

# Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia in Singapore: Why we need local trials

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National University Health System

# Singapore Healthcare: Better value, better health

- 4 M
    - Medisave
    - Medishield, Medishield+
    - Medifund
    - MediLife
  - Asset rich, cash poor – locked up in housing
  - Tiered care – subsidized and private
  - Medical Insurance
- 

# Higher spending does not mean better health



# Health and Biomedical Science Research

## 5 Ps

Publication.

Practice

Product

Policy

Population

Health



# Accurate risk assignment in ALL: Stratified Medicine

NCI criteria – Age 1-10 years old & WBC < 50k

Cytogenetics

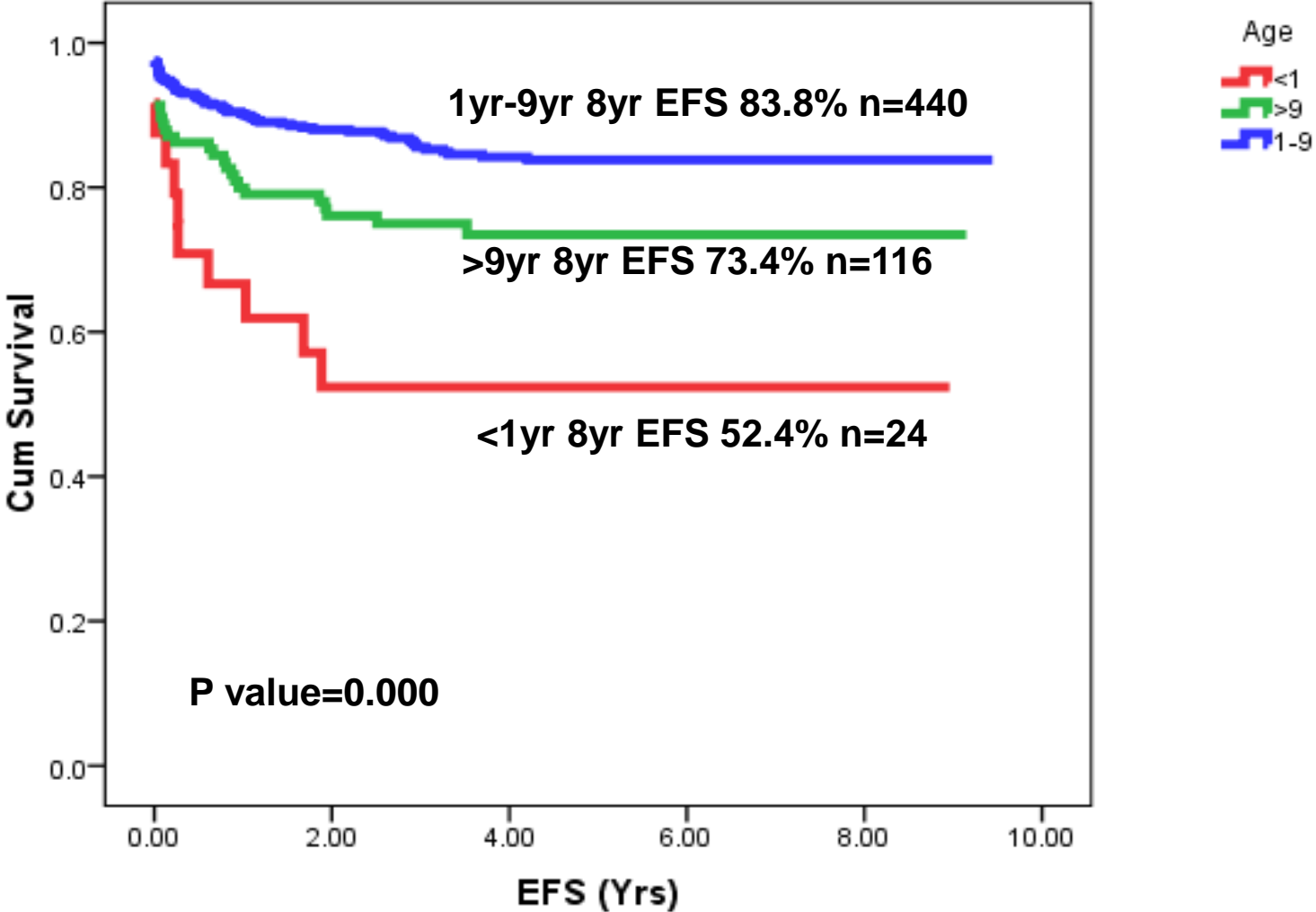
Favourable – Hyperdiploid > 50; TEL-AML1, E2A-PBX1

Unfavorable – Hypodiploid < 44, BCR-ABL1, MLL-R

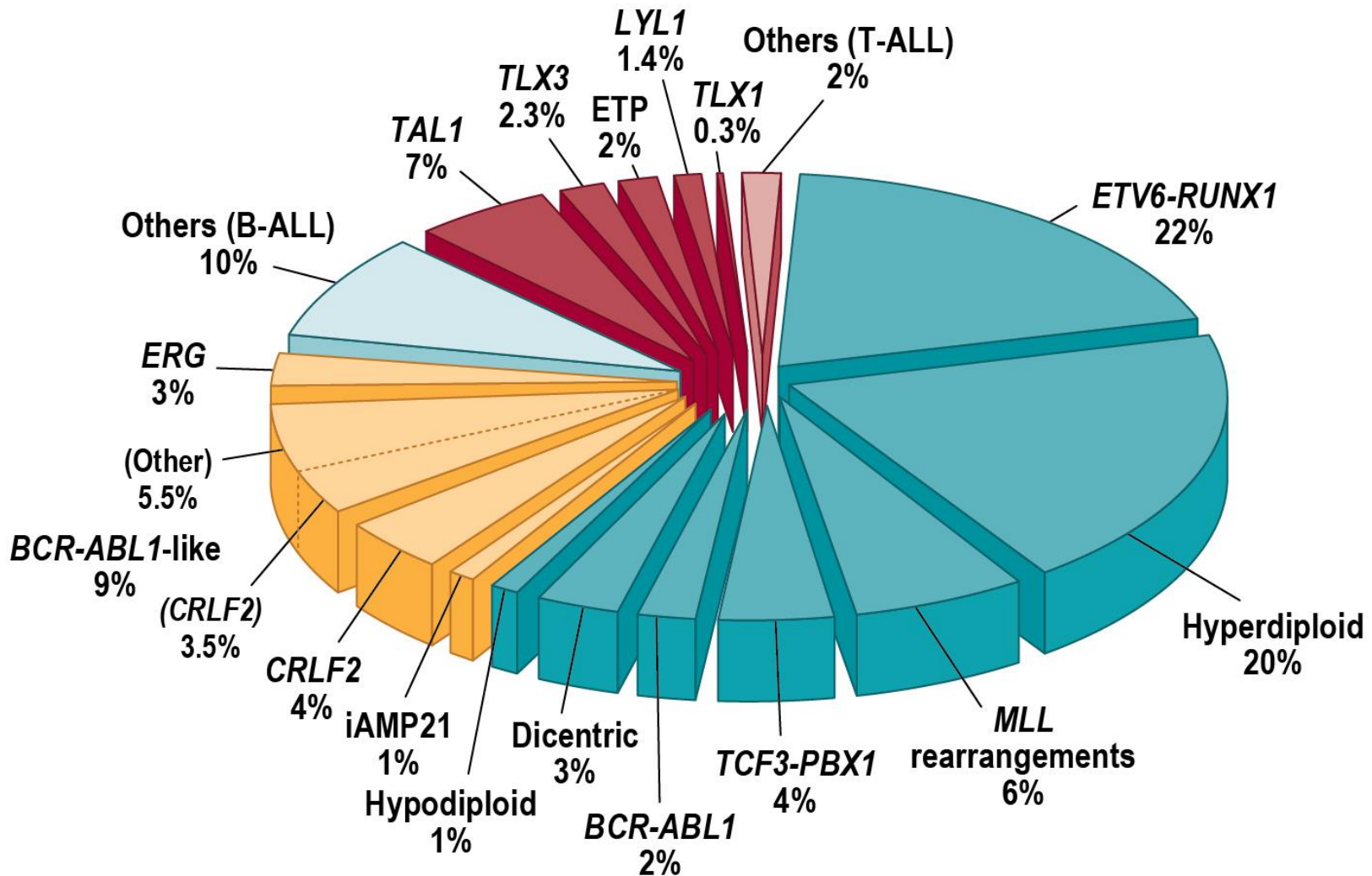
**Minimal residual disease (MRD) quantitation**



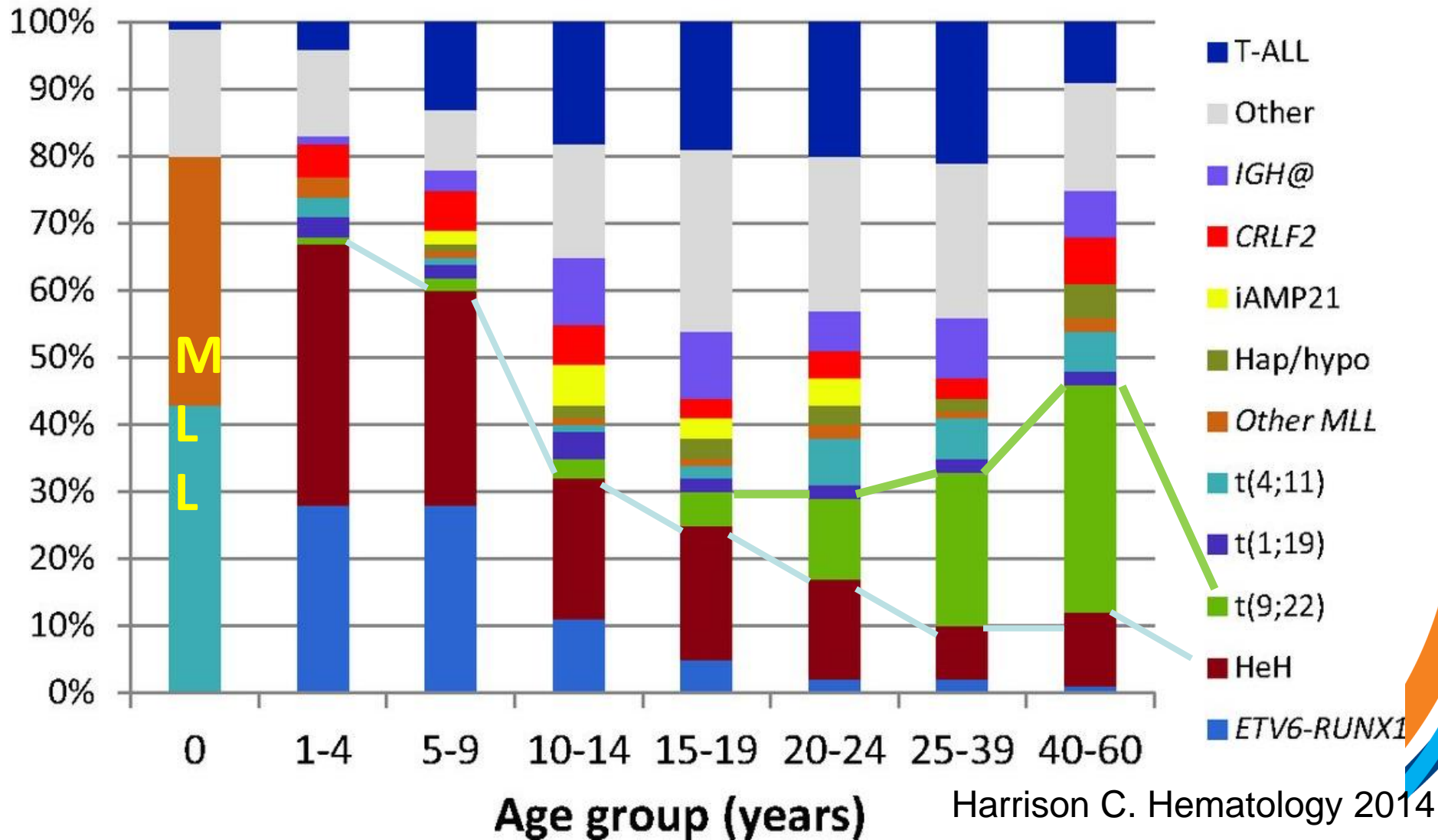
# EFS by Age Groups



# Genetic Classification of ALL

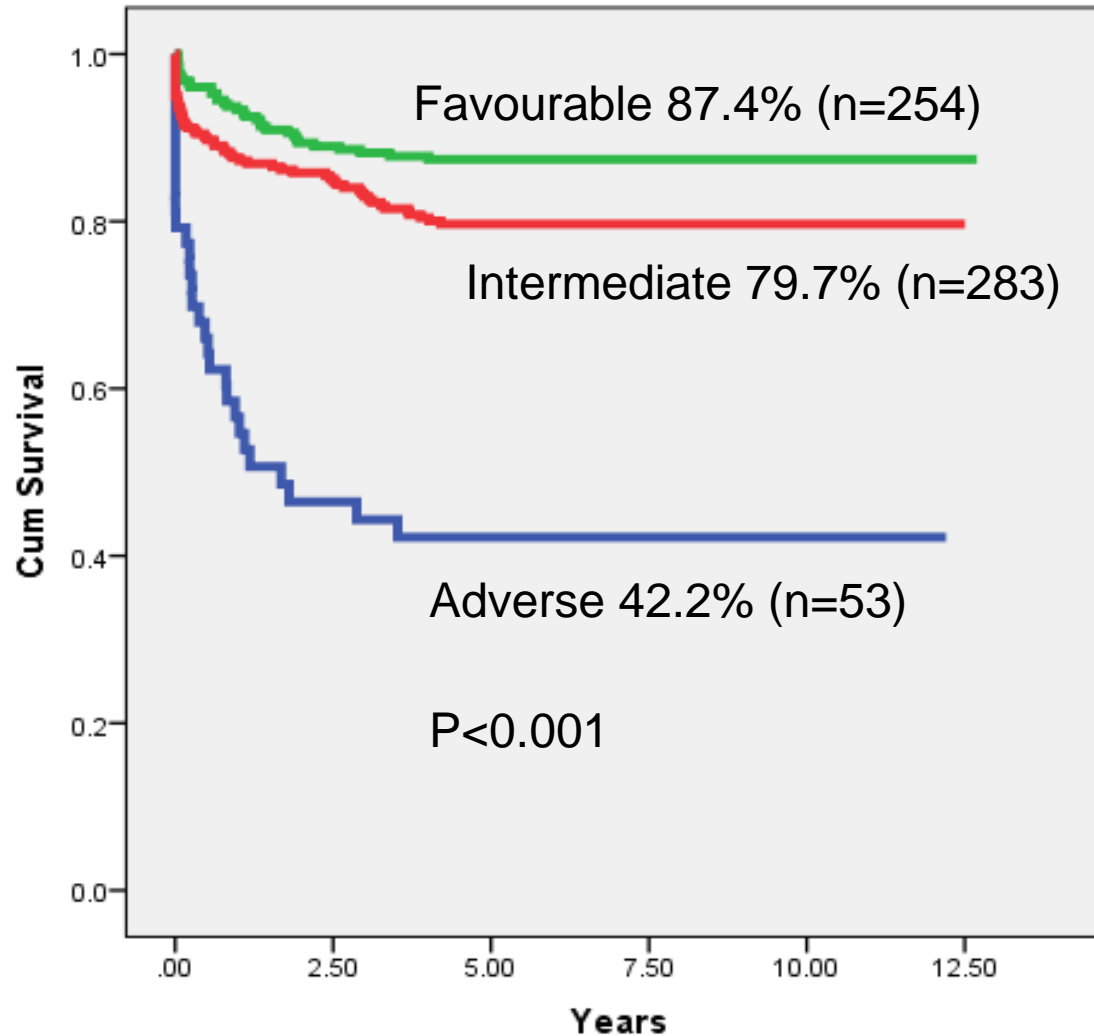


# Cytogenetics and age in ALL





# Ma-Spore ALL 2003 5y- EFS by cytogenetics/molecular



## Favourable

- high hyperdiploid,
- ETV6-RUNX1,
- TCF3-PBX1)

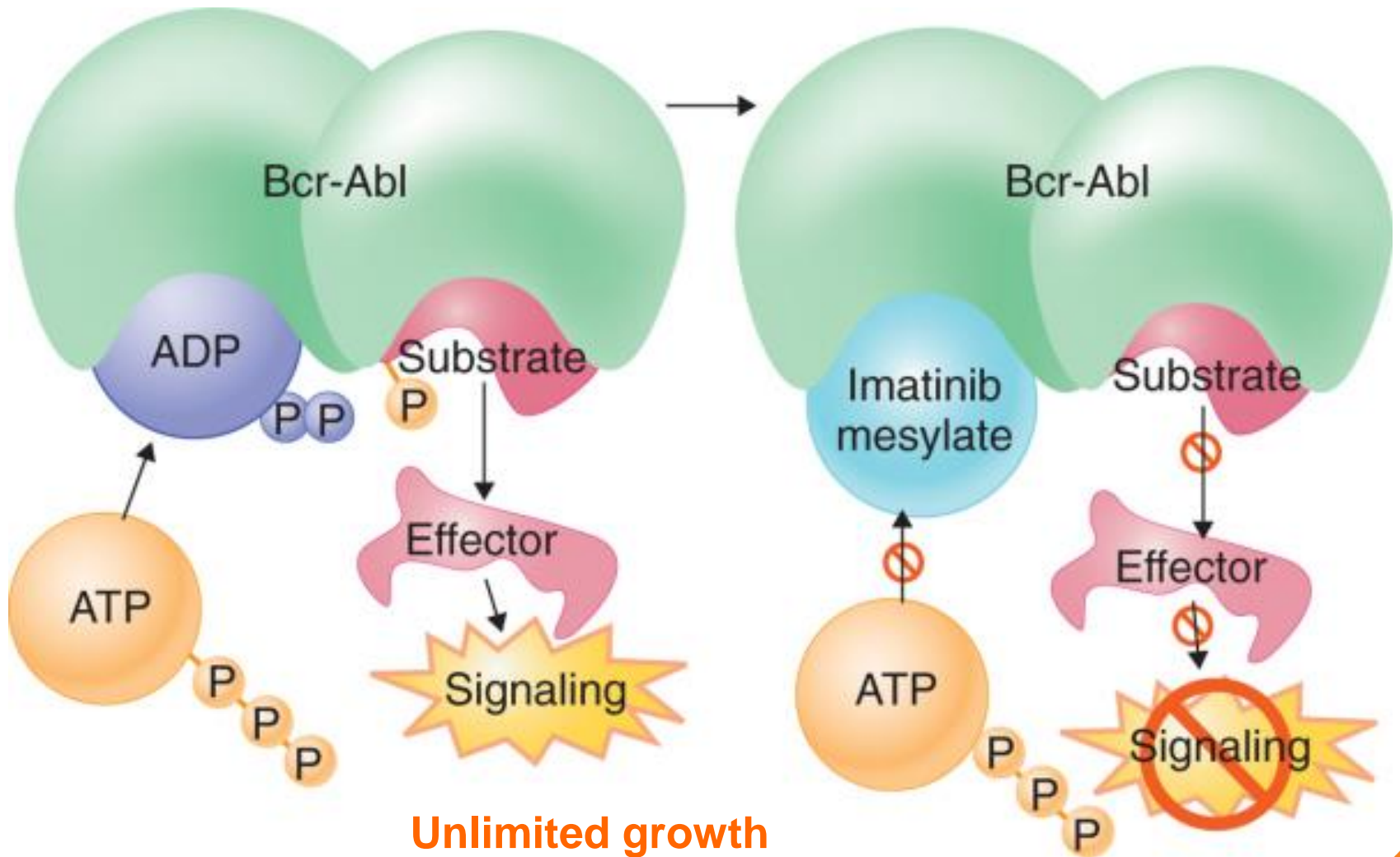
## Intermediate

- normal karyotype
- Others
- 

## Unfavorable

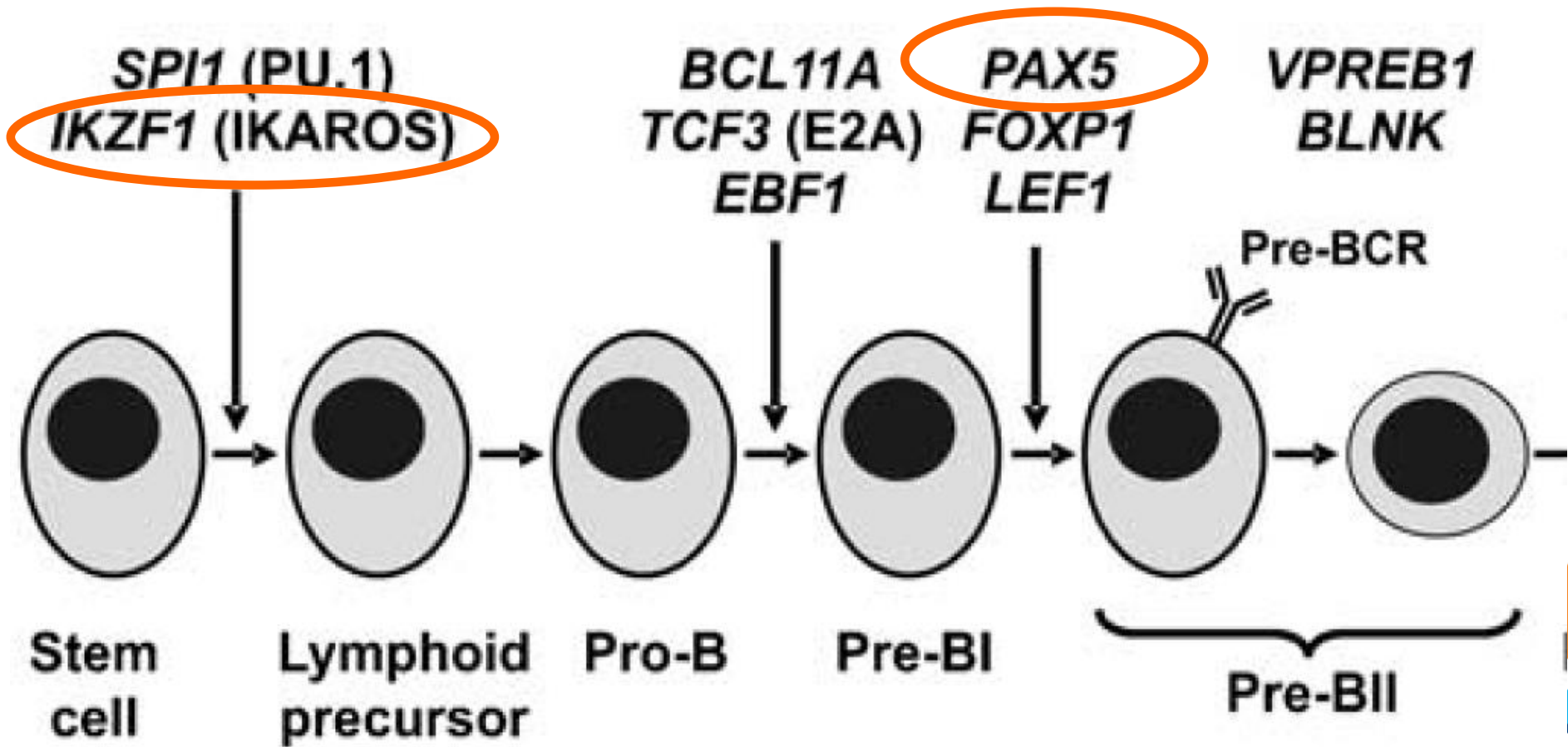
- Hypodiploid <45
- MLL-rearrangement,
- BCR-ABL1 and
- SIL-TAL1
- subgroups

# Imatinib – targeted therapy for BCR-ABL1



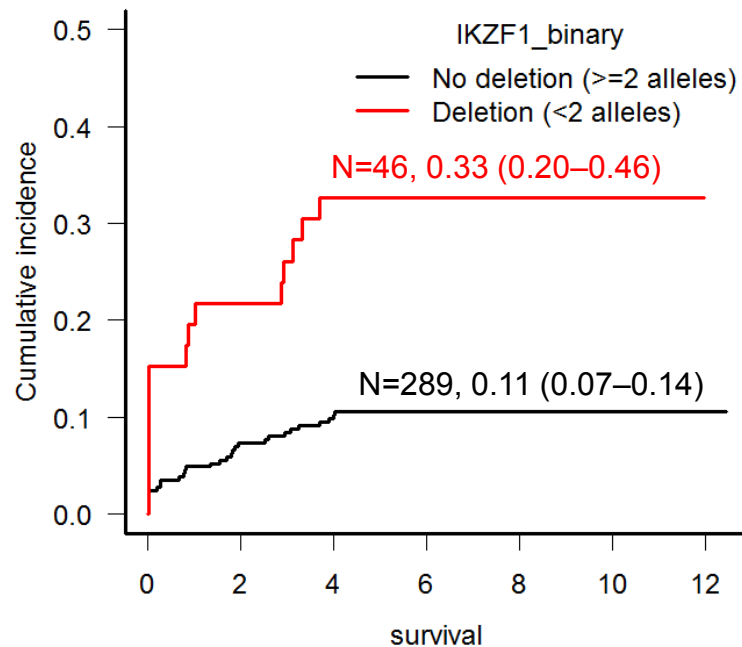
# Alteration in B-cell development genes -> ALL

## Antigen-Independent

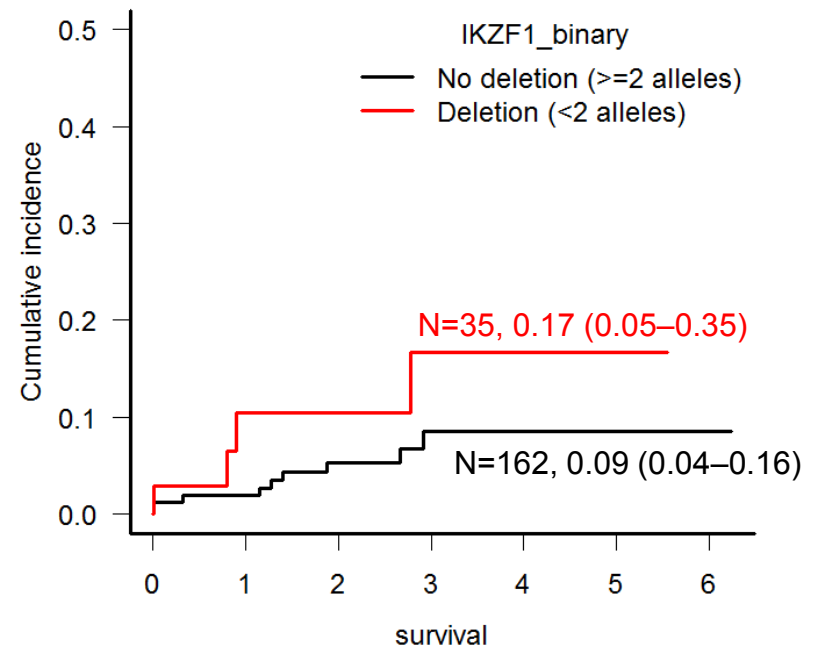


# Intervening by intensification Ikaros deletion (Ma-Spore ALL 2003 vs 2010)

**IKZF1 (P<0.001)**

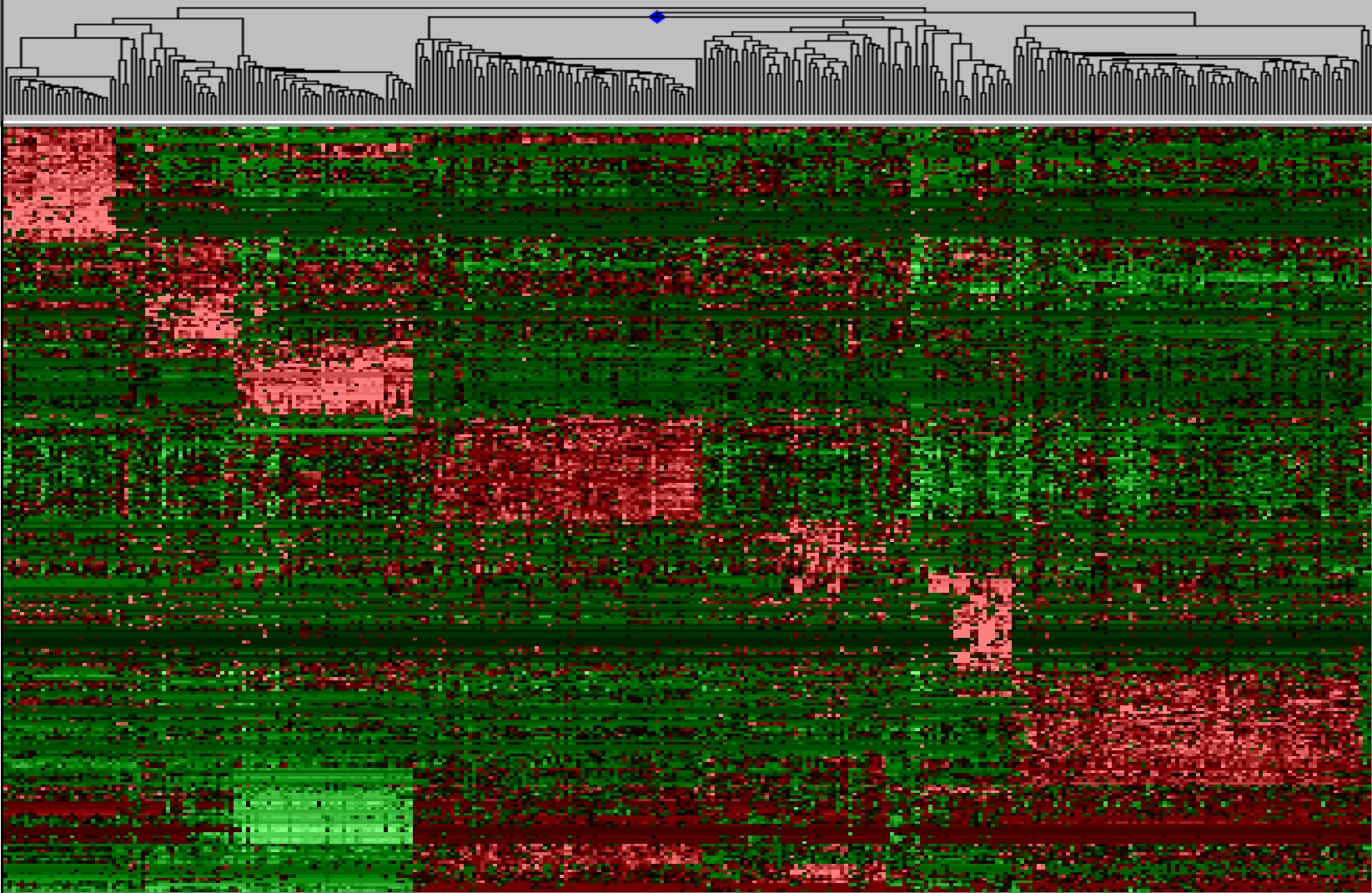


**IKZF1 (P=0.178)**

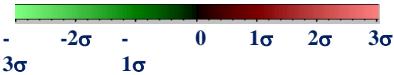


# Diagnostic ALL BM Samples (n = 327)

Genes for class distinction (n=271)

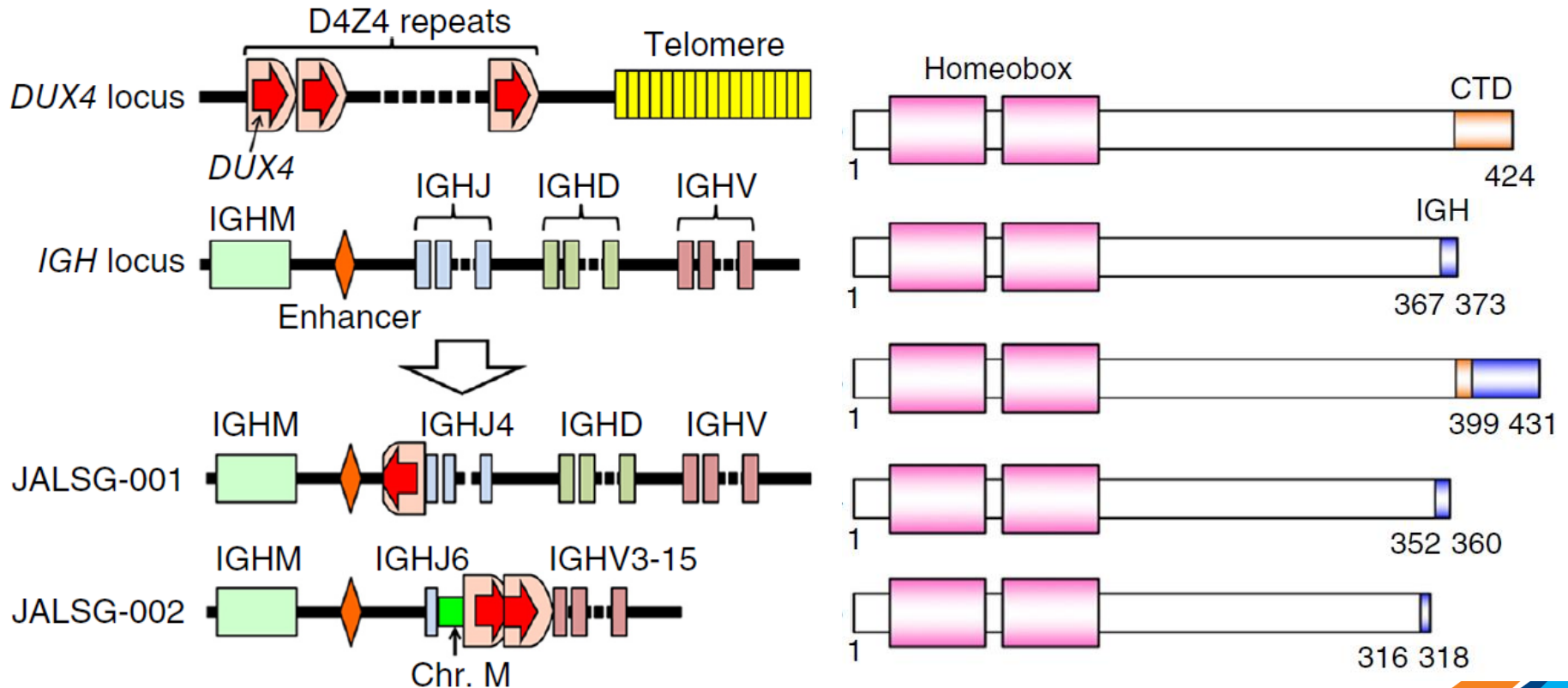


E2A-PBX1    MLL    T-ALL    Hyperdiploid > 50    BCR-ABL    Novel    TEL-AML1



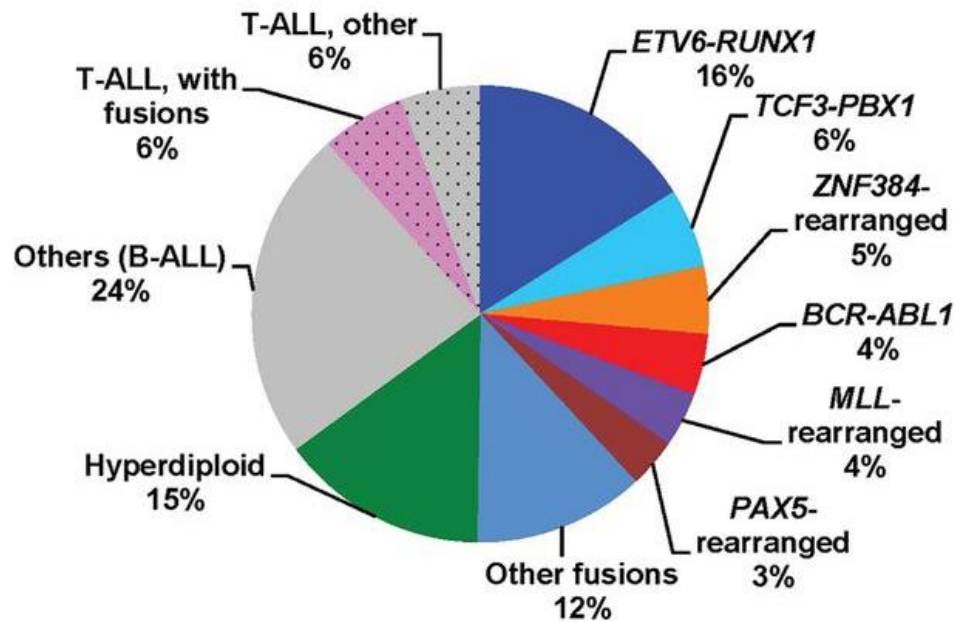
# D4Z4 repeats inserted after enhancer of IgH

## In B-ALL, IgH enhancer active, increase DUX4 expression

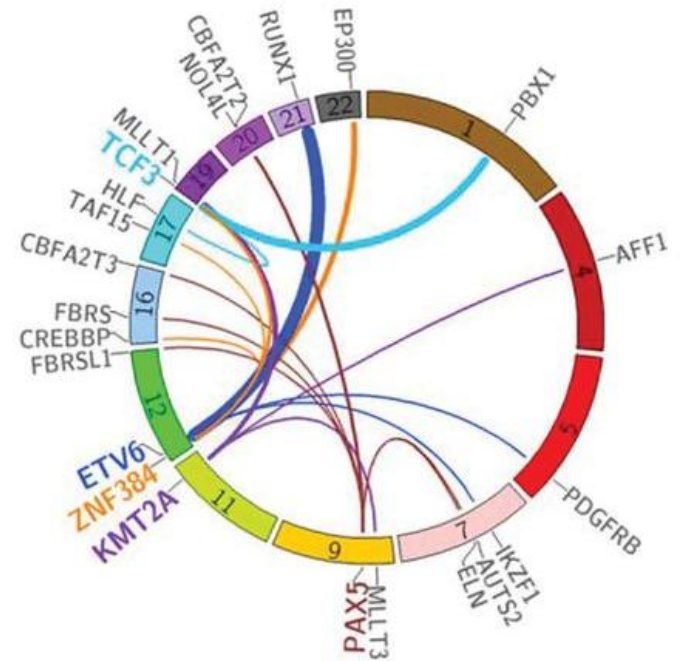


# ZNF384-rearranged leukaemia – good prognosis

B

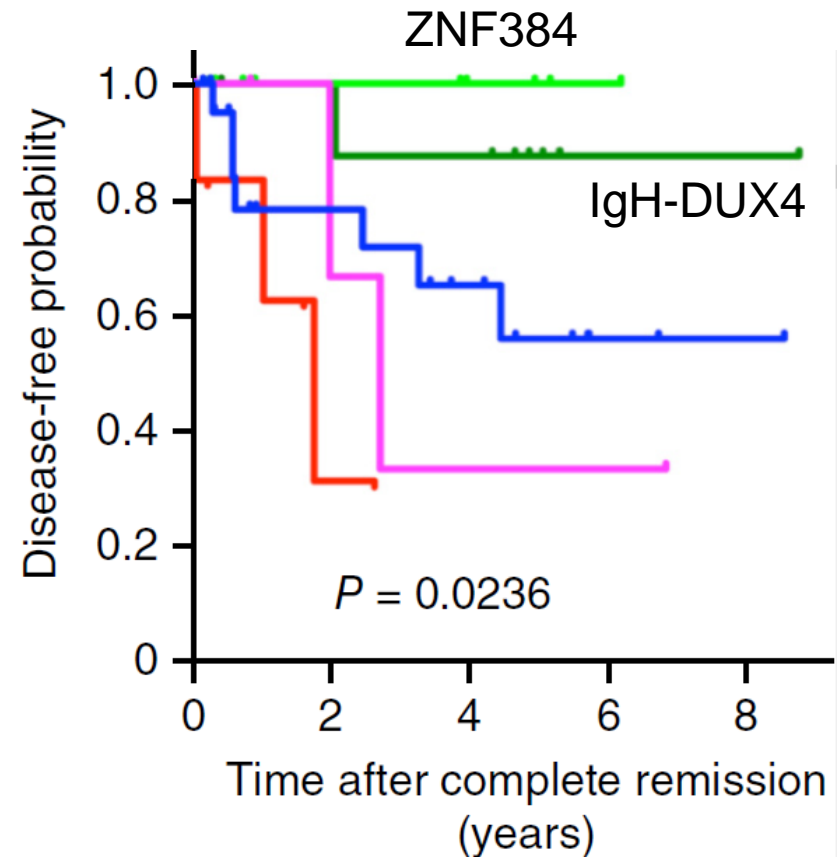
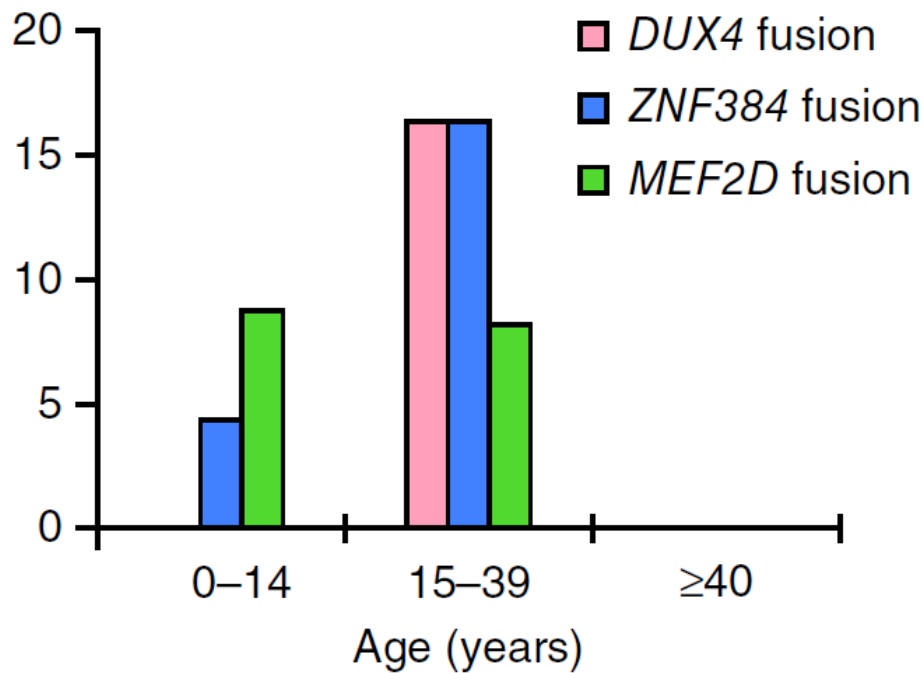


C



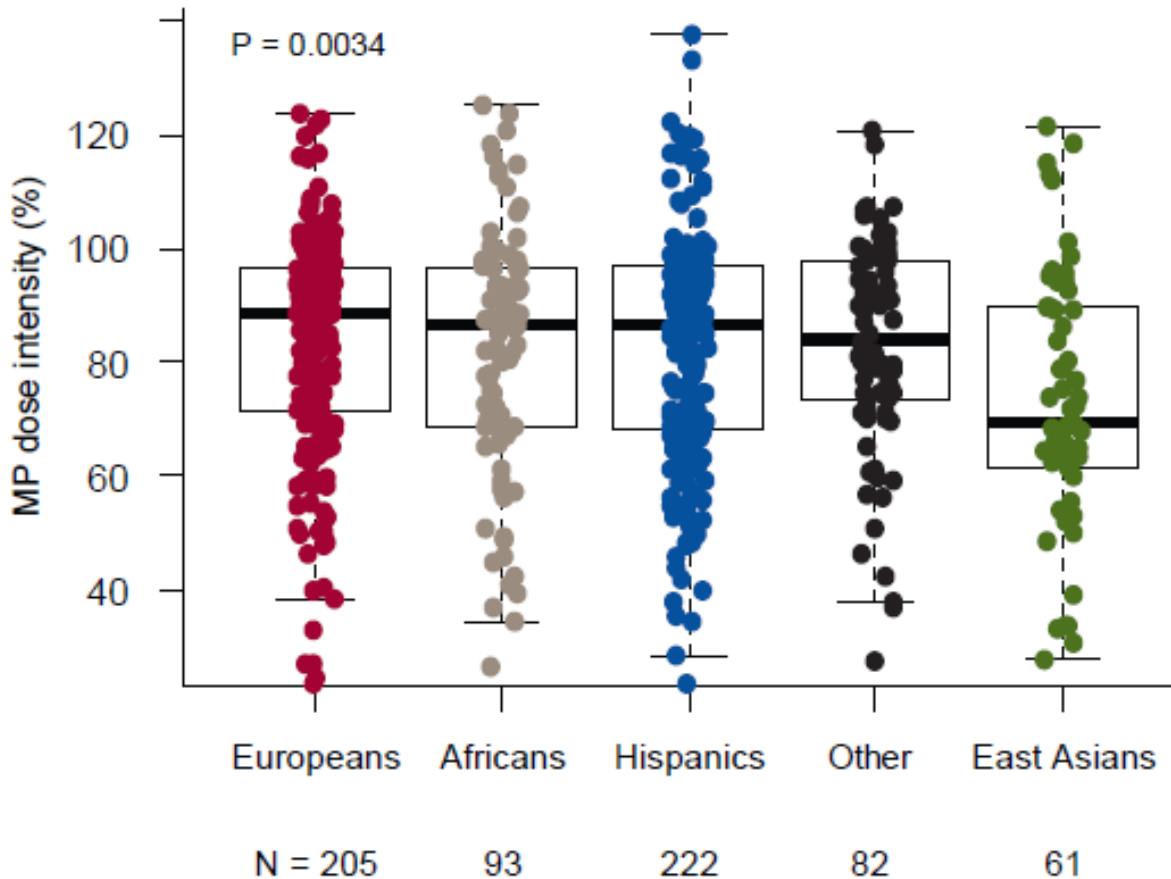
# IgH-DUX4 – a/w ERG deletion

## IgH-DUX4, ZNF384 excellent outcome

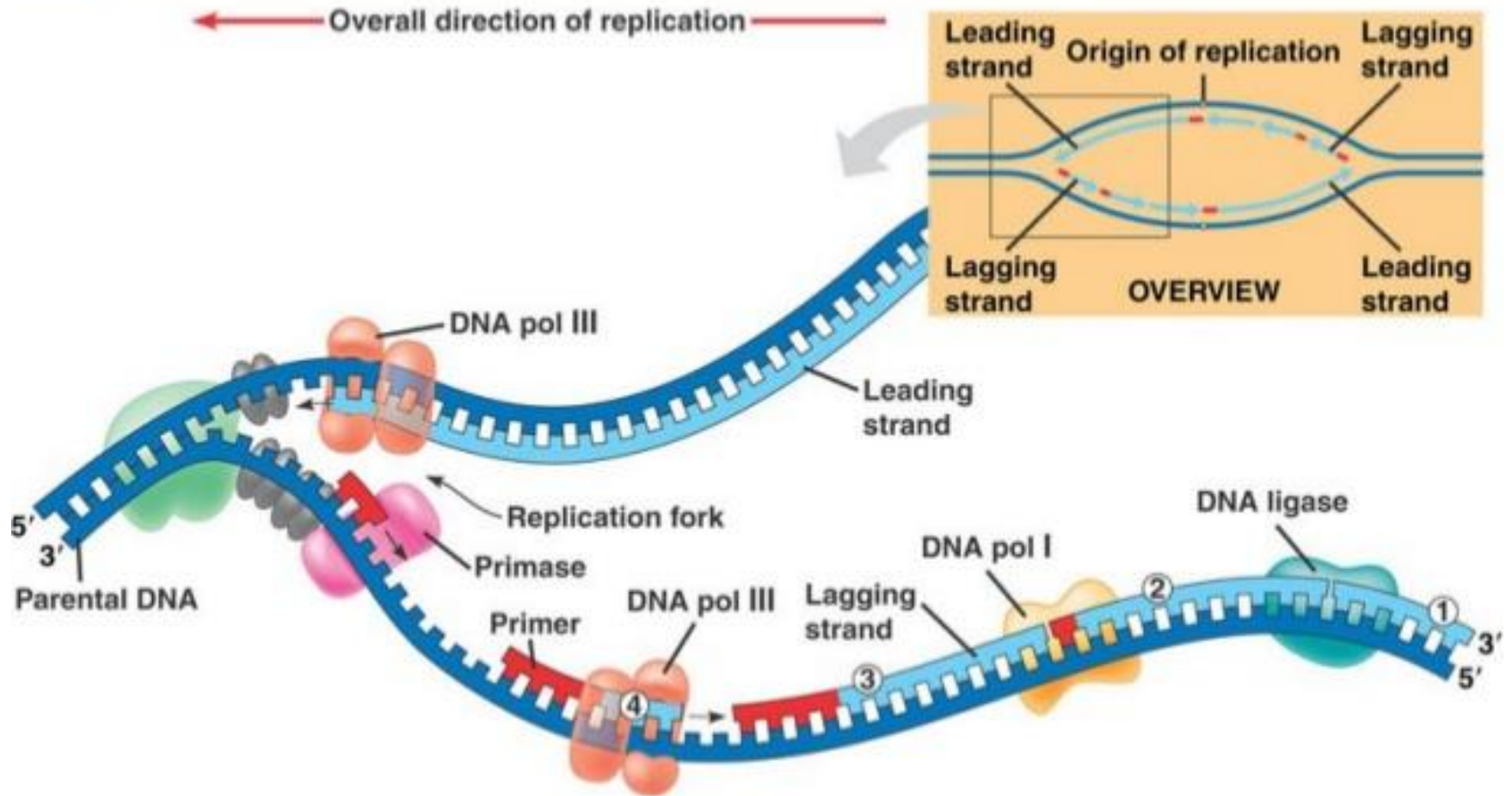




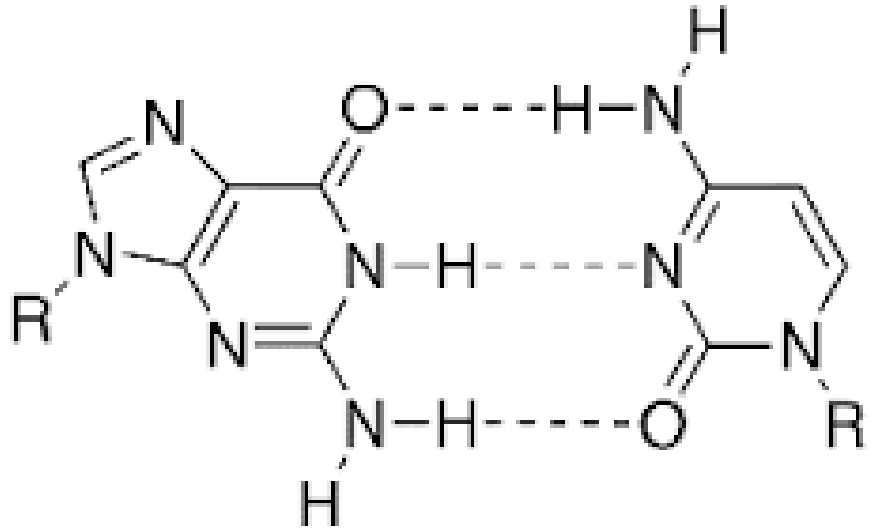
# East Asian Ancestry has Lower 6MP Tolerance



# Replication Fork



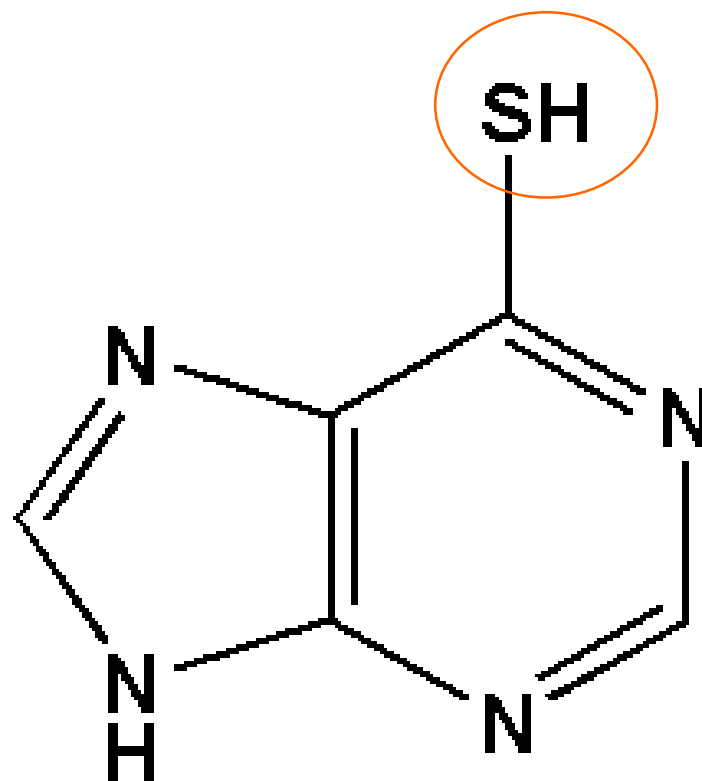
Guanine pairs with cytosine – 3 hydrogen bonds



Guanine

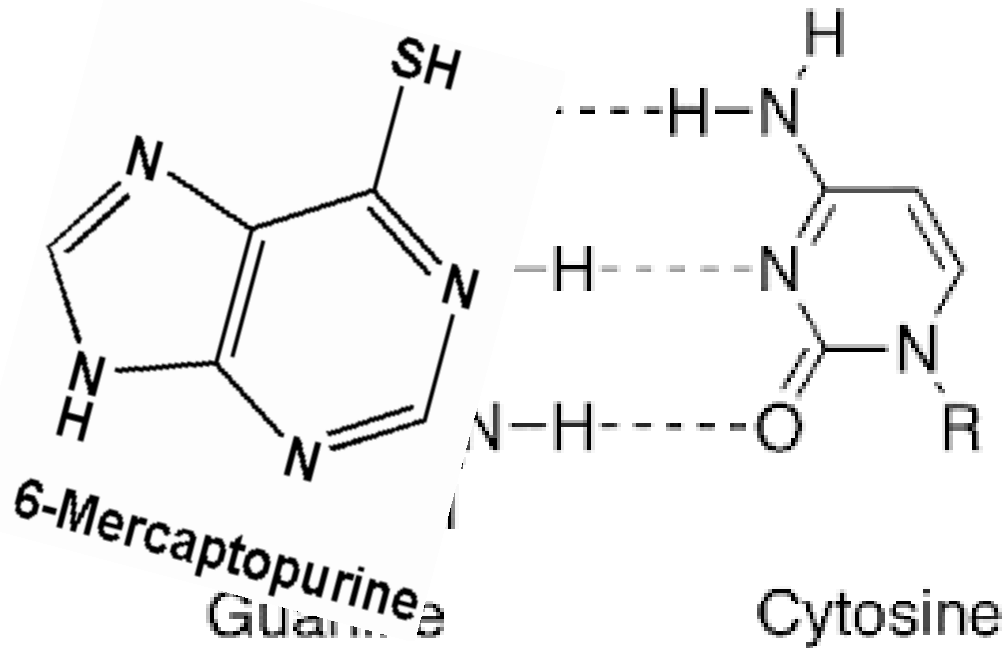
Cytosine

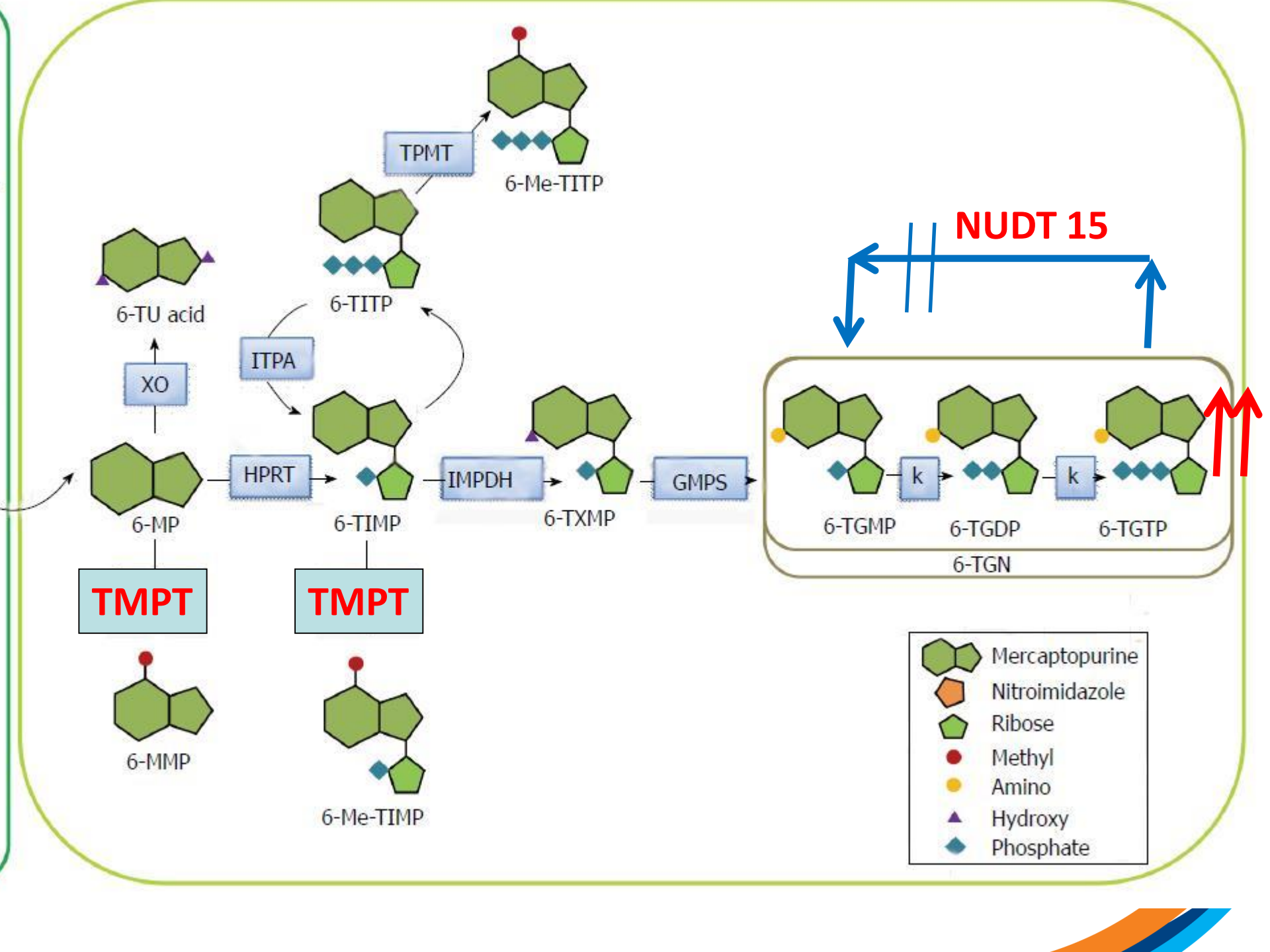
Gertrude Elion – Nobel Prize 1988



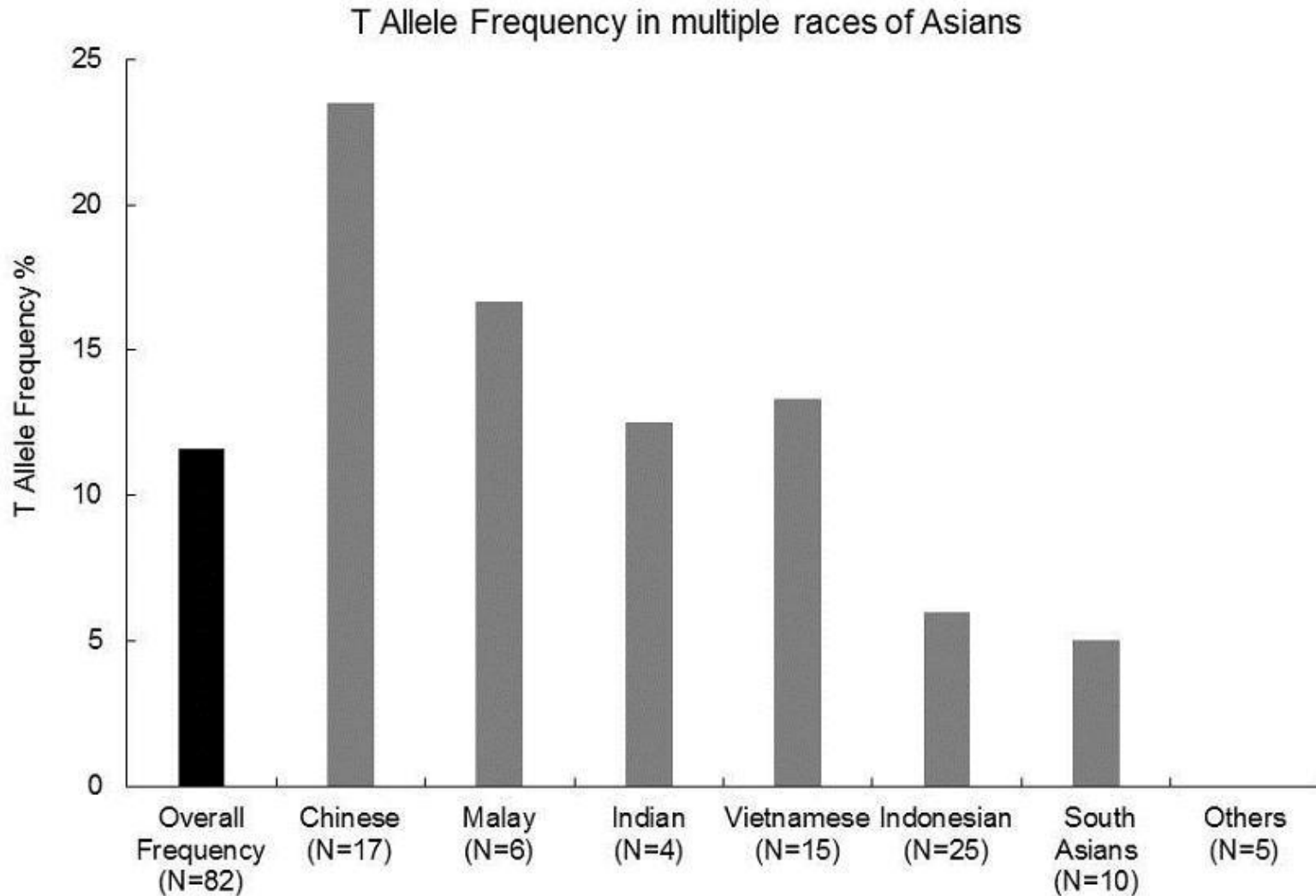
**6-Mercaptopurine**

Mercaptopurine – designed analog to block pairing  
Stuck Zipper – fail DNA replication



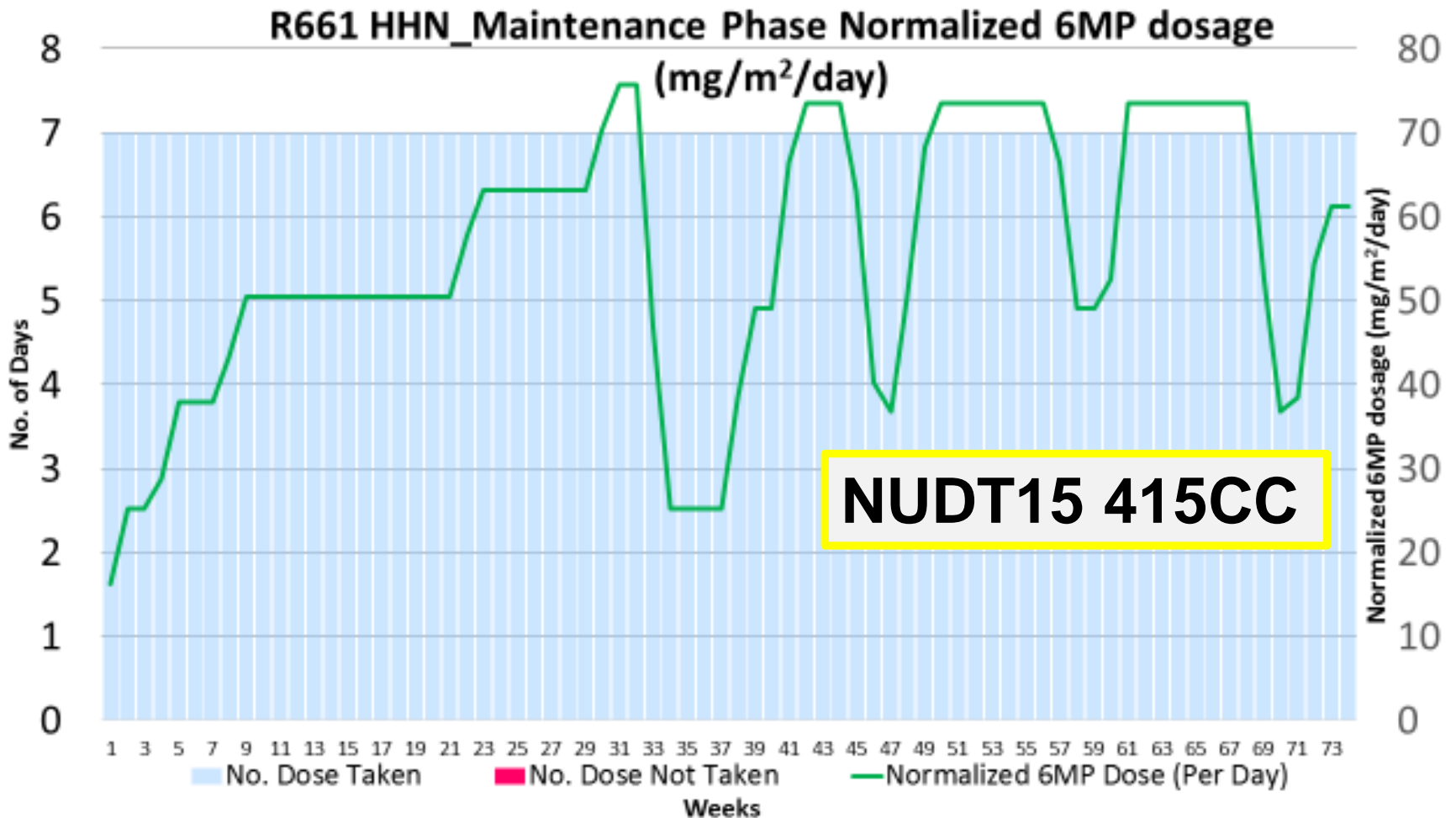


# Frequency of NUDT15 415T in NUH



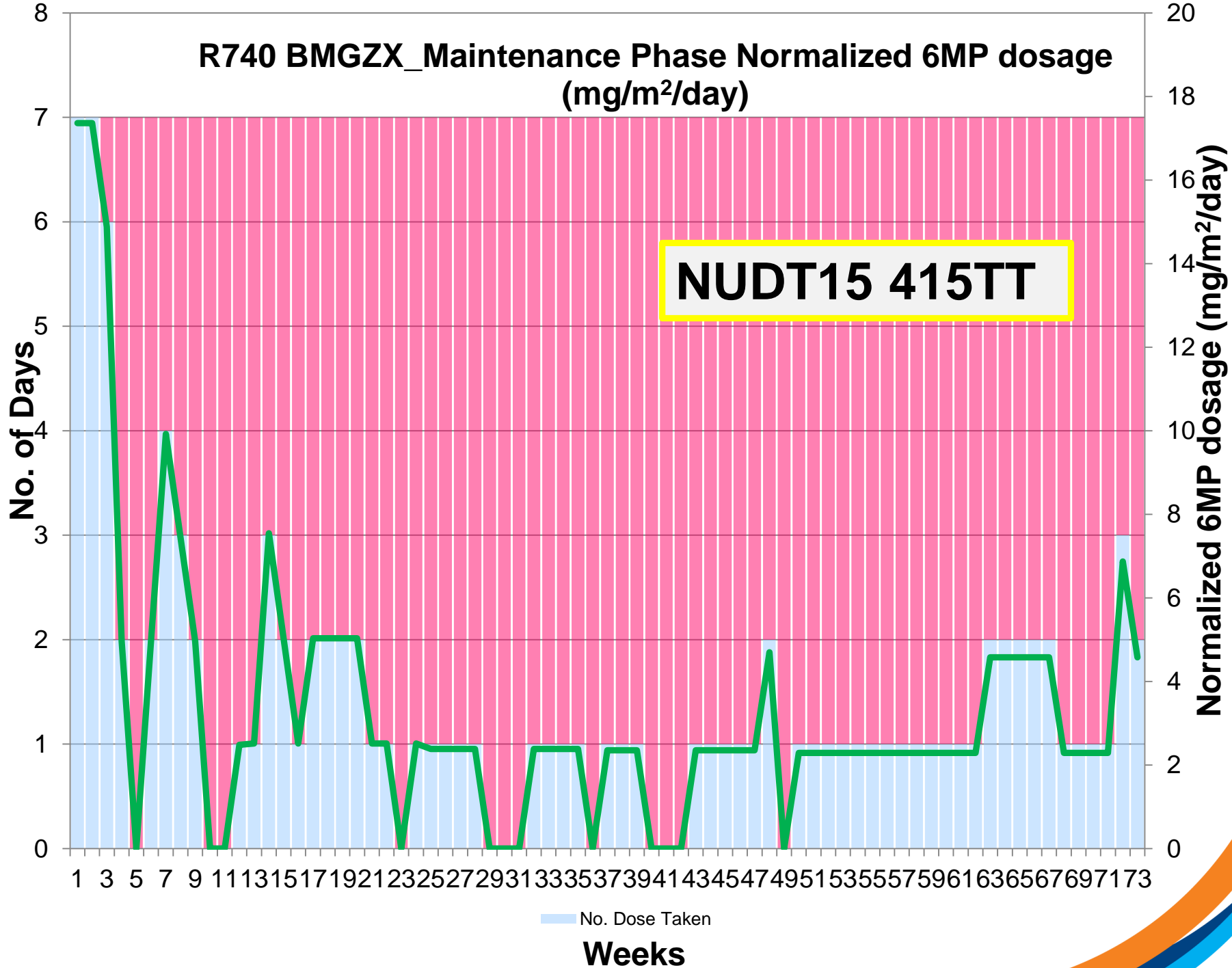


# NUDT15 and TPMT wild type: Genetic score 0

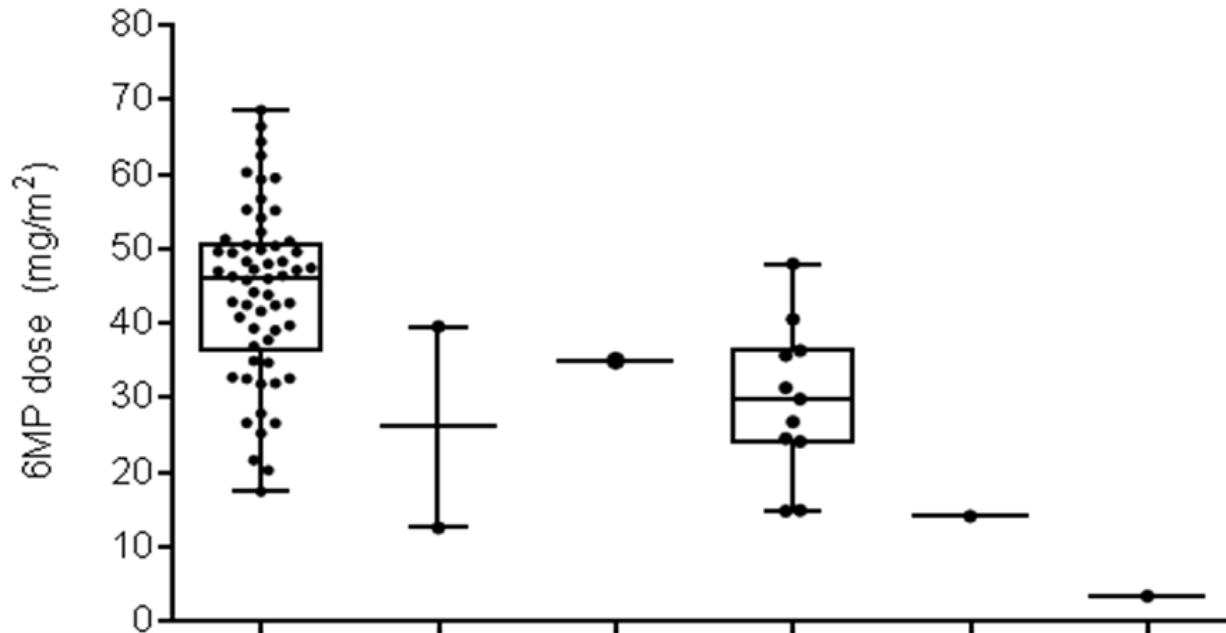




# R740 BMGZX\_Maintenance Phase Normalized 6MP dosage (mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day)



# Combined *NUDT15* and *TPMT* on MP Tolerance; Ma-Spore ALL 2003 experience



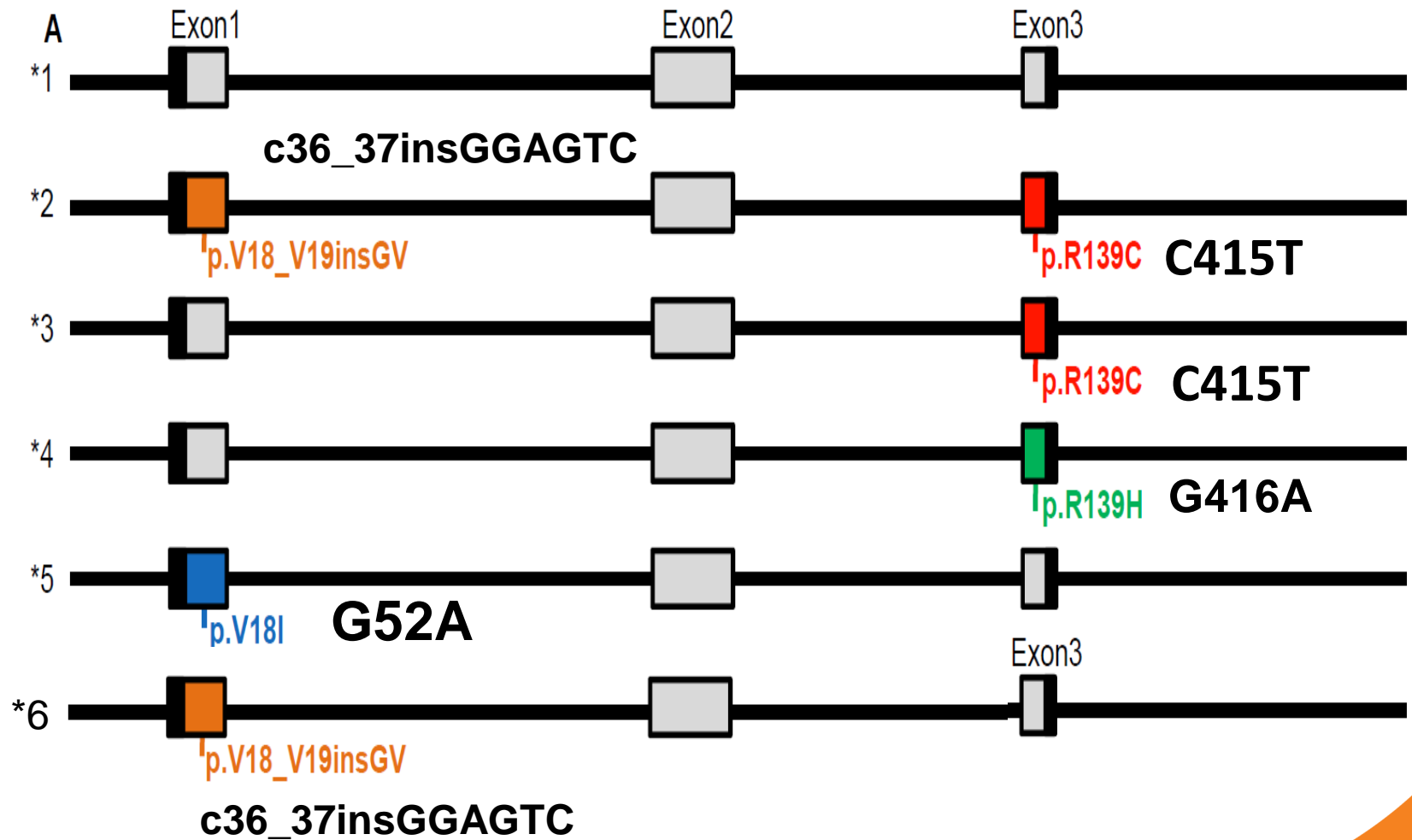
<i>NUDT15</i> C415T	WT	WT	WT	HET	HET	HOM
<i>NUDT15</i> G52A	WT	WT	HET	WT	HET	WT
<i>TPMT</i> *3C	WT	HET	WT	WT	WT	WT
Genetic Risk Score	0	1	1	1	2	2
N=	58	2	1	11	1	1
Median	46.14	26.07	34.99	29.84	14.12	3.36

# *NUDT15* polymorphisms alter thiopurine metabolism and hematopoietic toxicity

Takaya Moriyama<sup>1,2</sup>, Rina Nishii<sup>1,3,22</sup>, Virginia Perez-Andreu<sup>1,22</sup>, Wenjian Yang<sup>1</sup>, Federico Antillon Klusmann<sup>4,5</sup>, Xujie Zhao<sup>1</sup>, Ting-Nien Lin<sup>1</sup>, Keito Hoshitsuki<sup>1,6</sup>, Jacob Nersting<sup>7</sup>, Kentaro Kihira<sup>2</sup>, Ute Hofmann<sup>8,9</sup>, Yoshihiro Komada<sup>2</sup>, Motohiro Kato<sup>10</sup>, Robert McCorkle<sup>1</sup>, Lie Li<sup>1</sup>, Katsuyoshi Koh<sup>11</sup>, Cesar Rolando Najera<sup>4</sup>, Shirley Kow-Yin Kham<sup>12</sup>, Tomoya Isobe<sup>13</sup>, Zhiwei Chen<sup>12</sup>, Edwynn Kean-Hui Chiew<sup>12</sup>, Deepa Bhojwani<sup>14</sup>, Cynthia Jeffries<sup>15</sup>, Yan Lu<sup>15</sup>, Matthias Schwab<sup>8,9,16,17</sup>, Hiroto Inaba<sup>18</sup>, Ching-Hon Pui<sup>18</sup>, Mary V Relling<sup>1</sup>, Atsushi Manabe<sup>19</sup>, Hiroki Hori<sup>2</sup>, Kjeld Schmiegelow<sup>7,20</sup>, Allen E J Yeoh<sup>12,21</sup>, William E Evans<sup>1</sup> & Jun J Yang<sup>1</sup>

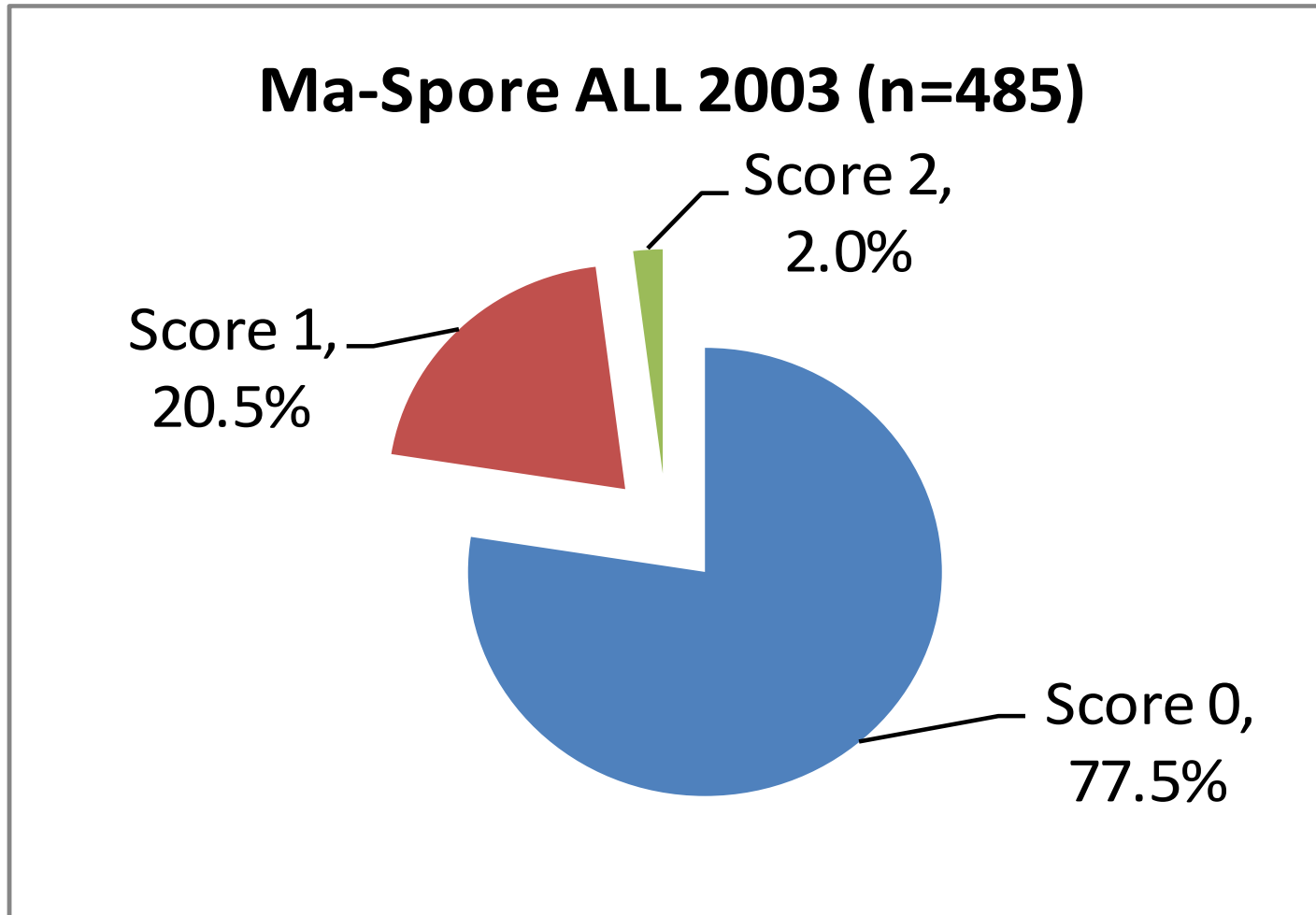
Widely used as anticancer and immunosuppressive agents, thiopurines have narrow therapeutic indices owing to frequent toxicities, partly explained by *TPMT* genetic polymorphisms. Recent studies identified germline *NUDT15* variation as another critical determinant of thiopurine intolerance, but the underlying molecular mechanisms and the clinical implications of this pharmacogenetic association remain unknown. In 270 children enrolled in clinical trials for acute lymphoblastic leukemia in Guatemala, Singapore and Japan, we identified four *NUDT15* coding variants (p.Arg139Cys, p.Arg139His, p.Val18Ile and p.Val18\_Val19insGlyVal) that resulted in 74.4–100% loss of nucleotide diphosphatase activity. Loss-of-function *NUDT15* diplotypes were consistently associated with thiopurine intolerance across the three cohorts ( $P = 0.021$ ,  $2.1 \times 10^{-5}$  and  $0.0054$ , respectively; meta-analysis  $P = 4.45 \times 10^{-8}$ , allelic effect size =  $-11.5$ ). Mechanistically, *NUDT15* inactivated thiopurine metabolites and decreased thiopurine cytotoxicity *in vitro*, and patients with defective *NUDT15* alleles showed excessive levels of thiopurine active metabolites and toxicity. Taken together, these results indicate that a comprehensive pharmacogenetic model integrating *NUDT15* variants may inform personalized thiopurine therapy.

# NUDT15 variants

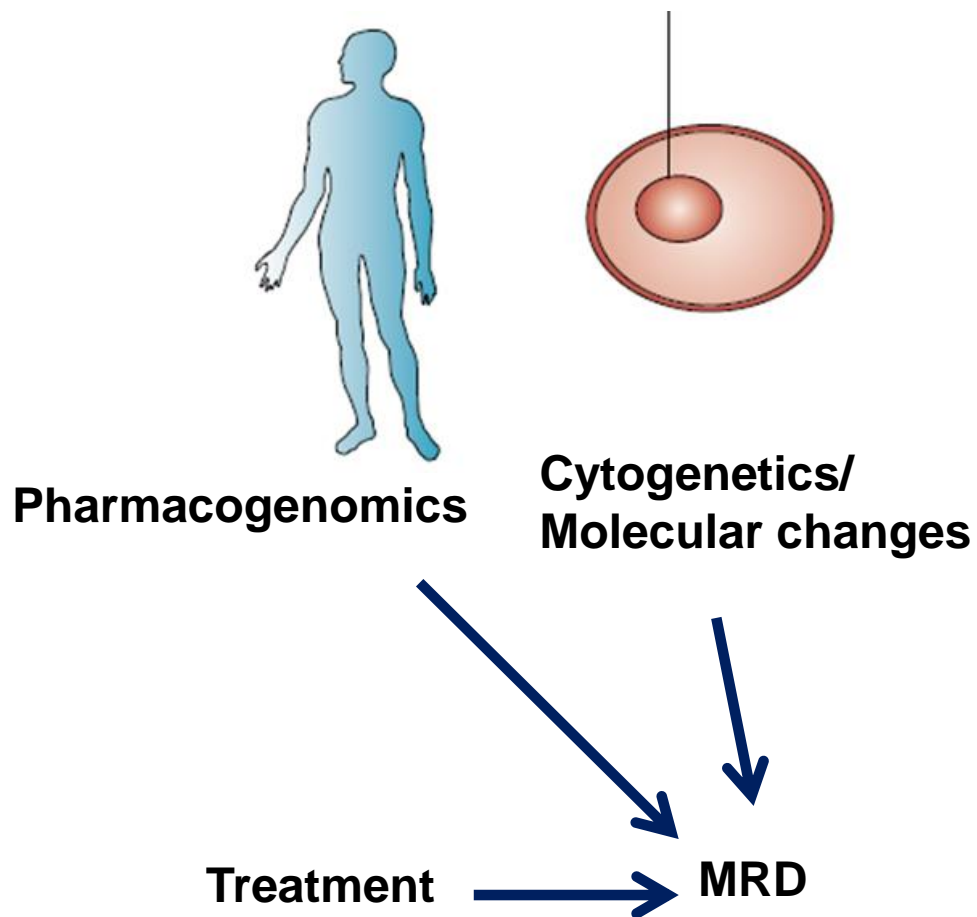


# Combining NUDT15 and TPMT variants

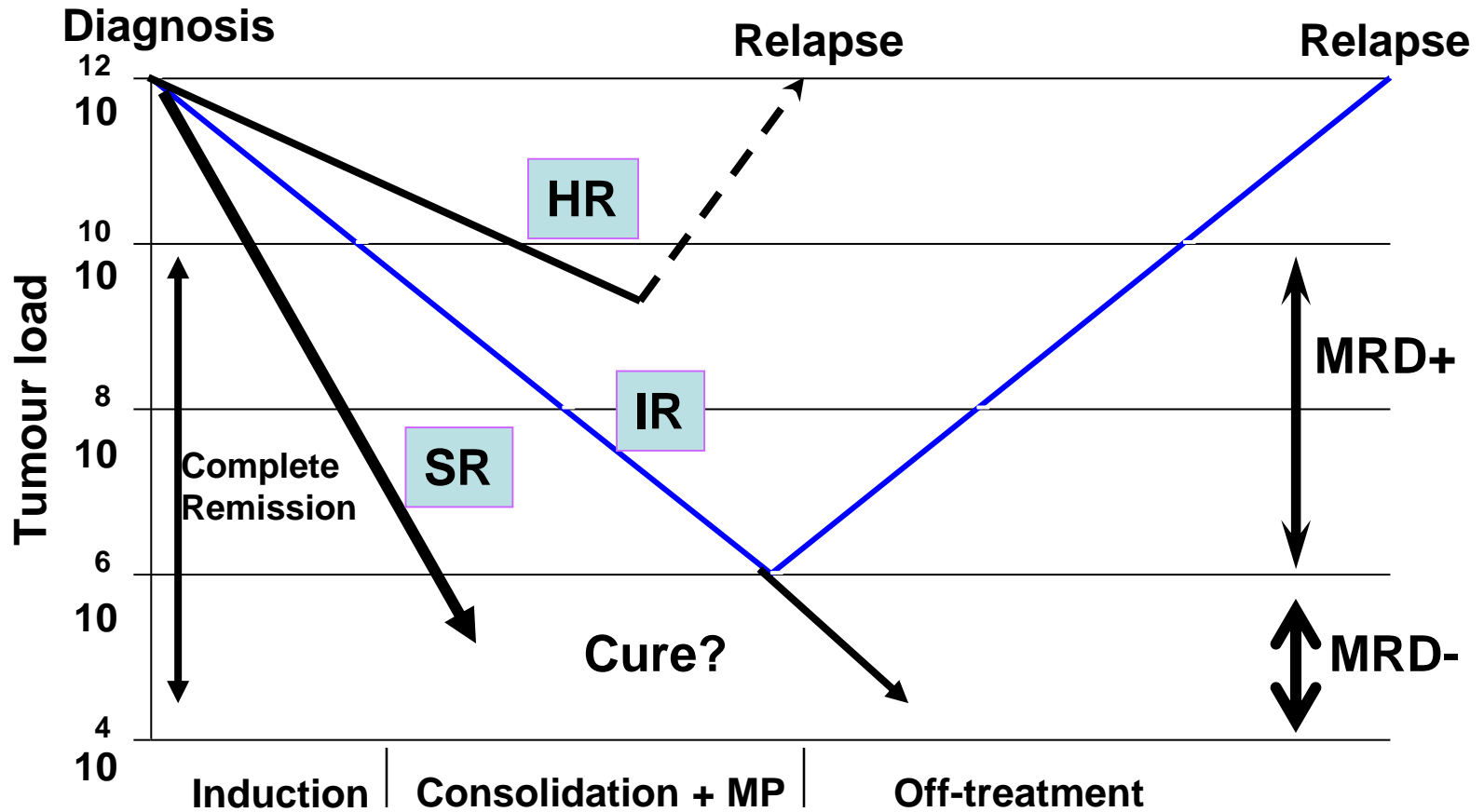
## Genetic score – 1 in 50 very sensitive to MP



# Minimal Residual Disease – quantitating submicroscopic disease



# MRD Kinetics – Flow or PCR MRD



# Minimal Residual Disease–Guided Treatment **Deintensification** for Children With Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia: Results From the Malaysia-Singapore Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia 2003 Study

*Allen Eng Juh Yeoh, Hany Ariffin, Elaine Li Leng Chai, Cecilia Sze Nga Kwok, Yiong Huak Chan, Kuperan Ponnudurai, Dario Campana, Poh Lin Tan, Mei Yoke Chan, Shirley Kow Yin Kham, Lee Ai Chong, Ah Moy Tan, Hai Peng Lin, and Thuan Chong Quah*

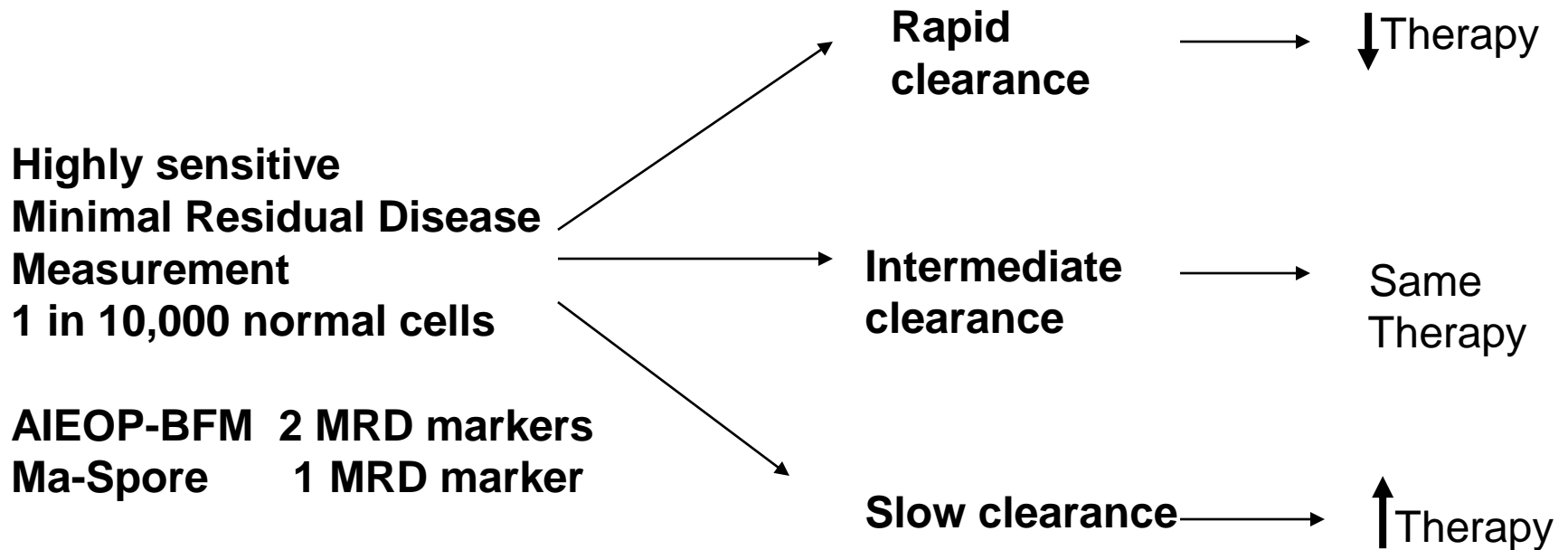
A truly Asian effort – NUS, NUH, KKH – Singaporeans, Asian children

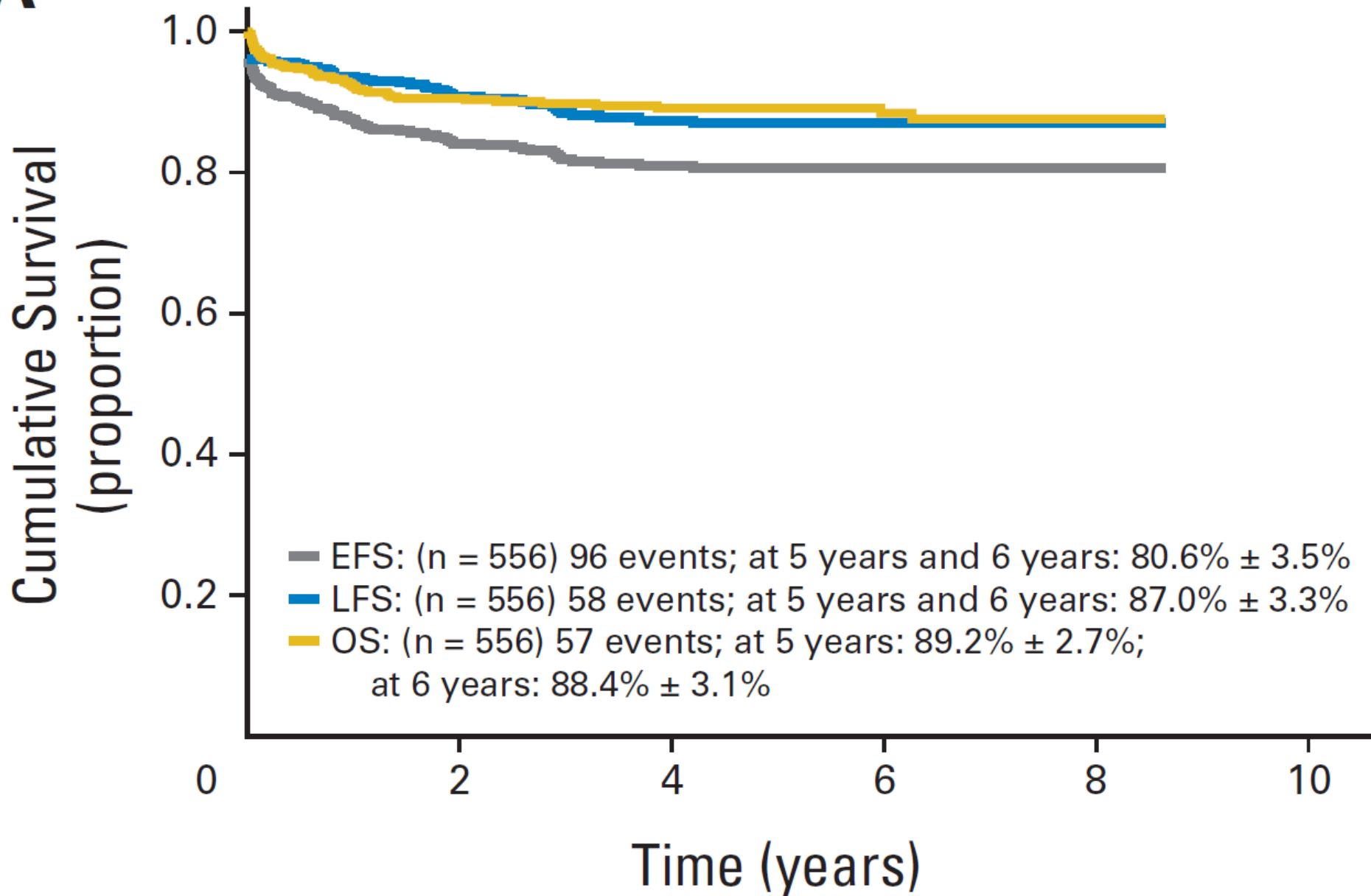
**University Malaya – Hany Ariffin, Wan Ariffin and team ,  
Sime Darby Medical Centre, KL – Lin Hai Pheng, Chan Lee Lee**



# Tailoring leukaemia treatment

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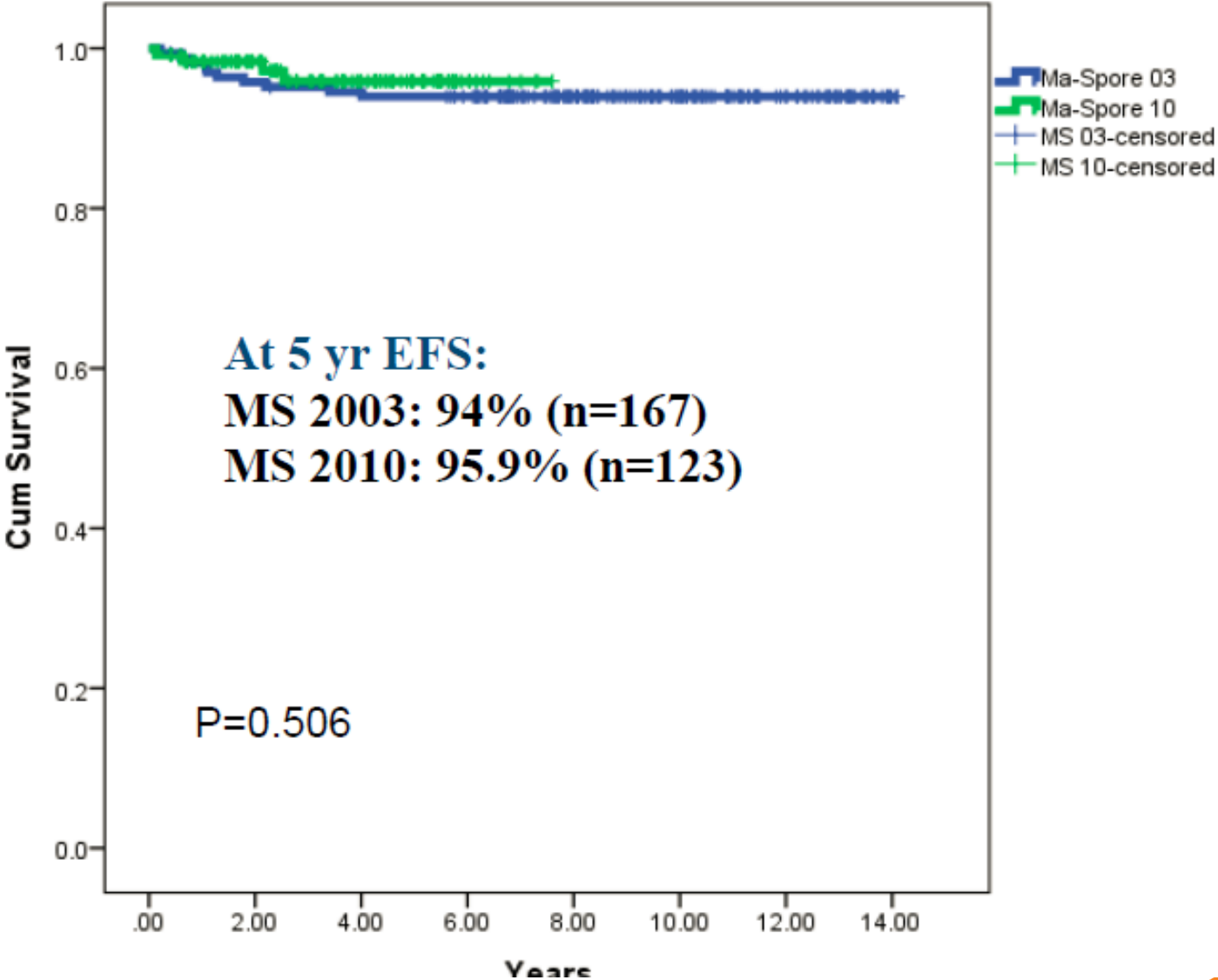


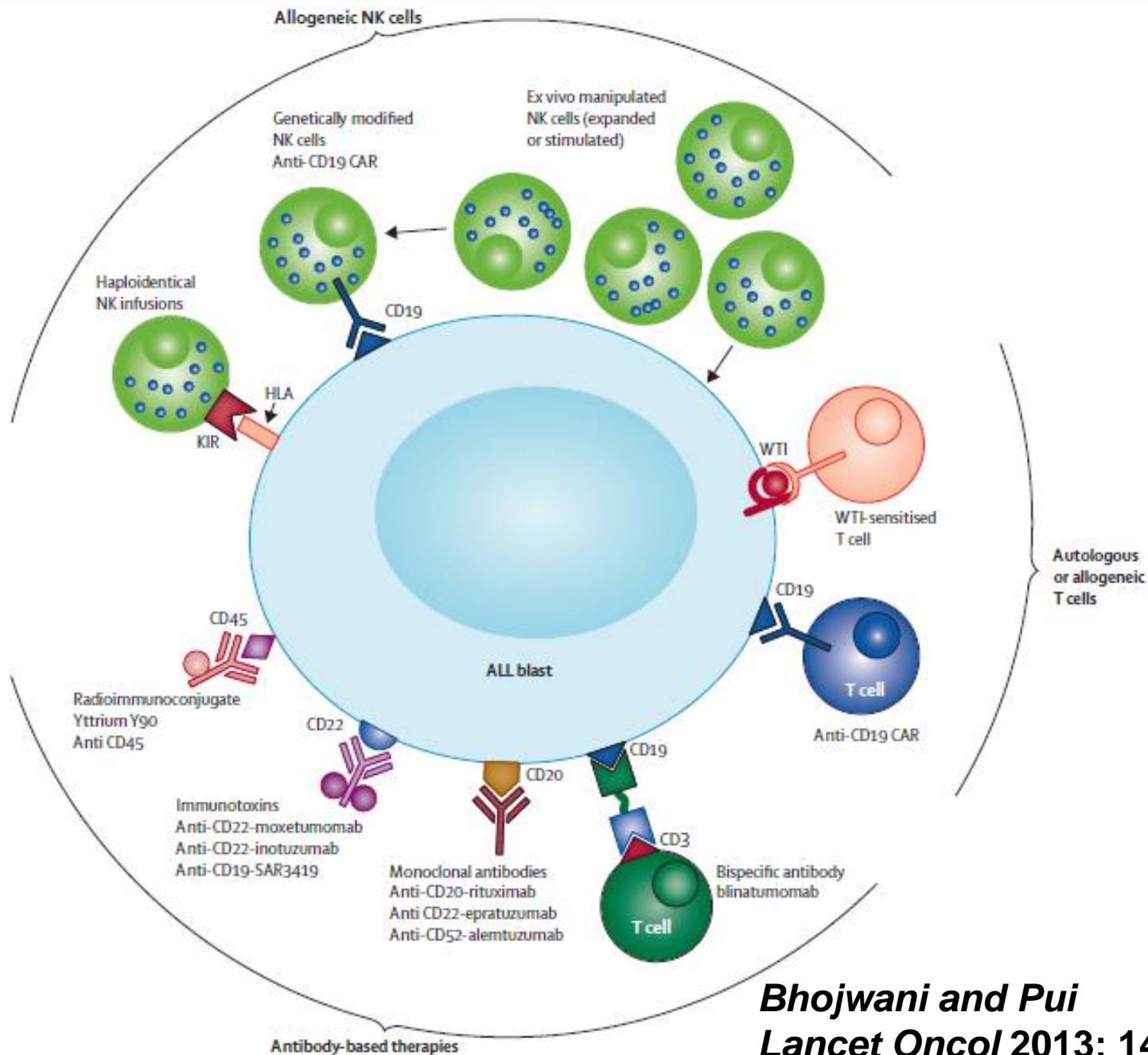
**A**

**AIEOP-BFM-ALL 2000:  
Increased Relapse After Lowering Intensity of Delayed  
Intensification in Negative MRD After Remission Induction**

	<b>4-yr DFS</b>	<b>4y DFS &lt;10y</b>	<b>4y DFS &gt;10y</b>
<b>III</b>	<b>91.8%</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>81.6</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>95.8%</b>	<b>92.5</b>	<b>90.3</b>
<b>P=</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>0.04</b>

Figure 19: Event-Free Survival ALL 2003 vs 2010 by Ma-Spore 2010 Risk Stratification (SR)

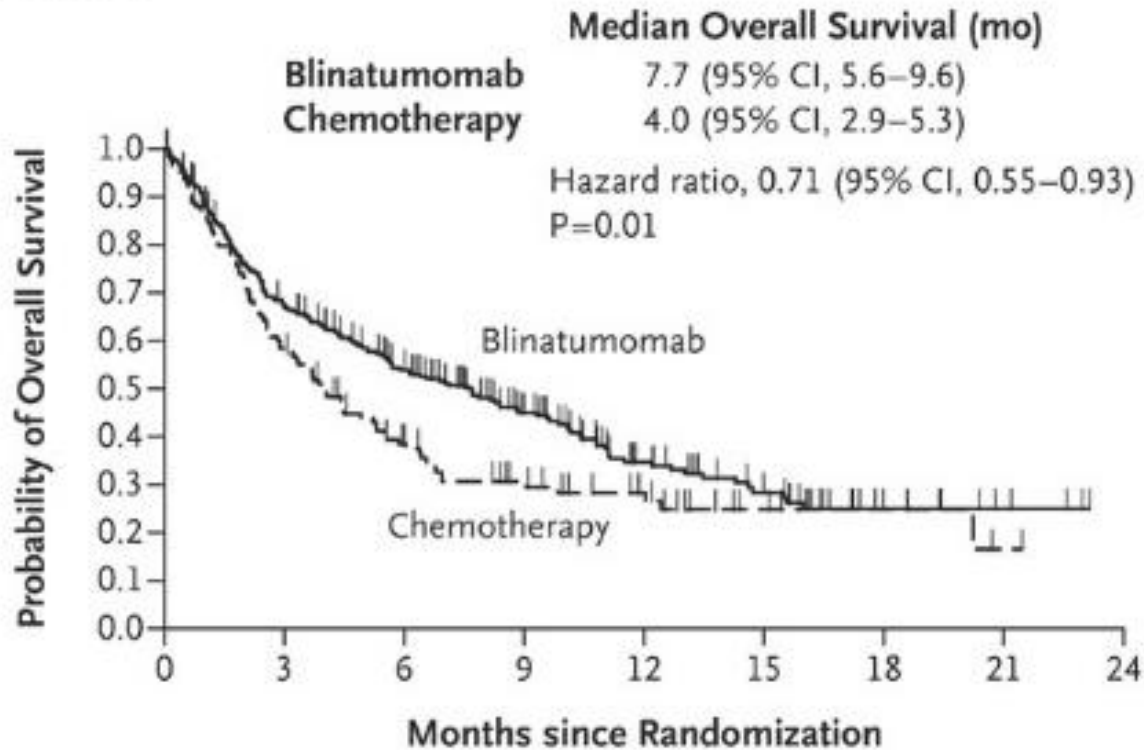




**Bhojwani and Pui**  
**Lancet Oncol 2013; 14: e205–17**

# Outcome after Blinatumomab relapsed ALL

## A Overall Survival

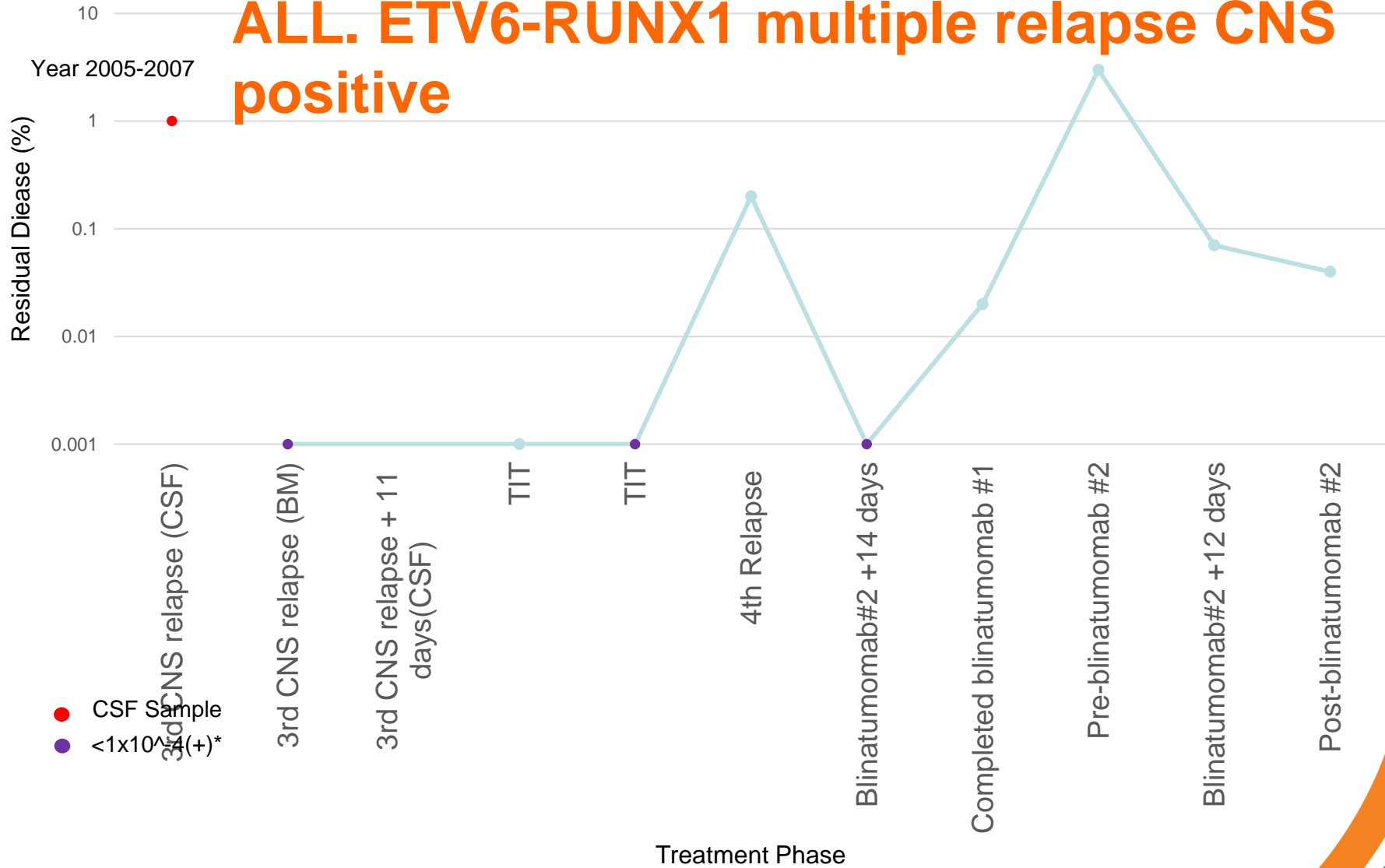


### No. at Risk

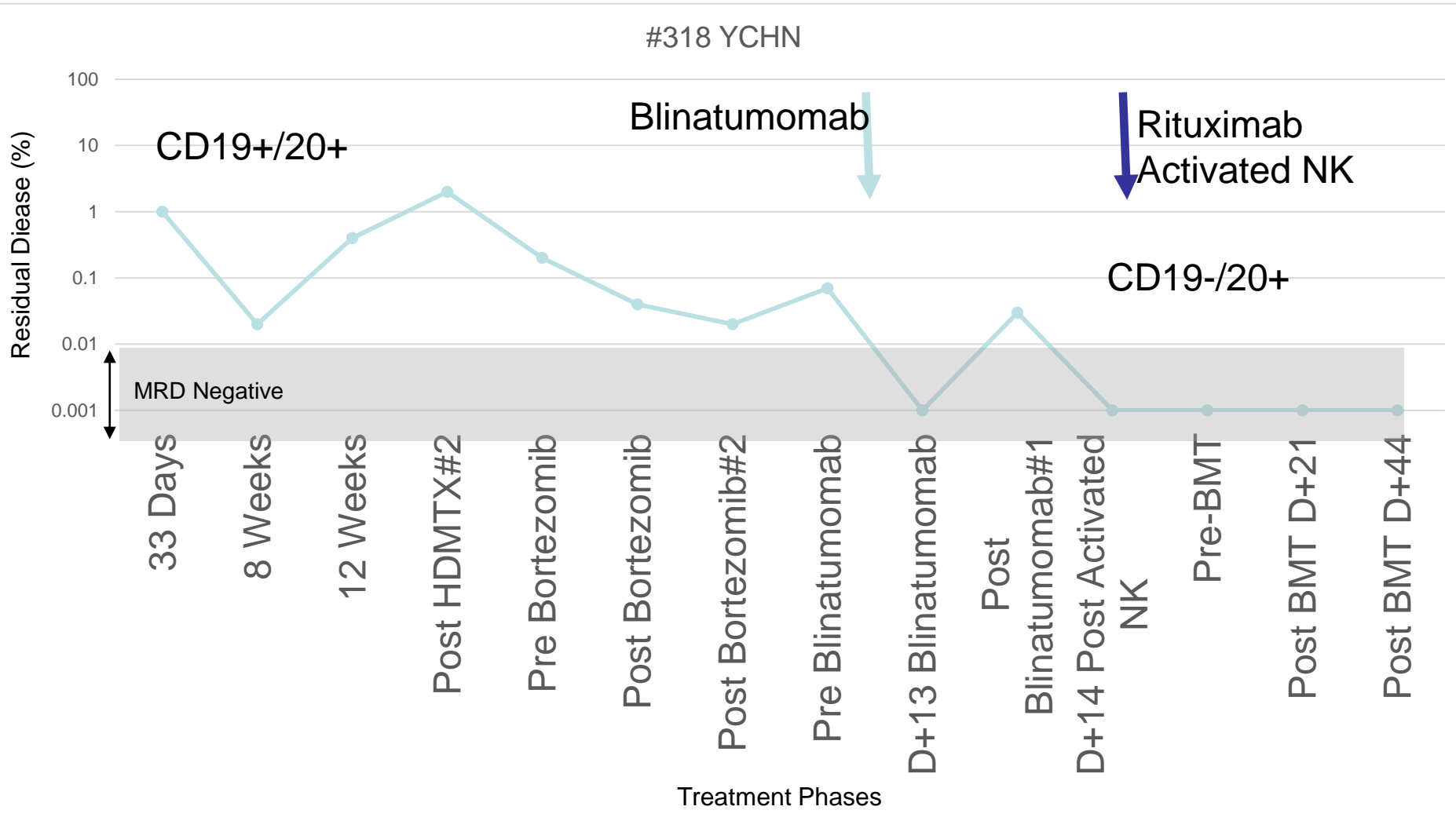
Blinatumomab	271	176	124	79	45	27	9	4	0
Chemotherapy	134	71	41	27	17	7	4	1	0

R313 LJHJ

# ALL. ETV6-RUNX1 multiple relapse CNS positive



# NCI HR, hypodiploid ALL, ?Li Fraumeni

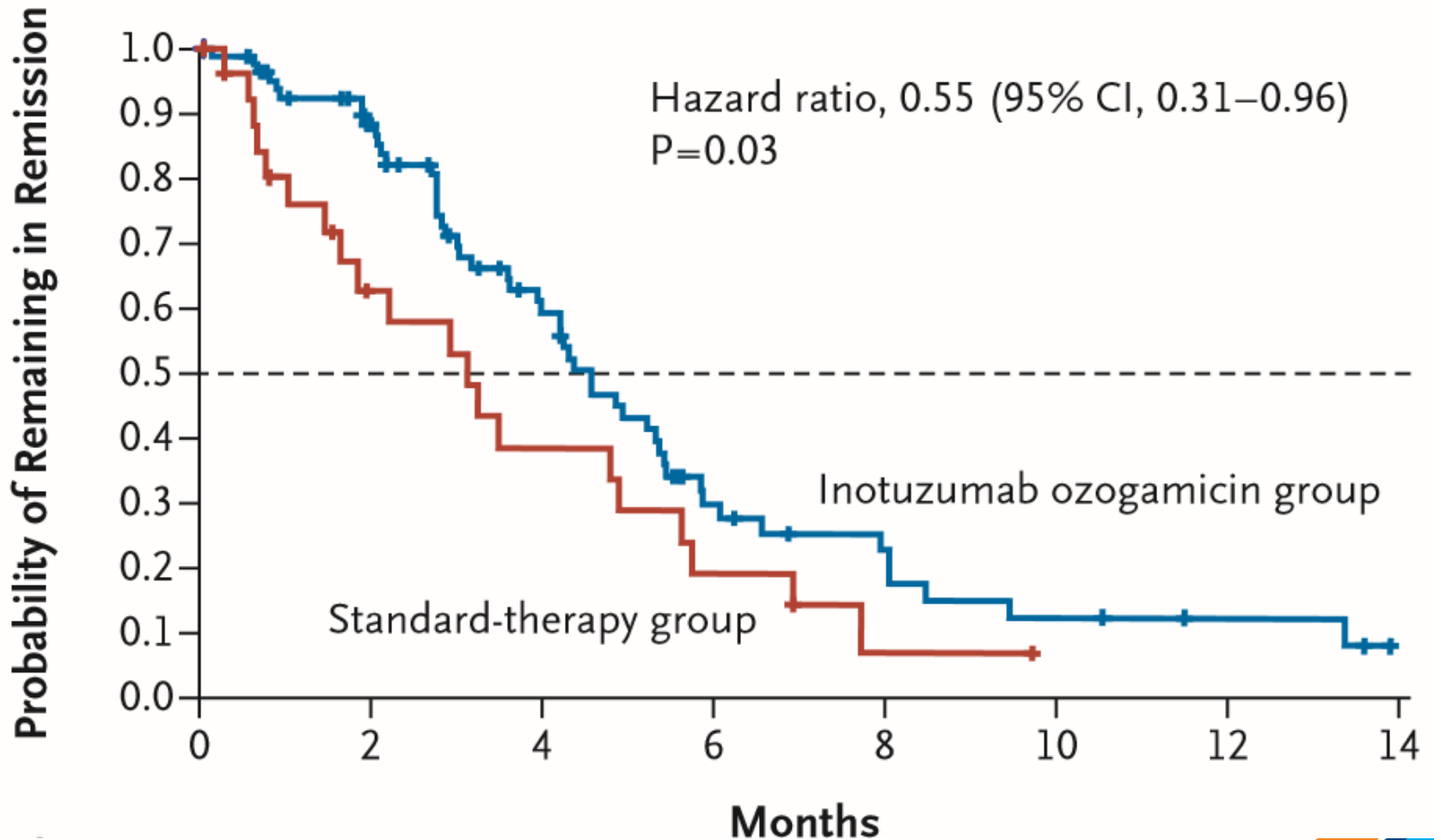




# Inotuzumab Ozogamicin in R/R ALL

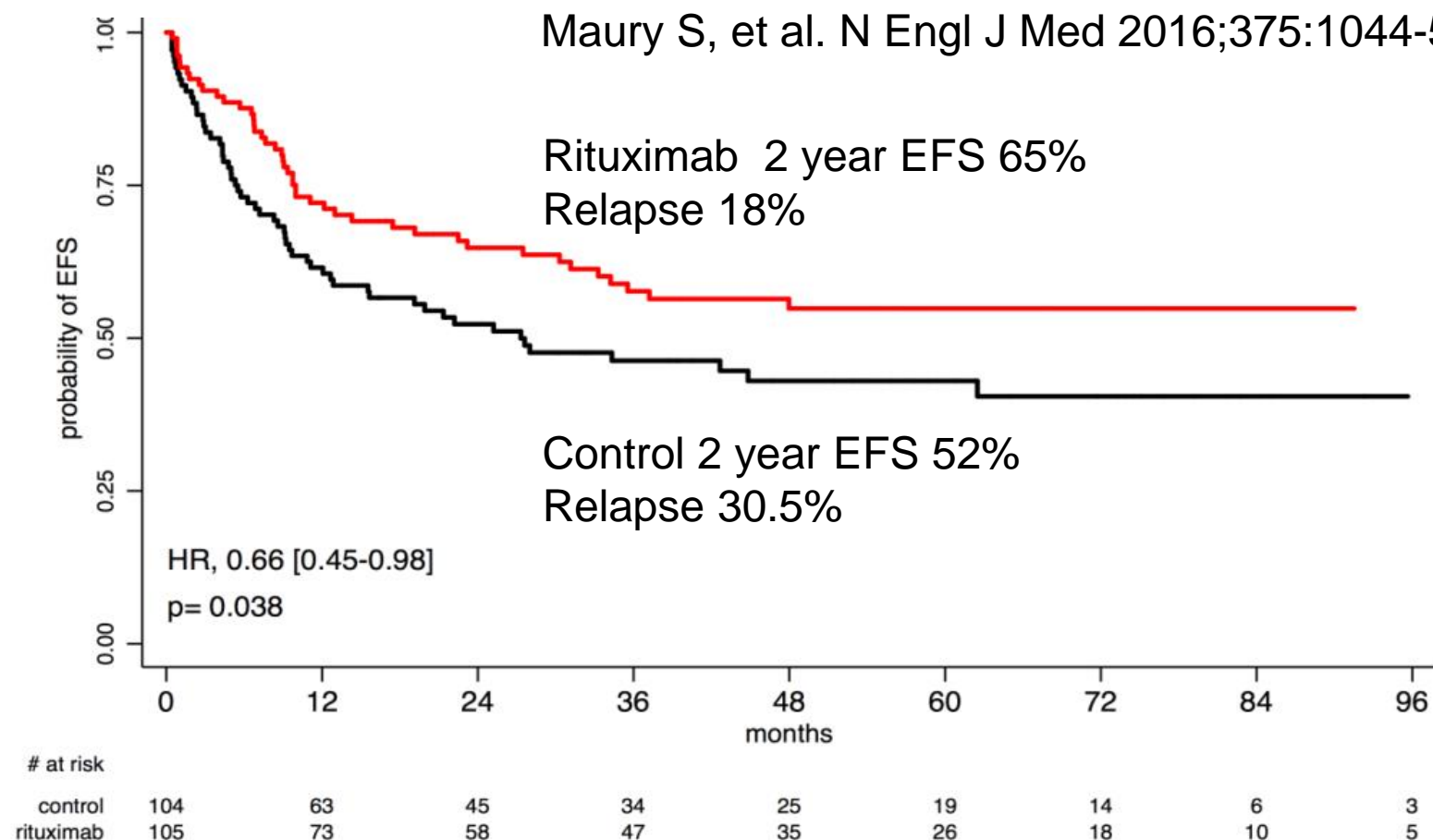
Kantarjian H, et al. N Engl J Med 2016;375:740-53.

## Duration of Remission



# Rituximab Ph-ve/CD20+ ALL GRAAL 2005

Ritux given in Induction, Consolidation, DI, Maintenance 1<sup>st</sup> year  
Total 16-18 doses



# Every body love CARs



# Responses to CAR T Cells in Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

Study	Pts. enrolled	Pts. with CR	Pts. with negative MRD
Davila et al. <i>Science Transl Med</i> 2014	16	14	12
Maude et al. <i>NEJM</i> 2014	30	27	22*
Lee et al. <i>Lancet</i> 2014	20	14	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>55 (83%)</b>	<b>46 (70%)</b>

\*MRD studies not performed in 2 of the 27 patients who achieved CR

10 relapses, 5 CD19-negative

# Immunotherapy anti CD19

Effective CAR – more than parts

CAR-T persistence - a few months

T-cell anergy

Quality of T-cell

– after multiple chemotherapy difficult

CAR-T grow faster & sustained > tumour

– Effector: Target

US\$500k per dose

# Personalised Medicine

## Current

Morphology  
+ cytochemistry

Flow cytometry  
B vs T

Cytogenetics

Hyperdiploid > 50

Hypodiploid < 44

OFT

*BCR-ABL1*

*MLL-AF4*

*E2A-PBX1*

*ETV6-RUNX1*



## Future

Real-time PCR  
MRD

***Multiparametric flow***  
Flow MRD

***Pharmacogenomics***  
TPMT, NUDT15

***Microarray GEP***

***Next generation sequencing***

RNA seq

Exome profiling

Whole genome seq

# Thank you

## **Ma-Spore ALL Study Group**

Prof Hany Ariffin, UMMC

Prof Lin Hai Peng

AProf Chan Lee Lee

AProf Quah TC, NUHS

AProf Tan AM, KKWCH

NMRC

National Research Foundation

Viva Foundation for Children with Cancer

Children's Cancer Foundation

Goh Foundation

