

# AGGIORNAMENTI IN EMATOLOGIA

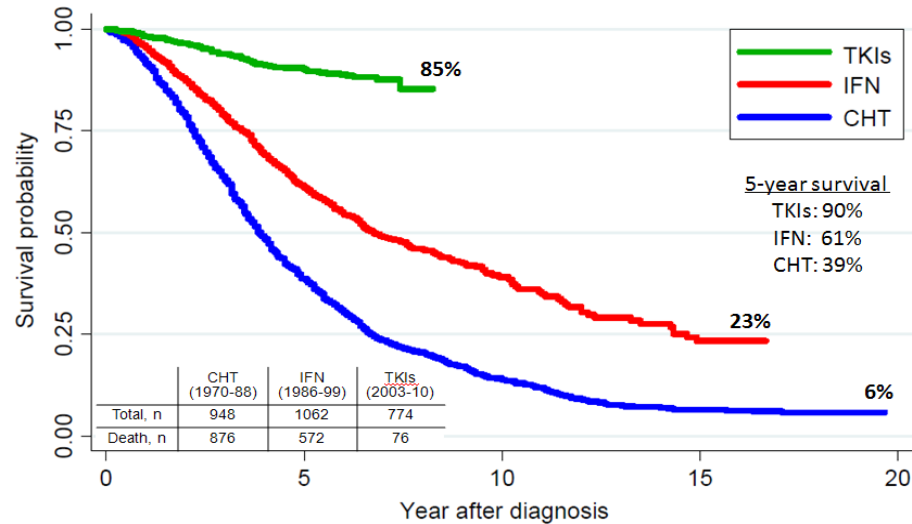
Faenza, 7 Giugno 2018

## LMC: ALGORITMI TERAPEUTICI ATTUALI E IL PROBLEMA DELLA RESISTENZA

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### Survival of CML by therapy

N = 2784



Date of diagnosis: 1970 - 2010

GIMEMA CML Working Party (formerly ICSG on CML)



**EUROPEAN LEUKEMIANET 2013 (Blood 2013;122:885  
892). RESPONSE TO TREATMENT FIRSTLINE  
(IMATINIB, NILOTINIB, and DASATINIB)**

	<b>OPTIMAL</b>	<b>WARNING</b>	<b>FAILURE</b>
<b>BASELINE</b>	NA	- HIGH RISK, - CCA/Ph+ (major route)	NA
3 mo	- BCR-ABL $\leq$ 10% and/or - Ph+ $\geq$ 35%	- BCR-ABL $\geq$ 10% and/or - Ph + 36-95%	- No CHR and/or - Ph + $>$ 95%
6 mo	- BCR-ABL $<$ 1% and/or - Ph+ 0	- BCR-ABL 1-10% and/or - Ph + 1-35%	- BCR-ABL $>$ 10% and/or - Ph + $>$ 35%
12 mo	- BCR-ABL $\leq$ 0.1%	- BCR-ABL 0.1-1 %	- BCR-ABL $>$ 1% and/or - Ph + $\geq$ 1%
Then	- BCR-ABL $\leq$ 0.1%	- BCR-ABL 0.1-1%	- BCR-ABL $>$ 1%

# EUROPEAN LEUKEMIANET 2013 TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

## 1st LINE:

IMATINIB 400 x 1, DASATINIB 100 x 1,  
NILETINIB 300 x 2

## 2nd LINE

### - INTOLERANCE

- SWITCH TO ONE OF THE OTHER TKIs approved for firstline treatment, taking into account comorbidities and side effects

### - FAILURE

- SWITCH IMATINIB TO OTHER TKIs, taking into account **MUTATIONS**, comorbidities and side effects:

- NILO TO DASA, BOSU or PONA (T315I)

- DASA TO NILO, BOSU or PONA (T315I)

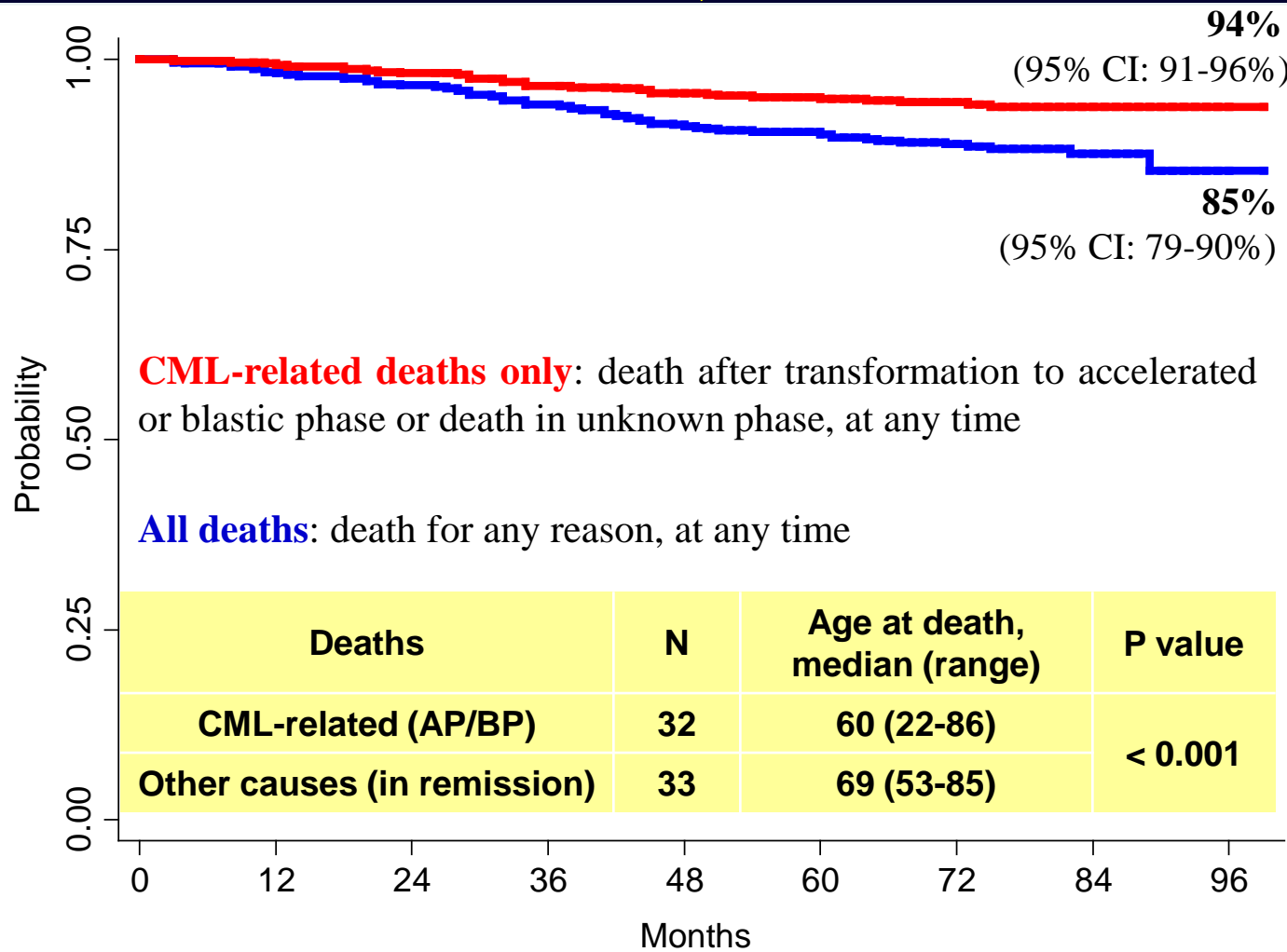
## 3rd LINE

-SWITCH TO ANOTHER TKI (PONA)

- ALLOGENEIC SCT

- EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT

# Survival, overall, and CML-related 550 CP CML Patients, Front-line IMATINIB



# CML, CHRONIC PHASE, TREATMENT

## 2013 - 2018

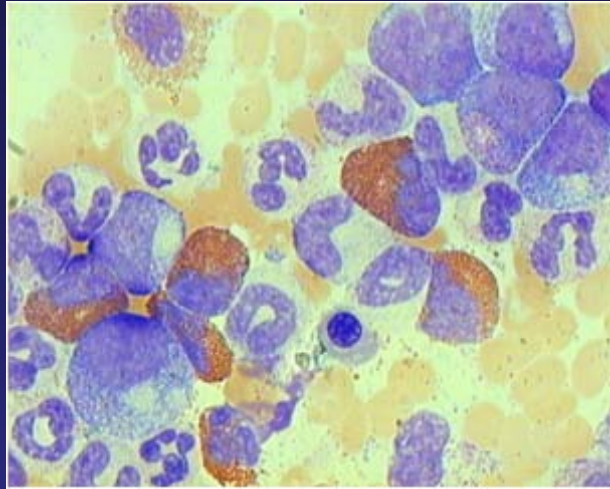
1 st LINE                    IMATINIB    (brand and **GENERIC**)  
                                  NILOTINIB  
                                  DASATINIB  
                                  **BOSUTINIB**  
                                  (**Radotinib**)

2nd–3rd LINE:            IMATINIB, NILOTINIB,  
                                  DASATINIB, BOSUTINIB,  
                                  PONATINIB, (**Radotinib**)

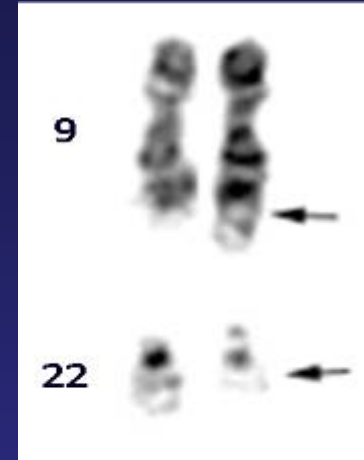
ALLOGENEIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION (in case of  
resistance to TKIs)

INTERFERON $\alpha$  (when a TKI cannot be used (e.g. pregnancy))

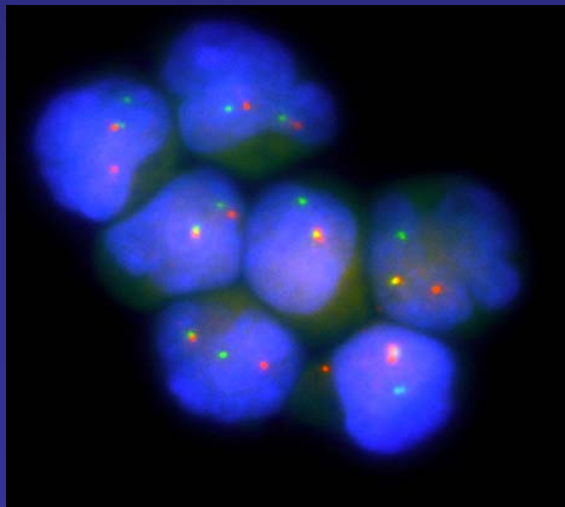
# Methods to detect CML Cells



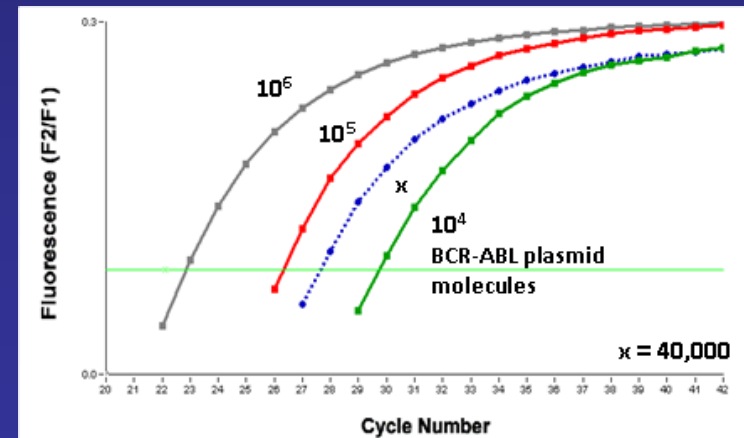
*Hematological assessment*



*Cytogenetics*



*FISH*



*Real time quantitative PCR*

**EUROPEAN LEUKEMIANET 2013 (Blood 2013;122:885  
892). RESPONSE TO TREATMENT FIRSTLINE  
TODAY RESPONSE DEFINITION IS BASED ON qPCR**

	<b>OPTIMAL</b>	<b>WARNING</b>	<b>FAILURE</b>
<b>BASELINE</b>	NA	- HIGH RISK, - CCA/Ph+ (major route)	NA
3 mo	- <b>BCR-ABL <math>\leq</math> 10%</b> and/or - Ph+ $\geq$ 35%	- <b>BCR-ABL <math>\geq</math> 10%</b> and/or - Ph + 36-95%	- No CHR and/or - Ph + $>$ 95%
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12 mo	- <b>BCR-ABL <math>\leq</math> 0.1%</b>	- <b>BCR-ABL 0.1-1 %</b>	- <b>BCR-ABL <math>&gt;</math> 1%</b> and/or - Ph + $\geq$ 1%
Then	- <b>BCR-ABL <math>\leq</math> 0.1%</b>	- <b>BCR-ABL 0.1-1%</b>	- <b>BCR-ABL <math>&gt;</math> 1%</b>

**MONITORING THE RESPONSE, 2018 and beyond**

**CYTOGENETICS: STILL RECOMMENDED ?**

**qPCR: CONFIRMED ,  
BUT,**

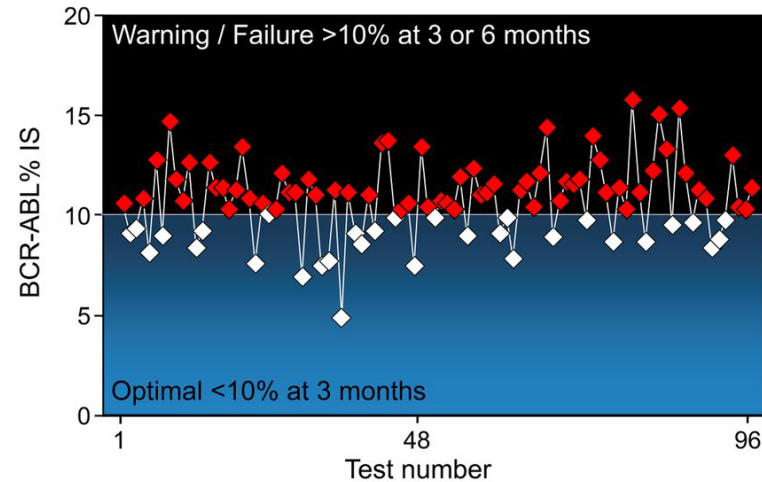
**SHOULD CURRENT (2013) ELN DEFINITIONS  
BE MODIFIED ?**



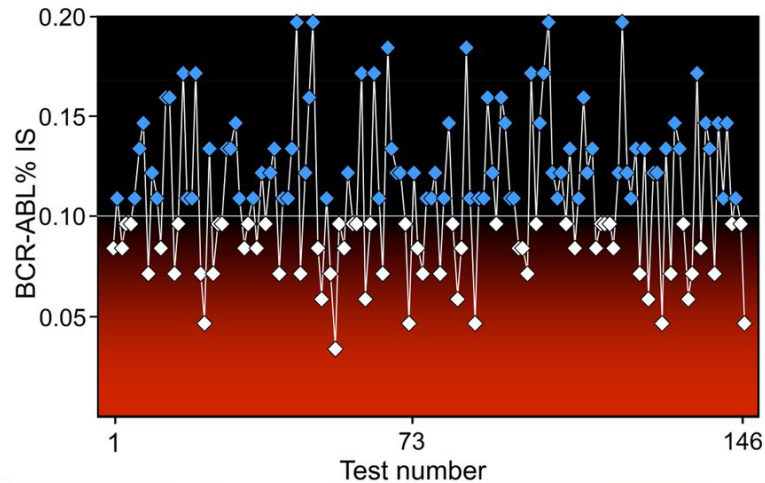
# How reliable is the molecular assay for measuring BCR/ABL transcripts?

Courtesy of Sue Branford

**A** One sample tested 96 times over several months, mean BCR-ABL1 11% IS, r 5-16%, CV 18%



**B** One sample tested 146 times over several months, mean BCR-ABL1 0.11% IS, r 0.03-0.20%, CV 32%



THE DEFINITIONS OF MOLECULAR RESPONSE  
EMR 10%, MMR 0.1%, MR4.0 0.01%, MR4.5 0.0032%  
ARE VERY STRINGENT,

THE VALUE THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ONE  
SINGLE VALUE IS SUCH THAT, EVEN WHEN THE  
RESULTS OF A qPCR ARE BORDERLINE,  
MANY DOCTORS TAKE IMMEDIATELY AN  
ACTION, INSTEAD OF TESTING AGAIN FOR  
CONFIRMATION

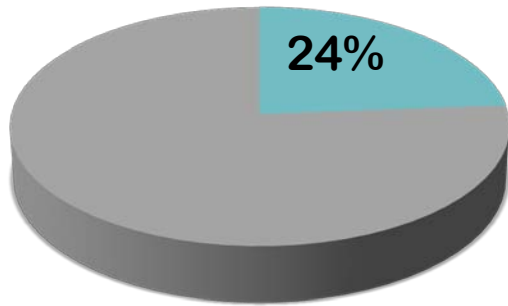
WE SHOULD EITHER CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF MOLECULAR RESPONSE:

NOT ONE VALUE. BUT A RANGE OF VALUES  
FROM 10% TO 8-12%  
FROM 0.1% TO 0.08-0.12%

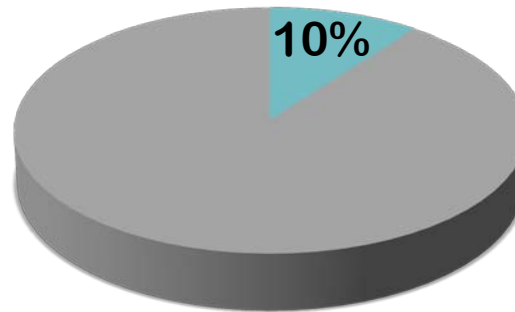
OR DO MORE qPCR  
NOT A PCR EVERY THREE MONTHS  
BUT MORE FREQUENTLY, EVERY MONTH, UNTIL  
MMR, remembering that  
THE COST OF A PCR IS MUCH LOWER  
THAN THE COST OF FEW DAYS OF  
INAPPROPRIATE TKI TREATMENT

# Summary of mutation frequencies in failures and warnings, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> line

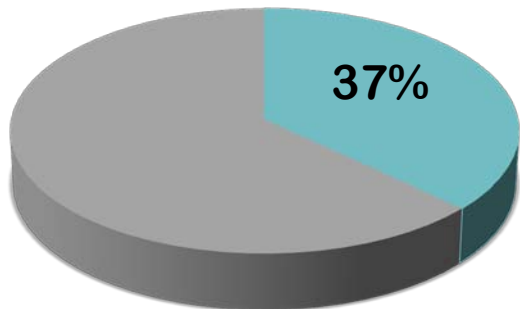
**FAILURES, 1<sup>st</sup> line**



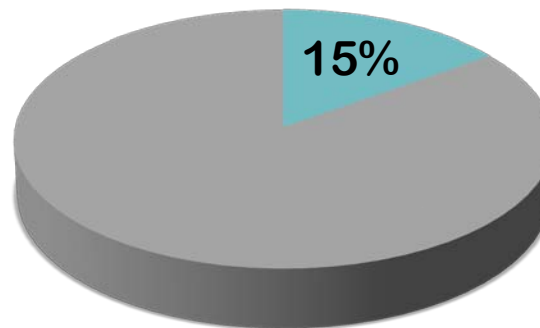
**WARNINGS, 1<sup>st</sup> line**



**FAILURES, 2<sup>nd</sup> line**



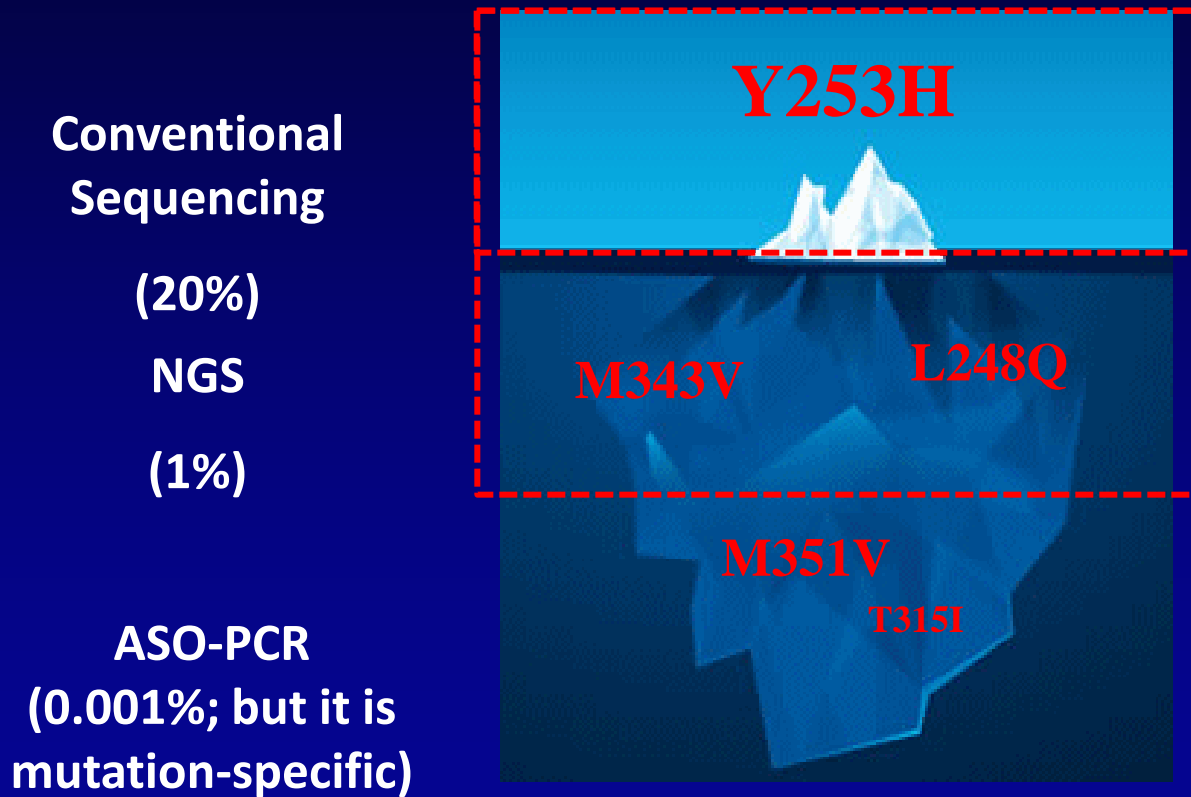
**WARNINGS, 2<sup>nd</sup> line**



Pts positive for BCR-ABL mutations:

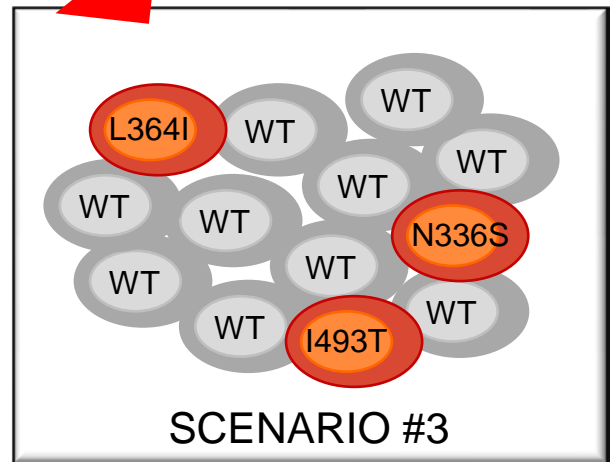
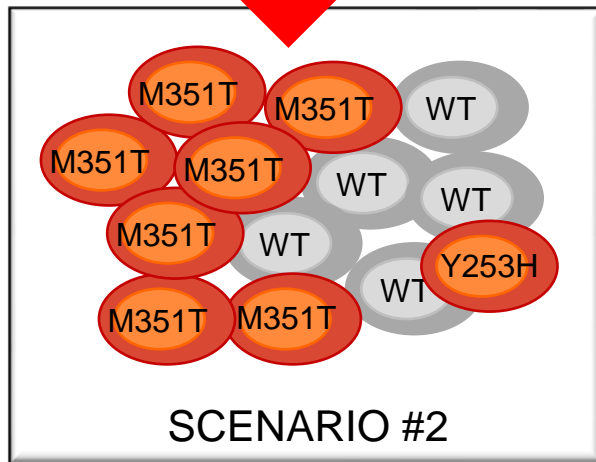
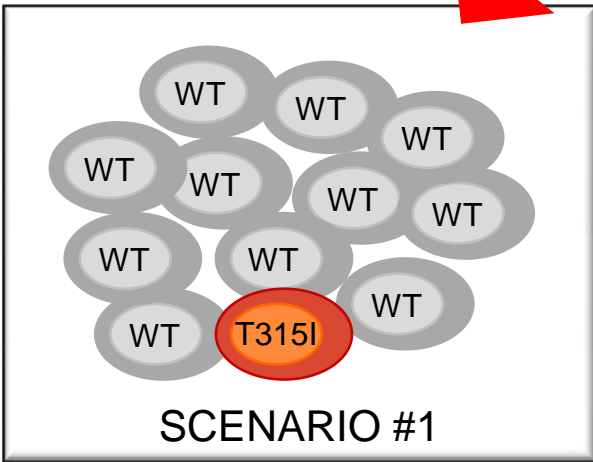
■ by conventional sequencing

# CONVENTIONAL (SANGER) SEQUENCING and NEXT GENERATION SEQUENCING



# From Sanger to NGS

## NGS at the time of FAILURE or WARNING



**LOW BURDEN CLINICALLY ACTIONABLE MUTATIONS**

should be included in therapeutic decision algorithms

**LOW BURDEN MUTATIONS OF UNKNOWN SIGNIFICANCE**

Should not trigger a therapeutic change (unless failure is observed)

# EUROPEAN LEUKEMIANET 2013 TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

**1st LINE: IMATINIB 400 x 1, DASATINIB 100 x 1, NILOTINIB 300 x 2**

## 2nd LINE

**- INTOLERANCE**

- SWITCH TO ONE OF THE OTHER TKIs approved for firstline treatment, taking into account comorbidities and side effects

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- NILO TO DASA, BOSU or PONA (T315I)

- DASA TO NILO, BOSU or PONA (T315I)

## 3rd LINE

-SWITCH TO ANOTHER TKI (PONA)

-ALLOGENEIC SCT

- EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT

# CML, CHRONIC PHASE, 2018, 1st LINE TREATMENT

## IMATINIB

MORE PATIENTS/DATA  
LONGER OBSERVATION  
LESS COMPLICATIONS  
CHEAPER (generics!)

SLOWER RESPONSE  
RESPONSES ARE LESS DEEP  
LOWER PROBABILITY OF TFR

**SURVIVAL 80-90%**

## NILOTINIB or DASATINIB\*

LESS PATIENTS/DATA  
SHORTER OBSERVATION  
MORE COMPLICATIONS  
MORE EXPENSIVE

FASTER RESPONSE  
RESPONSES ARE DEEPER  
HIGHER PROBABILITY OF TFR

**SURVIVAL 80-90%**

\*data and follow-up for Bosutinib and Radotinib are not yet sufficient

**THIS SLIDE COULD HAVE BEEN MADE AND PRESENTED IN 2013**



# CML, CHRONIC PHASE, 2018, 1st LINE TREATMENT

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**IF ONE PRIVILEGES TOXICITY AND COST: IMATINIB**

**IF ONE PRIVILEGES RESPONSE : NILOTINIB or DASATINIB**

# CML, CHRONIC PHASE, 2018, 1st LINE TREATMENT

## IMATINIB

MORE PATIENTS/DATA  
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\*data and follow-up for Bosutinib and Radotinib are not yet sufficient

**BUT WHAT ABOUT TREATMENT-FREE REMISSION?**

# CHRONIC MYELOID LEUKEMIA, 2-ARM COMPARATIVE STUDIES

TREATMENT	STUDY	RESPONSE	SURVIVAL	TFR
IMA 800 vs IMA 400	GERMANY CML IV	+	=	//
IMA 800 vs IMA 400	GIMEMA	=	=	//
IMA 800 vs IMA 400	TOPS	=	=	//
NIL vs IMA 400	ENESTnd	+	=	//
DAS vs IMA 400	DASISION	+	=	//
BOS vs IMA 400	BFORE	+	(NY)	//
NIL vs IMA→NIL	SUSTRENIM	NY	NY	NY
IFN+IMA vs IMA 400	GERMANY CML IV	=	=	//
IFN+IMA vs IMA 400	FRENCH SPIRIT	+	=	//
IFN+IMA vs IMA 400	NORDIC	+	//	//
NILO+IFN vs NILO	TIGER	NY	NY	NY
DAS+IFN vs DAS	NORDIC/FRANCE	+	//	//
BOS+IFN vs BOS	NORDIC/FRANCE	NY	NY	NY

# **TREATMENT-FREE REMISSION WHICH STUDIES, WHICH DATA 2013-2018**

**MANY RETROSPECTIVE REPORTS**

**SOME REPORTS OF PROSPECTIVE STUDIES, (mainly the  
ENEST trials) NONE IN FIRST LINE**

**ALL REPORTING THE RATE OF TFR IN PATIENTS  
WHO HAD ACHIEVED A DEEP MOLECULAR RESPONSE**

**NONE REPORTING THE RATE OF TFR IN NEWLY  
DIAGNOSED PATIENTS**

**NONE COMPARING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
FIRST-LINE TREATMENT AND THE RATE OF TFR**

# PLANNING TREATMENT DISCONTINUATION

## CHRONIC PHASE

TRANSCRIPT MEASURABLE BY qPCR: B2A2 (e13a2) or B3A2 (e14a2)

NOT FAILING THE FIRST TKI (NOT RESISTANT TO FIRST TKI)

TREATMENT DURATION 3 YEARS MINIMUM, 5 YEARS BETTER

DEEP MOLECULAR RESPONSE (MR 4.0 MINIMUM, MR 4.5 BETTER)  
LASTING 1 YEAR MINIMUM, 2 YEARS BETTER

A LABORATORY WITH STANDARDIZED PROCEDURES (LabNet)

qPCR MONTHLY FOR 6 MONTHS MINIMUM, 12 MONTHS BETTER

ALL TFR PAPERS REPORT THAT ABOUT  
50% OF THE PATIENTS WHO DISCONTINUE  
TREATMENT IN DEEP AND STABLE MR  
WILL REMAIN IN TFR

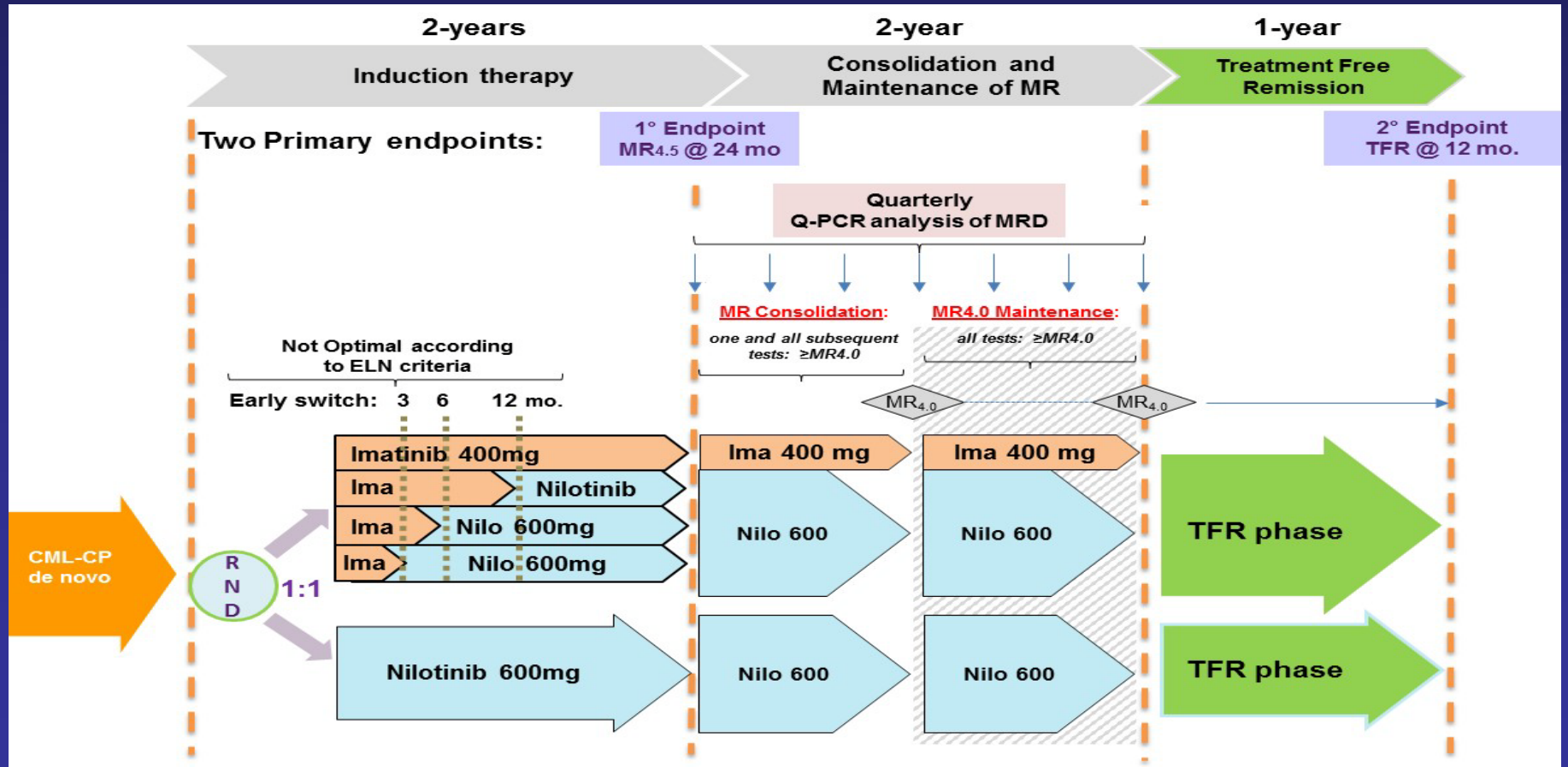
BUT NO STUDIES TELL US WHAT IS THE  
BEST STRATEGY

IN SEARCH OF THE BEST COST-EFFECTIVE  
TREATMENT FOR TFR



# SUSTRENIM Study (NCT 02602314)

IS A STUDY THAT TESTS PROSPECTIVELY A POLICY OF A SECOND GENERATION TKI (NILOTINIB) FIRSTLINE AGAINST A POLICY OF IMATINIB FIRSTLINE WITH SWITCH TO NILOTINIB IN CASE OF LESS THAN OPTIMAL RESPONSE, **FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF TREATMENT-FREE REMISSION**



# ELN 2013 RESISTANCE

3 months : no CHR

6 months : BCR/ABL > 10%

1 year : BCR/ABL > 1%

2 years : BCR/ABL > 0.1%

RESPONSE LOSS  
MUTATION

A CHANGE OF TREATMENT IS MANDATORY



# RESISTANCE

ELN 2013

? 2018 ?

3 months : no CHR

BCR-ABL > 10% ?

6 months : BCR/ABL > 10%

BCR-ABL > 1% ?

1 year : BCR/ABL > 1%

BCR-ABL > 0.1% ?

2 years : BCR/ABL > 0.1%

BCR-ABL > 0.01% ?

RESPONSE LOSS  
MUTATION

RESPONSE LOSS  
MUTATION

IS A CHANGE OF TREATMENT ALWAYS MANDATORY ?

# PERSPECTIVES IN THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC MYELOID LEUKEMIA

- TYROSINE KINASE INHIBITORS AND INTERFERON $\alpha$
- NEW TYROSINE KINASE INHIBITORS

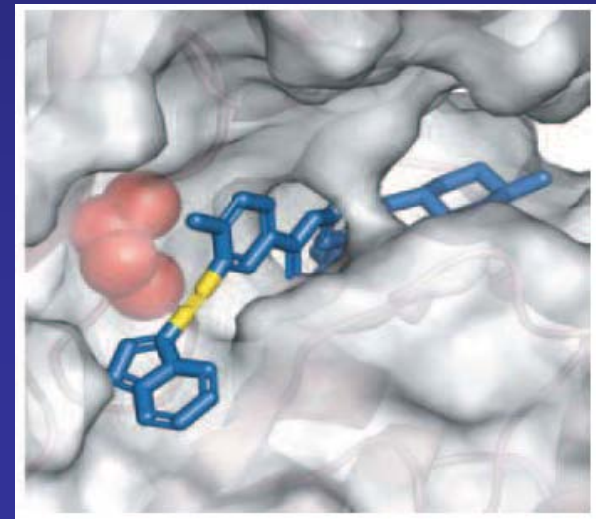
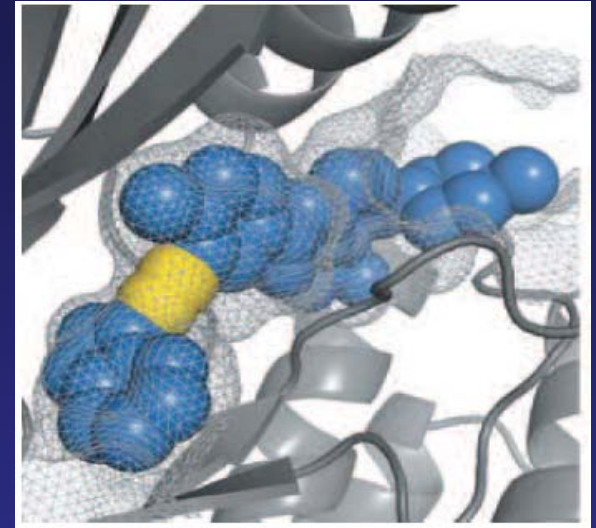
## BEYOND TKIs

- DRUGS TARGETING OTHER PATHWAYS
- DRUGS TARGETING BCR-ABL1+ STEM CELLS
- DRUGS INHIBITING AUTOPHAGY
- VACCINES
- ANTIBODIES
- CHIMERIC ANTIGEN RECEPTOR MODIFIED T CELLS
  
- PROGRESS IN ALLOGENEIC SCT

# Ponatinib

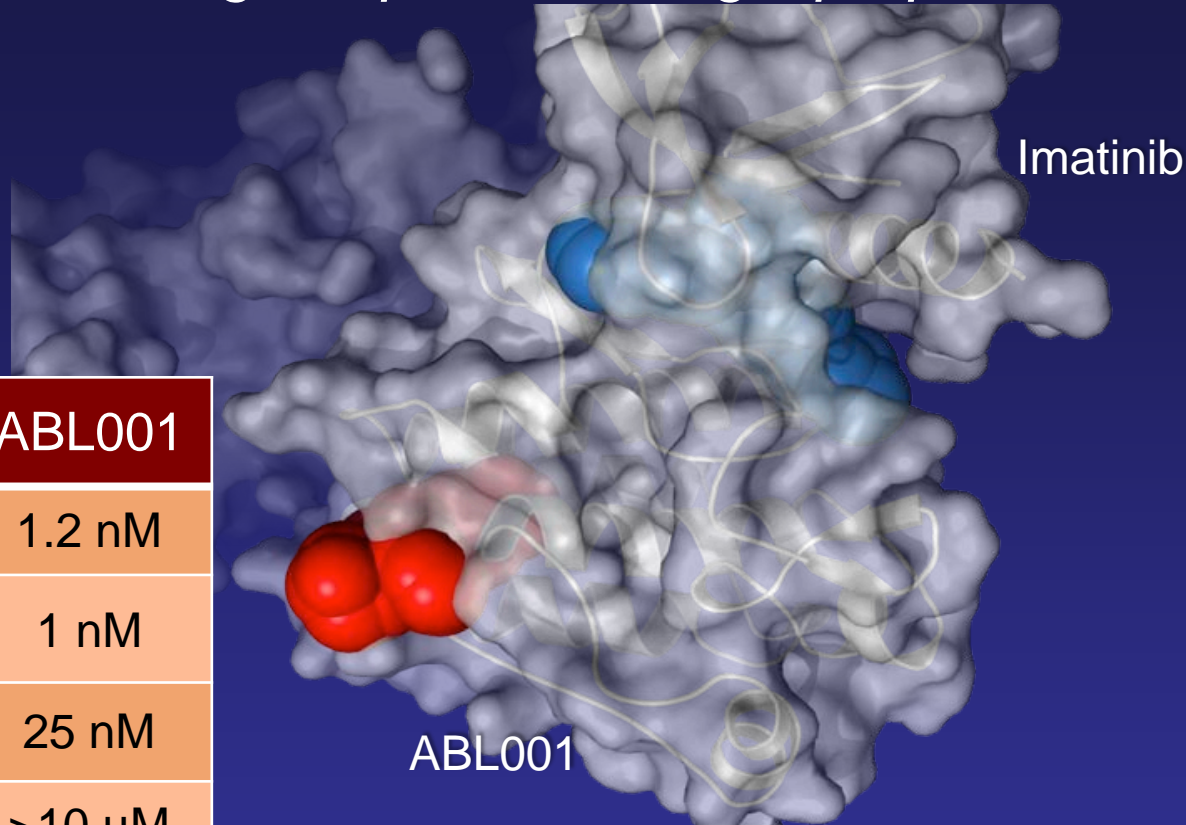
## A Pan-BCR-ABL Inhibitor

- Rationally designed inhibitor of BCR-ABL
- Active against T315I mutant
  - Unique approach to accommodating gatekeeper residue
- Potent activity against an array of BCR-ABL variants
- Once-daily oral activity
- Half-life  $\approx$  22 hours
- Also targets other therapeutically relevant kinases:
  - Inhibits FLT3, FGFR, VEGFR and PDGFR, and c-KIT



# ABL001

*Potent allosteric inhibitor with good pharmacologic properties*



Assay	ABL001
Biochemical IC <sub>50</sub> , ABL <sup>WT</sup>	1.2 nM
Cellular IC <sub>50</sub> BCR-ABL <sup>WT</sup>	1 nM
Cellular IC <sub>50</sub> BCR-ABL <sup>T315I</sup>	25 nM
Cellular IC <sub>50</sub> WT BaF/3	>10 μM
hERG	>30 μM
Qpatch Clamp	26 μM
PAMPA class, F %	36
CYP3A4,2D6,2C9	>20 μM

# WHAT CAUSES RESISTANCE ?

**TO IMPROVE RESULTS THAT ARE ALREADY EXCELLENT WE NEED NOT ONLY NEW DRUGS BUT ALSO MORE KNOWLEDGE**

- BCR-ABL1 MUTATIONS
- OTHER MOLECULAR MECHANISMS ?
- THE NUMBER OF BCR-ABL1+ STEM CELLS ?
- THE CELLULAR AMOUNT OF BCR-ABL1 TRANSCRIPT ?
- THE CELLULAR AMOUNT OF THE BCR-ABL1 PROTEIN

# WHAT CAUSES RESISTANCE ?

ABOUT 50% OF IMATINIB-RESISTANT PATIENTS WITHOUT A MUTATION RESPOND “OPTIMALLY” TO A 2<sup>nd</sup> GENERATION TKI; SOME RESPOND ALSO TO A HIGHER DOSE OF IMATINIB

IF RESISTANCE WAS CAUSED BY “ADDITIONAL MOLECULAR ABNORMALITIES”, WHY SHOULD THEY RESPOND TO ANOTHER TKI ?

THEY RESPOND TO 2<sup>nd</sup> GENERATION TKIs BECAUSE 2<sup>nd</sup> GENERATION TKIs ARE MORE POTENT, AND THEIR POTENCY RESETS THE BALANCE BETWEEN BCR-ABL1 TYROSINE KINASE ACTIVITY AND THE INHIBITOR

# RESISTANCE and PERSISTENCE

-

FEW PATIENTS (LESS THAN 20%) FAIL ON TKI,

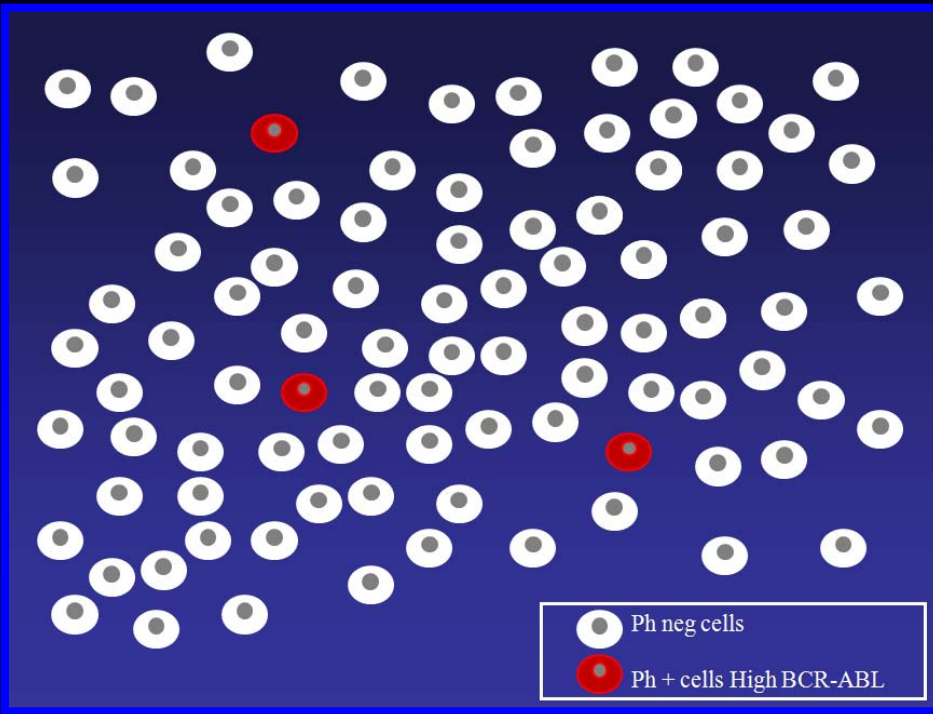
MANY PATIENTS (MORE THAN 50%) CONTINUE  
TO HAVE MEASURABLE RESIDUAL DISEASE

VERY FEW PATIENTS (LESS THAN 10%) CAN GET  
FREE OF Ph<sup>+</sup> CELLS AND CAN BE CURED

ARE THE CAUSES OF RESISTANCE THE SAME AS  
OF PERSISTENCE OF MINIMAL RESIDUAL  
DISEASE ?

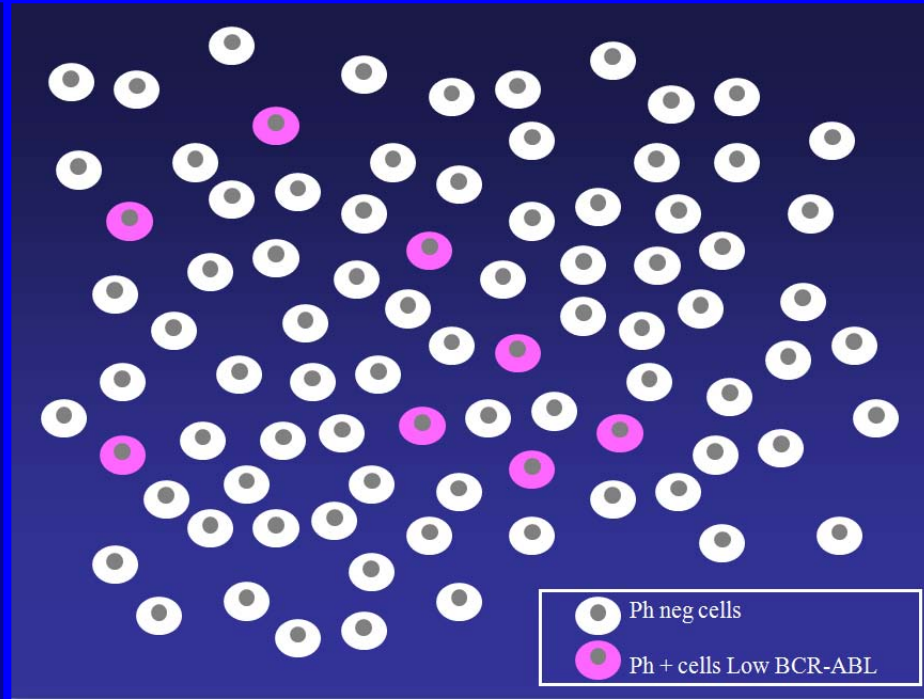
**“HIGH” BCR-ABL /P210 CELLS**  
MAY BE MORE SENSITIVE TO TKIs, BUT PROLIFERATE, CAN BECOME MORE RESISTANT, AND CAN DEVELOP MUTATIONS.

**THEY ARE A THREAT TO LIFE**



**“LOW” BCR-ABL / P210 CELLS**  
MAY BE LESS SENSITIVE TO TKIs, BUT ARE “QUIESCENT”, AND CAN BE RESPONSIBLE OF THE PERSISTENCE OF MINIMAL RESIDUAL DISEASE.

**THEY ARE A THREAT TO TFR or TO “CURE”**





# **THE ASSESSMENT OF MINIMAL RESIDUAL DISEASE: ONLY qPCR ?**

THE EVALUATION AND THE CALCULATION OF BCR-ABL1 TRANSCRIPT AMOUNT BY qPCR, ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD, IS SUFFICIENT FOR PREDICTING THE OUTCOME,

**BUT**

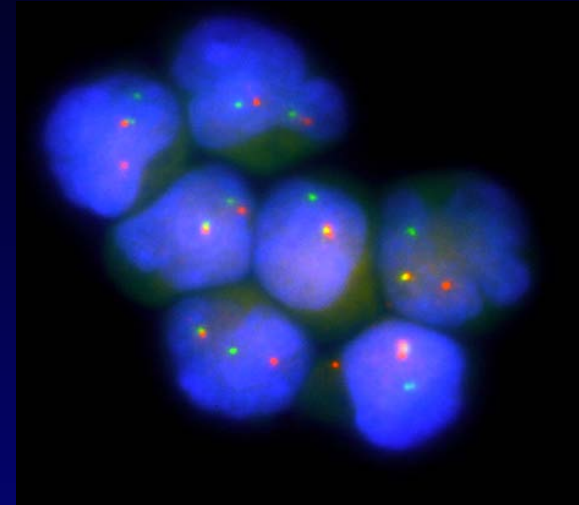
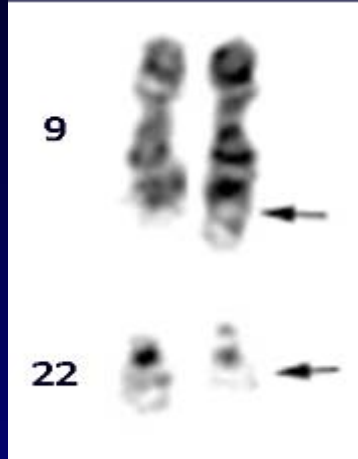
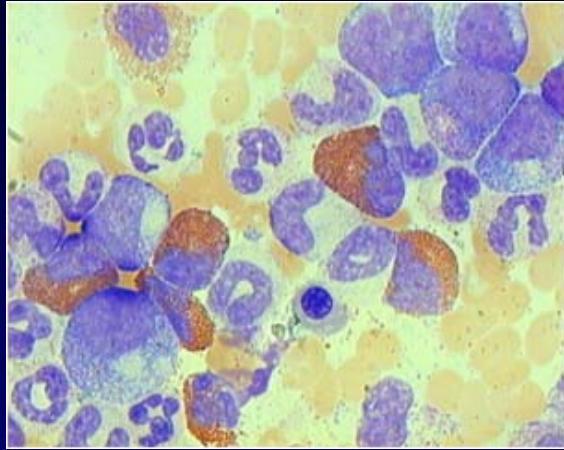
IT MAY NOT BE THE BEST FOR PREDICTING TREATMENT-FREE REMISSION

**digital PCR ?**

**STEM CELL COUNT ?**

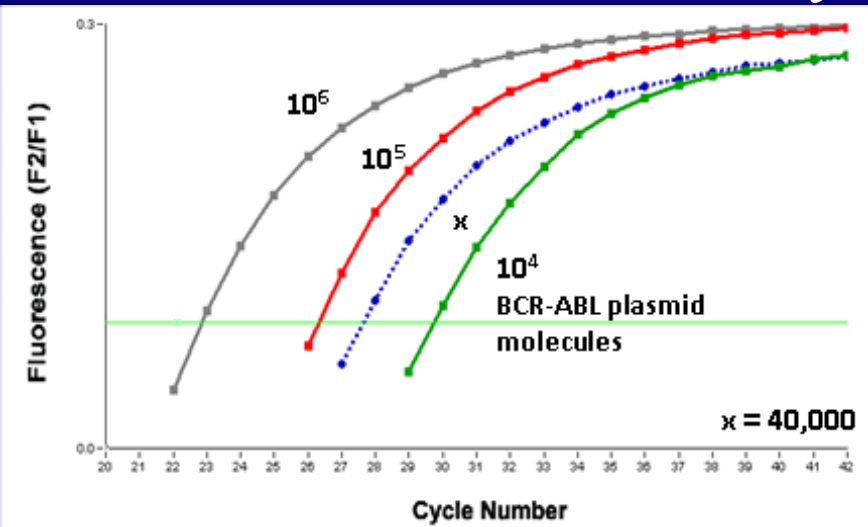
**PROTEOMICS ?**

# Methods to study and monitor CML



*Counts and Microscopy Cytogenetics*

*FISH*



**DIGITAL PCR**

**STEM CELLS**

**PROTEOMICS**

*Real time quantitative PCR*

**WHEN STABLE, OPTIMAL, RESPONDERS DISCONTINUE TREATMENT, SOME RELAPSE AND SOME REMAIN IN TREATMENT-FREE REMISSION, IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THEY HAD THE “SAME” BCR-ABL1 TRANSCRIPTS LEVEL**

**TECHNOLOGY ? “SAME” IS NOT SO SAME ?**

**LEUKEMIA? “FEW” Ph<sup>+</sup> CELLS WITH “HIGH” TRANSCRIPT/P210 LEVEL or “MANY” Ph<sup>+</sup> CELLS WITH “LOW” TRANSCRIPT/P210 LEVEL ?**

**THE ROLE OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM MAY BE MORE CRITICAL, MORE IMPORTANT THAN TECHNOLOGY AND THE BIOLOGY OF CML**

# THE PLAYERS

The patient

The doctor

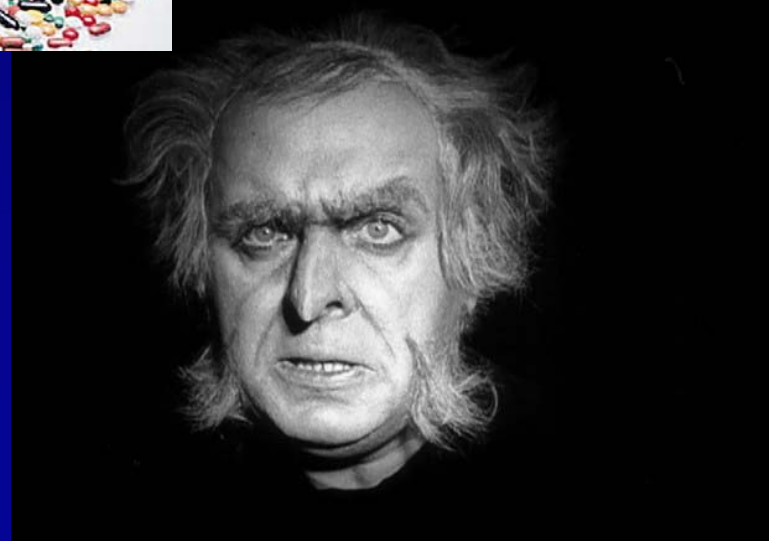
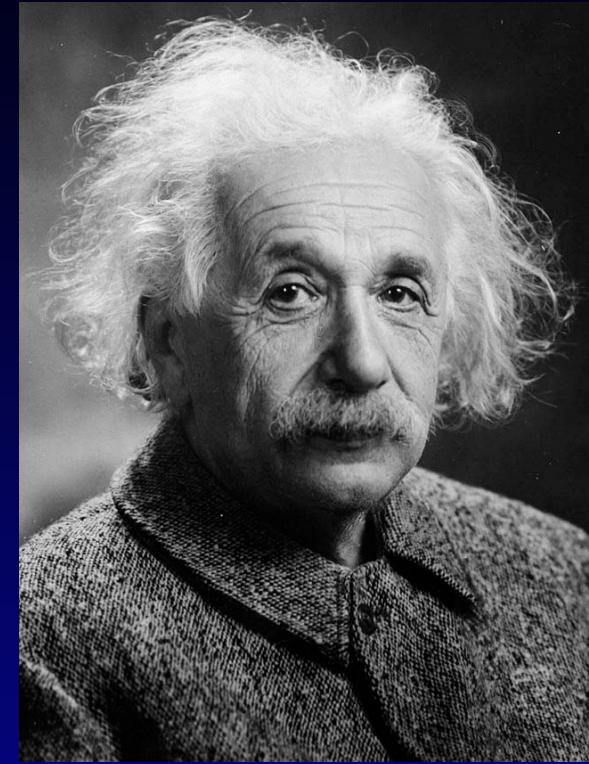
The good scientist

The bad scientist

The crazy scientist

The charlatan

The Pharma



# CML 2018 and beyond

## THE OBJECTIVES OF TREATMENT OPTIMIZATION

RESPONSE - definition  
- methods

SURVIVAL - treatment

TREATMENT-FREE REMISSION - strategy

QUALITY OF LIFE/TOXICITY - treatment

**COST-EFFECTIVE USE OF DRUGS - market**

# PATIENT – ADAPTED STRATEGY

THE TYPE, NUMBER AND GRADE OF COMORBIDITIES INFLUENCE THE CHOICE OF THE TKI.

SEVERAL “COMORBIDITIES” MAY BE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN CHRONIC MYELOID LEUKEMIA ITSELF, BOTH FOR SURVIVAL AND FOR QUALITY OF LIFE

# **PATIENT RELATED FACTORS LIMITING THE CHOICE, THE DOSE AND THE USE OF TKIs – MANY OF THEM ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN LEUKEMIA**

ATHEROSCLEROSIS

ARTERIAL THROMBOTIC DISEASE

CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE

HYPERTENSION

HEART FAILURE

ISCHEMIC HEART DISEASE

THROMBOPHILIC STATE

DIABETES MELLITUS

DYSLIPIDEMIA

CHRONIC PULMONARY DISEASE (obstructive, enfisema, fibrosis, etc)

AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE

OTHER TUMOR

PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER

ALZHEIMER

PARKINSON

HANDICAP.....

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## **DISCLOSURES**

Consultant and speaker, receiving honoraria, from

ARIAD/INCYTE

BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB

NOVARTIS

PFIZER



**BACK UP**

**ABOUT 25% OF THE NEWLY DIAGNOSED PATIENTS REMAIN IN TFR**

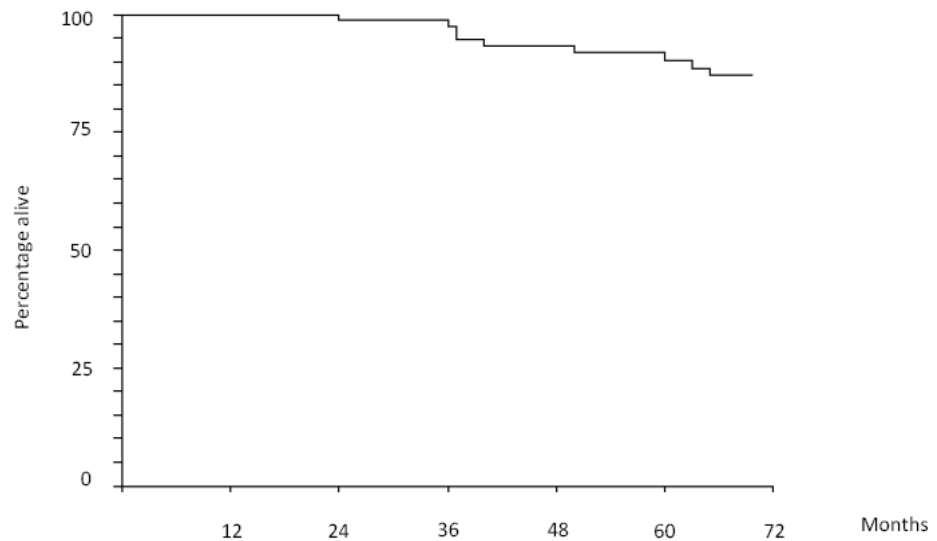
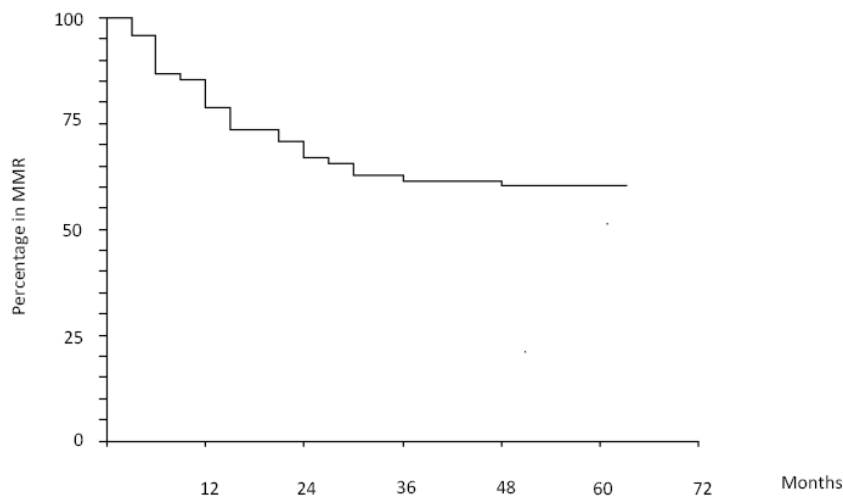
**WHAT OF THE PATIENTS WHO WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO DISCONTINUE OR WILL RELAPSE AFTER DISCONTINUATION ??**

**WHICH STRATEGIES FOR A CHRONIC LIFE-LONG THERAPY ?**

**WHAT ABOUT THE PATIENTS WHO ACHIEVE  
A MMR BUT NEVER ACHIEVE THE DMR  
THAT IS REQUIRED FOR TREATMENT  
DISCONTINUATION? DO THEY NEED FULL  
STANDARD TKI DOSE FOR EVER ?**

**THE INTERIM STUDY: Probability of  
maintaining MMR , and survival**

**Russo D et al, Blood 2013;121(26):5138-44, and Blood  
Cancer Journal 2015;5:e347**



**THE CHOICE OF THE TKI IS INFLUENCED BY EFFICACY, TOXICITY, TOLERABILITY, AND COST**

**THE AVAILABILITY OF SEVERAL TKIs RESULTS IN A BALANCE OF EFFICACY (RESPONSE), TOXICITY, SURVIVAL, COST, AND TREATMENT-FREE REMISSION.**

**THE CHOICE OF THE TKI, IN FIRST-LINE AS WELL AS IN SECOND-LINE, IS BECOMING LESS CRITICAL**

# CHRONIC MYELOID LEUKEMIA : THE COST OF PROGRESS

1994 ITALIAN COOPERATIVE STUDY GROUP ON CML

New Engl J Med 1994;330:820-827

INTERFERON ALFA AS COMPARED WITH CONVENTIONAL  
CHEMOTHERAPY FOR THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC MYELOID  
LEUKEMIA

“The cost of interferon treatment was 200 times that of conventional  
treatment”

2013 EXPERTS IN CML

Blood 2013;121:4439-4442

PRICE OF DRUGS FOR CML

“Reflection on the unsustainable cancer drug prices: perspectives of CML  
experts”

# THE PLAYERS FOR CML

- The patient
- The doctor
- The good scientist
- The Pharma

