

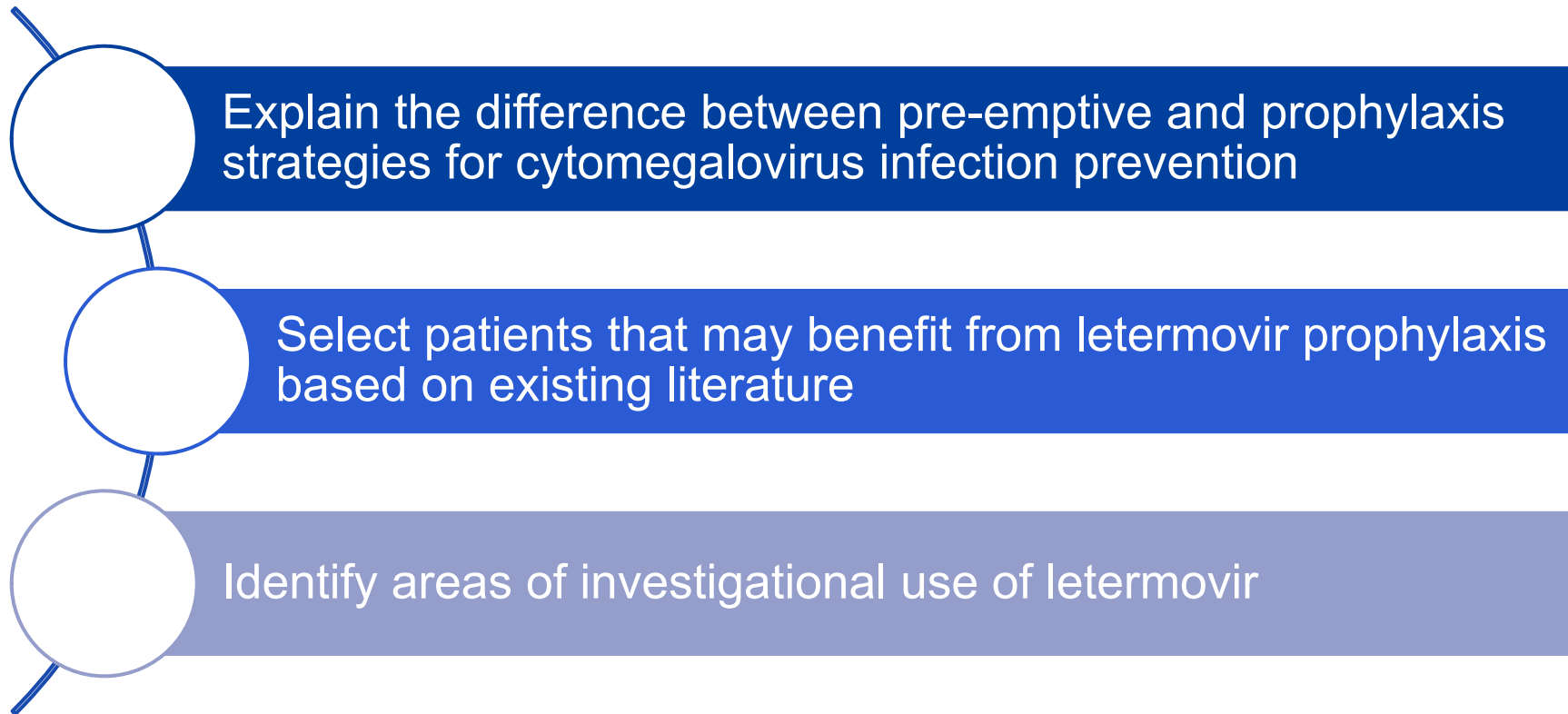


C[MV] You Later: Letermovir for Prevention of Cytomegalovirus Infection

Mikhaila Rice, PharmD
PGY1 Pharmacy Resident

Pharmacy Grand Rounds
June 9, 2020

Objectives



Patient Case

MR is a 47 year old female with a history of acute myeloid leukemia who is day +10 from allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT)

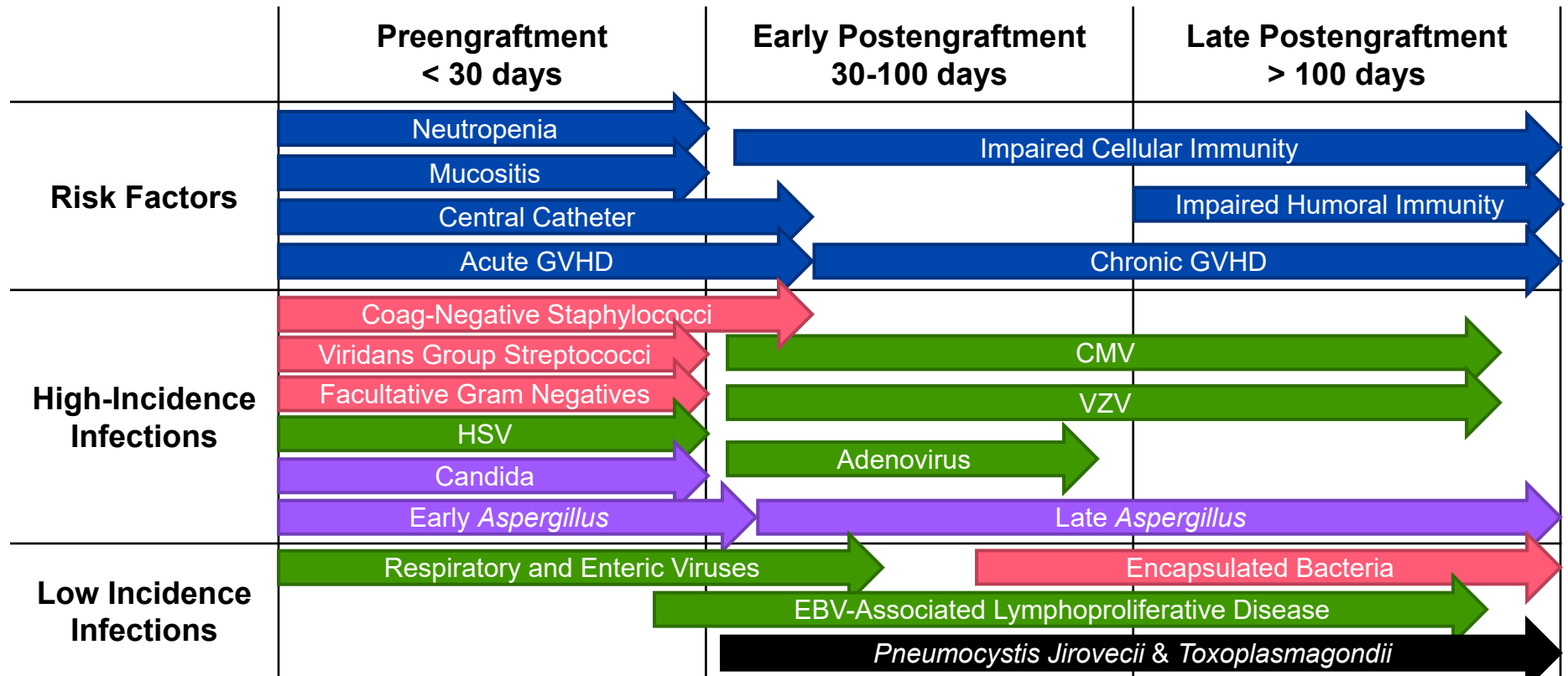
- Bone marrow from haploidentical donor
- Conditioning regimen: Fludarabine, Melphalan, TBI
 - Myeloablative regimen
- CMV seropositive recipient, seronegative donor
- No known drug allergies

Post-Transplant Immunosuppression

- Cyclophosphamide
- Tacrolimus
- Mycophenolate



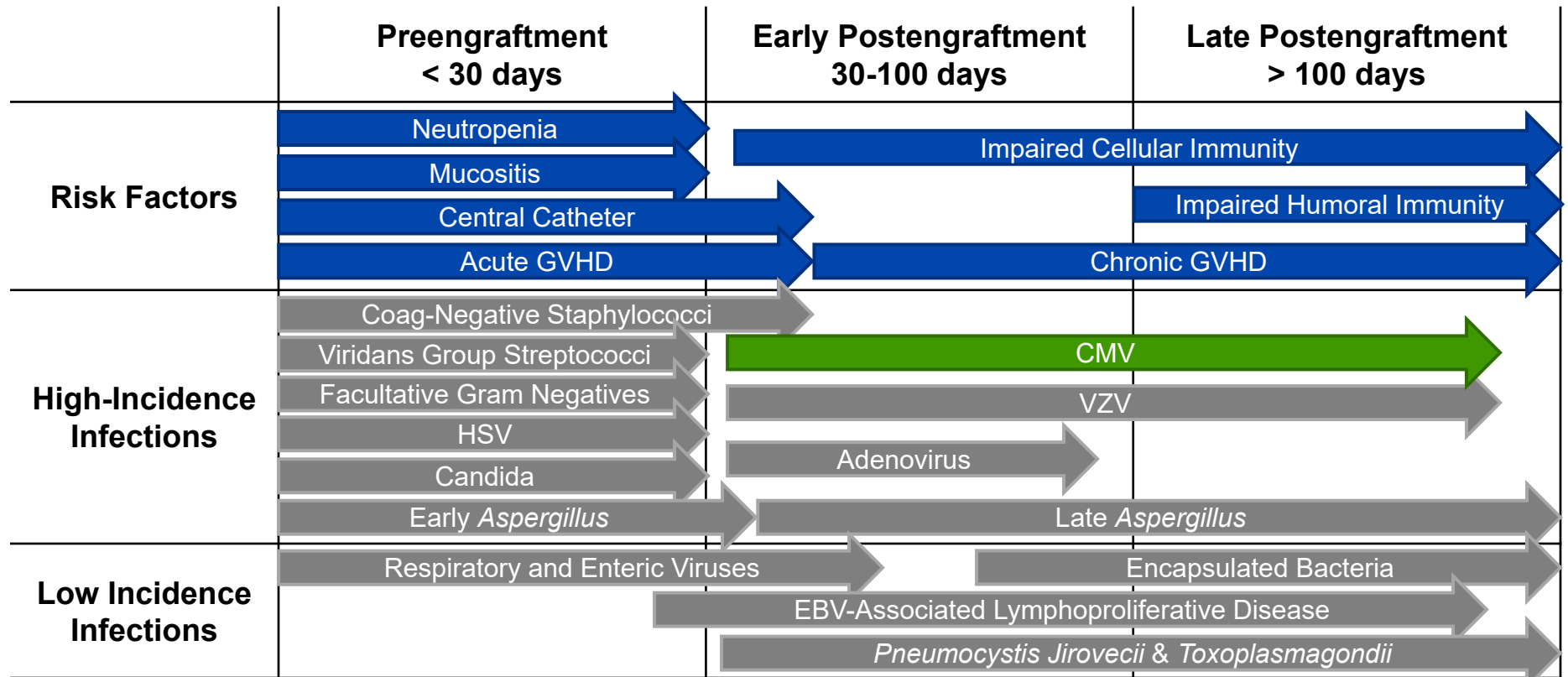
Opportunistic Infections



GVHD = graft versus host disease
 HSV = herpes simplex virus
 CMV = cytomegalovirus
 VZV = varicella-zoster virus
 EBV = Epstein-Barr virus

(2019) *Infections in Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation*. In: Safdar A. (eds) *Principles and Practice of Transplant Infectious Diseases*
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Opportunistic Infections



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 EBV = Epstein-Barr virus

(2019) *Infections in Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation*. In: Safdar A. (eds) *Principles and Practice of Transplant Infectious Diseases*
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Patient Case

Post-Transplant Infectious Complications

- Bacterial infections: Gram positive and negative
- Fungal infections: Candida, Aspergillus, PJP
- Viral infections: HSV, CMV, VZV

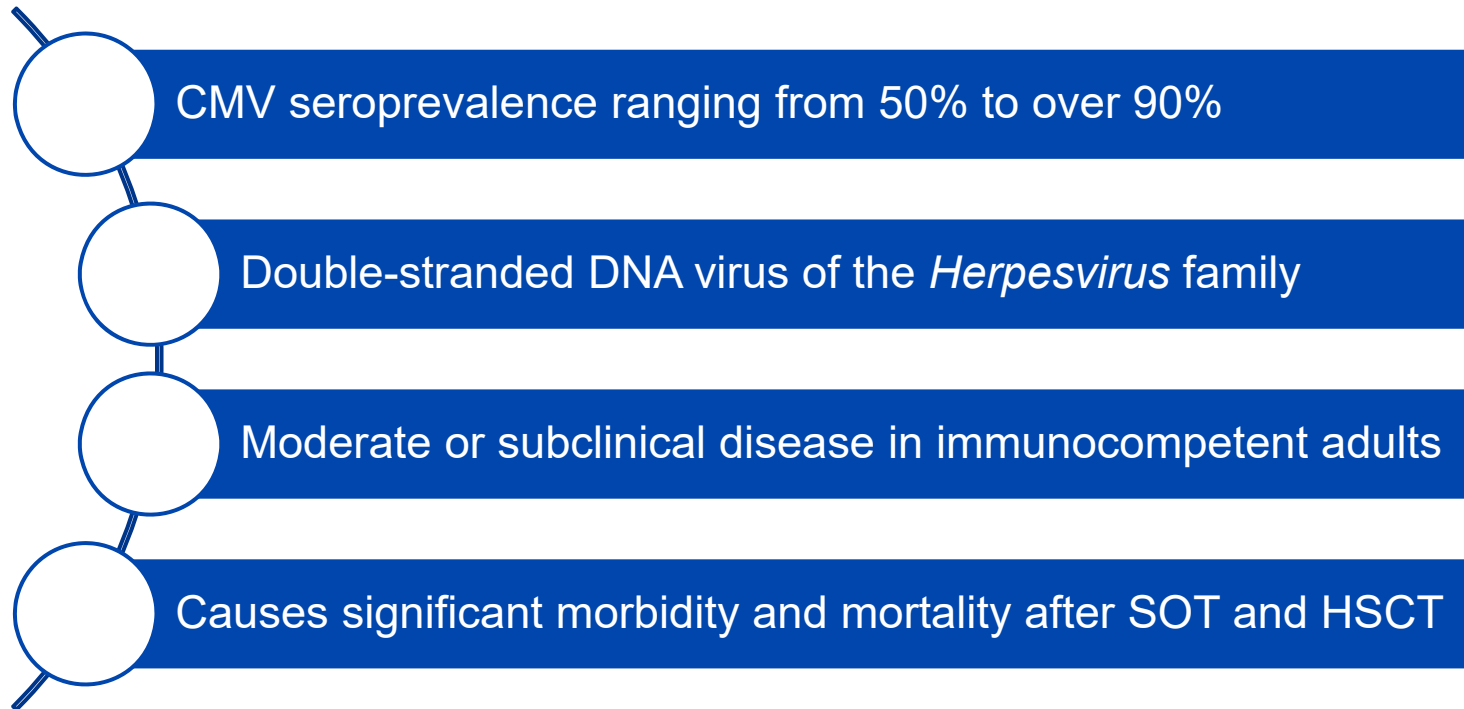
Recommended Antimicrobials

- Penicillin VK
- Levofloxacin
- Posaconazole
- Acyclovir
- Post-engraftment: sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim

**Should we provide
CMV prophylaxis?**



Cytomegalovirus

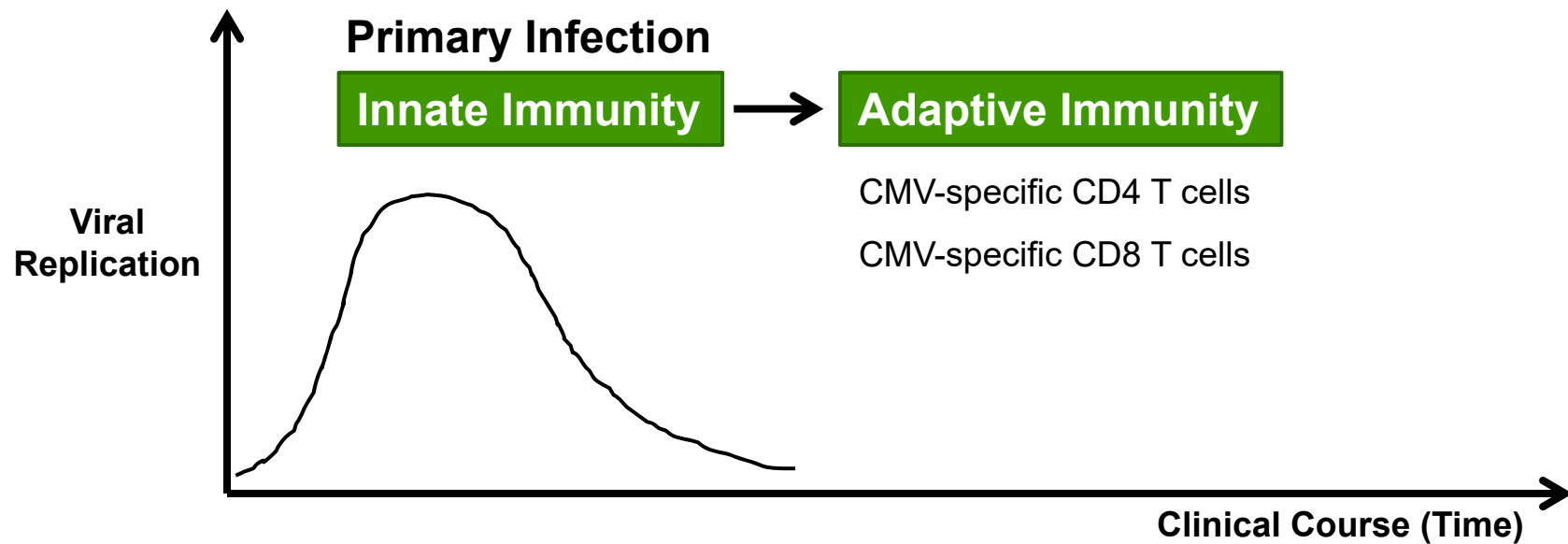


CMV = cytomegalovirus
SOT = solid organ transplant
HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant

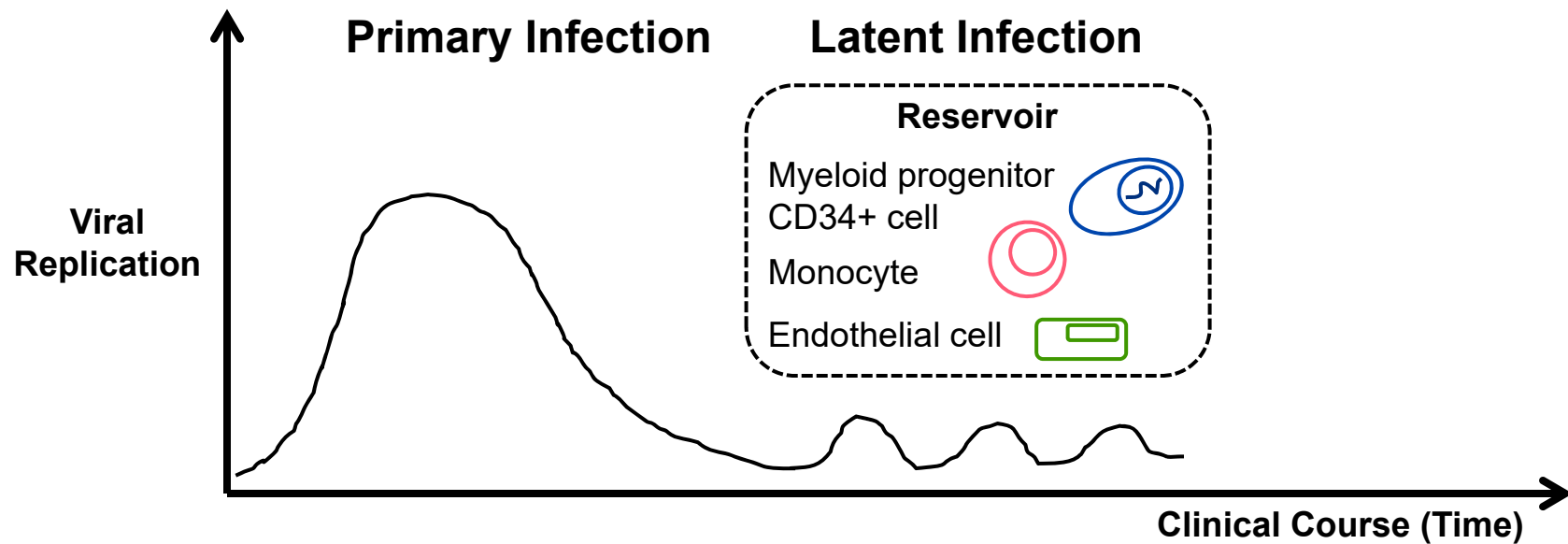
Blood. 2018;2(16):2159-75..
Viruses. 2020;12(21).

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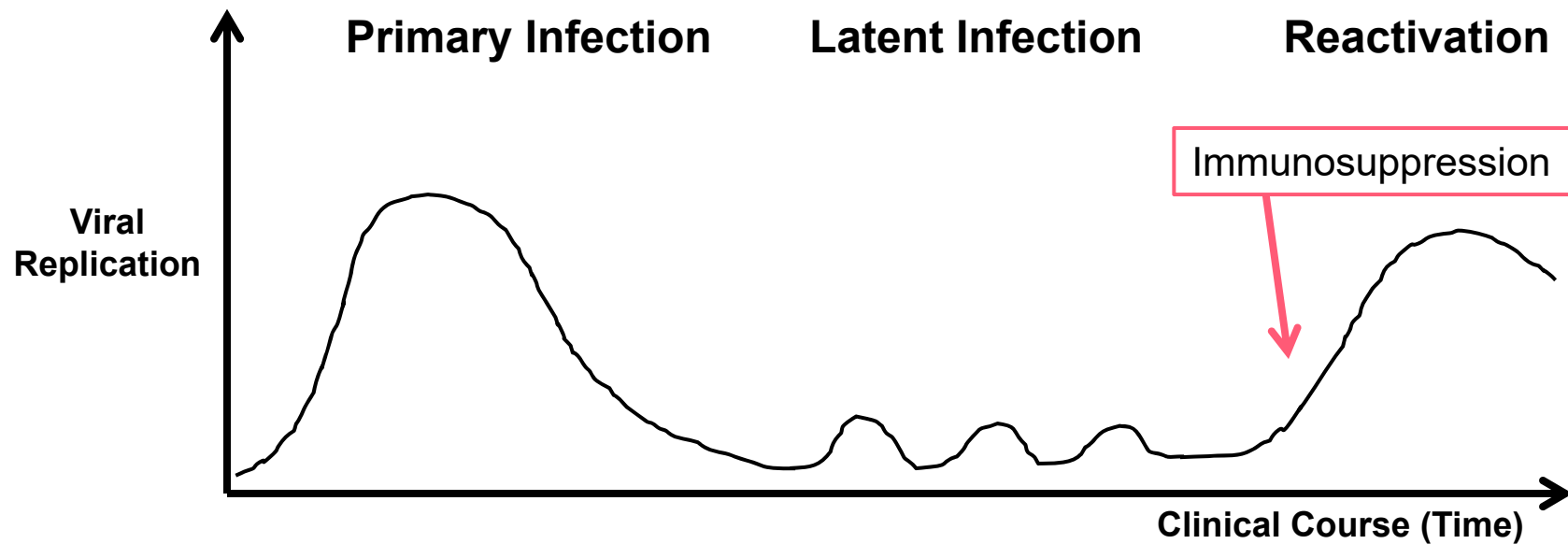
Cytomegalovirus: Clinical Course



Cytomegalovirus: Clinical Course



Cytomegalovirus: Clinical Course



Cytomegalovirus in Immunocompromised Hosts

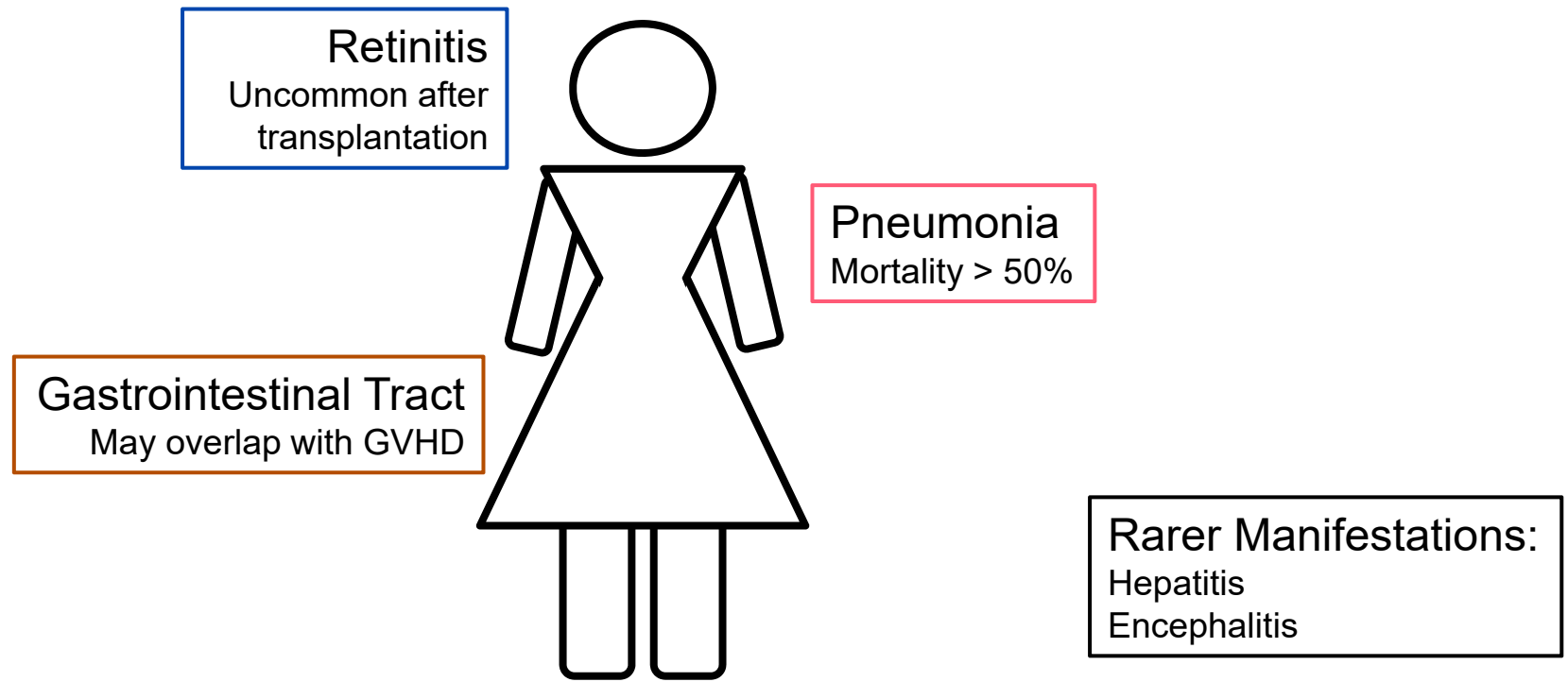
CMV Infection

- Detection of CMV DNA in a blood sample

CMV Disease

- Presence of signs and symptoms compatible with CMV end-organ involvement
- Detection of CMV in the involved specimen

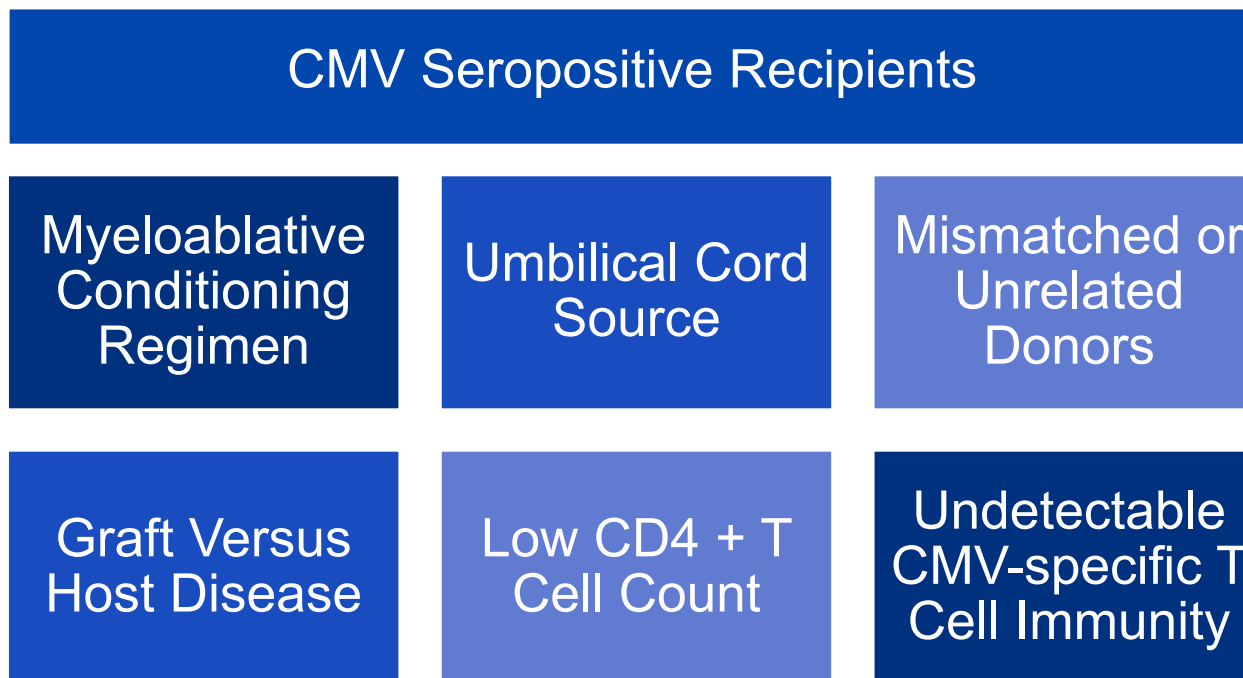
Cytomegalovirus Disease in HSCT



HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant
GVHD = graft versus host disease

Hematol Oncol Clin North Am. 2011;25(1):151-69.

Risk Factors for CMV in Allogeneic HSCT



Association with Non-Relapse Mortality

Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant
Research (CIBMTR) Database

Inclusion: Patients with AML, ALL, MDS, or CML who received first allogeneic HSCT between 2003 and 2010.

Objective

Analyze the impact of CMV reactivation on hematologic disease relapse and non-relapse mortality.

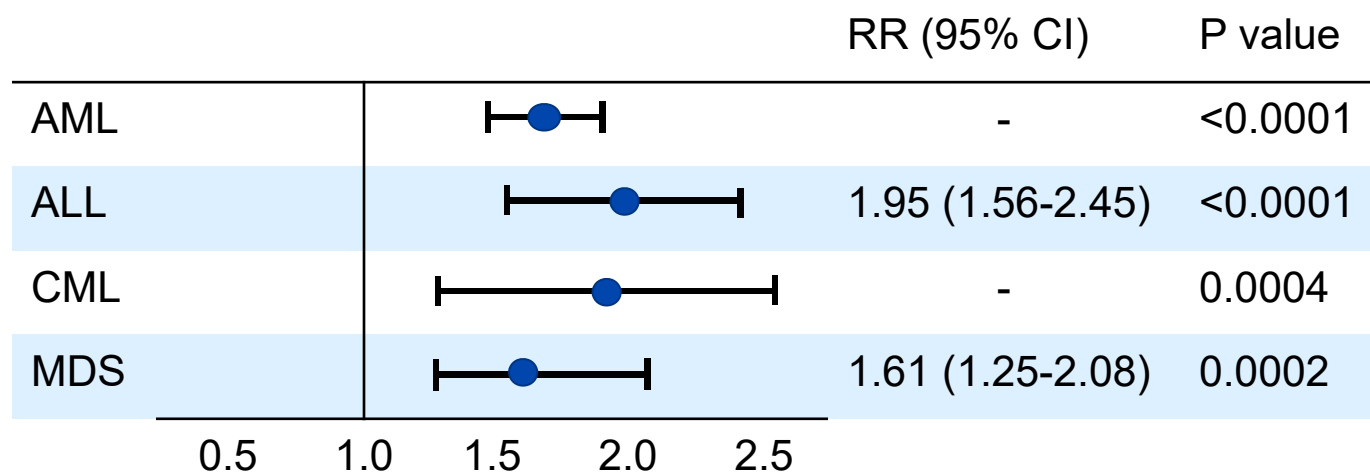


AML = acute myeloid leukemia
ALL = acute lymphoblastic leukemia
MDS = myelodysplastic syndrome

CML = chronic myeloid leukemia
HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant

Blood. 2016;127(20):2427-38.

CMV Reactivation and Non-Relapse Mortality



CMV reactivation is associated with an increase in non-relapse mortality following allogeneic HSCT.



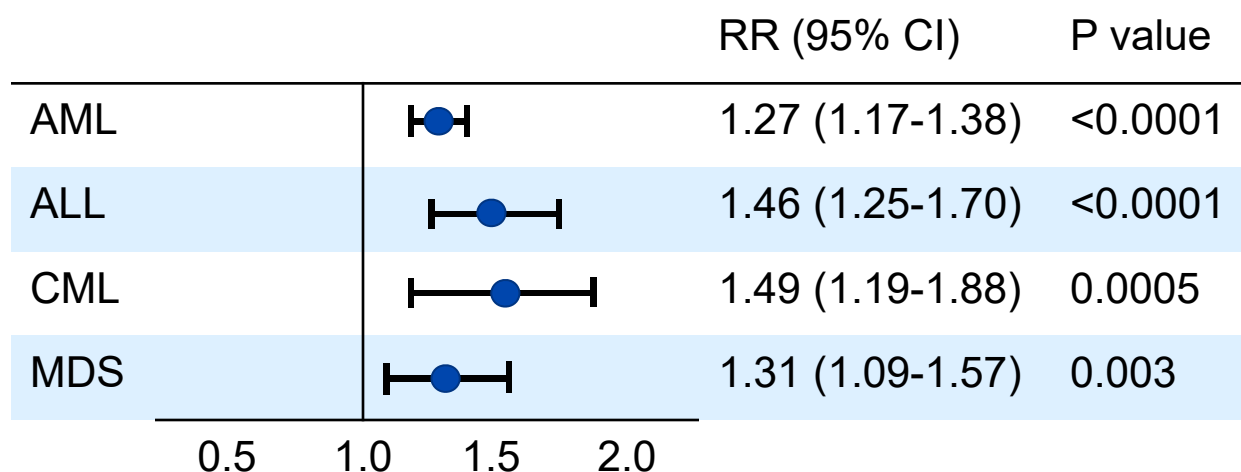
AML = acute myeloid leukemia
ALL = acute lymphoblastic leukemia
MDS = myelodysplastic syndrome

CML = chronic myeloid leukemia
CMV = cytomegalovirus
HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant

Blood. 2016;127(20):2427-38.

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CMV Reactivation and Overall Survival



CMV reactivation is associated with a decrease in overall survival following allogeneic HSCT.



AML = acute myeloid leukemia
ALL = acute lymphoblastic leukemia
MDS = myelodysplastic syndrome

CML = chronic myeloid leukemia
CMV = cytomegalovirus
HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant

Blood. 2016;127(20):2427-38.

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Preventative Strategies in HSCT

**Prophylactic
Therapy**

**Preemptive
Therapy**



HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant

Preventative Strategies in HSCT



Prophylactic Therapy

Provide antiviral therapy for a pre-specified duration post-transplant.

Pros

- Reduction in CMV infection and disease

Cons

- Adverse drug events
- High cost
- Use of antivirals in patients who may not develop CMV infection
- Risk of viral resistance



HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant
CMV = cytomegalovirus

JID. 2020;221(Suppl 1):S23-31.

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Preventative Strategies in HSCT

**Prophylactic
Therapy**

**Preemptive
Therapy**



HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant

Preventative Strategies in HSCT

Monitor for asymptomatic CMV replication, and provide antivirals only upon detection of CMV viremia.

Pros

- Reduction in mortality
- Limited toxicity
- Acceleration of immune constitution

Cons

- Lab costs
- Possibility for loss to follow up
- Possibility for rapid doubling time of CMV viral loads in some patients



**Preemptive
Therapy**

Antivirals for Prophylaxis and Preemptive Treatment

Ganciclovir and Valganciclovir

- Greatest evidence for prevention and treatment of CMV
- Toxicities limit use following HSCT

Acyclovir and Valacyclovir

- Some evidence to support use for CMV prophylaxis following HSCT
- Not routinely utilized due to poor efficacy against CMV

Letermovir

- Approved only for CMV prophylaxis in allogeneic HSCT

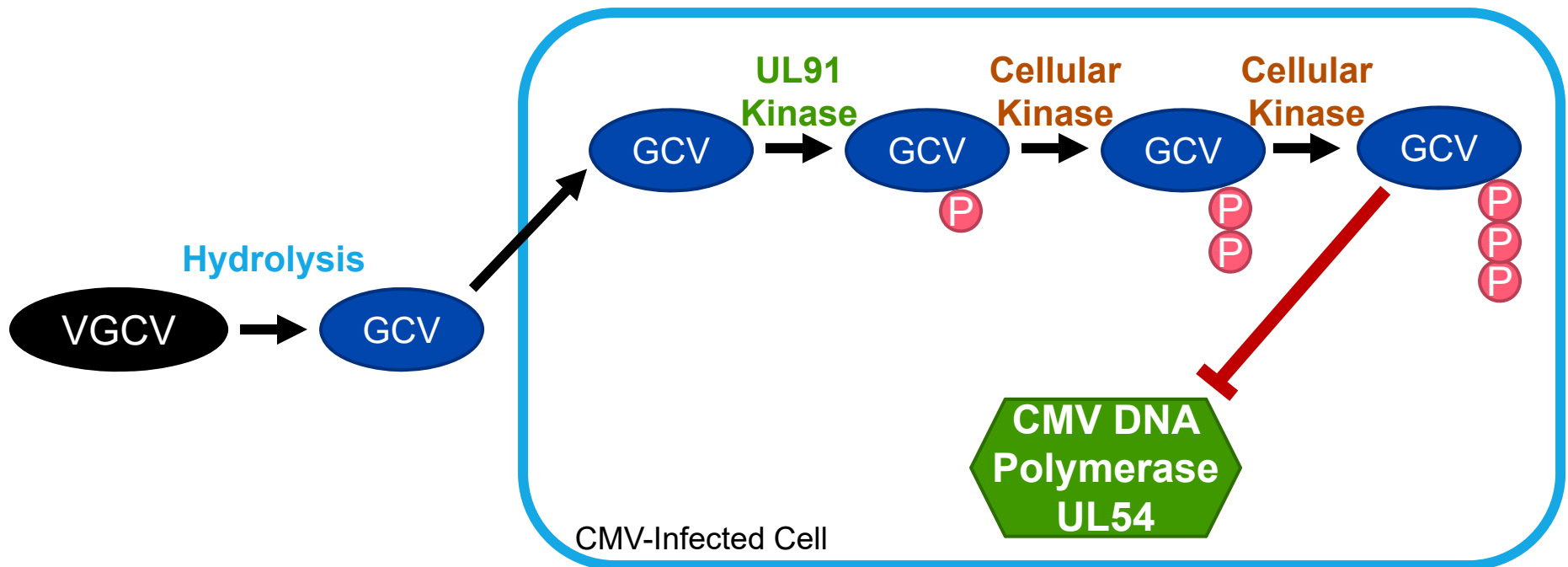


CMV = cytomegalovirus
HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant

JID. 2020;221(Suppl 1):S23-31.

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Ganciclovir and Valganciclovir



Ganciclovir and Valganciclovir

	Prophylaxis	Preemptive Treatment	Side Effects
Ganciclovir	5 mg/kg IV daily	<u>Induction:</u> 5 mg/kg IV every 12 hours <u>Maintenance:</u> 5 mg/kg IV every 24 hours	Myelosuppression Rash, pruritus, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, increased serum creatinine and liver enzymes, and neurotoxicity
Valganciclovir	900 mg PO daily	<u>Induction:</u> 900 mg PO every 12 hours <u>Maintenance:</u> 900 mg every 24 hours	Renal dose adjustments required for CrCl < 60-70

Patient Case

MR is a 47 year old female with a history of acute myeloid leukemia who is day +10 from allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT)

- Bone marrow from haploidentical donor
- Conditioning regimen: Fludarabine, Melphalan, TBI
 - Myeloablative regimen
- CMV seropositive recipient, seronegative donor
- No known drug allergies

Post-Transplant Immunosuppression

- Cyclophosphamide
- Tacrolimus
- Mycophenolate

Should we provide CMV prophylaxis?



Learning Question #1

What strategy would you recommend for prevention of CMV in our patient?

- A. Prophylaxis with valganciclovir because our patient is at high risk for CMV
- B. Prophylaxis with letermovir because our patient is at high risk for CMV
- C. Preemptive therapy with initiation of antiviral therapy only if our patient displays signs or symptoms of CMV
- D. Preemptive therapy with initiation of antiviral therapy if our patient has a detectable CMV DNA viral load

Learning Question #1

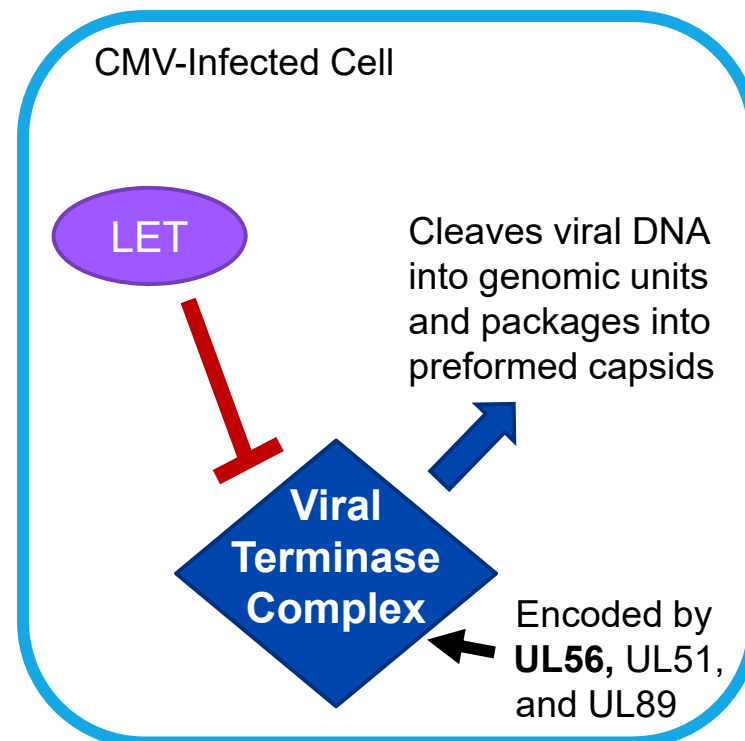
What strategy would you recommend for prevention of CMV in our patient?

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- B. Prophylaxis with letermovir because our patient is at high risk for CMV**
- C. Preemptive therapy with initiation of antiviral therapy only if our patient displays signs or symptoms of CMV
- D. Preemptive therapy with initiation of antiviral therapy if our patient has a detectable CMV DNA viral load**

Letermovir

FDA Approved in 2017

Indication	CMV prophylaxis in CMV-seropositive HSCT recipients
Prophylaxis	480 mg PO or IV once daily
Treatment	Not recommended
Side Effects	Uncommonly nausea, vomiting, headache
Spectrum	Limited to CMV. No HSV or VZV coverage.



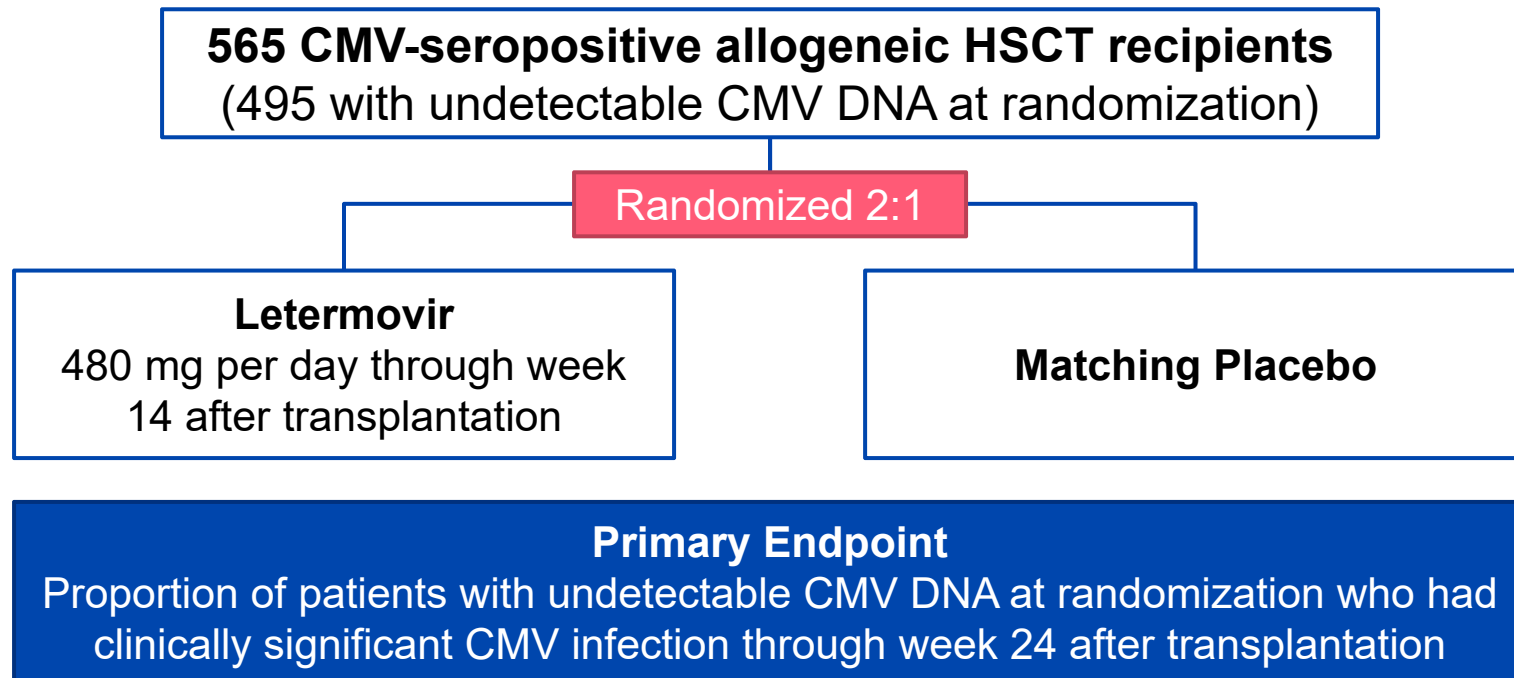
CMV = cytomegalovirus
HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant
HSV = herpes simplex virus

VZV = varicella-zoster virus
LET = letermovir

Infect Drug Resist. 2019;12:1481-91.
Drugs. 2018;78:1085-103.

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Letermovir Phase III Trial



CMV = cytomegalovirus
HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant

N Engl J Med. 2017;377(25):2433-44.

Baseline Characteristics

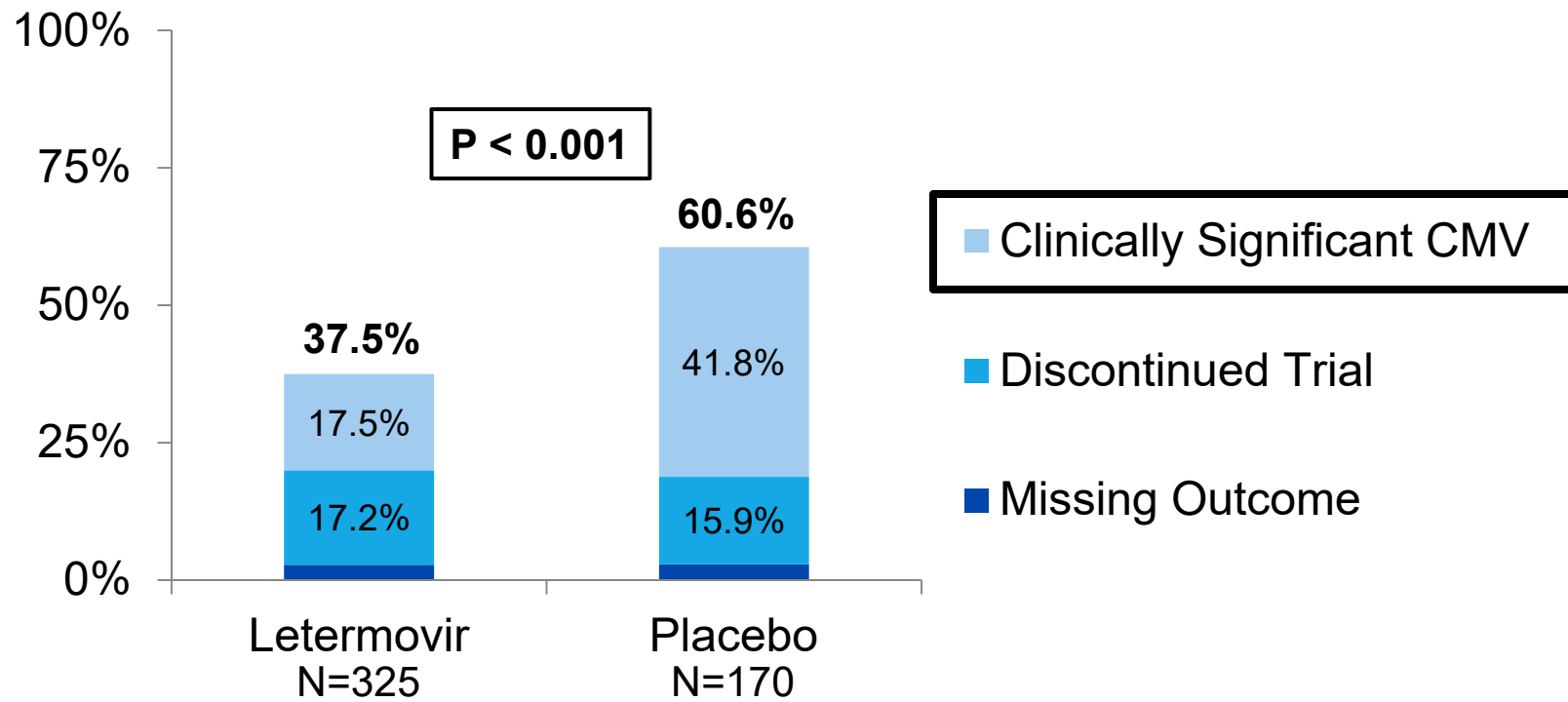
Characteristic	Letermovir (n=373)	Placebo (n=192)
Age (y), median (range)	53 (18-75)	54 (19-78)
Male sex, n (%)	211 (56.6)	116 (60.4)
CMV-seropositive donor, n (%)	230 (61.7)	114 (59.4)
High risk of CMV disease, n (%)	121 (32.4)	54 (28.1)



CMV = cytomegalovirus

N Engl J Med. 2017;377(25):2433-44.

Primary Endpoint: Clinically Significant CMV at Week 24

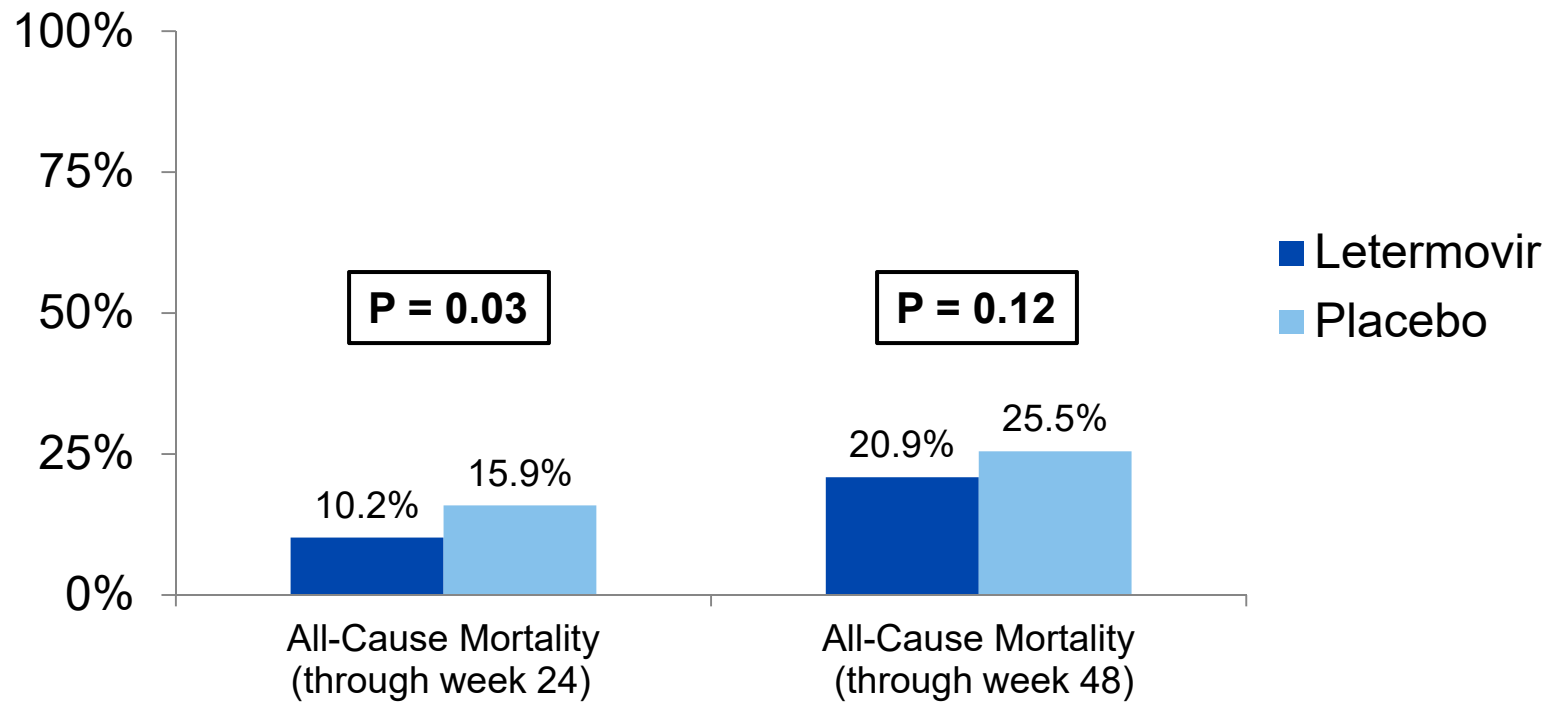


CMV = cytomegalovirus

N Engl J Med. 2017;377(25):2433-44.

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Exploratory Endpoints: All-Cause Mortality



Safety Outcomes

Adverse Events, n (%)	Letermovir (n=373)	Placebo (n=192)	Difference (95% CI)	P Value
Vomiting	69 (18.5)	26 (13.5)	5.0 (−1.7 to 11.0)	0.17
Peripheral edema	54 (14.5)	18 (9.4)	5.1 (−0.8 to 10.4)	0.11
Dyspnea	30 (8.0)	6 (3.1)	-	-
Myalgia	19 (5.1)	3 (1.6)	-	-
Atrial fibrillation	17 (4.6)	2 (1.0)	-	-
ALT ≥ 5 x ULN	13 (3.5)	3 (1.6)	-	-

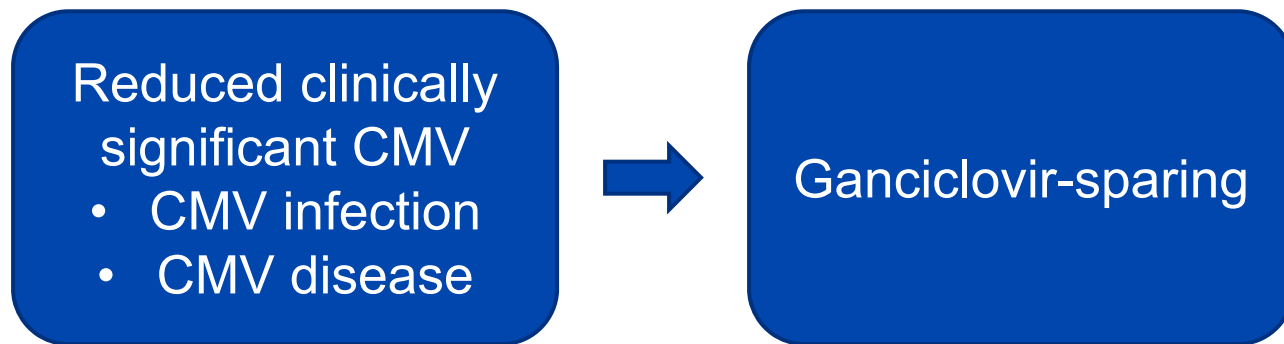


ALT = alanine aminotransferase
ULN = upper limit of normal

N Engl J Med. 2017;377(25):2433-44.

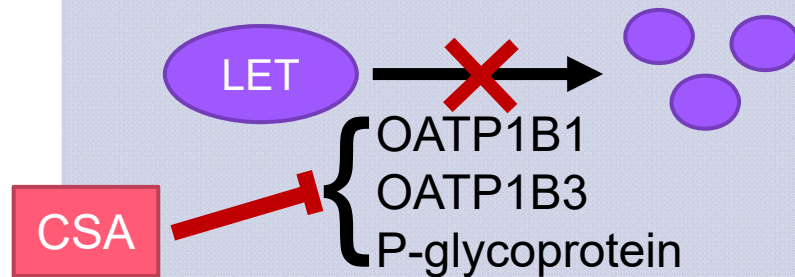
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Clinical Application



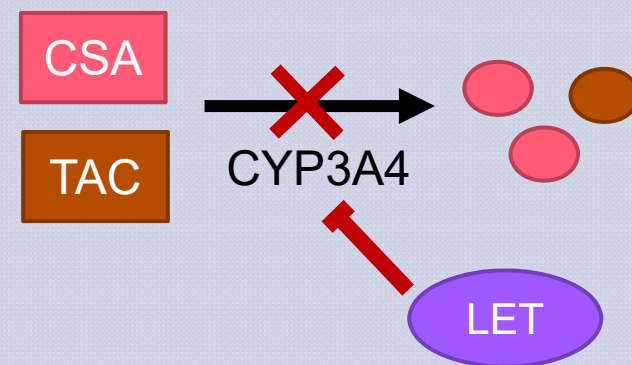
Drug Interactions: Letermovir and Calcineurin Inhibitors

Cyclosporine (CSA)



Phase III trial utilized a reduced dose of 240 mg daily in patients receiving concomitant cyclosporine

CSA & Tacrolimus (TAC)



Are empiric dose adjustments necessary?

Drug Interactions: Letermovir and Calcineurin Inhibitors

Single-center, retrospective study including 46 patients who were CMV seropositive and received letermovir following allogeneic HSCT

Tacrolimus (n=36)
Letermovir 480 mg daily

Cyclosporine (n=10)
Letermovir 240 mg daily

Primary Endpoint

Percent change in concentration to dose (C/D) ratio over the 7-day period after initiation of letermovir.



CMV = cytomegalovirus
HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant

Bone Marrow Transplant. 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41409-020-0785-9>

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Drug Interactions: Letermovir and Calcineurin Inhibitors

Outcome	Tacrolimus (n=36)	Cyclosporine (n=10)
Number of dose changes over 7 days, average (range)	2 (0-5)	3.8 (1-6)
From baseline to 4 days post-letermovir, mean percent change in C/D ratio	+22.9%	+15.9%
From 4 to 7 days post-letermovir, mean percent change in C/D ratio	-8.5%	-10.0%
Cumulative incidence of day 100 grade II-IV GVHD, % (95% CI)	62 (43-76)	50 (16-77)



C/D = concentration to dose
GVHD = graft versus host disease

Bone Marrow Transplant. 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41409-020-0785-9>

Drug Interactions: Letemovir and Calcineurin Inhibitors

Increase in concentration to dose ratios were marginal and compensated by appropriate dosage adjustments.

Empiric dose reduction in calcineurin inhibitors is not recommended.

Drug Interactions: Letermovir and Azole Antifungals

Pharmacokinetic study conducted in health subjects

Posaconazole

Substrate of P-glycoprotein and glucuronosyltransferase

- Inhibited by letermovir

Geometric mean ratio (95% CI)
for POS+letermovir/POS

AUC: 0.98 (0.83, 1.17)

Cmax: 1.11 (0.95, 1.29)



Voriconazole

Substrate of CYP2C9 and CYP2C19

- Induced by letermovir

Geometric mean ratio (95% CI)
for VOR+letermovir/VOR

AUC: 0.56 (0.51, 0.62)

Cmax: 0.61 (0.53, 0.71)



Drug Interactions: Letemovir and Azole Antifungals

Empiric dose changes not recommended.

Consider obtaining antifungal levels one week after letemovir initiation, especially if using voriconazole.

Mayo Clinic Post-HSCT Standard Operating Procedure

High-Risk Allogeneic HSCT Recipients

(Haploidentical, Cord blood, and Mismatch)

Positive Donor and/or Recipient

- CMV prophylaxis
 - Letermovir 480 mg daily starting D0 to D28 and continued through D100
- Monitor CMV PCR weekly

Negative Donor and Recipient

- No CMV prophylaxis
- Monitor CMV PCR weekly

Low-Risk Allogeneic HSCT Recipients

- No CMV prophylaxis
- Monitor CMV PCR weekly



HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant
CMV = cytomegalovirus
PCR = polymerase chain reaction

Patient Case

MR is a 47 year old female with a history of acute myeloid leukemia who is day +10 from allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT)

- Bone marrow from haploidentical donor
- Conditioning regimen: Fludarabine, Melphalan, TBI
 - Myeloablative regimen
- CMV seropositive recipient, seronegative donor
- No known drug allergies

Post-Transplant Immunosuppression

- Cyclophosphamide
- Tacrolimus
- Mycophenolate

Should we provide CMV prophylaxis?



Patient Case

MR is a 47 year old female with a history of acute myeloid leukemia who is day +10 from **allogeneic** hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT)

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- Conditioning regimen: Fludarabine, Melphalan, TBI
 - Myeloablative regimen
- **CMV seropositive recipient**, seronegative donor
- No known drug allergies

Post-Transplant Immunosuppression

- Cyclophosphamide
- Tacrolimus
- Mycophenolate

Should we provide
CMV prophylaxis?

Letermovir
480 mg daily



Learning Question #2

Which patient would benefit most from letermovir prophylaxis?

- A. Autologous HSCT recipient, CMV-seropositive recipient
- B. Allogeneic cord blood SCT recipient, CMV-seronegative donor and recipient
- C. Allogeneic HSCT recipient, mismatched unrelated donor, CMV-seropositive recipient, CMV-seronegative donor
- D. Allogeneic HSCT recipient, matched related donor, CMV-seronegative recipient, CMV-seropositive donor



HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant
CMV = cytomegalovirus

Learning Question #2

Which patient would benefit most from letermovir prophylaxis?

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- D. Allogeneic HSCT recipient, matched related donor, CMV-seronegative recipient, CMV-seropositive donor



HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant
CMV = cytomegalovirus

Objectives



Explain the difference between pre-emptive and prophylaxis strategies for cytomegalovirus infection prevention

Select patients that may benefit from letermovir prophylaxis based on existing literature

Identify areas of investigational use of letermovir

Future Potential Applications of Letermovir

Resistant or refractory CMV

Secondary prophylaxis of CMV infection and disease

Prevention and treatment of CMV in solid organ transplant and other at risk populations

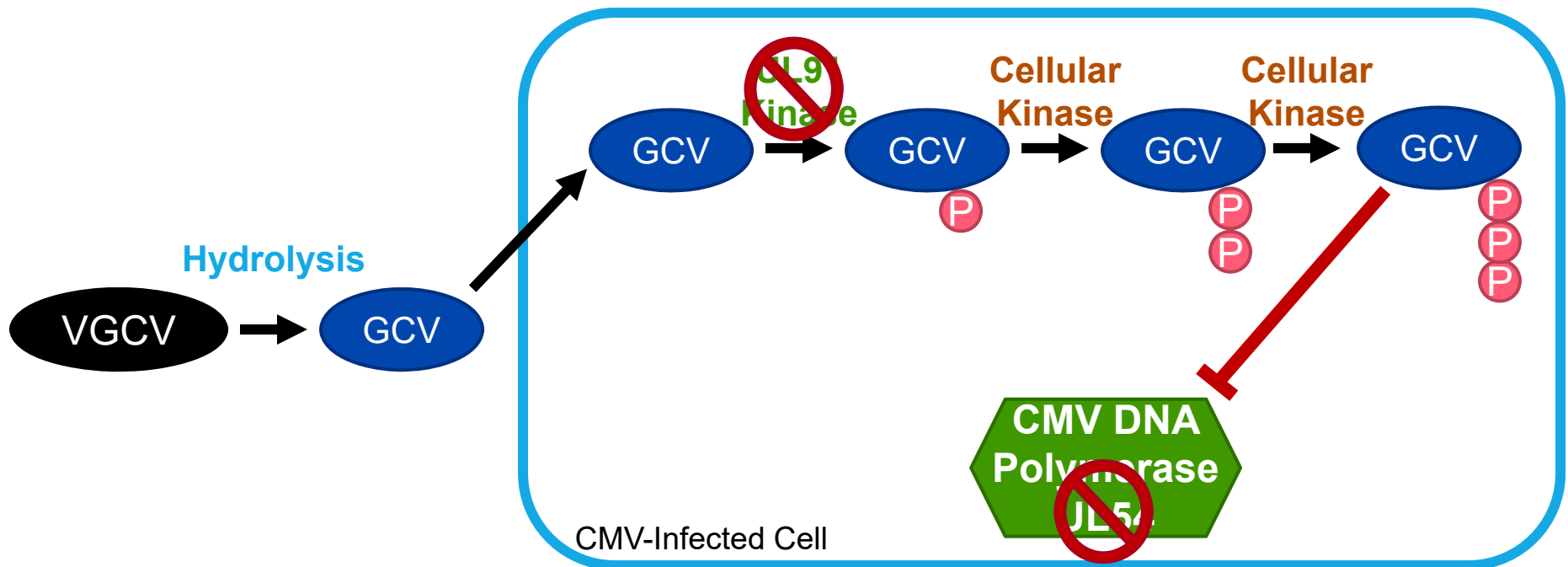
Future Potential Applications of Letermovir

Resistant or refractory CMV



CMV = cytomegalovirus

CMV Resistance to Ganciclovir and Valganciclovir



CMV Resistance to Ganciclovir and Valganciclovir

Rates of Resistant and Refractory CMV

- Rates of resistant CMV in HSCT recipients range from 1.7-14.5%
- Rates of refractory CMV in HSCT recipients range from 29-39%
- Associated outcomes are usually poor

Risk Factors for Resistance

- Prolonged antiviral treatment
- Poor host immune response to CMV
- Reduced drug delivery



CMV = cytomegalovirus
HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant

Curr Opin Infect Dis. 2019;32:565-74.

Letermovir for CMV Salvage Therapy

Age, Sex	Tx	Diagnosis	Prior Therapy	Resistance	Outcome
68, M	Lung	Asymptomatic viremia	PPX: Valganciclovir TX: Ganciclovir, Foscarnet	Unable to amplify	6 weeks to achieve < 200 IU/mL
51, M	Lung	Viral syndrome	PPX: Valganciclovir TX: Ganciclovir, Foscarnet	Negative	Increase in viral load by ~2-log
59, M	Lung	Asymptomatic viremia	PPX: Valganciclovir TX: Ganciclovir, Foscarnet	UL97	3 weeks to achieve < 200 IU/mL
30, F	Lung	Asymptomatic viremia	PPX: Valganciclovir TX: Ganciclovir , Foscarnet	Negative	4 weeks to achieve < 200 IU/mL
70, M	Allo HSCT	CMV colitis & pneumonitis	PPX: None TX: Ganciclovir, Foscarnet	UL97, UL54	2-log reduction in viremia

Bolded medications were continued in combination therapy with letermovir for treatment of resistant/refractory CMV.



CMV = cytomegalovirus
HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant

Transplantation. 2020;104(2):404-9.

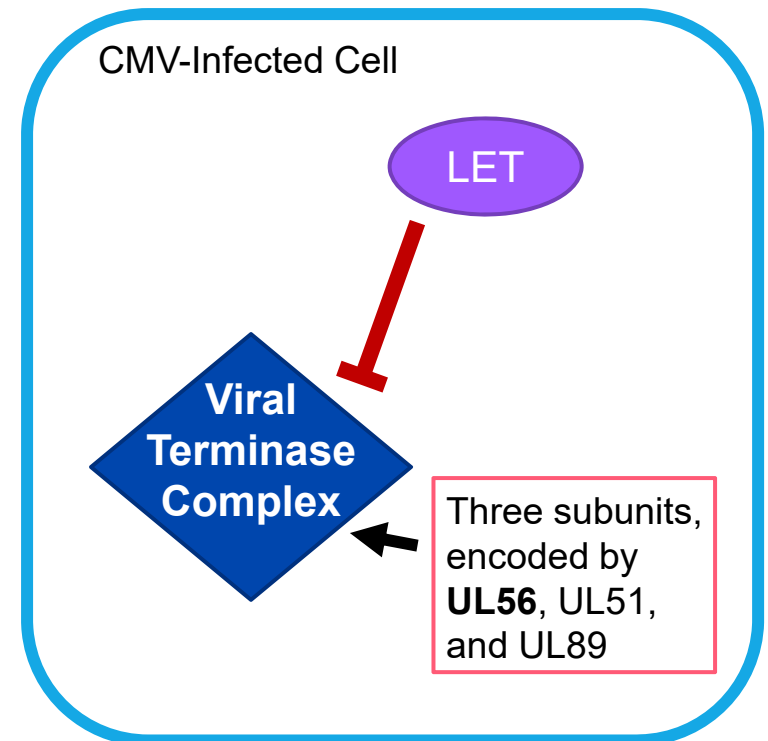
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Resistant and Refractory CMV: Ongoing Trials

Study	Design	n	Intervention	Status	Completion
NCT03728426	Single Group Phase II	32	Letermovir for refractory or resistant CMV with concurrent organ dysfunction	Recruiting	Jul 2021

CMV Resistance to Letermovir

- In vitro selection studies have suggested a low genetic barrier to development of letermovir resistance
- One patient in the letermovir prophylaxis trial who developed a breakthrough CMV infection due to a mutation in UL56



Patient Case

MR is a 47 year old female with a history of acute myeloid leukemia who is day +56 from allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant

CMV Prevention Strategy: Letermovir prophylaxis

New Hospital Admission:

Patient admitted with abdominal pain and fever.

CMV DNA 9430 IU/mL

CMV colitis suspected

Failure of treatment-dose ganciclovir with mutations in UL54 and UL97 identified.



Learning Question #3

Which of the following is true regarding use of letermovir in this patient for resistant CMV?

- A. Letermovir has demonstrated efficacy against resistant CMV in recent randomized clinical trials
- B. Use of letermovir prophylaxis may predispose this patient to develop letermovir-resistant CMV
- C. Letermovir should not be combined with other antiviral agents for resistant CMV
- D. Letermovir would not be effective in this patient because of the UL54 mutation

Learning Question #3

Which of the following is true regarding use of letermovir in this patient for resistant CMV?

- A. Letermovir has demonstrated efficacy against resistant CMV in recent randomized clinical trials
- B. Use of letermovir prophylaxis may predispose this patient to develop letermovir-resistant CMV**
- C. Letermovir should not be combined with other antiviral agents for resistant CMV
- D. Letermovir would not be effective in this patient because of the UL54 mutation

Future Potential Applications of Letermovir

Resistant or refractory CMV



CMV = cytomegalovirus

Future Potential Applications of Letermovir

Resistant or refractory CMV

Secondary prophylaxis of CMV infection and disease

Secondary Prophylaxis of CMV Following HSCT

Population

- 80 CMV-seropositive adult patients who had ≥ 1 episode of CMV infection (n=66) or disease (n=14) following HSCT

Intervention

- Letermovir for secondary prophylaxis of CMV

Outcome

- Four patients (5.5%) developed breakthrough CMV infections or diseases
- Three of these patients had documented CMV UL56 mutation

Possible Clinical Role

- Bridge between treatment for CMV and CMV-specific immune reconstitution



CMV = cytomegalovirus
HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant

Biol Blood Marrow Transplant. 2020;978984.

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Secondary Prophylaxis of CMV: Ongoing Trials

Study	Design	n	Intervention	Status	Completion
NCT04017962	Single Group Phase II	86	Letermovir for prevention of recurrent CMV infection post-HSCT	Recruiting	Jul 2021



CMV = cytomegalovirus
HSCT = hematopoietic stem cell transplant

Future Potential Applications of Letermovir

Resistant or refractory CMV

Secondary prophylaxis of CMV infection and disease

Future Potential Applications of Letermovir

Resistant or refractory CMV

Secondary prophylaxis of CMV infection and disease

Prevention and treatment of CMV in solid organ transplant and other at risk populations



CMV = cytomegalovirus

Letermovir in Thoracic Organ Recipients

Population

- 8 heart or lung transplant patients

Intervention

- Letermovir for prophylaxis of CMV

Outcome

- Three (37.5%) developed CMV infection during prophylaxis
- No major side effects reported

Possible Clinical Role

- Well tolerated, but a higher rate of development of CMV infection

Letermovir in Other Patient Groups: Ongoing Trials

Study	Design	n	Intervention	Status	Completion
NCT03443869	Randomized Phase III	600	Letermovir vs valganciclovir to prevent CMV post-kidney transplant	Recruiting	Sep 2021
NCT04312841	Single Group Phase II	30	Letermovir for CMV prophylaxis in patients with hematological malignancies treated with alemtuzumab	Not yet recruiting	Dec 2022

Future Potential Applications of Letermovir

Resistant or refractory CMV

Secondary prophylaxis of CMV infection and disease

Prevention and treatment of CMV in solid organ transplant and other at risk populations

Summary

- A preemptive strategy is typically favored in HSCT recipients
 - Avoid myelosuppressive effects of antiviral medications
- Letermovir may be used for CMV prophylaxis in allogeneic HSCT recipients
 - We reserve use for high-risk patients
- Future uses for letermovir may include resistant or refractory CMV, secondary prophylaxis for recurrent CMV, and prophylaxis or treatment in solid organ transplant or other at-risk groups



Discussion & Questions

✉ rice.mikhaila@mayo.edu

🐦 [@MikhailaPharmD](https://twitter.com/MikhailaPharmD)