

Smart Patients Get Smart Care™

#### CLL Society Ed Forum: The Right Tests at the Right Time

October 15, 2021

11:00 AM PT, 12:00 PM MT, 1:00 PM CT, 2:00 PM ET

# This program was made possible by grant support from











#### Agenda and Speakers

2:00 PM ET	Welcome and Introductions	Patricia & Brian Koffman
2:05 PM	CLL Diagnosis and Early Management	Ryan Jacobs, MD
2:30 PM	Patient Journey	Tammi Garrett
2:35 PM	Test Before Treat™, Disease Burden Monitoring, the Role of MRD	Brian Hill, MD, PhD
3:00 PM	Patient Journey	David Klausmeyer
3:05 PM	CLL Society Resources and Test Before Treat™	Patricia Koffman
3:15 PM	Audience Q&A	All Speakers
4:00 PM	Program Close	Brian Koffman, MDCM (retired), MS Ed





Patricia Koffman
Co-Founder &
Communications Director
CLL Society



Ryan Jacobs, MD
Hematologist/Oncologist
Levine Cancer Institute and
Atrium Health



**Tammi Garrett**Patient Advocate



Brian Koffman, MDCM (retired), MS Ed Co-Founder, EVP and Chief Medical Officer, CLL Society



Brian Hill, MD, PhD Hematologist/Oncologist Taussig Cancer Center, Cleveland Clinic



**David Klausmeyer**Patient Advocate



Smart Patients Get Smart Care™

# CLL Diagnosis and Early Management

Ryan Jacobs, MD Levine Cancer Institute and Atrium Health

#### Agenda



Explain CLL

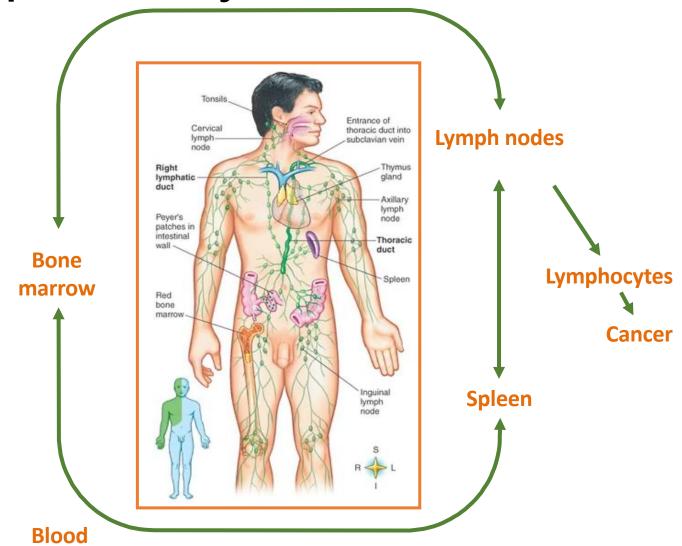
Diagnostic Tests, Imaging, and Biopsies

Address myths about disease and treatment



#### Explain CLL

The Lymphatic System





### Definition of CLL IWCLL—2008

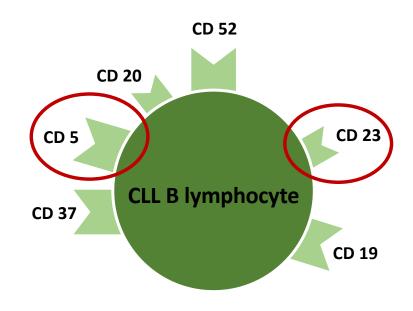


- CLL = Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
- Small clones of mature B-cells
- At least 5000/µL B-cells
- Co-express CD5 and CD23
- For diagnosis, we need "The Flow Test"
  - Also called peripheral blood flow cytometry or immunophenotype

#### Cell-Surface Markers

CLL = chronic lymphocytic leukemia; CD = cluster designation (antigenic marker on helper/inducer T-cells)





#### What is SLL?



- SLL = Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma
- Leukemic portion of the disease is either small or absent
- Patients generally present enlarged lymph nodes

For diagnosis, we need a lymph node biopsy

### What Do We Do at Initial Presentation?

- All patients undergo:
  - History and physical
  - CBC with differential
  - CMP
  - Quantitative immunoglobulins
  - Infectious serology\*
  - Peripheral blood-flow cytometry
  - +/- CT scan CAP\*
  - +/— Bone marrow biopsy\*

CLL SOCIETY

<sup>\*</sup> in select cases

### What Do We Do at Initial Presentation? (continued)



- Prognostic markers
  - Interphase FISH
  - Conventional karyotyping
  - IGHV mutational analysis
  - Tp53 mutational analysis
  - β<sub>2</sub> microglobulin
  - LDH

### Does the Patient Need a PET/CT Scan?

CLL SOCIETY

Depends on symptoms

Routine CT scans are not required

Limited role of PET scan

# Does the Patient Need a Bone Marrow Biopsy?

Depends on blood counts



Not every patient needs a bone marrow biopsy



#### Address Myths about Disease and Treatment

### Myth: Since CLL Is "Chronic," It Is Good



Wrong

Chronic has nothing to do with prognosis Chronic denotes the stage of cell development

### So, Is Stage of the Cancer Important in CLL?



 Rai (stages 0–4) and Binet (stages A and B) staging systems have been used for a long time (Stages 0–4)

 Standard prognostic workup is more helpful in making treatment decisions

American Cancer Society. How is chronic lymphocytic leukemia staged? (www.cancer.org/cancer/chronic-lymphocytic-leukemia/detection-diagnosis-staging/staging.html)

### Myth: "Doc I've Got Cancer! I Need Treatment"



Wrong

Maybe...let's talk

#### Timing of Therapy



- Worsening or steroid-resistant anemia and/or thrombocytopenia
- Spleen >6cm below the left costal margin or progressive or symptomatic lymphadenopathy
- Lymph nodes ≥10 cm in longest diameter or progressive or symptomatic lymphadenopathy

### Timing of Therapy (continued)



- Constitutional symptoms—how do you feel?
  - Unintentional weight loss of >10% within the previous 6 months
  - Significant fatigue (ECOG PS 2 or worse)
  - Fevers >100.5°F for ≥2 weeks without other evidence of infection
  - Night sweats for >1 month without evidence of infection

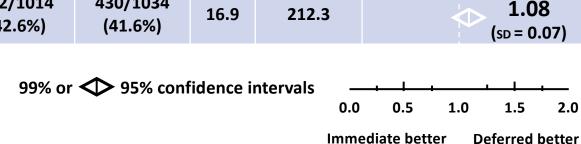
#### Don't Treat

- Hypogammaglobulinemia
- Monoclonal or oligoclonal paraproteinemia
- Elevated leukocyte count



### Early Treatment Does Not Improve Survival

			Deaths/Patients Immediate Deaths		Ratio of annual death rates		
Start Year	Study Name	Treat- ment	Allocated Immediate	Allocated Deferred	Obs. –Exp.	Variance of Obs-Exp	Immediate   Deferred
1976	CALGB	Chl	7/22	9/25	-0.5	2.7	
1978	MRC-CLL-1	Chl	31/37	32/41	3.7	15.1	
1980	FRE-CLL-80	Chl	175/300	169/307	10.1	85.6	
1984	MRC-CLL-2	Chl	76/121	73/118	5.2	36.6	
1985	FRE-CLL-85	Chl+P	122/457	126/462	-2.0	62.0	
1988	PETHEMA	Chl+P	21/77	21/81	0.5	10.4	
Total			432/1014 (42.6%)	430/1034 (41.6%)	16.9	212.3	1.08 (sp = 0.07)



Heterogeneity between 6 trials:  $\chi_5^2 = 1.7$ ; P>0.1; NS

Treatment effect P>0.1; NS, adverse

Chl = chlorambucil; P = prednisone/prednisolone; Obs = observed; Exp = expected; NS = not significant

CLL Trialists' Collaborative Group. J Natl Cancer Inst. 1999;91:861-868.



# Myth: Patients with CLL Die of Their Cancer



Wrong

Maybe...let's talk

#### Infectious Complications



- Infections are the leading cause of death in CLL
- Most common infections are of the sinus, throat, and chest
- Infection generally results from low immunoglobulin levels and defective immune system

 Intravenous immunoglobulins (IVIg) can help in some patients

#### How To Prevent Infections



**CLL** SOCIETY

- Pneumococcal vaccine
  - 1<sup>ST</sup> PREVNAR 13 once in consultation with HCP. Consider PREVNAR 20 which is now approved.
  - 2<sup>ND</sup> PNEUMOVAX 23 (usually 1 yr. after PREVNAR, but can be given as soon as 8 weeks later in the immunocompromised)
- Flu vaccine every year (high dose?)
- COVID-19 Vaccine
  - Do I need a booster?
- Avoid live-virus vaccines, including those for:
  - Shingles (the older live vaccine, ZOSTAVAX, is no longer available in the USA since 2020. Now SHINGRIX is a non-live option and is recommended for the immune compromised)
  - Nasal flu
  - Oral polio (Not used in USA since 2000 because polio has been eliminated in the USA)
  - Yellow fever
  - Oral Typhoid (discontinued due to reduced demand with pandemic, non-live typhoid shot OK)

#### Other Common Questions

How did I get this?



Does my family need to be screened?

- What can I do to help this from getting worse?
  - How should I change my diet/lifestyle?

#### **Testing Summary**



- Mandatory testing for all CLL/SLL patients
  - History and physical
  - CBC with differential
  - CMP
  - Quantitative immunoglobulins
  - Peripheral blood-flow cytometry (needed to confirm diagnosis)
- Optional Testing (decide on a case-by-case basis)
  - CT scan of the chest, abdomen and pelvis
  - Bone marrow biopsy
  - Infectious serology
- SLL usually needs a lymph node biopsy with flow cytometry to confirm diagnosis



Smart Patients Get Smart Care™

# Treatment Decisions: Predictive Tests, Disease Monitoring, and the Role of MRD

Brian Hill, MD, PhD
Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute
October, 2021

#### Learning Objectives



- Prognostic/predictive tests
- When do we need to repeat testing?
- BMB (bone marrow biopsy) and/or imaging needed before treatment?
- Disease Monitoring
  - CBC, tumor markers
  - Role of imaging
  - When is imaging and/or BMB (bone marrow biopsy) needed?
- Role and timing of Minimal Residual Disease (MRD) testing

# Overview: Predictive/Prognostic Testing



- Appropriate testing before treatment is important as these tests may determine which therapies will work and which will not.
- Prognostic markers help predict the likely outcome of cancer for a group.
- Predictive markers help predict the likelihood of benefiting from any particular therapy.
- CLL is very heterogeneous or variable in how it behaves.

# Overview: Predictive/Prognostic Testing



- Your particular "brand" of CLL will determine its ability to resist certain therapies and its sensitivity to others will be critical in tailoring the appropriate therapy.
- Some prognostic and predictive factors can change over time.
- You need to be retested before starting treatment, even if you were tested at diagnosis or after the last treatment.

### What Do We Do Before Treatment?

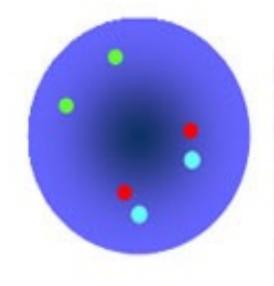


#### Prognostic markers

- Interphase FISH (fluorescence in situ hybridization)
- Conventional karyotyping
- IGHV mutational analysis
- TP53 mutational analysis (genetic sequencing)
- β<sub>2</sub> macroglobulin (B2M)
- LDH
- NEW: Combined reporting at diagnosis can provided both prognostic information and enable future MRD monitoring

#### FISH (Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization)

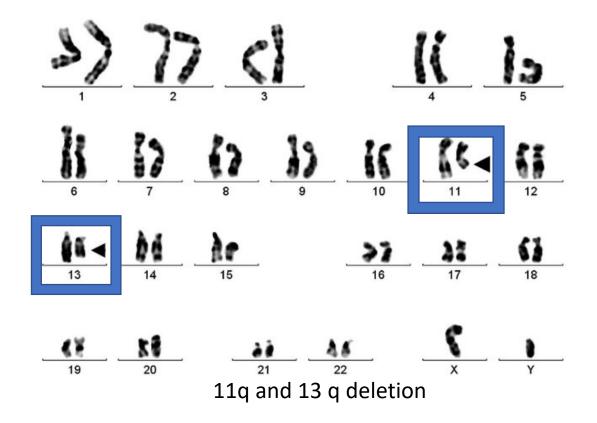




Normal pattern

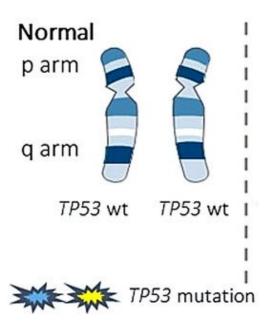
#### Karotype: What is the Role Today?





#### Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) TP53





#### **IGHV** Mutational Analysis

(Immunoglobulin Heavy Chain Variable Segment)



- It is important to test IgVH (also called IgHV, both are correct) mutation status
- IgVH mutation status almost never changes over time.
- It is important because we know that more patients with
  - "Mutated" = Favorable
  - "Unmutated" = Unfavorable
- Patients who have mutated IgVH have better outcomes with traditional chemotherapy treatments.
- With the newer targeted therapies such as ibrutinib, acalabrutinib, and venetoclax, IgVH mutation status has little predictive value.

#### **IGHV** Mutational Analysis

(Immunoglobulin Heavy Chain Variable Segment)



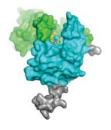
- New NGS test that identifies both:
  - IGHV mutation status

 Unique sequences in the cell clone that can be used later to test for Measurable (Minimal) Residual Disease (MRD) that can be helpful in monitoring disease

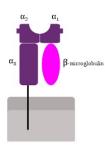
100101010101010CGTGAA
100CTCCATTCGGTTTTTTCG
101101010GACTTAAGAGTCTATC
101 ATCAAGCATGGATTACGGTGT
11010101010101010101010CTCTGGTT
100101001CATGGCGAGTAAGTGAT
0101010101010110111CGTTGTAGGA
0101000 TGGCGTTCCACGCCGC
1001010111010101010TTAGGAT
11010100101010111CTTGGAT
10010101010101011TAGGAT

# Traditional/Inexpensive Tests for Prognosis

• LDH



• B2M



- These are proteins that are found in many cells including CLL.
- Simple inexpensive tests that monitor disease burden and activity.



# SUMMARY: TEST BEFORE TREAT<sup>TM</sup>



#### FISH and TP53 Mutation

Advise against chemotherapy if 17p deletion and/or TP53 mutation

#### **Test Before Treat**



#### IgVH mutation status

Generally advise against chemotherapy if unmutated

#### Proper Testing is Not Being Done



#### Testing

- InformCLL 2015-18 examined the data on 840 pts
- Among all 840 patients,
  - only 31% had FISH testing
  - 11% had testing performed for *TP53* mutation
  - 11% had testing for IGHV mutational status
- In the 381 relapsed/ refractory pts
  - Only 26% had testing for FISH
  - 9% for *TP53*
  - 10% for IGHV

Prognostic Testing and Treatment Approaches in Patients with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia: Clinical Experience from an Interim Analysis of the informCLL<sup>TM</sup> Real-World Registry: Anthony R. Mato, et al

# What Else Needs to Be Done Before Starting Treatment?

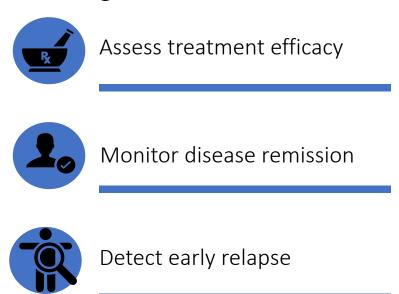


- Physical exam
  - General health
  - Lymph nodes
  - Spleen and liver size
- Routine Labs
- Tests for other illnesses (comorbidities) that could impact therapy
  - Cardiac, renal, respiratory, psychological
- Imaging?
  - CT scan?
  - PET Scan- Almost never unless another problem is suspected
- Bone Marrow Biopsy (BMB)?

# Disease Monitoring: Assessing Disease Burden is Fundamental to Guiding Therapy



- Disease burden in CLL is assessed in all patients and in a variety of ways
- Measuring disease burden is crucial to:



Serial assessment over time is required to monitor disease burden changes

#### How is Disease Burden Monitored



- Physical Exam
- CBC, CMP, B2M, LDH
- Imaging?

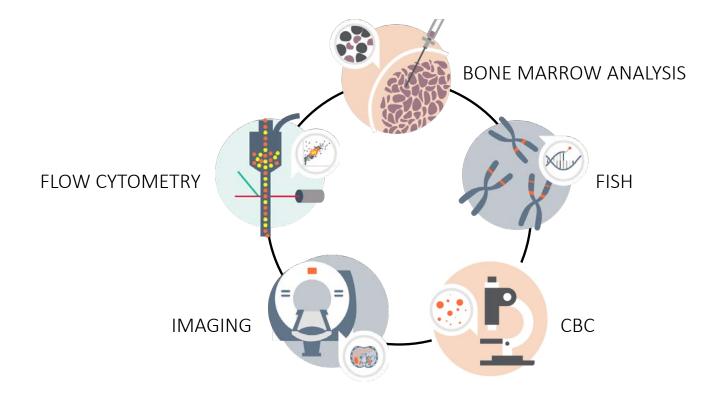
#### Response criteria

- Complete response or Complete Remission (CR):
- In a clinical trial, the confirmation of a CR usually requires a bone marrow biopsy that shows no CLL

# Disease Burden Assessment in CLL is Done in a Variety of Ways

Standard tools used in CLL to assess disease burden, inform staging and evaluate risk:





Many of these testing paradigms have been used empirically to inform decisions

# Measurable (minimal) Residual Disease

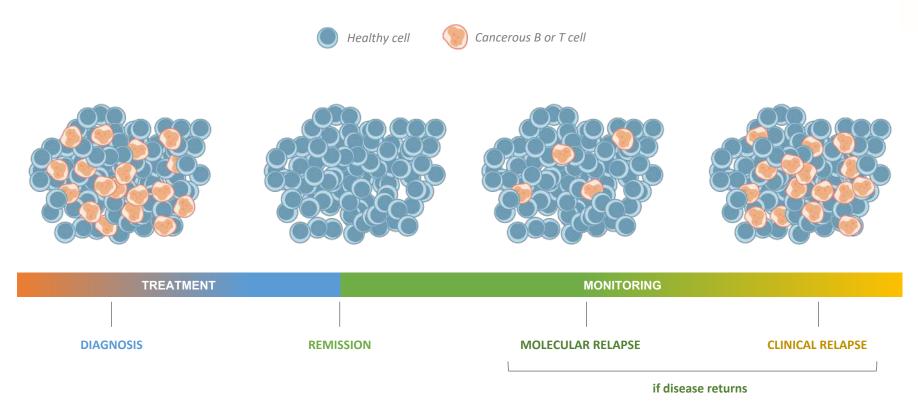


- Undetectable Measurable (or minimal) Residual Disease (uMRD):
- This is associated with the longest durations of response
- Flow Cytometry can be used to find a single CLL cell hiding among 10,000 cells in the blood or bone marrow
- NGS or next generation sequencing can find 1 cancer cell in 1,000,000
- uMRD does not mean there is no cancer. It may be there, but below our best detection level.
- It is possible to be uMRD and not be in a complete remission (CR) if your nodes are still enlarged. This happens when enlarged nodes don't shrink back to normal size but are cancer free.

#### MRD is Another Way to Evaluate Disease Burden

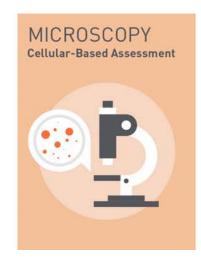


#### **MRD: Minimal Residual Disease**

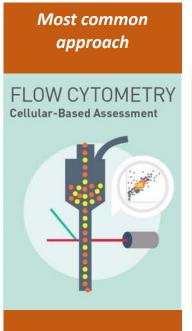


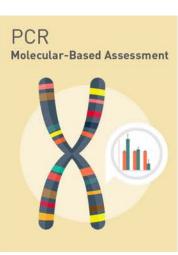
#### Several MRD Assessment Technologies Are Now Used Regularly in Trials and in Clinical Practice

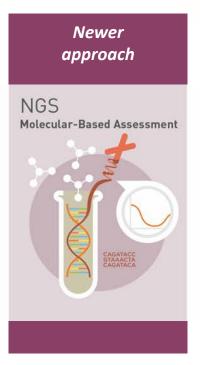








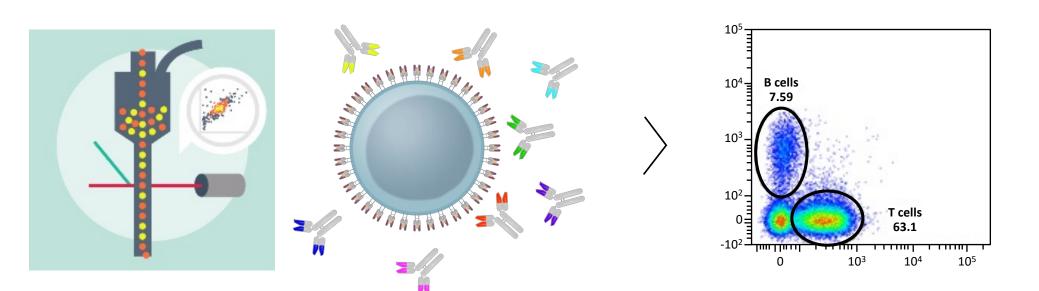




#### Flow Cytometry

#### Assesses cell surface proteins using antibodies conjugated to fluorescent molecules

- Antibodies are conjugated to fluorescent molecules and mixed with cells
  - If molecule of interest is present, antibody binds
- Characteristics of cells are analyzed as they pass through the cytometer
  - Different colors represent distinct cell surface proteins being assessed
  - Results enable understanding of the phenotype of cells within a sample





#### **Next-Generation Sequencing**



### Identifies and counts specific DNA sequences associated with malignant B cells

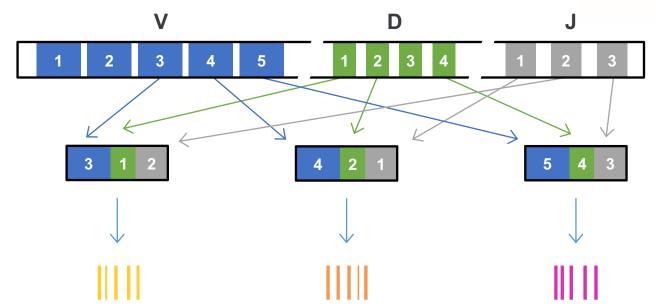


These cancer-associated B-cell DNA sequences are made up of 3 segments:

Variable, Diversity, and Joining

Segments recombine to form unique DNA sequences

These sequences serve as DNA "barcodes" that can used to track malignant B or T cells



Potential diversity (IgH): ~10<sup>11</sup>

# Selection of an MRD Assay for Use in Clinical Practice Should Take into Account Several Important Criteria











#### **Specificity**

Ability to avoid false MRD determinations is critical in the context of new therapies

#### **Standardization**

Clinical actionability is linked to the rigor of validation studies conducted for the assay

#### Sensitivity

Outcomes continue to improve as patients achieve MRD negativity at lower levels

#### **Patient Impact**

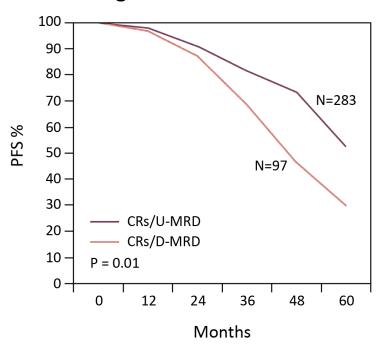
Sample types and input volumes required, as well as availability of financial support for testing, are important considerations to patients

### MRD Status May Be More Informative Than Conventional Complete Response For CLL Patients

 Patients in CR who achieve undetectable MRD have better outcomes than those who remain MRD positive



#### **Progression-Free Survival**



### MRD Assessment Is Recommended in Consensus Guidelines

- Clinical practice guidelines in CLL include MRD as part of response assessment
- According to 2018 iwCLL guidelines, the complete eradication of disease is a desired endpoint in CLL





#### Conclusions: Prognostic/Predictive Testing and Disease Monitoring



#### **Prognostic/Predictive Testing**

- Test before treat
- Retest before each subsequent treatment (the exception is IGVH) as CLL evolves over time
- Predictive tests should guide therapy

#### **Disease Monitoring**

- Ongoing disease burden assessment is critical in CLL management
- The role of measuring MRD is changing and expanding

#### Conclusions: MRD

MRD provides additional insight beyond conventional CLL response assessment



- There are several testing methodologies available to assess MRD
  - Testing method should be selected based on clinical needs, technical and practical considerations (e.g., sensitivity, specificity, standardization)
- Patients who achieve undetectable MRD have improved long-term outcomes
- In the context of patient care, there are several ways in which MRD may be useful to inform CLL management



#### Thank You!

: )



Smart Patients Get Smart Care™

# CLL Society Resources and Test Before Treat<sup>TM</sup>

Patricia Koffman

#### Prognostic & Predictive Testing in CLL





Why test before each and every treatment?

Let's hear what Dr. Stephen Stilgenbauer has to say! **CLL** SOCIETY

#### **TEST** before **TREAT**





SMART PATIENTS GET SMART CARE™



#### Are they always being done?

### No!

Let's see what the Inform Study led by Dr. Anthony Mato revealed

#### Test Results Are Being Ignored





Sometimes all the right testing is being done.... But the results are ignored

And the patient receives chemotherapy that will absolutely not work for them... anyway!

Let's hear what Dr. Anthony Mato has to say about CLL Society's **Test Before Treat™** campaign

#### Proper Testing is Not Being Done



#### Testing

- InformCLL 2015-18 examined the data on 840 pts
- Among all 840 patients,
  - only 31% had FISH testing
  - 11% had testing performed for *TP53* mutation
  - 11% had testing for IGHV mutational status
- In the 381 relapsed/ refractory pts
  - Only 26% had testing for FISH
  - 9% for *TP53*
  - 10% for IGHV





### "You may be receiving treatments that don't work."

Here's what you need to know about the 3 most important tests that guide your CLL treatment.

READ MORE

#### Take It With You!

- Print out CLL Society's Test Before Treat™ One-Pager
- Take it with you to your doctor appointments
- Don't leave home with out it!

#### Test Before Treat

Once we know that our CLL needs treatment, we need to know how to treat it.

Current NCCN and iwCLL guidelines tell us that it is critical to get appropriate predictive testing before the first and every subsequent therapy. Results of these tests give us information about the biology of our disease, which in turn, gives us the ability to make a reasonable prediction as to which therapies offer us the best chance of success.

Simply put, depending on what the tests show, some commonly prescribed CLL therapies likely will work for us and others may not!

While there are many tests that might help CLL patients needing treatment to make their most informed decision, these three tests are essential:

- 1. FISH (Interphase fluorescence in situ hybridization) test looks for common chromosomal abnormalities that predict the likelihood that various CLL treatments will be effective and durable. For example, if FISH testing finds there is a deletion of the short arm of the 17 chromosome or del(17p) we know that traditional chemo-immunotherapy (CIT) such as fludarabine, cyclophosphamide and rituximab (FCR) or the combination of bendamustine and rituximab known as BR, will not be effective and should be avoided.
- Additionally, it is important to test IgVH (also called IgHV, both are correct) mutation status. IgVH mutation status almost never changes over time, so it is generally not recommended that it be retested. It is important because we know that patients with a "mutated" IgVH immunoglobulin do much better with FCR based therapies than those who are unmutated. Generally only patients who have mutated IqVH should consider FCR based therapies.
- 3. The 3rd and newest predictive factor is genetic testing for mutation of the TP53 gene. TP53 is the gene on the short arm of the 17th chromosome that helps chemo to work and suppress cancer growth. It has been called the "guardian of the genome" because it tries to repair damaged genetic material in the CLL cells and if can't repair what's broken by chemo or any other cause, it signals the cell to commit programmed cell death or apoptosis. You can see how handy TP53 would be in suppressing cancer or helping chemo to work. However, if it's missing as in del(17p) or mutated, and therefore dysfunctional, as discovered by genetic testing, generally chemotherapy will not work and the CLL can be harder to manage.

If you know the status of these 3 tests before your 1st and every subsequent treatment you can best map out your treatment strategy. FISH and TP53 need to be checked and rechecked before the first and any subsequent treatments as they can change over time, usually for the worse. IgVH mutation status is considered stable over time.

#### **Test Before Treat**

- Test FISH and TP53 Mutation before every treatment
- Test IgVH mutation status before the 1st treatment
- Deletion 17p or del(17p) = NO CHEMOTHERAPY
- TP53 mutation = NO CHEMOTHERAPY
- IgVH unmutated = NO FCR
- IgVH mutated = possible FCR



#### Smart Patients Get Smart Care™

**CLL SOCIETY** 





CLL Society Patient & Caregiver Support Groups

In isolation, we were sharing our worries with only ONE person: Ourselves.

We got sick of this.

Now, today, together, we share our

# hearts.



**CLL Society Support Groups** 

1,800 CLL patients and caregivers in 38 cities are seated, sharing and supporting one another... Waiting for you.



# CLL Society Patient & Caregiver Support Groups





- Almost 40 CLL-Specific Support Groups Meet (Virtually) Every Month
- Over 2,000
   Support Group
   Members

# Sign-Up Today! Don't Spend Another Month Alone!

Now, today, together, we share our





**CLL Society Support Groups** 







#### CLL Society's Expert Access™ Program

NO COST

2<sup>nd</sup> Opinion Consult
with a CLL expert



Do you have a diagnosis of CLL?

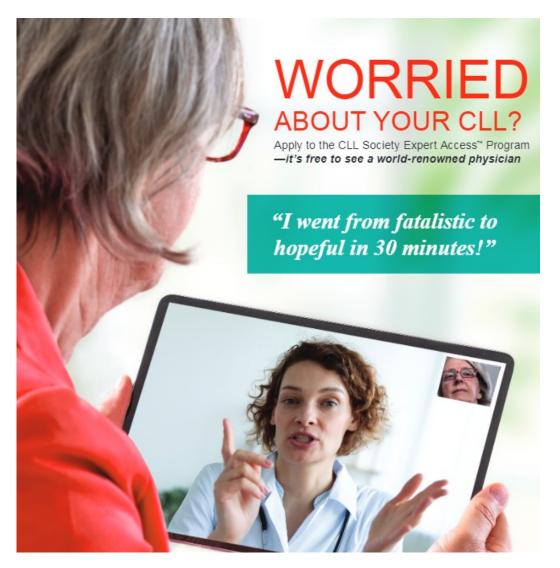
Live in the United States?

Not currently under the care of a CLL expert?

You Qualify!

#### CLL Society's Expert Access™ Program





- Your CLL medical records
- The expert physician will be prepped
- Ask your 3 most critical questions
- You will receive a written summary

#### CLL Society's Weekly Email







Smart Patients Get Smart Care™

Sign-up for CLL Society's Tuesday weekly emails to stay on-top of:

- Breaking CLL news and research
- Upcoming educational events
- On-demand events covering important subjects
- CLL patient education resources



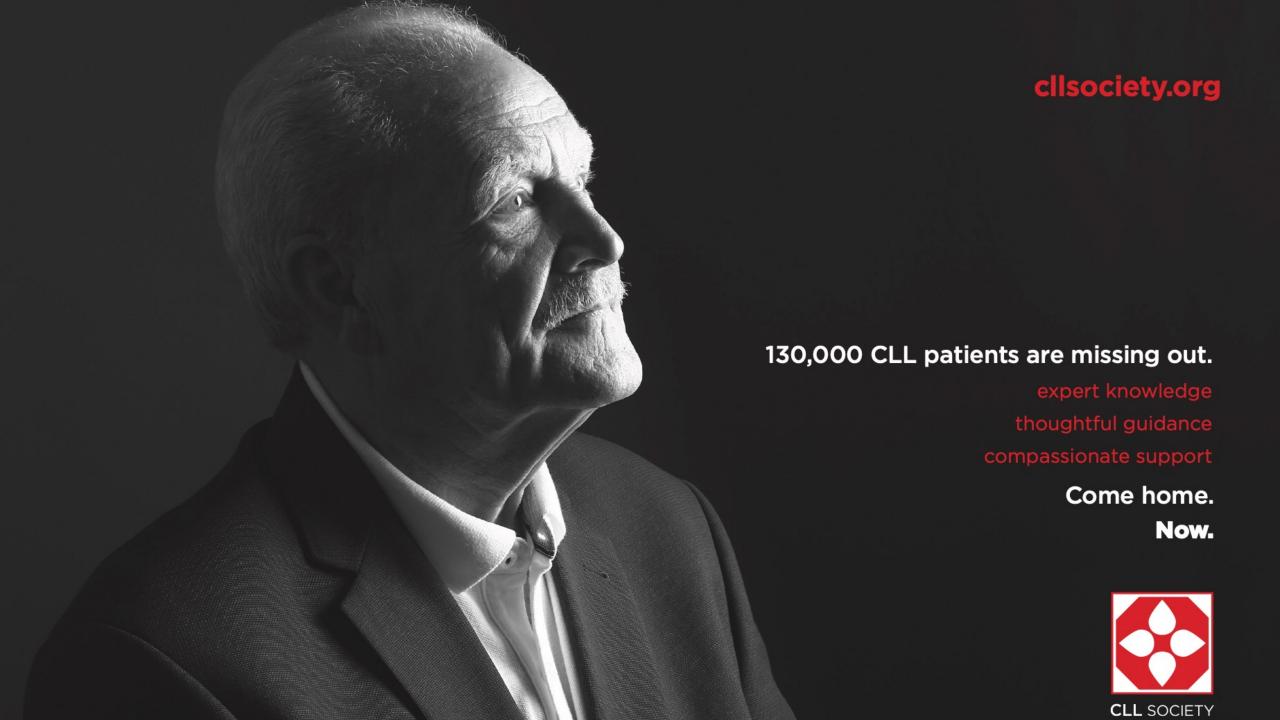


# CLL Society's 130,000 Campaign

We need your help.

Spread the word.









Spread the Word!





# Audience Questions & Answers

# This program was made possible by grant support from











### Thank You for Attending!



Please take a moment to complete our **post-event survey**, your feedback is important to us

Join us on November 1<sup>st</sup> for our next webinar **Giving**Care for the Caregiver

CLL Society is invested in your long life. Please invest in the long life of the CLL Society by supporting our work

cllsociety.org/donate-to-cll-society/