



## The 65th ASH Annual Meeting Abstracts

## ORAL ABSTRACTS

## 642.CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKEMIA: CLINICAL AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL

**Genetic markers and ibrutinib vs placebo treatment in early stage chronic lymphocytic leukemia -results from the GCLLSG CLL12 trial**

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**Background:** Watch and wait is standard of care in patients with early stage chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). In the CLL12 trial, 515 stage Binet-A patients were risk stratified and randomized 1:1 to ibrutinib (ibr, n=182) or placebo (pcb, n=181) when assigned to (very) high or intermediate risk, while low risk patients were only observed (w&w, n=152). Treatment with ibr was associated with longer progression-free survival (PFS) (event defined as progression or death) and event-free survival (EFS) (event defined as death, symptomatic progression or initiation of CLL treatment) but not overall survival (OS) when compared to pcb (Langerbeins et al. EHA 2023). However, it is unclear if specific subgroups defined by genetic markers may derive particular benefit from early ibr treatment.

**Methods:** Genetic markers were analyzed in all 515 patients at study entry. Genomic aberrations were assessed by FISH, IGHV mutational status by sequencing with a threshold of 98% homology and gene mutations via targeted NGS for *TP53*, *FBXW7*, *NOTCH1*, *SF3B1*, *NRAS*, *KRAS*, *BRAF*, *BIRC3*, *MYD88*, *NFKBIE*, *EGR2* and *XPO1*.

**Results:** The prevalence of genomic aberrations and gene mutations is shown in the table 1.

At a median follow up of 69.3 months, there were 166 events for EFS and 32 for OS respectively. EFS was shorter with del(17p) (compared to del(13q): Hazard ratio (HR) 2.89, 95%CI 1.14-7.37, p<0.05), del(11q) (HR 4.39, 95%CI 2.48-7.76, p<0.001); + (12) (HR 1.78, 95%CI 1.01-3.13, p<0.05) in the pcb arm, while with ibr only del(17p) (HR 5.07, 95%CI 1.70-15.17 p<0.01) was associated with shorter EFS. IGHV mutation status had an impact on EFS with pcb (U-IGHV vs. M-IGHV, HR 4.44, 95%CI 2.88-6.85, p<0.001) but not with ibr (HR 1.52, 95%CI 0.81-2.85, p=0.19).

In the pcb arm, mutations in *NOTCH1* (HR 2.26, 95%CI 1.35-3.76, p<0.01), *NRAS/KRAS/BRAF*, (HR 5.38, 95%CI 1.92-15.03, p<0.01) and *NFKBIE* (HR 4.12, 95%CI 1.97-8.64, p<0.001) but not *TP53* (HR 1.24, 95%CI 0.57-2.68, p=0.59) were significantly associated with a shorter EFS. In contrast, with ibr treatment, only *TP53* (HR 2.88, 95%CI 1.31-6.32, p<0.01) and *NFKBIE* (HR 2.45, 95%CI 1.03-5.87, p=0.04) were associated with shorter EFS. Notably, in the full trial population (i.e. including the w&w

cohort) *TP53* mutations were associated with shorter EFS only when combined with U-IGHV (HR 2.37, 95%CI 1.22-4.63,  $p<0.05$ ) but not with M-IGHV (HR 0.53, 95%CI 0.26-1.10,  $p=0.09$ ).

In the w&w cohort high risk markers were rare and only + (12) (compared to del(13q)(HR 4.66, 95%CI 1.4-15.51,  $p<0.05$ ) and mutations in *TP53* (HR 4.88, 95%CI 1.49-16.04,  $p<0.01$ ), *SF3B1* (HR 5.01, 95%CI 1.53-16.45,  $p<0.01$ ), *BIRC3* (HR 3.43, 95%CI 1.05-11.23,  $p<0.05$ ) and *NFKBIE* (HR 12.58, 95%CI 3.68-42.99,  $p<0.001$ ) were significantly associated with shorter EFS.

Significant EFS benefit from ibr as compared to pcb with HR<0.2 was observed in subgroups with U-IGHV (HR 0.18, 95%CI 0.1-0.3,  $p<0.001$ ); del(11q) (HR 0.10, 95%CI 0.04-0.29,  $p<0.001$ ) and cases with mutations in *NOTCH1* (HR 0.18, 95%CI 0.06-0.55,  $p<0.01$ ) and *NFKBIE* (HR 0.15, 95%CI 0.04-0.53,  $p<0.01$ ), while no significant benefit was observed with del(17p) (HR 0.68, 95%CI 0.16-2.85,  $p=0.59$ ) and mutated *TP53* (HR 0.69, 95%CI 0.25-1.92,  $p=0.48$ , figure 1). Regarding OS none of the subgroups defined by genetic markers derived significant benefit from ibr as compared to pcb.

In multivariable analysis for EFS including treatment arms, clinical disease characteristics and genetic markers as variables, ibr treatment was an independent favorable factor (HR 0.25, 95%CI 0.16-0.37,  $p<0.001$ ), while U-IGHV (HR 3.38, 95%CI 2.29-4.98,  $p<0.001$ ), del(17p) (HR 3.53, 95%CI 1.76-7.06,  $p<0.001$ ), + (12) (HR 1.58, 95%CI 1.01-2.45,  $p<0.05$ ) and mutated *NFKBIE* (HR 2.22, 95%CI 1.23-4.01,  $p<0.01$ ) were independent adverse prognostic factors.

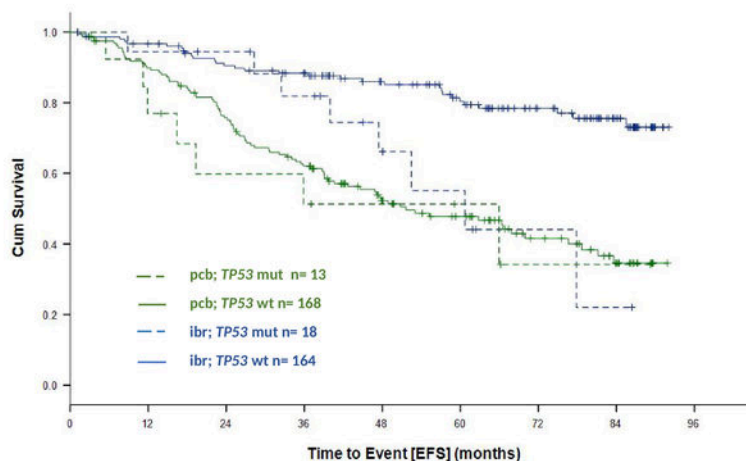
**Conclusion:** In addition to the well-known prognostic factors, also mutated *SF3B1*, *NFKBIE* and *BIRC3* are associated with shorter EFS in low risk early stage CLL. While some genetic subgroups derived particular EFS benefit from ibr, patients with high-risk *TP53* aberration and/or del(17p) did not. In summary, the CLL12 trial fails to demonstrate survival superiority by early ibr treatment, including genetic subgroups and w&w remains the standard of care for all patients with Binet stage A CLL.

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**Table 1:** Prevalence of genomic aberrations and gene mutations

Aberrations and mutations [%]	all n=515	ibr n=182	pcb n=181	w+w n=152
U-IGHV	28.8	38.7	38.7	5.3
del (17p)	2.5	3.3	3.9	0.0
del (11q)	7.8	11.5	10.5	0.0
+ (12)	10.9	13.2	15.5	2.6
no abnormalities	18.1	19.8	16.6	17.8
del (13q)	60.8	52.2	53.6	79.6
NOTCH1	7.6	8.2	12.7	0.7
SF3B1	7.4	7.7	11.0	2.6
TP53	6.8	9.9	7.2	2.6
BIRC3	5.2	4.4	7.7	3.3
NFKBIE	4.9	7.7	4.4	2.0
MYD88	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
FBXW7	2.9	3.8	3.9	0.7
XPO1	1.9	1.1	4.4	0.0
NRAS/KRAS/BRAF	1.4	1.1	2.8	0.0
EGR2	0.6	1.6	0.0	0.0

**Figure 1:** Event free survival *TP53*



## Figure 1

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