

INMUNOTERAPIA EN NEOPLASIAS HEMATOLÓGICAS: implicaciones de la citometria de flujo

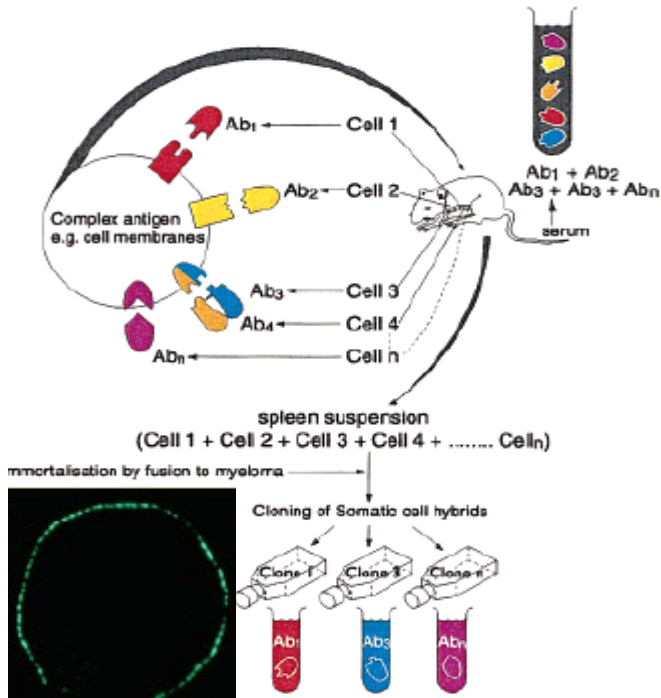


**CANCER RESEARCH CENTER IBSAL, UNIVERSITY
& UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OF SALAMANCA**

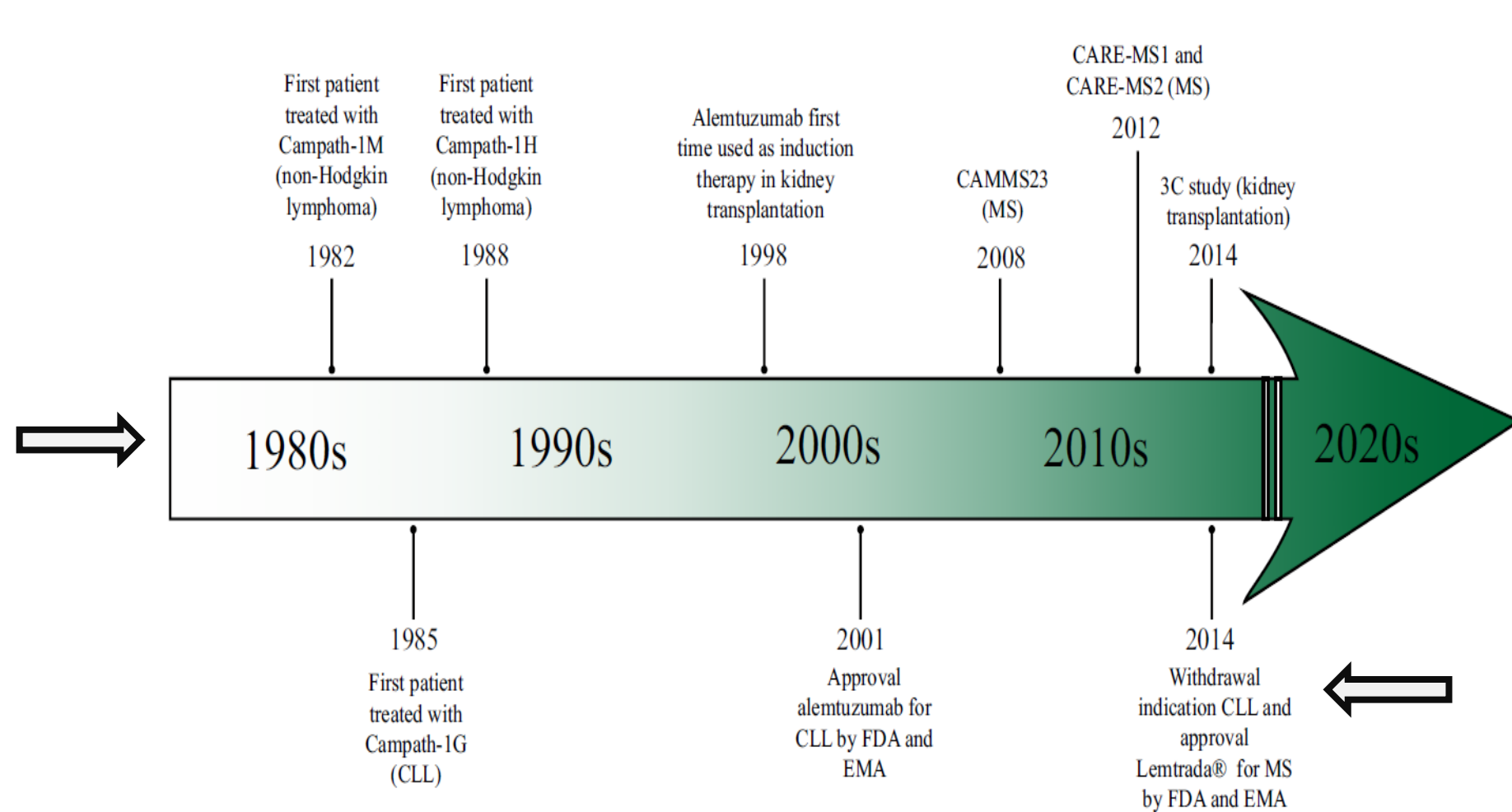


**6º Curso Práctico de Citometria de Flujo
Valencia, 28 de septiembre de 2023**

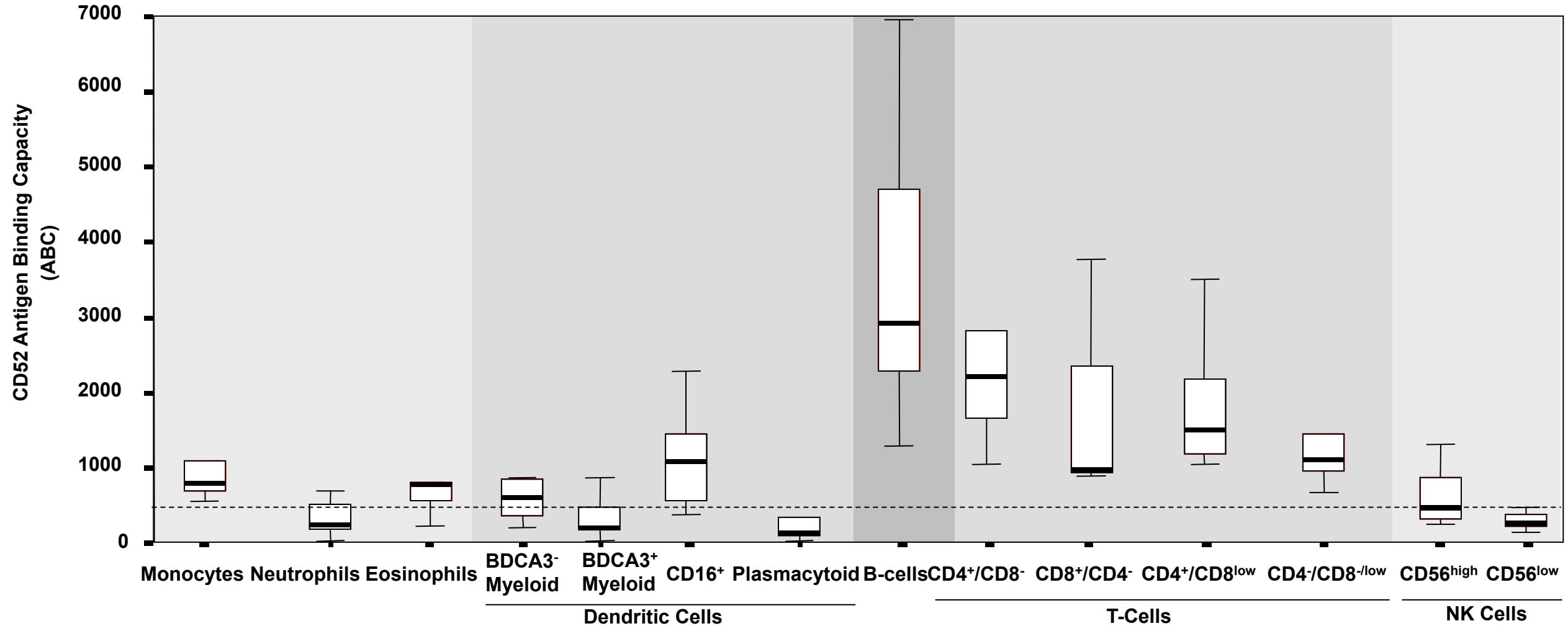
FROM the MoAb TECHNOLOGY TO TARGETED ANTIBODY-BASED THERAPIES



Kohler G, Milstein C. Continuous cultures of fused cells secreting antibody of pre-defined specificity. Nature 1975;256:495-497.



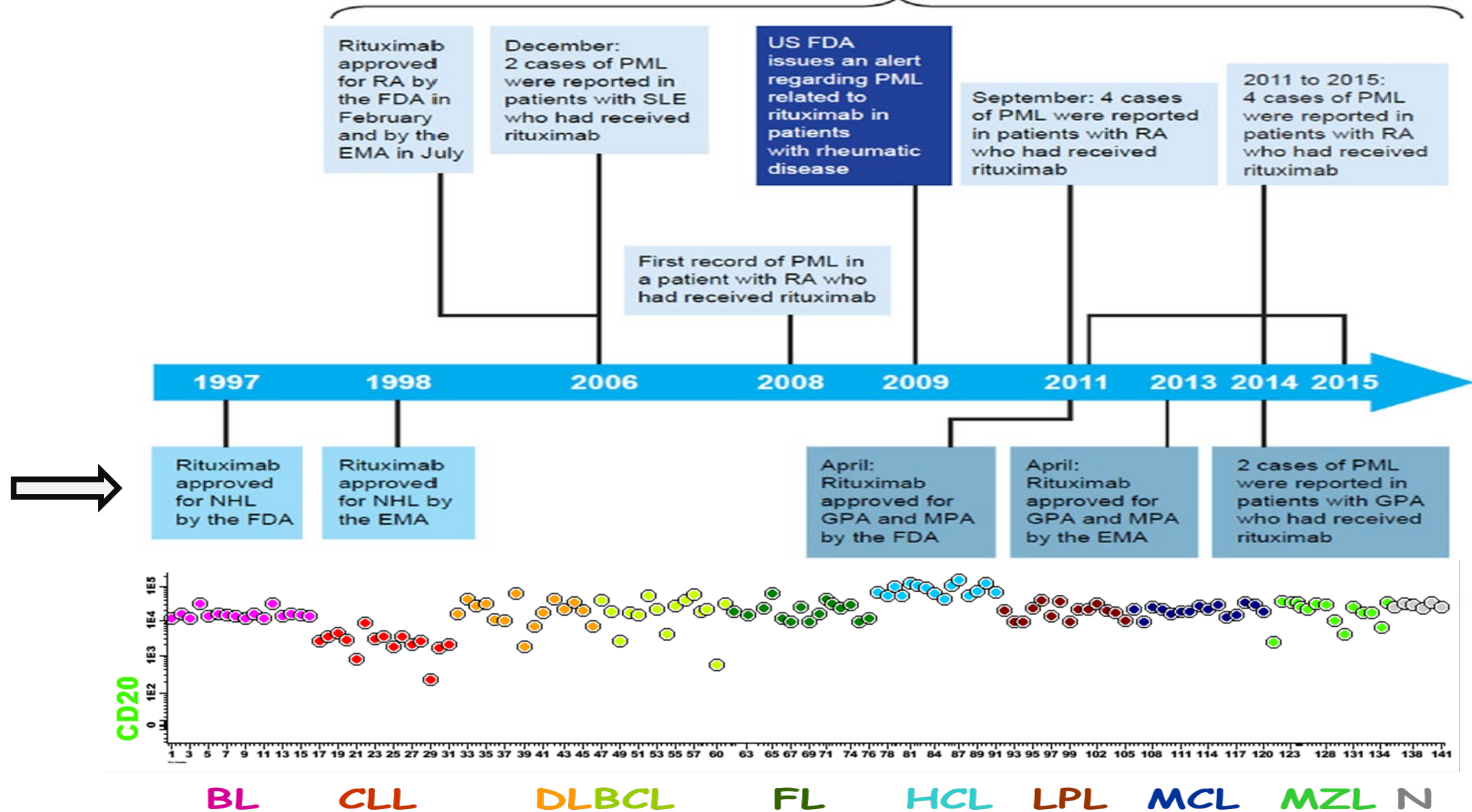
EXPRESSION OF CD52 (ALENTUZUMAB) BY NORMAL PB LEUKOCYTES



Evaluation of the pattern of expression of targeted cell surface proteins provides insight on tumor sensitivity to antibody targeted therapies as well as on its potential toxicity

ANTI-CD20 (Rituximab) TARGETED ANTIBODY THERAPY

2006 to 2015: ~351,396 patients with RA exposed to rituximab: 9 confirmed cases of PML



PB B-CELL PHENOTYPIC PROFILE

		Immature	Naive	Memory	Plasmablasts/PC	
BCR-associated signaling molecules	CD5	++	-/+	-	-	
	CD19	+	+	+	+ ^d	
	CD20	+	+	+	-	
	CD21	+/ ⁺⁺⁺	++	++	-	
	CD22	+	+	+	-	
	CD45	++	++	++	+/ ⁺⁺⁺	
	CD53	+	+	++	+ ^d	
	CD81	++	+	+	+	
	sIgH	++	+	++	+ ^d	
	T cell-associated molecules involved in B-T cell interactions	CD23	-/ ⁺⁺⁺	-/ ⁺⁺⁺	-	-
CD25		-	-	+	-	
CD27		-	-	+	++	
CD40		++	++	++	+	
CD86		-	-	-	+	
CD95		-	-	-/ ⁺	+	
CD200		N.A.	+	-	N.A.	
HLA-DR		++	++	++	+/ ⁺⁺⁺	
Other cell surface molecules		CCR6	+	+	+	-
		CD138	-	-	-	-/ ^{+^d}
	CD10	+	-	-	-	
	CD24	+	+ ^d	+	-	
	CD38	+	-/ ^{+^d}	-/ ^{+^d}	+++	
	CD43	-	-	-	+	
	CD53	+	+	++	+ ^d	

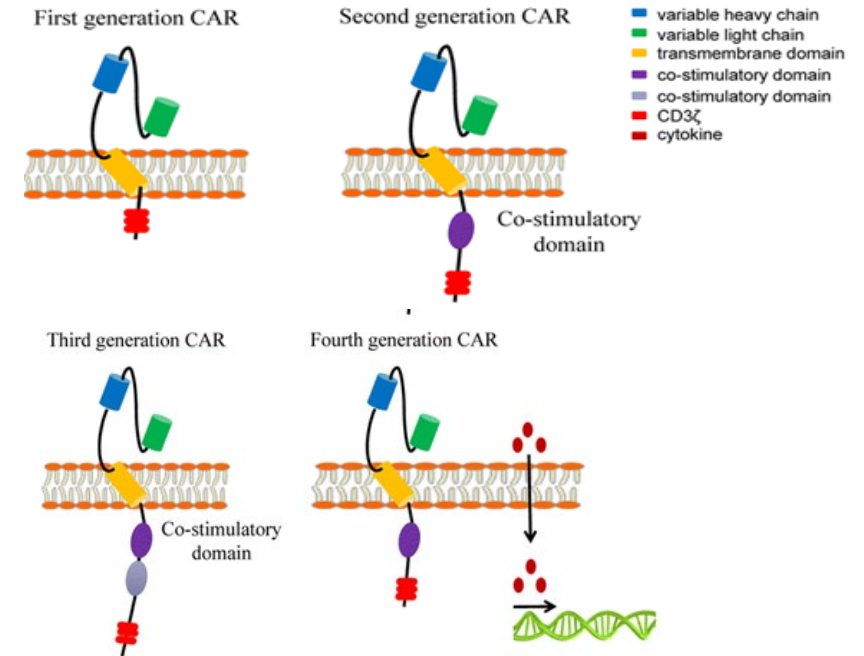
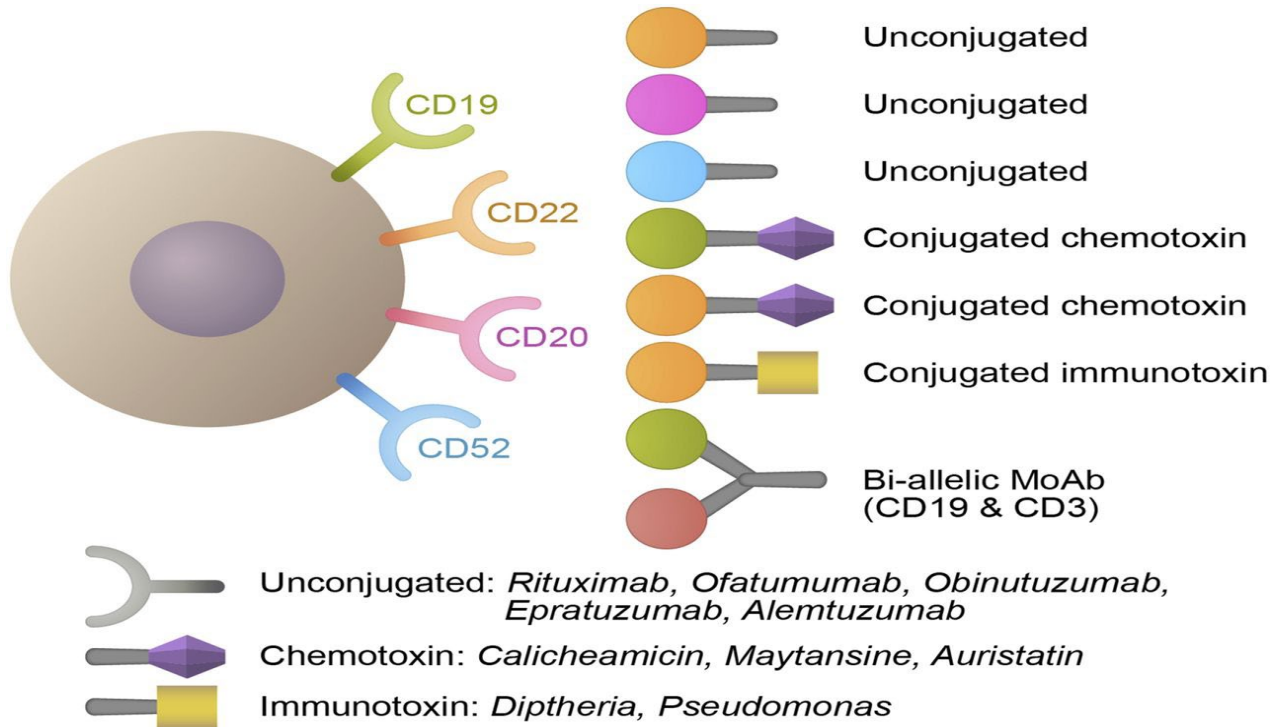
Targeted therapies in B-cell malignancies

Many B-cell targets:

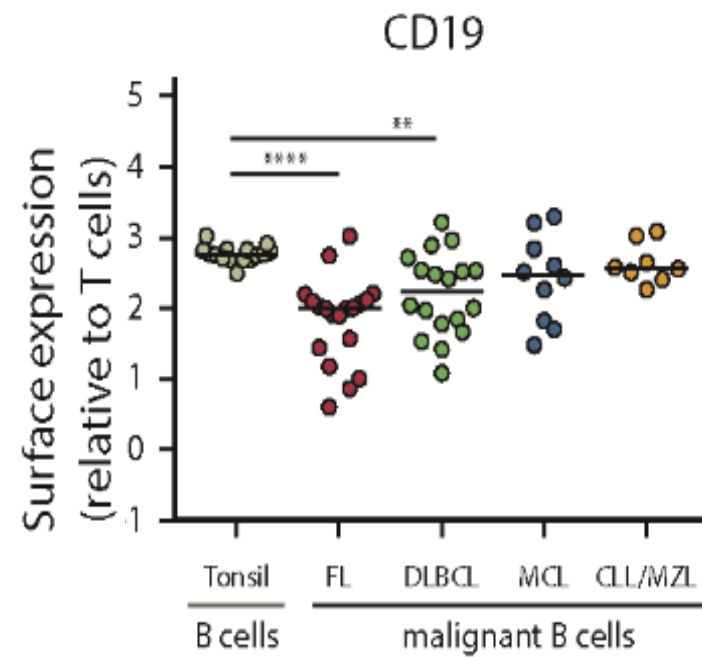
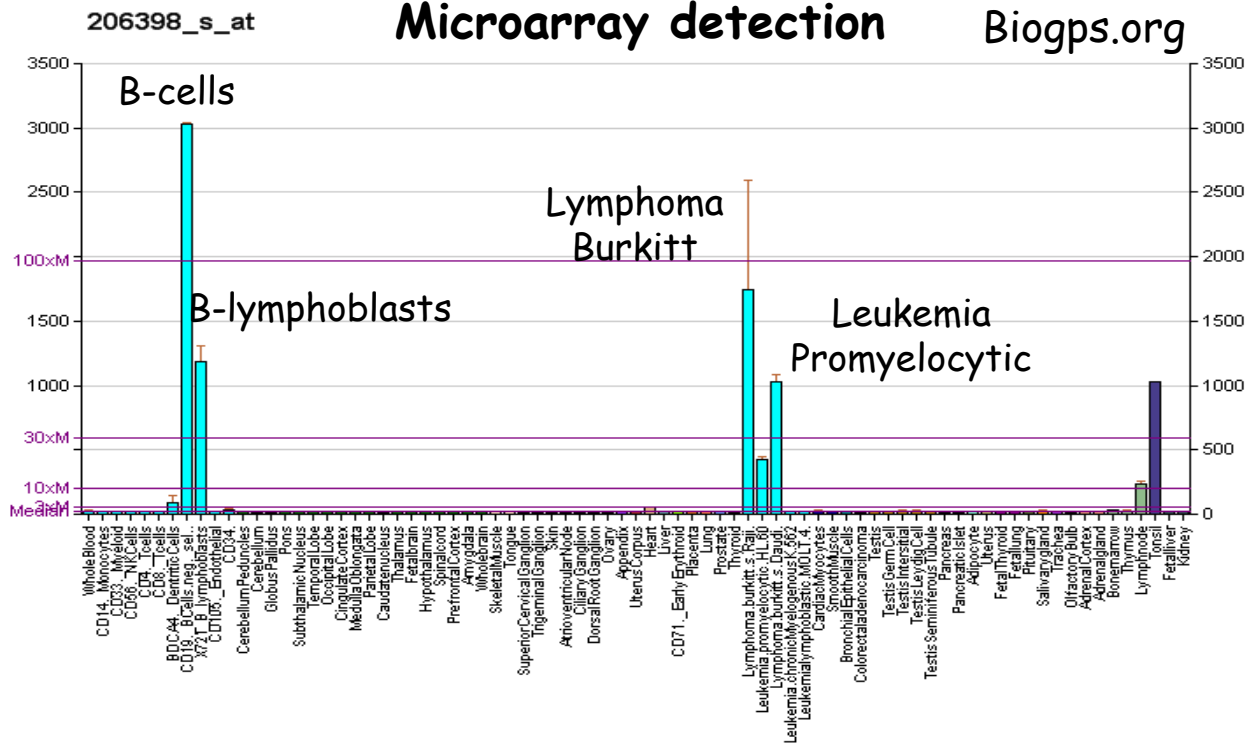
for example **CD19**, CD20, CD22, CD38, CD138, CD269...

Many different modalities:

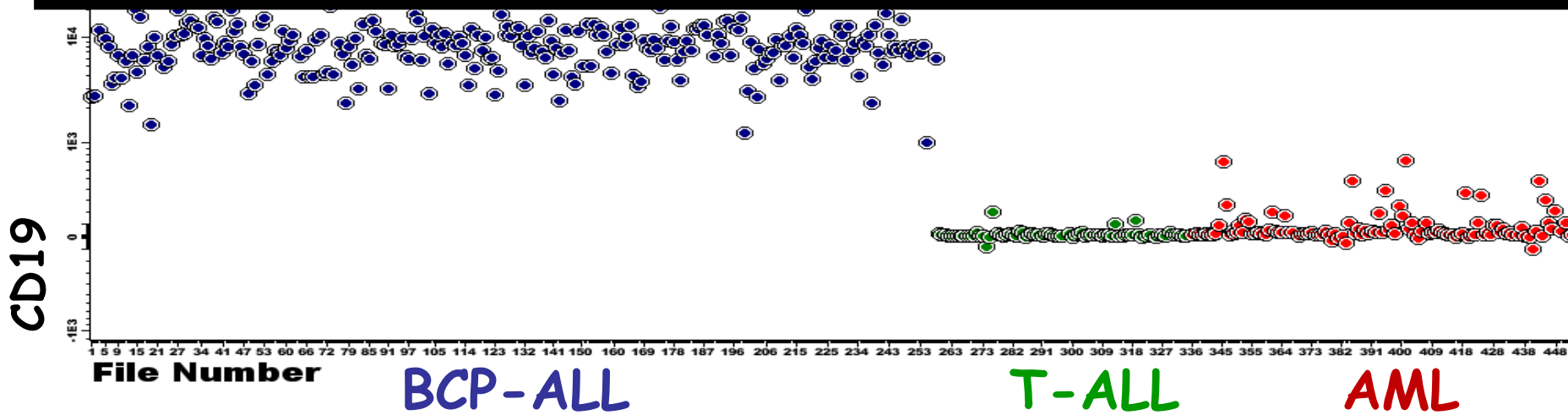
unconjugated Ab, toxin-conjugated Ab, bispecific Ab, BTK checkpoint blockers
CAR T-cells...



Differential CD19 Expression in normal and tumor B cells



Köksal H et al. Blood Adv, 2019; 3: 1230-1243

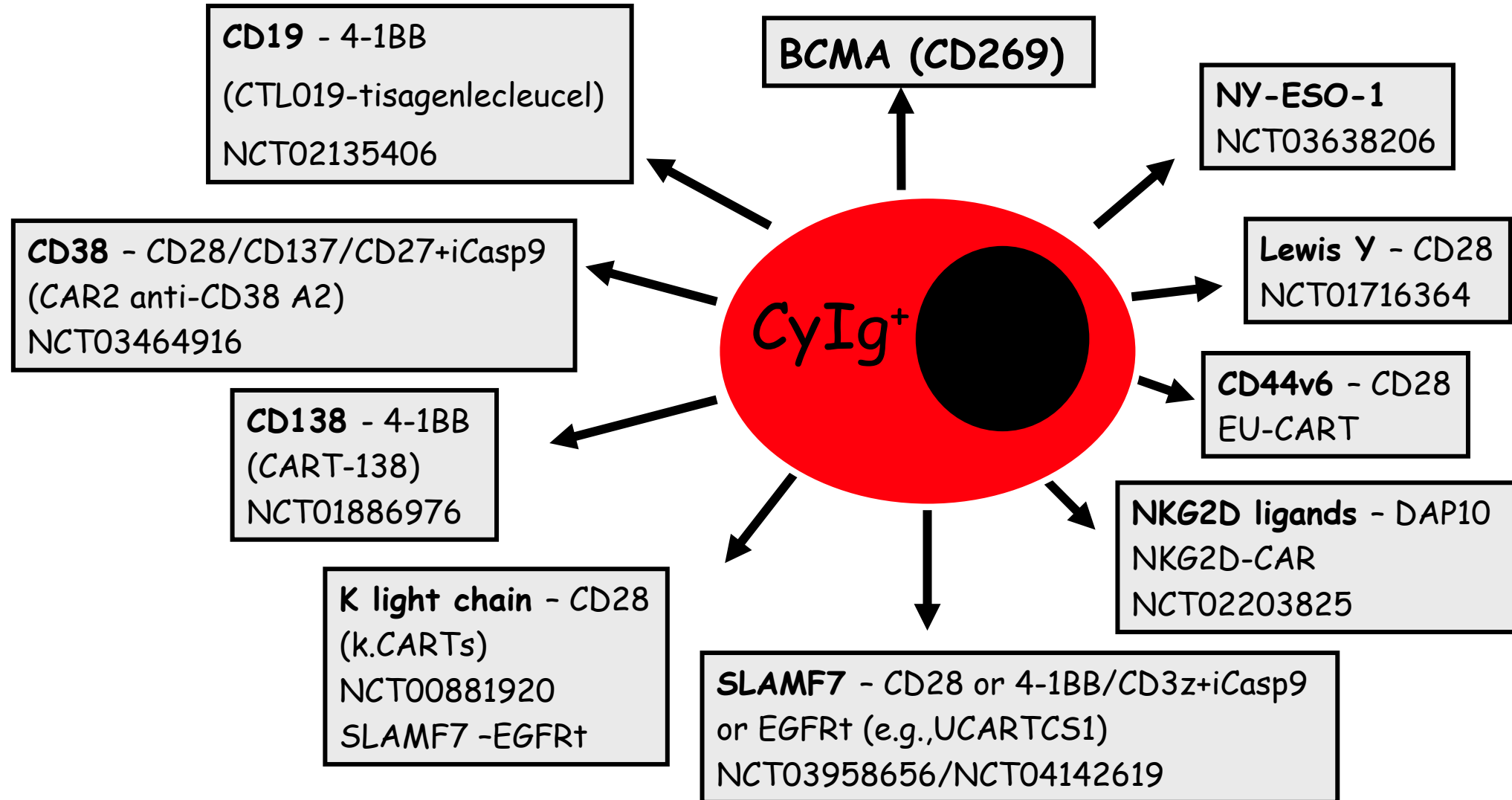


Lhermitte et al. Leukemia, 2017; 3: 1230-1243

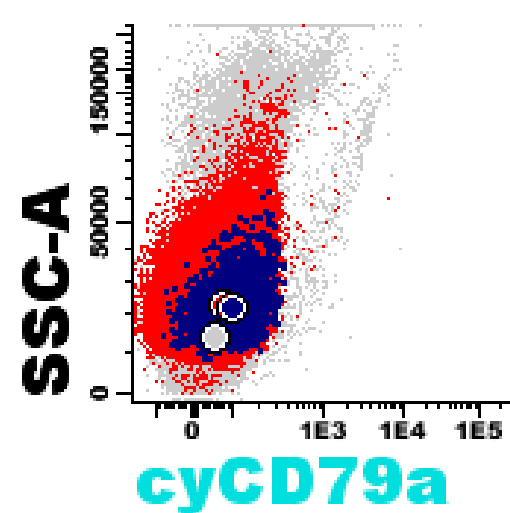
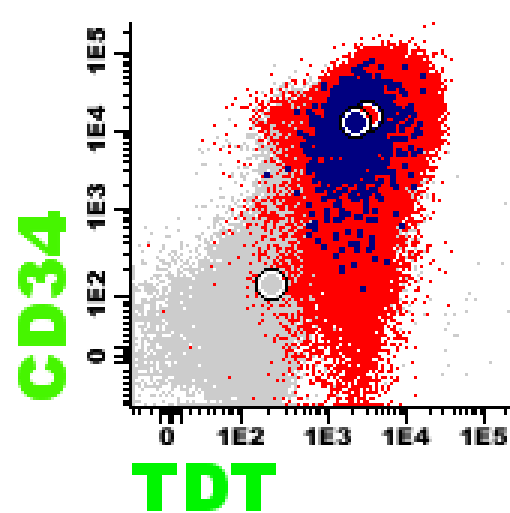
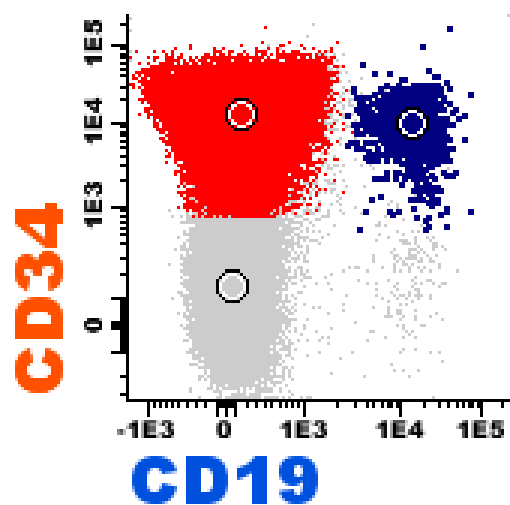
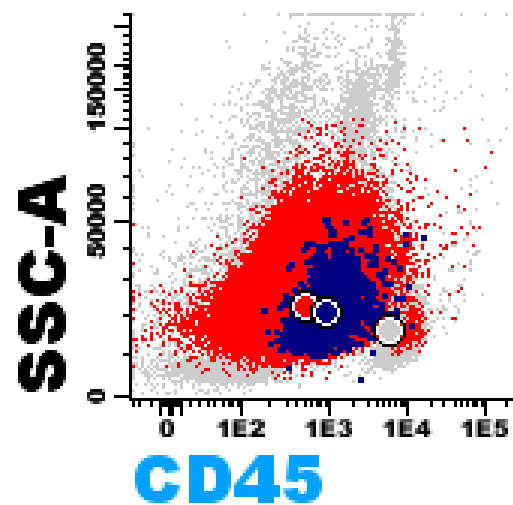
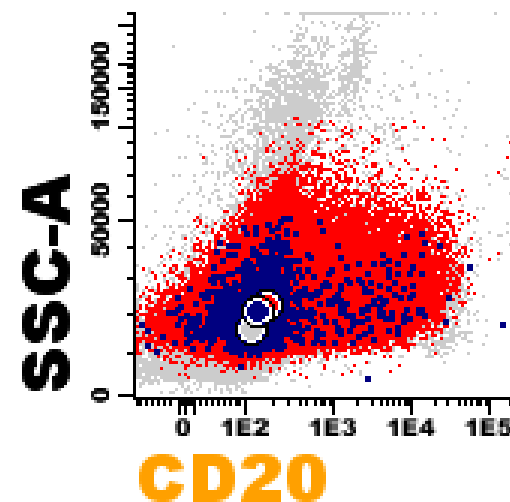
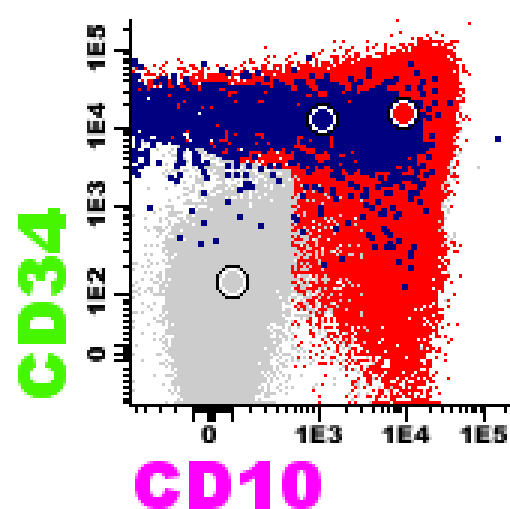
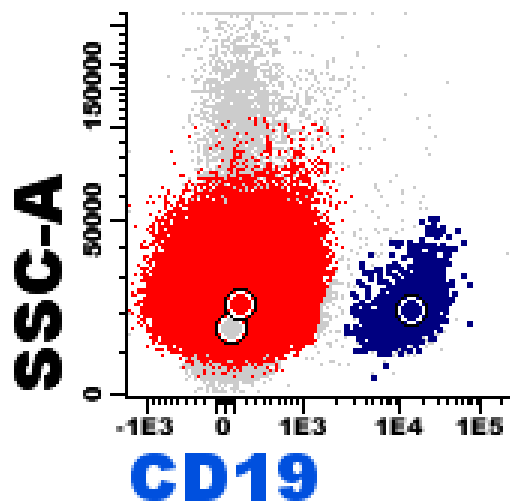
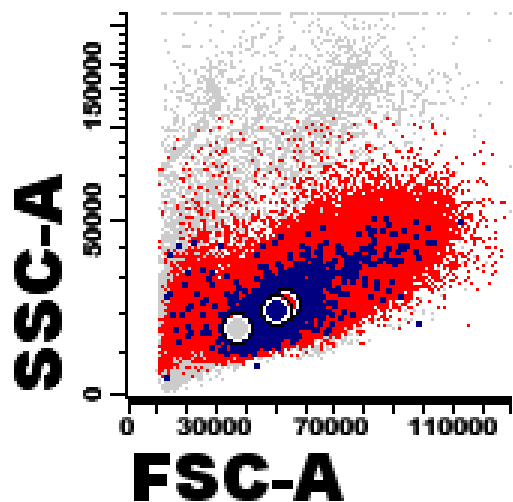
Lhermitte et al. Mod Pathol, 2020 (publish online)

CAR T-cell targets in Multiple Myeloma plasma cells

Targeted MM PC-markers



RESIDUAL CD19- BCP-ALL BLASTS AFTER BLINATUMUMAB OR CARTCD19 THERAPY



FREQUENCY OF CD19-negative RELAPSES IN B CELL PRECURSOR (BCP) ALL

Trials	Treatments	Number of patients	Number of patients with CR	Number of patients with relapse	Number of patients with CD19- or CD22- relapse
Max S. Topp (2014) [27]	Blinatumomab	36	25	10	3
Arend von Stackelberg (2016) [28]	Blinatumomab	49 + 44	7 + 27	15	4
Elias Jabbour (2017) [30]	Blinatumomab	68	16	–	5
Ibrahim Aldoss (2017) [31]	Blinatumomab	65	27	20	5
E. Mejstříková (2017) [29]	Blinatumomab	70	27	19	4
Shannon L. Maude (2014) [32]	CAR-T (CD19)	30	27	7	3
Daniel W Lee (2015) [33]	CAR-T (CD19)	21	14	–	2
Cameron J. Turtle (2016) [34]	CAR-T (CD19)	30	29	11	2
Vinodh Pillai (2019) [35]	CAR-T (CD19)	166	155	67	39
Hanren Dai (2020) [36]	CAR-T (CD19/CD22)	6	6	3	1
Jing Pan (2020) [37]	CAR-T (CD19)	68	66	12	7
Terry J. Fry (2018) [38]	CAR-T (CD22)	21	12	8	7 (diminished CD22)

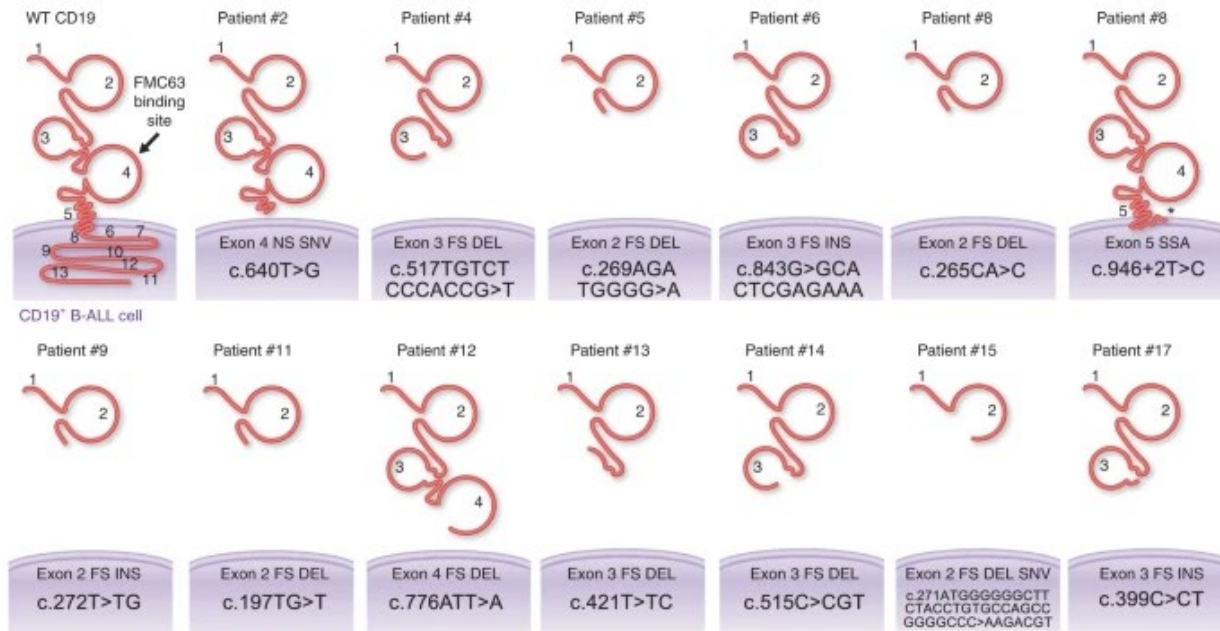
**CD19- relapses:
68/166 (41%)**

**CD22^{lo} relapses:
7/11 (64%)**

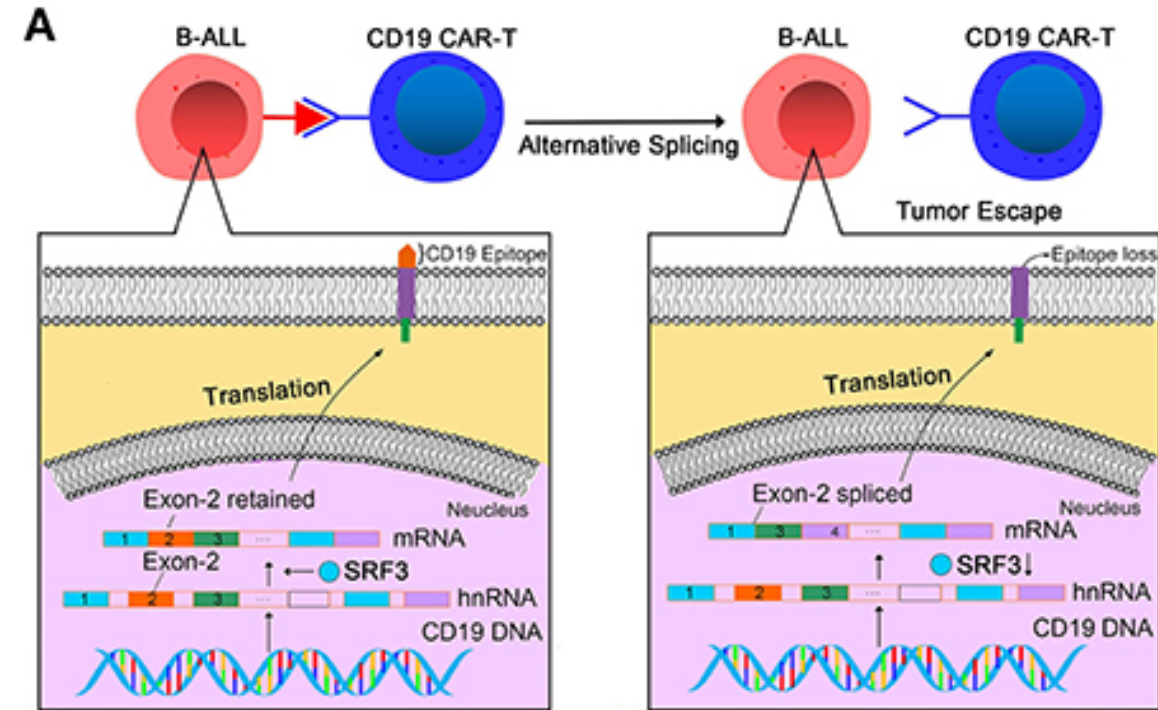
CD19-negative relapses in BCP-ALL after treatment

10-20% of B-ALL patients developed CD19-negative relapse after CD19 CAR T-cell treatment

Loss of exon 2 is the main cause of CD19-negative relapse, thereby lacking the CD19 epitope recognized by FMC63 of CAR-T cells

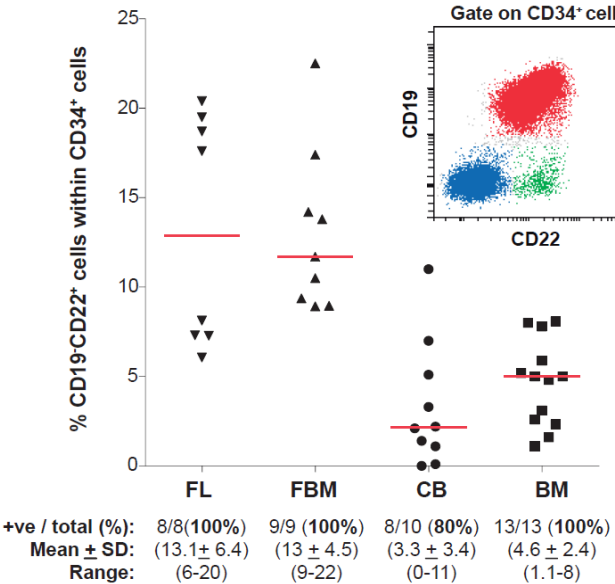


SRF3: splicing factor whose function is to retain exon 2

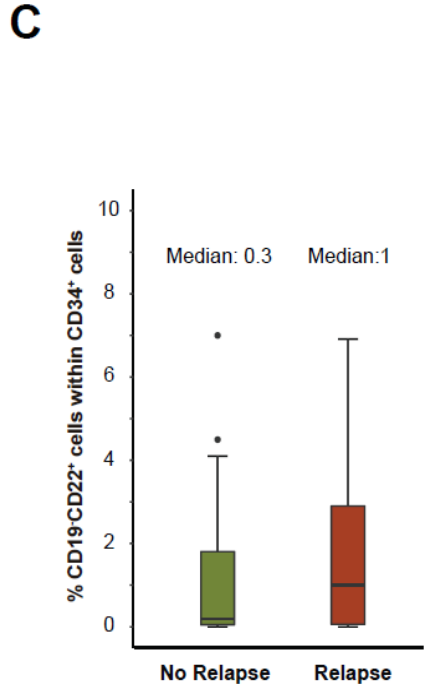
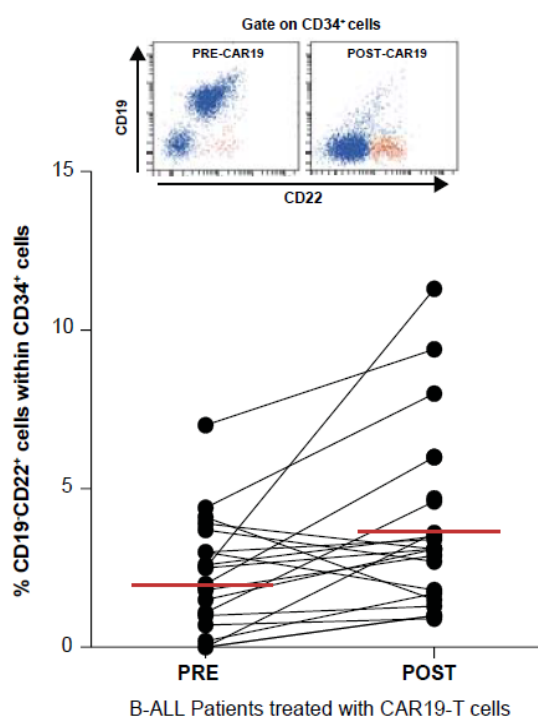
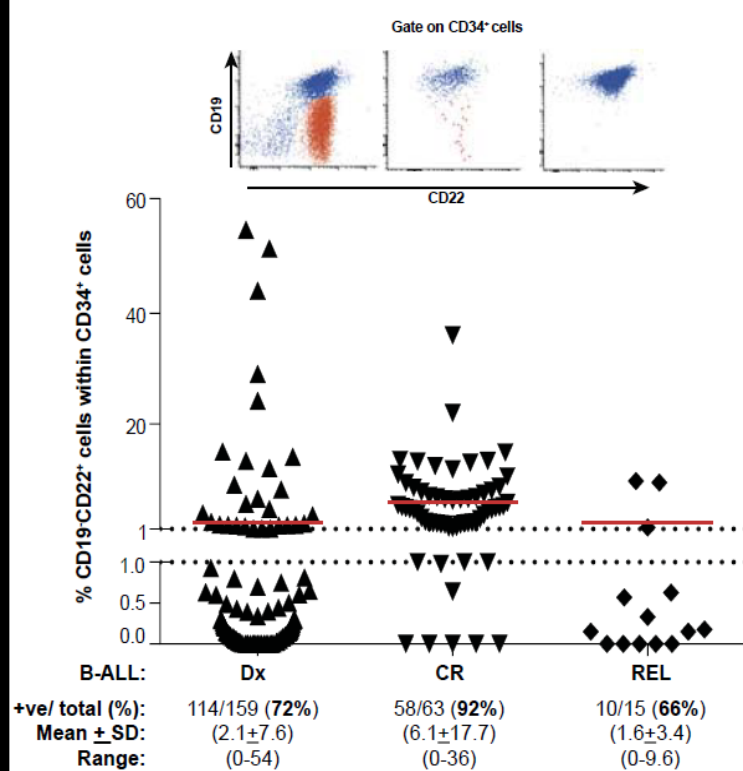


CD19-negative LEUKEMIA BCP-ALL CELLS AT DIAGNOSIS AND DURING FOLLOW-UP AFTER THERAPY

Normal B cell development/production



CD19- CD22+ Leukemia BCP-ALL cells



Small subsets of CD19- BCP-ALL leukemia cells exist which might be responsible for tumor escape to CD19-targeted antibody and CART-cell therapies.

Pre-defined antibody panels for MRD monitoring in BCP-ALL

BIOMED1
5-antibody combinations
(3-color-FITC/PE/PECy5):

TdT/CD10/**CD19**
CD10/CD20/**CD19**
CD34/CD38/**CD19**
CD34/CD22/**CD19**
CD19/CD34/CD45

Lucio et al, Leukemia, 2001; 15: 1185-92

COG 2-antibody combinations
(4-color):

CD20-FITC
CD10-PE
CD45-PerCP
CD19-APC

CD9-FITC
CD34-PE
CD45-PerCP
CD19-APC

Borowitz et al, Blood, 2008; 111: 5477-85

DCOG BCP-ALL
2-antibody combinations
(4-color):

CD34-FITC
CD19-PE
CD45-PerCP
CD22-APC

Tdt-FITC
CD19-PE
CD20-PerCP
CD10-APC

DCOG BCP-ALL
2-antibody combinations
(6-color):

CD58-FITC
CD19-PE
CD45-PerCP
CD10-APC
CD22-PECy7
CD34-APCCy7

Tdt-FITC
CD19-PE
CD45-PerCP
CD10-APC
CD38-PECy7
CD20-APCCy7

Denys et al, Leukemia, 2013; 27: 635-41

COG 2-antibody combinations
(6-color):

CD20-FITC
CD10-PE
CD38-PerCPCy5.5
CD58-APC
CD19-PECy7
CD45-APCH7

CD9-FITC
CD13+133-PE
CD34PerCPCy5.5
CD10-APC
CD19-PECy7
CD45-APCH7

Borowitz et al, Blood, 2015; 126: 964-71

SBTMO Consensus ALL MRD panels

Table 1 - Fluorochrome conjugated antibody panels for MRD detection in BCP-ALL by using 4-color multiparametric flow cytometry.

	FITC	PE	PerCP-Cy5.5	APC
Essential tubes				
1	CD20	CD10	CD34	CD19
2	CD45	CD66c/CD123	CD34	CD19
3	CD38	CD19	CD34	CD81
Recommended tube				
4	CD20/CD45	CD73/CD304	CD34	CD19
Optional tube ^a				
5	CD15/CD65	NG2 (7.1)	CD34	CD19

Abbreviations: FITC: fluorescein isothiocyanate; PE: phycoerythrin; PerCP-Cy5.5: peridinin chlorophyll protein/cyanin5; APC: allophycocyanin.

^a According to antigen expression at diagnosis.

Table 2 - Fluorochrome conjugated antibody panels for MRD detection in T-ALL by using 4-color multiparametric flow cytometry.

	FITC	PE	PerCP-Cy5.5	APC
Essential tubes				
1	CD45	SmCD3	cyCD3	CD7
2	NuTdT	cyCD3	CD5	CD7
3	CD7	CD99	cyCD3	CD1
Recommended tubes ^a				
4	CD7	CD10+CD117	cyCD3	CD45RA
5	CD7	cyCD3	CD34	CD13+CD33
6	CD44	CD7	cyCD3	CD56

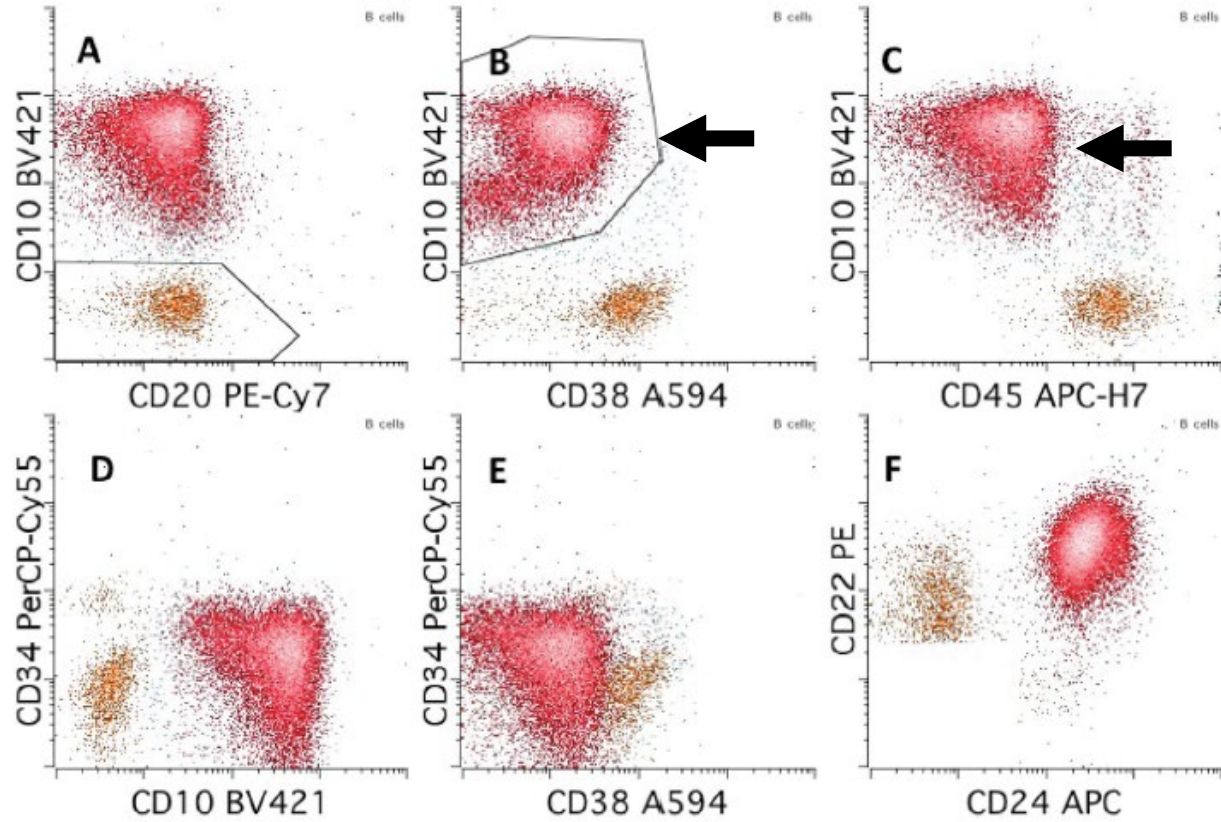
Abbreviations: FITC: fluorescein isothiocyanate; PE: phycoerythrin; PerCP-Cy5.5: peridinin chlorophyll protein/cyanin5; APC: allophycocyanin.

Ikoma-Colturato et al, Hematol Tranf Cell Ther, 2021; 43: 332-40

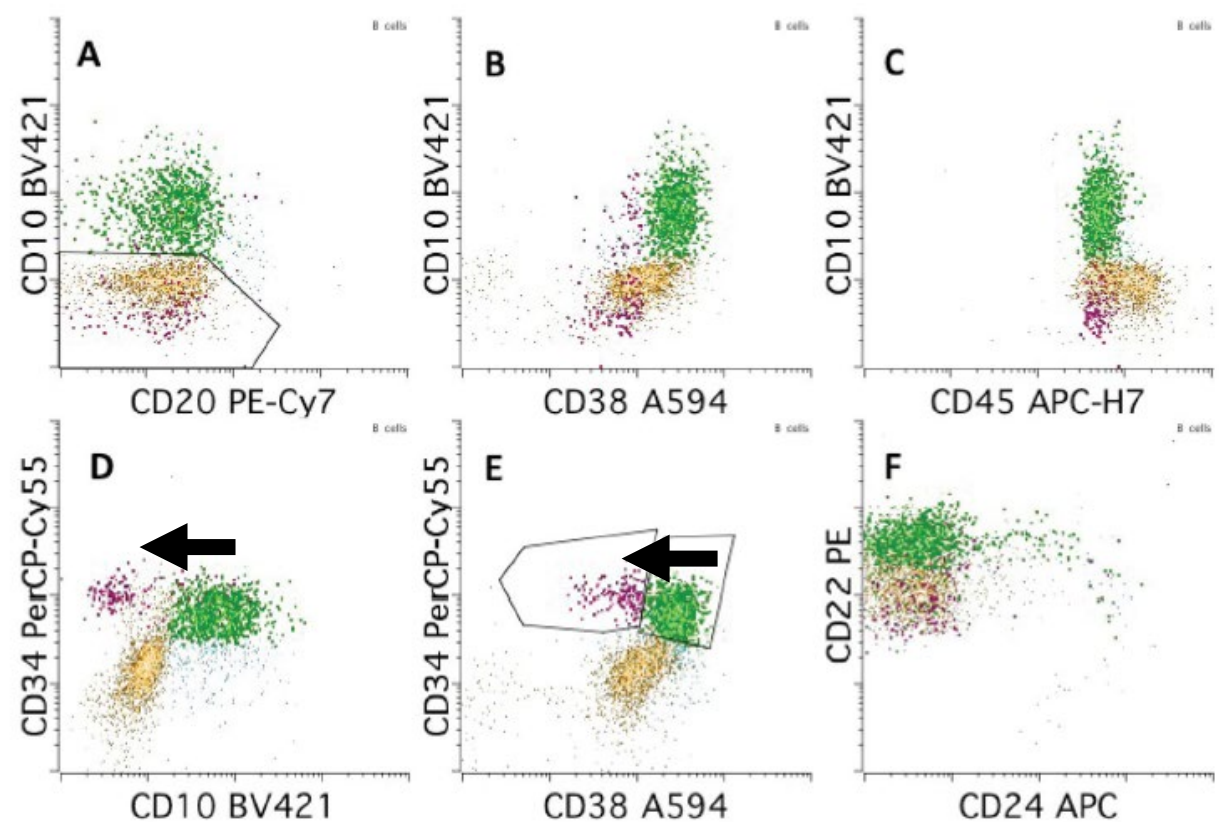
Progressive increased number of colors and backbone markers...
but, with a few exceptions, no validation against other methods

IDENTIFICATION OF CD19-negative AND CD19+ NORMAL VS LEUKEMIC B CELL PRECURSORS

MRD+ Post-chemotherapy



MRD+ Post-CD19 targeted therapy



MRD detection in adult ALL by Next Generation Flow (N=300)

BM sample

Sample preparation & staining

-Add lysing buffer to 0.3 to 3mL of sample containing $>10 \times 10^6$

-Incubate $>10 \times 10^6$ cells in 100 μ L for 10 min (max volume 250 μ L)

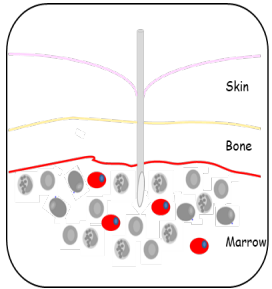
-Wash with 2 mL PBS (1x)

-Stain with antibody mixture

-Add 2mL FACSlyse & incubate for 15 min

-Wash with PBS (2x)

-Measure $>10 \times 10^6$ cells in 2 tubes by FCM



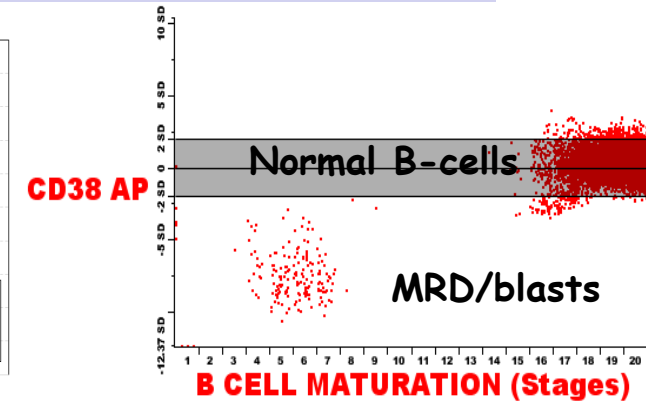
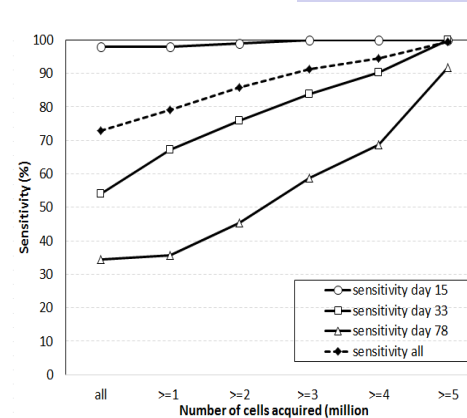
1st pull of BM aspirate

8-color EuroFlow antibody staining panels For BCP-ALL and T-ALL

PB	PO	FITC	PE	PerCPy5.5	PE Cy7	APC	APCC750
CD20	CD45	CD81	CD66c/ CD123	CD34	CD19	CD10	CD38
CD20	CD45	CD81	CD73/ CD304	CD34	CD19	CD10	CD38

FCM Data acquisition and analysis

$>10^7$ BM cells measured
(2 tubes with $>5 \times 10^6$ cells/tube)



EUROFLOW NGF MRD ALL PANEL FOR DETECTION OF CD19-negative LEUKEMIA CELLS

Recommendation: make a reference image of the different cell populations in the normal bone marrow, including regenerating B-cell precursors, mature B cells, myeloid progenitors, basophils and erythroid precursors as a reference for normal expression patterns

Generate dot plot diagrams:
FSC-A/FSC-H
FSC-A/SSC-A
CD45/SSC-A
CD10/CD20
CD34/CD20
CD38/CD45
plot every marker vs. CD10
clustering: e.g. APS or CA

Eliminate Doublets by FSC-A/FSC-H
In FSC-A/SSC-A gate on nucleated cells by roughly excluding debris (to be refined after identification of blasts)
Remove aggregates

Gate CD10+/+ cells with low / int SSC

Check for aberrant antigen expression / clustering of events in comparison to normal B-cell precursors and refine BCP-ALL population

- Distribution of CD10/CD20 in combination with expected expression levels of CD34 and CD45
- Aberrant positivity of CD66c/CD123 or CD73/CD304
- Under-/overexpression of CD38 or CD81
- Increased SSC

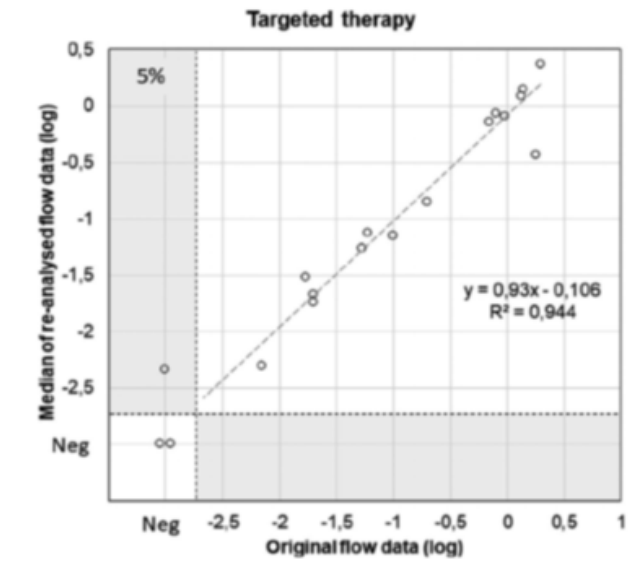
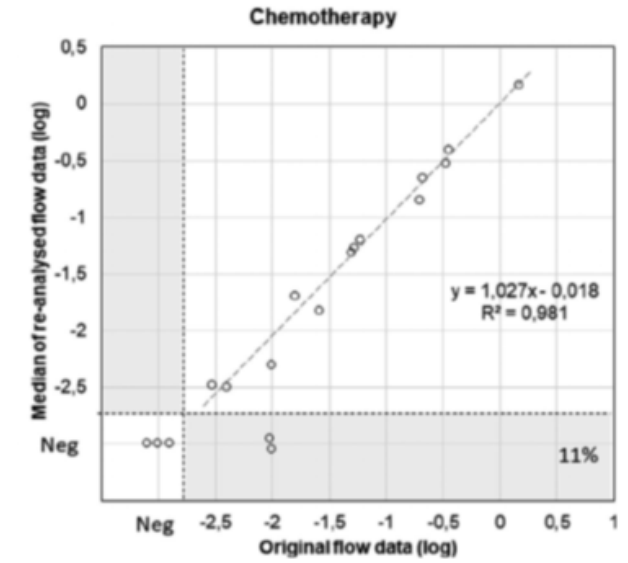
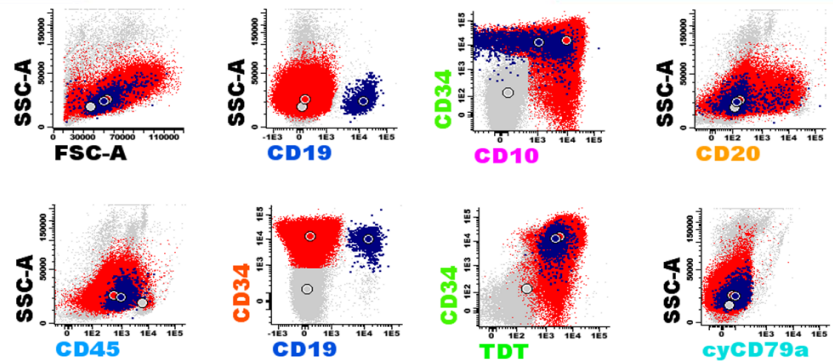
Visually check for CD10 expression in CD10/SSC-A

Gate CD10- cells with low SSC
Check both CD34+ and CD34- populations

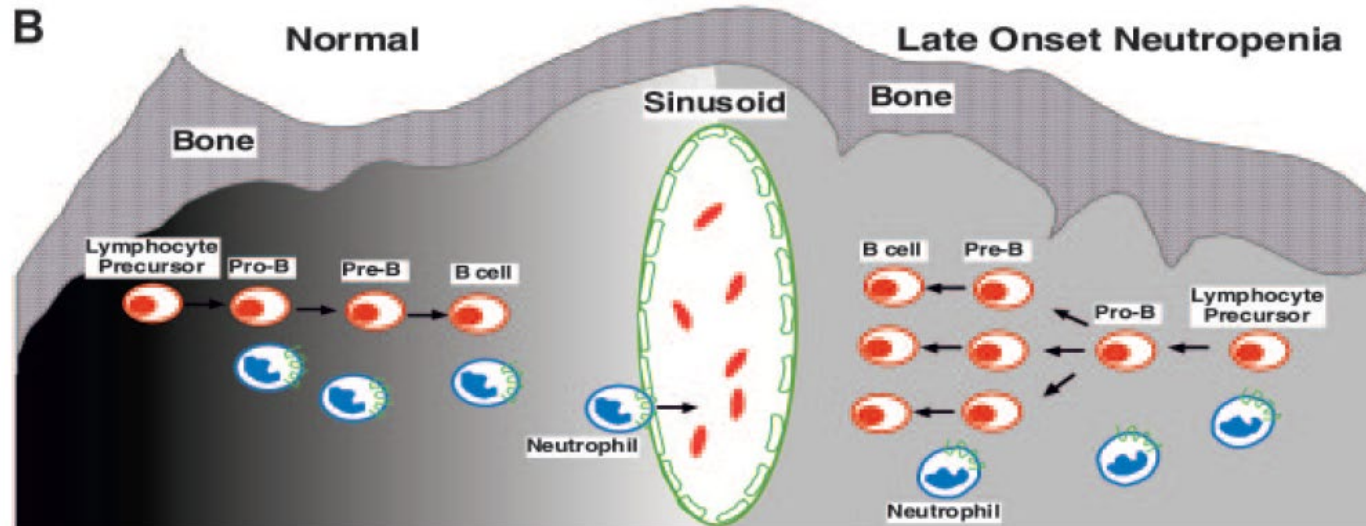
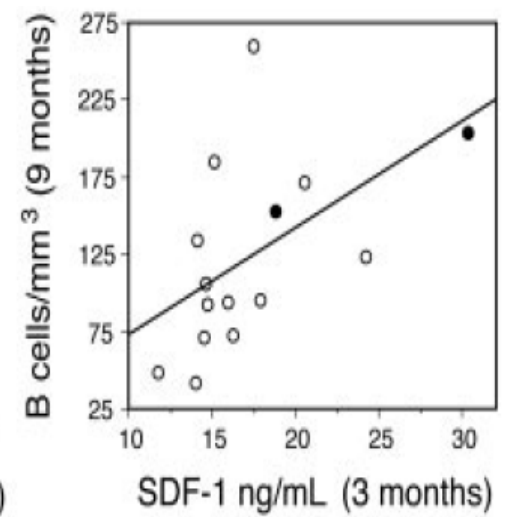
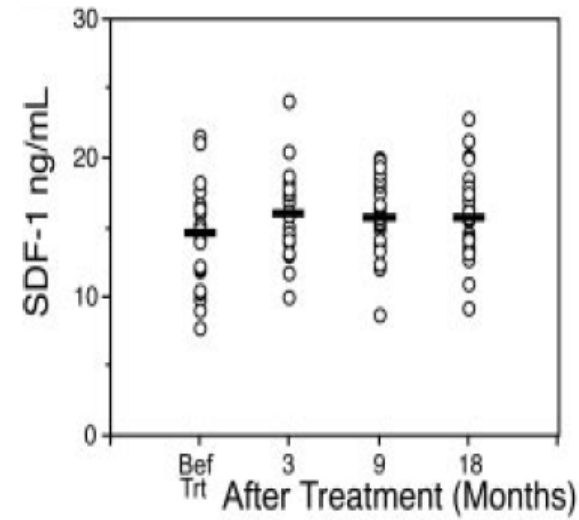
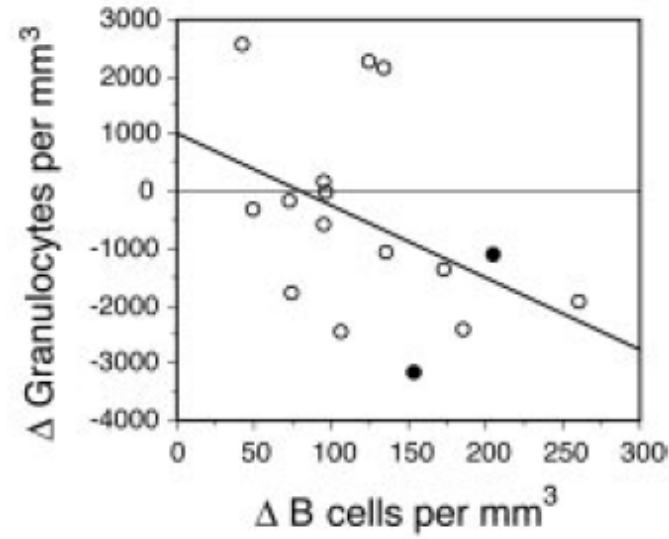
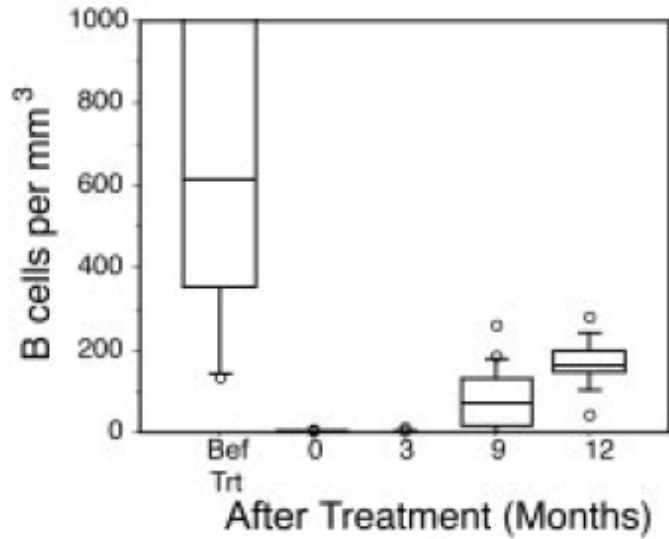
Check for clustering to discriminate from myeloid progenitors and refine BCP-ALL population

- Low SSC
- Aberrant positivity of CD66c/CD123 or CD73/CD304
- Under-/overexpression of CD38 or CD81

Back gate on CD45/SSC-A and FSC-A/SSC-A for uniform clustering of the BCP-ALL population

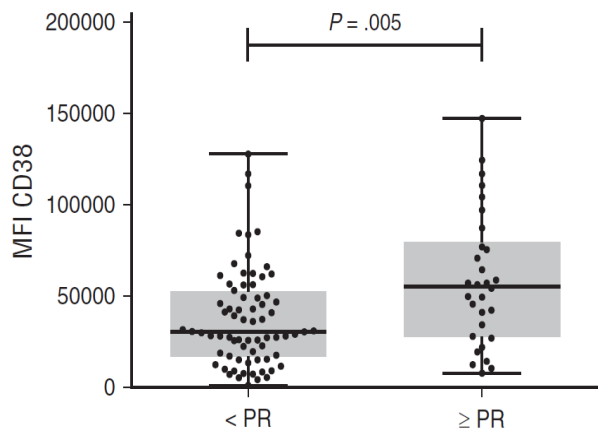
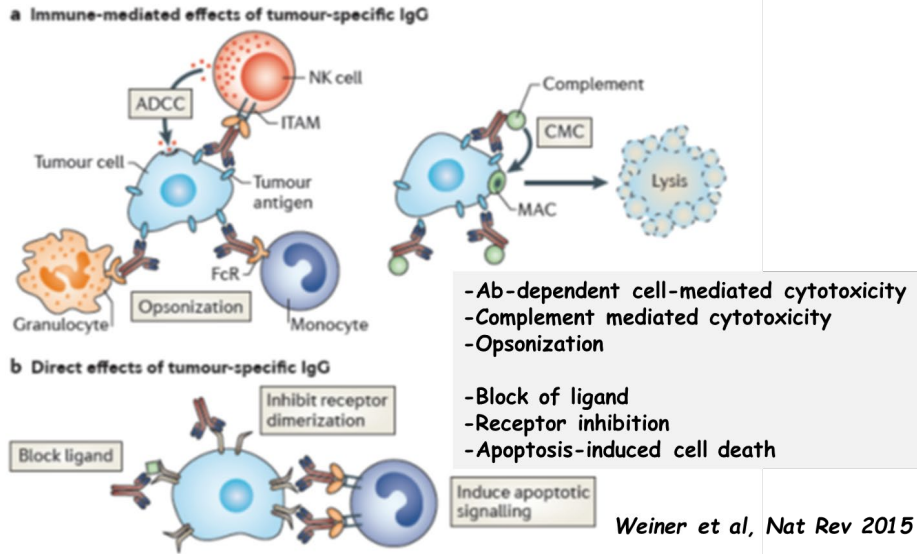


ANTI-CD20 (Rituximab) TARGETED ANTIBODY THERAPY



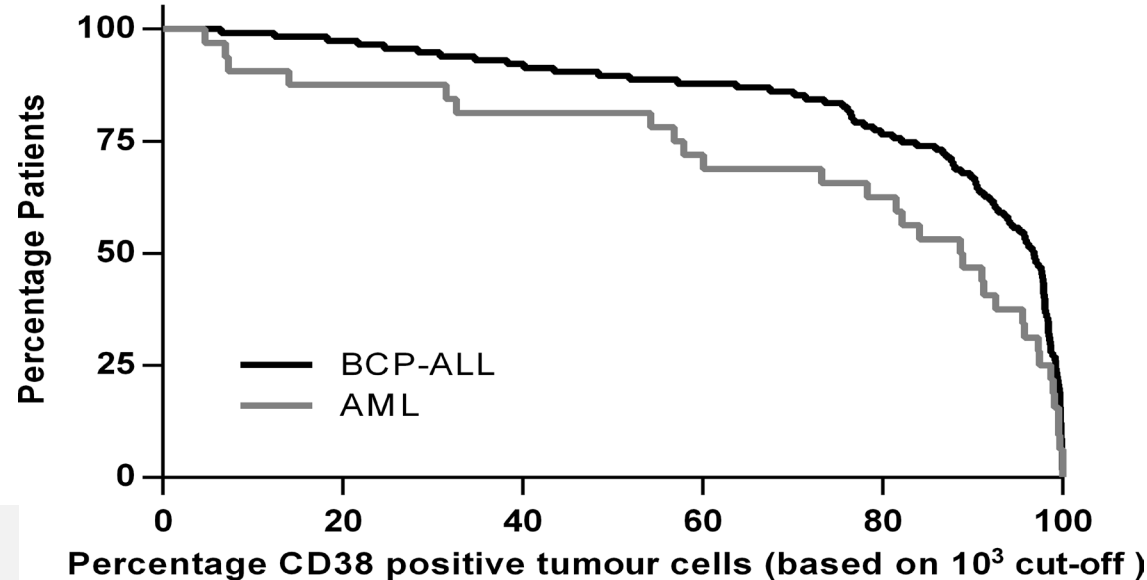
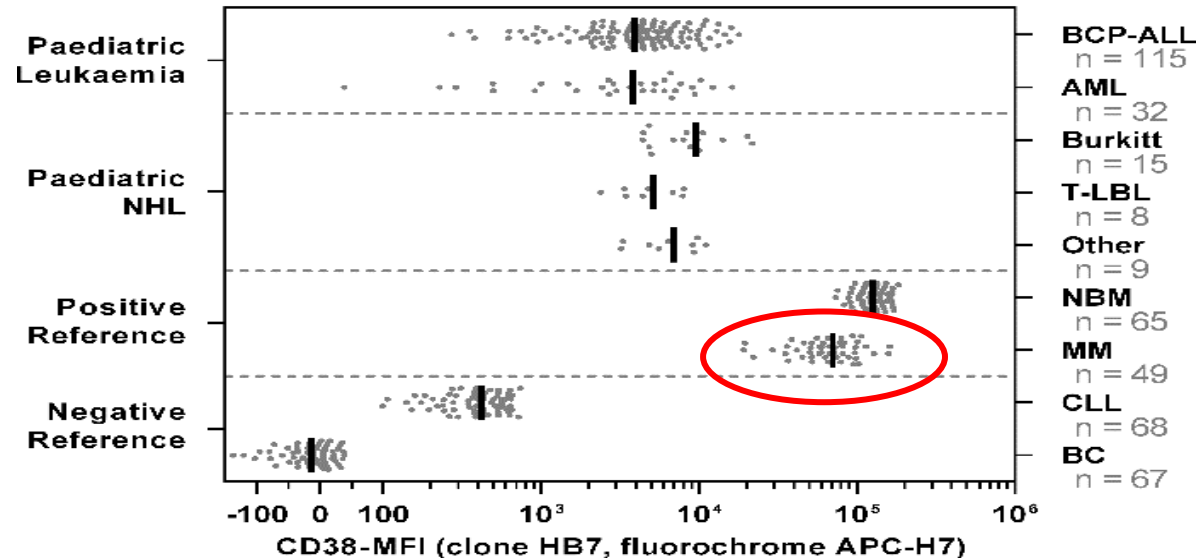
Recovery of B-cells retards neutrophil egression from BM to blood leading to delayed neutropenia after Rituximab

CD38-Targeted Antibody Therapy



'Response to the CD38-targeting antibody daratumumab is significantly associated with CD38 expression levels on the tumor cells'

Nijhof et al, Blood 2016;128:959-970

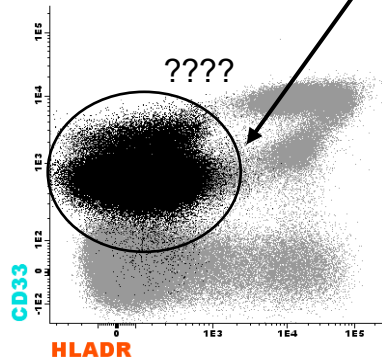
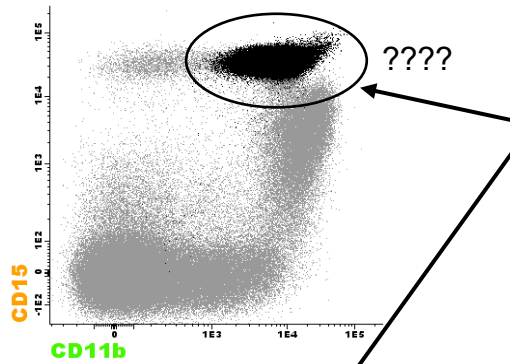


Bras et al, British Journal of Haematology 2016

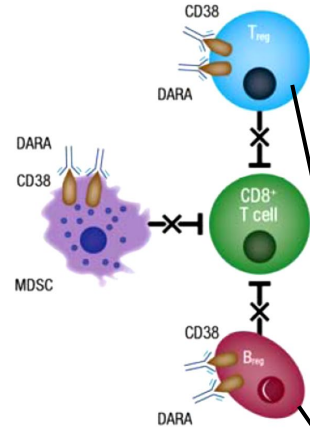
CD38+ regulatory T and B cells, and MDSCs are sensitive to Daratumumab treatment

G-MDSCs phenotype in the literature

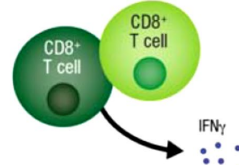
CD11b⁺ CD14⁻ CD15⁺ CD33⁺ HLADR⁻



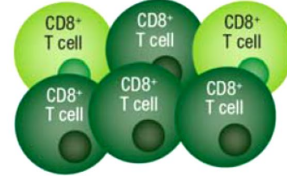
Suppression of CD38⁺ immune regulatory cells



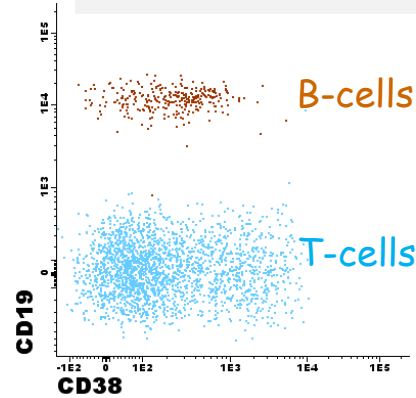
Enhancement of T-cell responses



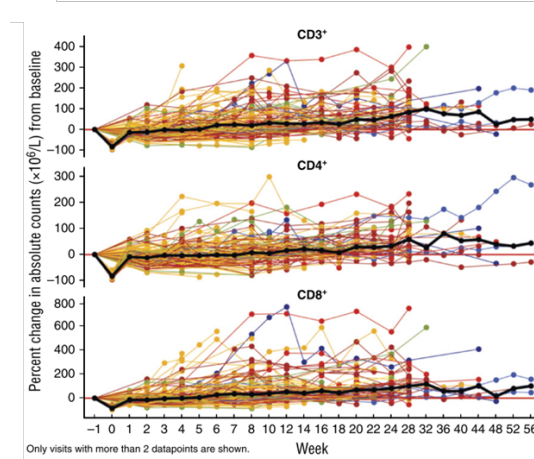
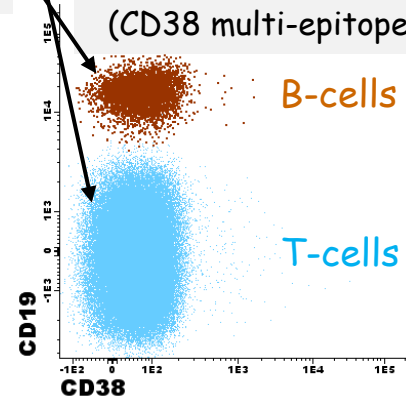
Induction of clonal T-cell expansion



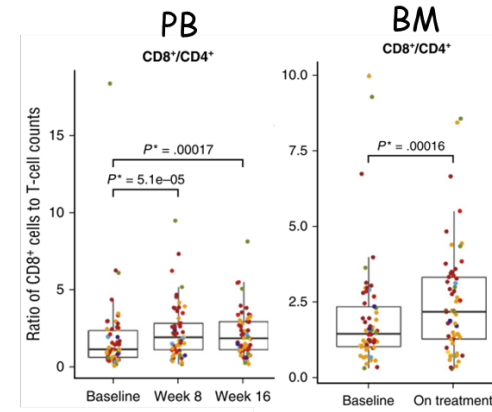
Before Daratumumab



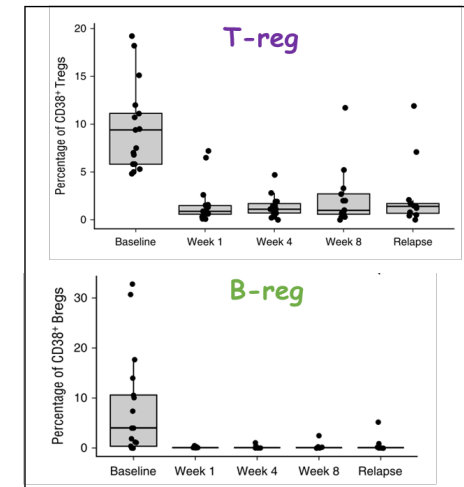
After Daratumumab (CD38 multi-epitope)



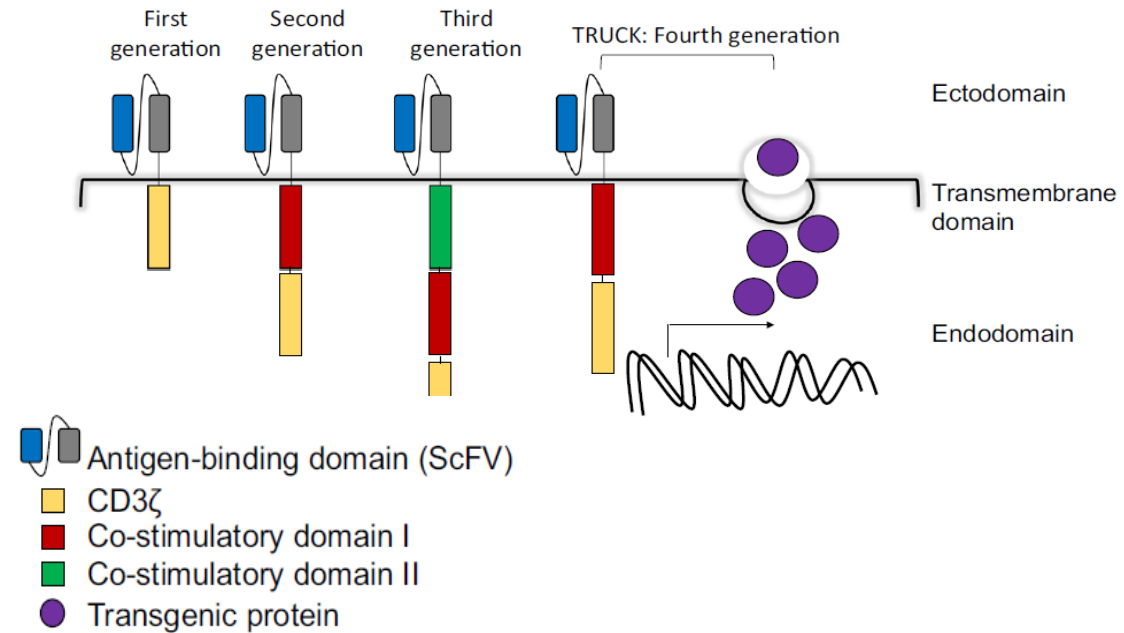
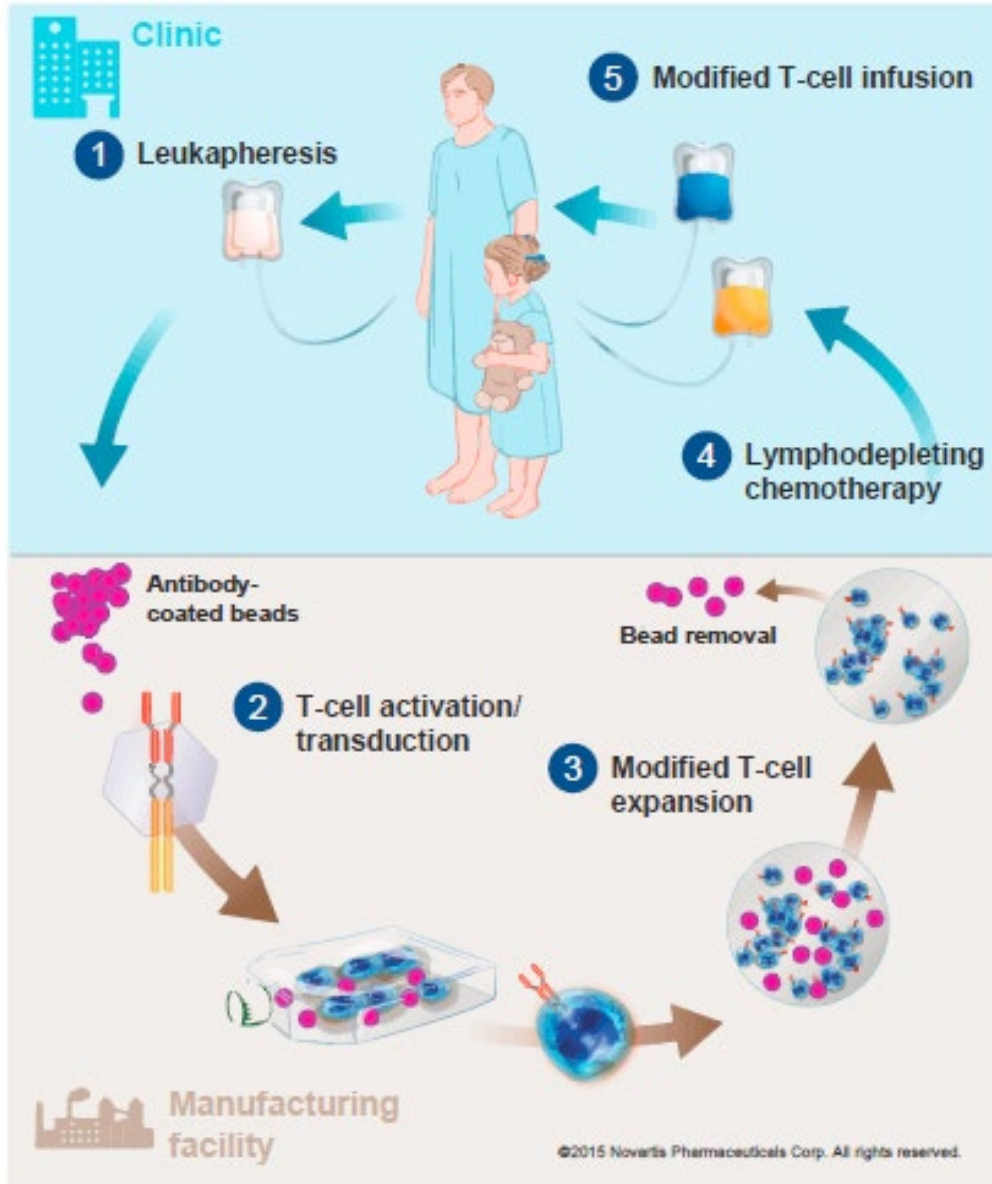
The black bold line shows the overall median percent change over time



Daratumumab also eliminates the subset of CD38 positive T-reg cells and B-reg cells

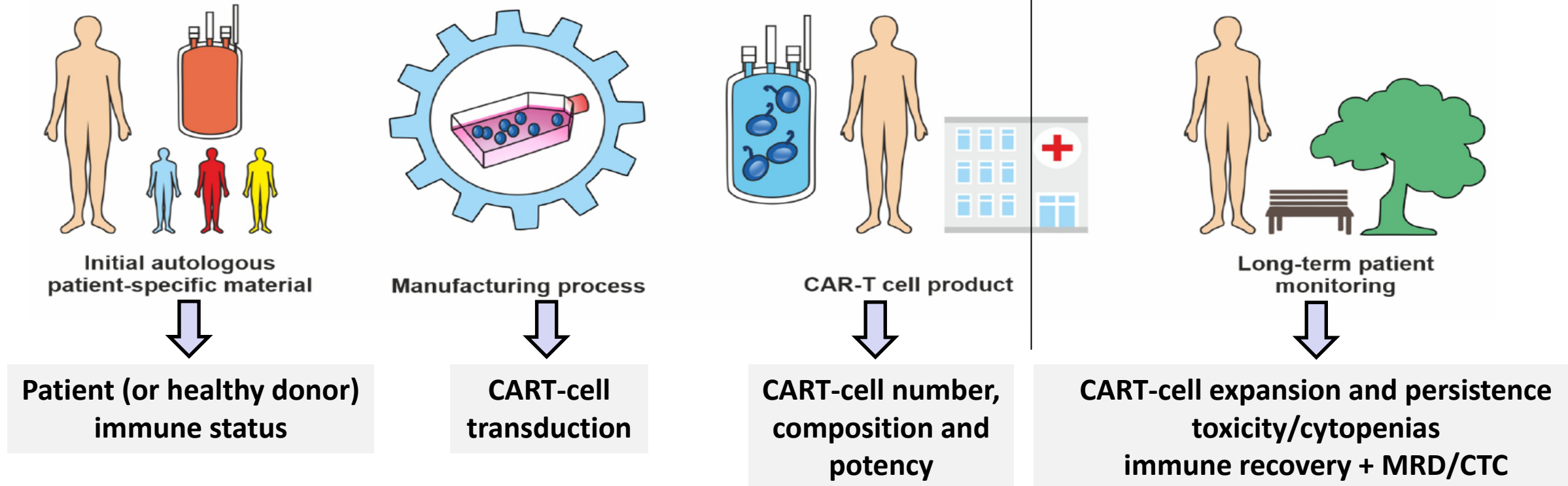


CAR T-cell production: general scheme



A

CAR-T cell therapy monitoring



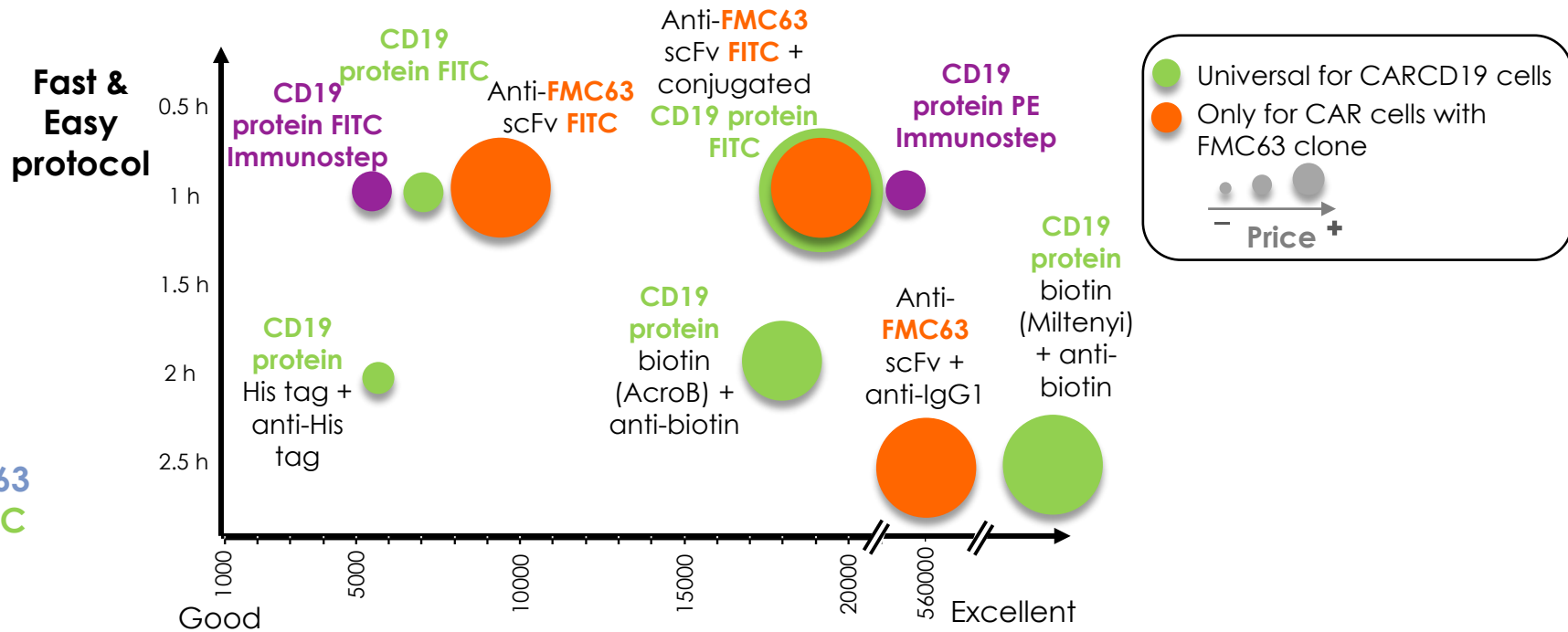
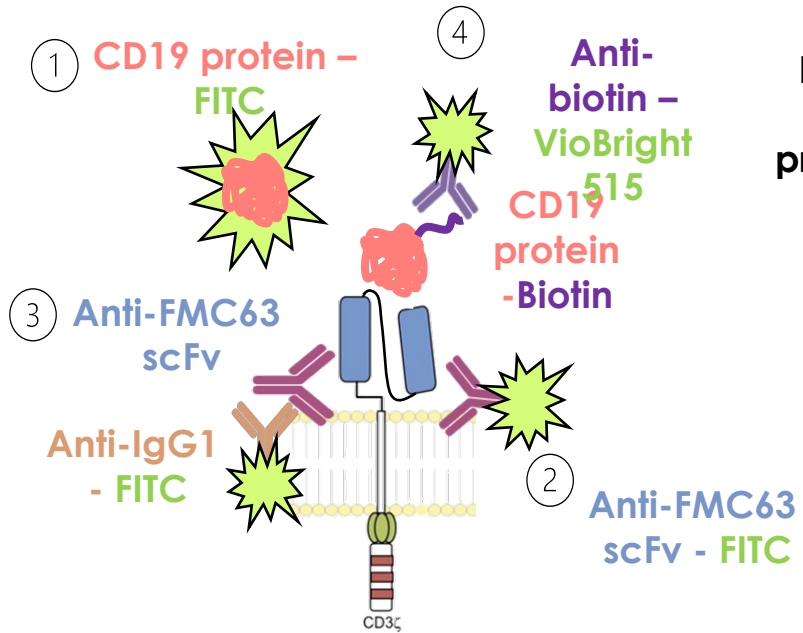
Pre-CART cell monitoring



Early + late post-CART monitoring

Need to monitor CART cell kinetics and clearance vs persistence for long-term disease control vs toxicity

Monitoring CD19 CAR-T cells by flow cytometry: advantages and limitations of the different approaches



Advantages and limitations of CAR-T cell reagents

Features	Direct staining			Indirect staining		
	FITC CD19 protein	FITC anti-scFv FMC63	Conjugated CD19 protein + FMC63 (both in FITC or FMC63 FITC + CD19p PE)	CD19 protein His tag + anti-His tag	CD19 protein biotin + anti-biotin	anti-scFv FMC63 IgG1 + anti-IgG1
Target	Universal for all CD19 CAR-T	Specific for CAR-T with clone FMC63	Specific for CAR-T with clone FMC63	Universal for all CD19 CAR-T	Universal for all CD19 CAR-T	Specific for CAR-T with clone FMC63
CAR-T identification	Good	Very good	Very good but no signal improvement over FMC63 alone	Poor	Excellent	Excellent
Time consuming	Short	Short	Short	Acceptable	Acceptable	Long
Cost	Affordable	Expensive	Expensive	Affordable	Acceptable	Expensive
Allows binding capacity evaluation	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Monitoring of CAR T-cell therapy in DLBCL: Targeted cell populations

- Monitoring of **infused (CAR) immune cells** via cell surface and/or intracellular markers
- Monitor **CAR T-cell composition**
- Monitor **CAR-therapy associated immune responses:**
 - Innate immune cells
 - CD4+ T-cell subsets
 - Cytotoxic T and NK cell populations
 - Maturation-associated B-cell and plasma cell compartments
- Monitor persistence of **circulating tumor cells (CTCs)**

i.e. Monitoring of MRD levels and the residual immune cells (in blood) might contribute to understand the mechanisms involved in immune-escape and treatment failure.

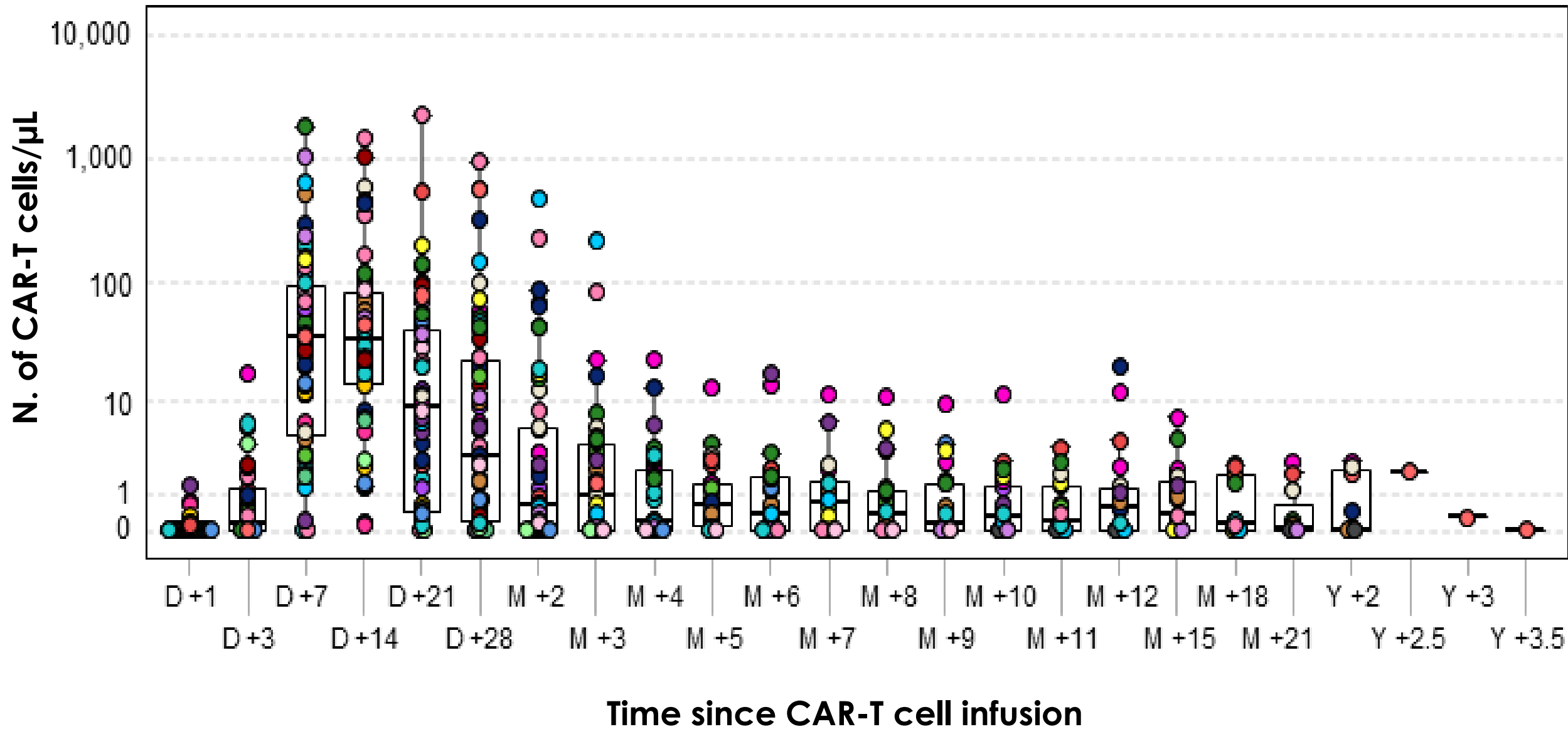
Monitoring of CAR T-cell therapy in DLBCL: Targeted cell populations

- Monitoring of **infused (CAR) immune cells** via cell surface and/or intracellular markers

N. of CART cells expanded in vivo after infusion

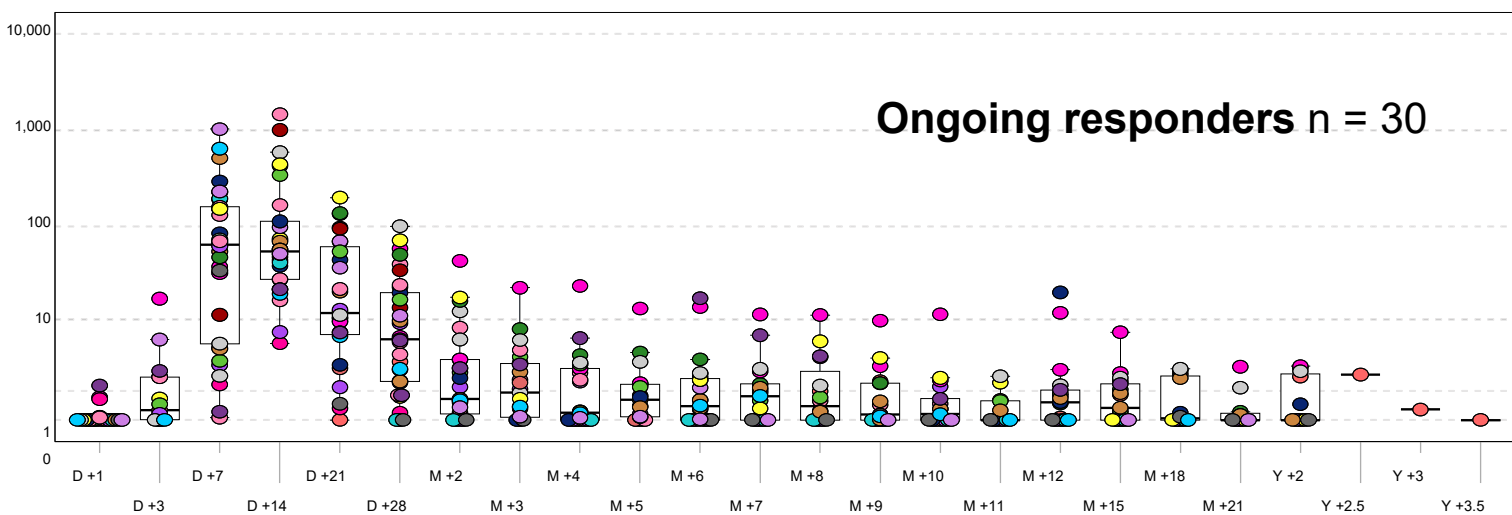
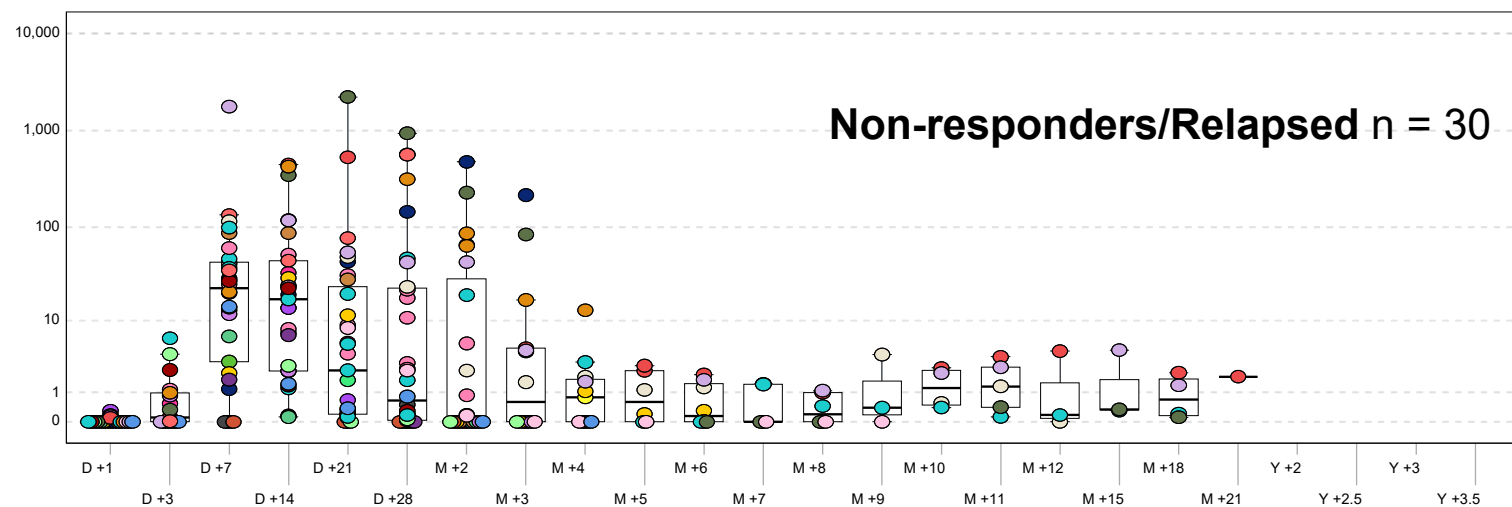
i.e. Monitoring the levels of a drug with highly variable composition and IC50 concentration in an individual patient basis

In vivo kinetics CAR-T cells in DLBCL (n=60)



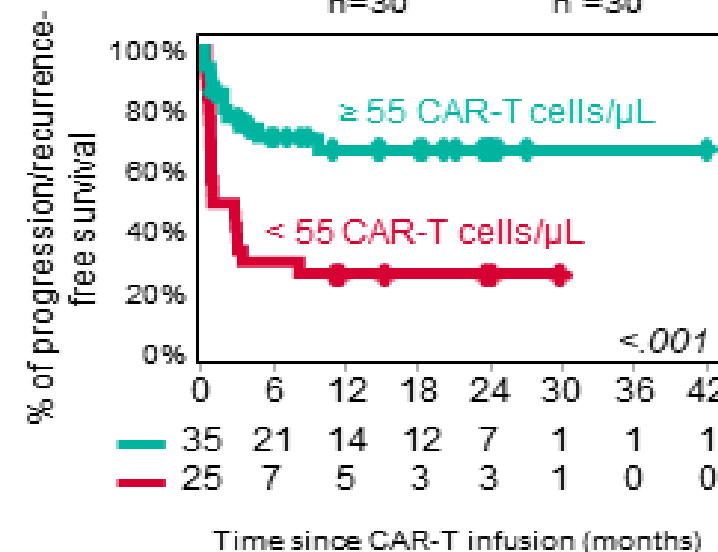
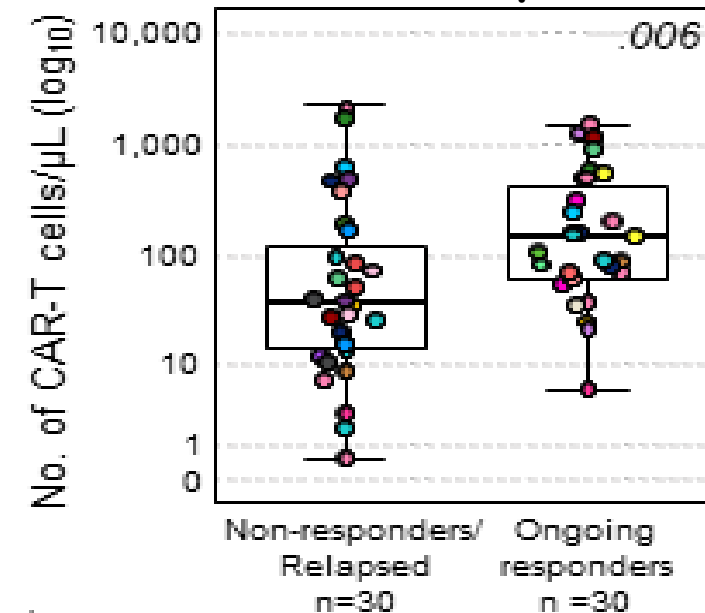
In vivo kinetics CAR-T cells in DLBCL: association with response to therapy

N. of CAR-T cells/ μ L

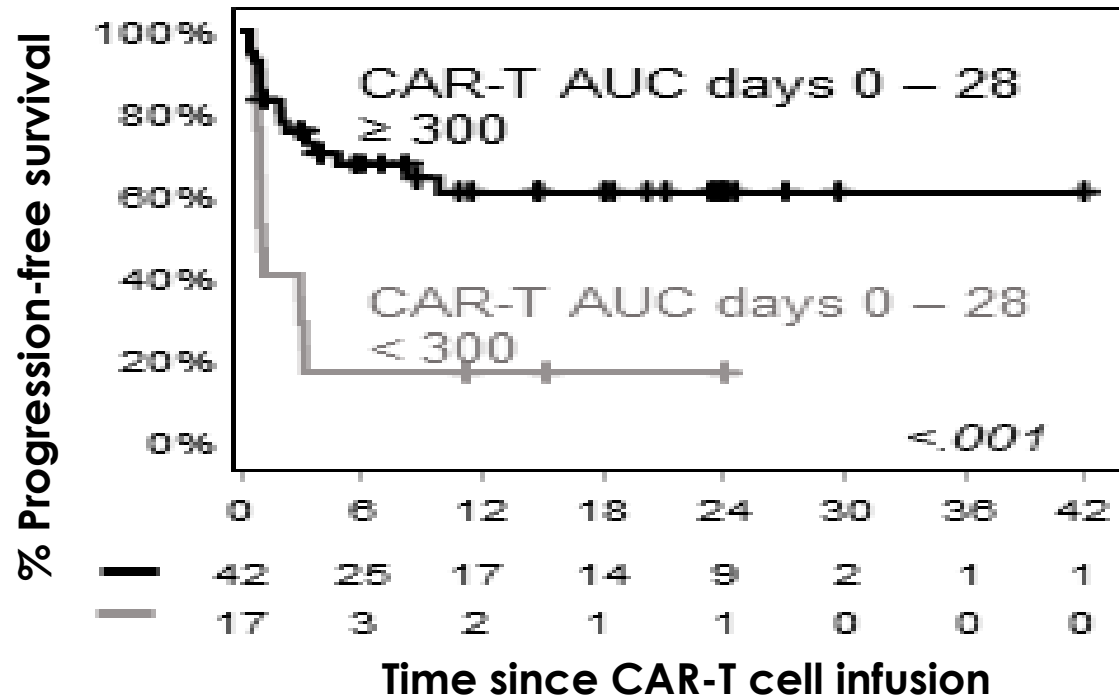
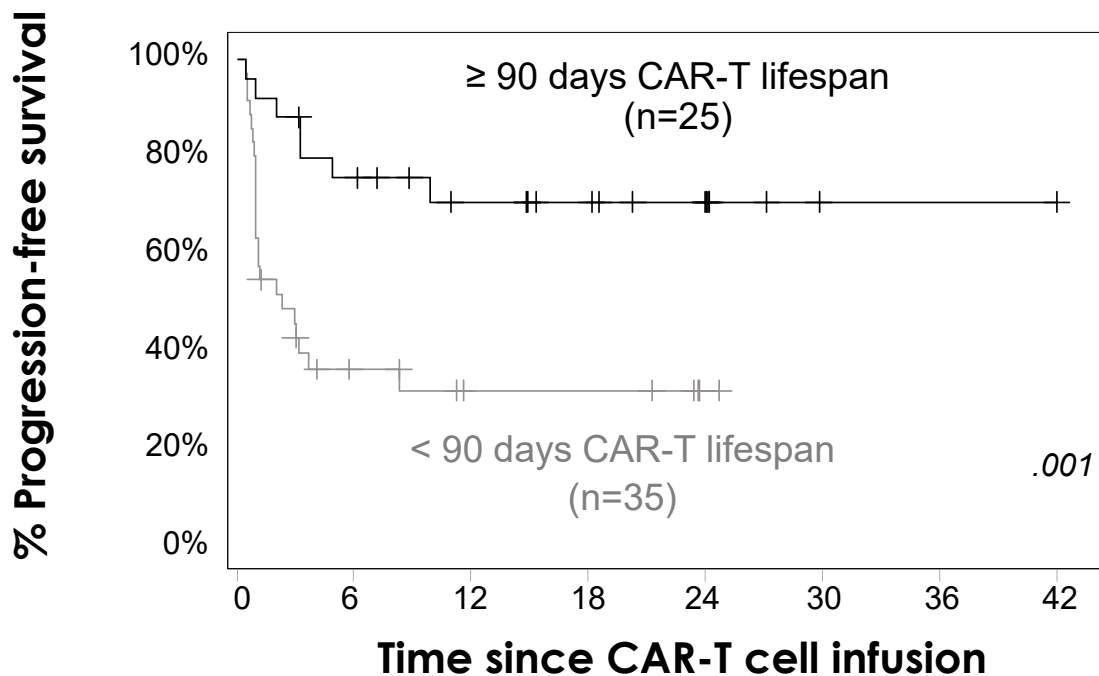
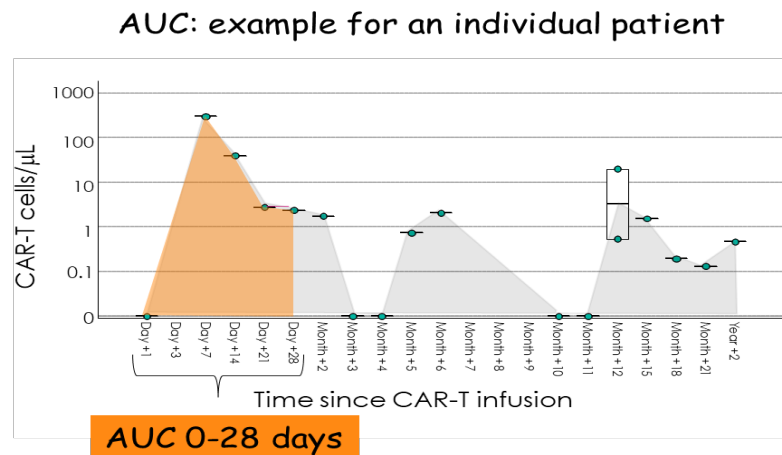
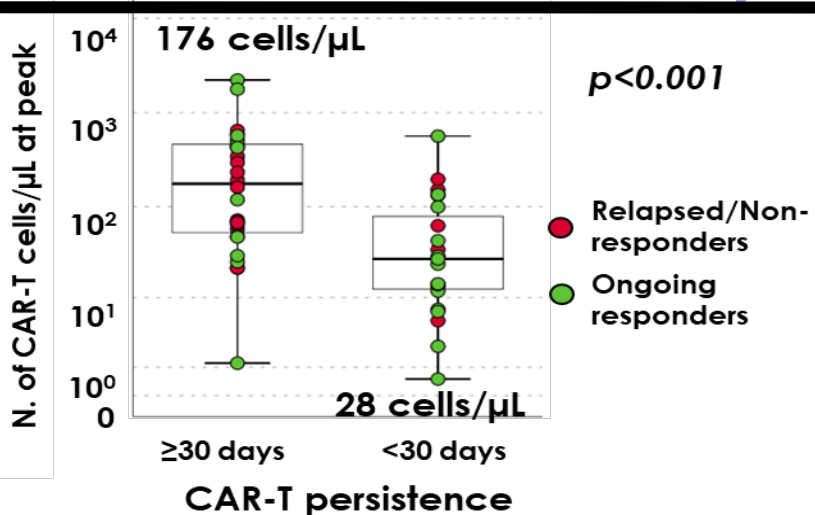


Time since CAR-T cell infusion

At CART peak



In vivo kinetics CAR-T cells in DLBCL: association with response to therapy



Monitoring of CAR T-cell therapy in DLBCL: Targeted cell populations

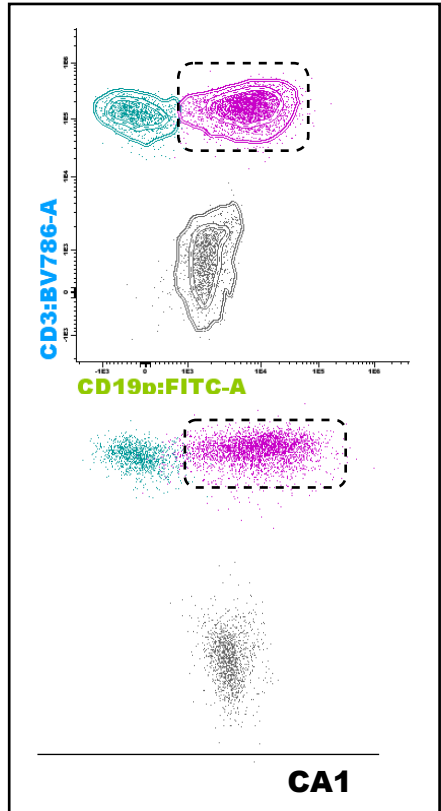
- Monitoring of **infused (CAR) immune cells** via cell surface and/or intracellular markers
- Monitor **CAR cell composition**.

DIFFERENCES IN CART CELL COMPOSITION?

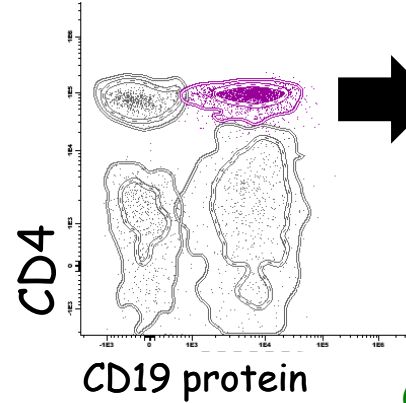
i.e. Monitoring the levels of the different components of a drug might contribute to explain differences for similar (total) drug concentrations

Circulating CAR-T cell composition

KTE-X19 (CAR-T-CD19)
75% of T cells
5.1 cells/ μ L

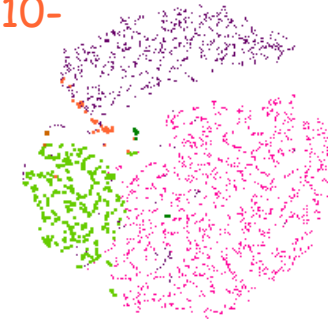


84% CD4+ CAR-T
(total CAR-T cells)
4.3 cells/ μ L



CD183+ CD194+
CD196+ CCR10-
1.4%

CD183+
CD194+
CD196-
CCR10-
14.5%

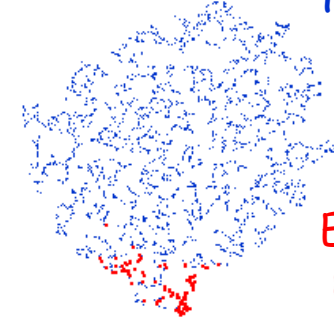


TS 1 Effector memory
14%

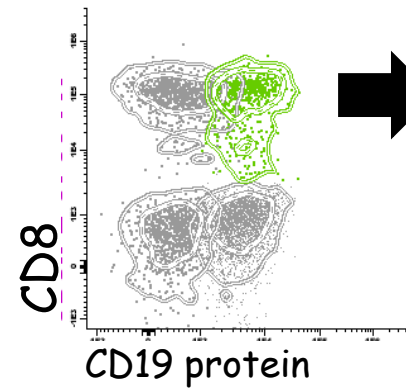
Follicular helper
28.9%

Th1
54.3%

Transitional memory
96%



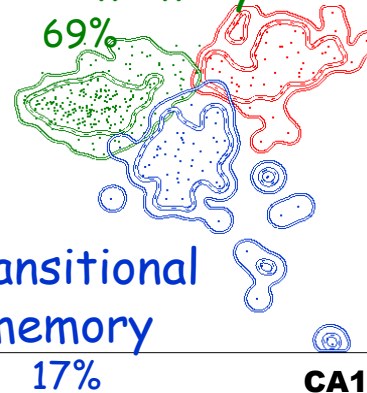
Effector memory
4%



9.5% CD8+ CAR-T
(total CAR-T cells)
0.5 cells/ μ L

Central memory
69%

Transitional memory
17%



CA1

CD57-

CD57+

TS 1

Granz+
CD57-

Granz-
CD57-

TS 1

CD57-
22%

CD57+
22%

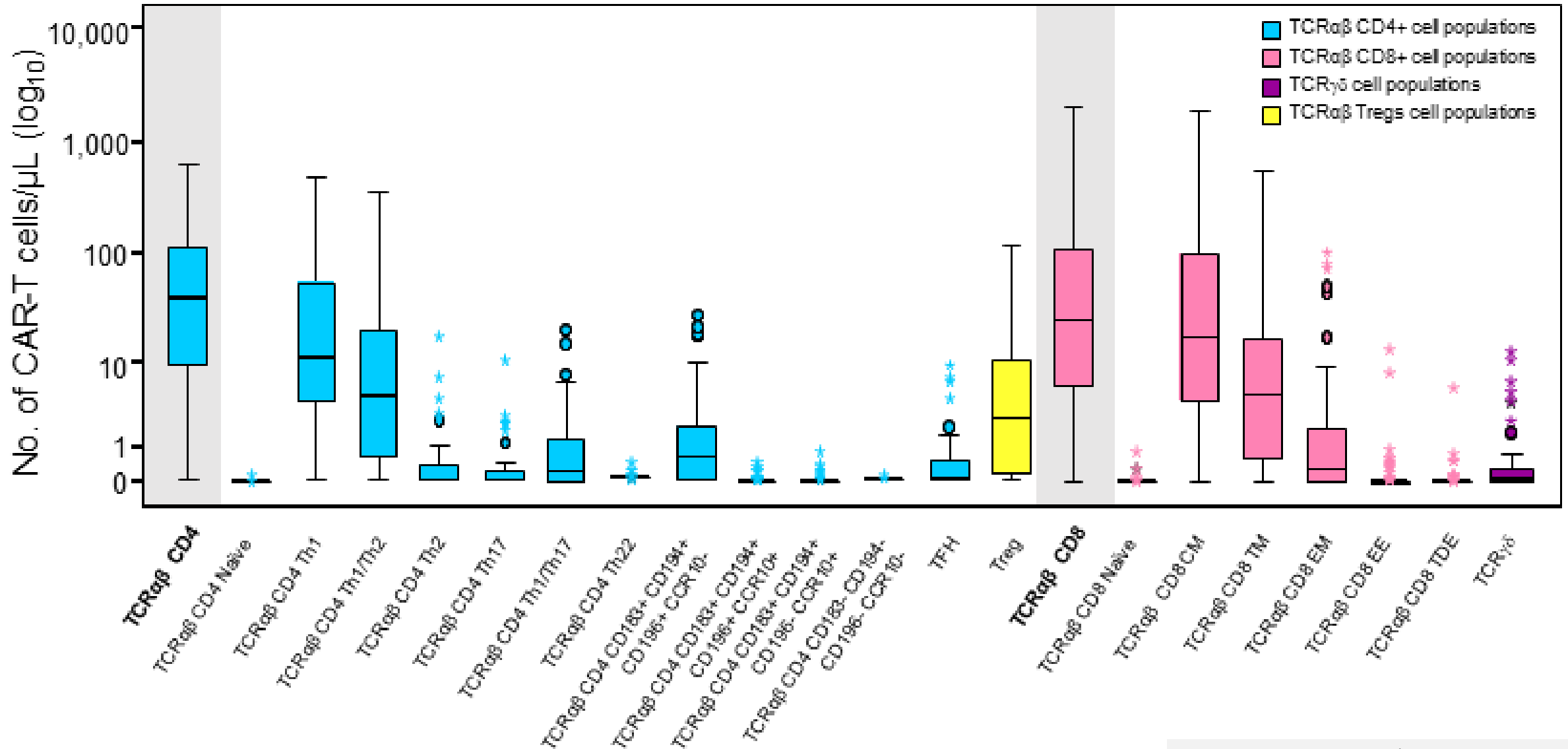
TS 1

Granz+
CD57-
40%

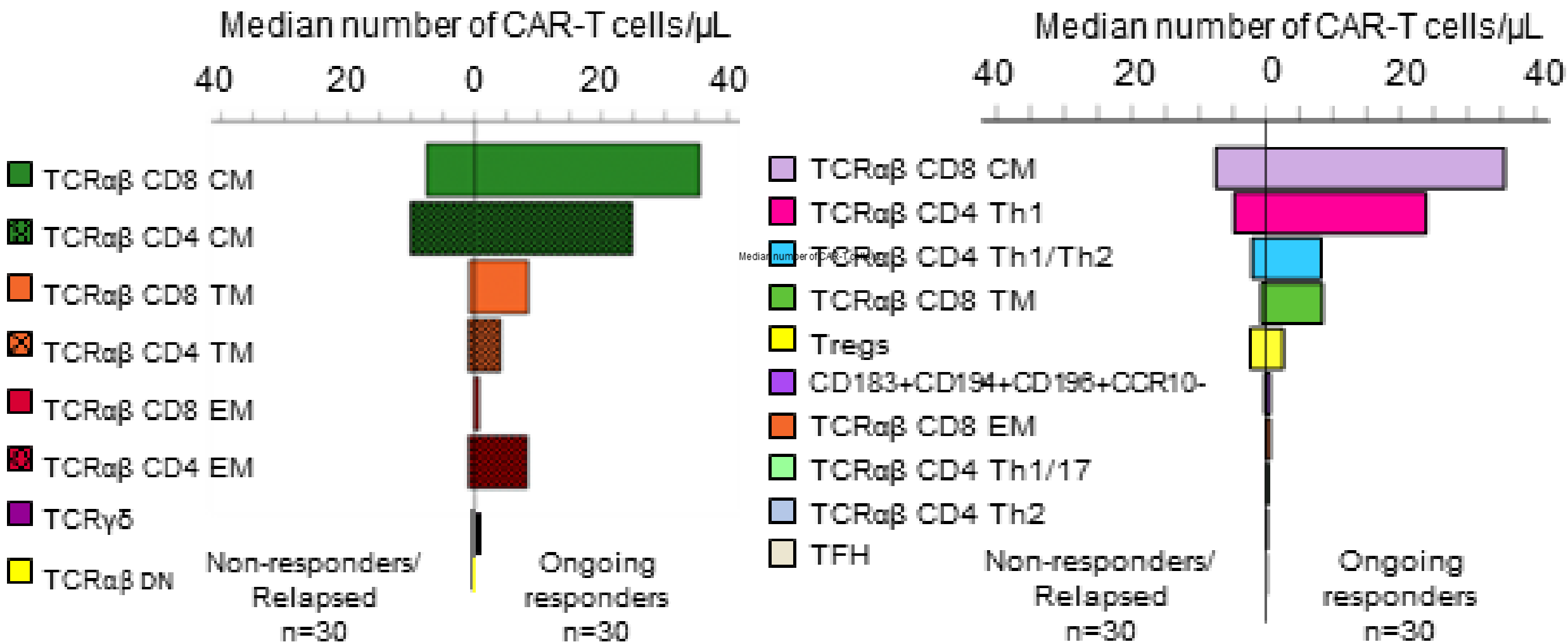
Granz-
CD57-
16%

>145 populations of CAR-T cells

Post-infusion monitoring of circulating CAR-T cell populations in DLBCL (n=60)

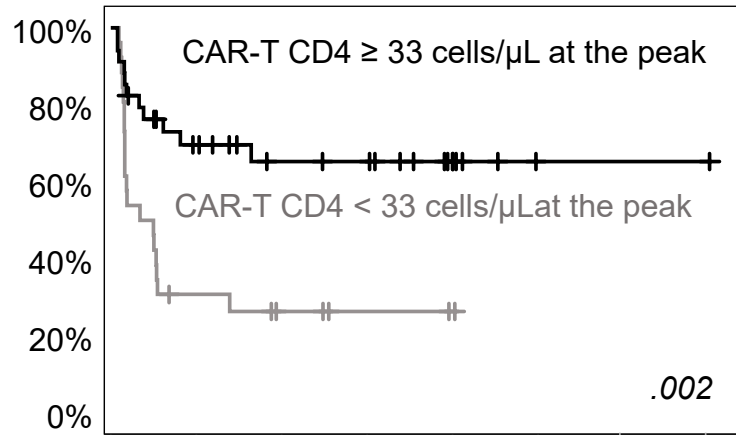


CAR-T cell major populations at CAR-T peak in DLBCL: ongoing responders vs. relapsed/non-responders

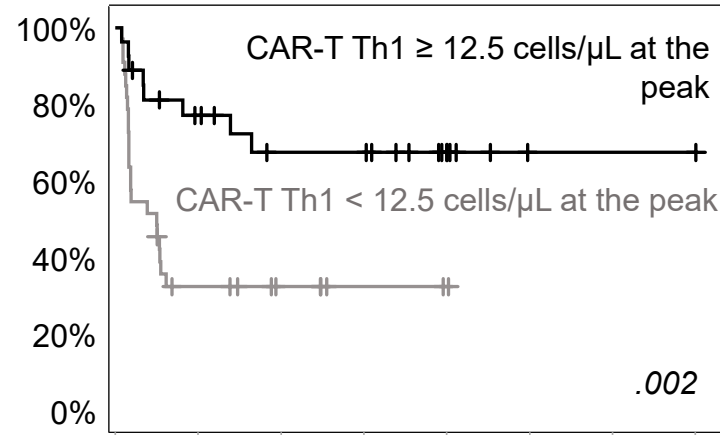


CAR-T TCR $\gamma\delta$ cells at CAR-T peak have a favorable impact on progression-free survival of DLBCL patients

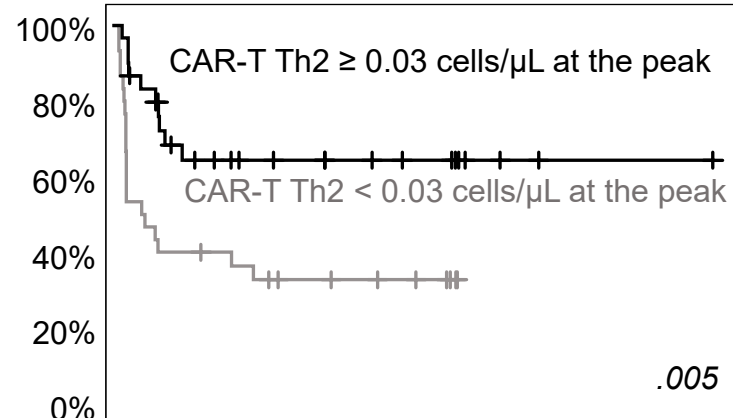
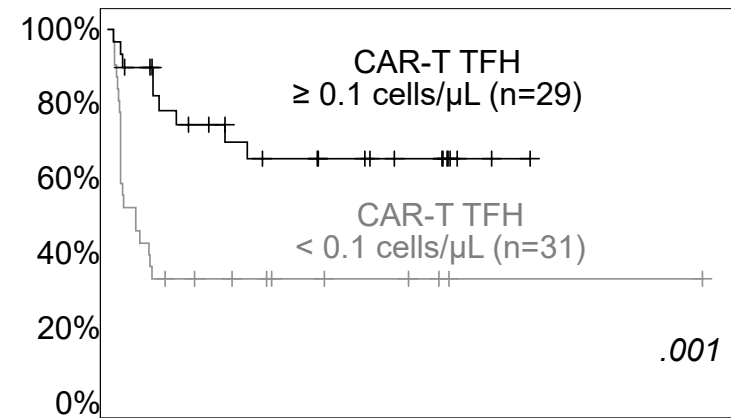
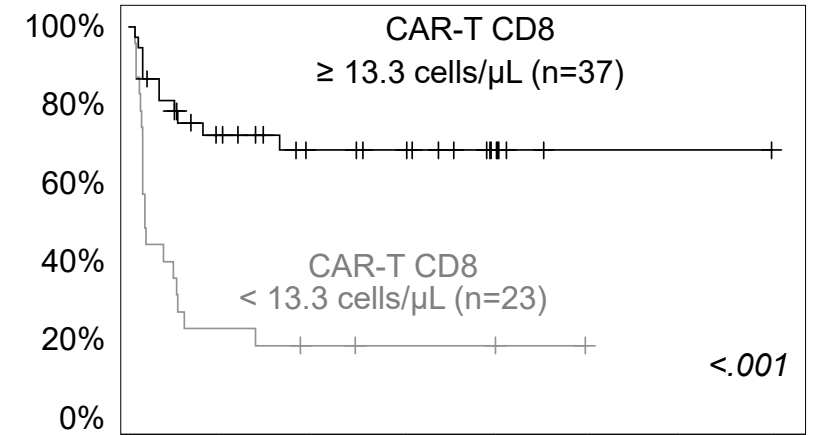
% of relapse/progression-free



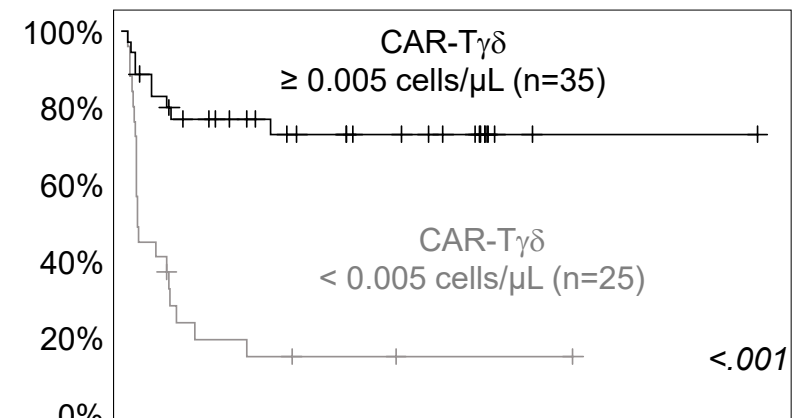
—	34	21	14	13	8	2	1	1
—	26	7	5	2	2	0	0	0



—	27	19	13	13	8	2	1	1
—	33	9	6	2	2	0	0	0

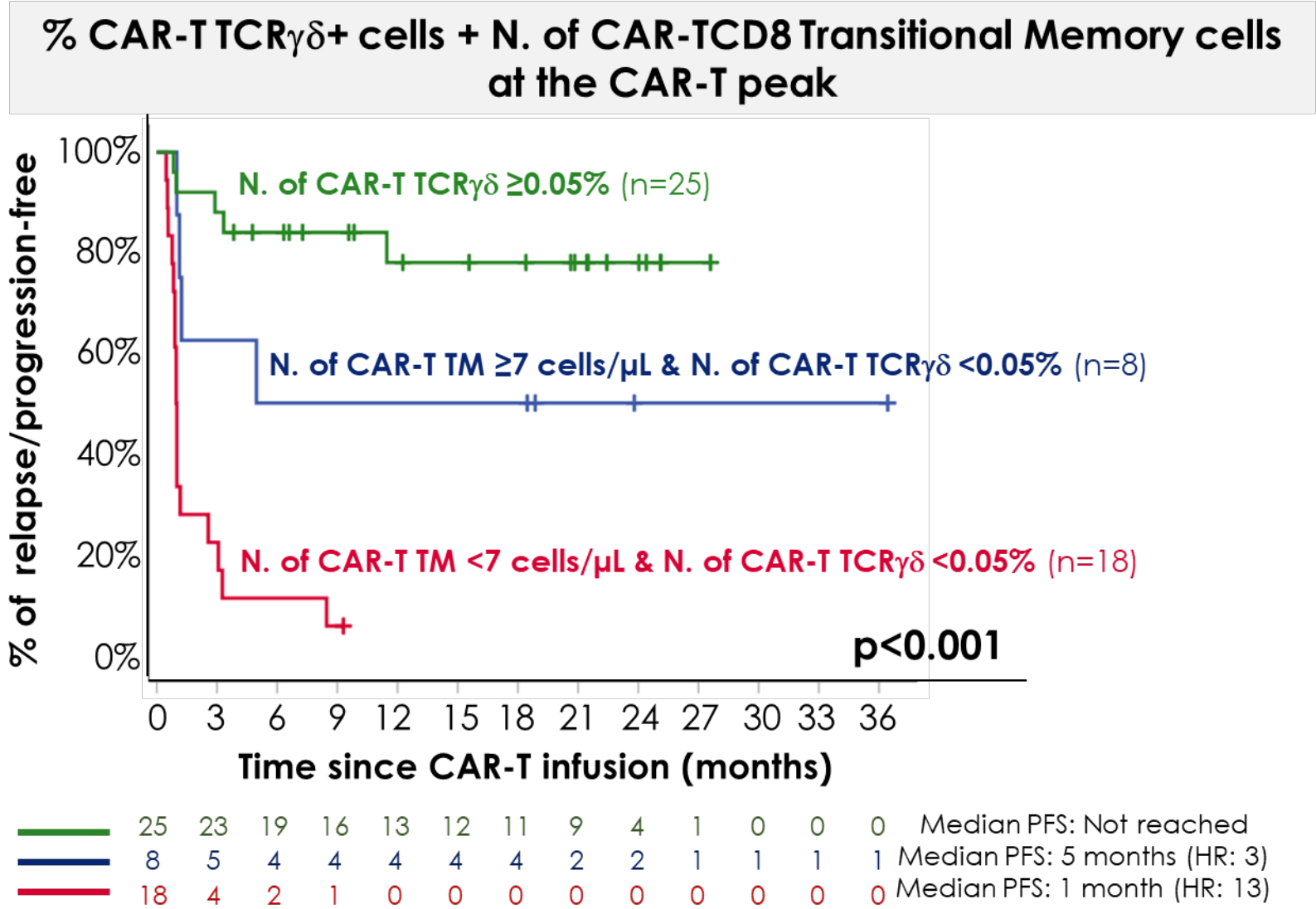
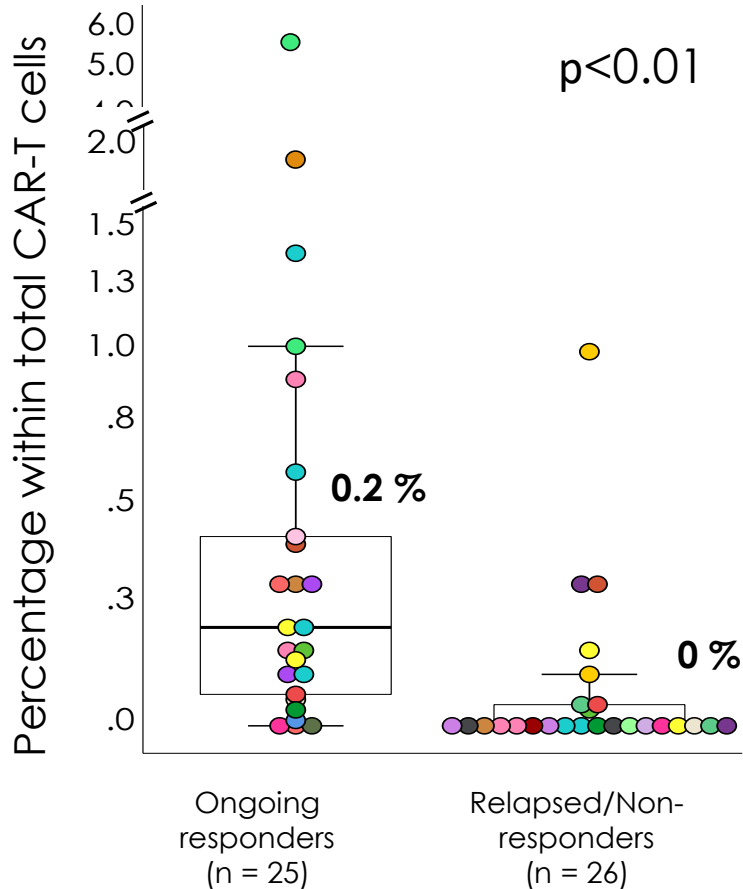


—	30	16	11	9	7	2	1	1
—	30	12	8	6	3	0	0	0



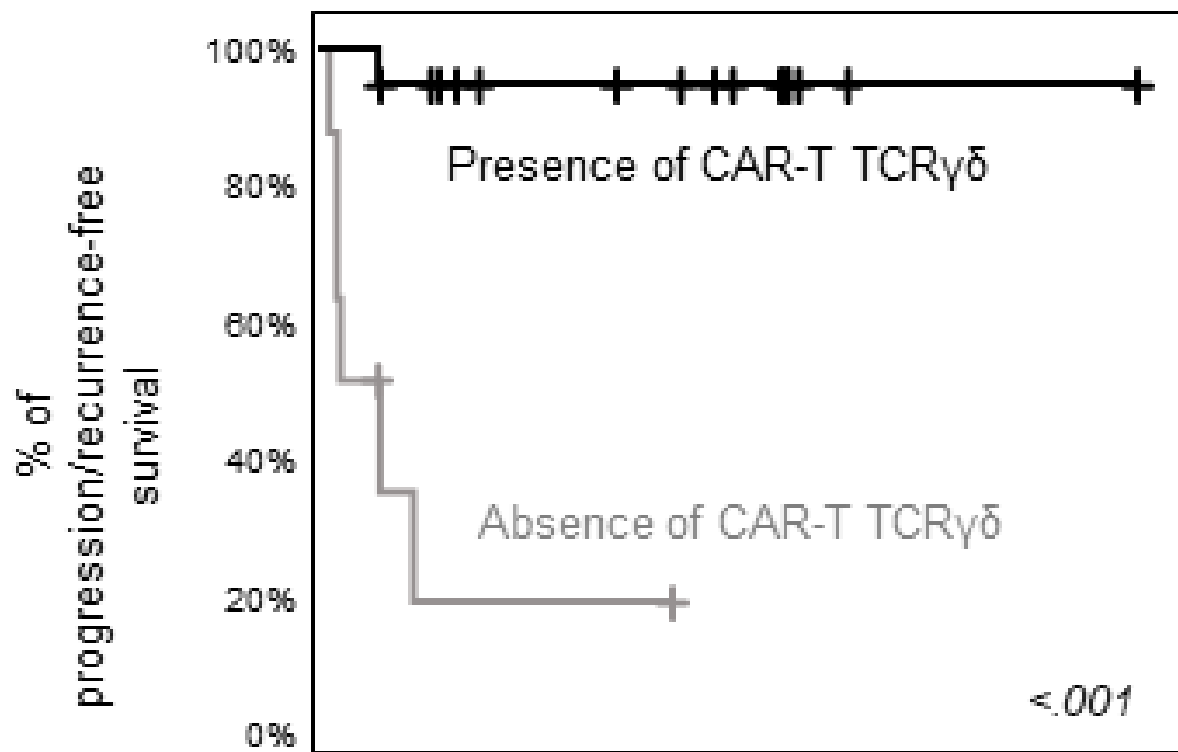
Time since CAR-T infusion (months)

CAR-T TCR $\gamma\delta$ cells at CAR-T peak have a positive impact on progression-free survival in DLBCL patients



CAR-T TCR $\gamma\delta$ cells at CAR-T peak impact on progression-free survival of DLBCL with and without extranodal disease at diagnosis

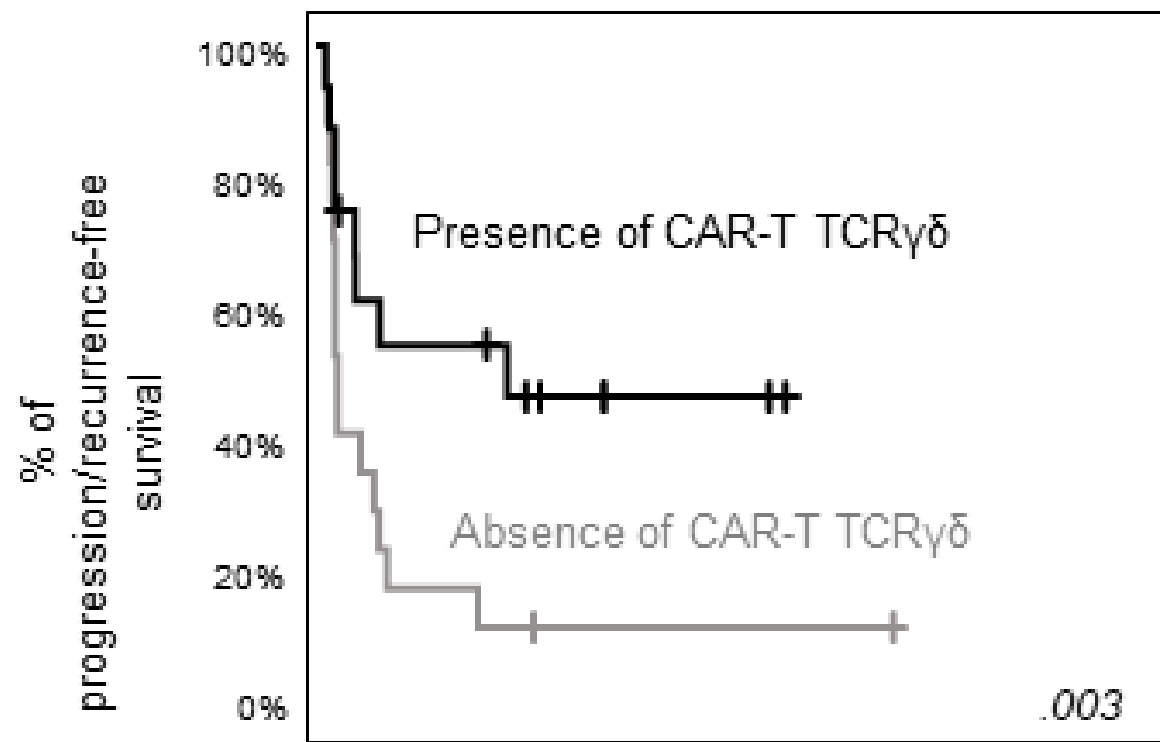
DLBCL without extranodal disease



0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42
18	15	12	11	7	1	1	1
8(*2)	1	1	1	0	0	0	0

Time since CAR-T infusion (months)

DLBCL with extranodal disease

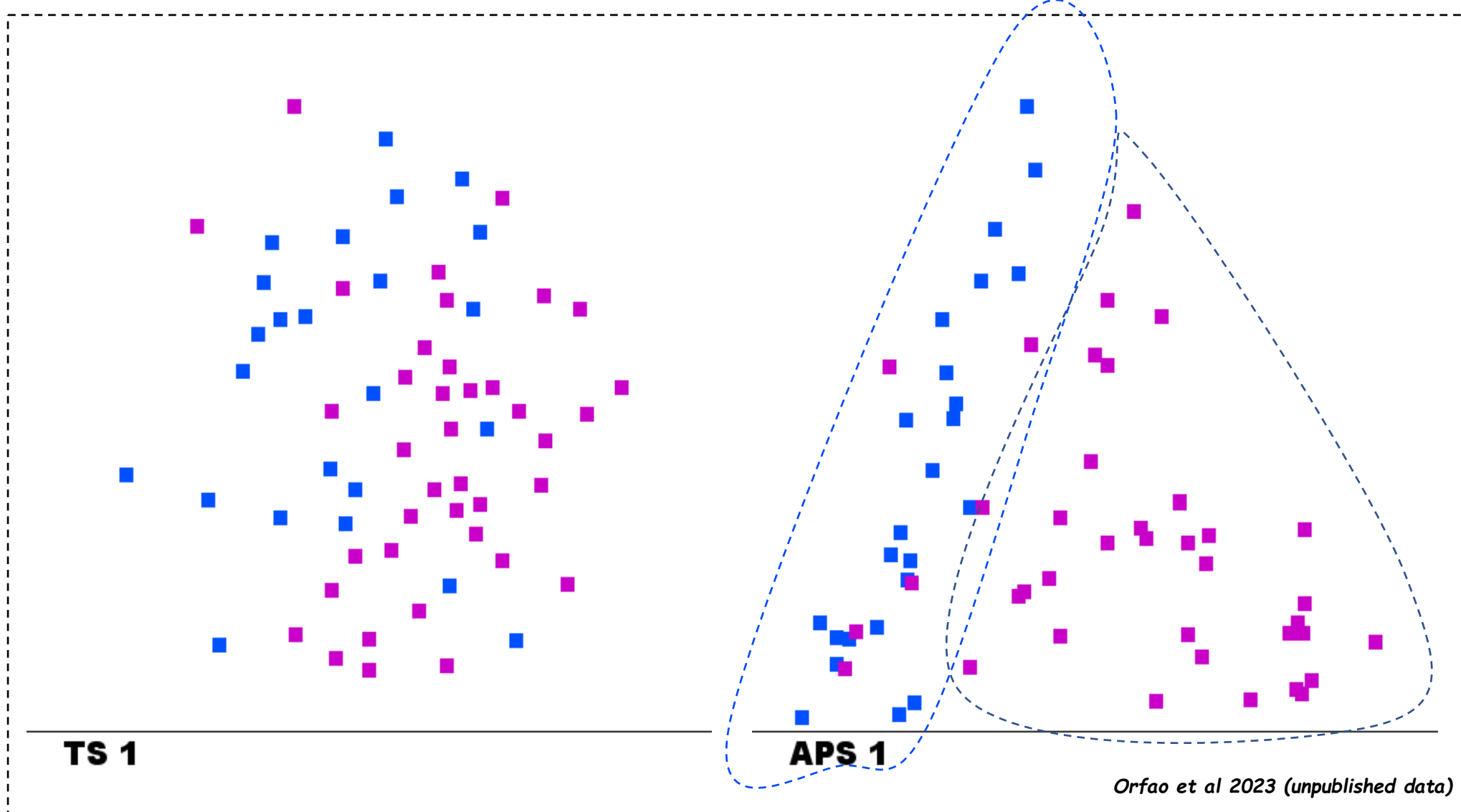


0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42
16(*7)	8(*1)	4	2	1	0	0	0
17(*13)	3(*1)	1	1	1	1	0	0

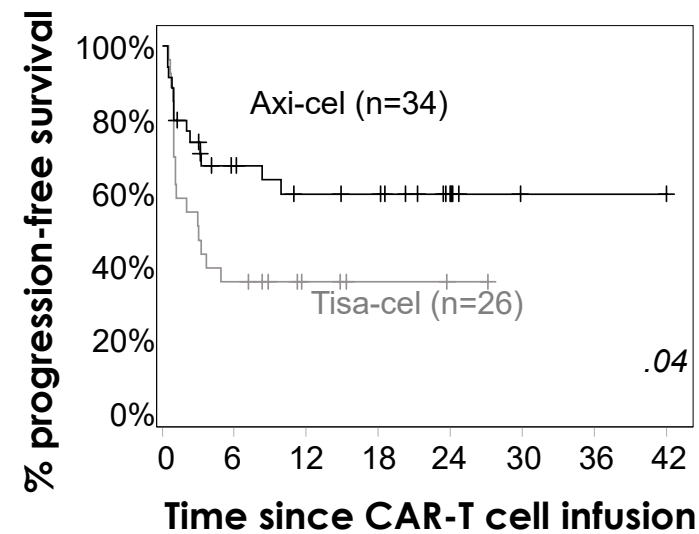
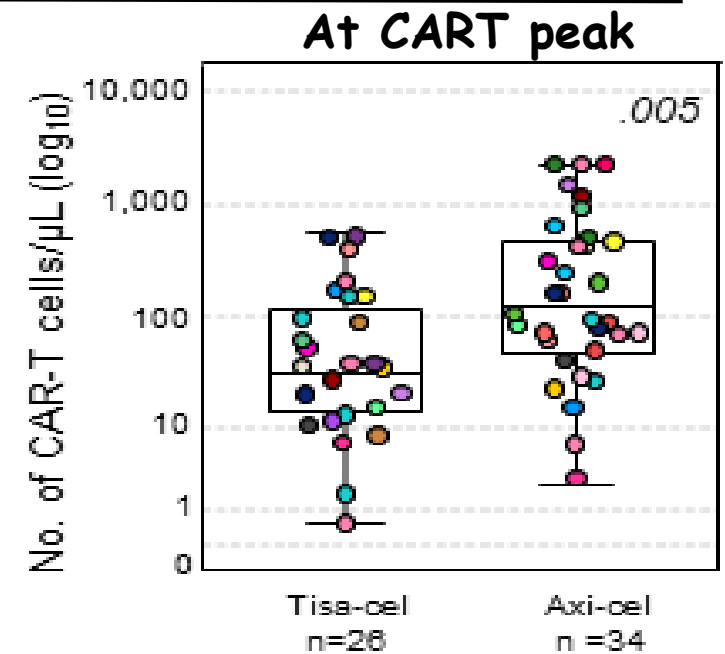
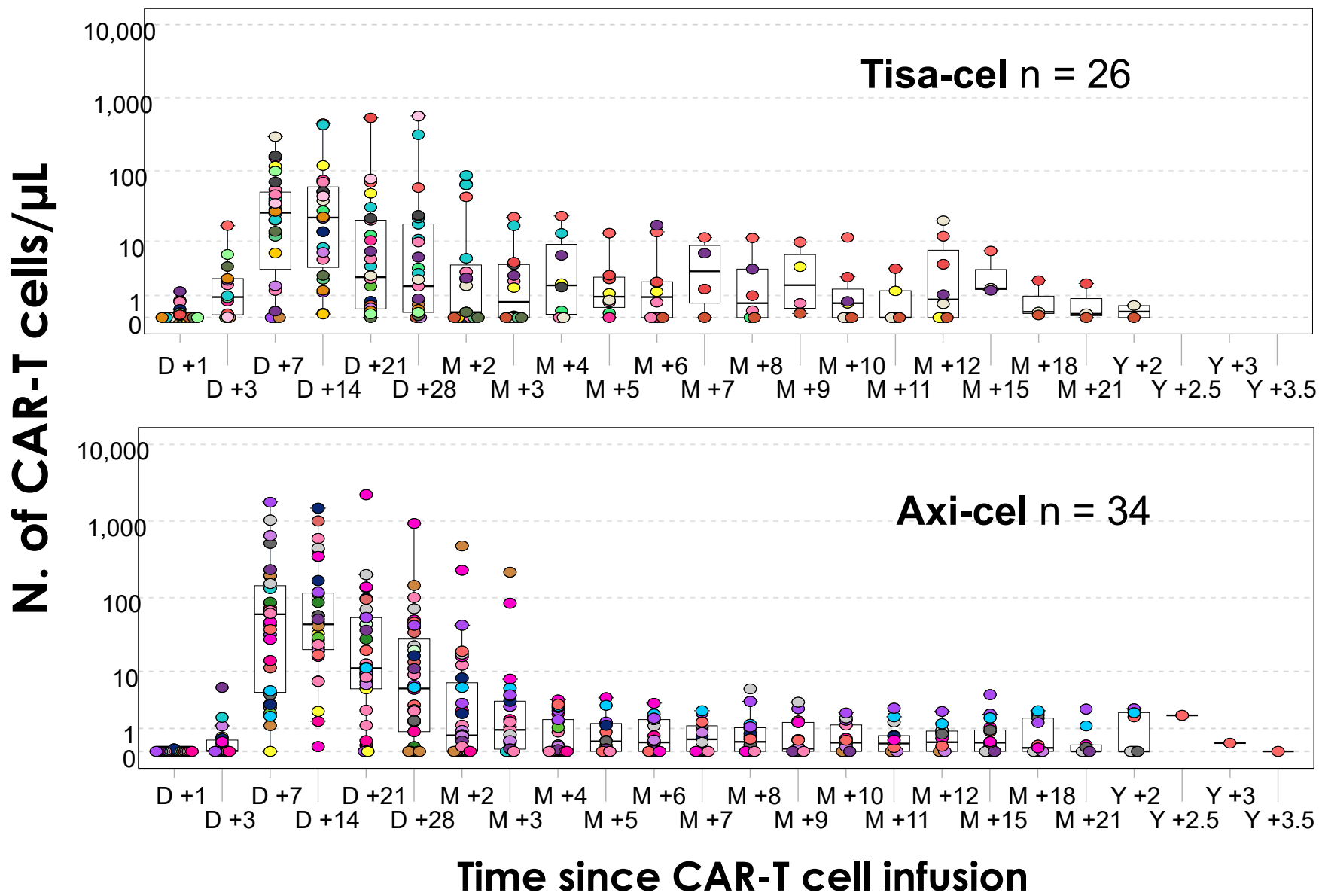
Time since CAR-T infusion (months)

Distinct CART CD19 cell products might differ in their composition in blood after in vivo expansion

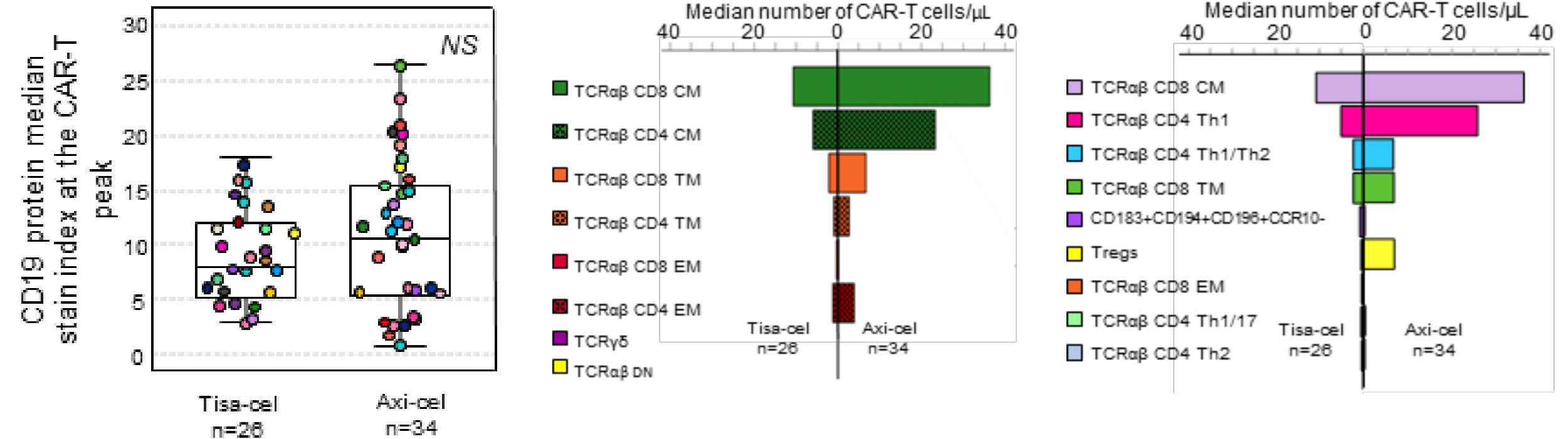
Tisa-cel vs. Axi-cel



In vivo kinetics of CAR-T cells in DLBCL: association with CAR-T product



CAR-T cell major populations at CAR-T peak in DLBCL: association with CAR-T cell product

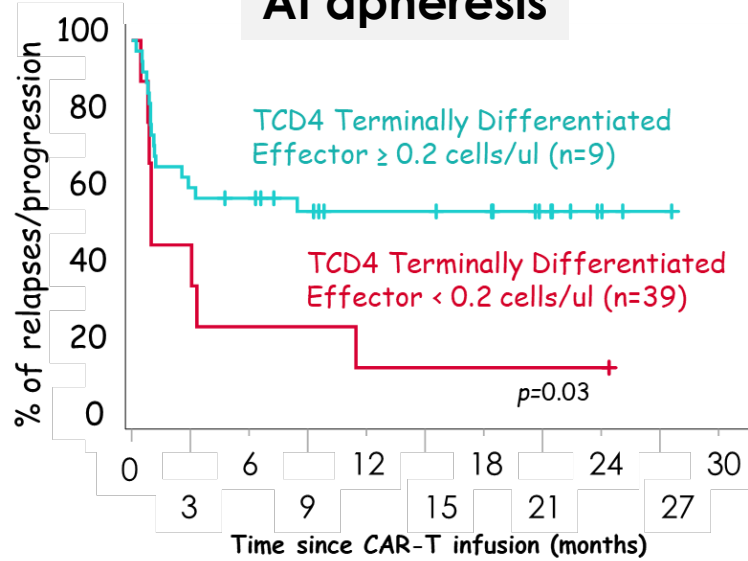


- Monitoring of **infused (CAR) immune cells** via cell surface and/or intracellular markers
- Monitor **CAR T-cell composition**
- Monitor **CAR-therapy associated immune responses:**
 - Innate immune cells
 - CD4+ T-cell subsets
 - Cytotoxic T and NK cell populations
 - Maturation-associated B-cell and plasma cell compartments

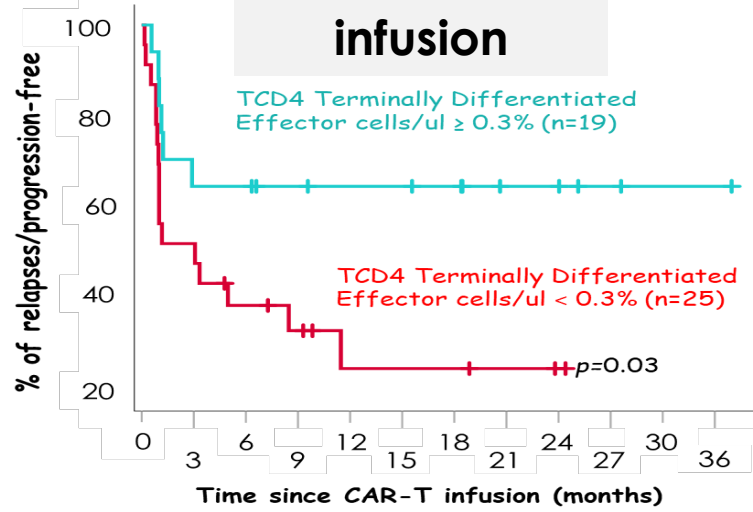
i.e. Assessing the immune status prior to therapy and monitoring the effect of CART therapy on residual immune cells (in blood) might contribute to understand the mechanisms involved in immune-escape and treatment failure.

Blood T cell populations with independent impact on progression-free survival of DLBCL

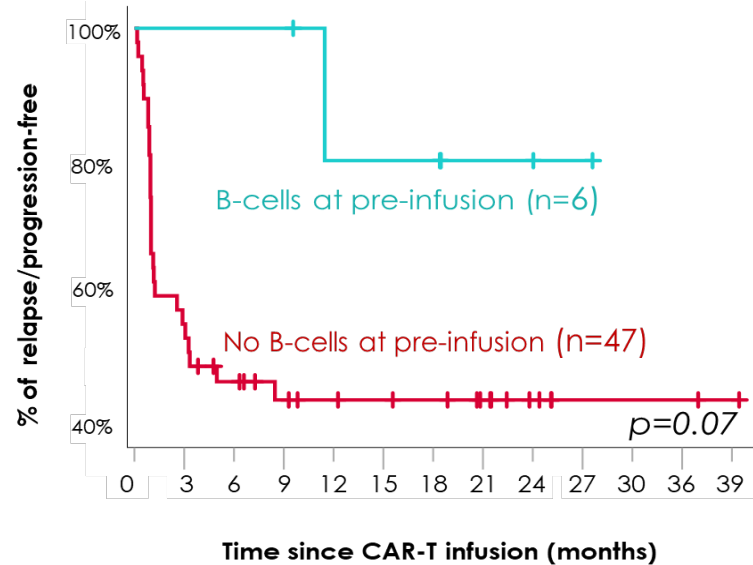
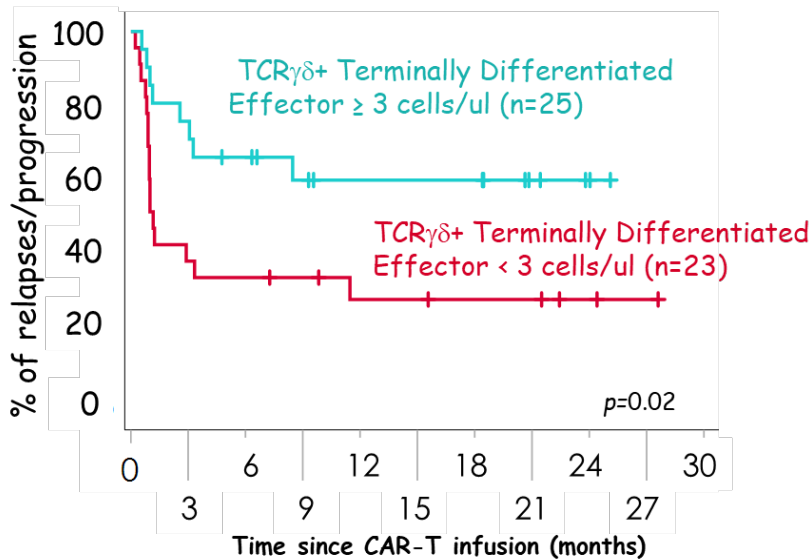
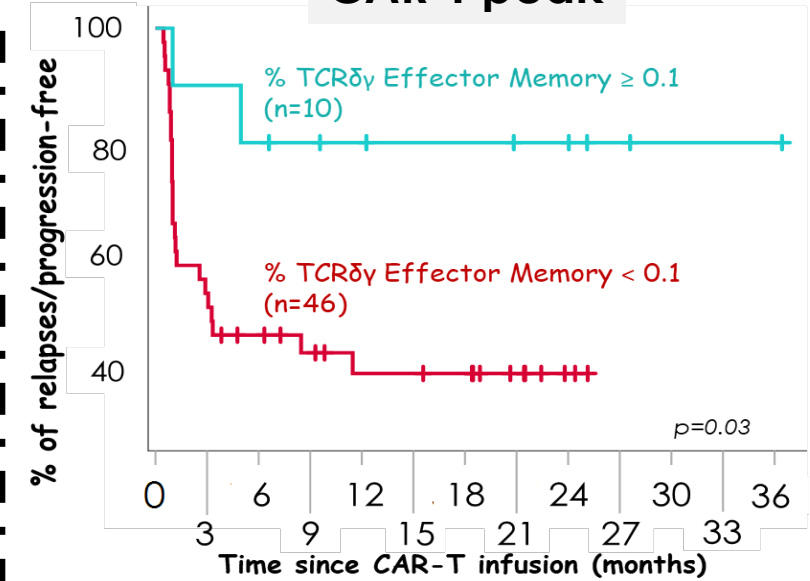
At apheresis



Pre-CAR-T cell infusion



CAR-T peak



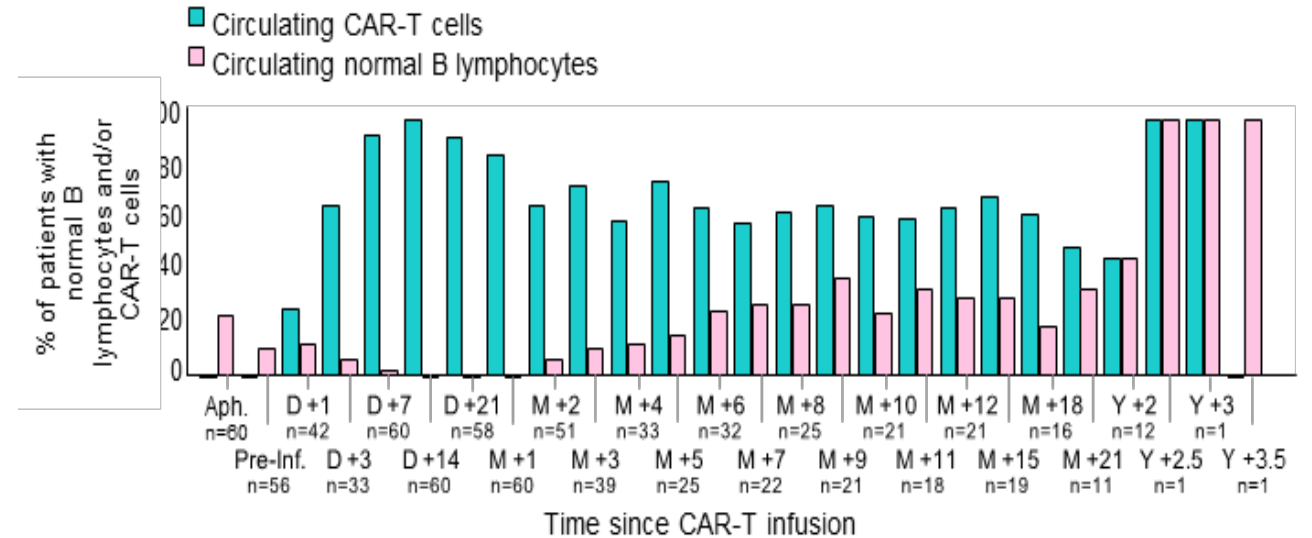
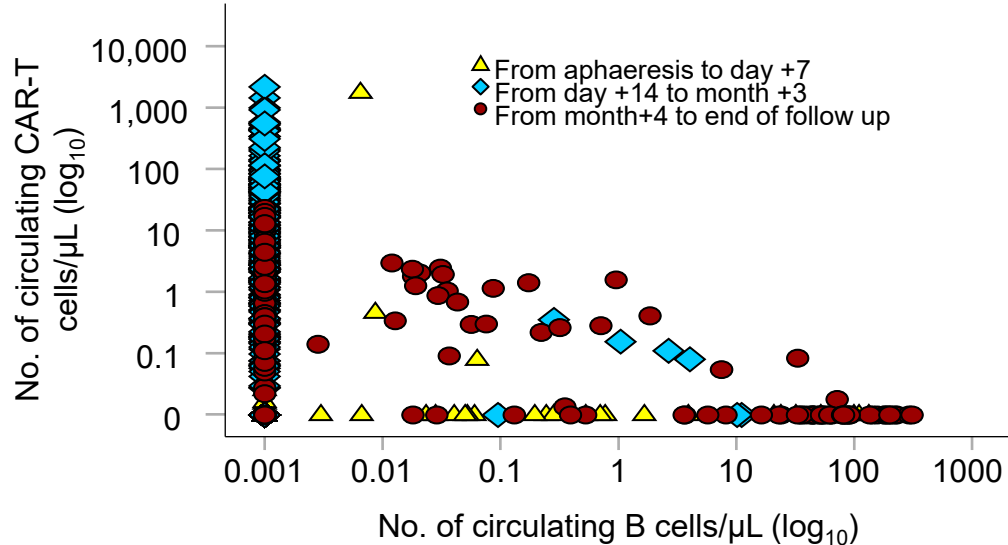
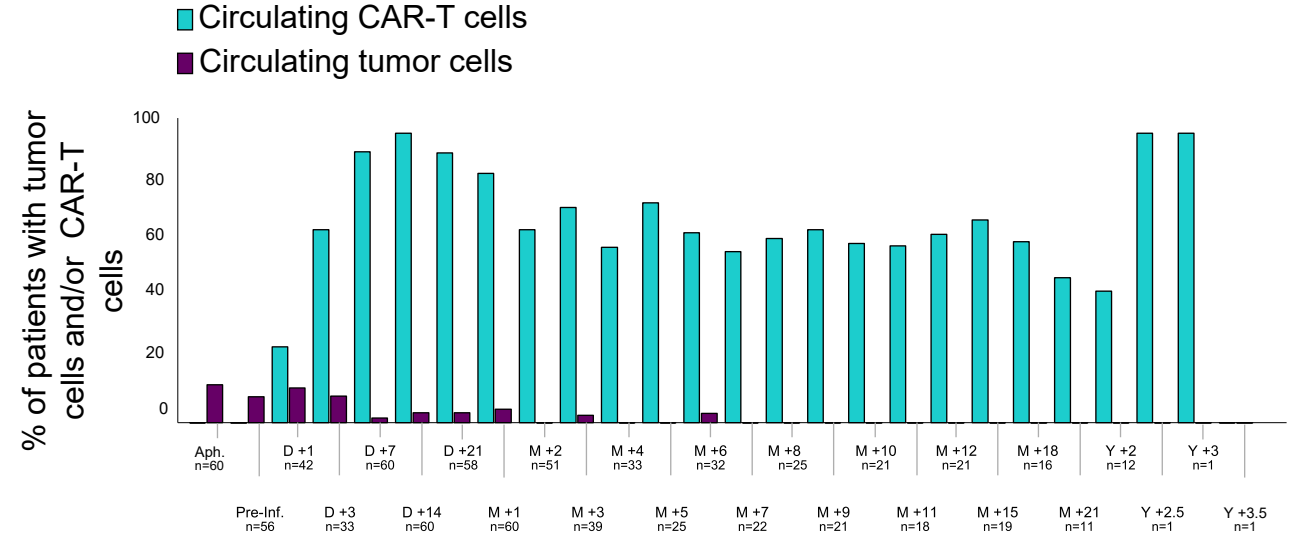
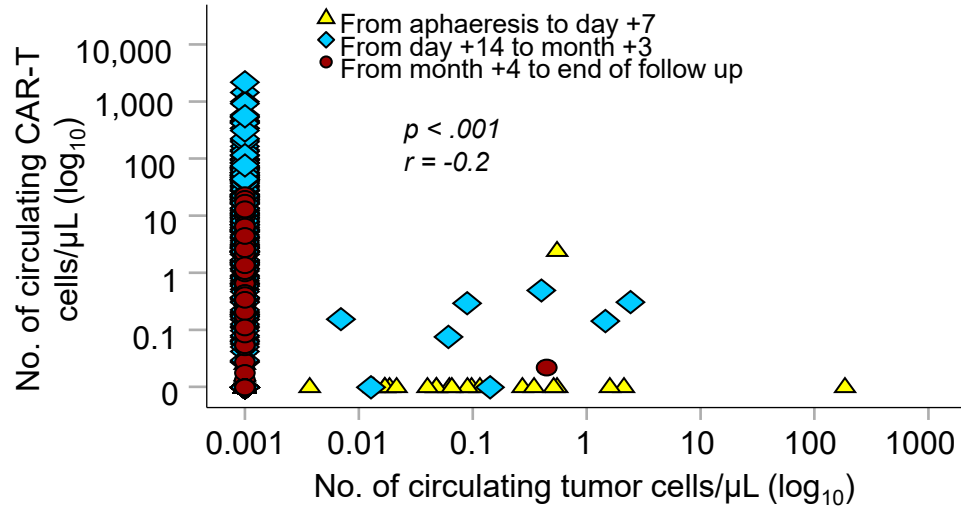
The status of the patient immune system might play a critical role on disease outcome

Monitoring of CAR T-cell therapy in DLBCL: Targeted cell populations

- Monitoring of **infused (CAR) immune cells** via cell surface and/or intracellular markers
- Monitor **CAR T-cell composition**
- Monitor **CAR-therapy associated immune responses:**
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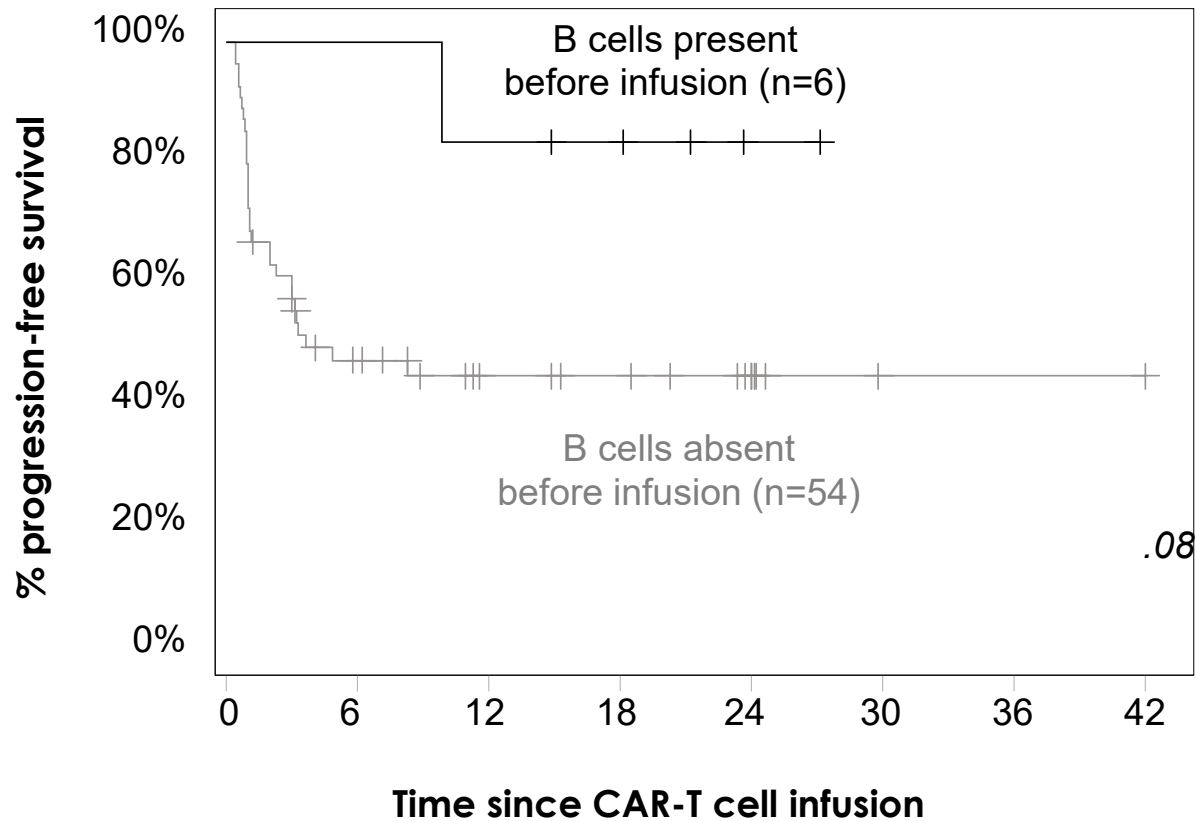
i.e. Monitoring of MRD levels and the residual immune cells (in blood) might contribute to understand the mechanisms involved in immune-escape and treatment failure.

Circulating CAR-T cells numbers in blood of DLBCL: correlation with tumor and normal B cell counts in blood

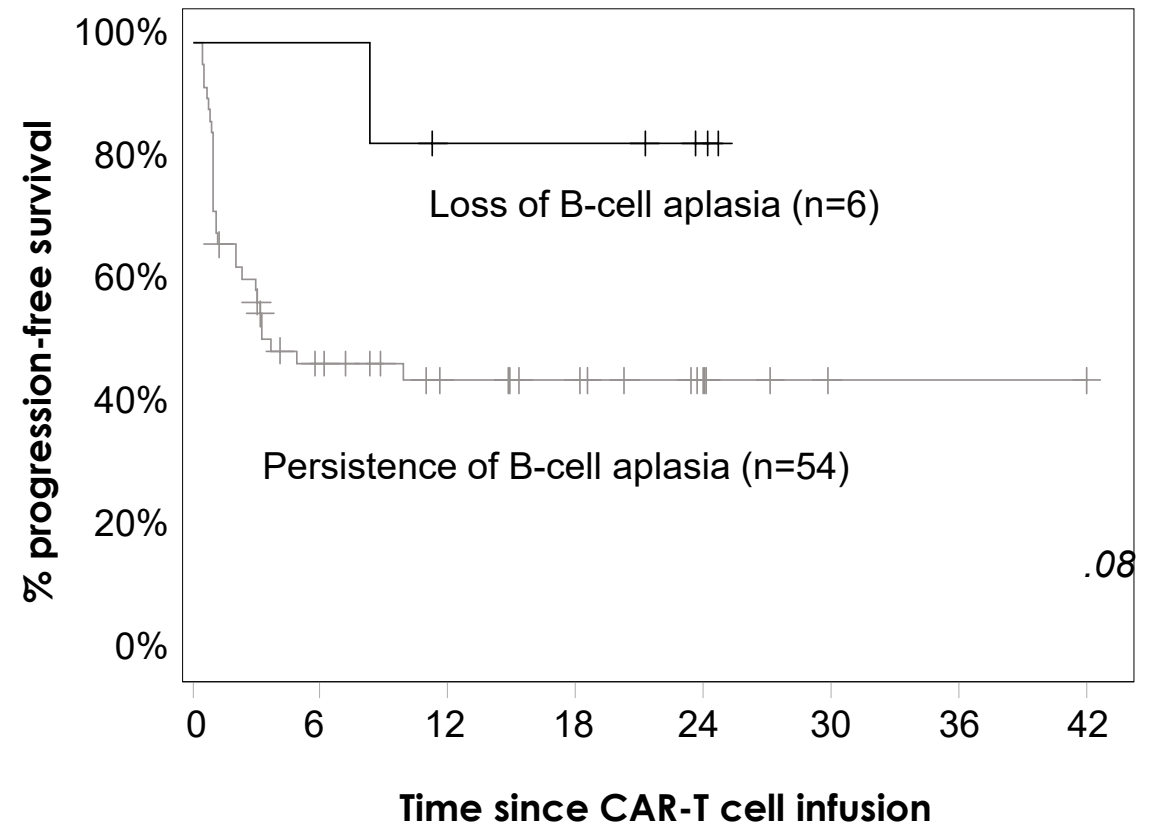


Blood B cell counts prior and after CART cell infusion: impact on progression-free survival of DLBCL

Pre-CAR-T cell infusion

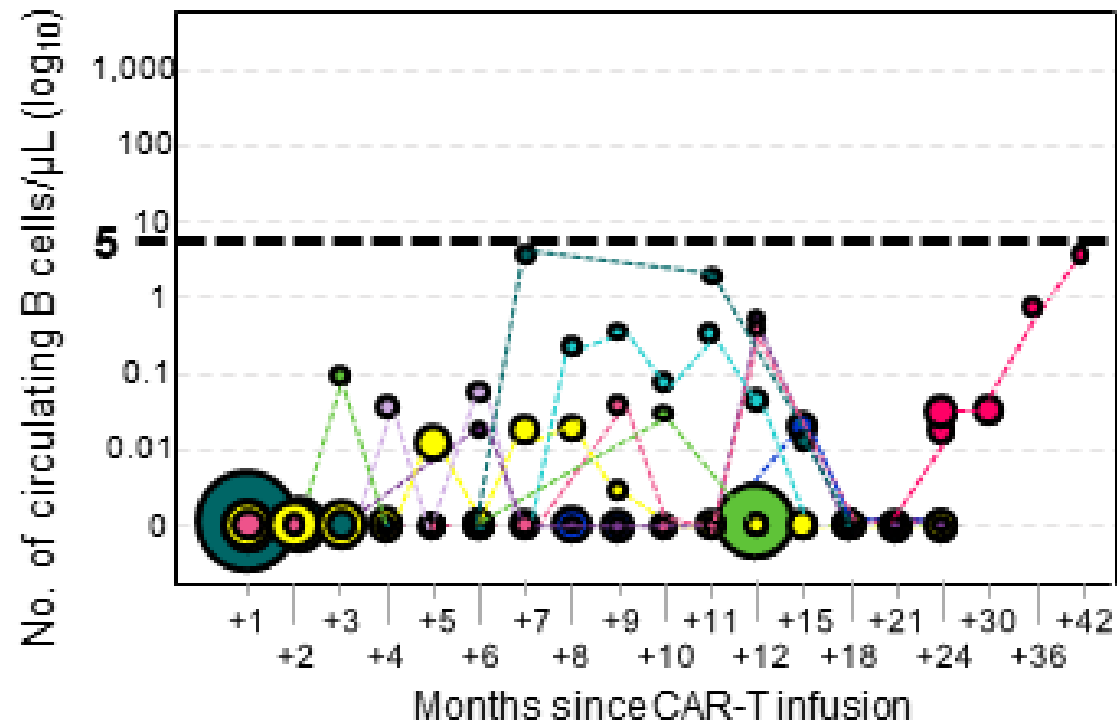


CAR-T peak

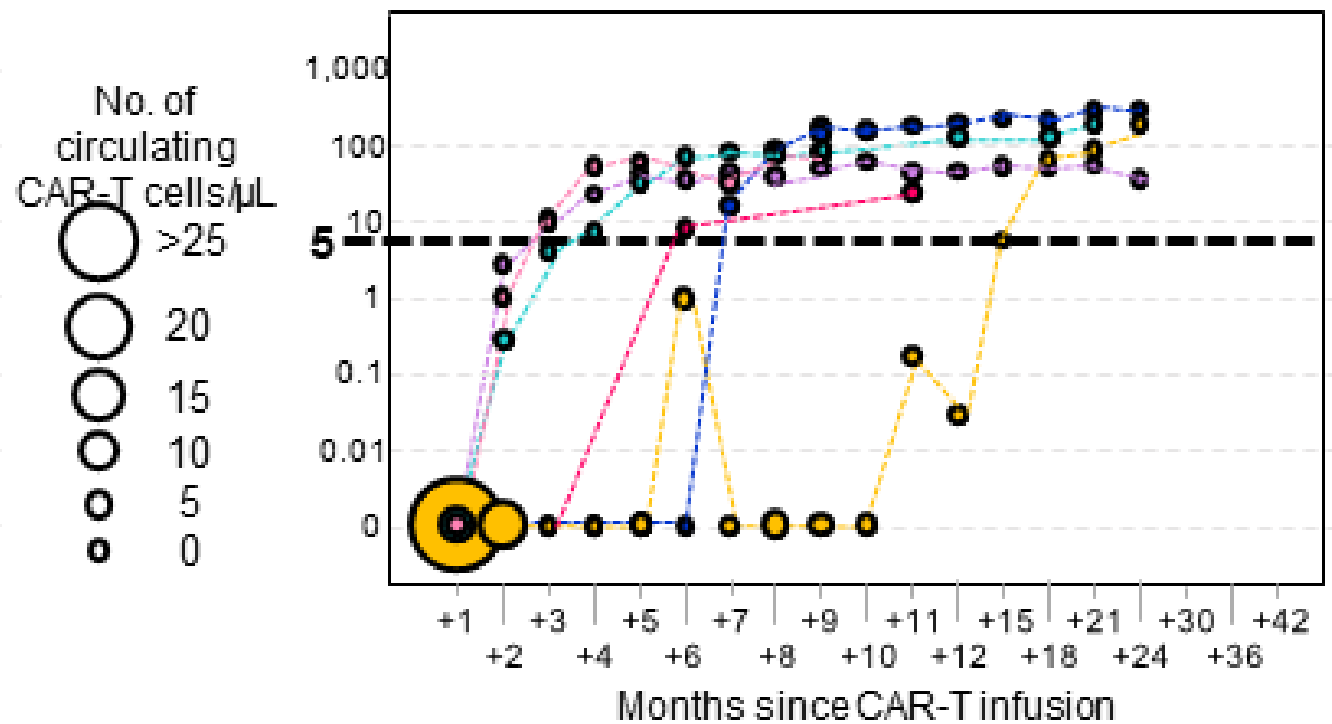


Blood B cell counts prior and after CART cell infusion: impact on progression-free survival of DLBCL

No/low B cell recovery



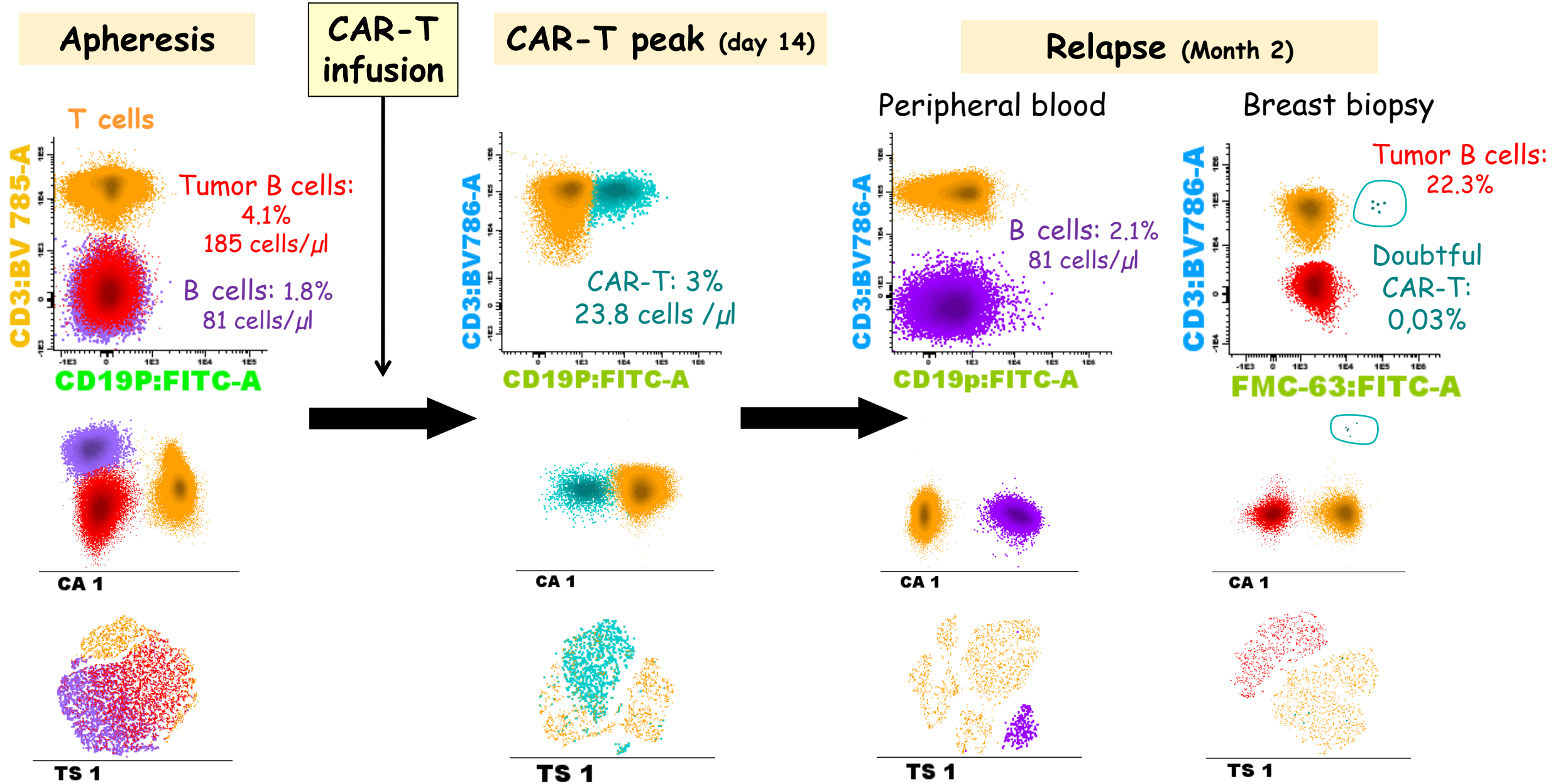
Higher B cell recovery



No. of circulating CAR-T cells/ μL

- \bigcirc >25
- \bigcirc 20
- \bigcirc 15
- \bigcirc 10
- \bigcirc 5
- \bigcirc 0

DLBCL: simultaneous MRD+CAR-T CD19+T-cell+Immune Monitoring



CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Evaluation of the amount of protein expression on the tumor cell surface membrane, as well as other normal cells provides insight into the sensitivity to protein-targeted antibody-based and CART cell immunotherapy and its potential toxicity, respectively.
- An optimal target protein for antibody and CART cell therapy should be expressed at high levels in all individual leukemia cells, particularly on their precursor cells (i.e., leukemia stem cells)
- Monitoring of antibody targeted therapies aims at simultaneous monitoring of the beneficial effect of the drug (e.g. MRD), as well as drug-induced cytopenias of cell populations targeted by the antibody.
- In turn, in the settings of CART therapy, both MRD and drug-induced cytopenias are to be followed together with CART cell levels and their composition (prior to and after the infusion) and persistence after infusion.
- The specific normal and tumor cell populations to be monitored vary depending on the targeted protein, the underlying disease, and the specific drug used.

Acknowledgements & Collaborations in Immune Monitoring



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D SALAMANCA

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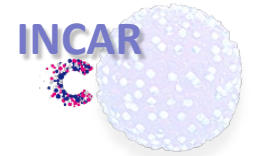


WP5 Task 5.6

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UTU, Turku, FI
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