

Cracking the Code: Exploring Novel Frontline Treatments and Prospects for Maintenance Therapy for AML




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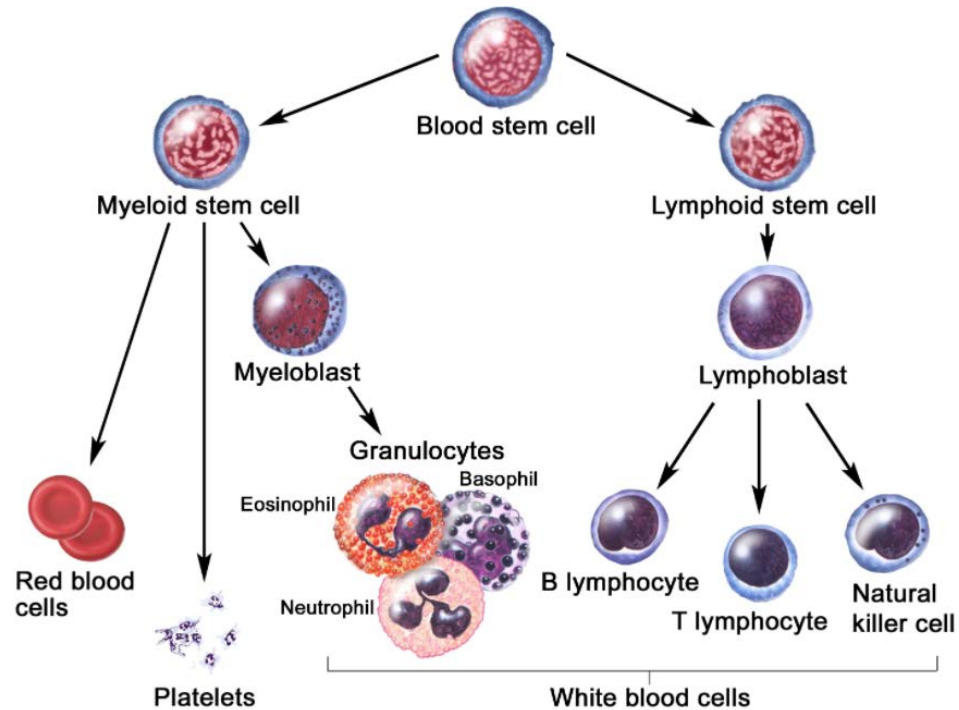
Learning Objectives

- Correlate disease pathophysiology, cytogenetic, and molecular characteristics with targeted agents to individualize treatment of patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML)
- Evaluate recent changes to the standard treatment paradigm for newly diagnosed and relapsed/refractory patients with AML
- Analyze data supporting best practice use of maintenance therapy
- Evaluate methods for measuring minimal residual disease (MRD) after complete remission to determine risk of relapse

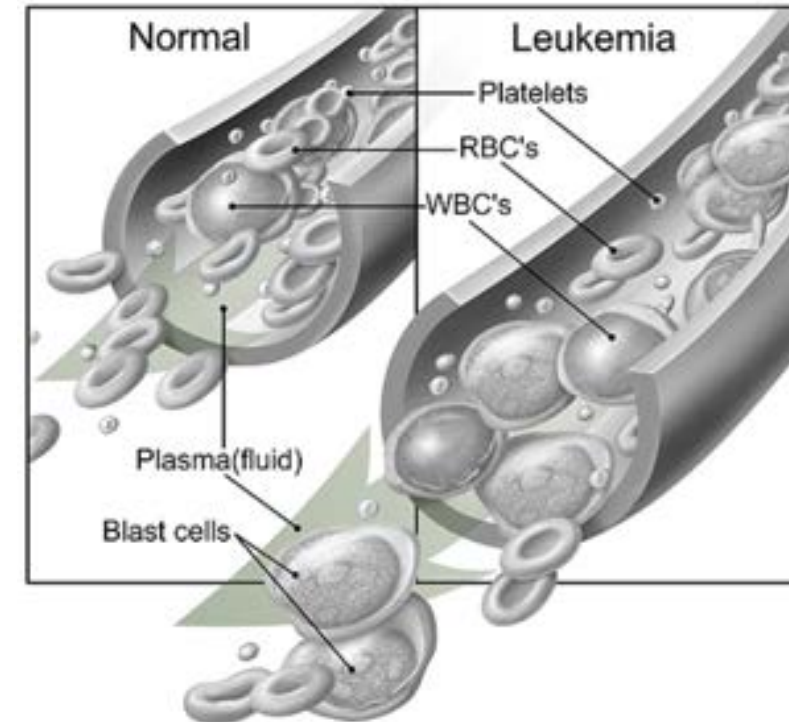


Overview of AML: Epidemiology, Etiology, and Risk Factors

Blood: Normal vs Abnormal Differentiation



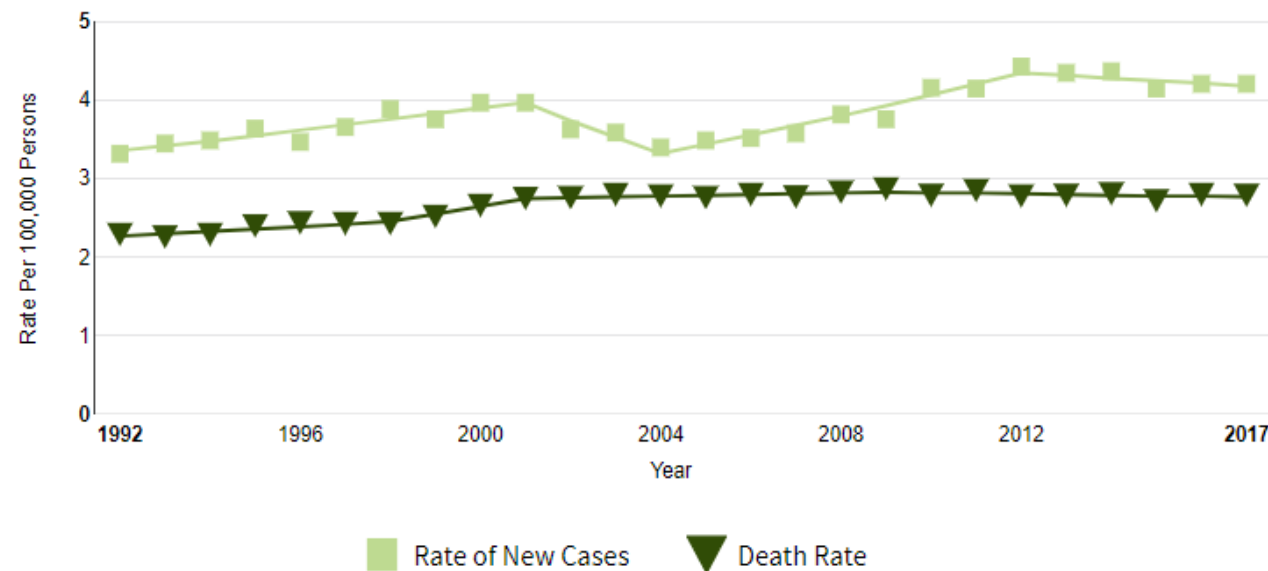
Normal blood cell development: stem cells differentiate through several steps to become a red blood cell, platelet, or white blood cell.¹



In AML, immature, abnormal blast cells proliferate to crowd out healthy red and white blood cells and other blood components.²

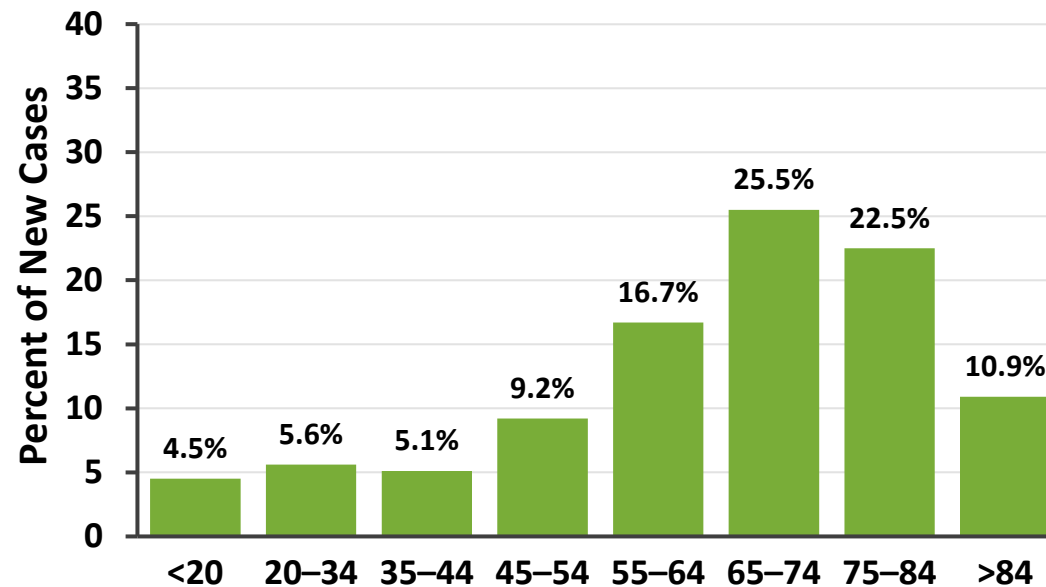
AML By the Numbers: Epidemiology

- Lifetime AML risk: ~0.5%
- AML represents 1.1% of all new cancer cases in the US and 1.8% of cancer deaths
 - Incidence in 2020: ~19,940
 - Mortality in 2020: ~11,180

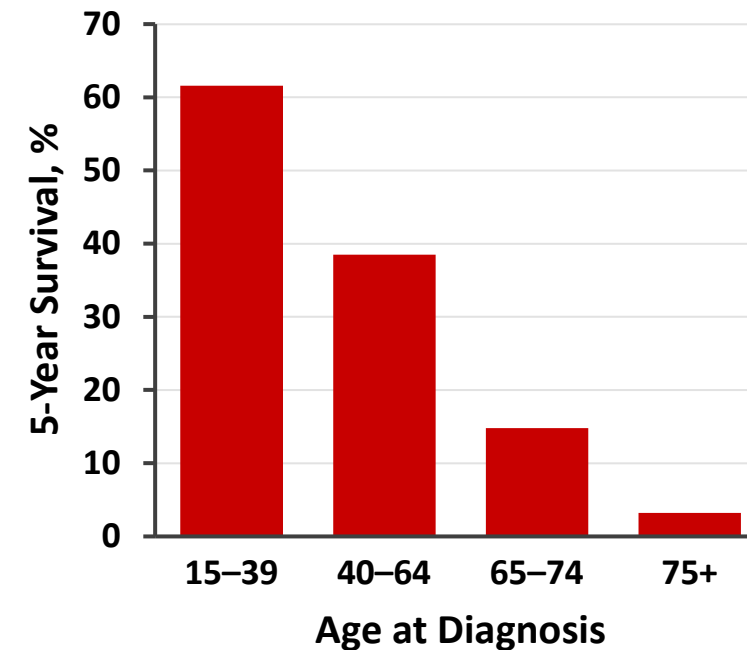


AML Incidence and Survival

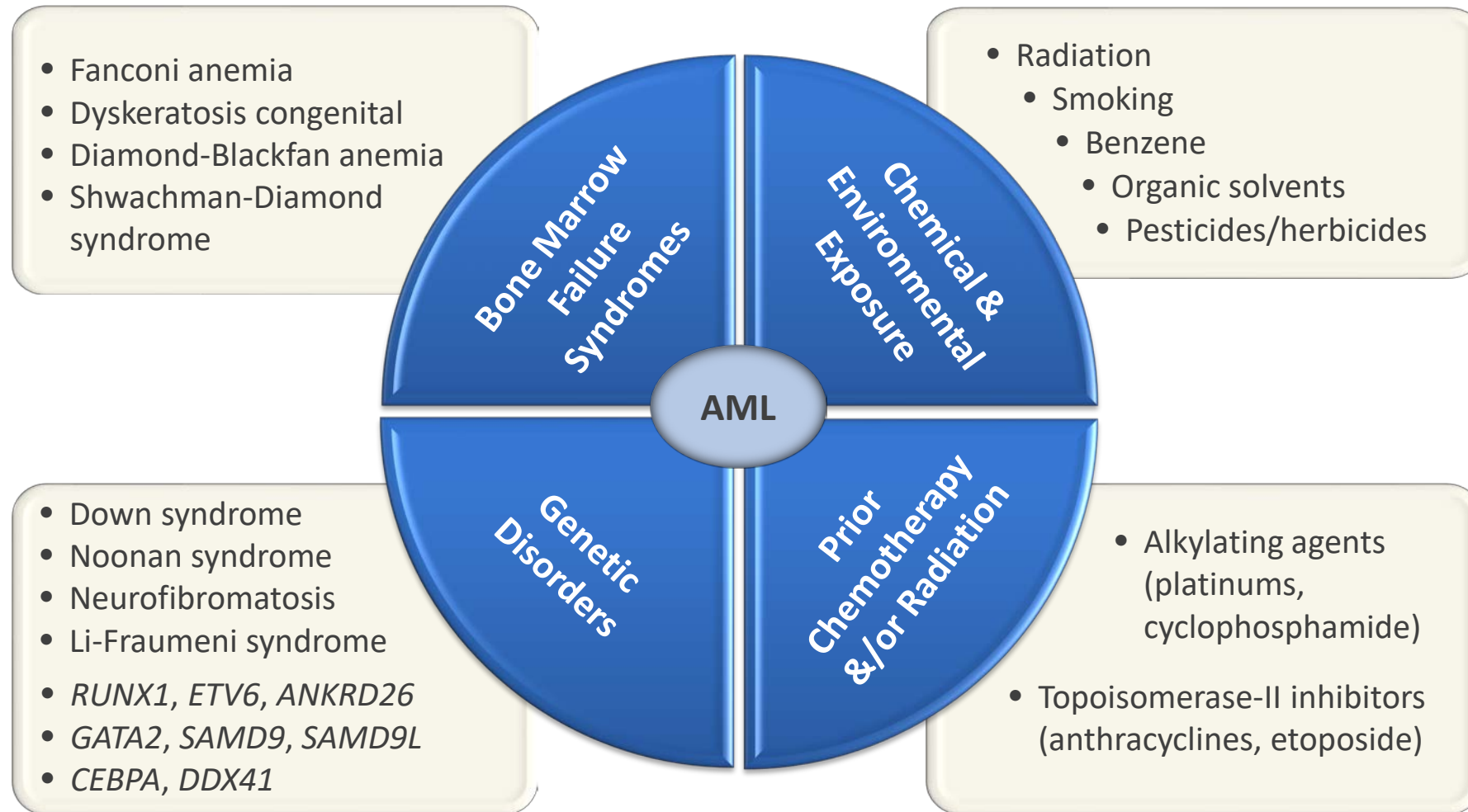
AML Incidence by Age Group
Median Age at Diagnosis: 68



5-Year Relative Survival
Overall 5-Year Survival: 28.3%



Risk Factors and Etiologies





Diagnosis, Assessment, and Prognostic Risk Stratification

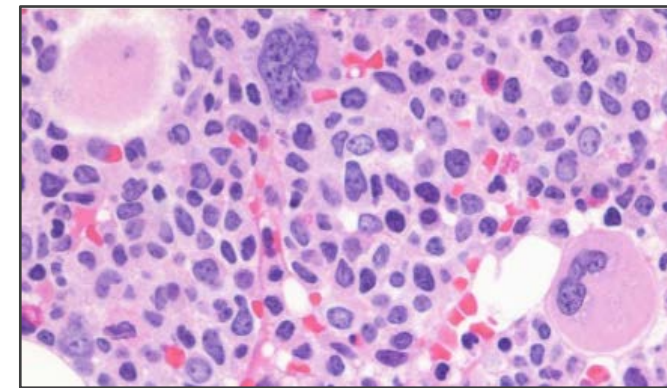
Diagnostic Criteria for AML

- $\geq 20\%$ myeloid blasts of 500 cells (BM and/or PB)
- Evidence of myeloid origin + MPO, NSE, or BE

Stage/Lineage	Marker Expression
Precursors*	CD34, CD117, HLA-DR
Granulocytic	CD13, CD33, MPO
Monocytic	CD11c, CD14, CD36, CD64
Megakaryocytic	CD41 (gp IIb/IIIa), CD61 (gp IIIa)
Erythroid	CD235a (glycophorin A)

*Note that CD34 and HLA-DR are **negative** in APL.

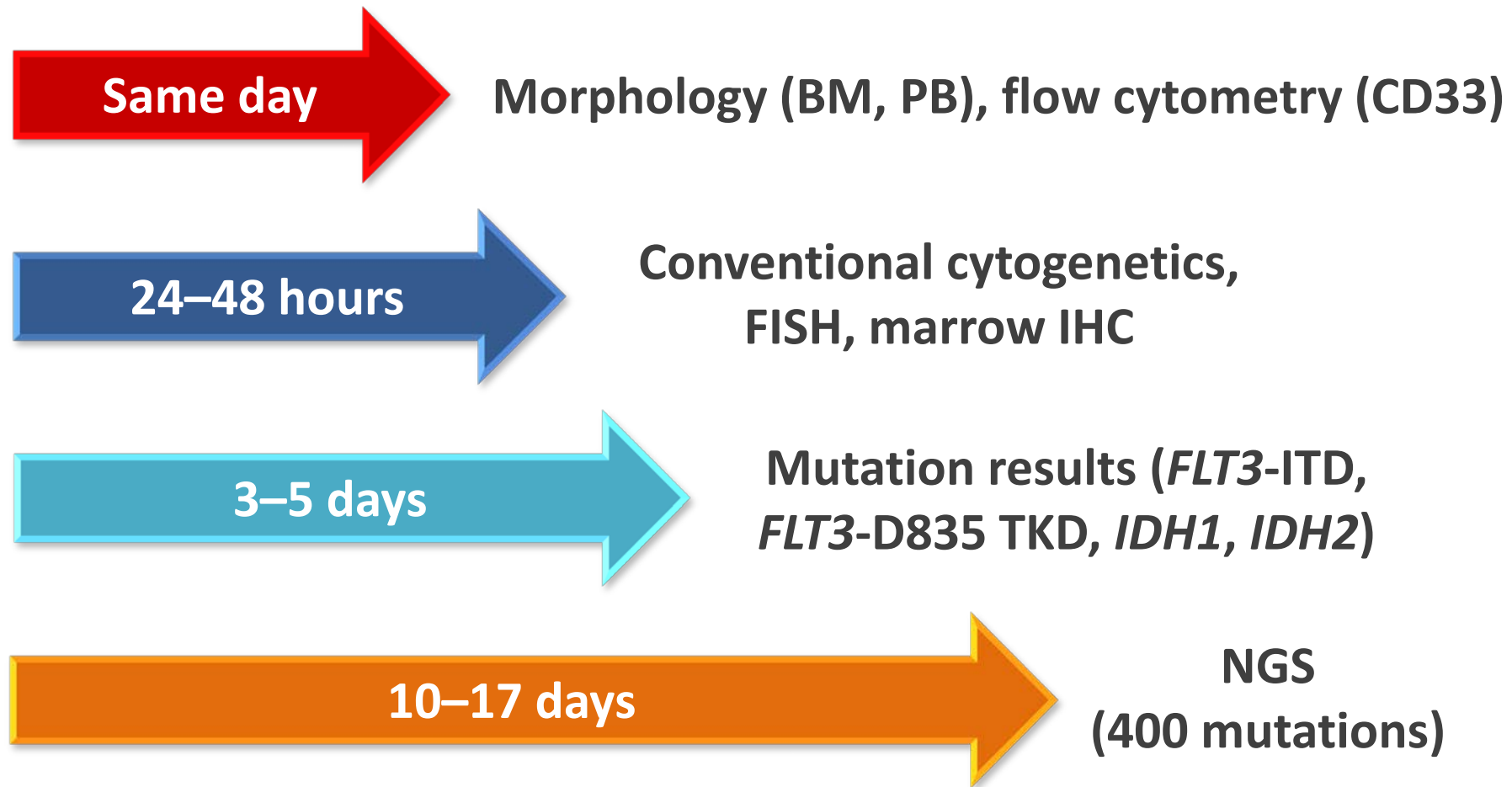
APL, acute promyelocytic leukemia; ASH, American Society of Hematology; BE, butyrate esterase; BM, bone marrow; gp, glycoprotein; MPO, myeloperoxidase; NSE, nonspecific esterase; PB, peripheral blood.



Blasts seen in BM biopsy.

Image courtesy of Reva Channah Goldberg, ASH Image Bank.

Diagnostic Workup for AML



FISH, fluorescence in situ hybridization; FLT3-ITD, fms-related tyrosine kinase 3-internal tandem duplication; IDH, isocitrate dehydrogenase; IHC, immunohistochemistry; NGS, next-generation sequencing; TKD, tyrosine kinase domain.

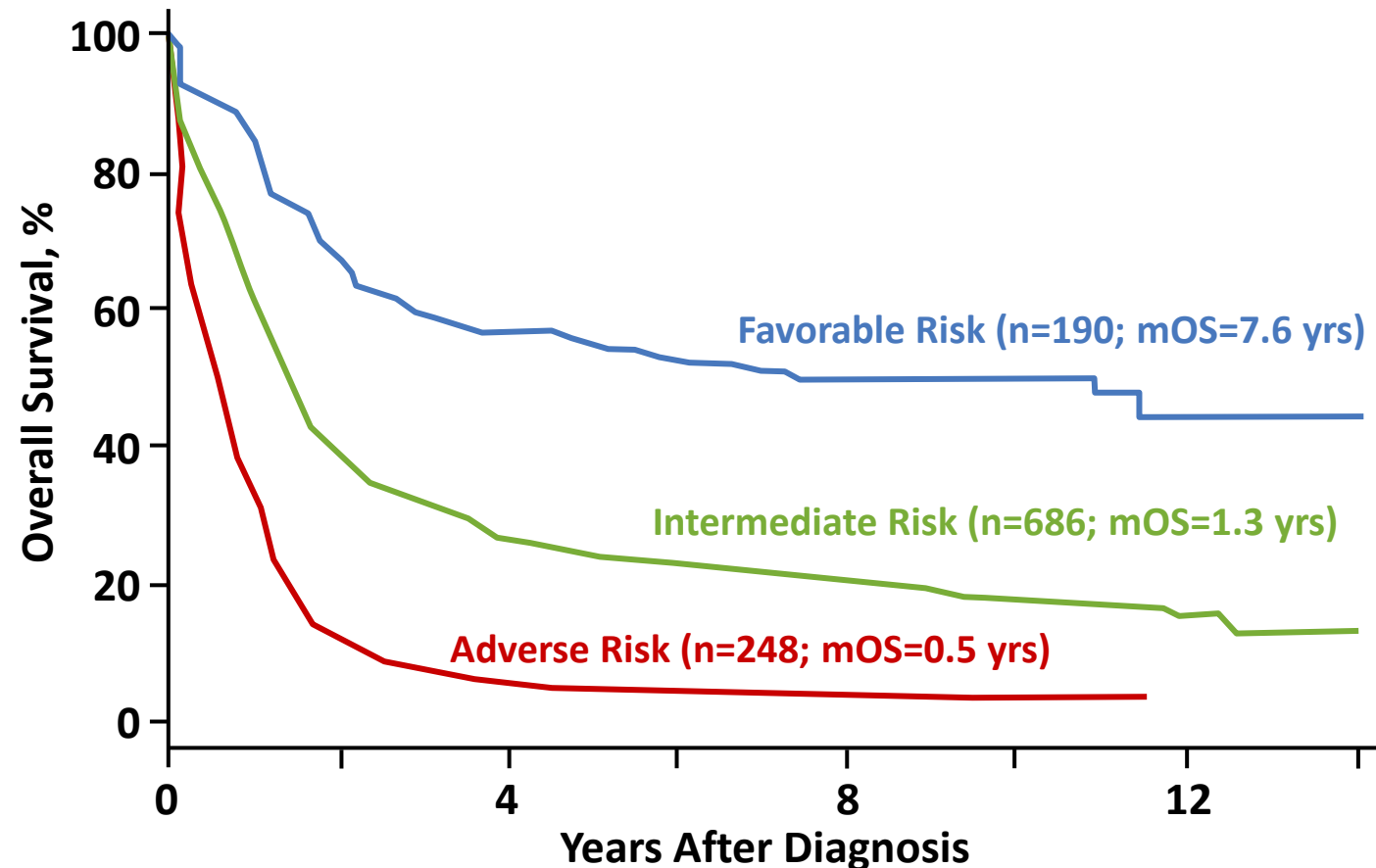
Assessing Prognosis in AML

- Historic prognostic factors in AML
 - **Age:** Remission rates inversely related to age
 - $\geq 65\%$ for younger than 60
 - 5-year survival $\leq 13\%$ if older than 60¹
 - **Performance status:** Karnofsky and ECOG most common
 - Performance and age at diagnosis combined to estimate % of patients who will die within first 28 days of treatment²
 - **Cytogenetics:** Strongest prognostic information to predict outcome of induction and consolidation/post-remission treatment³

ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group.

Assessing Prognosis in AML

Based on cytogenetic/molecular analysis, patients can be divided into having *favorable*, *intermediate*, or *adverse* risk



mOS, median overall survival.

2017 ELN Risk Stratification by Cytogenetics

Risk Category	Genetic Abnormality
Favorable	t(8;21)(q22;q22.1); <i>RUNX1-RUNX1T1</i> inv(16)(p13.1q22) or t(16;16)(p13.1;q22); <i>CBFB-MYH11</i> Mutated <i>NPM1</i> without <i>FLT3</i> -ITD or with <i>FLT3</i> -ITD ^{low} Biallelic mutated <i>CEBPA</i>
Intermediate (Not classified as favorable or adverse)	Mutated <i>NPM1</i> and <i>FLT3</i> -ITD ^{high} Wild-type <i>NPM1</i> without <i>FLT3</i> -ITD or with <i>FLT3</i> -ITD ^{low} (without adverse-risk genetic lesions) t(9;11)(p21.3;q23.3); <i>MLLT3-KMT2A</i>
Adverse	t(6;9)(p23;q34.1); <i>DEK-NUP214</i> t(v;11q23.3); <i>KMT2A</i> rearranged t(9;22)(q34.1;q11.2); <i>BCR-ABL1</i> inv(3)(q21.3q26.2) or t(3;3)(q21.3;q26.2); <i>GATA2</i> , <i>MECOM(EVI1)</i> -5 or del(5q); -7; -17/abn(17p) Complex karyotype, monosomal karyotype Wild-type <i>NPM1</i> and <i>FLT3</i> -ITD ^{high} Mutated <i>RUNX1</i> , <i>ASXL1</i> , and/or <i>TP53</i>

CBFB-MYH11, core binding-factor subunit beta-myosin heavy chain 11; ELN, European Leukemia-NET; TP53, tumor protein p53.

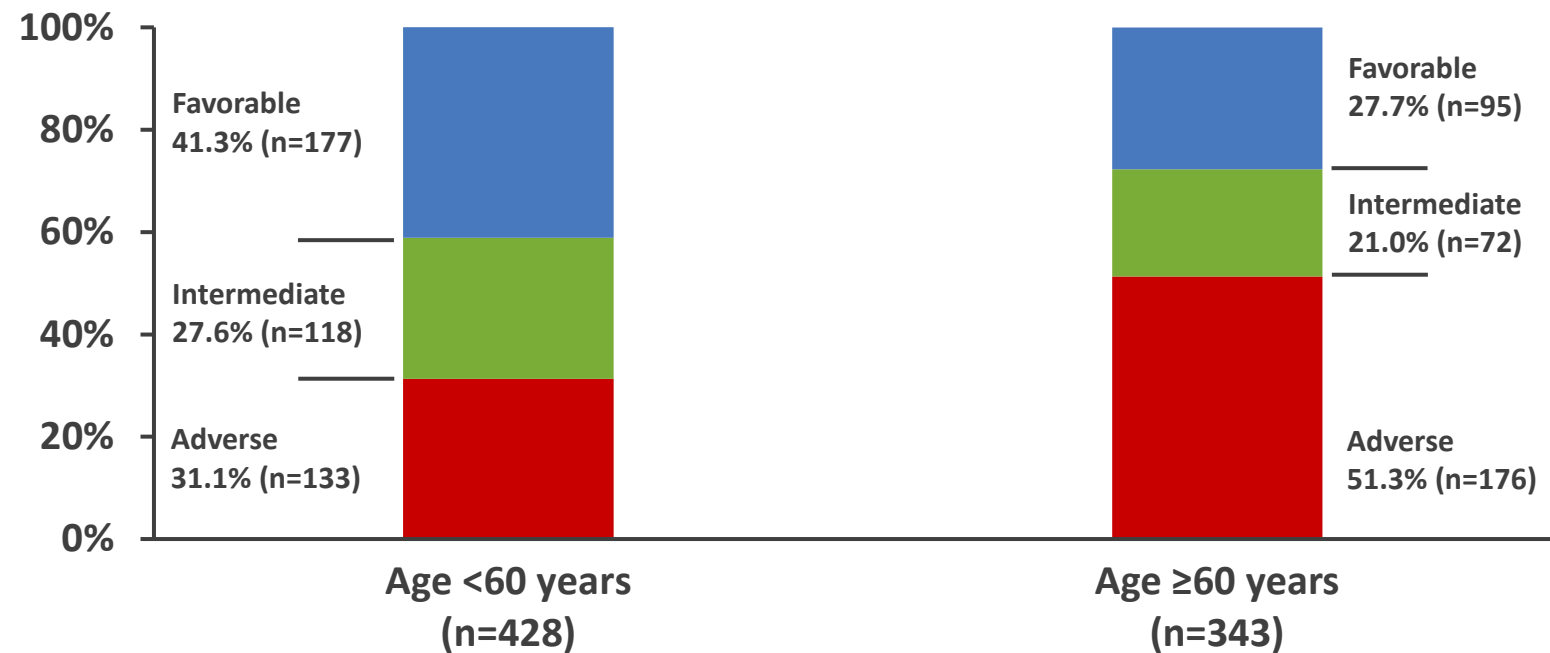
Essential AML Prognostic Features

Trait	Favorable	Unfavorable
Age		✓ (particularly >65)
FLT3-ITD		✓
TP53		✓
RUNX1 and/or ASXL1		✓
-5, -7, inv(3), complex cytogenetics		✓
NPM1	✓	
dmCEBPA (biallelic, dual mutant)	✓	
t(15;17)	✓	
Inv(16) or t(8;21)	✓	
KIT mutation in inv(16) or t(8;21)		✓ (generally)

Red = unfavorable; Black = favorable. dmCEBPA, double mutated CEBPA.

Validation of ELN Risk Categories

Proportion of intensively treated patients in ELN 2017
risk categories* validation study

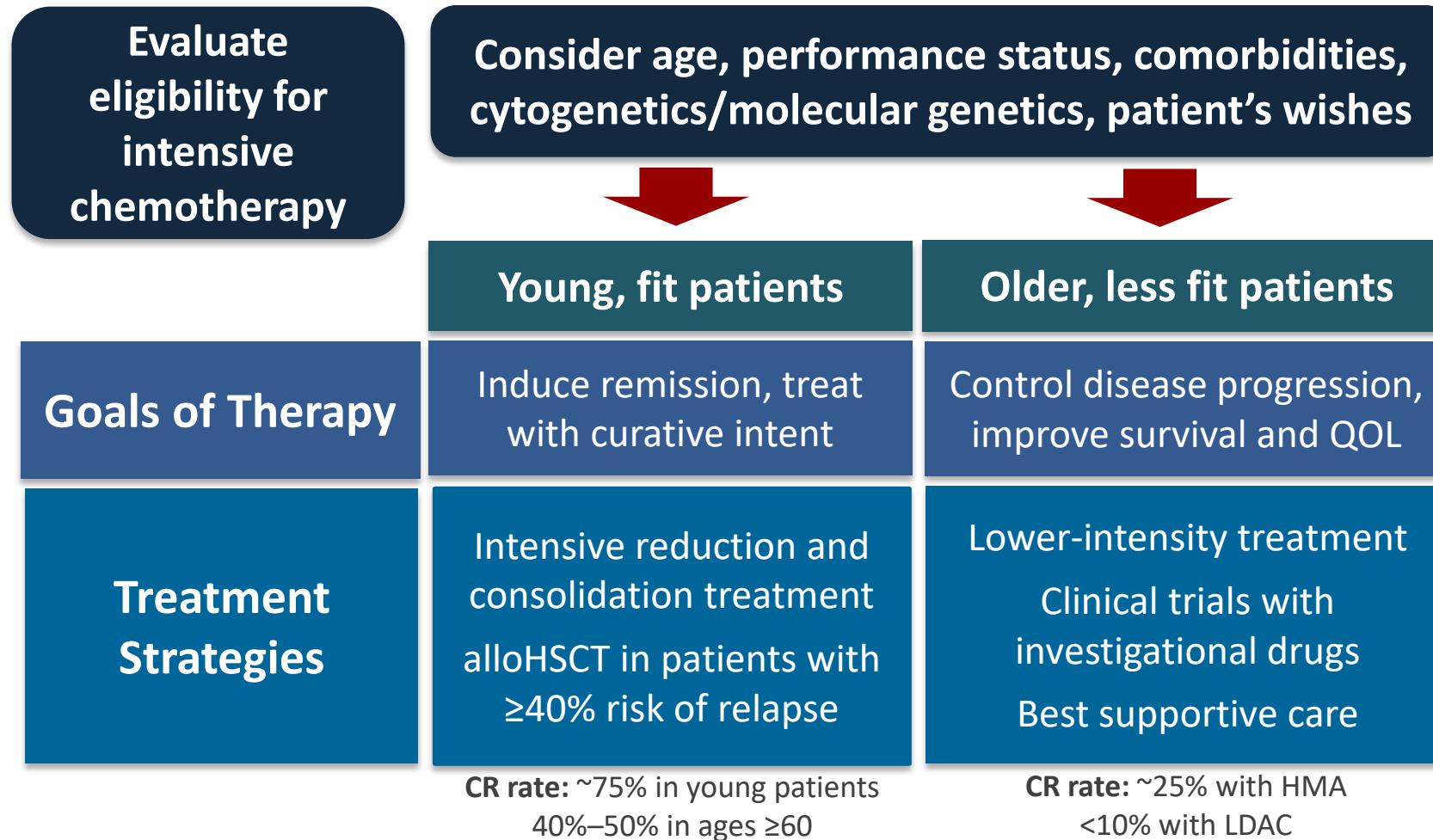


*Previous separation of intermediate risk into 2 divisions (Intermediate-I and Intermediate-II) was eliminated in the 2017 ELN update.



Review of Therapeutic Goals and New Treatment Approaches

Principles of AML Therapy



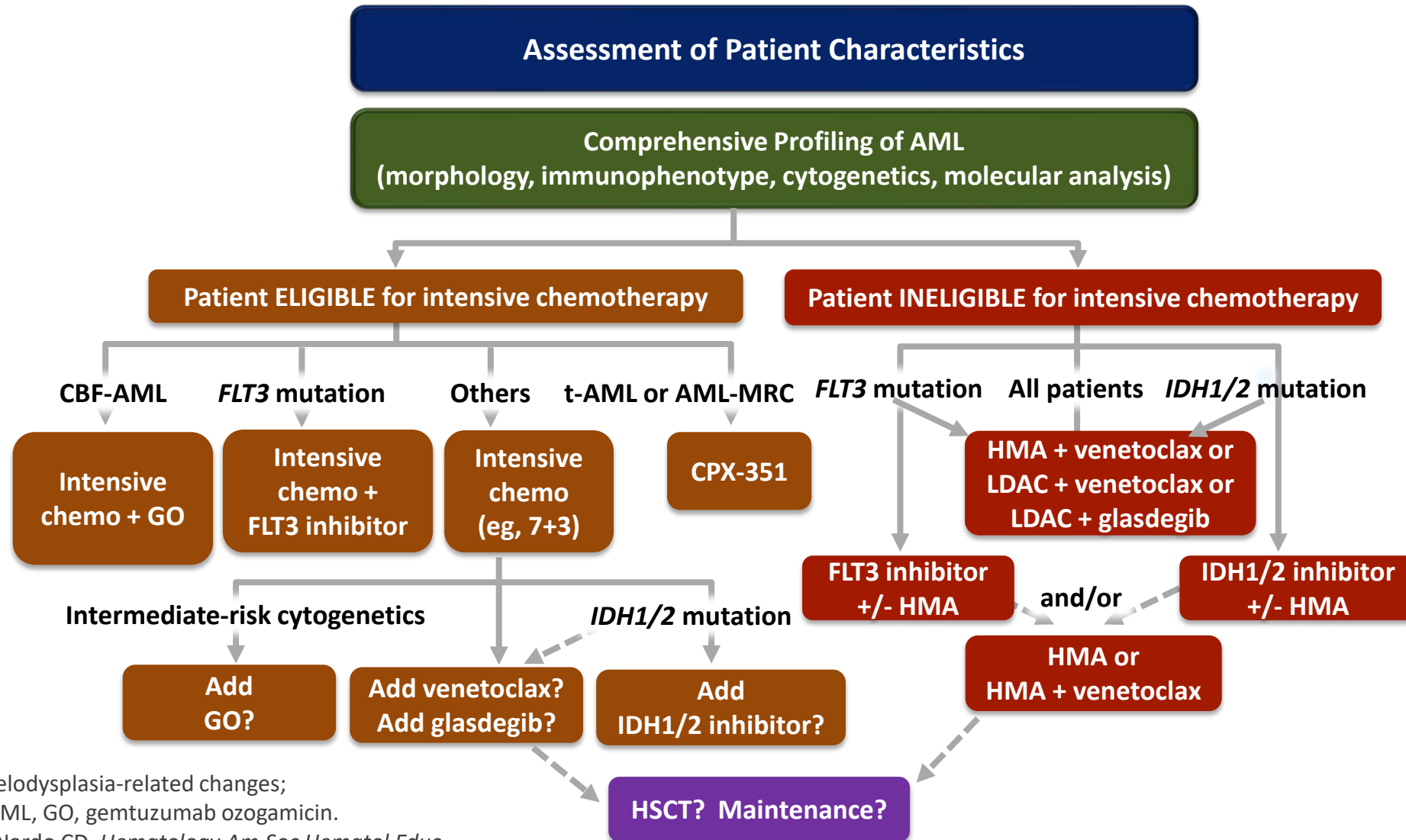
alloHSCt, allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant; CR, complete remission; HMA, hypomethylating agent; LDAC, low-dose cytarabine; QOL, quality of life.

After 40 Years . . . 8 New Targeted Treatments

“Finally, after a prolonged wait [40 years], we are witnessing the next wave of AML treatment, characterized by a more precise and personalized understanding of the unique molecular or genetic mapping of individual patients. This trend has been further facilitated with 8 new FDA approvals granted since 2017.”

*~Sylvia Park, et al, in **Blood Research**, 2020*

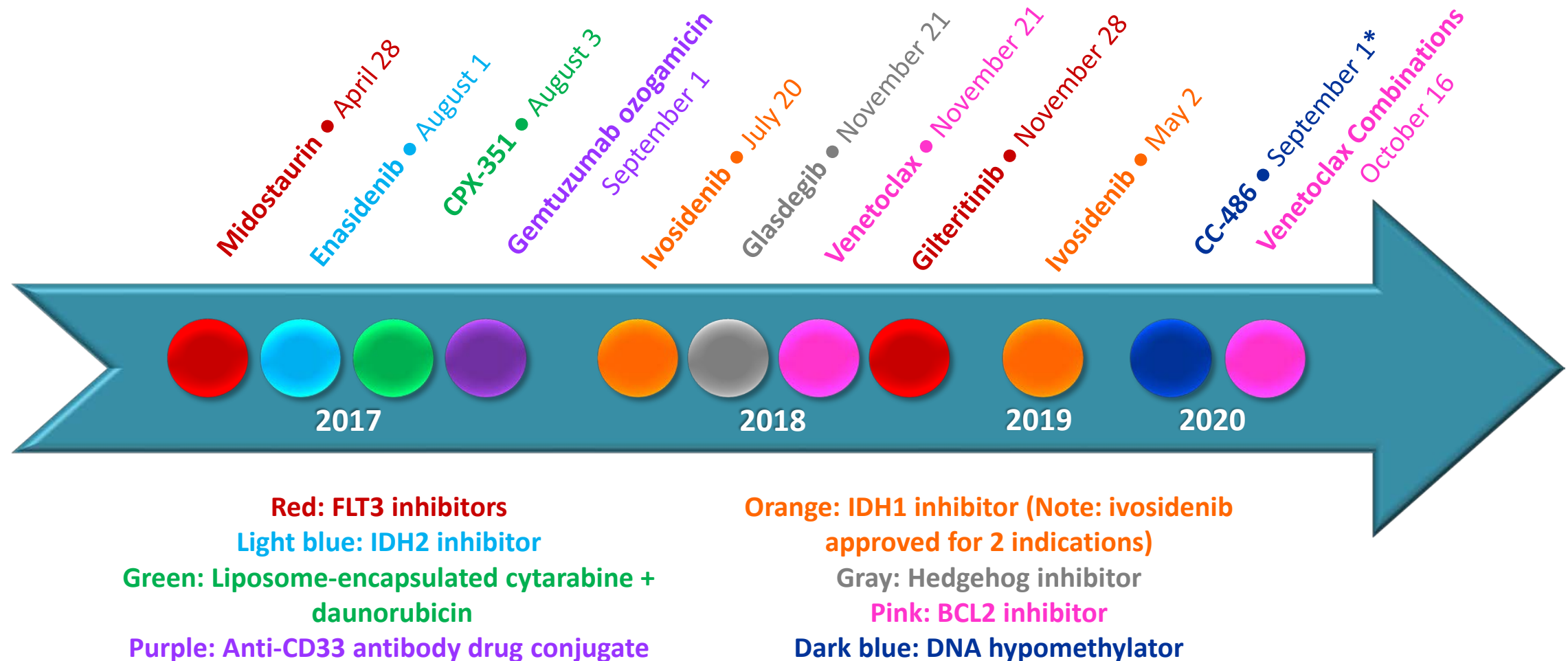
Evolving Treatment Options for Newly Diagnosed AML



AML-MRC, AML with myelodysplasia-related changes;
t-AML, therapy-related AML, GO, gemtuzumab ozogamicin.
Richard-Carpentier G, DiNardo CD. *Hematology Am Soc Hematol Educ Program*. 2019;2019:548-556.

Slide credit:

Targeted Treatments Approval Timeline



*CC-486 is an oral formulation of azacytidine, approved as maintenance treatment.

Richard-Carpentier G, DiNardo CD. *Am Soc Hematol Educ Program*. 2019;2019:548-556.

Slide credit:

Novel/Targeted Agents

Class / Target	Agent	Indication	Route	Caution/Monitoring
<i>BCL2</i>	Venetoclax	Newly Dx AML in pts ≥75 yrs or pts w/ comorbidities unfit for intensive induction chemo	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common AEs (in combination with azacitidine or decitabine): nausea, diarrhea, constipation, thrombocytopenia, neutropenia, FN, fatigue Monitor for: TLS
Cytotoxic	CPX-351*	Newly Dx t-AML or AML-MRC	IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor for: blood counts for prolongation of blood count suppression Avoid in pts with decreased cardiac function
Cytotoxic ADC	Gemtuzumab ozogamicin	Newly Dx & R/R CD33+ AML	IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infusion-related reactions Monitor platelet counts and signs of VOD
Cytotoxic DNMTi	CC-486†	Maintenance Tx in 1st CR or CRi	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common AEs: GI effects including nausea, vomiting, diarrhea; thrombocytopenia

*CPX-351 is a liposomal version of cytarabine plus daunorubicin; †CC-486 is an oral formulation of injectable azacitidine with distinctly different pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic profile, enabling extended dosing to maximize hypomethylating effects. ADC, antibody drug conjugate; AEs, adverse events; CRi, complete remission with incomplete hematologic recovery; DNMTi, DNA methyltransferase inhibitor; FN, febrile neutropenia; GI, gastrointestinal; IV, intravenous; pts, patients; R/R, relapsed/refractory; TLS, tumor lysis syndrome; VOD, veno-occlusive disease.

Novel/Targeted Agents (cont)

Class / Target	Agent	Indication	Route	Caution/Monitoring
<i>FLT3</i> -ITD/TKD	Gilteritinib	R/R <i>FLT3</i> ^{mut} positive AML	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common AEs: myalgias, elevated liver enzymes, dyspnea, edma, rash, pneumonia, nausea, hypotension, dizziness, vomiting
<i>FLT3</i> -ITD/TKD	Midostaurin	Newly Dx <i>FLT3</i> ^{mut} positive AML	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common AEs: GI events Monitor for: Potential drug-drug reactions
Hhp	Glasdegib	Newly Dx AML in pts ≥75 yrs or pts w/ comorbidities unfit for intensive induction chemo	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common AEs: anemia, fatigue, hemorrhage, FN, MSK pain, nausea, edema, dyspnea, thrombocytopenia
<i>IDH1</i>	Ivosidenib	Newly Dx or R/R <i>IDH</i> ^{mut} positive pts ≥75 yrs or pts w/ comorbidities unfit for intensive induction chemo	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor for: IDH differentiation syndrome, GI events, nausea, leukocytosis
<i>IDH2</i>	Enasidenib	R/R <i>IDH2</i> ^{mut} positive AML	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor for: IDH differentiation syndrome, GI events, elevated bilirubin, leukocytosis

Hhp, hedgehog pathway; MSK, musculoskeletal.

Exploring the Role of Maintenance Therapy

Maintenance therapy: post-remission strategy to clear malignant cells left over after remission induction therapy

Exploration of maintenance therapy in AML ongoing since the 1960s

Goal: extend CR, reduce risk of relapse through lower-intensity treatment

Targeted agents with novel MOAs renews hope for effective maintenance treatment—most notably with oral FLT3 inhibitors

MOAs, methods of action.

Quantifying and Evaluating MRD

Quantifying MRD important after CR to assess:
1) risk of relapse, 2) need for maintenance—but still controversial

Method	Target	Sensitivity	Pros/Cons
Cytogenetics	Chromosomal abnormalities	1 in 20 (5%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inexpensive, readily available• Applicable for ~50% of AML
Flow cytometry	Leukemia-associated aberrant immuno-phenotype	1 in 10,000 (0.01%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicable to most AML• Relatively cheap• Not easily standardized• Subject to expertise and interpretation
RT-PCR	Fusion transcripts (CBFs), gene mutations (<i>NPM1</i>)	Up to 1 in 100,000 (0.001%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highly sensitive• Very standardized• Applicable for ~30%–40% of AML
NGS (mutation analysis)	Gene mutations	Up to 1 in 10,000 (0.01%); typically ~1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Genetic heterogeneity and clonal architecture complicate analysis

CBFs, core binding factors; RT-PCR, reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction.



**Frontline Treatment Strategies:
Newly Diagnosed Younger, Older, and
High-Risk, “Unfit” AML Patients**

Initial Therapy for Patients Fit for Intensive, Potentially Curative Chemotherapy

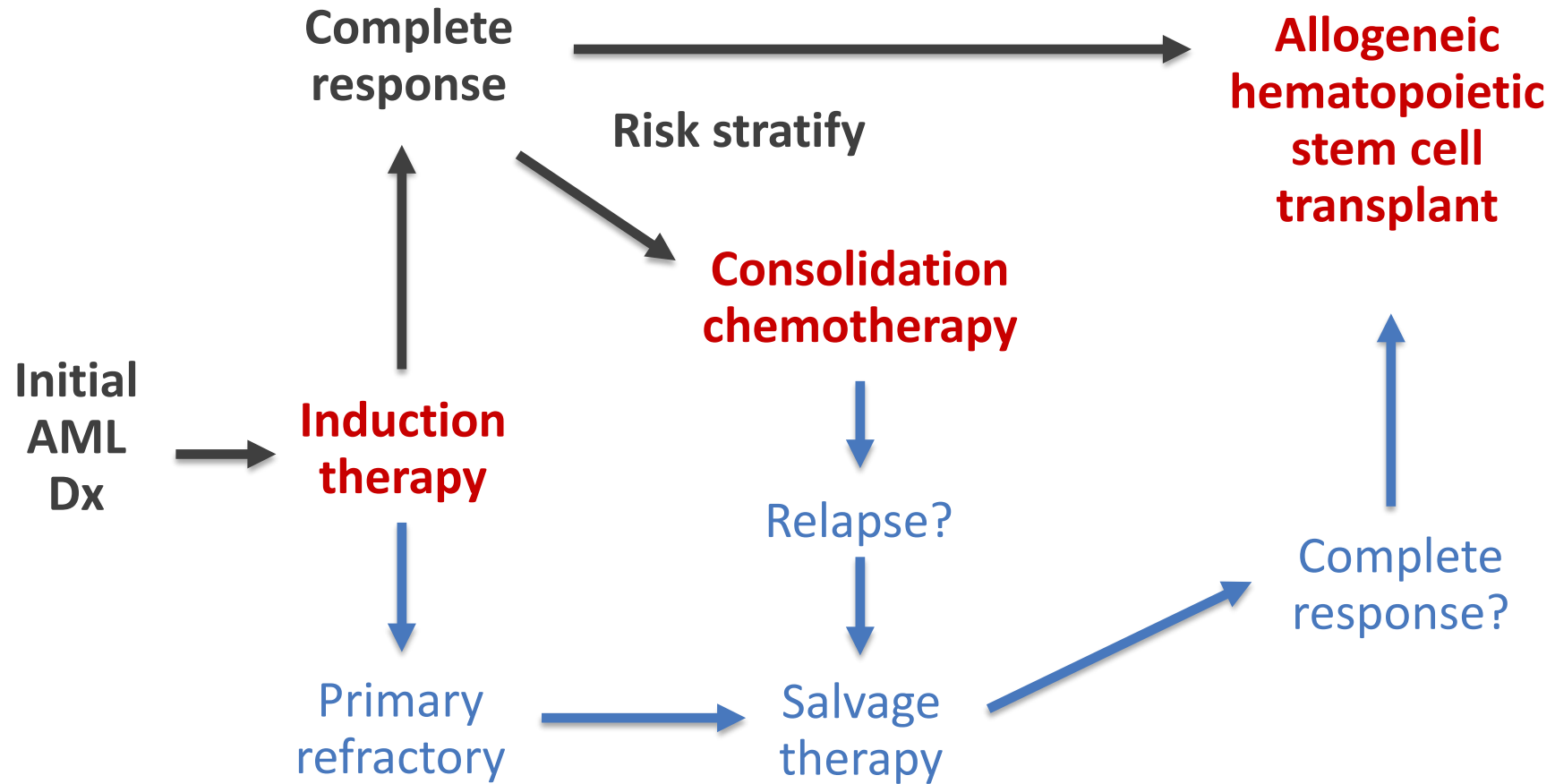
- Patients with AML sensitive to conventional chemo
 - **Younger patients:** <65 years without t-AML recurrent infections
 - **CBF leukemia:** 8;21 and inv(16)
 - **Diploid AML:** with *NPM1* or *dmCEBPA*



Image courtesy of Rhoda Baer. NCI Visuals Online.

dmCEBPA, double mutated; NCI, National Cancer Institute.

Paradigm for Initial Treatment



Chemotherapy Induction and Consolidation

“7+3” Induction

- Cytarabine 100–200 mg/m² x 7 days CIV
- Daunorubicin* 60–90 mg/m² x 3 days or idarubicin 12 mg/m² x 3 days

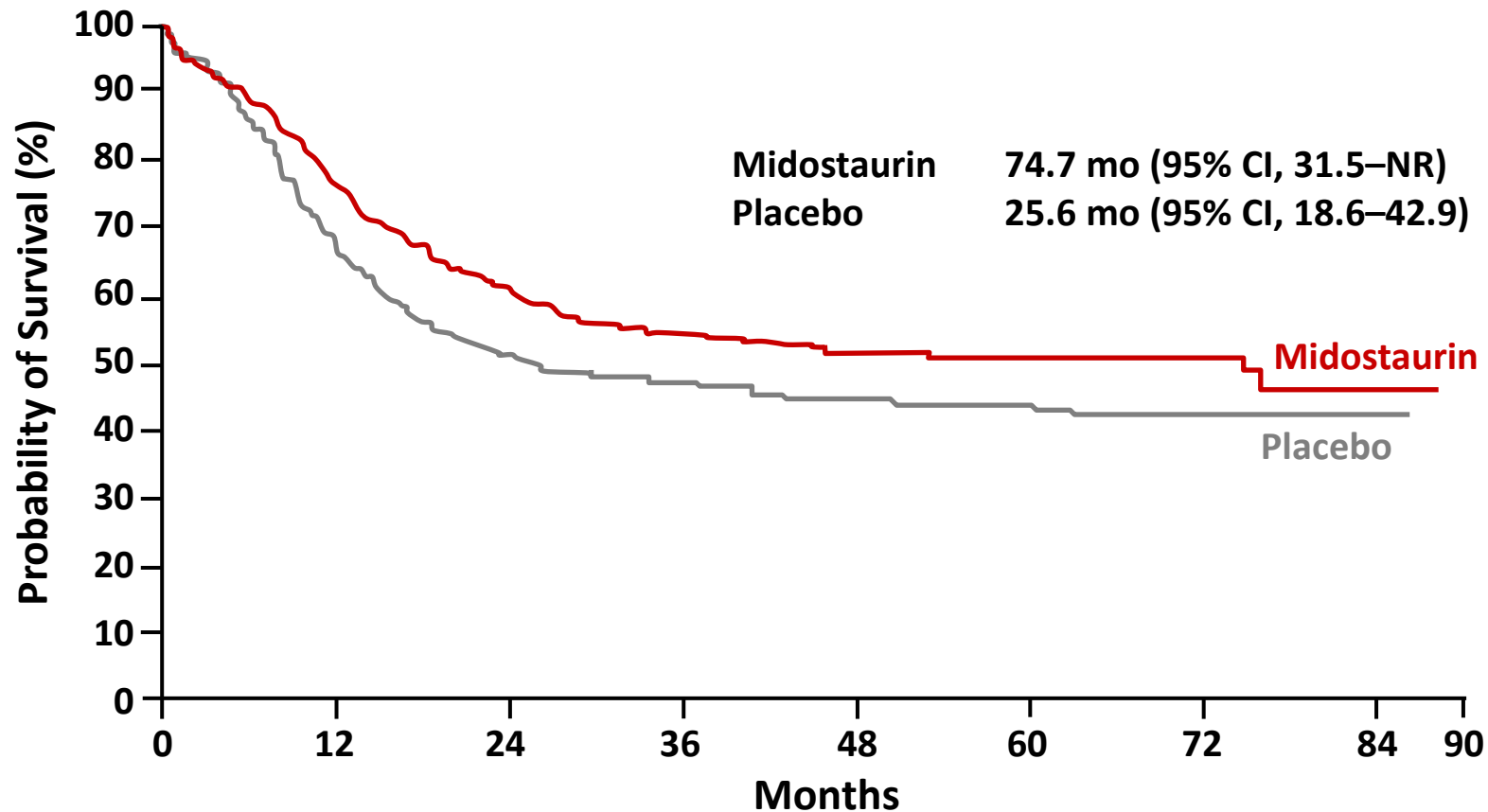
Consolidation

- HiDAC x 4 cycles
- alloHSCT if patient is high risk (or intermediate risk with appropriate donor)

*Note: daunorubicin **45 mg/m²** is **INFERIOR**

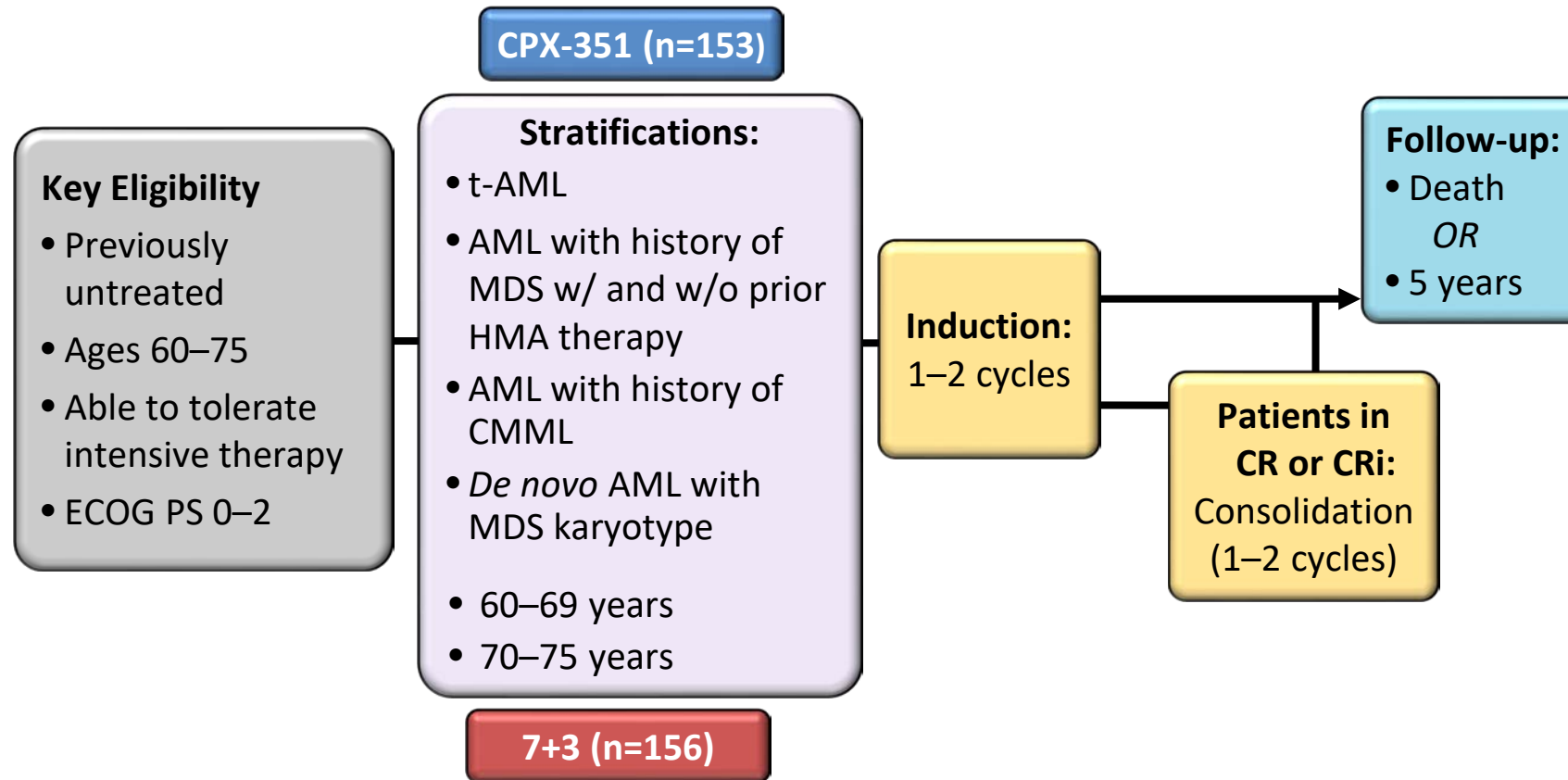
R/R AML Treatment for *FLT3*-Positive Patients: Midostaurin

OS from phase 3 RATIFY trial of midostaurin + standard chemo vs
chemo + placebo for *FLT3*-mutated AML (N=717)



OS, overall survival.

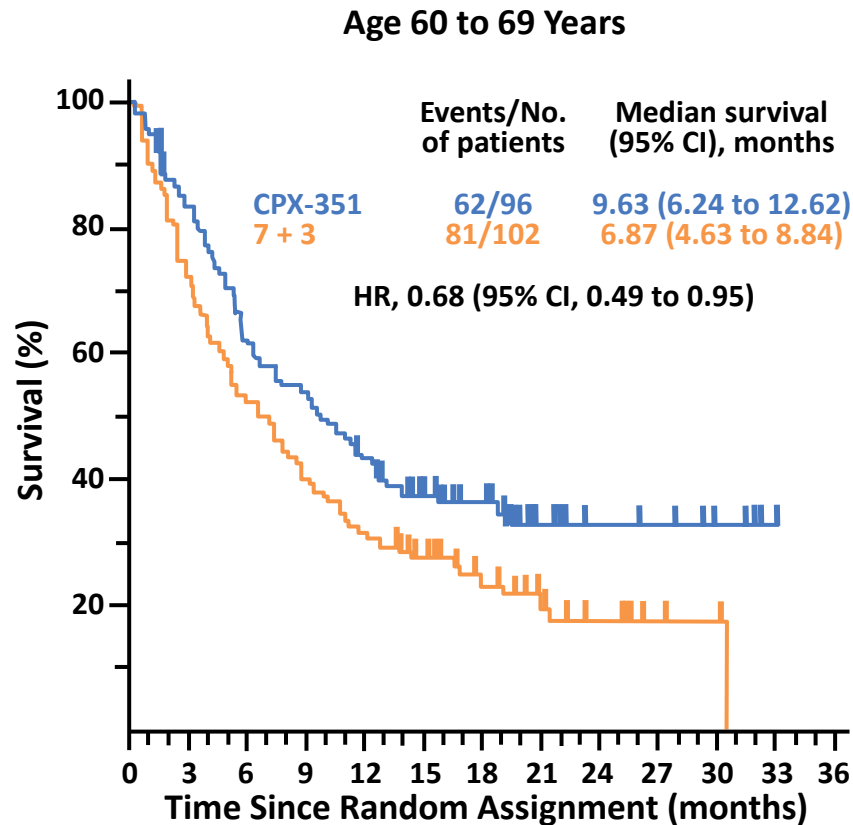
Initial Therapy for Older Patients with Newly Diagnosed Secondary AML



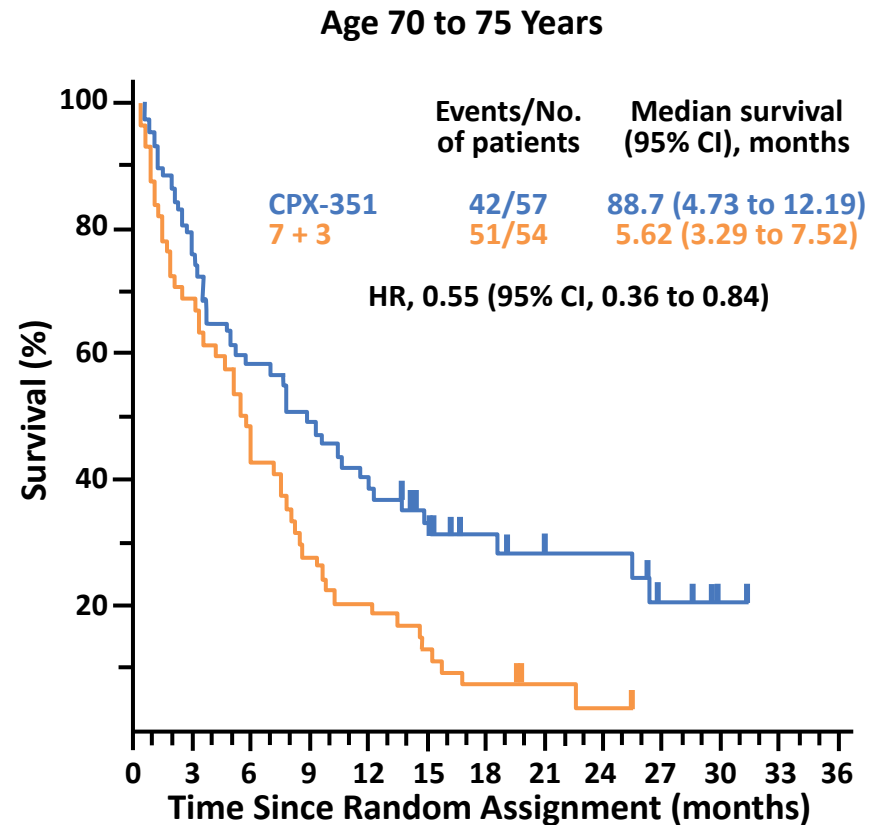
CMML, chronic myelomonocytic leukemia; MDS, myelodysplastic syndrome.

Initial Therapy for Older Patients with Newly Diagnosed Secondary AML

CPX-351 is the new SOC in this population



SOC, standard of care.



Initial Treatment: Newly Dx Patients NOT Fit for Intensive Chemotherapy

- Patients unfit for intensive chemo
 - ≥75 years
 - Poor performance status (ECOG PS ≥2)
 - Comorbidities (eg, pulmonary, cardiac, renal, hepatic)
- Best treatment options
 - BSC (hydreia, transfusions)
 - Lower-intensity therapy
 - HMA with azacitidine or decitabine
 - LDAC
 - Lower-intensity combinations (approved in 2018)
 - HMA or LDAC + ventoclax
 - LDAC + glasdegib
 - Molecularly targeted therapy
 - Ivosidenib (patients with *IDH1* mutations)

BSC, best supportive care.

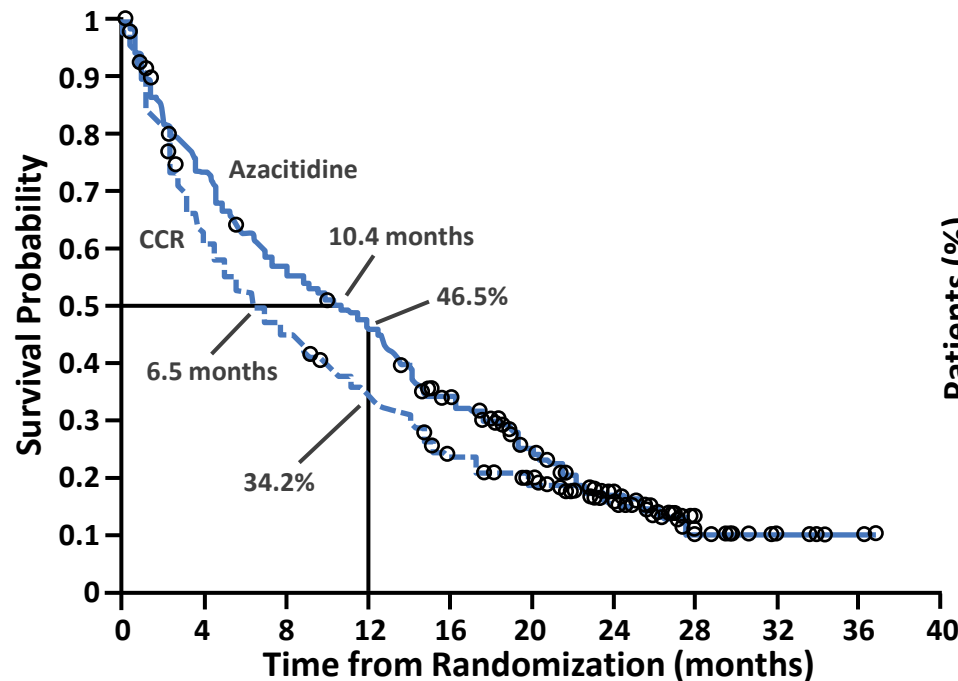
Newly Dx “Unfit” AML: AZA +/- VEN

AZA Alone¹

CR/CRi **28%**

N=241, median age 75

Early death 7.5%

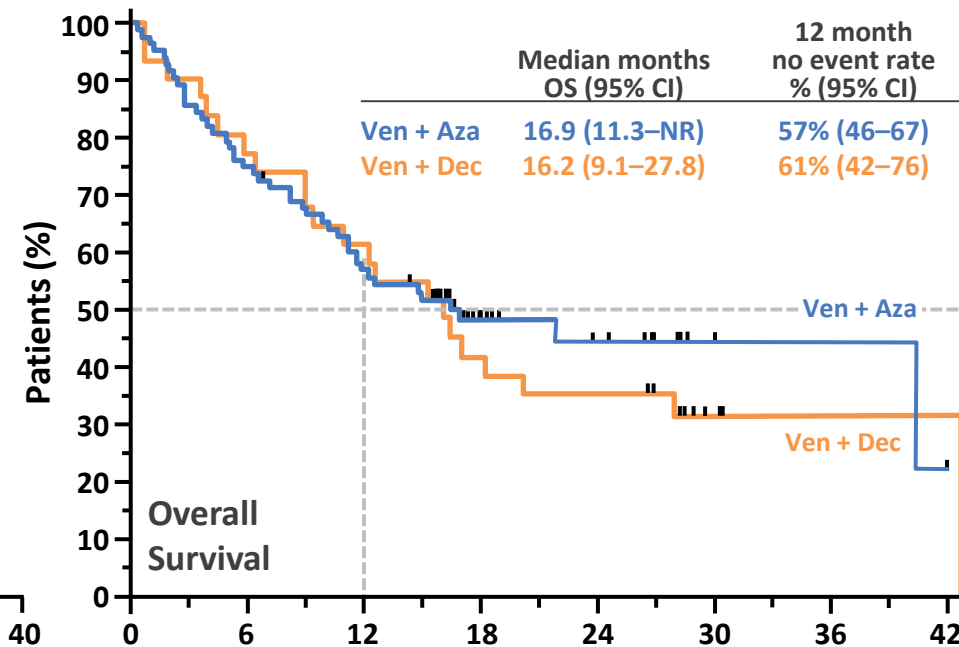


AZA + VEN²

CR/CRi **71%**

N=84, median age 75

Early death 2%



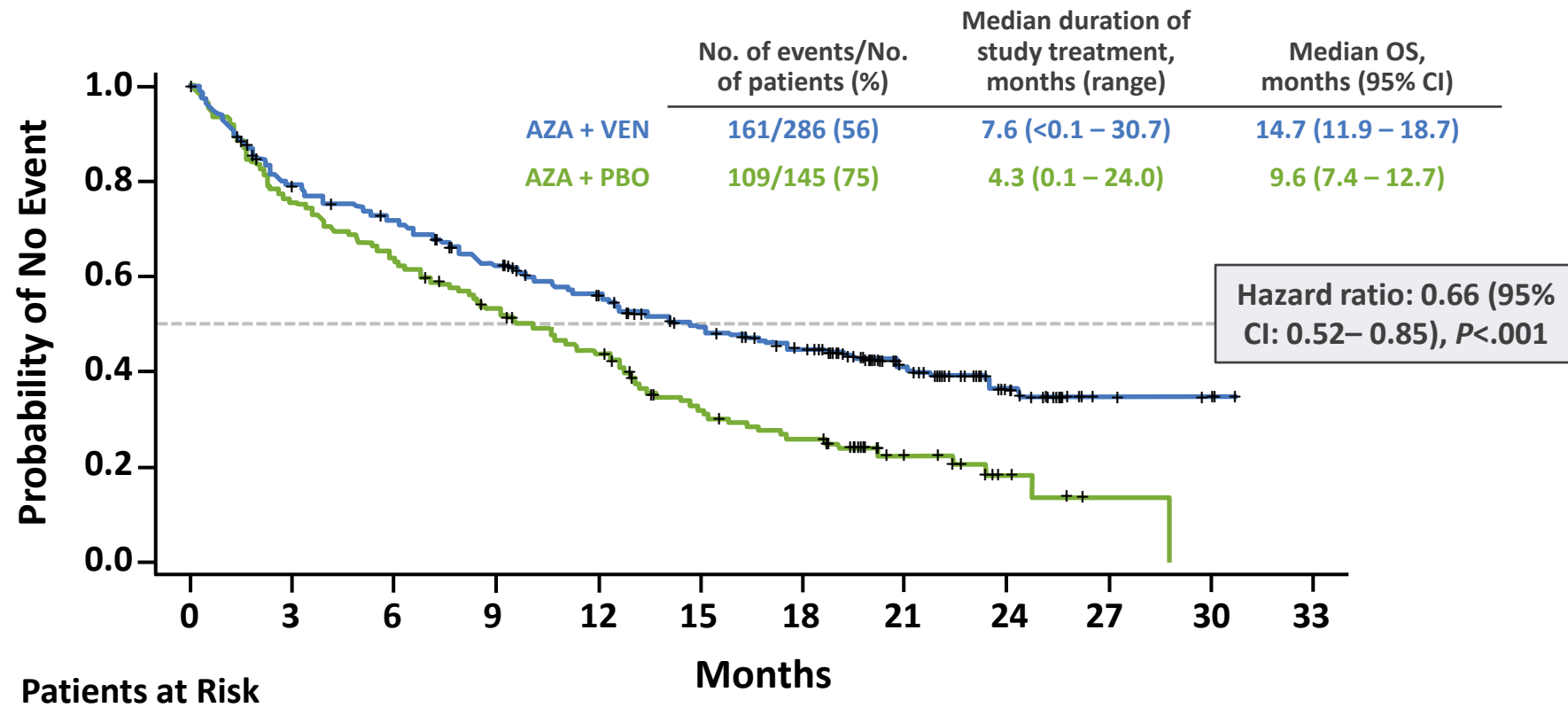
AZA, azacitidine; VEN, venetoclax.

1. Adapted from: Dombret H, et al. *Blood*. 2015;126:291-299.

2. Adapted from: DiNardo CD, et al. *Lancet Oncol*. 2018;19:216-228.

Newly Dx “Unfit” AML: AZA + VEN New SOC

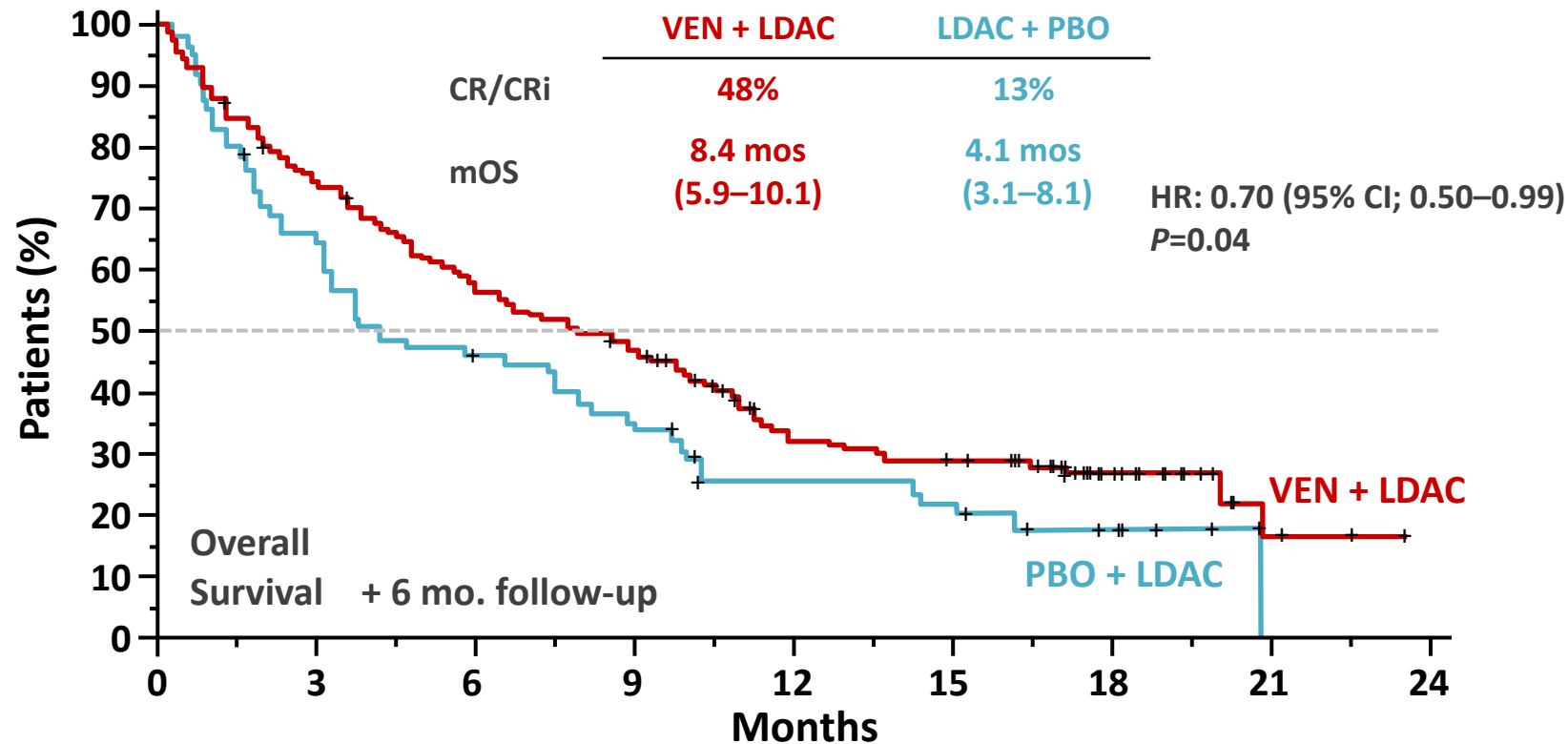
AZA + VEN the new SOC for patients ≥ 75 not eligible for intensive chemotherapy — phase 3 VIALE-A trial



PBO, placebo.

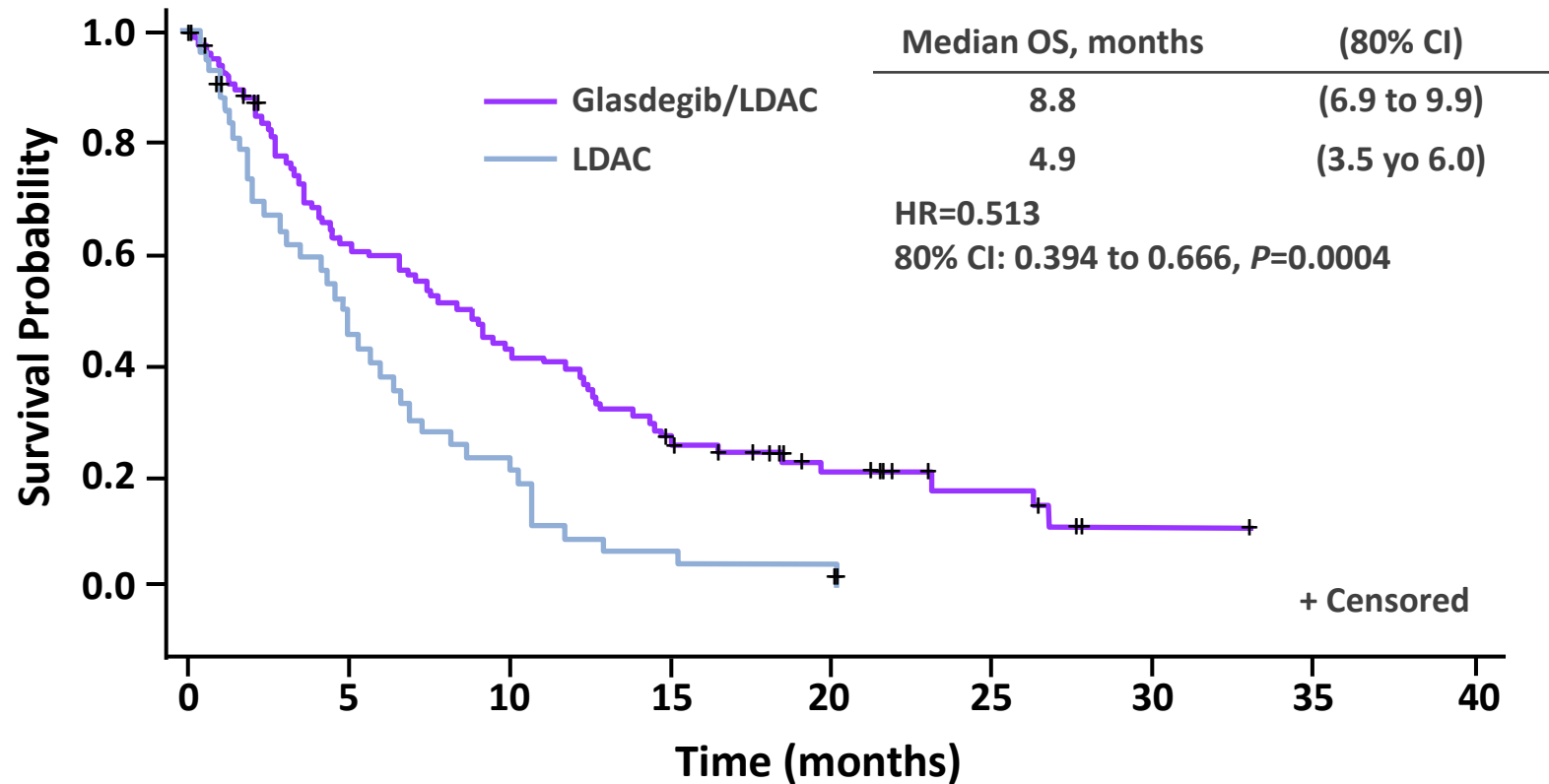
Newly Dx “Unfit” AML: LDAC +/- VEN

LDAC + VEN for patients ≥ 75 not eligible for intensive chemotherapy—
phase 3 VIALE-C trial



Newly Dx “Unfit” AML: LDAC + Glasdegib

OS from phase 2 randomized trial of LDAC +/- hedgehog inhibitor (N=132)





**Treatment in Patients with
“Targetable” Cytogenetic Mutations
in Frontline and Relapse Settings**

FLT3 and *IDH* Mutations in AML

*FLT3*¹

- ***FLT3* mutations common in AML**
 - *FLT3*-ITD in ~25% of AML
 - *FLT3*-TKD in ~10% of AML
- *FLT3* mutations more frequent in younger patients, *de novo* AML, and diploid cytogenetics
- Leads to constitutive activation of *FLT3* receptor
- *FLT3*-ITD an independent predictor of poor prognosis

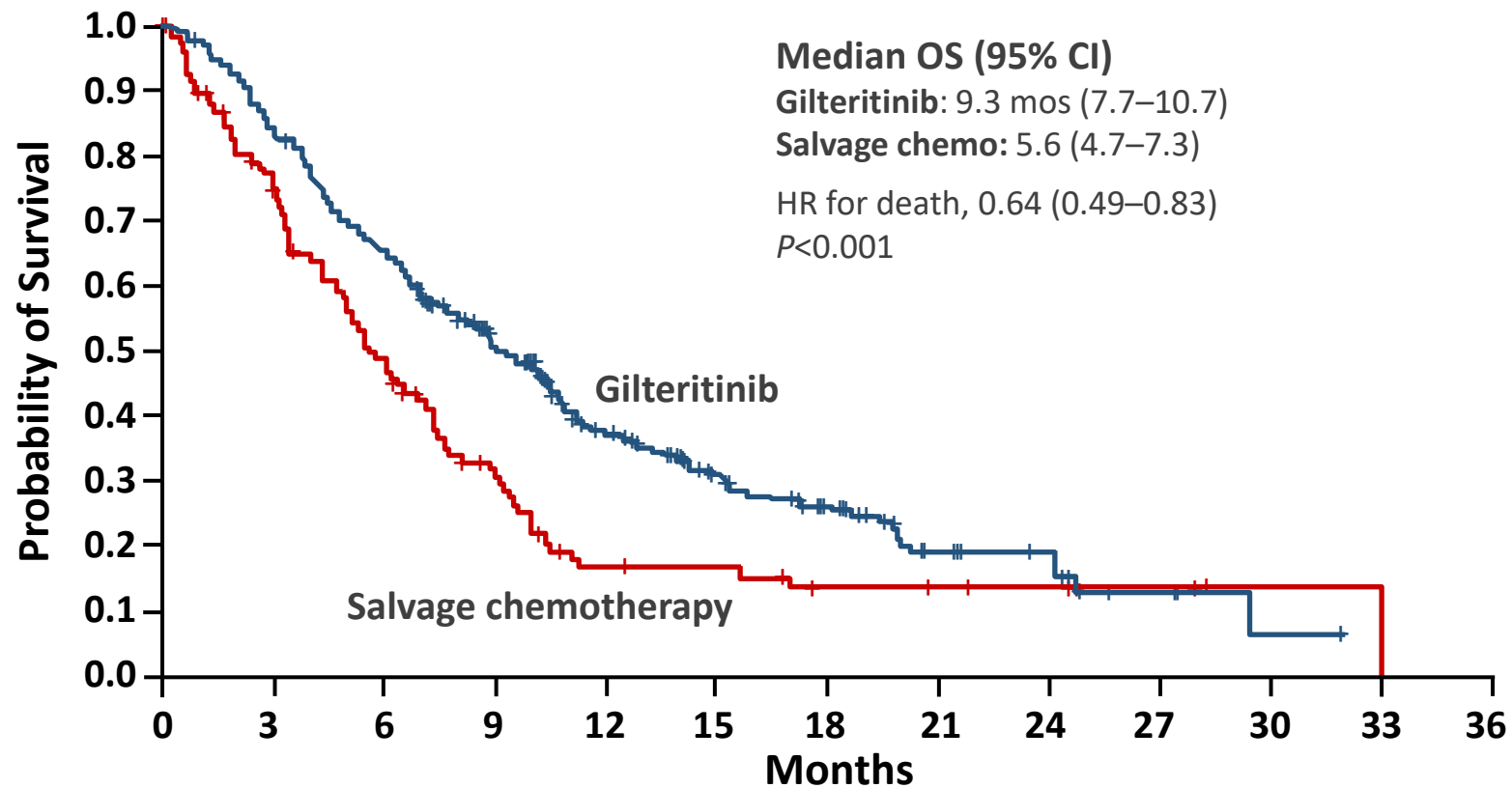
*IDH1/IDH2*²

- ***IDH* mutations in ~20% of AML**
 - *IDH1* in ~8% ; *IDH2* in ~12%
 - ~85% in *de novo* diploid or +8 AML
 - ↑ prevalence with ↑ patient age
- **Hotspot mutations**
 - *IDH1* R132, *IDH2* R140, *IDH2* R172
- ***IDH* mutations can be acquired at disease progression**
 - ~10%–15% of AML from MDS
 - ~20%–25% of AML from MPNs

MPN, myeloproliferative neoplasms.

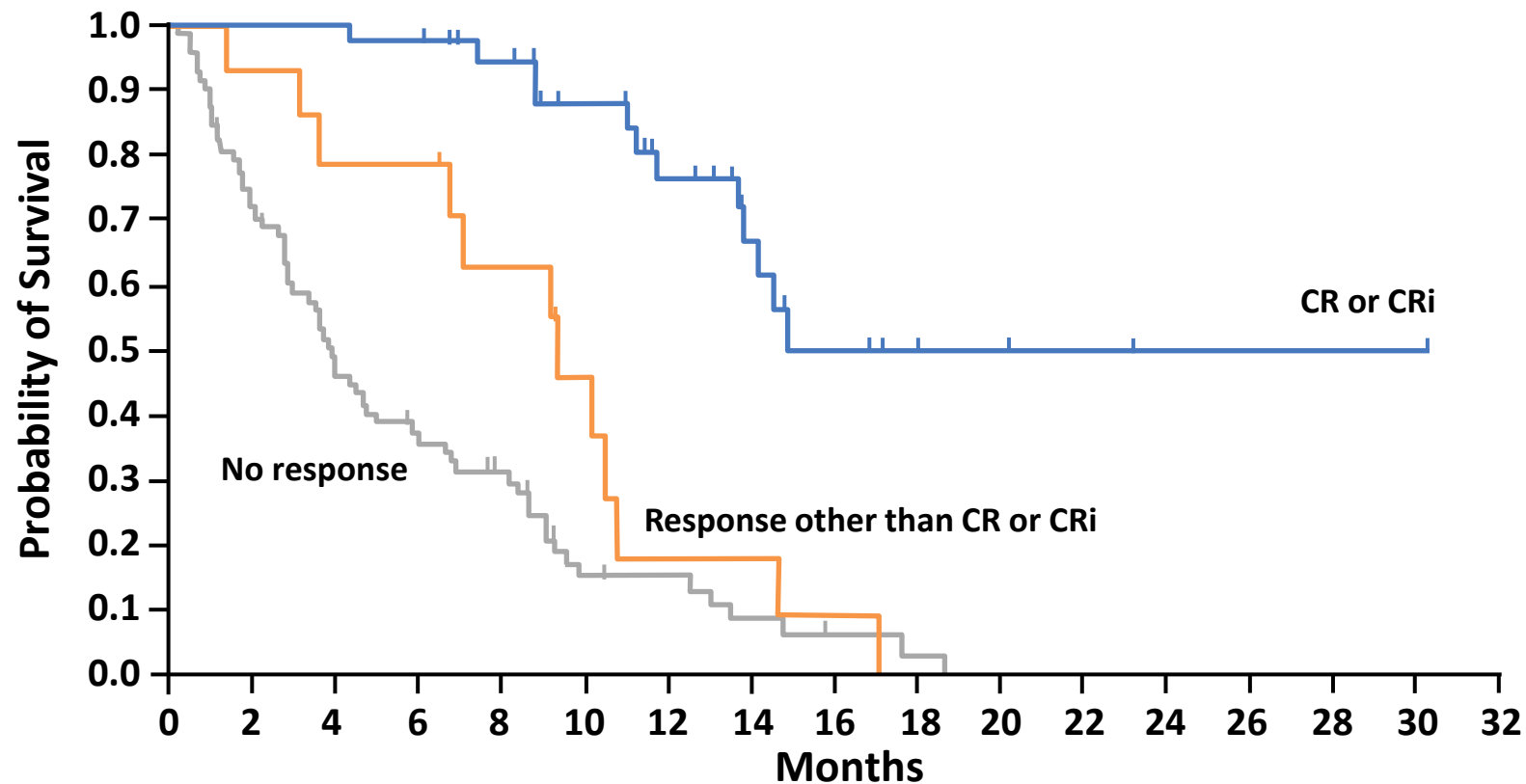
R/R AML Treatment for *FLT3*-Positive Patients: Gilteritinib

OS from phase 3 ADMIRAL trial of gilteritinib vs salvage chemo for *FLT3*-mutated AML (N=371)



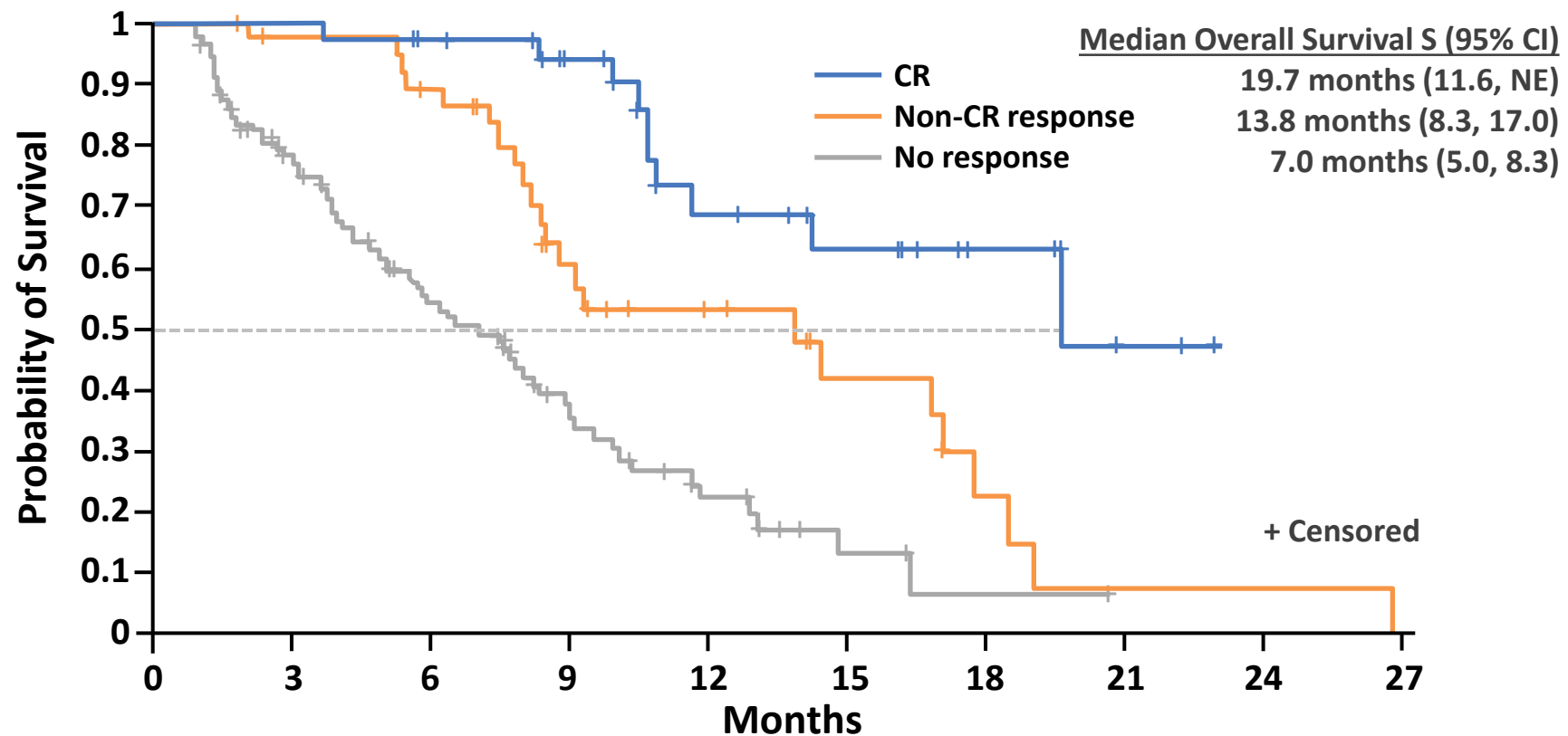
R/R AML Treatment for *IDH1*-Positive Patients: Ivosidenib

OS from phase 1 dose escalation/expansion study of *IDH1* inhibitor monotherapy (N=258)



R/R AML Treatment for IDH2-Positive Patients: Enasidenib

OS from phase 1/2 AG221-C-001 trial of IDH2 inhibitor monotherapy (N=239)



IDH Inhibitor Studies in R/R AML

Agent	Target	Study	Phase	Efficacy	Safety
Ivosidenib ¹	IDH1	NCT0324542	2	ORR 41%; cCr 30%; CR 22%; OS 8.8 mos	Prolonged QTc 7%, GR ≥3; IDH-DS 4.7%, GR ≥3
Enasidenib ²	IDH2	NCT01915498	1/2	ORR 40.3%; cCR 26%; CR 19%; OS 9.3 mos	Hyperbilirubinemia 18%, GR ≥3; IDH-DS 6%, GR ≥3; thrombocytopenia 23%, GR ≥3; anemia 19%, GR ≥3

cCR, complete clinical remission; GR, grade; IDH-DS, IDH differentiation syndrome; ORR, objective response rate.

1. DiNardo CD, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2018;378:2386–2398.

2. Stein EM, DiNardo CD, Pollyea DA, et al. *Blood*. 2017;130:722–31.

NCCN Recommendations for Patients with Targetable Cytogenetic Mutations

Young Patients (<60)

- Favorable-risk & positive for CD33: 7+3 induction & a single dose of GO
- Intermediate-risk with *FLT3*^{mut}: 7+3 induction + FLT inhibitor midostaurin
- Intermediate or poor risk: 7+3, or 7+3 & single dose of GO

Fit, Older Patients (≥60)

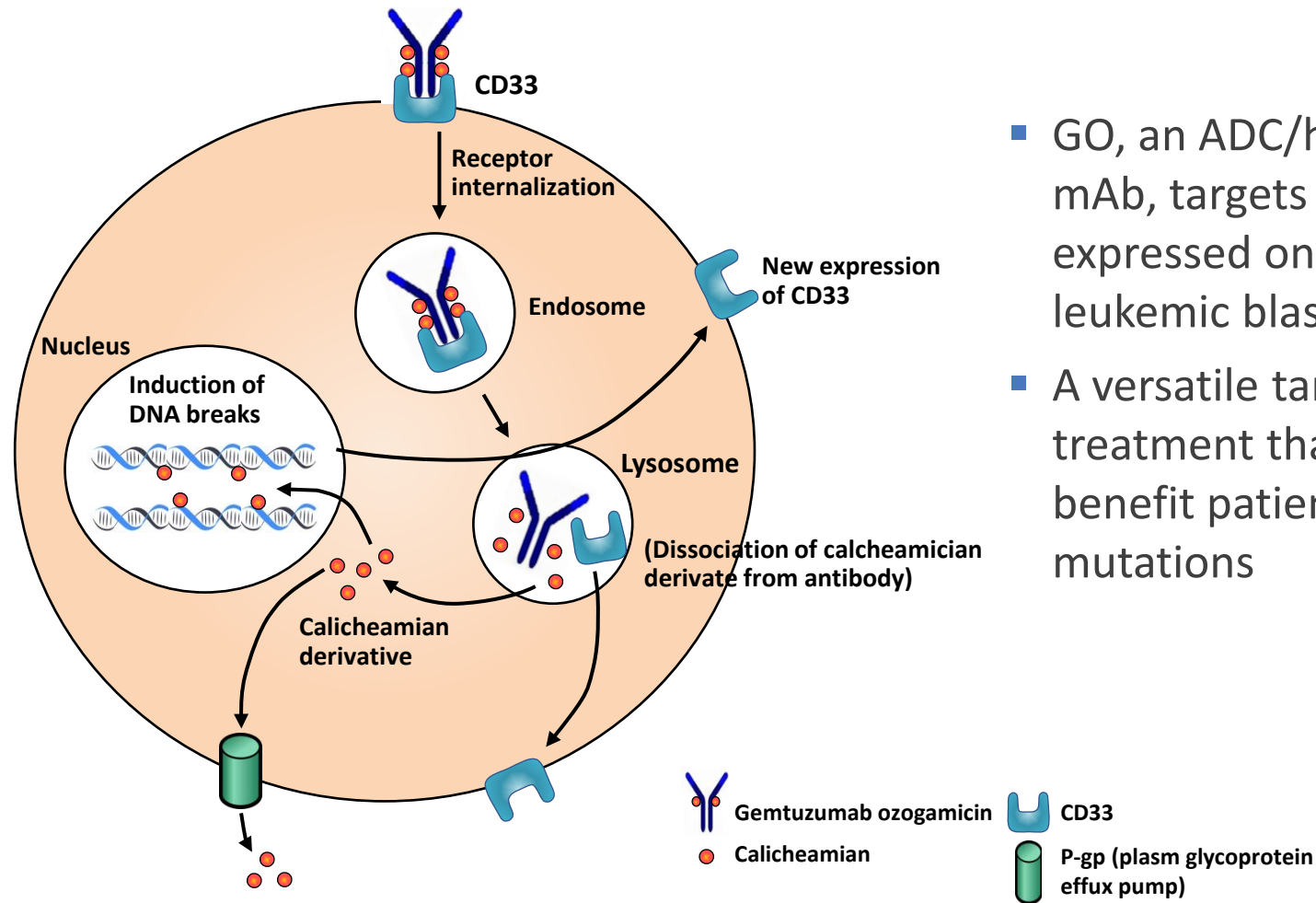
- Favorable-risk & positive for CD33: 7+3 induction & a single dose of GO
- *FLT3*^{mut}: 7+3 induction + FLT inhibitor midostaurin
- Intermediate or poor risk: 7+3, or 7+3 & single dose of GO

Unfit, Older Patients (≥60)

- *IDH1*^{mut}: ivosidenib *or* HMA (ie, azacitidine, decitabine), *or* venetoclax-based Tx
- *IDH2*^{mut}: enasidenib *or* HMA, *or* venetoclax-based Tx
- *FLT3*^{mut}: HMA & TKI sorafenib, *or* venetoclax-based Tx

GO, gemtuzumab ozogamicin.

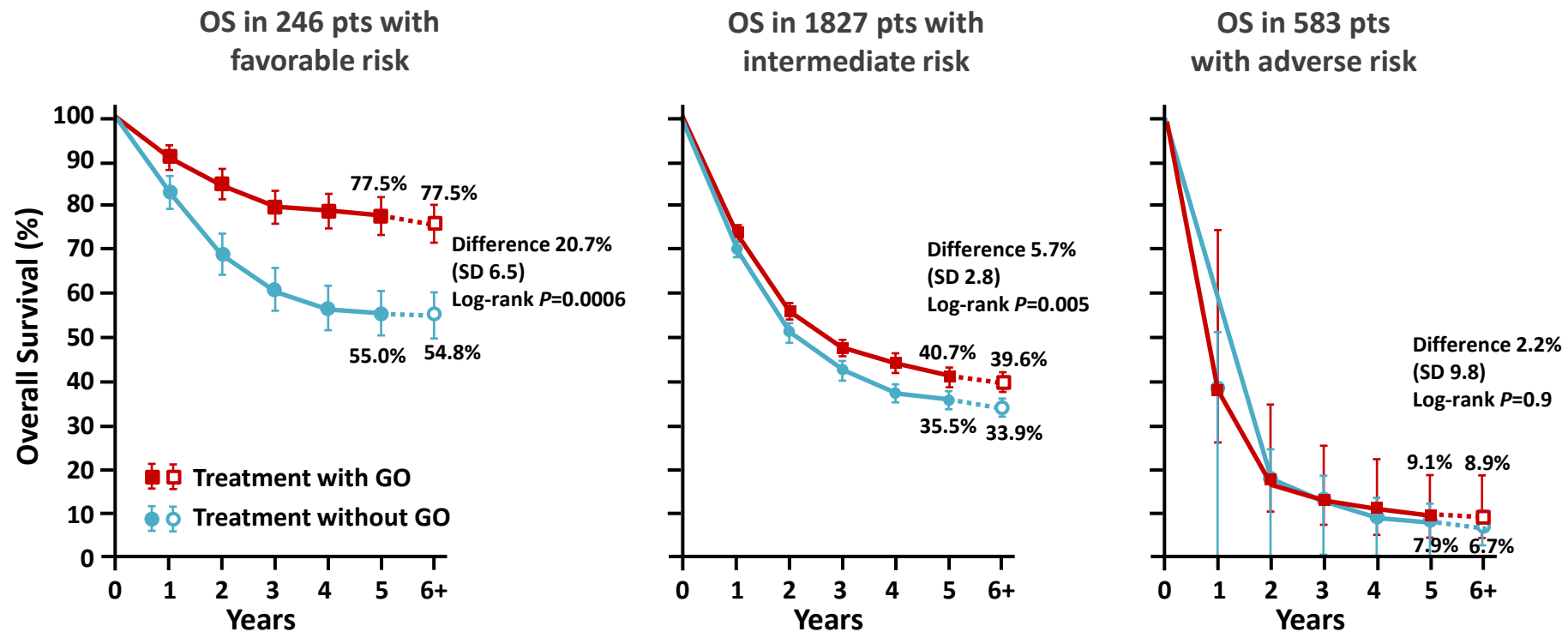
Anti-CD33 Gemtuzumab Ozogamicin, an ADC



- GO, an ADC/humanized mAb, targets CD33 antigens expressed on the surface of leukemic blast cells
- A versatile targeted treatment that can also benefit patients with *FLT3* mutations

Anti-CD Added to Standard, Intensive Therapy

Meta-analysis of 3325 patients of varying cytogenetic risk levels enrolled in 5 studies of GO + standard therapy





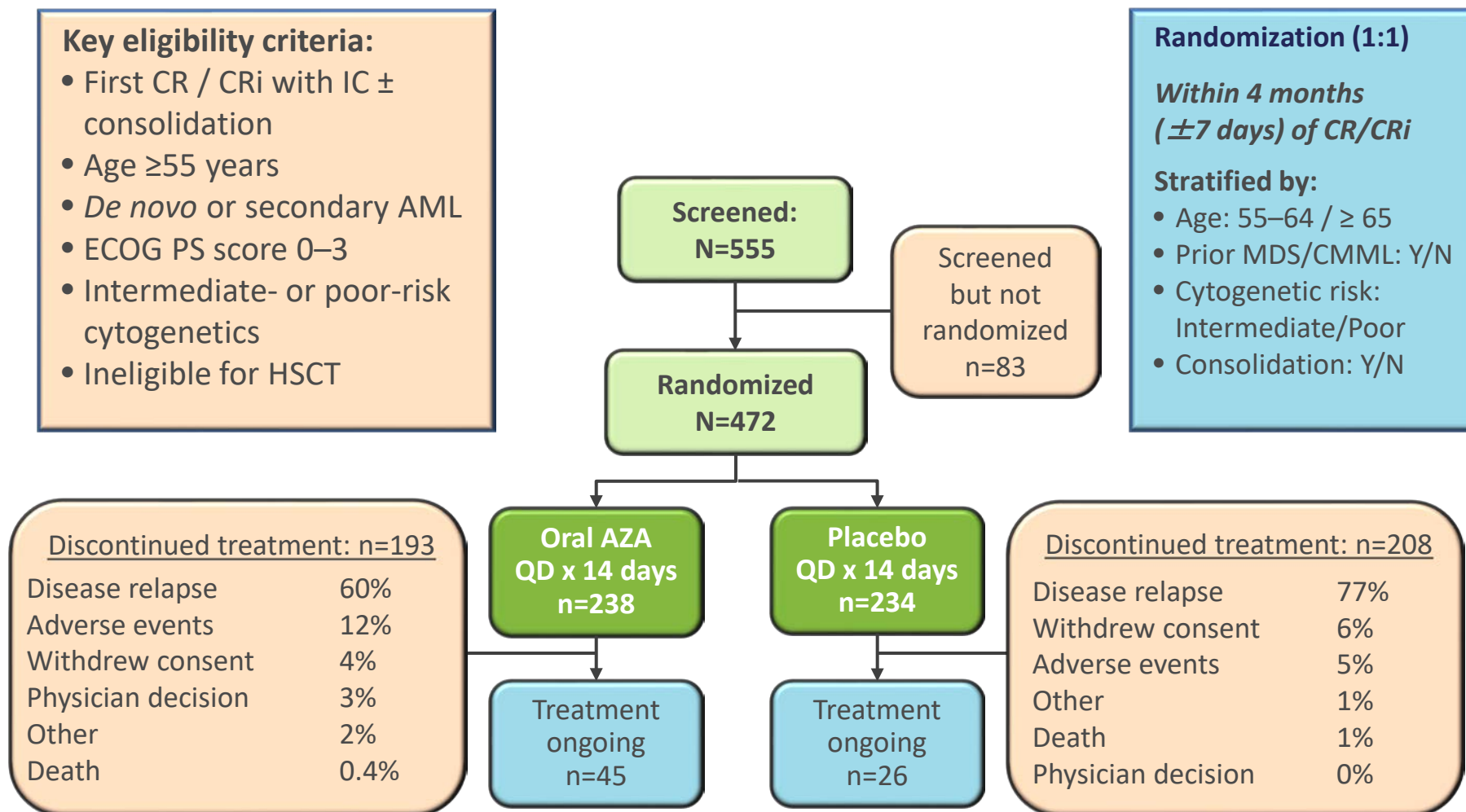
Maintenance Treatment

Maintaining Hope for Maintenance Treatments

- Despite advances and new treatments, relapse common
- Effective maintenance to prolong remission, ward off relapse
- Chemo for maintenance doesn't work
- HMA with AZA + FLT3 inhibitors in clinical trials

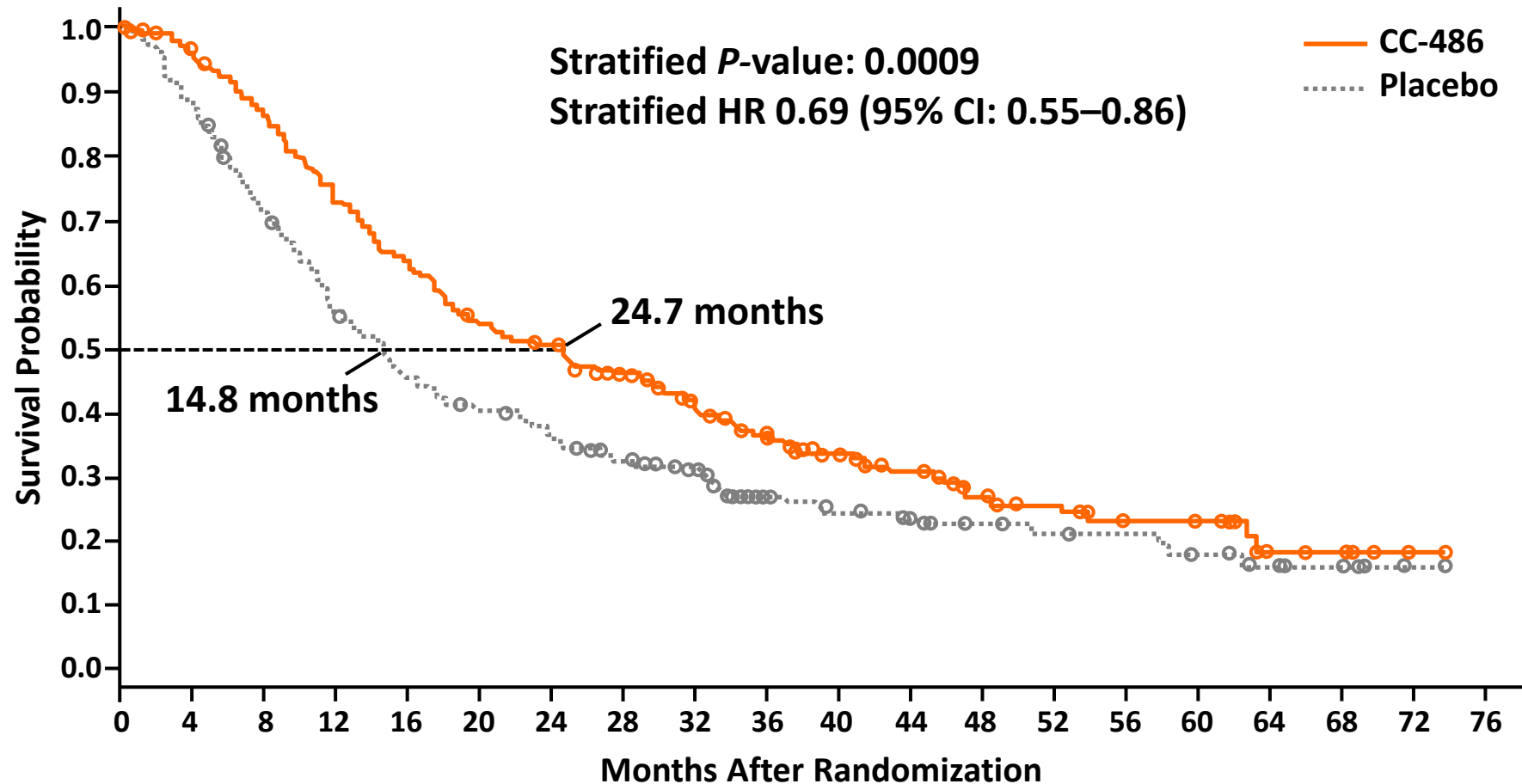
On September 2, 2020, the FDA approved oral azacitidine as first maintenance treatment of AML

Phase 3 QUAZAR AML-001 Maintenance Trial in Patients ≥55



Survival Probability with Oral AZA (CC-486)

OS from phase 3 QUAZAR AML-001 maintenance trial (N=472)



Safety in QUAZAR AML-001

- Median treatment durations
 - Oral AZA: 12 cycles (range 1–80)
 - Placebo: 6 cycles (range 1–73)
- GI AEs in oral AZA most common in the first 2 treatment cycles
- Dose modifications due to AEs
 - Interruptions: Oral AZA 43%, placebo 17%
 - Reductions: Oral AZA 16%, placebo 3%

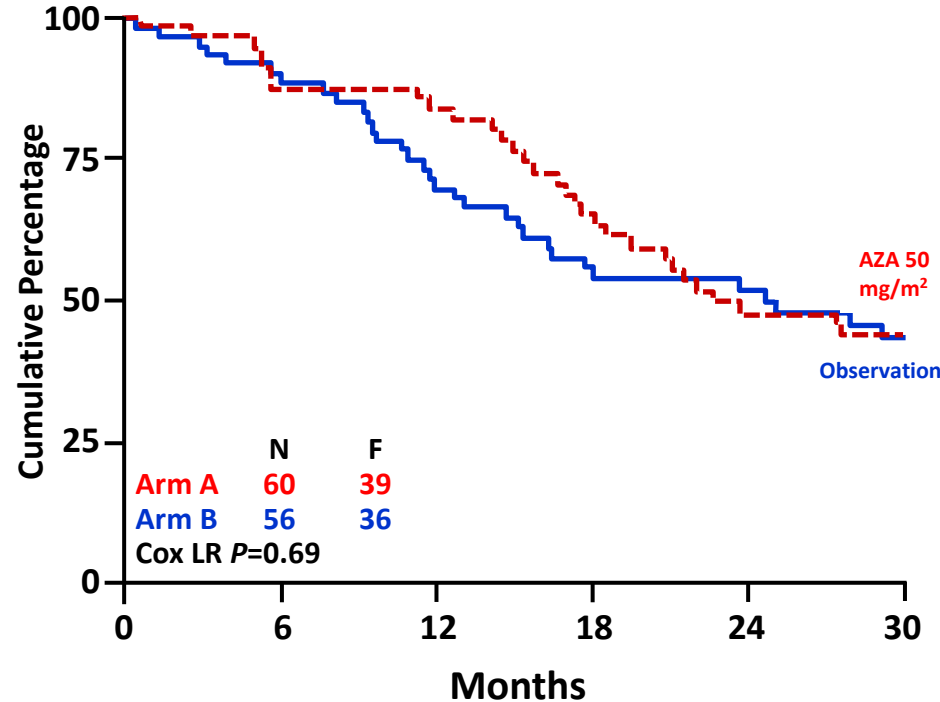
Safety in QUAZAR AML-001

Preferred term	CC-486 n = 236		Placebo n = 233	
	All Grades	Grade 3–4	All Grades	Grade 3–4
	n (%)			
Patients with ≥1 AE	231 (98)	169 (72)	225 (97)	147 (63)
Gastrointestinal				
Nausea	153 (65)	6 (3)	55 (24)	1 (0.4)
Vomiting	141 (60)	7 (3)	23 (10)	0
Diarrhea	119 (50)	12 (5)	50 (22)	3 (1)
Constipation	91 (39)	3 (1)	56 (24)	0
Hematologic				
Neutropenia	105 (45)	97 (41)	61 (26)	55 (24)
Thrombocytopenia	79 (34)	53 (23)	63 (27)	50 (22)
Anemia	48 (20)	33 (14)	42 (18)	30 (13)
Other				
Fatigue	70 (30)	7 (3)	45 (19)	2 (1)
Asthenia	44 (19)	2 (1)	13 (6)	1 (0.4)
Pyrexia	36 (15)	4 (2)	44 (19)	1 (0.4)
Cough	29 (12)	0	39 (17)	0

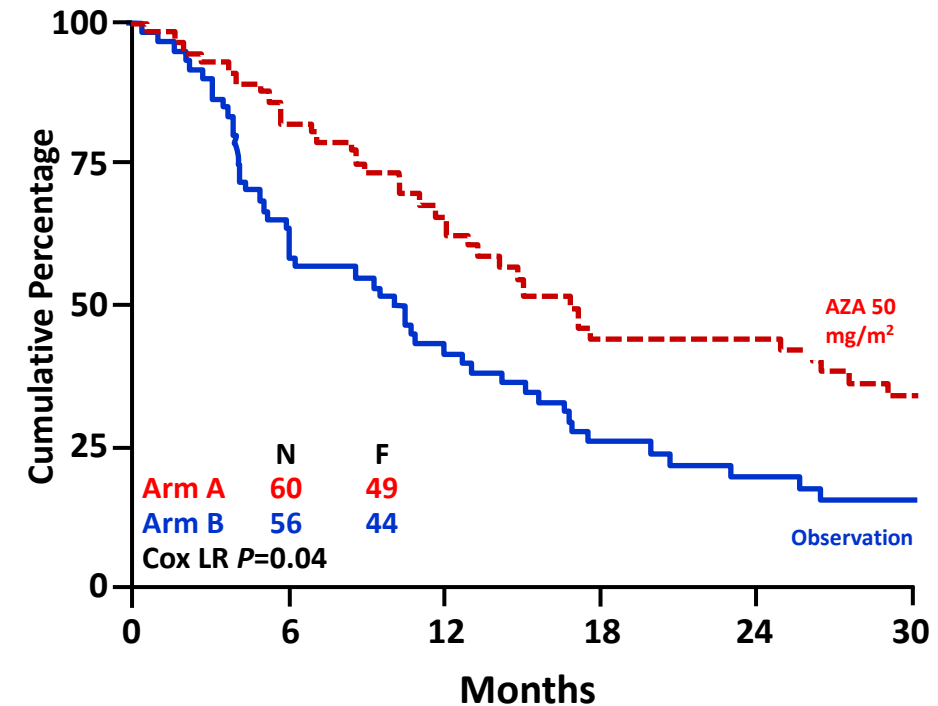
Phase 3 HOVON97 Maintenance Trial in Patients ≥ 60 : Overall Survival

OS and DFS in phase 3 HOVON97 maintenance trial of subcutaneous azacitidine vs observation in patients ≥ 60 years (N=116)

Overall Survival



Disease-Free Survival from CR/CRi



Summary

- 8 new treatment options with different MOAs and targets available since 2017
- More treatment selections for patients who:
 - Are older and/or unfit for intensive chemo
 - Have *FLT3* or *IDH1/IDH2* mutations
 - Have high numbers of AML cells with high CD33 expression
- Personalized treatment more viable than ever
 - But must select patients appropriately based on cytogenetics
- Maintenance treatment with CC-486 (oral azacytidine) approved in September 2020
 - Could extend remission and event-free survival in patients not eligible for IC or alloHSCT

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