



Froedtert



MEDICAL  
COLLEGE of  
WISCONSIN

# FRONTLINE DLBCL

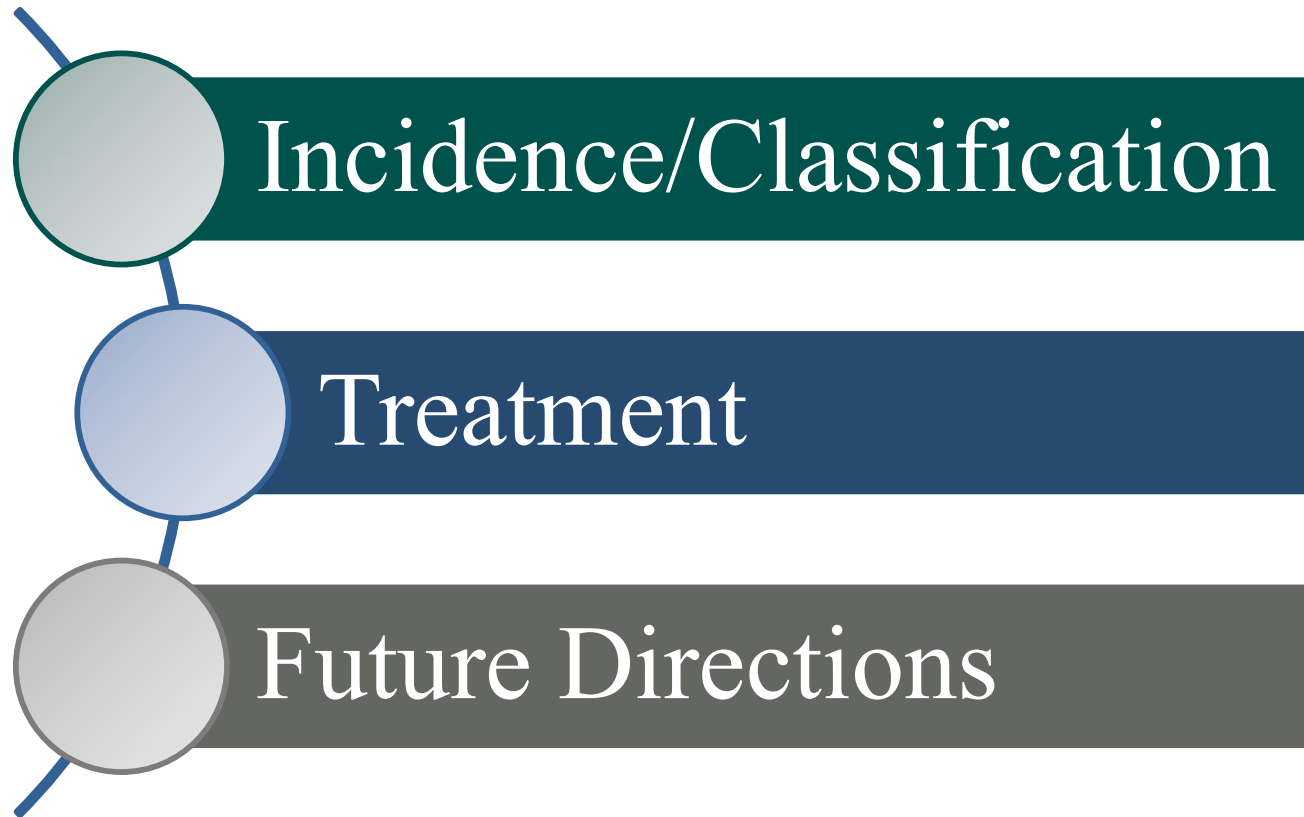
*Sumana Devata, MD*

March 2, 2024

# DISCLOSURES

- No financial relationships that impact this presentation

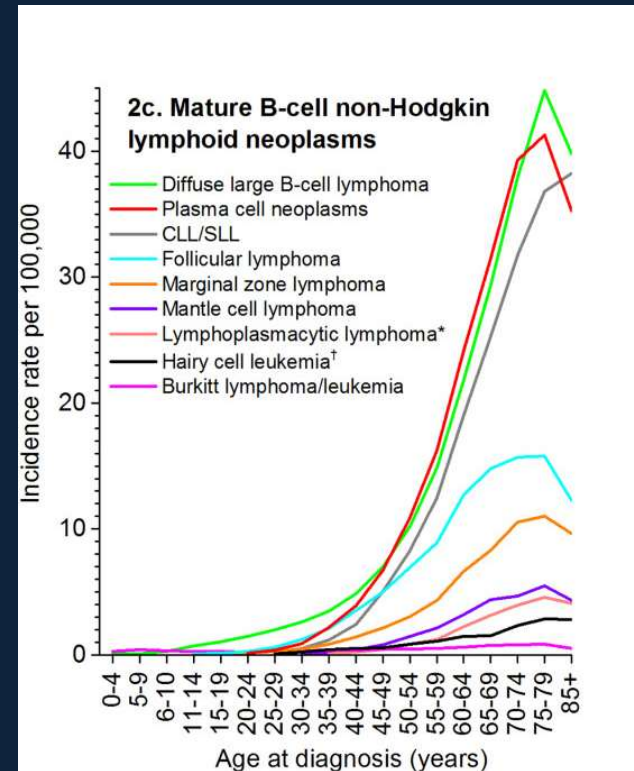
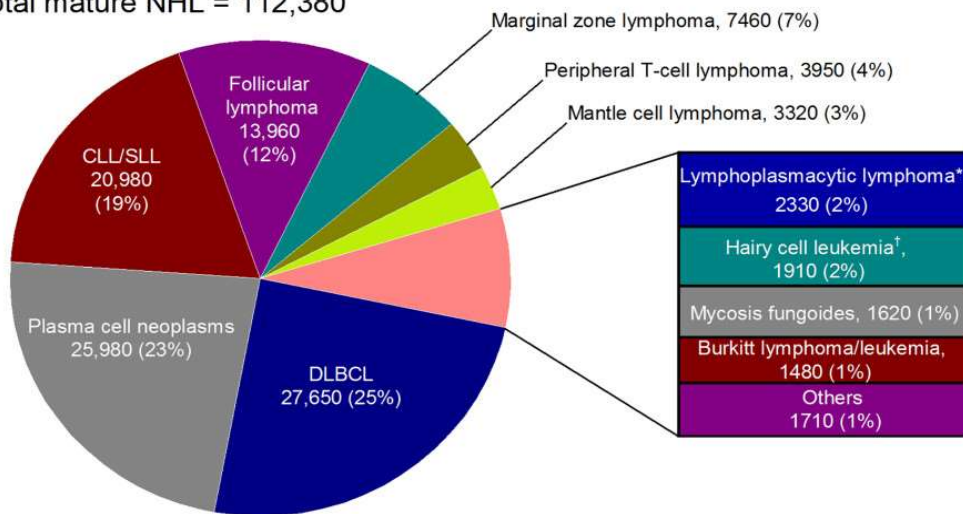
# DIFFUSE LARGE B-CELL LYMPHOMA



# DIFFUSE LARGE B-CELL LYMPHOMA (DLBCL)

- Aggressive form of NHL
- Most common NHL in adults
- Peak incidence in 6th decade

Total mature NHL = 112,380



knowledge changing life

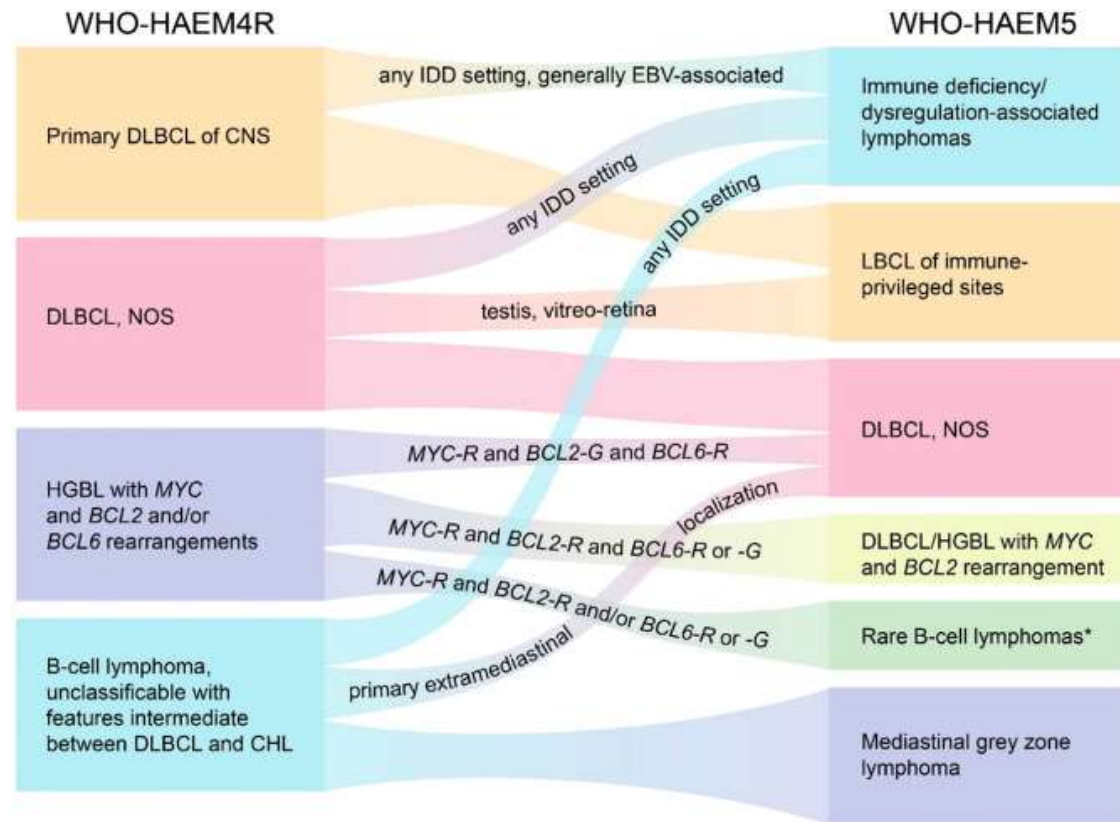
CA A Cancer J Clin, 2016, 66(6): 443-459.

# WHO CLASSIFICATION

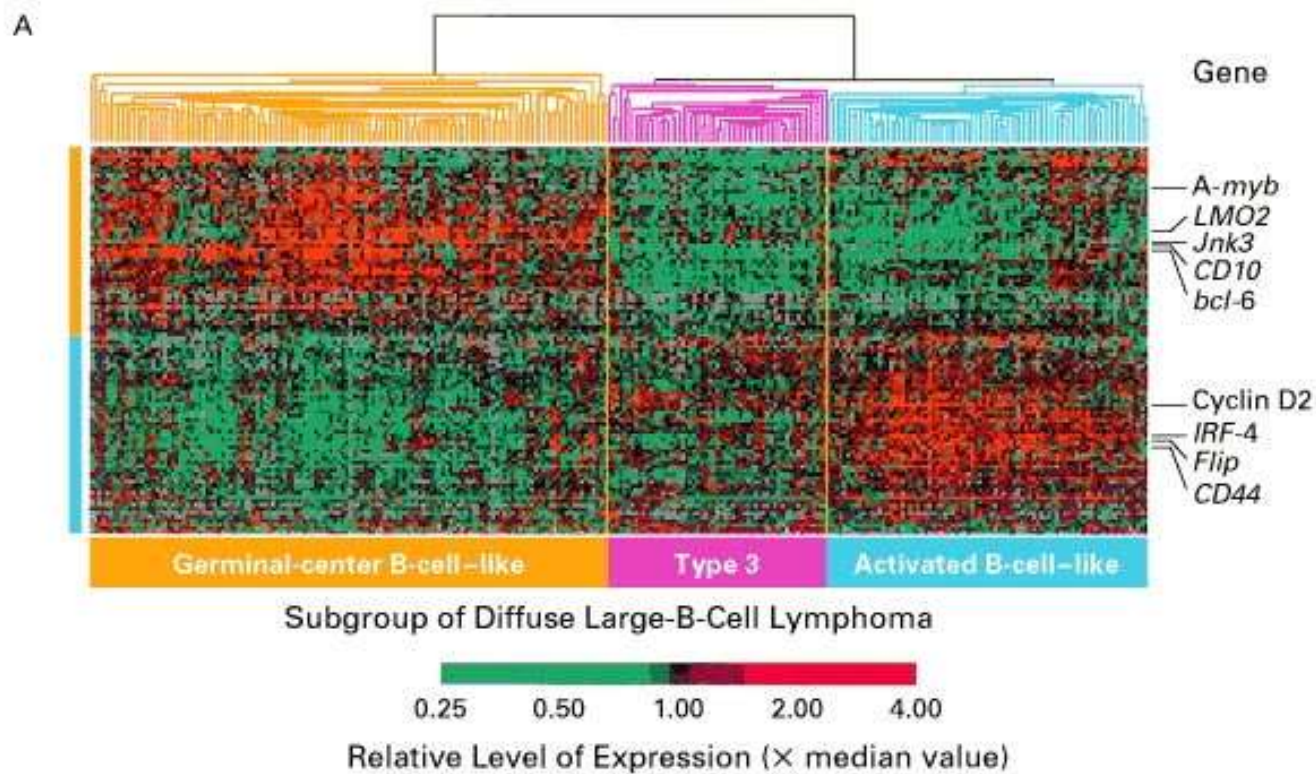
- What has changed?

WHO Classification, revised 4 <sup>th</sup> edition	WHO Classification 5 <sup>th</sup> edition
High-grade B-cell lymphoma with <i>MYC</i> and <i>BCL2</i> <b>and/or</b> <i>BCL6</i> rearrangements	Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma/ high grade B-cell lymphoma with <i>MYC</i> and <i>BCL2</i> rearrangements
<i>Not previously included, encompassing primary diffuse large B-cell lymphoma of the CNS in revised 4<sup>th</sup> edition (plus primary large B-cell lymphoma of the vitreoretina and primary large B-cell lymphoma of the testis)</i>	Primary large B-cell lymphoma of immune-privileged sites

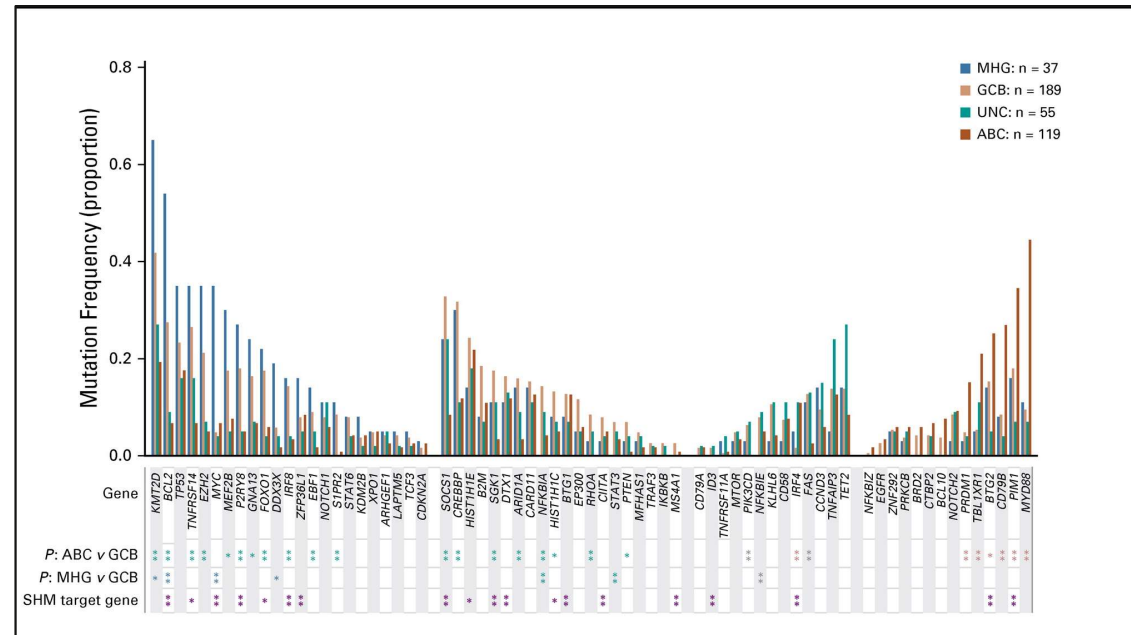
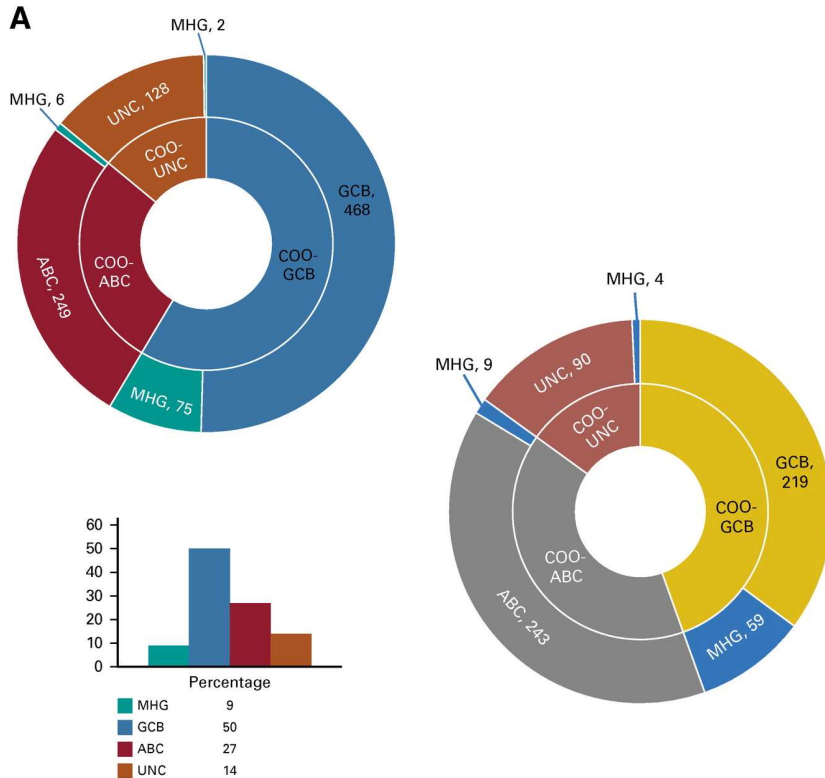
# WHO CLASSIFICATION



# GENE EXPRESSION PROFILING (GEP)



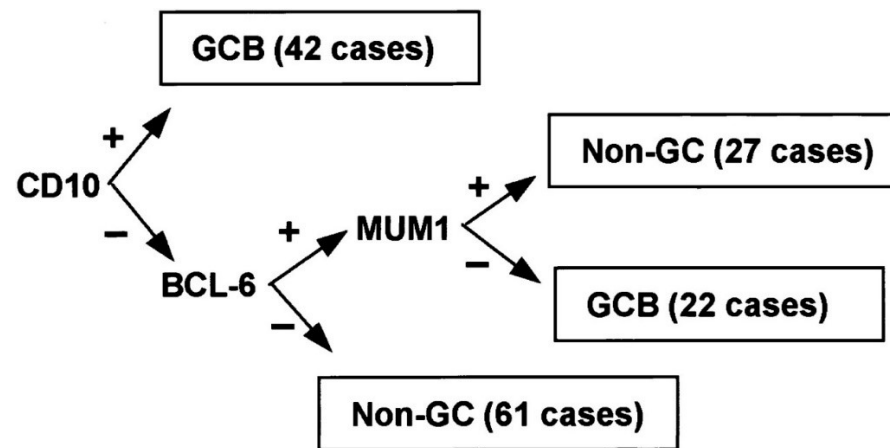
# GENE EXPRESSION PROFILING (GEP)





# CELL OF ORIGIN - IHC

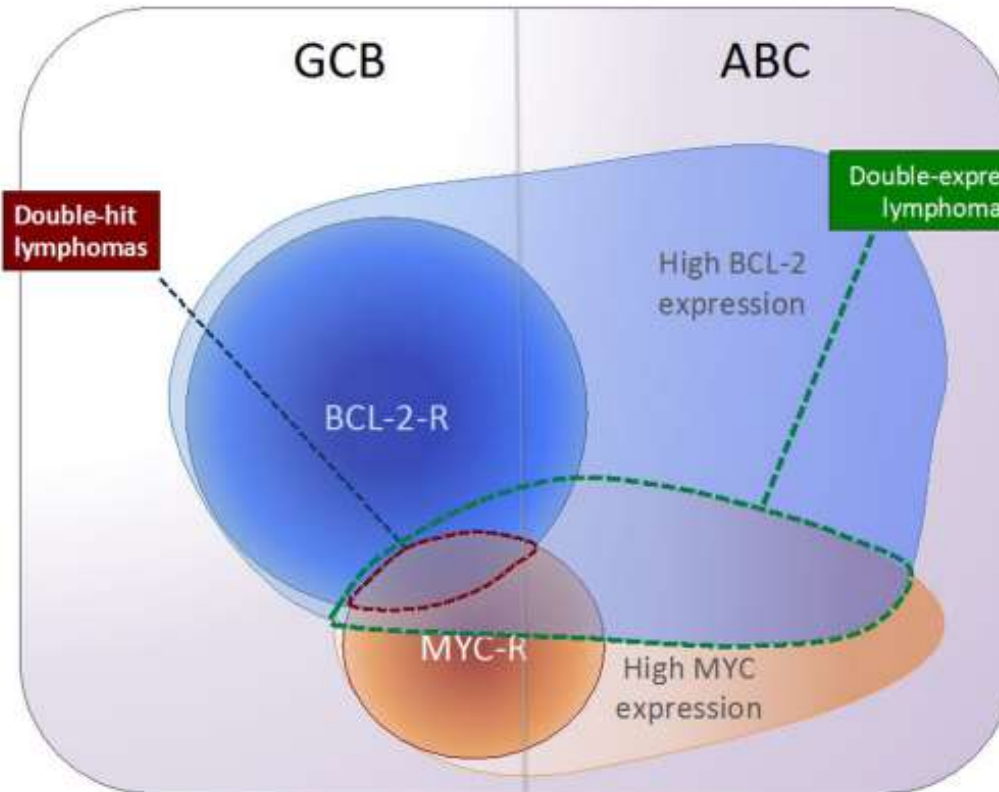
- Immunohistochemistry (IHC)
  - Hans algorithm – IHC based decision tree to classify GCB and non-GCB tumors
    - ~70% concordance with GEP
    - Does not recognize the 10-15% of tumors unclassified by GEP
    - Some indeterminate cases seen clinically



# DLBCL: A HETEROGENEOUS DISEASE

GCB  
*favorable prognosis as compared to ABC.*

Double HIT (MYC and BCL2 rearrangement by FISH)  
*Very poor prognosis. CNS involvement likely*



ABC  
*poor prognosis as compared to GCB. CNS involvement could be more likely*

Double Expresser (High MYC and BCL2 protein expression).  
*Poor prognosis*

\*Unclassified  
*Heterogenous population with intermediate prognosis*

# DIFFUSE LARGE B-CELL LYMPHOMA



Chemoimmunotherapy backbone

Early Stage

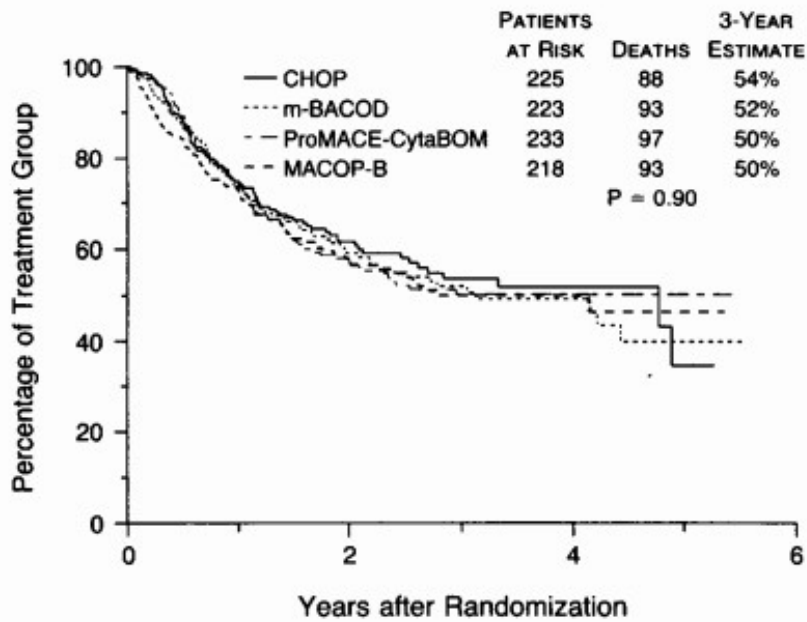
Advanced Stage

**Treatment**



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# CHOP BACKBONE



- Phase III, SWOG 8516 trial
- N=1138
- Overall survival
- CHOP best available tx

Toxicity	CHOP	m-BACOD	ProMACE-CytaBOM	MACOP-B
Death	1%	5%	3%	6%
G4	31%	54%	29%	43%

# EVOLUTION OF DLBCL THERAPY



# CHOP VS RCHOP

Groupe d'Etude  
des Lymphomes  
de l'Adulte

## GELA PHASE III TRIAL

- Elderly age 60-80 yrs.
- Stage II-VI DLBCL
- Stratified by aaIPI

MabThera  
International  
Trial

## MInT Trial

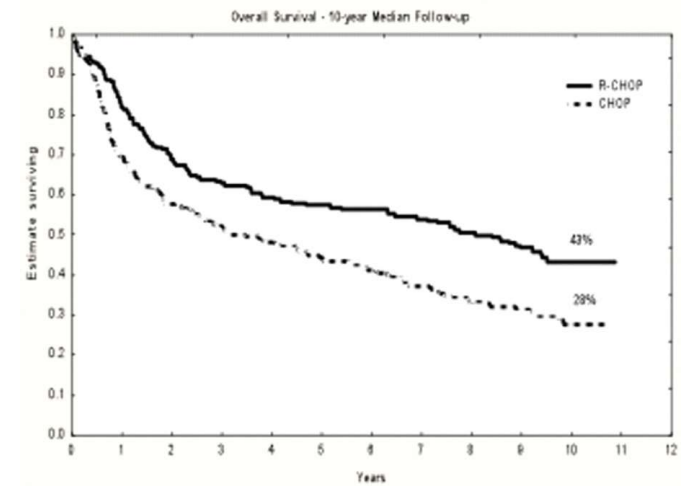
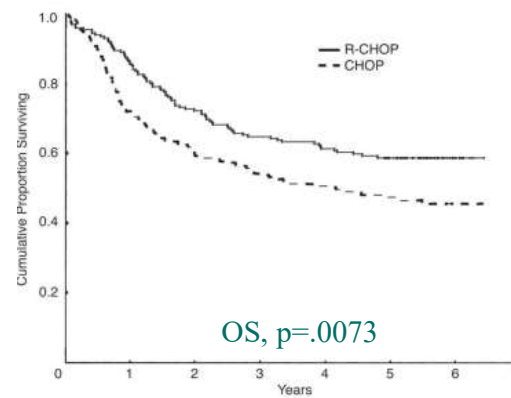
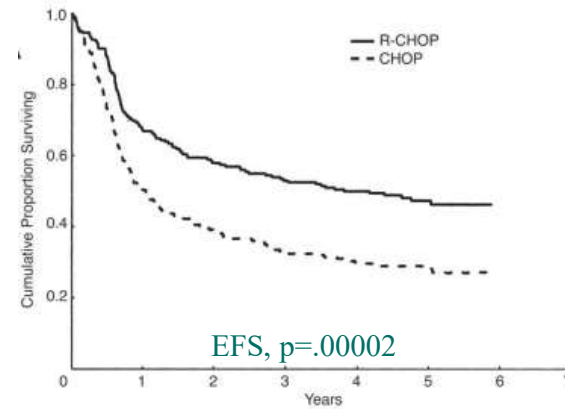
- Young, age 18-60 yrs.
- Stage II-IV, or stage I-bulky
- aaIPI 0-1

Eastern Cooperative  
Oncology Group  
Cancer and Leukemia  
Group B

## Intergroup study (ECOG4494/CALGB9793)

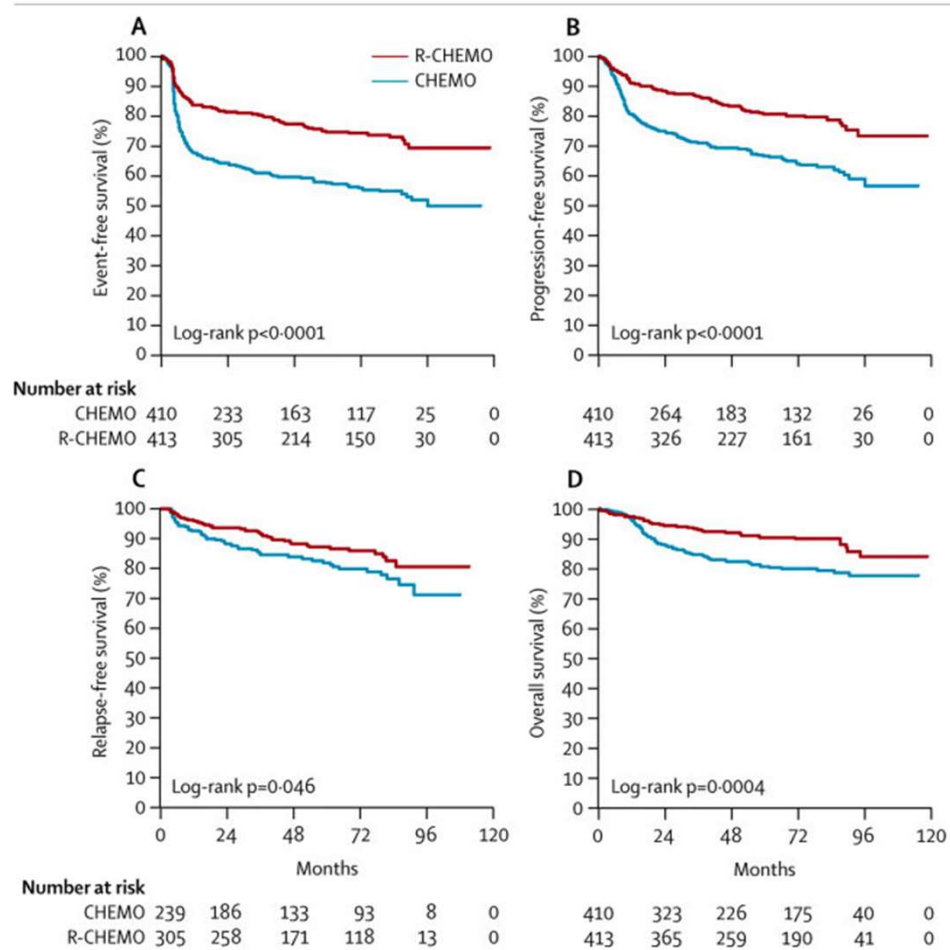
- Age >60 yrs.
- Stage I-VI
- Stratified by IPI

# GELA TRIAL 5 & 10 YEAR FOLLOW-UP

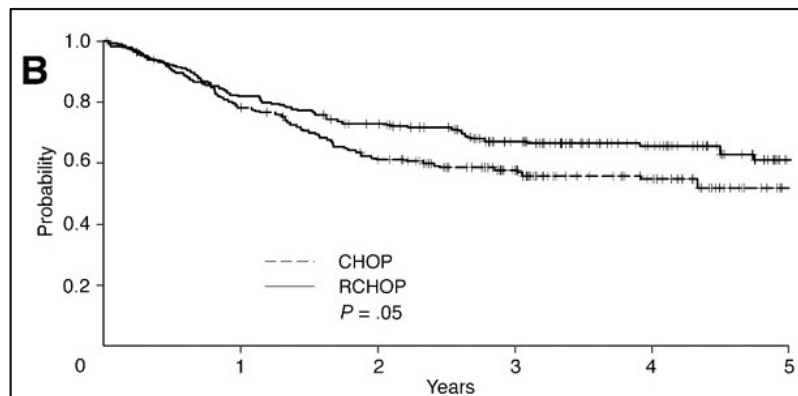
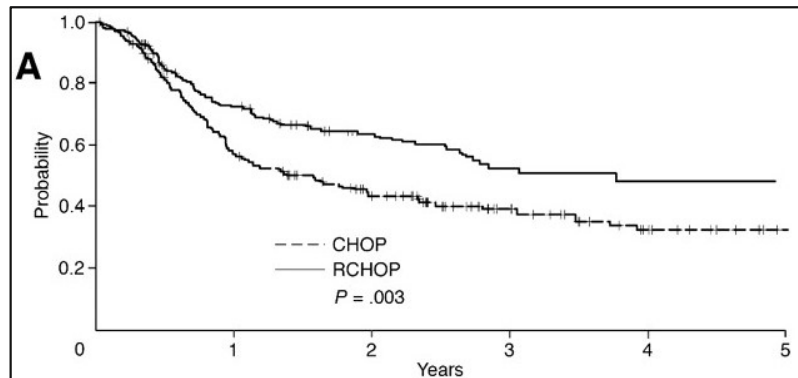




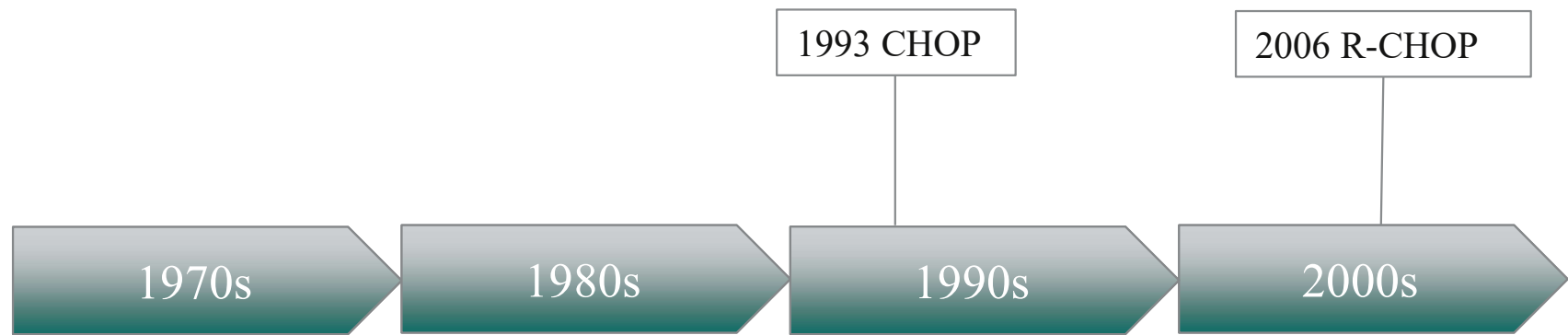
# MINT TRIAL 6-YR FOLLOW UP



# ECOG4494/ CALGB9793



# EVOLUTION OF DLBCL THERAPY



*Chemoimmunotherapy backbone*

**Limited Stage**

Advanced Stage

**Treatment**



knowledge changing life

# LIMITED STAGE TREATMENT

Chemotherapy  
+ RT

SWOG 8736 (pre-rituximab era)  
SWOG 0014

Chemotherapy  
alone

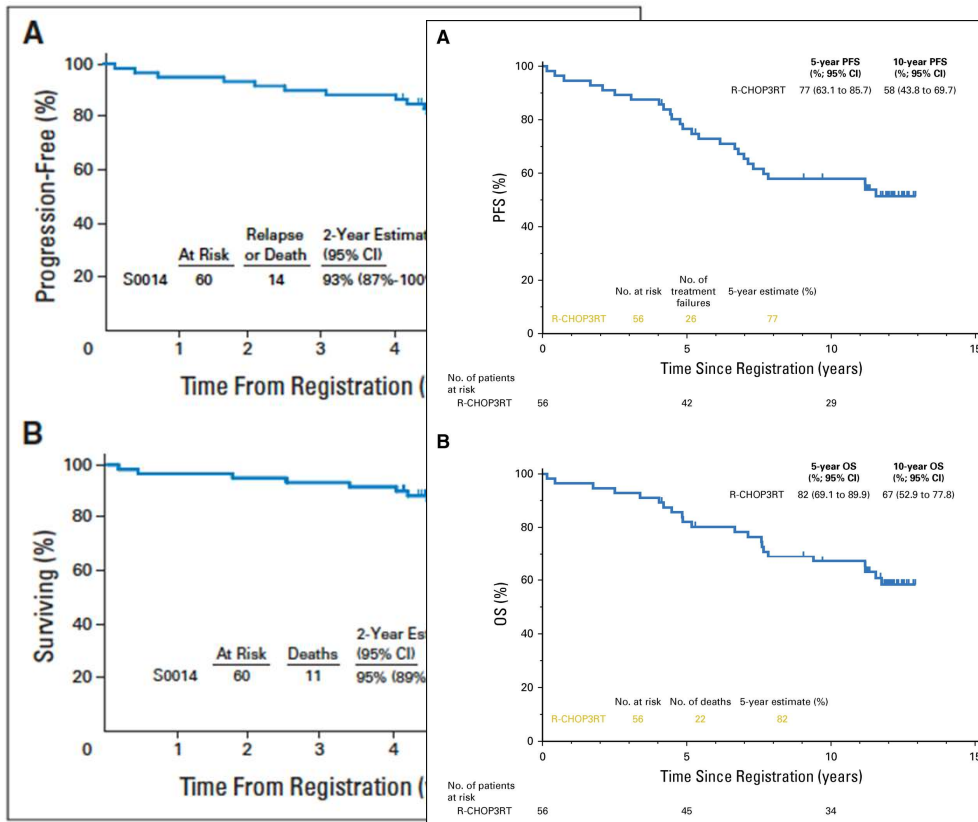
LYSA/GOELAMS 02-03  
FLYER study

PET adaptive

NCTN S1001  
BC Cancer study

- Limited stage (AA I-II)
  - No B-symptoms
  - Non-bulky
    - NCCN >7.5cm
    - Other >10cm
- Curative intent therapy

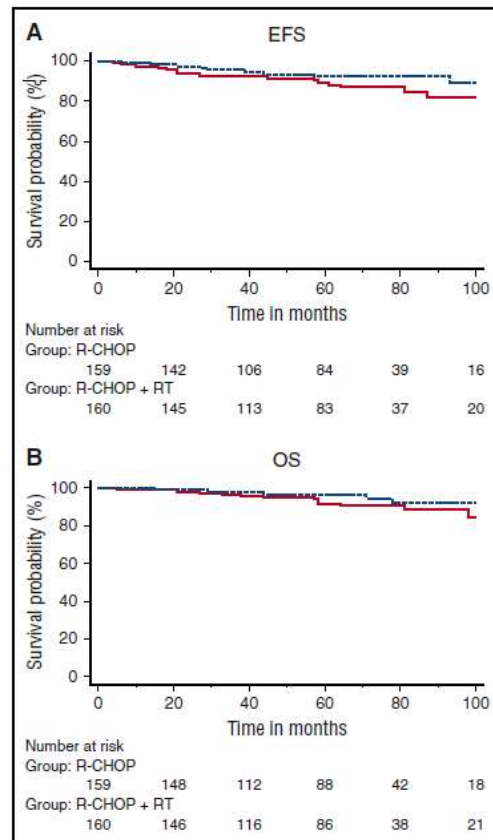
# DLBCL: LIMITED STAGE – CHEMO + RT



## SWOG 0014 study

- Goal addition of ritux to SOC
- R-CHOP x 3 → IFRT (40-46Gy)
- Stage I-II (non-bulky, <10cm)
- One adverse RF (stage II, age >60, PS 2, LDH>ULN)
- Overall Survival
  - 4-yr 92%; 5-yr 82%; 10yr 67%
- Pattern – continuing relapse (even with rituximab)

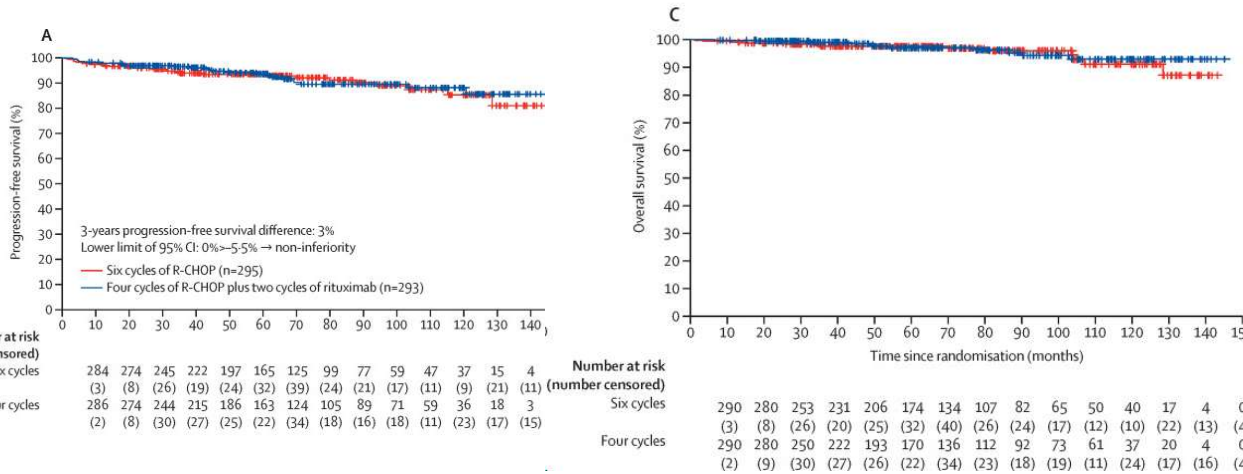
## DLBCL: LIMITED STAGE – CHEMO VS CHEMO-RT



## LYSA/GOELAMS 02-03

- Prospective, randomized study, N = 334
- Patient characteristics
  - Age 18-75
  - Stage I-II, non-bulky (max diameter <7cm)
- Treatment: R-CHOP14 x 4 or 6 vs R-CHOP14 x 4 or 6 + IFRT (40Gy)

# DLBCL: LIMITED STAGE – CHEMO ONLY



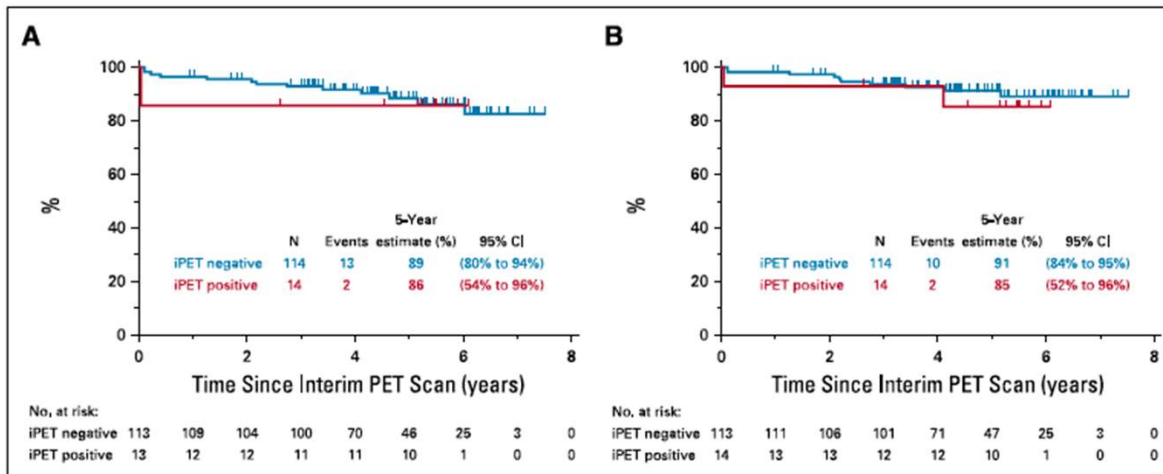
## FLYER STUDY

- Two-arm, open-label , multicenter, prospective phase III study
- Performed in Europe 2005-2016
- Non-inferiority trial
- Patient characteristics
  - Age 18-60
  - Stage I-II, non-bulky (<7.5cm)
  - Normal LDH
  - ECOG 0-1
- Treatment: R-CHOP x 6 vs R-CHOP x 4 + Rituximab x 2
- N=592

	3 year		5 year	
	R-CHOP4 + 2 ritux	R-CHOP6	R-CHOP4 + 2 ritux	R-CHOP6
<b>CR</b>	91%	92%		
<b>PFS</b>	96%	94%	94%	94%
<b>OS</b>	99%	98%	97%	98%



# DLBCL: LIMITED STAGE – PET ADAPTED



5-yr	R-CHOP x 4	R-CHOP x 3 + RT and radioimmunotherapy
<b>PFS</b>	86%	89%
<b>OS</b>	85%	91%

## S1011- PET adapted

- N=158 patients
- Stage I-II, nonbulky (<10cm)
- Patient characteristics
  - Age >18
  - PS 0-2
  - smIPI (Age>60, stage II, LDH>ULN, PS 2) >0 in 74%
- R-CHOP x 3 followed by PET
  - PET negative (DS 0-3) → R-CHOP x 1 additional cycle
  - PET positive → IFRT followed by ibritumomab tiuxetan radioimmunotherapy

# LIMITED STAGE DLBCL: TREATMENT

Optimal therapy – individualize to the patient

- Abbreviated chemotherapy in conjunction with radiation therapy has shown a pattern of continuing relapse.
- Tailor treatment to the patient and tolerance to chemoimmunotherapy +/- radiation

*Chemoimmunotherapy backbone*

*Early Stage*

**Advanced Stage**

**Treatment**



knowledge changing life

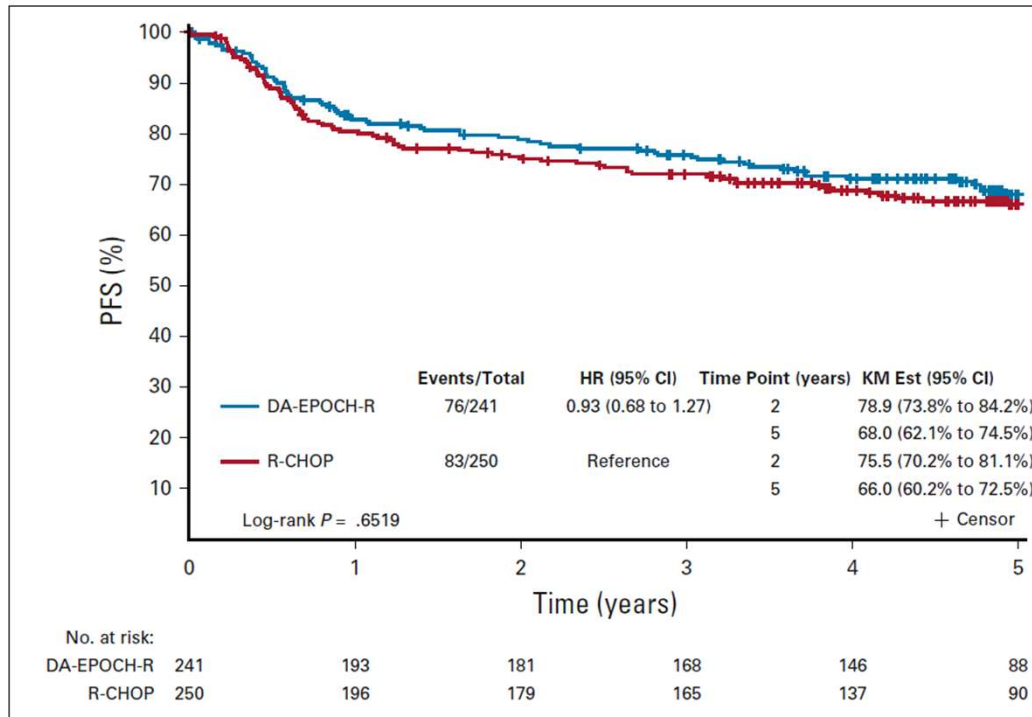
# ADVANCED STAGE DLBCL

- Is there anything better than R-CHOP-21?
- Is R-CHOP the only option?

# CAN WE BEAT R-CHOP-21?

- DA-EPOCH-R
- Next generation anti-CD20 mAB (i.e. obinutuzumab)
- Pola-R-CHP

# IS DA-EPOCH-R BETTER?



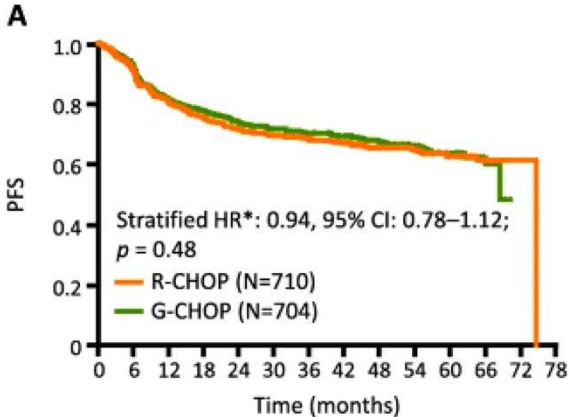
## CALGB 50303: Phase III Randomized Study of R-CHOP vs DA-EPOCH-R with microarray in DLBCL

- No benefit DA-EPOCH-R over R-CHOP
- Increased toxicity with DA-EPOCH-R
- Will certain subgroups benefit?
  - MYC rearrangements N=13
  - 3 cases with BCL-2 or BCL-6
  - 10 incomplete data

# RITUXIMAB VS OBINUTUZUMAB

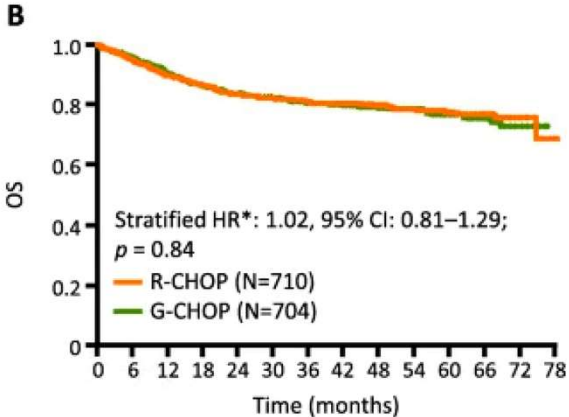
## GOYA Phase III Study

➤ No difference R-CHOP vs G-CHOP



No. of patients at risk:

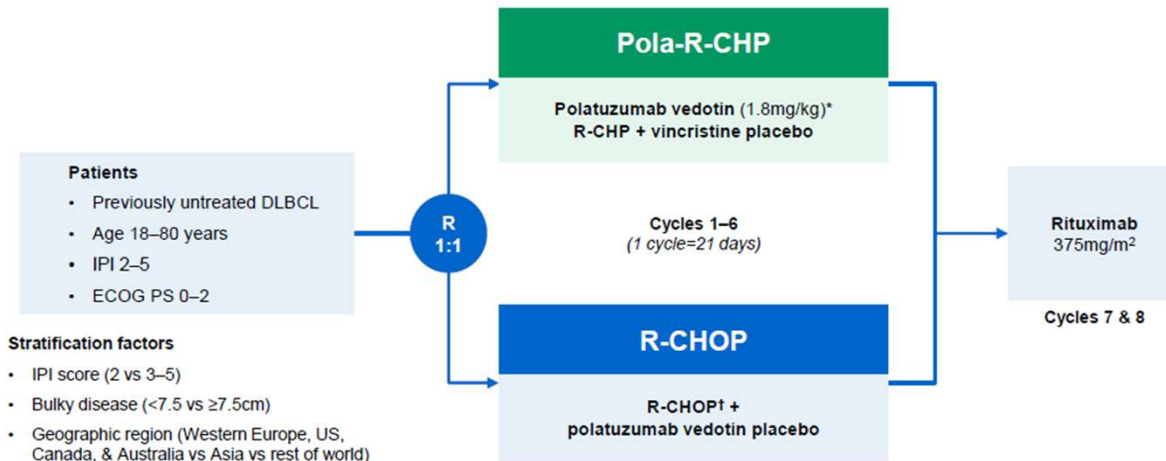
R-CHOP	710	613	531	495	462	434	408	379	240	124	71	27	1	-
G-CHOP	704	621	542	508	475	449	430	389	263	137	85	34	-	-



No. of patients at risk:

R-CHOP	710	656	612	582	553	540	522	493	342	212	136	89	26	1
G-CHOP	704	655	614	582	564	546	529	499	354	217	141	81	26	-

# R-CHOP VS POLA-R-CHP



\*IV on Day 1; †R-CHOP: IV rituximab 375mg/m<sup>2</sup>, cyclophosphamide 750mg/m<sup>2</sup>, doxorubicin 50mg/m<sup>2</sup>, and vincristine 1.4mg/m<sup>2</sup> (max. 2mg) on Day 1, plus oral prednisone 100mg once daily on Days 1–5. IPI, International prognostic index; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; R, randomized.

## POLARIX TRIAL

Randomized  
Double blind  
Phase III study



# POLATUZUMAB VEDOTIN

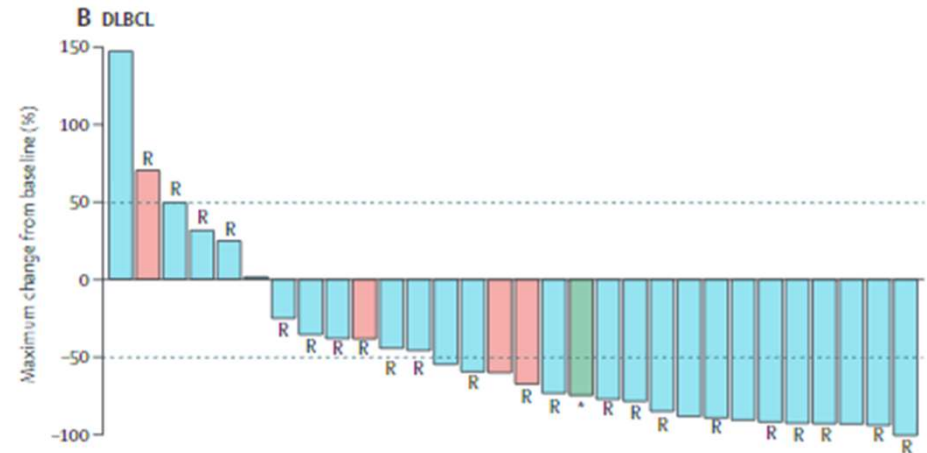
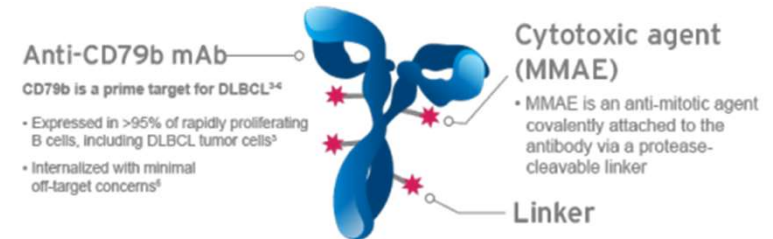
- Antibody Drug Conjugate (ADC)

- Humanized anti-CD79b monoclonal antibody
- Conjugated with a monomethyl auristatin E (MMAE) payload
  - o MMAE → Microtubule inhibitor
- Phase 1 study
- Dose >1.8 mg/m<sup>2</sup>

ORR	CR	mDOR
52%	13%	5.2 mo

- Main AEs

- o Neutropenia (G3-4)
- o Peripheral neuropathy (G1-2)



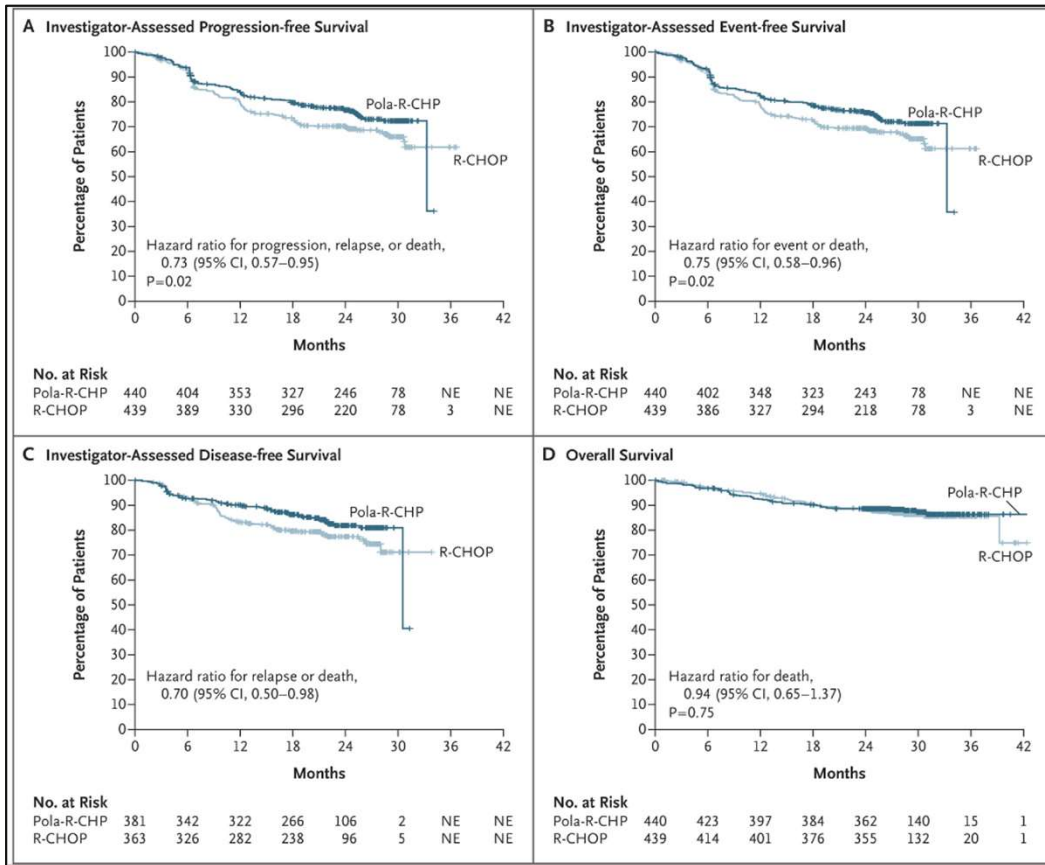
**Table 1. Demographic and Clinical Characteristics at Baseline (Intention-to-Treat Population).\***

Characteristic	Pola-R-CHP (N = 440)	R-CHOP (N = 439)
Median age (range) — yr	65 (19–80)	66 (19–80)
Age category — no. (%)		
≤60 yr	140 (31.8)	131 (29.8)
>60 yr	300 (68.2)	308 (70.2)
Female sex — no. (%)	201 (45.7)	205 (46.7)
Geographic region — no. (%)†		
Western Europe, United States, Canada, and Australia	302 (68.6)	301 (68.6)
Asia	81 (18.4)	79 (18.0)
Rest of world	57 (13.0)	59 (13.4)
Ann Arbor stage — no. (%)‡		
I or II	47 (10.7)	52 (11.8)
III or IV	393 (89.3)	387 (88.2)
No. of extranodal sites — no. (%)		
0 or 1	227 (51.6)	226 (51.5)
≥2	213 (48.4)	213 (48.5)
Bulky disease — no. (%)†§	193 (43.9)	192 (43.7)
ECOG performance status score — no. (%)¶		
0 or 1	374 (85.0)	363 (82.7)
2	66 (15.0)	75 (17.1)
Lactate dehydrogenase level — no. (%)		
Normal	146 (33.2)	154 (35.1)
Elevated	291 (66.1)	284 (64.7)
IPI score — no. (%)†**		
2	167 (38.0)	167 (38.0)
3 to 5	273 (62.0)	272 (62.0)
Median time from initial diagnosis to treatment initiation (IQR) — days	26 (16.0–37.5)	27 (19.0–41.0)
Cell of origin — no./total no. (%)††		
Germinal-center B-cell–like subtype	184/330 (55.8)	168/338 (49.7)
Activated B-cell–like subtype	102/330 (30.9)	119/338 (35.2)
Unclassified	44/330 (13.3)	51/338 (15.1)
Double-expressor lymphoma — no./total no. (%)††	139/362 (38.4)	151/366 (41.3)
Double-hit or triple-hit lymphoma — no./total no. (%)††	26/331 (7.9)	19/334 (5.7)

**Table 2. Efficacy (Intention-to-Treat Population).**

Variable	Pola-R-CHP (N = 440)	R-CHOP (N = 439)	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	P Value
<b>Progression-free survival*</b>				
Patients who died or had progression or relapse — no. (%)	107 (24.3)	134 (30.5)	0.73 (0.57–0.95)	0.02
Earliest event — no.				
Death	19	20		
Progression or relapse	88	114		
Estimate at 1 year (95% CI) — %	83.9 (80.4–87.4)	79.8 (75.9–83.6)		
Estimate at 2 years (95% CI) — %	76.7 (72.7–80.8)	70.2 (65.8–74.6)		
<b>Event-free survival*</b>				
Patients who died, had progression or relapse, or had other events — no. (%)†	112 (25.5)	138 (31.4)	0.75 (0.58–0.96)	0.02
Earliest event — no.				
Death	18	20		
Progression or relapse	86	106		
Other†	8	12		
Estimate at 2 years (95% CI) — %	75.6 (71.5–79.7)	69.4 (65.0–73.8)		
<b>Response status at treatment completion‡</b>				
Overall response — no. (%)	376 (85.5)	368 (83.8)		
Complete response	343 (78.0)	325 (74.0)		
Partial response	33 (7.5)	43 (9.8)		
Stable disease — no. (%)	8 (1.8)	6 (1.4)		
Progressive disease — no. (%)	22 (5.0)	28 (6.4)		
Not evaluated or data missing — no. (%)	34 (7.7)	37 (8.4)		
<b>Overall survival</b>				
Patients who died — no. (%)	53 (12.0)	57 (13.0)	0.94 (0.65–1.37)	0.75
Estimate at 2 years (95% CI) — %	88.7 (85.7–91.6)	88.6 (85.6–91.6)		
<b>Disease-free survival§</b>				
No. of patients who could be evaluated¶	381	363		
Patients who died or had relapse — no. (%)	62 (16.3)	79 (21.8)	0.70 (0.50–0.98)	
Earliest event — no.				
Death	8	13		
Relapse	54	66		

# POLARIX TRIAL



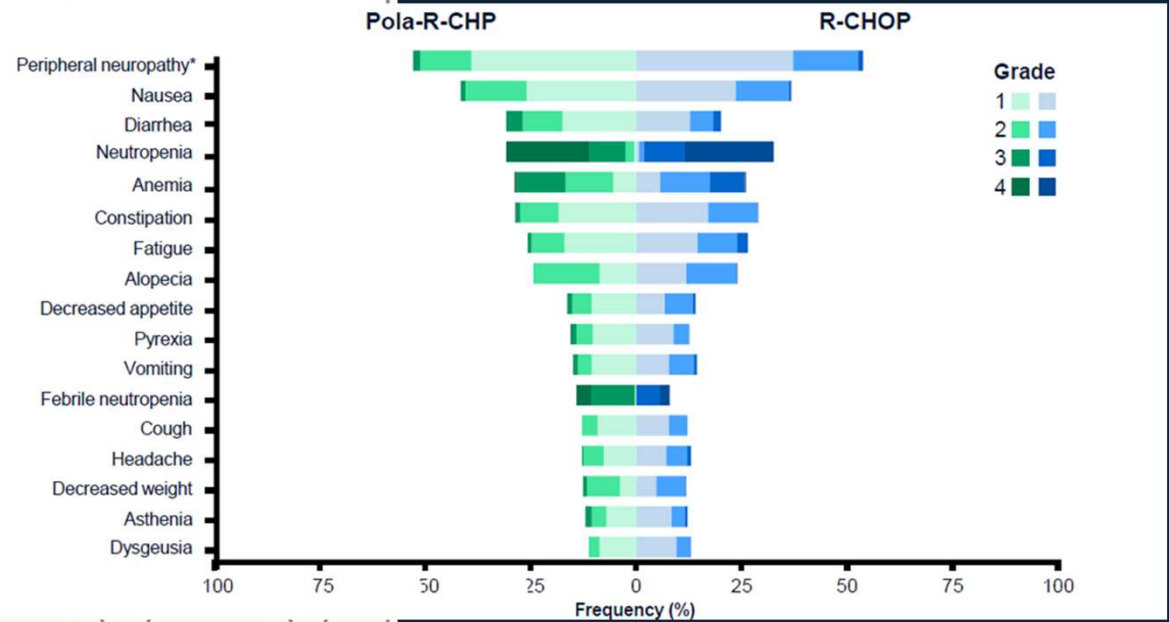
➤ Pola-R-CHOP demonstrated a 27% reduction in the relative risk of disease progression, relapse, or death when compared to R-CHOP.

➤ 2-yr PFS 76.7% vs 70.2%

➤ FDA Approved Regimen in April 2023.

**Table 3. Adverse Events during the Treatment Period (Safety Population).\***

Adverse Event	Pola-R-CHP (N=435)		R-CHOP (N=438)	
	Any Grade	Grade 3 or 4	Any Grade	Grade 3 or 4
	<i>number of patients (percent)</i>			
Peripheral neuropathy†	230 (52.9)	7 (1.6)		
Nausea	181 (41.6)	5 (1.1)		
Neutropenia	134 (30.8)	123 (28.3)		
Diarrhea	134 (30.8)	17 (3.9)		
Anemia	125 (28.7)	52 (12.0)		
Constipation	125 (28.7)	5 (1.1)		
Fatigue	112 (25.7)	4 (0.9)		
Alopecia	106 (24.4)	0		
Decreased appetite	71 (16.3)	5 (1.1)		
Pyrexia	68 (15.6)	6 (1.4)		
Vomiting	65 (14.9)	5 (1.1)		
Febrile neutropenia	62 (14.3)	60 (13.8)		
Headache	56 (12.9)	1 (0.2)		
Cough	56 (12.9)	0		
Decreased weight	55 (12.6)	4 (0.9)		
Asthenia	53 (12.2)	7 (1.6)	53 (12.1)	2 (0.5)
Dysgeusia	49 (11.3)	0	57 (13.0)	0

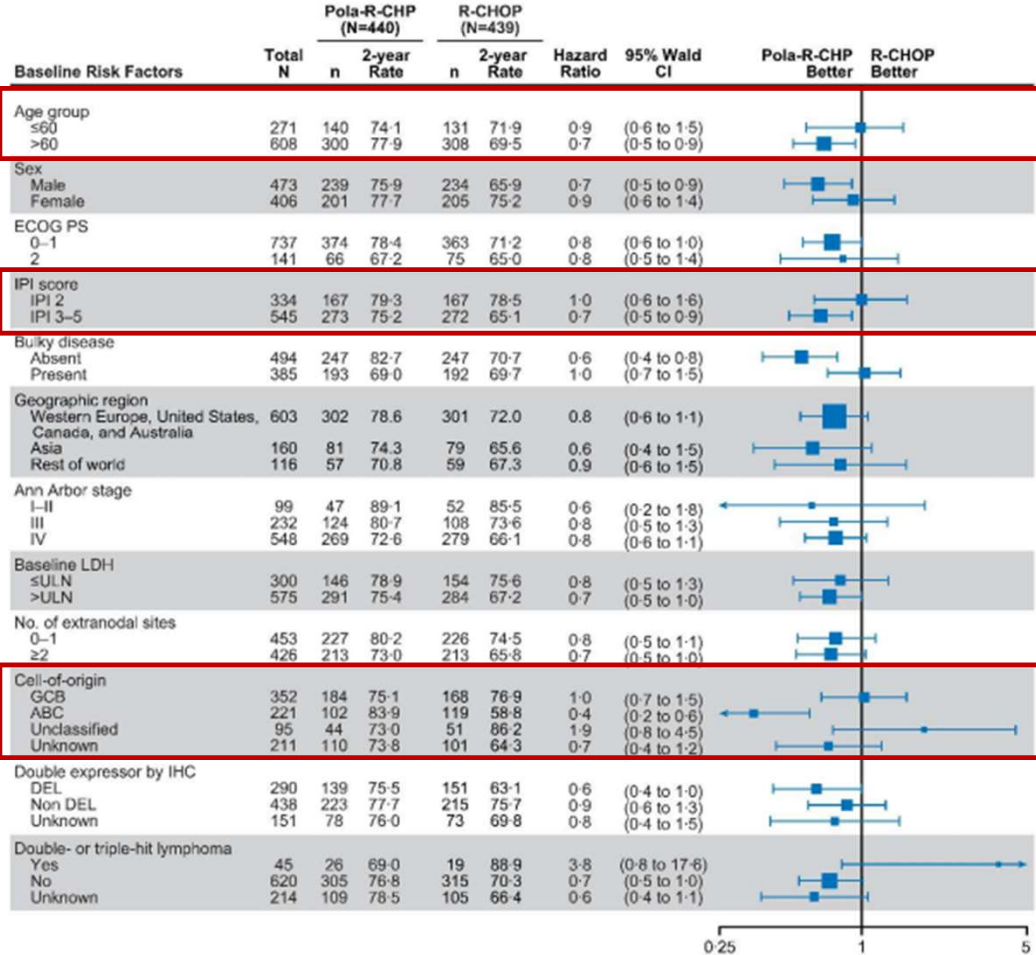


NEJM, 2022; 386: 351-363.

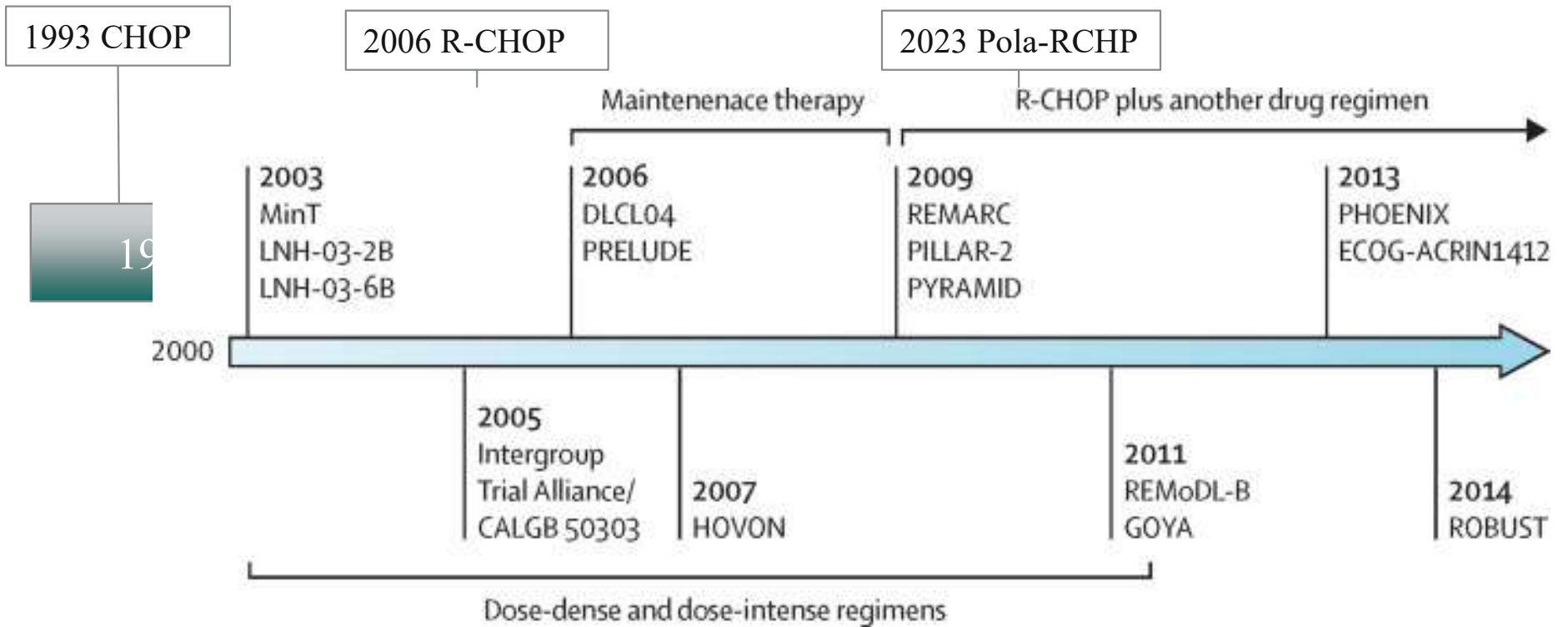
HervéTilly, et al. Presented at ASH2021; No. LBA-1

# POLARIX TRIAL: SUBGROUP ANALYSIS EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS

Figure S1. Subgroup Analysis of Investigator-assessed PFS (ITT Population).



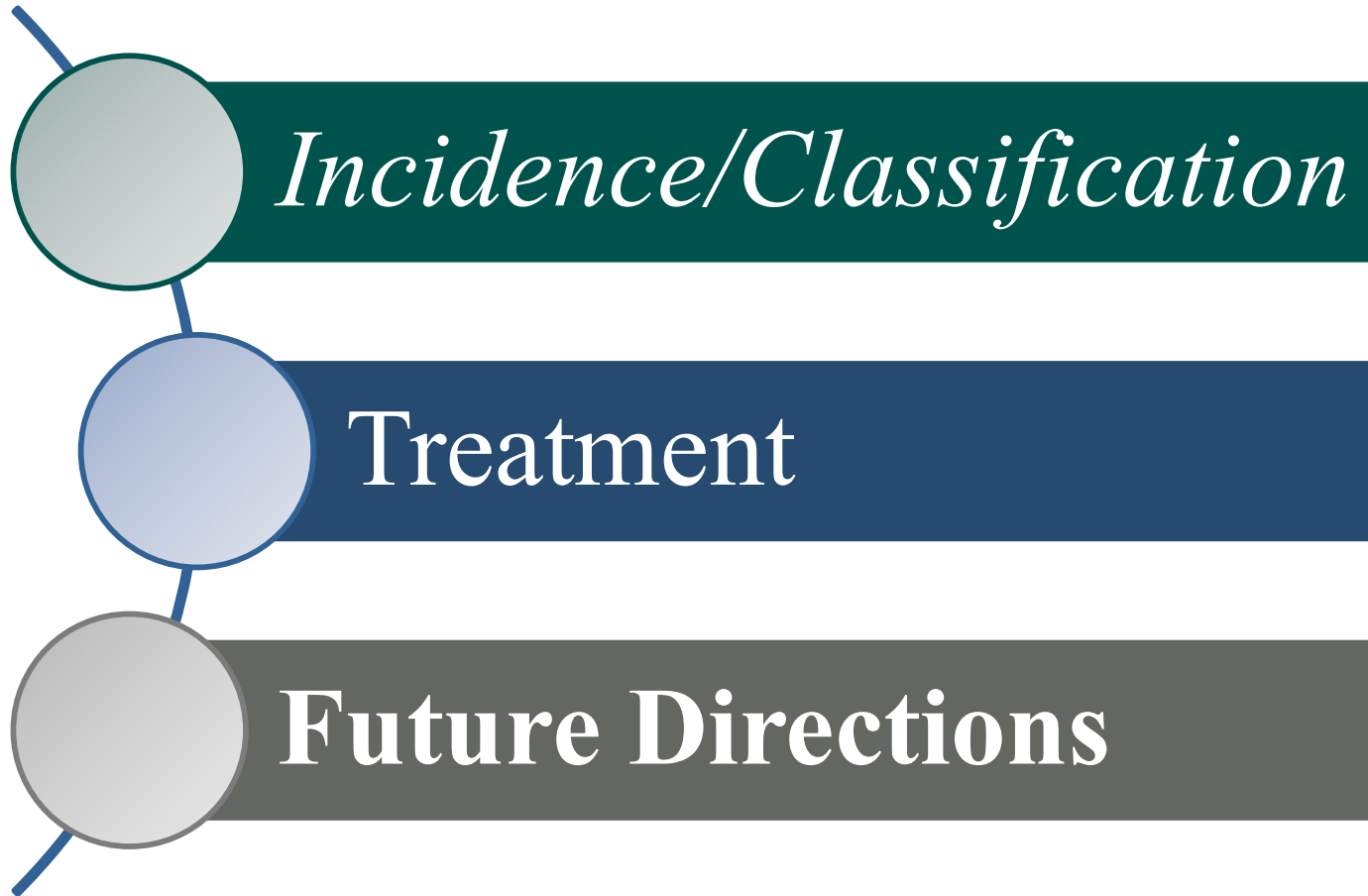
# EVOLUTION OF DLBCL THERAPY



# DLBCL – TAKE HOME POINTS

- DLBCL is a heterogeneous disease with at least 150 genetic drivers. Despite advancements in molecular profiling and trialing targeted agents, our mainstay of treatment is largely unchanged.
- Limited stage DLBCL:
  - Abbreviated chemotherapy in conjunction with radiation therapy has shown a pattern of continuing relapse.
  - Tailor treatment to the patient and tolerance to chemoimmunotherapy
- Advanced stage DLBCL:
  - Options available!





# FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Targeted approaches
  - BiTE therapy added to front line
    - COALITION STUDY: Glofitamab + R-CHOP vs Pola-R-CHP
  - CD19 Monoclonal Ab added to front line
    - FIRST MIND TRIAL: Tafasitamib + R-CHOP
- Elderly approaches
  - Split dose R-CHOP (MCW & UW Madison Clinical trial)
  - Unfit/Frail
    - Loncastuximab/Rituximab (LOTIS-9)
    - BiTE therapy with lenalidomide
    - BiTE therapy with polatuzumab and rituximab

# MCW TRIALS

- Split dose R-CHOP (MCW & UW Madison Clinical trial)
  - Elderly, unfit/frail
- Loncastuximab with da-EPOCH-R
  - High-grade B-cell lymphoma with MYC and B-cell lymphoma 2 (BCL2) and/or B cell lymphoma 6 (BCL6) rearrangements
  - High-grade B-cell lymphoma, not otherwise specified
  - Primary mediastinal diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
  - Burkitt lymphoma
  - Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma with MYC rearrangement
  - Cluster of Differentiation 19 (CD19) -positive plasmablastic lymphoma.

