

«CHEMO-FREE»  
TREATMENT IN  
MULTIPLE  
MYELOMA

# OUTLINE

The «magic» bullet

The cure of cancer with «biological agents»

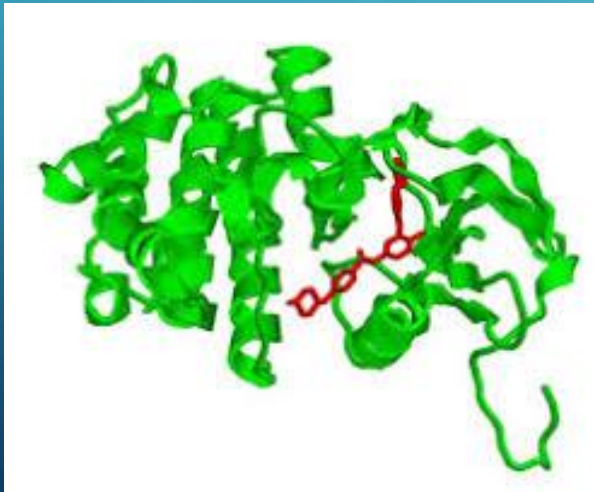
The «biological» treatment of myeloma

# THE MAGIC BULLET

2000, Imatinib approved for CML

«biological agent»

Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor



WAV 28, 2001 www.time.com AOL Keyword: TIME

# TIME

THERE IS NEW **AMMUNITION**  
IN THE WAR AGAINST  
**CANCER.**  
**THESE ARE THE BULLETS.**

Revolutionary new pills like **GLEEVEC** combat cancer by targeting only the diseased cells. Is this the breakthrough we've been waiting for?

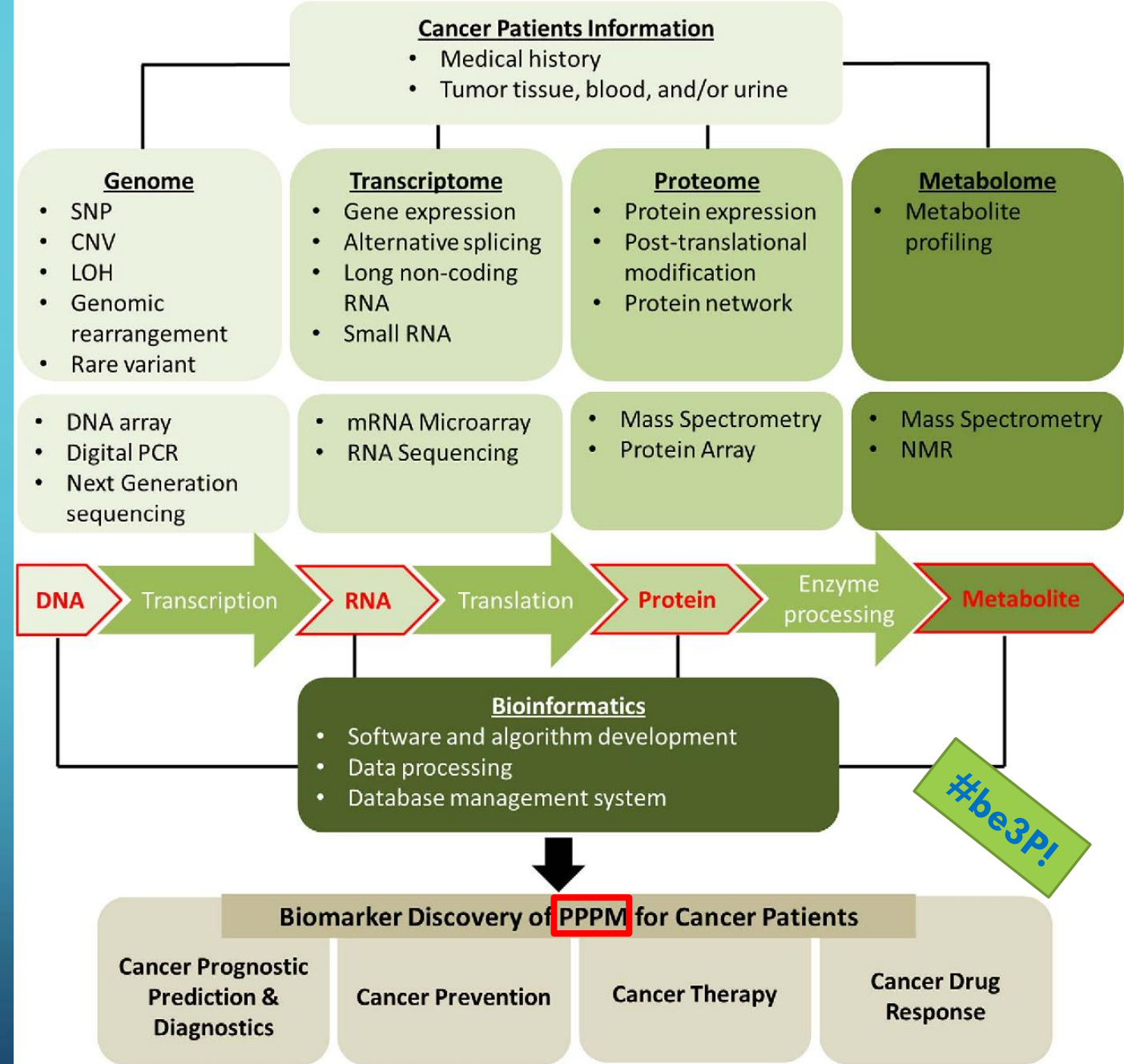
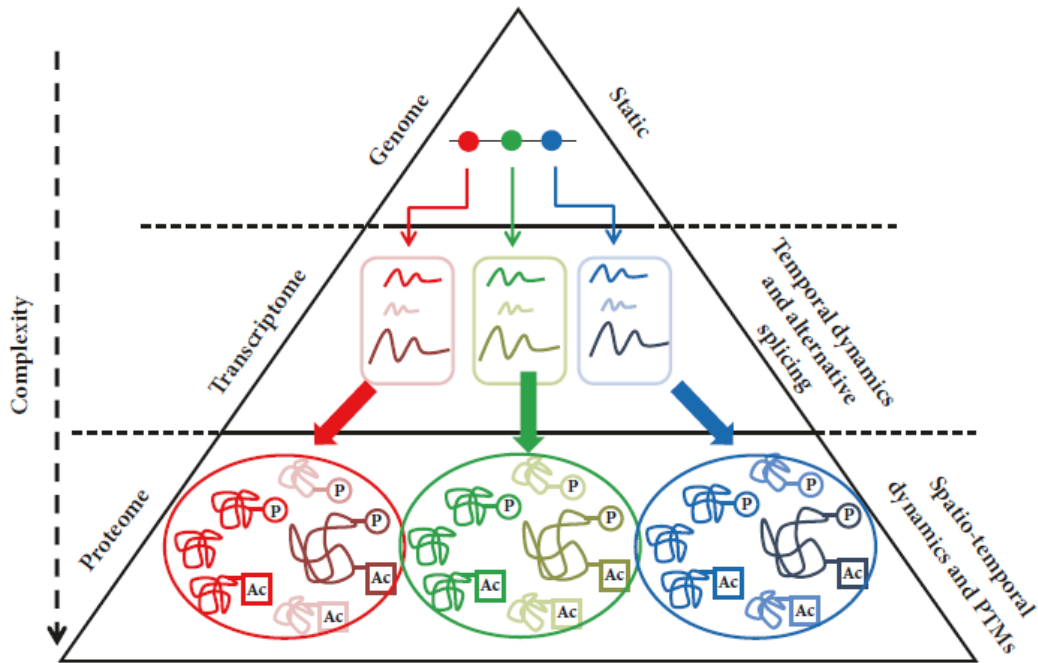


28, may 2001

# Different layers of research

- Exposomic
- Genomic
- Transcriptomic
- Epigenomic
- Proteomic
- Metabolomic
- Microbiomic
- Radiomic
- «Psycho-socialomic»...

Yoo 2017



SNP, Single nucleotide polymorphism; CNV, Copy number variation; LOH, Loss of heterozygosity; PPPM, Predictive, preventive, and personalized medicine

Fig. 2. Multi-omics strategies for cancer PPPM. Multidisciplinary -omics strategies for PPPM was illustrated

# BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF CANCER

Adoptive cell transfer

Angiogenesis inhibitors

Bacillus Calmette-Guerin therapy

Biochemotherapy

Cancer vaccines

Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy

Cytokine therapy

Gene therapy

Immune checkpoint modulators

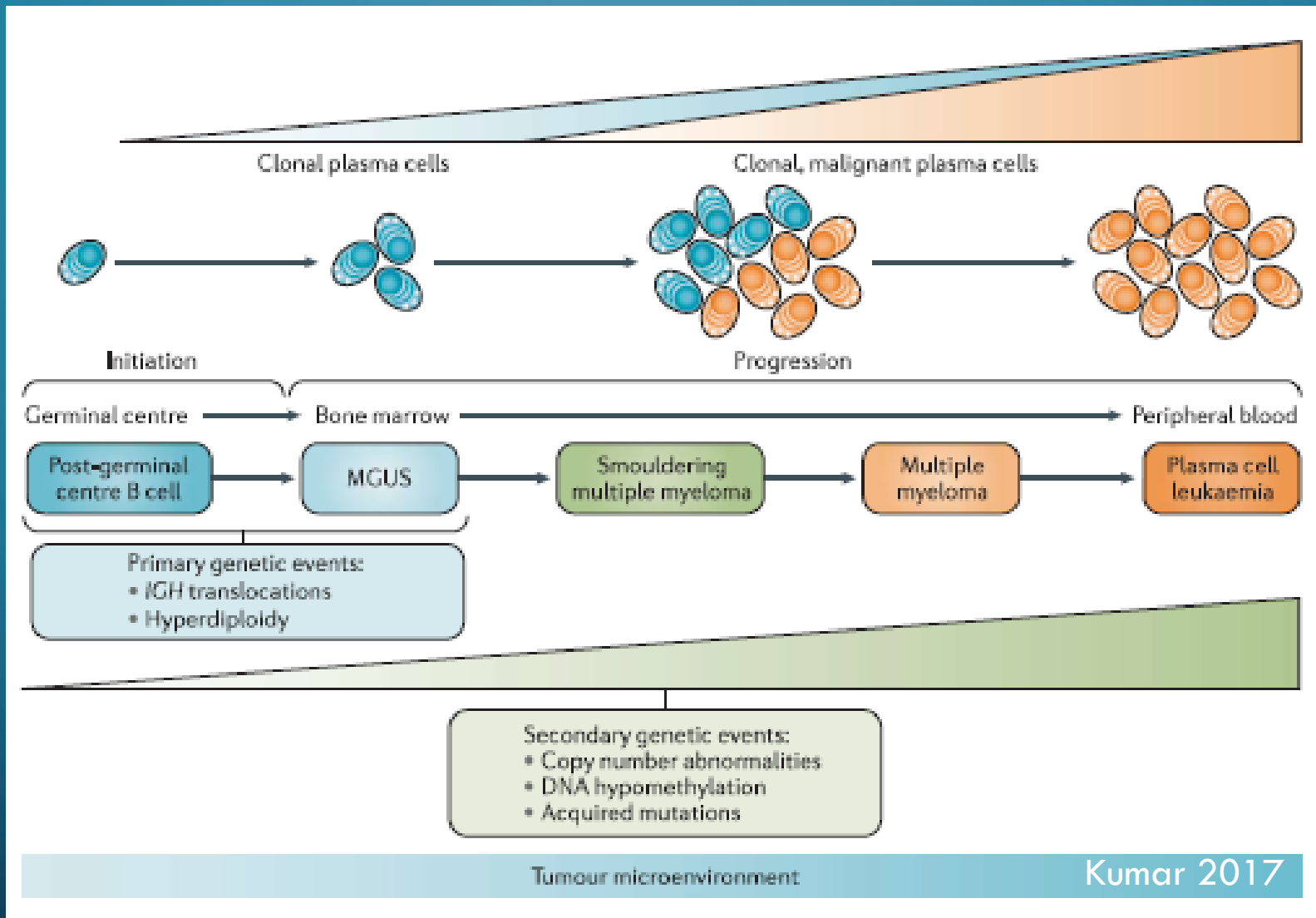
Immunoconjugates

Monoclonal antibodies

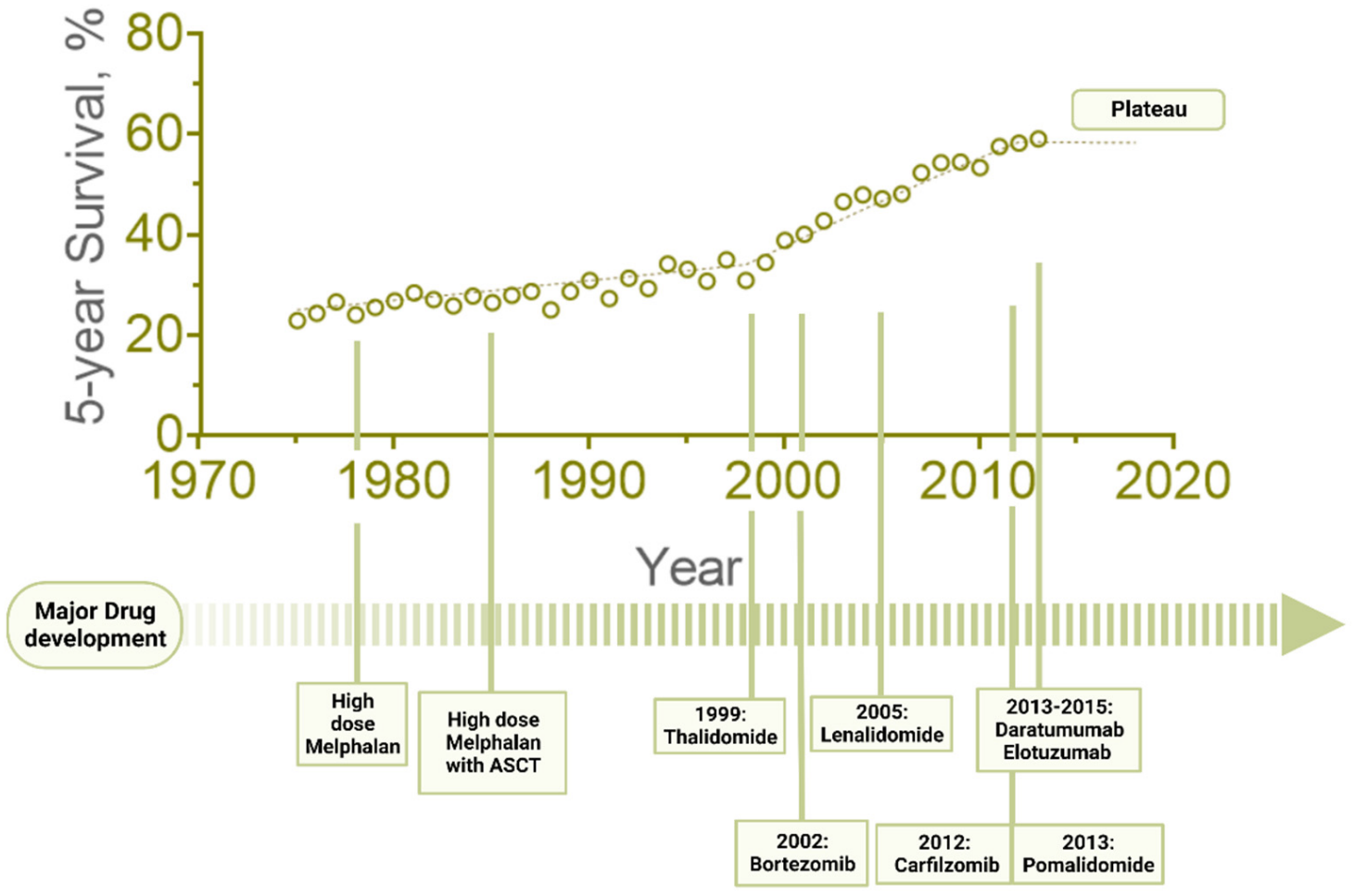
Oncolytic virus therapy

Targeted drug therapy

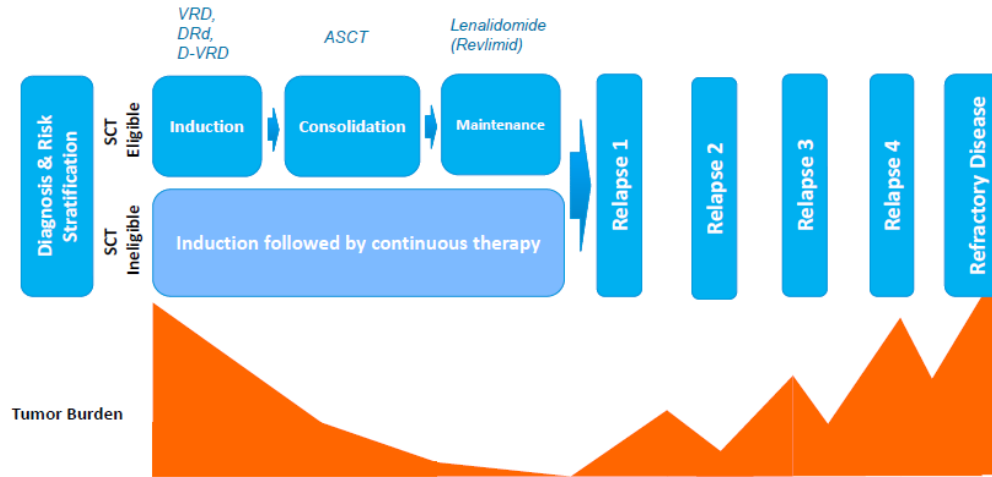




# PATHOGENESIS



## 5. MYELOMA TREATMENT PARADIGM

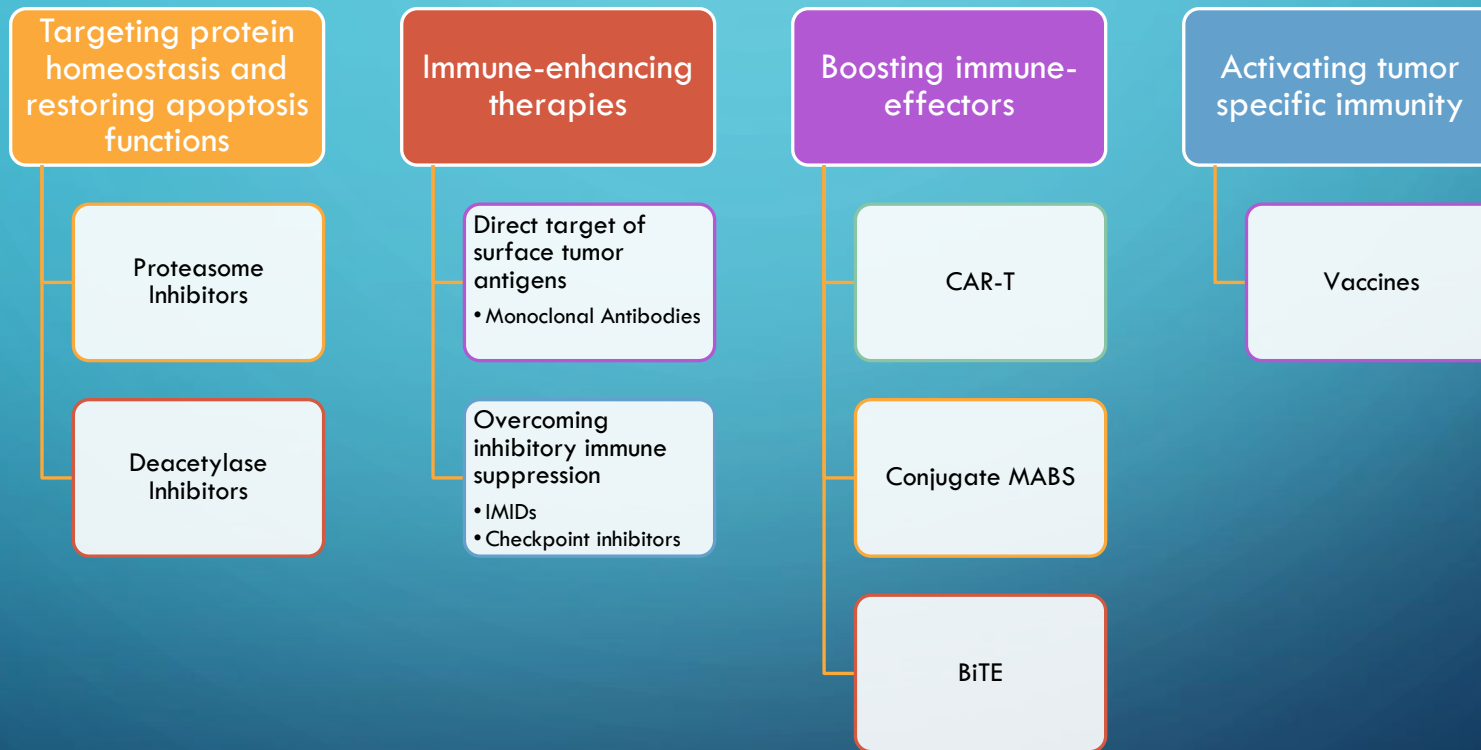


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EXPANDING TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR  
MULTIPLE MYELOMA: MIBS, MIDS AND MABS



# NEW DRUGS FOR MYELOMA: CLASSIFICATION



# MABS, MIBS, NIBS, MIDS



MABS (Monoclonal Antibodies):

First segment: decision of the drug developer

Second segment: Target or Disease Class

Third segment: Source

Fourth segment: -MAB



MIBS (single small molecules): suffix «zomib» is the designation for protease or proteasome inhibitors

Bortezomib, Carfilzomib, Ixazomib



NIBS: suffix «nib» indicates a small-molecule inhibitor

«tinib» Tyrosin-kinase Inhibitor

«anib» Angiogenesis inhibitor



iMIDS: Immunomodulatory Drugs

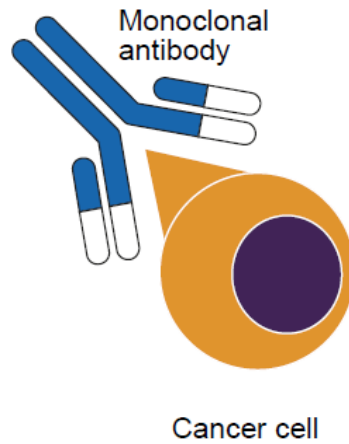
ThalidoMIDe

LenalidoMIDe

[https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/867446\\_1](https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/867446_1)

# MABS

## NAKED ANTIBODIES



# MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES

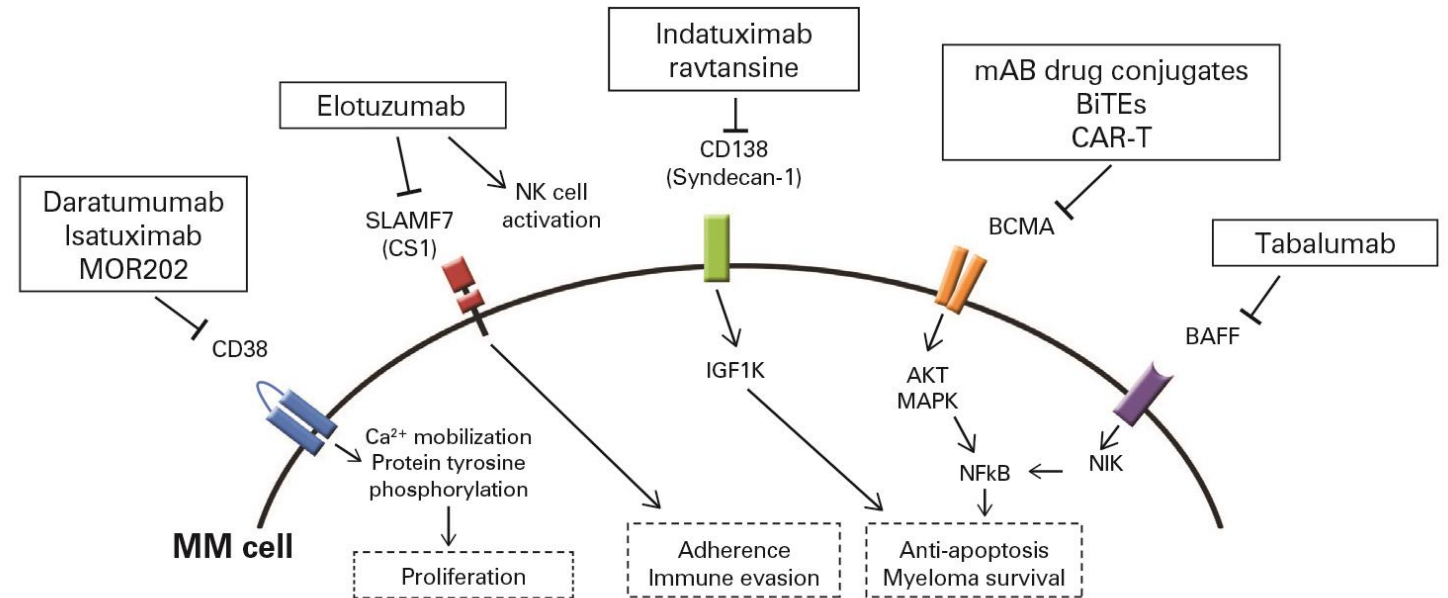
## Anti CD38

- Daratumumab
- Isatuximab

## Anti SLAMF7

- Elotuzumab

**Figure. Current and Investigational Targets of mAb Therapies in MM**



**Abbreviations:** BiTEs, bi-specific T-cell engagers; CAR-T, chimeric antigen receptor T cells; mAb, monoclonal antibody; MM, multiple myeloma; NK, natural killer.

# DARATUMUMAB

## Combined action

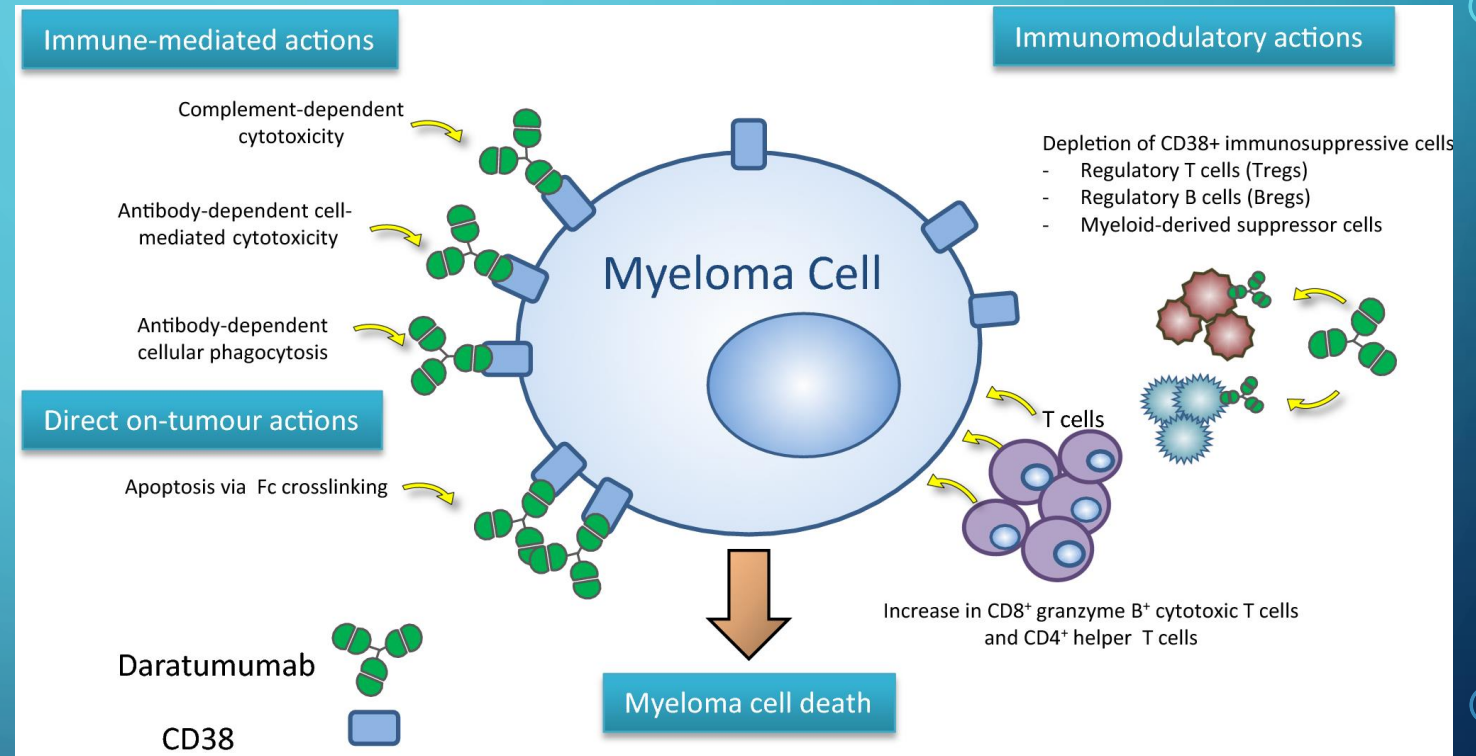
- Immune mediated
- Direct on-tumor
- Immunomodulatory
- Myeloma Cell Death

## IV route

## In combination or alone

## Adverse events

- Infusional reactions
- Coombs Test alterations



# MIBS

First class of new target therapies

PROTEASOME highly active in MM Cells

Blocking proteasome → ER stress → apoptosis

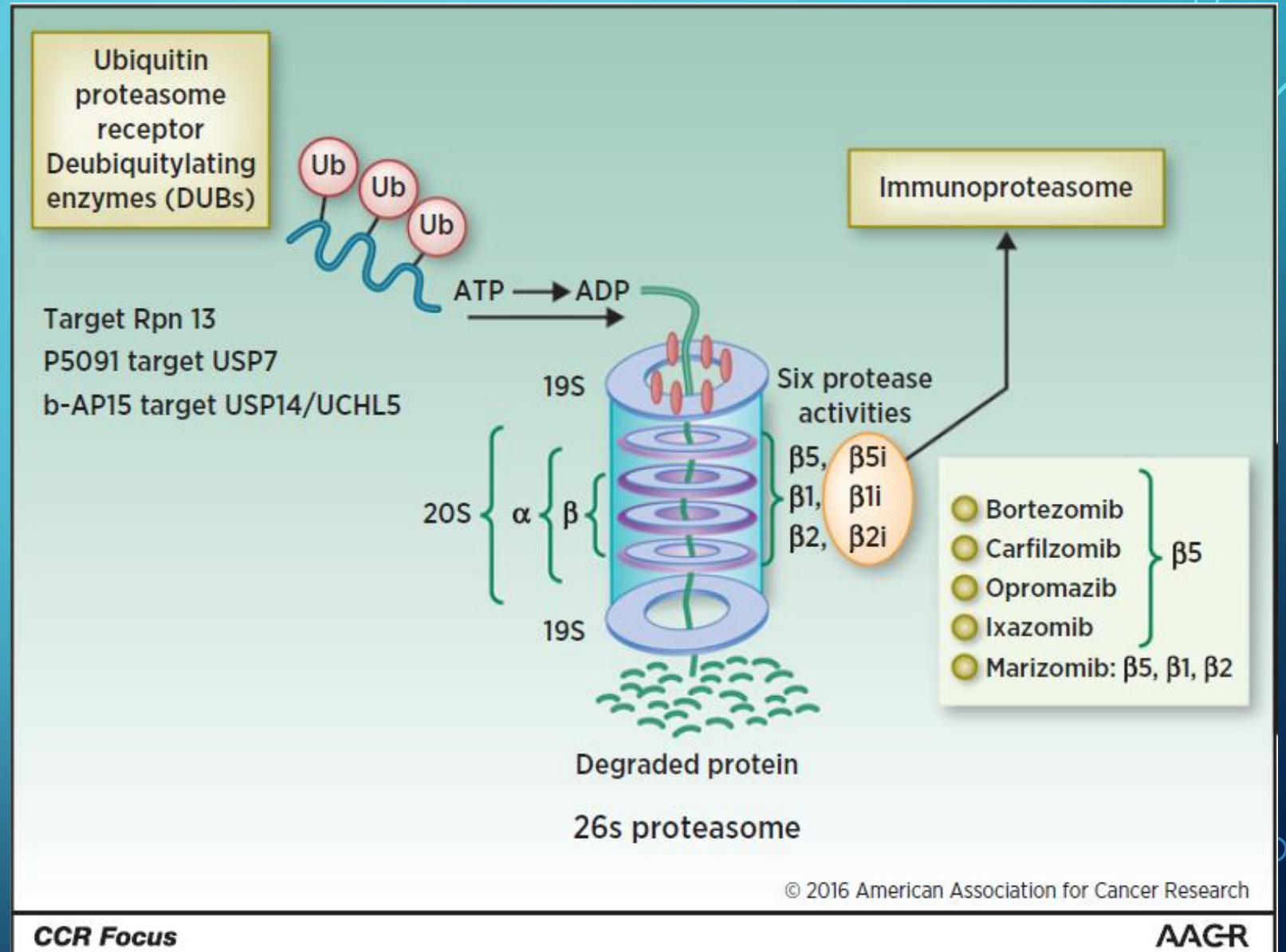
NFκB inhibitors

Multiple activities:

- Plasma cells apoptosis
- Osteoclasts inhibition
- Angiogenesis inhibition

Adverse events

- Neuropathy (Bortezomib, Ixazomib)
- Cardiovascular, Pulmonary HT (Carfilzomib)
- Hematological toxicity
- Gastrointestinal toxicity



# Targeting protein homeostasis and restoring apoptosis functions

## Proteasome Inhibitors

- Bortezomib
- Carfilzomib
- Ixazomib

# Immune-enhancing therapies

Overcoming inhibitory  
immune suppression

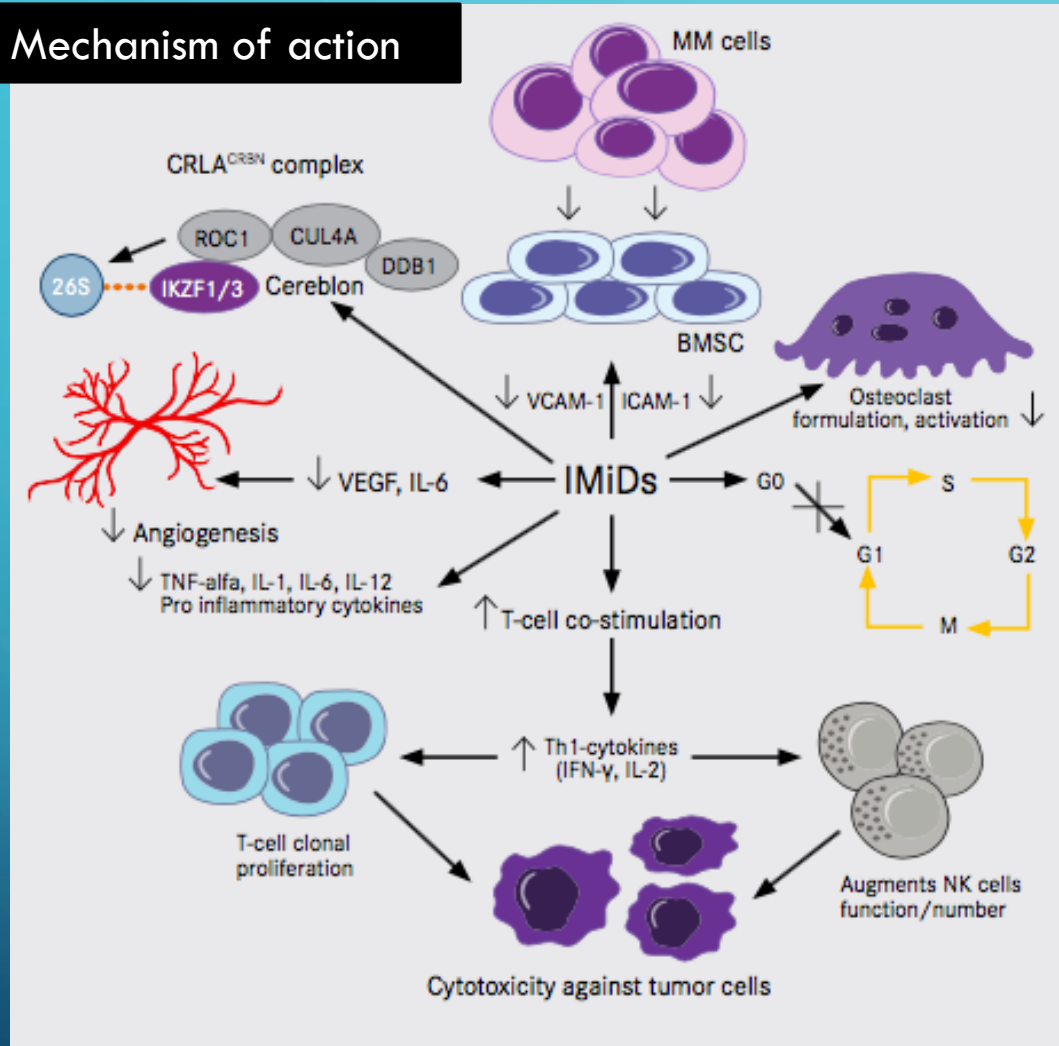
**IMiDs**

Checkpoint inhibitors



# IMiDS

## IMiDS Mechanism of action



Thalidomide, Lenalidomide,  
Pomalidomide

Oral route

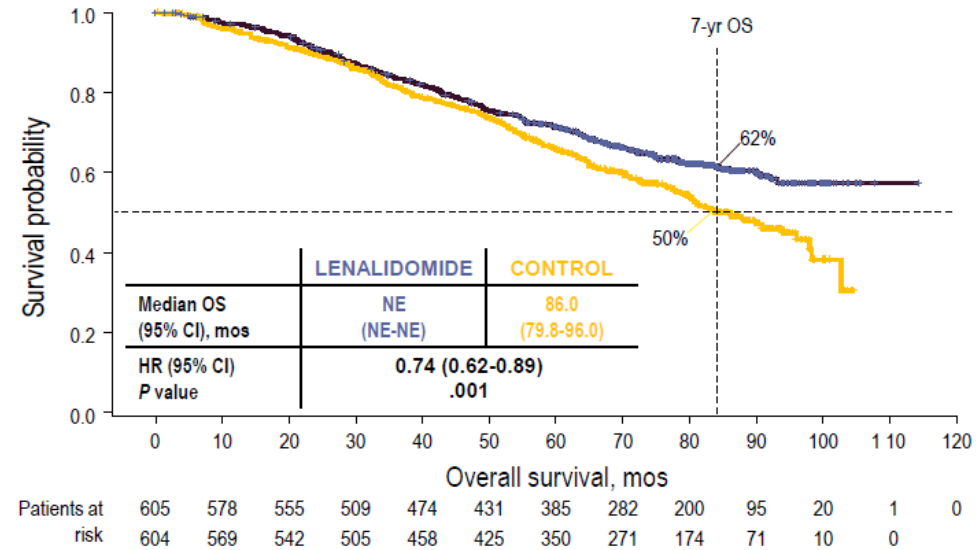
Active in combination or  
alone in maintenance

Adverse events:

- Fatigue, Neuropathy
- Hematologic toxicity
- Thrombosis

Neri 2016

There is a 26% reduction in risk of death, representing an estimated 2.5-year increase in median survival\*



Attal 2016

# LENALIDOMIDE MAINTENANCE

# Immune-enhancing therapies

Overcoming inhibitory  
immune suppression

IMiDs

**Checkpoint inhibitors**

# PD1/PD-1L INHIBITORS

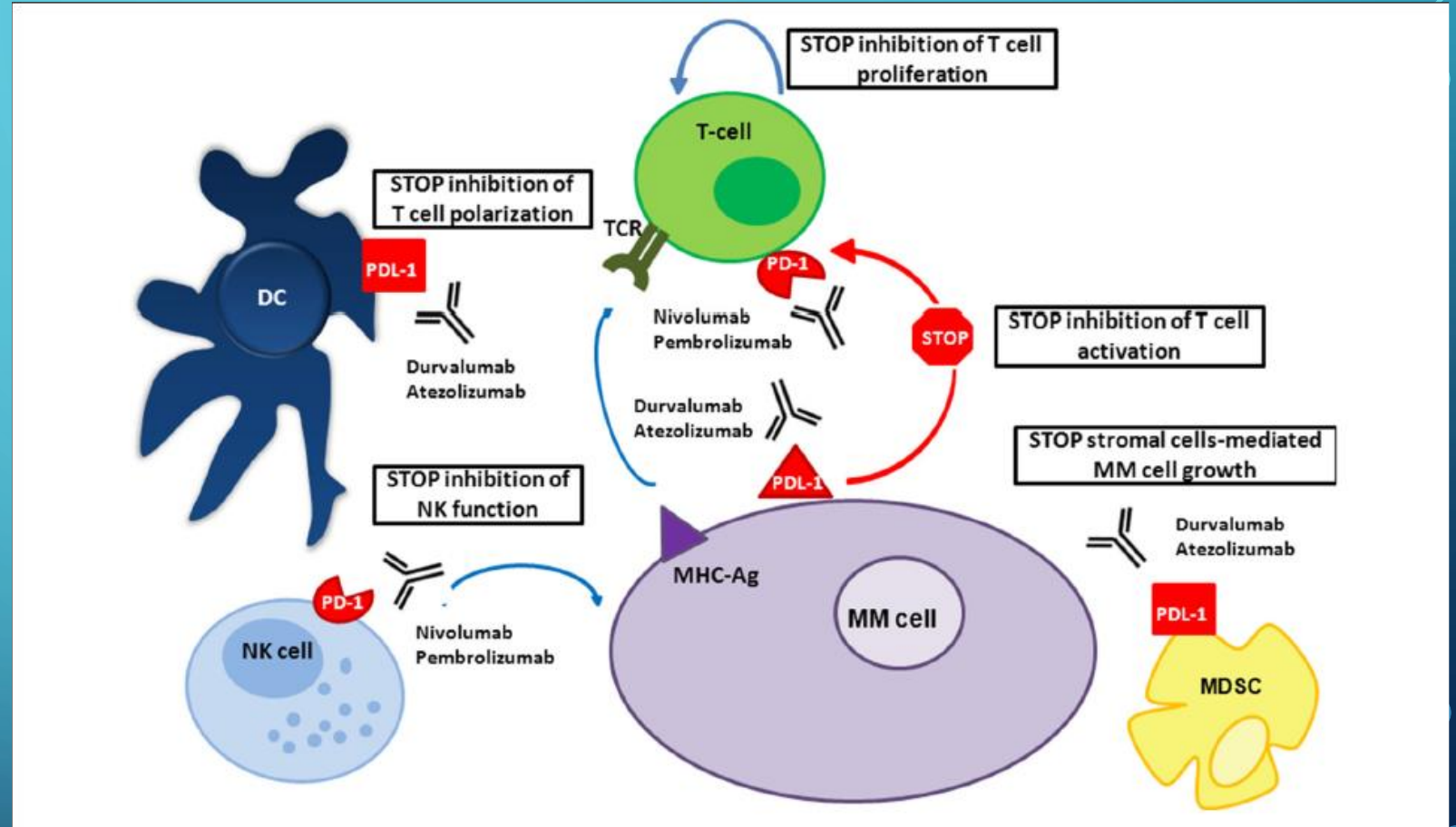
Pemrolizumab, Nivolumab, Durvalumab

PD1/2L expressed on APC and tumor cells → PD1/2 inhibition of T cell activation (immune escape)

Unsatisfactory results alone

Toxicity with IMiDS

To date no evidence of clinical result in RRMM (Relapsed/Refractory MM)



# DEACETYLASE INHIBITORS

Used in combination with PIs

Overcome PIs resistance

Oral route

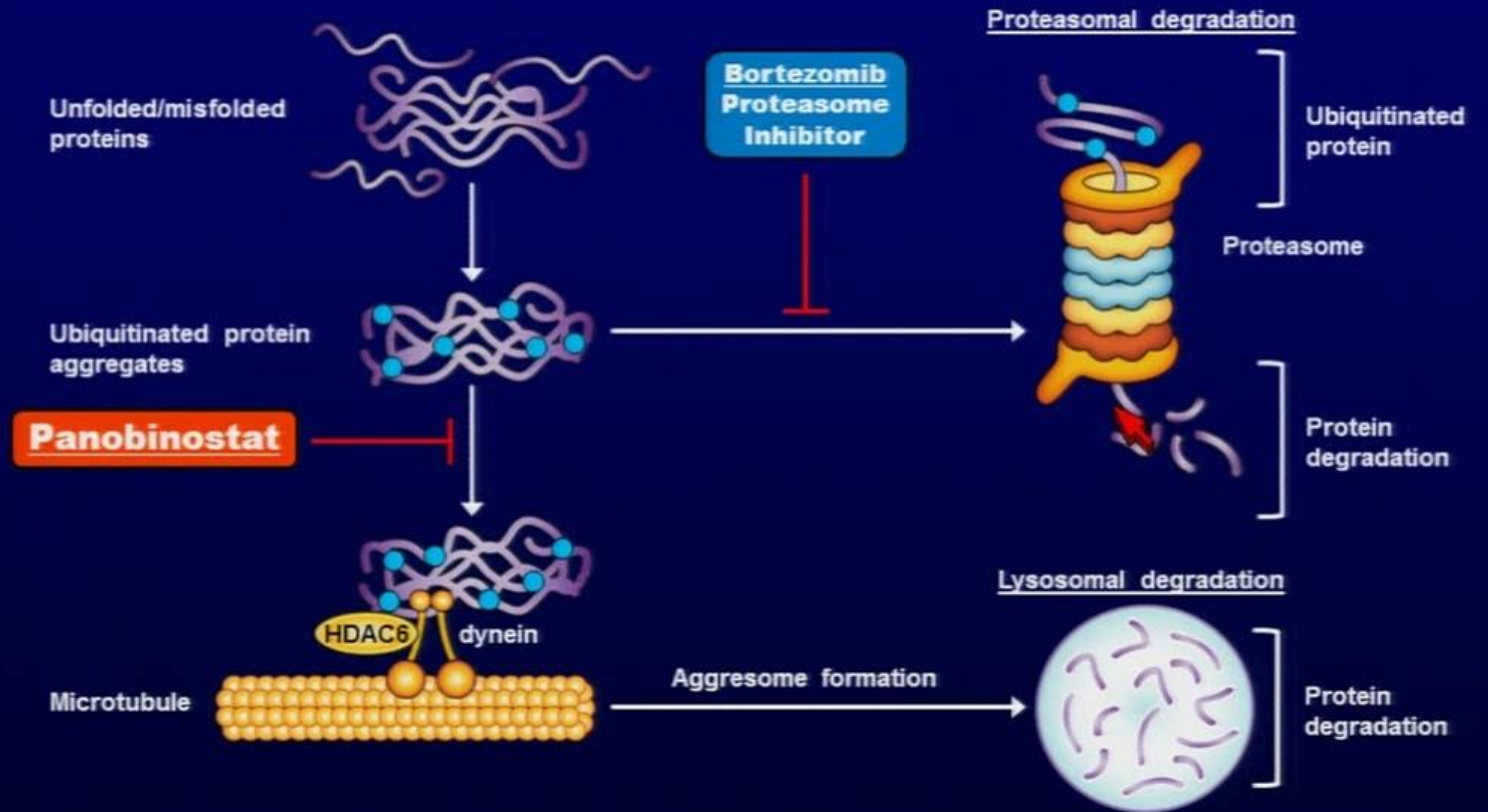
Adverse events

- Gastrointestinal/pulmonary hemorrhage
- Hepatotoxicity
- Gastrointestinal
- Hypophosphatemia
- Nephrotoxicity

Limited use

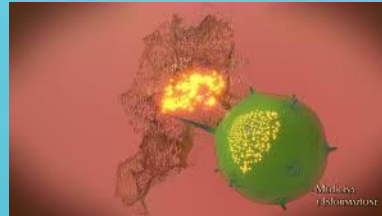
## Panobinostat + Bortezomib Dual Inhibition of Protein Degradation Pathways

PANORAMA 1

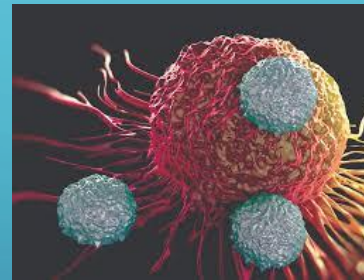


# Boosting immune-effectors

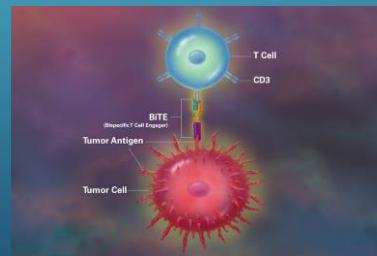
Conjugate MABS



CAR-T

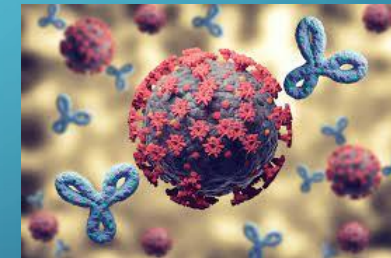


BiTE



# Activating tumor specific immunity

Vaccines



## ANTIBODY DRUG CONJUGATE (ADC)

### Benefits

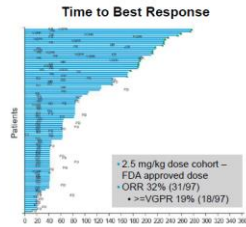
- Targeted release of chemotherapy/immunotoxin/immunotherapy
- Attracts immune cells that clear cancer even if the treatment does not
- Dead cancer cells attract even more immune effector cells enhancing its potential response

### Risk

- Still not 100% specific for myeloma cells and can cause tissue specific toxicity

## BELANTAMAB

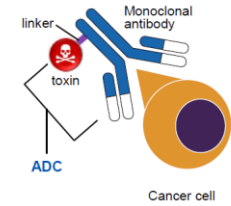
- BCMA ADC
  - Humanized IgG1 anti-BCMA monoclonal antibody & monomethyl auristatin F (toxin)
  - IV infusion over 3 minutes every 3 weeks
- Progression free survival 2.8 months
- Continued response can be seen in patients with ADC on hold



Redrawn from: Lonlat et al. Lancet Oncol 2020; 21: 207

CAVE: ocular toxicity

## ANTIBODY DRUG CONJUGATE

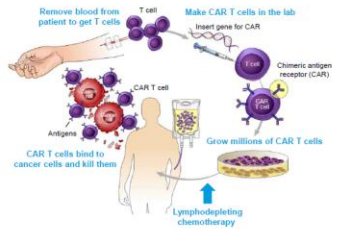


# MABS-CONJUGATE

## CAR T-CELL THERAPY

### Benefits

- High response rates (~ 75% of patients)
- No maintenance
- No steroids
- Effective even in heavily pretreated or previously refractory patients



## WHY DOES CAR T NOT ALWAYS WORK ?

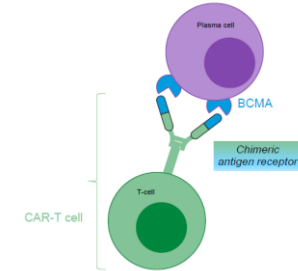
MM is too aggressive (progresses before infusion)

Patient T cells are less effective

Do not persist long enough

Loss of target by MM cell

## CAR-T CELLS



# CAR-T



## OVERVIEW OF BISPECIFIC ANTIBODIES

- Several targeting BCMA in clinical trials
- Non-BCMA directed antibodies are encouraging
- CRS and neurotoxicity less grade 3, than CAR T cells
- Maximum response and duration of response yet to be determined
- More likely to be an option to combine with other agents

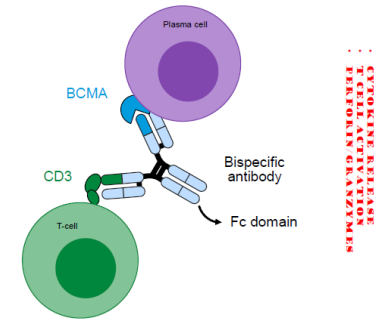
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## BISPECIFIC ANTIBODIES

- Novel immune therapy approach designed to bind antigens on MM cells and cytotoxic T cells
- Early phase clinical trials targeting BCMA, GPRC5D, and FcRH5 have shown favorable safety profiles
- Most are IV or subcutaneous injections weekly or every other week
- Therapy is ongoing until progression
- Unknown sequence of therapy if benefit after CAR T

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## BISPECIFIC ANTIBODY

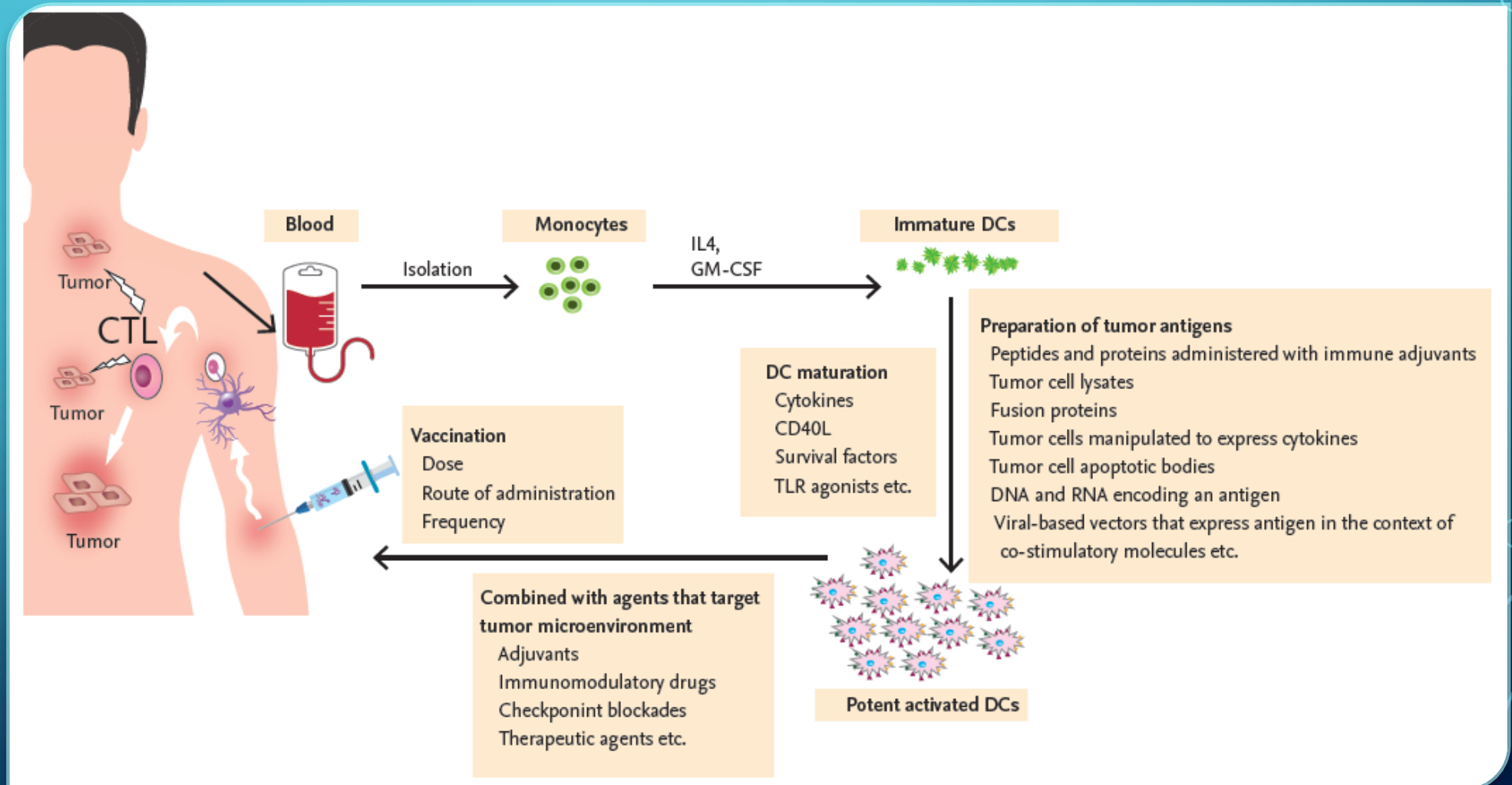


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# BITE

## Preparation of a "Chemical Vaccine" Against Tumor Progression

# VACCINES ?



# COSTS OF NEW DRUGS



Regimen	Approximate annual cost
VRd	\$294,000
KRd (27 mg/m <sup>2</sup> dose of K)	\$397,000
KRd (56 mg/m <sup>2</sup> dose of K)	\$573,000
DRd**	\$400,000
Dara-VRd**	\$486,000
Dara-KRd**(27 mg/m <sup>2</sup> dose of K)	\$589,000
Dara-KRd**(56 mg/m <sup>2</sup> dose of K)	\$765,000
CAR-T	\$230,000 to \$465,000*

\*Depends on whether estimated PFS is one year vs 2 years  
\*\* SQ Dara

<https://www.goodrx.com/thalidomides>  
<https://www.drugs.com/price-guide/>  
All accessed April 20, 2022

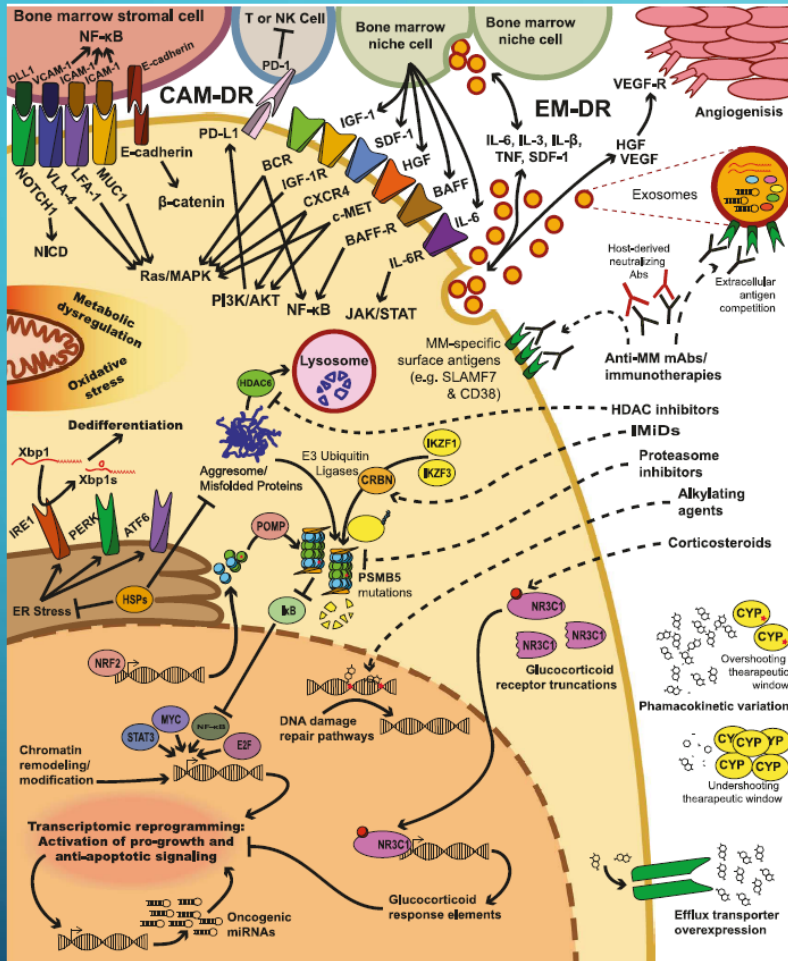
Rajkumar SV. 2022

Costo di un trapianto autologo: \$ 10000  
Rimborso regionale Euro 30000

Rajkumar 2022

Doctors have no interest in health. Disease is their passion. No disease, no doctors. Billions saved.

Richard Smith, @Richard56 14.07.2015



I think the extreme complexity of medicine has become more than an individual clinician can handle. But not more than teams of clinicians can handle.

**Atul Gawande**



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