



## Disclaimer :

- The opinions expressed in this presentation and on the following slides are those of the presenter and not necessarily those of Novartis.
- The content of this slide deck is accurate to the best of the presenter's knowledge at the time of production



# SEVERE APLASTIC ANEMIA

**Sahar Tavakoli.MD**

Asistant Professor of Hematology and Oncology.TUMS.1400.7.2



## PATIENT INTRODUCTION

- She is a 19 year-old with no significant health history
- He was more listless and less engaged over the prior few weeks
- There was no significant family history.
- No significant drug history
- **On examination:**
  - She was pale with ecchymoses throughout her lower extremities.
  - Otherwise, Physical examination was unremarkable, with appropriate stature for age and no facial or limb abnormalities



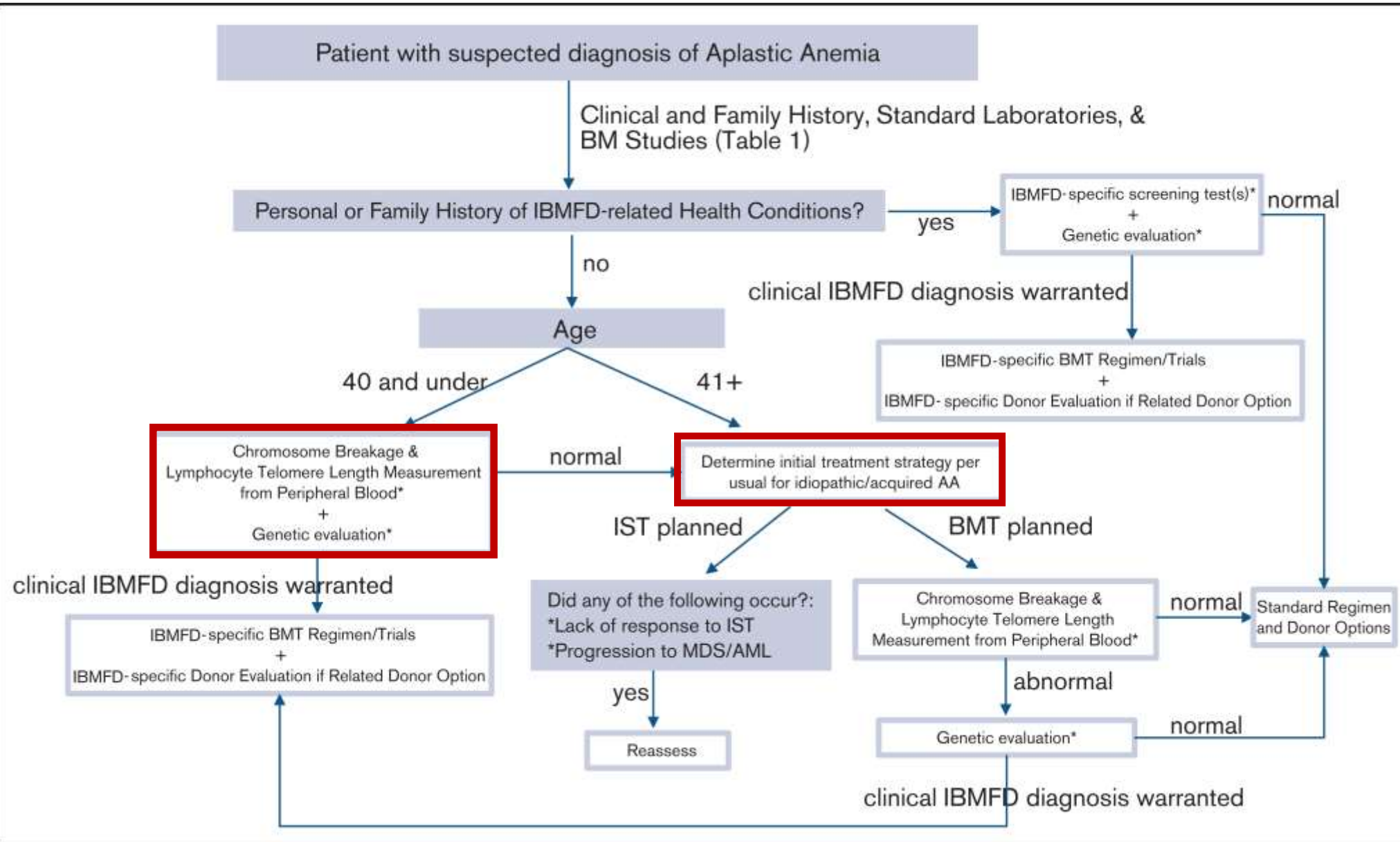
## Lab tests:

- WBC =  $0.7 \times 10^9/\text{L}$  with 0% neutrophils
- Hgb = 7.7 g/dL
- PLT =  $22 \times 10^9/\text{L}$  ( at presentation)
- A PBS showed a paucity of cells and no circulating malignant cells
- Urgent bone marrow evaluations showed marked hypocellularity (<5%) and no evidence of infiltrating tumor
- Karyotype was 46,XX



## Questions?

- To confirm your diagnosis and R/O of other diagnosis, do you need other lab tests ?  
what ?
- Based on which factors you choose best treatment option?
- what is your preferred option for treatment? **Transplant or IST?**
- What do you need for future decision making ?
- If the patient was febrile or had severe sepsis, do you delay your standard treatment ?
  - short-term delay to treat a serious sepsis or long term delay to clear if there is any more occult infection?



## Continue .....



- Tests for viral infection and Rheumatologic disorders was negative
- Supportive care with transfusion of PC & PLT was started
- HLA- typing was done before
- Test for PNH and FA was not done because of recent transfusion
- CsA + low dose of Prednisolon+ G-CSF +Erythropoetin + Danazole was started
- After 2 weeks there was no response to treatment



## QUESTIONS?

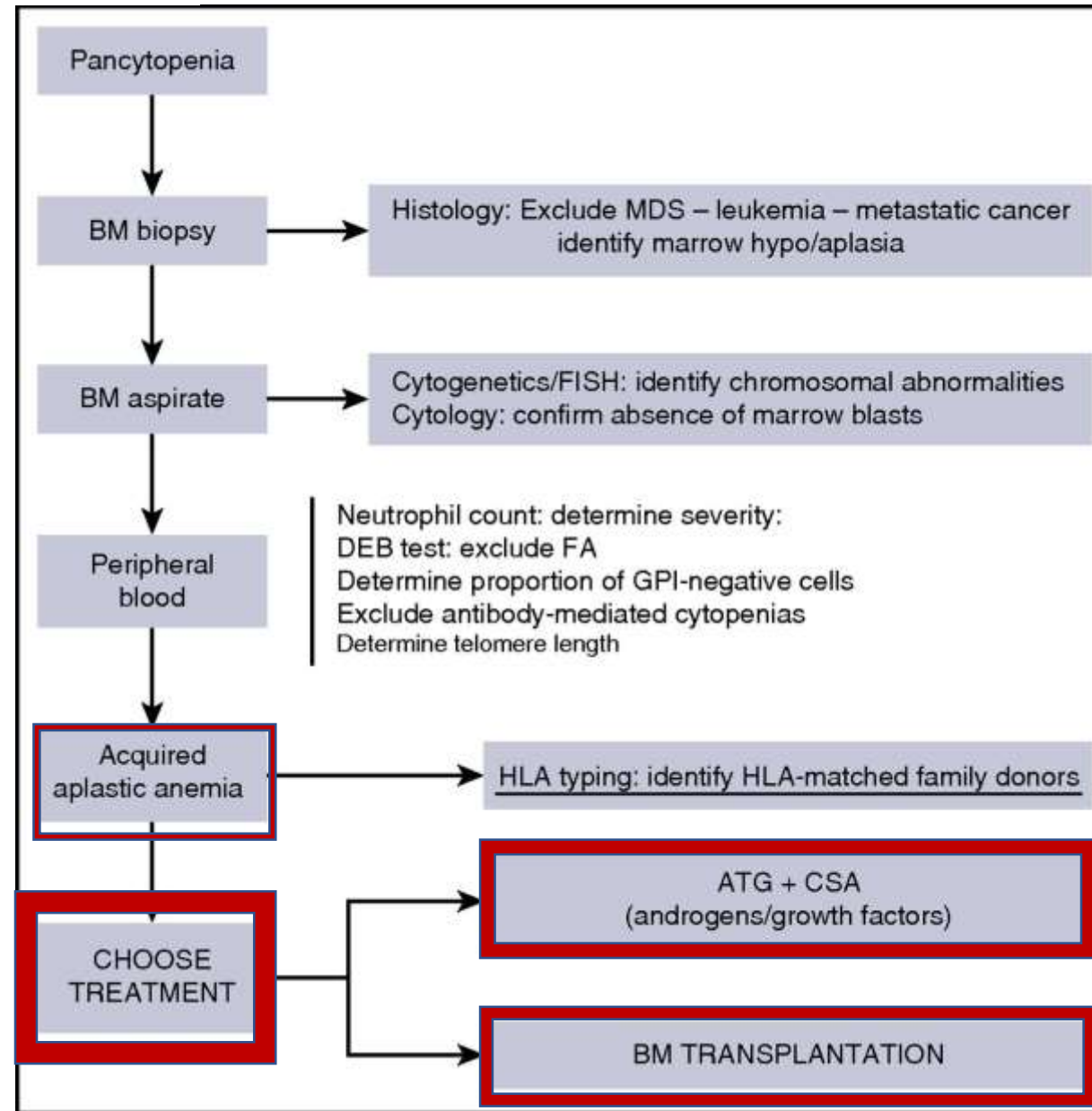
- What is your recommendation to add **ATG** at the same time with CsA?
- Which type of ATG?
- If all of you are agree to add ATG, consider the price and the risk of prescription and hospital infra structure
- What is your recommendation **about N-plat**(romiplostim)?
- What **about Eltrombopag**?



2017- 18



EVIDENCE BASE ANSWER:





### EHA 2021: First-Line Eltrombopag Plus Cyclosporine A Offers Benefits in Severe Aplastic Anemia



Efreem  
Montaña-  
Figueroa, MD

- —Eltrombopag in combination with cyclosporine A produced a high level of response and transfusion independence in treatment-naïve patients with severe aplastic anemia, according to results of the **SOAR trial**
- Eltrombopag, a thrombopoietin receptor agonist, is approved for patients who are refractory or have an insufficient response to immunosuppressive therapy.
- The FDA recently approved **eltrombopag as first-line therapy** when combined with standard immunosuppressive therapy. but not yet by the EMA



## EVIDENCE BASE ANSWER:

**Age < 40 or 50 years**

- **Rapidly-available match related donor**
  - Proceeding directly to allo-HSCT rather than IST
- **DON'T have -available match related donor**
  - Initiate IST and begin a search for a suitable alternative donor
  - Matched unrelated, mismatch related, haploidentical, umbilical cord source



- ✓ Suggestion is triple IST
- ✓ based SOAR and TRACE trial



### INTENSIVE IST

1. HORSE ATG
2. CYCLOSPORINE
3. ELTROMBOPAG



## QUESTIONS?

- Which kind of blood product do you recommend?
  - leukoreduced & irradiated ?
- Transfusion Treshold of PLT and PC ?
- Your recommendation about G-CSF and EPO?
- Your recommendation about prevention of infection?

## EVIDENCE BASE ANSWER:



- All RBC units should be Leukoreduced to minimize risk of nonhemolytic transfusion reactions and reduced transmission of CMV to CMV neg
- Irradiation, depletes lymphocyte and reduces the risk of ta-GVHD
- Is not necessary for non eligible patients for BMT



## EVIDENCE BASE ANSWER:

- G-CSF and EPO act only on late progenitors (markedly decreased in AA) and level of endogenous hematopoietic growth factors are generally high
- There is no evidence that these cytokines can correct the HSC defect or alter the course and disease response to IST or Overall Survival
- There are unproven concern that these cytokines may increase the incidence of clonal disorders : MDS,AML



## EVIDENCE BASE ANSWER:

- Infections are the major cause of death in AA
- Fever + ANC < 500/microL is a medical emergency
- Treatment with Allo-BMT or intensive IST impairs T cell immunity and increases susceptibility to p.jirovecii

- These patient should receive prophylaxis against p.jirovecii
- Pentamidine aerosolized 300 mg after ATG until 3 months is preferred to Co-Trimoxazol due to BM suppression and increase level of EPAG

## EVIDENCE BASE ANSWER:



- There is no consensus for prophylaxis for viruses, bacteria or fungi but some experts offer:
- **FUNGAL:** ANC persistently  $< 200$  cells/microl
  - ✓ Voriconazole or posaconazole (definitive evidence is lacking)
- **VIRAL:**
  - ✓ Valacyclovir 500 mg once or twice daily for at least one month following ATG (HSV&CMV)
- **BACTERIAL:**
  - ✓ Regular mouth care and food of low bacterial content
- **VACCINATION :**
  - There are some reports of relapse with both vaccine and active viral infection
  - It is better to avoid vaccination within 1 year after IST or CsA



## Continue.....

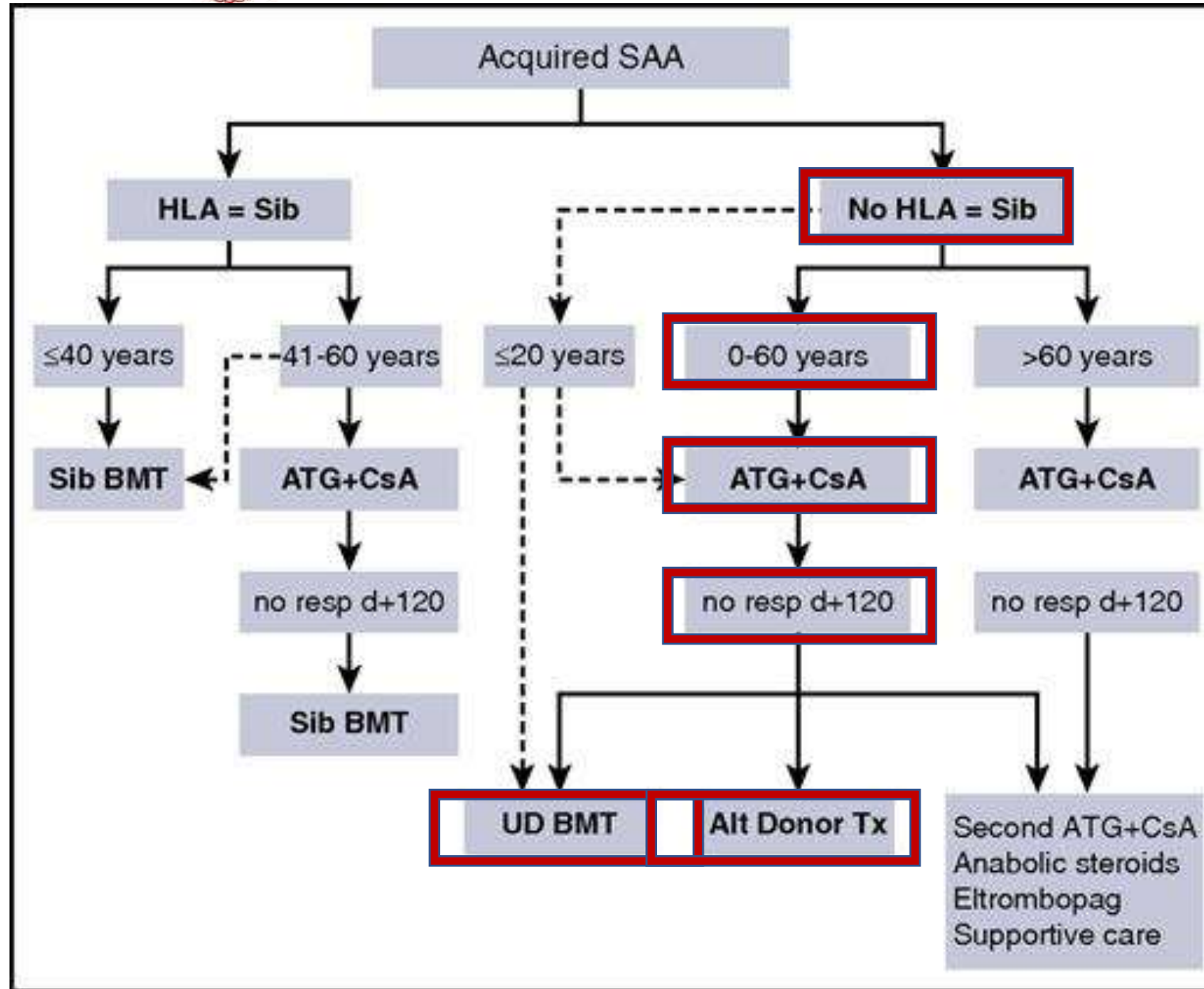


- Our patient has not Related HLA-matched donor
- She doesn't has any HLA-matched donor in IRAN HLA-Bank
- She and her family are Economicaly poor and can't afford search for foreign HLA-Banks
- After 1 months of IST and frequent transfusion,she was admitted for h-ATG
  - Pre med:Acetaminophen +Diphenhydramine
  - hATG: 40mg/kg /daily over 4 hours for 4 days via cv line
  - 1-2mg/kg prednisolone till 10 days with rapid taper and discontinuation by day 21
- 2 weeks after ATG she bacame independent to transfusion
- 1 month After treatment, CBC IS:
  - WBC= 4500/mL
  - Hg = 10 mg/dl
  - Plt=220000 /mL
- The CsA continued till 1 year when severe cytopenia accrued

# QUESTIONS?



- Do you recommend to reevaluate the patient ? like BMB/A/cyto
- Based on evidences in Relapse, Which option is better?
  - **Haplo OR UD-BMT** or **rechalleng with ATG** or **EPAG** (only in refractory and add to CyS in relaps)
- If you recommend ATG, which kind of ATG?
- Considering patient's economy, which option is better?
- What about Romiplostim, Alemtuzumab and high dose Cyclo?





## EVIDENCE BASE ANSWER:

- It is suggested that in the presence of a matched UD, second-line therapy should be a UD transplant, rather than a second course of ATG
- HAPLO grafts are still in the experimental stage and should be considered only after having failed at least 1 course of IST in the absence of a suitable UD
- A total of 84 patients reported BY Esteves in 2015
  - the average 1-year survival was 74%, which is very encouraging





## EVIDENCE BASE ANSWER:

- For initial treatment of AA, rATG should not be substituted for hATG unless hATG is not available
  - due to the lower response rate
- Who were previously treated with hATG should be treated with rATG because of high incidence of serum sickness





## EVIDENCE BASE ANSWER:

- **ROMIPLOSTIM(N-PLATE):**
- substantial activity in refractory SAA
- in 2 study, was effective and well tolerated for refractory SAA and was not with clonal evolution
  - JANG JH,et al. IN BR J HAEMATOL,2021
  - LEE JW ,et al. LANCET .2019

## EVIDENCE BASE ANSWER:



- **ALEMTUZUMAB**
- Is a monoclonal Ab against anti-CD52 on lymphocyte and other HSC
- The largest trial randomized 54 patients refractory AA to Alem v.s ATG/CsA with similar RR(37 v.s 33%)



# PREGNANCY AND AA

- It is unclear if pregnancy increase the risk for AA
- AA can present during pregnancy
- Pregnancy appears to increase the risk of **relapse of AA**
- **Supportive care is the mainstay of treatment of AA in pregnancy**
- **Delay definitive therapy with IST or Transplant**
- **Save PLT > 20000/microL**
- **CsA** can be given during pregnancy if necessary





- Pregnancy and a good obstetrical outcome are possible for women previously treated with IST
- 36 women who had received IST and subsequently became pregnant
  - ✓ relaps of AA occurred in 7 and more likely in women who initially had only a partial response to IST