



FOR  
Health Professionals

# What do you need to know about Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)?

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# Disclosures

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## FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

**Grants/Research Support:** TFRI/NCIC Post MD Research Award, Manitoba Medical Services Foundation, Thorlakson Foundation, University Research Grants Program, CancerCare Manitoba Foundation, Lady Tata International Leukemia Research Award, Shastri Indo-Canadian Research Grant, Research Manitoba CLL Cluster Grant

**Consultant:** Lundbeck, Roche, Gilead, Janssen, Abbvie

# Objectives

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1. Understand the difference between monoclonal B cell lymphocytosis, chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma
2. Understand the complications of CLL/SLL, the indications to treat and the treatment landscape

## Resources:

### CCMB CLL Guideline for Primary Care

[http://www.cancercare.mb.ca/resource/File/CPG/Lymphoproliferative\\_Disorders/CG-Consensus\\_Recommendations\\_for\\_Mgmt\\_Chronic\\_Lymphocytic\\_Leukemia-Primary\\_Care\\_Guideline-posted\\_2016-03-01.pdf](http://www.cancercare.mb.ca/resource/File/CPG/Lymphoproliferative_Disorders/CG-Consensus_Recommendations_for_Mgmt_Chronic_Lymphocytic_Leukemia-Primary_Care_Guideline-posted_2016-03-01.pdf)

### CCMB CLL Management Guideline

[http://www.cancercare.mb.ca/resource/File/CPG/Lymphoproliferative\\_Disorders/DM\\_LYMP-Consensus\\_Recommendations\\_for\\_Mgmt\\_Chronic\\_Lymphocytic\\_Leukemia\\_2015-10-30.pdf](http://www.cancercare.mb.ca/resource/File/CPG/Lymphoproliferative_Disorders/DM_LYMP-Consensus_Recommendations_for_Mgmt_Chronic_Lymphocytic_Leukemia_2015-10-30.pdf)

## Outpatient Referral Form

**Chronic lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)  
Small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL)  
Monoclonal B-cell lymphocytosis (MBL)**

Label: \_\_\_\_\_ Reason for Referral: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include the following documentation and this check list to expedite the referral process for your patient:

Referral letter with complete History, Physical, Medication and Laboratory Investigations.

Please Fax to 204-786- 0621, Attention Lymphoma DSG

**Required Investigations for suspected or biopsy proven CLL/SLL/MBL:**

- CBC, Chemistry including Cr, LDH, uric acid, calcium
- B2 microglobulin
- Immunoglobulins, SPEP
- Flow Cytometry: Rule out lymphoproliferative disorder
- Pathology Report if any
- CT reports if any
- Haptoglobin
- HBsAg, HCV, HIV

# Case 1

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- 65 year old male
- WBC 12
- Absolute Lymphocyte count 4.0
- No Clinical findings

# Case 1

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- What is the diagnosis?

## Case 2

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- 91 year old male
- WBC 150
- Absolute lymphocyte count 145
- Asymptomatic



## Case 2

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- Should he be treated?

# Work up of Lymphocytosis

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- History and Full Physical Exam
  - Rule out secondary causes: inflammatory or infectious
  - Laboratory: CBC, Smear, Full chemistries, LFTs, LDH, Uric Acid, HIV, HEPB, HEPC (other serologies if indicated/exposed)
- If persistent or patient unwell and has concerning features
- Flow Cytometry (Specialized Laboratory testing) (no approval required):  
<https://apps.sbgh.mb.ca/labmanual/test/loadDocumentPdf?documentId=55>

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION BELOW, PRINT CLEARLY

**PRIMARY REPORT TO:**  
**NAME OF PHYSICIAN**  
**ORDERING TEST:** ..... (LAST) ..... (FIRST)  
**EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER:** .....  
**REFERRING INSTITUTION NAME AND ADDRESS OR CODE:** .....

**INPATIENT LOCATION (WARD):** .....  
**OUTPATIENT LOCATION (ADDRESS):** .....  
**PATIENT NAME:**  
 LAST FIRST  
**DATE OF BIRTH:**  
 DDMMYYYY  
**OUTPATIENT TELEPHONE NUMBER:** .....  
**SEX:**  F  M

## HISTORY AND CLINICAL IMPRESSION REQUIRED:

**Age, Gender, Persistent Lymphocytosis Rule out Lymphoproliferative disorder**

### FLOW CYTOMETRY

HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

**REASON FOR TESTING MUST BE PROVIDED ABOVE (EXCEPTION PB48)**

- CD4/CD8 subsets (EDTA) ..... PB48
- Enumeration Panel (T, B & NK cells) (EDTA) ..... PBEN
- Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria (EDTA) ..... PNH
- Oxidative Burst (HSC only) (EDTA)\* ..... OBRT
- Hereditary Spherocytosis (EDTA) ..... HSFC

- Immunophenotyping Peripheral Blood (EDTA) ..... PBFC
- Immunophenotyping Bone Marrow (Heparin) ..... BMFC

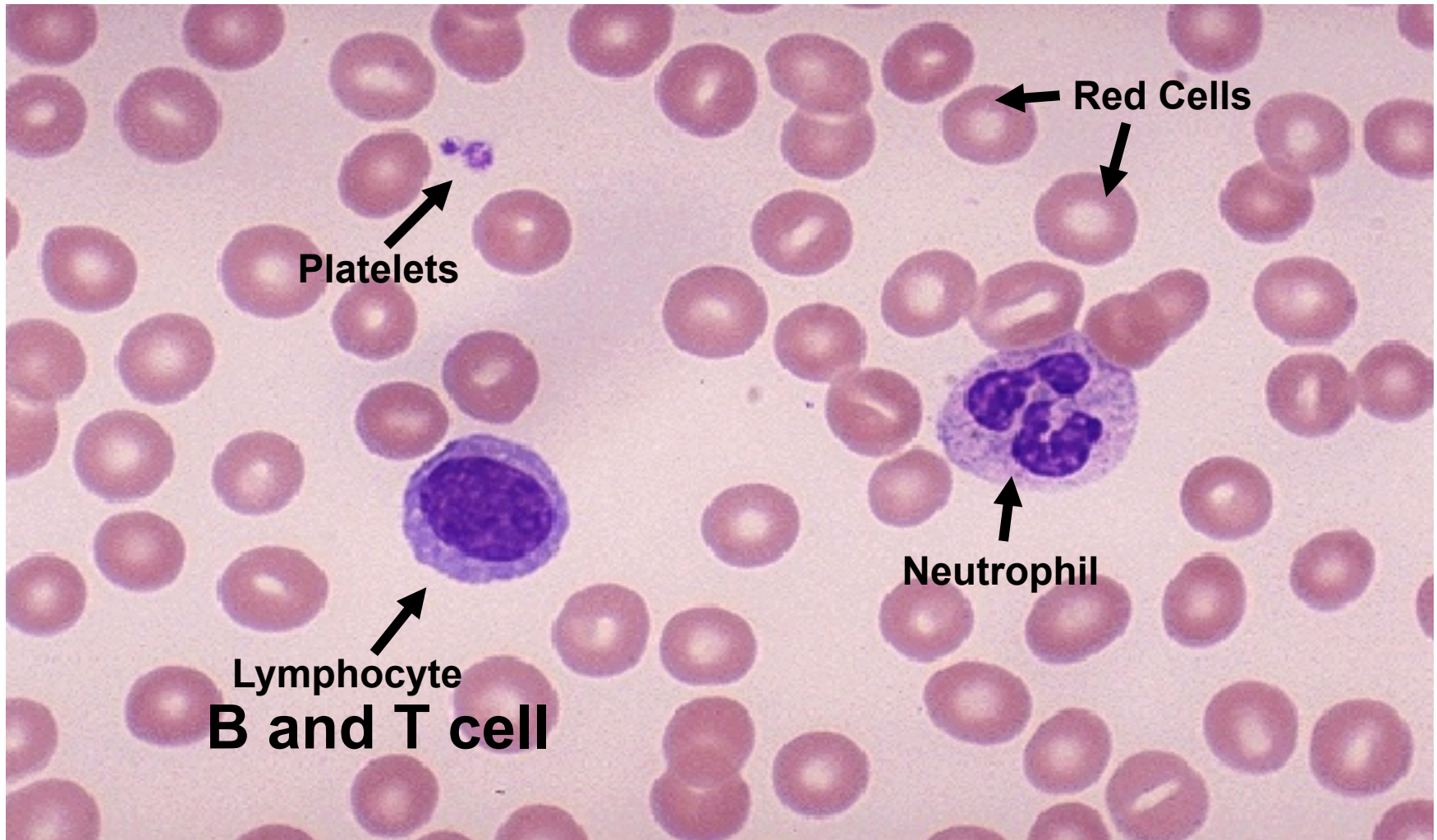
- Immunophenotyping Lymph Node ..... LNFC
- Immunophenotyping Fluid ..... FLFC
- Immunophenotyping Fine Needle Aspirate ..... FNFC
- Immunophenotyping Tissue ..... TSFC

**\*PRIOR ARRANGEMENT WITH LABORATORY REQUIRED**

<input type="checkbox"/> JO-1 ..... JO1	<input type="checkbox"/> Scl-70 ..... SCL	<input type="checkbox"/> IgG ..... IGG	<input type="checkbox"/> Complement C3 ..... C3
<input type="checkbox"/> Sm ..... SM	<input type="checkbox"/> Sm/RNP ..... RNP	<input type="checkbox"/> Complement C4 ..... C4	<input type="checkbox"/> Rheumatoid Factor (RF) ..... RF
<input type="checkbox"/> Centromere B ..... CENB	<input type="checkbox"/> Hep2 ..... HEP2	<input type="checkbox"/> Free Light Chain Ratio ..... FLCH	<input type="checkbox"/> C1 Esterase Inhibitor ..... CEI
<input type="checkbox"/> Rheumatoid Arthritis	<input type="checkbox"/> Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide ..... CCP	<b>Monoclonal Gammopathy Investigation</b> (includes M peak and immunoglobulin levels when applicable)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Celiac Disease	<input type="checkbox"/> CELIAC Panel (includes Tissue Transglutaminase IgA & IgG and Endomysial IgA as required) ..... GLUG	<input type="checkbox"/> SERUM ..... PE	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial <input type="checkbox"/> Follow-up
<input type="checkbox"/> ONLY Tissue Transglutaminase IgG ..... TTG	<input type="checkbox"/> Inflammatory Bowel Disease	<input type="checkbox"/> URINE ..... PEU	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial <input type="checkbox"/> Follow-up
<input type="checkbox"/> Saccharomyces Cerevisiae (IgG & IgA) ..... ASCA	<input type="checkbox"/> IFA Neutrophil Cytoplasmic Ab (does not include MPO and PR3) ..... IFNC	<input type="checkbox"/> Total Complement Activity ..... CH50	(Aliquot and freeze within 1 hour of collection)
<input type="checkbox"/> Phospholipid Syndrome	<input type="checkbox"/> Antiphospholipid (includes Ab to Cardiolipin IgG, Cardiolipin IgM, beta 2 glycoprotein 1 IgG, and beta 2 glycoprotein 1 IgM) ..... APHL	<input type="checkbox"/> Serum Viscosity ..... VIS	(Minimum 20 mL RED TOPINO GEL required; clot at 37°C and aliquot)
<input type="checkbox"/> Autoimmune Vasculitis	<input type="checkbox"/> Myeloperoxidase ..... MPO	<input type="checkbox"/> Proteinase 3 ..... PR3	<input type="checkbox"/> Serum Cryoglobulin ..... CRYO
<input type="checkbox"/> Organ Specific Autoantibodies	<input type="checkbox"/> Mitochondrial ..... AMA	<input type="checkbox"/> Adrenal ..... ADA	(Minimum 15 mL RED TOPINO GEL; clot at 37°C and aliquot)
<input type="checkbox"/> Smooth Muscle ..... SMA	<input type="checkbox"/> Penphigus ..... PGUS	<input type="checkbox"/> Penphigoid ..... PGOD	
<input type="checkbox"/> Liver/Kidney Microsomal ..... LKM	<input type="checkbox"/> Penphigoid ..... PGOD	<input type="checkbox"/> Striated Muscle ..... STR	
<input type="checkbox"/> Parietal Cell ..... PCA	<input type="checkbox"/> Striated Muscle ..... STR	<input type="checkbox"/> Acetylcholine Receptor ..... ACHR	
<input type="checkbox"/> Glomerular Basement Membrane ..... GBM	<input type="checkbox"/> Endomysial IgA ..... AEMA		
<input type="checkbox"/> Endomysial IgA ..... AEMA			
<b>Additional Tests</b>			

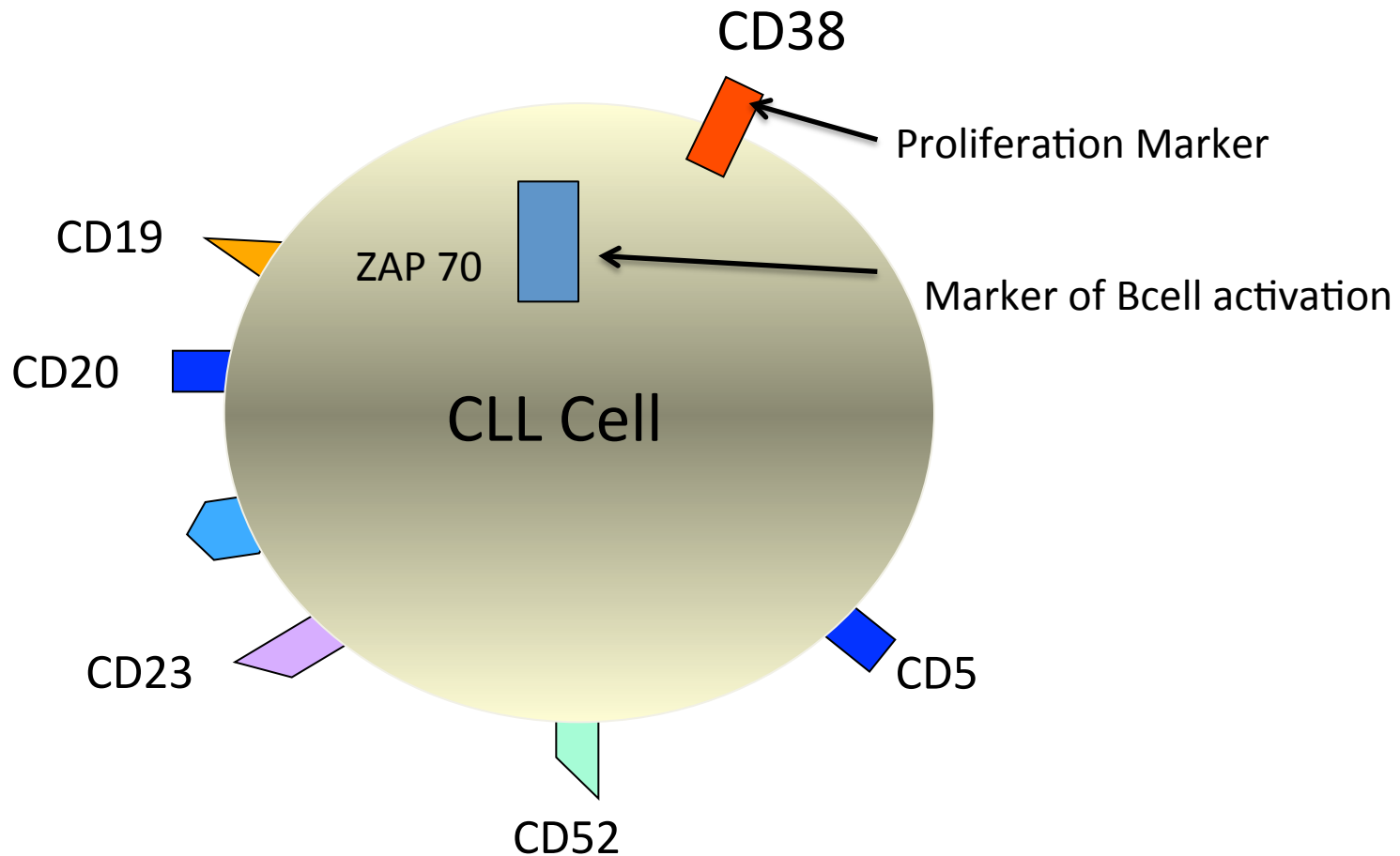
# Normal Blood

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# The monoclonal B cell

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CD38 > 20% and or Zap70 >20% adverse prognosticators

## Calculating the absolute monoclonal B cell count

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- CBC will list a lymphocyte count – This is a combination of B and T cells (e.g.  $7 \times 10^9/L$ )
- Flow report of the lymphocytes: 3% are T cells, 2% are NK cells and the rest are monoclonal B cells, Kappa restricted, CD 19, 20(dim), 5, 23 positive cells consistent with MBL, CLL, SLL
- Therefore, 95% of  $7 \times 10^9/L = \sim 5 \times 10^9/L$

## MBL

Monoclonal B cell  
Lymphocytosis

<  $5 \times 10^9$  cell/L

**NOT Cancer**

## CLL

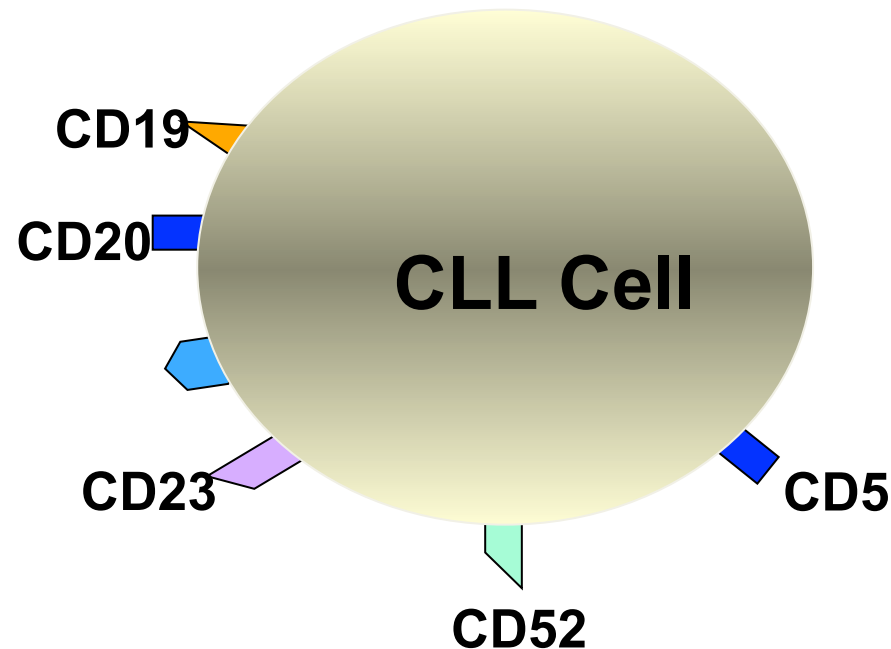
Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia

>  $5 \times 10^9$  cell/L

## SLL

Small Lymphocytic  
Lymphoma

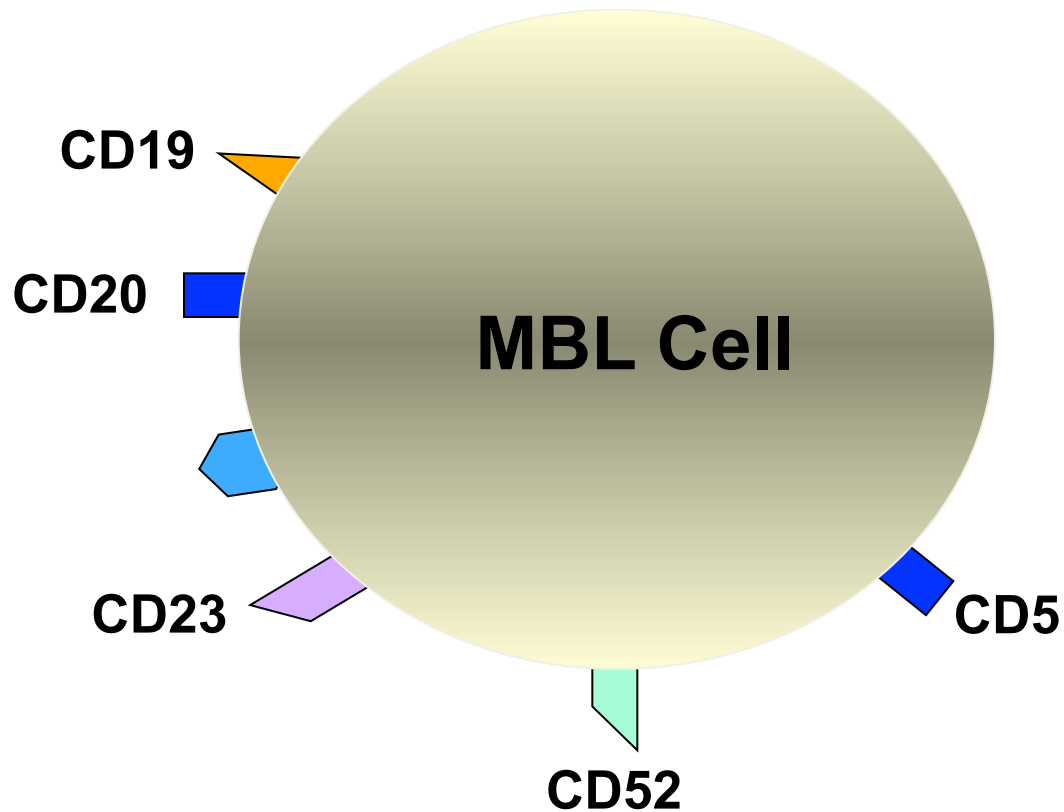
<  $5 \times 10^9$  cell/L  
Positive lymph node/  
Bone marrow biopsy



In the blood:  
Less than  $5 \times 10^9/L$



Drafted Player

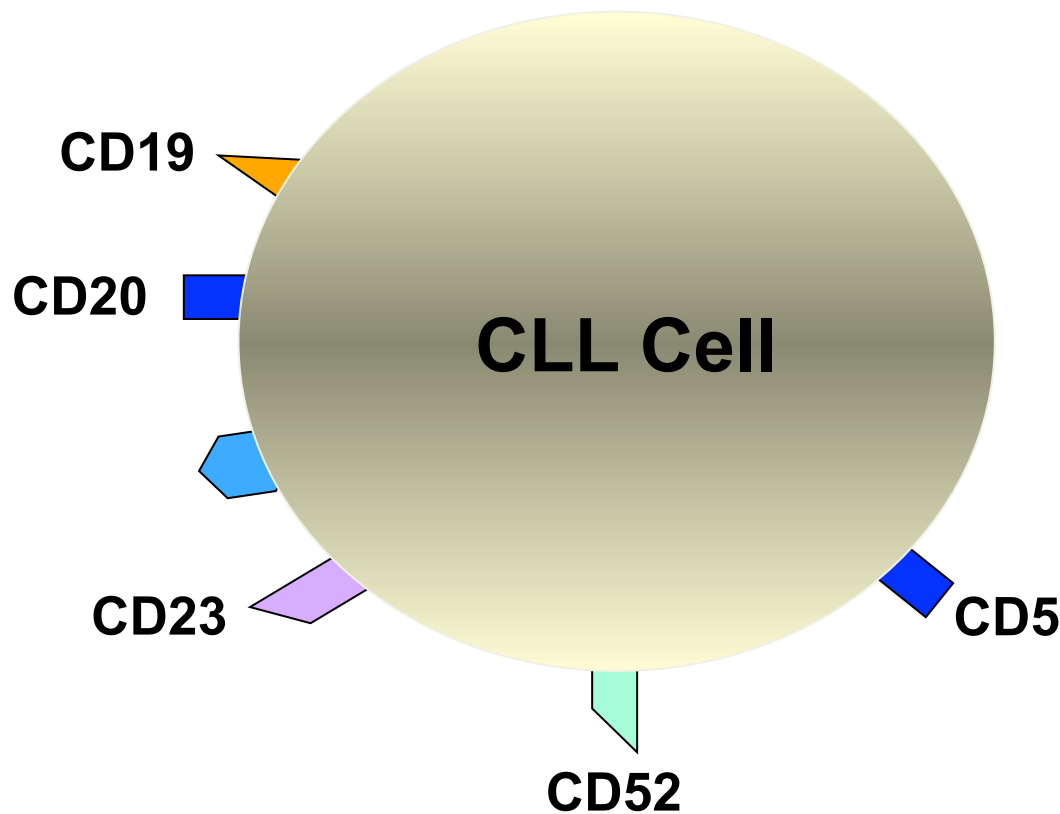




In the blood:  
 $5 \times 10^9/L$  or more



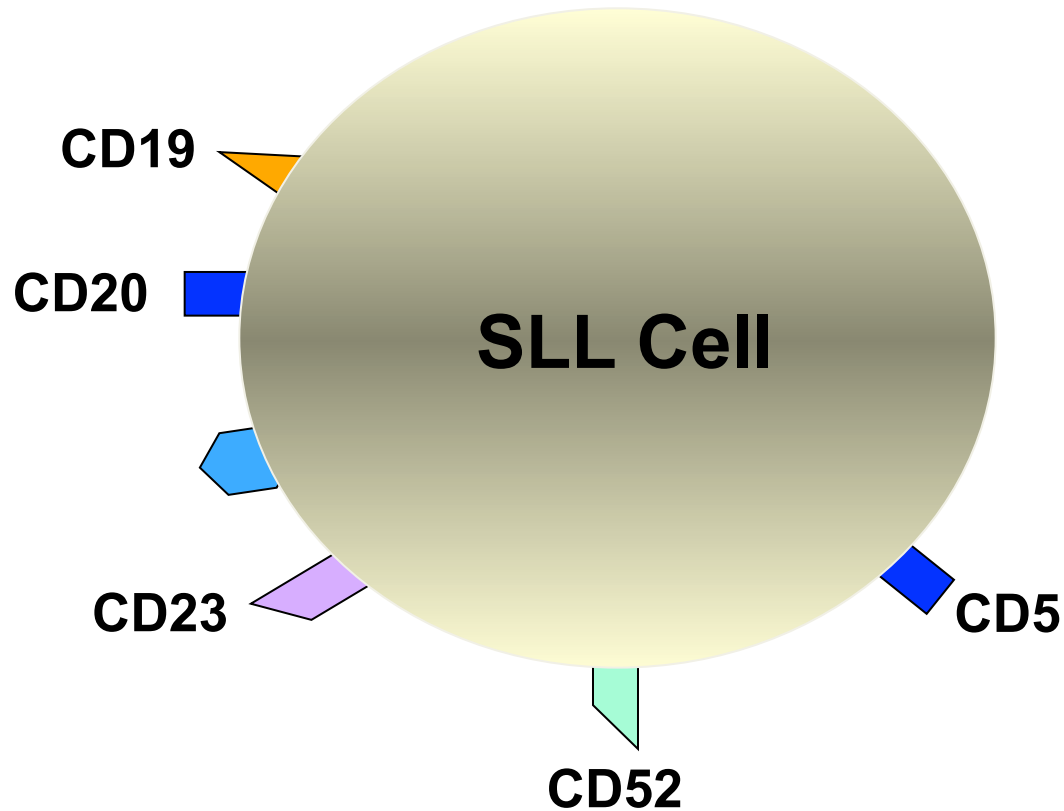
Seasoned Player



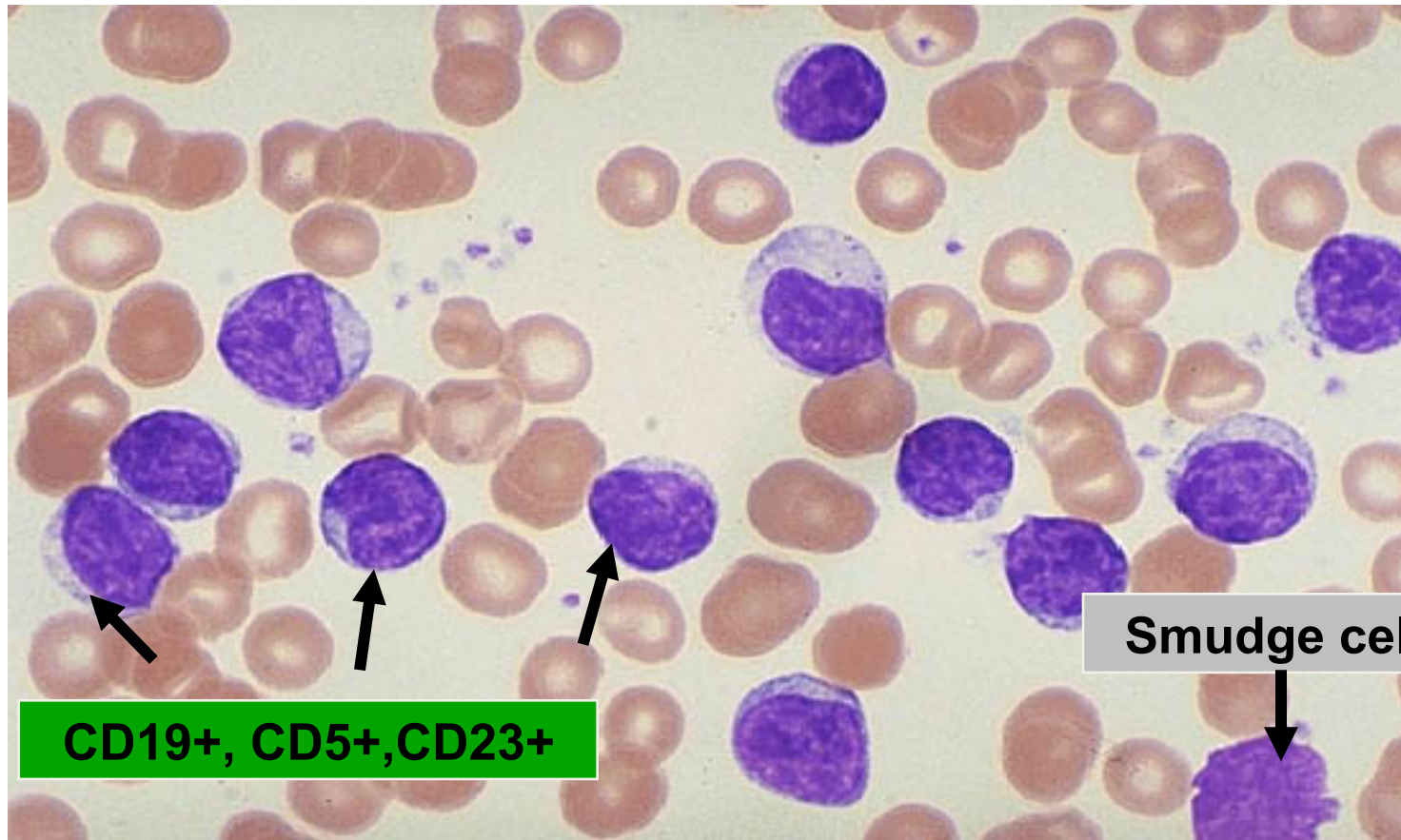
# Not in the Blood



Coach



# CLL Blood Smear



# CLL / SLL

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- Proliferation and accumulation of abnormal monoclonal lymphocytes in blood, bone marrow, lymph nodes and spleen
- Treatable but not curable

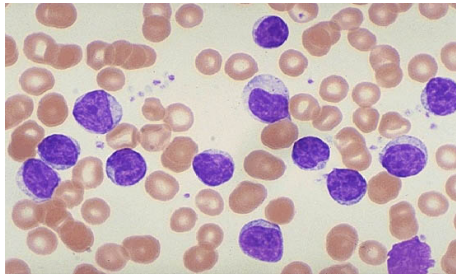
# Who does it affect?

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- ~100 new patients in Manitoba each year
- Average age at diagnosis is 72 years
- More common in men (1.3 to 1)
- No known cause
- 10% family history of CLL/lymphoma

# Rai Clinical Staging System for CLL

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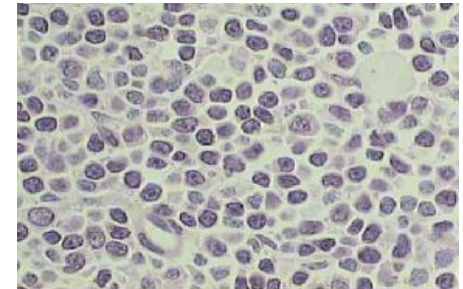
Rai 0



Rai I



Rai II



Rai III/IV

# Complete Blood Count

## CBC w/ Auto & Manual E 1

Comment: note that the hgb and all rbc indices have been corrected for high WBC

→	WBC	<b>WBC</b>	H	108.6	10 <sup>9</sup> /L	(4.5 - 11.0)	
	RBC			4.44	10 <sup>12</sup> /L	(4.4 - 5.9)	
→	Hgb	<b>Hgb &lt;110</b>		142.0	g / L	(130.0 - 180.0)	
	Hct			0.412	L/L	(0.4 - 0.52)	
	MCV			92.8	fL	(80.0 - 96.0)	
	MCH			31.9	pg	(28.0 - 34.0)	
	MCHC			344.0	g / L	(320.0 - 365.0)	
	RDW			13.2	absolute value	(11.5 - 14.5)	
→	Platelets	<b>PLT &lt; 100</b>		111.0	10 <sup>9</sup> /L	(140.0 - 440.0)	
	MPV			8.9	fL	(7.4 - 10.4)	
	Platelet Dist. Width			15.7	absolute value		
	Neutrophils			4.9	10 <sup>9</sup> /L	(0.7 - 7.6)	4.51 %
	Lymphocytes		H	95.3	10 <sup>9</sup> /L	(1.0 - 3.3)	87.75 %
	Monocytes		H	7.8	10 <sup>9</sup> /L	(0.1 - 0.8)	7.18 %
	Eosinophils			0.2	10 <sup>9</sup> /L	(0.0 - 0.4)	0.18 %
	Basophils		H	0.4	10 <sup>9</sup> /L	(0.0 - 0.1)	0.37 %
	Manual Neutrophil Segs Abs.			7.802	10 <sup>9</sup> /L		
	Manual Neutrophil Bands Abs.				10 <sup>9</sup> /L		
	Toxic Granules						

# Rai Clinical Staging

<b>Rai Stage</b>	<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Median survival: Original Report (n = 125)<sup>15</sup></b>	<b>Median survival: Mayo Clinic CLL Database* (n = 2397)</b>
0	Lymphocytosis only	150 months	130 months
I	Lymphadenopathy	101	106
II	Organomegaly	71	88
III	Anemia**	19	58
IV	Thrombocytopenia†	19	69

\*All individuals with CLL seen in the Mayo Clinic Division of Hematology since 1995.

\*\*Hg < 11 g/dL

†Platelet count < 100 × 10<sup>9</sup>/L



# Poor Prognosticators

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## **ZAP 70 protein**

- BCR signaling

## **CD38**

- Proliferation marker

## **Beta 2 Microglobulin**

- Elevated, > 4x risk of second cancers

## **IGH Mutational Status**

- Unmutated ( often correlates w/Zap70 status)

## **Recurrent cytogenetic abnormalities-FISH**

- del11q/ATM, trisomy 12, del17p/p53

# Approach to the Patient with CLL

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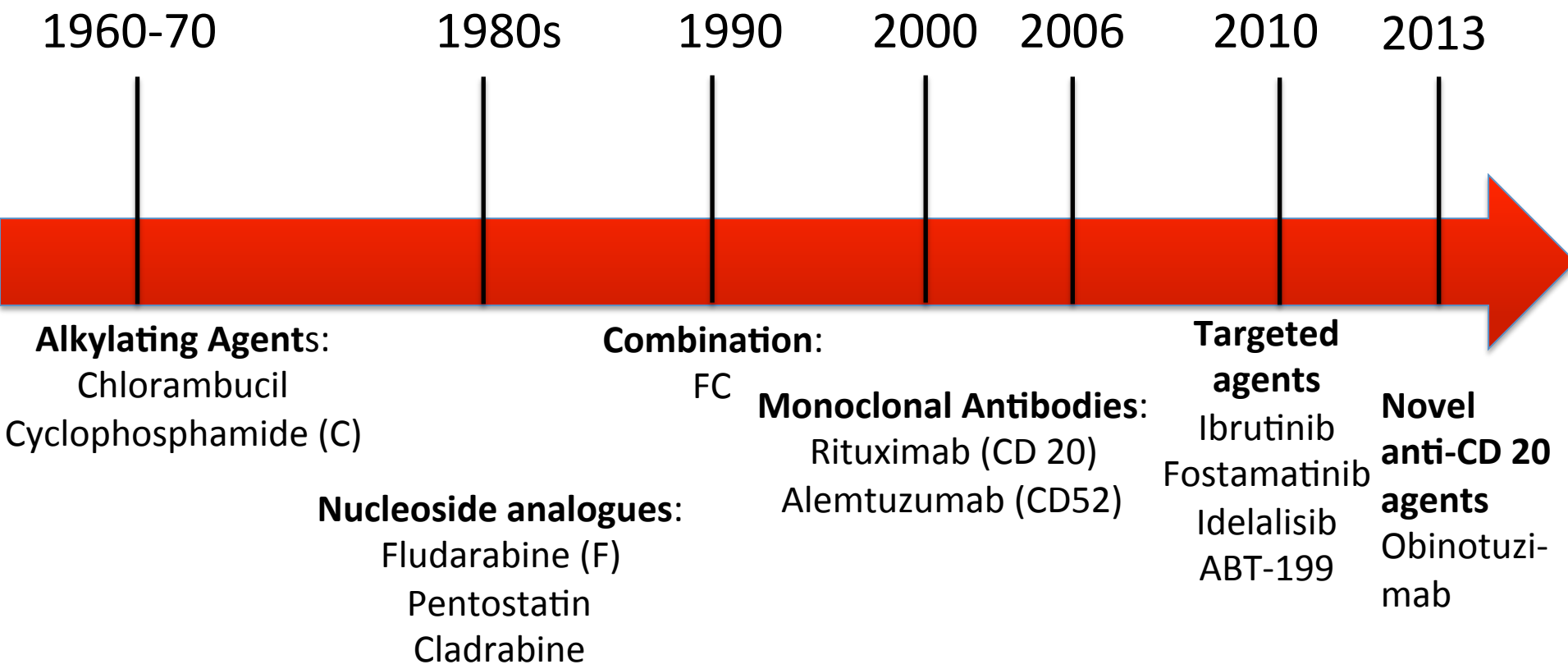
- DO NO HARM
- Incurable disease for patients > 65 years of age
  - Quality of Life
- “Active observation”
- Indications to treat:
  - Traditional Chemotherapy / Tyrosine Kinase inhibitors
    - Infection
    - Symptoms
    - Rai Stage IV
    - Rapidly progressive disease
- Bone Marrow Transplant (< 65 years of age)

# Counseling

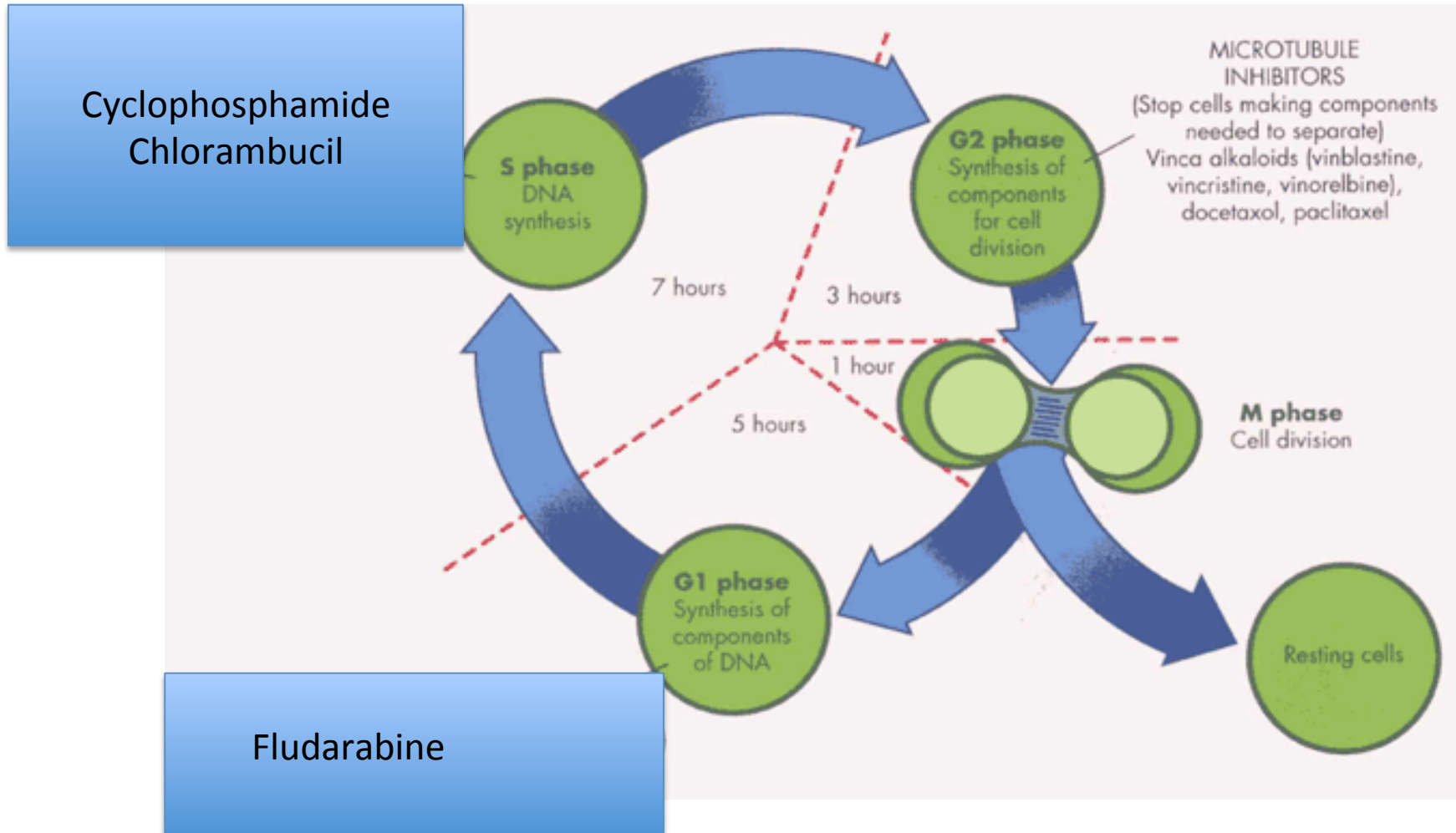
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- Decreased immunity, flu and pneumococcal vaccinations, no live vaccines
- Second cancer risk, higher than the general population and other indolent lymphomas
  - Dermatology referral, Age appropriate screening
- Active observation
- Treatment counseling

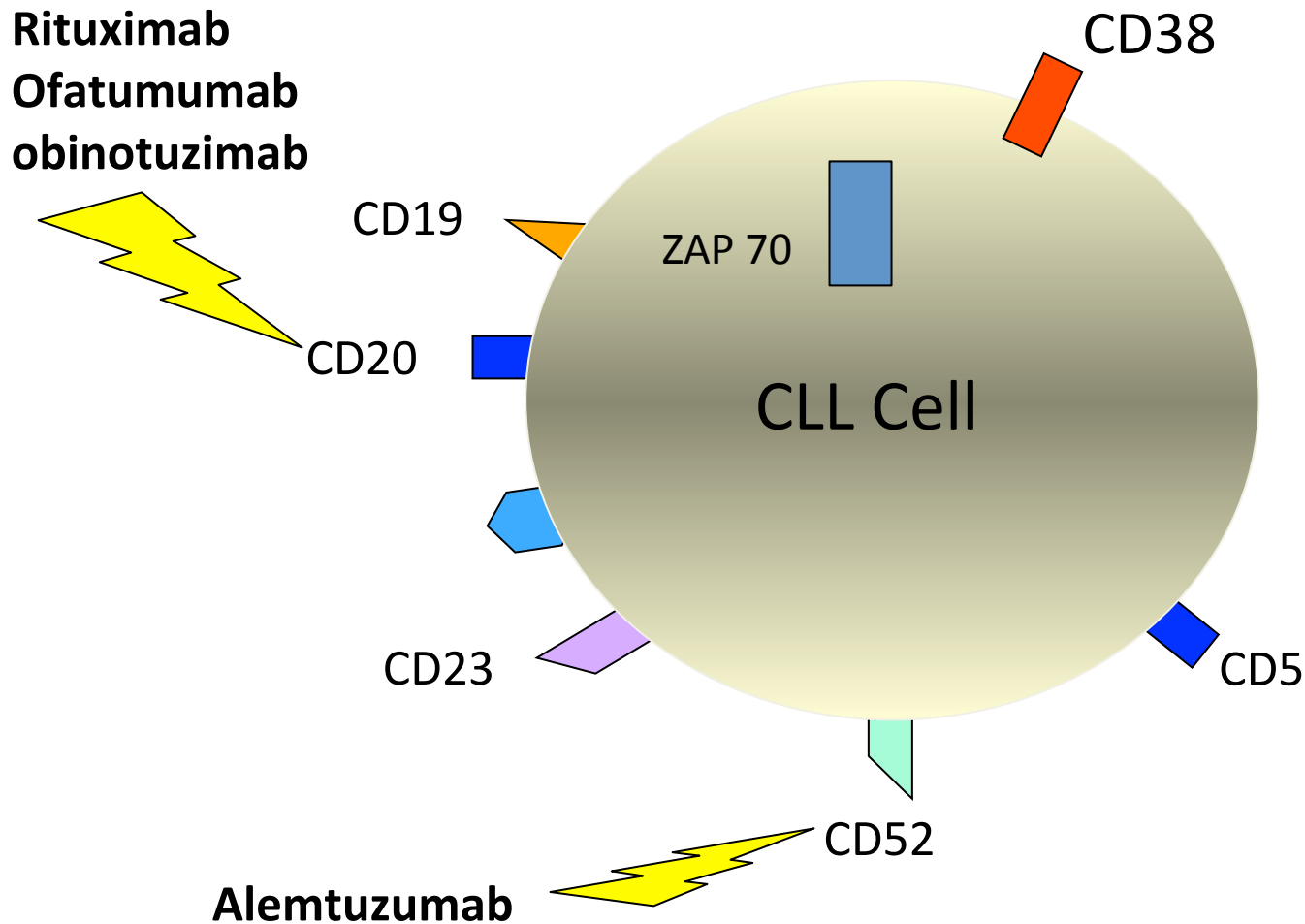
# Treatment Evolution



# Cell Cycle

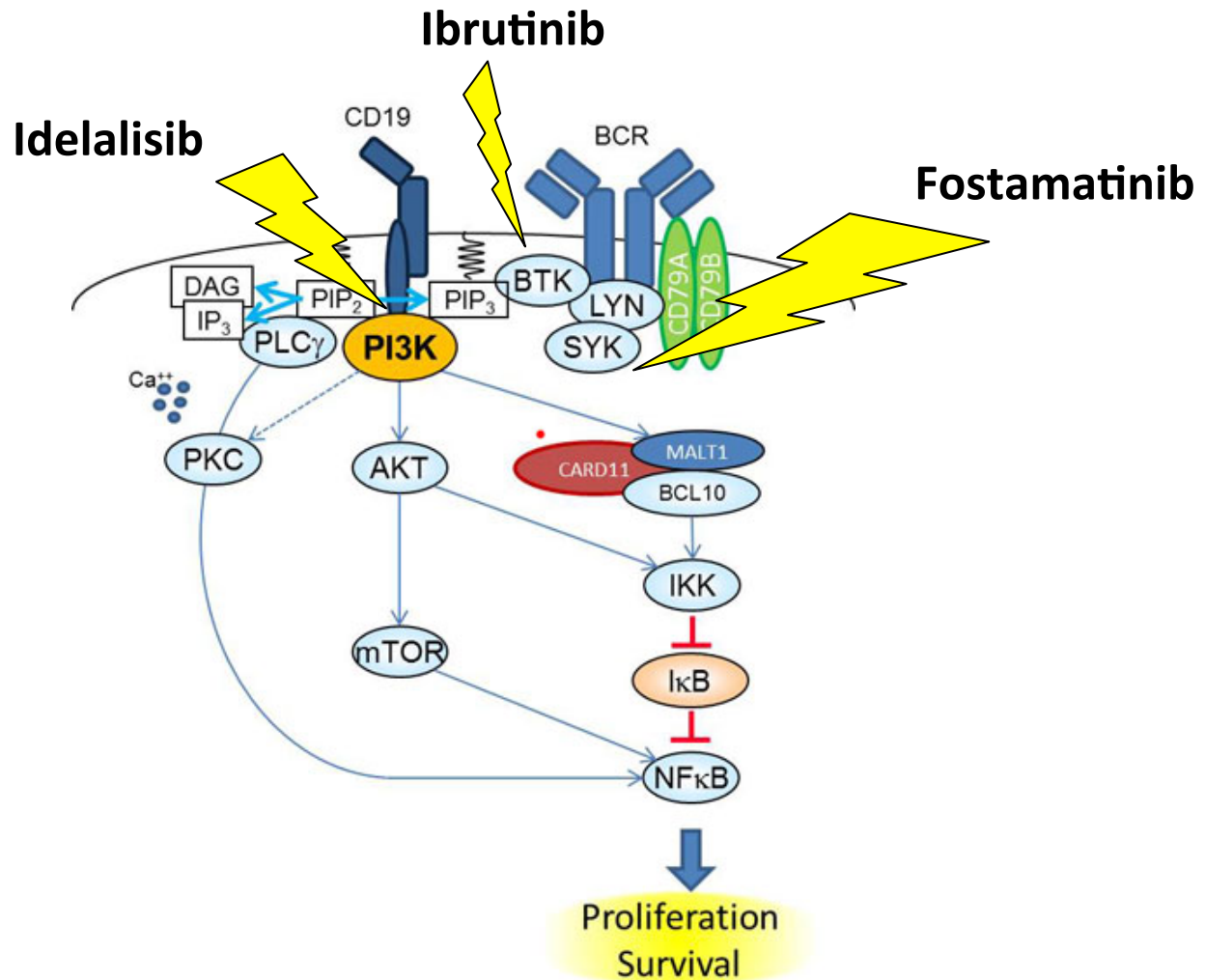


# Designer Drugs- monoclonal antibodies



Proposed mechanism of action AD cellular mediated lysis

# Novel targeted agents-Precision Medicine



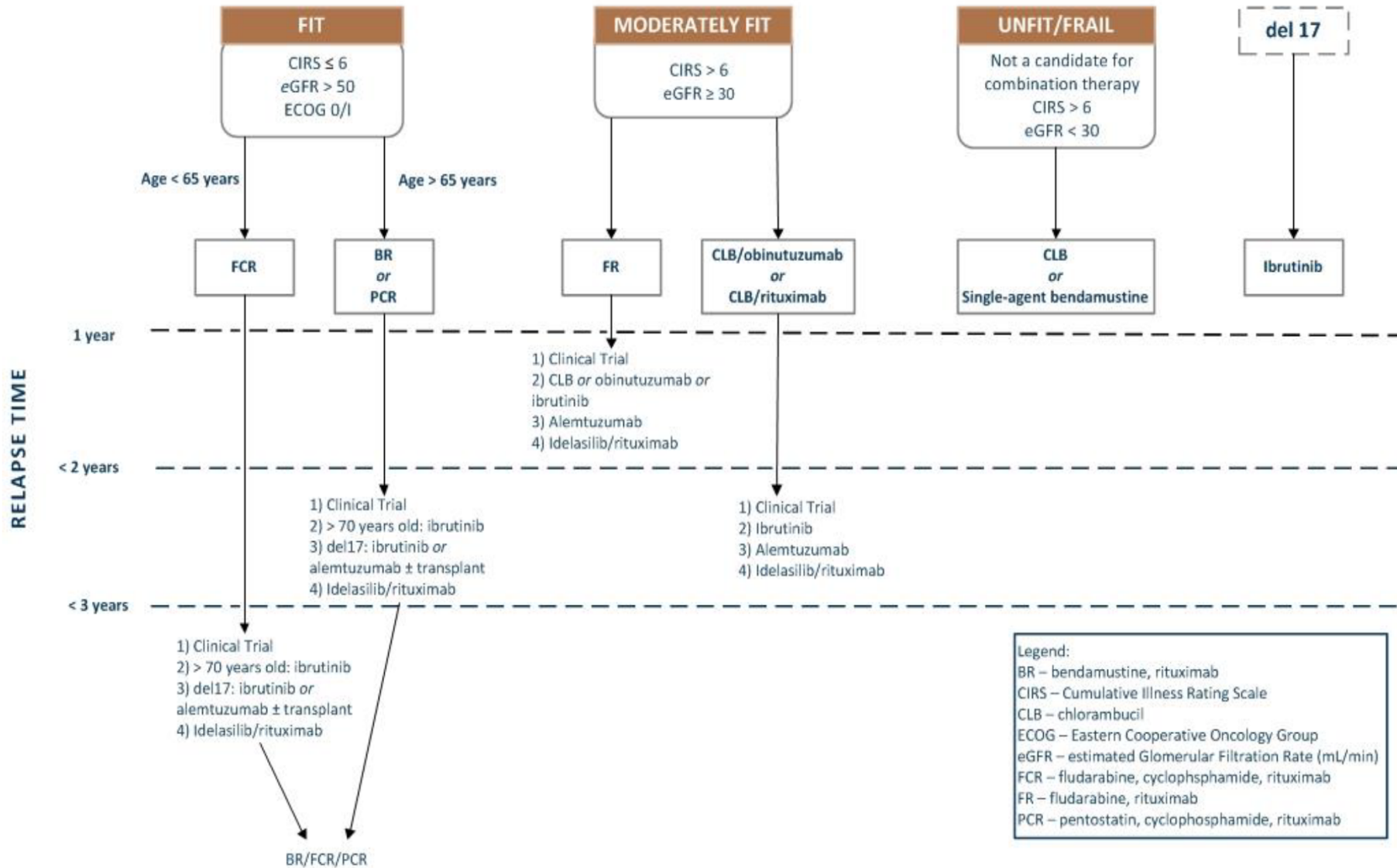
# Treatment Stratification

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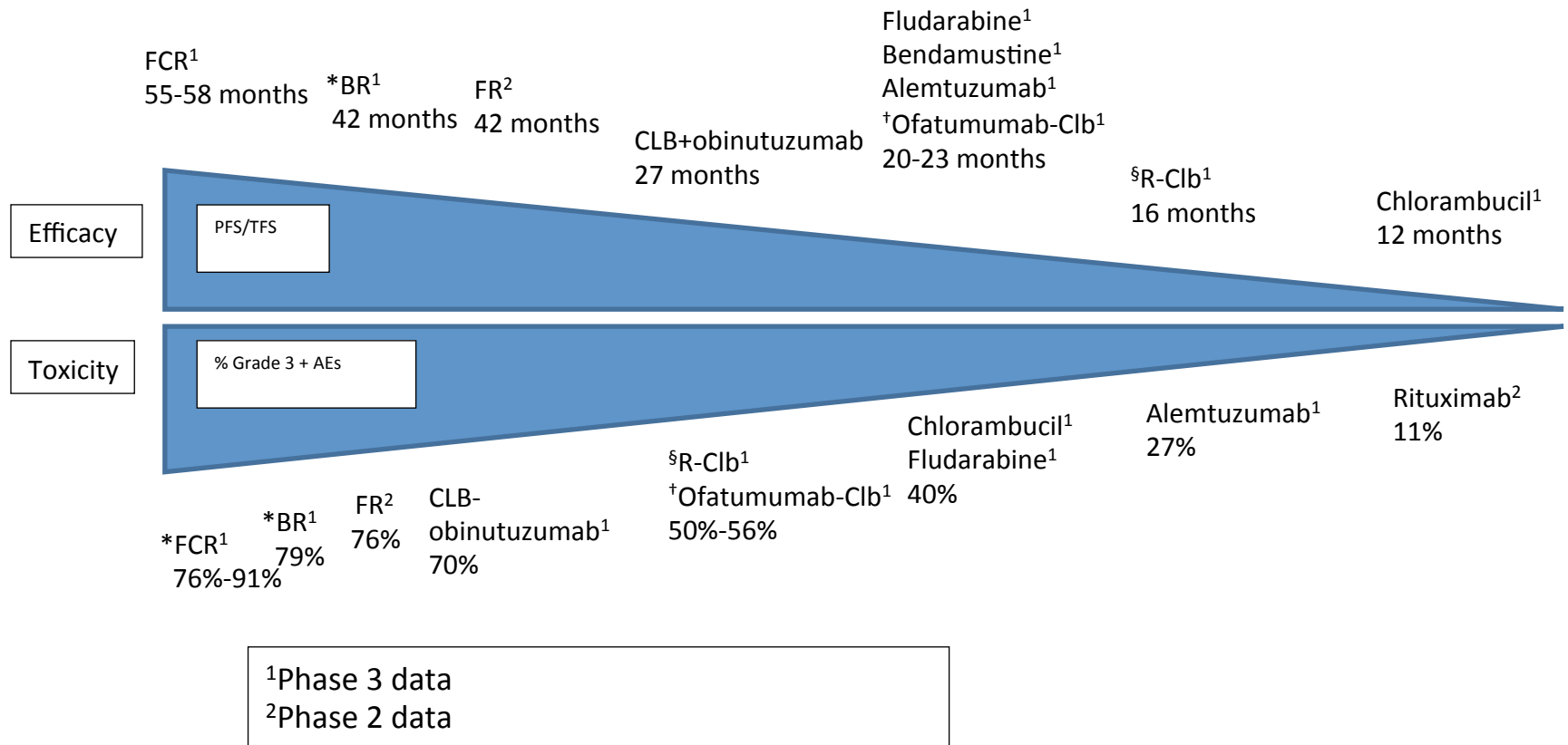
- > 65 or < 65 years of age
- Comorbidity index rating system (CIRS)
  - > 6 or < 6
- Renal Function



**TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKEMIA**



# Balancing Efficacy and Toxicity



# Case 1

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- 65 year old male
- WBC 12
- Absolute Lymphocyte count 4.0
- No Clinical findings

# Case 1

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- What is the diagnosis?
- **MBL**
- CLL
- SLL

## Case 2

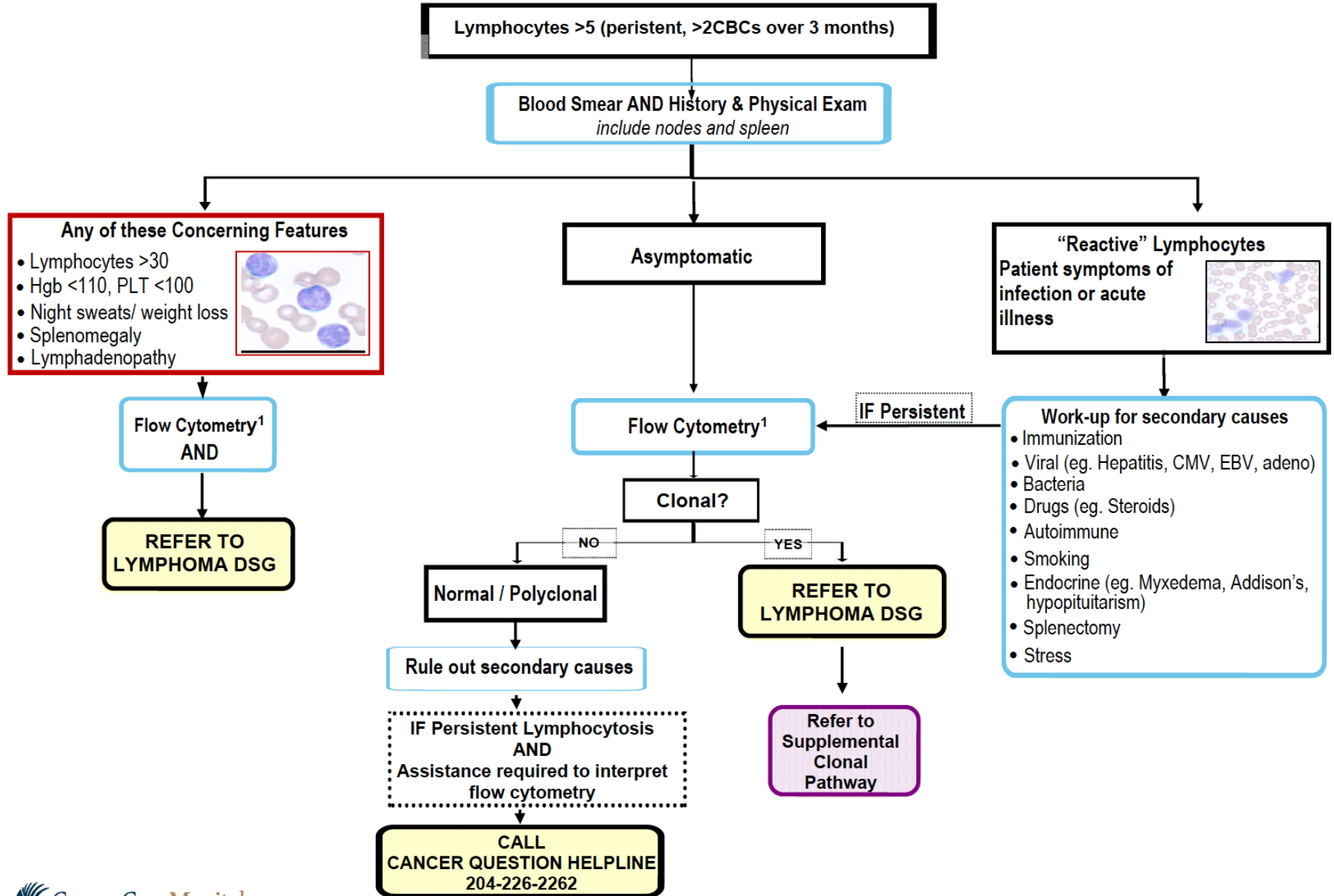
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- 91 year old male
- WBC 150
- Absolute lymphocyte count 145
- Asymptomatic

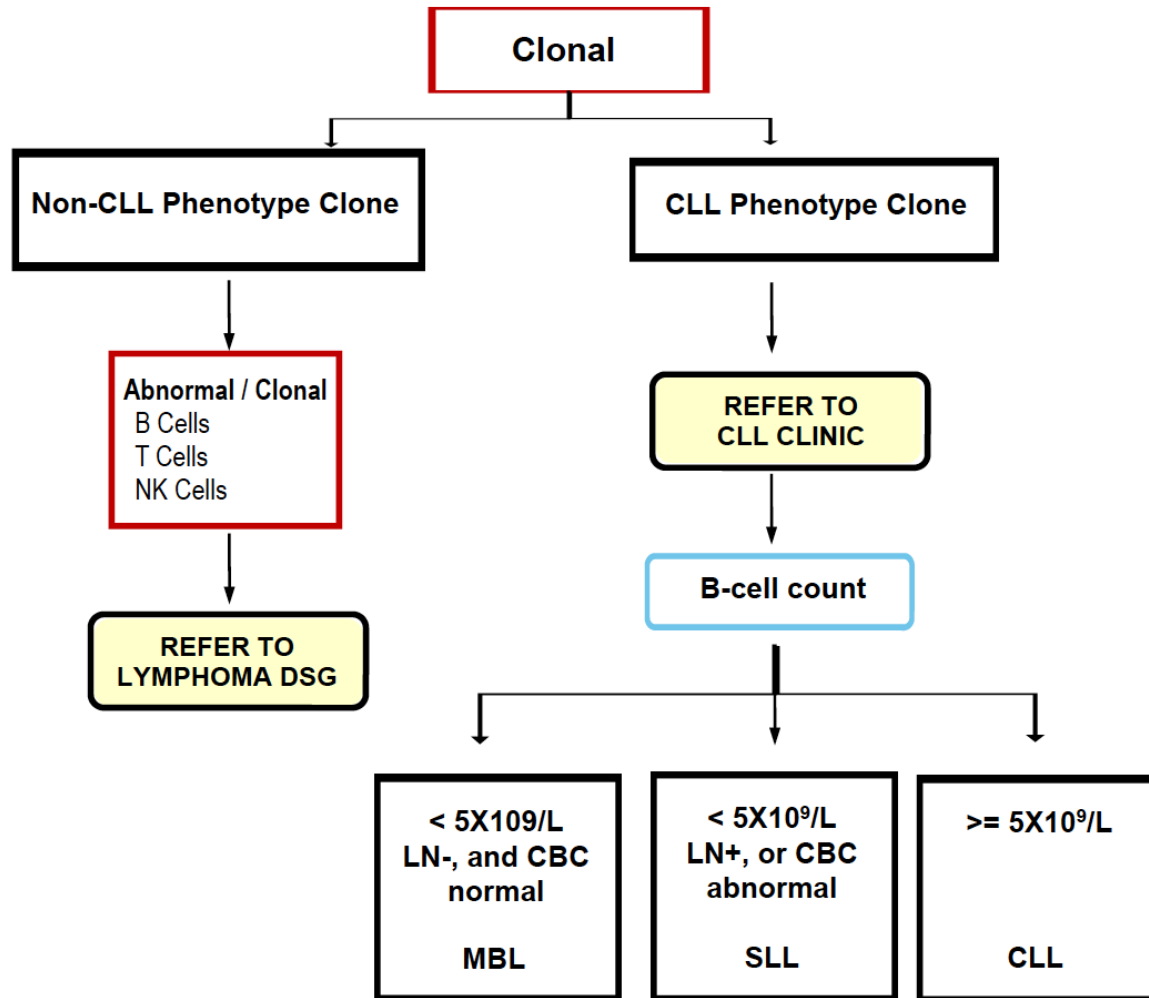
## Case 2

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- Should he be treated ?
- Yes, if he has severe cytopenias, hemoglobin <110 and PLTs <100
- No, no other symptoms and normal hemoglobin and PLTs
- **Both of the Above**



# Work-Up of CLONAL LYMPHOCYTES





## Take Home Messages

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- There is no such thing as a “good leukemia” in the eyes of the patient
- MBL carries the same risk of immunosuppression as a CLL or SLL patient
- Management is a balance in timing therapy when appropriate
- Tailored therapies based on age and comorbidities aim to decrease toxicities

## Take Home Messages

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- If patients are symptomatic or have severely abnormal counts
  - REFER to Lymphoma DSG and Order FLOW
- Persistent monoclonal lymphocytosis should be referred to Lymphoma DSG

# Questions?

[vbanerji1@cancercare.mb.ca](mailto:vbanerji1@cancercare.mb.ca)

**8. A 91 year old male with WBC of  $150 \times 10^9/L$ . Absolute lymphocyte count is  $145 \times 10^9/L$ . Other than HTN and BPH he has no other medical comorbidities. He feels well with no constitutional symptoms. Flow cytometry is consistent with CLL HGB is 123 g/L. PLTs are  $123 \times 10^9/L$ .**

**Does this patient require treatment for CLL?**

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Maybe

**8. A 91 year old male with WBC of  $150 \times 10^9/L$ . Absolute lymphocyte count is  $145 \times 10^9/L$ . Other than HTN and BPH he has no other medical comorbidities. He feels well with no constitutional symptoms. Flow cytometry is consistent with CLL HGB is 123 g/L. PLTs are  $123 \times 10^9/L$ .**

**Does this patient require treatment for CLL?**

- A. Yes
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- C. Maybe