

Which is the best immune approach to  
replace ASCT?  
CAR-T?

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# DISCLOSURES

- Honoraria & Consulting:
  - BMS / Janssen / Takeda / Amgen / GSK
  - Karyopharm
  - Kadmon
  - Kite/ Gilead

Major disclosure – CARD CARRYING TRANSPLANTER

# Questions to consider

- CAR-T or bispecific – which modality is likely to win?
- Transplant based Upfront Therapy in MM:
  - What's standard expectation in 2021?
  - Will improved induction and maintenance with ASCT move the goal post further?
- How do we know what is a win for CAR-T vs. ASCT?
  - MRD Assessment?
  - What should a trial look like?

## CAVEAT:

All forward looking statements.....

No real comparative data

# Benefits of Upfront ASCT .....

- Most reliable way to an **early MRD neg CR**
- Longest **upfront PFS** or PFS1 among current options
- A minority may never need any further therapy – **Cure Fraction**
- Long period **free of intense therapy** or any therapy
- Low Non-relapse mortality (**NRM**) - ~0.5% in RW studies
- **Safe** in elderly, dialysis dependent
- As Induction/maint improves – outcomes improve for the “**ASCT package**”
- **World-wide access** - arguably better than many drugs in MM

# Front Runner CAR-Ts in RRMM

	KarMMA	Ciltacel	Orvacel
Med /Max Age	61/78	61/78	61/77
Median Prior	6	5	6
Bridging	88	73	63
ORR	81%	97%	92%
CR/sCR	33%	67%	63%
MRD- in evaluable	94%	93%	84%
PFS / DoR	10.7	22.8/NR	NR

	Ide-cel	Ciltacel
ORR	73%	97%
CR	33%	67%
MRD-, %	39%	54.6%
mPFS (all)	12.1*	23 mo
PFS in sCR	20.2*	Not reached

## Main Messages:

Best single agent CR/ MRD/ ORR rates and PFS in RRMM

**Non-curative modality** .. At least in the RRMM setting

**NRM : is not trivial** (albeit in RR-MM population)

**Idecel** : 17 deaths unrelated to PD (N-140). **3 died within 8 weeks & 1 - 8 weeks – 6 mo.**

**(Aspergillosis, GI Bleed, CRS, late onset CMV)**

**Ciltacel**: 9 deaths from non-PD related causes (N-113). ***Sepsis/CRS/HLH/Pneumonia/ AML***

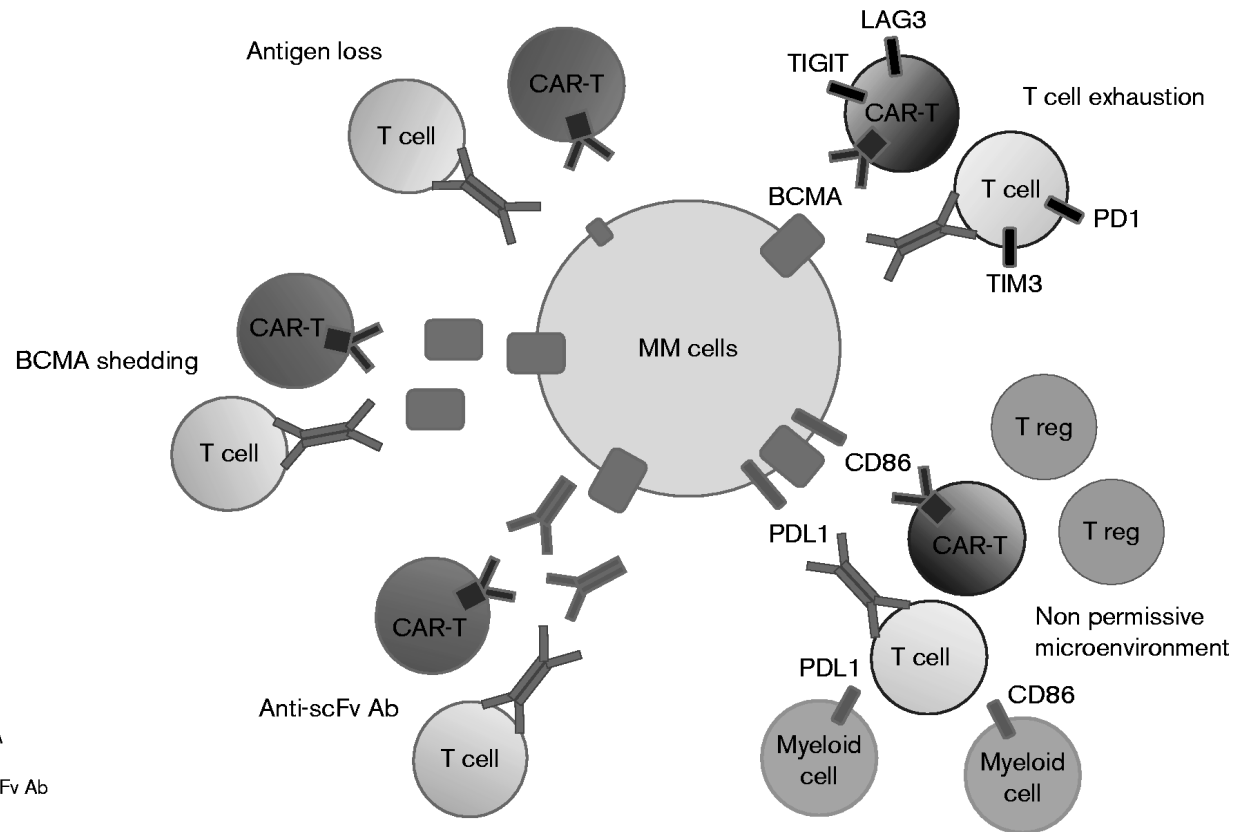
# ASCT vs. CAR-T vs. BsAb –comparison

	ASCT	CAR-T (current data)	Bispecific BCMA Ab
Early MRD neg CR	REF	Better than ASCT	About the same as ASCT?
Disease free/ Rx free mo	~60 mo	Better if upfront ?	Unknown? BUT need Rx
Cure fraction?		Possible ? Better than ASCT?	No idea; NEED continuous RX
Hypogamma/ Immune Status	Reconst.	Worse than ASCT but improves?	Ongoing issue; late hypogamma
Access to center	World wide	Manufacturer accredited	Easiest; off the shelf
NRM			Low /Late Infection risk?
Safety – Age/r comorbid			Safest
Effect on Cytogenetic HR		Better than ASCT?	
PFS	60 plus mo	UNKNOWN UNKNOWN	
Targets & Innovation	None	BCMA + ...	BCMA/GPRC5D/FCRH5

Teclistamab in RRMM:  
 17 deaths unrelated to MM PD among 157 pts  
 Pneumonia/ Sepsis / Covid-19/ Gen deterioration  
 Profile of persistent hypogamma with rpt dosing  
 G<sub>≥</sub>3 infections in 45% of RP2D dosed pts



# Mechanisms of failure with CAR-T...



Will these be addressed by earlier use of CAR-T ?

T cell phenotype ?

Less clonally advanced MM responds better?

**Hope of a cure with CAR-T... but**

**YES : T cells can mediate a cure – e.g. Allo HCT survivors; DLI**

**However – immune synapse is different**

**No active adaptation with CAR-T or bsAb**

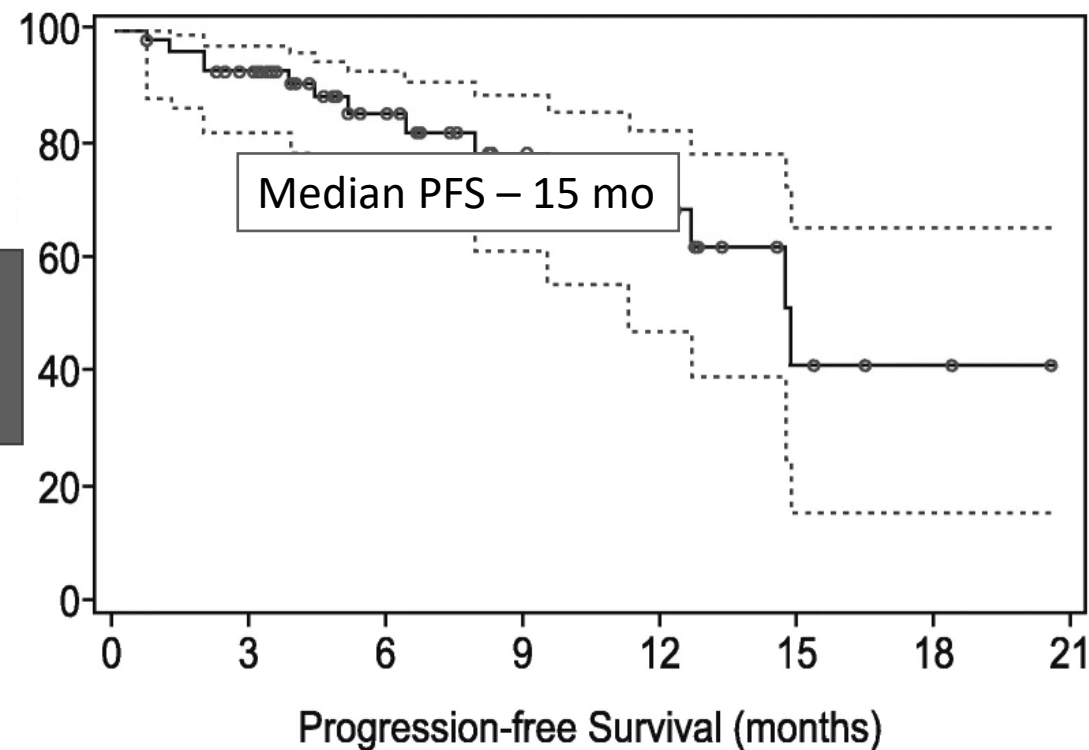
**One modality may not cure**

# Earlier use of CAR-T leads to better PFS – can we assume?

## LEGEND data from Chinese Study vs. CARTITUDE 1

Time from initial MM diagnosis, years	
Median (range)	4 (1 to 9)
Number of prior lines of therapy, n	
Median (range)	3 (1 to 9)
ASCT, n (%)	10 (18)
Prior therapies, n (%)	
Proteasome inhibitors	39 (68)
Immunomodulatory agents	49 (86)
Lenalidomide	25 (44)
Pomalidomide	2 (4)
Thalidomide	39 (68)
PI + IMiDs	34 (60)

ORR – 88%  
 CR – 63%  
 MRD Neg – 68%



CARTITUDE-2 cohort A, Median 2 lines of prior therapy  
 ORR and MRD neg rates similar to CARTITUDE-1 at early time points

PFS will be better for single agent CAR-T consolidn post induction – Are we sure?

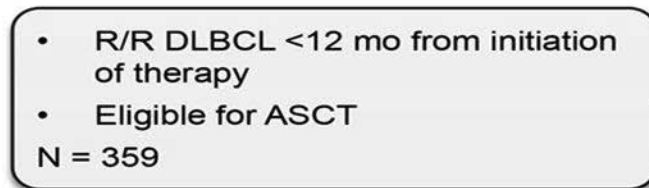


# CAR-T vs. ASCT ... What can lymphoma teach us?

- ZUMA-7 trial recently reported as “win” for CAR-T over ASCT in DLBCL

## Phase 3 ZUMA-7: Axicabtagene Ciloleucel vs SOC (ASCT) in R/R DLBCL<sup>1</sup>

Phase 3, randomized, multicenter trial



1:1

R

**Axicabtagene ciloleucel**  
(following lymphodepleting chemotherapy with fludarabine + cyclophosphamide)

**HDCT + ASCT**  
(following response to 2-3 cycles of platinum-based immunochemotherapy; eg, R-ICE)  
*Nonresponders off protocol*

Study designed for a quick win!!  
May not be the best option for pts or society

- **Primary endpoint:** EFS

An MRD based study is easy to perform for upfront CAR-T in MM too ...

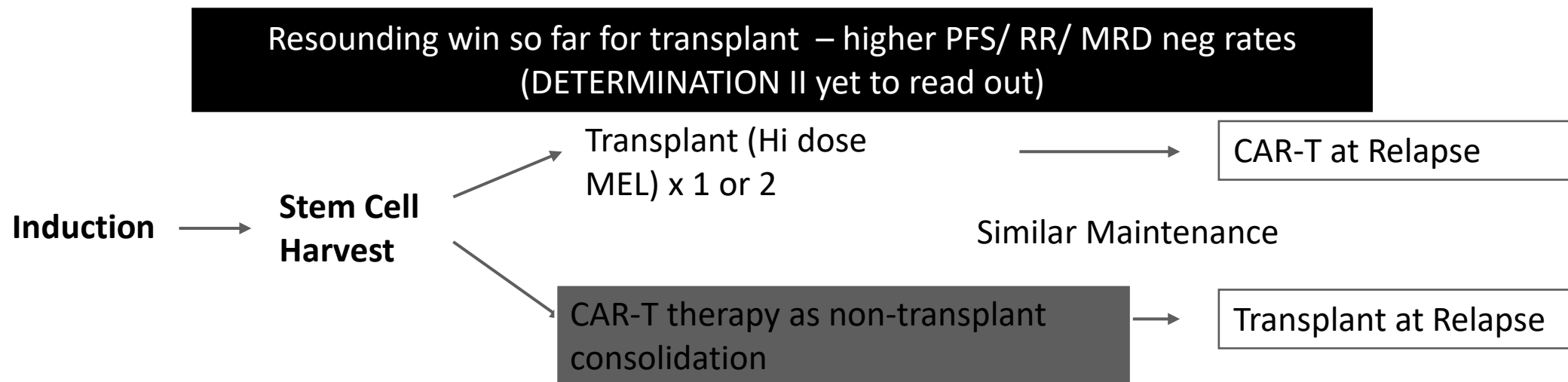
Unlike in DLBCL:

Neither modality is truly curative

After induction very few pts will progress early and both groups will likely make it to CAR-T & ASCT  
PFS / EFS will be defined by early relapsers who benefit from disease control in CAR-T arm i.e. HR-MM

**So ... should we limit a MM study to HR-MM only?**

# NOVEL AGENTS HAVE NOT ELIMINATED TRANSPLANT SO FAR .. Will CAR-T do it?

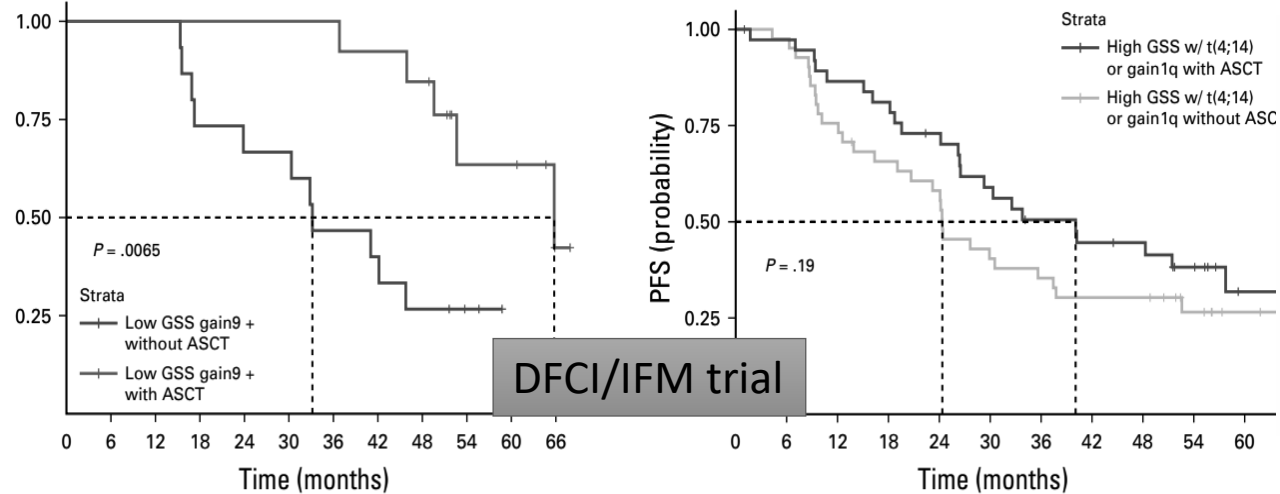


This design can answer the PFS qn for CAR-T replacing UPFRONT ASCT  
But is that the right question for a million dollar therapy?  
Sequencing ASCT-CAR-T or CAR-T-ASCT?  
Reserve upfront CAR-T for pts predicted to NOT benefit from ASCT?

Even this design cannot answer  
utility qn of CAR-T replacing ASCT  
sequencing qn .... needs OS

# ASCT- PFS– MRD in current era

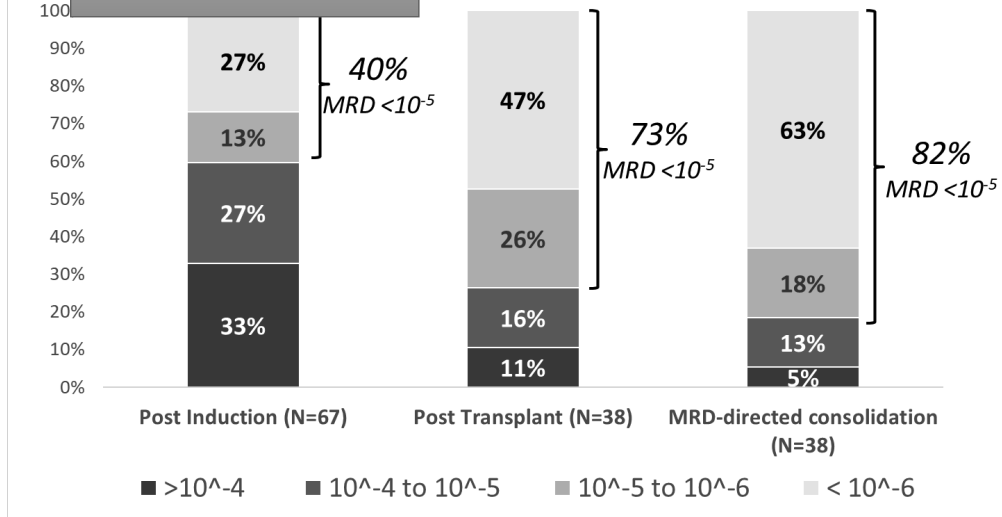
Samur et al JCO 2020



UK MRC XI data – de Tute et al IMW 2021

	ASCT+3 PFS			ASCT+9 PFS		
	HR	95%CI	P	HR	95%CI	P
MRD (-ve vs +ve)	0.401	0.271-0.592	<0.0001	0.220	0.102-0.472	0.0001
Treatment (len vs obs)	0.388	0.268-0.561	<0.0001	0.218	0.102-0.463	<0.0001
Cytogenetics (UHiR+HR vs SR)	2.576	1.770-3.748	<0.0001	2.357	1.084-5.126	0.0305
	ASCT+3 OS			ASCT+9 OS		
MRD (-ve vs +ve)	0.457	0.246-0.849	0.0132	0.242	0.055-1.073	0.0619
Treatment (len vs obs)	0.528	0.297-0.938	0.0294	0.252	0.070-0.906	0.0347
Cytogenetics (UHiR+HR vs SR)	4.286	2.272-8.086	<0.0001	6.658	1.311-33.82	0.0222

DKRD induction



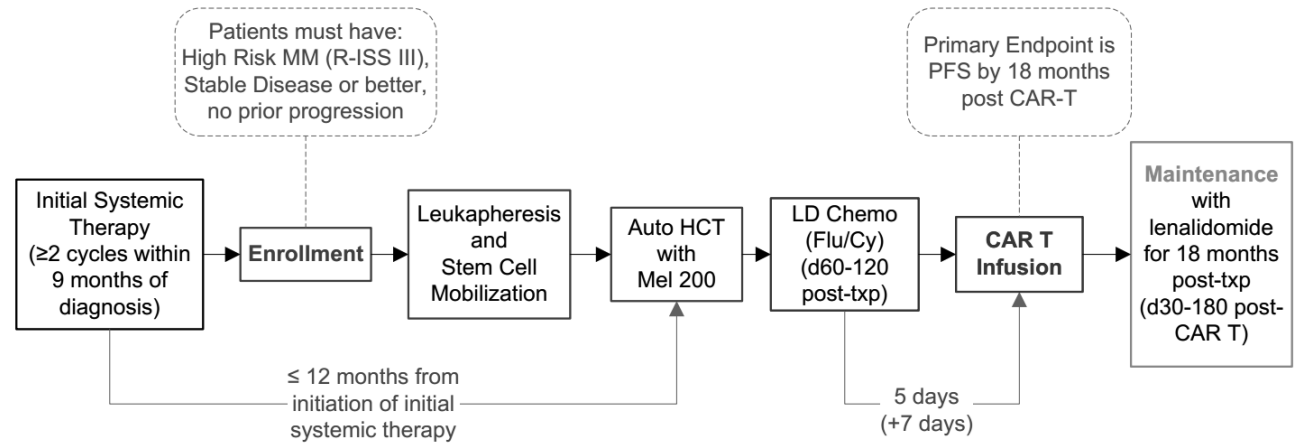
ASCT helps PFS even in extremely good risk pts  
 ASCT improves MRD Neg Rates even with good induction  
 Even with MRD neg post ASCT – maintenance helps  
 New Induction + ASCT + consolidation – limited upward MRD room  
 HR & UHR pts with MRD neg still do poorly vs. SR-MM

MASTER trial

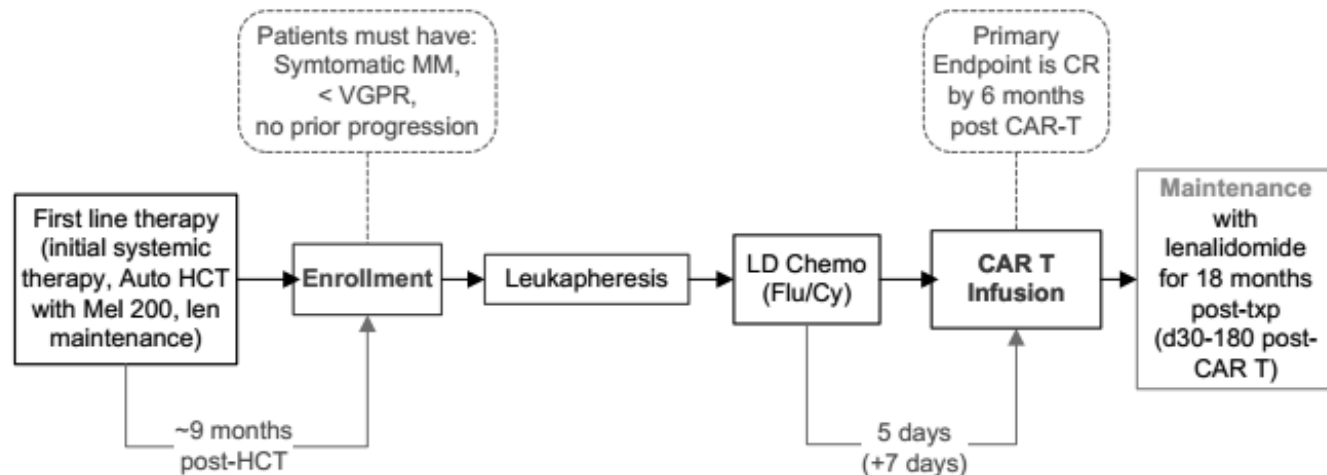
Costa L et al ASH 2019

# UPFRONT CAR-T projects

## CTN 1901 Study Schema – HR-MM concept



## CTN 1902 Study Schema – Response upgrade concept



### Industry led projects

**Practical Issues :**  
SYNERGISTIC or Mutually exclusive?

CAR-T after ASCT –  
MRD convert those pos after ASCT &  
Cure for SR-MM patients?

CAR-T before ASCT – wipe out persistence?

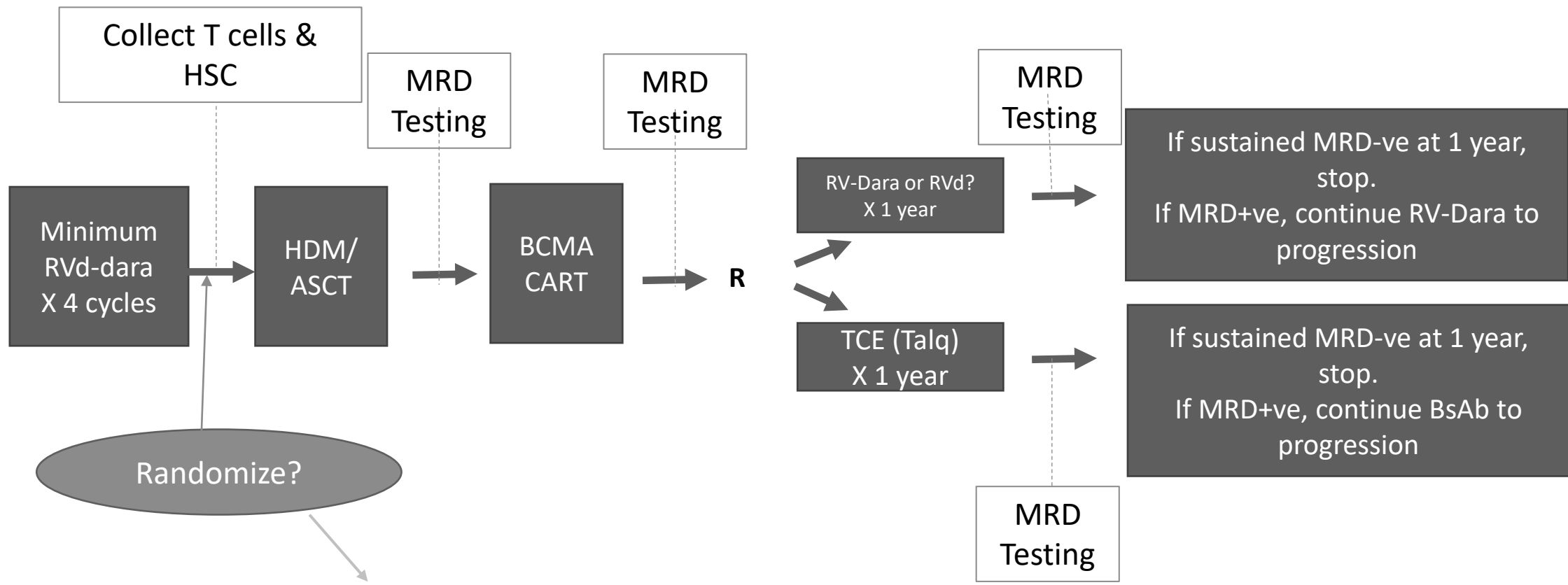
CAR-T using ASCT as a lymphodepleting tool?

Can we assess treatment discontinuation after 2  
cell therapy modalities?

# BMT CTN State of the Science

## MM concept

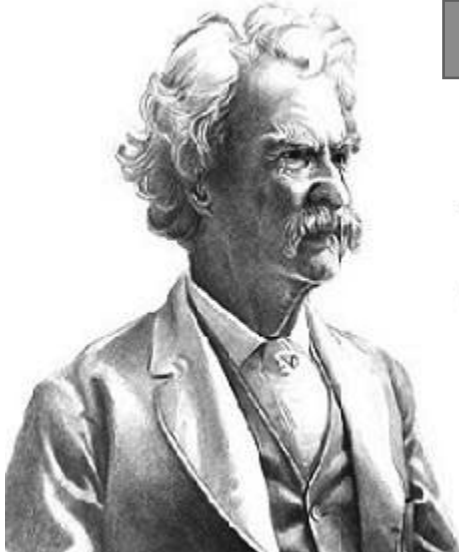
• HR and U HR disease ONLY



**CONTROL POPULATION:**  
RVD-Dara x 4 → ASCT → RVD maintenance per Emory protocol

# CAR-T BsAb & ASCT & some points to ponder

- CAR-T : Durable MRD Neg remissions (in RRMM setting)
  - Best option to replace / work with ASCT to get long upfront remissions
  - Best option for limiting therapy and increasing cure fraction without excess treatment
- Manufacture **For now - I will still collect & store PBSC in every TE pt**
- Affordability **Equipoise on CAR-T vs. ASCT trials with crossover**
- Competitiveness **Outcome of ASCT after CAR-T or BsAb -big unknown**  
**Sustained use BsAb worry about immune reconstitution**
  - PBSC Collection after CAR-T possible?
  - Second CAR-T of the same kind does not usually work
- What got us here : Synergistic/ Additive use of all modalities:
  - Need trials of early CAR-T (before / instead of and after ASCT)
  - **Goal sus-MRD & Rx discontinuation**
  - **Cautious Optimism that BCMA CAR-T will do this**



Auto transplant in Myeloma 2021

The reports of my death have  
been greatly exaggerated.