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## MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES

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Obinutuzumab, an anti CD-20 monoclonal antibody, can be used in combination with venetoclax, ibrutinib or acalabrutinib in CLL patients with newly diagnosed or relaps patient's treatment indications. Another anti CD-20 monoclonal antibody, rituximab, has been used in combination with bendamustine, FC in del 17p/tp53 negative, ig H mutated patients in previous years. In addition, rituximab is currently used in combination with venetoclax. Chimeric antigen receptor T cells The CD19-directed chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T cell therapy lisocabtagene maraleucel (liso-cel) is an option for fit patients with relapsed or refractory CLL/SLL after two or more lines of systemic therapy, including a BTK inhibitor and a BCL2 inhibitor (venetoclax). This population has few therapeutic alternatives, and low-quality evidence suggests that liso-cel may produce sustained remissions in a subset. However, treatment is associated with substantial toxicity, and the manufacturing process is complex and expensive. As such, the decision to proceed with CAR-T cell therapy is individualized and highly dependent on an estimation of complication risk and the needs and wishes of the patient. CAR-T cells are genetically modified ex vivo, expanded in a production facility, and then infused back into the patient as therapy. Prior to reinfusion, patients receive a lymphodepleting chemotherapy preparative/conditioning regimen (ie, fludarabine plus cyclophosphamide). Trials have allowed for additional "bridging" therapy for disease control during the manufacturing process. Hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) Patients with CLL are generally older adults with a median age greater than 70 years, and due to the relatively benign course of the disease in the majority of patients, only selected patients are candidates for intensive treatments such as HCT. The determination of transplant eligibility should be made based on a risk-benefit assessment and the needs and wishes of the patient. HCT may also be appropriate for young patients with relapsed or refractory CLL already exposed to a BTK inhibitor and venetoclax. Investigational Therapies Most commonly, there is no better therapy to offer a patient than enrollment in a well-designed, scientifically valid, peer-reviewed clinical trial especially in relapsed/refractory patients. Additional information and instructions for referring a patient to an appropriate research center can be obtained from the United States National Institutes of Health. Many agents are under active investigation. These include novel agents (eg, additional noncovalent Bruton tyrosine kinase [BTK] inhibitors, BTK degraders), combinations of agents already used in CLL, and agents approved for other diseases. We await the results of these studies before incorporating medications not approved for CLL. Specifically, lenalidomide should not be used for patients with CLL outside of a clinical trial. While initial studies reported moderate activity for lenalidomide, some studies have been terminated due to toxicity concerns and excess deaths. We also do not use the anti-CD52 monoclonal antibody alemtuzumab for

patients with CLL. While partial responses may be seen in approximately one-third of patients, use is limited by toxicities that include infusion-related side effects, myelosuppression, and infections

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.htct.2024.11.107>

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## ANTI-CD38 MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES: TRANSFORMING MULTIPLE MYELOMA TREATMENT

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**Introduction:** Multiple myeloma (MM) is a neoplasm defined by the clonal proliferation of malignant plasma cells (PC) within the bone marrow (BM). Multiple myeloma (MM) originates from the asymptomatic proliferation of pre-malignant plasma cells, categorized as monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) and smoldering myeloma (SMM). Patients with MGUS exhibit low serum M-protein levels ( $< 3$  g/dL) and monoclonal plasma cells in bone marrow ( $< 10\%$ ), while patients with SMM demonstrate elevated serum M-protein levels ( $\geq 3$  g/dL) and/or plasma cells in the bone marrow ( $\geq 10\%$ ). Conversely, the diagnosis of multiple myeloma necessitates the identification of end-organ damage correlated with the presence of serum M-spike and/or monoclonal plasma cells in the bone marrow. **CD38 structure and functions:** This protein is a type II transmembrane glycoprotein encoded on chromosome 4 (4p15.32) and comprises three domains: a 21-amino acid intracellular domain (N-terminus), an alpha-helix transmembrane domain, and a 256-amino acid extracellular domain (C-terminus). This extracellular domain exhibits multifunctional enzymatic activity. CD38, originally characterized as an ADP-ribosyl cyclase, catalyzes the cyclization of nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD) to cyclic ADP-ribose (cADPR). **CD38 expression in multiple myeloma:** It is essential to emphasize the role of CD38 in multiple myeloma, one of the most thoroughly researched CD38-related conditions. Numerous studies have demonstrated significant and elevated CD38 expression on malignant plasma cells in bone marrow samples of multiple myeloma patients. CD38, a glycoprotein, interacts with CD31, which is co-expressed on multiple myeloma cells, and plays a role in several cellular processes. These encompass T cell activation and proliferation, B cell differentiation, and the chemotaxis of neutrophils and monocytes. Furthermore, as an ectoenzyme, CD38 regulates intracellular NAD<sup>+</sup> levels, which are essential for sustaining low glycolytic activity that facilitates cell proliferation and survival (Morandi et al., 2018). Under varying pH settings, CD38 facilitates the transformation of NAD<sup>+</sup> into adenosine (ADO), a mediator of calcium signaling that enhances tumor survival and immune evasion. Alongside CD38, several ectoenzymes including CD39, CD73, and CD203a contribute to the extracellular synthesis of adenosine (ADO), with their concentrations indicating disease progression. Furthermore, CD38 functions as a metabolic sensor