

New Chemotherapy and Antimicrobial Prophylaxis in Acute Myeloid Leukemia: Practical Tips

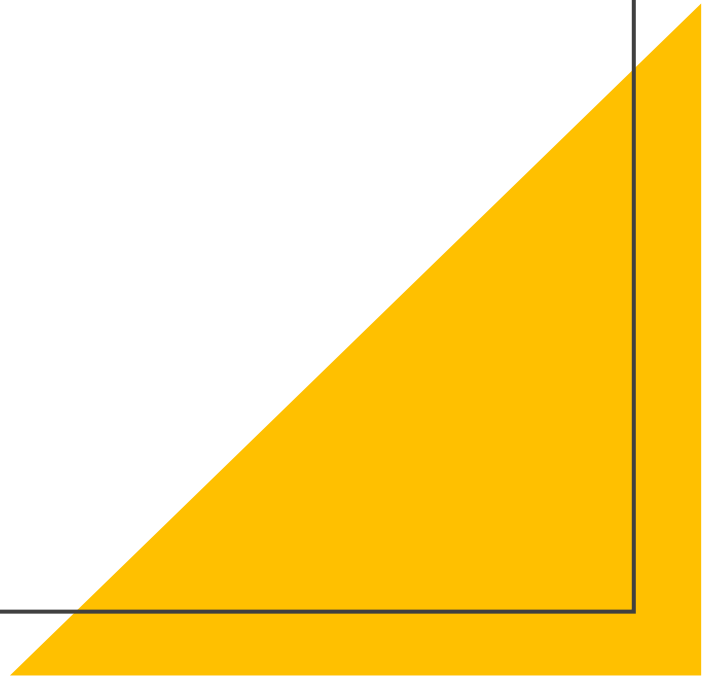
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Disclosures

No relevant financial disclosures



Objectives

Discuss	Discuss therapies for Acute Myeloid Leukemia and their potential interactions with antimicrobial prophylaxis medications.
Describe	Describe pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic interactions of medications.
Review	Review recommendations for dose adjustments and monitoring plans if a drug interaction is present.

Background – NCCN Infection Prevention

Overall Infection Risk

<p>High^b</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allogeneic HCT including cord blood • Acute leukemia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Induction ▸ Consolidation/maintenance^c • Alemtuzumab therapy • Moderate to severe GVHD • Anticipated neutropenia greater than 10 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacterial - Consider fluoroquinolone prophylaxis during neutropenia^e • Fungal - Consider prophylaxis during neutropenia (INF-2); consider PJP prophylaxis (INF-6) • Viral - During neutropenia and longer depending on risk (INF-3, INF-4, INF-5)
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NCCN Acute Myeloid Leukemia Infection Prevention

Bacterial: Fluoroquinolone (TMP/SMX, cephalosporins)

- During neutropenia

Fungal: Posaconazole (voriconazole, isavuconazole, amphotericin, echinocandins, fluconazole)

- During neutropenia

Viral: Acyclovir (valacyclovir, famciclovir)

- During neutropenia and longer

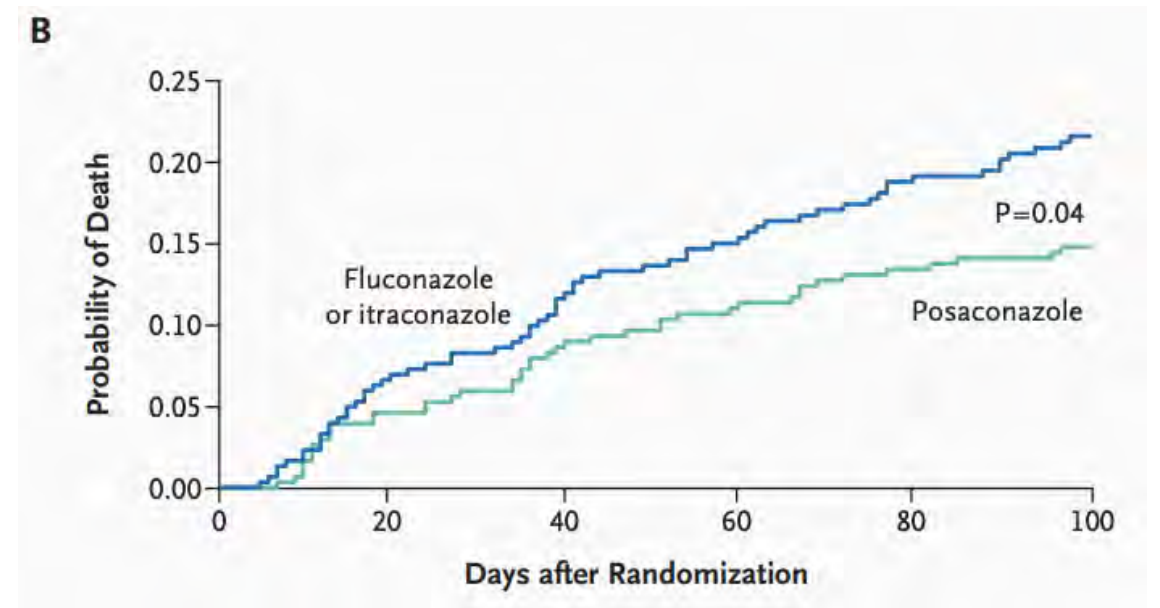
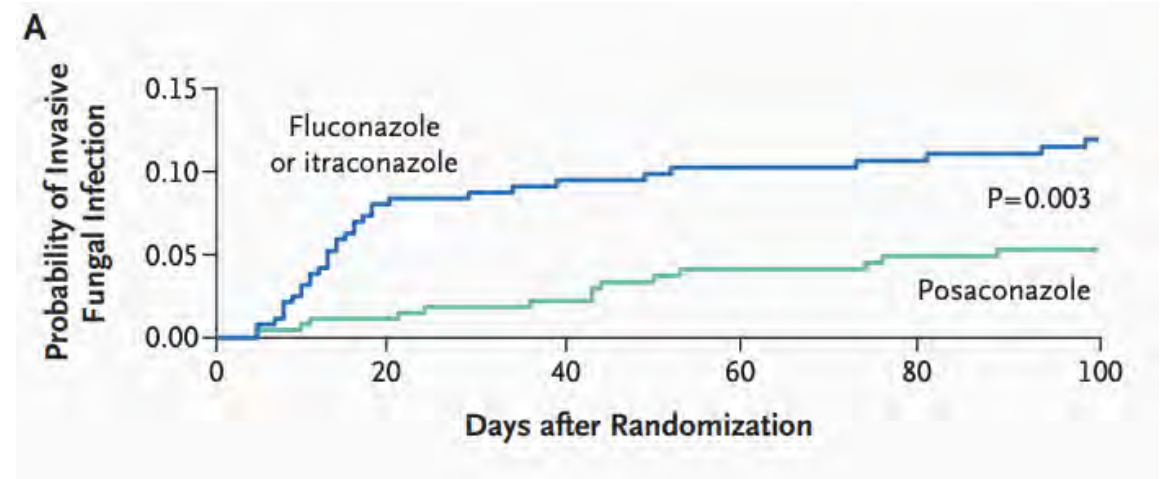
AML Infection Prevention

NCCN Guidelines


Category 1: Posaconazole

Category 2B:

Voriconazole, isavuconazole, echinocandins, amphotericin B, fluconazole



Triazole Antifungals for AML Prophylaxis

	Fluconazole	Itraconazole	Voriconazole	Isavuconazole	Posaconazole
NCCN Recommendation as AML fungal prophylaxis	Category 2B (if mold activity is not needed)	No comment	Category 2B	Category 2B	Category 1
Least coverage  Most coverage					
Coverage	Yeast: Candida spp. (most) C. Neoformans Dimorphic: coccidioidomycosis	Plus: Molds: Aspergillus spp. Fusarium Dimorphic: Blastomyces Histoplasma	Plus: Yeast: Additional Candida spp. Molds: Aspergillus spp. (less resistance)	Plus: Molds: Mucor	Similar coverage to isavuconazole

Trizole Antifungals for AML Prophylaxis

	Fluconazole	Itraconazole	Voriconazole	Isavuconazole	Posaconazole
NCCN Recommendation	Category 2B (if mold activity is not needed)	No comment	Category 2B	Category 2B	Category 1
Administration	Oral and IV	Oral	Oral and IV	Oral and IV	Oral and IV
Enzyme Interaction	Moderate CYP3A4 and 2C9 Inhibitor Strong CYP2C19 Inhibitor	Strong CYP3A4 Inhibitor	Strong CYP3A4 Inhibitor Moderate CYP2C19 Inhibitor	Moderate CYP3A4 Inhibitor	Strong CYP3A4 Inhibitor P-gp Inhibitor
Class Side Effects	Liver enzyme elevations, GI disturbances, QTc prolongation				
Additional Considerations	Renal dose adjustments	Contraindicated in systolic heart failure	Hallucinations, visual disturbances, TDM recommended	May shorten QTc interval	Tablet and solution dosing is different, TDM recommended

****Cost/Insurance Coverage**

Interaction Types – PK/PD

Pharmacokinetic Interactions

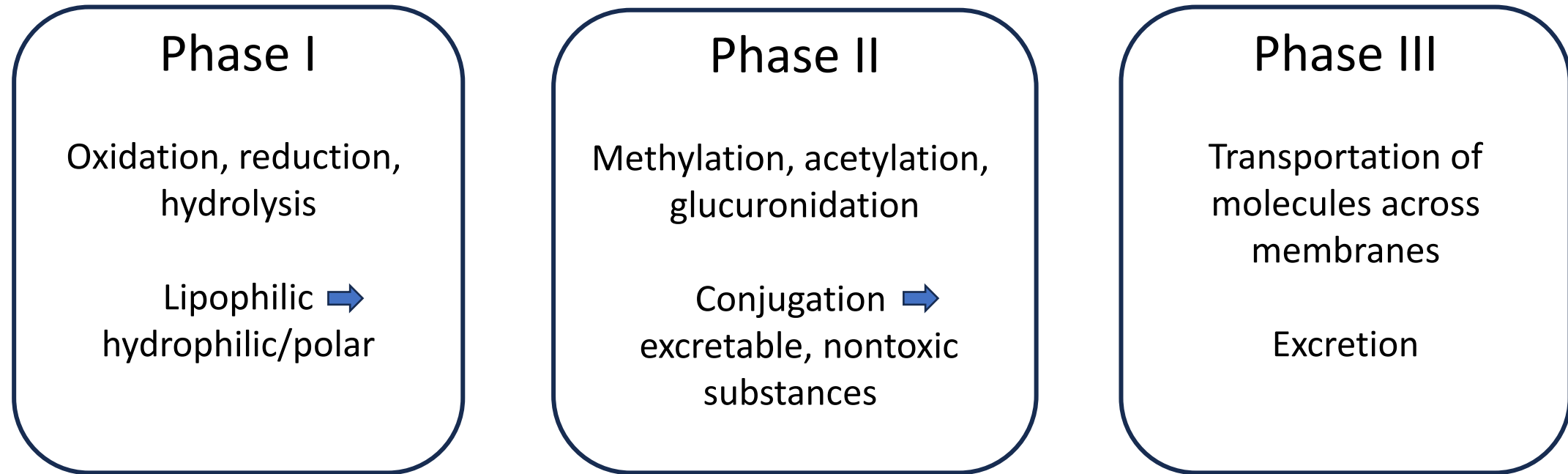
What the body does to the drug

Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism,
and Excretion

Pharmacodynamic Interactions

What the drug does to the body

Pharmacokinetics - Metabolism



Cytochrome P450 Family

- CYP3A4 – oxidizes over half of common medications
 - Inhibited by triazole antifungals

Interaction Types – PK/PD

Pharmacokinetic Interactions

What the body does to the drug

Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism,
and Excretion

Pharmacodynamic Interactions

What the drug does to the body

Anti-infective PD Interactions:

- QTc prolongation
- Hepatotoxicity
- GI disturbances

AML Targeted Therapies

BCL2:

- Venetoclax

FLT-3:

- Midostaurin
- Quizartinib
- Gilteritinib
- Sorafenib

IDH1/2:

- Ivosidenib
- Enasidenib

CD33:

- Gemtuzumab

Hedgehog Pathway:

- Glasdegib

NCCN Preferred AML Therapies

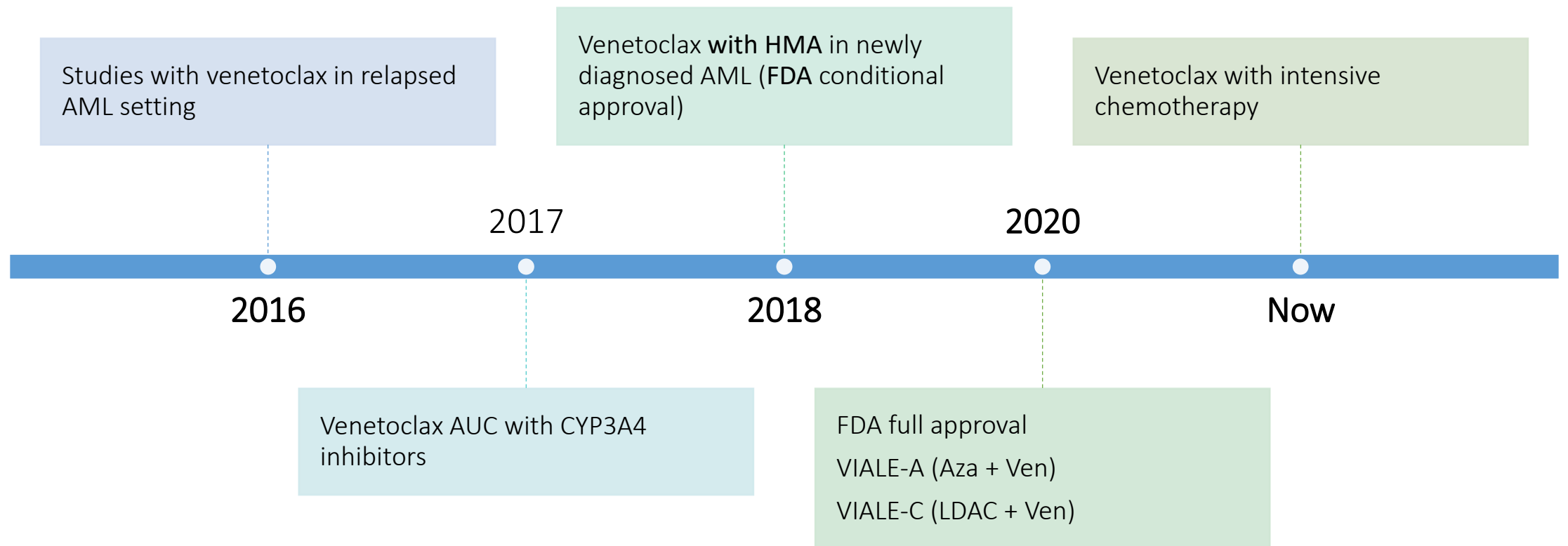
"Intensive Induction Eligible"

- **Favorable Risk:** 7+3 + GO
- **FLT3 Mutation:** 7+3 + Midostaurin or 7+3 + Quizartinib
- **Intermediate Risk/Poor Risk:** 7+3
- **TR-AML:** 7+3 or liposomal daunorubicin and cytarabine (>60 y.o.)

"Intensive Induction Ineligible"

- **No Actionable Mutation:** Azacitadine + venetoclax
- **FLT3 Mutation:** Azacitadine + venetoclax
- **IDH1 or IDH2 Mutation:** Azacitadine + venetoclax or Azacitadine + ivosidenib

Venetoclax in AML



Venetoclax in AML

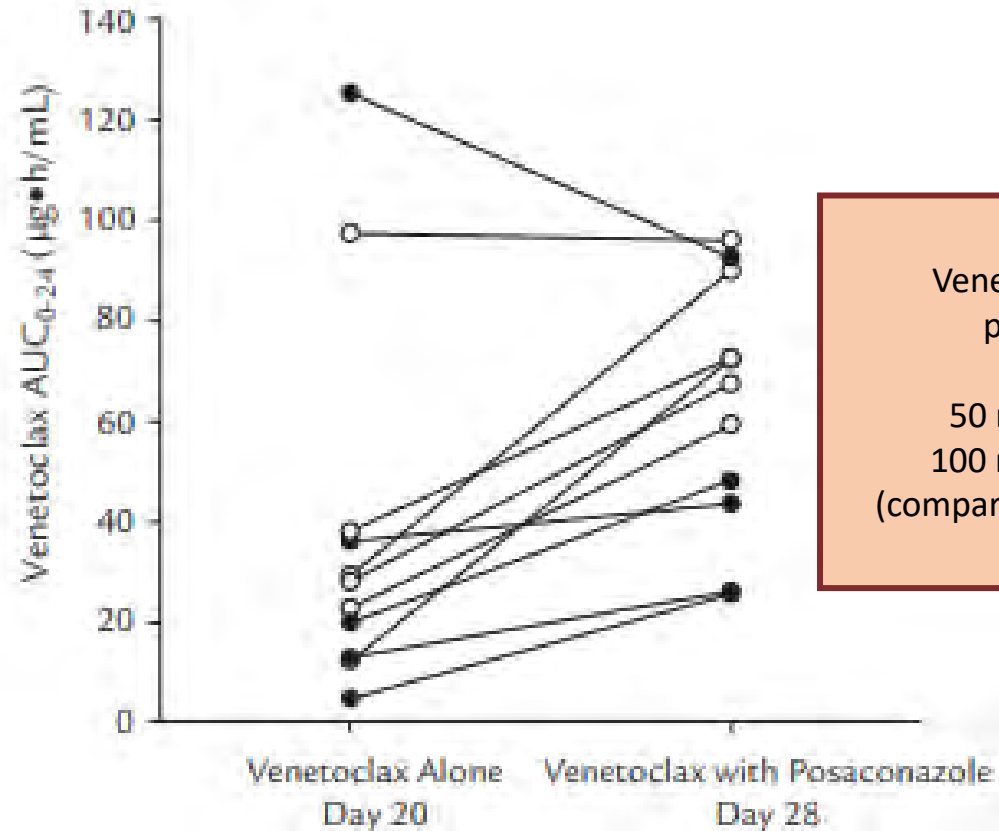
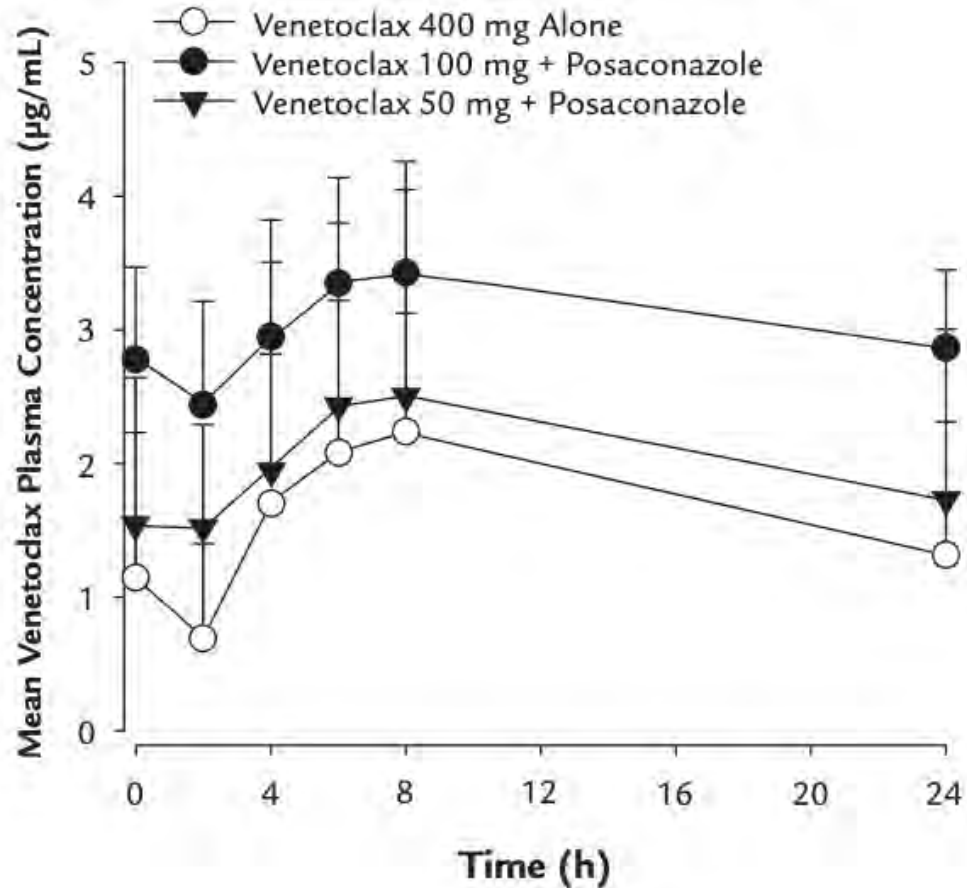
	Konopleva 2016 – Phase II	DiNardo 2019 – Phase Ib
Treatment population	Relapsed/Refractory	Newly diagnosed, >65 y.o. • with azacitidine or decitabine
Goal dose	800 mg daily	400 mg, 800 mg, 1200 mg
Febrile neutropenia	31%	35% - 50%
Infections	Total: 47% UTI: 16%, PNA: 25%, Sepsis 6%	Total: 74% Grade 3/4 Fungal: 8%, PNA 18%, Sepsis 10%
Dose interruptions	25%	47%
Venetoclax dose reductions	NA	CYP3A4 inhibitors/inducers prohibited
Antifungal use in venetoclax group	Not reported	Echinocandins (46%)

Venetoclax AUC

Agarwal, 2017

Venetoclax + decitabine: blood samples on days 20 and 28

- Days 1-5: ven ramp-up
- Days 6-20: ven 400 mg
- Days 21-28: ven 100 mg (n = 6) or ven 50 mg (n = 5) with posaconazole 300 mg



Venetoclax AUC with posaconazole

50 mg: 76% higher
100 mg: 155% higher
(compared to 400 mg alone)

Venetoclax Confirmatory Trials

	DiNardo 2020 – Phase III (VIALE-A) N=427	Wei 2020 – Phase III (VIALE-C) N=210
Goal dose	400 mg	600 mg
Concomitant AML treatment	Azacitidine	Low-dose cytarabine
Venetoclax dose reductions	CYP3A4 inhibitors: 200 mg (moderate), 50 mg (strong)	CYP3A4 inhibitors: 300 mg (moderate), 50 mg (strong)
Concomitant antifungals	Ampho B (5%), echinocandin (15%), fluconazole (15%), posaconazole (15%), voriconazole (6%)	Specifics not reported

Venetoclax Adverse Events

	Konopleva 2016 Phase II N=32	DiNardo 2019 Phase Ib N=145	DiNardo 2020 Phase III (VIALE-A) N=427	Wei 2020 Phase III (VIALE-C) N=201
Goal Dose	800 mg daily	400 mg, 800 mg, 1200 mg	400 mg	600 mg
Venetoclax Dose Reductions	NA	CYP3A4 inhibitors/inducers prohibited	CYP3A4 inhibitors: 200 mg (moderate), 50 mg (strong)	CYP3A4 inhibitors: 300 mg (moderate), 50 mg (strong)
Grade 3/4 Neutropenia	NA	NA	Control: 28% Venetoclax: 42%	Control: 16% Venetoclax: 46%
Febrile Neutropenia	31%	400 mg: 50% 800 mg: 35%	Control: 19% Venetoclax: 42%	Control: 29% Venetoclax: 32%
Infections	Total: 47% UTI: 16%, PNA: 25%, Sepsis 6%	Total: 74% Grade 3/4 Fungal: 8%, PNA: 18%, Sepsis: 10%	Control: 67% Venetoclax: 84%	Control: 22% Venetoclax: 26% (only listed serious AEs: PNA, Sepsis)
Dose Interruptions	25%	47%	Control: 57% Venetoclax: 72%	Control: 53% Venetoclax: 63%

Full FDA Approval – Venetoclax for AML

VIALE-A

Venetoclax dosing:

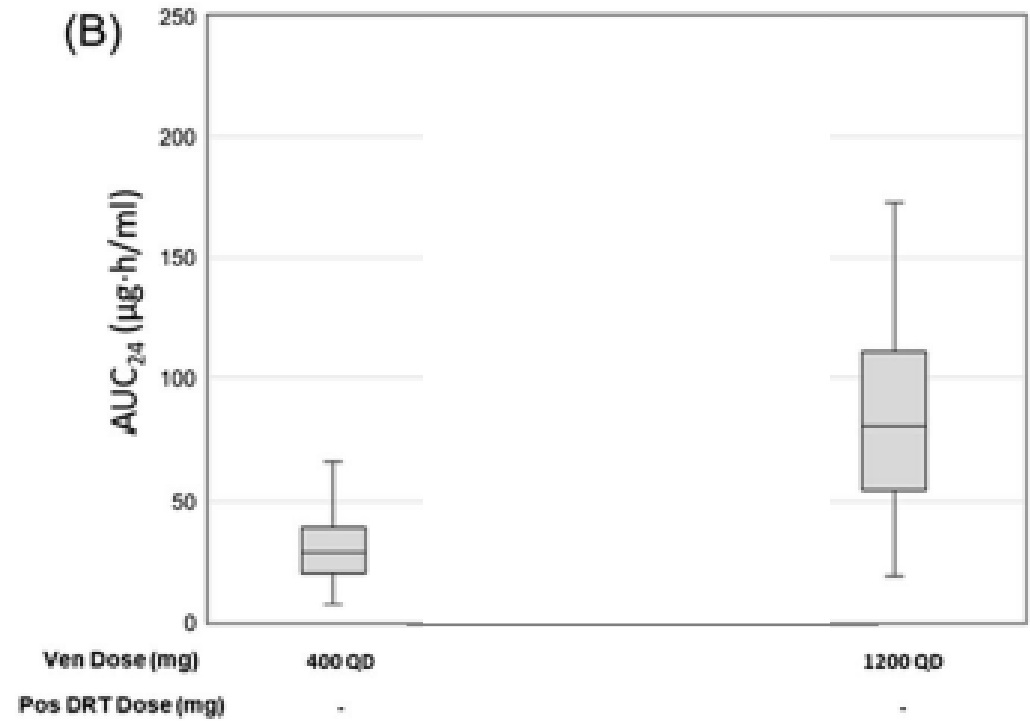
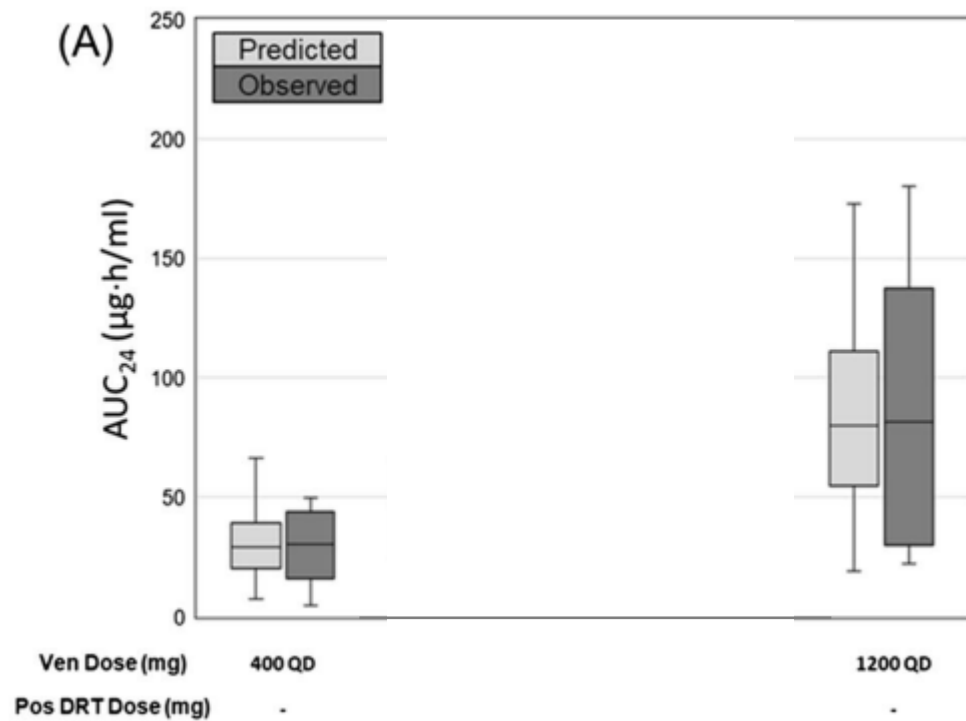
- No inhibitors: 400 mg
- Moderate CYP3A4 inhibitors: 200 mg
- Strong CYP3A4 inhibitors: 50 mg

VIALE-C

Venetoclax dosing:

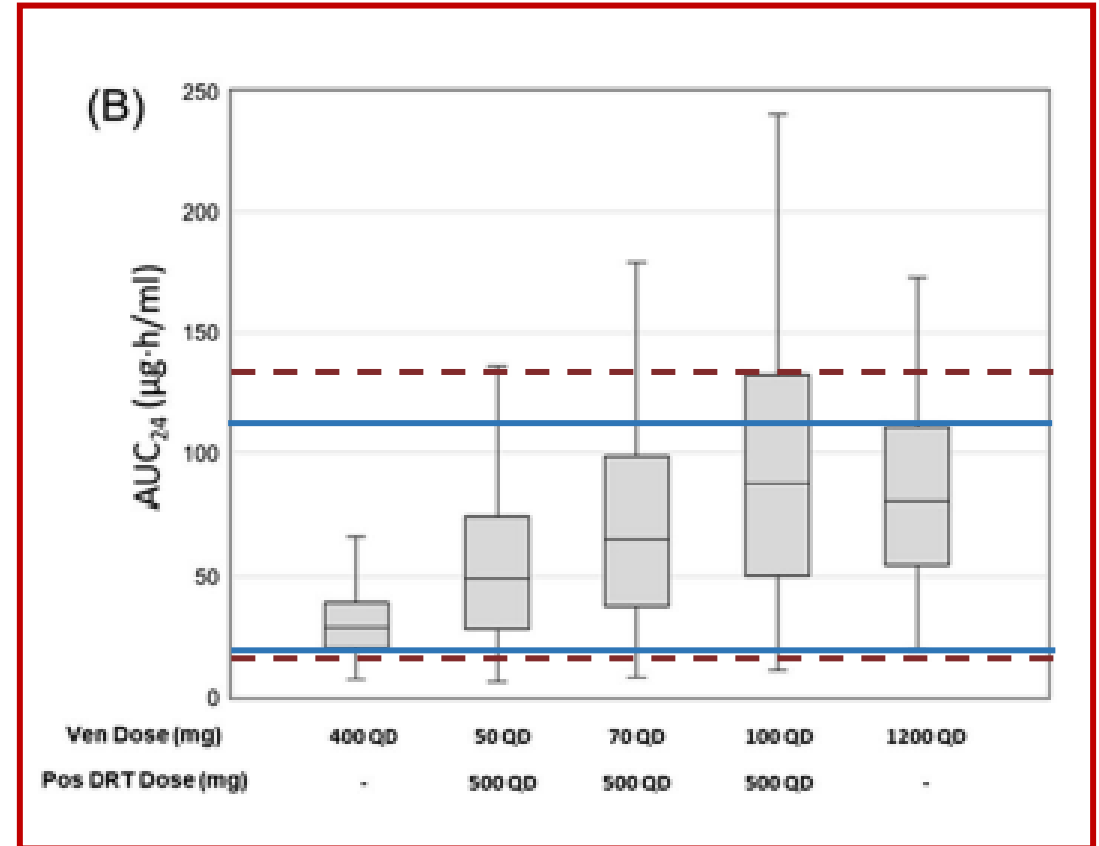
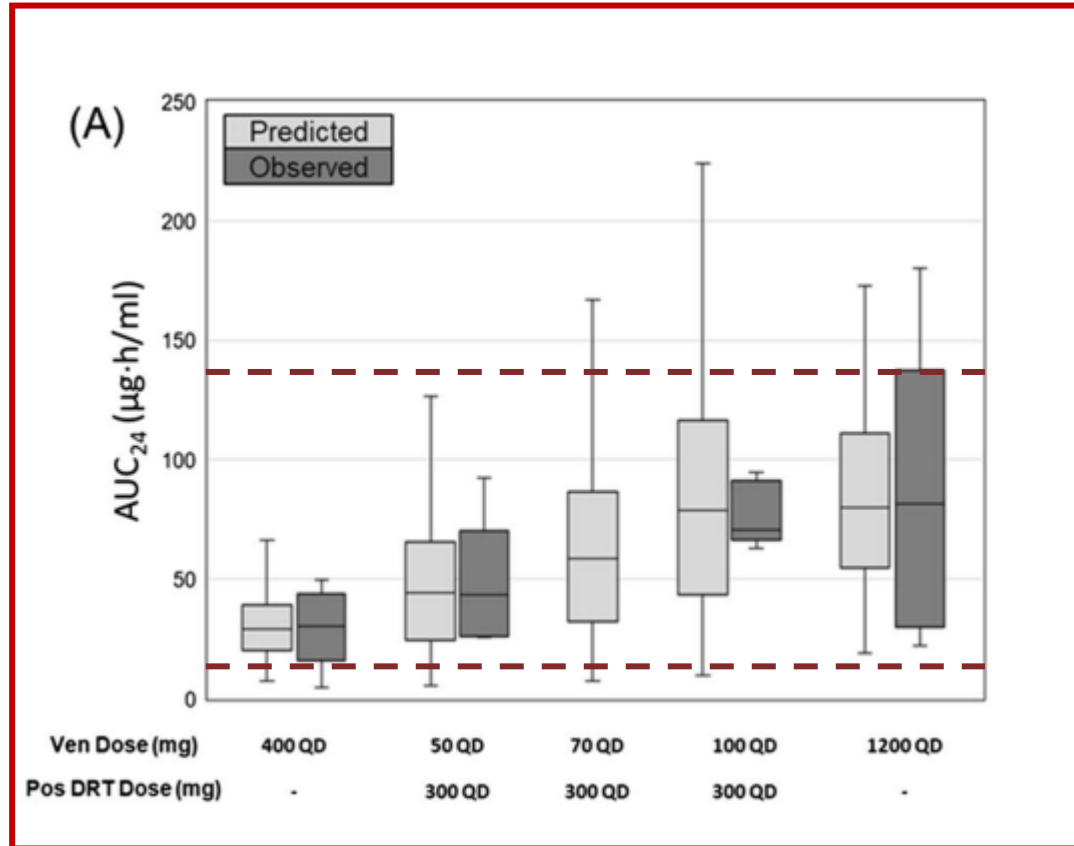
- No inhibitors: 600 mg
- Moderate CYP3A4 inhibitors: 300 mg
- Strong CYP3A4 inhibitors: 50 mg

Venetoclax AUC



- Venetoclax 400 mg dose alone = minimum efficacy
- Venetoclax 1200 mg dose alone = maximum tolerated dose

Venetoclax AUC



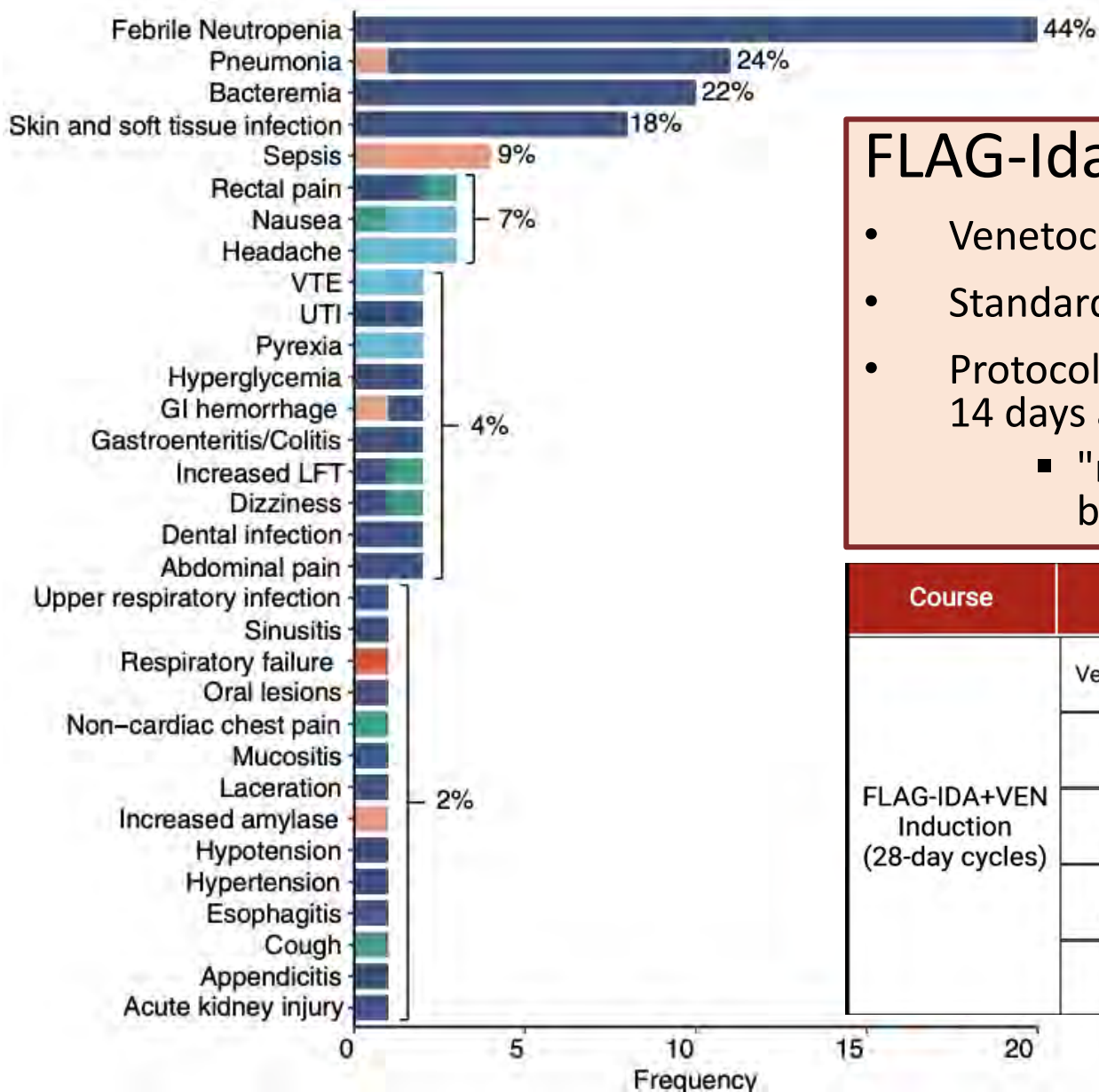
- Venetoclax 400 mg dose alone = minimum efficacy
- Venetoclax 1200 mg dose alone = maximum tolerated dose
- Model B concludes that 70 mg is likely a safe dose at posaconazole doses up to 500 mg

Package Insert Recommendations – Venetoclax in AML

	No CYP3A4 Inhibitor	Moderate CYP3A4 Inhibitor	Strong CYP3A4 Inhibitor or P-gp Inhibitor	Posaconazole
Venetoclax ramp-up dose	Day 1: 100 mg Day 2: 200 mg Day 3: 400 mg Day 4: 400 mg Or 600 mg	Reduce dose by at least 50%	Day 1: 10 mg Day 2: 20 mg Day 3: 50 mg Day 4: 100 mg	Day 1: 10 mg Day 2: 20 mg Day 3: 50 mg Day 4: 70 mg
Venetoclax maintenance dose	HMA: 400 mg LDAC: 600 mg	HMA: 200 mg LDAC: 300 mg	100 mg daily	70 mg daily

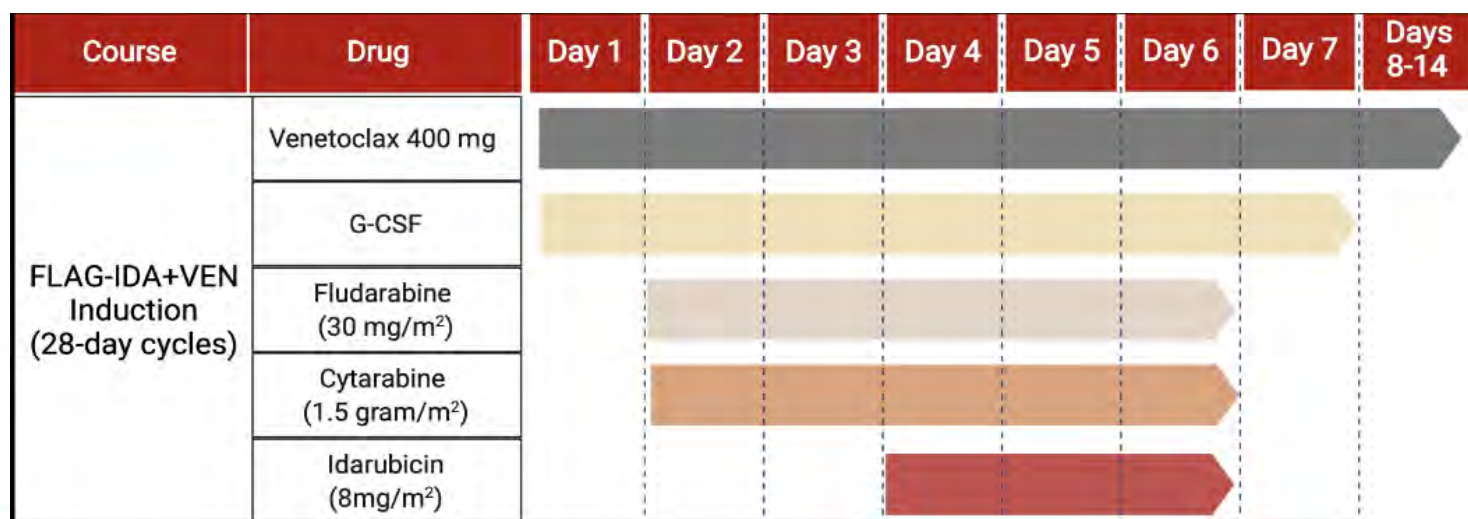
Indication in AML: In combination with azacitidine, or decitabine, or low-dose cytarabine for the treatment of newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in adults 75 years or older, or who have comorbidities that preclude use of intensive induction chemotherapy

Venetoclax and Intensive Chemotherapy



FLAG-Ida + venetoclax

- Venetoclax dose adjustments per package insert
- Standard prophylaxis when neutropenic
- Protocol amendment to decrease venetoclax duration from 21 to 14 days and cytarabine dose from 2 g/m² to 1.5 g/m²
 - "neutropenia and neutropenia-related infections including bacteremia/sepsis in 5/6 patients during cycle 1"



Duration of Cytopenia

Adverse Reaction	Occurrence	Dose Modification
Grade 4 neutropenia or thrombocytopenia	Prior to remission	No dose interruption prior to remission
	First occurrence after achieving remission + lasting ≥ 7 days	Delay subsequent cycles. Restart venetoclax at same dose/duration when resolved to Grade 1 or 2
	Subsequent occurrences after achieving remission + lasting ≥ 7 days	Delay subsequent cycles. Restart venetoclax at same dose and decrease duration by 7 days next cycle when resolved to Grade 1 or 2

NCCN Guideline Tips

- Treatment breaks if in remission - ie extend cycles from 28 to 42 days
- Delay in count recovery - reduce venetoclax duration and/or HMA dose
- "Refer to package insert and consult a pharmacist for potential drug interactions"

Did the patient have any concurrent medication changes? Was venetoclax's dose adjusted, if needed?

Venetoclax Dosing Considerations



Venetoclax tablet
strengths: 10 mg, 50 mg,
100 mg



Administration errors with
different strengths at home



Insurance coverage of
tablet strength



Bone marrow reserve and
duration of neutropenia



Need to assess venetoclax
dose when changing other
medications

1. Review patient's concomitant medications

- Dosing in trials is inconsistent pending concurrent medication exclusions, trial start date, etc
 - Consult PI for dose recommendations
 - Consider patient's comorbidity and social situation

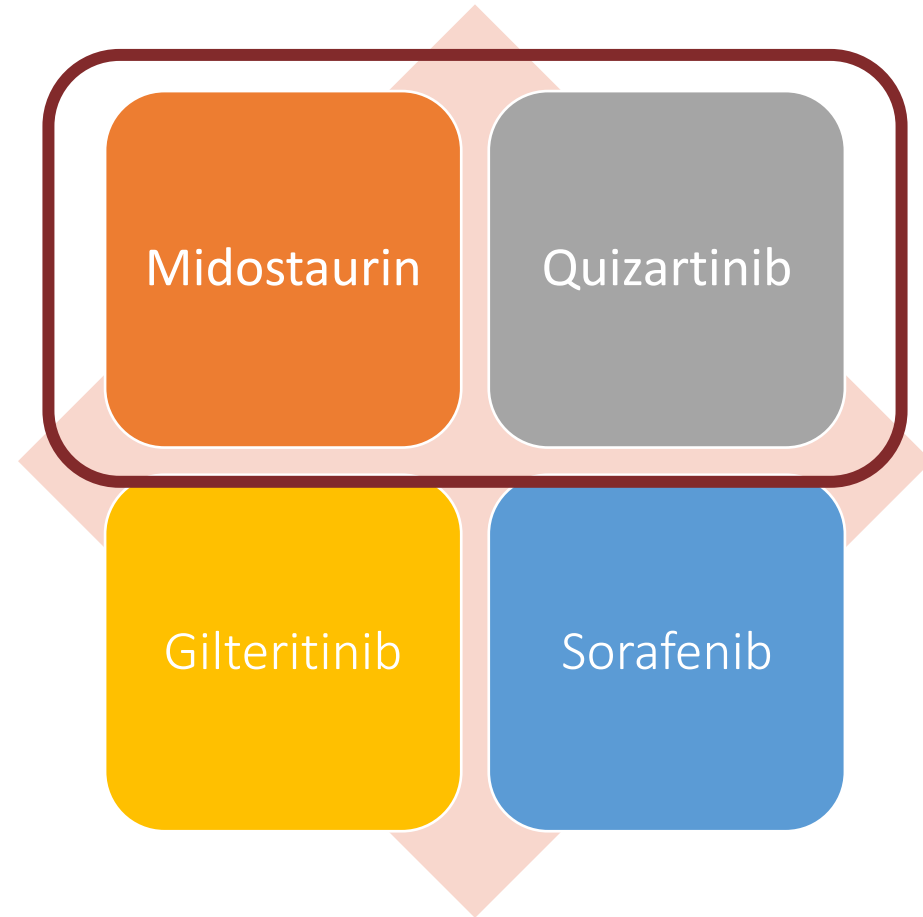
2. Venetoclax dose and/or duration may lead to prolonged neutropenia

- Patients should be taking antifungal, antibiotic, and antiviral prophylaxis
- Aggressive treatment vs. already in remission

3. Setting up patients for success

- If concurrent interacting drug or venetoclax dose is changed (mid-cycle or with the next cycle), are the instructions clear?
- Do patients have the correct tablets

FLT3 Targets



Midostaurin

Indication: FLT3-ITD and FLT3-TKD mutations

Dosing: 50 mg PO BID, Days 8-21

- Induction and consolidation
- Twice daily maintenance continually

Anti-infective Interaction:

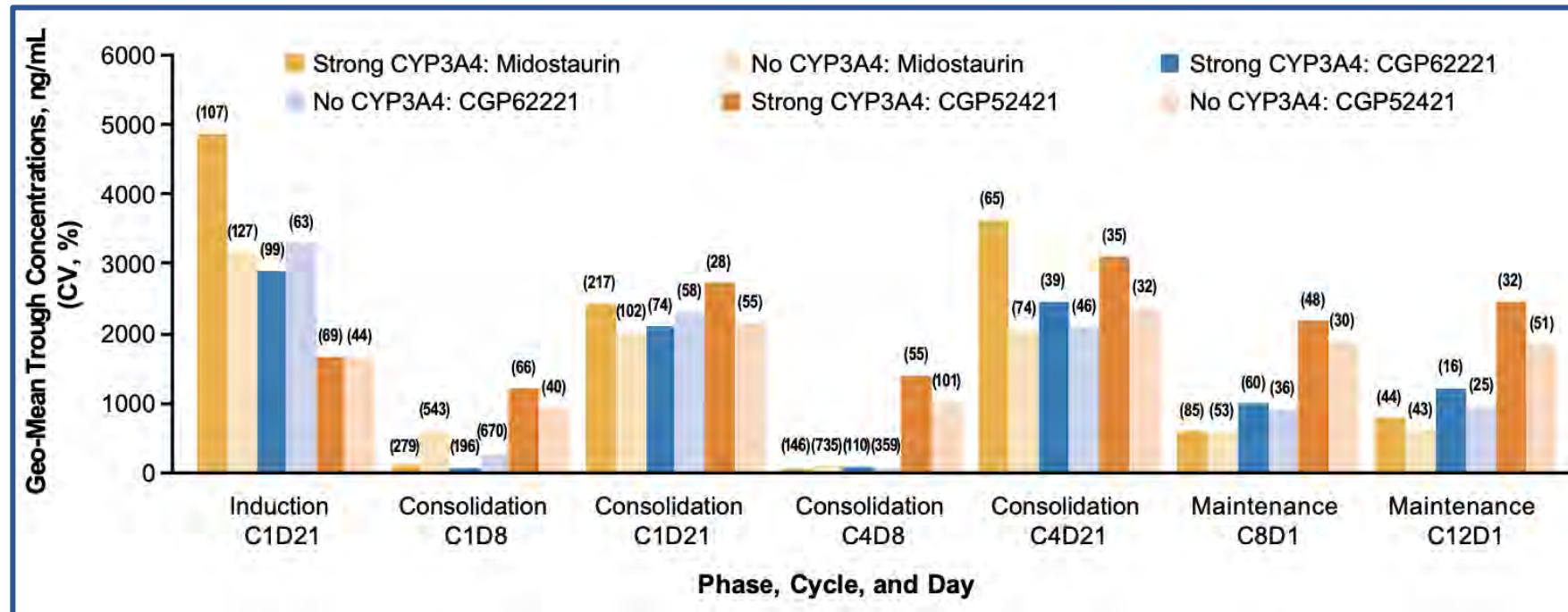
- PK: CYP3A4 substrate
 - PI recs: consider alternate therapy or monitor patients for increased risk of adverse reactions when given with strong CYP3A4 inhibitor
- PD: QT prolongation

Warning for pulmonary toxicity

Monitoring:

- Consider interval ECG if taken concurrently with medications that can prolong the QT interval
- AML trials used corrected QTcF with Fredericia's formula

Midostaurin Pharmacokinetics RATIFY Post-Analysis



- Midostaurin metabolized to 2 active metabolites: CGP62221 > CGP52421
- PK increases with CYP3A4 inhibitors at steady state are smaller in magnitude than after single doses

Midostaurin Adverse Events

Table 3 Frequency of grade 3/4 AEs in patients who received midostaurin with a $\geq 2\%$ difference between subgroups of concomitant CYP3A4 use

Concomitant treatment with strong CYP3A4 inhibitor	Events, %		Absolute difference, % Yes vs no
	Yes (n = 214)	No (n = 131)	
Pneumonia	15.4	9.2	6.2
Sepsis	9.3	3.1	6.2
Febrile neutropenia ^a	85.5	79.4	6.1
C-reactive protein increased	5.6	0	5.6
γ -glutamyltransferase increased	6.1	1.5	4.6
Infection	5.1	0.8	4.3
Device-related infection	17.8	13.7	4.1
Pyrexia	4.2	0.8	3.4
Hypocalcemia	7.0	3.8	3.2
Stomatitis ^a	4.7	1.5	3.2
Blood lactate dehydrogenase increased	2.8	0	2.8
Hyperbilirubinemia	5.1	2.3	2.8
Anal infection	3.3	0.8	2.5
Syncope	5.6	3.1	2.5
Neutrophil count decreased ^a	96.3	93.9	2.4
Hemoglobin decreased ^a	93.9	91.6	2.3
Alanine aminotransferase increased	13.6	11.5	2.1
Pneumonia fungal	2.8	0.8	2.0
Urinary tract infection	5.1	3.1	2.0

Event, n (%)	Patients receiving anti-fungal agents and midostaurin (n = 227)	Patients who did not receive anti-fungal agents (n = 74)
Patients with ≥ 1 AE	225 (99.1)	70 (94.6)
Grade ≥ 3	198 (87.2)	56 (75.7)
Treatment-related	178 (78.4)	53 (71.6)
Leading to treatment discontinuation	24 (10.6)	5 (6.8)
Leading to dose adjustment/interruption	88(38.8)	25 (33.8)
Patients with ≥ 1 SAE	110 (48.5)	27 (36.5)
Grade ≥ 3	108 (47.6)	26 (35.1)
Treatment-related	54 (23.8)	8 (10.8)

Schlenk, 2019

Induction death rate: Cohort 2 (2.9%) vs Cohort 1 (15.9%)

Cohort 2: 25 mg every other day (6.2% of patients with strong CYP3A4 inhibitors)

Sierra J, et al. Blood Advances 2023; 7(21):6441-6450.

Sechaud R, et al. Cancer Chemotherapy and Pharmacology 2022;90:19–27

Schlenk R, et al. Blood 2019; 133(8): 840-851.

Midostaurin Pharmacodynamics

	All patients	18-60 y.o.	60-71 y.o.
Schlenk, 2019 (n = 248)			
Cardiac, total	13%	6%	22%
Cardiac, general	7%	4%	12%
Cardiac, arrhythmia	6%	2%	10%
Sierra, 2023 (n = 301)			
QTcF >30-60 ms	23.9%		
QTcF >60 ms	10.8%		
New >450-480 ms	11.9%		
New >480-500 ms	3.5%		
New >500 ms	3.9%		
Studies reporting on efficacy and safety in population >60 y.o.			

	Package Insert Dose Adjustment Recommendations
QTc >470-500 ms	Decrease to 50 mg daily. Can increase to 50 mg BID at next cycle if <470 ms
QTc >500 ms	Hold for rest of cycle. Can resume at 50 mg BID at next cycle if <470 ms

RATIFY Protocol	Package Insert
ECG rior to midostaurin dose on Days 8, 10, and 21 of each cycle	"Consider ECG with concomitant QTc prolongating medications"
Optimize electrolytes	Half-life: 21 hours

Midostaurin and Prophylaxis

Induction and consolidation with high infection rates

Maintenance with fewer adverse events

NCCN guidelines
"No significantly increased risks for infections"

	Induction	Consolidation	Maintenance
Overall AEs	94.7%	92.9%	62.4%
Most Common:			
Neutropenia	48.6%	24.3%	12.9%
Nausea	25.2%	31.9%	19.4%

Midostaurin Dosing Considerations

Dosing midostaurin at 50 mg BID with a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor is likely safe

- If recurrent or severe AEs, consider holding or decreasing dose

Increase ECG monitoring recommended with concomitant QTc prolongating drugs

- Pre-dose ECG with QTcF < 470 msec to start
- Consider monitoring within first week of midostaurin
- Refer to PI if QTcF > 470 ms
- Concomitant medications with fluoroquinolones and azoles

Assess need for anti-infective supportive care with midostaurin

- Consider stopping azole antifungal during maintenance
- Reassess with prolonged neutropenia

Quizartinib

Indication: FLT3-ITD mutation

Dosing:

- Induction 35.4 mg (days 8-21) and consolidation 35.4 mg daily (days 6-19)
- Maintenance: 26.5 mg daily with potential for dose increase to 53 mg

Anti-infective Interaction:

- PK: CYP3A4 substrate
 - Strong CYP3A4 inhibitors: For goal dose of 35.4 mg and 26.5 mg, reduce dose to 17.7 mg
- PD: QT prolongation

Boxed warnings for QT prolongation, Torsades de Pointes, and Cardiac Arrest

Monitoring

- ECG prior to initiation then weekly during treatment
 - AML trials used corrected QTcF with Fredericia's formula

QuANTUM-First

- Standard infectious prophylaxis allowed
 - Unknown number of patients on therapies with drug interactions
- Quizartinib dose reduced by 50% with strong CYP3A4 inhibitors
- QTc monitoring at baseline, then weekly during induction and consolidation
 - "Increased" QTc monitoring with concurrent QTc prolongating medications
- Aggressive electrolyte replacement

	Quizartinib (N=265)	Placebo (N=268)
Dose reductions due to QTc Prolongation	4%	1%
New >450 and ≤480 ms	27.5%	16%
New >480 and ≤500 ms	5.7%	1.5%
New >500 ms	2.3%	0.7%
Cardiac arrest with ventricular fibrillation	0.8%	0%
Ventricular tachycardia	0.4%	0.4%
Time to ANC > 1000/mm ³	36 days	29 days

Author's conclusion: QT prolongation with quizartinib is manageable with dose modification and correction of electrolyte atypicalities."

Quizartinib PK/PD Considerations

Pharmacokinetics

- Known CYP3A4 substrate
- QTc prolongation is dose and concentration dependent
- PK study for dose adjustment recommendations with strong CYP3A4 inhibitors
- QuANTUM-First trial proved safety and efficacy of lower dose with strong CYP3A4 inhibitors

Pharmacodynamics

- QTc prolongation caused by different mechanism than most QTc prolongating medications
- Inhibiting both could lead to greater risk of arrhythmias
- QTc monitoring after starting additional drugs with PD interaction

Quizartinib Dosing Considerations

Increased quizartinib concentration is associated with greater AEs, especially QTc prolongation

- Follow recommendations for 17.7 mg dose when used with strong CYP3A4 inhibitor
- Starting azole prior to quizartinib?

Increase ECG monitoring recommended with concomitant QTc prolongating drugs

- Assess concomitant medications with increased QT intervals
- Pre-dose ECG with QTcF < 450 msec to start
- Refer to PI if QTcF > 480 ms during treatment

Assess need for anti-infective supportive care with quizartinib

- Expected neutropenia with induction and consolidation
- Consider stopping azole antifungal during maintenance
- Reassess with prolonged neutropenia

Summary

Prolonged neutropenia puts patients undergoing treatment for Acute Myeloid Leukemia at high risk for bacterial, fungal, and viral infections

Triazole antifungals inhibit CYP3A4 which may lead to increased concentrations of AML medications, potentially causing additional side effects

Triazole antifungals and newer AML therapies may prolongate QTc intervals

Refer to study protocols and package insert for dose adjustment and monitoring recommendations when using new therapies with triazole antifungals

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Nebraska Medicine

Package Insert Recommendations

	Dosing	Dose Adjustments	PD Monitoring
Gilteritinib	120 mg daily	Strong CYP3A4 Inhibitors: No preemptive dose adjustments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase monitoring for AEs• Interrupt and resume at 80 mg	QTc: ECG prior to initiation then on cycle 1, days 8 and 15, plus prior to the start of cycles 2 and 3
Ivosidenib	500 mg daily	Strong CYP3A4 Inhibitors: Decrease ivosidenib dose to 250 mg daily	QTc: ECG prior to initiation, then weekly x3 weeks, then monthly for the duration of treatment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase monitoring with concurrent QTc prolonging medications