

# Linfociti T citotossici nel controllo delle infezioni nel paziente trapiantato

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*Il sottoscritto **Patrizia Comoli**  
in qualità di relatore al*

**XXX CONGRESSO NAZIONALE AIBT  
NAPOLI, 10/12 OTTOBRE 2024**

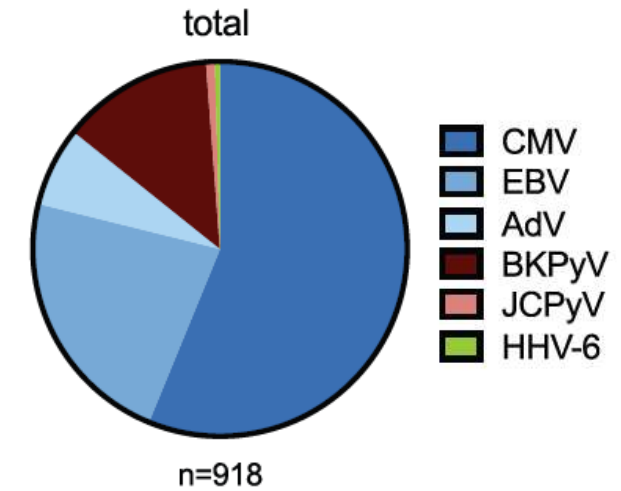
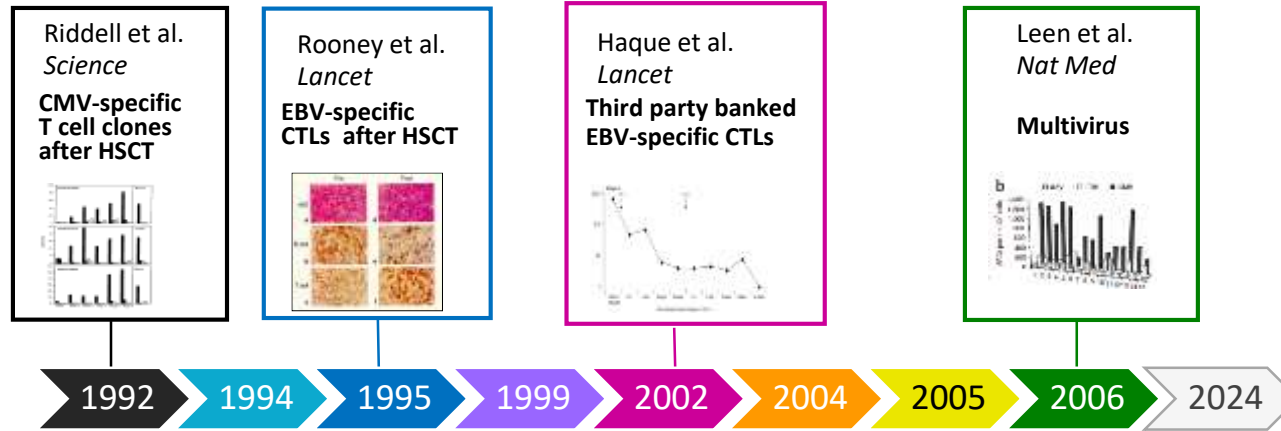
*ai sensi dell'art. 3.3 sul Conflitto di Interessi, pag. 18,19 dell'Accordo Stato-Regione del 19 aprile 2012, per conto  
di Planning Congressi srl*

dichiara

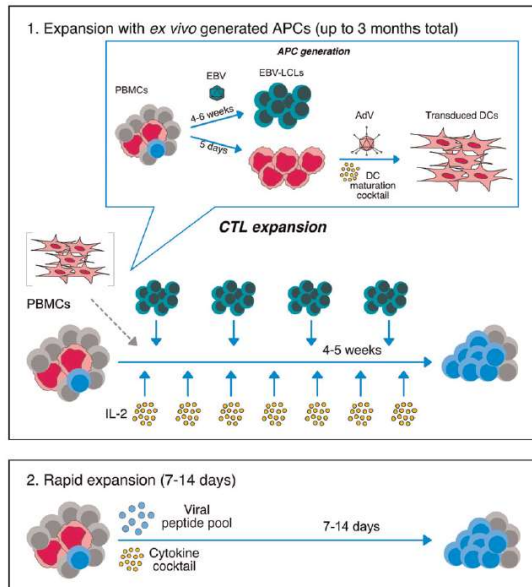
*che negli ultimi due anni ha avuto rapporti diretti di finanziamento con i seguenti soggetti portatori di interessi  
commerciali in campo sanitario:*

- *Atara Biotherapeutics: consultancy/advisory role*
- *Pierre Fabre Pharma: consultancy/advisory role*

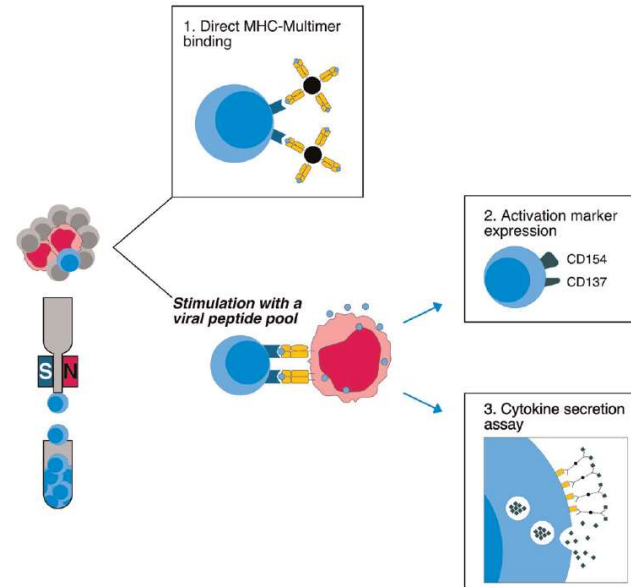
# Cell therapy for viral infections after HSCT: historical data



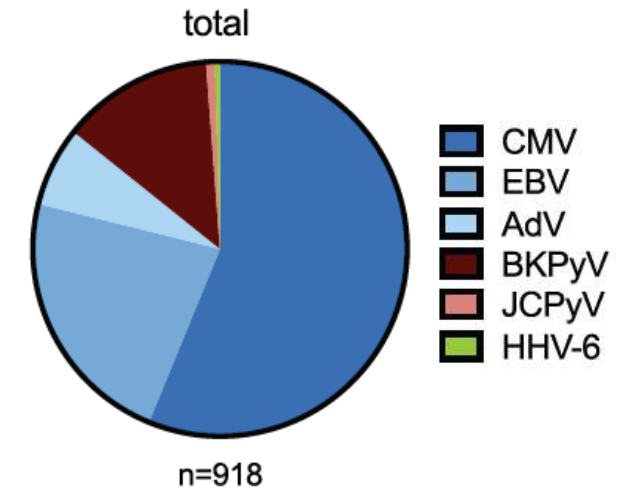
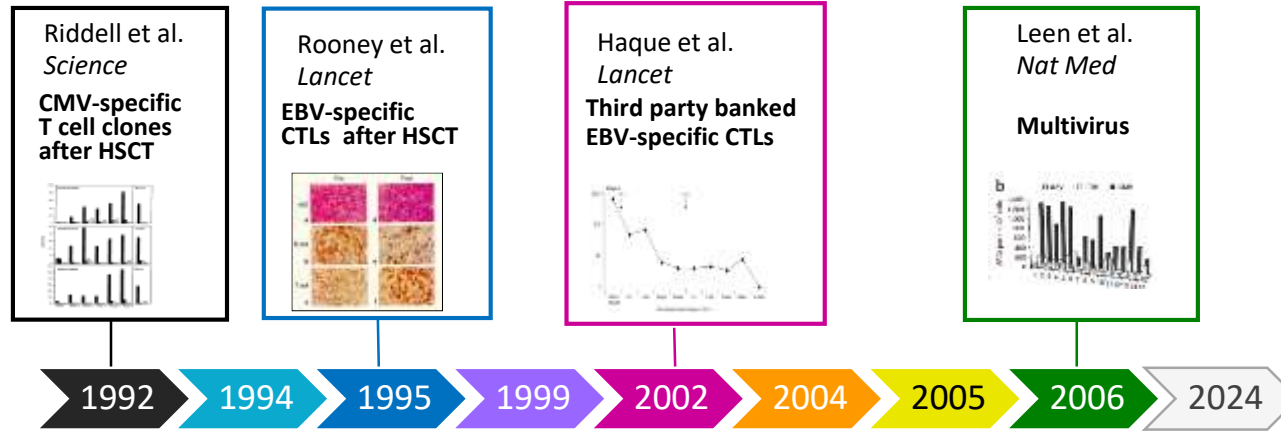
(a) *Ex vivo* expansion



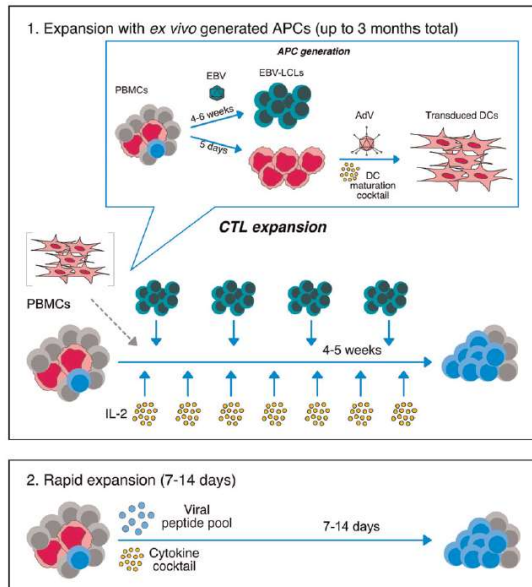
(b) Immunomagnetic selection



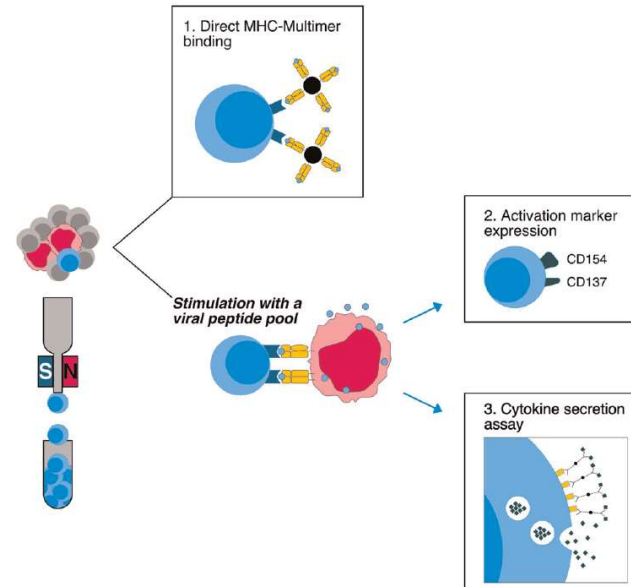
# Cell therapy for viral infections after HSCT: historical data



(a) *Ex vivo* expansion



(b) Immunomagnetic selection

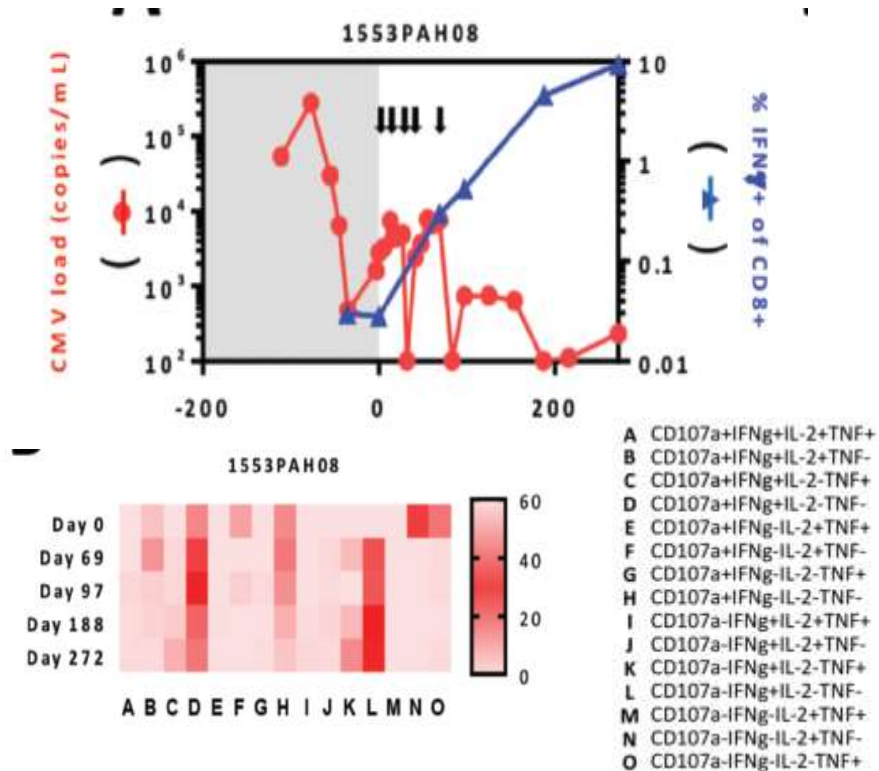


Response rate (%)

	Prophylaxis	Therapy
EBV	99	77
CMV	81	86
ADV	-	77

Basso et al. *Front Immunol* 2020  
Walti et al. *Curr Opin Infect Dis* 2022

# Cell therapy for viral infections after SOT: CMV

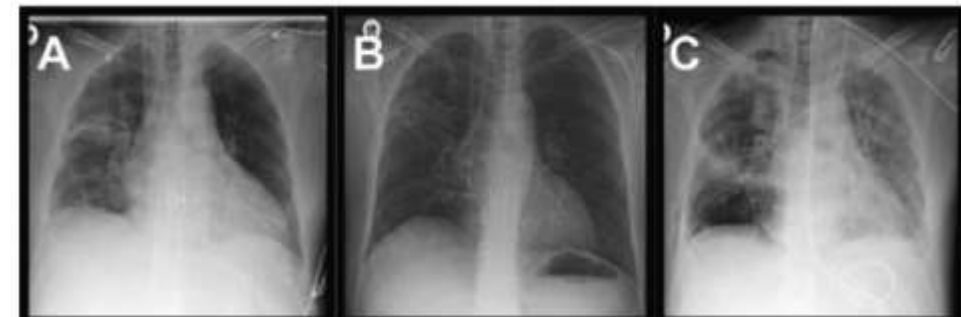


## CMV

17 pts (refractory CMV infection/disease):  
15 clear CMV viremia/disease  
2 progression CMV disease

88%

1 acute rejection leading to death from graft failure in a lung Tx recipient



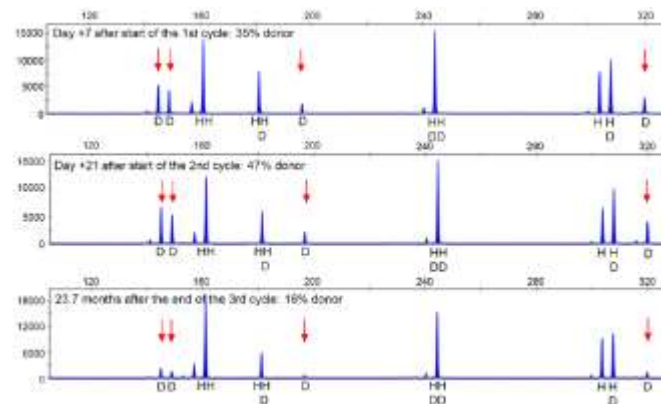
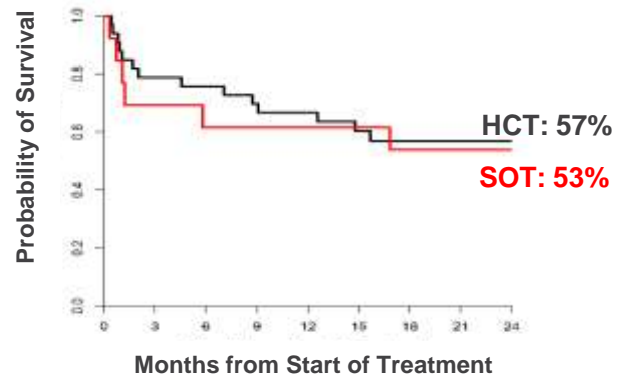
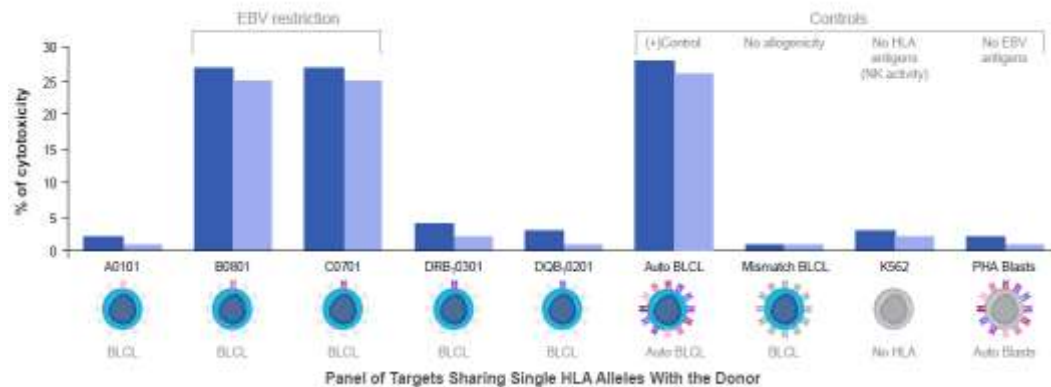
1. Brestrich et al. *Am J Transplant* 2008
2. Holmes-Liew et al. *Clin Transl Immunol* 2015
3. Macesic et al. *Am J Transplant* 2015
4. Smith et al. *Clin Infect Dis* 2019
5. Miele et al. *Microorganisms* 2021

# Cell therapy for viral infections: limitations of dedicated VST

- Urgency of treatment in some patients:
  - shorten the time needed for VST production (>15 days)
- Technical difficulties in selecting/expanding VSTs from virus-seronegative individuals:
  - dedicated VSTs unavailable for virus-seronegative recipients or HSCT recipients of virus-seronegative donors
- Restricted access to cellular therapies:
  - production in few GMP facilities with limited ability for widespread distribution
  - limited commercialization

# Implementing cell therapy for viral infections: 3° party S-VST banking

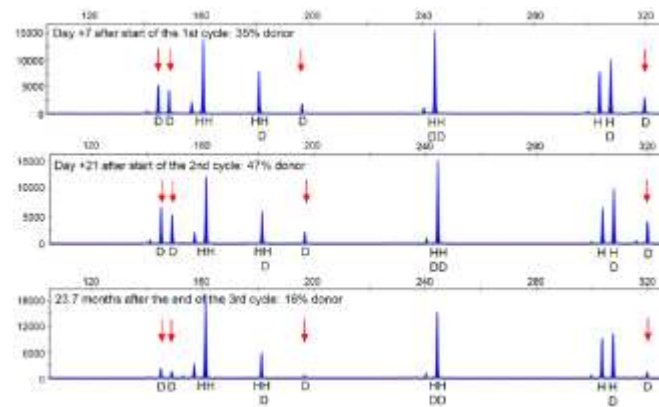
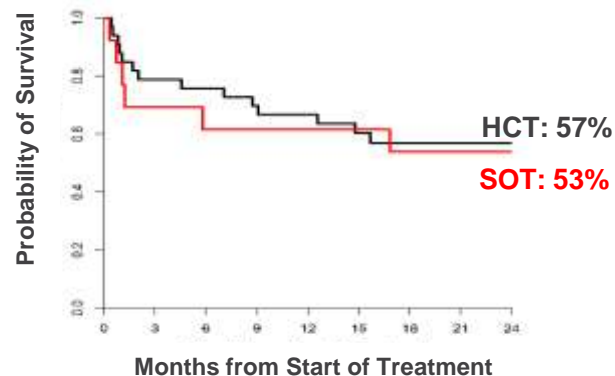
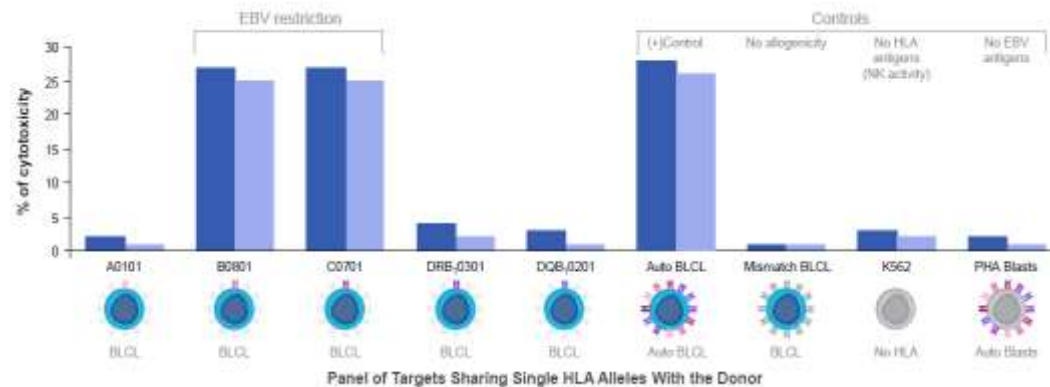
- Third-party donor-derived EBV-CTLs in 46 HSCT or SOT recipients with rituximab-refractory lymphomas
- Attribution: HLA typing + restriction



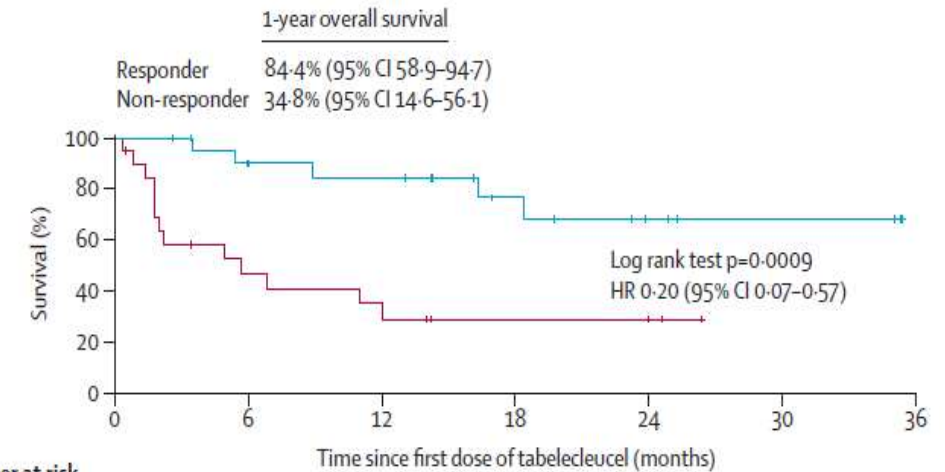


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## Phase III trial



Number at risk (number censored)		Time since first dose of tabellecleucel (months)						
Responder	22	17	15	9	5	3	0	
	(0)	(3)	(4)	(9)	(12)	(14)	(17)	
Non-responder	21	8	6	3	3	0	..	
	(0)	(3)	(3)	(5)	(5)	(8)	..	

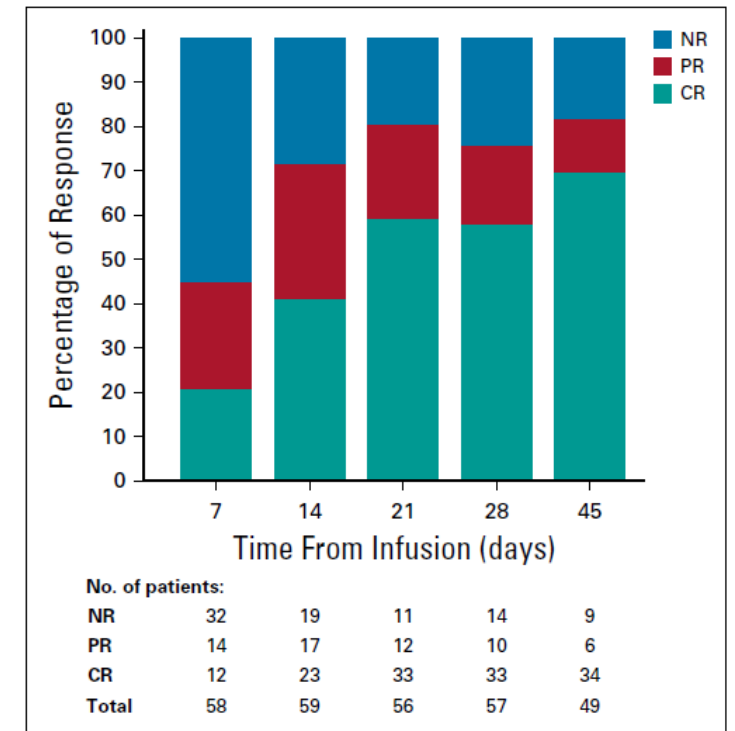
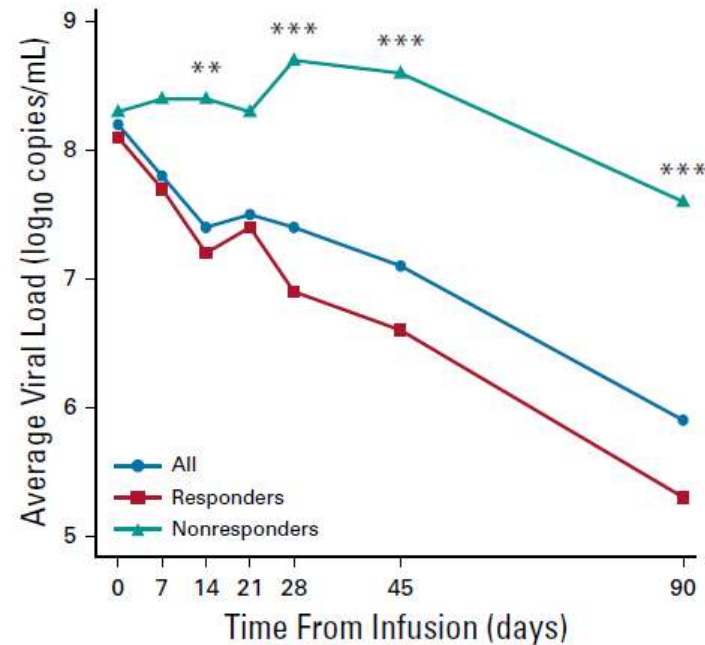
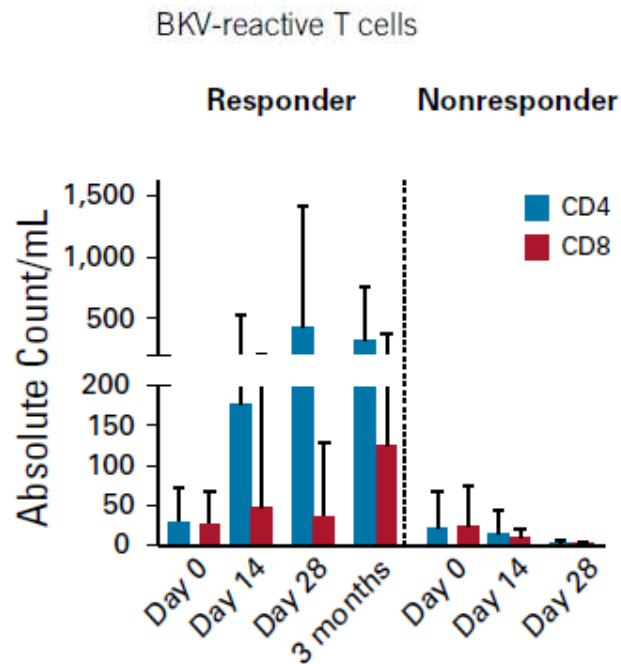
Mahadeo et al. *Lancet Oncol* 2024



# Cell therapy for viral infections: 3<sup>rd</sup> party BKV-CTLs

## Open-label, single arm, phase II study:

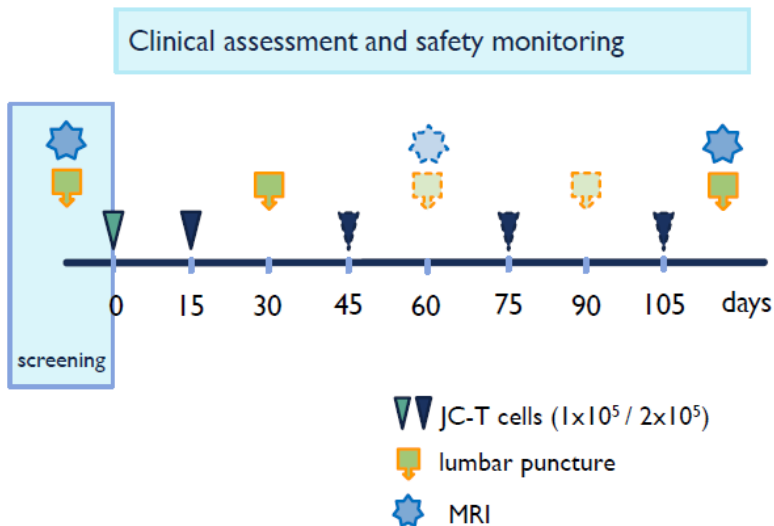
- 59 allo HSCT recipients with BKV-related HC
- cell dose:  $1 \times 10^5$  CTLs/kg for the phase I and  $2 \times 10^5$  CTLs/kg for the phase II
- primary end-point: response as decrease in HC grade and viral load



# Cell therapy for viral infections: 3<sup>rd</sup> party VST- JCPyV

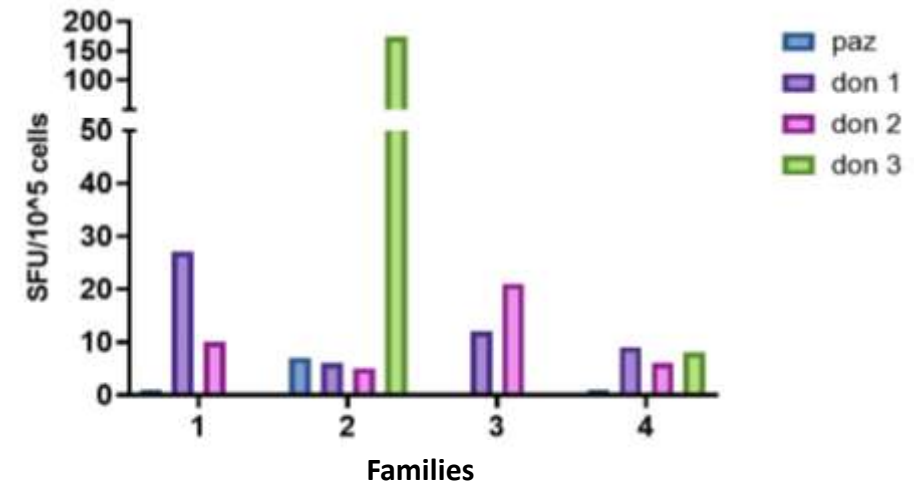
## Between 2014 and 2024

- 27 patients treated for PML
- underlying condition:
  - hematologic malignancy treated with biologicals
  - Tx recipients
  - PIDs or AIDS



## Cell product

- autologous
- allogeneic:
  - HSCT donor (if available)
  - HLA-haploidentical family donor
  - HLA-partially matched third-party donor



Balduzzi et al. Bone Marrow Transplant 2011

Berzero et al. Ann Neurol 2021

Peghin et al. J Heart Lung Transplant 2022

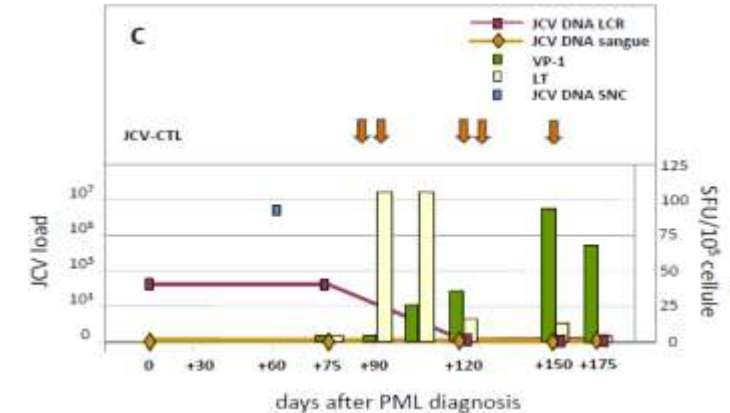
# Cell therapy for viral infections: 3<sup>rd</sup> party VST- JCPyV

## Clinical results

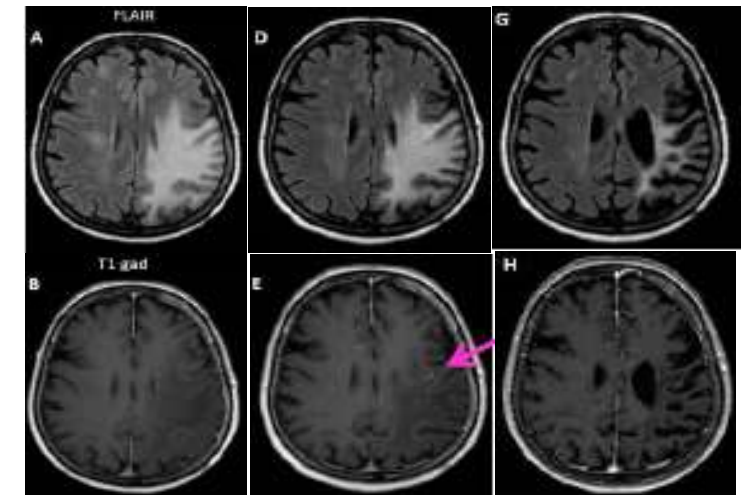
- 14/27 pts reached PML control (52%)
  - 11 are alive in remission
  - 3 died of complications related to baseline disease
- 13 patients had PML progression and died of PML or disease-related causes
- AE/SAE
  - grade 3 or >: 1 infection (VZV reactivation: encephalitis)\*
  - no hematologic AEs
  - 1 clinical IRIS, treated with steroids
- Main factor related to failure
  - time to intervention: early treatment is crucial for CR

\*unrelated to cell therapy

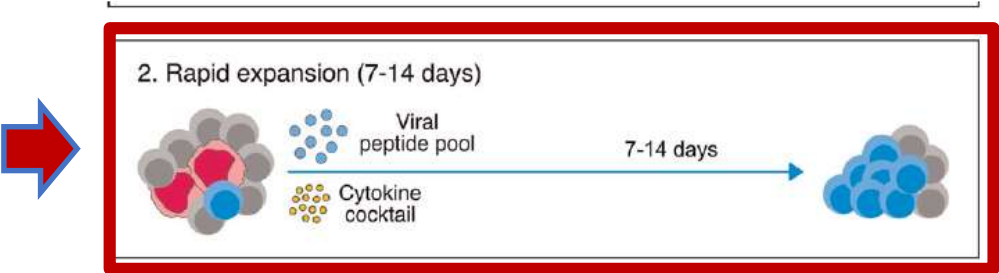
## JCPyV immune recovery



## MRI: small areas of punctate enhancement



# Implementing cell therapy for viral infections: rapid expansion and multi-VST



## Specificities:

CMV pp65  
EBV EBNA-1, LMP2, BZLF  
ADV penton, hexon  
BKV VP1, LT  
HHV6 U11, U14 and U90

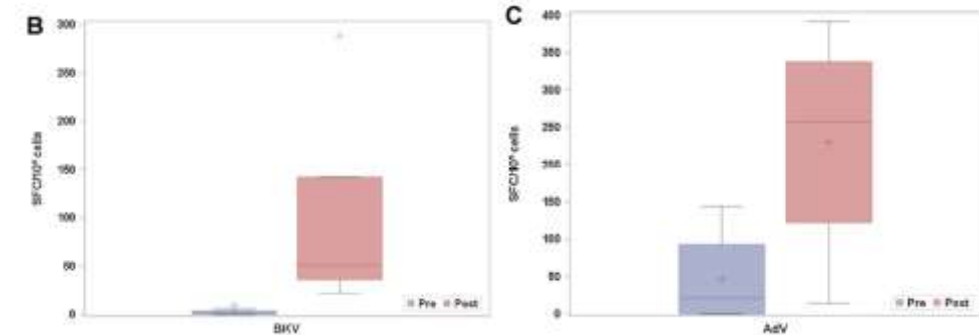
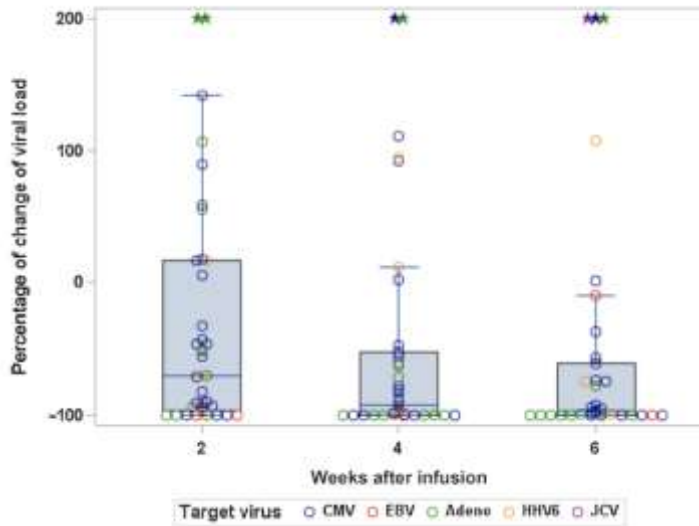


AdV	CMV	EBV	BKV	HHV6	control
1863	1105	1328	1251	418	8
1821	5355	489	313	303	1
951	3335	1338	303	248	0
206	855	395	11	178	0
425	851	32	6	130	0
21	2580	68	39	67	0
303	2	305	36	8	0
150	184	59	9	0	0
37	119	86	3	12	0
43	891	11	1	4	1
26	2	179	5	53	2
61	174	23	3	2	0
1170	16	21	21	25	10

# Cell therapy for viral infections: rapid 3<sup>rd</sup> party MVST

Open-label, single arm, phase II study- curative treatment:

- 58 pts with CMV, EBV, Adv, BKV-JCV, HHV6 DNAemia or disease
- cell dose: 1 x (2 x 10<sup>7</sup> VST/m<sup>2</sup>), repeatable every 2 weeks if PR
- 23 pts received single infusion, 11 two infusions, and 4 three infusions of MVST

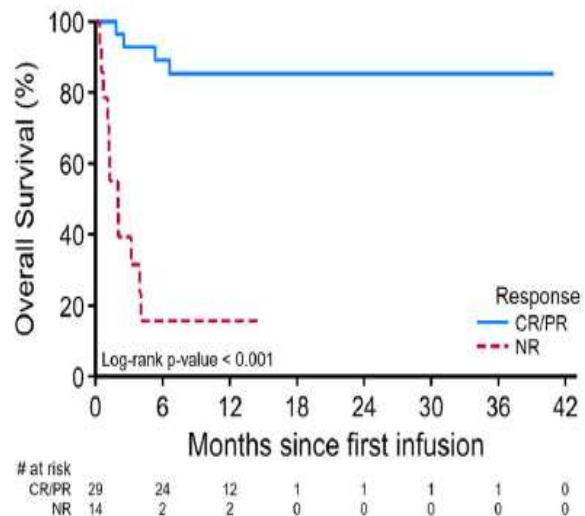


	Pt n.	Response	GVHD/toxicity
<b>Multi 3<sup>rd</sup> party VST</b>	58		17% aGVHD after treatment  1 grade III GI tract aGVHD 2 grade II skin aGVHD 7 grade I skin GVHD (4 de novo)  Toxicity: 1 secondary graft failure
CMV	24	96% (11/24 CR and 12/24 PR)	
EBV	2	100% (2/2 CR)	
ADV	12	83% (6/12 CR and 4/12 PR)	
HHV6	3	100% (3/3 achieved PR)	
BKV	27	100% (27/27 PR: 74% resolved HC, 50% nephropathy)	

# Cell therapy for viral infections: rapid 3<sup>rd</sup> party MVST

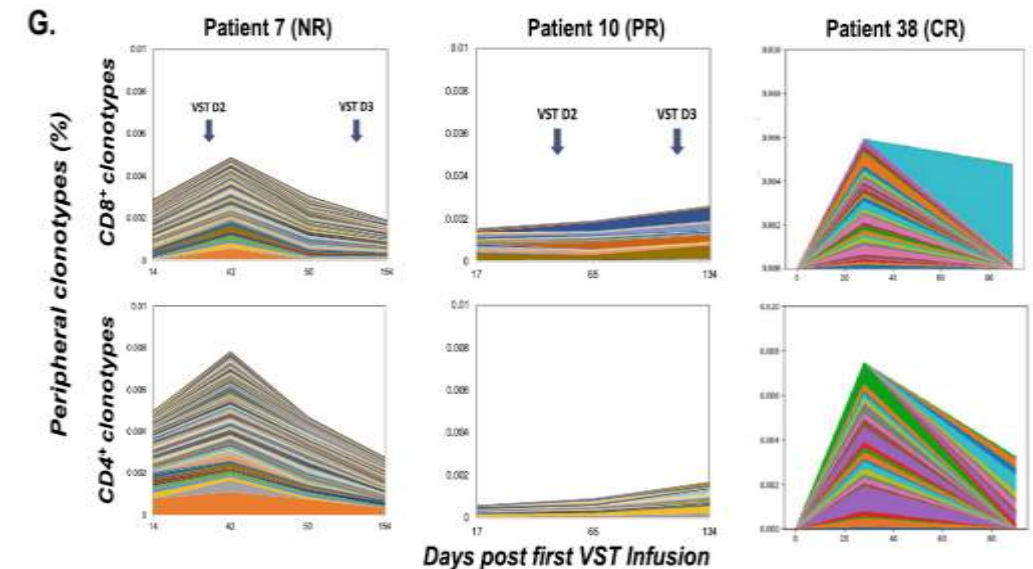
Multicenter phase II study: 51 pediatric pts, 47 treated post-HSCT with MVST vs EBV, CMV, and ADV

- cell allocation: HLA typing + restriction + activity
- cell dose:  $1 \times (2 \times 10^7 \text{ VST}/\text{m}^2)$ , repeatable if PR or NR
- clinical results: 29/47 CR/PR: 62%



SAE	N	Grade
aGVHD (flares) + cGVHD	5	
Graft rejection	1	4
Cytopenia	2	4
Respiratory distress	1	4
CRS	1	3
ICANS	2	5

Infused clonotypes do not persist in vivo

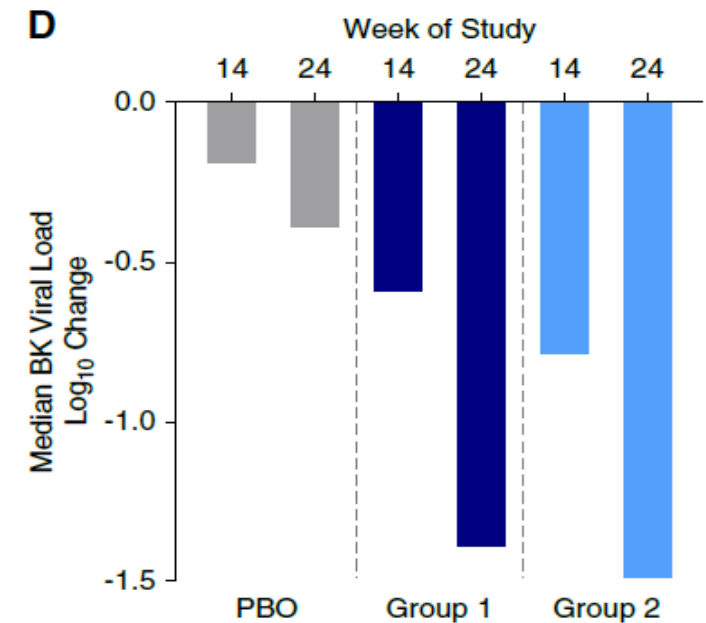
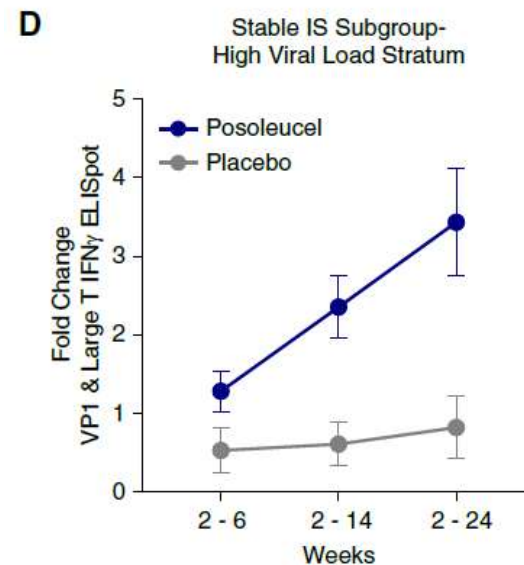
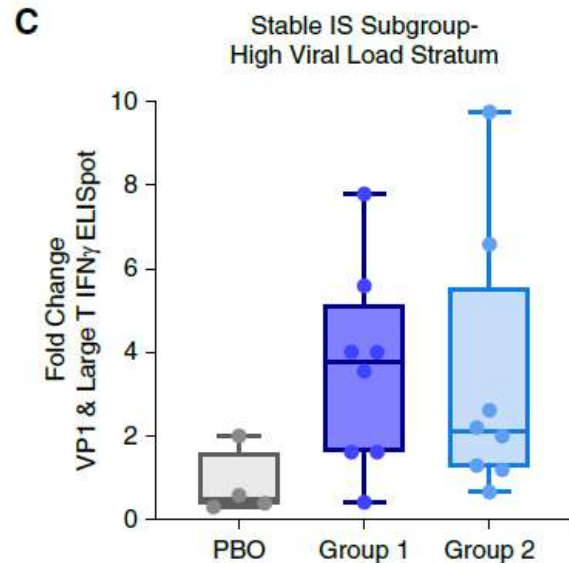
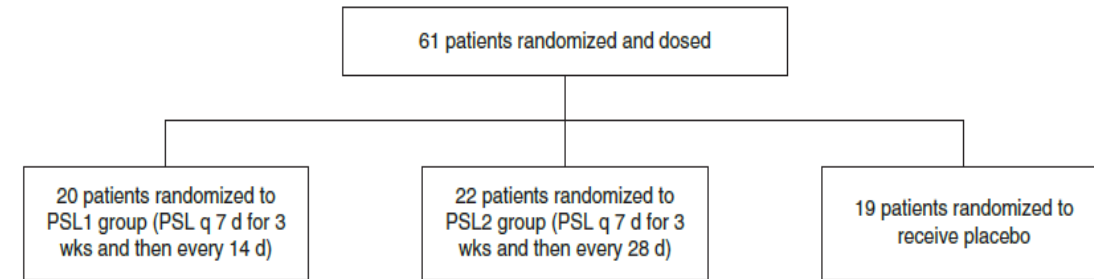




# Cell therapy for viral infections: rapid 3<sup>rd</sup> party MVST

## Phase II, multicenter, randomized study:

- 61 KTx recipients with BKPyV infection (any viremia)
- cell dose:  $4 \times 10^7$  VST (3 weekly doses + 6 biweekly or 3 monthly)
- Results:
  - good safety
  - virological and immunological responses

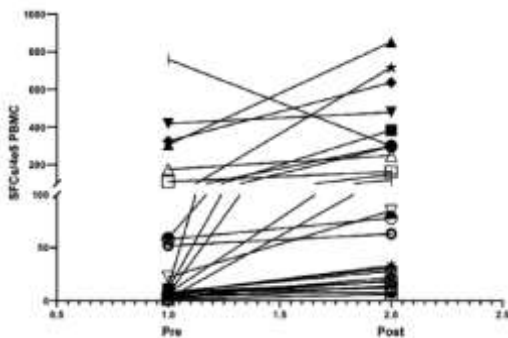




# Cell therapy for viral infections: rapid 3<sup>rd</sup> party MVST

## Open-label phase II study:

- 98 pts with refractory viral reactivation/infection that failed SoC management, which included reduction of immune suppression (for all viruses), antivirals (for CMV and ADV), and intravenous immunoglobulin for BKPyV
- cell product: VST specific for EBV, CMV, ADV, PyVBK
- cell dose:  $1 \times (5 \times 10^7 \text{ VST/m}^2)$ , repeatable
- product allocation: at least 2 HLA class I Ag-matches for EBV and CMV; at least 2 HLA class II Ag-matches for ADV and PyVBK
- 55 pts received single infusion, 43  $\geq$  2 infusions: 52 KTx, 18 OLTx, 16 HR, 8 LTx, 4 multivisceral recipients



	Pt n.	Response	rejection/toxicity
<i>Single or multiple infections</i>			3% acute organ rejection no graft loss  No infusion reactions or CRS
CMV	25	68% (13/25 CR and 4/25 PR)	
EBV	24	58% (4/24 CR; 10/24 PR)	
ADV	15	68% (9/16 CR and 2/16 PR)	
PyVBK	40	42% (14% CR, 28% GPR)* + (39% PPR, 19% NR) * Only DNAemia, no PyVBKN	

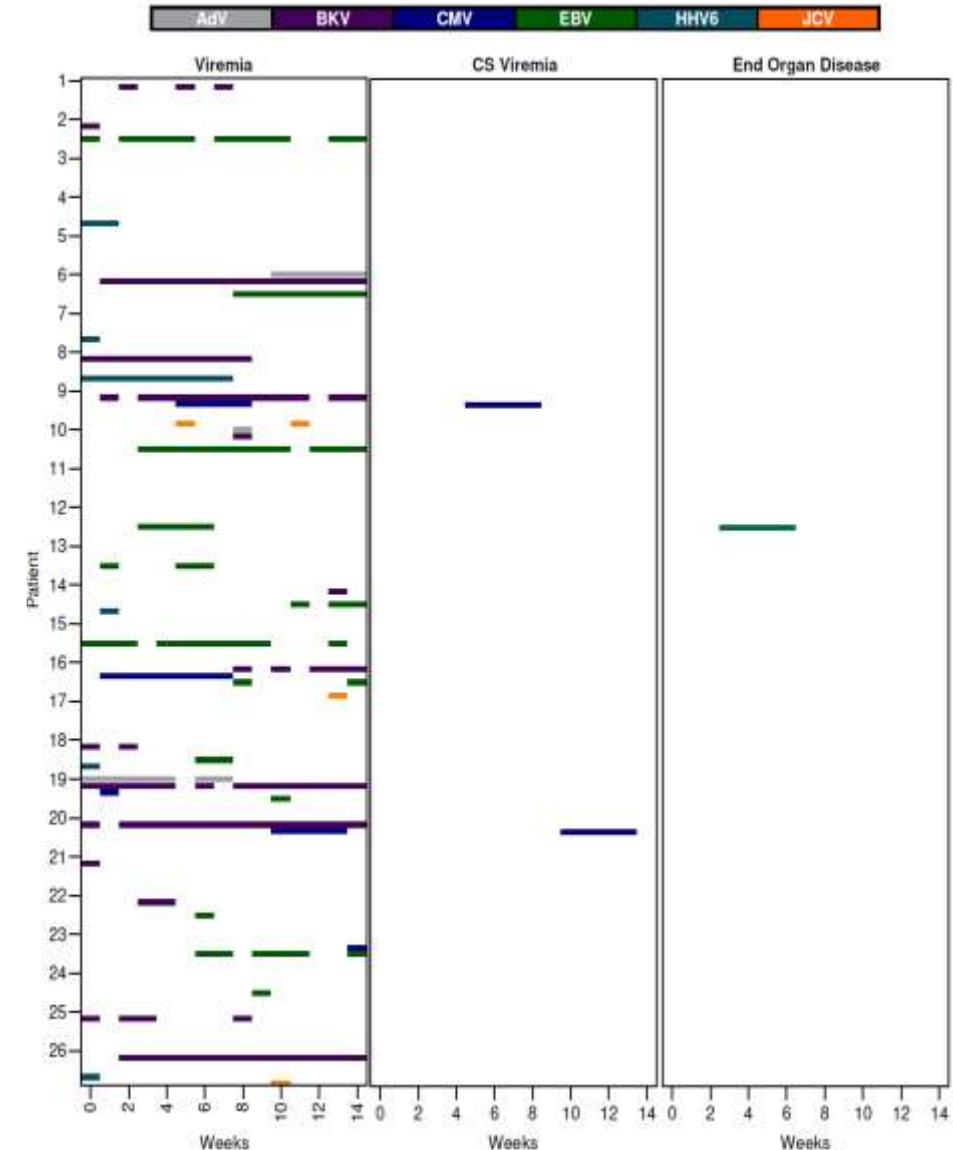
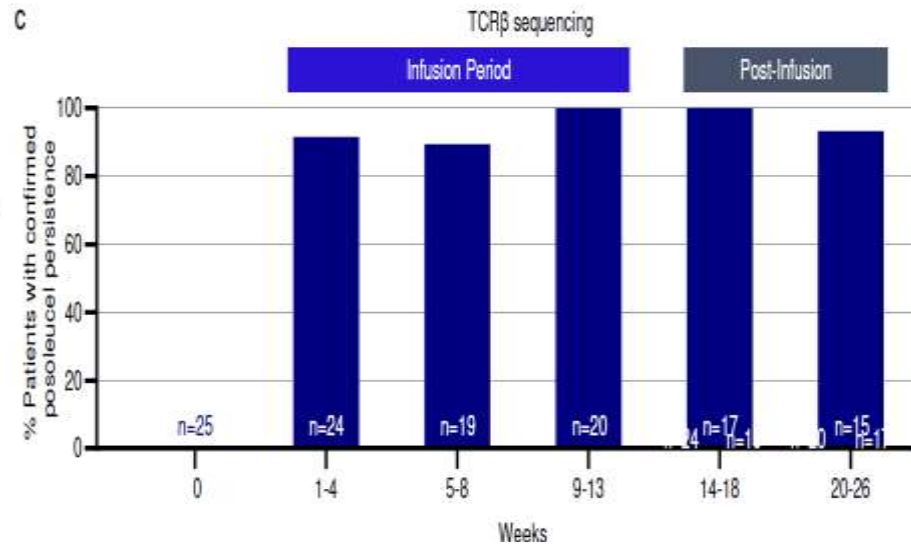
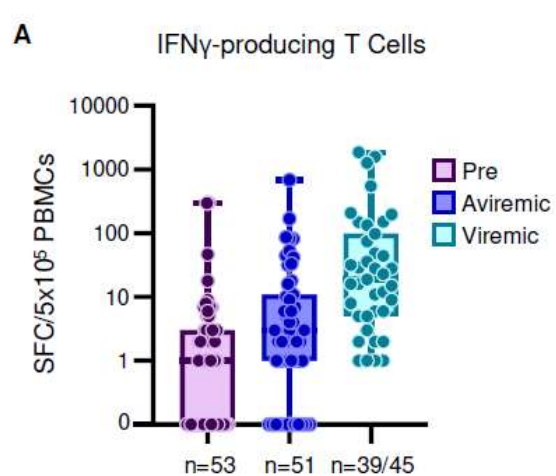
\* No difference in response when allele matching was considered

Khouri *et al. Am J Transplant* 2024

# Cell therapy for viral infections: rapid 3<sup>rd</sup> party MVST

Open-label, single arm, phase II study- preventive treatment:

- 26 high-risk HSCT recipients
- cell dose: ( $2 \times 10^7$  VST if  $< 40\text{kg}$ ,  $4 \times 10^7$  VST if  $> 40\text{kg}$ ), repeated every 2 weeks up to 7 times
- primary end-point: number of viremias requiring treatment or end-organ disease per patient due to AdV, BKV, CMV, EBV, HHV-6, or JCV through week 14



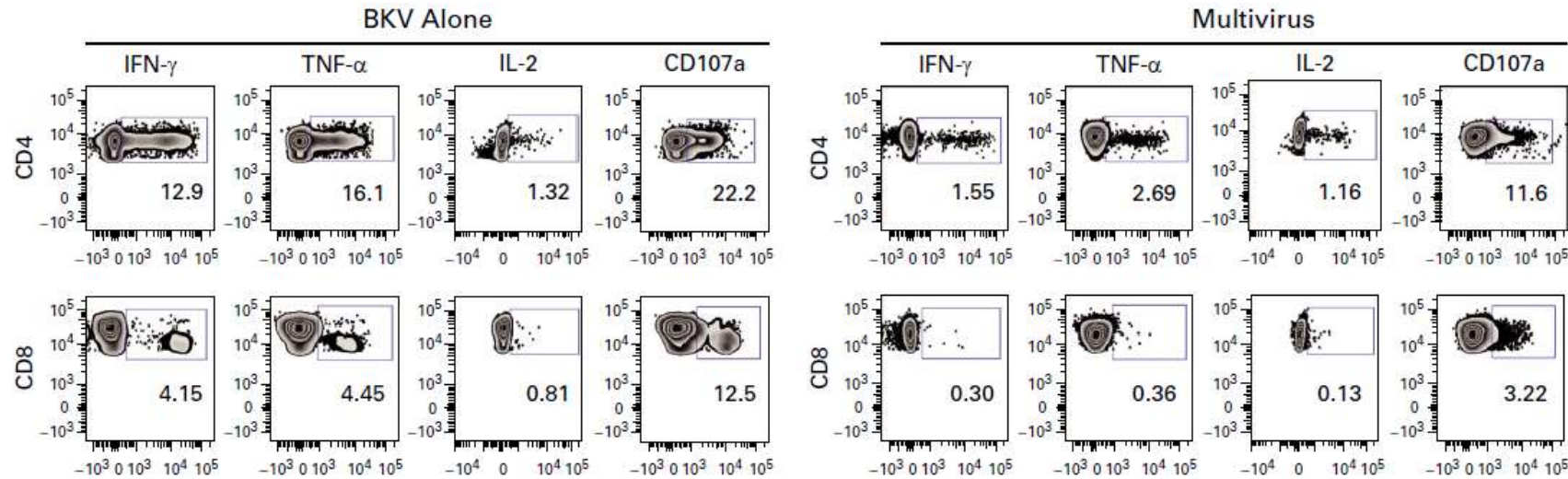
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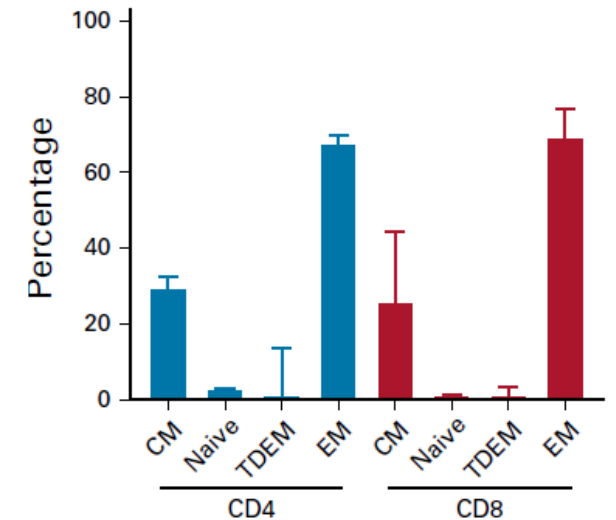
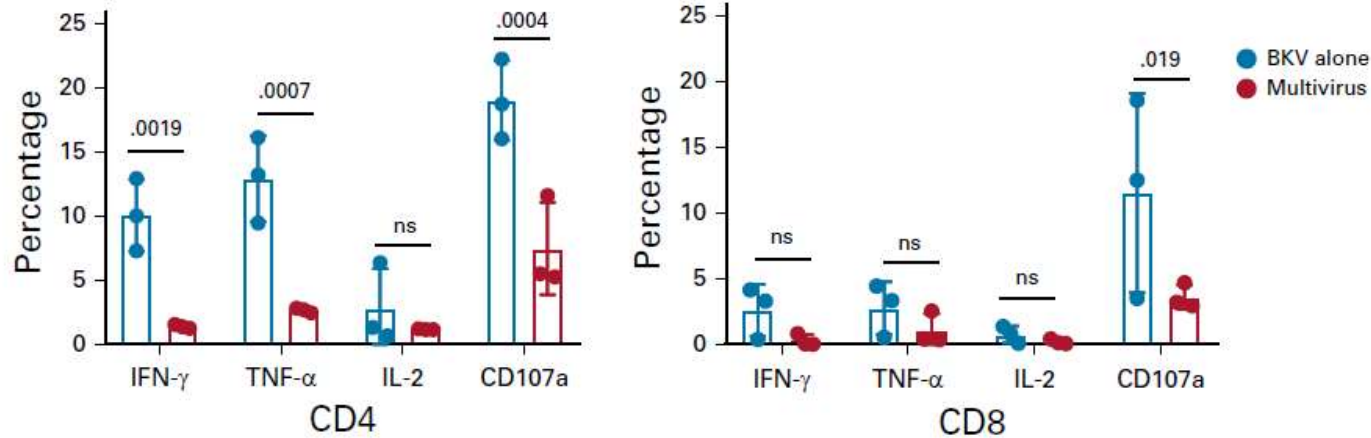
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# Cell therapy for viral infections: 3<sup>rd</sup> party BKV-CTLs



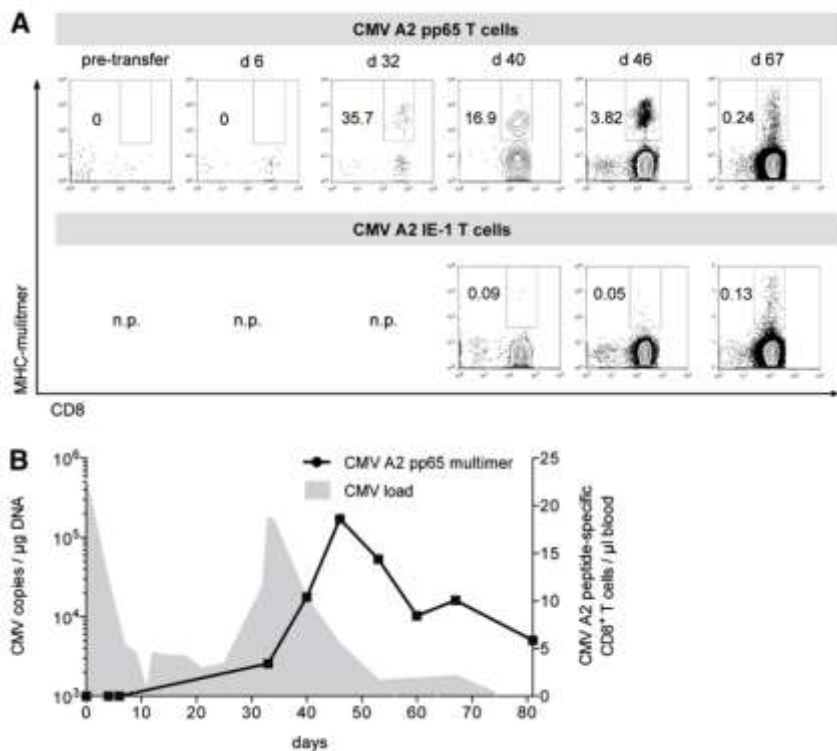
**B**



# Cell therapy for viral infections: cell population features

**T<sub>CM</sub>**

3000-4000 CD8+ cells/kg  
are able to reconstitute a  
HSCT recipient



	T <sub>N</sub>	T <sub>NR</sub>	T <sub>CNP</sub>	T <sub>SCM</sub>	T <sub>CM</sub>	T <sub>EM</sub>
CD45RO	-	-	-	-	+	+
CD45RA	+	+	+	+	-	-
CCR7	+	+	+	+	+	-
CD62L	+	+	+	+	+	-
CD27	+	+	+	+	+	+/-
CD28	+	?	+	+	+	+/-
CD31	+/-	-	+/-	+	-	-
CD95	-	?	+/-	+	+	+
CD49d	-	?	+	?	+/-	+
CXCR3	-	+/-	+/-	+	+	+
CD11a	-	+/-	?	+	+	+
CD122	-	?	?	+	+	+/-
CD127	+	?	+	+	+	-
TCR diversity	+	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+/-
Effector functions	-	+	+	+	+	+
Proliferation potential	+/-	+/-	?	+	+/-	-

# Cell therapy for viral infections: open issues

- Clinics: most of the studies are phase I/II open-label
  - difficult to find suitable/meaningful endpoints
- The cohorts include both pts with viremia and with disease:
  - requirements in terms of dose and schedule are likely different
- The characteristics of the products are different in the different studies:
  - Donor vs 3° party, MVST vs single antigen, selected vs expanded
  - Even within expanded products, cytokine cocktails and media employed may be different, and this has an impact on cell phenotype characteristics: % of effector memory vs early memory vs central memory



## Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

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## Cell Factory

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## Viral TCT Multidisciplinary Group Pavia

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