# Myeloma multiplex – dijagnoza I tretman

Prof dr Sonja Genadieva Stavrik, Univerzitetska Klinika za Hematologija, Medicinski Fakultet Skopje, Makedonija

Old

New

Borrowed

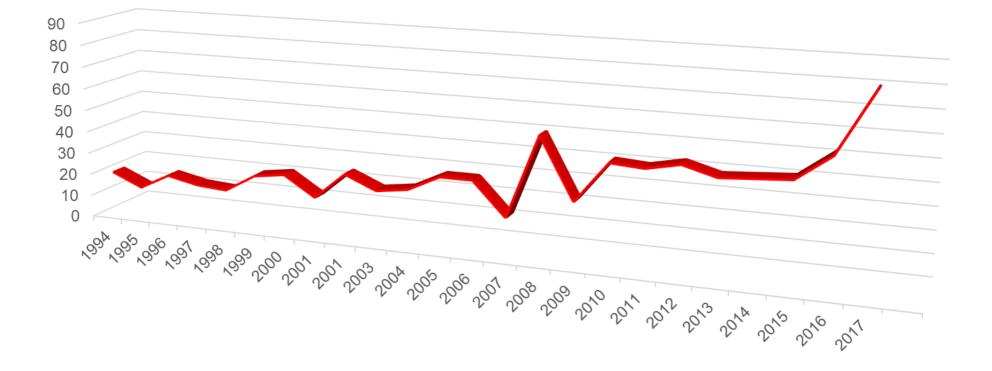
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# Disclousers for Sonja Genadieva Stavric MD

Research Support	No relevant conflict of interest to declare
Employee	No relevant conflict of interest to declare
Consultant	No relevant conflict of interest to declare
Major Stockholder	No relevant conflict of interest to declare
Speakers Bureau	No relevant conflict of interest to declare
Honorararia	No relevant conflict of interest to declare
Scientific Advisary Borad	No relevant conflict of interest to declare

# Incidenca na multipen myelom vo R.Makedonija 1994-2017



The incidence in Europe is 4.5–6.0/100 000/year with a median age at diagnosis of 72 years; the mortality is 4.1/100 000/year



#### REVIEW



#### Check for updates

## How is patient care for multiple myeloma advancing?

Sonja Genadieva Stavric<sup>a</sup>, Francesca Bonello<sup>b</sup>, Sara Bringhen<sup>b</sup>, Mario Boccadoro<sup>b</sup> and Alessandra Larocca<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Medical Faculty, University Hematology Clinic, Skopje, Macedonia; <sup>b</sup>Myeloma Unit, Division of Hematology, University of Torino, Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria Città della Salute e della Scienza di Torino, Torino, Italy

		Definition		Risk assesn	nent models
Smoldering multiple myeloma (SMM)	<ul> <li>serum monoclonal prote</li> <li>≥500mg/24h and/or be</li> <li>-absence of myeloma def</li> </ul>	one marrow plasma	cells (BMPC) 10-60%	MAYO CLINIC RISK MODEL - ≥10% of BMPC infiltration - ≥3 g/dL serum M-protein - serum FLC ratio <0.125 or >8	SPANISH RISK MODEL -≥95% of aberrant plasma cells at MFC - immune paresis
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	- evidence of end organ	damage according t	o CRAB criteria or	-chromosomal abnormalities (CA)	-gene expression profiling (GEP)
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Table 2. IMWG updated criteria for the diagnosis of SMM and MM and main risk assessment models.

FLC: free light chain; MFC: multiparametric flow cytometry; CRAB criteria: hyperCalcemia, Renal insufficiency, Anemia, Bone lesions; FISH: fluorescent in situ hybridization; LDH: lactate dehydrogenase; high-risk CA according to R-ISS: del 17p, t(4;14), t(14;16) PCLI: plasma cells labeling index.

# **GUIDELINE ARTICLE**



Haematologica 2018

Ferrata Storti Foundation

# European Myeloma Network recommendations on tools for the diagnosis and monitoring of multiple myeloma: what to use and when

Jo Caers,<sup>1,2</sup> Laurent Garderet,<sup>3</sup> K. Martin Kortüm,<sup>4</sup> Michael E. O'Dwyer,<sup>5</sup> Niels W.C.J. van de Donk,<sup>6</sup> Mascha Binder,<sup>7</sup> Sandra Maria Dold,<sup>8</sup> Francesca Gay,<sup>9</sup> Jill Corre,<sup>10</sup> Yves Beguin,<sup>1,2</sup> Heinz Ludwig,<sup>11</sup> Alessandra Larocca,<sup>9</sup> Christoph Driessen,<sup>12</sup> Meletios A. Dimopoulos,<sup>13</sup> Mario Boccadoro,<sup>9</sup> Martin Gramatzki,<sup>14</sup> Sonja Zweegman,<sup>6</sup> Hermann Einsele,<sup>4</sup> Michele Cavo,<sup>15</sup> Hartmut Goldschmidt,<sup>16,17</sup> Pieter Sonneveld,<sup>18</sup> Michel Delforge,<sup>19</sup> Holger W. Auner,<sup>20</sup> Evangelos Terpos<sup>13</sup> and Monika Engelhardt<sup>8</sup>

Volume 103(11):1772-1784 Evangelos

Table 2. Recommendations on further examinations at diagnosis, for response assessment, during follow-up and at relapse.

Diagnostic site	Tool	Diagnosis	At response	At follow-up	At relapse
	BM cytology and biopsy to confirm plasmacytosis and monoclonality	Obligatory	Obligatory*	Not required	Obligatory**
Bone marrow	Flow cytometry	Recommended	Optional	Not required	Optional
	Cytogenetics	Obligatory	Not required	Not required	Optional
Blood	Advanced techniques: GEP. NGS         Blood count and blood smear         Serum electrophoresis and IF         Serum free light chain         Serum immunoglobulin levels         Renal and liver function tests         Calcium         Lactate dehydrogenase         Albumin, β2-microglobulin	Optional Obligatory Obligatory Recommended *** Obligatory Obligatory Obligatory Obligatory Obligatory Obligatory Obligatory	Not required Obligatory Obligatory Recommended *** Obligatory Obligatory Obligatory Obligatory Recommended	Not required Obligatory Obligatory Recommended *** Obligatory Obligatory Obligatory Obligatory Recommended	Not required Obligatory Obligatory Recommended *** Obligatory Obligatory Obligatory Obligatory Obligatory Obligatory
Urine	Urine sample to cneck for proteinuria and Bence-Jones proteins 24 h urine collection	Obligatory Recommended <sup>1</sup>	Obligatory Recommended <sup>†</sup>	Obligatory Recommended <sup>+</sup>	Obligatory Recommended <sup>+</sup>
Imaging	Low dose whole-body CT PET/CT Whole-body MRI	Recommended <sup>††</sup> Optional Optional	Not required Optional*** Not required	When symptomatic When symptomatic When symptomatic	Recommended Optional Optional

BM: bone marrow; GEP: gene expression profiling; IF: immunofixation; NGS: next generation sequencing; CT: computed tomography; PET: positron emission tomography; MRI: magnetic resonance imaging; \*Obligatory for patients in complete response. \*\*Obligatory for patients with light chain escape, oligosecretory disease, \*\*\* SFLC monitoring is obligatory for patients with light-chain disease. 'Obligatory in the case of proteinuria.''Obligatory when radiographs do not show osteolytic lesions '''PET/CT is required for confirmation of minimal residual disease negativity.

#### REVIEW



#### Check for updates

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	Definition	Risk assesment models		
Smoldering multiple myeloma (SMM)	<ul> <li>serum monoclonal protein ≥3 g/dL or urinary monoclonal protein ≥500mg/24h and/or bone marrow plasma cells (BMPC) 10–60%</li> <li>-absence of myeloma defining events or amyloidosis</li> </ul>	MAYO CLINIC RISK MODEL - ≥10% of BMPC infiltration - ≥3 g/dL serum M-protein - serum FLC ratio <0.125 or >8	SPANISH RISK MODEL -≥95% of aberrant plasma cells at MFC - immune paresis	
Multiple myeloma (MM)	- clonal BMPC $\geq$ 10% or biopsy proven plasmacytoma and	R-ISS -ISS stage	mSMART - chromosomal abnormalities (CA) detected by FISH	
	- evidence of end organ damage according to CRAB criteria or	<ul> <li>-chromosomal abnormalities (CA)</li> </ul>	-gene expression profiling (GEP	
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		MGUS	SMM	мм		
				Biomarker	CRAB	
M-Protein < 30 g/l	1					
BM PC < 10%	1 -	,				
M-Protein > 30 g/l						
BM PC > 10%						
BM PC > 60%						
FLC ratio > 100						
MRI ≥ 2 focal lesion	s			+		
Hypercalcemia						
Renal failure						
Anemia						
Bone disease						

Figure 1. The differential diagnosis between monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance, smoldering myeloma and multiple myeloma. The discrimination between these monoclonal gammopathies is based on: (i) the plasma cell infiltration in the bone marrow, (ii) the presence of clinical symptoms related to myeloma disease and (iii) the existence of biomarkers of disease that allow initiation of treatment. MGUS: monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance; SMM: smoldering multiple myeloma; MM: multiple myeloma; BM: bone marrow; PC: plasma cells; FLC: free light chain; MRI: magnetic resonance imaging.

Haematologica 2018 Volume 103(11):1772-1784

#### REVIEW



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Table 4. The Revised-International Staging System is one of the best stratification methods; it is based on routinely available cytogenetic and biochemistry tests (Palumbo et al.).<sup>56</sup>

<b>R-ISS definitions</b>	Determinants	Number	OS (5 years)	Median OS	PFS (5 years)	Median PFS
R-ISS stage I	ISS stage I, no high-risk CA, and normal LDH	871 (28%)	82%	NR	55%	66 months
R-ISS stage II	Other combinations	1894 (62%)	62%	83 months	36%	42 months
R-ISS stage III	ISS stage III plus high-risk CA or high LDH	295 (10%)	40%	43 months	24%	29 months

R-ISS Revised-International Staging System; ISS: International Staging System; OS: overall survival; PFS: progression free survival; CA; cytogenetic abnormalities; LDH: lactate dehydrogenase; NR: not reported.

#### Risk assesment models

MAYO CLINIC RISK MODEL - ≥10% of BMPC infiltration - ≥3 g/dL serum M-protein - serum FLC ratio <0.125 or >8 - immune paresis

#### R-ISS -ISS stage

-chromosomal abnormalities (CA)

detected by FISH -LDH R-ISS stage I: ISS stage I,

standard risk CA and normal • intermediate risk: t(4;14), del13, LDH

- R-ISS II: not R-ISS stage I or III standard risk: all others CA
- R-ISS III: ISS stage III and either high risk CA or high LDH

mSMART

at MFC

SPANISH RISK MODEL

- chromosomal abnormalities (CA) detected by FISH -gene expression profiling (GEP)

-≥95% of aberrant plasma cells

- high risk: del 17p, t(14;16), t (14;20), GEP high risk signature
- hypodiploidy,  $PCLI \ge 3\%$

EXPERT REVIEW OF HEMATOLOGY, 2017 VOL. 10, NO. 6, 551–561 https://doi.org/10.1080/17474086.2017.1326814





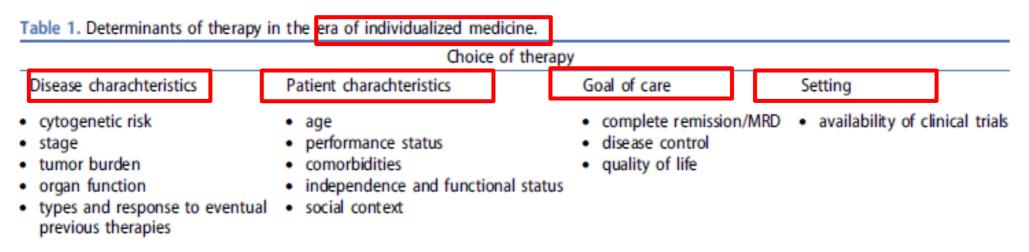
Check for updates

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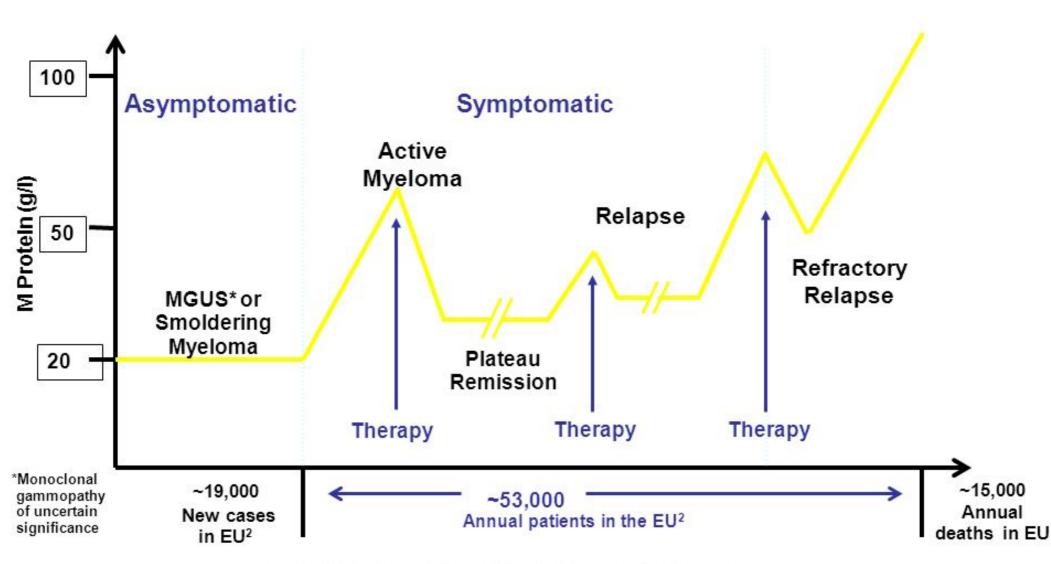


# Treatman na multipen myelom





# Multiple Myeloma Disease Progression<sup>1</sup>



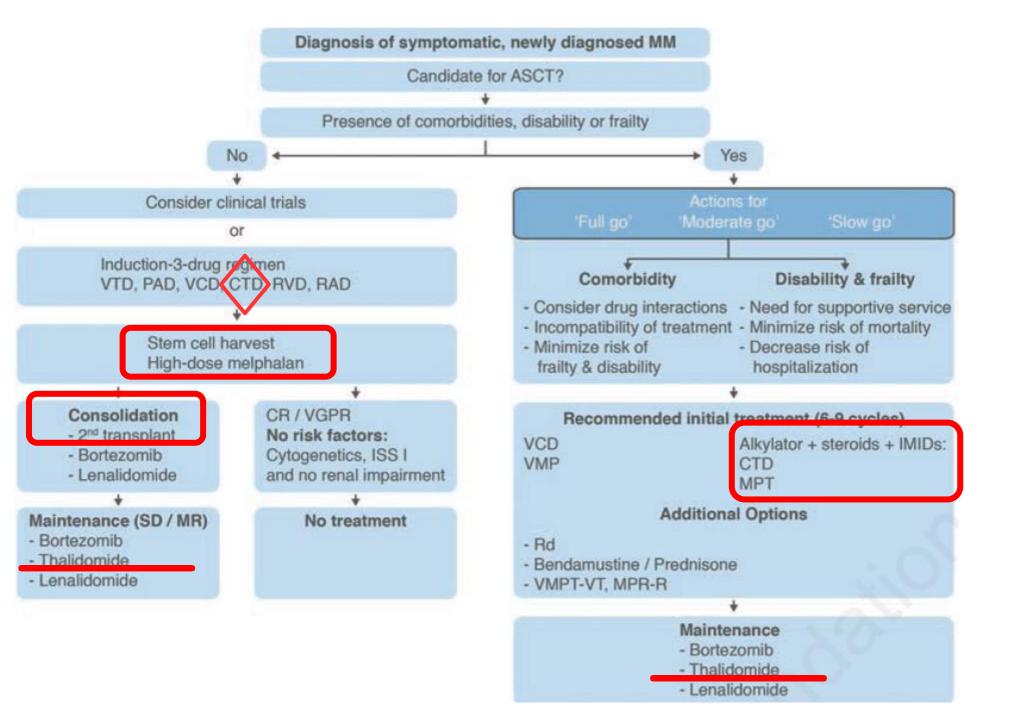
1. Adapted from International Myeloma Foundation; 2001. Reprinted with permission.

2. International Agency for Research on Cancer, World Health Organisation; Ferlay J, Bray F, Pisani, P and Parkin DM. Globocan 2000

Effective treatment should be concentrated at the early phase of disease, when clones are more drug sensitive, long – lasting remission are more frequent, and serious adverse events are less prominent. This approach significantly improves quality of life and may be ultimately prolong overall survival.

Palumbo A, Cavallo F:Have drug combinations supplanted stem cell transplantation in myeloma. Hematology 2012

THE CLASS DUE





#### CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Annals of Oncology 28 (Supplement 4): iv52-iv61, 2017 doi:10.1093/annonc/mdx096 Published online 27 April 2017

## Multiple myeloma: ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up<sup>†</sup>

Annals of Oncology

P. Moreau<sup>1</sup>, J. San Miguel<sup>2</sup>, P. Sonneveld<sup>3</sup>, M. V. Mateos<sup>4</sup>, E. Zamagni<sup>5</sup>, H. Avet M. A. Dimopoulos<sup>8</sup>, H. Ludwig<sup>9</sup>, H. Einsele<sup>10</sup>, S. Zweegman<sup>11</sup>, T. Facon<sup>12</sup>, M. Ca H. Goldschmidt<sup>13</sup>, M. Attal<sup>6</sup> & C. Buske<sup>14</sup>, on behalf of the ESMO Guidelines Ca

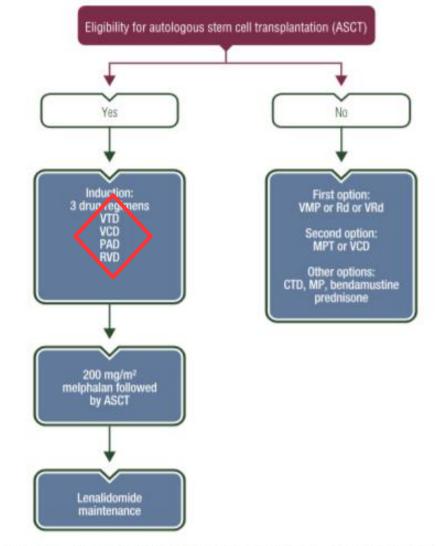


Figure 1. Front-line treatment of symptomatic multiple myeloma outside clinical trials.



### MYELOMA THERAPY<sup>1-4</sup>

Exposure to myelotoxic agents (including alkylating agents and nitrosoureas) should be limited to avoid compromising stem cell reserve prior to stem cell harvest in patients who may be candidates for transplants.

### PRIMARY THERAPY FOR TRANSPLANT CANDIDATES (assess for response after each cycle

#### Preferred Regimens

- Bortezomib/lenalidomide<sup>5</sup>/dexamethasone (category 1)
- Bortezomib/cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone<sup>6</sup>
   Other Decommended Deciments
- Other Recommended Regimens
- Bortezomib/doxorubicin/dexamethasone (category 1)
- Carfilzomib<sup>7,8</sup>/lenalidomide<sup>5</sup>/dexamethasone
- Ixazomib/lenalidomide<sup>5</sup>/dexamethasone (category 2B)

### Useful In Certain Circumstances

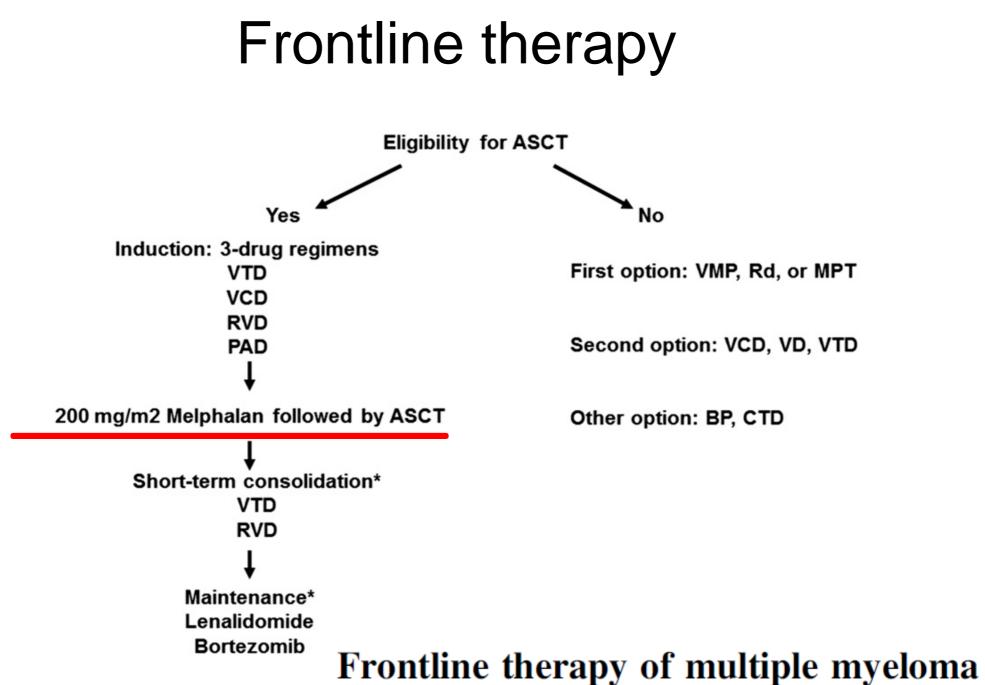
- Bortezomib/dexamethasone (category 1)<sup>9</sup>
- · Bortezomib/thalidomide/dexamethasone (category 1)
- Lenalidomide<sup>5</sup>/dexamethasone (category 1)<sup>9</sup>
- Dexamethasone/thalidomide/cisplatin/doxorubicin/cyclophosphamide/etoposide/bortezomib (VTD-PACE)

#### MAINTENANCE THERAPY



#### Preferred Regimens • Lenalidomide<sup>11</sup> (category 1)

# Other Recommended Regimens • Bortezomib



BLOOD, 2015

Philippe Moreau,<sup>1</sup> Michel Attal,<sup>2</sup> and Thierry Facon<sup>3</sup>

### How we manage autologous stem cell transplantation for patients with multiple myeloma

Morie A. Gertz<sup>1</sup> and David Dingli<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Hematology and <sup>2</sup>Department of Molecular Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

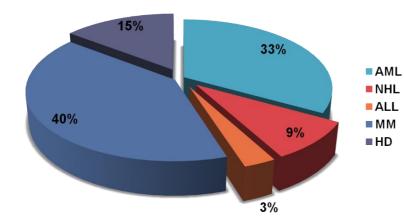
BLOOD, 7 AUGUST 2014 · VOLUME 124, NUMBER 6

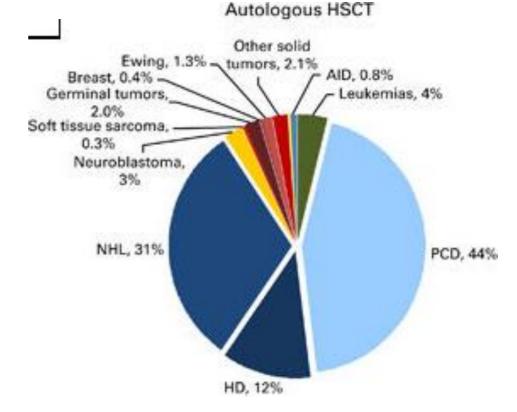
#### Table 3. Summary of how we transplant

### Technique and the mobilization procedure Selection Up to age 76 years. No restriction for renal function No requirement for response to induction. Mobilization (see Table 1) Patients aged <70 routinely undergo collection for 2 transplants. Plerixafor not standard. Chemotherapy mobilization if circulating cells by flow or if no response to induction. Conditioning Standard nonprotocol remains melphalan 200 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) for fit patients. Melphalan (140 mg/m2) if patient is frail or serum creatinine ≥2.0 mg/dL. Procedural Conditioning, infusion, and postinfusion monitoring usually are performed on an outpatient basis. Oral antibiotic prophylaxis: penicillin, levofloxacin, acyclovir, and fluconazole Manage breakthrough fever of >38.5°C with vancomycin (3 days if culture) negative) and celepime (outpatient). Anticipate that half of patients will complete treatment as outpatients.

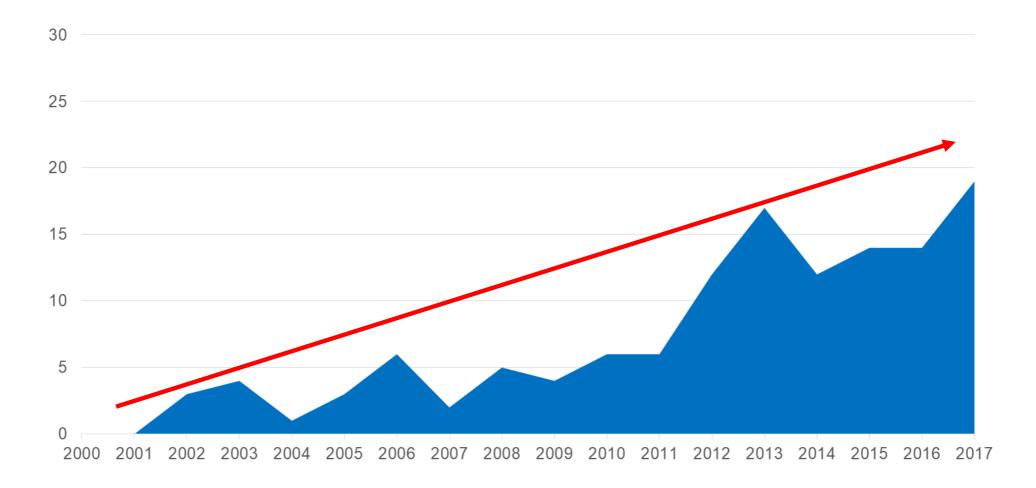
Indikacija za autologna transplantacija vo R.Makedonija (2000-2015)

# Indikacija za autologna transplantacija u Evropa 2013





# Autologna transplantacija i multpni mijelom





#### CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

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### Annals of Oncology

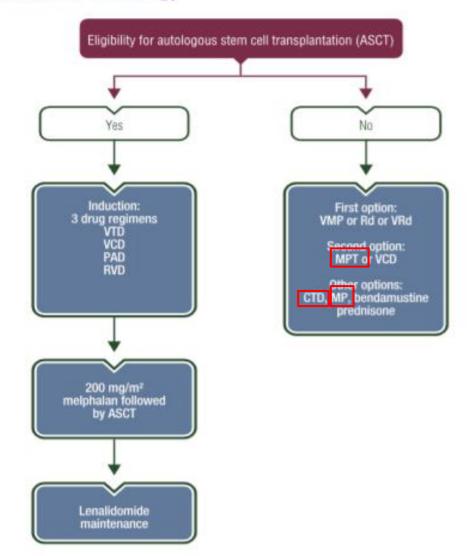


Figure 1. Front-line treatment of symptomatic multiple myeloma outside clinical trials. NCCN Network®

## Comprehensive NCCN Guidelines Version 4.2018 Cancer Multiple Myeloma

NCCN Guidelines Index Table of Contents Discussion

MYELOMA THERAPY<sup>1-4</sup>

#### PRIMARY THERAPY FOR NON-TRANSPLANT CANDIDATES (assess for response after each cycle)

#### Preferred Regimens

· Bortezomib/lenalidomide/dexamethasone (category 1)

- Lenalidomide/low-dose dexamethasone (category 1)<sup>9,10</sup>
- Bortezomib/cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone<sup>6</sup>

#### Other Recommended Regimens

- Carfilzomib<sup>8</sup>/lenalidomide/dexamethasone
- Carfilzomib<sup>8</sup>/cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone
- Ixazomib/lenalidomide/dexamethasone

#### Useful In Certain Circumstances

Bortezomib/dexamethasone<sup>9</sup>

#### MAINTENANCE THERAPY

#### Preferred Regimens

Lenalidomide<sup>11</sup> (category 1)

#### Other Recommended Regimens

Bortezomib

How to Better Select Therapy for Patients in Relapse?

# Duration of Prior Response

Efficacy and Toxicity of Prior Treatments



Type of Relapse

**Available Therapies** 



#### CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

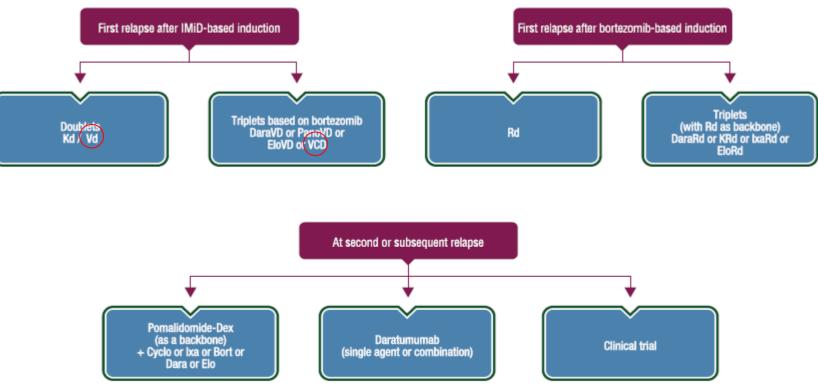
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# Clinical Practice Guidelines

#### Annals of Oncology



#### Figure 2. Treatment of relapse.

Bort, bortezomib; Cyclo, cyclophosphamide; Dara, daratumumab; DaraRd, daratumumab, lenalidomide, low dose dexamethasone; DaraVD, daratumumab, bortezomib, dexamethasone; Dex, dexamethasone; Elo, elotuzumab; EloRd, elotuzumab, lenalidomide, low dose dexamethasone; EloVD, elotuzumab, bortezomib, dexamethasone; IMiD, immunomodulatory drug; Ixa, izaxomib; IxaRd, izaxomib, lenalidomide, low dose dexamethasone; KRd, carfilzomib, lenalidomide, low dose dexamethasone; KRd, carfilzomib, lenalidomide, low dose dexamethasone; VCD, bortezomib, cyclophosphamide, dexamethasone; Vd, bortezomib, low dose dexamethasone.

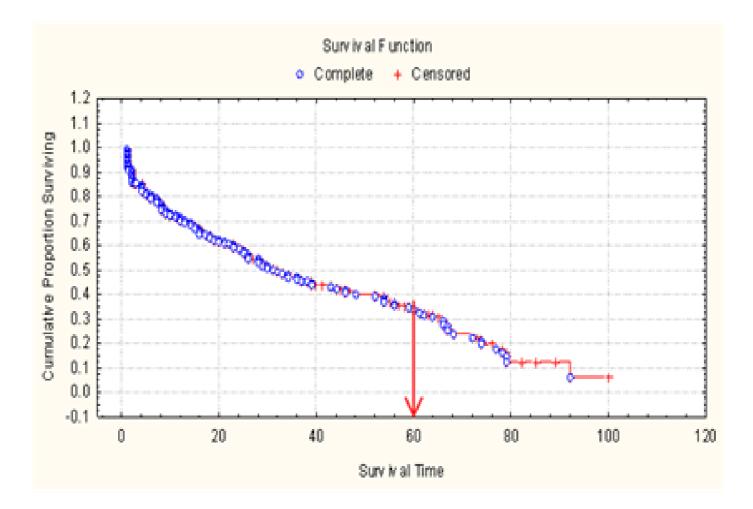
National Comprehens Cancer Network\*

# Comprehensive Cancer Multiple Myeloma

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NCCN Guidelines Index
Table of Contents
Discussion
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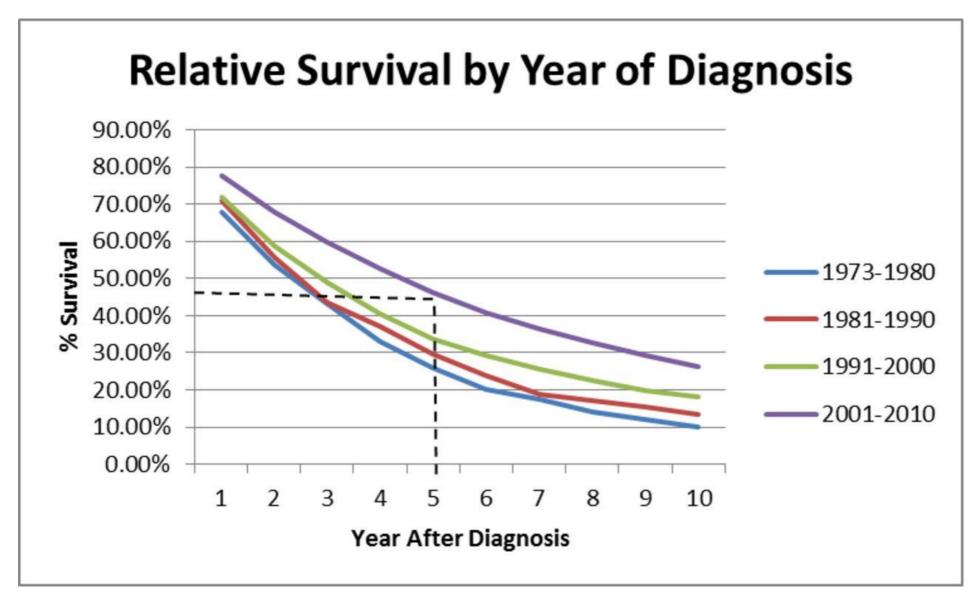
MYELOMA	THERAPY <sup>1-4,12</sup>
Therapy for Previously Treated Multiple M	lyeloma (assess for response after each cycle)
Preferred Regimens  • Repeat primary induction therapy (if relapse at >6 mo)  • Bortezomib/lenalidomide/dexamethasone • Carfilzomib (twice weekly) <sup>8</sup> /dexamethasone (category 1) <sup>9</sup> • Carfilzomib <sup>8</sup> /lenalidomide/dexamethasone (category 1) <sup>13</sup> Other Recommended Regimens • Bendamustine/bortezomib/dexamethasone • Bendamustine/lenalidomide/dexamethasone • Bortezomib/liposomal doxorubicin/dexamethasone • Carfilzomib <sup>9</sup> /cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone • Carfilzomib <sup>9</sup> /cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone • Carfilzomib <sup>9</sup> /cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone • Carfilzomib <sup>9</sup> /cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone • Daratumumab <sup>14</sup> /pomalidomide <sup>20</sup> /dexamethasone • Elotuzumab/bortezomib/dexamethasone • Ixazomib <sup>17</sup> /dexamethasone <sup>9</sup>	<ul> <li>Daratumumab<sup>14</sup>/bortezomib/dexamethasone (category 1)</li> <li>Daratumumab<sup>14</sup>/lenalidomide/dexamethasone (category 1)</li> <li>Elotuzumab<sup>15</sup>/lenalidomide/dexamethasone (category 1)<sup>13</sup></li> <li>Ixazomib<sup>17</sup>/lenalidomide<sup>20</sup>/dexamethasone (category 1)<sup>13</sup></li> <li>Ixazomib/pomalidomide<sup>20</sup>/dexamethasone</li> <li>Lenalidomide/dexamethasone<sup>18</sup> (category 1)<sup>9</sup></li> <li>Panobinostat<sup>19</sup>/bortezomib/dexamethasone (category 1)</li> <li>Panobinostat<sup>19</sup>/carfilzomib<sup>8,9</sup></li> <li>Panobinostat<sup>19</sup>/lenalidomide/dexamethasone</li> <li>Pomalidomide<sup>20</sup>/cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone</li> <li>Pomalidomide<sup>20</sup>/dexamethasone<sup>18</sup> (category 1)<sup>9</sup></li> <li>Pomalidomide<sup>20</sup>/cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone</li> <li>Pomalidomide<sup>20</sup>/dexamethasone<sup>18</sup> (category 1)<sup>9</sup></li> <li>Pomalidomide<sup>20</sup>/cyclophosphamide/dexamethasone</li> <li>Pomalidomide<sup>20</sup>/carfilzomib<sup>8</sup>/dexamethasone</li> </ul>
<u>Useful In Certain Circumstances</u> • Bendamustine • Dexamethasone/cyclophosphamide/etoposide/cisplatin (DCEP) <sup>21</sup>	<ul> <li>Dexamethasone/thalidomide/cisplatin/doxorubicin/ cyclophosphamide/etoposide (DT-PACE)<sup>21</sup> ± bortezomib (VTD- PACE)<sup>21</sup></li> </ul>
	High-dose cyclophosphamide

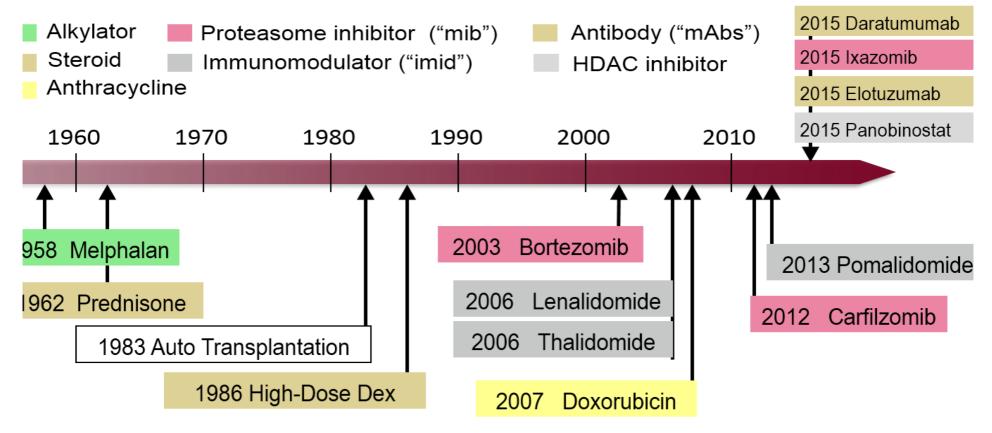
# Overall survival (2005-2015)



Whit permission DocDr S.Krstevska Blakanov

Impact of Novel Treatments on Multiple Myeloma Survival David Robinson, Satyin Kaura, Daniel Kiely, Mohamad A. Hussein, Knar Nersesyan and Brian G. M. Durie Blood 2014 124:5676;

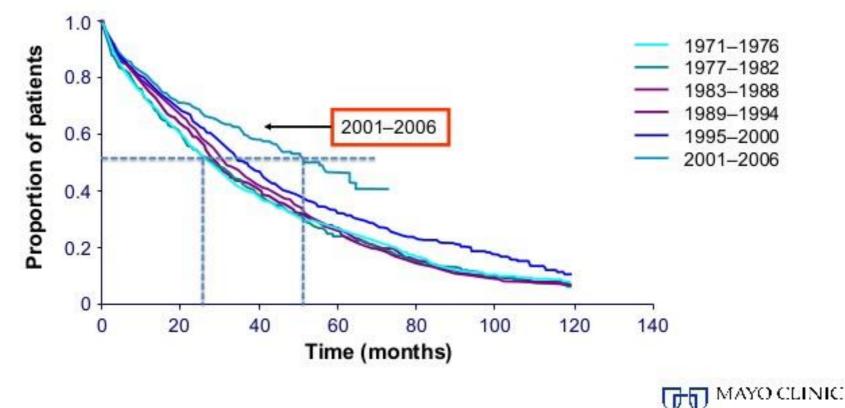




Auto = Autologous; Dex= Dexamethasone

# Have we made progress?

Overall survival in 6-year intervals from time of diagnosis



Kumar SK, et al. Blood. 2008;111:2516-20.



#### CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

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# Multiple myeloma: ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up<sup>†</sup>

P. Moreau<sup>1</sup>, J. San Miguel<sup>2</sup>, P. Sonneveld<sup>3</sup>, M. V. Mateos<sup>4</sup>, E. Zamagni<sup>5</sup>, H. Avet-Loiseau<sup>6</sup>, R. Hajek<sup>7</sup>, M. A. Dimopoulos<sup>8</sup>, H. Ludwig<sup>9</sup>, H. Einsele<sup>10</sup>, S. Zweegman<sup>11</sup>, T. Facon<sup>12</sup>, M. Cavo<sup>5</sup>, E. Terpos<sup>8</sup>, H. Goldschmidt<sup>13</sup>, M. Attal<sup>6</sup> & C. Buske<sup>14</sup>, on behalf of the ESMO Guidelines Committee<sup>\*</sup>



#### Table 7. Summary of recommendations

- The diagnosis of MM must include the criteria updated in 2014 by the International Myeloma Working Group.
- Immediate treatment is not recommended for patients with indolent myeloma.
- For patients < 70 years in good clinical condition, induction followed by high-dose therapy with ASCT is the standard treatment.
- For relapsed/refractory MM, the most commonly used regimens are proteasome inhibitor- or lenalidomide-containing regimens. New triplet combinations are increasing PFS.
- In advanced cases, pomalidomide plus low-dose dexamethasone and daratumumab are approved.

ASCT, autologous stem cell transplantation; PFS, progression-free survival; MM, multiple myeloma.



doi: 10.1111/joim.12590

# Modern multiple myeloma therapy: deep, sustained treatment response and good clinical outcomes

O. Landgren<sup>1</sup> & K. Iskander<sup>2</sup>

therapy	
Characteristics of	$\overline{\mathcal{O}}$
traditional myeloma	Characteristics of modern
therapy	myeloma therapy
• Few agents available	• Many drug classes and
	treatment options available
• Toxic	Relatively less toxic
<ul> <li>Limited efficacy</li> </ul>	Highly effective
<ul> <li>Response captured using</li> </ul>	• Response captured using
clinical response criteria	highly sensitive MRD
$\mathcal{C}$	assays

 Table 1 Characteristics of traditional and modern myeloma

 therapy

EXPERT REVIEW OF HEMATOLOGY, 2017 VOL. 10, NO. 6, 551–561 https://doi.org/10.1080/17474086.2017.1326814

#### REVIEW



Check for updates

#### How is patient care for multiple myeloma advancing?

Sonja Genadieva Stavric<sup>a</sup>, Francesca Bonello<sup>b</sup>, Sara Bringhen<sup>b</sup>, Mario Boccadoro<sup>b</sup> and Alessandra Larocca<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Medical Faculty, University Hematology Clinic, Skopje, Macedonia; <sup>b</sup>Myeloma Unit, Division of Hematology, University of Torino, Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria Città della Salute e della Scienza di Torino, Torino, Italy

#### ABSTRACT

**Introduction**: Treatment of multiple myeloma has undergone profound changes in the past years thanks to the increased understanding of the biology of the disease and the new treatment options. New drugs and effective approaches are currently available for the treatment of multiple myeloma, including immunomodulatory agents, proteasome inhibitors and autologous stem cell transplantation. **Areas covered**: We have described the recent updated criteria to start treatment in multiple myeloma and summarized clinical data from major studies including most recent agents. Particularly, results with pomalidomide, carfilzomib, ixazomib, monoclonal antibodies such as elotuzumab, daratumumab, and checkpoint inhibitors have been reported. Both transplant and non-transplant settings have been covered.

**Expert commentary**: Despite the successful improvement in overall survival and time to relapse, multiple myeloma still remains incurable. Therefore, there is still an unmet need for new treatment strategies with novel mechanisms of action, like monoclonal antibodies, novel immunomodulators, and novel proteasome inhibitors. Implementation of these novel drugs in rationally designed therapies with a good balance of efficacy and safety should be carefully considered in order to improve outcome.

#### ARTICLE HISTORY Received 31 October 2016 Accepted 2 May 2017

#### **KEYWORDS**

Multiple myeloma; immunomodulatory agents; pomalidomide; proteasome inhibitors; carfilzomib; monoclonal antibody; elotuzumab; daratumumab; panobinostat; ixazomib; check point inhibitors EXPERT REVIEW OF HEMATOLOGY, 2017 VOL. 10, NO. 6, 551–561 https://doi.org/10.1080/17474086.2017.1326814

REVIEW

# How is patient care for multiple myeloma advancing?

Sonja Genadieva Stavric<sup>a</sup>, Francesca Bonello<sup>b</sup>, Sara Bringhen<sup>b</sup>, Mario Boccadorc

<sup>a</sup>Medical Faculty, University Hematology Clinic, Skopje, Macedonia; <sup>b</sup>Myeloma Unit, Division of Her Ospedaliero-Universitaria Città della Salute e della Scienza di Torino, Torino, Italy



### Key issues

- Despite the advances in treatment of patients with MM due to the introduction of new agents, including immunomodulatory drugs, proteasome inhibitors and the use of autologous stem cell transplant, patients eventually relapse and may become refractory to previous therapies.
- There is an urgent unmet need for novel anti-myeloma agents, especially for patients who have become refractory to currently available therapeutic options.
- Pomalidomide is more potent and better tolerated than its predecessors, thalidomide and lenalidomide, thus in 2013
   FDA approved it either alone or in combination with dexamethasone in relapsed/refractory MM patients who received at least two prior therapies.
- Ixazomib is an oral proteasome inhibitor with advantage of lower incidence of neurotoxicity and once-weekly oral administration for patients with newly diagnosed and relapsed/refractory MM.
- Monodonal antibodies represent the next step in the treatment of MM. Elotuzumab, a SLAM7-target humanized monoclonal antibody, seems to have synergistic activity when combined with anti-myeloma therapies that stimulate host immunity. Anti – CD 38 antibody – Daratumumab as monotherapy and in combination regimens showed impressive results with favorable safety profile without significant increase in toxicity in relapsed/refractory MM patients.
- Clinical trials with multiple checkpoint inhibitors are underway or are planned in NM, like pembrolizumab (MK-3475) – monoclonal antibody considered as immune checkpoint inhibitor that targets the programmed cell death receptor.
- Despite the availability of numerous anti-myeloma drugs, many questions still remain unanswered. The best combination, the optimal sequence and proper target and setting of newer myeloma are relevant issues that need to be clarified in the next future.