



EHA-GBMTA-AHA  
Hematology Tutorial:  
New aspects in diagnostic  
choices and treatment  
options of hematological  
malignancies

Session: Hodgkin's  
Lymphoma

Igor Aurer



# What's new in the therapy of Hodgkin's lymphoma?

**Prof. Igor Aurer MD, PhD**

University Hospital Centre Zagreb  
Medical School, University of Zagreb  
Croatia

# Disclosures

Roche

Takeda

Janssen

Astra-Zeneca

Beigene

Eli Lilly

Sobi

Novartis / Sandoz

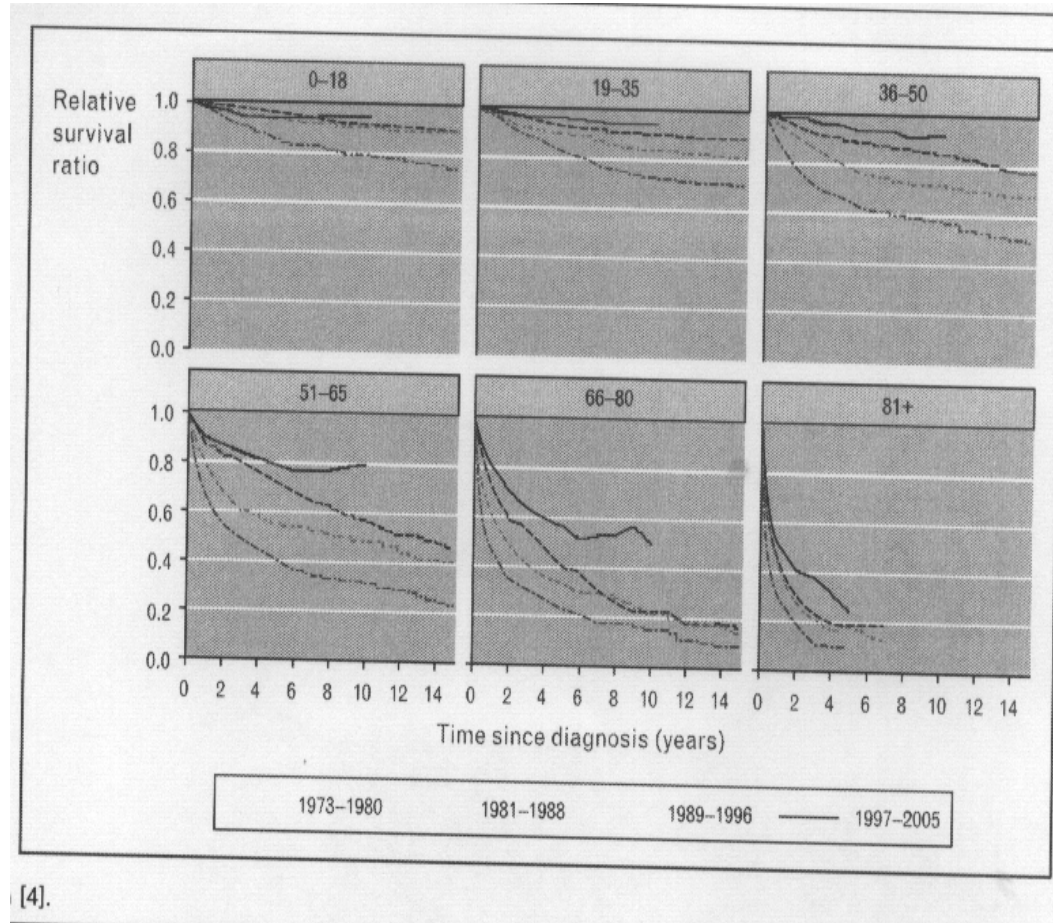
Genesis / Incyte

Swixx

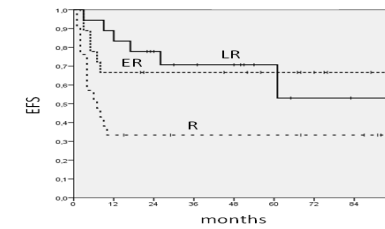
# Outcomes in HL depend on

age

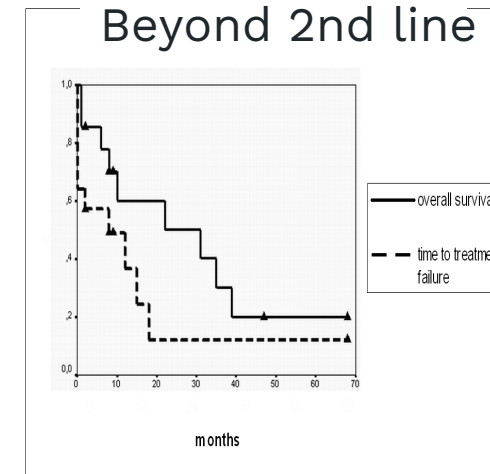
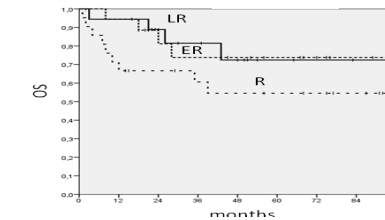
and treatment line



Bjorkholm et al, Curr Opin Onol 2011



2nd line



Aurer et al. Ann Hematol 2016

Aurer et al, Onkologie 2005.

# Health problems in responding patients

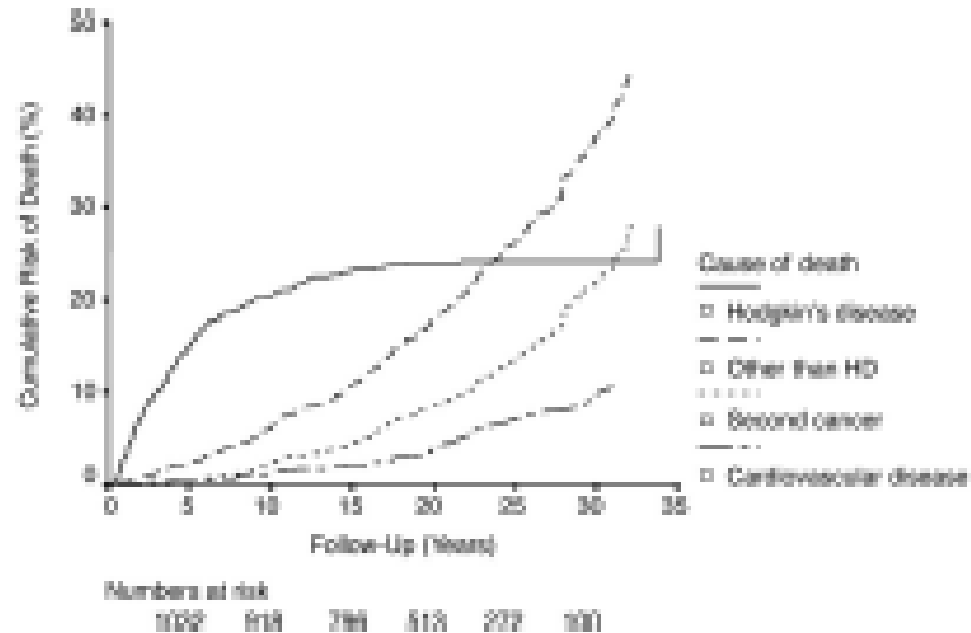


Fig 1. The actuarial risks of death from major disease categories. HD, Hodgkin's disease.

secondary cancers

heart disease

infertility

aseptic hip necroses

thyroid disease

chronic fatigue

...

# What do we want from new treatment approaches?

Reduce long-term toxicity of front-line treatment in younger

Without jeopardizing efficacy

Improve efficacy of salvage treatments and front-line treatment of elderly

Aim for cure

# Armamentarium

## Chemotherapy

eBEACOPP, ABVD, AVD, dacarbazine, bendamustine, high-dose chemotherapy

## Radiotherapy

3D – 4D linear accelerators

Conjugated monoclonal antibodies = targeted chemotherapy

Brentuximab vedotin

PD1 (checkpoint) blockers

nivolumab, pembrolizumab

# Risk assessment

## Front-line

Age: younger, fit elderly

Stage: limited favorable

## Later lines

Primary refractory, early relapse

Transplantable vs. non-transplantable

## GHSG criteria

	Stage (Ann Arbor)			
Risk Factors	IA, IB, IIA	IIB	IIIA, IIIB	IVA, IVB
None	Early favorable		Advanced	
≥ 3 LK- Areas	Early unfavorable			
Elevated ESR				
Large Mediastinal Mass				
Extranodal disease	Hatched			

GHSG – German Hodgkin Study Group; HL – Hodgkin lymphoma; ESR - erythrocyte sedimentation rate



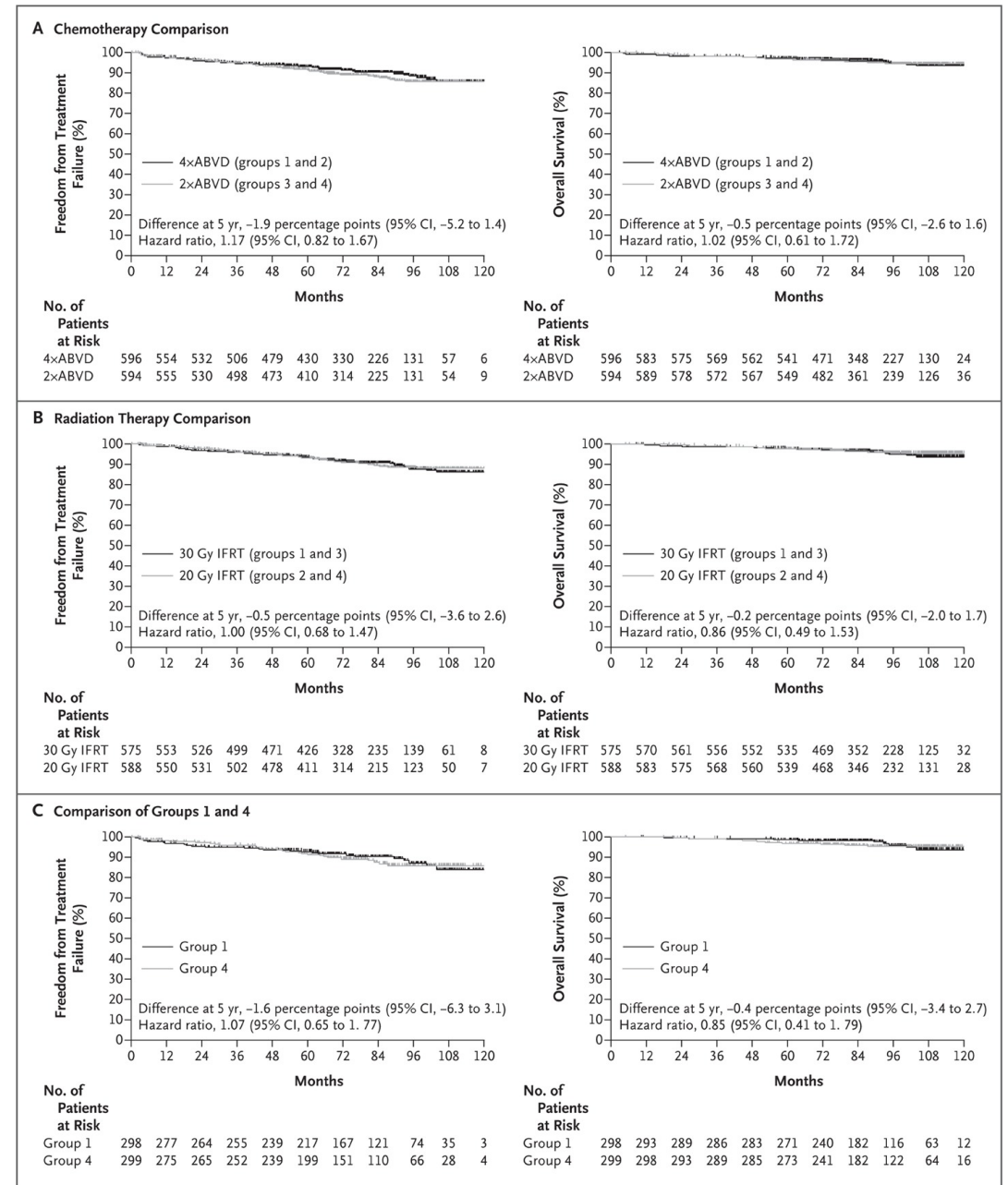
# Limited stage favorable

2xABVD = 4xABVD

20 Gy RT = 30 Gy RT

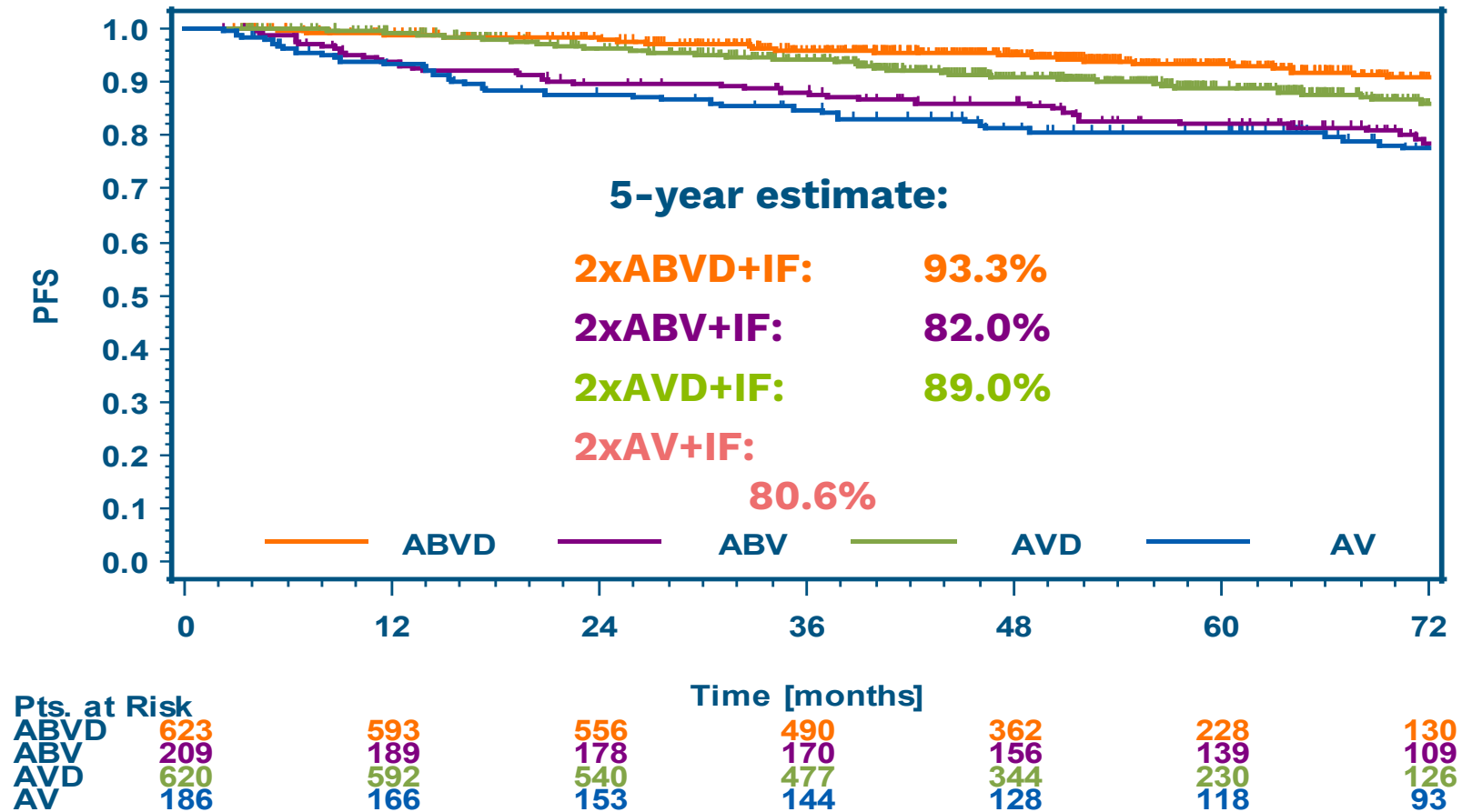
2xABVD + 20 Gy RT = 4xABVD + 30 Gy RT

Engert et al, NEJM 2010;



# Reducing chemotherapy

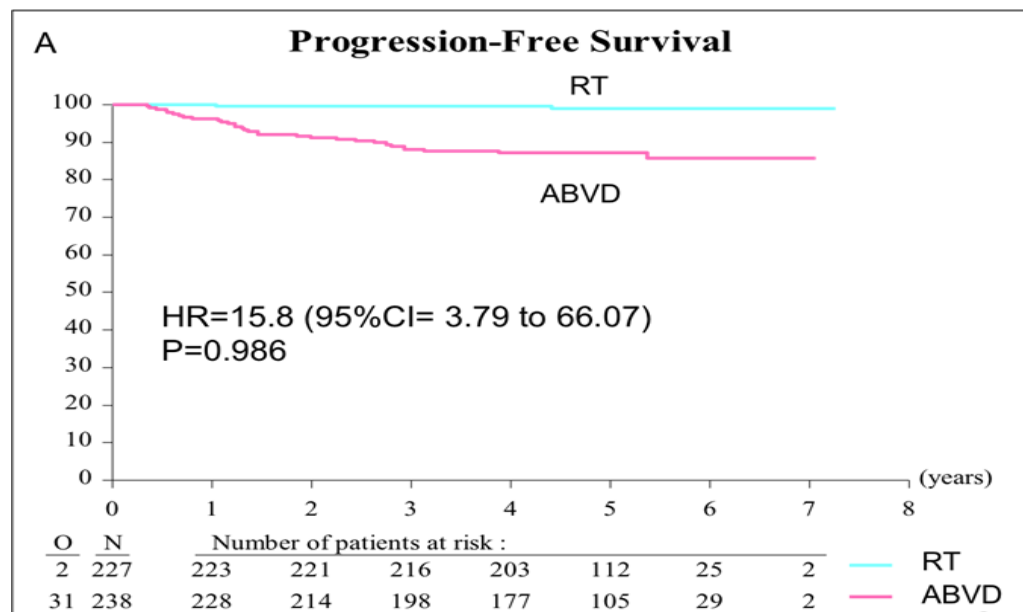
## GHLSG (H13): KT + 20 Gy RT - PFS



ABVD – doxorubicin, bleomycin, vinblastine, dacarbazine; ABV – doxorubicin, bleomycin, vinblastine; AVD – doxorubicin, vinblastine, dacarbazine; AV – doxorubicin, vinblastine; IF – involved field radiotherapy; pts – patients; PFS – progression free survival

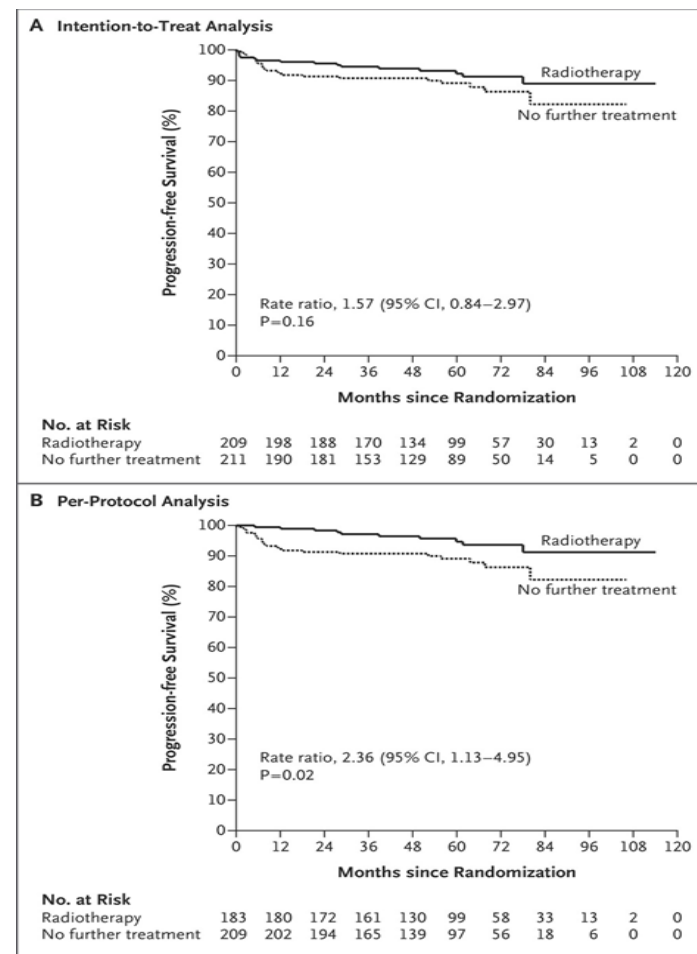
# Reducing radiotherapy

H10 favorable



Raemaekers et al, ICML 2015

RAPID



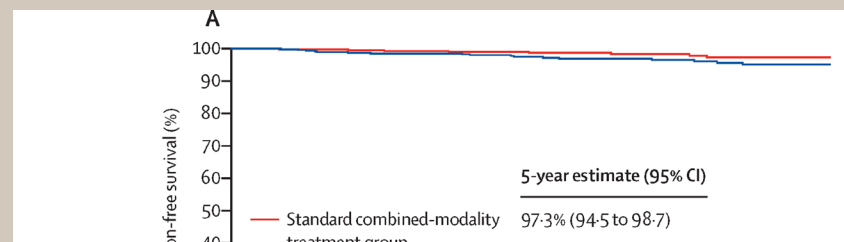
Radford et al, NEJM 2015

# Limited stage, unfavorable

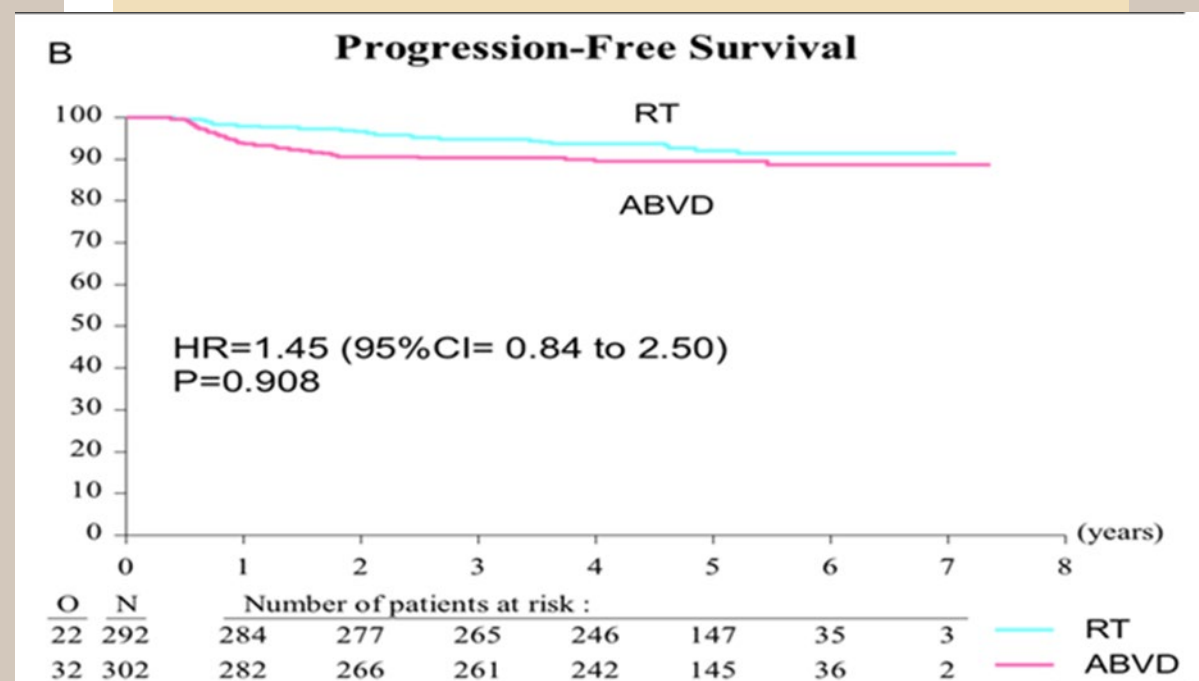


Borchmann et al, Lancet Oncol 2021

In pts. with localised unfavorable disease RT can safely be avoided if they are PET- after 2x eBEACOPP + 2x ABVD



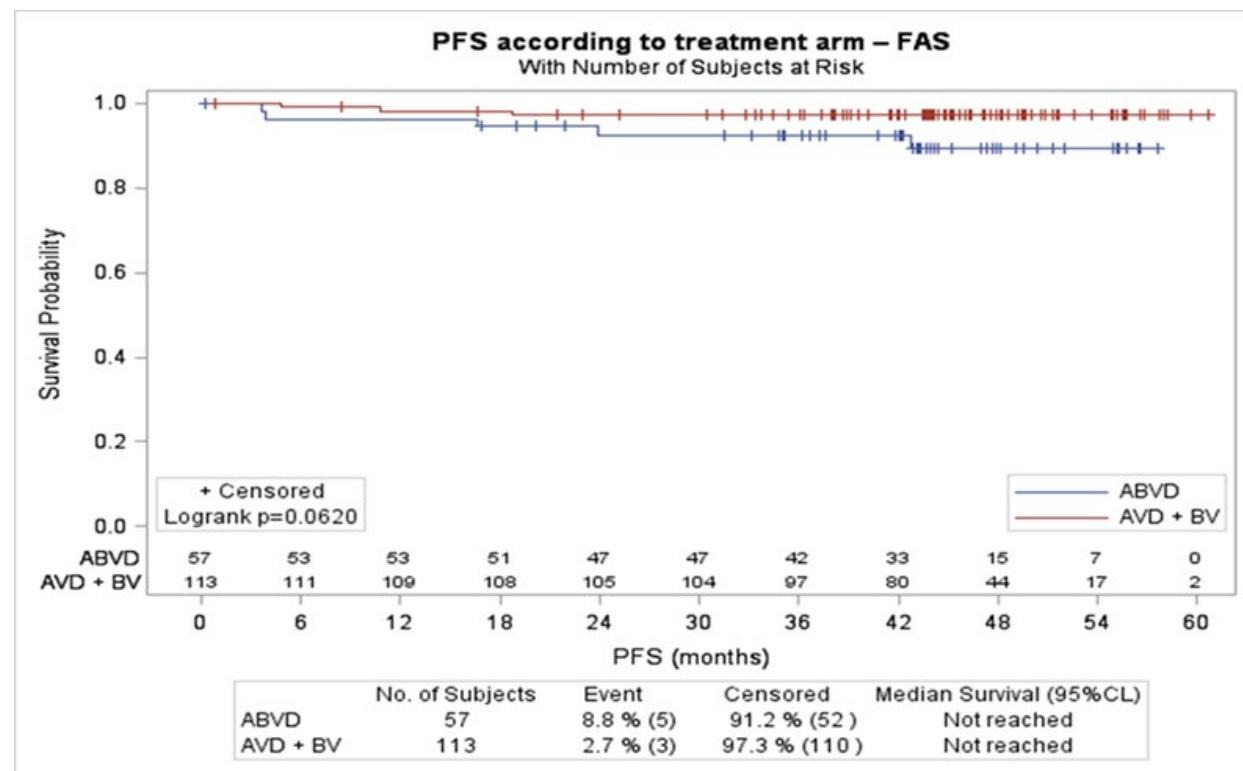
But not after ABVD



# New agents in this setting

## BREACH

4x AVD-Bv + RT 30 Gy  
vs. 4x ABVD + RT 30 Gy



2y PFS 97% vs. 93%

# Advanced stage

## eBEACOPP

4 cycles if  
PET- after 2<sup>nd</sup>

● 5y PFS 91%

● 5y OS 98%

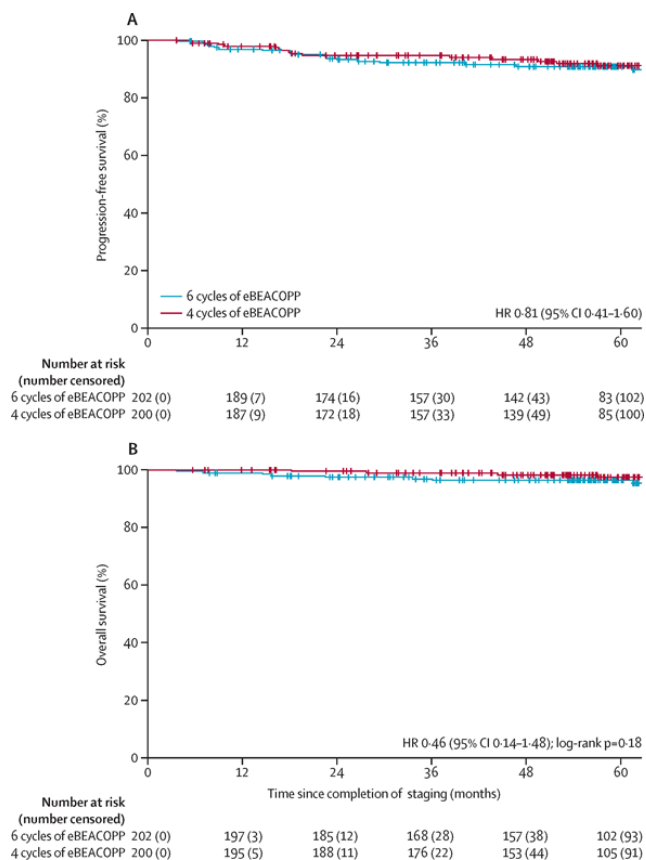
6 cycles ± RT  
if PET+ after

2<sup>nd</sup>

● 5y PFS 91%

● 5y OS 96%

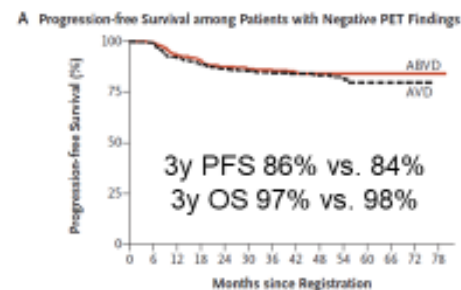
Kreissl S et al, Lancet Haematol 2021



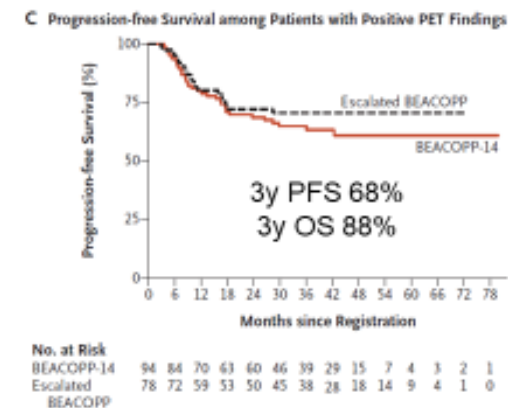
## RATHL

ABVDx2 followed by iPET

### PET- AVDx4



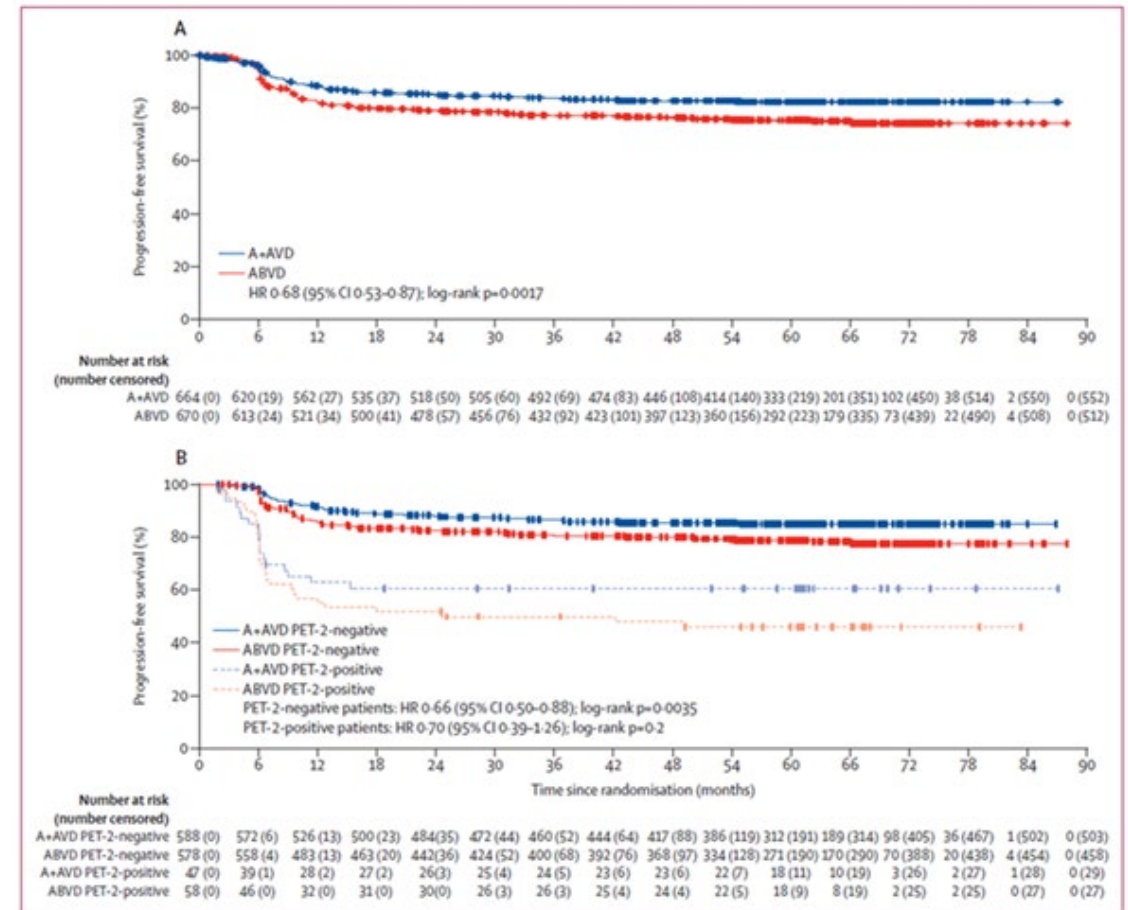
### PET+ eBEACOPPx4



Johnson P et al, NEJM 2016

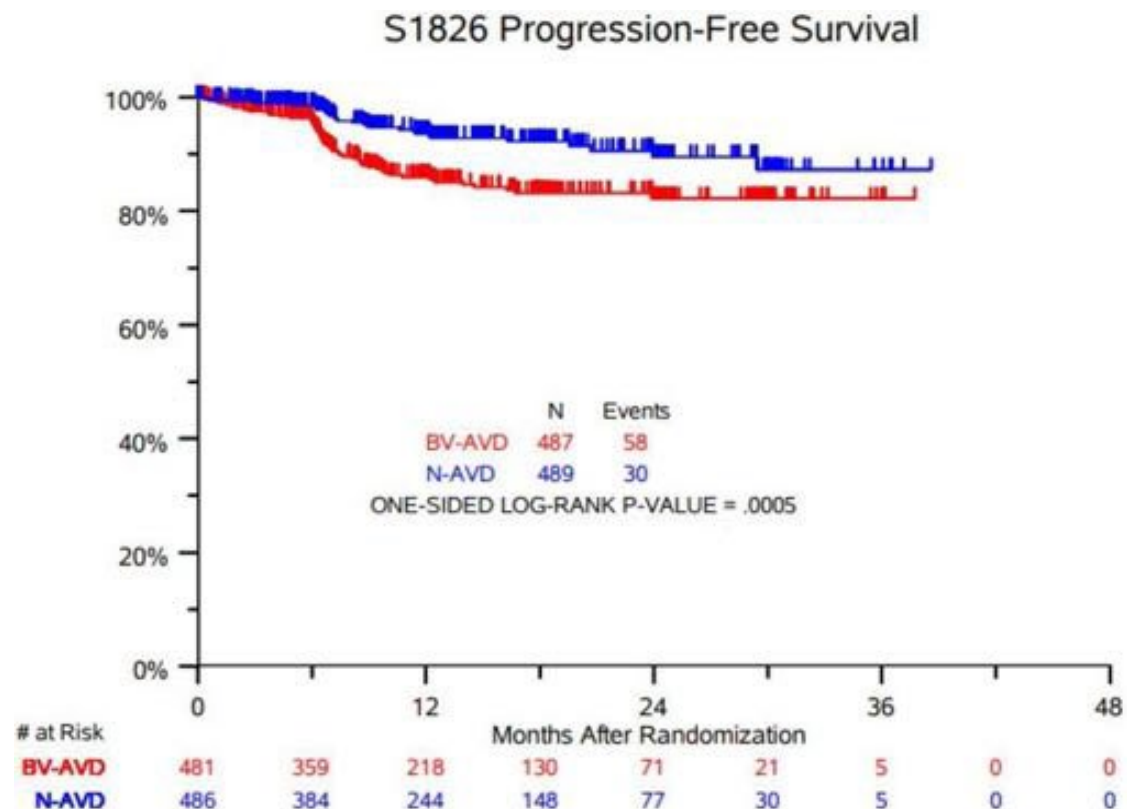
- ❑ ECHELON 1
- ❑ 6x AVD-Bv vs. 6x ABVD
- ❑ 5y PFS 82% vs. 75%

Straus DJ et al, Lancet Haematol 2021



# PD-1 blockers

Herrera AF et al, ICML 2023



cHL stage III-IV, > 12y

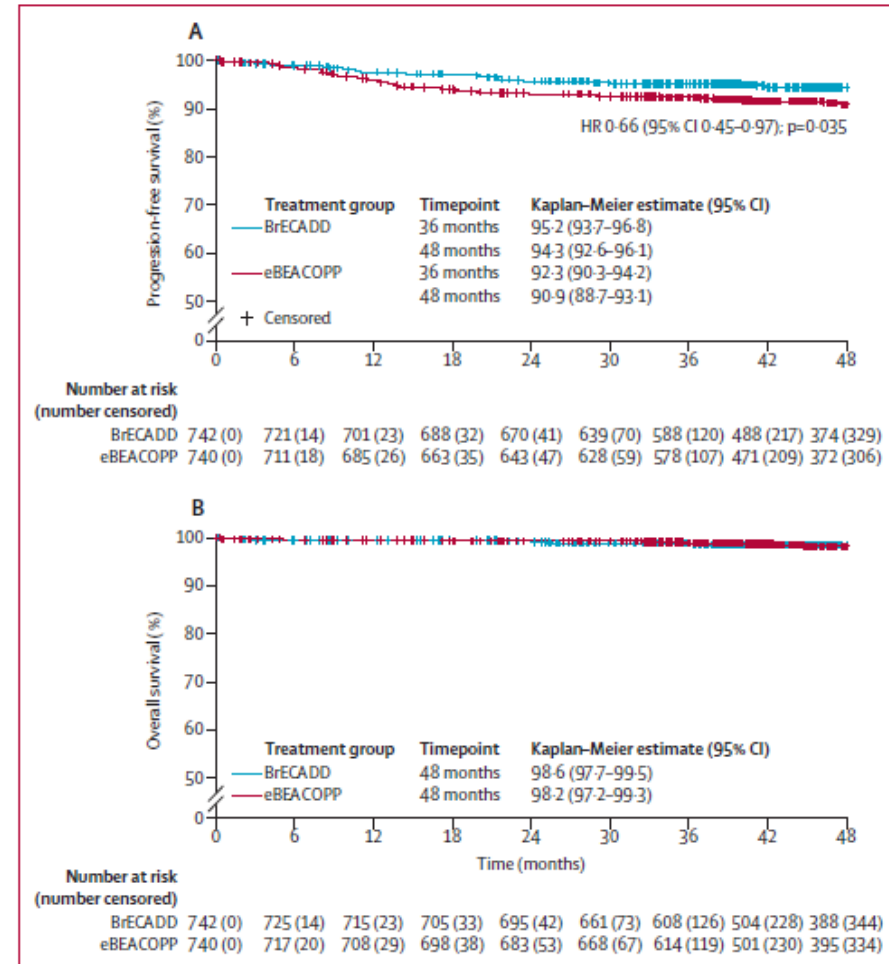
6x AVD + nivo vs. 6x AVD + Bv

1y PFS 94% vs. 86%



# BrECADD x 4-6 for advanced-stage cHL 18-60 y

q 3 wks		day
Bv	1,8 mg/kg	1
Etoposide	150 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	2-4
Cyclophosph.	1250 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	2
Doxorubicin	40 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	2
Dacarbazine	250 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	3-4
Dexa	40 mg	2-5
Peg-G-CSF	6 mg sc	5



# HL in elderly – an unresolved problem

Pts > 60 do not tolerate >2 cycles of eBEACOPP

Pts > 70-75 do not tolerate >2 cycles of bleomycine

6 cycles of ABVD 5% (7%) lethal lung toxicity\*

2 cycles ABVD 2% lung toxicity<sup>+</sup>

4 cycles ABVD 9% lung toxicity<sup>+</sup>

BV monotherapy is not the solution\*

neuropathy

short DOR

BV + dacarbazine >

BV + bendamustine<sup>+</sup>

\*Stamatoullas et al, BJH 2015  
+Behringer et al, Lancet 2015

\*Forero-Torres et al, Blood 2015  
+Friedberg et al, Blood 2017

# Classical front-line treatment options for elderly

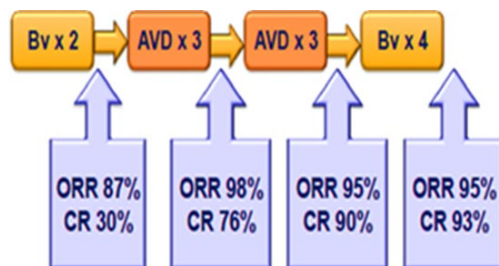
60-70 (75) y: ABVD

> 70 (75) y: ?

CHOP, bendamustine, AVD, LVPP...

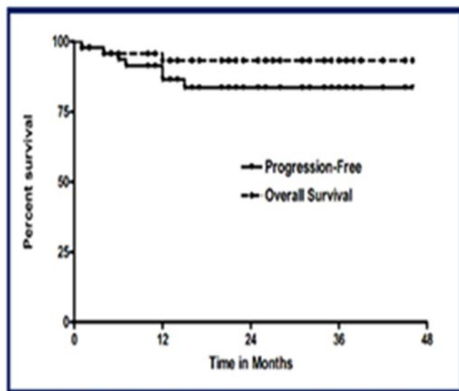
# Elderly

Fit

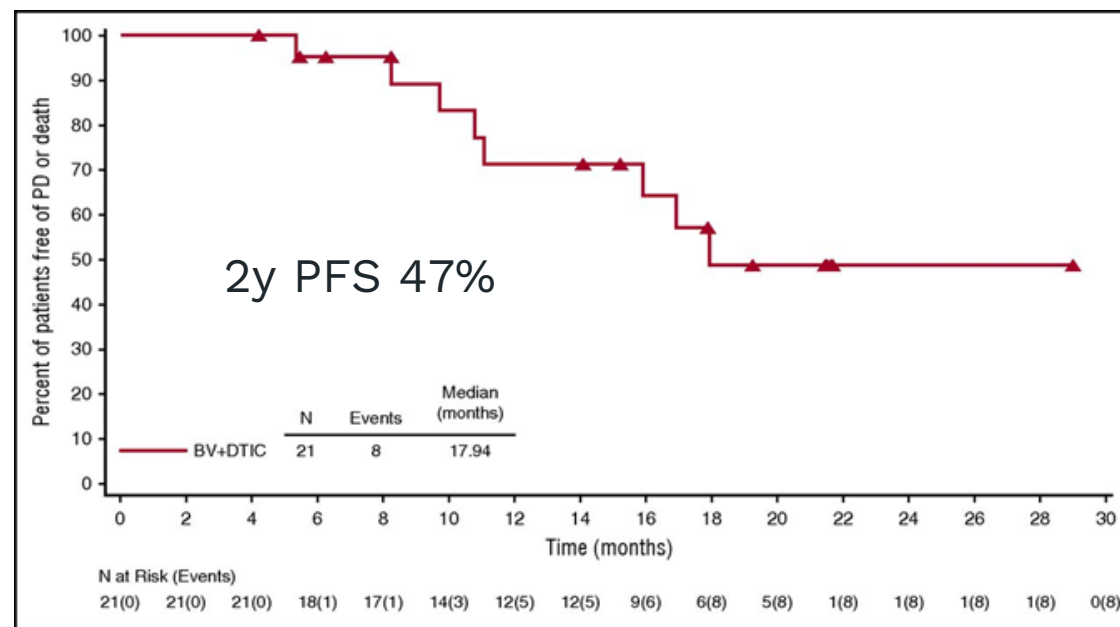


ITT (n=48) after 6 AVD:  
 ORR 88% and CR 81%

2-year PFS 85% and  
 2-year OS 94% (ITT)



Unfit



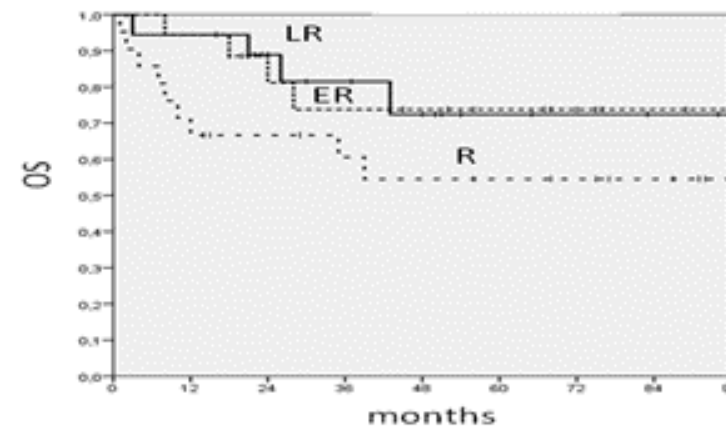
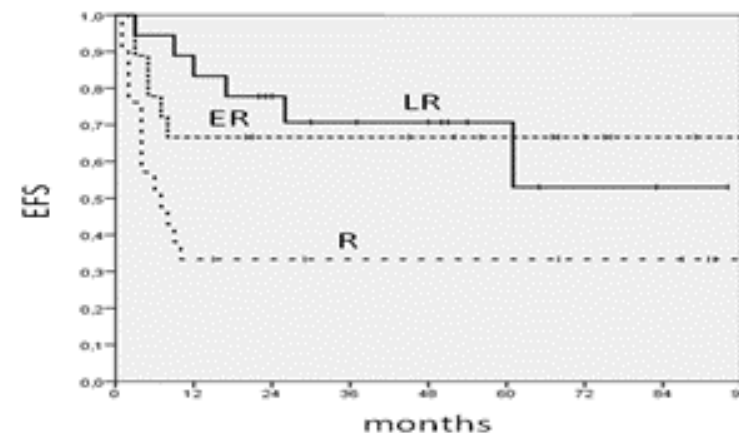
AVD: doxorubicin, vinblastine, dacarbazine; BV: brentuximab vedotin; CR: complete remission; PFS: progression-free survival; ORR: overall response rate; OS: overall survival  
 Evens AM, et al. Presented at the 59th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Hematology 2017, Atlanta, GA, USA (Abstract: 733).

# 2nd line, transplantable

Old standard

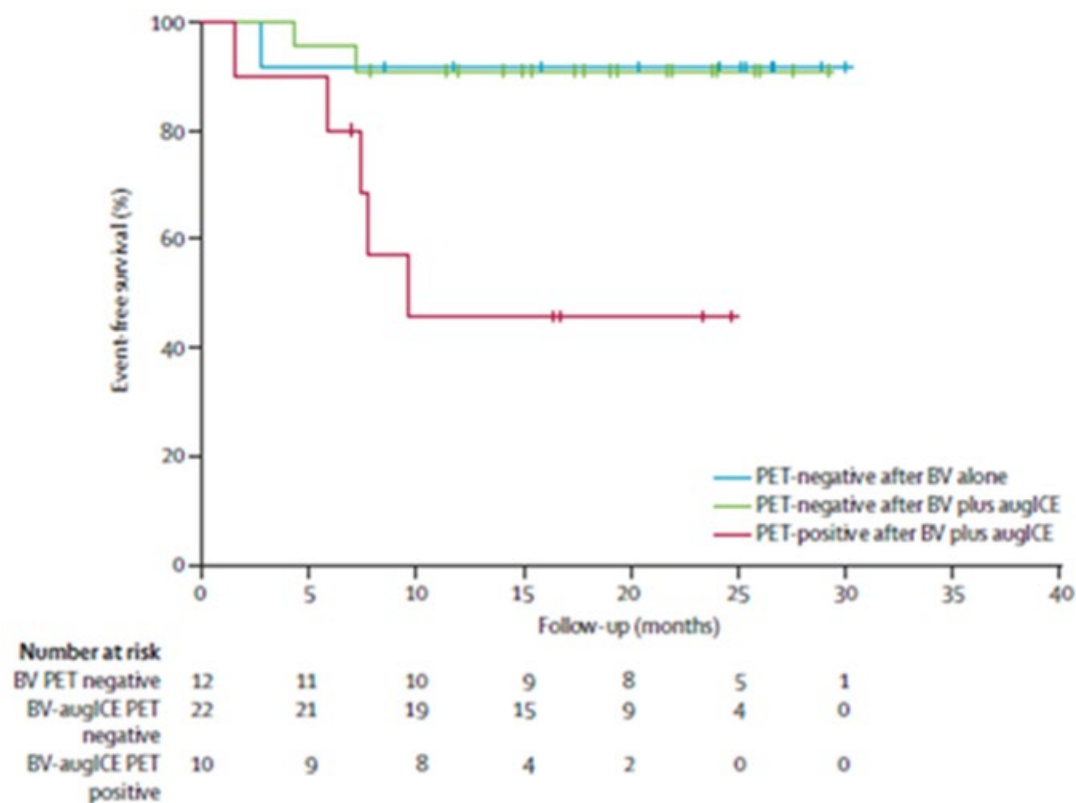
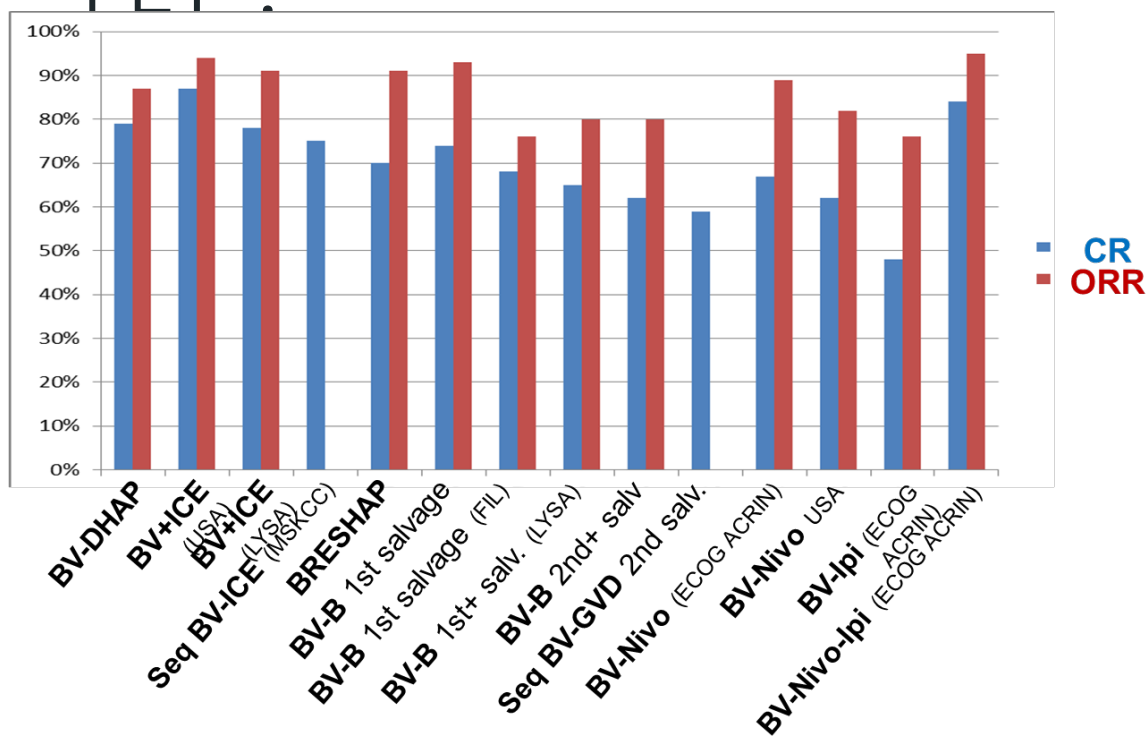
HD-CT (DHAP, ICE, IGEV, HDIM, ESHAP)...

- All produce similar outcomes
- ASCT in responding patients  
RT consolidation



# Improvements in induction

The importance of being PET-!

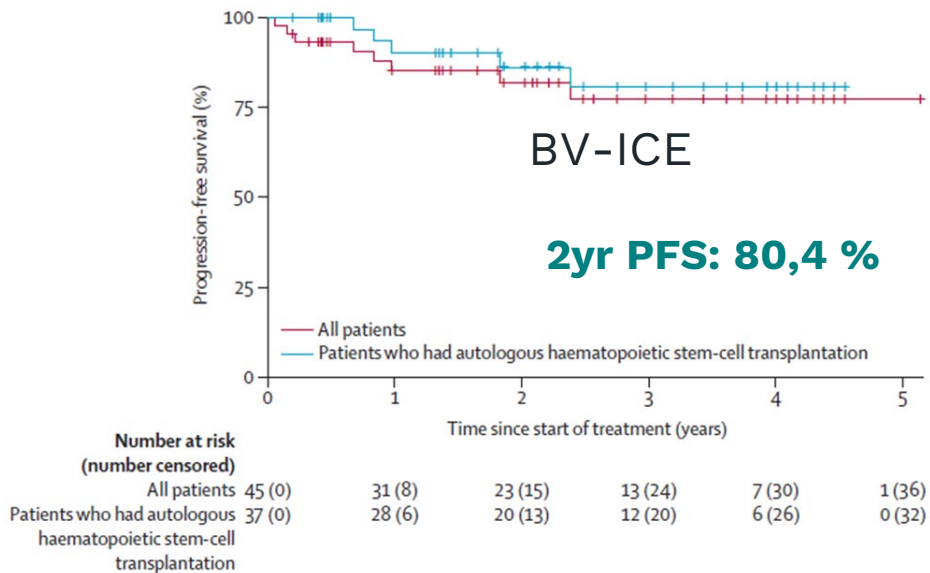
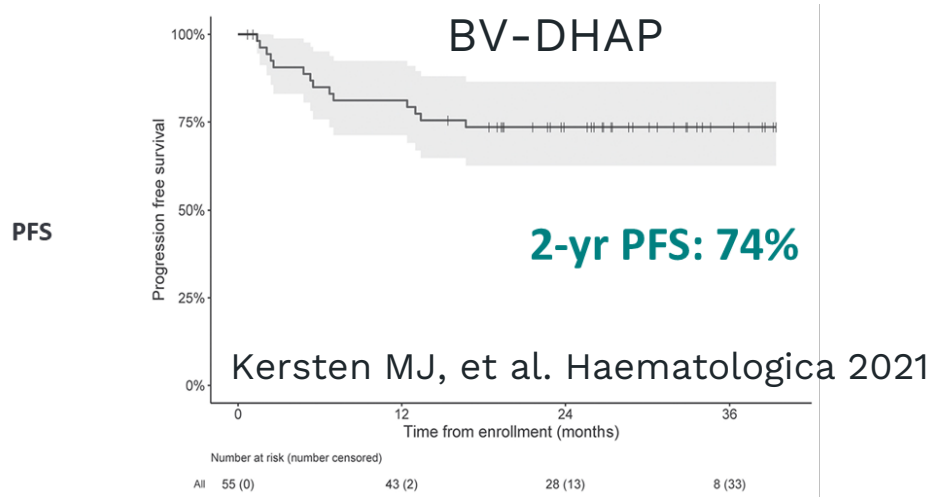


Number at risk

	0	5	10	15	20	25	30
BV PET negative	12	11	10	9	8	5	1
BV-augCE PET negative	22	21	19	15	9	4	0
BV-augCE PET positive	10	9	8	4	2	0	0

Moskowitz et al, Lancet Oncol 2015

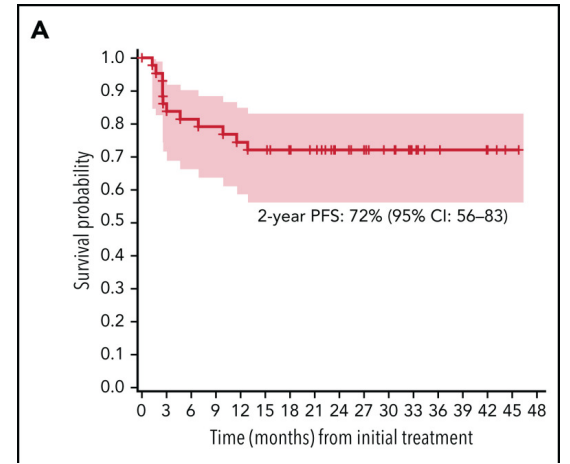
# Improvements in induction



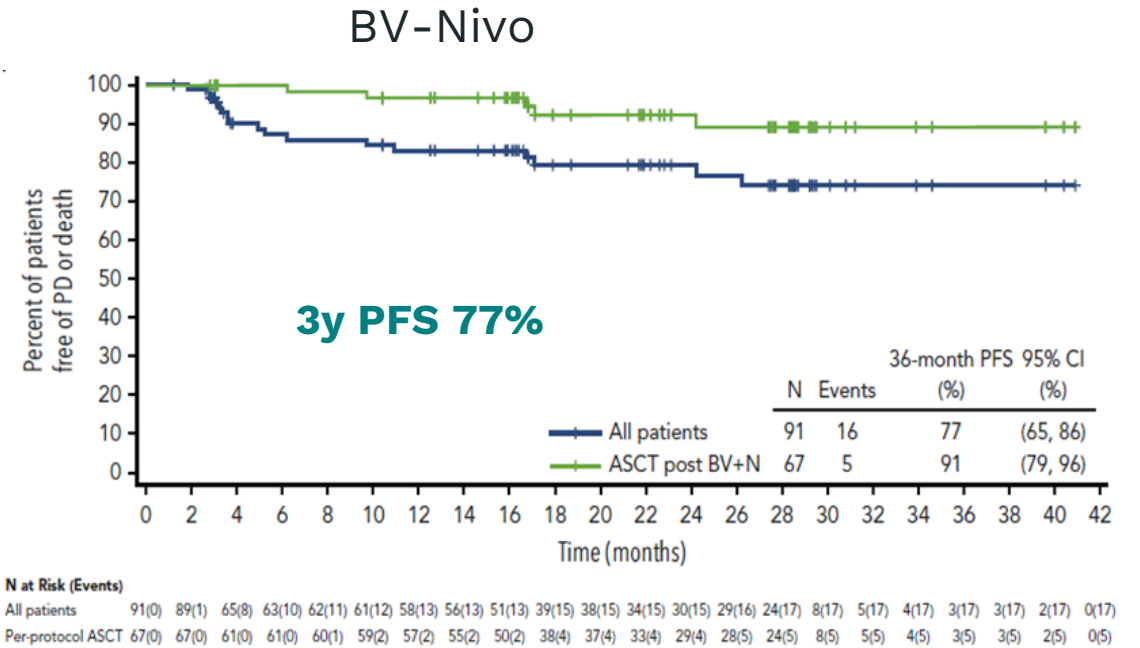
Lynch RC, et al. Lancet Haematol 2021

Nivo ± ICE

**2y PFS 72%**



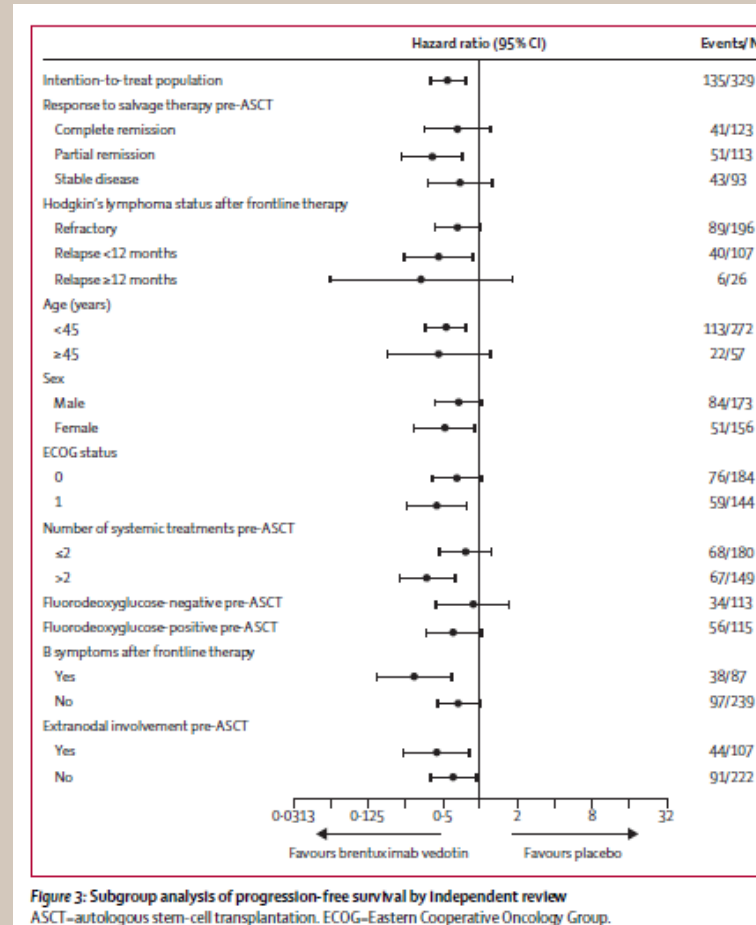
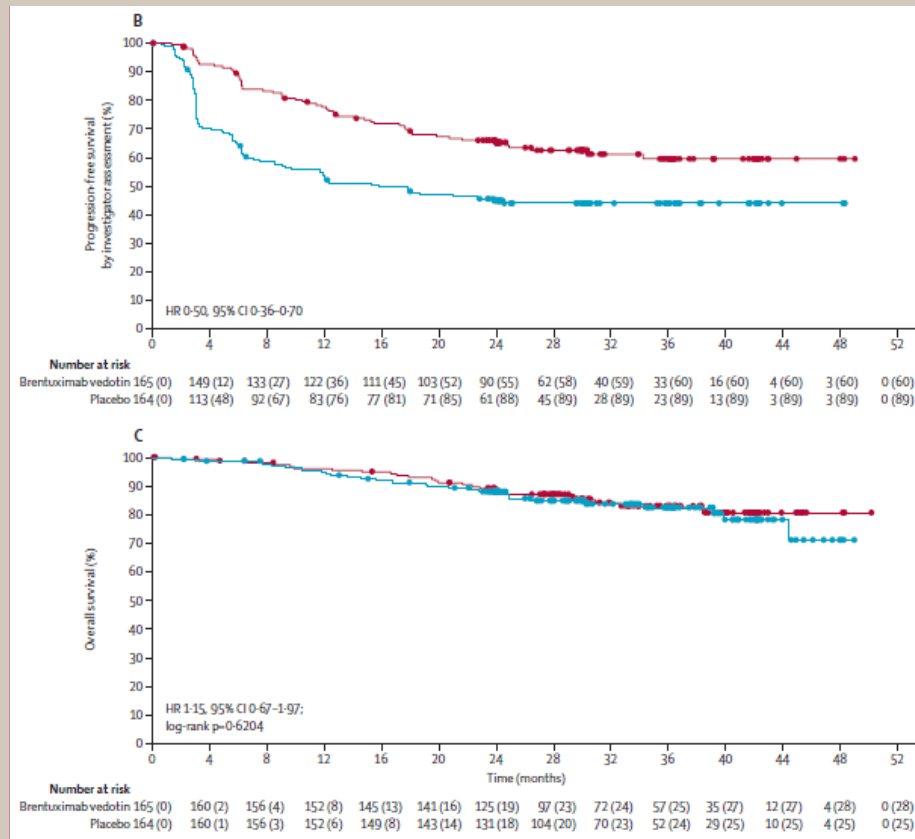
Mei GM et al, Blood 2022



Advani R, et al. Blood 2021

# BV after ASCT - AETHERA study

BV after ASCT improves PFS of high-risk patients: primary refractory, early relapse, stage IV at relapse



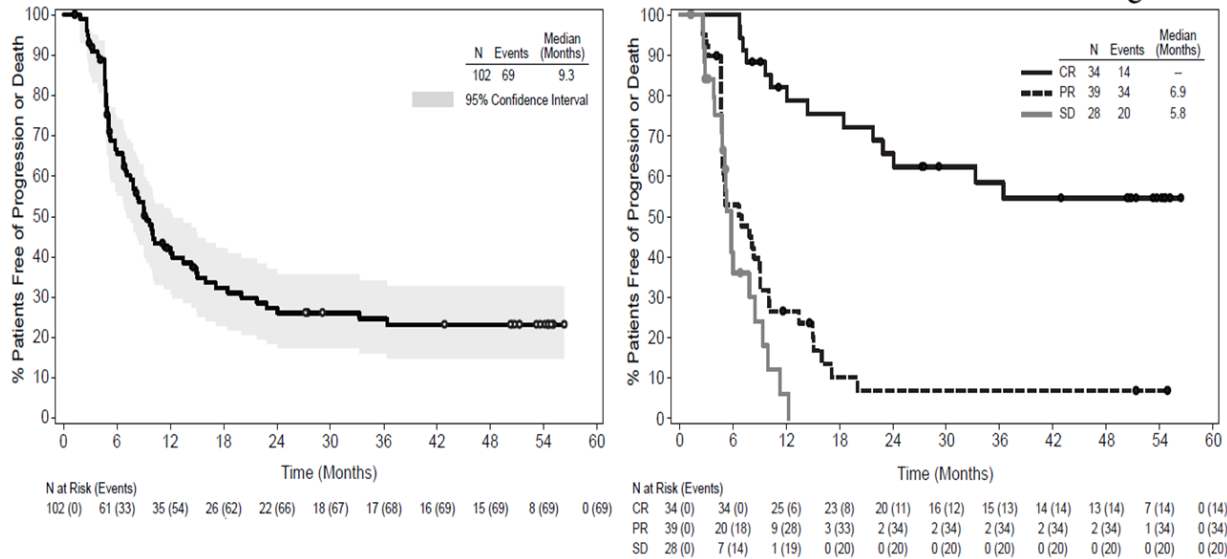


# Beyond 2<sup>nd</sup> line

## PD1 blockade

Armand et al, Blood 2023

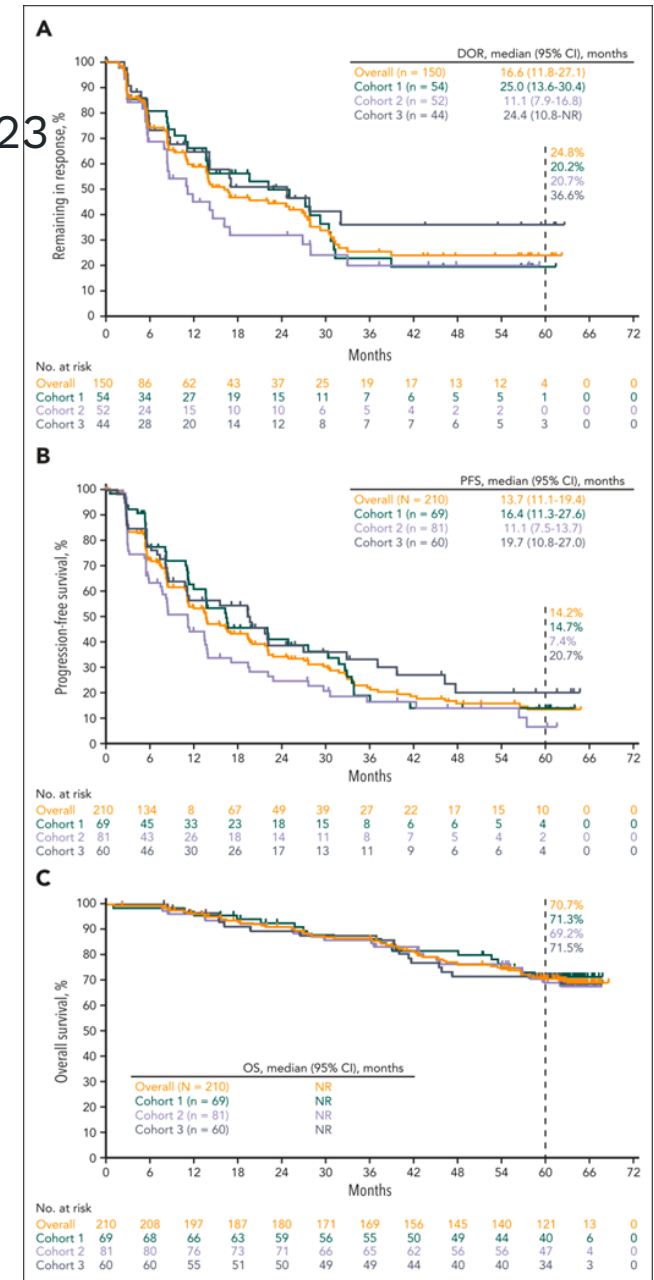
## Bv monotherapy Gopal et al. Blood 2015



## Bendamustine + Bv

full doses of both agents q 3 wks  
well tolerated

Sawas et al, ASH 2015: > 2nd line: RR  
69%



# How to cure the incurable?

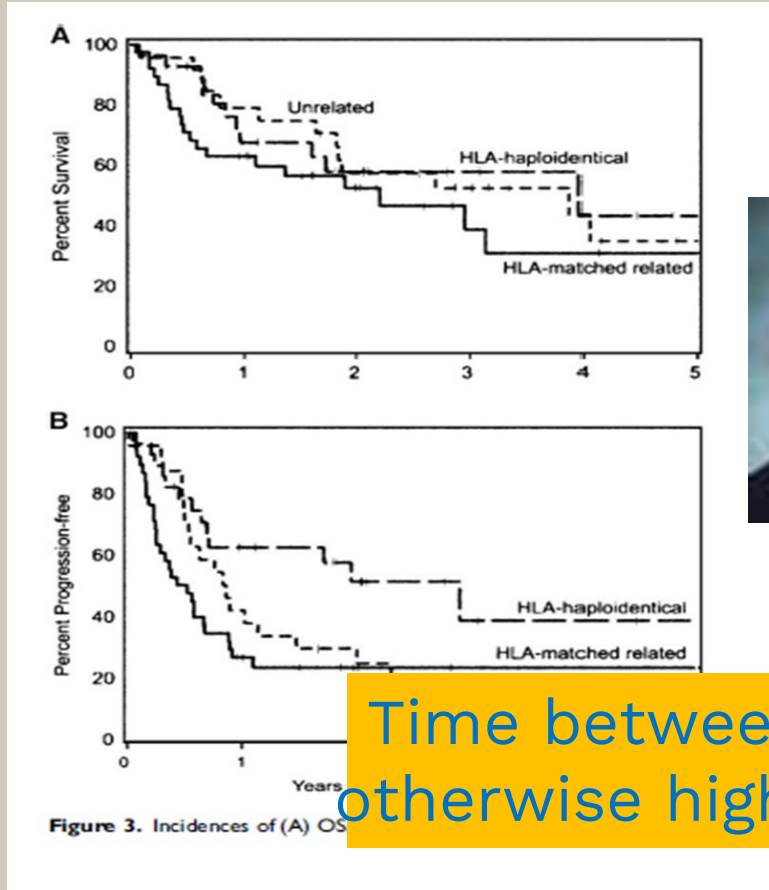
Diseases desperate grown

By desperate appliance are relieved

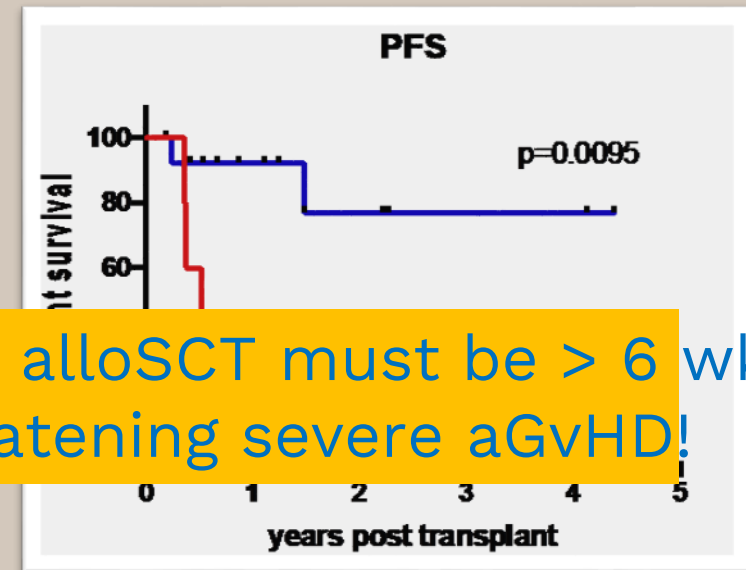
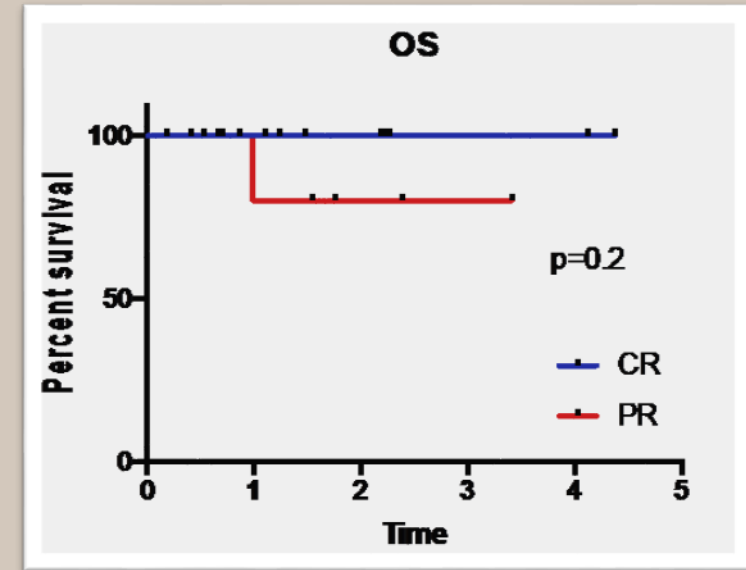
Or not at all\*

\*Shakespeare W, Hamlet

# RIC followed by HLA-(haplo)identical SCT



Time between last dose of PD1i and alloSCT must be > 6 wks, otherwise high incidence of life-threatening severe aGvHD!



# Conclusions 1 – front-line therapy

With risk-adapted front-line therapy  $\approx$  90% newly diagnosed pts. < 60-70 y can be cured

eBEACOPP > AVD+Bv > ABVD

Front-line regimens including Bv or PD1i will become standard of care

BrECADD, AVD + PD1i

To ameliorate toxicity

Use peg-G-CSF for primary prophylaxis in all regimens > ABVD

Use sperm cryopreservation in men and GnRH analogues, oocyte or ovary tissue cryopreservation in women

Start routine breast imaging <7 y from th. start, consider LD lung-CT in smokers

Keep in mind, it's not only RT that causes secondary cancer!

Irradiate only involved nodes or, at most, regions

## Conclusions 2 – relapsed / refractory

HD-CT + Bv or PD1i seems more effective than HD-CT alone

Which group of pts benefits and role of ASCT currently unclear

Consolidation with Bv or PD1i after ASCT useful in high-risk patients

Do not forget RT!

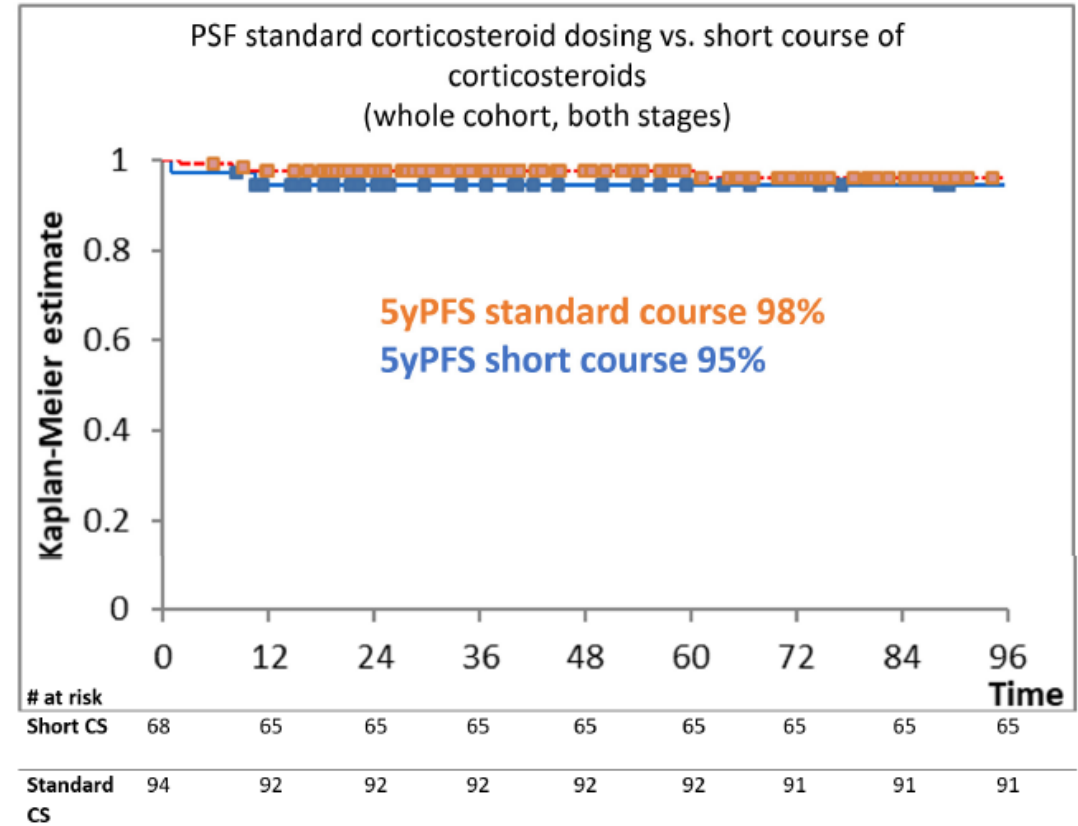
Do not stop PD1i until clinical progression

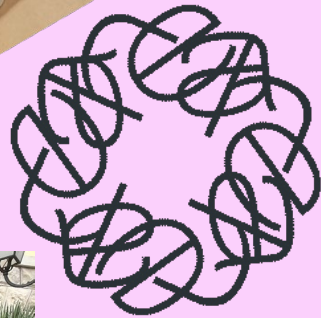
Allo SCT using haploidentical related donors and RIC can cure some, otherwise incurable, young pts. with treatment-sensitive disease

# OPTIMAL APPROACH TO R/R cHL

Prevention

Cure the patient with front-line therapy!





# eha

