Lymphoma: **Emerging Therapies** Bruce D. Cheson, M.D. **Georgetown University Hospital** Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

## Treatment Modalities in Lymphoma



### **BR vs R-CHOP in Untreated iNHL**



Rummel et al, Lancet 381:1203, 2013

#### 7-Year Results of GELA Study of CHOP ± Rituximab in Older Patients With DLBCL: OS



#### Ways to Kill Cancer Cells

#### **Nuclear Attack**



#### Smart Bomb



#### Chemotherapy

Drugs attack the "bricks and mortar" of cancer cells (DNA, cell cytoskeleton, etc.)

#### **Targeted Therapy**

Drugs attack the "electrical wiring system" of cancer cells (receptors, enzymes, cell signaling molecules)

## Targeted and Immunotherapy Agents

Agent	Target
Rituximab/Obinutuzumab/Ublituximab	CD20
MOR-208	CD19
Polatuzumab vedotin Blinatumomab	CD79b CD3/CD19
Ibrutinib, Acalabrutinib,	Btk
Acalabrutinib	Btk
Idelalisib, Umbralisib, Copanlisib	PI3-K
Venetoclax Tazemetostat	Bcl-2 EZH2
Lenalidomide	Multiple
Nivolumab/Pembrolizumab	PD-1
Atezolizumab	PDL-1

### **Targets of B-Cell Receptor Signaling**



### Idelalisib Monotherapy in Refractory iNHL (Phase II): Responses

Characteristic	Patients, n (%) (N = 125)
ORR, n (%)	71 (57)
CR	7 (6)
PR	63 (50)
Minor response*	1 (1)
SD	42 (34)
PD	10 (8)
Not evaluated	2 (2)
Time to response, mos $(n = 71)$	
Median (interquartile range)	1.9 (1.8-3.7)

Gopal A, et al. N Engl J Med. 2014;370:1008-1018.

#### Phase II Study of Idelalisib Monotherapy in Refractory iNHL: PFS and DOR



Gopal A, et al. N Engl J Med. 2014;370:1008-1018.

### Copanlisib Demonstrated Anti-Tumor Efficacy in Patients with Relapsed or Refractory iNHL



\*Patient was assessed by independent review as having stable disease.

<sup>a</sup>One patient with follicular lymphoma who received treatment was later confirmed by the local investigator to have diffuse large B-cell lymphoma.

CI, confidence interval; NA, not available; NE, not evaluable; ORR, objective response rate.

Dreyling M et al. J Clin Oncol 2017; doi: 10.1200/JCO.2017.75.4648.

### Copanlisib Demonstrated Durable Responses in Patients with Relapsed or Refractory iNHL



#### Median progression-free survival:

•Overall: 11.2 months (95% CI: 8.1–24.0)<sup>1</sup>

•FL: 11.2 months (95% CI: 7.8–24.2)<sup>2</sup>



#### Median duration of response:

•Overall: 22.6 months (range 0–22.6; 95% CI: 7.4–22.6)<sup>1</sup>

•**Refractory patients:** 12.2 months (range 0–22.6; 95% CI: 7.4–22.6)<sup>2</sup>

•FL: 12.2 months (range 0–22.6; 95% CI: 6.9–22.6)<sup>2</sup>

1. Dreyling M et al. J Clin Oncol 2017; doi: 10.1200/JCO.2017.75.4648. 2. Dreyling M et al. Presented at: International Conference on Malignant Lymphoma; June 14–17, 2017; Lugano, Switzerland.

#### Umbralisib in Relapsed/Refractory Lymphoid Malignancies: Clinical Efficacy

• Responses according to disease type:

Disease	Objective response, n (%)	CR, n (%)	PR, n (%)	PR-L <i>,</i> n (%)	Duration of Response, mo (n)
CLL, n=20	17 (85)	-	10 (50)*	7 (35)	13.4 (16)
CLL, del 17p/del 11q,n=8	6 (75)	-	4 (50%)*	2 (25%)	-
FL, n=17	9 (53)	2 (12)	7 (41)	-	9.3 (9)
DLBCL, n=13	4 (31)	-	4 (31)	-	6.4 (4)

-HL: 1 CR, 4 SD, 4 PD; MZL: 1 PR, 4 SD; Waldenström macroglobulinemia: 2 SD; MCL: 1 PR, 4 SD, 1 PD.\*iwCLL 2008

- Umbralisib was clinically active in most treated patients
  - 56 of 90 (62%) study patients had reductions in disease burden by CT scan
  - ORR 37% (PR 33%) amongst all evaluable patients (N=73)
- Responses increased over time amongst patients with CLL and iNHL

#### Umbralisib in Relapsed/Refractory Lymphoid Malignancies: Best Percentage Change from Baseline in Disease Burden



#### Umbralisib in Relapsed/Refractory Lymphoid Malignancies: Progression-free Survival (post-hoc analysis)



- Median PFS :
  - CLL: 24 mo (95% Cl 7.4 – NR)
  - iNHL: 16 mo (95% Cl 9.2– NR)
- Tumor reductions in most patients with lymphoma and CLL tended to improve over time

#### Warnings and Grade ≥3 AEs for Approved and Emerging PI3K Inhibitors for Indolent NHL

	Copanlisib <sup>1,2</sup>	Idelalisib <sup>3</sup>	Duvelisib <sup>5</sup>	Buparlisib <sup>6,a</sup>	Umbralisib (TGR1202)⁴
Black box warning	None	Fatal and/or serious toxicities: •Hepatotoxicity (11–18%) •Severe diarrhea or colitis (14–19%) •Pneumonitis (4%) •Infections (21–36%) •Intestinal perforation	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grade ≥3 AEs (in	FL patients unles	ss otherwise noted) <sup>b</sup>			
Hyperglycemia	41% (infusion- related)	N/A	N/A	52%	N/A
Hypertension	26% (infusion- related)	N/A	N/A	<10%	N/A
Pneumonitis	1%	169/d	2%	N/A	<1.5% <sup>a</sup>
Lung infection	16%	10 %	9% <sup>e</sup>	N/A	5% <sup>e</sup>
Diarrhea	5%	1/0/	15%	65%	3%
Colitis	1% <sup>c</sup>	1470	5%	<10%	<1.5% <sup>a</sup>
ALT increased	1.4%	18%	6%	>10%	3%
AST increased	1.4%	12%	N/A	>10%	3%

1. Aliqopa<sup>®</sup> (copanlisib) Injection [Prescribing Information]. Whippany, NJ. Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals, November 2017. 2. Dreyling M et al. J Clin Oncol 2017; doi: 10.1200/JCO.2017.75.4648. 3. Zydelig<sup>®</sup> (idelalisib) [Prescribing Information]. Gilead. 2016. Available at:

http://www.gilead.com/~/media/Files/pdfs/medicines/oncology/zydelig/zydelig\_pi.pdf. **4.** Burris HA *et al.* Presented at: ASCO Annual Meeting; June 3–7, 2016; Chicago, IL, USA. **5.** Flinn I *et al.* Presented at: ASH Annual Meeting; December 3–6, 2016; San Diego, CA, USA. **6.** Batlevi C *et al.* Presented at: International Conference on Malignant

#### DAWN Study: Primary End Point: IRC-Assessed Clinical Response With Single-Agent Ibrutinib

	All Treated Patients (N = 110)		
Clinical response, n (%)		95% CI	
Overall response rate (ORR)	23 (20.9)	13.7-29.7	
Complete response (CR)	12 (10.9)	5.8-18.3	
Partial response (PR)	11 (10.0)	5.1-17.2	
Stable disease (SD)	34 (30.9)	22.5-40.4	
Progressive disease (PD)	47 (42.7)	33.3-52.5	
Not evaluable/unknown	6 (5.5)	2.0-11.5	

#### Disease control rate (ORR + SD for $\geq$ 6 months) was 33.6% (37/110)

CI, confidence interval.

58<sup>th</sup> ASH Annual Meeting 2016, DAWN Study, Gopal A, et al.

#### **Edward Jenner- Late 18th Century**



Observed that milkmaids who get a mild viral disease Cowpox (Vaccinia virus) do not get the deadly disease, Smallpox

Inoculation of Cowpox provided protection from Smallpox

Figure 1-1 Immunobiology, 6/e. (© Garland Science 2005)

## William Coley:1892



#### Paul Ehrlich 1854-1915



"You see we must take aim - aim by chemical variation! The marvellous effect of an antibody in the serum is due to the fact that in no case it has affinity for the body substances but flies straight onward without deviation, upon the parasites.

The antibodies are therefore MAGIC BULLETS which find the targets themselves... we must therefore concentrate all our powers and abilities on making the aim as accurate as we can contrive, so as to strike the parasites as hard and the body cells as lightly as possible."

*circa* 1904

#### **Components of the Immune System**





## Active vs Passive Immunotherapy\*

	Active	Passive
Examples	Vaccines, cellular immunotherapy	Antibodies, checkpoint inhibitors, cytokines
Potential for benefit	Only those who respond	Most all
Timing of response	Slow	Immediate
Immunological memory	Yes	No
Duration of response	Long	Short
Benefit to immunosuppressed pts?	May be a disadvantage	Yes and may improve immunity
Route of administration	Various	Usually systemic

*\*Immunotherapy*: treatment using certain parts of a person's immune system to fight diseases such as *cancer* 

## Monoclonal Antibodies in Lymphoma

Antibody	Target	Construct
Rituximab, obinutuzumab, ofatumumab	CD20	Unconjugated
Alemtuzumab	CD52	Unconjugated
Daratumumab	CD38	Unconjugated
MOR-208	CD19	Unconjugated
Nivolumab, pembrolizumab	PD-1	Unconjugated
Atezolizumab	PDL-1	Unconjugated
Y-90 ibrutmomab tiuxetan	CD20	RIT
Brentuximab vedotin	CD30	ADC
Polatuzumab vedotin	CD79b	ADC
Blinatumomab	CD19/CD3	BITE

### Rituximab in Front-line Follicular NHL



#### 7-Year Results of GELA Study of CHOP $\pm$ Rituximab in Older Patients With DLBCL: OS



## PFS and Survival Curves for S0016



Med f/u 10.3 y

## **Overall Survival By Maintenance**



Martinelli G et al. JCO 2010;28:4480-4484



#### Hochster, H. et al. J Clin Oncol; 27:1607-1614 2009





Ardeshna KM et al. Proc ASH 2010; Abstract 6

Salles et al, abstr 486, ASH 2017

#### OS comparison: NHL 1 (B-R, foll.) vs. NHL 7 (4y R cens.)



Rummel et al. Blood 2017; 130: 483

## **GALLIUM Schema**

#### **Study design**



\*FL and MZL pts were randomized separately; stratification factors: chemotherapy, FLIPI (FL) or IPI (MZL) risk group, geographic region; <sup>†</sup>CHOP q3w × 6 cycles, CVP q3w × 8 cycles, bendamustine q4w × 6 cycles; choice by site (FL) or by pt (MZL); <sup>‡</sup>Pts with SD at EOI were followed for PD for up to 2 years; <sup>§</sup>Confirmatory endpoint

#### Marcus et al, NEJM 377:1331, 2017

## GALLIUM PFS

#### **INV-assessed PFS (FL; primary endpoint)**



	R-chemo, n=601	G-chemo, n=601			
Pts with event,	144	101			
n (%)	(24.0)	(16.8)			
3-yr PFS,	73.3	80.0			
% (95% CI)	(68.8, 77.2)	(75.9, 83.6)			
HR (95% CI),	0.66 (0.51, 0.85),				
p-value*	p=0.0012				

Median follow-up: 34.5 months

Marcus et al, NEJM 377:1331, 2017

### GALLIUM OS

#### OS (FL)



## Approved Treatment Options for R/R FL in the US

Agent	Issues
Y <sup>90</sup> -ibritumomab tiuxetan (Zevalin)	Eligibility critieria, MDS/AML; no survival benefit
Bendamustine; B-G	BR used upfront
Idelalisib	Toxicities
Copanlisib	Schedule, toxicities
Allo BMT	Age of pts, toxicity, reimbursement

#### **GADOLIN Trial: Study design**

Open-label, multicenter, randomized, Phase III study in rituximab-refractory iNHL patients



- Rituximab-refractory definition: Failure to respond to, or progression during any prior rituximabcontaining regimen (monotherapy or combined with chemotherapy), or progression within 6 months of the last rituximab dose, in the induction or maintenance settings
- Endpoints considered in current analysis: PFS (INV), OS, TTNT, safety

Cheson et al, JCO in press, 2018

#### **GADOLIN Trial: OS in the FL population**

Kaplan-Meier plot of OS by treatment arm (FL)



NR, not reached

\*Stratified analysis; stratification factors: prior therapies, refractory type, geographical region

Cheson et al, JCO 2018 (in press)

## Amping up monoclonal antibodies: Antibody-drug conjugates (ADC)



### Brentuximab Vedotin in HL: Response Results

	N=102				
	IRF	Investigator			
Overall response rate (95% CI)	75% (65, 83)	72% (62, 80)			
Complete remission	34%	33%			
Partial remission	40%	38%			
Stable disease	22%	27%			
Progressive disease	3%	0%			
Not evaluable	1%	1%			

#### ECHELON-1: Open-label, global, randomized, phase 3 study of A+AVD versus ABVD in patients with newly diagnosed advanced cHL



cHL, classic Hodgkin lymphoma; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; EOT, end-of-treatment; PFS, progression-free survival



Connors et al, abstr. 6, ASH 2017

#### **Modified PFS per independent review**



American Society of Hematology

## Blinatumomab



α-CD19 Antibody

## Blinatumomab in Relapsed NHL

					1	No. of Res	sponses
	Dose (µg/m²/day)	No. of Patients	CR	CRu	CR/CRu	PR	ORR CR + CRu + PR, n (%)
Response at highest actual dose received*	0.5, 1.5 5 15 30 60 90	9 7† 15† 6† 35† 4†	0 0 1 1 8 1	0 0 0 5 0		0 0 2 0 11 1	0 (0) 0 (0) 3 (20) 1 (17) 24 (69) 2 (50)
Response at target dose* By histology FL MCL DLBCL‡ Other By early relapse status   Early relapse	60 60 60 § 60	15 7 11 2 19			6 3 4 0 5	6 2 1 5	12 (80) 5 (71) 6 (55) 1 (50) 10 (53)
No early relapse	60	16			8	6	14 (88)

#### Goebeler et al, JCP 34:1104, 2016

### Not all cells in the tumor are cancer cells



- 15-40% of intratumoral cells are not malignant cells
- But immune response appears ineffective

### **Immunotherapeutic Targets**



## Immunotherapy at present mainly targets ineffective T-cells

- Prevent T-cells from being "switched off"
- Specifically activate T-cells
- Increase T-cell ability to target cancer cells

### **PD-1 Pathway and Immune Surveillance**





- PD-1 is expressed on the surface of activated T cells
- Its ligands, PD-L1 and PD-L2, are overexpressed in certain tumor cells
- Binding of PD-1 to its ligands inhibits T-cell activation, allowing tumors to evade the immune response

### Nivolumab for classical Hodgkin's lymphoma: a multicentre, multicohort, single-arm phase 2 trial (Cohort B).



Younes et al. Lancet Oncol. 2016 2016 Sep;17(9):1283-94.

#### Interim Results from a Phase 1/2 Study of Brentuximab Vedotin in Combination with Nivolumab in Patients with Relapsed or Refractory Hodgkin Lymphoma

Alex F. Herrera<sup>1</sup>, Alison J. Moskowitz<sup>2</sup>, Nancy L. Bartlett <sup>3</sup>, Julie M. Vose<sup>4</sup>, Radhakrishnan Ramchandren<sup>5</sup>, Tatyana A. Feldman<sup>6</sup>, Ann S. LaCasce<sup>7</sup>, Stephen M. Ansell<sup>8</sup>, Craig H. Moskowitz<sup>2</sup>, Keenan Fenton<sup>9</sup>, Carol Anne Ogden<sup>9</sup>, David Taft<sup>9</sup>, Qu Zhang<sup>9</sup>, Kazunobu Kato<sup>10</sup>, Mary Campbell<sup>9</sup>, Ranjana H. Advani<sup>11</sup>

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#### Tumor Response

	n (%)	95% CI
Objective response rate (CR + PR)	50 (83)	72, 92
Complete response	37 (62)	48, 74
Deauville score = 1	14 (23)	
Deauville score = 2	15 (25)	
Deauville score = 3	7 (12)	
Deauville score = $5^*$	1 (2)	
Partial response	13 (22)	12, 34
Deauville score = 4	7 (12)	
Deauville score = 5	6 (10)	
Stable disease	5 (8)	3, 18
Deauville score = 5	5 (8)	
Progressive disease	4 (7)	2, 16
Deauville score = 5	4 (7)	
Clinical progression	1 (2)	

\*Residual area of FDG-avidity on PET was biopsied and was not consistent with residual Hodgkin lymphoma



## Schema of BV+Nivo in Untreated Hodgkin Lymphoma



## **CPI in NHL**

Disease	Drug	Target	Phase	Patients	ORR	PR	CR	PFS	OS	DOR	References
Diffuse large B cell lymphoma (DLBCL)											
DLBCL	Nivolumab	Anti-PD-1	I	11	4 (36%)	3 (27%)	1/11 (9%)	NR	NR	22 weeks	(44)
DLBCL	Pidilizumab 0.2-6.0 mg/kg	Unknown	T	2	0%	0	0	NR	NR	NR	(45)
DLBCL, PMBL, transformed indolent lymphoma, after auto-HSCT	Pidilizumab 1.5 mg/kg every 42 days, 30-90 days after auto-HSCT	Unknown	II	66	51%	6 (17%)	12 (34%)	72% at 16 months	NR	NR	(46)
Follicular lymphoma (FL)											
FL (treatment- naïve)	Pidilizumab 3 mg/kg	Unknown	1	1	100%	0	1 (100%)	NR	NR		(45)
FL	Nivolumab	Anti-PD-1	I	10	40%	3 (30%)	1 (10%)	NR	68% at 24 weeks	MNR	(44)
FL (R/R)	Pidilizumab + rituximab	Unknown, anti-CD20	П	32 (29 evaluable)	19 (66%)	4 (14%)	15 (52%)	NR	NR	Median 20.2 months	(47)
Other B-NHL											
PMBL	Nivolumab	Anti-PD-1	lb	2	100% (SD)	NR	NR	24 weeks: 100%	NR		(44)
T-NHL											
CTCL	Nivolumab	Anti-PD-1	I	13	15%	15%	0%	NR	NR	MNR	(29)
PTCL	Nivolumab	Anti-PD-1	I	5	40%	0%	0%	NR	NR	MNR	(29)
Sézary Syndrome (SS); Mycosis Fungoides (MF)	Pembrolizumab	Anti-PD-1	II	24 total (SS =18; MF n=6)	SS: 33%; MF: 50%	SS: 33%; MF: 33%	SS: 0; MF 17%	12-month PFS: 69%	MNR	MNR	(48)

Lesokhin et al Stem Cell Inv, epub 2017

## Immune-Related Adverse Events Associated with Checkpoint Blockade Therapies



Less common: hematologic, cardiovascular, ocular, renal

## A) CD47 Inhibition of Phagocytosis



## C) SIRP $\alpha$ Fc Blockade of the CD47 Signal



## D) Macrophage Phagocytosis

Macrophage

#### Phagocytosis of tumor cell

## Chimeric\_Antigen Receptor (CAR) Tcells



Kochenderfer et al. Nat. Rev. Clin. Oncol. doi:10.1038/nrclinonc.2013.46

## Targeted Agents and Immunotherapy

- New agents target specific parts of the lymphoma cell and its environment
- Combinations in development
- Potential to replace chemotherapy
- Less toxicity, greater efficacy
- Increase potential for cure



# Let's Make Lymphoma Therapy Great (Again?)