venetoclax-based Regimen

Meghan C. Thompson, MD<sup>1</sup>, John N. Allan, MD<sup>2</sup>, Kavita Sail, PhD<sup>3</sup>, Beenish S. Manzoor, PhD, MPH<sup>4</sup>, Jeffrey J. Pu, MD, PhD<sup>5</sup>, Paul M. Barr, MD<sup>6</sup>, Callie C. Coombs, MD<sup>7</sup>, Stephen J. Schuster, MD<sup>8</sup>, Alan Skarbnik, MD<sup>9</sup>, Joanna M Rhodes, MD<sup>10</sup>, Jacqueline C. Barrientos, MD<sup>10</sup>, Lindsey E Roeker, MD<sup>1</sup>, Lori A. Leslie, MD<sup>11</sup>, Manali Kamdar, MD<sup>12</sup>, Michael Y. Choi, MD<sup>13</sup>, Martin Simkovic, MD, PhD<sup>14</sup>, Frederick Lansigan, MD<sup>15</sup>, Brittany Jane Hale, MD<sup>15</sup>, Andrew D Zelenetz, MD, PhD<sup>16</sup>, Alison J. Moskowitz, MD<sup>1</sup>, Kurt S. Bantilan, MPH<sup>1</sup>, Celina J. Komari, BS<sup>1</sup>, Andre H. Goy, MD<sup>1</sup>, Tatyana A. Feldman, MD<sup>11</sup>, Richard R. Furman, MD<sup>2</sup> and Anthony R. Mato, MD<sup>1</sup>

# Study Design and Endpoints

- Multicenter, retrospective study
- 13 centers and the CLL Collaborative Study of Real-World Evidence (CORE) database
- Eligibility:
  - CLL patients treated with Ven-based regimen (any line of therapy, Ven1)
  - Then re-treated with second Ven-based regimen (Ven2) in a later line of therapy
- Data collected by investigators at individual sites
  - Demographics, prognostic disease characteristics, tumor lysis syndrome risk and incidence, clinical response and reasons for treatment discontinuation

- Primary endpoint:
  - Investigator-assessed ORR
  - CR: complete response, PR: partial response, SD: stable disease, PD: progression of disease, iwCLL 2018
- PFS estimated by Kaplan-Maier method
- All other analyses descriptive





# Conclusions

- **ORR:** High ORR of 72.2% for Ven re-treatment
- **Heavily pretreated population:** Cohort studied had median 2 prior therapies, majority R/R (88%), BTKi exposed (60%)
- **Safety:** TLS rare event and majority were able to tolerate 400 mg daily
- **Improved outcomes with time:** Patients with CR to Ven re-treatment had a longer median follow-up than PR or SD patients
  - Potential for better responses with longer time on therapy?
- **Next steps:** Longer follow-up and prospective validation of Ven re-treatment → potential role of Ven re-treatment in sequencing algorithms

**It may seem obvious but . . .**

**Do we know if a BTKi is appropriate after venetoclax?**



# Does sequencing matter?

Two studies examined efficacy of BTKi post venetoclax

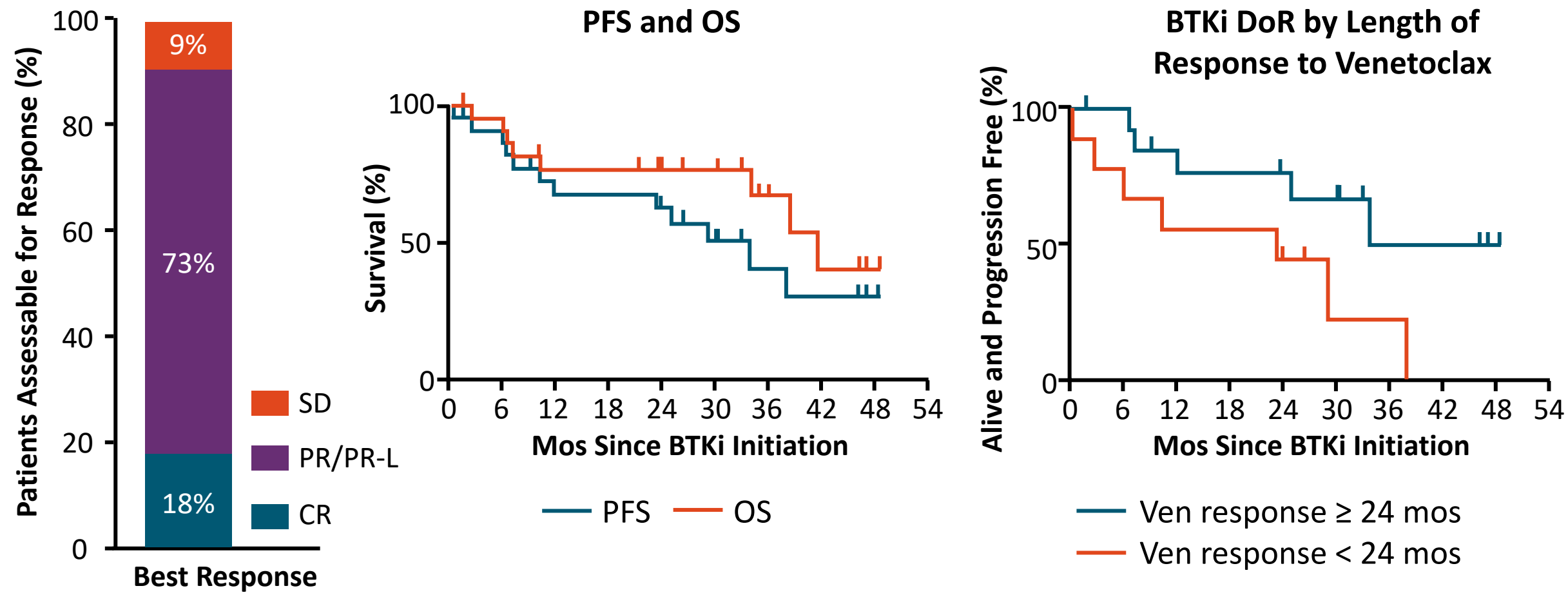
Lin et al *Blood* 2020: 23 pts with r/r CLL who received BTKi following ven

- PFS 34 months and OS 42 months

Mato et al *CCR* 2020: 74 pts with r/r CLL who received BTKi following venetoclax

- 44 were BTKi naïve and 30 were previously BTKi exposed (33% intolerant, 66% resistant)
- ORR in BTKi naïve pts was 84% with median PFS 32 months
  - Response rate lower for pts receiving BTKi post-ven who had already had a BTKi in past - ORR 54% (median PFS not reached in BTKi intolerant, but 4 months in BTKi resistant)

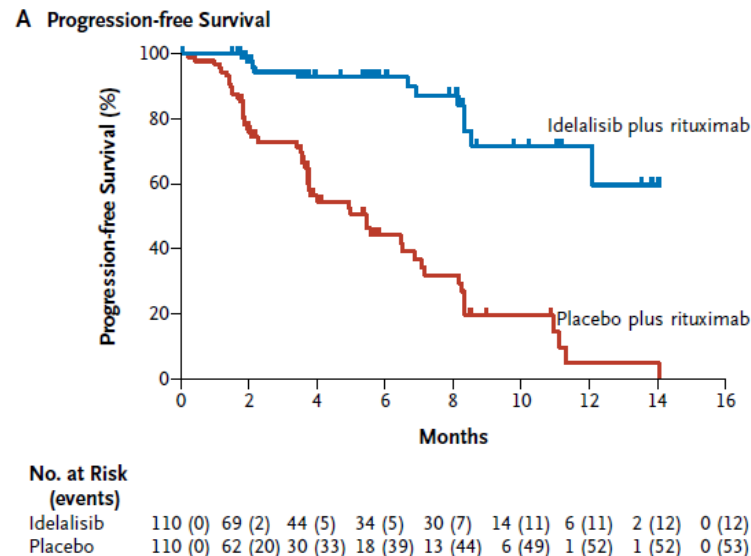
# BTK inhibitor Therapy Is Effective in Patients With CLL Resistant to Venetoclax (Retrospective Analysis, N = 23)



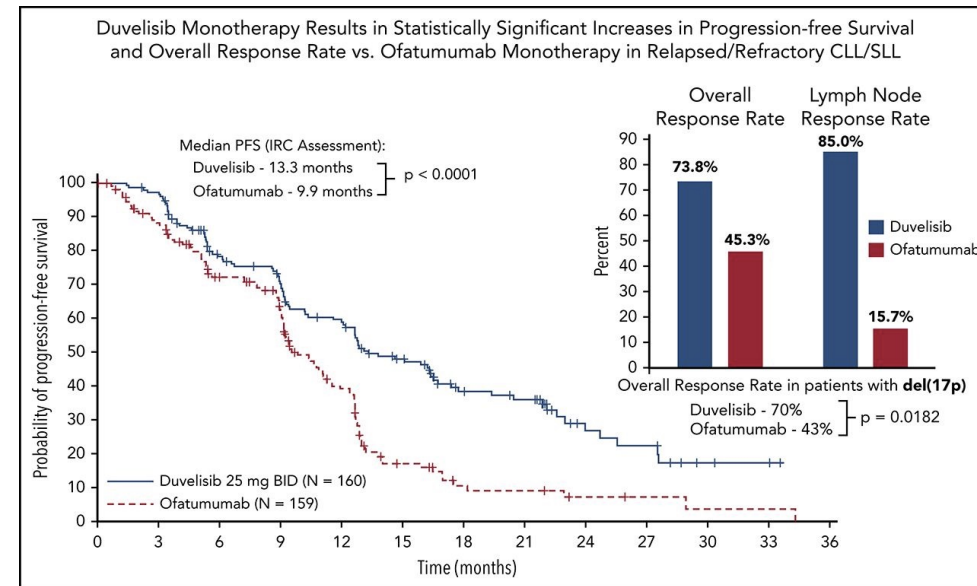
# Role for PI3K inhibitors

Toxicity of PI3Ki limit their use especially in earlier lines of therapy

Prior BTKi were excluded for pts who participated on the phase 3 trials leading to approval of idelalisib-rituximab and duvelisib so efficacy for these agents post-BTKi is limited



Furman et al *NEJM* 2014

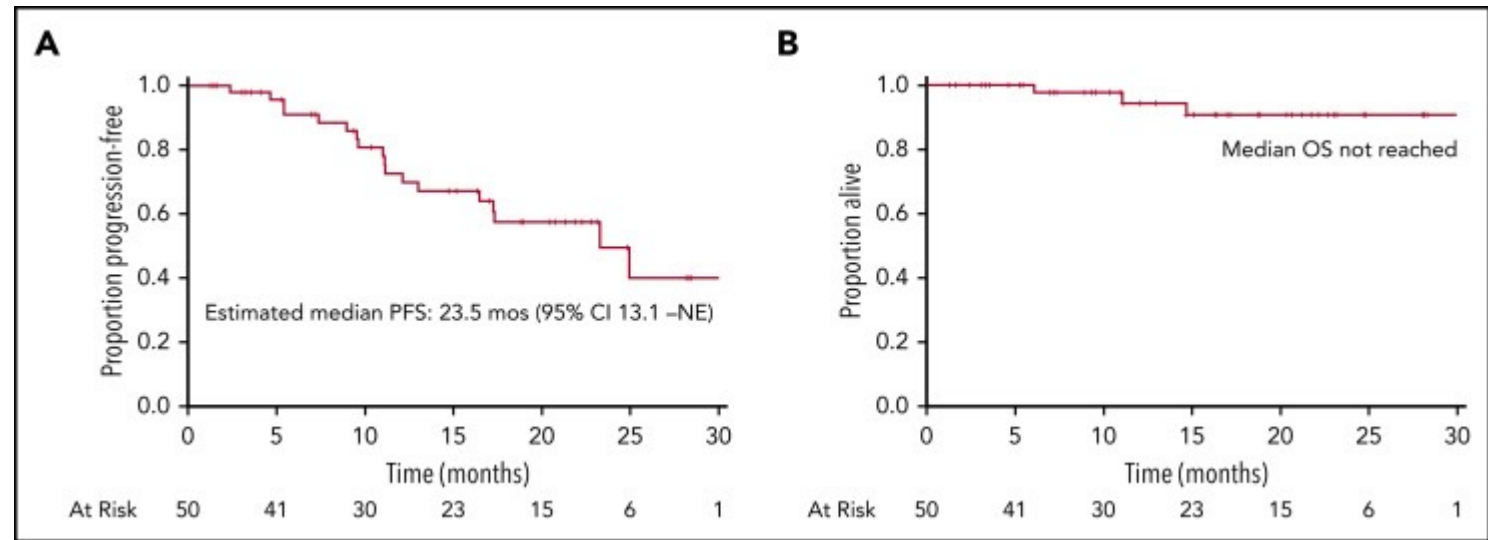
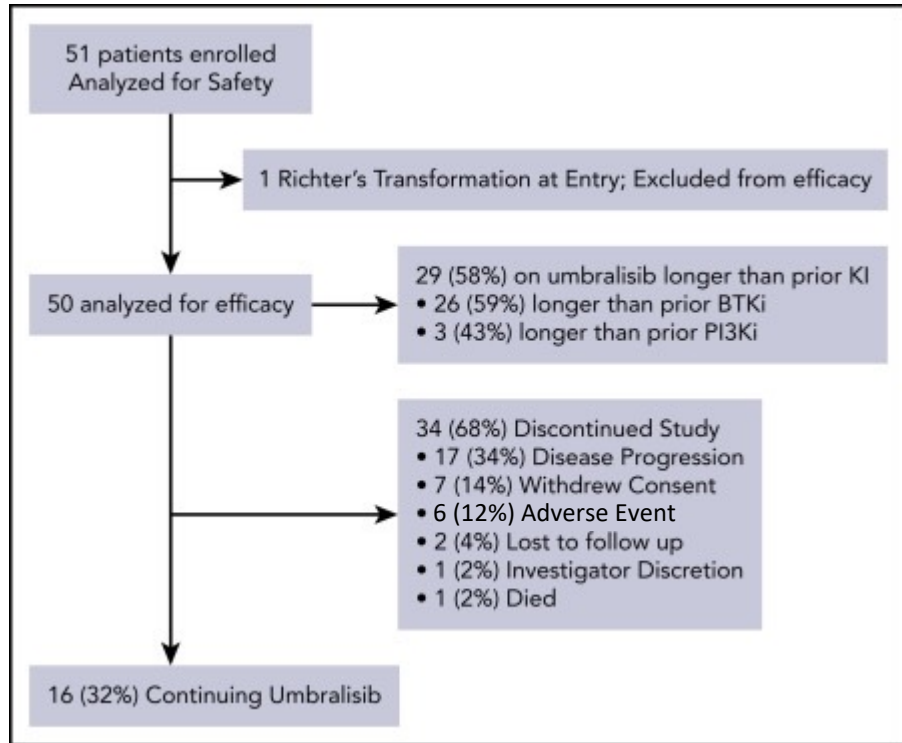


Flinn et al *Blood* 2018



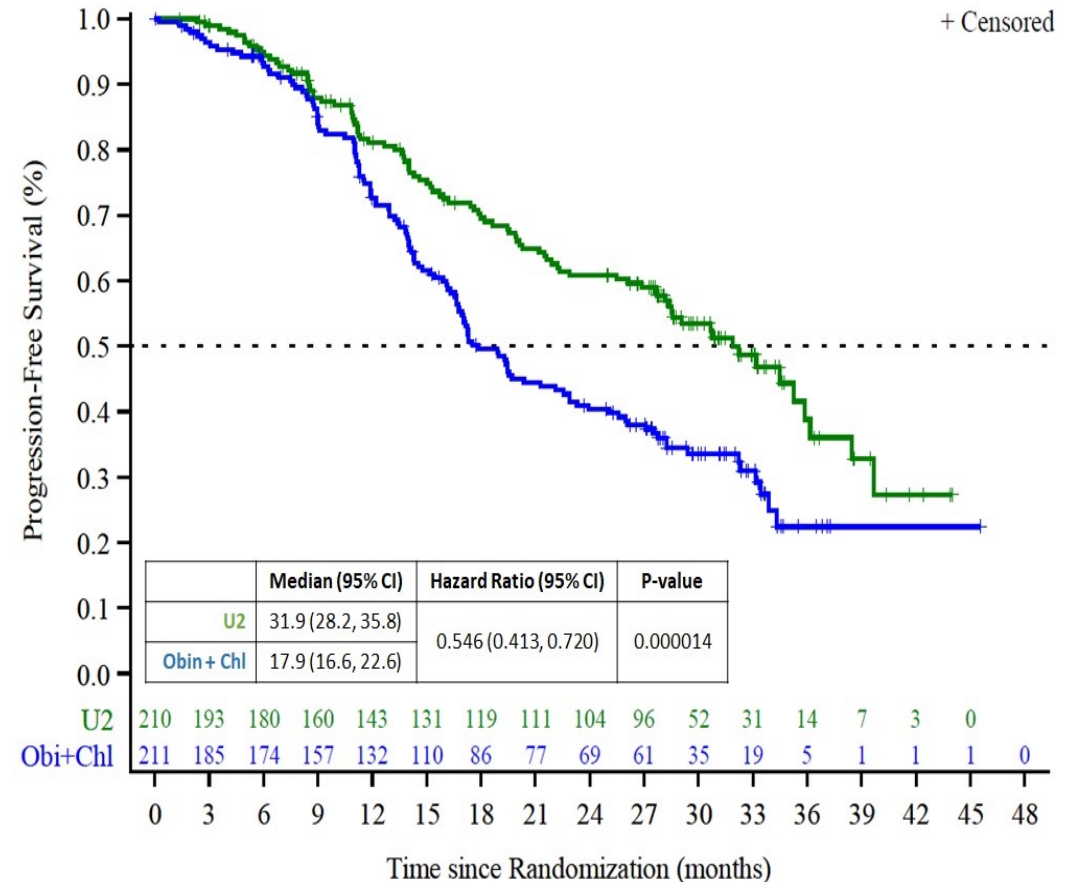
# Umbralisib in pts with BTKi intolerance

Mato et al. *Blood* 2021: phase 2 of umbralisib in pts with BTKi / PI3Ki intolerance (86% of pts had prior BTKi)



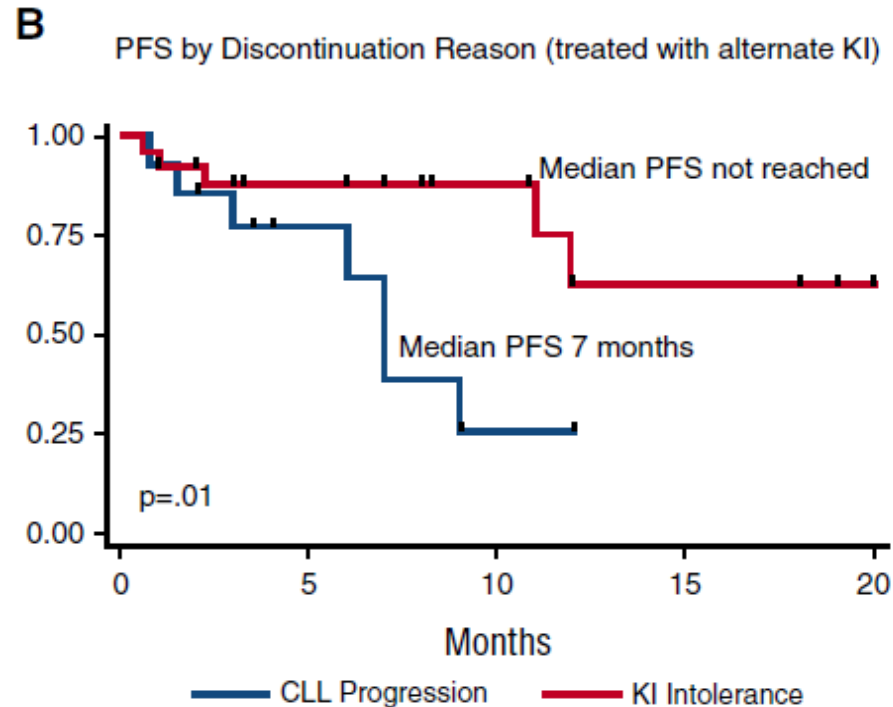
# Umbralisib + ublituximab (U2)

- Phase 3 UNITY study of U2 regimen vs chlor-obi
- Both frontline and r/r CLL included
- Included pts with prior BTKi (n=26 of 181 r/r CLL pts enrolled, 14 on the U2 arm)
- - 40% (2/5 pts) on the phase 1/1b trial of U2 with prior ibrut responded

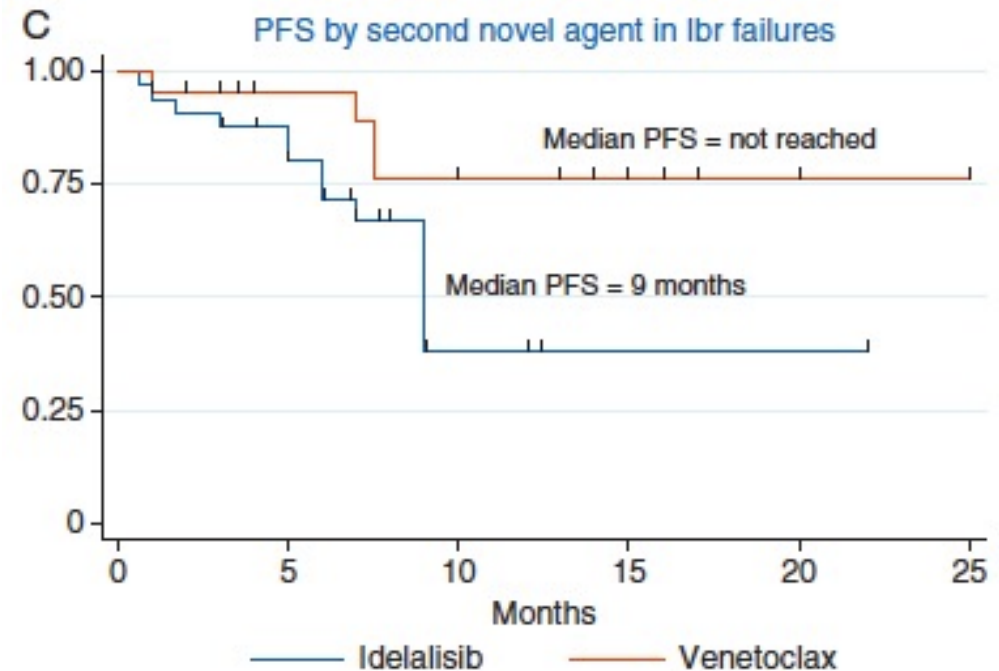


# Data are limited on PI3Ki effectiveness after progression on covalent BTKi

Mato et al. *Blood* 2016



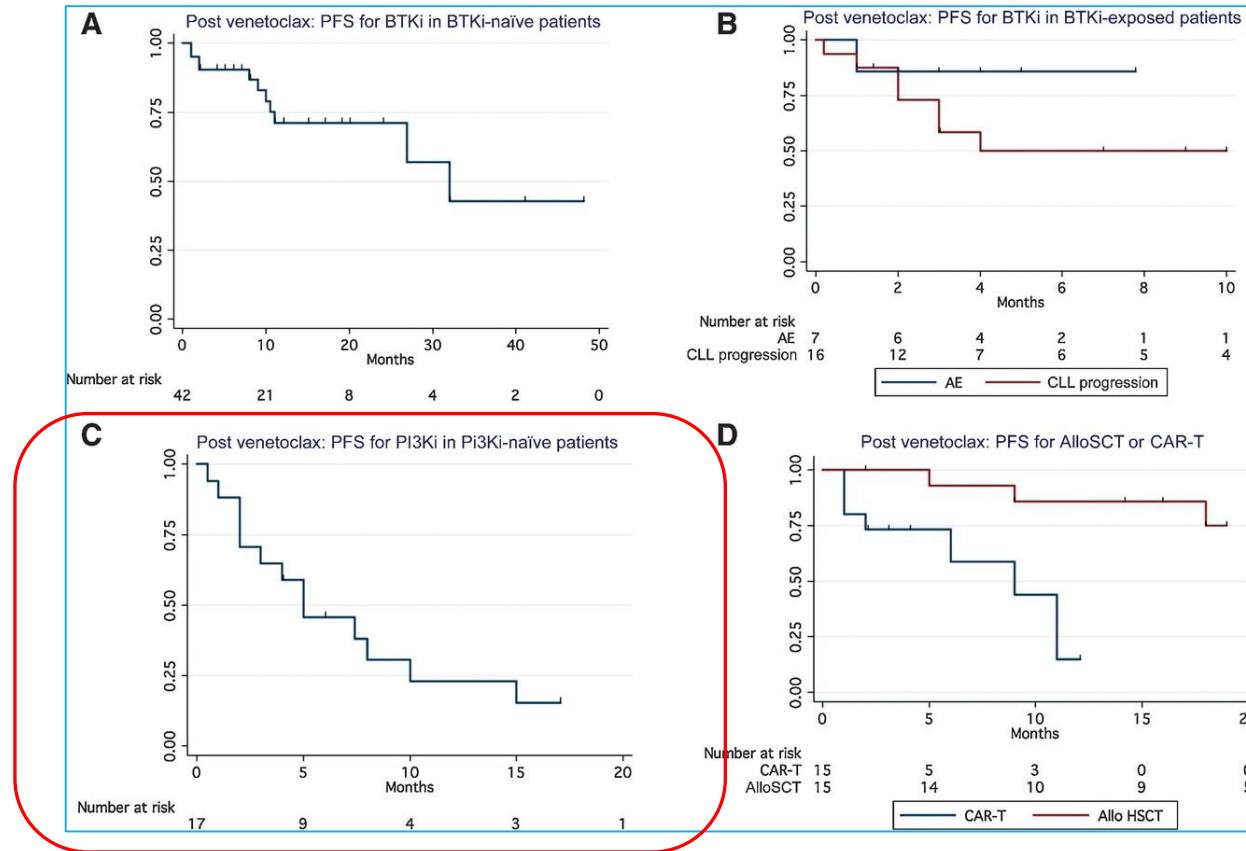
Mato et al. *Ann Oncol* 2017





# PI3Ki After Venetoclax

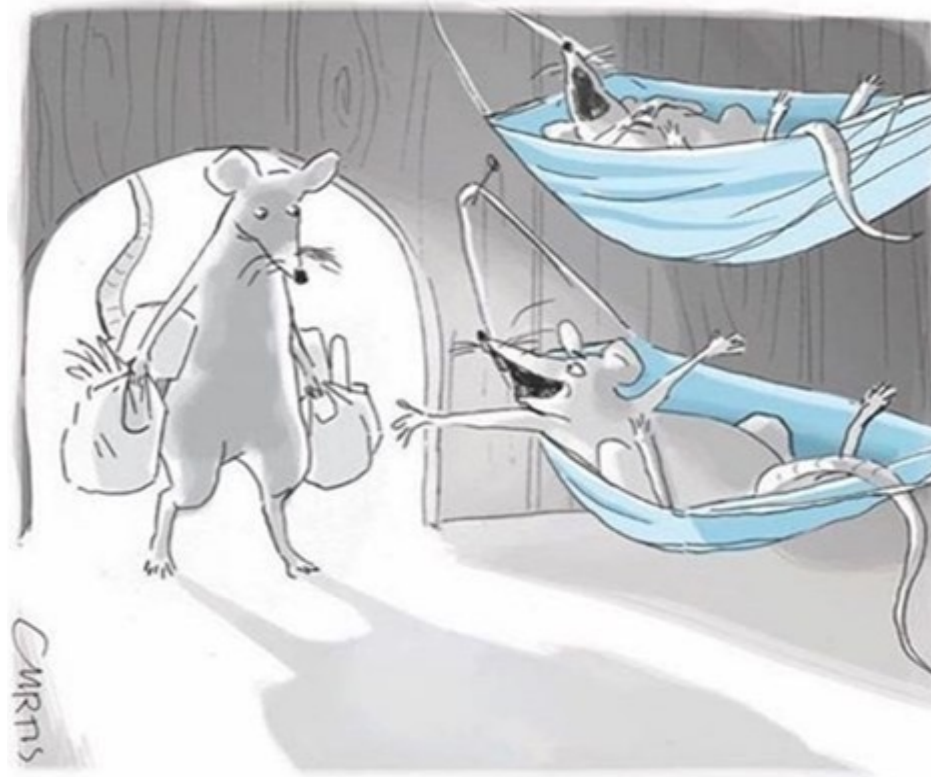
- Mato et al. *Clin Cancer Res* 2020: 5 month median PFS for pts receiving PI3Ki following venetoclax



# Summary: Treatment Sequence for Patients With R/R CLL

- BTK inhibitor (ibrutinib or acalabrutinib)
- **If BTK inhibitor intolerant:** alternative BTK inhibitor, PI3Ki, venetoclax ( $\pm$  CD20 Ab)
- **If BTK inhibitor resistant:** venetoclax ( $\pm$  CD20 Ab), PI3Ki, reversible non-covalent BTKi, CAR T-cell therapy
- **If del(17p) and BTK inhibitor resistant or intolerant:** venetoclax ( $\pm$  CD20 mAb), PI3Ki, CAR T-cell therapy, allogeneic HCT
- Clinical trials whenever possible
  - Emerging agents including bispecific Ab among others

# Thank You



*"FREE HAMMOCKS, all over town. It's like a miracle!"*