

POCKET GUIDELINE

# Hematology

Practical management  
of Chronic Lymphocytic  
Leukemia in Belgium

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## Practical management of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia in Belgium

This pocket guideline is based on:

Janssens et al. Updated BHS guidelines for the treatment of CLL, MCL and WM anno 2018. BJH 2018

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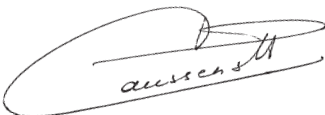
# POCKET GUIDELINE

# Hematology

## Practical management of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia in Belgium

### Introduction

The BHS lymphoproliferative working party reviewed in 2017 the recent literature on diagnosis and treatment of SLL/CLL to update the 2012 and 2015 recommendations on best strategies for front-line and subsequent-line treatment. Today, reimbursement of ibrutinib as front-line treatment has been extended for some patients and venetoclax, the first bcl-2 antagonist available, has gained reimbursement and can be incorporated in the treatment guidelines. We are convinced that the monoclonal antibodies, the BCR inhibitors and the bcl-2 antagonists not only improve duration of response and overall survival but also quality of life.



**Prof. Ann Janssens, MD, PhD**

Hematology UZ Leuven

Chair of the BHS Lymphoproliferative working group 2013-2018

## LPD committee members 2017 - 2018

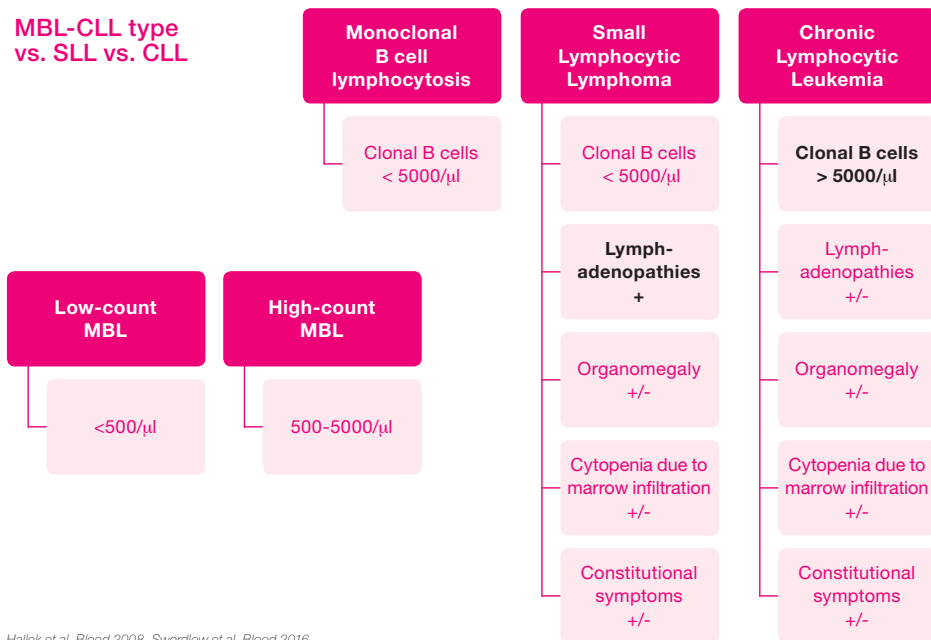
Marc André	Virginie De Wilde	Marie Maerevoet	Eric Van Den Neste
Helène Antoine-Poirel	Vanessa Delrieu	Fritz Offner	Vanessa Van Hende
Christophe Bonnet	Daan Dierickx	Liesbeth Schauvliege	Achiel Van Hoof
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Janssens et al., Updated BHS guidelines for the treatment of CLL, MCL and WM anno 2018. BJH 2018

## CLL vs. other chronic B-LPD

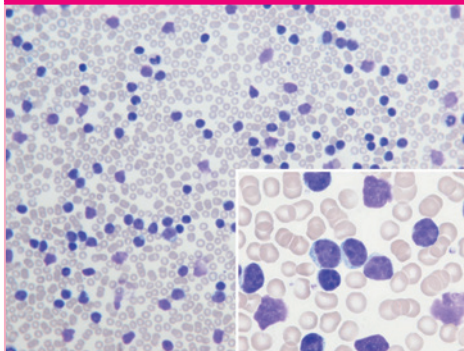
Chronic lymphocytic leukemia/ Small lymphocytic lymphoma	CLL/SLL
B-cell prolymphocytic leukemia	B-PLL
Mantle cell lymphoma	MCL
Follicular lymphoma	FL
Hairy cell leukemia	HCL
Lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma	LPL
Marginal zone B-cell lymphoma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extranodal MZL (gastric and non-gastric MALT)</li> <li>• Splenic MZL</li> <li>• Nodal MZL</li> </ul>	MZL

## MBL-CLL type vs. SLL vs. CLL



Hallek et al. *Blood* 2008, Swerdlow et al. *Blood* 2016

## Morphology of CLL



Courtesy: Dr C. Brusselmans, UZ Leuven

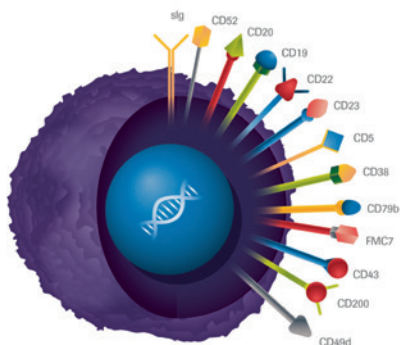
### CLL cell characteristics

- small
- mature
- narrow border of cytoplasm
- dense nucleus with partially aggregated chromatin
- no discernible nucleoli
- Gumprecht nuclear shadows or smudge cells
- < 55% polymorphocytes

**Microscopy blood smear:  
easy, rapid and inexpensive**

Hallek et al. *Blood* 2008

## Immunophenotype of CLL



© nv Roche sa

### CLL score > 3/5

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CD5</li> <li>• CD19, CD23</li> <li>• CD20, CD79b</li> <li>• sIg, <math>\kappa</math> or <math>\lambda</math></li> <li>• FMC7</li> </ul>	positive positive low expression low expression negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• typical CLL</li> <li>• atypical CLL</li> <li>• B-PLL</li> <li>• HCL</li> <li>• FL, SLVL, MCL</li> </ul>	4 to 5/5 2 to 3/5 0 to 1/5 0 to 1/5 0 to 2/5

Moreau EJ et al. *Am J Clin Pathol* 1997

CD200 and CD43 positivity can help to differentiate atypical CLL from other LPD

Köhnke et al. *Br J Haematol* 2017

Rawstron et al. *Cytometry B Clin Cytom* 2017

## Diagnostic and/or pretreatment work-up

### Mandatory

Personal and familial history  
 Physical examination  
 Biological fitness: PS, comorbidities

Complete blood cell count  
 Peripheral blood smear  
 CLL score  
 LDH, immunoglobulines, renal function  
 Parameters for hemolysis  
 17p deletion/p53 mutation  
 hep B, hep C, CMV, HIV

Clinical staging: Rai-Binet

### Potential utility

Biological fitness: complete geriatric assessment

CD38-CD49d  
 $\beta 2$ -microglobulin  
 IGH<sub>H</sub> mutational status  
 FISH: 13q deletion, t12, 11q deletion  
 Conventional karyotyping with novel culture techniques  
 Bone marrow aspirate and biopsy  
 Rx-thorax, echo abdomen  
 CT neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis  
 ECG

Janssens et al. *BHS guidelines for the treatment of CLL*. *BJH* 2012

## Clinical staging systems

Staging system		Clinical features Lab results
<b>Rai</b>	0 low risk	Lymphocytosis
	I-II intermediate risk	Lymphadenopathy Splenomegaly/Hepatomegaly
	III-IV high risk	Anemia (Hb <11g/dl) Thrombocytopenia (<100000/ $\mu$ l)
<b>Binet</b>	A	<3 areas of lymphadenopathies
	B	$\geq$ 3 areas of lymphadenopathies
	C	Anemia (Hb <10g/dl) Thrombocytopenia (<100000/ $\mu$ l)

Rai KR et al. *Blood* 1975

Gale RP et al. *UCLA Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology*, Vol 59, Wiley-Liss, 1987

Binet JL et al. *Cancer* 1981

## Assessment of comorbidity

CIRS (Cumulative Illness Rating Scale) captures numbers and severity of comorbidities

Organ system	If illness/impairment present, please specify:	Score
Heart		<input type="checkbox"/>
Blood pressure		<input type="checkbox"/>
Vascular		<input type="checkbox"/>
Respiratory	<a href="http://www.CIRS.be">www.CIRS.be</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ear/nose/throat		<input type="checkbox"/>
Upper gastrointestinal	<b>Rating strategy</b> 0: no problem 1: current mild problem or past significant problem 2: moderate disability or morbidity requiring first line treatment 3: severe/constant significant disability/"uncontrollable" with first line treatment 4: extremely severe/immediate treatment required end organ failure/severe impairment in function	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lower gastrointestinal		<input type="checkbox"/>
Liver		<input type="checkbox"/>
Renal		<input type="checkbox"/>
Genitourinary		<input type="checkbox"/>
Musculoskeletal		<input type="checkbox"/>
Endocrine/metabolic		<input type="checkbox"/>
Neurological		<input type="checkbox"/>
Psychiatric		<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Score:		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Parmelee PA, et al. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 1995;43(2):130-7.



## CLL - International Prognostic Index (CLL-IPI)

Variable		HR	Grading	
17p del/p53 mut	No or Yes	4.2	4	
IGV <sub>H</sub>	Mut or Unmut	2.6	2	
B2 microglobulin	≤ or > 3.5 mg/dl	2	2	
Stage	Rai 0 vs 1-4 Binet A vs B-C	1.6	1	
Age	≤ or > 65y	1.7	1	
Risk group		%	5y TTFT	5y OS
low	0-1	47	80%	94%
intermediate	2-3	33	47%	91%
high	4-6	18	29%	68%
very high	7-10	3	19%	21%

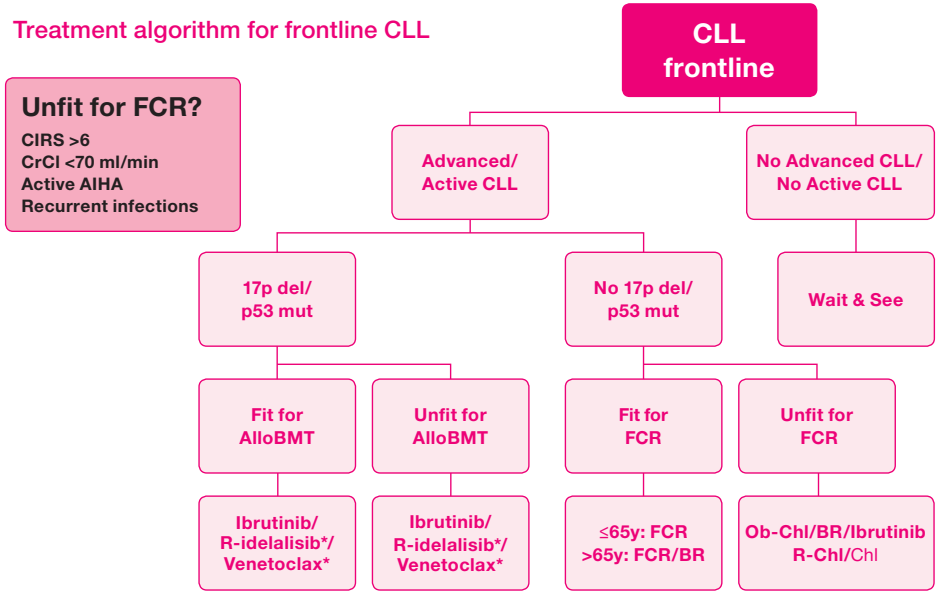
The International CLL-IPI working group. *Lancet* 2016

## Indications for treatment (advanced and/or active disease)

<b>High tumorload</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rai 3-4 or Binet C</li> </ul>
<b>Disease progression</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lymphocyte doubling time of less than 6 months</li> <li>• Massive (&gt;6 cm below costal margin) or progressive or symptomatic splenomegaly</li> <li>• Massive (&gt;10cm) or progressive or symptomatic lymphadenopathy</li> <li>• Progressive marrow failure leading to cytopenia</li> </ul>
<b>Auto-immune problems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AIHA, AITP, PRCA poorly responsive to corticosteroids</li> </ul>
<b>Disease related problems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10% weight loss in 6 months</li> <li>• Fatigue ( PS≥2)</li> <li>• Fever &gt;38°C for &gt;2w without infection</li> <li>• Night sweats &gt;1m</li> </ul>

Hallek et al. *Blood* 2008

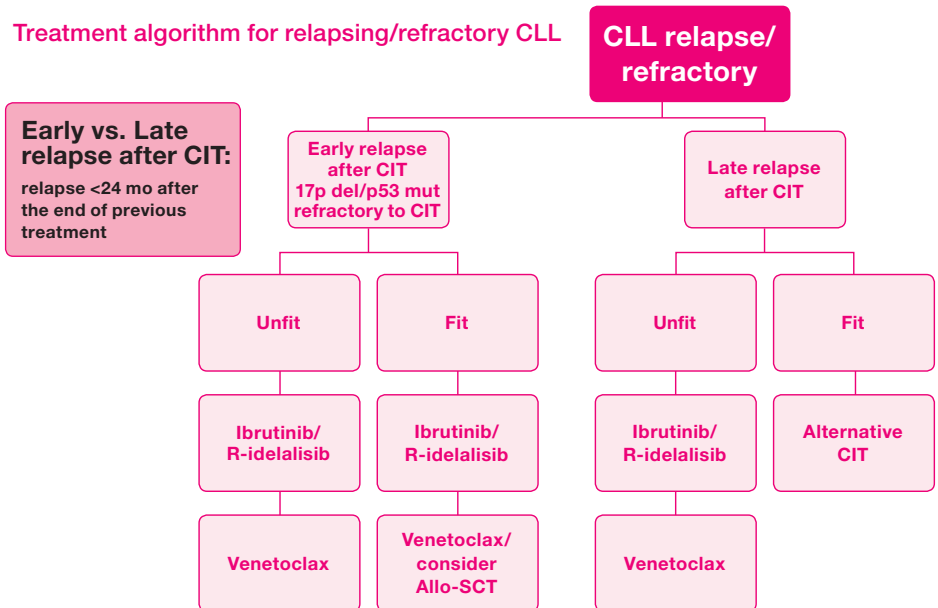
## Treatment algorithm for frontline CLL



\*: R-idelalisib or venetoclax if the patient is unsuitable for ibrutinib

Janssens et al. Updated BHS guidelines for the treatment of CLL, MCL and WM anno 2018. BJH 2018

## Treatment algorithm for relapsing/refractory CLL



Janssens et al. Updated BHS guidelines for the treatment of CLL, MCL and WM anno 2018. BJH 2018

## Treatment schemes for CLL

	dosage	route	Days(d)/weeks(w)	Cycles (C)
<b>FCR</b>				
Fludarabine	25 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV	d1-3	6
Cyclophosphamide	250 mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV	d1-3	
Rituximab*	375 (C1)-500(C2-6) mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV	d1	
<b>BR</b>				
Bendamustine	90 (Frontline)-70 (Relapse) mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV	d1-2	6
Rituximab*	375 (C1)-500(C2-6) mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV	d1	
<b>Ob-Chl</b>				
Obinutuzumab	100(d1)-900 (d2)-1000 (d8-15) mg (C1) 1000 mg (C2-6)	IV	d1-2-8-15 d1	6
Chlorambucil	10 mg/m <sup>2</sup> or 0.5 (till 0.8) mg/kg	oral	d1-7 d1 & 15	6 (12) 6 (12)
<b>R-Chl</b>				
Rituximab*	375 (C1)-500(C2-6) mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV	d1	6
Chlorambucil	10 mg/m <sup>2</sup> or 0.5 (till 0.8) mg/kg	oral	d1-7 d1 & 15	6 (12) 6 (12)
<b>Ibrutinib</b>	420 mg	oral	once daily	Continuous treatment
<b>R-Idelalisib</b>				
Rituximab*	375(C1)-500(C2-6) mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV	w1-3-5-7-9-13-17-21	8 infusions Continuous treatment
Idelalisib	150 mg	oral	twice daily	
<b>Venetoclax</b>	20-50-100-200 mg 400 mg	oral	w1-2-3-4 once daily from w5 once daily	Continuous treatment

\*Rituximab sc 1600mg fixed dose from the cycle following a cycle without any infusion reaction (reimbursed 2018)

## Choice between available BCR inhibitors and the bcl-2 inhibitor

Patient preference	Once daily 3 capsules: ibrutinib or 4 tablets: venetoclax Twice daily 1 tablet: idelalisib	
Frontline treatment	ibrutinib/venetoclax > idelalisib	
Renal impairment	CrCl >25 ml/min: ibrutinib/idelalisib/venetoclax CrCl 15-25 ml/min: idelalisib	Monitor more closely for TLS if CrCL between 30-80 ml/min when started on venetoclax
Auto-immune colitis	Ibrutinib/venetoclax > idelalisib	
Cardiac impairment/ arrhythmia	Idelalisib/venetoclax > ibrutinib	Cardiac check up if cardio-vascular risk factors or disease before start ibrutinib
Bleeding	Congenital bleeding disorders: idelalisib/venetoclax > ibrutinib Antiplatelet agents: idelalisib/venetoclax > ibrutinib Anticoagulant agents: idelalisib/venetoclax > ibrutinib	Assess indication of antiplatelet-anticoagulant therapy
Serious pulmonary impairment	ibrutinib/venetoclax > idelalisib	

## Prevention of infection in CLL during treatment

	PCJ prophylaxis	HSV prophylaxis	CMV PCR monitoring	Hep B screening
<b>Prophylaxis/monitoring When, how long</b>	>2 months after treatment completion and CD4 >200/ $\mu$ l	>2 months after treatment completion and CD4 >200/ $\mu$ l	Each 4 weeks till 2 months after treatment completion	Before start of treatment
<b>Drug choice</b>	Co-trimoxazol 400/80 mg 1 tabl/d Co-trimoxazol 800/160 mg 1 tabl/d 2 times a week (Pentamidine 300 mg aerosol once a month) (Dapsone 100 mg/d) (Atovaquone 1500 mg/d)	Acyclovir 2 x 400mg/d		
<b>History of PCJ/HSV/CMV infection prior any immunosuppressive treatment</b>	x	x	x	
<b>FCR</b>	x	x		x
<b>R-benda</b>	x if CD4 <200/ $\mu$ l	x if CD4 <200/ $\mu$ l		x
<b>Ob-Chl, R-Chl</b>				x
<b>Ibrutinib</b>				x
<b>R-idelalisib</b>	x		x if CMV serology pos	x
<b>Venetoclax</b>				?
<b>Alemtuzumab</b>	x	x	x if CMV serology pos	x
<b>Prednisone &gt; 20mg/d for 4 weeks</b>	x			x

Maertens J et al. J Antimicrob Chemother 2016, Baden LR et al. J Natl Compr Canc Netw 2012

## Prevention of tumor lysis syndrome with venetoclax

5 week dose titration phase: 20-50-100-200-400 mg

Hydration, anti-hyperuricemic drugs, hospitalization and laboratory control according to tumor burden (Consider upgrading risk group if CrCl <80 ml/min, huge splenomegaly, important pre-existing co-morbidities and pre-existing, not corrected, electrolyte or uric acid values)

Low Risk	Median Risk	High Risk
All nodes <5cm* "and" ALC <25000/ $\mu$ l	One node 5-10cm* "or" ALC $\geq$ 25000/ $\mu$ l	One node $\geq$ 10cm* "or" One node 5-10cm* with ALC $\geq$ 25000/ $\mu$ l
2 à 3 d before start 2L oral hydration allopurinol**	2 à 3 d before start 2L oral hydration allopurinol** Consider IV fluid	2 à 3 d before start 2L oral hydration allopurinol or rasburicase if uric acid is elevated IV fluid 150-200ml/h if tolerated
Lab predose at each ramp-up dose Lab at 6-8h, at 24h after 20-50 mg	Lab predose at each ramp-up dose Lab at 6-8h, at 24h after 20-50 mg	Lab predose at each ramp-up dose Lab at 4h, 8h, 12h, 24h after 20-50 mg Lab at 6-8h, 24h at 100-200-400 mg

\*: node assessment on CT scan

\*\* : at least till end of ramp-up

European Medicines Agency. Summary of Product Characteristics. Venclxyto.  
Janssens. Venetoclax, the first bcl-2 antagonist available for CLL. BJH 2017

## Ibrutinib and bleeding risk

### Increased bleeding risk in combination with

Heparine, low molecular weight heparins
Vitamin K antagonists
Novel oral antagonists (thrombin and factor Xa inhibitors)
Aspirin, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
Clopidogrel, ticlopidine, prasugrel
Selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (SSRIs)
Fish oil, herbals, vitamin E

Assess  
necessity of  
concomitant  
drugs

### Avoid dual antiplatelet treatment

### Avoid antiplatelet and anticoagulant combination

### Peri-operative management

Minor procedures (central line placement, needle biopsy, thoracocentesis,...): hold ibrutinib for 3d prior and 3d after (not necessary to hold ibrutinib for bone marrow biopsies)
Major surgery: hold ibrutinib 7d prior and 7d after, until healing is reasonable
Platelet transfusion may correct hemostasis when given 4-6h after the last ibrutinib dose in case of significant bleeding or emergent surgery

Discuss bleeding risk  
with the treating  
physicians!

Janssens. Ibrutinib and idelalisib, the BCR antagonists available for use in daily clinical practice. *BJH* 2015  
De Weertdt et al. *Haematologica* 2017

## ibrutinib-/idelalisib-/venetoclax-drug interactions

Strong CYP3A4 inhibitors	Moderate CYP3A4 inhibitors	CYP3A4 inducers
clarithromycin	aprepitant	carbamazepine
tellithromycin	ciprofloxacin	phenytoin
ketoconazole	diltiazem	rifampicin
itraconazole	erythromycin	rifabutin
posaconazole	fluconazole	phenobarbital
voriconazole	verapamil	dexamethasone
HIV medication	diltiazem	St John's wort
Grape fruit (juice)	amiodarone	
Sevilla oranges		
Star fruit		
[ibrutinib-idelalisib-venetoclax] ↑↑	[ibrutinib-idelalisib-venetoclax] ↑	[ibrutinib-idelalisib-venetoclax] ↓

Assess  
necessity of  
concomitant  
drugs

European Medicines Agency. Summary of Product Characteristics. Imbruvica.  
European Medicines Agency. Summary of Product Characteristics. Zydelig.  
European Medicines Agency. Summary of Product Characteristics. Venclyxto.

## Additional idelalisib-drug interactions

Contraindicated	The metabolite of idelalisib (GS-563117) is a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor and may increase the concentration ( <i>check SMPC and consider alternative if possible</i> )		
simvastatine	Antidepressants Sedatives Neuroleptics	trazodone diazepam, flurazepam, zolpidem quetiapine, pimizide	
amiodarone	Anti-gout	colchicine	
midazolam, triazolam	Cardiovascular drugs	amlodipine, felodipine, diltiazem, nifedipine, nicardipine	disopyramide, lidocaine
sidefanil, tadalafil (PAH)	Anticoagulants	NOACs, warfarine	
	Analgetics	morfine, buprenorphine, fentanyl, cocaine, methadone	
	Glucocorticoids	oral budesonide	
	Anti-infectives	clarithromycine, telitromycine, rifabutin, HCV protease inhibitors	ketoconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole, posaconazole
	Phosphodiesterase inhibitors	sidefanil, tadalafil (erectile dysfunction)	
	Anticonvulsants	carbamazepine	
	Immunosuppressants	cyclosporine, tacrolimus, everolimus	

Assess  
necessity of  
concomitant  
drugs

European Medicines Agency. Summary of Product Characteristics. Zydelig.

## Additional venetoclax-drug interactions

### venetoclax

+ Bile acid sequestrants	[venetoclax] ↓	Administer venetoclax 4-6 h after sequestant
+ warfarin	[warfarin] ↑	Monitor INR
+ digoxin, dabigatran, everolimus, sirolimus	[digoxin, dabigatran, everolimus, sirolimus] ↑	Monitor closely
+ dabigatran		Do not administer at the same moment
+ statins	[statins] ↑	Monitor closely for statin-related toxicity

Assess  
necessity of  
concomitant  
drugs

European Medicines Agency. Summary of Product Characteristics. Venclyxto.

## Dose adaptations: ibrutinib-idelalisib-venetoclax

### Dose interruptions

any grade 3 non-hematological toxicity  
 grade 3 neutropenia with infection or fever  
 grade 4 hematological toxicity

When toxicity improves to grade 1 or completely recovers, drug can be restarted at full dose  
 When toxicity recurs once or more, it is advised to dose reduce the drug  
 In case of neutropenia, intermittent use of short-acting G-CSF can be considered  
 In case of a life-threatening adverse event, consider to discontinue the drug permanently

### Dose adaptations

<b>Ibrutinib</b>	+ strong CYP3A4 + moderate CYP3A4	420 mg/once daily 140 mg/once daily 280 mg/once daily	280/140 mg once daily
<b>Idelalisib</b>	+ Cyp3A4	150 mg/twice daily Monitor closely for side effects	100 mg twice daily
<b>Venetoclax</b>	+ strong CYP3A4 + moderate CYP3A4	400 mg/once daily 100 mg/once daily 200 mg/once daily	300/200/100/50/20/10 mg

European Medicines Agency. Summary of Product Characteristics. Imbruvica.  
 European Medicines Agency. Summary of Product Characteristics. Zydelig.  
 European Medicines Agency. Summary of Product Characteristics. Venclyxto.

## Posttreatment work-up

### Complete Response outside a clinical trial (at least 2 mo after completion of therapy)

Absence of clonal lymphocytes in the peripheral blood
Absence of significant lymphadenopathy (<1.5cm) by physical examination
No spleno- or hepatomegaly by physical examination
Blood counts above: (without transfusion - growth factors) Neutrophils >1500/μl Platelets >100000/μl Hemoglobin >11g/dl
Absence of constitutional symptoms

### Partial Response

(at least one of the following parameters documented for a minimal duration of 2 mo)

Decrease in blood lymphocytes by at least 50%
Reduction lymphadenopathy >50% (no new node, no increase in any node)
Reduction hepato-, splenomegaly > 50%
Blood counts: Neutrophils >1500/μl or 50% improvement over baseline Platelets >100000/μl or 50% improvement over baseline Hemoglobin >11g/dl or 50% improvement over baseline

## Abbreviations

AIHA	auto-immune hemolytic anemia
BCR	B-cell receptor
CIRS	cumulative illness rating scale
CIT	chemo-immunotherapy
CLL	chronic lymphocytic leukemia
CLL-IPI	CLL international prognostic index
CrCl	creatinine clearance
HR	hazard ratio
ITP	immune thrombocytopenic purpura
LPD	lymphoproliferative disorder
MALT	mucosa associated lymphoid tissue
MBL	monoclonal B-cell lymphocytosis
MZL	marginal zone B-cell lymphoma
OS	overall survival
PAH	pulmonary arterial hypertension
PRCA	pure red cell aplasia
PS	performance status
SLL	small lymphocytic lymphoma
TTFT	time to first treatment

Gale RP (Author), Rai KR (Editor). *Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia: Recent Progress and Future Direction*. UCLA Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology, New Series, Vol 59, Wiley-Liss, 1987.

Hallek M, Cheson B, Catovsky D, et al. Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia: a report from the international workshop on updating the National Cancer Institute-Working Group 1996 guidelines. *Blood*. 2008;111:5446-56.

Janssens A, Van Den Neste E, Schroyens W, et al. BHS guidelines for the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia anno 2012. *Belg J Hematol*. 2012;3:134-43.

Janssens. Ibrutinib and idelalisib, the BCR antagonists available for use in daily clinical practice. *Belg J Hematol*. 2015;6(5):216-24.

Janssens et al. Updated BHS guidelines for the treatment of CLL anno 2016. *Belg J Hematol* 2015.

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Janssens et al. Updated BHS guidelines for the treatment of CLL, MCL and WM anno 2018. *Belg J Hematol*. 2018.

Köhnke T, Wittmann VK, Bücklein VL, et al. Diagnosis of CLL revisited: increased specificity by a modified five-marker scoring system including CD200. *Br J Haematol* 2017;179(3):480-87.

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