# Conditioning regimens for allogenic hematopoietic cell transplantation

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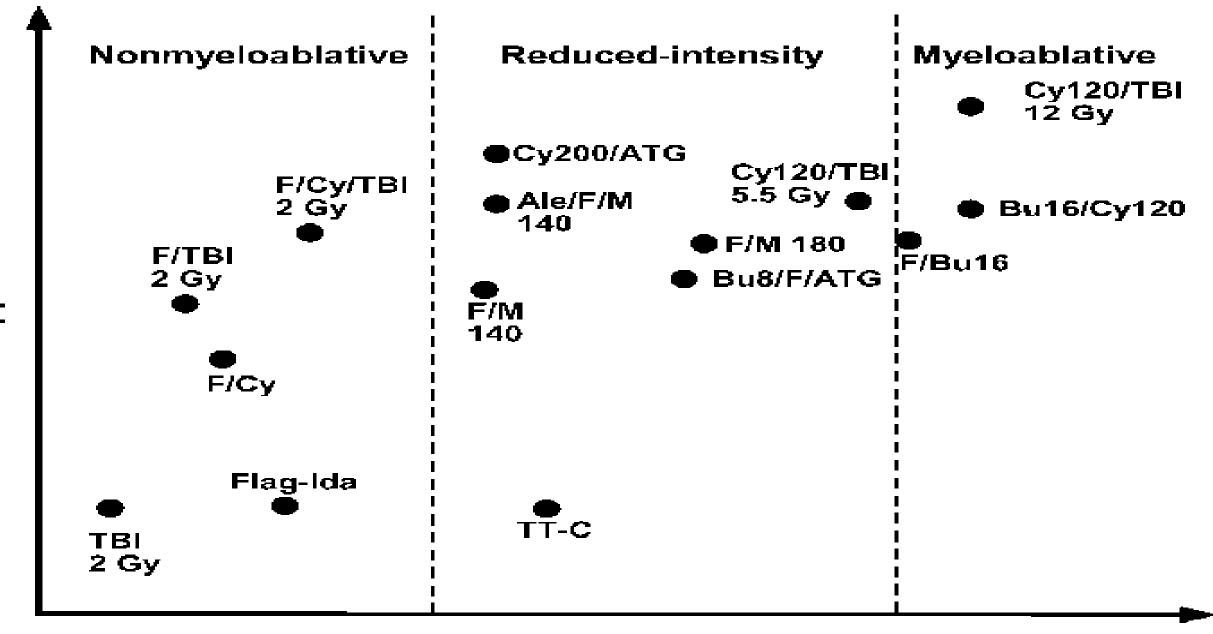
TALEGHANI HOSPITAL

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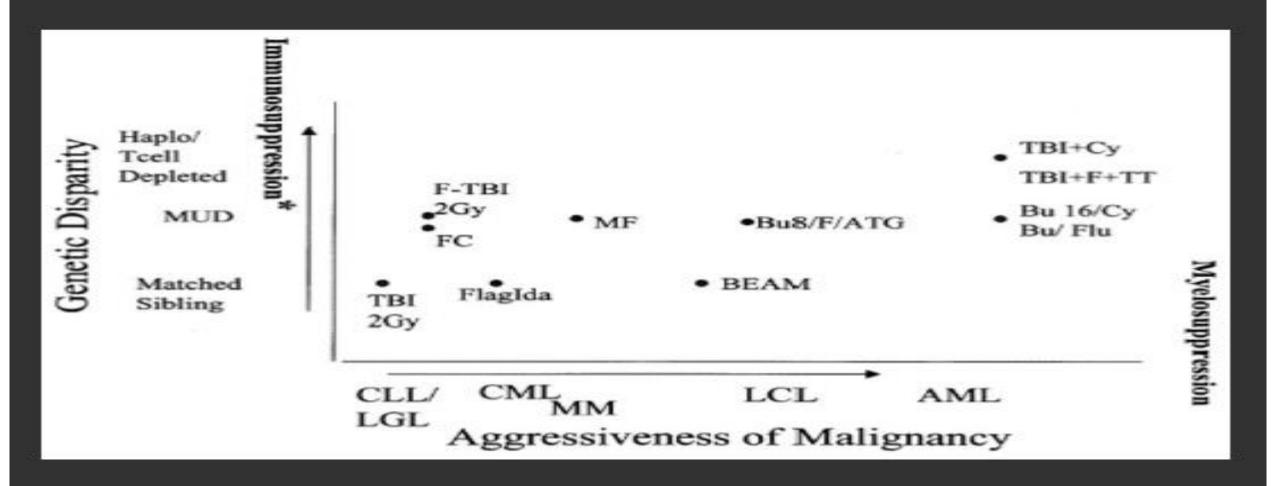
 Hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) is a potentially curative therapeutic approach for a variety of malignant and nonmalignant hematopoietic diseases.  When HCT is performed in patients with malignant disorders, preparative or conditioning regimens are administered as part of the procedure to achieve 2 goals

1-provide sufficient immune ablation to prevent graft rejection

2-reduce the tumor burden.



Myelosuppression



### Protocol Based on GVL

Busulphan/Cyclophosphamide/TBI 1200\*
Cyclophosphamide/Etoposide/TBI 1200\*
Busulphan/TBI 1200\*
Cyclophosphamide/TBI 1200\*
Busulphan/Cyclophosphamide
Busulphan/Melphalan
Melphalan/Eludarabir

Myeloablative

Melphalan/Fludarabine
Busulphan 4 days/Fludarabine
Treosulphan/Fludarabine
Fludarabine/Busulphan/Thiotepa
Busulphan 2 days/Fludarabine
TBI 200\*/Fludarabine
Fludarabine/Cyclophosphamide
TBI 100-200\*

Bendamustine/Fludarabine/Rituximab†

Reduced Intensity/Toxicity

> Nonmyeloablative

Protocol Based on Intensity

## Conditioning regimen

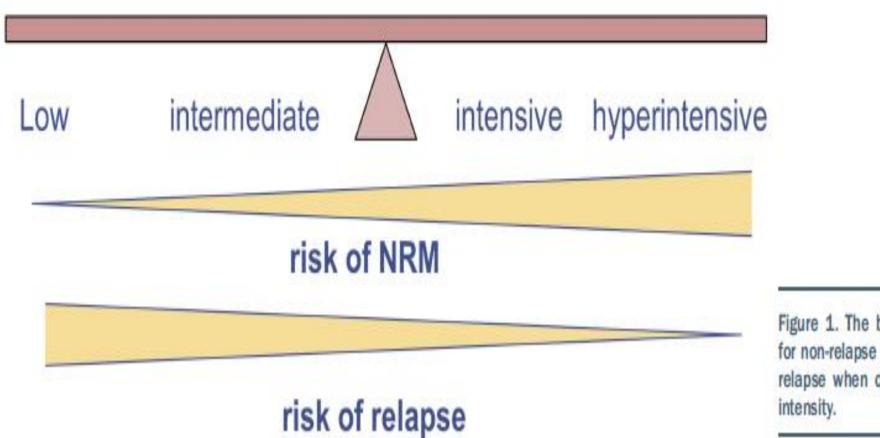
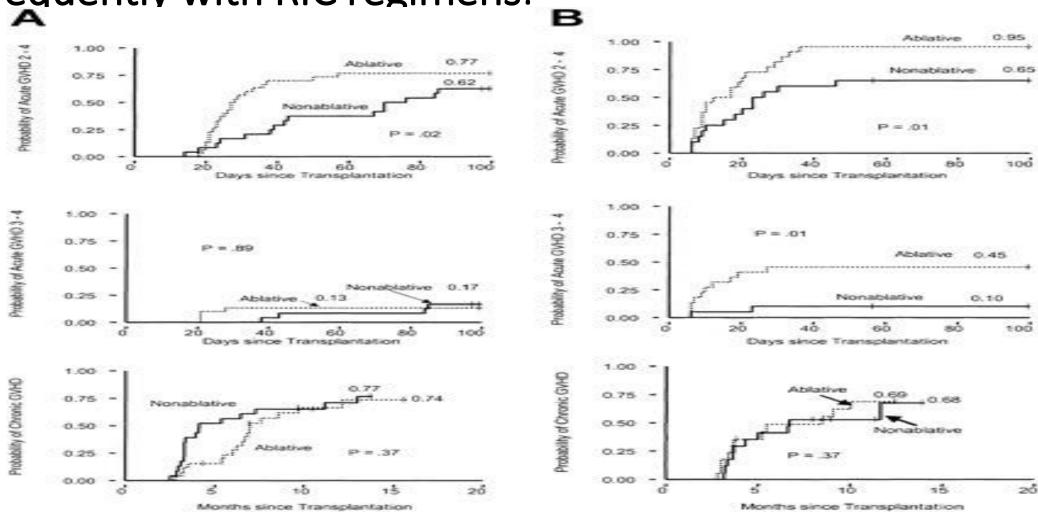


Figure 1. The balance between risk for non-relapse mortality and risk for relapse when choosing conditioning intensity.

The known complications of Allo-HSCT such as pancytopenia, mucositis and organ damage occur less frequently with RIC regimens.



# Dose intensity for conditioning in allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation: can we recommend "when and for whom" in 2021?

Factors which may be helpful in the dec process: balance between the risk of re and non-relapse mortality

Table 4. Risk	factors influencing treatme	ent failure (relapse	or NRM) after allo-
geneic HSCT.			

Disease-specific factors Advanced disease status Unfavorable cytogenetics/molecular genetics Susceptibility to GVL-effect	relapse > NRM relapse > NRM relapse > NRM
Patient-specific risk factors	
Age	NRM > relapse
Performance status	NRM > relapse
Comorbidities	NRM > relapse
Transplant-specific risk factors	
MRD positivity	relapse > NRM
HLA disparity	NRM > relapse
CMV incompatibility	NRM > relapse
Center effect (JACIE accredited)	NRM > relapse

NRM, non-relapse mortality; HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; GVL, graft-versusleukemia effect; MRD, measurable residual disease; CMV, cytomegalovirus; JACIE, Joint Accreditation Committee ISCT-Europe & EBMT.

# Toxicity-reduced myeloablative conditioning *versus* myeloablative conditioning

 Another attempt to reduce intensity and toxicity without losing myeloablative intensity of the conditioning regimen was made by replacing cyclophosphamide with FLUDARABINE

 Another option to maintain myeloablation, according to the given definition, and immunosuppression but also to reduce non-hematologic toxicity was investigated by replacing busulfan by the alkylator treosulfan



#### Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation

journal homepage: www.bbmt.org



Intravenous Busulfan Compared with Treosulfan-Based Conditioning for Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation in Acute Myeloid Leukemia: A Study on Behalf of the Acute Leukemia Working Party of European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation



Avichai Shimoni <sup>1,\*</sup>, Myriam Labopin <sup>2</sup>, Bipin Savani <sup>3</sup>, Rose-Marie Hamladji <sup>4</sup>, Dietrich Beelen <sup>5</sup> Ghulam Mufti <sup>6</sup>, Gerard Socié <sup>7</sup>, Jeremy Delage <sup>8</sup>, Didier Blaise <sup>9</sup>, Patrice Chevallier <sup>10</sup>, Edouard Forcade <sup>11</sup>, Eric Deconinck <sup>12</sup>, Mohamad Mohty <sup>13</sup>, Arnon Nagler <sup>1,2</sup>

## Treosulfan is a prodrug of a bifunctional alkylating agent produced in vivo in a nonenzymatic reaction

It does not require enzymatic activation or hepatic metabolism

In the SCT setting treatment with treosulfan results in rapid, profound, and stable myelosuppression because of its dual effect on committed and noncommitted stem cells

Treosulfan exhibits strong immunosuppressive characteristics with low proinflammatory cytokine release . This facilitates stem cell engraftment and associates with a lower risk of graft-versus-host disease (GVHD)



## **Table 1 Comparative properties of alkylating agents**

From: Treosulfan-based conditioning before hematopoietic SCT: more than a BU look-alike

Properties	BU	Treosulfan	Melphalan	Cytoxan	BCNU
Immunosuppression					
In vitro	_26	+++25	_	++81	_
In vivo	_84	+++30	_83	++82	_
Distribution	Liver, lung, brain, kidney <sup>84</sup>	Kidneys <sup>23</sup>	Kidneys+spontaneus chemical degradation <sup>83</sup>	Kidney, hepatic bioactivation 85	Hydrolysis+hepatic <sup>85</sup>
Liver toxicity and VOD	+++86	+41	_85	+++85	+++85
Pneumonitis	+ + 87, 88, 89	_	_	+	+++85
Hemorrhagic cystitis	+87, 88, 89	_	_	+++85	_
Convulsion	+++87, 88, 89	+43	_	_	CNS toxicity ++ <sup>85</sup> Non-convulsion
Mucositis	++	+ + 41, 43	+++83,90	-	+
Cardiotoxicity	_	_	_	++85	_
BM suppression	+++91	+++	+++	++	+++

Abbreviations: CNS=central nervous system; VOD=veno-occlusive disease.

Busulfan Fludarabine (BU-FLU) Compared to Thiotepa Busulfan

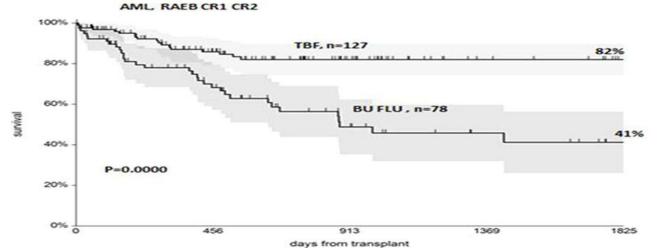
Fludarabine (TBF) for Allogeneic Transplants in Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) or

Refractory Anemia with Excess Blasts (RAEB) in Remission

Table 1 Clinical characteristics of the 2 groups

		BU-FLU	TBF	P values
Number		78	127	
Recipient's age		54 (18-67)	53 (17-70)	0.5
Year of Transplan	nt	2014 (08-17)	2015 (10-17)	0.07
CR1, n (%)		66 (85%)	90 (71%)	
CR2, n (%)		12 (15%)	37 (29%)	0.2
Donor type: HLA	ident. Sibling	30(38%)	15(12%)	
Fam	ily mismatche	d 3(4%)	91(72%)	
Unre	elated donor	45(58%)	21(16%)	0.0000
Stem cell soure	вм	26(33%)	112(88%)	
	PB	52(67%)	13(10%)	
	CB	0	2 (2%)	0.0000
TRM		25% (16-38%)	9% (5-17%)	0.007
RRD		33% (18-50%)	9% (6-20%)	0.008
Survival		41% (26-56%)	82% (74-90%)	0.000
Median follow up	days	481 (8-2625)	551 (2-2277)	0.5

Figure 1: Overall Survival Curve



TEPADINA® (thiotepa) for injection 100 mg/vial

For Intravenous, intracavitary, or intravesical use

Single dose vial

Rx only Caution: Cytotoxic agent

AN AUDITESSES

tr intravesical use Caution: Cytotoxic agent



#### **ARTICLE**



# Redefining and measuring transplant conditioning intensity in current era: a study in acute myeloid leukemia patients

This article has been corrected since Advance Online Publication and a correction is also printed in this issue

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#### Abstract

To address limitations of the currently used reduced-intensity/myeloablative conditioning (RIC/MAC) classification scheme we aimed to develop a tool that can capture more standardized the conditioning intensity of allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT). We assigned intensity weight scores for frequently used conditioning regimen components and used their sum to generate the transplant conditioning intensity (TCI) score. We retrospectively tested the impact of TCI on 8255 adult (45, 65 years) south myeloid laukemia patients who underwent HCT in first complete remission. A Cox model for early

• **Novel drugs** (e.g., thiotepa and optimized forms of drugs e.g., treosulfan) with reduced nonhematological toxicity are frequently used now a days and their different toxicity profiles are not considered in the current RIC/MAC classification scheme.

RIC/MAC operational rules ignore the additional intensity of purine analogs used for immunoablation (e.g., fludarabine, clofarabine) or of diseasespecific drugs used to achieve reduction in relapse risk (e.g., cytarabine, etoposide), and thus important prognostic information is lost

# The TCI score ranged from 1 to 6 (median 2.5) with a median of 2 (range, 1–5.5) in the RIC group and 4 (range, 2.5–6) in the MAC group (p < 0.001)

Table 1 Intensity weighted scores for common components included in transplantation conditioning regimens.

Component	Dose level	Added points for			
	Low	Intermediate	High	each dose level	
TBI fractionated (Gray)	≤5	6–8	≥9	1	
Busulphan (mg/kg)	≤6.4 iv & ≤8 po	9.6 iv & 12 po	12.8 iv & 16 po	1	
Treosulfan (g/m2)	30	36	42	1	
Melphalan (mg/m2)	<140	≥140	≥200	1	
Thiotepa (mg/kg)	<10	≥10	≥20	0.5	
Fludarabine (mg/m2)	≤160	>160		0.5	
Clofarabine (mg/m2)	≤150	>150		0.5	
Cyclophosphamide (mg/kg)	<90	≥90		0.5	
Carmustine (mg/m2)	≤250	280-310	≥350	0.5	
Cytarabine (g/m2)	<6	≥6		0.5	
Etoposide (mg/kg)	<50	≥50		0.5	

iv intravenously, po per os, TBI total body irradiation.

muco me prien in 10 mio pinipej.

NRM nonrelapse mortality. Others see Table 2.

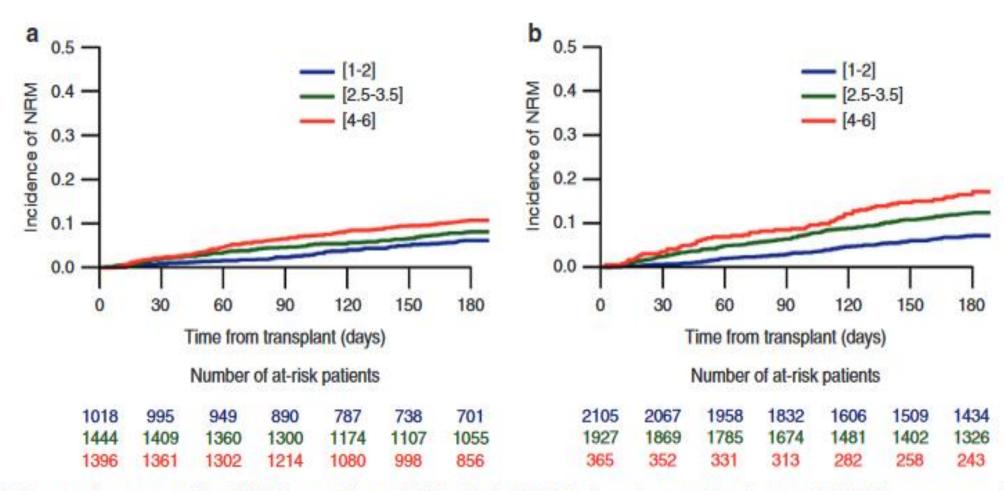


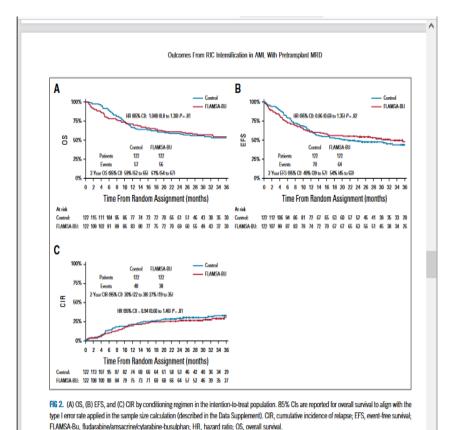
Fig. 2 Early nonrelapse mortality (NRM) according to TCI. a Early NRM in the subgroup of patients aged 45–55 years at transplant (n = 3858). b Early NRM in patients aged between 55 and 65 years (n = 4397).

Clinical Trial > J Clin Oncol. 2021 Mar 1;39(7):768-778. doi: 10.1200/JCO.20.02308

Epub 2020 Dec 29.

#### Augmented Reduced-Intensity Regimen Does Not Improve Postallogeneic Transplant Outcomes in Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Charles Craddock <sup>1</sup>, <sup>2</sup>, Aimee Jackson <sup>2</sup>, Justin Loke <sup>1</sup>, Shamyla Siddique <sup>2</sup>, Andrea Hodgkinson <sup>2</sup>, John Mason <sup>2</sup>, Georgia Andrew <sup>3</sup>, Sandeep Nagra <sup>1</sup>, Ram Malladi <sup>4</sup>, Andrew Peniket <sup>5</sup>, Maria Gilleece <sup>6</sup>, Rahuman Salim <sup>7</sup>, Eleni Tholouli <sup>8</sup>, Victoria Potter <sup>9</sup>, Charles Crawley <sup>4</sup>, Keith Wheatley <sup>2</sup>, Rachel Protheroe <sup>10</sup>, Paresh Vyas <sup>5</sup>, Ann Hunter <sup>11</sup>, Anne Parker <sup>12</sup>, Keith Wilson <sup>13</sup>, Jiri Pavlu <sup>14</sup>, Jenny Byrne <sup>15</sup>, Richard Dillon <sup>16</sup>, Naeem Khan <sup>3</sup>, Nicholas McCarthy <sup>3</sup>, Cubia D. Fraemen <sup>3</sup>



20

Outcomes From RIC Intensification in AML With Pretransplant MRD

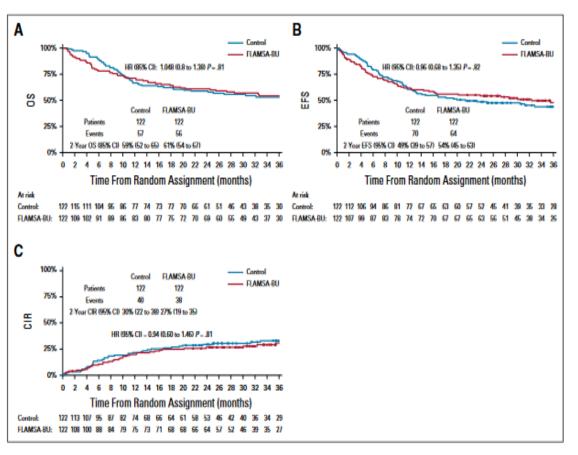


FIG 2. (A) OS, (B) EFS, and (C) CIR by conditioning regimen in the intention-to-treat population. 85% CIs are reported for overall survival to align with the type I error rate applied in the sample size calculation (described in the Data Supplement). CIR, cumulative incidence of relapse; EFS, event-free survival; FLAMSA-Bu, fludarabine/amsacrine/cytarabine-busulphan; HR, hazard ratio; OS, overall survival.

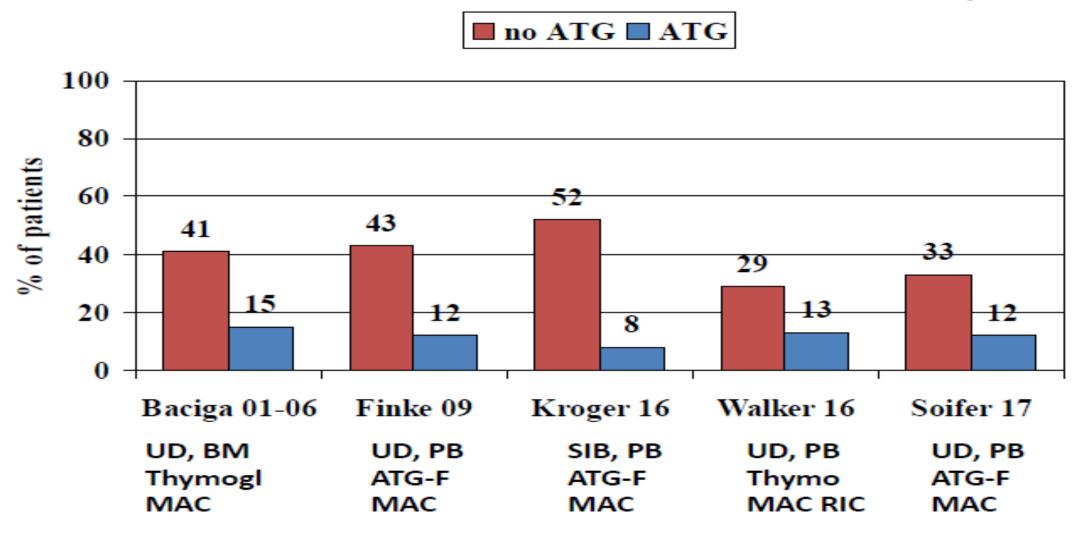
## Treatment of cGvHD in 2020 is unsatisfactory

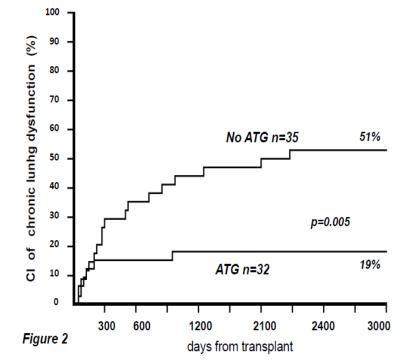
To say the least

## WHY SHOULD WE USE ATG?

- 1. High incidence of chronic GvHD especially with PBSC without ATG
- 2. Less than 20% achieve a CR
- 3. 80% of patients have cGvHD «life-long»

### % with EXT chronic GvHD in 5 randomized ATG trials: 922 pts





#### **GvHD III-IV**

Study 6	ATG events total		no ATG events total Weig		Weight	Hisk ratio M-H, Random, 95% C	Hisk ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI
Thymoglobulin							
Bacigalupo, 2001	A 12	29	9	25	18.5%	1.15 [0.58, 2.27]	
Bacigalupo, 2001	B 3	27	14	28	10.4%	0.22 [0.07, 0.69]	
Bacigalupo, 2010	4	84	13	86	11.0%	0.32 [0.11, 0.93]	
Walker, 2016	16	101	20	102	20.5%	0.81 [0.44, 1.47]	
Subtotal (95% CI)	)	241		241	60.5%	0.57 [0.28, 1.16]	
Total events	35		56				
Heterogeneity: Ta Test for overall eff					3 (P = 0.03	); I <sup>2</sup> = 66%	
Fresenius							
Finke, 2009	12	103	24	98	19.6%	0.48 [0.25, 0.90]	
Kroger, 2016	2	83	6	72	6.3%	0.29 [0.06, 1.39]	
Soiffer, 2017	6	128	15	132	13.6%	0.41 [0.17, 1.03]	
Subtotal (95% CI)		314		302	39.6%	0.43 [0.26, 0.71)	•
Total events	20		45				
Heterogeneity: Ta Test for overall eff					2 (P = 0.84	); I <sup>2</sup> = 0%	
Total (95% CI)		555		543	100.0%	( 0.52 [0.34, 0.81)	•
Total events	55		101				
Heterogeneity: Ta Test for overall eff Test for subgroup	ect: Z	= 2.88	(P=	0.004)		0.01	0.1 1 10 10 Favors ATG Favors no ATG

Table 1. Summary of 3 randomized trials

	GITMO <sup>6,7</sup>		Finke <sup>8,9</sup>		Kröger <sup>10</sup>		Total			
	ATG	noATG	ATG	noATG	ATG	noATG	ATG	noATG	RR	P
Patients, n	56	53	103	98	83	72	242	223	-	-
aGVHD II-IV, %	50%	70%	33%	51%	11%	18%	31%	46%	1.47	.001
aGVHD III-IV, %	23%	43%	11%	24%	2%	8%	12%	25%	2.08	.0003
cGVHD, %	37%	60%	26%	50%	22%	46%	28%	52%	1.83	.00001
ext cGVHD, %	15%	41%	12%	45%	5%	24%	11%	37%	3.43	.00001
NRM, %	39%	47%	19%	33%	14%	12%	24%	31%	1.27	.1
Relapse, %	23%	21%	33%	28%	32%	25%	29%	25%	0.84	.2
Survival, %	55%	56%	55%	43%	74%	77%	61%	59%	1.04	.6

ext, extensive; GITMO, Italian Cooperative Transplant Group; NRM, non-relapse mortality; RR, relative risk of patients not receiving ATG as compared with ATG.

#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Antilymphocyte Globulin for Prevention of Chronic Graft-versus-Host Disease

Nicolaus Kröger, M.D., Carlos Solano, M.D., Christine Wolschke, M.D., Giuseppe Bandini, M.D., Francesca Patriarca, M.D., Massimo Pini, M.D., Arnon Nagler, M.D., Carmine Selleri, M.D., Antonio Risitano, M.D., Ph.D., Giuseppe Messina, M.D., Wolfgang Bethge, M.D., Jaime Pérez de Oteiza, M.D., Rafael Duarte, M.D., Angelo Michele Carella, M.D., Michele Cimminiello, M.D., Stefano Guidi, M.D., Jürgen Finke, M.D., Nicola Mordini, M.D., Christelle Ferra, M.D., Jorge Sierra, M.D., Ph.D., Domenico Russo, M.D., Mario Petrini, M.D., Giuseppe Milone, M.D., Fabio Benedetti, M.D., Marion Heirzelmann, Domenico Pastore, M.D., Manuel Jurado, M.D., Elisabetta Terruzzi, M.D., Franco Nami, M.D., Andreas Volp, Ph.D., Francis Ayuk, M.D., Tapani Ruutu, M.D., and Francesca Bonifazi, M.D.

#### ABSTRACT

#### BACKGROUN

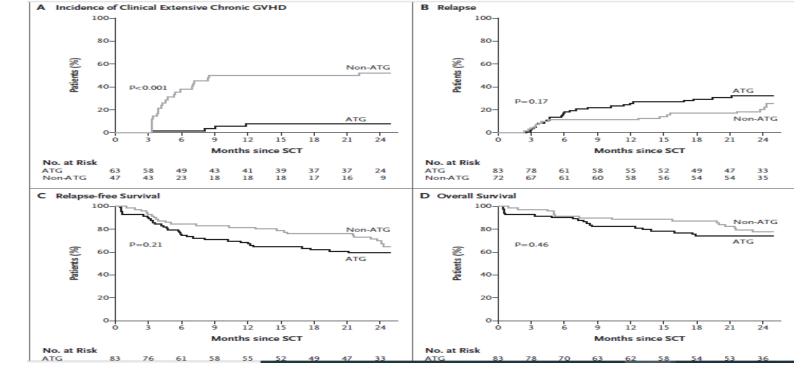
Chronic graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) is the leading cause of later illness and deat after allogeneic hematopoiecic stem-cell transplantation. We hypothesized that the inclision of antihuman T-lymphocyte immune globulin (ATG) in a myeloablarive conditionir regimen for patients with acute leukemia would result in a significant reduction i chronic GVHD 2 years after allogeneic peripheral-blood stem-cell transplantation from a HLA-identical sibling.

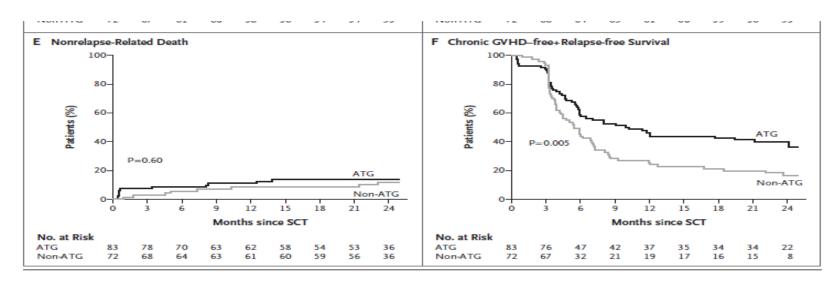
#### METHODS

We conducted a prospective, multicenter, open-label, randomized phase 3 study of ATG a part of a conditioning regimen. A total of 168 patients were enrolled at 27 centers. Patien were randomly assigned in a 1:1 ratio to receive ATG or not receive ATG, with stratificatic according to center and risk of disease.

#### RESULT

After a median follow-up of 24 months, the cumulative incidence of chronic GVHD w: 32.2% (95% confidence interval [CI], 22.1 to 46.7) in the ATG group and 68.7% (95% C 58.4 to 80.7) in the non-ATG group (P<0.001). The rate of 2-year relapse-free survival w:





## Rabbit ATG/ATLG in preventing graft-versus-host disease after allogeneic stem cell transplantation: consensus-based recommendations by an international expert panel

Francesca Bonifazi 👨 · Marie-Thérèse Rubio² · Andrea Bacigalupo³,⁴ · Jaap Jan Boelens 👨 · Jürgen Finke⁶ · Hildegard Greinixⁿ · Mohamad Mohty⁶ · Arnon Nagler⁶ · Jakob Passweg¹⁰ · Alessandro Rambaldi¹¹ · Gérard Socie¹² · Carlos Solano 📵 ¹³ · Irwin Walker¹⁴ · Giovanni Barosi¹⁵ · Nicolaus Kröger¹⁶

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**Dose** of ATG

- 1. Less chronic GvHD
- 2. Increased likelihood of being off immunosuppressive therapy one year post-transplant
- 3. Less acute GvHD
- 4. Survival not impaired
- 5. No increased risk of relapse
- 6. Less rejection
- Improved survival in BMF patients
- 8. Easy to use
- 9. Flexibility in diverse regimens
- 10. Combined prophylaxsis (with PT-CY)

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#### **Table 2 Final recommendations.**

From: Rabbit ATG/ATLG in preventing graft-versus-host disease after allogeneic stem cell transplantation: consensus-based recommendations by an international expert panel

Conditioning regimen	Stem cell source	Donor	Recommendation	Agreement among experts
MALIGNANT DISEASES				
Myeloablative	Bone marrow/peripheral blood	Unrelated	Recommended	Full
Myeloablative	Peripheral blood	HLA-identical sibling	Recommended	Partial
RIC/NMA	Bone marrow/peripheral blood	HLA-identical sibling/matched or mismatched unrelated	Partially recommended	Partial
Any conditioning plus post-transplant cyclophosphamide	Bone marrow/peripheral blood	Haploidentical	Undecidable	Full
Any conditioning without post-transplant cyclophosphamide)	Bone marrow/peripheral blood	Haploidentical	Advised to follow the conditioning published protocols	Full
Any conditioning	Cord blood transplant	Cord blood	Undecidable	Full
NON-MALIGNANT DISEASES				
Any conditioning	Any stem cell source		Recommended	Full

RIC reduced intensity conditioning, NMA nonmyeloablative conditioning.



#### Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation



journal homepage: www.bbmt.org

#### Conditioning Regimen of 5-Day Decitabine Administration for Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation in Patients with Myelodysplastic Syndrome and Myeloproliferative Neoplasms



Yi-Geng Cao, Yi He, Su-Dong Zhang, Zi-Xian Liu, Wei-Hua Zhai, Qiao-Ling Ma, Ai-Ming Pang, Jia-Ling Wei, Dong-Ling Yang, Yong Huang, Si-Zhou Feng, Er-Lie Jiang\*, Ming-Zhe Han

Center of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation, Institute of Hematology and Blood Diseases Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Tianjin, China

A myeloablative conditioning regimen consisting of 20 mg/m2 Dec (on days -9 to -5), 30 mg/ideal m2Flu (days -6 to -4), 3.2 mg/ideal kg Bu (days -9 to -7), 40 mg/ideal kg Cy (days -3 to -2), and 2 g/ideal m2Ara-c (days -9 to -7) was used.

To monitor the effects of the Dec treatment on T cell (CD3+) and NK cell (CD3CD16+56+) responses after allografting, peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were analyzed by flow cytometry at days +14, +28, +42, +60, +90, +180, +280, and +360

Overall, this new regimen was associated with a low relapse rate, low incidence and severity of GVHD, and satisfactory survival in allo-HSCT recipients with MDS and MDS/MPN

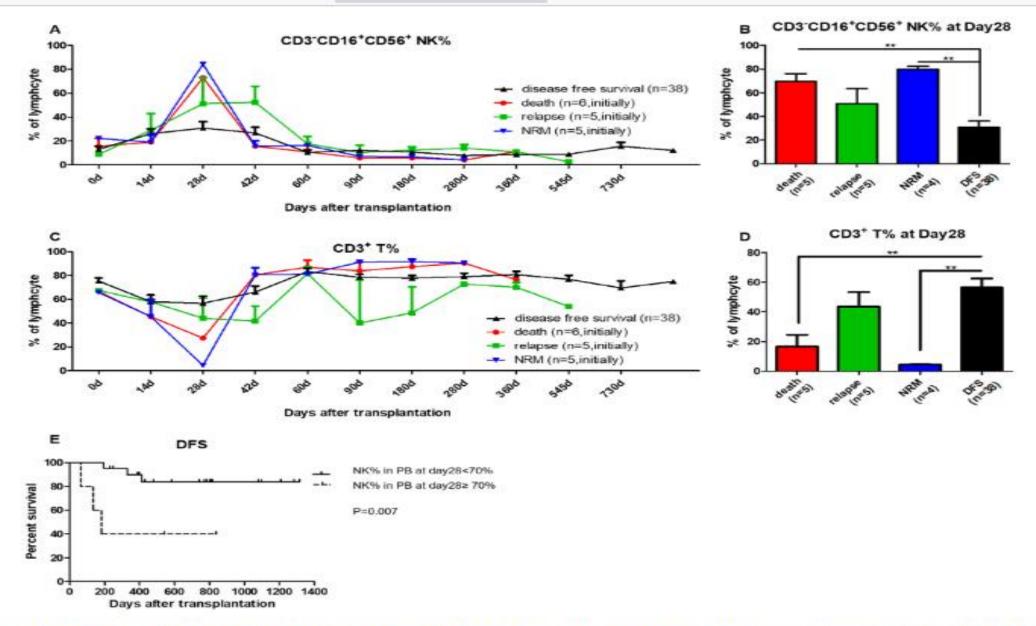


Figure 3. (A-D) Frequency of T cells and NK cells in the peripheral blood at stated time points after allo-HCT. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SE, \*\*P < .01. (E) DFS of patients with different proportions of NK cells in peripheral blood at day 28 after conditioning with decitabine at a median follow-up of 522 days after allo-HCT.

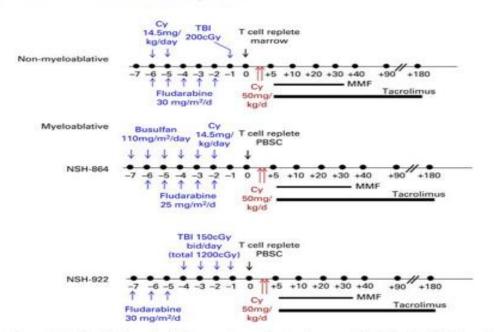
#### Box 2

#### Commonly used HLA-haploidentical alloBMT platforms

Myeloablative conditioning and T-cell depletion with 'megadose' CD34<sup>+</sup> cell allografts<sup>50</sup>

- TBI (8 Gy) on pretransplantation day 9
- Thiotepa (5 mg/kg/day) on pretransplantation days 8 and 7
- Fludarabine (40 mg/m²/day) on pretransplantation days 7 to 3
- Rabbit antithymocyte globulin (5 or 6 mg/kg/day) on pretransplantation
   5 to 2
- CD34<sup>+</sup> selected PBSC allograft on day 0

option for patients who lack an HLA-identical sibling donor



Conditioning regimens For T-replete haploidentical donor transplantation used at Northside hospital.

## Myeloablative conditioning and in vivo T-cell modulation using the GIAC protocol 19,87,96

- Cytarabine (4 g/m²/day) on pretransplantation days 10 and 9
- MMF from pretransplantation day 9 to post-transplantation day 60
- Ciclosporin-A from pretransplantation day 9 to post-transplantation day 180– 300
- Busulfan (oral, 4 mg/kg/day; IV, 3.2 mg/kg/day) on pretransplantation days 8, 7 and 6
- Cyclophosphamide (1.8 g/m²/day) on pretransplantation days 5 and 4
- Rabbit antithymocyte globulin (1.5 or 2.5 mg/kg/day) on pretransplantation days 5 to 2
- Semustine (250 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) on pretransplantation day 3

GCSF-stimulated T-cell-replete PBSC and bone-marrow allografts on day 0

Methotrexate (15 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) on post-transplantation day 1

Methotrexate (10 mg/m²/day) on post-transplantation days 3, 6 and 11

Table 2

Relative advantages and disadvantages of each approach to haploBMT

Clinical outcome	T-cell depletion	GIAC protocol	PTCy
Engraftment	2-3	1	<b>2</b> –3
Acute GVHD	1	3	2
Chronic GVHD	1-2	3	1-2
Infection/deaths from infection	3	2	1
Nonrelapse mortality	3	2	1
Relapse	2-3	1	2-3

1 indicates most favourable; 2, intermediate; 3, least favourable. When more definitive ratings are unclear, a range is shown with the probable rating indicated in bold. Ratings take into account the findings of the available published studies (Table 1), but are unable to account for many factors that influence outcomes, such as differences between studies in patient characteristics or the malignant disease types, features or pretransplantation remission status.

Abbreviations: GVHD, graft-versus-host disease; haploBMT, human leukocyte antigen-haploidentical allogeneic blood or bone-marrow transplantation; PTCy, post-transplantation cyclophosphamide.

- The answer to "when and for whom" with respect to HSCT conditioning intensity is complex, individualized, and constantly evolving.
- critical individual balance between the risk of NRM and the risk of relapse must be inclluded in a personalized medicine approach.
- Toxicity-reduced myeloablative conditioning
- CONSIDER APPROPRIATE DOSE OF ATG IN MATCHED SIBILING MAC

