SEQUOIA: Results of a Phase 3 Randomized Study of Zanubrutinib versus Bendamustine + Rituximab in Patients with Treatment-Naive Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia/Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma

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INTRODUCTION

- Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL) are progressive B-cell malignancies that are characterized by progressive accumulation of leukemic cells in the peripheral blood, bone marrow, and lymphoid tissue¹
- In recent years, treatment of CLL/SLL has been transformed with the advent of effective inhibitors of B-cell receptor signaling, such as the BTK inhibitor, ibrutinib²
- Ibrutinib has well-described off-target effects that contribute to its toxicity profile, notably an increased risk for cardiovascular disease, including atrial fibrillation, hypertension, and hemorrhage³
- Cardiovascular AEs, diarrhea, and rash observed in patients treated with ibrutinib have been associated with off-target inhibition of kinases such as EGFR, HER, and TEC³
- Zanubrutinib is an irreversible, potent, next-generation BTK inhibitor designed to maximize BTK occupancy and minimize off-target inhibition of TEC- and EGFR-family kinases^{4,5}
- Efficacy and safety of zanubrutinib has been recently demonstrated in two large, randomized studies in Waldenström macroglobulinemia and relapsed/refractory CLL/SLL, with lower rates of atrial fibrillation when compared to ibrutinib^{6,7}
- Preliminary data showing high response rates with zanubrutinib in untreated patients with the high-risk genomic abnormality, del(17p), enrolled in SEQUOIA Cohort 2, have been recently published^{8,9}
- Here, we present results from the first cohort of SEQUOIA, a phase 3 trial of zanubrutinib versus bendamustine + rituximab (B+R) as first-line treatment for CLL/SLL

METHODS

- SEQUOIA (BGB-3111-304; NCT03336333) is an international, randomized, open-label, phase 3 study of zanubrutinib compared with B+R treatment for patients with previously untreated CLL/SLL
- Eligible patients had received no prior systemic treatment for CLL/SLL, met International Workshop on CLL (iwCLL) criteria for treatment, and were unsuitable for treatment with fludarabine. cyclophosphamide, and rituximab (ie, \geq 65 years of age, Cumulative Illness Rating Scale score >6, creatinine clearance < 70 mL/min, and/or history of previous severe infection or multiple infections within the past 2 years)
- Cohort assignment was based on centrally-verified del(17p) status
- In Cohort 1, study patients without del(17p) were randomized to receive either zanubrutinib 160 mg twice daily until progressive disease or unacceptable toxicity or bendamustine 90 mg/m² (days 1 and 2) + rituximab (375 mg/m² for cycle 1, then 500 mg/m² for cycles 2-6) for 6 cycles of 28-days each
- Randomization stratification factors included age (<65 y vs ≥65 y), Binet Stage (C vs A/B), immunoglobulin heavy chain gene (IGHV) mutational status (mutated vs unmutated), and geographic region (North America vs Europe vs Asia-Pacific)
- Patients with del(17p) were assigned to Cohort 2 and received zanubrutinib monotherapy
- The primary endpoint was progression-free survival (PFS) in Cohort 1 as assessed by independent review committee (IRC) per modified iwCLL criteria for CLL and Lugano criteria for SLL - The comparison of PFS between the 2 arms in Cohort 1 was based on a log-rank test stratified
- by the randomization stratification factors of age, Binet stage, and IGHV mutational status; hazard ratios (HRs) and 2-sided 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were estimated from a stratified Cox regression model
- Key secondary endpoints included PFS by investigator assessment, overall response rate (ORR) by investigator and IRC assessments, overall survival (OS), and safety
- One pre-specified interim analysis was planned at approximately 86 events
- Efficacy analyses were intention-to-treat
- Adverse events (AEs) were assessed and graded per the National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (NCI-CTCAE) v4.03 and the Grading Scale for Hematologic Toxicities in CLL Studies

RESULTS

- From October 31, 2017 to July 22, 2019, 479 patients without del(17p) were randomized to receive zanubrutinib (n=241) and B+R (n=238)
- At the data cutoff, 206/240 patients from Cohort 1 were continuing to receive zanubrutinib; in cohort 2, 188/227 patients completed the B+R regimen and 15 patients crossed over to receive zanubrutinib after centrally-confirmed disease progression
- Treatment groups were well balanced for demographic and disease characteristics; in both arms, the median patient age was 70 y and most patients were men (**Table 1**)
- In the zanubrutinib arm, 53.4% had unmutated IGHV and 17.8% had del(11q) compared with 52.4% and 19.3%, respectively, in the B+R arm

Table 1. Baseline Patient and Disease Characteristics

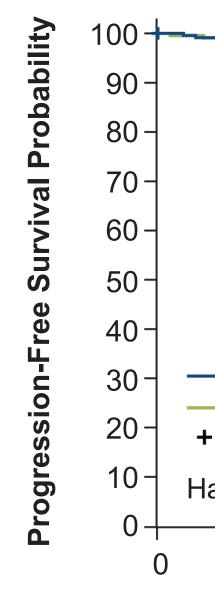
Characteristics

Age ≥65, n (%) Male, n (%)

North America

^aPatients with SLL had Binet stage calculated as if they had CLL. ^bDefined as having anemia (hemoglobin ≤110 g/L) or thrombocytopenia (platelets $\leq 100 \times 10^{9}$ /L) or neutropenia (absolute neutrophil count $\leq 1.5 \times 10^{9}$ /L). B+R, bendamustine + rituximab; CLL, chronic lymphocytic leukemia; del(11g), chromosome 11g deletion; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; IQR, interquartile range; IGHV, gene encoding the immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region; SLL, small lymphocytic lymphoma; TP53, gene encoding tumor protein p53.

- 2-sided *P*=.0001)
- 85.5% vs 69.5%, respectively



No. of patients at risk Zanubrutinib 241 **B+R** 238

	7	
Characteristics	Zanubrutinib (n=241)	B+R (n=238)
Age, median (IQR), y	70 (66–75)	70 (66–74)
Age ≥65, n (%)	196 (81.3)	192 (80.7)
Male, n (%)	154 (63.9)	144 (60.5)
ECOG PS 2, n (%)	15 (6.2)	20 (8.4)
Geographic region, n (%)		
North America	34 (14.1)	28 (11.8)
Europe	174 (72.2)	172 (72.3)
Asia/Pacific	33 (13.7)	38 (16.0)
Binet stage C,ª n (%)	70 (29.0)	70 (29.4)
Bulky disease ≥5 cm, n (%)	69 (28.6)	73 (30.7)
Cytopenia at baseline, ^b n (%)	102 (42.3)	109 (45.8)
Unmutated IGHV gene, n/N (%)	125/234 (53.4)	121/231 (52.4)
del(11q), n (%)	43 (17.8)	46 (19.3)
TP53 mutation, n/N (%)	15/232 (6.5)	13/223 (5.8)

• At median follow-up time of 26.2 months, PFS was significantly prolonged with zanubrutinib treatment vs B+R by IRC assessment (HR 0.42; 95% CI 0.28–0.63; 2-sided P<.0001; Figure 1A) – Similar PFS was observed by investigator assessment (HR 0.42; 95% CI 0.27–0.66;

- Estimated 24-month PFS by IRC assessment for zanubrutinib vs B+R was

• Zanubrutinib treatment benefit was observed across patient subgroups defined by age, Binet stage, bulky disease, and del(11q) status (Figure 1B) and for patients with unmutated IGHV (HR 0.24; 2-sided P<.0001), but not for mutated IGHV (HR 0.67; 2-sided P=.1858; Figure 1C)

Figure 1A. PFS per IRC Assessment

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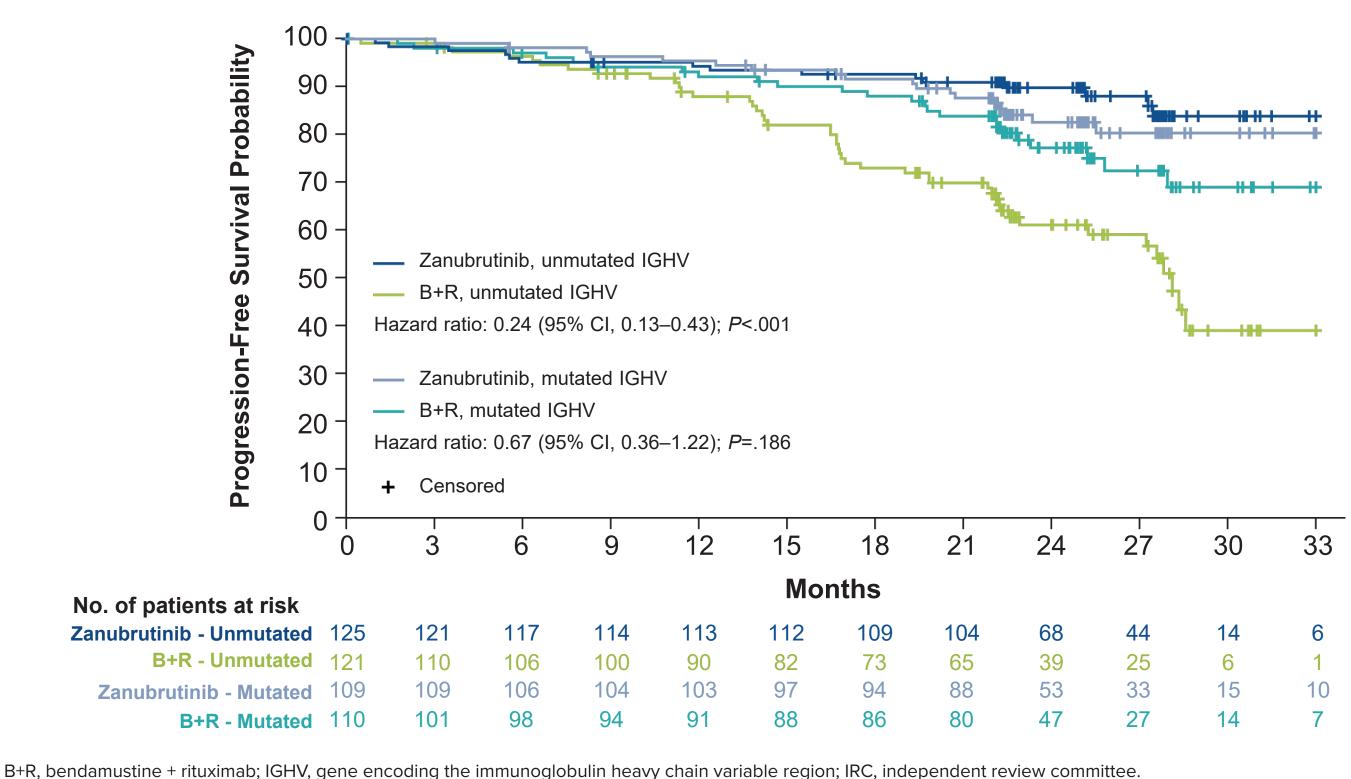
B+R, bendamustine + rituximab; IRC, independent review committee; PFS, progression-free survival.

Figure 1B. PFS by Patient Subgroup

	Event/Pat	Event/Patient			
Subgroup	Zanubrutinib	B+R			
All Patients	36/241	71/238			
Age (years)					
<65	6/45	19/46			
≥65	30/196	52/192			
Sex					
Male	24/154	47/144			
Female	12/87	24/94			
Binet stage					
A or B	24/171	52/168			
С	12/70	19/70			
ECOG					
0	12/110	24/101			
≥1	24/131	47/137			
Bulky disease (LDi <5 cm vs ≥5 cm)					
<5 cm	21/172	44/165			
≥5 cm	15/69	27/73			
IGHV mutational status					
Mutated	18/109	25/110			
Unmutated	15/125	45/121			
Cytopenias at baseline ^b					
Yes	21/102	34/109			
No	15/139	37/129			
Chromosome 11q deletion					
Yes	7/43	22/46			
No	29/198	49/192			

Hazard ratios were calculated using a stratified Cox regression model. b Defined as having anemia (hemoglobin \leq 110 g/L) or thrombocytopenia (platelets \leq 100×10 9 /L) or neutropenia (absolute neutrophil count ≤1.5×10⁹/L). B+R, bendamustine + rituximab; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; IGHV, gene encoding the immunoglobuli heavy chain variable region; IRC, independent review committee; LDi, longest diameter

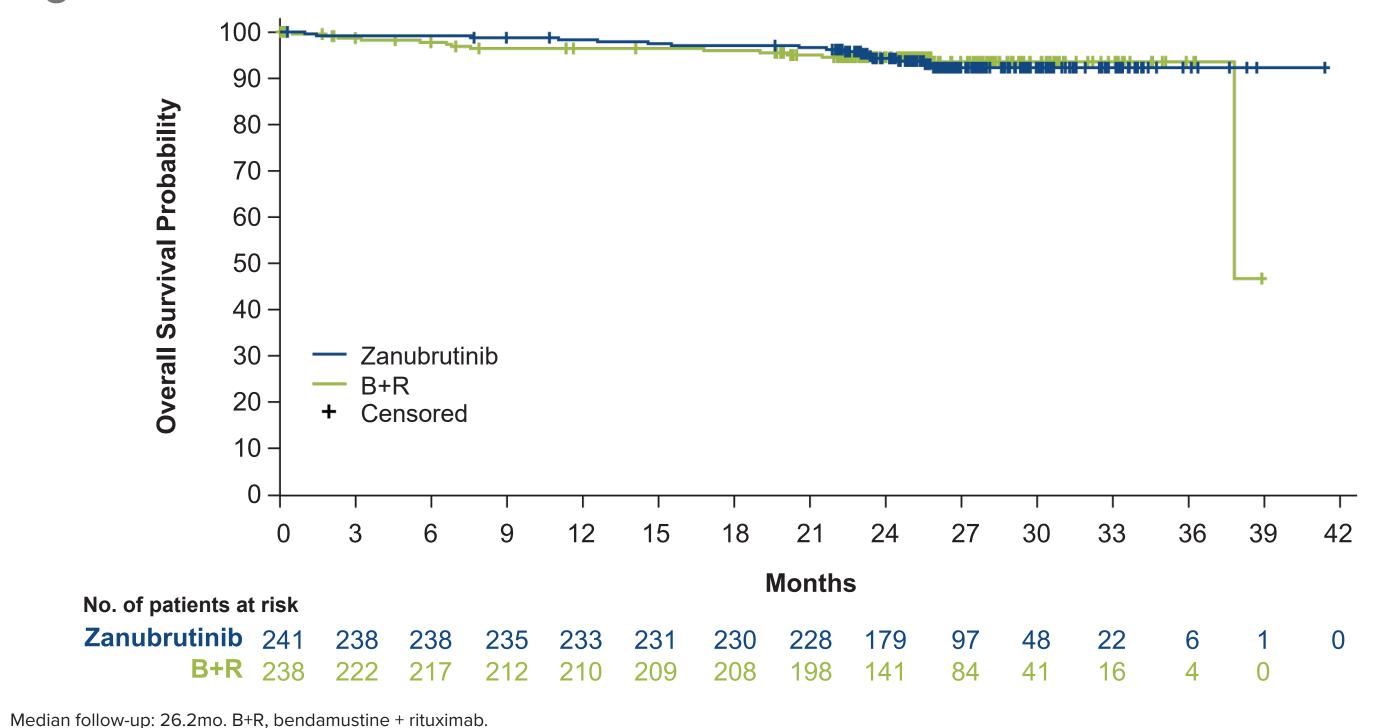
Figure 1C. PFS by IGHV Status

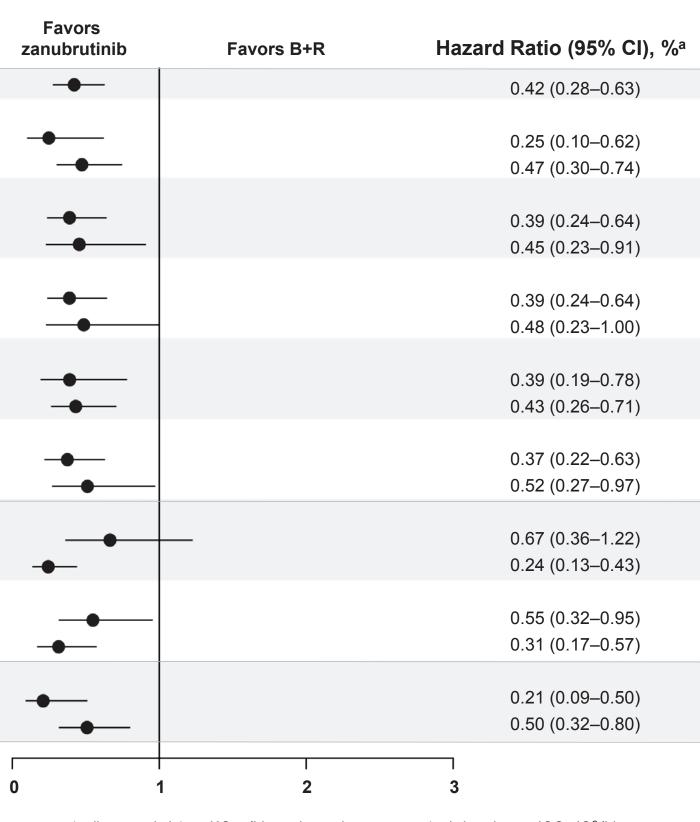


• For zanubrutinib vs B+R:

- ORR by investigator assessment was 97.5% vs 88.7%
- Estimated 24-month OS was 94.3% vs 94.6% (Figure 2)

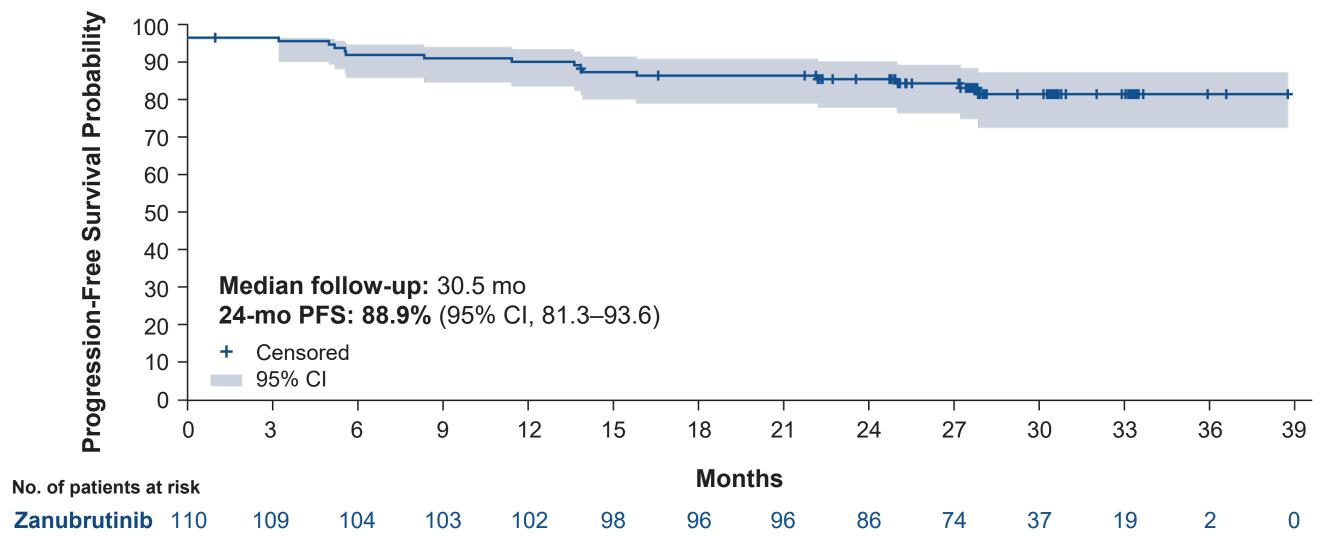
Figure 2. Overall Survival





– ORR by IRC was 94.6% vs 85.3% and complete response rate was 6.6% vs 15.1%

Figure 3. Cohort 2: PFS in Patients with del(17p)



del(17p), chromosome 17p deletion; PFS, progression-free survival.

- The proportion of patients that experienced any AE was similar in the zanubrutinib (93.3%) and B+R (96.0%) arms (**Table 2**); grade 3 AEs occurred in a higher percentage of patients in the B+R arm (79.7%) vs the zanubrutinib arm (52.5%)
- For zanubrutinib vs B+R arms, treatment discontinuation due to AEs occurred in 8.3% vs 13.7%, respectively; AEs leading to death occurred in 4.6% vs 4.8%, respectively
- AEs of special interest were observed at the following frequencies in the zanubrutinib vs B+R arms, respectively (Table 4):
- Atrial fibrillation (any grade): 3.3% vs 2.6%
- Bleeding (any grade) 45.0% vs 11.0%; bleeding (grade ≥3): 3.8% vs 1.8%
- Hypertension (any grade): 14.2% vs 10.6%
- Infections (any grade): 62.1% vs 55.9%; infections (grade ≥3): 16.3% vs 18.9%
- Neutropenia (any grade): 15.8% vs 56.8%; neutropenia (grade ≥3): 11.7% vs 51.1%

Table 2. Adverse Event Summary

Event, n (%)	Zanubrutinib (n=240ª)	B+R (n=227ª)
Any AE	224 (93.3)	218 (96.0)
Grade ≥3 AE	126 (52.5)	181 (79.7)
Serious AE	88 (36.7)	113 (49.8)
Fatal AE	11 (4.6)	11 (4.8)
AE leading to dose reduction	18 (7.5)	84 (37.4)
AE leading to dose interruption/delay	111 (46.3)	154 (67.8)
AE leading to discontinuation	20 (8.3)	31 (13.7)

Table 3. Common Adverse Events (≥12% of Patients in Any Arm)

	Zanub (n=2		B+ (n=2		This study was sponsored by BeiGene. Editorial support was provided by Medical Expressions and was funded by BeiGene DISCLOSURES Michaelmann consultant for AbbVia, Generatesh, Astro Zenerat, Savad Biologica, Discrete BaiGene, Device Marganese, Savad Biologica, Discrete BaiGene, Device Baided Ba
AE, n (%)	Any Grade	Grade ≥3	Any Grade	Grade ≥3	MShadman: consultant for AbbVie, Genentech, AstraZeneca, Sound Biologics, Pharmacyclics, BeiGene, Bristol Myers Squibb, Morphosys, TG Therapeutics, Innate Pharma. KG: consultant for AbbVie, Amgen, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Janssen, Sanofi-Genzyme, Novartis, Takeda, Roche, Karyopharm, GSK, Sandoz; research funding from AbbVie, Amgen, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Janssen, Sanofi-Genzyme, Novartis, Takeda, Roche, Gilead, TG Therapeutics; honoraria from AbbVie, Amgen, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Janssen, Sanofi-Genzyme, Novartis, Takeda, Roche, Gilead, TG Therapeutics; honoraria from AbbVie, Amgen, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Janssen, Sanofi-Genzyme, Novartis, Takeda, Roche, Karyopharm, GSK, Gilead, Sandoz, Pfizer, Tev
Contusion	46 (19.2)	0 (0.0)	8 (3.5)	0 (0.0)	directors or of the advisory committee for Polish Myeloma Consortium, Next Generation Hematology Association. WJ: research funding from AbbVie, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Celgene, Debbiopharm, Epizyme, Incyte, Janssen, Merck, Roche, Takeda, TG Therapeutics. MŠimkovič: consultant for AbbVie, AstraZeneca, Janssen-Cilag; shareholder for AbbVie, Merck, Eli Lilly, J&J honoraria from AbbVie, Janssen-Cilag; member of the board of directors or of the advisory com
Jpper respiratory tract infection	41 (17.1)	2 (0.8)	27 (11.9)	2 (0.9)	travel fees from Gilead, Janssen-Cilag, AbbVie. AÖ: research funding from BeiGene, Gilead.
leutropenia ^b	37 (15.4)	27 (11.3)	129 (56.8)	116 (51.1)	LL: research funding from Roche, AbbVie; honoraria from AbbVie, Roche, BeiGene, Janssen, AstraZeneca. PW: consultant for BeiGene, Acerta. C: consultant for BeiGene, Acerta.
Diarrhea	33 (13.8)	0 (0.0)	30 (13.2)	4 (1.8)	SO: consultant for AbbVie, AstraZeneca, Janssen, Roche; research funding from AbbVie, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Gilead, Janssen, Pharmacyclics, Roche, Sandoz, Takeda; honoraria from AbbVie, AstraZeneca Gilead. Janssen, Merck, Roche, Takeda. HChan: speaker's bureau for Janssen, Roche; member of the board of directors or of the advisory committee for Janssen, AbbVie, Eusa, GSK; travel fees from Amgen, Celgene.
Arthralgia	32 (13.3)	2 (0.8)	20 (8.8)	1 (0.4)	RG: consultant for Celgene, Novartis, Roche, BMS, Takeda, AbbVie, AstraZeneca, Janssen, MSD Merck, Gilead, Daiichi Sankyo, Sanofi; research funding for Celgene, Roche, Merck, Takeda, AstraZeneca Nov Sandoz, AbbVie Gilead, Daiichi Sankyo; honoraria for Celgene, Roche, Merck, Takeda, AstraZeneca Novartis, Amgen, BMS, MSD, Sandoz, AbbVie, Gilead, Daiichi Sankyo, Sanofi; member of the board of dire committee for Celgene, Novartis, Roche, BMS, Takeda, AbbVie, AstraZeneca, Janssen, MSD Merck, Gilead, Daiichi Sankyo, Sanofi; travel fees from Roche, Amgen, Janssen, AstraZeneca, Novartis, MSD, Celg Daiichi Sankyo.
atigue	28 (11.7)	3 (1.3)	36 (15.9)	2 (0.9)	MTrněný: consultant for Janssen, Gilead Sciences, Takeda, Bristol Myers Squibb, Amgen, AbbVie, Roche, MorphoSys, Incyte, Novartis; honoraria from Janssen, Gilead Sciences, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Amger MorphoSys, Incyte, Portolla, Takeda, Novartis; member of the board of directors or of the advisory committee for Janssen, Takeda, Roche, Bristol Myers Squibb, AbbVie, Portolla, MorphoSys, Incyte, Novartis
ash	26 (10.8)	0 (0.0)	44 (19.4)	6 (2.6)	Takeda, Bristol Myers Squibb, Roche, Janssen, AbbVie. DMB: consultant for AbbVie, Genentech, Pharmacyclics, Pfizer, TG Therapeutics, Verastem; research funding from AbbVie, ArQule, Ascentage, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, DTRM, Genetech, Juno/Celgene/BMS, Pharmacyclics, TG Therapeutics; panel member for NCCN.
onstipation	24 (10.0)	1 (0.4)	43 (18.9)	0 (0.0)	IWF: consultant for AbbVie, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Century Therapeutics, Genentech, Gilead Sciences, Great Point Partners, Hutchison MediPharma, Iksuda Therapeutics, Janssen, Juno Therapeutics, Kite Nurix Therapeutics, Pharmacyclics, Roche, Seattle Genetics, Servier Pharmaceuticals, Takeda, TG Therapeutics, Unum Therapeutics, Verastem, Vincerx Pharma, Yingli Pharmaceuticals; all payments made to
lausea	24 (10.0)	0 (0.0)	74 (32.6)	3 (1.3)	Institute; research funding from AbbVie, Acerta Pharma, Agios, ArQule, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Calithera Biosciences, Celgene, Constellation Pharmaceuticals, Curis, Forma Therapeutics, Forty Seven, Gene Biosciences, Incyte, Infinity Pharmaceuticals, Janssen, Juno Therapeutics, Karyopharm Therapeutics, Kite Pharma, Loxo, Merck, MorphoSys, Novartis, Pfizer, Pharmacyclics, Portola Pharmaceuticals, Rhizen F Genetics, Takeda, Teva, TG Therapeutics, Trillium Therapeutics, Triphase Research & Development Corp., Unum Therapeutics, Verastem; all payments made to Sarah Cannon Research Institute.
yrexia	17 (7.1)	0 (0.0)	60 (26.4)	8 (3.5)	EV: research funding from Janssen Cilag Pty Ltd. JRB: consultant for AbbVie, Acerta/AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Bristol Myers Squibb/Juno/Celgene, Catapult, Eli Lilly, Genentech/Roche, Janssen, MEI Pharma, Morphosys AG, Nextcea, Novartis, Pfizer, Rigel; res Loxo/Lilly, SecuraBio, Sun, TG Therapeutics.
/omiting	17 (7.1)	0 (0.0)	33 (14.5)	3 (1.3)	BSK: consultant for Genentech, ADCT, AbbVie, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Pharmacyclics, BMS, TG Therapeutics, Teva, Janssen, MEI; research funding from Genentech, ADCT, AbbVie, Acerta, AstraZeneca, BeiGene.
nemia	11 (4.6)	1 (0.4)	43 (18.9)	4 (1.8)	PG: consultant for AbbVie, AstraZeneca, ArQule/MDS, BeiGene, Celgene/Juno/BMS, Janssen, Roche; research funding from AbbVie, AstraZeneca, Janssen, Gilead, Sunesis; honoraria from AbbVie, AstraZeneca, ArQule/MDS, BeiGene, Celgene/Juno/BMS, Janssen, Roche.
'hrombocytopenia	9 (3.8)	4 (1.7)	31 (13.7)	16 (7.0)	TT, LZ, CM, JCP, AC: employees and shareholders of BeiGene (Beijing) Co., Ltd., Beijing, China and BeiGene USA, Inc. TR: research funding from AstraZeneca, AbbVie, Janssen, Octapharma, Gilead, Pharmacyclics, Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, Biogen. PH: Research funding from Janssen, AbbVie, Pharmacyclics, Roche, Gilead; honoraria from Janssen, AbbVie,
Infusion-related reaction ^c	1 (0.4)	0 (0.0)	43 (18.9)	6 (2.6)	Pharmacyclics, AstraZeneca, SOBI, BeiGene. CST: research funding from Janssen and AbbVie; honoraria from Janssen, AbbVie, BeiGene, Roche, Novartis.
Safety was assessed in patients who received ≥1 dose of treatment eutrophil count decreased. ©Due to amphotericin B infusion. AE, a	t; 1 patient in the zanubrutinib arm	and 11 patients in the B-			HCiepluch, MTani, SG, JL: no conflicts of interest. Copies of this poster and the plain language summary obtained through Quick Response (QR) Code are for personal use only and may not be reproduced without permission from the authors of this poster.

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Table 4. Adverse Events of Interest

	Zanubı (n=2		B+R (n=227ª)		
AE, n (%)	Any Grade	Grade ≥3	Any Grade	Grade ≥3	
Anemia	11 (4.6)	1 (0.4)	44 (19.4)	4 (1.8)	
Neutropenia ^b	38 (15.8)	28 (11.7)	129 (56.8)	116 (51.1)	
Thrombocytopenia ^c	11 (4.6)	5 (2.1)	40 (17.6)	18 (7.9)	
Arthralgia	32 (13.3)	2 (0.8)	20 (8.8)	1 (0.4)	
Atrial fibrillation	8 (3.3)	1 (0.4)	6 (2.6)	3 (1.3)	
Bleeding ^d	108 (45.0)	9 (3.8)	25 (11.0)	4 (1.8)	
Major bleeding ^e	12 (5.0)	9 (3.8)	4 (1.8)	4 (1.8)	
Diarrhea	33 (13.8)	2 (0.8)	31 (13.7)	5 (2.2)	
Hypertension ^f	34 (14.2)	15 (6.3)	24 (10.6)	11 (4.8)	
Infections ⁹	149 (62.1)	39 (16.3)	127 (55.9)	43 (18.9)	
Myalgia	9 (3.8)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.3)	0 (0.0)	
Other cancers	31 (12.9)	17 (7.1)	20 (8.8)	7 (3.1)	
Dermatologic other cancers	16 (6.7)	2 (0.8)	10 (4.4)	2 (0.9)	

neutrophil count decreased, or febrile neutropenia, "Thrombocytopenia or platelet count decreased, "Pooled term of all-cause bleeding including bruising, petechiae, purpura and contusion. ^eMajor bleeding included all grade ≥3, serious, and any-grade central nervous system hemorrhage. ^fHypertension, blood pressure increased, or hypertensive crisis. ^gAll infection terms pooled. AE, adverse event; B+R, bendamustine + rituximab.

CONCLUSIONS

- In this global registrational trial, zanubrutinib demonstrated statistically significant improvement in PFS compared with B+R as assessed by IRC
- Superiority was also observed in PFS by investigator assessment and in ORR by both IRC and investigator assessments
- Zanubrutinib was generally well tolerated, with low rates of atrial fibrillation

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• These data support the potential utility of zanubrutinib in the frontline management of patients with previously untreated CLL/SLL

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