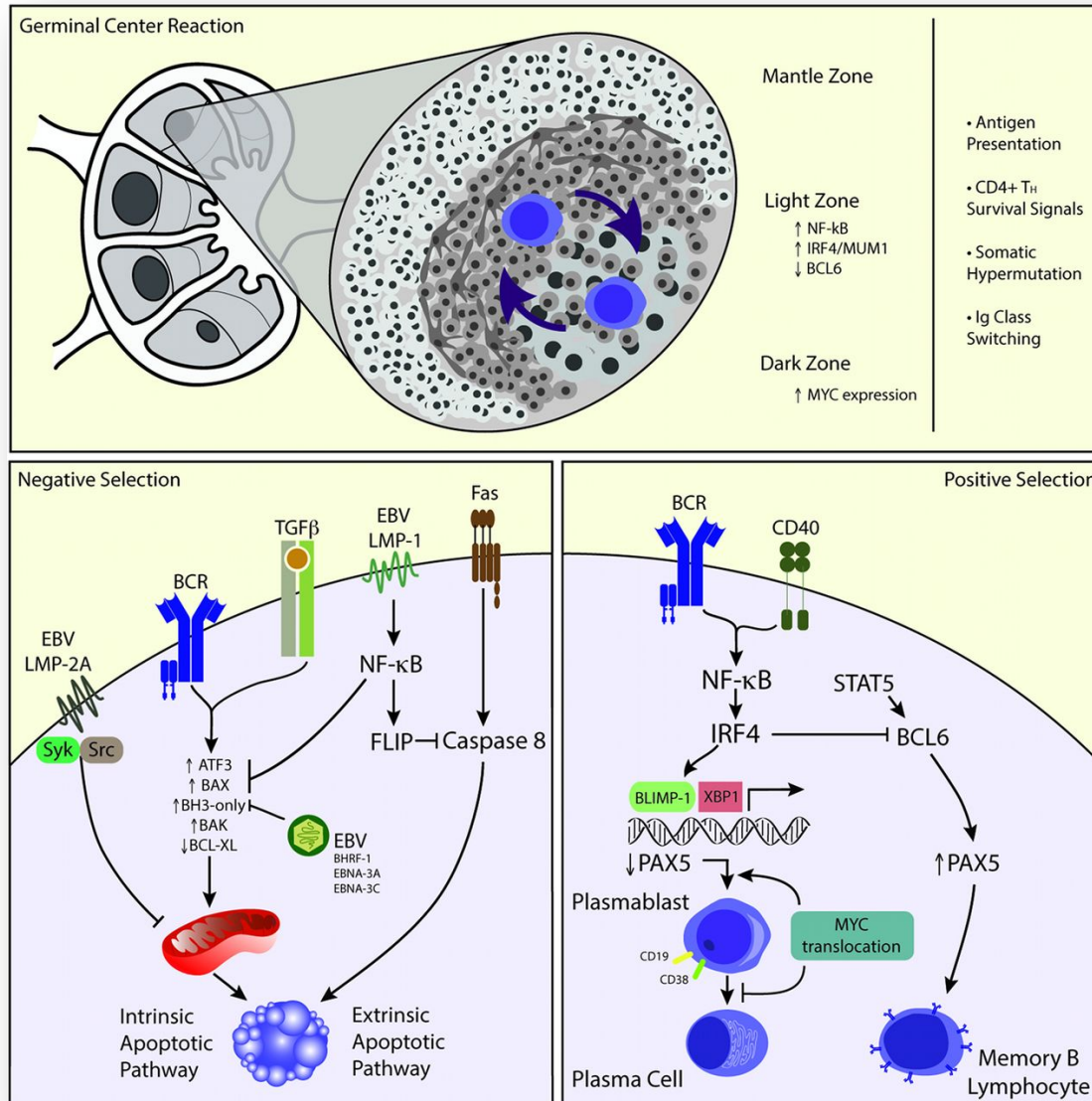
A microscopic image of a lymphoma tumor. The image shows a complex network of red, fibrous-looking structures, likely representing the tumor's architecture. These structures are set against a background of blue, more cellular-looking tissue. Numerous small, bright green spots are scattered throughout the image, possibly representing specific cells or markers within the tumor. The overall appearance is that of a dense, irregular mass of tissue.

**Lymphoma Tumor Board**  
**Friday, November 18, 2016**  
**Plasmablastic lymphoma**

# Plasmablastic lymphoma - Background

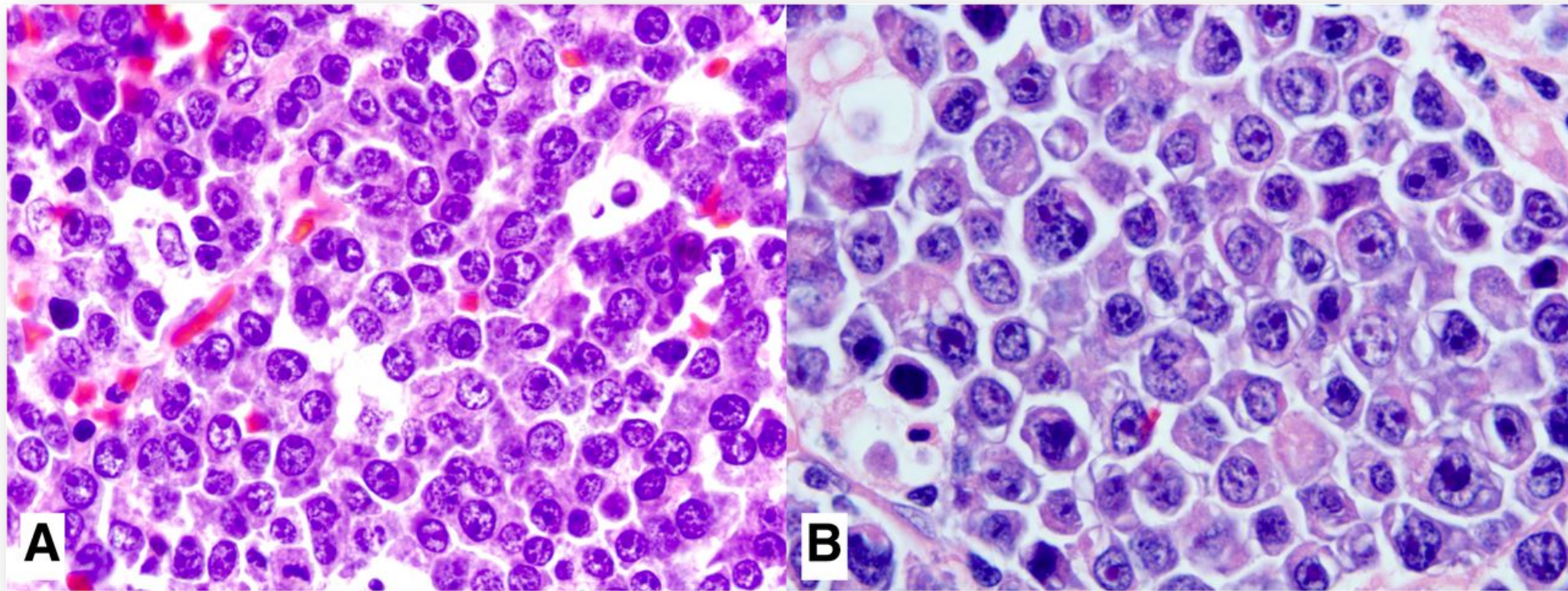
- Aggressive lymphoma associated with HIV infection and other conditions associated with immune deficiency
- B-cell lineage, but CD20-negative
- Immunophenotype of tumor cells generally resembles that of plasma cells
- Median age at diagnosis is 40-60
- Predilection for the oral cavity, nasal cavity, gastrointestinal tract, skin, bone soft tissue, and lung
- Morphology resembles that of Burkitt lymphoma with a “starry sky” appearance
  - HHV-8 (KSHV) typically not detected
  - EBV positive in 75%

# PBL biology : GC reaction in primary follicle



Jorge J. Castillo et al. Blood 2015;125:2323-2330

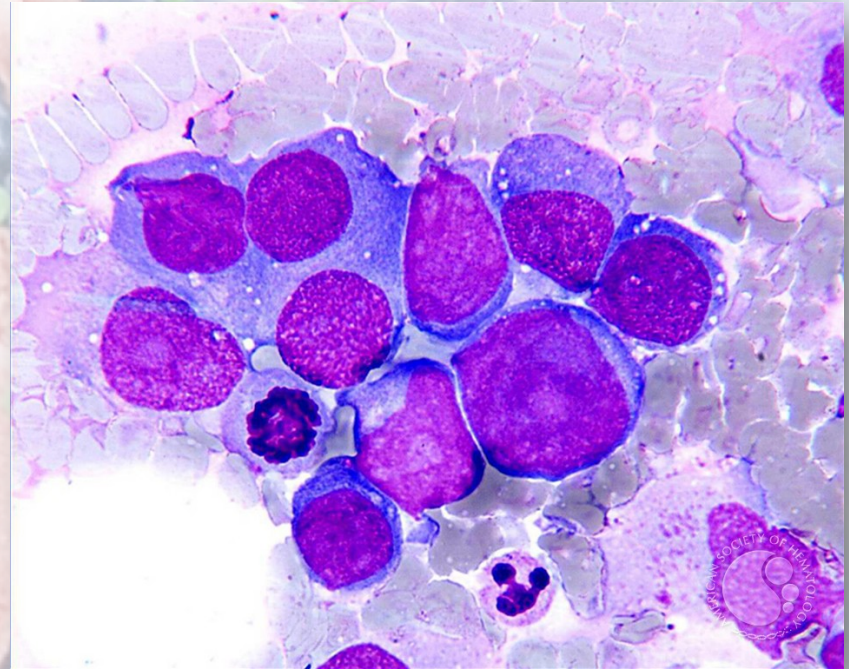
# PBL: Histopathologic features in HIV<sup>+</sup> setting



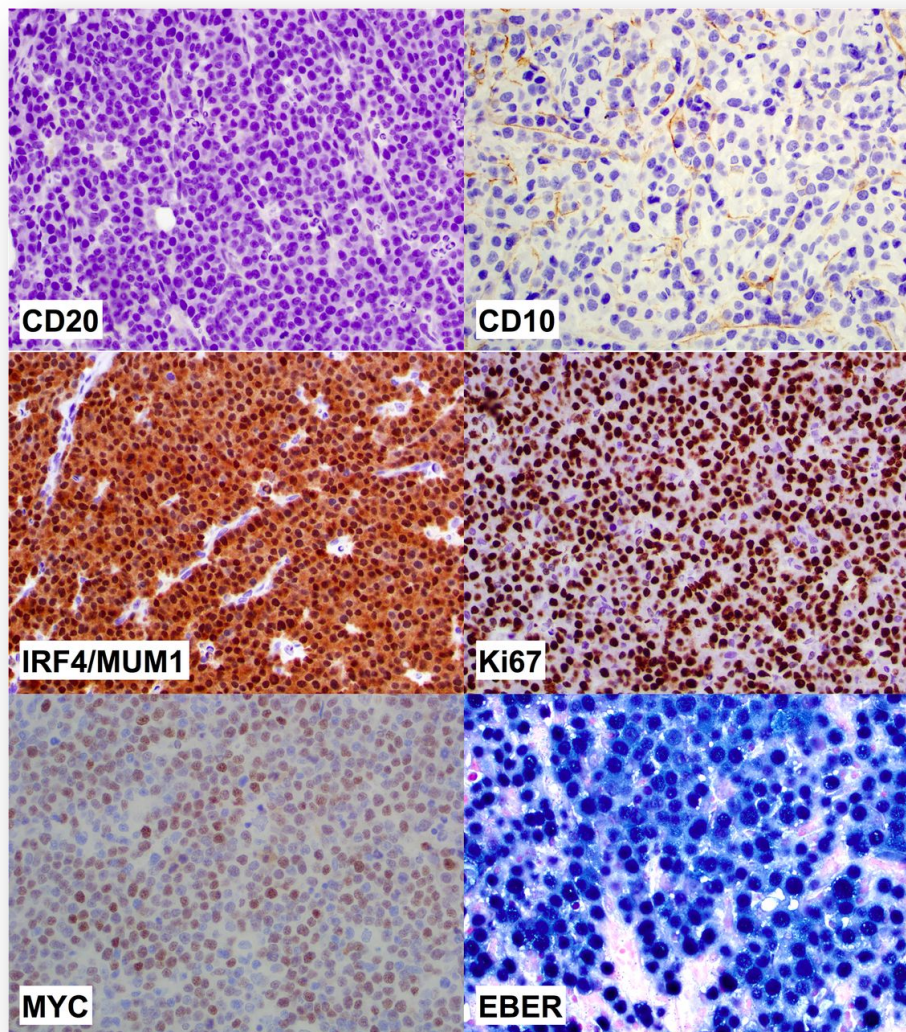
Jorge J. Castillo et al. Blood 2015;125:2323-2330

# Immunophenotype of plasmablastic lymphoma

- Viewed as clinicopathologic variant of DLBCL
- Castillo *et al.* studied phenotypic variability within PBL to identify a specific IHC profile that would reliably distinguish it from DLBCL
- Markers studied:
  - CD20
  - PAX5
  - BCL6
  - CD10
  - GCET1
  - KLHL6
  - IRF4/MUM1
  - PRDM1/BLIMP1
  - XBP1
  - CD38
  - CD138
  - Ki-67(MIB-1)
  - p53
  - ISH for EBV EBER
- Plasmablastic lymphoma comprises two primary immunophenotypes

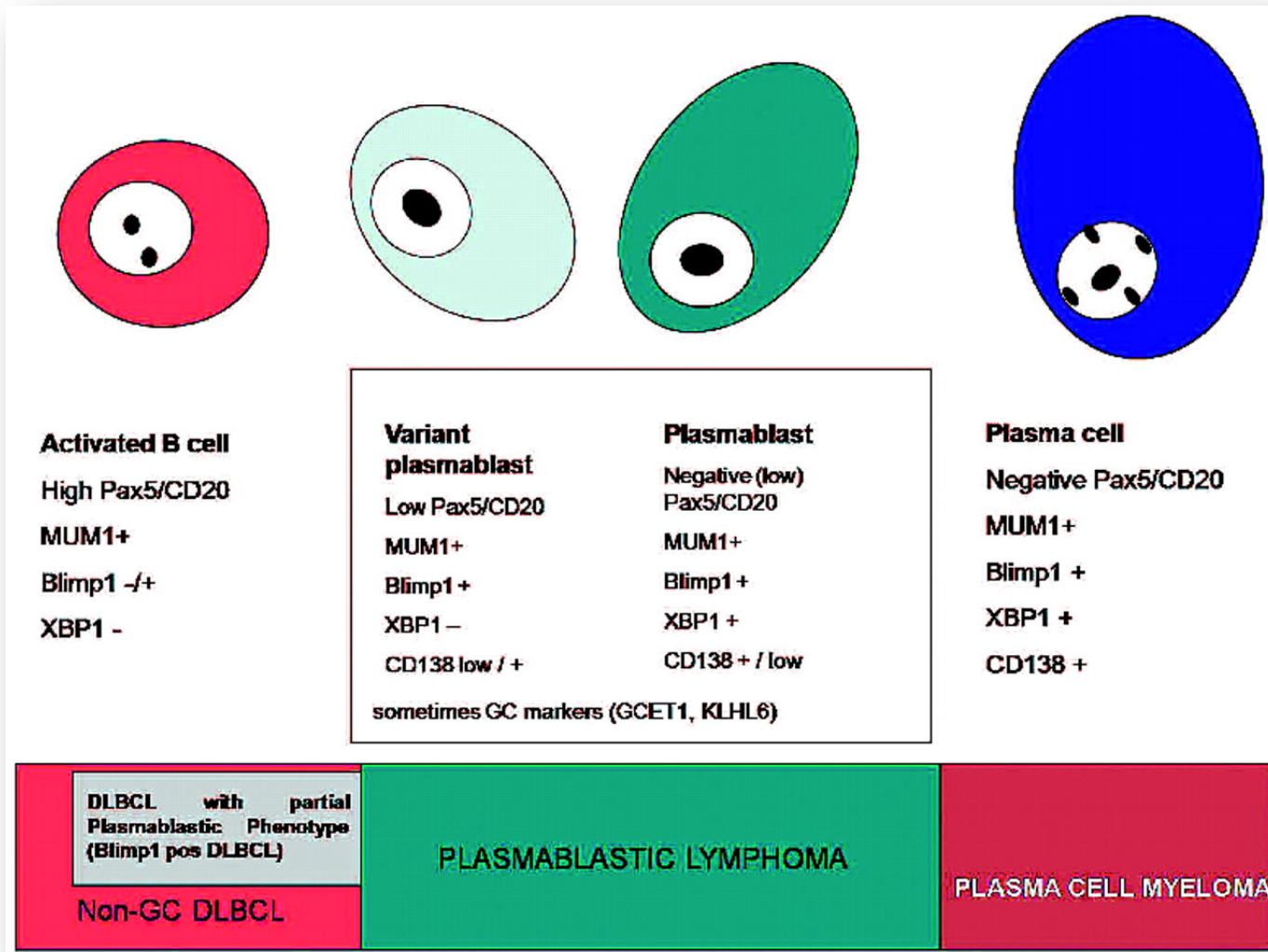


# PBL immunophenotype: lack of expression of CD10 and CD20; reliable expression of IRF4/MUM1 and MYC; high Ki-67

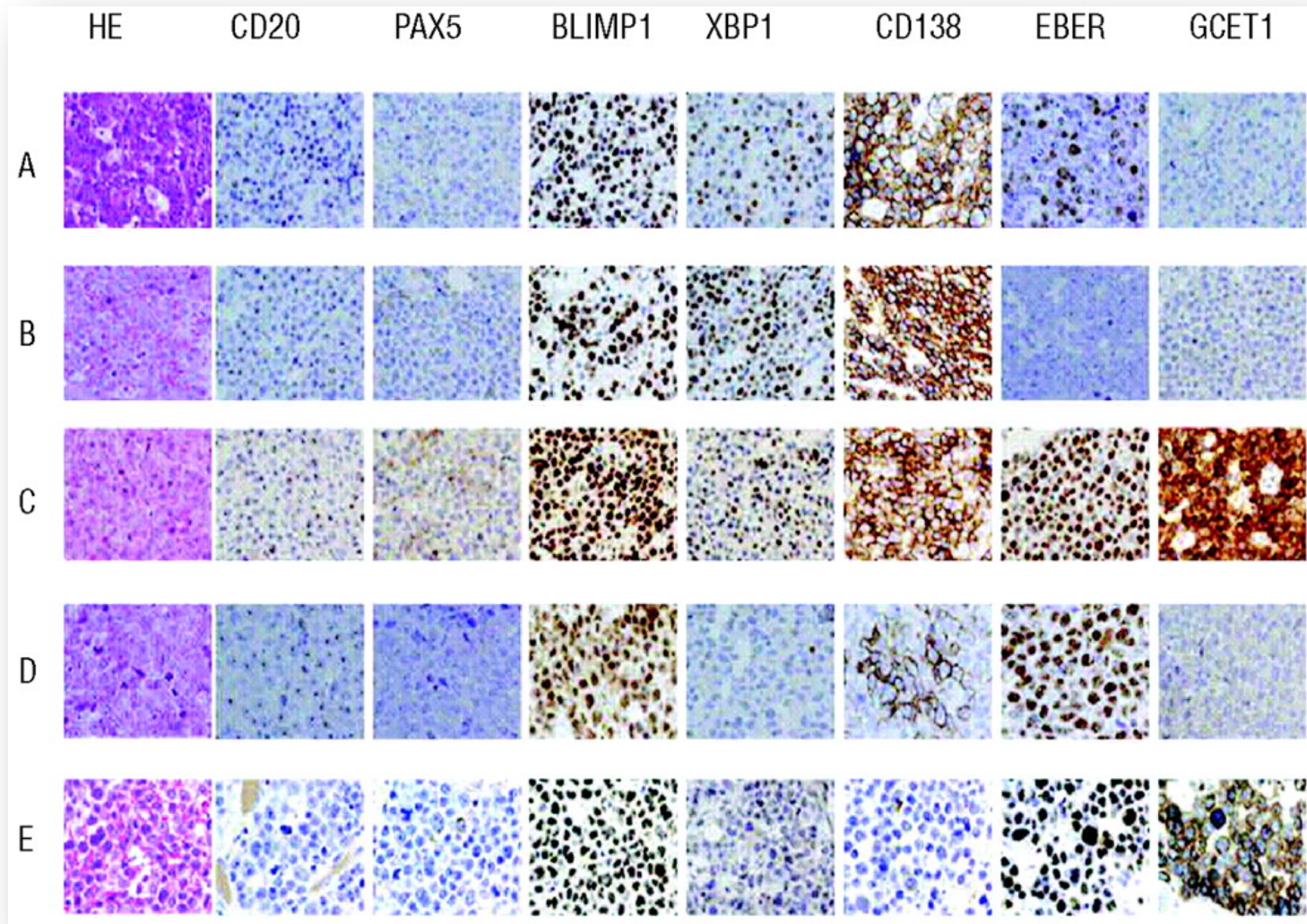


Jorge J. Castillo et al. *Blood* 2015;125:2323-2330

# Expression of PAX5, CD20, PRDM1/BLIMP1, XBP1 characterizes the immunophenotype of plasmablastic lymphoma



# Phenotypic heterogeneity in plasmablastic lymphoma



Santiago Montes-Moreno et al. *Haematologica* 2010;95:1342-1349



# Differential diagnosis of PBL and related lymphomas

**Table 3. Differential diagnosis of PBL**

	PBL	Plasmablastic myeloma	LBCL HHV-8-positive	IBL DLBCL	ALK-positive DLBCL	DLBCL ACI	PEL
Disease distribution	Extranodal	Bone marrow and extranodal	Nodal	Nodal	Nodal	Extranodal	Extranodal
HIV infection	~70%	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Pathogenesis	EBV, HIV, IL-10	IL-6	HHV-8, MCD		ALK	EBV, IL-10, IL-6	HHV-8
Positive markers	CD138, IRF-4/MUM-1, MYC	CD138, cytoplasmic Ig, MYC	CD20 <sup>-/+</sup> , CD138 <sup>+/-</sup> , IgM	CD20, PAX-5,	ALK, CD4, CD45	CD20, CD4	IRF-4/MUM-1, CD30 <sup>-/+</sup>
Negative markers	CD20, PAX-5	CD20, PAX-5, BCL-6	CD138	CD4, CD138	CD20, CD30, MYC	ALK	PAX-5, CD20, CD138, Ig
Proliferation rate	>90%	>90%	>90%	~80%	>90%	>90%	>90%
Cytoplasmic immunoglobulin	50%-70%	>90%	IgA λ	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
EBV infection	Common	No	No	No	No	Common	Common
EBV latency pattern	I	NA	NA	NA	NA	III	I
HHV-8 infection	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Molecular genetics	MYC GR	Myeloma FISH abnormalities	Unmutated Ig	MYC GR	t(2;17)(p23;q23)	TP53 mutations	Hypermethylated Is

ACI, associated with chronic inflammation; ALK, anaplastic lymphoma kinase; FISH, fluorescence in situ hybridization; GR, gene rearrangement; IBL, immunoblastic; IL, interleukin; IRF-4/MUM-1, interferon regulatory factor 4/multiple myeloma 1; LBCL, large B-cell lymphoma; NA, not available; PEL, primary effusion lymphoma.

# Treatment of plasmablastic lymphoma

- Prognosis is generally poor
- *MYC* rearrangements have been shown to be associated with shorter OS
- CHOP, infusional EPOCH, hyperCVAD, and CODOX-M/IVAC are mainstays of therapy
- Intrathecal prophylaxis should be considered
- In the US, “first-line treatment of PBL is 6 cycles of infusional dose-adjusted EPOCH (with or without bortezomib) with intrathecal prophylaxis with each cycle of EPOCH and consideration of consolidative HDC followed by autologous SCT in first remission for appropriate candidates.”
- HIV<sup>+</sup> individuals should be started on cART and optimized to ensure there are no interactions between anticancer agents and cART

# Treatment of plasmablastic lymphoma - NCCN

## TREATMENT

Antiretrovirals can be administered safely with chemotherapy; however, some regimens have recommended discontinuation. Any change in antiviral therapy should be done in consultation with an infectious disease specialist.

Plasmablastic lymphoma<sup>f</sup>

- Suggested regimens:<sup>c</sup>
  - ▶ CODOX-M/IVAC (modified)
  - ▶ Dose-adjusted EPOCH
  - ▶ HyperCVAD (cyclophosphamide, vincristine, doxorubicin, and dexamethasone alternating with high-dose methotrexate and cytarabine)
- Standard CHOP is not adequate therapy

Primary CNS lymphoma

- Consider high-dose methotrexate
- Consider RT alone
- For select patients with good performance status on HAART, see [NCCN Guidelines for CNS- Primary CNS Lymphoma](#)
- Best supportive care (See [NCCN Guidelines for Palliative Care](#))

Consider prophylaxis for tumor lysis syndrome (See [NHODG-B](#))

See monoclonal antibody and viral reactivation ([NHODG-B](#))

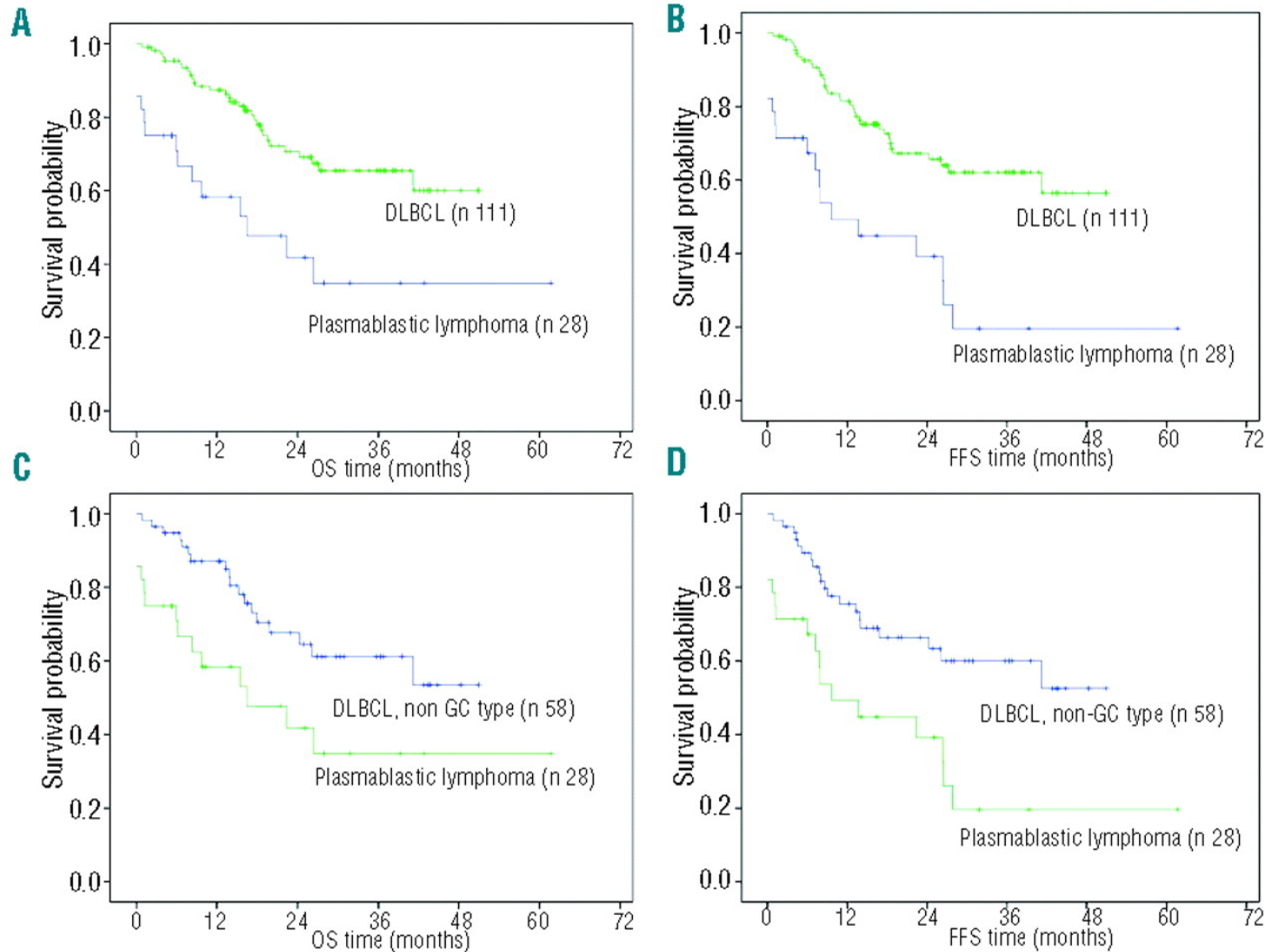
<sup>c</sup>See references for regimens ([AIDS-A](#)).

<sup>f</sup>Management can also apply to HIV-negative plasmablastic lymphoma.

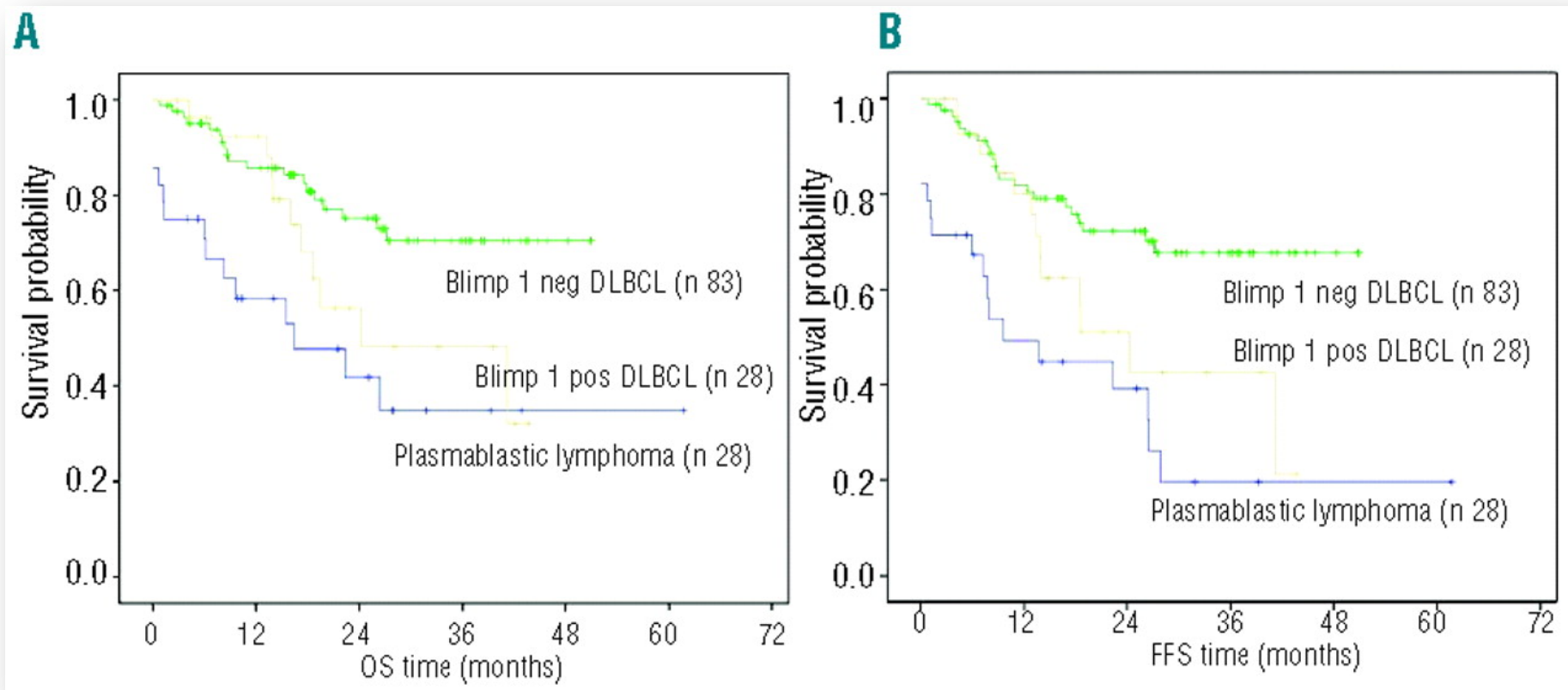
Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any cancer patient is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

# Survival in plasmablastic lymphoma vs. DLBCL



# Significance of PRDM1/BLIMP1 expression in DLBCL and plasmablastic lymphoma

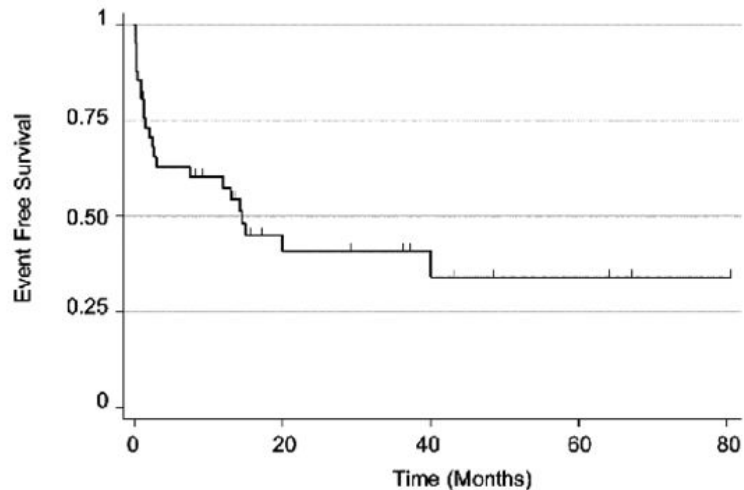


Santiago Montes-Moreno et al. *Haematologica* 2010;95:1342-1349

# Significance of EBV in plasmablastic lymphoma

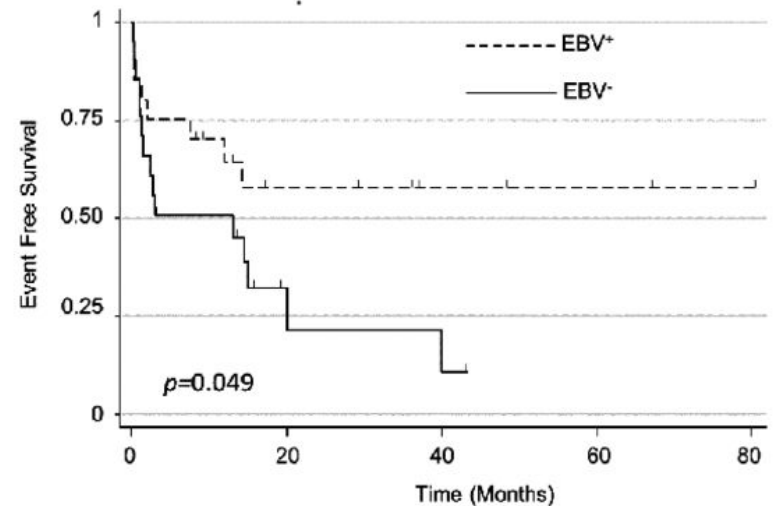
**A**

Kaplan-Meier Curve in all PL patients



**B**

Kaplan-Meier Curve in EBV<sup>+</sup>PL versus EBV<sup>-</sup> patients



## Summary – Plasmablastic lymphoma

- Uncommon subtype of B-cell lymphoma
- No well-recognized standard of care
- Poor prognosis
- Intrathecal agents should be used to minimize the risk of CNS involvement/relapse
- New immunohistochemical profiles have been studied for better characterization of plasmablastic lymphoma
- Chemotherapy with CHOP, infusional EPOCH, hyperCVAD, and CODOX-M/IVAC are commonly used for treatment at this time
- Current treatment is inadequate and better regimens are needed

# References

- Castillo, J. J., Bibas, M., & Miranda, R. N. (2015). The biology and treatment of plasmablastic lymphoma. *Blood*, (), blood-2014-10-567479. Accessed November 14, 2016. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1182/blood-2014-10-567479>.
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- Laurent, C., Fabiani, B., Do, C., Tchernonog, E., Cartron, G., Gravelle, P., ... Coppo, P. (2016). Immune-checkpoint expression in Epstein-Barr virus positive and negative plasmablastic lymphoma: a clinical and pathological study in 82 patients. *Haematologica*, 101(8), 976–984. <http://doi.org/10.3324/haematol.2016.141978>
- NCCN Guidelines: [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/f\\_guidelines.asp#nhl](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/f_guidelines.asp#nhl)
- ASH Image Bank: <http://imagebank.hematology.org/>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plasmablastic\\_lymphoma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plasmablastic_lymphoma)
- Cover Image: <http://www.dovemed.com/diseases-conditions/plasmablastic-lymphoma/>