# **ASH 2020**



## **CML ADVOCATES NETWORK CONFERENCE REPORT**



## 62nd ASH<sup>®</sup> Annual Meeting and Exposition

**DECEMBER 5-8, 2020** 

#ASH20 will be Virtual

Celia Marín, Head of Communications and Programme Manager <u>info@cmladvocates.net</u> <u>www.cmladvocates.net</u>s

## **62nd American Society of Hematology Congress**



#### #ASH20

#### INTRODUCTION

Originally to be held in San Diego, California, the 62nd ASH Annual Meeting and Exposition organised by the American Society of Hematology was presented as an all-virtual event on **December 5-8, 2020**, given the continuing threat of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report summarizes the Chronic Myeloid Leukemia highlights presented in this key meeting for our community:

\*632 Chronic Myeloid Leukemia: Therapy– Building The Future CML.

**\***Education Program. Handling Challenging Questions in the Management of CML.

**\***632: Chronic Myeloid Leukemia: Therapy: CML: New and Beyond.

\*Special Interest Session: The 2020 Pandemic: Latest Insights on COVID-19.

**\***Education Program: Improving Symptom Control for Children with Hematological Malignancies.



45 Nilotinib Vs. Dasatinib in Achieving MR4.5 for Newly Diagnosed Chronic Myeloid Leukemia: Results of the Prospective Randomized Phase 3 Study, JALSG CML212. Itaru Matsumura, MD, Ph.D.

Open-labelled multicentral prospective phase 3 randomised controlled study to compare the cumulative achievement of MR 4.5 by 18 months between nilotinib and dasatinib in *de novo* CML-CO patients.

### CML212: Study Design

An open-labelled multicentral prospective phase 3 randomized controlled study to compare the cumulative achievement of MR<sup>4.5</sup> by 18 months between nilotinib and dasatinib in *de novo* CML-CP patients



- Nilotinib and dasatinib were equally effective for de novo CML-CP patients in achieving MR 4.5 by 18 months (33% vs. 30,8% p=0,67) as well as achieving CCyR, MMR and MR 4.0 in terms of both frequencies and times to achievement.
- The continuity of nilotinib and that of dasatinib were almost the same at 36 months.
- No unknown serious adverse event was observed during the study.



46 Bosutinib (BOS) Versus Imatinib for Newly Diagnosed Chronic Phase (CP) Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML): Final 5-Year Results from the Before Trial. Tim H Brümmendorf, MD.

Open-label, randomized, multicenter, phase 3 trial to evaluate the efficacy in the ITT population with the exception of cytogenetic endpoints which were evaluated in the modified ITT population.

#### **Conclusions:**

 After 5 years of follow-up, bosutinib continued to

#### **BFORE Study Design**

• BFORE (NCT02130557) was an open-label, randomized, multicenter, phase 3 trial



 This analysis evaluated efficacy in the ITT population (all randomized patients), with the exception of cytogenetic endpoints which were evaluated in the modified ITT population (Ph+ patients with e13a2/e14a2 transcripts)

This final analysis was based on a last patient last visit of April 17, 2020 (June 12, 2020 database lock), 5 years after the last enrolled patient. AP=accelerated phase; BP=blast phase; CCyR=complete cytogenetic response; DMR=deep molecular response; ECOG PS=Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; EFS=event free survival; MMR=major molecular response; MR=molecular response; OS=overall survival

demonstrate superior efficacy compared with imatinib.

- The greatest improvement in MR with bosutinib was observed in Sokal high-risk patients.
- A higher percentage of patients achieved BCR-ABL1 transcripts
   ≤10% at 3 months in the bosutinib vs the imatinib arm.

- A substantial proportion of patients receiving bosutinib or imatinib achieved a 2-year sustained MR4.
- Long-term AEs were generally manageable.
- These results confirm the use of bosutinib as a standard of care in patients with newly diagnosed CP CML.



47 Do Not Miss Karyotyping at Chronic Myeloid Leukemia Diagnosis: An Italian Campus CML Study on the Role of Complex V a r i a n t Translocations. Massimiliano Bonifacio, MD.

Study to describe the characteristics of patients with CVT in a large cohort of CML patients in 19 Italian Centers and to explore the impact of the different partner chromosomes on outcome.

#### **Conclusions:**

• CML patients with complex variant translocations treated with 2G-TKI



front line had higher rates of optimal responses at 3 and 6 months as compared to patients treated with imatinib.

- However, molecular responses at 12 months and beyond did not differ according to front line TKI.
- Differences in response and longterm outcome depending on partner chromosome were observed, regardless of risk and front line TKI.
- Data reinforce the usefulness of bone marrow karyotyping in CML.



48 Outcome By Mutation Status and Line of Treatment in Optic, a **Dose-Ranging Study of 3 Starting Doses of Ponatinib in Patients with CP-CML.** Jorge E. Cortes, MD.

#### Phase 2 OPTIC Trial (NCT02467270) Subset Analyses

- Outcomes were analyzed by baseline mutation status (none, any, T315I, and mutation other than T315I) and number of prior TKIs ( $\leq 2$  or  $\geq 3$ ) in the ITT population
  - Mutation status was determined by a central lab
- TEAEs, serious TEAEs, and AOEs by adjudication were summarized by number of prior TKIs (≤2 or ≥3)



<sup>a</sup> Dose reductions due to AEs were permitted

→15 mg, Cohort A is referred to as 45 mg → 15 mg and Cohort B as 30 mg → 15 mg because the study design has a dose reduction to 15 mg upon achievement of ≤1% BCR-ABL1<sup>IS</sup>. There also were patients in Cohorts A and B who dose-reduced to different dose levels (30, 15, and 10 mg) due to safety IA, interim analysis; ITT, intent to treat; QD, daily; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event

- OPTIC IA shows the benefit of ponatinib in all 3 dosing regimens in a largely resistant population where the majority of patients (>60%) failed to achieve a response greater than CHR on immediate prior therapy
- In resistant patients with or without mutations, the rate of  $\leq 1\%$  BCR-ABL1 by 12 months was highest in Cohort A (45mg starting dose) with the most notable differences seen in patients with T315l mutation.
- Use of ponatinib in earlier lines of therapy provides an optimal benefit:risk profile with a potential trend toward better outcomes for patients previously treated with  $\leq$ TKIs.



49 Mutated Cancer-Related Genes Detected at Diagnosis of CML and a Novel Class of Variant Associated with the Philadelphia Translocation Are Both Independent Predictors of Inferior Outcomes. Naranie Shanmuganathan, FRACP, FRCPA, MBBS.

## MR4 achievement



- 28% of patients will have a mutational event:
  - 16% cancer related gene mutation
  - 16% Ph-associated events.
- Cancer associated gene mutations and Ph-associated events are predictive for progression to accelerated and blast crisis, but also kinase domain mutation development in addition to inferior molecular responses.
- Ph-associated events are specifically associated with inferior EMR achievement and slower BCR-ABL1 decline.



50 Predictive Factors for Overall Survival in Chronic Myeloid Leukemia Patients: An Analysis By the Gimema Cml Italian Study. Patrizia Pregno.

- Results show a different clinical behaviour among Italian physicians who prevalently prescribed IMA to older patients with comorbidities as compared to 2gen TKIs, more frequently used in younger and healthier patients.
- Percentage of CML related deaths decreases with age and in presence of comorbidity.



- A comparison between treatments in the whole cohort suggests a better OS for 2gen TKI vs IMA. However, in patients without comorbidity any difference in OS is confirmed.
- Prognostic baseline features associated to OS were age, comorbidity and the ELTS score, that shows a much stronger prediction on OS in patients without comorbidities.



#### **Education Program. Handling Challenging Questions**

First Generation vs. Second Generation TKI - Which is Best At Diagnosis of Chronic Phase CML? Vivian G. Oehler, MD.

This first session of the education program was focused on: identifying disease-specific risk factors at chronic phase diagnosis that influence first-line tyrosine kinase inhibitor selection; examine how first-line TKI selection impacts outcomes; and delineate patient comorbidities that impact first-line TKI selection.



#### When is it safe to stop TKIs? Delphine Rea, MD, Ph.D.

The second session run by Dr. Rea was through the knowledge on:

Factors influencing deep molecular responses achievement

The appropriate patient selection for TKI discontinuation

And finally, the safety aspects after treatment ends.



#### **Education Program. Handling Challenging Questions**

#### How to manage CML patients with comorbidities? Jorge E. Cortes, MD.

The last session of the education program with Dr. Cortés as speaker gave us key advises on managing CML patients with comorbidities as the following:

- Assess risk factors
- Eliminate/manage behavioural risk factors (smoking, diet, exercise)
- Aggressively follow and manage co-morbidities (DM, hypertension, cholesterol, weight)
- When possible, use drugs with lower risk for patients at higher risk
- Dose adjustments as needed
- Monitor ankle-brachial index, statins?
- Involve specialists early and balance risk:benefit









647 Efficacy and Safety of Ponatinib (PON) in Patients with Chronic-Phase Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CP-CML) Who Failed One or More Second-Generation (2G) Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors (TKIs): Analyses Based on PACE and Optic. Hagop M. Kantarjian, MD.

#### **Conclusions:**

 In this analysis, ponatinib shows high response rates and robust survival outcomes in patients who have failed prior 2G TKI.

#### **PACE and OPTIC Trials**

#### PACE

#### PACE (NCT01207440): a Phase 2, single-arm study, of ponatinib in patients with refractory CML or Ph+ ALL

• Subset analysis of the CP-CML cohort (n=270)



OPTIC

cohort (n=93)

Total 350 CP-CML patients who had ≥1 prior 2G TKIs (PACE, n=257 and OPTIC, n=93) received ponatinib.

<sup>a</sup> Dose reductions for adverse events were permitted in PACE (to 15 mg) and OPTIC (to 10-15 mg)
 ALL, acute lymphoblastic leukemia; Ph+, Philadelphia chromosome–positive
 1. Cortes JE, et al. Presentation at 2020 ASCO Annual Meeting. 2. Cortes JE, et al. *Blood.* 2018;132:393-404.

- Compared with PACE, the overall incidences of AOEs and serious TEAEs as well as exposureadjusted AOEs during the first 2 years were lower in OPTIC.
- Ponatinib demonstrated a favorable benefit:risk profile among all TKIs for resistant

CP-CML patients who have failed prior 2G TKI(s) regardless of mutation status.

OPTIC (NCT02467270): a multicenter, randomized Phase 2 trial

Subset analysis of the 45-mg starting dose (45 mg →15 mg)

characterizing the safety and efficacy of ponatinib



648 Peripheral Blood CD26+ Leukemia Stem Cells Monitoring in Chronic Myeloid Leukemia Patients from Diagnosis to Response to TKIs: Interim Results of a Multicenter Prospective Study (PROSPECTIVE FLOWERS). Monica Bocchia. median CD26+ LSCs

Circulating CD26+ LSCs decrease rapidly after 3 months of TKI treatment, afterward fluctuating at very low level in the great majority of patients

	CD26 LSCs at diagnosis median values	CD26 LSCs at +3 months median values	CD26 LSCs at +6 months median values	CD26 LSCs at +12 months median values	
IMATINIB	4.5818	0.01175	0.009	0.0114	No cubstantia
NILOTINIB	12.4801 (0.0126-3643)	0.01655	0.0059 (0-0.132)	0.0107 (0-0.1824)	differences
DASATINIB	17.3378 (0,2993-365)	0.0089 (0-0.2164)	0.0052 (0-1.1889)	0.009 (0-0.0765)	between TKIs

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- **Conclusions:**
- They confirmed no correlation between the absolute number of persisting CD26+ LSCs and BCR-ABL copies.
- However, patients with failure or suboptimal response leading to a switch of TKI showed the highest amount of circulating CD26+LSCs at diagnosis.
- They found a potential correlation between younger age and higher number of circulating CD26+LSCs

at diagnosis that needs further elucidation.



649 COVID-19 in Patients (pts) with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML): Results from the International CML Foundation (iCMLf) CML and COVID-19 (CANDID) Study. Delphine Rea, MD, PhD.

#### **Conclusions:**

- SARS CoV-2 infection may be asymptomatic in CML patients.
- Symptomatic COVID-19 in CML is mild to moderate in the majority (~80%) of patients.
- Half of CML patients with severe/ critical COVID-19 died.

#### **Patient characteristics**

Characteristics (n=201)	Resu	lts n, (%)
Male sex	122 (60.7%)	
Median age	53 years (range 18-89)	
Median duration of CML (range)	70 months (0-336)*	*10 newly diagnosed CML pts
CML treatment at the time of COVID-19 - Hydroxyurea - IFN - TKI - None**	2 (1%) 1 (0.5%) 162 (81.5%) 34 (17%)	<ul> <li>** 14 pts in TKI-free remission</li> <li>8 pts newly diagnosed</li> <li>5 pts with safety issues</li> <li>2 TFR post allo SCT</li> <li>3 other causes</li> </ul>
TKI type among TKI-treated pts (n=162) Imatinib 2 <sup>nd</sup> generation TKI Ponatinib Experimental TKI (HQP1351) Unknown	91 (56.2%) 64 (39.5%) (dasatinib 29 / bosutinib 11 / nilotinib 24) 5 (3,1%) 1 (0.6%) 1 (0.6%)	

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- The main factor associated with COVID-19 severity is older age, rather than CML.
- TKI treatment and generation do not seem to be associated with COVID-19 severity or death.
- Altogether, these data suggest that CML may not represent a particular vulnerability although few exceptions may exist.



#### Asciminib for CML With T315I

#### 632: Chronic Myeloid Leukemia: Therapy: CML: New and Beyond, Oral Abstracts.

650 Asciminib, a First-in-Class STAMP Inhibitor, Provides Durable Molecular Response in Patients (pts) with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML) Harboring the T315I Mutation: Primary Efficacy and Safety Results from a Phase 1 Trial. Jorge E. Cortes, MD.

#### **Conclusions:**

 Asciminib 200 mg BID has a favorable safety profile and meaningful clinical efficacy in patients with the T315I mutation.

#### Characteristics of Ponatinib-Naive and Ponatinib-Pretreated Patients



	Ponatinib-Naive	Ponatinib-Pretreated	
Parameter	(n = 21)	(n = 31)	
Time from diagnosis, median, years (range)	1.8 (0.5-13.4)	5.2 (1.5-27.9)	
No. of prior TKIs, n (%)			
1	9 (42.9)	0	
2	9 (42.9)	7 (22.6)	
3	3 (14.2)	15 (48.4)	
≥ 4	0	9 (29.0)	
BCR-ABL1 <sup>IS</sup> at screening, n (%)			
> 0.1% to ≤ 1%	3 (14.2)	5 (16.1)	
> 1% to ≤ 10%	7 (33.3)	6 (19.4)	
> 10%	11 (52.5)	17 (54.8)	
Atypical/unknown transcripts	0	3 (9.7)	

Il presentation at the 2020 ASH Annual Meeting & Exposition, held virtually on 5–8 December 2020

- Nearly half of patients achieved MMR, which has been durable in most of the patients.
- The safety profile of asciminib 200 mg BID is consistent with that observed at a lower dose in patients without the T3141 mutation.
- Asciminib is a promising therapeutic option for patients with CML-CP/AP with the T3511 mutation, including those for whom ponatinib treatment has failed.



651 Novel BCR-ABL1 Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor (TKI) HQP1351 (Olverembatinib) Is Efficacious and Well Tolerated in Patients with T315I-Mutated Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML): Results of Pivotal (Phase II) Trials. Qian Jiang, MD.

#### **Conclusions:**

 HQP1351 was highly efficacious and well tolerated in the TKI-resistant CML-CP and CML-AP patients with T3511 mutation(s) in the pivotal Phase II studies. 652 Phase 1 Trial of Vodobatinib, a Novel Oral BCR-ABL1 Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor (TKI): Activity in CML Chronic Phase Patients Failing TKI Therapies Including Ponatinib. Jorge E. Cortes, MD.

- Efficacy was comparable in both ponatinib naïve and ponatinib treated groups with durable responses.
- Notable efficacy in ponatinib treated patients despite being more heavily pre-treated.
- Well tolerated safety profile in both treatment groups.



Special Interest Session: The 2020 Pandemic: Latest Insights on COVID-19.

#### Do COVID-19 Patients Face Increased Risk of Thrombosis? Saskia Middeldorp, MD, PhD.

Dr. Middledorp explained the risk of venous thromboembolism in #COVID19 patients, making a comparison between them and other critically ill patients.

**Conclusion:** Patients with COVID19 coagulopathy are at a higher risk of thrombosis and death.

How Can Community-Based Surveillance Strategies for Sars-Cov-2 Inform Pandemic Planning? Helen Chu, MD, MPH.

**Conclusions** of this interesting session were:

- Biospecimen repositories linked with clinical data are essential for real-time identification of novel pathogens.
- Community-based studies provide an opportunity to identify pathogens early and take steps to prevent further transmission.



#### COVID-19 ARDS vs non-COVID-19 ARDS

COVID19 ANDS. N=150	•	COVID19 ARDS: N=150	
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- Non-COVID-19 ARDS patients: N=145 (historical control group)
- Thromboembolic complications: 11.7% vs 4.8%
- OR 2.6 (95%CI 1.1-6.1)

 
 19-ARDS (n = 145)
 19-ARDS (n = 771)

 Thrombo-embolic complications—n (%)
 7 (4.8)
 9 (11.7)
 2.6 [1.1–6.1]
 0.04

 Pulmonary embolisms—n (%)
 3 (2.1)
 9 (11.7)
 6.2 [1.6–23.4]
 0.01

 Deep vein thrombosis—n (%)
 2 (1.4)
 0 (0)

 Myocardial infarction—n (%)
 2 (1.4)
 0 (0)

 Cerebral ischemic attack—n
 0 (0.0)
 0 (0)

 Limb ischemia—n (%)
 0 (0.0)
 0 (0)

 Mesenteric ischemia—n (%)
 2 (1.4)
 1 (1.3)
 0.96 [0.09–9.8]
 0.97

 Nb of RHT fitter per dalyzed patient—median, IQR
 2.0 [1.0–2.5]
 3.0 [2.0–6]
 0.03

 Nb of RHT fitter per day of sis—n (%)
 0.3 [0.3; 0.4]
 0.7 [0.5; 1]
 <0.001</td>

 RCMO oxygenator thrombosis—n (%)
 1/7 (14.3)
 0/4 (0)

 // (%)
 2 (1.4)
 0 (0)

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**Education Program: Improving Symptom Control for Children with Hematological Malignancies.** 

#### Symptom Screening in Routine Care - Time to Move Beyond Research? Lillian Sung, MD, PhD

Dr. Sung described the importance of symptom control in children with cancer, and approaches to identify symptoms amenable to clinical implementation.

#### Conclusions

- Symptoms prevalent and severely bothersome in pediatric cancer
- SPARK: Routine symptom screening, symptom feedback and care pathways.
- Multicenter trials to identify optimal strategies

### Bothersome Symptoms Common in Pediatric Cancer Patients





#### **Education Program: Improving Symptom Control for Children with Hematological Malignancies.**

#### Capturing Treatment Toxicities in Clinical Practice. Tamara P. Miller, MD, MSc

Dr. P. Miller explained the current methods of capturing treatment toxicities on pediatric hematology clinical trials , concerns about accuracy of adverse event (AE) reporting and the specific challenges related to pediatric trials.

#### **Conclusions:**

- AE reporting is currently performed manually
- AEs are underreported and have inaccuracies
- Wide-ranging challenges exist that prevent accurate capture
- Automated ascertainment of AEs will be crucial to improving upon the current system of AE reporting and toxicity capture for patients on study and in clinical practice.

#### **Manual Ascertainment Underreports AEs**

Toxicity	Chart Abstraction, No. (%)*	Adverse Event Report				
		No. (%)	Sensitivity, % (95% CI)	Specificity, % (95% CI)	PPV, % (95% CI)	NPV, % (95% CI
Hypertension	28 (3.7)	9 (1.2)	21.4 (8.3 to 41.0)	99.6 (98.8 to 99.9)	66.7 (29.9 to 92.5)	97.1 (95.6 to 98.2
Hypotension	46 (6.1)	35 (4.6)	56.5 (41.1 to 71.7)	98.7 (97.6 to 99.4)	74.3 (56.7 to 87.5)	97.2 (95.8 to 98.3
Hypoxia	167 (22.0)	30 (4.0)	17.4 (12.0 to 24.0)	99.8 (99.1 to 100)	96.7 (82.8 to 99.9)	81.0 (78.0 to 83.8
ARDS	13 (1.7)	11 (1.5)	38.5 (13.9 to 68.4)	99.2 (98.3 to 99.7)	45.5 (16.8 to 76.6)	98.9 (97.9 to 99.5
Anorexia	307 (40.5)	100 (13.2)	30.6 (25.5 to 36.1)	98.7 (97.1 to 99.5)	94.0 (87.4 to 97.8)	67.6 (63.9 to 71.2
Typhlitis	27 (3.6)	11 (1.5)	37.0 (19.4 to 57.6)	99.9 (99.2 to 100)	90.9 (58.7 to 99.8)	97.7 (96.4 to 98.7
DIC	59 (7.8)	7 (0.9)	10.2 (3.8 to 20.8)	99.9 (99.2 to 100)	85.7 (42.1 to 99.6)	92.9 (90.9 to 94.7
VGS	129 (17.0)	103 (13.6)	78.3 (70.2 to 85.1)	99.7 (98.9 to 100)	98.1 (93.2 to 99.8)	95.7 (93.9 to 97.1
IFI	10 (1.3)	10 (1.3)	60.0 (26.2 to 87.8)	99.5 (98.6 to 99.9)	60.0 (26.2 to 87.8)	99.5 (98.6 to 99.9
Pain	324 (42.7)	56 (7.4)	15.7 (12.0 to 20.2)	98.9 (97.3 to 99.6)	91.1 (80.4 to 97.0)	61.1 (57.4 to 64.7
Seizure	5 (0.7)	2 (0.3)	0 (0.0 to 52.2)	99.7 (99.0 to 100)	0 (0.0 to 84.2)	99.3 (98.5 to 99.8
Renal failure	6 (0.8)	4 (0.5)	50.0 (11.8 to 88.2)	99.9 (99.3 to 100)	75.0 (19.4 to 99.4)	99.6 (98.9 to 99.9

#### Sensitivity <50% for 8 of 12 targeted AEs 66% of AEs were missed 25% of submitted AEs were incorrect

Miller, JCO, 2016

#### Interventions to Improve Symptoms. Robert Phillips, MD.

In this session about improving symptom control with children with haematological malignancies, different approaches to control toxicity and aversive symptoms were discussed, from preventative strategies to therapeutic approaches.



Asciminib vs Bosutinib after ≥2 TKIs

Late-Breaking Abstracts Session

LBA-4 Efficacy and Safety Results from ASCEMBL, a Multicenter, <u>Open-Label</u>, Phase 3 Study of Asciminib, a First-in-Class STAMP Inhibitor, vs <u>Bosutinib</u> (BOS) in Patients (Pts) with <u>Chronic Myeloid</u> <u>Leukemia</u> in <u>Chronic Phase</u> (<u>CML</u>-CP) Previously Treated with ≥2 Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors (TKIs. Andreas Hochhaus, MD.

#### **Conclusions:**

 Asciminib demonstrated statistically significant and clinically meaningful, superior efficacy compared with bosutinib and a favorable safety profile.



- The ASCEMBL results support the use of asciminib as a new treatment option in CML, particularly in patients with resistant/intolerance to ≥2 TKIs.
- BCR-ABL1 remains the key driver of CML even in 3L+ patients; asciminib has demonstrated a

favorable benefit:risk profile in this patient population by its unique ability to Specifically Target the ABL1 Myristoyl Pocket (STAMP).

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