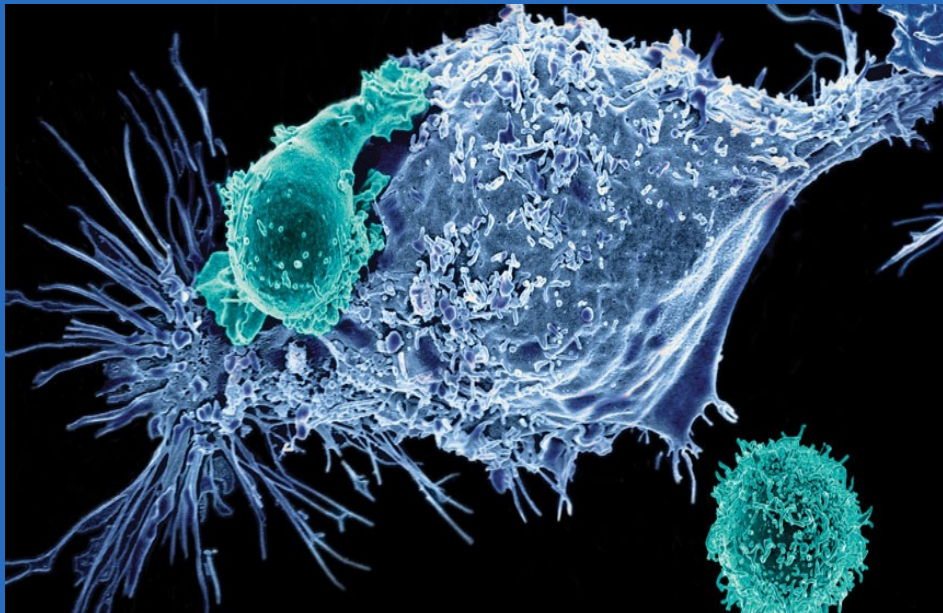


# Advances in CAR T Cells and Other Cellular based Therapies



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Duarte, CA*

# Presentation Objectives

- Overview of CAR T cell therapy (what and how)
- Current status of CAR T cell therapy (What's available in the clinic)
- Management of CAR T treatment related side effects
- What's on the horizon? (new therapies)

**CHAPTER**

**1**

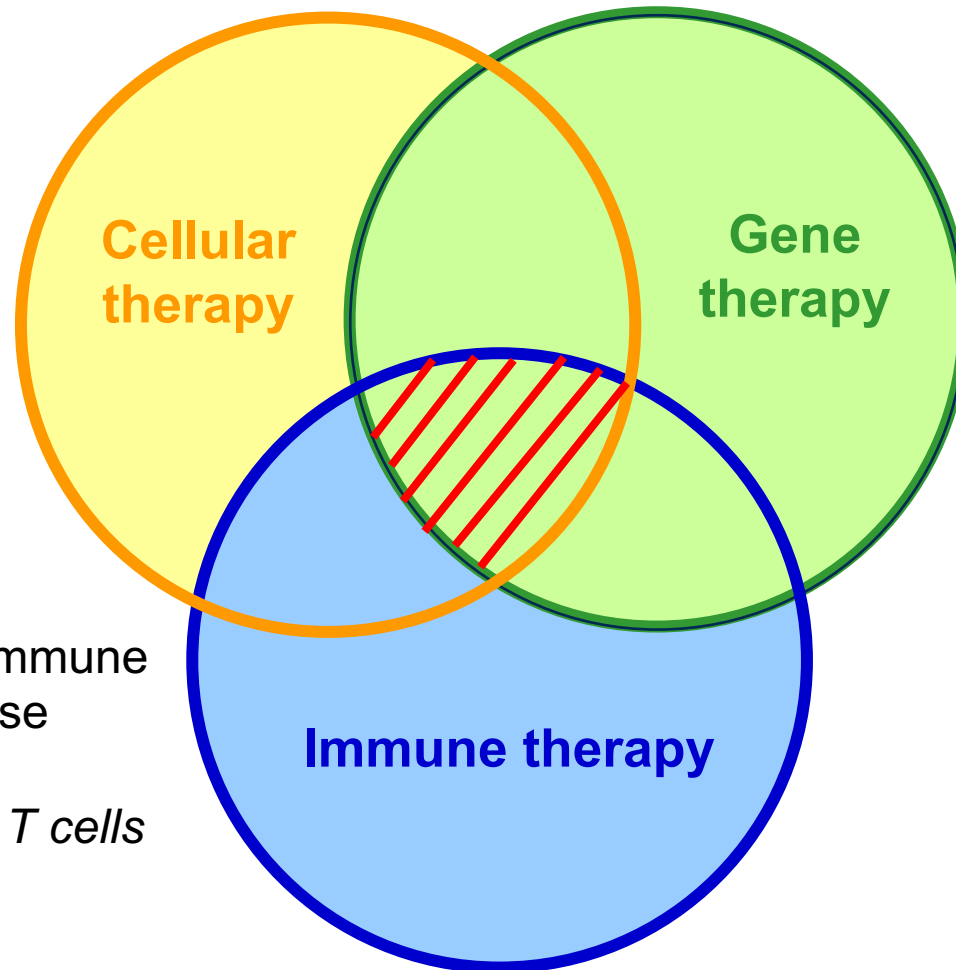
# **Overview of CAR T Cell Therapy**

# What's CAR T Cell Therapy

## Cellular therapy

Using autologous (self) or allo (others) cells as therapy

*cells = T cells*



## Gene therapy

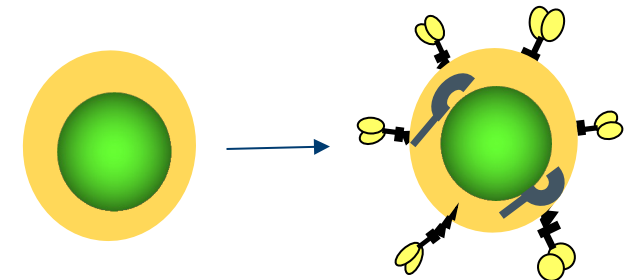
Insertion of genes into cells, causing these cells to produce a new therapeutic protein

*new therapeutic protein = CAR*

## Immune therapy

Harnessing the power of the immune system to treat patient's disease

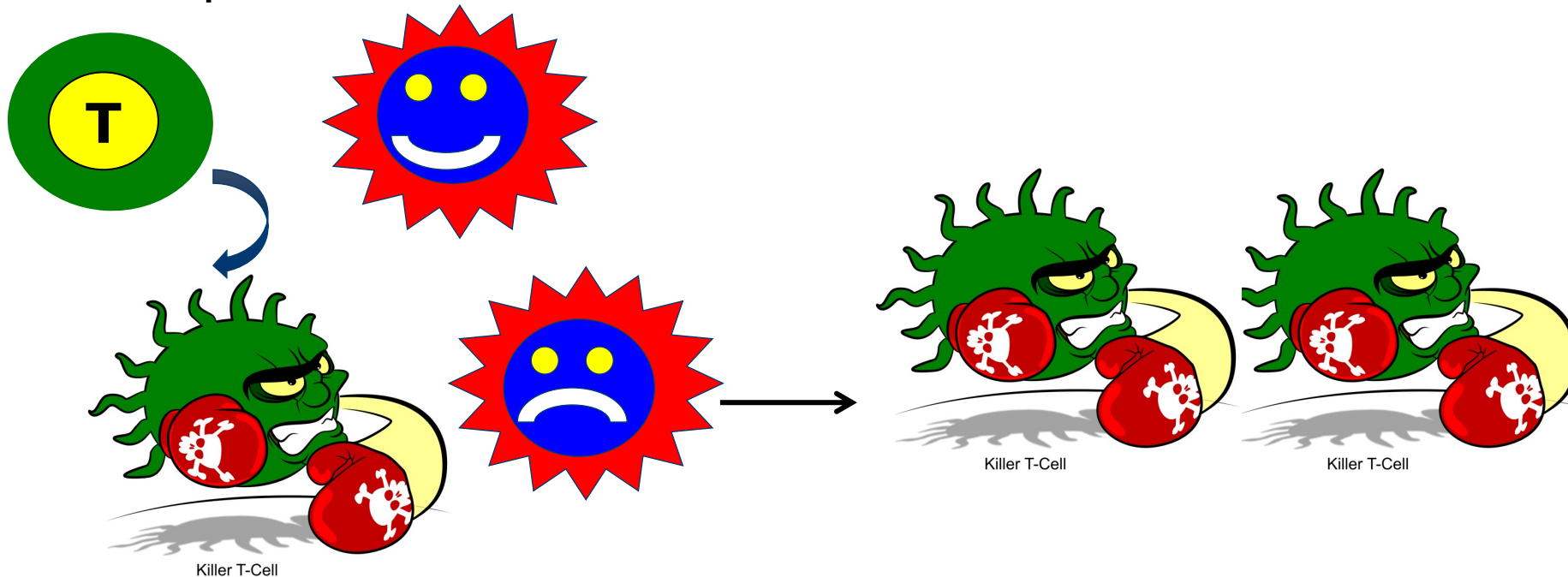
*immune system component = T cells*





# The Goal of CAR T Cell Therapy

- Harness the power of immune system to recognize and eliminate cancer cells
- Genetic modification of T cells to redirect them to transform to robust tumor specific T cells.

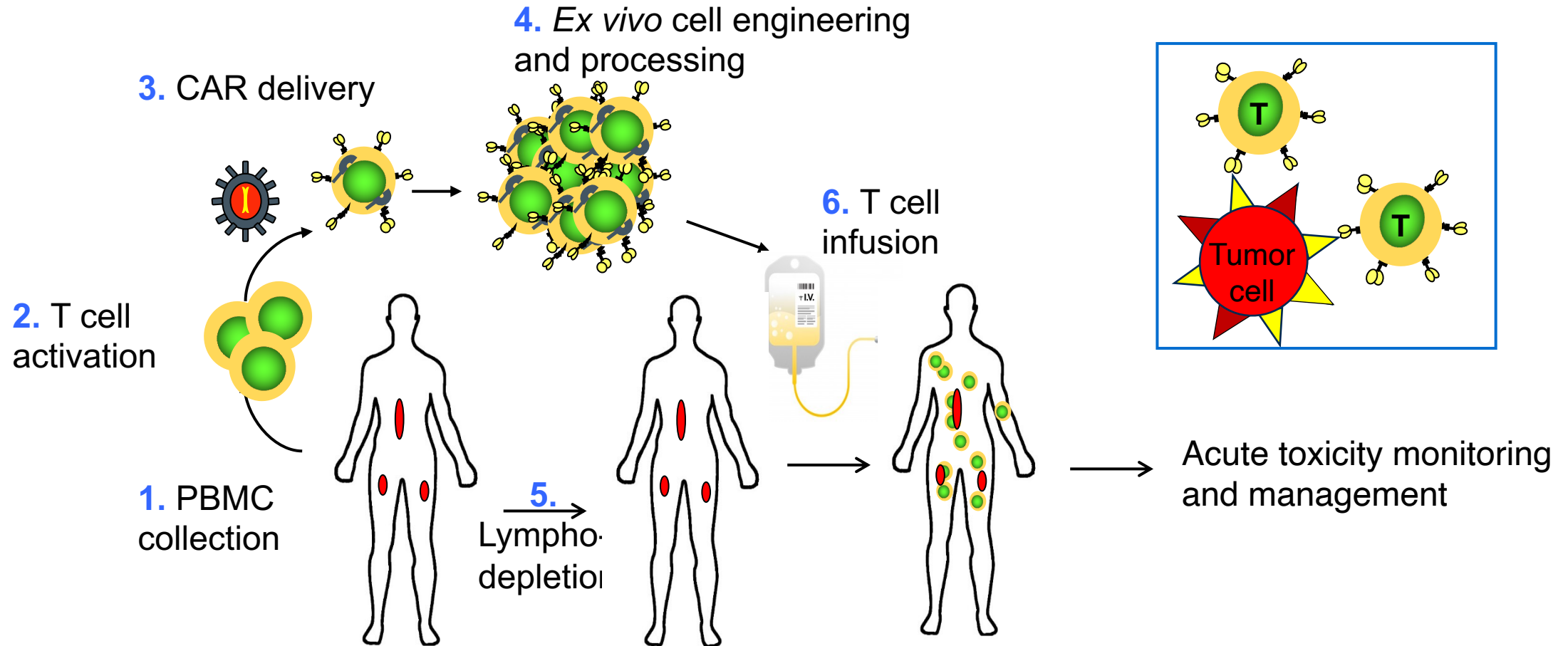


Killer T-Cell

CAR: Chimeric antigen receptor



# The Common Process of CAR T Cell Therapy



## Variables:

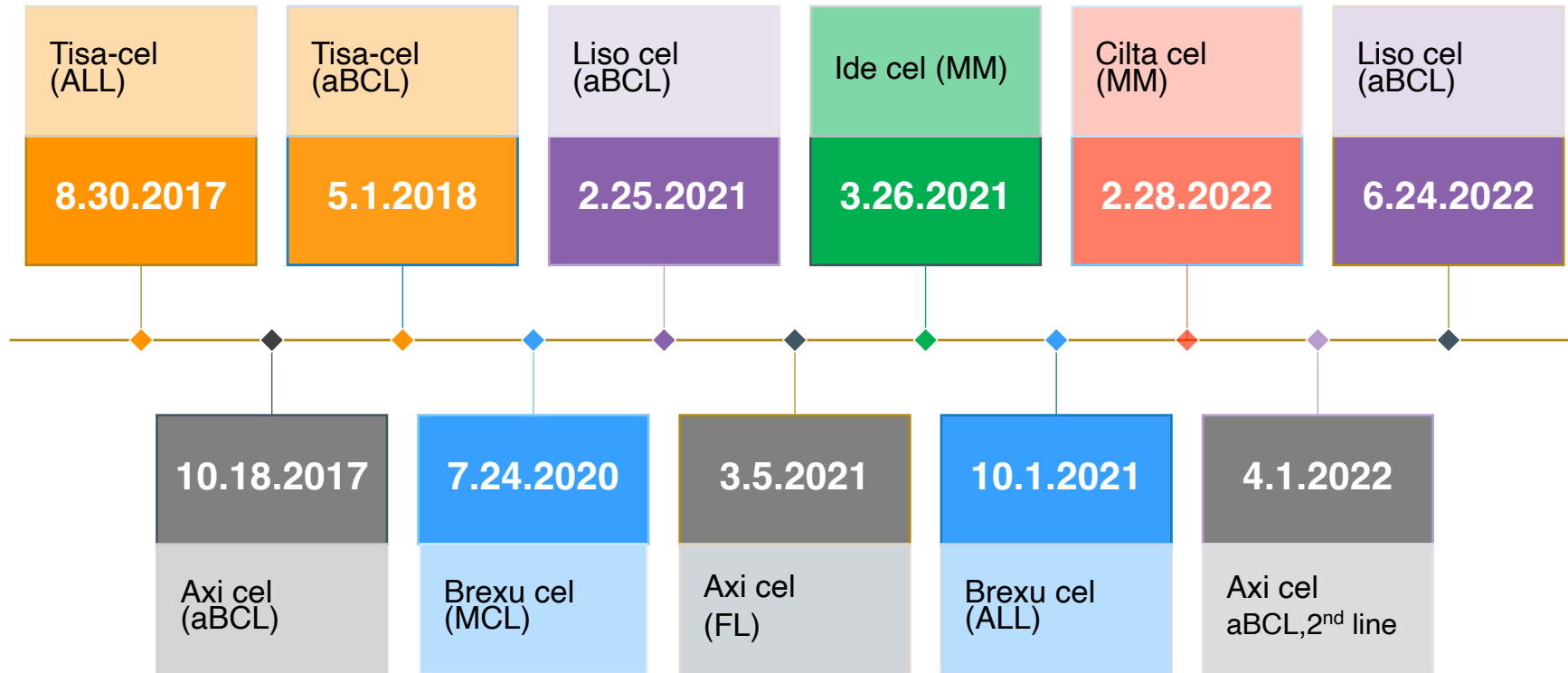
- the starting population: VST, subset enrichment/depletion, ...
- manufacturing process activation method, cytokines, expansion time, ...
- infused products: bulk or defined population, ...

**CHAPTER**

**2**

# **The Current Status of CAR T Cell Therapy**

# FDA Approved CAR T Cell Therapy

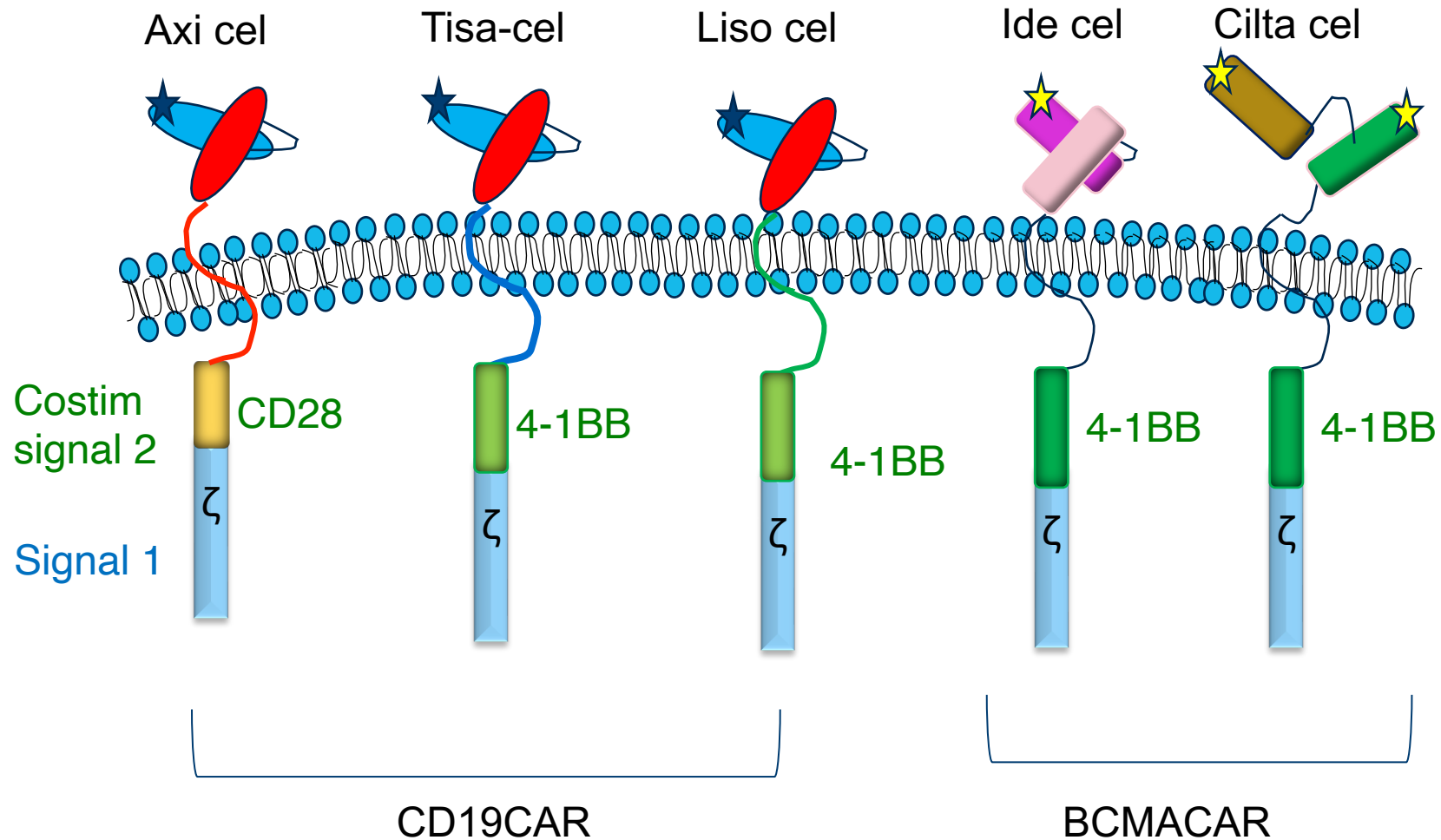


- ALL
  - Tisa-cel
  - Brexu cel
- B cell lymphoma
  - aBCL
    - Axi cel
    - Tisa-cel
    - Liso cel
  - FL
    - Axi cel,
    - Tisa cel
  - MCL
    - Brexu cel
- Multiple Myeloma
  - Ide cel
  - Cilta cel

Axi cel: axicabtagene ciloleucel; Tisa-cel: tisagenlecleucel; Brexu cel: brexucabtagen autoleucel;  
 Liso cel: lisocabtagene maraleucel; Ide cel: idecabtagene vicleucel; Cilta cel: ciltacabtagene autoleucel



# Not all CARs are created the same

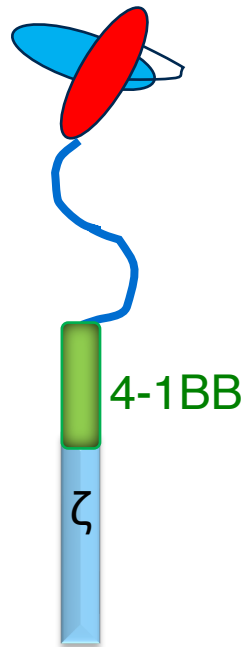


# Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia: Tisagenlecleucel (CD19CAR)

Indication: < 26 y.o with B cell ALL refractory or in second or later relapse, approved 8.30.2017

## Real World Experience (CIMBTR registry)

Tisa-cel

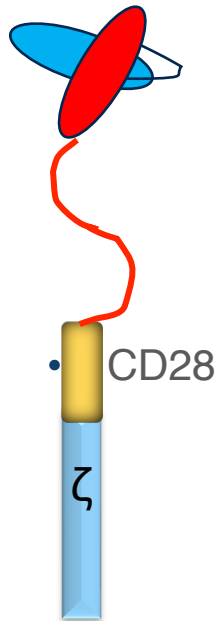


	ELIANA	Real World
Patients infused	N =75	N = 159 (103 ≥ 3 mo)
Best CR rate at 3 mo	81% (100% MRD-)	88% (100% MRD-)
6 month DOR	NR	77%
EFS	50% (13.6 mo)	68% (6 months)
OS	76% (13.6 mo)	94% (6 months)
Grade ≥ 3 CRS	49% (Penn scale)	13.3%(ASTCT)
Grade ≥ 3 NT	13% (Penn scale)	8.6% (ASTCT)

# Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia: Brexucabatagene autoleucel (CD19CAR)

Indication: ≥ 18 y.o, with B cell ALL refractory or in second or later relapse, approved 10.1.2021

ZUMA-3: N =71, 92% (N=65) successful production; 55 patients received CAR T infusion.



	ZUMA-3
Median age (years)	40 (19-84)
Median No. of prior therapies	2 (1-8)
Prior AlloSCT	42% (n=23)
Median BM blast% preLD	59% (0-98%)
Median time from leuk to CAR T delivery	13 days in US 14-15 days in Europe

CR/CRi	70.9% (97% MRD-ve)
Median OS	18.2 Months (15.9 –NE)
Median RFS	11.6 months (2.7-15.5)
AlloSCT	10 (18%) at median 98 days
Grade ≥ 3 CRS	24% (89% all grade)
Grade ≥ 3 NT	25% (60% all grade)
Grade 5	18% (N =10, 4-PD, 1NT, 1 PNA, 1 septic shock)



# FDA approved CAR T Cell Products for B-cell lymphoma

## Axicabtagene ciloleucel

### Indication

Adult pts with  
rel/ref BCL after  $\geq 2$  lines,  
tFL, High grade B cell lymphoma  
primary mediastinal B cell lymphoma

## Tisagenlecleucel

### Indication

Adult pts  
with rel/ref LBCL after  $\geq 2$  lines,  
tFL, High grade B cell lymphoma

## Lisocabtagene maraleucel

### Indication

Adult pts with  
rel/ref BCL after  $\geq 2$  lines,  
tFL, High grade B cell lymphoma  
primary mediastinal B cell lymphoma

### Indication

Adult pts with  
rel/ref FL after  $\geq 2$  lines

### Indication

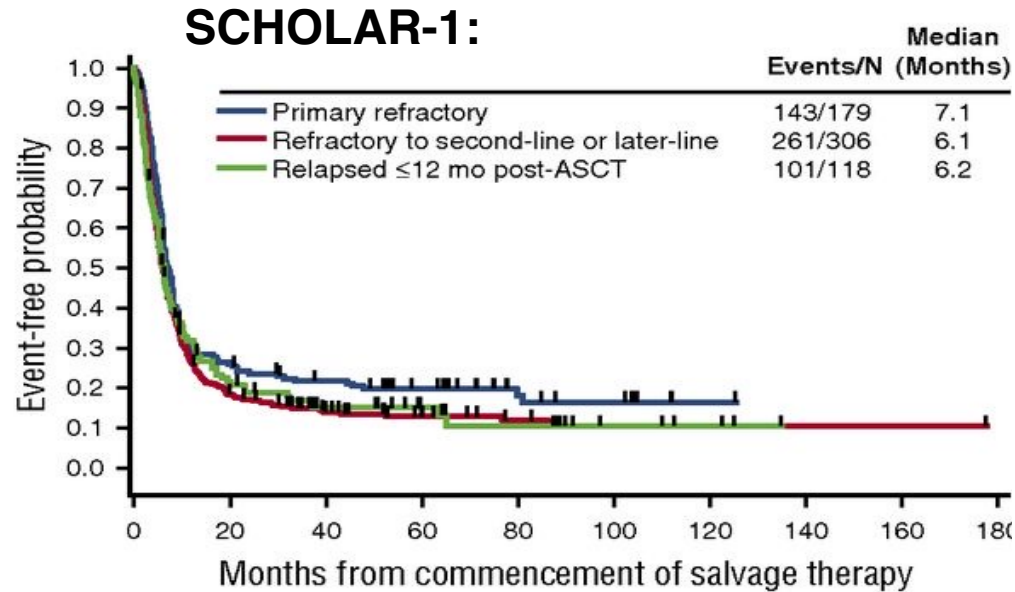
Adult pts with  
rel/ref FL after  $\geq 2$  lines

## Brexucabtagene autoleucel

### Indication

Adult pts with rel/ref MCL after  $\geq 1$  lines

# CAR T unequivocally led to significant improvement in OS

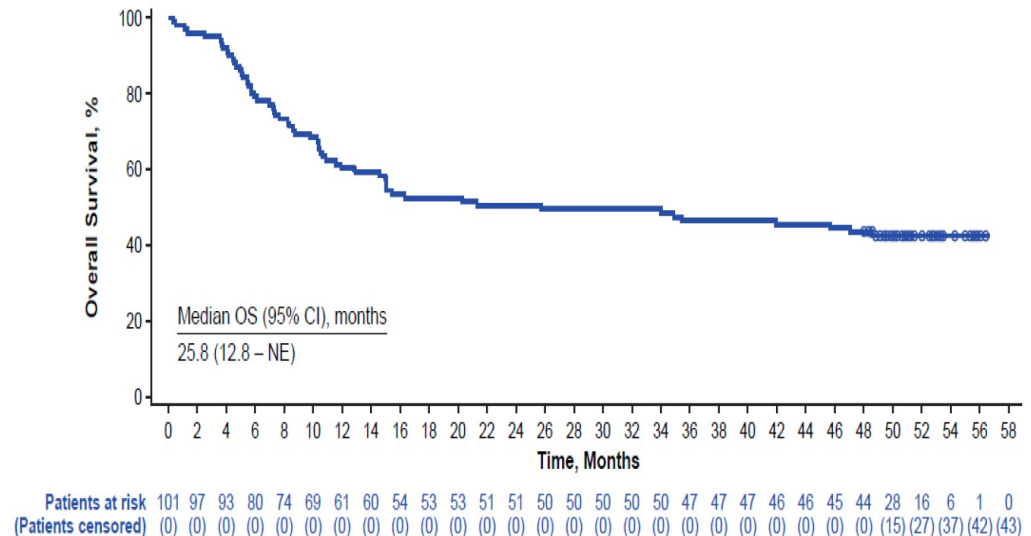


The pooled CR: 7% (95% CI, 2-15)

Median OS: 6.3 Months (95% CI, 5.9 -7.0)

1-year OS: 28%

## ZUMA-1 : OS 44% with f/u > 4 years



- OS 44% at 4 years
- Primary cause of death (n=58): PD (46)
- No new safety concern
- Tx related secondary malignancy, or RCR cases
- Detectable B cells in blood (21/21)

# Real World experience with Axi-cel: similar to trial experience

	6 center experience ( N = 136)	17 center experience (N = 295)	ZUMA-1 (N = 111)
Median age, yrs	61 (21-79)	58 (64-77)	58 (23-76)
Prior ASCT %	30	31	25
Bridging therapy %	57	55	0
T cell not infused	13 (9.6%) 6 PD 1 CR 3 product failure 2 infection; 1 others	21 (7.1%) 12 PD 1CR 7 product failure 1 infection	10 (9%) 1 PD 2 CR 1 product failure 6 AEs (1 death)
Not Meet ZUMA-1 Criteria%	62%	43%	0%
Best ORR % day 30	74	80	78
Best CR %	49 (ITT 44)	47 (ITT 44)	52 (ITT 47)
CR % at day 90	n/a (53 at month 6)	57	58

# CART for iNHL: ZUMA-5 and ELARA Phase II Studies

**Primary endpoints:**  
ORR

**Key secondary endpoints**

CR, ORR, DoR, PFS, OS, AE, CAR and cytokine levels.

## ZUMA-5

≥ 18 y.o.; ECOG 0-1  
r/r FL or MZL  
≥ 2 previous therapies  
anti-CD20Ab and alkylating agent)



Fludarabine 30 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day x 3 days  
Cyclophosphamide 500 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day x 3 day



Axi-cel Infusion Day 0  
2x10<sup>6</sup> CAR+/kg T-cells

## ELARA

≥ 18 y.o.; ECOG 0-1  
r/r FL  
≥ 2 previous therapies (including anti-  
CD20Ab and alkylating agent)



Fludarabine 25mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day x 3 days  
Cyclophosphamide 250 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day x 3 days



Tisa-cel Infusion Day 0  
0.8 to 6 x10<sup>6</sup> CAR+ T-cells

# CART for iNHL: ZUMA-5 and ELARA Studies

	ELARA	ZUMA-5	ZUMA-5
iNHL	r/rFL, N =97 94 (evaluable)	r/r/FL,N=124 85 (evaluable)	MZL N=22 20 (evaluable)
Median age	57 (29-73)	60 (52-67)	66 (53-68)
Median prior Tx	4 (2-13)	3(2-4)	3(2-5)
POD24	60%	55%	57%
Prior ASCT	36%	24%	13%
ORR/CR	86%/69%	94%/79%	83%/65%
CRS, ≥ gr3	0	6%	9%
NT, ≥ gr3	3%	15%	41%
Grade 5	3 due to lymphoma	3 (CRS, aortic dissection, infection)	0
PFS (12 mo)	67%	77.5%	45.1%

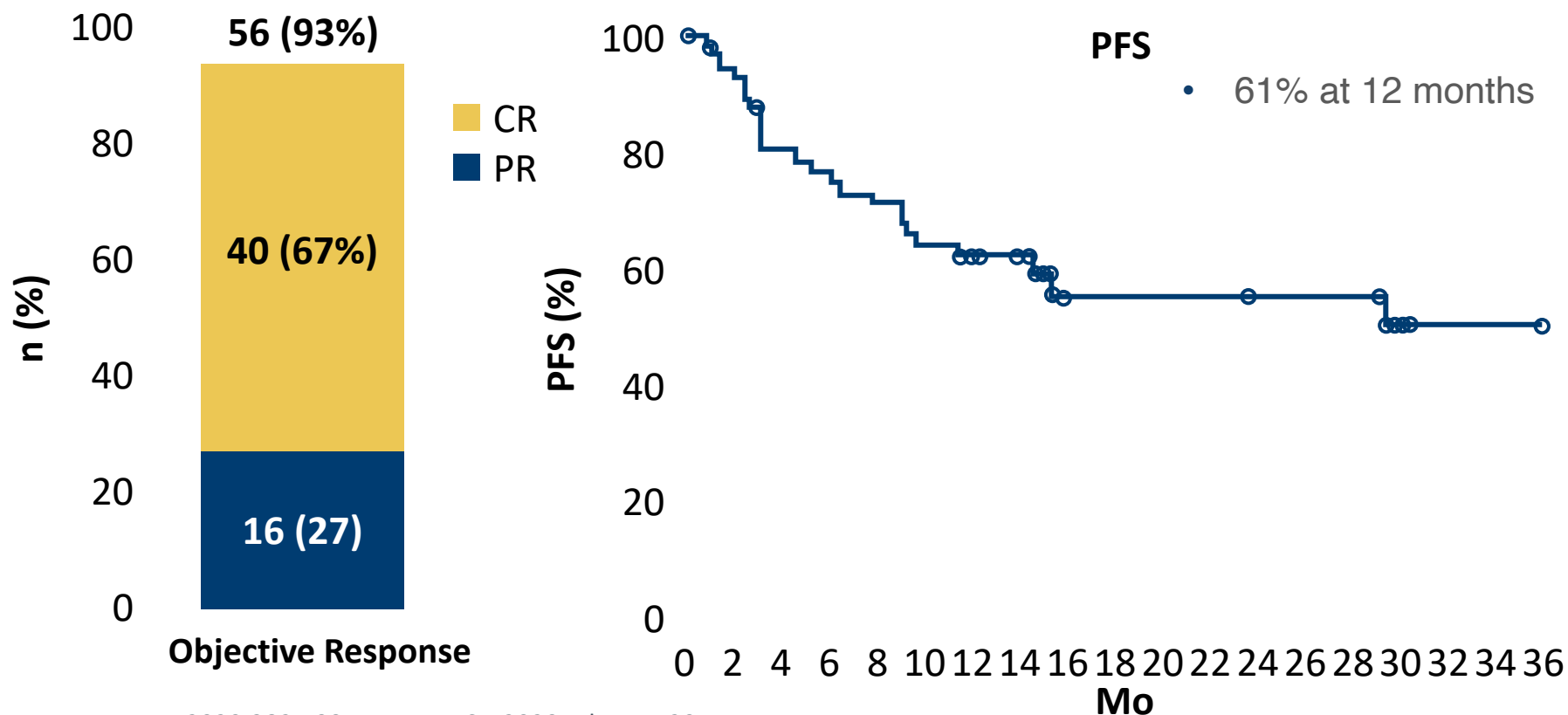


Shuster et al. ASCO 2021  
Thieblemont. et al ASH 2021  
Jacobson et al. ASH 2020



# ZUMA-2: Brexucabtagene Autoleucel (KTE-X19) for Relapsed/Refractory MCL

- Multicenter, single-arm, open-label phase II trial of brexucabtagene autoleucel for adults with relapsed/refractory mantle cell lymphoma (N = 74 enrolled, 68 received agent)
  - After failure of BTKi and up to 5 prior therapies; bridging steroid ± BTKi permitted (37%)



- CRS grade  $\geq 3$ : 15%
- Neurotoxicity grade  $\geq 3$ : 31%
- Tocilizumab: 59%
- 1 gr 4 cerebral edema
- 2 gr 5 events (PNA and infection)

# Conclusions- lymphoma

- Significant clinical benefit has been seen in variety of lymphomas using anti-CD19 CAR T-cells
- There is an increasing understanding of the factors and mechanisms affecting initial and subsequent loss of response to CAR T cell therapy
- More efforts are needed to make CAR T cell therapy available to more NHL patients.





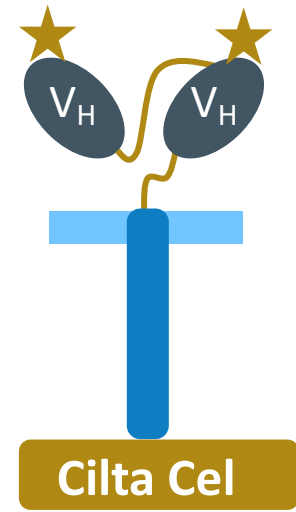
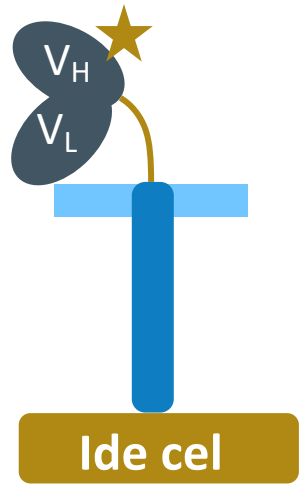
# FDA Approved CAR T Cell Therapy for Multiple Myeloma

Idecabtagene

Ciltacabtagene autoleucl

### Indication

Adult patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma after four or more prior lines of therapy, including a proteasome inhibitor, an immunomodulatory agent, and an anti-CD38 monoclonal antibody.





# FDA Approved CAR T Cell Therapy for Multiple Myeloma

	<b>KarMMa</b>	<b>CARTITUDE-1</b>
CAR	Ide cel	Cilta cel
Pt No.	N =140 128 (evaluable)	N=113 97 (evaluable)
Median age	61 (33-78)	61 (43-78)
Median prior Tx	6 (3-16)	6(3-18)
Prior Allo	-	8%
Prior ASCT	94%	90%
ORR/CR	73%/33%	97%/67%
CRS, $\geq$ gr3	6%	4%
NT, $\geq$ gr3	3%	9%
PFS	Median 8.6 mo	76.6% (12 mo)
PFS	-	60.5% (24 mo)

# Conclusion – multiple myeloma

- CAR T-cell therapy is now FDA approved for R/R MM
- Much work needed to understand how best to use this therapy
  - Single agent vs combination
  - Maintenance vs no maintenance
- Understanding rational sequencing of available BCMA-directed therapy will be important
  - ADCs, bispecific antibodies, CAR T-cell therapy



**CHAPTER**

**3**

# **Management of CAR T treatment related side effects**

# CAR T Cell Therapy: Complications

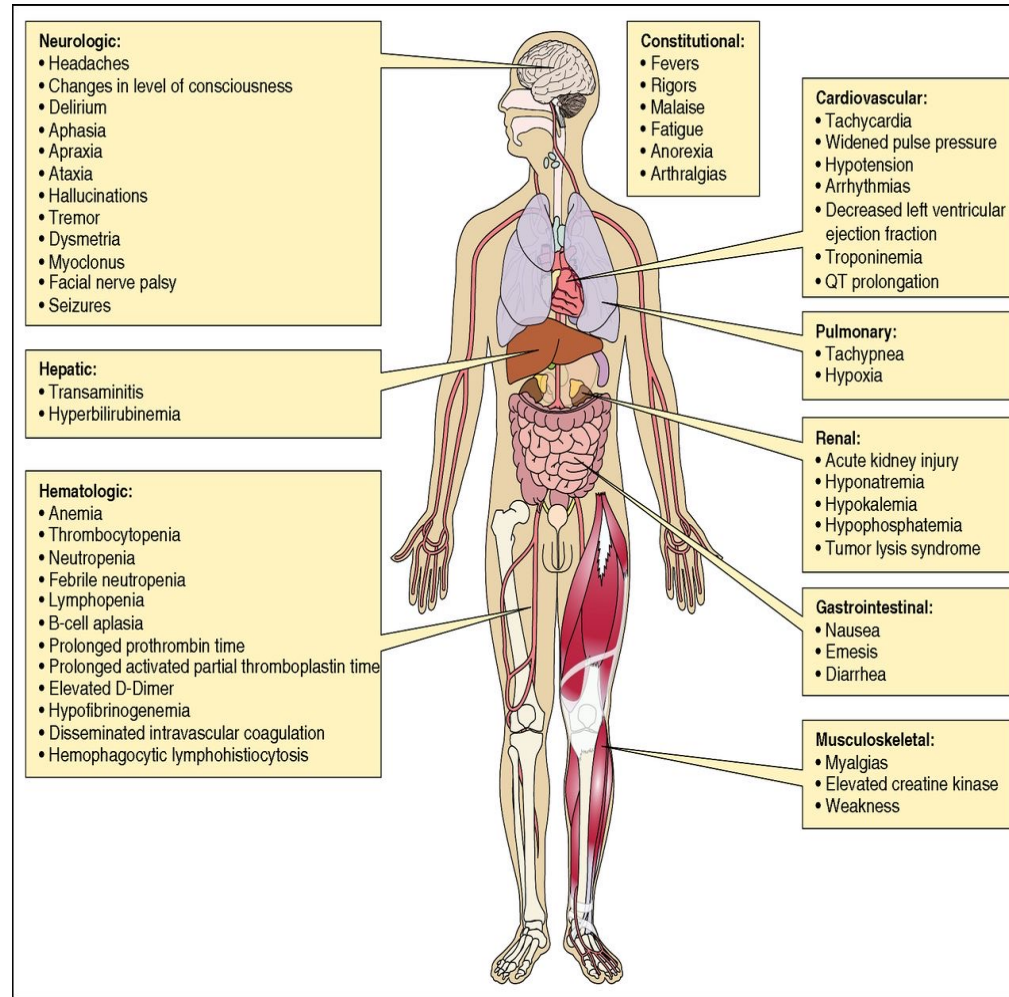
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Commonly reported important adverse events

- On target off tumor effects, i.e. B cell aplasia (CD19CAR)
- Lymphodepletion chemo-related toxicity
- Tumor lysis syndrome
- Macrophage activation syndrome (HLH/MAS)
- Coagulopathy
- Cytokine release syndrome
- Neurotoxicity
- Infection

# Cytokine Release Syndrome

- A constellation of inflammatory symptoms from cytokine elevations.
- Association with T cell activation and proliferation
- Association with clinical benefit in some CAR T treatment and toxicity
- Trio: Fever, low blood pressure, low oxygen





# Neurologic Toxicity

D0 Teresa and I Love Jesus

D3 Teresa and I Love Jesus

D6 Teresa and I Love Jesus .

D14 Teresa and I Love Jesus

D21 Teresa and I Love Jesus

D28 Teresa and I Love Jesus

# SOC CAR T Emergent CRS and Neurotoxicity

	CRS incidence	Median onset	Median duration	Neurotoxicity incidence	Median onset	Median duration
Axi cel	94%, G3, 13%	2 (1-12)	7 (2-58)	87%; G3, 31%	4 (1-43)	17 (2-58)
<i>Early steroids/toci</i>	G3, 2%	2	7	G3, 20%	6	8
Tisagenlecleucel ALL	74%, G3 49%	3 (1-51)	8 (1-36)	72%, G3 21%	6 (1-359)	6
aNHL	79%. G3 23%			58%, G3 18%	6 (1-359)	14
Liso cel	46%, G3, 4%	5(1-15)	5 (1-17)	35%, G3, 12%	8 (1-46)	12 (1-87)
Brecu cel	91%, G3 18%	3 (1-13)	10 (1-50)	81%, G3 37%	6 (1-32)	21 (2-454)
Abecma	85%, G3 9%	1 (1-23)	7 (1-63)	28%, G3 4%	2 (1-42)	5 (1-578)

\* Penn grading criteria. All others use Lee's criteria

*Other AEs: cytopenia, infection, HLH/MAS, etc.*

# Infection

## FHCRC cohort, N=133

Incidence: **23%**

Median Time to onset: 6

Bacterial 17% (N =22)

Viral 11% (N = 11)

Fungal 5% (N = 6)

Fatal infection 4% ( n=5)

### **Other risk factors**

- ALL patients
- $\geq$  4 lines of prior therapies
- Higher CAR dose
- Severe CRS

## ZUMA-1 cohort, N=108

Incidence: **38%**

Median Time to onset: 6

Bacterial 9%

Viral 4%

Unspecified 16%

Severe infection 23%

### ID prophylaxis is recommended

- AutoHCT guideline
- Anti-fungal prophylaxis in pts with prior HCT

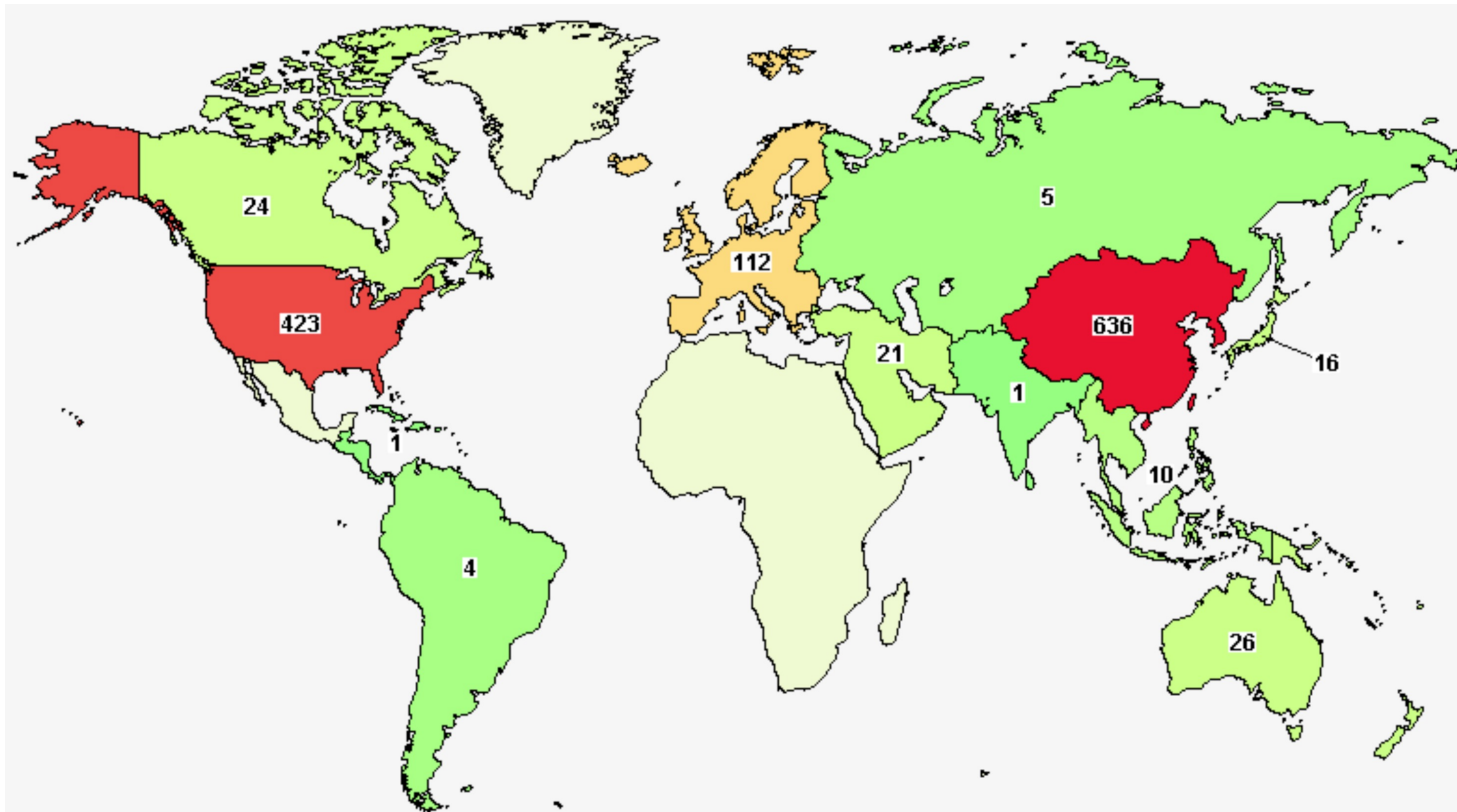
**CHAPTER**

**4**

**What's on the horizon? (new therapies)**

# Landscape of CAR T Cell Trials

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Worldwide  
CAR trials = 2241  
CAR T trials = 1212



# Clinical trials provide new treatment options

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## Access to novel CAR T cell therapy

- CARs for new targets (i.e. bispecific CARs, CARs for T cell lymphoma, AML, solid tumors)
- Test "old" CAR earlier in disease course
- Test CARs in combination with other agents to further enhance response rate (+ immune booster)
- Test new manufacturing platform to make CARs with higher potency and shorter production time
- Improve safety by incorporating novel agents to prevent or mitigate CRS/NT complications;
- Novel vaccine or anti-microbials trials to decrease infection risk post CAR T cell therapy

# COH CAR T Clinical trial Portfolio

## COH Clinical Trial COH Manufacture/IIT

N = 15

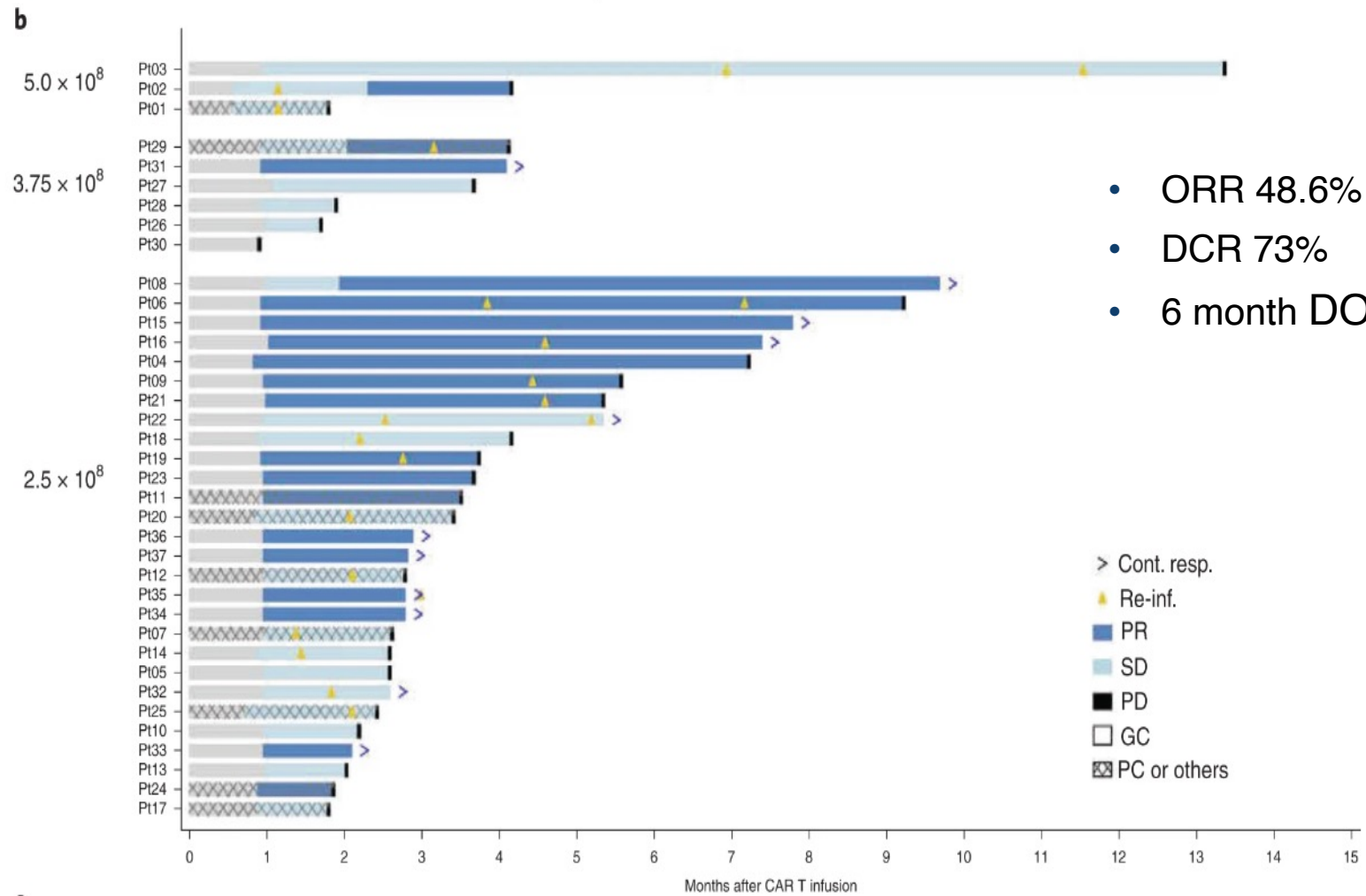
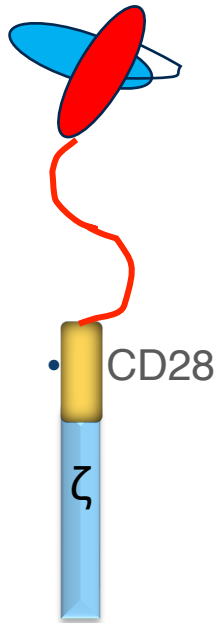
- CD19CAR
- CD123CAR
- CD19-CMV CAR
- CD33CAR
- BAFFR
- FLT3
- HIV-CMVCAR
- IL13Ra2
- Her2CAR
- PSCACAR
- TAG72CAR

## COH Clinical Trial Sponsored

N = 43

- BCMA
- CD5
- CD7
- CD19
- CD19/20
- CD30
- CS1
- ROR1
- More coming
- CD70 ----- TCL, RCC
- Claudin18.2-----Gastric
- GPC3-----HCC
- MUC1-----Breast
- HPV-----H&N
- ICAM-1-----Thyroid
- KLK2-----Prostate
- PSMA-----Prostate
- Her2-----Breast
- More coming

# Claudin18.2 CAR T cells in GI cancers: phase 1 trial interim results



- ORR 48.6%
- DCR 73%
- 6 month DOR: 44.6%



# CAR T therapy earlier in the disease course: CAR is better than ASCT

## CAR T cell therapy in 2<sup>nd</sup> line setting vs chemo followed by autologous stem cell transplant (ASCT)

- Three phase 3 clinical trials: ZUMA-7, TRANSFORM, BELINDA
- Randomized LBCL pts with no response or relapse within 12 months from the first line treatment) to either CD19CAR T or standard of care chemo followed auto transplant

# ZUMA-7: ORR and OS (Key Secondary Endpoints)

Response, %	Axi-cel (n = 180)	SoC (n = 179)	OR (95% CI)	P Value
<b>ORR</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>50</b>	5.31 (3.1-8.9)	<.0001
▪ CR	65	32		
▪ PR	18	18		
Median OS, mo (95% CI)	NR (28.3-NR)	35.1 (18.5-NE)	0.730 (0.530-1.007)	.0270 (NS)

- With 24.9 mo of median follow-up, Axi-cel showed improved EFS and response rates vs SoC  
 >4-fold greater median EFS, with EFS improvements across key subgroups
- Axi-cel had a manageable safety profile
- the ZUMA-7 results mark a **paradigm shift** whereby axi-cel should be considered the new SoC for patients with 2L R/R LBCL



# Clinical trials provide new treatment options

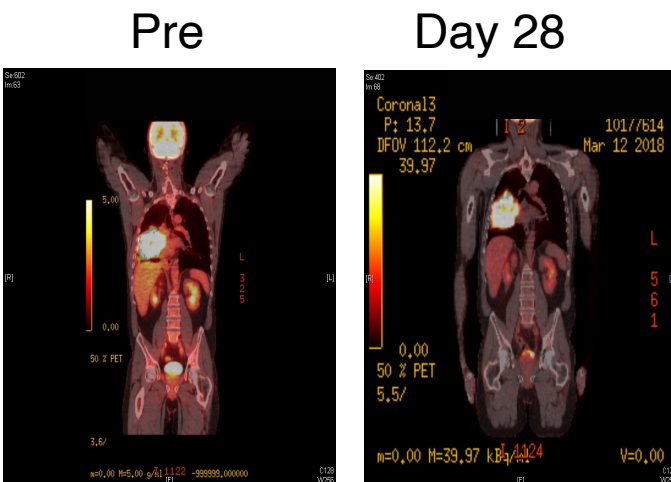
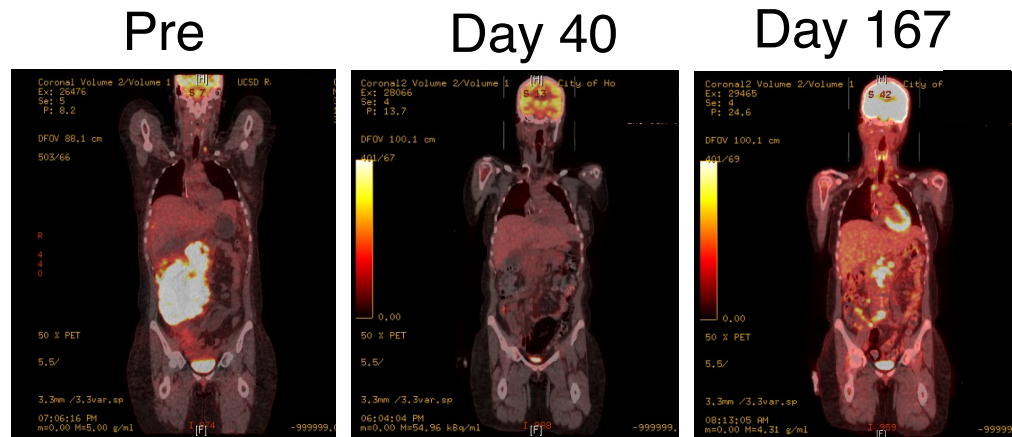
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## Access to novel CAR T cell therapy

- CARs for new targets (i.e. bispecific CARs, CARs for T cell lymphoma, AML, solid tumors)
- Test "old" CAR earlier in disease course
- Test CARs in combination with other agents to further enhance response rate (i.e. immune booster)
- Test new manufacturing platform to make CARs with higher potency and shorter production time
- Improve safety by incorporating novel agents to prevent or mitigate CRS/NT complications
- Novel vaccine or anti-microbials trials to decrease infection risk post CAR T cell therapy

# CAR T-cell Therapy: Overcoming Challenges

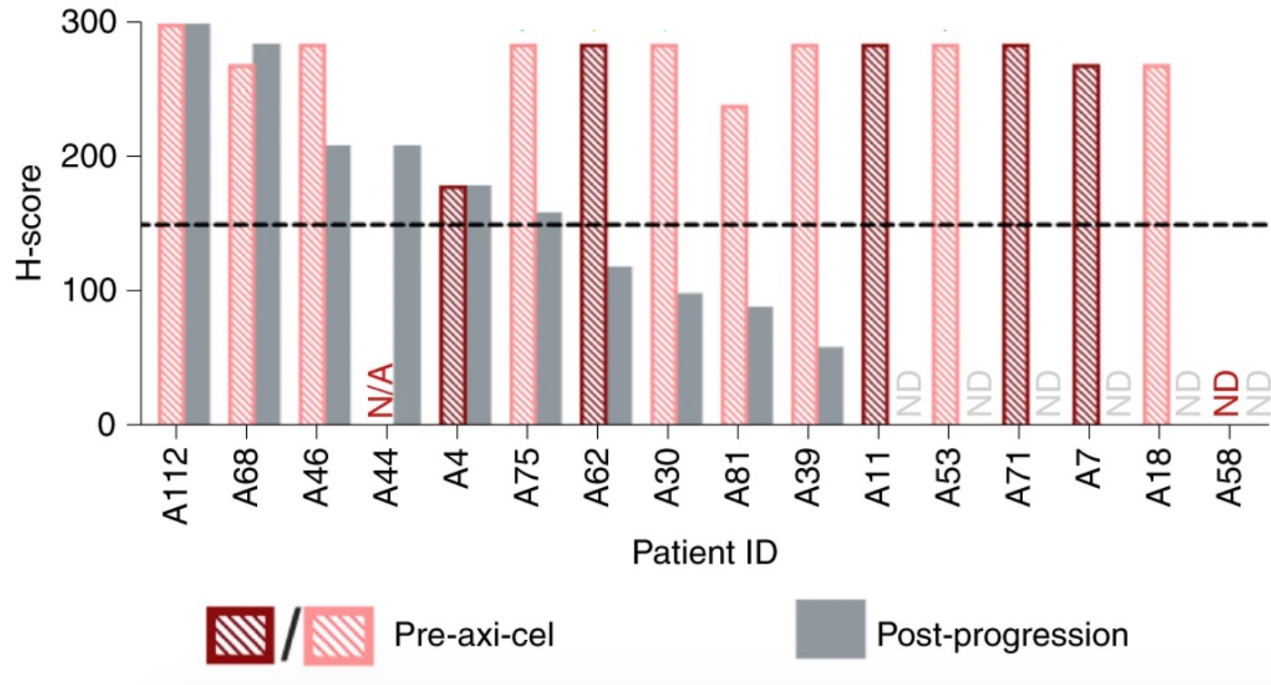
- Post CAR T relapse or non-responders



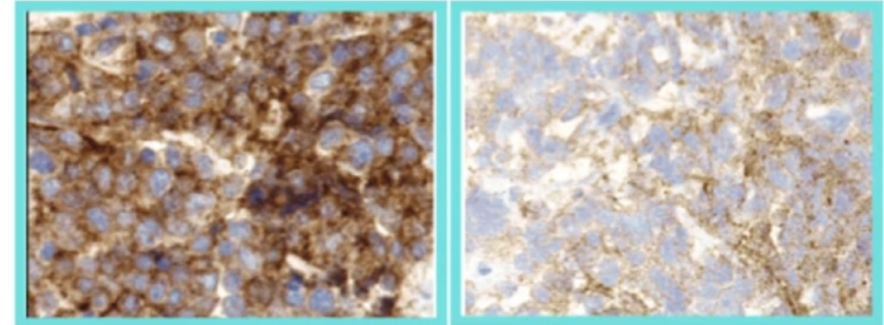
## Potential resistance mechanism

- Unfit CAR T products
  - Armored CARs (CD19CAR-IL18)
  - ibrutinib (CLL pt)
  - PI3Ki (BB21217)
  - iMiDs (PLATFORM)
  - 4-1 BB agonists (ZUMA-11)
  - CAR+cytokines (i.e. IL-7) (COH)
- tumor cell/environment
  - Add PD-1/PD-L1 blockade (PLATFORM)
  - Eliminate Treg cells
    - Tisa-cel + antiCD25ADC (E7777)
- Antigen/epitope escape
  - ~50% ALL; ~25% NHL relapse
  - Ag loss; epitope loss; ↓expression
    - Dual targeting
      - (i.e. CD19/20, CD19/CD22, CD19/BAFFR)
    - CAR with a different target (CD22, BAFFR, ROR1)

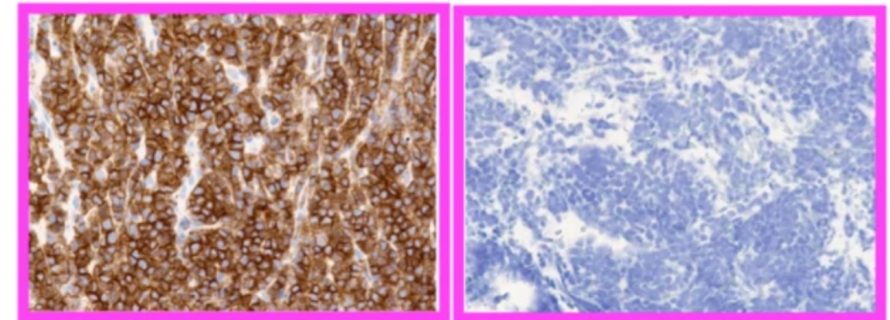
# CD19 loss or down regulation correlated with progression post Axi cel



A30 CD19 downregulation



A53 CD19 loss

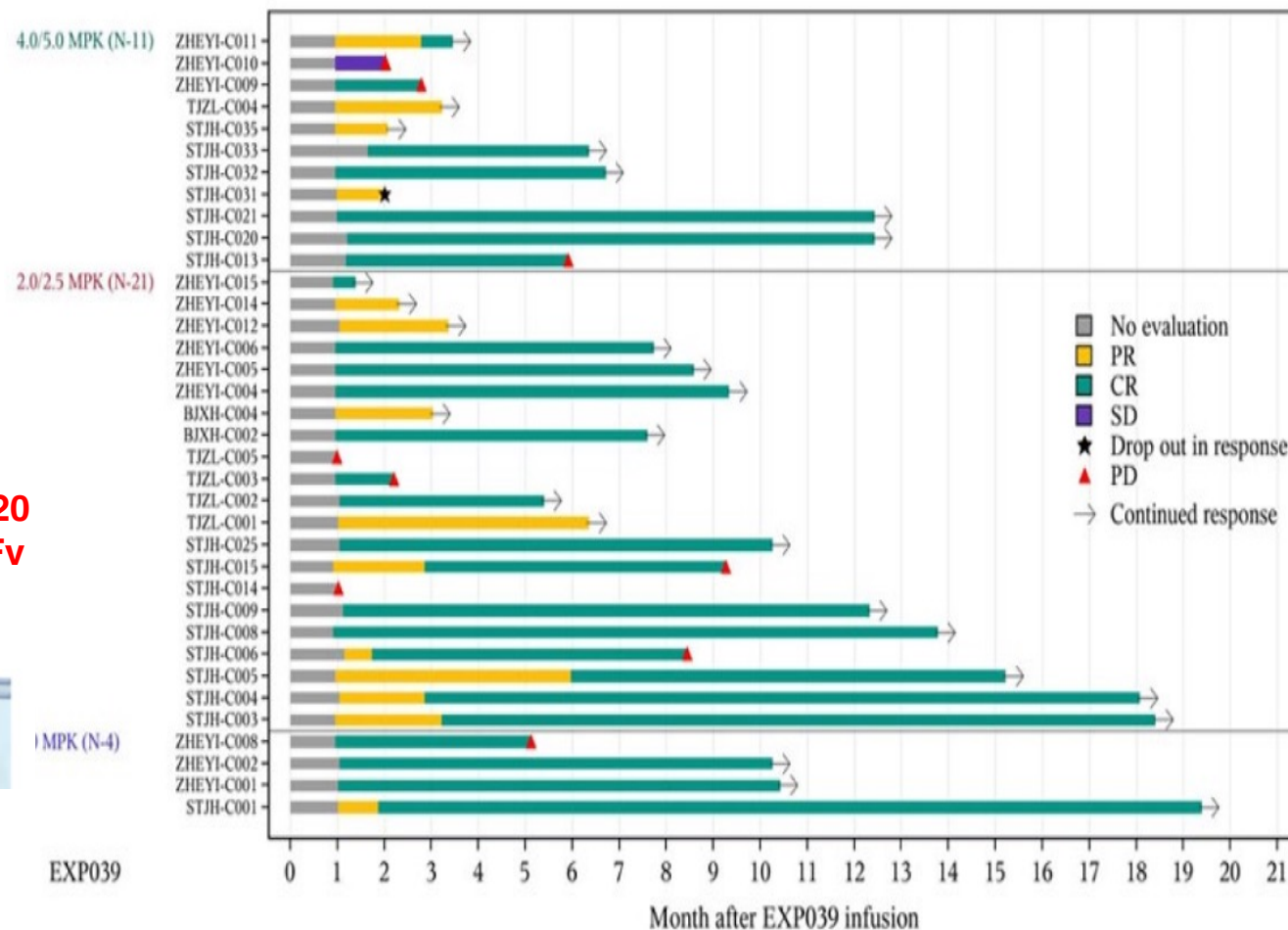
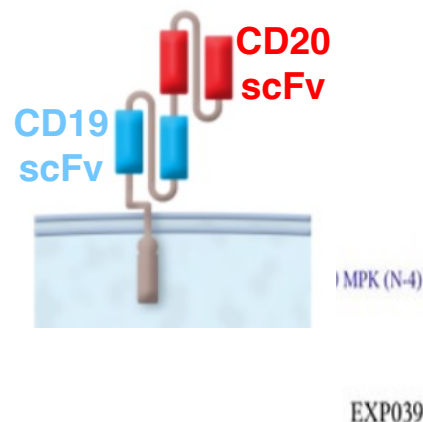


# C-CAR039 (CD19CAR/CD20CAR)



- At data cut-off of 06/30/2021:
  - 36 patients had  $\geq 28$  days of follow up
  - Median time to CR was 1.1 months (0.9)-6)
  - Median DOR was NR (95% CI 8.4-NE)
  - M6 PFS rate 83.2% (95% CI 69.1-100)**

Best Response	Total
ORR, n (%)	<b>33 (91.7)</b>
CR, n (%)	<b>26 (72.2)</b>
PR, n (%)	7 (19.4)
SD, n (%)	1 (2.8)
PD, n (%)	2 (5.6)



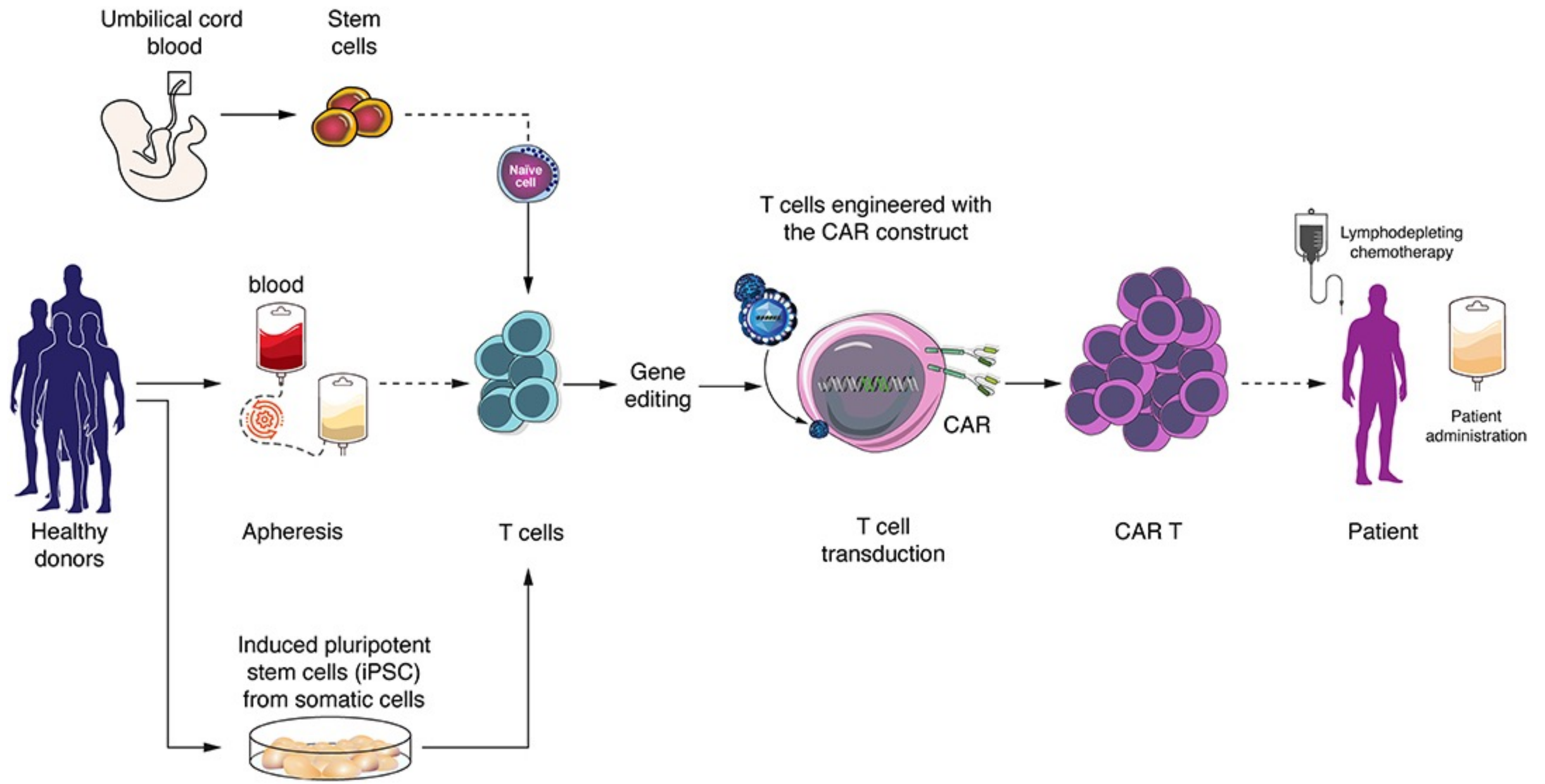
# CAR T-cell Therapy: Challenges

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- **Highly aggressive disease**

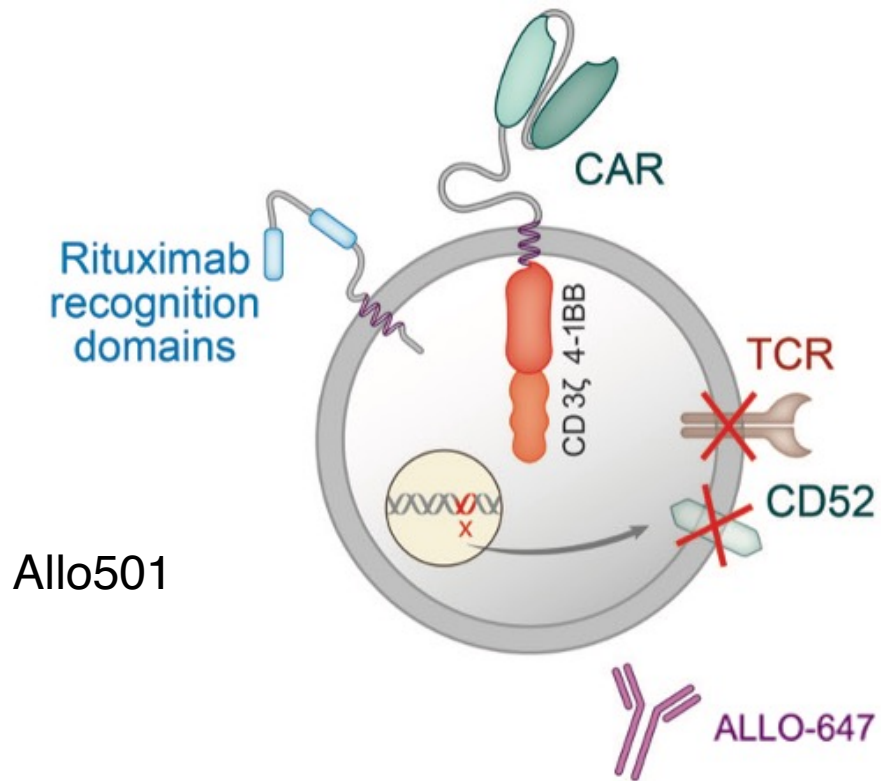
bridging therapy to stabilize disease and debulk (which regimen?)

- products with short manufacturing time
- **off the shelf products** ( CAR T, CAR NK).





## ALPHA study (NCT03939026), ALLO-501 and ALLO-647



### Patient Population

- r/r DLBCL, FL, (4 had autoCART); N = 22

### Dose levels

- 40M, 120M, 360M Allo501

### Lymphodepletion Regimens

- LD1: Flu/Cy and ALLO-647 13 mg/d x 3 days
- LD2/LD3: Flu/Cy and ALLO-647 30 mg/d x 3 days (concomitant/staggered)

Median/Mean Time from Enrollment to Start of Lymphodepletion: 5 Days

# Allogeneic CARs Racing in The Clinic

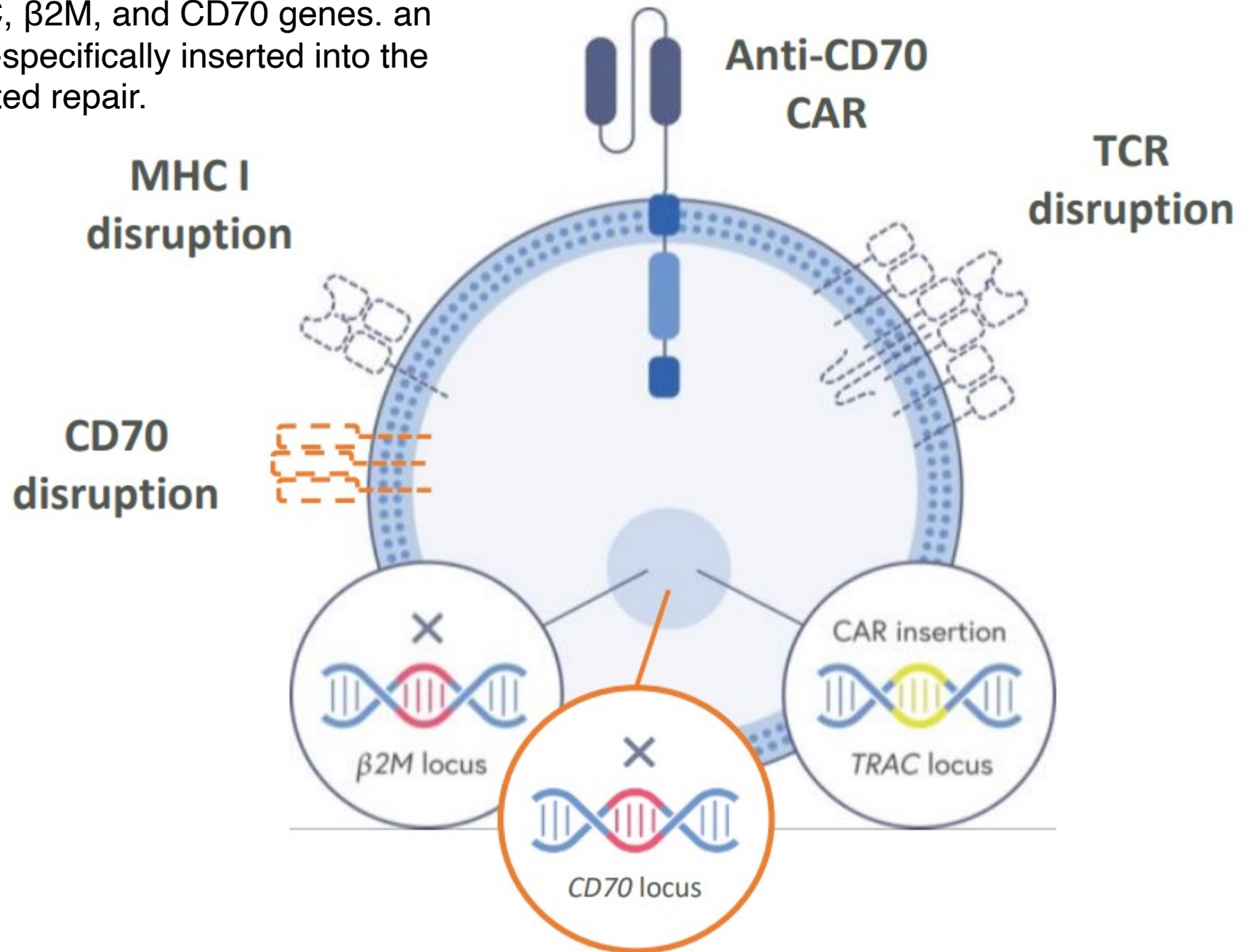
	CRS	ICANS	GVHD	ORR	CR
Allo501+647 N =22	5% $\geq$ grade 3	0	0	63% (12/19)	37% (7/19)
CD19CAR NK N= 11	0	0	0	73% (8/11)	64% (7/11)
PBCAR19 N =6	0	0	0	66% (4/6)	17% (1/6)

- AlloCARs appear to be safe with encouraging activity
- The immediate availability is clinically attractive
- Further study to optimize effective prevention of host versus graft rejection is necessary.

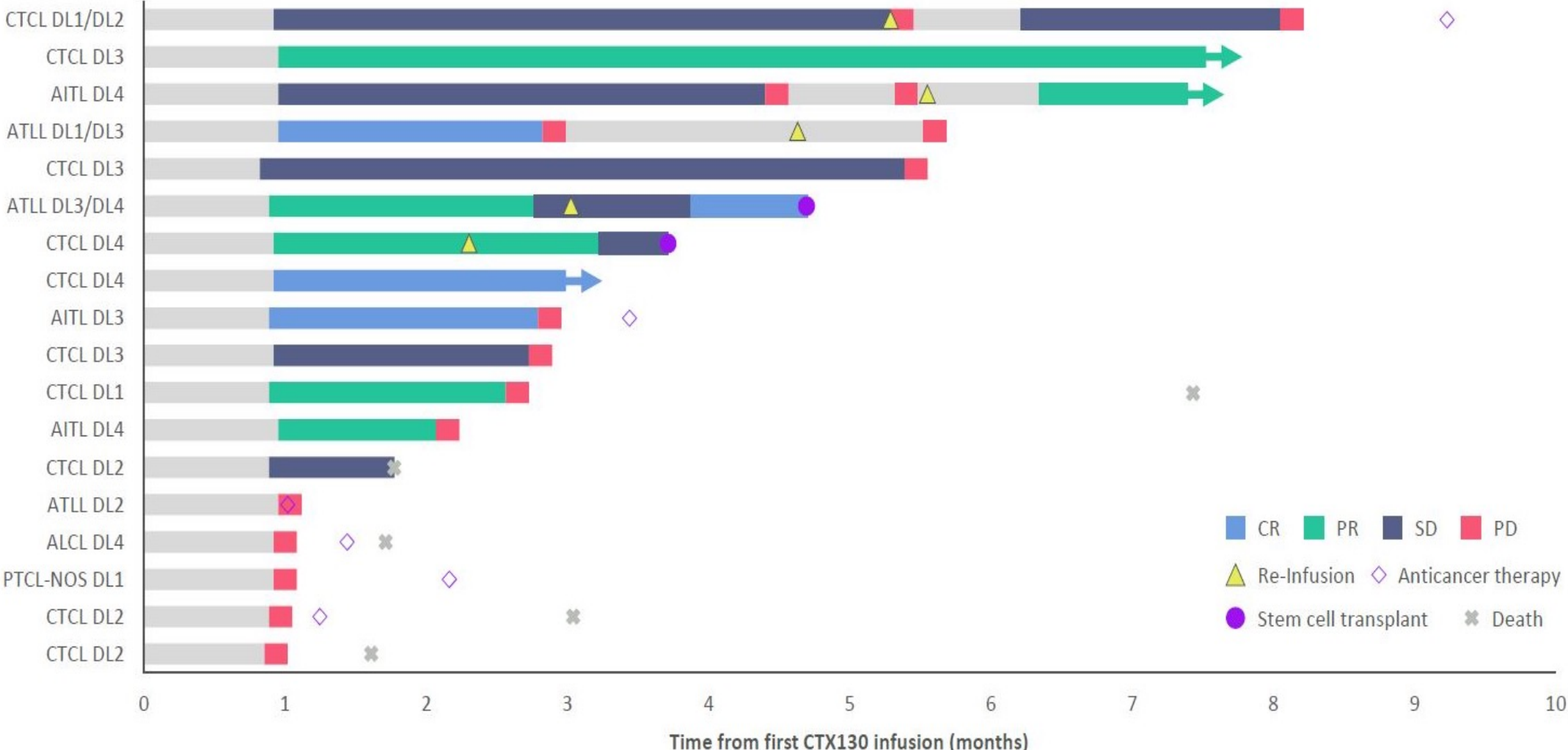
**The winner in the allogeneic CARs is yet to be determined.**

CTX130 cell design.

genetic disruptions of the TRAC,  $\beta$ 2M, and CD70 genes. an anti-CD70 CAR cassette is site-specifically inserted into the TRAC locus by homology-directed repair.



# Off the shelf CD70CAR T cells: Encouraging response in T cell lymphoma



# What have we learned?

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- CAR T therapy has changed the outcome of patients with hematologic malignancies.
- Different CAR T design and products are associated with distinct safety profiles.
- Clinical expertise and infrastructure are needed to deliver CAR T safely, effectively, and to regulatory standard
- Ongoing effects (clinical trials, preclinical studies) aim to further improve efficacy, reduce toxicities, reduce cost, and expand disease types and indications.
- Cost effectiveness will be assessed in long term follow up of treated patients.



***Thank you!***

- . Total CAR T patients treated:  $N > 900$  from 2000 to July 2022 at COH
- . Trials available for both heme and solid tumor patients

