



## The 65th ASH Annual Meeting Abstracts

## POSTER ABSTRACTS

## 612.ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIAS: CLINICAL AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL

**Role of Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation in Preventing Relapse in Adult BCR::ABL1-like Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia**

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**Background**

Philadelphia-like acute lymphoblastic leukemia (Ph-like ALL) is characterized by the activation of several kinase pathways that promote treatment resistance leading to poor survival of patients at all ages. Despite the use of tyrosine kinase inhibitors in the Ph-like ABL-class subtype (15% Ph-like ALL), there is not a consensus approach for treatment of most patients (JAK-class especially), and the role of allogeneic stem cell transplantation (alloSCT) has scarcely been explored so far (i.e., mandatory vs. MRD-oriented).

**Objective**

To assess the outcome of Ph-like patients enrolled in the ongoing ALL19 trial from the Programa Español de Tratamientos en Hematología (PETHEMA) for adults (18-60y) with Ph-negative ALL, and to evaluate the effectiveness of alloSCT in first complete remission (CR).

### Methods

In the ALL19 trial, patients are allocated to alloSCT according both to the end of induction (EOI) measurable residual disease (MRD) level and to high-risk genetic markers such as low-hypodiploidy, KMT2A rearrangement, TP53 biallelic alteration and concomitant deletion of IKZF1 and CDKN2A/B. Therefore, BCR::ABL1-like subtype was not a criteria for early transplantation unless meeting either poor MRD clearance at EOI or concomitant deletion of IKZF1+CDKN2A/B. Patients with MRD $\geq$ 0.01% on day+35 (EOI) and/or high-risk genetics were assigned to early alloSCT (preceded by 1 cycle of consolidation chemotherapy) while those with good MRD clearance and standard risk genetics received early and delayed consolidation (3 cycles each) and maintenance therapy. Bone marrow or peripheral blood samples were analyzed by G-banding+FISH, SNP array (750K Affymetrix, Thermo Fisher) and next generation sequencing (NGS, with a custom DNA gene panel, Illumina) at diagnosis in 4 reference laboratories. MRD was centrally assessed by next generation flow cytometry with a sensitivity up to 2x10<sup>-6</sup>.

### Results

Twenty-four Ph-like out of 248 adult BCP ALL (10%) were detected. Baseline characteristics were similar between Ph-like and the remaining BCP-ALL. Most Ph-like ALL patients showed the JAK-class profile (20/24 [83%]: 17/24 CRLF2 rearrangement[r], 1/24 JAK2r, 1 BLNK::DNIT and 1 JAK2 R683 mutation), 3/24 belonged to the ABL-class subtype (2 ABL2r, 1 NUP214::ABL1) and 1 patient was identified by RNAseq (gene expression profiling similar to BCR::ABL1 ALL) without identifying any rearrangement. Regarding secondary genetic alterations, 17/24 (71%) patients showed the IKZF1 *plus* profile, 10/23 (43%) harbored JAK2 R683 mutation, 4/23 N/KRAS mutations, 2/23 CRLF2 mutation and 1/23 showed mutations in several genes such as IKZF1, NR3C1 or FLT3, among others.

There were no significant differences in the probability of achieving CR between Ph-like and the remaining BCP ALL (15/20 [75%] vs. 137/162 [85%], p=0.334). However, EOI MRD level of Ph-like individuals was significantly poorer (MRD<0.01% Ph-like 4/15 [27%] vs. other BCP-ALL 85/136 [63%], p=0.007). By intention to treat, most Ph-like patients (17/19, 89%) were allocated to alloSCT (vs. 91/153 [59%] in the other BCP-ALL, p=0.011) due to either EOI MRD $\geq$ 0.01% (9/18), IKZF1+CDKN2A/B concomitant deletions (3/18) or both (6/18). The 2-y overall survival (OS) in both groups was not significantly different (57% [95% CI, 27%-78%] vs. 67% [55%-77%, p=0.304]) (Figure 1). Interestingly, most Ph-like patients died due to treatment-related toxicity (2 transplant-related mortality, 1 CART-related, 1 during induction, 1 in CR and 1 by COVID-19 infection). The 2-y cumulative incidence of relapse (CIR) was also similar (Ph-like 27% [8%-50%] vs. other BCP-ALL 35% [25%-45%], p=0.946) (Figure 1).

### Conclusions

Despite the short follow up of this series, our results show that Ph-like ALL patients have poorer EOI MRD clearance and higher rate of alloSCT realization than the remaining BCP ALL patients, without significant differences in outcome. This suggests that early alloSCT in first CR might overcome the poor prognosis of Ph-like ALL patients.

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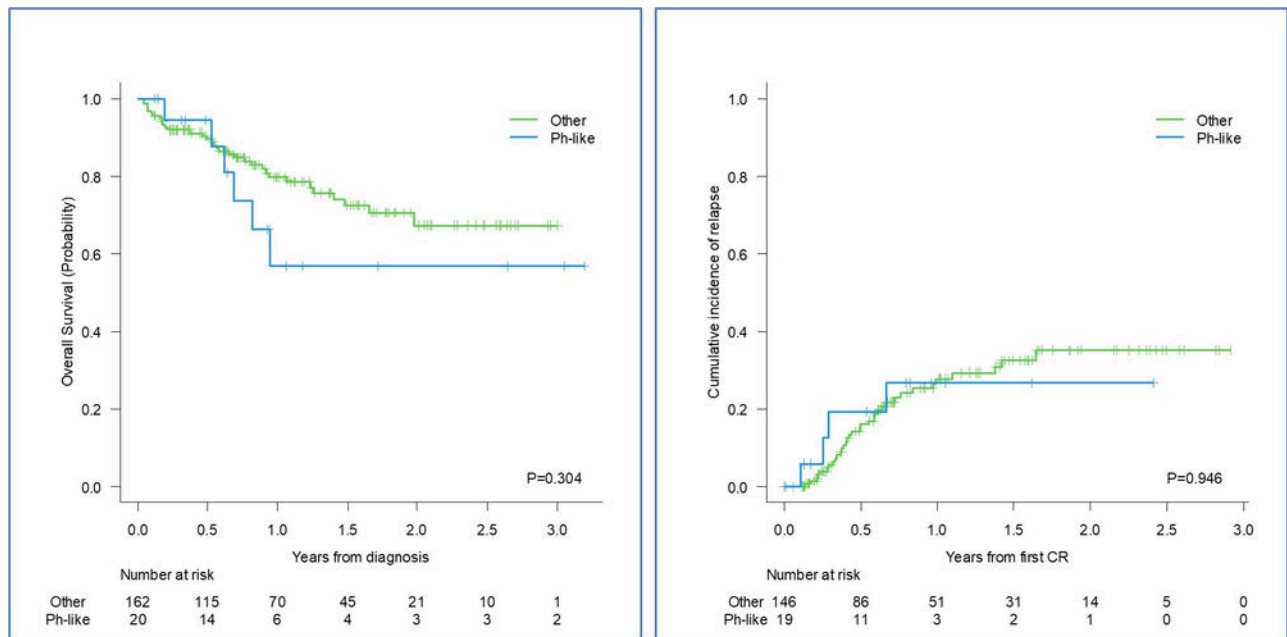


Figure 1

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