

# Follicular Lymphoma: Novel Advances and Pathways

**Nakhle Saba, MD**

*Associate Professor of Medicine*

*Tulane University*

Annual New Orleans Summer Cancer Meeting

June 26, 2022

# Agenda

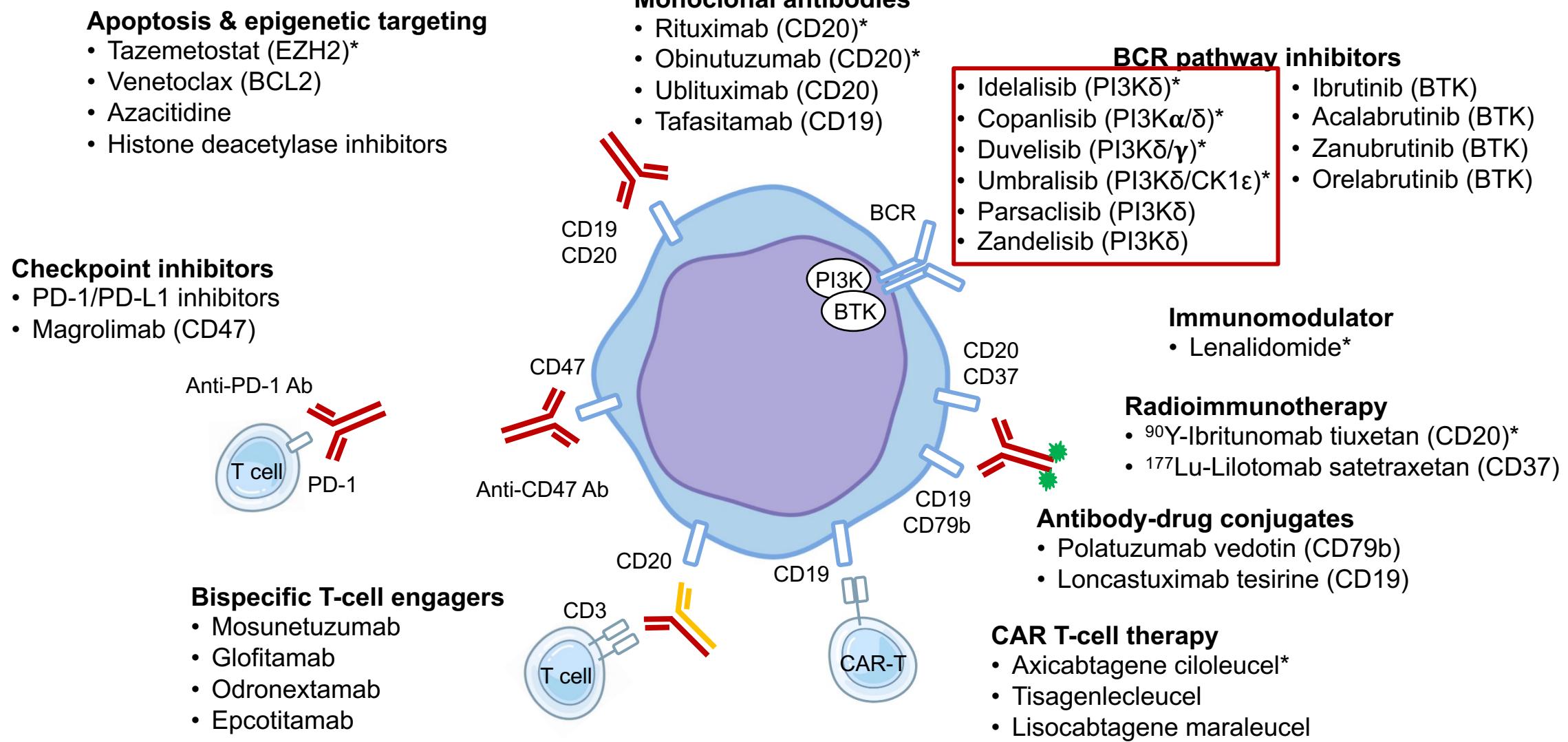
- Overview of frontline options in advanced FL
- Approved and investigational agents in FL
- Overview of FDA-approved options in R/R FL
  - PI3Ki
  - EZH2i
  - CAR-T
- Investigational agents and landscape of future therapies
  - BiTE
  - ADC
  - PD-L1 blockade
  - BCL2i
  - BTKi
- Summary

# What we've learned from frontline trials

CIT			R <sup>2</sup> as a chemo-free option	R maintenance improves PFS but not OS
StiL <sup>1</sup> Phase 3 BR vs R-CHOP	BRIGHT <sup>2</sup> Phase 3 BR vs R-CHOP/R-CVP	GALLIUM <sup>3</sup> Phase 3 G- vs R-chemo	RELEVANCE <sup>4</sup> Phase 3 R <sup>2</sup> (lenalidomide + R) vs R-chemo	PRIMA <sup>5,6</sup> : Phase 3 Rituximab maintenance FOLL12 <sup>7</sup> : Phase 3 Rituximab maintenance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ BR is safer and superior to R-CHOP (PFS and CR)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ BR is safer and superior to R-CHOP (Trend PFS, ORR)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Superior PFS with G- vs R-chemo, but no difference in OS</li><li>▪ More grade 3-5 AEs with G (75% vs 68%)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Efficacy: R<sup>2</sup> is equivalent to CIT</li><li>▪ Safety: Less hematologic toxicity with R<sup>2</sup>, but more grade 3/4 cutaneous toxicity (7% vs 1%)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Superior PFS (and TTNT), but not OS, with R maintenance</li><li>▪ Post R-CHOP or post BR</li></ul>

1. Rummel MJ, et al. *Lancet*. 2013; 2. Flinn IW, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2019; 3. Marcus R, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2017; 4. Morschhauser F, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2018; 5. Salles G, et al. *Lancet*. 2011; 6. Bachy E, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2019. 7. Luminari S, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2021.

# Targeted therapeutic agents in FL



\*FDA-approved agents. Ab, antibody; BCR, B-cell receptor; BTK, Burton's tyrosine kinase; FL, follicular lymphoma.

# PI3K Inhibitors: A dramatic safety drift

FL Subset Data	Idelalisib <sup>1,2</sup>	Duvelisib <sup>3</sup>	Copanlisib <sup>4-6</sup>	Umbralisib <sup>7</sup>
Isoform Target	PI3Kδ	PI3Kδ and γ	PI3Kα and δ	PI3Kδ and CK1ε
Route of Admin	PO	PO	IV	PO
Evaluation Trial (patients)	DEBCL: Phase 2, refractory to R and alkylating agents (72)	DYNSG: Phase 2, refractory to R and chemotherapy or radioimmunotherapy (83)	CHRONOS-1: Phase 2, refractory to R and alkylating agents (104) CHRONOS-3: phase 3 C+R vs. C+P, relapsed after R or CIT	UNL: NHL: Phase 2, refractory to prior lines of therapy (208)
Approval (year)	≥2 prior therapies (2014)	≥2 prior therapies (2018)	≥2 prior therapies (2017)	≥3 prior therapies (2021)
ORR, (%)			59	
CR, %			20	
Median PFS			11 mo	10 mo
Grade ≥3 AEs	Diarrhea (6%) Elevated ALT/AST (8-10%), Colitis (4%) Pneumonitis (1%)	Diarrhea (7%) Elevated ALT/AST (3-5%), Colitis (5%) Pneumonitis (1%)	Diarrhea (8.5%) Elevated ALT/AST (<1%) Colitis (<1%) Pneumonitis (1.4%) Hyperglycemia (40-56%)	Diarrhea (10%) Elevated ALT/AST (7%), Colitis (6%) Pneumonitis (1%)

Head-to-head studies between these regimen are lacking. Therefore, direct comparisons cannot be made.

1. Gopal AK, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2014; 2. Salles et al. *Haematologica* 2017; 3. Flinn I, et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2019; 4. Dreyling M, et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2017; 5. Dreyling M, et al. *Am J Hematol.* 2020; 6. Matasar et al. *The Lancet* 2021; 7. Fowler et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2021.

# PI3Ki: Shift in FDA's position from phase 2 data

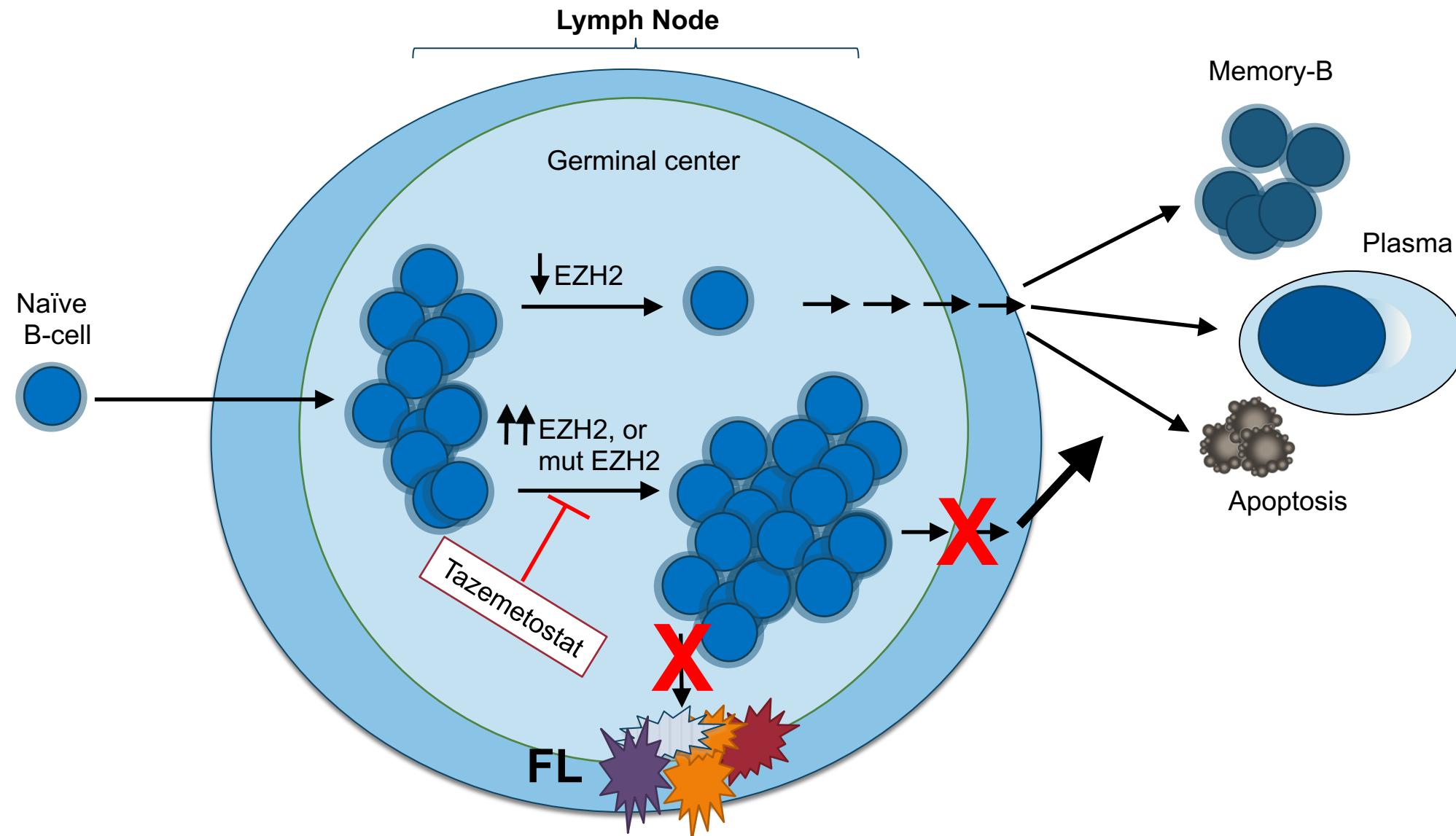
FL Subset Data	Copanlisib <sup>1-3</sup>	Zanfelisib <sup>4</sup>
Isoform Target	PI3K $\alpha$ and $\delta$	PI3K $\delta$
Route of Admin	IV	PO
Evaluation Trial (patients)	CHRONOS-1: Phase 2, refractory to R and alkylating agents (104)  CHRONOS-3: phase 3 C+R vs. C+P, relapsed after R or CIT	TIDAL: Phase 2, R/R to $\geq$ 2 prior lines of therapy (121)
Approval (year)	$\geq$ 2 prior therapies (2017)	Not approved
ORR, (%)	59	70
CR, %	20	35
Median PFS	11 mo	N/A
Grade $\geq$ 3 AEs	Diarrhea (8.5%)  Elevated ALT/AST (<1%)  Colitis (<1%)  Pneumonitis (1.4%)  Hyperglycemia (40-56%)	Diarrhea (5%)  Elevated ALT/AST (1.6%),  Colitis (1.7%)  Rash (3.3%)  Stomatitis (2.5%)

The randomized, phase 3 COASTAL study (NCT04745832) is ongoing: Zanfelisib + R vs CIT in patients with iNHL in first relapse.

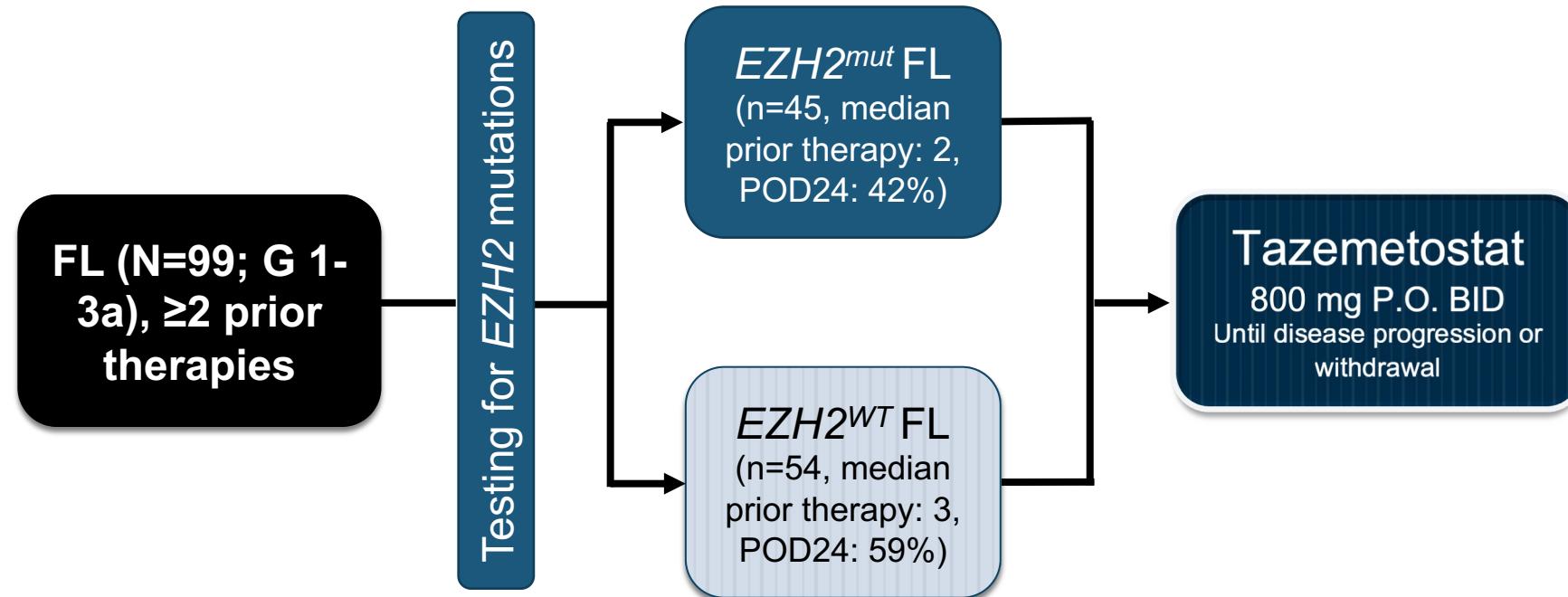
*Head-to-head studies between these regimen are lacking. Therefore, direct comparisons cannot be made.*

1. Dreyling M, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2017; 2. Dreyling M, et al. Am J Hematol. 2020; 3. Matasar et al. The Lancet 2021; 4. Zelenetz A, et al. ASCO 2022, A#7511.

# Role for EZH2 in FL Pathology



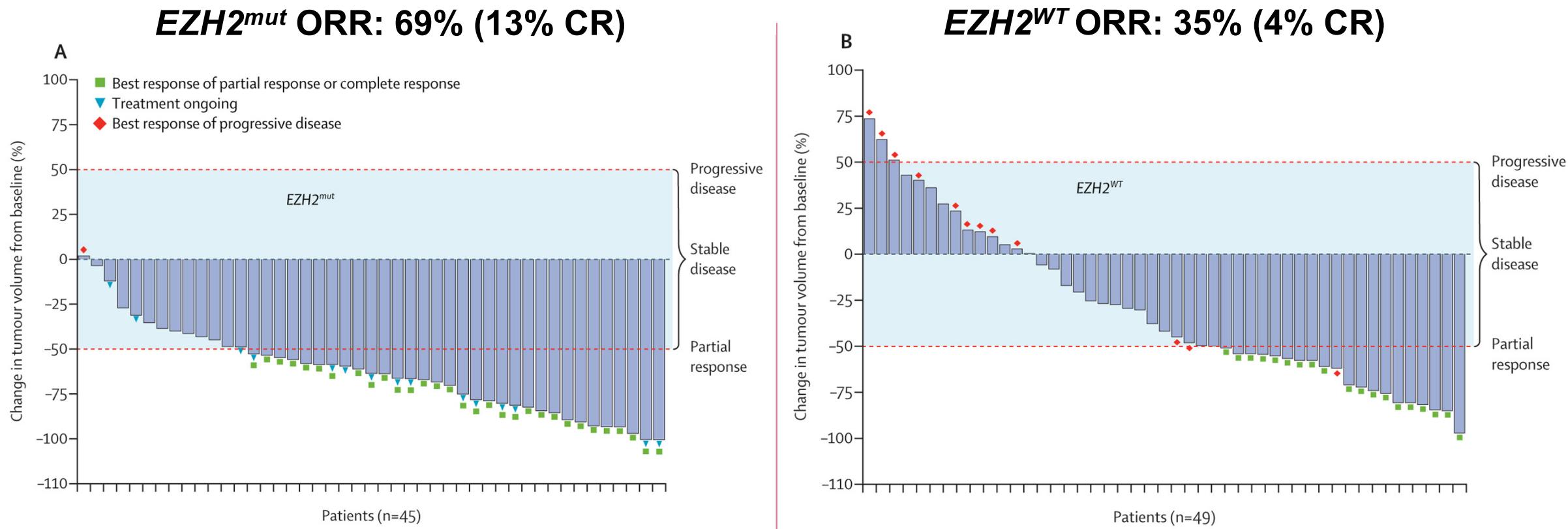
# Phase 2, Open-Label, Multicenter Study of Tazemetostat in R/R FL



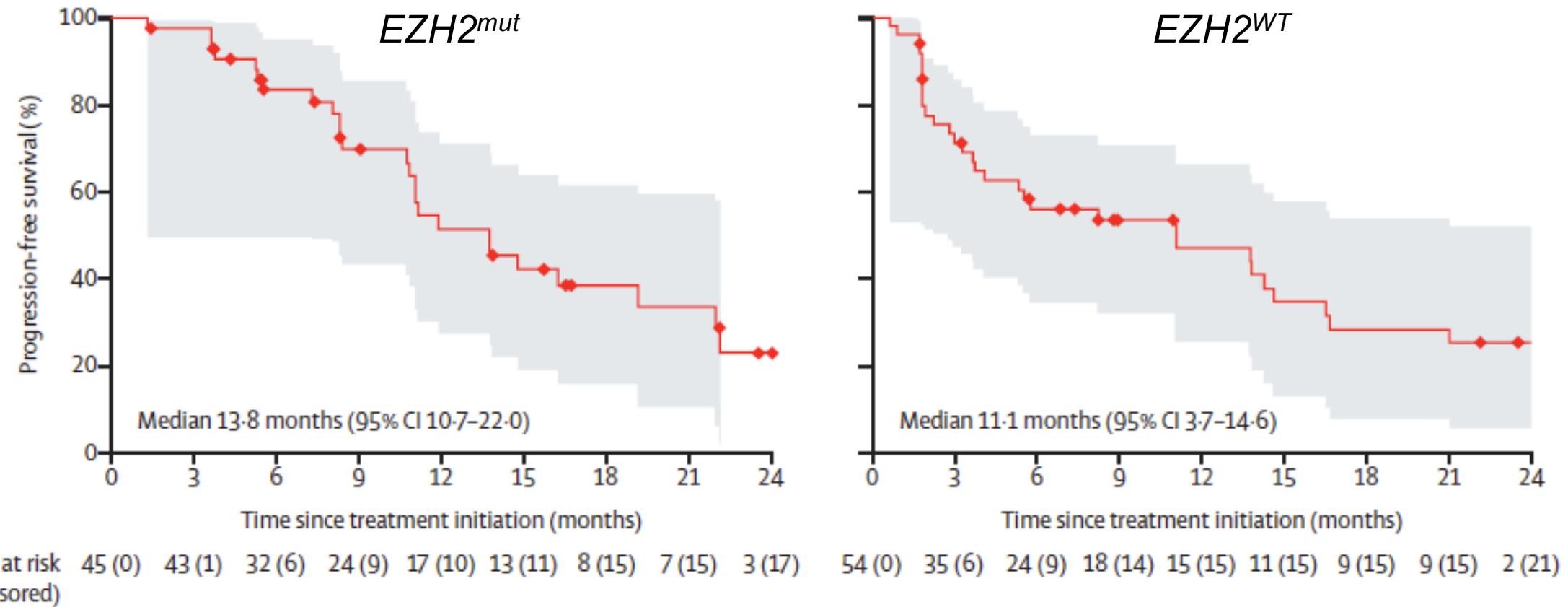
**Primary endpoint:** ORR

**Secondary endpoints include:** DOR, PFS, safety, tolerability

# Tazemetostat is more efficacious in $EZH2^{mut}$ compared to $EZH2^{WT}$



# Tazemetostat is more efficacious in $EZH2^{mut}$ compared to $EZH2^{WT}$



# Tazemetostat is safe and well tolerated

TEAEs, n (%)	Treatment-Related TEAE (N=99)	
	All Grades	Grade $\geq 3$
Nausea	19 (19)	0 (0)
Asthenia	14 (14)	1 (1)
Diarrhea	12 (12)	0 (0)
Fatigue	12 (12)	1 (1)
Alopecia	14 (14)	0 (0)
Cough	2 (2)	0 (0)
URTI	1 (1)	0 (0)
Bronchitis	3 (3)	0 (0)
Anemia	9 (9)	2 (2)
Abdominal pain	2 (2)	0 (0)
Headache	5 (5)	0 (0)
Vomiting	6 (6)	0 (0)
Back pain	0 (0)	0 (0)
Pyrexia	2 (2)	0 (0)
Thrombocytopenia	8 (8)	3 (3)

- Discontinuation rate due to TEAE: 8%
- Dose reduction due to TEAE: 9%
- Dose interruption due to TEAE: 27%
- No treatment related deaths

## Approved by FDA for R/R FL:

- *EZH2* mutation-positive, relapsed/refractory FL and  $\geq 2$  prior therapies
- Relapsed/refractory FL with no satisfactory alternative treatment options

# Phase 1b/3 study of Tazemetostat + R<sup>2</sup> in R/R FL

## Patients

- 43 patients enrolled, *EZH2<sup>mut</sup>*: 15%
- Median # prior therapies: 1
- Refractory to rituximab: 35%; POD24: 26%

## Efficacy (38 evaluable)

- ORR: 95% (CR: 50%)
- POD24 (ORR: 83%; CR: 55%)
- Median PFS: NR

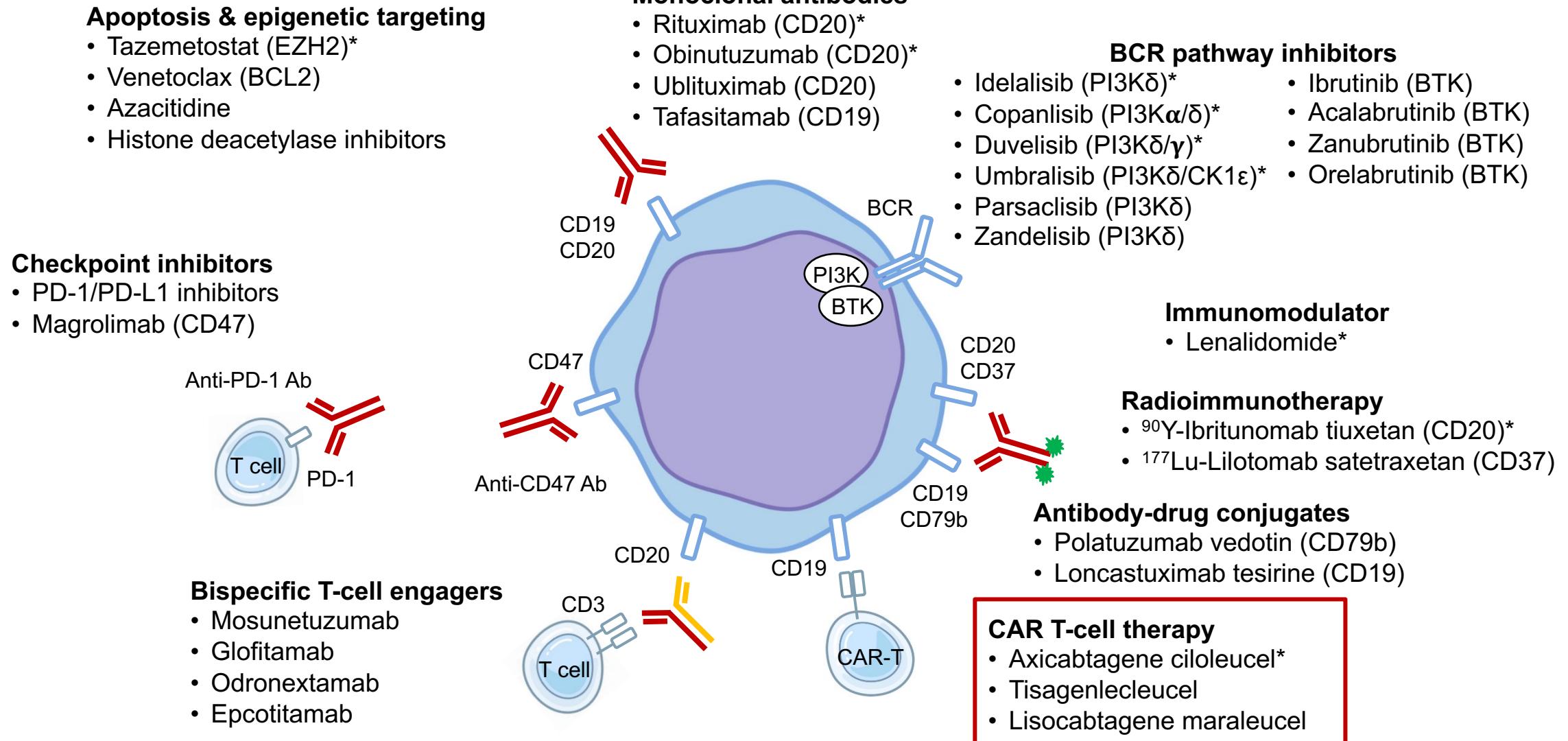
## SHR2554 Phase 1:

41 FL  
ORR 58.5%  
Song ASCO 2022; A#7525

## Toxicity

- G3-4 TEAE: neutropenia (30%)
- RP3D: TAZ 800 mg + R<sup>2</sup> in ≈500 patients with R/R FL

# Available and pipeline agents in FL



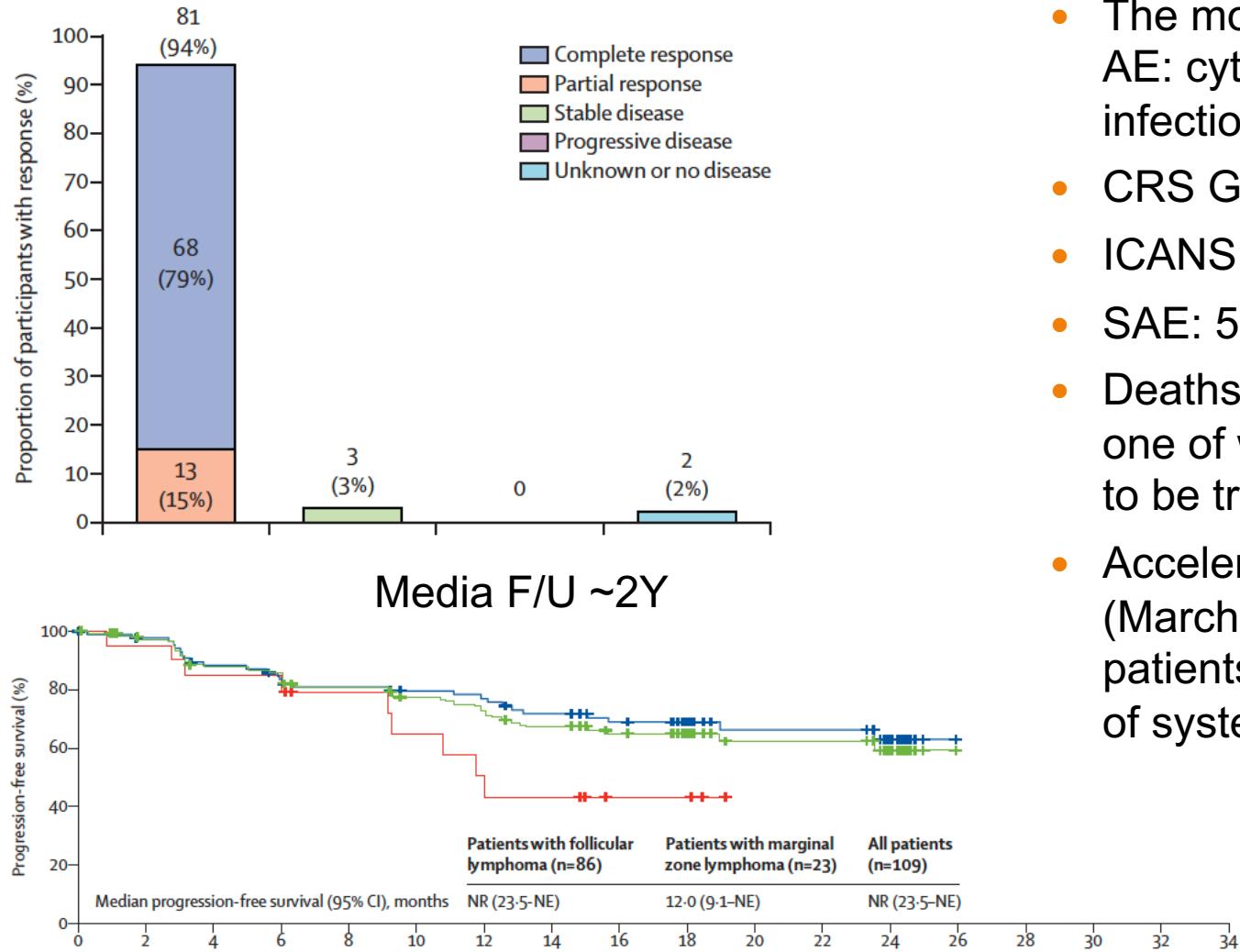
\*FDA-approved agents. Ab, antibody; BCR, B-cell receptor; BTK, Burton's tyrosine kinase; FL, follicular lymphoma.

# ZUMA-5: Axicabtagene Ciloleucel (Axi-Cel)

Single-arm, phase 2 study of axi-cel in patients with R/R iNHL (FL or MZL) after  $\geq 2$  lines of therapy

FL, N=124

Age, years	
Median	60 (53-67)
Previous lines of therapy	
Median†	3 (2-4)
$\geq 3$ previous lines of therapy	78 (63%)
Previous PI3K inhibitor	34 (27%)
Previous autologous stem-cell transplantation	30 (24%)
Previous anti-CD20 mAb and alkylating agent	123 (99%)
Previous anti-CD20 mAb single agent	39 (31%)
Previous alkylating single agent	16 (13%)
Previous lenalidomide	38 (31%)
Relapsed or refractory subgroup‡	
Refractory to last previous therapy	84 (68%)
POD24 from initiating first anti-CD20 mAb-containing therapy§	68 (55%)
Positive CD19 status¶	93/103 (90%)



- The most common G $\geq 3$  AE: cytopenias (70%) and infections (18%)
- CRS G $\geq 3$ : 7%
- ICANS G $\geq 3$ : 19%
- SAE: 50%
- Deaths due to AE: 3%, one of which was deemed to be treatment-related
- Accelerated FDA approval (March 5, 2021) for patients after  $\geq 2$  prior lines of systemic therapy

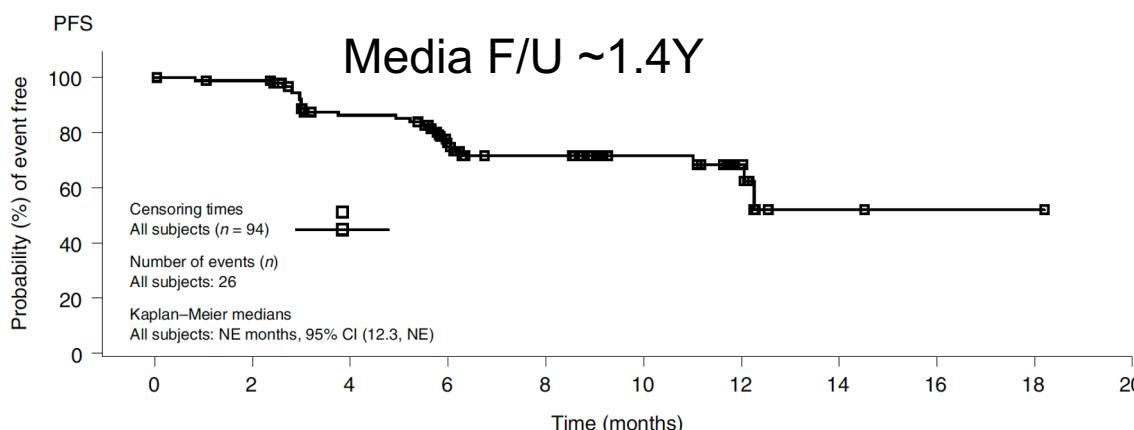
# ELARA: Tisagenlecleucel (Tisa-Cel)

Single-arm, phase 2 study of Tisa-cel in patients with R/R FL after  $\geq 2$  lines of therapy

## FL, N=97

Median age (IQR), years	57.0 (49-64)
$\geq 65$ Years, n (%)	24 (24.7)
Median no. of previous therapies (range)	4 (2-13)
>4 lines of therapy, n (%)	27 (27.8)
POD24 from first anti-CD20 mAb-containing therapy, n (%)	61 (62.9)
Previous therapy to which the disease was refractory, <sup>a</sup> n (%)	
Anti-CD20 mAb	84 (86.6)
Alkylating agents	69 (71.1)
Anti-CD20 mAb + alkylating agent combination (same regimen)	61 (62.9)
Anthracyclines	43 (44.3)
Lenalidomide	18 (18.6)
Lenalidomide + anti-CD20 mAb (same regimen)	18 (18.6)
PI3K inhibitors	14 (14.4)
Refractory disease to last line of therapy, n (%)	76 (78.4)
Best response SD/PD	54 (55.7)
Relapse within 6 months	22 (22.7)
Previous autologous HSCT, n (%)	35 (36.1)
Relapsed $\leq 12$ months after HSCT, n (%)	15 (15.5)
Refractory <sup>a</sup> to at least two regimens, n (%)	69 (71.1)
Double refractory, <sup>b</sup> n (%)	66 (68.0)

	Local assessment	IRC assessment
Best overall response, n (%)		
CR	68 (72.3); 95% CI, 62.2-81.1	65 (69.1); 95% CI, 58.5-78.3
PR	17 (18.1)	16 (17.0)
SD	3 (3.2)	3 (3.2)
PD	6 (6.4)	9 (9.6)
UNK		1 (1.1)
Overall response rate, n (%)	85 (90.4); 95% CI, 82.6-95.5	81 (86.2); 95% CI, 77.5-92.4



- The most common G $\geq 3$  AE: cytopenias (69%) and infections (5%)
- CRS G $\geq 3$ : 0%
- ICANS G $\geq 3$ : 1%
- SAE: 29%
- Deaths due to AE: 0%

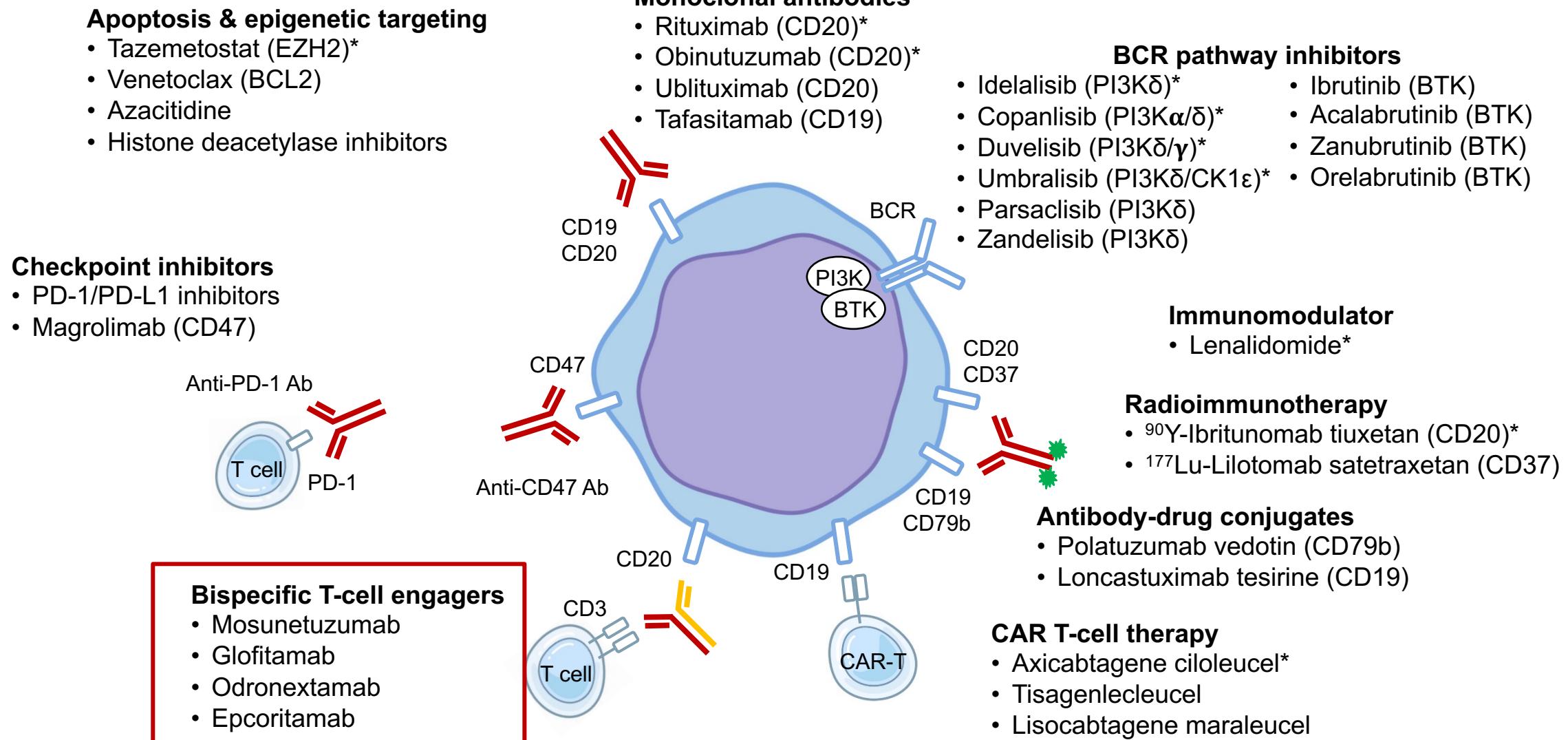
# Challenges associated with CAR-T

- Cost
- Manufacturing failure
- Time to infusion, need for bridge therapy
- CRS
- ICANS

Alternative: BiTE?

Mosunetuzumab, Glofitamab, Epcoritamab, Odronextamab

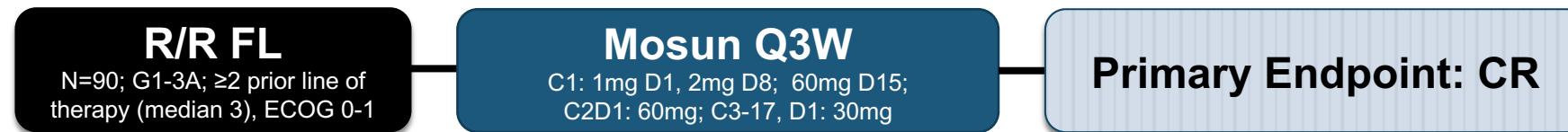
# Available and pipeline agents in FL



\*FDA-approved agents. Ab, antibody; BCR, B-cell receptor; BTK, Burton's tyrosine kinase; FL, follicular lymphoma.

# Mosunetuzumab Monotherapy in R/R

## Pivotal Results from a Phase I/II Study



### Patients

- 68% refractory to prior therapy
- 78% refractory to anti-CD20
- POD24: 52%

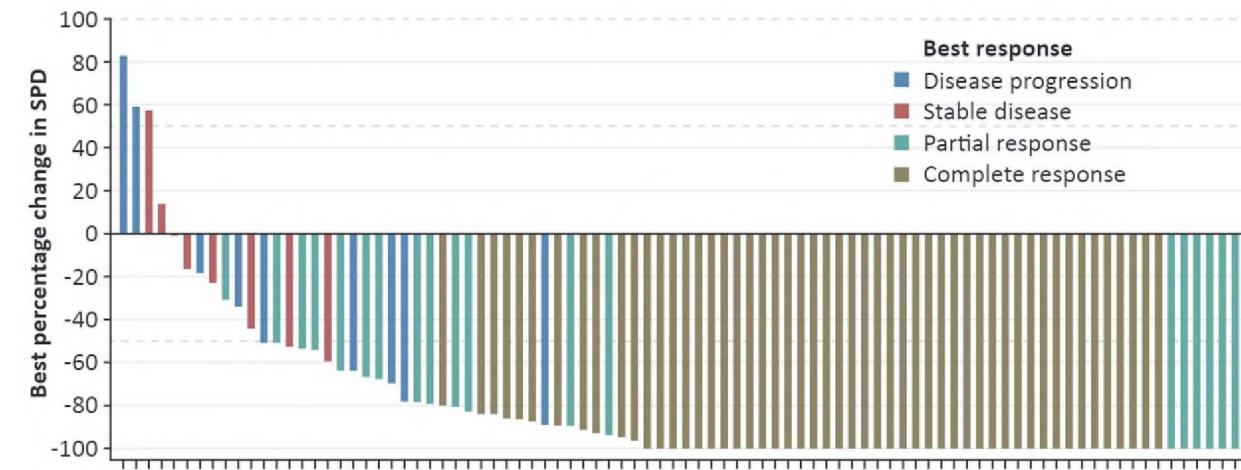
### Efficacy

- ORR: 79% (CR: 58%)
- POD24 (ORR: 83%; CR: 55%)
- Median time to response 1.4 mo
- Median PFS: 18 mo

### Toxicity

- CRS: 42% (G3-4: 2%)
- Most common G3-4: Neutropenia (22%), Hypophos (13%)
- AE leading to discontinuation: 4%

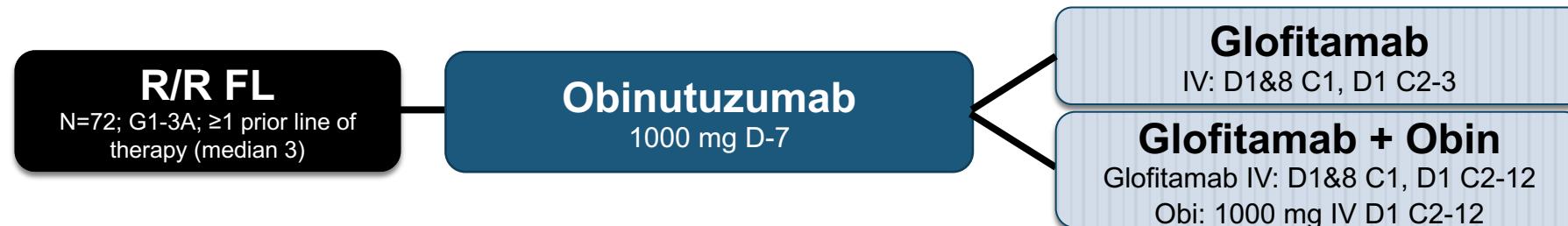
**Figure.** Waterfall plot of best percentage change in SPD as assessed by PET/CT and independent review facility in all 3L+ R/R FL pts



Mosun + Len: Phase 1b, N=27  
No G3-4 CRS  
ORR 92%, CR 77%

# Glofitamab + Obinutuzumab in R/R FL

## Pivotal Results from a Phase I/II Study



### **Patients**

- ~50% refractory to prior therapy
- ~33% refractory to anti-CD20
- POD24: 62%

### **Efficacy**

- ORR: 81-100% (CR: 70-74%)

### **Toxicity**

- CRS: 66-79% (G3-4: 0%)
- No ICANS
- All grade neutropenia (26-58%), anemia (37%) and thrombocytopenia (32%)

# More BiTE in R/R B-NHL

## Epcoritamab

CD20×CD3 BiTE; phase 1/2

- Subcutaneous 28-day cycles
- 73 patients
- No MTD, RP2D: 48 mg
- CRS: 48% (G3-4: 0%)
- TRAE discontinuation: 0%
- R/R FL:
  - ORR: 90%
  - CR: 50%

Epcoritamab + R2 in R/R FL	Total (%)
30% ref; 40% POD24; #prior therapy 1	(%)
Falchi ASCO 2022, A#7524	N=30
<b>Evaluable pts</b>	27
<b>Overall response</b>	27 (100)
<b>Complete metabolic response (CMR)</b>	25 (93)
<b>Partial metabolic response</b>	2 (7)
<b>Stable disease</b>	0
<b>Progressive disease</b>	0

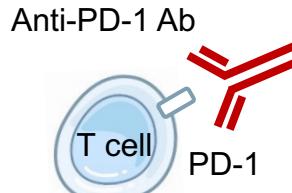
# Available and pipeline agents in FL

## Apoptosis & epigenetic targeting

- Tazemetostat (EZH2)\*
- Venetoclax (BCL2)
- Azacitidine
- Histone deacetylase inhibitors

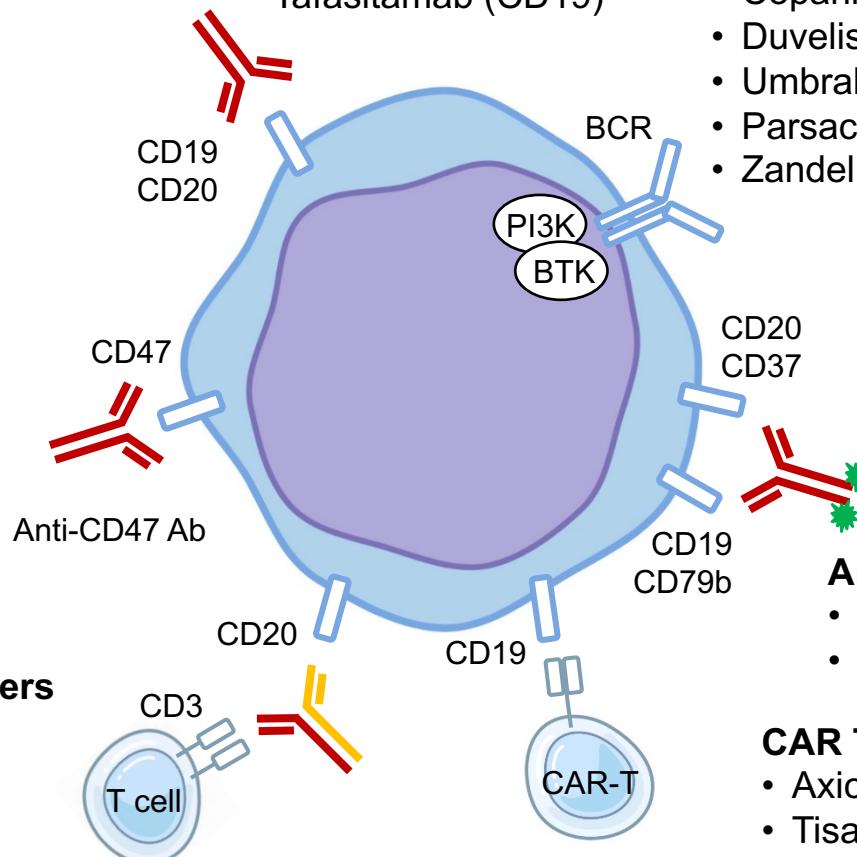
## Checkpoint inhibitors

- PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitors
- Magrolimab (CD47)



## Bispecific T-cell engagers

- Mosunetuzumab
- Gofitamab
- Odrionextamab
- Epcoritamab



## Monoclonal antibodies

- Rituximab (CD20)\*
- Obinutuzumab (CD20)\*
- Ublituximab (CD20)
- Tafasitamab (CD19)

## BCR pathway inhibitors

- Idelalisib (PI3K $\delta$ )\*
- Copanlisib (PI3K $\alpha/\delta$ )\*
- Duvelisib (PI3K $\delta/\gamma$ )\*
- Umbralisib (PI3K $\delta/CK1\epsilon$ )\*
- Parsaclisib (PI3K $\delta$ )
- Zanelisib (PI3K $\delta$ )

## Immunomodulator

- Lenalidomide\*

## Radioimmunotherapy

- <sup>90</sup>Y-Ibritunomab tiuxetan (CD20)\*
- <sup>177</sup>Lu-Lilotomab satetraxetan (CD37)

## Antibody-drug conjugates

- Polatuzumab vedotin (CD79b)
- Loncastuximab tesirine (CD19)

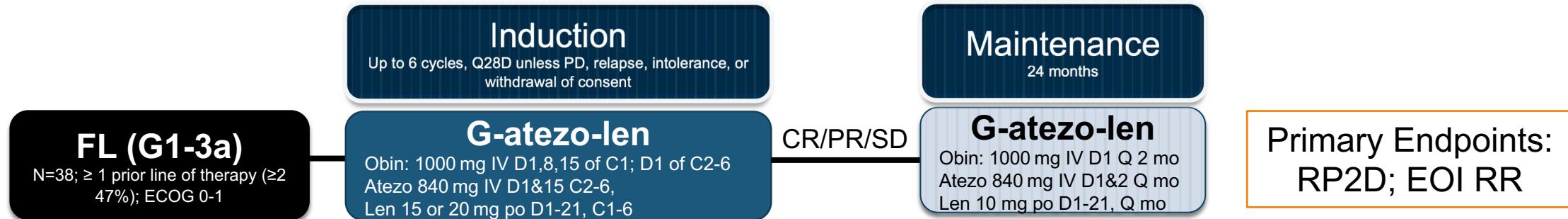
## CAR T-cell therapy

- Axicabtagene ciloleucel\*
- Tisagenlecleucel
- Lisocabtagene maraleucel

\*FDA-approved agents. Ab, antibody; BCR, B-cell receptor; BTK, Burton's tyrosine kinase; FL, follicular lymphoma.

# G-atezo-len in R/R FL

## An open-label, multicenter phase Ib/II study

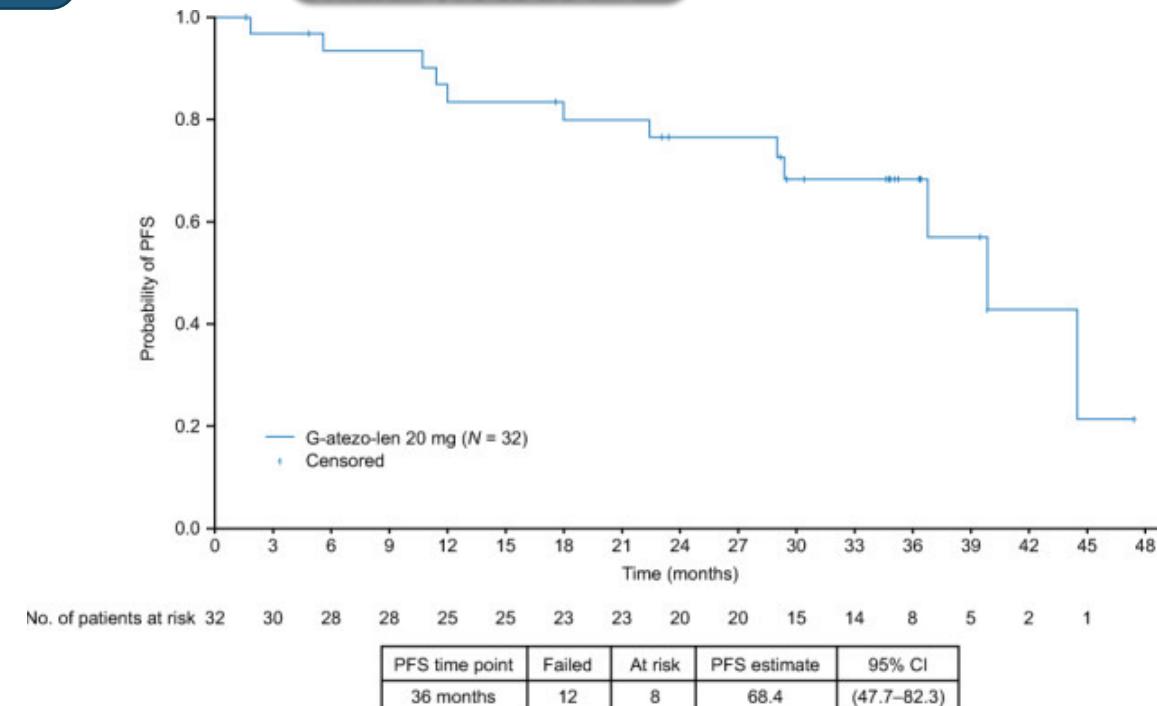


### Efficacy

- ORR: 78 % (25/38); CR: 72 % (23/38)
- 3Y PFS: 68%; 3Y OS: 90%
- EOI MRD-neg: 76% (21 evaluable)

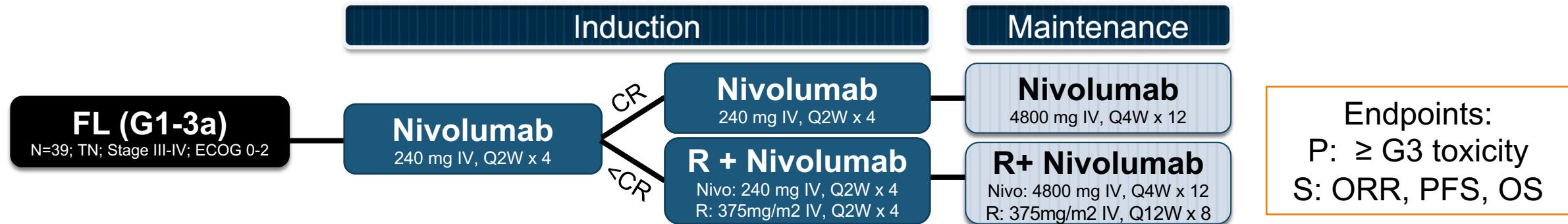
### Toxicity

- Most common G≥3 AE: Neutropenia (42%), thrombocytopenia (18%), ALT increase (5%)
- AI: Mostly G1-2, thyroid and liver (8-13%)



# 1<sup>st</sup> FLOR

## An open-label, multicenter phase II study



### Efficacy

- Median F/U: 17.5 mo
- ORR: 92% (CR: 54 %)
- 1Y PFS: 72%; 1Y OS: 96%
- EOI MRD-neg: 76% (21 evaluable)

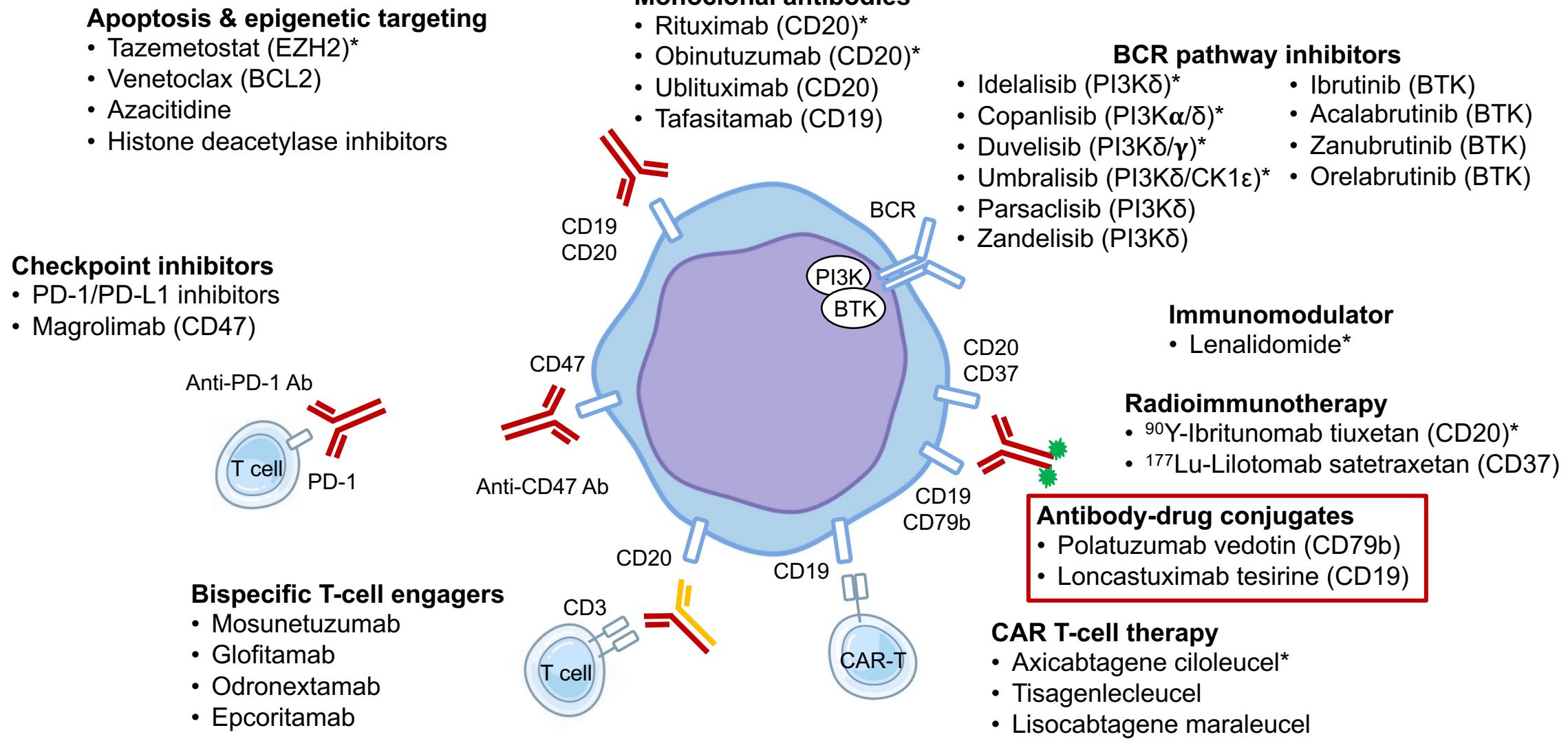
### Toxicity

- ≥ G3 toxicity at EOI: 41% (16 pts)
- AI: Mostly G1-2

Overall promising frontline, immune-priming, chemo-free option to be tested in a phase 3 trial

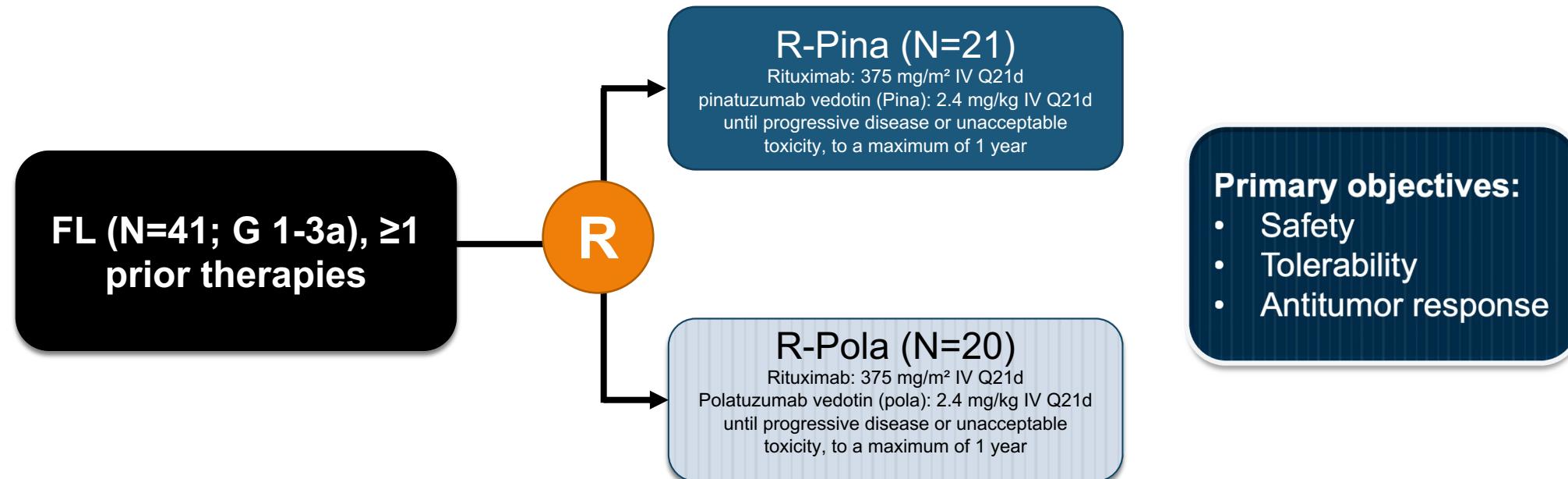
Endpoints:  
P: ≥ G3 toxicity  
S: ORR, PFS, OS

# Available and pipeline agents in FL



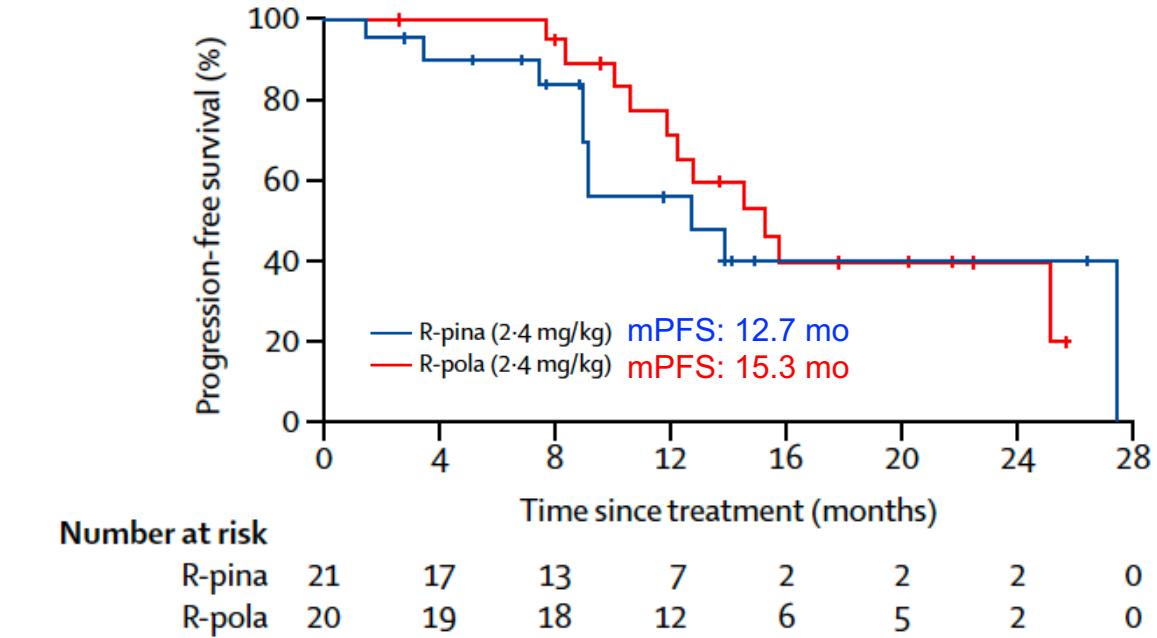
\*FDA-approved agents. Ab, antibody; BCR, B-cell receptor; BTK, Burton's tyrosine kinase; FL, follicular lymphoma.

# ROMULUS: Phase 2, Open-Label, Randomized, Multicenter Study of R-Pola vs. R-Pina in R/R FL

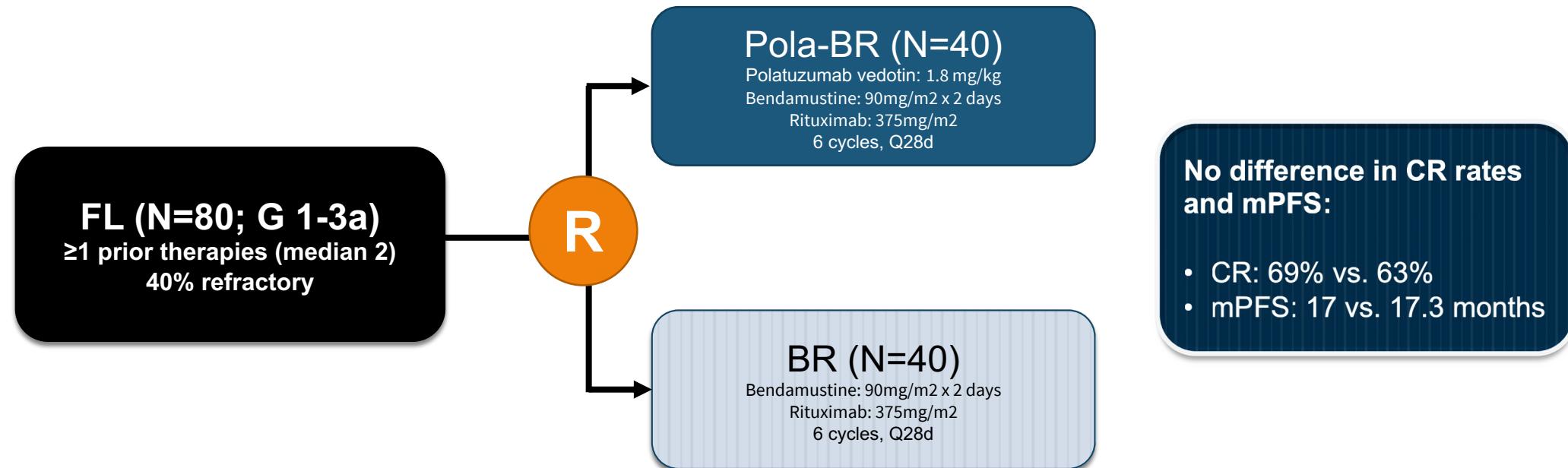


# ROMULUS: Phase 2, Safety & Efficacy

- R-Pina
  - PN: 31% (G3-4: 2%)
  - G3-4 AEs occurred in 13 (62%)
    - neutropenia (29%)
    - hyperglycemia (14%)
- R-Pola
  - PN: 36% (G3-4: 0%)
  - G3-5 AEs occurred in 10 (50%)
    - neutropenia (15%)
    - diarrhea (10%)
    - one grade 5 adverse event

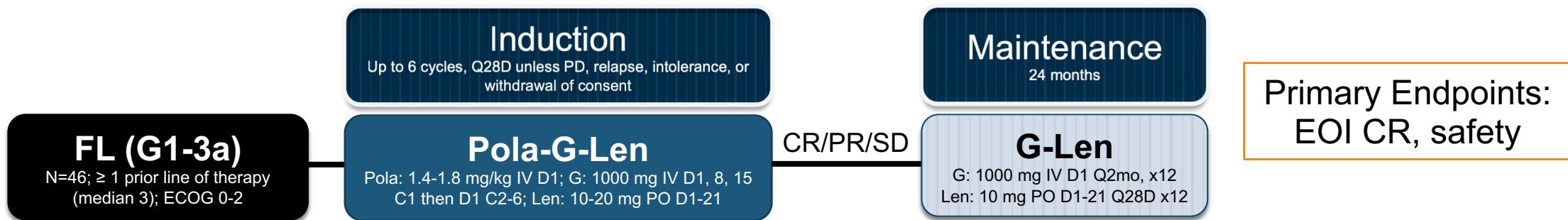


# Phase 1b/2: Randomized, Multicenter Study of Pola-BR vs. BR in R/R FL



# Pola-G-Len in R/R FL

A multicenter, single-arm Phase 1b/2 study

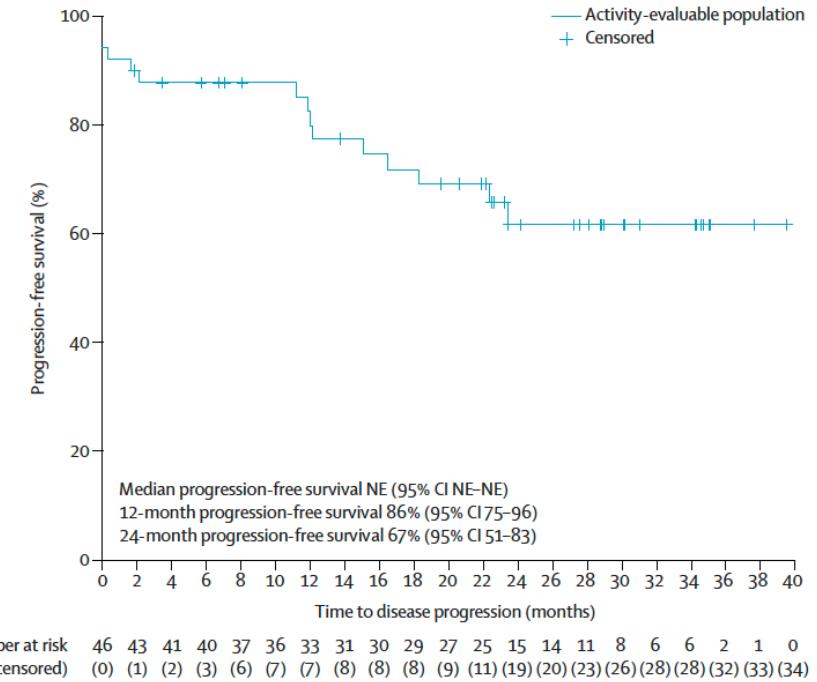


## Efficacy

- Median F/U: 26.7 mo
- Completed induction: 77%
- ORR: 76% (CR: 63%)
- mPFS: NR

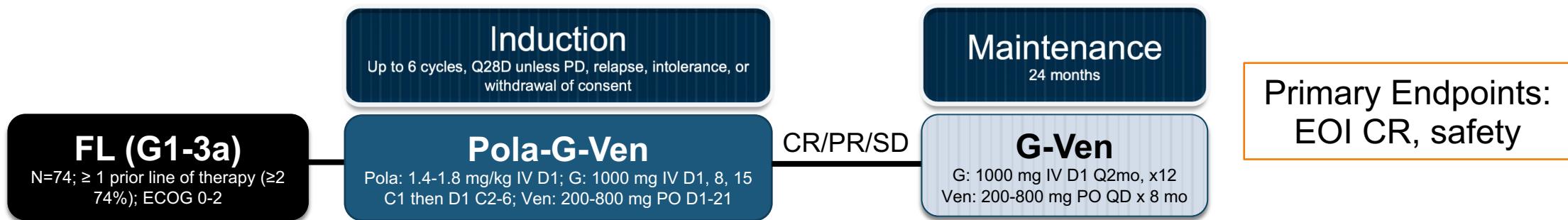
## Toxicity

- Most common G≥3 TEAE: Neutropenia (55%), thrombocytopenia (25%), infection (25%), diarrhea (4%).



# Pola-G-Ven in R/R FL

A multicenter, single-arm Phase 1b/2 study



## Efficacy (49 evaluable)

- Median F/U: 14.4 mo
- ORR: 71% (CR: 57%)
- mPFS: NR
- 12 mo PFS: 73%

## Toxicity

- Most common G≥3 TEAE: neutropenia (39%), thrombocytopenia (19%), infection (16%).

# Loncastuximab in R/R B-NHL including FL

Final results of a single-arm, phase 1 trial

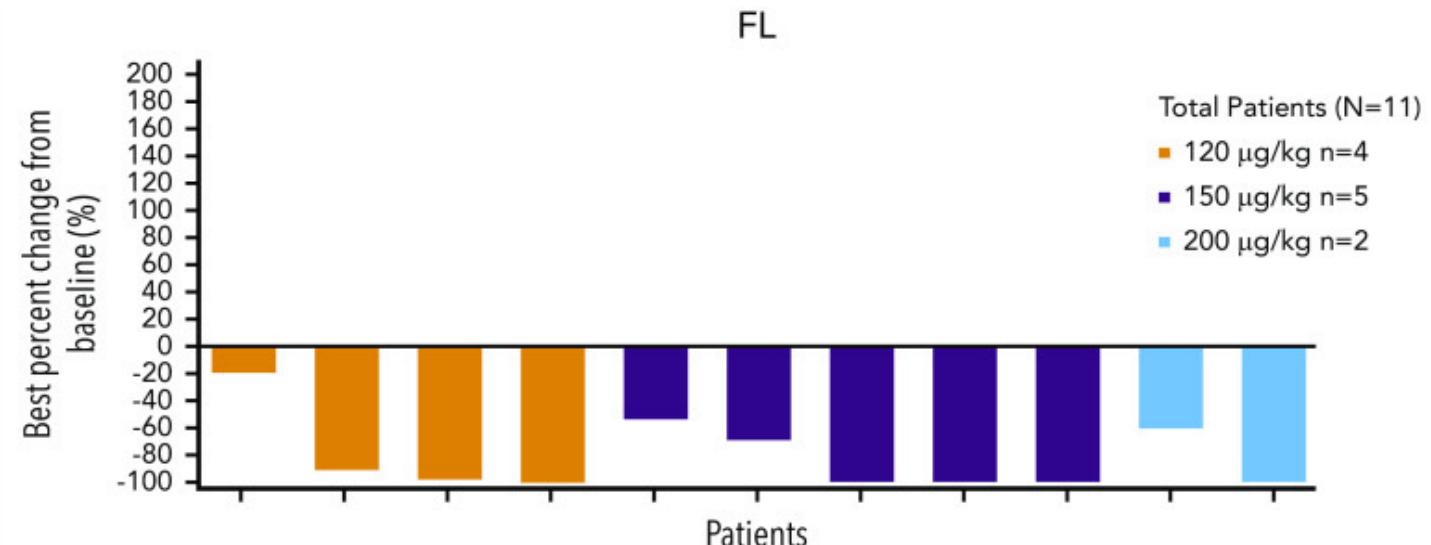


## Efficacy

- ORR: 78.6% (11/14)
- CR: 64.3 % (9/14)
- Median time to response 43 days (full cohort)

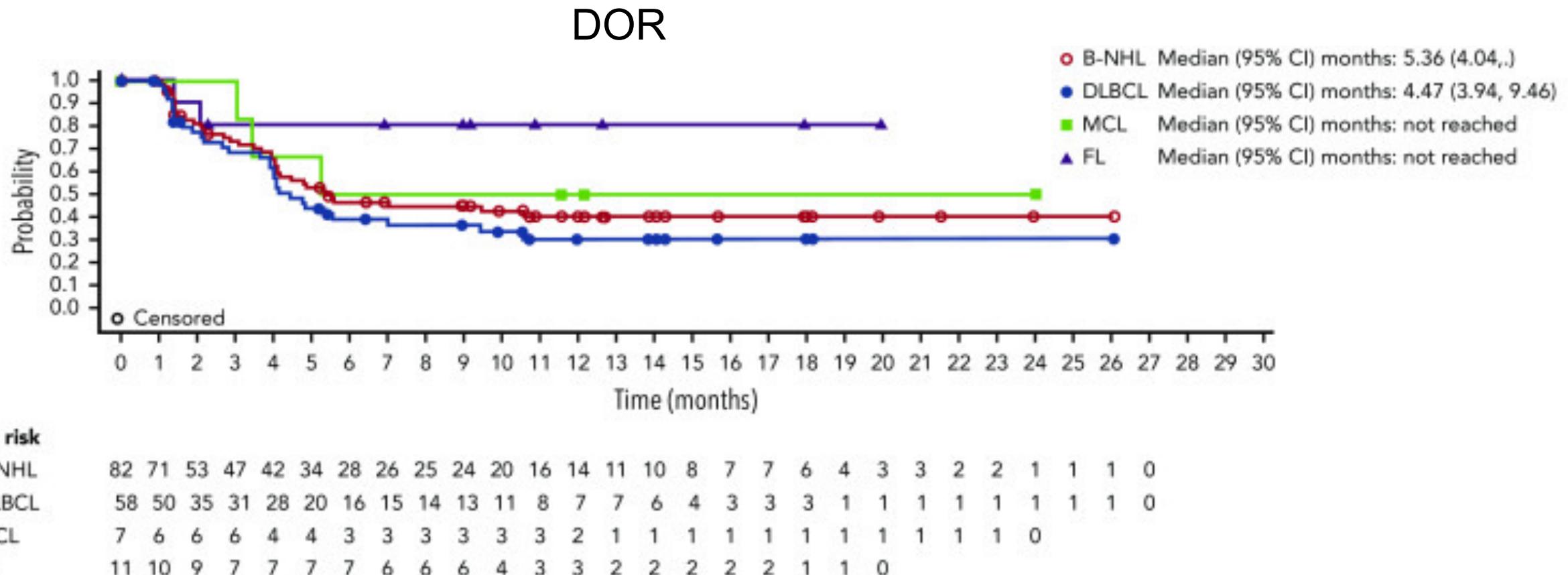
## Toxicity

- Most common G $\geq$ 3 TEAE: neutropenia (39%), thrombocytopenia (26%), and increased GGT (21%)
- Edema/effusion (any grade 31%, 21%)

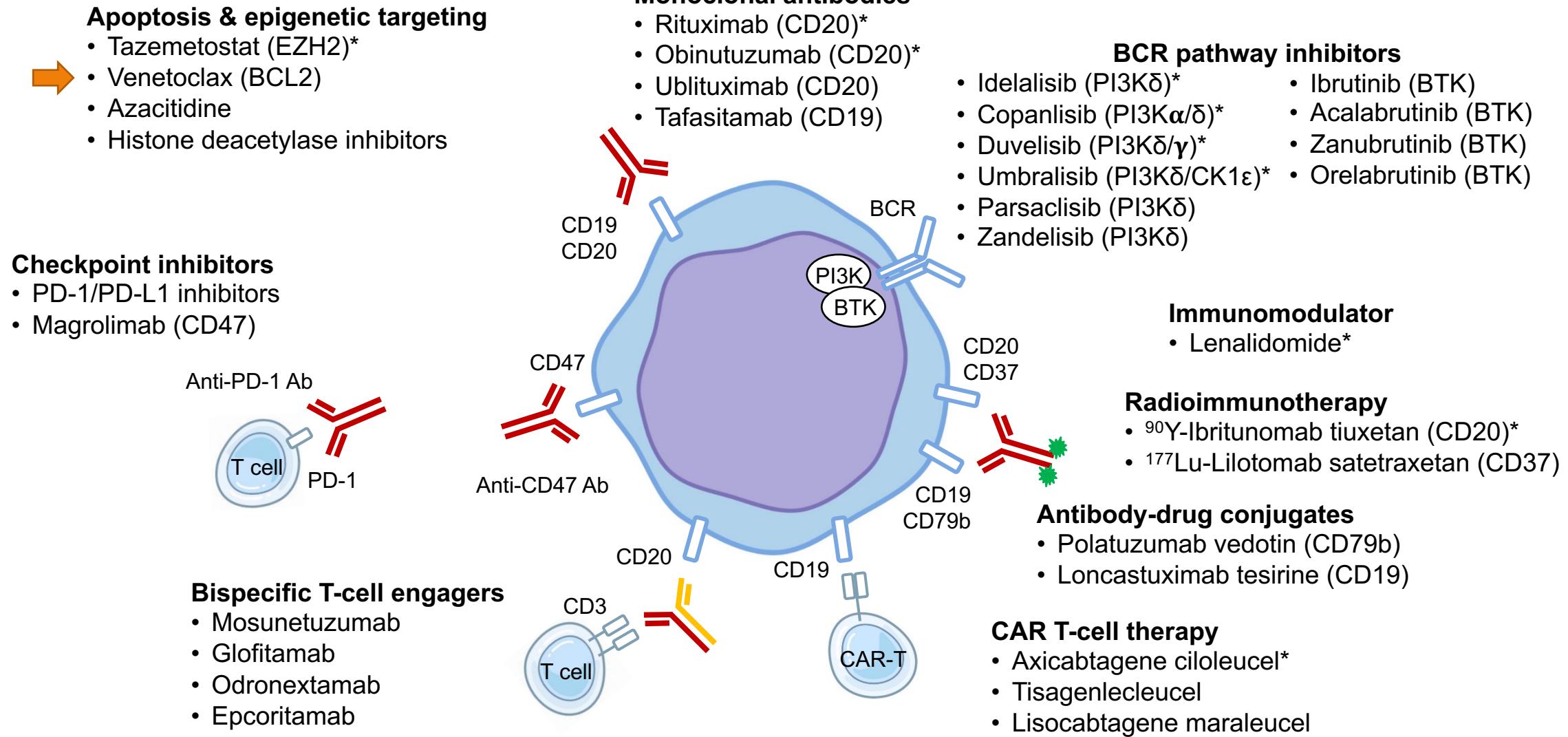


# Loncastuximab in R/R B-NHL including FL

Final results of a single-arm, phase 1 trial



# Available and pipeline agents in FL

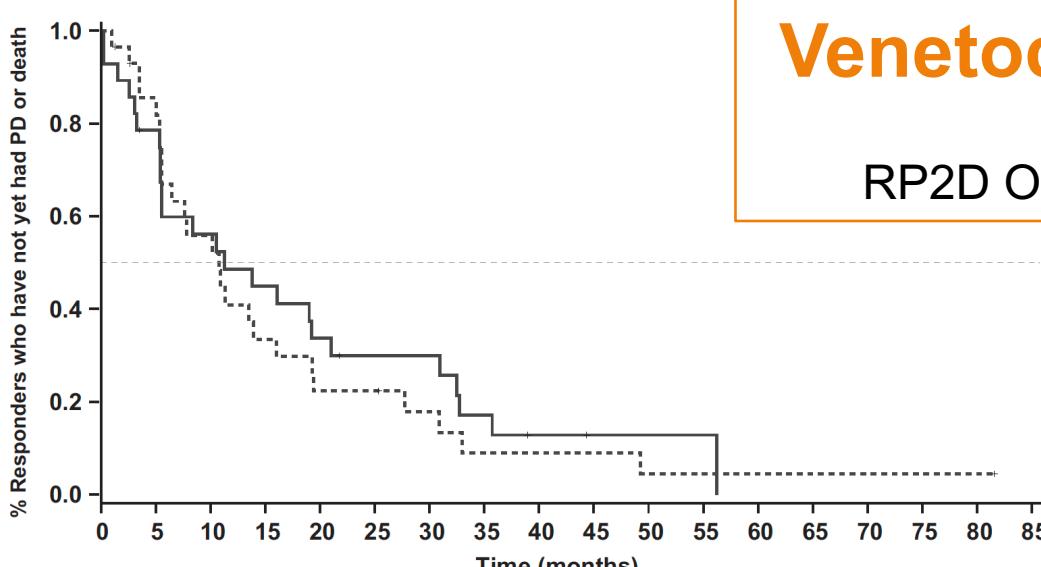


\*FDA-approved agents. Ab, antibody; BCR, B-cell receptor; BTK, Burton's tyrosine kinase; FL, follicular lymphoma.

# Combination strategies with venetoclax

## Venetoclax

- ORR: 38% (CR: 17%)
- mPFS: 10.8 mo

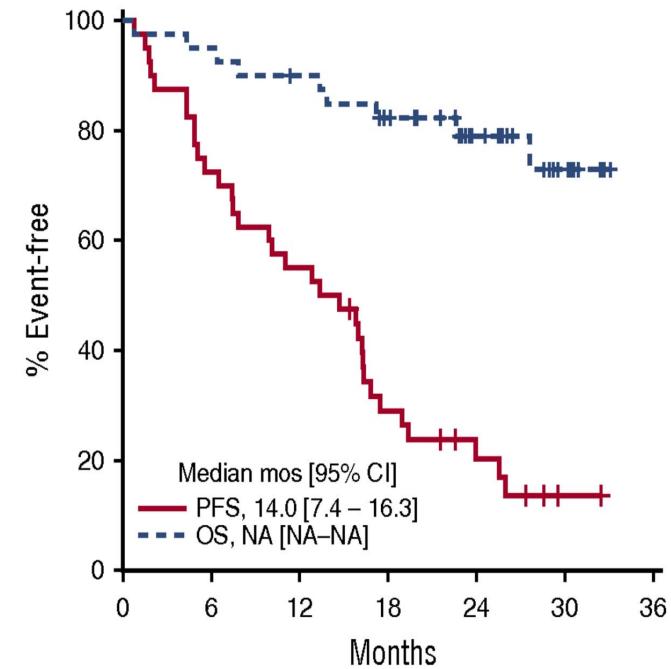


**Venetoclax + Ibrutinib**  
RP2D ORR: 83% (CR: 33%)

Patients at risk												
MCL	28	21	15	12	9	7	7	4	2	1	1	0
FL	29	23	15	9	6	6	4	2	2	1	1	1

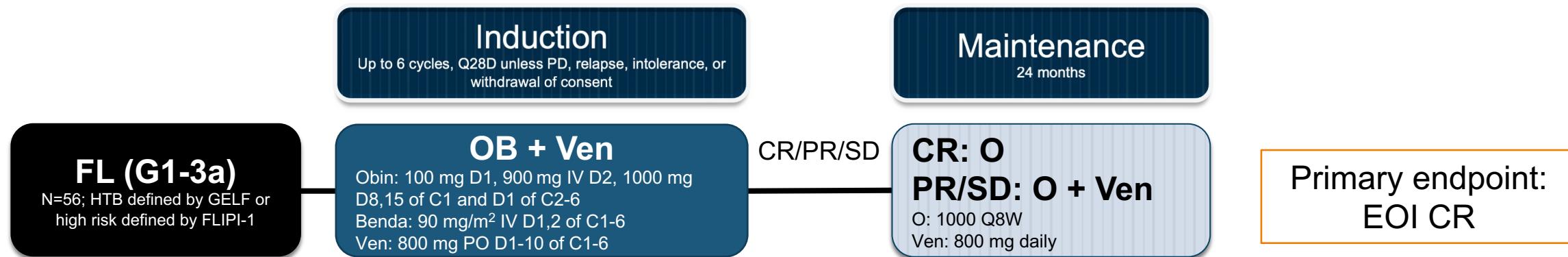
## Ibrutinib

- ORR: 37.5% (CR: 12.5%)
- mPFS: 14 mo



# Venetoclax + Obin + Benda in frontline FL

PrECOG 0403: Phase II, high tumor burden or high-risk



## Efficacy

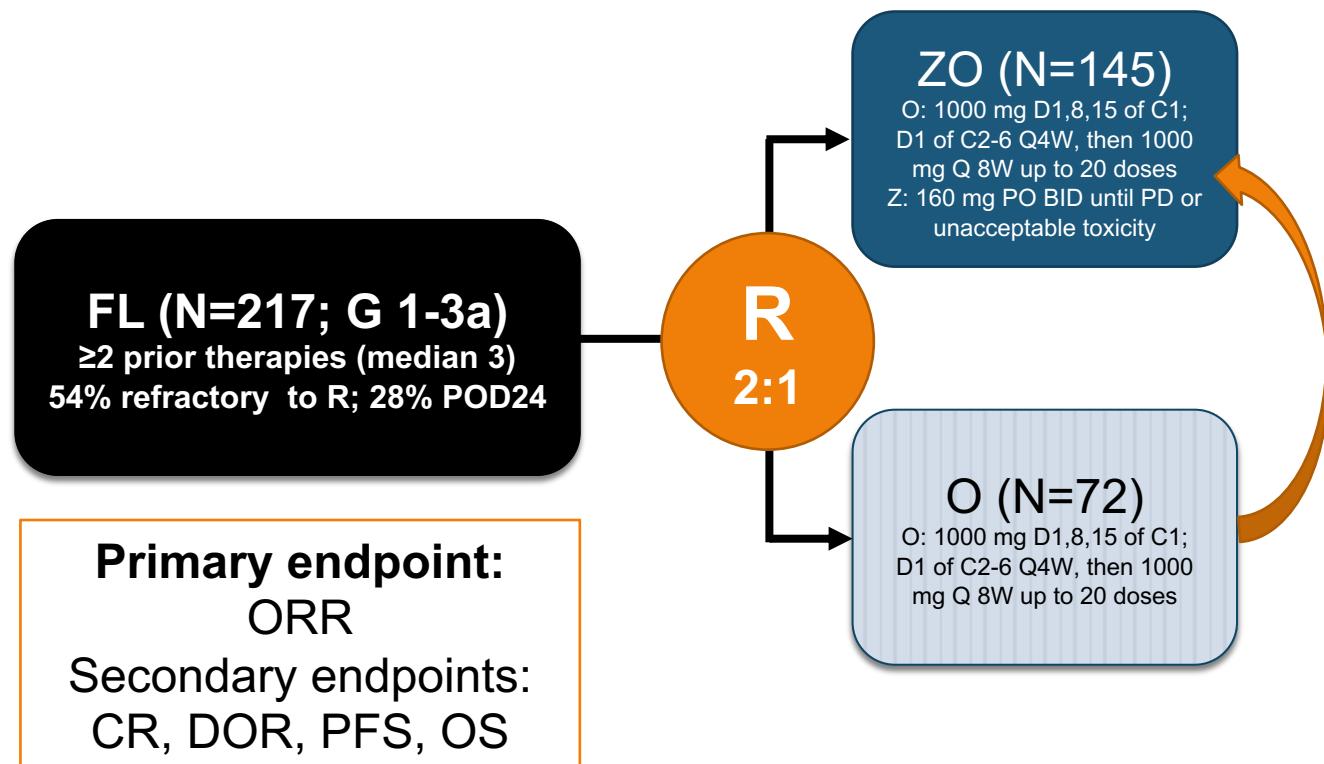
- Median F/U: 21 mo
- ORR: 93% (CR: 73%)
- 2Y PFS and OS: 86 % and 94%

## Toxicity

- Grade ≥3 AE of 83.9% (compared to 69% for OB in GALLIUM)
  - Opportunistic infections: CMV encephalitis, PJP pneumonia and BK nephropathy
- Combination is highly immunosuppressive and unacceptable

# ROSEWOOD: Zanubrutinib plus obinutuzumab (ZO) versus obinutuzumab (O) in R/R FL

Phase II randomized trial



## Efficacy

**ORR:** 68.3% vs 45.8% ( $p= 0.0017$ )

ORR for 29 pts who crossed over to ZO: 24.1%

**CR:** 37.2% vs 19.4%

**mPFS:** 27.4 mo vs 11.2 mo (HR 0.51,  $p= 0.0040$ )

## Safety (ZO arm)

Thrombocytopenia (34%), neutropenia (27%), diarrhea (16%), fatigue (14%), atrial fibrillation (0.7%), and major bleeding (1.4%)

# SUMMARY

- Treatment landscape is evolving rapidly in FL
- Big red-flag on Pi3K inhibitor safety
- We are (will be) able to over major challenges (refractory, POD24)
- Who will win the race (BiTEs or CARs). Different target (CD20 vs. CD19), could they be used sequentially or even concurrently?
- Challenges:
  - Finding the magic recipe (long-term disease control, cure?)
  - Sequencing novel agents

# Thank you

[nsaba@tulane.edu](mailto:nsaba@tulane.edu)

Clinic: 504-988-6460

Cell: 423-946-1366