

# Multiple Myeloma: Treatment when you're first diagnosed

Caitlin Costello, MD

Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine

Division of Blood and Marrow Transplant

Moore's Cancer Center

University of California, San Diego



# Introduction: Example Patient Case

- A 60 year-old woman was seen by her primary care physician for new onset low back pain. She was found to be anemic with a high calcium level in her blood and worsening kidney function.
- Her astute primary care physician checked an SPEP, which revealed a large M-spike.
- A follow-up PET scan showed multiple bone lesions, and a bone marrow biopsy showed 60% plasma cells.



# Introduction: Example Patient Case

- She is referred to see Dr. Myeloma in initial consultation.
  - What factors does Dr. Myeloma use to decide what to treat with her?
- How should Dr. Myeloma monitor her response to treatment?
- What other issues are important for Dr. Myeloma to consider?





# Your Personal Treatment Plan: Partnering With Your Health Care Team

Your Overall Health and  
Characteristics of Your Myeloma

- Age and general health
- Other conditions
- Test results
- Symptoms



Your Preferences and  
Personal Goals

- Eliminate vs control disease
- Willingness to tolerate side effects
- Symptom relief
- Personal lifestyle/situation



***No one treatment plan is right for everyone.  
If you are comfortable with it, consider a clinical trial if available.  
If you are not comfortable, consider a 2<sup>nd</sup> opinion***



# Goals of Therapy



Achieving good response ( $\geq$ VGPR)



High response rate; rapid response



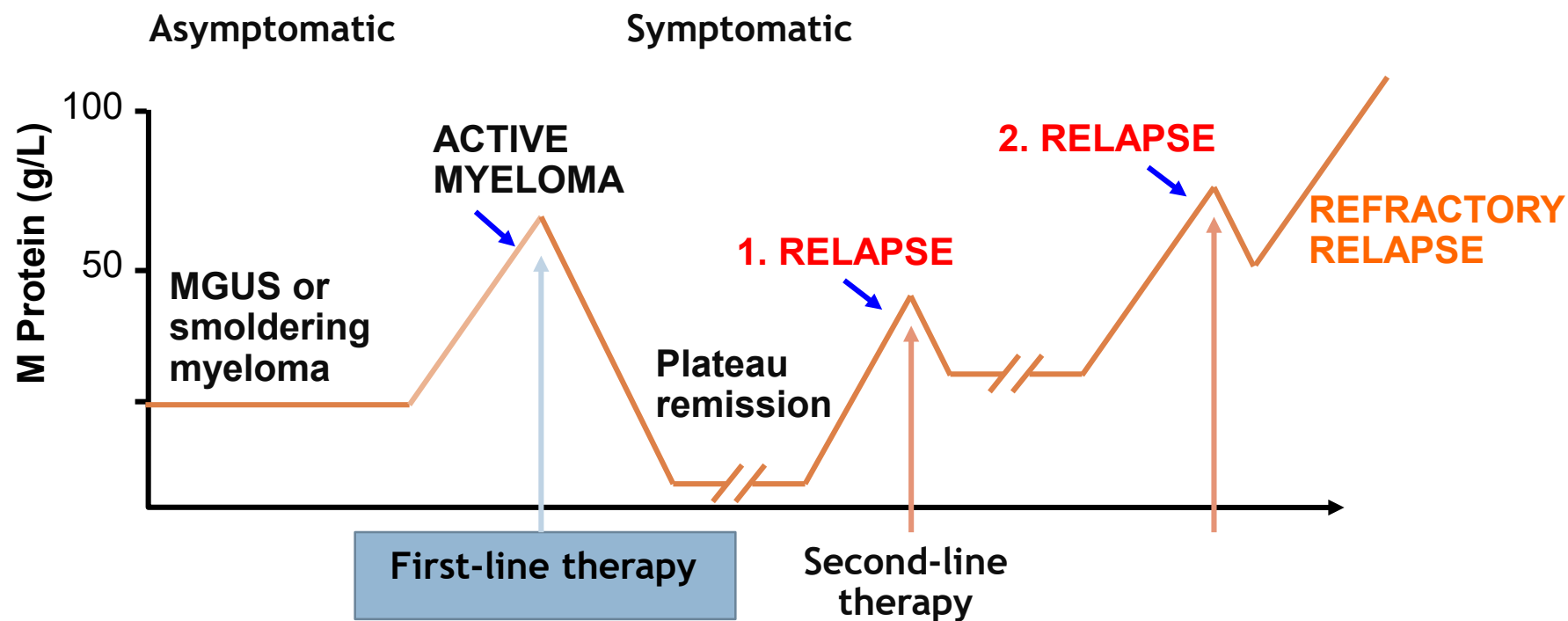
Improve performance status



Minimal side effects



# Natural History of Multiple Myeloma



# Current Treatment Approaches: Smoldering Myeloma

## Smoldering Myeloma

No active treatment\*

- Close monitoring: every 3–4 months (physical exam, possible blood/urine tests)
- Bisphosphonates for bone loss or damage (pamidronate or Zometa given intravenously)

***\*Promising but limited studies to date.***

One phase 3 study of Revlimid + Dex followed by Revlimid maintenance in patients with high-risk SMM suggests a benefit; ongoing studies are under way.

***Ask your doctor if you are a candidate for a clinical trial.***





# Frontline Therapy: Standard Drug Overview

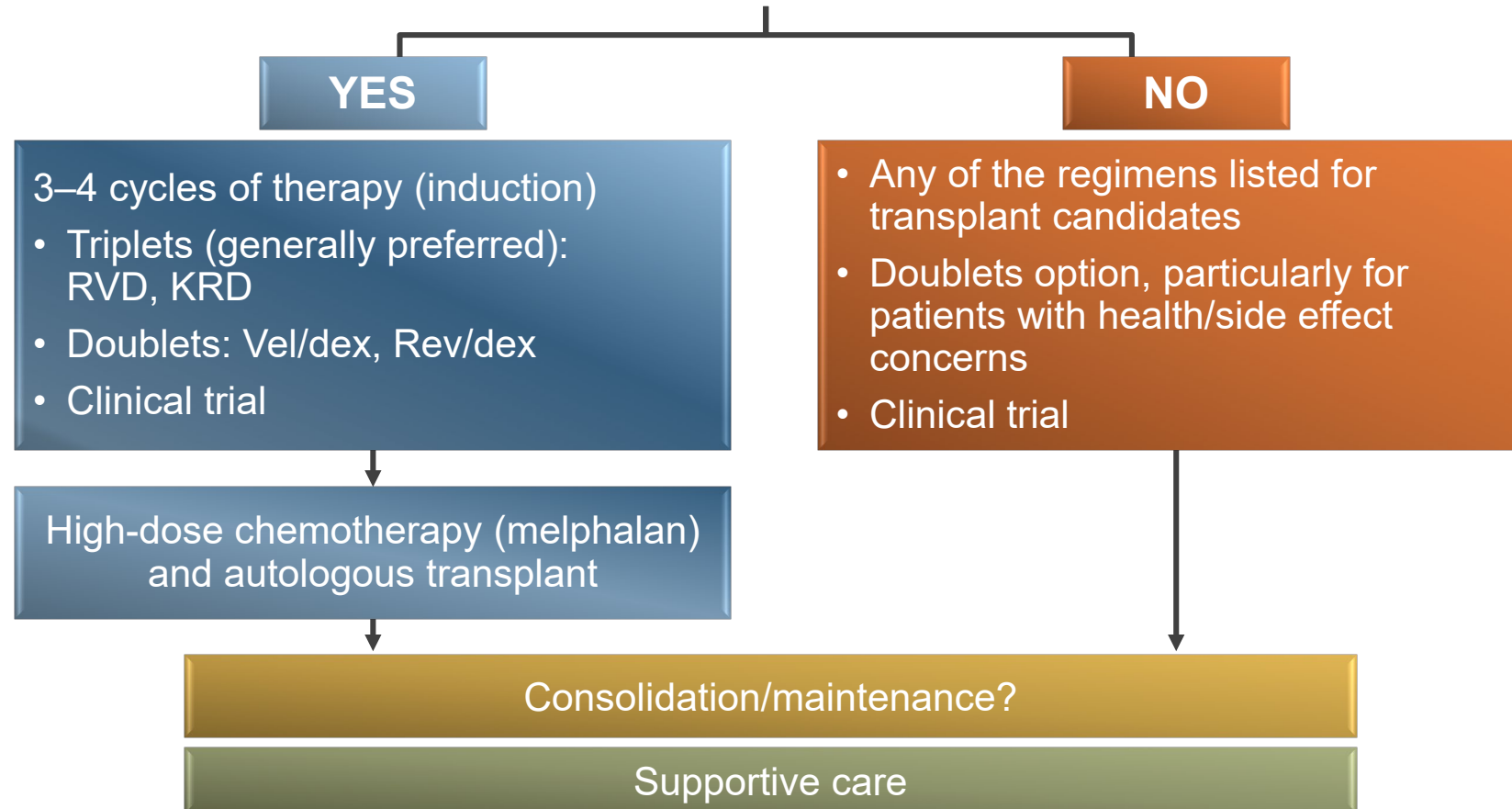
Class	Drug Name	Abbreviation	Administration
IMiD (immunomodulatory drug)	Revlimid (lenalidomide)	R or Rev	Oral
	Thalomid (thalidomide)	T or Thal	
Proteasome inhibitor	Velcade (bortezomib)	V or Vel or B	Intravenous or subcutaneous injection (under the skin)
	Kyprolis (Carfilzomib)	K or Carf	Intravenous
Chemotherapy	Cytosan (cyclophosphamide)	C	Oral or intravenous
	Doxil (liposomal doxorubicin)	D	
	Evomela (melphalan)	M or Mel	
Steroids	Decadron (dexamethasone)	Dex or D or d	Oral or intravenous
	Prednisone	P	





# Current Treatment Approaches: Active Myeloma

Are you a candidate for an autologous stem cell transplant?

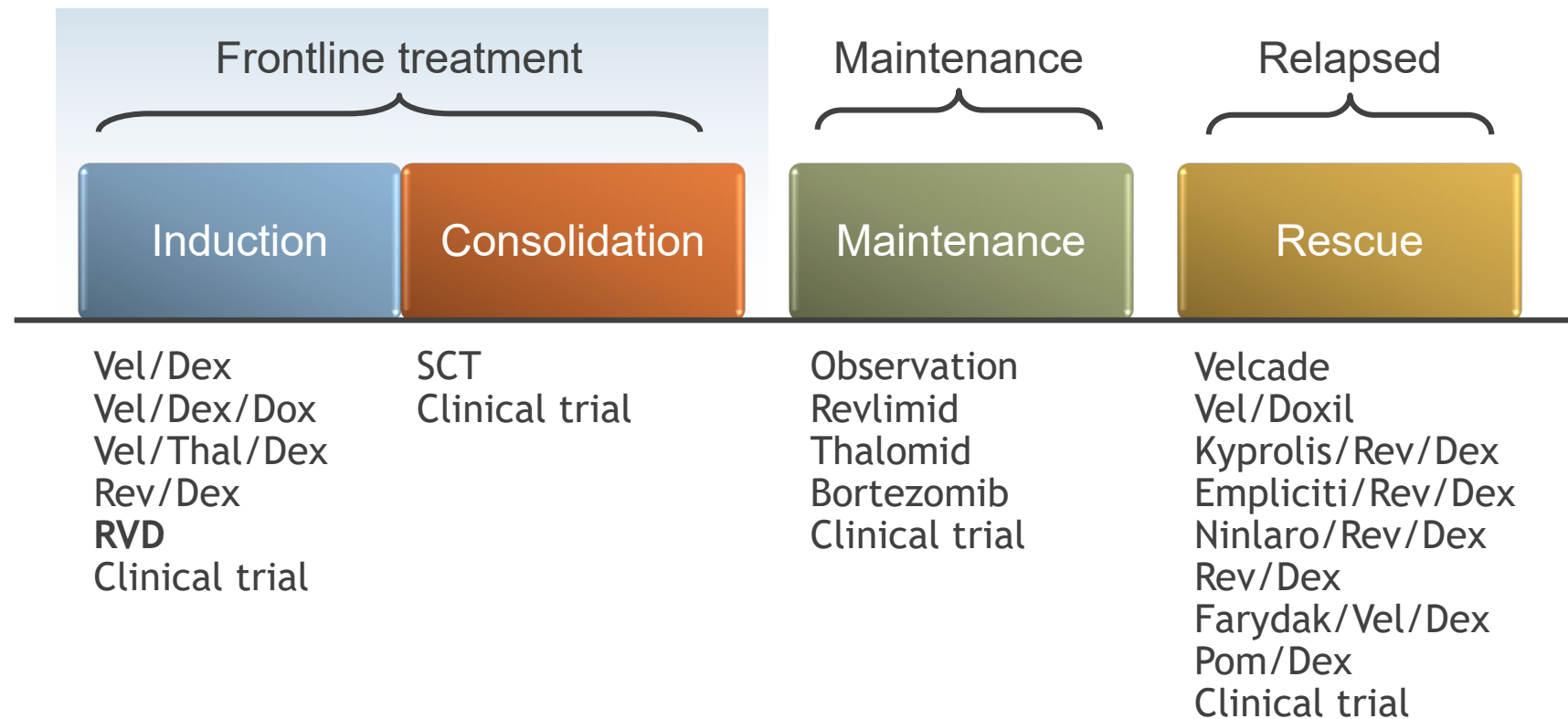


For t(4;14): combination including Velcade (V) is critical.



# Treatment Sequence for Active Myeloma

## NCCN Category 1\* Recommendations



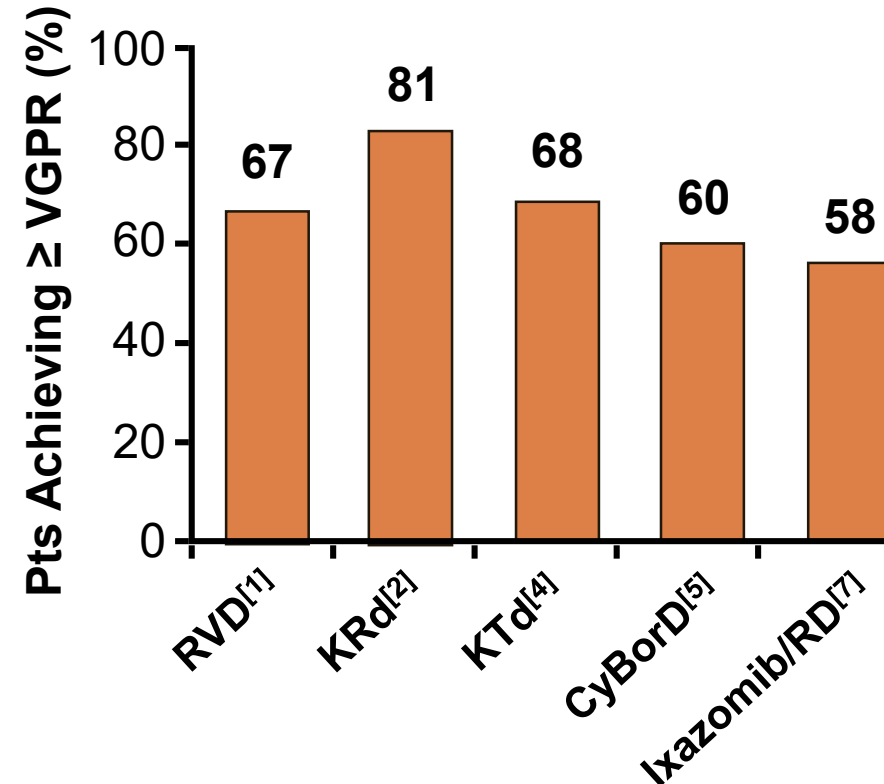
\*Based on high-level evidence, there is uniform NCCN consensus that the intervention is appropriate.

National Comprehensive Cancer Network. The NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology Multiple Myeloma (Version 3.2016). <http://www.nccn.org/>. Accessed April 12, 2016.



# Induction Regimens for Transplant-Eligible Patients: 3 is Better Than 2

Regimens	Survival
Bortezomib/lenalidomide/ dexamethasone (RVD) <sup>[1]</sup>	18-mo PFS: 75% 18-mo OS: 97%
Carfilzomib/lenalidomide/ dexamethasone (KRd) <sup>[2,3]</sup>	12-mo PFS: 97% <sup>[2]</sup> 24-mo PFS: 92% <sup>[2]</sup> 3-yr PFS: 79% <sup>[3]</sup> 3-yr OS: 96% <sup>[3]</sup>
Carfilzomib/thalidomide/ dexamethasone (KTd) <sup>[4]</sup>	3-yr PFS: 72%
Bortezomib/ cyclophosphamide/ dexamethasone (CyBorD) <sup>[5]</sup>	5-yr PFS: 42% <sup>[6]</sup> 5-yr OS: 70% <sup>[6]</sup>
Ixazomib/lenalidomide/ dexamethasone <sup>[7]</sup>	12-mo PFS: 88% 12-mo OS: 94%



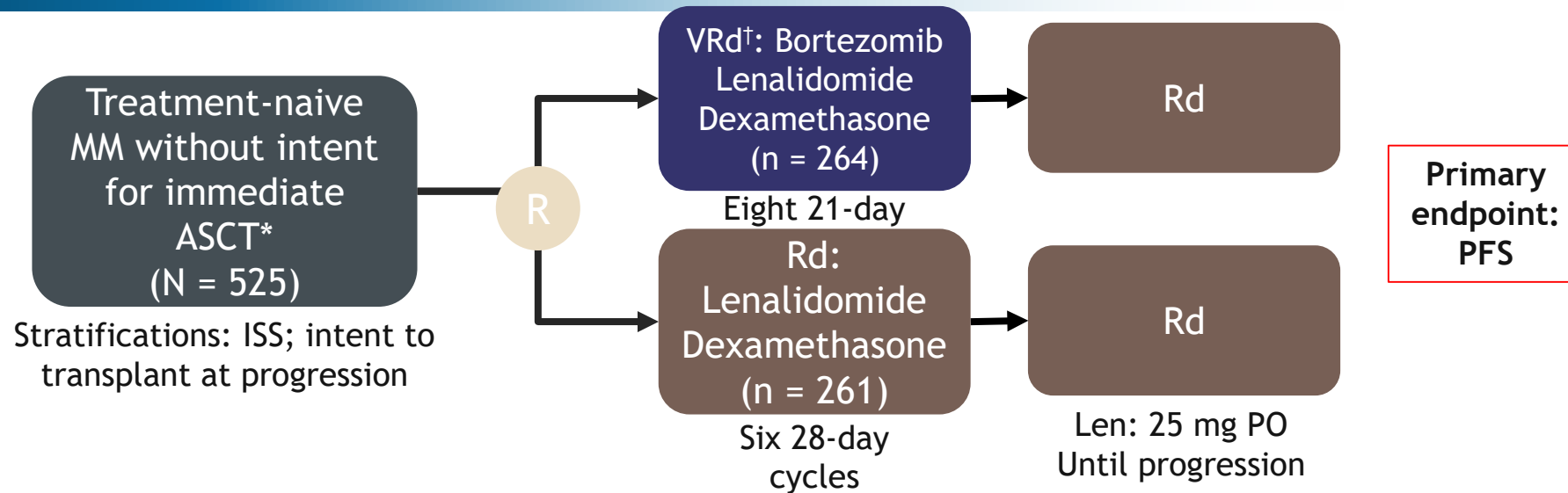
1. Richardson, PG et al. Blood. 2010;116:679-686. 2. Jakubowiak A, et al. Blood. 2012;120:1801-1809.  
3. Jasielec J, et al. ASH 2013. Abstract 3220. 4. Sonneveld P, et al. Blood. 2015;125:449-456. 5. Reeder CB, et al. Blood. 2010;115:3416-3417. 6. Reeder CB, et al. ASH 2013. Abstract 3192. 7. Kumar SK, et al. Lancet Oncol. 2014;15:1503-1512.





# VRd vs Rd: SWOG S0777 Data

## 3-Drug Regimen as Initial Induction



	VRd	Rd	HR; P Value
Median PFS, mo	43	30	0.712; .0018 (1-sided)
Median OS, mo	75	64	0.709; .025 (2-sided)

VRd showed better PFS in patients with high- or standard-risk vs Rd<sup>‡</sup>

- \*All patients received aspirin (325 mg/d). <sup>†</sup>Patients received HSV prophylaxis. <sup>‡</sup>High-risk cytogenetics included: t(4;14), t(14;16), or del(17p); preliminary data from 316 patients.
- Durie BG, et al. *Lancet*. 2017;389:519-527.



# Key Steps to Take on Your Journey

1

Weighing your therapy options

2

What to expect on therapy

3

Assessing your response to therapy

4

Maintenance options

5

Consider clinical trials





# Revlimid in Frontline Therapy

## How is Revlimid administered?

- Capsule; usually taken once daily for 21 days out of a 28-day cycle (3 weeks on, 1 week off)
- Blood thinners (for example, aspirin or low-molecular-weight heparin [LMWH]) are given along with Revlimid to reduce the risk of blood clots

## What are the possible side effects?

- Potential for blood clots
- Reduced blood counts
  - Low white blood cells (neutropenia): infections
  - Low red blood cells: anemia
  - Low platelets (thrombocytopenia) blood clotting problems
- Rash
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain (myalgia)
- Diarrhea
- Small chance of second new cancers when given with melphalan

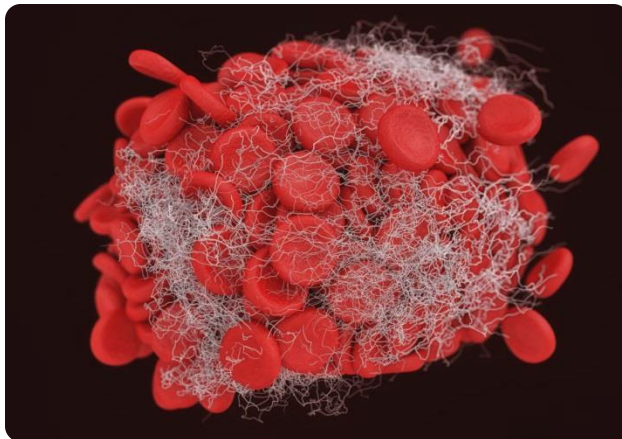




# Patients Taking Revlimid: Some Patients Are More Susceptible to Blood Clots

## Key Risk Factors for Blood Clots

- Newly diagnosed active myeloma
- Taking other medications:
  - Chemotherapy (melphalan, cyclophosphamide, Doxil)
  - Dexamethasone
  - Red blood cell growth factors for anemia (erythropoietin)
- History of previous blood clots



## Other Risk Factors

- High level of myeloma cells
- Older age
- Other medical conditions such as infections or disease of the lung or kidney
- Obesity
- Family history
- Thrombophilia, a condition where clots form easily
- Orthopedic procedures, such as hip or knee replacement
- Being immobilized (for example, confined to bed, long airplane trips)
- Presence of central venous catheter (a special catheter often used to administer cancer drugs)



# What Can You Do To Prevent Blood Clots?

Risk of Blood Clots*	Medication
Low risk	Aspirin
High risk†	LMWH (for example, Lovenox)

***Talk to your doctor to see what treatments are best for YOU.***



\*Also applies to other IMiDs (ie, Thalomid, Pomalyst).

†Patients with many risk factors may receive other drugs, including Coumadin, Xarelto, Pradaxa, or Eliquis (ongoing phase 3 clinical trial evaluating the use of Eliquis in the prevention of thromboembolic disease in patients with myeloma treated with IMiDs).





# Velcade in Frontline Therapy

## How is Velcade administered?

- Options:
  - Injection under the skin (subcutaneous), once or twice weekly
  - Intravenous once or twice weekly – NO MORE!

## What are the possible side effects?

- Peripheral neuropathy (numbness, tingling, burning sensations and/or pain due to nerve damage)
  - Occurs less often when subcutaneous or once weekly dosing is used
- Low platelets (thrombocytopenia): blood clotting problems
- Gastrointestinal problems: nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, loss of appetite
- Fatigue
- Rash



# Understanding Peripheral Neuropathy

- Peripheral neuropathy is nerve damage that causes pain, tingling, burning sensations, and numbness in the hands and feet
  - Typically improves or resolves after treatment dose is reduced or treatment is stopped
- Risk of peripheral neuropathy varies
  - Greater risk if you have pre-existing neuropathy
  - Velcade dose and type of administration



*Be sure to discuss the benefits and risks of taking Velcade with your doctor if you have severe pre-existing neuropathy.*





# Managing Peripheral Neuropathy

- Managed by reducing the Velcade dose (with no impact on effectiveness)
- Other possible ways to prevent or reduce symptoms (less proven):
  - Vitamins and other supplements\*
  - Certain medications such as gabapentin (Neurontin)

***Your health care team will check for peripheral neuropathy before treatment and prior to each dose of Velcade.***

***Be sure to tell your health care team about any symptoms you experience.***

\*Do not take any supplements without consulting with your doctor.



# Measuring Response to Therapy

**Degree (or depth) of response is usually associated with better prognosis. Some patients do well despite never achieving a complete response**

## **Standard Tests to Measure Response**

- Blood and urine tests: M-protein, free-light chains
  - Electrophoresis: M-protein levels
  - Immunofixation: sensitive test that measures type of M-protein
  - Freelite™: free light chains
- Bone marrow: plasma cells (antibody producing cells)

## **Frequency of Testing**

- Patients on active treatment
  - Blood/urine tests: monthly
  - Bone marrow: best response, relapse
- Not on active treatment: blood/urine tests every 3-6 months





# Measuring Response to Therapy

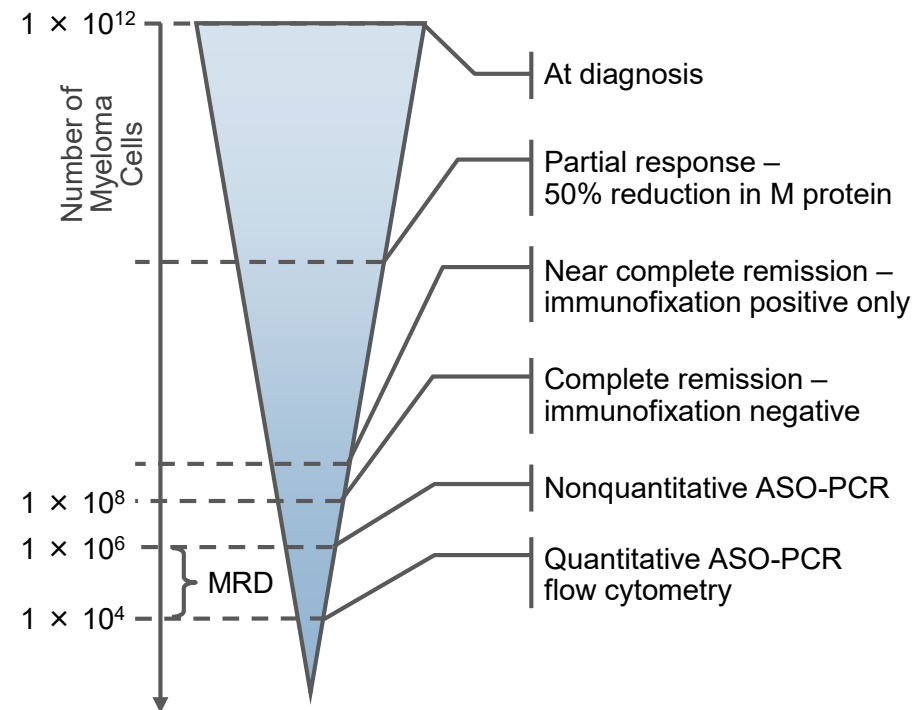
Response Type	M Protein	Plasma Cells in Bone Marrow/	Other
<b>Stringent complete response (sCR)</b>	None (blood/urine)	No abnormal plasma cells	No free light chains
<b>Complete response (CR)</b>	None (blood/urine)	Less than 5%	Disappearance of soft tissue plasmacytomas*
<b>Very good partial response (VGPR)</b>	Greater than 90% reduction (blood)	NA	NA
<b>Partial response (PR)</b>	Greater than 50% reduction in blood + Greater than 90% reduction in urine	NA	Greater 50% reduction in the size of soft tissue plasmacytomas
<b>Minimal response (MR):</b>	25%-49% reduction in blood and reduction of 50%-89% in urine	NA	25%-49% reduction in the size of soft tissue plasmacytomas and no increase in size/ number of bone lesions
<b>Stable disease (SD)</b>	Does not meet criteria for response or progressive disease		
<b>Progressive disease (PD)</b>	Greater than 25% increase (blood or urine)	Greater than 10%	Other changes: bone lesions, soft tissue plasmacytomas, high calcium levels

\*Soft tissue plasmacytomas: collection of plasma cells outside the bone



# Testing for Minimal Residual Disease (MRD): An Emerging Approach

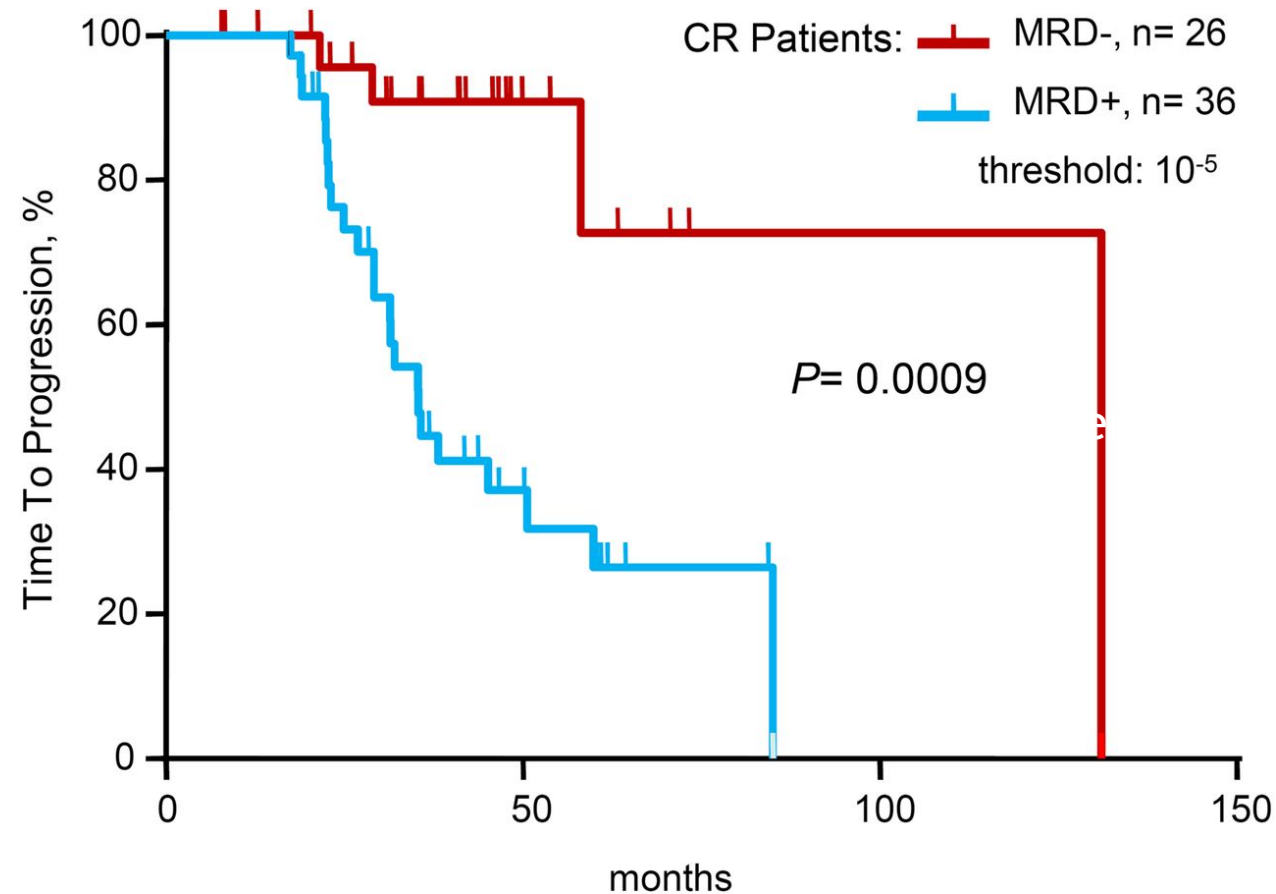
- Small amounts of myeloma cells despite CR (as measured by standard tests)
- Patients who are MRD negative may have better outcomes
- More-sensitive tests/newer technologies to detect and monitor MRD are now available
  - Flow cytometry
  - Molecular tests
    - Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
    - Sequentia ClonoSIGHT\*: novel, highly sensitive test
- New response types incorporating use of new technologies
  - Immunophenotypic CR
  - Molecular CR



***Talk to your doctor about types of tests available in your area.***



# Time to Progression for Patients in Conventional CR who are either MRD Positive or Negative by Deep Sequencing

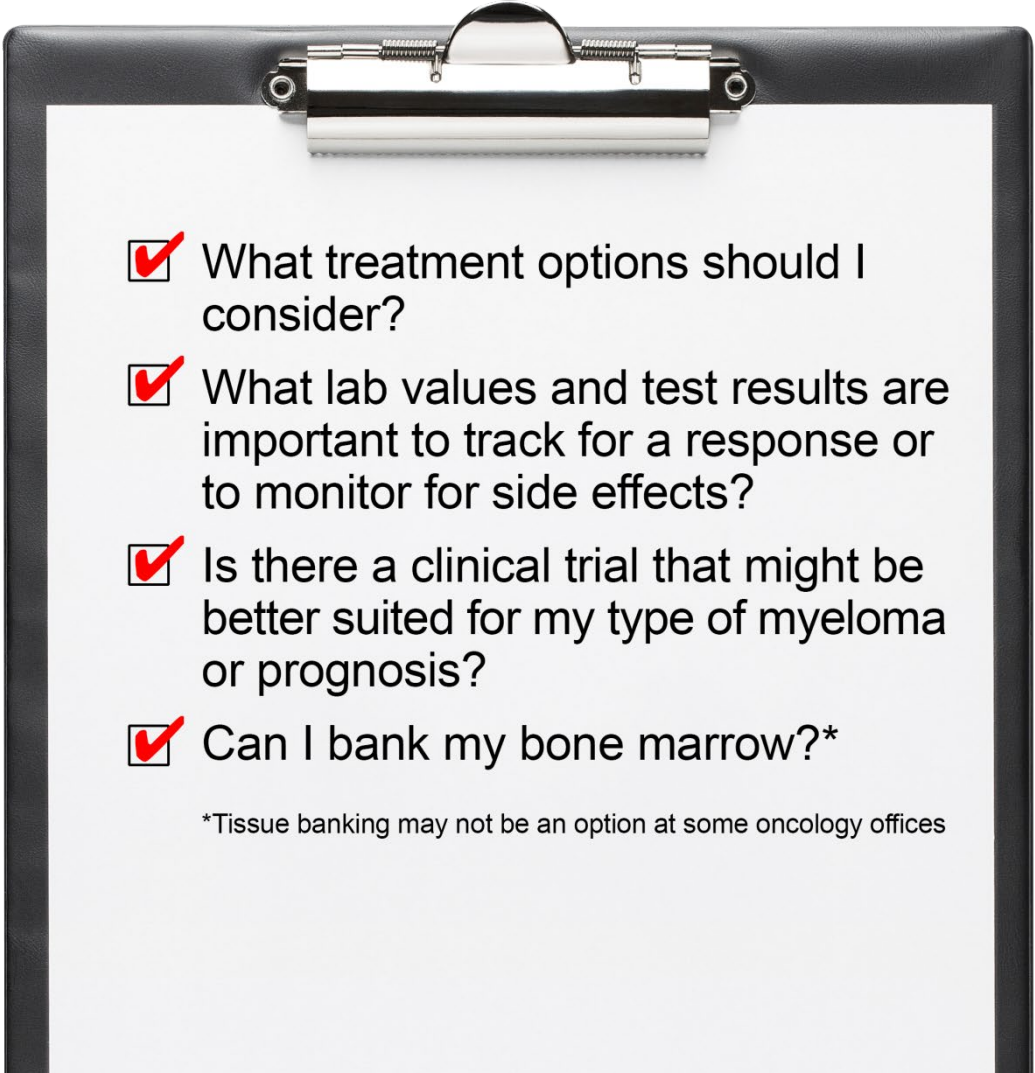


Martinez-Lopez J et al. Blood 2014;123:3073-3079





# When Considering a Treatment Regimen, Find Out From Your Doctor...

- 
- ☒ What treatment options should I consider?
  - ☒ What lab values and test results are important to track for a response or to monitor for side effects?
  - ☒ Is there a clinical trial that might be better suited for my type of myeloma or prognosis?
  - ☒ Can I bank my bone marrow?\*

\*Tissue banking may not be an option at some oncology offices



# Conclusion:

## Example Patient Case

- Dr. Myeloma determines that the patient is an excellent transplant candidate
- RVD is given for 5 cycles, and the patient achieves a CR. The patient has mild fatigue and calf cramps which are relieved by hydration and electrolyte repletion.
- The patient undergoes autologous stem cell transplant followed by low-dose Revlimid maintenance for 2 years.
- Three years later, the patient remains in a CR, with active surveillance of her myeloma labs every 3 months



# Summary:

## Treating Newly Diagnosed Patients

- Smoldering multiple myeloma (SMM):
  - Close monitoring plus bisphosphonates for bone loss
  - Potential for treatment for high-risk patients; clinical trials ongoing
- Symptomatic (active) myeloma:
  - Combination therapies including Revlimid and/or Velcade, along with other drugs (triplets or doublets)
  - Autologous stem cell transplant
  - Maintenance
- Side effects of therapy can be managed
- Research to improve up-front outcomes is ongoing

***Partner with your health care team to select  
the treatment plan that is right for you.***

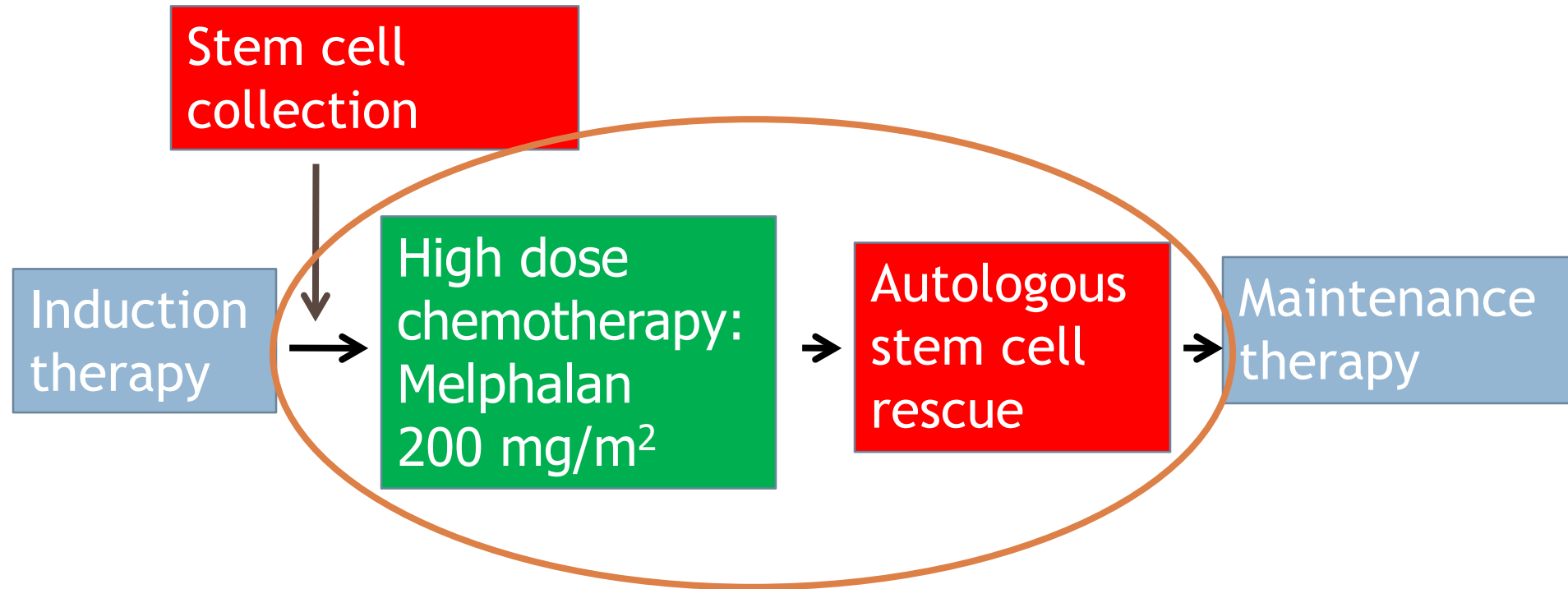




# TRANSPLANT??



# Treatment Schema for Myeloma



# High-Dose Chemotherapy and Stem Cell Transplantation

- Offers best chance for durable remission based on current data
  - Outcomes improving with the use of newer drugs prior to transplantation
  - New trials comparing novel drugs vs transplant
- Can be done as part of frontline therapy or at relapse (or both)
- More patients considered candidates than in the past
  - Based on overall health and age
  - Criteria varies by cancer center
  - Talk to your doctor to see if you qualify





# High-Dose Chemotherapy and Stem Cell Transplantation

- NEJM 2017, IFM2009 study: Auto-SCT improves PFS (versus continued chemotherapy)<sup>1</sup> - 50 months vs 36 months
  - Increased likelihood of MRD negativity with ASCT
  - No difference in how long you'll live - TOO SOON?!
- 2014 Italian study: Auto-SCT improves PFS and OS<sup>2</sup>
- American study is in progress

1. Attal, NEJM 2017  
2. Palumbo et al, NEJM 2014





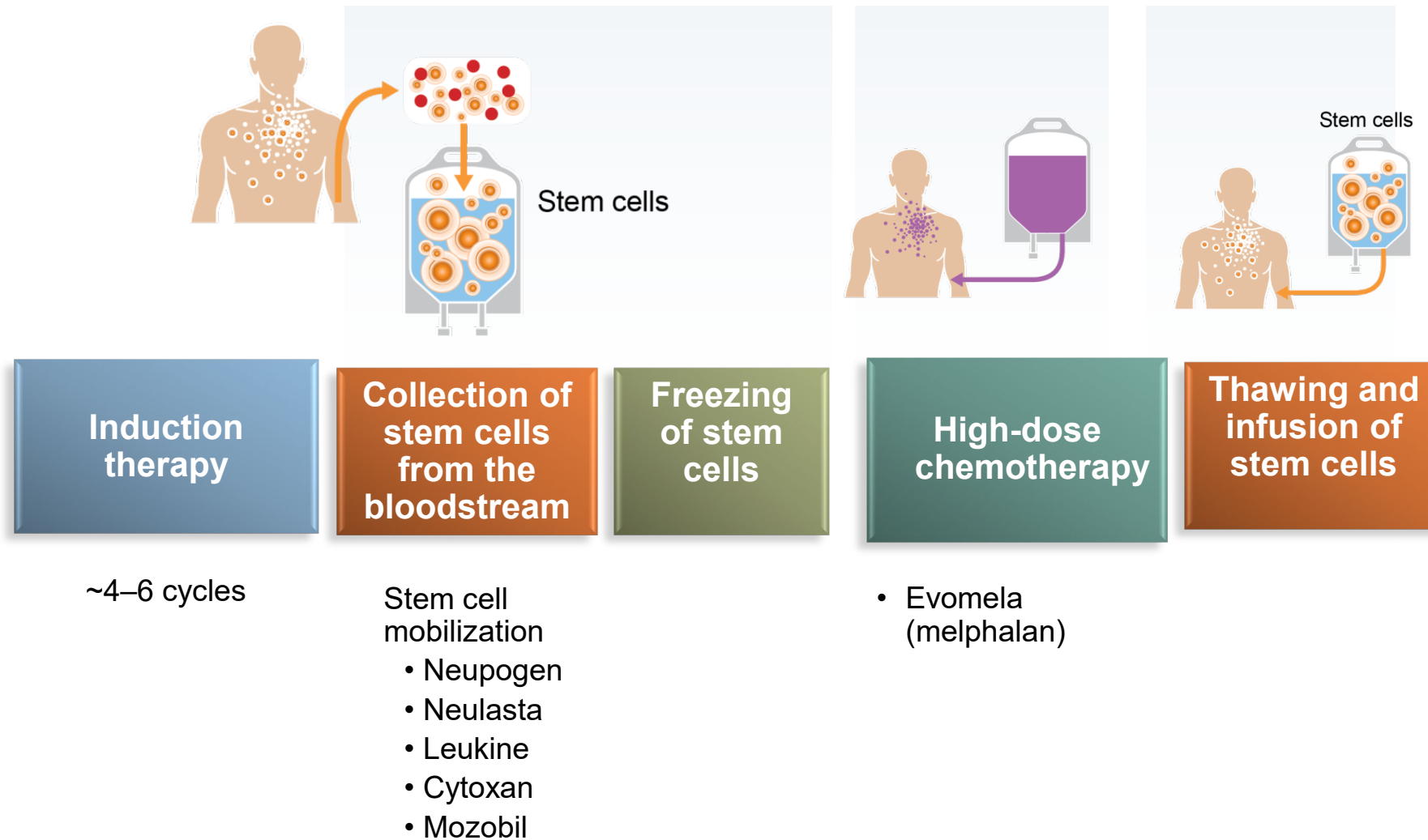
# Types of Stem Cell Transplantation

Transplant Type	Stem Cell Source	Transplant Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Autologous*<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Your own cells</li></ul></li><li>• Allogeneic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– A donor's cells (requires a match)</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Peripheral blood</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mini-allo</li><li>• Tandem</li><li>• Single autologous</li></ul>

\*Most common



# Overview: ASCT

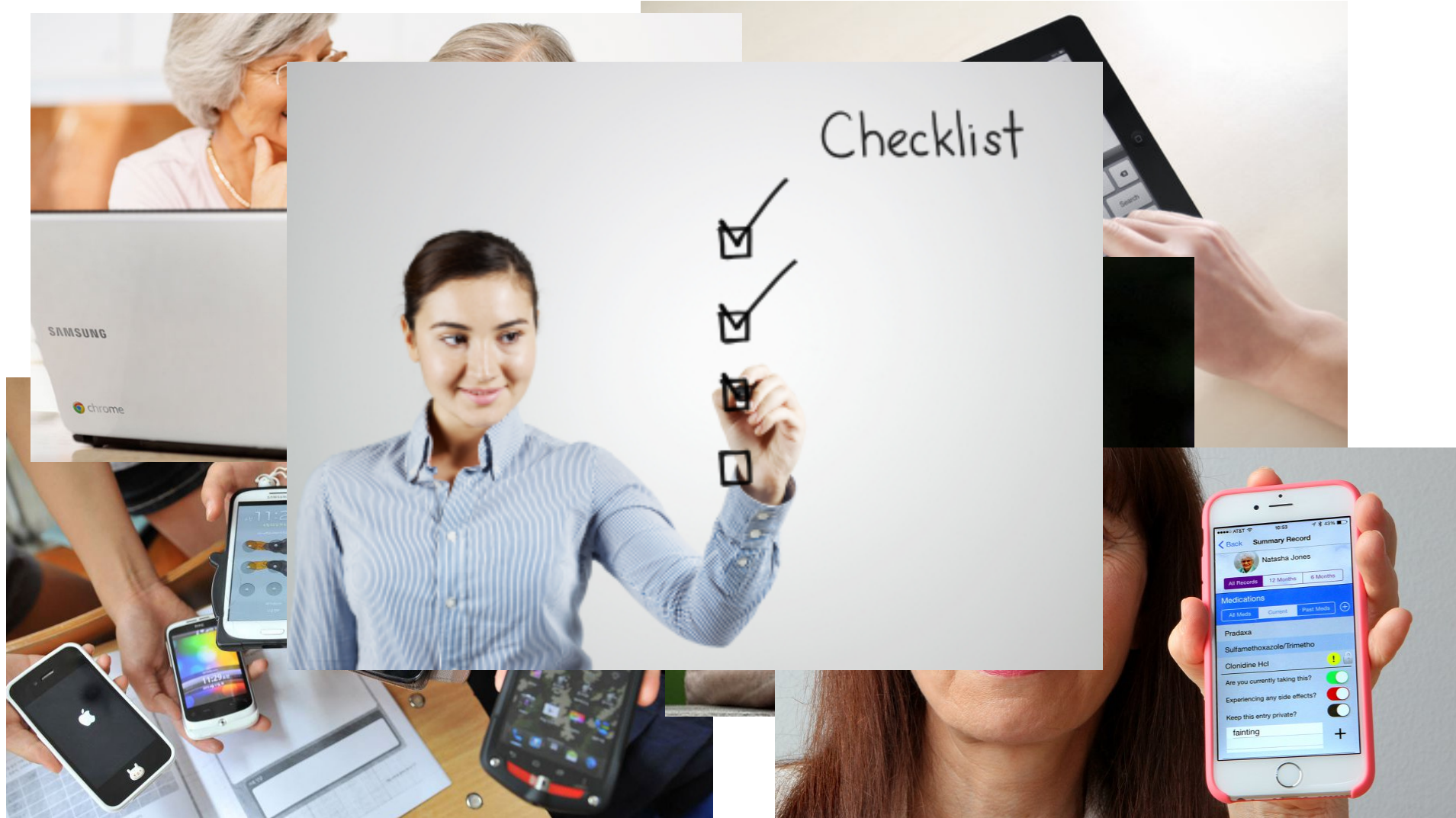




# **“Should I get a transplant?”**



# “Should I get a transplant?”



# Questions To Ask Your Doctor

- Am I a candidate for high-dose chemotherapy and stem cell transplantation?
- What are the pros and cons of stem cell transplantation in my case?
- When is the best time for me to undergo transplantation?
- Does your center do stem cell transplants? How many transplants has your center performed in multiple myeloma in the last year? Is procedure performed as an inpatient or outpatient?
- How long will I be in the hospital?
- What is the recovery period?
- What kind of changes in my lifestyle will I need to make?
- When do I go back to you for follow-up?

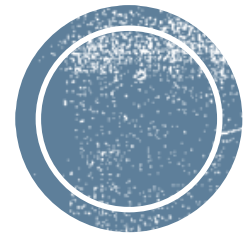


# Example transplant schedule

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 GCSF	6 GCSF
7 GCSF	8 GCSF	9 collection	10 collection	11 collection	12	13
14	15	16	17 melphalan	18	19 Stem cell infusion	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 egraftment	30	May 1	2	3	4
5	6 Discharge (if in patient)	7	8	9	10 Release to clinic	11







**OK but am I too  
old to get a  
transplant ??**



“60 is the new 50!”



“70 is the new 60!”





# Data for older patients

- CIBMTR Analysis of Trends in MM-SCT<sup>1</sup>
  - 1995-1999; 200-2004; 2005-2009
  - More people are being referred to SCT
  - But still not same proportion of older patients as younger patients
- However, age alone does not appear to predict poor outcome from process of SCT
  - No difference in death, TRM, PFS and OS for patients < or > 60<sup>2</sup>
  - Patients  $\geq 70$  undergoing SCT have similar response and OS compared with younger patients<sup>3</sup>
  - Patients even up to age 80 can undergo SCT safely<sup>4</sup>

1. Costa et al, ASH abstract 596, 2012

2. Reece et al, BMT 2003

3. Kumr et al, Am J Hematol, 2008

4. Bashir et al, Leuk Lymphoma, 2012



# **Summary:**

## **High-Dose Chemotherapy and Stem Cell Transplantation**

- Offers best chance for long-term remission for eligible patients based on current data
- Research questions:
  - Given the availability of the novel agents, what is the role of high-dose chemotherapy and stem cell transplantation?
  - Which patients achieve the greatest benefit?
  - When is the best time to undergo transplantation?
  - What is the role of maintenance therapy? How long should patients remain on maintenance therapy?



**Thank you !**

