

2023 Midwest Radiation Oncology Symposium

CAR-T Cell Therapy for B-Cell Lymphoma: Does Radiation Therapy Have a Role?

Charles A. Enke, MD, FASTRO, FACR

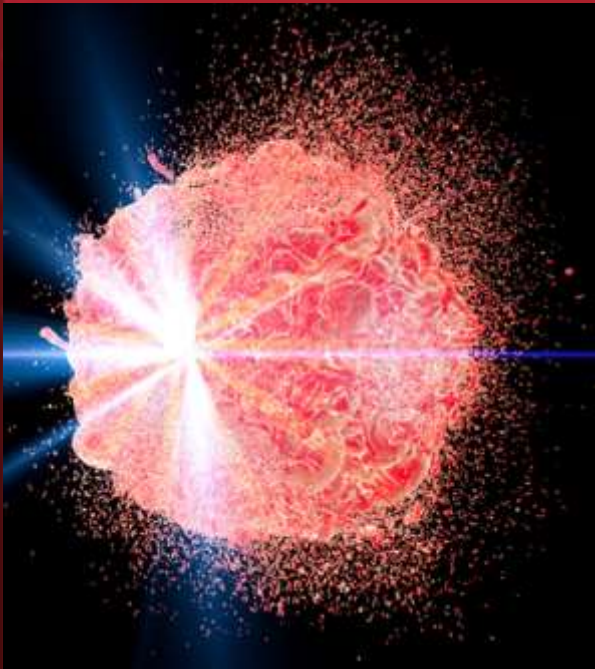
Professor & Chair

Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

Department of Radiation Oncology

University of Nebraska Medical Center/Nebraska Medicine

Omaha, Nebraska USA



University of Nebraska
Medical Center



Nebraska
Medicine

Conflict of Interest Attestation

I have no COI to declare/report. CA Enke



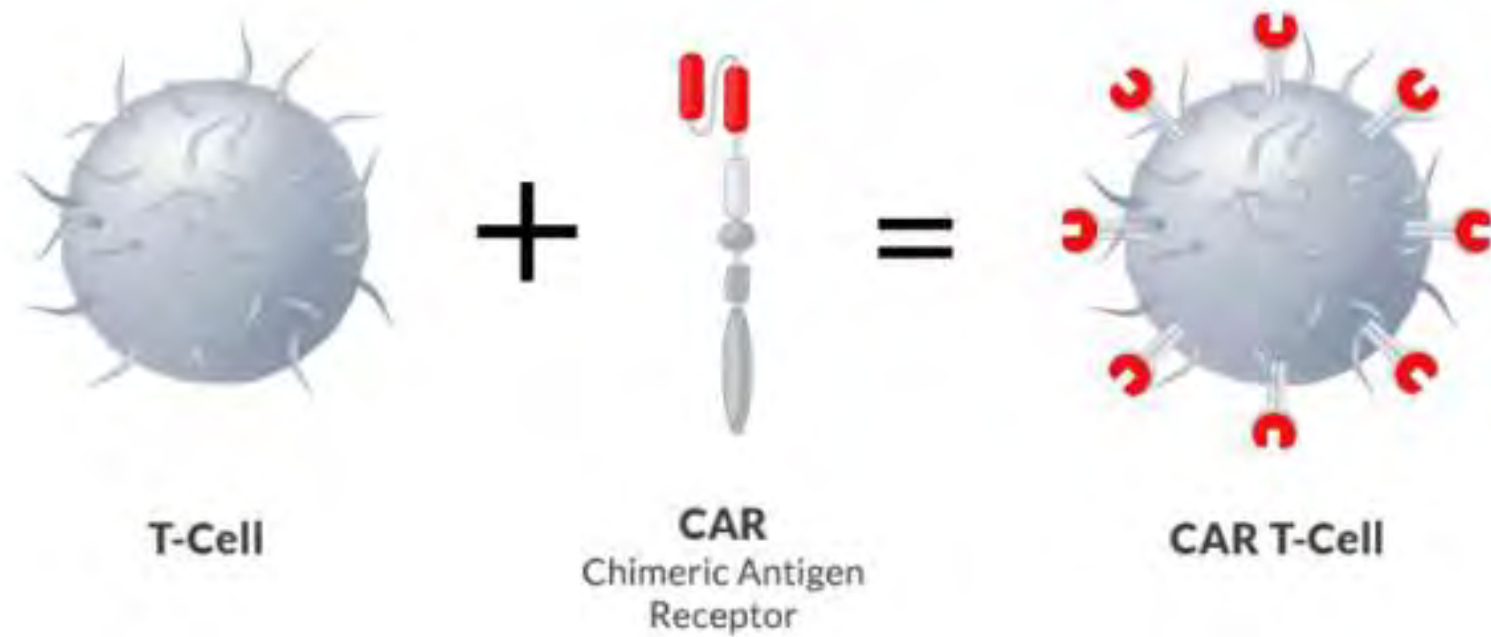
Objectives

1. Describe the lymphoma features that predict a poor outcome with current CAR-T Cell therapy
2. Discuss the potential benefits and risks associated with Radiation Therapy and CAR-T Cell Therapy
3. Discuss the current role of Radiation Therapy with CAR-T Cell Rx: When Where and How Much

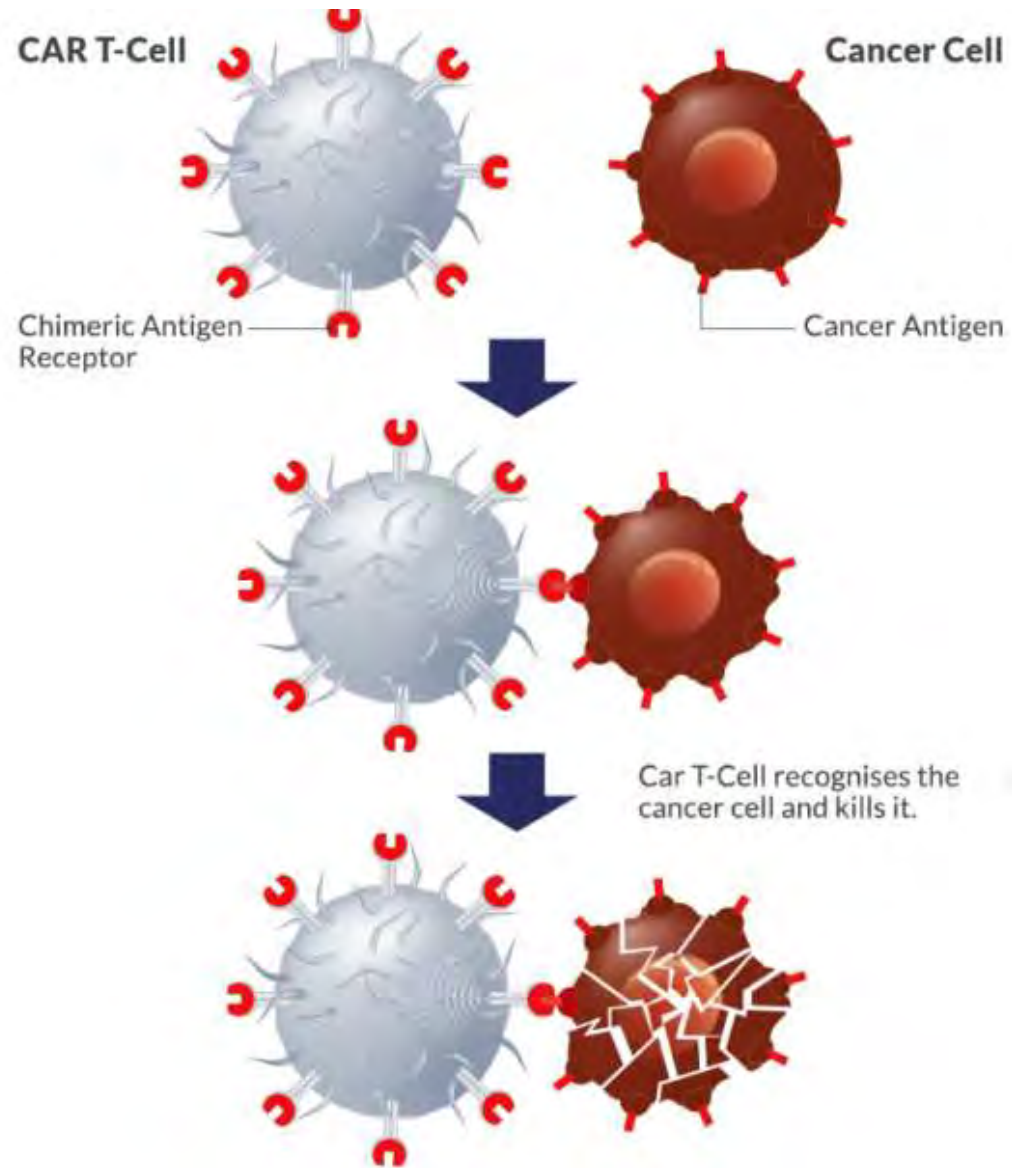
Look for the star associated with the slide that addresses the objective 



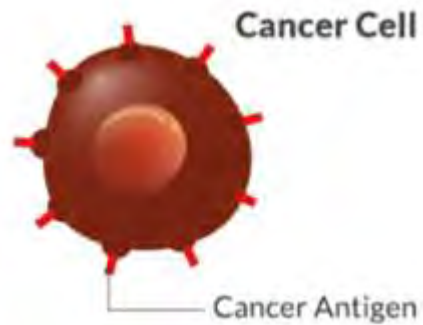
CAR-T Cell



CAR-T Cell Therapy



CAR-T Cell Rx Radiation Rx Should We Combine Them Like This?



TIME 

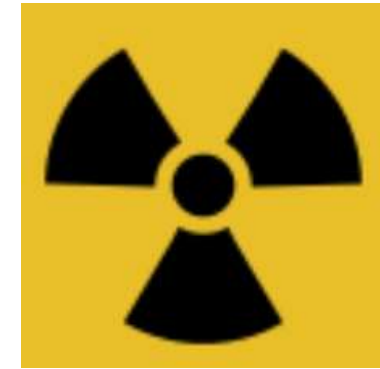
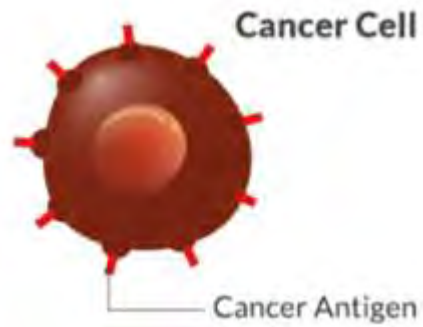


or This??

CAR-T Cell Rx Radiation RX



CAR T-Cell



TIME 



To Get This!!!



Dead Lymphoma Cell



What Features in Lymphoma Predict a Higher Risk of Persistence or Relapse Following CAR-T Cell Therapy?



Patterns and Predictors of Failure in Recurrent or Refractory Large B-Cell Lymphomas following CAR T-Cell Therapy (axi-cel) or (tisa-cel)

H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute

- 469 Lesions seen on Imaging in 63 patients: 2015-2019
(PET:<60 days before CAR T-Cell Rx, PET on Days: +30, +90, +180, then Q 90-180)
(Patients with Bridging RT not included in analysis)
- Median Follow-Up 12.6 months (1.4 – 46.4 months)
- 57% Recurrence Rate



Patterns and Predictors of Failure in Recurrent or Refractory Large B-Cell Lymphomas following CAR T-Cell Therapy (axi-cel) or (tisa-cel)

H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute

Lesion-Specific Factors Predicting Local Failure

- Diameter \geq 5cm $p < 0.001$, 95% CI
- SUVmax \geq 10 $p < 0.001$, 95% CI
- Extra-nodal Disease $p = 0.01$, 95% CI

Nicholas B Figura, MD et al

PII: S0360-3016(21)00851-8

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijrobp.2021.06.038>



Predictators of Persistent Disease or Relapse Following CAR-T Cell Rx ★

- Primary Refractory Lymphoma
- Elevated max SUV ≥ 10 versus 20+
- Large Metabolic Tumor Volume
- Tumor Size >5-10+ cm
- Necrotic Tumor Volume
- Elevated LDH
- Multiple Relapses at the Same Location



Potential Benefits of Radiation Therapy with CAR-T Cell Rx ★



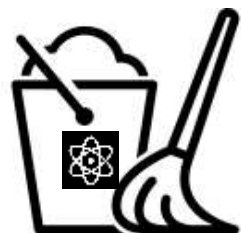
Palliate Symptoms



Cytokine Release Syndrome



AGGRESSIVE Disease



RT Clean Up post CAR-T



Potential Risks of Radiation Therapy and CAR-T Cell Rx



Prevent CAR-T Cell Expansion



Delay infusion of CAR-T Cells



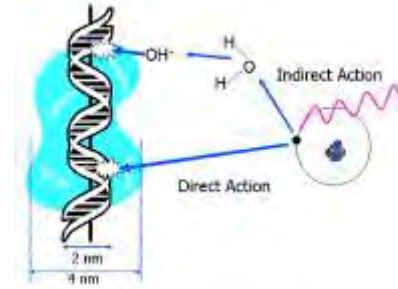
The Role of Radiation Therapy with CAR-T Cell Rx 2023: When Where and How Much



Proposed Interactions of RT with CAR-T



Traditional Radiation Cell Death



Too many tumor cells could overwhelm available CAR-T cells

Use RT for “TUMOR DEBULKING”



Proposed Interactions of RT with CAR-T



Tumor Related Factors:

- Sensitizing RT
- Induction death receptor signaling
- Tumor induced immunosuppression
- Tumor Debulking RT



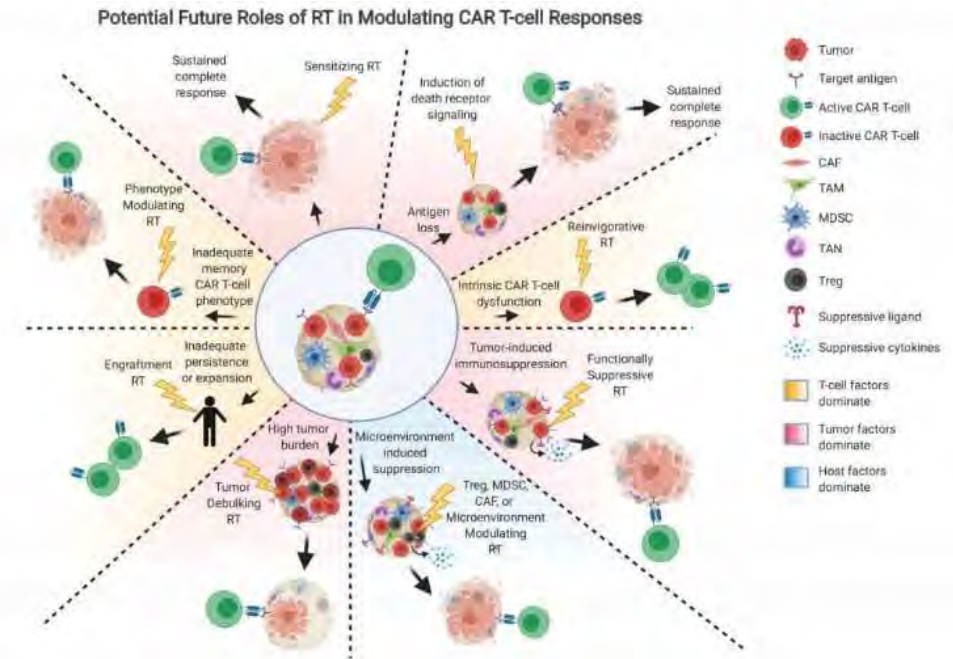
T-Cell Factors:

- Reinvigorative RT
- Engraftment RT
- Phenotype Modulating RT



Host Factors & CAR-T-Cell Resistance:

- Cancer Associated Fibroblasts
- Myeloid Derived Suppressive Cells
- Tumor Associated Macrophages
- Tumor Associated Neutrophils
- Regulatory T-Cells



Second- and third-generation CAR T cells, containing the CD3z domain with 1 or 2 cosignaling domains, Potential future roles of RT in modulating CAR T-cell outcomes. Beyond simple tumor debulking, RT may be utilized in the future at appropriate doses to address tumor-related factors (red background), T-cell factors (orange background), or host factors (blue background) that are operative in driving resistance to CAR T-cells. CAF, cancer associated fibroblasts; MDSC, myeloid derived suppressive cells; RT, radiation therapy; TAM, tumor associated macrophages; TAN, tumor associated neutrophils; Treg, regulatory T-cells. (DeSelm et al., BJR 2021).

Reference: [Carl DeSelm, The Current and Future Role of Radiation Therapy in the Era of CAR T-cell Salvage, BJR, 2021.](#)



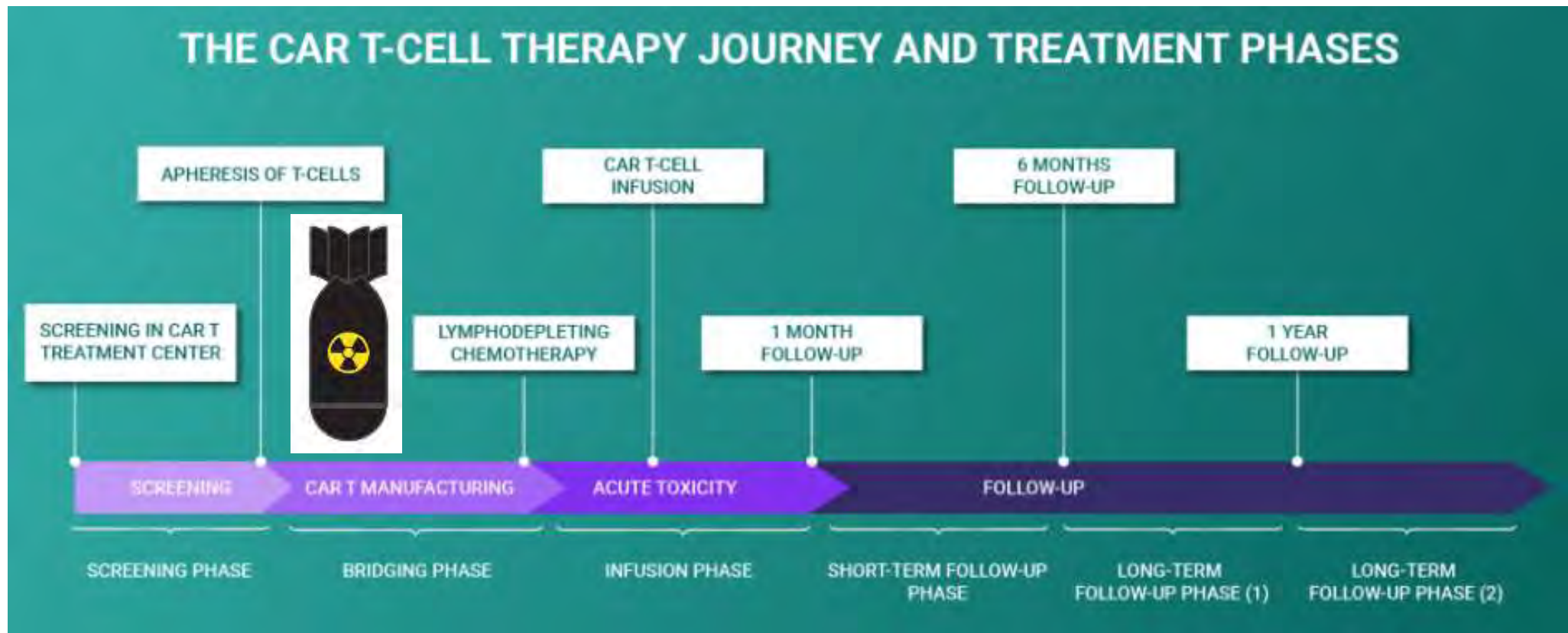
When to Add Radiation Therapy

Option 1: During Bridge Interval



★ When to Add Radiation Therapy

Option 1: During Bridge Interval



★ When/How Much Radiation Rx

Option 1: During Bridge Interval



Palliate Symptoms 20 Gy to 30 Gy in 5 versus 10 Treatments



AGGRESSIVE Disease 36 Gy in 20 **BID** Treatments in 10 Days



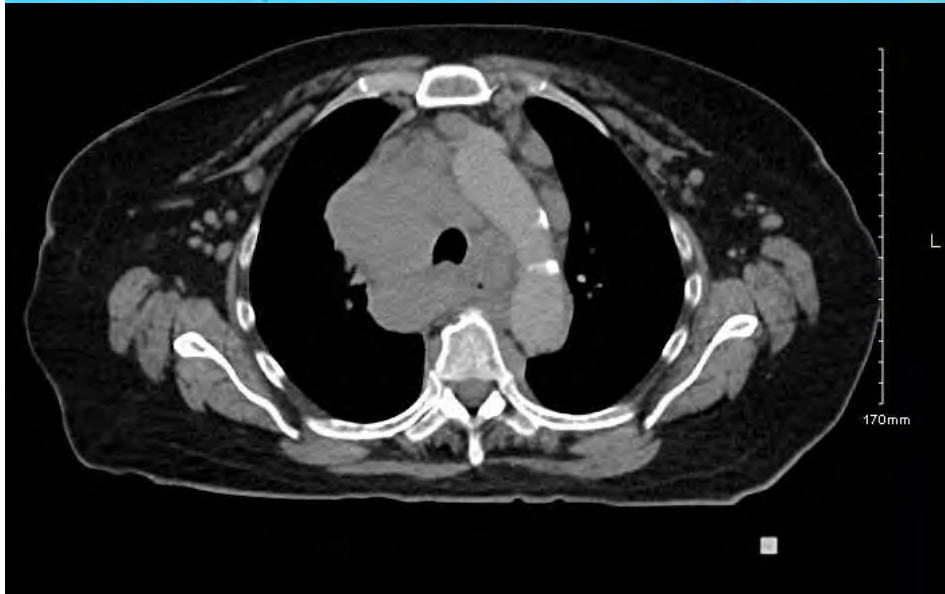
4 Gy in 2 Treatments



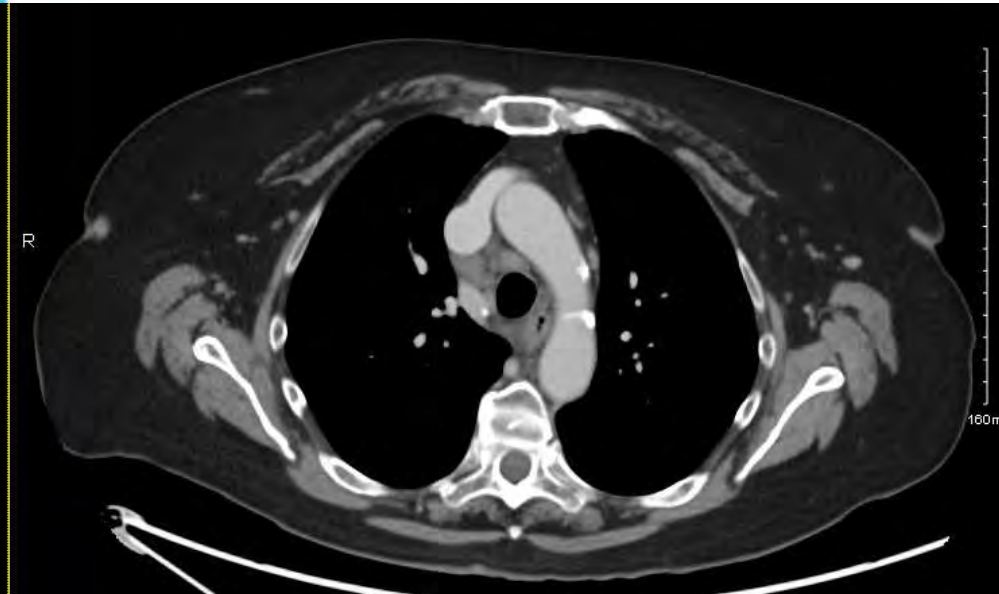
Boom Boom in Low Grade Lymphoma



4 Gy in 2 Treatments



Simulation CT Scan



9 Weeks Post Boom Boom



Patient-Level Disease Burden as a Predictor of In-Field Failures in Patients Undergoing Bridging Radiotherapy for CD19-Directed Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-Cell Therapy for Recurrent/Refractory Large B-Cell Lymphomas

H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute N.B. Figura et al

- Retrospective comparison of the original 63 unirradiated patients with 45 patients who did receive bRT
- Patients who received bRT had worse disease than unirradiated patients
- Median metabolic tumor volume (MTV): 463 vs 186cc
- Presence of any lesion > 5cm: 87 vs 67%
- Presence of any necrotic lesion: 50 vs 28%

- 45 patients had 98 lesions treated with bRT: median EQ2D (a/b=10) dose of 31.2 Gy

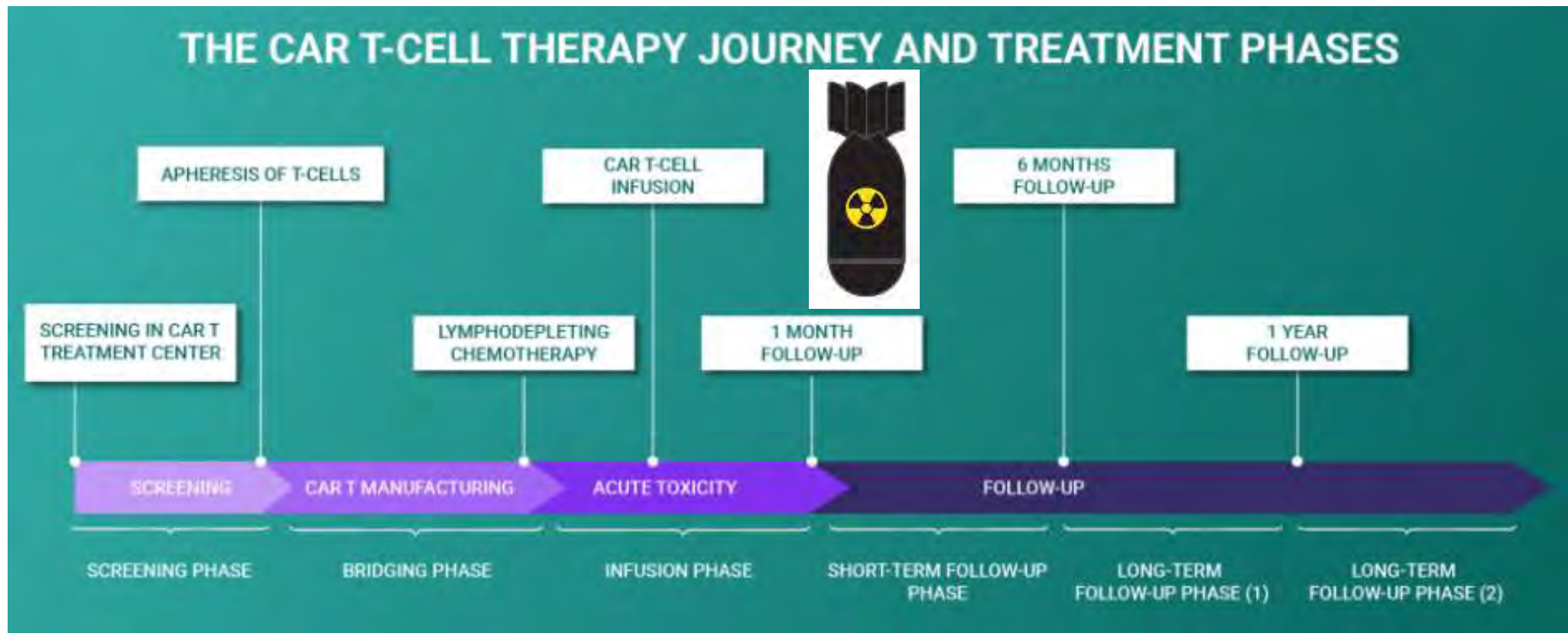
- Infield progression was: 28%(11/40) vs 24% (23/98)

- Conclusion: Patients receiving bRT prior to CAR T-Cell therapy for R/R LBCL with high MTV have similar outcomes to patients with far lower disease burden who did not receive bRT.
- Conclusion: In-field progression occurred in 25% of bRT patients and is strongly correlated with total disease burden.



★ When to Add Radiation Therapy

Option 2: Post CAR-T Cell Infusion



★ When/How Much Radiation Rx

Option 2: Post CAR-T Cell Infusion



20 Gy to 30-36 Gy in 5 versus 10-18 Fractions



AGGRESSIVE Disease 36 Gy in 20 BID Fractions in 10 Days



*This isn't working at all... I should warn others not to put their **CAR-T** before the **RT***



CLINICAL INVESTIGATION | VOLUME 116, ISSUE 5, P999-1007, AUGUST 01, 2023

Don't Put the CART Before the Horse: The Role of Radiation Therapy in Peri-CAR T-cell Therapy for Aggressive B-cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

[Omran Saifi, MD](#) • [William G. Breen, MD](#) • [Scott C. Lester, MD](#) • ... [Mohamed A. Kharfan-Dabaja, MD, MBA](#) • [Bradford S. Hoppe, MD](#) • [Jennifer L. Peterson, MD](#)   • [Show all authors](#)

Published: December 20, 2022 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijrobp.2022.12.017> •



Retrospective Review of 83 patients with r/r bNHL who received CAR-T and RT, either as Bridging RT (BRT N=35) versus Salvage RT (SRT N=48)

RT was either Comprehensive RT (treat all active disease-compRT) or Focal RT (focRT)

Limited Disease was amenable to compRT, involving <5 active disease sites

- BRT/CAR-T: **Bulkier Disease Sites** compared to CAR-T/SRT (median diameter, **8.7 vs 5.5 cm**; P= 0.01)
- BRT/CAR-T: **Received lower RT dose** compared to CAR-T/SRT (median 2 Gy dose, **23.3 vs 34.5 Gy**; P=0.002)

RESULTS (124 total irradiated sites)

Infield Recurrence:

- **BRT**, preCAR-T: 8 of 59 (13%)
- **SRT**, postCAR-T: 21 of 65 (32%) **1-yr Local Control 84% vs 62% (P=0.009)**

Patients with limited postCAR-T Dz (n=37) receiving compSRT (n=26) vs focRT (n=11):

- **Overall Survival** (51% vs 12%; P=0.028)
- **Freedom from Progression** (31% vs 0%; P<0.001)
- **Freedom from Subsequent Event** (19% vs 0%; P=0.011)



Time to In-Field Recurrence

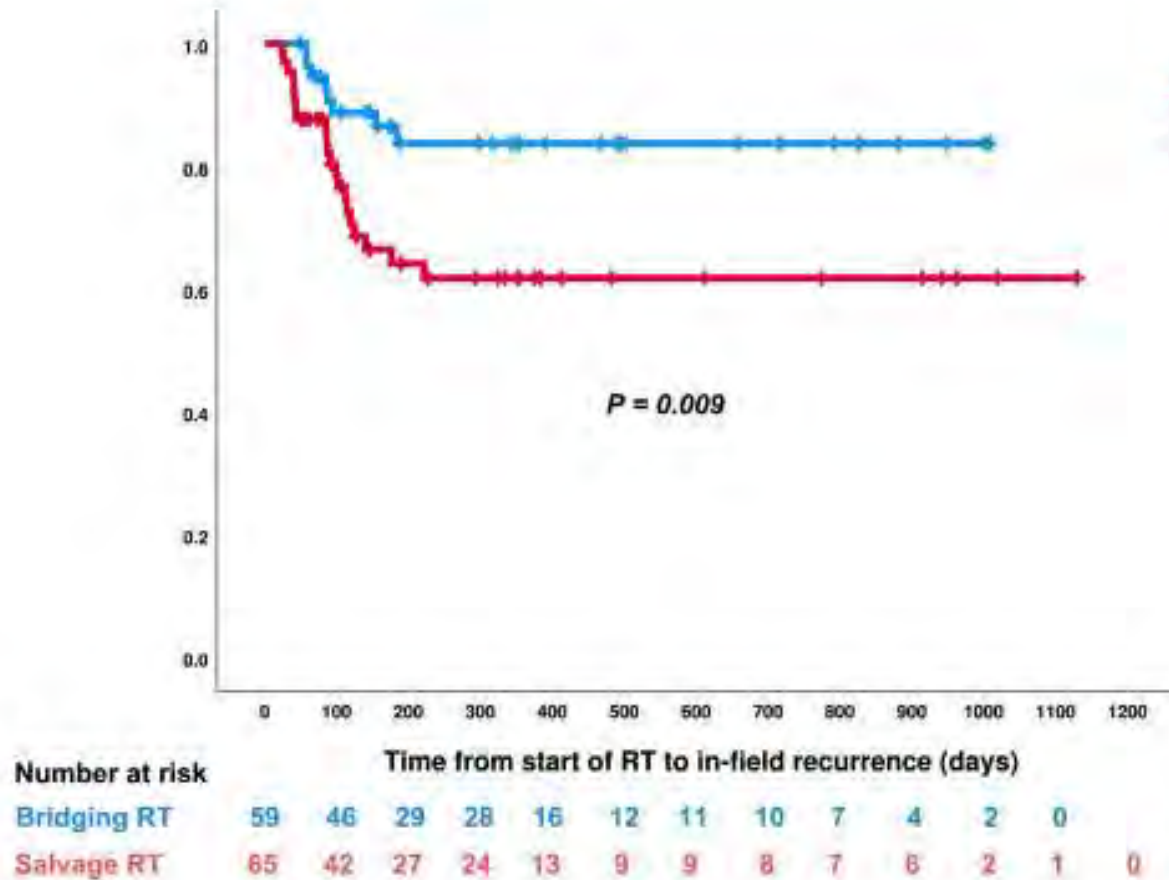


Fig. 1 Kaplan-Meier plot of local control by timing of radiation.



Time to Progression after Salvage RT

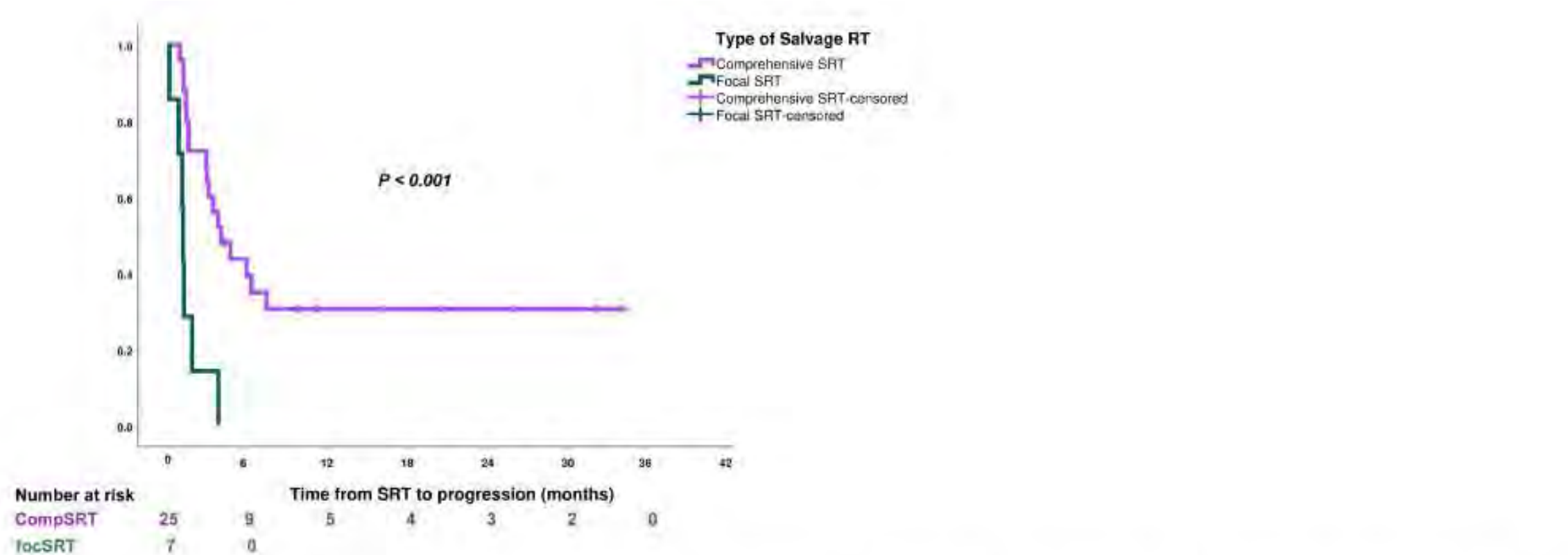


Fig. 2 Kaplan-Meier plot of freedom from subsequent progression by type of salvage radiation therapy (RT) in patients with limited disease.



2023 Midwest Radiation Oncology Symposium

Thank You

