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+46 46-222 00 00

## Original article

### **Dose-densified chemoimmunotherapy followed by systemic central nervous system prophylaxis for younger high-risk diffuse large B-cell/follicular grade 3 lymphoma patients: Results of a phase II Nordic Lymphoma Group study**

H. Holte<sup>1\*</sup>, S. Leppä<sup>2</sup>, M. Björkholm<sup>3</sup>, Ø. Fluge<sup>4</sup>, S. Jyrkkö<sup>5</sup>, J. Delabie<sup>6</sup>, C. Sundström<sup>7</sup>, M.-L. Karjalainen-Lindsberg<sup>8</sup>, M. Erlanson<sup>9</sup>, A. Kolstad<sup>1</sup>, A. Fosså<sup>1</sup>, B. Østenstad<sup>10</sup>, E. Löfvenberg<sup>3</sup>, M. Nordström<sup>3</sup>, R. Janes<sup>2</sup>, L.M. Pedersen<sup>11</sup>, H. Anderson<sup>12</sup>, M. Jerkeman<sup>13</sup> and M. Eriksson<sup>13</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Oncology, Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway, <sup>2</sup>Department of Oncology, Helsinki University Central Hospital and University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, <sup>3</sup>Department of Medicine, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden, <sup>4</sup>Department of Oncology, Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen, Norway, <sup>5</sup>Department of Oncology and Radiotherapy, Turku University Centre Hospital, Turku, Finland, <sup>6</sup>Department of Pathology, Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway, <sup>7</sup>Department of Pathology, Academic Hospital, Uppsala, Sweden, <sup>8</sup>Department of Pathology, Helsinki University Central Hospital, Helsinki, Finland <sup>9</sup>Department of Oncology, Norrlands University Hospital, Umeå Sweden, <sup>10</sup>Department of Oncology, Ullevål University Hospital, Oslo, Norway, <sup>11</sup>Department of Hematology, Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark, <sup>12</sup>Department of Cancer Epidemiology, Lund University, Lund, Sweden, <sup>13</sup>Department of Oncology Skane University Hospital and Lund University, Lund, Sweden

Correspondence to: Dr. H. Holte

Department of Oncology, Oslo University Hospital Radiumhospitalet

Box 4950 Nydalen 0424 Oslo, Norway

Telephone: +47 22 93 41 85, Fax: +47 2293 55 99, email: [hhe@ous-hf.no](mailto:hhe@ous-hf.no)

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Intensive chemotherapy; prophylaxis.

## **Background**

Many patients with aggressive B-cell lymphomas and high clinical risk score still die from lymphoma after conventional R-CHOP chemoimmunotherapy. We hypothesized that intensified chemoimmunotherapy including systemic central nervous system (CNS) prophylaxis improves outcome and reduces the incidence of CNS related events.

## **Patients and Methods**

Inclusion criteria were age 18-65 years, primary diffuse large B-cell lymphoma or grade III follicular lymphoma without clinical signs of CNS disease and negative cerebrospinal fluid cytology, age-adjusted International Prognostic Index 2-3 and WHO performance score 0-3. Treatment consisted of six courses of R-CHOEP-14 followed by a course of high-dose cytarabine and a course of high-dose methotrexate. Primary endpoint was failure-free survival (FFS) at three years.

## **Results**

156 eligible patients with a median age of 54 years (range 20-64) were included. Three toxic deaths were observed. Three-year overall survival (OS) and FFS rates (median observation time 52 months for survivors) were 81% and 65%, respectively. Seven patients experienced CNS relapse, all within 6 months.

## **Conclusions**

The results are promising with favorable three-year OS and FFS rates, a low toxic death rate and a lower than expected number of CNS events. CNS progression might be further reduced by earlier CNS prophylaxis. (ClinicalTrials.gov. Identifier: NCT01502982).

## Introduction

Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) is a curable disease with combination chemotherapy. The outcome is variable but can to some extent be predicted from clinical risk factors included in the International Prognostic Index (IPI) score [1]. Of all patients, less than 50% are cured with a CHOP-like (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine and prednisone) therapy [2], while the corresponding cure rates for low and high risk patients are 80% and 30% (1). Introduction of rituximab, a monoclonal antibody targeting CD20, in combination with CHOP has led to a marked improvement of survival [3-7]. Survival benefit was also obtained in the German NHL-B2 trial for elderly patients by reducing intervals between CHOP cycles from 21 to 14 days [8]. An additional attempt to improve the CHOP-14 regimen was tested by combining etoposide with CHOP-14 (CHOEP) in the German NHL-B1 trial for patients less than 60 years [9], resulting in improved progression-free survival (PFS), but not overall survival (OS). Similar results were reported in a subgroup analysis of the MInT trial [6] but not when rituximab was added to CHOEP-14 [4]. In the German RICOVER-60 study [10], the patients received six or eight cycles of CHOP-14 with or without eight rituximab infusions. Six cycles of CHOP-14 in combination with eight rituximab infusions yielded the best results.

For young high-risk DLBCL patients the optimal therapy has not been established. At the time this study was initiated, the benefit of rituximab and/or dose densification from 21 to 14 days had not been specifically investigated in the young high-risk subgroup. Randomized studies comparing conventional doses of chemotherapy with high-dose treatment (HDT) followed by stem cell transplantation have not convincingly shown an advantage for HDT [11, 12]. It is argued that patients with risk factors have a disease with high proliferation rate, and that these patients may benefit from dose densification (13). Thus, for younger patients

with risk factors, we hypothesized that R-CHOEP-14 is a treatment with three favorable modifications from the conventional CHOP-21.

In addition to the risk of a systemic relapse, patients with DLBCL are at risk for relapse in the central nervous system (CNS). Several studies have shown that the risk of CNS relapse in the pre-rituximab era to be in the range of 4-6% [14-17]. Patients with high tumor load including high IPI score and extra nodal involvement in more than one site carry the highest risk to develop this ominous complication. In one retrospective analysis, patients with four or five of out of five defined risk factors had a five year CNS recurrence risk of more than 25% [16].

In the present prospective Nordic phase II study, the efficacy and safety of an intensive, dose-dense regimen with systemic CNS prophylaxis for high-risk patients [1] younger than 65 years with DLBCL or follicular lymphoma (FL) grade 3 were investigated.

## **Patients and Methods**

### **Eligibility, staging and response assessment**

Eligible patients were 18-65 years old with a biopsy-confirmed CD20-positive DLBCL or FL grade 3, age adjusted (aa) IPI 2-3 (1) and a WHO performance status < 4. Post-transplantation lymphoma, DLBCL with features intermediate between DLBCL and Burkitt lymphoma, primary CNS lymphoma, discordant FL grade 1-2 – DLBCL, transformed DLBCL from FL, and cases with leptomeningeal or parenchymal CNS lymphoma involvement were ineligible. Patients had to present adequate organ function, allowing the planned treatment schedule.

Standard staging procedure was performed in all patients with the addition of electrocardiogram and evaluation of the left ventricular ejection fraction (echo-cardiography or MUGA scintigraphy) and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) cytology examination for CNS involvement. The protocol was approved by the Medical Agencies and Ethics Committees in

Finland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and the trial registered at ClinicalTrials.gov, number NCT01502982. All patients signed informed consent before study participation.

Response to therapy was evaluated after three courses and approximately four weeks after end of treatment according to Cheson 1999 criteria [18]. In 49 patients a FDG-PET was performed at the end of chemotherapy, and the Cheson 2007 criteria also applied for these patients [19]. Biopsy was recommended in PET positive cases. Patients with complete remission unconfirmed (CRu) and not experiencing relapse within 6 months were reclassified as a complete remission (CR), and if a relapse occurred, as a partial remission (PR).

Patients went off the protocol if lymphoma progressed or relapsed during treatment, if the patient declined to continue with the protocol, or at the discretion of the treating physician in case of intercurrent diseases or excessive toxicity, which prohibited further protocol treatment.

All hematological and non-hematological toxicities, except hair loss, were assessed and graded according to the WHO Common Toxicity Criteria ([www://ctep.cancer.gov](http://www://ctep.cancer.gov), version 3.0).

## **Pathology**

Patients were included in the study based on a histological diagnosis from the local pathologists. After inclusion, samples were forwarded to the National Pathology Review representatives (JD, CS, M-LKS) for confirmation of the diagnosis and further sub-classification. The sub-classification was expanded after the WHO report of 2008 [20] to include the relevant subgroups, and also to perform a prognostic sub-classification of the DLBCL NOS into the two immunohistochemically (IHC) defined subgroups of germinal centre B-cell type (GCB) and non-germinal centre B-cell type (non-GCB) according to Hans

algorithm [21]. Assessment of Ki67-positivity was performed semi-quantitatively by the central pathology reviewer.

### **Treatment schedule**

R-CHOEP-14 consisted of rituximab 375 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, cyclophosphamide 750 mg/m<sup>2</sup> i.v., doxorubicin 50 mg/m<sup>2</sup> i.v., and vincristine 1.4 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (max. 2.0 mg) i.v. on day 1, etoposide 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> i.v. on days 1-3, and prednisone 100 mg daily p.o. for days 1-5. G-CSF support was given as filgrastim 5 µg/kg from day 4 or pegfilgrastim 6 mg on day 4. Six R-CHOEP-14 courses were followed by systemic CNS prophylaxis: high dose cytarabine (H-cytarabine; course number 7) 3 g/m<sup>2</sup> i.v. twice daily for two days (in total four times) and three weeks later high-dose methotrexate (H-MTX; course number 8) 3 g/m<sup>2</sup> i.v. as a 24-hour infusion. Folic acid rescue (calciumfolinate) was given after 36 hours. H-cytarabine was reduced from 3 to 2 g/m<sup>2</sup> and H-MTX from 3 to 1.5 g/m<sup>2</sup> for patients aged 60-65 years.

Intrathecal (i.t.) administration of cytostatic drugs was not part of the CNS prophylaxis, except that methotrexate 15 mg i.t. was allowed once after the diagnostic lumbar puncture before start of systemic treatment.

Radiotherapy was given at the discretion of the individual centers (36-45 Gy). Indications for giving radiotherapy after the completion of chemotherapy included bulky disease (≥10 cm) at diagnosis, localized PET positive residual lesions, and residual disease, not eligible for biopsy at a localized site, and potentially curable by radiotherapy.

Relative dose intensity. The relative dose (RD) for each drug of R-CHOEP was the ratio of dose received to protocol dose. The relative dose intensity (RDI) was the RD times stipulated protocol time divided by elapsed time for a given patient. For H-cytarabine and H-MTX, the RD was calculated.



## **Statistical analysis**

The primary endpoint was failure free survival (FFS) defined as the interval between the registration date and the date of documented progression or lack of response, first relapse, death for any reason, or discontinuation/change of therapy because of toxicity, whichever occurred first. Otherwise, patients were censored at the last date they were known to be alive. For patients not responding at any time point on study treatment, FFS was defined as one day. The secondary endpoint, overall survival (OS) was defined as time from the registration date to the date of death. Patients still alive or lost to follow-up were censored at the last date they were known to be alive. Other secondary endpoints were response rates and toxicity.

All patients included according to protocol were analyzed. OS and FFS curves were estimated by means of the Kaplan-Meier method. Clinical and tumor related factors were analyzed by Chi square tests or non-parametric trend tests for response rates and log-rank tests and the Cox proportional hazards multivariate analysis for survival..

## **Results**

### **Clinical characteristics**

Between November 2004 and June 2008 160 patients were registered. Four patients were excluded after pathology review; three due to discordant or transformed lymphoma and one due to mantle cell lymphoma. 145 cases were centrally reviewed. One patient withdrew her informed consent during therapy, and her follow-up was censored from the date of withdrawal. Patient characteristics are summarized in Table 1.

### **Pathology**

The pathology subgroups at inclusion and at review are summarized in Table 2. At review, 16 patients (10%) had FL grade 3, either with simultaneous DLBCL (n=3) or without (n=13). Of

the DLBCL NOS (74%), 46% were classified as GC- and 21% as non-GC subtypes, while 7% could not be sub classified. There was no significant difference in age between the patients with GC and non-GC subtypes. The Ki67 staining showed a relatively high median value of 70 % positive cells. The non-GC group had a significantly higher Ki67 score than the GC group;  $p = 0.025$ ).

### **Toxicity and relative dose intensity (RDI)**

135 patients (92%) received full treatment according to protocol, while 21 patients received 1-7 courses (Table 3). Reasons for reduced number of courses were treatment related deaths ( $n=3$ ), severe toxicities ( $n=7$ ; 4 septicemias, 1 mucositis, 1 cardiac insufficiency, 1 renal insufficiency), progressive disease (PD;  $n=8$ ), consent withdrawn ( $n=1$ ), no reason given ( $n=1$ ), and suspected CNS involvement ( $n=1$ ; turned out not to be the case).

The fraction of patients with reported grade 3-4 toxicities are shown in Table 3. After 40 patients had been treated, an interim analysis was performed. At the time, five patients had documented pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia. Accordingly, the protocol was amended to include prophylaxis with trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole.

The RDI based on all courses given was high (Table 3), and the RDI reductions for cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin and etoposide were mainly due to a mean prolonged treatment duration of approximately one week (112 days instead of 105 days for patients given all 8 courses). The RDI for vincristine was somewhat lower (0.94); 0.92 and 0.95 for patients  $\geq 60$  years and  $< 60$  years, respectively. The RD for H-MTX for patients above and below 60 years was 1.0 and 0.97, respectively, and for H-cytarabine the corresponding numbers were 0.92 and 0.97.

### **Radiotherapy**

Radiotherapy was given to 26 patients (17%) for the following indications (more than one reason may have been given): Bulky disease at the start of therapy, ( $n = 13$ ), residual disease ( $n = 21$ ), epidural lesion ( $n = 1$ ), and bony lesion ( $n = 3$ ).

### **Responses and CNS relapses**

Response to therapy is shown in Table 4. Eleven of 19 treatment failures were not evaluable due to toxic deaths ( $n=3$ ), toxicity and protocol treatment modifications ( $n=6$ ), consent withdrawn ( $n=1$ ) and unknown reason ( $n=1$ ). Among remaining failures one patient had stable disease and seven PD at end of study treatment. Of the 49 patients with PET / CT performed, 5 of 12 patients with CT based PR converted to a CR, otherwise the remission status was unchanged.

Seven patients had CNS relapse, detailed in Table 5; all occurred within six months after study inclusion. Only three of the cases had both involvement of more than one extra nodal site and elevated LDH at registration.

### **Survival**

After a median follow up of 52 months for surviving patients, 33 out of 156 patients (21%) had died; 22 due to lymphoma. Other causes of deaths are given in Table 4. The primary endpoint, three-year FFS rate, including patients not treated according to protocol, was 65% (confidence interval (CI) 59 - 73%) (Figure 1A). The secondary endpoint, three-year OS rate was 81% (CI 75% - 87%) (Figure 1B). There was better OS ( $p = 0.011$ ), but only a weak trend for better FFS in patients with aaIPI 2 score as compared to those with aaIPI 3 ( $p = 0.107$ ). FFS was not affected by sex, age below or above 60 years ( $p=0.75$ ), by DLBCL IHC subtype (GCB versus non-GCB;  $p = 0.82$ , Figure 1C), nor number of extra nodal sites less than versus at least two ( $p = 0.69$ ). However, patients with a high Ki67 score ( $\geq 70\%$ ) had a

better FFS than those with a low score ( $p=0.035$ ; Figure 1D). When Ki67 score (low versus high), aaIPI 2 versus 3, number of extra nodal sites and DLBCL subtype were entered into a Cox multivariate analysis, no significant prognostic factors were identified for FFS ( $p = 0.07$  for Ki67).

When eight cases with follicular lymphoma grade 3A were excluded, three-year FFS and OS rates were still 65% and 82%.

## **Discussion**

This phase II study in patients less than 65 years with DLBCL / FL grade 3 with aaIPI score 2-3 treated with a dose-dense chemoimmunotherapy regimen and systemic CNS prophylaxis demonstrates favourable three-year FFS (65%) and OS (81%). A CNS relapse rate of 4.5% is also lower than expected from previous studies. Furthermore, the low toxic death rate of 2% shows that the intensive regimen can be performed safely for most patients.

Our aim was to provide our Nordic younger high-risk DLBCL patients with what we considered to be the optimal therapy within a phase II study. At the time the protocol was initiated, the treatment schedule was based on data showing a benefit from the addition of rituximab [3-5] and dose intensification of the CHOP regimen for patients with DLBCL [8, 9], although not specifically for the young high-risk subgroup. Furthermore, data from several retrospective analyses of patients receiving CHOP-based chemotherapy showed a CNS relapse rate of more than 10% for a selected group of high-risk patients represented by those with high tumor load including high IPI score [13-16]. Results from a French study, including consolidation with high-dose methotrexate, showed a low rate of CNS relapses [22]. In addition to H-MTX, we included H-cytarabine in our regimen - a drug included in effective regimen for various aggressive lymphomas (Hyper CVAD, BFM, GMALL, CODOX-M/IVAC, Nordic regimen for mantle cell lymphoma) and with CNS prophylactic efficacy.

Recently, a report from the German High Grade Lymphoma Group showed superior outcome in younger high-risk DLBCL patients receiving R-CHOEP-14 regimen in comparison to the Mega R-CHOEP regimen with OS rate comparable to our study [23]. Furthermore, a recent, retrospective population-based Danish study provides additional support for a survival benefit of R-CHOEP-14 compared to R-CHOP-14 [24]. The survival benefit of adding etoposide to a R-CHOP-21 regimen could, however, not be confirmed in a subgroup analysis of patients with aaIPI 0-1 in the MiNT study [4]. Another argument for the inclusion of etoposide is that the drug can to some extent penetrate through the blood-brain barrier (25) and that inclusion of etoposide in a compilation of randomized German studies showed a statistically reduced incidence of CNS relapses [26].

When pooling several recent German prospective studies on aggressive B-cell lymphomas in which younger high-risk patients have received intensified regimen [26], both with and without rituximab, the risk for the CNS relapses was 4% for aaIPI 2 and 11% for aaIPI 3 patients while 4.5% of the patients in our study had a relapse in the CNS. Reports from the four – armed SWOG study (27) and from a population – based US study (28) show even lower CNS relapse rates, but whether the great majority of the CNS related events are identified may be questioned (28). It is plausible to suggest that more effective, dose dense therapy resulting in fewer systemic relapses leads to less frequent CNS relapses. Inclusion of rituximab to CHOP like therapy improves survival, but whether rituximab reduces the risk of CNS relapse is however, controversial [29-32]. Whether or to what extent the H-MTX and H-cytarabine courses used in our study prevent CNS relapses needs to be confirmed in a randomized study.

There is currently no consensus whether, how and to which patient group CNS prophylaxis should be given [32]. Patients at risk are generally considered to have high tumor

burden [13-16] - as the main criterion in our study -, CNS near lesions, bone marrow infiltration or testicular involvement. While some patients have been given combined i.t. and systemic i.v. H-MTX prophylaxis [22, 33], others have been given MTX either i.t. [16, 26-27] or i.v. [2, 36]. Only few of these studies support the use of CNS prophylaxis [22, 33, 35-36]. In the present study, in six of the seven patients with CNS relapse this was isolated to the CNS, and in four out of them in the brain parenchyma. In previous studies with CHOP chemotherapy, more than half of the cases had a combined systemic and CNS relapse, the median time to CNS relapse was longer than in this study, and the majority of the cases were meningeal [14-17]. Of note, all seven relapses occurred within 6 months after registration, implying that the CNS involvement may have been present, but undetected at diagnosis. For further reduction of CNS relapse without compromising a low systemic relapse rate, a combination of better CNS detection analysis and earlier CNS prophylaxis may be indicated. For parenchymal lymphoma involvement, MRI or a CT scan may be applicable, and for a more sensitive analysis of CSF, flow cytometry, which has been shown to be more sensitive than conventional cytological analysis of CSF (37), may be indicated.

In most studies a high fraction of cycling cells in the lymphoma tissue, as determined by Ki67 staining, is a factor predicting an unfavorable outcome [38-40]. In the present study, the results were opposite, presumably due to the intensity of the R-CHOEP-14 regimen. Interestingly, the non-GC group showed a significantly higher Ki67 score compared to the GC group, while there was no difference in age distribution or patients with more than one extra nodal site between these two groups. Furthermore, no survival difference between GC and non-GC subgroups was found. These data are in accordance with other datasets [41-42] indicating that the Hans' algorithm is inadequate in discriminating survival difference between the GC and non-GC groups as defined by gene expression profiling [43]. We are presently examining the more recent IHC algorithms, showing better concordance with gene

expression profiling (44-45Tally??), with respect to prognostic value of the GC versus non-GC subtyping.

In conclusion, we found highly satisfactory OS and FFS for high-risk patients with aggressive B-cell lymphomas. Furthermore, a CNS relapse rate of 4.5% was lower than expected, all events occurring within 6 months after study inclusion. In an ongoing Nordic phase II study for younger high-risk DLBCL patients, CSF flow cytometry and CT or MRI of the brain are required as CNS directed staging procedures. In addition, both systemic and local (liposomal cytarabine) CNS prophylaxis is administered earlier, with the hope to further reduce lymphoma CNS events.

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45. ??

**Table 1. Clinical characteristics**

	<b>n = 156 (%)</b>
Sex	
Male	97 (62)
Female	59 (38)
Age, years	
Median (range)	54 (18-65)
WHO performance status (%)	
0	35 (22)
1	70 (45)
2	36 (23)
3	15 (10)
Stage (%)	
II	6 (4)
III	62 (40)
IV	88 (56)
B symptoms (%)	
Yes	94 (60)
No	62 (40)
LDH elevated > 1 x UNV	
Yes	151 (97)
No	5 ( 3)
Bulky disease (> 10 cm) (%)	
Yes	68 (43)
No	88 (56)
BM involvement (%)	
Yes	30 (19)
No	126 (81)
aaIPI (%)	
2	117 (75)
3	39 (25)
Number of extranodal sites (%)	
0	67 (43)
1	48 (31)
2	20 (13)
3	14 ( 9)
4 or more	7 (4.5)

Hollender score* (15)	
1	4 ( 3)
2	18 (12)
3	3 (44)
4	4 (28)
5	7 (5)
Mean	3.2
ND	15 (10)

WHO, World Health Organization; LDH, lactate dehydrogenase; UNV, upper normal value; BM, bone marrow; aaIPI, age-adjusted International Prognostic Index score, ND?

\*Including the following variables: Albumin <35, retroperitoneal lymph node involvement, elevated LDH, age < 60 years, number of extra nodal sites > 1.

**Table 2. Histological findings**

	No (%)
Reviewed cases	145 (93)
Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma NOS	115 (74)
Germinal center B-cell type (GC)*	72 (46)
Non-GC type	32 (21)
Not specified or unclassified	11 (7)
Intravascular	1 (1)
Primary mediastinal	7 (5)
T-cell / histiocyte rich	8 (5)
Plasmablastic	1 (1)
Follicular lymphoma grade 3B (FL3B)	5 (3)
Follicular lymphoma grade 3A	8 (5)
*2 cases had concomitant FL3B, 1 case FL3A)	
Not reviewed	11 (7)
Diagnosis at inclusion	
Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma	145 (93)
Follicular lymphoma grade 3	11 (7)
Ki67 (% positive), median 70%	
< 50	15 (10)
50-69	29 (19)
70-89	37 (25)
90-100	26 (18)
not done	40 (28)



**Table 3. Number of treatment cycles given. RDI of CHOEP14 and RD for H-MTX and H-cytarabine. Toxicity grade 3-4. Explain RDI and RD?**

Age (years) No of patients	All 156		18-59 115		60-64 41	
Number of cycles given according to protocol						
1	3		1		2	
3	6		5		1	
5	2		2		0	
6	3		1		2	
7	7		2		5	
8 (completed according to protocol)	135		104		31	
Treatment duration, % of planned days (mean)	109		105		113	
RD / RDI (mean)						
Cyclophosphamide	0.99 / 0.91					
Doxorubicin	0.99 / 0.91					
Vincristine	0.94 / 0.86		0.95 / 0.90		0.92 / 0.81	
Etoposide	0.98 / 0.90					
Methotrexate			0.97/-		1.0/-.	
Cytarabine			0.97/-		0.92/-	
Toxicity grade	3	4	3	4	3	4
	%	%	&	%	%	%
Hematological	14	79	15	77	13	85
Mucositis	7	3	7	3	5	3
Gastrointestinal	13	3	11	2	18	5.
Infection	32	7	31	8	335	8

**Table 4. Outcomes do you need abbreviations?**

	<b>n =156 (%)</b>
Response	137 (87.8)
Complete response (CR)	102 (65.4)
Partial response (PR)	35 (22.4)
Failure, end of study	19 (12.2)
No change (NC)	1 (0.6)
Progressive disease (PD)	7 (4.5)
Not evaluable, toxicity (NE)	11 (7.1)
Dead	33 (21.1)
Cause of death	
NHL	22 (14.1)
Toxicity protocol treatment	3 (1.9)
Toxicity second line treatment	3 (1.9)
Suicide	2 (1.2)
Secondary malignancy	2 (1.2)
Pulmonary embolus	1 (0.6)
CNS relapses	7 (4.5)
Survival	
3-year Time To Treatment Failure*	65% (95% CI 59-73)
3-year Overall Survival	81% (95% CI 75-87)

\*including non-adherence to protocol treatment due to toxicity

**Table 5. Cases with CNS progression/relapse: CSF and pathology at diagnosis, treatment of CNS relapse and outcome**

<b>CSF neg cytology</b>	<b>CSF flow cytometry</b>	<b>Initial pathology: DLBCL subtype</b>	<b>CNS relapse: Intracerebral / Meningeal / Both</b>	<b>Treatment after CNS relapse</b>	<b>Outcome after CNS relapse</b>
yes	negative	Germinal center	Intracerebral	Radiotherapy	PD, Mors
yes	nd	Germinal center	intracerebral	HD-MTX HD-Ara-C it Depocyte it MTX +RT	CCR*
nd	nd	DLBCL NUD	Meningeal and abdominal (combined)	HD MTX x 3 HD Ara C x 1 i.t.triple x 1 R-ICE x 1	PD mors
yes	negative	Germinal center	Meningeal	Primary CNS protocol +BEAM + RT	CCR
yes	nd	Non-germinal center	meningeal	HD-MTX It Depocyte	PD, death lymphoma
Yes	negative	Mediastinal	Intracerebral	Primary CNS protocol with RT	CCR
yes	negative	Germinal center	Intracerebral	Primary CNS protocol + BEAM	Toxic death after BEAM

\*continuous complete remission

Figure 1A. Failure Free Survival, N = 156. Figure 1B. Overall survival, N = 156. Figure 1C. Effect of % positive Ki67 tumor cells on Failure Free Survival. Green line: Ki67 like or above median, n = 63, blue line: Ki67 below median value, n = 44. P = 0.035. Figure 1D. Effect of immunohistochemically defined DLBCL subgroup on Failure Free Survival. Green line: non-GC phenotype, n = 32, blue line: GC phenotype, n = 72. P = 0.753

