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# **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TREATMENT OF DLBCL**

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**May 2020**

# DISCLAIMER AND DISCLOSURES



## LYMPHOMA CONNECT

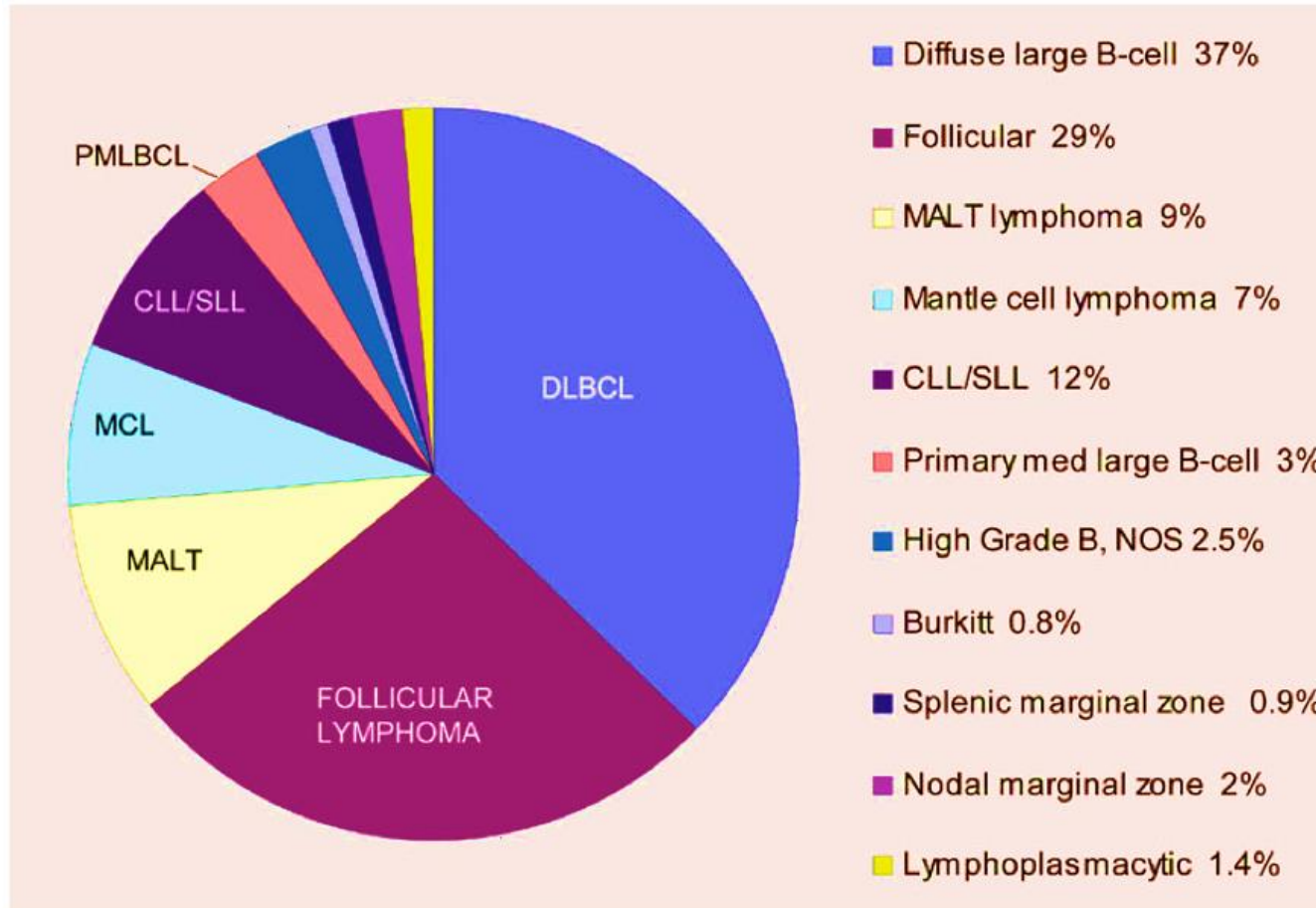
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## DISCLOSURES PROF. LENZ

Celgene, Janssen, Roche, Gilead, Bayer, BMS, Hexal, AstraZeneca, MorphoSys, NanoString, Takeda, Abbvie

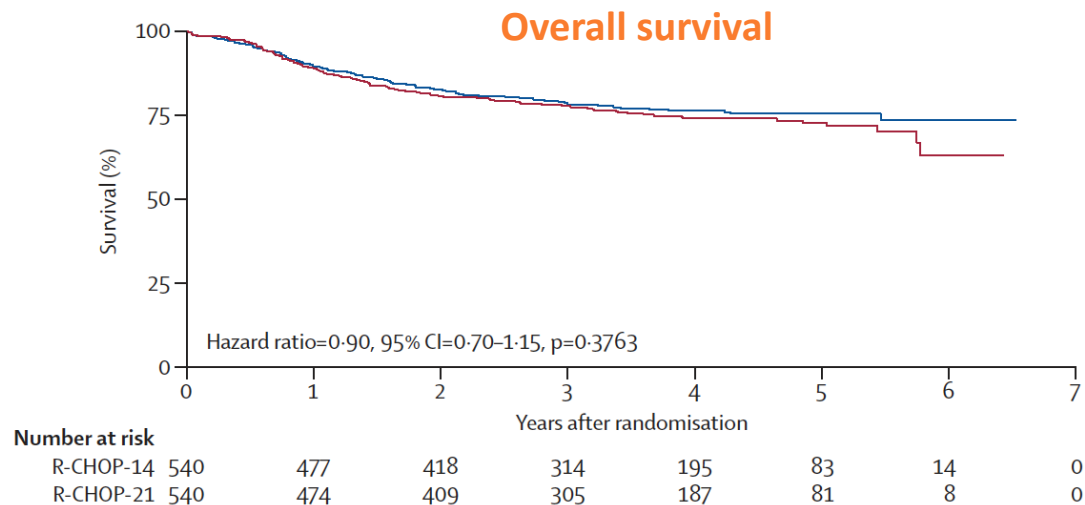
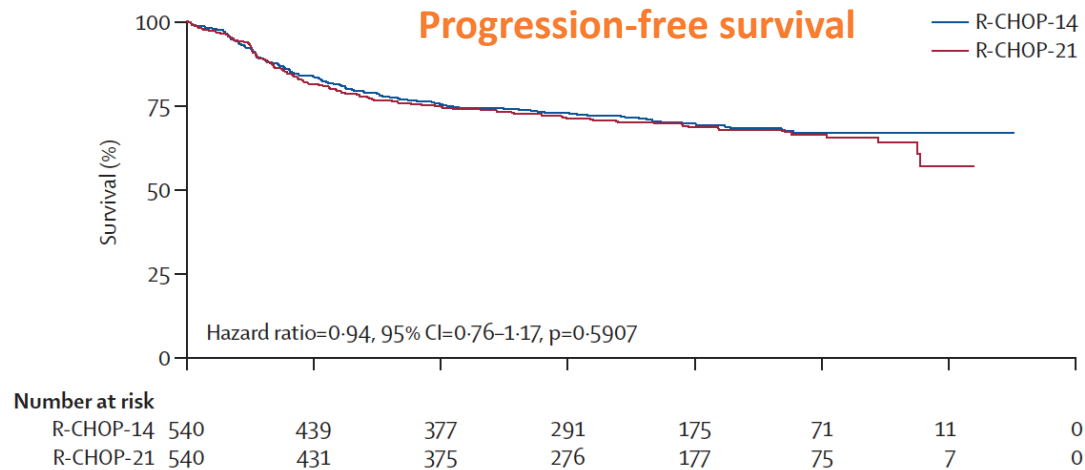
# DIFFUSE LARGE B-CELL LYMPHOMA (DLBCL) REPRESENTS THE MOST FREQUENT LYMPHOMA SUBTYPE



CLL, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia; DLBCL, diffuse large B-cell lymphoma; MALT, mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue; MCL, mantle-cell lymphoma; NOS, not otherwise specified; PMLBCL, primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma; SLL, small lymphocytic lymphoma

Swerdlow SH, et al. WHO Classification of Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues. Revised 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, volume 2. 2008.

# ROUGHLY 70% OF DLBCL PATIENTS CAN BE CURED WITH R-CHOP



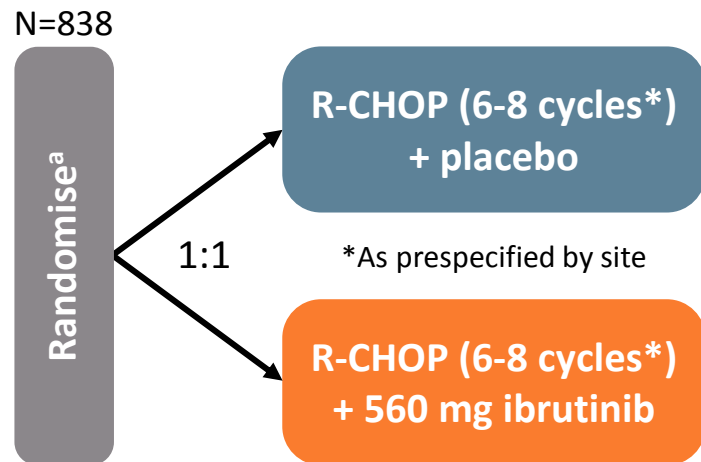


## PHOENIX TRIAL

**R-CHOP + IBRUTINIB VS R-CHOP + PLACEBO  
IN PREVIOUSLY UNTREATED NON-GCB DLBCL**

# PHOENIX: DOUBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED PHASE 3 STUDY<sup>1</sup>

## STUDY DESIGN



### Key eligibility criteria

- Untreated non-GCB DLBCL
  - Determined by Hans-based IHC at a central laboratory
  - Retrospectively analysed for ABC subtype using GEP
- Stage II to IV measurable disease
- R-IPI  $\geq 1$
- ECOG performance status  $\leq 2$

### End points

- Primary end point: EFS<sup>†</sup> in ITT (non-GCB) and ABC subgroup
- Secondary end points: PFS, CR rate, OS, safety
  - Response assessed per Revised Response Criteria for Malignant Lymphoma<sup>2</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Stratified by R-IPI, region, and number of prespecified treatment cycles (6 vs 8 cycles)

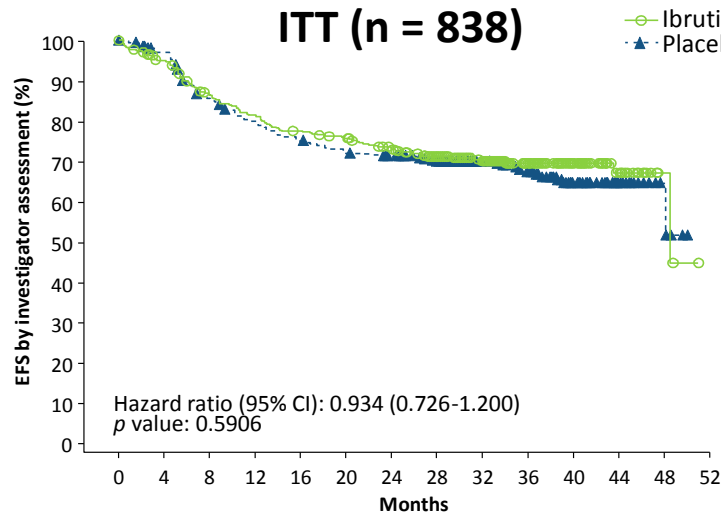
- Prophylactic antibiotics and G-CSF were not mandated but were permitted at the investigator's discretion per local or other standard guidelines

<sup>†</sup>EFS: time from randomization to PD, relapse from CR, initiation of subsequent disease-specific therapy for PET-positive or biopsy-proven residual disease after  $\geq 6$  cycles of R-CHOP, or any-cause death

ABC, activated B-cell; CR, complete response; DLBCL, diffuse large B-cell lymphoma; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; EFS, event-free survival; GCB, germinal centre B cell-like; GEP, gene expression profiling; G-CSF, granulocyte colony stimulating factor; IHC, immunohistochemistry; ITT, intent-to-treat; OS, overall survival; PD, progressive disease; PET, positron emission tomography; PFS, progression-free survival; R-CHOP, rituximab-cyclophosphamide-doxorubicin hydrochloride-vincristine-prednisolone; R-IPI, revised International Prognostic Index

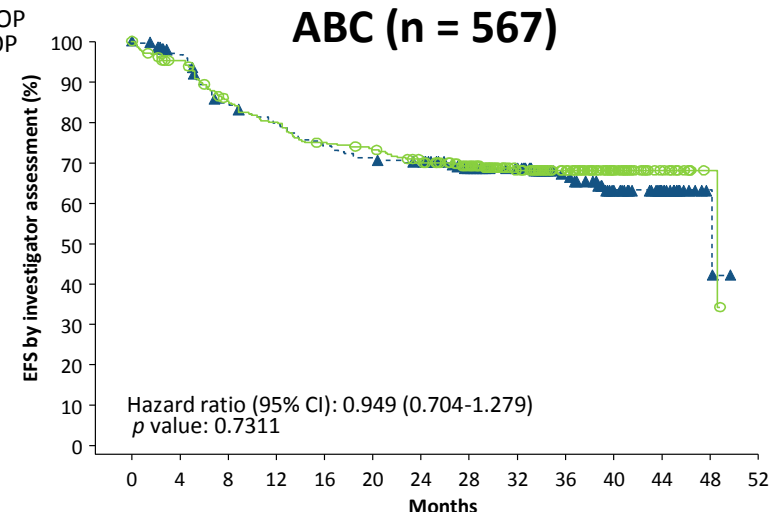
1. Younes A, et al. J Clin Oncol 2019; 37; 1285-95. 2. Cheson BD, et al. J Clin Oncol 2007;25:579-86

# PHOENIX PRIMARY END POINT: EFS IN THE ITT AND ABC POPULATION



Patients at risk

Ibrutinib + R-CHOP	419	374	336	316	300	291	276	233	179	120	63	25	3	0
Placebo + R-CHOP	419	390	341	316	297	286	277	244	184	118	60	33	5	0

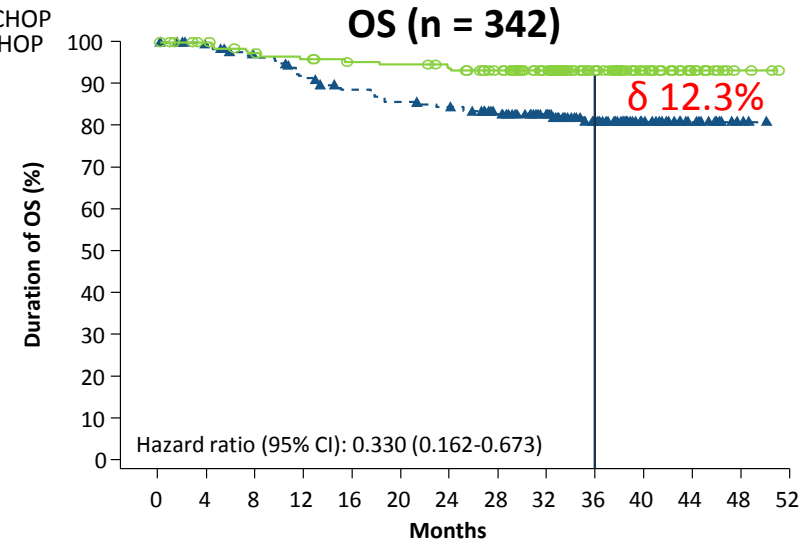
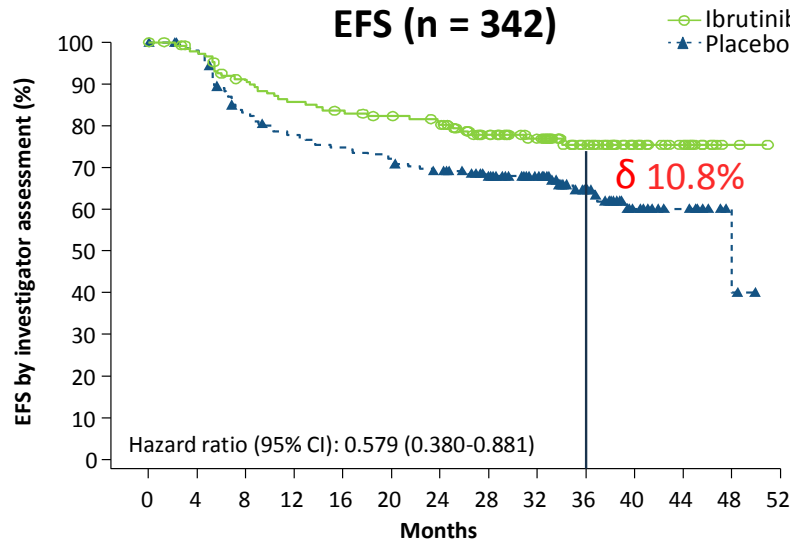


Patients at risk

Ibrutinib + R-CHOP	285	256	225	211	197	191	181	149	111	77	39	15	2	0
Placebo + R-CHOP	282	260	225	212	196	188	183	160	125	78	41	25	3	0

- **Overall response** (89.3% vs 93.1%) **and CR rates** (67.3% vs 68.0%) **were similar** in the ibrutinib + R-CHOP and placebo + R-CHOP arms in the ITT population
- **CNS progression** was observed in 10 (2.4%) vs 16 (3.8%) patients in the ibrutinib + R-CHOP and placebo + R-CHOP arms





Patients at risk

Ibrutinib + R-CHOP	156	146	133	125	121	117	113	93	72	44	27	13	2	0
Placebo + R-CHOP	186	177	148	137	132	127	120	104	78	52	24	16	3	0

Patients at risk

Ibrutinib + R-CHOP	156	151	145	142	138	137	134	125	96	62	39	18	3	0
Placebo + R-CHOP	186	181	173	161	153	148	145	130	101	70	38	21	5	0

- Ibrutinib + R-CHOP improved EFS and OS vs placebo + R-CHOP in patients <60 years of age
- Subgroup analyses showed that EFS benefit was consistent across most subgroups for baseline factors
- A similar trend with age was seen in patients with the ABC subtype (HR [95% CI]: 0.532 [0.307-0.922] for EFS; HR [95% CI]: 0.345 [0.138-0.862] for OS)
- More patients on the placebo + R-CHOP arm received subsequent antilymphoma therapy (16.2% vs 21.6%)



ROBUST™



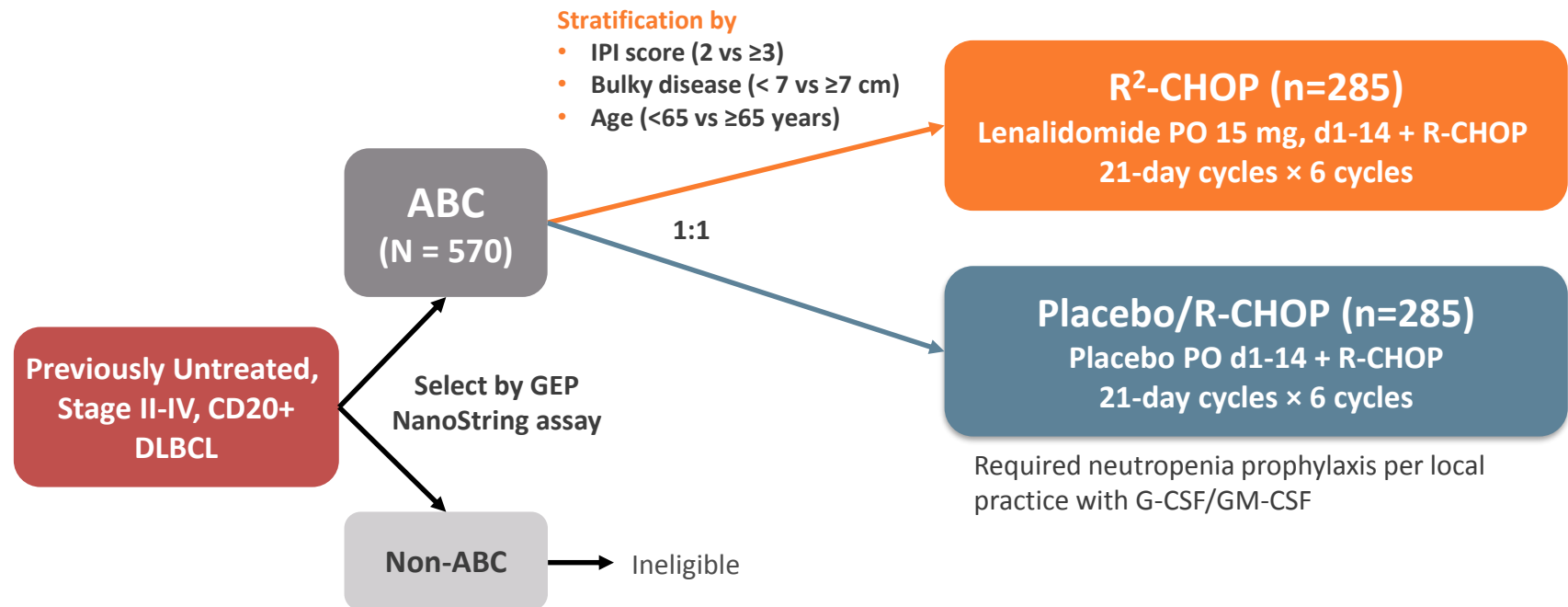
## ROBUST TRIAL

**R<sup>2</sup>-CHOP VS PLACEBO/R-CHOP IN  
PREVIOUSLY UNTREATED ABC-TYPE DLBCL**

# ROBUST: PHASE 3 STUDY

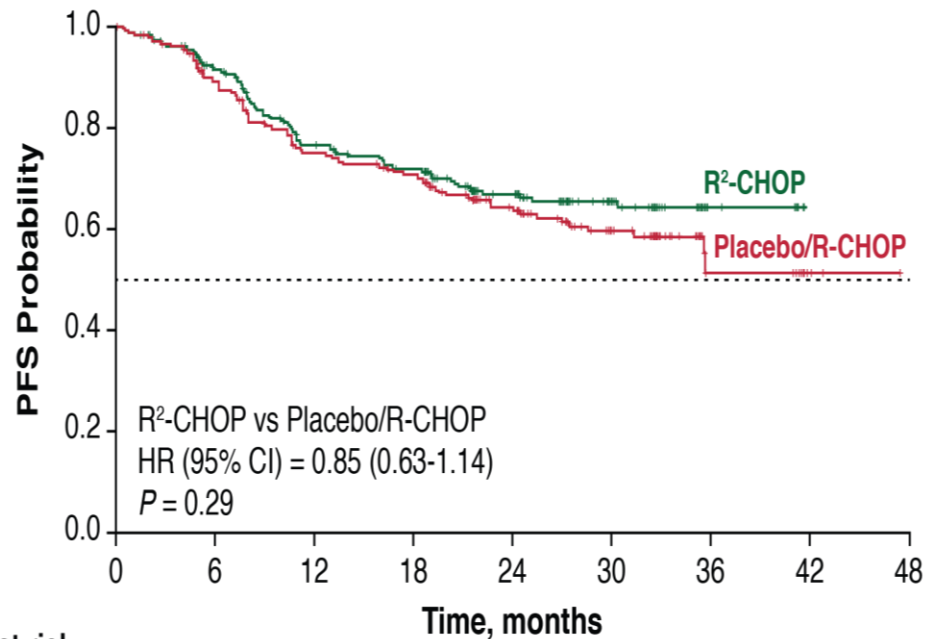
## STUDY DESIGN

- Multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 study in 282 global sites<sup>1,2</sup>
- Primary endpoint: PFS by central review (per 2014 IWG)<sup>1,3</sup>
- Secondary endpoints: EFS (key secondary), OS, ORR, CR rate, DOR, and safety<sup>1</sup>



# ROBUST PRIMARY ENDPOINT

## PROGRESSION-FREE SURVIVAL (ITT, IRAC)



PFS Rates	R <sup>2</sup> -CHOP (n = 285)	Placebo/R-CHOP (n = 285)
1 year	77%	75%
2 year	67%	64%

Number at risk		Time, months								
		0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48
R <sup>2</sup> -CHOP	285	221	178	162	119	57	10	0		
Placebo/R-CHOP	285	229	187	173	111	55	10	3	0	

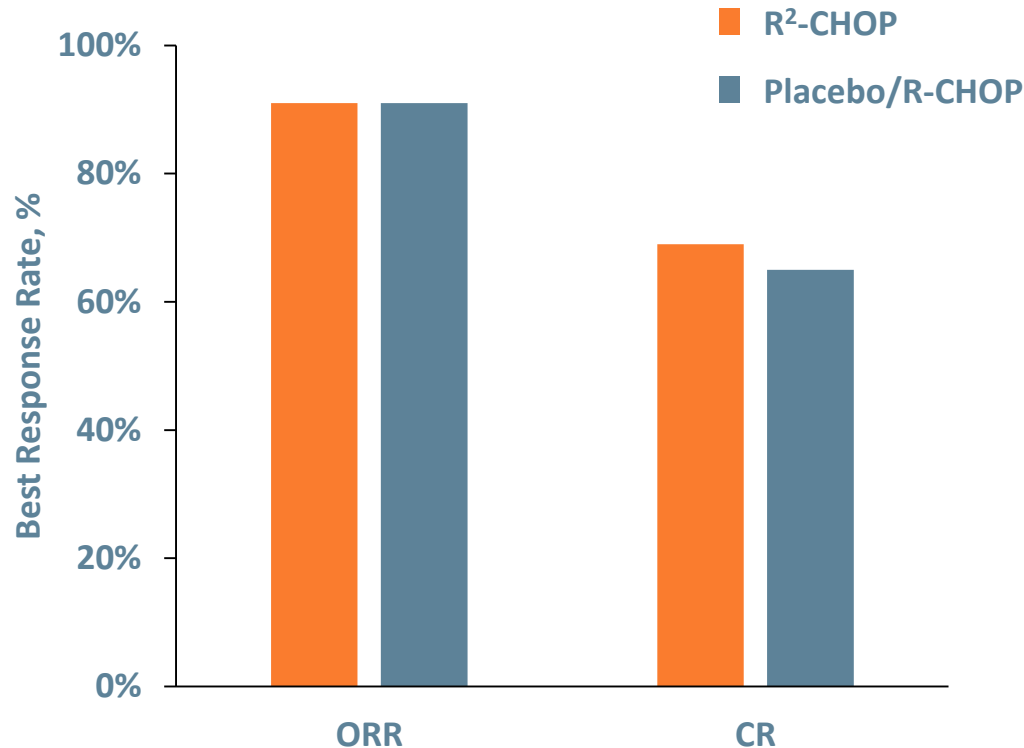
- At a median follow-up of 27.1 months (range 0–47), the primary endpoint of PFS was not met (medians not reached)
- Median PFS improved from 24 months with R-CHOP to 38 months with R<sup>2</sup>-CHOP in ABC-DLBCL (192 events with 90% power; HR = 0.625)

CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; IRAC, independent response adjudication committee; ITT, intent-to-treat; PFS, progression-free survival; R-CHOP, rituximab-cyclophosphamide-doxorubicin hydrochloride-vincristine-prednisolone; R<sup>2</sup>-CHOP, lenalidomide/R-CHOP

Data cut-off 15 Mar 2019.

Vitolo U, et al. Hematol Oncol 2019;37(S2):36-7

# ROBUST RESPONSE



- ORR and CR rates were high in both arms
- **Median time from diagnosis to treatment was 31 days for each arm**

CR, complete response; ORR, objective response rate; R-CHOP, rituximab-cyclophosphamide-doxorubicin hydrochloride-vincristine-prednisolone; R<sup>2</sup>-CHOP, lenalidomide/R-CHOP

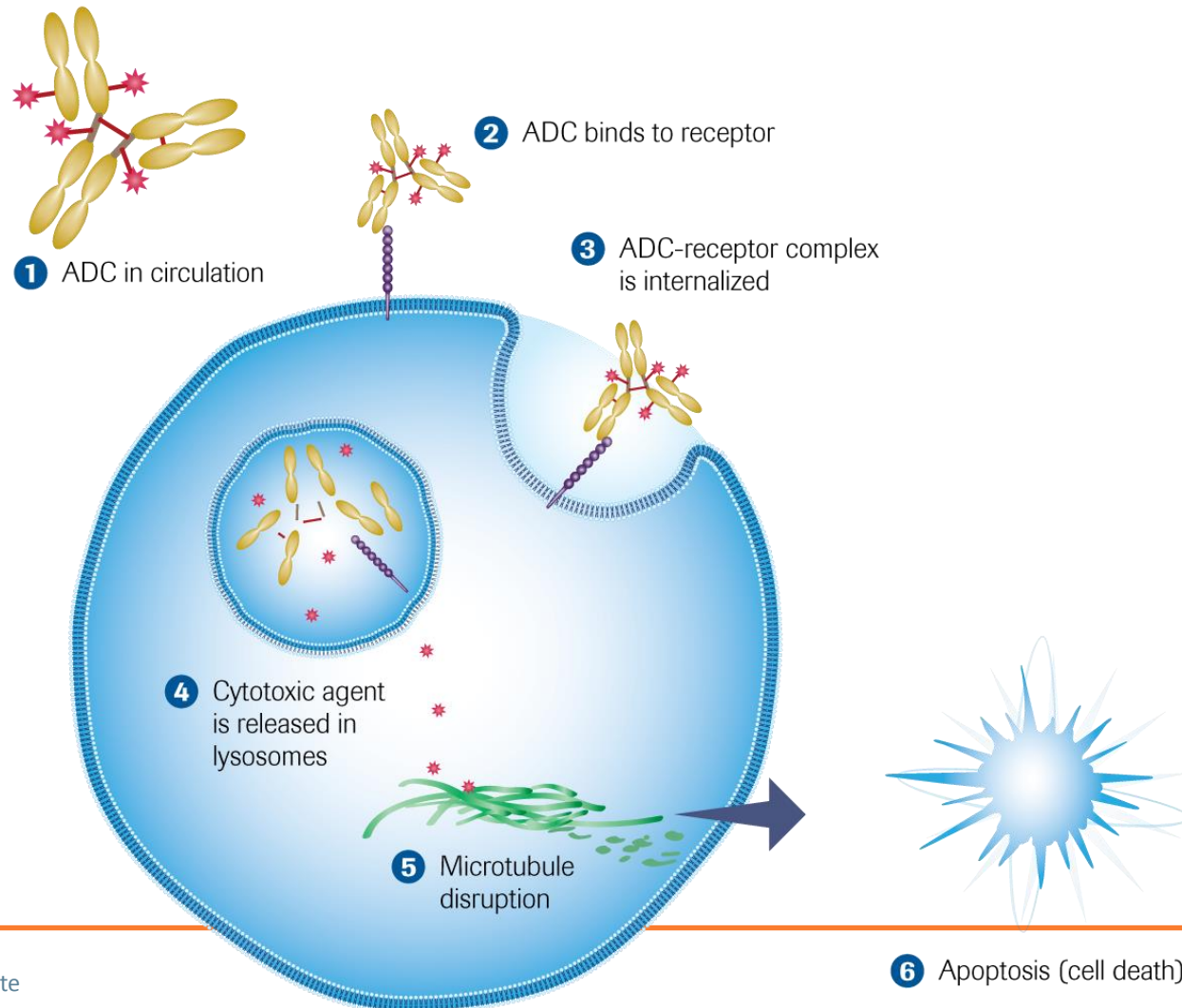
Data cut-off 15 Mar 2019. CR was assessed by 2014 IWG criteria with CT-PET (Cheson BD, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2014;32:3059-3068)

Vitolo U, et al. Hematol Oncol 2019;37(S2):36-7

# POLATUZUMAB

# POLATUZUMAB VEDOTIN IS AN ANTIBODY-DRUG CONJUGATE (ADC)

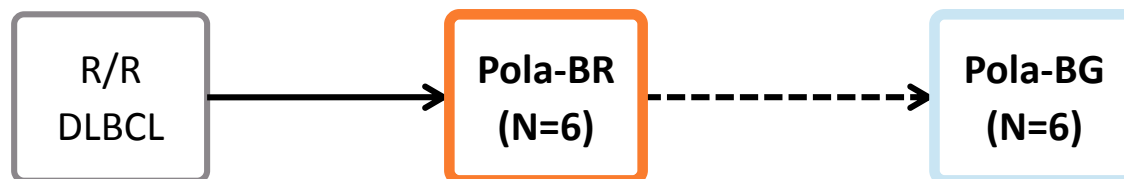
## MECHANISM OF ACTION



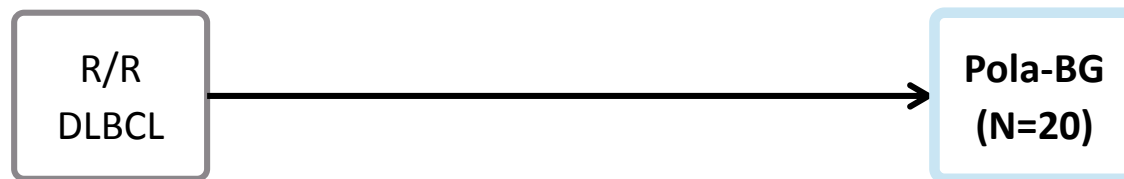
# POLATUZUMAB PHASE 1/2 STUDY IN DLBCL

## STUDY DESIGN

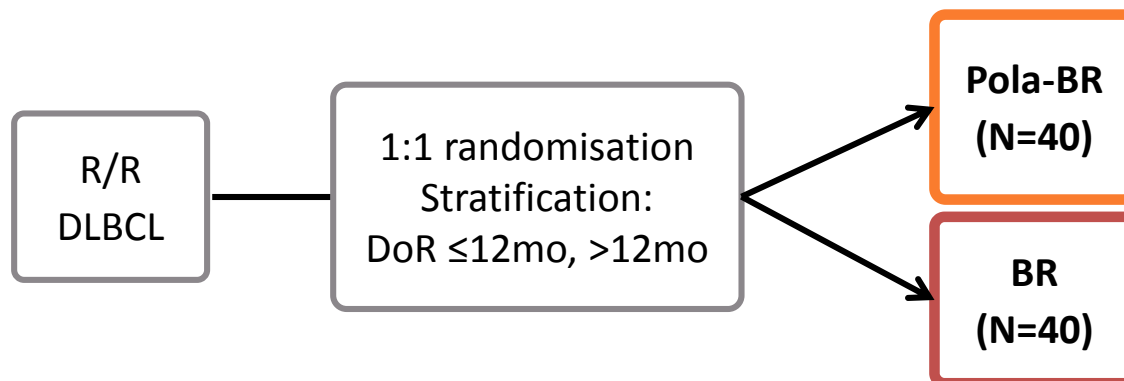
**Phase 1b safety run-in:  
Pola-BR or BG<sup>1</sup>**



**Phase 2 expansion:  
Pola-BG<sup>1</sup>**



**Phase 2 randomisation:  
Pola-BR vs. BR**



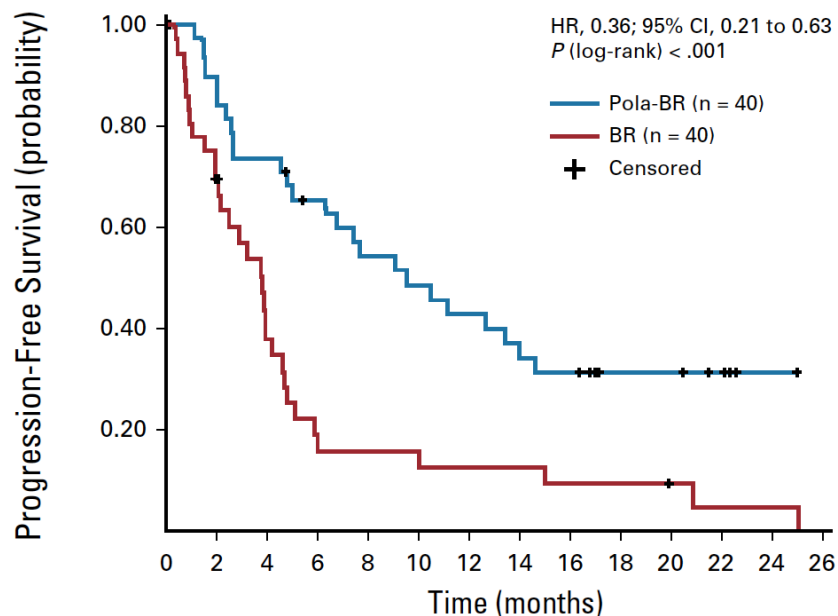
Treatment administered every 21 days x 6 cycles:

- Polatuzumab vedotin: 1.8 mg/kg, C1D2, then D1 for C2+
- Bendamustine (B): 90 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, C1D2/3, then D1/2 for C2+
- Obinutuzumab (G): 1000 mg, C1D1/8/15, then D1 for C2+
- Rituximab (R): 375 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, D1 for C1+



# POLATUZUMAB IS ACTIVE IN DLBCL

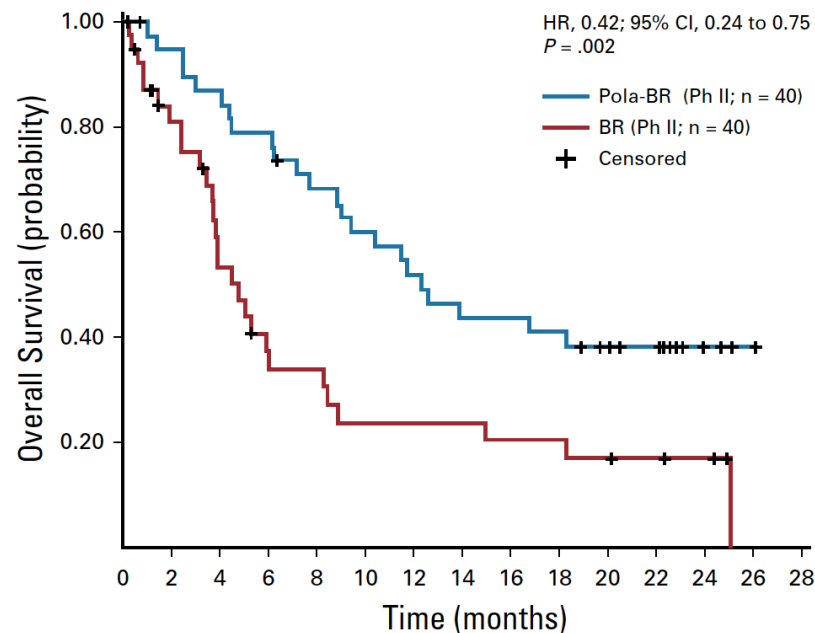
## Progression-free Survival (IRC)



No. at risk:

Pola-BR (Ph II)	40	38	32	28	28	24	23	21	19	17	16	15	14	12	11	11	8	7	7	7	6	5	1	1
BR (Ph II)	40	28	23	18	12	8	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1

## Overall Survival



No. at risk:

Pola plus BR (Ph II)	40	38	36	34	33	30	30	27	25	24	22	21	19	17	16	16	15	13	12	9	5	3	2	1
BR (Ph II)	40	33	27	25	17	15	11	10	7	7	7	7	7	6	6	6	5	5	4	4	3	3	1	

# CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

## Standard of care



- R-CHOP remains the first-line standard of care in DLBCL

## No benefit of adding ibrutinib or lenalidomide



- The **PHOENIX** and **ROBUST** trials did not show clinically meaningful improvement of adding ibrutinib or lenalidomide to R-CHOP
- However, the PHOENIX trial showed an interesting signal in patients <60 years, indicating that adding a BTK inhibitor might improve outcomes in this group

## Promising novel agents



- Antibody-drug conjugates, such as polatuzumab vedotin
- CAR T-cells
  - CAR T-cells have been approved for use in the R/R setting
- Bispecific antibodies

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