
Optimizing Outcome of Transplantation in Highly Sensitized Recipients

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Outline

- **Why special consideration for this group?**
- **Assessment of Sensitization**
- **Definition of Highly Sensitized**
- **Approaches to Transplantation of the Highly Sensitized**
- **Conclusions**

Sensitization

- **Development of anti-HLA antibodies as a consequence of prior exposure**
 - **Pregnancy**
 - **Prior transplant**
 - **Transfusion**

Why Concern re Highly Sensitized?

- **Transplantation improves survival**
- **Increased waiting time associated with worse outcomes**
- **High degrees of sensitization reduce the likelihood of finding a compatible kidney and increase waiting time**
- **Successful transplantation of this group requires a unique approach**

Detecting and Interpreting HLA Antibodies

PRA: Panel reactive antibody

- **Cell based assays: ESTIMATE percent of donors from “a population” to whom a recipient has cytotoxic antibodies**
 - 15% FP and FN
 - Cannot tell you WHICH antibodies in detail
 - Exquisitely dependent on cells chosen for the panel
- **Solid phase assays**
 - Improved specificity
 - Up to 30% more sensitive
 - Single Antigen Beads – give a list of antibodies or “unacceptable” antigens

List of Antibodies → cPRA

- **cPRA: Calculated PRA**
- **Estimates the number of donors in a population to whom a recipient has at least one HLA antibody (or unacceptable antigen)**
- **Depends on when you look**
 - Frequent testing to capture full spectrum of immunity
 - Current versus historical antibodies
- **Depends on the population**
- **Depends on the loci included – what do you want to avoid?**

Impact of Antibody Quantity

Test	How much antibody?	Consequence
Cytotoxic crossmatch	LOTS, Binds C'	Hyperacute, accelerated AMR (Terasaki et al NEJM 1969)
Flow cytometry crossmatch	Some, may or may not bind C'	Early AMR, late AMR, higher graft loss
DSA only	Low, may or may not bind C'	Later AMR (less), CABMR More immunosuppression needed

Higher Titer Antibody

Longer time to
outcome

Impact on Access

- cPRA 95% → 1:20 donors
- cPRA 99% → 1:100 donors
- cPRA 99.6% → 1:250 donors
- cPRA 99.9% → 1:1000 donors

- In a region with 100 donors a year.... Up to 10 years?
- If access to 1000 donors Maybe only a year or two?

THE BEST TREATMENT (IF AVAILABLE) FOR A HIGHLY SENSITIZED PATIENT IS ACCESS TO MORE DONORS TO FIND ONE THAT IS DSA NEGATIVE

Graft survival

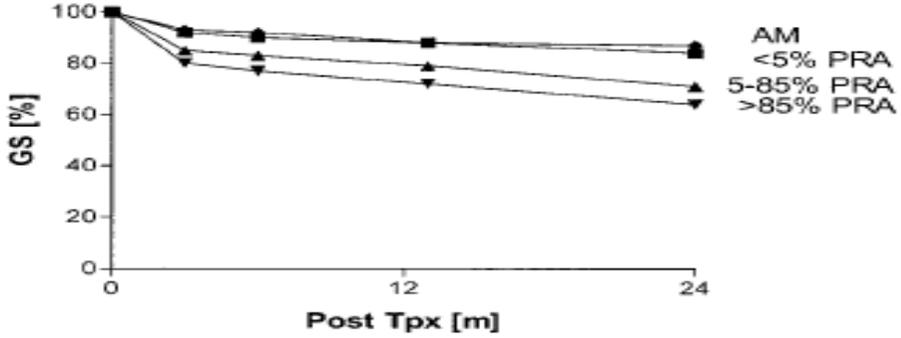
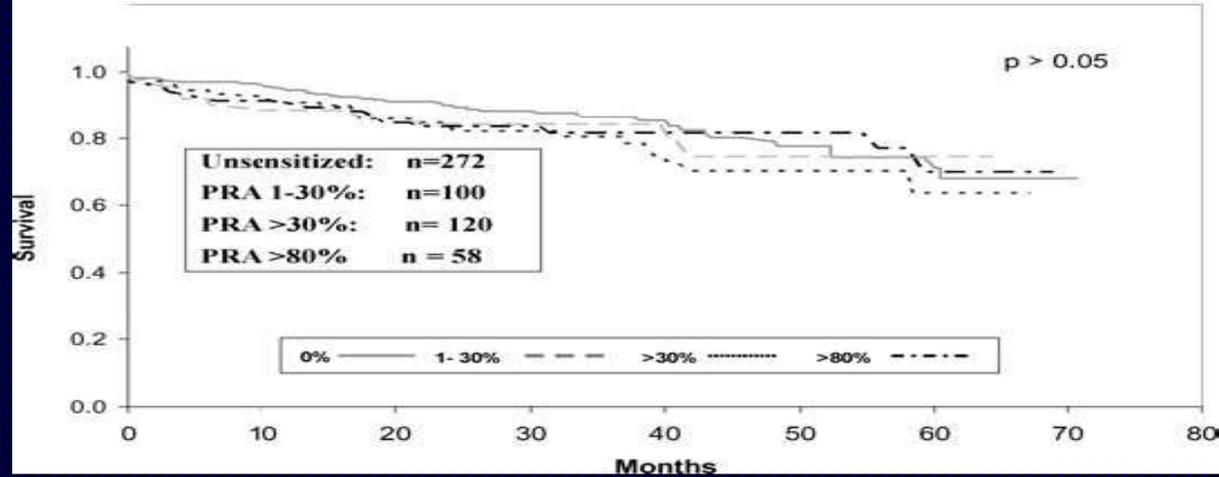


FIGURE 2. Comparison of graft survival between acceptably mismatched patients (n=112) and nonsensitized ($\leq 5\%$ panel reactive antibody [PRA]), sensitized (6%–84% PRA), and HS ($\geq 85\%$ PRA) recipients whose transplants were arranged through the ET-KAS (14,328). GS, graft survival.

PRA does not drive risk in isolation
DSA drives risk

Bray et al. AJT Oct 2006

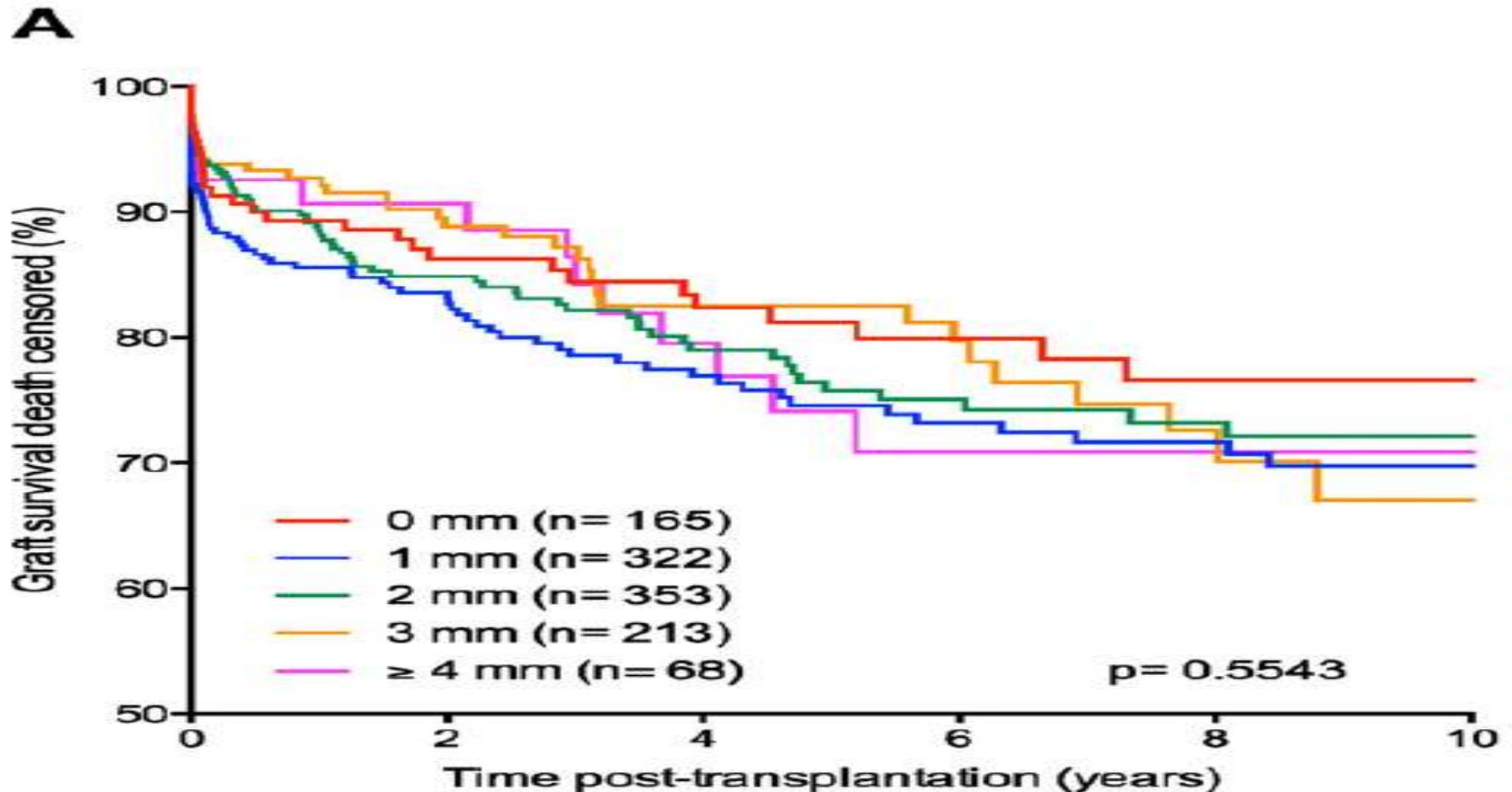
5 Year Deceased Donor Renal Allograft Survival in Unsensitized PRA Patients with Negative FCXM



Claas et al. Transplantation, 2004

No Effect of HLA Mismatch in Acceptable Mismatch Programme

Heidt et al Transplant Immunology, 2015



**THE BEST RESULT WITH LEAST
IMMUNOSUPPRESSION AND RISK
OF ASSOCIATED
MORBIDITY/MORTALITY IS FROM
TRANSPLANTATION OF A DSA
NEGATIVE KIDNEY**

**Optimal Transplantation of the Highly
Sensitized Requires Collaboration!!**

**With the HLA Lab
Across/Between Countries**

Approaches to Transplanting Highly Sensitized Patients

- **Sensitized with Incompatible Living Donor**
 - Kidney Paired Donation
 - Desensitization
 - Combined approach
- **Highly Sensitized Without Living Donor**
 - Large Registries/focused allocation strategies to prioritize DSA negative deceased donor kidneys for highly sensitized patients

Paired Exchange

Registered Pair A

Registered Pair B

Candidate : Andree



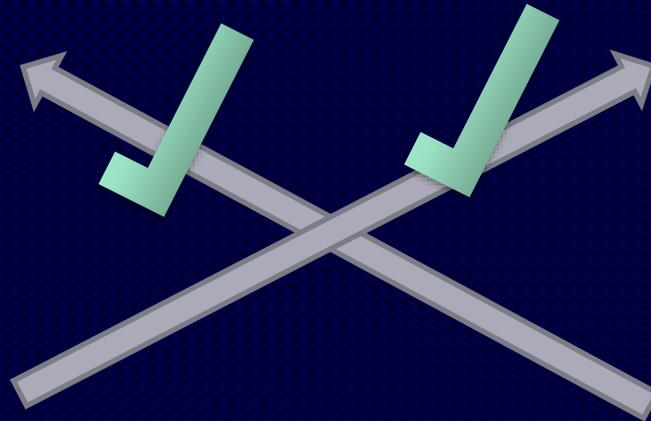
Donor: John



Candidate: Suzanne

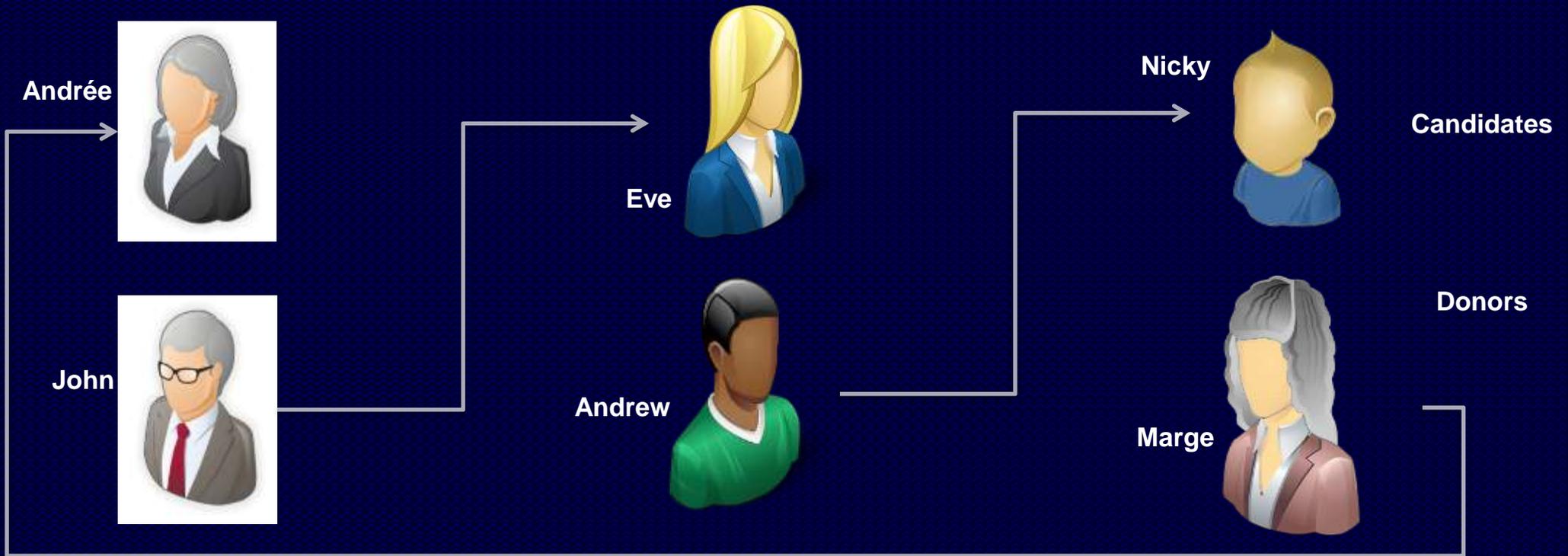


Donor: Todd

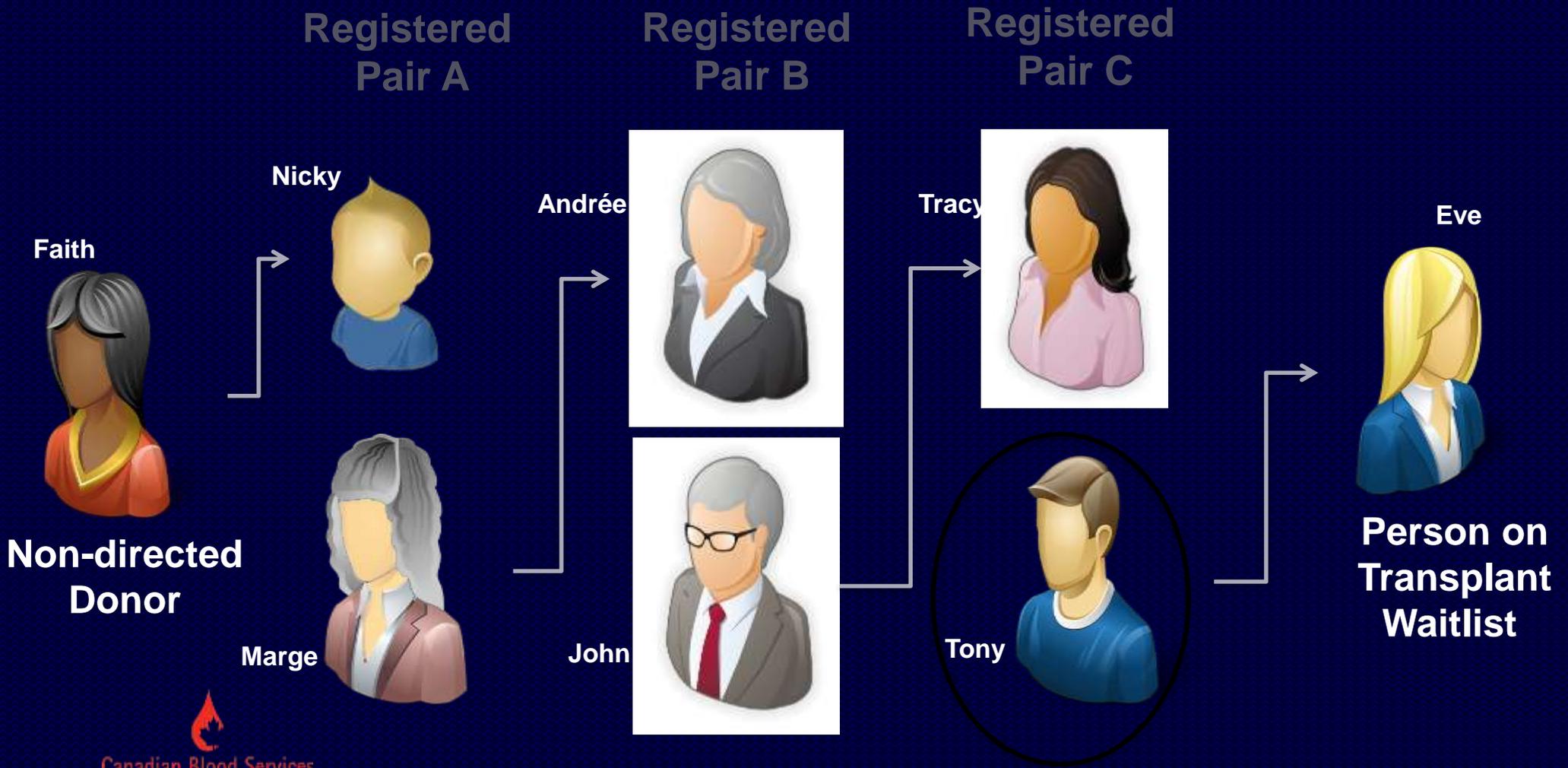


N-Way (Closed) Chain

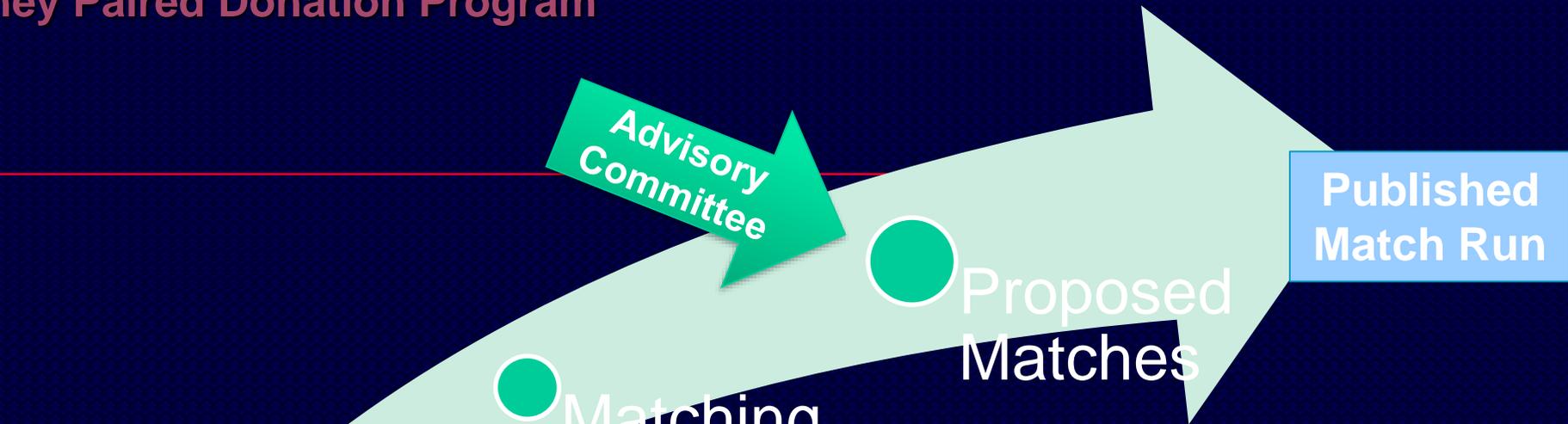
Registered Pair A Registered Pair B Registered Pair C



Domino Chain



Kidney Paired Donation Program



● Patient Records

● Matching Algorithm

● Proposed Matches

Published Match Run

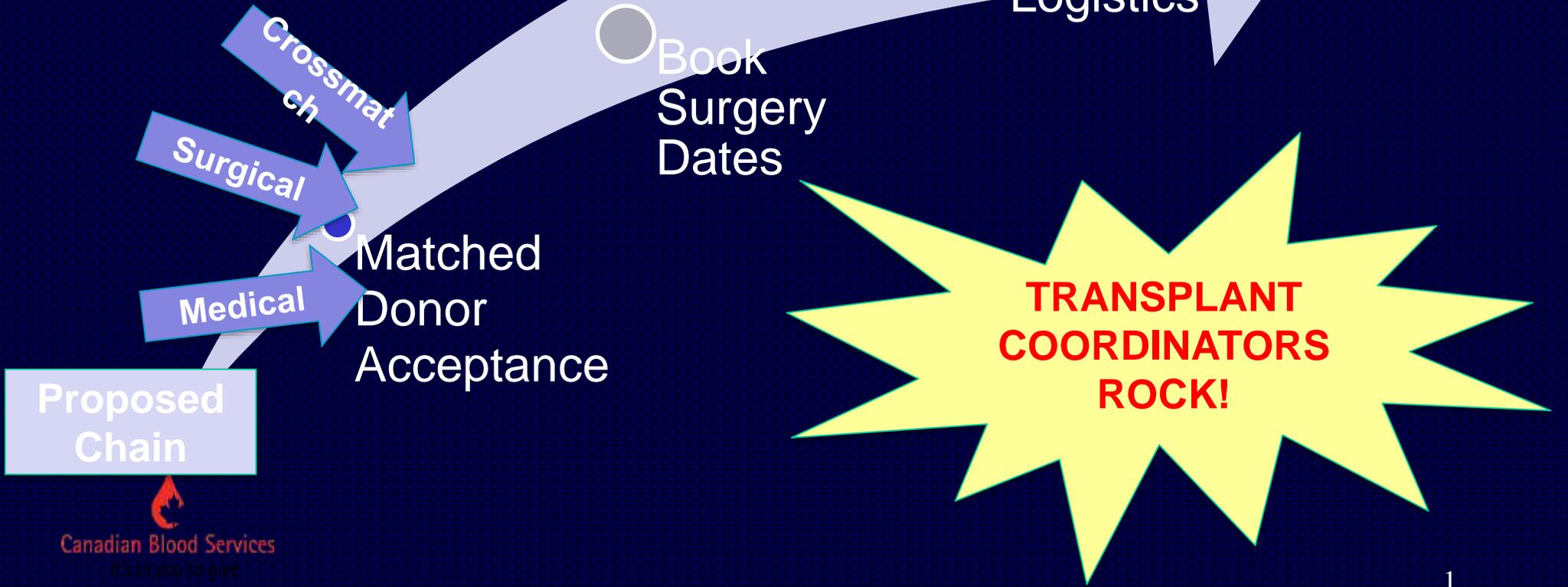
Advisory Committee



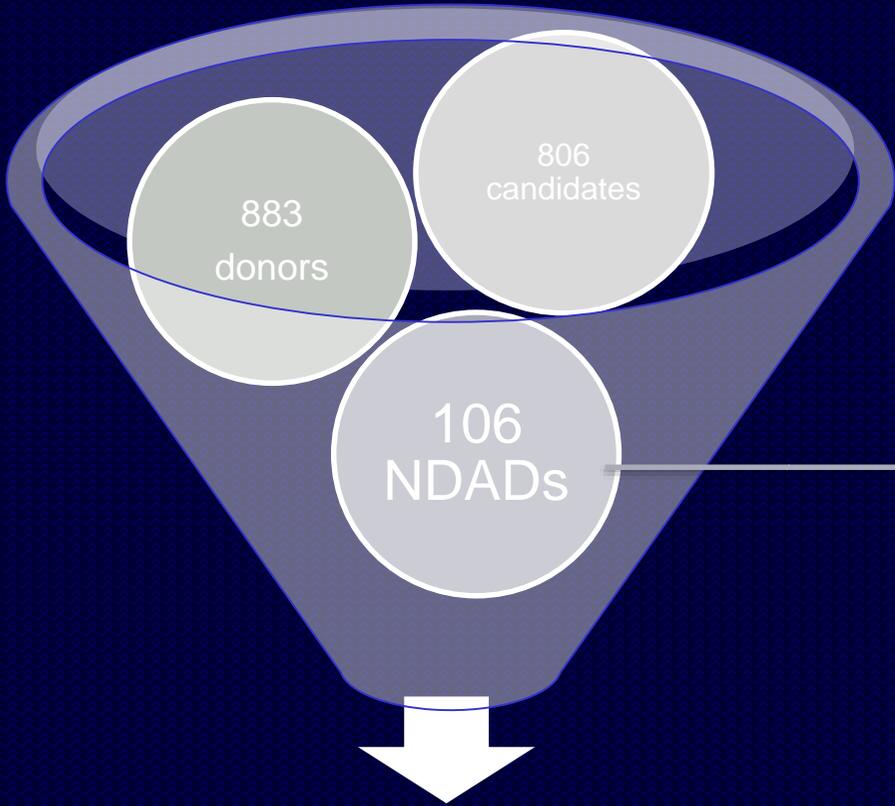
Canadian Transplant Registry

Kidney Paired Donation

From Proposed Chains to Transplants



KPD...as of October 18, 2016



46 from Paired Exchanges
23 chains

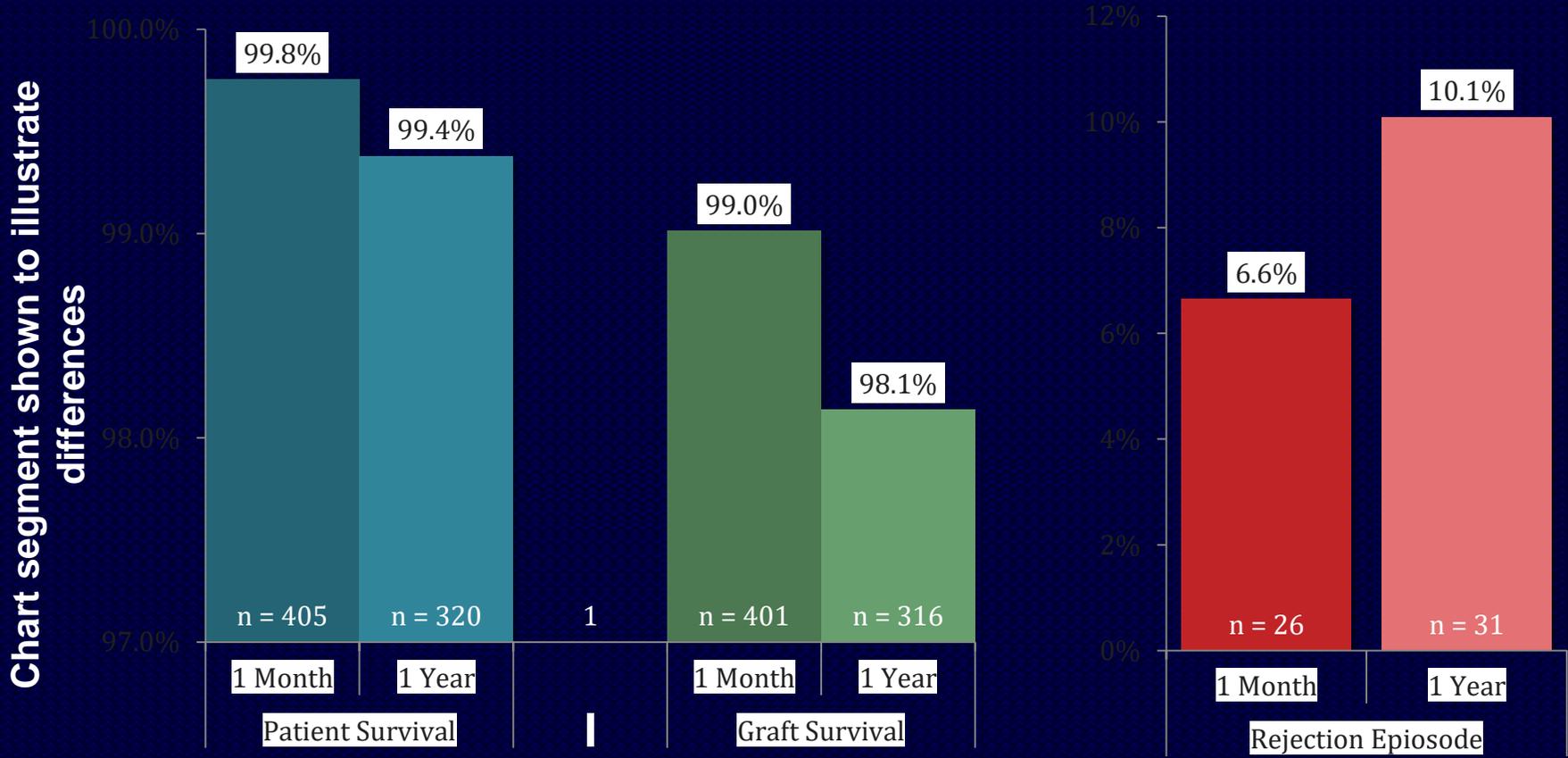
120 from N-Way (Closed) Chains
31 chains

294 from Domino Chains
88 chains

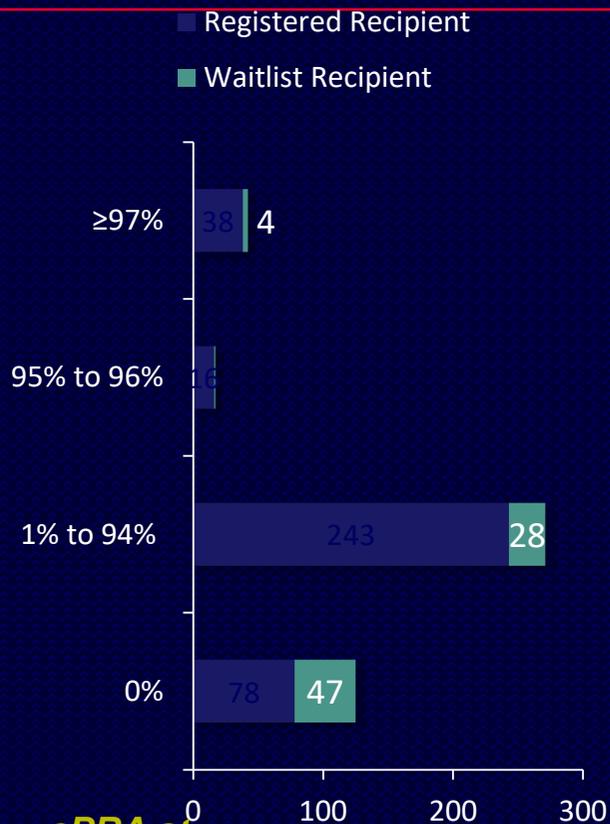
460 Transplants

375 Registered Candidates
85 Waitlist Recipients

Outcomes of Patients Reaching One Year Post-Transplant



cPRA for Candidates and Recipients



	0%	1% - 94%	95% - 96%	≥97%
<i>Transplants to Registered Recipients (N=375)</i>	76 (20%)	240 (64%)	17 (5%)	42 (11%)
<i>cPRA Distribution in Candidate Pool</i>	152 (19%)	389 (48%)	28 (3%)	237 (29%)
<i>% of cPRA Group Transplanted</i>	50%	62%	61%	18%
<i>Transplants to Wait List Recipients (N=85)</i>	47 (59%)	28 (35%)	1 (1%)	4 (5%)

cPRA at time of transplan

cPRA is based on rating as currently calculated for all candidates registered to date. cPRA values for five (5) waitlist recipients are not available.



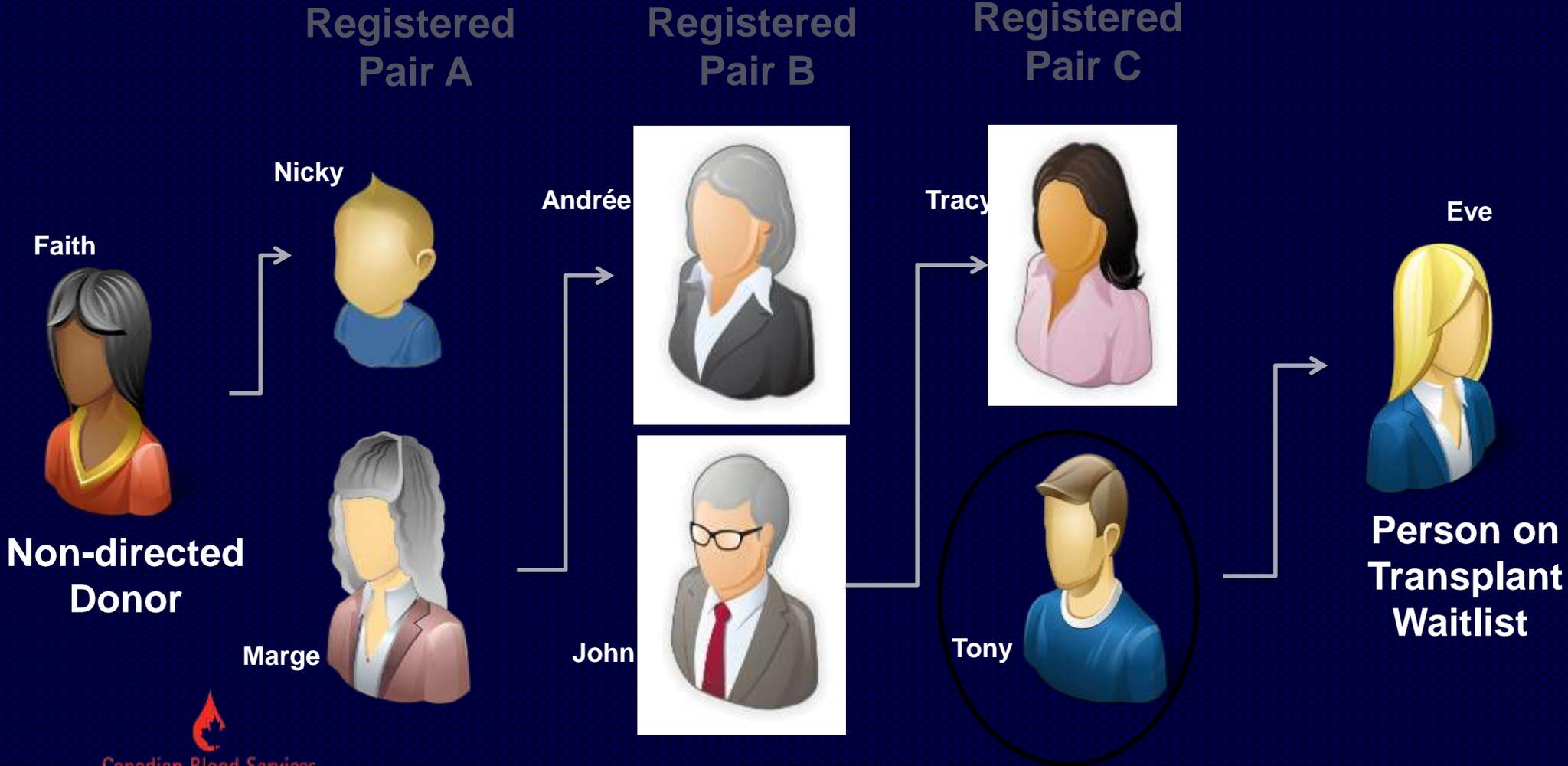
Assessment of KPD Advantages

- **Uses available living donor kidneys preserving deceased donor kidneys for those without living donors**
- **Living donor still facilitates transplantation for intended recipient**
- **Low immune risk transplant is performed (depending on acceptability criteria)**
- **Chain includes kidney to deceased donor list**

Assessment of KPD Disadvantages

- **Donor does not give to intended recipient**
- **Travel or shipping needed**
- **May require new care team for donor or recipient. Donor and recipient surgical teams need to trust each other**
- **Some difficult to match pt may take a long time to find matches**
- **Donors putting life on hold for this**
- **Potential risk of donor backing out after his/her recipient already transplanted**

Domino Chain



THE CANADIAN HIGHLY SENSITIZED DECEASED DONOR REGISTRY

Registry Design

- Define cutoff for inclusion
- We chose cPRA $\geq 95\%$
- All OPOs have details of unacceptable antigens for all Canadian HS recipients
- Virtual cross match neg HS recipients are assessed for all deceased donors
- 1 kidney always stays locally. Other to HS recipient if accepted by recipient centre
- Thresholds for each centre to ensure no centre winners/losers

Highly Sensitized Registries

Pros and Cons

- **No living donor needed**
- **Substantial increase in donor pool/potential for transplant**
- **Much less administrative burden than KPD**
- **Compatible kidney transplanted (rules determined by Registry members)**

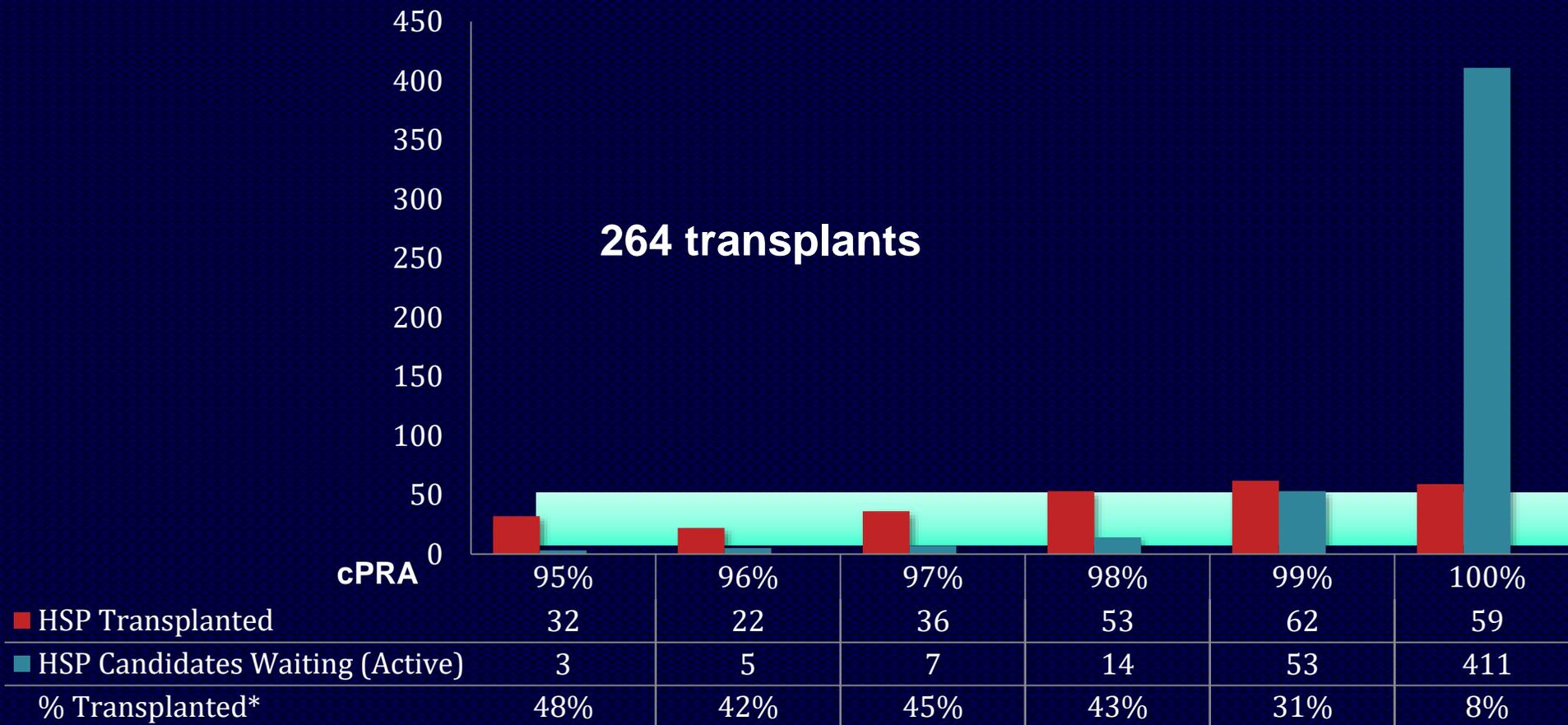
- **Deceased donor kidney of variable quality**
- **Potential risk of higher donor regions sending net kidneys to regions with poor donor rates**
- **? Payback/thresholds**
- **Requires shipping**
- **To function effectively requires HLA Lab standardization**

Problems With Determination of Highly Sensitized

- Each recipient needs to have extensive HLA Ab testing
- Significant cost
- For success, virtual crossmatch needs to be highly predictive of actual cross match
- Methodology for antibody determination and sensitivity varies by lab even within each country.
- In Canada our labs have collaborated to standardize.
- Otherwise, high likelihood that same samples get different readouts from different labs. Thus kidney that is shipped may not be used for intended recipient

-
- **Success will also depend on deceased donor supply. Large network best**
 - **Some groups have used PRA cutoff of $\geq 80\%$**
 - **In our Canadian KPD data and that of some other areas, the likelihood of DSA neg really drops at PRA ≥ 97**
 - **Thus far our national highly sensitized Registry used 95% as cutoff but we are considering increasing that**

HSP Candidate Participation by cPRA



Proportion based on all candidates who were ever active as HSP program candidates

Results as of October 6, 2016

Allocating DD Kidneys to High PRA Recipients

Gebel et al Clin JASN, 2016

- **Simulation study of effect of algorithm change in US**
- **Found virtual X Match negative donors for 20% of those with PRA 100**
- **However about 25% unlikely to receive a single offer**

Conclusions

- **Sensitization limits access to transplantation**
- **Efforts should be made to improve standardization of methods for defining DSA and antibody titre and strength**
- **Optimal long term outcomes and freedom from morbidity/mortality are achieved with DSA negative transplants**
- **Where feasible and if living donor available KPD Registries offer the best long term outcomes for those with living donors**
- **Registries prioritizing highly sensitized on the deceased donor list improve access**

Conclusions 2

- **In very highly sensitized with poor prospect of finding compatible donor, survival is limited**
- **Therefore, if a living donor available, desensitization, with or without KPD, needs to be considered**

DESENSITIZATION

Desensitization

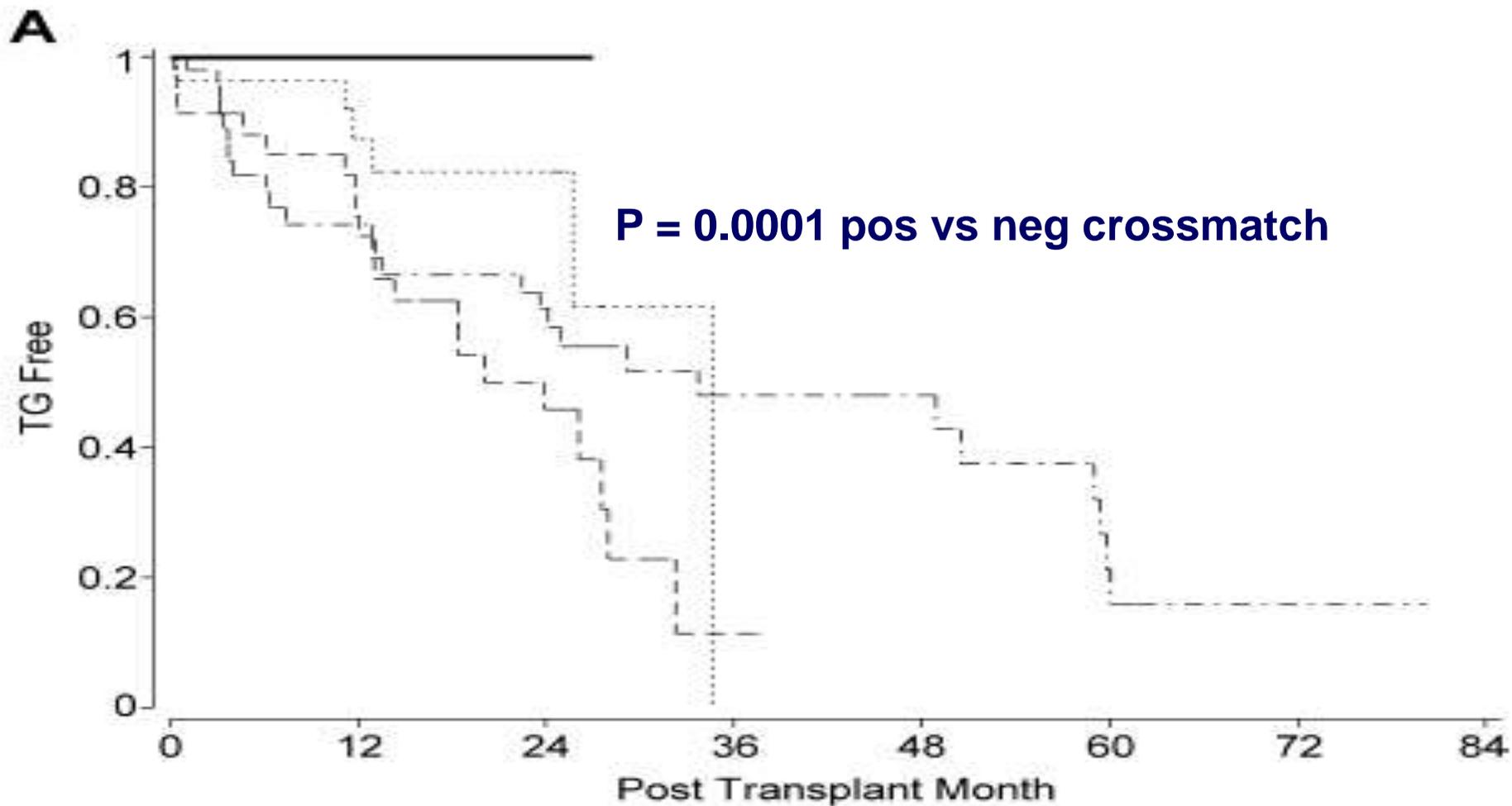
- **The strategy of using various agents to reduce PRA pre transplant so that fewer/lower titre DSA, ideally with negative flow cross match**
- **Optimal agents not clear but include IVIg, plasma exchange, ATG, rituximab, bortezomib, eculizumab**
- **May be used together with kidney paired donation for very highly sensitized**

Benefits of Desensitization

- **Allows earlier transplantation with good short term success**
- **Permits living donor to give directly to their intended recipient**
- **Avoids costs/waits/complexities of KPD and Registries**

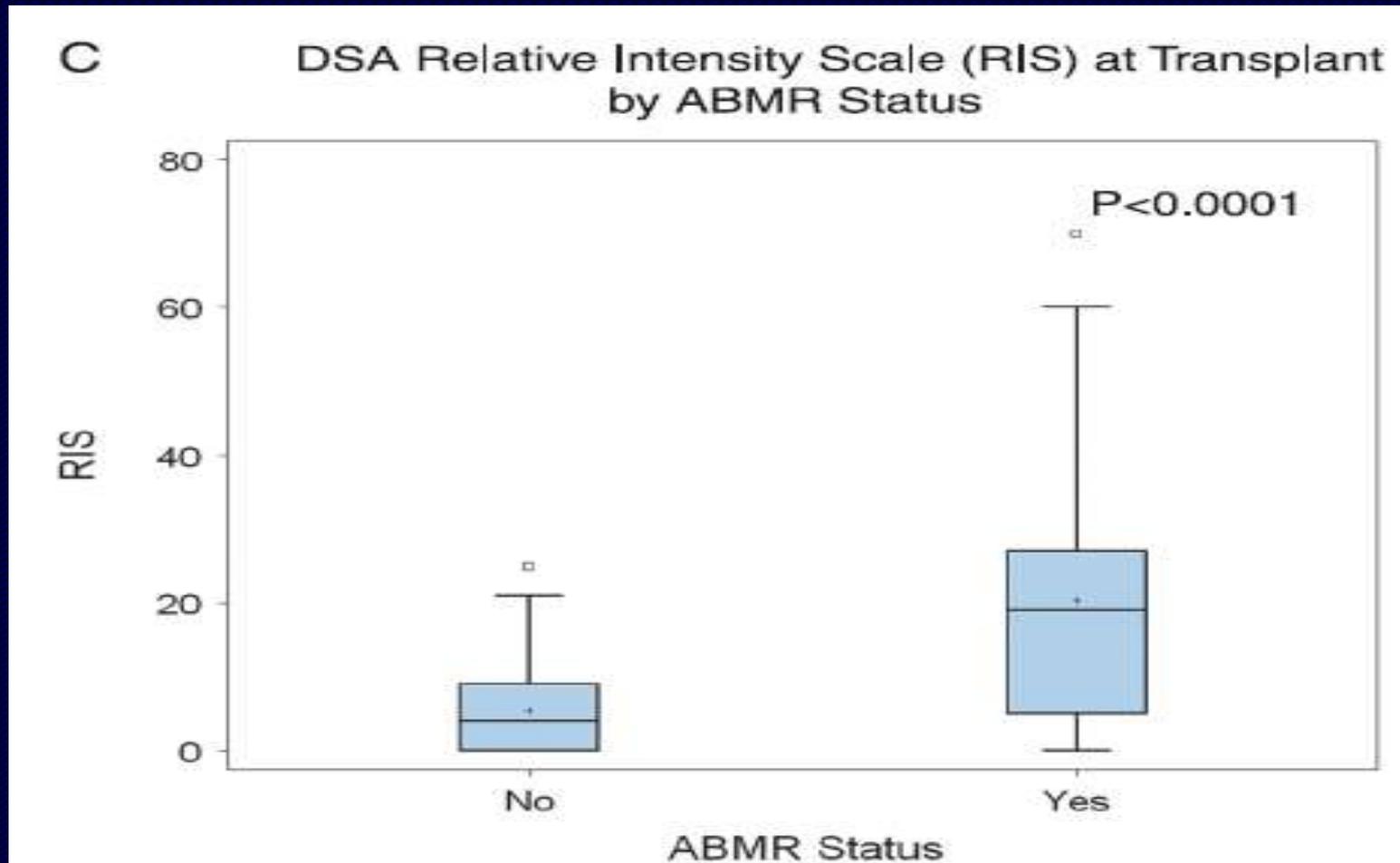
Incidence of Transplant Glomerulopathy Pos vs Neg Cross Match

Gloor et al AJT, 2010



Factors Predicting Graft Loss in Desensitized Patients

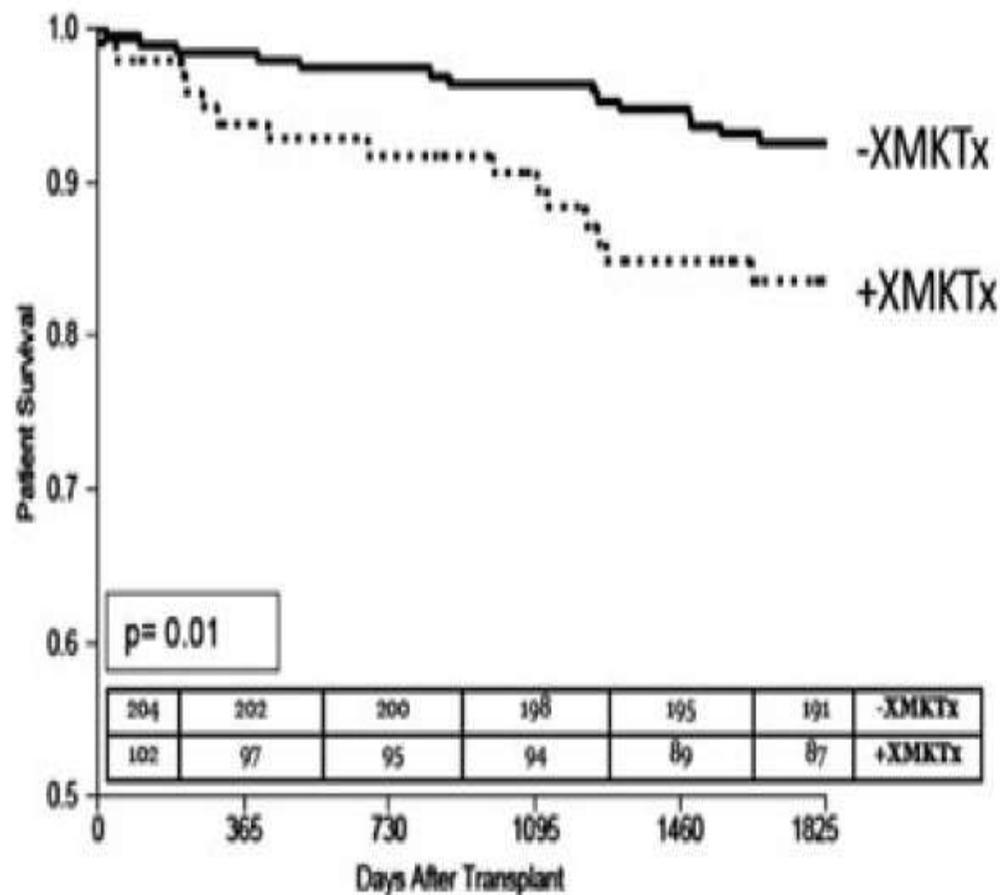
Vo et al Transplantation, 2015



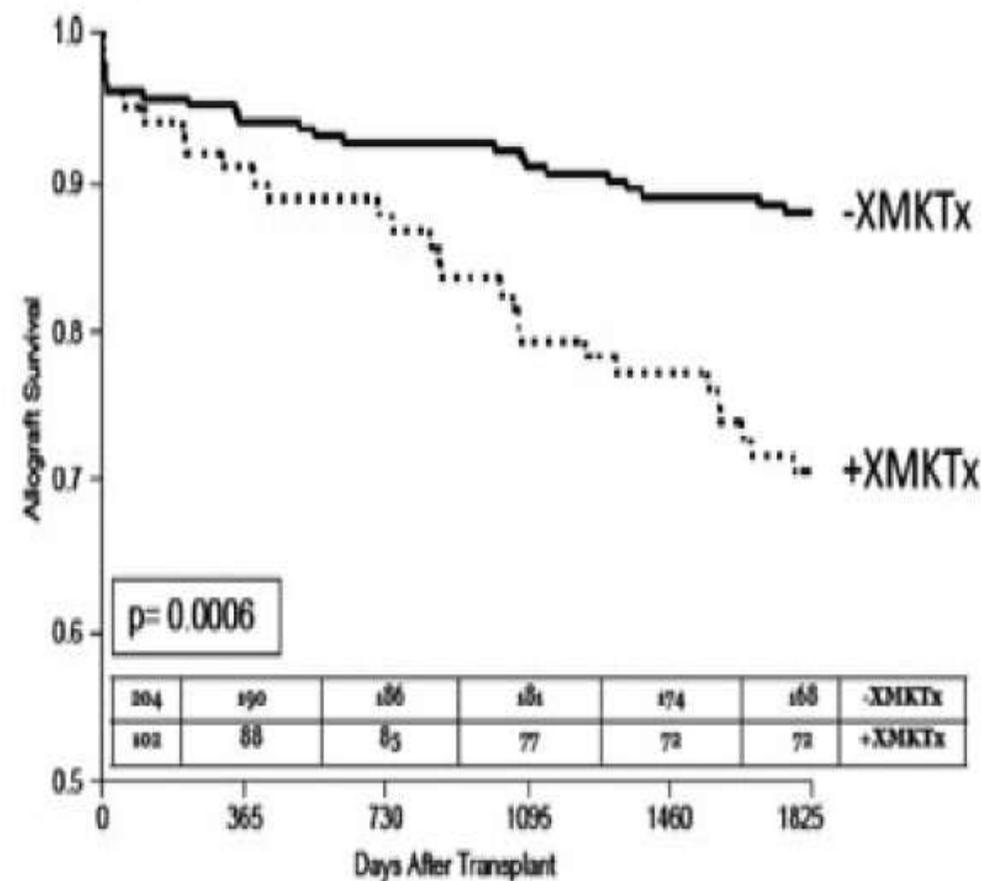
Outcomes in DSA Positive Renal Transplantation

Bentall et al AJT, 2013

A 5-year Patient Survival



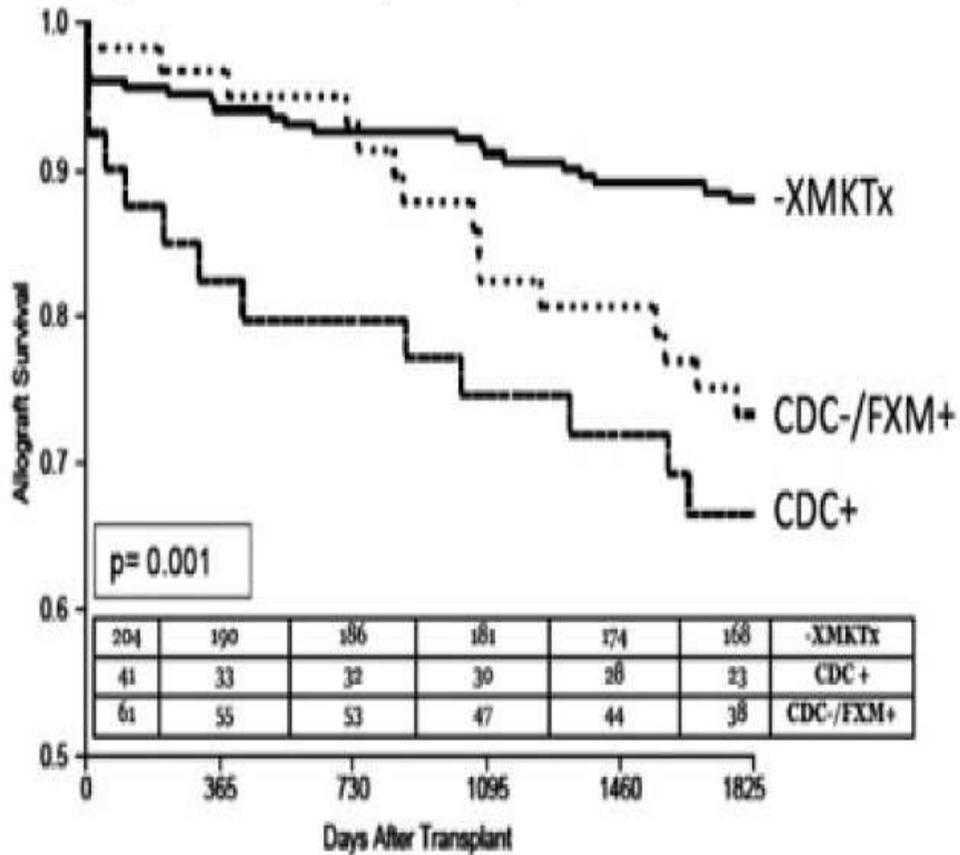
B 5-Year Overall Graft Survival



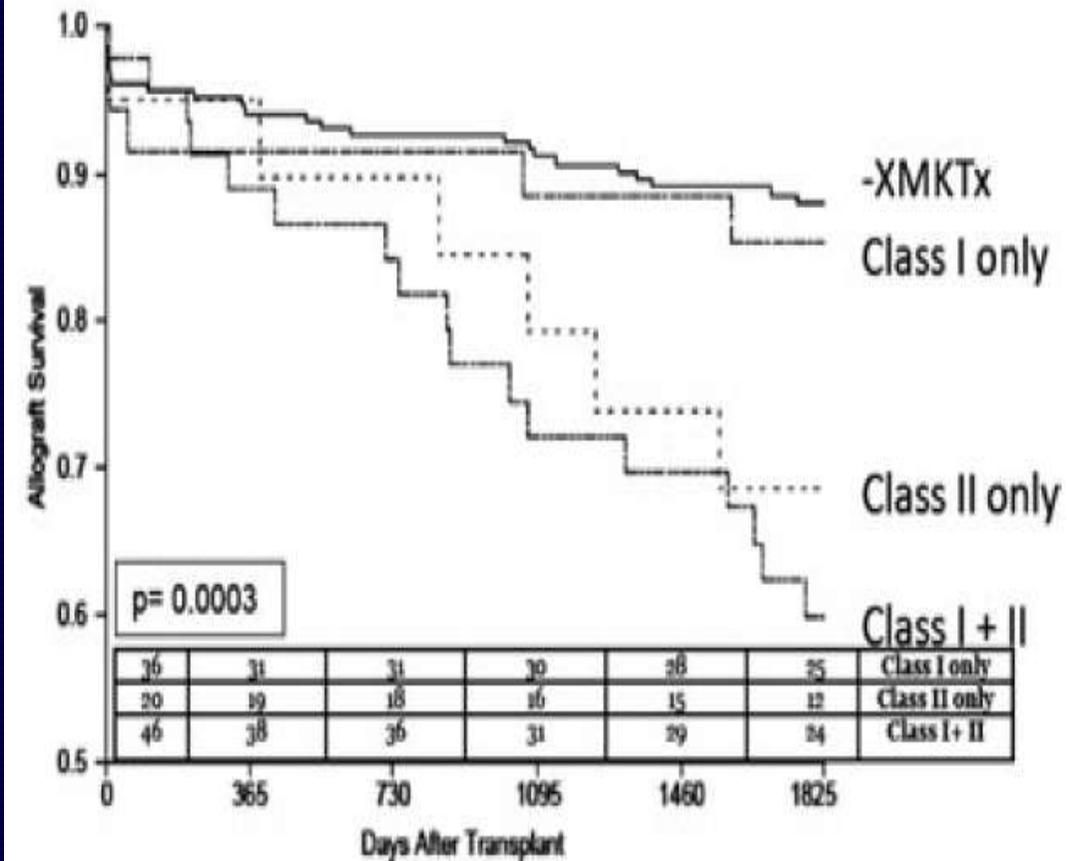
Outcomes in DSA Positive Renal Transplantation

Bentall et al AJT, 2013

C Graft Survival by Crossmatch Assay (CDC+ vs CDC-/FXM+)



D Graft Survival by Donor-Specific HLA Antibody Specificity



Antibody Mediated Rejection Within 1 Year Post Transplant and Outcome

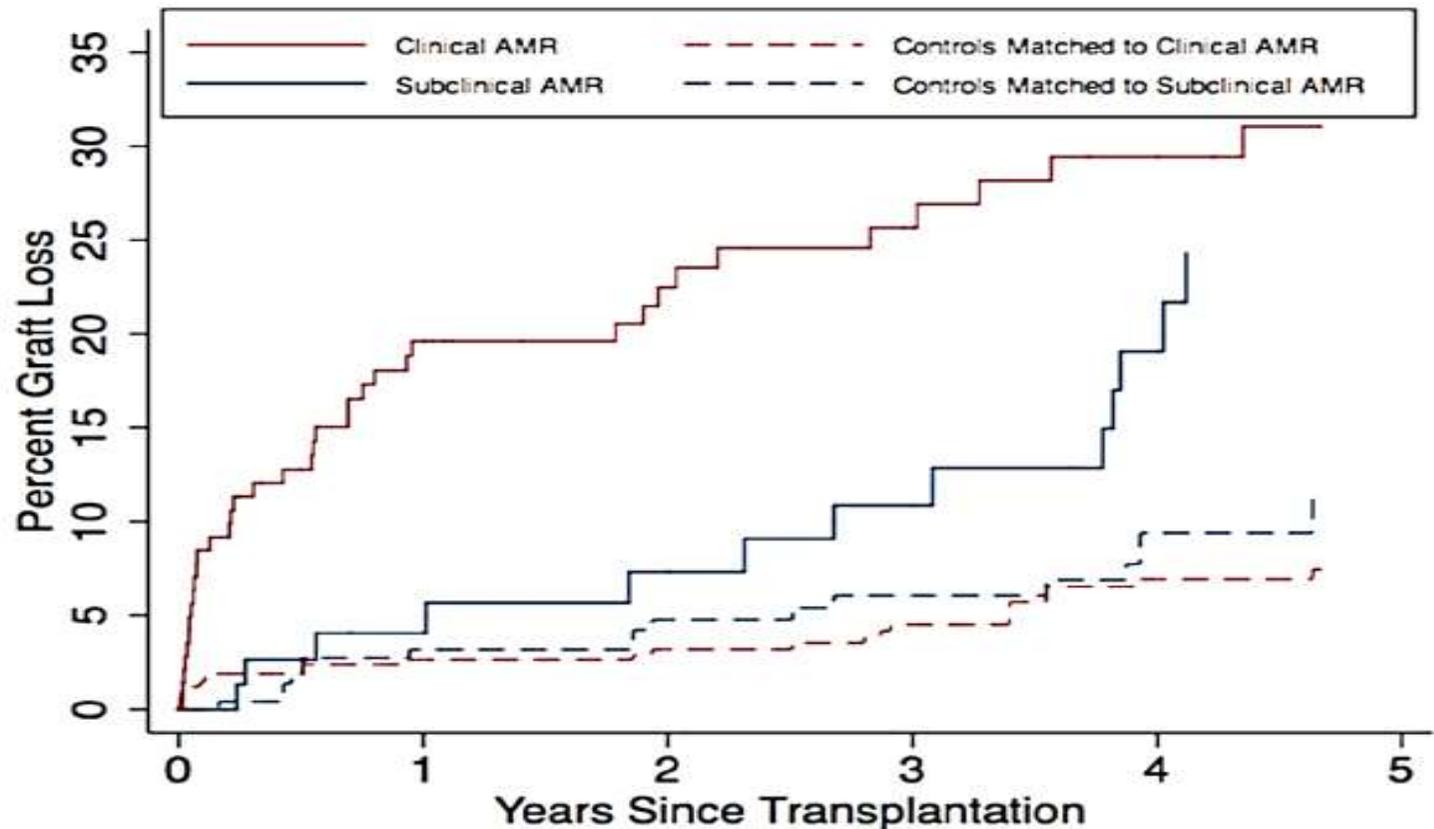
Orandi et al AJT, 2015

Table 2A: Antibody-mediated rejection incidence and presentation¹ by transplant type

Transplant type	Incidence of AMR		
	Overall (n = 219)	Subclinical presentation ² (n = 77)	Clin presentation (n = 142)
Deceased donor: compatible	1.7%	0.1%	1.6%
Deceased donor: HLA-incompatible	44.7%	16.5%	28.2%
Live donor: compatible	0.7%	0.5%	0.2%
Live donor: ABO-incompatible ³	13.6%	2.5%	11.1%
Live donor: HLA-incompatible	47.4%	18.1%	29.3%
Overall	9.5%	3.3%	6.1%

Antibody Mediated Rejection Within 1 Year Post Transplant and Outcome

Orandi et al AJT, 2015



Number at risk

Clinical AMR	142	104	82	68	55	42
Controls Matched to Clinical AMR	426	396	337	289	229	184
Subclinical AMR	77	66	57	50	39	29
Controls Matched to Subclinical AMR	231	209	181	143	108	80

Desensitization Outcomes- All Cause Graft Loss By Antibody Strength

Orandi et al AJT, 2014

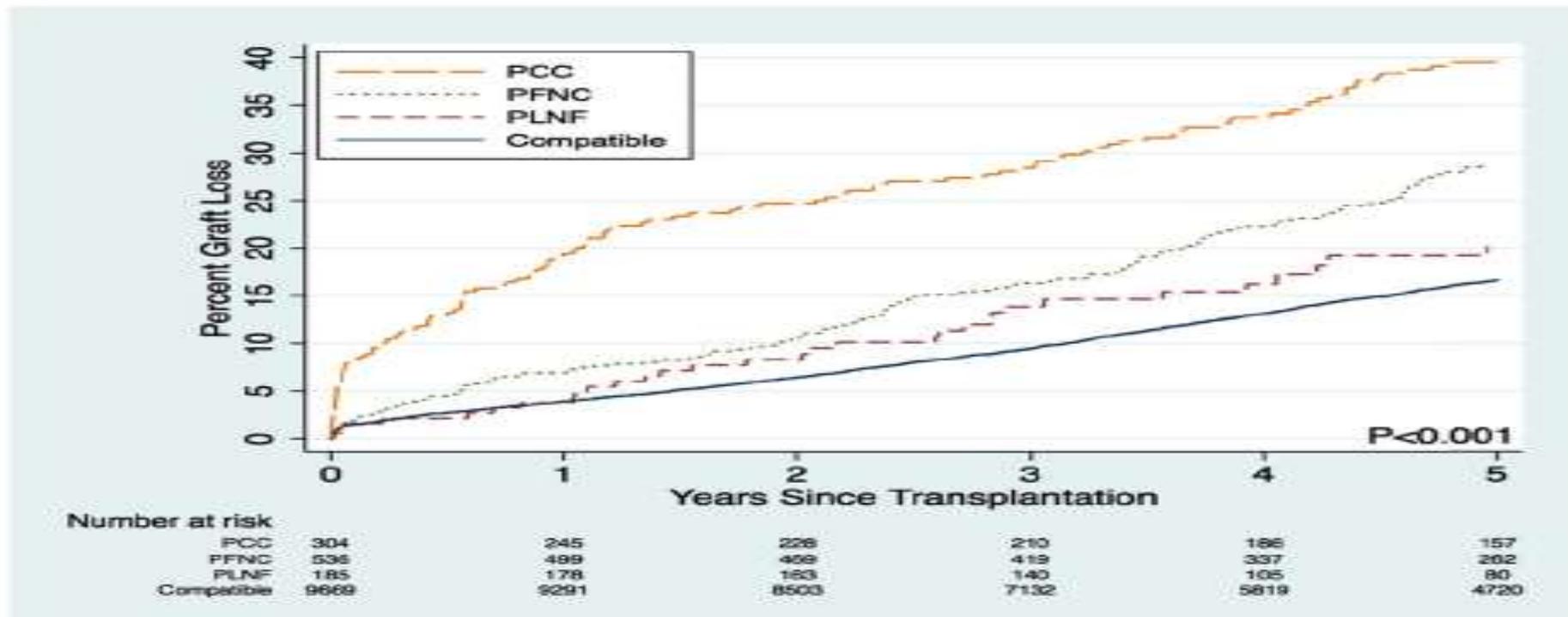


Figure 1: All-cause graft loss, by antibody strength. PCC, positive cytotoxic crossmatch; PFNC, positive flow, negative cytotoxic crossmatch; PLNF, positive Luminex, negative flow crossmatch.

Desensitization Outcomes- Mortality vs Antibody Strength

Orandi et al AJT, 2014

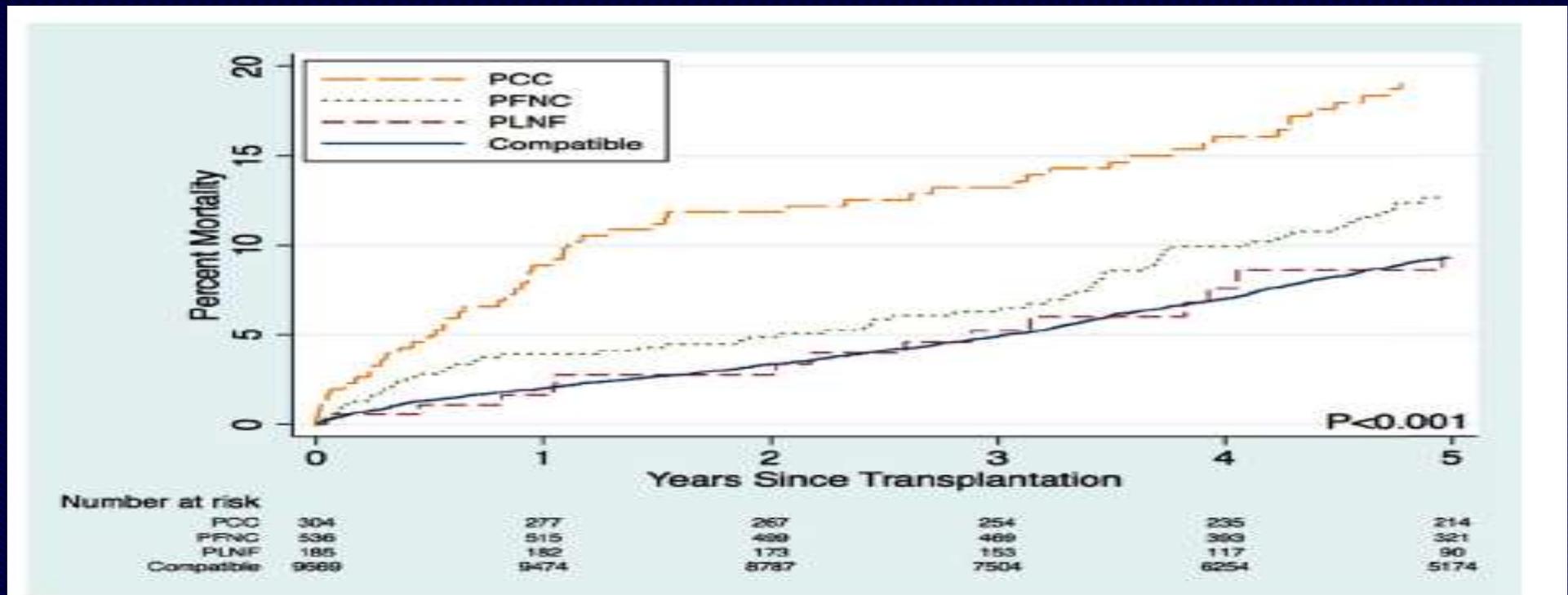


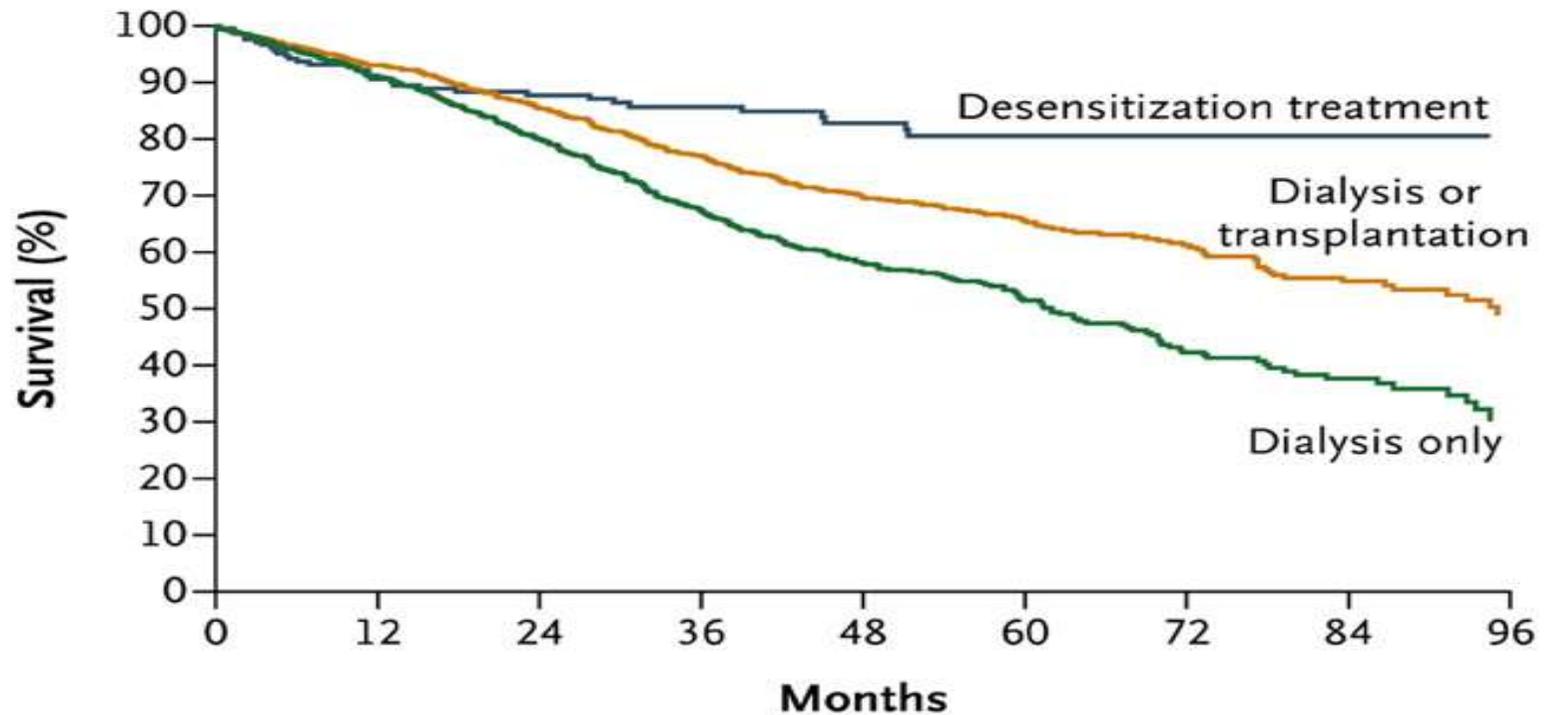
Figure 2: Posttransplant mortality, by antibody strength. PCC, positive cytotoxic crossmatch; PFNC, positive flow, negative cytotoxic crossmatch; PLNF, positive Luminex, negative flow crossmatch.

Caveats

- **No standardization of assays for antibody determination or cross match**
- **Different protocols for desensitization**
- **Different protocols for treatment of AMR**
- **Small number of patients at risk at 5 years especially for Flow X match negative group**

Outcomes in Highly Sensitized Pt

Segev et al NEJM, 2011

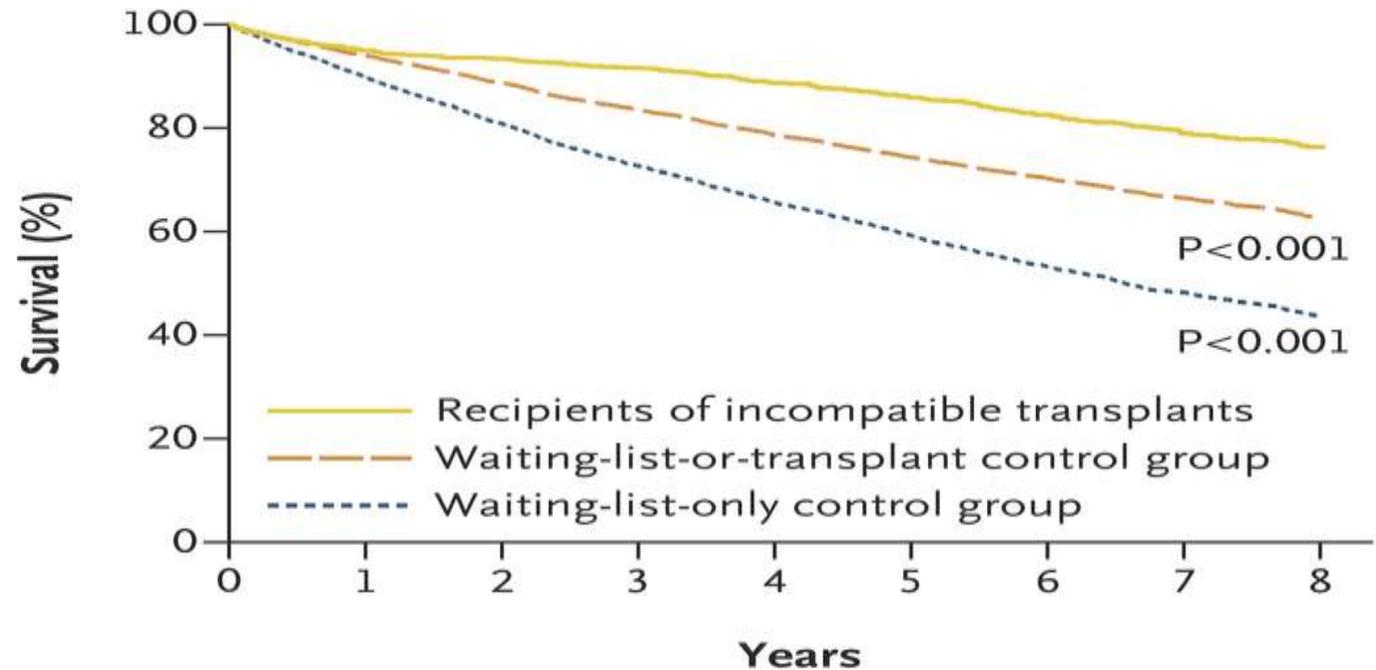


No. at Risk

Desensitization treatment	210	170	143	110	75	58	42	28	14
Dual therapy	1027	854	688	497	321	230	157	96	41
Dialysis only	1012	822	626	419	250	159	93	54	17

Survival in Incompatible Transplantation vs Remaining on the List

Segev et al NEJM, 2016

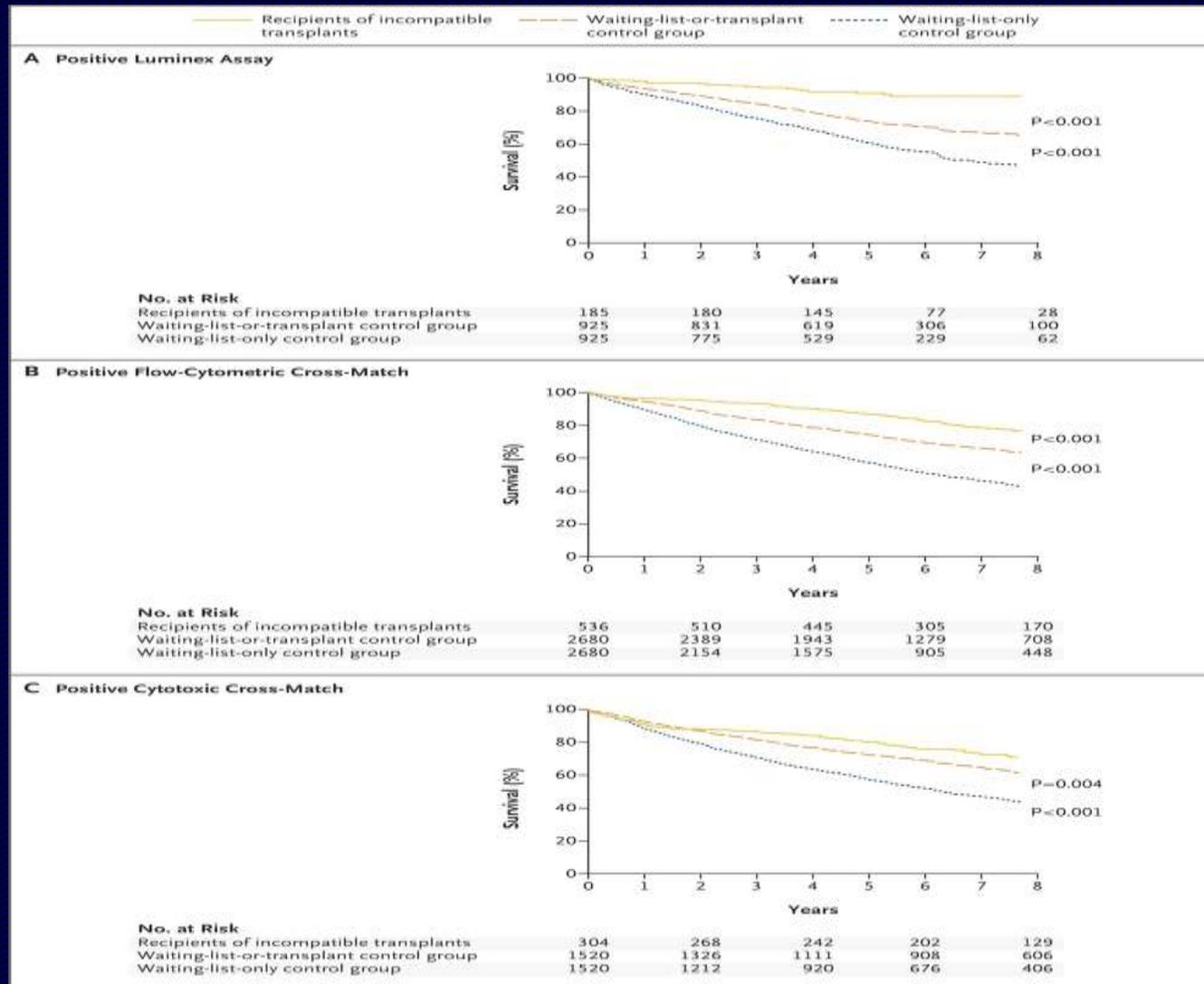


No. at Risk

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Recipients of incompatible transplants	1025	958	832	584	327				
Waiting-list-or-transplant control group	5125	4546	3673	2493	1414				
Waiting-list-only control group	5125	4141	3024	1810	916				

Survival vs Crossmatch Type

Segev et al NEJM, 2016



IVIg Alone Vs IVIg plus PP/Anti CD20Ab

Stegall et al AJT, 2006

Table 4: Humoral rejection rates

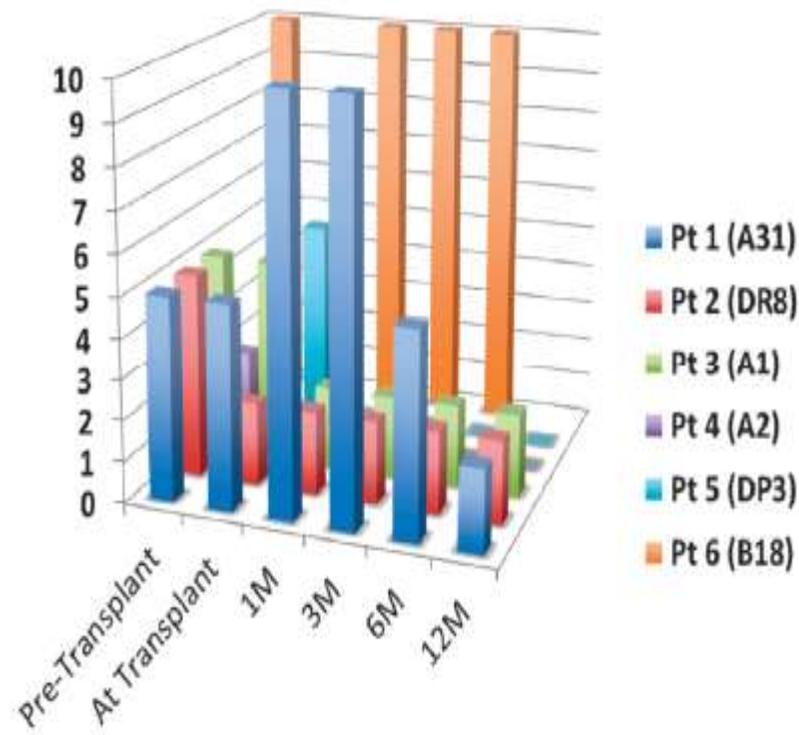
Negative crossmatch at transplant		N	Humoral rejection
	High-dose IVIG responders	5	4/5 (80%)
	PP/IVIg/anti-CD20 (includes 3 IVIG nonresponders)	30	11/30 (37%)
	PP/IVIg/monitoring	14	4/14 (29%)
Positive crossmatch at transplant			
	High-dose IVIG, PP/IVIg/anti-CD20 nonresponders	10	7/10 (70%) 5/10 allograft loss (50%)

IVIg +/- Rituximab for Desensitization

Vo et al, Transplantation, 2014

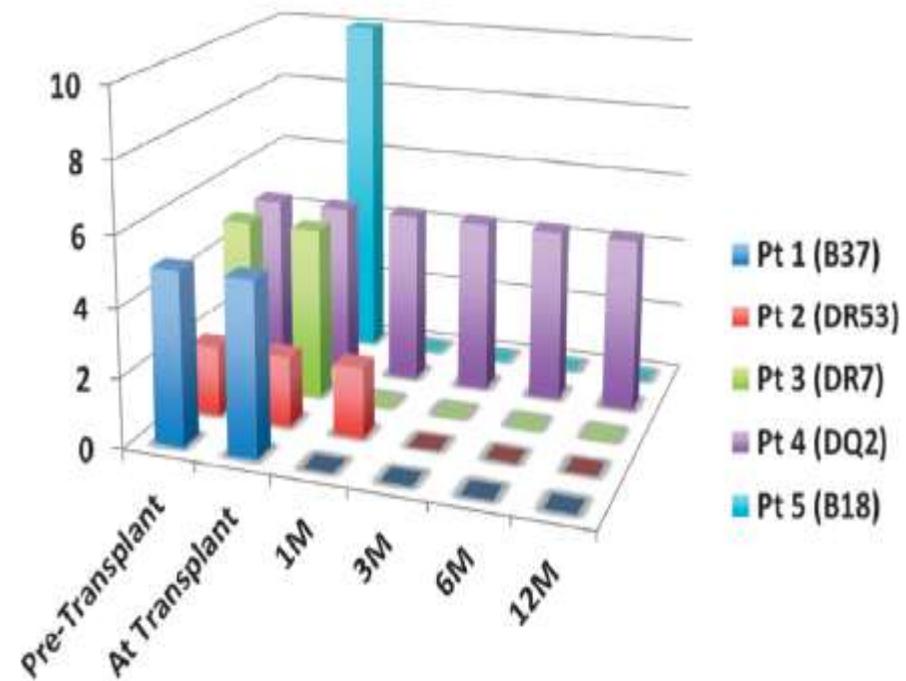
A

Highest DSA Level in IVIG + Placebo Group



B

Highest DSA Level in IVIG + Rituximab Group



Systematic Review of Rituxumab in Desensitization

Macklin et al Transplantation, 2014

TABLE 3. Outcomes of studies of rituximab for desensitization in recipients with positive DSA

Study (yr) country	Inclusion criteria	No. of patients (RTX/non-RTX)	Study period, mo	Treatment regimen (RTX/non-RTX)	Baseline IS	T-cell induction therapy
<i>Retrospective cohort studies</i>						
Hirai (2012) Japan (27, 28, 46–50)	DSA MFI >800	113 (74/39)	60	RTX+PP/±PP	TAC, MMF+CS	BXM
Loupy (2010) France (29, 51, 52)	DSA MFI >1000	96 (43/53)	12	RTX, IVIg +PP/IVIg	CNI, MMF+CS	ATG

Patient survival	Graft survival	Incidence of rejection	Graft function	Negative CDC-XM	Adverse effects	Downs and Black Score
Not reported	Not reported	Favors RTX	No difference	Favors RTX	Not reported	19/32
Not reported	Not reported	Favors RTX	No difference	No difference ^c	Not reported	Not applicable

Eculizumab vs Retrospective Control as Prophylaxis in Flow Cross Match Pos Transplants

Stegall et al AJT, 2011

Table 2: Posttransplant outcomes in the eculizumab-treated and control groups

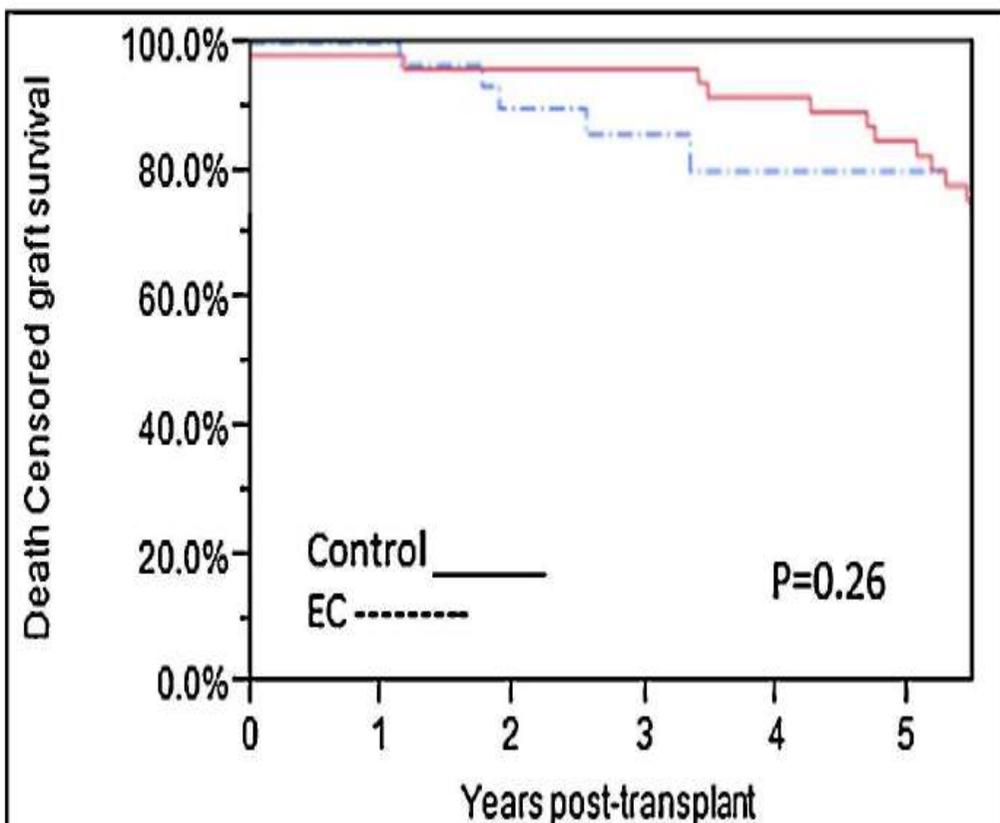
Category	Eculizumab group (n = 26)	Control group (n = 51)	p-Value
Follow-up (mean months \pm SD, range)	11.8 \pm 6.3 (3.0–27.5)	48.8 \pm 14.1 (7.8–69.8)	
Graft survival at 1 year (n, %)	16/16 (100%)	49/51 (96%)	1.00
Antibody-mediated rejection \leq 3months (n, %)	2 (7.7%)	21 (41%)	0.0031
Patients developing high DSA levels \leq 3 months ¹	13 (50%)	22 (43%)	0.63
High DSA biopsies C4d+ (n, %)	13 (100%)	20 (91%)	0.52
High DSA and C4d+ biopsies showing AMR (n, %)	2 (15%)	20 (100%)	<0.0001
Cellular rejection \leq 3 months (n, %)	1 (6.2%)	1 (2%)	0.42
Plasma exchange posttransplant			
Patients receiving PE (n, %)	3 (12%)	39 (76%)	<0.0001
Number of PE treatments (mean \pm SD)	0.35 \pm 1.1	7.9 \pm 7.5	<0.0001
Splenectomy (n, %)	0 (0%)	9 (18%)	0.025
Graft dysfunction in first month (mg/dL) (maximum serum creatinine – nadir serum creatinine)	0.45 \pm 0.37	0.93 \pm 1.15	0.05
Histology at 1 year			
Transplant glomerulopathy incidence (n, %)	1/15 (6.7%)	15/42 (36%)	0.044

Death Censored Graft Survival and Causes of Graft Loss

Cornell et al AJT, 2015

Cornell et al

A.

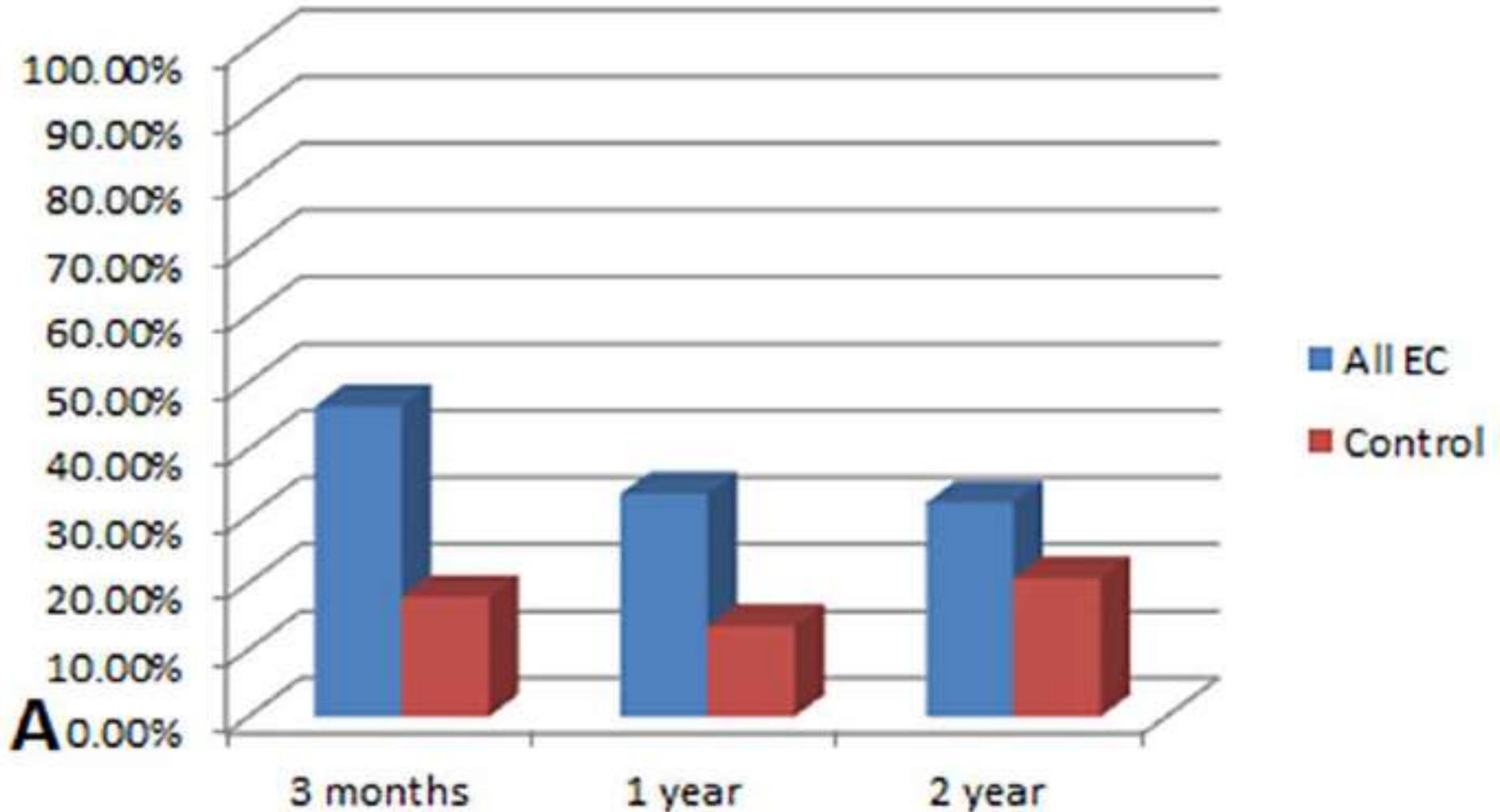


B.

	Eculizumab n=6	Control n=17	p-value
Transplant glomerulopathy	5 (83.3%)	10 (58.8%)	P=0.37
Death with Function	1 (16.7%)	3 (17.6%)	P=1.0
Recurrent Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis	0 (0%)	1 (5.9%)	P=1.0
Recurrent IgA Nephropathy	0 (0%)	1 (5.9%)	P=1.0
Late Combined Cellular & Antibody Mediated Rejection	0 (0%)	1 (5.9%)	P=1.0
Unknown	0 (0%)	1 (5.9%)	P=1.0

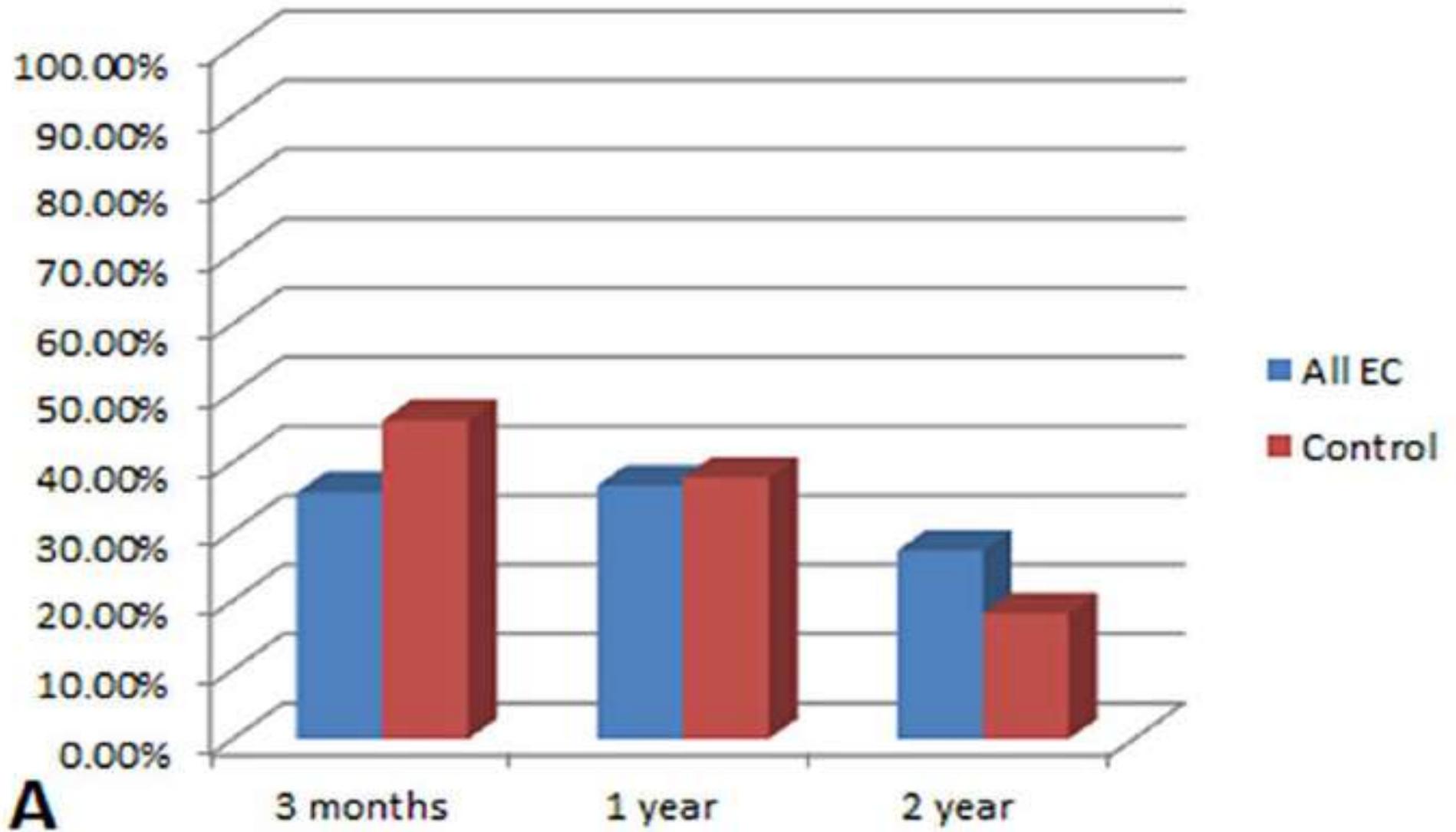
C4d in Each Group

Cornell et al AJT, 2015



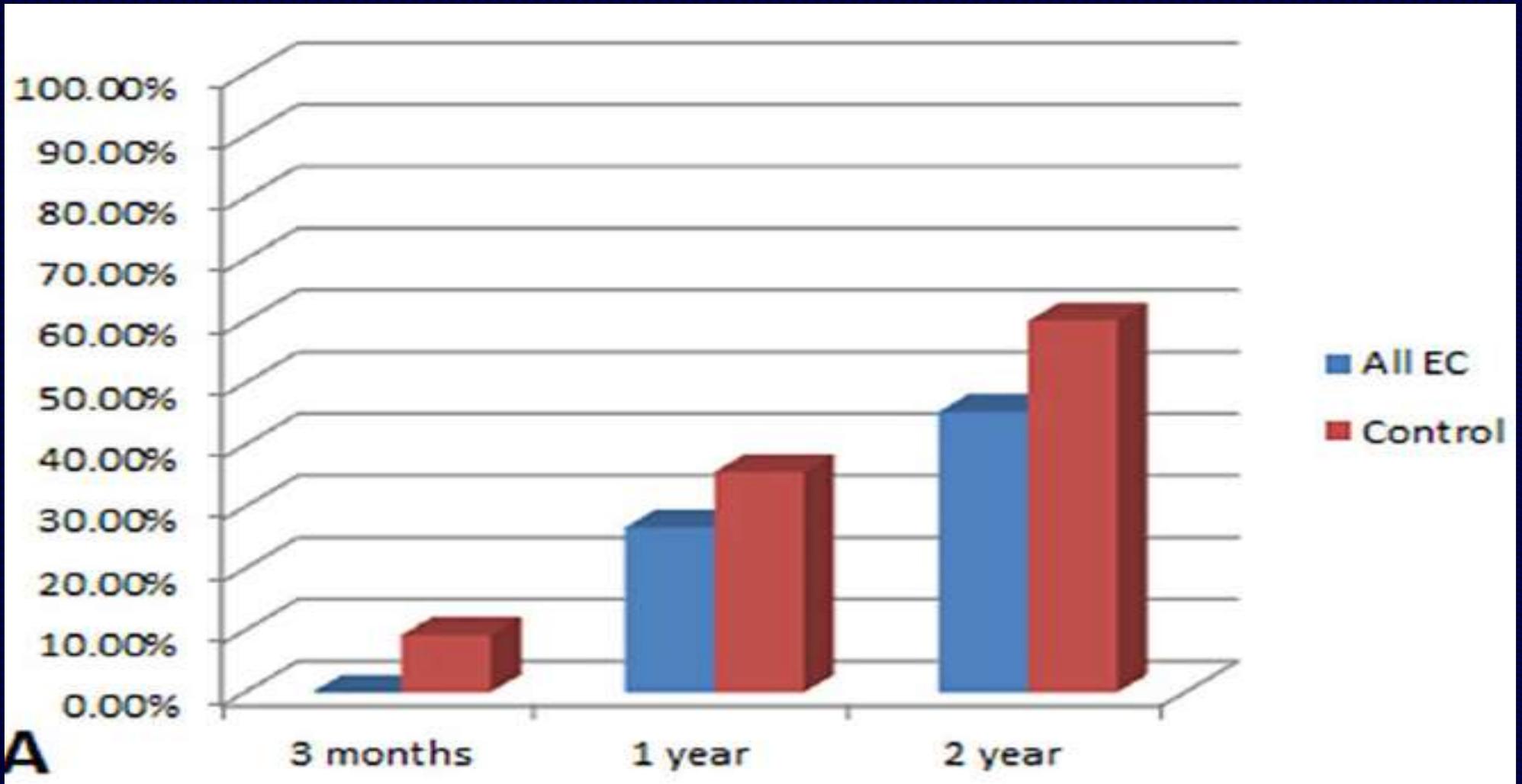
Subclinical ABMR

Cornell et al AJT, 2015



Transplant Glomerulopathy

Cornell et al AJT, 2015



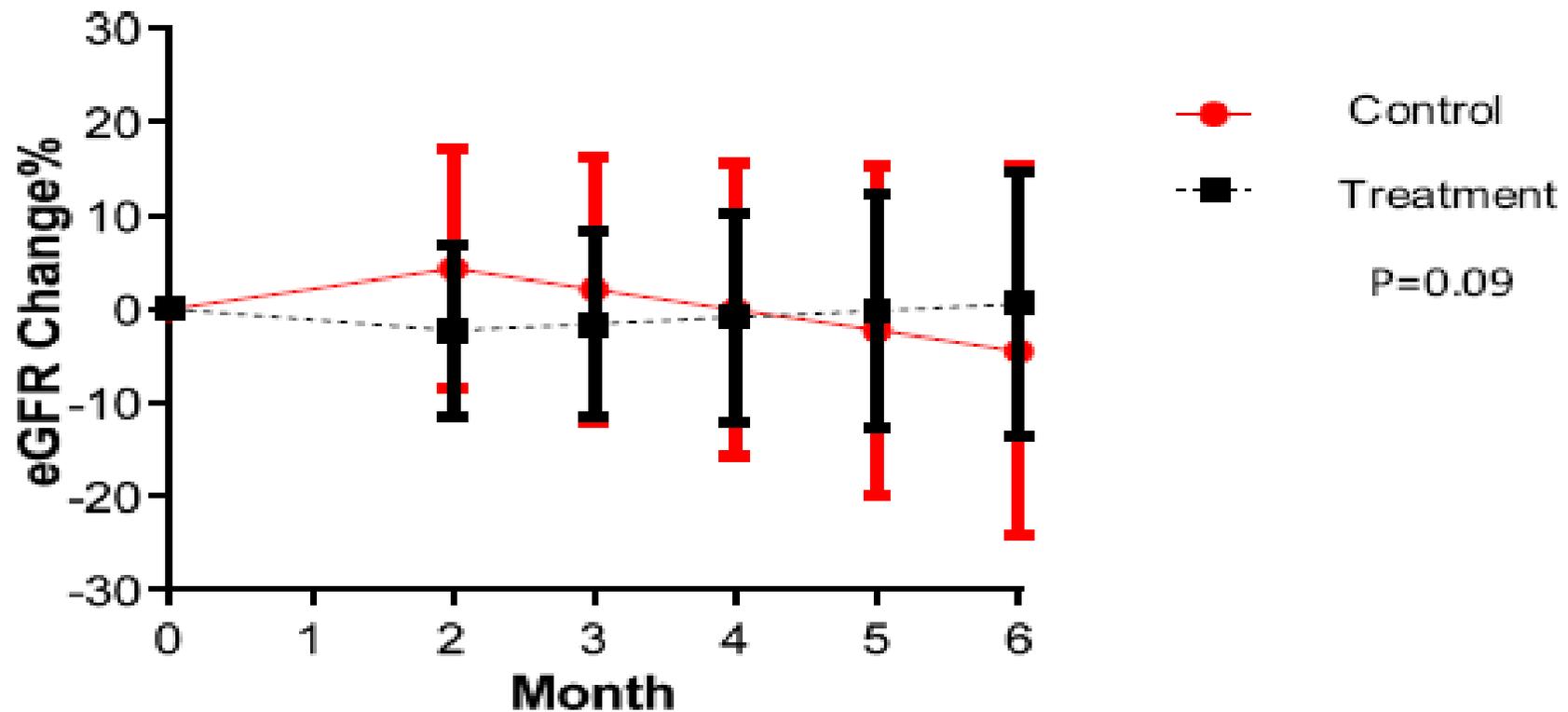
Eculizumab in DSA pos Recipients

Glantz et al ESOT, 2016

- **80 DSA pos recipients got Eculizumab prophylactically**
- **Acute ABMR at 1 year 6% vs 30% historical controls**
- **GS (87%) similar to DSA negative at 1 year**
- **Creatinine at 1 year 158uM**

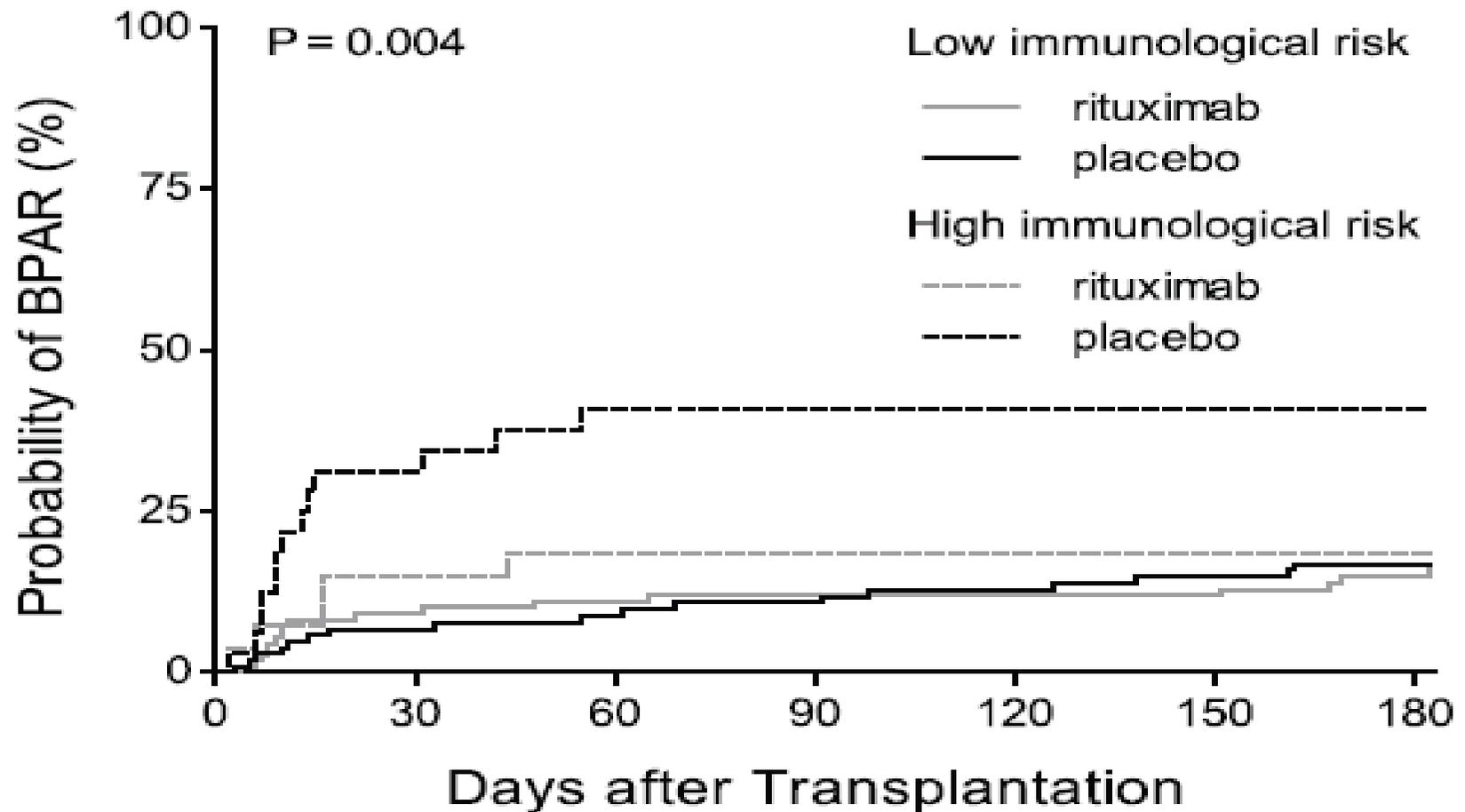
Pilot Study to Determine Effect of Eculizumab in DSA pos and Falling GFR

Kulkarni et al AJT, 2016



RCT of Rituxumab vs Placebo as Induction Therapy

Van Den Hoogen et al AJT, 2015



Randomized Pilot of Bortezomib and Rituxumab in Sensitized Patients

Ejaz et al AJT, 2013

Table 4: Rejection data for the first year following transplantation¹

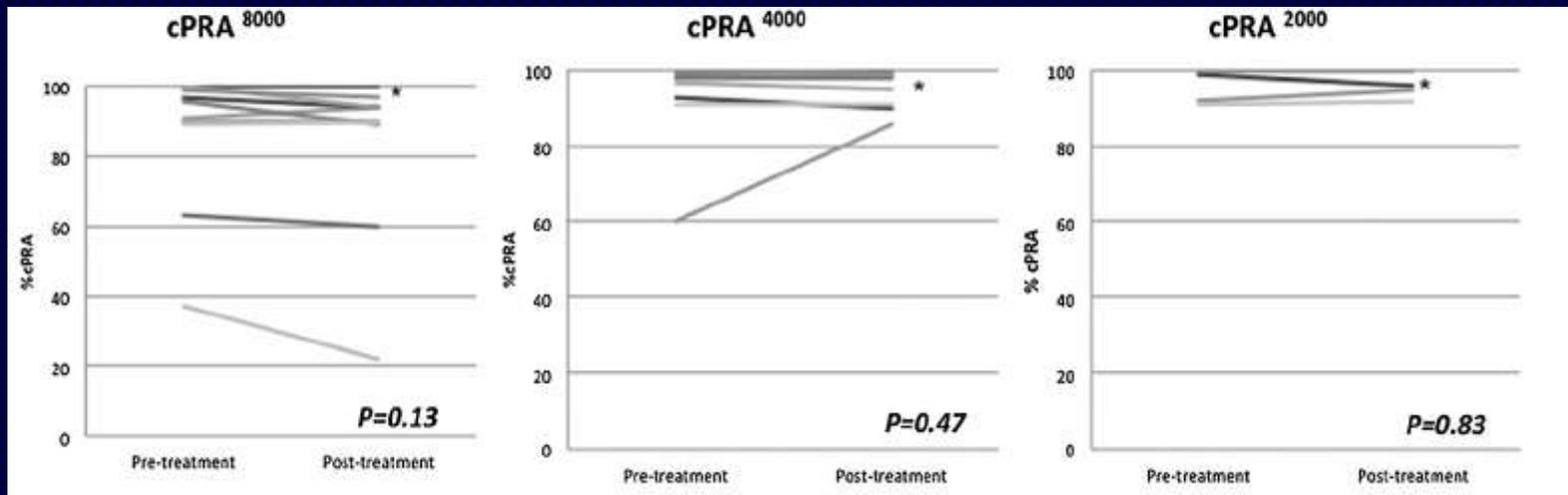
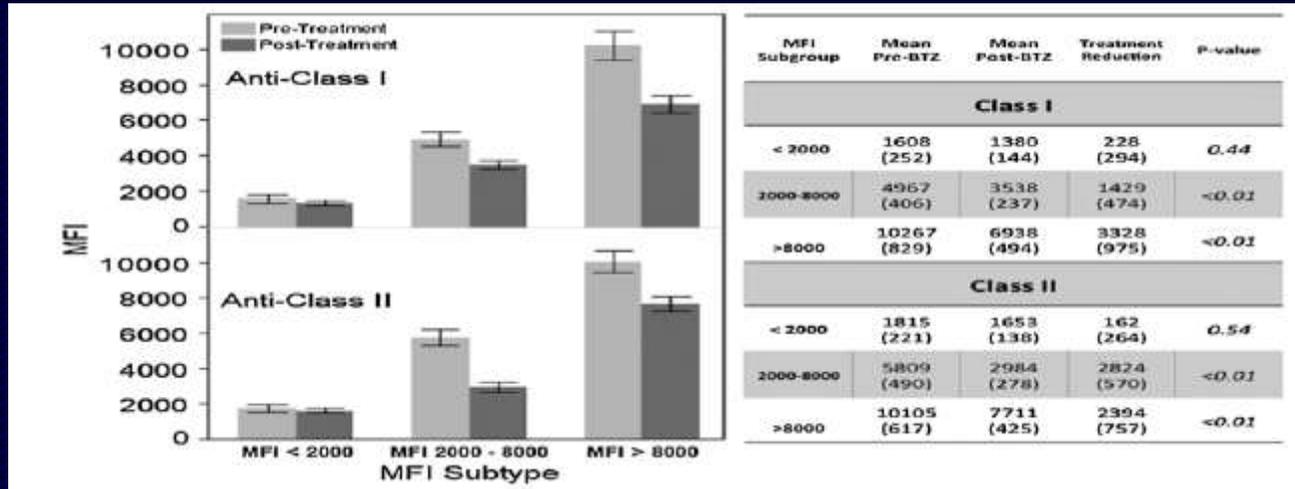
	rATG alone (N = 10)	rATG + Ritux (N = 10)	rATG + Bortez (N = 10)	rATG + Ritux + Bortez (N = 10)	p-Value
Overall acute rejection, n (%)	2 (20%)	0 (0%)	5 (50%)	3 (30%)	0.084
Early acute rejection, n (%)	2 (20%)	0 (0%)	3 (30%)	2 (20%)	0.46
Late acute rejection, n (%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (20%)	1 (10%)	0.60
First rejection episode, n (%)					
Antibody-mediated rejection	1 (10%)	0 (0%)	3 (30%)	1 (10%)	0.36
Acute cellular rejection	1 (10%)	0 (0%)	1 (10%)	0 (0%)	1.00
Mixed acute rejection	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (10%)	2 (20%)	0.60

Table 5: Patient survival, renal allograft survival and renal allograft functional outcomes for the first year after transplantation¹

	rATG alone (N = 10)	rATG + Ritux (N = 10)	rATG + Bortez (N = 10)	rATG + Ritux + Bortez (N = 10)	p-Value
Patient survival, n (%)	10 (100%)	10 (100%)	10 (100%)	9 (90%)	1.00
Allograft survival, n (%)	10 (100%)	10 (100%)	9 (90%)	9 (90%)	1.00
Death-censored allograft survival, n (%)	10 (100%)	10 (100%)	9 (90%)	10 (100%)	1.00

Effect of 32 Doses of Bortezomib on Sensitization in those with DSA to Living Donors

Moreno Gonzales et al Transplantation, 2016



Phase 1/2 RCT of C1 Inhibitor in Flow X Match Positive Transplants

Vo et al Transplantation, 2015

- **C1INH was safe**
- **C1INH may reduce ischemia perfusion injury**
- **C1INH reduced C1q pos HLA antibodies**
- **Further studies needed**

C1INH in Resistant ABMR

Lafaucheur et al ATC, 2016

- **6 pt with ABMR resistant to IVIg, PLEX, Rituximab**
- **Treated with C1INH for 6 months and compared to retrospective control group**
- **eGFR increased by 17 ml/min vs -13 ml/min in controls**
- **Reduced C4d on biopsy**
- **Reduced C1q pos DSA from 6/6 to 1/6**

Outcomes in DSA Positive Renal Transplantation

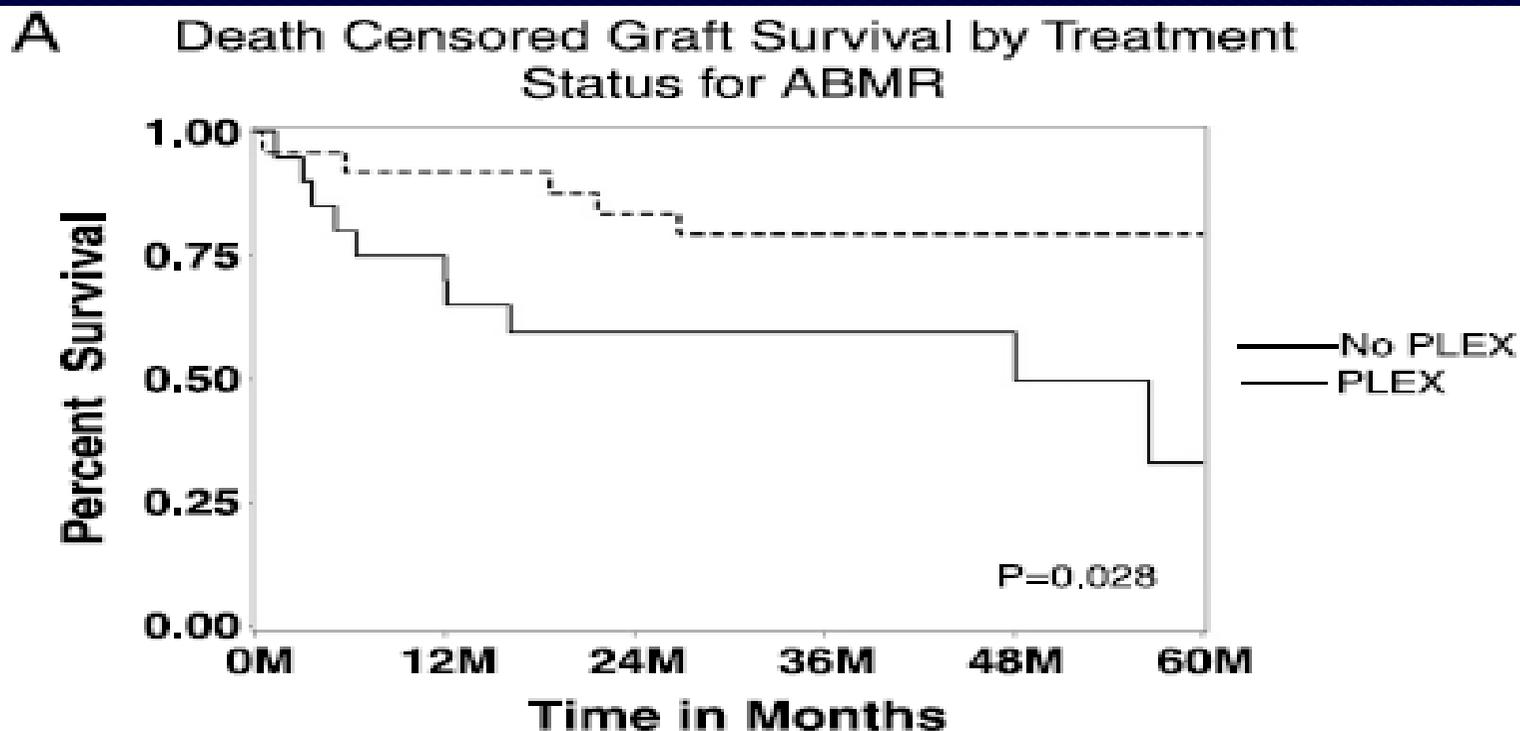
Bentall et al AJT, 2013

Table 2: Summary of histologic lesions commonly associated with anti-HLA antibody. The overall incidence of histologic changes commonly associated with anti-HLA antibody found on paired surveillance biopsies obtained at 1 and 5 years after transplantation are shown

	Chronic glomerulopathy		Acute glomerulitis		Peritubular capillaritis	
	1 year	5 years	1 years	5 years	1 year	5 years
-XMKTx	4.2%	7.4%	7.4%	6%	Not done	Not done
+XMKTx	21.2%	54.5%	30.3%	63.6%	63.3%	50%
Class I	10%	50%	20%	50%	50%	55.7%
Class II/I	26.1%	56.5%	34.7%	65.2%	66.6%	90.9%

Factors Predicting Graft Loss in Desensitized Patients

Vo et al Transplantation, 2015



No PLEX * (N=25)	25	22	20	15	9	5
PLEX** (N=20)	20	14	9	6	6	2

* |V|G + rituximab

** PLEX + |V|G + rituximab

Baseline DSA in Positive Crossmatch Transplantation

Gloor et al AJT, 2010

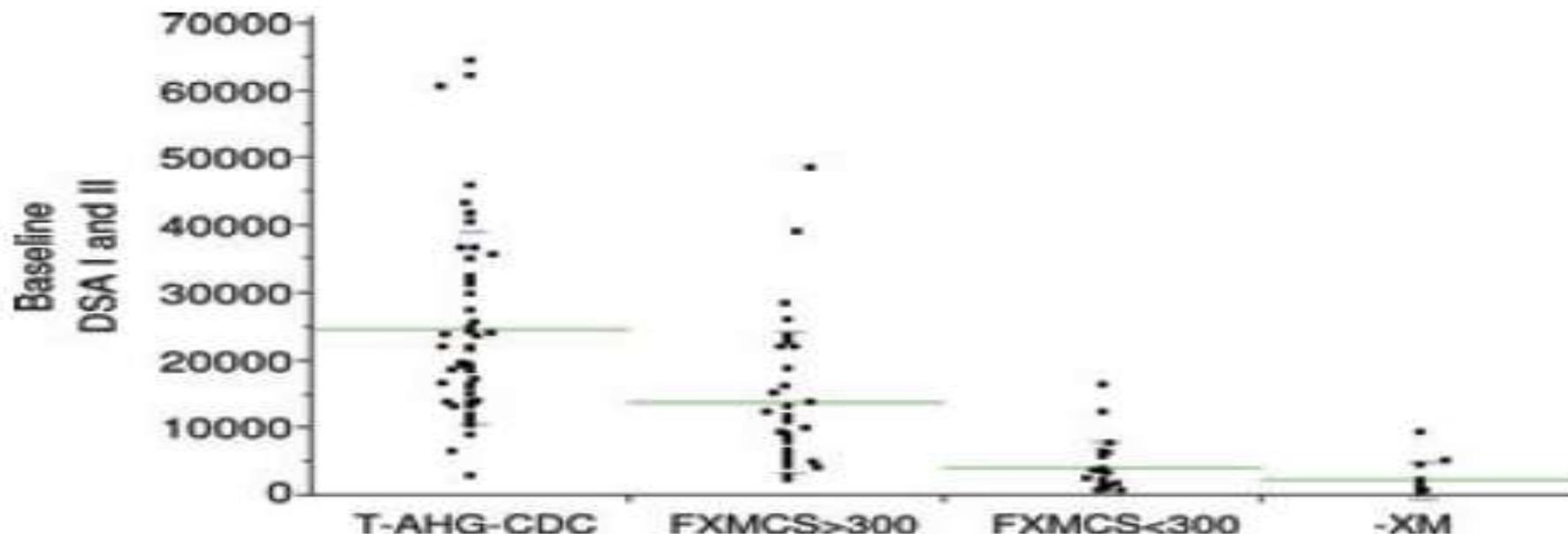
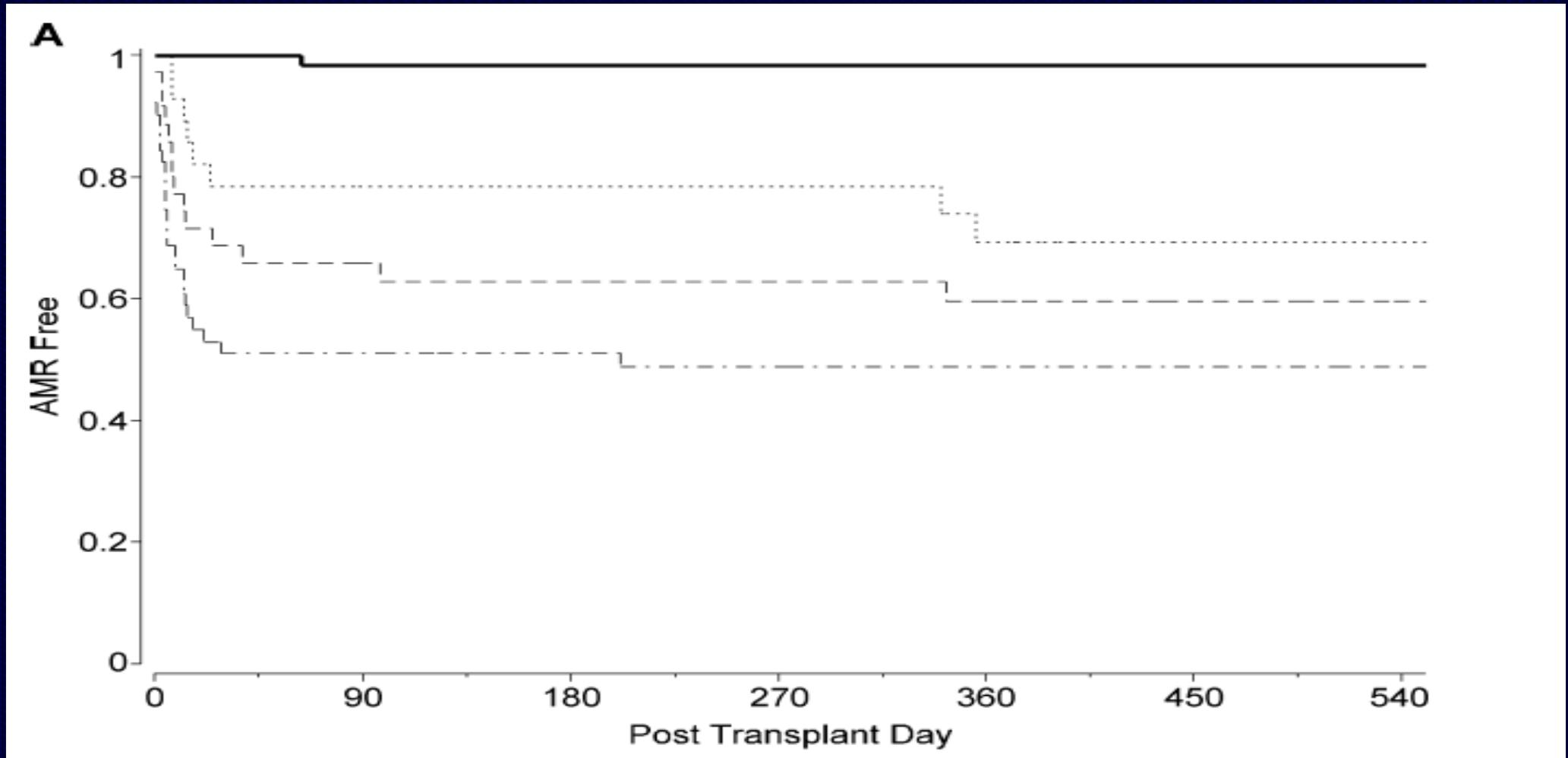


Figure 1: Baseline DSA level analyzed using Luminex single antigen flow beads vs. cell-based crossmatch transplant group. (A) Sum of HLA class I and II DSA combined MFI (mean \pm SD): (T-AHG-CDC+: 24 649 \pm 14 252; FXMCS >300: 13 722 \pm 10 578; FXMCS <300: 4392 \pm 4250; -XM: 2266 \pm 2750). (T-AHG-CDC+ vs. FXMCS >300 vs. FXMCS <300; $p < 0.0001$).

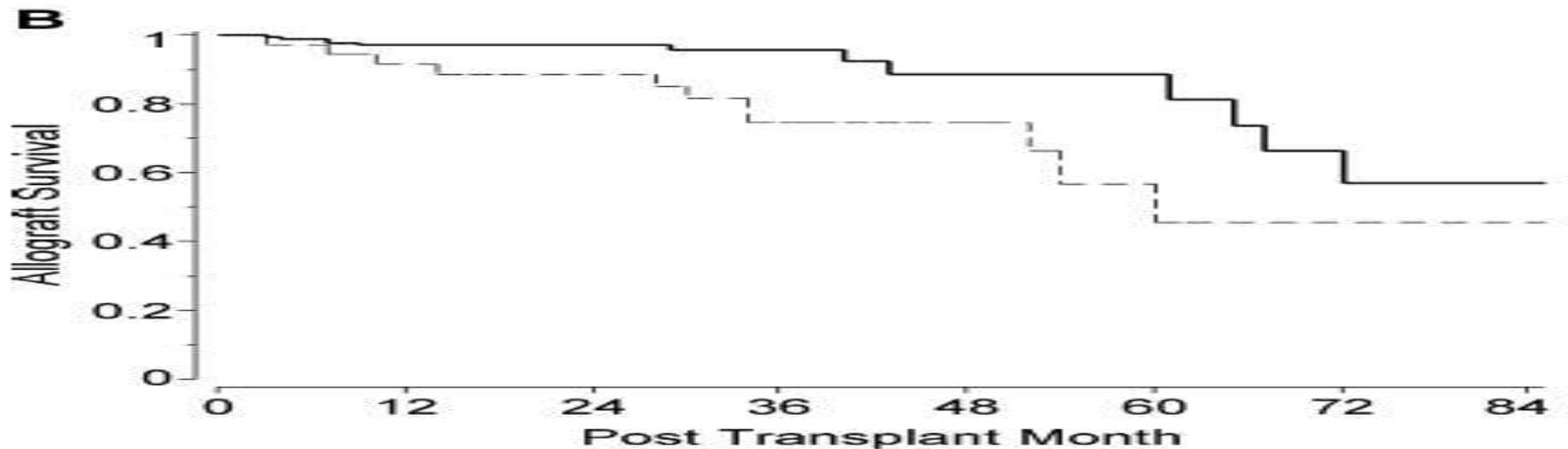
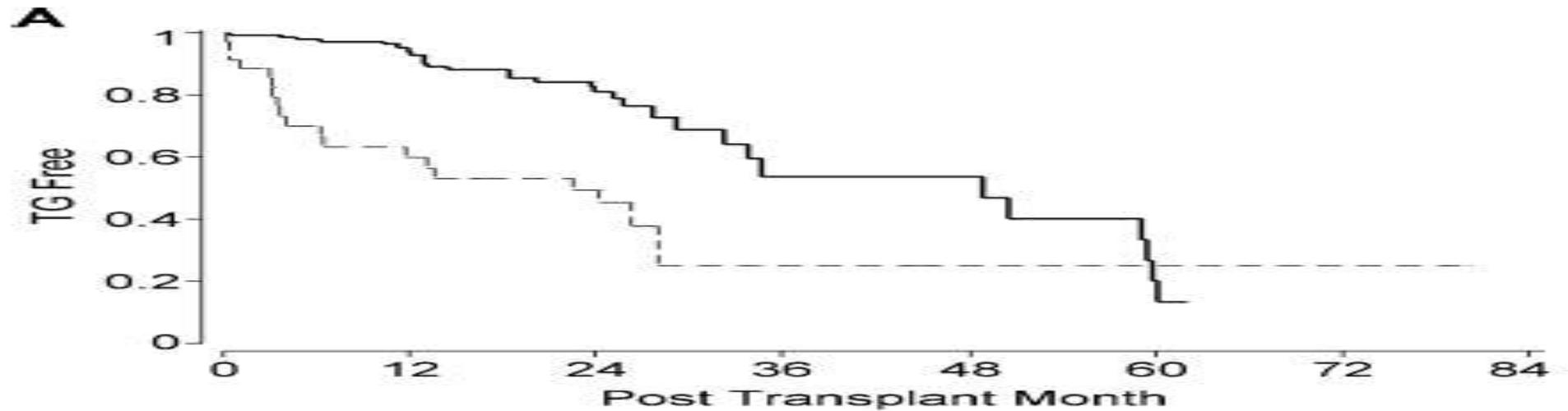
Acute Antibody Mediated Rejection vs Crossmatch Results

Gloor et al AJT, 2010



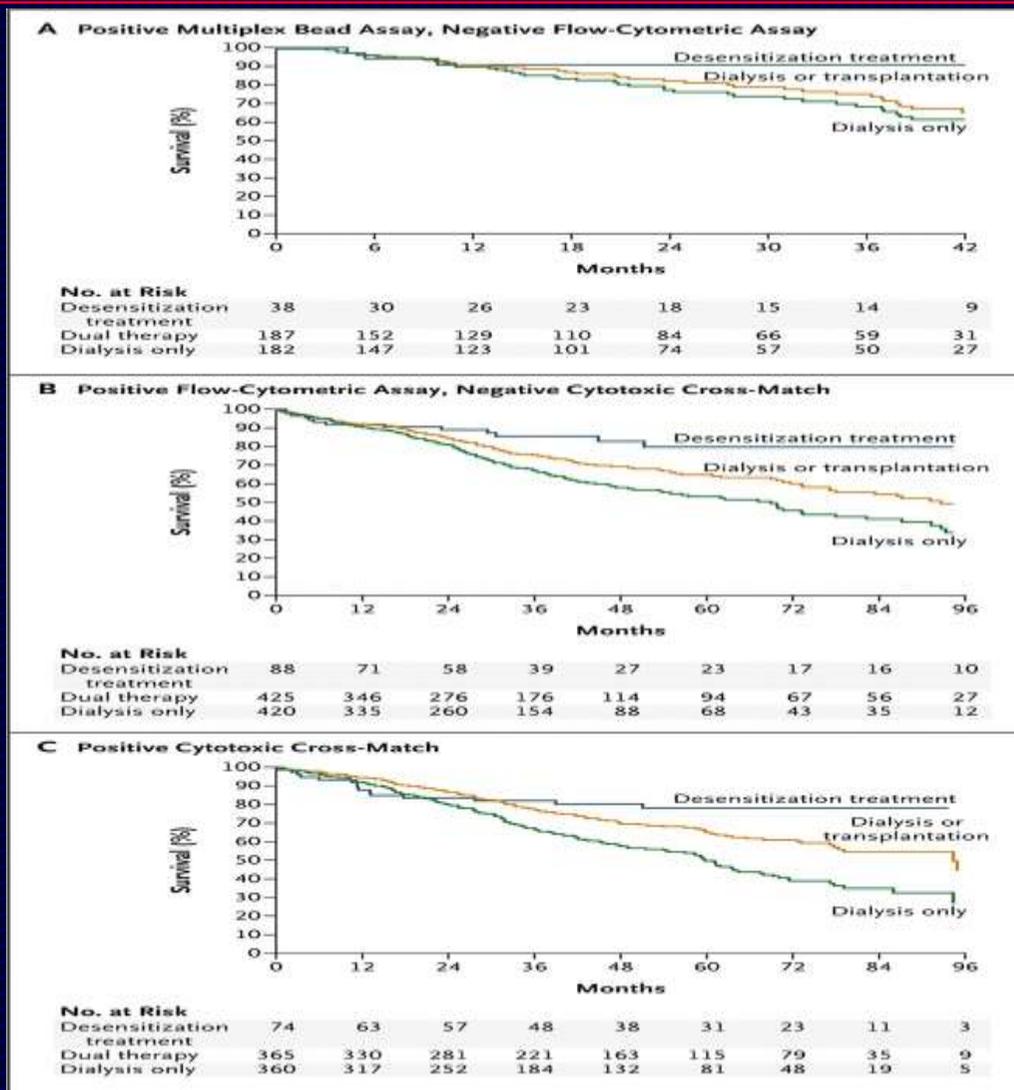
Impact of AMR on Transplant Glomerulopathy (A) and Death Censored Graft Survival (B)

Gloor et al AJT, 2010



Survival in Desensitization vs Compatible Transplantation or Dialysis

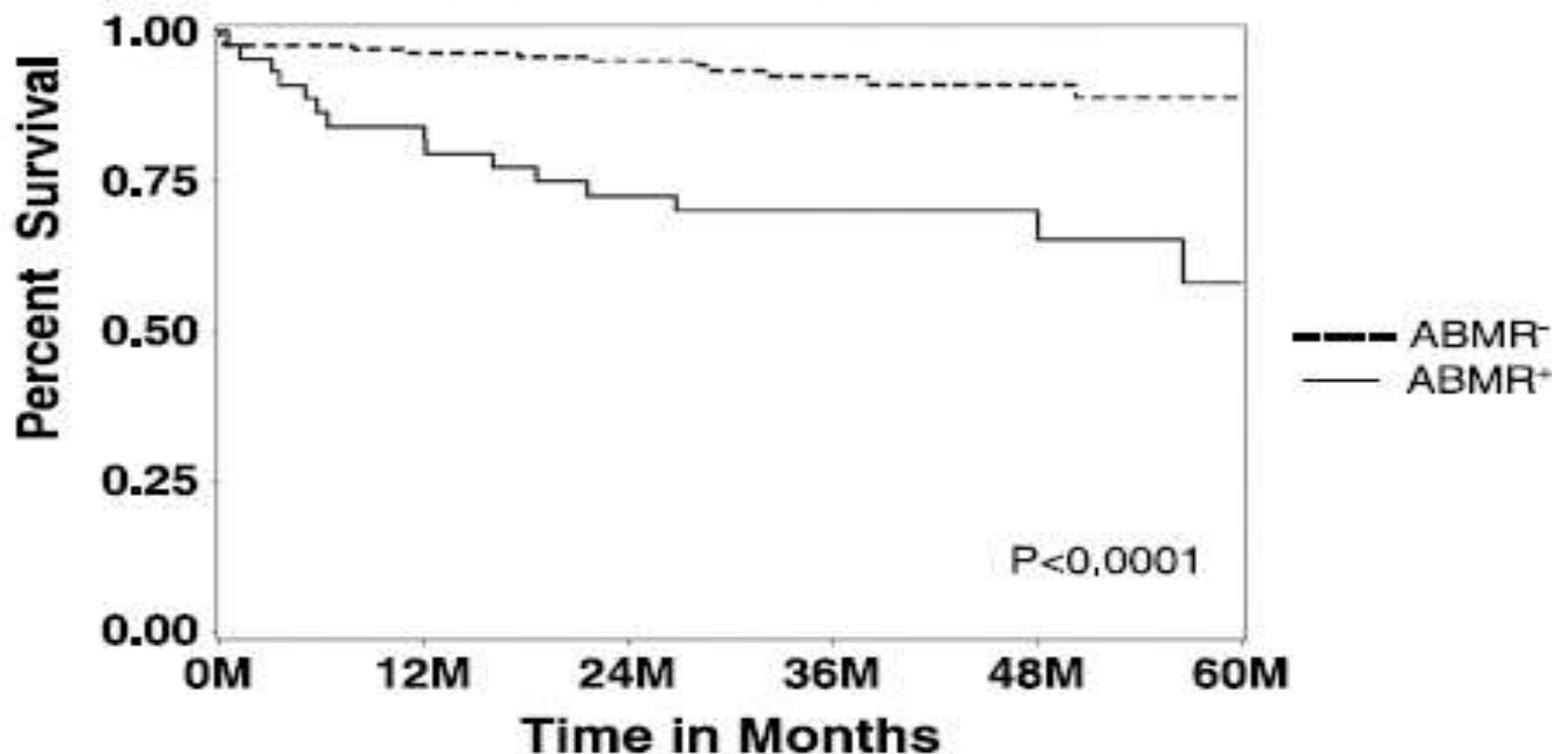
Segev et al NEJM, 2011



Factors Predicting Graft Loss in Desensitized Patients

Vo et al Transplantation, 2015

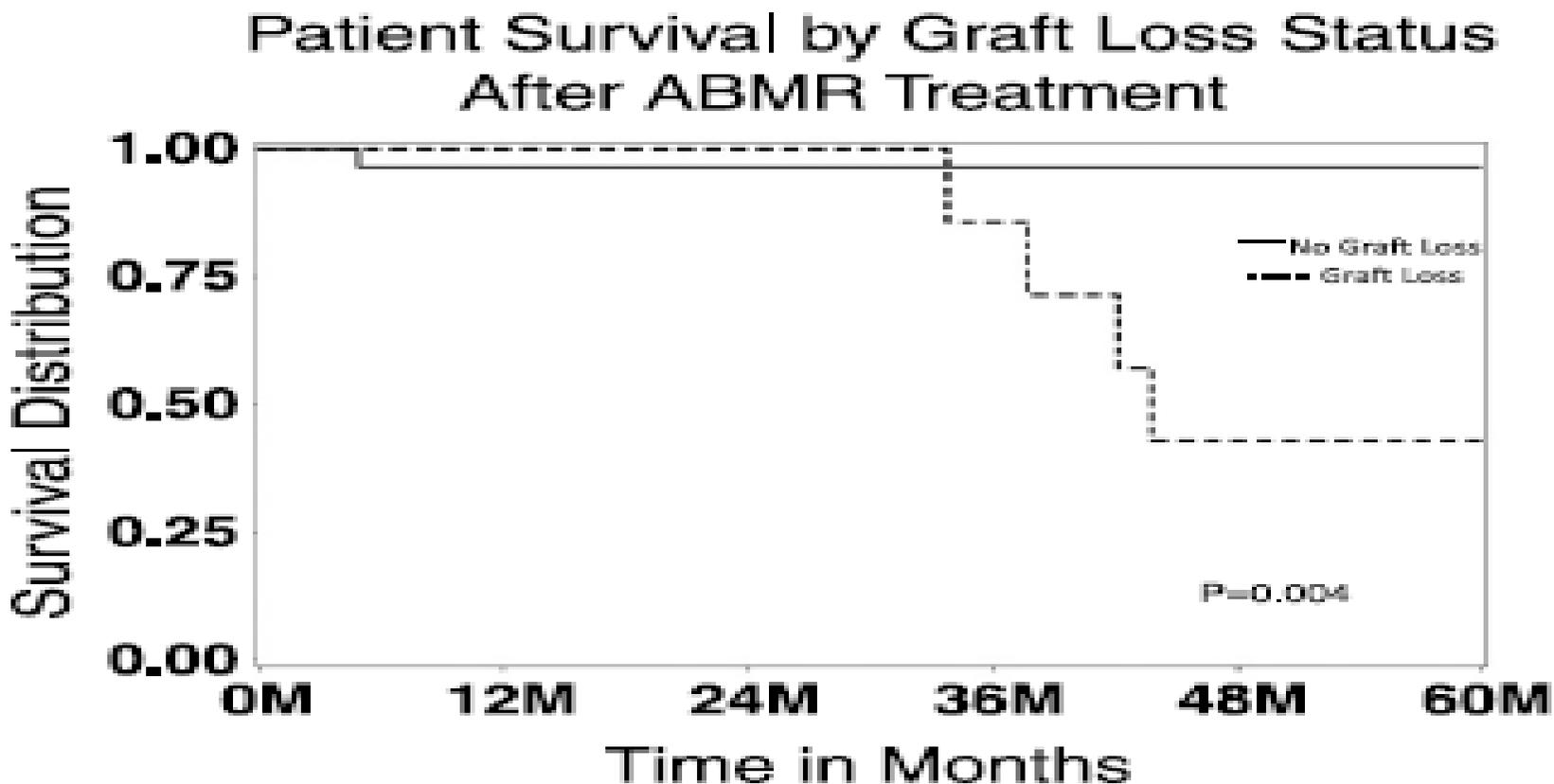
B Death Censored Graft Survival by ABMR Status



No ABMR (N=181)	181	154	126	80	54	31
ABMR (N=45)	45	36	29	21	15	7

Factors Predicting Graft Loss in Desensitized Patients

Vo et al Transplantation, 2015



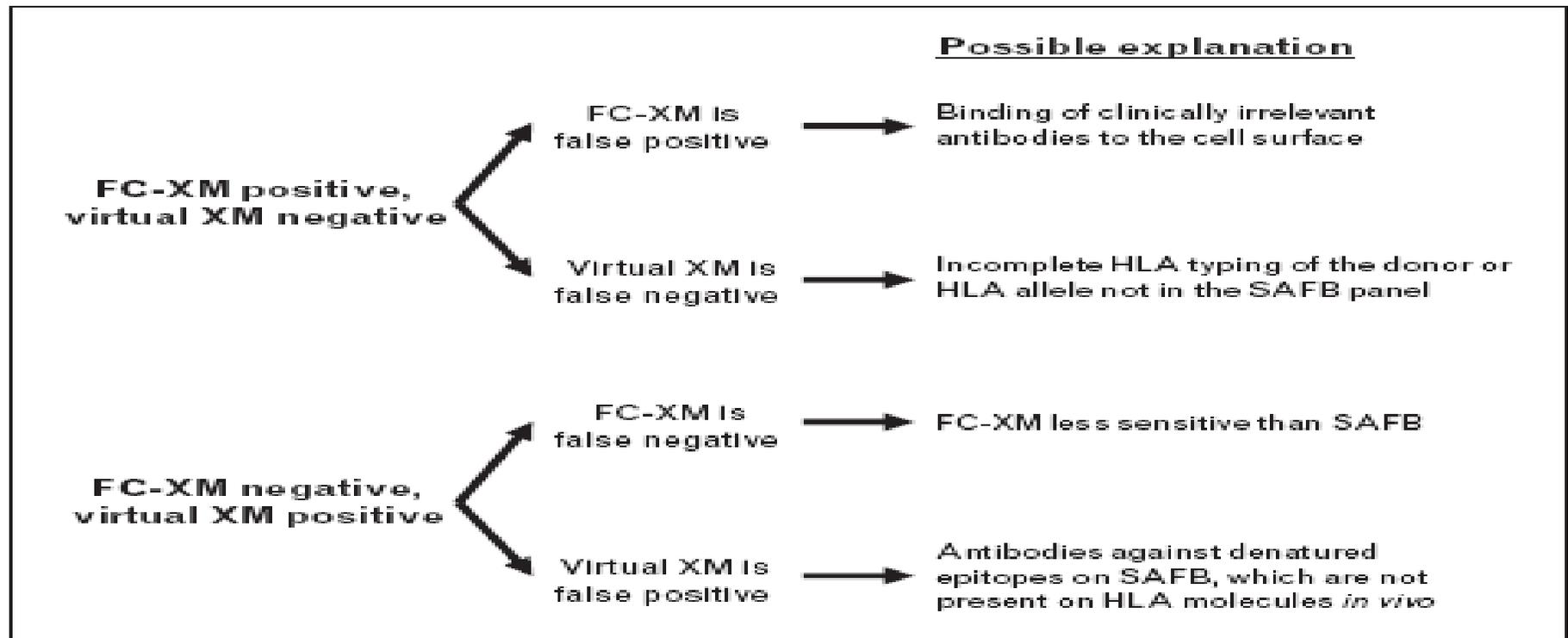
Caveats of Desensitization

- **More intense immunosuppression required**
- **Higher risk of acute rejection, particularly antibody mediated acute rejection**
- **Worse long term graft survival compared to DSA negative**
- **Usually only for those with living donors**
- **Hard to interpret data because definitions and assays vary**
- **Thus impossible to compare data between labs and centres**

The Virtual Cross Match

D'Amico et al Current Opinion Organ Transpl 2009

Figure 1 Possible explanations for divergent results of the virtual crossmatch and the flow-cytometric crossmatch



FC-XM, flow-cytometric crossmatch; SAFB, single antigen flow-bead.