

# The Utility of Protocol Biopsies in the Follow-up of Acute AMR and in the Detection of Chronic AMR

What do we know about histology and AMR clinically?

## Tailored Immunosuppression Based on Routine DSA Monitoring (both in sensitized and nonsensitized patients)

Is there a standard of care regarding therapeutic management?

Mark D. Stegall MD

*James C. Masson Professor of Surgery Research*  
Departments of Surgery and Immunology

# Disclosures

- Ad Board—Novartis, Roche, Astellas
- Mayo Contract—Transplant Genomics, Inc.
- FDA—flight to DC and 1 night's lodging

# Goals of the Workshop:

- 1) *Examine and emphasize the importance of immunosuppressive medication nonadherence in the development of de novo donor specific antibodies (DSA) and subsequent antibody mediated rejection (AMR)*
  - Agree, but not all patients are non-adherent
  - Non-adherent→
  - Treat cellular rejection and put back on immunosuppression
  - ?primary problem is persistent ABMR leading to graft loss (evidence from histology)

# Goals of the Workshop

*2) Discuss the new developments in transplantation and their impact on patient management such as pretransplant sensitization not manifested by DSA, donor/recipient HLA epitope matching, routine posttransplant DSA monitoring*

Sensitization not manifested by DSA—Hypothesis vs Memory?

Post-Transplant DSA monitoring—would be more important if there was effective therapy

## Goals of the Workshop

3) Discuss the natural course of the acute-chronic AMR continuum and its temporal association with cellular rejection and changes in GFR

This is a major source of confusion. Current terminology is poor.

# Antibody Mediated Rejection

# Transplant Glomerulopathy: Subclinical Incidence and Association with Alloantibody

American Journal of Transplantation 2008; 8: 1367–1373  
Blackwell Munksgaard

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Transplantation and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons

doi: 10.1111/j.1600-6143.2008.02262.x

Minireview

## The Spectrum of Antibody-Mediated Renal Allograft Injury: Implications for Treatment

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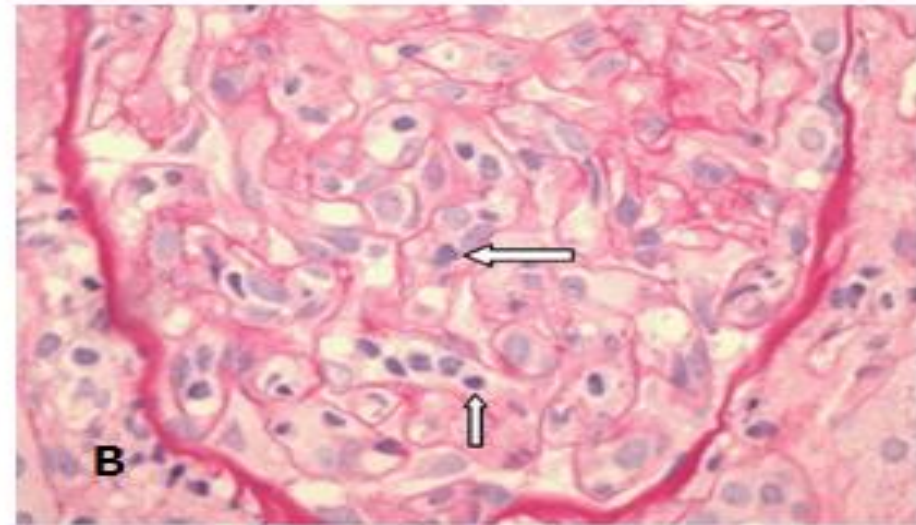
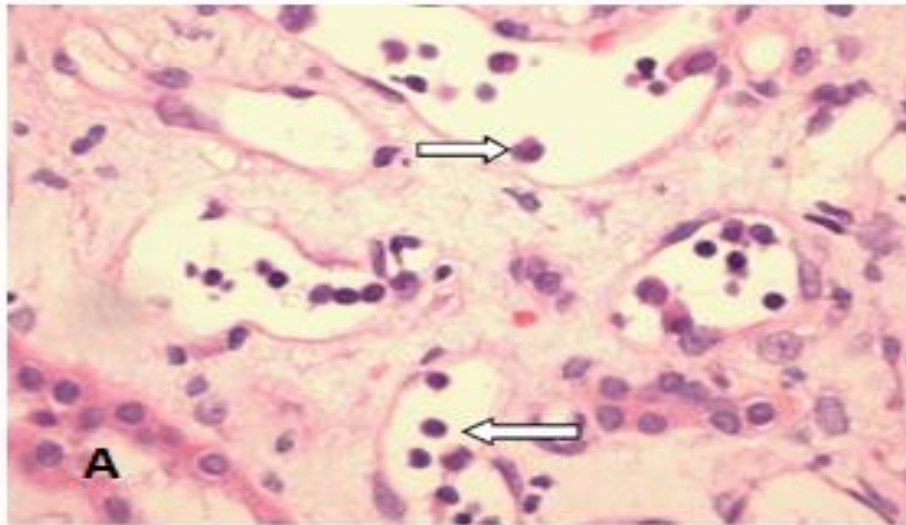
rejection owing in part to four factors. First, there has been a dramatic improvement in the technology of antibody detection. Newer assays incorporating purified HLA antigens bound to solid phase substrates permit identification of previously undetectable levels of donor-specific antibodies (DSA) with accuracy unobtainable using donor-cell-based assays (1). Secondly, the histologic appearance of acute antibody-mediated rejection (AMR) has been more clearly delineated, following the recognition of the importance of the complement degradation factor C4d as a histologic marker (2–4). Third, protocols incorporating pre- and post-

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ALL Prior to DSA testing with Solid Phase/LabScreen

# Microvascular inflammation

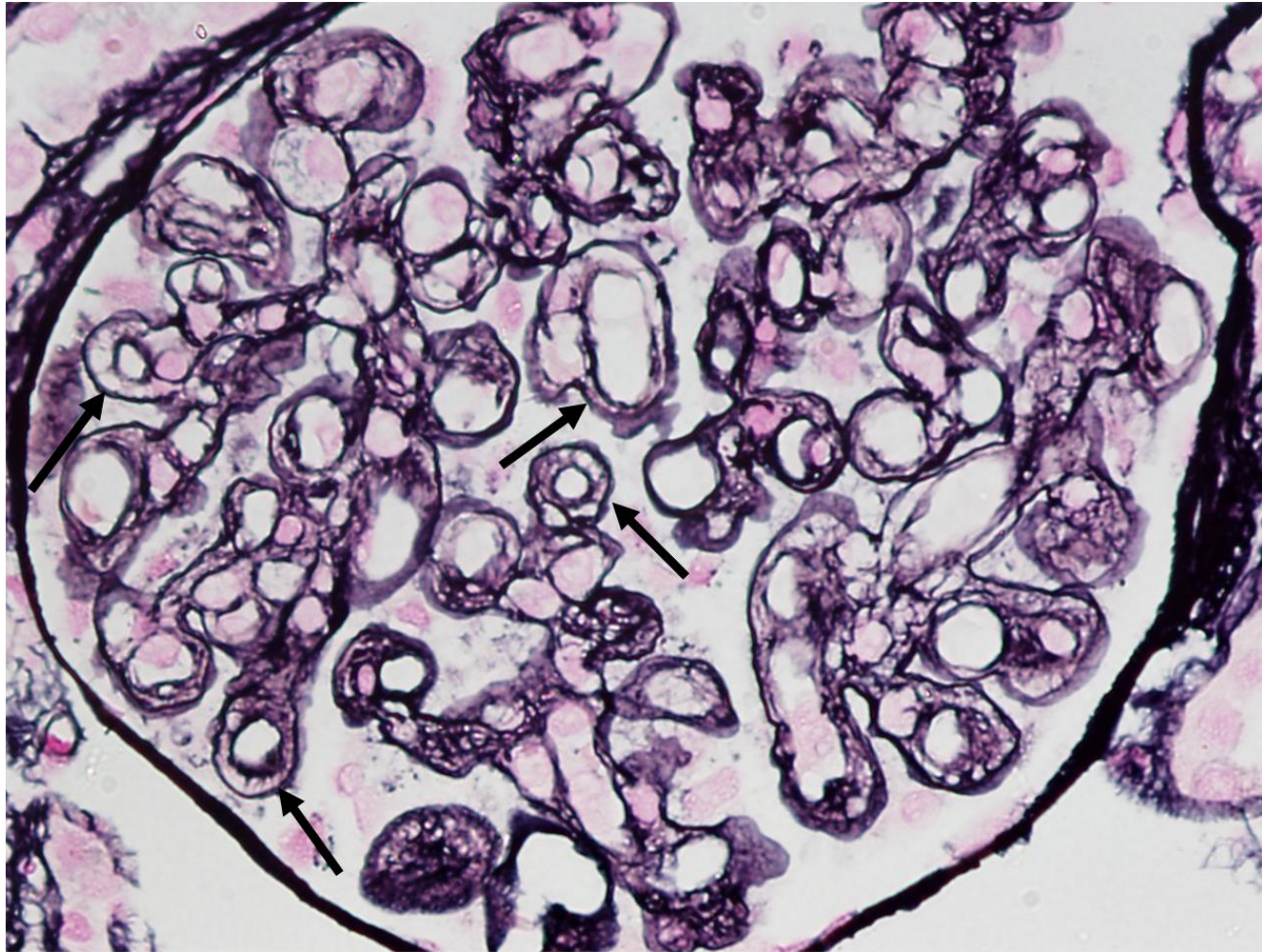
Acute, active antibody mediated rejection



Peritubular capillaritis (left| A) and glomerulitis (right B) are hallmark histologic features of antibody mediated rejection.



# Chronic ABMR = cg chronic transplant glomerulopathy



## Meeting Report

# Banff 2013 Meeting Report: Inclusion of C4d-Negative Antibody-Mediated Rejection and Antibody-Associated Arterial Lesions

BANFF 2013 MEETING RE

**Table 2:** Revised (Banff 2013) classification of antibody-mediated rejection (ABMR) in renal allografts

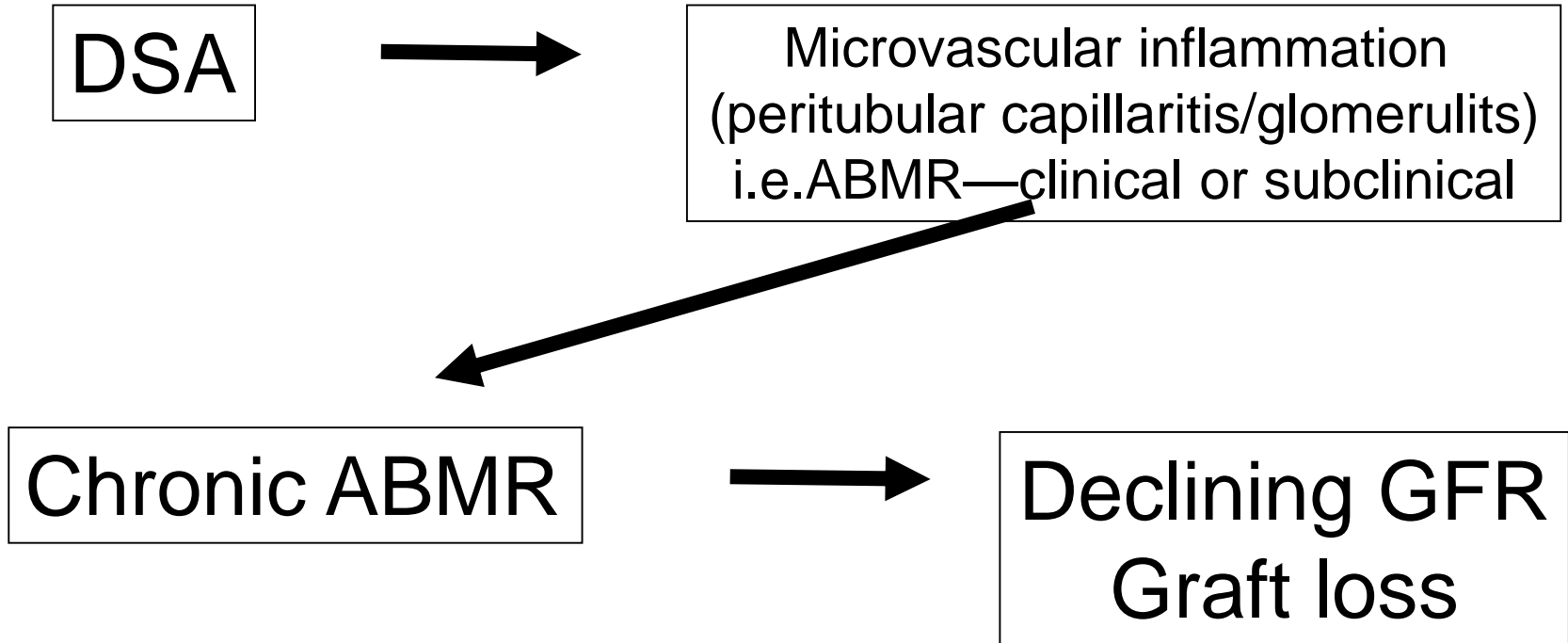
**Acute/active ABMR; all three features must be present for diagnosis<sup>1,2</sup>**

1. Histologic evidence of acute tissue injury, including one or more of the following:
  - Microvascular inflammation ( $g > 0^3$  and/or  $ptc > 0$ )
  - Intimal or transmural arteritis ( $v > 0^4$ )
  - Acute thrombotic microangiopathy, in the absence of any other cause
  - Acute tubular injury, in the absence of any other apparent cause
2. Evidence of current/recent antibody interaction with vascular endothelium, including at least one of the following:
  - Linear C4d staining in peritubular capillaries (C4d2 or C4d3 by IF on frozen sections, or C4d > 0 by IHC on paraffin sections)
  - At least moderate microvascular inflammation ( $[g + ptc] \geq 2^5$ )
  - Increased expression of gene transcripts in the biopsy tissue indicative of endothelial injury, if thoroughly validated<sup>6</sup>
3. Serologic evidence of donor-specific antibodies (DSAs) (HLA or other antigens)

**Chronic, active ABMR; all three features must be present for diagnosis<sup>1,7</sup>**

1. Morphologic evidence of chronic tissue injury, including one or more of the following:
  - Transplant glomerulopathy (TG) ( $cg > 0^8$ ), if no evidence of chronic thrombotic microangiopathy
  - Severe peritubular capillary basement membrane multilayering (requires EM)<sup>9</sup>
  - Arterial intimal fibrosis of new onset, excluding other causes<sup>10</sup>
2. Evidence of current/recent antibody interaction with vascular endothelium, including at least one of the following:
  - Linear C4d staining in peritubular capillaries (C4d2 or C4d3 by IF on frozen sections, or C4d > 0 by IHC on paraffin sections)
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## Paradigm



# Different Clinical Scenarios

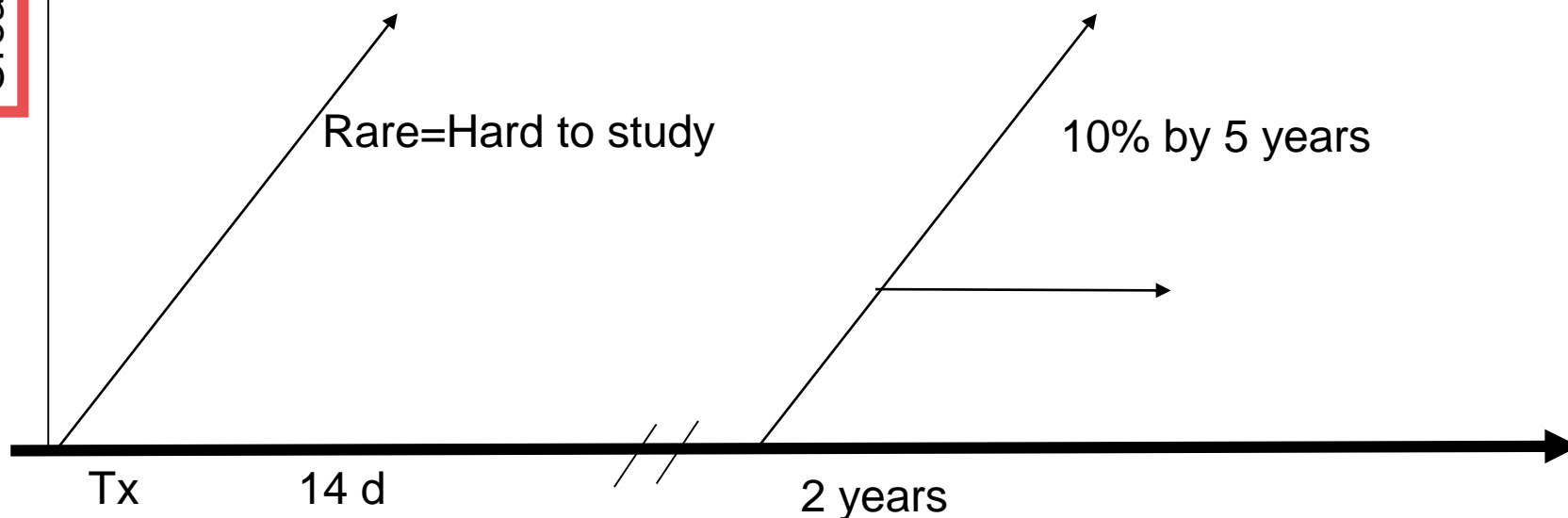
## Early Acute ABMR

Presensitized Patients  
High levels of DSA  
Reversible with treatment of DSA  
(Plex, IVIG)  
Plasmablasts/Preexisting DSA  
“Pure” ABMR on biopsy

## Late Active ABMR

De novo DSA and Presensitized Patients  
Variable levels of DSA  
No effective treatment  
Histology commonly mixed ACR ABMR  
Non-adherence 50%, others 50%

Creatinine

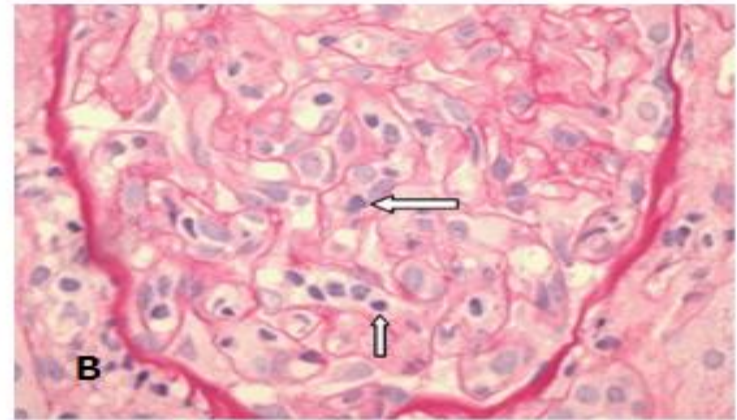
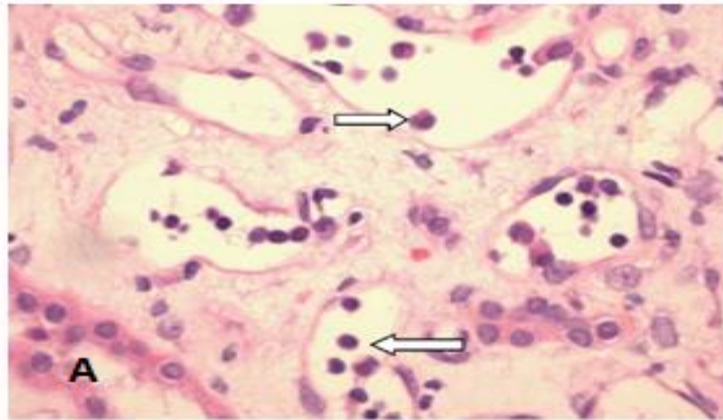


# Different Clinical Scenarios

## Early Acute ABMR

## Late Active ABMR

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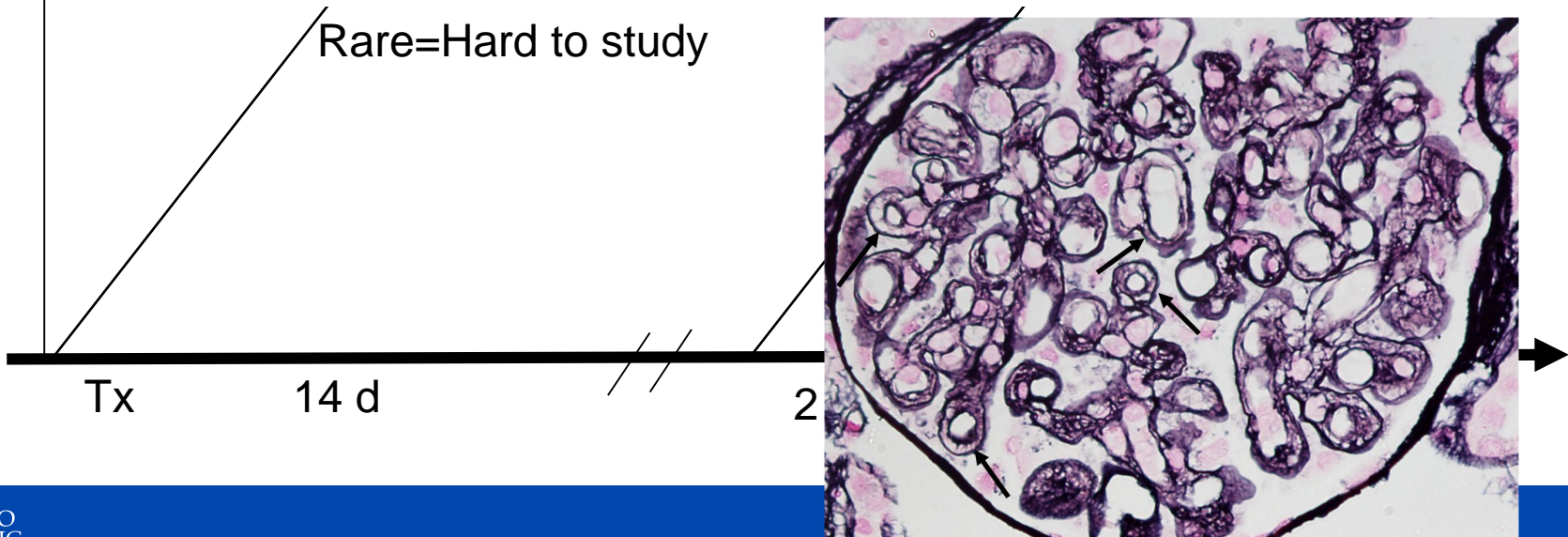


patients

BMR

CR

Rare=Hard to study



## Banff 2013 criteria: ABMR

- 1) Histologic evidence of acute tissue injury resulting from ABMR and includes glomerulitis (Banff g score  $>0$ ) and/or peritubular capillaritis (Banff ptc score  $>0$ ), intimal or transmural arteritis (Banff v score  $>0$ ), thrombotic microangiopathy, or acute tubular injury, in the absence of any other apparent cause
- 2) Evidence of current/recent antibody interaction with vascular endothelium including at least one of the following (Banff C4d score  $\geq 2$  with immunofluorescence on frozen section or Banff g+ptc score  $\geq 2$ ), and
- 3) Serologic evidence of donor-specific antibodies.
- Haas M, Sis B, Racusen LC, et al. Am J Transplant 2014; 14 (2): 272.

## Very Important in Prognosis

### Banff 2013 criteria

- 1) Histologic evidence of acute tissue injury resulting from ABMR and includes glomerulitis (Banff g score  $>0$ ) and/or peritubular capillaritis (Banff ptc score  $>0$ ), intimal or transmural arteritis (Banff v score  $>0$ ), thrombotic microangiopathy, or acute tubular injury, in the absence of any other apparent cause
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- Haas M, Sis B, Racusen LC, et al. Am J Transplant 2014; 14 (2): 272.

# Misses Many Grafts that Progress

## Banff 2013 criteria

- 1) Histologic evidence of acute tissue injury resulting from ABMR and includes glomerulitis (Banff g score  $>0$ ) and/or peritubular capillaritis (Banff ptc score  $>0$ ), intimal or transmural arteritis (Banff v score  $>0$ ), thrombotic microangiopathy, or acute tubular injury, in the absence of any other apparent cause
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- Haas M, Sis B, Racusen LC, et al. Am J Transplant 2014; 14 (2): 272.

Possibly not relevant to outcome



# Variable Presence, but high levels are bad

## Banff 2013 criteria

- 1) Histologic evidence of acute tissue injury resulting from ABMR and includes glomerulitis (Banff g score  $>0$ ) and/or peritubular capillaritis (Banff ptc score  $>0$ ), intimal or transmural arteritis (Banff v score  $>0$ ), thrombotic microangiopathy, or acute tubular injury, in the absence of any other apparent cause
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## Nothing is perfect

- Microvascular inflammation has the highest correlation with graft loss/50% decline in eGFR in the following 2-5 years
- DSA has a lower correlation—i.e. not all people with DSA have inflammation
- Non-HLA antibody—is this just a case where the DSA is no longer detectable in the serum?

## Other Biopsy Issues: C4d and ACR

- C4d+ has a higher correlation but it may be negative in patients that progress
- All DSA is the product of a T cell dependent immune response, but we may not detect ACR on biopsy
- T cells home to sites of inflammation in ABMR
- Borderline ACR has a generally good prognosis compared to ABMR

# The Utility of Protocol Biopsies in the Follow-up of Acute AMR and in the Detection of Chronic AMR

# Does Early Acute → Late Chronic?

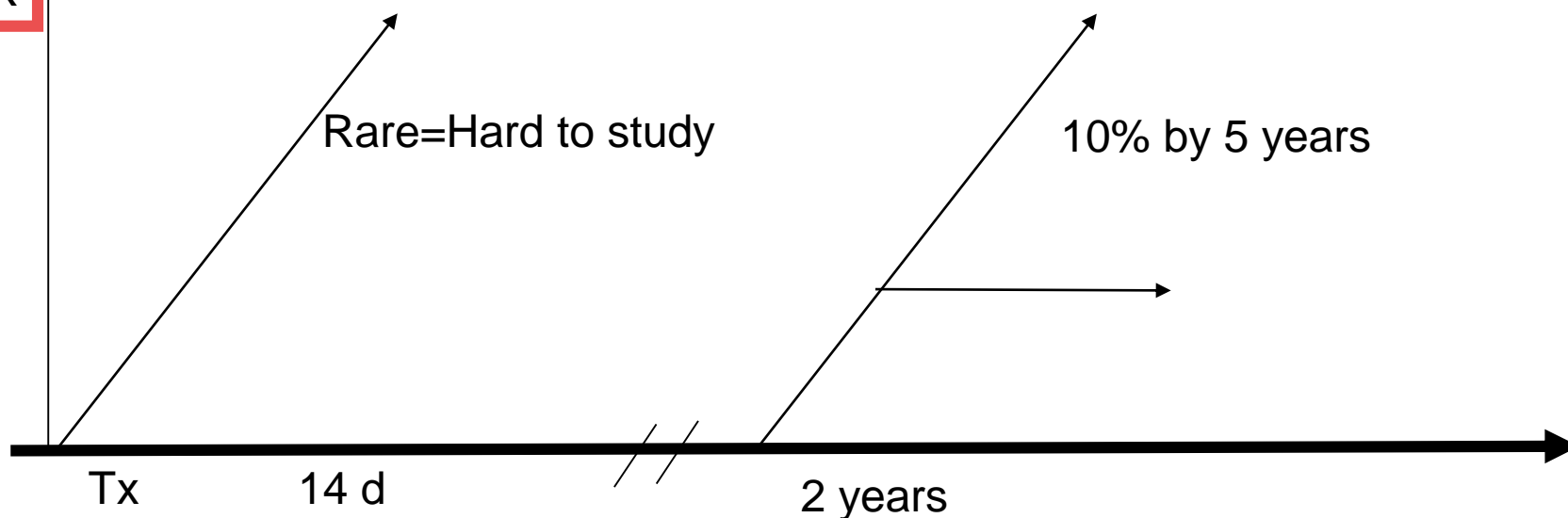
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## Late Active ABMR

De novo DSA and Presensitized Patients  
Variable levels of DSA  
No effective treatment  
Histology commonly mixed ACR ABMR  
Non-adherence 50%, others 50%

CR



# Preventing Early Acute ABMR does not prevent chronic ABMR

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Wiley Periodicals Inc.

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and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons

doi: 10.1111/ajt.13168

## Positive Crossmatch Kidney Transplant Recipients Treated With Eculizumab: Outcomes Beyond 1 Year

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M. J. Gandhi<sup>3</sup>, W. K. Kremers<sup>2</sup> and  
M. D. Stegall<sup>2,\*</sup>

### Introduction

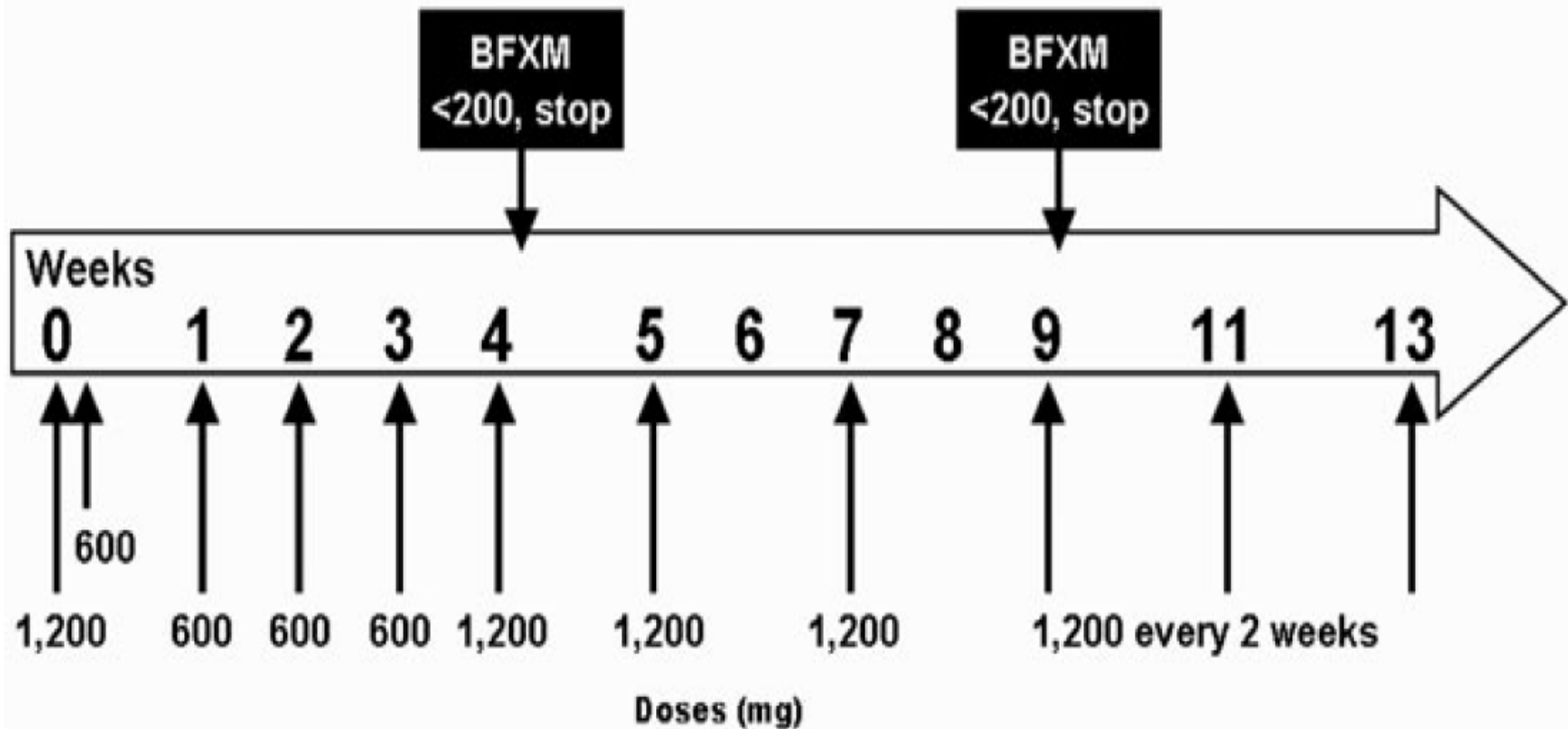
Renal transplant candidates with high levels of antibody against a broad spectrum of HLA are very difficult to transplant. Despite receiving high priority for deceased

**Table 1:** Baseline characteristics

|  | Eculizumab group n = 30 | Control group n = 48      | p-value  |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Age at transplant                                | 47.8 (±1.2.7)           | 47.9 (±11.0)              | p = 0.91 |
| Female (%)                                       | 71.0%                   | 78.0%                     | p = 0.36 |
| Race <sup>1</sup> (%)                            |                         |                           | p = 0.24 |
| Caucasian  | 96.8%                   | 91.1%                     |          |
| African American                                 | 0%                      | 6.7%                      |          |
| Hispanic   | 0%                      | 2.2%                      |          |
| Asian  | 3.2%                    | 0%                        |          |
| Cause of renal failure (%)                       |                         |                           | p = 0.14 |
| Glomerulonephritis                               | 29.0%                   | 33.3%                     |          |
| Other  | 25.8%                   | 24.4%                     |          |
| Cystic kidney disease                            | 12.9%                   | 13.3%                     |          |
| Diabetes mellitus                                | 9.7%                    | 15.6%                     |          |
| Hypertension                                     | 9.7%                    | 0%                        |          |
| Congenital                                       | 6.5%                    | 8.9%                      |          |
| Urological                                       | 6.5%                    | 4.4%                      |          |
| Baseline B flow crossmatch mean ± SD             | 305.5 ± 91.8            | 322.9 ± 78.5              | p = 0.35 |
| HLA mismatch mean ± SD                           | 3.9 ± 1.3               | 3.3 ± 1.4                 | p = 0.34 |
| Retransplant (%)                                 | 54.8%                   | 42.0%                     | p = 0.52 |
| Class I DSA                                      | 36.7%                   | 38.6%                     | p = 0.89 |
| Class II DSA                                     | 30.0%                   | 25.0%                     |          |
| Class I+II DSA                                   | 33.3%                   | 36.4%                     |          |
| Class I DSA MFI mean ± SD                        | 4193.3 ± 4889.0         | 4556.68 ± 5083.0          | p = 0.76 |
| Class 2 DSA MFI mean ± SD                        | 4037.07 ± 5183.3        | 3128 ± 4141.2             | P = 0.40 |
| Total DSA MFI mean ± SD                          | 11 905.0 ± 8985.32      | 9592.51 ± 7806.15         | p = 0.24 |
| Number of pretransplant plasmapheresis mean ± SD | 4.6 ± 1.3               | 4.4 ± 1.4                 | p = 0.78 |
| Length of follow-up (months) mean ± SD (range)   | 38.2 ± 10.2 (24.1–59.8) | 73.0 ± 2.5.0 (41.3–105.0) | p = 0.01 |

<sup>1</sup>Race or ethnic group was self-reported.

# Anti-C5 Treatment Protocol

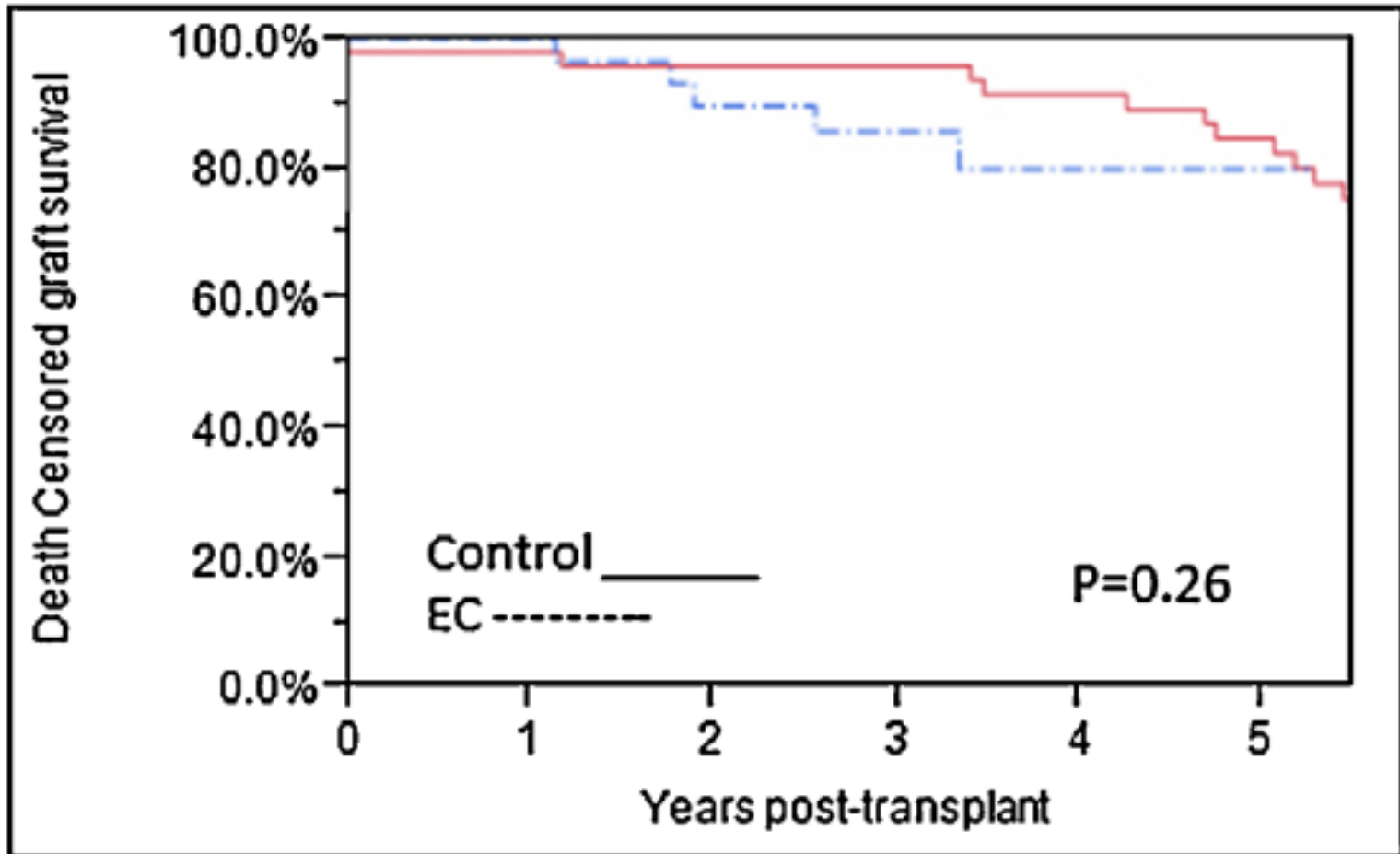




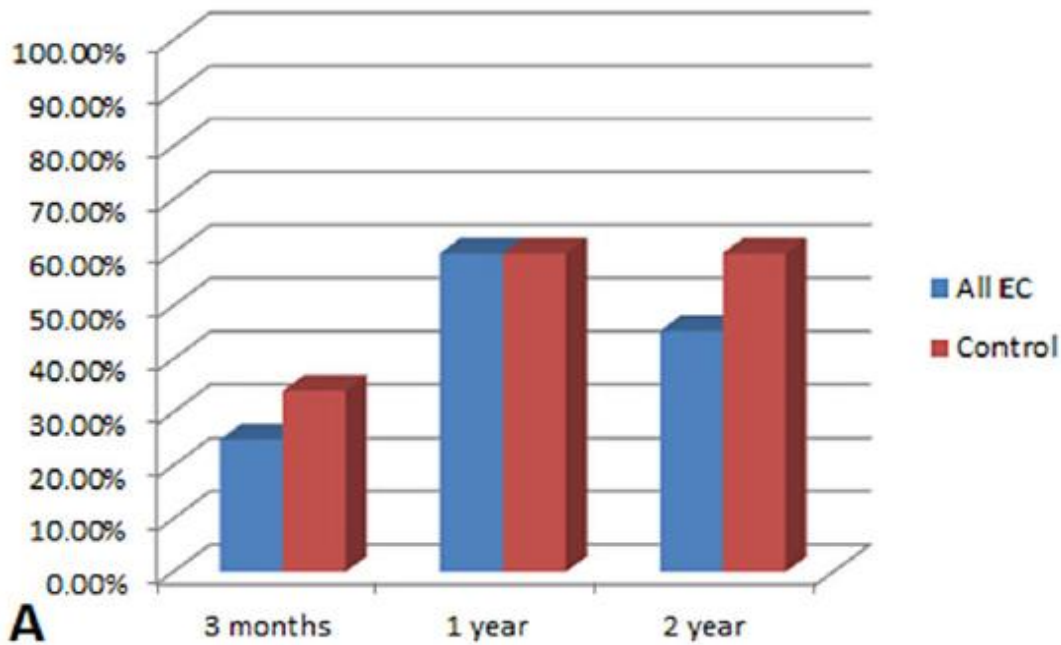
# Biopsy Proven Acute Clinical ABMR

- Increase in serum creatinine  $>0.3\text{mg/dl}$  from nadir
- Biopsy showing ABMR
- First 3 months
- 43.8% controls vs 6.7% Eculizumab
- Eculizumab given for a minimum of 1 month and continued when BFXM  $>200$  for up to 1 year

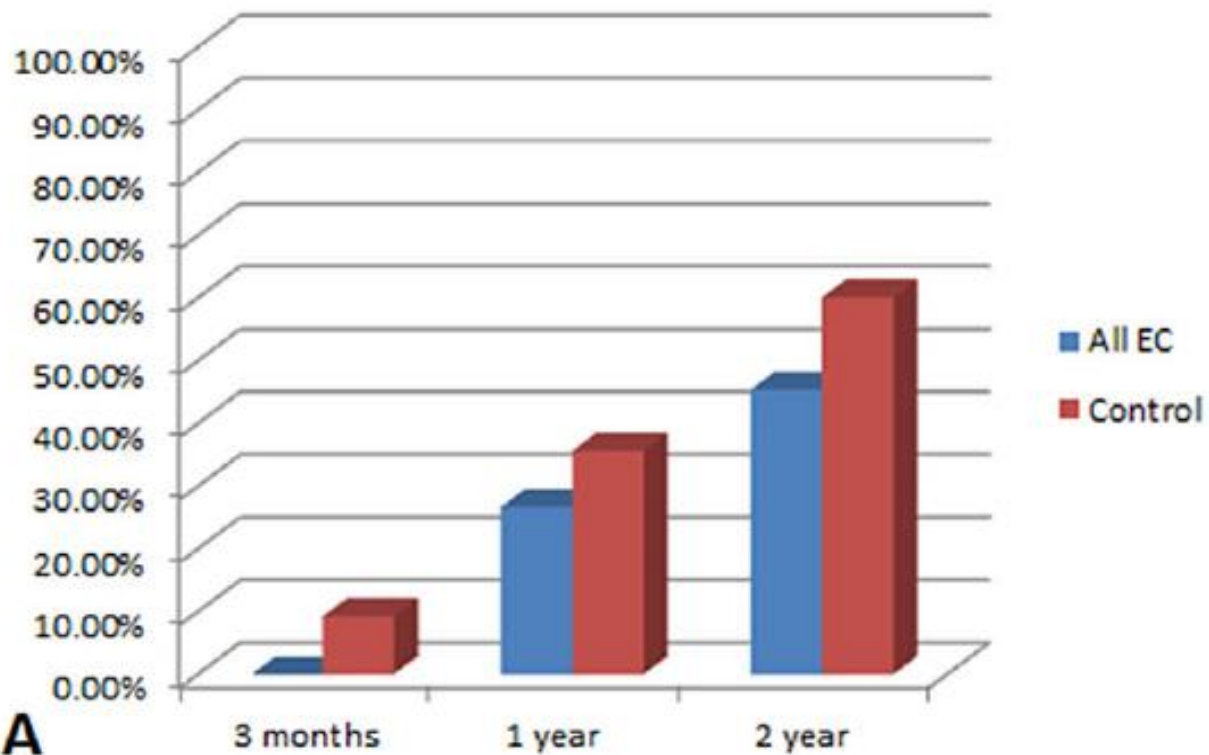
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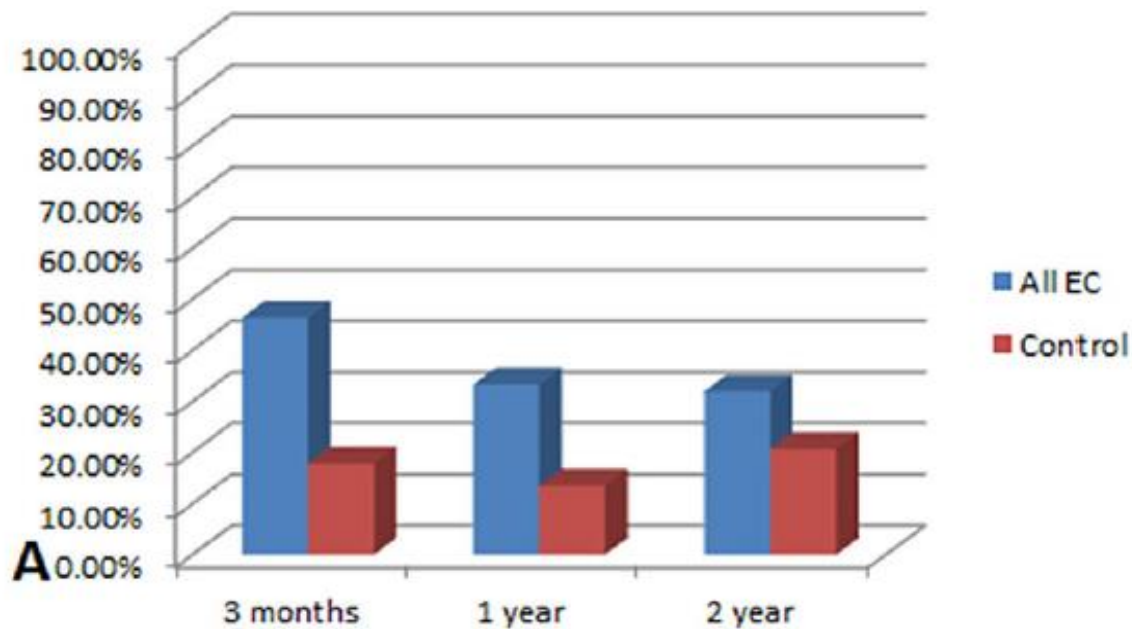
| At risk | 0  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Control | 48 | 46 | 46 | 45 | 40 | 37 |
| EC      | 30 | 30 | 26 | 21 | 8  | 2  |



| Moderate-to-Severe Peritubular capillaritis in Controls vs. Eculizumab |                  |                  |                  |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|  | 3-4 months       | 1 year           | 2 year           |
| All EC   | 25.0%<br>(7/28)  | 60.0%<br>(18/30) | 45.4%<br>(10/22) |
| Control  | 34.1%<br>(14/41) | 60.0%<br>(21/35) | 60.0%<br>(15/25) |
| p-value (control vs. EC)   | P= 0.59          | P=1.00           | P=0.39           |



| Transplant Glomerulopathy in Controls vs. Eculizumab |                |                  |                  |
|--|----------------|------------------|------------------|
|  | 3-4 months     | 1 year           | 2 year           |
| <b>All EC</b>  | 0%<br>(0/28)   | 26.7%<br>(8/30)  | 45.4%<br>(10/22) |
| <b>Control</b>                                       | 9.3%<br>(4/43) | 39.5%<br>(15/38) | 63.6%<br>(21/33) |
| <b>p-value<br/>(EC vs. control)</b>                  | P=0.15         | P=0.31           | P=0.27           |



| C4d in Controls vs. Eculizumab |                  |                  |                 |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                                | 3-4 months       | 1 year           | 2 years         |
| All EC                         | 46.4%<br>(13/28) | 33.3%<br>(10/30) | 31.8%<br>(7/22) |
| Control                        | 17.9%<br>(7/39)  | 13.5%<br>(5/37)  | 20.7%<br>(6/29) |
| p-value (EC vs. control)       | P= 0.02          | P=0.08           | P=0.52          |

# Early C5 Blockade Prevents Late Transplant Glomerulopathy?

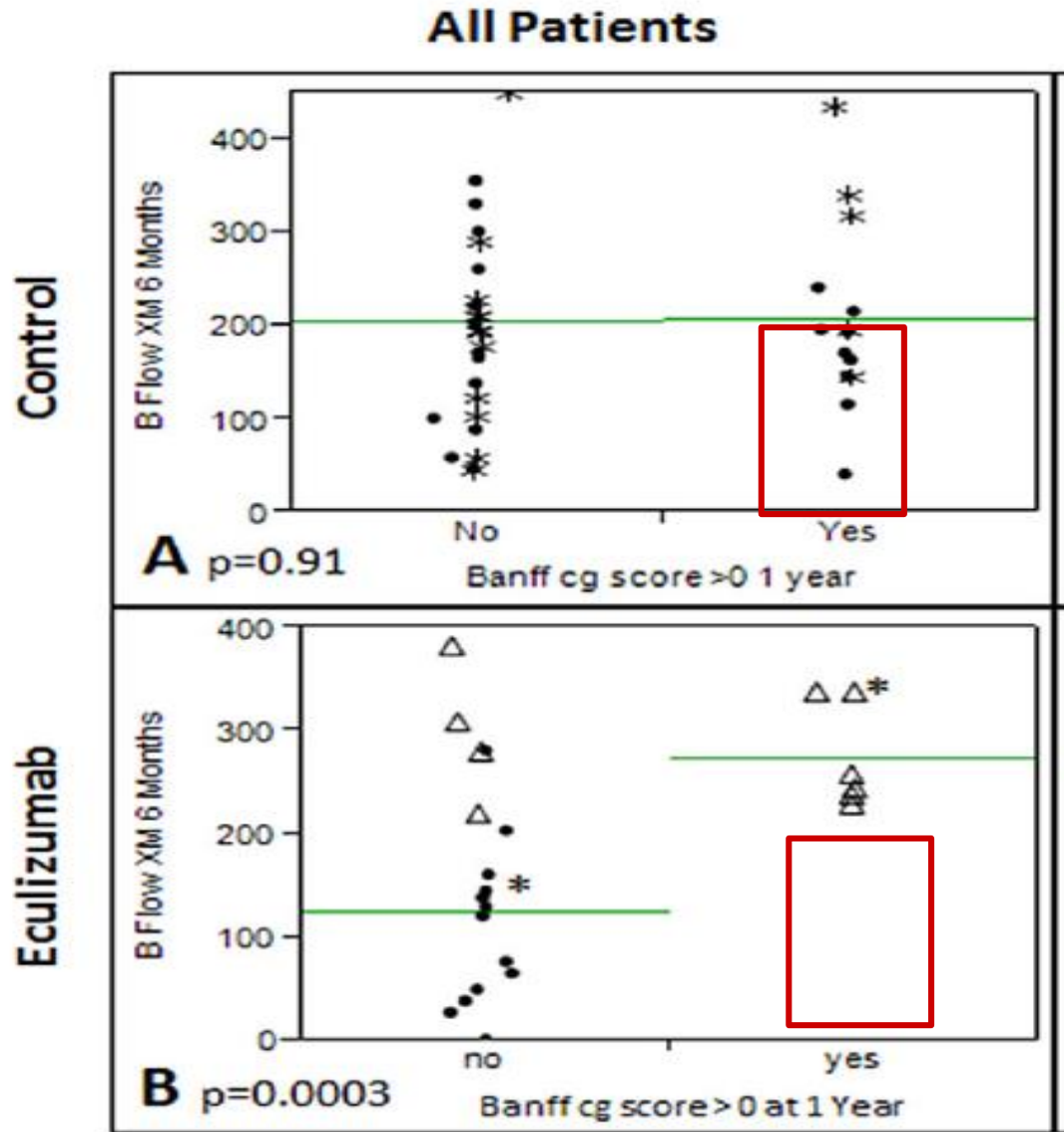


Figure 7: Transplant glomerulopathy at 1 year

# Lessons Learned from Eculizumab Experience

- Preventing early clinical ABMR does not prevent chronic ABMR
- Complement blockade may prevent injury in patients with low levels of DSA, but high levels of DSA are not as complement dependent
- Protocol biopsies help to delineate progression of chronic injury

# Goals of the Workshop

*3) Discuss the natural course of the acute-chronic AMR continuum and its temporal association with cellular rejection and changes in GFR*

## **Emerging Paradigm:**

Late after transplantation

Many patients present with a combination of ACR and ABMR on biopsy

ACR is the primary cause of acute rise in creatinine

ABMR is the primary cause of late graft loss in this setting (ptcitis → cg → graft loss)



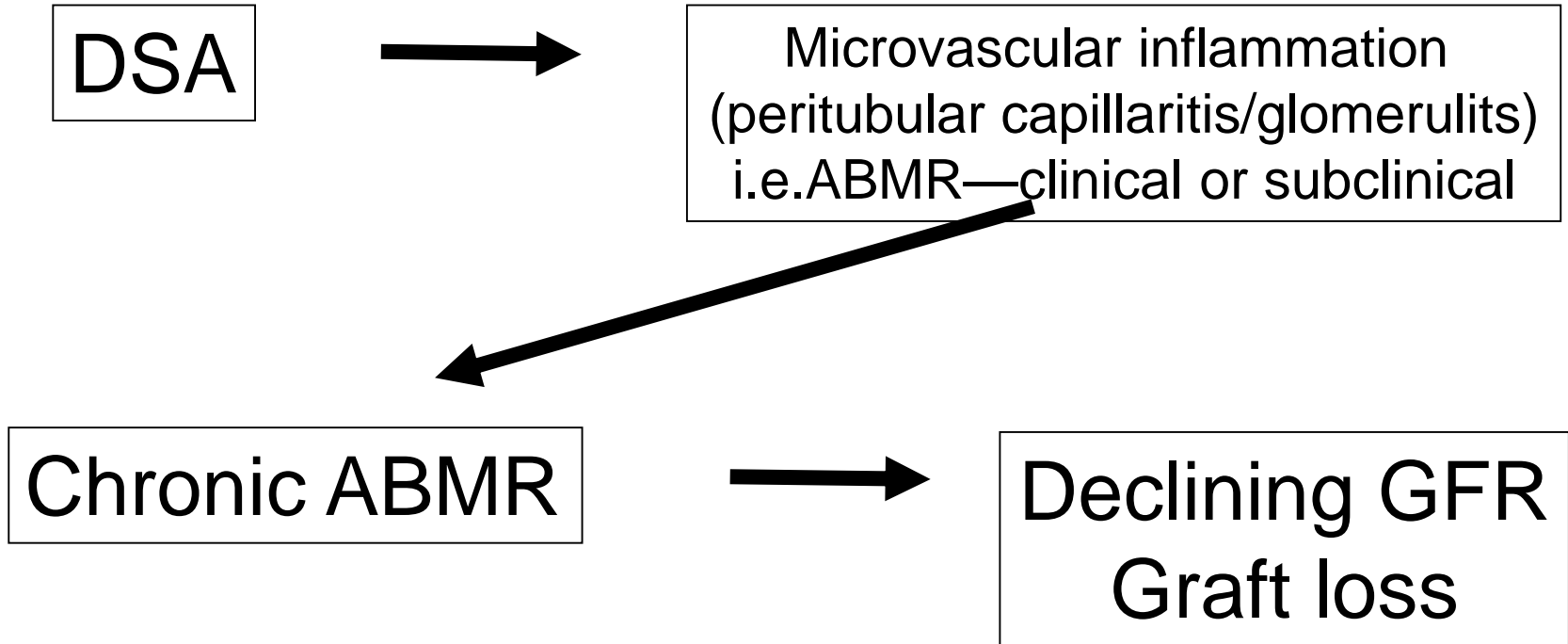
# Mechanism of DSA Development

- T cell dependent immune response
- Non-adherence (commonly combined with T cell mediated rejection) → may persist after treatment/resolution of the cellular response
- Planned reduction in immunosuppression—  
Polyoma virus, cancer or minimization/tolerance protocols
- Subclinically in otherwise adherent patients  
(?50% in our series)
- Treating the ACR does not prevent late graft loss from ABMR

## What you are left with

- Patient with DSA and the other problems are taken care of
- Now we can go to work

## Paradigm

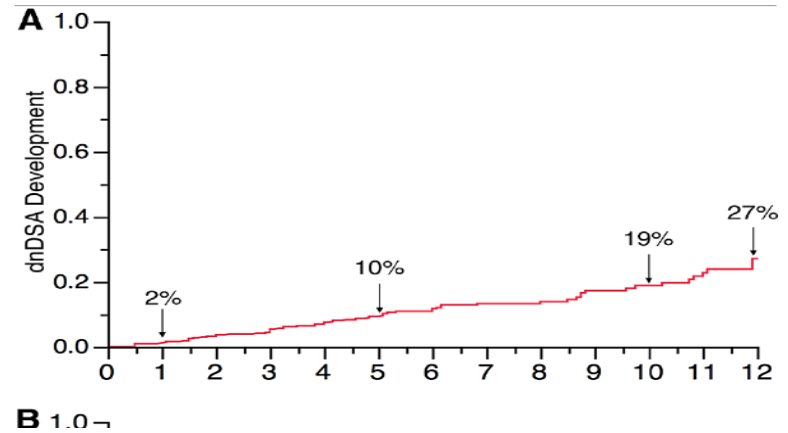
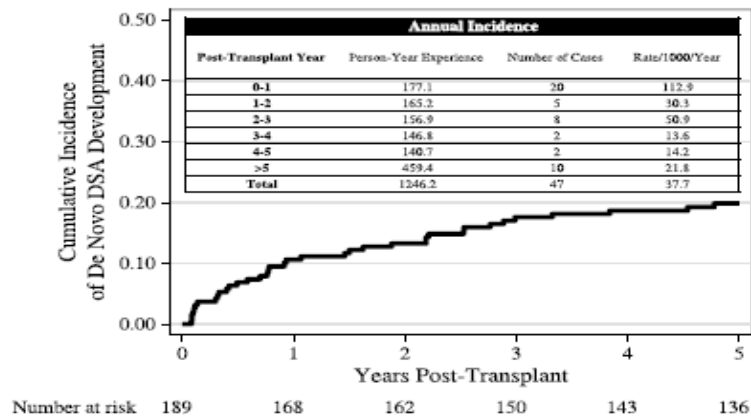


# De Novo DSA

## de Novo DSA

- The incidence varies with the patient population studied and how strictly it is defined.
- 5 years after kidney transplantation, cumulative incidence ranged from 13% (14) to 22% (15).
- Weibe C and Nickerson P. Curr Opin Organ Transplant 2013; 18:470-477.

# De Novo DSA—two studies

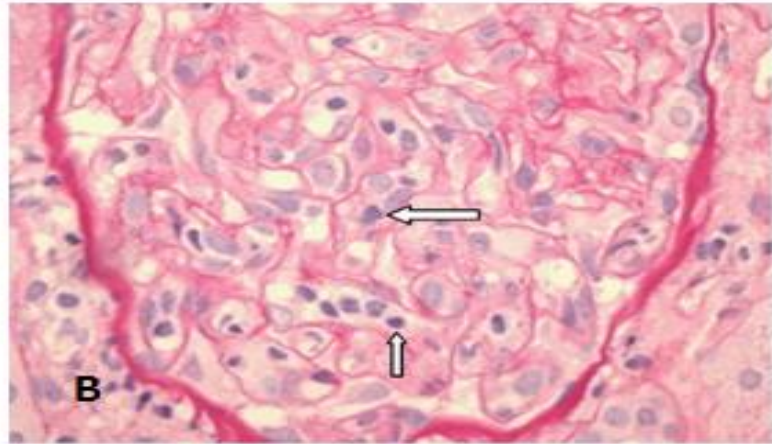
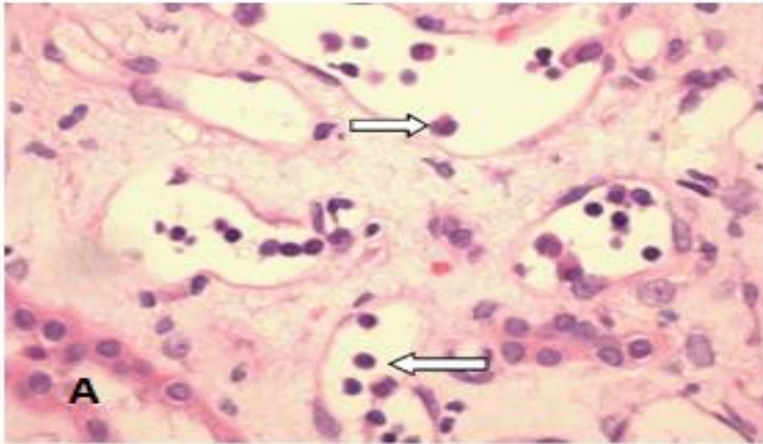


Everly MJ, Rebellato LM, Haissch CE, et al. Incidence and impact of de novo donor-specific alloantibody in primary renal allografts. *Transplantation* 2013; 95:410-417.

Wiebe C, Gibson IW, Blydt-Hansen TD, et al. Evolution and clinical pathologic correlations of de novo donor-specific HLA antibody post kidney transplant. *Am J Transplant* 2012; 12: 1157.

# Not all patients with DSA lose their grafts

- Graft loss is more common when secondary to non-adherence
- Weibe AJT 2012
- Raises the question of the actual cause of graft loss in some patients
- DSA+ patients who do not develop ABMR on biopsy do well



Histologic features of Antibody Mediated Rejection. Peritubular capillaritis (left A) and glomerulitis (right B) are hallmark histologic features of antibody mediated rejection.



## Paradigm

DSA



Microvascular inflammation  
(peritubular capillaritis/glomerulitis)  
i.e. ABMR—clinical or subclinical

- 50% of patients with DSA develop ABMR
- More common with higher levels/C1q+
- More common with anti-Class II DSA (?Dq)
- DSA+/ABMR- patients do well

# The Value of Protocol Biopsies to Identify Patients With *De Novo* Donor-Specific Antibody at High Risk for Allograft Loss

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M. J. Everly<sup>3</sup>, M. D. Samaniego-Picota<sup>4</sup>,  
L. Cornell<sup>5</sup> and M. D. Stegall<sup>1</sup>

eGFR, estimated GFR; ESRD, end-stage renal disease;  
IQR, interquartile range; IVIG, intravenous  
immunoglobulin; MFI, mean fluorescence intensity;  
NA, not assessed; OR, odds ratio; SAB, single antigen  
bead; SD, standard deviation

# De Novo DSA

Consecutive Adult Solitary  
Kidney Transplants  
10/2007-5/2014

N = 967

**Excluded (n=196)**

8 - no SAB testing pre-transplant  
25 - no SAB post-transplant  
5 - retranslated during study period  
158 - DSA present at time of transplant

Study Patients  
(n=771)

Yearly DSA testing  
Surveillance biopsies  
1, 2, 5 years and when  
DSA detected

Mean Follow-Up  
 $4.2 \pm 1.9$  years

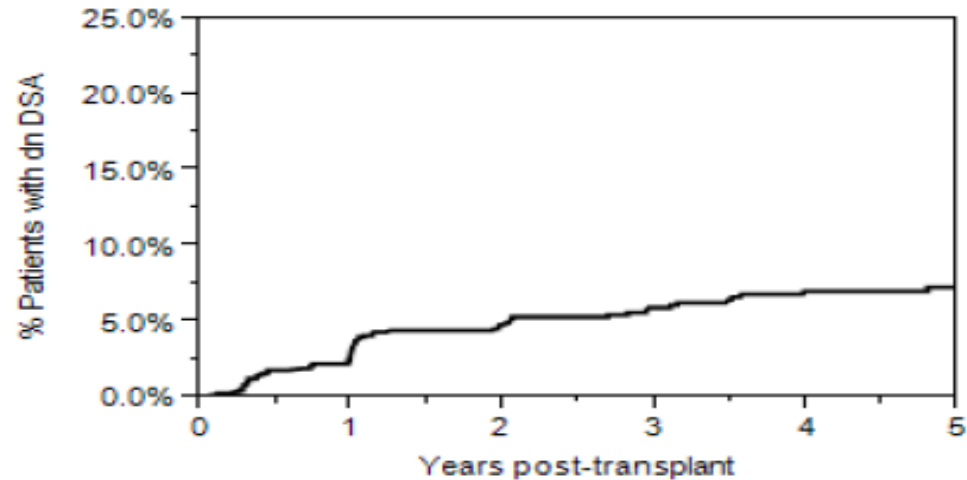
dn DSA

N = 54

No dn DSA

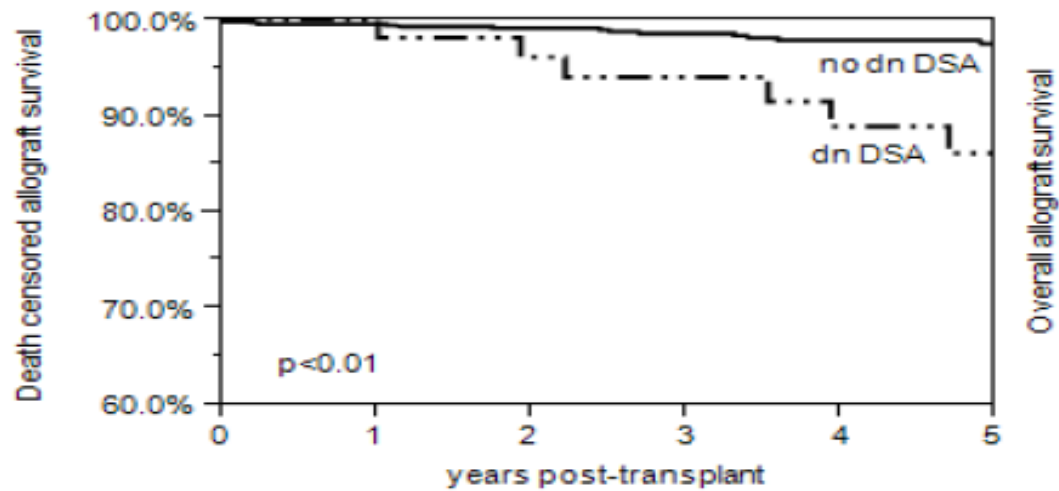
N = 717

## Time to de novo DSA detection



Is dnDSA lower in Tacrolimus-treated patients than in cyclosporine-treated patients? Unknown

# Death-Censored Allograft Survival



# Surveillance Biopsies 1 year after dnDSA detection

- 53% had acute, active ABMR (normal Creatinine)
- 37% had cABMR (cg>0)

# De Novo DSA

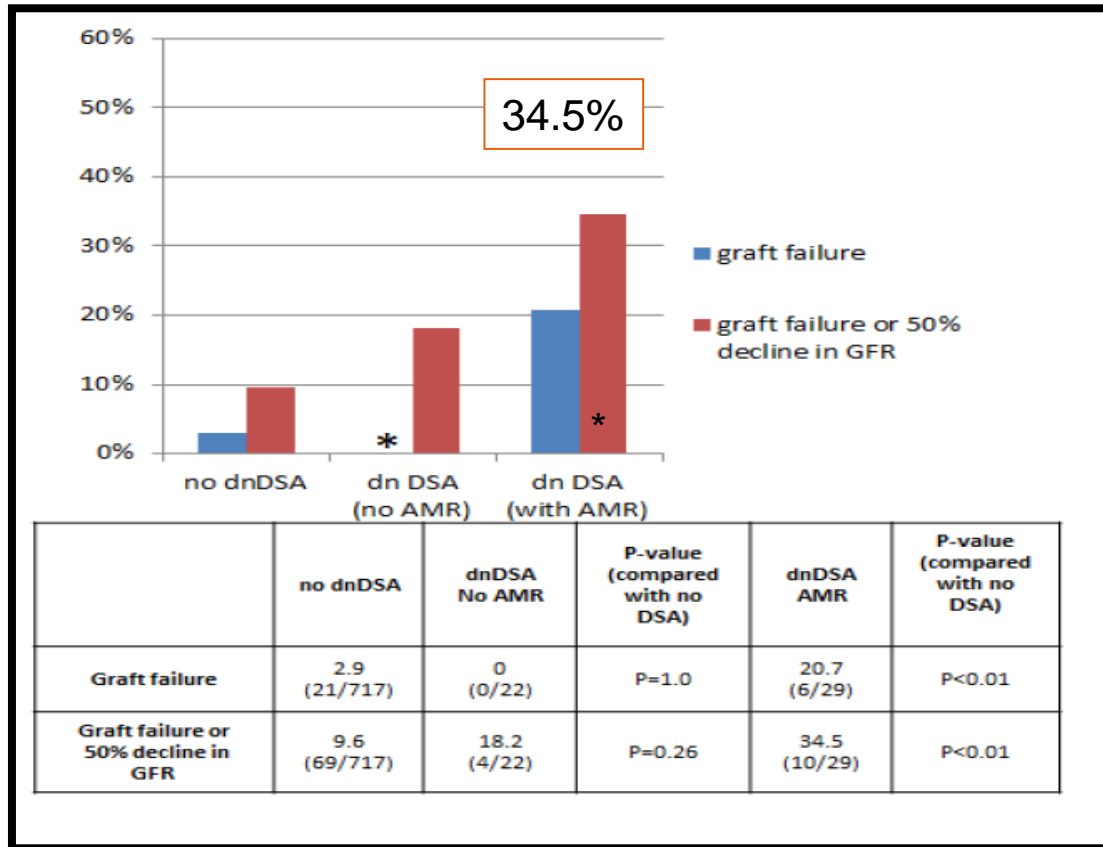
## Important for study design:

Prevention—treat all, graft loss rates are lower

Intervention—Enriched population, graft loss rates are higher

Easier to show an effect

ection



Mean f/u after DN DSA Detection 3.5+2.0 years

# Treatment of ABMR

- None proven effective
- Optimize tacrolimus, mmf
- Only use IVIG or plasma exchange in acute graft dysfunction



(*Transplantation* 2014;97: 1240–1246)

## Late Antibody-Mediated Rejection in Renal Allografts: Outcome After Conventional and Novel Therapies

Gaurav Gupta,<sup>1</sup> Bassam G. Abu Jawdeh,<sup>2</sup> Lorraine C. Racusen,<sup>3</sup> Bhavna Bhasin,<sup>4</sup> Lois J. Arend,<sup>3</sup>  
Brandon Trollinger,<sup>5</sup> Edward Kraus,<sup>4</sup> Hamid Rabb,<sup>4</sup> Andrea A. Zachary,<sup>4</sup>  
Robert A. Montgomery,<sup>6</sup> and Nada Alachkar<sup>4,7</sup>

(*Transplantation* 2014;97: 1253–1259)

## High Dose Intravenous Immunoglobulin Therapy for Donor-Specific Antibodies in Kidney Transplant Recipients With Acute and Chronic Graft Dysfunction

James E. Cooper,<sup>1,4</sup> Jane Gralla,<sup>2</sup> Patrick Klem,<sup>3</sup> Laurence Chan,<sup>1</sup> and Alexander C. Wiseman<sup>1</sup>

*Transplantation* 2008; 86:1754.

## Bortezomib Provides Effective Therapy for Antibody- and Cell-Mediated Acute Rejection

Matthew J. Everly,<sup>1</sup> Jason J. Everly,<sup>1</sup> Brian Susskind,<sup>2</sup> Paul Brailey,<sup>2</sup> Lois J. Arend,<sup>3</sup> Rita R. Alloway,<sup>4</sup>  
Prabir Roy-Chaudhury,<sup>4</sup> Amit Govil,<sup>4</sup> Gautham Mogilishetty,<sup>4</sup> Adele H. Rike,<sup>1</sup> Michael Cardi,<sup>5</sup>  
George Wadhi,<sup>5</sup> Amit Tevar,<sup>1</sup> and E. Steve Woodle<sup>1,6</sup>

# Goals of the Workshop

4) Discuss unmet medical needs and potential clinical trial design challenges for the prevention and treatment of AMR

# Is there hope?

- What would a clinical trial look like?

# The Problem is “Thorny”

## Who to include in the study?

- ? 50% caused by non-adherence (Dr. Nickerson will cover this)
- Some secondary to necessary immunosuppressive withdrawal (polyoma virus, cancer)
- Mixed cellular and humoral rejection is common
- ? Treated cellular rejection → persistent ABMR

- **A conservative estimate that we used in power calculations for our proposed study is a rate of DSA detection in the overall transplant population of 2%/year after transplantation.**
- This correlates to a 10% incidence at 5 years.

# Combined Clinical Endpoints

- Graft loss
- 50% decline in eGFR

# Surrogate endpoints

- The histologic changes of cABMR are a good surrogate biomarker for allograft loss because they precede allograft loss by years, are not seen in other conditions that affect the allograft, and are highly predictive of the outcome.
- Alternatively, just use DSA alone
- Prevention of graft loss or decline in eGFR is the ultimate goal

# Chronic Irreversible Changes need to be considered in treatment

- CG3
- Ci3
- If a biopsy has a lot of chronic changes, we are less likely to treat
- Retransplantation is a better option



# DSA as the inclusion criteria: Weibe et al

- 40% lost their graft by **5 years** post-dnDSA.
- RCT expected to improve 5 year graft survival by 25% would require 150 recipients (power =80%, drop out 10%,  $p,0.05$ )
- Declining GFR as an endpoint also suggested

Wiebe C, Gibson IW, Blydt-Hansen TD, et al. Evolution and clinical pathologic correlations of de novo donor-specific HLA antibody post kidney transplant. Am J Transplant 2012; 12: 1157.

# What about a surrogate endpoint study? Shorten time to show efficacy

Surrogate=resolution of DSA

or

Surrogate=resolution of cAMR on biopsy

# Design #1

## DSA as the inclusion criteria Intervention Trial

- MFI >1000
- 6 months treatment and recheck DSA
- Treat → MFI <1000
- Incidence of graft loss with MFI 1000 at **2 years** is 18%  
C1q might be better, but not FDA approved

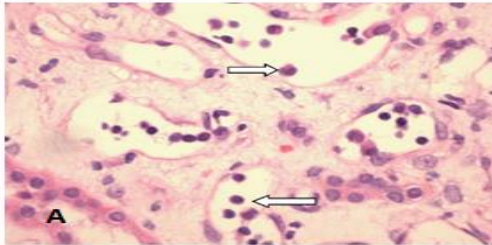
Wiebe et al. Am J Transplant 2016;

|       | DSA Decrease | 80% | 90% | Clinical Endpoint | 80  | 90% |
|-------|--------------|-----|-----|-------------------|-----|-----|
| CTL   | 20%          | 43  | 58  | 18%               | 230 | 308 |
| Rx    | 50%          | 43  | 58  | 9%                | 230 | 308 |
| Total |              | 84  | 116 |                   | 460 | 608 |

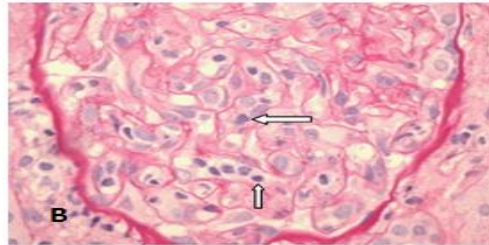
Two big problems:  
 DSA can resolve without treatment  
 Rate of graft loss is low

## Intervention Trial Design #2

- Identify patients with de novo DSA
- Biopsy
- If ABMR → Enter into trial
- If no ABMR → follow and rebiopsy



Peritubular capillaritis



Glomerulitis

# cABMR Study: Power Calculations

- cABMR does not spontaneously resolve
- 35.7% lose grafts at 2 years

|       | Histologic Response | 80% | 90% | Clinical Endpoint | 80  | 90% |
|-------|---------------------|-----|-----|-------------------|-----|-----|
| CTL   | 0%                  | 11  | 14  | 35.7%             | 96  | 128 |
| Rx    | 50%                 | 11  | 14  | 17.9%             | 96  | 128 |
| Total |                     | 22  | 28  |                   | 192 | 256 |

# Adaptive Trial Design

- A methodology in which a clinical trial evolves or adapts as the trial proceeds depending on the outcomes of patients enrolled. T
- The criteria for these decisions are set prior to the beginning of the studies.
- An adaptive design may use of standard statistical methods (i.e. frequentist) to halt the trial early for toxicity (dangerous substance), futility (no improvement over a control), or efficacy (great improvement over a control).

# Adaptive Trial Design

- can “learn” from relatively small numbers of study subjects.
- In our calculations, as few as 8 patients can be used to decide if a therapy is ineffective.
- Another aspect of ATD that enhances efficiency is that it uses a single ongoing control group rather than having a different control group for each experimental group. T
- The vast majority of patients can be assigned to an experimental group. This maximizes the number of different studies that can be performed in a small population of patients



# Adaptive Trial Design

- Minimizes the number of patients receiving ineffective treatments and thus limits unnecessary treatment risks in study patients. FDA like it
- Cheaper—drug companies like it

# cABMR Study: Power Calculations

| Treatment | Histologic Response | Sample Size |     | Clinical Endpoint | Sample Size |     |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------|-----|-------------------|-------------|-----|
|           |                     | 80%         | 90% |                   | 80%         | 90% |
| Control   | 0%                  | 11          | 14  | 35.7%             | 96          | 128 |
| Drug A    | 50%                 | 11          | 14  | 17.9%             | 96          | 128 |
| Total     |                     | 22          | 28  |                   |             |     |

| Therapy   | Single Therapy<br>[No Dual therapy] |            |            |            | Dual Therapy<br>[ALL Single therapy fail] |            |            |            |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|---|------------|------------|------------|
|           | ALL<br>FAIL                         | 1<br>Works | 2<br>Works | 3<br>Works | ALL<br>FAIL                               | 1<br>Works | 2<br>Works | 3<br>Works |
| Control   | 8                                   | 17         | 17         | 17         | 17  | 17         | 17         | 17         |
| Treatment |                                     |            |            |            |   |            |            |            |
| 1         | 8                                   | 17         | 17         | 17         | 8   | 8          | 8          | 8          |
| 2         | 8                                   | 8          | 17         | 17         | 8   | 8          | 8          | 8          |
| 3         | 8                                   | 8          | 8          | 17         | 8   | 8          | 8          | 8          |
| Treatment |                                     |            |            |            |   |            |            |            |
| 1+2       |                                     |            |            |            | 8   | 17         | 17         | 17         |
| 1+3       |                                     |            |            |            | 8   | 8          | 17         | 17         |
| 2+3       |                                     |            |            |            | 8   | 8          | 8          | 17         |
|           | 32                                  | 50         | 59         | 68         | 65  | 74         | 83         | 92         |

Need 7/14 to respond

# Summary

# Different Clinical Scenarios

## Early Acute ABMR

Presensitized Patients  
High levels of DSA  
Reversible with treatment of DSA  
(Plex, IVIG)  
Plasmablasts/Preexisting DSA  
"Pure" ABMR on biopsy

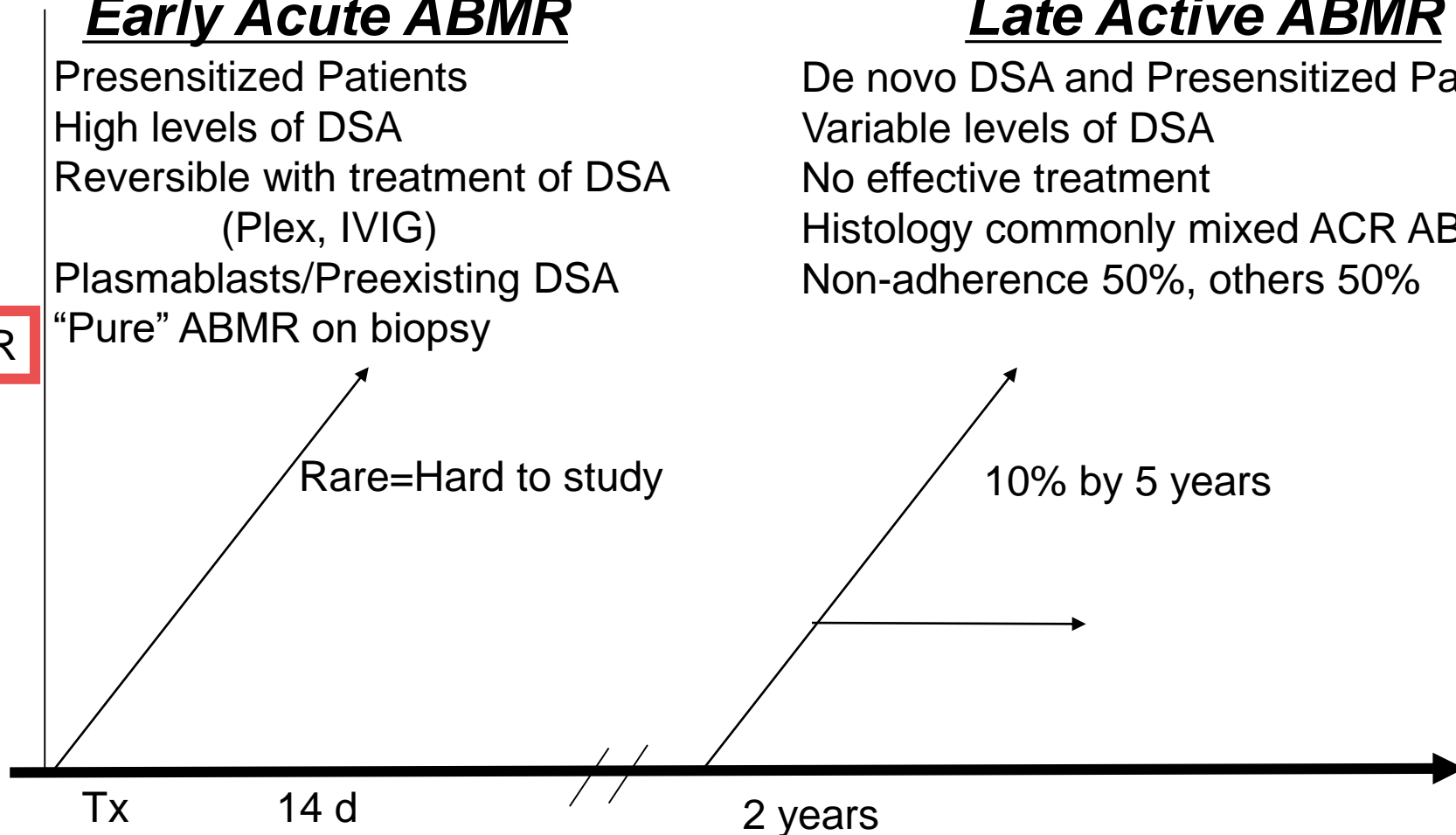
CR

Rare=Hard to study

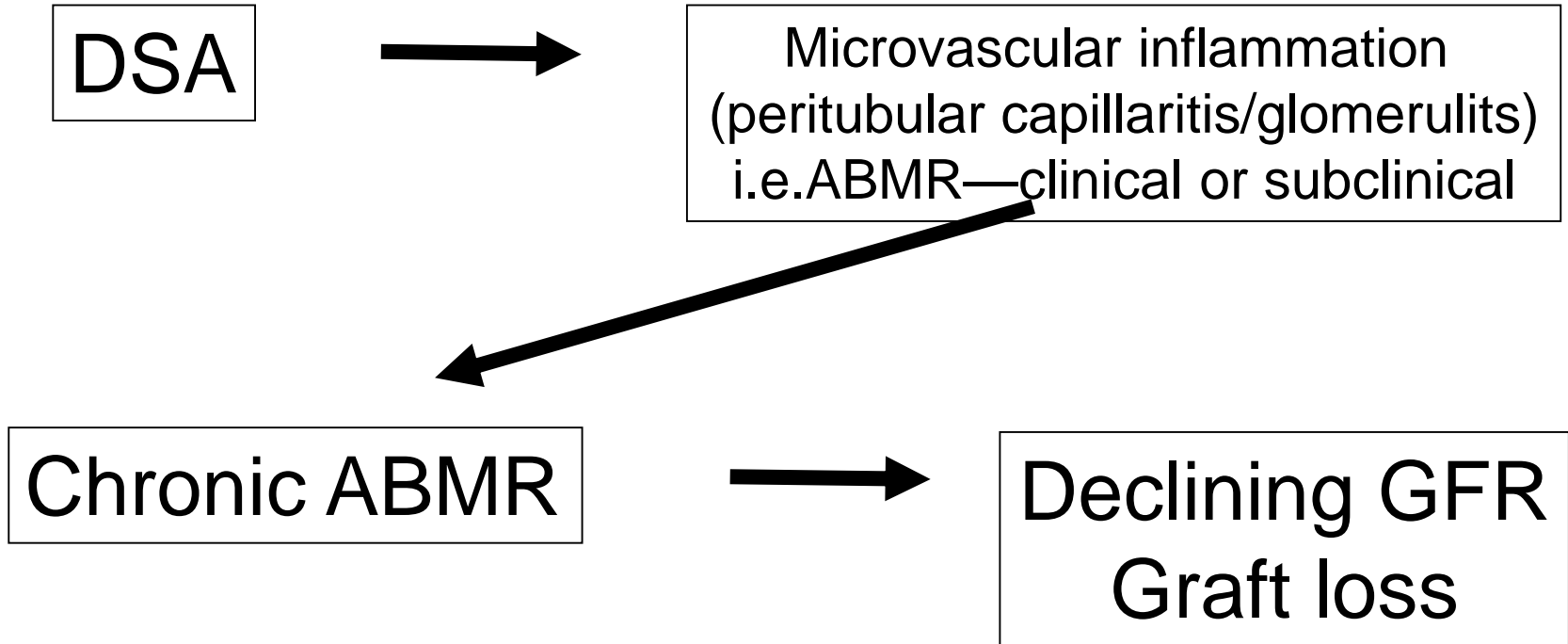
## Late Active ABMR

De novo DSA and Presensitized Patients  
Variable levels of DSA  
No effective treatment  
Histology commonly mixed ACR ABMR  
Non-adherence 50%, others 50%

10% by 5 years



## Paradigm



# Biopsy

- A picture of the past and of the future
- A biomarker—how well does a biopsy finding correlate with subsequent clinical outcomes (graft loss)?

## Most Important

- If your biopsy is normal, your chance of graft loss is low



# Conclusions

- Developing therapy for cABMR is a major unmet need in kidney transplantation
- Validated surrogate markers are needed (histology is a very good one)
- Clinical trials are feasible
- Best to employ adaptive trial design

# Reality

- Improving long-term renal allograft survival is a tough problem
- It will take many years to make improvements
- We need to start now
- I may not see the final product



# Subpart H: Accelerated Approval

- Shortens time to approval
- Encourages companies to study long-term outcomes
- Drug gets FDA interim approval because it improves a predictive biomarker
- Drug can then be marketed and sold
- Follow-up studies needed to show that it actually improves the clinical endpoint (ex. graft survival)
- May be “pulled” if it does not meet the clinical endpoint