



# “Real World Evidence” Nuovi target terapeutici in ematologia

8 - 9 Novembre 2018

Auditorium “Fra Agostino Daniele”  
San Giovanni Rotondo

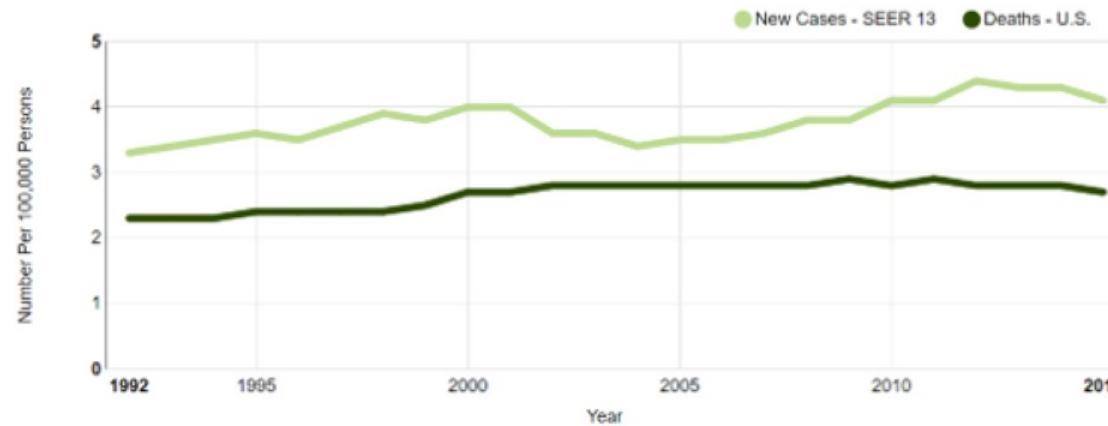
Presidente del Convegno  
Nicola Cascavilla

*Le nuove frontiere delle leucemie acute  
Dalla chemioterapia alla medicina di precisione*

*Nicola Di Renzo  
Lecce*

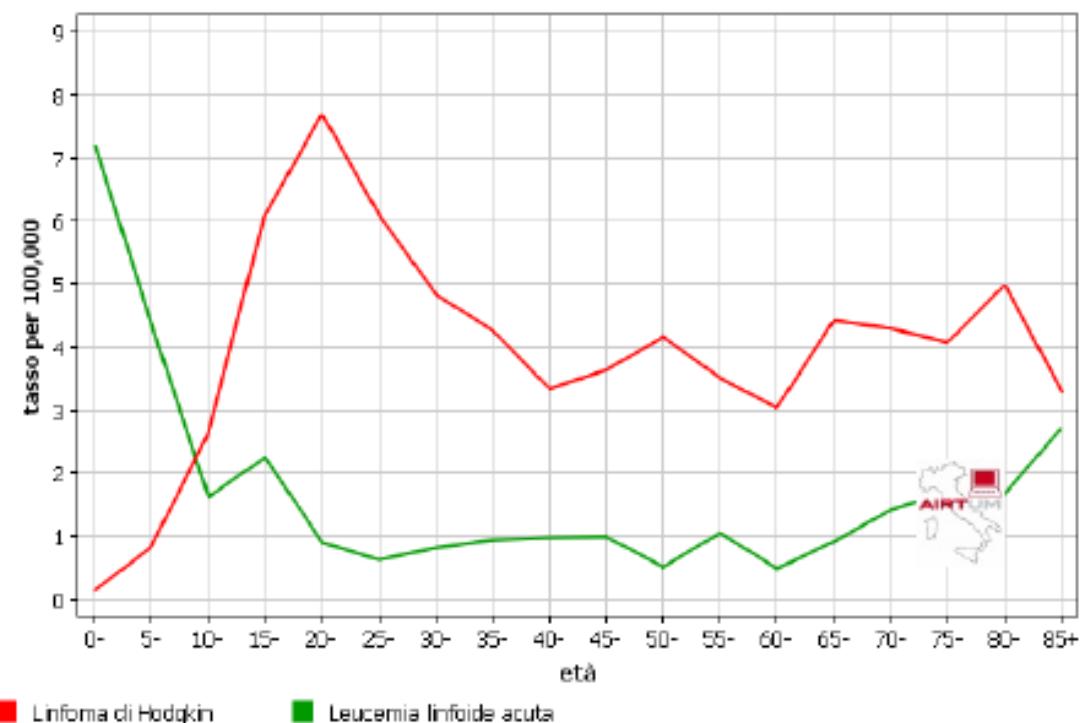
# Epidemiology of AML

- Most common acute leukemia in adults
- Lifetime risk: ~0.5% of population
- Estimated incidence in 2018: ~19,520 new cases (1.1% of new cancer cases)
- Estimated mortality in 2018: ~10,670 deaths

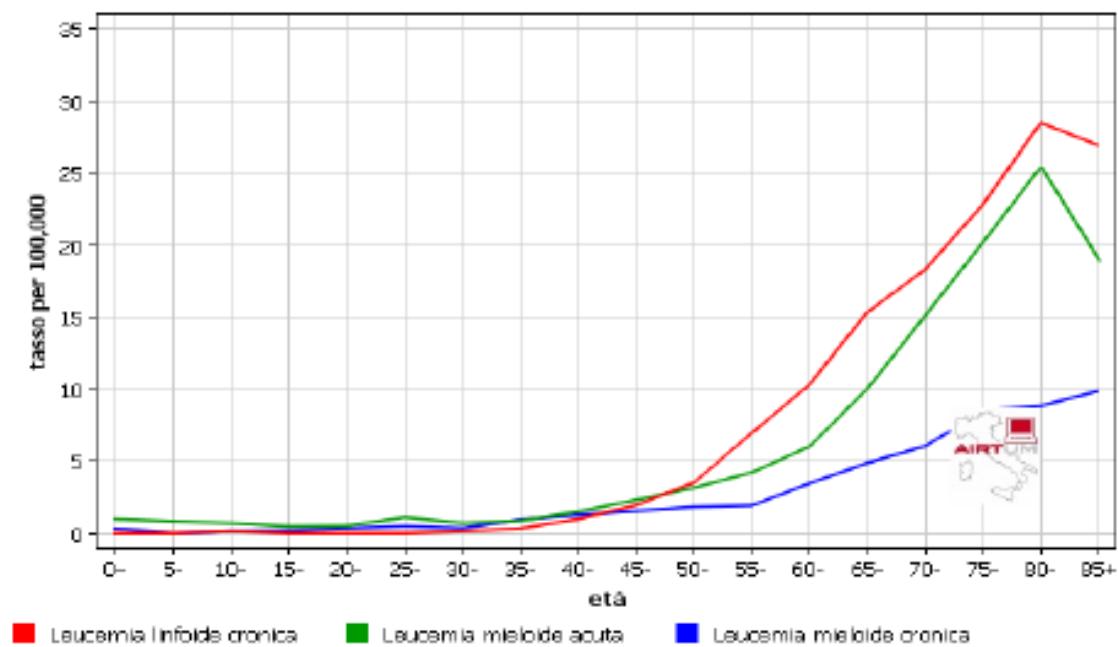


SEER Cancer Stat Facts: Acute Myeloid Leukemia. National Cancer Institute.  
Bethesda, MD, <https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/amyl.html>

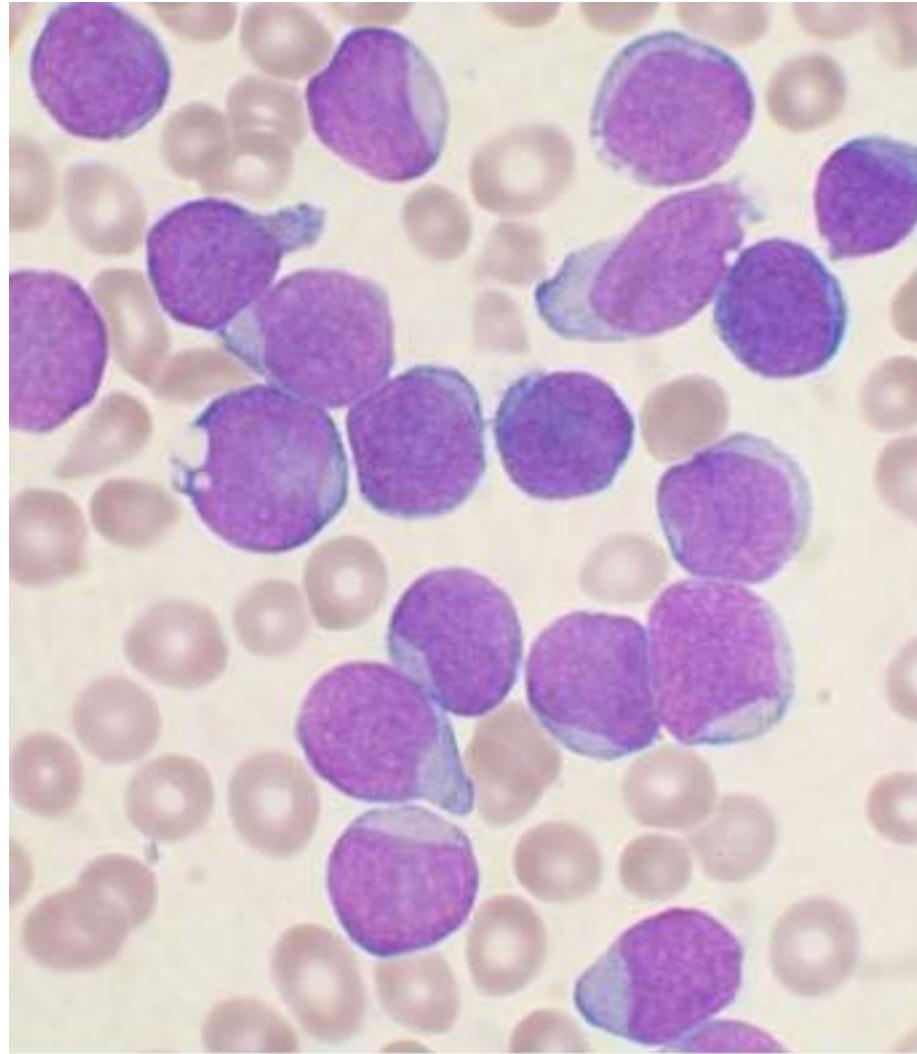
AIRTUM (Pool 38 Registri) 2006-2009-Incidenza  
Maschi



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Maschi

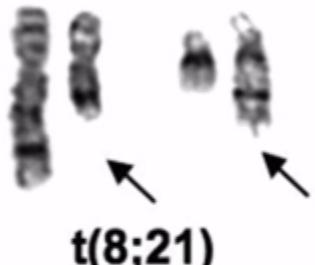


# Acute Myeloid Leukemia

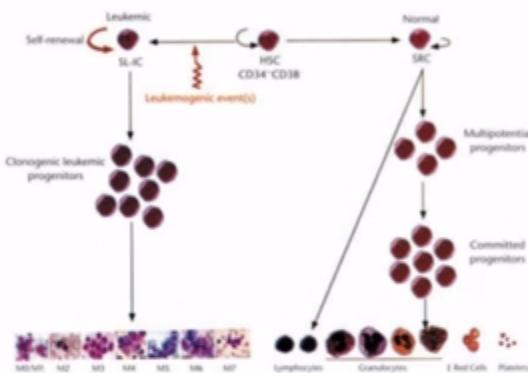


# Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML): “A long tradition of being first”

“Cytogenetics”  
(Janet D. Rowley)



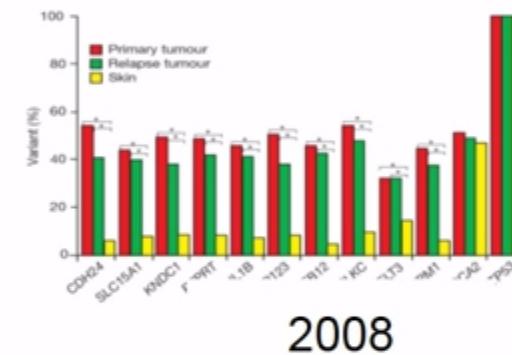
1972



“Cancer stem cells”  
(John E. Dick)

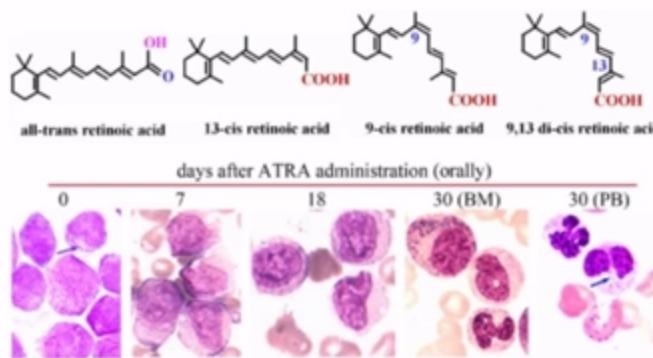
1997

“Next Generation Sequencing (NGS)”  
(Timothy Ley)

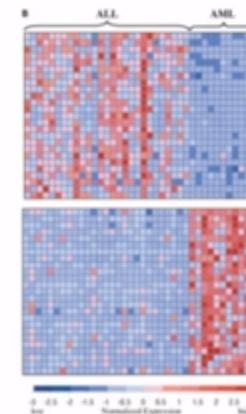


2008

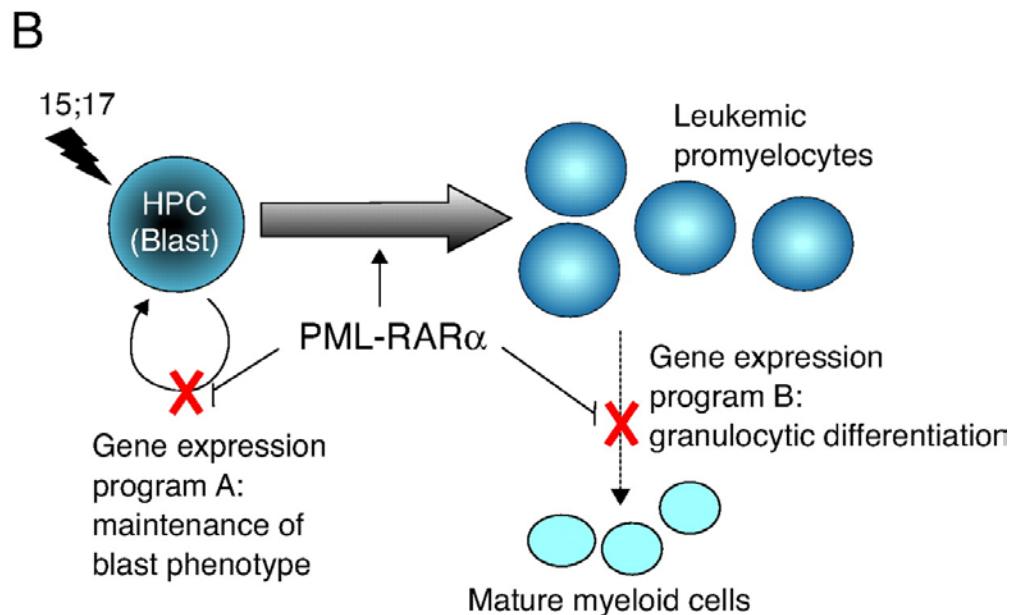
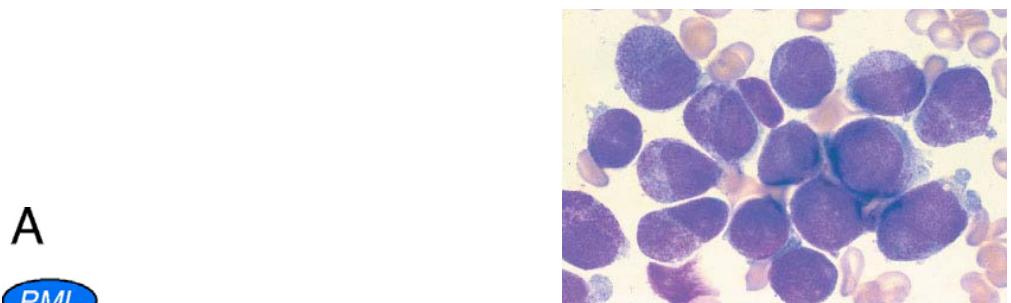
“Targeted therapy”:  
ATRA in APL  
(Zhen-Yi Wang)



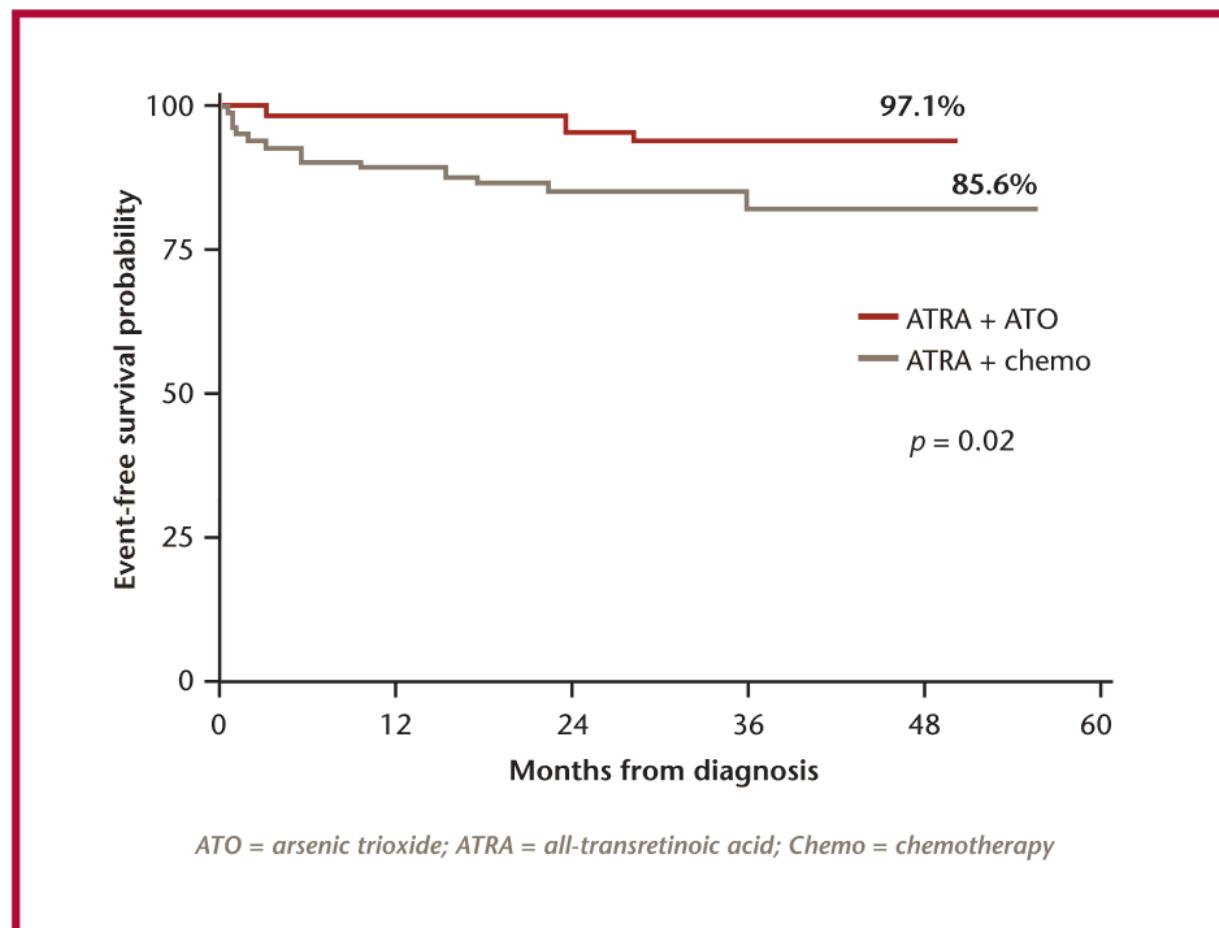
1999

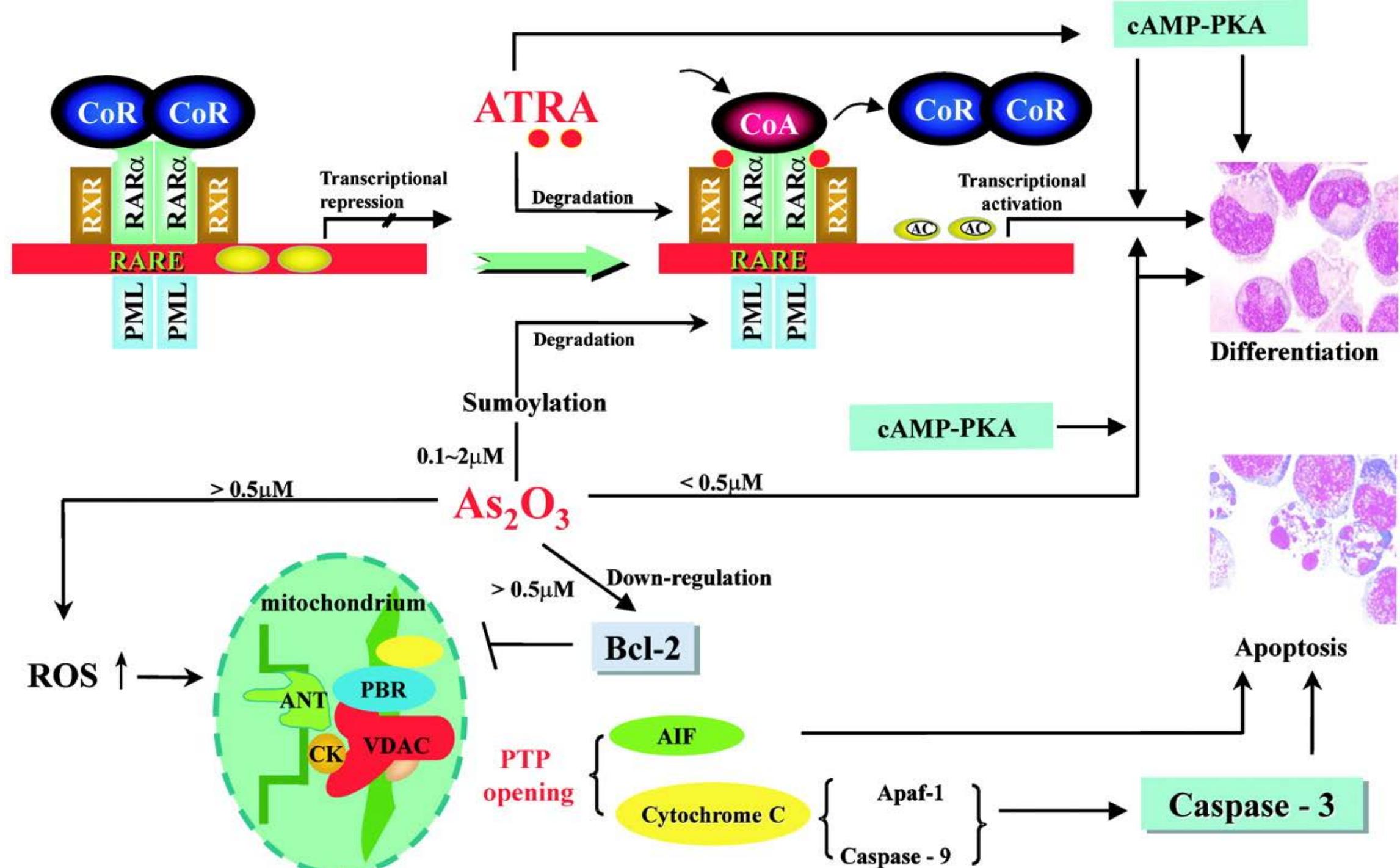


“Omics”  
(Todd Golub)



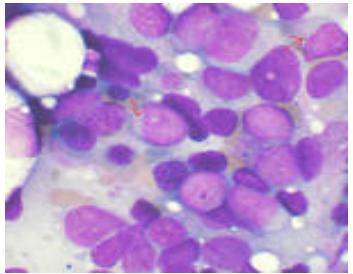
**Figure 6. Event-free survival**



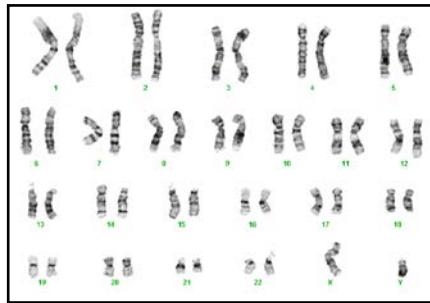


# Diagnostic work-up for AML is complex

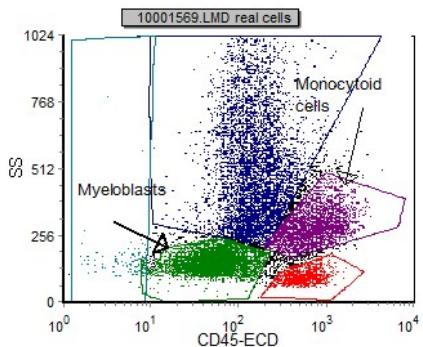
## Morphology



## Cytogenetics

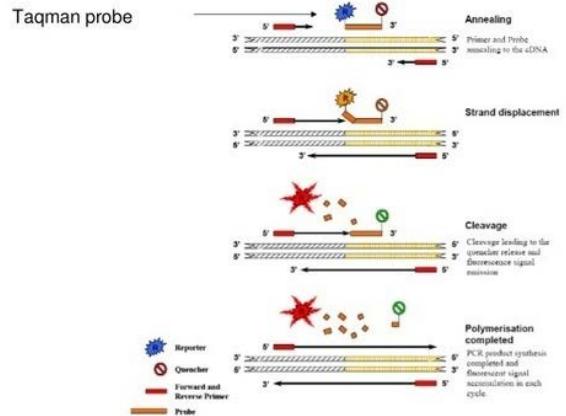


## Immunophenotype

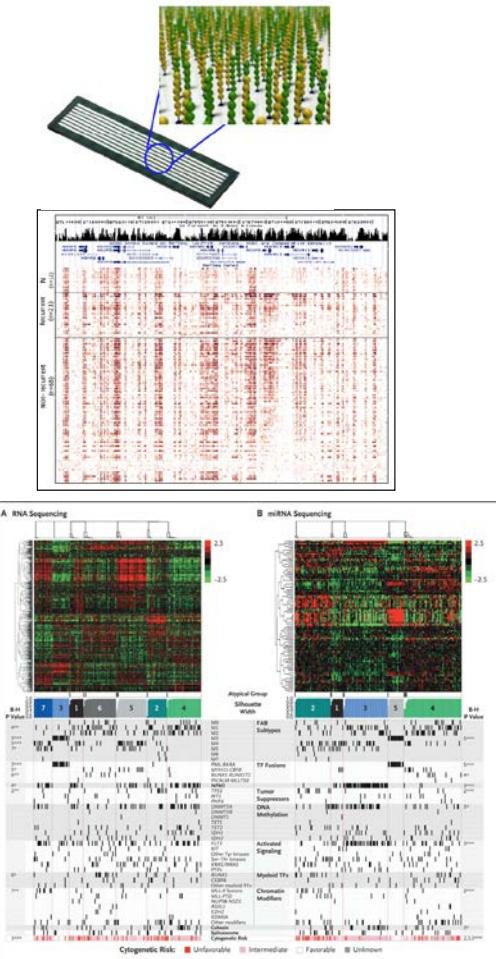


## Molecular characterization

### Quantitative real-time-PCR



### Next Generation Sequencing



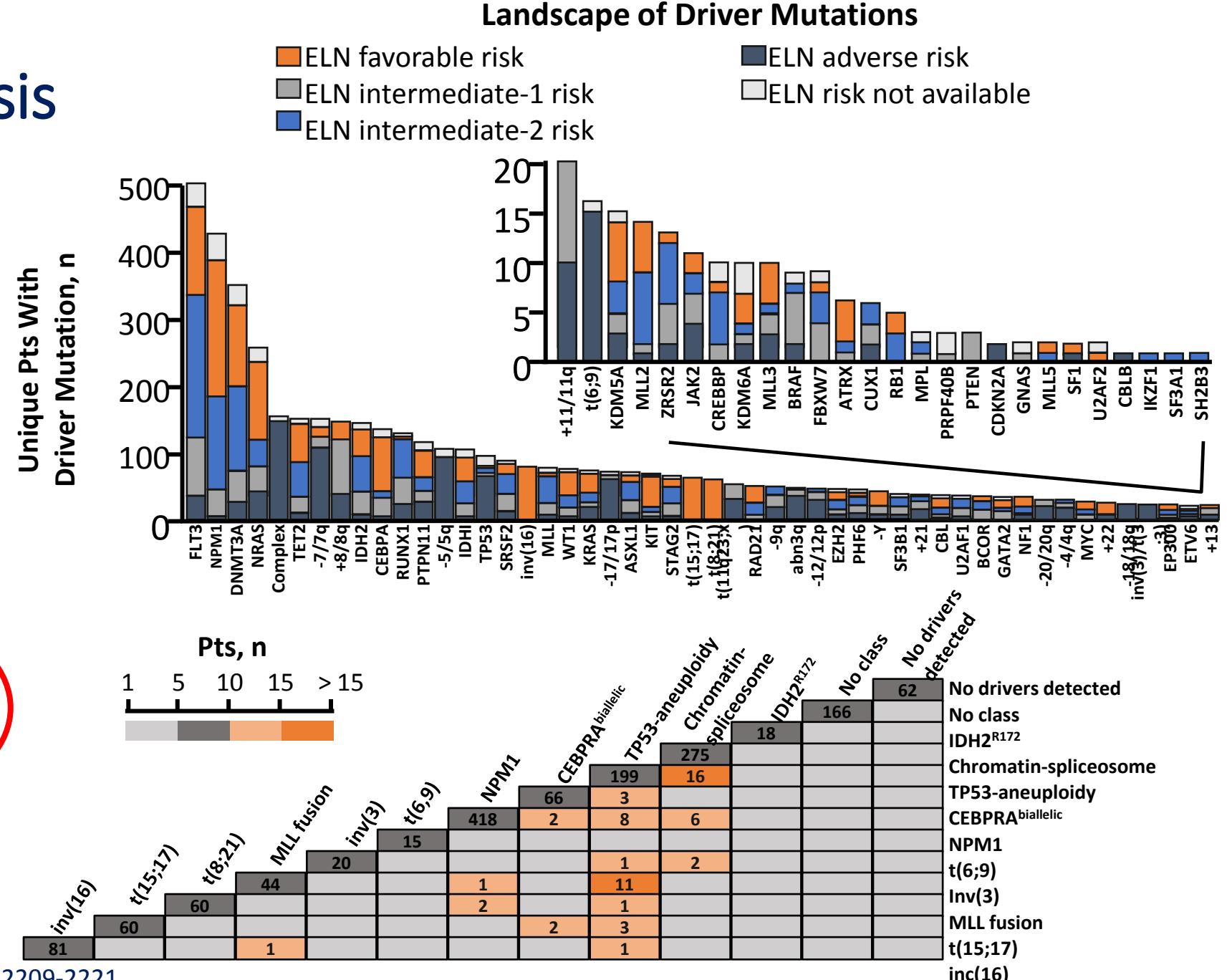
# NGS Utility in AML

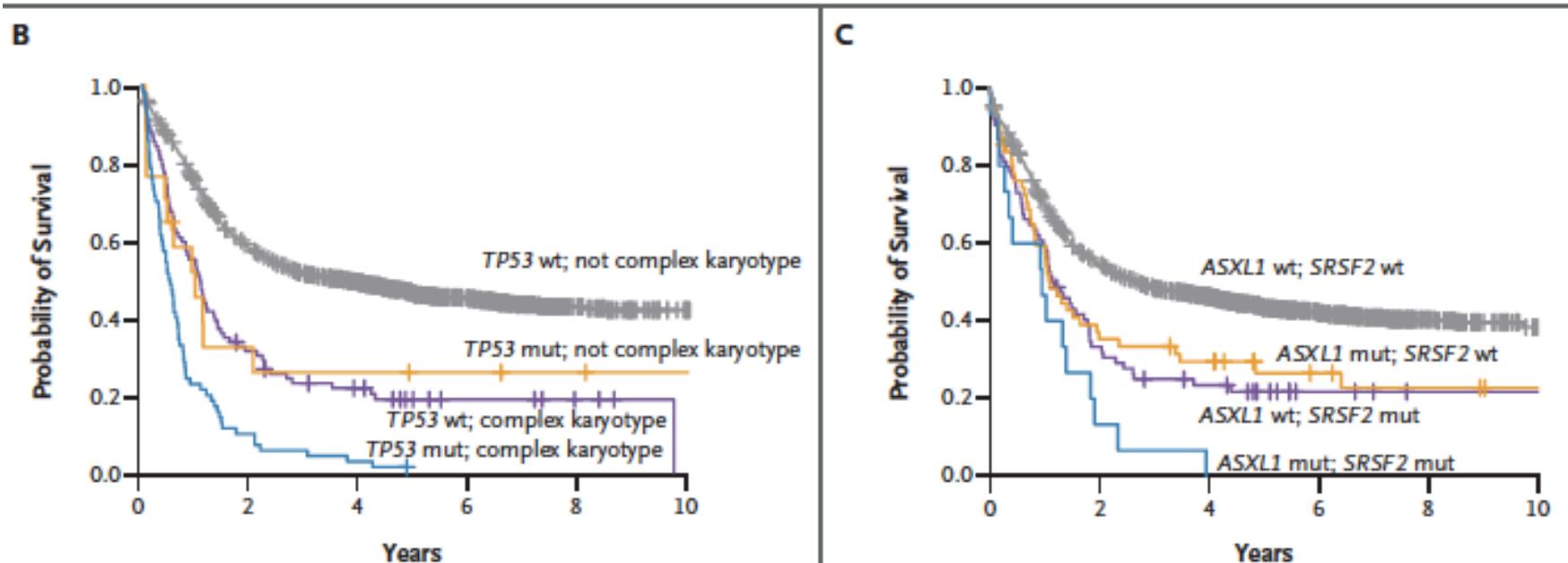
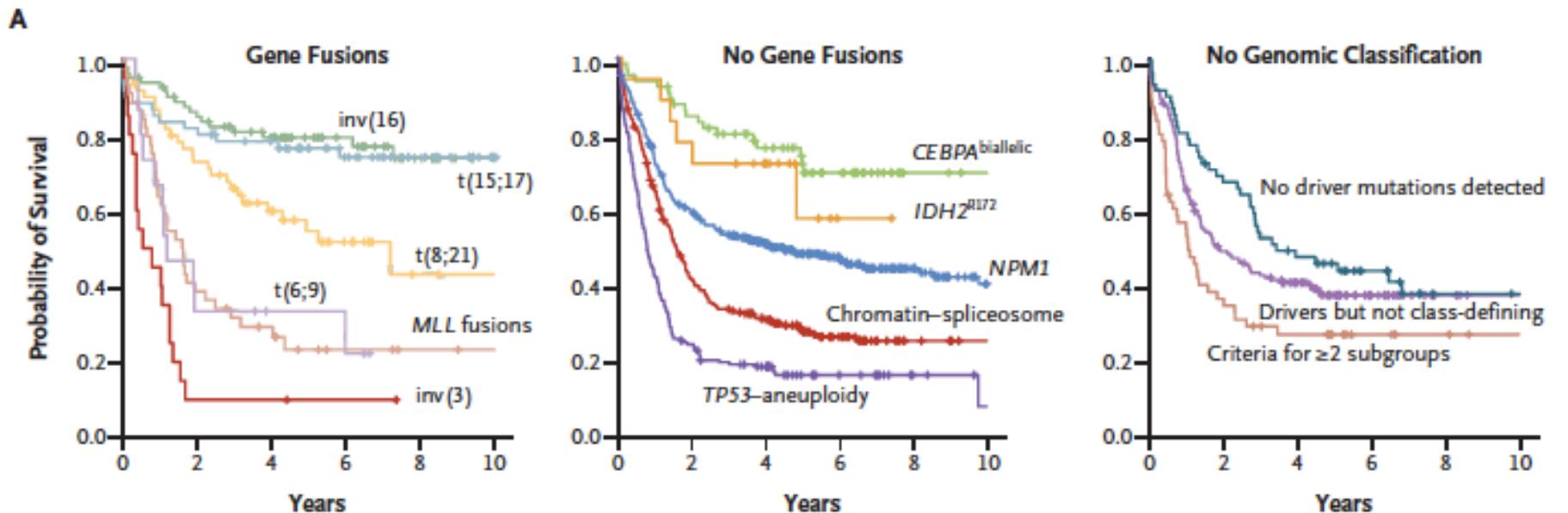
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- **Path Classification/Diagnosis:** WHO Classification
- **Prognostication:** ELN classification
- **Risk-adapted Treatment:** chemotherapy vs AlloHCT
- **Molecular Targeting Therapy:** selection of small molecules targeting mutations or aberrantly functioning pathways
- **Treatment Guidance:** MRD vs CHIP
- **Disease evolution:** Changes clonal composition at relapse

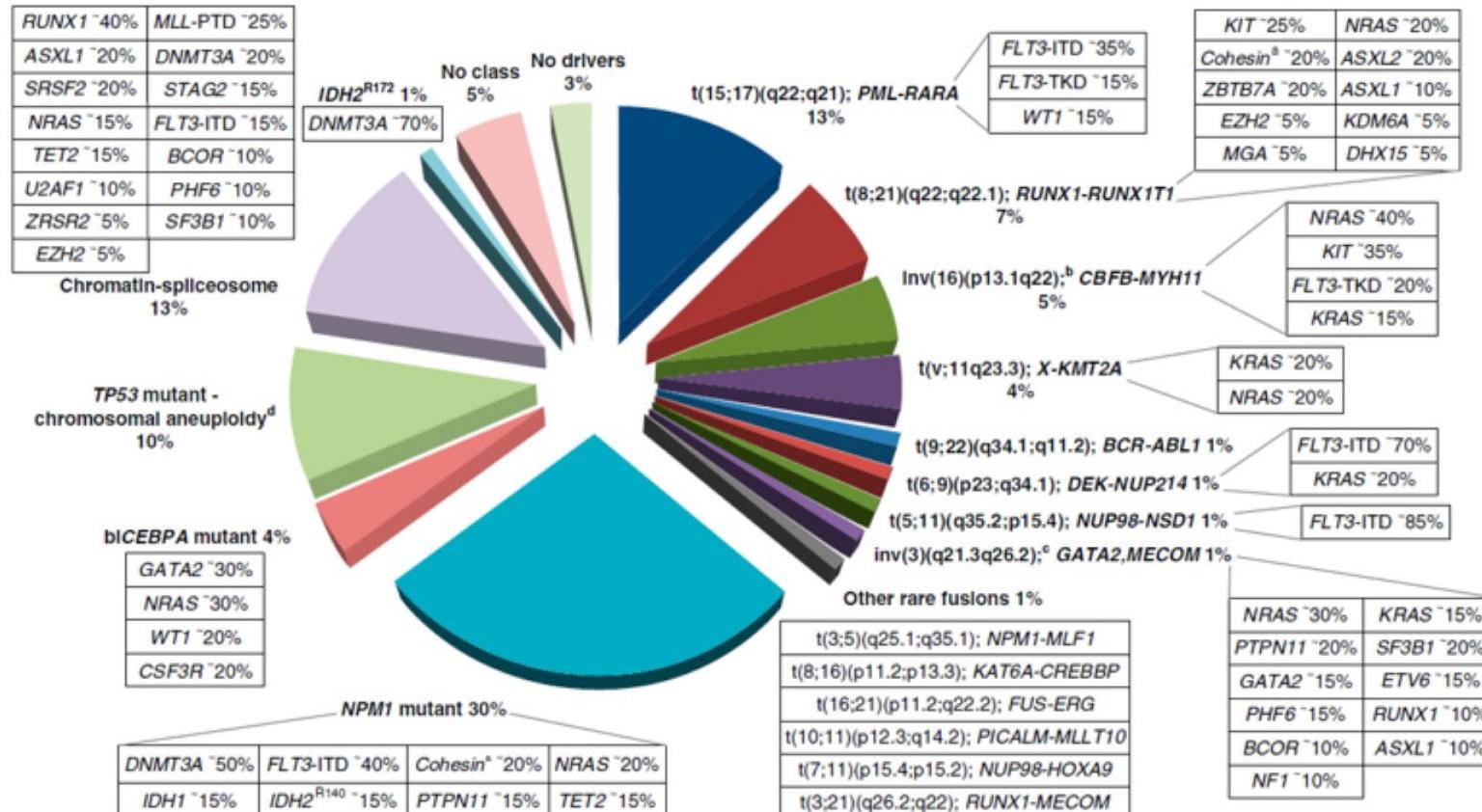
# AML: Pathogenesis

- Complex, diverse disease
- Genetic abnormalities include ultrastructural changes to chromosomes, gene mutations (eg, *DNMT3A*, *TET2*, *FLT3*, *NPM1*, *IDH1/2*, *TP53*), epigenetic changes, and changes in RNA splicing factors
- 86% pts have  $\geq 2$  genetic drivers
- **Conclusion: AML is complicated !**





# Too Many Combinations and Subgroups



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**Favourable**  
**Cytogenetic**

t(8;21)(q22;q22.1) for *RUNX1-RUNX1T1*, and inv(16)(p14.1q22) or t(16;16) (p13.1;q22) for *CBFB-MYH11*

**Molecular**

Mutated *NPM1* without *FLT3-ITD* or with *FLT3-ITDlow*, and biallelic mutated *CEBPA*

E  
L  
N

**Intermediate**

**Cytogenetic**

t(9;11)(p21.3;q23.3) for *MLL3-KMT2A\**, and cytogenetic abnormalities not classified as favourable or adverse

**Molecular**

Mutated *NPM1* and *FLT3-ITDhigh*§, and wild-type *NPM1* without *FLT3-ITD* or with *FLT3-ITDlow*§ (without adverse-risk genetic lesions)

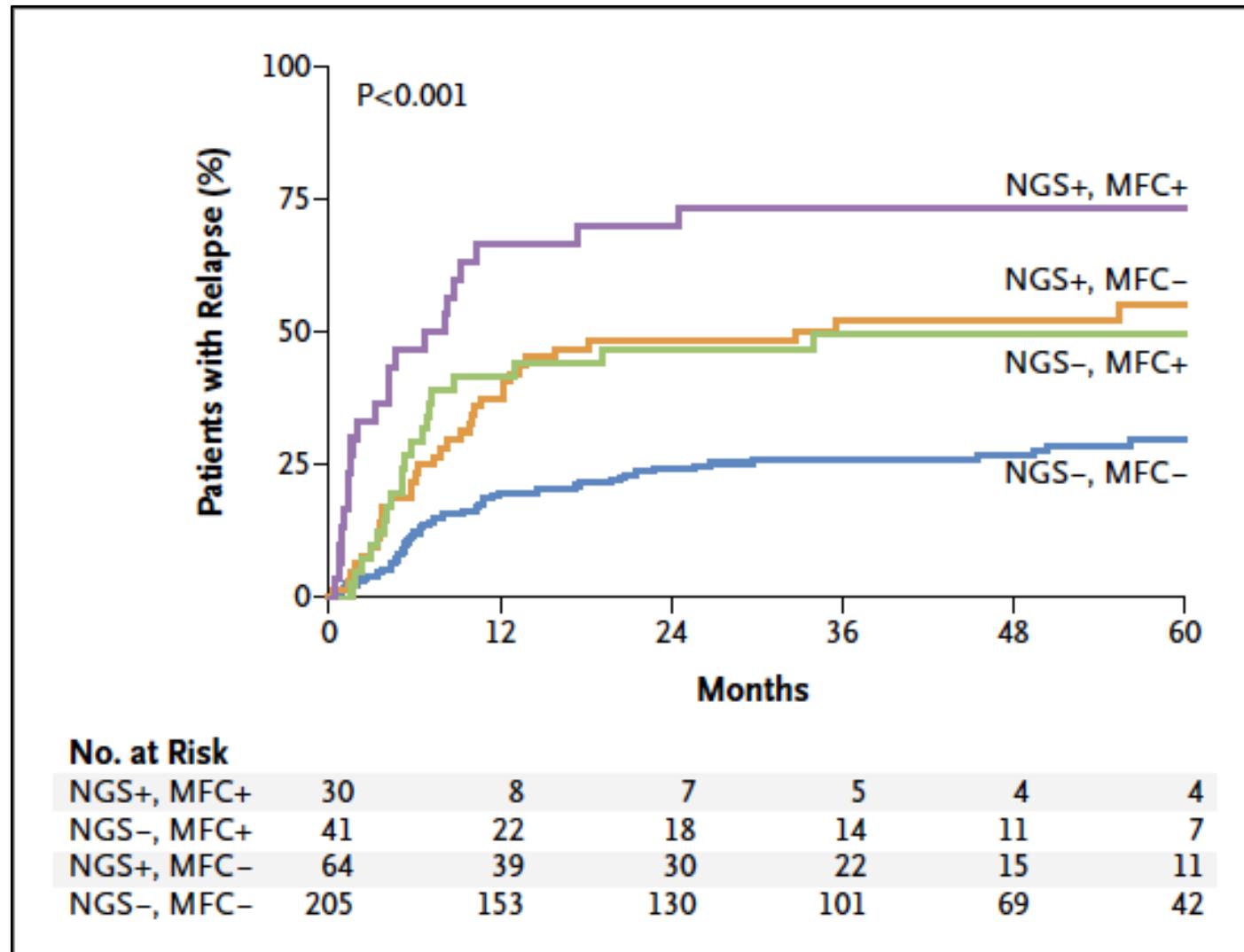
**Adverse**

**Cytogenetic** t(6;9)(p23;q34.1) for *DEK-NUP214*; t(v;11q23.3) for *KMT2A* rearranged; t(9;22)(p34.1;q11.2) for *BCR-ABL1*; inv(3)(q21.3q26.2) or t(3;3)(q21.3;q26.2) for *GATA2* and *MECOM (EVI1)*; -5 or del(5q), -7, and-17/abn(17p); complex karyotype; and monosomal karyotype

**Molecular**

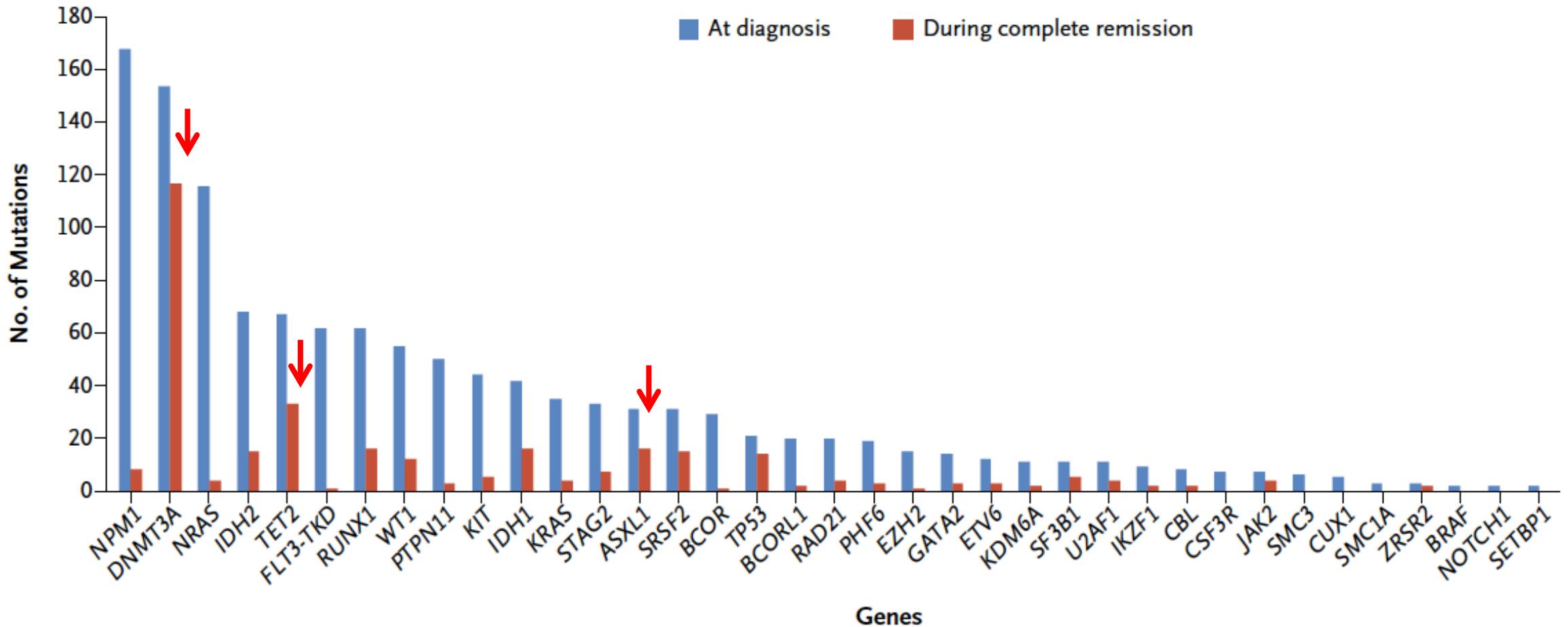
Wild-type *NPM1* and *FLT3-ITDhigh*, mutated *RUNX1*, mutated *ASXL1*, and mutated *TP53*

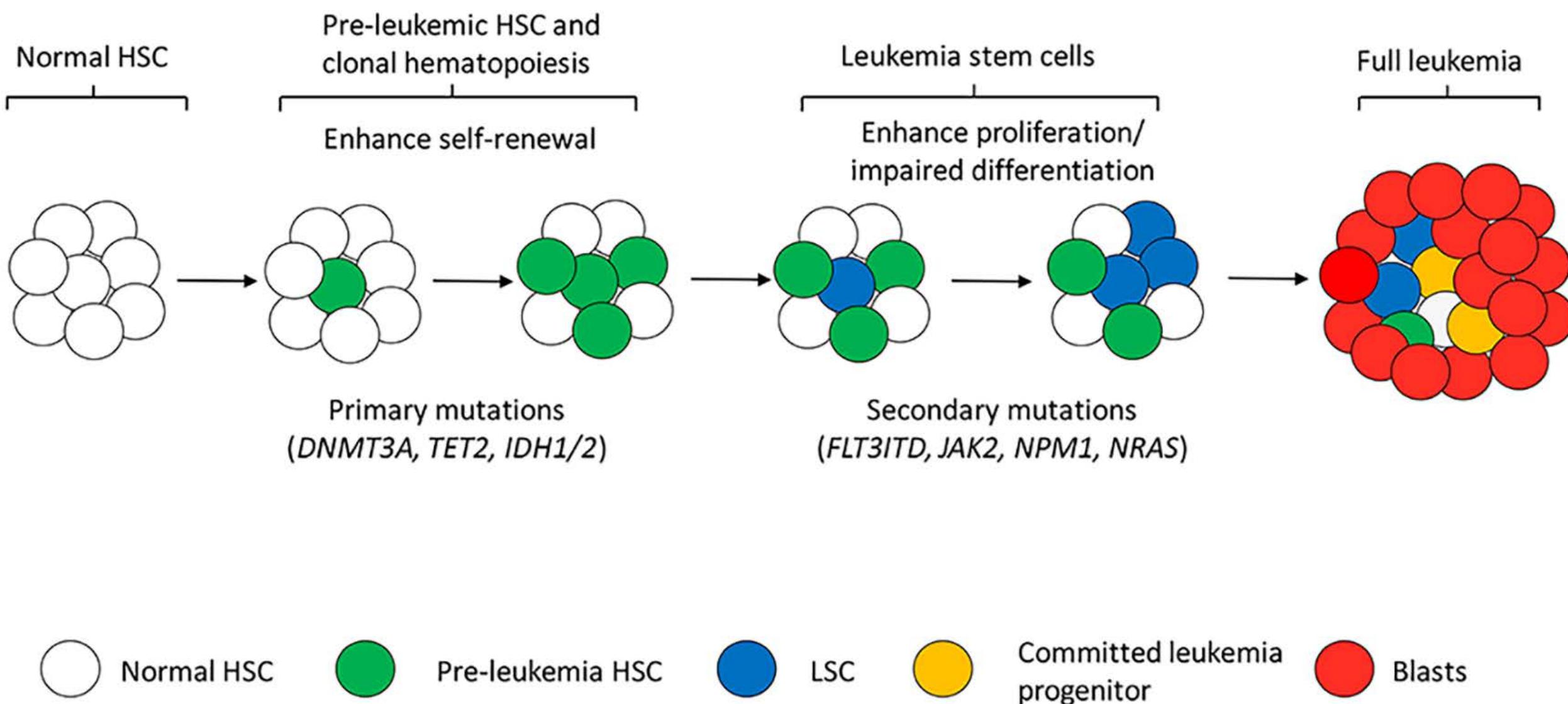
# Risk-adapted Treatment: chemotherapy vs AlloHCT

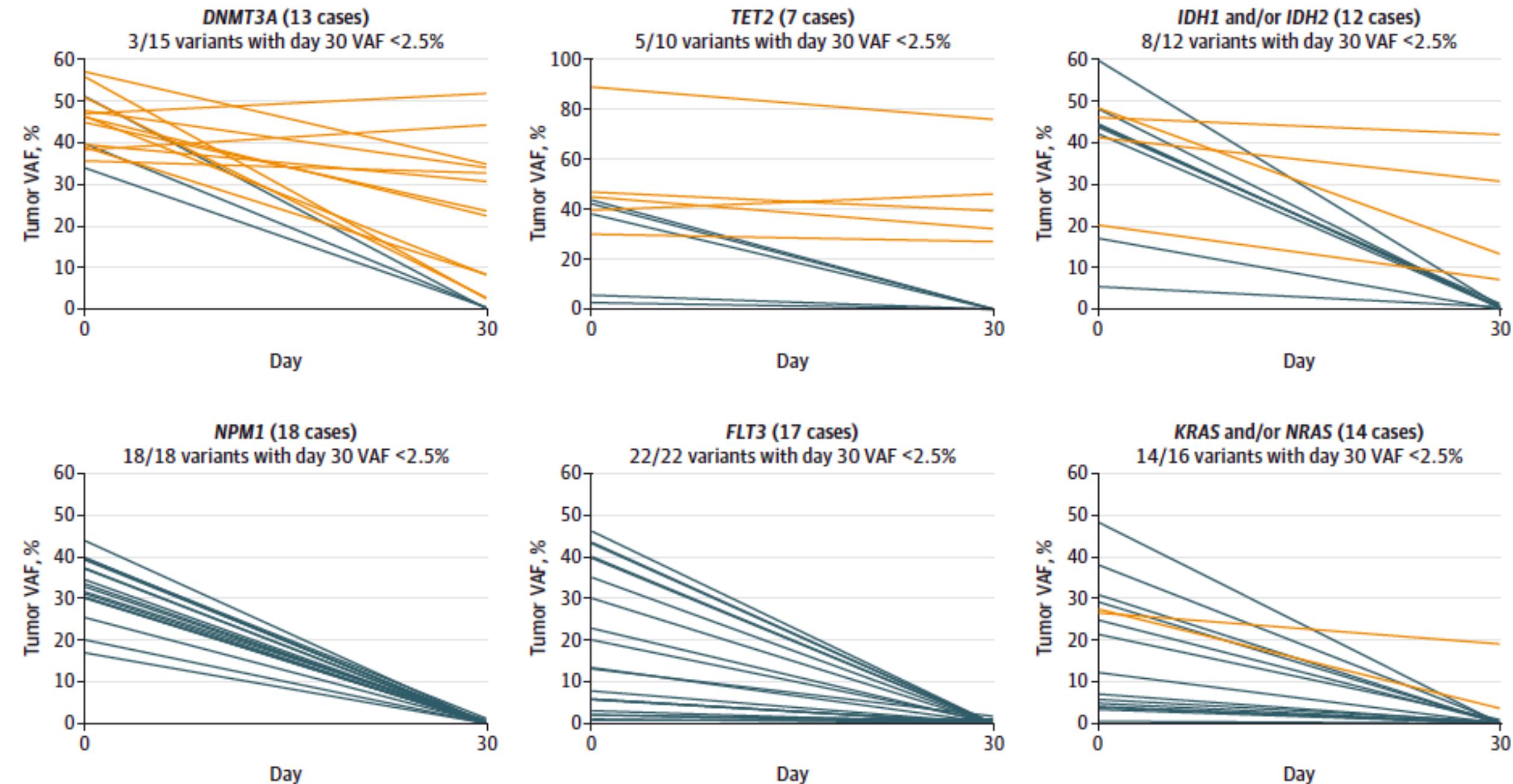


# MRD vs CHIP

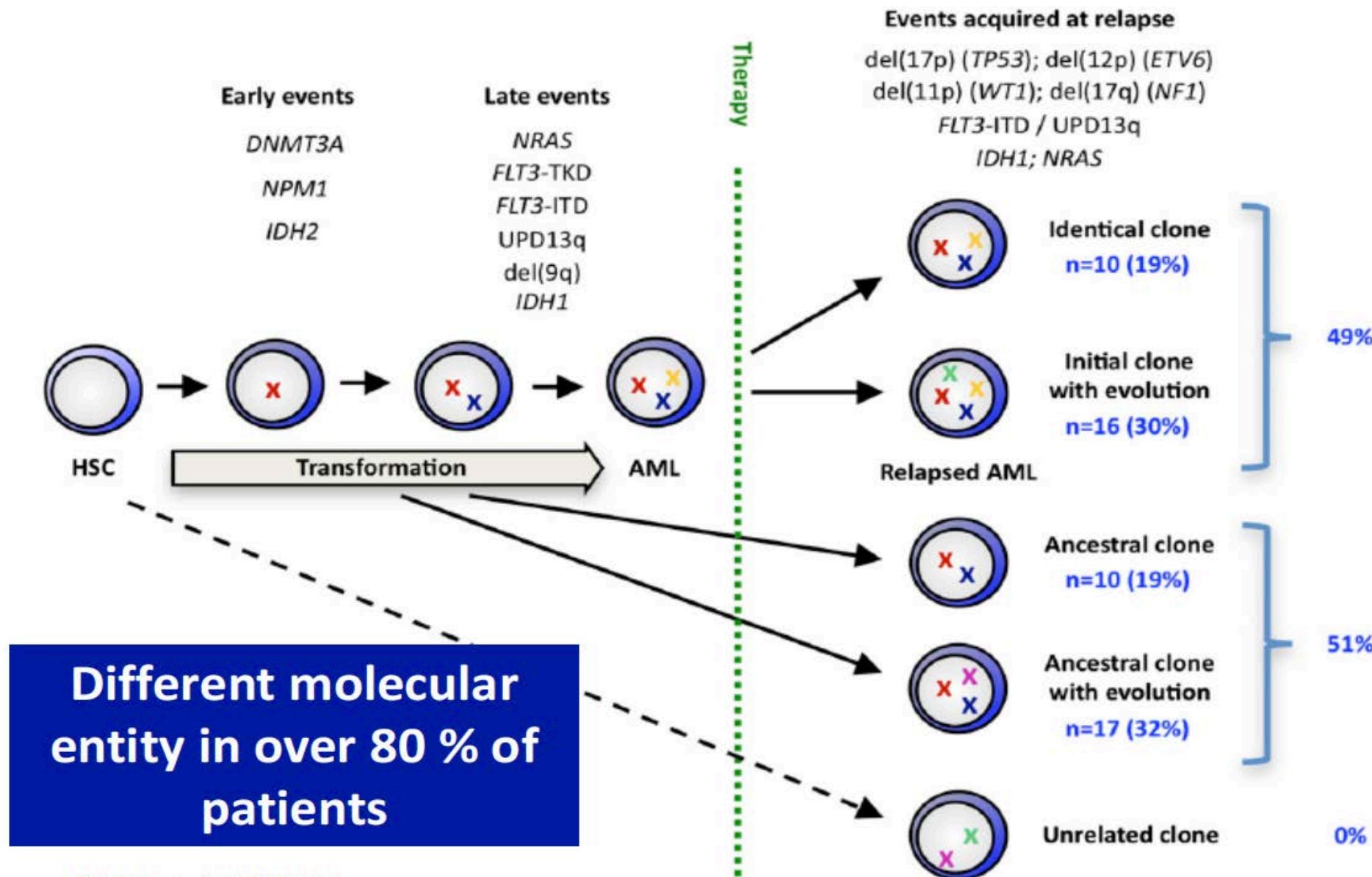
## A Detection of Mutations at Diagnosis and during Complete Remission







# Disease evolution: Changes clonal composition at relapse



# AML patients' survival has improved

Âge [15;45[	Net 5-yr Survival
1989-1993	38 [30-48]
1994-1998	54 [46-63]
1999-2004	53 [47-61]
2005-2010	59 [52-67]

**+21%**  
↓

Âge [45;55[	Net 5-yr Survival
1989-1993	30 [20-46]
1994-1998	28 [20-40]
1999-2004	38 [31-48]
2005-2010	48 [40-57]

**+18%**  
↓

Âge [55;65[	Net 5-yr Survival
1989-1993	25 [18-35]
1994-1998	22 [16-30]
1999-2004	35 [28-43]
2005-2010	28 [22-35]

**+3%**  
↓

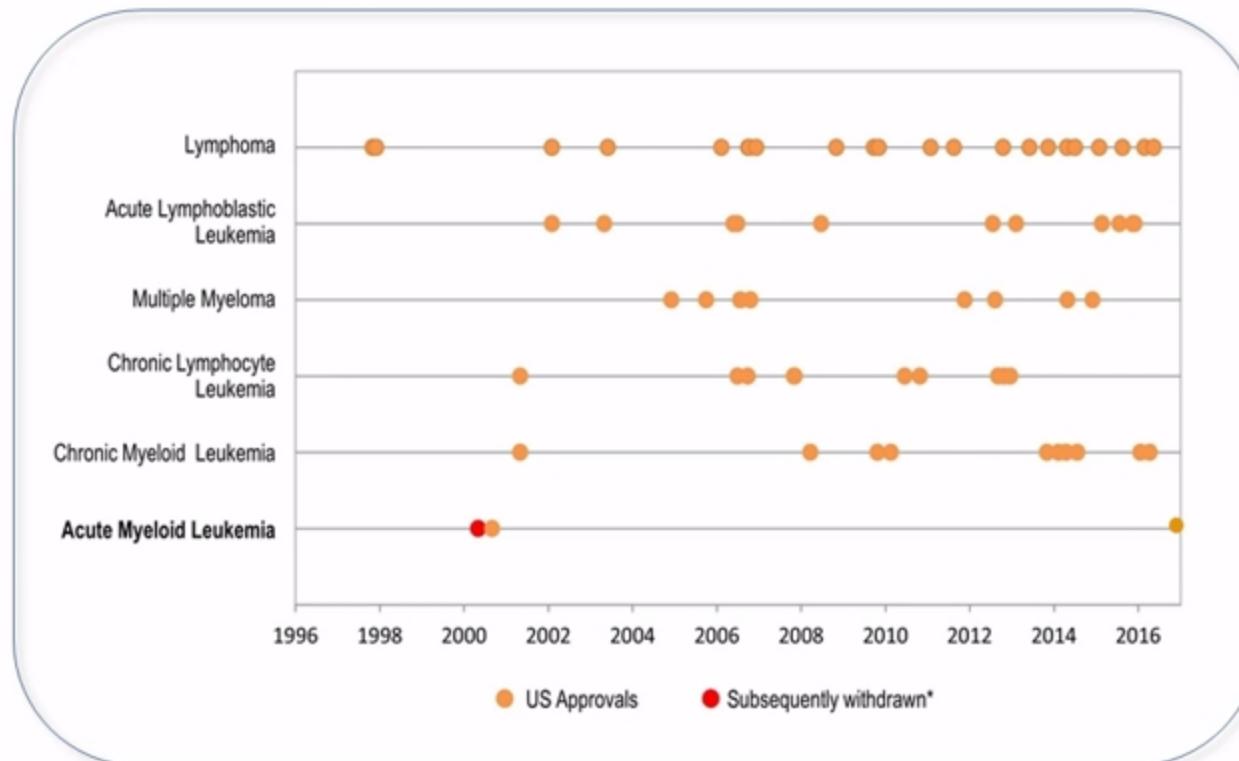
Âge [65;75[	Net 5-yr Survival
1989-1993	8 [5-14]
1994-1998	10 [7-15]
1999-2004	14 [10-19]
2005-2010	18 [13-24]

**+10%**  
↓

Âge [75;++]	Net 5-yr Survival
1989-1993	5 [2-10]
1994-1998	4 [2-8]
1999-2004	4 [2-7]
2005-2010	3 [2-6]

**+0%**  
↓

... In the absence of registered new agents



# The Case for Abandoning Induction Chemotherapy

DANIEL A. POLLYEA, MD, MS

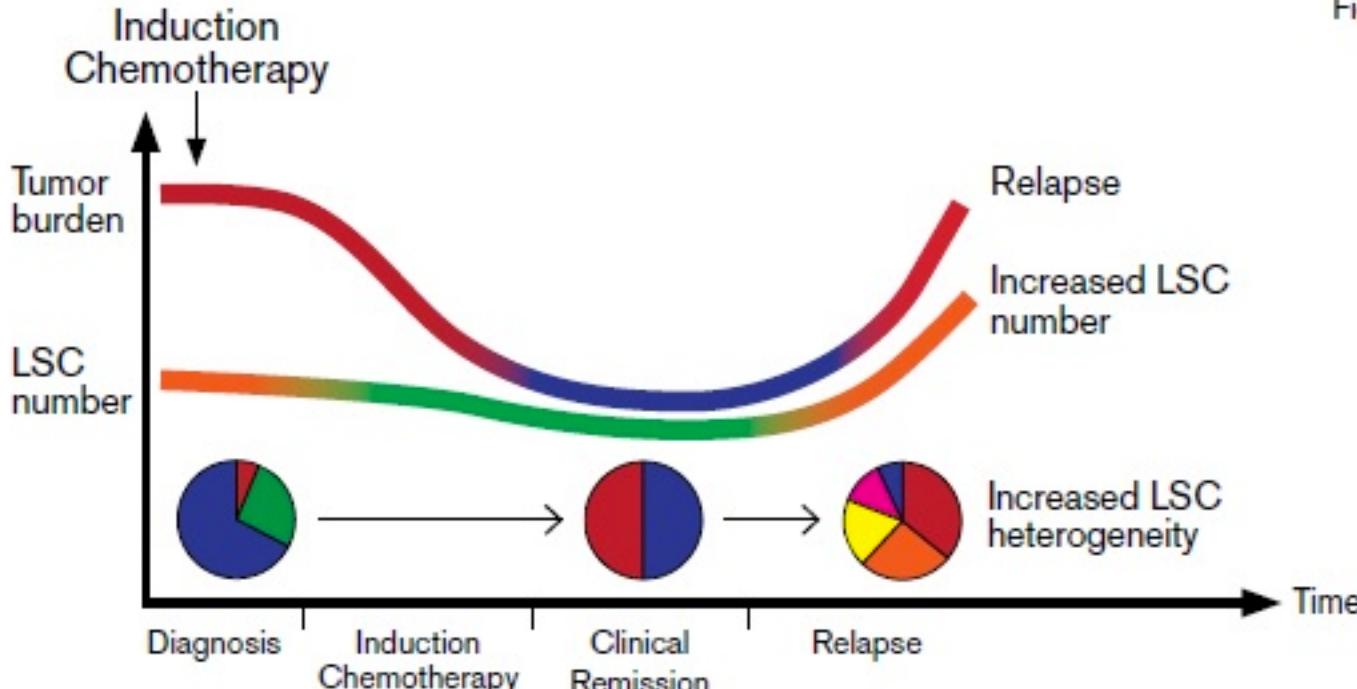
Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Hematology, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO



If the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result (just as the definition of a bad review article may be one that leads off with a questionable cliché), hematologists treating acute myeloid leukemia (AML) with intensive induction chemotherapy should reconsider the logic of this approach. To be fair, there are subsets of patients, such as those with core binding factor chromosomal rearrangements, or *NPM1* or *CEBPA* mutations, for whom intensive chemotherapy is effective and potentially curative.<sup>1-3</sup> For everyone else, the long-standing argument in favor of induction chemotherapy is that it beats the alternative, which in the absence of any U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) –approved therapies is ... nothing. Generations of hematologists who spent careers banging their heads against the chemotherapy wall would certainly have traded their purine analogs in for a sleek new targeted therapy. Colleagues, the time is now upon us: I am excited to announce that the field has officially entered the postchemotherapy era. Allow me to explain.

First, we must make the case as to why there is a need to abandon intensive induction chemotherapy. For patients younger than 60 years, the complete remission (CR) rate with induction is around 70 percent, but the treatment-related mortality (TRM) rate may be as high as 13 percent; five-year overall survival (OS), the surrogate endpoint for cure, is only around 30 percent.<sup>4</sup> Not surprisingly, given that the basic recipe for induction chemotherapy has not substantially changed in more than 40 years,<sup>5</sup> no meaningful improvements in outcomes have occurred for decades that are not attributable to advancements in supportive care or transplantation.<sup>6</sup>

Figure

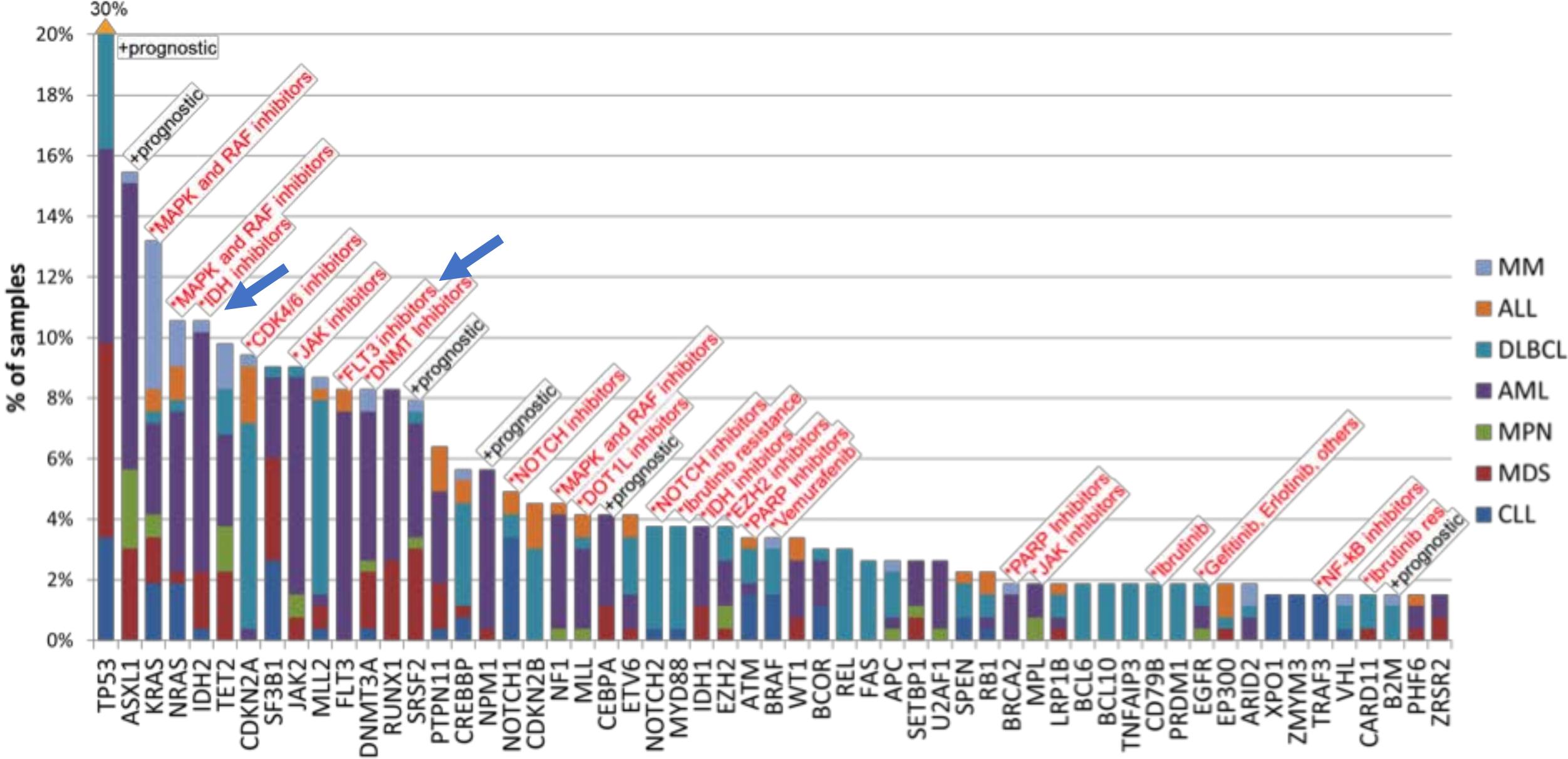


**The impact of induction chemotherapy on acute myeloid leukemia (AML) that ultimately relapses.** With treatment, there can be an initial decrease in the quantity and diversity of leukemia stem cells (LSCs), but at the time of relapse, the quantity and diversity of LSCs is greater than at the time of initial diagnosis, supporting the hypothesis that induction chemotherapy results in the iatrogenic worsening of AML. (Figure adapted with permission, courtesy of Shanshan Pei, PhD.)

can be slain. In light of these reports, we must consider the reality that very often, when treating AML with intensive chemotherapy, we are not simply passive users of a therapy that doesn't work very well, but instead, *we are responsible for making this disease worse*. Call relapsed AML after induction what it is: iatrogenic AML (Figure).

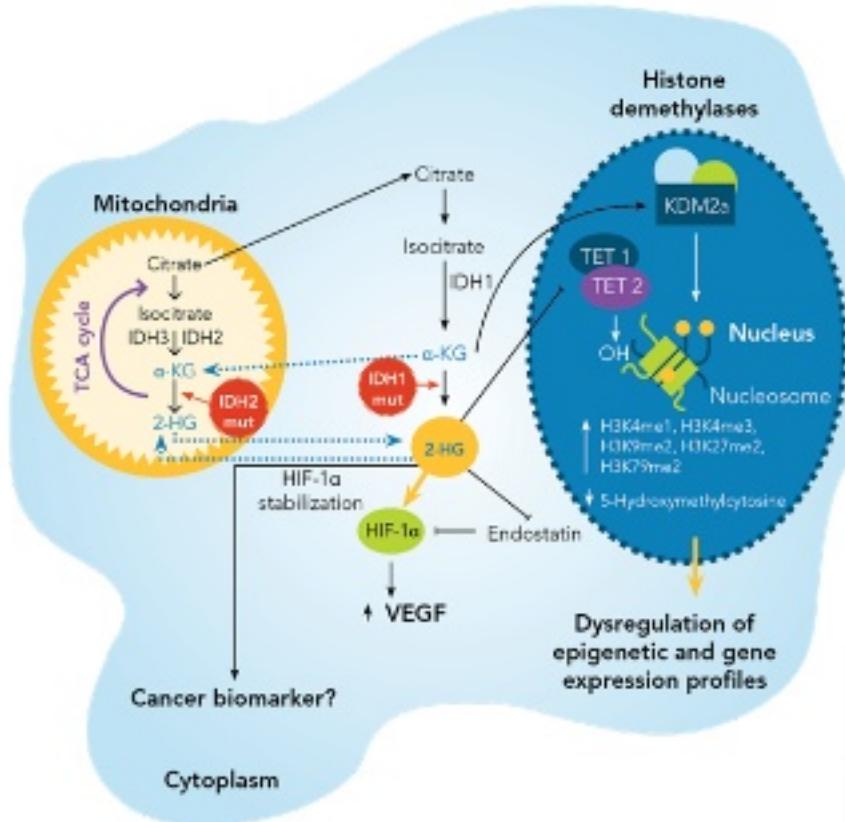
(Cont. on page 13)

# ACTIONABLE MUTATIONS IN HEMATOLOGIC MALIGNANCIES

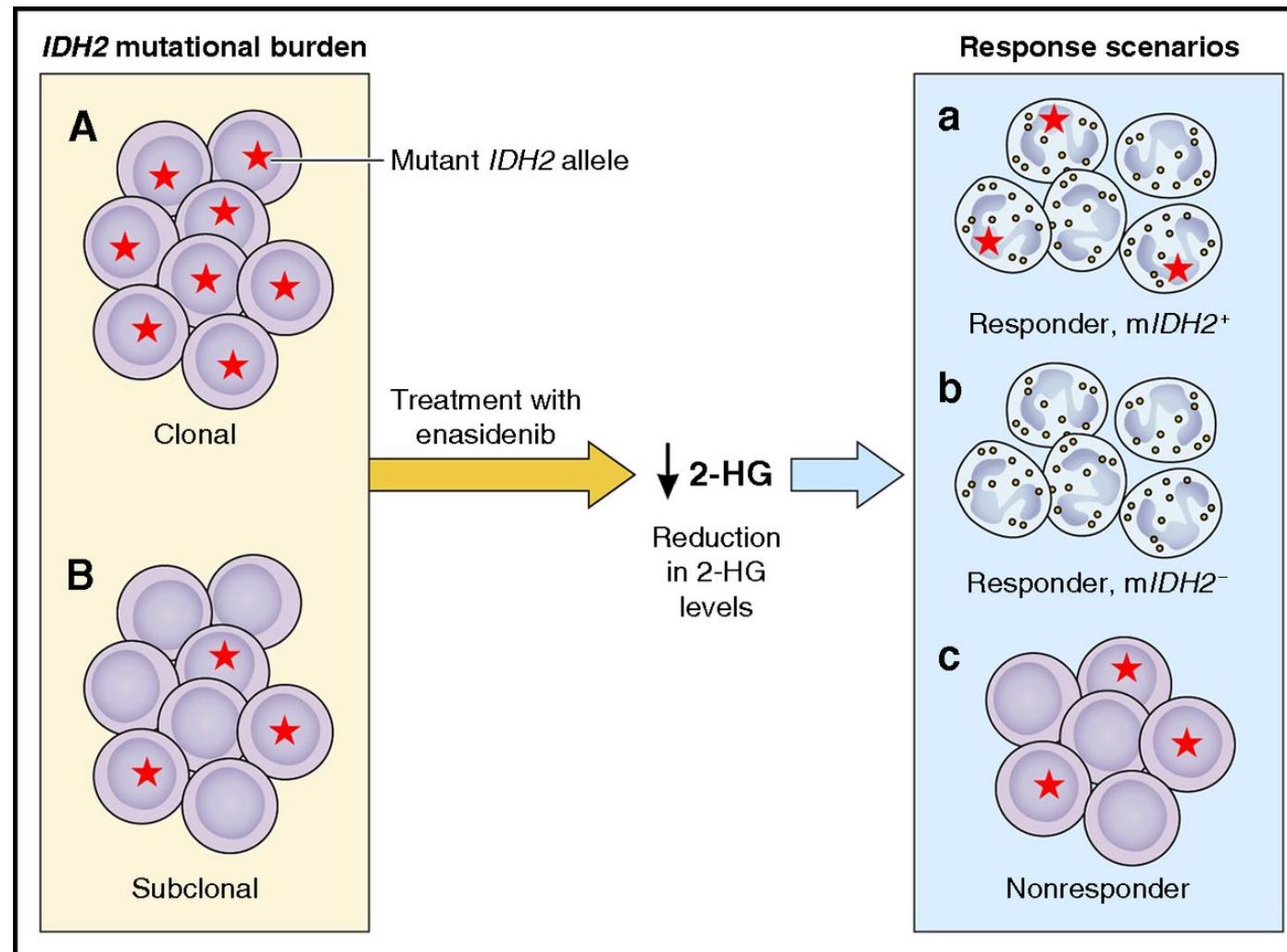


# Isocitrate Dehydrogenase (IDH) Mutations as a Target in AML

- IDH is an enzyme of the citric acid cycle
- Mutant *IDH2* produces 2-hydroxyglutarate (2-HG), which alters DNA methylation and leads to a block in cellular differentiation
- AG-221 (CC-90007) is a selective, oral, potent inhibitor of the mutant *IDH2* (*mIDH2*) enzyme

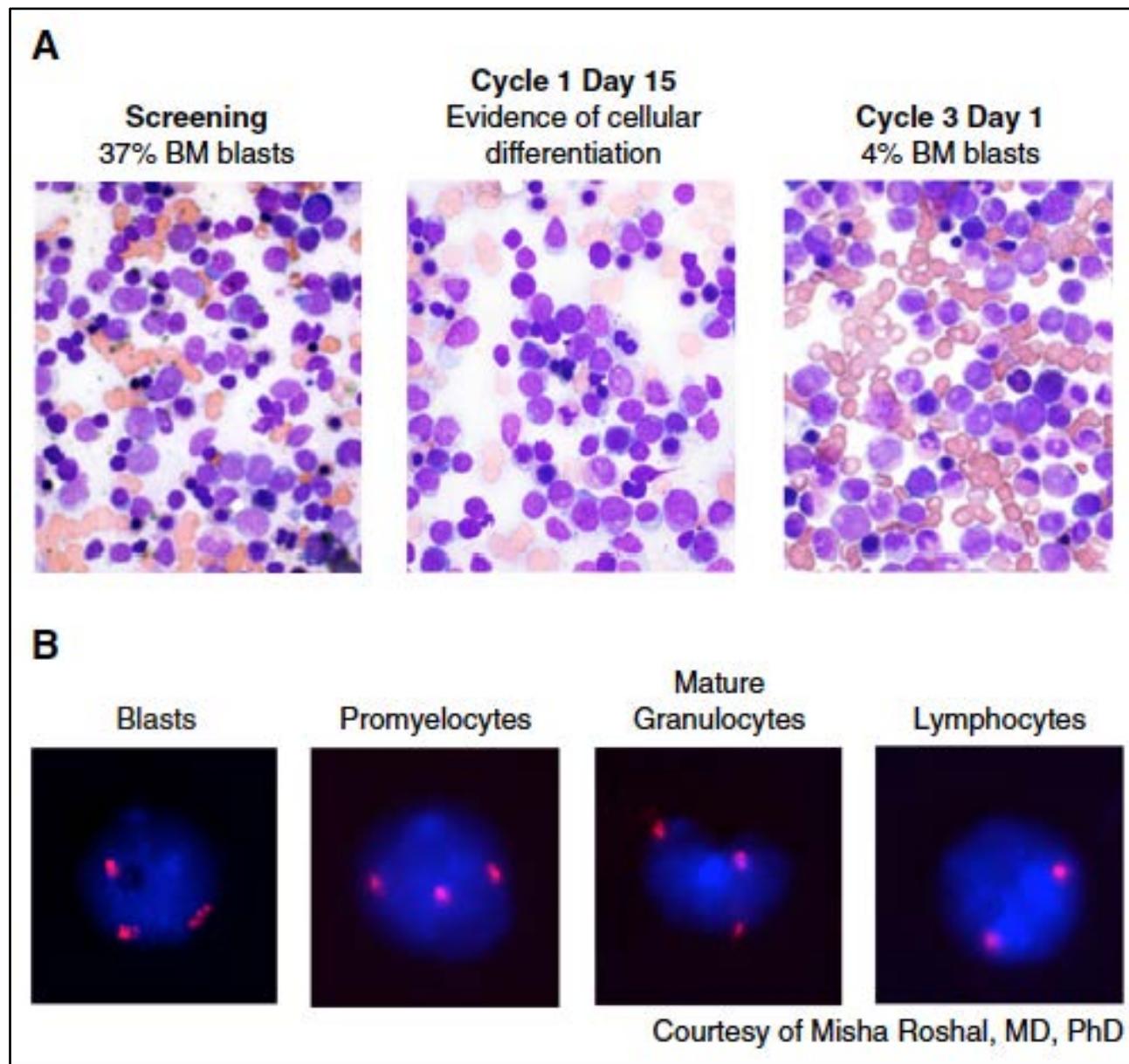


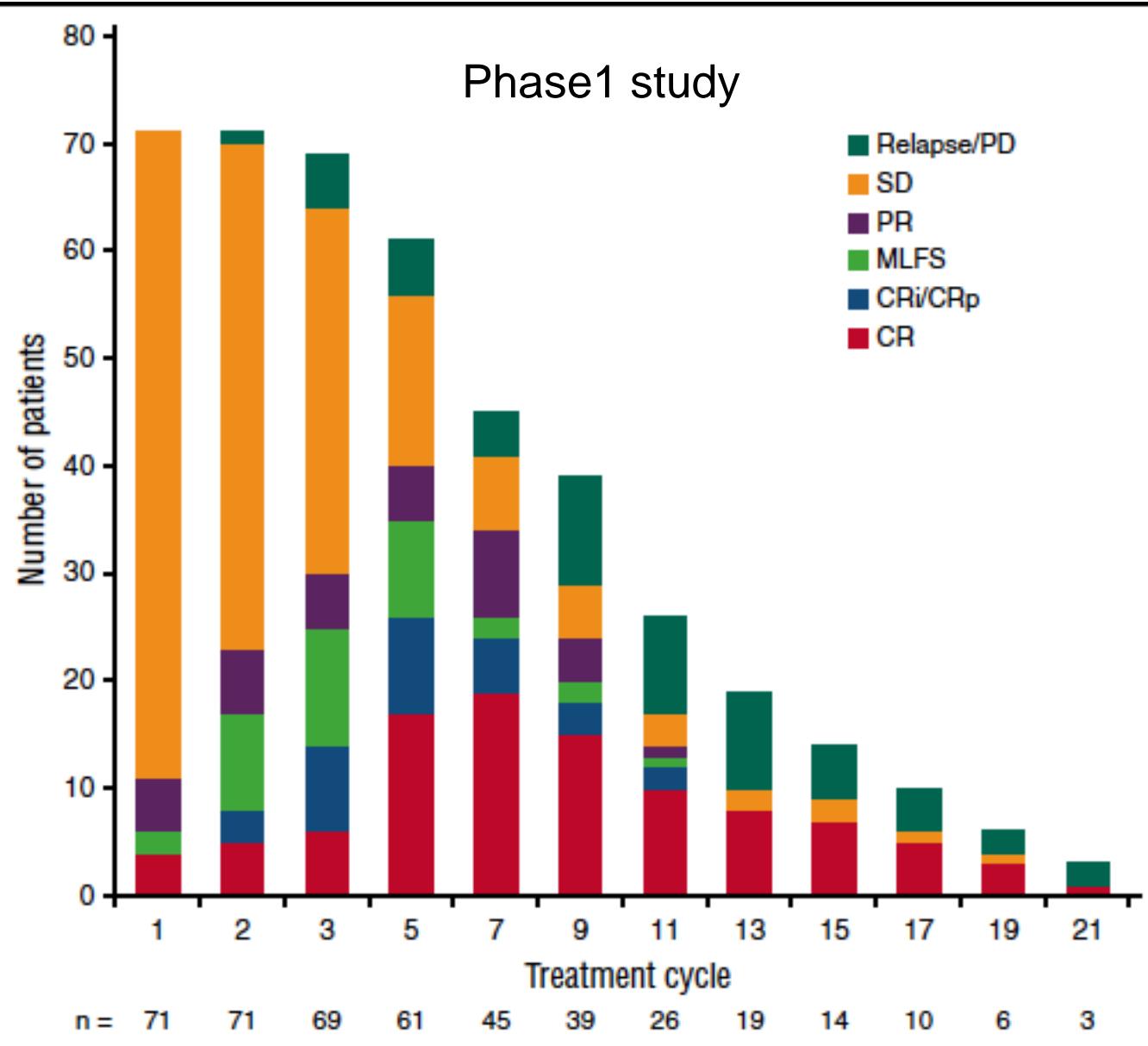
## Response dynamics in IDH2 mutant AML patients treated with enasidenib.



Bas J. Wouters Blood 2017;130:693-694

# *Enasidenib Induces AML Cell Differentiation to Promote Clinical Response*





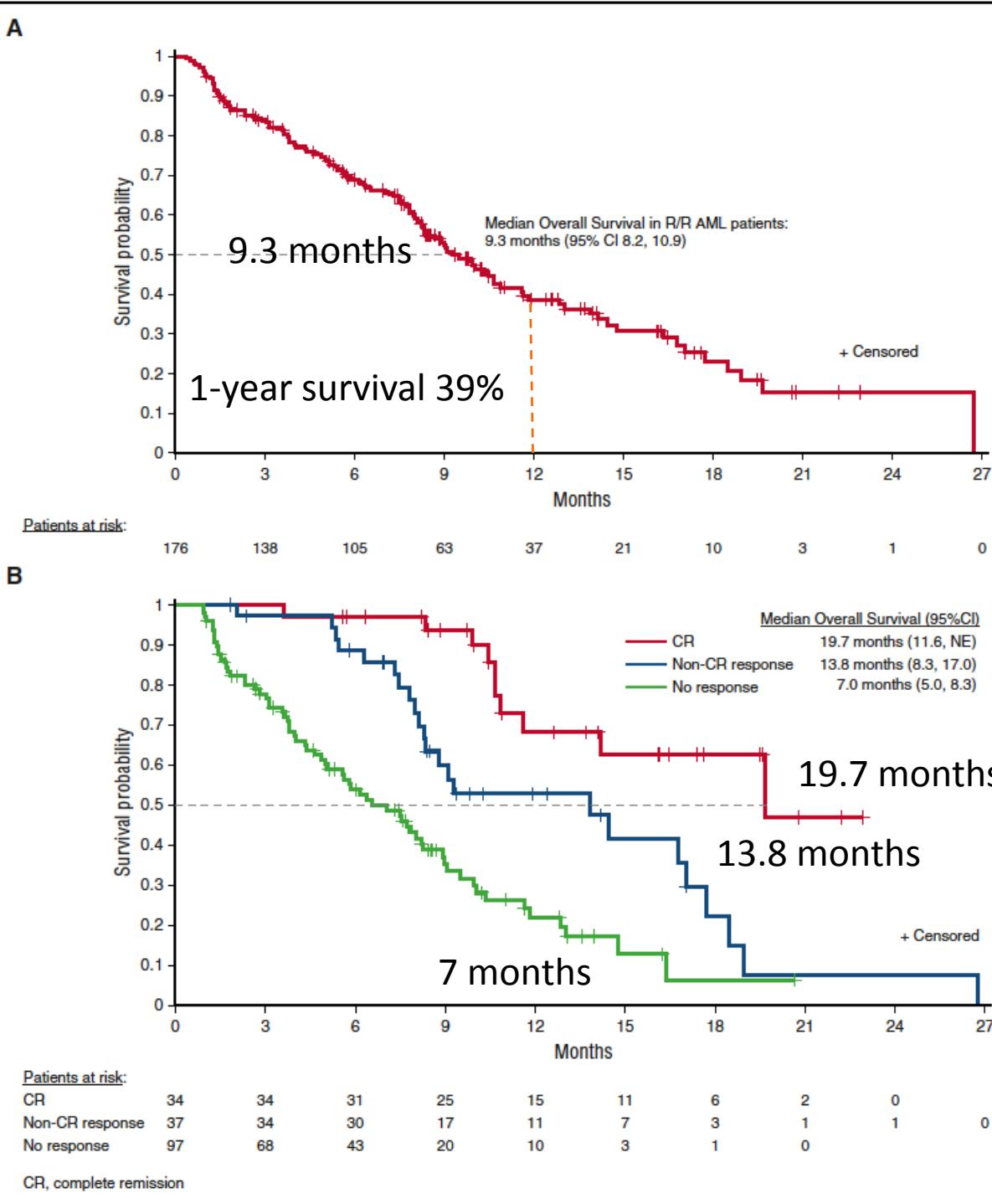
Relapsed/refractory AML  
Enasidenib 100 mg daily (n=109)

CR=38.5%

Median time to response: 1.9 mo.  
(range 0.5-9.4 )

87.3% of responding patients attained a first response by cycle 5

**Figure 1. Evolution of response during treatment of responding patients (n = 71).** Bars reflect responses at each cycle. CR, complete response; CRI, CR with incomplete hematologic recovery; CRp, CR with incomplete platelet recovery; MLFS, morphologic leukemia-free state; PD, progressive disease; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease.

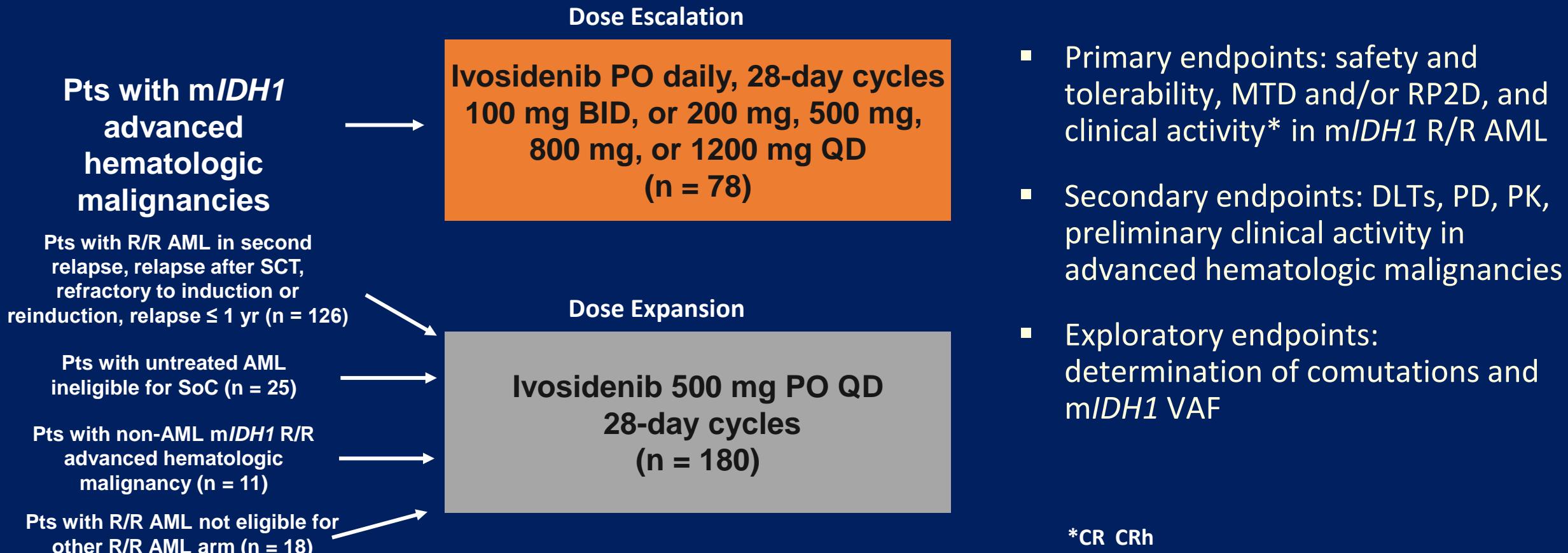


# IDHENTIFY: Global Phase 3 Study to Evaluate the Efficacy of AG-221 in R/R AML



# Ivosidenib in Mutant *IDH1* AML: Phase I Study Design

- Multicenter, open-label, dose-escalation/expansion trial



# Ivosidenib in Mutant *IDH1* AML: Response in Primary R/R AML Set

Outcome	Primary R/R AML Set (n = 125)
CR + CRh, % (95% CI)	30.4 (22.5-39.3)
▪ Median time to CR/CRh, mos (range)	2.7 (0.9-5.6)
▪ Median duration of CR/CRh, mos (range)	8.2 (5.5-12.0)
CR, % (95% CI)	21.6 (14.7-29.8)
▪ Median time to CR, mos (range)	2.8 (0.9-8.3)
▪ Median duration of CR, mos (95% CI)	9.3 (5.6-18.3)
CRh, %*	8.8
ORR, % (95% CI)	41.6 (32.9-50.8)
▪ Median time to first response, mos (range)	1.9 (0.8-4.7)
▪ Median duration of response, mos (95% CI)	6.5 (4.6-9.3)
Best response, %	
▪ CR	21.6
▪ CRI or CRp	12.8
▪ MLFS	7.2
▪ SD	35.2
▪ PD	10.4
▪ NA	12.8

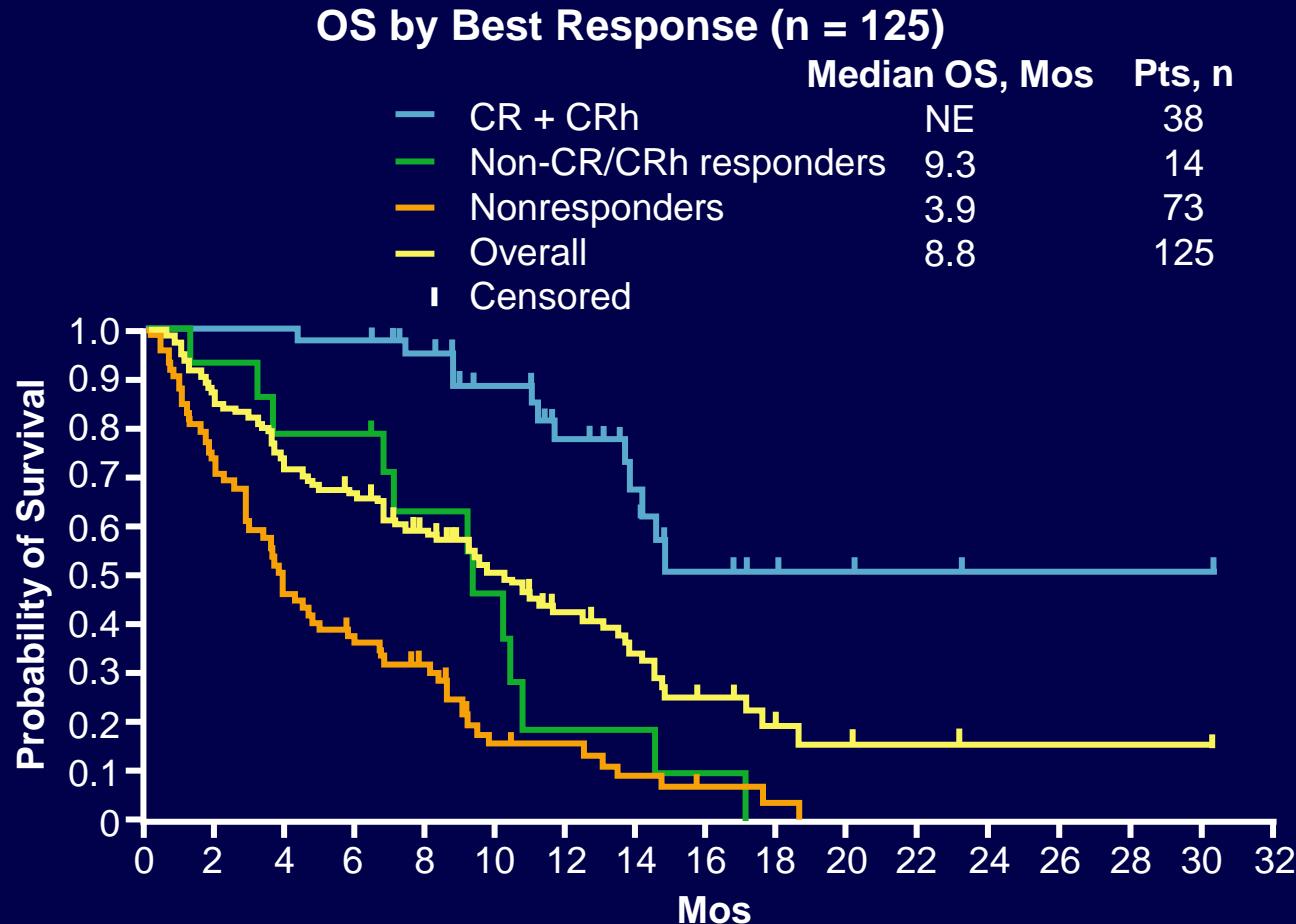
- Median treatment duration for primary R/R AML set: 3.9 mos (range: 0.1-25.8)

## Duration of Best Overall Response in Responders (n = 52)

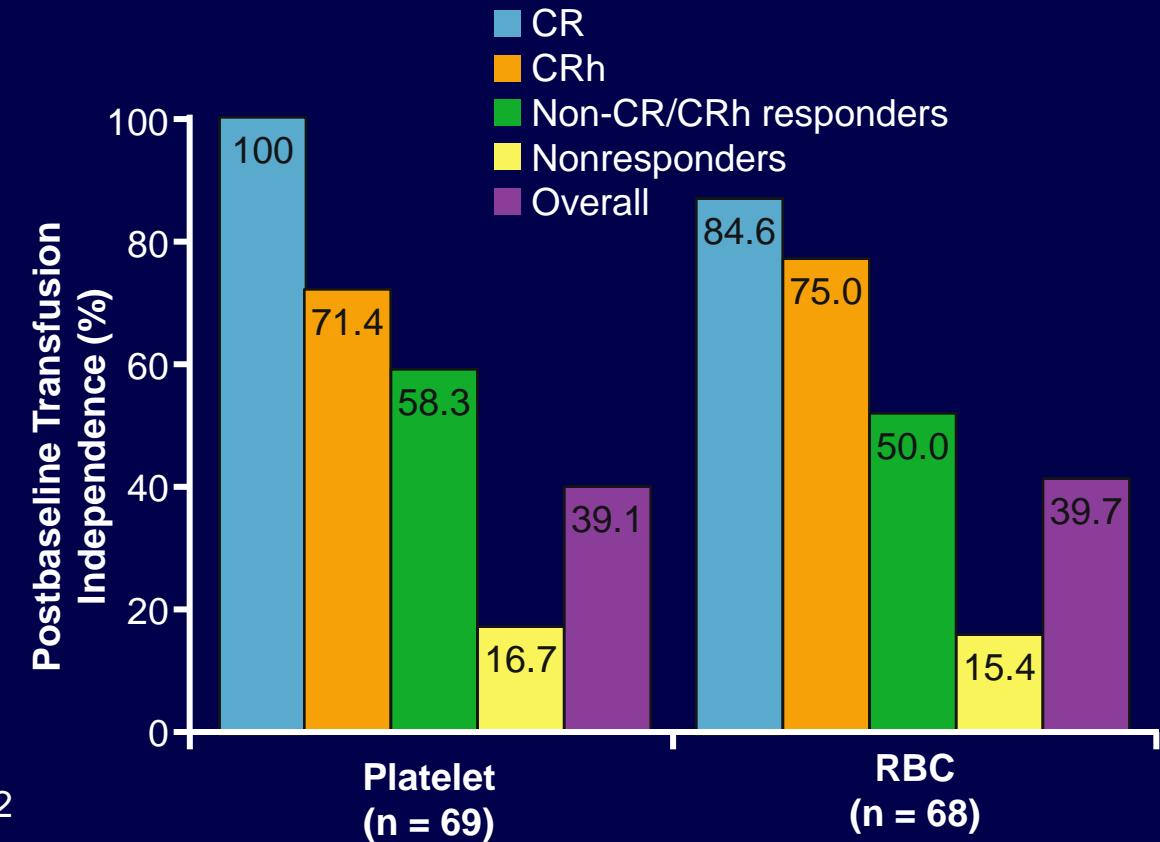
Duration of Response	CR + CRh	CR	All
Median, mos	8.2	9.3	6.5
At 6 mos, %	59.3	67.5	55.0
At 12 mos, %	32.4	41.2	24.6

\*6 pts w/investigator-assessed CRI/CRp, 5 w/MLFS

# Ivosidenib in Mutant *IDH1* AML: OS and Transfusion Independence in R/R AML



## Independence from Transfusion by Best Response\*

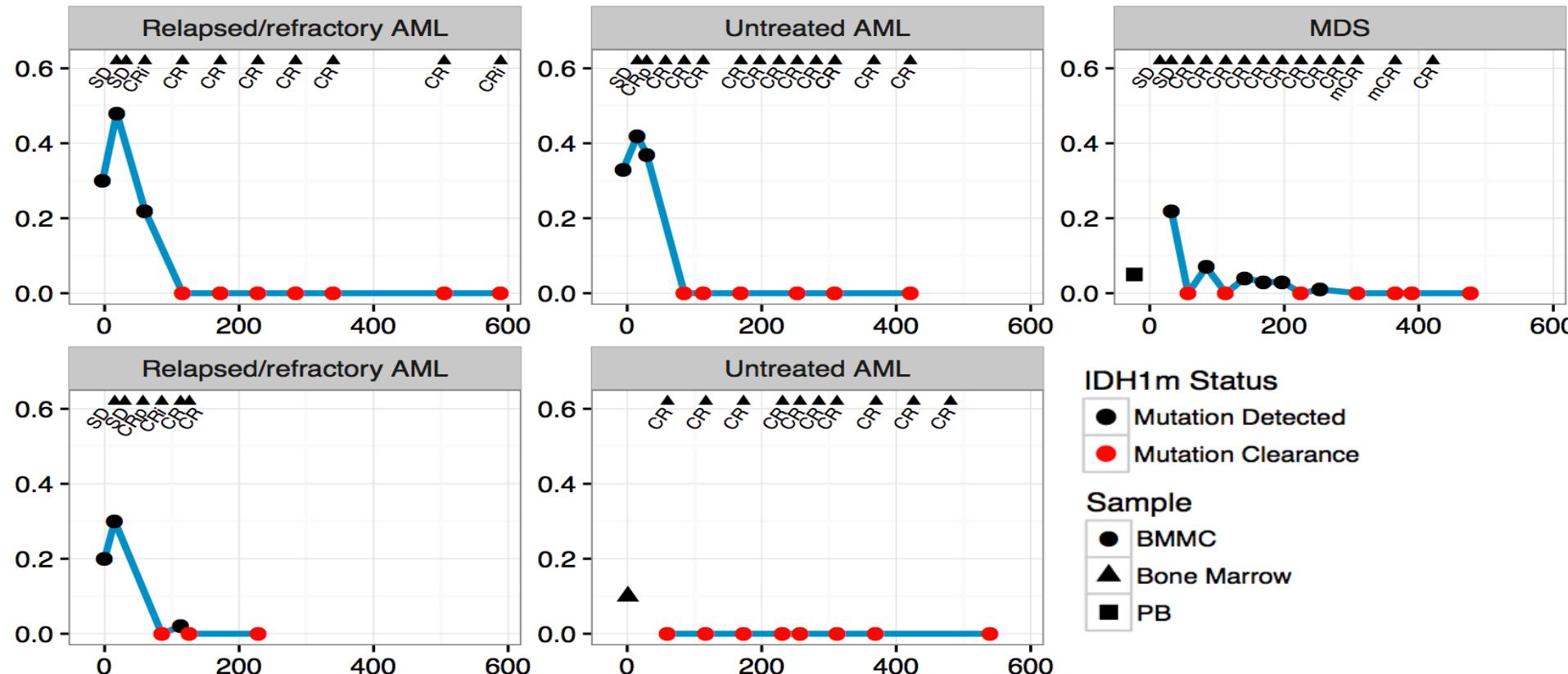


\*Transfusion independence: no transfusion for at least 1 56-day period.

# Ivosidenib in Mutant *IDH1* AML: Adverse Events (Any Cause)

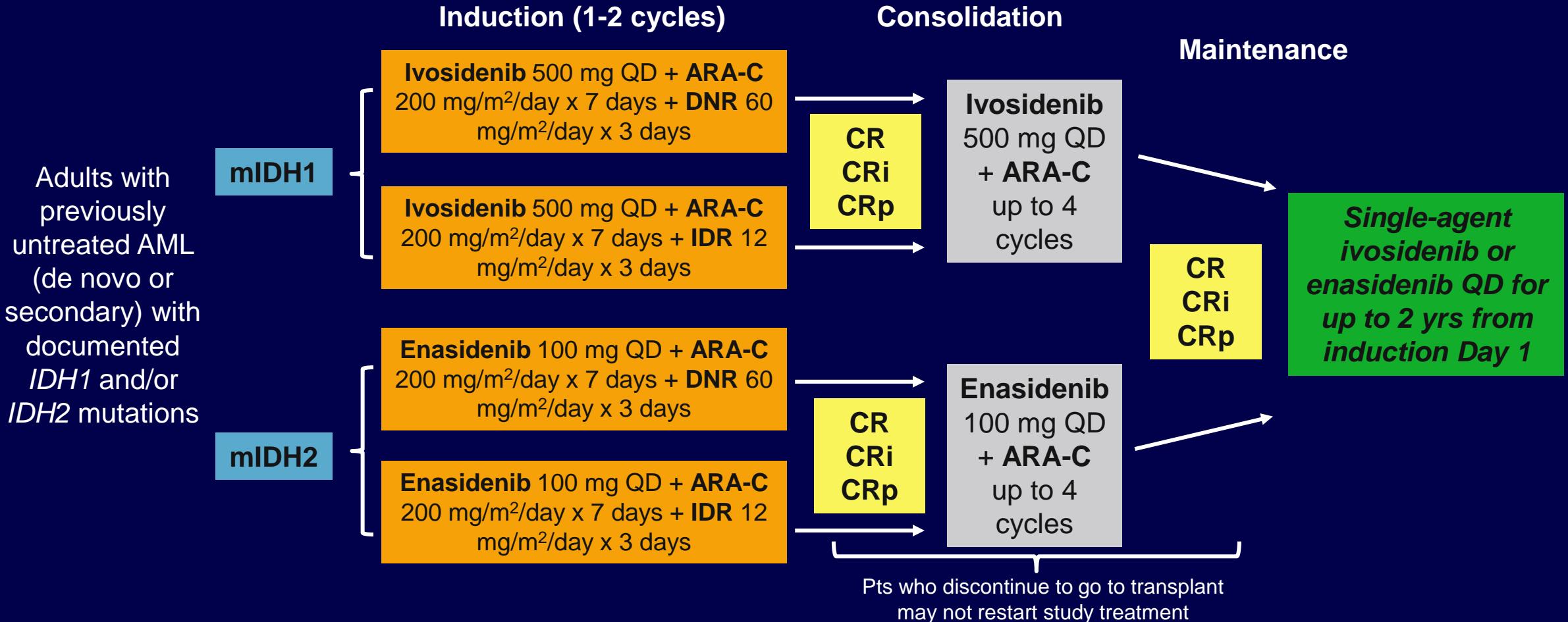
Adverse Event, % (N = 258)	Any grade	Grade ≥ 3	Adverse Event, % (N = 258)	Any grade	Grade ≥ 3
Any	98.8	77.5	Pyrexia	20.5	1.6
Diarrhea	33.3	2.3	Decreased appetite	19.8	1.6
Leukocytosis	30.2	6.6	Constipation	18.6	0.8
Nausea	29.5	1.2	Cough	18.6	0.4
Fatigue	28.7	3.1	Hypokalemia	17.4	2.7
Febrile neutropenia	25.2	24.8	Vomiting	17.4	1.2
Dyspnea	23.6	3.5	Thrombocytopenia	15.9	13.6
Anemia	23.3	19.0	Arthralgia	15.9	1.9
QT segment prolongation	22.5	8.9	Dizziness	15.5	0.4
Peripheral edema	21.7	0.0	Epistaxis	15.1	0.8

# AG-120: IDH1 Mutation Clearance in Patients with CR (5/14 Patients)



# mIDH Inhibition in AML: Study Design

Open-label, phase I dose-escalation and -expansion trial

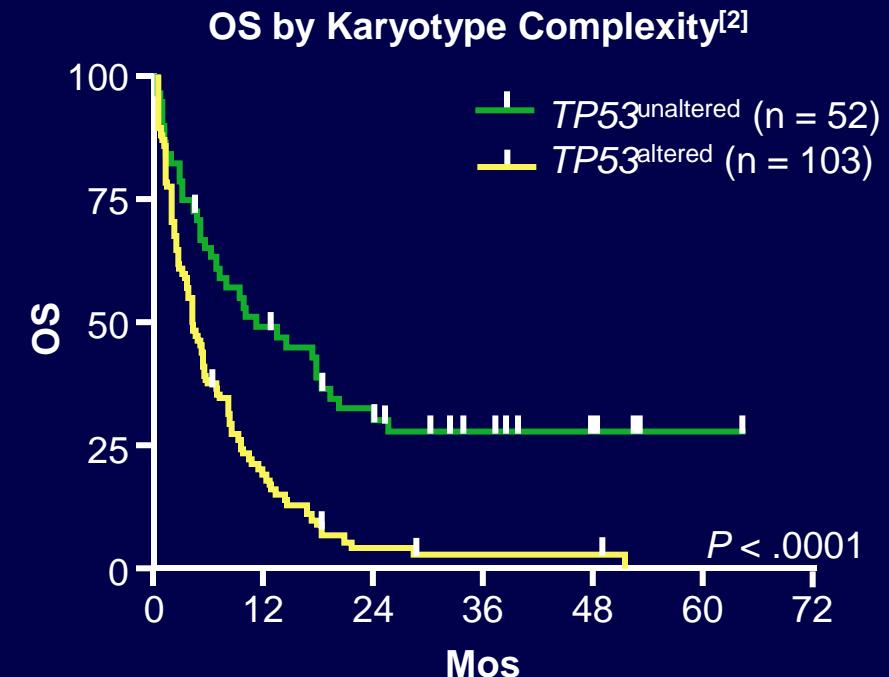
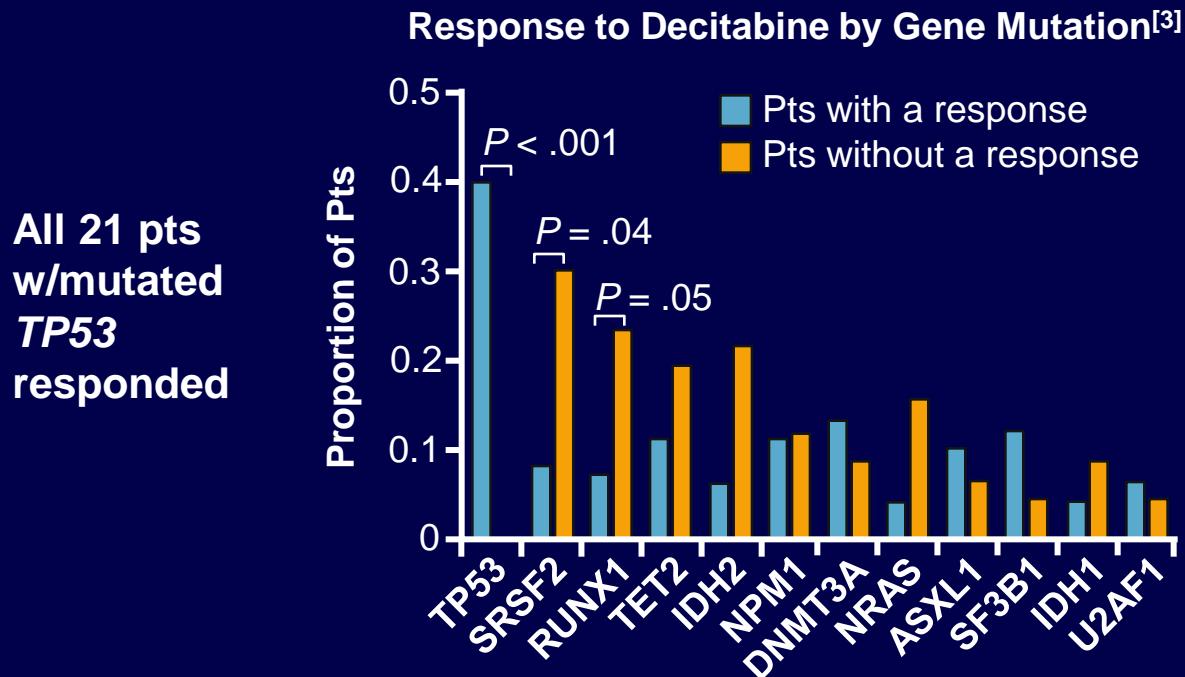


Primary objectives: safety and tolerability of ivosidenib and enasidenib

Stein EM, et al. ASH 2017. Abstract 726.

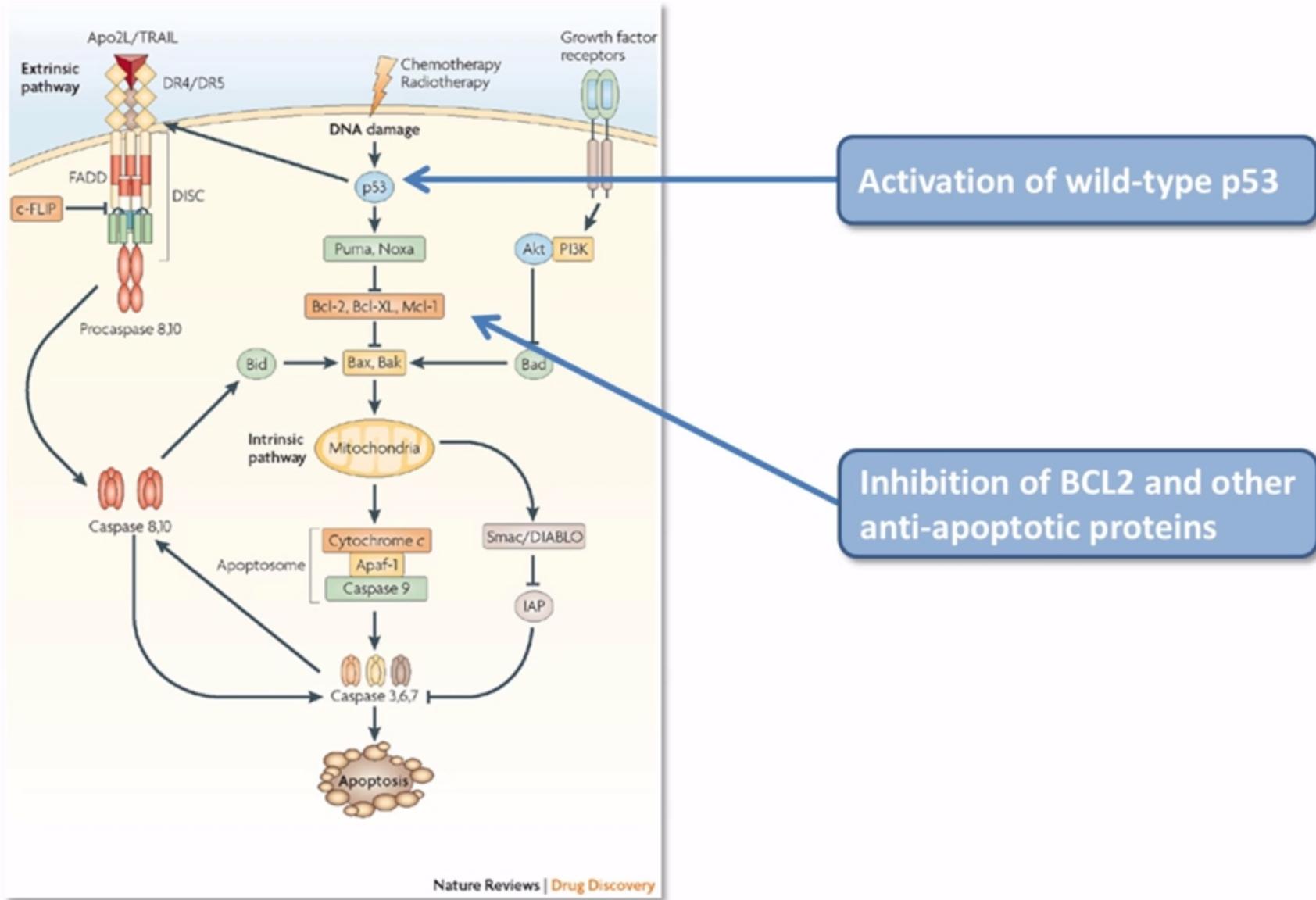
# ***TP53 Mutations: Frequency and Prognosis***

- *TP53* mutations found in ~ 8% of AML pts<sup>[1]</sup>
  - Incidence increases with age
  - Predominantly in pts with complex karyotype
- Confers poor outcome to chemo, including lower CR rates, inferior RFS, OS<sup>[2]</sup>

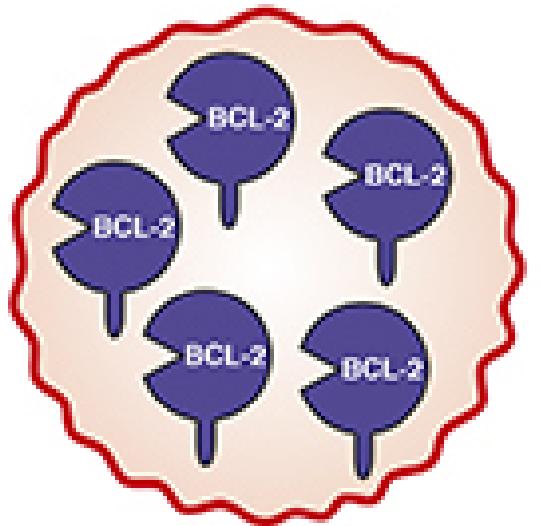


1. Döhner H, et al. N Engl J Med. 2015;373:1136-1152. 2. Rucker FG, et al. Blood. 2012;119:2114-2121. 3. Welch, et al. N Engl J Med. 2016;375:2023.

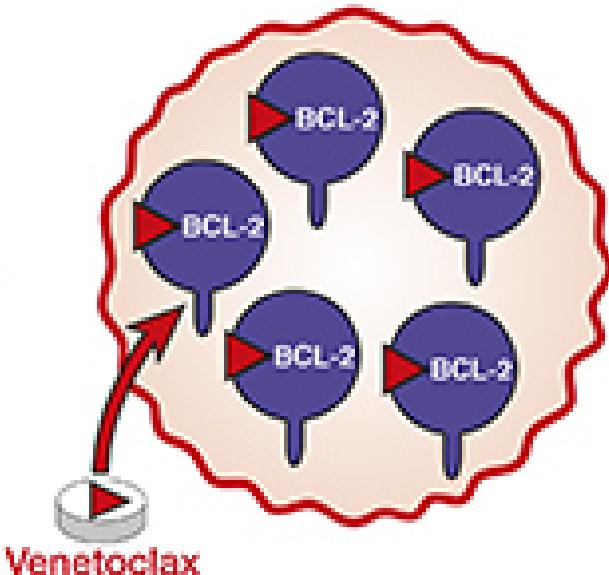
# Induction of apoptosis in AML



Cancer cell

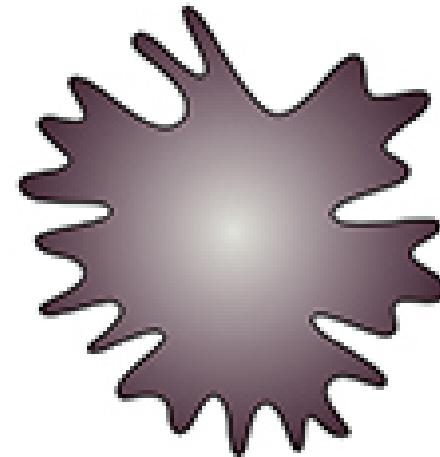


Venetoclax treatment



- Addicted to high levels of BCL-2
- Cell becomes long-lived
- Resistant to anti-cancer treatments

- BCL-2 inhibited
- Cancer cell dies, or responds to other anti-cancer treatments



- Cancer cell dies

# Safety and Efficacy of Venetoclax in Combination with Decitabine or Azacitidine in *Treatment-Naïve*, Elderly Patients $\geq 65$ Years With Acute Myeloid Leukemia

- Design: Phase 1b, open-label, multicenter study with dose-escalation and expansion stages in elderly newly diagnosed AML ( $\geq 65$  yo, ineligible for standard induction, prior HMA therapy excluded)

## PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

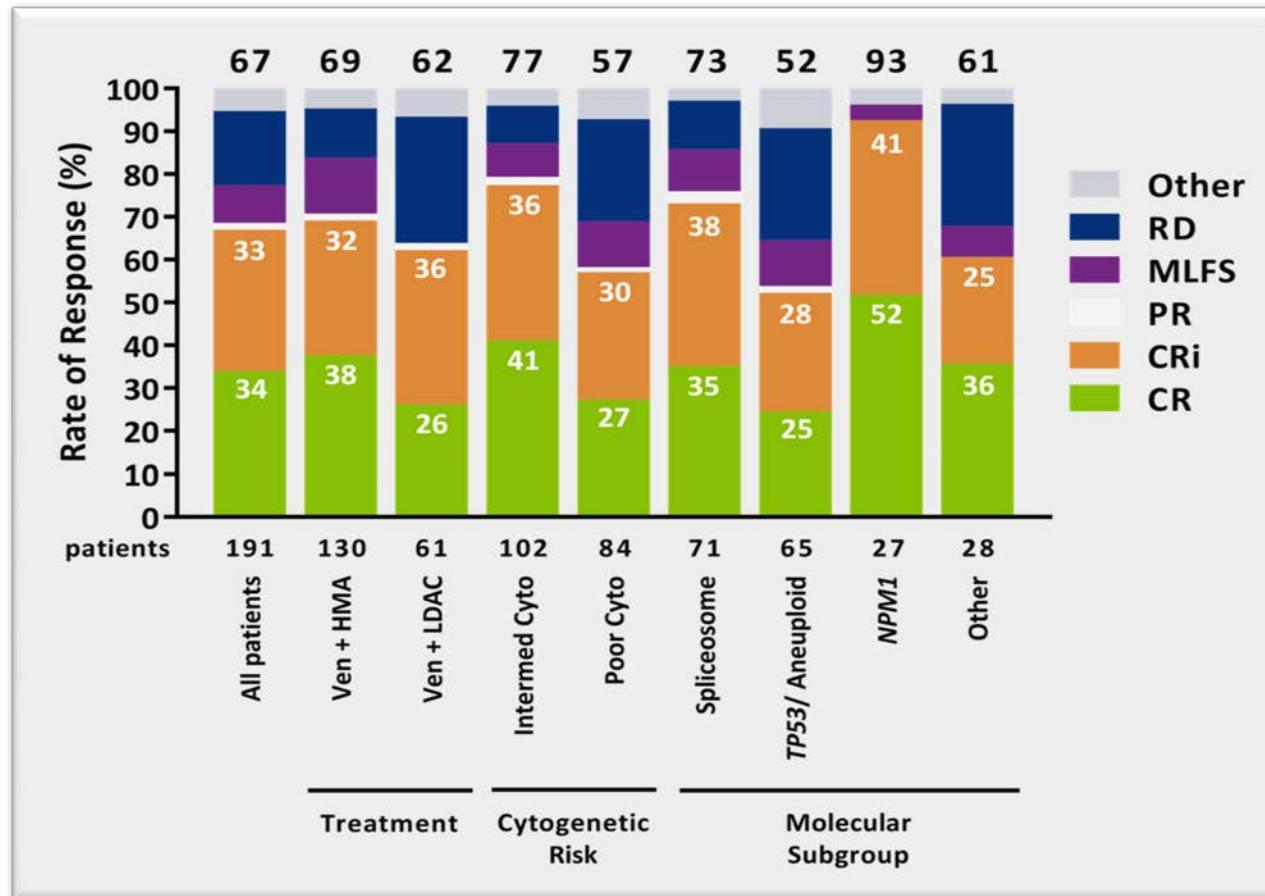
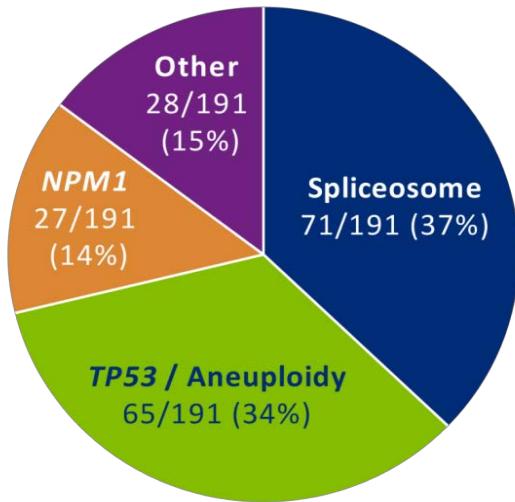
*Expansion 1:* To assess the efficacy and safety of DEC or AZA + VEN 400 mg or VEN 800 mg in patients  $\geq 65$  years of age with newly diagnosed AML who are ineligible for standard induction

## SECONDARY OBJECTIVE

To assess CR, CRi, duration of response (DOR), and overall survival (OS)

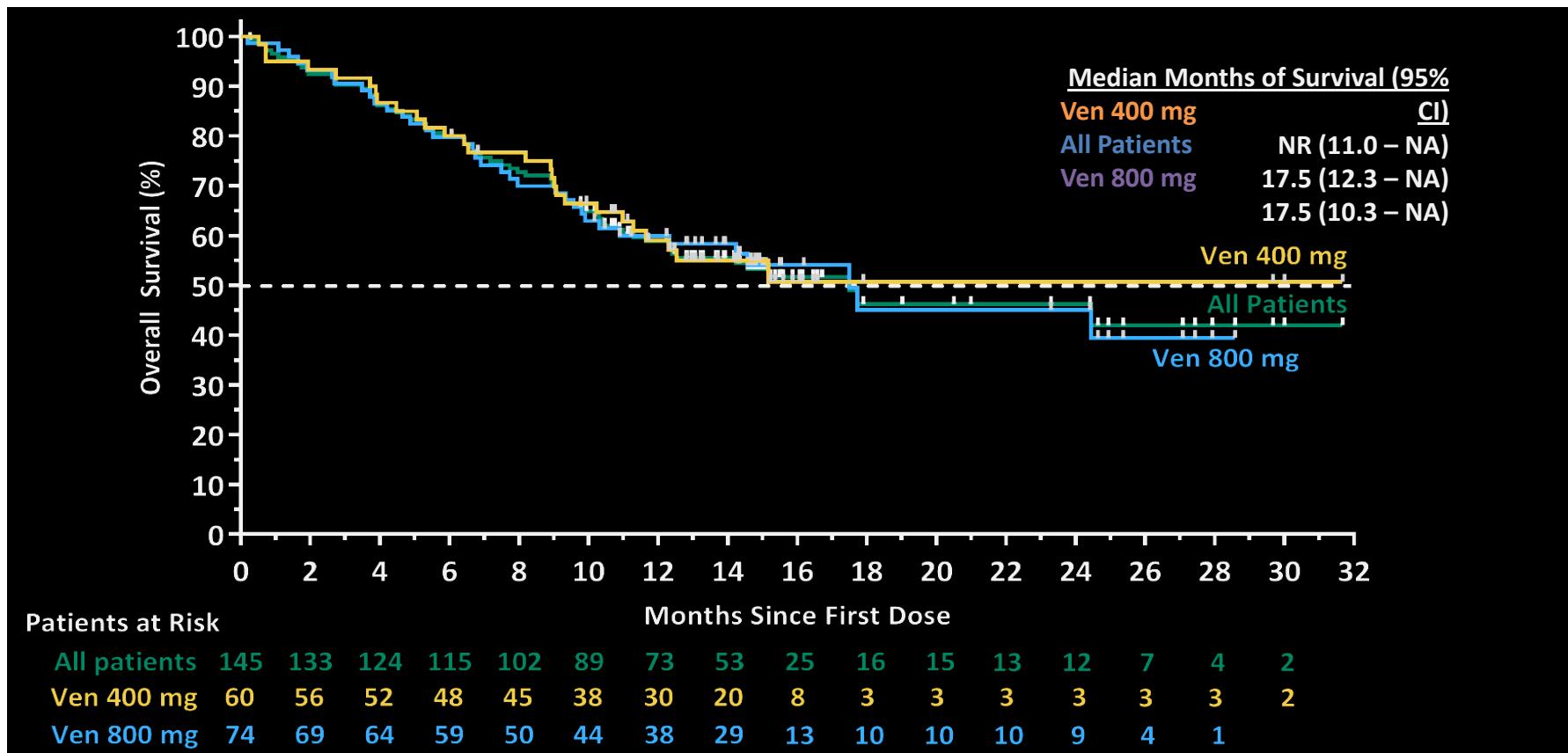
- Dose Escalation (n=45) and Dose Expansion (n=100)
  - N=145 overall

# Response Rates by Patient Subgroups



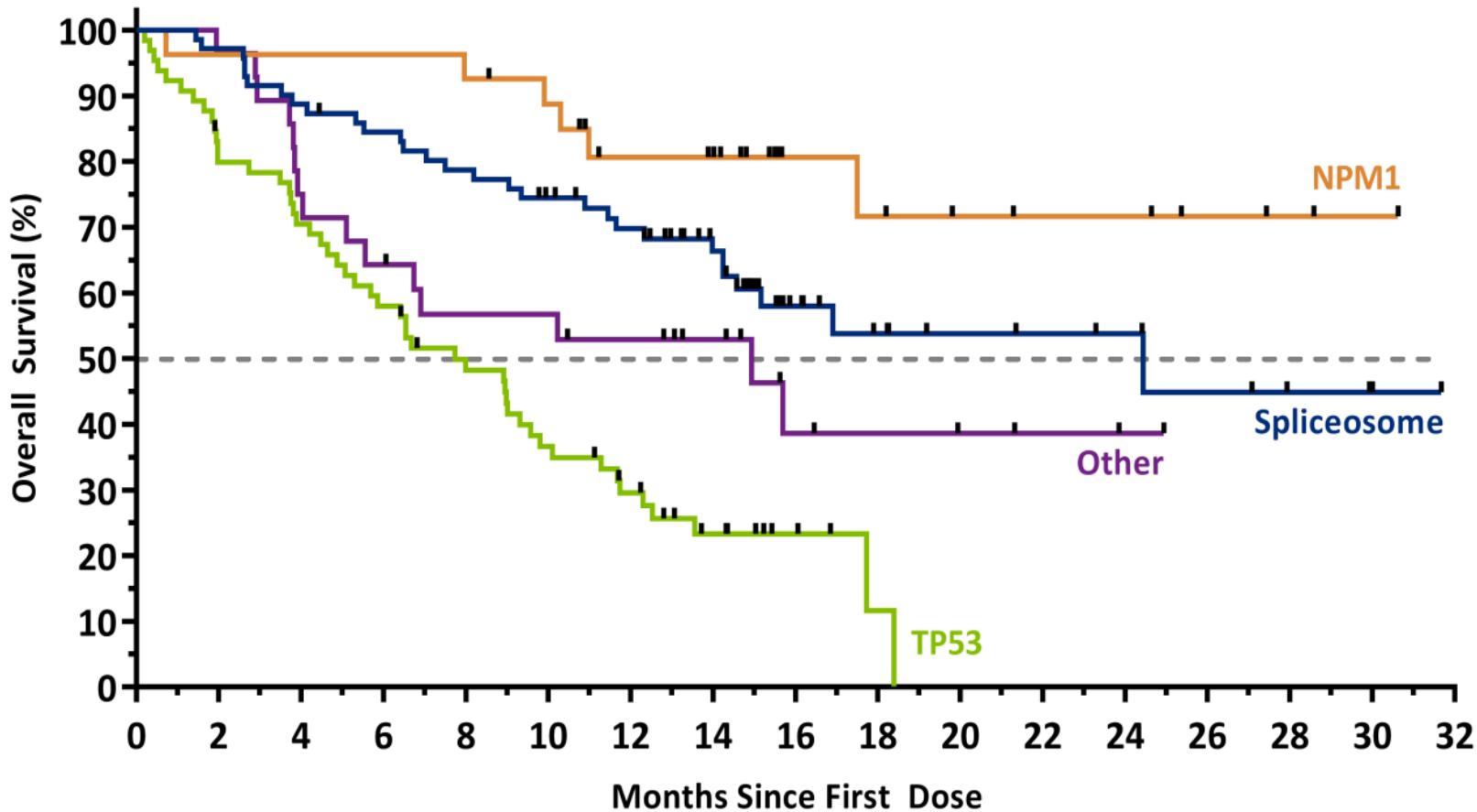
- CR/CRI higher in intermediate cytogenetic risk than in poor risk pts
- Spliceosome or *NPM1* mutations pts higher rates of CR/CRI (>70%)
- *TP53* mutations or aneuploidy pts had a lower rate (52%)

# Overall Survival



- At a median time on study of 8.9 months (range, 0.2-31.6), the median overall survival (OS) in all treated patients was 17.5 months (95% CI, 12.3, NR-)
- The estimated 6-month, 1-year, and 2-year OS rates were 80%, 59% and 46%

# Overall Survival by Molecular Subgroup



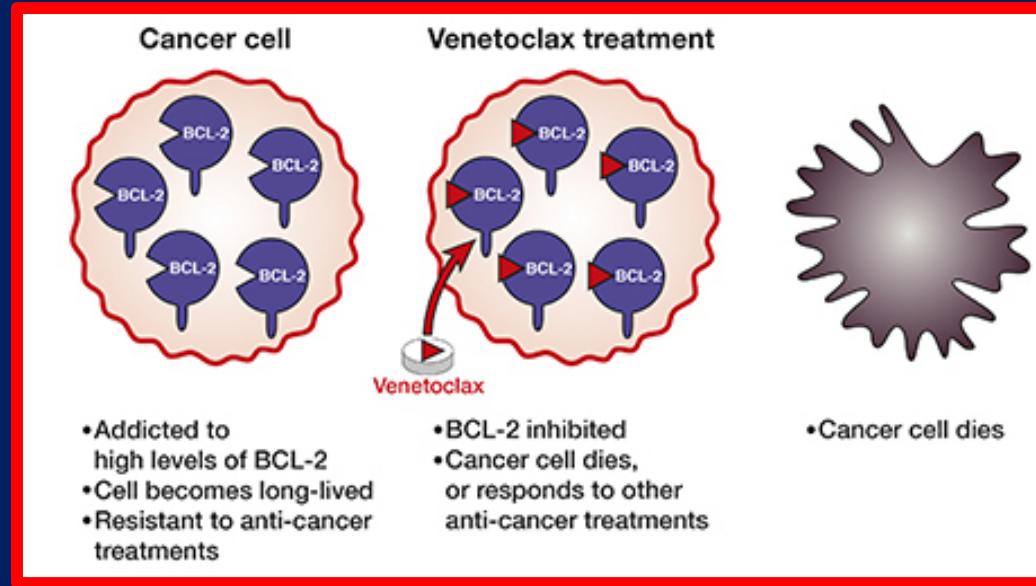
# Galectin inhibitors

CDK inhibitors

HMA

BH3 mimetics

LD-ARA-C



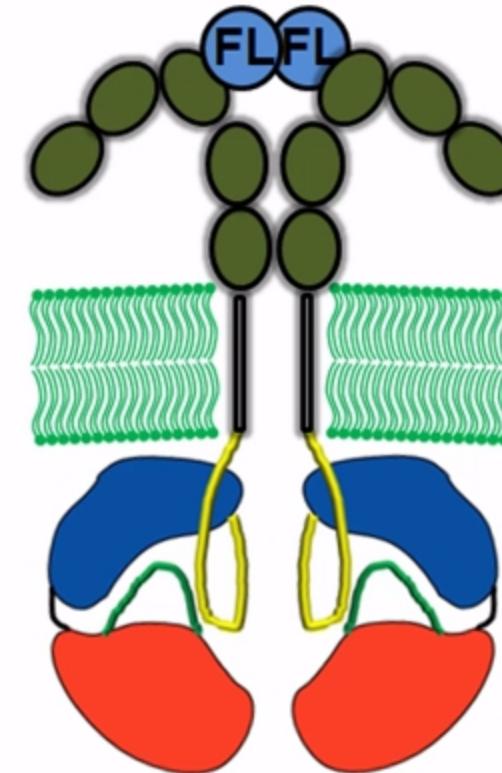
MDM2  
antagonists

Alvocidib

Int. CHT

# FLT3 and AML

- **FLT3 is a receptor tyrosine kinase**
  - Expressed on hematopoietic stem/progenitor cells
  - Wild type receptor activated by the cytokine FLT3 ligand (FL)
- **FLT3-ITD (internal tandem duplication) mutations are common in AML**
  - 20-25%
  - Somewhat younger (median age 58-60)
  - Constitutively activate FLT3 signaling
- **FLT3-ITD AML**
  - Aggressive, high white count ←
  - High tendency to relapse- quickly! ←
  - Negative prognostic impact ←
- **FLT3-TKD (tyrosine kinase domain) mutations-less common (7%)**
  - Less impact on prognosis

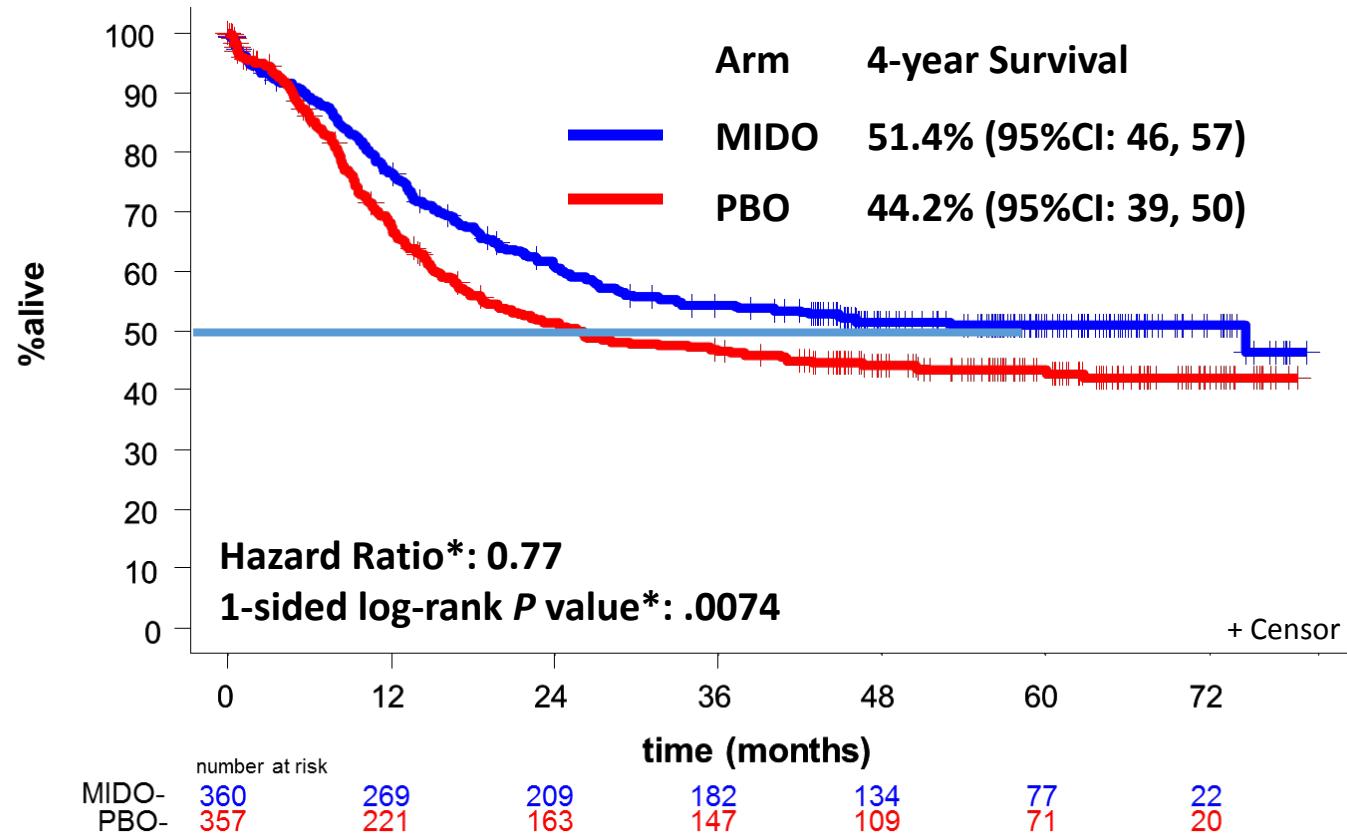




**Rydapt è indicato in combinazione con chemioterapia standard di induzione con daunorubicina e citarabina e di consolidamento con citarabina ad alte dosi seguita, per pazienti in risposta completa, da terapia di mantenimento con Rydapt come agente singolo per pazienti adulti con leucemia mieloide acuta (LMA) di nuova diagnosi con mutazione FLT3 positiva**

# Overall Survival (Primary Endpoint)

## 23% Reduced Risk of Death in the MIDO Arm



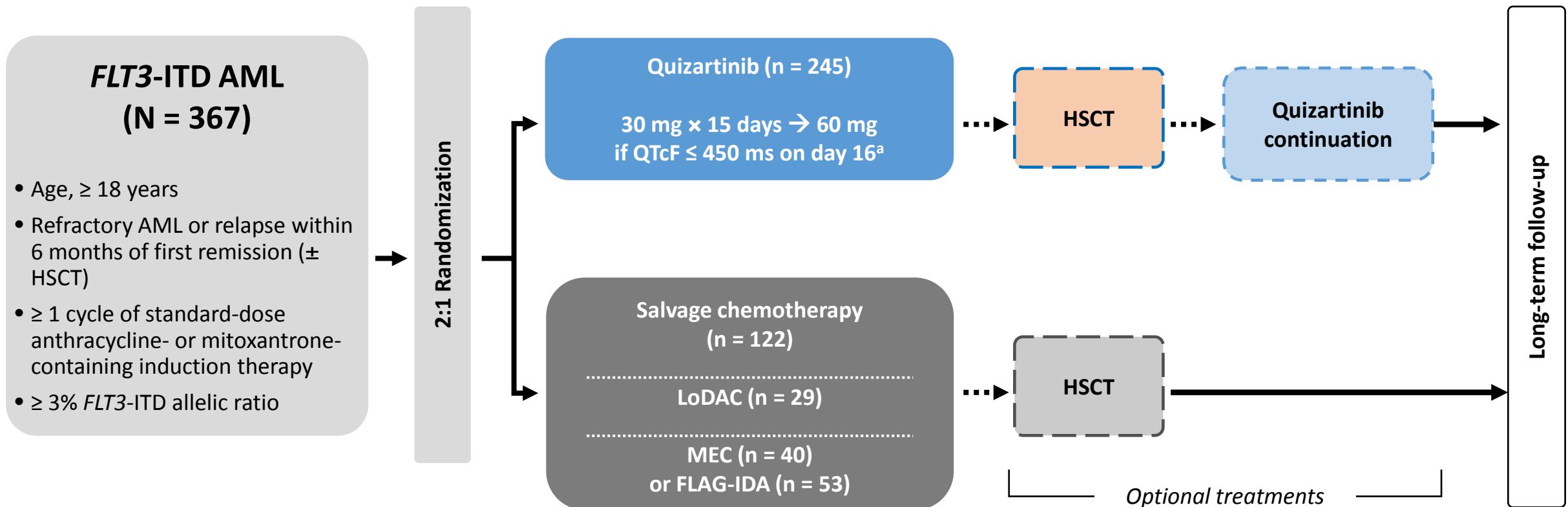
### Median OS

MIDO 74.7 (31.7-NE);  
PBO 25.6 (18.6-42.9) months

NE, not estimable

\*Controlled for *FLT3* subtype (TKD, ITD-Low, ITD-High)

# QuANTUM-R Study Design



**Primary endpoint:** overall survival (ITT population)

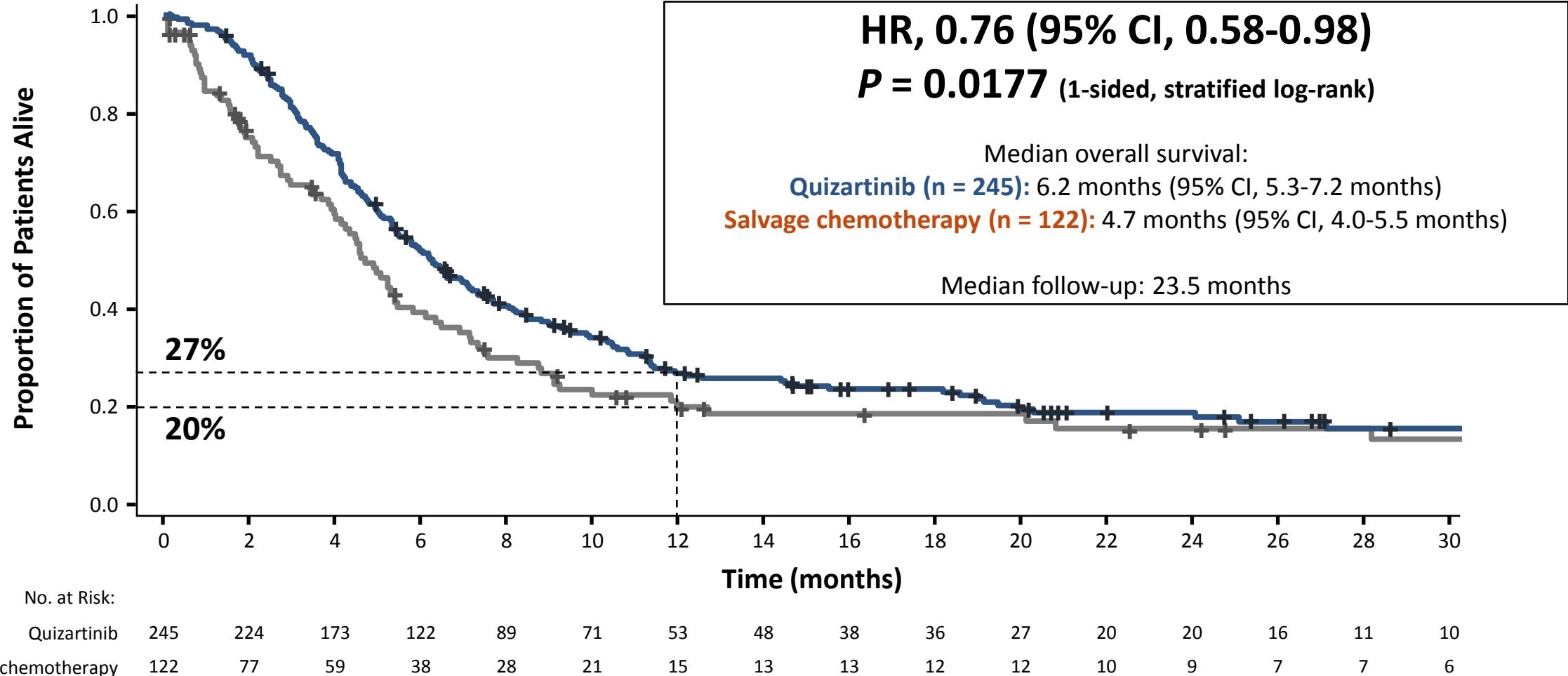
**Secondary endpoint:** event-free survival (ITT population)

**Select exploratory endpoints:** CRc rate, duration of CRc, and transplant rate

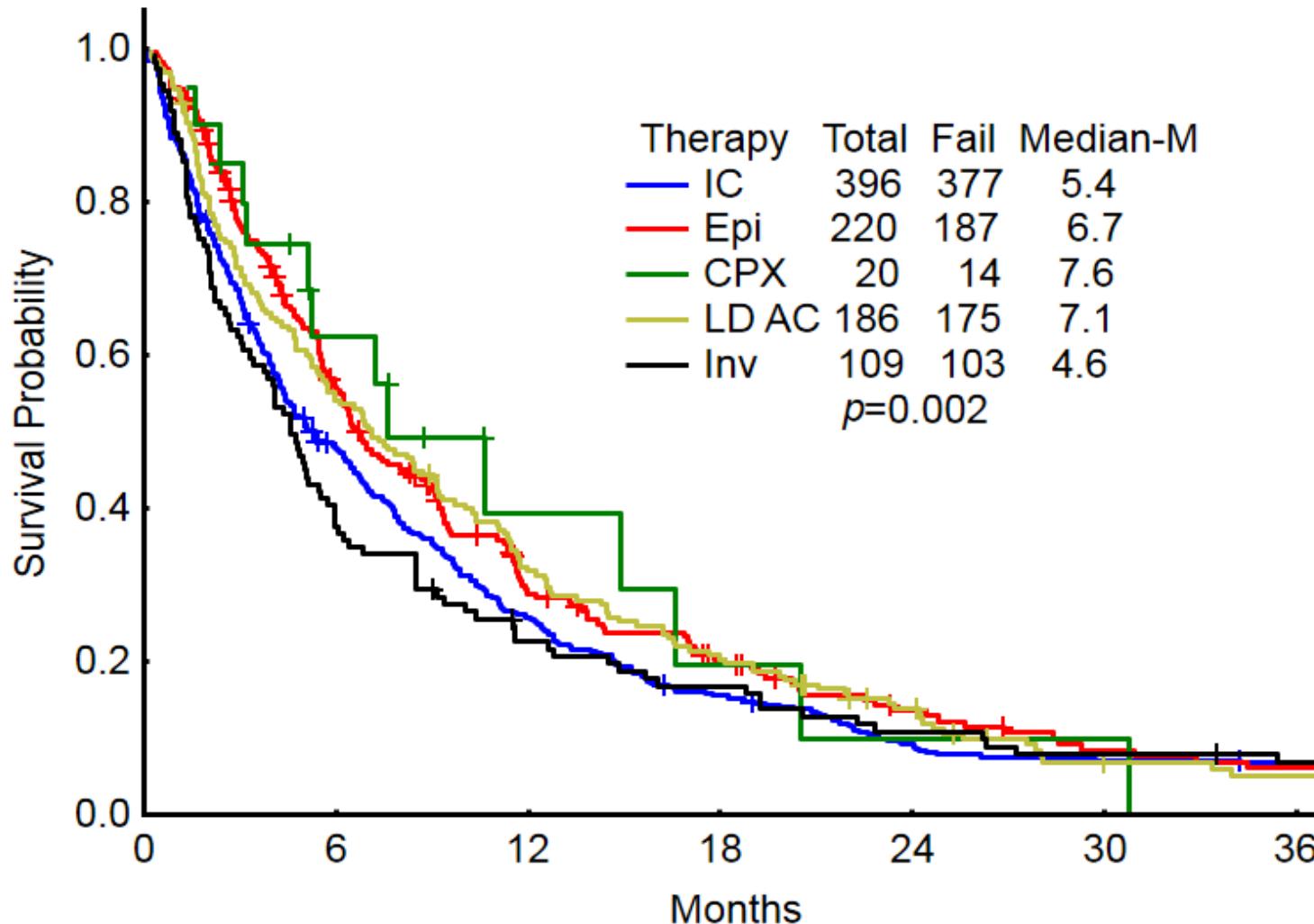
Enrollment dates: May 2014 (first patient) to September 2017 (last patient)

<sup>a</sup>20 mg  $\times$  15 days  $\rightarrow$  30 mg if concomitantly taking CYP3A4 inhibitors. Data cutoff: February 2018

# QuANTUM-R Primary Endpoint: Overall Survival



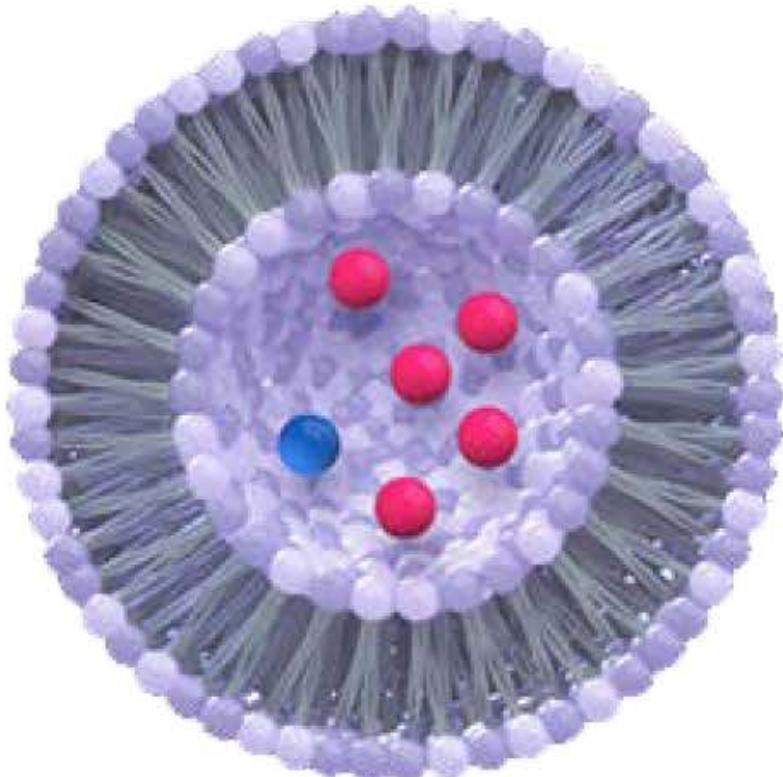
# OS By Treatment Regimen in poor risk AML (older patients with secondary AML)



# VYXEOS (CPX-531) 8-3-2017

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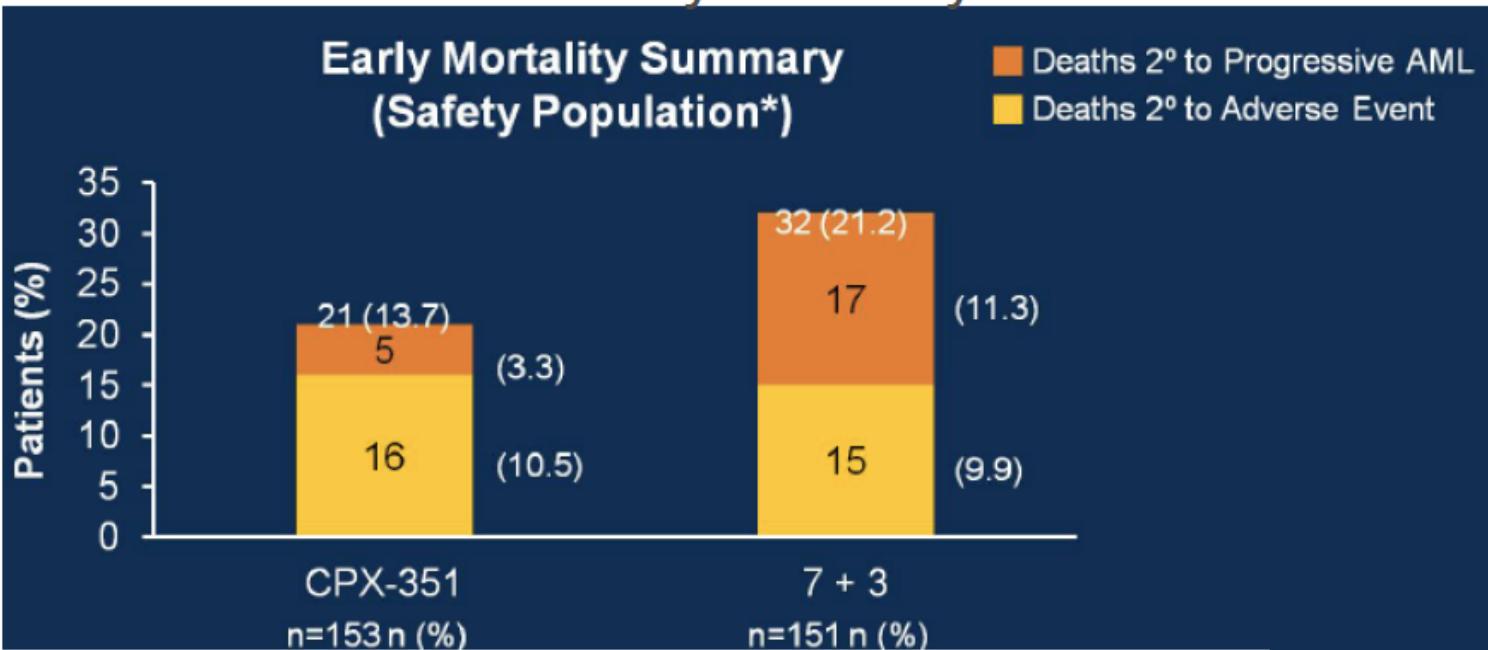
- Liposome-encapsulated combination of Ara-C and Dauno
- FDA approved for adults with newly-diagnosed therapy-related AML (t-AML), AML with prior history of MDS, or AML with cytogenetic abnormalities diagnostic for MDS



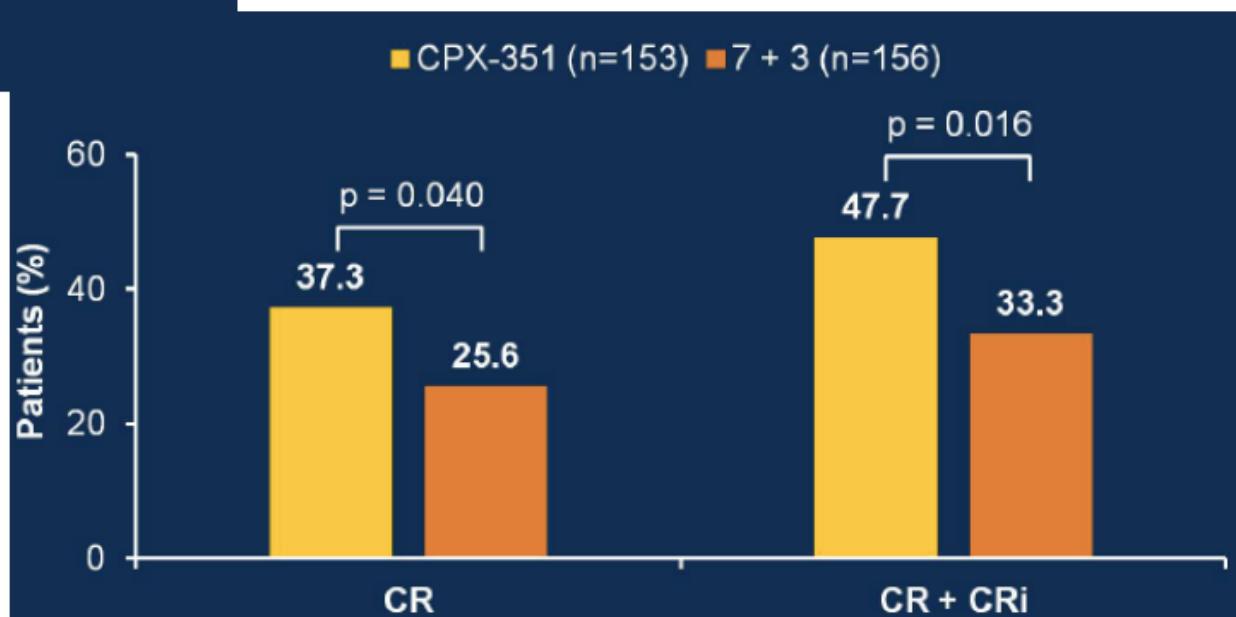
- 100 nm bilamellar liposomes
- 5:1 molar ratio of cytarabine to daunorubicin
- 1 unit = 1.0 mg cytarabine plus 0.44 mg daunorubicin

# VYXEOS (CPX-351) IMPROVED 30 AND 60 DAY MORTALITY AND CR RATES

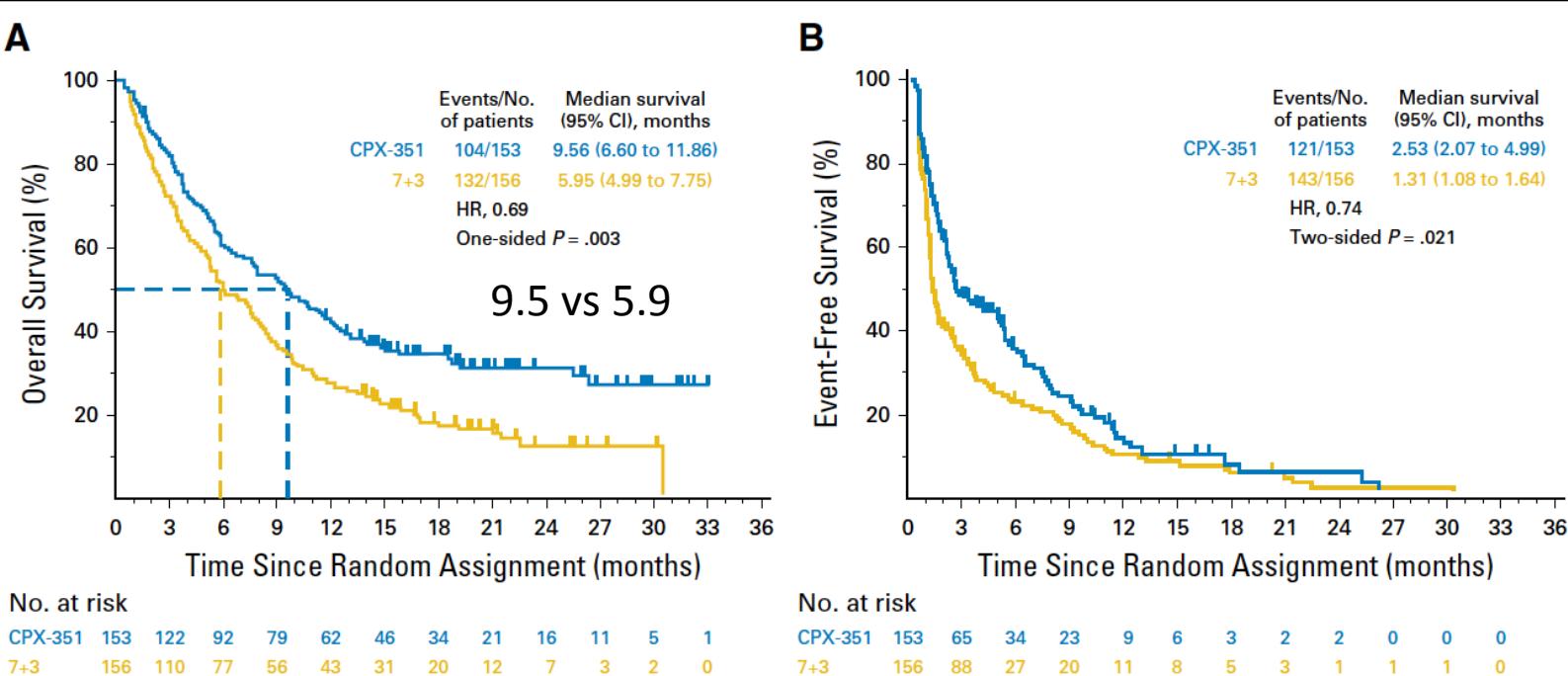
## 60-day mortality



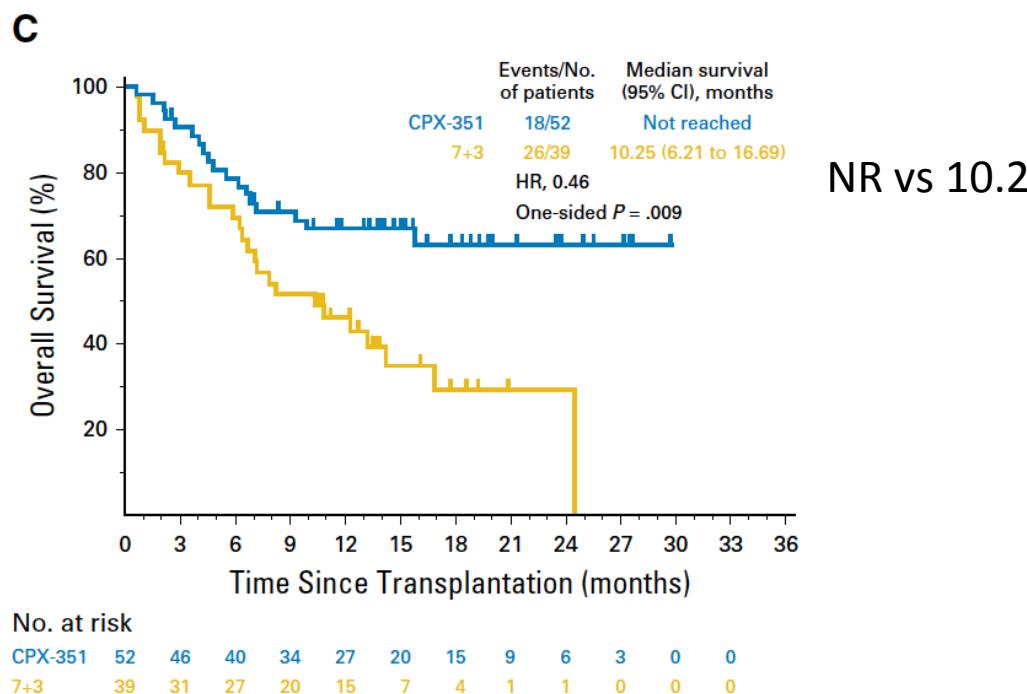
## CR rates



ITT

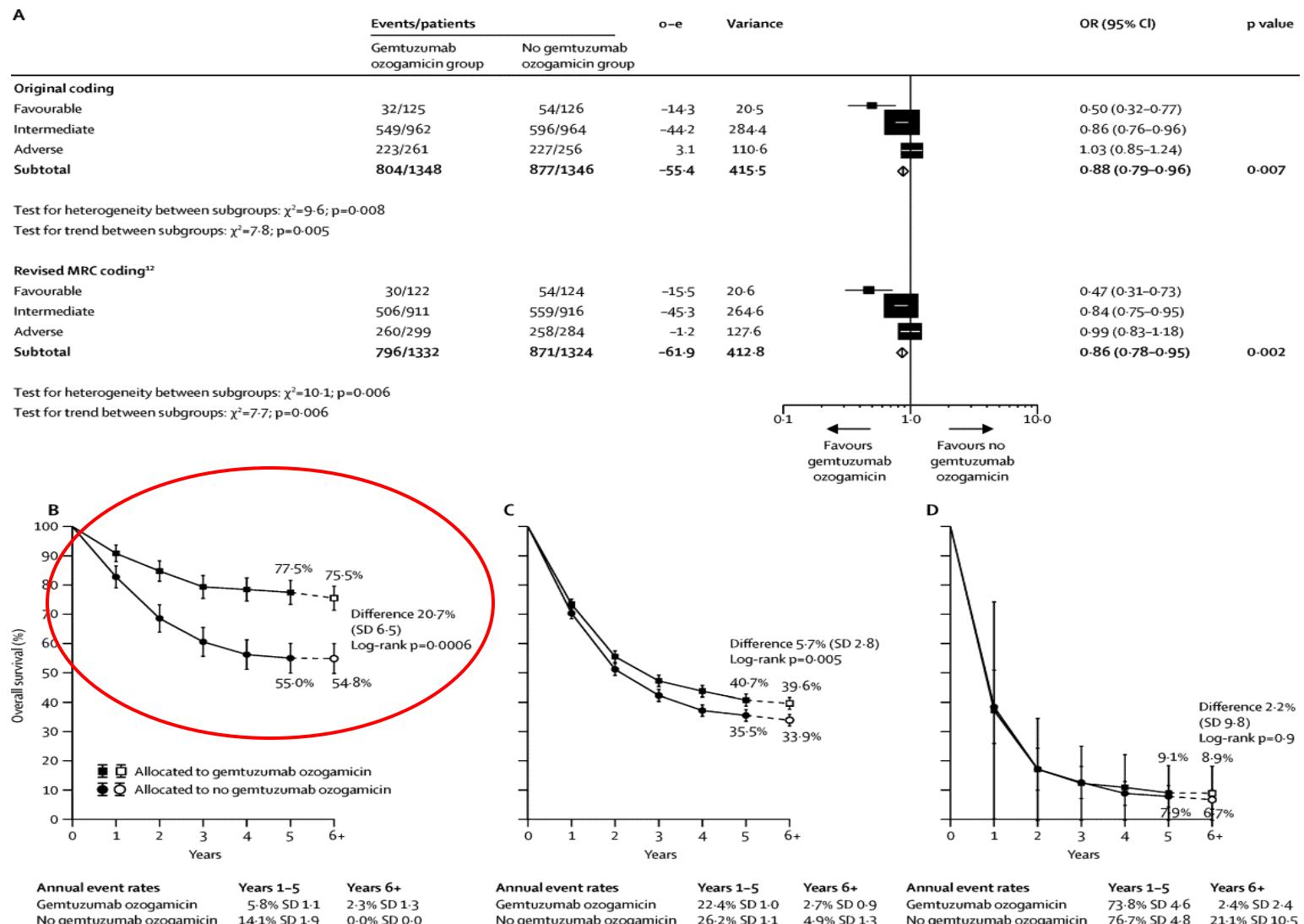


SCT group



# Gemtuzumab Ozogamicin in Induction Therapy

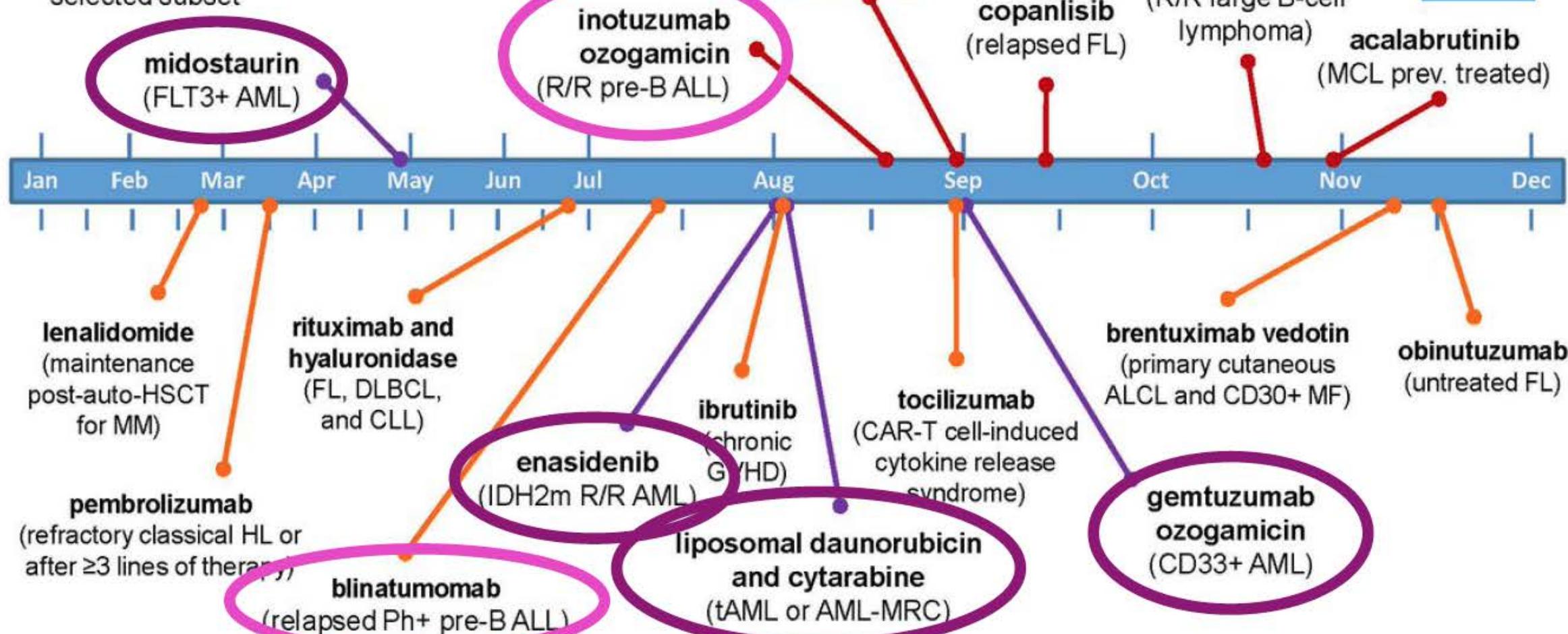
## Meta-analysis of 5 Randomized Trials



# 2017 FDA Approvals\* for Hematologic Malignancies



\*selected subset



Abbreviations: ALCL, anaplastic large cell lymphoma; AML, acute myeloid leukemia; CLL, chronic lymphocytic leukemia; DLBCL, diffuse large B-cell lymphoma; FL, follicular lymphoma; GVHD, graft-versus-host disease; HL, Hodgkin lymphoma; IDH2m, isocitrate dehydrogenase 2 mutated; HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; MCL, mantle cell lymphoma; MF, mycosis fungoides; MM, multiple myeloma; MRC, myelodysplasia-related changes; pre-B ALL, B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia; R/R, relapsed or refractory; tAML, therapy-related AML

# AML > 18 years: 2019-2020

