

# **CML: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

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# Five Years of Signal Transduction Inhibition – The Beginning

## A Minute Chromosome in Human Chronic Granulocytic Leukemia

In seven cases thus far investigated (five males, two females), a minute chromosome has been observed replacing one of the four smallest autosomes in the chromosome complement of cells of chronic granulocytic leukemia cultured from peripheral blood. No abnormality was observed in the cells of four cases of acute granulocytic leukemia in adults or of six cases of acute leukemia in children. There have been several recent reports of chromosome abnormalities in a number of cases of human leukemia [including two of the seven cases reported here: Nowell and Hungerford, *J. Natl. Cancer Inst.* **25**, 85 (1960)], but no series has appeared in which there was a consistent change typical of a particular type of leukemia.

Cells of the five new cases were obtained from peripheral blood (and bone marrow in one instance), grown in culture for 24–72 hours, and processed for cytological examination by a recently developed air-drying technique (Moorhead, *et al.*, *Exptl. Cell Research*, in press). The patients varied from asymptomatic untreated cases to extensively treated

cases of several years' duration in terminal myeloblastic crisis. All seven individuals showed a similar minute chromosome, and none showed any other frequent or regular chromosome change. In most of the cases, cells with normal chromosomes were also observed. Thus, the minute is not a part of the normal chromosome constitution of such individuals.

The findings suggest a causal relationship between the chromosome abnormality observed and chronic granulocytic leukemia.

PETER C. NOWELL

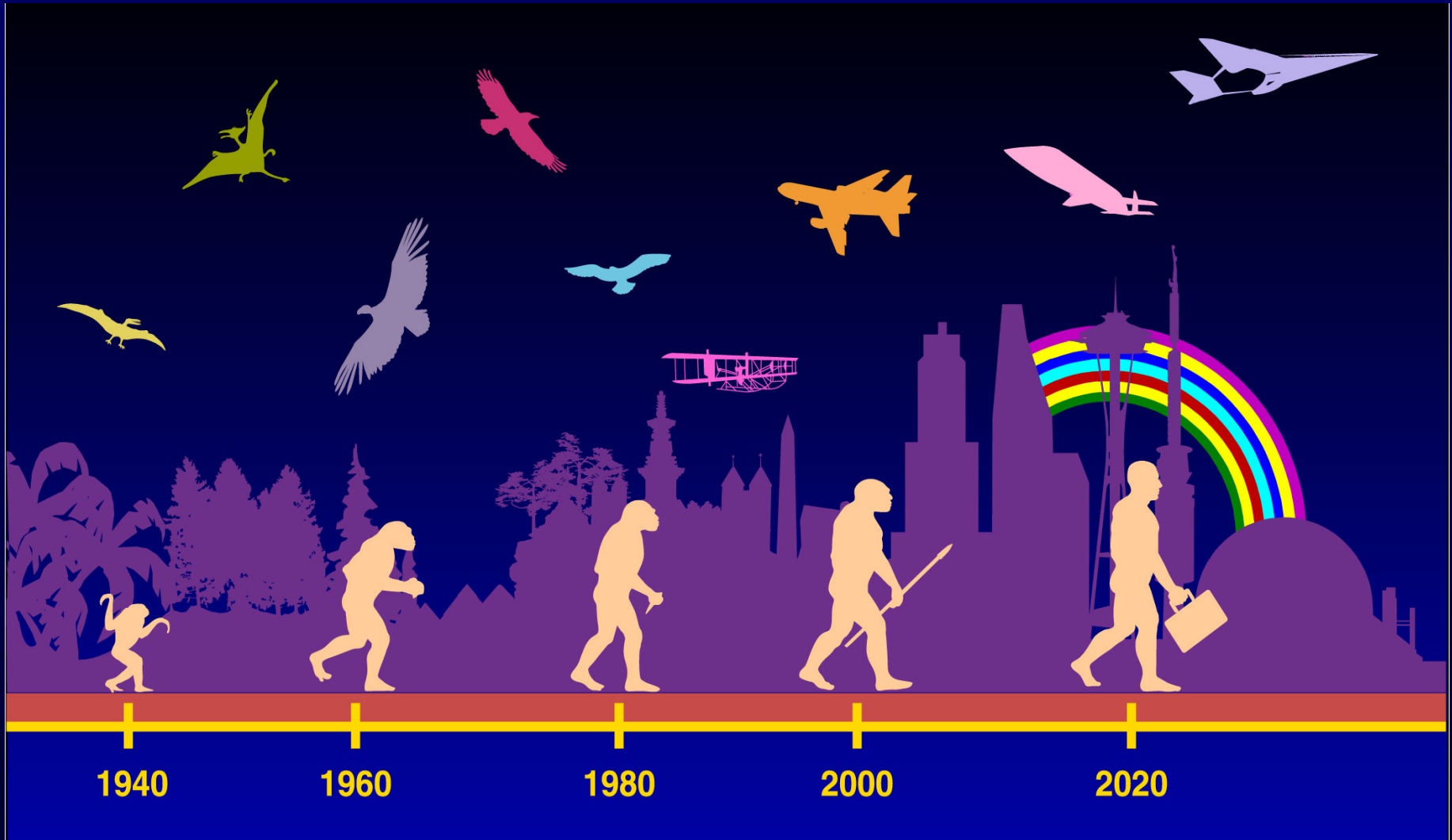
*School of Medicine,  
University of Pennsylvania*

DAVID A. HUNGERFORD

*Institute for Cancer Research*

Nowell PC & Hungerford DA.  
Science 1960, 132: 1497

# The Evolution of CML Therapy



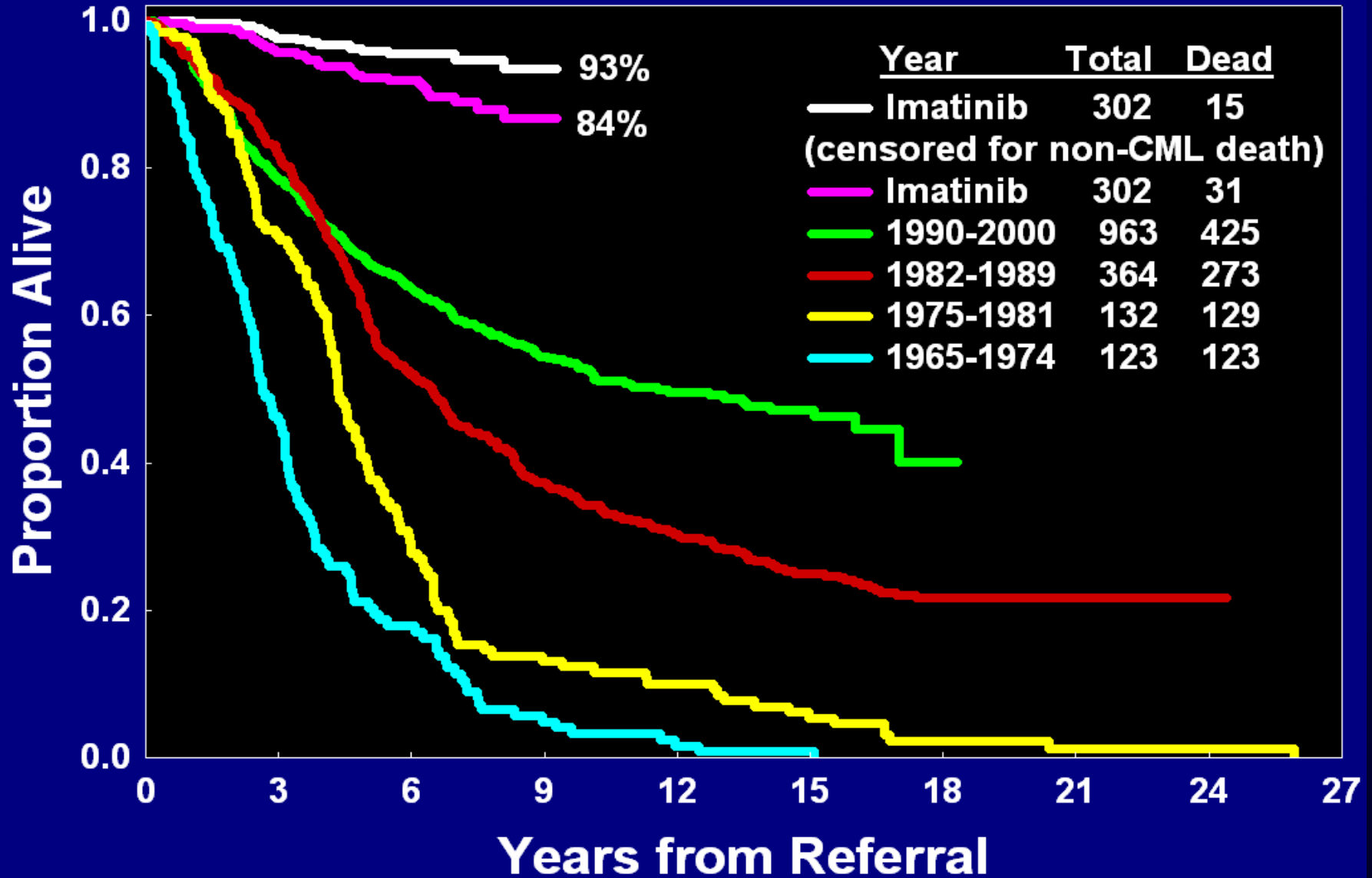
Chemotherapy ⇒

SCT ⇒

IFN ⇒

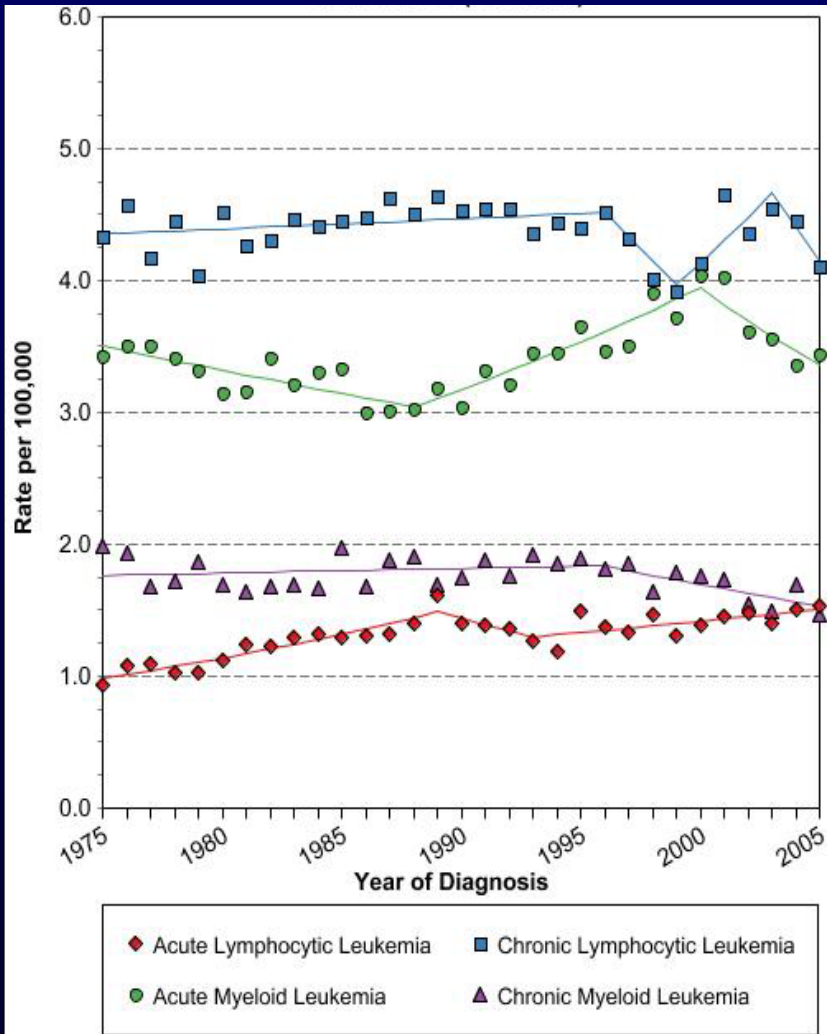
TKI

# Survival in Early Chronic Phase CML

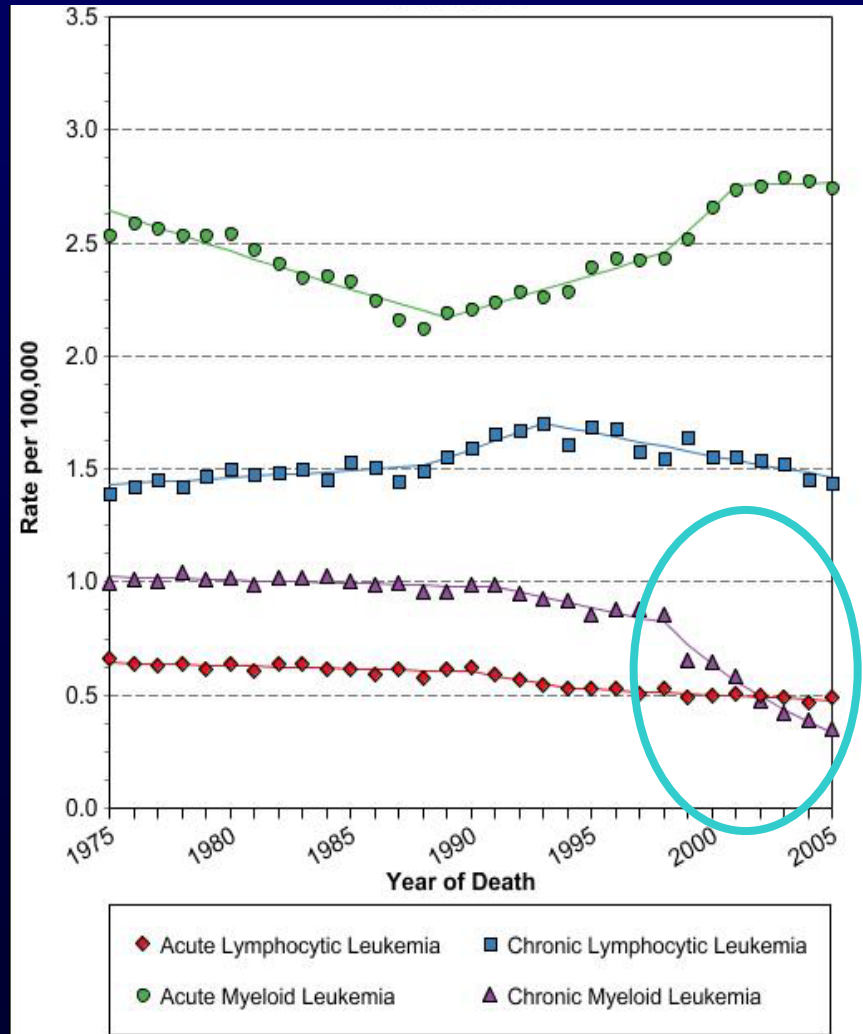


# Incidence and Mortality of Leukemia SEER 1975-2005

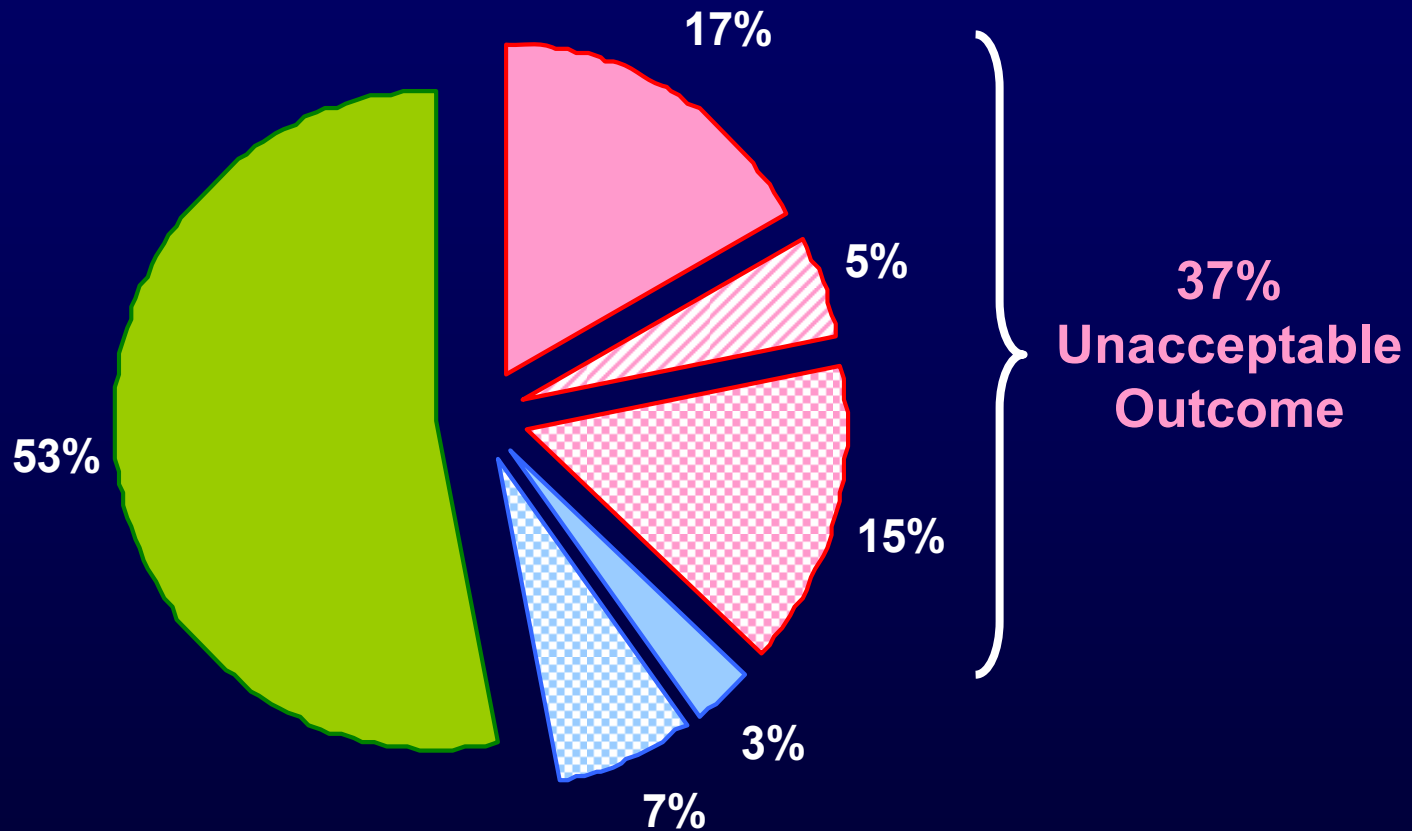
## Incidence



## Mortality



# IRIS 8-Year Update



- No CCyR
- Lost CCyR
- CCyR Other

- Safety
- Lost-regained CCyR
- Sustained CCyR on study

# Predictors of Response

# Similar Efficacy & Safety with 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation TKI in Older Pts

- **Dasatinib**

- 97 pts age >60 yr

- Dasatinib 140 mg/d (n=47) or 100 mg/d (n=44)

- CCyR 48%, MMR 32%

- Pleural effusion 25%, G3-4 myelosuppression 22% at 10mg/d

- **Nilotinib**

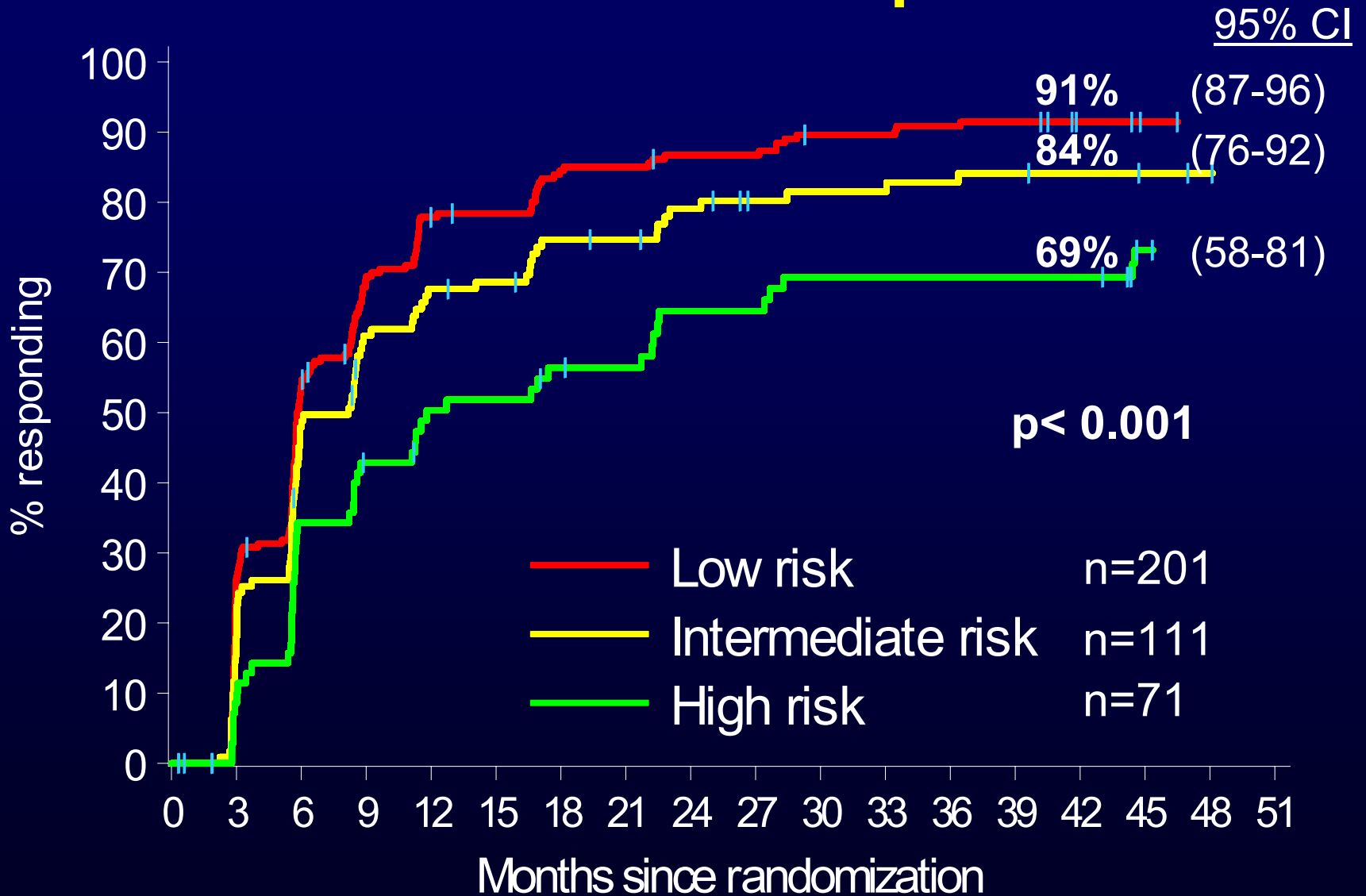
- 452 pts age ≥60 yrs

- CCyR 31%, 24mo PFS 81%

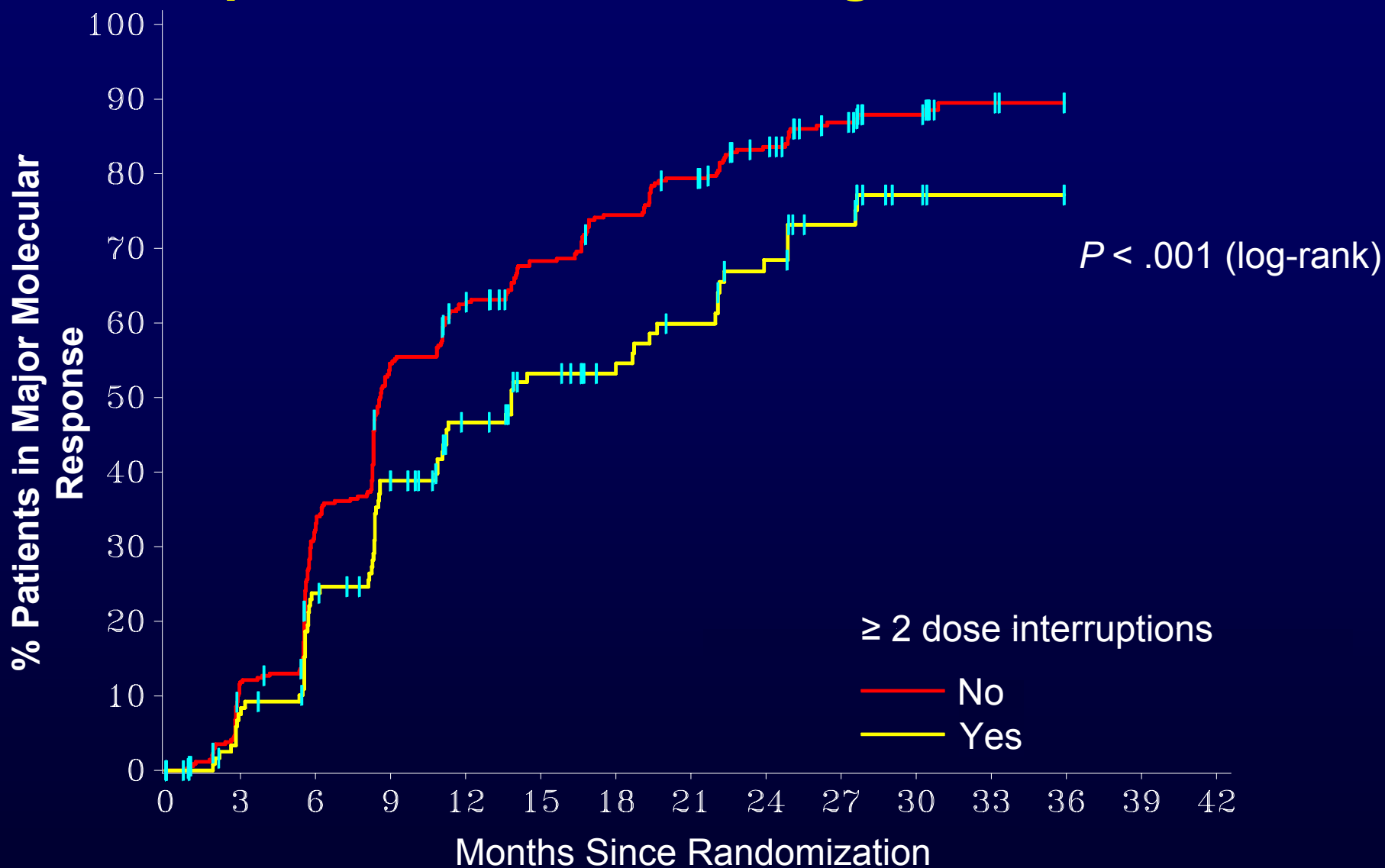
- QTc >500msec 1%, G3-4 myelosuppression 14%



# Estimated CCyR to First-line Imatinib by Sokal Group



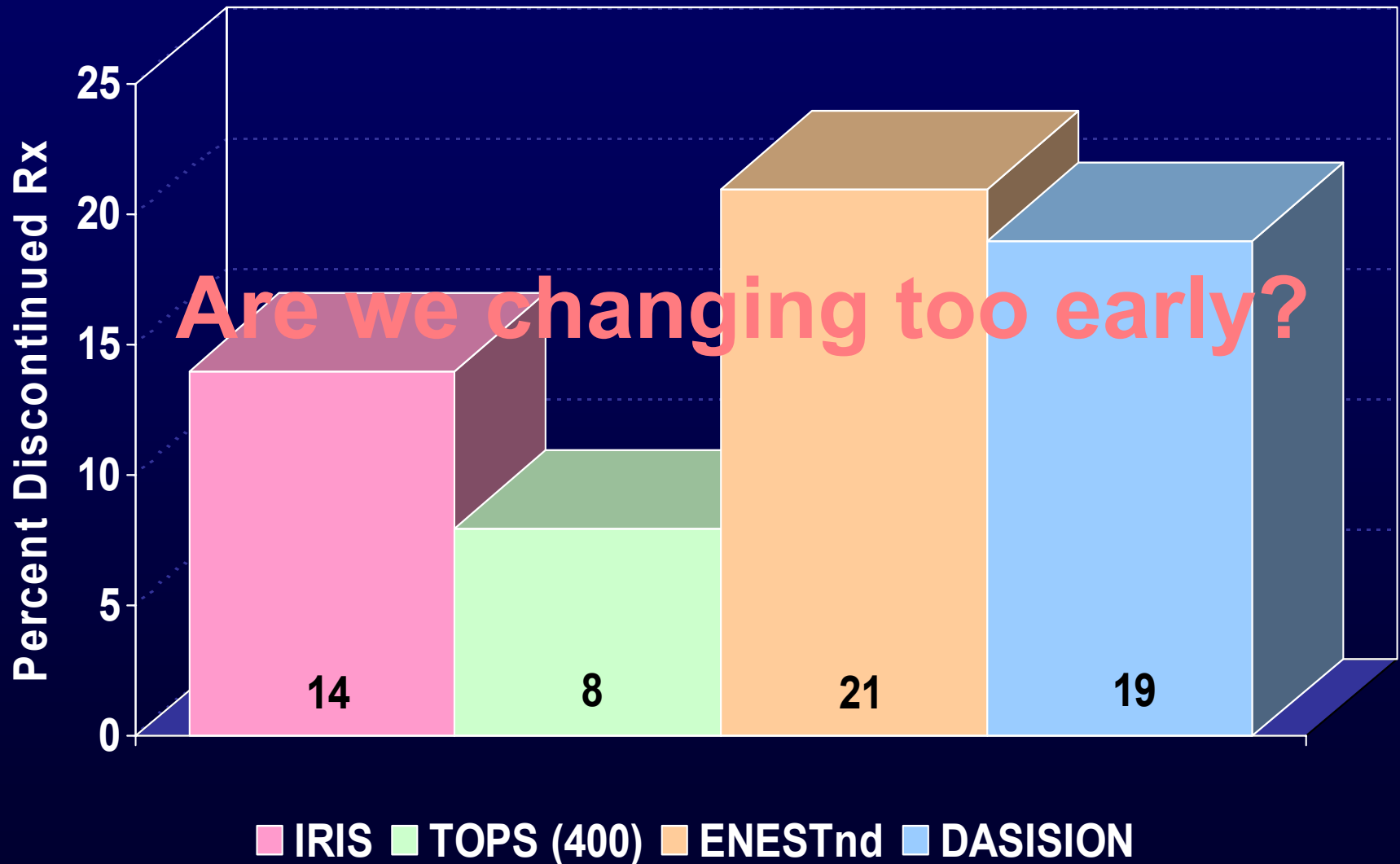
# Time to MMR by Number of Dose Interruptions\*, 400 and 800 mg Arms Combined



\*Dose interruption > 5 days during first 12 months

Baccarani et al. Blood 114; Abst# 337

# Imatinib Treatment Discontinuation First 12 Months



# Significance of OCT-1 Activity in Response to Imatinib

- Transporter responsible for imatinib cell influx
- Not required for 2<sup>nd</sup> generation TKI

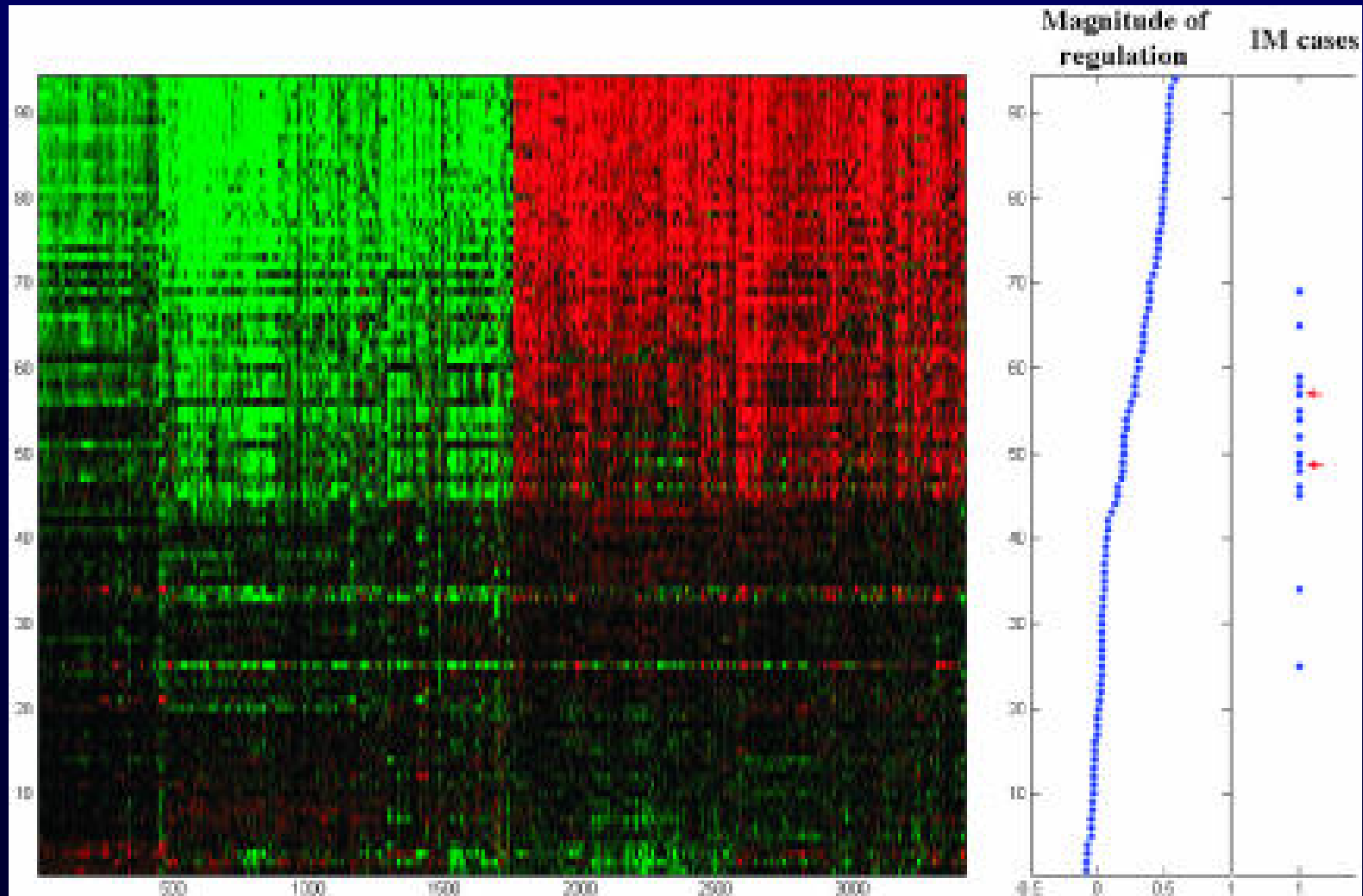
Outcome	Dose	Percentage		p value
		Low OCT1	High OCT1	
MMR	<600mg	27	92	0.021
	600mg	72	87	0.093
EFS	<600mg	27	67	0.018
	600mg	61	80	0.241
TFS	<600mg	73	100	0.048
	600mg	100	100	NS

# Predictive Factors of Outcome with 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation TKI

- 123 pts treated with dasatinib (n=78) or nilotinib (n=45) after imatinib failure
- Multivariate analysis for predictors of outcome
- **Adverse factors: PS  $\geq$  1 and lack of CG response to imatinib**

Risk factors	N (%)	Percentage		
		24-month		12-month
		EFS	OS	MCyR
0	59 (48)	78	95	64
1	48 (39)	49	85	36
2	5 (4)	20	40	20
p-value		0.001	0.002	0.007

# Genetics of Disease Progression and Resistance to Therapy in CML



**Have we Reached  
Optimal Outcome with  
Frontline Therapy?**

# What Needs Improvement in Frontline Therapy of CML?

Outcome	Current	Relevance	“Improvability”
Survival <sup>1</sup>	85% @ 8 yr	++++	+
TFS <sup>1</sup>	92% @ 8 yr	++++	+
EFS <sup>1</sup>	81% @ 8 yr	+++	++
CCyR <sup>1</sup>	82%	+++	++
MMR <sup>2</sup>	87%	++	++(+)
CMR <sup>2</sup>	52%	+(+)	+++
Early response <sup>3,4</sup>	CCyR 65% @ 1 yr	+(+)(+)	+++(+)
Toxicity	“Low”	+++	-(+)

<sup>1</sup>Deininger et al; Blood 2009; 114: Abst# 1126; <sup>2</sup>Branford et al. Clin Cancer Res 2007; 13: 7080-5

<sup>3</sup>Quintas-Cardama et al. Blood 2009; 113: 6315-21; <sup>4</sup>Guilhot et al, Blood 2007; 110: Abst# 27

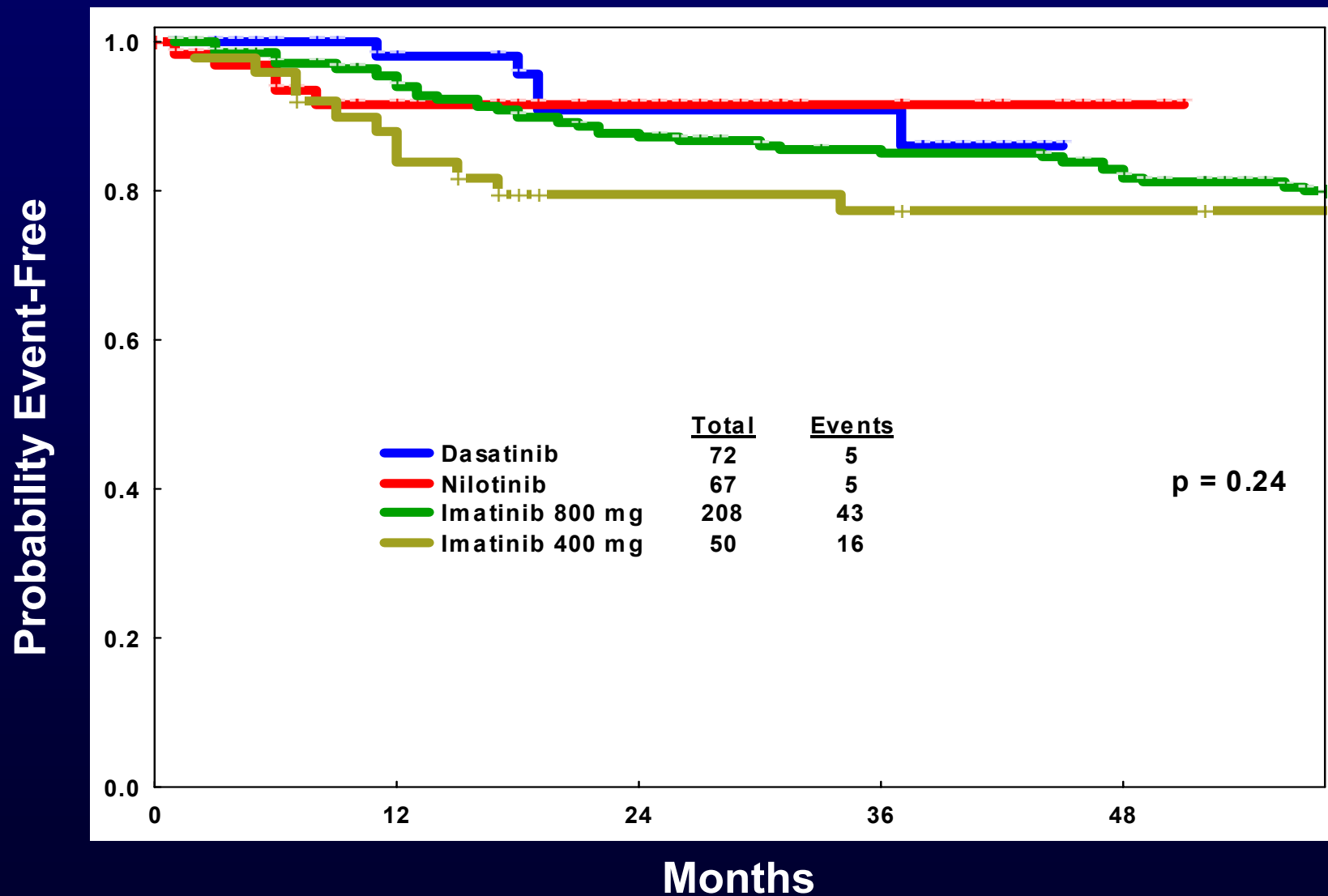


# Complete Cytogenetic Response in Early CP CML by Treatment

Percent CCyR

Response	Mo.	Percent CCyR			
		IM 400 N=50	IM 800 N=205	Nilotinib N=61	Dasatinib N=71
CCyR	6	54	85	94	95
	12	65	89	95	94
	24	67	88	93	93
MMR	6	7	47	70	64
	12	34	58	71	74
	24	55	66	62	89
CMR	6	0	9	5	2
	12	5	12	10	6
	24	18	20	21	8

# Event-Free Survival by Treatment in ECP CML



# What Needs Improvement in Frontline Therapy of CML?

Outcome	Current	Relevance	“Improvability”
Survival <sup>1</sup>	86% @ 7y	++++	? +
TFS <sup>1</sup>	93% @ 7y	++++	(✓) +
EFS <sup>1</sup>	81% @ 7y	+++	? ++
CCyR <sup>1</sup>	82%	+++	✓ ✓ ++
MMR <sup>2</sup>	87%	++	✓ ++(+)
CMR <sup>2</sup>	52%	+(+)	? +++
Early response <sup>3,4</sup>	CCyR 65% @ 1 yr	+(+)(+)	✓ ✓ ✓ +++(+)
Toxicity	“Low”	+++	(✓) -(+)

<sup>1</sup>O'Brien et al; Blood 2008; 112: abst# 186; <sup>2</sup> Branford et al. Clin Cancer Res 2007; 13: 7080-5

<sup>3</sup> Quintas-Cardama et al. Blood 2009; 113: 6315-21; <sup>4</sup> Guilhot et al, Blood 2007; 110: Abst# 27

# The Best Strategy

# Improving Frontline Therapy in CML

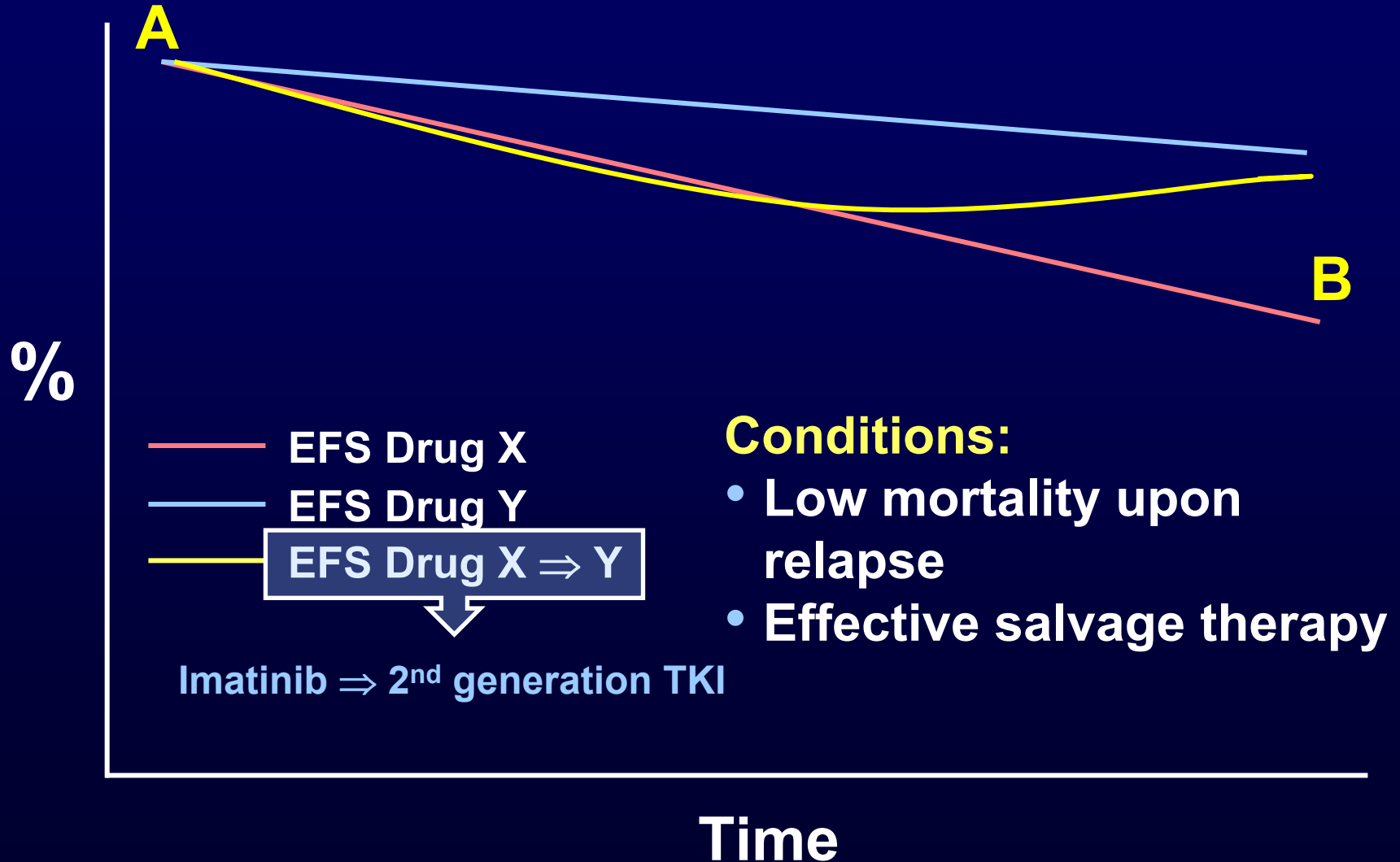
- **Standard-dose imatinib**
- **High-dose imatinib**
- **Imatinib-based combinations**
- **Second generation TKI**
  - **Dasatinib**
  - **Nilotinib**
  - **Bosutinib**

# Dasatinib, Nilotinib and Bosutinib in CML

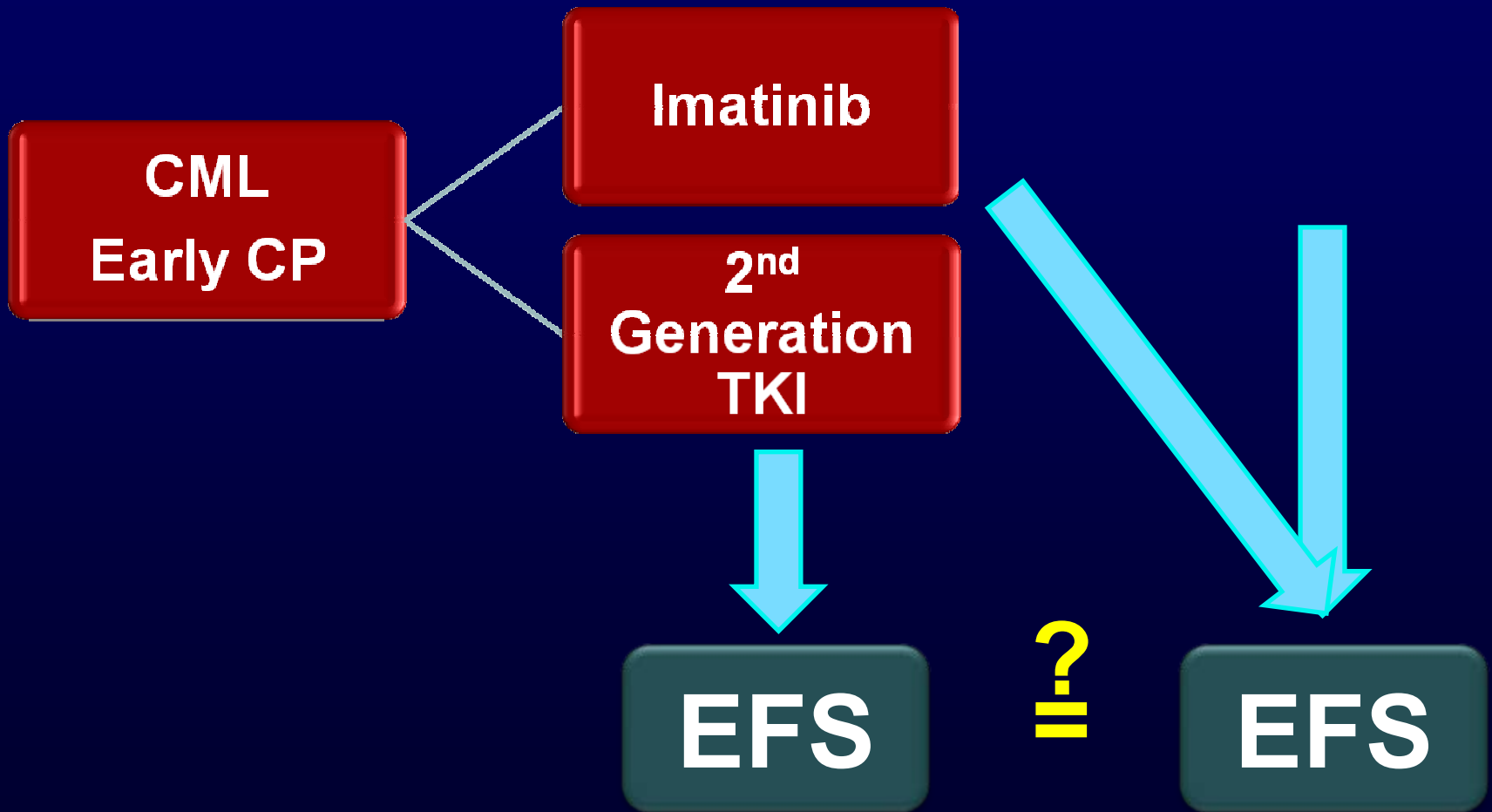
Parameter	Dasatinib	Nilotinib	Bosutinib
Potency (fold vs IM)	325	30	20-50
Target	Src & Abl	Abl	Src & ABL
BCR-ABL binding	Active + Inactive	Inactive	Intermediate
<b>Resistant mutations</b>	<b>T315I</b>	<b>T315I</b>	<b>T315I</b>
Mutations with intermediate sensitivity	E255K/V, V299L, F317L	E255K/V, Y253F/H, Q252H, F359V	F317L, E255V/K
Standard dose (CP)	100mg QD	400mg BID	500mg QD
Grade 3-4 neutropenia & thrombocytopenia	33% / 22%	31% / 33%	12% / 21%
Other notable toxicities	Pleural effusion, bleeding	Bilirubin, lipase elevation	Diarrhea, rash
C-kit inhibition (vs imatinib)	Increased	Similar	None
PDGFR inhibition (vs imatinib)	Increased	Similar	None
Clinical activity	Highly active	Highly active	Highly active

# Frontline Therapy for CML

## The Road from A to B



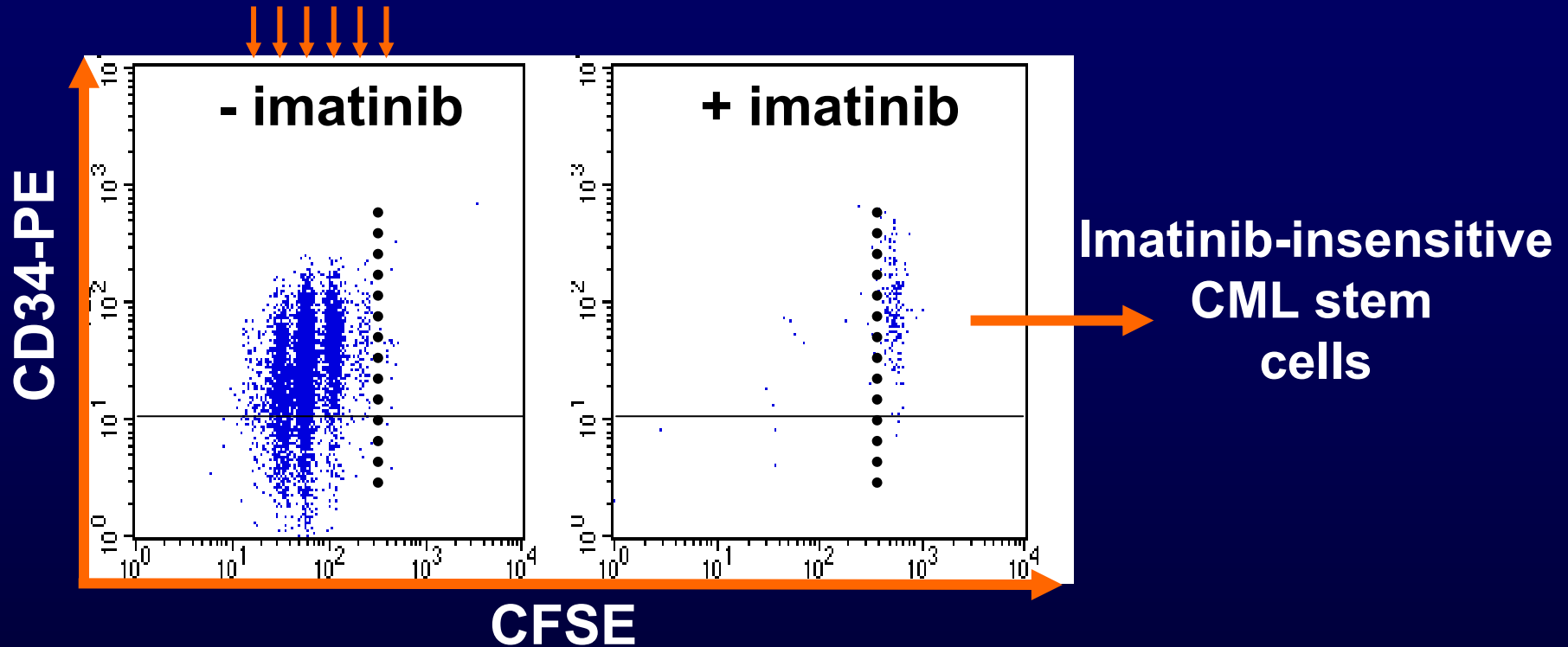
# The Optimal Frontline Strategy for CML





**Cure**

# CML stem cells survive imatinib treatment *in vitro*



- Mechanisms of resistance of stem cells: ↑ expression of BCR-ABL mRNA, protein and kinase activity; ↑ expression of IL-3 and GM-CSF, ↓ expression OCT1, ↑ expression ABCB1 and ABCG2.

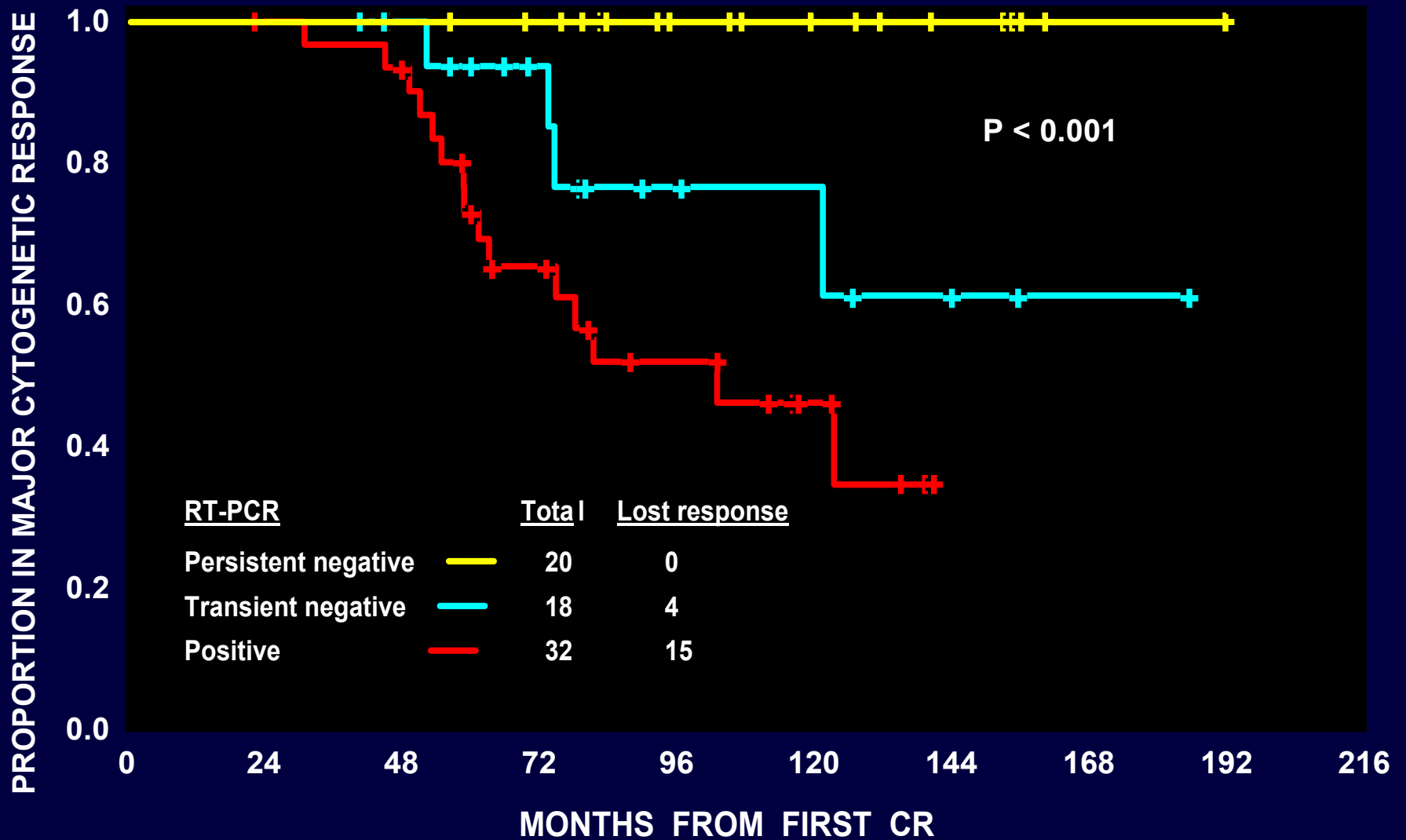
# BCR-ABL Vaccine in CML (GIMEMA)

- CML VAX 100 (5 p210 b3a2 peptides) + GM-CSF
  - 6 vaccinations QOW, then Q mo x3, then Q 3 mos x2 (Boosts optional Q6 mo)
- 46 evaluable pts ( $\geq 18$  mo on imatinib, CCyR, persistence molecular disease)
  - Median 55 mo imatinib therapy
  - 19 IM post IFN; 27 imatinib frontline
- $\Downarrow$  **BCR-ABL/ABL  $\geq 50\%$  at 6 mo 51%**
  - Undetectable at least once 41%

# Strategies to Eliminate the CML Stem Cell

- **New TKI**
  - Combinations?
- **Immune modulation**
  - IFN, vaccines, CTLA4 monoclonal antibodies
- **Alternative pathways**
  - Hedgehog
- **Other mechanisms**
  - Omacetaxine

# Molecular Response in Patients with Complete CG Response with IFN



# Can we Cure CML with Imatinib?

What is cure?

Can we get?

---

“Normal” life expectancy

?

Prolonged survival



+CCyR



+Major molecular response



+Complete molecular response



**“Operational” cure**

**Until death all is life.**

**Don Quixote  
(Miguel de Cervantes  
Saavedra)**



# What is Next?

- **Better frontline therapy**
  - Lessen low-grade toxicity
  - Finite treatment
  - Improved results?
- **Personalized therapy**
  - Selecting patients for therapy
- **Optimizing adherence**
- **Eradication of disease**



# CML: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Yesterday



# Questions?

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