

Non-transplant Therapy for MDS

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Associate Member, FHCRC

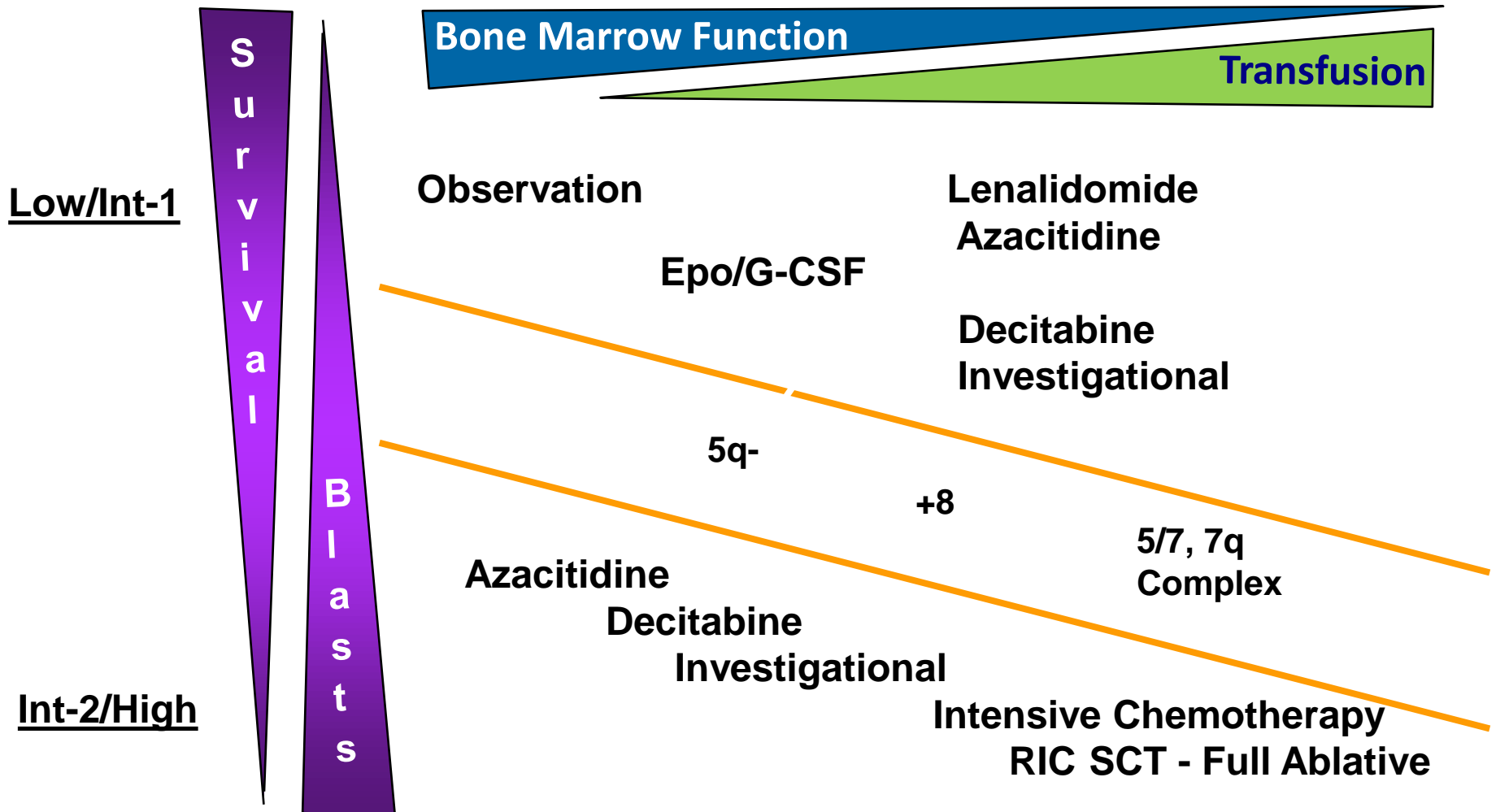
Associate Professor, UWMC



MDS Treatment Algorithm

Asymptomatic

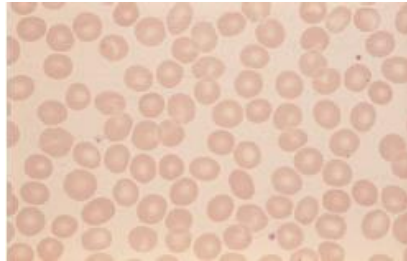
Symptomatic



Treatment Options for Lower-risk MDS

- Transfusion Support
- Growth Factors
- Lenalidomide/Revlimid
- Azacitidine
- Clinical Trial

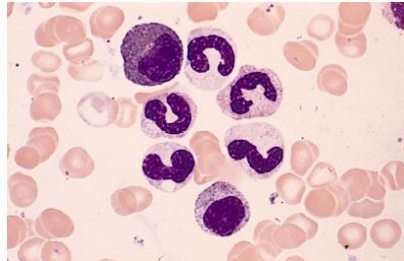
MDS: Transfusion Therapy



Anemia

↓
**Packed
red blood cells**

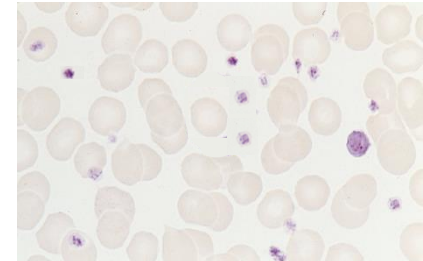
↓
Adverse effects due to
immune mechanisms
Iron overload
Volume overload



Neutropenia

↓
**Granulocyte
transfusion**

↓
Laborious,
short-lived effect,
not widely available,
Clinical utility unproven



Thrombocytopenia

↓
**Platelet
transfusion**

↓
Transfusion reactions,
HLA sensitization

Growth Factors

Red cell growth factors

*Medicare only pays for these if Hb <10 g/dL
Safety concerns in solid tumors, not (yet) in MDS*

Epoetin alfa (Procrit TM)

Darbepoetin alfa (Aranesp TM)

White cell growth factors

*No survival benefit but may help decrease infx.
Sometimes combined with red cell factors*

Filgrastim, G-CSF (Neupogen TM)

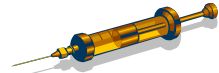
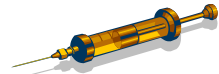
Pegfilgrastim (Neulasta TM)

Platelet growth factors

*New; risks still being defined in MDS
Reports of increased blasts in a few patients
Only FDA-approved for immune thrombocytopenia
and AA*

Romiplostim (NPLate TM)

Eltrombopag (Promacta TM)



Growth Factors in MDS

Patient Criteria	Probability of Response ¹
Transfusion need < 2 units per mo <u>and</u> serum EPO < 500 units/L	74%
Only one of the above criteria	23%
Neither criteria	7%

- Epo 10,000 u/day x 5 days + GCSF 75-300 mcg/day 3 x week¹
- Other studies suggest no benefit with adding GCSF²
- 10% marrow myeloblasts no benefit²
- GSCF not recommended for neutropenic prophylaxis³
 - Intermittent use in patients with severe infection and neutropenia
- Tepo-mimetics under investigation⁴
 - 46% platelet response, 2 patients progressed to AML

¹Hellstrom-Lindberg E., et al. *Br J Haematol.* 2003;120:1037-1046

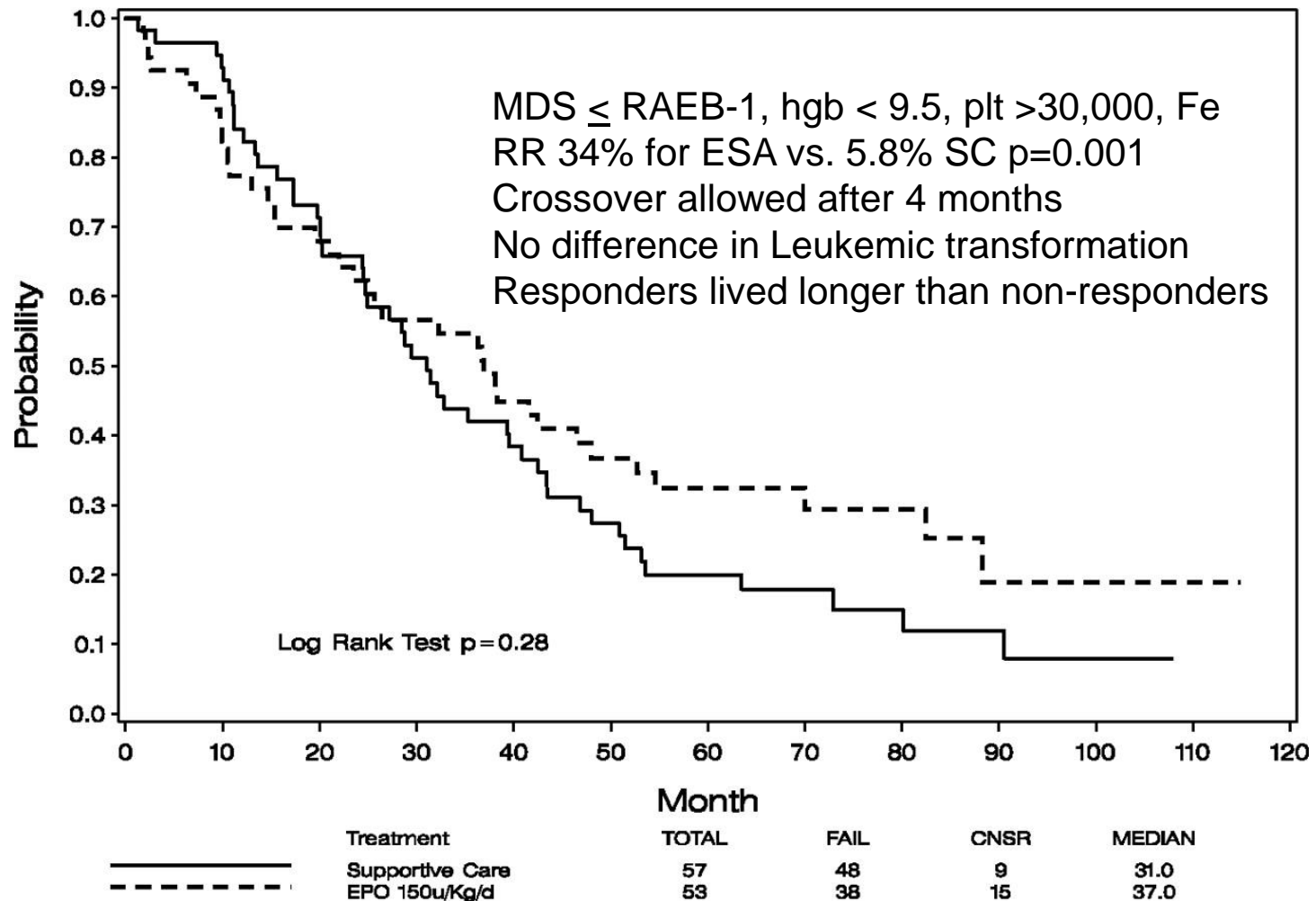
²Park, et al. *Blood.* 2008;111:574-582

³Negrin et al. *Ann Intern Med.* 1989;110:976-984

⁴Kantarjian et al. *J Clin Onc* 2010 Jan 20;28(3):437-44

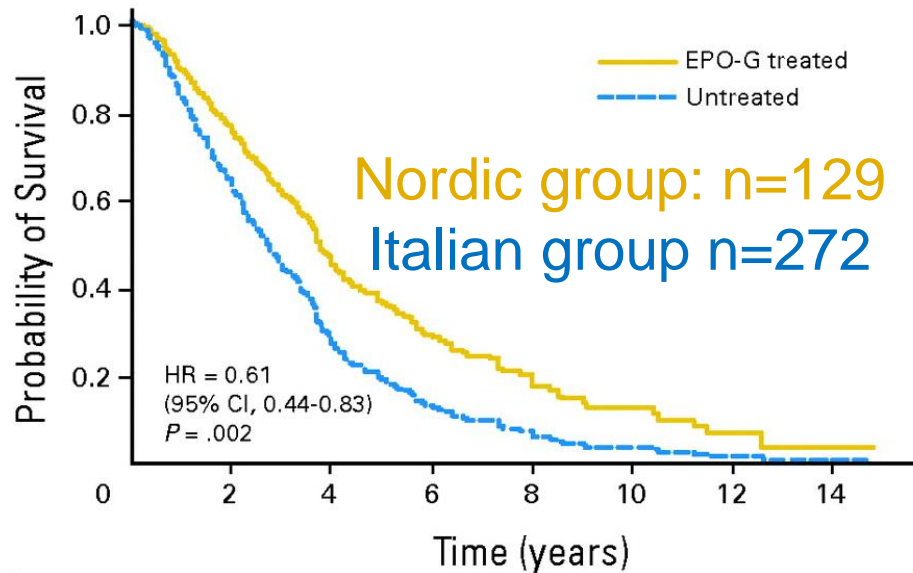
Epo-G vs. S.C.

Overall Survival by Treatment

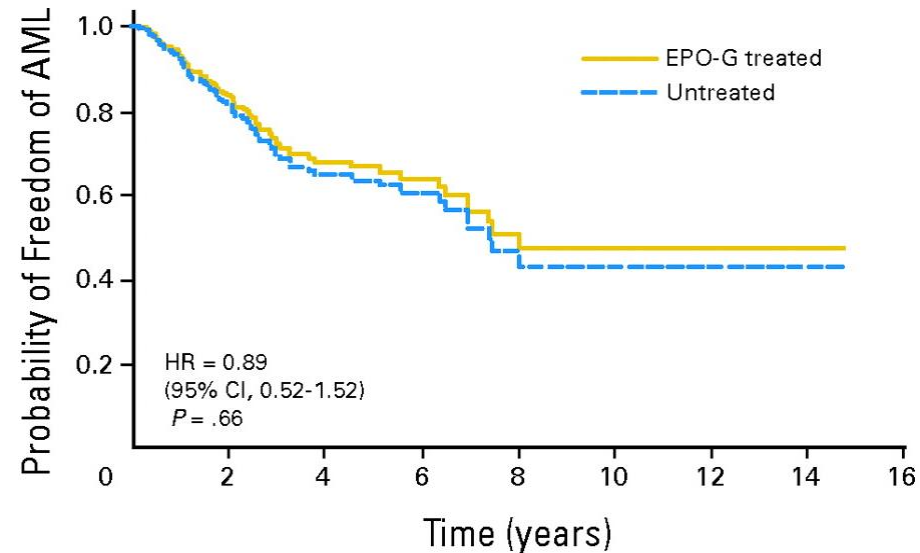


Erythropoietin (EPO) + Granulocyte-Colony Stimulating Factor (G-CSF) Treatment Associated with Better Overall Survival: Comparison of Nordic Countries (3 Phase II trials 1990-1999) vs Untreated Italian Cohort

Survival*



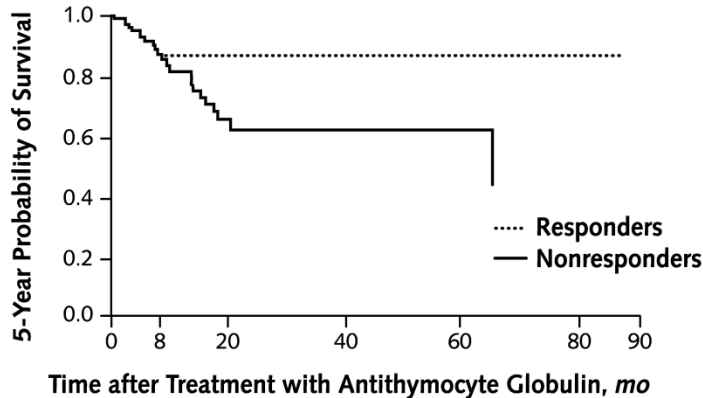
AML evolution*



All patients Hgb <10g/dL or transfusion dependent

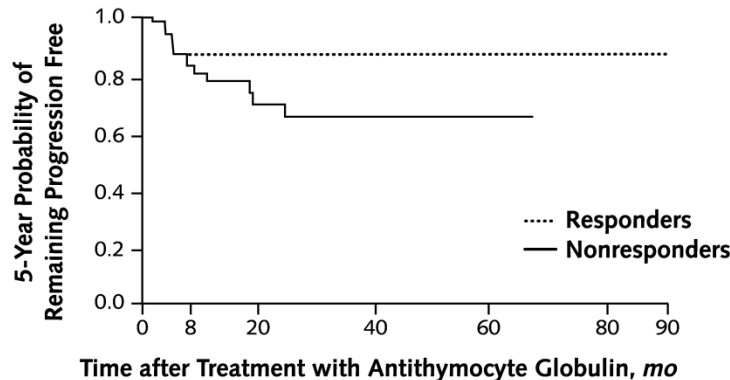
*WHO-group, karyotype, ANC, Plt, RBC U/month, age, gender

ATG Therapy in MDS



Patients
at Risk, *n*

Responders	21	20	20	10	6	1	0
Nonresponders	40	30	18	7	3	0	0

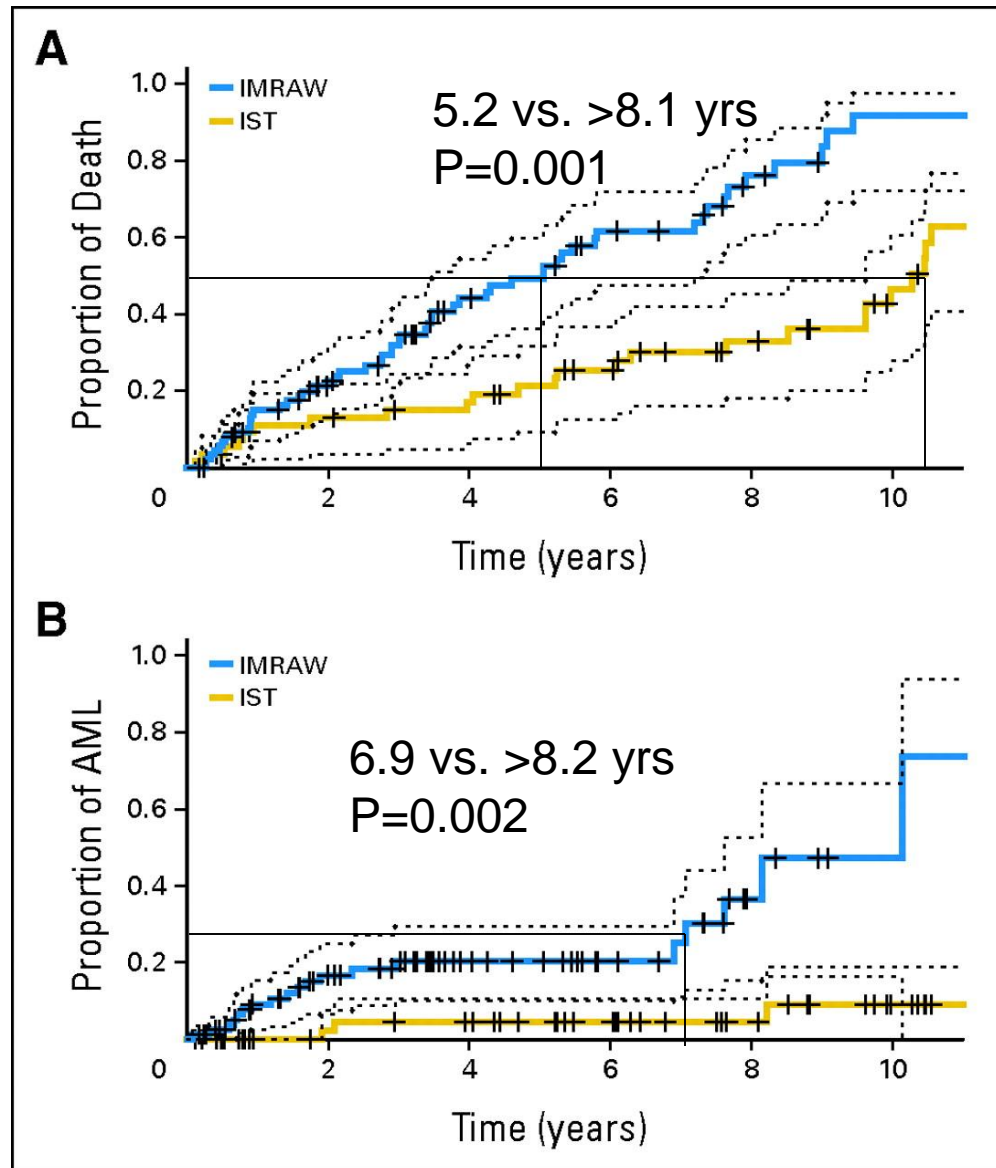


Patients
at Risk, *n*

Responders	21	20	20	10	6	1	0
Nonresponders	40	27	15	7	2	0	0

- Phase II study of ATG
 - 61 RA, RARS, RAEB (FAB)
 - Transfusion dependent
 - 40 mg/kg/day x 4 days
- 21/61 (34%) patients with major HI-E
 - Younger age <58
 - HLA - DR 15
 - Shorter duration of RBC tfn

Does ATG Prolong Survival?



Int-1 MDS
≤60 years

IST=ATG 40
mg/kg/day x 4
days + CSA 5-12
mg/kg/day

89 IST —
55 IMRAW —

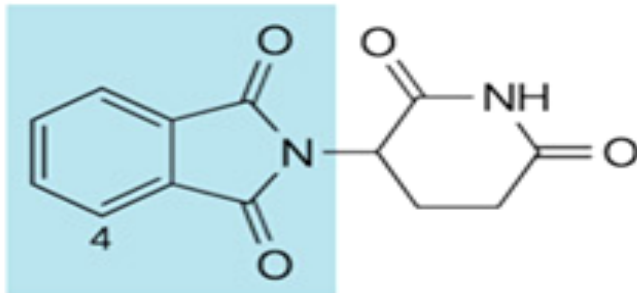
Immunosuppressive Therapy (IST): Summary

- Age is the strongest variable for IST response^[1,2]
 - Pathogenetic difference in MDS of younger adults
- Responses are durable and may modify adverse effect of RBC-TI on OS^[2]
- Karyotype may influence IST response and disease biology
 - Low frequency of IST response in del(5q)^[2]
 - High response rate in trisomy 8^[3]
 - NIH 8/17 (47%)
 - WT1 amplification with specific cellular response
 - Autoimmune hematopoietic suppression may select for +8 expansion

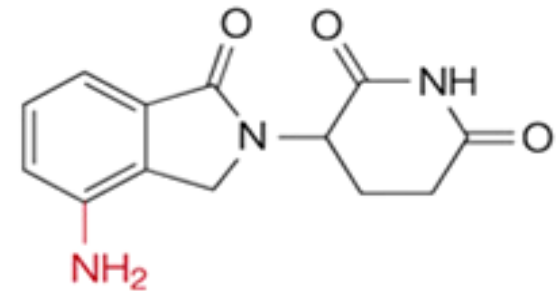
Lenalidomide (REVLIMID[®], Celgene)

- No significant neurotoxicity, somnolence, or constipation
- Potent modulator of myelosuppressive properties

Thalidomide



Lenalidomide



Lenalidomide in Transfusion-Dependent Patients With Low/Int-1 MDS (MDS-002/003)

Multicenter Phase II Studies

Eligibility

RBC transfusion ≥ 2 U/8 wk
16 wk transfusion Hx
ANC $> 500/\mu\text{L}$
Platelets $> 50,000/\mu\text{L}$
de novo MDS
Low/Int-1 MDS

MDS-003: del 5q31.1
(n=148)

MDS-002: other
(n=214)

R
E
G
I
S
T
E
R

Lenalidomide Dosing

10 mg po \times 21/28 d
10 mg po qd

R
E
S
P
O
N
S
E

Yes \rightarrow Continue

No \rightarrow Off Study

Week: 0 6 12 18 24

MDS-003: 80%
MDS-002: 55%
Dose Reduction
5 mg qd
5 mg qod

Primary endpoint: transfusion independence

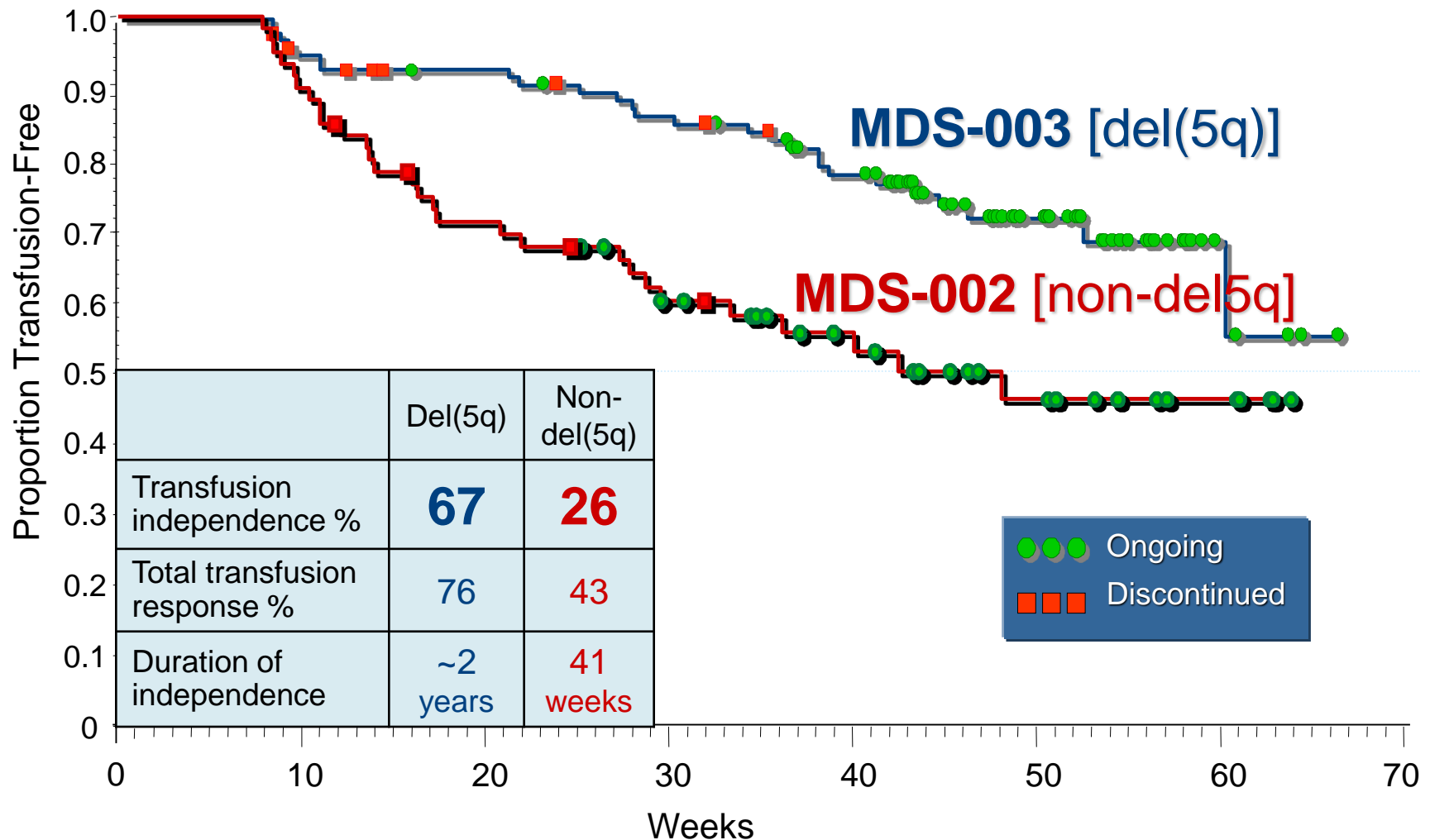
Secondary endpoints: cytogenetic response, pathologic response, safety

MDS-002/003: Treatment-Related Adverse Events

Grade \geq 3 Adverse Events, %	Non-del(5q)	del(5q)
Thrombocytopenia	20	44
Neutropenia	25	55
Pruritus	1	3
Rash	4	6
Diarrhea	1	3
Fatigue	4	3

List AF, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2006;355:1456-1465
Raza A, et al. *Blood*. 2008;111:86-93.

Lenalidomide: Duration of Transfusion Independence

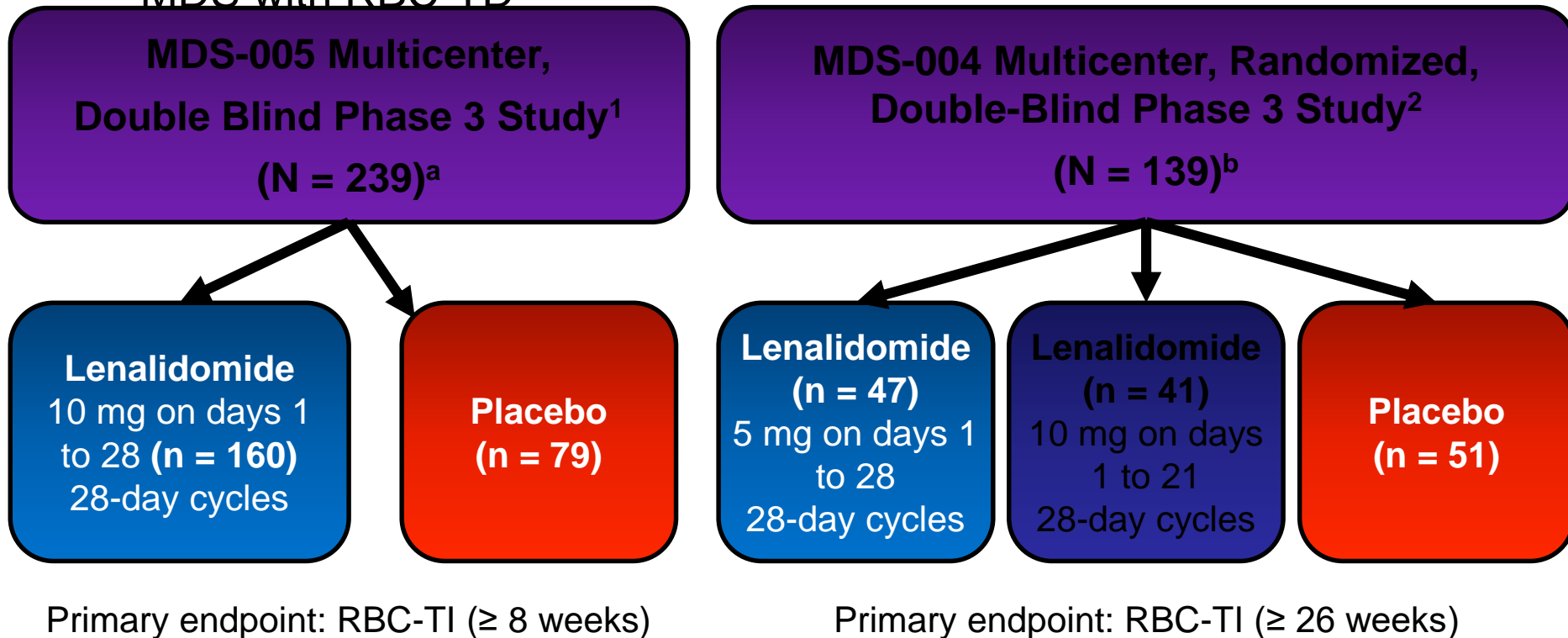


Lenalidomide in Transfusion-Dependent Patients

With Low/Int-1 MDS MDS-004/005

Double-Blind Randomized Placebo Control Trial

- 2 randomized trials using lenalidomide for the treatment of patients with primary, lower-risk (IPSS low/Int-1–risk), del(5q)^b and non-del (5q)^a MDS with RBC-TD

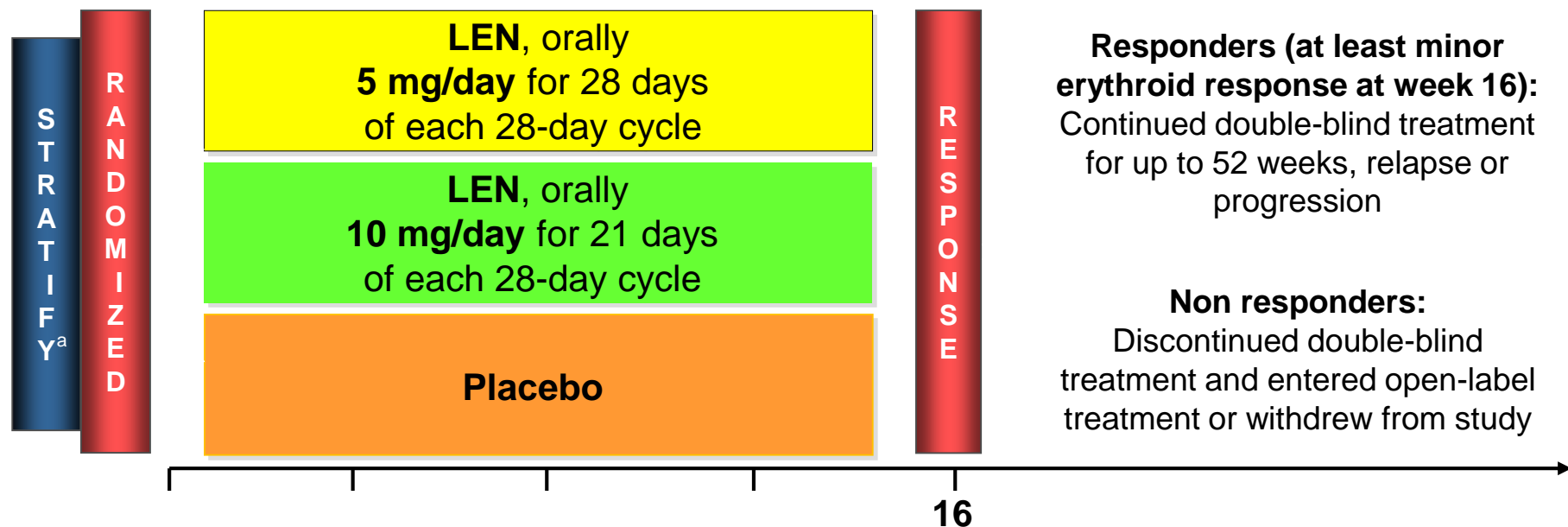


^a With or without additional chromosomal abnormalities. ^b Modified intent-to-treat population.
del, deletion; Int, intermediate; IPSS, International Prognostic Scoring System; MDS, myelodysplastic syndromes; RBC, red blood cell; TD, transfusion dependence; TI, transfusion independence.

1. Santini, et al. *Blood*. 2014;abstract 409.
2. Fenaux P, et al. *Blood*. 2011;118:3765-3776.

MDS-004 Study Design

Double-blind phase^b: Len 5 mg or 10mg vs PBO



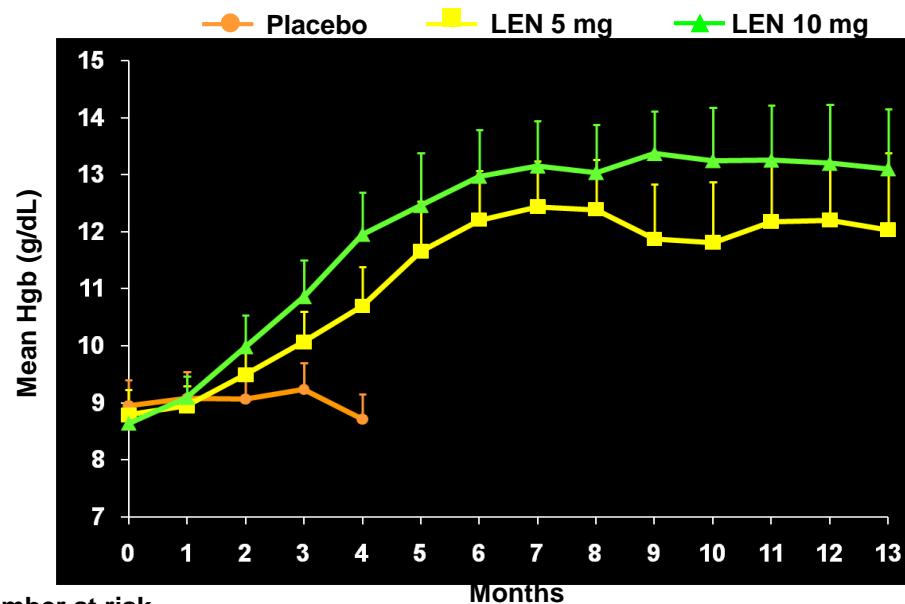
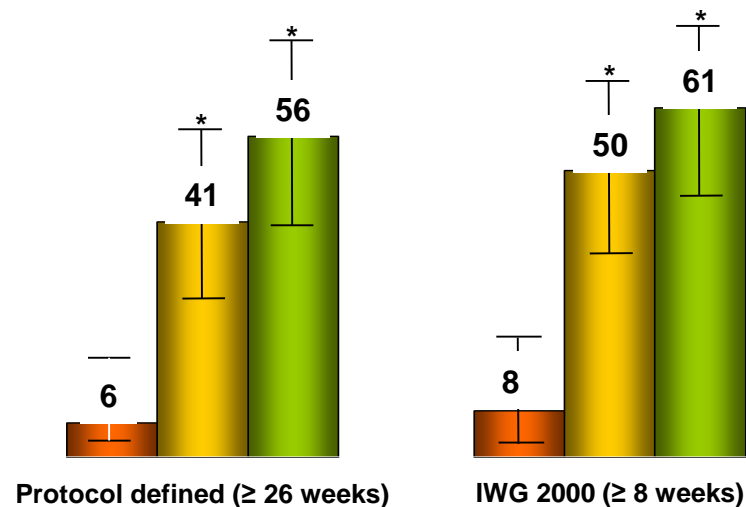
- **Key inclusion criteria:** centrally-confirmed IPSS-defined Low- or Int-1-risk MDS with del(5q) +/- additional cytogenetic abnormalities, and RBC-transfusion dependency (no consecutive 56 days without transfusion within last 112 days)
 - Patients with ANC < 500 cells/mcL or platelet count < 25,000/mcL were excluded
- **Primary endpoint:** RBC-TI for ≥ 26 weeks (absence of transfusions during consecutive 26 weeks on treatment and increase hemoglobin > 1 g/dL from baseline)
- **Secondary endpoints:** erythroid response, duration of RBC-TI, cytogenetic response, time to AML progression from randomization, and adverse events

^a Patients stratified by IPSS score and cytogenetic complexity prior to randomization.

^b Bone marrow assessments were performed at baseline, 12 weeks, and every 24 weeks thereafter. ANC, absolute neutrophil count; IPSS, International Prognostic Scoring System; LEN, lenalidomide; MDS, myelodysplastic syndromes; PBO, placebo; RBC-TI, red blood cell transfusion independence.

MDS-004-Efficacy: RBC-TI and Hemoglobin Over Time (mITT Population^a)

■ Placebo (n = 51) ■ LEN 5 mg (n = 46) ■ LEN 10 mg (n = 41)



Number at risk

Placebo	51	51	50	49	47									
LEN 5 mg	46	46	45	42	42	28	23	22	22	22	21	19	17	10
LEN 10 mg	41	40	38	37	37	29	26	24	24	24	24	23	23	19

- Consistent results were observed in the ITT population (N = 205)
- Achievement of RBC-TI for ≥ 26 weeks was not affected by age, gender, FAB classification, IPSS risk, time from diagnosis, cytogenetic complexity, baseline platelet counts, or number of cytopenias at baseline
- Hemoglobin increased over time with a maximum median Hgb change in responders of LEN 5 mg of 5.1 g/dL and LEN 10 mg of 6.3 g/dL

^a mITT population defined as patients with centrally-confirmed MDS who received ≥ 1 dose (N = 138).
CI, confidence interval; FAB, French-American-British; IPSS, International Prognostic Scoring System;
Hgb, hemoglobin; IWG, International Working Group; LEN, lenalidomide; mITT, modified intent-to-treat;
RBC-TI, red blood cell transfusion independence.

MDS-005 Lenalidomide in non-del 5q MDS

Table. Key efficacy data.

Response	LEN (n = 160)	PBO (n = 79)
RBC-TI ≥ 56 days, n (%)	43 (26.9)*	2 (2.5)
Duration of RBC-TI ≥ 56 days, median (95% CI), weeks ^a	32.9 (20.7–71.1)	NE (NE–NE)
RBC-TI ≥ 168 days, n (%)	28 (17.5)	0

^aResponding pts only.

* $P < 0.001$.

NE, not estimable.

Summary: Lenalidomide Treatment in Low-/ Intermediate-1–Risk MDS

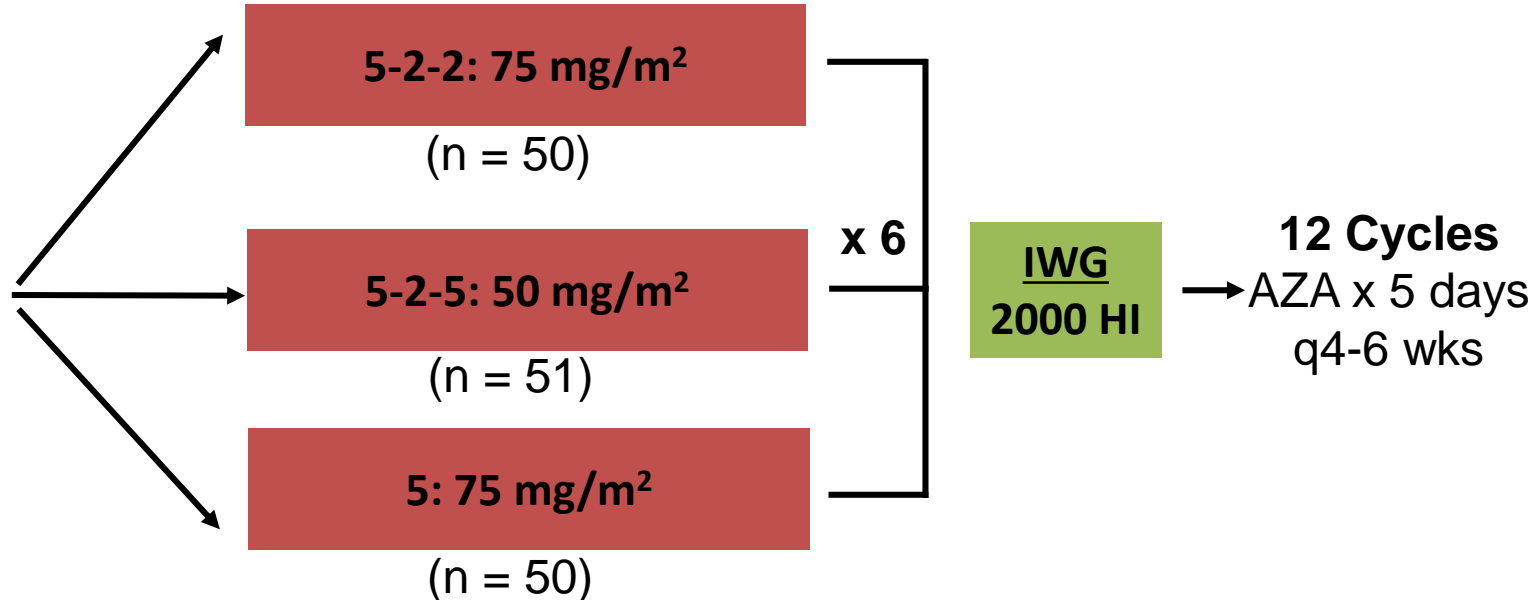
- MDS-004/005 confirmed results of MDS-003/002^[1,2]
 - Efficacy of 10 mg comparable between studies
 - Transfusion independence by IWG (61% vs 67%)
 - MDS-004 supports 10 mg as appropriate starting dose
 - Higher TI for 10 mg
 - Mean duration of TI: 106 wks
 - Greater proportion of cytogenetic responses vs 5 mg (41% vs 17%)
 - No significant differences in hematological toxicity
 - The rate of transformation to AML is comparable to the literature
- MDS-002/005 provided evidence that lenalidomide could be a choice for anemia treatment in lower-risk non-del(5q) pts with adequate platelets and neutrophil count^[3,4]
- Lenalidomide mechanism of action is karyotype dependent, suppressing the clone in del(5q) and promoting erythropoiesis in non-del(5q)^[5]

Randomized Phase II Study of Alternative Azacitidine Dose Schedules

Study Design (N = 151)

Eligibility

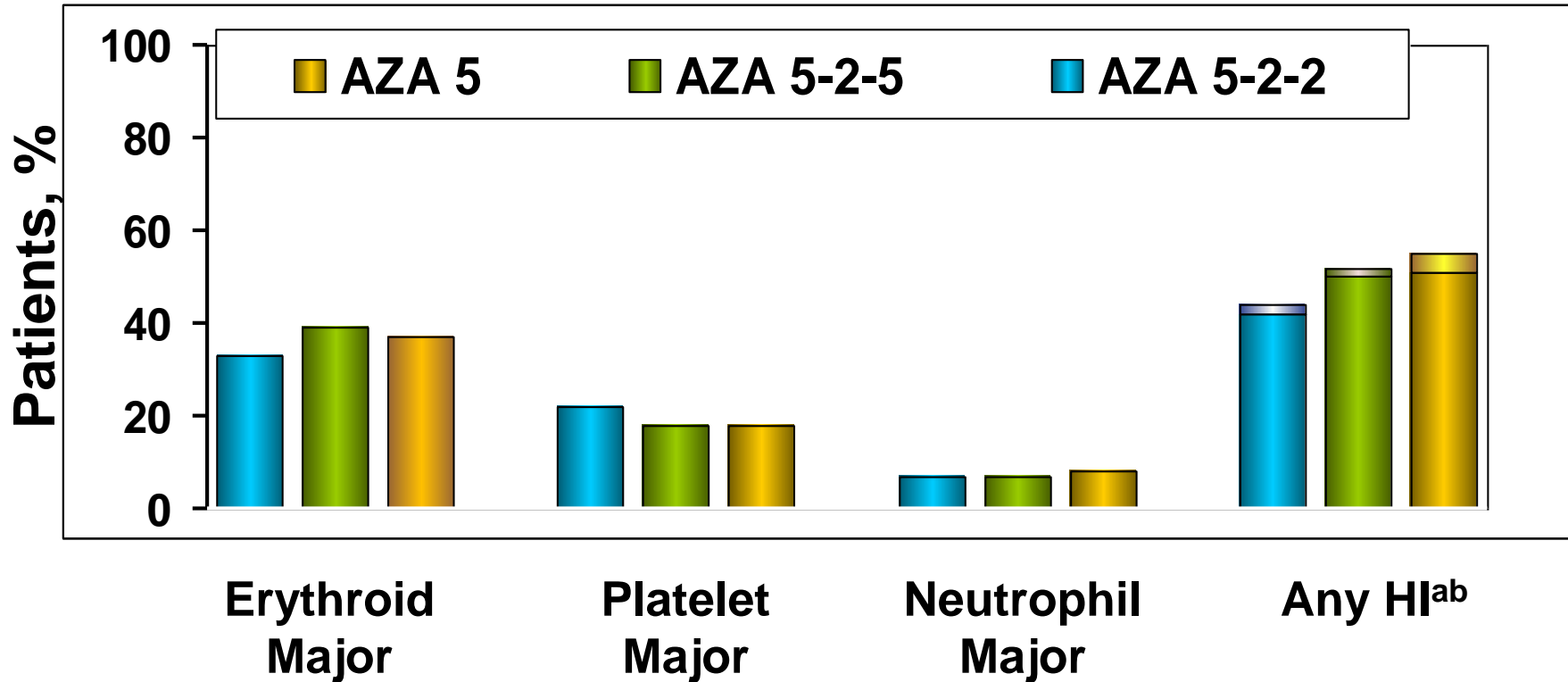
- All FAB
- Cytopenia
- ECOG PS: 0-3



Baseline Demographics/Disease Characteristics for All Randomized Patient (N = 151)

Characteristic	AZA 5-2-2 N = 50	AZA 5-2-5 N = 51	AZA 5 N = 50
Age, median (range)	73 (37-88)	76 (54-91)	76 (47-93)
Gender, % Male	56	73	66
RBC transfusion dependent, %	44	39	48
FAB, %			
RA	44	41	44
RARS	14	14	14
RAEB	28	33	28
RAEB-T	2	2	4
CMMoL	12	10	10

Hematologic Improvement



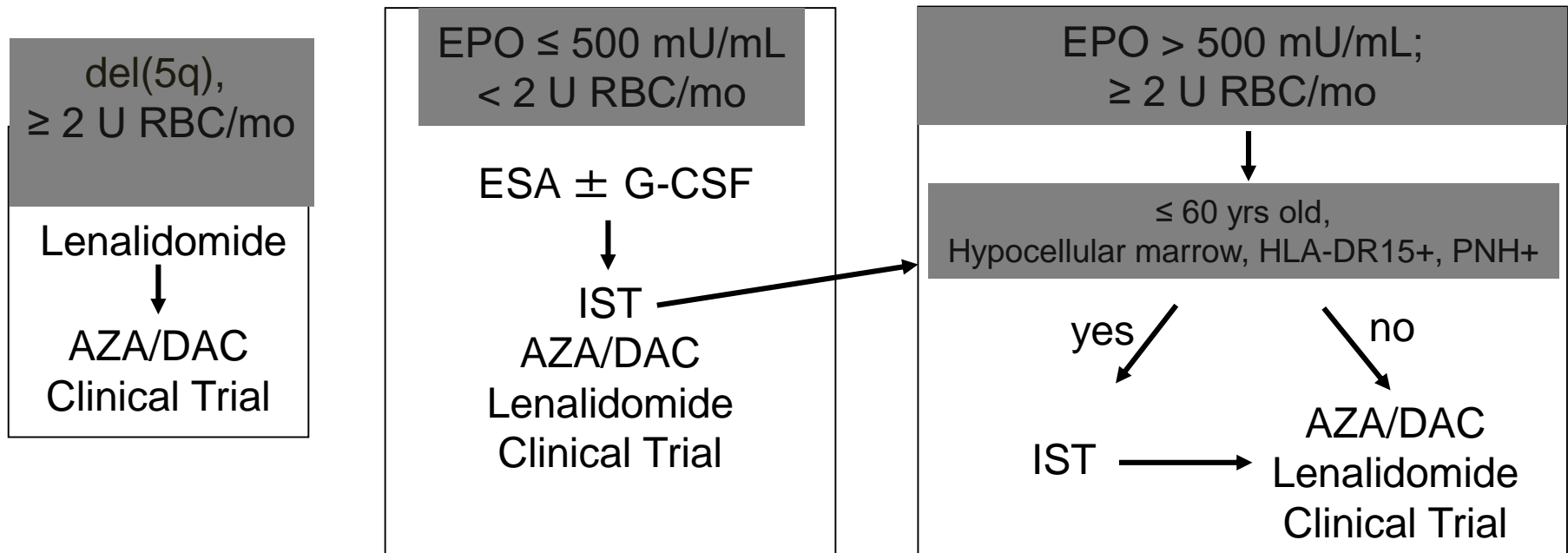
^a Patients counted only once for best response in an improvement category.

^b Minor improvement at top of HI columns.

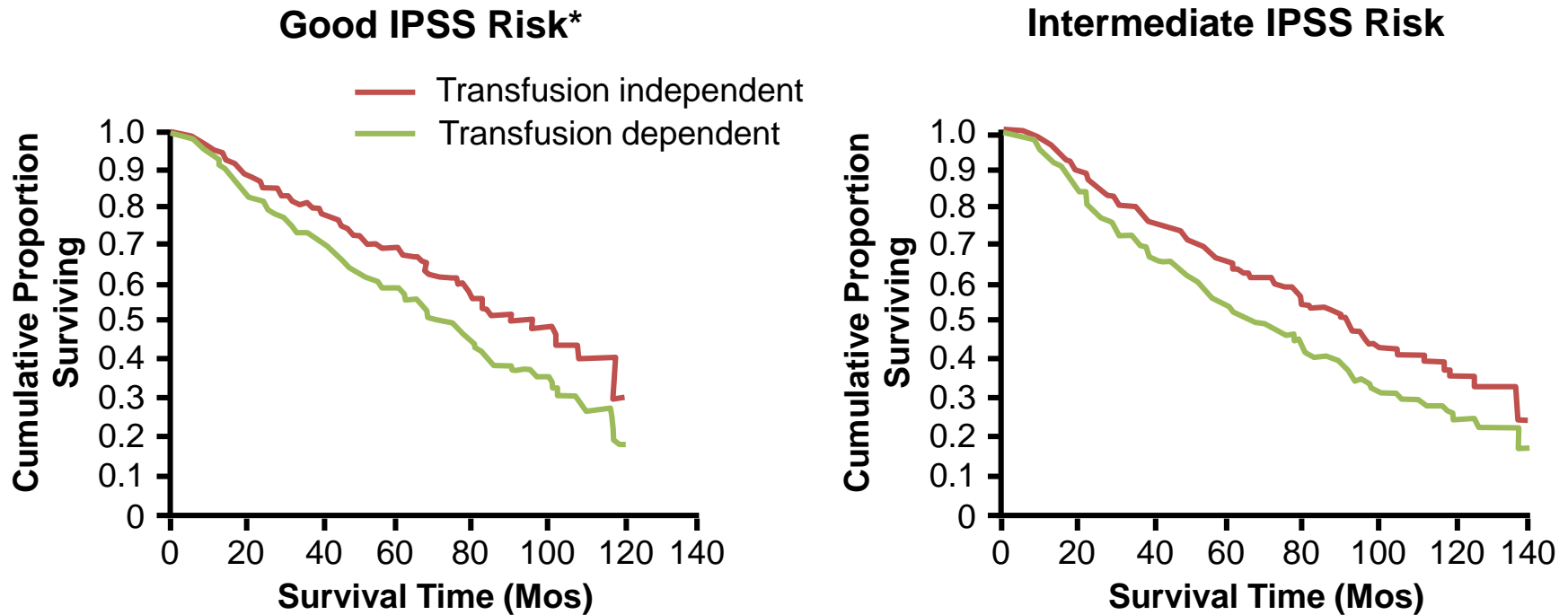
Anemia Management Algorithm 2015:

Low- or Intermediate-1 Risk MDS

- Assess potential causes of anemia
- Supplement with iron, folate, vitamin B as needed
- RBC transfusion support for symptomatic patients



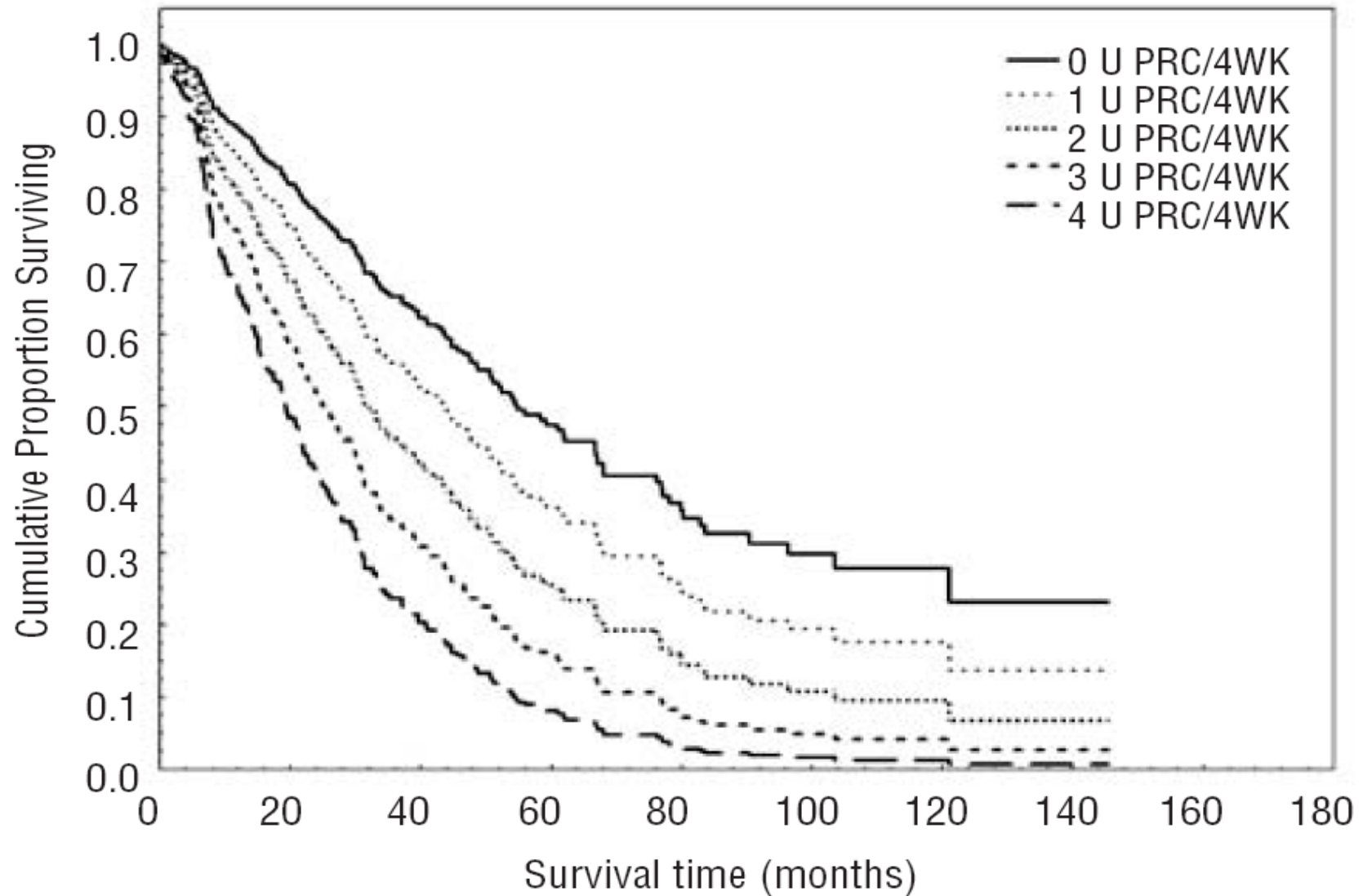
Is Transfusion Dependency an Issue in MDS?



*Excludes isolated 5q-

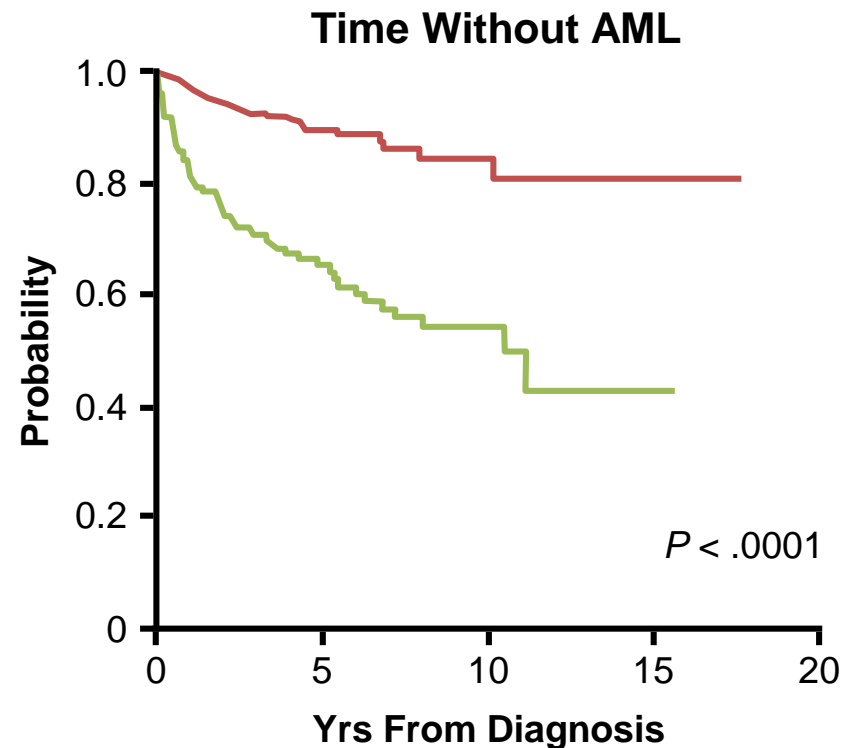
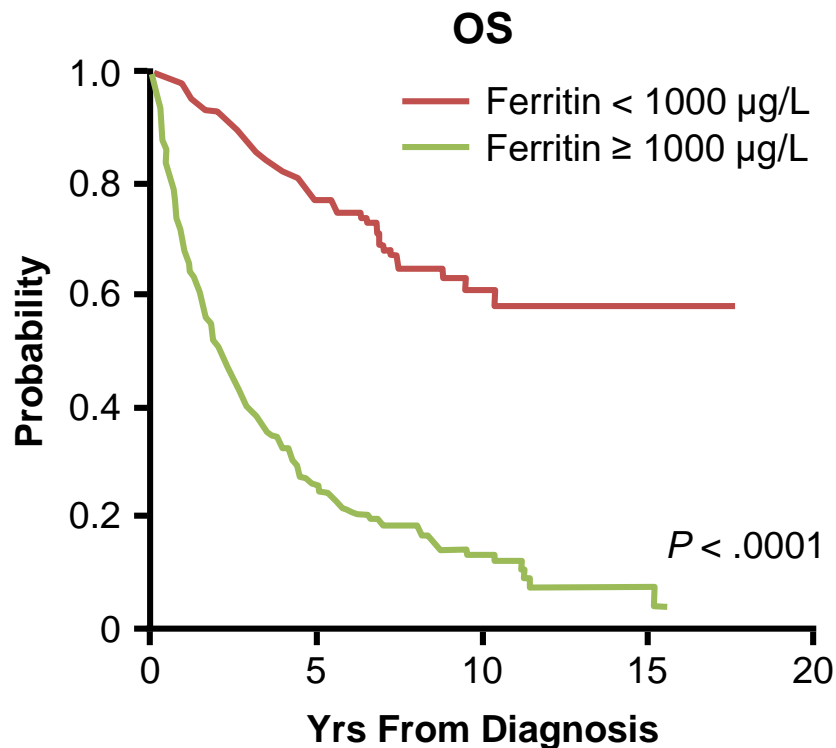
- Transfusion-dependent patients had a significantly shorter OS than transfusion-independent patients (HR: 2.16; $P < .001$ overall)

Survival by Transfusion Burden



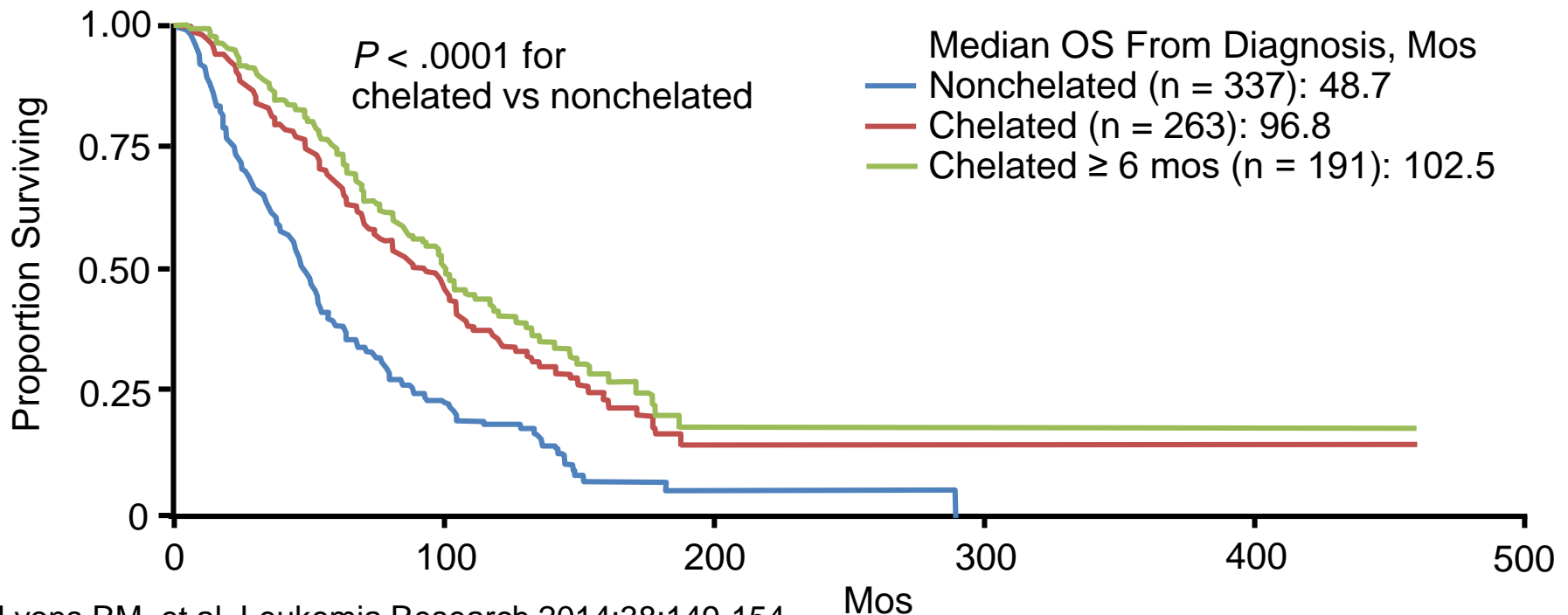
Serum Ferritin Is Predictive of Survival and Risk of AML in MDS

- Development of transfusional iron overload is a significant independent prognostic factor for overall survival and evolution to AML

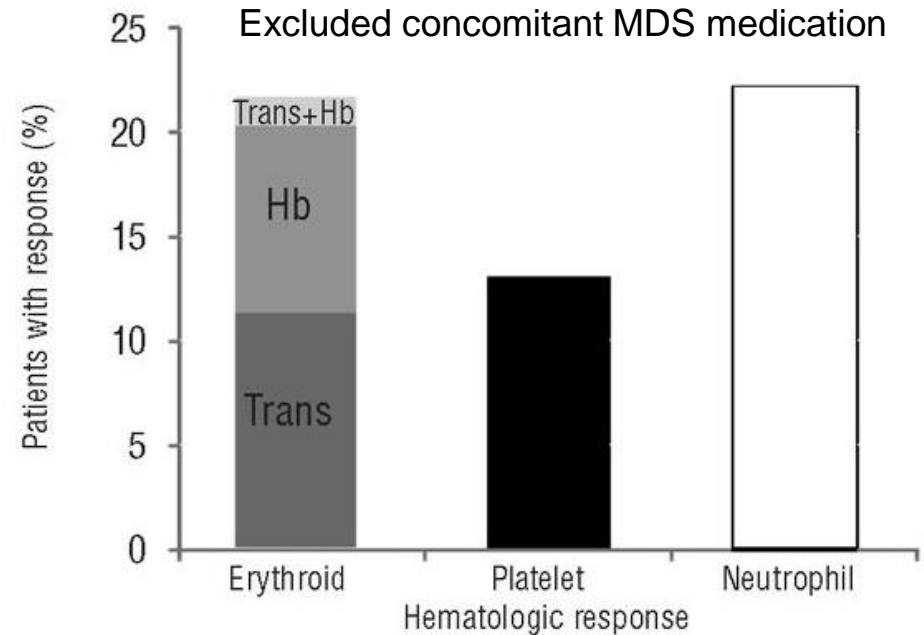
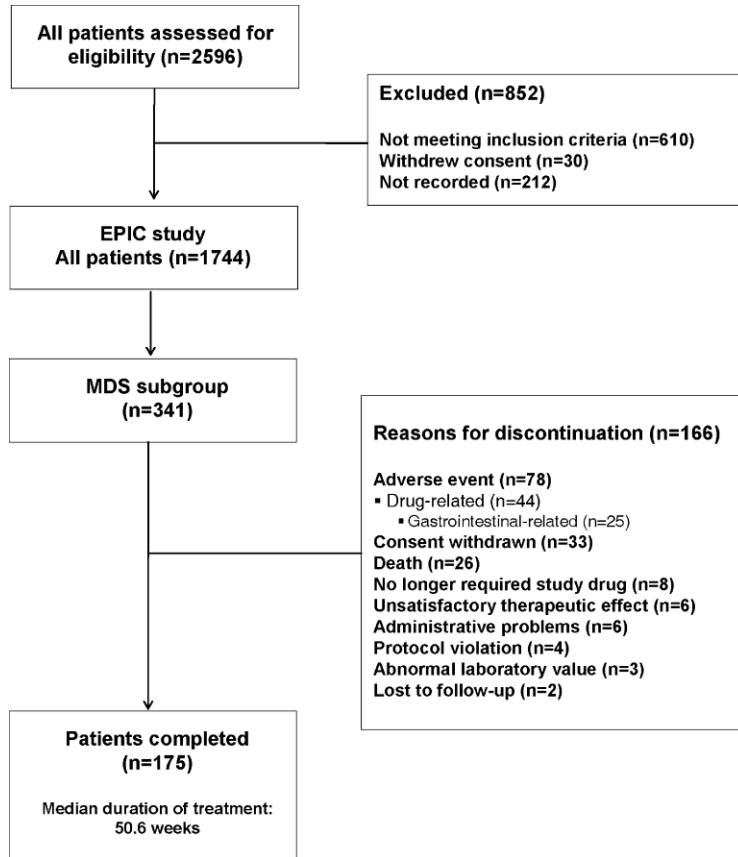


Prospective Chelation Study in Lower-Risk MDS: 48-Mo Update—OS

- 5-yr noninterventional registry study of 600 patients with lower-risk MDS and transfusional iron overload treated with or without chelation
- At 48 mos, chelated patients had significantly longer OS vs nonchelated



EPIC Trial



Prospective 1-year phase 2 trial with deferasirox
 Primary endpoint reduction in serum ferritin

MDS Patients Who Are Likely to Benefit Most From Management Iron Overload

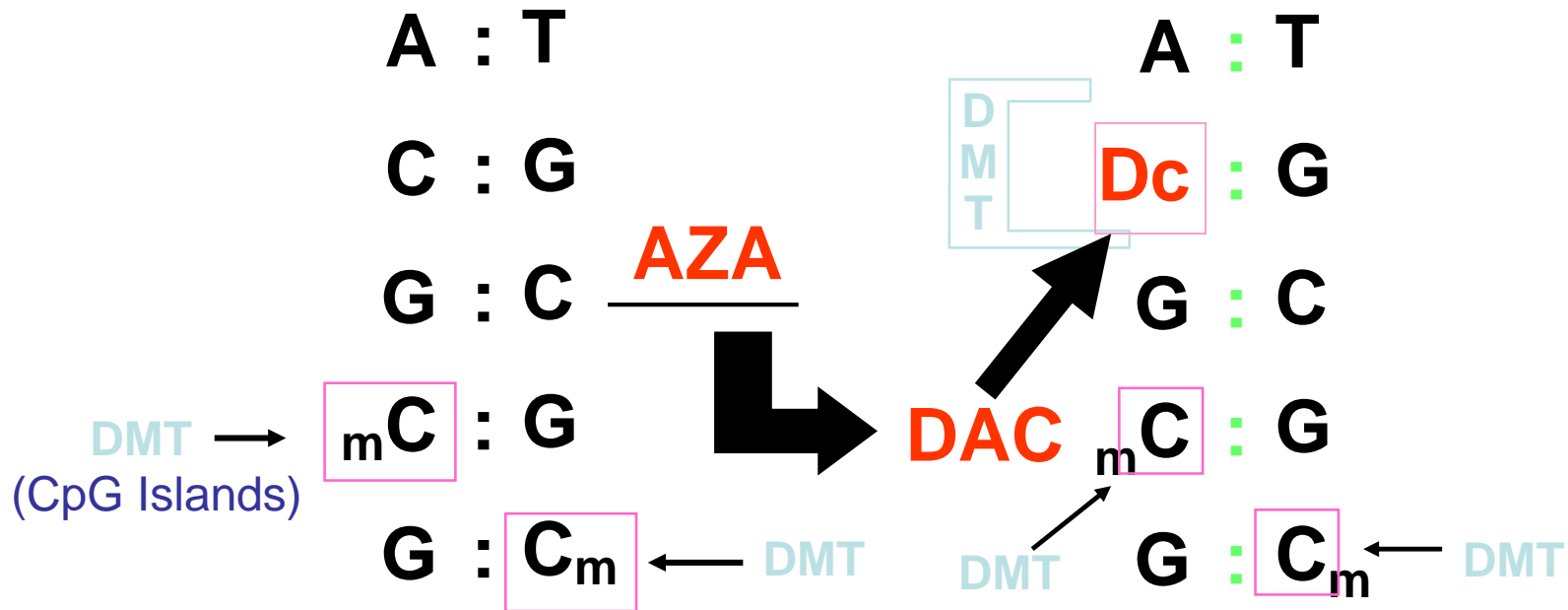
Characteristic	NCCN ^[1]	MDS Foundation ^[2]
Transfusion status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received > 20 RBC transfusions Continuing transfusions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfusion dependent, requiring 2 units/mo for > 1 yr
Serum ferritin level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 2500 µg/L 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1000 µg/L
MDS risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IPSS: low or intermediate-1 risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IPSS: Low- or Int-1 WHO: RA, RARS and 5q-
Patient profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidates for allografts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy > 1 yr and no comorbidities that limit progress A need to preserve organ function Candidates for allografts

Treatment Options for Higher-risk MDS

- HCT
- Azacitidine/Vidaza
- Decitabine/Dacogen
- Clinical Trial

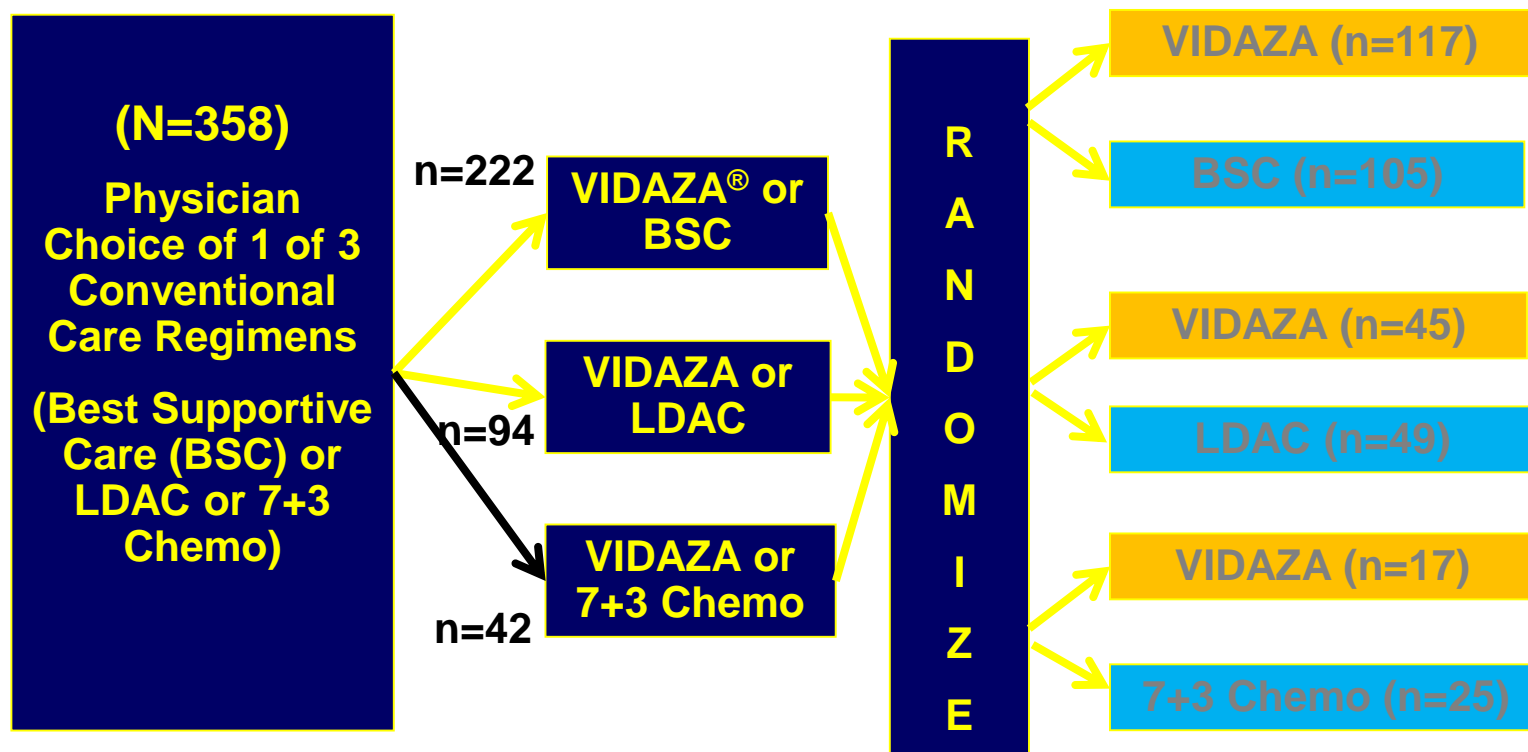
Methyltransferase Inhibitor (MTI)

Induces DNA Hypomethylation and Gene Activation



- Azacitidine (AZA) is incorporated into DNA *in lieu* of cytosine residue
- Inactivates DMT
- Leads to formation of newly synthesized DNA with unmethylated cytosine residues
- Results in hypomethylation and transcription of previously quiescent genes

AZA-001 Randomization Schema

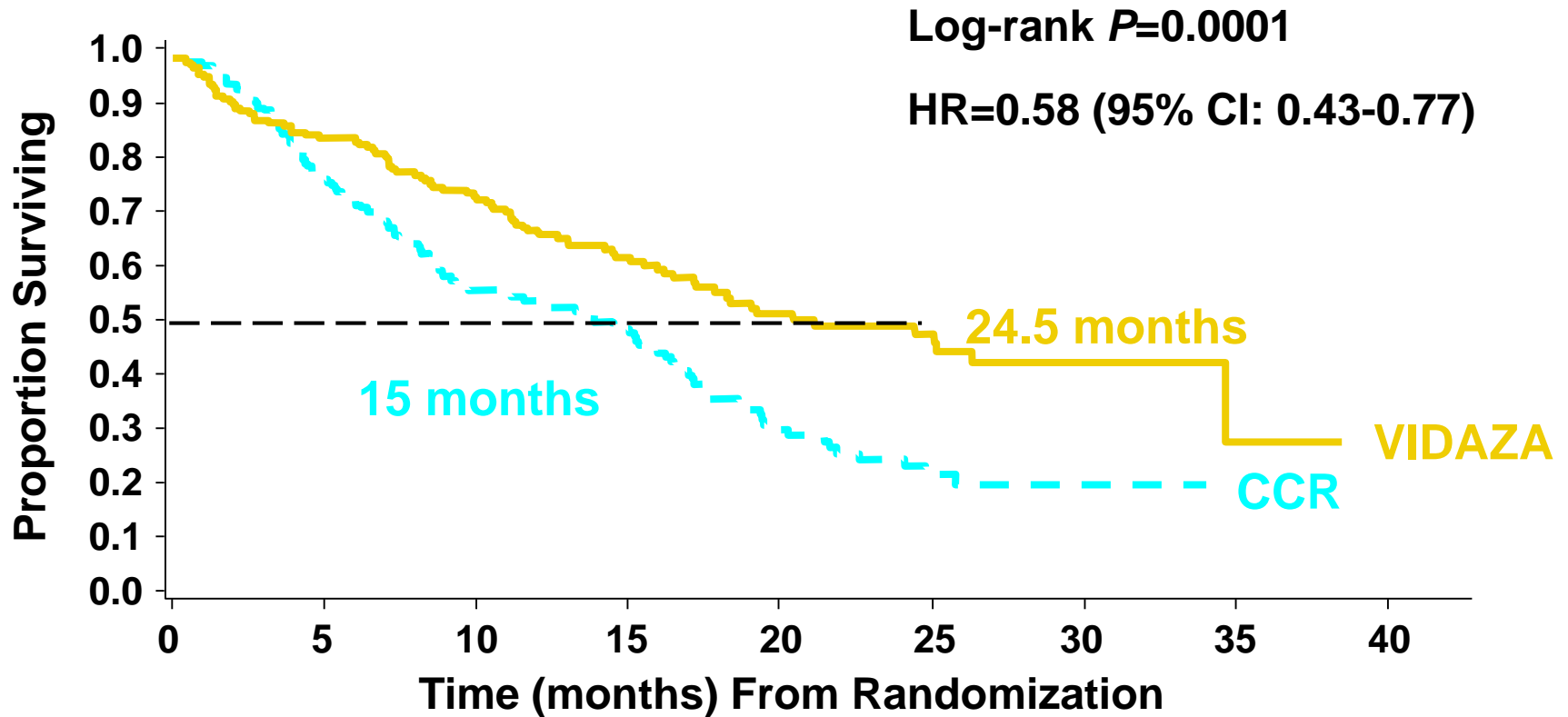


AZA-001 Trial: Baseline Clinical Characteristics*

			CCR Regimens N=179		
	VIDAZA® N=179	CCR N=179	BSC, Only N=105	LDAC N=49	7+3 Chemo N=25
Age Median (yrs) ≥65 (%)	69 68.1	70 76.0	70 77.1	71 85.7	65 52.0
FAB (%) RAEB RAEB-T CMMoL	58.1 34.1 3.4	57.5 34.6 2.8	64.8 28.6 3.8	51.0 38.8 2.0	40.0 52.0 0
IPSS (%) Int-1 Int-2 High	2.8 42.5 45.8	7.3 39.1 47.5	8.6 43.8 43.8	4.1 42.9 42.9	8.0 12.0 72.0
WHO (%) RAEB-1 RAEB-2 CMMoL-1 CMMoL-2 AML	7.8 54.7 0.6 5.6 30.7	9.5 53.1 0 2.8 32.4	12.4 57.1 0 2.9 25.7	6.1 49.0 0 0 40.8	4.0 44.0 0 8.0 44.0

*Numbers may not add up to 100%, some patient information unknown

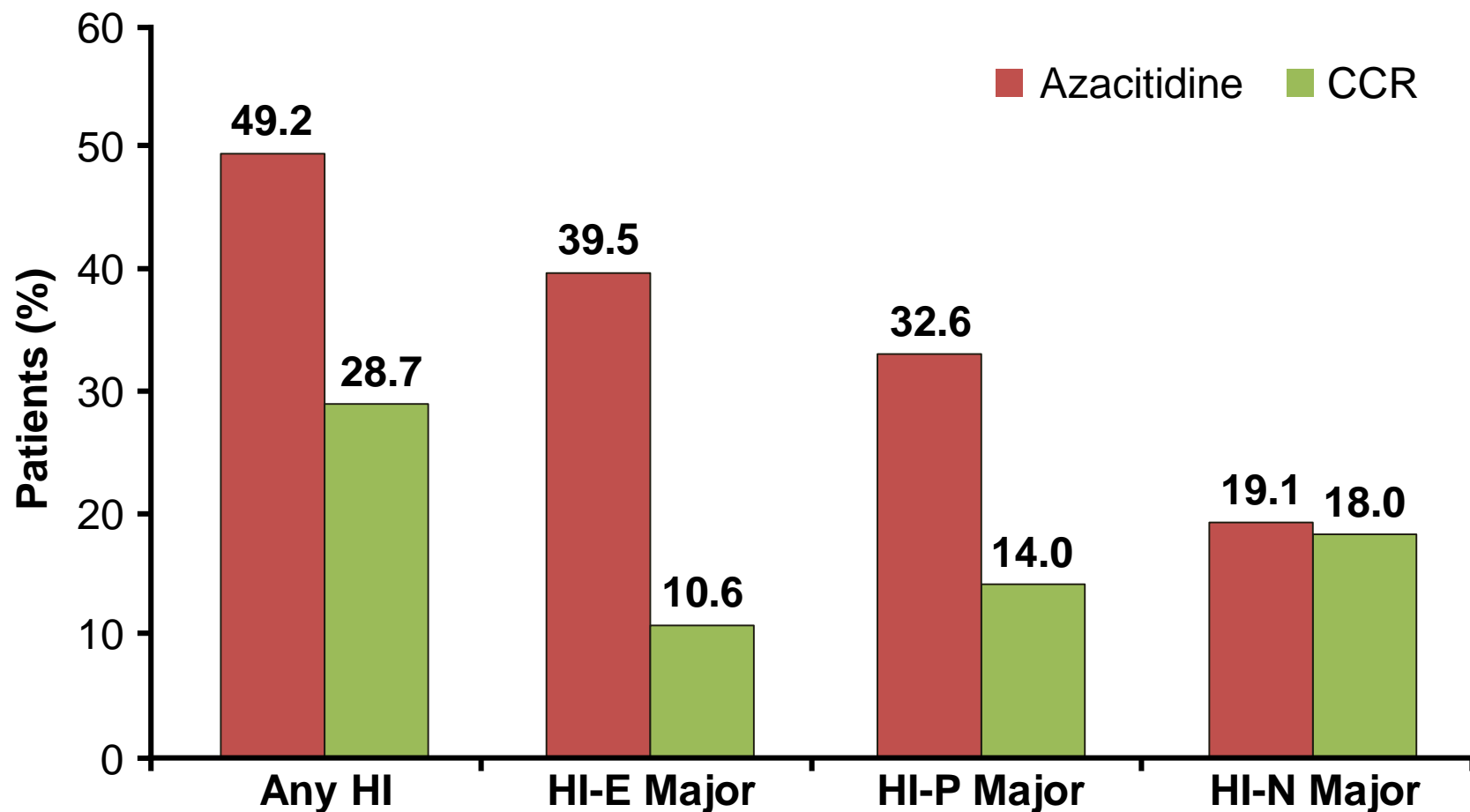
AZA-001 Trial: VIDAZA® Significantly Improves Overall Survival (OS)



Fenaux et al. Lancet Oncol 2009;10:223-32

CI=confidence interval; HR=hazard ratio; ITT=intent-to-treat.

AZA-001: Hematologic Improvement (2000 IWG)



AZA-001: Grade 3/4 Adverse Events ($\geq 2\%$ of Patients)*

Adverse Events, n (%)	Azacitidine (n = 175)	BSC Only (n = 102)
Neutropenia	159 (91)	70 (69)
Thrombocytopenia	149 (85)	72 (71)
Leukopenia	26 (15)	1 (1)
Anemia	100 (57)	67 (66)
Febrile neutropenia	22 (13)	7 (7)
Pyrexia	8 (5)	1 (1)
Abdominal pain	7 (4)	0
Dyspnea	6 (3)	2 (2)
Fatigue	6 (3)	2 (2)
Hematuria	4 (2)	1 (1)
Hypertension	2 (1)	2 (2)

*When any grade of the reactions occurs in $\geq 5\%$ of azacitidine-treated patients.

Randomized Phase III Study of Low-Dose Decitabine for Patients With Higher-Risk MDS

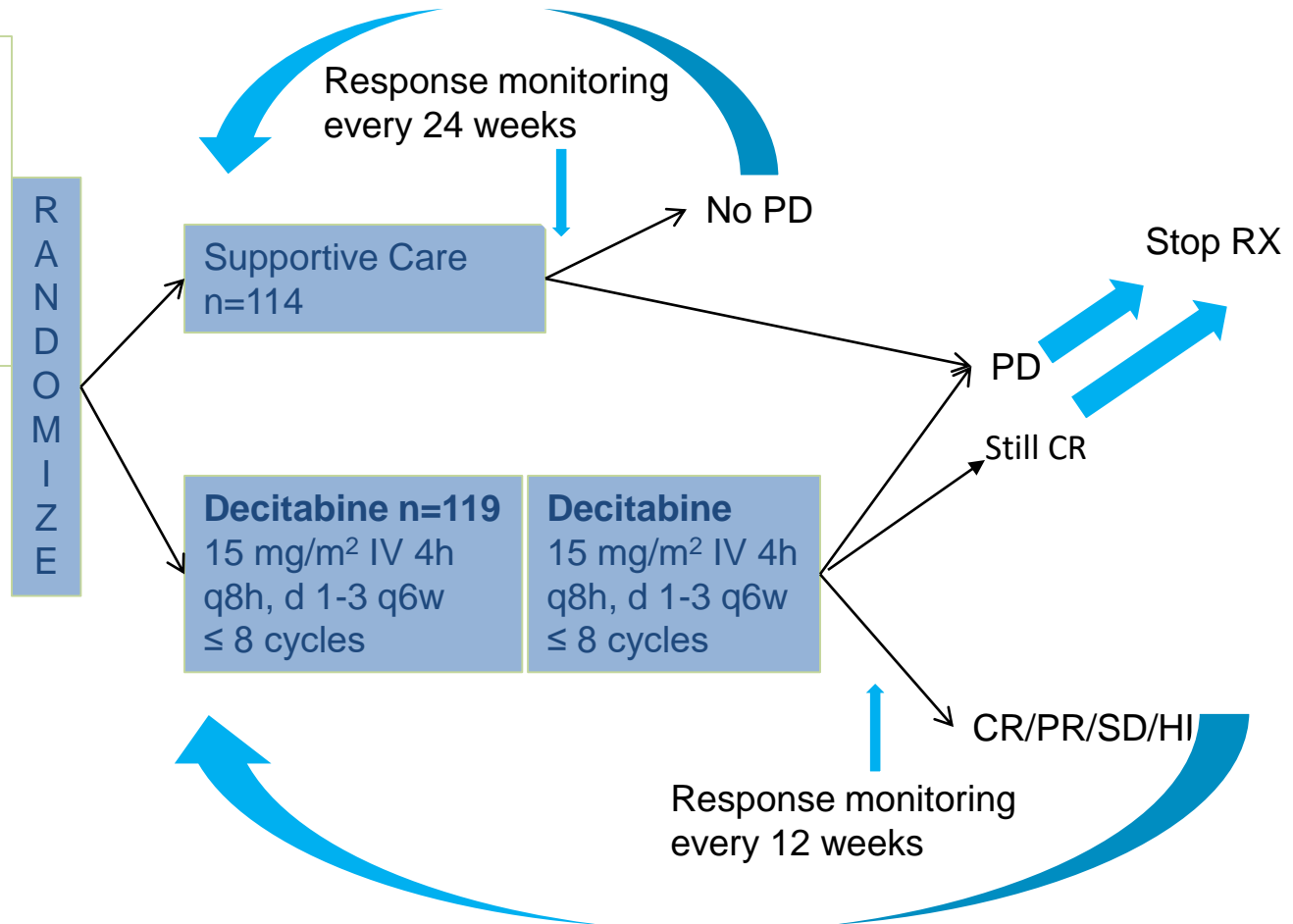
EORTC-06011

Eligibility criteria n=223:

- Intermediate- or high-risk MDS or CMML
- Age ≥ 60 years
- Blast cell count 11%-30% or $\leq 10\%$ with poor cytogenetics

Stratification

- Cytogenetics risk group
- IPSS
- Primary vs secondary
- Study center

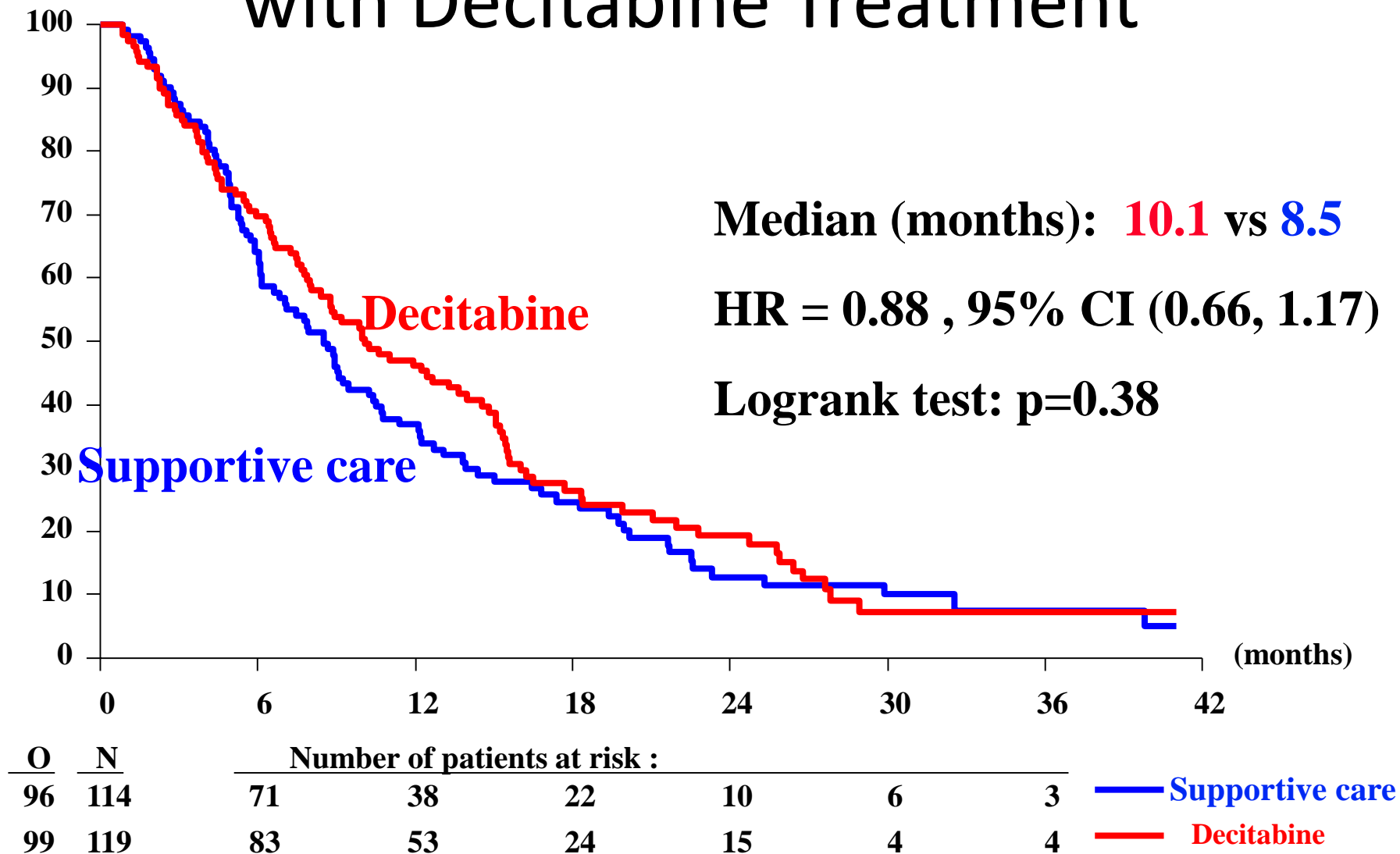


Reason for going off-protocol

	Supportive care N=114 (100%)	Decitabine N=119 (100%)
Normal completion	19 (16.7%)	31 (26.1%)
Progression of disease	55 (48.2%)	40 (33.6%)
Toxicity	NA	19 (16.0%)
Prolonged cytopenia	NA	5 (4.2%)
Death	17 (14.9%)	11 (9.2%)
Refusal	14 (12.3%)	6 (5.0%)
Protocol violations	5 (4.4%)	3 (2.5%)
Ineligible	1 (0.9%)	1 (0.8%)
Other	3 (2.6%)	3 (2.5%)

Median time to off-study: 112 days vs 180 days

EORTC-06011: Overall Survival with Decitabine Treatment

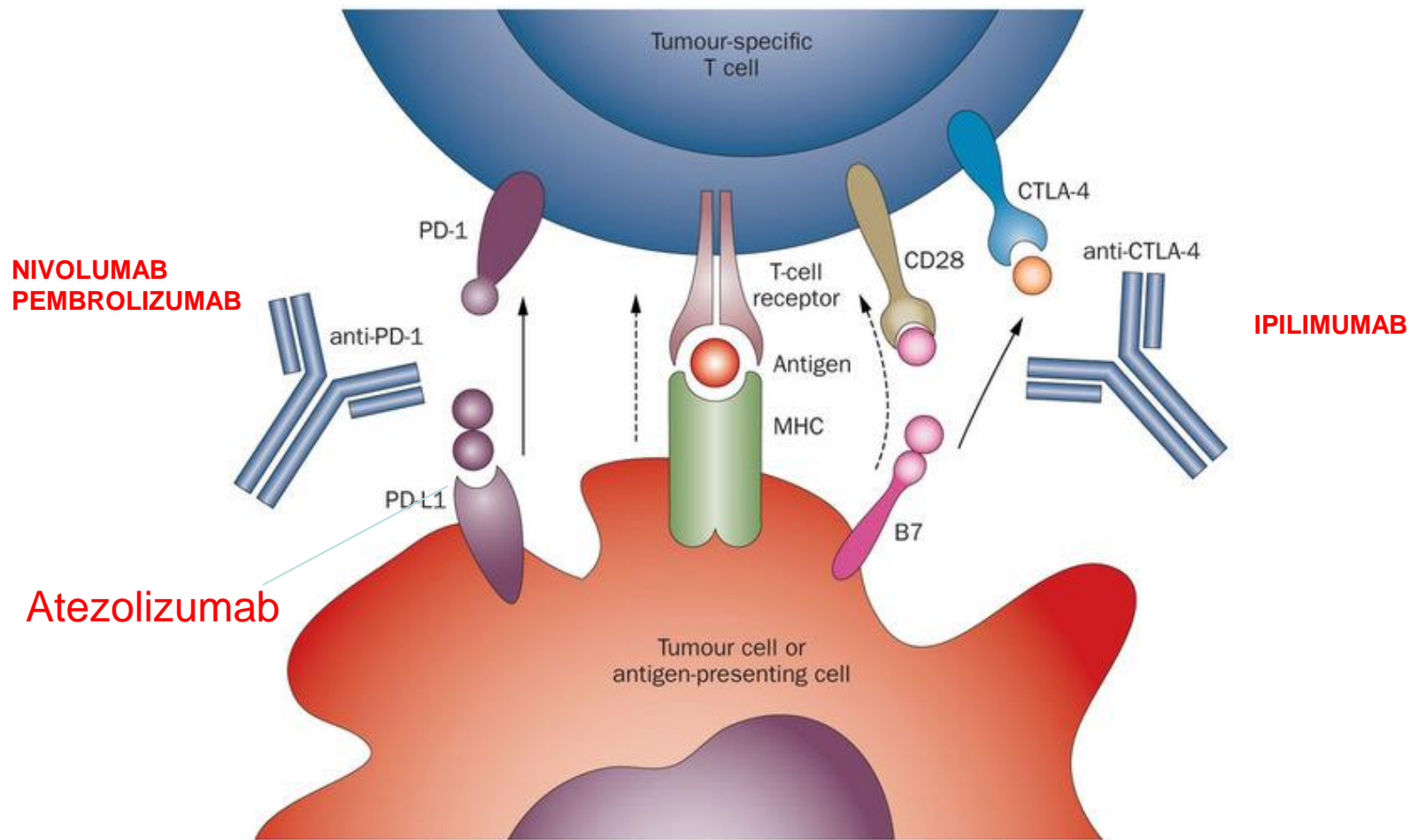


No survival advantage for DAC?

- Number of treatments courses given
- Different populations and comparator groups
 - MDS duration
 - Cytogenetic risk groups
 - Performance status
- How the drug was given
- There is a true difference between aza and dac

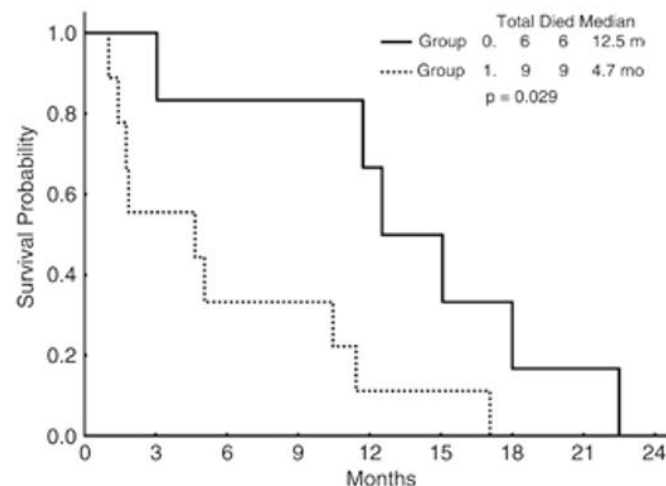
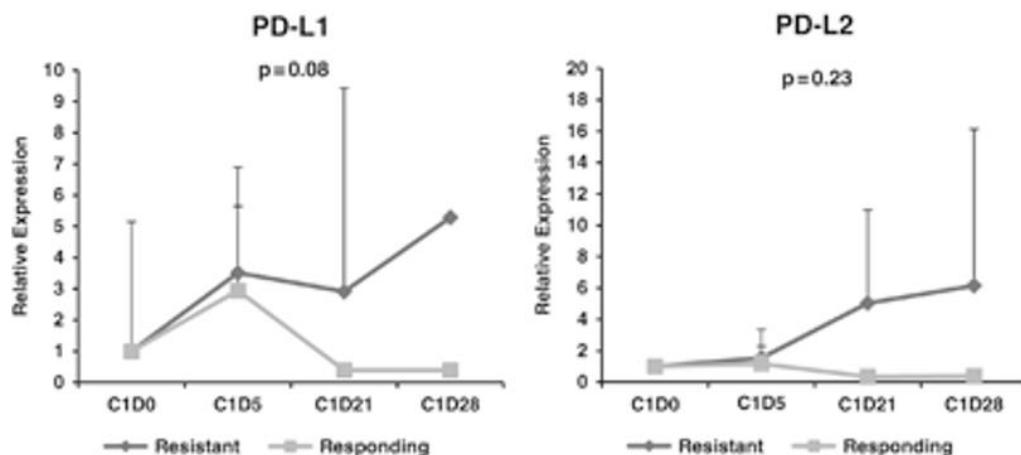
Clinical Trials

ICPI



Increased PD-L1 Expression in HMA Failure

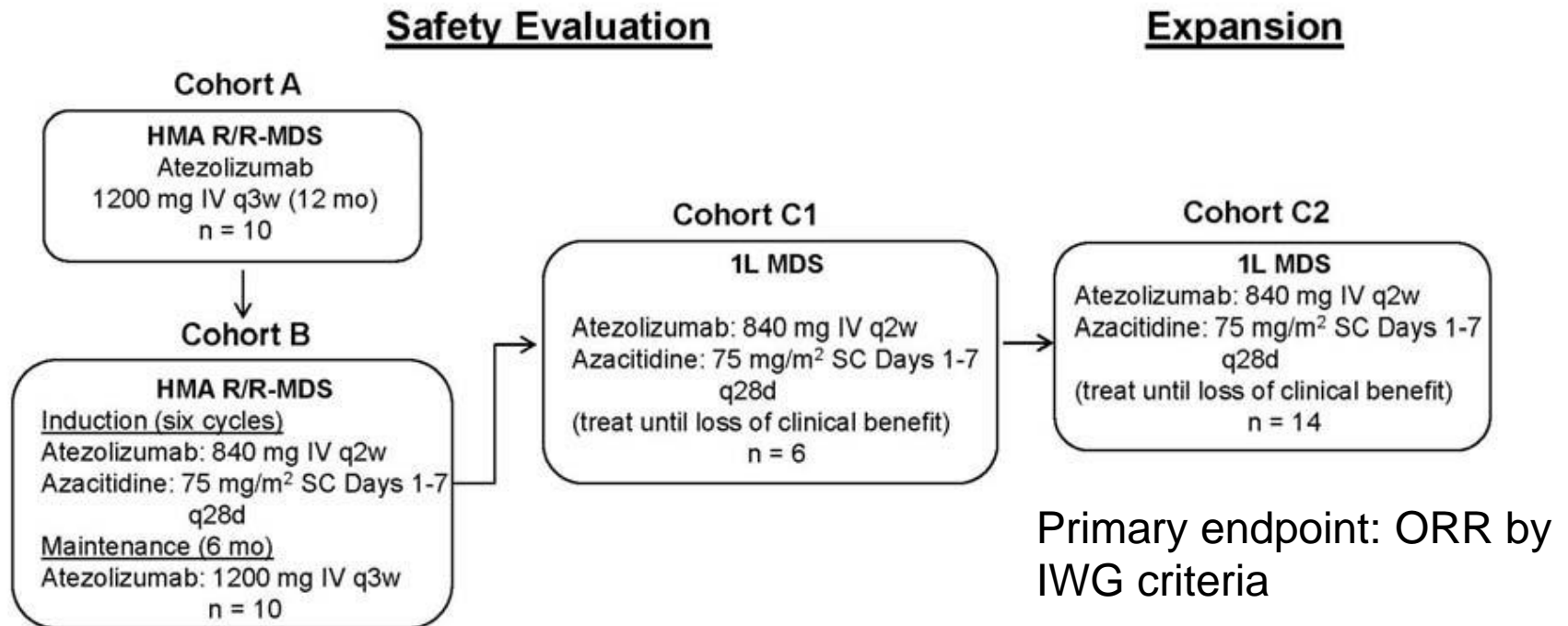
Aza + Vorinostat
 Responders n=7
 Resistance n=11



Group 0: no PDL-2 expression induction
 Group 1: PDL-2 expression induction

mRNA from PBMNC

Atezolizumab



Overall Survival After AZA Failure (HR-MDS)

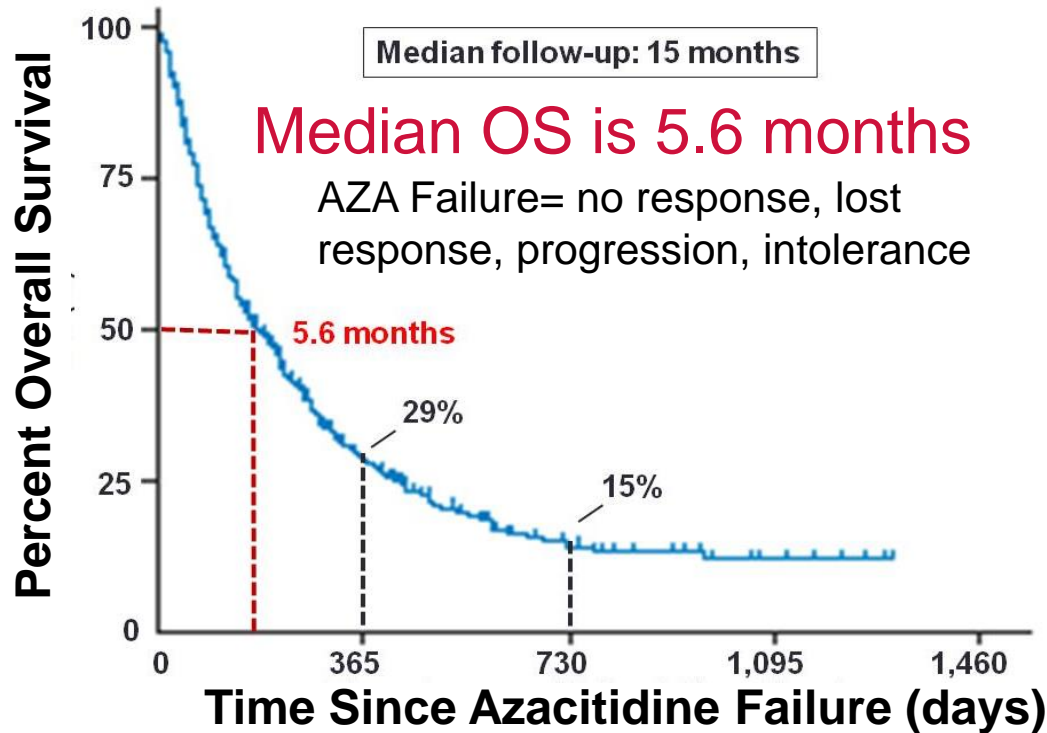
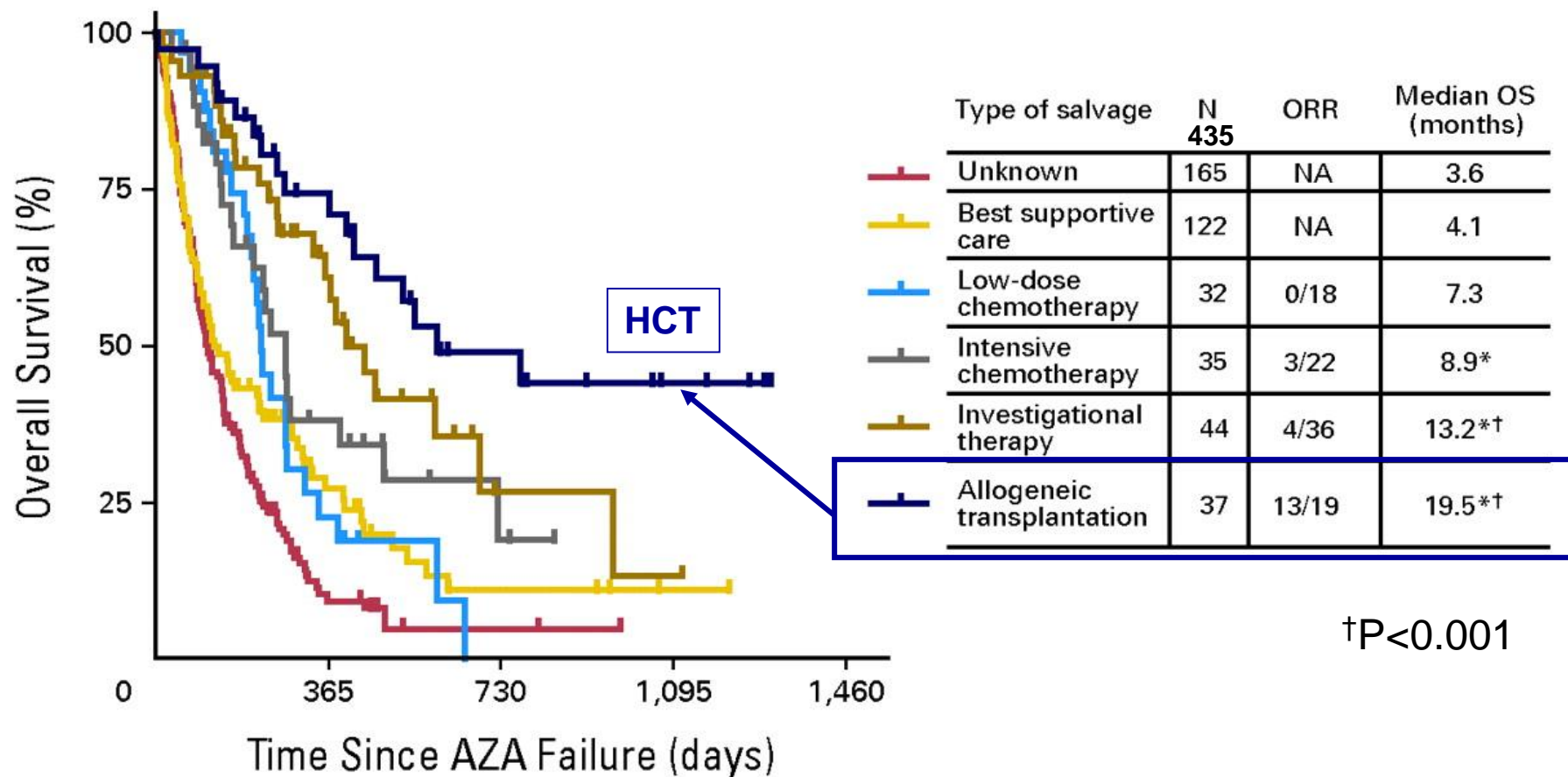


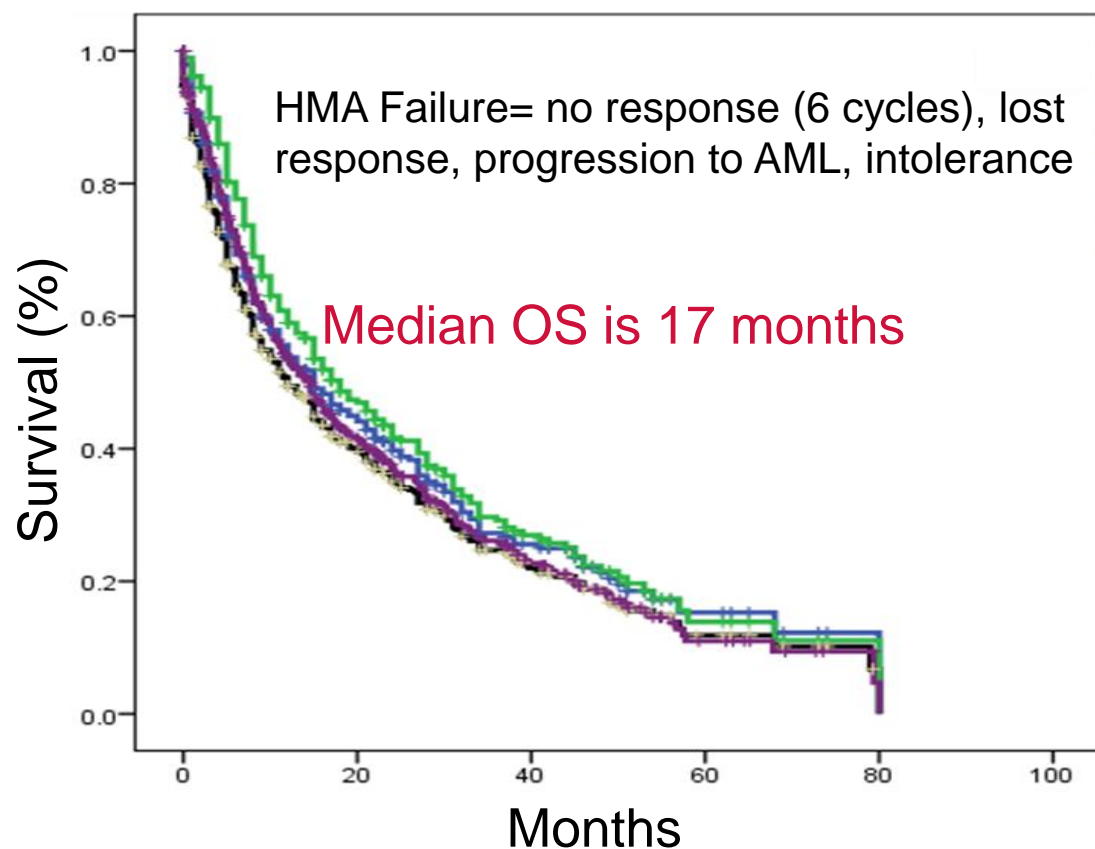
Table 2. Distribution of Patients According to the Type of Failure

Disease Status N=435	Patients	
	No.	%
Primary failure*	229	55
Stable disease	91	24
Progressive disease	138	31
Secondary failure†	164	36
Failure after CR	32	7
Failure after PR	12	2
Failure after HI	120	27
AZA intolerance	42	9
Without ongoing response	29	6
During response to AZA	13	3

HR MDS post AZA failure OS by Salvage Therapy



OS and TFS After HMA Failure (LR-MDS)



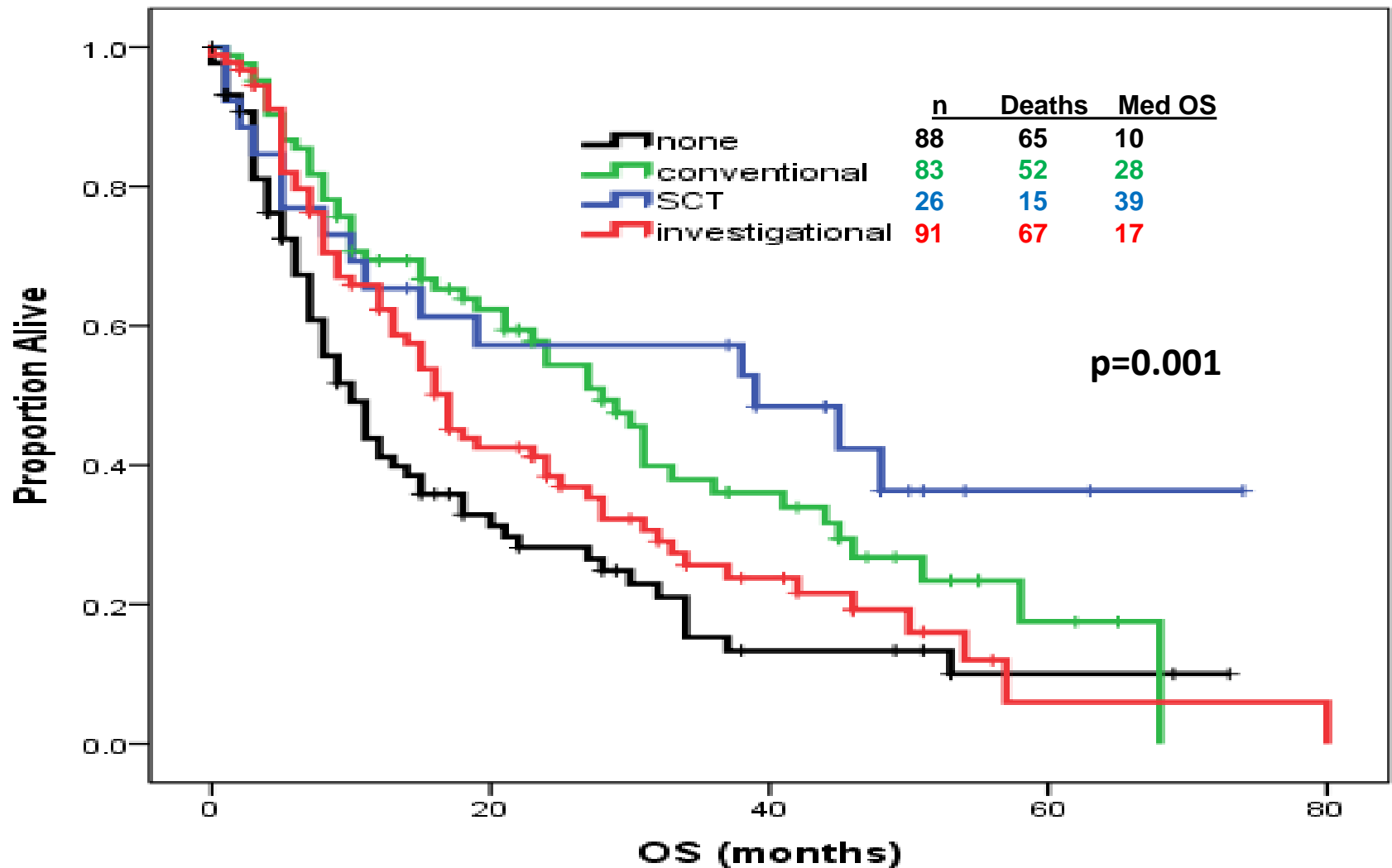
	N	Events	Months
OS*	290	204	17
TFS*	290	201	15
OS	438	315	15
TFS	438	318	12

*Karyotype data available at time of failure

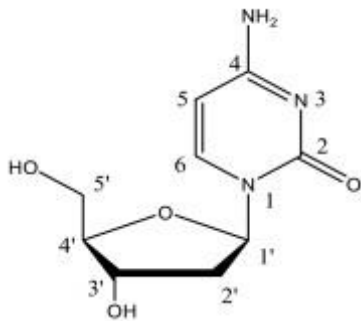
TABLE 2. Response to HMA Therapy and Reasons for Failure

	No. (%)
Best response	
Complete response	42 (10)
Partial response	19 (4)
Hematologic improvement	92 (21)
Stable disease	238 (54)
Progressive disease	36 (8)
Died while receiving therapy	11 (3)
Reason for stopping therapy	
Loss of response	133 (30)
Primary resistance	195 (45)
Transformation into AML	26 (6)
Side effects	13 (3)
Other	71 (16)

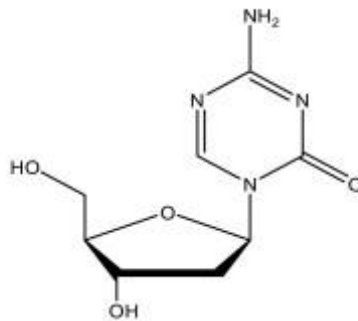
LR MDS post HMA Failure. OS by Salvage Therapy



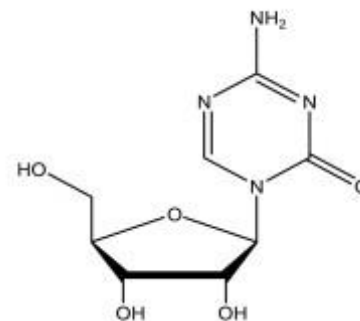
S110: Guadecitabine



cytidine

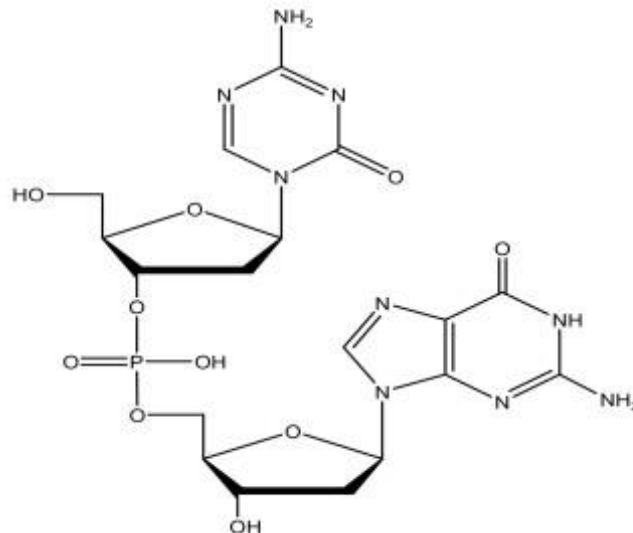


**5-aza-2'-deoxycytidine
(decitabine)**



5-azacytidine

S110

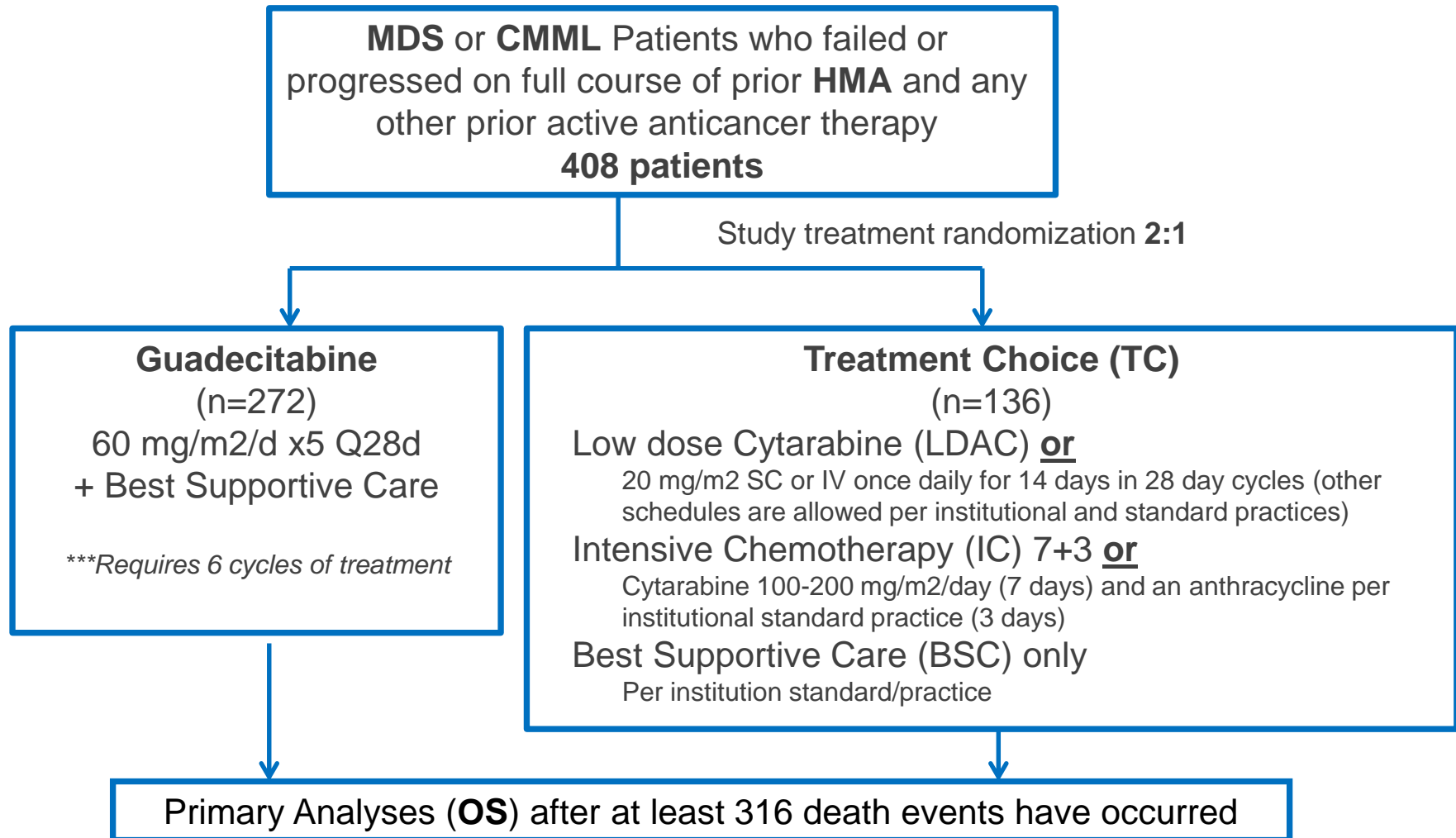


Guanosine
Inhibits cytidine deaminase

347:SG-110 in MDS/CMML/AML after AZA failure

- GDAC 60 mg/m²/day Day 1-5 q 28 days
 - Median 3 cycles
- N=56; 15 refractory and 41 relapsed
- 9 responded (16%)
 - 1 CR, 2CRp, 5 marrow CR, 1 HI
- Median duration of response 9 months
- Median OS 6.7 mos
 - 33 died: 14 progression, 13 infection, 1 bleeding, 5 other

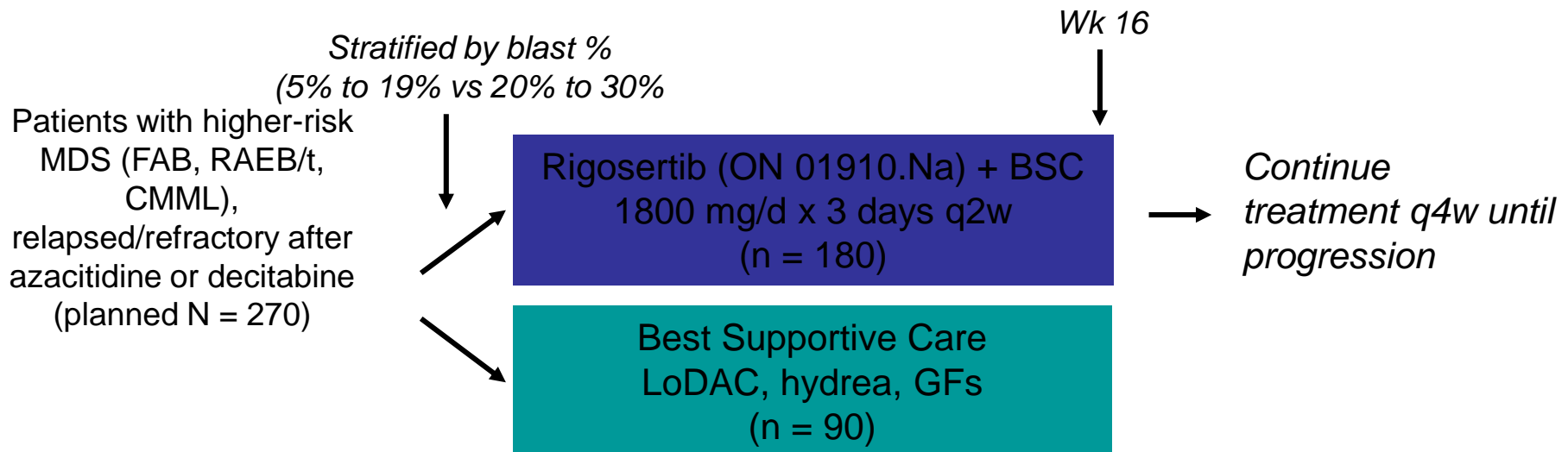
ASTRAL-2 Design



Note: All treatment options (guadecitabine and TC) may include BSC options

Phase III ONTIME: Rigosertib in Higher-Risk MDS After HMA Failure

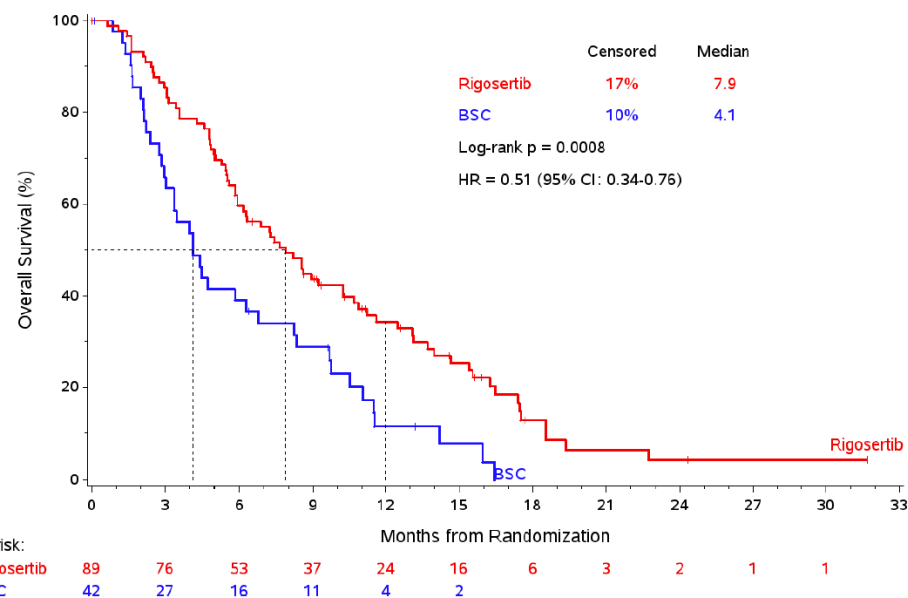
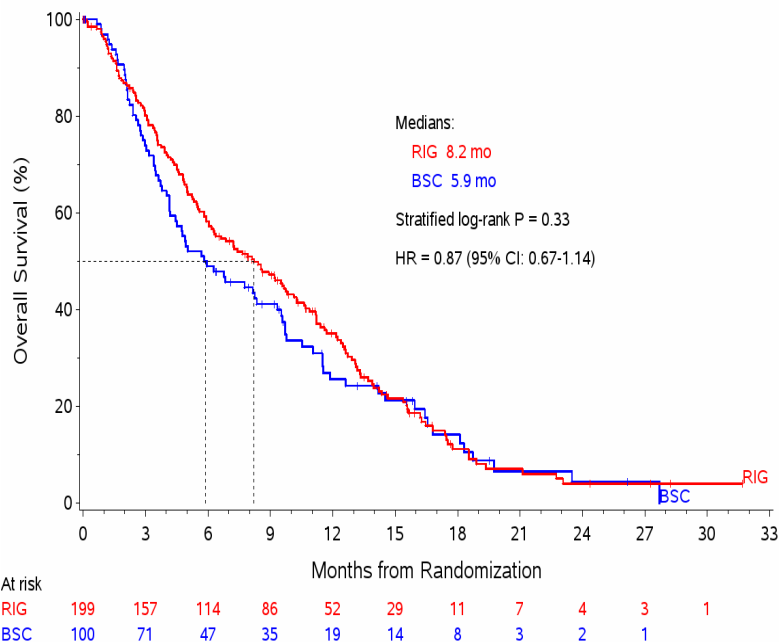
- Rigosertib: PLK and PI3K inhibitor; a novel synthetic benzyl styryl sulfone that is cytotoxic against a variety of human tumor cell lines



- Primary endpoint: OS (HR: 0.62)
- Secondary endpoints: IWG response, transformation to AML, infection, bleeding, QoL

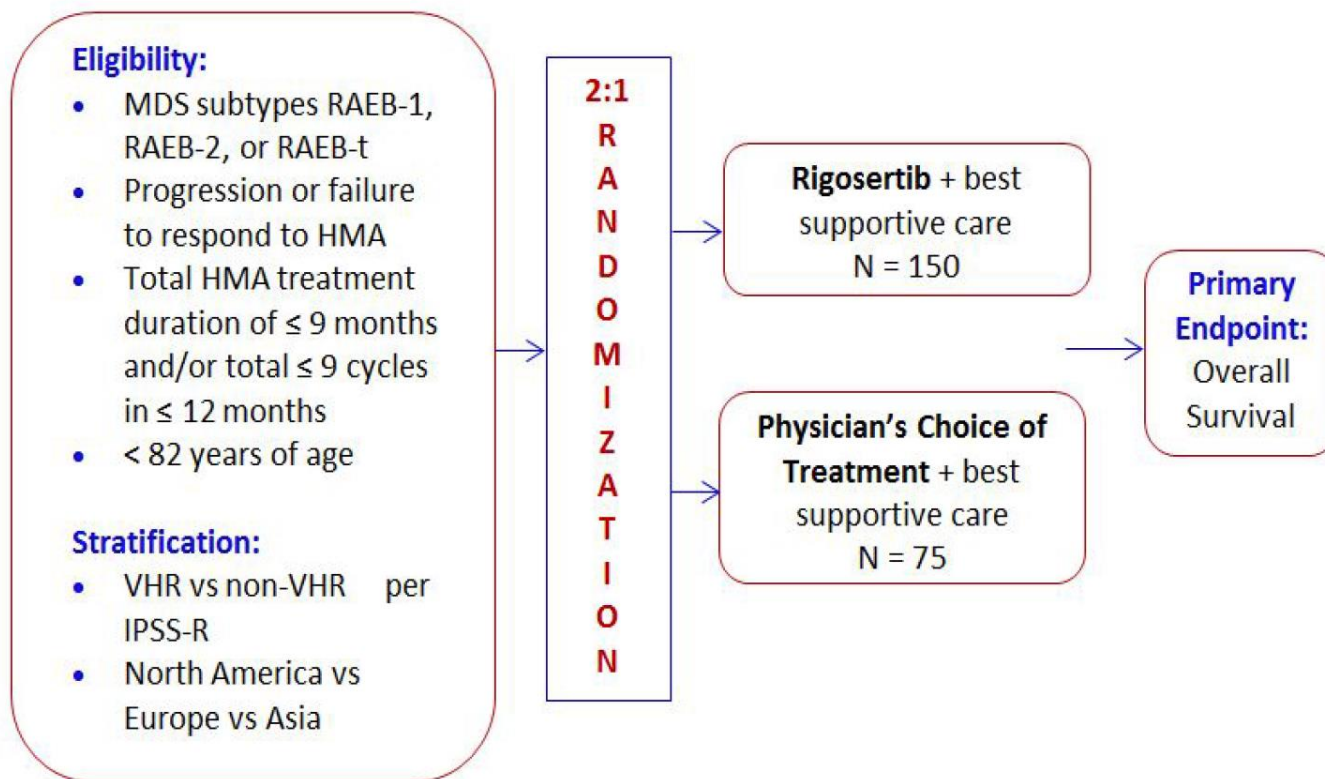
Rigosertib vs. BSC

Overall Survival in Study 04-21 – Duration of Prior HMA Therapy ≤ 9 months and/or ≤ 9 Cycles of Prior HMA Therapy in ≤ 12 Months, Last Dose of HMA ≤ 6 months Before Study Entry, and Age at Entry < 82 years



Subset analysis indicated improved responses with primary failure

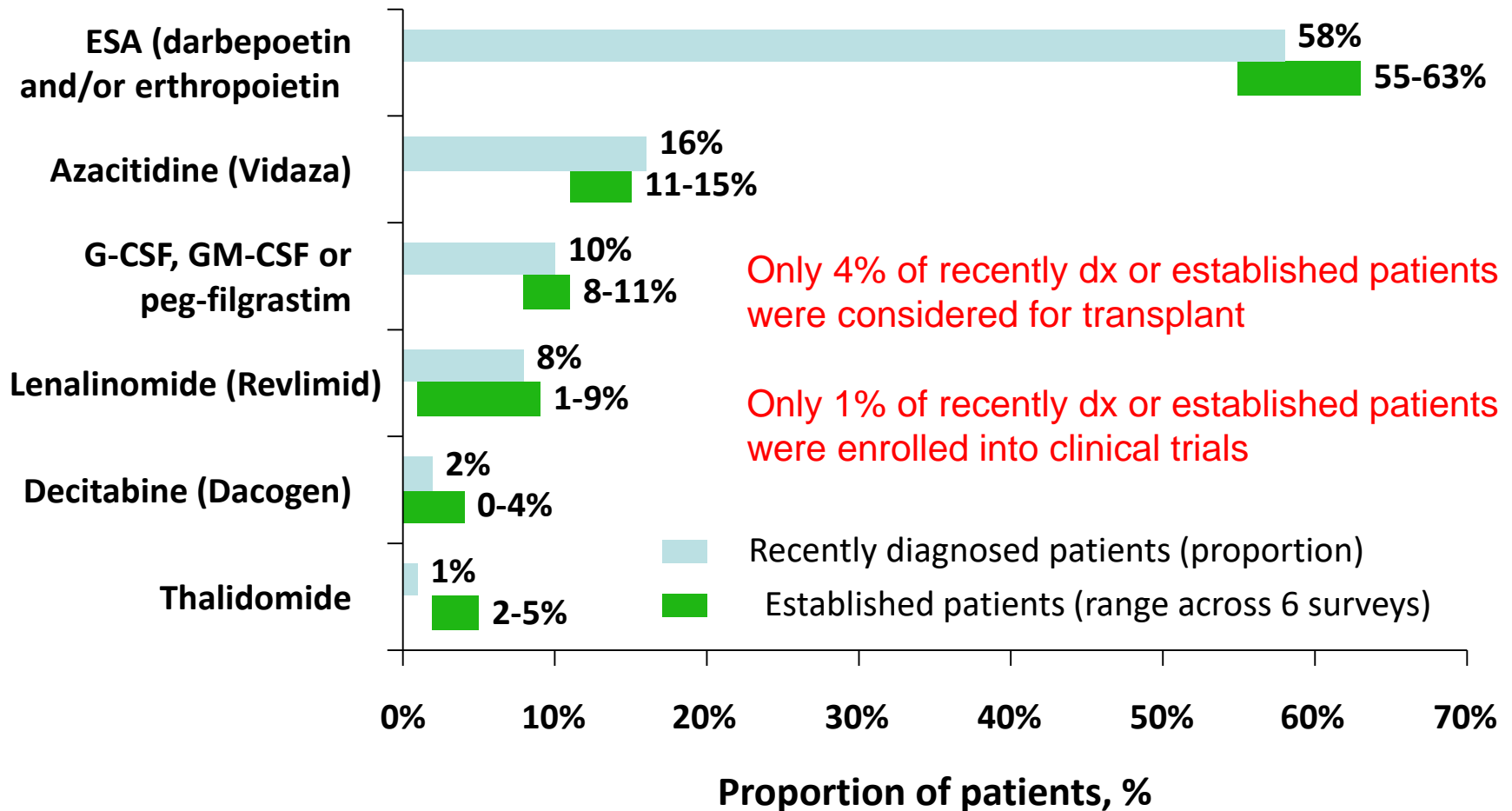
ONTIME 2



Best supportive care = red blood cell and platelet transfusions, and growth factors (growth factors, granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF), erythropoietin, and thrombopoietin)

U.S. treatment approaches to MDS

Overall proportion of recently diagnosed patients (n = 670) and range of established patients across six surveys (n = 3844) taking specific types of therapies at the time of the survey



Conclusions: Non-Transplant Therapy for MDS

- Transfusion support plus SC is an appropriate choice for some patients with MDS
- Growth factors remain the most common treatment choice for MDS
- IST is an appropriate choice for some patients with low/int-1 risk MDS
- Lenalidomide indicated for rec cell TD low/int-1 risk del (5q) MDS
- Aza has been shown to improve OS in patients with int-2/high risk MDS
- The role of iron-chelation remains controversial pending results of a RCT TELESTO

MDS Treatment Algorithm

