



Indian Society of Hematology  
& Blood Transfusion



# 5<sup>th</sup> ISHBT-EHA Tutorial

01<sup>st</sup> - 03<sup>rd</sup> March 2024



**Alexandros Spyridonidis**

Professor of Hematology

University of Patras

Greece

# EHA-ISHBT Hematology

March 1-3, 2024 |  
Hyderabad, India

Overview of Stem Cell  
Transplantation – Focus on  
Haplo-identical SCT

Speaker:  
Alexandros Spyridonidis  
Prof. of Hematology



# | Disclosures

- 2023/ 2024: Research support: Novartis, AbbVie
- 2023/2024: Honoraria for advisory membership and travel grants:  
Gilead, MSD, Novartis, Amgen, Bristol, Genesis, AbbVie, Servier
- Nothing related to this talk

# Few words about me



The 4 pillars of the Cell Therapy Program  
**Director Prof. A. Spyridonidis**

*We treat patients*



[www.bmtpatra.gr](http://www.bmtpatra.gr)

**BMT Unit**

Establ. 1997 *auto*/  
 2006 *allo*  
 Jacie, ISO for clinical trials

*We recruit donors*



[www.xarisezoi.gr](http://www.xarisezoi.gr)

**CBMDP Donor Center**

Establ. 2010  
 WMDA Cert

*We innovate*



[www.ictpatras.gr](http://www.ictpatras.gr)

**Institute Cell Therapy**

Establ. 2021  
 GMP certified

*We shape scientists*



[www.mastercgt.com](http://www.mastercgt.com)

**MSc Cell and Gene Therapies**

Establ. 2022  
 International Students



Leader RIC Committee  
 Acute Leukemia WP



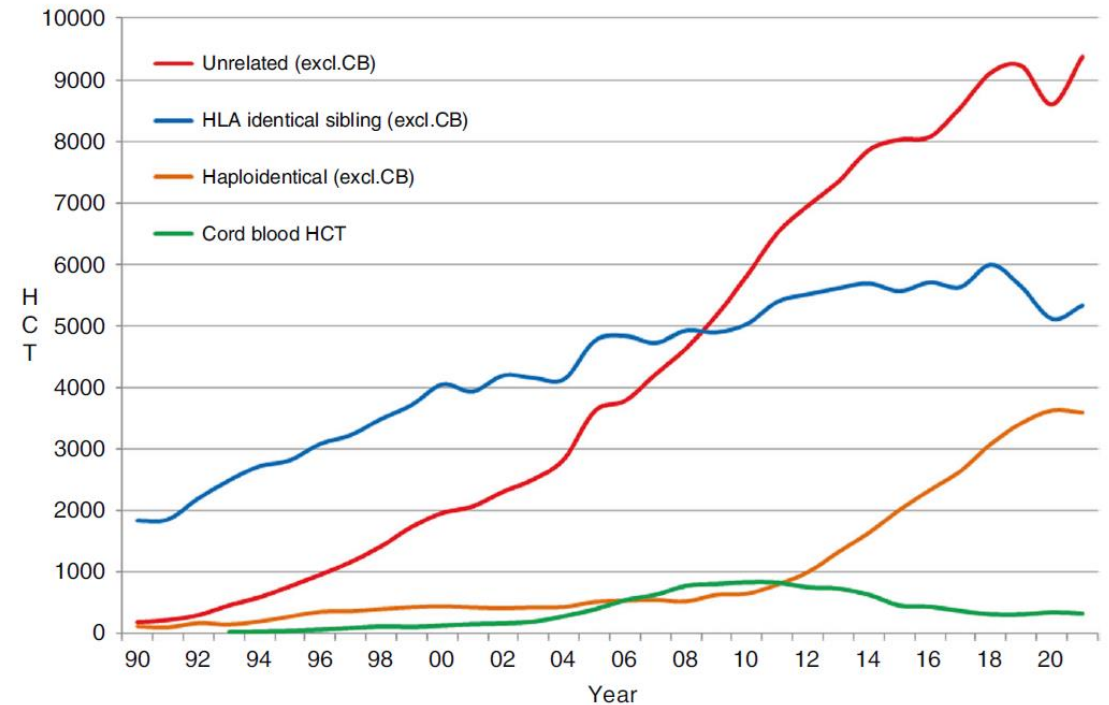
JACIE Inspector  
 CGT and GMP



Hellenic Representative  
 Section "Tissues-Cells"

# Remarkable progress in the field of allogeneic SCT

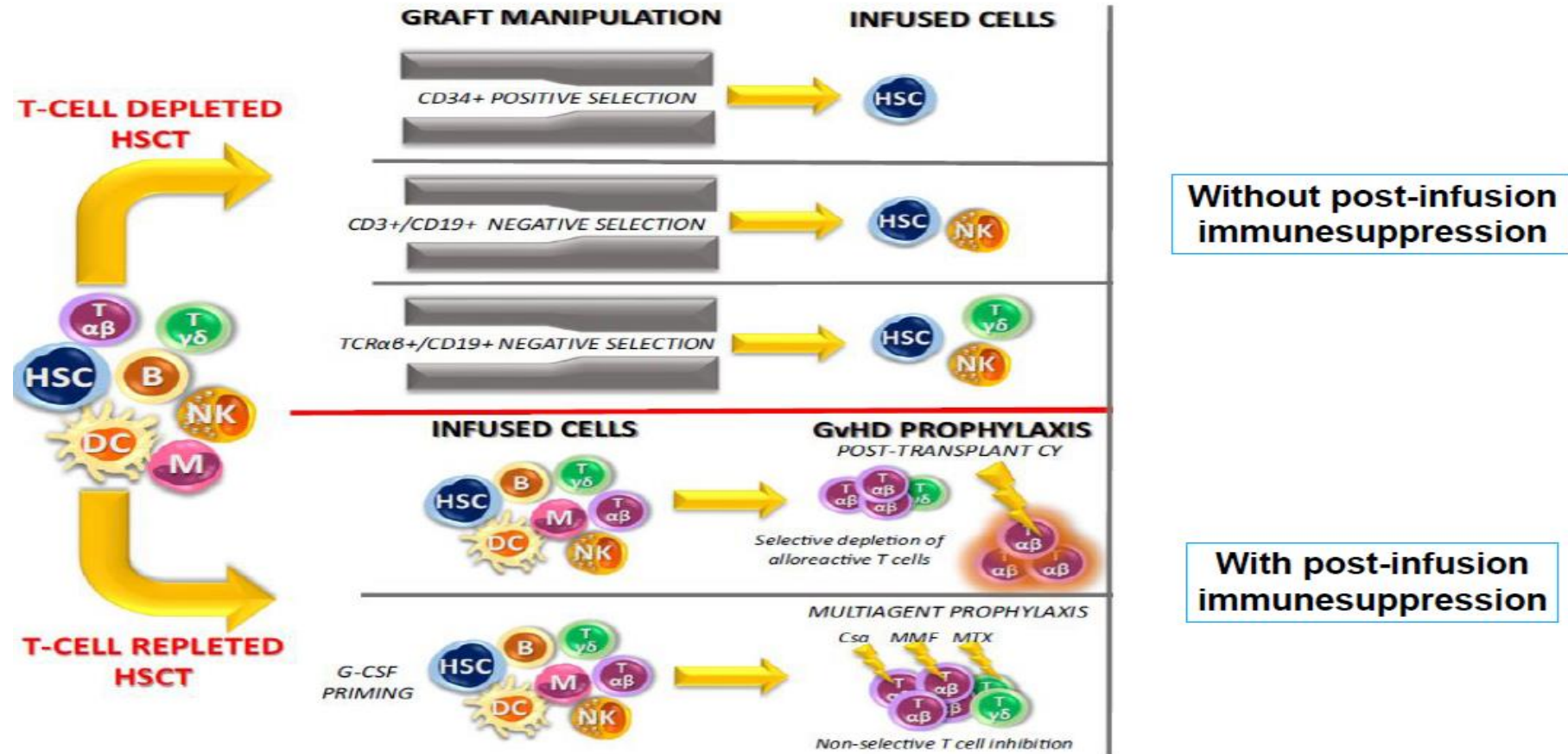
- Expanded patient pool (e.g. older pts)
  - NRM declines
  - antimicrobial strategies / support
  - modern conditioning
  - Modern GvHD prophylaxis
- Expanding the donor pool
  - WMDA 42 Mio unrelated donors
  - Transplant across HLA barriers (**Haplo donors**)



# | Learning Objectives

- Understand the platforms of haploidentical HSCT
- Understand the current status of haplo-PTCY in comparison to matched HSCT
- Adopt a strategy to choose donor, graft source and conditioning in haplo-PTCY HSCT
- Recognize the unique aspects of haplo-PTCY HSCT
- Adopt a strategy to treat relapse after haplo-PTCY HSCT
- Understand the unknowns and potential challenges in haplo-PTCY HSCT

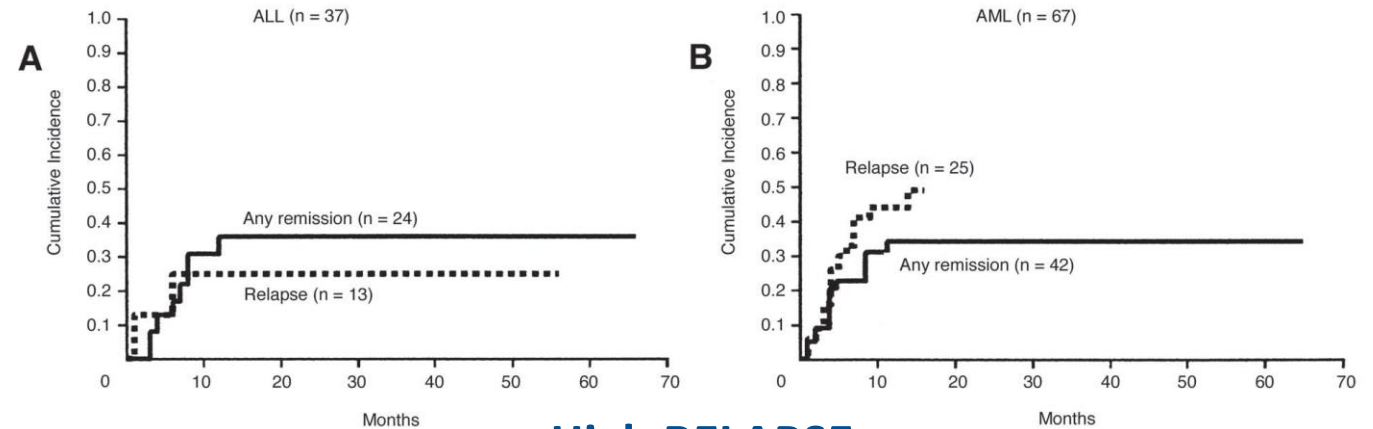
# Haplo-SCT: Transplant across HLA barriers



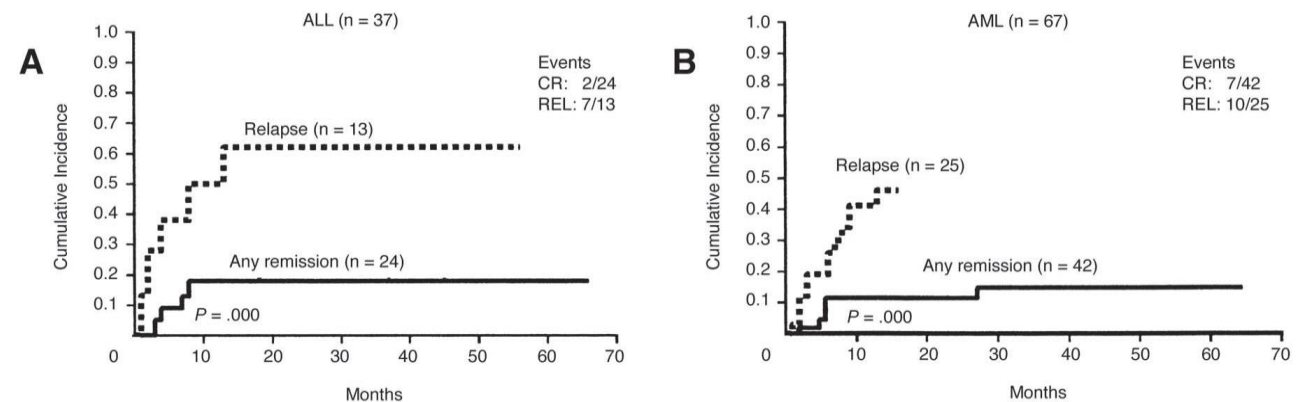
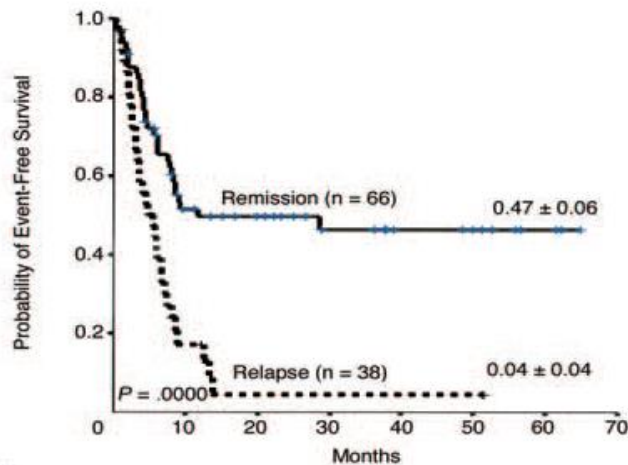
# T-cell depleted Haplo-SCT with CD34 selected “megadose” (veto effect) (Perugia)

- slow immune reconstitution
- Expensive
- expertise in graft manipulation
- have in place a strategy for adoptive immunotherapy to reduce risk of infections

## High TRM



## High RELAPSE

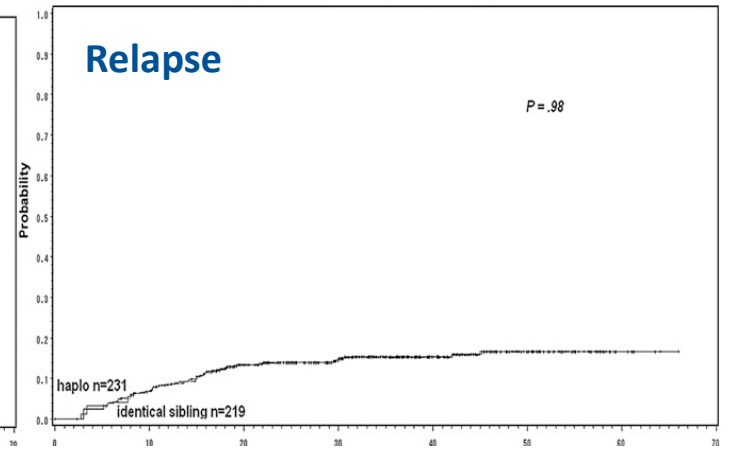
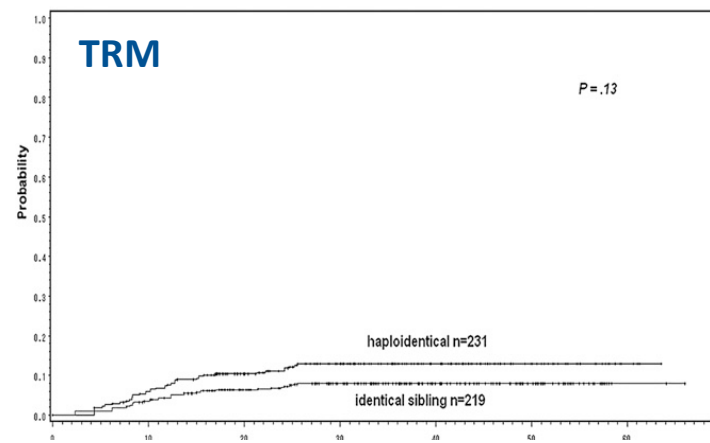
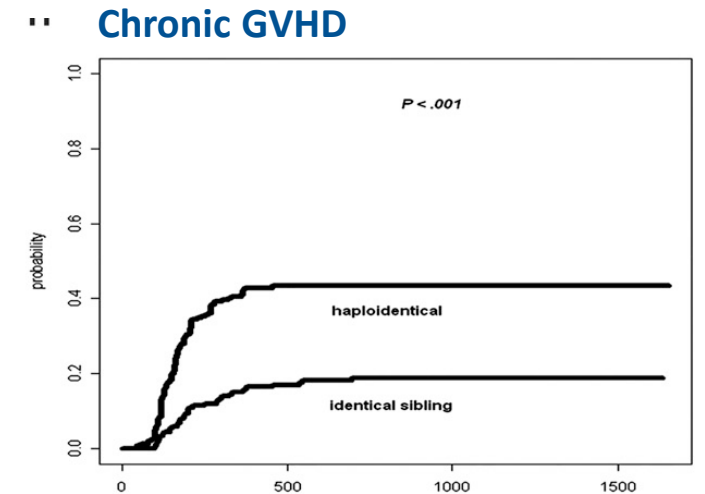
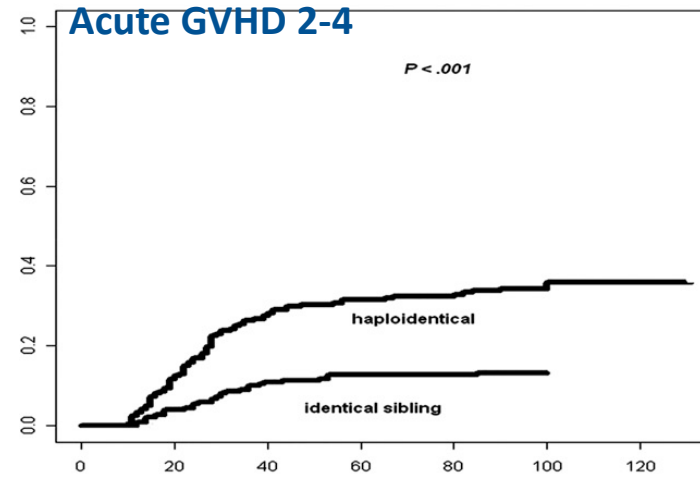


1. Aversa et al. JCO. 2005;23:3447-54,



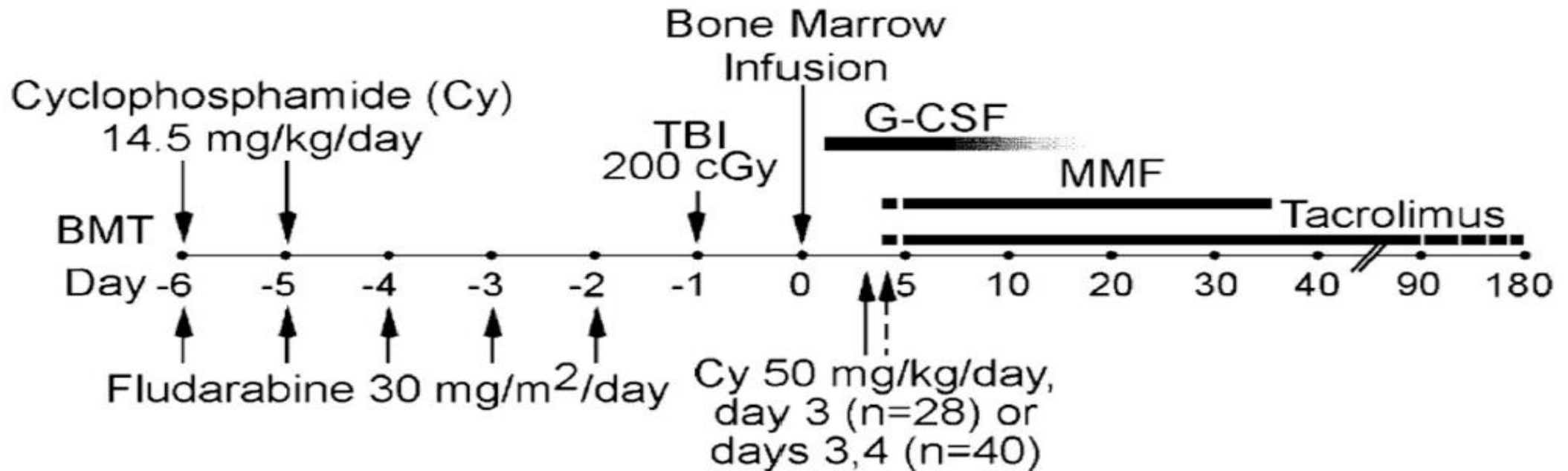
# Haplo-SCT with GIAC: G-CSF priming donor, intensive IMS, ATG, Combination PBSCT+BM. (China)

- Relatively inexpensive
- requires no expertise in graft manipulation
- Limited experience outside of China
- relatively high rates of severe acute and chronic GVHD are associated with this approach
- Italy: add basiliximab, use only BM

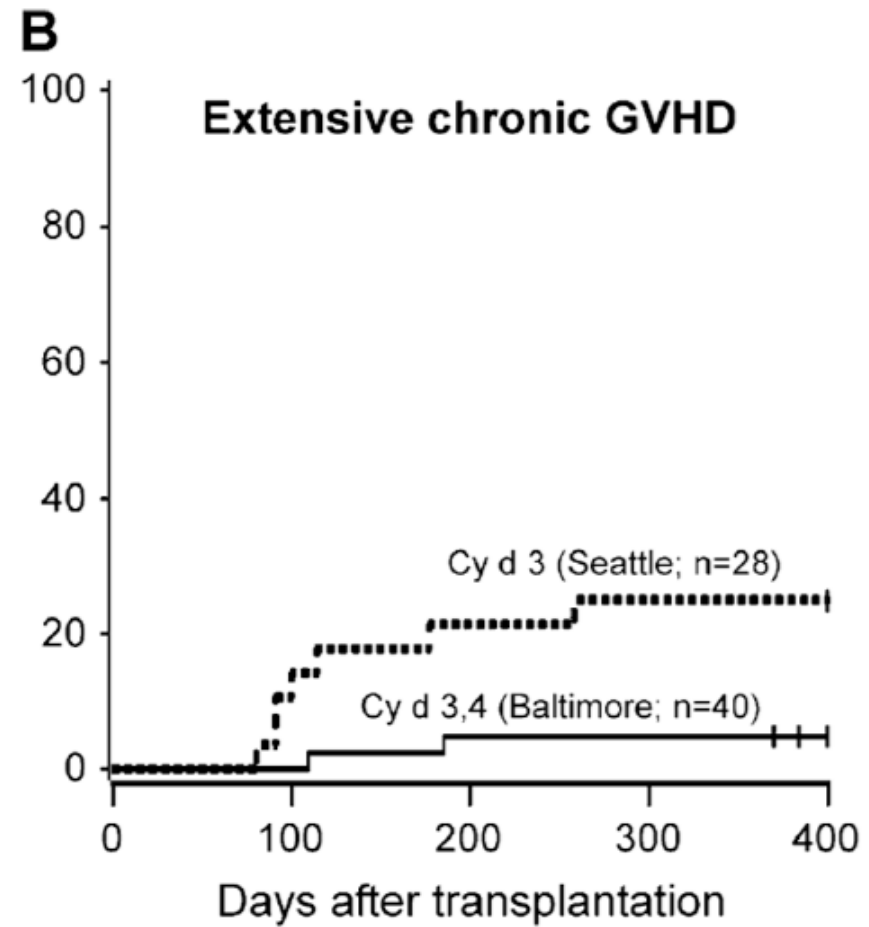
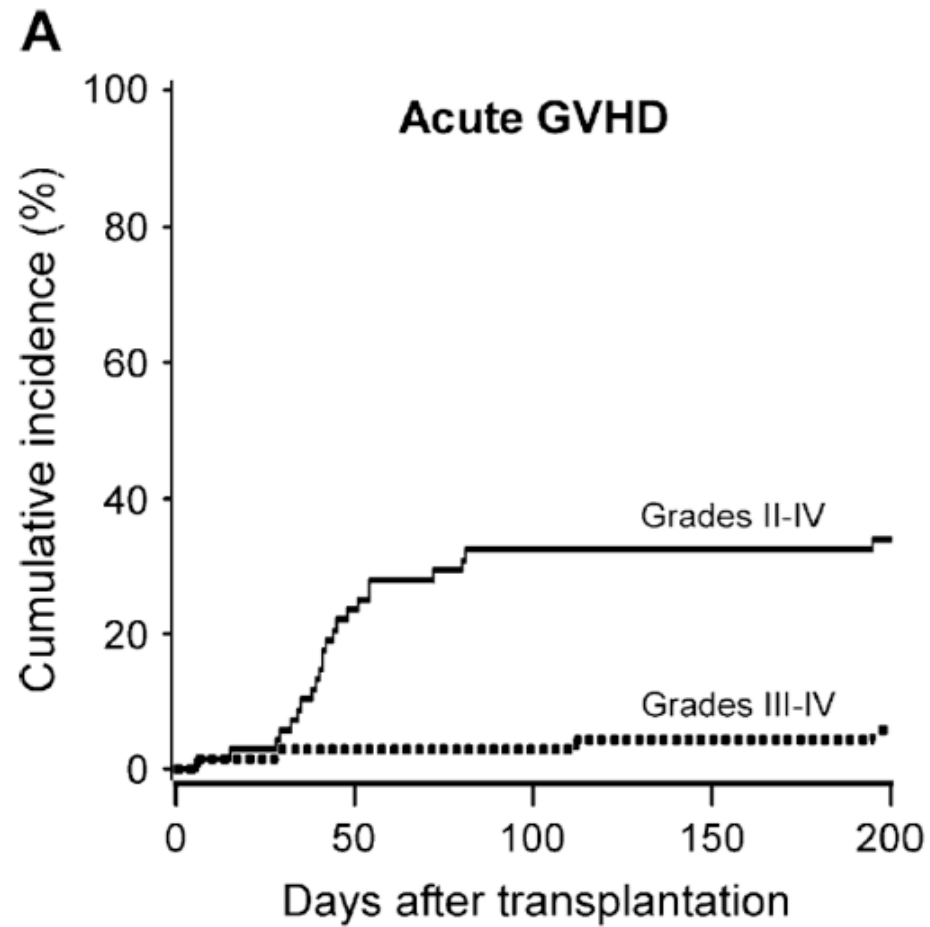


# Haplo- SCT: PTCY is the winner

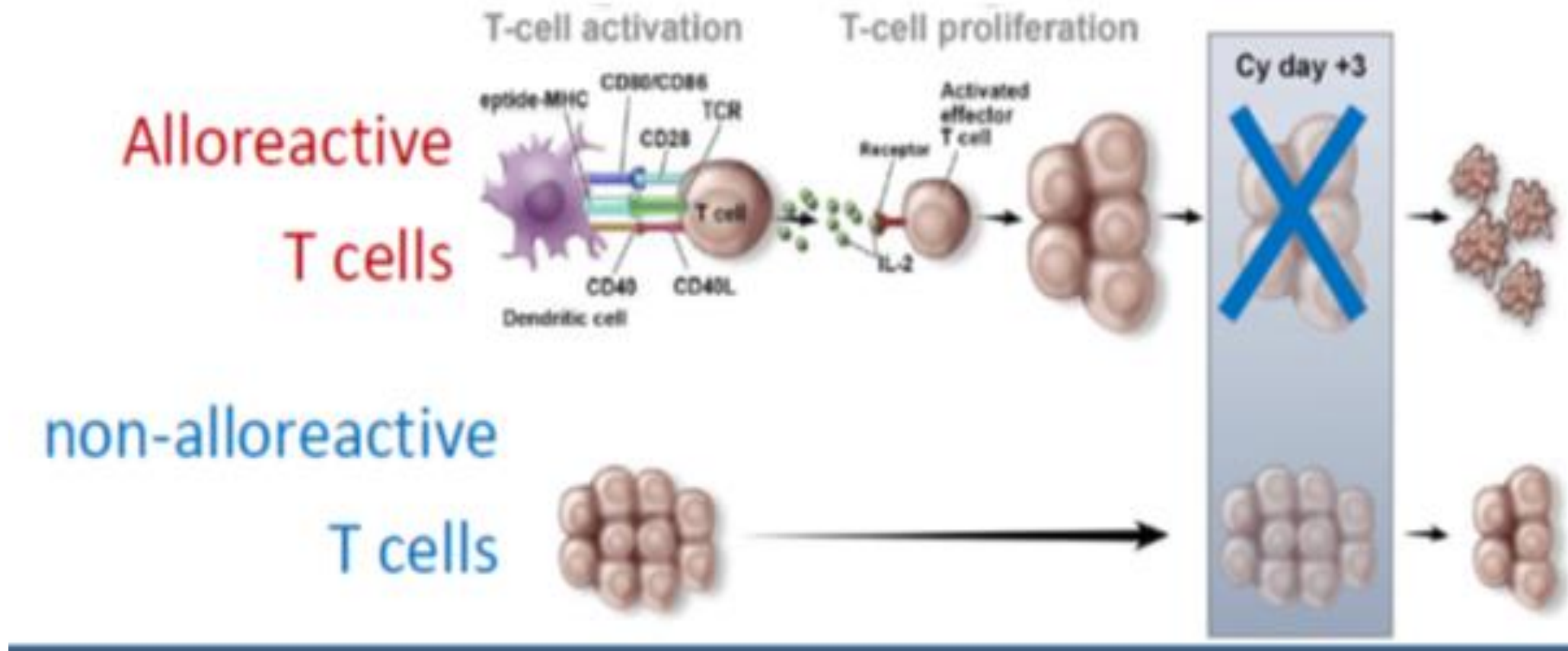
Low cost, simple, no extra instrumentation and training needed, utilization around the world



# Early clinical studies of Haplo-BMT PTCY

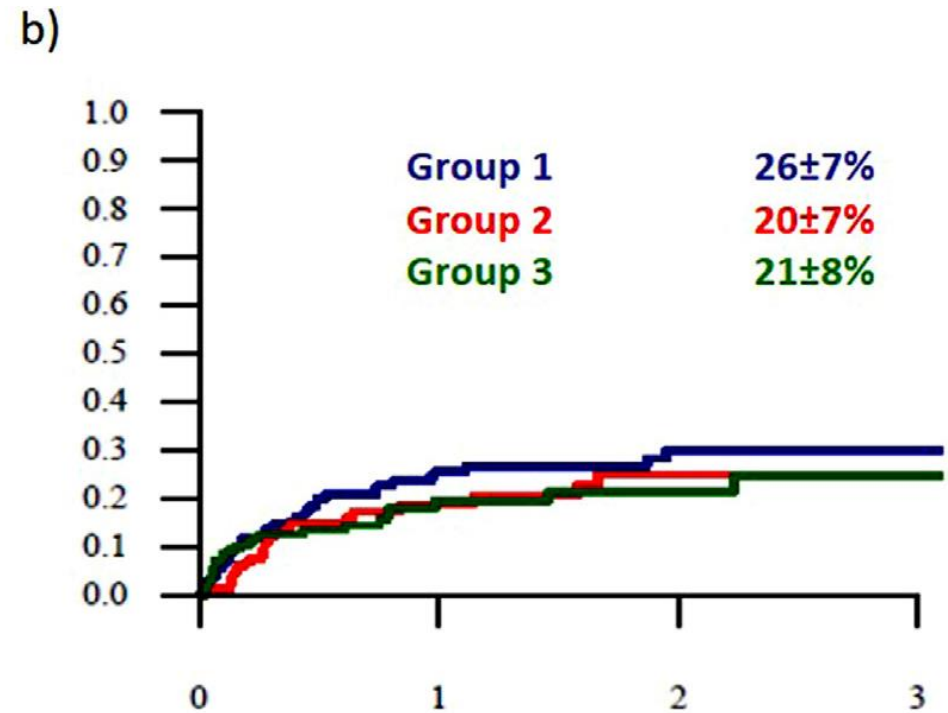
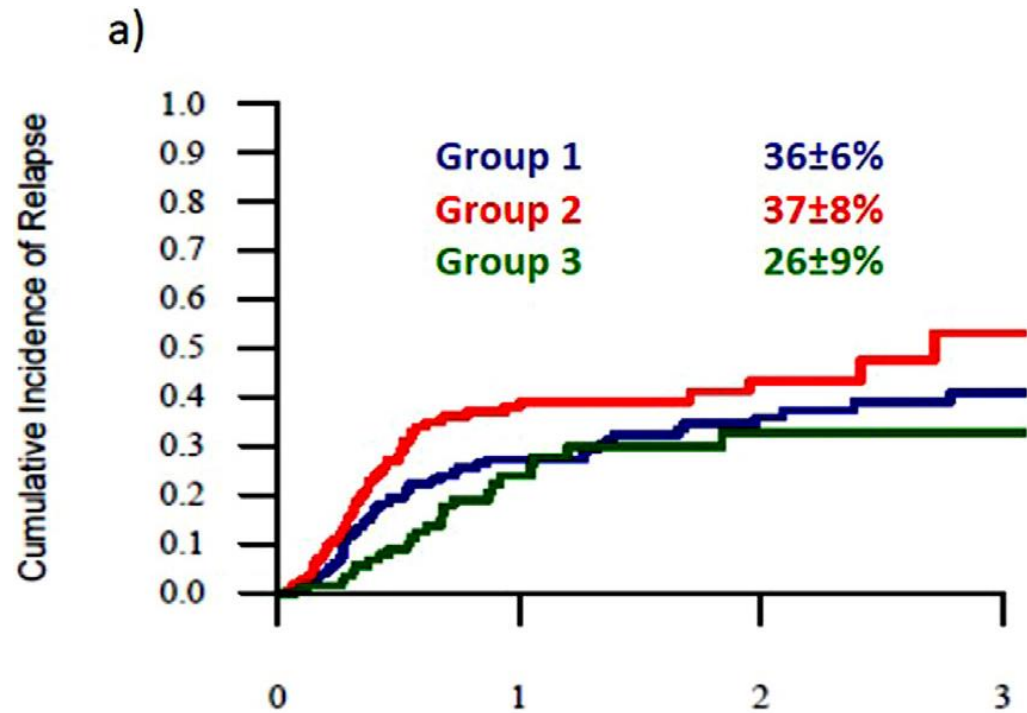


# PTCY Haplo-HSCT : Depletion of in vivo alloreactive T cells



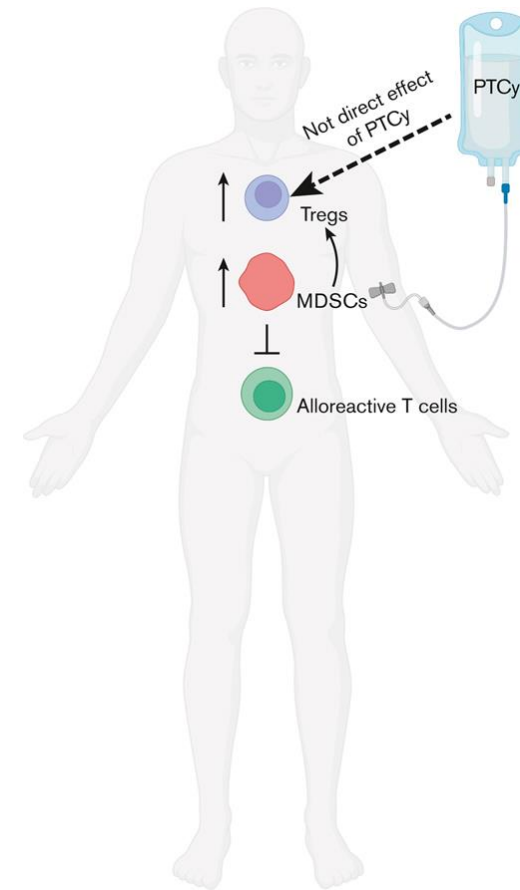
# When to start CNI?

- EBMT retrospective



# PTCY Haplo-HSCT : preferential recovery of regulatory cells

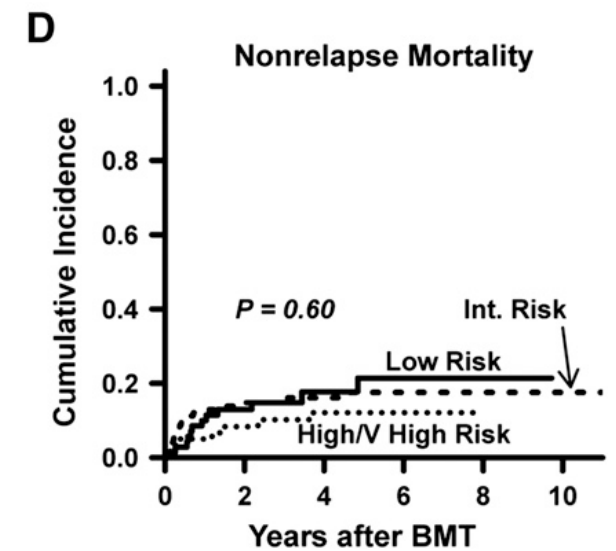
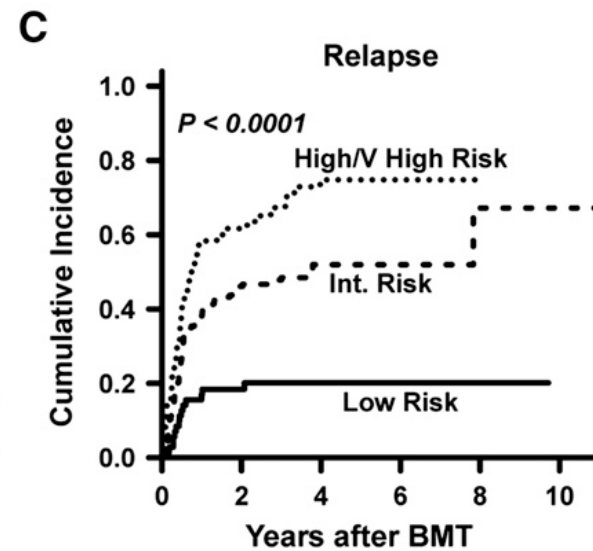
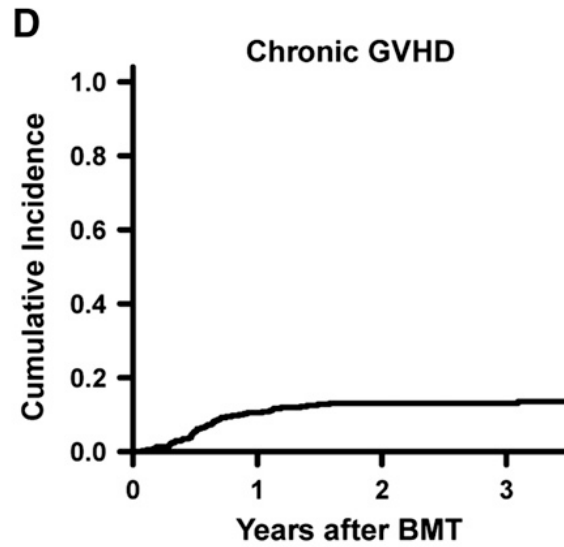
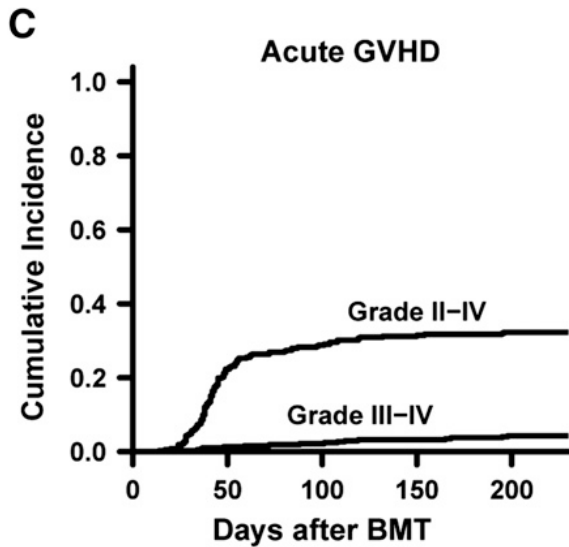
- Surviving alloreactive T cells are actively being suppressed by Tregs and other regulatory cells
- Reduced cGVHD incidence



# Haplo-SCT with PTCY: Confirmation of early clinical studies

N=372, Haplo-BMT,  
NMA

REL on parallel with other graft sources  
when DRI is factored in



# | Haplo- SCT with PTCY

- Changed the field in performing SCT
- Already a standard of care for HLA-haploidentical HCT (EU and USA)
- Now everyone has a donor [Indian 700.000 donors, challenges in unrelated donor search e.g., minorities, population with extreme genetic diversity (novel alleles, unique haplotypes)]
- Greece also a population with unique haplotypes, now with a pool of 250.000 donors about 30% of UD transplants are from Greek donors





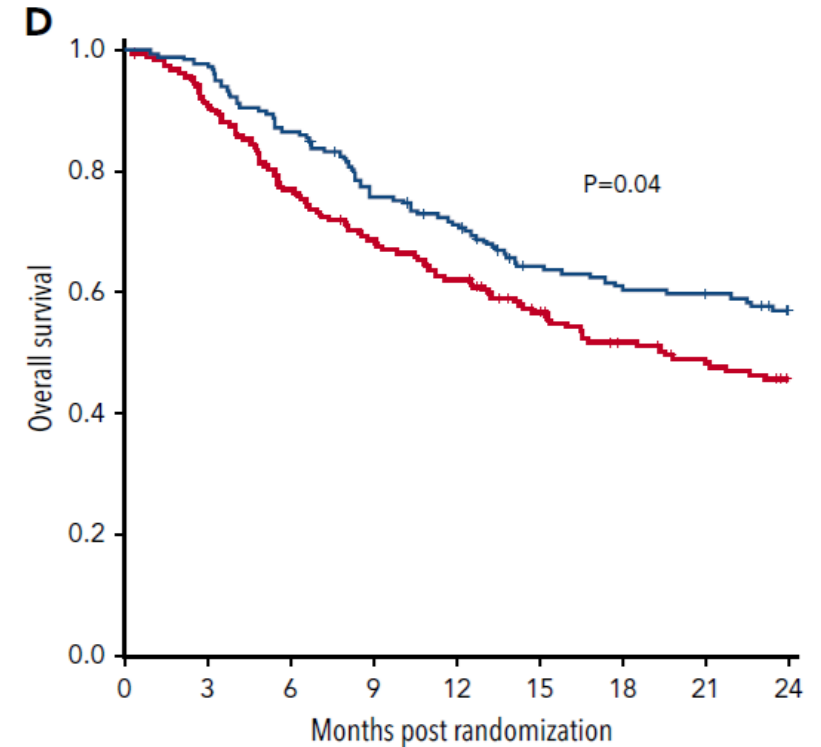
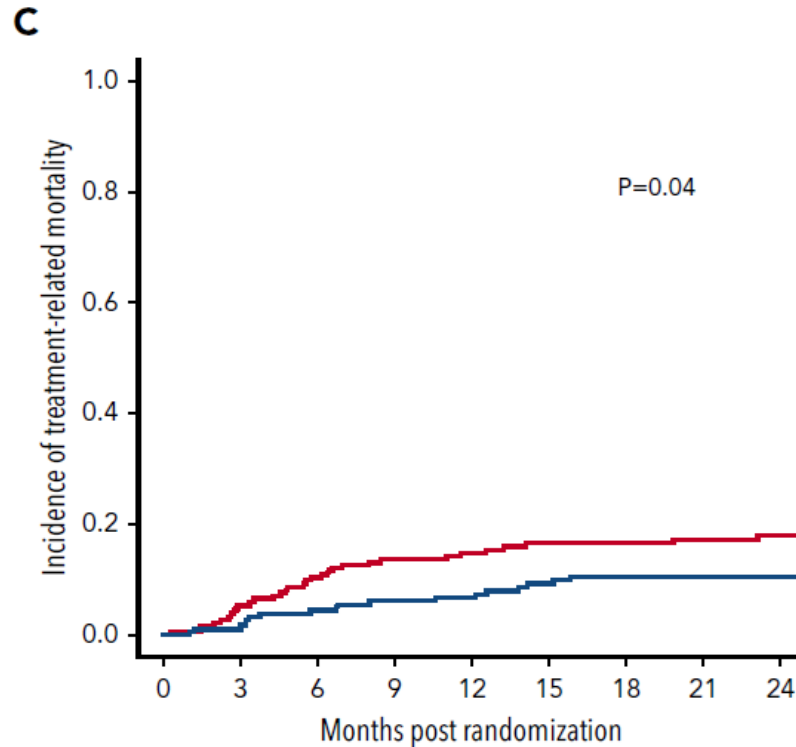
# Haplo-SCT with PTCY: What we have learned

# Haplo-PTCY > CB

Double unrelated umbilical cord blood vs HLA-haploidentical bone marrow transplantation: the BMT CTN 1101 trial

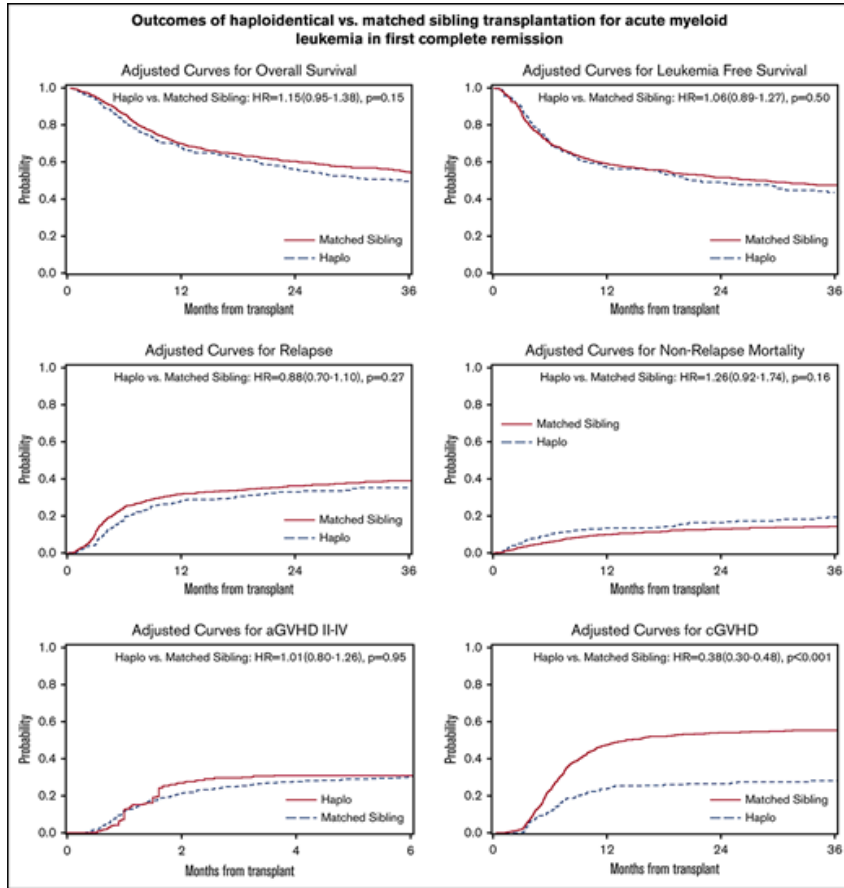
## KEY POINTS

- There is no significant difference in PFS between UCB and haploidentical transplantation for leukemia or lymphoma.
- Lower nonrelapse mortality and superior OS favor haploidentical marrow over UCB transplantation.

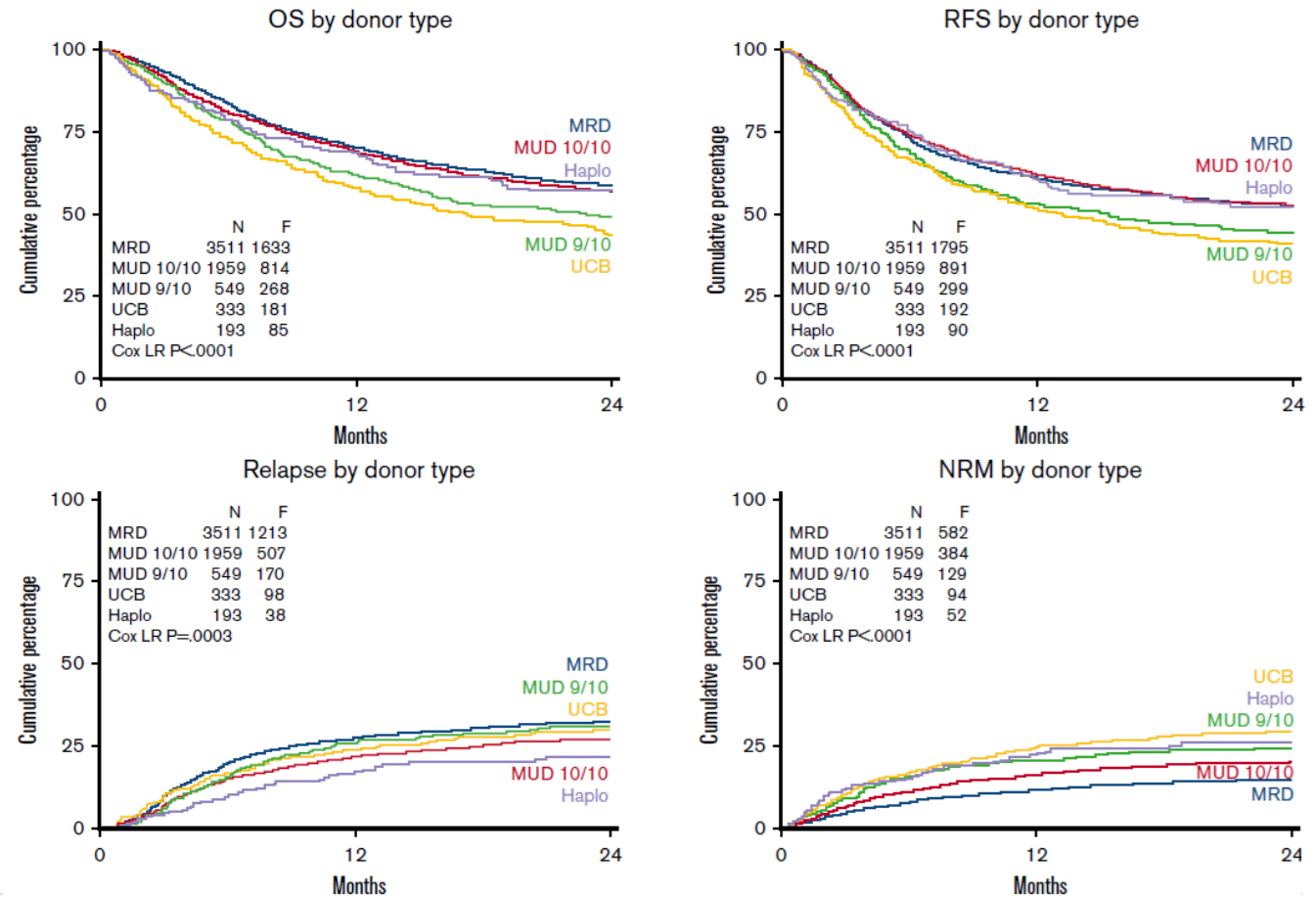


# Haplo-PTCY challenges matched CNI-based SCT

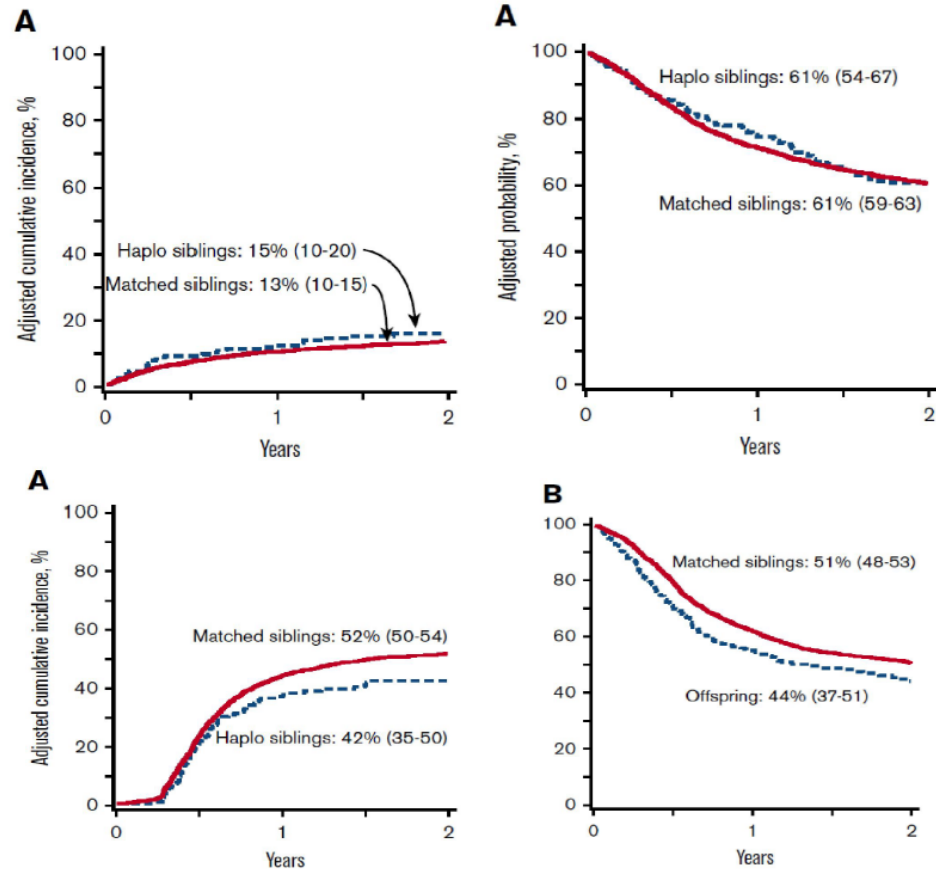
CIBMTR: AML in CR1.



EBMT: poor risk AML in CR1.

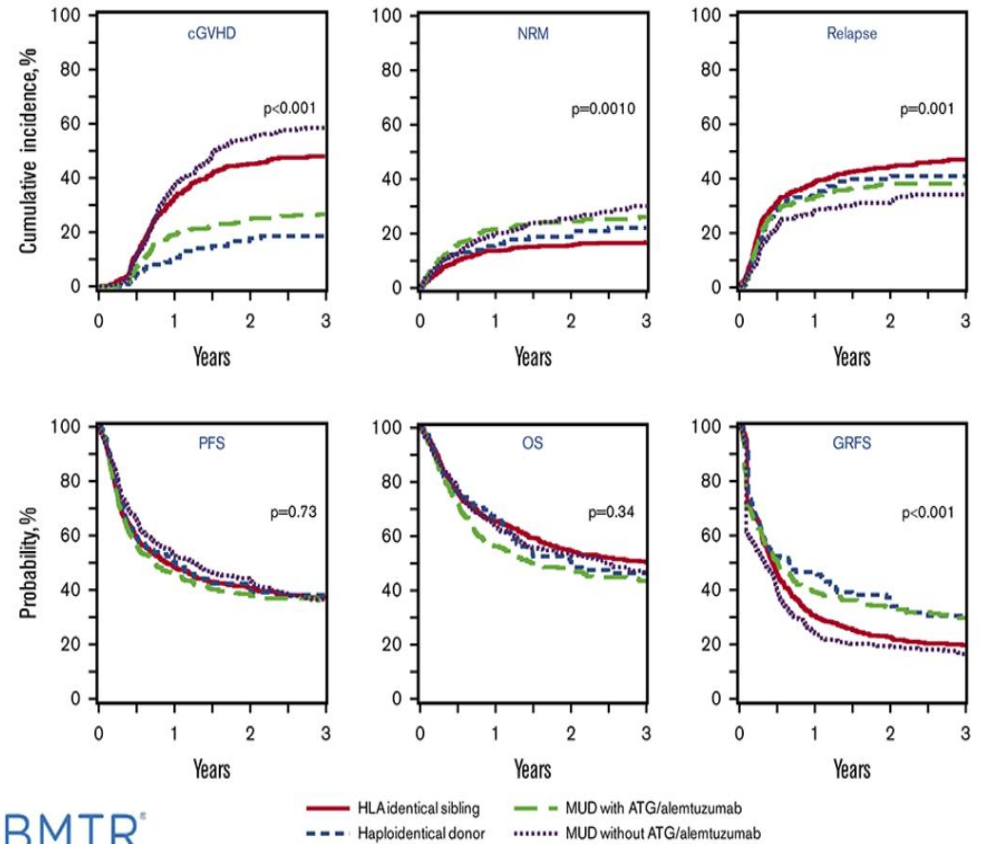


# Haplo-PTCY challenges matched CNI-based SCT



Robinson, Blood Adv 2019

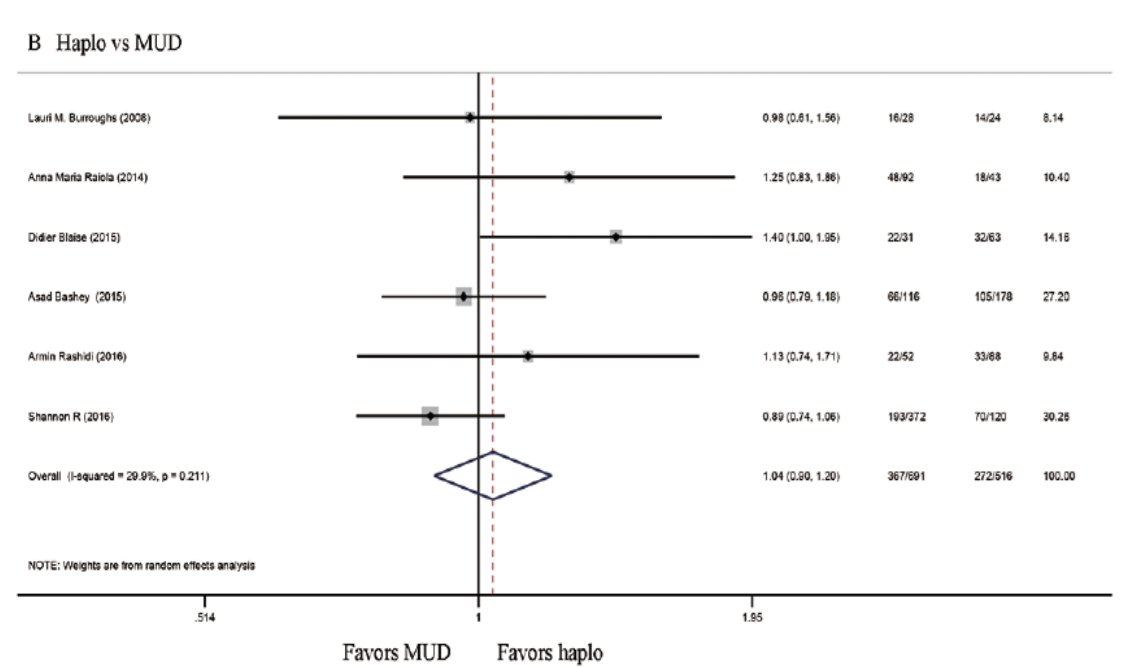
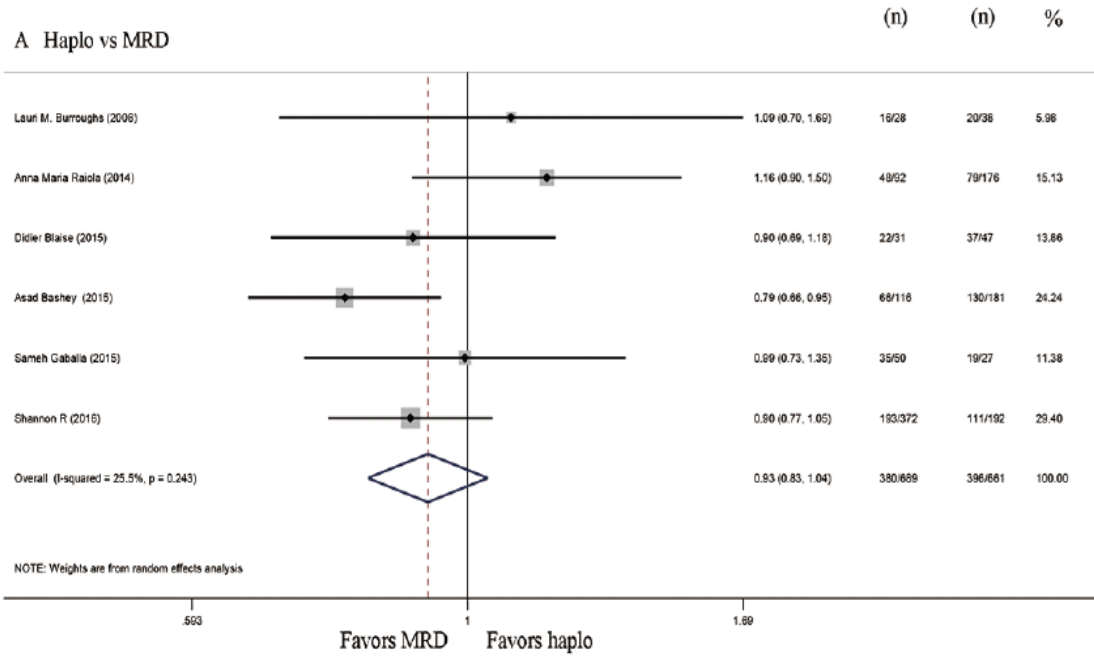
Matched Sibling vs. MUD vs. Haploidentical HCT for DLBCL



# Haplo-PTCY challenges matched CNI-based SCT

## a meta-analysis of case-control studies

### 3-year overall survival.



# Donor selection in haplo-PTCY

- Donor must be medically, socially, and psychologically fit to donate
- Matched CMV serostatus between donor and recipient (though donor CMV serostatus is not associated with survival (letermovir prophylaxis?))
- Avoid major ABO incompatibility, use an ABO compatible donor over a minor ABO incompatible donor
- Donor age <40 years preferred over donor age  $\geq$ 40 years
- Prefer male over females

# | Anti-HLA Donor Specific Antibodies (DSA)

- DSA in the recipient at transplant are the most important aspects of haplo-donor selection
- Increased DSA in parous females or pts with high transfusion burden (30-50%) vs 11% in males
- DSA against HLA Class I and II equal,
- what constitutes a prohibitive DSA level is unclear, mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) values can differ between laboratories
- MFI > 2.000 / > 5.000 / 10.000 → graft dysfunction, late engraftment / graft failure / very high risk of graft failure

# | DSA Desensitization

- Goal (arbitrarily) → reduce DSA to MFI < 3.000
- 3 to 6 every-other-day therapeutic plasma exchange (TPE) with post-TPE/IV immunoglobulin (IVIg) starting 2 weeks before conditioning
- Sop up the DSA by administer to the recipient irradiated “buffy coat” prepared from 1 unit of blood before transplantation

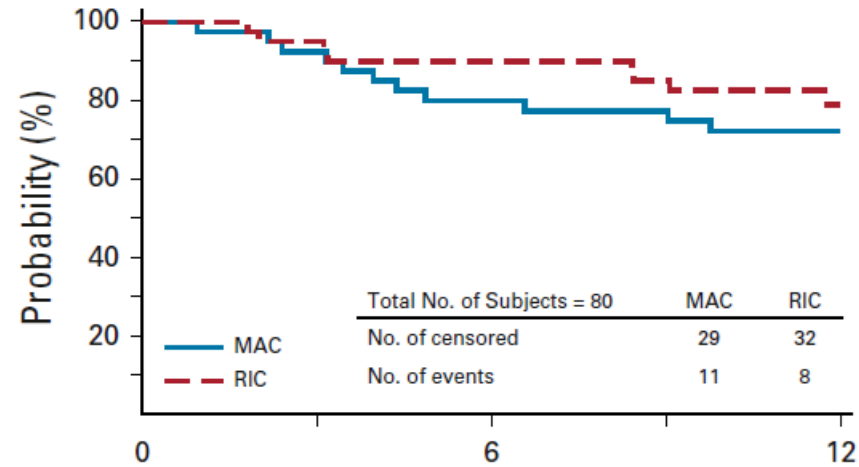


# | Donor- Recipient Relationship

- ❑ Absence of a negative effect of increasing HLA mismatched on outcomes (reports that DRB1 or epitope mismatching may decrease RR)
- ❑ avoid parent donors (14% graft failure vs 6% siblings and offsprings)
- ❑ Prefer younger children than older sibling
- ❑ 2<sup>nd</sup> or even 3<sup>rd</sup> degree relatives (eg uncle, aunt, cousins, grandchildren) are safe alternatives
- ❑ Q: younger nephew vs older sibling?

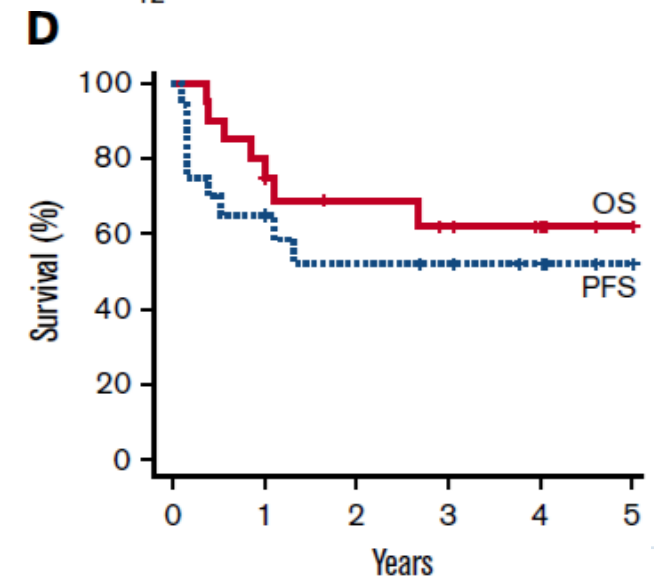
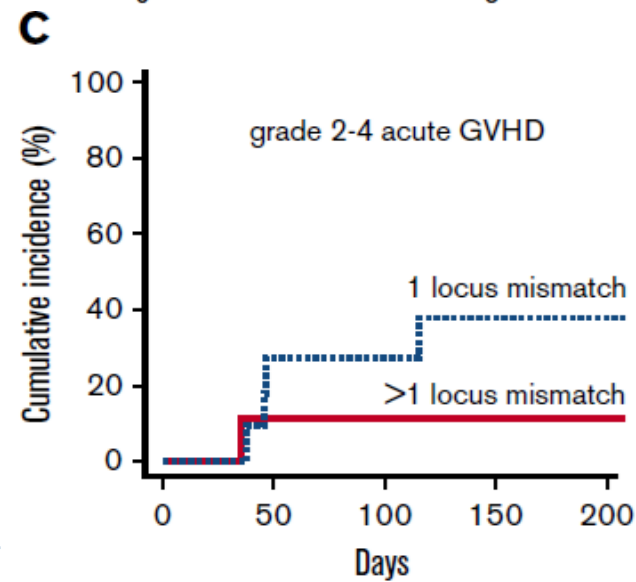
# PTCY in UD with >1 mismatches (haplo UD?)

HLA match, No. (%)	
7 out of 8	49 (61)
6 out of 8	19 (24)
5 out of 8	7 (9)
4 out of 8	5 (6)



## Unrelated grafts

HLA matches§		
5/10 (1 locus mismatch at A, B, Cw, DRB1, DQB1)	1	(5%)
6/10 (1 A, 1 Cw, both B loci mismatched)	1	(5%)
7/10 (1 locus mismatch at class I, DRB1, DQB1)	3	(15%)
8/10	4	(20%)
9/10	11	(55%)



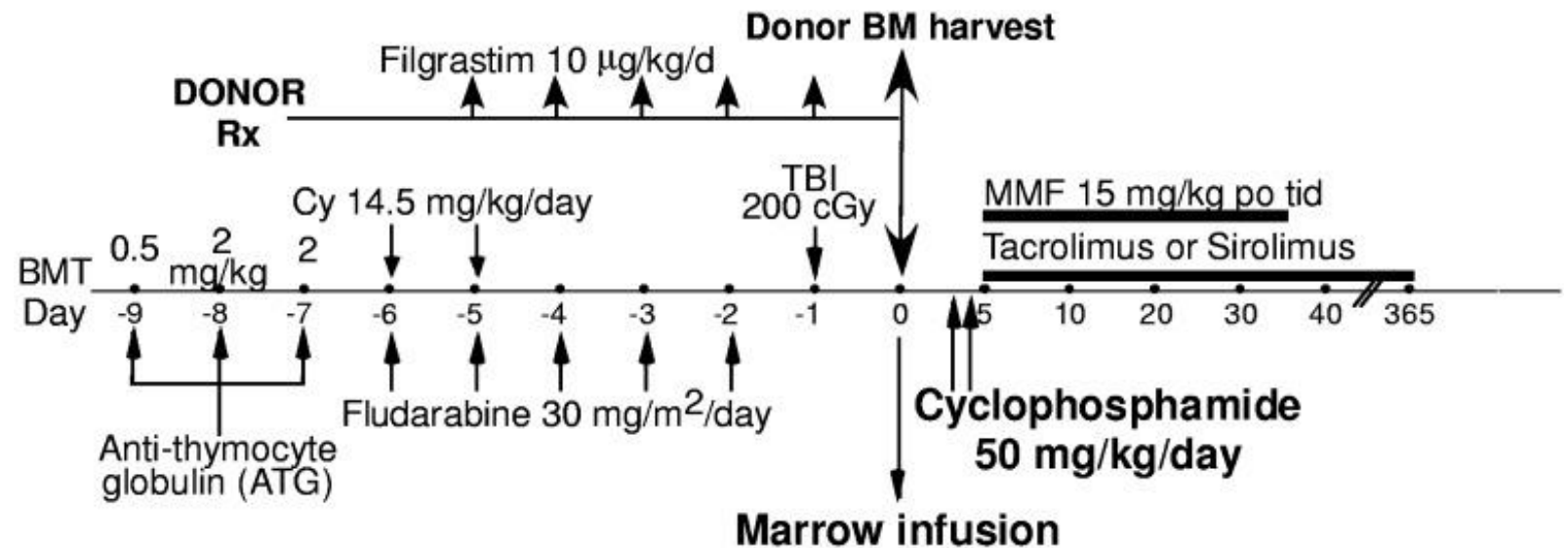
Shaw wt al. JCO 2021; 39:1971-1982, Kasamon YL, Blood Advances 2017; 1:288-292

# | PBSC or BM?

- Initial studies with BM, European experience with PBSCT
- Initial concerns that GVHD with PBSCT greater
- PBSCT vs BM RIC-Haplo (CIBMTR)
  - neutrophil engraftment 1 to 2 days earlier with PBSCT
  - aGVHD and cGVHD risk was greater
  - relapse risk was less
- Use of PTCY + ATG with PBSCT
- BM: higher nucleated cell graft dose has been associated with improved PFS and OS
- PBSCT preferable for HR pts

# Haplo-PTCY in Non-malignant disorders

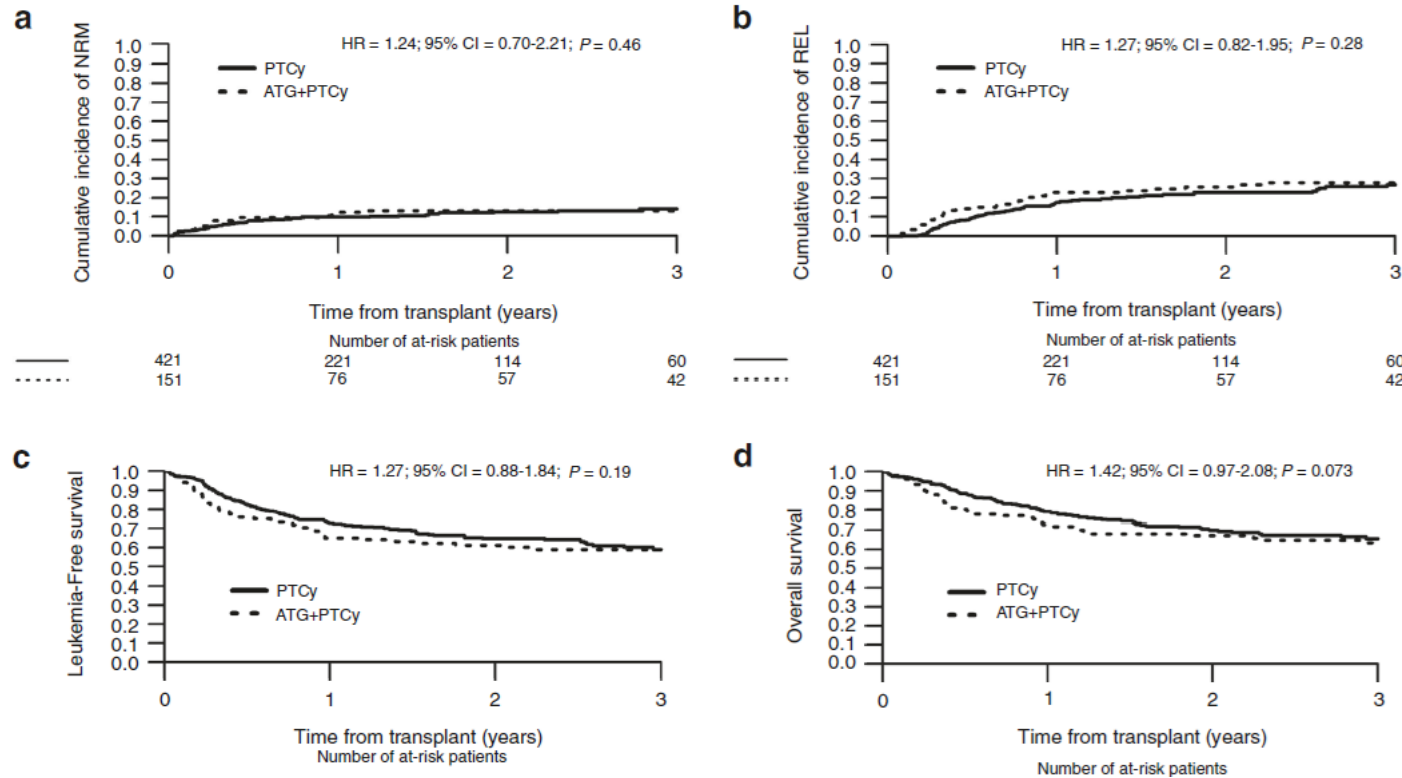
- Haplo-HCT with PTCY facilitates access to pts with no donor (minorities) and benign hematological disorders
- Sickle cell disease
- Thalassemia
- Fanconi anemia
- Aplastic anemia





European Society  
for Blood and Marrow Transplantation

# Should anti-thymocyte globulin be added in post-transplant cyclophosphamide based matched unrelated donor peripheral blood stem cell transplantation for acute myeloid leukemia? A study on behalf of the Acute Leukemia Working Party of the EBMT

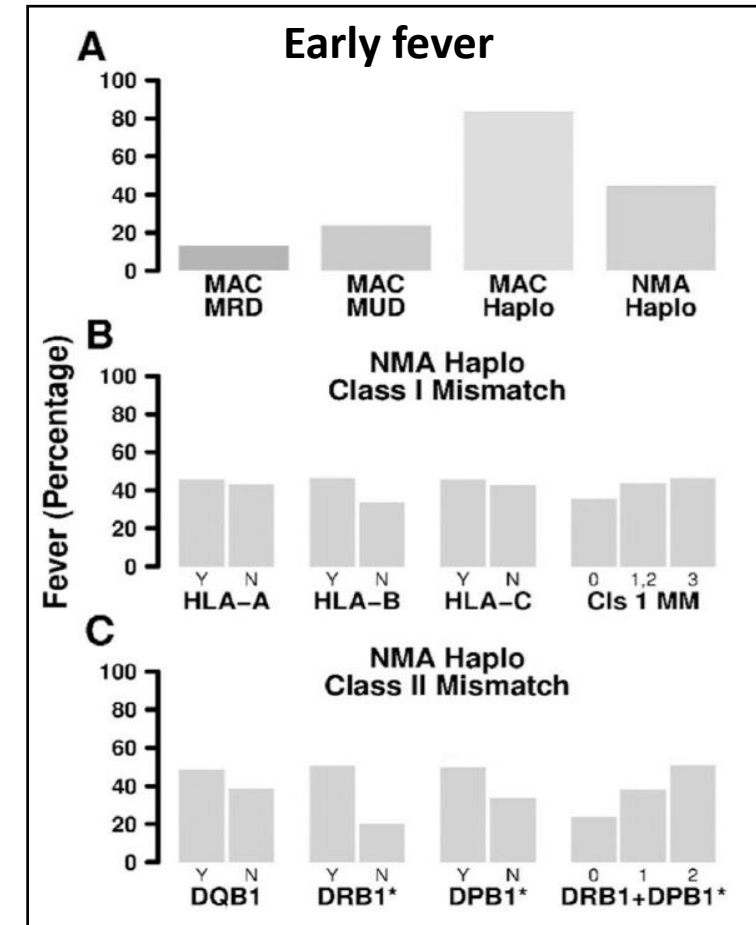


# | Unique concerns in haplo-SCT with PTCY

- Unique adverse events (CRS)
- Unique toxicities (Hemorrhagic cystitis, Cardiac etc)
- Unique relapses (HLA loss), more relapses?
- Unique immune reconstitution
- Increased CMV reactivation (but not worse survival)
- No PTLD with antibody free platforms
- TMA as in non PTCY transplants

# Unique AEs after haplo-PTCY: CRS

- related to the intense alloreactivity occurring as a result of the HLA mismatch between donor and recipient
- associated with class II mismatching
- Associated with higher CD3 graft cell dose (PBSCT > BM)
- between days 0 and 6
- severe



# Unique AEs after haplo-PTCY: CRS

❑ Noninfectious early fevers 44% to 80%

→ Antipyretics, antibiotics, avoid steroids → typically resolve soon after completion of PTCT

→ no effect on survival

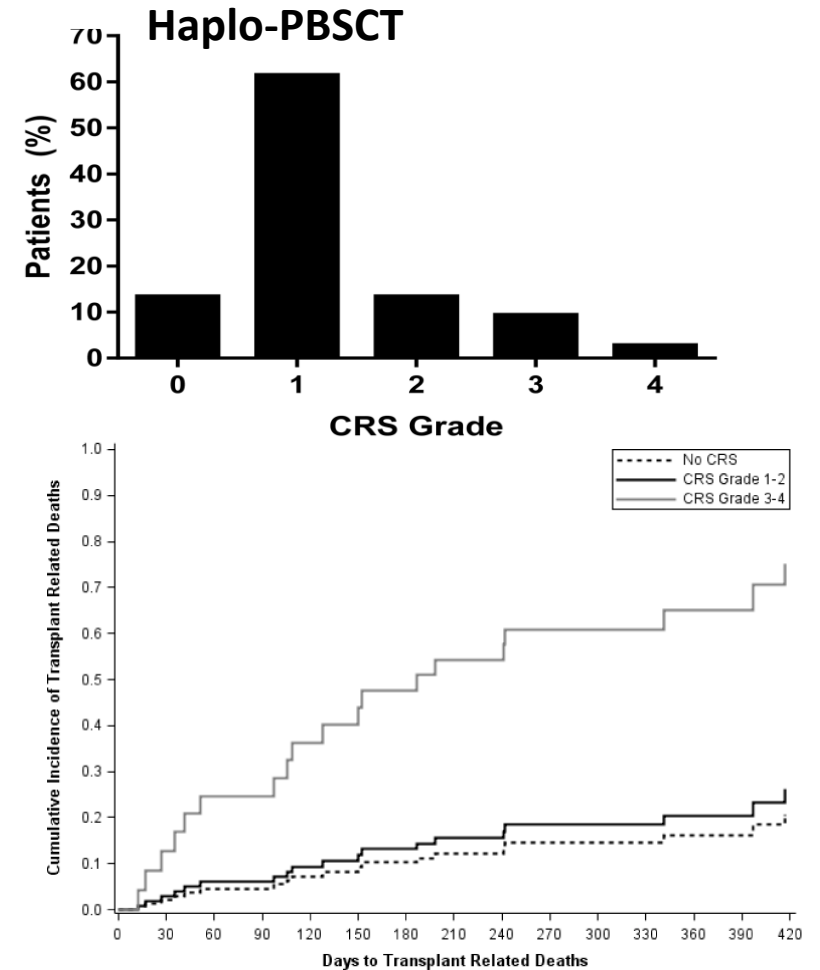
→ May decrease RR

❑ Severe 3-4 CRS 19.5% PBSCT vs 4.9% BM ,

→ tocilizumab or corticosteroids

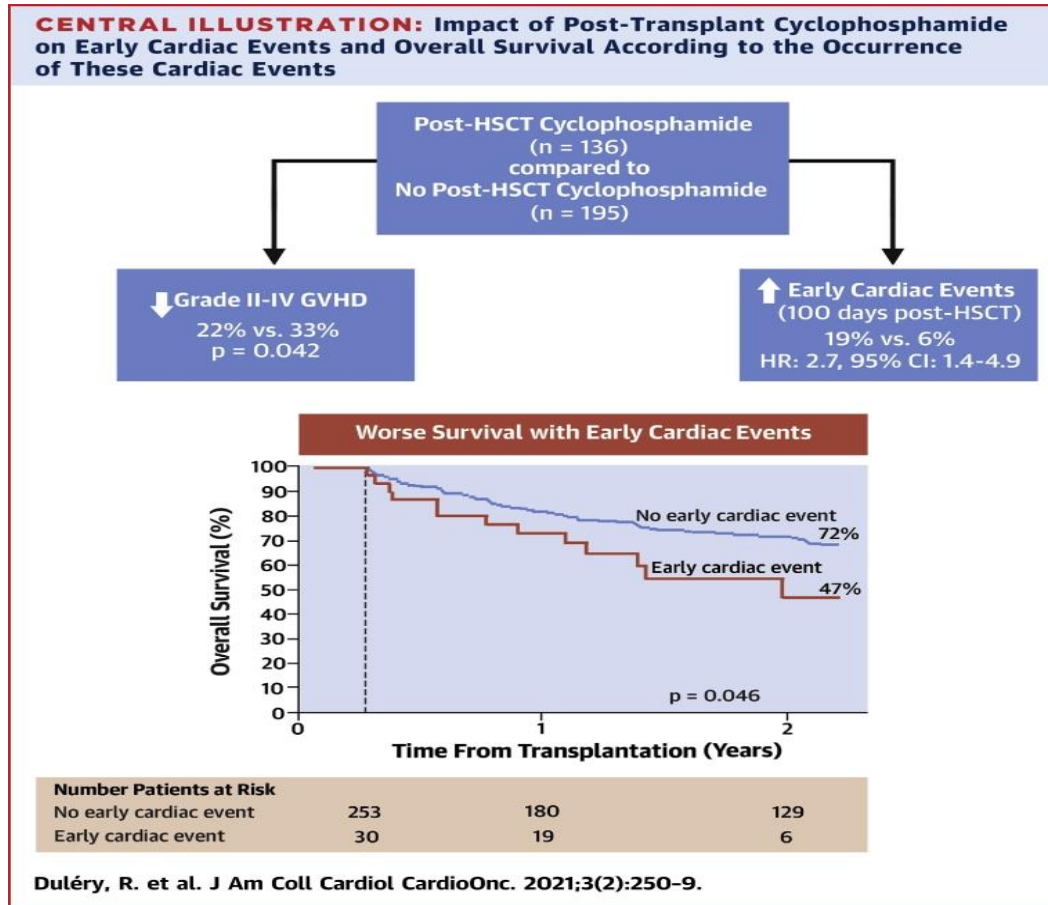
→ May influence TRM

→ May decrease RR





# Unique toxicities after haplo-PTCY: cardiotoxicity



## Oral EBMT Glasgow (ALWP study)

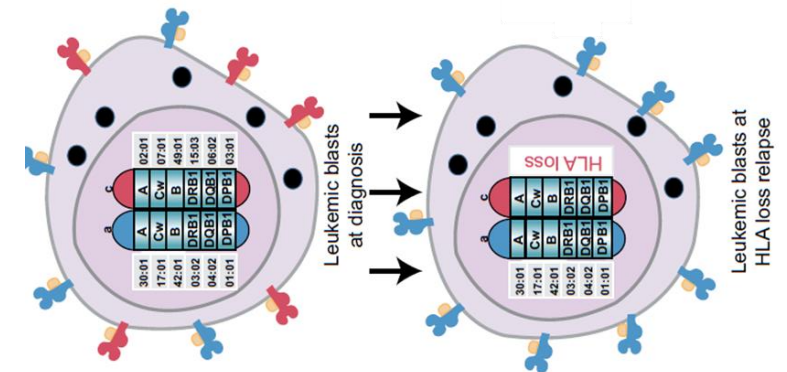
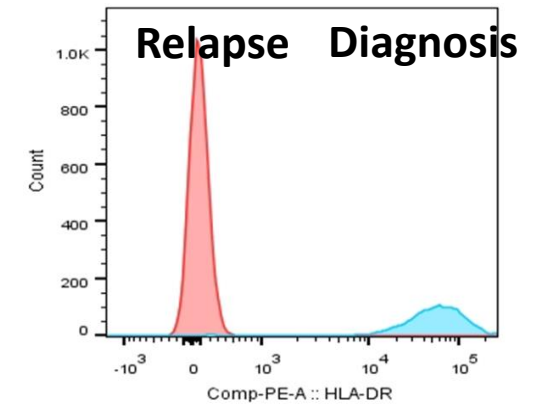
- 5883 adult AML pts, median 58 y
- PTCY
- Haplo 61% /MUD 28% / MRD 11%

## Cardiac disease (MV analysis)

- NRM HR 1.47, p<0.0001
- reduced OS HR 1.3, p=0.0002

# Unique aspects of relapse after haplo-HSCT.

- Initial concerns that PTCY increases relapse rate not true
  - Initial reports with relapsed/ refractory leukemia and use RIC regimens
  - HLA matched data suggest comparable relapses with MTX/CNI when DRI is factored in
- HLA class II downregulation
- **HLA Loss of the mismatched HLA haplotype**
  - PTCY haplo: 33% of patients with relapsed AML
  - ATG based haplo: 50% of relapses, > 180d after Tx

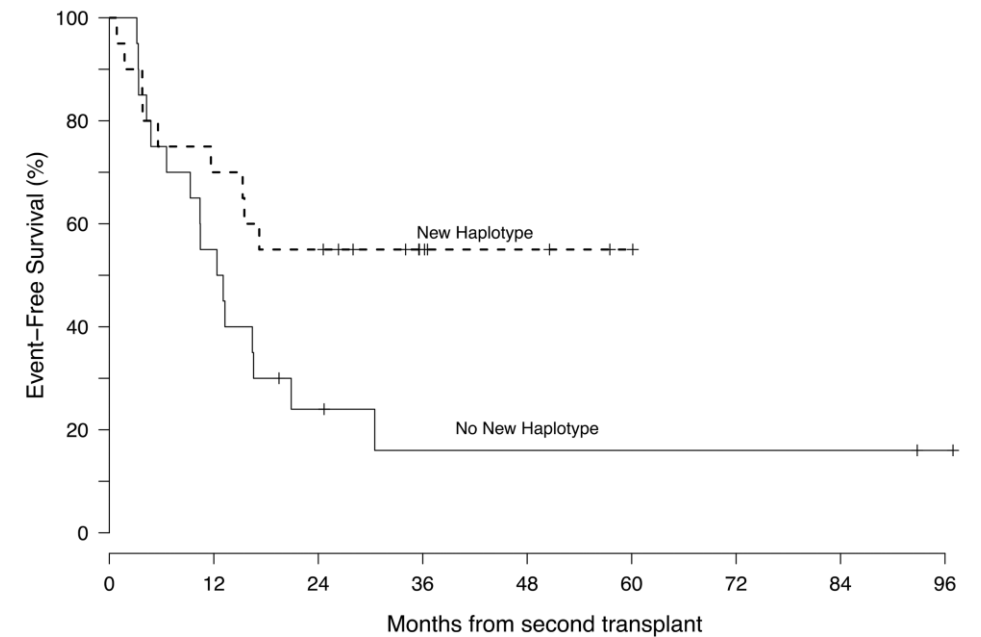
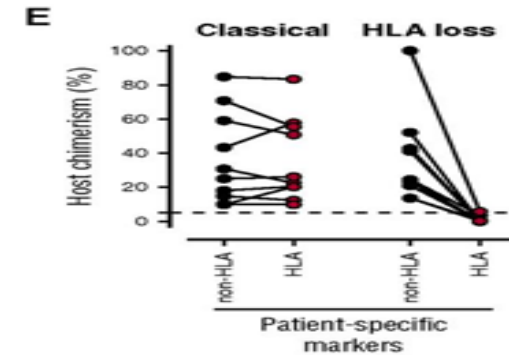


# HLA loss relapse

□ Diagnosis: purification of HLA blasts, or HLA-KMR PCR (combination of chimerism and HLA)

□ Choice of salvage treatment

- Same donor (DLI, second HCT) is not anticipated to be effective in treating HLA loss relapse
- use a different haplotype-mismatched donor, the second donor's T cells should be alloreactive to the mismatched HLA molecules retained on the leukemic blasts



# Haplo-PTCY: Summaries, knowns and unknowns

- Low cost, simple, no extra instrumentation and training needed
- Low rates of acute and chronic GVHD and non-relapse mortality
- REL on parallel with other graft sources when DRI is factored in
- All conditioning intensities possible
- Haplo-PTCY outcomes are  $\geq$  cord blood and  $>+$  other Haplo platforms
- Safe and efficacious for malignant and non-malignant disorders
- Equivalent outcomes between haplo-PTCY and both MUD-SCT and MSD-SCT
- # of mismatches does not matter, Can use 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> degree relatives
- Can discontinue CNI at day 60 (BM) 90 (PBSC) safely
- Low rate of infections and rapid immune reconstitution
- Unique toxicities and relapses

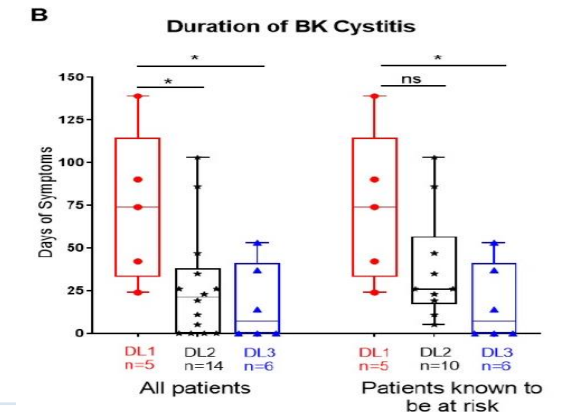
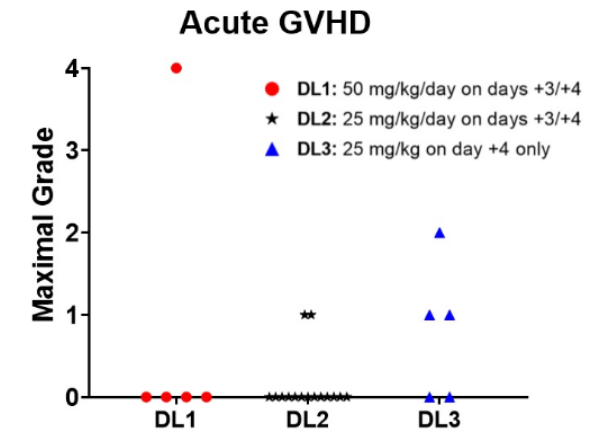
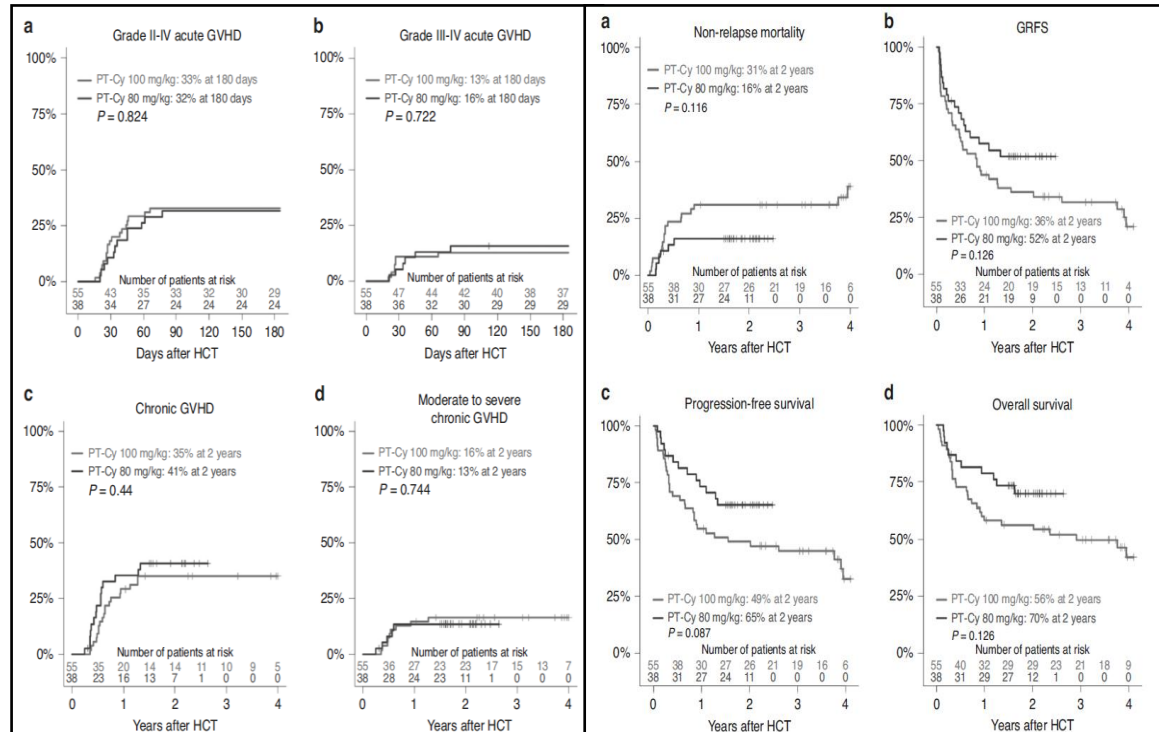
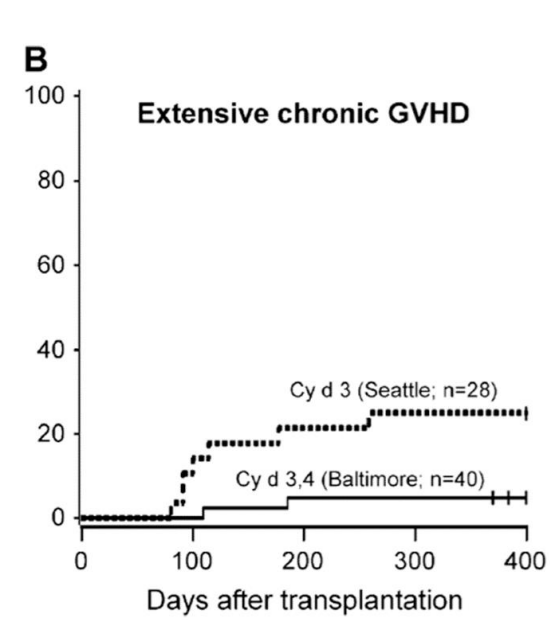
## Haplo-PTCY: Summaries, knowns and unknowns

- Haplo-PTCY outcomes are  $\geq$  cord blood and  $>+$  other Haplo platforms
- Equivalent outcomes between haplo-PTCY and both MUD or MSD-SCT
- Comparison between PTCT Haplo vs PTCT-MUD or PTCT-MSD unknown
- Preferable in urgency in pts with high-risk disease (haplo donor immediate available)
- Preferable in Hodgkin / PD-1 pretreated pts. (Increased severe GVHD after PD-1 pretreatment, PTCT ameliorates GVHD by restoring regulatory and effector T-cell homeostasis after PD-1 blockade)

# Haplo-PTCY: Can PTCY 100 mg/kg dose decreased ?

Single center Haplo PBSCT, elderly, 80, g/kg vs 100 mg/kg historical comparison

Phase I/II Haplo-BMT  
NCT03983850





# Acute Leukemia Working Party

		Function in EBMT		WP Governance
CICERI	Fabio	Chair	Study coordinators	Irma Khvedelidze Mohamed Houhou Emmanuelle Polge
MOHTY	Mohamad	Vice-Chair		
GIEBEL	Sebastian	Secretary	Statisticians	Myriam Labopin Maud Ngoya Jacques-Emmanuel Galimard Christophe Peczynski
BRISSOT	Eolia	secretary		

Name		Sub-committee	Function in EBMT
JORDI	Esteve	Molecular Markers	Leader
NAGLER	Arnon	Molecular Markers	Co-leader
GIEBEL	Sebastian	Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia	Leader
PERIC	Zina	Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia	Co-leader
SAVANI	Bipin	Conditioning	Leader
SPYRIDONIDIS	Alexandros	Conditioning	Co-leader
BARON	Frédéric	Cord blood	Leader
RUGGERI	Annalisa	Cord blood	Co-leader
SCHMID	Christoph	Immunotherapy and cellular therapy	Leader
MOHTY	Mohamad	Immunotherapy and cellular therapy	Co-leader
GORIN	Norbert-Claude	AUTO-SCT and graft composition	Leader
LANZA	Francesco	AUTO-SCT and graft composition	Co-leader
SHOUVAL	Roni	Data mining	Leader
VERSLUIS	Jurjen	Data mining	Co-leader
BUG	Gesine	Post-transplant pharmacologic modulation	Leader
BAZARBACHI	Ali	Post-transplant pharmacologic modulation	Co-leader
SANZ	Jaime	Alternative donor	Leader
PIEMONTESE	Simona	Alternative donor	Co-leader



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INSTITUTE OF CELL THERAPY  
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS



MSc Cell & Gene Therapies

## PEOPLE



## DONORS



## FUNDING / SUPPORTERS



European Union  
European Social Fund



Co-financed by Greece and the European Union



ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΙΑ ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ



Κοινοφελές Ίδρυμα Ιωάννη Σ. Λάτση



Ελληνικό Ίδρυμα Έρευνας & Καινοτομίας



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ  
STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION



EUROPEAN HEMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION



ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΙΑΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΔΥΤΙΚΗ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ 2014-2020  
Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης



Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση  
Ευρωπαϊκά Διαρθρωτικά και Επενδυτικά Ταμεία



ΜΑΖΙ ΕΝΑΝΤΙΑ ΣΤΑ ΑΙΜΑΤΟΛΟΓΙΚΑ ΝΟΣΗΜΑΤΑ