

**Efficacy and safety of BR outside clinical trials  
in previously untreated older patients with CLL:  
an indirect comparison with ibrutinib**

**by**

**Dr. Antonio Cuneo**

**Subsequent therapies in Venetoclax treated patients who have discontinued venetoclax due to either**

- 1) progression**
- 2) adverse event**
- 3) Transformation**

**FOCUS: Ibrutinib after Ven**  
**Venetoclax after Ven**



# **Efficacy and safety of BR outside clinical trials in previously untreated older patients with CLL: an indirect comparison with ibrutinib**

---

1. Efficacy and safety of BR in previously untreated CLL (GIMEMA and ERIC centres)
2. Comparison with ibrutinib in patients with CLL treated in the front-line setting at 20 community and academic cancer centers in the U.S.

## 1. Efficacy and tolerability of Bendamustine and Rituximab outside clinical trials in previously untreated CLL

A retrospective/prospective study by the ERIC-GIMEMA groups

### Inclusion criteria

- Diagnosis of CLL / Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma (CLL/SLL) according to the WHO classification 2008.
- Patients who were treated with **first line with BR between 2008 and 2014** (GIMEMA group and the ERIC group).
- CLL requiring therapy according to the NCI criteria and treated with at least one cycle of BR as first-line treatment
- **Creatinine clearance <70 ml/min and/or or CIRS>6**
- Age  $\geq$  18 years.
- Signed written informed consent according to ICH/EU/GCP and national local law.



## Baseline characteristics in 157 unfit patients treated with BR first line (creatinine clearance <70 ml/min or CIRS>6)

	level	Overall
n		157
age (median [range])		72.47 [39.05, 88.91]
clinical_stage (%)	Binet A or Rai 0	53 (41.1)
	Binet B-C or Rai I-IV	76 (58.9)
serum_beta2 (%)	Normal	19 (16.8)
	High	94 (83.2)
Crea Cl (median [range])		59.75 [0.00, 137.00]
IGHV (%)	Mutated	44 (49.4)
	Unmutated	45 (50.6)
TP53 status (%)	No Deletion 17p/TP53 mutation	108 (82.4)
	Deletion 17p and/or TP53 mutation	23 (17.6)
FISH (%)	13q-	34 (30.6)
	+12	24 (21.6)
	11q-	10 (9.0)
	17p-	7 (6.3)
	no-aberration	36 (32.4)
sex (%)	Male/female	95/64 (60.5/39,5%)
ecog (%)	0	68 (43.3)
	1	70 (44.6)
	2	14 (8.9)
	4	2 (1.3)
number_of_comorbidities (%)	0-1/2 or more	48/108 (30.8/69,2%)

**157 unfit pts (BR first line)**

<b>Reason for treatment discontinuation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
End of planned therapy	114	73.08
Patient decision	3	1.92
Toxicity	28	17.95
Other	10	6.41
Unknown	1	0.64

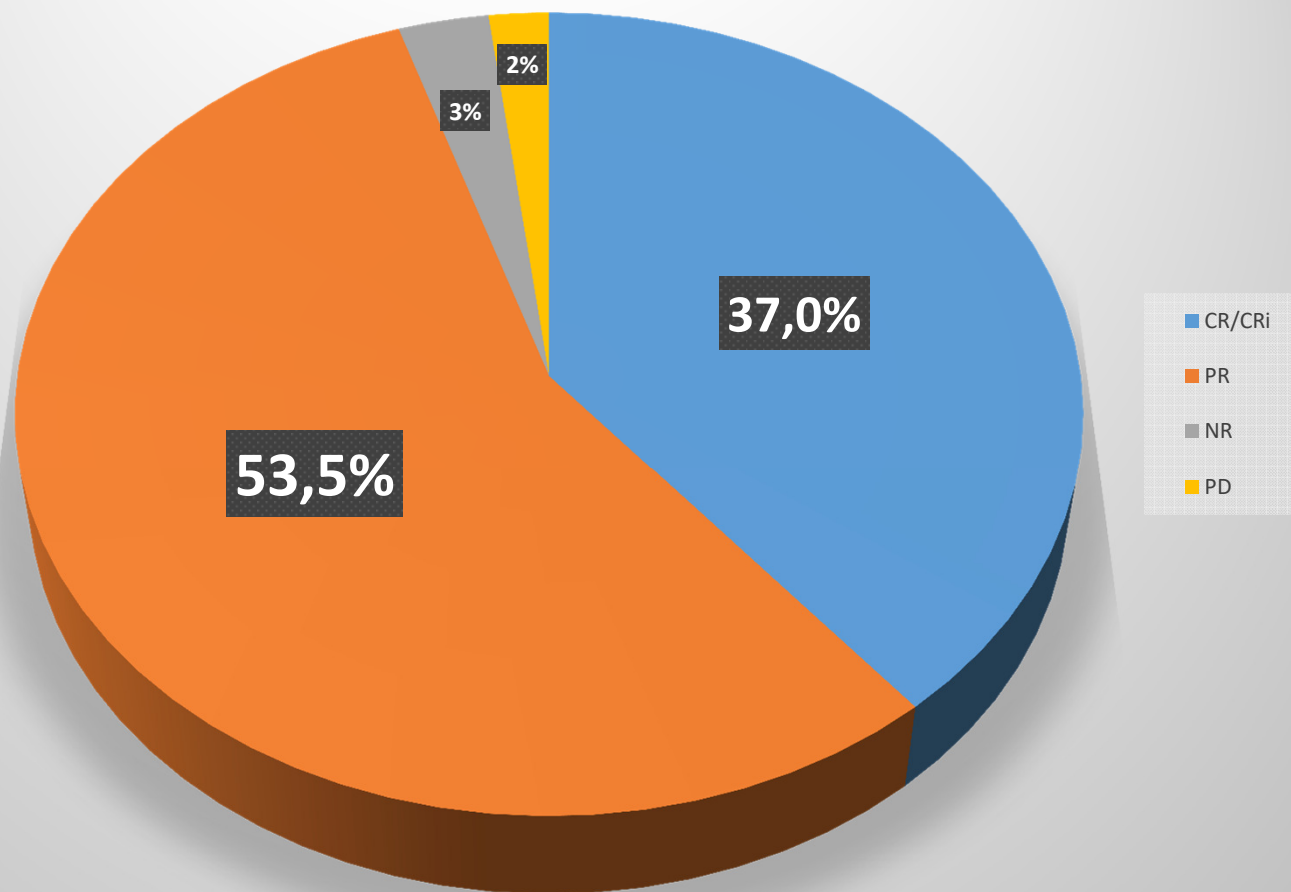


### % patients with adverse events of interest in 157 unfit pts (BR first line)

SOC (PT)	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Total (%)
Blood and lymphatic system disorders (total)	1	10	19	15	0	45
Febrile neutropenia	0	1	3	0	0	4
Neutropenia	0	4	9	12	0	25
Pancytopenia	0	3	7	2	0	12
Anemia				1		1
Thrombocytopenia	1	2	0	0	0	3
Gastrointestinal disorders	0	4	0	0	0	4
Infections and Infestations	1	4	4	1	1	11
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	1	1	3	0	0	5

157 unfit pts (BR first line)

### Response rate

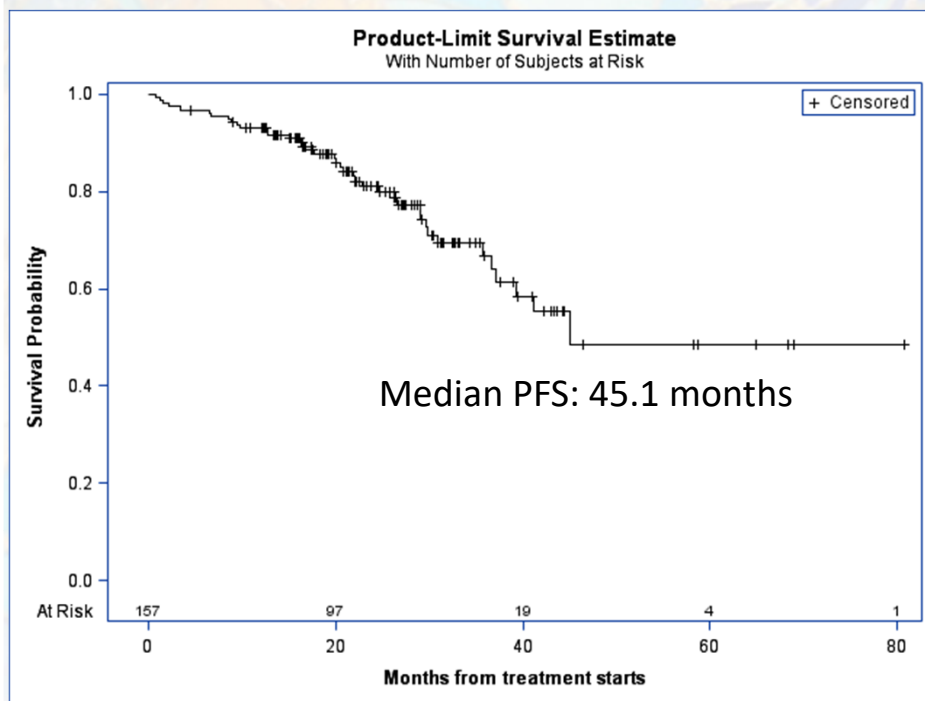




**157 unfit pts (BR first line)**

**Primary endpoint: PFS**

**Median follow-up 26.25 months (range: 0.79-80.76)**



Months	Estimate	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
12	93.0	89.0	97.1
24	81.0	74.5	88.2
36	66.8	57.1	78.1

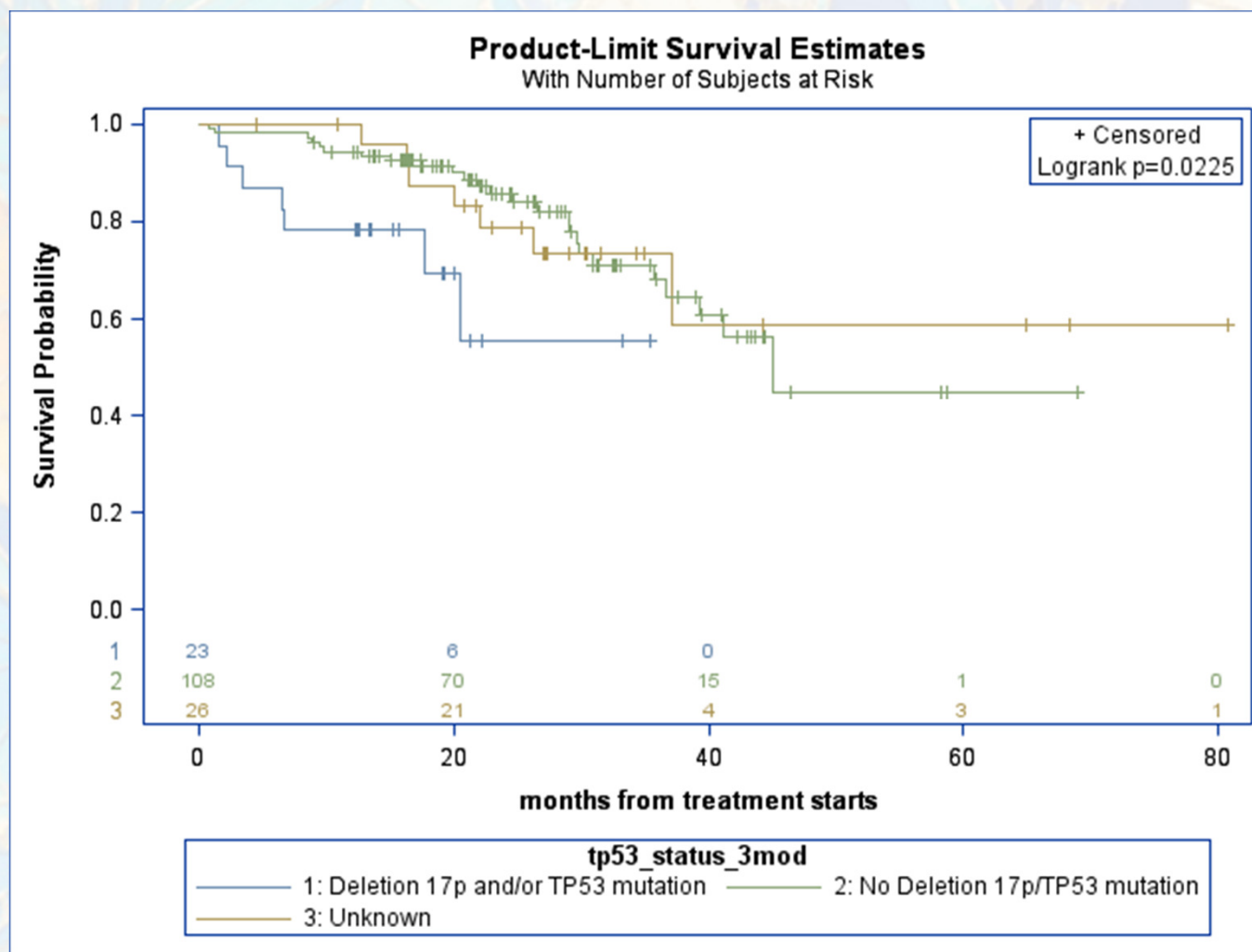
**157 pts (first line BR treatment with Creatinine clearance <70 ml/min or CIRS>6)**

## PFS Univariate Analyses

Label	Pr > ChiSq	Hazard Ratio	95% Lower Confidence Limit for Hazard Ratio	95% Upper Confidence Limit for Hazard Ratio
>65yy vs <=65yy	0.2439	1.854	0.657	5.233
Binet B-C or Rai I-IV vs Binet A or Rai 0	0.0667	2.161	0.948	4.923
Beta2 micro High vs Normal	0.3611	1.634	0.570	4.690
IGHV Unmutated vs Mutated	0.0739	2.292	0.923	5.694
Deletion 17p and/or TP53 mutation vs No Deletion 17p/TP53 mutation	0.0116	3.140	1.292	7.636
PD/SD/NR/Death/Not evaluable vs CR/CRI/PR/nPR/LPR	0.0003	4.201	1.916	9.209
PR/nPR/LPR/PD/SD/NR/Death/Not evaluable vs CR/CRI	0.0002	6.174	2.393	15.931

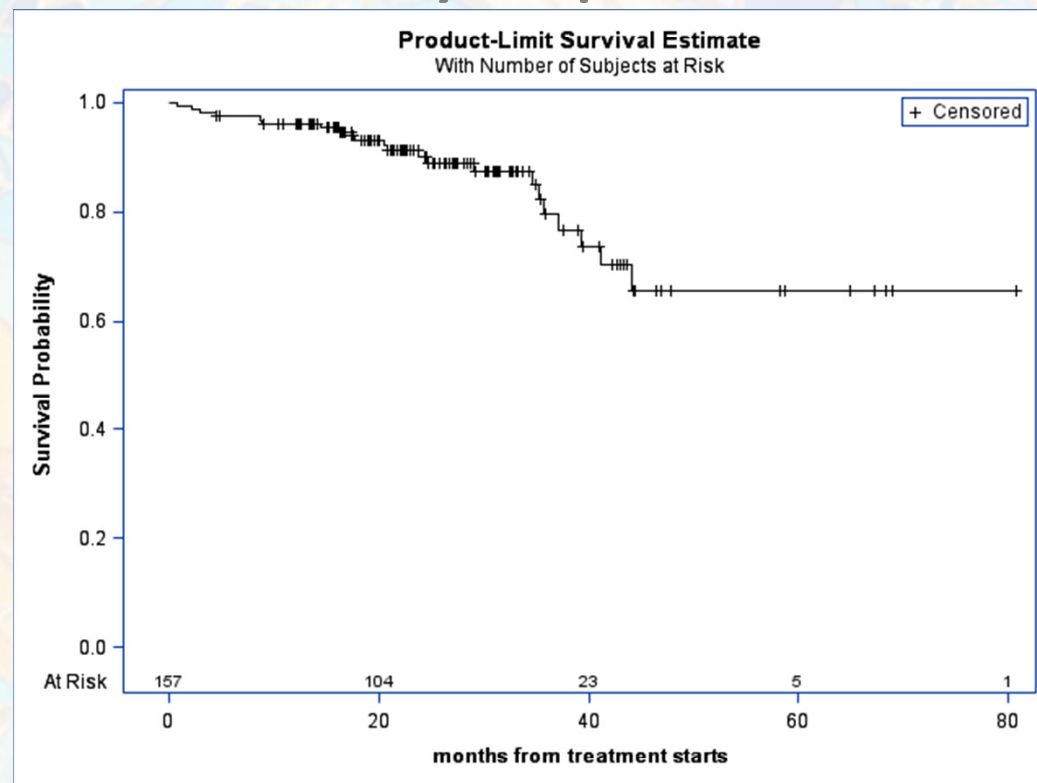


**PFS by TP53 status in 157 unfit pts (BR first line)**




**OS in 157 unfit pts (BR first line)**

**Secondary endpoint: OS**



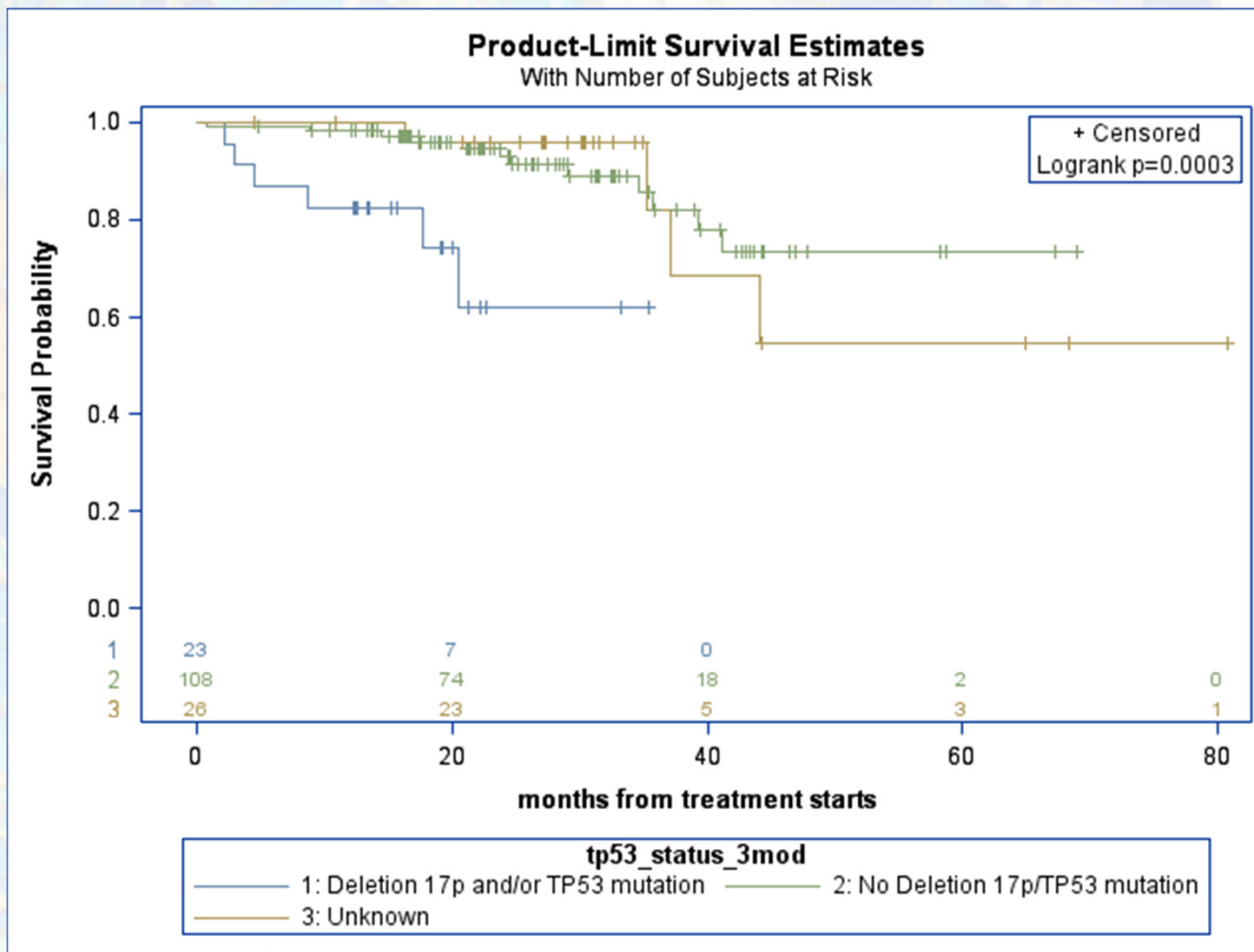
months	estimate	lower 95%CI	Upper 95%CI
12	96.2	93.2	99.2
24	90.1	85.0	95.5
36	79.5	70.0	90.5

## OS in 157 unfit pts (BR first line): univariate analysis

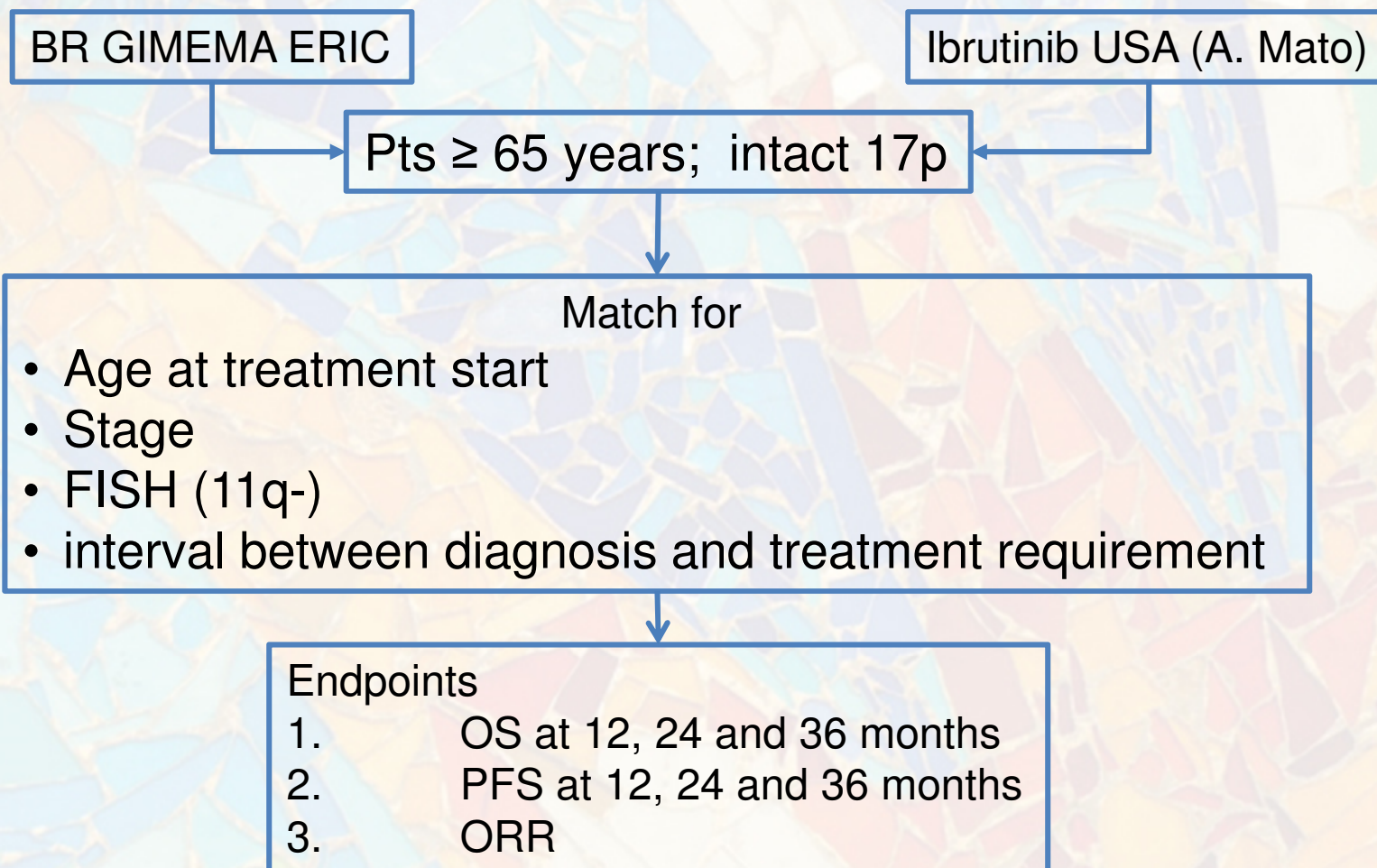
Label	Pr > ChiSq	Hazard Ratio	95% Lower CI for HR	95% Upper CI for HR
Age >65 years vs <65 years	0.1808	3.948	0.528	29.497
Binet B-C or Rai I-IV vs Binet A or Rai 0	0.1232	2.415	0.787	7.411
beta2 High vs Normal	0.1701	4.107	0.546	30.915
 IGHV Unmutated vs Mutated	0.7608	1.227	0.328	4.593
Deletion 17p and/or TP53 mutation vs No Deletion 17p/TP53 mutation	0.0010	6.138	2.078	18.131
PD/SD/NR/Death/Not evaluable vs CR/CRi/PR/nPR/LPR	<.0001	8.426	3.517	20.190



**OS by 17p status in 157 pts (first line BR treatment with Creatinine clearance <70 ml/min or CIRS>6)**



## MATCHED ADJUSTED INDIRECT COMPARISON WITH IBRUTINIB IN FIRST LINE



## Baseline characteristics in the BR and in the ibrutinib cohorts

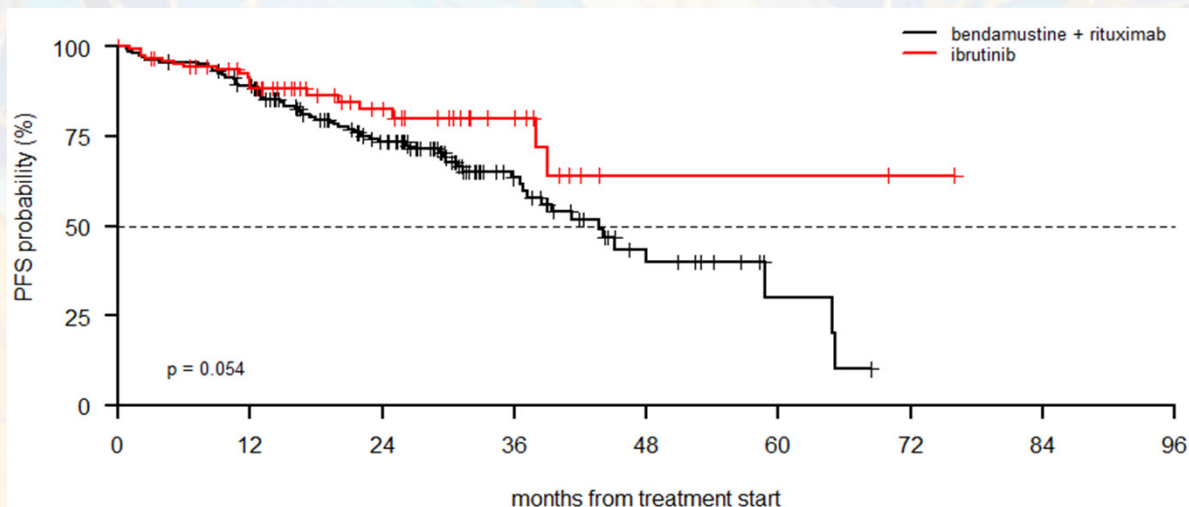
	Stratified by drug			
	level	bendamustine + rituximab	ibrutinib	p
<b>N. of patients</b>		165	162	
<b>Age (median [range])</b>		72.30 [65.23, 88.91]	74.00 [65.00, 96.00]	0.105
<b>Age (%)</b>	<=70 years	53 (32.1)	53 (32.7)	1.000
	>70 years	112 (67.9)	109 (67.3)	
<b>Sex (%)</b>	M	106 (64.2)	102 (63.0)	0.900
	F	59 (35.8)	60 (37.0)	
<b>Time dx-trx as continuous (median [range])</b>		26.81 [0.00, 229.84]	43.00 [0.00, 600.00]	<0.001
<b>Time between diagnosis _trx (%)</b>	<36 months	99 (60.0)	69 (42.6)	0.002
	>=36 months	66 (40.0)	93 (57.4)	
<b>RAI stage (%)</b>	0-2	79 (63.2)	59 (38.1)	<0.001
	3-4	46 (36.8)	96 (61.9)	
<b>del11q (%)</b>	No	101 (89.4)	125 (87.4)	0.771
	Yes	12 (10.6)	18 (12.6)	



## PFS in the BR and in the ibrutinib cohorts

Median follow-up Ibrutinib cohort (CI-95%): **13 months** (10.74;14) IQR (time): (8;24)

Median follow-up BR cohort (CI-95%): **29 months** (26.48;31.02) IQR (time): (21.41;41.88)



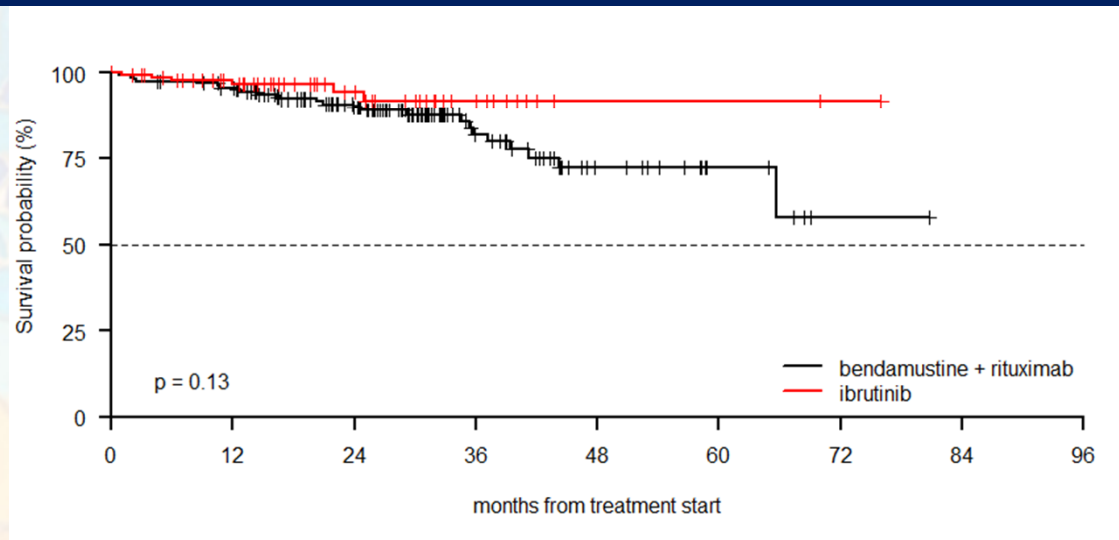
	months	estimate	lower 95%CI	Upper 95%CI
BR	12	89	84.3	93.9
BR	24	73.5	66.7	81
BR	36	63.4	54.9	73.1
BR	48	39.8	28.3	56
ibrutinib	12	88.2	82.5	94.4
ibrutinib	24	82.5	74.6	91.4
ibrutinib	36	80.1	71.3	90.1
ibrutinib	48	64.1	46	89.3

## Univariate and multivariate analysis: ibrutinib treatment and age are an independent predictors of longer PFS

<b>Univariate</b>	HR	Lower 95%CI	Higher 95%CI	p
Age as continuous	1.05	1.02	1.09	0.0023
time dx to treatment as continuous	1	0.99	1	0.6204
del11q Yes vs. No	2.13	1.04	4.37	0.0399
lbr vs. BR	0.6	0.36	1.01	0.0541
age >70 vs. <70 years	1.17	0.72	1.91	0.516
RAI 3-4 vs 0-2	1.09	0.66	1.79	0.7326
interval Dx-treatment >36 mos vs <36 months	0.89	0.57	1.38	0.6055

<b>Multivariate</b>	HR	Lower 95%CI	Higher 95%CI	p
Age	1.06	1.02	1.1	0.0011
lbr vs. BR	0.55	0.33	0.93	0.0261

## No difference in overall survival in the BR and in the ibrutinib cohorts



level	months	estimate	lower 95%CI	Upper 95%CI
BR	12	95.7	92.7	98.9
BR	24	89.9	85.2	94.9
BR	36	81.9	74	90.6
BR	48	72.2	61.5	84.8
ibrutinib	12	96.6	93.4	100
ibrutinib	24	94.4	89.1	100
ibrutinib	36	91.7	84.6	99.4
ibrutinib	48	91.7	84.6	99.4



## Conclusions

- BR proved to be an effective and safe regimen in 157 «unfit» patients treated outside clinical trials in centres belonging to the GIMEMA and ERIC network
- In this analysis, the median PFS = 41.5 months; CR/Cri rate =37% and OS =79,5% patients alive at 36 months with BR is superimposable to the data from a trial enrolling fluda-ineligible patients (CR 24%; median PFS 40 months\*)
- A Matched adjusted indirect comparison with 162 patients age  $\geq 65$  years treated with ibrutinib at 20 community and academic cancer centers in the U.S. showed that:
  - Ibrutinib was an independent predictor of a longer PFS
  - Overall survival did not show any difference in the BR cohort and in the ibrutinib cohort

\* Michallet AS et al - MABLE study - Haematologica. 2018 ;103(4):698-706