



NCCN 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress:  
**Hematologic Malignancies™**

# **ALL: New Options for Relapsed Disease**

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## Relapsed and Refractory ALL

- Although over 80% of adults with ALL will achieve complete remission (CR), the majority will ultimately relapse
- Approximately 20% will have resistant disease
- Relapsed and refractory (R/R) ALL has 5 year overall survival of <10%
- Recent advances in immunotherapies are challenging this dismal prognosis

# Immunotherapies in ALL

## MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES

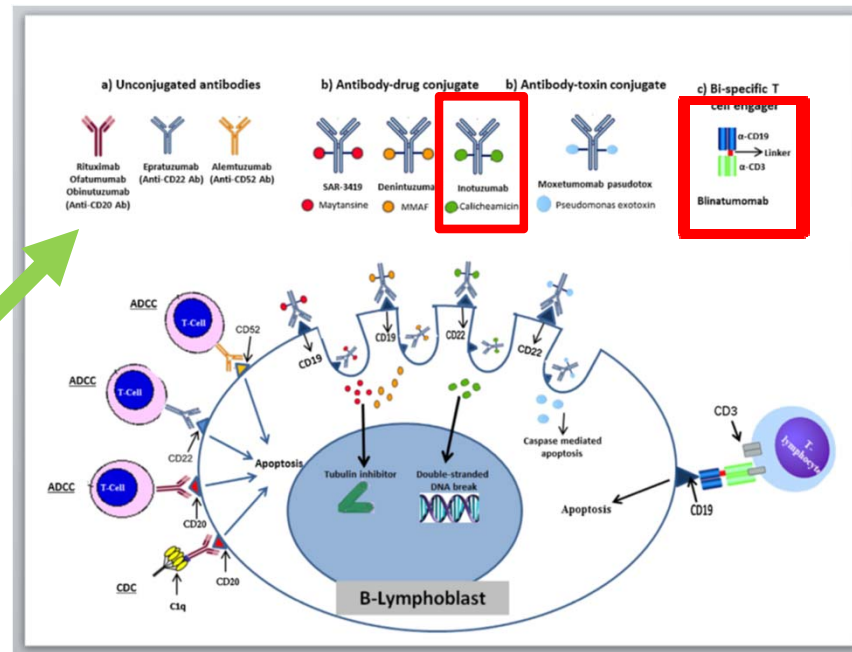
- Blinatumomab
- Inotuzumab  
ozogamicin

## CHIMERIC ANTIGEN RECEPTOR T CELLS

- MSKCC
- UPENN
- NCI

# Monoclonal Antibodies

- Three primary targets: CD19, CD20, CD22
- Include unconjugated, antibody-drug conjugates, antibody-toxin conjugates, and b-specific T cell engaging antibodies



Farhadfar N, et al. Leukemia Research 2016;49: 13-21

## Blinatumomab – GMALL MRD study

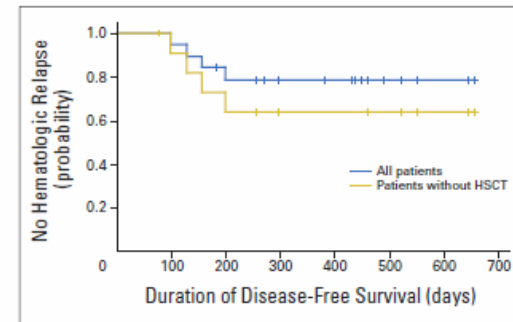
- Bi-specific T-cell engager (BiTE) antibody with CD19 and CD3 specificity
- Binds CD3+ cytotoxic T cells and CD19+ B cells -> activated T cells induce B cell death via pore-forming perforin system
- Patients with MRD persistence or relapse after induction and consolidation chemotherapy
- Primary objective: efficacy of converting to MRD-
- Open label, Phase II
- Blinatumomab 15  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2/24$  hrs over 4 weeks with 2 week rest (6 weeks = 1 cycle) up to 4 cycles

Topp MS, et al. JCO 2011; 29:2493-5498

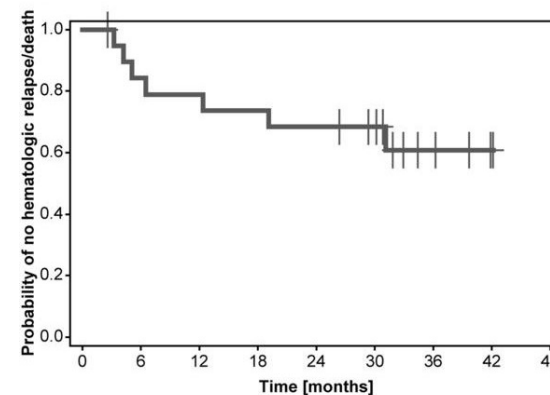
Topp MS, et al. Blood 2012;120: 5185-5187

## Blinatumomab – GMALL MRD study

- N=21 (20 evaluable for MRD response)
- 16/20 converted to MRD-; all responses at end of first cycle
- Ph- MRD response 13/15; Ph+ MRD response 3/5
- 12 responders had never achieved MRD negativity
- 9/10 patients with high MRD load ( $\geq 10^{-2}$ ) became MRD-



Median follow up 13.5 months



Median follow up 33 months

Topp MS, et al. JCO 2011; 29:2493-5498

Topp MS, et al. Blood 2012;120: 5185-5187

## Blinatumomab – Relapsed/refractory disease

|                | <b>DOSE FINDING STUDY<sup>1</sup></b>                          | <b>CONFIRMATORY STUDY<sup>2</sup></b>      |
|----------------|--|--|
| No. patients   | 36   | 189  |
| Disease        | Ph- B-ALL; Ph+ B-ALL if not eligible for dasatinib or imatinib | Ph- B-ALL only                             |
| Dosing         | Dose finding   | 9 µg/d for 7 days then 28 µg/d             |
| Schedule       | 4 weeks with 2 week rest                                       | 4 weeks with 2 week rest                   |
| CR/CRi         | 69%  | 43%  |
| Allogeneic SCT | 52%  | 40%  |
| Median RFS     | 7.6 months<br>(9.7 month median follow up)                     | 5.9 months<br>(8.9 month median follow up) |

<sup>1</sup>Topp MS, et al. JCO 2014; 32: 4134-4140

<sup>2</sup>Topp MS, et al. Lancet Oncol 2015 57-66

## Blinatumomab Adverse Events

- Most common: Grade 3/4 Lymphopenia (33%)
- All grades: fever, chills, headache, fatigue, hypogammaglobinemia, hypokalemia
- Cytokine release syndrome (CRS): greatest risk 1<sup>st</sup> day of 1<sup>st</sup> cycle
  - Incidence Grade 3/4: 0-6%
  - Incidence and severity increases with increasing disease burden
  - Preventive strategy: pretreatment with steroids/chemo to reduce circulating disease burden; dose escalation with 1st cycle
  - Dexamethasone during initiation and dose escalation

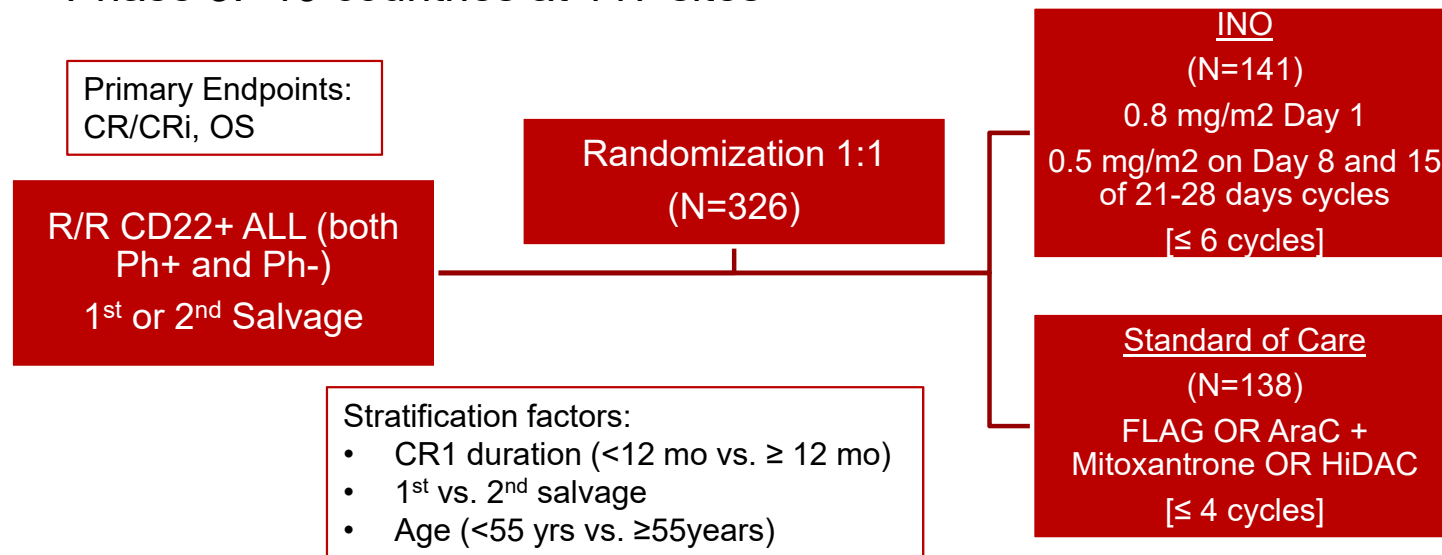


## Blinatumomab Adverse Events

- Neurotoxicity was dose limiting: encephalopathy, seizures, coordination/speech difficulties, confusion, dysphasia, impaired cognition
- Median onset, 7 days; reversible
- Local cytokine release by activated T cells in the CNS
- Higher rates in elderly patients
- Incidence all grades may be as high as 50%
- Grade 3/4 events: 13-22%
- Management includes:
  - Interrupt infusion for Grade 3 (potentially rechallenge) and Grade 4 (permanent discontinuation)
  - Dexamethasone
  - Anti-epileptics for seizures

# INO-VATE: Inotuzumab in Relapsed ALL

- Inotuzumab ozogamicin (INO): anti-CD22 antibody conjugated to calicheamicin
- Phase 3: 19 countries at 117 sites



Kantarjian HM, et. Al. N Engl J Med 2016; 375(8):740-753

## INO-VATE: Inotuzumab in Relapsed ALL

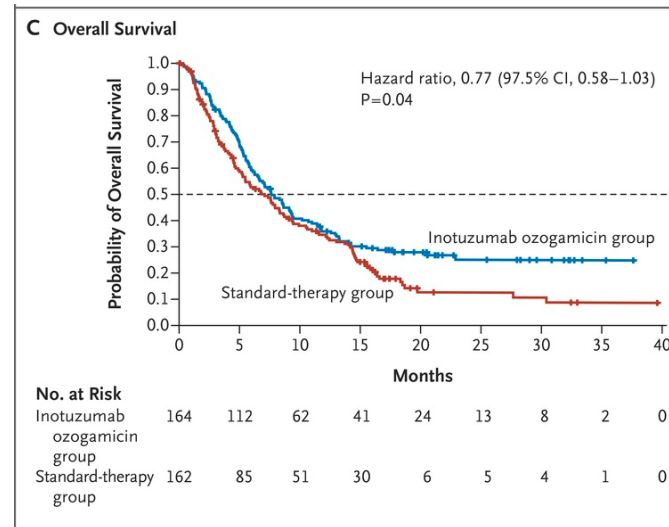
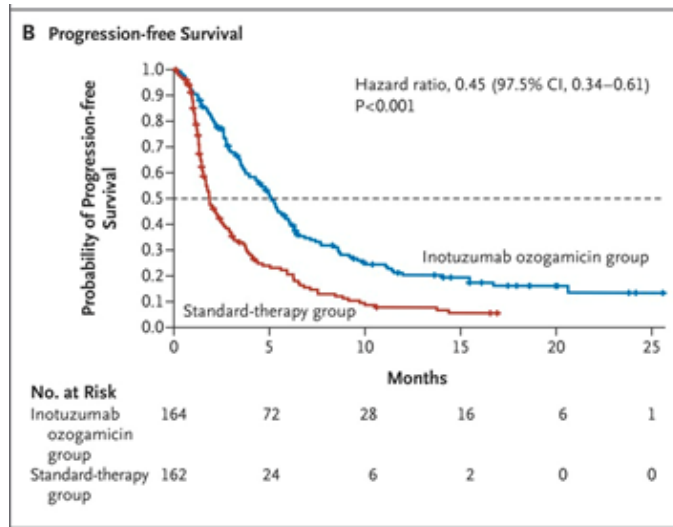
- CR/CRi: independent blinded external adjudication of first 218 patients randomized (Oct 2014)
- Intention to treat analysis

| Response, n (%)           | INO<br>(n=109) | SOC<br>(n=109) | 1-sided P<br>value |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| CR/CRi                    | 88<br>(80.7)   | 32<br>(29.4)   | <0.0001            |
| MRD neg (in CR/CRi pts)   | 69<br>(78.4)   | 9<br>(28.1)    | <0.0001            |
| Proceed to allogeneic SCT | 45<br>(41)     | 12<br>(11)     | <0.0001            |

Kantarjian HM, et al. N Engl J Med 2016; 375(8):740-753

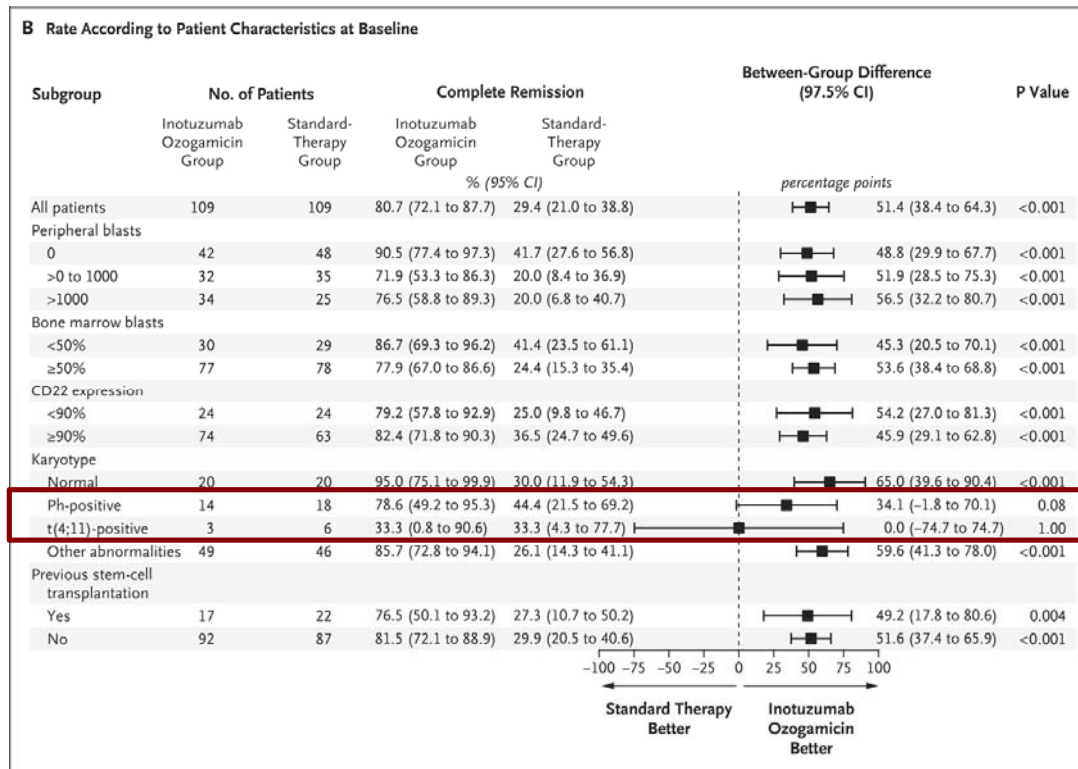
# INO-VATE: Inotuzumab in Relapsed ALL

- OS: prespecified boundary of  $P=0.0104$ ; included all 326 randomized patients after  $\geq 248$  events (March 2016)



Kantarjian HM, et al. N Engl J Med 2016; 375(8):740-753

# INO-VATE: Inotuzumab in Relapsed ALL



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# INO-VATE: Inotuzumab in Relapsed ALL

**Table 3. Serious Adverse Events That Occurred during Treatment.\***

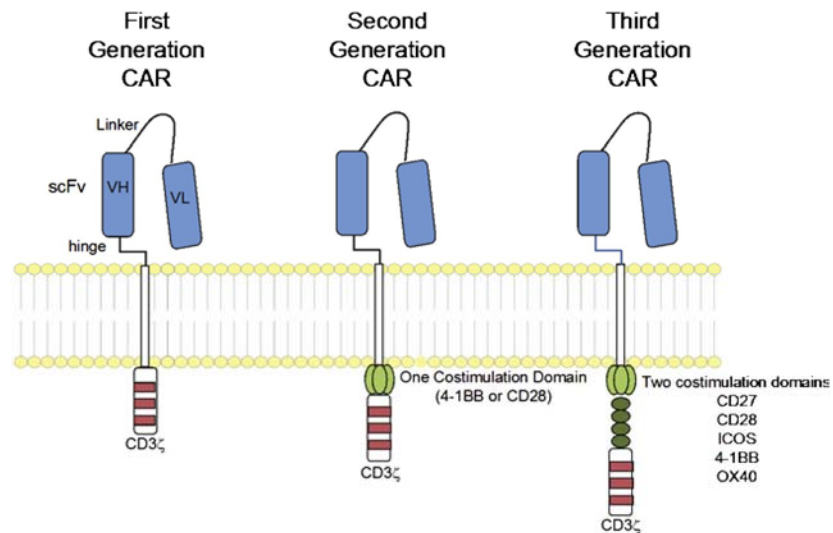
| Serious Adverse Event                | Inotuzumab Ozogamicin Group<br>(N = 139) |          | Standard-Therapy Group<br>(N = 120) |          |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|
|                                      | Any Grade                                | Grade ≥3 | Any Grade                           | Grade ≥3 |
|                                      | <i>number (percent)</i>                  |          |                                     |          |
| Any event                            | 67 (48)                                  | 64 (46)  | 55 (46)                             | 52 (43)  |
| Febrile neutropenia                  | 16 (12)                                  | 15 (11)  | 22 (18)                             | 21 (18)  |
| Veno-occlusive disease               | 15 (11)                                  | 13 (9)   | 1 (1)                               | 1 (1)    |
| Sepsis                               | 3 (2)                                    | 3 (2)    | 6 (5)                               | 6 (5)    |
| Pyrexia                              | 4 (3)                                    | 2 (1)    | 3 (2)                               | 1 (1)    |
| Disease progression                  | 5 (4)                                    | 5 (4)    | 2 (2)                               | 2 (2)    |
| Pneumonia                            | 5 (4)                                    | 5 (4)    | 1 (1)                               | 0        |
| Neutropenic sepsis                   | 3 (2)                                    | 3 (2)    | 3 (2)                               | 3 (2)    |
| Respiratory failure                  | 1 (1)                                    | 1 (1)    | 4 (3)                               | 4 (3)    |
| Abdominal pain                       | 3 (2)                                    | 2 (1)    | 1 (1)                               | 1 (1)    |
| Septic shock                         | 2 (1)                                    | 2 (1)    | 1 (1)                               | 1 (1)    |
| Escherichia sepsis                   | 1 (1)                                    | 1 (1)    | 2 (2)                               | 2 (2)    |
| Multiorgan failure                   | 1 (1)                                    | 1 (1)    | 2 (2)                               | 2 (2)    |
| Hyperbilirubinemia                   | 0  | 0        | 3 (2)                               | 2 (2)    |
| Hypotension                          | 0  | 0        | 3 (2)                               | 2 (2)    |
| Stomatitis                           | 2 (1)                                    | 2 (1)    | 1 (1)                               | 1 (1)    |
| Bacteremia                           | 2 (1)                                    | 2 (1)    | 1 (1)                               | 1 (1)    |
| <i>Clostridium difficile</i> colitis | 2 (1)                                    | 2 (1)    | 1 (1)                               | 1 (1)    |
| Nausea                               | 2 (1)                                    | 2 (1)    | 0                                   | 0        |
| Influenza                            | 2 (1)                                    | 2 (1)    | 0                                   | 0        |
| Asthenia                             | 2 (1)                                    | 2 (1)    | 0                                   | 0        |
| Pancytopenia                         | 0  | 0        | 2 (2)                               | 2 (2)    |
| Tumor lysis syndrome                 | 2 (1)                                    | 1 (1)    | 0                                   | 0        |
| Acute renal failure                  | 2 (1)                                    | 1 (1)    | 0                                   | 0        |
| Klebsiella infection                 | 0  | 0        | 2 (2)                               | 2 (2)    |
| Fungal pneumonia                     | 0  | 0        | 2 (2)                               | 2 (2)    |

- Hepatic toxicity more frequent with INO
- VOD reported in 10/48 patients who proceeded with allogeneic stem cell transplant
- Dual vs. single alkylator containing conditioning associated with VOD

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# CHIMERIC ANTIGEN RECEPTOR T CELLS

- Reprogram T cells to recognize and eliminate malignant cells
- Constructs include extracellular antigen-recognition domain linked to intracellular signaling domains of TCR
- Gene vector can vary



Shannon L. Maude et al. Blood 2015;125:4017-4023

## CAR-Ts in ALL: Phase I trials

|                  | <b>MSKCC<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>UPENN<sup>2</sup></b> | <b>NCI<sup>3</sup></b> |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| CAR Design       | 19-28z                   | 19-BBz                   | 19-28z                 |
| No. patients     | 16                       | 30                       | 21                     |
| Median age (yr)  | 50                       | 14                       | 13                     |
| CR (%)           | 88                       | 90                       | 67                     |
| MRD negative (%) | 75                       | 79                       | 57                     |

<sup>1</sup>Davila ML, et al. Sci Transl Med 2014; 6: 224ra25

<sup>2</sup>Maude SL, et al. NEJM 2014; 371: 1507-17

<sup>3</sup>Lee DW, et al. Lancet 2015; 385: 517-28



## Cytokine Release Syndrome with CAR-T

- Most common acute toxicity
- Cytokines directly produced by infused cells or by other immune cells in response to these cytokines
- Implicated cytokines include IL-6, IFN-gamma, TNF, IL-2, IL2R-alpha, IL-8, IL-10
- Common initial symptoms include fever, tachycardia, hypotension
- CRS-mediated organ damage can include neurologic symptoms (seizures, encephalopathy, etc.), hepatitis, coagulopathies, cytopenias, hypoxia, myalgias/weakness, arrhythmias, tumor lysis syndrome, acute kidney injury, etc.

## Cytokine Release Syndrome with CAR-T

- Supportive care includes acetaminophen, cooling blankets, IVF, vasopressors, empiric antibiotics, blood product support
- CRS CTCAE grading created for monoclonal antibodies, several alternative grading scales published
- Tocilizumab frontline therapy for CRS (off-label use) requiring interventions beyond supportive measures; criteria for initiation are protocol specific
- Avoidance of corticosteroids if at all possible; effective but inhibit CAR-T persistence and anti-cancer effects

## Neurologic toxicity with CAR-T

- May occur with or without CRS
  - Variable incidence: 0-50%
- Headache, confusion, hallucinations, seizures, dysphasia, apraxia, ataxia, tremors, facial nerve palsies
- Anti-CD19 CAR-T cells and elevated levels of IL6 have been found in CSF; likely different mechanism than CRS
- Unclear if tocilizumab is beneficial, unlike with CRS
- Monoclonal antibodies unlikely to cross BBB
- Frontline treatment generally dexamethasone for any seizure or grade 4 toxicity

## B-cell aplasia with CAR-T

- Generally universal and presents when CAR-Ts persist
- May persist even after circulating CAR-Ts are undetectable
- Immunoglobulin replacement when IgG < 400-500mg/dl

## CONCLUSIONS

- Immunotherapies are offering great promise in managing relapsed and refractory ALL, and support of **clinical trials** is critical for ongoing progress
- Cytokine release syndromes and neurologic toxicities represent the predominant unique toxicities to these immunotherapies
- Monoclonal antibodies are generally well tolerated with significant response rates, but questions remain regarding durability
- Early impressive responses with CAR-T cells highlight ongoing challenges with tolerability and persistence of CAR-T cells

# NCCN Member Institutions

