

# Waldenstrom's 101 & WM in the



OCTOBER 27, 2018  
EDUCATIONAL FORUM

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# What is Waldenström's Macroglobulinaemia?

Anti MAG  
Neuropathy?

Lymphoplasmacytic  
lymphoma (LPL)?

Non  
Hodgkin's  
Lymphoma?

Paraprotein?  
Immunoglobulins?

IgM MGUS?

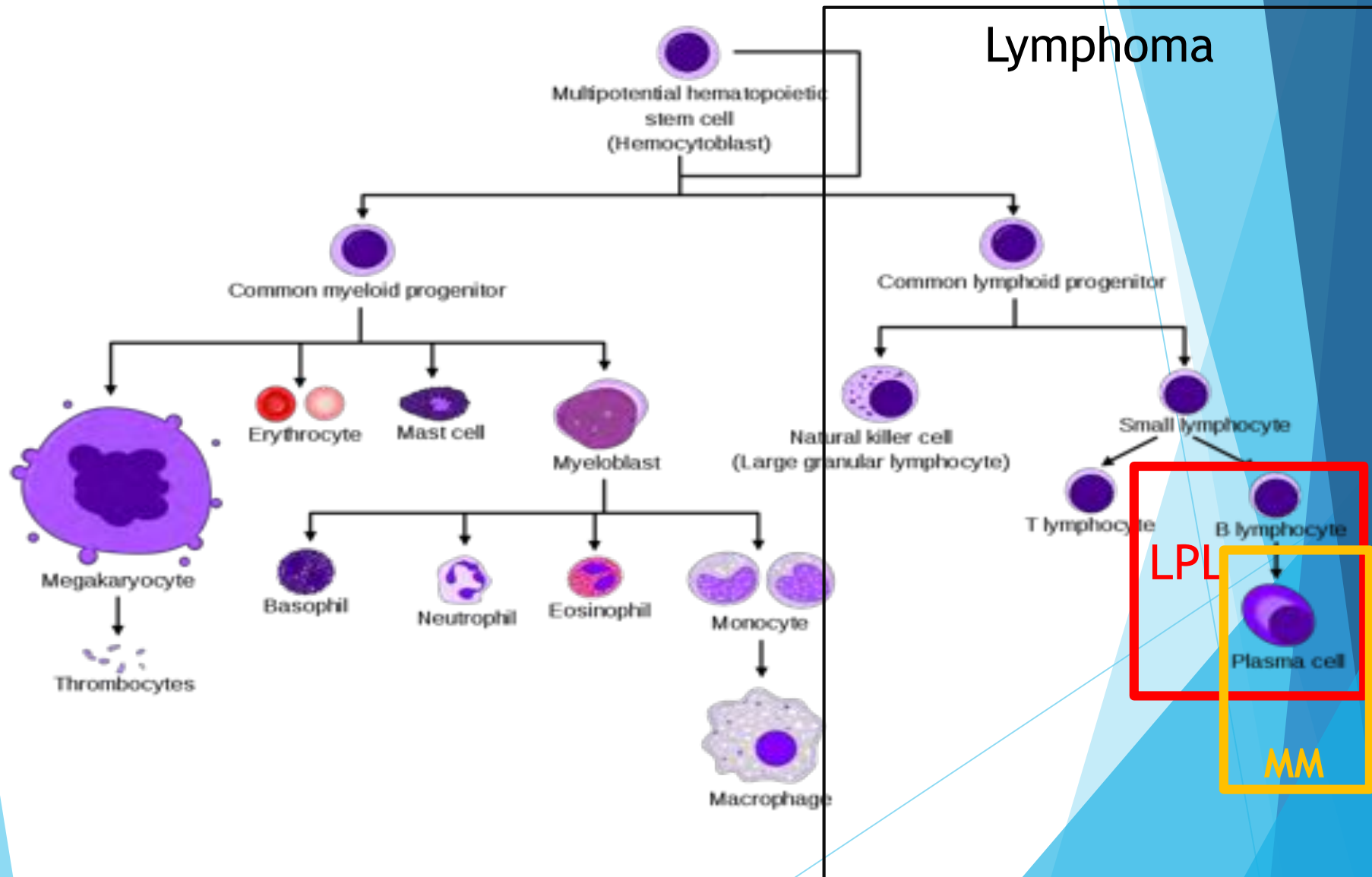
Waldenstrom's  
Macroglobulinaemia  
(WM)?

Myeloma?

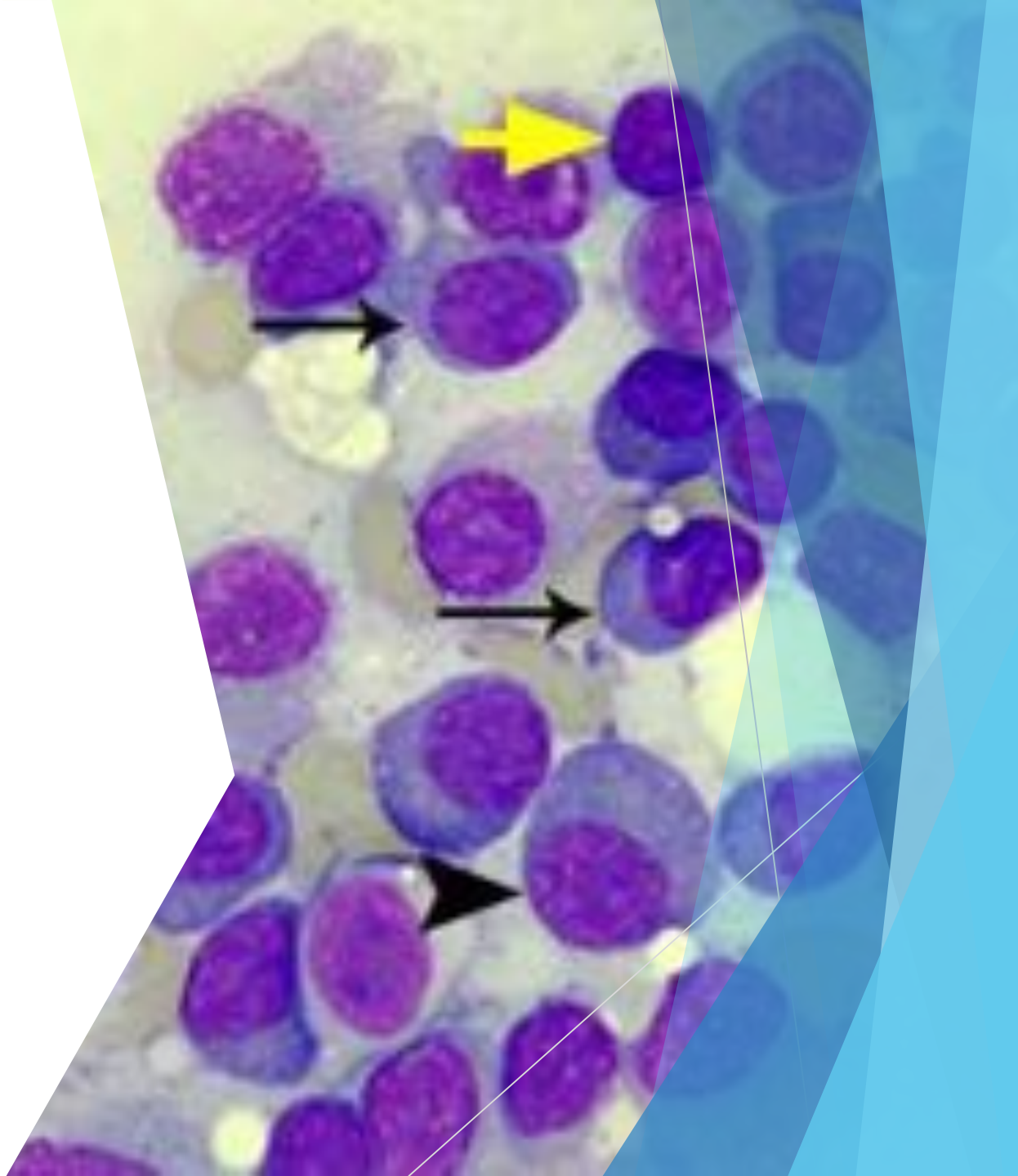
Bing Neel  
Syndrome?



# A Good Place to Start...

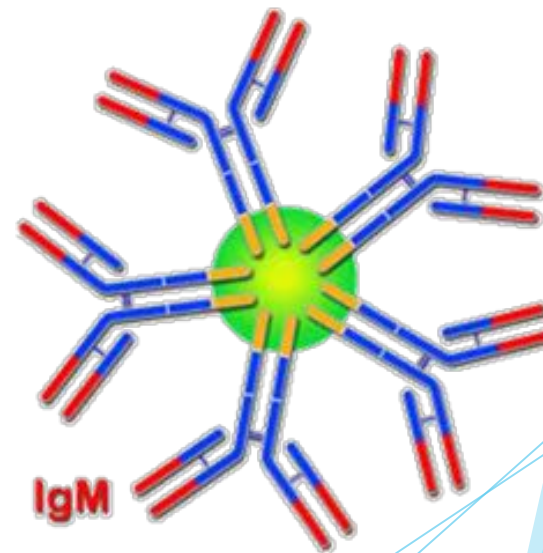
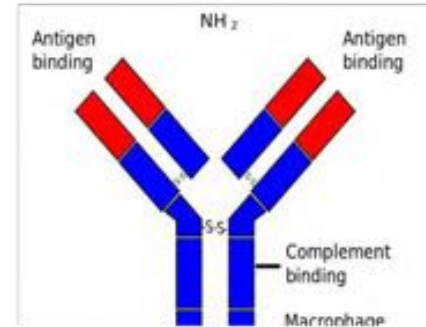


Under the  
Microscope...  
(bone marrow  
smear)



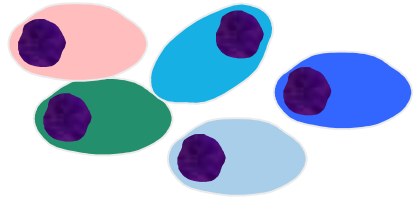
# What do lymphocytes and plasma cells do?

- ▶ Produce different types of antibodies or immunoglobulin  
(IgG, IgA, IgD, IgE, IgM)
- ▶ Response to infection and critical part of the immune system
- ▶ In WM are constantly being made **without** need
- ▶ Can be measured as the paraprotein if from a specific cancer cell

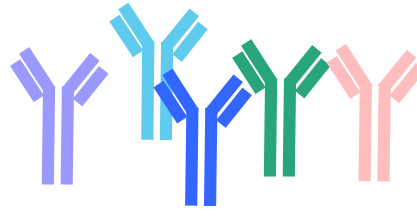


LARGE MOLECULES<--IgM circulates as pentamers= groups of 5

# What is a paraprotein?



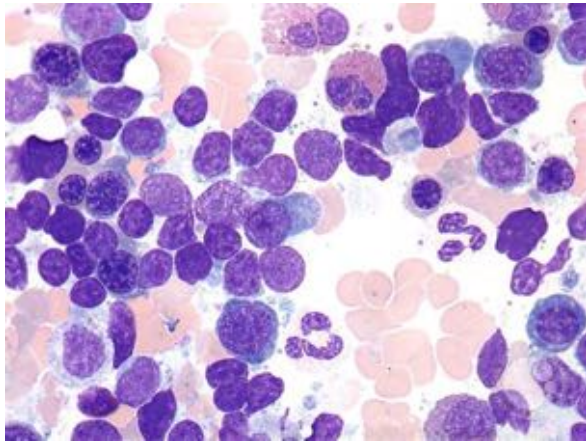
Healthy plasma cells



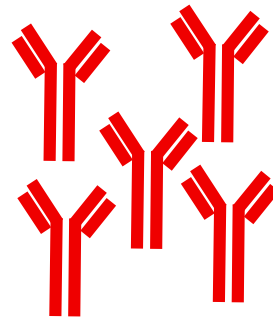
Various antibodies



Fight  
Infections



WM Plasma cells  
(cancer cells)



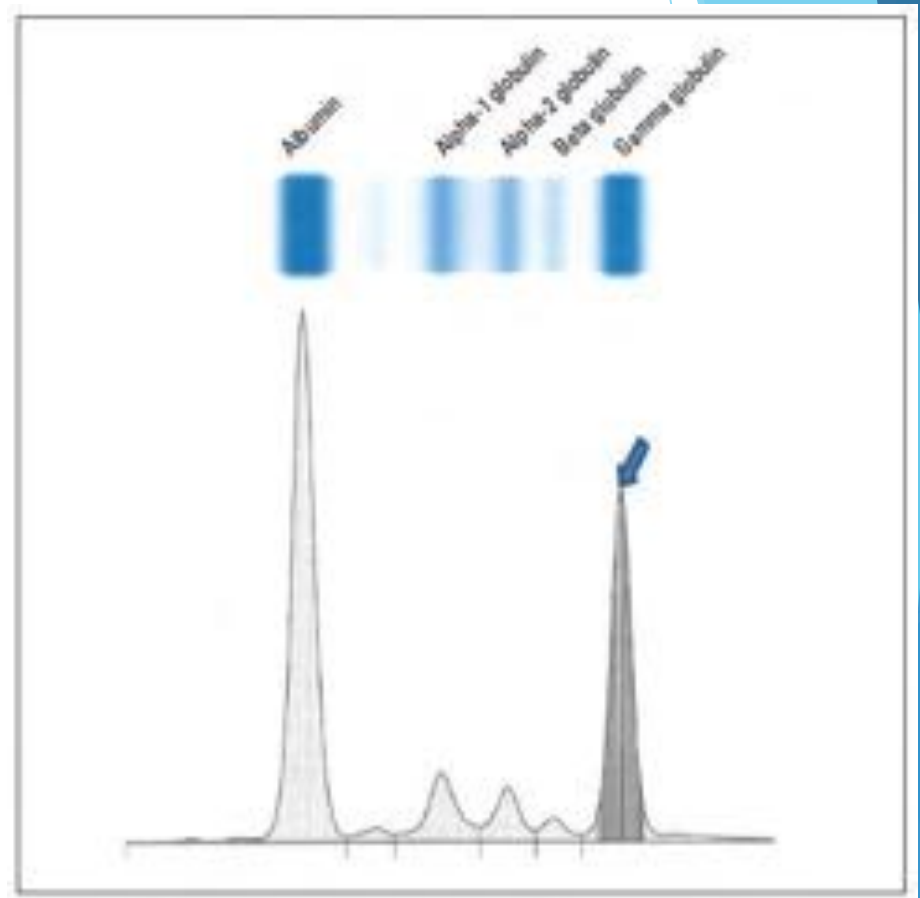
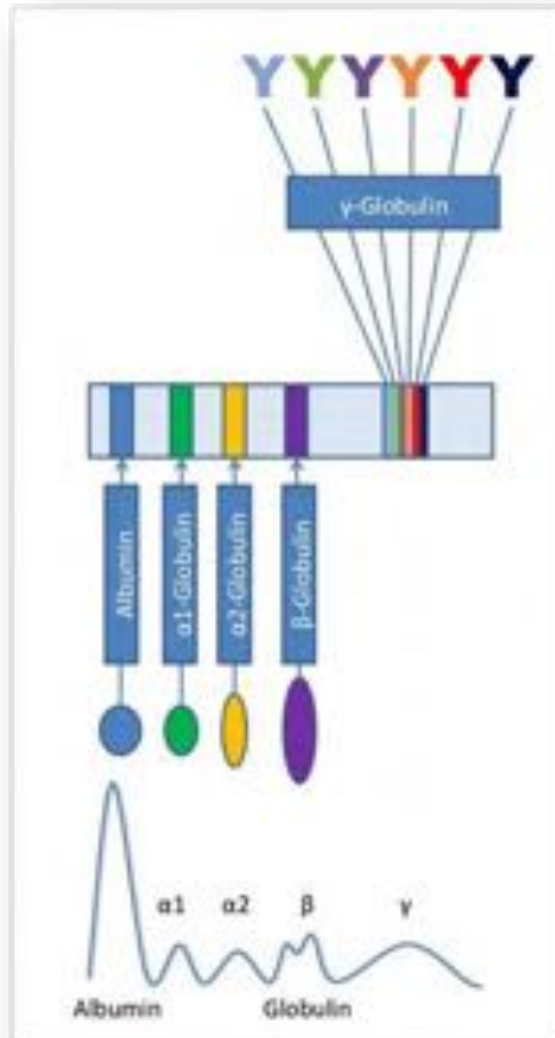
One variety (monoclonal) of antibody  
= M-protein  
= Paraprotein



Cause  
problems



# Detecting a paraprotein: SPEP



# Symptoms of WM



# Major Components

## Abnormal cell growth

### Lymphoma

- ▶ Low red cells (anaemia)
- ▶ Low platelets (bleeding)
- ▶ Low neutrophils (Recurrent infections)
- ▶ Lymphadenopathy, splenomegaly, CNS
- ▶ Weight loss

## Abnormal protein production

### Paraproteinaemia

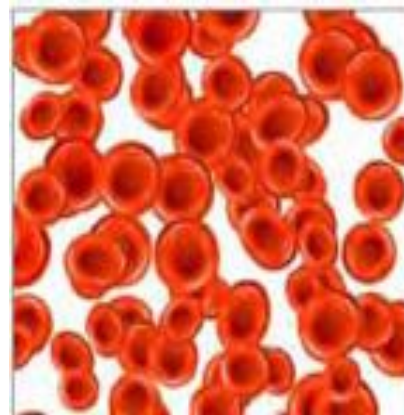
- ▶ Hyperviscosity
- ▶ Peripheral neuropathy
- ▶ Haemolysis (destruction of red cells)
- ▶ Amyloidosis
- ▶ Cryoglobulinaemia
- ▶ Clotting problems
- ▶ Clotting problems

# Low Red Cells: Anaemia

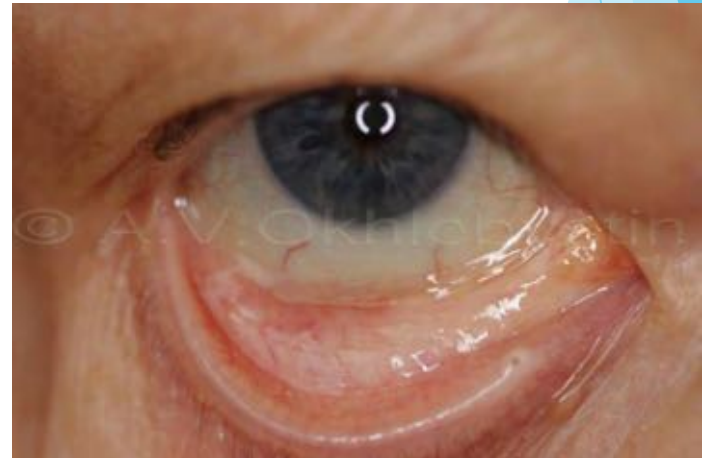
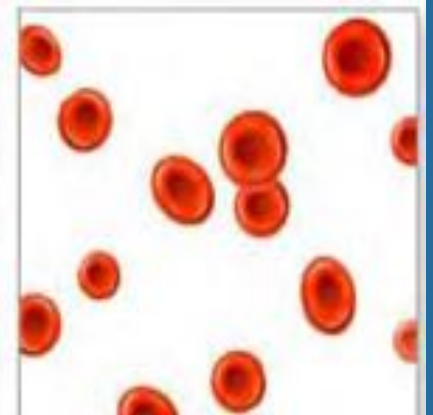
## >>Reduced Oxygen to Tissues

- ▶ Fatigue
- ▶ Breathless
- ▶ Exercise tolerance
- ▶ Dizziness
- ▶ Palpitations
- ▶ Pounding in ears
- ▶ Looking pale

Normal



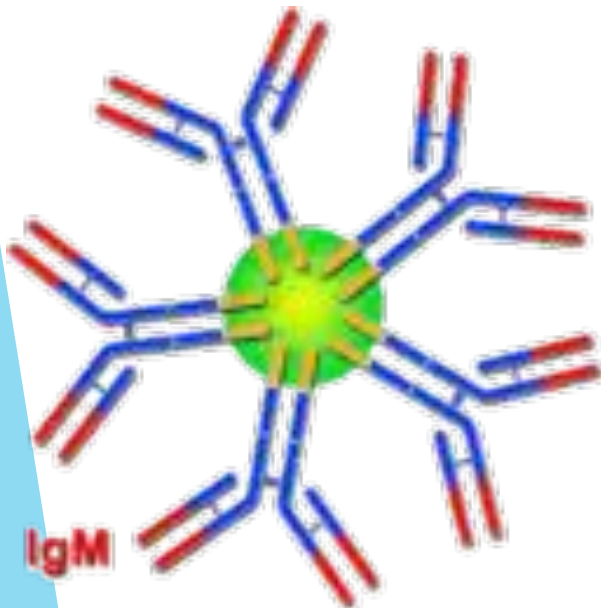
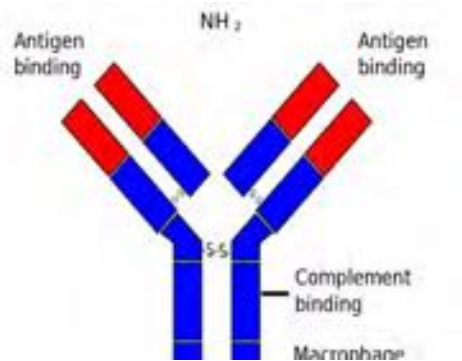
Anaemia



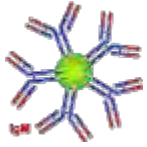
# Paraprotein-related symptoms

Each paraprotein has unique:

- Physical properties
- Binding properties



- ▶ Hyperviscosity
- ▶ Cryoglobulinaemia
- ▶ Auto-antibodies
- ▶ Amyloid
- ▶ Bleeding Problems

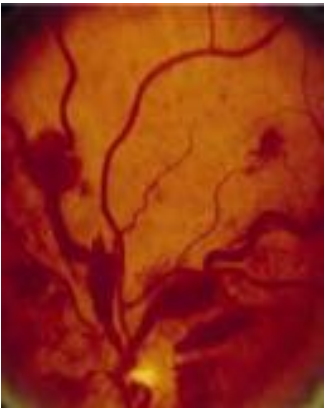


# Hyperviscosity syndrome (HVS)

Normal



HVS

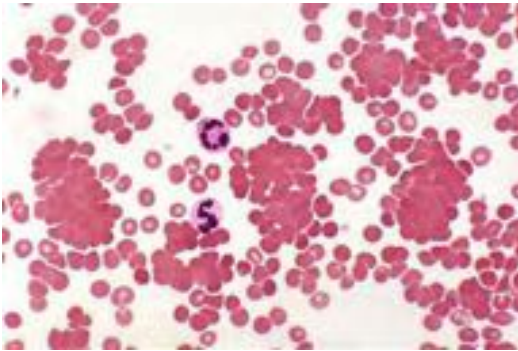


## Symptoms:

Fatigue  
Headaches  
Blurred Vision  
Bleeding gums & nose  
Confusion

- ▶ 15 %-40 % patients
- ▶ Likely if plasma viscosity  $>5$  mPa (normal range 1.4-1.8 mPa)
- ▶ Increased risk
  - IgM  $> 50$  g/L
  - Vascular Risks

# Autoantibody activity= activity against self

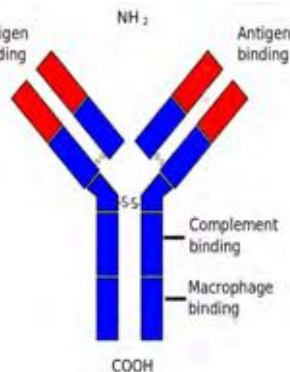


Cold Agglutinin Disease

Red Blood Cell



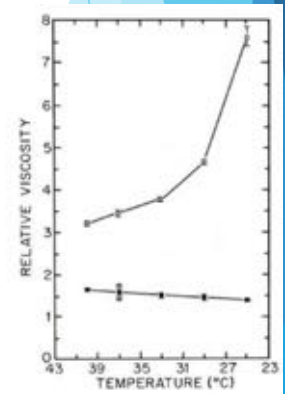
Myelin (MAG)  
Neuropathy



Schnitzler syndrome



Serum at 4° C and 37° C .



Cryoglobulins (type II)

# Cold activity

- ▶ Cold agglutinin disease (CAgD)
  - ▶ 'Cold' haemolysis- red cell breakdown (anaemia and dark urine)
- ▶ Cryoglobulinaemia
  - Potential damage to kidneys, joints, skin, circulation, nerves



Acrocyanosis



Raynaud's syndrome

# Neuropathy: nerve damage

## Peripheral

24 % patients

### ► Symptoms

- Tingling or numbness
- Abnormal sensation
- Weakness arms & legs
- Loss of reflexes
- Fatigue

## Autonomic

### ► Symptoms

- Constipation or diarrhoea
- Dizziness on standing
- Bladder problems

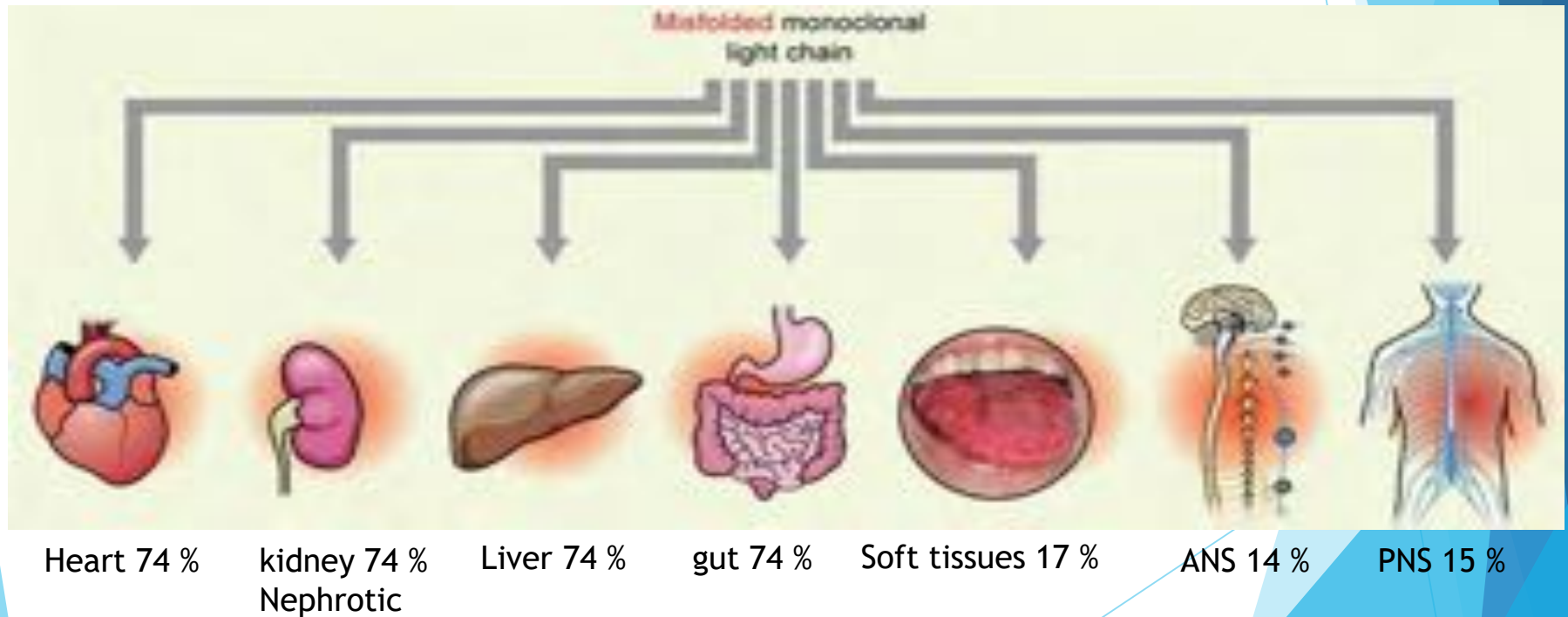
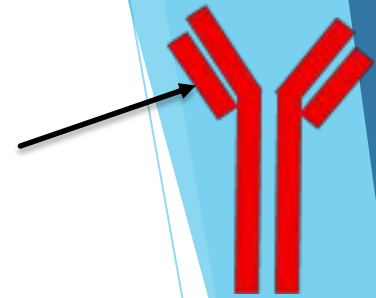
## Causes

Anti-myelin associated  
Glycoprotein Ab (MAG)  
Amyloidosis  
Cryoglobulinaemia



# AL Amyloid- deposition of misfolded light chains (kappa or lambda)

>>results in progressive tissue damage

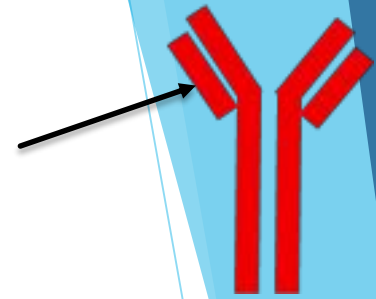


< 5 % WM patients affected

Modified from Merlini G, Blood 2012;119:4343-4345

AL Amyloid- deposition of  
misfolded light chains  
(kappa or lambda)

>>results in progressive tissue damage



**IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF  
AMYLOIDOSIS**

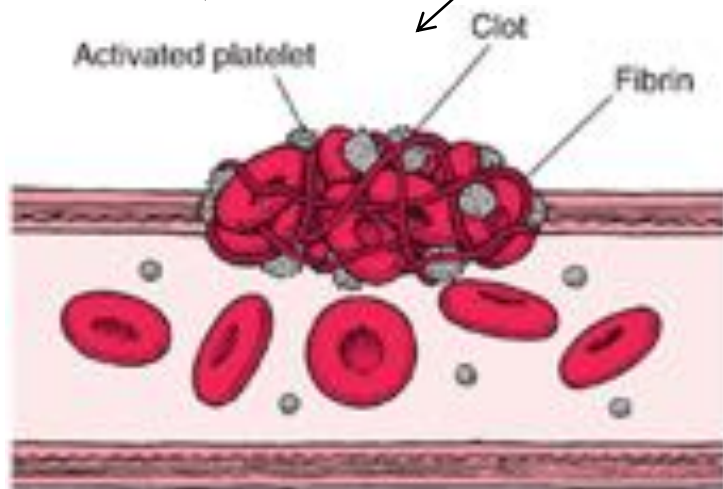
**REQUIRES A MODIFIED APPROACH TO TREATMENT  
WITH DIFFERENT GOALS**

# Bleeding and bruising in WM

Clotting factors  
I, II, V, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII

Platelets

Fibrin



## ▶ Platelets

- Production reduced
- Immune destruction (ITP)
- Impaired function

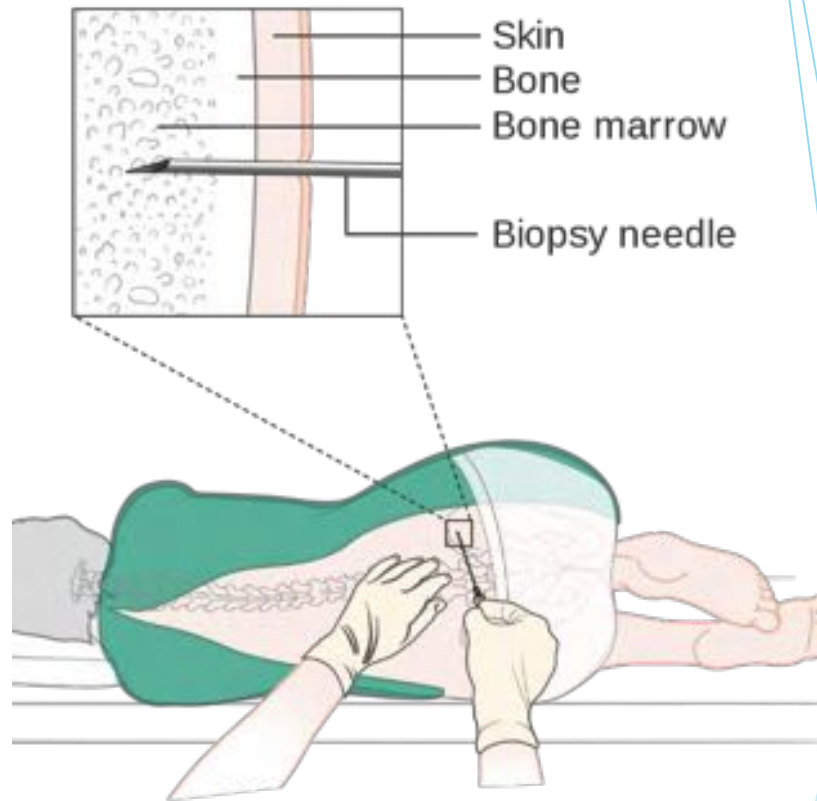
## ▶ Clotting factors

- IgM interference
- Acquired hemophilia
- Acquired von Willebrand's disease (vWD)

Dimopoulos Blood 1994

Perkins Blood 1970

# Diagnosis of WM



# Bone marrow biopsy

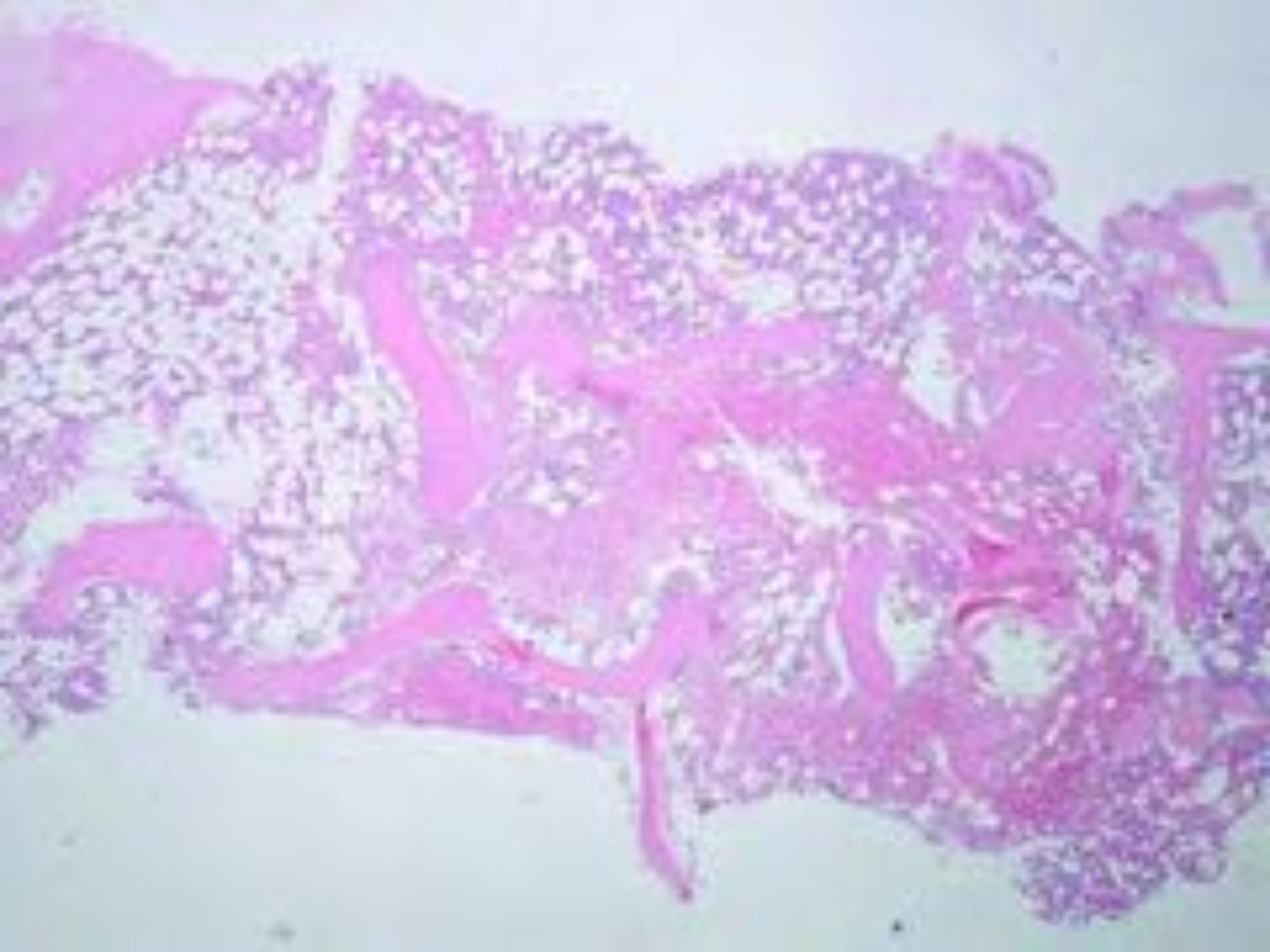
to assess the cellular burden



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

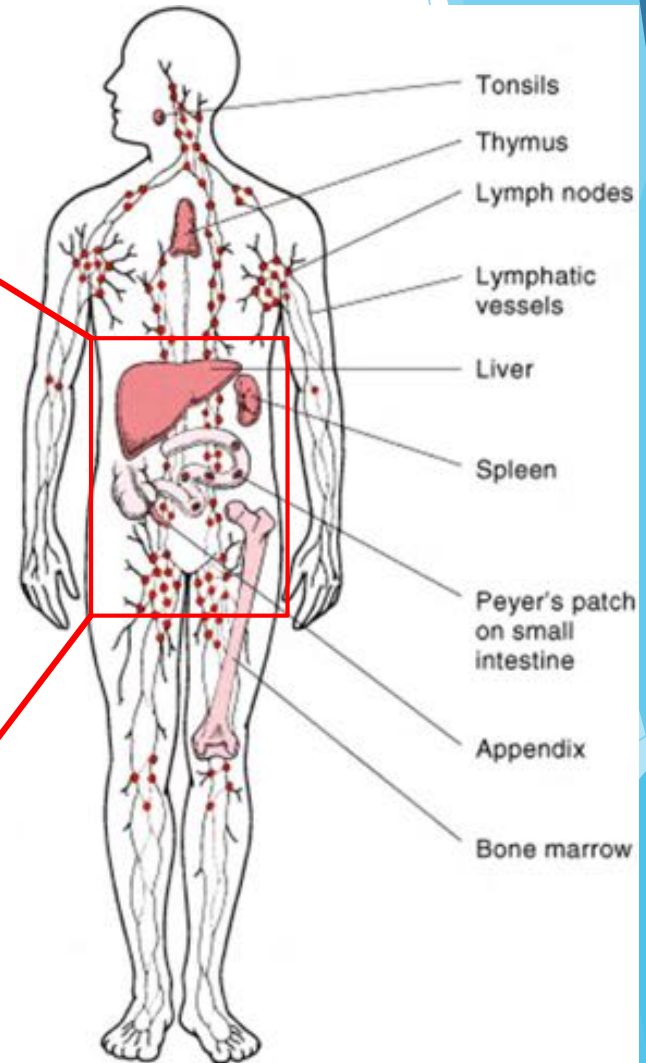
# Black and Decker version

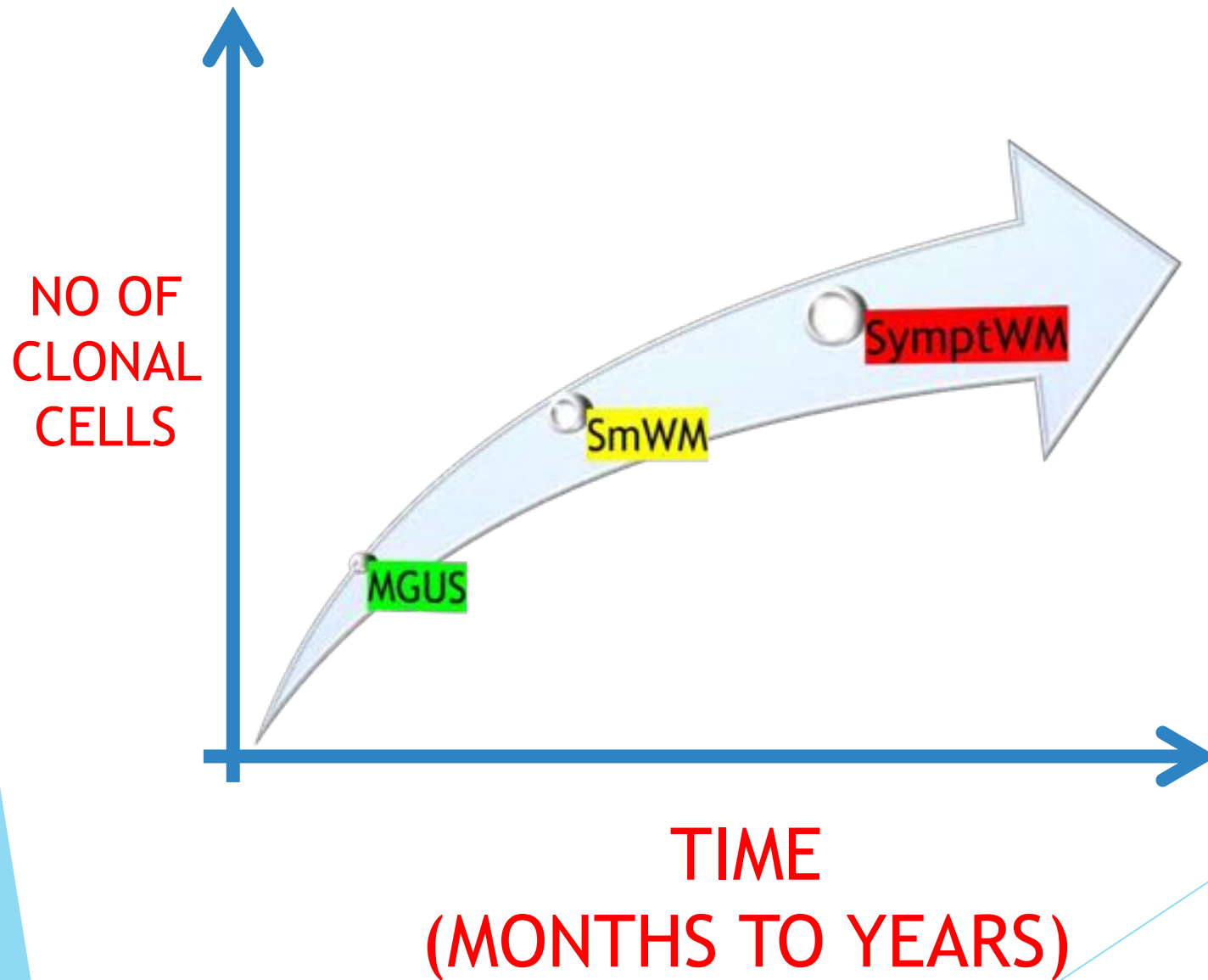






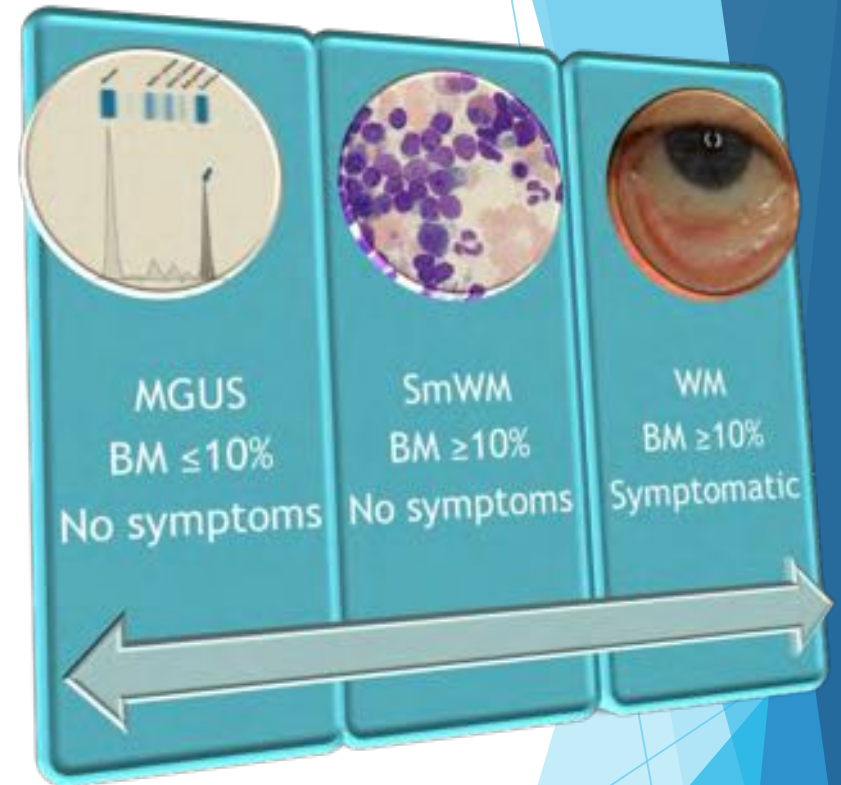
# Radiology- to assess lymph nodes and spleen





# MGUS (Monoclonal gammopathy of uncertain significance) vs Smouldering WM vs Symptomatic WM

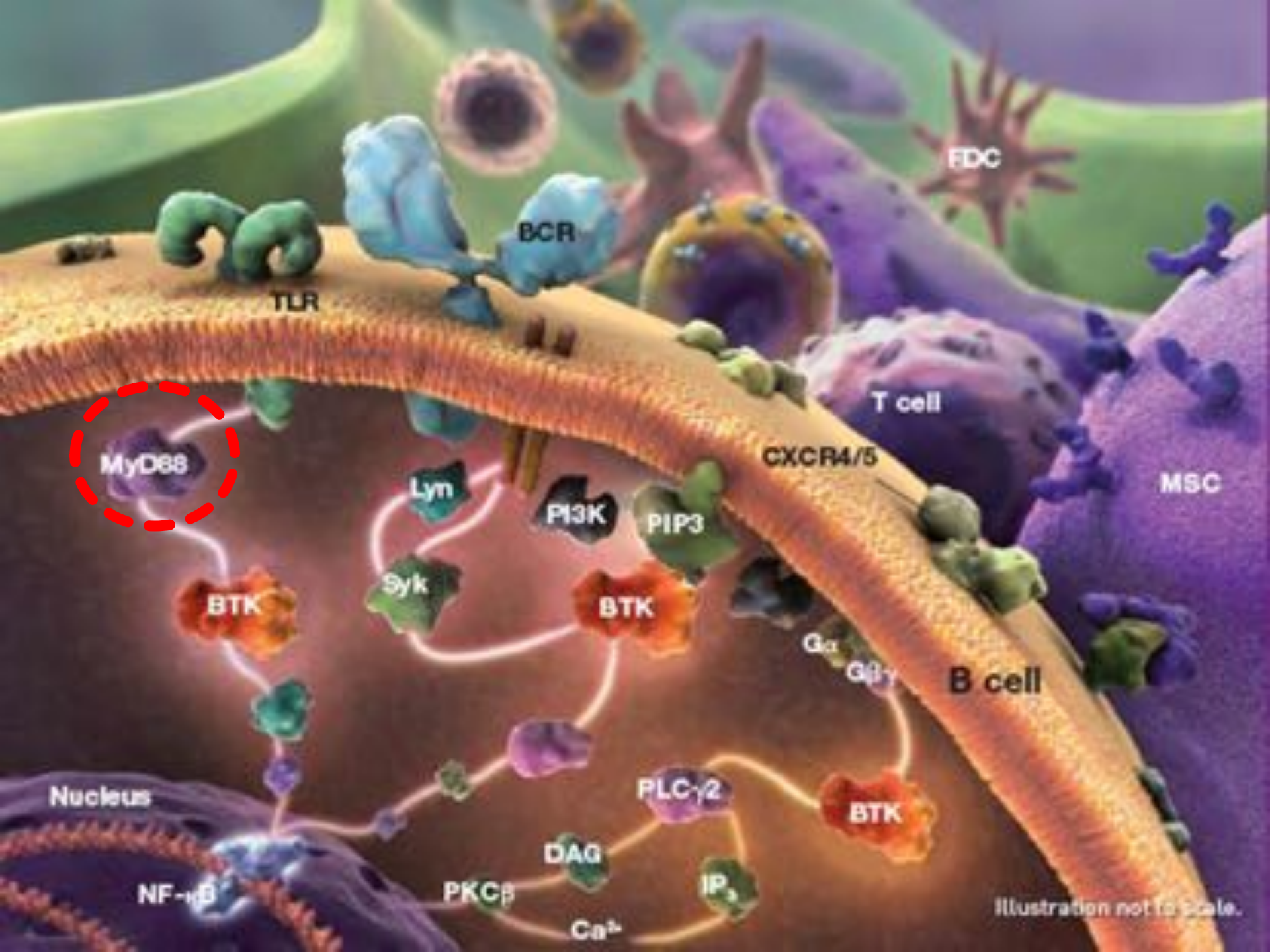
- ▶ Presence of IgM paraprotein in blood
- ▶ = IgM Monoclonal gammopathy
- ▶ (MGUS)
  - ▶ 3% in the >70 years; 5% in >80 years
- ▶ Results from a gradual accumulation of **clonal cells\*** in the bone marrow
- ▶ If asymptomatic, **not** affecting organs or rapidly changing then no need for intervention



\*One of a kind

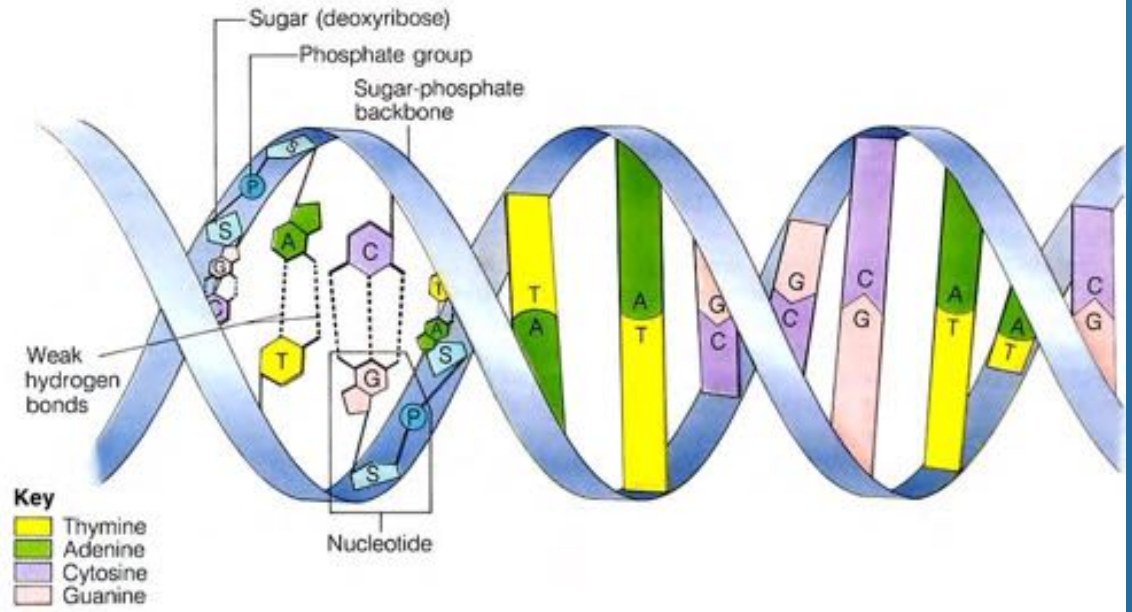
MYD88 etc.





# MYD88 L265P Somatic Mutation in Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia

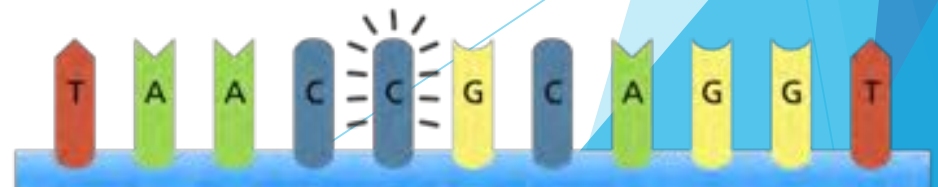
- ▶ In WM, the most common mutation occurs in MYD88 gene.
- ▶ Over 90 percent of patients carry this mutation in the WM cells.
- ▶ MYD88 L265P mutation turns on growth and survival pathways including Bruton tyrosine kinase (BTK), the target of ibrutinib.
- ▶ There are other mutations (not L265P) that confer similar characteristics



## Original sequence



## Point mutation



### LYMPHOID NEOPLASIA

**The genomic landscape of Waldenström macroglobulinemia is characterized by highly recurring MYD88 and WHIM-like CXCR4 mutations, and small somatic deletions associated with B-cell lymphomagenesis**

Zachary R. Hunter,<sup>1,2</sup> Lian Xu,<sup>1</sup> Guang Yang,<sup>1</sup> Yangsheng Zhou,<sup>1</sup> Xia Liu,<sup>1</sup> Yang Cao,<sup>1</sup> Robert J. Manning,<sup>1</sup> Christina Tripsas,<sup>1</sup> Christopher J. Patterson,<sup>1</sup> Patricia Sheehy,<sup>1</sup> and Steven P. Treon<sup>1,3</sup>

- ▶ The second most frequently mutated gene in WM is *CXCR4*, which occurs in about 30-40% of cases
- ▶ Almost exclusively present in MYD88-mutated WM
- ▶ Mutations of this gene, which are known to play a key role in the trafficking of immune cells in the body
- ▶ In WM, mutations of *CXCR4* turn on growth and survival pathways
- ▶ WM cells with some mutations of the *CXCR4* gene also show resistance to Ibrutinib



The background of the slide features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the right side and bottom of the frame, creating a modern, dynamic feel. The main area of the slide is a solid, very light blue-grey color.

When to treat WM?



KEEP  
CALM

AND

WAIT AND  
WATCH

## Not everyone needs treatment

- ▶ Smoldering Waldenström's Macroglobulinaemia (SWM) is an intermediate state in which the IgM monoclonal protein is  $\geq 30$  g/L and/or a bone marrow contains  $\geq 10\%$  LPL cells
- ▶ These patients may progress to symptomatic WM, amyloidosis or lymphoma at a rate of 6% in the first year, 39% at 3 years, 59% at 5 years and 68% at 10 years.

Alexanian R, Weber D, Delasalle K, Cabanillas F, Dimopoulos M  
Semin Oncol. 2003 Apr; 30(2):206-10.

# Indications for treatment (guide for doctors)

Clinical indications	Laboratory indications
Signs and symptoms associated with hyperviscosity	Hemoglobin <10 g/dL
Moderate to severe peripheral neuropathy	Platelet count <100×10 <sup>9</sup> /dL
AL amyloidosis	Hemolytic anemia
Symptomatic cryoglobulinemia	
Constitutional symptoms, Raynaud's phenomenon, and arthralgia	
Bulky or symptomatic lymphadenopathy	
Symptomatic organomegaly	

Abbreviation: AL, amyloid light-chain.

Progressive symptoms and diminished patient well-being should be the trigger  
**Not specific cut-off of IgM**

# Key issues regarding treatment

When to treat?	Objectives	How to treat?
LPL cells have accumulated excessively in BM causing anaemia	Take back control of bone marrow	Intensively enough to do the job without excessive toxicity
LPL cells have expanded lymph nodes and spleen or extramedullary sites resulting in consequences	Shrink abnormally enlarged tissues and organs	Intensively enough to do the job without excessive toxicity
IgM is causing symptomatic high blood viscosity	To lower IgM level as soon as possible	Plasma exchange and treatment that works rapidly
IgM is causing immunological spin-offs such as neuropathy, cold agglutinin disease	To neutralize the activity of the rogue antibody	Ideally more subtle treatment that produces a complete response

# In all cases....

## REMEMBER THE TREATMENT OBJECTIVES

Fitness of patient

Wishes of patient

Minimise toxicity/ burden of treatment

Maximise benefit of each treatment

Use treatments judiciously

Don't give unnecessary treatment

Chemotherapy +  
Rituximab (finite number  
of weeks)  
vs  
Continuous therapy  
e.g. Ibrutinib

Add maintenance for  
deeper effect?

Orderly and  
appropriate sequence

Too much treatment increases the risk  
of infections

# How to measure response to treatment?

<b>Complete Response</b>	<b>CR</b>	Disappearance of monoclonal protein by immunofixation; no histological evidence of bone marrow involvement, and resolution of any adenopathy / organomegaly (confirmed by CT scan), along with no signs or symptoms attributable to WM. Reconfirmation of the CR status is required at least 6 weeks apart with a second immunofixation.
<b>Partial Response</b>	<b>PR</b>	A $\geq 50\%$ reduction of serum monoclonal IgM concentration on protein electrophoresis and $\geq 50\%$ decrease in adenopathy/organomegaly on physical examination or on CT scan. No new symptoms or signs of active disease.
<b>Minor Response</b>	<b>MR</b>	A $\geq 25\%$ but $< 50\%$ reduction of serum monoclonal IgM by protein electrophoresis. No new symptoms or signs of active disease.
<b>Stable Disease</b>	<b>SD</b>	A $< 25\%$ reduction and $< 25\%$ increase of serum monoclonal IgM by electrophoresis without progression of adenopathy/organomegaly, cytopenias or clinically significant symptoms due to disease and/or signs of WM.
<b>Progressive Disease</b>	<b>PD</b>	A $\geq 25\%$ increase in serum monoclonal IgM by protein electrophoresis confirmed by a second measurement or progression of clinically significant findings due to disease (i.e. anemia, thrombocytopenia, leukopenia, bulky adenopathy/organomegaly) or symptoms (unexplained recurrent fever $\geq 38.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , drenching night sweats, $\geq 10\%$ body weight loss, or hyperviscosity, neuropathy, symptomatic cryoglobulinemia or amyloidosis) attributable to WM.

# Special situations: involvement of the nervous system

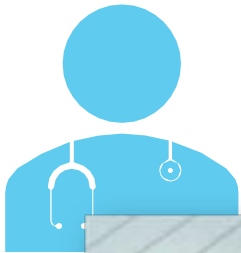


# Nerve damage: peripheral neuropathy



- ▶ Neuropathies associated with IgM paraprotein present variously as
  - ▶ Anti-MAG mediated peripheral neuropathy
  - ▶ Peripheral neuropathy without anti-MAG antibodies
  - ▶ IgM-associated peripheral neuropathy with ganglioside antibodies
- ▶ Although there are aspects of these disorders that are distinct, the symptoms are often similar

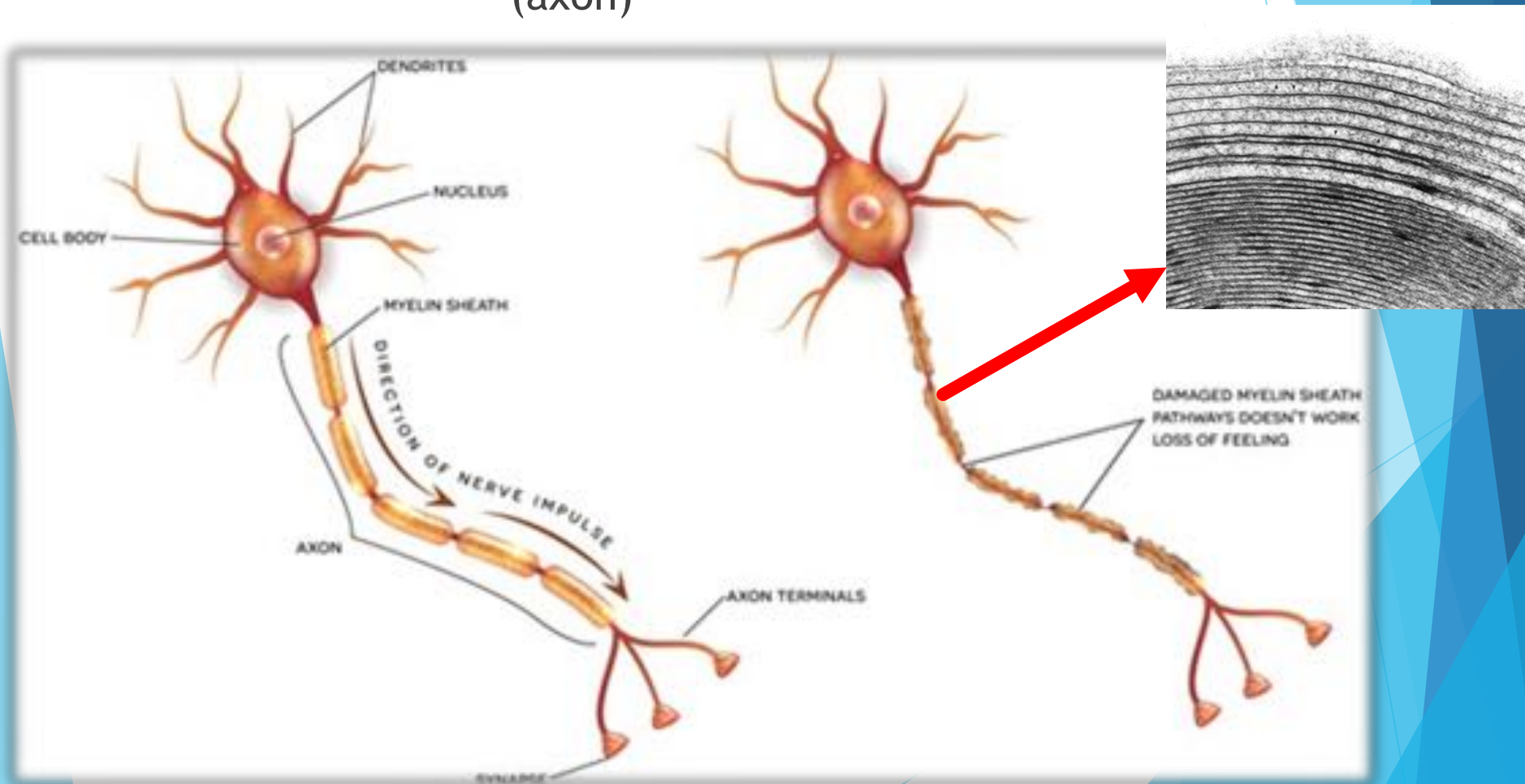
# Assessing Neuropathy



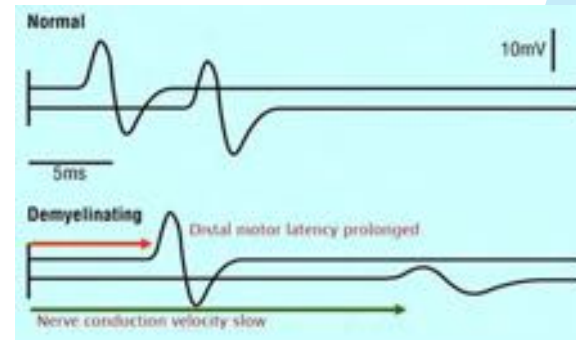
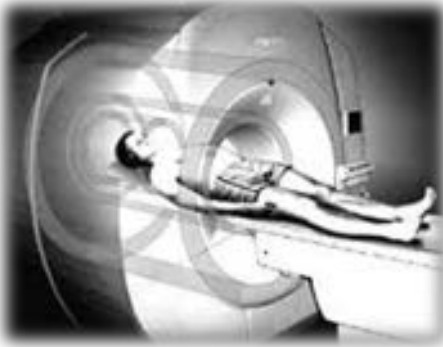
- ▶ Nature of symptoms, spatial distribution
  - ▶ Speed of onset
  - ▶ Rate of change
  - ▶ Effect on functional abilities
  - ▶ Motor/ sensory/ autonomic features
- 
- ▶ Examination to confirm neurological picture and provide a baseline for future comparison
    - ▶ Features of amyloid- bruising, oedema, cardiac insufficiency, postural drop in BP
    - ▶ Features of cryoglobulins- acrocyanosis, livedo reticularis, ulcers
- 
- ▶ Examination to confirm haematological picture: MGUS vs WM
    - ▶ Lymphadenopathy
    - ▶ Splenomegaly

# Myelin Associated Glycoprotein

- ▶ MAG is a glycoprotein localised in “Schwann cells” on the innermost myelin wrap, directly across from the axon surface
- ▶ Some IgM antibodies target MAG and damage the insulation (myelin sheath) of the nerve fibre (axon)



# Investigations



# Anti-MAG neuropathy treatment:

Who, when, what for

- ▶ Only if there is a progressive functional impact: case-by-case decision
- ▶ Short disease duration (<2 years), active progression at time of treatment might predict response<sup>1</sup>.
- ▶ The depth of optimal haematological remission is not known<sup>2</sup>.
- ▶ Complete elimination of the clonal IgM is probably not practical or possible.
- ▶ Stability rather than improvement is the most likely outcome of treatment

1. Treon SP 2010  
2. Benedetti et al 2007

# Anti-MAG neuropathy

## Therapeutic options



**IVIG** may have limited benefit in the short term (timescale of weeks)



**Steroids** alone are not effective, but may be beneficial in combination with other agents such as **cyclophosphamide**.



**Purine analogues (Fludarabine and Cladribine)** have demonstrated a modest improvement in some studies, and although tolerance of these agents was reported as good, the studies were small<sup>3,4</sup>.



For occasional patients with rapidly worsening neuropathy especially with signs of motor disability, **combinations of active agents** or even high dose therapy and **stem cell transplantation** have been attempted.



# Anti-MAG neuropathy: Rituximab

There are several non-randomised studies of Rituximab in anti-MAG-PN reporting positive benefit in small groups of patients.

Five studies reported a worsening of the PN following Rituximab, possibly related to an IgM flare.

Two RCTs of Rituximab have been negative in their primary outcome measures

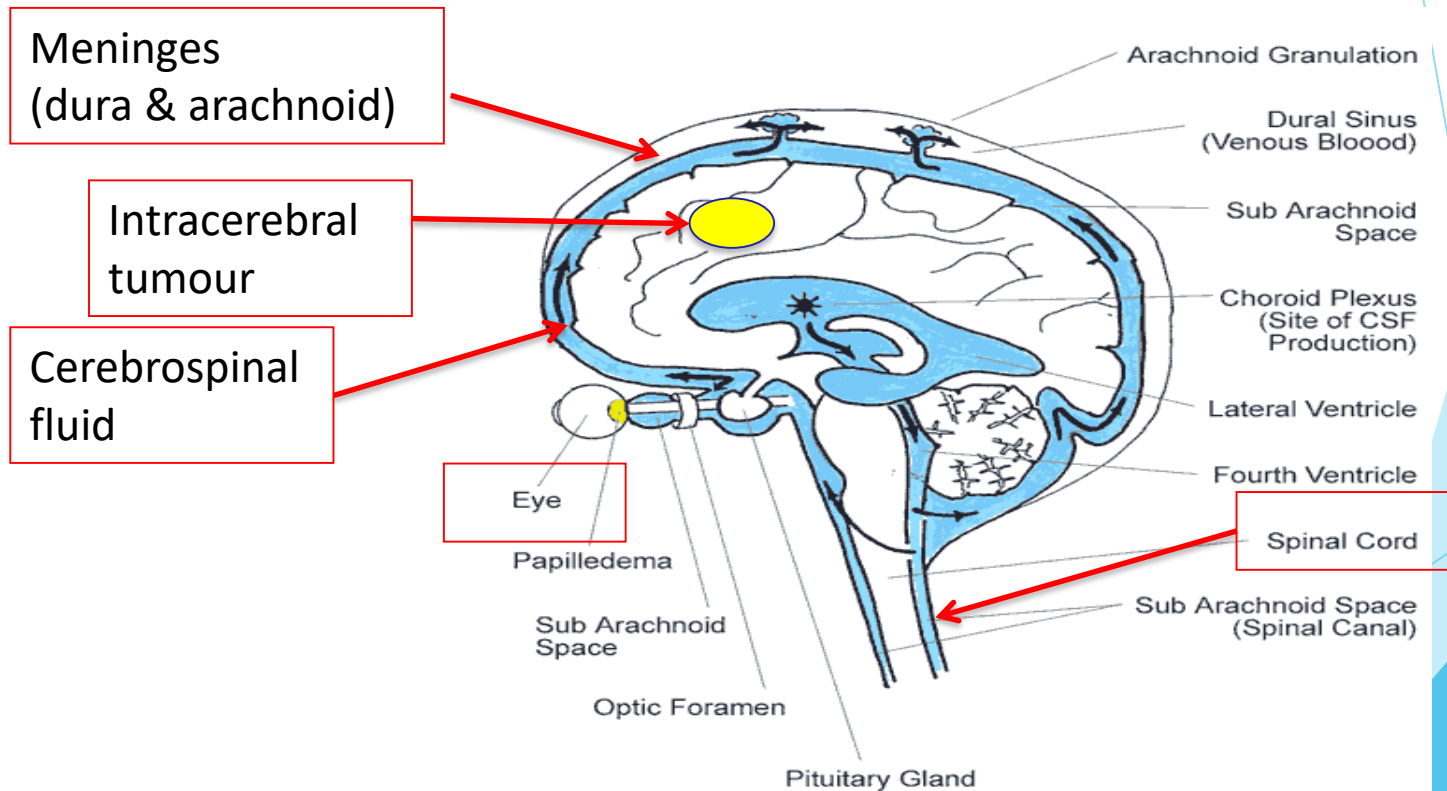
Secondary outcome measures including patient impression of change were positive and a systematic review highlights significant therapeutic benefit.

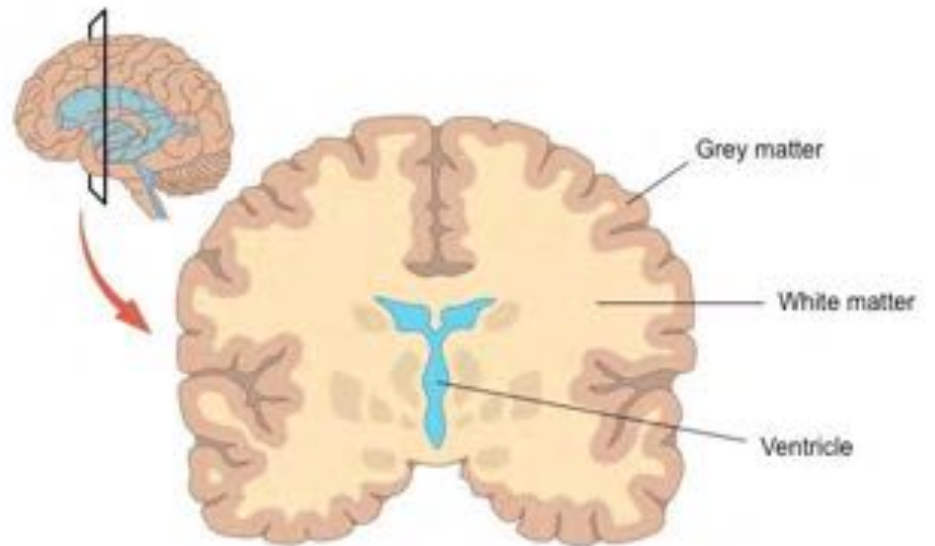
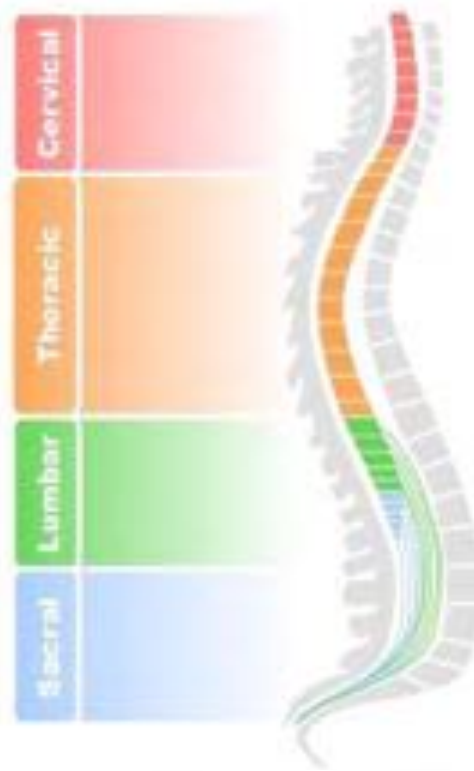
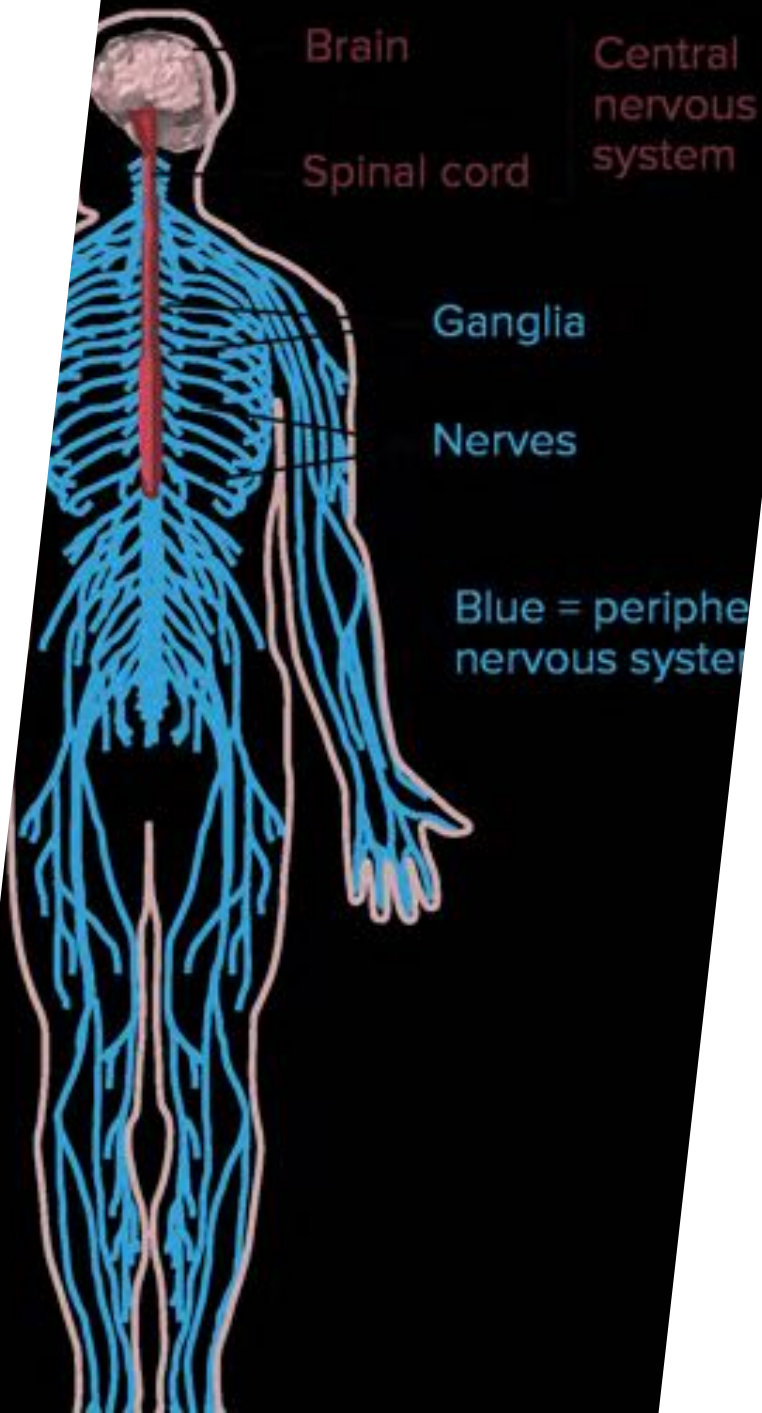
Factors predictive of a response to Rituximab in anti-MAG-PN remain to be elucidated.

# Bing Neel syndrome

## Definition

Infiltration of WM cells in the central nervous system.





# Who gets BNS?

- $\approx$  1% of all WM patients
- Lack of clinical awareness, under-reporting?
- No prospective studies,  $\pm$ 150 pts reported in literature
  - 2 publications with 34 and 44 pts, respectively
- Can be presenting symptom of WM  $\approx$  15-36%
- Can be present without any other evidence of active/progression of systemic WM

## BNS in patients with known WM: pitfalls!

- ▶ The median time from WM to BNS diagnosis was 3 and 8.9 years (range 0 to 24.7 years)
- ▶ For 71% of the 28 patients previously diagnosed with WM, BNS occurred independently of a systemic progression of WM
- ▶ At the time of BNS diagnosis, seven patients were actively receiving therapy, of which six were responding to their current therapy based on serum IgM level reduction.

# Clinical picture is extremely variable without any specific signs or symptoms

- ✓ Altered mental status , including memory loss
- ✓ Cranial nerve disorder
- ✓ Paraplegia/paralysis
- ✓ Unsteady gait

30-50%

- ✓ Headache
- ✓ Paresthesia
- ✓ Seizures
- ✓ Limb pain

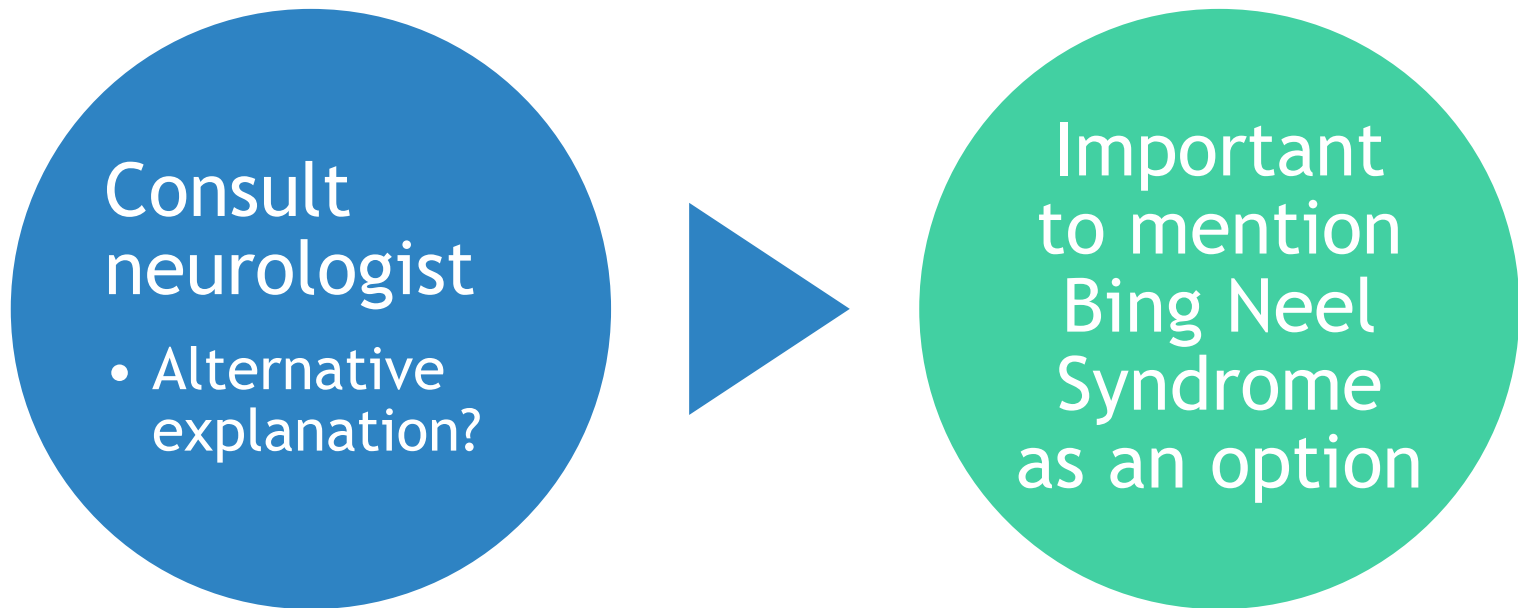
20-30%

- ✓ Psychiatric symptoms
- ✓ Blurry vision
- ✓ Hearing loss

10-20%

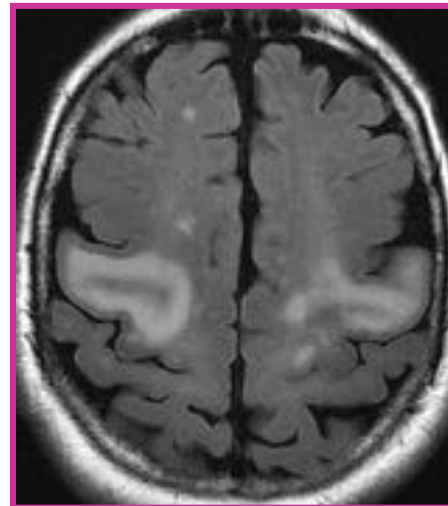
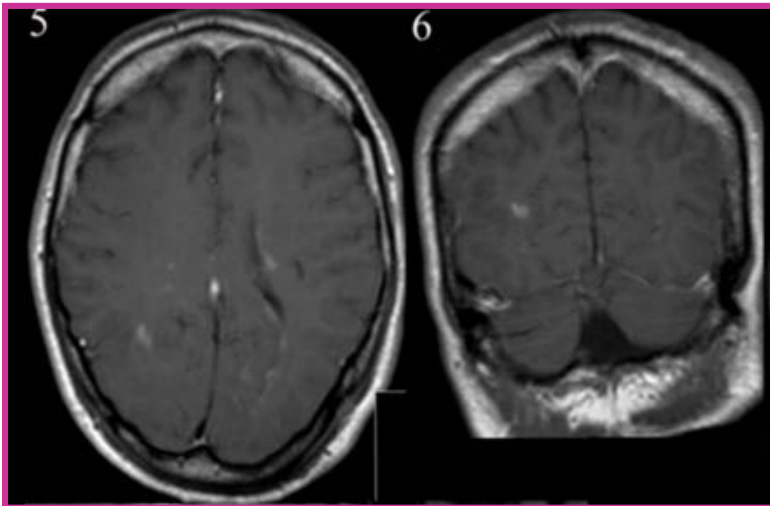


# Suspected BNS: Step 1



## Step 2: Radiology = MRI

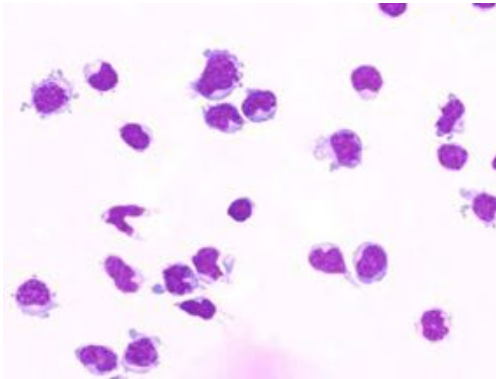
Radiological findings	Prevalence of radiological findings (N and %)
Leptomeningeal involvement	17/24 patients or 70.8%
Dural involvement	9/24 patients or 37.5%
Parenchymal involvement	10/24 patients or 41.7%



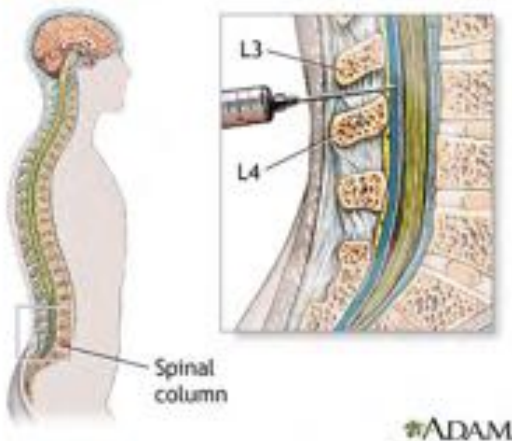
Fitsiori et al, European Radiology, 2018.

Imaging spectrum of Bing–Neel syndrome: how can a radiologist recognise this rare neurological complication of Waldenström’s macroglobulinemia?

## Step 3: lumbar puncture > cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)



- ▶ CSF analysis;
  - ▶ Cell count (lymphocytosis)
  - ▶ Morphology
  - ▶ Total protein
  - ▶ Flow cytometry
  - ▶ Molecular testing
    - ▶ *MYD88*<sup>L265P</sup> mutation
    - ▶ VDJ rearrangement
  - ▶ Protein electrophoresis and immunofixation
- ▶ Brain or meningeal biopsy is rarely required



# Therapy for BNS: CNS penetrating chemotherapy

## Methotrexate

- ▶  $\geq 3 \text{ g/m}^2$ : cytotoxic conc in CSF,  $> 1 \text{ g/m}^2$  in brain parenchyma, blood-CSF conc. 30:1

## Cytarabine

- ▶ Intermediate to high dosing  $\geq 2 \text{ g/m}^2$



**High dose intensive schemes as used in primary CNS lymphoma**

## Purine analogues

- Fludarabine
  - Cladribine
  - Bendamustine
- ▶ Pass blood brain barrier
  - ▶ Can be damaging to nerves

## Targeted Therapy

- ▶ BTK inhibitors cross the blood brain barrier
- ▶ Higher doses may be needed

Welcome to the



# The Rory Morrison Registry



Rory Morrison



- WMUK is a unique not for profit organisation, also a registered charity, developed jointly to bring WM patients and medical professionals closer together to improve the treatment of WM
- Medical board of doctors treating WM in the UK together with patient representatives
- Annual WMUK doctor/ patient forums
- Point of contact for patients and families
- WMUK is also involved in patient advocacy at UK and EU levels
- We work closely with the IWMMF, Lymphoma Action, Myeloma UK
- Develop and maintain links with Pharma companies



# WMUK Projects

- Key role to put the UK on the map and participate in clinical trials of novel agents
- With support from patients and families, and that of other bodies such as the IWMF and Pharma we launched an ambitious funding package for
  - the **Rory Morrison Registry**
  - a **Biobank** at University College Hospital in London (jointly with the IWMF)
  - sponsorship of a **research projects**

# Rory Morrison Registry (RMR)

- Increasing role for novel therapies in WM
- Important to capture '*real world data*' to establish the landscape of WM in the UK and to assess the impact of newer treatments
- Funding for the Rory Morrison Registry (RMR) project was made possible by generous donations to WMUK
- Demographics, diagnosis, treatment and patient reported outcomes (PRO)
- The RMR has been acknowledged as a valuable resource by NHS England's Final Appraisal Determination for Ibrutinib for relapsed/refractory Waldenström's (2017): IBRUTINIB on CANCER DRUGS FUND (CDF)



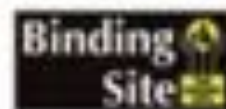
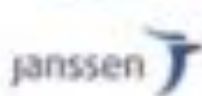
## The Rory Morrison Waldenström's Macroglobulinaemia UK Clinical Data Registry

[www.wmuk.org.uk](http://www.wmuk.org.uk)  
[info@wmuk.org.uk](mailto:info@wmuk.org.uk)

The clinical registry of treatment outcomes for those with WM gathers information from any registered UK doctor treating WM so the disease may be better understood and treatment improved. WMUK is a unique charitable alliance of doctors, patients, nurses and carers fighting WM. The Registry is dedicated to the memory of founder member Rory Morrison, the much-loved BBC Radio 4 broadcaster who died in 2013. His former BBC colleague Charlotte Green is our Patron.



*The WMUK website has already received generous grant funding from the following, but more funding is welcome for its upkeep.*



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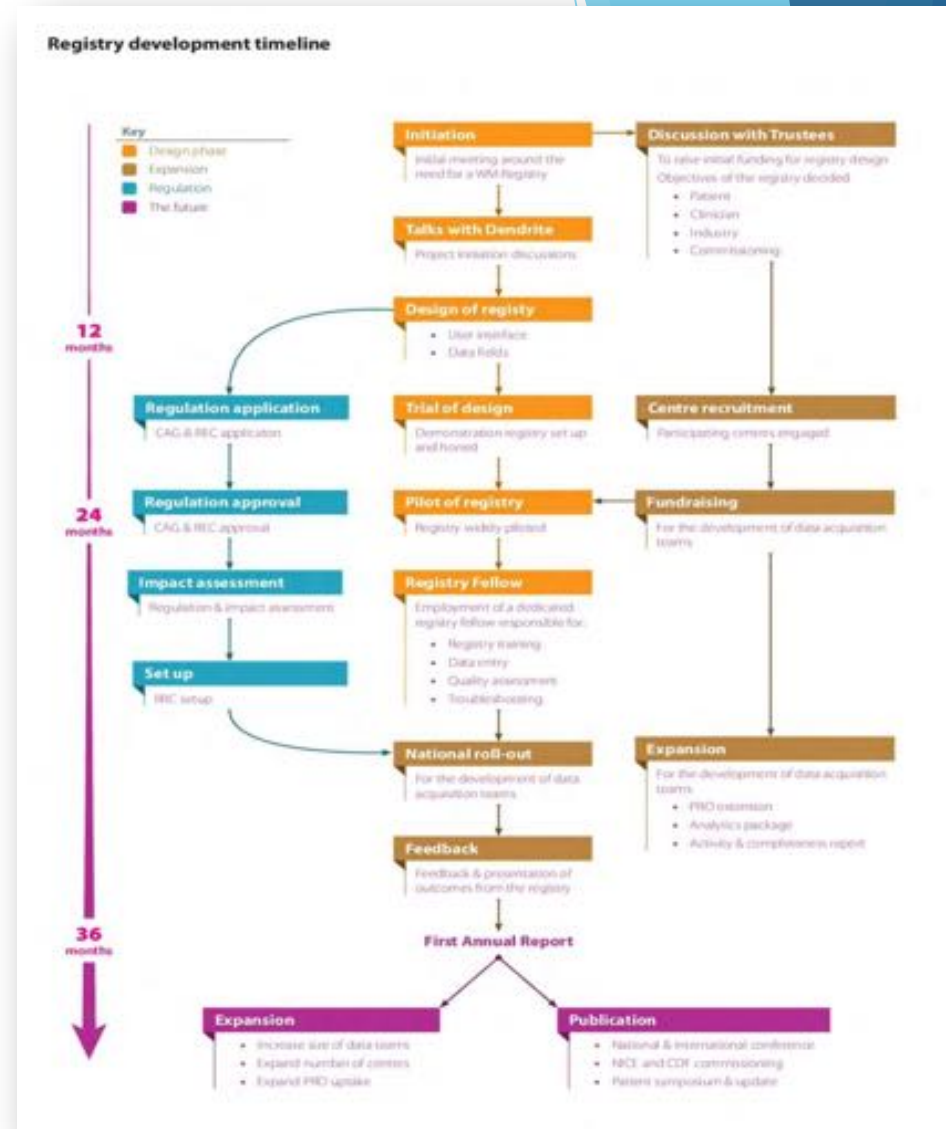
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# Timeline

- **The initial 12 month phase**
  - defining the objectives of the Registry
  - designing the structure of the Registry
  - fundraising for the expansion of the Registry
- **The second 12 month phase**
  - obtaining regulatory and ethical approval
  - development of the data acquisition teams at the registered centres
  - Subsequent successful pilot at UCLH followed national rollout in January 2018



# Data in the Registry

- In total 579 patients are currently registered from 19 hospitals; this includes 8 patients who have specifically signed up to the Patient Reported Outcomes extension despite their hospital not yet being registered with the Registry.
- In total 11 centres are formally registered, with 5 centres undergoing registration at present.
- So far 6 centres have regularly entered data; the remaining centres have been hampered by delays in local processing and resource allocation.

Map demonstrating location of centres currently registered



# Demographics and diagnosis

- Traditionally, WM is perceived as a condition of elderly, Caucasian males.
  - Findings from the Registry would suggest that there is a very significant younger population developing WM: over 35% were diagnosed in their thirties, forties or fifties.
  - Similarly, the ratio of male : female patients was closer to 1.6 : 1 suggesting a very significant female population with WM or IgM associated condition.
- 51% of patients presented with symptoms of WM relating to paraprotein production (peripheral neuropathy, hyperviscosity or haemolytic anaemia) or lymphomatous related conditions such as anaemia, lymphadenopathy or B symptoms (fevers, night sweats and weight loss)
  - The remaining 49% entered the active monitoring programme (watch and wait).

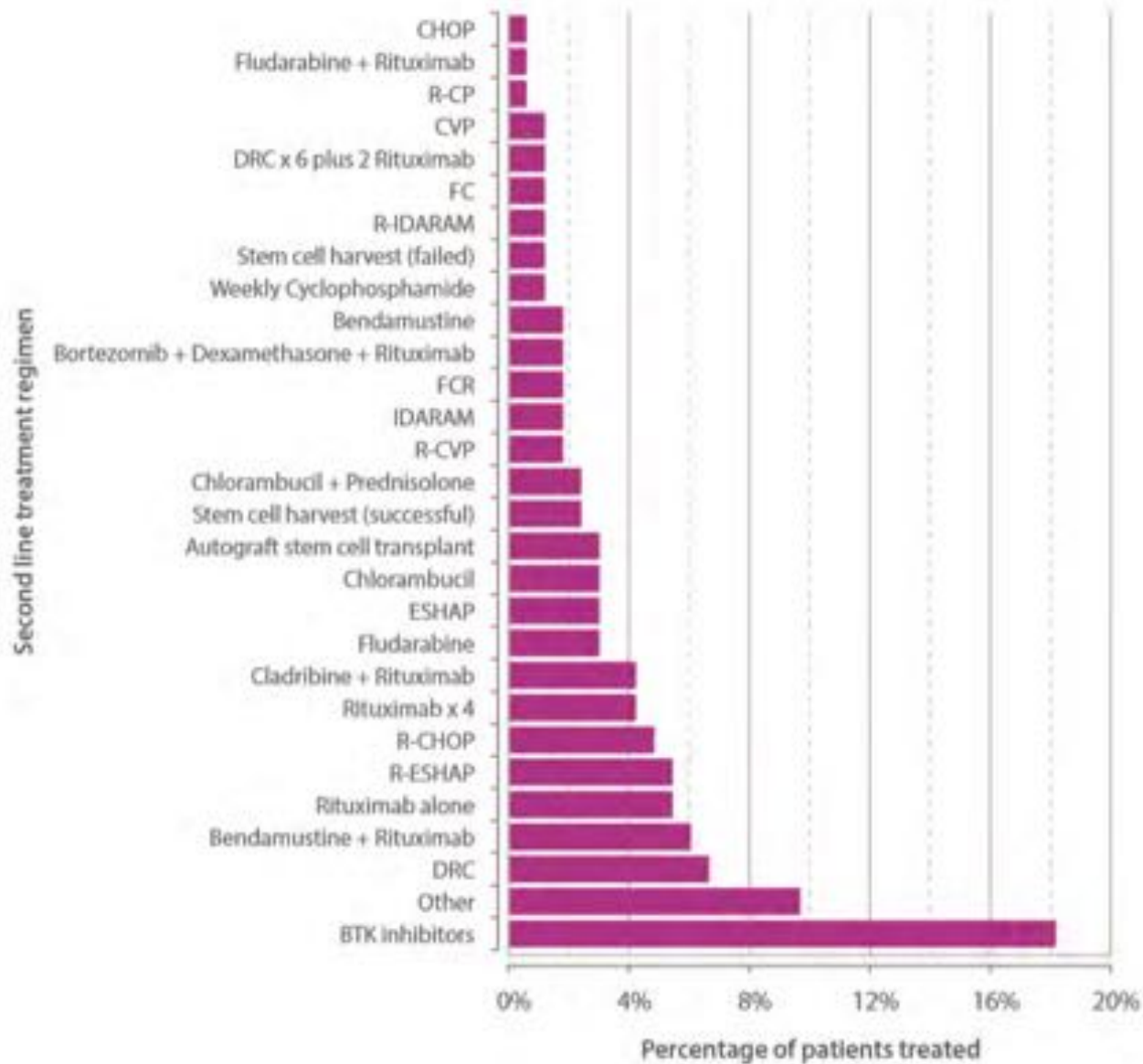


# Treatment

- The time from diagnosis to treatment varies hugely (median 4 months, but ranging from months to years)
- Most strikingly is the variety of treatments (over 26) used as first line therapy and how these have changed with time.

	Year of diagnosis							All
	Not recorded	<2000	2000-2004	2005-2009	2010-2012	2013-2015	2016-2018	
Allograft stem cell transplant	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Bendamustine	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Bendamustine + Rituximab	0	0	1	1	6	10	14	41
Bortezomib + Dexamethasone + Rituximab	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	4
ITK inhibitors	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
Chlorambucil	0	2	8	10	2	1	0	23
Chlorambucil + Rituximab	0	0	0	0	4	1	2	7
Chlorambucil and Prednisolone	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
CHOP	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	6
Cladritine + Rituximab	0	0	2	3	4	2	0	11
CP	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
CVP	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	4
DRC	1	0	4	6	12	19	9	51
DRC x 6 plus 2 Rituximab	0	0	0	3	5	6	3	17
FC	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	6
FCR	0	0	1	4	2	2	1	10
Fludarabine	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
Fludarabine + Rituximab	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
MATRIX	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Other	0	4	5	8	6	15	4	42
R-CHOP	0	2	1	12	10	5	0	30
R-CP	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	6
R-CVP	0	0	0	2	7	1	1	11
Rituximab alone	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	5
Rituximab x4	0	0	1	6	5	6	3	21
Weekly Cyclophosphamide + Prednisolone	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Unspecified	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
All	1	14	30	65	74	87	43	314

**Patients with a diagnosis of WM undergoing second line treatment: Regimen (n=165)**



# Outcomes

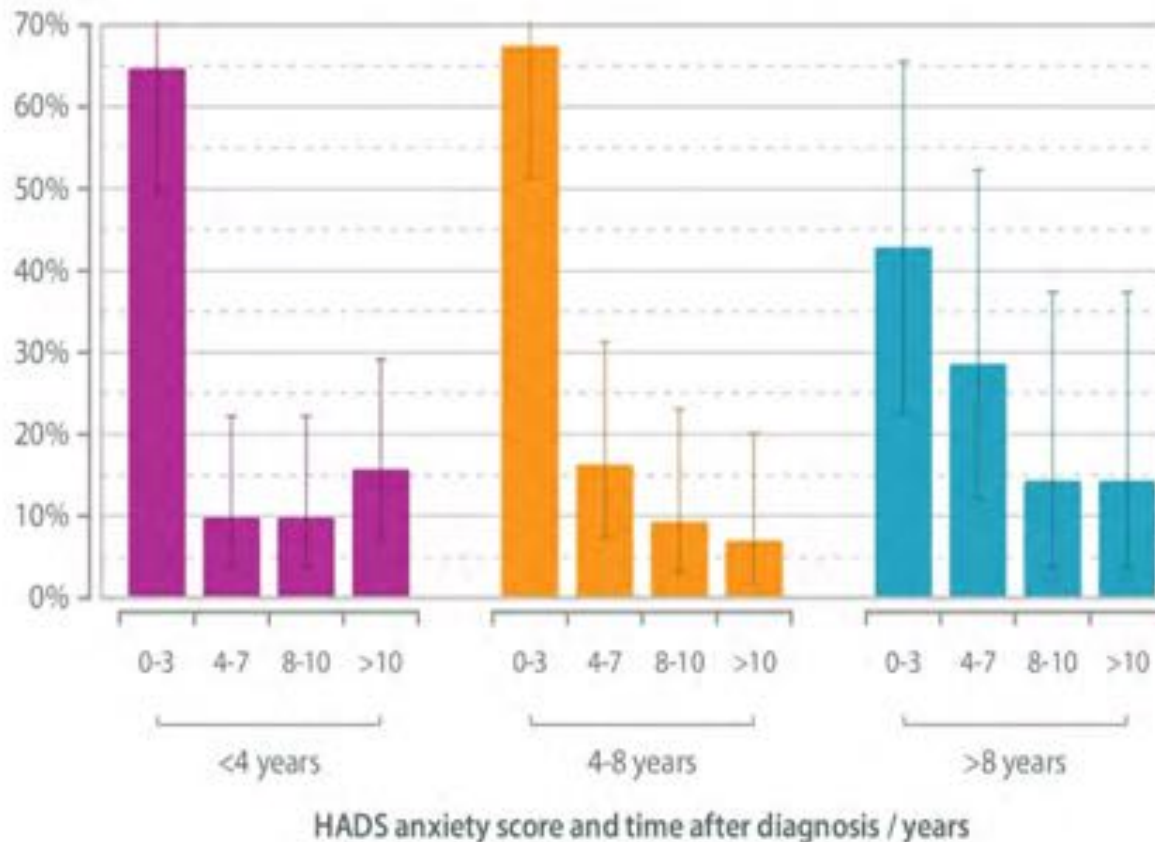
- Based on the Registry, median overall survival in patients presenting with symptomatic WM is 18.5 years and even longer in asymptomatic patients.
- This needs to be taken in the context of the data limitations, but would suggest a promising outcome for patients with WM, even for those who present symptomatically.
- Complications from WM such as high grade transformation have been noted in the analysis, but other complications, for example recurrent infections or treatment complications, will form part of a more comprehensive analysis of the Registry in the future.

# Patient reported outcomes

- ▶ Health related Quality of Life (HrQoL) and Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO) are multi-dimensional concepts reflecting the physiological, psychological and social influences of the disease and its treatment from the patient's perspective.
- ▶ Quality of life in WM is of paramount importance due to its chronic relapsing nature, the lack of sufficient information regarding the personal impact of various chemotherapy treatments, and the paradigm shift offered by novel therapies, many of which are administered continuously until progression
- ▶ Since WM is chronic condition with an unpredictable course, the mental health of patients is of critical importance.
- ▶ The **Hospital Anxiety and Depression Score (HADS)** is a validated method to assess the prevalence of anxiety and depression. Scores between 8 and 10 suggest moderate anxiety and above 10 confirm a diagnosis of anxiety

The chart below demonstrates results from the HADS questionnaire received from 63 patients through both hand-written forms and online submission. Irrespective of time from diagnosis, anxiety can be present in between 10% and 20% of the population. This significant cohort may benefit from specific referral to cancer support services and psychological support.

Patients with WM: HADS anxiety score according to the time elapsed after diagnosis; last recorded score per patient





- Planned expansion of the Rory Morrison Registry is currently underway to increase the number of centres registered and patients registered for the PRO extension.
- Continued updates to the Registry include capturing treatment complications and the role of supportive care.
- With further data entry and patient/centre registration the Registry will be used as a hypothesis generating tool alongside its surveillance and observational capabilities.
- The Registry is still in its infancy, but this first report demonstrates the potential of a the Rory Morrison Registry to truly capture the '*real world data*' and understand the landscape of WM in the United Kingdom for the benefit of patients.



# Take home messages

- ▶ WM is a rare and very varied disease
- ▶ Confusing terminology - that confuses patients and doctors
- ▶ Most patients are at W+W stage
- ▶ Although incurable, generally responds very well to treatment
- ▶ Great progress being made with many new treatment options







Thank You



This work is supported by grants from the International Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia Foundation (IWMF) and Waldenström's Macroglobulinaemia United Kingdom (WMUK) and the generosity and support of patients and their families, without who this project would not have been possible