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## **Prophylactic Ruxolitinib for Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS) in Relapse/Refractory (R/R) AML Patients Treated with Flotetuzumab**

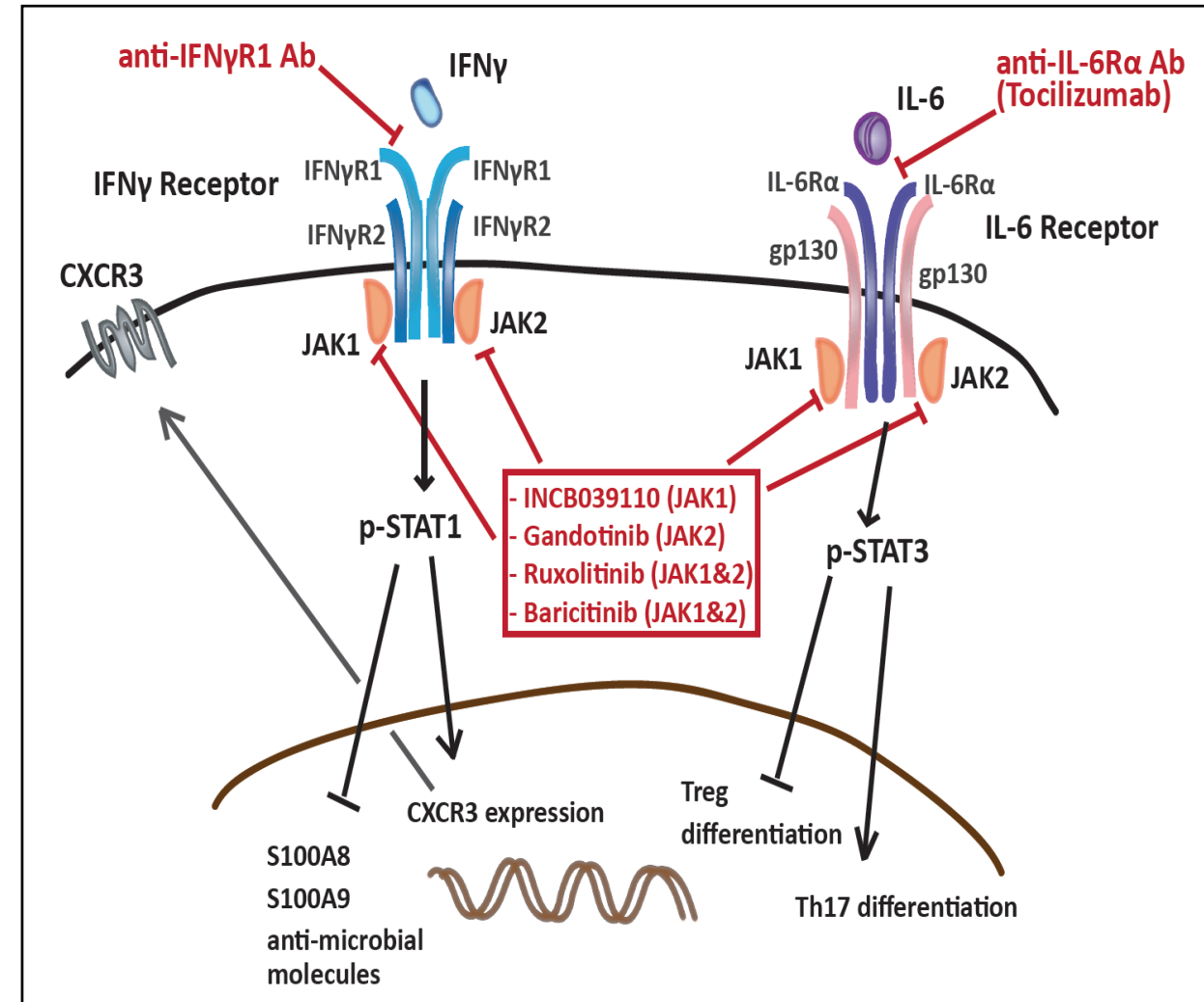
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# Background

- CRS is a potentially life-threatening toxicity observed following T cell-redirecting therapies and limits the therapeutic window of novel immunotherapeutic agents.

- Disruption of cytokine signaling via Janus kinase (JAK) pathway interference may blocking CRS by interfering with cytokines including IFN $\gamma$  and IL6

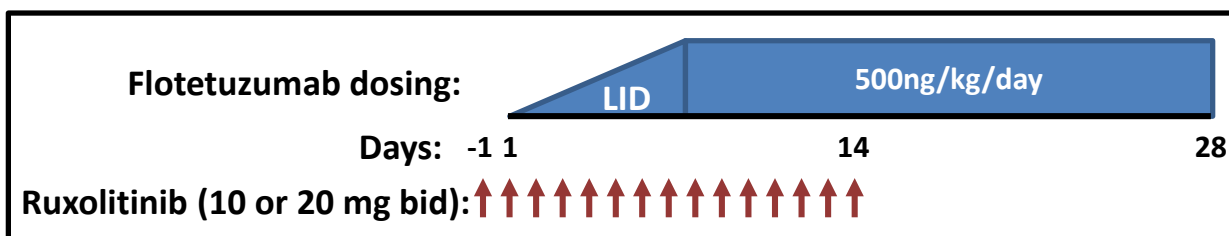
We hypothesized that RUX may reduce the frequency and severity of CRS in R/R AML patients undergoing treatment with flotetuzumab (FLZ), aCD123 x CD3 bispecific DART<sup>®</sup> molecule.



# Patients and Methods

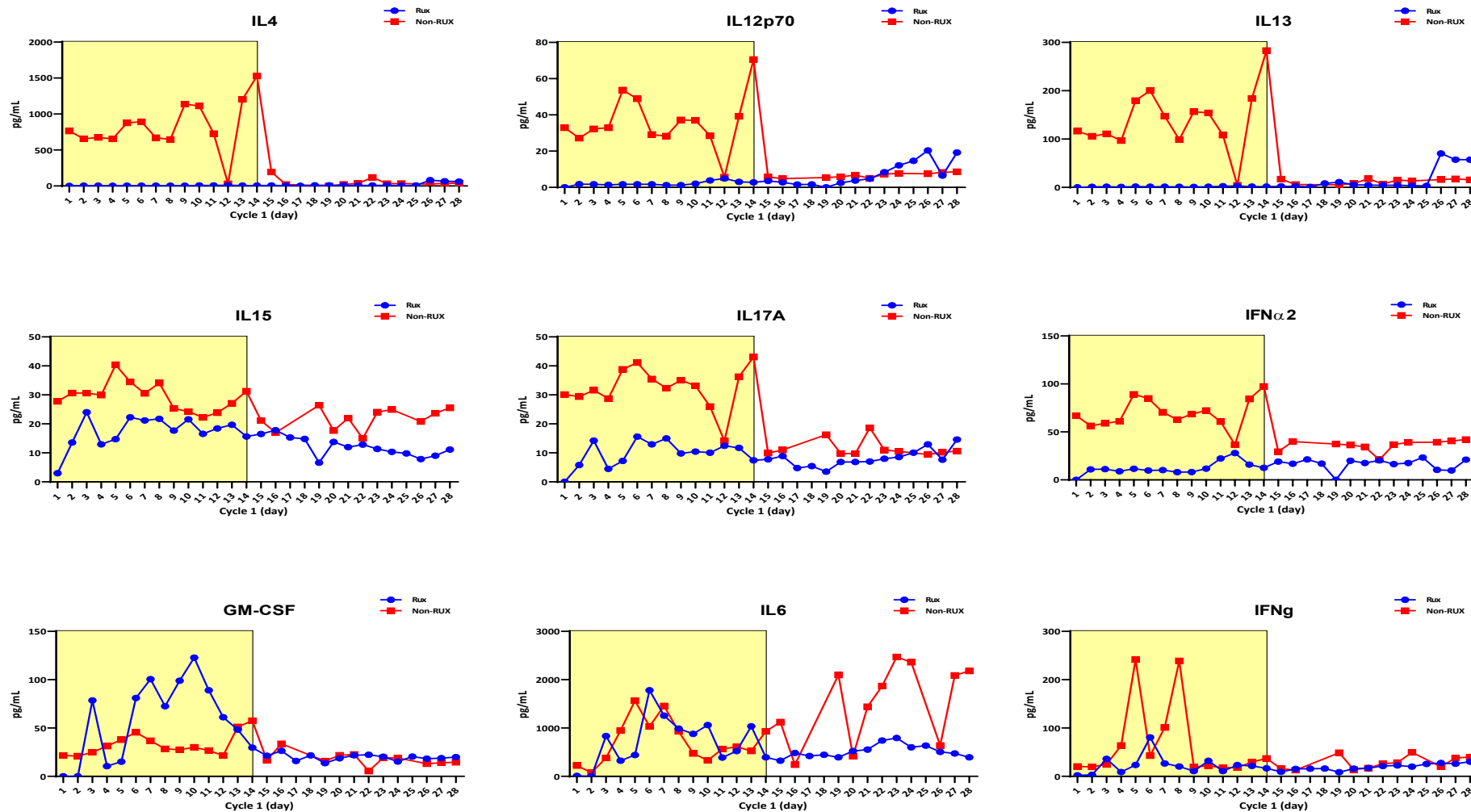
Characteristic		Non-RUX (n=21)	RUX (n=10)
Age	Median (Range)	58 (28-74)	65 (40-82)
Gender [n(%)]	Female	8 (38.1)	2 (20.0)
AML Status at Study Entry	Primary Induction Failure	12 (57.1)	6 (60.0)
	Early Relapse (CR1 < 6 months)	9 (42.8)	2 (20.0)
	Other	0	2 (20.0)
AML Risk Stratification (ELN 2017)	Adverse	15 (71.4)	8 (80.0)
	Intermediate	6 (28.6)	2 (20.0)
	Favorable	0	0
Secondary AML		11 (52.4)	1 (10.0)
Number of Prior Lines of Therapy	Median (Range)	2.0 (1.0, 3.0)	2.0 (1.0, 5.0)
Baseline BM blasts	Mean $\pm$ SD	39.1 $\pm$ 22.5	24.0 $\pm$ 21.8
	Median (Range)	40 (10.0, 84.0)	15.0 (5.0, 72.0)

- Relapse/refractory (including primary induction failure, early relapse and late relapse) AML pts were included in this study.
- RUX pts were treated at a single site, Washington University, St. Louis, MO. Randomly selected comparator cohort (non-RUX) pts (n=21) were treated at other clinical sites at same dose during the same timeframe.
- FLZ was administered at 500 ng/kg/day continuously in 28-day cycles following multi-step lead-in dosing in week 1 of cycle 1.
- RUX was dosed at 10 mg (n=6) or 20mg (n=4) BID days -1 through 14.
- CRS was graded per Lee criteria<sup>1</sup>.



# Ruxolitinib modifies cytokine levels

Cytokine analysis showed statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) lower levels of IL4, IL12p70, IL13, IL15, IL17A, IFN $\alpha$ 2, but higher levels of GM-CSF were measured in RUX vs non-RUX pts, specifically during co-administration with FLZ.

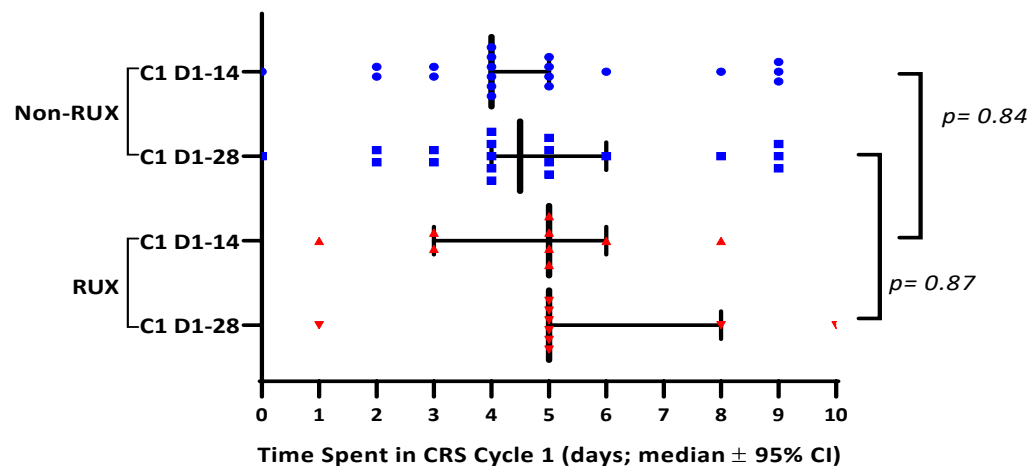
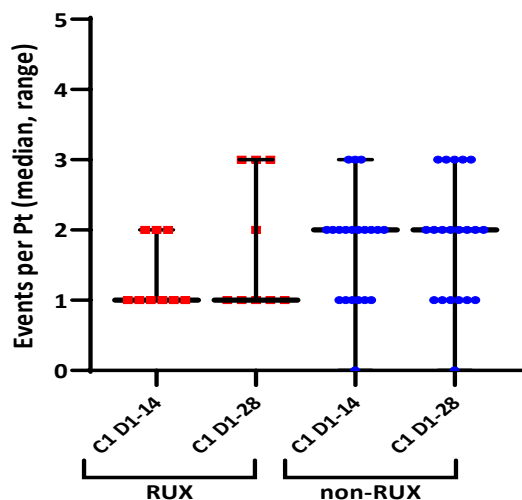
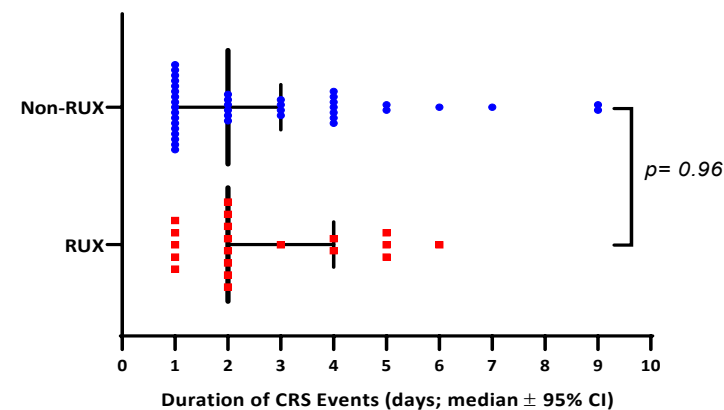
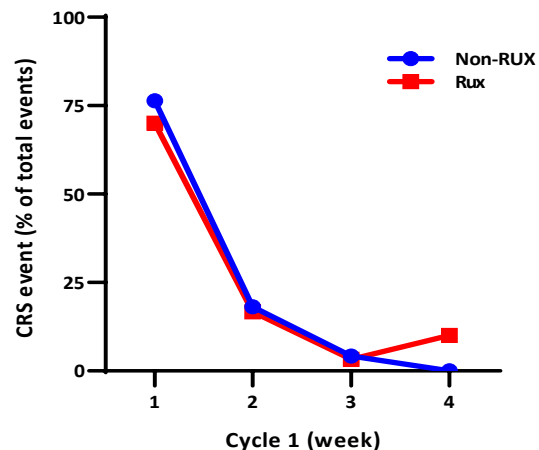


Cytokine levels for pts treated with FLZ at 500 ng/kg/day continuously in 28-day cycles following multi-step lead-in dosing in week 1 of cycle 1. RUX pts (blue) received ruxolitinib 10 mg or 20mg BID days -1 through 14 (yellow block).



# Ruxolitinib did not impact Incidence, Severity or Duration of Cytokine Release Syndrome

- Most CRS events occurred in the first 2 weeks of FLZ administration in both groups.
- In the RUX and non-RUX groups median severity of CRS events were 1 and 2 per patient, respectively.
- Median CRS duration was equal for both groups.



## More CRS-directed treatments were used during cycle 1 for CRS management in the ruxolitinib group

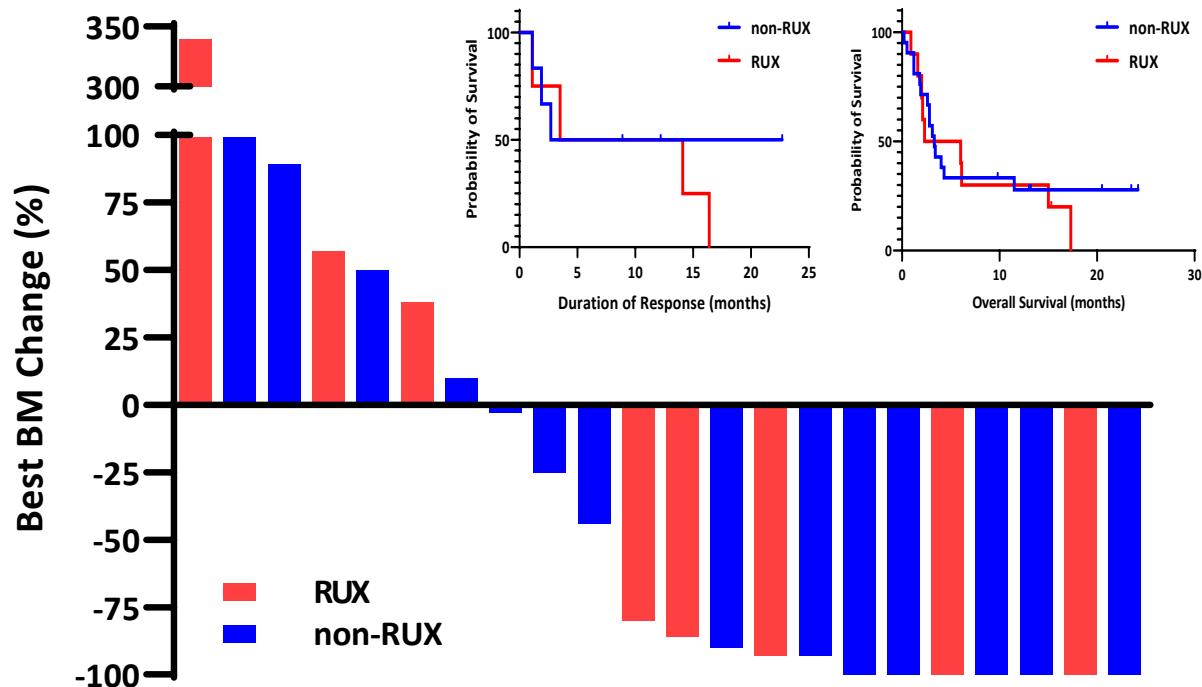
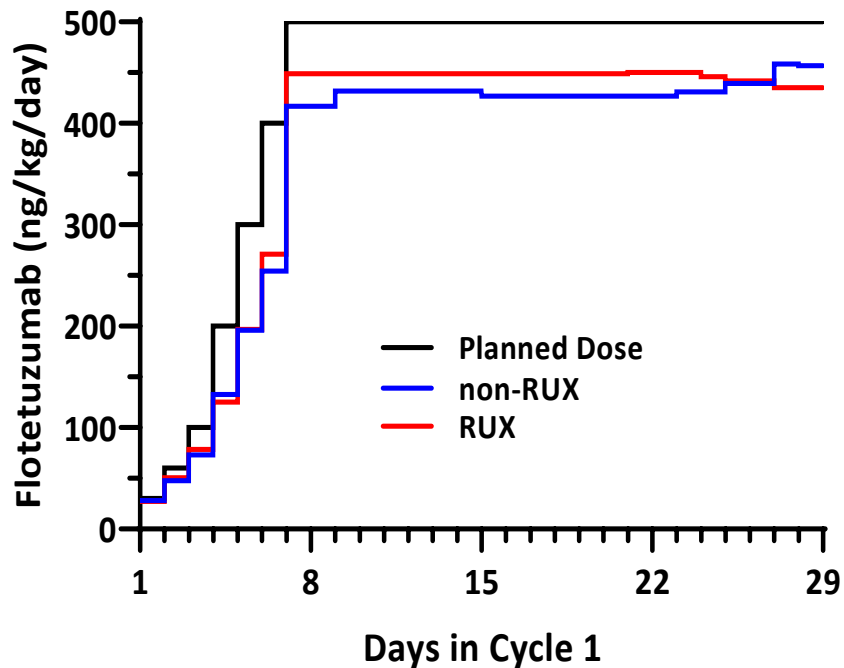
Doses administered			
	Tocilizumab	Steroids	Vasopressors
Non-RUX (n=21)	12	4	2
RUX (n=10)	13	1	1

Pts treated % (n)			
	Tocilizumab	Steroids	Vasopressors
Non-RUX (n=21)	33.3% (7)	14.3% (3)	4.8% (1)
RUX (n=10)	60% (6)	10% (1)	10% (1)



# Ruxolitinib did not Impact Dose Intensity or Anti-leukemic Activity

- Dose intensity (DI) at FLZ dose of 500 ng/kg/day was comparable, with median DI of 95.6% and 98.3% in RUX and non-RUX cohorts, respectively.
- Complete response rate (BM < 5% blasts) was similar: 4 (40%) in RUX pts, and 6 (28.6%) in non-RUX pts
- Two RUX (50%) and 4 non-RUX (66.7%) responders transitioned to stem cell transplant



- Prophylactic RUX produced a clear difference in cytokine profiles but no discernable improvement in clinical CRS or response rates in FLZ treated patients.
- A larger study may be required to determine the prophylactic role of RUX in CRS.



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