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**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**ASH 2019, Orlando, USA**

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OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, Portland, USA

**HIGHLIGHTS ON**  
**CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKAEMIA**

December 2019

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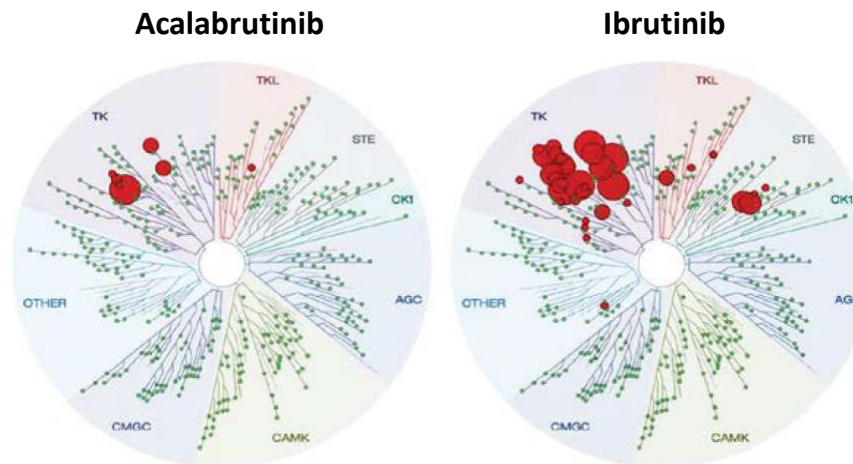


# TREATMENT-NAIVE SETTING ACALABRUTINIB TRIALS

# BACKGROUND: ACALABRUTINIB

- **Acalabrutinib** is a highly selective, covalent irreversible BTK inhibitor with minimal activity against other kinases<sup>1</sup>
  - Acalabrutinib is more selective for BTK with less off-target kinase inhibition compared with ibrutinib *in vitro*<sup>2</sup>

**Kinase  
Selectivity  
Profiling at  
1  $\mu$ M**



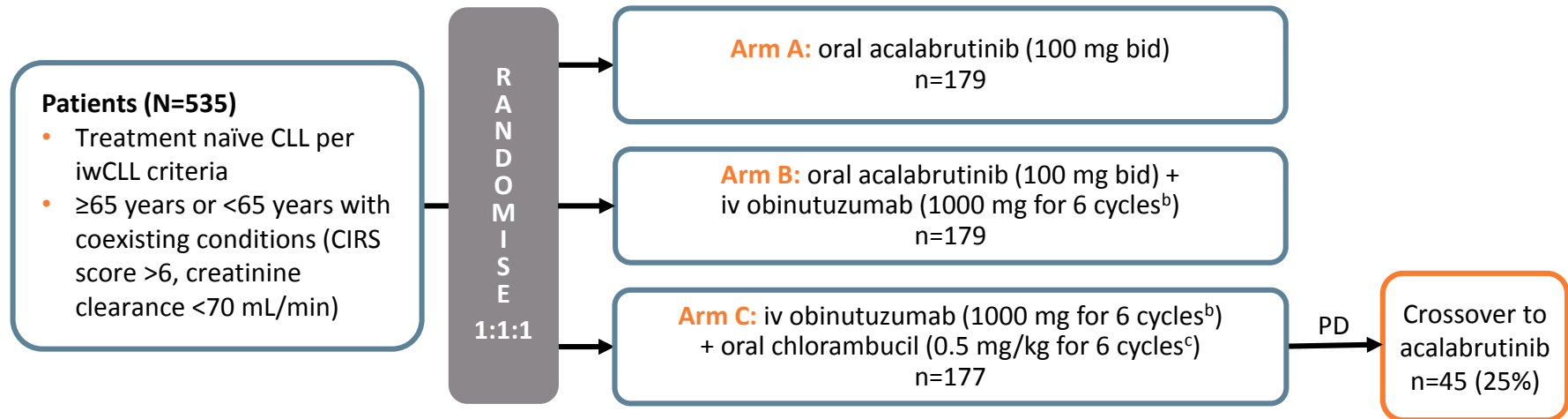
Larger red circles represent stronger inhibition

**ELEVATE TN:  
PHASE 3 STUDY OF ACALABRUTINIB  
COMBINED WITH OBINUTUZUMAB  
OR ALONE VS OBINUTUZUMAB PLUS  
CHLORAMBUCIL IN PATIENTS WITH  
TREATMENT-NAIVE CLL**

**Sharman JP, et al. ASH 2019 Abstract #31**

# ELEVATE TN STUDY DESIGN

- ELEVATE TN is a multicentre, **open-label phase 3 study**



**Stratification:** del(17p) status, ECOG PS (≤1 vs 2), geographic region

**Primary endpoint:** PFS<sup>a</sup> in Arm B vs Arm C  
**Secondary endpoints:** PFS<sup>a</sup> with Arm A vs Arm C, ORR<sup>a</sup>, OS, safety

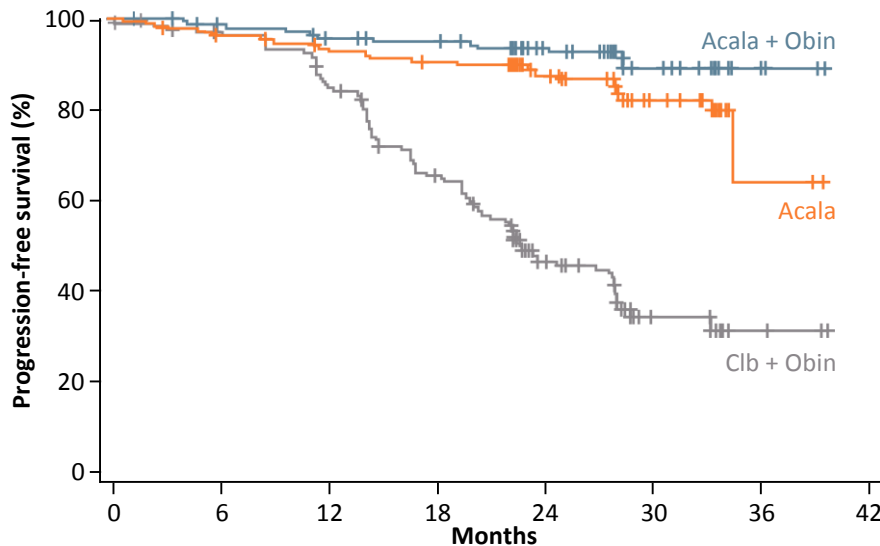
<sup>a</sup> IRC-assessed

<sup>b</sup> 1000 mg on Days 1, 2 (split 100/900), 8, and 15 of Cycle 2, and Day 1 of subsequent 28-day cycles

<sup>c</sup> 0.5 mg/kg on Days 1 and 15 of each 28-day cycle

# ELEVATE TN INTERIM EFFICACY RESULTS

Acalabrutinib + obinutuzumab **reduced the risk of progression or death by 90%** vs obinutuzumab + chlorambucil



Number at risk

	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42						
Acala	179	166	161	157	153	150	148	147	103	94	43	40	4	3
Acala + Obin	179	176	170	168	163	160	159	155	109	104	46	41	4	2
Clb + Obin	177	162	157	151	136	113	102	86	46	41	13	13	3	2

	Arm A: acalabrutinib	Arm B: acalabrutinib + obinutuzumab	Arm C: obinutuzumab + chlorambucil
Median follow up, months	28		
Median PFS, months	NR	NR	22.6
HR (95% CI); p value vs Arm C	0.20 (0.13-0.31); p<0.0001	0.10 (0.06-0.18); p<0.0001	
Estimated 30-month PFS, %	82	90	34
Estimated 30-month OS, %	94	95	90
ORR, % (95% CI)	85	94 (89.3-96.5)	79 (71.9-83.9)
p value vs Arm C		p<0.0001	
CR, %	0.6	13	5



# ELEVATE TN

## INTERIM SAFETY RESULTS

- AEs were **similar between the acalabrutinib-containing arms**

- **AEs of interest**

(acalabrutinib-containing arms vs obinutuzumab + chlorambucil)

- Any grade atrial fibrillation: 3-4% vs 1%
- Bleeding
  - Any grade: 39-43% vs 12%
  - Grade  $\geq 3$ : 2% vs 0%
- Grade  $\geq 3$  hypertension: 2-3% vs 3%

**AEs (any grade in  $\geq 30\%$  or grade  $\geq 3$  in  $\geq 5\%$  of patients in any arm)**

	Acalabrutinib + Obinutuzumab (n=178)		Acalabrutinib (n=179)		Obinutuzumab + Chlorambucil (n=169)	
	Any Grade	Grade $\geq 3$	Any Grade	Grade $\geq 3$	Any Grade	Grade $\geq 3$
Any, n (%)	171 (96)	125 (70)	170 (95)	89 (50)	167 (99)	118 (70)
Serious, n (%)	69 (39)	58 (33)	57 (32)	53 (30)	37 (22)	33 (20)
Common AEs, n (%)						
Headache	71 (40)	2 (1)	66 (37)	2 (1)	20 (12)	0
Diarrhea	69 (39)	8 (4)	62 (35)	1 (1)	36 (21)	3 (2)
Neutropenia	56 (31)	53 (30)	19 (11)	17 (9)	76 (45)	70 (41)
Nausea	36 (20)	0	40 (22)	0	53 (31)	0
Infusion-related reaction	24 (13)	4 (2)	0	0	67 (40)	9 (5)
Thrombocytopenia	23 (13)	15 (8)	13 (7)	5 (3)	24 (14)	20 (12)
Anemia	21 (12)	10 (6)	25 (14)	12 (7)	20 (12)	12 (7)
Pneumonia	19 (11)	10 (6)	13 (7)	4 (2)	5 (3)	3 (2)
Tumor lysis syndrome <sup>a</sup>	3 (2)	2 (1)	0	0	15 (9)	13 (8)
Febrile neutropenia	3 (2)	3 (2)	2 (1)	2 (1)	9 (5)	9 (5)

<sup>a</sup> By clinical assessment

AE, adverse event

Sharman JP, et al. ASH 2019 Abstract #31

# ELEVATE TN DISCUSSION

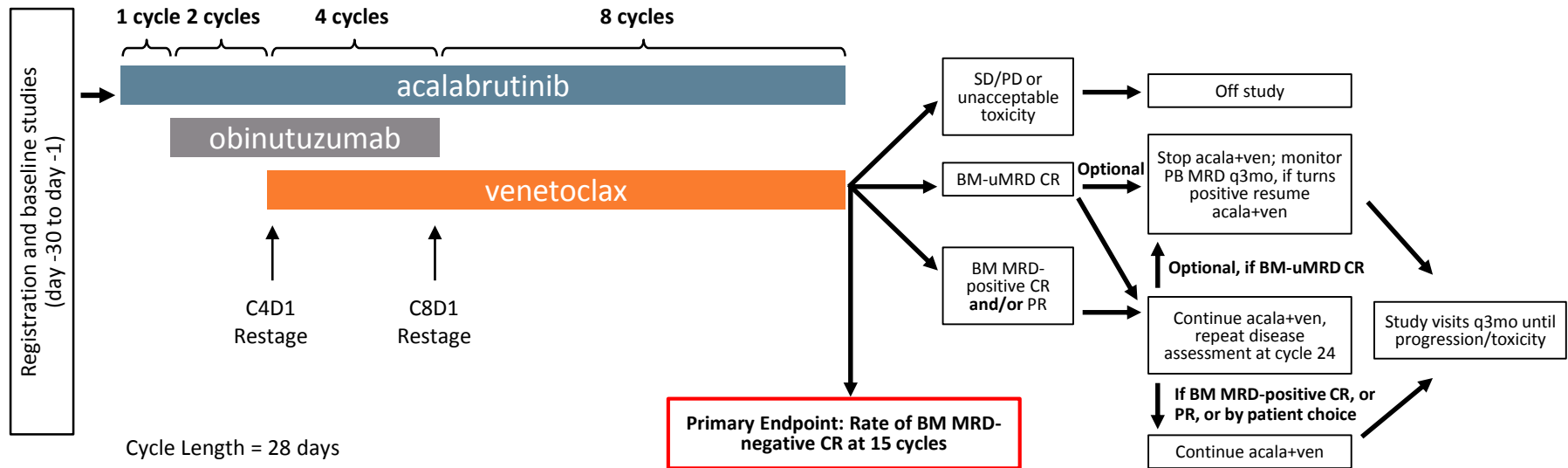
- Acalabrutinib + obinutuzumab and acalabrutinib monotherapy **significantly improved PFS** vs obinutuzumab + chlorambucil, with **tolerable safety** in patients with treatment-naive CLL
- Despite cross over for disease progression in the obinutuzumab + chlorambucil arm, a **trend toward improved OS** was observed in both acalabrutinib arms, though **longer follow-up is needed**

**PRELIMINARY SAFETY AND EFFICACY  
RESULTS FROM A PHASE 2 STUDY OF  
ACALABRUTINIB, VENETOCLAX AND  
OBINUTUZUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH  
PREVIOUSLY UNTREATED CLL**

**Lampson BL, et al. ASH 2019 Abstract #32**

# STUDY DESIGN

- Ongoing **open-label, single arm, phase 2** investigator-initiated study
- Hypothesis: a time-limited triplet combination of **acalabrutinib, venetoclax and obinutuzumab (AVO)** could achieve a high rate of BM-uMRD with good tolerability in previously untreated patients with CLL, without restriction by prognostic marker status
  - Requiring treatment by iwCLL criteria, ECOG PS  $\leq 2$ , creatinine clearance  $\geq 50$  ml/min, absolute neutrophil count  $\geq 500$  /mm<sup>3</sup>, platelets  $\geq 30,000$  /mm<sup>3</sup>



# INTERIM RESULTS

## EFFICACY

Enrolment is completed (N=37)

Efficacy in patients who completed cycle 8 restaging, n (%)	n=24
ORR	24 (100)
CR	5 (25)
PR	18 (75)
uMRD	
PB-uMRD	65%
BM-uMRD	12 (50)
BM-uMRD CR	3 (13)
ORR in TP53-aberrant patients	n=8
CR	2 (25)
PR	6 (75)
BM-uMRD	3 (38)

## SAFETY

Safety (N=37), %	Total	Grade 1/2	Grade ≥3
Most frequent AEs			
Fatigue	81	78	3
Headache	76	73	3
Bruising	43	43	0
Most frequent grade 3/4 AEs			
Neutropenia	68	36	32
AEs of special interest			
Infusion-related reactions	22	19	3
Laboratory TLS	5	0	5
Atrial fibrillation	3	0	3
Haemorrhage	0	0	0
Febrile neutropenia	0	0	0

# DISCUSSION

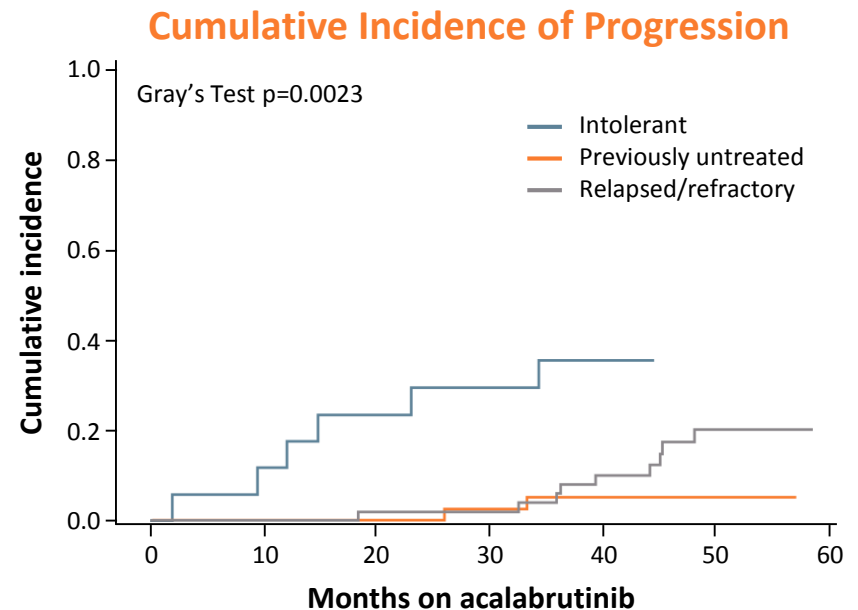
- Preliminary data suggest that even at an early response evaluation after 8 cycles of therapy (including only 4 months of venetoclax), **first-line AVO leads to a high proportion of BM-uMRD and CR**, including patients with TP53-aberrant disease
- The **AE profile is favourable**, with a low rate of infusion reactions and no significant cardiac or bleeding toxicities
- AVO will be studied head-to-head against chemoimmunotherapy and the venetoclax and obinutuzumab doublet in the **phase 3 CL-311 trial** (NCT03836261), which is currently enrolling

# RESISTANCE TO ACALABRUTINIB IN CLL IS MEDIATED PRIMARILY BY *BTK* MUTATIONS

Woyach J, et al. ASH 2019 Abstract #504

# CLL RELAPSE ON ACALABRUTINIB IS MEDIATED BY MUTATIONS IN BTK

- Deep sequencing in a phase 1b/2 study showed CLL relapse on acalabrutinib is mediated predominantly by **mutations in BTK similar to ibrutinib**
  - While not unexpected, this is significant as resistant patterns could be different given the more selective nature of acalabrutinib as well as potentially higher BTK occupancy over time due to twice daily dosing
- Monitoring for BTK resistance offers the opportunity to intervene clinically before symptomatic disease





# DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

# CLINICAL INTERPRETATION

## FIRST-LINE ACALABRUTINIB IN CLL

- The first-line acalabrutinib data in CLL follow the ASCEND data, which established efficacy of acalabrutinib in patients with R/R CLL.<sup>1-4</sup>
  - **Acalabrutinib** therefore becomes an **additional therapeutic option for patients with CLL in both settings**
- The PFS benefit of added obinutuzumab is provocative but will require confirmation with longer follow-up
- Acalabrutinib **safety data is encouraging**, with low frequency of hypertension and atrial fibrillation, and will inform the BTK inhibitor choice
- Similar to ibrutinib, **resistance** to acalabrutinib in CLL is explained by mutations in BTK, thus allowing monitoring to predict clinical relapses<sup>3</sup>
- Acalabrutinib-based triplet **combinations** are highly efficacious<sup>2</sup>
  - Ongoing large studies will clarify their future role

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1. Sharman JP, et al. ASH 2019 Abstract #31. 2. Lampon BL, et al. ASH 2019 Abstract #32. 3. Woyach J, et al. ASH 2019 Abstract #504. 4. Ghia P, et al. EHA 2019 Abstract #LB2606

BTK, Bruton tyrosine kinase; CLL, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia; PFS, progression-free survival; R/R, relapsed/refractory



**R/R SETTING  
VENETOCLAX-RITUXIMAB**

**FOUR-YEAR ANALYSIS OF MURANO  
STUDY CONFIRMS SUSTAINED  
BENEFIT OF TIME-LIMITED VenR IN  
R/R CLL**

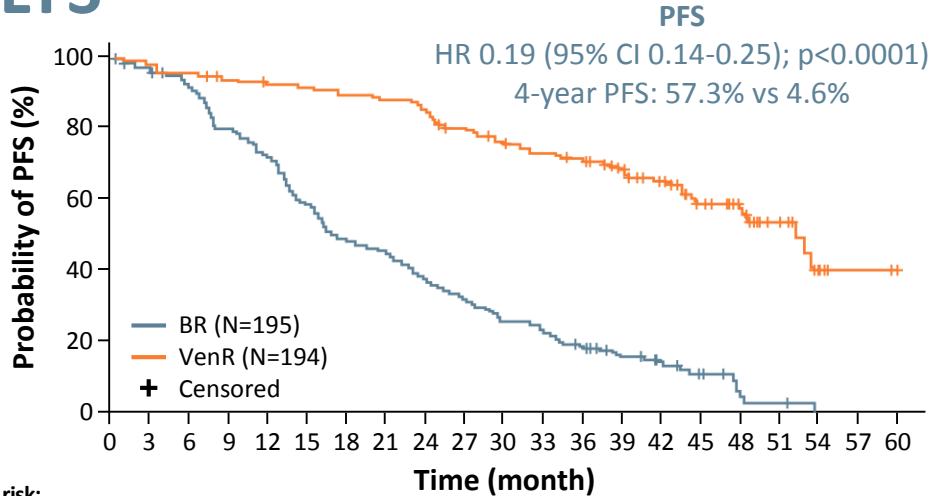
**Seymour JF, et al. ASH 2019 Abstract #355**

# MURANO

## BACKGROUND AND STUDY DESIGN

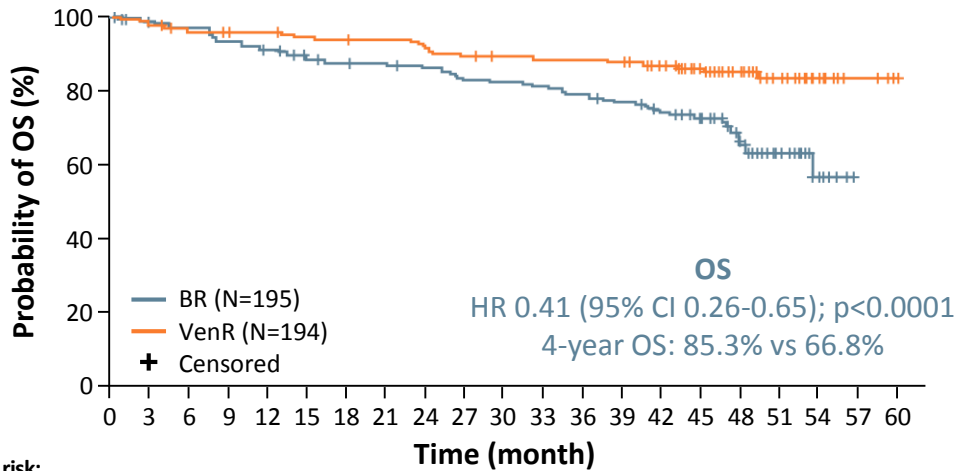
- MURANO is a **randomised phase 3 study** comparing fixed-duration venetoclax + rituximab (VenR) vs standard bendamustine + rituximab (BR) in R/R CLL<sup>1</sup>
  - Patients were randomised to:
    - 6 cycles of VenR followed by venetoclax 400 mg once daily for 2 years  
OR
    - 6 cycles of BR
- In MURANO, VenR has previously shown **superior PFS** versus BR<sup>2</sup>
  - Continued PFS benefit was seen with longer follow-up and after all patients had completed therapy<sup>3</sup>
  - At **ASH 2019**, data at a **median follow-up of 48 months** were presented, when all patients had been off venetoclax treatment for a median of 22 months<sup>1</sup>

# MURANO RESULTS



No. of patients at risk:

BR	195	178	165	143	129	104	85	80	66	56	45	40	32	23	14	9	3	2		
VenR	194	190	185	179	176	174	170	167	161	150	141	134	130	118	101	55	40	14	7	2



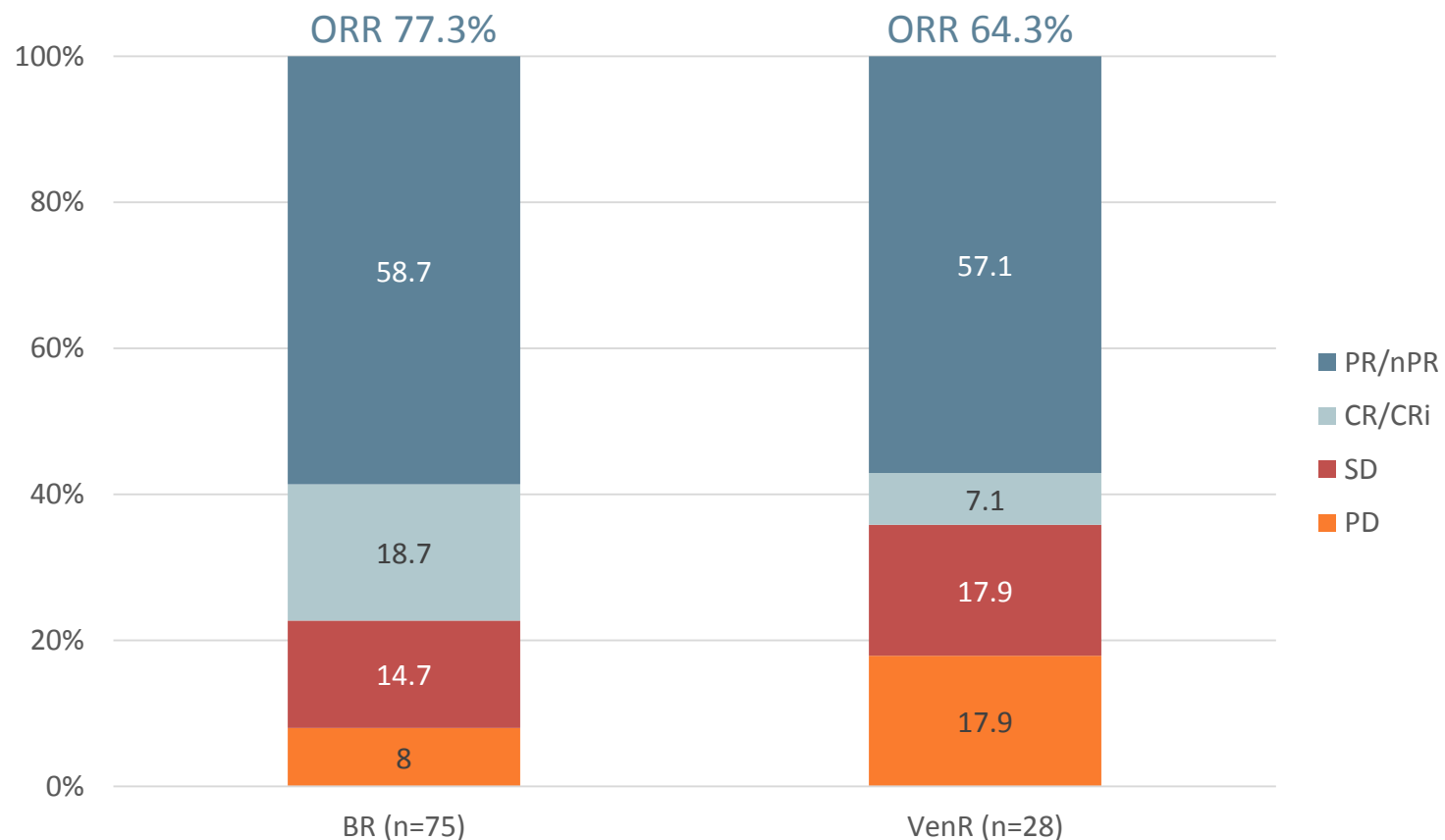
No. of patients at risk:

BR	195	181	175	167	162	155	152	150	147	141	140	138	134	130	116	94	58	29	7		
VenR	194	190	185	183	182	179	178	176	173	168	166	165	164	163	154	110	84	34	15	6	1

**Sustained PFS and OS benefit with VenR over BR**

Despite 73% of BR patients receiving treatment after progression, including novel targeted agents (79%)

## Best response in patients who received novel therapy after progression



# MURANO

## DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

- Four-year data from MURANO demonstrate **sustained PFS and OS benefits** with VenR versus BR
  - 24-month post-treatment cessation PFS was 68% in patients completing 2 years of venetoclax
  - Patients who attained PB-uMRD showed particularly durable responses
- These data provide further support for the application of **time-limited VenR in R/R CLL**

- **Given the OS benefit associated with use of VenR, use of chemoimmunotherapy should be limited and well justified in patients with R/R CLL**
- **It is of paramount importance to now study the outcomes of retreatment with VenR**



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