

Outcomes With Novel Therapies for Relapsed or Refractory Follicular Lymphoma: A Targeted Literature Review

Bijal Shah,¹ Wesley Furnback,² Mei Xue,³ Kaitlyn Esselman,² Erlene K. Seymour,³ Keri Yang³

¹H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Tampa, FL, USA; ²Real Chemistry, New York, NY, USA; ³BeiGene USA, Inc, San Mateo, CA, USA

INTRODUCTION

- Follicular lymphoma (FL) is a common indolent non-Hodgkin lymphoma that often relapses or becomes refractory to current therapy
- Relapsed/refractory (R/R) FL treatments have evolved with the availability of novel agents

OBJECTIVE

- This targeted literature review aimed to review outcomes associated with novel therapies in R/R FL

METHODS

- A targeted literature review was conducted in Embase, PubMed, and conference databases to identify abstracts and manuscripts published from Jan 1, 2022, to Nov 15, 2023
- Studies were screened for all the following inclusion criteria:
 - R/R FL;
 - Use of ≥1 novel therapy, including chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy (CAR-T), enhancer of zeste homolog 2 (EZH2) inhibitors, bispecifics, or Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitors (BTKis); and
 - Clinical trials, real-world evidence (RWE) studies, comparative effectiveness research (CER), or pharmacoeconomic models
- Non-English language and phase 1b and earlier studies were excluded
- Outcomes of interest were overall response rate (ORR), progression-free survival (PFS), overall survival, costs, and patient-reported outcomes (PROs)

RESULTS

- Forty-three publications (12 trials,¹⁻²⁸ 8 CER models,²⁹⁻³⁸ 2 RWE studies,^{39,40} and 3 pharmacoeconomic models⁴¹⁻⁴³) were included
- Three BTKis (ibrutinib, pirtobrutinib, and zanubrutinib), 3 CAR-Ts (axicabtagene ciloleucel [axi-cel], tisagenlecleucel [tisa-cel], and lisocabtagene maraleucel [liso-cel]), 3 bispecifics (mosunetuzumab, odronextamab, and epcoritamab), 1 EZH2 inhibitor (tazemetostat), and 1 antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) (loncastuximab tesirine) were identified

Clinical Trials

- The included trials by class of treatment and regimen, as well as key characteristics, are summarized in **Figure 1**
- In 12 trials, ORRs were 86.2% to 97% with CAR-Ts, 78.9% to 97% with bispecifics, 36.4% to 69% with BTKis, and 95.2% with ADC. Among CAR-Ts, ORR was highest (97%) with liso-cel in patients in the third-line and later setting in the TRANSCEND-FL study⁶
- Among bispecifics, epcoritamab + rituximab-lenalidomide (R2) produced an ORR of 97% in a group of patients with R/R FL, the majority of whom had received only 1 prior line of treatment. ORR was highest (69%) with zanubrutinib + obinutuzumab within the BTKi class^{23,25,26}
- Median PFS was 15.4 to 24 months with bispecifics, 5.8 to 38.4 months with BTKis, and 40.2 months in a CAR-T trial (**Figure 2**)
- Estimated 12-month PFS ranged from 77.5% with axi-cel¹ to 91.3% with liso-cel⁷ in second-line patients with high-risk features
- PROs were reported in 3 trials (TRANSCEND-FL [liso-cel], ELM-2 [odronextamab], and ROSEWOOD [zanubrutinib + obinutuzumab])^{8,15,27}
- The ROSEWOOD trial was the only comparative study to report PROs and found that improvements in fatigue, pain symptoms, and role function were greater with zanubrutinib + obinutuzumab than obinutuzumab monotherapy²⁷
- Liso-cel was the only CAR-T with reported PROs, which showed transient deterioration in physical and role functioning within 15 days of infusion. However, most domains showed improvement in overall least-squares mean change from baseline⁸
- In the ELM-2 study of odronextamab, the median time to definitive deterioration (22.41 months) generally corresponded to median PFS (20.2 months)^{14,15}

Comparative Effectiveness Research

- Eight comparative effectiveness studies were included (**Table 1**)²⁹⁻³⁸
- Comparison of efficacy of CAR-T in clinical trials and standard of care in external control cohorts showed that CAR-T generally had improved efficacy.^{29-31,33,34} The study by Kambhampati et al. compared real-world patients receiving axi-cel in the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) registry to the SCHOLAR-5 cohort receiving standard of care and found that efficacy outcomes favored axi-cel in the real-world setting³²
- CAR-Ts were also found to have a favorable efficacy profile compared to mosunetuzumab in CER using clinical trial data^{35,38}
- Tazemetostat demonstrated similar efficacy but an improved safety profile vs PI3Ks³⁴

Real-World Evidence

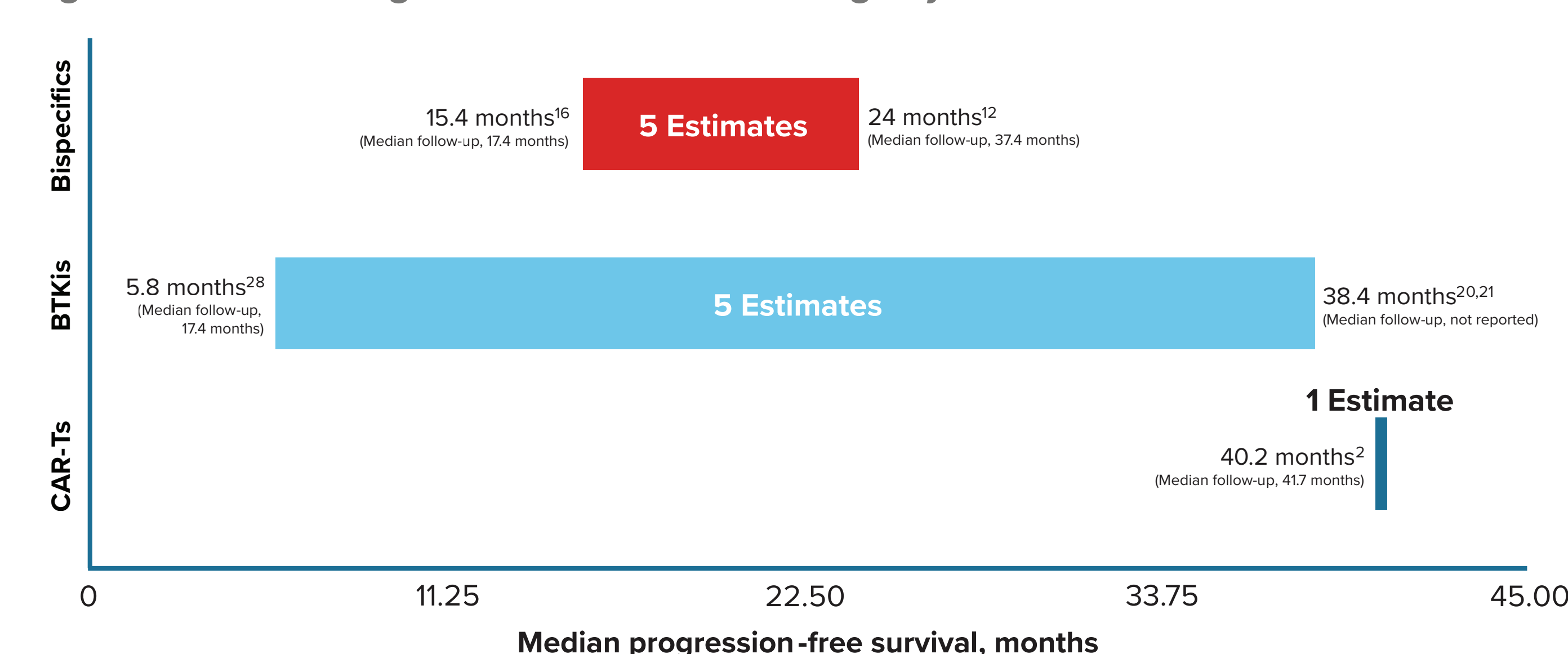
- Both real-world studies evaluated CAR-T in patients with R/R FL.^{39,40} The study by Jacobson et al. included 230 patients with R/R FL across 72 US centers in the CIBMTR registry.³⁹ The efficacy analysis included 151 patients, with a median follow-up of 6.2 months. ORR was 93%, and 6-month rates of PFS and OS were 88% and 96%, respectively

Figure 1. Clinical Trials

	Trial name	Sample, n	Prior therapies ^a	Follow-up, mo ^b		
ADCs	Loncastuximab tesirine ¹⁹	NCT04998669	26	1 (1-6)	NA	
	Bispecifics	Mosunetuzumab ^{31,33}	GO29781	90	3 (2-4)	37.4
		Odronextamab ^{14,15}	ELM-2	96	3 (2-13)	17.3
		Epcoritamab ¹⁶	EPCORE NHL-1	128	3 (2-9)	17.4
Epcoritamab + R2 ^{17,18}	EPCORE NHL-2	109	1	8.8		
BTKis	Ibrutinib + BR/CHOP ^{20,21}	SELENE	174	NA	NA	
	Pirtobrutinib ²⁸	BRUIN	48	3 (1-12)	18.4	
	Zanubrutinib ²²	BGB-3111-AU-003	33	3 (1-8)	32.8	
	Zanubrutinib + obinutuzumab ^{23,27}	ROSEWOOD	145	3 (2-11)	20.2	
CAR-Ts	Axi-cel ^{1,2}	ZUMA-5	124	3 (2-4)	41.7	
	Tisa-cel ^{3,5}	ELARA	97	4 (2-13)	28.9	
	Liso-cel ⁶⁻⁸	TRANSCEND-FL ^c	130	3 (2-10)/1	18.9/18.1	

^aMedian (range) number of prior therapies.
^bMedian follow-up in months.
^cThe TRANSCEND-FL trial included separate analyses of the third-line and later (3L) and second-line (2L) with high-risk features cohorts. The median follow-up in the 3L and 2L with high-risk features cohorts was 18.9 months and 18.1 months, respectively.
 ADC, antibody-drug conjugate; BR, bendamustine-rituximab; BTKi, Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitor; CAR-T, chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy; NA, not available; R2, rituximab-lenalidomide; R-CHOP, rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, prednisone, rituximab + vincristine.

Figure 2. Median Progression-Free Survival Range by Class of Treatment



- The study by Ysabaert et al. included 70 total patients (62 tisa-cel and 8 axi-cel) receiving CAR-T in the DESCAR-T registry, part of the French early access program.⁴⁰ Included patients had a median of 3 (range, 2-9) prior lines of therapy
- After a median follow-up of 5.4 months, ORR was 97.5% and estimated 6-month PFS and OS rates were 71.8% and 97.4%, respectively

CONCLUSIONS

- Novel therapies have demonstrated promising efficacy results
- Future research is needed to understand real-world long-term outcomes, impact on PROs, and optimal treatment sequencing for R/R FL

Pharmacoeconomics

- This study included 3 pharmacoeconomic models,⁴¹⁻⁴³ 2 cost-effectiveness models,^{41,42} and 1 cost-minimization model.⁴³ All included studies were set in the US
- Axi-cel was found to be cost-effective in the third-line setting compared with the standard of care, with an incremental cost-effectiveness ratio of \$182,127 per quality-adjusted life-year (QALY) gained⁴¹
- Mosunetuzumab was found to be the dominant strategy (lower costs and higher QALYs) compared with both axi-cel and tisa-cel⁴²
- The cost-minimization study compared axi-cel and tisa-cel while considering drug, administration, serious adverse event, and relapse costs. The study reported a lower total cost per patient with tisa-cel (\$450,885) vs axi-cel (\$512,021)⁴³

Table 1. Comparative Effectiveness Outcomes

Comparators	Data Sources	Results Summary
Axi-cel vs standard of care ²⁹⁻³¹	ZUMA-5 (axi-cel) and SCHOLAR-5 (standard of care)	Efficacy favors axi-cel
Axi-cel vs standard of care ³²	CIBMTR (axi-cel and standard of care)	Efficacy favors axi-cel
Axi-cel vs tisa-cel ³⁶	ZUMA-5 (axi-cel) and ELARA (tisa-cel)	No significant difference in efficacy; safety advantage with tisa-cel
Tisa-cel vs standard of care ³³	ELARA (tisa-cel) and RECORD-FL (standard of care)	Efficacy favors tisa-cel
Tisa-cel vs standard of care ³⁴	ELARA (tisa-cel) and Flatiron Health Research Database (standard of care)	Efficacy favors tisa-cel
Tisa-cel vs mosunetuzumab ³⁵	ELARA (tisa-cel) and GO29781 (mosunetuzumab)	Efficacy favors tisa-cel
Liso-cel vs mosunetuzumab ³⁸	TRANSCEND-FL (liso-cel) and GO29781 (mosunetuzumab)	Efficacy favors liso-cel
Tazemetostat vs PI3Ks ³⁴	E7438-G000-101 (tazemetostat), DELTA (idelalisib), DYNAMO (duvelisib), CHRONOS-1 Part B (copanlisib), and UNITY-NHL (umbralisib)	No significant difference in efficacy; safety advantage with tazemetostat
Tazemetostat + R2 vs R2 ³⁵	SYMPHONY-1 (tazemetostat) and the Flatiron Health Research Database (R2)	Efficacy favors tazemetostat + R2

PI3K, phosphoinositide 3-kinase; R2, rituximab-lenalidomide.

REFERENCES

- Jacobson CA, et al. *Lancet Oncol*. 2022;23:91-103.
- Neelapu SS, et al. *Blood*. 2022;140:10380-10383.
- Fowler NH, et al. *Nat Med*. 2022;28:325-332.
- Fukuhara N, et al. *Int J Hematol*. 2023;117:251-259.
- Owens J, et al. *Blood*. 2023;142:1659-1663.
- Morschhauser F, et al. *Hematol Oncol*. 2023;41:877-880.
- Morschhauser F, et al. *Blood*. 2022;140:4676-4677.
- Carlton G, et al. *Blood*. 2023;142:668.
- Budde LE, et al. *Lancet Oncol*. 2022;23:1055-1065.
- Matesar M, et al. *Hemasphere*. 2022;6(5), abstract P1126.
- Budde EL, et al. *Clin Lymphoma Myeloma Leuk*. 2022;22:5387.
- Schuster SJ, et al. *Blood*. 2023;142:503.
- Bartlett NL, et al. *Blood*. 2022;140:1467-1470.
- Kim TM, et al. *Blood*. 2022;140:2280-2282.
- Tessoulin B, et al. *Blood*. 2023;142:669.
- Linton K, et al. *Blood*. 2023;142:1655.
- Merryman R, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2023;41(S16), abstract 7506.
- Sureda A, et al. *Hemasphere*. 2023;7(5), abstract S222.
- Alderuccio J, et al. *Blood*. 2023;142:594.
- Nastoupil LJ, et al. *Hematol Oncol*. 2023;41:872-874.
- Nastoupil LJ, et al. *Blood Adv*. 2023;7:7141-7150.
- Phillips T, et al. *Blood Adv*. 2022;6:3472-3479.
- Zinzani PL, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2023;41:5107-5117.
- Zinzani PL, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2022;40:7510.
- Zinzani PL, et al. *Hematol Oncol*. 2023;41:119-121.
- Flowers G, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2023;41:7545.
- Trotman J, et al. *Blood*. 2023;142:1674.
- Shah N, et al. *Blood*. 2023;142:3026.
- Ghione P, et al. *Blood*. 2022;140:4676-4677.
- Palomba ML, et al. *Expert Rev Anticancer Ther*. 2023;23:199-206.
- Kambhampati S, et al. *Blood*. 2023;41:2121.
- Sallez G, et al. *Blood Adv*. 2022;6:5835-5843.
- Proudmann D, et al. *Adv Ther*. 2023;39:1878-1896.
- Nastoupil L, et al. *Blood*. 2023;142:4410.
- Dickinson M, et al. *Hemasphere*. 2022;6(5), abstract P1111.
- Fowler NH, et al. 2023 Tandem Meetings Transplantation & Cellular Therapy Meetings of ASTCT and CIBMTR. 2023, abstract 252.
- Nastoupil L, et al. *Blood*. 2023;142:2338.
- Jacobson C, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2023;41:7509.
- Seebert L, et al. *Blood*. 2023;142:2956.
- Polnis KC, et al. *Blood Adv*. 2023;7:801-810.
- Matesar M, et al. *Value Health*. 2023;26:S153.
- Ghanem B. *Invest New Drugs*. 2023;41:710-718.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Editorial assistance was provided by Real Chemistry and Nucleus Global, an Inizio company, and was supported by BeiGene.

Copies of this presentation obtained through Quick Response (QR) code are for personal use only and may not be reproduced without permission from ISPOR and the authors of this presentation

