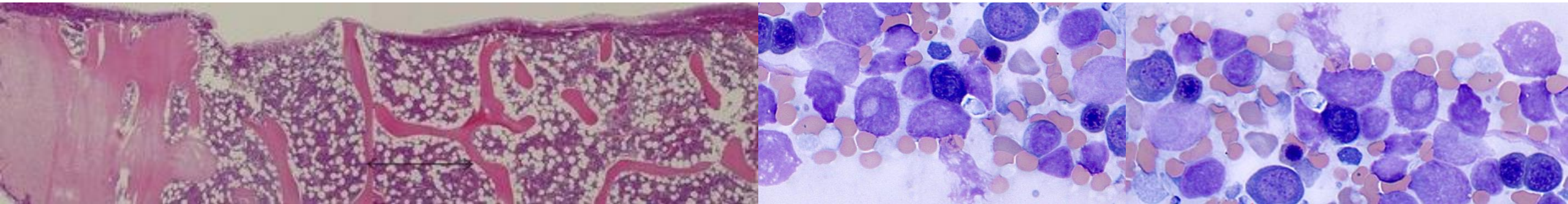


# Myelodysplasia



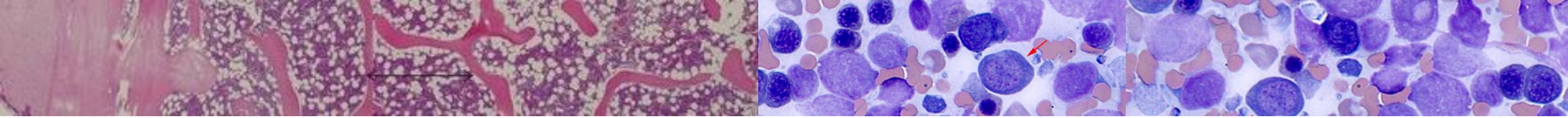
**Namrata S. Chandhok, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

University of Miami/ Sylvester Comprehensive  
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Miami, Florida

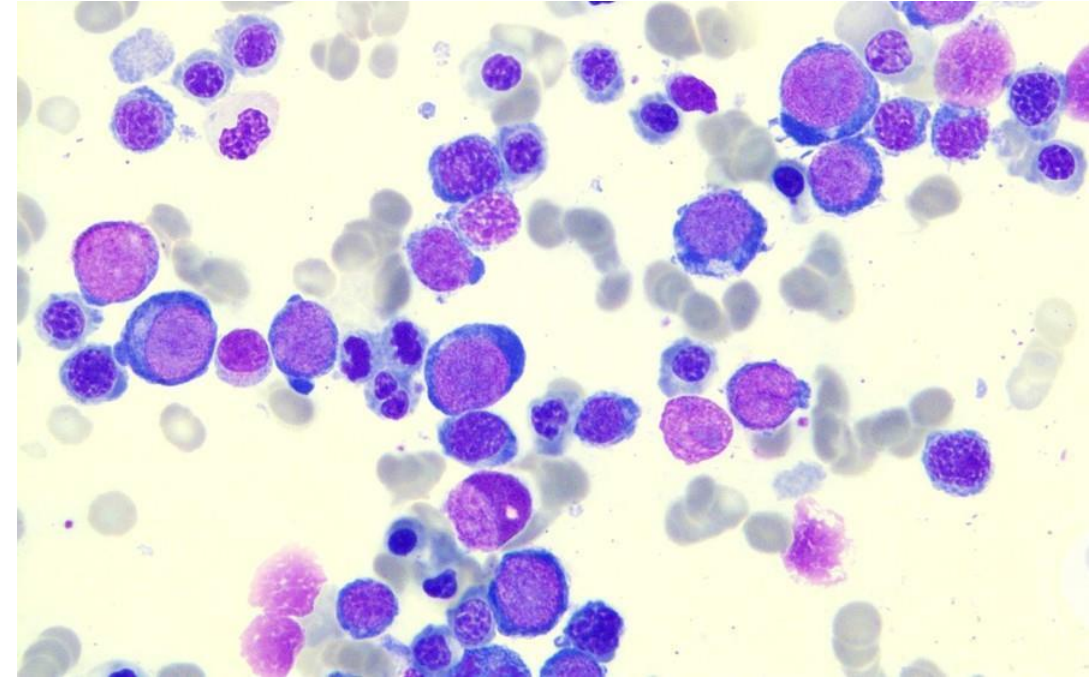
# Presentation Roadmap



- Defining MDS
- Classification and Risk Stratification
- Lower Risk MDS
- Higher Risk MDS

# MDS

- A group of malignant hematopoietic neoplasms characterized by:
  - Bone marrow failure with resultant cytopenia and related complications
  - Evidence of clonality by cytogenetic abnormalities or somatic gene mutations
  - **Dysplastic cytologic morphology is the hallmark of the disease**
  - Tendency to progress to AML
- Overall incidence 3.7-4.8/100,000
  - In US, true estimates  $\approx$ 37,000-48,000
- Median age: 70 yr; incidence: 34-47/100,000 >75 yr



# This Definition Maybe Challenged in the Future...

CCUS: Clonal Cytopenia of Undetermined Significance

The primary distinction between CCUS and lower-risk (LR)-MDS is the presence of pathologically defined dysplasia in >10% of any lineage.

High risk CCUS v. LR MDS... Are they similar?

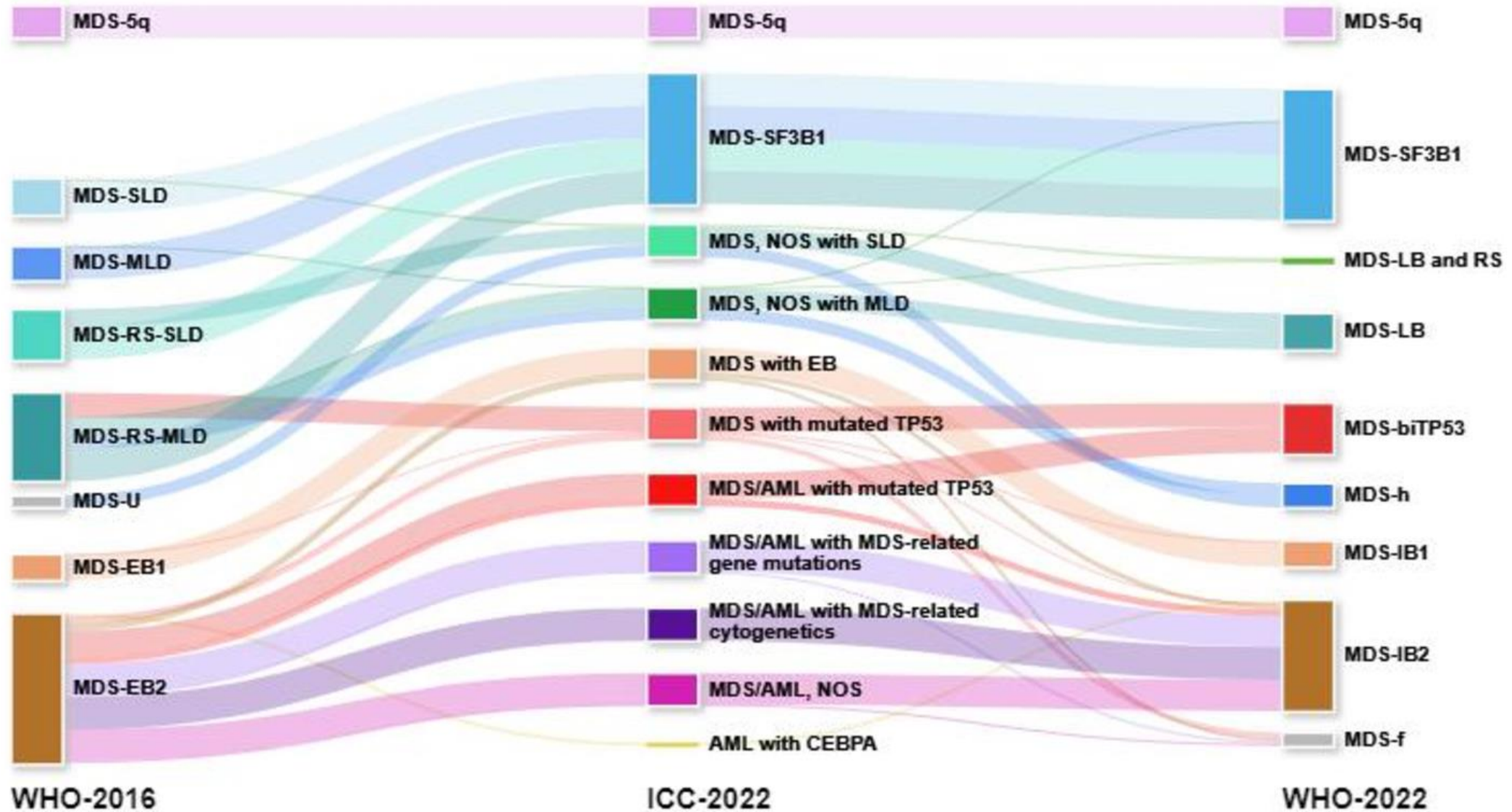
# MDS Classification Systems

MDS WHO Classification
<b>MDS w. Biallelic TP53 inactivation</b>
<b>MDS with Increased Blasts</b>
MDS IB-1 Peripheral Blood: 2-4% Bone Marrow: 5-9%
MDS IB-2 Peripheral Blood: 5-19% Bone Marrow: 10-19%
MDS with Fibrosis (MDS IB+ F)

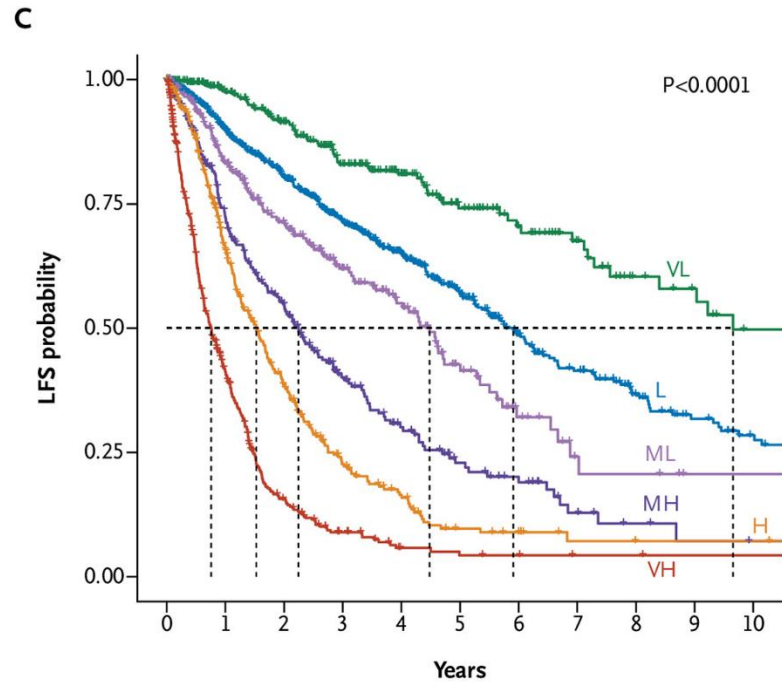
MDS ICC Classification
<b>MDS with Excess Blasts</b>
MDS EB Peripheral Blood: 2-9% Bone Marrow: 5-9%
MDS/ AML Peripheral Blood: 10-19% Bone Marrow: 10-19%



# Having 2 systems is Confusing!

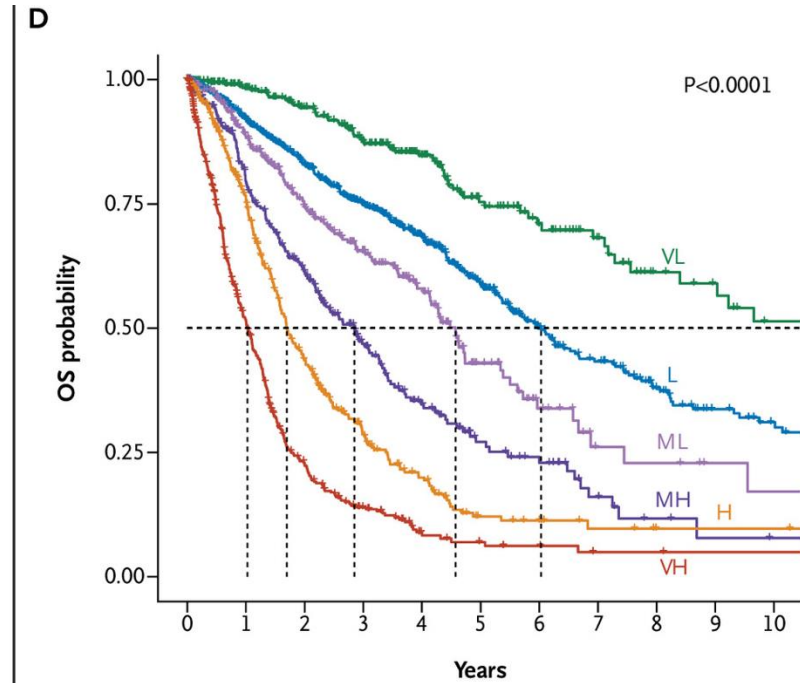


# Prognostic Scoring: Use of IPSS-M



No. at risk

VL	315	243	199	153	110	75	55	40	26	22	16
L	788	584	442	331	240	162	107	80	56	40	30
ML	274	188	135	92	62	34	16	7	6	3	3
MH	258	166	114	65	41	25	18	8	4	2	1
H	353	194	101	48	29	13	10	4	3	3	3
VH	440	152	50	21	8	6	5	3	3	2	2



No. at risk

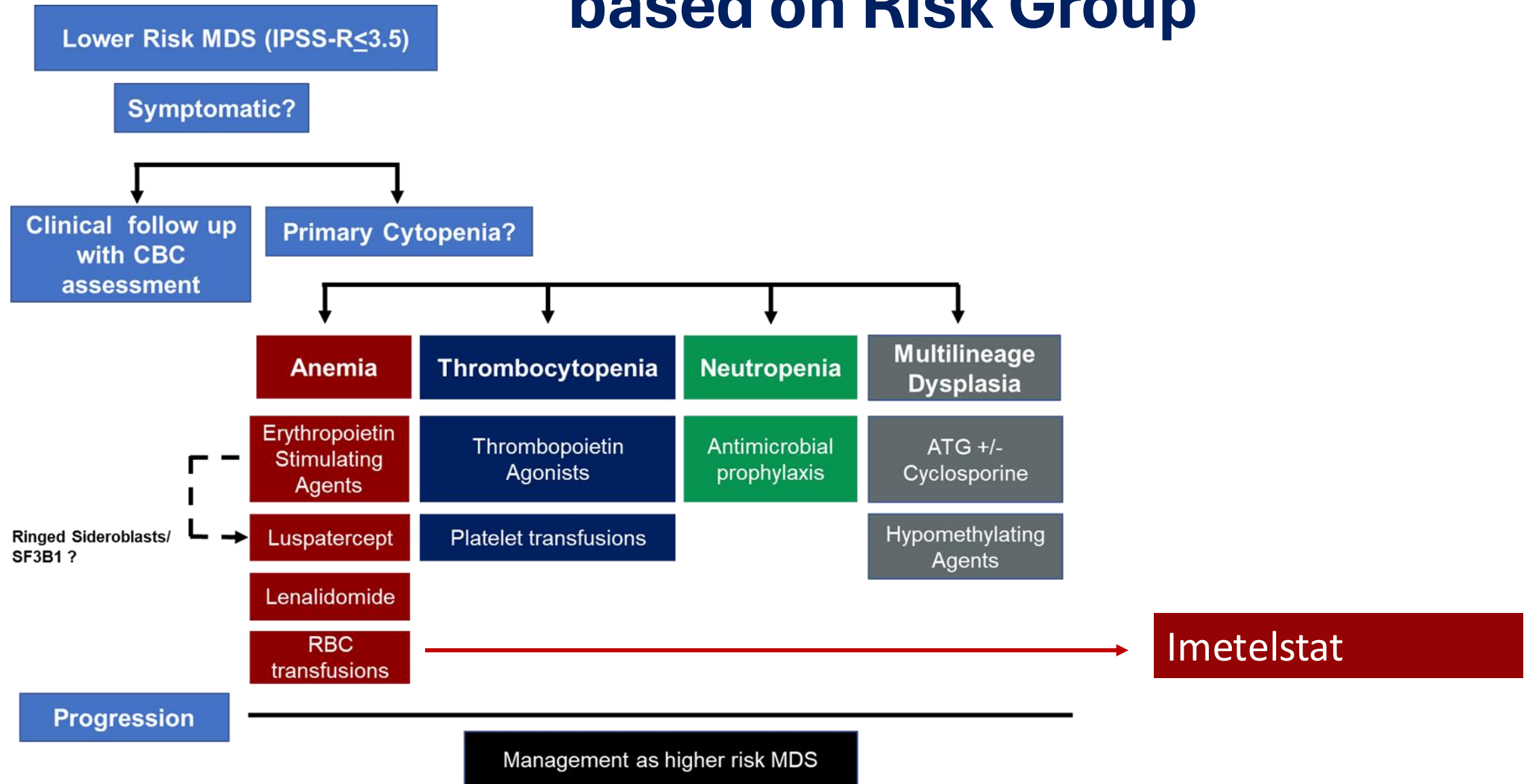
VL	344	267	224	180	126	82	57	42	28	24	18
L	852	640	496	382	270	176	112	83	57	40	31
ML	295	214	152	111	72	35	18	8	7	4	3
MH	278	191	134	80	48	27	20	9	4	2	1
H	367	235	121	65	37	15	12	6	3	3	3
VH	460	200	77	37	14	9	6	3	3	2	2

# IPSS-R v. IPSS-M

- Many presentations over the past 2-3 years!
- Reclassification/ reorganization of trial data



# Standard Treatment Options based on Risk Group



# Erythropoiesis-Stimulating Agent (ESA) Treatment of MDS

- **When is the best time to start this treatment?**
  - At Diagnosis?
  - Transfusion Dependence?
  - Study Presented: GFM Randomized Phase III EPO-Pretar Trial
  
- **Should this be a single agent or combination**
  - Add back strategy or upfront
  - Non-RS patients with ESA failure Study Presented: GFM Combola Study

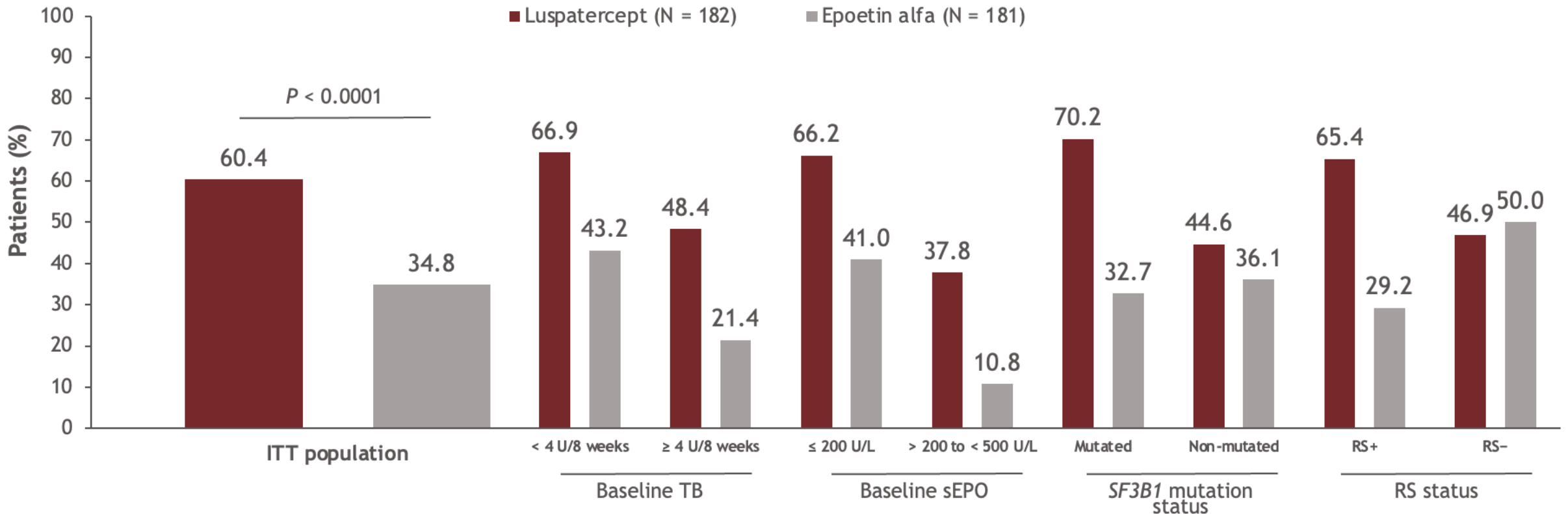
# Approvals for Anemia in Lower Risk MDS

- **Luspatercept** → Key Trial: **COMMANDS**

- Initial Approval was for SF3B1 MDS

**FDA Label Expansion in 2023:** “Treatment of anemia without prior erythropoiesis-stimulating agent (ESA) use in adult patients with very low– to intermediate-risk myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) who may require regular red blood cell (RBC) transfusions.”

# COMMANDS: Primary Endpoint (RBC-TI $\geq$ 12w +Hb increase 1.5g/dL)



## Durability of Response:

RBC-TI period  $\geq$  1 year (44.5% Luspatercept v. 27.6% w. ESA (P = 0.0003))

RBC-TI  $\geq$  1.5 years (30.2% Luspatercept v 13.8% ESA (P < 0.0001))

**Subgroup Benefits:** Luspatercept showed superior RBC-TI across subgroups, including RS-negative status, low baseline erythropoietin levels, and non-mutated SF3B1.

**Progression Rates to HR MDS or AML:** Similar

# Approvals for Anemia in Lower Risk MDS

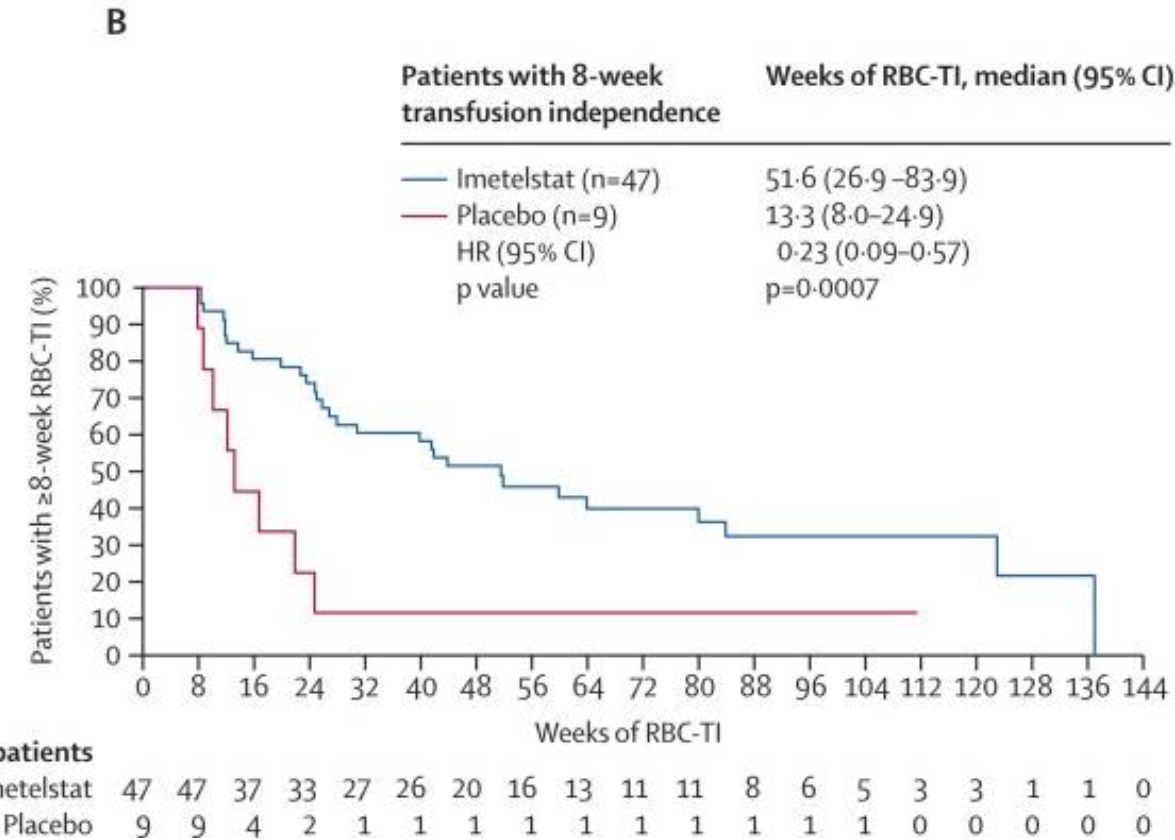
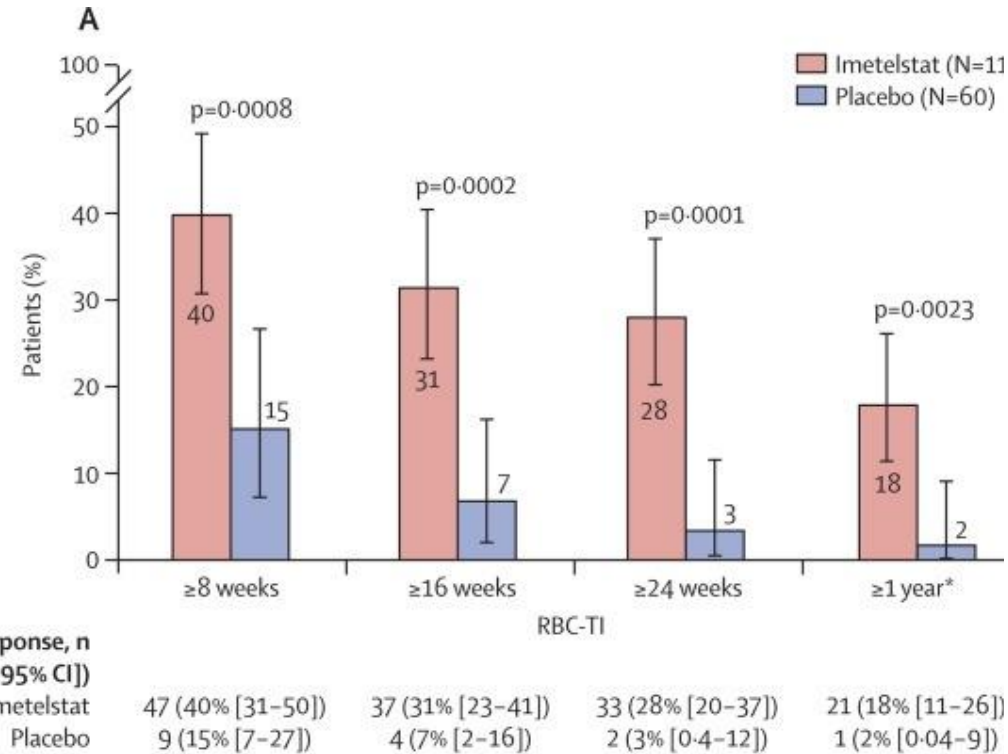
Imetelstat → Key Trial: IMerge

FDA Approval in 2024

“For adults with low- to intermediate-1 risk myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) with transfusion-dependent anemia requiring four or more red blood cell units over 8 weeks who have not responded to or have lost response to or are ineligible for erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs).”



# IMerge: Imtelstat



# Imtelstat Update

## Reduced Transfusion Burden

### Quality of Life (QOL):

Imtelstat improved fatigue (FACIT-Fatigue scores)

Maintained QOL and anemia symptom control, while placebo showed worsening.

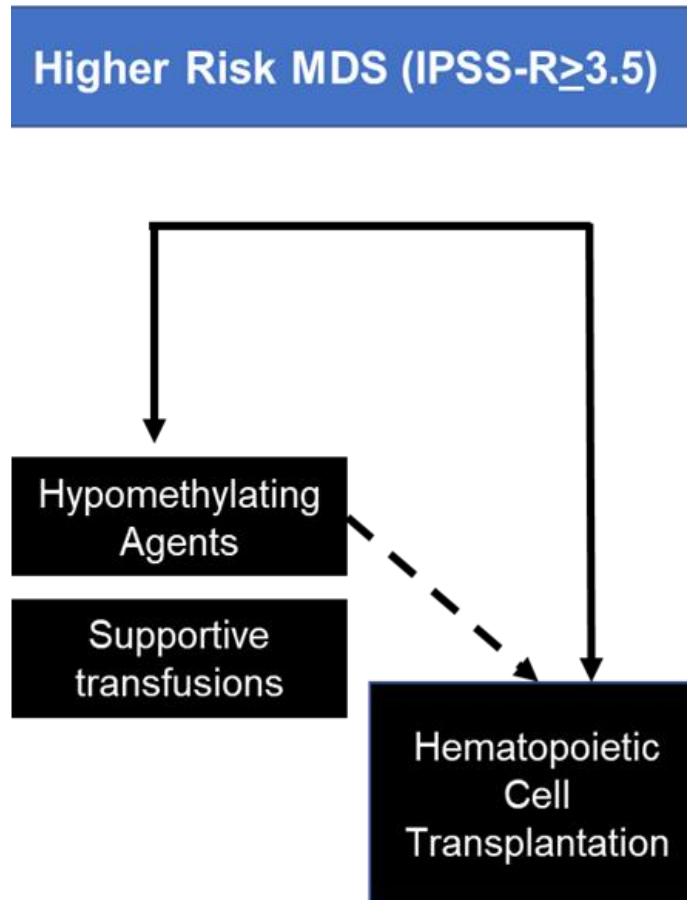
### Impact of Prior Therapy:

Small numbers, but efficacy seen in ESA treated or ineligible, Lenalidomide treated, Luspatercept treated, and HMA treated patients

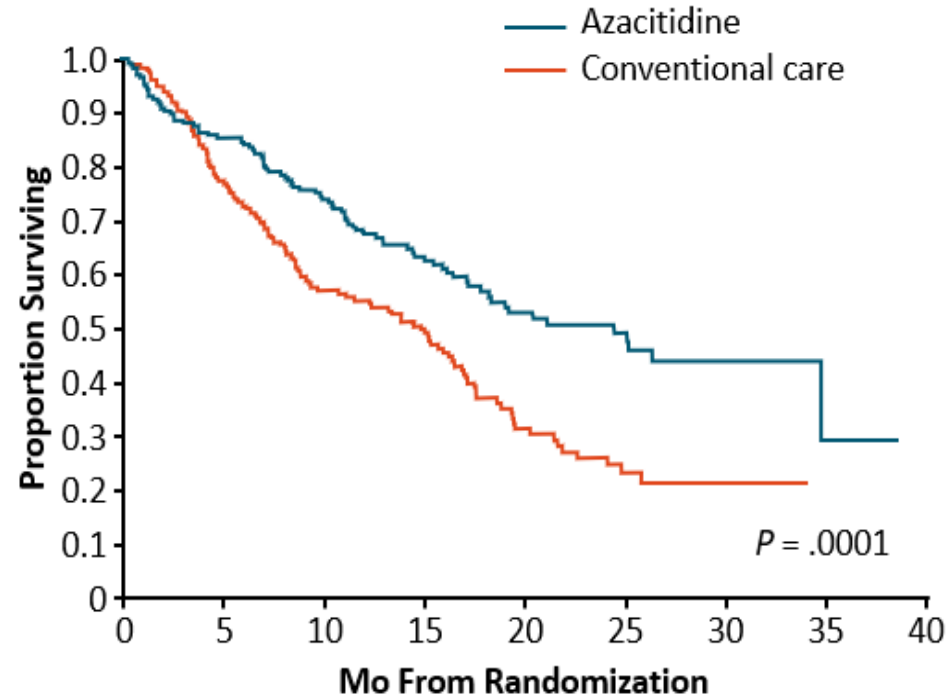
# Big Picture Questions

- How to optimize sequencing therapies?
- How do we best utilize these therapies?
- To start earlier or later?

# Standard Treatment Options Based on Risk Group



# Higher Risk MDS



Patients at Risk, n		0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40
Azacitidine	179	152	130	85	52	30	10	1	0	0
Conventional care	179	132	95	69	32	14	5	0	0	0

Fenaux. Lancet Oncol. 2009;10:223

**We are desperately waiting for new agents!**

**HMA's still win**

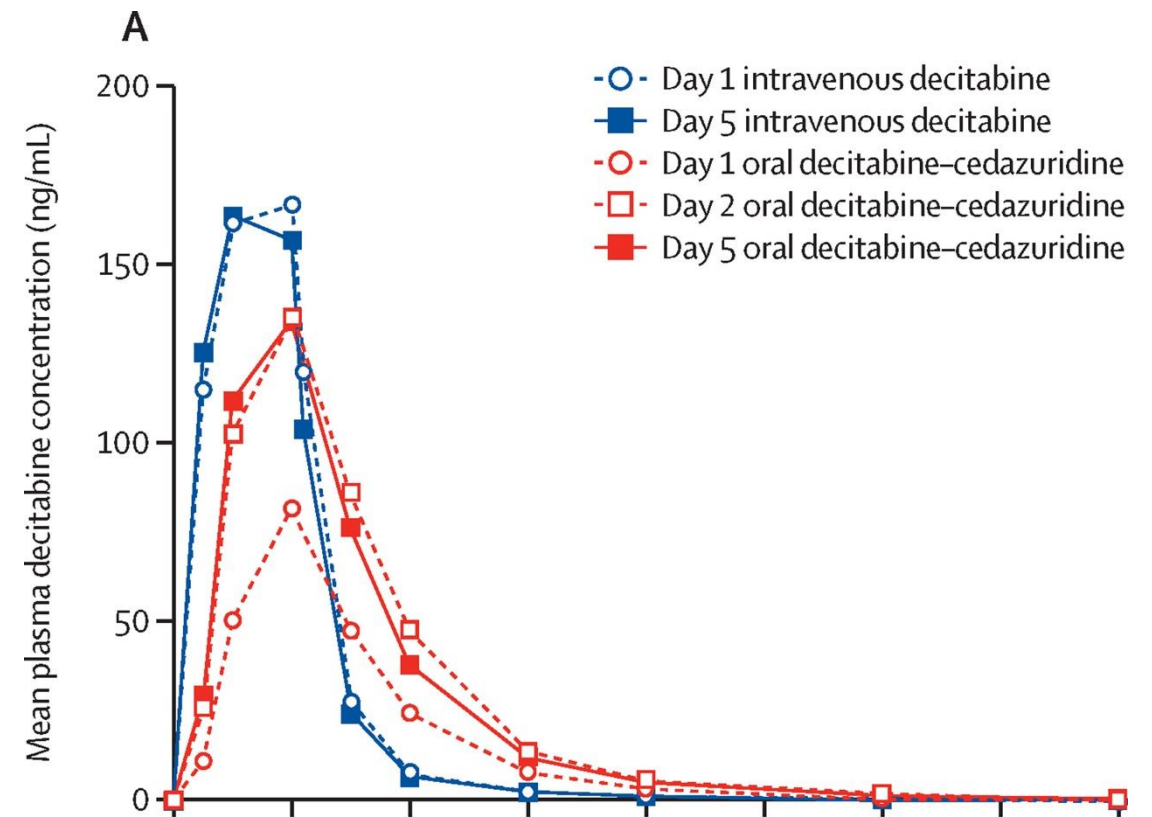
- **Phase III AZA-001 study (N = 358)**
  - Subset analysis in patients >75 yr of age (n = 87; ~1/4 of randomized patients)
- **2-yr OS superior with azacitidine (P = .0003)**
  - Azacitidine: 55%
  - Conventional care: 15%
- **No significant difference in the rate of bleeding or infections**



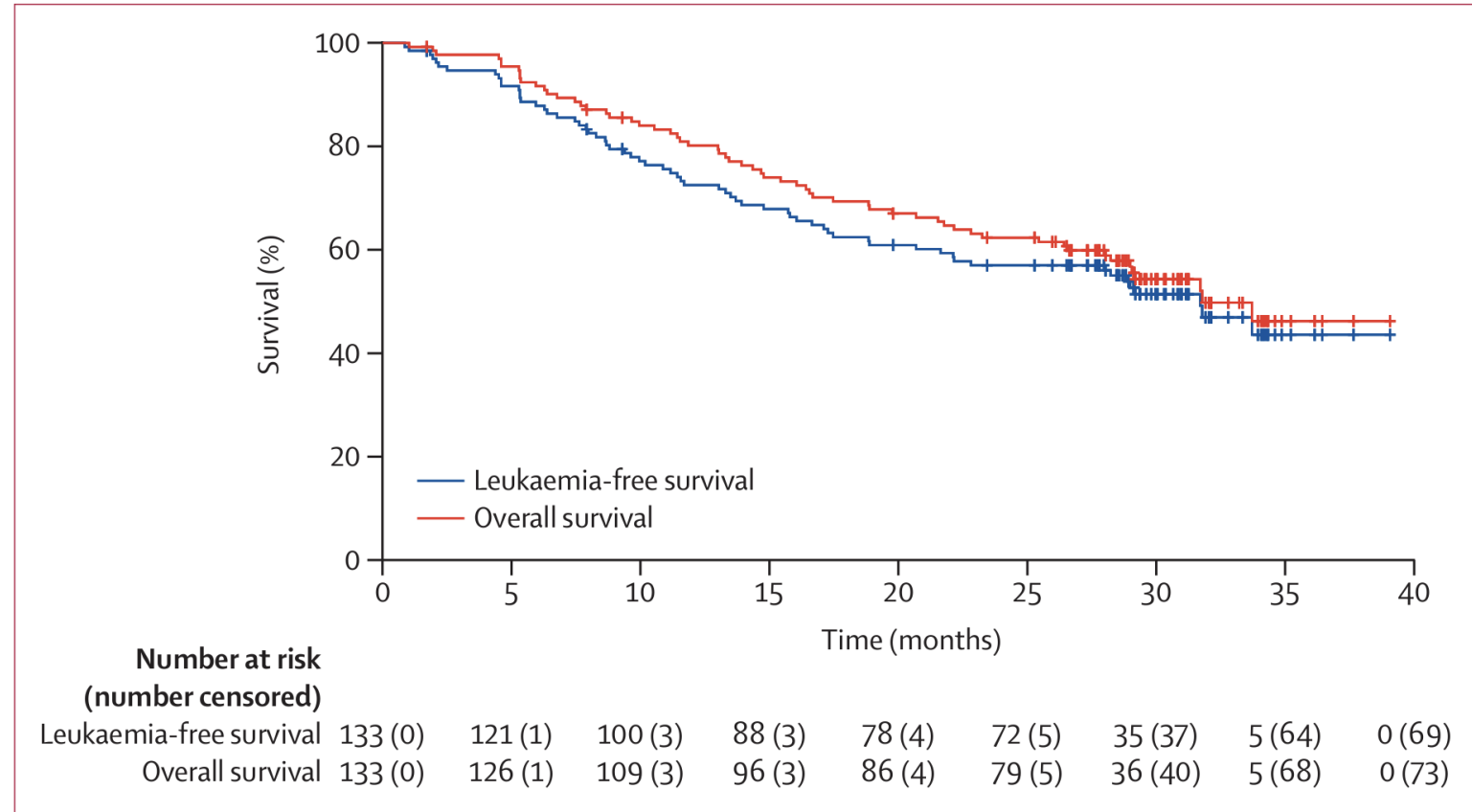
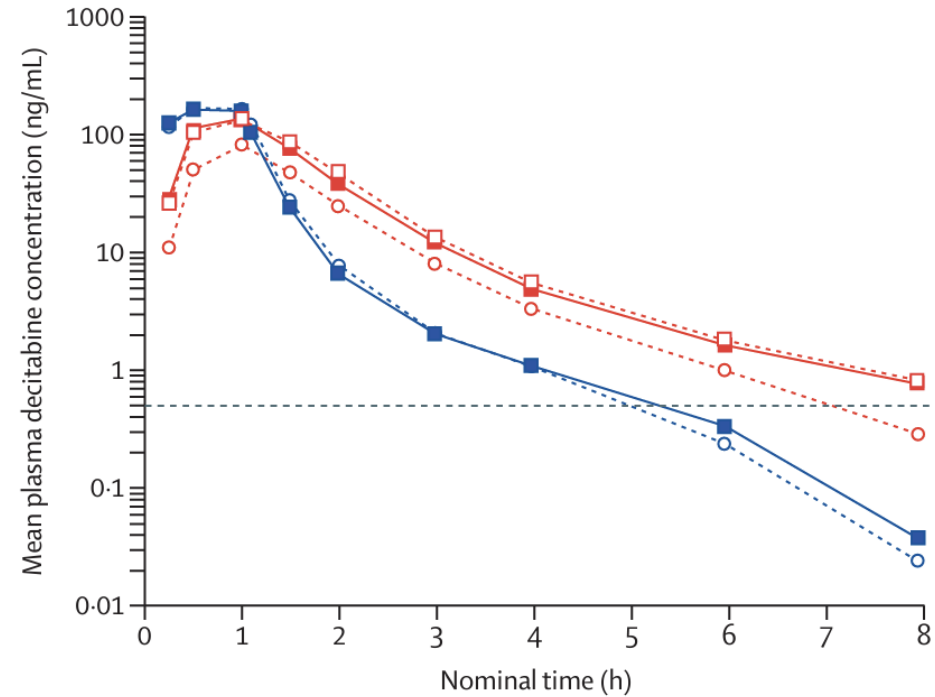
# Oral HMA: Decitabine and Cedazuridine

- FDA Approval in 2020 → Key Trial: ASCERTAIN

Trial based on pharmacokinetics



# Ascertain Trial: Oral Decitabine- Cedazuridine



**Figure 3: Leukaemia-free survival and overall survival**

# Combinations: Some Recent Disappointing results

- Eprenetapopt (APR-246) + AZA
- Magrolimab+AZA (ENHANCE trial)
- Pevonidostat+AZA v. AZA (PANTHER trial)
- Sabatolimab+HMA vs. HMA+placebo (STIMULUS trial)

## **Most Recent:**

- Tamibarotene+ AZA v. Placebo+ AZA (SELECT-MDS-1 Phase 3 trial)

# Anticipated: VERONA Study

Venetoclax + AZA versus AZA monotherapy  
Phase 3 study

Primary Endpoint: Overall Survival

More to Come...

# Thank you for your Attention!



 SYLVESTER  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI HEALTH SYSTEM

UNIVERSITY  
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