

Recent progress in the treatment of lower risk MDS



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Hematological Diseases
(ERN EuroBloodNet)



Recent treatments of lower risk MDS

- Lower risk MDS: where is the limit ?
- Treatment of anemia of lower risk MDS
- Treatment of thrombocytopenia of lower risk MDS
- Chelation therapy ?
- Treatment of MDS with autoimmune/autoinflammatory disorders

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IPSS -R

Table 3. IPSS-R Prognostic Score Values

Prognostic variable	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	3	4
Cytogenetics	Very Good		Good		Intermediate	Poor	Very Poor
BM Blast %	≤ 2		$>2 - <5\%$		$5 - 10\%$	$>10\%$	
Hemoglobin	≥ 10		$8 - <10$	<8			
Platelets	≥ 100	$50 - <100$	<50				
ANC	≥ 0.8	<0.8					

Table 4. IPSS-R Prognostic Risk Categories/Scores

RISK GROUP	RISK SCORE
Very Low	≤ 1.5
Low	$>1.5 - 3$
Intermediate	$>3 - 4.5$
High	$>4.5 - 6$
Very High	>6

Treatment Objectives

- Higher risk MDS
 - IPSS intermediate-2 or high
or R-IPSS very high, high and intermediate (> 3.5)
 - Delay disease progression
 - Prolong survival
- Lower risk MDS
 - IPSS low or intermediate-1
or R-IPSS very low, low , int <4
 - Improve blood cytopenias (*mainly anemia*)
 - Improve quality of life

Somatic mutations in MDS: 85-90% of the patients

- splicing factors SF3B1, SRSF2
- Methylation: DNMT3a, TET2, IDH1/2
- Chromatin modification: ASXL1, EZH 2
- TP53, RAS, RUNX 1
- Rare:
 - NPM1, FLT3
 - JAK2, CALR, MPL

Category	Variable	Multivariable model: hazard ratio [#] (95% CI)		Weight w	Scaling x^{mean}
confounder	% Age, in years		1.23 (1.05 - 1.43)	N/A	N/A
	Sex:Male		1.22 (1.06 - 1.41)	N/A	N/A
	Type:Secondary/Therapy-related		1.36 (1.10 - 1.68)	N/A	N/A
clinical	% Bone Marrow Blasts, in %		1.42 (1.30 - 1.55)	0.352	0.922
	% min(Platelets,250), in x10 ⁹ /L		0.80 (0.72 - 0.89)	-0.222	1.41
	Hemoglobin, in g/dL		0.84 (0.81 - 0.88)	-0.171	9.87
cytogenetics	IPSS-R category vector ^A		1.33 (1.21 - 1.47)	0.287	1.390
gene main effects 17 variables, 16 genes	<i>TP53</i> ^{multi}		3.27 (2.38 - 4.48)	1.18	0.0710
	<i>MLL</i> ^{PTD}		2.22 (1.49 - 3.32)	0.798	0.0247
	<i>FLT3</i> ^{TD+TKD}		2.22 (1.11 - 4.45)	0.798	0.0108
	<i>SF3B1</i> ^{5q}		1.66 (1.03 - 2.66)	0.504	0.0166
	<i>NPM1</i>		1.54 (0.78 - 3.02)	0.430	0.0112
	<i>RUNX1</i>		1.53 (1.23 - 1.89)	0.423	0.126
	<i>NRAS</i>		1.52 (1.05 - 2.20)	0.417	0.0362
	<i>ETV6</i>		1.48 (0.98 - 2.23)	0.391	0.0216
	<i>IDH2</i>		1.46 (1.05 - 2.02)	0.379	0.0429
	<i>CBL</i>		1.34 (0.99 - 1.82)	0.295	0.0473
	<i>EZH2</i>		1.31 (0.98 - 1.75)	0.270	0.0588
	<i>U2AF1</i>		1.28 (1.01 - 1.61)	0.247	0.0866
	<i>SRSF2</i>		1.27 (1.03 - 1.56)	0.239	0.158
	<i>DNMT3A</i>		1.25 (1.02 - 1.53)	0.221	0.161
	<i>ASXL1</i>		1.24 (1.02 - 1.51)	0.213	0.252
	<i>KRAS</i>		1.22 (0.84 - 1.77)	0.202	0.0271
	<i>SF3B1</i> ^{1*}		0.92 (0.74 - 1.16)	-0.0794	0.186
gene residuals ^S 1 variable, 15 genes	min(<i>Nres</i> ,2) Possible values are 0,1 or 2		1.26 (1.12 - 1.42)	0.231	0.388

Hematological parameters as continuous variables

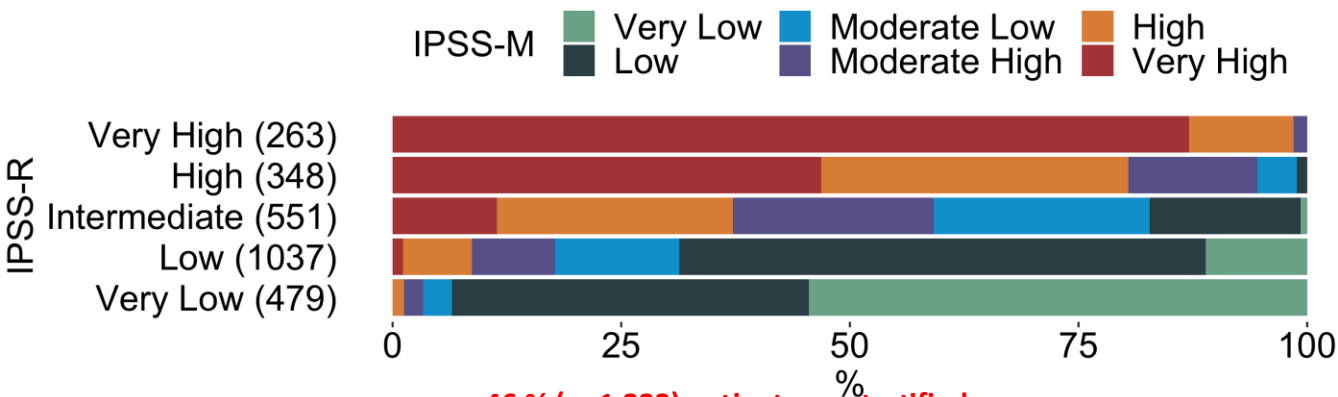
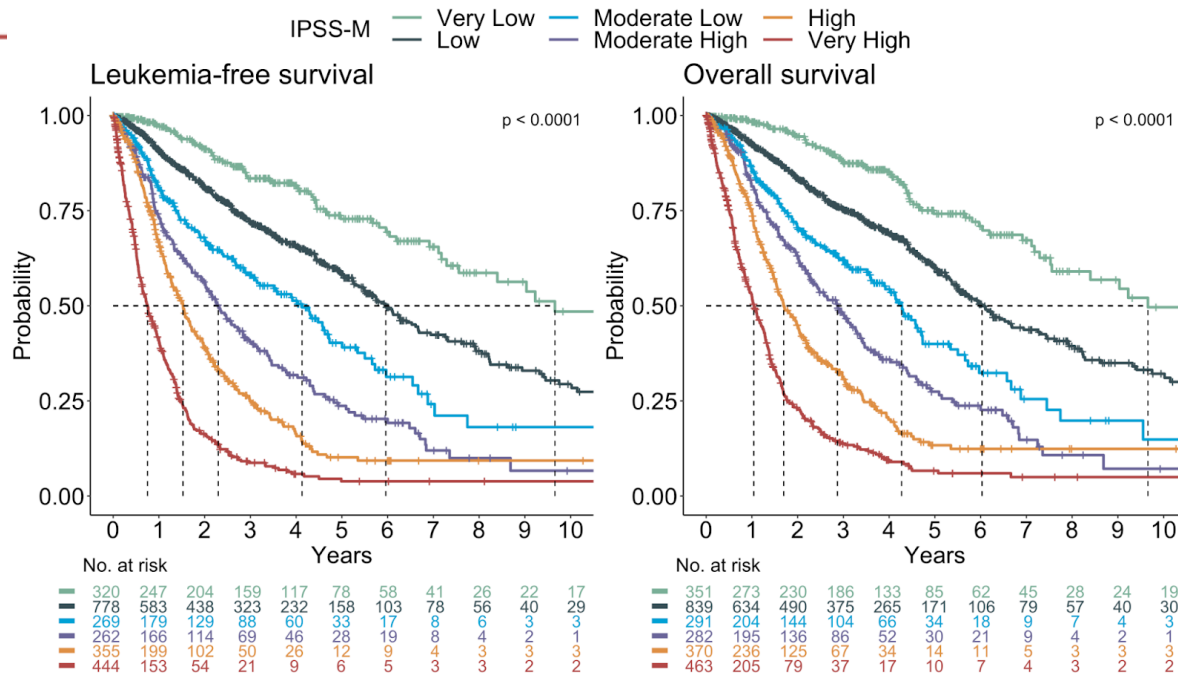
IPSS-R cytogenetic categories,

17 Variables from 16 genes

1 Variable from 15 residual genes ^
Number of mutated genes (0, 1 ou 2)

gènes résiduels : *BCOR*, *BCORL1*, *CEBPA*, *ETNK1*, *GATA2*, *GNB1*, *IDH1*, *NF1*, *PHF6*, *PPM1D*, *PRPF8*, *PTPN11*, *SETBP1*, *STAG2*, *WT1*

IPSS-M risk categories Very low | low | low moderate | high moderate | high | very high



46 % (n=1 223) patients re-stratified

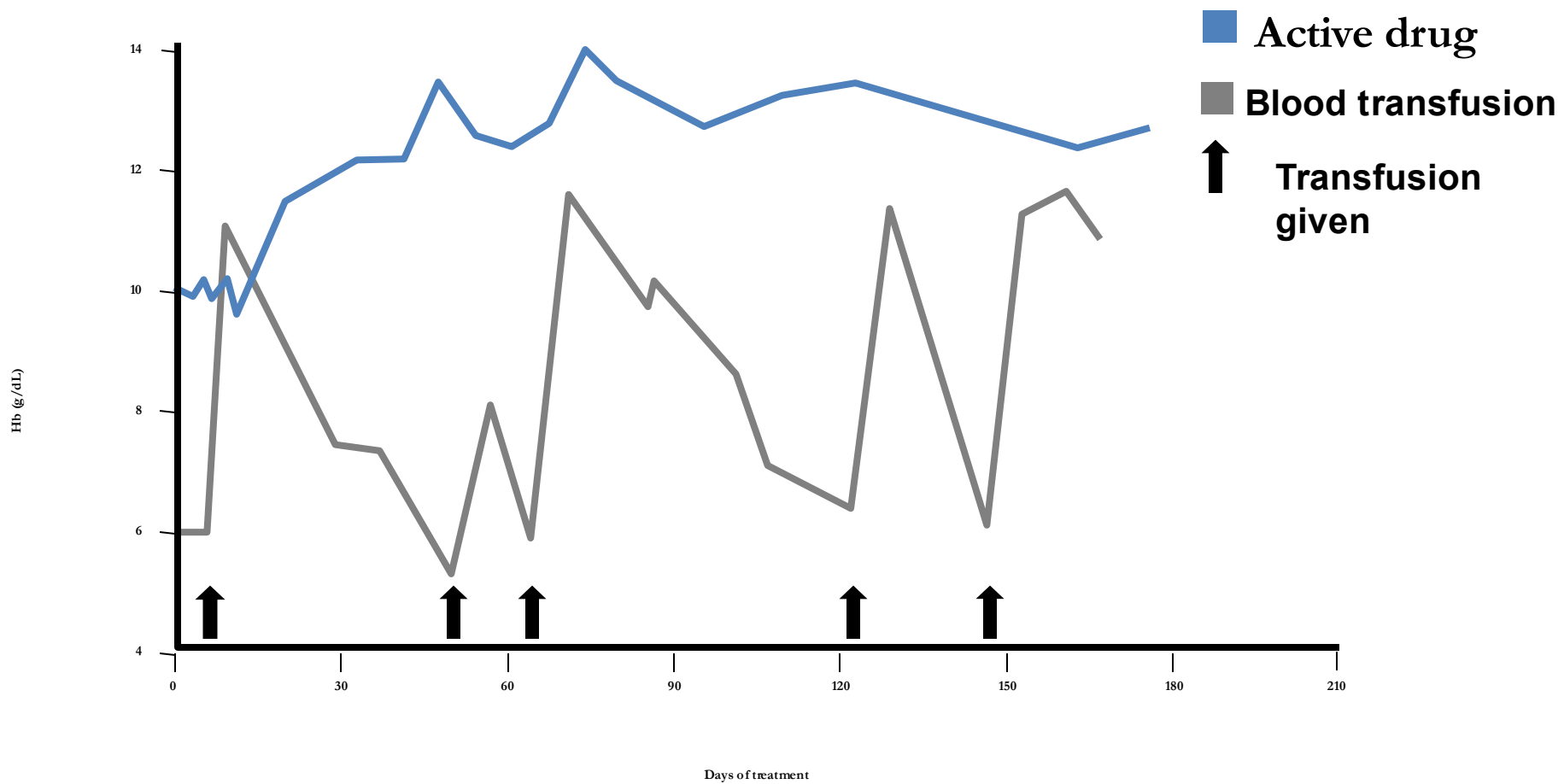
7% (n=196) patients re-stratified by more than one strata

Mutations with largest clinical significance in MDS

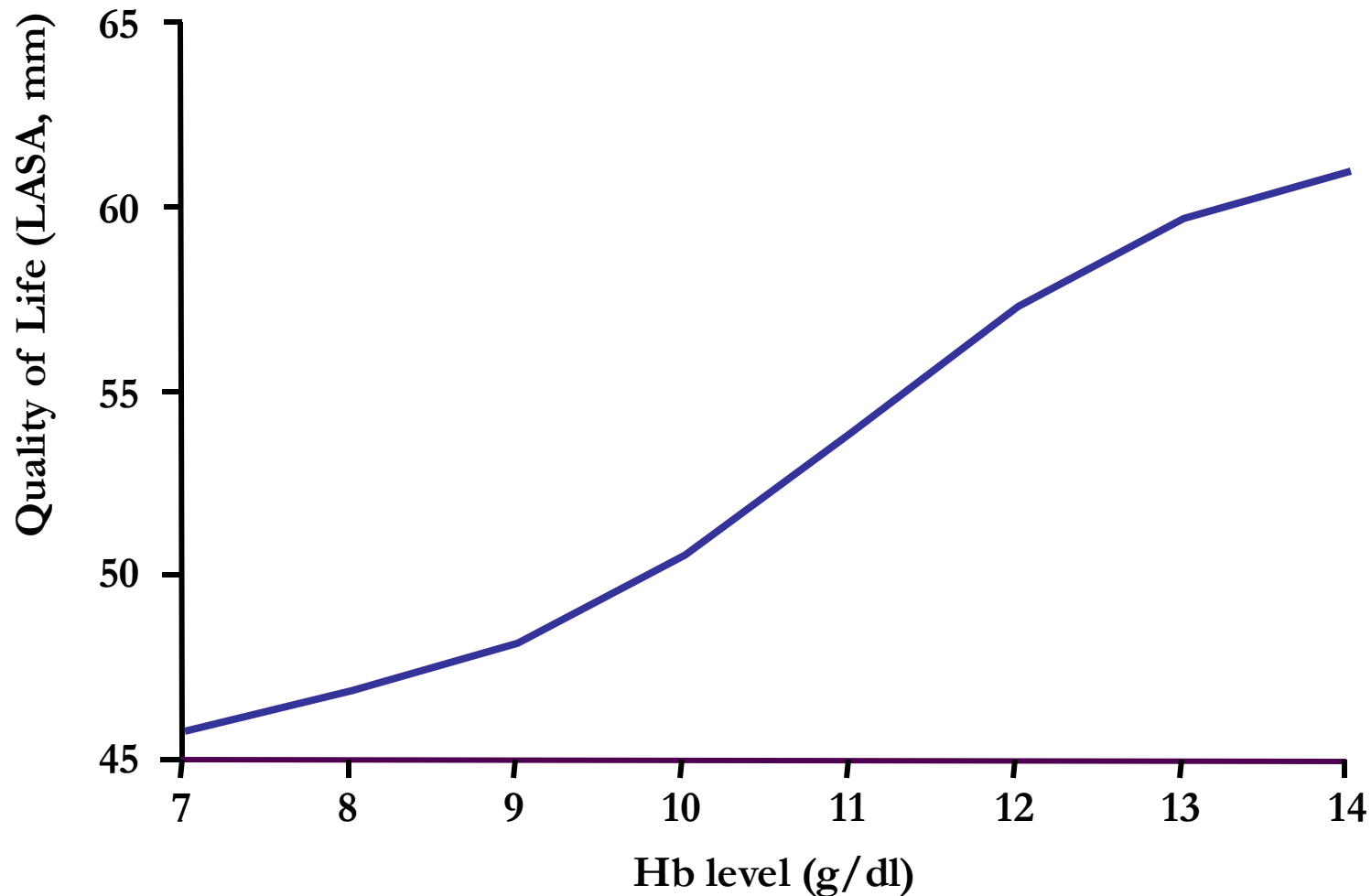
- SF3B1
 - Alone of with «favorable » mutations (TET2...)
 - With unfavorable mutations (RUNX1....)
- TP53
 - Biallelic: *complex karyotype* with del 17p, del 5q
 - Monoallelic (*non complex karyotype*)
 - Isolated del 5q
 - others
- IDH1
- IDH2
- (FLT3, NPM1)

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Quality of Life is correlated to Hb levels



Treatments of lower risk MDS: How to prevent anemia recurrence?

- First line treatment
 - ESAs (EPO and darbepoetin) (non del 5q)
 - 50% responses
 - Median duration 20 to 24 months
 - Lenalidomide (del 5q)
 - 65% transfusion independence
 - 50% complete cytogenetic response
 - Median duration 2.2 years

Treatments of lower risk MDS: How to prevent anemia recurrence?

- Second line treatments
 - Immunosuppressive drugs
 - 40% response rate
 - Selected population
 - Lenalidomide (non del 5q)
 - 25-30% transfusion independence
 - Median duration 35-40 weeks
 - Hypomethylating agents
 - 20-30% response

Early start of LEN in MDS with del 5q ?

SINTRA –REV trial (M Diez Campelo, ASH 2020 and ASH 2022)

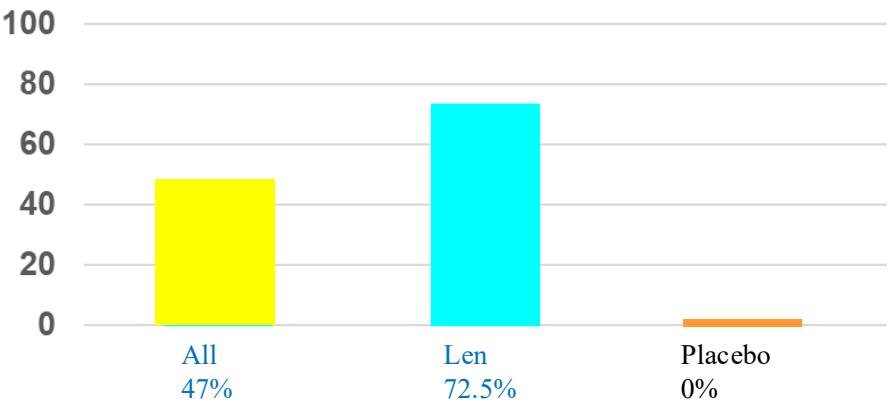
- Patients with Hb <12g, no RBC TD
- randomized between LEN (5mg/d) or placebo



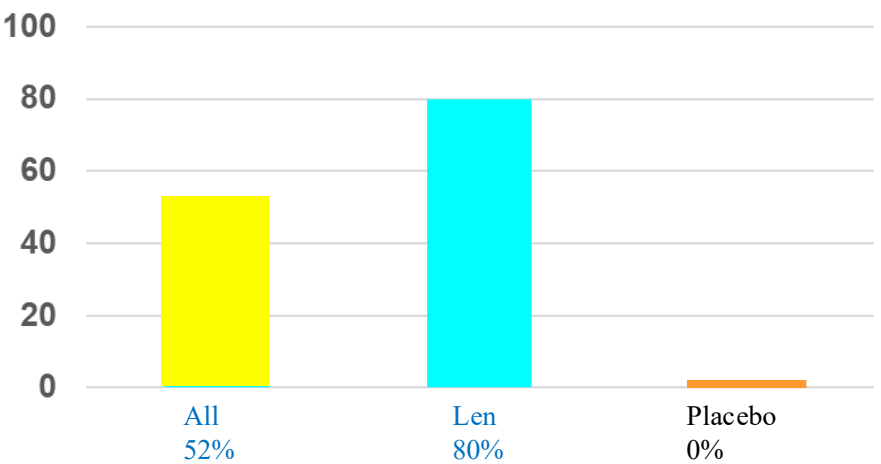
Sintra-Rev Clinical Trial

Low doses of Len improved Erythroid and Cytogenetic responses

✓ Erythroid Response



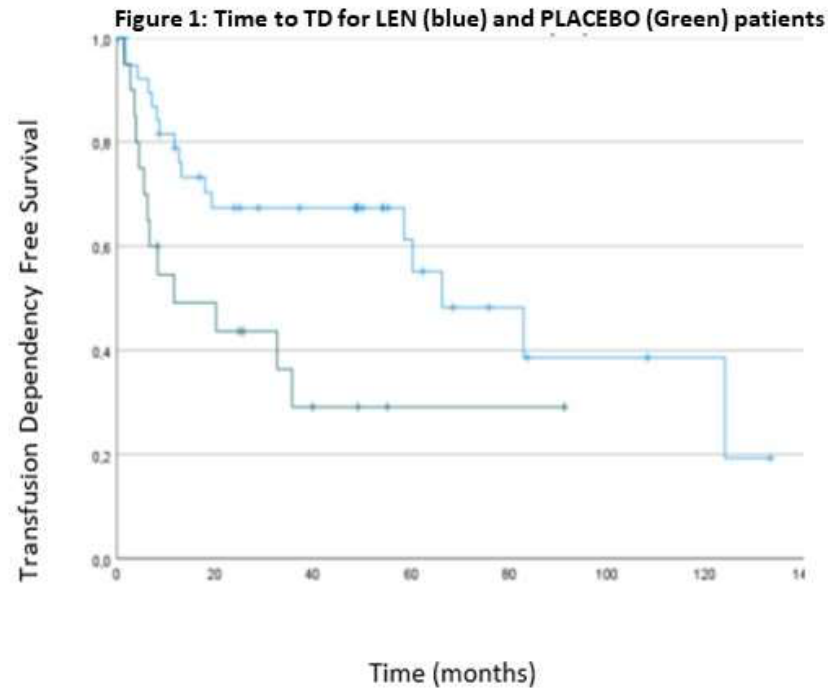
✓ Cytogenetic Response



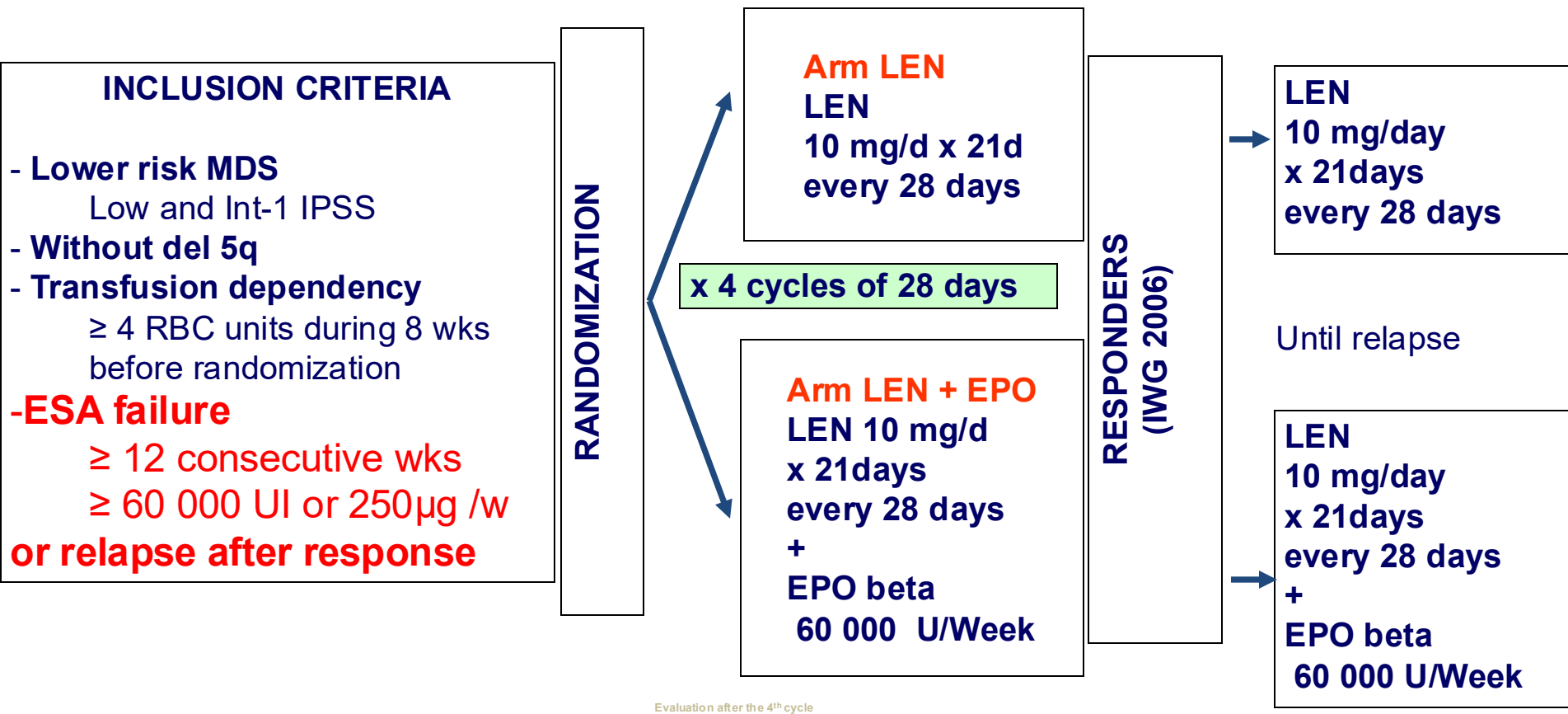
Sintra-Rev Clinical Trial

Low doses of Len delayed and decreased transfusion dependency

Median time to Transfusion Dependency (median 66.3 vs 11.6 months)



LEN+ EPO in lower risk MDS without del 5q



Erythroid response and RBC-TI




(patients who received ≥ 4 cycles n= 99)

	LEN + EPO N = 50	LEN N = 49	
Erythroid response (IWG 2006)	52%	30.6%	RR = 1.7 p= 0.03

New drugs for anemia of non del 5q lower risk MDS

- Metapivat/etavopivat
- Spliceosome inhibitors
- Imetelstat (telomerase inhibitor)
- Daratumumab (CD 38 inhibitor)
- Fc engineered antibody BI 836858 (MDSC inhibition)
- Inhibition of the NLRP3 inflammasome (including of S 100A9)
- TLR inhibition
- HIF hydroxylase inhibitors (Roxadustat)
- Asunercept (blockade of the CD 95 ligand system)
- IDH1 and IDH2 inhibitors
- Luspatercept (ligand trap to inhibit negative regulators of late-stage erythropoiesis, including GDF11 and activin B)

Roxadustat for the treatment of anemia in patients with lower-risk myelodysplastic syndrome: Open-label, dose-selection, lead-in stage of a phase 3 study

David H. Henry¹  | John Glaspy²  | Rosemary Harrup³ | Moshe Mittelman⁴  | Amy Zhou⁵ | Hetty E. Carraway⁶ | Charles Bradley⁷ | Gopal Saha⁷ | Katharina Modelska⁷ | Pamela Bartels⁷ | Robert Leong⁷ | Kin-Hung P. Yu⁷

- HIF hydroxylase inhibitor
- Lower risk MDS with sEPO<400 and low RBC transfusion requirement
- N=24, TI in 9 (37.5%)
- No major side effects

original reports

Imetelstat Achieves Meaningful and Durable Transfusion Independence in High Transfusion–Burden Patients With Lower-Risk Myelodysplastic Syndromes in a Phase II Study

David P. Steensma, MD¹; Pierre Fenaux, MD, PhD²; Koen Van Eygen, MD³; Azra Raza, MD⁴; Valeria Santini, MD⁵; Ulrich Germing, MD, PhD⁶; Patricia Font, MD⁷; Maria Diez-Campelo, MD, PhD⁸; Sylvain Thepot, MD⁹; Edo Vellenga, MD, PhD¹⁰; Mrinal M. Patnaik, MBBS¹¹; Jun Ho Jang, MD¹²; Helen Varsos, MS, RPh¹³; Jacqueline Bussolari, PhD¹³; Esther Rose, MD¹³; Laurie Sherman, RN¹⁴; Libo Sun, PhD¹⁴; Ying Wan, MD, PhD¹⁴; Souria Dougherty, BS, MBA¹⁴; Fei Huang, PhD¹⁴; Faye Feller, MD¹⁴; Aleksandra Rizo, MD, PhD¹⁴; and Uwe Platzbecker, MD¹⁵

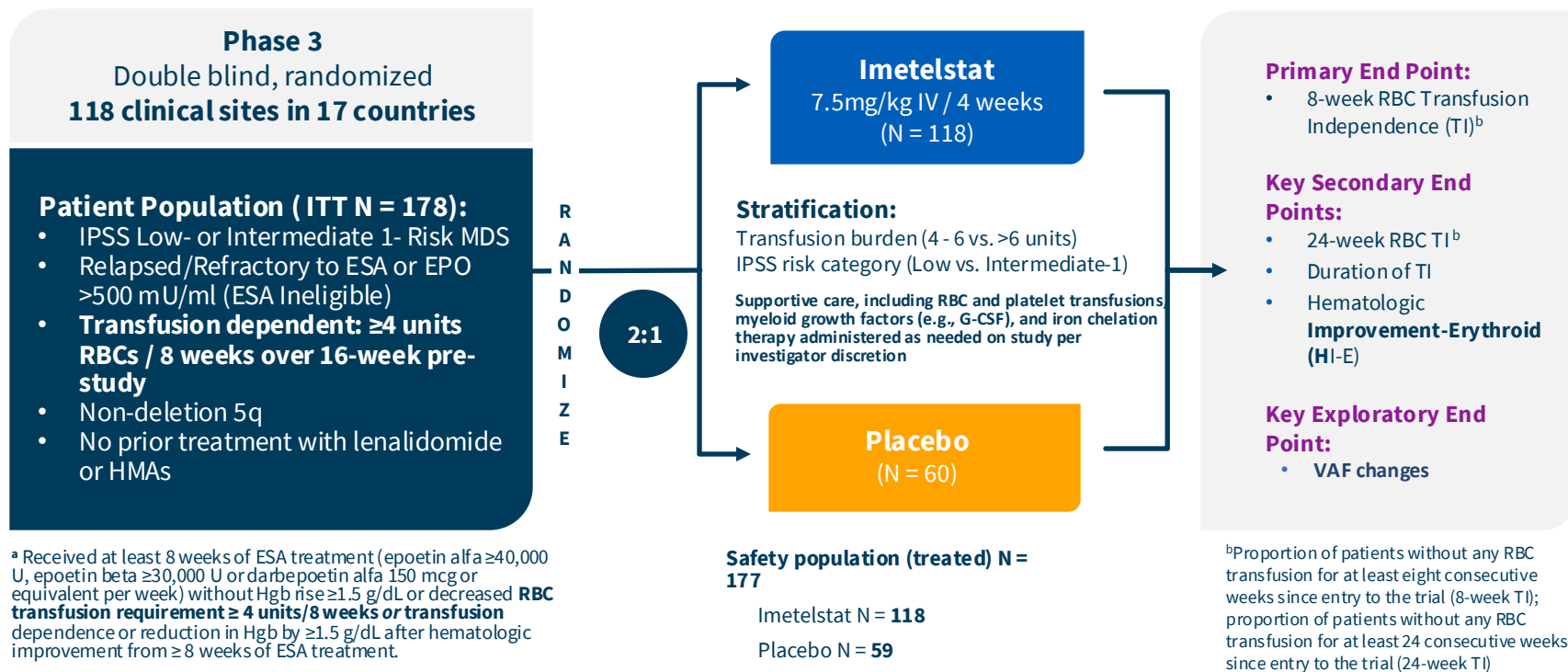
- N=38
- 63% of patients IPSS Low and 37% Int-1
- Median RBC transfusion requirement 8 units/8weeks

Parameters	n = 38
8-week TI, n (%)	16 (42%)
Duration of TI ^a , weeks, median (range)	85.9 (8.0 – 140.9)
24-week TI, n (%)	11 (29)
HI-E per IWG 2006, n (%)	26 (68)

IMerge: Results From a Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study of Imetelstat in Patients With Heavily Transfusion Dependent Non-Del(5q) Lower-Risk Myelodysplastic Syndromes Relapsed/Refractory to Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents

Amer Zeidan, MBBS MHS,¹ Uwe Platzbecker, MD,² Valeria Santini, MD,³ Pierre Fenau, MD, PhD,⁴ Mikkael A. Sekeres, MD,⁵ Michael Robert Savona, MD,⁶ Yazan F. Madanat, MD,⁷ Maria Diez-Campelo, MD, PhD,⁸ David Valcarcel-Ferreiras, MD, PhD,⁹ Thomas Ilmer, MD,¹⁰ Anna Jonasova, PhD,¹¹ Petra Belohlavkova, PhD,¹² Laurie Sherman, BSN,¹³ Tymara Berry, MD,¹³ Souria Dougherty, MBA,¹³ Sheetal Shah, BS,¹³ Libo Sun, PhD,¹³ Ying Wan, MD, PhD,¹³ Fei Huang, PhD,¹³ and Rami Komrokji, MD¹⁴

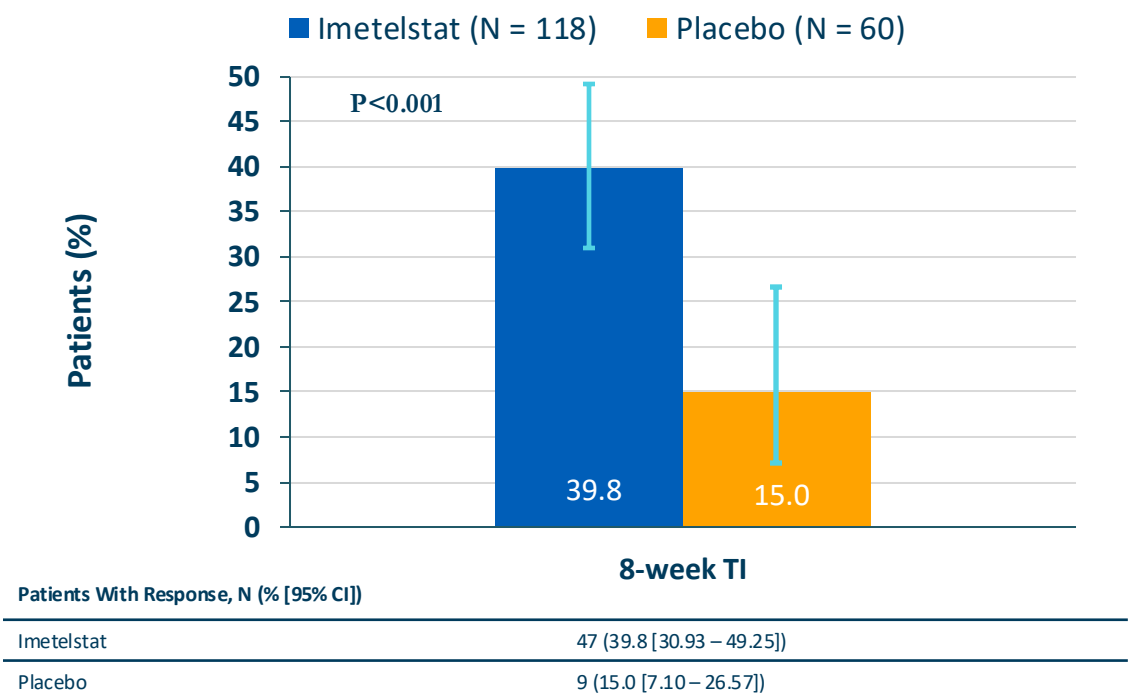
¹Section of Hematology, Department of Internal Medicine, Yale School of Medicine and Yale Comprehensive Cancer Center, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA; ²Department of Hematology, Cellular Therapy and Hemostaseology, Leipzig University Hospital, Leipzig, Germany; ³MDS Unit, Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria Careggi, University of Florence, Florence, Italy; ⁴Service d'Hématologie Séniors, Hôpital Saint-Louis, Université de Paris 7, Paris, France; ⁵Division of Hematology, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami, Miami, FL, USA; ⁶Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN, USA; ⁷Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX, USA; ⁸Hematology Department, The University Hospital of Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain; ⁹Hematology Department, Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron, Barcelona, Spain; ¹⁰Hematology Private Practice, Dresden, Germany; ¹¹1st Medical Department - Hematology, General Hospital, Prague, Czech Republic; ¹²4th Department of Internal Medicine - Haematology, Charles University Hospital, Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic; ¹³Geront Corporation, Foster City, CA, USA; ¹⁴Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL, USA



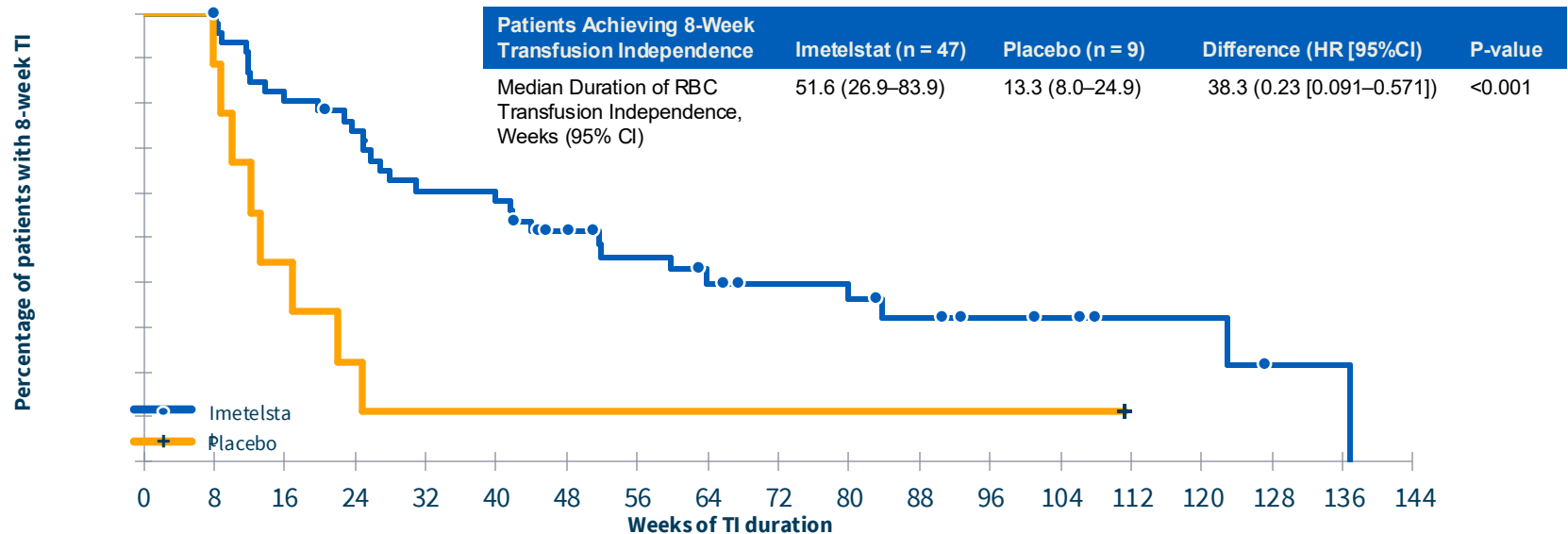
Baseline Patient and Disease

Characteristic	Imetelstat (N = 118)	Placebo (N = 60)
Median age, y (range)	72 (44-87)	73 (39-85)
Male, n (%)	71 (60)	40 (66)
Median time since diagnosis, y (range)	3.5 (0.1-26.7)	2.8 (0.2-25.7)
WHO classification, n (%)		
RS+	73 (62)	37 (62)
RS-	44 (37)	23 (38)
IPSS risk category n (%)		
Low	80 (68)	39 (65)
Intermediate-1	38 (32)	21 (35)
Median pretreatment hemoglobin, ^a g/dL (range)	7.92 (5.3-10.1)	7.80 (6.1-9.2)
Median prior RBC transfusion burden, RBC units / 8 weeks (range)	6 (4-33)	6 (4-13)
Prior RBC transfusion burden, n (%)		
≥4 to ≤6 units / 8 weeks	62 (53)	33 (55)
>6 units / 8 weeks	56 (48)	27 (45)
Median sEPO, mU/mL (range)	174.9 (6.0-4460.0)	277.0 (16.9-5514.0)
sEPO level, n (%)		
≤500 mU/mL	87 (74)	36 (60)
>500 mU/mL	26 (22)	22 (37)
Prior erythropoiesis stimulating agents use, n (%)	108 (92)	52 (87)
Prior luspatercept use, ^b n (%)	7 (6)	4 (7)

Primary End Point: 8-Week RBC TI Rate Significantly Higher With Imetelstat vs Placebo Overall



Imetelstat 8-Week RBC-TI Responders Have Significantly Longer Duration of Transfusion Independence vs Placebo



Number of patients

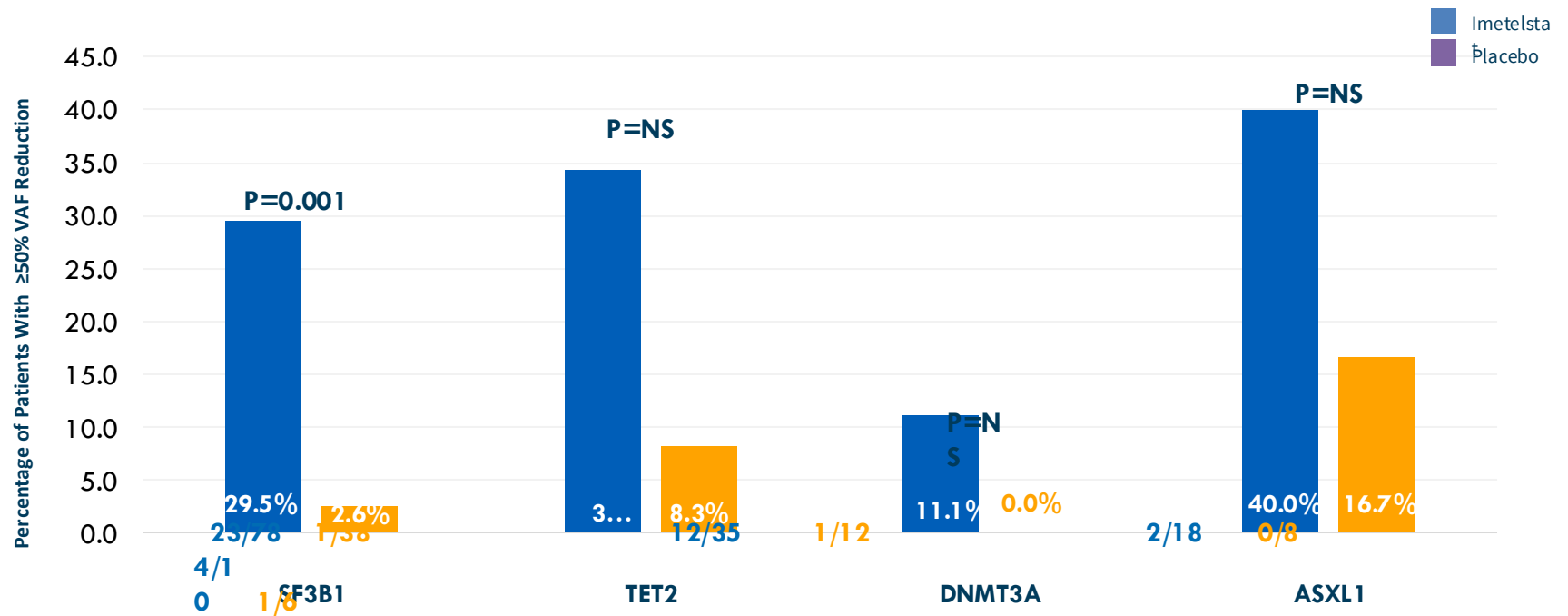
Imetelstat	47	47	37	33	27	26	20	16	13	11	11	8	6	5	3	3	1	1	0
Placebo	9	9	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0				

Consistent with Prior Clinical Experience, the Most Common SAEs Were Cytopenias in Cycles 1 – 3

- No new safety signals were observed
- Non-hematologic AEs were generally low grade
- The most frequent AEs with imetelstat were thrombocytopenia and neutropenia
 - A majority of patients with Grade 3-4 thrombocytopenia and neutropenia experienced them during Cycles 1-3
- No cases of Hy's Law or drug-induced liver injury observed
 - The incidence of grade 3 liver function test abnormalities were similar in both treatment groups

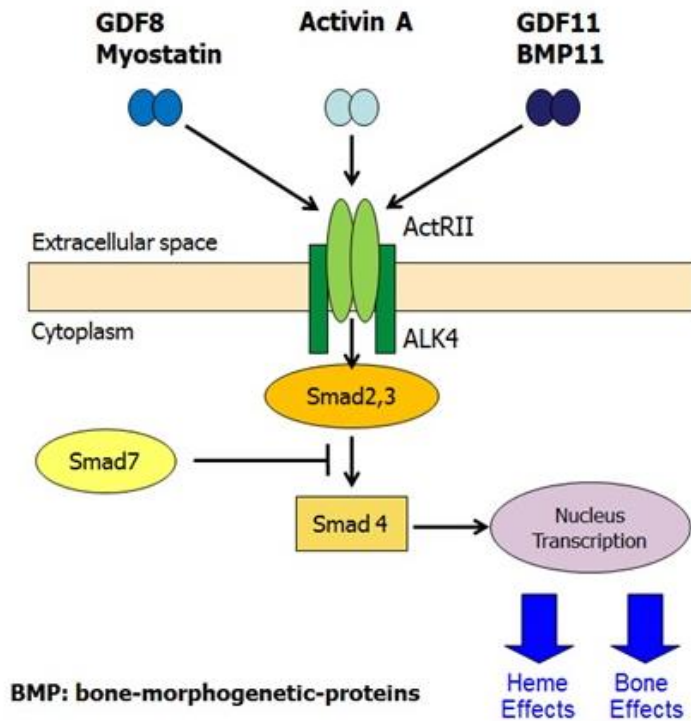
AE, n (%)	Imetelstat (N = 118)		Placebo (N = 59)	
	Any Grade	Grade 3 – 4	Any Grade	Grade 3 – 4
Hematologic				
Thrombocytopenia	89 (75)	73 (62)	6 (10)	5 (8)
Neutropenia	87 (74)	80 (68)	4 (7)	2 (3)
Anemia	24 (20)	23 (19)	6 (10)	4 (7)
Leukopenia	12 (10)	9 (8)	1 (2)	0
Other				
Asthenia	22 (19)	0	8 (14)	0
Edema peripheral	13 (11)	0	8 (14)	0
Pyrexia	9 (8)	2 (2)	7 (12)	0
COVID-19	22 (19) ^c	2 (2) ^d	8 (14) ^c	3 (5) ^d
Diarrhea	14 (12)	1 (1)	7 (12)	1 (2)
Constipation	9 (8)	0	7 (12)	0
Headache	15 (13)	1 (1)	3 (5)	0
Hyperbilirubinemia	11 (9)	1 (1)	6 (10)	1 (2)
Investigation: ALT increased ^a	14 (12)	3 (3)	4 (7)	2 (3)

More Patients With Imetelstat vs Placebo Had $\geq 50\%$ VAF Decrease in *SF3B1*, *TET2*, *DNMT3A*, *ASXL1* Mutations

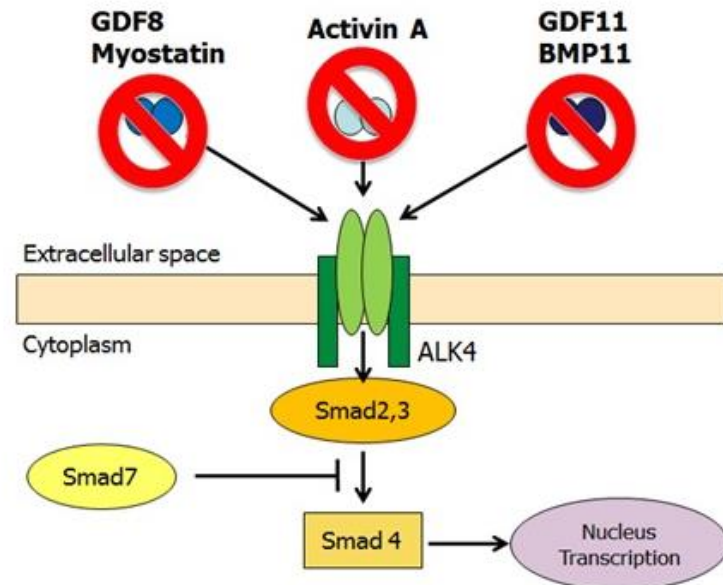


TGF beta inhibition

a. Activin receptor II (ActRII) pathway



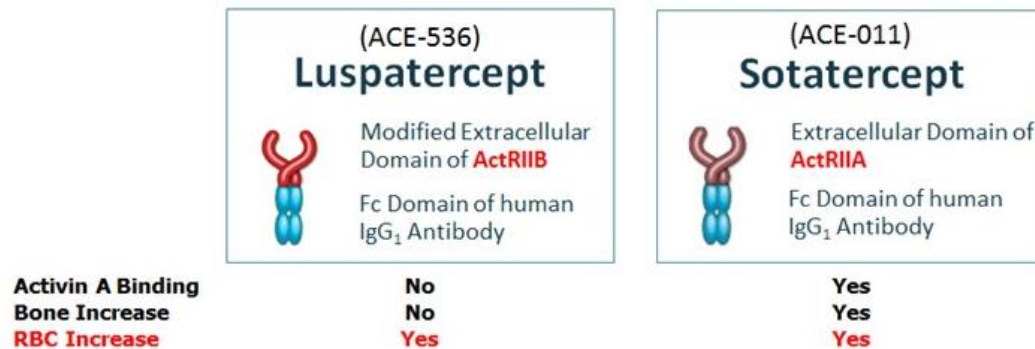
b. Activin receptor II (ActRII) pathway **inhibition**



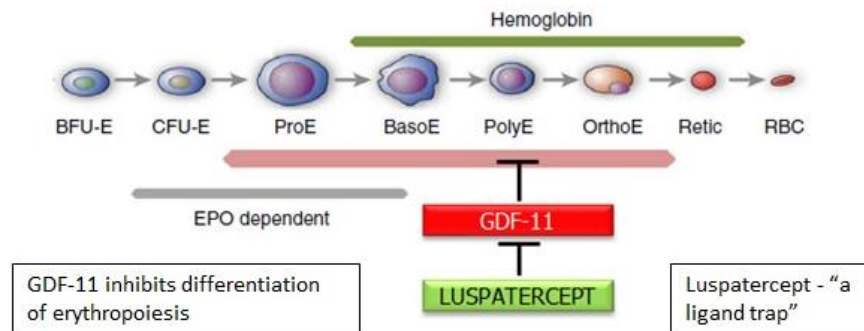
Luspatercept

Figure 2:

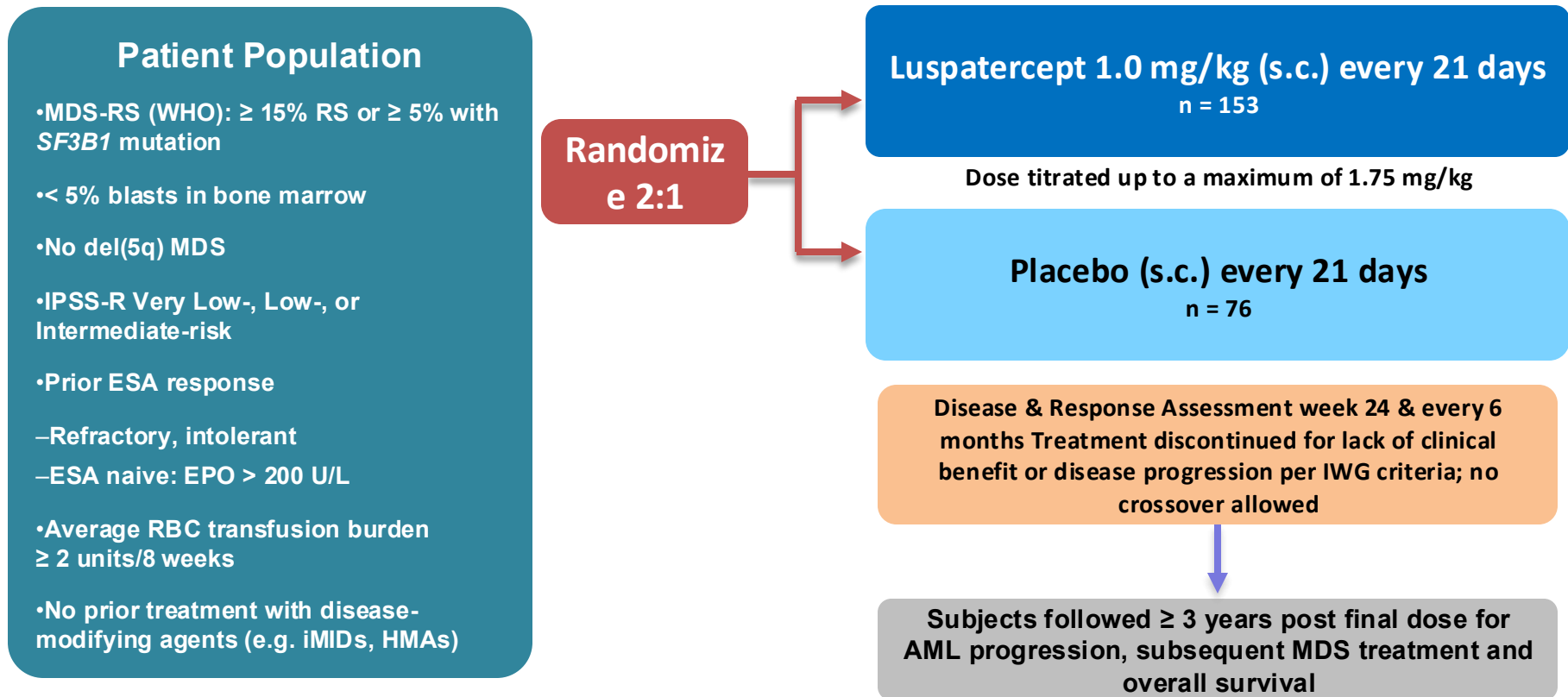
a. Structure of Luspatercept and Sotatercept



b. Mechanism of action of Luspatercept



MEDALIST Trial
Study Design – A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Phase 3 Study



Data cutoff: May 8, 2018 Includes last subject randomized + 48 weeks.

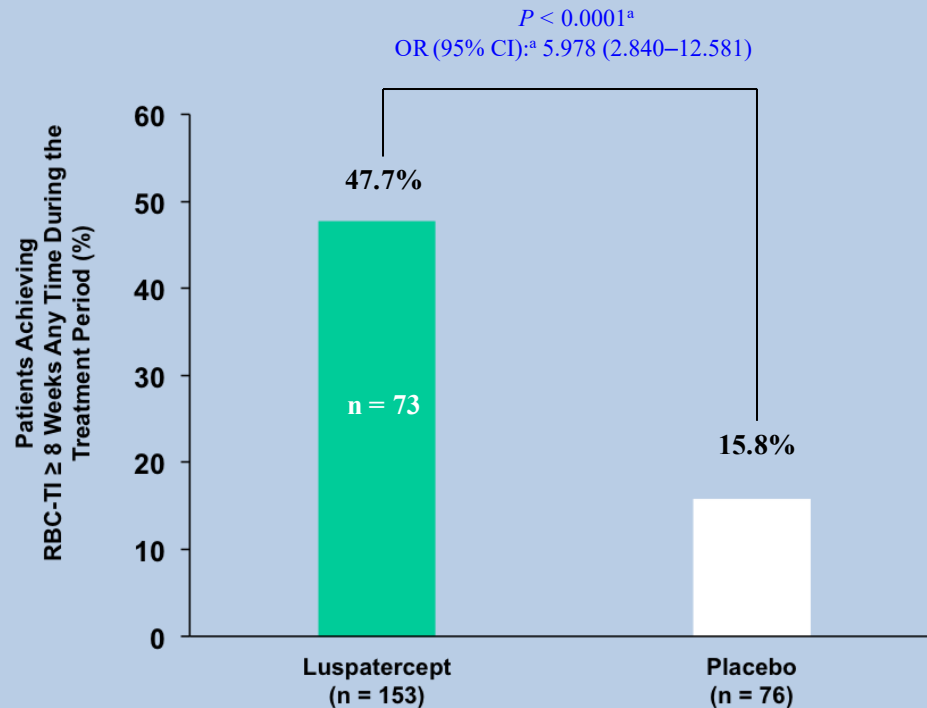
EPO, erythropoietin; HMA, hypomethylating agent; iMID, immunomodulatory drug; IWG, International Working Group; s.c., subcutaneously; *SF3B1*, splicing factor 3b subunit 1;

WHO, World Health Organization.

MEDALIST Trial

A Randomized, Phase 3 Study of Luspatercept in MDS RS

RBC-TI ≥ 8 weeks Achieved any time during treatment period

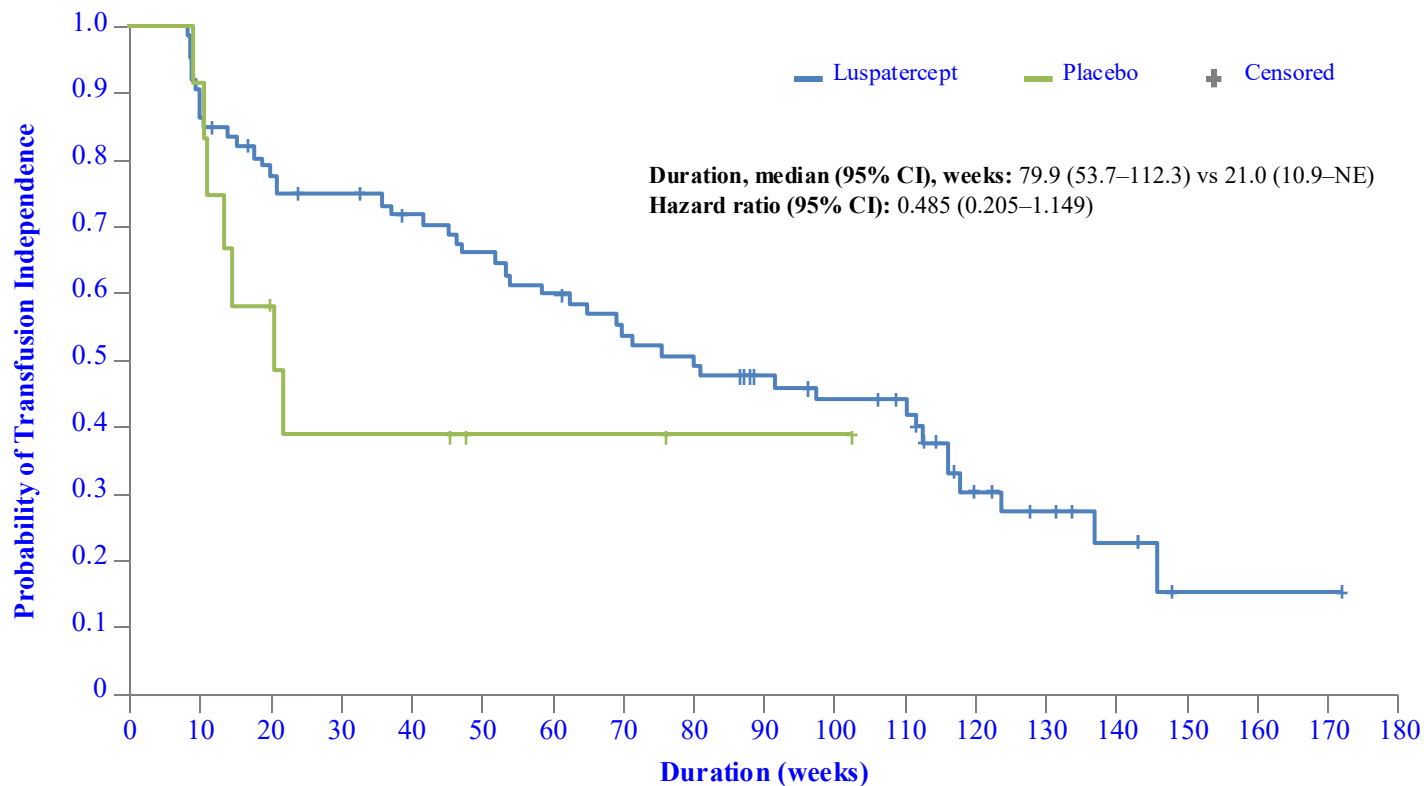


- Primary endpoint previously reported: 37.9% luspatercept versus 13.2% placebo patients achieved RBC-TI ≥ 8 weeks during Weeks 1–24 ($P < 0.0001$)¹

RBC-TI \geq 8 weeks by baseline transfusion burden

RBC-TI ≥ 8 Weeks Over the Entire Treatment Period	Luspatercept (n = 153)	Placebo (n = 76)	Luspatercept Minus Placebo	
			OR (95%CI) ^a	<i>P</i> Value ^a
Average baseline RBC transfusion requirement, n/N (%)				
≥ 6 U/8 weeks	14/66 (21.2)	2/33 (6.1)	4.17 (0.89–19.60)	0.0547
≥ 4 to < 6 U/8 weeks	20/41 (48.8)	2/23 (8.7)	10.00 (2.07–48.28)	0.0013
< 4 U/8 weeks	39/46 (84.8)	8/20 (40.0)	8.36 (2.51–27.83)	0.0002

Cumulative Duration of RBC-ti \geq 8 weeks^a IN ALL RESPONDERS



Number of patients^b

Luspatercept	73	63	55	52	48	44	40	35	32	27	24	22	11	8	5	1	1	1
Placebo	12	11	7	4	4	2	2	2	1	1	1							

^a Cumulative duration of RBC-TI \geq 8 weeks is defined as the sum of all durations of RBC-TI for patients achieving RBC-TI \geq 8 weeks during the entire treatment phase.

^b In the intent-to-treat population; patients who maintained response were censored from the analysis.

NE, not estimable.

SAFETY

Disease progression

Summary of Disease Progression, n (%)	Luspatercept (n = 153)	Placebo (n = 76)
Progression to HR-MDS or AML	8 (5.2)	4 (5.3)
HR-MDS	5 (3.3)	2 (2.6)
AML	3 (2.0)	2 (2.6)

AML, acute myeloid leukemia; HR-MDS, higher-risk myelodysplastic syndromes.

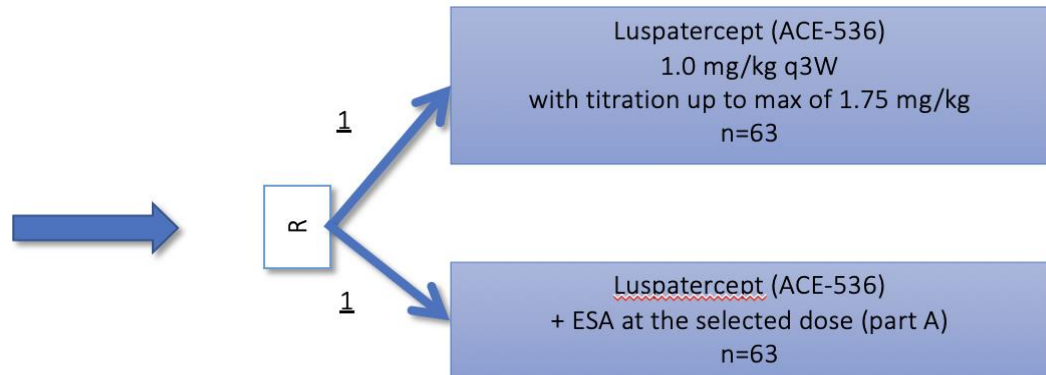
Perspectives with Luspatercept

- Combinations with
 - EPO
 - Lenalidomide
- Use en MDS without ring cells
 - Commands trial (Luspa vs EPO)
 - Combola trial

Luspa+/- EPO: Combola Trial (L Adès)

1° Endpoint: transfusion independence for TD dependent patients and hematological improvement For non TD dependent patient at W25

- Patients with lower risk MDS according to IPSS classification (LOW, INT-1) without RS
- failed to achieved a response or who subsequently relapse after ESA (at least 60000 U EPO-a over at least 12weeks or equivalent), without disease progression (Or ineligible to ESA defined by EPO > 500 UI/l)
- Hemoglobin < 9 gr/dl or Transfusion dependant(at least 3 RBCs
- No del(5q) MDS



Luspatercept versus epoetin alfa for treatment of anemia in ESA-naive lower-risk myelodysplastic syndromes patients requiring RBC transfusions: data from the phase 3 COMMANDS study

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*At the time of the study

The COMMANDS study

The COMMANDS study (NCT03682536) is a phase 3, global, open-label, randomized trial comparing the efficacy and safety of luspatercept versus epoetin alfa for the treatment of anemia due to IPSS-R LR-MDS in ESA-naïve patients who require RBC transfusions

Key eligibility criteria

- ≥ 18 years of age
- IPSS-R very low-, low, or intermediate-risk MDS (with or without RS) by WHO 2016, with $< 5\%$ blasts in bone marrow^a
- Required RBC transfusions (2–6 pRBC units/8 weeks for a minimum of 8 weeks immediately prior to randomization)
- Endogenous sEPO < 500 U/L
- ESA-naïve

Patients stratified by:

- Baseline sEPO level
- Baseline RBC transfusion burden
- RS status

Randomize
1:1

Luspatercept (N = 178)
1.0 mg/kg s.c. Q3W
titration up to 1.75 mg/kg

Epoetin alfa (N = 178)^b
450 IU/kg s.c. QW
titration up to 1050 IU/kg

Response assessment at
day 169 and every
24 weeks thereafter

End treatment
Due to lack of clinical benefit^c
or disease progression
per IWG criteria

Post-treatment safety follow-up

- Monitoring for other malignancies, HR-MDS or AML progression, subsequent therapies, survival
- For 5 years from first dose or 3 years from last dose, whichever is later

^aMDS with del(5q) were excluded. ^b2 patients randomized to the epoetin alfa arm withdrew consent prior to receiving their first dose; ^cClinical benefit defined as transfusion reduction of ≥ 2 pRBC units/8 weeks versus baseline; AML, acute myeloid leukemia; ESA, erythropoiesis-stimulating agent; IPSS-R, Revised International Prognostic Scoring System; IWG, International Working Group; LR-MDS, lower-risk MDS; MDS, myelodysplastic syndromes; pRBC, packed RBC; QW, once weekly; Q3W, every 3 weeks; RBC, red blood cell; RS, ring sideroblasts; s.c., subcutaneously; sEPO, serum erythropoietin; WHO, World Health Organization.

Study endpoints

Composite primary endpoint (weeks 1-24)

- RBC-TI for ≥ 12 weeks WITH CONCURRENT mean hemoglobin increase ≥ 1.5 g/dL

Secondary endpoints (weeks 1-24)

- HI-E response ≥ 8 weeks per IWG criteria
- RBC-TI for 24 weeks
- RBC-TI for ≥ 12 weeks

Secondary and exploratory endpoints

- Duration of RBC-TI for ≥ 12 weeks (week 1-EOT)
- Impact of baseline mutations on response
- Subgroup analyses

- The data cutoff date for this planned interim analysis was August 31, 2022
 - This prespecified interim analysis was planned for when ~ 300 patients had either completed 24 weeks of treatment or discontinued prior to completing 24 weeks of treatment (at 85% of information for the primary endpoint)

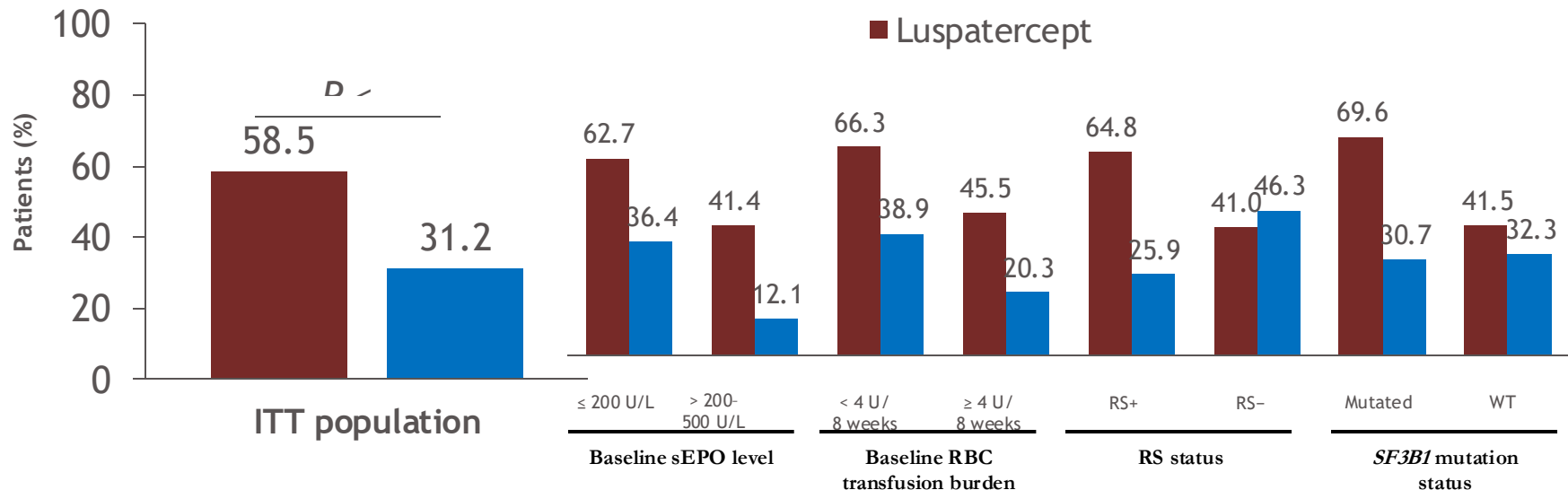
Safety

- Treatment discontinuation
- TEAE
- HR-MDS/AML progression
- Death

HI-E, hematological improvement-erythroid; RBC-TI, RBC transfusion independence; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event.

Primary endpoint: luspatercept superior to epoetin alfa

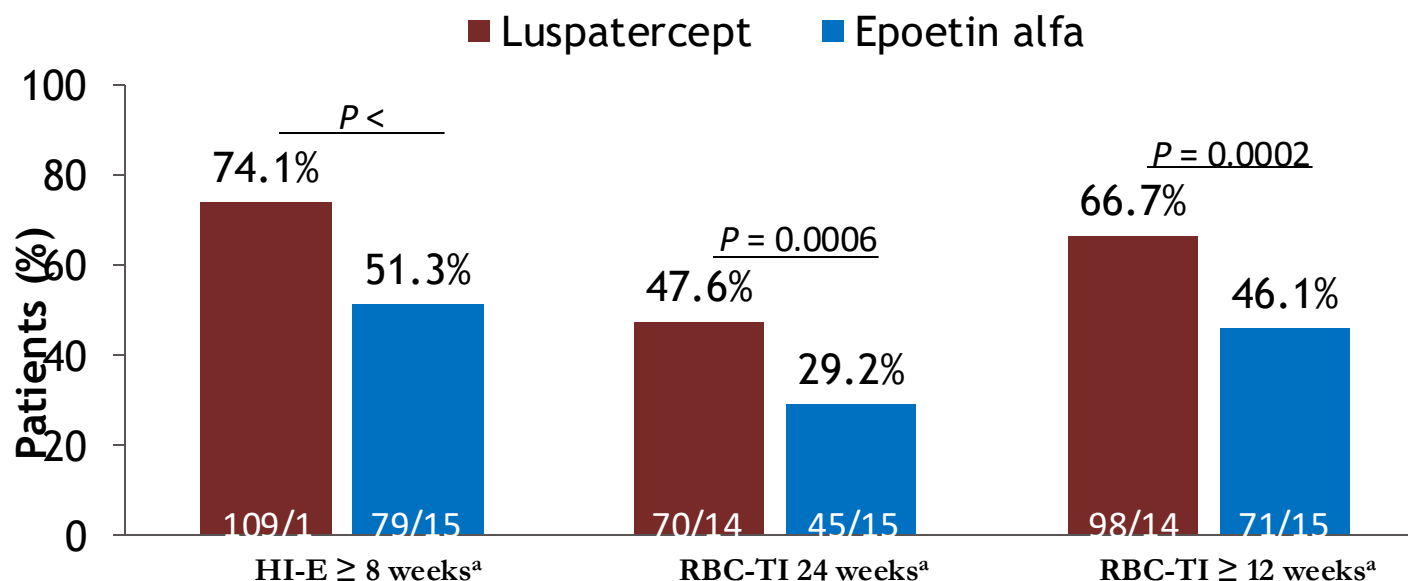
- Of 301 pts included in the efficacy analysis, 86 (58.5%) patients receiving luspatercept and 48 (31.2%) epoetin alfa achieved the primary endpoint
 - Achievement of the primary endpoint favored luspatercept or was similar to epoetin alfa for all subgroups analyzed



This prespecified interim analysis included 301 patients who had either completed 24 weeks of treatment or discontinued prior to completing 24 weeks of treatment.

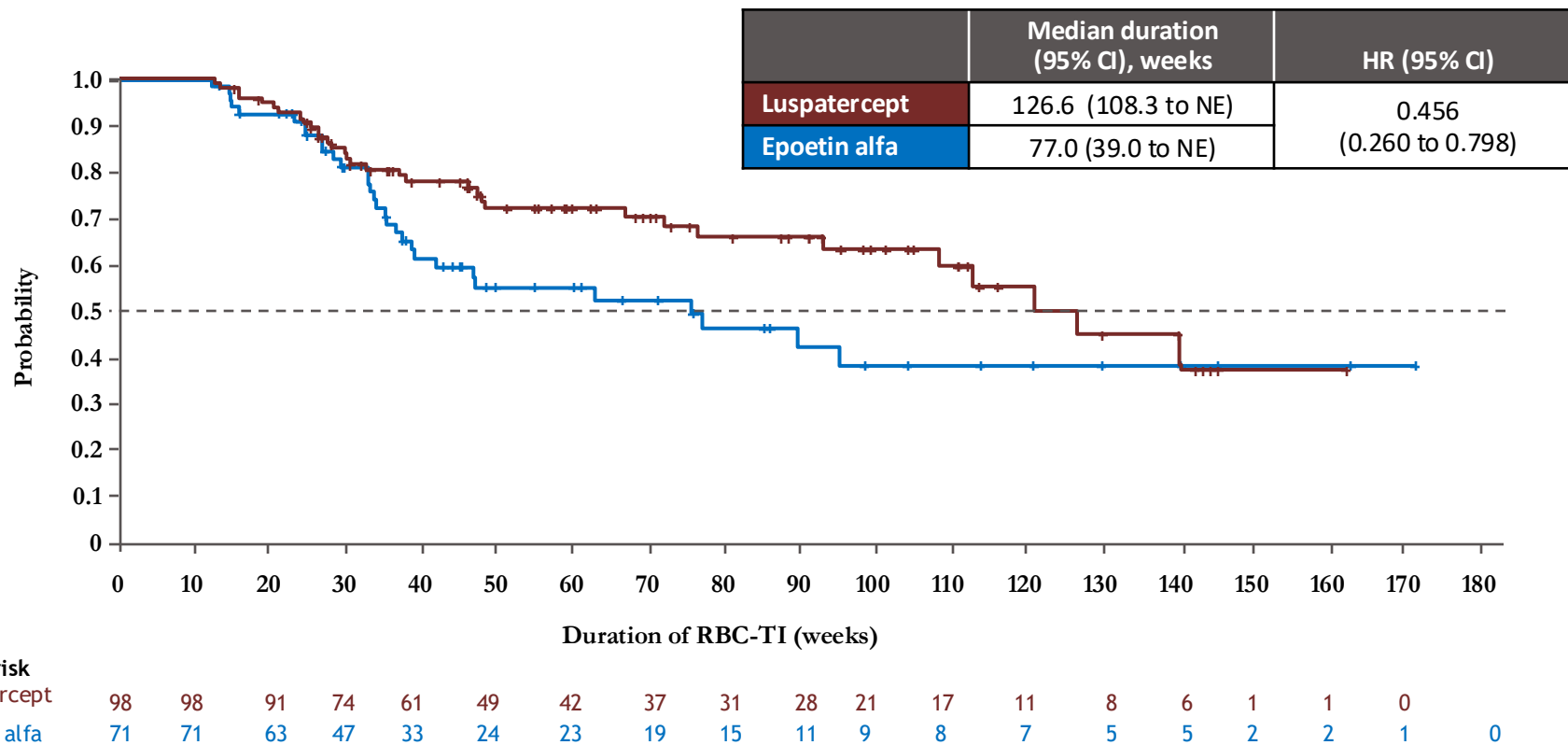
Secondary endpoints: luspatercept superior to epoetin alfa

	Luspatercept (N = 147)	Epoetin alfa (N = 154)
Time to first RBC transfusion (week 1-EOT)	n = 93 168.0 (64.0–323.0)	n = 116 42.0 (22.0–55.0)



^aDuring weeks 1-24.

Duration of RBC-TI ≥ 12 weeks^a

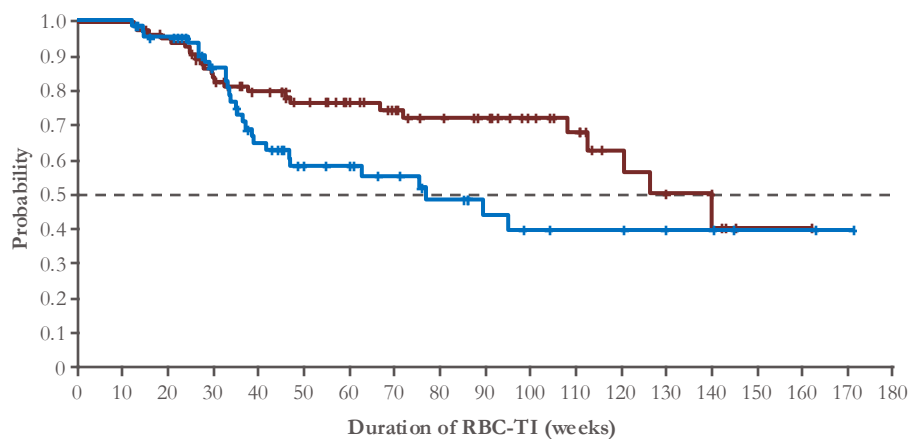


EOT, end of treatment; NE, not estimable; RBC-TI, red blood cell transfusion independence.

^aIn ITT responders during weeks 1–EOT.

Duration of RBC-TI ≥ 12 weeks^a: sEPO subgroups

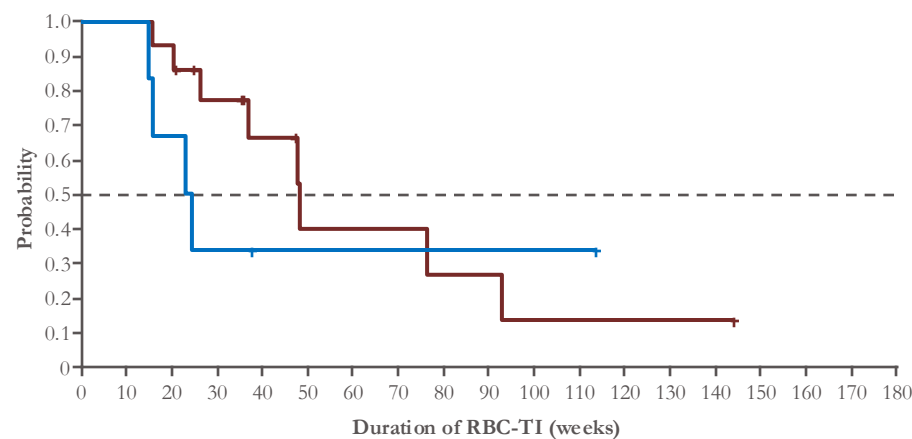
Median duration (95% CI), weeks	Luspatercept	Epoetin alfa	HR (95% CI)
sEPO ≤ 200 U/L	140.1 (112.7 to NE)	77.0 (41.9 to NE)	0.601 (0.348 to 1.038)
sEPO >200 -500 U/L	48.3 (26.3 to 93.0)	23.9 (14.9 to NE)	0.624 (0.186 to 2.092)

sEPO ≤ 200 U/L

No. at risk

Luspatercept	84	84	78	65	55	46	39	34	29	26	20	16	10	7	5	1	1	0	
Epoetin alfa	65	65	59	45	32	23	22	18	14	10	8	7	7	5	5	2	2	1	0

EOT, end of treatment; NE, not estimable; RBC-TI, red blood cell transfusion independence.

^aIn ITT responders during weeks 1–EOT.sEPO > 200 -500 U/L

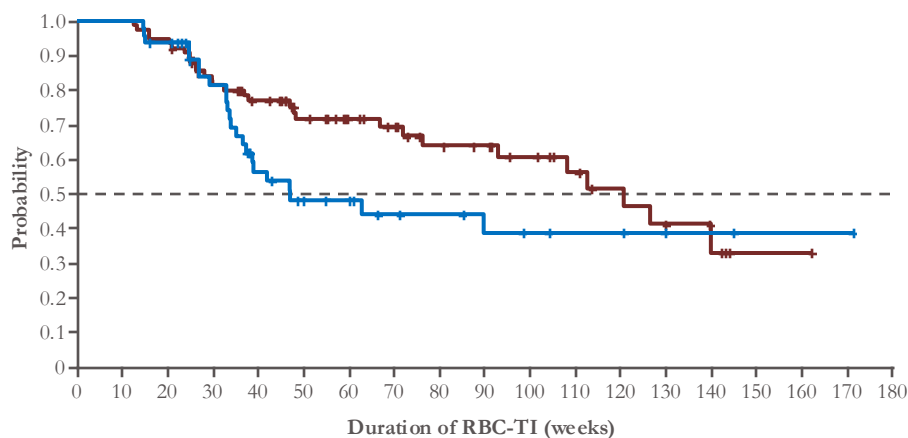
No. at risk

Luspatercept	14	14	13	9	6	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Epoetin alfa	6	6	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0

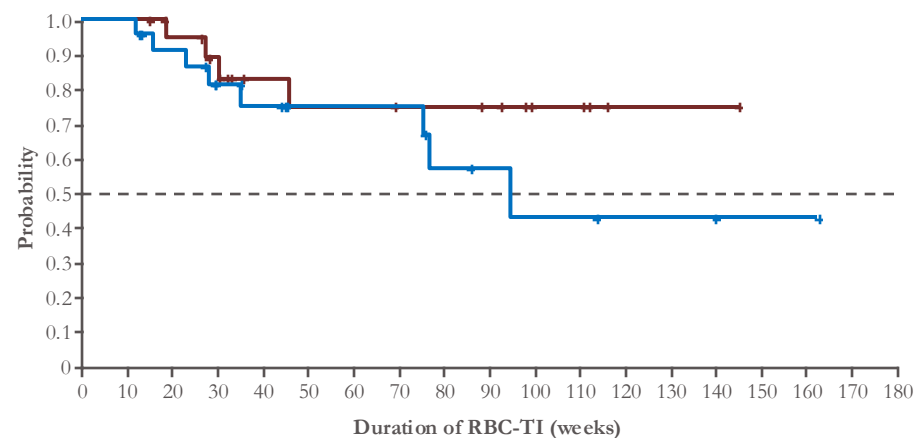
Duration of RBC-TI ≥ 12 weeks^a: RS subgroups

Median duration (95% CI), weeks	Luspatercept	Epoetin alfa	HR (95% CI)
RS+	120.9 (76.4 to NE)	47.0 (36.6 to NE)	0.626 (0.361 to 1.085)
RS-	NE (46.0 to NE)	95.1 (35.3 to NE)	0.492 (0.148 to 1.638)

RS+



RS-



No. at risk

	77	77	73	59	51	40	33	29	23	21	17	13	10	7	5	1	1	0
Luspatercept	77	77	73	59	51	40	33	29	23	21	17	13	10	7	5	1	1	0
Epoetin alfa	48	48	44	33	21	15	14	10	9	7	6	5	5	3	3	1	1	0

EOT, end of treatment; NE, not estimable; RBC-TI, red blood cell transfusion independence.

^aIn ITT responders during weeks 1–EOT.

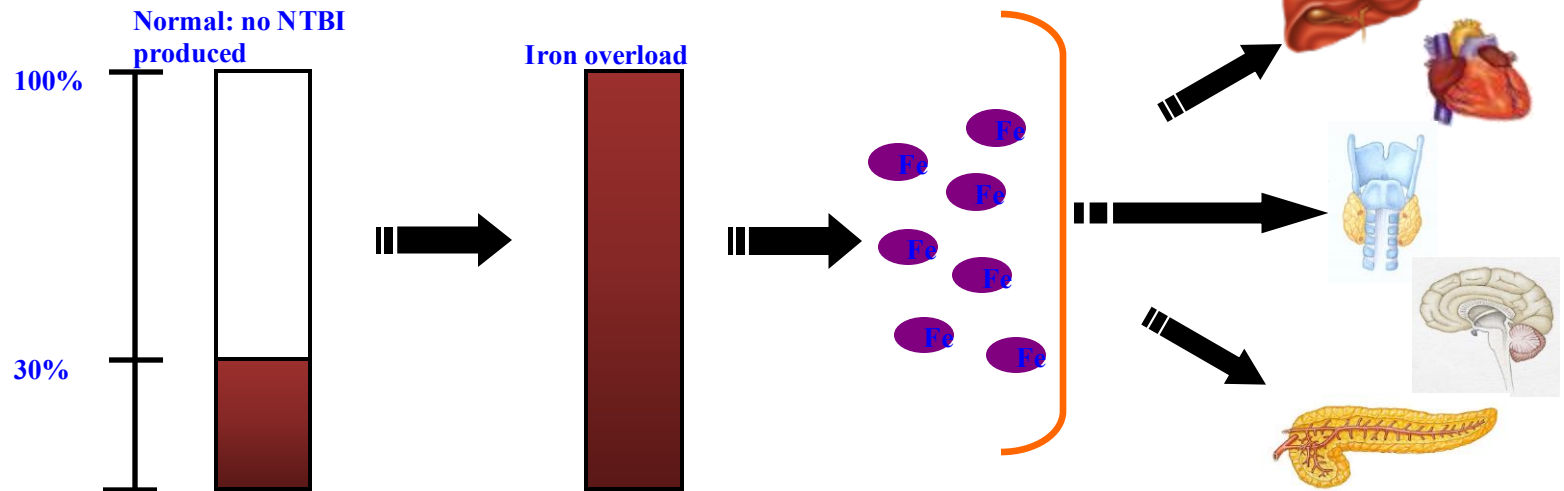
No. at risk

	21	21	18	15	10	9	9	8	8	7	4	4	1	1	1	0
Luspatercept	21	21	18	15	10	9	9	8	8	7	4	4	1	1	1	0
Epoetin alfa	23	23	19	14	12	9	9	9	6	4	3	3	2	2	2	1

Recent treatments of lower risk MDS

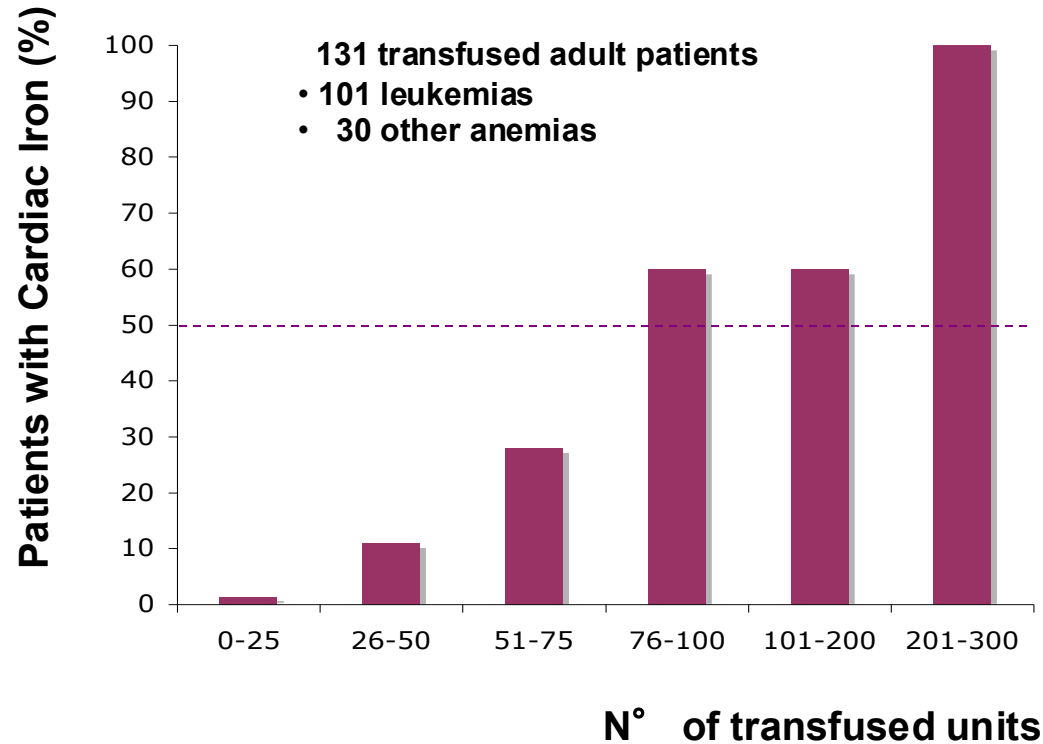
- Lower risk MDS: where is the limit ?
- Treatment of anemia of lower risk MDS
- Treatment of thrombocytopenia of lower risk MDS
- Chelation therapy ?
- Treatment of MDS with autoimmune/autoinflammatory disorders

Accumulation of non transferrin bound iron (NTBI or LPI) in organs



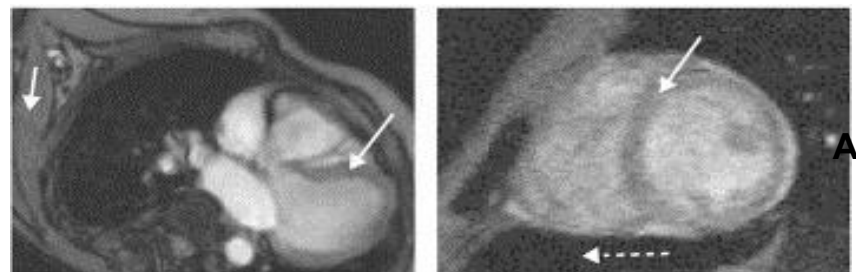
NTBI = non-transferrin bound iron.

Correlation between n° of transfusions and heart iron overload

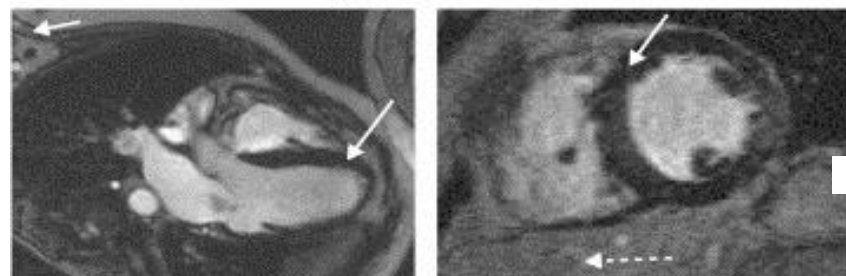


MRI can evaluate iron overload (T2*)

Normal myocardial iron

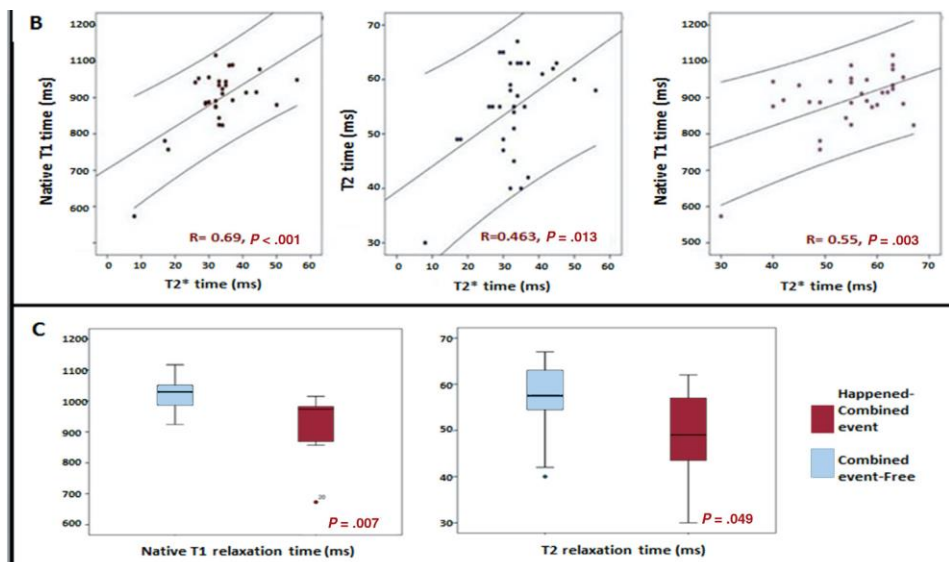


B Severe myocardial iron overload



Usefulness of myocardial T₁ and T₂ mapping with magnetic resonance in transfusion-dependent patients with low-risk myelodysplastic syndrome

Marta Alonso-Fernández-Gatta,^{a,b,◇,*} Ana Martín-García,^{a,b,◇}
 María Díez-Campelo,^c Agustín C. Martín-García,^{a,b}
 Félix López-Cadenas,^c and Pedro L. Sánchez^{a,b}



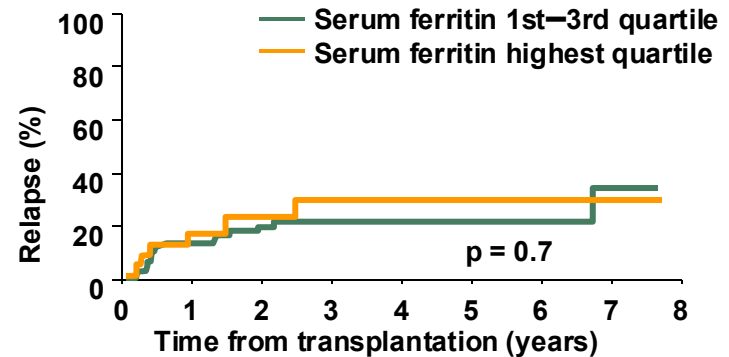
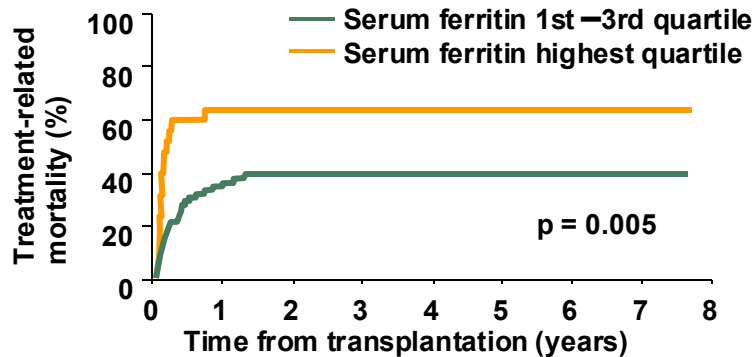
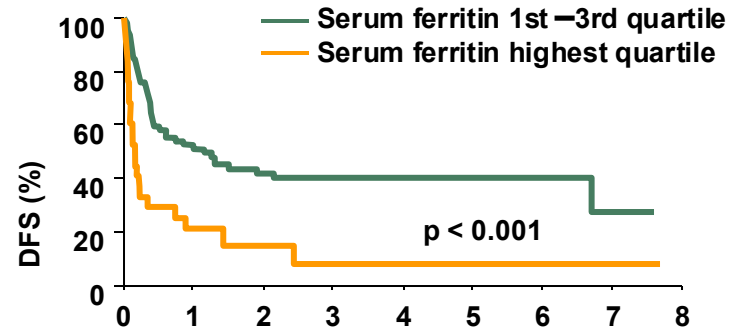
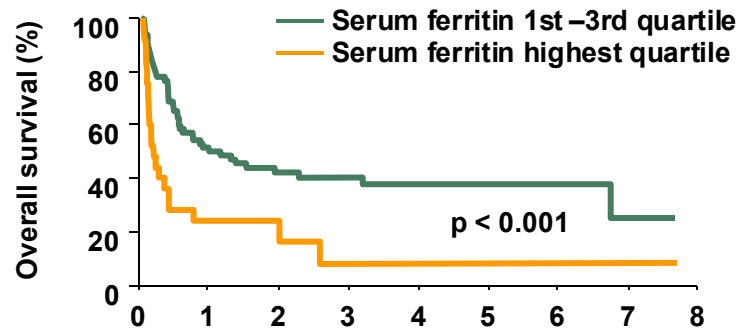
<http://oernst.f5lvg.free.fr/liver/iron.html>



Groupe
Francophone des
Myélodysplasies



Allo SCT results according to serum ferritin level



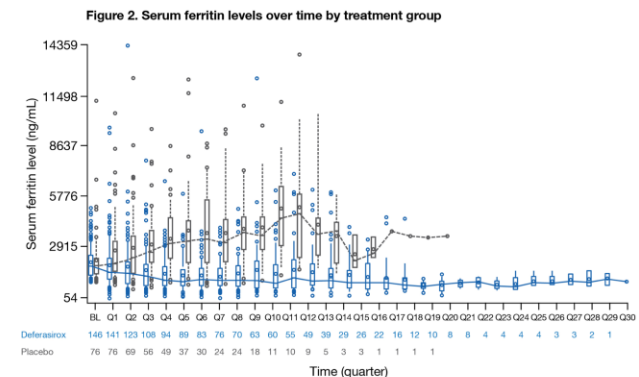
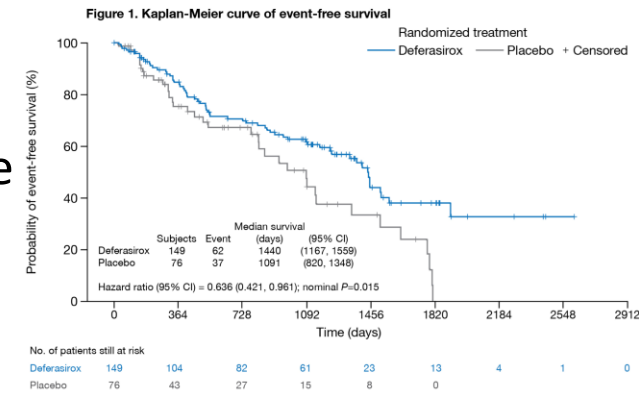
DFS = disease-free survival.

Armand P, et al. *Blood*. 2007;109:4586-8.

Safety and Efficacy, Including EFS, of Deferasirox Versus Placebo in Iron-Overloaded Patients with Low- and Int-1-Risk MDS: Outcomes from the Randomized, Double-Blind Telesto Study

Angelucci, Ann Int Med, 2020

- 225 pts : Deferasirox (n=149) or Placebo (n=76)
- **EFS**: composite primary endpoint (cardiac, liver failure transformation to AML, death)
- Median EFS :1440 day for Deferasirox vs 1091 days for Placebo : 36.4% risk reduction (P=0.015)




Whiskers mark 10th and 90th percentiles, boxes show lower and upper quartiles, horizontal line shows the median and o represents the mean; values outside 10th-90th percentile are plotted as o
NE, not evaluable

Improvement of cytopenias

bjh research paper

Deferasirox reduces oxidative DNA damage in bone marrow cells from myelodysplastic patients and improves their differentiation capacity

Tamara Jiménez-Salas^{1,2}  Félix
López-Caballero^{1,2} José Ángel Méndez^{1,2}




Summary

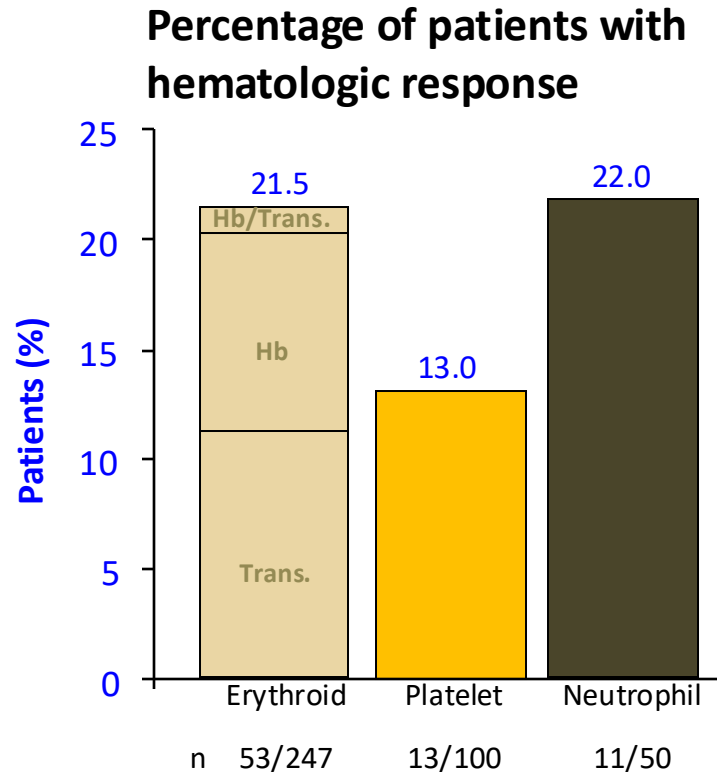
The Pharmacogenomics Journal (2020) 20:664–671
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41397-020-0154-5>

ARTICLE



Genome-wide transcriptomics leads to the identification of deregulated genes after deferasirox therapy in low-risk MDS patients

Jesús María Hernández Sánchez¹ · Eva Lumbreras¹ · María Díez-Campelo ² · Teresa González^{1,2} ·
Diego Alonso López ³ · María Abáigar¹ · Mónica del Rey¹ · Ana África Martín² · Raquel de Paz⁴ · Sara Erquiaga⁵ ·
Beatriz Arrizabalaga⁵ · Jesús María Hernández-Rivas^{1,2} · Ana Eugenia Rodríguez Vicente ¹



Hematologic response

Gattermann N, et al. *Haematologica*. 2012;97:1364-71.



Recent treatments of lower risk MDS

- Lower risk MDS: where is the limit ?
- Treatment of anemia of lower risk MDS
- Treatment of thrombocytopenia of lower risk MDS
- Chelation therapy ?
- Treatment of MDS with autoimmune/autoinflammatory disorders

Safety and Efficacy of Romiplostim in Patients With Lower-Risk Myelodysplastic Syndrome and Thrombocytopenia

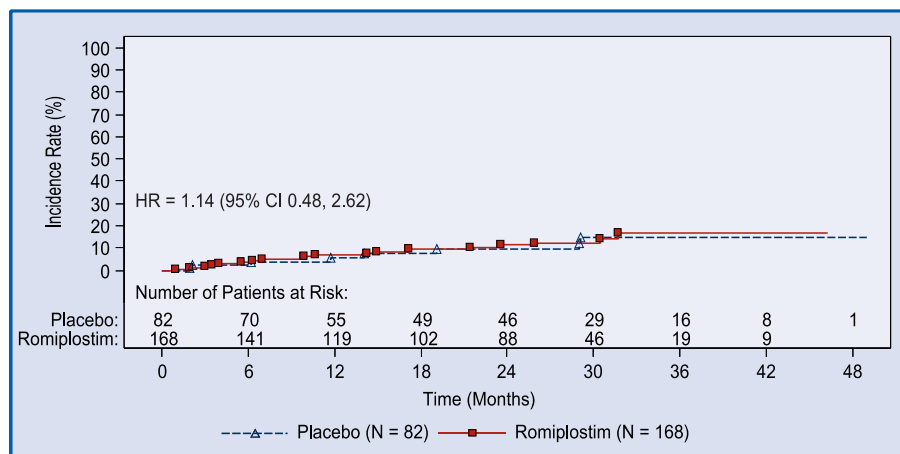
Hagop Kantarjian, Pierre Fenaux, Mikkael A. Sekeres, Pamela S. Becker, Adam Boruchov, David Bowen, Eva Hellstrom-Lindberg, Richard A. Larson, Roger M. Lyons, Petra Muus, Jamile Shammo, Robert Siegel, Kuolung Hu, Janet Franklin, and Dietmar P. Berger

- N=44, lower risk MDS
- platelets <50G/l
- 300 to 1500 ug/week
- Evaluation at week 4
- 50% response
- Transient increase in marrow blasts in 15% of the patients

Treatment with Romiplostim, a Thrombopoietin-Receptor Agonist, in Thrombocytopenic Patients with Low or Intermediate-1 Risk Myelodysplastic Syndrome: Updated Follow-up Results for Acute Myeloid Leukemia and Survival from a Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study

Hagop Kantarjian,¹ Ghulam Mufti,² Pierre Fenaux,³ Mikkael Sekeres,⁴ Jeffrey Szer,⁵ Uwe Platzbecker,⁶ Andrea Kuendgen,⁷ Gianluca Gaidano,⁸ Wiesław Wiktor-Jedrzejczak,⁹ Anne Meibohm,¹⁰ Angela Lopez,¹¹ Aristoteles Giagounidis¹²

Figure 2. Incidence of AML, on Treatment and During Long-term Follow-up to March 2013

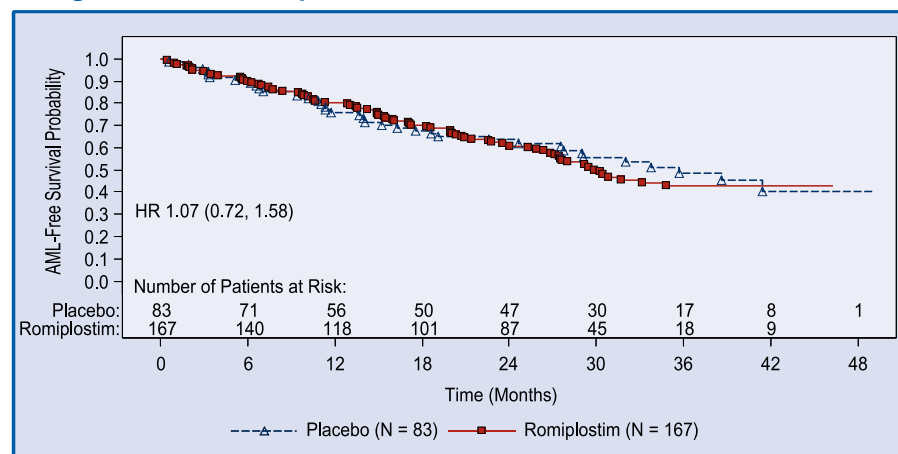


Includes all randomized patients who received at least 1 dose of the investigational product. Cumulative incidence rates are estimated using the Kaplan-Meier methods.

Total observational time is the time from randomization to the last available long-term contact or end-of-study for patients who did not enter long-term follow-up.

HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval.

Figure 4. AML-Free Survival, on Treatment and During Long-term Follow-up to March 2013














Includes all randomized patients who received at least 1 dose of the investigational product.

Total observational time is the time from randomization to the last available long-term contact or end-of-study for patients who did not enter long-term follow-up.

HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval.

⑥ Eltrombopag for Low-Risk Myelodysplastic Syndromes With Thrombocytopenia: Interim Results of a Phase-II, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Clinical Trial (EQOL-MDS)

Esther Natalie Oliva, MD¹ ; Marta Riva, MD²; Pasquale Niscola, MD³; Valeria Santini, MD⁴ ; Massimo Breccia, MD⁵; Valentina Gai, MD⁶; Antonella Poloni, MD⁷; Andrea Patriarca, MD⁸ ; Elena Crisà, MD⁸ ; Isabella Capodanno, MD⁹; Prassede Salutati, MD¹⁰; Gianluigi Reda, MD¹¹ ; Nicola Cascavilla, MD¹²; Dario Ferrero, MD¹³; Attilio Guarini, MD¹⁴; Giovanni Tripepi, PhD¹⁵ ; Giuseppe Ianni, BSc¹⁶; Emilio Russo, PhD¹⁷ ; Andrea Castelli, MD¹⁸ ; Bruno Fattizzo, MD^{11,19} ; Germana Beltrami, MD²⁰; Monica Bocchia, MD²¹ ; Alfredo Molteni, MD²²; Pierre Feniaux, MD²³; Ulrich Germing, MD²⁴; Alessandra Ricco, MD²⁵; Giuseppe A. Palumbo, MD, PhD²⁶ ; Stefana Impera, MD²⁷; Nicola Di Renzo, MD²⁸; Flavia Rivellini, MD²⁹; Francesco Buccisano, MD³⁰ ; Aspasia Stamatoullas-Bastard, MD³¹ ; Anna Marina Liberati, MD³²; Anna Candoni, MD³³; Iliaria Maria Delfino, BSc¹; Maria Teresa Arcadi, BSc³⁴; Patrizia Cufari, BSc¹; Lorenzo Rizzo, MD³⁵ ; Irene Bova, BSc³⁶; Maria Grazia D'Errigo, BSc³⁶; Gina Zini, MD^{37,38} ; and Roberto Latagliata, MD³⁹

DOI <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO22.02699>

- N=169 (112 vs 57)
- Eltrombopag 50 to 300mg/d
- 42% vs 11 % response
- 63% still responders at 60 months
- Significant bleeding improvement
- 17% vs 17% MDS/AML progression

Eltrombopag for myelodysplastic syndromes or chronic myelomonocytic leukaemia with no excess blasts and thrombocytopenia: a French multicentre retrospective real-life study

Comont et al, Brit J Haematol, 2021

Thibault Comont,¹ Mathieu Meunier,² Summary

- ELT in 50 MDS and 11 with CMML, with no excess of marrow blasts and platelet <50 G/L
- Platelet response in 47 (77%) patients.
- median duration of response 8 (0–69) months.
- None of the eight still responders who discontinued ELT had relapsed, at a median of 16 (6–23) months after ELT discontinuation.
- Although 36% of the patients were anti-coagulated or anti-aggregated only 10% of patients had Grade ≥ 3 bleeding events.
- Thrombotic events in six (10%) patients, who all but one had a medical history of arterial or venous thrombosis.
- Progression to AML in four (7%) patients.

Recent treatments of lower risk MDS

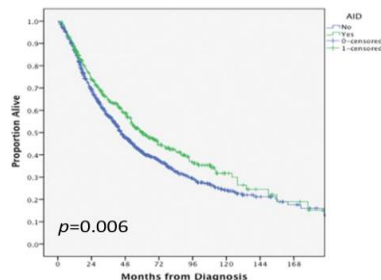
- Lower risk MDS: where is the limit ?
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- Treatment of thrombocytopenia of lower risk MDS
- Chelation therapy ?
- Treatment of MDS with autoimmune/autoinflammatory disorders

Association MDS/CMML - SIAD

- ~ 15-20% of MDS/CMML are associated with Systemic Inflammatory and Autoimmune Diseases (SIAD)
- SIAD often atypical
- SIAD association generally has no impact on prognosis in MDS/CMML patients

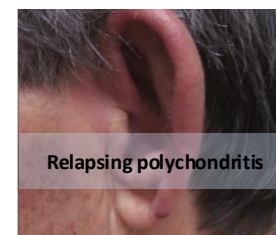
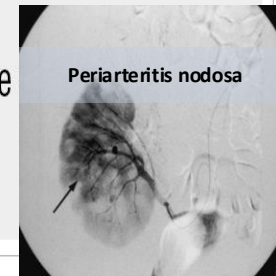
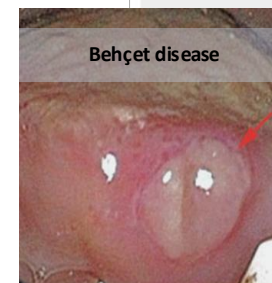
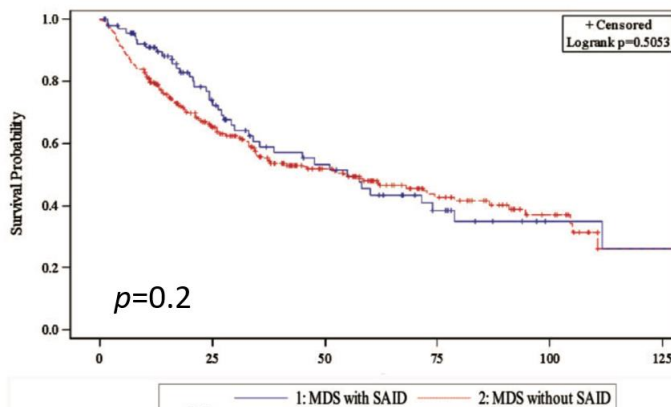
Komrokji *et al.* Am J Hematol. 2016

- n = 1408
- 391/1408 (28%) avec SIAD, 171/391 hypothyroidism



Mekinian *et al.* Rheumatology. 2016

- n = 788 MDS/CMML
- 123/788 (16%) with SIAD





Mutation of ten-eleven translocation-2 is associated with increased risk of autoimmune disease in patients with myelodysplastic syndrome

Yoon-Jeong Oh^{1,*}, Dong-Yeop Shin^{2,3,*}, Sang Mee Hwang⁴, Sung-Min Kim⁵, Kyongok Im⁵, Hee Sue Park⁶, Jung-Ah Kim⁶, Yeong Wook Song⁷, Ana Márquez⁸, Javier Martín⁸, Dong-Soon Lee^{5,6}, and Jin Kyun Park⁷

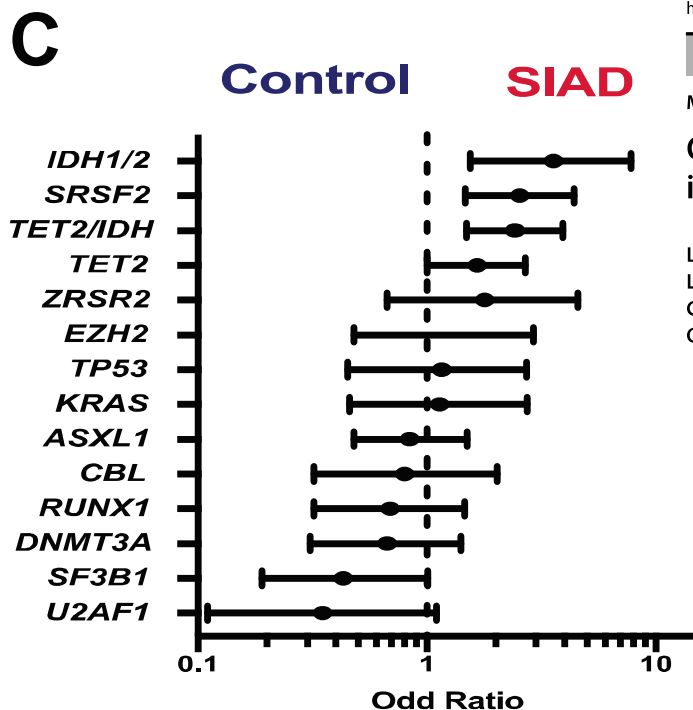
Leukemia (2021) 35:2720–2724
https://doi.org/10.1038/s41375-021-01152-1

LETTER

Myelodysplastic syndrome

Genomic landscape of MDS/CMML associated with systemic inflammatory and autoimmune disease

Lin-Pierre Zhao^{1,2,3} · Maxime Boy^{2,3} · Célia Azoulay² · Emmanuelle Clappier⁴ · Marie Sébert^{1,5} · Ludvine Amable² · Jihene Klibi² · Kamel Benlagha² · Marion Espéli^{2,3} · Karl Balabanian^{2,3} · Claude Preudhomme^{6,7} · Alice Marceau-Renaut^{6,7} · Lina Benajiba^{5,8} · Raphaël Itzykson^{1,9} · Arsène Mekinian¹⁰ · Olivier Fain¹⁰ · Antoine Toubert^{2,3,11} · Pierre Fenaux^{1,5} · Nicolas Dulphy^{2,3,11} · Lionel Adès^{1,5}



Groupe
Francophone des
Myélodysplasies

Efficacy of Azacitidine in autoimmune and inflammatory disorders associated with myelodysplastic syndromes and chronic myelomonocytic leukemia



Jean-Baptiste Fraison^{a,*,1}, Arsène Mekinian^{b,1}, Eric Grignano^c, Jean-Emmanuel Kahn^d, Jean-Benoit Arlet^e, Olivier Decaux^f, Guillaume Denis^g, Anne-Laure Buchdahl^h, Mohamed Omouriⁱ, Gwenola Maigne^j, Achille Aouba^j, Nathalie Leon^k, Sabine Berthier^l, Eric Liozon^m, Sophie Parkⁿ, Claude Gardin^o, Olivier Lortholary^p, Julien Rossignol^c, Pierre Fenaux^q, Olivier Fain^{b,1}, Thorsten Braun^{o,1}



- 22 patients treated with AZA for autoimmune disorders (AID) associated with MDS/CMML
- Response of AID to Azacitidine in 19 patients (86%)
- Reduction or discontinuation of steroids and/or immunosuppressive therapy possible in 16 cases (73%).

LETTER



MYELODYSPLASTIC NEOPLASM

A Phase II prospective trial of azacitidine in steroid-dependent or refractory systemic autoimmune/inflammatory disorders and VEXAS syndrome associated with MDS and CMML

Arsene Mekinian ^{1,27}✉, Lin Pierre Zhao ^{2,27}, Sylvie Chevret³, Kristell Desseaux³, Laurent Pascal⁴, Thibaut Comont⁵, Alexandre Maria⁶, Pierre Peterlin⁷, Louis Terriou⁸, Maud D'Aveni Piney⁹, Marie-Pierre Gourin ¹⁰, Norbert Vey ¹¹, Odile Beyne Rauzy⁵, Vincent Grobost¹², Holy Bezanahary¹³, Sophie Dimicoli-Salazar¹⁴, Anne Banos¹⁵, Stefan Wickenhauser¹⁶, Benoit De Renzis¹⁷, Eric Durot ¹⁸, Shanti Natarajan-Amé¹⁹, Laurent Voillat¹⁰, Fatiha Chermat², Karine Lemaire², Vincent Jachiet¹, Chantal Himberlin¹⁸, Sylvain Thépot²⁰, Jose Miguel Torregrosa Diaz²¹, Laurent Frenzel²², Emmanuel Gyan ²³, Guillaume Denis ²⁴, Pierre Hirsch²⁵, Olivier Kosmider ²⁶, Lionel Ades ², Olivier Fain¹ and Pierre Fenaux²

- N=30
- 66% response on SAID
- 59% hematological response

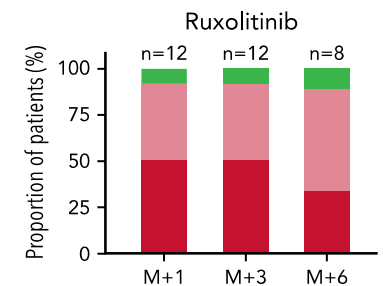
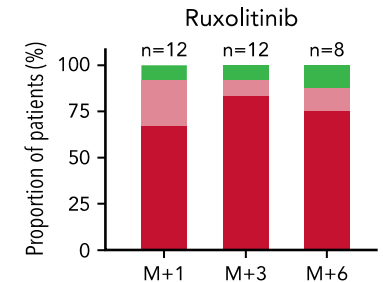
UBA 1 mutation (VEXAS) and MDS

- VEXAS: Autoinflammatory disease , X linked, cutaneous lesions, vacuoles in granulocytes,
- MDS in 40% of the cases

TO THE EDITOR:

Ruxolitinib is more effective than other JAK inhibitors to treat VEXAS syndrome: a retrospective multicenter study

Maël Heiblig,¹ Marcela A. Ferrada,^{2,*} Matthew T. Koster,^{3,*} Thomas Barba,^{4,*} Mathieu Gerfaud-Valentin,⁵ Arsène Mékinian,⁶ Henrique Coelho,⁷ Gaëlle Fossard,¹ Fiorenza Barraco,¹ Lionel Galicier,⁸ Boris Bienvenu,⁸ Pierre Hirsch,⁹ Guillaume Vial,¹⁰ Anne Blandine Boutin,¹¹ Joris Galland,¹² Guillaume Le Guenno,¹³ Adrien Bigot,¹⁴ Kenneth J. Warrington,³ Tanaz A. Kermani,¹⁵ Peter C. Grayson,² Bhavisha A. Patel,¹⁶ David B. Beck,^{17,18} Yvan Jamilloux,^{5,†} Pierre Fenaux,^{19,†} and Pierre Sujobert²⁰



LETTER



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- N=30
- 13 (52% VEXAS patients)
- 75% response on VEXAS symptoms
- 59% hematological response

Recent treatments of lower risk MDS

- Lower risk MDS: where is the limit ?
- Treatment of anemia of lower risk MDS
- Treatment of thrombocytopenia of lower risk MDS
- Chelation therapy ?
- Treatment of MDS with autoimmune/autoinflammatory disorders
- Should some lower risk MDS be transplanted ?

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Allogeneic haematopoietic stem cell transplant in patients with lower risk myelodysplastic syndrome: a retrospective analysis on behalf of the Chronic Malignancy Working Party of the EBMT

M Robin¹, R Porcher^{2,3}, W Zinke-Cerwenka⁴, A van Biezen⁵, L Volin⁶, G Mufti⁷, C Craddock⁸, J Finke⁹, C Richard¹⁰, J Passweg¹¹, A Peniket¹², J Maertens¹³, G Sucak¹⁴, T Gedde-Dahl¹⁵, A Vitek¹⁶, A Nagler¹⁷, D Blaise¹⁸, D Beelen¹⁹, N Maillard²⁰, R Schwerdtfeger²¹, T de Witte²² and N Kroger²³

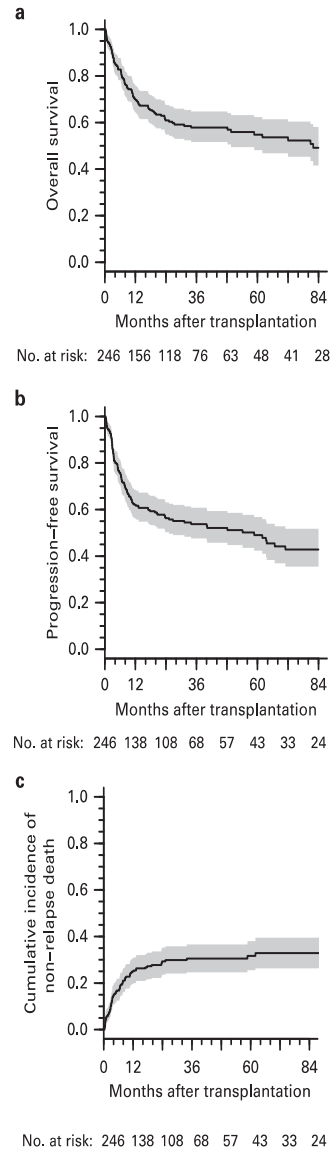


Figure 1. OS, PFS and cumulative incidence of NRM. OS, PFS and cumulative incidence of NRM are shown in (a, b and c), respectively. Grey shaded areas represent the 95% pointwise confidence interval.

TRM post allo SCT Recent GFM experience

- *CPX 351 trial* (median age 62) (Peterlin Lancet Hematol, 2023)
 - N=29
 - TRM: 5/29 (17%)
- *allo risk trial* (median age 62) (Robin, ASH 2021)
 - N= 58
 - TRM: 11/ 58 (19%)



Allo risk trial (Robin, ASH 2021)

63 patients with donor



58 (92%) patients
transplanted

✓ 11 (19%) TRM

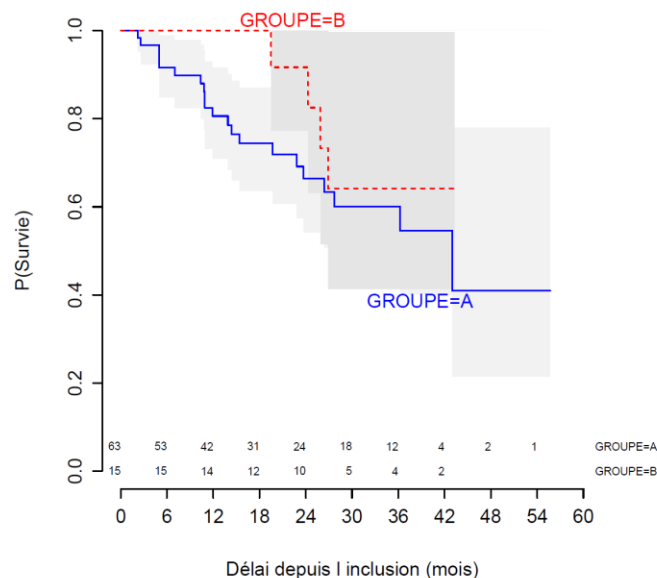
✓ 6 death relapse / progression

15 patients without
donor



✓ 4 disease related
deaths

✓ 3 yr OS 60 vs 64%



Should lower risk MDS be transplanted ?

- NO

- RARS with normal karyotype and isolated SF3B1 mutation

- YES

- IPSS/ IPSS-R progression
- TP53 mutation with VAF > 20%, or if VAF increases
- Lower risk MDS with del 5q failing LEN

Allo in lower risk MDS ?

- **Other patients:** take into account
 - age, comorbidities
 - donor
 - Response to treatment
 - Importance of cytopenias
 - *Mutations ?*
 - Progression
 - Patient choice

Department of hematology and immunology of Hospitals St Louis, R Debré, Avicenne APHP and University of Paris

Hôpital St Louis

- 7 services of adult hematology (H Dombret, N Boissel, G Socié, B Arnulf, E Oksenhendler, P Fenaux, C Thiéblemont)
- ICU (E Azoulay)
- pneumology (A Tazi)

Hôpital Robert Debré

- pediatric hématology service (A Baruchel)
- Sickle cell disease unit (M Benkerrou)

Hôpital Avicenne

- Adult hematology service (C Gardin)



Groupe Francophone des Myélodysplasies

- Activates clinical trials in MDS (35 centers in France and Belgium + Switzerland)
- Website: [www. gfmgroup.org](http://www.gfmgroup.org)
- Online registry of French MDS cases
- Close cooperation with:
 - a patient support group
 - the International MDS Foundation
 - the European Leukemia Net





Hematological Diseases
(ERN EuroBloodNet)

MARK YOUR AGENDA

10th Translational Research Conference Myelodysplastic Syndromes, Overlap MDS/MPN Disorders and Clonal Hematopoiesis

Malahide (Dublin), Ireland
October 16-18, 2026
#ESHMDS2026

Chairs: Pierre Fenaux, Katharina Götze, Mikkael Sekeres

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS: JULY 6th, 2026

To register and for further information: www.esh.org - info@esh.org