

Management of inherited disorders outside transplantation

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ERN-EuroBloodNet
Focus on BMF Syndromes
Genova–Italy
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the Health Programme
of the European Union



**European
Reference
Network**
for rare or low prevalence
complex diseases
Network
Hematological
Diseases (ERN EuroBloodNet)





1. Why HSCT is not always indicated in Inherited
Bone Marrow Failure

2. Alternative strategies to HSCT

- “ Old drugs”
- Growth-factors/Agonists
- Target molecules
- Gene therapy



1. Why not always HSCT in Inherited BMF

Comorbidities

Cancer predisposition

Reversion/compensation

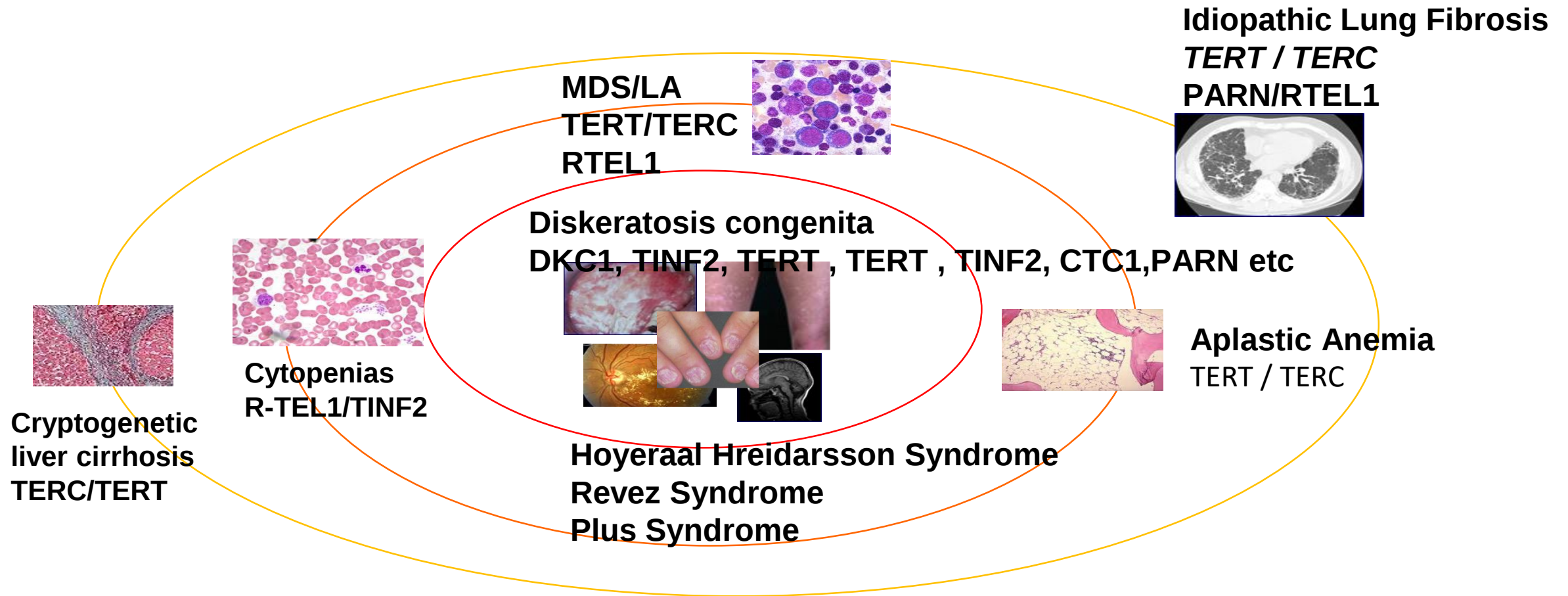
Access and costs

Alternatives strategies

Comorbidities 1



TELOMERS DISEASES





HSCT Outcome in Diskeratosi congenita

organ failure
T/B cell deficiency



Chronic GVhD

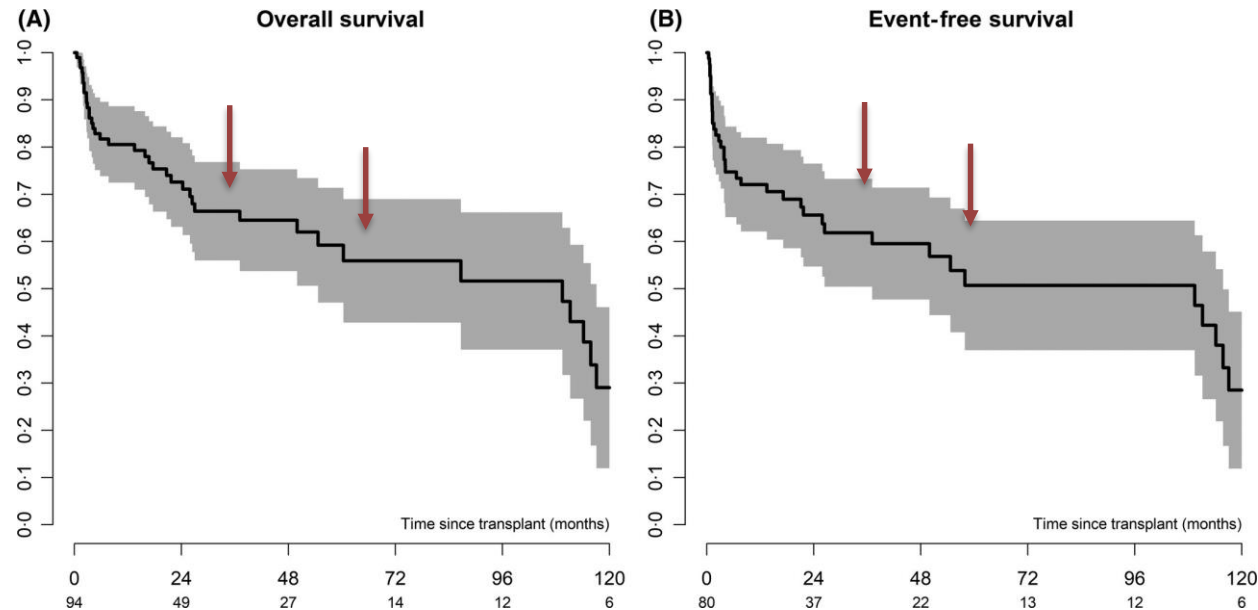
$P=0.038$

Deaths

$p=0.014$

Pulmonary Fibrosis

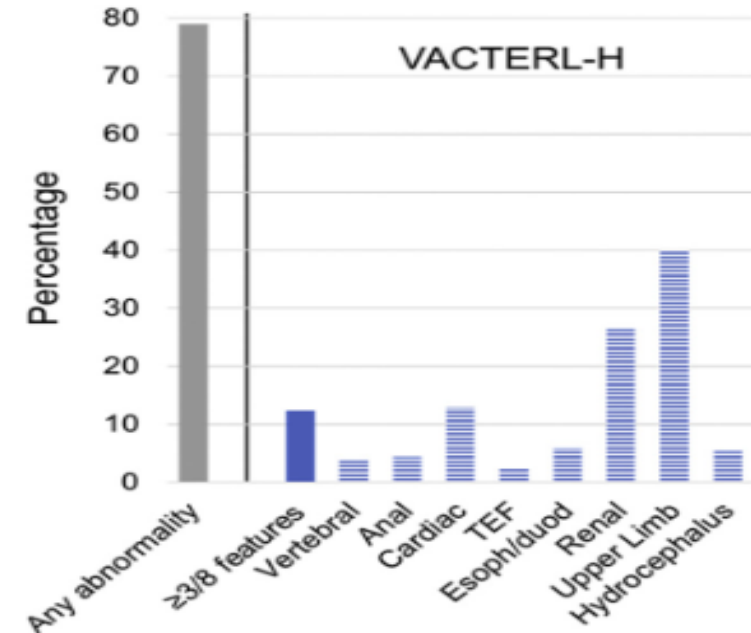
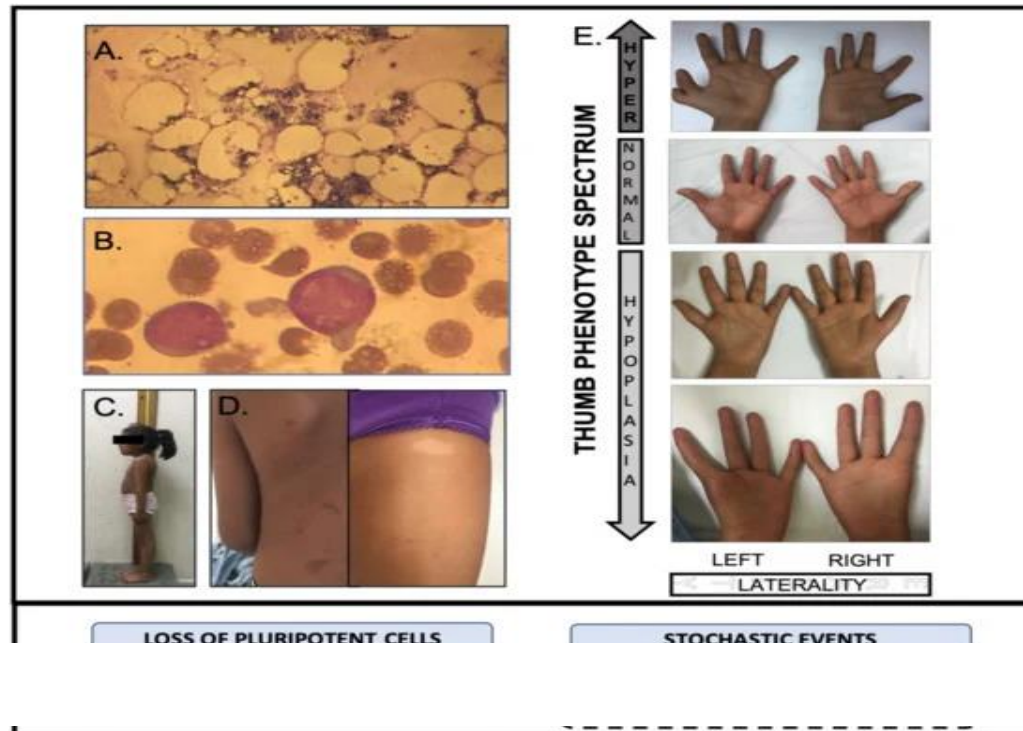
$p=0.06$



Fioredda F, BJH 2018



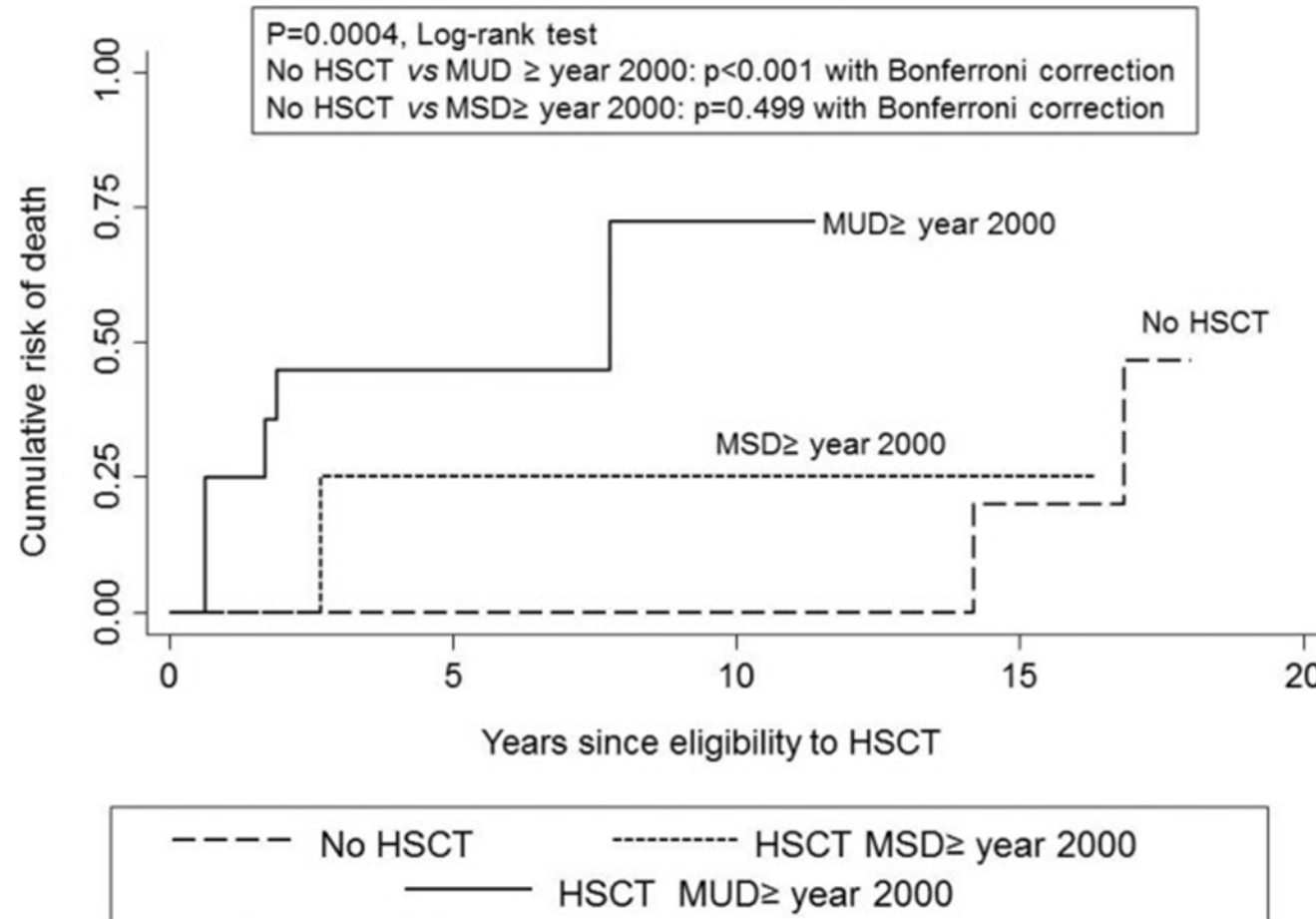
FANCONI ANEMIA



- developmental alteration
- bone marrow failure
- >risk to develop cancer

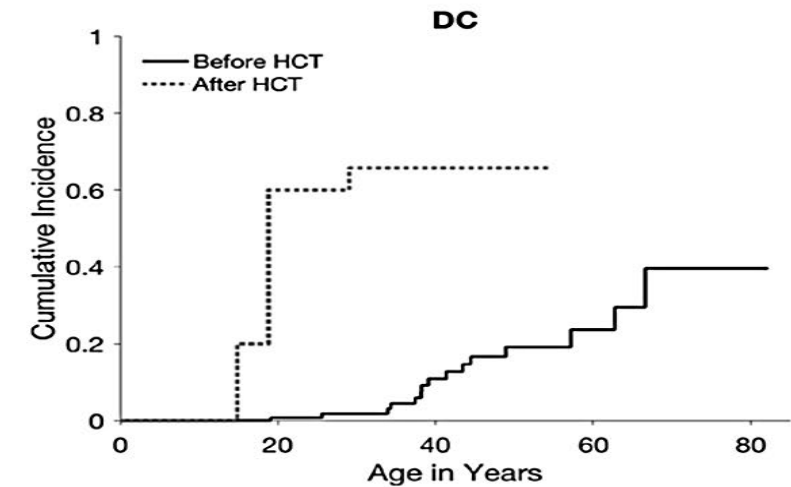
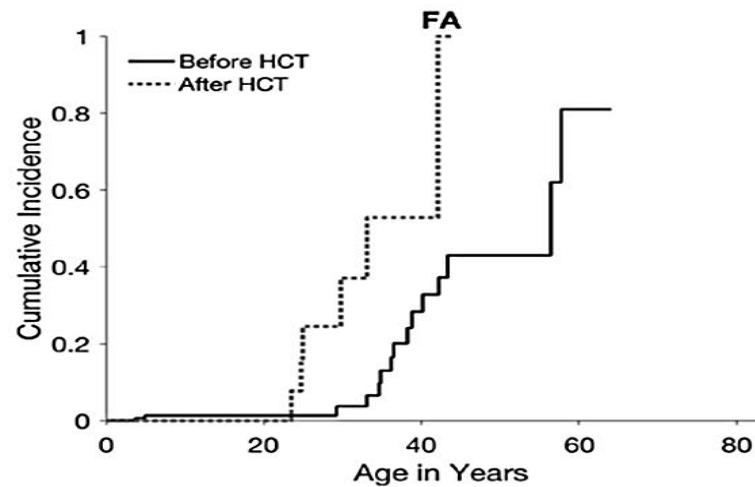
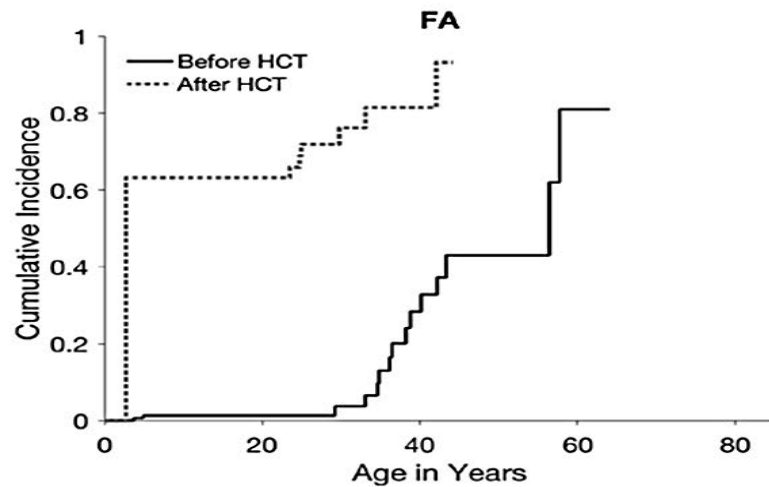


HSCT Outcome in Fanconi Anemia





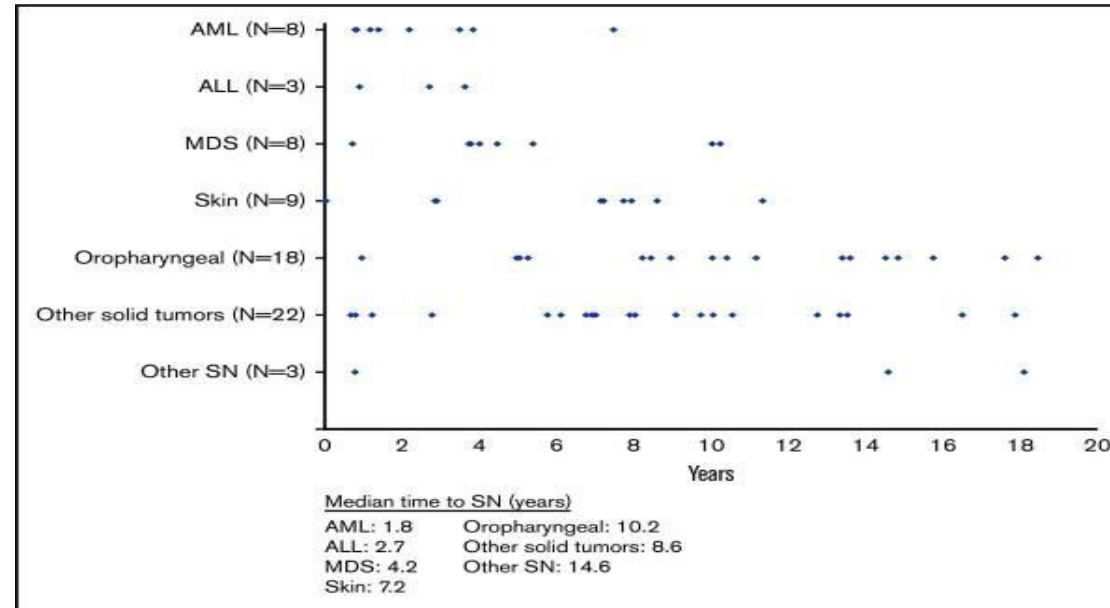
360 families DBA, DC, FA, SDS
530 affected individuals



O/E ratio any malignancy in **non-transplanted** patients
2.5 DBA, 4.2 DC, 19 FA, 8.5 SDS

O/E ratios for the **transplanted vs. the non-trans-planted** groups
DBA 81 vs. 2.5, DC 30 vs. 4.2, FA 55 vs. 19

Cancer predisposition in BFM/HSCT



6028 patients
(2015-2020)

SAA 24%
Fanconi anemia 10%
other marrow failure 6%
hemoglobinopathy 15%
immunodeficiency 23%
metabolic/leukodystrophy syndrome 22%

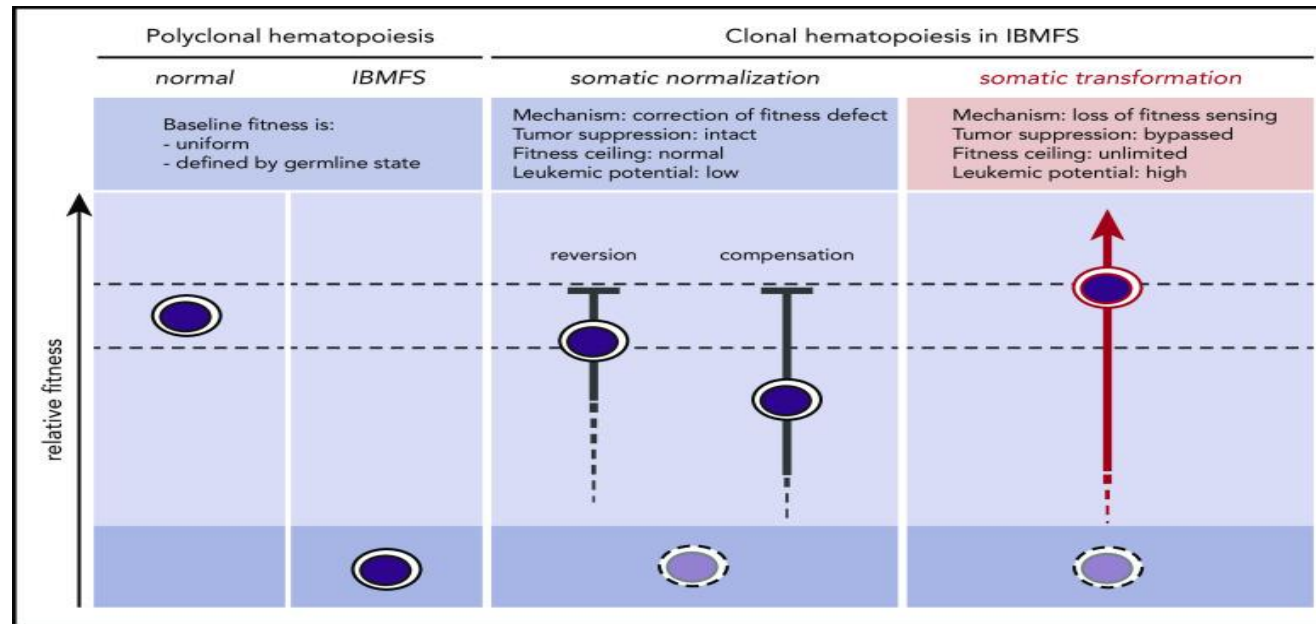
> AML /ALL

> oropharyngeal, skin, thyroid, liver, and bladder tumors

> tongue and mouth tumors in FA and marrow failure syndromes

TBI-based conditioning regimen and chronic GVHD FA patients :2.5-fold and 4.8 increased hazard of secondary neoplasia (p<0.001)

Reversion/compensation



Reversion/compensation

Some somatic alterations can normalize the underlying germline deficit through direct reversion or indirect compensation

Access to allo-HSCT

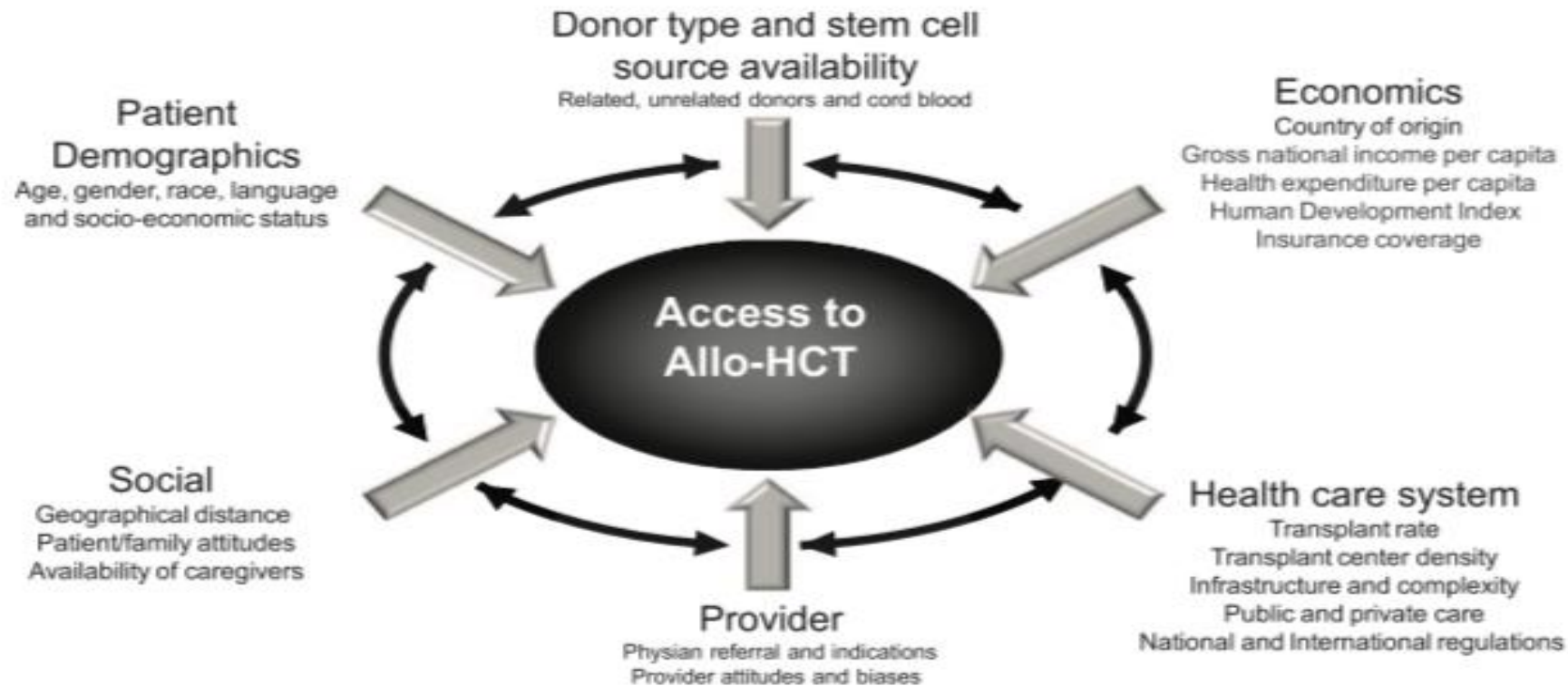


Figure 4. Factors associated with access to allo-HCT: an international perspective.

2. Alternatives strategies



"Old drugs"

Corticosteroids

Androgens

Growth factors/agonists

G-CSF

Eltrombopag



Target molecules

Approach to Gene Therapy

2. Alternatives strategies



"Old drugs"

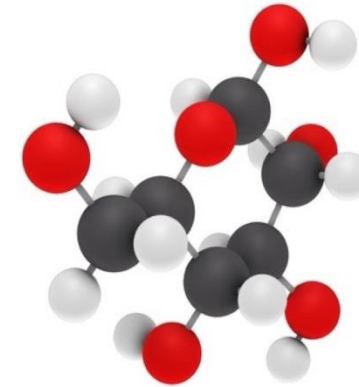
Corticosteroids

Androgens

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Target molecules

Approach to Gene Therapy



Corticosteroids in DBA

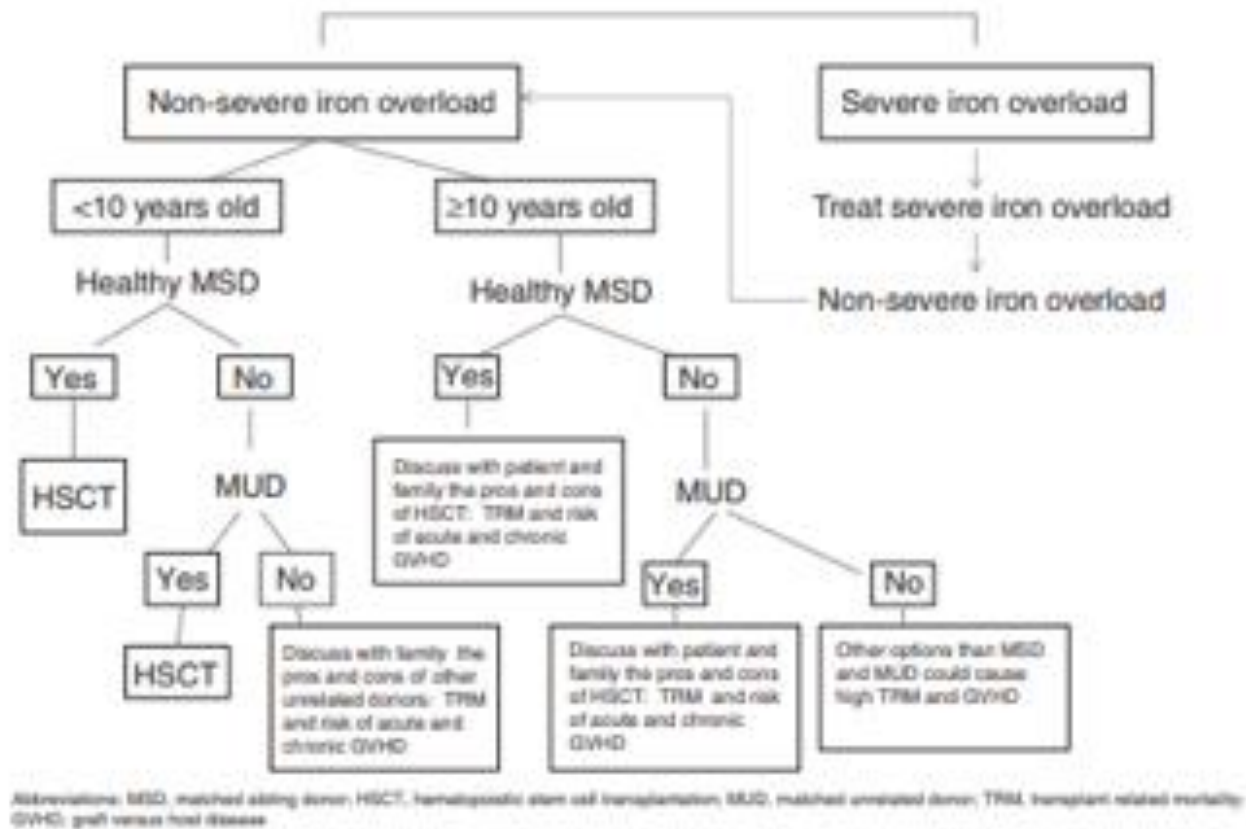
Corticosteroids (prednisone or prednisolone) 2mg/kg/d
2 weeks > reticulocyte count and Hb

Goal Hb > 9 gr/dL

If no response after 1 month stop

Corticosteroids < minimum acceptable dose < 0.3mg/kg/d
(< 0.5mg/kg/d in difficult or dangerous access to TS)

Corticoresistance or corticodependence
transfusions + iron chelation



HSCT : DBA patients with matched donor/No response to corticosteroids
/transfusion dependent.



Androgens

Testosterone propionate

Nandrolone decanoate

Oxymetholone

Oxandrolone

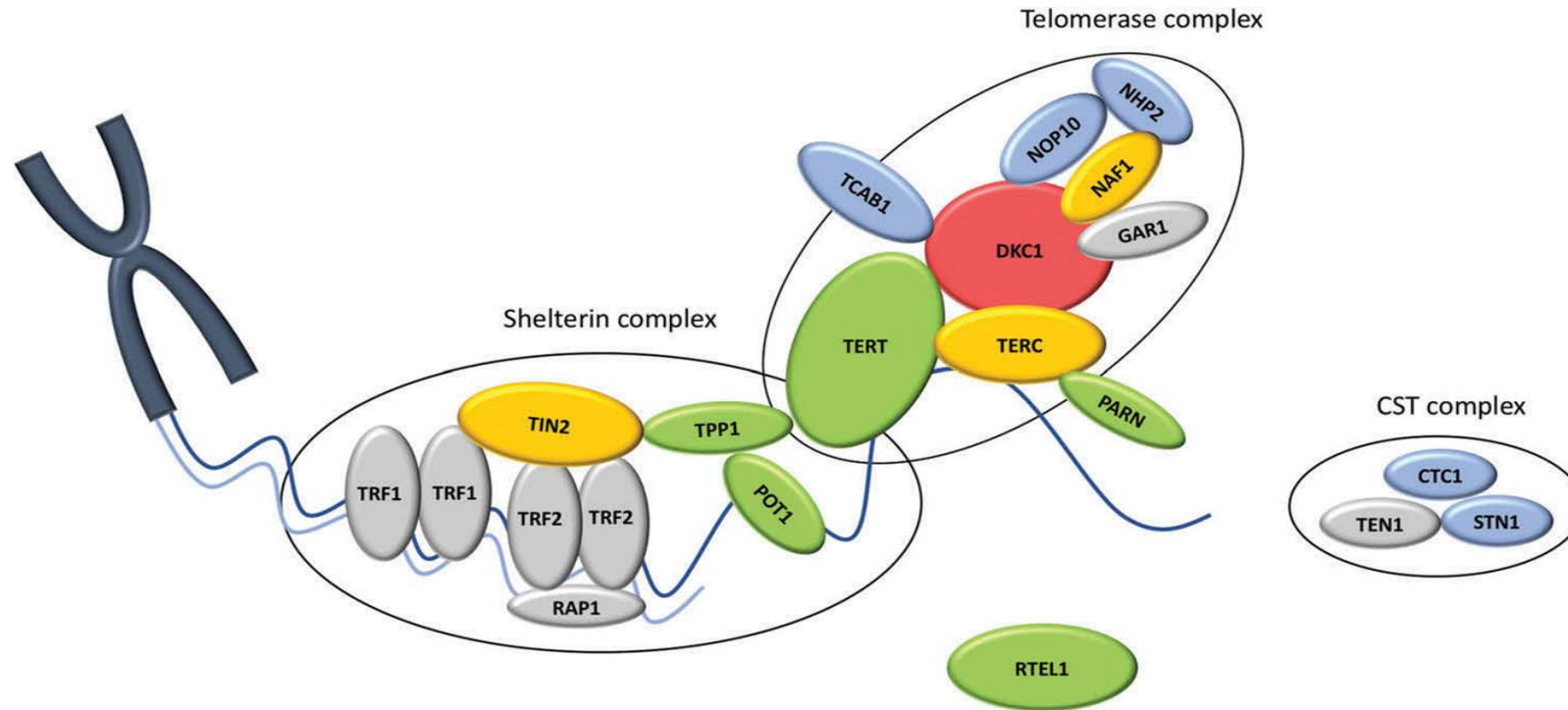
Danazol

Enhance epo production by kidneys

Stimulation of epo receptor on stem cell



Androgens in DC



- Telomeres elongation
- Increase telomerase gene expression (TERT) in hematopoietic cells
- Positive effect on marrow microenvironment



Androgens in DC

up-regulation of TERT

via the stimulation
intracellular estrogen receptor



enhancement of the enzymatic activity of telomerase



elongation of prematurely shortened telomeres



improvement of peripheral blood counts



Androgens in DC

Oxymetholone 0.5-1 mg/kg

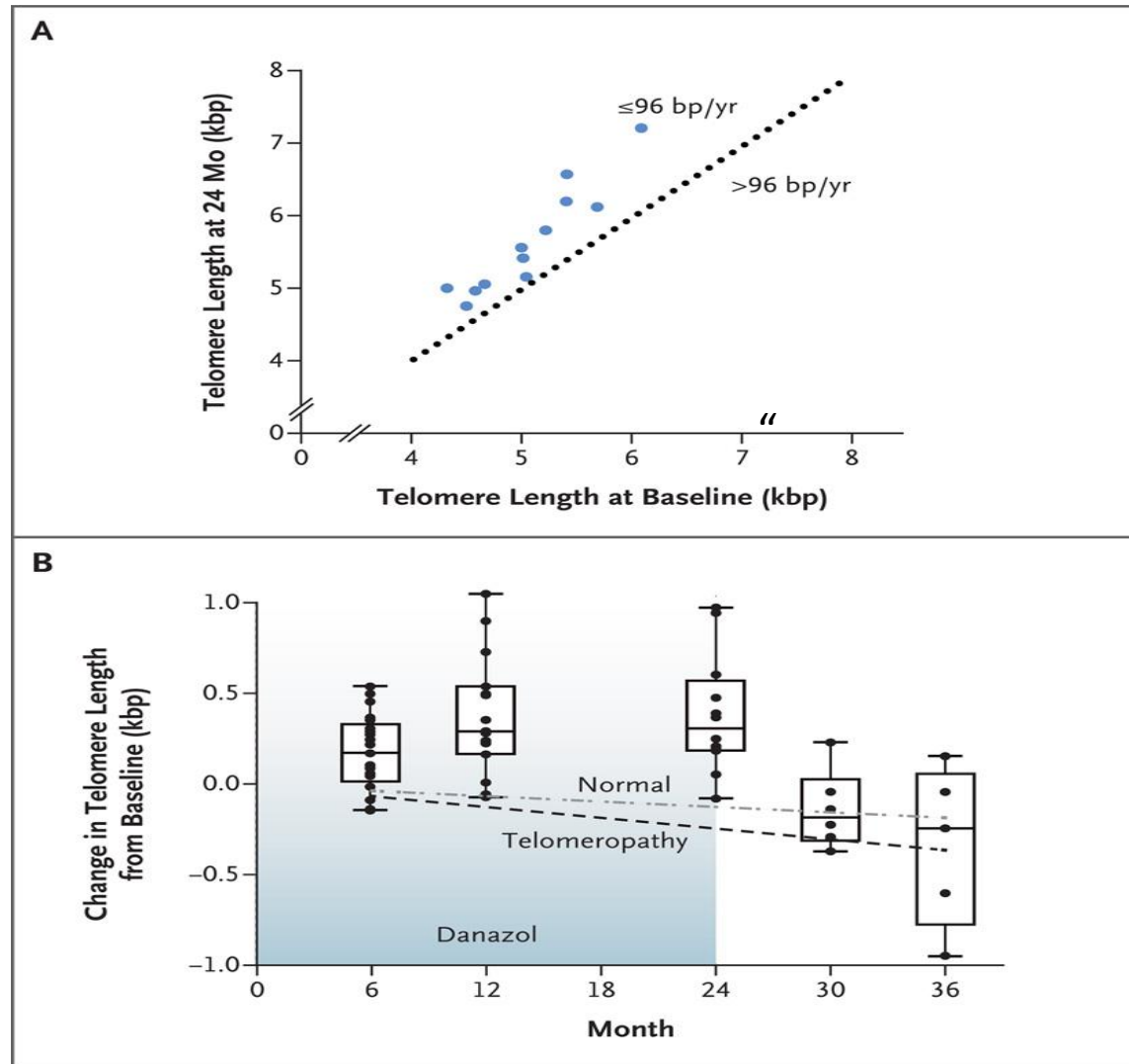
16 subjects
median age of 16 years
Median follow-up 22 months

Hematologic response 69%
Non substantially telomer elongation

Khincha PP BJH 2014



Androgens in DC



29 subjects-danazol 800 mg/die

Median age of 40 years

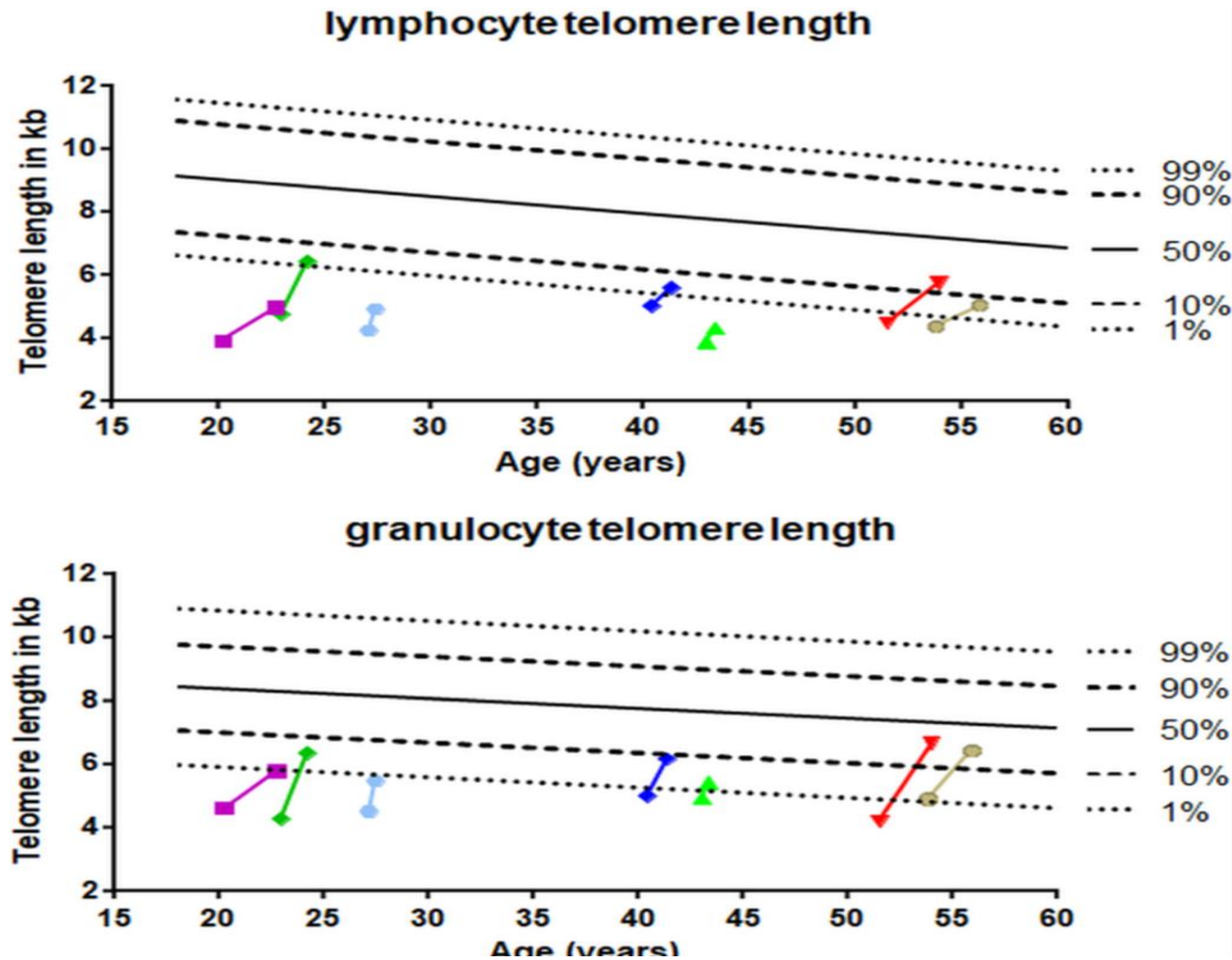
Median follow-up 24 months

Hematological response 80%

Telomer elongation

Stability of lung disease

Elongation of prematurely shortened telomeres



7 patients – Danazol 600 mg /die
median age of 40 years (range: 21–53 years)
Median follow-up during treatment was 14 months
(range: 3–29 months)

Flow fish
Absent clonal malignant hemopoiesis



Androgens in Fanconi Anemia

Study	Reference	Patients, N	Disease	Androgen	Median age, years	Median duration of therapy, years	Response, %	Toxicity
Scheckenbach et al.	14	8	Fanconi anemia	Danazol	11	3	87	—
Rose et al.*	15	10	Fanconi anemia	Oxandrolone	9	2	70	<u>Virilization</u> , liver, MDS
Paustian et al.	6	37	Fanconi anemia	Various	8.8	4.2†	68	<u>Virilization</u> , MDS, hepatic adenoma
Ribeiro et al.	16	66	Fanconi anemia	Oxymetholone, danazol	10.5	1.5	78	<u>Virilization</u> , liver
Khincha et al.	8	16	Dyskeratosis congenita	Oxymetholone, fluoxymesterone, nandrolone decanoate	11	2.2	69	Bone fractures, <u>virilization</u> , splenic peliosis, liver
Townsend et al.*	7	27	Telomeropathy	Danazol	41	2	83	Liver, muscle

MDS, myelodysplastic syndrome.
*Prospective study.
†For responders.



Virilization, increased lipid profile

Risk of hepatocarcinoma

Hepatic peliosis/splenic rupture

2. Alternatives strategies



"Old drugs"

Corticosteroids

Androgens

Growth factors/agonists

G-CSF

TPO-agonists: Eltrombopag



Target molecules

Gene therapy



Highly proliferative (~10¹⁰ cells/day) dynamic process

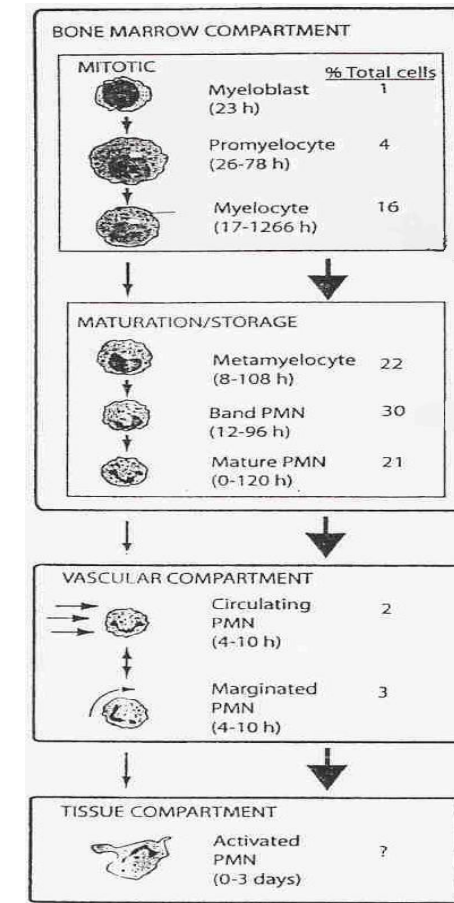
Proliferation and maturation of CFU-GM

Amplification of marrow mitotic pool
(from myeloblast to myelocyte)

Proliferation of maturative pool
(from metamyelocytes to myelocyte)

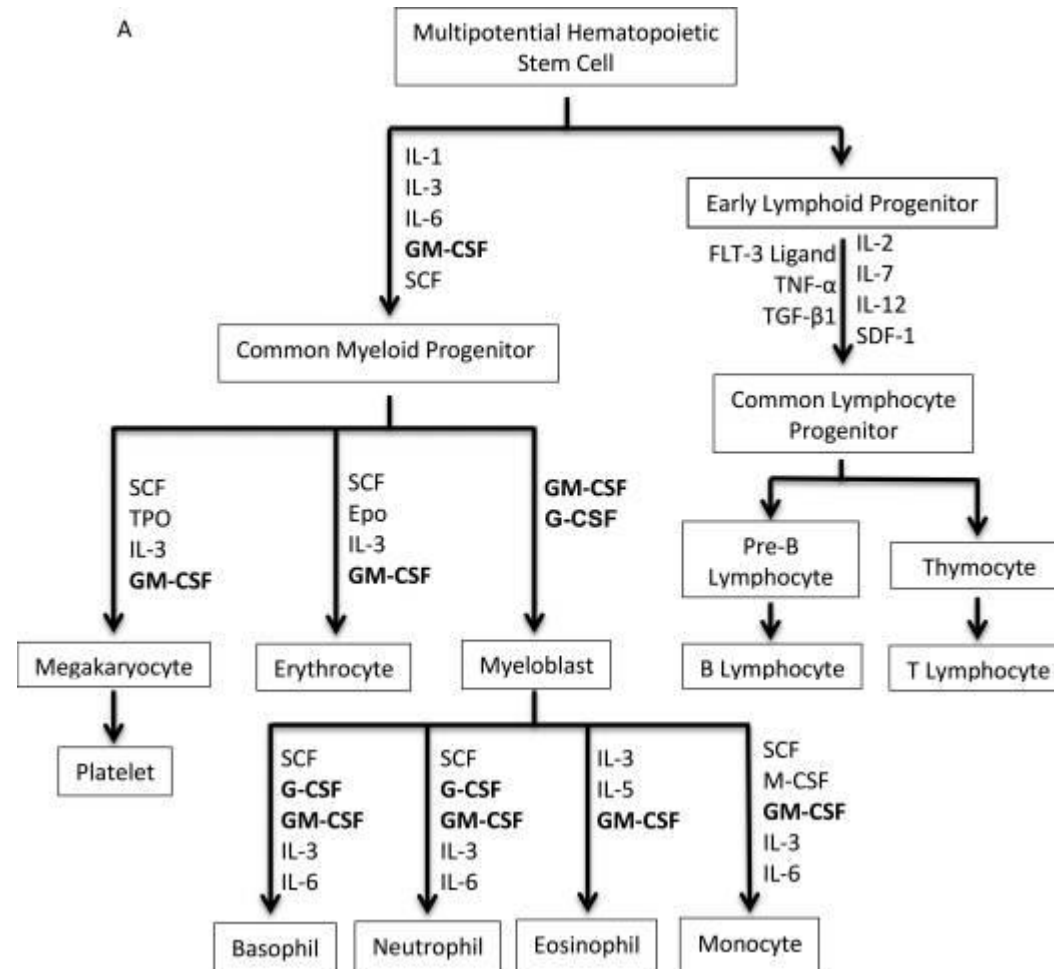
Shortening timing of marrow maturation

Demargination of mature elements





Granulokine-Colony Stimulating Factor G-CSF





Tailored schedule

The least dose for the best effect (standard dose 5 y/kg/die)
SDS 3y/kg/die

Goal: Absolute N count >1.000/mm³ <5.000/mm³

Responders: 90% of patients

Responders 15 µg/Kg/d

Poor responders 15-20 µg/Kg/d

Non responders > 20 µg/Kg/d



Hepato/splenomegaly

Thrombocytopenia

Vasculitis

Glomerulonephritis (Shoenlein-Henoch purpura)

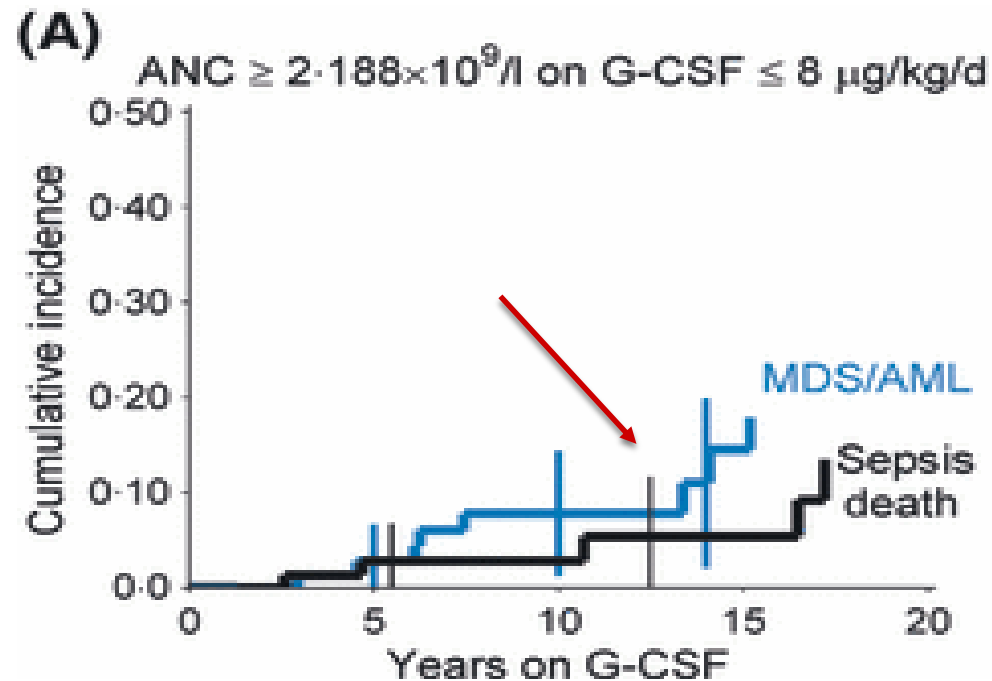
Osteoporosis/osteopenia

Transformation to MDS/AL

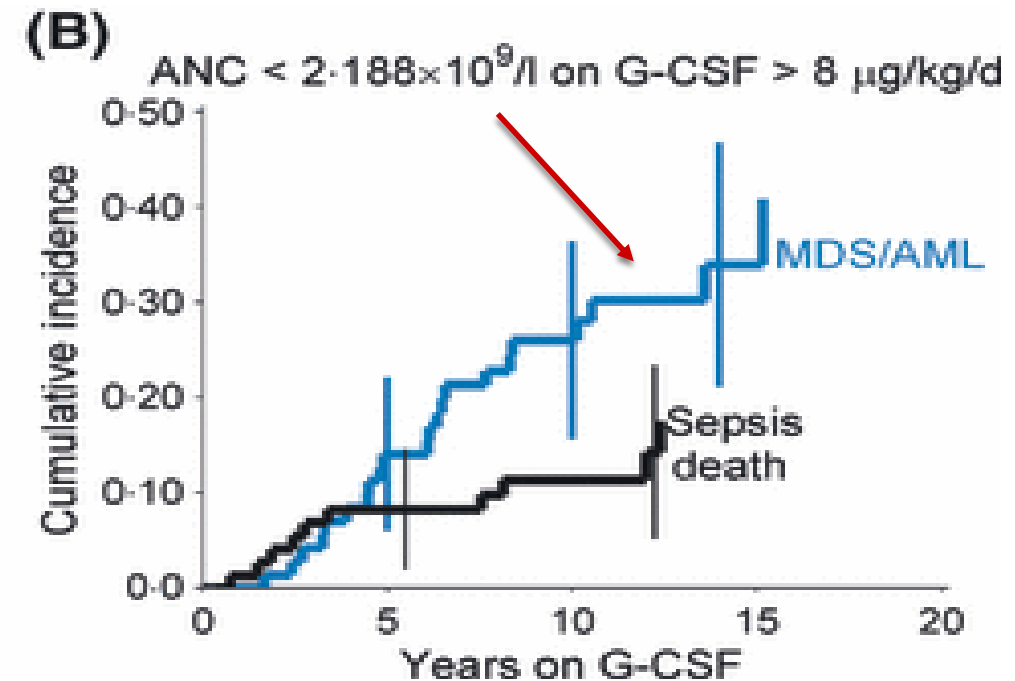


SCNIR

Low Risk 15% ys after G-CSF



High risk 34% ys after G-CSF



«Dose» related risk , higher risk in SDS (SCNFR)



G-CSF in Severe Congenital Neutropenia/SDS

Lifelong G-CSF

- >90% of neutropenic patients respond to G-CSF
- <10% G-CSF treatment does not work/ is not appropriate

Alternative therapy : PEGFILGRASTIM

Pegfilgrastim in SCN

State of the art



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Severe congenital neutropenia and pegfilgrastim

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Tarja-Terttu Pelliniemi², Leena Kainulainen¹, Toivo
T. Salmi¹

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Turku; ²Department of Clinical Chemistry, Turku
University Hospital, Turku, Finland

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Respiratory distress and sudden death of a patient with GSD1b chronic neutropenia: possible role of pegfilgrastim

Jean Donadieu,¹ Blandine Beaupain,¹ Frédérique Rety-Jacob,²
and Raphaëlle Nove-Josserand³

¹Service d'Héματο-Oncologie Pédiatrique, Registre Français des
Neutropénies Chroniques Sévères, Hôpital Trousseau, Paris,
France; ²Service de Radiologie, Hôpital Sud, Lyon, France; ³Service
de Médecine Interne, Hôpital Sud, Lyon, France.

Pediatr Blood Cancer 2010;54:465–467

BRIEF REPORT

Pegfilgrastim in Children With Severe Congenital Neutropenia

Francesca Fioredda, MD,^{1*} Michaela Calvillo, MD,¹ Marina Lanciotti, PhD,¹ Tiziana Lanza, PhD,¹ Laura Giunti, PhD,²
Elio Castagnola, MD,³ Ines Lorenzi, PhD,⁴ Rossella Tonelli, PhD,⁵ Piero Ghezzi, PhD,⁵ and Carlo Dufour, MD¹

Pediatr Blood Cancer 2009;53:1068–1073

Is Pegfilgrastim Safe and Effective in Congenital Neutropenia? An Analysis of the French Severe Chronic Neutropenia Registry

Blandine Beaupain, MSc,¹ Thierry Leblanc, MD,² Oumédaly Reman, MD,³ Olivier Hermine, MD, PhD,⁴
Jean-Pierre Vannier, MD,⁵ Felipe Suarez, MD,⁴ Patrick Lutz, MD,⁶ Pierre Bordigoni, MD,⁷ Anne Jourdain, MD,⁸
Michele Schoenvald, MD,⁹ Marie Ouachee, MD,¹⁰ Sylvie François, MD,¹¹ Frédéric Kohser, MD,¹² Fabrice Jardin, MD,¹³
Gilles Devouassoux, MD,¹⁴ Yves Bertrand, MD,¹⁵ Raphaëlle Nove-Josserand, MD,¹⁶ and Jean Donadieu, MD, PhD^{1*}
for the French SCN Registry, Service d'héματο oncologie Pédiatrique, Hôpital Trousseau, 75012 Paris France

J AM ACAD DERMATOL
VOLUME 52, NUMBER 5

Brief reports 901

Bullous Sweet's syndrome in congenital neutropenia: Association with pegfilgrastim

Bradley K. Draper, MD, PhD, Jason R. Robbins, MD, and George P. Stricklin, MD, PhD
Nashville, Tennessee



Novel treatment for severe congenital neutropenia with pegfilgrastim

L. Mi Rim Choi, Christine Guelcher and Michael F. Guerrero

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Similar favorable outcome of pegfilgrastim over- dose in patients with different age and underly- ing disease

Carlo Dufour,¹ Barbara Cappelli,² Michaela Calvillo,¹
Francesca Fioredda,¹ Rossella Tonelli,³
and Roberto Crocchiolo⁴

¹Hematology Unit, G. Gaslini Children's Hospital, Genova

Pegfilgrastim protocol in SCN



Phase II, multicenter, longitudinal, intrasubject open label study (CDF711, EUDRACT code 2005-003096-20)

Five patients: 4 ELANE, 1 HAX1 treated G-CSF (median dose 7.5 mcg/kg) after a median follow-up 46 months (7-111 months)

PEGFILGRASTIM 50 mcg/kd every 7-8 days

>Median ANC ($1.5 \times 10^9/L$ vs $1 \times 10^9/L$)

<Infectious burden (10.1 vs 5.3)

Catch up growth

>>QoL



Quality of life

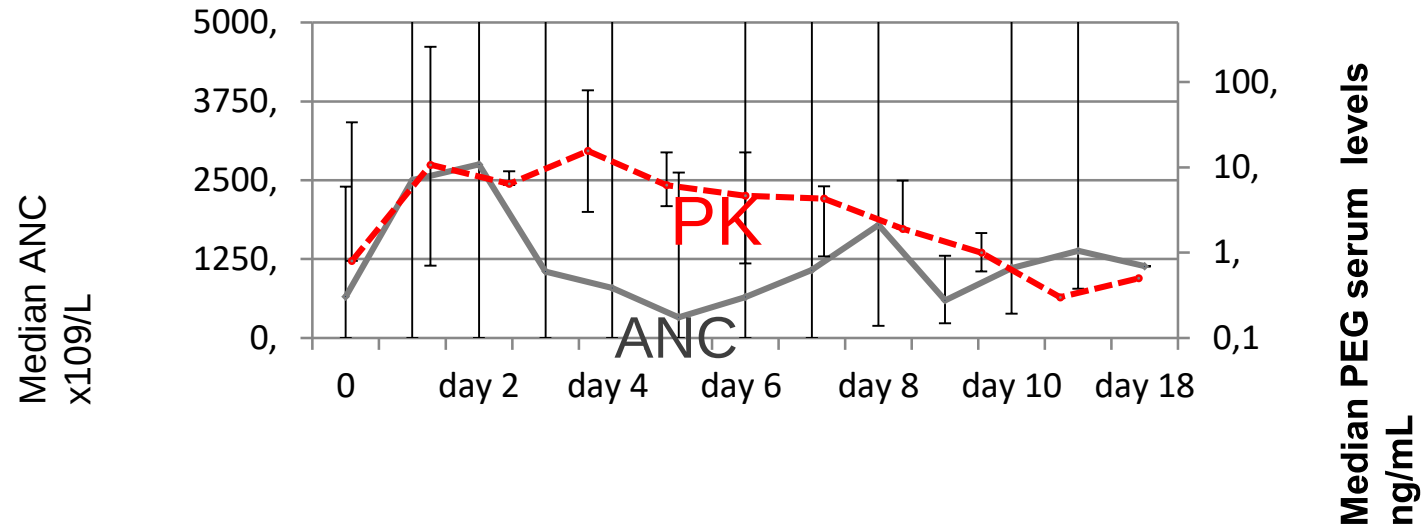
SF-36 Scale Scores



PF	RP	BP	GH	VT	SF	RE	MH
25	0	32	25	35	37	0	68

PF	RP	BP	GH	VT	SF	RE	MH
97	83	100	83	75	87	100	83

ANC & Peg serum concentrations



ANC

First peak after 24-48 h from inoculum

Decline after 2-5 days

Second rise on days 6-7 without any further administration

PK

Peak serum concentration after 24-72 hours from inoculum

Decline towards start levels

No cumulative drug concentration effect

Basal Pegfilgrastim

Peak Pegfilgrastim concentrations comparable to values on classical G-CSF



Neither local nor generalized reactions

No cytogenetic abnormalities

Osteoporosis

Acquisition of CSFR3 mutations

(c.2384C>T, c.2425T>G)

No transformation to leukemia



Pegfilgrastim

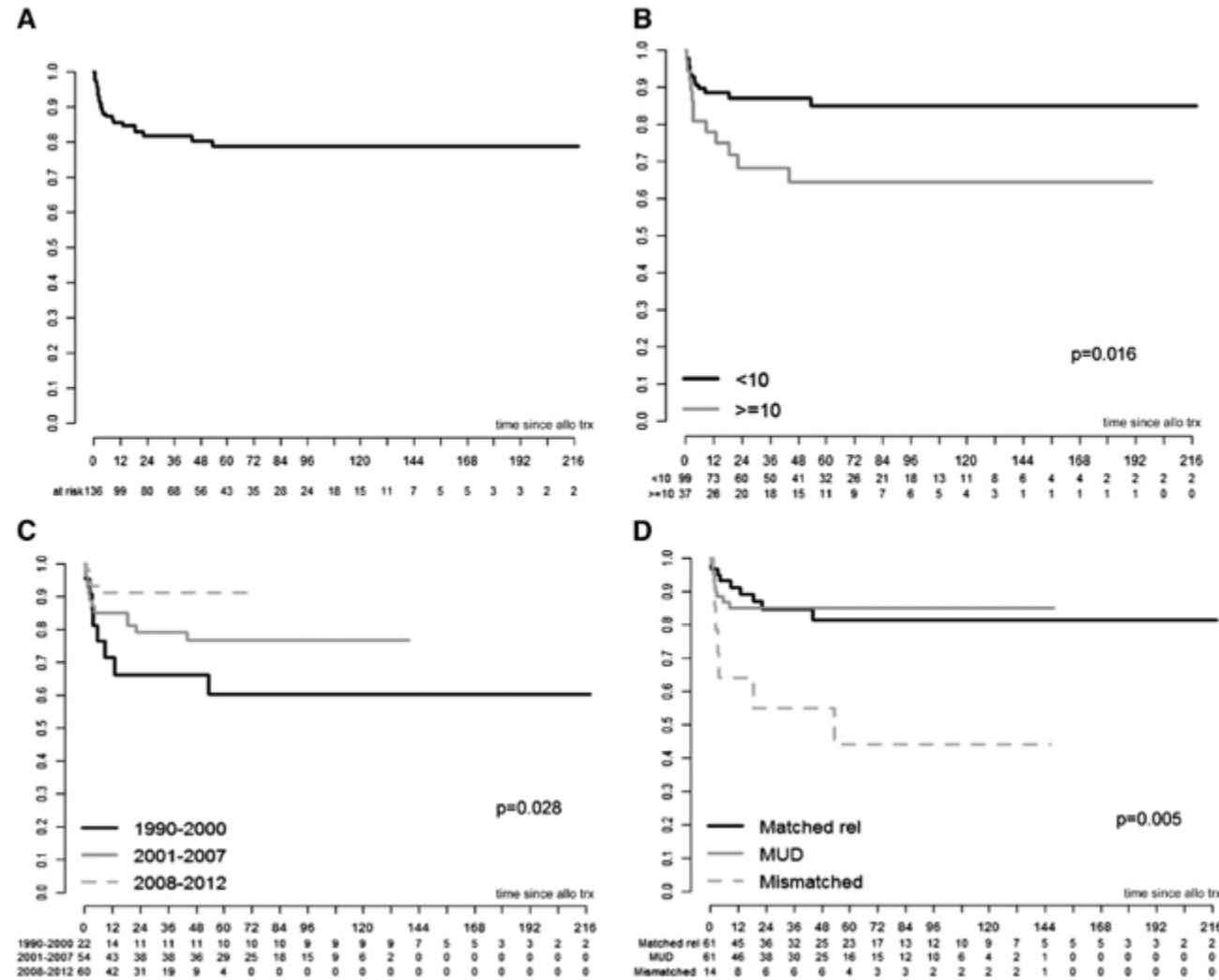
Reduced injections

Improved compliance and
QoL

Efficacy in rising
neutrophils

Defence against infections

HSCT Outcome in Severe Congenital neutropenia



136.SCN pts

5y-OS 82%

TRM 17%

2. Alternatives strategies



“

"Old drugs"

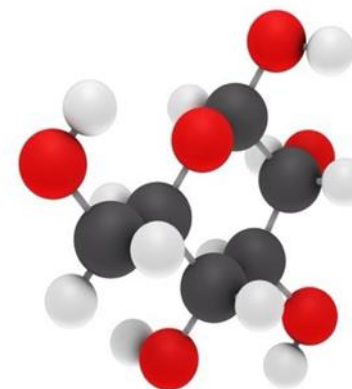
Corticosteroids

Androgens

Growth factors/agonists

G-CSF/pegfilgrastim

TPO agonists: Eltrombopag



Target molecules

Approach to Gene Therapy



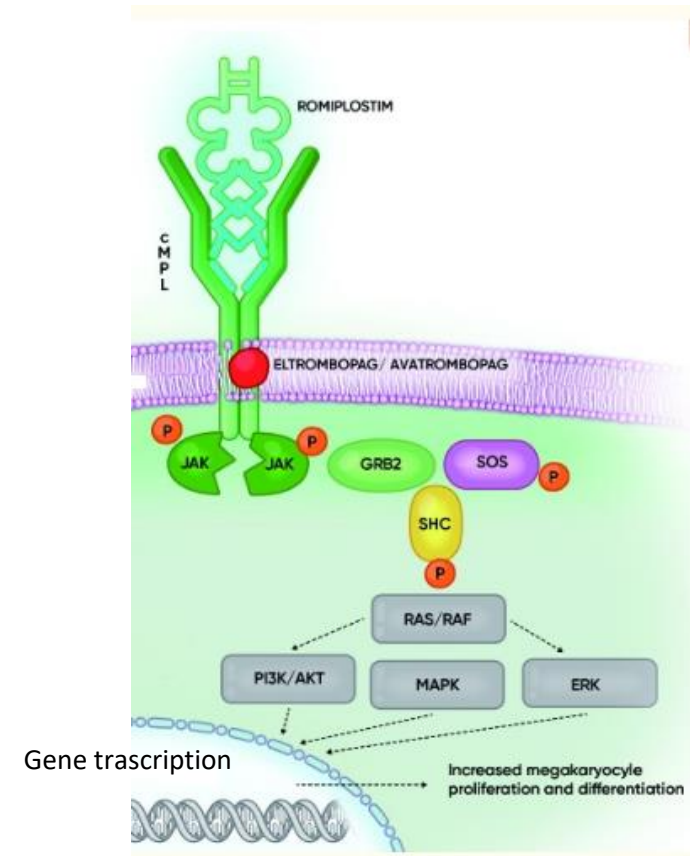
ITP- AA- Hepatitis +ITP

TPO agonist stimulates cMPL → JAK/STAT and MAPK

Stabilization of the c-MPL membrane receptor



> platelets production





- Immunomodulatory effect
- Chelator of ions: extra-and intra-cellular calcium and iron and can shuttle iron out of cells
- Enhancement of DNA Repair in Stem Cells
- Anti-proliferative effects on leukemic cells (down regulation of Akt)

Eltrombopag in AAA

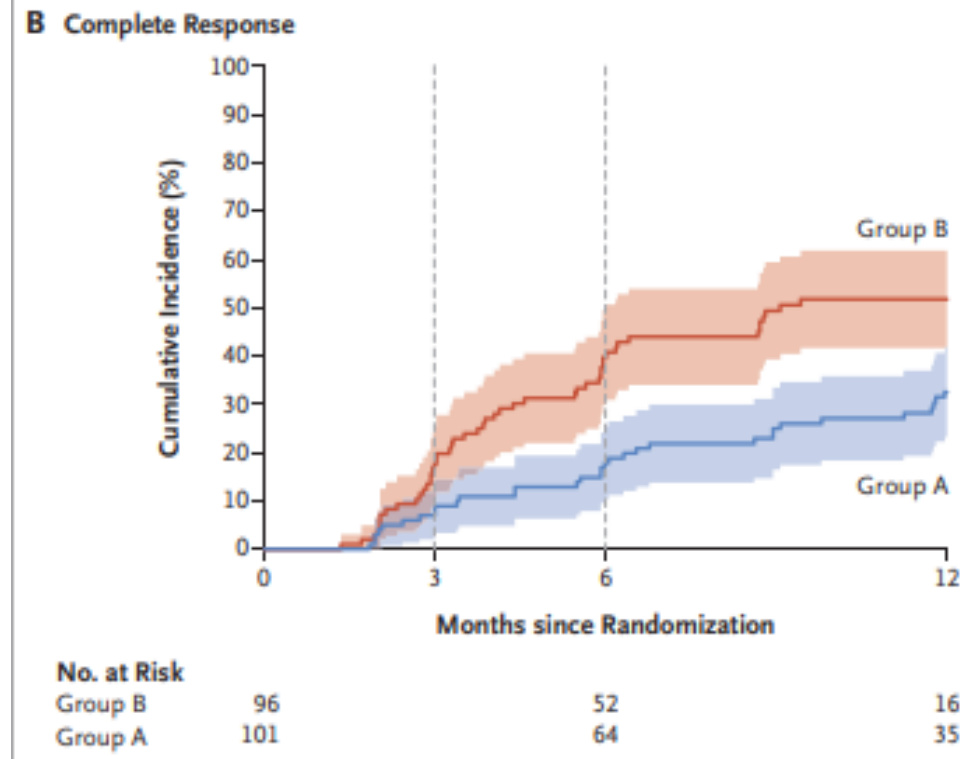


Hematological response

Group A (101 patients) immunosuppressive therapy

VS

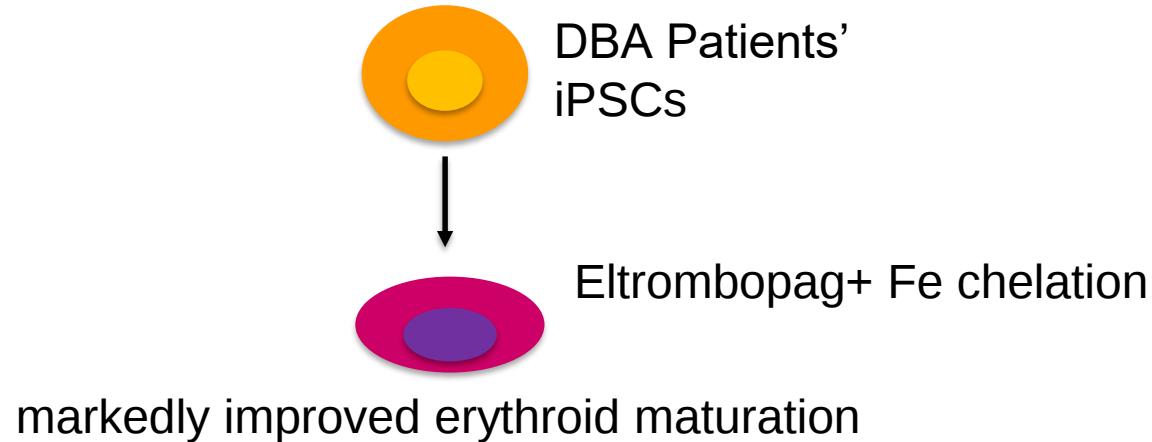
Group B (96 patients) immunosuppressive therapy plus eltrombopag



Eltrombopag in DBA



DBA induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) with inactivating mutations in RPS19



HYPOTHESIS iron-chelating properties of EPAG could restrict iron availability and limit heme synthesis in DBA erythroid progenitors, thereby reestablishing the heme-globin ratio and promoting erythroid maturation

Ribosomal dysfunction → globin synthesis delay

Excess toxic free heme (erythroid progenitors)

Early differentiation arrest → pure red cell aplasia

trial of phase 1-2

Drug: Eltrombopag

150 mg/day starting dose (titration and adjustments for age and ethnicity)

Qanash H Cell 2021

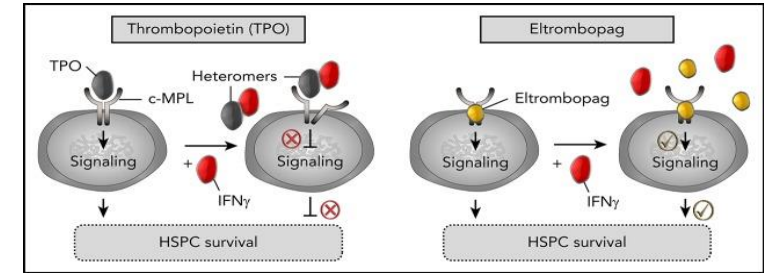
Thursdays Webinars

Eltrombopag in Fanconi Anemia



EPAG PROMOTED DNA REPAIR

*activating the classical non-homologous end joining (C-NHEJ) DNA repair mechanism
displacing IFN- γ action on c-MPL receptor*



Phase I/II study → endpoint hematological response at 6 mo (FUP 25 mo)

>>CD34 in the majority

Half of the cohort > peripheral count

Bone Marrow Biopsy < 5% → 20%

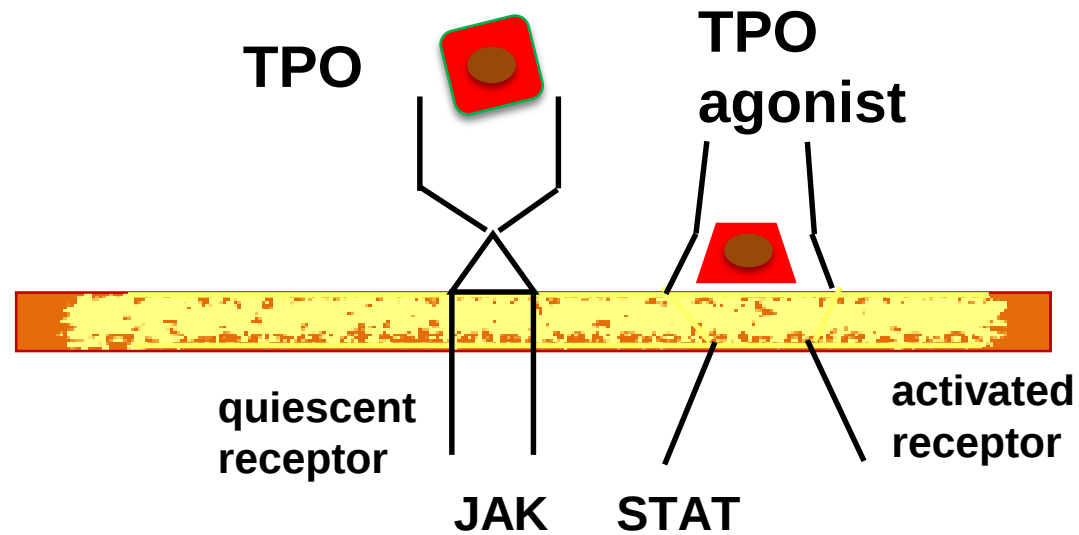
No marrow fibrosis

No solid malignancies/clonal evolution

Boost Marrow CD34+ prior Gene therapy?



> levels of TPO before start of treatment



Trautmann K Thrombosis and Hemostasis, 2012



- Bone marrow fibrosis ↓↓↓
- Risk of clonal evolution ↓↓↓
- Thromboembolic events > adults than in children

No higher dose of TPO-RA
TEE in the first year of treatment

- Cataracts
- Transaminitis

2. Alternatives strategies



"Old drugs"
Corticosteroids
Androgens

Growth factors/agonists
G-CSF
TPO agonists: Eltrombopag

Target molecules



1. Knowledge of diseases' mechanism

2. Availability of biological models

3. Choice of targets



CANONICAL and NON CANONICAL functions of Fanconi proteins

- repair of cross-linked DNA
- prevent aneuploidy and aberrant centrosome accumulation
- response to oxidative stress
- response to inflammation
- mitophagy/viropaghy
- promotion of function and survival of stem cells



SMALL- MOLECULES

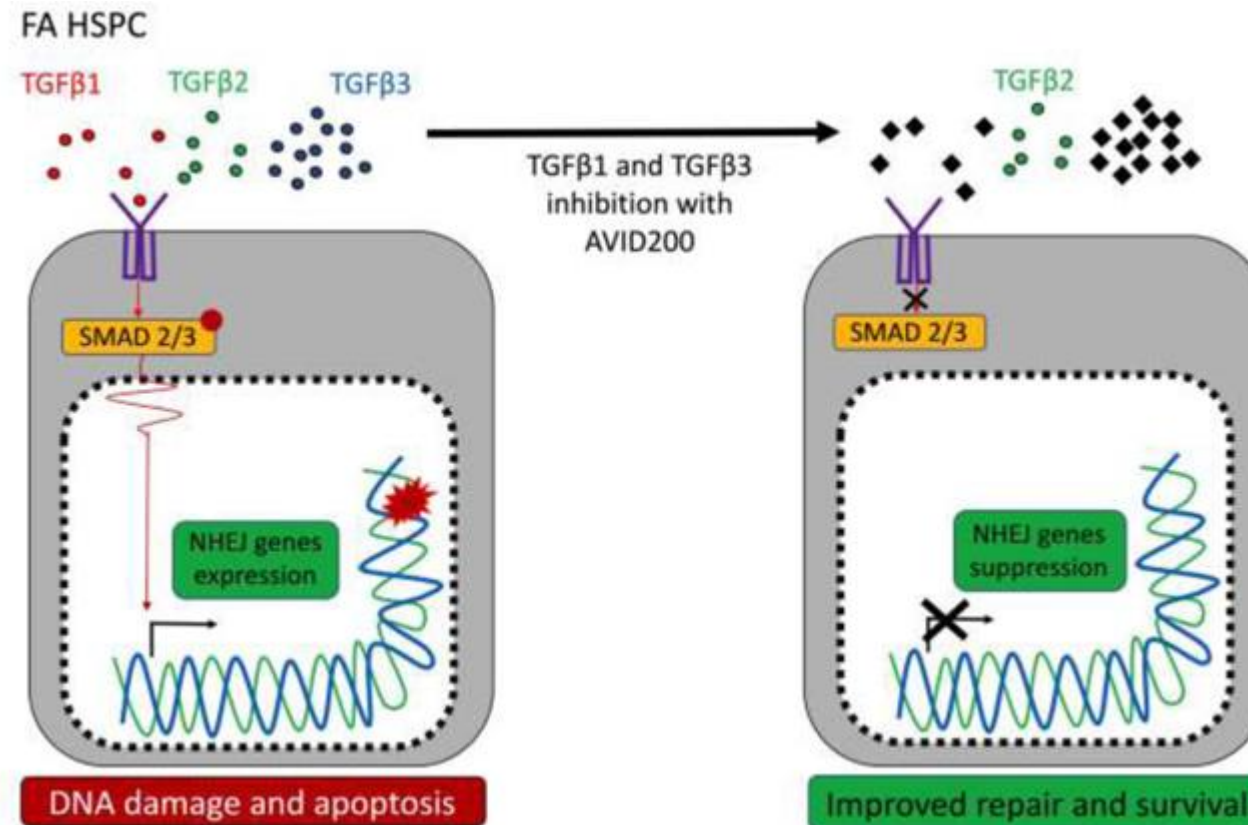
Antagonists of hyperactive signaling pathways in mutant cells
p53/p21/PKR/ TLR pathway (p38MAPK, MK2)



INHIBITION of Transforming Growth Factor beta (TGFβ)



Inhibition of the TGF- β pathway rescues hematopoiesis in iPSCs model



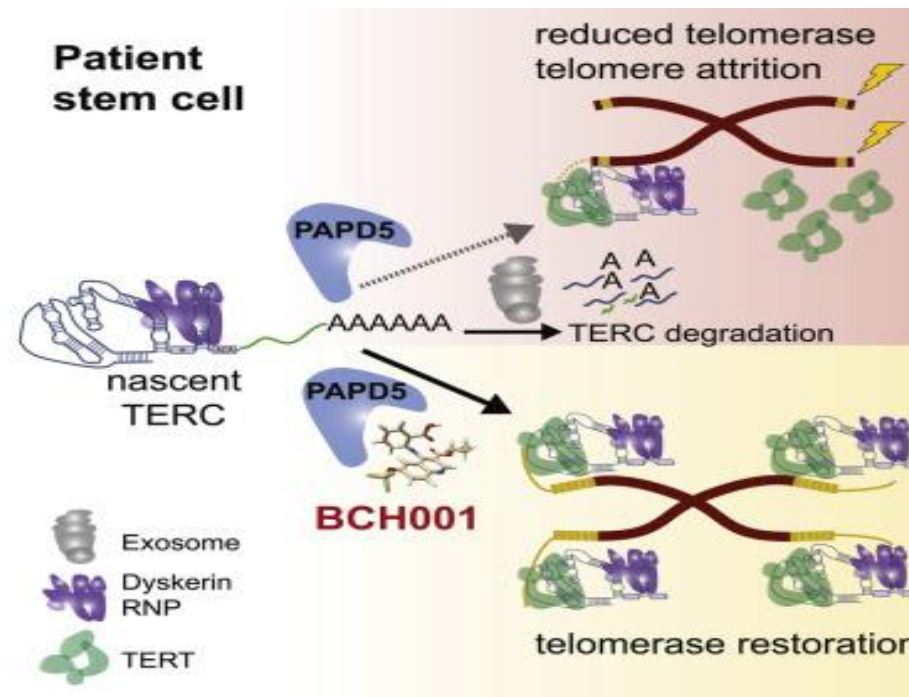
Rodriguez A , Exp Hematol 2021

Target therapies: DSK



PAPD5 inhibitors

Pharmacological manipulation of cRNA biogenes
through micromolecules
BCH001, Rg7834 (dihydroquinolizininones)





>>>> activity of p53 in
RPS19-deficient cell line model

Calmodulin inhibitors (Trifluoperazine) <<<<< activity of p53
zebrafish model

FDA-approved drug with a favorable safety profile

(registered at www.clinicaltrials.gov as #[NCT03966053](#))

Target Therapy in Severe Congenital Neutropenia

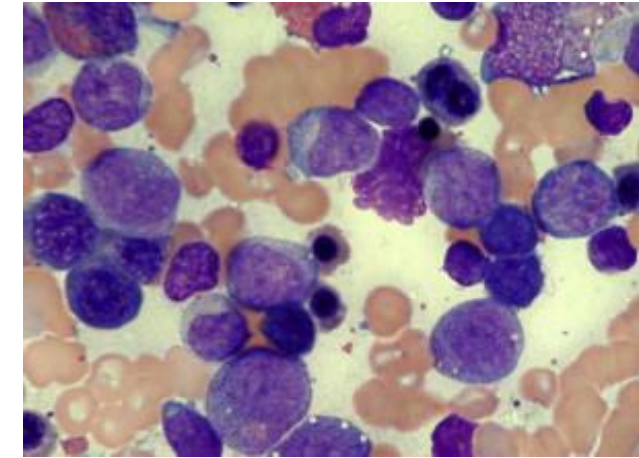


ELANE



ELASTASE

30-kDA/serin-proteasis
Inside granules



NE mislocalization activation of unfolded protein response (UPR)
ER “Stress”

Apoptosis of promyelocytes

Sivelestat (ELANE- Q97P eI118N)

Restores Neutrophil Elastase
promyelocyte survival
in iPSC

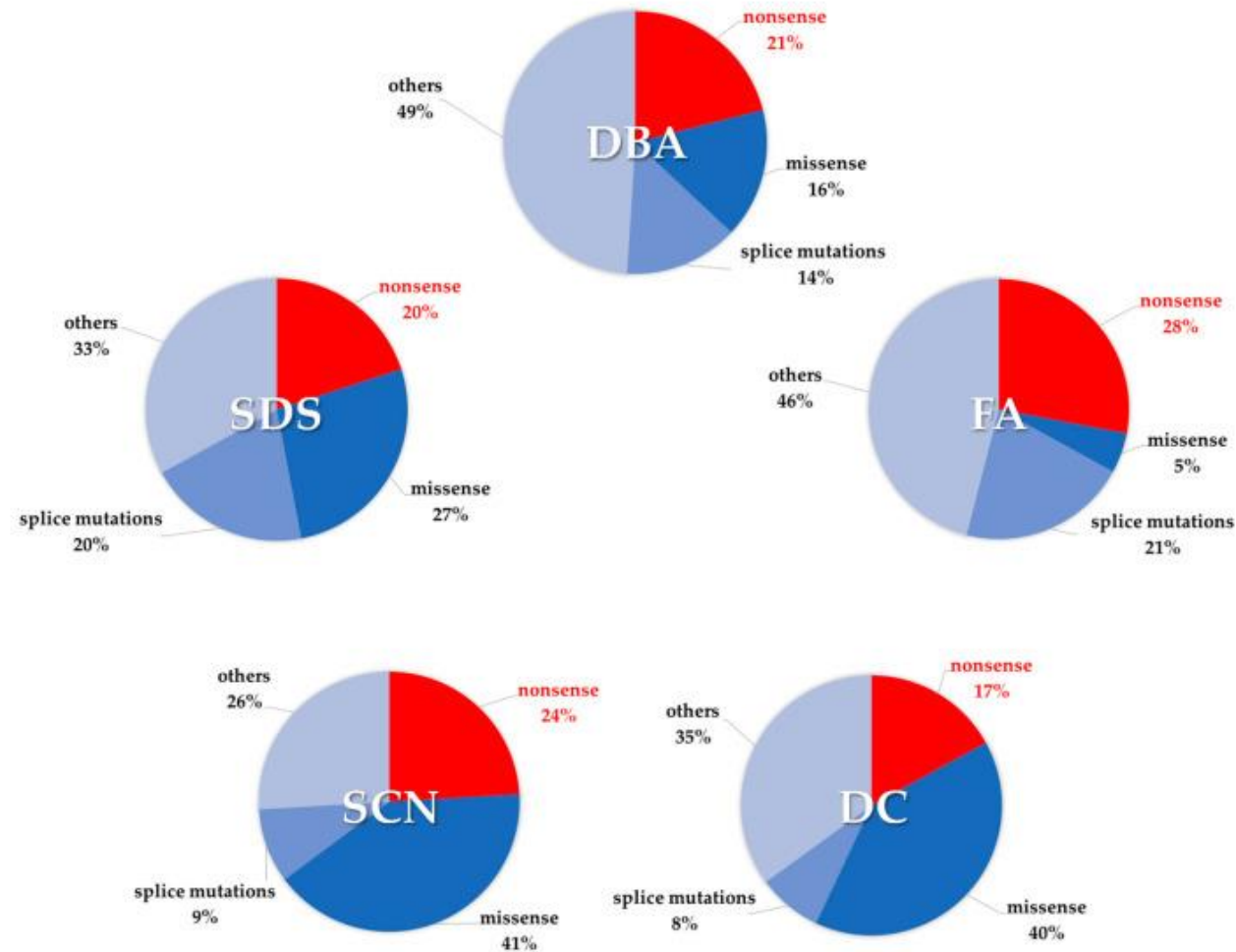
Nayak RC J Clin Invest 2015, Makaryan V J Leukoc Biol 201

ATALUREN (PTC-124): a new perspective



non sense suppressor drug

non sense mutations causes premature termination codon (PTC) causing PROTEIN DISRUPTION





THERAPEUTIC STRATEGY
regenerates the read through of PTC

restore a full length protein synthesis

ATALUREN tested o SDS RESTORATION OF FULL LENGHT PROTEIN
in bone marrow mesenchimal cells, stroll cells , lymphoblasts
in hematopoietic colony assay

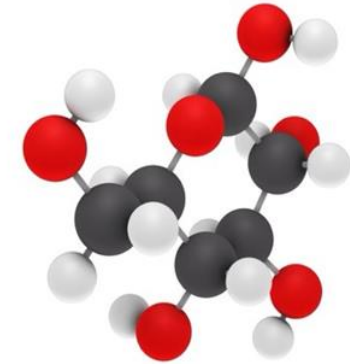
ataluren inhibit m-TOR and apoptotic rate in SDS cells

myeloid differentiation

3. Gene Therapy: What's up?



1. Knowledge of diseases' mechanism
2. Availability of biological models
3. Choice of targets
4. Choice of vectors
5. Delivery (biological and immunological barriers)
6. Gene transfert in target cells/specificity
7. Espression of «therapeutic gene»

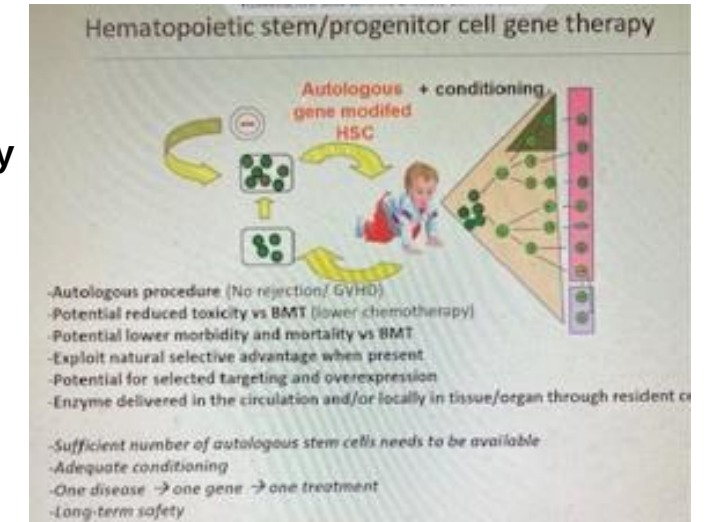


3. Gene Therapy: What's up?



Replacement of diseased cells

AUTOLOGUS INFUSION OF « CORRECTED STEM CELLS » by
Lentivirus vector
γ-retrovirus vector
Gene Editing

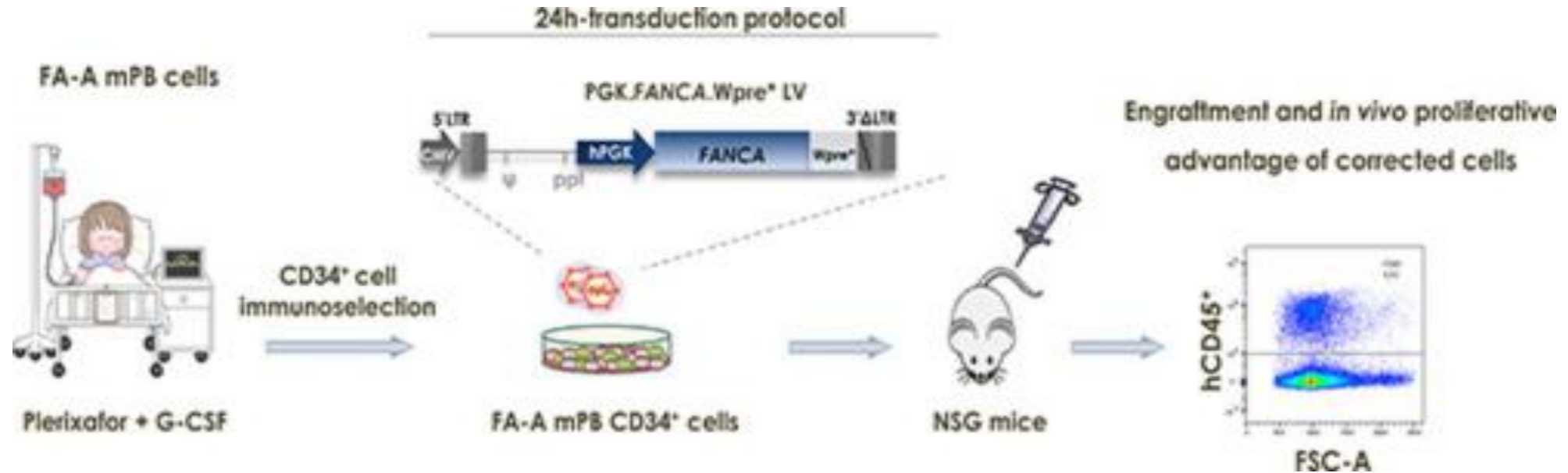


Approved drugs (EMA)

ADA-SCID (gRV)
MLD (LV)
X-ALD (LV)
Beta thalassemia (LV)

Under investigation in Clinical trial

SCID –X1
WAS
ADA-SCID (LV)
X-CGD
ARTEMIS
LAD
Beta thalassemi a (LV and editing)
Sickle Cell Disease (LV and editing)
Fanconi Anemia



low number of gene-corrected autologous FA HSPCs
replace FA patients' hematopoiesis with functionally competent cells



Critical points : low number and accelerated decrease of HSPCs in the bone marrow (BM) of FA
detrimental effect of transduction protocols upon the repopulating FA cells

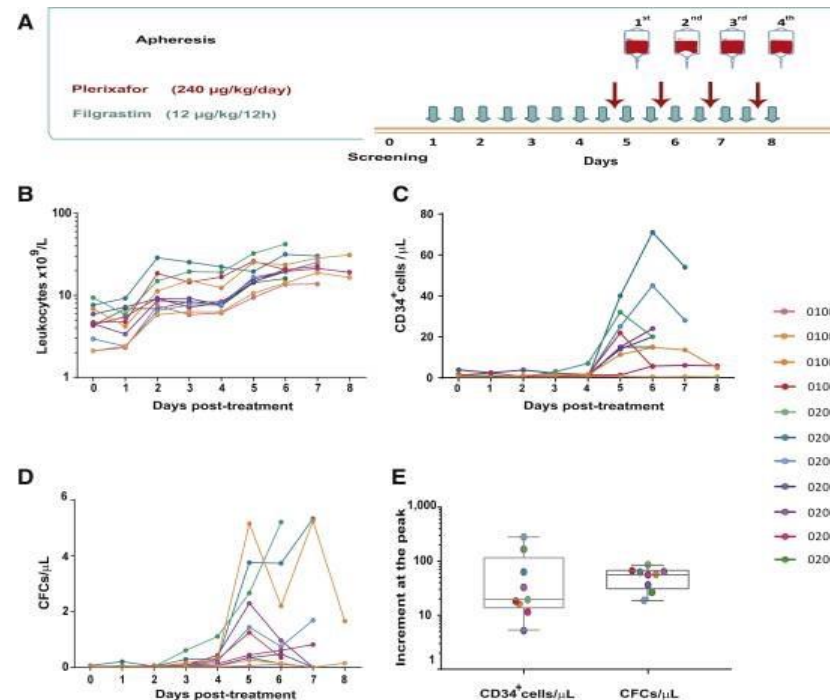
GENE THERAPY in FA



LOW number of CD34+ collection

Combination of plerixafor + G-CSF

Inhibition of the binding of stroma-cell-derived factor 1 to the chemokine receptor CXCR4.



ANCOSTEM-I clinical trial

Plerixafor + G-CSF combination is more effective than G-CSF alone

SevillaJ , [Mol Ther Methods Clin Dev.](#) 2021

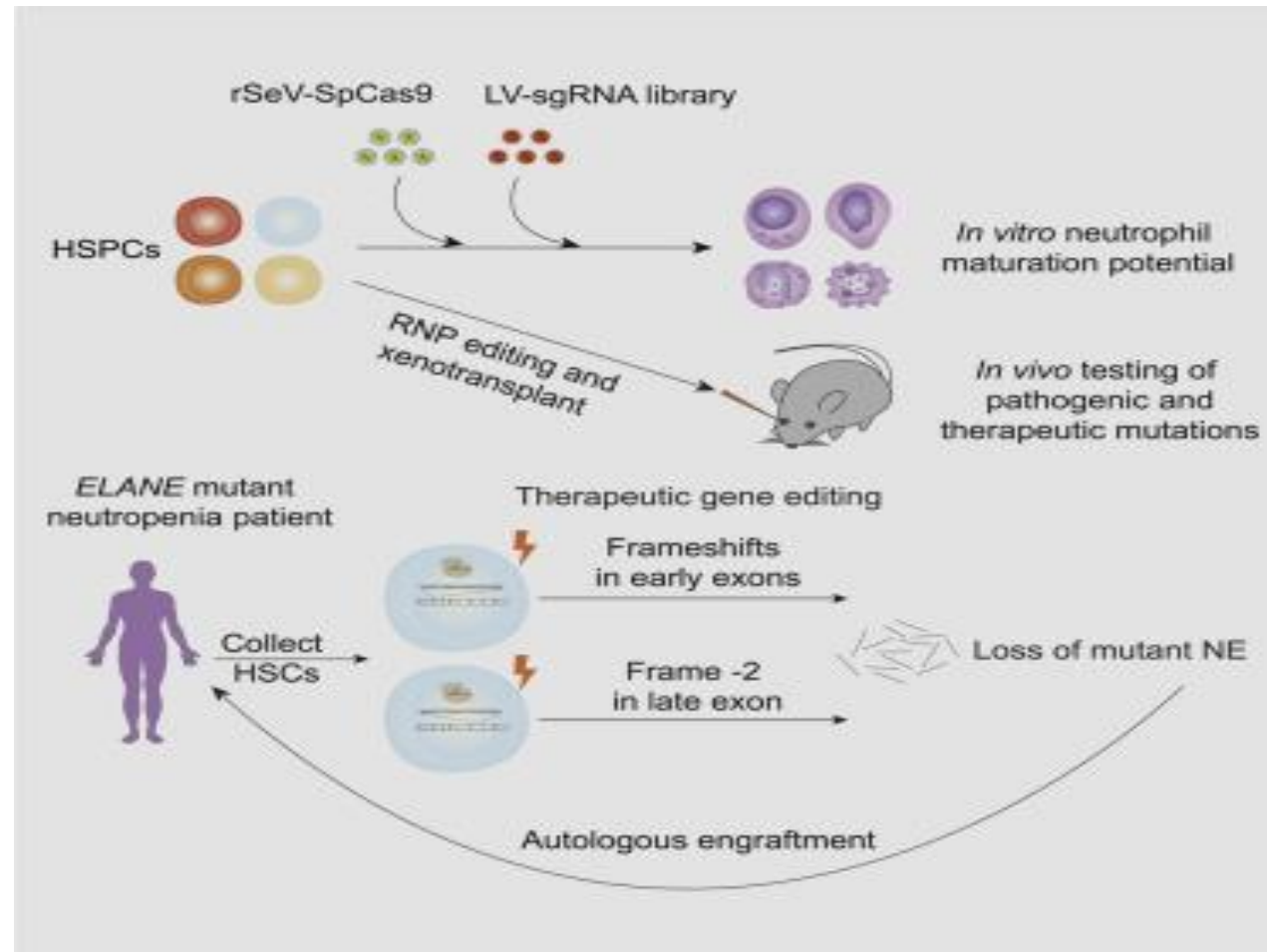
GENE THERAPY in FA



Variables	Study 1	Study 2	Study 3
Title	Successful engraftment of gene-corrected hematopoietic stem cells in nonconditioned patients with Fanconi anemia	Stem cell collection and gene transfer in Fanconi anemia	Gene therapy for Fanconi anemia in Seattle: clinical experience and next steps
Study design	Clinical trial	Clinical trial	Clinical trial
Sample size	4	3	2
Mean age (y)	5.85 ± 1.6	13.7 ± 1.6	16.0 ± 8.5
Cryopreservation	Yes (2 patients)	Yes (1 patient)	No
Cell mobilization	Yes (all; G-CSF and Plerixafor)	Yes (1 patient; G-CSF)	No
Baseline mean			
Hb (g/dL)	11.3 ± 0.9	10.7 ± 2.5	NP
Neutrophils (/μL)	1,235 ± 472	1,423 ± 672	710 ± 56.7
Plts (×103/μL)	48.0 ± 21.8	76.0 ± 40.1	61.0 ± 29.7
CD34+ cells (106/kg)	0.833 ± 0.3	0.183 ± 0.2	NP
CFC survival to 10 nM MMC (%)	0.025	0.0	NP
Vector used	Lentiviral	Lentiviral	Lentiviral
CD34+ cells (105/kg)	2.6 ± 1.07	NP	NP
Mean CFC survival after MMC administration after gene therapy (10 nM) (%)	31.0	44.7	NP
Follow-up period	18–30 mo	12 mo	NP
Follow-up cytogenetic abnormalities	None	None	NP
Serious adverse effects of investigational therapy	None	None	None



Autologous infusion in SCN



Tran NT Mol Ther 2020



Take home messages

1. Very careful monitoring of BFM affected subjects to tailor the "best strategy"
2. Conservative management in case of organ compromise
3. Promoting translational research in target therapy/gene therapy



THANKS

Webinars

EuroBloodNet



European
Reference
Network

for rare or low prevalence
complex diseases

Network
Hematological
Diseases (ERN EuroBloodNet)

