

# *How I Treat Difficult* Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis

*Intensive Review in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology”  
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# Outlines

- ▶ Biology
- ▶ Classification of histiocytosis
- ▶ Clinical presentations
- ▶ Investigations
- ▶ Classification of LCH
- ▶ Difficult LCH
  - ▶ RO+MS-LCH
  - ▶ Liver compromised LCH
  - ▶ Refractory or relapse MFB
  - ▶ Refractory RO+ MS-LCH
  - ▶ Role of stem cell transplantation in LCH
  - ▶ Pulmonary LCH
  - ▶ Adult LCH





# Biology

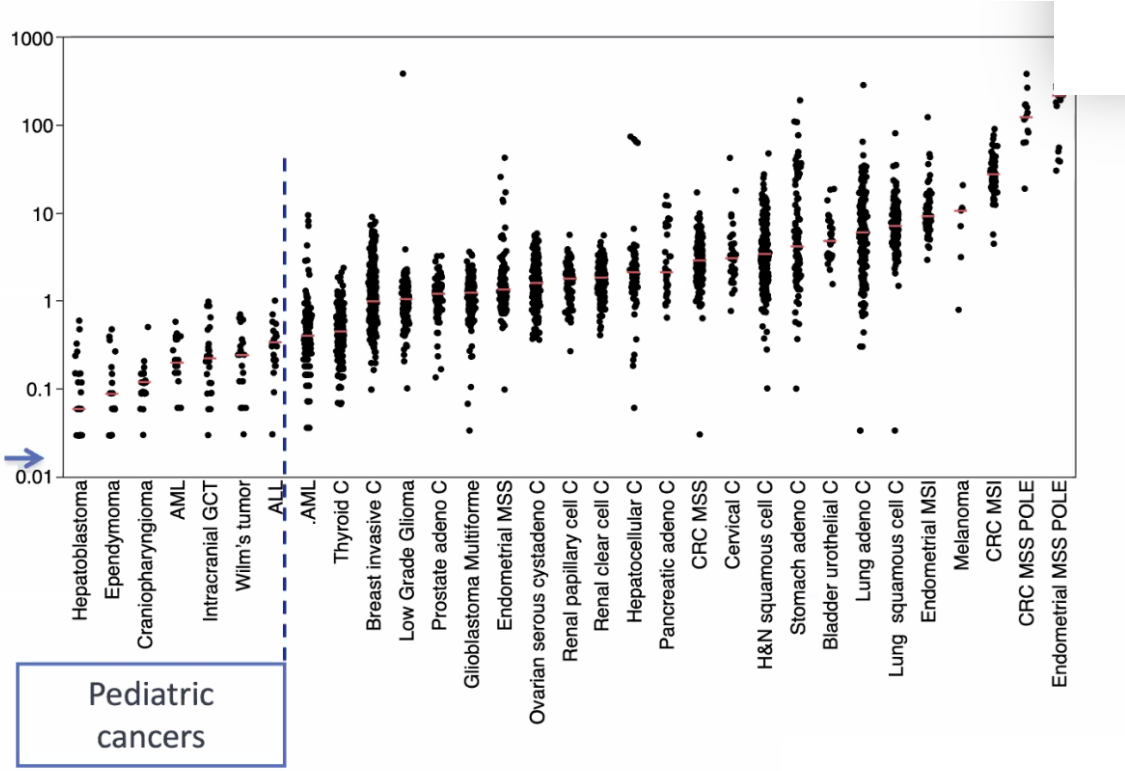
- ▶ Inflammatory response vs. Oncogenic event ???
- ▶ Originate from a myeloid-derived precursor to a dendritic lineage and Langerin
  - ▶ Langerin (CD 207) is NOT limited to epidermal LC
  - ▶ LCH CD 207+ cells express several genes associated with immature myeloid dendritic cells
  - ▶ LCH lesions do not arise from epidermal LCs but from accumulation of BM-derived immature myeloid dendritic cells
- ▶ Uncontrolled clonal periferation of CD1a+/CD207+ cells





# Very Low Mutation Frequency in LCH

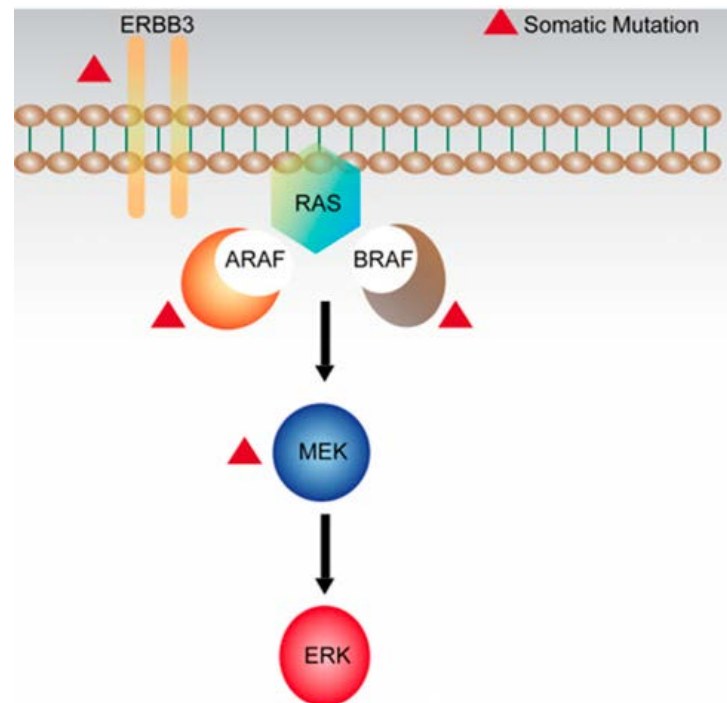
Median of ONE somatic mutation per LCH sample  
0.03 muts/MB

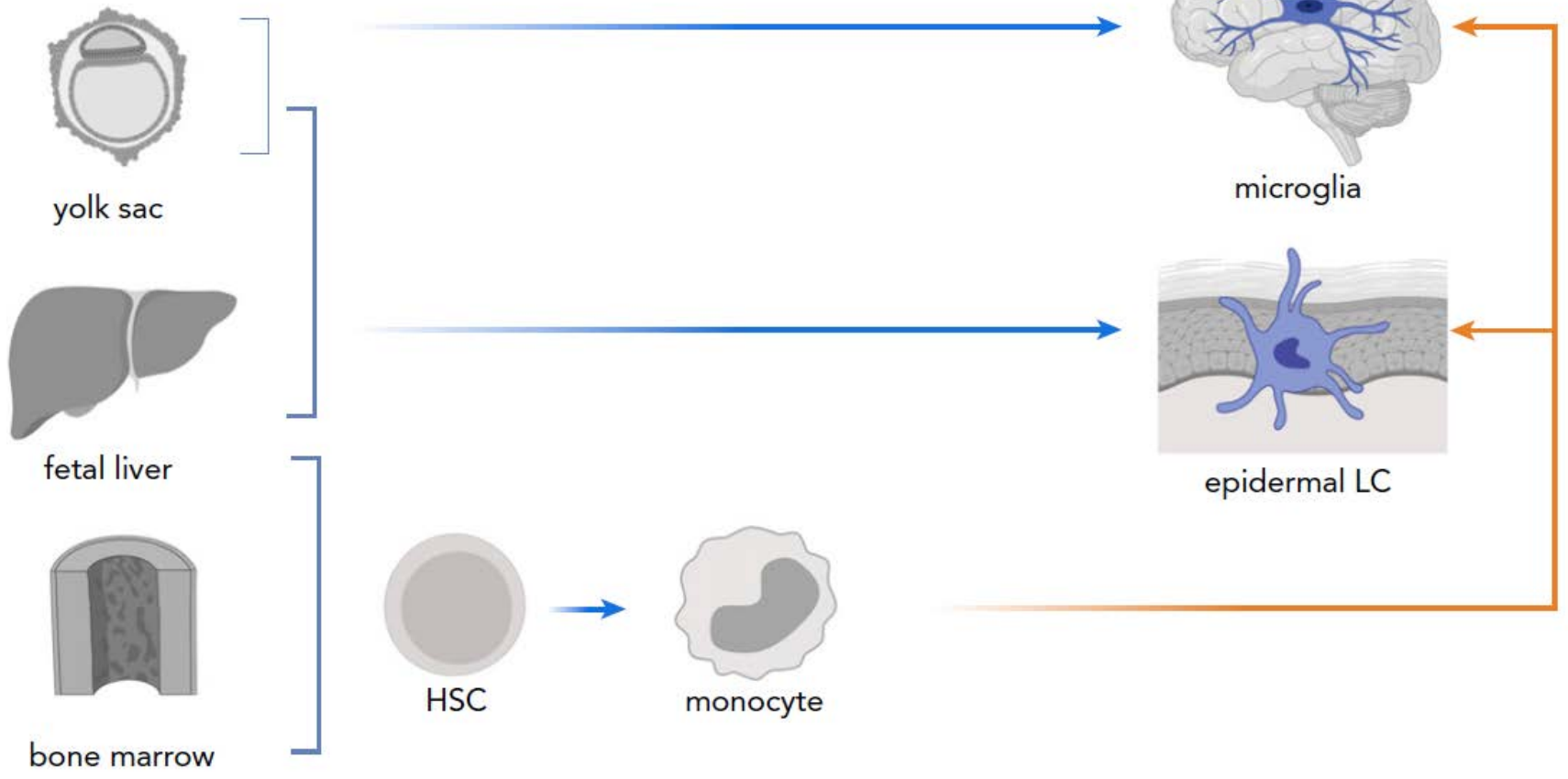




# Biology

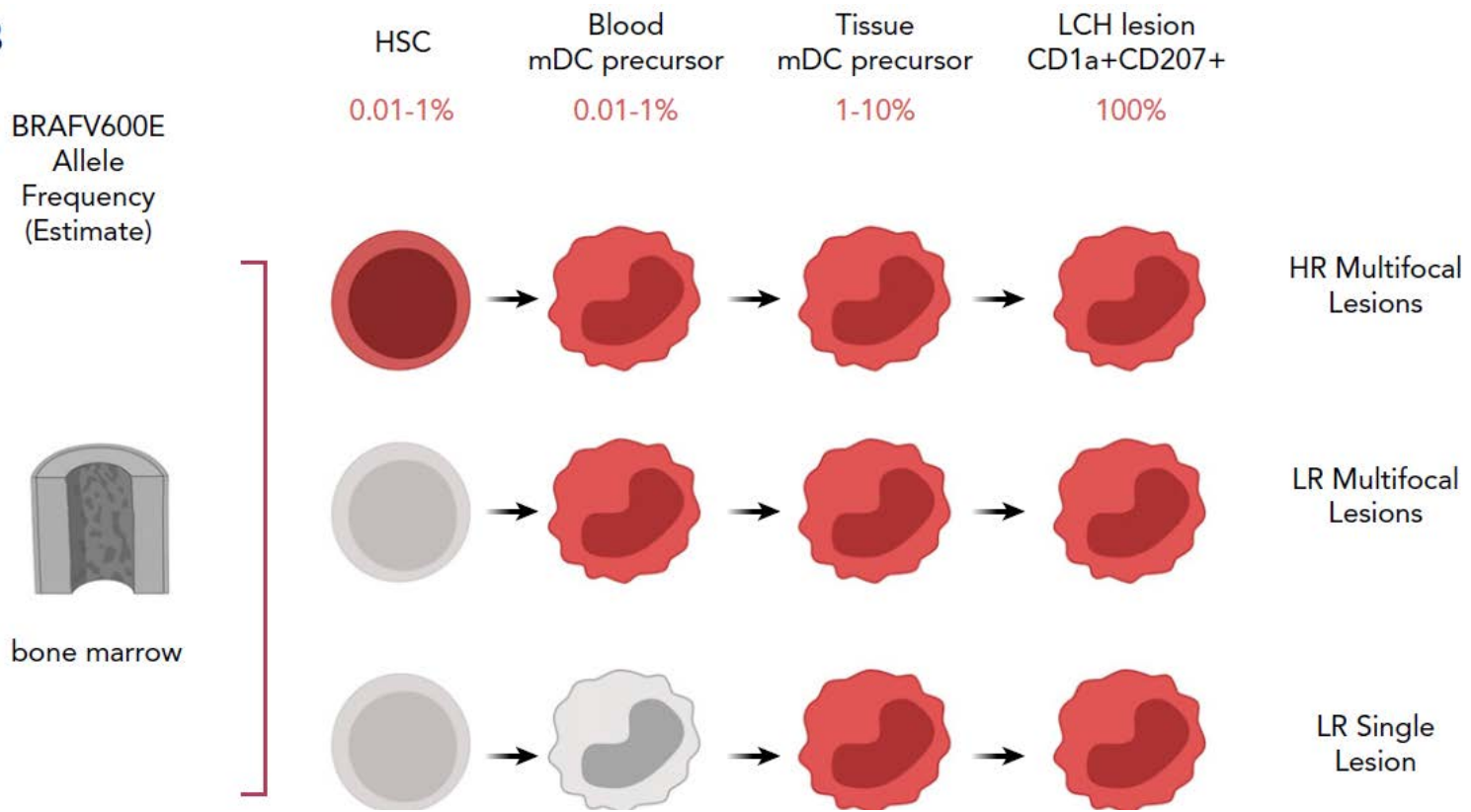
- ▶ Activation of the MAPK/ERK signaling pathway
  - ▶ 60-70% somatic mutation in BRAF ( $BRAF^{V600E}$ )
  - ▶ 10-25% Others
    - ▶ Mutation in MAP2K1
    - ▶ Mutation in ARAF
  - ▶ ¼ Unknown







**B**





# Classification of histiocytosis (LCRMH)



Group	Disease
L Group LCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LCH</li><li>• Indeterminate-cell histiocytosis (ICH)</li><li>• Erdheim-Chester Disease (ECD)</li><li>• Mixed LCH/ECD</li></ul>
C Group Cutaneous non-LCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cutaneous non-LCH<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Xanthomatous granuloma (XG) family: JXG</li><li>• Non-XG family: cutaneous RDD, NXG, other</li></ul></li><li>• Cutaneous non-LCH with a major systemic component<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• XG family: XD</li><li>• Non-XG family: MRH</li></ul></li></ul>
R Group RDD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Familial RDD</li><li>• Sporadic RDD</li></ul>
M Group Malignant histiocytoses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Primary Malignant Histiocytoses</li><li>• Secondary Malignant Histiocytoses</li></ul>
H Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Primary HLH</li><li>• Secondary HLH (non-Mendelian HLH)</li><li>• HLH of unknown/uncertain origin</li></ul>





# Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis

- Clonal proliferation of “Langerhans Cells”
- Multiple organs and systems can be involved
- Clinical presentation and outcome very variable



Eosinophilic Granuloma

Skin Disease

Poliostotic Bone Disease

Hand-Schuler-Christian

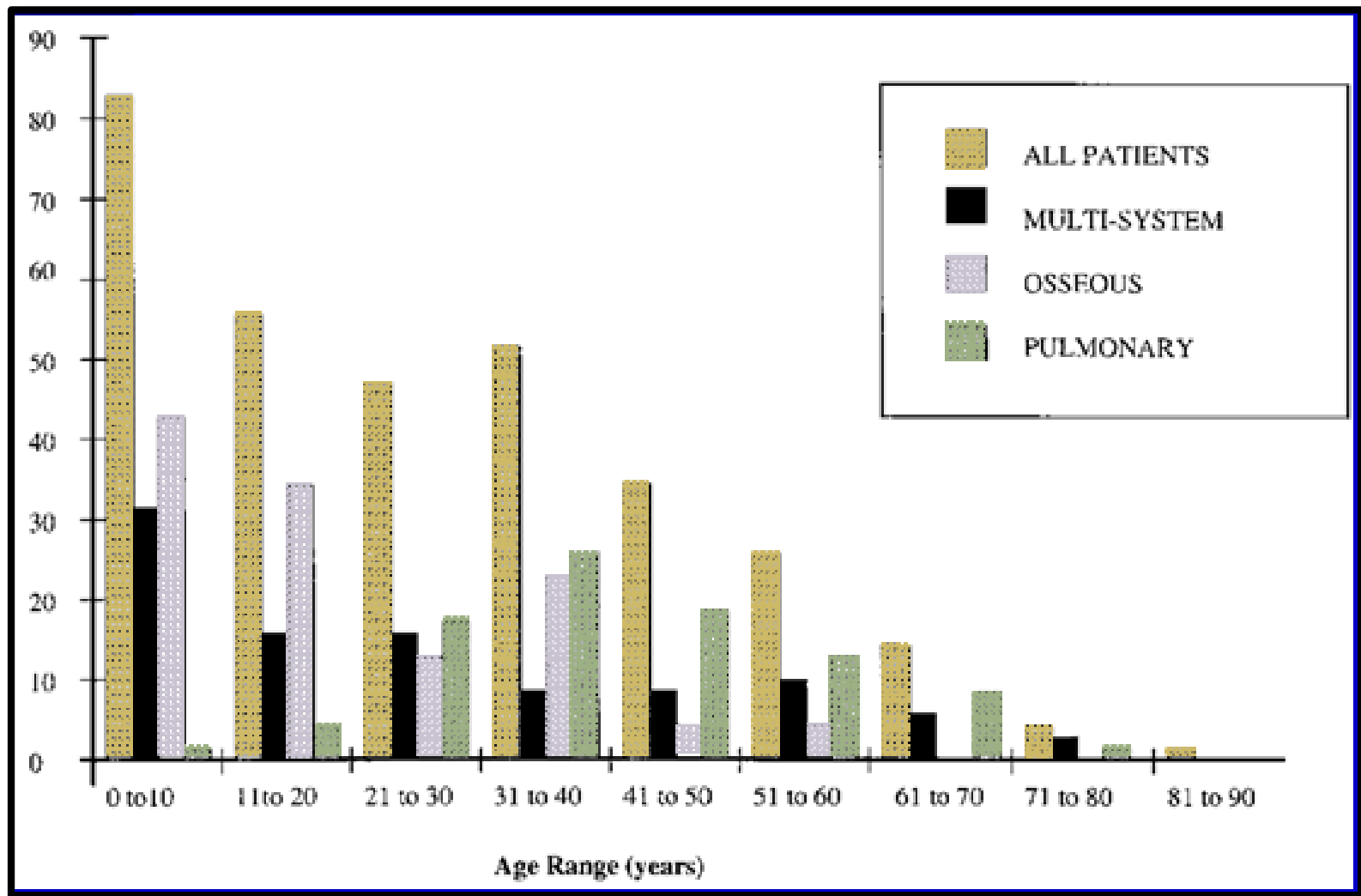
Multi-systemic Disease

Letterer-Siwe



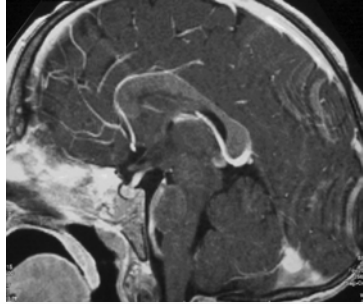


# Age distribution of LCH patients





# Organ system involvement in LCH



Brain  
Neuroendocrine deficits  
Neurodegeneration

Skull and craniofacial bones



Chest  
Lung disease (infants, smokers)  
Thymus

Abdomen  
Liver  
Spleen  
GI tract

Skeleton  
Bones

Skin  
Cradle cap, seborrhea

Hematopoietic system      pancytopenia, hypersplenism

Lymph nodes





# Organ system involvement in LCH



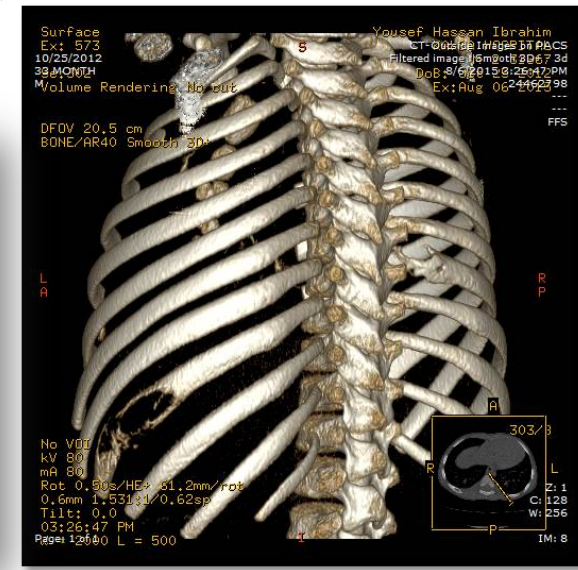
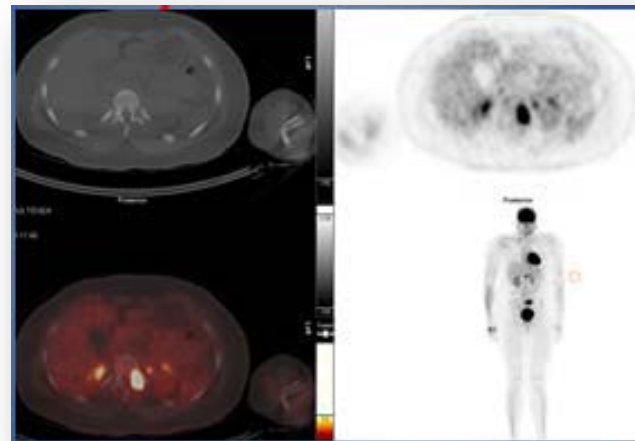
Site	% of cases involved
Bone	80
Skin	60
Liver, spleen, LN	33
Bone marrow	30
Lungs	25
Orbit	25
Orodental	20
Otological	20
DI	15
GI tract	<5



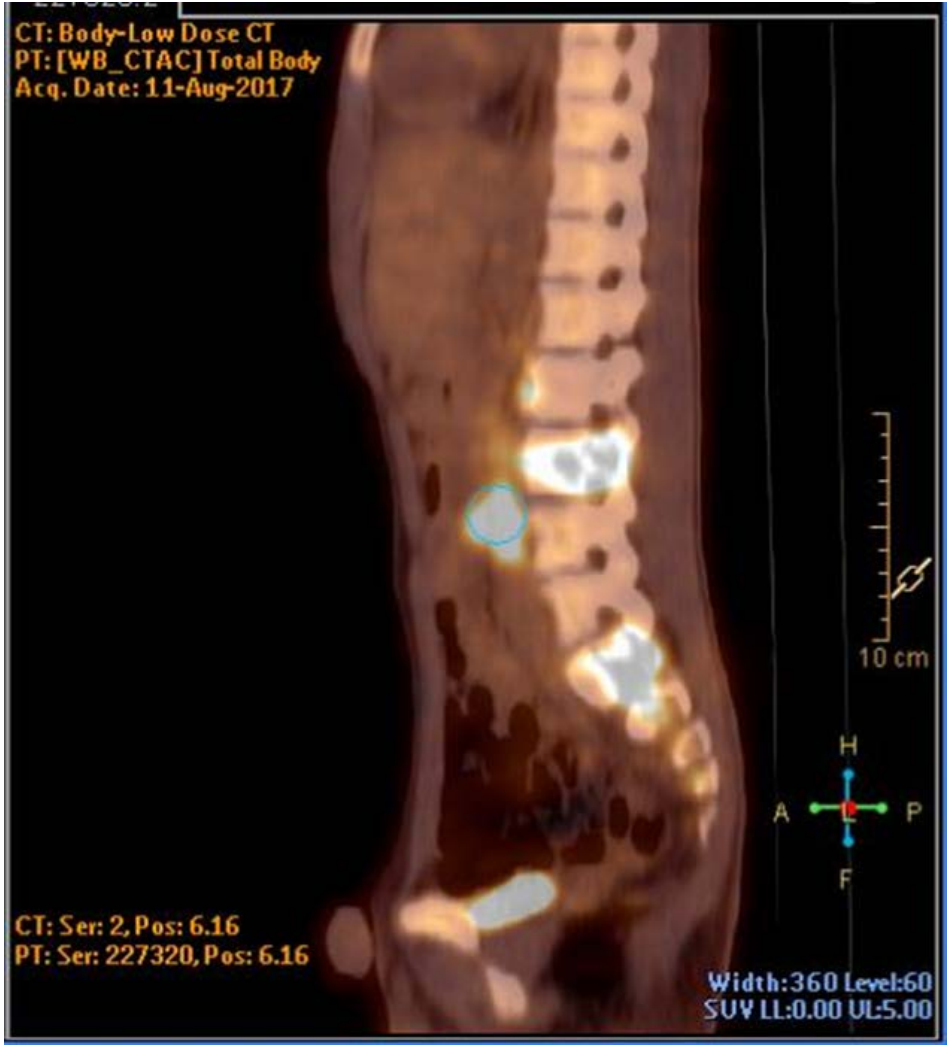


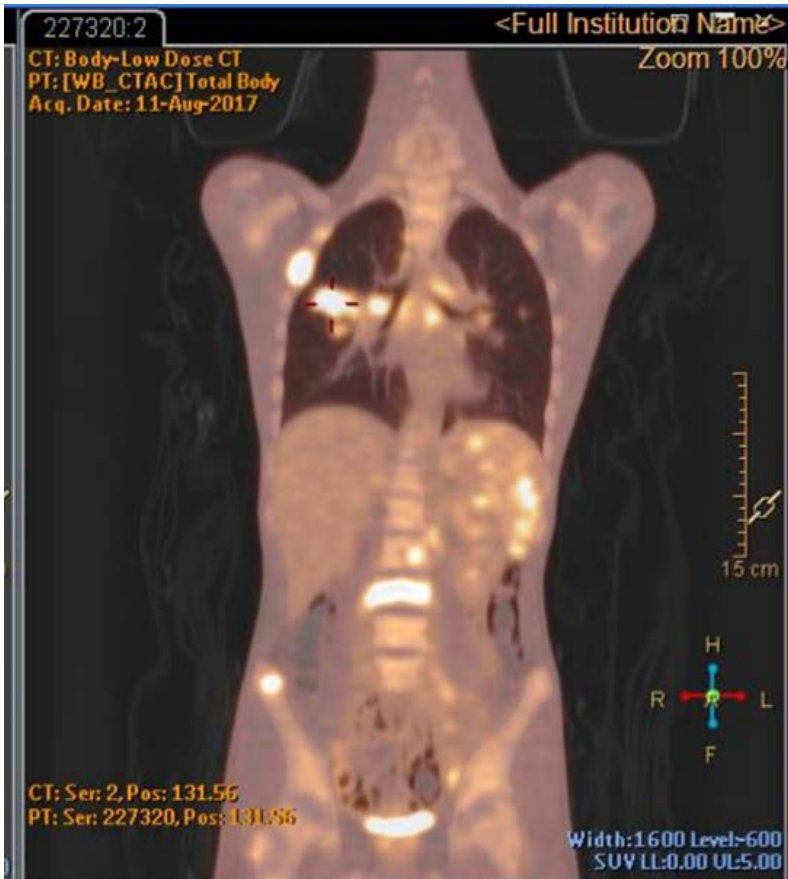
# Investigations

- ▶ Plain film skull
- ▶ Plain x-ray of primary lesion
- ▶ Bone survey
- ▶ CT/MRI primary lesion
- ▶ Abdominal ultrasound
- ▶ MRI pituitary
- ▶ PET scan : almost always positive in LCH\*
- ▶ CBC, blood chem



\*Agarwal et al., Jpn J Radiol; 2016, 34:267-76







# FDG PET-CT in LCH

## At diagnosis

## At follow-up

		Per-patient presence of LCH lesions		
		Positive	Negative	Total
Per-patient FDG PET-CT findings	Positive	20 <sup>a</sup>	1 <sup>b</sup>	21
	Negative	0	5 <sup>c</sup>	5
	Total	20	6	26
		Sensitivity = 100% (20/20)	Specificity = 83% (5/6)	

Per-scan presence of recurrent or progressive disease		
Positive	Negative	Total
6	2 <sup>a</sup>	8
0	75	75
6	77	83
Sensitivity = 100% (6/6)		Specificity = 97% (75/77)





# Clinical Classification of LCH patients

Clinical Classification	Involved Organs
<b>Multisystem LCH</b> RO+/-	≥ 2 systems +/- Bone marrow, liver, and/or spleen
<b>Single System LCH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Single site (unifocal)</b></li><li>• <b>Multiple sites (multifocal)</b></li><li>• <b>Special site</b></li></ul>	1 system <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Skin, bone, lymph node, other (thyroid, thymus)</li><li>• Multifocal bone</li><li>• Skull-base lesion with intracranial extension or vertebral lesion with intraspinal soft tissue extension</li></ul>
<b>Pulmonary LCH</b>	Isolated lung disease
<b>CNS LCH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tumorous lesion</li><li>• Neurodegenerative LCH</li></ul>



# Prognosis



- ▶ Rapid response to initial treatment within 6 weeks
- ▶ Involvement of “Risk organs”; hematopoietic system, liver, spleen and lungs
- ▶ Age at diagnosis: diagnosed before 2 years of age, mortality rate 66% (but not include in “Risk”)
- ▶ Number of organ involvement : mortality rate is increasing follow by numbers of organ involvement
- ▶ Bone involvement associated with favorable prognosis
- ▶ Organ dysfunction presented at diagnosis or during the course of disease
- ▶ Patients with MFB have excellent prognosis but high tendency for disease reactivation (30-50%) and permanent consequences



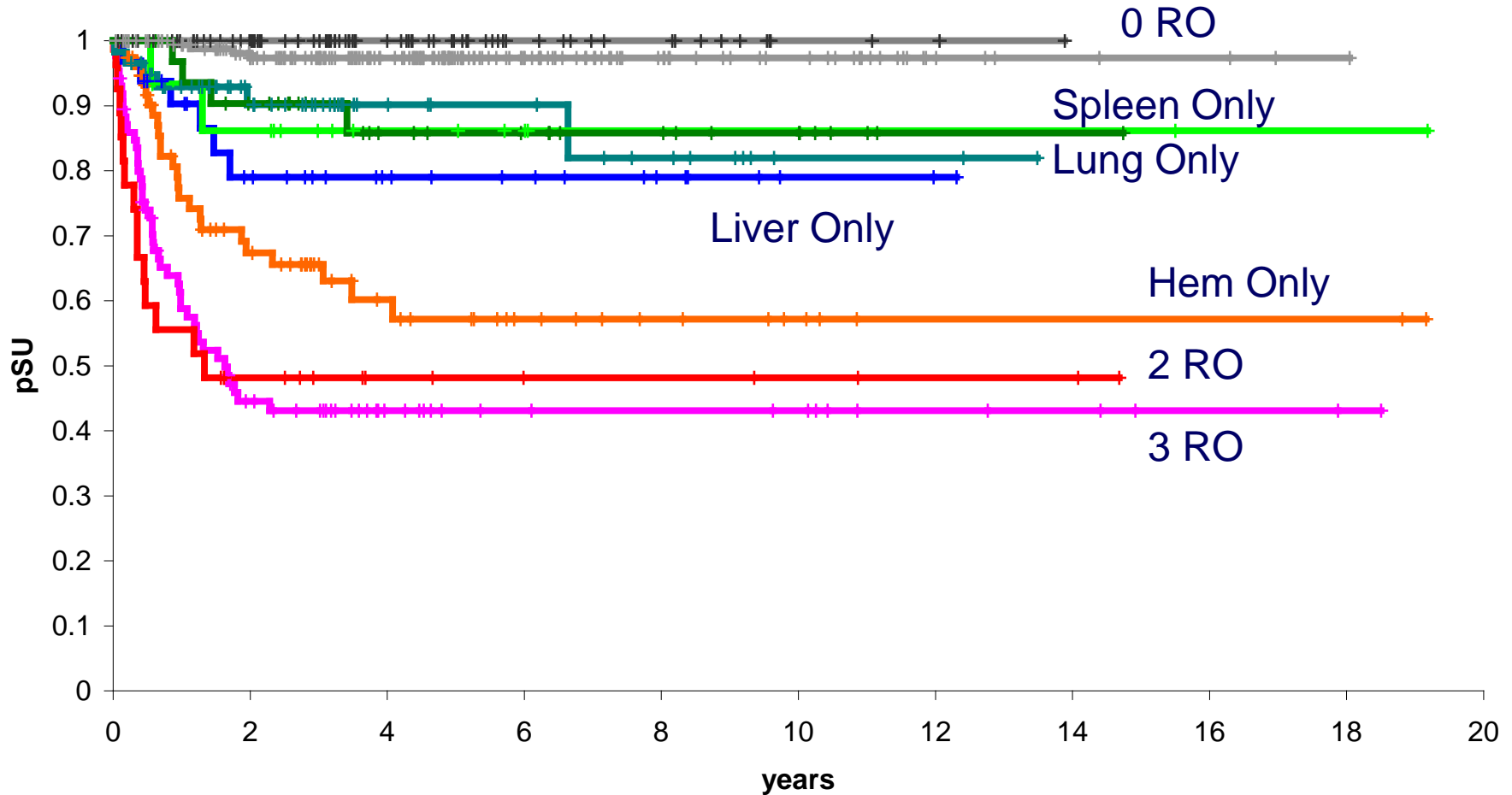
# Risk organs involvement definition



- ▶ **Hematopoietic involvement:** (+/- BM involvement~CD1a +)
  - ▶ At least 2 of the following:
    1. **Anemia:**
      - Hemoglobin <10 g/dl
      - Infants <9.0 g/dl
    2. **Leukocytopenia:** WBC <4,000/ $\mu$ L
    3. **Thrombocytopenia:** platelets <100,000/ $\mu$ L
- ▶ **Spleen involvement: enlargement** >2 cm BCM in the MCL by **PE**
- ▶ **Liver involvement:**  $\geq 1$  of the following
  1. **Enlargement** >3 cm BCM in the MCL by **PE**
  2. **Dysfunction** i.e. hypoproteinemia <55 g/L, hypoalbuminemia <25 g/L, not due to other causes
  3. **Histopathological findings** of active disease



# Outcome by Risk Organ Involvement





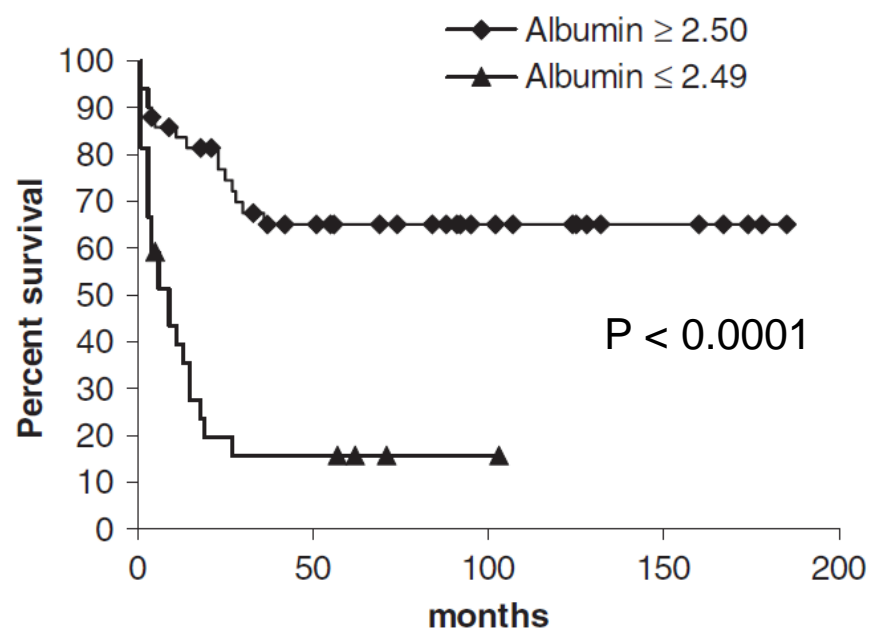
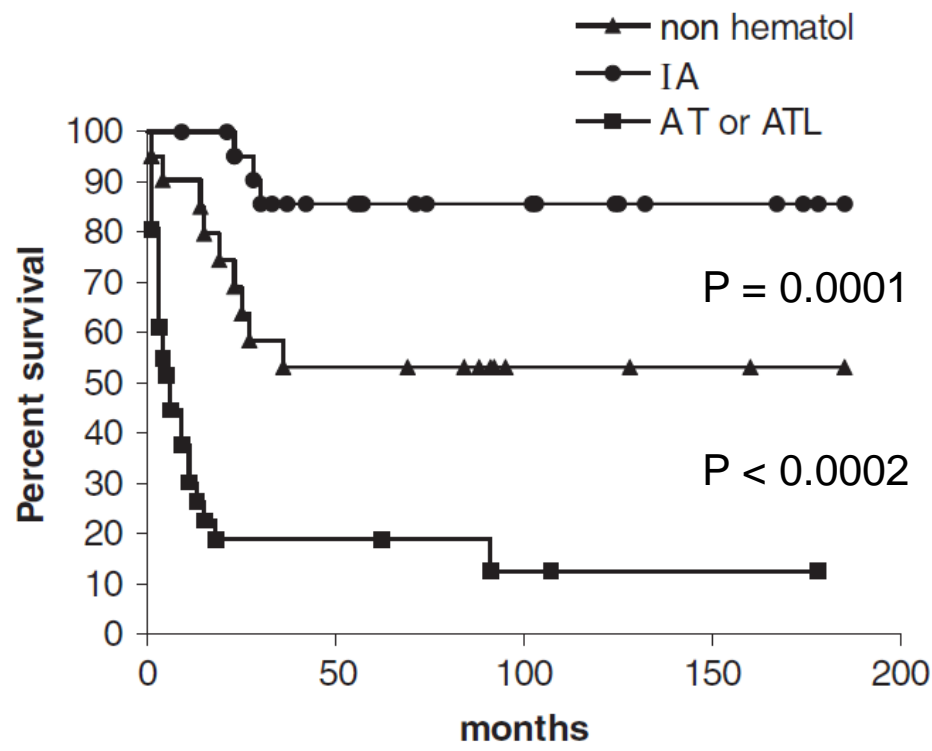
# PMK RO+ MS-LCH patients' characteristic



No	Age at diagnosis (months)	Abnormal LFT	Risk organs involvement	Other organ involvement	Chemotherapy regimens	Disease status	Status at last follow-up	Follow-up time	BRAF <sup>V600E</sup> mutation
1	20	TP 4.8 alb 2.4 TB 13.7 DB 12.9 AST 56 ALT 47 ALP 451	Liver, spleen, hematopoietic	Skin, bone	Ara-C, prednisolone	Progressive	DWD	12 months	Not done
2	3	TP 8 alb 4.8 TB 14 DB 0.5 AST 30 ALT 16 ALP 254	Liver, spleen, hematopoietic	Lung, bone	DAL-Hx83: VBL, VP-16, 6-MP, MTX, prednisolone	Remission	Alive, NED	16 years	Not done
3	14	-	Liver, spleen	Bone, lymph nodes	LCH-III (High risk): MTX, VBL, Prednisolone, 6-MP	Reactivation MFB	AWD	8 years 7 months	Not done
4	15 years 7 months	-	Liver, spleen	Lung, bone (special site)	TPOG 2018: (High risk): VBL, Prednisolone, 6-MP	Reactivation	AWD	32 months	Negative
5	16	TP 6.27 alb 2.73 TB 0.65 DB 0.28 AST 29.8 ALT 19.2 ALP 80	Liver, spleen, hematopoietic	Skin, bone	TPOG 2018: (High risk): VBL, Prednisolone, 6-MP	Progressive	DWD	7 months	Positive



# Hematologic involvement and hypoalbuminemia related with MS-LCH outcome





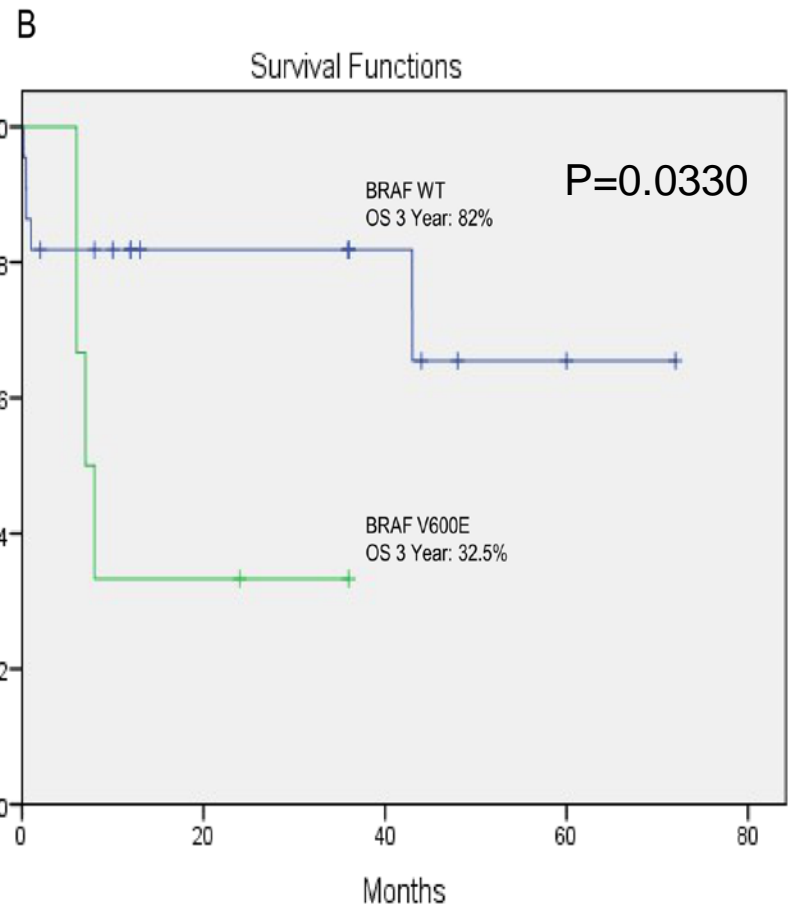
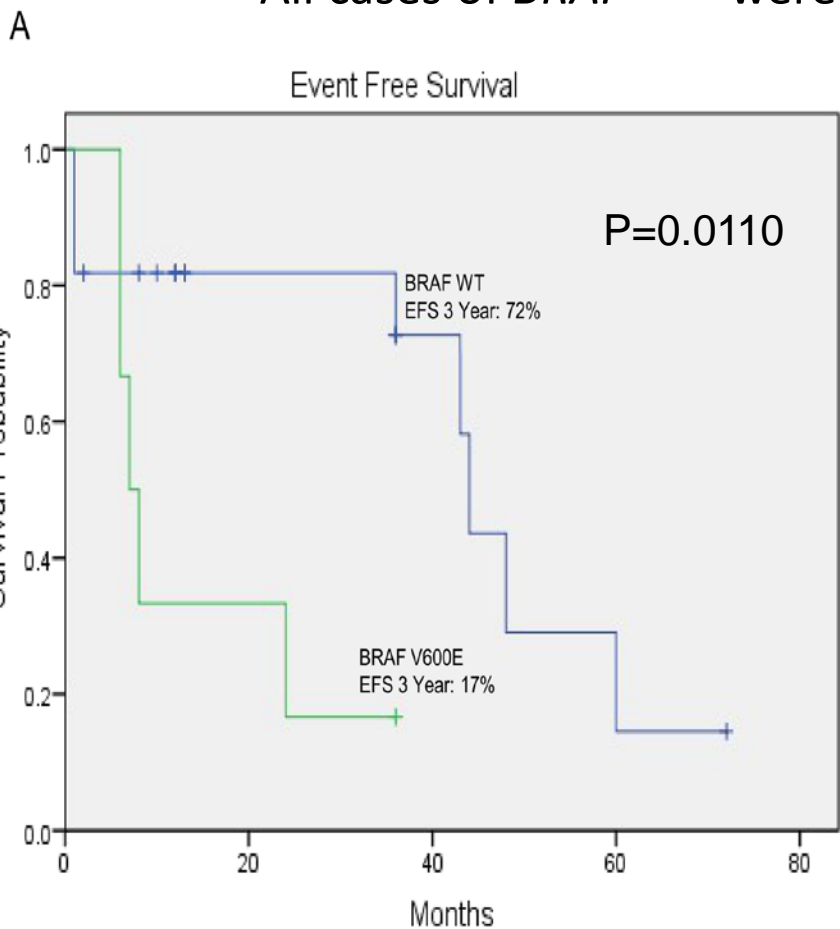
# *BRAF*<sup>V600E</sup> Clinical Correlation

- ▶ 63% of patients with *BRAF*<sup>V600E</sup>
- ▶ No significant correlation:
  - ▶ High risk vs. Low risk
  - ▶ Age (<2 vs. 2-8 vs. >8 years)
  - ▶ Gender
  - ▶ Single vs. multifocal
  - ▶ Overall survival



# $BRAF^{V600E}$ mutation correlated with survival

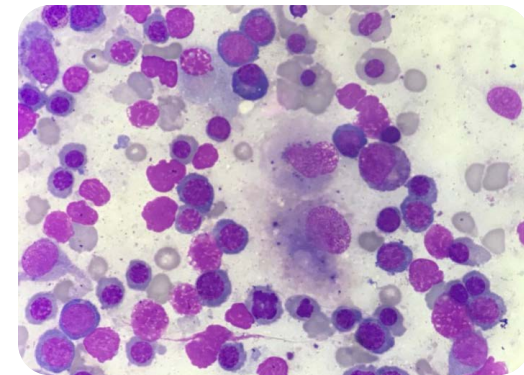
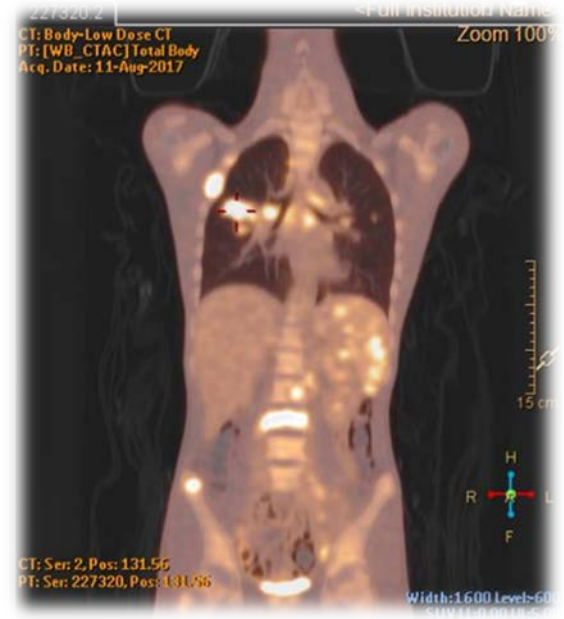
- $BRAF^{V600E}$  positive 6/31 (19%)
- All cases of  $BRAF^{V600E}$  were MS-LCH (100% vs. 41%,  $p=0.0348$ )







# RO+ MS-LCH





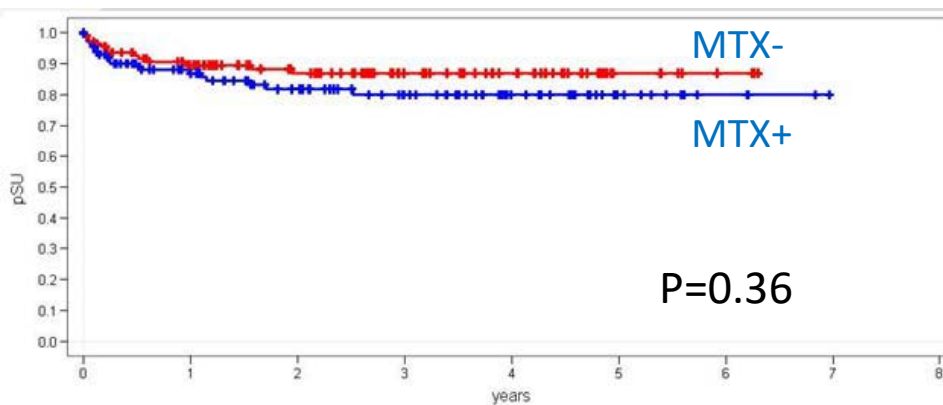
# LCH protocols

Protocol	Chemotherapy	Duration
DAL-HX-90	VBL, PRED, VP-16, 6-MP, MTX	12 mo
JLSG-96	Ara-C, VCR, PRED, Dox, CTX, MTX	12 mo
LCH-I	VBL, methylpred, VP-16	6 mo
LCH-II	VBL, PRED, VP-16, 6-MP	6 mo
LCH-III	VBL, PRED, 6-MP, MTX	6/12 mo



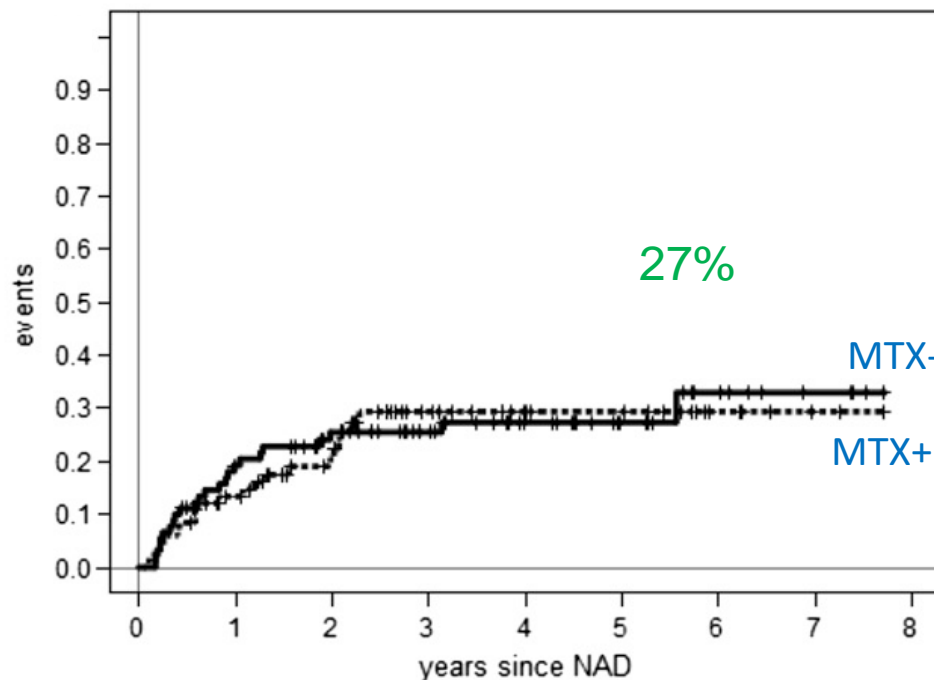
# Addition MTX in RO+MS LCH

## ► Survival



	Patients	Deaths	5-yr OS
MTX	115	19	0.82 ±0.04
No MTX	112	14	0.87 ±0.03

## ► Reactivations

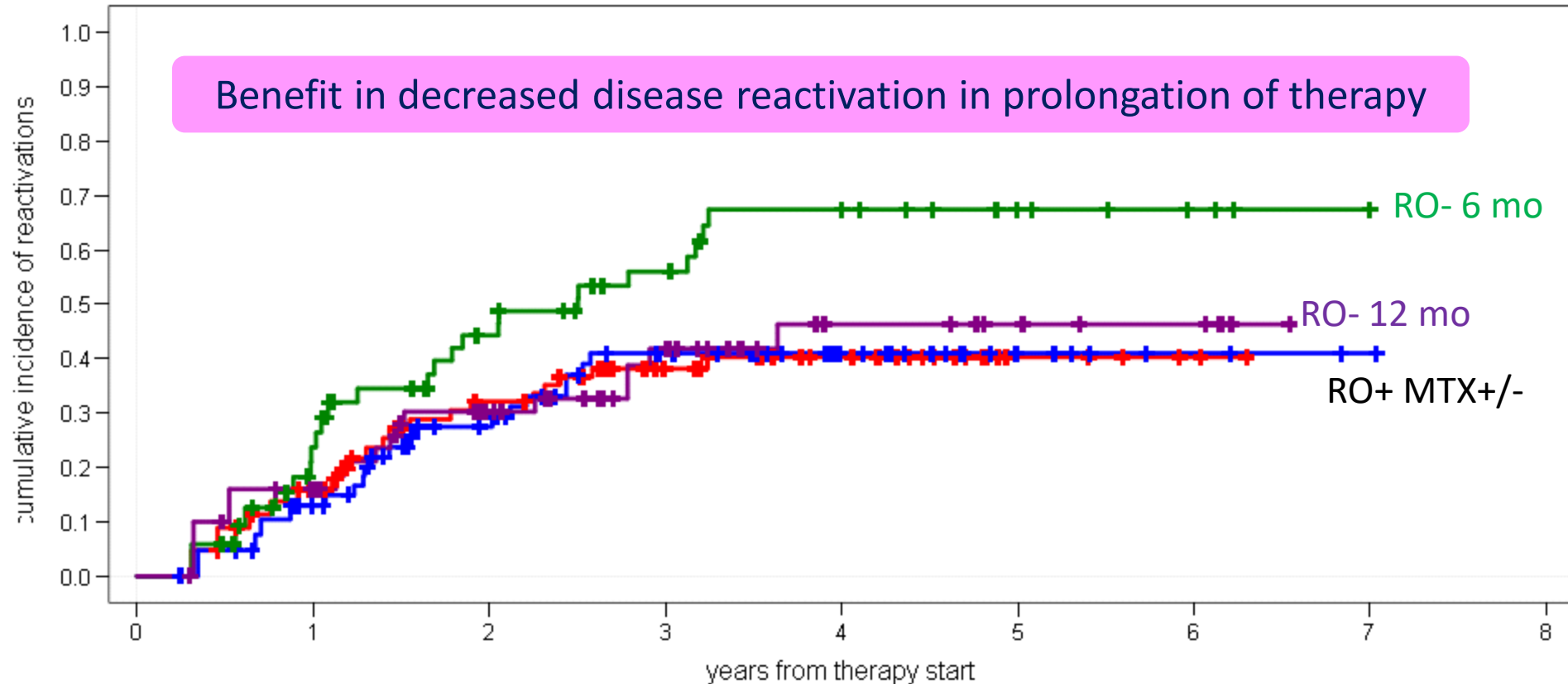


No advantage with added MTX





# Therapy prolongation improves outcome in MS LCH



*The probability of reactivation in the “Risk Group” (both treatment arms total 12 months) was similar to the 12-month treatment arm of the “Low risk” trial*



# Outcomes among different LCH protocols

Variable	Multifocal SS-LCH			MS-LCH					LCH-III	
	DAL-HX	JLSG-96	JLSG-02	DAL-HX	JLSG-96	JLSG-02	LCH-I	LCH-II	RO -	RO +
N	34	32	67	63	59	97	143	193	269	285
Duration (mo)	12	7.5	12	12	7.5	12	6	6	6/12	12
Response rate (%)	94.1	96.9	85.1	79	76.3	84.5	53	67	86	70-72
Reactivation rate (%)	17.6	28.1	22	30	45.3	25	58	46	54/37	25-29
Survival rate (%)	—	100	100	94	94.4	97.6	79	76.5	99	84
Incidence of DI (%)	2.9	3.2	1.5	11.9	8.9	18.6	22.5	21.8	12	8-9



# LCH IV Study Aims

## LCH-IV

**International Collaborative Treatment  
Protocol for Children and Adolescents  
with  
LANGERHANS CELL HISTIOCYTOSIS**

EudraCT Nr.: 2011-001699-20

International Sponsor: St. Anna Kinderkrebsforschung  
(Children's Cancer Research Institute)  
Vienna, Austria

amended protocol version 1.6, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Protocol Code Number: 042011

1. Decrease the frequency of reactivations and improve survival by
  - ▶ Prolongation of therapy
  - ▶ Additional 6-MP
2. Investigate salvage regimen for low risk disease
3. Decrease mortality by
  - ▶ Early switch to salvage regimen
  - ▶ Identification of patient at risk
4. Investigate LCH CNS disease



# Current study: LCH IV for LCH

- ▶ **STRATUM I:** 1<sup>st</sup> line therapy for MS-LCH (Group 1) and SS-LCH (isolated “CNS-risk” or multifocal bone lesions) (Group 2)
- ▶ **STRATUM II:** 2<sup>nd</sup> line treatment for non risk LCH
- ▶ **STRATUM III:** Salvage treatment for risk LCH
- ▶ **STRATUM IV:** HSCT for risk LCH
- ▶ **STRATUM V:** Monitoring and Treatment of CNS-LCH
- ▶ **STRATUM VI:** Natural history and management of “other” SS-LCH not eligible for stratum I group 2
- ▶ **STRATUM VII:** Long-term follow-up





# LCH patients with hyperbilirubinemia

- ▶ Contraindication for vinblastine and vincristine
- ▶ Prednisolone will be the KEY for induction
- ▶ Cytarabine substitution may be considered.
- ▶ Escalation dose of cytarabine monthly will be recommended, rely on hematological toxicity.





# Recurrent LCH

20-50% of patients

- ▶ Low risk: SS-MFB, MS RO-
  - ▶ Disease reactivation 1/3 of patients
  - ▶ Response well to 2<sup>nd</sup> line therapy
  - ▶ 6-MP and MTX, indomethacin, bisphosphonate, *BRAF* inhibitor, cladribine
- ▶ High risk: RO+
  - ▶ Poor response to standard therapy

MS-LCH <u>without</u> risk organ involvement	MS-LCH <u>with</u> risk organ involvement
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Cladribine</li><li>2. 6-MP with methotrexate</li><li>3. Prednisolone with methotrexate</li><li>4. Bisphosphonate (local skin and bone)</li><li>5. Clofarabine</li><li>6. Imatinib mesylate</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Cytarabine with cladribine</li><li>2. Clofarabine</li><li>3. <i>BRAF</i> inhibitor</li><li>4. Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT)</li></ol>

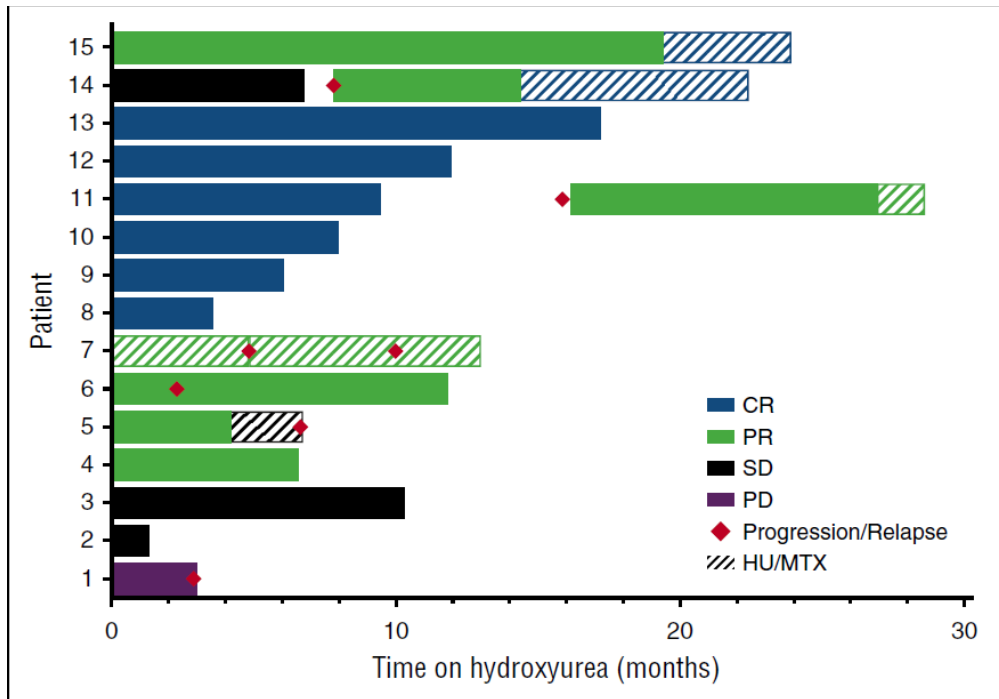


To the editor:

## Hydroxyurea: a new old therapy for Langerhans cell histiocytosis

Daniel J. Zinn,\* Amanda B. Grimes,\* Howard Lin, Olive Eckstein, Carl E. Allen, and Kenneth L. McClain

Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Centers, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX



Hydroxyurea 20  
mg/kg/day  
N=15 relapse LCH  
8/15 (53%) CR  
4/15 (27%) PR  
3/15 (20%) SD



# Bisphosphonates

- ▶ Osteoclast inhibitors

- ▶ Improve bone structure
- ▶ Decrease inflammatory substance

- ▶ Dose

- ▶ Pamidronate            90 mg IV x 3 days q 3 mo
- ▶ Pamidronate            90 mg IV q mo
- ▶ Etidronate              200 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day x 14 days oral q 3 mo



# Targeted therapy for LCH with BRAF mutation



HAROUCHE et al

BLOOD, 28 FEBRUARY 2013 • VOLUME 121, NUMBER 9



Before  
Vemurafenib



Vemurafenib  
1 month



Vemurafenib  
4 months

Patient #1



Before  
Vemurafenib



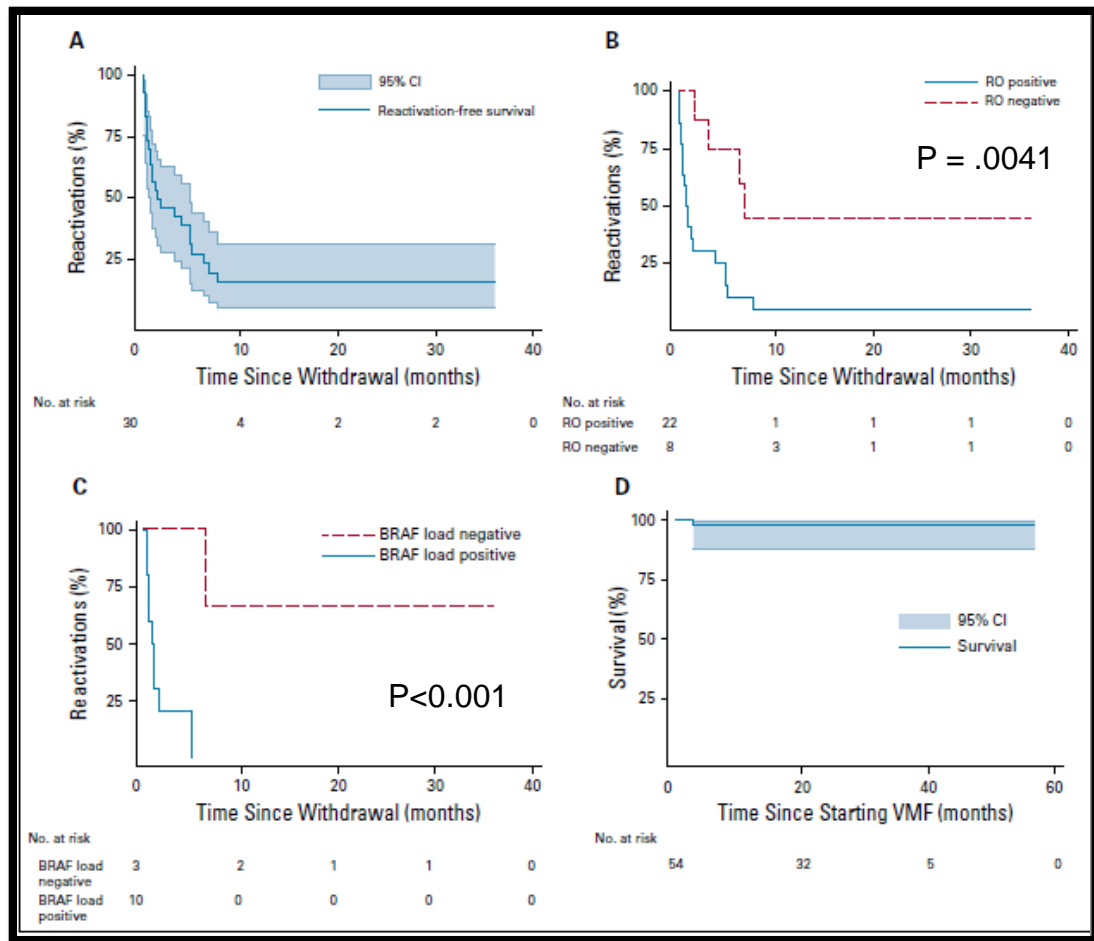
Vemurafenib  
1 month

Patient #2



# Vemurafenib for Refractory MS-LCH in Children

- ▶ N=54 from 12 countries
- ▶ VMF 20 mg/kg/day

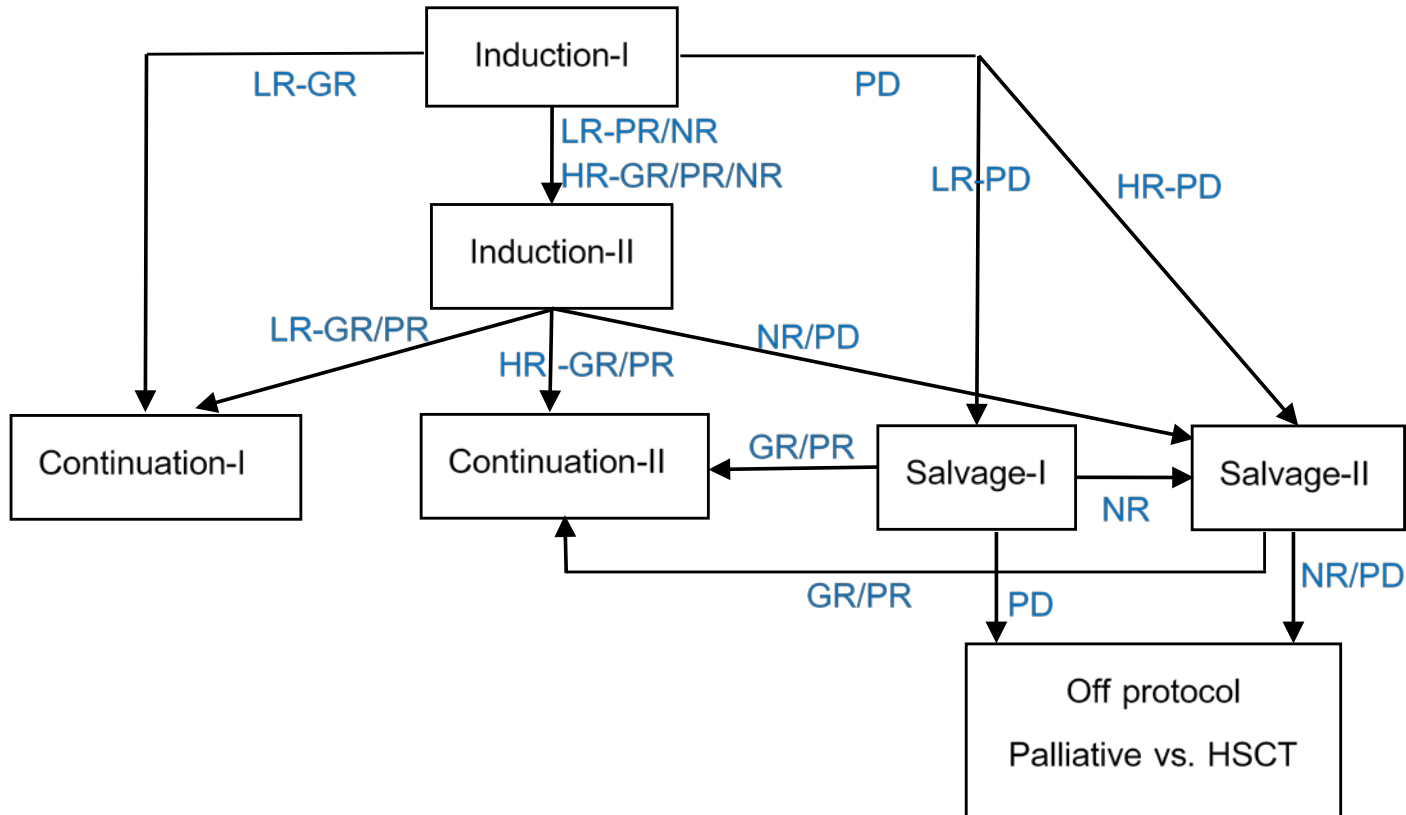




# HSCT in refractory pediatric LCH

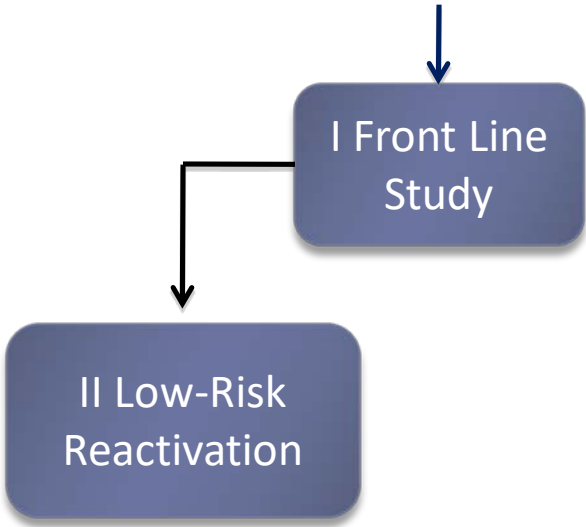
- ▶ N=30
- ▶ 11 MAC, 19 RIC
- ▶ 23/26 RO+ MS-LCH
- ▶ Disease status at HSCT:
  - ▶ 4 no AD
  - ▶ 2 AD-regression, 4 AD-stable, 16 AD-progressive
- ▶ 5-year OS 59.6%, FFS 56.3%
- ▶ 5-year OS of no AD/AD-regression 100% vs. 54.5% of AD-stable and progressive ( $p = 0.040$ )
- ▶ Disease state at the time of HSCT was the most important prognostic factor.







# LCH-IV Study

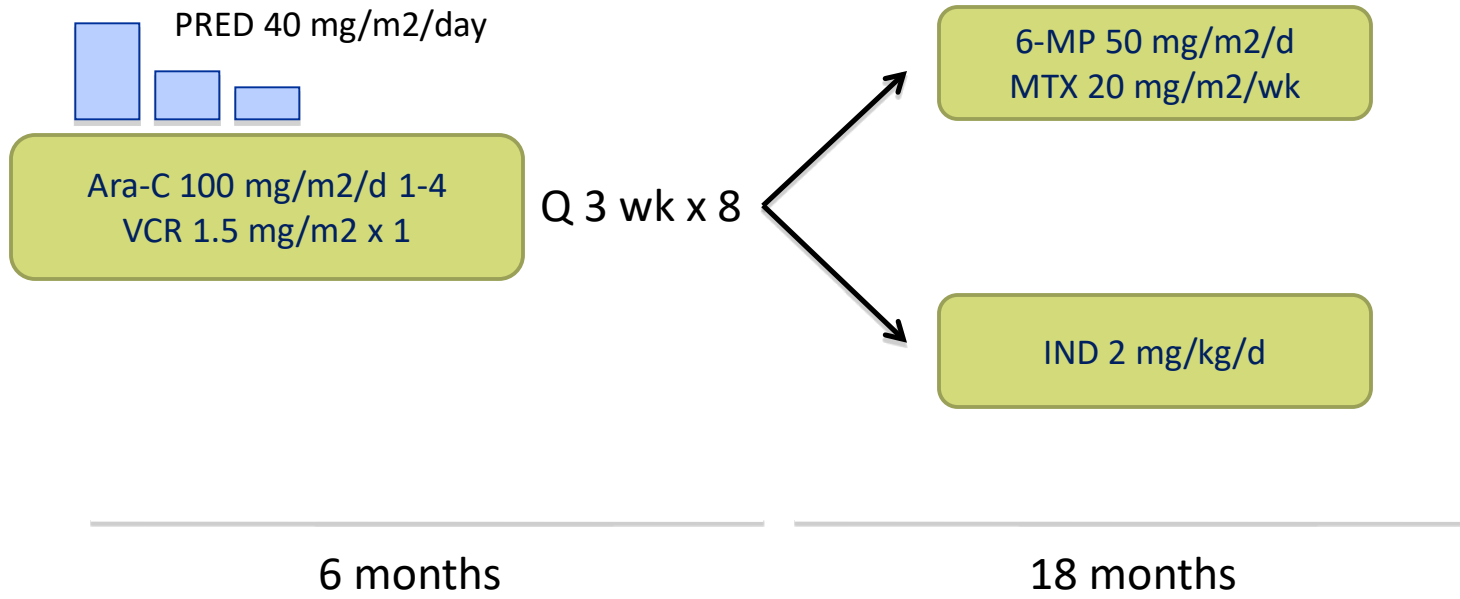






# LCH-IV – Stratum II Second line therapy

## RO- LCH Reactivation

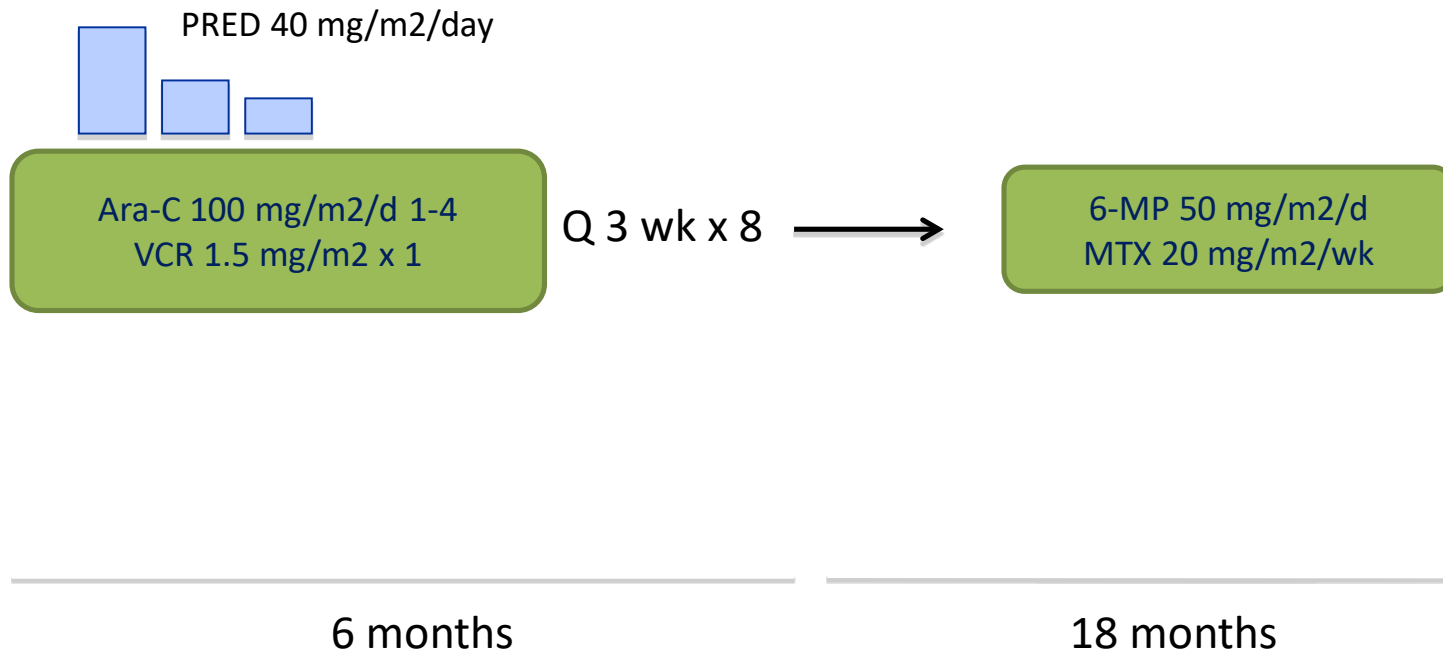




# LCH treatment Guideline

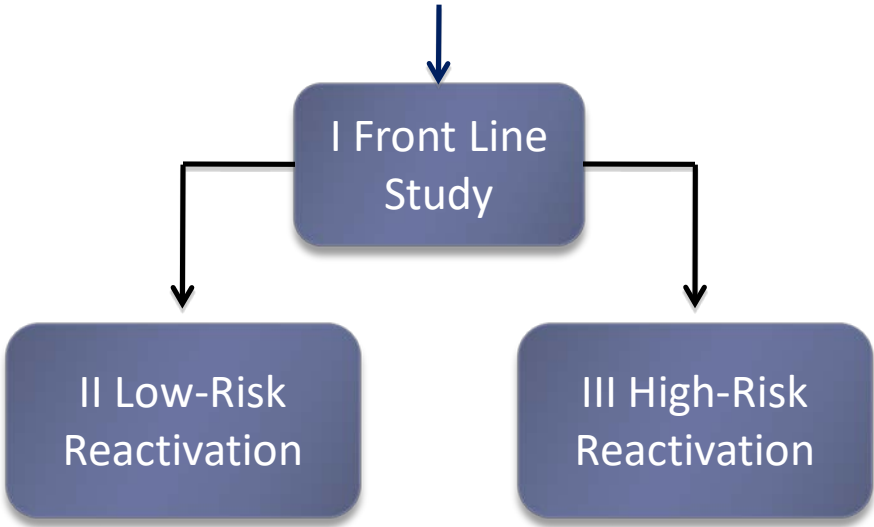
## Salvage I regimen

### For LR with progressive disease



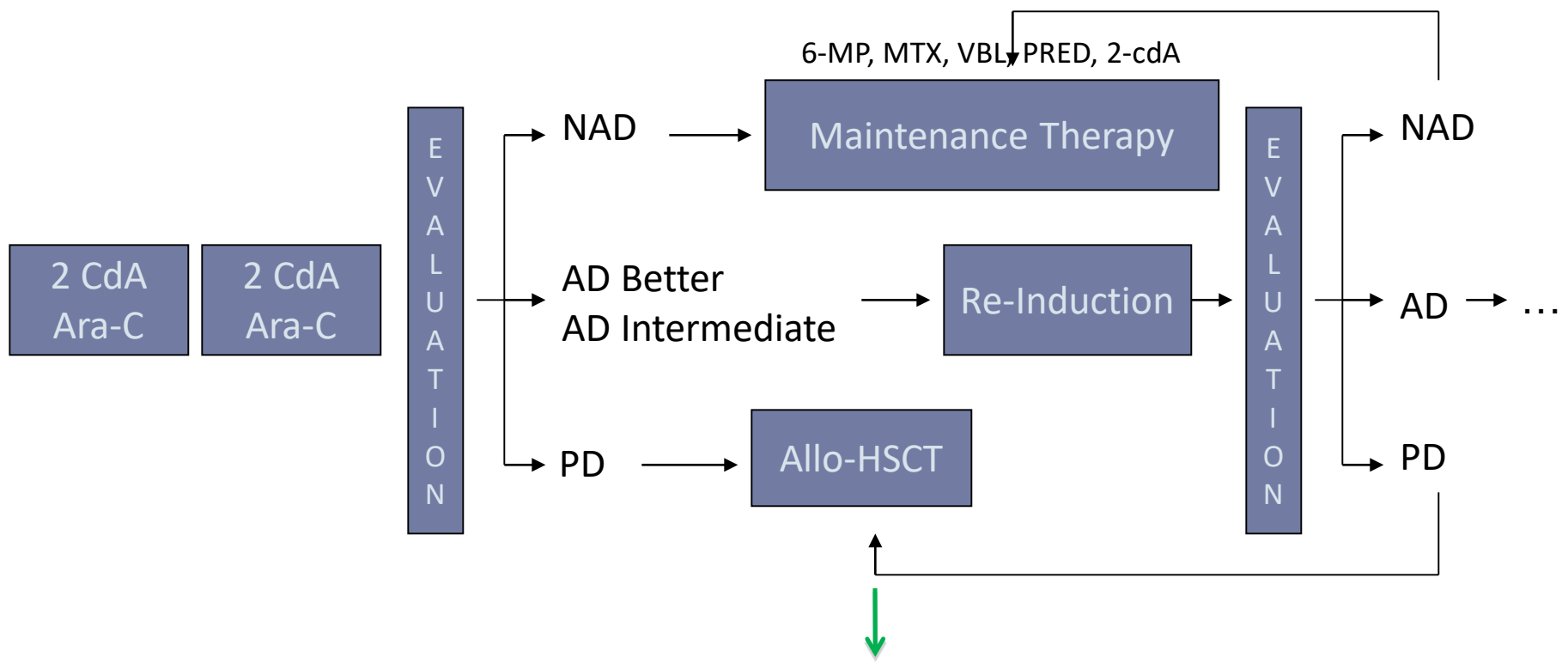


# LCH-IV Study





# LCH-IV – Stratum III Salvage therapy RO+ LCH Reactivation



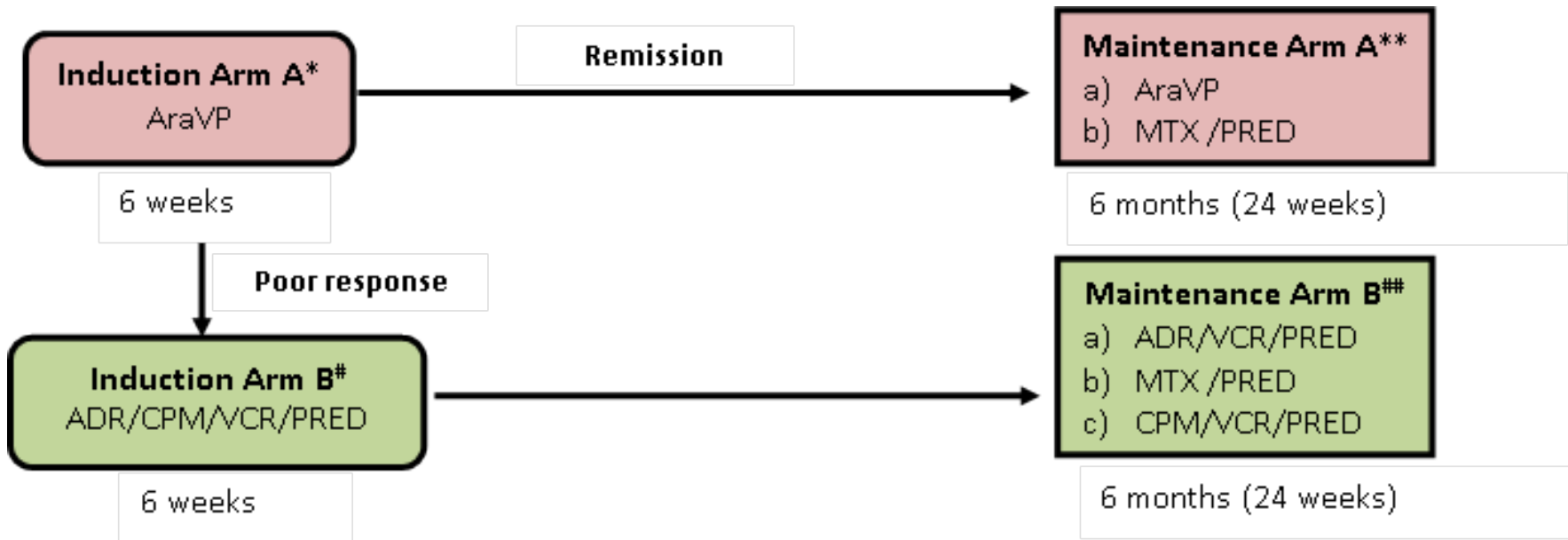
## LCH-IV – Stratum IV High-Risk HSCT



# LCH treatment Guideline

## Salvage II regimen

For HR with progressive disease\*

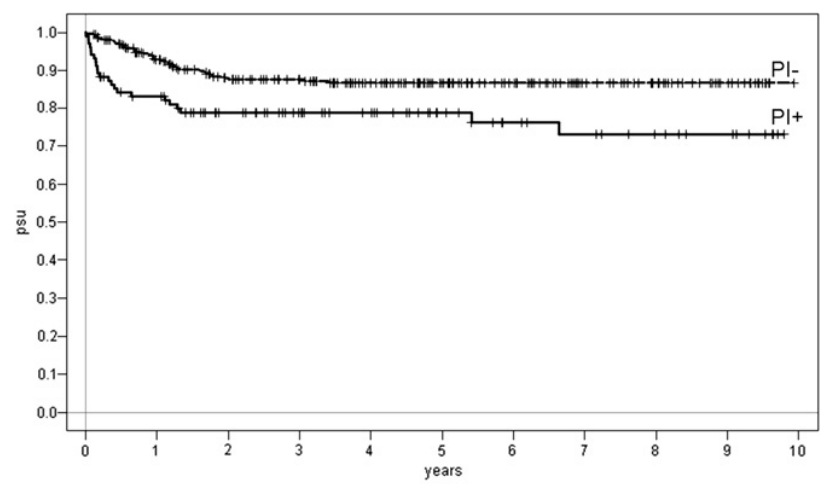




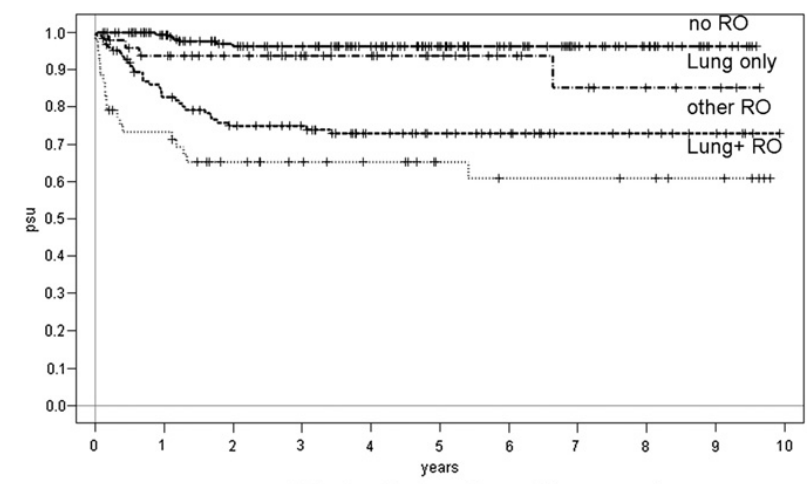
# Pulmonary involvement in MS LCH



- ▶ In multivariate analysis, pulmonary involvement was not an independent prognostic factor
- ▶ Therefore, it was excluded from the definition of risk organ involvement in MS-LCH.



Line Style	Group	Patients	Events	5-yrs. pSU	P-value
- - -	PI-	318	38	0.87±0.02	.004
—	PI+	102	23	0.79±0.04	



Line Style	Group	Patients	Events	5-yrs. pSU	P-value
—	no RO	192	6	0.96±0.01	
- - -	Lung only	49	4	0.94±0.03	.096
.....	RO only	126	32	0.73±0.04	
.....	Lung+RO	53	19	0.65±0.07	.070



# Pulmonary LCH

## Pediatric vs. adult

	Pediatric	Adult
Sites	Mostly as part of MS-LCH	Mostly isolated lung
Smoking	No association	90-95% association
Pneumothorax at 1 <sup>st</sup> presentation	Not common	Common (32%)
Radiological findings	Cystic lesion Reticulonodular pattern	
	CPA and lower lungs	Spare CPA and lower lungs





# Lung involvement in LCH







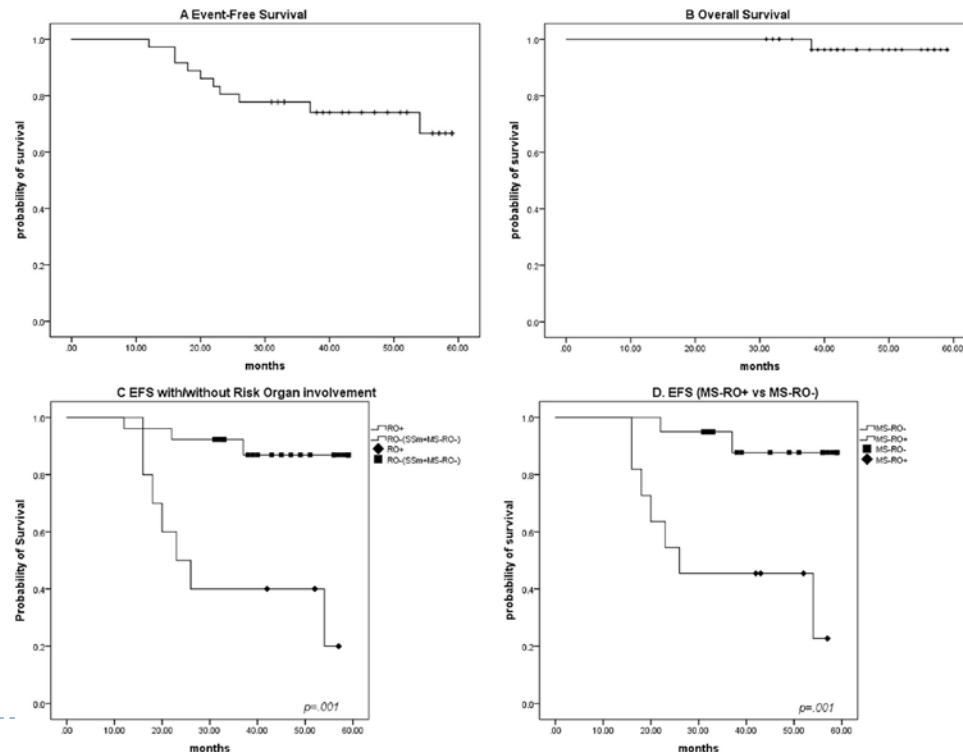
RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access



# The combination of methotrexate and cytosine arabinoside in newly diagnosed adult Langerhans cell histiocytosis: a prospective phase II interventional clinical trial

Xiao Han<sup>†</sup>, Mingqi Ouyang<sup>†</sup>, Minghui Duan<sup>\*</sup>, Wei Zhang, Tienan Zhu, Jian Li, Shujie Wang and Daobin Zhou





# Conclusions

- ▶ LCH is a neoplastic proliferation of Langerin + myeloid dendritic cells → recruitment of activated lymphocytes
- ▶ FDG PET-CT scan had greater accuracy to detect LCH disease
- ▶ Liver and hematopoietic involvement are worse prognosis factors in MS-LCH
- ▶ Patients with MFB have excellent prognosis but high tendency for disease reactivation (30-50%)
- ▶ Reactivations → prolongation of therapy
- ▶ BRAF inhibitor and HSCT are the future direction to improve outcome in refractory LCH





for  
children with cancer